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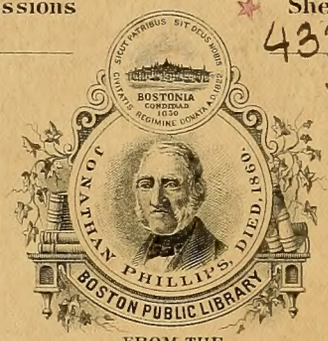

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ES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK.

AMERICA.

DING to the latest advices from New York there a lull in the war, and the busy speculators opportunity of manufacturing a sensation to the effect that two or three of the monitors leston had been disabled. After the official ast published respecting the inefficiency of the , the rumour was credited, but was contra- he next day. However, there was some for renewed anxiety about the fleet of iron- fore, Charleston. The *Lehigh* ran aground t Johnson, and before she could be got off damaged, either by the Confederate fire ringing a leak, that she had to be towed to Mead for repairs.

Tennessee we hear that the Confederates are the Western part of the State, and that the admit the repulse at Beans Station. That is, hit "a loss of 200 men." The loss of the ates was, it is said, 800 killed and wounded, probable that the vanquished suffered rather an the victors. It is also allowed that the ates captured some wagons and several hundred , 225 having arrived at Bristol, Tennessee, on ultimo. There is a cool audacity about admitting f 200 men" that is almost admirable.

Federal General Averill reports that he made a n Salem, on the Virginia and Tennessee rail- l tore up fifteen miles of the track, destroyed mile of the telegraph, burnt breadstuffs and the value of $200,000, and captured eighty and 150 horses. He adds that his retreat was by the Confederate cavalry, but that he cut their lines with a loss of 100 officers and men. the rosecate account, and even it tells of a dearly triumph. But the report of the Confederate Jones gives another aspect of the affair. It says about the Federal loss in men, because the Con- s are not in the habit of guessing at their enemy's nd wounded, but it tells us that in the retreat erals were obliged to leave many of their wagons, umber of their horses, and lose much ammuni- General Averill says, truly enough, he cut his ough—he was not captured, but "he caught a

Federals have abandoned the Teche country, a small garrison at Brashear; but this and other f news are of much less importance than the of a mutiny among the coloured troops at Fort . Even the worm when trodden on will turn, nay be that the negro will rise against the Yankee, pes him with the name of brother and treats e a reptile.

Army of the Potomac is about to move nearer gton, as the Confederates are troublesome.

The Richmond papers of the 11th December contain a report of a meeting of the members of the Tobacco Exchange, which was held at the Shockoe Warehouse on the 8th of that month, Mr. James K. Cookie, the president of the association, in the chair, to discuss the removal of the tobacco belonging to the French *régie*. Strong disapprobation was expressed with the supposed consent of the Confederate Government to this removal, and the meeting seemed to be of opinion that acquiescence in a partial suspension of the blockade at the gracious pleasure of the enemy was inconsistent with the dignity of an independent Government. Doubts were also entertained whether the greater part of the tobacco to be delivered had been, as alleged, purchased or contracted for prior to March 4th, 1861, and a committee was appointed to investigate this question.

With all due deference to those gentlemen, who, doubtless, understood their own business, it does appear to us that the favours of the Washington Government are in this case granted, not to the Confederates, but to the French Government, in preference to and to the prejudice of other neutrals injured by the blockade, and that it is for these to complain of partiality, and not for the Confederates, who are not in any way injured. Further, as it is the Federal and not the Confederate Government which proclaims the blockade, we do not see on what grounds the latter should interpose obstacles to the shipment, or why it should prevent the enemy from vitiating, and practically rendering void in the eyes of other neutral nations, his own blockade. Finally, if the tobacco is not already paid for, it will place to Confederate account in Europe some £650,000, and thus add that much to the financial resources of the Confederacy.

No man with the heart of an Englishman can read, without all the feelings of his nature revolting, the atrocious story told with the eloquence of truth in our columns to-day by a Norfolk lady. The wanton insults and indignities which are heaped on the wretched inhabitants of that unfortunate town, without the faintest pretence of military necessity, would exceed belief, were not Butler the chosen instrument of the Yankees for perpetrating them. There is a hellish ingenuity, also, which the Russians have not yet equalled, in making the cowards who feign Union sentiments build gallows for their brother rebels. The use made of the negroes for inflicting indignities on the whites, by quartering them in the houses of the wealthier class of inhabitants, and entrusting them with the work of a vexatious and arbitrary police duty, ought to satisfy the most sincere Abolitionist of the character of that emancipation, which on the one hand leaves the wives and children of the freedman to starve miserably, and on the other, employs him as the tool for gratifying a fiendish vindictiveness, and which aims at success only through sowing the seeds of an incurable feud between the two races.

The *New York Herald* calls upon the Government to imprison the crews of captured merchantmen until the end of the war. It says, "if our Government would do its own part, and retain every one of the sailors thus caught on prison fare, it would strike the severest blow at the contraband trade that it is now in the position to strike."

This and other ebullitions of rage against England are called forth by the rescue of the crew of the *Chesapeake*. When that vessel was brought to Halifax and handed over to the British authorities, the crew was landed, and released from custody by a crowd, which included some distinguished citizens. It is evident the British people do not sympathise with the Federal proclivities of the British authorities. The press calls the seizure of the *Chesapeake* piracy. This is, we think, an open questi captors had a Government authorisatio war on the enemy's shipping the act would But, however this may be, the conduct of authorities seems altogether indefensible. The was not British property, was not seized waters, and the expedition for seizing h from United States, not British, territory. said that for the protection of the United State passengers will have to obtain passports bef ing. But why should the Federal Gover this precaution? Why not call upon the Briti their coasting trade from the daring and the Confederates? The reward for the li the British authorities is an outcry agai and a threat of vengeance at the first oppo

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The strange adventure of the *Chesapeak* counterpart in the Gulf of Mexico, the s *L. Gerety*, from Matamoras, laden with c York, being seized by six of her pretend on the second day after leaving port questionable whether such exploits ca category of legitimate warlike operations, mation is too limited to form an opinion as the persons engaged in them may have t of belligerents, but it is certainly not tise such deeds of daring, when inspire than a patriotic motive, with opprobrious we can scarcely withhold the tribute of ad men who venture their lives in such di prise. It is therefore no discredit to the genuinely British impulses of the inhabita or even to their usual respect for law the prisoners taken on board the *Chesapea* rescued from the hands of the authoritie and liberated.

The *Times* of yesterday publishes, Northern paper, what purports to be a Report of Mr. Memminger, the Confede of the Treasury. Apart from more obvious errors, such as the confusion of the dollar for the pound sterling, the types appear Mr. Memminger very badly. The wh to the negotiations for the purchase of but the caption, "The Confederate calculated to mislead a careless reader, tend to make it almost unintelligible. fortunately been delayed in receiving *extenso*, from Richmond; but in th caution our readers to draw no conclu imperfect and evidently mutilated publ the New York press.

Mr. Lincoln aspires to be the *de facto jure* Commander-in-Chief of the Unit General Halleck, in his report, in for a time the commander of the Potomac communicated directly wit and that he, General Halleck, was le rance of the nature of the corres Mr. Lincoln and the general in th White House was not only the he Army of the Potomac, but from were issued for conducting the r fore Charleston. On the 13th Apr instructed Admiral Dupont that he enemy to build batteries on Morris was to return to his position inside left it. Next day, Mr. Lincoln a admiral, ordering him to renew the

…rtain the feeling existing in the regiments. …nident that the soldiers are not depressed, we …ve nothing to fear; for it is not to be sup- …that the zeal of general officers can be impaired by …y want of confidence in their general's skill. Incessant rain has permitted me to see but a fourth of the troops as yet. They are represented by their field officers to be in high spirits, and as ready as ever for fight.

I am very glad to find that your confidence in General Bragg is unshaken. My own is confirmed by his recent operations, which in my opinion evince great vigor and skill. It would be very unfortunate to remove him at this juncture, when he has just earned, if not won, the gratitude of the country.

After seeing all the troops I shall write again. I respectfully suggest, should it then appear to you necessary to remove General Bragg, no one in this army, or engaged in this investigation, ought to be his successor. Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. E. JOHNSTON, General.

His Excellency the President.

TULLAHOMA, Feb. 12, 1863.

MR. PRESIDENT,—Since writing to you on the 3rd I have seen the whole army. Its appearance is very encouraging, and gives positive assurance of General Bragg's capacity to command. It is well clothed, healthy, and in fine spirits. The brigades engaged at Murfreesboro' are now stronger than they were on the morning of the battle—mainly by the return of the absentees brought back by the general's vigorous system. . . . My object has been to ascertain if the confidence of the troops in the ability of the army to beat the enemy is at all impaired. I find no indication that it is less than when you were in its camps.

While this feeling exists, and you regard General Bragg as brave and skilful, the fact that some or all of the general officers of the army, and many of the subordinates, think that you might give them a commander with fewer defects, cannot, I think, greatly diminish his value. To me it seems that the operations of this army in Middle Tennessee have been conducted admirably. I can find no record of more effective fighting in modern battles than that of this army in December, evincing skill in the commander and courage in the troops, which fully entitle them to the thanks of the Government.

In the early part of January, the country north of Granada being considered impracticable, I directed Major-General Van Dorn to bring to General Bragg's aid the cavalry of the Mississippi army, except such as Lieutenant-General Pemberton considered necessary to him. . . . I have been told by ——— that they have advised you to remove General Bragg, and place me in command of this army. I am sure that you will agree with me, that the part I have borne in this investigation would render it inconsistent with my personal honour to occupy that position. I believe, however, that the interest of the service requires that General Bragg should not be removed.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. E. JOHNSTON.

Thus the President consulted one of the most popular generals in the Confederate service as to the ability of General Bragg, and the result was an opinion "that the interest of the service requires that General Bragg should not be removed."

Messrs. Bates and Robinson, on behalf of Mr. Baker, of Liverpool, the owners of the *Dashing Wave*, have addressed Earl Russell in reference to the seizure of that vessel by the Federals. The *Dashing Wave*, having been for some time on the berth for Matamoras, and a cargo being procured by advertisement in the usual manner, left Liverpool on the 8th September. She was freighted with goods suitable for the Mexican market, and took out £12,000 in specie. She arrived at the mouth of the Rio Grande on the 2nd November, and on the 5th was seized by Captain Brown, of the United States gunboat *Owasco*, because the cargo included some quinine and chloroform. The vessel was taken to New Orleans, and in consequence of the incapacity of the prize crew received considerable damage on the voyage. According to the testimony of a person on board, the crew and passengers were treated with indignity and even brutality. Messrs. Bates and Robinson observe:—

Mr. Baker is wholly at a loss to know on what grounds the ship has been captured; he has never been engaged in any blockade-running or contraband trade, and the vessel was loaded by him in the ordinary course of his business. He has at the present time two ships on the berth, loading as general ships, for Matamoras, one or both of which he fears he will have to withdraw, as this is the second time that his trade has been interrupted by the illegal seizure of his vessels; the former case was that of the *Magicienne*, captured by the United States steamer *Onward*, but which vessel was released, the captors' own counsel declaring that there was not the slightest grounds for the capture, and through the representations of your lordship the claim of the owners for compensation is now being adjusted by the United States Government.

We wish to bring prominently before your lordship the injury done to the regular trade between this country and Mexico, if, without any justifiable cause, vessels are to be seized and carried to an American port simply on suspicion, and we trust that your lordship will make such representations to the United States Government as will not only secure to the owners, charterers, and shippers of cargo of the *Dashing Wave* ample compensation for the damage they may sustain, but will also prevent the recurrence of the seizure of British ships engaged in legitimate commerce.

Earl Russell, in reply to Messrs. Bates and Robinson, says Lord Lyons has been instructed to furnish a report respecting the case, but no promise is made of remonstrating with the Federal Government.

In the Federal House of Representatives, Mr. Holman proposed a series of resolutions to the effect that the Southern States had not ceased to be States of the Union; that the object of the war is to re-establish the supremacy of the Constitution, and "that all necessary and proper appropriations of money ought to be promptly made by this Congress for the support of the military and naval forces of the Government, and all measures of legislation necessary to increase and promote the efficiency of the army and navy, and … public credit, ought to be adopted; … vigorous prosecution of the war, peace … the union of the States and the supren… stitution, may be most speedily obtaine… lutions were tabled by a vote of 82 y… thus showing that the party in power h… disguise, and is now willing to acknowle… is not carried on for the purpose of resto…

The Federal Congress has passed a bill … $20,000,000 for the payment of bounties … pay to volunteers. An amendment was … House of Representatives that the money s… not be used for the purpose of enlisting or eq… soldiers. This amendment was lost by a l… Recruiting is unusually dull in the No… quence of the expectation that Congress … $300 clause and leave the price of substitu… which price such a change in the law will … enhance.

The Congress has voted against su… constitutionality of the Conscription Act to … Court; thus assuming to interpret, as wel… laws.

Mr. Hale, a member of the Federal Sena… the release of Captain Hunt from imprison… Old Capitol. For this service he received … of money, $2,000. Being charged with mak… use of his senatorial position, he defends h… ground that he received the fee in his cap… adviser; but as it is certain that no lawye… obtained the like favour unless enjoying … political influence, it is supposed that the … will not satisfy the Judiciary Committee no… investigating the affair.

A very remarkable trial has taken plac… Supreme Court of the District of Colu… plaintiff, Mr. Mattingly, sued the Washir… ship Company for royalties due to h… use of "Sickles' Cut-off," a patent inventio… he is the proprietor. The defence was that t… Cut-off did not effect a saving in the stea… it is alleged to do. In support of this … Isherwood, the Chief Engineer of the Nav… ment, Washington, was called as a witn… was cross-examined by Mr. E. N. Dickerson … York, who is a scientific engineer as well as … and never was a witness placed in a more h… position. Mr. Isherwood roundly asserted … principles upon which locomotive engines are u… constructed are faulty, and it was elicited … engines used in the United States Navy were c… according to his views, and that from the c… waste of steam their speed is much below th… Mr. Dickerson then produced two books that … published by the witness, and which were in c… tradiction to his evidence. The counsel for … dents endeavoured to screen Isherwood by saying … a man of science but a practical engineer, thoug… out that he, Isherwood, had conducted some … periments on Lake Erie at the expense of th… ment, and that the Navy Department had ac… results of experiments made by this person, "… a man of science." In summing up the evi… Dickerson administered severe punishment to … wood. He denounced him as a swindler, and de… his experiments were mere frauds. He pointed o… plicity or the imbecility of Mr. Welles, and d… losses that Isherwood had entailed on the coun… Dickerson said he was aware that he was incurr… peril, and that for his frank exposure of a… might be sent to prison, but he was determi… his duty. Ultimately the testimony of Mr. Ishe… formally discredited by the return of a verdi… plaintiff.

The New Orleans steamer, *George Cromwell*, … seized at New York for having on board a larg… of contraband—gunpowder and percussion cap… Confederate Srates. The shippers are m… respectable mercantile houses, and "enjoyed t… tion of the greatest patriotism and loyalty."

Anglo-Federal organs have tried to convinc… men that the Confederate people are oppos… continuance of the war, and that it is only … by the will of the Confederate leaders. The … they chiefly rely upon is the sharp criticis… Confederate press respecting the actions of th… ment. We have before us a file of Richmon… which, differing in many respects, are singula… mous in calling for a still more active pros… the war. The *Richmond Sentinel* says:—

We observe that the Confederate journals are very … and very naturally deprecating long speeches, and, … speeches whatsoever which do not go straight to the … business in hand—that business being to strengthen … of the Executive in carrying on the war, and furni… means in men and money. The people expect fro… presentatives at this moment that they forget and … hind them all sounding periods, and all enmities and … and that they neglect even the making of political … popularity in their several States. They may be w… that the most popular thing any one of them can … to devote himself sternly, and as silently as may … task of calling forth all the energies of the nation t… baffle the fell designs of our enemy. No thanks are … for sparing the pockets of the people in these t… the contrary, the most popular measures will be th… tax the most heavily, and sweep into the army most … all fighting men not employed more usefully to th… peaceful pursuits. No aggravation of the taxes, no … of the conscription, will meet with objection, prov… those measures be equable in their operation.

…e of the repeated charges brought against … is of retaining General Bragg in command … ary advice, a correspondence has been … veen the President and General Joseph … ich utterly refutes the allegation, and … ed compliment to the military ability of … . By a special order, dated the 24th … 62, General Johnston was appointed to … f the army of Tennessee, and on the 22nd … , he was ordered to the headquarters of … 's army, where he found a letter, of which … s an extract:—

Richmond, Va., Jan. 22, 1863.

…hnston, Chattanooga, Tenn:—

… in my telegram, I address this letter to you, … purpose for which I desire you to proceed … headquarters of General Bragg's army. . . … ust, be able by conversation with General … of his command, to decide what the best … rvice require, and give me the advice which … ture. As that army is a part of your com… … be necessary to give you authority there, … t or absent, you have a right to direct its … whatever else belongs to the general com… … uly and respectfully yours,

JEFF. DAVIS.

…al Johnston replied in two letters, in … ed passages occur:—

TULLAHOMA, Feb. 3.

…Your telegram ordering me to General … rs was received in Mobile, when I was on my … r letter of January 22 reached me here on … . . My principal object has

The *Richmond Enquirer* says :—

For words there is no time and no room, save such plain words as may be needed in the business-like arrangement of the most simple and comprehensive war measures; unless, indeed, there be some senator or legislator who, rising to the height of this great argument, and inspired by the passion of patriotism, can pour all his soul into some burning word, flashing right from the heart, that may have power to kindle the stern resolution of the nation into even intenser life, and breathe into every action a superhuman energy. This Confederacy must not be, and shall not be, subdued by the dastard Yankee nation. Let all members of Congress make up their accounts to that, and act upon that with single mind. Let them be assured that if they do not help us with all their might, or if they stand too much in our way, they will be swept out, as other useless bodies have been ere now, and their *vis inertiæ* shaken from the arms of a people determined to fight out their independence or perish in its ruins.

The *Richmond Examiner* says :—

Congress will meet, we hope to adjourn no more during this war, on Monday, the day after to-morrow. The urgent question of the hour relates to the currency, and we can assure the reader that a most earnest effort is about to be made, and that measures of startling boldness and decision will be forthwith passed and put into operation to alter the present state of things, and produce an immediate contraction of the circulating medium. The idea has been widely circulated, we sincerely believe by the arts of those who possessed specie and property to sell, that the currency is past redemption; that Congress can do nothing now to contract its volume, and that it would abandon the task in despair, and suffer the present currency to die, in the hope of replacing it with some other. We again assure our readers that this idea is false as it is dangerous, and that it will soon produce the private ruin of those who are acting on it.

These quotations might be added to, but they are sufficient to show the spirit of the Confederate press, which, according to the Anglo-Federal organs, is inimical to the Government and representative of the people.

The Federal Generals Buford and Corcoran have lately died; the former from fever, and the latter from injuries received by falling from his horse.

The price of gold in New York on the 24th December was 51½ premium. On the previous day it had advanced about ½ per cent. in consequence of the *canard* about the disaster to the monitors before Charleston.

ENGLAND.

It is stated on authority that orders have been given for the return of the Channel Fleet to a port of the United Kingdom. This step has been taken in view of the complications likely to result from the attitude of Denmark and the German States.

It is stated that Parliament will meet for the despatch of business on Thursday the 4th February.

The Revenue Returns made up to the 31st December have been published. In every branch of the revenue, with two exceptions, there has been an increase. Under the head of excise the increase for the quarter is £753,000, under that of stamps it is £106,000, and under that of miscellaneous it is set down at £173,238. As compared with 1862, the total increase under the above heads of revenue, added to that under the heads of assessed taxes, Post-office and Crown lands, is for the quarter, £1,088,238, and for the year, £1,350,191. In the customs there is a decrease for the whole year of £615,000 as compared with 1862, and this decrease is entirely to be attributed to the lowering of the duty on tea. Under the head also of the property tax there is a decrease for the whole year of £1,298,000 as compared with 1862. The total receipts under all the heads of revenue were, for the first quarter of the year, £19,213,746; for the second quarter, £18,490,204; for the third, £14,411,504; and for the last quarter, £18,318,166. The total revenue for the year was £70,433,620.

The returns of emigration from the port of Liverpool during the past year have been completed, and are worthy of attention. The total number of persons who sailed from that port during the year, either for foreign countries or the colonies, was 137,982, being more than double the number of emigrants in 1862, in which year the number was 64,314. Of ships, 367 sailed under the Passengers Shipping Act, and carried 123,529 passengers, the remaining ships were 255 in number. Of the former class of ships 297 went to the United States of America, and carried 98,458 persons, all of whom were steerage passengers except 2,975. In point of nationality, it may be stated that 28,548 were English, 3,176 Scotch, and 61,312 were Irish. It is further estimated that at least 26,000 passengers have been carried by these very same ships from the ports of Ireland, at which the ships called on their outward voyage. To these we must add 16,963 adult passengers conveyed from Queenstown to New York by the vessels belonging to the Liverpool, New York, and Pennsylvania Steamship Company; it being also worthy of remark that not 300 of these were cabin passengers. Large numbers have also been conveyed by the extra steamers despatched by the Cunard Company, and by steamers belonging to other companies. So also the steamers belonging to the Montreal Ocean Steamship Company have taken considerable numbers from Londonderry, and the Atlantic Steam Navigation Company have done the like from Galway. It is to be observed that the transit by these fast steamers is too costly to be used by the class of passengers referred to, unless in cases where great encouragement has overcome pecuniary obstacles.

According to the returns of the pauperism in twenty-one unions of the cotton districts, it appears that on the whole year, from 31st December, 1862, to 31st December, 1863, there has been a net decrease of 186,350 paupers. On the other hand, there has been an increase throughout the past month attaining to 1,810 persons in the second week of December, 2,330 in the third week, and 900 in the final week, making a total increase of 5,040 paupers in three weeks. The aggregate population of these twenty-one unions is 2,080,000 souls. It is much to be feared that the severe weather which has now set in will largely increase the distress.

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have published the official annual return of the name, number, tonnage, and other particulars regarding the steam and sailing ships composing the British Navy. The total strength of the effective ships of the Navy on the 1st of January was 975 of all classes. This number is exclusive of vessels doing duty in harbours at home and abroad, and convertible into block-ships for the defence of the coast, and exclusive also of a large fleet of iron and wooden mortar-boats laid up at Chatham. Of the 975 effective ships 72 are line-of-battle, and carry from 74 to 121 guns; 42 ships carry from 60 to 74 guns, 94 steamers and other vessels carry from 22 to 46 guns, and many of these are equal in size and tonnage to line-of-battle ships. There are 25 screw-corvettes, each carrying 21 guns, and there are 500 vessels carrying an armament of from 4 to 21 guns each, and among them are many iron vessels of enormous power. Next there are 185 screw gun-boats each carrying two Armstrong guns, and fitted with high-pressure engines of 60 horse-power. The ships in commission are 360, and the remainder are attached to the reserve squadrons at the various ports. During the past year nine vessels have been launched at the dockyards, and among them are the *Achilles*, ironclad, 35, 6,080 tons, 1,250 horse-power; the *Ocean*, 35, 4,045 tons and 1,000 horse-power; the *Minotaur*, ironclad, 50, 6,621 tons, and 1,350 horse-power; the *Hector*, ironclad, 32 guns, and the *Valiant*, ironclad, 34 guns. Four ironclads have been commenced during the year, among which is the *Lord Clyde*, 36, 4,067 tons and 1,000 horse-power. Seven ironclads are in course of construction, among which are the huge 50-gun ships *Northumberland* and *Agincourt*, and the cupola ship *Royal Sovereign*. There are also, besides these ironclads, 22 vessels, not ironclad, on the stocks, and among them are the *Bulwark*, 91 guns, 3716 tons; two 80-gun ships, and three 51-gun ships. The East India and China squadron, which is under Vice-Admiral A. L. Kupar, C.B., consists of 51 line-of-battle and other ships; the East Indies division being under Commodore F. R. Montressor. The North America and West India squadron, under Vice-Admiral Sir A. Milne, K.C.B., consists of 29 vessels. The Mediterranean squadron, under Vice-Admiral R. Smart, whose flagship is the *Marlborough*, 121 guns, and 4,000 tons, numbers 29 ships and gun-boats. The ships engaged on the West Coast of Africa in the suppression of the slave trade are 22 in number. The Pacific squadron, under Rear-Admiral J. Kingscombe, numbers 13 vessels, and there is a squadron of 11 ships on the south east coast of America. At the Cape of Good Hope eight line-of-battle and other ships are stationed, under Rear-Admiral Sir B. W. Walker, K.C.B. In Australia there is a squadron of seven vessels. Lastly, here is the Channel Fleet under Rear-Admiral S. C. Dacres, C.B., consisting of the *Edgar*, 71, 3,094 tons, the *Warrior*, 40, 6,109 tons; the *Royal Oak*, 35, 4,056 tons; the *Black Prince*, 41, 6,109 tons; the *Defence*, 16, 3,720 tons; and the screw gun-boat *Trincolo*, 2, 60 horse-power.

It is computed that since the first week in October 200 north country seamen have been lost in the gales. North and South Shields have alone lost ten ships' companies. The Mayor of Tynemouth, Mr. Joseph Spence, has commenced a subscription for the widows and orphans of the North Shields men. On the east coast the calamity has fallen heavily, there being no doubt that Great Yarmouth alone has lost 134 fishermen.

The Right Rev. Richard Chevenix Trench, D.D., was consecrated Archbishop of Dublin on the 2nd of January, in Christ's Church Cathedral; the officiating prelates being the Lord Primate and the Bishops of Killaloe, Ossory and Cork. Two days later the ceremony of "enthroning" was duly celebrated.

The Rev. James Craigie Robertson, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, the author of a "History of the Reformation," "Sketches of Church History during the first Six Centuries," a "History of the Christian Church," and other works, has been appointed Professor of Ecclesiastical History at King's College, London; that office having been vacated by the death of the Reverend Alexander McCaul, D.D.

On Sunday last the Special Evening Services were resumed in the Cathedral of St. Paul, and a congregation assembled to the number of 3,000. The Lord Bishop of London preached the sermon.

Mr. William Makepeace Thackeray was buried on Wednesday the 30th December, at noon, in the cemetery of Kensal Green. At his special request, he was laid in a brick-built grave, beside one of his children. Upwards of 1,000 persons were present at the ceremony. Among the mourners were Mr. Charles Dickens, Mr. Tom Taylor, Mr. Shirley Brooks, Mr. Mark Lemon, Mr. John Leech, and the whole staff of the contributors to *Punch*; also Mr. Robert Browning, Mr. Anthony Trollope, Mr. George Cruikshank, M. Louis Blanc, Baron Marochetti, Mr. John Millais, M. Herman Merivale, and many other eminent artists and authors.

Mr. Mure, M.P. for Buteshire, in an address last week to his constituents, referred at some length to the American war. He agreed with the policy of neutrality, but expressed strong personal leanings in favour of the South. The question of slavery apart, he held that the South had every claim on the sympathy of England; on that subject he thought the North dishonest, and argued that it ought not to be counted in estimating the comparative merits of the two causes. He did not blame the Government for their conduct in regard to the seizure of the *Alexander*, but hinted that the verdict of the jury should have been considered final. He urged that in view of the enormous inconsistency of permitting the unmolested export of arms to the North, the provisions of the *Foreign Enlistment Act* should be reconsidered; and, finally, he stated his belief that the recognition of the South could not long be delayed.

It is stated on authority that, although the judge before whom George Victor Townley was tried concurred in the verdict, yet that he advised a further inquiry in order to ascertain whether the prisoner was or was not insane. The inquiry was undertaken, at the request of the Secretary of State, by the Lunacy Commissioners. Their report was accompanied by the certificate of two medical men, signed by three justices of the peace. Thereupon ensued an order for the immediate removal of the convict to a lunatic asylum, and his sentence is respited during her Majesty's pleasure.

THE CONTINENT.

THE answer of the Emperor of the French to the congratulations offered him on New-Year's-day by the diplomatic body is always looked for with interest. In critical times like the present it is awaited with anxiety. Men remember how much the few words of dissatisfaction which Napoleon III. addressed to the Austrian ambassador on the 1st January, 1859, presaged. The answer given this year to the Papal Nuncio—the usual spokesman—ought to be reassuring. But for the Dano-German quarrel, which is supposed by many to be beyond hope of other arbitrament than that of the sword, it would have been universally accepted as a pledge of peace. His Imperial Majesty, after thanking the diplomatic body for their good wishes, and accepted them as a happy omen for the year, said :—

"Notwithstanding the difficulties which have been brought about by certain events in different parts of Europe, I am confident that they will be removed by the conciliatory spirit by which the Sovereigns are animated, and that we shall be able to maintain peace."

The words we have quoted as the general answer of the Emperor are vouched for by the official journal. A remark which the Emperor is said to have addressed to Mr. Dayton rests upon the authority of the *Temps*. According to that journal, his Majesty expressed the hope to Mr. Dayton that the year 1864 would be one of peace and reconciliation for the United States. Reconciliation it is beyond the power of any man or men to bring about. Peace is of course possible, and no man can do more than the Emperor to effect it.

Just as in 1859 the new year's speech of the Emperor Napoleon was followed by one from Victor Emanuel, so is it in 1864. But there is a very great difference between the two periods. In 1859, Victor Emanuel used a language which thoroughly accorded with that employed in the Tuileries, and was undoubtedly dictated there. This year, whilst the Emperor proclaims his confidence in peace, the King, regretting that 1863 had not furnished a favourable opportunity for the redemption of Italy, considers that 1864 will bring about European complications, not well defined, which might offer the wished-for opportunity. The country might reckon upon the King, as the King might reckon upon the country. This language tells us nothing, and has not really anything alarming in it. It has always been certain that Victor Emanuel would seize the first favourable opportunity to attempt to possess himself of Venetia; and the foolish and unjust policy of Austria in the Slesvig Holstein question is naturally looked forward to in Italy as promising that opportunity. But Italy will not dare to move until she receives the sign from France, and so long as the Emperor Napoleon believes that it is his interest to preserve peace so long must Italy chafe in inaction. The sincerity of the Emperor Napoleon's desire to maintain peace cannot be doubted, and the fretting of King Victor Emanuel has therefore, for the present, little importance.

The draft of the Address prepared by the committee of the Corps Législatif has been published. It is by no means fulsome. It states that the distant expeditions to China, Cochin-China, and Mexico "have greatly disturbed the public mind of France, on account of the obligations and sacrifices they entail." It proceeds :—

"We acknowledge that these expeditions must inspire respect for our countrymen and for the French flag, and that they may also develope our maritime commerce, but we should be happy to see realised shortly the good results for which your Majesty has led us to hope."

It declares that the Chamber will investigate the measures of reform laid before it with a desire of seconding the Emperor's love for real progress; and on the Polish and Congress questions adopts this very sensible language :—

"The recollections of our history, and the feelings of humanity which animate us, excite the most earnest sympathies for Poland, and we have seen with grief the failure of the combined efforts of three great Powers. Neither can we, however, disregard that the sincere and cordial support of Russia has been useful to France on important occasions.

"We should regret any coldness in our friendly relations with that Power, and have therefore accepted with

profound satisfaction the idea of an European Congress, which will be a lasting honour to your reign. France, on whom you have bestowed splendour and glory, is grateful to you for not having committed her treasures and the blood of her children in causes in which her honour and interests are not at stake.

"Leave without regret, Sire, the few unjust prejudices against accepting your loyal and pacific propositions. Noble and sound ideas make way in the world, and take root in the heart of the peoples. Await calmly the effect of your generous works."

An amendment asking that the Poles should be recognised as belligerents has been presented. The debate will commence, it is said, on the 11th. The Committee of the Corps Legislatif, to which the Bill asking supplementary credits was referred, has presented a report recommending that the credits should be granted. It says, however, "We are unanimous in advising that an end should be put to the Mexican expedition; far be it from us to say at any price, but as promptly as the interests and honour of France will permit. The expression of this wish certainly responds to the general sentiment of the country, and we think the Government of the Emperor will receive it with favour."

Happy the people which has no history. Happier still that one to which the constitutional sovereign has nothing to say in his speech from the throne calculated to create the slightest excitement. The King of Portugal has opened the session of the Cortes, and the only points the telegraphic agents can find in his speech which are worth transmitting, are that the tobacco monopoly is to be abolished, and that the budget is satisfactory.

The Federal execution was nominally directed to enforce from the Danish Government the withdrawal of the Patent of March and the Constitution of November, and the establishment of a system conformable to the German interpretation of the engagements of December, 1851. It is used to overthrow the authority of King Christian, and establish that of the Pretender. The Federal Commissioners have taken no steps to stop the proceedings of the partisans of Prince Frederick; they have allowed him to be proclaimed, and they have dismissed the legal officials to put in their places enthusiastic partisans of the Augustenburgs. The Diet has formally approved their conduct. Prince Frederick, having made his way into the duchy—he went from Hamburg to Gluckstadt by steamer, and then across to Kiel, and having issued proclamations, in which he practically assumes the Government—the representative of Austria at the Diet moved on Saturday that he be immediately summoned to leave the duchy. The motion was, however, lost; seven votes having been given for, and nine against it. The smaller States are, in fact, determined to sustain the Pretender at all hazards. Wurtemburg, Saxony, and Bavaria have concerted a plan of action, and as the war cannot hurt them, they will push the matter on against Austria and Prussia, whom they don't apprehend, because they believe that they are not sincere. The two great Powers could easily obtain a majority in the Diet if they chose; but both are unwilling to put themselves in opposition to the popular feeling. The only thing that would stop the South Germans would be the appearance of a French army on the Rhine.

The Federal troops are now in possession of the whole duchy. The Saxon General Hake, who commands the army of execution, is at Rendsburg. The Danes have blown up the *tête de pont* at Frederickstadt; but they had not, at the last advices, abandoned old Rendsburg and the Crown Work which protects it.

The Danish ministerial crisis is over. Bishop Monrad has accepted the post vacated by Mr. Hall. That is the only change of importance in the Ministry, and it does not seem to imply any change of policy. The King has apparently discovered that further concessions would be useless, and might cost him Denmark. Bishop Monrad does not entertain opinions differing greatly from those of Mr. Hall, who in all probability will shortly return to power. Meanwhile, the Government is preparing for war. Fourteen thousand men of the reserve have been called out. The King has proceeded to the army, and addressed a spirited proclamation to the troops. Reliance seems to be still placed upon English assistance.

The English Government seems to be extremely harassed. It feels bound to defend Denmark, but appears afraid to take any decisive steps. It is working to obtain a conference, but to that the German Powers are not disposed to agree, and the French Government naturally declines to allow its project of a general Congress to be supplanted by the English scheme of a restricted Conference. The recent conduct of Earl Russell has not been calculated to induce the Emperor to take any trouble to serve English interests. The *Nord Deutsche Zeitung*, the organ of the Prussian Government, declares that the English Government has stated to the Courts of Berlin and Vienna that if German troops cross the Eider, it would be unable to refuse the assistance Denmark would ask. That is the language England should long ago have held, but for all the authority of the *Nord Deutsche Zeitung*, we fear it has not yet been held. The truth seems to be that the Government is fettered by the influence of an exalted personage, who is almost as fervid a Slesvig-Holsteiner as the Duke of Saxe Coburg-Gotha. It is a significant fact that the Crown Prince of Prussia, immediately upon his return from London, busied himself in urging the immediate withdrawal of Prussia from the Treaty of London.

The budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs has been rejected by the First Chamber of Holland. It seems that the Chamber was not satisfied with the conduct of the Foreign Minister on the Polish and Dano-German and Congress questions. The Minister Jonkheer P. van der Massen de Sombreff, accepting the vote as one of no confidence, resigned, and the Minister of Marine, Jonkheer Huyssen de Kattendyke, has been provisionally charged with the Foreign Department.

A Dutch newspaper publishes a telegram from St. Petersburg, to the effect that King George I. had quitted Athens, convinced of his incapacity to regulate the confusion of the country. This is not the way in which such an important piece of news is likely to first reach England, and no reliance can therefore be placed upon it King George might, however, well despair of his task. The National Assembly seems incapable of the smallest amount of patriotism. Every real reform is resisted to the last, and with the best will on the part of the young King things are much worse than under Otho.

THE EAST.

FROM China we learn that the English mercenaries have come to grief. Captain Sherard Osborn and his comrades have been disowned by Prince Kung. The telegram runs thus:—"Prince Kung having refused to ratify the agreement made by Mr. Lay with Captain Osborn, Captain Osborn proceeded to disband his force. The European ministers protested against Prince Kung having the ships on his own terms, and Prince Kung then requested Mr. Bruce to sell the ships for him. Mr. Bruce having requested Captain Osborn to undertake their disposal, a part of the squadron were to sail for England, and Captain Osborn, with the Keangsoo, Quantung, and Amoy, had sailed for Bombay. Captain Osborn may be shortly expected in England." This is a fortunate escape. If the services of Captain Osborn had been accepted, the English Government would ere long have found itself charged with the administration of the larger or richer portion of the Chinese Empire.

News from Japan, directly contradictory to that which we gave last week, with a caution against its acceptance, states that Prince Satsuma has proposed a settlement of the difficulty, offering to pay an indemnity, and erect a mausoleum to Mr. Richardson.

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

[The subjoined fills up the gap in our weekly series of Richmond correspondence, which was left by our correspondent's letter of the 30th November, published in THE INDEX of 31st December.]

RICHMOND, November 21.

IF the telegrams from the Department of Tennessee were not well nigh idiotic, what we receive with regard to the operations in that quarter might inspire us with the liveliest encouragement. The movement of Longstreet mentioned in my last letter has been plainly developed. Its purpose was the capture of Knoxville, and the expulsion or capture of the amiable Burnside and his command. Bringing a reasonable amount of common sense to the interpretation and reconcilement of confused and conflicting accounts, we may conclude that, pressing on in the direction of Knoxville, General Longstreet surprised the Yankees at London; that after more or less resistance they fled in confusion, abandoning their trains; that from 1,500 to 2,000 of them were "secured" in the flight, and that the residue got safely into Knoxville behind their works, which works General Longstreet was preparing to attack. Knoxville is probably not yet in his occupancy, though we may confidently hope that it will be in three or four days' time. An intercepted letter of Burnside discloses the fact that the Knoxville garrison is on the shortest allowance of provisions, so that with Wheeler's cavalry cutting up their transportation, it is likely they will be compelled to capitulate within a fortnight. The possession of Knoxville is of the first importance, intrinsically and strategically. It will relieve the whole of Eastern Tennessee. It will disembarrass our forces in South-Western Virginia. There will be no longer any apprehension with regard to the Salt Works. These advantages are immediate and obvious. But it will also compel the enemy to evacuate Chattanooga, perhaps to fall back without delay upon Nashville. Grant does not, indeed, rely upon the railway from Knoxville for his supplies (already brought down to "a handful of meal in a barrel and a little oil in a cruse," without the hope of miraculous interposition to extend the commissariat), but he does depend upon Burnside for the protection of his flank; and the latter's co-operation was indispensable for that rapid and overwhelming advance into Northern Georgia which was to reduce Atlanta, and cut the whole arterial system of the Confederate railways at that vital point. Without a strong Federal column to protect his left wing, Grant will be under a pressing necessity to withdraw from his present position. Such, at least, is the meaning I attach to the movement on Knoxville. As one of the "plans of the noble Longstreet" to be carried out "under the supervision of the heroic Bragg," it naturally absorbs as much of the interest of the moment as can be withdrawn from the activities at Charleston and the inactivities on the Rapidan.

At Charleston the enemy continues to hurl his masses of iron upon Sumter with little or no effect, and has begun the demolition of the city, not with the fury that was promised, but rather mildly, perhaps as matter of amusement to the grim Gilmore, in the way of relaxation from the serious business before him. Eighteen or twenty shells were thrown into Charleston daily, sometimes at noon, sometimes at midnight. The streets and dwellings are of course deserted. The hotels are not as yet closed, nor has the publication of the daily papers been discontinued; but no strangers are permitted to enter the silent and listless city, so there are few readers for the journals and few guests for the *table d'hôte*. Several buildings have been struck during the week, among them the office of the Telegraph Company, which has since been removed beyond the range of the bombardment, but in no instance do we learn that the "Greek fire" has lighted up a conflagration. Has this proved a failure, or are the Yankees restrained by the public sentiment of Europe from employing it? Perhaps their stock of incendiary shell is not yet large enough, and they are firing only to get the exact range of the accursed "cradle of the rebellion." Yesterday morning, before day-break, several barges, filled with Yankee troops, approached Fort Sumter, and, on being hailed by the sentries, discharged first a volley of oaths and next a volley of musketry, whereupon a fire was opened upon them by the garrison with small arms and by batteries Johnston and Simkins with grapeshot, which dispersed them in fifteen minutes. No casualties occurred within the fort. The loss of the enemy in the barges is unknown. The average of injury to the garrison at Sumter does not exceed the killing of one man *per diem*.

From the Rapidan nothing of great moment. The whole of Meade's force is represented as being south of the Orange and Alexandria railroad, and scouting parties have been seen on the Warrenton road within a few miles of Falmouth. It is not believed that they intend another invasion of Stafford, notwithstanding. That region is a desert, wholly destitute of grain, forage, and timber. The route to Richmond *viâ* Fredericksburg is not more practicable now than it was twelve months ago. Moreover, the winter season is close at hand, when the roads will become again impassable. The winter campaign will probably not involve any larger operations than cavalry combats. In this sort of fighting the success has been for the most part with the Confederates, and the bold riders of Stuart and Hampton are more than ever on the alert. On the morning of Wednesday, the 18th instant, about dawn, the latter general fell upon a cavalry camp of the Yankees within four miles of Stevensburg, Culpeper county, and after a very short conflict, in which his loss was one killed and five wounded, captured 175 men, with their horses and equipments, four wagons, and a cavalry forge. A Yankee major and three privates fell dead on the field, and fifteen or twenty were wounded.

The Northern papers are enlivened by sundry letters, intercepted on the *Cornubia*, from officers of the Confederate Government in France and England, the publication of which is, after all, a matter of no concern, when we consider how indifferent the Powers of Europe have been and still remain to the success of the Confederate States. It is hardly worth while to argue the question of recognition any longer; perhaps it is an impertinence to do so, in the opinion of Earl Russell and "Historicus," but to us it seems really amazing that England and France continue to regard with complacency the progress of a strife, in which freedom and civilisation are both imperilled on the Western Continent, and the final result of which, let it be in 1864 or 1894, can be nothing less than the disruption for ever of the Union they still profess to regard as the government existent and rightful. It is an absurdity to imagine that Seward and Co. will ever succeed in their efforts at the subjugation of the Confederate States. They may carry on the war indefinitely—they may transmit it, with its load of debt and disgrace, to their descendants—they may burn every dwelling, sack every town, devastate every arable acre, between the Potomac and the Gulf of Mexico; they may keep up the fight until not one of the original combatants, in either Cabinet, in either Congress, in either army, is left to witness the melancholy *finale*; but they can never restore the Union nor re-establish the hateful authority of the United States over these wasted territories. Let the Confederates be right or wrong; let the principle that a people has the right to change its form of government whenever the same be deemed by them oppressive or injurious be admitted or rejected; the matter is not changed one iota. The United States is engaged in a hopeless effort, as all Europe will admit. In that effort the United States is squandering millions of money; is exhibiting to the world by turns the painful spectacle of pitiable impotence and of diabolical cruelty; is causing some of the best blood of the earth to flow in the costliest libations to liberty and to license, on the one side and the other; is impoverishing a fertile region on whose agricultural industry much of the prosperity of the globe depends; and yet all Europe can look on, apathetic, nay, can help the stronger party against the weak in the maintenance of what is falsely called a neutrality—I say it is amazing that such things can be in the nineteenth century of the Christian era. England and France, all powerful as they are, may yet rue the policy they are pursuing towards the Confederate States, in the alienation of a brave people, who still hold in their hands the golden key of national wealth and who were disposed to be their firm and fast friends.

The radical difference in character between the Northern and Southern people, which must render any political union hereafter impossible, and which underlies the existing convulsions, is shown not less strikingly in the most trivial than in the most momentous affairs. Their cruelty towards non-combatants, their disregard of all constitutional restraints, their bad faith in the execution of the cartel for the exchange

of prisoners, their inevitable bravado in continually fixing upon ninety days for the termination of the war, are not in more effective contrast with the conduct of the Confederates than their fondness for theatrical display and the flunkeyism they manifest on all occasions. Take *par exemple* the recent parade in Meade's army over the Confederate colours captured with Hoke's and Hays's brigades. The Confederates have taken hundreds and hundreds of Yankee flags since the beginning of the war. "Star-spangled banners" of all stuffs and sizes—banners emblazoned with the arms of the Yankee States in all their preposterous heraldry—but no Confederate general has ever made a fuss over them. The trumpery has been sent to the office of the adjutant-general, and lies there, a heap of bunting and silk, fringe and tassels. But General Meade "improves his opportunity," and gratifies the genuine Yankee love of display by making a scene of the reception of *our* flags. There was much oratory and martial music and effusion of patriotic feeling, and the whole business is stunningly reported for the New York papers. By way of contrast, take another and a social illustration. Last week two weddings were celebrated in what in America may be called "high life," the one in Washington the other in Richmond. The Richmond nuptials were very quietly conducted. A young officer of the Confederate army led a sister of Mrs. Jefferson Davis to the church, and the only announcement of the fact was that made two days afterwards in the hymeneal column of the daily newspapers. But when Miss Kate Chase "the eldest and accomplished" daughter of Secretary Chase, of the U.S. Treasury, "whose graces sparkle and radiate like gems of dazzling splendour" (vide *Washington Chronicle*), becomes the blushing bride of Senator Sprague, of Rhode Island, all Yankeedom is ecstatic. Jenkins is in his glory. The dresses, the supper, the showy uniforms, the bridesmaids, the arrival of President Lincoln, the beatified persons of both sexes who "assisted," the beautiful Episcopal service and the osculations—are set forth in all the Yankee journals with more of eloquent description than even the *Morning Post* could afford to the reception of the Princess Alexandra. The shoddy aristocracy must get up a laureate and a court journal. Since Secretary Seward has announced, in his speech at Auburn, that Lincoln will not "abdicate" at the close of his constitutional term of office, it becomes the Yankees to keep up the dignity of the Court.

The weather has been capricious during the past week. Ice has formed to the thickness of a window-pane. We have had the temperature of spring, and to-day the falling rain gives promise of miry roads for the whole winter season.

PARIS TOPICS.

(*From our Own Correspondent.*)

PARIS, January 5.

THE first of the year, with its thick mud and constant drizzle of half-melted snow, was a sad disappointment to more people than the vendors of new year's gifts in the booths of the Boulevards. All France, perhaps Europe, was waiting in anxious suspense the manifestation of the Imperial policy which rumour had been so busy with. The two phrases which have reached the public, the answer to the Nuncio's compliment, and the half-condoling good wishes for "peace and conciliation" addressed to Mr. Dayton, are equally meaningless. Still, when men have made up their minds to hearing a revelation they generally find the materials of one, and in the absence of words the quid-nunes insist on the particular tones with which each phrase was accentuated as it fell from the Imperial lips. Not having been present either officially or as the shadow of some official personage, I cannot pretend to describe a question in which there are so many versions as syllables. The Bourse has at least seen no fresh guarantee of peace in the events of that day, and under the influence of King Victor Emanuel's threatening words, still more, perhaps, from the monetary difficulties which continue to make themselves felt here, hardly any business has been transacted, and the tendency has been downward.

I sent you last Wednesday evening the *France*, which only reached me in time for the post, with the new year's gift it produced for its readers, and which I thought might be acceptable to some of yours. The correspondence between the President of the Confederate States and the Pope is much more than a diplomatic curiosity. Even in the beginning of this century, when the prestige of the Pope was at the lowest ebb, Napoleon ordered his ambassador to treat him as he would a monarch with 200,000 bayonets at his orders. Since then the Popes have regained a very large accession of influence, and, although they no longer make and unmake kings at their will—and it may be doubted if they ever did more than consecrate by their sanction the will of the intelligent majority—their recognition of a new Government is still not without its importance. The proverbial prudence of the Roman Court gives a significance to the answer addressed by the head of the Roman Church to the "Illustrious and Honourable President," which must strike even those who attach little weight to his religious authority. Those who recognise him as God's vicegerent, will, after this, think twice before selling themselves to bear arms in a struggle which he so emphatically condemns. The *Temps* cannot make out how the chief of religion can be so complimentary to the "representative of slavery;" but the *Siecle* does not wonder at the titles which His Holiness decerns to the President, broadly insinuating that Christianity has always been the religion of slavery.

If the Pope has thus done something that may stop the supply of Catholic soldiers to fight for the Northerns, even the Liberal papers here contribute information which should help to the same result. The manœuvres resorted to in New York to procure recruits, exposed in some of the American papers, are republished here; and I may call your readers' attention to the revelations of the *Courrier des Etats Unis* on the dragging and subsequent enrolling of seven French subjects; and of the *Tribune*, which says that three men drugged by these wretches (the recruiters) died a few hours after their arrival in camp.

It is honourable to the French Liberal press that it has unanimously blamed Mr. Lincoln's so-called amnesty. The *Opinion Nationale* says that the proclamation of amnesty had been received in the South as it had foreseen. "It has called forth unanimous protests, and in its application assumes all the characters of a measure of repression." In virtue of this proclamation General Butler began, on the 15th December, to administer the oath prescribed by President Lincoln, to the inhabitants of Norfolk. 2,000 persons have yielded to this order; all who refused to take the oath must leave the town and the Federal lines. . . . Silence would have been more dignified and more prudent, for, as it is interpreted and applied, the President's proclamation amnesties no one, and becomes, on the contrary, a new excuse for wholesale proscription of the citizens who cannot take the oath proposed to them." The *Presse* is still stronger in its language. "It seems to us that the telegraph and the newspapers were very indulgent in giving the name of amnesty to this declaration of war—this manifesto of selfishness and fear. When it is a question of covering over the ruins of a civil war, of burying the memory of sanguinary hate, we cannot admit that an act of amnesty should contain provisoes which render it only a bitter jest. The first duty of the victor, in his own interest, is to have his victory forgotten, but he is far from consigning it to oblivion when he excludes from his amnesty the worthiest names, the persons who have played the greatest part in resisting him, and to whom only a smile from Fortune was wanting to make them, even in the eyes of the conquerors themselves, heroes." "War to the death, or unqualified amnesty; it was between these that President Lincoln had to choose. Between these extremes there are only dangerous expedients that give to an amnesty, which should be an act of strength, an unmistakable character of fear, weakness, and selfishness."

It is still doubtful what part France will take in the German-Danish quarrel. Halting between the respect for recent treaties and the new theory of nationalities, perhaps coquetting with the question to punish the English Cabinet for its point-blank refusal of the Congress, the Imperial policy seems still undecided. If there be any inclination to embark again in war, it will be for an object more nearly affecting France than a reconstitution of Poland, and it will not be manifested until circumstances shall seem to leave no alternative but an appeal to the sword. The French nation is quite as peacefully disposed as the people of England; they have learned to count the cost of war and the profits of peace. The Address to the Emperor, as proposed by the Committee of the legislative body, was read yesterday. It is highly pacific. It gives a sigh for Poland, and a laudatory paragraph to Russia, a gentle blame to Mexican and such like expeditions "which have caused great anxiety to many in France, on account of the sacrifices they have entailed," and the realisation of the good results promised from them is anxiously looked for. "France has no other ambition than to secure quiet at home, to develope its material well-being, by labour and peace, its moral well-being by the sincere and gradual introduction of civil and political liberty."

The Archduke Maximilian is expected here in about a fortnight, and it is generally rumoured that he will sail from Saint Nazaire for Vera Cruz some time about the end of February. It is expected that a part of the French army of occupation will return immediately after his arrival in his capital.

There is in this evening's *Presse* an article on American finance, which would be curious if I had time to translate and comment it, for its facts are in some respects disputable, and its conclusions singularly false. I may return to it next week.

THE FEDERAL GODDESS OF LIBERTY.—"It is a curious circumstance that the statue of Liberty, which has just been unveiled on the top of the Capital at Washington, represents a coloured woman. For fear of discolouration, the excuse is, an acid has been employed, which stains the surface of the figure, and makes the colour weather-proof."—*World*. The above is another proof that the present delusion has reached its culminating point. France reeled on in madness until she put up a prostitute as the Goddess of Reason. We have capped the climax of our insanity by raising, upon the dome of our Capitol, a statue of freedom in the person of a negro wench. —*The New York Day-Book*.

NORTHERN NEGROES AND SOUTHERN.—A private letter from an officer at Hilton Head says there is as little companionship between the Massachusetts negroes and those of Carolina as there is between blacks and whites. The Massachusetts darkeys think it beneath their dignity to associate with the unfortunate "freedmen" (?) from the plantations. The "First South Carolina" (negro) regiment undertook on one occasion to visit the "54th Massachusetts" (also negro), but the latter refused to receive them, and peremptorily ordered them off, as a "pack of dirty contraband niggers." The Rev. Mr. Higginson's teachings are clearly needed by his own men.—*The Hartford (Conn.) Times, Dec. 19.*

THE MAGAZINES.

THE political article in *Blackwood* this month is entitled "The European Crisis," and, as might be inferred from the title, is written in a somewhat alarmist tone. The writer's view of the Polish question is, however, remarkably clear, just, and impartial; perhaps somewhat too favourable to Russia, but yet not conceived in an unfriendly spirit towards the Poles. The consequences of a great crime are frequently such as to make reparation simply impossible, and place all parties hopelessly in the wrong. This has been the case in Poland. The original partition of that country was a monstrous, almost an unparalleled wrong; but it is with nations as with individuals—*interest reipublicæ ut sit finis litium*; and we cannot enter into a discussion of rights based upon a state of things which was forcibly and wrongfully disturbed a century ago. Russia is in possession and cannot be asked to give up that possession. Europe, injured and disturbed by her possession, is not yet entitled to call upon her to resign it, and is bound by treaties which have recognised her title. The Poles have never acquiesced in their subjugation to Russia, and have from time to time, by unsuccessful revolt, asserted their claim to independence. They are not, in the wrong; they deserve honour for their patriotism and self-devotion; and if they would have shown wisdom in accepting their fate, they have shown heroic virtue in resisting it. The Czar is not in the wrong, as judged by the ordinary standard of human morality, whatever may be his position in the sight of a tribunal which exacts obedience to a higher law than that of nations. Alexander I. was lenient and kind to the Poles, and the result was the rebellion of 1831. Nicholas kept Poland quiet, but he did it at the price of a tyranny which any man of a less stern conscience or a more susceptible heart could not have borne to inflict. Alexander II. desired to govern Poland kindly and well; but he was resolved to govern, and Poland was resolved not to be governed by him. Under such circumstances a terrible and merciless conflict was inevitable; and if in that conflict both parties have committed grievous crimes, yet both stood originally on an inexpugnable ground of right. Meantime, the position of the other European Powers is one of infinite perplexity, which is well sketched by the author of this essay. England has no interest in the matter, except as a signatory of the Treaty of Vienna and a well-wisher to Poland. Austria has deep interests of her own involved. She needs an independent Poland between herself and Russia. She would purchase this advantage gladly at the cost of a war and of the cession of Gallicia. But to make war with Russia, and to be forced to accept anything short of this at its close, would be for her simple, absolute, irretrievable ruin. She would lose Hungary and Venetia at the first moment when Russia found a favourable opportunity of taking revenge. And she does not wish to be brought into conflict with Prussia as the ally of France and England. The position of France, says the author, affords the key to the whole labyrinth of entanglements. The French people—for, though bearing no goodwill to Napoleon III., the writer is forced to see and willing to confess that the ambition he censures is that of the nation rather than of the Sovereign—is eager to help Poland; and events may occur to-morrow which would make it impossible to resist that eagerness. At the same time, France has designs of her own. A war with Prussia would not be allowed to pass without an effort to secure the frontier of the Rhine. France would not allow the Emperor to forego this object; England will not, and Austria dare not for her very life, allow him to attain it. Hence the impossibility of a European intervention on behalf of Poland; hence our strenuous language and our apathetic inaction. The writer approves in the main Lord Russell's Polish policy, though he is evidently a bitter opponent of the Minister; but he doubts whether, after all, England may not, in her own despite, be hurried into a war.

"Meanwhile the Poles fight on. They make no progress—the insurrection even wanes; but still they fight on. They knew from the first that they could not cope single-handed with the colossal power of Russia. From the first they have placed their hopes in foreign aid. And that aid may yet come. They have nothing to hope for from Russia now. This is the second time they have risen in fierce revolt. They know the iron despotism that followed the suppression of their first rebellion; they can be at no loss to understand their fate after a failure of the second. Russia will not allow herself to be embarrassed by the continued existence of so rebellious a nationality. Humane as the Russian Emperor unquestionably is, he cannot allow his empire to be placed in jeopardy by a repetition of such revolts. If the Poles find that movements are on foot which will bring them the expected aid by-and-by, the insurrection may sink into its embers, and await the breath that is to arouse them again into fire. But if they have no such hope, they may be expected to play the part of desperate men more desperately than ever, and to court a struggle with their oppressors of so sanguinary a character as to compel the active intervention of other Powers. We are a staid people—and all the good sense of England is arrayed in favour of non-intervention in the quarrels of the Continent. But even with us, there are gusts of national excitement which bear down everything before them. The affair of Sinope decided the question of the late war with Russia. And among the contingencies of the future, there are some which would gravely affect our interests, and others which would passionately excite our sympathies. Despite the decisive No with which our Government has met his proposals for co-operation, the Emperor Napoleon does not yet despair of winning our support—even though he knows that to some of the objects of his policy, if revealed, England will be unanimously opposed. The European crisis seems only to deepen; and it is not without anxiety, though without alarm, that we look forward to the events of the year."

Of the Slesvig-Holstein imbroglio we find in the same

article a very lucid account—dealing, of course, only with the immediate circumstances of the case; for to give a detailed history of its merits in an intelligible form is beyond the power of mortal man. He gives credit to Austria and Prussia—especially to the former—for an honest effort to keep faith, and maintain the Treaty of 1852; but he points out that the Prussian Government is under strong temptations to yield to the demands of the people, and recover by a single stroke the popularity it has forfeited by a long conflict with the representatives of the people; and that the two great German Powers cannot, from their position in the Diet, hold aloof altogether without leaving the rest of Germany free to run riot in the wildest excesses of aggression. He believes, we may remark, that Austria and Prussia really intend the army of occupation in Holstein to shield Denmark against the filibustering bodies which are being collected in various parts for the service of Duke Frederick of Augustenburg. Like most other observers, he thinks the Germans imprudent to the verge of madness in entering on a quarrel which they cannot hope to decide in their favour except by war, and in which, if war should break out, England must take the side of Denmark, and France be left free to do what she will with Prussia and the minor German States; Italy, the while, watching eagerly for the signal which shall loose her splendid army upon Venetia, and Hungary ready to avail herself of any opportunity that may occur to extort her own terms from Austria. In truth, the Germans are as mad as the Yankees seemed to be in December, 1861; and they are not likely to be so easily restored to sanity. The madness of the Yankees is that of an hysterical girl, to be cured by a sharp threat or a bucket of cold water; that of the Germans is the fury of an insane enthusiast, who fancies that he has sustained some wrong or been deprived of some right, and is utterly careless of consequences in his pursuit of vengeance.

The other articles in *Blackwood* are as good as is usual with this excellent magazine—the most attractive among them being an account, rather rambling and incomplete, but full of interest, of the great Foundation School of Winchester—the parent of Eton, and the oldest public school in England. Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, in the name of Pisistratus Caxton, furnishes a clever *jeu d'esprit* in verse—a dispute between the aspiring Mind and worn out Body that—

> "Clubbed up in one whole, by one title defined,
> Were called a Great Man."

In verse Sir Edward is elegant, scholarly, and tasteful, but never reaches the height of poetry. He sets, however, an example sadly needed by the poets of this generation; and never fancies that rhyme and metre may be made the substitutes of grammar and good English. "Tony Butler" goes on as usual, and Captain Speke affords the material for a very readable review.

The opening article in *Fraser*, on "The Highway of Nations," contains some very pertinent criticisms on the absurd and Quixotic sacrifices of England in accepting the Declaration of Paris, and on the clumsy phraseology of that convention. But in dealing with the American question the writer displays something more than partisanship. He goes out of his way to prove the case of the North in the matter of the *Alabama* and her consorts, and vindicates the reckless violations of municipal and public law of which, in the Northern interest, the British Cabinet has been guilty He has nothing new to say on this head, and we may pass over that portion of his article without remark. But when we find him affirming the effective character of the blockade of the Southern coasts, without one word of reference to the definition of effectiveness by the Treaty of Paris, or to our express engagements with the South to recognise no other definition thereof, we are compelled to call attention to the unscrupulous disengenuousness of a writer whose omissions cannot be attributed to ignorance or carelessness. "Stephen on Criminal Law" is an excellent review of an invaluable work; a work of interest not merely to lawyers, but to all men who have any claim to be considered as educated politicians. Every one who thinks he has not time to read the book should read this review of it; and most who read the review will make up their minds to read the book. "Japan" is well treated in a sensible and practical, if not perfectly fair article; and the weakness of the English case against that country is forcibly though temperately exposed in a passage which deserves the more attention that the writer subsequently shows a disposition to deny the right of the Japanese to hold aloof from intercourse with the civilised world.

"If we consider the relative strength and knowledge of the two nations, a treaty between England and Japan is very much like a contract between an infant and a grown man. Perhaps we should not have gone to war with them if they had refused to have anything to do with us; and, according to Sir R. Alcock, the Americans most undoubtedly would not. This, however, was not their view of the case. They no doubt received kind and courteous treatment from Lord Elgin; but, admirable as his qualities were, it is obvious that it was not to them, but to the ships and armies which they supposed to lie behind them, that they really gave way. Talk about peace, commerce, civilisation, and the like, is plausible enough; but the practical application of the sermon—its convincing power—lies in a silent glance over the shoulder to the war steamers anchored in the bay or known to be within call. In short, what we called agreement to a treaty of commerce was in reality submission to superior force, and what we call breaches of the treaty were in substance partial, fretful, and ignorant attempts to shake off what the Japanese regarded and could not but regard as a foreign yoke forcibly laid on their necks.

"To these general considerations which apply to almost all our relations with Eastern powers, some others must be added which have a special application to Japan. In European diplomacy it may always be ascertained who is the sovereign, and who has a right to make treaties and bind the nation. No one would think of accepting a treaty with England signed by the Speaker of the House of Commons, nor would any one be content with the consent of the President of the United States, unless he acted with the approbation of the Senate. It is hardly possible to say, with respect to Japan, who is the proper person to make a treaty or what are the parties whose consent is required to make it valid. Even now, after the country has been opened for three years, in a sort of way, it is by no means clear what are the respective rights of the Mikado, or Spiritual Emperor; the Tycoon, whose technical position appears to be that of an officer appointed by the Mikado; the Council of the Daimios, and the individual Daimios themselves; some of whom, like our antagonist the Prince of Satsuma, are obviously very like independent potentates. This being so, it must be owned that from their own point of view the Japanese may very probably be right. For what we can tell, they may be under nothing which they would recognise as an obligation to allow of our presence in their territory at all; and this renders our position far more intricate than it was before. We do not know with whom we have made our bargain, with whom we are fighting, or with whom we are at peace."

The number is remarkably good, containing an unusual number of articles of weight and value, relieved by a couple of essays, one of which is signed by A. K. H. B., an instalment of "Late Laurels," and the conclusion of a translation of the Sanscrit "Story of Nala and Damayante," poetic and well versified.

Macmillan contains an article on "England's Neutrality from the Federal Point of View," by Professor Cairnes, as unreasoning, violent, and untruthful as might have been expected from a man whom no refutation can shame and no exposure deter from the repetition of statements proved to demonstration to be not only false but absurd. He rests his case on the argument "that a ship is an article of contraband which can be used from a neutral shore"; and as this is not true of a ship which leaves a neutral port unarmed, the utter worthlessness of all his reasoning is apparent from the outset. The "Competition Wallah" continues his Indian letters, and sends an amusing and instructive epistle "About the Hindoo Character, with Digressions Home." The Hindoo is not, what he is called by boys fresh from Europe, a "nigger"; but he has some of the negro vices in a higher degree than the African himself. He is inveterately lazy; he is an incurable thief; he is a shameless and conscienceless liar. Your servant may grow attached and loyal; perhaps he would die for you; but he will never cease to shirk his work, and he will rob you to the end of his days. As to the truth, no Hindoo ever dreams of speaking it so long as a plausible lie will serve his turn; and he bears false witness against his neighbour as readily in a matter of life and death as in the pettiest case of petty larceny.

"India is the country for those conscientious barristers who have doubts about the morality of advocating a cause which they believe to be unfounded. If Felix Graham came out here he would lead the bar within five years, and his pretty wife would be a charming addition to Calcutta society. He would be utterly unable to make out whether his client was the wronged or the wronger, guilty or not guilty. He might say to himself, 'We employ perjury, it is true, but the other side employ both perjury and forgery. We bring forward fifteen witnesses, who would not speak truth if they could, but the other side brings forward as many who could not speak truth if they would.' Last month, at Mofussilpore, I witnessed a case which came before Benson, and which he referred to Tom. A shopkeeper complained that, as he was walking across the street one of his neighbours fell on him, knocked him down with a cudgel, and, as he lay insensible on the ground, robbed him of thirteen rupees. He produced seven witnesses, who confirmed circumstantially his whole statement. It eventually turned out that the prisoner struck the prosecutor on the back with a light switch, and that the rupees and the insensibility were an episode which had no foundation in fact."

"The fire-arms in a planter's house are always in condition for immediate use; so the host loaded a rifle, and went out with one of his guests, while Mildred and the other remained among the soda-water bottles. After some time a shot was heard, and soon after the pair returned, pale and agitated. The master of the house said, 'Mildred, I believe I have shot a man, but we did not dare to go and look.' It appears they could not find the jackal; so, in the wantonness of men who were full of meat, and drink, and smoke, they took a shot at a sheep which was feeding about a furlong off. As the gun was fired, a man sprang up out of the grass behind the animal, and dropped again before he was well on his feet. Mildred went to the spot, and found a peasant stone dead, with a ball through the heart. Now for the sequel. The relations of the poor fellow prosecuted the planter for murder, and more—that he had tied the deceased to a tree, beaten him cruelly, outraged him in the most foul manner, and finally put him out of his misery by deliberately firing at him from the distance of a few yards. This vindictive, wicked lie was supported in every particular by a number of the villagers. The presence of his three countrymen, a happy chance, and nothing more, saved the prisoner from condemnation. 'From that day forward,' (such was the conclusion which Mildred drew from the circumstance) 'I resolved, if ever I was on a jury, never to convict a European of a capital crime on native testimony.'"

These anecdotes may suggest to some Abolitionest readers—and *Macmillan* has many of them—that there may be good reason in the rule of law which excludes the testimony of negroes in Southern courts of justice. Mr. Charles Kingsley contributes a review of Froude's "History of England;" in which he curses the Roman Catholics with all the fury of an Irish zealot and all the eloquence of bitter hate. When will Mr. Kingsley understand that when a gentleman reads this sort of rant his only feeling is one not very favourable to the writer; and that, when a man of education and a minister of the Gospel talks of Papists and Popery, and calls the faith of three-fourths of Christendom a lie, he only displays his own lack of the breeding of a gentleman and the temper of a Christian? As earnest Protestants, we protest against such language, as a reproach to Protestantism; as sincere Churchmen, we abhor it as utterly unworthy of an English clergyman. Let Mr. Kingsley leave this kind of language to men like Dean Close and Mr. Newman Hall; a Cambridge Professor should be able to argue in a Christian spirit, and to convey his strongest censures in language not unbefitting the lips of a gentleman. His brother does something to atone for this disreputable article by the very gentlemanly tone and feeling which pervades his charming Australian story, of which this number contains four chapters, ending with the thirteenth And Mr. Maurice, whose character and language afford a striking contrast to those of his friend the Rector of Eversley, contributes a quiet, thoughtful paper on Renan's "Vie de Jesus," containing no word unworthy of the Master in whose service—we will not say in whose defence—it is written.

The *Cornhill* contains one heavy article, on "Money and Money's Worth," not clear enough to impress us with confidence in the writer's mastery of his subject. This magazine is as famous for economical paradoxes as Macmillan for economical heresies. "Ulysses in Ogygia," by J. Noel Paton has some fine thoughts and some very feeble lines; on the whole it is not a bad specimen of the school of Tennyson. "Respecting Asses," one of the breed writes a great deal of nonsense that is less amusing than it ought to be. Nonsense, to be good, should have a disguised flavour of sense about it, and this has none. "Parliamentary committees" is a very readable caricature, which the author fails to pass off for a portrait. "Shylock in London" is a paper on usurers, which promises much and is very disappointing. Margaret Denzil goes on her way, and has been joined by another lady, entitled Cousin Phillis, of whose history the third part is here presented. "The Small House at Allington" has not yet shut its doors on our curiosity. There is a good, but somewhat ponderous paper on sermons, and one on "Yorkshire," which is rather too long. On the whole, we think this number of the *Cornhill* decidedly below its average, while most of the other magazines are above theirs.

Good Words is much what it has always been: sensible, quiet, and well-written, but not attractive. A magazine with a purpose is like a story with a moral: spoilt by the attempt to unite two incongruous aims. Nevertheless, there is much good reading between these brown paper covers; and if it be likely that people in general will skip the articles which are the speciality of this magazine, and for the sake whereof it was called into existence, nevertheless the writers of those articles have done their duty, and will find, no doubt, a certain number of appreciating readers. A sermon by Dr. Vaughan (we don't, of course, mean the notorious Independent preacher and writer, who has lately published an eulogy on the murderers of Strafford, but the eminent divine who refused the Bishopric of Rochester,) is always deserving of reverent attention, even though it be preached in a monthly periodical, and inserted between an historical essay and a romantic poem; and the essay and poem are also, in their way, worth reading. Still, we don't like the admixture, and we suspect that readers in general are of our mind.

London Society is true to its title and its original character; it is always pleasant reading, never becomes tedious, and never aspires to be instructive; and deserves its name by nothing more than by the skill which contrives to extract amusement from the scantiest materials. There is nothing in any of its stories; but they are all pretty, sparkling, and pleasant; its social sketches are good-humoured, well-bred, and novel; and its illustrations are admirable.

The *St. James's Magazine* contains nothing that calls for especial remark, except a particularly silly poem, signed "Isca," upon "Big Ben," of which the following verse is a specimen:—

> "Come first, great bells
> Of quarter knells
> In a lo la lo lu rhyme;
> Then clang clang clang
> With a mighty bang,
> Rings the anvil of old Time!"

NEGROES IN THE NORTH.—I declare that, of all the miserable and woe-begone objects I have ever beheld out of a Russian gaol or an Italian lazar-house, the free negroes I have seen in New York are the wretchedest and most forlorn. Take away those who are coachmen or body-servants in private families, and who are clad in some kind of decent livery by the employers; take away a proportion of mulattoes and "bright" coloured people, among which class the women are often given to tawdry finery in apparel, but seldom to personal cleanliness; take away a few, a very few old negroes, who have made money by storekeeping, and wear broadcloth and tall hats; and the residue is a listless, decrepit, drowsy, cowering race, always going to the wall, always sliding and slinking away, always ragged, always dirty—lying and pilfering and tipsifying themselves in a feckless, shambling kind of way—horribly overgrown children—*cretins* whose *goitres* are on their brains instead of in their throats. In the back slums of New York you meet them prowling about with baskets full of scraps and offal. When the police rout out some dilapidated tenement at the Five Points, they are sure to find negroes lurking and snoozling among the rubbish. Let a streak of sunshine be cast across the pavement, and you are sure to find a negro sitting on a doorstep, basking in the radiant warmth. The negroes of Washington are sturdier, comelier, more intelligent fellows. They are admirable waiters, and still more admirable barbers. At Baltimore the railway porters are athletic, active, and willing negroes. Only the day before yesterday they were slaves. Turn them loose in the blessed land of freedom, and see how long it will be before they hopelessly deteriorate.—*New York Correspondence of the Daily Telegraph.*

THE POPE AND THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

[illegible]

(Signed) PIUS IX.

THE NEW CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

THE first session of the second Congress will commence on the [illegible] of February next. The following is a list of the Senators elect and those holding over, with the year annexed in which their respective terms of office expire [illegible] of February each year), also a list of the members elect of the House of Representatives, as far as ascertained.

SENATE.

Alabama—Richard W[illegible] Walker, 1870; Robert Jemison, 1868.

Arkansas—Robert W. Johnson, 1870; Charles B. Mitchel, 1868.

Florida—James M. Baker, 1870; A. E. Maxwell, 1868.

Georgia—Herschel V. Johnson, 1870; Benjamin H. Hill, 1868.

Kentucky—[illegible], 1870; H. C. Burnett, 1868.

Louisiana—Edward Sparrow, 18[illegible]; Thomas J. Semmes, 18[illegible].

Mississippi—J. W. C. Watson, 1870; Albert G. Brown, 1866.

Missouri—[illegible], 1870; [illegible], 18[illegible].

North Carolina—William A. Graham, 1870; William T. Dortch, 18[illegible].

South Carolina—James L. Orr, 1868; Robert W. Barnwell, 1866.

Tennessee—[illegible], 1870; Landon C. Haynes, 18[illegible].

Texas—W. S. Oldham, 18[illegible]; Louis T. Wigfall, 18[illegible].

Virginia—R. M. T. Hunter, 18[illegible]; Allen T. Caperton, 1866.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Alabama—1. Thomas J. Foster; 2. William R. Smith; 3. *W. R. W. Cobb; 4. *M. H. Cruikshank; 5. F. S. Lyon; 6. W. P. Chilton; 7. David Clopton; 8. James L. Pugh; 9. *J. S. Dickinson.

Arkansas—We have no information of the election of Representatives to [illegible].

Florida—1. *S. St. George Rogers; 2. R. B. Hilton.

Georgia—1. Julian Hartridge; 2. *William E. Smith; 3. *Mark H. Blandford; 4. *Clifford Anderson; 5. *J. T. Shewmake; 6. *J. H. Echols; 7. *James M. Smith; 8. *George N. Lester; 9. *H. P. Bell; 10. Warren Akin.

[illegible]

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

OUR friends in the United Kingdom and on the Continent are earnestly requested to forward to us, at their earliest convenience, such information relative to the military movements and condition or affairs in America as they may receive through private letters, either from the United States, or from the Confederate States. They may rely upon the most scrupulous precautions being observed; that no names or facts leading to identification will, under any circumstances, be revealed. No communications, however, will be noticed unless authenticated by a responsible name. Southern newspapers, of any date, will be useful and acceptable presents.

Our subscribers in the South will have their paper supplied through HENRY HOTZE, Esq., the Confederate States Commercial Agent in London, who has kindly tendered us his services in this respect during the continuance of the blockade.

For the convenience of our distant subscribers, all the receipts for subscriptions signed by any of the official representatives, or commissioned officers of the Confederate States, will be recognized at this office.

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At Manchester, F. A. HASLEHAM, Esq., Manchester Southern Club Office, Market-street.

At Paris, to Messrs. PFEIFFER and MULLER, 52, Rue du Château d'Eau, Paris.

At Turin, to Sr. FILIPPO MANETTA, 4, Borgo Nuovo.

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THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1864.

Independence and Recognition.

AT the commencement of a new year, marking the fourth year of the contest in America, and in view, moreover, of the coming session of Parliament, it does not seem out of place to pass in contemplation—not the accomplished acts of England in reference to the American war, nor the relations existing between England and the Confederate States—but the duties of the former and the rights of the latter Power. In other words, it seems advisable to take the opportunity of examining briefly some of the grounds on which we believe the Southern Confederacy to be entitled to a formal recognition from the Governments of Europe.

The President, in his Message to the Confederate Congress, stated that "by consent, the initiative in the matter of the war on the American continent had been conceded by the Powers of Europe to the two great maritime Powers, England and France." That view of the case is correct, and it may be taken for granted that recognition by England and France will be followed by recognition at the hands of all the smaller and the inland Powers. It may also be assumed that any action towards that end taken by England will receive the earnest co-operation of the French Emperor. It is clear, then, that the whole responsibility in the matter rests with England alone, that she is free to act, trammelled by no considerations but those of justice.

The independence of a State affords an irresistible claim to recognition. That is an axiom; but the whole difficulty of the question turns upon what constitutes independence, or rather, upon the nature and character of the independence. A people or a section of a people may rise in arms against the sovereign authority under which they were formerly held. By military or naval success they may free the country which they inhabit or claim from the presence of the forces and officers of the sovereign Power, thereby bringing about the practical cessation of hostilities on the part of the old State; they may consolidate their new State so as to be in a condition to maintain international relations with other countries; they may possess a Government acknowledged by the persons over whom it is set, and able to assume the reponsibility of their conduct towards the subjects of foreign Powers. A people which has fulfilled these conditions has a right to recognition. The Government which they have established may be of a character disapproved by foreign Powers; their institutions, their social organisation may be at variance with preconceived ideas; their policy may seem to be revolutionary or aggressive; yet they possess an independence, they constitute a sovereign State; they demand, and have a right to, recognition. If a definition were needed, such an independence may be defined as an independence *de facto*. It is a right recognised alike by publicists and statesmen, and is consecrated by the authority of precedents.

Now, it has been argued that the right of recognition can never arise unless all these conditions have been fulfilled; that the independence out of which the right of recognition springs cannot be of a character other than that defined. It has escaped notice that a distinction may, and must be, drawn between an independence *de facto* and an independence *de jure*; in other words that, provided all other conditions precedent have been fulfilled, cases may arise in which there may be a "waiver" of that condition which has reference to a cessation of hostilities.

With the exception, then, of this condition, does any fact exist negative of the independence of the Southern States? It is by no means difficult to conceive valid objections to a claim of this character. It may well be that in the people or the Government seeking the sovereign dignity, an absence of cohesive stability may prevail, likely to eventuate in the dissolution of their organisation and the annihilation of their autonomy. In such a case, the Powers which have conceded recognition might fairly deem themselves bound to cherish and support their foster-child. Such a contingency has been exemplified by the kingdom of Greece and the republic of Mexico; and it must be admitted that those results do not encourage similar experiments. On the other hand, history scarcely affords a single example of a people, who, in attempting to free themselves from another Power, have not jeopardised order and liberty within themselves. Yet the Southern States, though engaged against enormous odds in the most terrible struggle for existence, have so just a confidence in themselves, their Government, and their Constitution, that they have maintained unimpaired that perfect liberty of expression and action, which has hitherto been deemed possible only under Governments long established, and in periods of the most profound repose.

Again, the organisation of the new State, her laws, and her social institutions, may be considered destructive of civilisation, of society, and the rights and interests of the human race. Can it, however, be gravely contended that such a charge can be urged against a State, whose crime and misfortune it has been to adhere too devotedly to the laws, the maxims, and the principles, ordained and bequeathed by the great founders and vindicators of the Republic of the United States?

Again, the establishment of the new State may be subversive of the vested rights and interests of an old State; and that subversion may compromise the relative powers and positions of other sovereignties. The integrity of the kingdom of Denmark is a doctrine to which English statesmen stand committed. That integrity is by them held to be essential to the interests of Northern Europe, and on such a ground the recognition of Slesvig and Holstein may fairly be combated. But even the most devoted adherent of the Monroe Doctrine would not commit himself to the monstrous absurdity, that a mere section of the community, in whose favour the doctrine was held, could, as against the will of another section who had repudiated that doctrine, have a "vested right" to the submission to one Government of all the people between the Canadian frontier and the Gulf of Mexico. Moreover, the expression, "vested right" implies "dominion" over that in which the right is claimed; but even if the dominion of the Union over its members were assumed, the dominion of one section of the Union over another section would not follow; for the dominion would cease with the dissolution of that which alone gave it existence.

There remains but one, and that perhaps the most formidable objection, to a claim to an independence *de jure*, and that is, the hopelessness of the enterprise of the new State. At this very moment multitudes of men in Western Europe hold that the Poles have a just claim to be free. At the same time, the general opinion is that their cause is hopeless. Indeed, it is admitted that the contest is maintained in the expectation of foreign aid, and would be abandoned with the abandonment of that hope. If this were true with regard to the Confederate States, if the verdict of public opinion pronounced their resistance hopeless, there would be a definitive bar to their claim. There must be a reasonable expectation, a judgment based on that degree of certainty upon which the actions of ordinary life proceed, of the ability of the South, not to crush the North, not to reduce the North to the loss of the last man and the last ship, to the expenditure of the last dollar and the capture of the last gun, but to withstand the attempts of the North to subjugate the South. On that issue we appeal confidently to the enlightened classes of England, to the opinion of military men, to the facts of the last two years. The Emperor of the French has told the Government at Washington that subjugation is impossible. That is the opinion of the princes of the House of Orleans. It is the opinion of the able English soldier who has recently visited the seat of war. No Northern general has pronounced the task feasible. General Scott never believed it so. Mr. Lincoln's language as to his own plan of warfare proves that he has no such expectation. There is only one man in office who has prophesied such a result, and the value of his prophecies has long ago been ascertained. By an expenditure of more than £300,000,000 sterling, and the waste of more than 1,000,000 lives, the North holds New Orleans and has penetrated to Chattanooga.

Now the distinction which we have drawn between a claim arising from an independence *de facto* and one arising from an independence *de jure* is not a fancy of rhetoric or a subtlety of pleading. On the contrary, it has its root in the foundation of the whole moral code of human actions. It is based on the distinction between "might and right." Of course, if it is affirmed that political ethics have no existence—a proposition which involves the negation of private ethics—our argument goes for nought. We assume that in the political world there may be "right" as distinguished from "wrong," and then that "right" may exist without "might," and that "wrong" may coexist with "might." These are propositions to be assumed, not to be argued. Yet, strangely enough, the theory of an independence *de facto* as the only admissible kind of independence, is a denial of the second and the most important of these axioms. That an indefeasible claim to independence may arise by sheer "might" is admitted. But it has been contended that it can arise in no other way. In other words, "brute force" has been substituted for "justice and right," and the extravagant theories of the *Vox populi vox Dei*, and of the irresponsible will of the majority, have been outdone. Yet the whole fabric of the argument against the recognition of the South rests on this foundation. Its corner-stone is a denial of the possibility of "right" in the absence of "might." It is stamped with the same characteristics as the theory of arbitrary power, and argues a similar kind of moral obliquity.

We have, then, considered the objections that may be urged against the claim of the Confederate States to independence. On the affirmative reasoning it is not necessary to dwell at any length. It will be enough to take a definition of a State to show how completely the South has fulfilled all conditions. For this purpose the language of the Queen's Advocate may be cited. "A State," he says, "may be defined to be a people permanently occupying a fixed territory, *certam sedem*, bound together by common laws and customs into one body politic, exercising, through the medium of an organised Government, independent sovereignty and control over all persons and things within its boundaries, capable of making war and peace, and of entering into all international relations with the other communities of the globe." It seems impossible to find a particular in which the Confederate States have not fulfilled the obligations of this definition. We say, then, that where a new State has placed herself in a position in respect of other communities in no way distinguishable from the position occupied by an old State, when it has all the attributes and characteristics of an old State,

when there is no [illegible] inability to maintain its independence, [illegible] the mere fact that it is waging a war [illegible] with another Power, [illegible] as might be done by [illegible] claim to the recognition by neutral States of its independence, [illegible] an old State [illegible]

But it is [illegible] people have revolted against the [illegible] Power, it is [illegible] States. [illegible] was no [illegible] Power. [illegible] spring from a [illegible] terminology, [illegible] dangerous in political science. What can be more [illegible] than to speak of the Confederate States as "rebels," or "insurgents"? Against whom have they rebelled? [illegible] States, [illegible] special purposes and on special conditions, [illegible] nominated [illegible] because the special purposes had been frustrated and the special conditions broken. The North consummated a revolution. It [illegible] a geographical section, and thereby annihilated the fundamental principle of the Union. Having then formed itself into a homogeneous mass, it sought to usurp dominion over another geographical section. Its primary action created at least two Powers. It never pretended to be other than revolutionary, for it declared that the Union must be [illegible] in obedience to the "higher law." The South clung to the Constitution, and sought protection under it. It was driven out and forced into being a separate State and a hostile Power.

But it has been argued that foreign Governments are bound to recognise the United States as an entity—that they have always had relations with a Government having its seat at Washington and speaking in the name of the entire community. By the principles of the common law, the judges in Westminster Hall take notice of the Constitution of foreign States, and *à fortiori* must the Ministers of the Crown do so. Instances, too, such as the ratification of the Ashburton Treaty by the State of Maine, have occurred, in which the independent sovereign character of the several individual States of the Union has been recognised. If this view be sound how can it be held that it is the duty of England to consider eleven of such States rebels against the remainder? But the Union is set up as an existent tangible entity, and it is said that against that there is a rebellion. If this were so, then most certainly the termination of the rebellion in favour of the supposed Union would have the effect of restoring the Union and its component elements to its former condition. Is that possible? How can the old Union exist when its Constitution is dead? and how can the Constitution be other than dead when every guarantee and every provision that distinguished it is annihilated? It is idle to talk of restoration. The North avows its intention to destroy, not to repair; to subjugate the South as a geographical territory, not to readmit it into that dead Union which the North has neither the power nor the wish to resuscitate.

This much, then, we have endeavoured to show: First, that the South has fulfilled every condition precedent to her claim to recognition as an independent sovereign State, according to the rules laid down by the strongest opponents of her demand, with the single exception of the condition of the cessation of hostilities. Second, that to exact the performance of the excepted condition is to confound two great and distinctive principles, which have their foundation in the primary distinctions of "right" and "wrong." Third, that there can be a just claim to an independence though the excepted condition has not been fulfilled, and that the South has made good that claim. Fourth, that in respect of hostile efforts against the new State, the power to maintain its independence, not the cease of efforts to subdue it, is the true condition of recognition. Fifth, that in respect of this condition the South has an [illegible] passed [illegible] in the [illegible] a [illegible] Power [illegible]

[illegible]

Having [illegible] our argument on the question of "right," we [illegible] word on the [illegible] a case where it is [illegible] or a State that [illegible] the [illegible]

Is it nothing for the [illegible] that a [illegible] should be [illegible] North [illegible] American [illegible] system [illegible] the [illegible] not the [illegible] of the world [illegible] peace? It is a remark true and [illegible] the productions of the Southern States [illegible] the moral and physical well-being of [illegible] none are prejudicial to him. To England [illegible] only serves to prove, if proof were [illegible], how enduring is the blow inflicted on her [illegible] prosperity, how utterly and disastrously all efforts have failed to supplement the [illegible] by the American war.

So then, our interests and the interests of the world coincide with the dictates of law, justice, and humanity. The feeling of the [illegible] and educated classes of England agrees with these considerations. The [illegible] of France agrees with them. The English Ministry is alone unmoved. But we anticipate with confidence the meeting of the English Parliament, for the cause of the South courts and profits by discussion. An appeal will be made to the [illegible] for that justice which is refused by a minister.

A Method of meeting Southern Engagements.

Political Economy is, unfortunately, like [illegible] medicine, a science which is [illegible] understood only by a few experts, and these are too prone to abuse their monopoly in a manner which would be utterly impossible if society at large had ever taken the trouble to understand the very [illegible] framework on which their monstrous propositions are based. Mad doctors—as they are vulgarly called, with a disregard of grammar which does not involve a corresponding departure from accuracy of description—will talk the wildest nonsense in courts of justice, because they know that the jurymen have never given any attention to the subject of their studies; whereas, if these had but mastered so much as the legal definition of insanity, they would at once discern the utter futility of all these pseudo-medical theories advanced to give impunity to murder, and undermine the foundations of morality. Certain political economists play a similar part in the House of Commons and elsewhere. Their jargon of free trade is like that of the experts in lunacy: very perplexing to [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] of "Leave trade to its natural course." [illegible] by a contest between foreign traders and a foreign enemy, or by the national government.

It is of no advantage to the Confederacy that [illegible] British subjects [illegible] profits by a peculiar trade. These profits are not the result of mutual gain, [illegible] They are not the [illegible] Confederate States for the benefit of strangers. [illegible] Confederacy. [illegible] The Index [illegible] of the Confederacy [illegible] A speculative trade of the worst kind has been forced into activity, a description of which is given in emphatic

terms by the Richmond correspondent of the *Times*:—

Go this day to the great auction sale of blockade-running goods exhibited by Messrs. Kent and Paine, in the principal street of Richmond, take note of the army of young and able-bodied men who might, if they were men and not sharks, swell Lee's host to 100,000 bayonets, and who are engaged in scrambling over each other's backs to buy silks and muslins, and to invest some of the Confederate notes which they have in two years and a half of unscrupulous greed amassed, in materials and fabrics which, whether the Confederates sink or swim, must still command gold.

And discontent, bitter but not unnatural, is fostered by the spectacle of luxuries for the rich introduced into a country where all except the rich have much ado to live. What business have the ladies of the South, just now, with silks and muslins? What have her rich men to do with champagne and Chateau Lafitte? It is not with such things as these that blockade-running ships should be laden; it is not on such things that Southern money should be spent. Better that no cargo at all should enter the port than such cargoes as these. Yet these are the cargoes that pay the importer best; and, therefore, while the importation remains in private hands, these are the cargoes of which there will be the greatest abundance. If the Confederacy wants cloth, shoes, powder, it must purchase them itself in England, and provide on its own account for their transportation.

The export trade also works ill for the country. It tends in some measure to divert labour from the articles of which the nation has need to those which exporters will buy. It enhances abnormally the value of gold, to the great injury of the public interests. And if it does a little to benefit individuals by raising the price of cotton—and it does very little in this way—it does a far greater injury to the Administration and to the Confederacy at large by sending down the price of Confederate bonds which depend on cotton for their value. At present, a man may send over gold or goods, and purchase cotton at less than threepence per pound. Naturally, therefore, the bonds are, for those who wish to purchase cotton with them, worth no higher price than they need pay in gold or goods for cotton. And further, the effect of this trade on the value of exchange tells terribly against the blockaded country. Every cargo landed in the Confederate States enhances their debt to England, and diminishes the value of that with which the Government must meet its current obligations in England; while cargoes exported on private account fail to balance this debt, and redound chiefly, if not entirely, to the profit of the exporter.

For the sake, therefore, of its credit at home and abroad; for the sake of its finances; in justice to the poorer citizens, and to its foreign creditors, it does seem that the Government of the Confederate States would do wisely to take the control of the foreign trade into its own hands, and put a stop to all private exportation of cotton, except in payment of State bonds. It is not difficult to raise objections to such a policy; but they are all objections based on principles applicable to a normal, and not to an utterly abnormal, national condition. It is affirmed that a Government can never carry on trade so lucratively as private individuals. The answer is, that this is true of a time of peace; though even in time of peace the English Government, among others, carries on a lucrative and enormous business as letter-carrier, yielding millions to its revenue. But in the present condition of the Confederate States, trade has ceased to be trade; it is a part of the belligerent operations of the country, and partakes so much of the character of naval warfare that it may well be placed under Government control. Nations do not victual their camps by private agency; and it is not unfair to consider the South as one great camp, and the blockade-runners as—if their function were properly performed—the agents who supply it with food and clothing. It may be said that the Confederate Government would have to find capital to carry on this trade, which it could ill spare. The answer is, that practically it does find the capital, but does not receive the profits. And if, finally, it be urged that even in time of war finance should not be made to serve the purpose of sumptuary laws, it may be replied that the dealers in luxuries should be free to import them, under such duties as a Government in extreme need may levy on luxuries, but that they shall not be paid for out of a fund required for national purposes, to wit, the cotton stores of the South.

Those stores are worth, in England, more than one hundred millions sterling; in the Confederacy, they are worth about one-twelfth of that amount. It is evident, therefore, that if the Government can pay for whatever purchases it wishes to make in England with cotton at present prices, it can make them with infinite advantage to itself and the country; and there is no violation of any rule of theoretic or practical economy in its so doing. There are three interests to be considered: those of the Confederacy, those of its creditors, and those of the cotton owners; and the problem is, how to advance the first to the utmost while doing full justice to the two latter.

The holders of the cotton bonds would of course be exempt from any embargo on cotton; and such an embargo would at once relieve them from the present competition they undergo from purchasers in the open market, who can now obtain cotton at from 2¼d. to 3d. a pound. And, so long as the Confederate Government fulfils its bargain with them, and does not—which of course it will not—deliver cotton to others on better terms than to them, they will have nothing to complain of because it does sell cotton. Of course, no measures must be taken inconsistent with their right to receive every facility for the export of such cotton as they may choose to demand in payment of their bonds; but, with this proviso, they cannot claim any right to interfere with or remonstrate against any steps which it may deem expedient. Indeed, their interests will be greatly served by an embargo, which will render their bonds the only means of obtaining cotton for less than the Liverpool market rate. This, in itself, would tend immediately to raise the value of their stock; and as it would speedily be followed by a greatly increased confidence in the financial strength of the Confederate Government, it would not improbably result, within a few months, in bringing the bonds back to the rate of issue.

The owners of cotton in the South must not be wronged. There may be cases of absolute necessity which justify spoliation, as there are cases which justify the devastation of territory, without compensation, in the face of an invading foe. But no such necessity now exists; and, in its absence, the spoliation of one class of property-holders—the imposition on them of great pecuniary sacrifices not exacted from others—is not permissible. Now, an embargo on cotton would annihilate its value in the Southern States, and amount to a robbery of its owners. These, therefore, must be compensated; Government must take upon itself the risk and loss that would otherwise fall on them, so far as that risk and loss are occasioned solely by its own act. It is not bound to do more than this. It is not bound to purchase cotton wherever it may be and however ill it may be stored; but it must offer such terms as will prevent any real wrong being done to them.

Now, to purchase the whole cotton crop, wherever that may be, would be to confer a favour on the holders at the expense of the community, and to deprive them of all inducement to vigilance in the custody of a property no longer their own. On the other hand, to purchase only what the Government wants and as it wants, and to lay an embargo on the rest, would be a measure of wholesale confiscation. And in any case it is plain that the purchase cannot be made with money, metallic or paper; for the former is not to be had, and to issue the latter in sufficient quantities would be to reduce it to the value of assignats.

While waiting with some anxiety to learn what the Confederate Government will actually propose, one plan is suggested at once by the considerations above detailed. If the Confederate Government were to lay an embargo on all cotton, excepting only such as might be exported by itself or in payment of its bonds; if it were to offer the present market price for all cotton to be handed over to it in a specified condition at certain places named or to be named by itself; and if it were, further, to take powers to purchase at that price all cotton it thought proper to require—it would accomplish all that appears to be necessary, and obviate every objection that has been alleged. It would be necessary to pay not in currency, but in bonds at a fair rate; say in eight per cent. stock at the market price. Thus no one would be wronged; and yet the Confederate Government would obtain possession of a means of payment worth twelve times as much in England as in the Confederate States—would obtain, in fact, a means of discharging its liabilities here much more cheaply than it could do in time of peace.

It might be found necessary, also, to lay an embargo on bullion, for the sake of maintaining the power of paying interest on the debt in coin, and thus preserving the credit of the Government and the value of its paper. In this case, as it would be difficult for the blockade runners to obtain a return cargo, the Government might not improbably be forced to take the whole foreign trade of the country, or nearly the whole, into its own hands; and it would do it, probably, with much more efficiency, and to much greater national advantage, than is done at present.

Hitherto, as was remarked in THE INDEX last week, 130,000 bales of cotton have been run through the blockade in the course of a year. The Government could afford to work more energetically, and to run greater risks. Suppose it to export 400,000 bales per annum, and to land 200,000 in Liverpool. This would give it (at 2s. per lb., or £45 per bale of 450lbs.) £9,000,000 a year in England—a sum sufficient to pay off all obligations which the owners might wish redeemed in money here rather than in cotton in America, and to meet all its European expenses; adding meantime only £1,600,000 a year to the capital of its domestic debt. And suppose it to purchase in all 2,000,000 bales at the present market price of the South, to export 800,000, landing 400,000 in Liverpool, and to have on hand at the end of the war 1,200,000, the account would stand thus:—

	£		£
Debt incurred, at £4 per bale....	8,000,000	Value received in England	18,000,000
Interest for 2 yrs. at 8 per cent...	1,280,000	Value of Stock on hand at 1s. per lb., £22 10s. per bale (it would not be less on conclusion of peace)	27,000,000
	£9,280,000		£45,000,000

Leaving a gain of £33,722,000, or more than 370 per cent.—an ample margin to cover all losses incurred by fire and accident, by hostile inroads, and by the vast enhancement in value of the currency in which the Confederate debt is computed, which must follow the attainment of peace.

It can hardly be doubted, with such advantages in prospect, that the Confederate Government will follow the advice of Mr. McRae in laying an embargo on cotton; or that the Congress will assist and support it in the measures which may be requisite to carry that measure into complete and successful operation.

The Federal Gains in the Past Year.

AT the close of the third year of the war in America, waged, not for the redress of a real or imaginary wrong, the rectification of a frontier, or the succession to a throne, but for the avowed purpose of subjugating a territory larger than half Europe, it may be interesting to examine the real progress that has been made during the past twelve months towards the accomplishment of that aim, and the *data* it furnishes for calculating the day of Mr. Lincoln's final triumph. Most great men have identified themselves in their time with their national struggles in the hour of revolution. A speech which has had the effect of an inspiration, an act which has saved the Commonwealth, a resolve which has made a people wonder—something of this kind is associated with the memory of every leader of a popular cause. What is it that will hand down President Lincoln's name to a grateful posterity? We must leave it to the Yankees to decide. But there is one of his sayings which so completely historicizes the war from a Northern point of view, and which so aptly illustrates the blind brute-force strategy of General Halleck, that we venture to adopt it, as the most thoroughly expressive and characteristic description of the conduct of the war. It is "pegging away"—that is President Lincoln's "idea." No matter at what cost of life or treasure, no matter how long the struggle may last, if the North will only "keep on pegging away," some day the Union will be restored. Well, during the last year there is no doubt the North has "kept on pegging away" with marvellous vigour. During the whole twelve months there has scarcely been a slack day. Not a month has passed but has brought us its tidings of great battles, ended or imminent, and of tremendous expeditions, each big with the fate of a territory large enough to maintain a distinct and powerful European nationality. Some £150,000,000 sterling have been added to the debt of the United States, some 250,000 soldiers have been lost to the Northern army by battle, disease and desertion. New York has been in flames and in the power of an angry mob. The cities of Pennsylvania have stirred to the tread of Confederate soldiery. Every constitutional right of which Americans boasted has vanished, and a more helpless and down-trodden race of men than the citizens of the United States the world does not exhibit. Still they pride themselves, with their President, on "pegging away," and now that we have to some extent counted the cost, we may try and discover the results.

Now these must be looked for territorially. The one object of the war is territory. Let us see how far 1863 has satisfied the North in this respect. We will begin with Virginia. Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg may be counted into the Virginian campaign within the year. In January, 1863, Burnside occupied the northern bank of the Rappahannock opposite Fredericksburg, with Acquia Creek as his depot of supplies. The Confederates had not a troop of guerillas north of the Federal cantonments at Falmouth. In January, 1864, Meade has gone into winter-quarters much further North, and Confederate guerillas are

THE CAUSES OF THE AMERICAN WAR

BY A. T. BLEDSOE, LL.D., PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.

No. 6

When I began, many years ago to study the causes of the American war, it appeared to me most strange, as that subject lay most upon the surface and was most sought after and heard of in words," was the chief reason of them. But this was a great mistake; a most limited, partial, and superficial view of the subject.

The Estate of the country existed, indeed, a much older fact than that which existed in the subject of slavery, even older than the Constitution of the United States itself, and which had repeatedly threatened the dissolution of the Union. This was the fact between the two great sections of the late Union, which were called then as now, the North and the South. In the Convention of 1787, by which the Constitution was formed, James Madison, its most illustrious member, declared that the great necessity to be settled, the great conflict of interests and passions and prejudices to be adjusted, was that which existed, not between the large and the small States, but between the Northern and Southern portions of the Union. This sentiment was uttered by him, and by other members of the convention, at the very time that the struggle between the large and the small States had brought the Union to the verge of dissolution, and almost entirely extinguished all hope of its longer continuance. And the whole history of the country, from that day to this, has only served to verify this opinion, an opinion which was, therefore, far more deeply felt, and far more earnestly uttered by George Mason and Patrick Henry than by Madison himself. For although "the father of the Constitution," as Mr. Madison has been called, felt this antagonism of the two sections to be the great difficulty in the way of the convention, he firmly hoped that it had been successfully and permanently settled by the new Constitution; whereas Mason and Henry both confidently predicted that it would break out afresh, and sooner or later, work the dissolution of the Union itself. George Mason, in particular, expressly predicted, that it was in the nature of man for the larger portion of the Union to secure to itself all the advantages of the new Government to itself, and to do an injustice to the smaller portion, with whom it would have no sympathy—a prediction which has been most exactly verified by the unequally and fluctuated sections. Madison may have been, and doubtless was, the idolater of the age and country, Mason and Henry were certainly its cool and prudent.

The same history also reveals to the just time and manner in which the quarrel about slavery was drawn out, and assumed subservient to, the great struggle of sections, among the slavery was, for the most part, was one of the subordinate causes, or rather occasions, of the more important one in Union—one of the many apples of discord in the great element for political power by which the conflict was sharpened and the angry passions aroused. If we look for the real cause of this conflict, we shall find that it is to be found in something other. We shall find, indeed, that its causes lie as deep as the foundation of human nature itself, and that its consequences are as wide as the interests of humanity.

The history of the world may be summed up in two great facts: namely, in the struggle of one portion of mankind to rule over and oppress the other, and in the struggle of the other to maintain its independence. Precisely such has been

The people of the South, we repeat, have no short and easy

method, like the French infidels of the eighteenth century, for the regeneration of mankind. On the contrary, they reject and repudiate all such pestilential nostrums, all such whirlwinds of doctrine, all such panaceas in politics. They oppose them as vehemently as they were opposed by Edmund Burke, or by the great nation in whose behalf Burke poured forth his floods of eloquence and the vast stores of his wonderful wisdom.

It was thus, and not otherwise, that the great struggles of sections deepened into a conflict between freedom and fanaticism, between liberty and license, between social order and social chaos, between the powers of light and the powers of darkness. It was thus, that in the conflict between the two sections the North and the South were separated, and ranged on different sides in the great struggle which embraces and divides the universe. If the South had possessed the numerical majority, she would, in all probability, have sought to rule over and oppress the North. For as Aristotle said more than 2,000 years ago, and as all history has shown, "The weak always desire what is equal and just; but the powerful pay no regard to it."* Hence the people of the South have reason to be most profoundly thankful for their present lot, however sad and deplorable; since under the administration of an almighty and righteous God, it is infinitely better to be the victims than the authors of oppression.

The South was most distinctly and solemnly forewarned, by the Sewards, and the Wilsons, and the Hodges of the North, that, if she should dare to withdraw from her implacable enemies she could not be "let alone." On the contrary, she was assured that all the nations of the Christian world, in imitation of John Brown, would rush upon her in one raid of universal hate, and sweep her from existence. The Yankee nation is, however, the only one which has thus far attempted to fulfil the prediction of its prophets. For this Christian nation has, in imitation of John Brown, endeavoured to stir up a servile insurrection, and subject all ages and all sexes to the indiscriminate slaughter and brutality of a race no better than themselves. No design so horrible was ever conceived by the most ferocious Jacobins during the most furious period of the French revolution. The Massacre of St. Domingo, it is true, followed the proclamation of emancipation by the French Assembly; but this formed no part of the design of its authors, and never entered into the imagination of its prophets. But the Government at Washington, failing in the accomplishment of its dire purpose of subjection by the usual means of civilised warfare, has aimed to stir up a servile insurrection, and instigate another massacre of St. Domingo on a still more stupendous and awful scale.

But while the nations of the Christian world have not joined the North in its raid on the South, they have given far more aid and comfort to the strong than to the weak—to the mighty North struggling for empire and despotic sway, than to the South struggling for independence and peace. The South stands to-day, and she stands alone, in the Thermopylæ of the universe; pleading, as best she may, the great cause of freedom and humanity—pleading the great cause of freedom against fanaticism, and the great cause of humanity against outrages which, in the words of an English statesman,† "Christian times have seen nothing to equal, and at which the whole world stands aghast almost to incredulity." "Go, tell the Spartans we lie here in obedience to her laws," are, as every one knows, the imperishable words on the tomb of Leonidas and his small band of heroes. Be this, then, the inscription on the tombs and monuments of Southern heroes: "Go, tell the Christian world we lie here in obedience to her principles and laws;" and this will be their sublime revenge—this simple record of their injuries and wrongs.

PRIVATEERS CONDEMNED AS FELONS.

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, November 15th, 1863.

SIR,—I beg to direct, through the columns of your journal, the action of the Confederate Government to a case which requires their attention, lest, for want of prompt application of the *lex talionis*, cruel and irreparable injustice be done to three unfortunate gentlemen.

You will remember the seizure, on suspicion of being a Confederate privateer, by the authorities of the United States in this harbour, of the schooner *J. M. Chapman*. For a full account of the trial you are referred to the *Weekly Bulletin* of 17th October, and the other daily and weekly papers of San Francisco, of that date. It appears that the chief, or rather the only conclusive evidence, against the vessel was a "letter of marque and reprisals" from President Davis, which was found on board. In consequence, the vessel was condemned by the United States Circuit Court, and of the persons implicated in her equipment, three, Mr. Greathouse (formerly a banker at Yreka City, Siskyon county,) Mr. Harpending, and Mr. Rubery (the latter an Englishman) being found guilty of high treason against the United States, were sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in the penitentiary and a fine o $10,000 each. A fourth, Mr. Baldwin (a son of Judge Baldwin), made good his escape.

This terrible sentence is about to be carried into effect, and the fate of these unfortunates will, in all probability, remain unnoticed, unless their friends succeed, by your aid, in evo ing the energetic interposition of the Confederate Government.

Yours anxiously,

A FRIEND.

* "Aristotle's Politics," Book VI., Chap. iii.
† Lord Brougham.

YANKEE VESSELS UNDER THE ENGLISH FLAG.

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

SIR,—When so much is said of English neutrality and the points of law involved in the *Alexandra* case, it may not be out of place to call attention to laws which are daily and in the most systematic manner infringed or evaded, to the great advantage of one of the American belligerents, and the serious detriment of the other.

American vessels are being registered by wholesale under the English flag, and our customs officers are instructed not to be too particular in their inquiries, when the declarations of ownership are to be signed. American captains pass our Mercantile Board, so as to obtain the certificate necessary to command these vessels. The ownership, the command, the character of the vessel thus remains unchanged; only by a mockery of forms, which is connived at and even encouraged by intimations from the highest authorities, *we lend our flag* to the Yankees to protect them from Captain Semmes and his colleagues.

Accordingly, the Stars and Stripes are rapidly disappearing from the high seas, though the trade which it now no longer covers goes on as prosperously as ever, and Brother Jonathan chuckles over his keenness in not only outwitting the Confederate cruisers, but also the simple-minded and credulous John Bulls. For you will not fail to observe that while we are doing a grave injustice to one of the belligerents, we are not the less injuring the interests of our own shipowners, underwriters, and public at large. The trade which our lovingkindness for the Yankees thus screens from the risks of war, would, by a more rigid and impartial enforcement of our laws, have been shared by *bonâ fide* British bottoms, instead of Yankees in disguise. The shipping interest of this country, by an unwarrantable invasion, is defrauded of the legitimate advantages belonging to neutral commerce, the slightest of which is the difference in the premium of insurance.

The question which I wish to bring under your consideration is not, whether the Government will remedy an abuse which is too much consistent with the "warm neutrality" of the Foreign-office not to be intentionally permitted, but whether the British Government will protect, in event of seizure by a Confederate cruiser, the owners and freighters of the disguised vessel against palpable evidence of fraud in her assumed character? I know that the Confederates are closely watching the ships which have changed flags, and the question is therefore very likely to arise practically. The vessels themselves are easily known in their disguise. As the laws of the United States do not permit the registration of foreign-built ships, the build, unless there has been really a *bonâ fide* sale to an English subject, will go far as *primâ facie* evidence. Again, vessels of this sort are generally insured in America, and no English shipowner ever insures his vessels in America.

This last circumstance, alone, should make the mercantile public cautious on what vessels they entrust their goods; lest, in shipping under an English flag, they find that the responsible parties in case of average, bottomry or the various marine casualties, can only be reached through Mr. Lincoln's courts. And underwriters who take lines on the cargo should be well satisfied that the vessel also is insured in England.

I have only to add, that among the ports where the nefarious practice to which I call your attention, is chiefly carried on, Bristol holds a conspicuous place.

Respectfully yours,

A CITY MERCHANT.

CITY, January, 1864.

BUTLER'S RULE IN NORFOLK.

THE following extract from the letter of a sufferer of Butler's infamous and cowardly warfare on women and children, needs no comments. It is addressed to a lady friend in Europe:—

NORFOLK, December 15.

I have had a struggle before I could make up my mind to inflict our deep and desperate sorrow and sadness upon you. You have great cause to rejoice evermore that you are out of this degraded down-trodden city. Volumes could hardly tell you the miseries and indignities which that fiend Butler has heaped upon our stricken people. To be defeated in fair fight we can endure, but to be overcome by petty tyranny and abject cowardice is more than flesh can bear. He is making war on women and children, and the few men that are left in the town are mostly non-combatants. His orders are pictures of his brute nature. On Friday he issued his orders for the whole population to take the oath or be prisoners of war. Another order is, that where a family is not large enough to occupy the whole house, though it belongs to the occupants, any negroes can move in and take possession of the vacant rooms, and there is no redress against the indignity. He only professes to protect us from actual personal violence, but he takes care not to know who commits personal violence. The negroes and soldiers are allowed to come into your house at all hours, take anything, and commit any outrage they please. Every pulpit and school is closed. All means of living are suspended. Only day labour is allowed. Everyone from the country has to take a pass to come into town and to go out, each way, paying a $1.00 for it, and this pass can only be got with the oath. Within one mile from the town you are subject to four different searches from negro patrols, and their acts are so atrocious that females cannot go beyond the city limits. The few families in the neighbourhood have found it safer to move into town, bad as that is. It is forbidden to sell land or other property, or to give it away. To hide any article is a penal offence. In fact, the only thing that is not forbidden to do is to steal, and of this permission his black and white minions avail themselves freely. But I am surprised that he allows others to follow his trade; it must be that he has gorged as much as he can swallow, or that the spoils of our poor town are not worth his monopolising. Did you ever conceive of such an unmitigated villain!

To-day was the last day of grace allowed for taking the oath, or go to prison, and have everything confiscated. The fiend thought that all would refuse, and he might imprison the men, and either send the women and children into the already overburdened Confederacy, or leave them to the tender mercy of his blacks. For even what he calls protection from their outrages, we can only get on condition of being loyal. In most fearful cases of wrong, otherwise, we are told, that the United States Government can only protect its own citizens, and rebels must go to their own Government for redress or protection. On Saturday a few of the principal old men had a meeting, very secretly of course, and decided to take the accursed oath, as not to do so would be playing into the hands of these wretches. Accordingly, the crowd of oath-takers, mostly women, was like a hotly-contested election, and Barnes had to telegraph to Butler at Fortress Monroe to extend the time. Some still say they will die and rot before taking it, but all will have to come to it at last. —— says he will not; I have never seen him so sad; he lies awake all night, and looks twenty years older since you saw him. If my taking the oath would save my husband's doing so, I could resign myself to it though it would almost kill me. If I could put the torch to all we have, and keep the scoundrels from getting it, I would do it. If I could get away without taking it, I would leave home and all behind until better days. Oh, you ought to rejoice that you are not here; and however much I miss you and long for you, I would not bring you into our misery, if I had a magician's wand. I never dreamed of such sorrow; I never thought that such could come upon us. To think that it is the will of God makes one shudder, and there are times when my heart hardens even in prayer. God forgive me!

I cannot tell you half the horrors of our situation. The negroes, headed by free negroes from the North, had a meeting the other day in their church, and openly debated the expediency of a general massacre. It was postponed, but from certain mysterious movements, we fear that they will make some demonstrations between Christmas and New-Year's-day. Many ladies, for fear of this, have taken the oath, who would not have been induced by any other consideration, and have entreated individually for protection or leave to go away The renegades fare no better than those who face the danger.——who pretended to be a Union man, was made to help building the gallows for poor Dr. W. He was seen to do t before daylight, and therefore cannot deny it. He says he was forced by threats. So to pretend what you do not feel does not save you from insult or degradation. Mrs. —— had to give a sworn certificate that her husband was on the point of death, or else she and her eight children, one only two months old, would have been turned into the streets, to make a negro barracks of her house. After the oath we shall, if possible, be even worse off. Military law will make quick work with those who are accused of "breaking" it. No male is permitted to leave the place, even after taking the oath, until the draft is made; and what few able-bodied men the conscription may find among us will be made "Union" soldiers of, to fight their brothers or sons in the Southern army. I do not pity them, if there are any, who have not gone to help driving these devils in human shape from our homes.

CAPTAIN SPEKE'S JOURNAL.*

TRAVELLERS have well nigh exhausted the New World, as well as the Old. The interior of South America is more familiar to us than was that of Turkey or Russia to our great grandfathers. Egypt is a regular part of the grand tour, and we should no more expect to find anything new in a journal kept during a voyage from Alexandria to Khartoum than in the letters of a visitor to Paris or Vienna. The treaty which opened Japan to European curiosity produced a wonderfully abundant crop of literature in a marvellously short space of time; and it would be easy, we presume, without stirring from the library fireside, to make a journey along the whole coast of China. There are very few fields open to the traveller who desires to find untrodden ground, or to the sportsman in search of game not already frightened by European guns. The steppes of Asia have been traversed and mapped out, and no one cares to hear anything about a country which produces nothing but savages and their herds, and periodically starves even these to the verge of extermination. Mucq remains to be learnt about India, but it is not within the function of travellers to teach

* Journal of the Discovery of the Source of the Nile. By John Hanning Speke, Capt. H.M. Indian Army, Fellow and Gold Medallist of the Royal Geographical Society, etc., etc. With Map and Portraits, and numerous illustrations, chiefly from drawings by Captain Grant. W. Blackwood and Sons. Edinburgh and London. 1863.

SUBSTITUTES IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY.—MR. Sparrow from the Military Committee, reported back the following Bill to the Confederate Senate, with the recommendation that it pass :—" The Congress of the Confederate States do enact that no person liable to the military service shall hereafter be permitted or allowed to furnish a substitute for such service, nor shall any substitute be received, enlisted or enrolled in the military service of the Confederate States; and that all laws heretofore passed permitting or allowing persons liable to military service to furnish substitutes for the same, or authorising the acceptance, enlistment or enrollment of any such substitute in the military service, be and the same are hereby repealed." Mr. Wigfall moved to strike out the last clause of the bill, which, being rejected the Bill was passed and sent to the House.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, Jan. 6.

THE MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKETS.

THE Bank official minimum continues 7 per cent. and the rate out of doors among the brokers is 6¾ to ⅞ per cent. In the discount department at the Bank, there has been very little business and the average demand appears to be slightly decreasing. Still, until the payment of the dividends shall have been arranged, and the public shall have ascertained the effect of the railway deposits, it is not likely there will be any important change in the appearance of the general money market. In the course of the next few days the influence of these payments will have in a great degree been felt, and it seems to be imagined that if no untoward result then arises we may look for a temporary ease. Afterwards, it is feared, if the desire to push public companies is further developed, there will be a strain upon the supply of capital, which may every now and then prove inconvenient. Affairs will probably for the present continue in a quiescent state, and much will depend upon the issue of the present struggle in Slesvig-Holstein. The discount brokers are working quietly and cautiously, because they wish to see the spring well advanced before they release their resources. The terms for money on the Stock Exchange have been comparatively full—say 5½ to 6 per cent., owing to the adjustment of the monthly accounts in Consols. This afternoon the rates were slightly easier, 5 to 5½ per cent.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The bullion and specie movements this week have been only on a limited scale, the amount of gold sent into the Bank being only £61,000, against a withdrawal of £45,000 for transmission abroad. Most of the late arrivals of gold have been purchased for the Continent. The arrivals of specie have been to the extent of only £221,928, all from New York. The next mail for the East will take out £80,078, of which £43,040 is silver and £37,083 gold. The respective proportions are £21,553 for India, £43,000 for China and the Straits, and £15,485 for Alexandria and Aden. There has again been considerable demand for gold for the Continent, and some large amounts have been sent away. Bar silver has also been in good request, and the arrivals by the last West India mail have been disposed of at 61¾d., being an advance of ¼d. upon previous sales. Mexican dollars have not been in demand, and the late arrivals are still to be disposed of. The shipments of gold since the departure of the last mail from Melbourne amount to 60,625 ounces, valued at £240,500. The *Prince of Wales* from Australia is still out with £142,000.

TENDERS FOR BILLS ON INDIA.

The biddings for 50,00,000 rupees in bills on India took place at the Bank of England this day. The proportions allotted were—to Calcutta, 27,00,000 rupees; to Bombay, 21,00,000 rupees; and to Madras, 200,000. The minimum price declared was as before—1s. 11½d. per rupee on Calcutta and Madras, and 1s. 11⅝d. on Bombay. The applications within the limits amounted to 370 lacs. Tenders on Calcutta at 2s. will receive about 13 per cent.; on Bombay at 2s. ⅛d., about 34 per cent.; on Madras at 1s. 11⅞d., about 60 per cent; and all above these prices, in full.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

Business in the English stock markets since the commencement of the year has assumed a somewhat healthier appearance, but prices have been kept down by the unsatisfactory news, with regard to the unsettled state of political affairs on the Continent, and particularly with reference to the dispute between Denmark and Slesvig Holstein. The large decrease in the stock of bullion in the Bank of France is also causing uneasiness, fears being entertained that the Bank of England may again be under the necessity of increasing the rate of discount. Late this afternoon, however, a rather better feeling predominated, and the market closed a shade firmer. The latest price of Consols for money was 91 to ⅛ ex. div., and the same for the account, which is a comparative decline of ¼ per cent. Exchequer Bills, on the other hand, are better, having improved to 5s. dis. to par. A large speculative business has been transacted in foreign stocks, and for most of the favourite descriptions there has been a retrograde movement in prices. Greek Stock closes at 23¾ to 24¼, being a decline of ¾ per cent. Mexican have receded 1⅛ per cent., leaving off at 36¼ to 36⅜. Spanish Passives are ¼ per cent. lower, being 33⅞ to 34⅛; the Certificates, however, are steady at 13⅞ to 14⅛, and Turkish continue firm, the Six Per Cents of 1854 being 89½ to 90½, and those of 1862, 67½ to 68 ex. div.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The dealings in American Government and railway securities have been more restricted than for some time past, and the general tendency of prices is unfavourable. The dealers show but little anxiety to operate in these stocks since the receipt of the chequered intelligence with regard to the operations of the Federal forces. The annexed are the only dealings recorded: United States Five per Cents., 69¾ ex. d. Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York Section, 77; Do. do., Pennsylvanian Section, 80. Erie $100 Shares all paid, 65 and 65½; Do. Seven per Cent., Second Mortgage, 69. Illinois Central, $100 Shares, $90 paid, 22¾ and 24 dis. Marietta and Cincinnati Railway, 71, 70½, and 69. Michigan Central, 73½ and 73½, and New York Central $100 Shares, 79¾ and 80.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

The market for English railway shares has been very fairly supported as regards business, but without anything of a speculative tendency being apparent; but in the majority of the dealings lower prices have been accepted, though in some few instances there has been an improvement. The most important changes, as compared with this day week, are a decline of 1¼ per cent. in Metropolitan and Midland, of 1 per cent. in Great Western, Lancashire and Yorkshire, and London and North-Western; of ¾ per cent. in London and South-Western and South-Eastern; of ½ per cent. in London and Brighton, Sheffield, North British, North-Eastern (Berwick) and do. (York), and of ¼ per cent. in South Devon. On the other hand there has been an improvement of 1 per cent. in Great Southern and Western (Ireland) of ½ per cent. in London, Chatham, and Dover, and of ¼ per cent. in Great Northern, and South-Eastern. In foreign shares business has been less animated, and prices remain comparatively steady. For shares in British Possessions there has been rather more inquiry of late, and good business in them has been transacted at steady and full values.

THE CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

There is no new feature to affect the price of this stock; the quotations have varied between 37 to 39 and 38 to 40, at which latter we closed. The business done has been very limited.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

At the half-yearly meeting of the London Dock Company yesterday, a dividend of £1 15s. per cent. was declared, less the income tax. The chairman congratulated the proprietors upon the steady and satisfactory progress of the business of the docks.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

Several new joint-stock undertakings have been brought forward within the last few days; amongst them are the Grand International Alliance Hotels Company, with a capital of £300,000 in 12,000 shares of £25 each, a portion of which will be to bearers. It is proposed to establish a thorough system of hotel accommodation between Holland, France, Belgium and England, by means of hotels belonging to the Company in Holland and Belgium, acting in correspondence with first-class hotels already established in France and England belonging to other companies. The advantages of such a correspondence will, it is believed, secure convenience and security combined with moderate charges. The present Company proposes to erect only two hotels, one at Amsterdam and the other at Rotterdam; but these structures, it is intended, shall be models of their kind.—The prospectus of the British and Foreign Contract Company has been issued, the capital being fixed at £3,000,000, in 30,000 shares of £100 each; of which only one-third is intended to be issued in the first instance, whilst not more than £25 is to be called up. The prospectus states that "the extensive and increasing scale on which works of public utility are progressing in all parts of the world having called into existence several large financial and credit companies for the purpose of affording the necessary monetary support, it is conceived that great advantage would arise from the formation of powerful companies having for their special object the undertaking or guaranteeing the execution, on fixed conditions, of enterprises of a sound and well-ascertained commercial value. The Company will afford to the public the opportunity of participating in the large profits derivable from carrying out public undertakings in this country, which have hitherto been monopolised by private contractors." With regard to foreign undertakings, the Company will not only share the profits of contractors, but derive additional advantages from an interest in valuable concessions, and the premiums on such shares as may be taken in part payment for works. The directors, it appears, have secured the services of a gentleman who was for many years the manager of one of the most eminent contractors of the day, and under whom he superintended the execution and the financial arrangements of extensive railway and other works, both in this country and abroad.—The Kumaon and Oude Plantation Company is another new Indian agricultural company, just announced, under favourable auspices, the directors themselves, it is said, taking a large share in the enterprise. Three estates in Kumaon, comprising about 4,400 acres, and two others in the north of Oude, comprising about 10,000 acres, have been purchased, where tea, cinchona, silk, cotton, and other crops are to be produced. The price of the estates is £29,000, of which £12,000 will be payable in money and £17,000 in shares, which are not to be entitled to any dividend till 8 per cent. has been in some one year paid out of the net profits of the company upon the capital paid up on all the ordinary shares. The vendors guarantee a dividend of 8 per cent. for the first three years of the operations of the company. The capital is £100,000, of which £60,000 is to be issued in the first instance in 6,000 shares of £10 each.—The prospectus has been issued of the British Nation Fire Insurance Company, with a capital of £1,000,000, in 50,000 shares of £20 each, the first issue to be limited to 25,000 shares. The undertaking is brought forward under the auspices of the British Nation Life Assurance Association. It is stated that the company has every element for securing at once a large and profitable business. The Fire Company will at once obtain the advantage of the whole working staff of the Life Company. One of the chief advantages of the junction of the two undertakings is, of course, the saving of expenses which it will effect, both immediate and prospective.—The Panuncello Copper Mining Company (Chili) has also been brought before the public, the capital sought to be obtained being £200,000, in 50,000 shares of £4 each. The object of the Company is to purchase and work the Panuncello Copper Mines, situate in the province of Walle in Chili, about 43 miles from the port of Coquimbo, to which a railway is in course of construction, and more than half of it completed. The undertaking is introduced under an influential directorate, and the property boasts of the largest produce of any mine in the world. The lode of clean ore is 60 feet wide, at a cost of extract of only 10s. per ton. Seven furnaces for running the ore, with regulus and other plant, are already in operation; the transfer has been secured on satisfactory terms.—The prospectus of the Australian and Eastern Navigation Company (Limited) has been issued this afternoon. The capital proposed to be raised is £2,000,000, in 40,000 shares of £50 each, with power to increase. Deposit on application, £1 per share, and on allotment £1 per share. The directorate is very influential. The company is formed on the basis of an amalgamation of the "Black Ball," "Eagle," and "White Star" lines of packets, sailing from Liverpool, to Melbourne, and the services of the agents, both here and abroad, have been secured on satisfactory terms. The main object of the company is to establish between England and Australia a line of auxiliary screw-steamers, of large capacity, which, the promoters have proved, can be profitably employed in the trade. It is intended that these steamers shall be worked in connection with the clipper ships belonging to the above lines, and it is proposed to employ smaller vessels on the coasts of Australia and New Zealand. Arrangements have been made whereby the steamers *Great Britain*, *Royal Standard*, and *Great Victoria*, now on their voyages, will, as they respectively arrive in this country, pass into the hands of the company, at valuations to be fixed by arbitration. The company proposes to commence business at an early date.—The Tamar, Kit Hill, and Callington Railway Company is another undertaking brought out this afternoon, the object of the company being to facilitate the transit of goods, merchandise, and mineral produce between the port of Plymouth, by the Tamar river at Kelly quarry and wharves, and the town of Callington, the centre of a great and increasing mining district, as well as the northern district of Cornwall, up to Five Lanes and Launceston. The distance is about seven miles, so that various mines will have a ready, quick, and economical means of conveying their ores to the sampling quays on the Tamar, together with the same facility for obtaining coals, timber, iron, and other necessary materials in constant requirement. Arrangements have been entered into with a contractor, who has commenced operations on the line, and who will take payment for two-thirds of the amount in the stock of the company. He also offers to take the line on lease, and guarantee 5 per cent. on the capital. The proposed capital is £60,000 in 6,000 shares of £10 each; £1 per share to be paid on application, and £2 on allotment.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

In the American produce markets, transactions since our last have been upon a very limited scale, but as a general rule prices have been very firmly maintained. Arrivals continue light, and although the deliveries from warehouse are only moderate there is no undue accumulation of stocks, and holders regard the future course of the market with confidence. For cotton the demand has at intervals been extremely active, resulting in an advance of 1½d. to 2d. per lb.; and although the activity has latterly abated, the market still shows great stability. In American provisions a steady business is passing, at full rates, for all descriptions. Fine butters are especially firm in price. The old stock of American bacon is now nearly cleared off, and quotations are nominal, whilst the fresh arrivals are held above the views of buyers, and prices therefore are not as yet established. The grain markets continue very firm, and for fine samples of American wheat 1s. more money has been paid. American oil-cake is more in demand in consequence of the weather. Petroleum sells somewhat less freely, and refined may now be quoted 1s. 11d. to 2s. per gallon. Linseed oil, after bringing 36s., now offers at 35s. 6d. to 35s. 9d. Rape oil, on the contrary, has advanced to 43s. for pale, and 41s. for foreign brown. In sperm oil no quotable change has occurred. The metal trade has again been very active, attended with a general advance in prices. For spelter £21 has been paid on the spot; for soft English pig lead £20 17s. 6d. to £21; the price of English tin has been put up £2, and the price of English copper £3 per ton. The only article in which any reaction has taken place is Scotch pig iron, which, from 68s. cash, has receded to 65s. 6d., owing chiefly to speculative sales. In drugs and drysaltery articles there is as usual at this early period of the year but little doing. Dyes, whilst inactive, are mostly steady, but at the cochineal sales to-day Teneriffe grain went 1d. per pound cheaper. The sugar market is very firm, and prices are once more at the highest point attained during any part of the speculative movement.

COTTON AND DRY GOODS MARKET.

LIVERPOOL, Wednesday, Jan. 6.

SINCE the turn of the year there has been considerable animation in our cotton market. A large speculative business has been transacted, and prices have advanced all round. To-day, however, there has not been so much business, and dealings have been effected at about ¼d. decline, with a tendency to further depreciation. The sales this week have been 44,000 bales, of which 20,500 were on speculation and for export. The total imports of cotton during the past year have been 1,932,164 bales, against 1,445,085 bales in 1862, and 3,035,724 in 1861. The imports of this year comprised 133,389 bales of American, 136,679 of Brazil, 247,577 of Smyrna and Egyptian, 24,310 West India, &c., and 1,390,209 bales of East India. The total stock in this country on the 31st December last was 327,525 bales, against 433,950 bales in 1862, and 699,300 bales in 1861. The stock at the close of the past year comprised 38,382 bales of American, 2,446 of Brazil, 26,811 of Smyrna and Egyptian, 872 West India, &c., and 252,014 bales of East India. The total sales at Liverpool during the past year were 2,618,410 bales, against 2,755,750 bales in 1862. The total imports last year were 1,666,646 bales, and in 1862 they were 1,253,881 bales. Exported last year 476,201 bales, and in 1862, 420,555 bales. Taken for consumption last year, 1,325,200 bales, against 1,183,560 bales in 1862. Taken on speculation last year 758,690 bales, and in 1862 1,114,310 bales. The total stock of cotton at Liverpool on the 31st December was 299,319 bales; at the same period in 1862 it was 392,460 bales, and in 1861 622,560 bales. The latest official quotations were:—American, 28¼d. to 30d.; Egyptian, 28¼d. to 32d.; Bahia, 26¾d. to 28¼d.; Maranham, 28¼d. to 29d.; and Surats, 16¾d. to 25¼d.

MANCHESTER, January 5.

On its becoming known here on Thursday last that the stock of cotton in Liverpool was only 18,000 bales in excess of the brokers' estimated stock, a strong speculative demand set in for all classes of yarns and goods, the former advancing fully 1d. per lb., and shirtings, in some instances, as much as 1s. per piece. Many spinners who had taken contracts in the early part of the day went to Liverpool to purchase cotton, but they could find none offering, as nearly all descriptions were withdrawn from the market. Friday and Saturday being holidays nothing was done.

On Monday, an active demand sprung up in Liverpool, and an advance of ½d. to ¾d. per lb. was obtained for cotton. Notwithstanding this our market was quiet, and very little business was effected.

To-day continental politics are of such a gloomy character that our market has been brought almost to a standstill. Prices, although quoted firm, are only nominally so.

Among the Contents of THE INDEX *of Dec. 31, are—*

NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK AT HOME AND ABROAD.
[illegible]
THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.
[illegible]
[illegible]
THE [illegible] FEDERAL AND CONFEDERATE.
THE CAUSES OF THE AMERICAN WAR. No. 3.
LETTERS FROM RICHMOND. No. 30.
LETTER FROM NEW YORK.
PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S MESSAGE.
AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL

BUST OF JEFFERSON DAVIS.

AMERICAN WINES AND SPIRITS, &c.

W. R. S. MARKWELL,

WINE MERCHANT TO HER MAJESTY AND HER IMPERIAL COURT,

[illegible] ALBEMARLE STREET,

[illegible] STAFFORD STREET PICCADILLY, LONDON, W.

SOUTHERN PRISONERS RELIEF FUND.

COMMITTEE.

THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL REVIEW,

Journal of the Anthropological Society of London.

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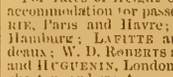

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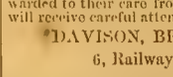

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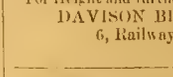

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THE INDEX

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

Vol. IV.—No. 90.] LONDON—THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 14, 1864. [Price 6d.

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NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK.

AMERICA.

The war still languishes. The Federals seem utterly exhausted by their efforts of the summer and autumn, and but for the ceaseless activity of the Confederates, who will not allow the enemy to enjoy winter-quarters, there would be a complete truce to hostilities. A corps of Southern cavalry has made a circuit of Meade's army, here and there raids are made upon Federal lines and supply trains, General Longstreet, whose gallant soldiers are in many cases shoeless, has taken up a position in East Tennessee which is easily defensible, and which movement necessitates the presence of a large Federal force to protect the positions now held by the North in that part of the State, a Confederate force, descending the Bayou Lafourche, Louisiana, has burned some Federal steam boats, at Charleston an attack of gun-boats has been repulsed, and General Gillmore is dropping a few shells per day into the City, not for any military purpose, for none can be observed by such a proceeding, but for the possible sport of killing or wounding a few women or children that may chance to be within range. If we add to this brief summary that General Morgan is within the Confederate lines and ready for service, and that, according to the *Richmond Journal*, General Joseph Johnston has assumed the command of the army at Dalton, we have given an outline of the war news of the week—except two items which are sufficiently important to demand special notice.

The telegram per *Java*, announces that "The Federal Government has postponed the draft till the middle of January." Considering how urgently reinforcements are required, and that if recruits are to be of any use for the spring campaign they ought to be in training by this time, the postponement of the draft is an unmistakable sign of Northern exhaustion.

And never did the Northern Government stand in greater need of recruits. The beginning of mutiny is always a bad omen, for no one can foresee its extent. We understand, and fully excuse, the pains that the Northern Government has taken to suppress the details of the negro revolt at Fort Jackson, but in another part of our impression we publish a letter, from which, as well as from the latest intelligence from New York, it is easy to perceive that the outbreak is serious. The coloured troops have possessed themselves of Fort Jackson, and have hung thirty of the white officers and men over the ramparts. The Federal authorities said there was no blood shed, which, we suppose, is intended as a grim joke, because death by hanging does not involve the shedding of blood. Two white regiments were sent against the mutineers. These were unable to recover the fort, and returned to New Orleans. We now hear that some gun-boats have been sent to Fort Jackson.

Besides this affair, it appears that some negroes in New Orleans have been treated by the police with flogging, a punishment peculiarly odious from the coloured people, and apparently illegal, since by the terms of their enlistment they are exempt from corporal punishment. Now nothing is more natural than that the negroes should turn against the Federals. Contempt for the Yankee has been a characteristic of the coloured race in the South, and attachment to their masters has been a ruling passion. Such a prejudice and such a sentiment are difficult to remove, and Confederates, who know the negroes well, have always maintained that the North could not rely on the fidelity of its coloured troops—or rather upon their obedience to their masters and country for the Confederate States is the country of the negro. But if there was any doubt about the treatment of the negroes who have taken service on the side of the Yankees, a sufficient account has been given in the South. The negroes are well fed, well clothed, well armed, in times of trial and distress, and they are not called upon to work on heavy tasks. Does not this show that the North would make them free, and that the negro finds freedom is plenty to eat and to wear? What has been their actual treatment? They have been driven into the army to fight for the "Union," and have been used as screens for the Yankee troops. Poor African children have been left to starve. In New York their fellows have been hung by the rope, and Mr Lincoln himself has solemnly recommended them to get out of the country for which they are now called upon to fight. Southerners have always maintained, in opposition to the fanatics of New England, that the negro is not intellectually inferior to the white race, but they have never asserted that the negro is so idiotic as to be gulled by the professions of the Yankees.

We have received Mr Memminger's Report, which we will publish in our next number, and at present it will be sufficient if we give a brief summary of the financial condition of the Confederacy as set forth in that document, and of the means proposed to meet the liabilities and expenditure of the Government. The public debt on 1st September last was $1,050,366,130, of which $700,147,513 was unfunded. The estimate of the Government expenditure to 1st July, 1864, is $475,448,193, but if the estimate is extended to embrace the remaining 12 months of the year this amount must be doubled. Now to this all. On the 30th September last there was a balance of appropriations already made by Congress and not drawn by the Treasury, amounting to $476,451,749. Therefore, according to the estimate submitted to Congress by Mr Memminger, the total sum required is $1,427,448,138. However, in fact, Congress has voted greatly in excess of the amount of the respective appropriations. The most and most necessary part of the debt Mr Memminger points out the rapid depreciation of the currency, and explains the failure of the Government plans from causes over which the Government had no control. As soon as it became evident that the South would have to fight for the maintenance of her independence, the Government at Richmond, supported by a patriotic Congress, prepared to ransack every corner for carrying on the struggle with the utmost possible vigour. No country has ever made so great a war without incurring a large debt, and as to increased taxation the fact is notorious that the people of the Confederate States have been and are ready to submit to any amount of taxation, that is, to anything in reason. Congress [illegible] and the Government [illegible] Treasury by [illegible] The Confederate Government [illegible] Treasury [illegible] Texas, the South [illegible]

been repeatedly confounded with his Georgia namesake, has ere this safely reached the Confederacy.

It has been asserted over and over again that the resources of Virginia were exhausted, and, considering that the Old Dominion has for so long been the scene of warfare, it is not surprising that this Yankee invention should meet with some credence. We are happy to say that there is no truth in the statement. The Legislature of Virginia called upon Auditor Bennett for a return of the number of horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs in the counties of Virginia now *within* the Confederate lines. The following is a part of Mr. Bennett's report :—

In February, 1860—Horses	207,886
In February, 1863—Horses	181,864
Loss in three years	26,022
1860—Cattle	561,567
1863—Cattle	496,821
Loss in three years	64,746
1861—Sheep	469,912
1863—Sheep	541,304
Gain in two years	71,402
1861—Hogs	923,758
1863—Hogs	770,502
Loss	153,256

Commenting on this return, the *Richmond Enquirer* (December 22) observes :—"In February, 1863, there were in the counties now within our lines 181,864 horses, 496,821 cattle, 541,304 sheep, and 770,502 hogs. These are the returns of officers of the revenue made last February, and if we deduct from these the consumption from February, 1863, to February, 1864, we may, without error, safely assert that on next February, there will be 100,000 horses, 400,000 cattle, 500,000 hogs or pork; and as sheep have increased nearly 15 per cent. we will put them down at 550,000." Auditor Bennett's return is one among many proofs that when President Davis said the war could be carried on in Virginia for twenty years he was not using a mere figure of speech.

The Message of Governor Lubbock to the Legislature of Texas announces that the income for the year was $2,468,061, and the expenditure less by $15,810. The governor recommends an appropriation of $1,000,000 for the purchase of arms and munitions for the benefit of the State. Meanwhile, Texas has been contributing largely to the supply of the wants of the South. From December 1, 1861, to August 31, 1863, the State factory of Texas manufactured 2,258,660 yards of cotton goods, and 293,298 yards of woollens. The gross earnings of the establishment for the above-named period were $1,174,439, and the expenses $468,653. Governor Lubbock calls upon the States west of the Mississippi to prepare for carrying on the war whilst they are comparatively isolated from the rest of the Confederacy, and he declares that for Texas there can be no peace until the independence of the Confederate States is acknowledged.

Governor Clark has addressed a proclamation to aliens in Mississippi, which will estop all future complaints on the part of foreign settlers in that State. He warns aliens between the ages of 18 and 45 that they will be liable to service on or before the 1st March next, unless exempted on other ground than that of alienage. He also notifies that all persons, under or above the conscript age, are liable to militia duty; but if aliens have no stomach for the fight they have still an opportunity to flee from it. The South does not want unwilling soldiers in her patriot armies, and therefore Governor Clark requests Confederate officers to grant passports to all aliens who desire to leave the State under the provision of the law. We wonder if there are any aliens in Mississippi who will avail themselves of Governor Clark's generous offer. If so, the South is well rid of them.

The Yankee papers announced some months ago that the people of Mobile were suffering from famine, and that it was difficult for the rich to suppress the bread riots of the poor. The Mayor of that city has lately presented his annual Report, and certainly it is impossible to trace in that document any indication of the famine over which the Yankees were gloating. The Mayor says distinctly there has been no actual distress in Mobile, and he shows how the poor have been saved from the sufferings incidental to a time of war. The citizens contributed $130,000 for the support of the free market where 4,000 persons received good and substantial food; and 1,000 families have been clothed at a cost of $70,000, also contributed by the citizens. The cash receipts in the city treasury for the past year are $56,000 above the expenditure, and the total balance in the treasury is $186,300.

Governor Bonham, in his Message to the South Carolina Legislature, observes :—"The State Legislatures have no unimportant part to play in this great drama. They can aid the Confederate Government by assisting in clothing the troops, in repelling the raids of our enemies, and in feeding the families of our soldiers in arms. In all measures which you in your wisdom may adopt, looking to the successful issue of this great struggle, you may, gentlemen, rely upon my hearty co-operation."

Governor Shorter, in his Message to the Alabama Legislature, announces that the finances of the State are in a sound condition, the balance in the Treasury being $311,155. He congratulates the Legislature on the harmony between the State and Confederate Governments. This is Governor Shorter's last Message, he being succeeded in office by the Hon T. H. Watts.

The *Richmond Sentinel* states that for the months of September and October General Pillow has enrolled, from Alabama and Mississippi, 26,000 men, in infantry and cavalry.

Our Richmond Letter of this week, dated 15th December, gives some interesting particulars of the treatment and condition of the Federal prisoners. Our correspondent, accompanied by the correspondent of the *Times*, visited the Libby Prison and the prison encampment on Belle Isle. Only three per cent. of the captives were in hospital, and the rest, so far from exhibiting any signs of want, were in robust health. The prisoners are in well ventilated places, and are better supplied with food and fuel than the Confederate soldiers in the field. Besides necessaries, there was an abundant supply of luxuries from the North. The prisoners in the Libby, about 1,000 in number, were amusing themselves with cards, chess, and novel reading. What a contrast to the condition of the Southern prisoners on Johnson's Island!

A Mrs. Patterson Allan has been examined before Commissioner Watson at Richmond on the charge of holding a treasonable correspondence with the enemy. About the guilt of the accused there is little question, though the examination was not concluded at the latest dates we have from the Confederate capital. Mrs. Allan was nearly as harmless as she was malignant, and her information could not have been worth much to the Federal Government, except so far as it afforded an excuse for suspecting the good faith of political opponents in the North. The letter which led to Mrs. Allan's arrest is, in its way, a masterpiece of feline spite, and bears strong testimony to the determination and unanimity of the Confederates. This letter, dated Richmond, June 8, signed "Santa Trinita," and addressed "Caro Signore," under cover to the Rev. Morgan Dix, states that the Rev. M. D. Hoge was about to run the Charleston blockade on his return from London, "where his apparent business was to collect Testaments and Bibles, but where his real object was to write for English journals, and exert his influence for the Southern cause." Those who were acquainted with Dr. Hoge during his stay in this city, and who knowing him could not fail to be impressed with his singleness of purpose in procuring Bibles and religious publications, will readily admit that in one essential Mrs. Allan is a genuine representative of Yankeedom. After disposing of Dr. Hoge, the informer proceeds to name several ministers and other persons of both sexes in the North, whom, she says :—"Should all be sent to the South." She also recommends that Mr. Vallandigham should be imprisoned, saying, "Put the wretch in Fort Warren." Those who have deified a midnight assassin of helpless women and little children, ought to honour Mrs. Allan for her genuine New England piety. She asserts, that General Stoneman had "within his grasp the plantations of several of the most prominent rebels, . . besides the farms of hundreds engaged in the Southern service." Then, maddened by the reflection that Stoneman did not burn and destroy all these homesteads, she exclaims, "Oh, for the hour when the avenging angel shall appear with torch in one hand and the avenging sword of justice in the other, and consecrate to death and destruction this land, and these people, rewarding them with a fate they so richly deserve! When, when will that time arrive?" Mrs. Allan does what she can to egg on her fellow-countrymen to afford her some instalment of the feast of blood, for which she and they so ardently long. She writes, "It is a truth, the rebel soldiers live on rats, and anything else they can get. Corn and wheat, green and from the field, are common articles of diet. If the Northern army cannot vanquish such a miserable set of starved and naked wretches, then may the Yankee nation become a byword with all nations on earth!" But like Mrs. Stowe, this Mrs. Allan is not clever enough to avoid bearing unconscious testimony to the worth of her enemies. In "Uncle Tom's Cabin" we learn that the Southerners have not hindered but promoted the progress of christianity amongst their slaves, and in the "Santa Trinita" letter—a genuine Yankee never loses the opportunity of a little blasphemy—there is fresh testimony to the devoted patriotism of the Confederates. Mrs. Allan writes, "In the North, treason stalks forth in the broad daylight! Here everything is subservient to the cause. . . . Many a man wearing the Federal uniform is a traitor, and where the menare true their wives are false. It is this which has so often proved ruinous to the Union cause. Here every mind, heart, and arm are bent to serve the cause of the South. Money, property, crops, everything is sacrificed for the main idea. Thus the South has been able to maintain its position so far." So much for Mrs. Allan. Oftentimes surprise has been expressed at the horrible orgies the lowest of the low women of Paris indulged in moments of revolutionary phrensy; but what will posterity think of the story of the Yankee woman, a fair representative of her country, who, in cold blood, clamours for the extermination of a whole people?

Commenting on the sham Union Conventions in the South, the *New York Herald* observes, "It makes honest Union men indignant when they read the resolutions of the conventions in Louisiana and Florida, which are sought to be passed off as expressions of revived Southern loyalty. The fact of the nigger being allowed to sit on terms of perfect quality with the white man in these gatherings is in itself sufficient to expose their real character. They are made up, not of Southern men, but of the cormorants who follow in the wake of our armies, and who seek by thus imposing on the Administration and the country to postpone or defeat all genuine expressions of Southern feeling, and to maintain themselves in the possession of their ill-gotten gains." The London Yankee journals may learn a lesson in honesty, even from their transatlantic contemporaries.

It appears that General Butler has superseded General Meredith as the Federal agent of exchange. This is indisputable evidence that the Northern Government does not wish to carry out the cartel. If it did, it would not appoint a man as commissioner who is execrated, not only by the Confederates, but by all civilised nations.

Lieutenant Rooks, said to be a British officer, has been arrested in New York on the charge of carrying Confederate letters, and has been sent to Fort Lafayette by order of Mr. Seward.

The Federal House of Representatives has appointed a committee to report on a National Bankrupt Law. A New York paper observes, "We ought to have a good Bankrupt Law *now*—we trust are to have it this winter. The system of universal credit is passing away—we trust never to return. Let us, then, clear away its wreck and get ready to do business as it should be done, and not leave half our most energetic and capable citizens crippled and paralyzed by debts that they can never pay while thus fettered. Let us rub out old scores and begin anew!" This proceeding evinces a great deal of foresight.

In the South the men are urged to enlist for the defence of their homes, to protect the honour of their women, and to maintain inviolate their national independence. In the North the inducements held out are large bounties, considerable pay, the hope of plunder and the prospect of indulging brutal passions in the enemy's country. The special order issued to the Army of the Potomac in reference to granting furloughs for thirty-five days to officers and men, offers another bribe for the men whose terms of service will shortly expire to re-enlist. It is notified that "When three-fourths of the men of a regiment or company re-enlist, such portion of the regiment or company will be allowed to go home in a body and take with it its arms and equipments. In all other cases the arms and equipments of the men granted furloughs will be turned over before leaving camp to the division ordnance officer, by whom they will be transferred to the officer in charge of the ordnance depot, to be held subject to his call on the return of the men to duty." The Yankee soldiers must be particularly simple, if the permission to carry the rifles to their homes is a sufficient inducement to make them continue in a service which they would otherwise leave.

The late prize-fight and defeat of Heenan have given rise to increased ill-will, if it is possible, against this country. The *New York Herald* has had some leaders on it, in one of which it remarks, "the British lion, or the British bull, whichever it is—or a British beast made up of the contrary qualities of bull and lion, with the stupid bovine stubborness and the feline treachery"—was victor on four occasions, but that Yankee honour must be redeemed. In another leader, which commences with a parody on the Bible, it is charged that Heenan "was shamefully swindled out of the prize by men who pretend to be fond of fair play, and the London *Times*, with its immense stultification, says the fight was a fair one." These, it is true, are but straws on the surface; but they indicate the current of public opinion in the United States. It is almost a matter of doubt whether the Yankees hate the Southerners so much as they do the English.

In General Averill's report of the late raid on Salem, we read, "We captured about 200 prisoners, but have retained but four officers and eighty men on account of their inability to walk." Whether General Averill means that he kept the eighty-four because they could not walk, or because they could walk and the rest could not, is not very clear. A more ingenious excuse was never devised.

The *Chesapeake* affair still engrosses much attention in the North. According to the reported testimony of Lieutenant Braine, C.S.A., who had charge of the expedition, he was duly commissioned by the Confederate Government, did what he could to avoid bloodshed, and only permitted his men to use their weapons in self-defence. Lieutenant Braine thinks that the British authorities will have to surrender the vessel to the Confederates. The rescue of the prisoners at Halifax was an important demonstration, because the persons who did this were some of the first men of the place. It is not that our fellow-subjects in Canada are less obedient to the law than we are, but the incident shows that it is dangerous for a Government to manifest an unjust impartiality. Whenever English Governments dared to violate the law, or to sacrifice the honour of their country, we were never backward in opposing the Executive. The Halifax people made an energetic protest against the cringing of the British authorities to the Federal Government.

Every mail brings us accounts of disloyalty in the North. In New York a fresh batch of merchants has been arrested for carrying on a contraband trade with the South, and Mr. Segur, formerly Federal minister to San Salvador, his family and friends, have been sent to Fort Lafayette for taking passages on the *Oliver Cromwell* for New Orleans, that vessel being detained for having contraband goods on board. It is reported that Mr Segur had in his possession bills trading for fifty barrels of lard, which upon being examined were found to contain upwards of 1,000 navy revolvers.

Mr. Seymour has removed the New York police commissioners, on the ground that their reports of the New

York riots were sectarian and partisan. [illegible] ... pursued the commissioners ... [illegible]

The Confederate Congress has passed a bill which ... [illegible] ... all men ... [illegible]

The Hon. R. [illegible] W. [illegible] ... judges of the Supreme Court of ... [illegible] ... elected to represent ... in the Confederate Senate, in place of the Hon. ... [illegible]

The election for State officers ... [illegible]

On the 2nd ... [illegible] ... gold ... New York ... [illegible]

ENGLAND

Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales was ... [illegible] ... The event ... [illegible] ... heart of every Englishman. ... [illegible]

... [illegible] ... Love has been extended to her family, in whom the people have taken an interest which has some ... peculiarly sincere and heartfelt in its character. ... [illegible] ... tion of the Crown Princess of Prussia ... in London was a marvellous proof of the way in which the people have assumed to themselves the loyal care of the royal family. The metropolis and the country at large did their best to astonish ... the way in which ... lavished ... congratulation, and admiration on the royal bridegroom and the Princess of Denmark. The former has, in his early and almost untried youth, won good opinions from his affability, and that kind and pleasant and genial manner which he inherits from his noble mother; while the Princess was to English eyes ... for beauty, for grace and for sweetness, and so when it became known that she had given to the people an heir, ... of the royal line ... , there was one burst of satisfaction among the people.

The event seems to have come upon all concerned with great surprise. ... [illegible]

... [illegible]

Her Majesty the King of the ... [illegible] ... Sir Augustus Clifford ... [illegible] ... been engaged from the 25th inst. for four weeks ... [illegible]

... [illegible]

... William H. ... [illegible] ... He was made ... [illegible] ... months from 18[illegible] to 18[illegible].

The Right Rev. Thomas Turton, Bishop of Ely, died on Thursday ... [illegible] ... Queen's College, Cambridge ... [illegible]

... [illegible]

THE CONTINENT(?)

... [illegible]

the bombs and other weapons, gave them complete instructions, found on the person of Greco, supplied them when they started with 4,000 francs (£160), and gave them an address in London to which to write to him for more money, if they should need it. They did need more money, wrote for it, and it was duly sent, but only arrived after their arrest. Two of the prisoners are Garibaldians, wearing the Marsala medal; one of these two heroes having been convicted, under different names, of swindling in France and theft in England. Without further evidence we cannot believe in the guilt of Mazzini; but if upon investigation the above proves a true version of the affair, we must express our earnest hope that the English Government will lose no time in securing Mazzini and his accomplices if they are still, as is most probable, on English soil. Fortunately, the law will now allow hirers of assassins to be brought to justice, and the whole country would heartily rejoice to see awarded the extreme penalty due to such a horrible design.

The Corps Législatif has passed by 232 to 14 votes the Bill granting the Government the supplementary credits for which it had asked. The debate was rendered important by the reappearance of M. Berryer in the tribune. He made a very effective speech, showing no sign of any diminution of his great powers, and obtained a signal rhetorical success. After criticising severely the financial policy of the Government, he made an energetic appeal to it "to preserve peace in all circumstances in which our honour is not concerned, our independence is not menaced." The only other noteworthy speeches were those of M. Emile Ollivier, which was a powerful argument for peace, and the reply of M. Vuitry, the Vice-President of the Council of State, in which he disposed with great skill and success of the criticisms of M. Berryer.

The members of the Opposition have presented several amendments to the Address. They are directed against official candidatures, the law of public safety, the restrictions upon the press, the law against coalitions of workmen, in favour of municipal institutions, gratuitous primary instruction, liberal institutions for Algeria, an immediate end to the Mexican expedition, the evacuation of Rome, and the rupture of diplomatic relations with Russia. No one of these amendments, however, has obtained the support of the whole of the small fraction of the Chamber which is styled the Opposition. Those relating to Mexico, Rome, and Poland are especially poor in signatures.

The debate commenced on Monday. The leading speakers on that day were MM. Thiers, Rouher, and Jules Favre. M. Thiers demanded the re-establishment of the liberty suspended by the empire, and especially insisted upon the restoration of liberty to the national representation and the reintroduction of ministerial responsibility. France, he said, was ripe for liberty. "If the chief of the State does not know how to cede, the country would exact that which it now respectfully requests." Upon this condition he promised his unreserved support to the Government. M. Rouher observed that the Government did not fear the threat used by M. Thiers, contended that the Parliamentary system M. Thiers wished to bring back had had its day, declared that the Emperor reigns and governs, and that liberty would follow when the time had arrived. M. Jules Favre took the same line as M. Thiers. The debate was continued on Tuesday. After a few speeches of no importance the general discussion was closed, and that upon the amendments commenced. The first amendment relative to the election was rejected.

The Slesvig-Holstein question remains well nigh *in statu quo*. The Danes still hold the Crown Work at Rendsburg, and are actively engaged in strengthening their great line of defence, the Dannevirke. Prince Frederick is still at Kiel, receiving homage, and is still allowed by the Federal commissioners to depart himself as if he were sovereign of the duchy. Austria and Prussia, it is officially announced, have the most complete understanding as to the course they shall pursue, and have addressed identical notes to the smaller States upon the subject of the stay of the Pretender in Kiel. The committee upon the affairs of Holstein has reported to the Diet that the Treaty of London is unfair in point of absolute justice, illegal in its bearings upon the right of nations, and fundamentally violates the rights of Germany and the duchies. This strong language does not seem, however, to be accompanied by any proposal to recognise the Pretender, and moreover has not yet been adopted by the Diet; so that, at present, it can only be taken as the view of Herr von der Pfordten, the Bavarian plenipotentiary, and a majority of the Holstein committee.

Austria and Prussia have renewed their motion in the Diet, that Denmark should be summoned to withdraw the new constitution, under the threat of the immediate occupation of the Duchy, and the vote is to be taken upon the proposition on Thursday.

Meanwhile Earl Russell is labouring to obtain a conference, but apparently without the slightest prospect of success. The Diet laughs at his appeals and warnings, and the French Government refuses to help him out of the mess in which his own rudeness and ignorance have led him. A long despatch addressed to Sir A. Malet, dated 30th December, has been published, in which, after reprobating strongly the course taken as well by the Diet as by the two great Powers, his lord ship insists upon a conference, and the maintenance of the *statu quo*.

A telegram from Berlin professes to give an analysis of a circular note of the French Government, which would indicate a determination on the part of France to leave Denmark in the lurch. It describes the work of the London conference as condemned by events, and declares that the new conference must take as its starting point the state of things now existing in Holstein, and that it can only discuss questions which the Diet is willing to have discussed.

It is said that the Austrian Government is determined not to allow the claim of the Pretender to be brought into the dispute with Denmark, and to occupy both duchies only to enforce the stipulations of 1851-52. But it really matters very little what it may have resolved, if it means to insist upon the occupation of Slesvig. The Danes cannot consent to abandon the duchy, and war once breaking out objects are soon extended.

Mr. Quaade, the Danish Minister at the Court of Berlin, has accepted the post of foreign minister in the Monrad Government. Lord Wodehouse, having done all the mischief he could, has left Copenhagen. The Federal commissioners have organised a new government for Holstein. The central administration is to be carried on at Kiel instead of Plon, as heretofore, and under a form of an entirely new pattern, consisting of a president and five members, all, we need hardly say, partisans of the Pretender.

A telegram from Altona informs us that the Prince of Augustenburg is said to intend declaring Kiel a free port. The announcement, whatever it may mean, has not the slightest importance. The person who despatched the telegram is not likely to know the prince's intentions, and assuming that he has faithfully reported them, there is yet a long way from the intentions of the prince to their execution. It reminds us, however, that Kiel is just the place of which Prince Frederick, in the event of the complete success of the German project to wrest the duchies from Denmark, would be unable to dispose. The duchies separated from the Danish crown, the claims of the Emperor of Russia, renounced in favour of King Christian and his line, revive to Kiel and some other portions of the Duchy of Holstein—claims which are far better founded than those of the Augustenburgs to the Duchy of Holstein—claims which, as against them, would be regarded as conclusive by any impartial tribunal, and claims which they must acknowledge as conclusive when urged, as they undoubtedly would be, with all the power of Russia.

The Germans are putting a rod in pickle for their own backs. Russia in Holstein, and adieu to all their fancies of playing a great part in Europe.

The Prussian House of Deputies seems resolved to force the King and his Ministers into their plan of war against Denmark, by the novel mode of refusing the supplies necessary to prepare for it. The committee to which the Bill for the Loan was referred has unanimously recommended the rejection of the Bill, and the House will, we may assume, adopt its recommendation. It is not certain that it would not equally reject a loan if war should be declared to gratify it. It has an intense objection to giving any money, and wants to force the Government to use a sum lying in the State treasury. The Prussians are very patriotic until they are asked to pay for their patriotism. Their kings, even when absolute, found it impossible to raise any money, and even now the Prussian taxpayers expect that a Prussian army can be sent to Slesvig without incurring any extra expenses. They want glory for nothing. They will find in the end that they will have to pay heavily only to load themselves with shame. Asked by Herr von Vorchow whether Prussia, as the new constitution had not been recalled by the King of Denmark on the 1st, would withdraw from the London Treaty, Herr von Bismarck gave the smart answer, that he would reply to the question as soon as the House should come to a resolution upon the loan.

The Spanish budget has been published. It shows an increase of revenue, but the Minister, at the same time, proposes fresh taxes. If the Government adopts the views of Marshal Narvaez, who has declared that he always considered that Gibraltar belonged to Spain and regretted that Spain had not long since claimed it, and takes steps to carry them out, the taxes will require a very considerable augmentation. Why did not Narvaez claim Gibraltar when he was prime minister and almost omnipotent in Spain?

As we predicted, in announcing that the Moldo-Wallachian Chambers had sequestrated the property of the monasteries, the step has brought the Government into trouble. The suzerain of the Hospodar and the British, Austrian, Prussian and Russian legations, have protested against the measure, and if their protests are not attended to will probably interpose more energetically.

The Italian Senate has been debating the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation with France; the President of the Council, seizing the opportunity to express the indignation felt by the country at the plot against the Emperor Napoleon. The Chamber of Deputies has been discussing the Bill for the repression of brigandage, and has passed it by 150 to 46 votes. The minority would have been much larger if so many of the Radical deputies had not resigned their seats in disgust at the measures of the Government in Sicily.

The clerical party has won the election for the city of Bruges, and the small majority of the Liberal or Government party in the Chamber of Representatives is thus practically destroyed. The Ministry are expected to resign.

THE EAST.

The announcement, apparently coming from official sources, has been made, that after long discussions, extending over three days, the agents of Prince Satsuma have agreed to make immediate payment of the indemnity, and have promised in writing not to relax in active search for the murderers of Mr. Richardson, and to subject them, when discovered, to capital punishment, in the presence of one or more British officers.

PARIS TOPICS.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

PARIS, January 12.

THE Lord Lyndhurst (in speaking of politicians one no longer says the Nestor) of French orators, M. Berryer, has since I last wrote electrified France with his splendid speech on the state of the finances. Erect beneath the weight of his seventy-five years, speaking, as he says, "without passion and with the desire of finding in the financial administration of the last twelve years, not faults to be blamed but warnings to be used with profit," he showed that the talent which has for more than thirty years commanded the admiration of France has still no need of the veneration which age inspires. For more than three hours the Assembly hung on his lips, and the dullest fancied that he understood the difficult matter the orator grappled with, so methodically were facts brought forward, so precise the figures quoted, whilst the sleepiest was kept awake by the delicate irony which from time to time enlivened the dullness of his subject. Those who could not agree with him in all his views were still forced to admire, and it cannot be questioned that this speech on francs and centimes will ever rank with the greatest triumphs of French eloquence. To heap up francs, and even centimes, is a pleasant toil, whose sweetness all have a taste for; but to discuss their outlay, more irrevocable than winged words, and to make the discussion pleasant to the spenders, may well be called the very witchery of talking. Perhaps the charm consisted in the undercurrent of opposition, so dear to all human nature, and above all to French humanity; perhaps it was akin to that which the ruined spendthrift enjoys when he hears the bead-roll of his extravagance read out; but whatsoever its origin of this there can be no doubt, that Mr. Berryer found an echo in every Frenchman's bosom. If, as it is said he intends, his next appearance is to be a special pleading in favour of the Northern States of the late Union as established by Louis XVI., his eloquence will have a harder task and meet with less general approbation. Even his friends of the noble Faubourg will withhold their assent, as they now deprecate his advocacy of such a cause. In this only is M. Berryer a man of his—not the—age. The un-love with which Frenchmen regarded England eighty years ago was expressed in the love and admiration with which they cherished the young bantling they fancied they had helped into the world. M. Berryer perhaps clings to the tradition, as the misconduct and ingratitude of a favourite child seems only to render its claims on the affections of old age the stronger.

President Davis's Message, translated into French, has been distributed to the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. Fragments had already appeared in the French papers, faithfully enough translated, but so chosen that they conveyed a very false idea, if not of the situation of the South, certainly of the position of France in the question. The extracts of the *Journal des Débats* were singularly well arranged—a praise which, indeed, can seldom be denied to this paper—for while showing the servility with which the English Cabinet panders to the North, they suppressed entirely the unpleasant fact that the position taken up by France, if more dubious, is not a whit the fairer. The question of the blockade has hardly yet attracted attention in the Paris papers, but we shall probably see it well handled in the debates on the Address. These debates are more important, far more important, than English readers imagine. After the inordinate license of half a century, the free speech of the French representative body has been curbed, so that it is only on the occasion of the annual Address that it now finds vent. The solemnity of the occasion, if it tempers the language, adds weight to the opinions expressed. The debates extend in consequence to a length unknown in England; and this is so well understood that the Bill for the loan has been discussed and passed before the Address to the sovereign has been voted. The conditions of the new loan will be published in the beginning of next week; they are not yet officially known, but rumour says that they will be such as to offer a premium of 4 per cent. for ready money.

The discussion on the Address began yesterday, and M. Thiers opened the debate. He demands liberty—liberty of four kinds: individual liberty, press liberty, electoral liberty, and representative liberty; to all which he adds the demand that the sovereign shall be irresponsible. He does not speak of the new conspiracy just discovered, apropos of individual liberty, nor of the September laws he himself passed to correct the license of the press. In claiming electoral liberty he might have illustrated the subject by a reference to the practice of Louis Philippe's government and the 250,000 electors who then composed the governing body in France; but he is candid on the fourth of his demands, representative liberty, and acknowledges he has a great itching to badger the Ministers. He winds up with a threat, or something so like one that his eloquence will hardly carry conviction to the governing powers or to the great majority whose aspiration is quiet: "I declare, then, that if these liberties are conceded, thinking as I do that the country has the most serious want of them, that I accept them, and that I may be counted among the

[illegible]

... Monsieur ... the Archduke Maximilian ... [illegible] ... tidings regarding the ... of the French army and the ... of the Mexican people ... [illegible] ... of government. It is believed that he was bring ... the archduke's ... [illegible]

I have heard ... [illegible] ... in connection with the ... [illegible] ... a chance of ... were known and their movements watched, but they had intended attacking the Emperor when ... and were only deterred by M. Massoni's ... for their escape. Had they ... a few ... [illegible] ... the second day after their arrest, the police might have been ... too late ... the case of them. It is said that there is ... to connect M. Massoni with this nefarious attempt, in which case we may hope our laws are strong enough to ... him to punishment. We must not justify the assertion that England is the lurking place of assassins. Hospitality to political exiles does not include protection to the most dastardly of all criminals.

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE

(From our Own Correspondent.)

January 13.

There have been two chief political events during the week, and each of them has its interest and importance. The Chairman of Ways and Means, Mr. Massey, has addressed his constituents at Salford, and the able and scholarly Federal advocate, Mr. Forster, has been equally liberal of his attentions to the electors of Bradford.

The most noteworthy feature in Mr. Massey's speech—which, like Mr. Forster's, was largely occupied with American affairs—was the difficulty he manifested in hitting upon a middle tone between his outspoken utterances of two years ago and the dull humdrum in praise of that do-nothing policy under which Lancashire is entering upon its third year of pauperism; and in this he succeeded so unsatisfactorily that, at the conclusion of his speech, when the question was put to him point blank, he was driven, without any apparent reluctance, to uphold his previously expressed opinions. It would be of little consequence to remark upon such a naturally expected matter of fact, were it not for the sake of correcting a ridiculous but no less ... misrepresentation in Monday's *Star*. "Mr. Massey," observes that journal, "is well nigh a convert on the American question. This time last year ... he deemed the war between North and South an unintelligible, undefinable quarrel without any sensible origin or object," &c., &c.

The thoroughness of Mr. Massey's conversion to the opposite opinion will be sufficiently gathered—sufficiently, I mean, even for a Federal organ like the *Star*—from the following extract from the report published by such another Federal organ as the *Examiner*:—

"Mr. J. D. Morton (amidst a storm of hisses) said he wished to ask the honourable member whether he was prepared to stand by his speech made in that room two years ago, in which he said that the American war had no beginning, would have no end, was without cause and effect, and was a war which no man could understand.

"Mr. Massey said, with regard to that question, he really thought that, in the speech referred to, he had given a very good definition of the American war, *and a better one than he had done this evening*. He was quite prepared to adhere to it."—*Examiner and Times, January 9th*, 1864.

The pith of Mr. Forster's speech is contained in the following singular extract. "Certainly, they had heard lately of spasmodic and convulsive efforts being made by Southern Clubs to cause England to interfere in American affairs; but thanks to the success of the Federals and the comparative non-success of the Confederates, there was no reason to believe that Parliament would depart from the opinion they had already expressed that any intervention

[illegible] ... would ... Providence ... [illegible]

... again, it is to be hoped that Mr. Forster's theory of "Providence" rests on a surer foundation than he lays down in the foregoing extract from his speech. A plain-spoken disputant might call such an argument fanatical, but perhaps it would be more moderate to confine oneself to the expression of a doubt as to the propriety of introducing into a question of this kind the assumed sanction or support of Providence. According to the military creed, Providence goes with superior numbers of good soldiers and effective artillery, and the advocates of this theory have a good deal to say in its favour; but according to Mr. Forster, when the civil war in America began, Providence could not but oppose the South, because its cause was vicious, while the cause of the North had nothing to recommend itself until the issue of Mr. Lincoln's proclamation. Mr. Forster must not be surprised if people tell him that his theory of Providence guiding human affairs does not appear more satisfactory in this particular application than the ethical aspect illustrated in the earlier part of his speech. Does Mr. Forster believe that Mr. Lincoln's proclamation contained an unreserved intent to emancipate the slaves? If he does, great is his faith, but greater his simplicity; if not, this proclamation was an imposition, and Mr. Forster can scarcely claim for it the approbation and support of Providence.

Mr. George Thompson, whose *dictum* as an Abolitionist was that "the dissolution of the Union was the object to be kept steadily in view," is now on the eve of renewing his visit to what he styles the "United States," and his compatriots of the North in Manchester have proposed, if not to serenade him, at least to offer him some sort of equivalent for that Yankee honour. The affair is announced as a "farewell soirée to George Thompson, to present an address to that gentleman on his final departure from England for the United States." It is consolatory to observe from these words that after Mr. Thompson has left us we shall not necessarily have seen the last of him. It may be the last time he will leave England for the United States, but the terms do not preclude the possibility at some subsequent date of his taking a "final departure" from the United States for England. The ... character of the forthcoming entertainment can only be appreciated from the concluding words of the announcement: "George Wilson, Esq., Samuel Pope, Esq., and other well-known friends will take part in the proceedings. Tickets: Gentlemen, 2s. 6d.; ladies, 1s. 6d., to be had at the offices of the Union and Emancipation Society, 51, Piccadilly, Manchester."

An appeal, it seems, is shortly to be made for Lancashire aid on behalf of the sick and wounded in the army and navy of the Northern States of America. A ... intimation to that effect was made public yesterday through the ... medium of the *Manchester Examiner*, and we were at the same time not too ... reminded that a favourable response is expected from us upon ... The writer appears to have been in blissful ignorance of the disgraceful circumstances attending the distribution of the so-called American flour, in Stephenson-square on the 16th of

[illegible]

... "I have read ... the statement made," ... [illegible] ...

[illegible] ... In Ashton, according to the report of the ... we have only one-twentieth part more of our factory population and its dependencies at work, than we had during 1862, January to December. The guardians of the poor are distributing less

than one-half of the funds they gave a year since. The Relief Committees are still more cramped by the meagreness of the grants made by the controlling bodies. There is neither clothing, food, nor fuel distributed, and the necessities and sufferings of the operatives are mightier than in our most miserable period of the last eighteen months."

Independently, however, of the growing distress we have to grapple with, there is another fact of great significance and importance which came out at the last meeting of the Central Relief Committee—a fact which in its way bears with peculiar emphasis upon the "Confederate Cause in Lancashire." It has been ascertained, from statistics compiled for the purpose that during the past nine months the working population of the manufacturing districts has decreased by nearly 34,000 persons, and that of this number more than one-half have emigrated, principally, of course, to America. In considering this outpouring, the *Manchester Courier* fears that many who have joined in the exodus have gone to the Federal States under the impression that the war has made plenty of room for them; and adds, that no doubt the Federal Government is doing all in its power to encourage this delusion. Congress, we are reminded, has provided ample funds for the promotion of immigration, and one of the earliest acts done by the House of Representatives was to vote $20,000,000 for this purpose. The *Courier* concludes by speculating upon the possible, perhaps probable, fate of a considerable proportion of "our poor dupes." They will be drafted, either as substitutes for those "citizens" who dislike fighting, or as "voluntary mercenaries, into that army which will again go forth in the spring, either to fall by the sword or to perish by disease."

MANCHESTER, January 6.

[The following letter was accidently omitted last week.]

PERHAPS the most important of "extra-sessional utterances" yet to be delivered during the brief remainder of the recess are those we may shortly expect to hear from Mr. Massie. Mr. Massie's is no uninfluential voice, and the honourable gentleman may assure himself that on Friday evening next a crowded and eager audience will bear testimony to the consideration in which his words are held. It is now two years since he met his constituents directly for the purpose of addressing them on political affairs; and the question which on that occasion chiefly occupied men's minds and engrossed nearly the whole of the honourable member's attention during a speech of an hour and a half, still remains as one of the most absorbing topics of the day. That question, as handled in January, 1862, by the honourable member for Salford, may be stated in these words: "What is the duty of Her Majesty's Government in relation to the American war?" Even in those days the question was thus pointedly put, and it redounds to Mr. Massie's honour to say it was scarcely less pointedly answered. Speaking (he said) in the interests of peace and desiring the freedom of commerce, he declared that—for the sake of humanity, for the sake of the interests of the civilised world, for the sake of the people themselves who were involved in this mad and hopelsss and aimless contest,—it was the duty of the great maritime Powers to consider whether the time had not come, by mediation and by friendly interposition, to endeavour to put an end to this state of affairs.

When we consider it is now two years since sentiments like these callled forth ringing cheers from the constituents of Salford—two years of continued carnage in America, and two years of unabated wretchedness in Lancashire—it is nothing surprising that we should anticipate, with more than ordinary interest and not without impatience, the speech that has been promised to us the day after to-morrow. We also bear in mind that Mr. Massie was equally outspoken on the question of the blockade. He plainly told us that, according to the law of nations, the blockade was no blockade at all, and that it had only been recognised through the courtesy and forbearance of the maritime Powers of Europe. Thus it was we submitted to be deprived of the staple material of our industry, rather than construe "too strictly" the question of compliance with the law of nations. But how much longer, asked Mr. Massie, in January, 1862, was that to last? Was this inefficient and paper blockade to be eternally respected? Were we to submit to be starved? Were we to expect our great neighbour, France, to submit to be starved? It was no state secret to divulge, but, on the other hand, it was a notorious fact, that the French Government had even at that time repeatedly and earnestly "remonstrated" with our Government, with a view to concerted action in putting an end to that which was no blockade. And warming with his subject, and encouraged by the plaudits of a sympathising audience, the hon. gentleman concluded that portion of his address as follows:—Were we in this year of 1862, for the sake of favouring a ferocious and frantic war, to allow the great ports of commerce to be closed, all the operations of trade to be suspended, credit to be deranged, unoffending persons to be subjected to unparalleled privations, and many of our poorer fellow-countrymen absolutely to be reduced to penury and starvation? It was his opinion that the time had come for the great maritime Powers to offer friendly counsels, and such was the policy he meant to support in the House of Commons. Adverting to the question of slavery, the hon. gentleman disposed of it in half a dozen sentences so comprehensive and logical as to answer beforehand everything the Union and Emancipation Society (then unborn) might in after-days be foolish or unscrupulous enough to advance. If there was one delusion more than another which clouded the unhappy subject and prevented people from reading it in its true lineaments, it was the notion that the war was waged against slavery because the North were at war with a people who held slaves. Never was so foolish a notion, or one so unfounded and so delusive. Instead of yielding to that error, or of sympathising with the North on account of an accident for which the North was entitled to no credit, we might rather say to the South, "*It is not your fault that your wealth is invested in such property as this; we look upon it as your misfortune, not your fault.*" If anything was likely to lead to the abolition of the institution of slavery, it was not the reconstruction and reconsolidation of the Union under the protection of a mighty flag which covered half the world; but it was that the slave States should be separated from the free States, and should be subjected to the action of the public opinion of Europe; and by means of treaties of commerce and other measures that might be brought to bear, he believed that the best and only prospect for the amelioration of the slave was to be expected. Upon the question of the "right of secession," Mr. Massey did not condescend to bestow any serious amount of attention, and *a fortiori* we may expect to hear less from him upon that not very profitable subject on Friday evening next. When the hon. member for Salford was last with his constituents, the American struggle, he thought, had long passed the point where questions of right cease to possess interest, and give place to the more weighty arguments of fact.

Apropos of slavery, Mr. Massie may have observed that a short time ago, the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society addressed a memorial to Lord Palmerston (!) for the purpose of dissuading his Lordship from lending a willing ear to the representations of the Southern Independence Association, upon the ground, forsooth, that it was a "pro-slavery organisation" got up in Lancashire to thwart the North in its holy crusade against the accursed abomination of the South. Could anything be conceived more old-ladyish than going and telling such nonsense to Lord Palmerston, of all men in the world? The memorial, however, had appeared in such congenial prints as the *Daily News, Morning Star, Manchester Examiner, Anti-Slavery Reporter*, &c., and was well worthy of an answer, if an answer could be found worthy of it. This rather difficult condtion has been very happily fulfilled by the accomplished and influentia vice-chairman of the Southern Independence Association (W. Romaine, Callender, Esq.) who addresses the editor of the anti-slavery organ as follows:—

"Sir,—I do not wish unduly to occupy your columns, but as I cannot believe you would make a wilful misrepresentation, I ask permission to state my own opinions on the American contest—opinions which, so far as I know, are shared by every member of the Southern Independence Association. I cannot do so more concisely than by quoting from the *Manchester Examiner*, a paper distinguished for its advanced Liberal opinions, and generally supposed to be the official organ of Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright. During the presidential contest between Buchanan and Fremont, the 'aspirations' of the *Examiner* were in favour of the Democratic candidate—the issue being very similar to that at present involved, with this important difference, that the Abolitionist feelings of Colonel Fremont were well-known, while the opinions of Mr. Lincoln have been at least ambiguous. An expression of hope on the part of the *Examiner* that the chances of success were in favour of Mr. Buchanan drew forth a severe attack from the anti-slavery advocate, to which the *Examiner*, in a leading article, September 9, 1858, replied as follows:—

"'The movement is one of the North *versus* the South—the manufacturers against the corn and cotton growers—the advocate of a United States Bank with a monetary monopoly and an unlimited paper currency against the hard cash political economists—the supporters of a prohibitive tariff for the benefit of a domestic industry against those who are for buying in the cheapest and selling in the dearest market, and doing a profitable business with the whole world. . . . . For our part we cannot afford to deal in such philanthropic generalities; we are compelled to take things as they are, even at the cost of giving a check to Pegasus. We believe that morality and truth are infinitely higher than any material interest, and we challenge the production of a single sentence from the columns of this journal which implies the contrary; at the same time we do believe that commerce and manufactures are of some slight importance to the twenty-six millions who inhabit these islands, and we cannot sacrifice this conviction to an empty rhetorical flourish. We agree with the bulk of the Abolitionists in believing that the interests of the slave are not identified with the success of Mr. Fremont. We believe the attempted identification is a mere political ruse for objects which would be mischievous to the United States, to this country, and to the world.'

"And on September 13th the same subject is again referred to:—'The chief hope of the United States at the present crisis lies in the reserve of patriotism and common sense among the people. Their public men of all parties are utterly unsafe guides; they deal with questions affecting the welfare of the republic as they would with a set of ninepins, and seize those views which will bowl down the greatest number. . . . . The present agitation is unhappily calculated to produce animosities, which will delay rather than hasten any practical measure for the enfranchisement of the slave; the question is made one of political preponderance—the worst of all issues for one of philanthropy.'

"When the result of the election was known in this country the *Examiner* gave the following character of the Democrats, (Nov. 22, 1856):—

"The party on whose shoulders Mr. Buchanan has been raised to power, though inspired to a great extent by high notions of the destiny of the United States . . . . are prompted by the strongest motives to cultivate amicable relations with Great Britain. The Democratic party represents the great producing interests of the United States, whose welfare is bound up with the maintenance of friendship and free trade with the people of this country.'

"Such were the views held but a short time ago by the followers of Mr. Bright. Such would be endorsed now by every sympathiser with the South; and I protest against the application of an offensive epithet to a society as much opposed to slavery as your own, and comprising every shade of religious and political opinion. Believing that the war is carried on to gain political preponderance and mercantile monopoly, convinced that the North can never subjugate their opponents, we advocate "Southern Independence,' in order to prevent the waste of life in America and the demoralisation of the operatives in Great Britain.—I am, &c.,

WM. ROMAINE CALLENDER, Jun.,
Vice-Chairman of the Southern
Independence Association."

"Manchester, December 31, 1863."

With regard to the operations of the society which is thus fortunate in the influence and morale of its executive, it may be safely anticipated that, between now and the opening of Parliament, nothing will be left undone that may tend to give to the Confederate movement in Lancashire all the co-operative power that can be produced by unity of purpose, methodised action, and resources equal to the occasion. The public mind has now been so fully educated that the "implements of knowledge" may be put on one side, and undivided attention given to gathering the fruit. Memorials and petitions, some to Her Majesty the Queen, others to Lord Palmerston, others to Earl Russell, but the majority, in duplicate, to the "Lords Spiritual and Temporal," and "To the Honourable the Commons in Parliament assembled," are now in process of being signed in every town and almost in every cotton-mill throughout the district. The latest success, it may be remembered, that crowned the efforts of the association, was at Burnley, where, in an open meeting held a week or two ago, some thousands of the inhabitants, under the auspices of the civic authorities of the borough, declared by an overwhelming majority that it was the duty of the Government to enter into concert with other European Powers with a view to medicating between the belligerents. The following is a copy of the petition now in course of signature in that town:—

"To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled. The petition of the undersigned, the inhabitants of the Borough of Burnley, in the County Palatine of Lancaster:—

"Humbly sheweth, that your petitioners, in common with all their countrymen and the whole civilised world, view with feelings of the utmost pain and abhorrence the fratricidal war now raging in the States of America.

"That they regard the restoration of the Union, whether upon the old or upon any other basis, as utterly impracticable.

"They also consider the Southern Confederacy as having both the right and the power to maintain their present position as a nation, independent of the Northern Federation.

"Believing this, your petitioners look upon the attempt of the latter to coerce the former into terms of union by a further continuance of the war to be at once hopeless, unjustifiable and an outrage against humanity.

"They therefore beg most respectfully to press upon the Government of this country that it is due to the Southern Confederacy, as well as to the rest of the civilised world, whose commerce is so seriously disturbed by this hopeless strife, that England, in concert with other European powers, should recognise the existence of the Confederate States by receiving their ambassador and opening diplomatic communication with them as an independent Power.

"And your petitioners," &c., &c.

SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.

The following is the Constitution and List of Committee and Officers of the Southern Independence Association, just formed in London:—

PUBLIC opinion is becoming enlightened upon the disruption of the late United States, and upon the character of the war which has been raging on the American Continent for nearly three years. British subjects were at first hardly able to realise a federation of States each in itself possessed of sovereign attributes: while, deriving their views of American history from New York and New England, they ascribed the secession of the Southern States to pique at a lost election, and to fear for the continuance of an institution peculiarly distasteful to Englishmen. Assurances were rife from those quarters that the movement was the conspiracy of a few daring men, and that a strong Union sentiment existed in the seceding States, which would soon assert its existence under stress of the war.

Gradually the true causes of the disruption have made themselves more and more manifest. The long-widening and now insuperable divergence of character and interests between the two sections of the former Union has been made palpable by the facts of the gigantic struggle. Their wisdom in council, their endurance in the field, and the universal self-sacrifice which has reconstructed their public and their private life, have won general sympathy for the Confederates as a people worthy of, and who have earned, their independence.

On the other hand, the favourable judgment which Englishmen had long cherished as a duty towards that portion of the United States which they imagined most to resemble the mother country, has met with many rude shocks from the spectacles which have been revealed in that land of governmental tyranny, corruption in high places, ruthlessness in war, untruthfulness of speech, and causeless animosity towards Great Britain. At the same time the Southerners, who had been very harshly judged in this country, have manifested the highest national characteristics, to the surprise and admiration of all.

Public men are awakening to the truth that it is both useless and mischievous to ignore the gradual settlement of central North America into groups of States, or consolidated nationalities, each an independent Power. They feel that the present attempt of the North is in manifest opposition to this law of natural progress, and they see that the South can

never be reunited with the North except as a conquered and garrisoned dependency, while the Southern States [illegible] to leave their former partners [illegible] all the elements of great and growing [illegible] and wealth.

Our commercial classes are also [illegible] our best interests [illegible] with a people [illegible] a land [illegible] dence and [illegible] connection with the manufactures and the [illegible] of Europe.

In short the struggle is now felt to be [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

The Association will also devote itself to the cultivation of kindly feelings between the people of Great Britain and of the Confederate States, and it will, in particular, steadily but kindly represent to the Southern States, that recognition by Europe must necessarily lead to a revision of the system of servile labour, unhappily bequeathed to them by England, in accordance with the spirit of the age, so as to combine the gradual extinction of slavery with the preservation of property, the maintenance of the civil polity, and the true civilisation of the negro race.

LONDON, December, 1863.

COMMITTEE.

(With Power to add to their Number.)

The Most Noble the Marquis of Lothian.	The Honourable Robt. Bourke.
	Edward Akroyd, Esq., Halifax.
The Most Noble the Marquis of Bath.	Colonel Greville, M.P.
	W. H. Gregory, Esq., M.P.
The Lord Robert Cecil, M.P.	T. C. Haliburton, Esq., M.P.
The Lord Eustace Cecil.	A. J. B. Beresford Hope, Esq.
The Right Honourable Lord Wharncliffe.	W. S. Lindsay, Esq., M.P.
	G. M. W. Peacocke, Esq., M.P.
The Right Honourable Lord Campbell.	Wm. Scholefield, Esq., M.P.
	James Spence, Esq., Liverpool.
The Hon. C. Fitzwilliam, M.P.	William Vansittart, Esq., M.P.

Chairman—A. J. B. Beresford Hope, Esq.

Treasurer—The Lord Eustace Cecil.

Bankers—The Alliance Bank, 6 Lothbury, London, E.C. The London and Westminster Bank, Charles-street, St. James's-square, S.W.

Secretary and Parliamentary Agent—A. Kintrea, Esq.

Temporary Office—24, St. James's-street, S.W.

Subscriptions (annual or otherwise) of one guinea and upwards to be forwarded to the Treasurer or Bankers.

THE "ELLA AND ANNIE."

(*From the Bermuda Herald.*)

WE have been kindly furnished with a full and exciting account of the capture of this vessel by one of the passengers on board. The conduct of Captain Bonneau, it will be seen, merits the highest commendation.

The *Ella and Annie* left Bermuda on Thursday, the 5th of November, at 12 o'clock, m., in company with the *R. E. Lee*, weather fine and clear, ship drawing nine feet water. Kept in company with the *Lee* until Sunday evening at dusk, when she hauled away to the northward. At 7 p.m. it commenced blowing heavy from N.N.W., and increased to a gale by 9, sky perfectly clear. At 10 o'clock we could not force the ship over five knots, as the sea and wind was very high (we had at this time 75 miles to run). At 11 passed two lights, which we supposed to be from the outer vessels of the blockading fleet. At 2 o'clock hauled in to Masonboro' Inlet, and at 20 minutes to 5 made the land [illegible]

[illegible]

Question.—What would you have done had you [illegible]

Answer.—I should have lowered my boats and ordered the men to get into them, and carried them [illegible] to Wilmington.

Acting-Master G. W. Bentley, was placed in charge of the prize, and [illegible] went North [illegible] the two passengers and [illegible] The *Ella and Annie* is completely riddled with shot, having [illegible] her hull, and her [illegible]

List of the wounded.—[illegible] Jerry, [illegible] dangerously. Harvey, fireman, [illegible] with grape shot. [illegible] two of the stewards cut with cutlass.

THE FREEDMEN OF THE SOUTH.

(From the *New York Daily News*, December 7.)

A circular letter from one of the Freedmen's Aid Societies, begging cast-off clothing, bed clothing, and the like, for the negroes enticed from their former homes, has been sent to us, and it presents a terrible picture of suffering humanity. In the department of the Mississippi alone, we are informed, fifteen contraband camps are established, at which [illegible] negroes are already gathered. Those able to bear arms are forced to enlist, while the old women and the helpless children are [illegible] although [illegible] reported as expended by Government [illegible] clothing these [illegible] Mississippi, [illegible] writes as follows:

"At [illegible] below Memphis, [illegible] are dying at that point for want of food, clothing, and medicines. [illegible] and large [illegible] a suffering [illegible] this winter if not assisted by the government."

[illegible]

[illegible] they go forth, and the change of temperature [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] pected in this war.—*A. Abolition.*—*Times.*

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

OUR friends in the United Kingdom and on the Continent are earnestly requested to forward to us, at their earliest convenience, such information relative to the military movements and condition or affairs in America as they may receive through private letters, either from the United States, or from the Confederate States. They may rely upon the most scrupulous precautions being observed; that no names or facts leading to identification will, under any circumstances, be revealed. No communications, however, will be noticed unless authenticated by a responsible name. Southern newspapers, of any date, will be useful and acceptable presents.

Our subscribers in the South will have their paper supplied through HENRY HOTZE, Esq., the Confederate States Commercial Agent in London, who has kindly tendered us his services in this respect during the continuance of the blockade.

For the convenience of our distant subscribers, all the receipts for subscriptions signed by any of the official representatives, or commissioned officers of the Confederate States, will be recognized at this office.

Subscription, 26s. per annum—post paid, 30s., payable in advance. All communications on business to be addressed, and Post-Office Orders made payable to, J. B. HOPKINS, 13, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street, London E.C.

The INDEX may be obtained, and payments for subscriptions or other dues to the paper made:—

At Liverpool, to MR. BISHOP, 6, Commercial-buildings, 17, Water-st.
At Manchester, F. A. HASLEHAM, Esq., Manchester Southern Club Office, Market-street.
At Paris, to Messrs. PFEIFFER and MULLER, 52, Rue du Château d'Eau, Paris.
At Turin, to Sr. FILIPPO MANETTA, 4, Borgo Nuovo.
At St. Thomas (West Indies), C. W. WHITE, Esq.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1864.

The Negro Mutiny at Fort Jackson.

THERE are many versions, ancient and modern, of the familiar story of the man who, having invented a new engine of destruction, was its first victim. But the fable of Phalaris has never been illustrated on so stupendous a scale and with such unexpected suddenness as in the case of that "black Nemesis" which the North has unavailingly invoked upon the heads of an innocent people, and which is already turning to torment its author. The Yankees placed the torch and the halter in the negro's hand and taught him to thirst for white men's blood; his first use of the lesson has been to practise it on his instructors. The Federal Government has armed and drilled the slaves of the South; their first independent act is to hold a fortress against the white troops of the Federal Government. So utterly confounding, so damnatory of their whole past policy, is the event at Fort Jackson, that the Washington authorities have taken extraordinary precautions to prevent the details from becoming known. It is only by fragmentary facts, too eloquent to be misconstrued, that we gain some idea of the gravity of that mutiny which a few steamers back was described as "a trifling affair." Since then, we learn that two regiments sent from New Orleans have failed to dispossess the mutineers; and next, that a naval expedition of two or three gunboats has been equally unsuccessful. Private letters reveal startling particulars. The blacks, it is stated, have hanged their white officers, some thirty in number, and with a truly barbaric defiance and taste for ghastly spectacles, they have swung the carcasses over the ramparts of their stronghold. In the city of New Orleans arrests of negroes of both sexes have been made on the charge of holding seditious meetings, singing "rebel" songs, praying for the success of the Confederates, and like treasonable practices. There is something grimly burlesque in Sambo and Dinah playing at "Secession conspiracy," but it is nevertheless singularly significant and suggestive. Without attaching undue importance to rumours which, from their nature, are liable to unconscious exaggeration, sufficient is known and admitted by those who have the greatest interest to conceal it, that throughout the Mississippi Valley the negro population is restless under Federal rule, that there are symptoms of dangerous fermentation among them which excite the liveliest apprehensions of the invaders, and that the negroes freely express the wish and hope for the return of their former masters.

We shall not fall into the error of generalising too hastily upon these facts, or of treating them as the Northern press does the rare instances of individual cowardice and apostacy, which are paraded as proofs of the latent "Union sentiment" among the Southern people. We are ready to admit that the volatility and childish waywardness of the negro's character, suddenly unsettled from its old basis of obedient contentment, will to some extent account for many of the phenomena to which we have referred. Apart from this we have it from the confessions of the Northern press, that the condition of the enfranchised blacks—especially of the age and sex unfit for arms—is such that they might well pine for a remand into slavery, even were that slavery all that Abolitionist fictions depict it. Left in huge camps, without that provident care and kindly attention to which they were accustomed in their servile state; in too many horrible instances left without shelter, clothes, medicine, and even food—these unfortunates are perishing at a rate which has extorted rebuke even in the callous negro-hating North. A less docile or more self-dependent race would have revolted long since against such intolerable suffering. At this time negro desertions into the Confederate lines are far more frequent than out of them, and there is not a camp of blacks which has not its bloody records of escapes frustrated by the Yankee bullets. A very large proportion, if not a majority, of these poor people were driven off like cattle from the plantations by the invaders, and the accounts of credible witnesses, such as the Rev. Mr. Mallet and Colonel Fremantle, leave us in no doubt as to the unsparing use of violence with which the boon of "freedom" is bestowed. It need not surprise us that such benefits do not elicit a very warm gratitude. But even the comparatively few who were enticed by visions of idleness and license, would soon wake to bitter disappointment and repentance under the pangs of destitution or the sharp discipline of the Northern task-master. All able-bodied negro males are now forthwith drafted into the army; field labour, where not wholly abandoned on the confiscated estates, being performed exclusively by the non-combatants. The negro who is forcibly torn from his wife and children, whom he knows to be dying of hunger and fevers, may well be pardoned for regretting, while being hurried on by the bayonets at his back against some rebel breastworks, the comforts and the indulgences of his lost home.

We do not, therefore, present the growing discontent of the enfranchised blacks with their new masters as a deliberate and rational decision of the negro on his own interest in the issues of the war, though if such a decision could be fairly given we are strongly convinced that it would sadly refute the favourite theories of a certain school of philanthropists. Nor do we believe that the mutiny at Fort Jackson originated with a political purpose. Cut off from every possibility of Confederate assistance, surrounded on the land side by impenetrable morasses, and from the river open to the attack of the Federal ironclads, the wretched mutineers have probably ere this met their doom at the hands of merciless judges. It was doubtless only a mad outbreak of disappointed expectations and of revenge against brutal tyranny. But with all these reserves, there still remains the great and significant fact that the negro, armed and left to himself, has first raised his hand, not against the Southern, but against the Northern white man. In the broad expanse of the Confederacy, where vast districts are denuded of their natural defenders, and helpless women and children, in isolated homes, trust solely to the protection of numerous slaves, not a single outbreak has yet occurred. More than this, all accounts from the South agree that the negroes are rapidly catching the wild enthusiasm of the white population in defence of home and country. Innumerable instances are on record since the beginning of the war where they have deceived and betrayed the invader, so much so that "the intelligent contraband" has almost become synonymous with "rebel spy;" but there is not a case known where a Federal commander has obtained valuable information through the treachery of a slave. An English officer of high rank, who traversed the South from the Texas frontier to the river Potomac, says that in his whole journey of several months through this blockaded and sorely distressed country, he has not seen a single man, woman, or child, white or black, begging for bread or asking alms. From the banks of the Mississippi, wherever are the armies of that people which is now revelling in luxury with no thought of to-morrow, there come the agonising cries of tens of thousands dying for want!

Is there no lesson in these facts to those who base strong opinions, affecting the welfare and happiness of millions of human beings, upon a total ignorance of the social condition of a great country, or what is worse, upon purposely falsified information? Will a suspicion never cross their minds that their honourable impulses in favour of human rights and progress are being vilely abused by designing men who laugh at their credulity? Will nothing open their convictions to the truth that the institutions of the South, whatever be their shortcomings and defects, do at least afford a protection, which no legislation can ensure, to a race indelibly stamped by nature with the mark of inferiority, and that it is better for the slave and son of a slave to trust to the humanity and to the self-interest of a single master, who, almost of necessity, belongs to a high social caste, than to find a master in every white man he meets and a despot in every vulgar brute with a white skin? History will have recorded itself in vain, if before the close of this American war, it does not prove so clearly that none but the wilfully blind can fail to see it, the identity of interest and of sympathies of the white and the black populations of the South. And it speaks volumes in favour of the negro and is a world of promise for his future development, that he—intellectually a child of lesser growth—cherishes, despite great temptation, with a child's affection the only country which does not treat him as an outcast.

The Court of Exchequer on the "Alexandra."

LAST term the appeal of the Crown in the case of the *Alexandra* came before the Court of Exchequer; and, as our readers will remember, after hearing the arguments on both sides, which were remarkable for their length, eloquence, and elaboration, the court took time to consider its judgment. On Monday, being the first day of the present term, the court delivered judgment; each of its four members in turn delivering his opinion on the case. The Lord Chief Baron adhered to his ruling in the court below. The senior of the Puisne Barons, Mr. Baron Bramwell, agreed with him. Mr. Baron Channell dissented, holding that the direction of the Chief Baron to the jury had not been satisfactory, and that on this account a new trial ought to be granted. The junior of the Court is Mr. Baron Pigott. He was, when this case came on at Liverpool, member for Reading, and has since been appointed to the Bench by a Government which has almost invariably bestowed its judicial appointments, after the American fashion, not on first-rate lawyers but on staunch political partisans. It is not to be supposed that the baron was even unconsciously biassed by political feeling; but it is not impossible that his preconceived opinion—for everybody had an opinion on this case, and it was the topic of general conversation—may have been known to the Ministry when they appointed him; and it is a pity that one of the judges in such a cause should have been nominated, *pendente lite*, by a party to the suit. His opinion was given in favour of a new trial; but as the court was thus evenly divided, he being the junior, according to custom withdrew his judgment, and the rule for a new trial was refused. The effect of this decision will be to leave the Government at liberty to appeal to what is called the Court of Exchequer Chamber, where, in this case, the judges of the two other superior courts (Queen's Bench and Common Pleas) will review the decision of the Court of Exchequer; and from them there lies a further appeal to the House of Lords. It is tolerably certain that, whatever the decision, the Government will not give up the vessel till it has exhausted all the resources of chicanery, and interposed every vexation, difficulty, and

delay that the [illegible] suggest. [illegible] to the usage of [illegible] and that what the Ministry [illegible] or to ascertain the law of England, but to satisfy the demand, or at least to [illegible] the Northern States of America. [illegible] with Mr. Seward [illegible] the supposed [illegible] of the Confederate Government [illegible] release of [illegible] Confederate ships [illegible] in advance of legal [illegible] strain the law [illegible] for doing so. The damages [illegible] the pockets of the [illegible] but out of the public purse [illegible] interference, as long as the law [illegible]. We do not suppose that the Administration [illegible] that [illegible] to postpone the [illegible] as long as possible. In this point of view, the difference of opinion in the Court of Exchequer is exactly what they want. It gives them good cause for a further appeal, and it does not give them a new trial, which would be final, and would in all probability terminate in favour of the defendants. For even if it were held that the *Alexandra* was fitted out and equipped within the meaning of the statute, it remains to be proved that she was so equipped for the service of the Confederate States, and the evidence by which the Crown sought to establish this point was of a character likely to find [illegible] favour with any impartial jury. The policy of the Government, therefore, is better served by a [illegible] on the course of appeal, until the last of them is reached. And we do not doubt that the Crown lawyers will take care so to manage their case that it cannot come before the House of Lords until the session of 1865, thus postponing for twelve or eighteen months the release of the vessel; whereas, if the Court of Exchequer had granted a new trial, and she had been again acquitted, she must have been released at once. Such a procedure of chicanery, vexation, and injustice, tending expressly to harass the defendants and put them to enormous expense, is sometimes employed by private individuals of malignant temper and ample means, and its employment in such cases is always provocative of bitter denunciations of a system under which such things are possible; but this is the first time that the advisers of the Crown have had recourse to such a method of oppression.

The grounds on which the rule for a new trial was asked were substantially reduced to two: that the Lord Chief Baron misdirected the jury, and that the verdict was against the weight of evidence. Considering the character of the principal witnesses for the Crown, it might have been as well to omit a plea which savours of impudence; and this would have been the more expedient as, in fact, the point really in dispute was simply one of law. Accordingly, no notice was taken of this pretension in the judgments of the two junior judges, who gave their voices for a new trial simply on the ground that the Chief Baron had misstated the law. The points at issue between Barons Channell and Pigott on the one side and their two seniors on the other, were briefly these: Is it or is it not necessary to a forfeiture under the Foreign Enlistment Act, that there should have been the reality or intention of an equipment distinctly warlike in character within Her Majesty's dominions? Is it necessary that the ship should be intended to leave those dominions in a condition of fitness for belligerent operations? Or is it sufficient that there should be an equipment of some sort, with an intent of the character contemplated by the statute?

It is admitted on all hands that a ship may be *built* for a belligerent Power, and that the equipment forbidden must be something distinct from the mere building. It is admitted also that the belligerent intent is essential; that merely to build and arm a ship of war, and sell her to the highest bidder, is not forbidden by the Act. The question is, given the intent that a ship shall be employed against a Power with which we are not at war, what amount of equipment will render her liable to forfeiture under the statute?

In the opinion of the Chief Baron and Mr. Baron Bramwell, the equipment must be of a warlike character, and it must be intended not merely that the ship shall be sold to a belligerent who shall take her away as a mere article of contraband and fit her out and man her as a ship of war elsewhere, but that she shall be fitted out as a man-of-war within Her Majesty's dominions. In the opinion of Mr. Baron Channell and Mr. Baron Pigott [illegible]

[illegible]

The equipment [illegible] of the Act [illegible]

[illegible] Words [illegible] foreign Powers, the clause would have [illegible] further as to make the constructing of such vessels an offence; as it was, the words were inserted to [illegible] a party [illegible], and in a place where they are little less than [illegible]. For, in fact, a ship chartered as a transport or store-ship need not receive any new equipment; and the only mode of [illegible] her is to hold that chartering her is an equipment within the meaning of the Act—which would be too absurd even for a lawyer. And yet, in order to [illegible] to this [illegible] will not meet. Mr. Baron Channell [illegible] the [illegible] sense of the clause upon which they have been fastened, and is content to enunciate the doctrine that you may not put a sail on a ship which you are going to sell to a belligerent government, although you may sell them the ship herself, or even build her to their orders.

A still stronger argument than this anomaly involves was urged by the judges who differed from Baron Channell. They pointed out that the Foreign Enlistment Act regulates not only the fitting out of new ships, but the repair of old; and that in the latter case it put upon the word "equipment" precisely that definition which the Chief Baron's charge had given it in the former. If a belligerent vessel come into port, she may receive new sails, new engines, new fittings of a peaceful or doubtful [illegible]; but she is not to be strengthened in any way for warlike purposes. She is not to receive new guns, or armour plates, or a supply of ammunition. It is reasonable to suppose that this was the meaning of the prohibition of equipment in the former clause. Otherwise the law would stand thus: the *Alabama* and the *Florida*, fully armed men-of-war, may come into our harbours and obtain sails, engines, and fittings of any peaceable kind; but the *Alexandra*, an unarmed vessel, may not. You may do that for the armed cruisers of a belligerent which you may not do for the ships he has purchased of you before they are armed; you may give an armed ship everything she wants, except armament; to an unarmed vessel, if she be destined hereafter to be armed, you may not supply a sailcloth or a hammock. It can hardly be conceived that it was intended deliberately to create such an anomaly, such a glaring absurdity, as this; by one and the same Act to grant a privilege to armed and refuse it to unarmed vessels. And yet this conclusion is inevitably involved in the interpretation given to the Act by Barons Channell and Pigott.

It will be observed that the judges are almost [illegible] in affirming that the clause applies [illegible] only to acts done, or intended to be done within Her Majesty's dominions. If any man within these equip a ship, or intend within them to equip her, for the service of the Confederate States, he [illegible] comes within the statute. But if a British subject [illegible]

[illegible]

Another Northern Disappointment

The North has [illegible]

[illegible] not be trusted? [illegible] implacable enemies? [illegible] Fort Jackson [illegible] Northern troops [illegible] We are not [illegible] Northern type. The Yankee [illegible] possible that Yankee officers can for any length of time subdue that aversion and that intolerance of

the negro which in every Northern city marks the relations of white and black. The Yankee must change his nature before he seriously sets about conquering the South with negro armies.

The negro mutiny, carefully excluded from the columns of the Northern press, is the most important feature of the war news. Beyond this there is little to narrate or comment upon. Recruiting is the order of the day on both sides, and the efforts of the opposed commanders for the next two or three months will probably be confined, on the part of the North, to feeding their troops; on that of the South, to diverting to Southern uses as much as possible of the Federal supplies. The Confederate guerillas are active wherever a Federal army is encamped. General Pillow reports a raid into Western Virginia, in which 400 prisoners and a large amount of property have been carried off. General Rosse, with his column of horse, marched round the entire Federal army in Virginia. In Tennessee, Wheeler and Forrest are active upon the enemy's lines of communication, and against his trains and escorts; and Morgan, having reported himself at headquarters for service, is rallying round him, for a new blow at the Federals, hundreds of his old soldiers. In the meantime Grant, we are informed, has evolved a new and original plan of campaign, which will probably, in consideration of the chance of his running for the Presidency, be quietly burked in Mr. Stanton's department. Be this as it may, General Grant will need all his strategic talent in the next summer campaign. He has now opposed to him in supreme command, General Joseph Johnston, a skilful and daring officer, combining with the highest reputation for ability and energy a great hold upon the confidence of the Southern troops. Hitherto General Johnston has held a position in the South, very considerably inferior to that to which his name and rank entitle him. But a correspondence, as honourable to him as to General Bragg and President Davis, has lately been published, from which it appears that the comparatively minor part he has played during the last eighteen months was his own choice. He might, had he been so inclined, have superseded Bragg. But, to his honour be it said, he recognised the sterling qualities of General Bragg, and declined, having once been authorised to make a personal investigation into the relations between Bragg and his troops, to supersede him. The resignation of the latter has now been accepted, and Johnston anyway must accept the command. We anticipate great results from the change. Bragg, a good drill-master, a thorough soldier, and an able strategist, lacked the conditions of success—good fortune and the enthusiastic confidence of his troops. He expected, perhaps, too much of volunteers. His ideas of discipline were founded on the requirements of a regular standing army. Hence the misunderstanding and the want of sympathy that too frequently at the most critical moment frustrated the skill of the general and the courage of the troops. General Johnston has yet to win his laurels in the field. Wounded severely at the battle of Fair Oaks, and since that engagement occupied more in the reconstruction and organisation of the forces in the South-West than in their command in the field, he has now to grapple with one of the most energetic and successful leaders the North has produced. We have every confidence that Johnston will not belie his reputation; that, under him, the army of the South-West will soon emulate the triumphs which have illustrated the Confederate army of Virginia.

The great question for the next two months is that of recruiting. Both sides are drawing the net tighter. But there is the difference: that the one is fighting for independence, for life, honour—all that is dearest to man; the other for a dream of nationality. The draft in the North was to have been completed by the beginning of the year. It is postponed until the middle of January, probably to a period when offensive operations will not be carried on, and the whole strength of Meade's army may be brought to bear upon the recalcitrant Democrats of Northern cities. Can it be seriously hoped that the draft in 1864 will bring more conscripts than it did in 1863? Is it not far more probable that the extreme tension of the Conscription Act will more than ever defeat its object, and that its numerical results will be even less than those of last year? Altogether, things look badly in the North. These arrests of New York merchants and seizures of steamers laden with contraband goods for the South, show anything but a sound national feeling. It can hardly be doubted that where so many are found to run great risks in their desire to befriend the South, or at any rate to make large profits at the cost of their own government and cause, there must be a considerable undercurrent of hostility to the powers that be, which the conscription will not fail to develope. The South wants men and wants money; the sacrifices it has made in precious lives can never be liquidated by the North. But no city of the South refuses to yield its quota of men and money to a patriot army; no Southerners are found base enough to aid the foe of their country with weapons for the destruction of their own kith and kin. The North has its mighty armies in the field, its great fleets on the rivers and the ocean, but we have shown that there are latent energies at work which mock all this outward parade of strength, and which tend every day to equalise the resources of the contending Powers.

THE CASE OF THE "ALEXANDRA."

THE Barons of the Exchequer gave judgment on the motion of the Attorney-General for a new trial in the *Alexandra* case on Monday last. The Lord Chief Baron said that at the trial the warlike character of the vessel was proved, and it was shown that she was in all probability intended to be used by the so-called Confederates as a vessel of war. If the making, in pursuance of an agreement or order for that purpose, with intention to sell and deliver to one of the belligerents, the hull of a vessel suitable for war, but unarmed, and not equipped, furnished, or fitted with anything that enabled her to cruise or commit hostilities or to do any warlike act were a violation of the Foreign Enlistment Act, his direction to the jury was wrong in point of law; the verdict ought to have been for the Crown, and there ought to be a new trial. But if the commerce of this country in ships, whether ultimately for peace or war, was to continue, and, provided a ship left the ports of this country in no condition to cruise or commit hostilities, though she were of a warlike character, there had been no violation of the statute, then the verdict was right. And in substance this was the question between the Crown and the defendants, stripped of all technical difficulties. The Chief Baron then analysed the counts of the information, ninety-six in number. The first eight represented all the rest. As to those relating to the "attempting to equip," etc., there could be no attempting contrary to the Act, unless what was intended to be done would, when done, have amounted to an "equipping, etc." The question, then, turned on the words "equip, furnish or fit out," and the words "with intent to cruise or commit hostilities," in the 7th section of the Act. The statute was highly penal, creating a new crime; if the defendants had not done what was a punishable offence within the statute, no opinion of jurists, no decision of foreign courts ought to induce them to declare that the scope and object, the spirit and intention of the Act included the case before the court, though it were not plainly expressed by the Legislature. In this country there had been no court of criminal equity since the Star Chamber. In the opinion of the Chief Baron, no calamity would be greater than to introduce a lax or elastic interpretation of a criminal statute to serve a special but a temporary purpose. The court had nothing to do with the political consequences of a decision, and such an argument ought not to have been presented at all. Nor was any argument to be based on the supposed advantage or prejudice to this country from any decision. In his judgment, the case before the court was not within the letter of the statute, nor within the spirit, nor at all contemplated by those who framed the law. He thought the Attorney-General right in holding that no State could have required this country to prohibit those things which the Act forbade, and in declaring that the *Alabama* had committed no breach of international law. Now no one could doubt that the word "build" was purposely omitted in the 7th section. Building ships for war was not prohibited, provided they were not equipped with the intents named in the section. A comparison of the 2nd section, which, prohibiting enlistment, prohibited any participation therein by a British subject all over the world, with the restricted prohibition of the 7th section, lead to the conclusion that not the act, nor the intention, but the place was aimed at. It was the British port that was made sacred. So the 8th section forbad the addition to the warlike equipment of any foreign ship of war. A Federal vessel of war might no doubt come into our ports and repair sea damage; but on the theory of the Crown, the shipbuilder who did the repairs would become liable to prosecution as much as any one of the defendants. The Chief Baron then referred to the insuperable difficulties attending the grammatical construction of the clause. Then as to the "intent" charged, whose "intent" was meant? Who was charged with an intent to cruise or commit hostilities? According to all the rules of pleading it must be the intent of the person committing the act. There was no direct evidence that the persons equipping had any such intention, and so the charge failed. The Attorney-General would read it as though the intent was in somebody or other; that was contrary to the rules of pleading, and the decision in the "United States *v.* Quincey," and to all authority. The Chief Baron then called attention to Mr. Jefferson's answers; the first answer referred to arms and ammunition, not to ships at all. Mr. Jefferson said: "Our citizens have always been free to make, vend, or export arms. To suppress those callings because a war exists in foreign and distant countries in which we have no concern would scarcely be expected. It would be hard in principle and impossible in practice." Why, the Chief Baron asked, should not this apply to ships and shipbuilders? In America it did: why not in England? Then, as to ships, Mr. Jefferson said: "The practice of commissioning, equipping, and manning vessels in our ports to cruise on any belligerent parties is entirely disapproved of, and the Government will take effective measures to stop it." There was no disapprobation in those words of a supply of ships, even ships of war. So the judgment in "United States *v.* Quincey," left the citizens at perfect liberty to sell an armed vessel to a belligerent. The Attorney-General seemed to think that if there were an intent and and anything whatever were done in pursuance of it, that was sufficient. With all respect for the opinion of so eminent a lawyer, the Chief Baron thought that not sufficient. The Attorney-General sought to distinguish between a supply of arms and a supply of ships, and for a singular reason. Her Majesty, he said, had power to prohibit the exportation of arms, but not of a ship, and that power was founded on an Act passed in 1833. Consequently the construction of the Foreign Enlistment Act, passed in 1819, was made to turn on an Act passed in 1833. The result of the argument on the part of the Crown was this. "A shipbuilder may build a ship of war, and arm it to the teeth and sell to a belligerent to commit hostilities against another belligerent; but if there be a contract and the ship have the slightest warlike character, no matter how utterly incapable she she may be of attack or defence, then the act is infringed." Thus a whole fleet of ships might sail through an Act of Parliament. Again, a British subject might buy a vessel of war rejected by our navy, fit it up and arm it, and sail away to a port of a belligerent to sell it; but an agent of a belligerent might not, after buying such a ship, put up a mast to reach his own country; yet an armed vessel of either belligerent might come into port fully armed and obtain any naval stores, if unwarlike; but being unarmed she cannot put up a mast to cross the sea. He refused to believe in a construction involving such inconsistencies. He was of opinion that the rule for a new trial ought to be discharged.

Baron Bramwell, after a few preliminary remarks, said that he thought the fair and natural meaning of the words was, that the "equipment" spoken of in the Act must be fit for cruising or committing hostilities. The word "intent" before to "cruise or commit hostilities" seemed put there on purpose to show this. Building was not prohibited. Selling was not prohibited. Could there be an equipment in order that a vessel might be employed to cruise, unless the equipment was calculated to enable her to do so? A man did not build a ship for another man with intent that she should go on a whaling voyage, unless he adapted her to that service. Section 8, by implication, permitted any equipment to a vessel already armed, provided it was not an equipment for war. In section 7, the probable object was to use comprehensive language, and to make it enough if the ship was equipped for warlike purposes. He thought that equipment only was prohibited which was itself such that by means of it the vessel could commit hostilities, and that no equipment which gave no means of attack and defence was within the section. The statute was intended to prevent British subjects being proximately or immediately in hostilities between foreign belligerents. The learned baron then reviewed the American cases, and declared that the "United States *v.* Quincey" was wrongly decided. A correct direction to the jury would have been: "If you are satisfied that the parties concerned were equipping or arming, or attempting to equip or arm, the ship claimed, with intent that it should be employed in the service of a foreign prince, to cruise or commit hostilities against others as alleged, find for the Crown; but such equipment must be of a warlike character, so that by means of it she is in a condition, more or less effective, to cruise or commit hostilities; otherwise find for the claimant." Then the direction of the Chief Baron was substantially correct, and the verdict was right. The rule, therefore, should be discharged.

Baron Channell regretted that he must differ from the Chief Baron and from his brother Bramwell. More imperfect or faulty wording than that of section 7 could not be conceived. Still, if a fair interpretation could be obtained from the language of the Act it was not necessary to go further. The statute was not a mere penal, it was a remedial statute. From the preamble he was induced to think that the equipment of ships to be employed at a future time for war, though not so complete in this country that the ship should at once be able to commit hostilities, might be within the Act. The main question turned on the words "equip with intent or in order that the vessel should be employed in the service of a foreign Power, with intent to cruise or commit hostilities." The act and the intent must be present to constitute the offence, and the act must be done and the intent must exist within the Queen's dominions. The Attorney-General argued that assuming the intent can be proved, then any kind of equipment would be within the case contemplated. On the other hand, the claimants explained the general word "equip" by the subsequent words "with intent, or in order that the ship should be employed in a given manner," and they said that the words showed that the equipment must be suitable for that employment. He thought the Crown, to justify the seizure, must show an equipment (either completed or attempted) of the *Alexandra*, in order that she might be employed, &c. And further, that this necessarily meant an equipment enabling or tending to enable her to be so employed. He did not think that the words "equip," &c. could include building. He did not pretend to say whether any particular act, as fixing the ship's bulwarks, was part of the building or part of the equipping and fitting out. That, he thought, might be a question for the jury. He did not even say that acts done to the structure of the vessel might not be equipments. He should say that one would be equipping a ship for an arctic expedition by strengthening her framework in order to enable her to resist the pressure of the ice. But he did say that equipping, furnishing, and fitting out were all acts subsequent in their nature to the building, and in speaking of which one contemplated the ship as already in existence. So far, he thought it clear that there must be an equipment for war; that an equipment which could not be used and was not useful for war, would not do. Suppose, however, that

[illegible]

... the Act to difficult to construe as it appeared to ... to the words of the section, he thought the word ... had been purposely omitted. But he held that any act of equipping, furnishing, or fitting out ... to the hull of a vessel, of whatever nature or character that act might be, if done with the prohibited intent, was expressly within the plain language and also within the evident spirit of the Act. The ... to ... in ... of the principal, having ... for ... the ... employment of the vessel by a foreign State, and in the equipper an intent to contribute ... of some kind necessary to such employment; and it was ... that the intent need not be derived solely from the nature of the equipments but might be proved otherwise. It might not be easy in all cases to define the exact point at which the building the hull ended and the act of equipping or fitting up began, but that in each case would be for a jury to decide. The proper direction to the jury would have been that they should ... back to see if the principal and equippers had the intents above mentioned, and secondly, whether, with such intent, the latter had done any act towards equipping, furnishing, or fitting up the ship beyond the mere work of building the hull of the vessel. He also thought that if the statute were to be construed as by the ... it is, as prohibiting only equipments of a ... character, yet that upon the evidence there was ... upon which to direct the jury that the ... had ... distinctive equipments within the meaning of the Act. On these grounds he thought that the rule ought to be made absolute ...

The Court ... equally divided, but Baron Pigott, in order that the Crown might appeal from a decision for the claimants, withdrew his judgment *pro forma*.

THE NEGROS UNDER FEDERAL RULE.

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

LIVERPOOL, January 8.

SIR,—In your issue of yesterday, under the heading of "Notes of the Week," I observe ... refer to the late affair at Fort Jackson on the Mississippi, below New Orleans.

I am to-day in receipt of advices from New Orleans to December 18, and as it may be interesting to your readers to learn facts in regard to the state of affairs in and around the captured "Crescent City," where the "old flag" waves, and the benign influences of United States (republican) freedom and enlightenment ... happiness, comfort, and contentment to all who dwell beneath its folds, I append extracts from my correspondent's letter, accompanied by slips from the newspapers of that city:—

"The powers that be do all in their power to keep us 'in blissful ignorance' here as to what is going on, but unfortunately for them they ... Their version of the affairs at Chattanooga and East Tennessee, in Virginia, and along the river in the Ope-

[illegible]

... it would read to the court a ... of the songs which were sung at this ... meeting. Thereupon he commenced in a drawling, long metre tone:

> My God, the spring of all my joys,
> The life of ...,
> The glory of my brightest days,
> And comforts of my nights.

He said, moreover, that 'de meeting was for de edifying of de brethren and sisteren, and dere was no politics ...'

"After a patient hearing the judge warned them to have no more meetings of a suspicious character, and told them to go their way.

"It is a fact, the South, notwithstanding all her 'reported' reverses, was never so strong as at present ... perfect unanimity, and determination to carry the war to a successful issue ... the Confederacy, and it is tolerably clear to everybody that the days of Yankee rule amongst us are numbered."

The foregoing extracts, &c., are from a private letter on the general state of affairs in the South, and were never intended for publication. I give them to you for what they are worth, and you are at liberty to make use of them in publication.

I remain, sir,
Yours faithfully,
"N."

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

RICHMOND, December ...

BOTH Houses of Congress met in the Capitol at 12 m. on Monday, the 7th inst., and on Tuesday the Message of President Davis was laid before them. This excellent document will probably reach you in the New York papers before the present writing can make its way to the office of THE INDEX, and your readers in that event will have ... its leading features each for himself. Comment on my part would be therefore superfluous. The effect of the Message is certainly not enlivening. The President had to review a year of ... backs and disasters, of military ... and ... of domestic discontent and foreign ..., and Mr. Davis is too candid a man to endeavour to ... the ... of affairs under a show of prosperity. But if the tone of the Message is grave there is no ..., and our enemies, were they wise, would read in the ... words of unshaken confidence in the ultimate ... of our cause the assurance of their own future ruin. We ..., the currency is ..., there is ... ment arising from the want of food ..., people, the nations of the earth ... the weak are at war with the strong ... and devastation marks the fairest portion of the American continent. But the ... and ... of resolute men, whose ... cannot ... express the spirit, self-sacrificing and ..., which animates them. That portion of the Message which ... our foreign non-relations will probably meet with severe

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... against the superior numbers of Grant at Chattanooga ... the Yankees into their fortifications. Strong reinforcements

were sent to Grant to enable him to repair his disaster. At such a moment to send Longstreet away 150 miles upon an expedition of questionable success was not surely a prudent measure, and the giving way of the left centre at Lookout Mountain was its legitimate result.

The exchange of prisoners has not yet been resumed; and the howl of the Yankees over the alleged inhumanity practised upon their prisoners grows louder and deeper. In company with the correspondent of the London *Times* I visited the Libby Prison and the prison encampment on Belle Isle a few days ago, to ascertain from personal observation what amount of truth there might be in the statements of the Northern press as to the starving condition of the prisoners. We did not see one emaciated man. Without exception, officers and men were in fine bodily health, and showed no symptoms of wasting from want of food. But the kitchens into which we were ushered, emitting a steam of soup, and the bakeries, where the opened ovens displayed hundreds of large loaves of excellent bread browning under the heat, afforded the most satisfactory refutation of the lies of the enemy. The temperature of the Libby Prison was as comfortable as could have been desired, and on Belle Isle every tent was provided with a brick chimney, from which the smoke was curling up into the blue frosty air. The condition of the prisoners was far better, having reference only to the supplies furnished them in food and fuel, than that of our own armies in the field; but when the supplies sent to them from the United States were taken into the account it was positively luxurious. As we entered the Libby we found the passage-way obstructed with great piles of boxes just received from Fortress Monroe, while several wagons laden with other boxes were standing before the door. On entering the lofts occupied by the prisoners a picture of profusion met the eye. The rafters were thickly hung with hams of bacon and venison, beef tongues, Bologna sausages, dried fish, and other substantials; and around the walls, upon convenient shelving, were disposed cans of potted meats, sardines, green peas, jars of jam, currant jelly, and assorted pickles, bottles of Worcester sauce, and such appetising *et cetera*. The prisoners, to the number of 1,000, all commissioned officers, from the rank of brigadier-general down to that of second lieutenant, were confined upon six different floors or lofts. 75 per cent. of them were beguiling the tedium of their imprisonment with the ingenious stories of Miss Braddon and Anthony Trollope, or the last number of the *Atlantic Monthly* or *Harper's Magazine*. Great packages of books from the New York publishers were opening as we passed along. Of the remaining 25 per cent. some were playing whist and euker, and some pondering the gambits on the chess-board. One man, a colonel, was reading the Bible. From the prison we went to the hospitals, which we found in the best possible order, cleanly, well ventilated, lighted, and warmed. Out of the whole number of officers confined in the city but thirty were in hospital—only 3 per cent. of sick men as the result of the starvation and cruelty to which the Yankees say they have been subjected. On the subject of cleanliness I must not omit to mention that a corps of eighteen negroes are kept constantly employed in washing and sweeping up the floors of the Libby; wherein our inhuman practice differs from the *régime* of the Yankee prisons, it being the boast of the Northern papers that the Southern officers have had their pride humbled in being compelled to do all the menial work in those model establishments. Major Turner, the commandant of the Libby Prison, informed us that some of the officers of the highest rank confined there had voluntarily united in a written statement denying altogether the stories that are in circulation at the North with regard to their cruel treatment, which statement had been forwarded to the *Herald* and *Tribune* for publication. If these papers decline to publish it, Judge Ould will make it the subject of an official letter to the Yankee commissioner of exchange.

The escape of John Morgan from the Ohio penitentiary caused a thrill of joy throughout the Confederate States. His arrival is anxiously looked for in this city, and it is believed that his old followers, who have been widely scattered since his capture by the Yankees, will rally again to his standard on his approach.

The Virginian Legislature is now in session, having assembled on the same day with the Confederate Congress. The Message of Governor Letcher—his farewell Message, since his term of office expires on the 31st of this month—was full of excellent counsel and patriotic feeling. I am happy to inform you that he does not retire to private life without having perfected arrangements for the speedy payment in London of the arrears of interest on the State debt. The English holders of Virginia bonds may expect an early notification in the columns of the *Times* that they can call and receive their dues at some office not far from the Bank of England. This I state from positive knowledge.

LETTERS FROM NEW YORK.

(*From our Own Correspondent.*)

NEW YORK, December 30.

THE Federal Congress has been taking its holiday recess, and will not reassemble till January 5.

The result of the three weeks session in December may be recapitulated thus:—

The House voted, by a large majority, to prosecute the war until the last rebel lays down his arms, without armistice, mediation, intervention, or proposition or negotiation for peace from any quarter.

They voted with great unanimity in favour of supplying the Administration, without condition, with the means for executing its own programme in carrying on the war.

They refused to consider the motion to re-affirm the declaration with which the war was commenced, made in the last Congress: that it was for the restoration of the old Union, with all the rights of the States unimpaired.

Both Houses passed an Appropriation Bill for $20,000,000, to promote recruiting by bounties; and the House refused to entertain a proposition for restraining the employment of the money for the enlistment of Southern blacks, thus sanctioning, by permission, the Executive plan for raising black armies in the South, composed of slaves forcibly emancipated: in other words, organising armed insurrection of slaves against their masters.

These are the starting points of legislation in this Congress, which was at one time anticipated to be conservative; they show, by what has been done, what is to be the fortune of the measures which have been already agreed upon to be brought forward after the recess, as soon as the managers shall find it expedient.

The chief of these measures is a bill, already prepared by the Chairman of House Committee on Territories, to give legislative sanction and organisation to Mr. Lincoln's plan for the reconstruction of the Government, as expounded in his Message, and defined in the accompanying proclamation.

The plan is simple. The President is thereby authorised and required to take possession of and occupy all the insurrectionary districts enumerated in his proclamation of 1861 as in insurrection, and establish therein and maintain temporary military governments, until the "loyal" people therein shall, under the military supervision, organise new State Governments, "republican in form," and elect senators and representatives, who shall be "duly" admitted into Congress.

But a preliminary condition is affixed to the admission of even a "loyal" State thus created. The Constitution must contain a positive and peremptory prohibition of slavery forever within the new State, or the inhabitants will be remanded to the territorial condition until they impose the prohibition as directed.

The preamble to this Bill recites, as the controlling motive for this requisition, that "slavery is incompatible with a republican form of government."

If this be true the Government of the United States was never republican in form, and never meant to be. When it was created by the consent of the original States, slavery existed in nearly all of them. For seventy years it was conceded by all branches of the Government, and nearly all the people of all the States, that the existence of slavery in States was not only not incompatible with the republican character of the General Government, but that it so existed, and was absolutely beyond the reach of the Federal powers. This was the clearest possible demonstration of the restricted nature of the Federal Government, and of the inherent independence of the States in the control of their internal organisation and domestic affairs. The recital in an Act of Congress that all this time the social condition of the slave-holding States was incompatible with the existence of republican government is but an assertion in another form that the Constitution of 1789 was a failure from the beginning, and a new one is necessary, and that the military power of the Union is now to be employed in creating another form of Government, to be called more "republican," but which will lack the distinctive qualities which made the other, before it was perverted, the standard for Republican progress. It has neither the consent of the States to a new Union, nor of the people of the States to a new form of Government.

The whole Bill, and all the legislation of which it is a part, are based upon the same idea—at first denied, then disguised, but now openly proclaimed as the rule of action for the Government. It is, that the country is going through a process of radical change, really revolutionary, without the inconvenient resort, which the theory of Government here implies as indispensable to rightful authority, to the original sources of the powers of the existing Government, or the intentions of those who framed or those who accepted it. Constitutional forms are only valuable and to be respected in so far as they supply the dominant party with the central point for the aggregation and cohesion of all the powers and functions of Government, the control of the army and navy and treasury, the physical force, and all the resources of the whole nation and country, and enable them to work with the machinery of authority their own plans of what Government ought, in their interest, to be; and to succeed, at last, in fixing in themselves the permanent control of whatever government may be evolved out of these convulsions and these struggles.

The minority at Washington see these struggles and their objects, but have not the courage to confront them with any energy, beyond an occasional protest in words and a sudden collapse into submissiveness. It is as plain as the primitive sum in addition that two and two make four, that the party of the Administration mean to use the military power they now possess, and the pledged support of their enemies to the unconditional prosecution of the war, to create during this Congress new States within the territory of the Southern States, the condition of whose existence shall be sworn subserviency to the party in power, and furnish, by the additional weight they bring into Congress, such a preponderance, that no revolution of opinion in the North will be able to dislodge them for an indefinite period of time. A mere fraction of the population, in a corner of some State where the Federals have a lodgement are, if their loyalty to the powers at Washington be made sure, to be received as constituting a new member of the Union, and to balance by their vote in the Senate such old, populous, and powerful commonwealths as Pennsylvania and New York.

The scheme is an audacious one; but its audacity is the strongest proof of the confidence of its authors in the helplessness of their adversaries and the debased state of the public mind. Nothing but a revolution by force is likely to defeat it, and a revolution by force is not within the range of probability. There is no sensibility left among the mass of the Northern people on the subject of political or personal rights or theories of government. Some of them talk sometimes loudly and lament pitifully, and protest indignantly, against actions of the Government, which they pronounce to be lawless, tyrannical, and ruinous; but they invariably end in lending the practical support of all classes, to that which they have most condemned. There is no reason to think that it will ever be otherwise; certainly not in time to save any fragment of the principles, or anything more than a skeleton of the form of the old Government. There is no prospect of change in this respect until a reaction is forced, by defeats in the South and by the obstinate protracting of the resistance of the South, which shall disappoint the sordid objects which go so far to support the war purely as a means for gain, and some internal shock, brought on by financial collapse or otherwise, shall startle the voting classes into the necessity of a counter-revolution, peaceful or otherwise, to save themselves.

There are eminent and thoughtful men, and not in insignificant numbers, if they dared appear, who, powerless to arrest the onward march of the blundering multitude to ruin, have prayed for salvation to come to the North by Southern victories or foreign intervention, or anything which will bring the war to a close in any way.

The Presidential struggle is showing itself, irrepressibly. While Lincoln and Chase are apparently contesting the lead of the Republicans, the opposition have begun their demonstrations. The party calling itself the "National (Union) Conservative Party" has, through some of its most active managers, brought General M'Clellan forward, in a convention at Philadelphia, with General W. B. Campbell, of Tennessee, for Vice-President. The party is a voluntary association of some leading men, chiefly of the old Whig organisation, as it existed in opposition to the Democratic party before the present Republican organisation was formed. Some Democrats were with them; but the effort was plainly one outside of the Democratic party, and intended to influence the Democratic nomination, which it was to make hereafter, by presenting as a point of concentration a conspicuous Democrat, as General M'Clellan has been made by his war reputation to be. The principal members of the new organisation are border-State men, and this movement is an overture for a junction of the men of the border slave States with the free State Democrats in the next election, on a basis which shall reconcile the continued and unconditional support of the war with opposition, on high grounds of principle, to the Administration, in regard to the objects for which the war is waged, the means by which success is to be attained, and the uses to be made of the victory when it comes. I do not think the movement will amount to much, in the ultimate selection of candidates for the Presidency, or that it is likely either to effect much for success, or make success valuable. There is an innate profligacy in this attempt to win victory by false assumptions, designed to cheat one side or the other, which does not deserve to succeed, and will only lead to the firmer establishment of the ruling party in power, as the faithlessness and cowardice of the Seymour party in this State last year secured to their adversaries the easy victory of November.

I have no important army news to convey. The Federals report themselves in winter-quarters at Chattanooga, but not at Knoxville. The Confederates, under General Longstreet, are very active in that region—have had several successes of magnitude, sufficient to keep their adversaries very uneasy about their own safety in Knoxville. The Army of the Potomac is in winter-quarters, so said and believed, for the commanding general has been giving numerous furloughs to officers for a lengthened visit to distant homes. It is not certain, however, that the troops will not be further withdrawn towards Washington. The activity of General Lee makes the furnishing of supplies, where they are, so difficult that a retrograde motion is expected, especially as the organs are explaining in advance that it must not be interpreted into a retreat.

The bombardment of Charleston goes on slowly, but without sensible effect on the reduction of the city, or in destroying it. The monitors have ceased to figure as elements of the calculation. The naval authorities on the spot have almost unanimously pronounced them of little use, unwieldy, unmanageable, liable to be constantly out of order, and in action to be fatally damaged from land batteries, without having the capacity to reply effectually. It turns out that there is scarcely one of them which has not, in the attempt to take Charleston, been so injured as to need extensive repairs.

The Texan Expedition is getting slowly along the coasts, but has not yet penetrated into the interior, or encountered the "hog-wallow" prairies there, which, at this season, would swamp an army. It is not believed that any present use is expected to be made of the Federal troops in Texas, except to manufacture a Republican State out of the materials the army can make up, to be used as counters in the presidential game of next year.

The Union forces in Louisiana have not with so much difficulty in holding the western districts they had reached, that they have contracted their lines, and the Confederates, following close, re-occupy the country they leave. The farce of making a new State there on Lincoln's pattern will be limited for a stage to about one-tenth of the territorial area of the State. The rest is in possession of the Confederates.

The journals of the Confederate States are treating the President's proclamation of amnesty with little ceremony. Contempt is in them the prevailing feeling, varied by scornful defiance. There are Federal stories in circulation that somewhere in North Carolina Confederate soldiers have come in and asked to have the benefit of the amnesty; but there is no proof that this is true in fact, or if true, that it is anything more in amount than the common flow of desertions, which the papers have previously chronicled with so much exaggeration as proofs of the Unionism prevailing in North Carolina.

The subject has been noticed in the Confederate Congress, under circumstances upon which it may be proper to make some comment, in their connection with subjects and persons, not well understood, except by those who are well acquainted with the political history of the South in past years.

In the Confederate House of Representatives on the 18th of December, Mr. Foote, of Tennessee, introduced a preamble and resolutions expressive of the views of that body on the amnesty proposition of Mr. Lincoln. It was not discussed, but laid upon the table by common consent, as the most significant way of testifying the contempt of that body for the proclamation and its author.

The principal value of the record as a fact is, that it was presented by the same member who has been distinguishing himself at Richmond by the violence of his opposition to the administration of President Davis. Passages of his speeches have been republished in the Northern papers, and made texts for the renewed assertion that there is a submission party in the Confederate Congress willing to accept terms for a return to the Union. It is a fact of some significance that a leader of such a supposed party should tender for the mere formal declaration of Congress a series of resolutions, affirming it to be the "almost undivided sentiment of the people of the Confederate States" that there has never been a day or an hour when they were more inflexibly resolved than they are now, never to relinquish the struggle for independence in which they are engaged; and that "in spite of the reverses which have lately befallen our armies in several quarters, and cold and selfish indifference to our sufferings thus far, for the most part, evinced in the action of foreign Powers, the eleven millions of enlightened freemen now battling heroically for all that can make existence desirable, are fully prepared, alike in spirit and in resource, to encounter dangers far greater than those which they have heretofore bravely met, and to submit to far greater sacrifices than those which they have heretofore so cheerfully encountered, in preference to holding any further political connections with a Government and people who have notoriously proven themselves to be contemptuously regardless of all the rights and privileges which belong to a state of civil freedom, as well as of all the most sacred usages of civilised war."

The majority, Mr. Foote concurring, thought it unworthy of the dignity of their cause to make a solemn reaffirmation of this sort in respect to so preposterous an assumption as that of Mr. Lincoln—that the people of the South are at his mercy, and willing to buy safety by cowardice and dishonour. The Lincoln Message is met everywhere in the South in the same spirit. If a vote could be taken safely by the Southern people, within as well as without the Federal lines, the result would be the same. There is no pretence of Unionism anywhere, except where extorted at the point of the bayonet or manufactured by the army and its retainers.

You will have seen a good deal made of an opposition to President Davis, of which Mr. Foote is the reputed mouthpiece. He is quoted in the Northern journals for much more than he says, as in the case of the treatment of Federal prisoners by the Confederates at Richmond. They made much

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NEW YORK, December [illegible]

It is plain, that [illegible]

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The Government, however, is infected with the same prac-

The clamour about the starvation of the Union soldiers in Richmond was got up for a purpose, and is continued in some quarters, although there is abundant evidence, that, with the possible exception of an individual case, for a very brief time, under exceptional circumstances, the treatment of prisoners has been as good as the means of the Confederacy would allow. There is abundant testimony of late from Federal sources direct, that the fare of the prisoners is the same as the fare of the Confederate soldiers on duty. In one place, a Confederate officer is said to have behaved oppressively in this respect, but the case was examined into and the offender dismissed. The Government at Washington encouraged these reports of bad treatment, and circulated reports against the conduct of the Confederates, after it was proved that they were false. In the case of the supplies which were permitted to be sent down into the lines a slight delay occurred in permitting the transportation, but the obstruction was immediately removed. But the Government officials continued to send out day after day charges of inhumanity against the Confederates in refusing to receive their supplies, after they were received, and the good faith with which they were distributed had been freely acknowledged by the soldiers who received them. The South was abused by official insinuations, and more than insinuations, against the conduct of the Confederates. They are at length out of patience with the persistent malignity of misrepresentations, and have refused to be employed to dispense luxuries among their captives which the most opulent among themselves cannot get, and to be daily insulted for their prodigality of indulgence by being calumniated as barbarians and thieves. The prisoners will hereafter be treated simply as prisoners, on the fare with which the soldiers of the country, who captured them, are compelled to be content.

It is proper, in illustration of the character and dealings of the Union Government, to say that, when these refuted reports of the bad treatment of Union prisoners at Richmond came to the War Department, it immediately issued orders to the several prisons at the North, forbidding the receipt and delivery of any food or clothing or money for the relief of the Confederate prisoners, and that its orders were continued and enforced during all the time when the Confederates were receiving and distributing the relief sent to Union soldiers from the North; and, as I am informed, were enforced at the time the Confederates withdrew their consent to receive these contributions on their side.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, Jan. 13.

THE MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKETS.

THE money and discount markets are again becoming unsettled. It is very clear that the Bank of France is in an awkward predicament, and even a suspension of specie payments is mooted. If a fresh contract for the purchase of £2,000,000 has been entered into, and it is either taken for the Bank or the open market, we shall have again another financial pressure, which may be more serious than the last. Besides, the Indian exchanges are once more against us, and through an efflux on this account being inevitable already, the price of silver is rapidly advancing. The effect in a variety of ways must be discouraging, because with the rate at 7 per cent. here, if the Bank of France goes to 8, we shall have to follow, and up to March next, may, under such circumstances we suffer stringency. The payment of the railway deposits has abstracted a considerable amount from general channels, and notwithstanding it is only temporarily locked up, it will produce partial inconvenience. The next few days will give a clearer insight into future prospects. The Bank minimum of 7 per per cent. is the lowest price among the bankers and bill-brokers.

NEW DANISH LOAN.

A new Danish loan for £1,200,000, stock bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent. at the price of 93, has just been announced by Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son. The proposal is in conformity with the authority given by the Danish Diet and sanctioned by the king. The subscription is to be paid as follows :—10 per cent. on allotment ; 10 per cent. on the 18th February ; 10 per cent. on the 18th March ; 20 per cent. on the 18th April; 20 per cent. on the 18th May; and 23 per cent. on the 20th June. A discount at the rate of 5 per cent. will be allowed on the payment in full of the above instalments. The interest will commence on the 1st January, and will be payable half-yearly. The sinking fund will be 1 per cent. per annum of the nominal amount of the loan, together with the interest saved, and will be applied to the redemption of the bonds by means of purchases, as long as the price of the stock is under par, and by drawings by lot when at or above par.

THE CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market for this security continues steady at the previous price, 38 to 40. To-day there is more animation than has been witnessed of late, and the quotations must be advanced to 39, 41.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The bullion and specie movements at the Bank of England have again assumed an adverse aspect. During the past week there has been nothing sent in, whilst the withdrawals for transmission abroad have amounted to £469,000. The arrivals of specie have been rather large, amounting to £616,100, of which £256,000 is from New York, and the remainder from the West Indies and the West Coast of Africa. It is expected, however, that nearly the whole of the gold will be purchased for the Bank of France. The *Syria*, which has just sailed for the East, has taken £610,911 for Alexandria and Bombay. To Alexandria the amount of gold is £133,600, and to Bombay £65,900 gold, and £411,371 silver. The *Oneida* has taken out to the Brazils £112,500 in gold. The silver market has been very animated, and owing to the short supply prices have advanced. The Mexican dollars brought by the last West India steamer have been disposed of for China at 62d. per oz., being an advance of 1d. upon the rates previously realised. Bar silver has also been much in demand, and has been purchased to-day at 61¼d. to 61½d., showing a rise of from ¼d. to ½d. upon former quotations. The advices from Melbourne announce the departure of three vessels, having on freight altogether gold valued at £242,588. The *Suffolk* has on board 28,860 oz.; the *Water Nymph* 13,958 oz.; and the *Omar Pacha* 17,820 oz.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The English stock market has not shown much animation during the week, and quotations are again lower. The very unsettled state of political affairs abroad, the farther large decline in the stock of bullion in the Bank of France, with a renewal of the withdrawals of gold from the Bank of England, have restrained the dealers from operating, and at the same time caused a gradual but steady decline in values, and the market closed this evening with a further downward tendency; but after the usual hours of business there was a slight tendency towards improvement. The closing price of Consols was 90⅞ to ⅞ for money, and 91 to ⅛ for the account, which is a fall during the week of ¼ per cent. Exchequer Bills continue to improve and are now quoted par to 4s. prem. The foreign stock market has been fairly active as regards business, but nearly all descriptions have suffered a considerable relapse. Greek Stock closed this evening at 23¼ to 23½, being a fall as compared with this day week, of ¾ per cent. Mexicans have declined 1 per cent., and are now at 35¼ to 35½. Spanish Passives have declined to 33½ to 33¾, or ⅞ per cent. lower, and the Certificates to 13¼ to 13½, a fall of ⅜ per cent. Turkish Six per Cents. (1854) are 89 to 90, and those of 1862, 67 to 67¼ ex. div., being, respectively, a decline of a ½ and ¾ per cent.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

Only a limited business has again been transacted in American government, and railway securities, and with the exception of Virginia State Bonds, which have shown an improving tendency, under the expectation the dividends are about to be paid, prices generally have shown an unfavourable tendency. There appears at present very little disposition amongst the dealers to operate in this class of securities. The following comprise the transactions of the week:—Virginia State Five per Cents., 48 and 47 ; Do. do., Six per Cents., 31, 32½, and 32¾. Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York Section, 77½ and 77; Erie $100 shares, all paid, 65. Do. Seven per Cent., Fifth Mortgage, 63; Illinois Central Six per Cents. 85, 84, 85, 83½, and 84½ ; New York Central $100 shares, 78 ; Pennsylvania Central Bonds, Second Mortgage, 87¾ and 87.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

Although there has been a rather extensive business transacted in British railway shares, the market, in sympathy with the other departments, has not been well supported as regards prices, and with the exception of Bristol and Exeter, which have improved about ¾ per cent. as compared with this day week, quotations for most of the leading descriptions are lower. In Lancashire and Yorkshire, Metropolitan, and North-Eastern (Berwick) the fall has been fully 1¼ per cent. ; Great Eastern, London and North-Western, and Midland have each declined 1 per cent. ; and Caledonian, Great Western, London and Blackwall, Brighton, Manchester and Sheffield, North-Eastern (Leeds), Ditto (York), North Staffordshire, and South-Eastern from ½ to ¾ per cent. There has been rather a better business doing in foreign railway shares, but without any material alteration in prices. For shares in British possessions there has been a better demand than for some time past, and values have been steadily maintained.

BANK MEETINGS.

The first ordinary general meeting of the British and American Exchange Corporation, has been held at the offices, Bank-buildings, but the only resolution proposed was the re-election of the old directors; but this was opposed by several shareholders who wished to elect four additional directors; but this was strenuously opposed, and eventually the meeting was adjourned till the following day, without any further decision being arrived at. At the adjourned meeting the directors were re-elected, they having consented to elect an additional London and Liverpool director, leaving the question as to the two other directors open for the present.—At the adjourned meeting of the shareholders in the Union Bank of England and France, the report of the directors was unanimously adopted. The Bank is now amalgamated with two foreign banking establishments under the title of the European Bank, Limited. The net profits of the Union Bank of England and France were, during the seven months it was in operation, £1,050, which was ordered to be carried forward to meet preliminary expenses. At the first general meeting of the English and Irish Bank, Sir R. W. Cardin in the chair, a report was read showing that the gross profits of the bank had been £9,289, out of which all the current expenses had been paid, and doubtful debts fully allowed for, leaving a profit of £1,907, which it was agreed should be carried to the profit and loss new account. The report was unanimously adopted.—A special general meeting of the proprietors of the Union Bank of Australia has been held, Mr. J. J. Cummins in the chair, for the purpose of receiving a supplementary report from the directors, and declaring a dividend for the past half year. It appeared that the net profits for the half-year amounted to £86,178, which with £8,871 brought forward, made the balance of undivided profits £95,049. Out of this the directors declared a dividend of 8 per cent., which would consume £80,000, leaving a balance of £15,000 to be carried forward. Some of the shareholders objected to such a large sum being held over, and it was moved that so much of the report as related to the dividend should be rejected; but after a short discussion the proposition of the directors was carried by a large majority.—At the ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the London and Brazilian Bank, Mr. J. W. Cater presiding, the accounts presented showed that after providing for all preliminary expenses, &c., the net profits amounted to £13,566, which it was agreed should be applied as follows :—To the payment of a dividend, free of income-tax, of 17s. 6d. per share, which is equal to about 7½ per cent., and to adding to the reserve fund £810, thus raising it to £20,000, and leaving a balance of £137 to be carried to the next account. It was stated by the chairman that the business of the bank was increasing rapidly. The report was adopted by acclamation.—At a special meeting of the Land Mortgage Bank of India, Mr. S. Laing in the chair, it was agreed that the directors should be empowered to extend the articles of association, in order to be enabled to undertake the agency for the Credit Fonciers Company of the Mauritius and similar agencies throughout the British possessions in the East.—At the half-yearly meeting of the Union Bank of London held this afternoon, the report of the directors was adopted by acclamation. It stated that the net profits for the six months ending the 31st December, after payment of all charges, including the sum of £112,487 for interest paid and due to customers on their current accounts, and making ample provision for all bad and doubtful debts, amount to £114,323, which, with £668 brought forward from the June account, made together £114 992, out of which was declared a dividend of 18s. per share, free of income-tax, amounting to £54,000, and leaving a balance of £60,992. After deducting the sums applied in payment of the dividend and in addition to the reserve fund, amounting together to £114,000, there will remain a balance of £992 for appropriation in July next.—At the half-yearly meeting of the Bank of New South Wales, held at Sydney, a dividend and bonus equal to 20 per cent. per annum, were declared. The net profits amounted to £73,263, and £3,110 had been recovered from bad debts, which, with a previous balance of £3,128, made a total of £79,201 for distribution. After payment of the dividend and bonus £4,801 would be carried forward.—At the half-yearly meeting of the Bank of New Zealand, at Auckland, the net profits of the six months ending the 30th September was stated to be £39,524, which, with a previous balance of £1,668, made an available total of £41,192. Of this sum £27,000 was carried to reserve, thus raised to £60,000 ; while a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. absorbed £12,468, leaving £1,724 to be carried forward.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Commercial Dock Company, a dividend was declared for the past six months at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, upon the capital stock of the company, and interest at the same rate upon the first, second, and third instalments of the new issue of ordinary stock, both free of income tax.—The report of the Directors of the Peel River Land and Mineral Company, to be submitted at the half-yearly meeting on the 22nd inst., has been issued this afternoon. The report, which is of a very satisfactory character. To obviate certain defects, it is proposed to alter the date of holding the annual meetings; but as such a course may in the first instance cause a postponement of the dividend, it is intended, at the meeting to be held in June or July next, to propose a dividend on account, out of the proceeds of such portions of the wool clip of 1863 as shall then have been realised.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

In produce, trade progresses steadily. Any important revival of speculation is checked by the uncertainty felt in reference to the future course of the money market. There is, however, sufficient demand for most of the leading descriptions of produce to lend fair support to prices, which are generally firm and in some instances advancing. A large business has been done in fine American butter at 2s. to 4s. per cwt. advance, 104s. to 108s. being currently paid. The arrivals of American bacon are moderate. Prime Eastern-cured sides meet a fair inquiry at 30s. to 40s. per cwt. New-scalded middles are held at 36s. to 38s. for short rib in, but sell slowly. Beef continues to arrive freely from New York, and quotations are still uncertain, as buyers hold off. Lard is well held, but is without activity. The grain trade has become less firm, and occasionally rather easier rates are taken for medium qualities of wheat ; but for fine, quotations are upheld. Petroleum sells steadily at 1s. 11½d. to 2s. per gallon for American refined, and £17 per ton for crude American. Turpentine is quite nominal in value ; French refined has receded to 73s. per cwt. on the spot. There is still an absence of demand for sperm oil, which remains at £75 to £77 per ton. Linseed oil, after drooping to 35s., has recovered to 35s. 6d. buyers. Rape oil is firm at 43s. for foreign pale and 41s. for brown. The tallow market continues to derive some support from political complications on the Continent, and is firm although inactive. The cotton market has become dull and prices are barely maintained. Some considerable transactions have taken place in Manilla hemp at 30s. to 40s. per ton advance, £34 to £35 per ton being the last prices paid for fair to fine roping. Russian hemp has not varied to any appreciable extent, but tends upwards in price. The first jute sales of the year have gone at 30s. to 40s. per ton decline from the rates of the last auctions. The sugar speculation is rather flagging, and the small amount of business done to-day was at a decline of 6d. per cwt. Saltpetre is at length attracting attention, several sales having been made at late rates to 6d. per cwt. advance. The heavy stock, however, checks any great amount of buoyancy in this market. The metal trade keeps very active, spelter brings £22 per ton on the spot; Straits tin £122 for arrival, and Scotch pig iron £3 7s. 3d. cash

COTTON AND DRY GOODS MARKET.

LIVERPOOL, Wednesday, Jan. 13.

THE animation exhibited at our cotton market during the first two or three days of the year has not been maintained. The dealings have become far more circumscribed, and prices have again receded. This has in a great measure been caused by the threatening state of political affairs on the Continent, and the failure of the Manchester market in responding to the buoyant state of affairs here. The total sales this week have been only 17,000 bales, of which 4,900 were taken on speculation and for export. The sales this year to the date of making up the official returns were 43,180 bales, and to the same period in 1863 they were 51,290 bales. There have been imported this year 10,752 bales, against 37,005 bales last year. The exports this year have been 2 924 bales, and in 1863, 5,170 bales. Taken for consumption this year, 26,300 bales; same period last year 21,500 bales. Taken on speculation this year, 10,910 bales; same in 1863, 22,270 bales. Computed stock, 262,888 bales ; same period last year, 402,800 bales. The closing quotations this afternoon were: American d s[illegible] t ons, 26d. to 28¾d.; Egyptians, 28d. to 33d.; Maranham, 28¾d. to 33d.; Bahia, 26d. to 26¾d., and Surats, 16d. to 25d.

MANCHESTER, January 12.

Our market keeps exceedingly flat and very little business is going forward. The demand for yarn and cloth during the past week has been of the slowest description, and great is the astonishment of many who anticipated a brisk trade on the opening of the new year, from the fact of the small excess in the stock of cotton in Liverpool at the end of last month, when the annual stock-taking took place.

To-day, the market has been stagnant. Continental politics, which are at present of such gloomy aspect, tend to keep the German buyers entirely out of the way of placing orders. The telegraphic advices to hand to-day from Bombay and Calcutta, advising exports of cotton from the former port during the month of December to be 160,000 bales, with dull demand for imports, and at the latter place an exceedingly stringent money market, with exchange at 2s. 3d. per rupee; all this combined with a prospect of dearer money in our own country, has put a damper on any disposition to enter into transactions of any moment, which might have been previously manifested.

A greater disposition is evinced to-day by spinners and manufacturers to close their mills after working up the materials now in process of work than has been the case before.

DIED.—On the 11th October, 1863, Honourable Samuel Chapman, of Cahawkon County, Alabama.

Among the Contents of THE INDEX *of Jan. 7, are—*

NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK AT HOME AND ABROAD.
LETTER FROM RICHMOND NO. [illegible]
PARIS TOPICS.
BUTLER'S RULE IN NORFOLK.
[illegible]
A MEETING [illegible] SOUTHERN ENGAGEMENTS.
THE FEDERAL GAINS IN THE PAST YEAR.
CAUSES OF THE AMERICAN WAR.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.
PRIVATEERS CONDEMNED AS FELONS.
YANKEE VESSELS UNDER THE ENGLISH FLAG.
CAPTAIN SPEKE'S JOURNAL.
THE MAGAZINES FOR JANUARY.
AFFAIRS, FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

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The undersigned will gladly receive Subscriptions until the final arrangements are made, and an account has been opened for "General JACKSON'S Statue," at Messrs. COUTTS and Co.'s, Strand, London, W.C.

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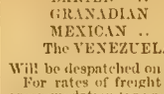

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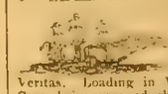

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THE INDEX

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

VOL. IV.—No. 91.] LONDON—THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 21, 1864. [PRICE 6D.

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The Report of the Confederate Secretary of the Treasury
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[illegible]
New York [illegible]
Affairs Financial and Commercial

NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK.

AMERICA.

[illegible] from the [illegible] Federal accounts it seems that the Confederates are making some important movements in Virginia. A cavalry force [illegible], the [illegible] of the Federals in Western Virginia [illegible]. On the [illegible] January General Early, with three [illegible] of [illegible] corps, supported by [illegible] under Generals [illegible], M'Neil, and Fitzhugh Lee, having [illegible] down the Shenandoah Valley, drove the Federal pickets at Winchester as far as [illegible] Hill. From that date the reports are conflicting. According to one version, the Confederates are moving on the town of Winchester; and according to another, the Confederates are retreating from that place. Some anxiety was felt in Washington in consequence of a rumour that the Confederates were about to attack Cumberland, Maryland. The only certain fact is, that the Federals are not allowed to enjoy their winter quarters without molestation.

The Confederate salt works at St. Andrew's Bay have been destroyed, and the town of St. Andrews burnt to the ground. Having destroyed the salt works, the burning of the town was one of those acts of wanton barbarity which can only be checked by retaliation. If the Confederates crossed into Northern territory and burned a few Northern towns, it would produce a good effect.

From Charleston we learn that the gun-boat *[illegible]* has been severely damaged by a Confederate battery on the Stono River, three of her crew being killed and [illegible] wounded.

An expedition has left New Orleans, the destination of which is reported to be Mobile, but it is equally possible that it is intended for Fort Jackson, as we have no account of that place being taken from the [illegible]. At all events, Mobile is [illegible] prepared for an attack. According to late Federal advices from New Orleans, the whole of the Teche country, with the exception of a line guarded by [illegible], is in the hands of the Confederates.

In Western Texas the Federals have occupied Indianola. General [illegible] is rapidly organising his army to meet the [illegible]. The report of the [illegible] of the Confederates in the Cherokee country by a brigade of Indians is, we may be sure, a Halleck [illegible]. The Cherokee Indians are not very friendly to the Yankees, and then there is no reason why a Confederate force should be in that country.

In our note on the report of the Confederate Secretary of the Treasury which we [illegible], we omitted to notice an important paragraph in reference to cotton bonds sold in the Confederacy. Mr. Memminger explains that a very small amount of such bonds have been disposed of, and in view of his proposed financial scheme he recommends "that the law authorising their issue be repealed."

The following is the bill passed by the Confederate Congress against the substitute system:—

Whereas, in the present circumstances of the country, it requires the aid of all who are able to bear arms. The Congress of the Confederate States do enact, that no person shall be exempted from military service by reason of having furnished a substitute. Provided, that nothing in the foregoing clause shall be so construed as to relieve substitutes from any obligation or liability [illegible] or [illegible] by them as such substitute. But this Act shall not be construed so as to affect persons who, though not liable to military service, have nevertheless put in substitutes.

This was carried in the House of Representatives by a vote of [illegible] to 13. One objection to the measure was that [illegible] [illegible] in providing the [illegible] [illegible] it would [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible]. Another [illegible] was, that [illegible] [illegible] purposes. But [illegible] serve, it does not follow that all can be called out and at the same time, and such would not, under any circumstances, be the case.

In reply to a resolution of the House of Representatives, Colonel J. S. Preston, Superintendent of the Conscript Bureau, has furnished the number of persons exempt from military service in the States of Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Georgia—the four States in charge of that Bureau. The number in Virginia is 20,572; in North Carolina [illegible]; in South Carolina [illegible]; in Georgia [illegible]. The [illegible] of Colonel Preston to that [illegible] have been put in the [illegible] persons [illegible] illegal substitute papers are held by persons not in the service.

—

Last spring the Federal Government commissioned Adjutant-General Thomas to dispose of the plantations on the Mississippi that had fallen into their hands, that is to say, to lease them to loyal citizens [illegible] on easy terms. The lessees were presented with the implements and the standing crops, and in return were required to give to the Government half the cotton they found upon the estates and to pay the taxes levied by Congress on what they produced, amounting as imposed at one cent. per pound on cotton. General Thomas issued the following circular, in which he explains the classes who are to receive the free lands:—

NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI, October 27.

The following regulations for the government of the commissioners for leasing plantations are published for the information of all concerned:—

1st. The primary objects are to line the banks of the Mississippi river with a loyal population and to give aid in securing the uninterrupted navigation of the river, at the same time to give employment to the freed negroes, whereby they may earn wages and become self-supporting.

2nd. The property of disloyal persons of right belongs to the United States, and when required may be taken, and in the case with plantations, crops, &c., owned by these, where the commissioners may take possession of, and lease the plantations to loyal citizens.

3rd. The plantations of men of undoubted loyalty, especially those who have been so from the beginning of the rebellion, will be occupied and managed by themselves. In case they do neither, the commissioners may take possession and lease as in the above case.

4th. Men of doubtful loyalty, permitted to cultivate their plantations, will be required to take as a partner a loyal citizen.

By order of the Secretary of War.

L. THOMAS, Adjutant-General.

Seeing that the Federal Congress has confiscated the property of all persons who have been in the Confederate service or contributed to its support, and that all persons in the South have contributed to the support of the Confederate Government, it will be perceived that these [illegible] do not [illegible] the Yankees taking possession of [illegible] they may fancy. The fourth regulation is worthy of [illegible] further. It may happen that a Yankee [illegible] to attend to the affairs of a plantation. [illegible] [illegible] loyalty, and makes the [illegible] New Englander a partner. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] free labour will [illegible] [illegible] the Yankees [illegible] under the [illegible] [illegible] to give [illegible] each member of their families. [illegible] $7 per month to [illegible] and $[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] is death, and allowing for the [illegible] and deducting the cost of the necessary clothing and the [illegible]

[illegible] we continue to say the [illegible] has all [illegible] [illegible] his own master. The [illegible] is instructed to [illegible] [illegible] the amount of wages [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] General Thomas [illegible] that a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] very few [illegible] way into the pockets of the [illegible].

The correspondent of the New York *World* complains that the negroes have [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the Federal Government [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

Mr. William [illegible], a [illegible] of Norfolk, who [illegible] [illegible] "The [illegible]" [illegible] A General Wild [illegible] Mr. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Mr. [illegible] [illegible] New Orleans [illegible] [illegible].

Our New York correspondent gives an interesting [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Mr. [illegible].

The Federal Government [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] We know enough of

Northern resources to affirm that the Federal Government cannot by any means procure another 1,000,000 soldiers. Just now nothing is said about falling back upon the negroes for soldiers.

Mr. Seward has long since discovered that there is no Union feeling in the South, and by this time he must be convinced that there is a considerable amount of non-Union feeling in the North. Every week we have to record fresh instances of disloyalty. The cargo of the blockade-runner, *Annie and Jessie*, was sent from New York, and the shippers have been consigned to Fort Lafayette. Mr Hilton, of New York, is in Fort Lafayette for contracting to supply machines for printing bonds and notes for the Confederate Government. The secretary of the Collector of New York, of course a staunch Republican, has been sent to the same prison for complicity in shipping goods to the South.

Major D'Armasy and Lieutenant Davis, Confederate officers, have been sentenced to fifteen years imprisonment in Fort Warren for recruiting within the Federal lines. The possibility of recruiting within Federal lines shows that the Northern commanders claim to hold more territory than they can gaurd, and we submit that, according to the law of nations, the lines of an invader do not extend beyond his pickets; and further, that for a Confederate to recruit in any part of the Confederacy is not a civil offence. We are curious to see a report of the trial of these gentlemen.

Governor Seymour, in his message to the New York Legislature, argues that the present military success of the Federals renders it the duty of the North to act with conciliation towards the South, and that the war, carried beyond a certain point, will exhaust the North, and roll up a debt that will ruin the country. This has given great offence to the Republican party; but Mr. Lincoln and his friends may be comfortably assured that a policy of conciliation will not stop the war. The only way in which peace can be brought about is by the acknowledgment of Southern independence; and beyond that the Confederates ask for nothing.

The weather has been exceedingly cold in the West, and some Confederate prisoners have been frozen to death. We elsewhere publish an account of this tragedy as given in a New York paper.

Mr. Lincoln has been nominated for the next Presidency by the New Hamphire Republican State Convention; and in the House of Representatives Mr. Arnold, of Illinois, has urged his re-election. The whole Federal Government is now engaged in electioneering.

In New Orleans some coloured "delegates" appeared in the "State Convention," and several white delegates withdrew. The convention is a mere sham, only consisting of the nominees of the Lincolnites; but the incident shows that even Mr. Lincoln's employees are not agreed upon the negro question.

The *New York Herald* of the 1st of January concludes an article on the commercial prosperity of the past year, by observing: "Considering the certainty of a collapse in Mr. Chase's system of paper issues, it is well to find our commercial community taking the necessary steps to prepare for it. When the crash does come it will be a severe one, and the suffering caused by it can only be alleviated by every man having his house in order."

The price of gold in New York on the 5th instant was 51¾, and on the 9th 52 per cent. premium.

ENGLAND.

M. JOSEPH MAZZINI has addressed a letter to the daily journals of this country declaring, "that he never did instigate anybody kill Louis Napoleon, that he never did give to any man bombs, air-guns, revolvers, or daggers for that purpose; that Trabuco, Imperatori, and Saglio were entirely unknown to him, and that no letter, with or without money, has ever been addressed by him to Greco in Paris. Mazzini admits that he knows Greco; and says that Greco is an enthusiastic patriot, and took an active part in the enterprises of 1860 and 1861 in the South of Italy, and that if Greco had any letter of Mazzini's with him, it must have borne a date of at least ten months ago." This letter must give universal satisfaction. It is a matter of pride to England that this country is a refuge to all political exiles, and that refuge will ever be zealously preserved; on the other hand, it is matter of deep sorrow that what ought to be but a place of safety should be perverted into a base of operations for the perpetrators of the most dastardly and pernicious of crimes. That feeling is intensified when the object of injury is an ally of England, and a man in whose safety the cause of order and prosperity for forty millions of people is bound up. We rejoice then that this plot against the Emperor has not been contrived on English soil.

There was a further increase of the pauperism in the twenty-one unions of the cotton districts last week. The additional number placed on the lists was 5,620, and inasmuch as the increase in the preceding week was 3,100, it appears that the distress is making head at a fearful rate. According to the reports of Mr. Farnall and Mr. Maclure to the Central Executive Relief Commitee, the number of applicants for relief in the week ending the 9th inst. had increased by upwards of 10,000 persons, owing to the closing of the mills. Well-informed people say that the number thrown out of work for some weeks to come will exceed anything that has yet taken place. At Stockport one of the largest mills in the district has cut down work from six days to two days in the week. At Blackburn about 5,000 mills are to be stopped. At Accrington, Darwen, Stalybridge, Ashton, Glossop, Hadfield, and Mottram, and many other places, spindles and looms are likely to be stopped altogether, while working on short time will increase. On all hands it is said that trade does not pay, and that spinners and manufacturers are becoming too impoverished to continue their present risks.

The results at the inquiry into the circumstances of the sale, equipment, and departure from Sheerness of the Confederate ship *Rappahannock*, late Her Majesty's screw gun-vessel, *Victor*, 6,350 horse-power, was announced on Thursday last at Chatham. It has been ascertained that certain officials at Sheerness dockyard have been guilty of a neglect of duty and a breach of the Enlistment Act. The Government accordingly determined to prosecute Mr. William Rumble, principal engineer and inspector of machinery afloat, and Messrs. Knight and Arnold, as agents of the Solicitor to the Treasury, were instructed to obtain from the magistrates a warrant for the apprehension of that gentleman. The accused was thereupon arrested, and held to bail. No proceedings have yet been taken against any other officials. The charge against Mr. Rumble is for hiring seamen and also for aiding in equipping the vessel. It is to be observed that the validity of the second charge will probably turn on the view which will be taken of the Enlistment Act in the *Alexandra* case. In that event we apprehend that some time will elapse before the Admiralty can obtain a conviction against Mr. Rumble.

On Friday last Mr. John Jones, Mr. Robert Highet, and John Wilding, were charged at the Liverpool Police Court, before Mr. Raffles, with a breach of the Foreign Enlistment Act. The two first-named defendants are of the firm of Messrs. Jones and Co., of Liverpool, of which firm Mr. Bold is the principal partner, and John Wilding is a clerk in their employment. Mr. Highet appeared, but the other defendants did not. Mr. Lushington, instructed by Messrs. Bateson and Robinson, appeared for the Crown; and Mr. Deighton, instructed by Messrs. Littledale, Ridley, and Bardswell, defended Mr Highet. From the statement of the counsel for the Crown, it appeared that the case was in relation to the vessel named *Japan*, which had been built at Dumbarton in the early part of last year to the order of Mr. Bold. The three seamen named in the summons, with whose enlistment the defendants were charged, were John Stanley, Francis Glassbrook, and Benjamin Conolly, and they had been engaged at the Sailors' Home to proceed in the *Japan* on a voyage to Singapore on the 27th of March last, to be out for two years trading in the China seas. After signing articles they went to the office of the defendants, where they received advance notes, and were furnished with a passage to Greenock. Soon afterwards the ship started on her trial trip and did not return. She made for the coast of France, under the command of Captain Hitchcock, and on arriving off Brest she fell in with a small steamer, out of which she got guns and ammunition. From that steamer came also Lieutenant Maury and Mr. Jones. Lieutenant Maury went below, and returned on deck in the uniform of the Confederate Navy. He then took the command, declared the ship to be the *Georgia*, hoisted the Confederate flag, and invited the crew to join the service of the Confederate States. The bounty given was £10, and the wages £5 a month. Mr. Jones was present, and seconded the persuasions of Lieutenant Maury. Mr. Jones then went away in the steamer and the *Georgia* started on her cruise. These facts were deposed to by the witnesses Conolly, Stanley, and Glassbrook. In cross-examination Conolly said that on his return from Cherbourg to Liverpool he was taken by Mr. Macguire to an office in Water-street. Over the door of the office were the words "American Consulate." Macguire gave the witness £1 19s. 4d. a week as wages. That was for talking to several gentlemen and making a statement. The talking and statement took place to Mr. Taylor, in the office of Messrs. Duncan and Squarrey. He had also made the statement at Messrs. Bateson. The American Consul had been very kind to him. The £1 19s. 4d. was still paid regularly, but he did not know for how long a time the payment was to continue. He did not consider that he was acting as a spy. He got £3 from the office of the defendants to take him back to join the *Georgia* at Cherbourg. He served Macguire as a master; Glassbrook, who was also serving Macguire, introduced him to that person. John Stanley confirmed this evidence, and admitted that he had been in frequent communication with the American Consul, but he had the utmost difficulty in remembering what took place at those interviews, and fenced with the questions put to him in a most amusing manner. He also received from Macguire £1 19s. 4d. per week. Mr. Raffles bound Mr. Highet in bail to the amount of £300 and two sureties of £150 to appear at the Assizes to answer any indictment that might be preferred against him.

The case of the *Pampero*, the vessel recently seized in the Clyde by the English Government on the suspicion that she was intended for the service of the Confederate States, has come into the Court of Session in Scotland as an Exchequer case, and will be heard before Lord Ormidale.

The number of steamers which have left the Clyde since the commencement of the blockade of the Confederate ports is upwards of sixty, and their purchase price amounts in the aggregate to about £700,000. The selling and building of these vessels has been one of the most remunerative speculations of the year. Vessels are now leaving the Clyde for the trade at the rate of three or four a month.

Mr. Zachariah Charles Pearson, a bankrupt, was examined last week before the Commissioners. He seemed to have dealt largely in ships destined to run the blockade and to carry munitions of war, and his success was not commensurate with his enterprise. The *Peterhoff* was once his property, but had ceased to be so before she fell a prey to the cruisers of Admiral Wilkes and the decision of Judge Betts. Then Mr. Pearson joined Mr. Dobson in an adventure with the *Modern Greece*, but that vessel was wrecked and only a portion of the cargo saved. The *Ann* also belonged to the bankrupt, and was sold with the *Peterhoff* and *Modern Greece* to Mr. Dobson. The bankrupt also bought twelve vessels from Overend and Co., for eight of which he gave £88,000. He loss £14,000 by the wrecking of the *Lord Byron*, his clerk having neglected to insure the vessel. He sold one ship called the *Merimac* to the Confederate Government for £131,000. She was laden with clothing, gunpowder, and Armstrong guns, but the sale seems to have been annulled. Then he had a vessel, the *Empress*, which sailed from Hull to Rio Janeiro, and thence was chartered to New York, with directions to wait at New Orleans for the "warning," which according to the proclamation of President Lincoln was to be given. The *Empress* arrived off New Orleans at night, grounded, and was captured, taken to New York, and condemned. Then another ship, the *Circassian*, was seized on her arrival at the Havannah, and according to the opinion of the Solicitor-General and the Queen's advocate, that seizure was illegal. Then the *Latona* also was seized illegally, according to the belief of the bankrupt. It is to be hoped that some who engage in these ventures meet with more good fortune than Mr. Pearson, and when he starts afresh he may justly look for a happier fate.

The *Great Eastern* steam-ship was offered for sale by auction on Thursday last, in the cotton sales-room of the Liverpool Exchange, by order of the mortgagees. Only one offer was made, and that for £50,000, and thereupon the auctioneer declared the reserve bid to be £130,000. No advance being made, the ship was withdrawn from sale. It is expected, however, that she will shortly be put up again. The screw steamer *Gibraltar* (late the *Sumter*) was then offered, and speedily ran up from £2000 to £4,500, at which price she was sold.

The bark *Lottie Sleigh*, laden with eleven tons of gunpowder, and lying in the Mersey, blew up on Friday evening last at 7 P.M. On the Cheshire side of the river the shock was scarcely felt; but in Liverpool and Birkenhead the damage done and the terror created were beyond imagination. Bolts and fragments of the ship were hurled into Tranmere. The destruction of glass in Liverpool and Birkenhead was immense. The streets were filled with a panic-stricken crowd, and the utmost confusion prevailed. Fortunately but very few cases of personal injury occurred.

His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief has issued a memorandum of remarks on the Crawley court-martial. The verdict of acquittal has been ratified, and Lieutenant-Colonel Crawley is reinstated in command of the 6th Dragoons. The conduct of Major Swindley and Surgeon Turnbull is the object of severe animadversion. Notice is taken of the similarity of the *animus* displayed in their evidence at the Mhow court-martial, and therefore Major Swindley is removed from the regiment, while the conduct of Surgeon Turnbull is to become the subject of further inquiry. Adjutant Fitzsimon is also severely censured and removed from the regiment. The general tone of a portion of the officers of the regiment is declared to be deplorable, and it is hoped that the measures taken will be a warning to those who have escaped censure.

The English manufacturers are rapidly driving from the field the French firms which a short time since threatened to supersede them in the forging of armour plates for vessels of war. It will be remembered that several months ago, at Portsmouth, Messrs. Gaudet and Co., of Lyons, signally defeated the English plates, but from that time to the present the reverse of that result has invariably been realised. At Vincennes the defeat of the French plates was most signal, and they have now been condemned officially by Russia, Holland, and Sweden. The latest trial has been one held on the 27th December, at Copenhagen. On that occasion the plates tried were 15 ft. by 3½ ft.; each was 4½ in. thick and backed, to resemble the *Warrior* target, upon 18 in. of teak beams. The 68-pounder gun was used, loaded with the charge of 16 lbs. Messrs. Gaudet and Co.'s plate yielded at the third shot, that of Messrs. Cammell's, of Sheffield, went at the eighth shot, Messrs. Rigby's plate was destroyed at the twelfth, while Messrs. Brown and Co's yielded at the fourteenth shot. The last-named plate received the last nine shots in a space of sixty inches by thirty inches. The Danish Commission declared the order of merit to be, Messrs. Brown first, Messrs. Rigby second, and Messrs. Cammell third.

The Poet Laureate, in his remarkable poem on "love, madness, and murder," having caused his hero to slay a man in his passion, was compelled to extricate him from the proper consequences of the act by shipping him to Brittany, and there plunging him into a paroxysm of insanity. In our days a more facile mode has been discovered of evading the extreme penalty of the law. It might reasonably have been supposed that during the 1200 years, more or less, which have marked the epoch of trial by jury and of judges of assize, the ingenuity of lawyers and criminals would have discovered a method for defeating justice, even in its moment of triumph, if such a stupendous undertaking had been in anywise feasible. The consummation of that feat has been reserved for the latter end of the 19th century. Hanging is no longer a natural sequence of condemnation to death. It is not necessary even to adopt so complicated a method of escape as that devised in "Maude." For the rocks and waves of a rugged coast it is now only necessary to substitute the four walls of a criminal lunatic ward, and the office of the hangman is at once superseded. It is all very well for grave judges to sit in the scarlet and

[illegible]

THE CONTINENT.

[illegible]

has resigned. The King has applied, not to the clerical Opposition, but to some members of the Liberal party. Nothing has yet been arranged. The clericals profess that they do not care for office. It is not improbable that the present Ministers may retain their position. Although they have not a working majority in the House of Representatives, they still have the majority.

A slight modification of the Portuguese Ministry is announced, interesting only to Portuguese politicians.

The Spanish Ministry having been defeated in the Senate upon the Bill it had introduced for the reform of the Constitution, or, more correctly, for abolishing a reform made in 1857, tendered its resignation, which was accepted, and a new Ministry has been formed under the presidency of Senor Lorenzo Arrazola, and composed of men whose names are not known out of Spain. It is only a transition Ministry. The return to power of Narvaez is by no means improbable. It will be remembered that at the general election, which took place only two or three months ago, the Ministry which has just fallen, returned almost all its candidates to the Congress, the Democratic party abstaining from voting.

The news from St. Domingo is very unfavourable to the Spaniards.

A storm is brewing on the Danube. The Hospodar and the Chamber of Moldo-Wallachia have resolved to pay no heed to the protests of the Porte and the great Powers against the confiscation of the monastic property. Up to this time the Chamber and the Prince have been bitterly hostile, now they are cordially agreed. Addresses of congratulation flowed into the Prince on New-Year's-day, and his Highness, in response, proposed the adoption of the Gregorian calendar and the suppression of religious communities.

According to the *Memorial Diplomatique*, Sir Henry Bulwer, the English Ambassador at Constantinople, who is at present staying in Paris, has drawn up, at the request of M. Drouyn de Lhuys a plan for checking these usurpations of Prince Couza.

PARIS TOPICS.

(*From our Own Correspondent.*)

PARIS, January 19.

THE discussion of the Address continues with even greater expenditure of words than during the first days, and with little less violence. Three long sittings have been devoted to the Treaty of Commerce, and the debate would probably have been continued as much longer on the side of the Protection members but that the Chamber got tired of it, and brought it, if not abruptly, at least somewhat arbitrarily, to a close. The paragraph was adopted on M. de Morny—speaking not as President of the Chamber, but of the commission on the Address—informing the House that in the discussions of the committee the authors of the amendment had refused any addition to, or qualification of, the paragraph, and had insisted on expunging the words "Your Majesty was right." Their omission would have been equivalent to saying "Your Majesty was wrong," and to a general condemnation of the whole system of commercial liberty so sparingly adopted in France. This attempt to call again in question a matter already judged is characteristic of the French temper, which refuses to consider the passing of a law as a final decision in principle. Having mentioned M. de Morny's name, it is only due to him to remark on the strictures which his way of presiding in the Chamber has elicited from some of the English press. His manner — compared with that of M. Dupin, who so long presided over the Chamber under Louis Philippe —is so much more *débonnaire*, and his conduct so impartial, that the complaint against him here is that he favours the Opposition. There is an absolutism in the French character which is inclined to allow small liberty to the minority, but readily puts up with a more dictatorial tone than an English assembly would permit. And if there is assumption on the part of the President, on the side of the Opposition there is a violence of attack and thinly disguised invective which goes far to justify the Emperor's unwillingness to expose his Government to the possibly damaging effect of such discussions. As no government can be practically perfect, and his does not even pretend to be so theoretically, there is always room for the objections of an Opposition, and when these objections are so absolute and unreasonable, and urged with so much acrimony as we have seen during the last week, it would be dangerous to encourage them in a country like France. Fair warning has been given that the Emperor rules and is determined to rule; he has shown that he has the wish to do so with the assistance of all parties; but if instead of assisting they obstruct him, he has also shown that it will cost him little again to silence them.

Attempts have been made in some of the English papers to cast a doubt on the truth of the Italian plot lately frustrated, or to lead their readers to believe that if in any degree true, it is only one of many always kept in preparation by the police to be used when occasion serves. No one here has the smallest doubt of the truth of the whole story. The conspirators are to be tried in the course of February, and the only effect of such opinions will be to deprive the culprits of the chance of mercy which they would otherwise have, for unless one or two heads fall in case of conviction, the allegation that the conspiracy is a police one may seem to be confirmed.

Letters from Brest of the 15th announce that the *Florida* has terminated her trials, which have been most satisfactory. Her new captain has made visits to the port-admiral and other authorities to announce his appointment. It is said that the *Florida* has given notice to the *Kearsage*, which continues to hover about the mouth of the harbour, that she will fight her early in February beyond the French waters.

M. Aucaigne has interrupted the series of articles which he had begun in the *Moniteur Financier*, to make a digression on the Confederate Cotton Loan, which is comparatively little known in France. He attaches especial importance to showing the large value of the cotton held by the Government of the Confederate States, and on which the loan is secured. He shows that, as a commercial transaction, the investment if a safe and must be a profitable one. He differs from Mr. McRae in regarding it simply as a loan "based on national good faith and liable to rise or fall with the vicissitudes of war," or that "the cotton basis would only come into play in case the struggle seemed likely to be prolonged." Nor does he agree with THE INDEX in the feelings of pride which lead it to consider the loan as a proof of sympathy and good-will as much as a financial operation. Alas! says M. Aucaigne, in these days of self-seeking, it is not for a moment to be supposed that so many people gave so much money on any sort of disinterested grounds. "Even in France, where the Imperial Government has done so much for the masses, that they persist in giving it overwhelming majorities on all occasions, we must not suppose that the incredible success of our loans is due to the people's love for the dynasty of Napoleon III. Doubtless these loans are in some degree based on affection and personal confidence in the sovereign, but their popularity is due above all to the order which presides over our finances, and the conviction that the State, though an excellent paterfamilias, is a still better debtor." M. Aucaigne shows that there is an ample supply of cotton in the hands of Government to meet all the demands of the holders of the Confederate loan, and he indicates incidentally that if President Davis's finance minister based his claims to credit, like Mr. Lincoln's, on the whole property of the country, there is enough cotton in the country to pay off the entire debt at the present prices.

M. de Girardin in last night's *Presse* quotes a recent letter in the *Moniteur* on the means of recruitment pursued in the North. As it requires no explanation, and every child can draw his deductions from the text, he contents himself with a series of exclamations, thus:

"To this the war they boast of has reduced a great country. It has led it to guilty enrolling, to criminal desertion; that is, to demoralisation and debasement! It has led it to the loss of liberty, whose negation is forcible enrolling. It has placed it on the road to a military dictature, to legal servitude and periodical revolution. Boast of your war, gentlemen, boast of it!"

We have a London newspaper, the *International*, now sold in the kiosks of the Boulevards. A number to which my attention has been called, contains a very able appreciation of President Davis's Message, from the French translation, which has been largely circulated here among the men of mark in politics and business. I understand that the indefatigable Mr. Slingsby, who, when he has slain a Walker or two, reposes himself with such light work, is preparing a German translation, which will be out in a few days. As I mentioned in my last, the extracts which had appeared in the continental papers gave a very imperfect idea of the President's meaning, and the reproduction *in extenso* has been eagerly sought after.

The Archduke Maximilian is expected here in the first or second week of February, and the *Mémorial Diplomatique*, which may be considered his organ, announces that his stay will extend over several weeks, as the new sovereign is desirous of coming to an understanding with the Emperor on all questions of home as well as foreign policy. He is determined on his new throne to show that he has left behind him in Austria the traditional ingratitude of Hapsburg. There is a rumour that he will be received here with the title of Emperor, but it is hardly probable, as such a display would be very unlike the unpretending ways of the Archduke.

I avoid the Danish question. It is not yet so clear that he who runs may read, but now that it is in motion it threatens to run far too quickly to make it a safe subject to write upon. It is a very pleasant one for the *Constitutionnel*, which has found in it a congenial theme on which to play the variations which its leaders were so much in want of. After for weeks harping with that wonderful variety of praise whose ingenious wording, ever new, seemed each day to have exhausted the vocabulary, only to produce on the next a still more neatly turned panegyric, it now reverses the medal, and is bent on proving the reverse can be made as delicate a marvel of pencraft as the obverse. Having praised the Emperor's proposal for a Congress, it now has the opportunity, and good use it has made of it, to triumph over the blindness of England, which refused what was offered, and asks for what M. Drouyn de Lhuys, echoing Lord Russell's own words, shows to be so impracticable. Unlike, however, the generality of writers, M. Limayrac's honey has more pleasant surprises for his readers than his gall. There is a flatness in the letter which I only account for by remembering what a pleasant sparkling beverage honey will produce, and comparing it with the dull bitter of the other, which acquires its flavour only from the pen it passes through. The writer in the *Constitutionnel* evidently trusts to his pen for his bitterness, while he has an inexhaustible supply of sweets in his own disposition.

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

(*From our Own Correspondent.*)

MANCHESTER, January 20th, 1864.

By the death of his Grace the Duke of Cleveland, the Confederate cause has lost one of its staunchest friends in the north of England, while the Southern Independence Association in Manchester is deprived of the aid and counsel of one of its most valued supporters, whether as a munificent patron or as a vice-president, who took the deepest interest in the successful working of the institution, and who was among the first to stamp with his unqualified approval the principles it enunciated and the objects it sought to attain. It was but a few days ago when the noble duke addressed a letter to the secretary, congratulating the association upon its labours during the past six months, and renewing in the warmest terms the expression of his unabated sympathy with the Southern cause. In short, the interest which his grace continued to manifest in the progress of the Confederate movement in Lancashire, is only equalled by the cordiality that distinguishes the following letter, in which, in August last, the noble duke accepted the invitation to become a member of the committee:—

"RABY CASTLE, August, 22.

"SIR,—In acknowledging the receipt of the circular emanating from the Central Association at Manchester for the Recognition of the Confederate States of America, I have no hesitation in stating that in every paragraph, in every syllable of that address, I most cordially agree. Of all wars that have ever been heard of in Christendom, there never has been anything equal to the slaughter and barbarity of the civil war raging in America, of which it does not appear that, raging as it has done for so great a length of time without any object that ever can be realised, it is drawing any nearer to a conclusion than at its commencement. Every man in the Southern States is ready to die sooner than consent to the Union; and Mr. President Lincoln, with his blood-thirsty Cabinet of Washington, sooner than give way in his nefarious object, threatens to slaughter by the sword every individual in the Confederacy. Can anything be more horrible—can anything be more revolting to every Christian? It is quite evident that nothing can now alter this state of things, without the interference of the European Powers. The Emperor Napoleon is quite ready to recognise the Southern Confederacy, if joined by the English Cabinet. Those two Powers will, in my opinion, have no difficulty in putting an end to this horrible war, but which cannot be done without their joint interference.

"I can have no objection to your adding my name as a member of your committee.

"I am, sir, &c.,

"To the Secretary, &c. &c. CLEVELAND."

Mr. Frederick Peel's speech, addressed the other evening to the free and independent electors of Bury, has been so fully reported and commented upon by the London and provincial press, that a passing reference to it would appear sufficient in this place, were it not for an extremely curious article upon it in yesterday's *Star*. The text upon which the Anglo-federal organ discourses after its own singular fashion, is as follows:—"*To a bystander*," (said the right hon. gentleman), "*it would appear that that dreadful war must have created a gulf between the Northern and the Southern people, more impassable than the widest seas or the loftiest mountain barriers by which nature ever separated one people from another;*" and Mr. Peel very sensibly suggested, and the electors of Bury as sensibly approved of the suggestion, that the only termination to this fearful struggle could be no other than either separation or military subjugation. Now, to the *Star* this opinion seems very "plausible," but—very erroneous; in fact, if Mr. Peel had only looked deeper into the subject and taken a broader view of history he would have avoided the fault of drawing so mistaken a conclusion. According to the Federal print in London, the reasoning of the right hon. member for Bury may be all very well in its application "to European or Asiatic society," but he ought to know history better than to extend it to America. Is not Mr. Peel aware that the difference between a "homogeneous whole," such as Austria, Russia, or England, and "a Confederacy," is so great, that no experience derived from the one is any guide to a statesman or a politician when his attention is directed to the other? Poland, Hungary, Venice, and "the many provinces and tribes of India, the Caffres of South Africa, and the Maories of New Zealand, can only be retained by the tenure of military subjugation because the several holders are "homogeneous wholes;" but the Southern States of America after conquest will, it seems, reunite with the North, and the bonds of Union will be mutual respect and good-will; slavery being abolished, there will be nothing to quarrel about, and all will go on as usual before these differences began. "Constitutional liberty will be re-established with the re-establishment of constitutional authority. The suffrage and the ballot-box, the caucus and the election, will be untouched. Southern Senators and representatives will re-enter the halls of Congress. Southern citizens will obtain their just share of public employments. There will be no proscription, no persecution, no disabilities. Was ever rebellion repressed at so great a cost and punished with so light a penalty?" The South will forgive, if not forget the past: the memories of deeds associated with the names of Turchin, M'Neil, and Butler will be cherished with no feelings of indignation; there will be no bitterness in the remembrance of Mr. Lincoln's last Message, which, like old Tarquin's cane, lopped off only the tallest of the poppies; the vacant places of President Davis, General Lee, and (in Homeric phrase) other "shepherds of the people," might suggest feelings of tender regret—but nothing beyond. If the right hon. member for Bury had known more of American character, and if he had properly discriminated between American feelings contrasted with "European and Asiatic," he would have seen this pleasant vista of the future as clearly as does the *Star*. The reasoning of Mr. Peel is condemned by the *Star* as "plausible;" this may be an objection to it, but the reasoning of the *Star* will certainly escape such an imputation.

A political speech from the hon. member for Bolton (Mr. T. Barnes), whether delivered in or out of Parliament, is scarcely a public event of universal concern. But at the same time it is worth while to listen when a representative of the material interests of Lancashire—himself a cotton-spinner of considerable estimation, and a "Northerner" into the bargain, gives utterance to his opinions as to the crisis in the manufacturing districts, and incidentally, though ever so confusedly, as to the civil war in America. Upon the cotton question, he said:—

"There were some who wished to relieve the distress in Lancashire by transplanting the people, at the public expense, to some other part of the world; but he believed that had the matter been distinctly brought before the House it would have been condemned for many reasons. Emigration was an excellent thing for many persons who had as much money in their purse as would keep them for twelve months after they landed in the foreign country; but it was a very different thing to send thousands of people to a strange land, without funds to sustain themselves after they got there, and without friends to assist them in finding work. Emigration, under these circumstances, would be considered anything but a good remedy for the ills of Lancashire. It would be little better than consigning two-thirds of the operatives to death within twelve months. *The true remedy for Lancashire was more cotton, and he who could show where more cotton could be got would be rendering vast service to the county of Lancashire.*"

The honourable gentleman then proceeded to specify certain sources of supply, but he cautiously refrained from advising his hearers to put too much trust in them. In his zeal, however, to multiply the fields of free-grown cotton—"for he felt anxious to keep his own conscience clear in the matter"—he had recently purchased land in Jamaica, and was employing a person resident there as his agent to work out his scheme for him. There were already forty acres sown with cotton, and a sample of the crop was lying on the table before him. "But," concluded the honourable gentleman, "the question comes—will it pay? for it will not do to grow cotton upon benevolent principles, or upon generosity principles, but upon commercial principles." From his little *angulus terrarum* in Jamaica to the broad plantations in the Southern States, and thence to the war, was a natural transition in the speech of the honourable member for Bolton; and upon the last named subject Mr. Barnes spoke as follows:—

"He was not going into the history of that struggle; the whole question, so far as they were concerned as a nation, simply had been and was—what shall we do? The answer he should give was—'Let them alone; do nothing.' He was sure every person in this country was anxious to see the war brought to a close. When would it close? The answer to that question was known only to Him who rules in Heaven above. Looking to both sides, there was no indication of a cessation of the strife; stern determination on the part of the North that they will make the South submit; stern determination on the part of the South that they never will submit. He saw no end to it, except it be the utter annihilation of one or the destruction of the other. The power of the North was so great that it might be able to carry on this contest until the South was destroyed; but if the sole object of the North was to bring the whole States once more under one Government, and the North not purchase their object too dearly

[illegible]

... or tested something that has taken formed such a mere fractional ... the case. At the conclusion of the paper, the tenor of the discussion which ensued confirmed very generally the view of the writer.

The ... tale we have heard of late from certain ... quarters ... that we had seen the worst of the cotton famine, and that by March next the Relief Committees might bring their charitable labours to an end ... a fair way of being verified by the event. At the last meeting, for instance, of the Central Executive Committee at the Manchester Town Hall, Mr. Commissioner Farnall reported an increase of pauperism during the previous week of [illegible], and in addition to this, a further increase of about [illegible] was reported on the books of the local committees. The ... of a large number of mills and the general ... of employment were assigned as the causes of this well ... appalling complexion of affairs. Nor were the deliberations of the Salford Relief Committee scarcely of a less gloomy character. One of the members (Alderman Davies) said he had expected that by this time the working people would be in a fair way of being fully employed, but he was sorry to find such was not the case. It was distressing to see, as he had seen, young women receiving only from 7d to 2s per week for from three to five days' work. He, like others, had been ... that next March the labours of their committee would be at an end, but he was *feared that bad times were coming*. Other members joined in the general cry of complaint, stating that "the present ... had been held out was ... and that ... would emigrate, so as to escape from their deplorable privations, ... the manufacturers would not be able to obtain half the number of hands they required." The *Manchester Guardian* in its commercial article this morning is also of opinion that, bad as things are, "worse remains behind." After reviewing the state of the cotton market, it says —

"Taking this general view, ... too, that they must abate more in the price of their products than is conceded to them in the price of their raw material, and that, ... they will have to accumulate stocks ... the present quantities, greatly reduced as they have lately been, spinners and manufacturers are not ... of carrying the reduction further ... for a settled purpose to do so. Even the spinners of ... to ... twist and weft, at Bolton and other places, are now suffering so severely from the disproportionate degree in which the price of their raw material has risen, as compared with that of their products, that they are now commencing a curtailment of work. *The returns from the Relief Committee and the Board of Guardians show a great ... in ... distress, but it is to be feared that we have not seen the worst.*"

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE ON THE "SITUATION." Last night (Wednesday) Mr. T. M. Gibson addressed a meeting of his constituents at ... Town-hall. The hon. gentleman devoted considerable time to discussing American affairs. At present we have only space to observe that his remarks were a ... *New York Herald* ... One sentence will prove the justice of this remark. Mr. Gibson said: "In the first place, the present rebellion is being understood abroad ... as a revolt against democracy, the rights of labour, and human nature, and that the triumph of the Government guarantees to immigration its great reward of peace, prosperity, and freedom."

CONFEDERATE FINANCES.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

Confederate States of America,
Treasury Department,
Richmond, December [illegible].

Hon. T. S. Bocock, Speaker
of the House of Representatives.

[illegible]

[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

War Department	[illegible]
Navy Department	[illegible]
Civil, miscellaneous, &c.	[illegible]
Customs	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
Total of expenditures	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]
Balance in Treasury	[illegible]
... not yet ... but have not ... estimated at	[illegible]
	$17,[illegible]

The public debt ... of the foreign loan, at the same period, was as follows: —

FUNDED.

Eight per cent.	$[illegible]
Seven per cent.	[illegible]
Six per cent.	[illegible]
Six per cent. cotton interest bonds	[illegible]
Total	$[illegible]

UNFUNDED.

Treasury notes.	
General ...	[illegible]
Two year notes	[illegible]
Interest notes at 3.65	[illegible]
Interest notes at 7.30	122,[illegible]
Under $5	[illegible]
Five per cent. call certificates	[illegible]
Total	$7[illegible],447,[illegible]
Deduct amount of Treasury notes funded and cancelled, above referred to	65,[illegible]
	$7[illegible],447,[illegible]

In order to estimate the amount of Treasury notes in circulation at the date of this report, there must be added the further sum of $[illegible] for the two months which have elapsed since the date of the above schedules.

The balance of appropriations already made by Congress, and not drawn on 30th September, stood as follows: —

War Department	$[illegible]
Navy Department	24,41[illegible]
Civil, miscellaneous, &c.	56,2[illegible]
Customs	[illegible]
Total	$476,[illegible]

The estimates submitted by the various Departments for the support of the Government, are made to 1st July, 1864, the end of the fiscal year, and are as follows: —

Legislative Department	$[illegible]
Executive Department	[illegible]
Treasury Department	22,[illegible]
War Department	4[illegible]
Navy Department	13,[illegible]
State Department	[illegible]
Justice Department	[illegible]
Post-office Department	[illegible]
Total	$4[illegible]

If these estimates be extended to embrace the remaining six months of the calendar year, they must be doubled, and that sum added to the undrawn appropriations would make an aggregate of $1,1[illegible], which Congress is formally called upon to provide. It is obvious, however, that the amounts to the credit of undrawn appropriations cannot be called for, inasmuch as there remain but three months of the present calendar year to be provided for, and the expenditures are limited to $[illegible] per month. So too as to the estimates. Any measures which will promptly reduce the currency will act upon prices, and thereby materially reduce the estimates. But the large figures exhibit to us in a distinct and tangible form the problem which we are now required to solve. The currency has by this time attained dimensions of five times its proper size. The estimates are based upon prices fixed by this condition of the currency. If these estimates are to be supplied by new issues of currency, prices must again increase, and large additions must be made to the figures which represent both currency and estimates. It is obvious, therefore, that some other mode of supply must be devised, and the necessity is equally ... of reducing the currency. We are thus ... presented with ... two conditions, as necessary elements of the problem to be solved, namely, reduction of the existing currency, and a supply of means from some source other than Treasury notes.

In a former report it was shown that $1[illegible] was probably the amount of currency which could be put in circula-

[illegible]

... gaged in a war like the present has ever been able to ...

itself by taxes alone. Loans, also, are necessary; but in order to negotiate them an assurance must be given that the interest will be paid in a medium of certain value. The departure from this principle has undermined our credit, and our first effort should be to recover our first position. We must make the interest of any loan, which is to be offered, payable in specie or its equivalent.

The $15,000,000 loan has taught us a mode of effecting, at least in part, this desirable result. A duty, payable in coin, is allowed to be discharged by the coupons of this loan, and the result is that the bonds have maintained a steady value—their market price being nearly twice that of other public securities. If, then, a loan were established, the interest coupons of which would be available to pay specie dues, a foundation in the nature of a specie value would be secured, and upon it might be reconstructed the sound financial policy with which we started.

To effect this, it is only necessary to levy a tax payable in coin, and as such a tax would not be required to pay more than the interest, its amount would obviously be within the power of the Government to collect. A loan of $500,000,000 would be sufficient to reduce the currency to $200,000,000, and would require a tax of not more than $30,000,000 annually. Such a tax could be readily borne by the country, and if this were all that is required, the remedy would be easy. But a simple reduction of the currency, while it would abate the existing evils, would not preserve the country from their recurrence. In twelve months the currency would again become redundant. It is necessary, therefore, that an absolute limitation shall be fixed upon issues. A guarantee must be given that the $200,000,000 left in circulation shall in no event be increased; or, in other words, that whatever supplies may be necessary, shall be raised by other means than by issues of Treasury notes.

2. And this bring us to the consideration of the second point of our inquiry, to wit: the raising of the necessary supplies.

It has already been stated that if the currency could be reduced to $200,000,000 the annual money expenditure of the Government could probably also be reduced to $400,000,000. This amount is proposed to be raised partly by taxes, and the remainder by an extension of the loan already proposed—say $100,000,000 by taxes, and $300,000,000 by the loan. The returns to the tax act of August, 1861, have been completed for nine States; two more have been partly completed and can be estimated. The total values of property in these eleven States amount to $4,220,000,000. If we deduct from these values the conjectured value of property lost and in possession of the enemy, and add the increased rate of present prices, the valuation upon which a tax would be rated may be fairly set down at $3,000,000,000. A tax, ad valorem, of 5 per cent. on this value would nominally produce $150,000,000. Allowing an abatement of 20 per cent. for evasions, failures to make returns, expenses, and contingencies, there would remain $120,000,000.

A loan of $1,000,000,000 would be sufficient to absorb the currency and to furnish $300,000,000 for supplies, and the interest of this loan would require one-half of the amount raised by the tax. This would leave the other half, or $60,000,000, for the supplies; and to this would be added the proceeds of the income and profit tax, payable after 1st January. A tax of this kind is so uncertain and so easily evaded that it cannot be estimated beforehand. It will, in no event, however, be sufficient to induce any change of other measures; and, therefore, we must rely for any deficiency upon that portion of the Treasury notes which will be substituted for the old issues. The $60,000,000, or one-half, which is to support the loan, if made payable in coin or in the interest coupons of the loan, will furnish the means as well for the interest of the $700,000,000 required for the currency as of the $300,000,000 to be applied for expenditure. In the same manner, by making further additions to the tax, the loan can be increased from time to time so far as to consolidate the whole public debt; or, as the war continues, to obtain further supplies for carrying it on. By these means the credit of the Government will be firmly established, confidence will be restored, and the embarrassments which now oppress us will be removed.

But, thirdly, the measures to be adopted must be prompt and certain.

Delay in retiring the currency would aggravate all the evils which are in existence, by adding new issues to the mass already in circulation. Uncertainty as to the effect of the measures in withdrawing the excess, would be equally injurious. No one would be willing to accept a loan which might again be depreciated by a redundant currency. Even with all the inducements which may be offered, and the caution which may be observed, the loan itself may not be taken in sufficient portions to secure the result. Voluntary loans have already been offered and have not been taken. It is therefore necessary to provide some mode which will absolutely secure the final result in any event, and this can only be done by providing compulsory measures for use as a last resort. The measures may be adjusted so as not to press upon the willing, while they merely compel the unwilling to take their just portion of the burden. With these explanations, I respectfully submit the following measures as those which I would recommend for adoption:

SCHEME PROPOSED.

1. That Congress forthwith authorise a loan of $1,000,000,000 in 6 per cent. bonds, the principal payable in 20 years, the interest semi-annually; to be extended hereafter, from time to time, so as to consolidate the whole public debt.

2. That the Secretary of the Treasury be authorised to sell at par as many of the said bonds as will be sufficient to take up the outstanding currency, and to pay the appropriations made by Congress.

3. That deposits of Treasury notes on account of the said loan may be received at the Treasury or any of its depositories, or by commissioners to be appointed; said deposits to be in sums of $100, or of which 100 is a perfect divisor.

4. Certificates shall be issued for such deposits, which shall entitle the holder to bonds for the amount, with interest from the date of deposit. If the deposit be made in the month of January, the bonds issued for the same shall be exempt from the tax of five per cent. for the present year, hereinafter mentioned; if made in the month of February, they shall be exempt from one-half of the tax; and if made in the month of March, they shall be exempt from one-fourth of the tax. Officers, soldiers, and seamen, in service shall be entitled to exemption from the whole tax for sums paid at any time before 1st April, 1864.

5. A tax of five per cent. shall be imposed on all property and credits (other than the new issue of notes hereinafter mentioned), which may be held on the 1st of April next, to be paid on the 1st July, one-half in Treasury notes, and one-half in coin or coupons of the bonds issued for this loan.

6. In case the coupons should advance in the market to a premium exceeding 25 per cent., any tax-payer shall be permitted to pay his tax in Treasury notes of the new issue, with 25 per cent. added.

7. Within six months a new and improved issue shall be made of $200,000,000 of Treasury notes in substitution of that amount of old issues, and all the old issue shall be cancelled and the faith of the Government pledged not to increase said issues.

8. Notice shall be given to the holders of Treasury notes (other than the said $200,000,000), requiring them to present their notes at the Treasury, or at some of its depositories, on or before the 1st day of April next, and receive payment thereof in bonds of the said consolidated loan, or in default thereof, the notes not so brought in shall cease to be current or receivable at the Treasury for dues; but shall remain evidences of debt, payable by the Confederate States according to their tenour.

9. In the States beyond the Mississippi, the time mentioned in the last clause shall be extended until the 1st day of July.

10. Six months more shall be allowed all holders of Treasury notes to come in and register and verify their notes as demands against the Treasury, and exchange the same for a certificate of debt; or, if they prefer to keep the notes, the name of the holder shall be endorsed thereon, after which the said notes shall be negotiable only by special assignment; and all notes not so registered within the said time shall be barred from any further claim on the Government.

11. Any holder of a bond of the Confederate States may convert the same into one of the bonds under this loan, the 8 per cent. bonds at par, and the others at a proportionate rate; and the loan shall be extended so as to absorb all bonds which may be offered in exchange.

12. The interest coupons of this loan shall be held equivalent to specie in all future dealings of the Government, and shall be accepted in payment of any tax hereafter made payable in coin.

13. The faith of the Government is pledged to make adequate provision for the payment of the principal and interest of the said loan by the continuance of the tax mentioned in Article five, until a census shall be taken, after which, like provision shall be made by direct taxes, or by duties on imports and exports.

14. The notes of denominations under $5 shall not be affected by the provisions of this scheme.

It will be perceived that the measures proposed naturally divide themselves into two distinct characters, the one voluntary, the others involuntary. The former are deemed adequate to induce the voluntary aid of every good citizen. It cannot be considered a just objection that the others are added when such addition merely gives unity to the plan, and, like a tax execution, affects only those who are negligent or delinquent in performing a public duty.

The first class of measures, or those which induce voluntary action, are the following:—

1. The offer of a loan on bonds, with interest coupons, receivable as coin or its equivalent.

2. The means by which this is effected, namely: a tax upon all values to be paid in coin or in the interest coupons of the said bonds.

3. The exemption of the bonds from the tax for one year in consideration of a prompt advance of the purchase money in anticipation of their delivery.

4. The reduction of the prices of all articles of subsistence, and the permanent restriction of the volume of the currency.

The measures which are involuntary are chiefly two, which will be considered under the following heads:—

5. A limitation of time beyond which Treasury notes now in circulation shall cease to be receivable as currency and for public dues.

6. The registration of the notes as evidences of public debt.

1. And first, as to the character of the proposed loan. It is intended to consolidate all the various forms of public debt. Every holder of a bond, call certificate, or Treasury note, may exchange his security for bonds under this loan. The Treasury note holder, for reasons applicable only to that kind of security, is required to make the exchange within three months from the 1st of January. The bond-holders are allowed their own time, or, if preferred, they may retain their old securities. It is hoped that the inducements offered will bring them all in.

The necessity, which will be on each tax-payer, to find specie or the coupons of these bonds, will induce him to invest part of his means in them. And the fact that the whole of the coupons will be required to pay the tax, will create a demand which will impart to them a fixed value approximating to specie.

2. The means adopted to effect this result are the laying a tax upon all values to be paid in coin or in the interest coupons of the said bonds.

A loan of $1,000,000,000 would require a tax of $60,000,000 to pay the interest, and, if such a loan could be relied on to supply all demands from money for the current year, no larger tax need be imposed. But it will be found that at least $60,000,000 more in addition to the existing taxes will be required. It is therefore proposed to levy a tax of $120,000,000, and to allow one-half to be paid in Treasury notes, while the other half is made payable in coin or in the coupons of the said bonds. To raise this amount, it has already been shown that a tax of 5 per cent. on all values will be required. This tax is laid at a date just twelve months subsequent to the tax of the present year. It is proposed to lay the tax equally upon every object of value, so that each person will contribute in exact proportion to his means.

The existing taxes, it is assumed, have been enacted with just relation to the income arising from real and personal property. The new tax, therefore, imposes a uniform duty ad valorem, on all property. In doing so, it encounters the objections which have been raised under the provisions of the permanent constitution against such a tax upon lands and negroes. It is contended that the provision which declares that no direct or capitation tax shall be laid unless in conformity with an enumeration which, by a previous clause, is directed to be actually made within three years, prevents the imposition of any tax upon land and negroes until that enumeration shall be made. The land and negroes in the Confederate States constitute two-thirds of the taxable values; and, if this objection prevail, it would establish the surprising conclusion that all the States which ratified the Constitution, while engaged in a war which put at hazard the lives and fortunes of all their citizens and their own independence, are excepted from the contribution to maintain that war.

Such a construction is manifestly erroneous, and could never have been intended. The more consistent interpretation is, that a principle was established which should operate as soon as the basis for its action was obtained. As soon as the enumeration could be taken, there was to be an apportionment. But if an enumeration became impossible, then the tax must be laid according to the other rule of uniformity declared by the constitution. There is a general power to lay taxes which becomes subject to a special limitation as soon as an enumeration can be had. That enumeration is ordered to be taken within three years, but it is prevented from being taken by the presence of a public enemy. Under such a state of things, the limitation must be considered as in suspense, and the general power may be exercised. It seems to me, therefore, that the ad valorem tax is no infringement of the constitution.

In the present condition of the country such a tax is more equable and beneficial than any apportioned tax would be. The occupation of large portions of States by the enemy would cast the whole quota of any State upon the unoccupied portions. The States which are in this condition would have the largest quotas to pay on account of their larger representation, and thus the burden of the tax at present would be inverted. The greatest sufferers would be required to bear the heaviest burden. In either view then the ad valorem tax is greatly to be preferred.

The requirement to pay one-half the tax in coin or in the coupons of the consolidated loan will create in every tax-payer a desire to possess these bonds. Just in proportion to the extent of his property will he have occasion for the bonds, and a universal demand for them will be created by making the tax universal. Those who have small amounts to pay will purchase the coupons as is now done with the fifteen million loan. And an exemption being given to small property holders, there is but little danger from speculation or inability to procure a supply.

All uncertainty on this point, however, is removed by the provision which authorises payment in Treasury notes, if the market price of the coupons should advance to 25 per cent. premium. It is necessary to allow some advance in order to furnish inducements to purchasers of the bonds. It is believed that the range proposed will secure this object, while it affords sufficient protection to the tax-payer from any combination of capital. The tax, therefore, while it induces large purchases of bonds by large property holders, is adjusted to the wants of those who are unable to purchase the bonds. It also offers the strongest inducements to holders of commodities to offer them for sale instead of hoarding for higher prices. They will perceive that, if they retain their commodities until the currency becomes contracted, it will require a much larger quantity of them to be afterwards sold in order to pay their quota of the tax.

3. The next subject for consideration is the exemption offered for an advance of the purchase-money of the bonds.

The 5 per cent. tax is proposed to be laid upon all values held on the 1st July 1864, excepting the $200,000,000 of new currency. The bonds to be issued for the consolidated loan, are, therefore, included in all other bonds and securities. But the advantage to the public is so great from retiring the circulation promptly, that an offer of exemption for one year from the whole tax on these bonds, is made to any person who will pay in Treasury notes on account of the loan in the month of January; an exemption of one-half is offered those who will make such payment in the month of February, and of one-fourth to those who will pay in the month of March. It will not be practicable to deliver so large an issue of bonds within this period of time, and the exemption, therefore, not only compensates for the advance, but for the delay in furnishing the bonds. The officers and soldiers in the army being prevented by their duties from attending promptly to their private business, are allowed the privilege of the entire three months for profiting by the exemption. Any payment made by them before the 1st of April will entitle them to exemption from the tax on the bonds thereby purchased. On the 1st of April the privilege of conversion is taken away on this side of the Mississippi River, but it continues for three months more on the other side.

These measures, it is believed, will be sufficient to procure a prompt and needful reduction of the currency. Each person in the possession of currency will thus be enabled to convert into bonds, based on specie values, notes which, at the time, cannot command more than one-fourth of those values. Those who hold commodities are in a still better condition to profit by the loan. A farmer may sell his grain for five times the ordinary price, and invest the whole amount in a bond, payable in twenty years, in specie, the interest coupons of which are available to discharge a liability to pay in coin.

4. There remains one other inducement to voluntary subscription yet to be considered, namely: the reduction of the price of subscription, and the permanent restriction of issues of Treasury notes.

The parties who are most likely to be the largest contributors to the loan are banks, manufacturers, railroad companies, and persons of capital. To all these, in an especial degree, the establishment of the currency, upon a permanent footing, is of the utmost value. No such permanence can be had if the new issues are continued. A restriction which keeps the currency within just bounds increases the value of every railroad fare; adds to the rate of interest; reduces the price of all labour and subsistence, and restores confidence and stability to all transactions. The amount at which the currency is to stand is set down at $200,000,000. This is about twice the amount required before the war. It is supposed that the large amounts which are suspended in the hands of public officers and in transit will call for a much larger amount of circulation than in time of peace.

Moreover, after so large an expansion it would be unwise to contract the currency in a compass as small as its natural bounds. In order, also, to prevent the evils incident to too rapid a contraction, it is proposed that the $200,000,000 of of new currency shall be issued from time to time during the period of contraction, and only in substitution of that called in, so that when the 1st of April shall arrive, at which time the old circulation shall become uncurrent, there may be a new currency to take its place. It may be added that, if the contraction should become too stringent, the banks will be able, and will probably find it expedient to relieve the pressure by the reissue of their own notes.

Such are the inducements which are offered to recommend the consolidated loan to public favour. They are so large and beneficial that they will, in all probability, secure its success. Unfortunately the consequences of failure are so perilous to the public welfare that nothing can be left at risk. Even the time which will be consumed in the effort to procure voluntary subscription cannot be recovered in case of failure. The measures of prevention must therefore accompany the invitation to voluntary action. They will be harmless and inoperative, if not required; absence of them would be ruinous, if the occasion for them should arise.

5. We come, therefore, next to consider the measure which limits the time within which the notes must be brought in for

redemption or be deemed the [illegible]

It cannot be [illegible] of the [illegible] itself is a [illegible] after the [illegible] to the [illegible] by mere [illegible] part of [illegible] and Congress [illegible] the [illegible] a legal [illegible] the creditors [illegible] other [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] property and [illegible] [illegible] would be [illegible] finds itself [illegible] [illegible] great [illegible]

It gives less time to accept the payment, and if he should prefer to [illegible] the [illegible] the simple [illegible] [illegible] It does [illegible] an honest debtor in [illegible] is bound to do, it recognizes its debt, offers the best security for payment in its power, and asks for time. This, in plain terms, is the proposal of the Government; and, if it were the case of an individual, his creditors would meet, and, as a body, would accept his offer. In the case of the public the creditors cannot meet. But they have representatives who can. The Congress represents the people as well as the Government, and although it may be difficult to act for both parties, yet it is not difficult to ascertain the claims of justice, and Congress is the proper tribunal to adjust them. Their judgment in the matter should stand as a composition between the parties.

2. The next reason which will be considered is that the continuance of the notes as a circulating medium to their present extent involves the ruin of public and private credit, and will deprive the Government of the means of defending the lives and property of its citizens. If the currency remains in its present expanded state, no measure of relief can be made effectual. Prices must advance, and the means of the Government to pay these prices must daily lose efficiency. Taxes become fruitless by reason of the depreciation of the money. The army can neither be paid, clothed, nor fed; arms and munitions of war can no longer be supplied; the officers of the Government cannot be supported, and the country must [illegible]. Calamities so disastrous must certainly be averted by every means within the power of the Government. No contract, however solemn, can require national ruin; and in such case the maxim must prevail that the public safety is the supreme law.

The objection to these measures of compulsion is greatly mitigated by the certainty that but a small portion of the notes will be brought under their influence. The inducements to the loan are so many that the greater part of the currency will be voluntarily converted, and the true question is, whether the [illegible] which remains shall be permitted to gain an undue advantage over the rest, and to defeat the great public interests which are involved in the withdrawal of the entire amount.

These measures, it will be perceived, contemplate a permanent financial policy, capable of expanding to suit the future wants of the Government. It is obviously, therefore, of the utmost importance that the ultimate payment of the bonds now issued, and of those which may be added, should be completely secured. Confidence is one of the largest elements which enter into public credit, and in this case the means are at hand to secure it. The South is in the possession of products which are desired by the whole world.

For at least five years after a peace, the demands for these products will probably so far exceed the supply, that a duty on exports would fall upon the consumer. For the five years following, the usual contest between producer and consumer will possibly divide the burden, but the necessities of the country offer a controlling reason for the continuance of the duty. To this may be added a certain portion of the duties on imports; and the two together, if now pledged to a sufficient extent, would provide an adequate security for the payment of the debt. Assuming that, when trade is re-established, we shall have the same products to export, and, in a few years thereafter, the same quantity to sell, our exports and imports may each be set down at $300,000,000. Any export duty of 10 per cent. on all products of the field and forests, would, upon this assumption, produce $30,000,000 annually, and, if an equal portion of the duties on imports be added, the aggregate would be sufficient to pay the whole interest of the debt. If Congress would now pass a law to this effect, as it is perfectly competent to do, the public credit would instantly [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] would be exposed, [illegible] which could be adjusted by regulations of this department.

The report of the Commissioner of Taxes herewith submitted will exhibit the details of the war tax of August 1861, and of the taxes of the present year, so far as [illegible] made. The tax of 1861 had been actually collected from the people in only three States—South Carolina, Mississippi, and Texas. In the other States the tax was paid by the State Governments. Assessments were [illegible] in only ten of the States, and the results are exhibited in the schedules annexed to the report. The total value of the property assessed is $[illegible], of which real estate is set down at one thousand three hundred and ninety-three millions, and slaves at one thousand four hundred and eighty millions. The total amount of the tax assessed is $21,[illegible], of which $19,[illegible] has been collected, leaving a balance uncollected of $2,[illegible]; of this balance $[illegible] is covered by an unadjusted difference in assessment claimed by the State of Tennessee, and a large portion of the remainder is due in countries overrun by the public enemy. The amounts actually collected have been paid over by the collectors with commendable exactness and punctuality.

The tax imposed at the last session of Congress is now being rapidly collected. From present appearances, the Commissioner estimates its probable collections at $[illegible] in money, and he reports that it is paid with general [illegible] and alacrity. The novelty of many of the [illegible] of the law has given rise to questions which are presented in detail in the report of the Commissioner, to which I respectfully invite your attention.

The report of the chief clerk for the produce loan and agency for purchase of cotton and tobacco, herewith submitted, will exhibit the details of that branch of the Department.

The general results are, that the whole amount of subscriptions realized from the produce loan is [illegible], and that there yet remains uncollected about $[illegible]. This is a large proportion of the whole amount, and the greater part is probably due from persons whom the calamities of war and the destruction of property have deprived of the means of meeting their engagements. There are many others, however, who may have been tempted by the high prices to neglect their engagements, and to reach these it is proposed by the chief clerk to publish the lists in the neighborhoods where they were subscribed. The measure is submitted for the consideration of Congress.

The purchases of cotton made under the Act of April 30, 1863, amount to [illegible] bales at the date of the report, and received, at a cost of $[illegible]. The average price paid was [illegible] cents per pound, [illegible] the lowest price being [illegible], and the highest [illegible] [illegible] the entire purchase money have been paid in bonds. [illegible] difficulty of procuring reports in detail from the agents in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Texas has prevented a precise return of the cotton which has been destroyed, but from the estimates made by each of them it may be assumed that the entire loss is not more than 30,000 bales. To this

[illegible]

All of which is respectfully submitted.

C. G. MEMMINGER,
Secretary of Treasury.

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

OUR friends in the United Kingdom and on the Continent are earnestly requested to forward to us, at their earliest convenience, such information relative to the military movements and condition of affairs in America as they may receive through private letters, either from the United States, or from the Confederate States. They may rely upon the most scrupulous precautions being observed; that no names or facts leading to identification will, under any circumstances, be revealed. No communications, however, will be noticed unless authenticated by a responsible name. Southern newspapers, of any date, will be useful and acceptable presents.

Our subscribers in the South will have their paper supplied through HENRY HOTZE, Esq., the Confederate States Commercial Agent in London, who has kindly tendered us his services in this respect during the continuance of the blockade.

For the convenience of our distant subscribers, all the receipts for subscriptions signed by any of the official representatives, or commissioned officers of the Confederate States, will be recognized at this office.

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At St. Thomas (West Indies), C. W. WHITE, Esq.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1864.

The War.

IT is not very surprising that the failure of Bragg before Chattanooga, and of Longstreet at Knoxville, should have occasioned some misgivings amongst the sympathisers with the Southern Confederacy in this country. Federal organs have so loudly and persistently proclaimed the exhaustion of the South, and the utter impossibility of her maintaining the struggle for any length of time, that many of her admirers, unacquainted with her resources and the indomitable spirit of her sons, have of late regarded the most trifling success of Northern armies as a serious danger to the cause. They have, in spite of the repeated warnings that have appeared in these columns, and forgetful of the experience of all revolutionary wars, adopted Mr Seward's theory of a sharp but short struggle; and constantly hoping that the next battle would be such a decisive victory to the Confederates as would either put the North *hors de combat*, or bring its people to their senses, they have given way to a somewhat unreasonable despondency, when the issue has been unfavourable to the South. The Southerners themselves, who have a definite object in view, of which in the hour of their severest trials they have never lost sight, and on which they have staked interest, honour and everything that makes life valuable, do not betray this feeling. Neither in the speeches of their representative men, nor the votes of their legislature is there to be found the faintest sign of flinching from the task they have set themselves. Nothing, indeed, in the course of the last year's campaign would justify it; yet it would be idle to deny that an impression of that kind has been created in this country during the last month or two, and that too by writers who might naturally have been expected to have a fair acquaintance with Southern feeling. The excellent letters of the *Times* Southern Correspondent have been read eagerly in this country by every friend of the South, and have doubtless contributed much to the favourable estimate formed by the English people of the chances of the Confederacy. But there can be very little doubt that the tone of two or three of his letters, preceding and following the incidents of the struggle for East Tennessee, was calculated to unduly depress the hopes of the friends of the Confederacy, and to awaken some mistrust of the perseverance of the South in its struggle for independence. The correspondent evidently wrote from the fulness of his heart. In every line of his correspondence there breathes the feeling of a devoted friend of the South; and it is quite probable that his object was hardly less to awaken the South to a consciousness of danger than to afford information to the English public. Still, the eager haste with which the Federal organs laid hold of his evidence as confirming all their prophecies and crowning all their hopes, shows very clearly how much mischief may be done by the hasty generalisations of an impressionable mind; and we are not sorry to have an opportunity, through an equally reliable source, of disabusing Englishmen of the notion that the Southern Confederacy is more disposed to yield now than it was when its first army hurled back the shattered battalions of the invader at Bull Run.

The Southern correspondent of the *Morning Herald*, in a letter from Richmond of the date of the 6th December, has taken some pains to record the feelings of the Confederate States which have suffered more or less severely from the war, as expressed by their representatives. In no single instance is there a word of despair, or a doubt of the ultimate attainment of independence. The State of Mississippi has paid bitterly for her devotion to the Confederate cause; her plantations have been plundered, her plains wantonly inundated, her crops destroyed, her towns burnt, her capital sacked, her citizens exposed to the uncontrolled fury of a conquering Northern army. General Clarke has been recently inaugurated as governor. His address breathes of war to the bitterest end—of indomitable resolve never to submit to the "hated Yankee." He urges provision for the families of those serving in the field, and calls for funds for the re-erection of the prisons and asylums brutally destroyed by the Northern hordes. The soil of Alabama has hitherto comparatively escaped the horrors of war, but her sons have paid dearly for her exemption from these evils on the fields of Virginia and on the heights of Chickamauga. The language of her governor breathes the same confidence, makes the same appeals for the families of the soldiers in the field. With that spirit of reverence for recognised authority which has characterised the Confederacy, he points out the harmony that has existed in the relations of the State with the Confederate Government, and congratulates his fellow-citizens that when difficulties have arisen they have been settled in accordance with the rights of the State. The Federal papers have made a great deal of the alleged disaffection to the Confederacy in North Carolina. The latest public acts of the Governor are a proclamation of a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer, and an answer, sternly defiant, to Mr. Lincoln's cold-blooded Message to the South.

> We know at last precisely what we would get by submission, and therein has our enemy done us good service. Abolition of slavery, confiscation of property, and territorial vassalage. These are the terms to win us back. With such a prospect before them our people will, as heretofore, come firmly up to the full measure of their duty if their trusted servants do not fail them. They will not crucify afresh their own sons, slain in their behalf, or put their gallant shades to open shame by stopping short of full and complete national independence.

In South Carolina, although the enemy is thundering at the gates of the capital, and Gillmore is literally hurling his "Greek fire for the masses," the resolve is the same. "Our people," says Governor Buchanan, "have counted the cost, and have determined upon independence or annihilation. . . . . In all measures which you in your wisdom may adopt, looking to the successful issue of this great struggle, you may, gentlemen, rely upon my hearty co-operation." In Georgia, now threatened by Grant's forces at Chattanooga, it is proposed to extend the age of service, to raise sums for the equipment of the troops and for their families; and, with a view of maintaining the credit of the State, to obtain the requisite funds, not by a further issue of paper money, but by taxation. Georgia responds to a demand for 8,000 troops by enrolling 18,000, and the Governor's message contains these heart-stirring words:—

> Remembering the sacrifices we as a people have made; the suffering which we have endured; the noble Southern blood which our enemies have spilt; the deadly hate which they feel towards us; the cruel wrongs our females have encountered; and the degradation, bondage, and chains which await us and our posterity if we are subjugated, let us humbly and fervently invoke the aid of the Almighty Power; and, laying aside all past differences and personal considerations, let us gather around our country's altar. While we ardently desire peace on honourable terms, let us here again renew the solemn pledge to each other that, come life or death, come weal or woe, we will never sheathe the sword till constitutional liberty is established, Georgia is free, and these Confederate States are recognised by all the world as an independent Power.

Another of her representative men, Mr. Johnston, but recently elected, speaks in the same language of firm and undaunted resolve:—

> There is no step backward. All is now involved in the struggle that is dear to man—home, society, liberty, honour, everything—with the certainty of the most degrading fate that ever oppressed a people if we fall. It is not recorded in history that 8,000,000 of united people resolved to be free have failed. We cannot yield if we would. Yield to the Federal authorities—to vassalage and subjugation! The bleaching bones of 100,000 gallant soldiers slain in battle would be clothed in tongues of fire, to curse to everlasting infamy the man that whispered—Yield.

And this is at the close of the third year of the war, when the Angel of Death has swept remorselessly over every Southern home; when sacrifices, such as no nation has ever offered, have been freely made by the best and noblest as well as by the poorest in the land; when still, as at the commencement, the world stands by coldly and callously calculating the chances of the conflict; and England, who in past times has made the independence of nations a tradition of her foreign policy, throws the whole weight of her spurious neutrality into the Northern scale. President Lincoln's proclamation and General Butler's atrocities have quickened every Southern pulse and nerved every Southern arm. The people are terribly in earnest. The next twelve months may have their trials in store for the South; another Vicksburg may fall, another field of Gettysburg may disappoint the hopes of Southern patriots and animate the North to renewed exertions, another victory like that of Chickamauga may prove resultless; but whatever be the fortunes of the Confederacy in the field, we will venture to predict that a year hence, as it is now, its determination will be to submit to every possible and conceivable affliction rather than endure "the most degrading fate that could oppress a nation"—vassalage to the Yankee.

The "Edinburgh Review" on the Negro.

THE South cannot be charged with having obtruded her peculiar ideas—or even her legitimate defence against injurious imputations—on the ears of Europe. On the contrary, she has too often, and in most cases unnecessarily, allowed judgment to go by default, and her silence has been construed into a tacit confession of crimes and misdemeanours of which she never was guilty. So long as her calumniators appeal only to a public which gratifies the taste for highly-seasoned sensational literature under a flimsy cloak of philanthropy, this course is evidently the most dignified. The Horrors of Southern Slavery, and the Thrilling Narratives of Victims, may be safely left in that unclean sphere of fiction in which obscene imaginations delight. Even when men of higher pretensions, professors of political economy of history, or preachers of the Gospel, write books, in every sentence of which they betray their stupendous ignorance of facts and utter disregard of truth, it may be excusable to decline descending to their arena of controversy. But when a publication of the well-earned reputation of the *Edinburgh Review* so far forgets self-respect as to distil these fragrant flowers of rhetoric into grammatical English, and with an affected air of calm and moderation gravely perpetrates a gross outrage against a whole Christian community, then it is time that the defenders of the South should speak. And it is not by mincing words that the British instincts of fairness and justice can be reached. Who fails to resent an insult, has already half proved himself to merit it. One does not address a liar and slanderer in the mild tone of deprecation.

We cannot complain that the author of the article "The Negro Race in America," has not sufficiently labelled it with its contents, as witness the titles of the following select list of documents:—

> Instructions to the Commissioners for Emancipation in the District of Columbia. 1862.
>
> The President's Message to Congress on his plan of Gradual Emancipation. July, 1862.
>
> Official Report on the Freedmen of South Carolina to the Secretary of the Treasury. Washington: 1862.

First Annual Report of the Education Commissioner for Freedmen. Boston. May, 1863.

Circulars of the Freedmen's Bureau Commissioners, appointed by the Government of the United States. August, 1863.

It is not too much to say, even were the character of Federal politicians less notorious, that no one of these various authorities could possibly have applied the undressed truth. Yet dated since the outbreak of this treasonous war of the South on the North, all written in the midst of a bitter reaction and in the interest of one party with an obscure political meaning, it would argue almost supercilious candour if such documents were good historical or philosophical evidence. The quotations in the body of the article have the same fatalistic explanation. The notorious Mr Olmsted, the diplomatic circulars and despatches of Mr Seward, Northern newspapers and the reports of Federal commanders, the Reverend Mr Baptist Noel's "Results in America," which contains a more astounding number of gross blunders than any book of the same size ever written are mostly the sources from which the writer has drawn his materials, and he has contrived a leading article, and has succeeded in the manner of Mrs Beecher Stowe and the Common of our amiable and truthful contemporary, the *Daily News*.

After the acumen of such a writer there could be no doubt, the only wonder is that the editor of an English journal should have admitted with merely the less softening touches and introductory remarks, of which the article bears the traces—an argument so ardent, and unblushingly *ex parte*. Even so, the writer calls the Southern people with an odious distinctiveness "the slaveholders." All the good which "the slaveholders" have done, if he refers to it at all, is twisted into an additional proof of their monstrous wickedness. The American Colonisation Society, originated and mainly supported by the South, was an ingenious device to get rid of troublesome slaves; the exemplary punishment meted out at New Orleans to the cruel slave-mistress whose dwelling was unroofed and forbidden to be rebuilt, was a cowardly concession to the fear of a negro-rising; the religious instruction given to the black population, to the abundant fruits of which an hundred Southern clergymen of various denominations lately bore world-wide testimony, is a deliberate and ficelish encouragement to "shocking fanaticism" intended as a "safety-valve;" even the increasing comforts of the slaves within the last twenty years are a systematic imposture practised by a whole nation on the rest of the world. Different portions of the cotton region are referred to as "more" or "most" barbarous; crimes against life and limbs among the whites, duels, murders, lynching, have during the present generation been fearfully on the increase in the South, the official statistics of the United States to the contrary notwithstanding. The picture drawn of the negro, to whom the author means to be flattering, is scarcely less hideous. According to him, the only reason why the slaves have not risen against their trembling masters is their well-grounded hope of aid from the North. Meanwhile, for twenty years they "have worn a mask;" their professions of love and acts of devotion only meant to cover plots of domestic treachery, brooded over in the kitchen, discussed in the recesses of dark forests, mysteriously conveyed from plantation to plantation. The negro man, while accompanying his master to the chase, or tending him in sickness, longed for the hour of sweet revenge; the negro nurse while suckling her mistress's child, was thirsting for its blood. For some time the negro's hopes were damped by the "goblin stories" which the masters told of the cruel and savage aspect and manners of the Yankees, and it was not until "the Lord appeared" to one of them, "in the night, in the form of a Yankee," that "they identified Yankees with the deliverers who were to come." We remember a few months since to have read some such melo-dramatic rhapsody in its appropriate place, the leader columns of an Anglo-Yankee journal; we did not expect to see it transferred verbatim, or nearly so, into the pages of the *Edinburgh Review*.

After recovering breath from the sickening spectacle to which the perusal invites us, we naturally ask, can men who write such things have a conscience? Are they really honest in their delusions, and is this marvellous credulity, this utter recklessness, not merely of facts, but of probabilities, the result of some mental colour-blindness? If so, then Heaven help the cause of human progress when the education of the negro race shall be entrusted to such hands! And if they are not honest in their delusions, if they are conscious of their ignorance, or if their falsehoods are deliberate—and to suppose otherwise were to doubt the sanity of at least some of these self-constituted apostles of freedom if they hold to the Jesuitic creed that the end justifies all means, and aim only at sensational effects, over-colouring the canvas to allow for the chances of damage—[illegible] to [illegible] a [illegible] property [illegible] to [illegible] with the [illegible] of a black skin who [illegible] South America [illegible] at the bidding of [illegible]

It is [illegible] to [illegible] ing to a man who [illegible] bestial [illegible] brutal, cowardly [illegible] as the Abolitionists fought in defence of the [illegible] Jackson, or that of the [illegible] treasons such as they [illegible] Fortunately for the honour of human nature the one picture is as utterly false as the other, and even the anecdotes from which they profess to be drawn are outrageously [illegible] Some people can, when all the [illegible] of the South comes through the distorting medium of a corrupt partisan press, and when no one stops to reason upon what was there found, it was possible, though not credible, [illegible] to accept as [illegible] that [illegible] the part of [illegible] [illegible] But [illegible] a people of our own race could be such a race of beasts [illegible] in the filthiest vices and abominations that they lived no better than [illegible] these and other infamous tales of the South, are not indeed little records, but [illegible] and a wretchedly low estimate of Anglo-Saxon character, but it argued nothing worse. In the light of the facts of the last three years no man of sound mind has even this pitiable excuse. The war has proved the people of the South neither [illegible] nor barbarous; so far from [illegible] a hostility of colours in her population it has saved the closest identity of interests between the two races. There is not even the excuse of well-intentioned error, for the Divine Word has left our fallible reason without a clear and plain guidance. We are commanded not to do evil that good may come from it, and these, though we may err in our estimate of what is desirable and good, we can never unconsciously err to our choice of means to obtain it. We may desire the free loan of the [illegible] but we have no right to bear false witness against his master.

For the genuine philanthropist, who believes in the perfectibility of his species, who acknowledges kindred and brotherhood with all races and conditions of men, and preaches peace and good-will to all—whites as well as blacks—we entertain a profound respect and reverence, even when his enthusiasm carries him beyond the sober bounds of practical experience. To such a one the South might confidently leave the decision of her case. "You condemn," she would say to him, "my hash-named institution as repugnant to the ideas of the age, and unsuited to the wants of an advanced civilisation. Be it so; but remember that this institution applies to a people only three generations removed from savage Africa. The habits which befit an adult are not proper to a child, and the negro, by the testimony of those who know him best, is but as a child compared to races older in civilisation. Crime and misery there exist under any system, but to judge me fairly, you must examine whether this is a result or an accident, whether the aggregate sum would be greater or less under another system, and for this you must take as a standard the prostitution, the insanity, the mendicity, the overflowing prisons, of more complicated social fabrics. If the negro is inherently, or through the effect of four thousand years of brutish barbarism, inferior to the white man, a mere act of legislation will not raise him to the level of his present master, no more than by emancipating a child from paternal control you can give him the attributes of an adult. I did not bring the negro from his native Africa. The duty of training him for civilised and Christian life was not of my seeking, but I have endeavoured to do the best according to my lights. Whether I have done well or ill, must depend on whether I have raised or debased him in the past, and whether in the present I promote or retard his development. To the former question I answer that I found him, physically and mentally, scarcely above the level of the brute, and to-day the race in no country and under no social condition can furnish the like in intellect or bodily vigour of the negro grown up under my care. To the latter question experience answers that, where left to himself, though under the most favourable circumstances, he has, as yet, not improved, but degenerated."

It has much retarded the just appreciation of the South's relation toward the negro race, that some of her most active and sincere friends in Europe have not ventured to speak this language in its full force. The whole truth, even when they knew it, ran so counter to preconceived opinions, that they have thought it necessary to dilute it. In order to gain a little, they have conceded too much. The policy

France and Mexico.

A very remarkable pamphlet of eighty-three [illegible] has just been published in Paris, [illegible] to the [illegible] of France. The subject is treated, *La Question Mexicaine et les Conséquences Prochaines*, as one concerning to all well-wishers of the Confederate States, and the little work before us is besides an [illegible] with vigorous thought and [illegible] that it deserves more than a passing [illegible] at our hands. The author at once treats the question from a purely [illegible] at most, from the philosophical point of view, and the Confederate States, about which we are deeply concerned in every [illegible] Government and a powerful ally, are not mentioned or even alluded to. Yet Mr [illegible] presents to those who do not see in the Emperor's Mexican [illegible] a very clear [illegible] incidents, the most complete and [illegible] exposition of its origin and [illegible] consequences, and though we are far from [illegible] the vulgar cause of [illegible] [illegible] of a certain class of men to [illegible] [illegible] the present [illegible] years naturally [illegible] to the [illegible] as we probably safely [illegible] that the [illegible] of restoring which [illegible] the attention of the [illegible] Europe some years ago to Central America, and which caused him to [illegible] opportunities in Mexico as well as Cochin-China is not greatly dissimilar to that sketched by our author.

The [illegible] of the pamphlet we cannot give better than in its own words. "Modern civilisation generates a larger quantity of intellectual power than it can consume. In this fact we may recognise the wise plan of Providence which has appointed Europe to be the receiving point for the circulation of the earth. Confined without outlet or expansion, this surplus power, like steam, becomes in danger of explosion." Further on, the author enlarges upon this striking metaphor. This intellectual vapour is generated in proportion to the stimulating forces at work, to the mental activity which pervades a country, to that necessity of our age which causes whole classes to be educated rather beyond than below the requirements of their station. He does not quarrel with or regret this fact, he only casts about for the means to turn it to good account. Political changes do not afford the means, for as he very forcibly remarks, "Governmental forms are but the physiognomy of the nation, revealing indeed its lived passions, sometimes controlled by them, but not producing the passions." More legislation is powerless, for the Mass can only recognise facts, not anticipate them. Compression by force is possible for a brief period, but it is only retarding the explosion to make it more dangerous. The want of safety-valves or space for expansion produces in the body politic a disease which he compares to a congestion of blood upon the brain. This disease has reached its gravest form when all activities are directed to the State, and seek to be gratified through the State alone. France has reached this stage of the disease. To hope for relief from foreign wars, were to aggravate an inflammation.

There are, to the author's mind, but two roads safe and practicable. The one is to let the surplus intellectual power escape in pure waste, so far as the State is concerned. This is, to a great extent, the case in Germany, where the instinct of national identity is less strong than in France, and whose children, when far and long away, take a pride in disowning their mother. In France this is scarcely possible. The Frenchman can only be induced to seek other and distant fields of activity by the certainty that in expatriating himself he is not "orientalised"—that he need not come in contact with ideas, manners, and social institutions antipathetic to his own; in other words, that to succeed it is not required of him "to become a poor caricature of the Englishman or Anglo-American." "For," observes the author, "would Englishmen have reared their magnificent Indian empire, if in doing so they had contributed to the glory and

grandeur of a civilisation foreign from their own?" "They, quite as much as the Frenchman, cherish the hope of return to the home country. It is because, under vast dissimilarity of climate, soil, and productions, they can still recognise their own country, and can, without renouncing it, earn honours, wealth, and social advancement, that Englishmen find transplantation so easy."

The only remaining alternative, then, is to provide for this surplus energy such machinery as will employ it outside of and yet to the profit of the State. This, it is contended, Great Britain has done by her splendid galaxy of prosperous colonies. To the innumerable and unlimited channels which these, directly and indirectly, at home and abroad, open to the ambition of all classes, from the very highest to the lowest, she owes the practical contentment of her population, her internal tranquillity, and wonderful exemption from violent and sudden changes. The restless minds which, in other countries, are driven into wild schemes of universal equality, into the removal of all artificial barriers, "by which a certain number of privileged individuals are dispossessed but their places not multiplied,"—all these dangerous elements of society are here absorbed in the endless variety of pursuits which, by holding out greater promises, divert ambition from the profession of politics. The author thinks that a historical accident alone prevents France from enjoying to the full the same advantages. He even argues that as coloniser the Frenchman possesses a superiority over the Englishman in certain very essential attributes of character, and in proof he refers to the success which attended French colonisation in Canada and on the banks of the Mississippi, and to many well-known, though little understood, peculiarities, both mental and physical, of the French nation. But, about a century ago, at the very time when the importance of colonies was beginning to be felt, France lost by war and the carelessness of her statesmen, nearly the whole colonial empire she then possessed. Since then, the wars of the Revolution and the Empire have completed the work of "exclusion from the New World," and there is scarcely a place tempting to an adventurous disposition, where a Frenchman may go and yet remain a Frenchman.

Mexico appears to the author the country destined to repair this historical accident. Of all the lands opened by the discoveries of Vasco de Gama and Columbus, it is the one which from its favoured geographical situation, its Elysian climate and fabulous wealth, he would have elected had the world been free to his choice. That Mexico has already a numerous, though still sparse, population, is no disadvantage in his eye. France has no labouring population to spare; nor does he advocate emigration in its statistical sense, which "is a bloodletting that weakens the limbs without relieving the brain." He contends that Mexico needs precisely that which France is best able to give with reciprocal benefit, that "intellectual fecundation," that quickening and awakening of the torpid and almost extinct national life, for the want of which that country has sunk to its present abject condition. The whole thought is summarised in the expression that "Mexico can be to France what India is to England." We sincerely hope, in the interest of America and of the world, that it may be so; and if so intelligent and far-sighted an idea as that sketched in this little work has inspired and continues to guide the Mexican expedition, it *will* be so.

We have said enough of this remarkable production to show that it deserves not only perusal but study. All of the ideas are not absolutely new; some have frequently cropped out within late years in our periodical literature, but many of them have never to our knowledge been presented in such sharp and bold outlines. Apart from the interest of the Mexican question, it contains also much food for reflection on subjects of more general interest; but our object was not to write a review, though we are almost betrayed into one, and we content ourselves with culling two quotations, which can be applied as forcibly to the case of the Confederate States as to that for which they were intended. The first of these we commend to the attention of those who persuade themselves that they have no concern in the devastation of one of the most productive portions of the globe; the other to the English statesman who publicly declared that Great Britain would be for ever infamous if she obeyed, though in a strictly legitimate manner, the dictates of her own interests.

"To open new mines of wealth, new avenues of commerce, is to enrich, not one nation alone, but all. Were the productive energies of any one country permanently destroyed, the whole world would be the poorer for it. So if any important region of the globe is restored to the uses for which Providence designed it, all mankind shares in the gain."

. . . . . .

"Self-interest is the conscience of nations. The maxim may appear paradoxical to those who catch only at the superficial and loosely conventional meanings of words. Self-interest rightly understood—not the shortsighted egotism of narrow minds, but the comprehensive sagacity of a patriotic statesman—is never tempted by the delusion of a temporary advantage into wilful wrong to others. If each nation did truly and constantly appreciate its own best interests, there could never exist war nor the causes of war. But even in a restricted sense our maxim is true. So long as a nation pursues its own interests by legitimate means only, it adds as well to the happiness of all mankind, and its conscience is guided by a safer principal of action than the fitful impulses and abstract sentimentality—as often wrong as right—in the name of which such cruel injustice is often perpetrated."

The French Empire.

THERE is no counterpart in English history to the event that is just now engaging the attention of Europe—the return to the French Parliament of the leaders of parties under a bygone *régime*, the advent in the political arena of men who have been the avowed and generally recognised enemies of the reigning sovereign. William III. and his successors ruled in a certain sense as conquerors—that is, they treated a part of their subjects as no better than alien enemies, regarding them as the early Norman kings did the Saxon thanes. For the adherents, or reputed adherents, of the exiled house there was no forgiveness, and the political sins of the fathers were visited upon the children by a rigid exclusion from Court and public life. Country gentlemen sometimes drank to the health of "the king over the water," but when such a toast was proposed they took good heed that none but the faithful were within earshot, well knowing that, if they openly expressed any sentiment of disloyalty, the Bill of Rights would not save them from exile or their lands from forfeiture. Possibly Walpole coquetted with James, and undoubtedly Bolingbroke carried on a traitorous correspondence with the mimic Court at St. Germain; but it must be remembered that these were secret machinations, that in Parliament neither Walpole nor Bolingbroke ever dared to throw off the mask of devoted loyalty to the *de facto* monarch, that Anne herself was known to be somewhat partial to the claims of her brother, and that at any moment the Pretender could by renouncing the Roman Catholic faith, have made his return to St. James's tolerably certain. This exceeding jealousy may or may not have been wise and necessary, but it unquestionably presents a marked contrast to the policy of the present Emperor of the French. If Napoleon III. had said to the former opponents of his dynasty, "Between us there is a great and impassable gulf, and therefore, I cannot consent to your reappearance in public life, but between my child and your children there is no enmity and there will be no exclusion," he would have displayed more magnanimity than did even the House of Brunswick. But he has done far more than that. After the lapse of only fifteen years he permits these very opponents to sit in the legislature and to criticise the acts of his government. No wonder Europe, and especially England, should watch the debates in the French Chambers with eager curiosity. It is not that imperialism, or even representative government is on its trial, but the issue involved is, whether the spirit of patriotism is strong enough to subdue the spirit of faction, or whether generations must pass away before the political union of the whole nation can be consummated.

The conduct of M. Thiers and his friends is not reassuring. It would be unjust to charge those gentlemen with being false, even in thought, to the oath of allegiance they have so lately, so deliberately, and so solemnly taken; but, on the other hand, it cannot be denied that their demeanour in the Chambers has delighted the enemies of the Empire, and stimulated the flagging hopes of the professional revolutionists of all nationalities, whose occupation has been almost gone during the last fifteen years. Is there any real danger of the Empire suffering from the generous policy of the Emperor? Ought anyone out of France wish to see the Imperial Government seriously embarrassed by the Opposition? The best way to answer such questions is to glance at what the Empire has done for France, and what has been its influence on Europe.

In 1848 the condition of France was deplorable. In every department of the Government and in the highest ranks of society there was rottenness and corruption. The king cared for nothing but the aggrandisement of his family and investing in foreign funds; the Chambers were filled with placemen and pensioners, murder and defalcation disgraced noble families and public functionaries. Of course the whole country suffered. Commerce was crippled, industry languished, and there were no signs of internal improvement. Paris was surrounded by fortifications, and the army was kept in tolerable strength for the protection of the king, and to give employment to the king's sons in Algeria, but the marine was grossly neglected. Never had France sunk so low in the scale of nations. Europe ceased to care for her policy, and men pointed to her condition as the inevitable, though tardy, result of former revolutions, and as the sure indication of accelerating degeneracy.

What a change has been brought about since 1848! The French have become a commercial people, and were never richer or more prosperous than they are at present. Paris has become a veritable City of Palaces, Cherbourg has been completed, the country has been covered with a network of railways, and all classes of the community are better off than formerly. The military glory of France has been not only sustained but magnified. In the Crimea, and at Solferino and Magenta, the French troops gained laurels that may vie with any that were won by their forefathers. The navy has been reorganised and put on a footing that entitles France to respect as a great maritime Power. Side by side with England France has made her influence felt in China. In Mexico, under very unfavourable circumstances, the French have won an empire for the Archduke Maximilian and opened a rich country to the commerce of the world. The result is natural and palpable. France again takes the lead in Europe, in all difficulties our eyes are turned to Paris, and Napoleon is saluted as the arbiter of peace or war. The Emperor has evinced more friendliness though he has not done more for the Confederates than England; yet, in spite of that and his Mexican expedition, he has maintained good relations with Washington without any cringing or subserviency. In a word the empire has made France prosperous at home and powerful abroad. Let us now see what it has done for Europe; looking at this part of the subject through our English spectacles.

Turkey is no longer in danger of becoming a province of Russia, and Russia is no longer a terror to Europe. To what is this due, if not to the armed alliance between England and France—an alliance which could alone defeat the designs of the Czar, and which it is reasonable the Czar should have refused to believe in. Then turn to the South. Year after year the wrongs of Italy had been the theme of conversation, but no one imagined that a Kingdom of Italy was more than an enthusiast's dream. Thanks to the aid of France the Kingdom of Italy is in existence. And when had England a more faithful ally than Napoleon III.? When we have been willing to fight he has fought with us; when we have refused to take action, as in the cases of America and Poland, the Emperor has submitted to our decision. For years it was the fashion to abuse him in this country, but his only retaliation has been to grant the English ingress and egress to his dominions without passports, and at our instigation to inaugurate a policy of free trade, notwithstanding the prejudices of a powerful minority of his people, and for this he is now being condemned by the *liberal* Opposition. We are aware that the downfall of the Empire would make England supreme in Europe, and that France would have to play second fiddle; but though we are anxious that our Government should enact a part worthy of our greatness, we do not think it desirable that we should recover the influence lost through an imbecile policy by the misfortune of our most potent and trustworthy ally. *L'Empire c'est la paix* is a truism, notwithstanding the wars of the Empire; for without the Empire wars would be more frequent, more dangerous, and more lasting. We should then, for these and many other reasons, regret unfeignedly the prospect of the Opposition in the French Chambers being able to seriously embarrass the Imperial Government.

We submit there is no such prospect, and that the hopes of Mazzini, Garibaldi, Kossuth, and other firebrands are doomed to disappointment. The Revolutions of '78, of July, and of 1848 were the consequence of the misery of the country and the corruption of the governments. People who are prosperous, and who see their national prowess respected and triumphant, are not ripe for change, and are not likely to become the tools of demagogues; nor are people disposed to be discontented with a government which, so far from encroaching on the popular rights, is continually making concessions to popular liberty. Moreover the Emperor is vigilant. Like Cæsar, he holds out the right hand to his one-time enemies, but, unlike Cæsar, he does not despise omens. When the days of the Monarchy of July were numbered, on the very eve of the abdication of the regency of an hour, of the ignominious flight of Louis Philippe, a member of the then Opposition spoke of barricades, and M. Guizot laughed immoderately. Now, when, if there is danger it is exceedingly remote, the Emperor tells us that he is prepared for it by observing that he is astonished "to see at so short an interval men hardly escaped from shipwreck

summon once more the winds and tempests to their aid," and bring them [illegible] he will be on the shed [illegible] the [illegible] of the State [illegible] [illegible] M. Thiers and his friends [illegible] the Emperor's policy [illegible] the progress of [illegible] which will enable France to enjoy the [illegible] of free [illegible] and [illegible] place the prosperity and glory of the country on a still firmer and surer foundation.

THE QUARTERLY REVIEWS.

[illegible]

before the question of the succession arose. That question is [illegible] and disposed of by the reviewer. It appears—

1st. That the title of Christian IX. to Denmark and Lauenburg is beyond dispute.

2nd. That if the Danish law of succession obtains in Holstein and Sleswig, he is also lawful duke of those provinces.

3rd. That if not, the rights of Russia to a great part of these duchies, renounced only in favour of the present Danish line of succession, and after the Augustenburg family had branched off the stem, are revived; so that in no case can the pretender of Augustenburg be heir to the whole of the duchies.

4th. That the pretender's father renounced all claims he might have, for himself and for his family; that he was paid £400,000 for that renunciation; and that his son, for six years, acquiesced therein.

The [illegible] is at once exhaustive and conclusive; and is, in fact, by far the best and completest history of this mysterious quarrel that has yet been written. It will be observed that the Danish case is always clear and simple, all perplexity and mystery hangs about, and is introduced by, the claims of Germany.

The review contains a somewhat too long, but very instructive article on China; an excellent review of Forsyth's "Life of Cicero," worthy the attention of all scholars—indeed, of all men who have enjoyed a classical education; a just though severe critique of Hawthorne's [illegible] and unmanly volumes, which are well contrasted with Emerson's "English Traits;" an account of Captain Speke's discoveries, an article on Eels; another on Guns and Armour Plates, and one on "Rome in the Middle Ages"—all marked by the usual excellence of the *Quarterly*.

The *National Review* has also a very sensible political article on the state of Europe; which, in its sobriety of tone and thoughtfulness of mind contrasts wonderfully with some other papers in this same number. No one who knows the writer's hand can mistake it; and those who belong to the same school of political thought will be grateful for the ablest and completest delineation of the character of Napoleon III. which is here afforded them. We do not wholly agree with the writer; we think him biassed by Orleanist prejudices, and disposed to censure the Emperor unfairly for not giving to France institutions which she neither desires nor deserves; but we recognise in his description of the greatest and most misconceived man of this generation an intention to do justice, an intelligent perception of the position and difficulties of a French ruler, an appreciation of exceptional natures, and a painstaking scrutiny, which have not generally distinguished the utterances of English Liberals, whether adulators or enemies of the Emperor. In his estimate of the good qualities of Napoleon III., we think him just, though cold. He admits

[illegible]

The *Edinburgh* has an [illegible] article on the Negro Race in America, which [illegible] the reader that the statements offered are in some degree questionable; but the [illegible] author was dealing with admitted facts and [illegible] whereas in truth few of his statements are [illegible] and completely [illegible] of the [illegible] F. Douglass, and their [illegible]. To show how far the writer's dishonesty extends, we need merely observe the following points:—

That he speaks invariably of the admission of negroes to colleges and to civil privileges in the "Free States" generally, when the truth is such privileges were accorded [illegible] only in Massachusetts, or in one or two other Northern States.

That he repeats all the exploded falsehoods about the ill treatment of negroes in the South, without ever hinting at contradiction or refutation.

That he tells stories out of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," as if they were grave historical facts.

That he never refers to the fact that heavy penalties are imposed, in many or most of the Free States, on the introduction of negroes.

That he speaks of "considerable importations of Africans," the fact being that not 100 have been landed in the South since 1808.

That he speaks in general terms of the heroic exploits of the negro "soldiery"; without mentioning even such remarkable achievements as the burning of Darien or the massacre at Beckham's Landing.

That he omits to note, and by implication denies, that the Confederates thoroughly rely on the fidelity of their coloured camp followers; and that many of these have rendered eminent service as spies; insomuch that the best Northern generals were at last compelled to exclude "contrabands" from the camp.

Of course the opinions and predictions of such a writer are below notice or contradiction. An article like this, which might have been written by H. W. Beecher or the Rev. Baptist Noel, will not tend to retrieve the reputation of the *Edinburgh*. Some of its other articles are [illegible]—particularly one on the last volume of Mr. Merivale's "History of the Roman Empire." But generally it is the dullest of all the reviews.

The *Westminster* has an article on "Parliamentary Parties," which is distinguished by its remarkable want of taste, judgment, and truth. It recognises no man of real merit on either side except Messrs. Bright and Cobden. It praises Mr. Forster—who is as much superior in practical [illegible] to Mr. Bright, as Mr. Bright to Mr. Peter Taylor—in one contemptuous sentence. It sneers at Lord Palmerston, and depreciates Mr. Gladstone. It speaks with an affectation of angry contempt of Lord Robert Cecil, the ablest and most thoughtful of our young statesmen; it will allow no sort of merit or capacity to any of the Conservative leaders; in fact, it is the work of a violent partisan, ignorant of men, careless of decency, and regardless of truth. The review contains an intelligent article on Russia, and an intelligible one on the Tunnel under Mount Cenis; the rest are hardly worth the trouble of perusal.

The *Home and Foreign Review* has three articles of a political bearing. It reviews Mr. Gladstone's financial [illegible] in a decidedly favourable sense, but to our infinite surprise, it reverses the verdict of public opinion by [illegible] the French Treaty, and [illegible] the speech against [illegible] institutions which provoked so much censure, and has done so much to injure Mr. Gladstone's political credit. The article on Courts Martial gives a good and clear account of the constitution and character of these courts, and sums up against them. The article on Sleswig-Holstein is written by a violent partisan of Germany. We need not trouble our readers with any detailed examination of its statements. The

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

"The Wife's Evidence"† is a novel [illegible]

[illegible] my son to God's mercy than your Honour's [illegible] in the

* A Personal Narrative of Thirteen Years' Service in Khondistan for the Suppression of Human Sacrifices. By Major-General John Campbell, C.B. Hurst and Blackett.

† The Wife's Evidence. By W. G. Wills. Hurst and Blackett.

mercy o' the Whigs." The tenth would probably be as malignant as conscientious. Be it remembered that if husband and wife be allowed to testify at all, they must be compellable to testify alike for or against each other; and the experience of police courts, where women are allowed to prove ill-usage against their husbands, and that of the divorce court, where they give evidence as to cruelty, conclusively prove that this would open the door to infinite abuses. We see no reason, even after reading Mr. Wells' three volumes, to desire an alteration of the law which excludes such evidence. It is a balance of evils; and the evil of the existing law appears to us far less than that which its repeal would inflict upon us.

Lady Hornby's "Constantinople"† is very pleasant reading. It relates the experiences of an English lady whose husband's official duties took him to Stamboul in 1855, when the city and its suburbs were crowded with French and English soldiers; the comical miseries of a domestic establishment set up, under such circumstances, in a foreign land; the plague of neighbours and of servants, and so forth. It tells, too, very graphically, of several visits to Turkish harems, which afforded the writer much amusement. She seems to have formed a favourable impression of the Turkish women, whom she describes as exceedingly kind and gentle, but who do not seem, according to the evidence which she gathered from others, to be remarkable either for modesty or for fidelity. Of the state of society and politics in Turkey she expresses the most unfavourable judgment we remember to have read. The poor Turk, she says, is a fine, honest, manly creature; the rich Turk is almost invariably a degraded, swindling, sensual scoundrel. Everybody lies, cheats, and pilfers; punishment is rare, and justice all but unknown; and the Sultan, with absolute power and the best intentions, is unable to do anything for the reform of his administration or the relief of his people. Such is the universality of villany that to dismiss one tyrant or robber from office is only to introduce in his stead a hungrier ruffian of the same sort. The scenery is lovely, and the climate pleasant, though variable; but everything that bears human shape in Turkey seems to be either pitiable or loathsome. We cannot but think that the picture is somewhat over-coloured, but the book is well worth reading.

"The Man of the Hour"‡ is a novel whose hero is found in gaol as a fraudulent bankrupt at the beginning of the first volume, and leaves the country at the close of the second, after having made and lost an enormous fortune in the interim. Half a swindler and altogether a humbug—such is the typical man of the present day, according to this author's estimate. "Uncle Crotty's Relations"* is promising, but disappointing. "Hard Cash"† is a very good and readable novel of its kind; sensational and improbable in the extreme, but not dependent for its interest on its improbabilities. Its chief feature is the imprisonment of a sane man in a lunatic asylum: a thing which some silly keeper of one of those establishments furiously affirmed to be impossible; thereby eliciting proofs that the impossibility had happened in half a dozen cases personally known to the author. Our law on this subject is in a disgraceful state, it being in the power of any two medical men—who may be scoundrels and are often grossly careless—to lock up for life any husband of whom a wife wishes to be rid, any landowner whose heir-at-law is impatient for his estate, or generally any one whom his or her near relatives wish out of the way. Once in a lunatic asylum, there is practically no chance of escape, if the proprietor—as of course will always be the case—is an accomplice of the fraud. Charles Reade has done good service by pointing out this state of things in a manner calculated to draw public attention forcibly to its iniquities; but we entertain no sanguine hopes of any amendment of the law.

"The Wars of Wapsburg"‡ is a pretty but flimsy little Christmas tale, of which the secret is a wasp's nest and the heroine the builder and queen thereof. We fancy that most children will vote it very dull; the art which it displays requiring a matured taste for its appreciation, the deception being transparent, and the incidents uninteresting.

Messrs. Saunders and Otley have published, in pamphlet form, a very clever reply§ to Professor Goldwin Smith on the sanction of slavery by the laws of the Old Testament. We took occasion, in dealing with the Professor's argument, to show that he had in reality directed his efforts to prove not that the Bible forbade, but that it did not enjoin slavery; not that it did not permit men to "hire their servants for life," but that it did not command them to do so. The author of the very thoughtful and ingenious brochure before us shows something more. He turns the tables on Mr. Goldwin Smith by a reference to the New Testament, showing in what esteem slavery was held by the Founder of Christianity and by his Apostles, as compared with that of the hireling. It is only just to give this very striking argument in his own words:—

"It is a fact, surely not altogether without significance, that not only is the relation of master and slave—or 'servant' as we translate it—so continually referred to in our Lord's parables, without any word of reprobation, but that it is under the figure of a slaveholder that our Lord Himself is frequently depicted. Nay, more. This very relation is used by St. Paul to illustrate the relation in which He stands toward ourselves. "We are 'not our own, but *bought with a price*.' Not ransomed and set free, but *bought*. The property in us, which, by right of our sin, had belonged to Satan, transferred by right of purchase to God. And, *therefore*, we are bidden to glorify God in our bodies, and in our spirits, 'which are God's.' Surely it is somewhat hazardous to assume that a relation thus plainly, and without qualification, set forth as illustrating the position of the Almighty, can be of itself essentially evil! "We turn from the Bible estimate of the relation of master and slave, to examine the Bible estimate of the relation of the master and his free or hired servant. And here, too, even more, perhaps, than in the former case, do His ways seem strangely at variance with our ways, and His thoughts with our thoughts. Shut out by the Mosaic law from that participation in the great rite of family worship to which the slave was expressly, and *by reason of his slavehood*, admitted, the 'hireling' occupies in the New Testament a position of equally little honour. If a faithful and good servant is to be depicted, he is selected, as a matter of course, from among his master's slaves. If we are to have placed before us, for contrast's sake, the lowest class of all in mortals and in social position, this helot's place is filled by the 'hireling,' not the slave. 'How many *hired servants* of my father have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger.' 'The hireling fleeth *because he is an hireling* and careth not for the sheep."

With great force and justice, the writer calls attention to the Professor's disingenuousness in alleging that the Southern system of slavery sanctions and involves certain iniquities which it in most cases forbids, and which it in no case encourages; and remarks, that the description given by Mr. Smith of patriarchal slavery is, in substance and principle, applicable to slavery as it exists in the Southern States of America. The following passage contains a sarcasm which Mr. Goldwin Smith ought to feel, if he be not insensible alike to shame and to ridicule:—

"'In America,' say you (p. 40) 'the slave is made a Christian in a sense of which we may have more to say hereafter; but practically he can scarcely be said to belong to the same Church any more than to the same State with his master. He sometimes sits in a separate part of the same place of worship, and receives the Communion separately from the same hands;' and again (*Ibid.*) 'Mr. Olmsted says, that 'though family prayers were held in several of the fifty planters' houses in Mississippi and Alabama, in which he passed a night, he never in a single instance saw a field-hand attend, or join in the devotion of the family.' What an outrage on our Christian feelings would it not be were the poor farm labourer to sit 'in a separate part' of his parish church, or kneel anywhere but between his master and his mistress at the altar rails! How shocked would you yourself be, on a visit to some large country house, to find that the ploughman and the cartboy did not come in to family prayers!"

† Constantinople during the Crimean War. By Lady Hornby. R. Bentley.
‡ The Man of the Hour. By Alfred Gladstone. T. C. Newby.
* Uncle Crotty's Relations. By Herbert Glyn. Smith, Elder, and Co.
† Hard Cash. By Charles Reade. Sampson, Low, and Co.
‡ The Wars of Wapsburg. By the Author of "The Heir of Redclyffe." Groombridge and Sons.
§ A Brief Reply to an Important Question; being a Letter to Professor Goldwin Smith, from an Impnest Believer in Holy Scripture. Saunders, Otley, and Co.

THE LIVERPOOL ENLISTMENT CASE.

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

SIR,—If we may believe the hired witnesses of the Federal Consul at Liverpool, it appears that the Confederates have engaged some British subjects for their cruisers. I confess I am not greatly surprised to hear this because the Confederates were once in union with the Federals and learnt some of their habits and customs, and perhaps amongst others that of engaging British seamen for their navy. At this present moment there is a considerable number of our seamen doing duty in Federal war vessels. However, it is not my present purpose to defend the breach of law of the Confederates—that is, by supposing the hired witnesses are truthful and that the acts they allege against the Confederates are a breach of law—but I wish to call your attention to a few details of the affair that jar awfully against what Englishmen consider fair play.

It is an old maxim in our law courts that he who seeks equity must do equity, or, in other words, before a man can testify to the mote in the eye of an opponent he must first get rid of the beam in his own eye. Now the prosecution before the Liverpool magistrates in reference to the engagement of some men for the *Japan* or *Georgia*, though nominally conducted in the name of the Crown, was in reality the work of the Federal Government. It is the misfortune of the nobleman who directs our Foreign Office to play the part of Federal spy in America, and of tool to Federal spies in England. The Federal agents procured the witnesses, and paid them £1 19s. 4d. per week each man for "talking and making statements"—why do not the Federal agents go into the open market, seeing that they would get any amount of talking and any statements they think proper for half the money they now pay?—and it was the American Consul who was "very kind" to these witnesses.

Do you think, sir, that Earl Russell ever reads newspapers, or parliamentary papers, or official reports, or documents of any kind? And supposing his lordship does read, do you think his memory has not clean gone? You will see, sir, that this is a matter that rather concerns Earl Russell's reputation. Suppose he does read anything beside his own voluminous, numerous, and extraordinary despatches, and that memory has not quite forsaken his lordship's "distracted orb," I respectfully submit that he has a little soiled his ermine and somewhat violated the honour of England in being so ready to allow our Government to become the dirty-work attorney of the jocular Lincoln, the veracious Seward, and the honest Chase.

When the Emancipation Society, or Mr. Randolph C. Young, or the ex-agent of the Rajah of Sattara, or the Hon. Robert, wrote to Earl Russell that the wicked rebels had most atrociously violated the provisions of the British Foreign Enlistment Act, and that three highly credible witnesses—that is, men who, according to their own story, are deserters from the Confederate service, and who are receiving from the Federals £1 19s. 4d. per week each for "talking and making statements," and to whom the Federal Consul is "very kind"—were willing to do all the swearing that was necessary for a conviction, it occurs to me that Earl Russell ought to have reflected that the men who clamoured for justice were themselves guilty of the very offence they protest against. Should not the noble lord have simultaneously ordered the law officers of Ireland to put an end to Federal recruiting in that country? Certainly his lordship may reply that the Confederates do not make out a case. I grant it. I grant that the Confederates are not good at getting up a case. They can fight and tell the truth, but they cannot spy and lie. But does not my Lord Russell know that there is Federal recruiting in Ireland? Of course he knows it. He is necessarily aware how largely the armies of the North have been recruited by Irish immigrants who have been engaged to make imaginary railways, and who have crossed the Atlantic at the cost of the Federal Government. Perhaps his lordship may reply, he cannot move until he is furnished with all legal documents and the informer's report; but it is the business of the English Government, not of the Confederates, to see that our municipal laws are not violated.

And to come from the Federal recruiting in Ireland to a more analogous case, I wonder if his lordship ever heard of the Federal war-sloop *Kearsage*? This vessel shipped some British tars and afterwards landed them on the British coast dressed in Federal uniform. The English public do not forget this circumstance, and I hear very strong expressions of disgust at the impudence of the Yankees in respect to the Liverpool prosecution. Nor, is the mode of getting up the case creditable. What may be the opinion in New England, where no man does anything except for money, I know not; but in this country we hold that a hired witness is rather worse than a hired voter. The Federal agent induced one of the witnesses to take £3 for the purpose of rejoining the Confederate vessel. According to English law it is an offence to trap a man into the commission of a breach of the law. But I suppose we must be kind to the Federals and get rid of all foolish notions of honest dealing.

I do not think this prosecution will do the Confederate cause any harm, and so far I do not regret it; but I wish we could put an end to the Federal spy system in England, and that the English Government would cease to act as dirty-work attorney to Federal agents. You see, sir, I am not such an ardent Liberal as the readers of a certain "Bright and *peculiar* Star," and I am old-fashioned enough not to like to see the honour of England prostituted by subserviency to the Yankees.

I am, &c.,

LONDON, January 19. E. Q. V.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

(*From our Own Correspondent.*)

NEW YORK, January 5.

CONGRESS assembles to-day, after the Christmas recess. The members have been mixing a good deal of miscellaneous politics with their holiday amusements, consulting their constituents, as the phrase is; but, in fact, fixing up the little springs which work the local machinery for manufacturing public opinion on the presidential question, and go back to Washington to set the greater wheels in motion there. Everything, in politics and legislation, war and finance, turns now by some crank, turned by a hand engaged in the making of a president.

The first legislative business taken up will be proposed amendments to the Confiscation Act. In expectation of that, it is understood that the draft, ordered to commence to-day will be deferred to the 15th at least. It is nearly certain that the two amendments will be adopted. The two classes will be consolidated, so that the draft made from all able-bodied men, between twenty and forty-five, and the commutation clause will be struck out. Every drafted man must then serve in person or furnish a substitute at his own cost.

The failure of all means of raising recruits, except by absolute compulsion, has demonstrated that if the war be popular, fighting is not. There is a loud call every day from some quarter for a vigorous prosecution of the war, and the crushing out of the rebellion, but nobody seems willing to do the work in his own person, without something more solid than the sense of duty or the zeal of a patriot. Volunteering died out long ago. Bounties were tried with some success for awhile; they were constantly raised, as the supply of mercenaries grew short, and they failed. The importation of foreigners did not keep up the stock, and the home material had to be taken by force—"impressed," as they would say here if it were a question of taking seamen by the same means to the navy of England—one of the obsolete practices, which have long furnished the staple for American depreciation of Old England, as a place in which poor men cannot live and be free. The first conscription had loop-holes, through which escape was so easy that that mode of raising troops was a failure. Then resort was had to the bounty system, and enormous premiums offered, with the warning that if these did not bring the patriots in to fight for the bleeding country, bounties should cease after a given day, and Government would take by force at its own price what numbers it might want. A little stimulus was thus given to recruiting That which the poor man could not be enticed or bribed to do, while he had the option of refusal or the chance of escape, he sometimes consented to do, and took the blood-money, because he could not help himself. But this has failed again. Not more than a fourth of the 300,000 men required by the President's last call has been obtained. Another fourth is estimated to be furnished from re-enlistments of men in service whose term is expiring. 150,000 men must therefore be taken by draft from the unwilling mass who have been stubbornly deaf to the animated calls upon them to "go" to the battle-field made by mouthing patriots, who vociferously pledge the last dollar which any body has and the last drop of every body's blood but their own to the prosecution of the war, while they stay at home at ease and expect to have the work done with the profit they are making out of the public calamity. The law will doubtless be amended to suit their purposes, and to make escape from military service impossible to any man who cannot buy a substitute at a price which would buy his family a homestead.

It is a sad proof of the degeneracy of the republic that after three years of mighty effort to force back into subjugation 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 of free-born Americans, who had withdrawn from a Government in which they had ceased to have confidence, it begins the fourth year with the need for 1,000,000 of soldiers, not fighting willingly for a cause because they love it, but because power they cannot resist and necessities that master them will constrain them to fight for the destruction of the right of another people to make free governments for themselves. It is a land-mark in the rapid progress of this people into the worst habits of the despotisms of the Old World, with which they have so long been in the vainglorious habit of contrasting themselves as the only people on the face of the earth ruled happily and peacefully with "the consent of the governed."

The conscription law being disposed of and the military power secured, the policy of the dominant party for the perpetuating of its power will be speedily developed. The plans for that purpose, which are simultaneously advanced, as if by

Bishop Hughes came to this country in 1826 and in his boyhood was a gardener's boy. In this capacity he served in the Catholic seminary at Emmitsburg, Md. There, where he commenced his studies for the priesthood, where he was ordained priest, and where he became a professor, he was a resident of Pennsylvania, and it was while in that State that he established a great reputation among the Germans for learning, eloquence, and the talents of rare discretion as a controversialist. He had public discussions with Dr. Breckenridge, a very distinguished Presbyterian preacher, on the questions of controversy between the Catholics and the Protestants. He was also engaged in a controversy with Governor Ritner, of Pennsylvania, in relation to the common school system of that State, and has always remained prominent in the public eye. He used to say that the debates between himself and Dr. Breckenridge did more to spread the doctrines of the Catholic religion, of its beliefs and practices, than all that had preceded them. He used to say that the debates between himself and Governor Ritner did more to spread a knowledge of the Catholic religion, of its beliefs and practices, than all that had preceded them. He used to say that the debates between himself and Governor Ritner did more to spread a knowledge of the Catholic religion, of its beliefs and practices, than all that had preceded them.

The weather is extremely cold, and the snow storms at the West have been very severe and are still raging. The railroad blockade of the Southern States is also reported as almost complete. What there is to be gained for the cause of the rebellion by preventing provisions from reaching Northern cities, it is difficult to see. It is a war upon the people, and will be so regarded by them. It will only serve to make them more determined to crush the rebellion. The Northern people will not starve, and they will not be driven from the contest by any such means. Their patriotism will rise above all such considerations. Still, in the interests of humanity, it is to be hoped that the railroads will soon be opened, and that the Southern people will not be compelled to suffer from the want of the necessaries of life. The Richmond papers are very much exercised about the matter, and are trying to make political capital out of it. They say that the Northern people are starving the Southern people to death, and that they are doing it for the purpose of subjugating them. They say that the Northern people are starving the Southern people to death, and that they are doing it for the purpose of subjugating them. They say that the Northern people are starving the Southern people to death, and that they are doing it for the purpose of subjugating them.

THE CIVIL STRUGGLE AND THE SOUTHERN PEOPLE.

The contrast of sentiments that now exists between the leaders of the rebellion and the people of the South is very striking, and their position is one of great embarrassment. The ruling class of aristocrats in the South have been carrying on the war for the purpose of establishing a government of their own, in which they could have full control of the affairs of the country, and of the people. They have been carrying on the war for the purpose of establishing a government of their own, in which they could have full control of the affairs of the country, and of the people. They have been carrying on the war for the purpose of establishing a government of their own, in which they could have full control of the affairs of the country, and of the people.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

THE MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKETS.

the bar silver brought by the last Indian packet, which is suitable for India, has been sold at $62\frac{3}{8}$d. per oz., being an advance of $\frac{3}{8}$d. on the price obtained for the previous arrival. And some large amounts have been purchased at $62\frac{1}{2}$d. per oz. Mexican dollars continue very firm. The ships on their way from Australia, are the *Suffolk*, with £115,500; the *Water Nymph* with £56,000; and the *Omar Pacha* with £71,000. In addition to these the *City of Manchester* and the *Harmonia* from New York will bring £228,000.

TENDERS FOR BILLS ON INDIA.

The biddings for 40,00,000 rupees in bills on India took place to day at the Bank of England. The proportions allotted were, to Calcutta, 21,10,000 rupees; to Bombay, 17,00,000 rupees; and to Madras, 2,00,000 rupees. The minimum price declared was as before—1s. $11\frac{1}{2}$d. per rupee on Calcutta and Madras, and 1s. $11\frac{5}{8}$d. on Bombay. The applications within the limits amounted to 247 lacs. Tenders on Calcutta at 2s. $\frac{1}{8}$d., and upwards will receive in full, and nothing will be allotted at lower rates; those on Bombay at 2s. $\frac{1}{4}$d. will receive about 9 per cent., on Madras at 2s. $\frac{1}{8}$d., about 42 per cent., and all above these prices in full.

THE CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market for this security has undergone a considerable change since our last. A sudden movement brought the price up to 48, then again large sales caused a reaction to 44, 46, and the market has again receded to 42 to 44, with a healthy market. The advance was caused principally by the purchases of "bears," who were anxious to close their operations, partly also by the purchase of the public in anticipation of the approaching dividend—and drawing of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.—of the amount of the loan. The formation of several blockade-running companies to bring out cotton under the loan has given an additional impulse to dealings.

THE NEW FRENCH LOAN.

The particulars of the new French Loan for £12,000,000 sterling have been published in the *Moniteur*. The public subscriptions are to remain open from the 18th to the 25th of January. The issue price is 66f. 30c., and interest will be reckoned from the 1st January. Subscriptions of 6f. rente will not be subject to reduction. One-tenth of the amount taken is to be paid at the time of subscription, and the remainder in ten equal instalments on the 21st of each month. A bonus of 4 per cent. will be allowed on all instalments paid in advance.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

Business in the English Stock Market has been exceedingly depressed throughout the week. The very unsatisfactory state of affairs with regard to the Danish question, the large withdrawals of gold, to the extent of nearly three-quarters of a million sterling, from the Bank of England, and the continued drain of specie from the Bank of France, have naturally caused considerable uneasiness amongst the dealers, and with the certainty of money becoming dearer under the circumstances, has not only caused a considerable diminution in the amount of dealings, but also a corresponding decline in prices. Soon after the opening this morning Consols declined $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. and when it was announced that the bank directors had put up the rate a further fall of $\frac{1}{8}$ took place, the final quotation being $90\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ for money, and $90\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ for the account, which is a decline of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. since this day week. Exchequer Bills are also heavy, being again down to 6s. to 1s. dis. The Foreign Stock Market has also been much depressed, in a few of the fancy stocks there has been a little speculation, but in other descriptions there has been very little doing, and prices generally have declined. Greek stock is down to 21 to $21\frac{1}{2}$, being a fall of 2 per cent.; Mexican has receded to $34\frac{3}{8}$ to $34\frac{5}{8}$, or a decline of $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. Spanish are comparatively steady, the Passives closing at 33 to $33\frac{1}{4}$; and the Certificates at $13\frac{1}{4}$ to $13\frac{1}{2}$; Turkish Six per Cents (1854) are down to $88\frac{1}{2}$ to $89\frac{1}{2}$, and those of 1862 to $66\frac{1}{4}$ to $66\frac{3}{4}$.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The transactions in American Government and railway Securities have been on a very limited scale indeed, and the general tendency of prices is heavy. The only dealings recorded being Virginian State Six per Cents. at $32\frac{1}{4}$ and $32\frac{1}{2}$; Atlantic and Great Western Railway New York Section, 76, 75, and 76.; Ditto ditto, Pennsylvanian, ditto, 78. Illinois Central Six per Cents. $84\frac{1}{2}$.; Ditto ditto, Seven per Cents., 72.; Ditto ditto, $100 Shares, $90 paid, 25 and $24\frac{1}{4}$ discount, and ditto ditto, all paid, $70\frac{1}{2}$.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

The railway share market has exhibited rather more animation; the dealings have been extensive, and the decline in prices has been comparatively less than in any of the other departments. There has, however, to-day been a little more heaviness with a further downward tendency in quotations. As compared with last week there has been a decline in Brightons of 3 per cent. caused by the announcement of a reduction in the forthcoming dividend. Midland and North Eastern (York) have receded from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 per cent. Caledonian, Great Eastern, Lancashire and Yorkshire, London and North-Western, Sheffield, Metropolitan, and North-Eastern (Leeds) have declined from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and Great Western and North-Eastern (Berwick) from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. The only improvement has been in North British and South Eastern, which are $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. better. In foreign railway shares, there has been a steady business doing, but limited, and for shares in British possessions, although the dealings have not been extensive, fair prices have been obtained.

BANK MEETINGS.

At the half-yearly meeting of the City Bank, Mr. P. Bell in the chair, a dividend and bonus equal to 12 per cent. per annum, both free of income-tax, were declared. The reserve fund now amounts to £130,000, and the directors consider the time has arrived to take into consideration the expediency of allowing it to accumulate at compound interest. The chairman stated that the earnings of the six months were considered in excess of those of any previous period, although high rates of interest had only recently come into operation, they being at the rate of no less than 17 per cent. per annum. The accounts altogether were regarded as satisfactory, and the report was unanimously adopted.—At the half-yearly meeting of the Imperial Bank, Mr. Dickson in the chair, a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum was recommended, which would absorb about £5,000, and that £3,000 be appropriated to a reserve fund, and the balance, £1,613, be carried to the credit of profit and loss account. The chairman stated that the gross profit for the last half-year amounted to £20,227, being an increase of nearly 60 per cent. upon the profits of the previous half-year. The bank had been admitted to the clearing house, and in consequence had received a number of additional accounts. A reserve fund would be established, because the directors thought that it would give the public more confidence. The report was unanimously adopted and the dividend agreed to.—At an extraordinary meeting of the proprietors of the Bank of Hindustan, China, and Japan, a resolution was agreed to authorising the issue of £1,000,000 new capital, in 10,000 shares at £2 premium per share; 8,000 shares to be allotted among the shareholders at the rate of four shares for every five shares previously held, and 2,000 shares to be reserved for distribution by the directors.—At the ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the London and South Western Bank a balance-sheet was read, showing an available balance of £1,910, which would enable the directors to declare a dividend equal to about 9 per cent. per annum, but they recommend that the amount should be carried forward to the next half-year. The gross profits amounted to £4,214, and the report showed that the branches opened had worked most successfully. The report was adopted, and the recommendation of the directors agreed to.—A private meeting has been held of the shareholders in the Unity and London and Middlesex Banks, to discuss the necessary steps to get the directors to convene a general meeting, and generally with a view to extract additional information respecting the position of the affairs of these concerns, now in course of winding-up. After some discussion it was eventually resolved "That as the directors of the Unity Bank have so long and unnecessarily delayed the publication of its affairs and the distribution of the assets, a public meeting be convened on the 2nd July next at the Guildhall Hotel, and that notice be given to the directors to produce the separate ledger of the Unity Bank which is stated to contain all the transactions since the London and Middlesex Bank has been acting as the Unity's bankers; and also any further information they may possess respecting the bank and its affairs. The discussion had also reference to the loans which the directors of the London and Middlesex Bank are stated to have had, and to other large and irregular transactions.—At the Annual General Meeting of the London and Westminster Bank, held this afternoon, the report presented stated that, after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, paying the income tax, setting apart £2,000 towards the building of the bank, and presenting a gratuity of 10 per cent. on their salaries to all the officers of the establishment—the net profits for the half year would amount to £147,815. This sum, added to £27,759, the unappropriated balance of the previous half year, would amount to £175,575. Out of this amount interest on the rest or surplus fund at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum had been added to such fund, which now amounted to £275,953. The directors declared a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum and a bonus of 12 per cent. on the paid-up capital. After these payments had been made there would remain a balance of £18,844, to be carried to profit and loss account for the current half-year. The report was adopted *nem. con.*

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

At the half-yearly meeting of the St. Katherine Dock Company it was stated that the earnings during the past six months exceeded those of the previous like period by £15,000 or £16,000, while the expenses were only £6,000 more. The chairman intimated that everything had been done towards carrying out the amalgamation scheme, and he had no doubt that the proprietors would be convened in general meeting in due time to signify their approval of the bill for this object. A dividend of $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. was declared, free of income-tax, making, with the previous amount divided, a total distribution of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the first year.—At an extraordinary general meeting of the Oil Wells Company of Canada, Sir Henry Leeke presiding, it was unanimously agreed that the Company should be dissolved in accordance with the recommendation of the board, and that the thanks of the proprietors should be given to the directors for their prudent conduct and consequent entire prevention of loss.—The Scottish Australian Investment Company have this afternoon issued their report, preparatory to the half-yearly meeting to be held on the 29th instant. The report embraces the operations of the Company for the half-year ending the 30th of June last in the colony, and on the 31st December last in London. From this it appears that the gross profit realised in the colony during the above period is £15,972; to which must be added the sum of £78, received in London for interest, and transfer fees, making a gross profit, for the six months, of £16,050. A comparison of the accounts with those issued in the last three reports shows that there has been, during the two years ending at the 30th of June, 1863, a gradual increase in the net profits of the company, those of the half-year ending at that date having exceeded the net profits of the corresponding six months of 1862 by the sum of £1,523. The whole of such increased profit has been derived from the ordinary sources of the company's revenue, viz.—rents, interest, and commissions. The directors propose a dividend on the ordinary stock of the company, £200,000, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, which will require £10,000, and leave £261 to be carried to the credit of the reserved fund. The amount of that fund will then be £7,343. The most recent advices received from the manager are dated the 20th of November last. He then writes:—"Money continues scarce, and we are, I think, more closely invested up than we have ever been. . . . It is satisfactory to feel that we have grounds for being substantially pleased with the position of our investments. . . . The season has been a fine one; as a consequence, sheep and cattle generally are healthy and in good condition. There is a fine clip of wool just coming off the sheep's backs, while the latest report of the European wool market is more encouraging than it has been for some time back, and prices of store sheep and cattle are looking up.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

The prospectus has been issued of the London Chemical Company, with a proposed capital of £40,000 in 2,000 shares of £20 each, of which more than one-half, it is stated, is already subscribed. The directors announce that valuable works in the neighbourhood of London have been secured, and that the demand is such for the chemicals to be manufactured that a return of at least 20 per cent. may be anticipated.—The International Financial Society have intimated that they will receive subscriptions for the capital of the Land Securities Company (Limited) amounting to £2,000,000 in 40,000 shares of £50 each, but of which £1,000,000 only is to be issued at present. The Company, it is stated, will act as agents between the investing public and the borrower, make advances, repayable at fixed terms or by terminable annuities on landed estates, and on any charges upon land, such as county and parish rates, levied on land under public or private Acts of Parliament, Royal Charters, Commissions of Sewers, improvement rent charges on private estates, town improvement rates, ground rents, harbour trusts, &c. Acting by their debenture system, the directors will be enabled to turn over the paid-up capital many times in the year, and it is estimated that a working fund of £200,000—being £10 per share—will be sufficient to conduct a business involving operations of three or four millions per annum.—The prospectus has been issued of the London, Italian, and Adriatic Steam Navigation Company. The object is to establish a line of screw steamers between London and Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Messina, and Palermo, to sail regularly at intervals of not less than ten days, and also additional lines to meet the requirements of the general trade with the Adriatic and Mediterranean ports. Four new steamers are ready for the purposes of the undertaking. The proposed capital is £500,000 in shares of £50 each.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

In the produce markets business is checked by the critical position of continental politics, and the increasing stringency of money. Purchases in nearly every department are made with considerable reserve. So much so that even articles whose value would be necessarily enhanced by the outbreak of war, remain stationary, while such as would suffer a diminution of demand, are saleable only on lower terms. The cotton market is extremely dull and the rates of last week are not now obtainable. The corn trade remains without improvement. For foreign wheat quotations are barely supported, whilst English is lower. The demand for oilcake is less active owing to the open weather. We have recently had some large arrivals of linseed, which may extend the supplies of home make. American bacon is firmly held and singed sides at 44s. show an advance of 2s. Beef remains out of demand. The activity in American butter has abated and stocks have rather increased. American cheese moves off slowly at about the previous currency. In petroleum there is more doing, and rates are firmer at 2s. and 2s. 1d. per gallon for refined, whilst crude is quoted at £17 10s. per tun. The tallow markets, affected by foreign politics, is a point firmer, but with no great amount of activity. Linseed oil is the turn cheaper, 35s. 3d. being accepted on the spot. Rape is not materially altered. Cocoa-nut is very dull, the continental demand having fallen off considerably. Sperm remains at £75 to £76 per tun. As yet saltpetre, the stock of which is heavy, has not been affected by the apprehensions of war, and to-day a sale was made for cash at a small decline. The sugar market has given way fully 6d. to 1s. per cwt., and there is no disposition to purchase beyond immediate requirement at the reduction. Rice is quite neglected on the spot, and meets but little inquiry floating. Jute has suffered a further fall of £2 10s to £3 per ton. Hemp maintains its value. Cochineal has declined 2d. per lb. for all descriptions. Other dyes are inactive, without essential change in price. A decided pause has taken place in the speculation in metals. Scotch pig iron has receded to 64s. 3d., and spelter for arrival has been sold at £18 10s., but closes £21 or £21 5s. per ton. English copper has however been advanced to £116 for best selected, and £113 for common cake.

COTTON AND DRY GOODS MARKET.

LIVERPOOL, Wednesday, Jan. 20.

OUR cotton market has shown but very little animation during the week; the dealings have been comparatively limited, and prices are again lower, with still a declining tendency. The state of affairs abroad and the continued decrease of gold at the Bank of England, with the unfavourable advices with regard to the Bank of France, preventing anything like a speculative movement. The total sales last week have amounted to only 18,000 bales, of which 5,000 were on speculation and for export. The total sales this year have been 72,820 bales, and to the same period in 1863, 105,710 bales. There have been imported this year 27,955 bales, against 56,610 bales to the same time last year. The exports this year, so far, have been 11,064 bales, and to the same period in 1863, 9,727 bales. There have been taken for consumption this year 48,000 bales, and in 1863, 44,300 bales. Taken on speculation this year, 15,950 bales; same last year, 18,540 bales. The computed stocks at the present time are 250,260 bales, and at the same period in 1863, 395,040 bales. Of American descriptions the stock on hand is not abundant, and as only a small supply is generally anticipated, there is no great pressure to sell, consequently prices of this description are rather firmer than for other sorts. At present the chief demand is for Surats of the best qualities, which are scarce, and prices steady. The latest quotations were—American descriptions from $25\frac{1}{2}$d. to 28. Egyptian, $27\frac{3}{4}$d. to 33d. Pernambuco, 27d. to 33d. Maranhams, $27\frac{1}{2}$d. to $28\frac{1}{2}$d. Bahia, 28d. to $28\frac{1}{2}$d., and Surats $15\frac{1}{2}$d. to 23d.

MANCHESTER, January 19.

Business in this market during the past week has been exceedingly dull, and prices for yarns and goods are tending downwards, although scarcely sufficient has been done to test them.

Continental politics assuming a more gloomy aspect day by day, and an increasing demand at the Bank of England for gold having set in for export, tend to depress the tone of our market, and induce many spinners who are without orders, or are running out of contracts, to close their mills for an indefinite period. According to the report of the Central Relief Committee, there was an increase in the number of applicants for relief for the week ending 9th inst. of 10,000 persons, with a prospect of a still further increase.

To-day our market has been very quiet, holders being anxious to sell, and agents for yarn received orders not to refuse any offers, however low, without first submitting to their spinners, who are very anxious to clear out; yet, notwithstanding this desire to meet buyers no business has resulted, and the market is voted the dullest one of the past few months.

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THE FREEDMEN OF THE SOUTH.
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THE NEGROES UNDER FEDERAL RULE.
SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE ASSOCIATION OF LONDON
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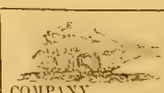

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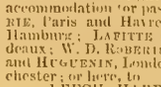

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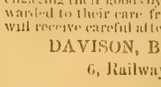

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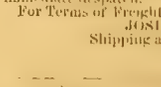

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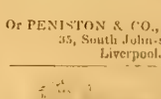

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A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

VOL. IV.—No. 92.] LONDON—THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 28, 1864. [PRICE 6D.

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NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK.

AMERICA.

It is in vain the New York papers daily report that "the military situation is unchanged." It is in vain that General Meade informs the people of Philadelphia that, weather permitting, operations in Virginia will be recommenced, and that he trusts peace will be restored before next summer by hard fighting. Wall-street will not be comforted or assured. No great battle has been fought, but the activity of the Confederates in every quarter convinces the most credulous dupes of the Federal Government that the South is not exhausted, and is as united and determined as ever. Whilst the commander of the hybernating army of the Potomac was on the stump in Pennsylvania, General Stuart with 5,000 cavalry, was moving about, some said making the circuit of the Northern camp, to the terror of the Federal Government. General Lee announces the capture in Hardy County, Virginia, of 300 Federals and some cattle. The Federal gunboat *Iron Age* has been destroyed by the Confederate batteries at the entrance of Wilmington harbour and her crew captured. At Charleston the bombardment was suspended, the Federals having quite enough to do in repairing their batteries. General Longstreet has been reinforced, and General Johnstone maintains a bold front at Dalton. The only military movement of the Federals is sending an extra brigade of troops under General Terry to Johnson's Island, for fear the suffering Confederate prisoners should attempt to escape across the ice.

The destruction of a Federal ironclad inside the bar of Wilmington gives some colour to a report recently published by the American correspondent of a Manchester paper, that a secret expedition was about to start for Wilmington, under command of Commodore Farragut, and that the result would be decided before the correspondent's letter could reach its destination. It is certainly difficult, on any other supposition, to account for the presence of the *Iron Age* in so unusual a place, as it is improbable that a vessel of her class should be employed in blockading, and it is therefore fair to see in this event another addition to the long list of Federal failures.

We have at present merely a telegraphic summary of the proceedings at Halifax in reference to the seizure of the *Chesapeake*, but unless the summary is unusually deceptive, the conduct of the President of the Admiralty Court, the Hon. Judge Stuart, C.B., is unprecedented. Mr. J. W. Ritchie represented the Confederates; but at the opening of the case, and before that gentleman could speak, the Judge said the case was entertained upon the ground that the seizure of the vessel was a piratical act, and that in his opinion she ought to be given up to the owners. Upon this, Mr. Ritchie asked the Judge to contemplate the probability of an application of the Confederates for her, but his Honour said he would not entertain anything of the kind. What was the use of the trial if the Judge had already determined upon his verdict, we are at a loss to conceive. Mr. Ritchie, in spite of the foregone conclusion of the Judge, argued that the seizure by the Confederates was valid, and that any citizen of the Confederacy, with or without a commission, has an absolute right to seize any vessel belonging to the Federals. The Advocate-General was not quite so confident as the Judge, and confessed he had some difficulty in bringing his case into Court. He said, however, that, in his opinion, there was *primâ facie* evidence that the capture was piracy, and that, therefore, the vessel should be given over to the Federal owners. It appears from examination of the citizens charged with aiding the rescue of the Confederates that the commander of the expedition had a commission from the Confederate Government. The persons charged with aiding the rescue are to appear before the Supreme Court.

We suppose no Englishman can read without a feeling of passionate indignation the account just published of the murder of Mr. James Gray, the mate of the bark *Saxon*, by an officer of the United States war steamer *Vanderbilt*. A public investigation of the case has been made by the resident magistrate of Cape Town. The *Saxon* left Table Bay on the 2nd September with a cargo of cattle for the Government. Having discharged at Ascension she proceeded, according to the orders of the owners, Messrs. Anderson, Saxon, and Co., to Angra Pequina, and there took in a cargo of skins and wool. On the 30th October, when just ready for sea, she was boarded by a boat's crew from the *Vanderbilt*. The cargo and papers were examined and the latter were taken to the *Vanderbilt*, Mr. Donoghan being left in charge. After a while another boat arrived from the United States steamer, and without any communication to Captain Shepherd, of the *Saxon*, the deck was placed in charge of armed men and the crew was driven below. Captain Shepherd protested against this rough treatment, and said to the United States officer, "You ought to have come to me as a gentleman to tell me your business, instead of taking charge in the manner you have done, and before your commander has seen my papers." Soon after this a boat came alongside from the island for some promised bread and meat. Captain Shepherd told his chief officer, Mr. Gray, to give it, after first mentioning it to the Federal officer, Mr. Keith. At first Keith assented, afterwards refused, and Shepherd ordered Gray to throw it into the boat, unless prevented. Keith then came forward and said to Captain Shepherd, "You go aft, you are giving too many orders. I will put you where the dogs won't bark at you," and Shepherd went aft. At this time Mr. Gray—totally unarmed—was standing half-way up the poop ladder. Donoghan, who had been dining with Gray, told him to "go down." Gray, not hearing the order or not understanding it, did not move. Donoghan then repeated the order, adding, "or I will shoot you," and simultaneously gave Gray a push on the shoulder which made him stumble. As Gray was trying to recover himself, the United States officer drew a revolver and shot him. Poor Gray never spoke, and died in about two minutes. One of the seamen of the *Saxon* rushed forward and took his murdered officer in his arms, and remarked that his life was gone. Donoghan said, "No, it is not," and held his pistol to the seaman's face. Donoghan said he was sorry, and Captain Baldwin said he was sorry, and perhaps Mr. Seward may inform the British Government that he is sorry; but their sorrow will not restore the murdered man to life, and is worth no more than the jest of one of the *Vanderbilt*'s men over the dead body—"Donoghan is a good shot, but he is a great deal too fast!" There was a time when a British seaman could not be butchered with impunity by the officers of any government. Perhaps that good time may come again.

The arrest of Mr. A. M. Palmer, the private secretary of Mr. Hiram Barney, the Collector of the Port of New York, has caused considerable excitement. Mr. Palmer is charged with conniving at the evasion of the law and with being in league with shippers to the Confederate States. Mr. Benjamin, a merchant, who is in Fort Lafayette, was a friend of Palmer's, and appears to have given him money at various times. Amongst Palmer's papers seized by the officers, was a memorandum written by Palmer on custom-house paper, requesting Benjamin to send $150 immediately. Mr. Palmer is a staunch Republican and a strenuous advocate of the ultra war policy. On a late occasion he attended a meeting at King's county and vehemently declared against the Peace party as a band of traitors to their country. Mr. Lincoln must be obtuse indeed, if he does not know that Mr. Palmer's is a fair specimen of the patriotism of the party leaders who support him. The *New York World* commenting on this affair says, "Mr. Palmer is a prominent Republican politician, a member of the Republican State Central Committee, its secretary, and of its executive committee. The facts which have already been made public in the cases of Stanton and Smalley, and those which cannot now be concealed in the case of Mr. Barney's private secretary, will demonstrate, beyond the shadow of a reasonable doubt, that the 'aid and comfort' which have been given so constantly through the Custom-house of New York to the rebels in arms against the Government, have been given, not in spite of all the vigilance of the custom-house Republican officials, but by their organised assistance and to their pecuniary profit. It is to the desks of the custom-house that the vigilant officer has gone who has unearthed these corruptions; it is to the private apartments of Collector Barney himself that he has tracked the scoundrels who, paid liberally to serve their country in a peaceful and honourable occupation, have been assisting the rebels with the means of endurance against the Government, with the power to cost and extort from the nation more of its treasure, and from our soldiers more of their blood."

But the most ominous incident, and which clearly indicates the great extent of the official corruption, is that the House of Representatives rejected a resolution proposed by Mr. Fernando Wood to investigate the charges against General Butler of fraudulent conduct at New Orleans, and also the frauds committed in the various executive departments of the Government. In order to make this rejection seemingly less disgraceful Mr. Fenton introduced a resolution to inquire into the frauds at the New York Custom-house, which was adopted. What need is there to order an investigation of an affair that is already being investigated? If General Butler is guiltless of the thefts imputed to him, and if the other departments are honest, how is it they dread investigation, and why are they not anxious to have their innocency made manifest? No one doubts the guilt of Butler and the corruption of the Government employes. What must be the condition and prospects of the country when crime and corruption are connived at by Congress?

General M'Clellan's long talked of report, or a portion of it, has just been published. According to a summary of this document, which is dated August 4, 1863, the

cation by measures which would admit to the franchise the *élite*, and only the *élite*, of the working-classes. Here was a point on which the conflicting sections of the Liberal party could concur. Lord John Russell was at once enraged and terrified by the prospect of his own extinguishment. Once let Reform be taken out of his hands, and settled by the Conservatives in a permanent manner, and there would be an end for ever of his position among the leaders of the Liberal party. The Radicals were equally alarmed; for the Conservative plan threatened also to extinguish them, by annihilating their sole grievance and depriving them of the only support which could do them any good. If the really intelligent portion of the artisans were admitted to the suffrage, then clamours on behalf of the unintelligent and thriftless would neither be plausible nor formidable. The approach of a common danger led to a coalition. Lord Palmerston had learned the necessity of respecting the personal claims of the Radical leaders; and they agreed to waive their animosity to Lord Palmerston on certain conditions. Their honour was to be saved by a Reform Bill—which need not, and did not, become a Reform Act—by the conversion of the leading Whigs on the question of Church-rates, which has equally failed of practical effect. The substantial part of the bargain was that two seats in the Cabinet, one of them a secretaryship of state, should be placed at the disposal of the "Manchester School," which, for convenience and truth, we had better for the future call the American School. Mr. Cobden was to have the refusal of the first; the second was the price of Mr. Bright. That gentleman could not be asked to enter the Cabinet in person. The country abhorred him; Parliament despised him; his inveterate habits of slander and vituperation, his vulgarity, and his incurable want of veracity, had made him so hateful to the educated classes that it would have required no common courage to give him office; his insolent sneers at royalty would have made his appointment little less than a personal insult to the Queen; and his bad temper would have made him an intolerable colleague in the council. But Mr. Bright had another self; a faithful shadow, which had no ideas, no soul, no other existence but what it borrowed from him, while its previous life and education had accustomed it to the society of statesmen and of gentlemen. It was arranged that an office of no power or importance should be bestowed on this decorous nonentity, and erected for the nonce into a cabinet office. The arrangement was not completely carried out. Mr. Cobden, to whom was offered the most laborious and least influential of the greater cabinet offices, declined it; and was gratified with a diplomatic mission, conferring unheard-of powers, and involving negotiations of vaster importance than are usually committed to any other than cabinet ministers. The home secretaryship could not be given to a shadow, even though that shadow were John Bright's; and accordingly, it was filled up by the appointment of an amiable scion of a great Whig family, a veteran in office of tried incapacity. *En revanche*, another cabinet place was made for an aristocratic ally of the American party; and that faction is now represented in the cabinet by the President of the Poor Law Board and the President of the Board of Trade. The former is generally silent, in mercy to an audience which contains no worse speaker than the Right Hon. C. P. Villiers; the latter is heard about once a year in the House of Commons, where he makes an official speech, and once a year at Ashton, where he gratifies his affectionate feelings by echoing, with amiable feebleness, the wild untruths and extravagant declamation of his more substantial self. John Bright, diluted through Milner Gibson, is poor stuff indeed; and Ashton must envy Rochdale, which is privileged to hear the Billingsgate of the arch-demagogue at first-hand.

At Ashton, Mr. Milner Gibson casts off the minister and assumes the Radical member. We do not know whether he made a compact with his colleagues that he should be allowed to do so, inasmuch as he might find it difficult to please his supporters in that constituency if he were restrained by the bonds of ministerial reserve. Perhaps he did; perhaps, also, he pointed out to them that it was necessary for him, in order to satisfy his constituents and his faction, to retain his name on the lists of the Liberation Society, and to express annually his abhorrence of the Church and his reverence for the ballot. If so, we may be sure that their consent was given with a promptitude as contemptuous as courtesy would allow. Lord Russell would not be permitted to do this sort of thing; he could not be enrolled among the open enemies of the Protestant religion as by law established, or allowed to run loose about the country, cursing the South and talking nonsense about Slesvig-Holstein. Nay, it would not do for the Duke of Argyll or Mr. Cardwell, or any other of those who are cabinet ministers in something more than name, to indulge in such vagaries. The country would be frightened, and foreign ministers might ask explanations. Therefore, the major ministers are reserved in their speeches, and the minor ones, unless their chief feels sure of their discretion, are bidden to hold their tongues. It is, therefore, a proof of Mr. Milner Gibson's utter insignificance that he is permitted to make a fool of himself when and where he pleases. Such licence could not be accorded to any man whom the Premier did not heartily despise; nay more, it could be accorded to no one who was not thought too insignificant to attract attention from the country. But the minister feels, and perhaps says, "Oh, it's only Milner Gibson; no one will think that we mean anything by allowing *him* to talk." And the orator, with a Christian humility, evidently understands and accepts this position, and talks with careless freedom, insulting a foreign State in one sentence, defying public feeling in the next, advocating revolution at home and repudiation of treaties abroad, in an evident and touching reliance on his own irresponsibility. No one can think of calling him to account. "It's only poor Tom, nobody minds Tom," is the only excuse which either others or himself would dream of offering for the imbecilities of the right honourable orator.

Thus it is that he allows himself to talk such wonderful nonsense about Denmark and Germany. "He don't understand the question, how should he? but it can't be worth a fight. Let us refer it to arbitration." If a responsible minister had said such a thing, we should have been bound to remind him that England cannot refer to arbitration a dispute which involves a distinct pledge given on her part to one of the disputants. No arbitrator can be asked to decide whether or no the signataries of the treaty of 1852 shall abide by their signatures. Until the King of Denmark is acknowledged by Austria and Prussia there can be no question for arbitration to decide. But we need not give a serious answer to the member for Ashton. "Nobody minds him."

It would be held exceedingly indecent for a responsible minister to sneer at the arguments of the greatest lawyers in England in the case of the *Alexandra*, to push aside the judges, and to pronounce sentence himself in the name of uneducated and unaided "common sense." But the country does not notice the indecency in Mr. Gibson, simply because no one can possibly regard him as a responsible statesman; and neither Sir Hugh Cairns nor Sir Roundell Palmer are likely to resent the impertinence of such a critic, further than by

> Smiling as a master smiles at one
> That is not of his school, nor any school
> But that where blind and naked Ignorance
> Delivers brawling judgments, unashamed,
> On all things all day long.

It would not be permitted to a minister to accuse a foreign Government of a systematic attempt to evade and violate our laws; the fact being that that Government has throughout taken the utmost care to keep within our laws, while its enemy has been permitted to violate them with impunity. Nor would it be held exactly correct in a man whose position gave weight to his words to exult over the continuance of emigration to New York, in view of the notorious fact that the conscription has put an end to legitimate emigration, and that the figures of the New York Commissioners simply represent the number of Irish and other victims seduced by Yankee recruiting agents to manure the fields of Virginia and Tennessee. Such a man might be asked, on the one hand, whether he conceived that the Foreign Enlistment Act was intended only to interfere with trade, and not to put a stop to foreign enlistment; and on the other hand, whether the Confederates had ever gone half so far in "evasion" of our laws as the Garibaldian expedition; which, nevertheless, was openly supported by the Radicals, and permitted to take place in open day by the Government? But we need not waste reasoning or remonstrance on the President of the Board of Trade. A man who accuses the South of "having undertaken a war of aggression" is either morally or intellectually unworthy of refutation.

Mr. Gibson's speech, however, contained one word, which, if not true, had in it a germ of truth, and of a truth not sufficiently regarded by English observers of the American struggle. He denounced secession as "a revolt against democracy;" and in that phrase he explained at once the hatred of his faction to the South—a hatred which is of very recent date, and has no sort of connection with the subject of negro slavery. While the slave States remained in the Union, neither Mr. Bright nor his disciples had a word to say against slavery; some of them were, so far as they dared, its covert apologists. They hate slavery only because, in their own phrase, "slavery broke up the Union;" that is, because slavery was the field on which the political conflict that destroyed the Union was fought, and because the slave-owners happen to be the seceding party. But their real ground of quarrel with the South, their real view of the American war, has been correctly defined by Mr. Gibson. The South has repudiated the rule of the rabble; she has committed treason against the divine right of the multitude; she is fighting against the principles of democracy, and the North is fighting for them; and therefore the South is hateful in the eyes of European demagogues.

There is some truth in this view. The maintenance of the Union during eighty years was mainly due to the conservative character of the Southern people, which the presence of an inferior race naturally tended to bring out into strong relief. Their reverence for established order, their aversion to violent or wanton changes, their faith in the lessons of the past, and distrust of reckless innovations and mere experiments, in fine, their calmer habits of thought, formed so many barriers to the progress of that wild Radicalism, that political and religious scepticism, partly indigenous partly imported from Europe, which swayed the Northern section of the Union. By these virtues the Southern people long contrived to hold their own against the superior numbers and resources of the North; though, beaten back from one position to another, and forced from one compromise to another, each more unfavourable than the last, their situation was gradually becoming intolerable and untenable. But the passion and power of the democracy of the North grew too strong for them. Envy of Southern wealth and refinement, impatience of the check imposed by Southern firmness and unity, the hatred of brawling demagogues for Southern statesmen, urged the North on from one aggression to another, from one encroachment to a further one, until the determination of the multitude to rule by its own mere will, in defiance of right and contempt of law, found its full expression in the election of a President, against whom every Southern vote was given, on the express understanding that he should lead a crusade against State Rights and Southern institutions, and establish the reign of a rampant democracy on the ruins of the Constitution. Against this pretension the South rose in arms, refusing to acknowledge the right of numbers to inaugurate confiscation and override the fundamental compact of the Confederation. In this sense the cause of the South is truly a revolt against de-

mocracy; the revolt of right against might, of law against licence, of order against anarchy. Such is its title to the hatred of demagogues; and such its irresistible claim to the sympathy and support of honest men.

SOUTHERN FINANCES: ANOTHER REMEDY.

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

SIR,—I have read with great interest your admirable articles on "The Embargo on Cotton," and "A Method of Meeting Southern Engagements," also the well-considered and statesmanlike Report of Mr. Memminger. You will excuse my presumption in thinking that neither of these have yet exhausted the subject, nor indeed go quite far enough for an effectual remedy, and that, after combining and adopting in full the recommendations of each, there is still room for important additions to them.

Mr. Memminger's scheme, perfectly practicable and sternly conscientious as it is, appears to me to have this serious fault, that it accepts, as an unalterable and unavoidable fact, the public debt at its present exaggerated computation in an enormously depreciated currency. At my latest advices from Richmond, to the middle of December, the brokers were paying from $15 to $16 in currency for the gold dollar, and somewhat less for silver. It is clear, therefore, that if the Confederate Government had in its possession a sufficient amount of specie or foreign exchange, it could redeem the whole of its indebtedness with about one-fifteenth, or less than 7 per cent. of its nominal amount—that is to say, but little more than it proposes to pay after peace, annually, as interest. There would be no repudiation in this, as each creditor would obtain the full market value of his claim, and all would no doubt be only too glad to avail themselves of the chance. I should not trouble you with the suggestion of an Archimedes' lever, unless I believed myself prepared to suggest also the fulcrum whereon to rest it.

Every bale of cotton now in the Confederacy may, without any very extravagant figure of speech, be compared to an ingot of gold, worth, minus the dangers and cost of exportation, at least £40 sterling. The lowest estimate of the quantity of cotton extant is 3,000,000 bales, representing a value at ruling Liverpool prices of not less than £120,000,000. You have already so conclusively demonstrated the duty of the Confederate Government to undertake the realisation of these values as an arm of the national defence, and its ability to do so at the rate per annum of about one-twentieth of the entire stock of cotton, that I need not enter here upon this part of the subject. Suppose it had assumed this duty in the earlier stages of the war, say in the autumn of 1861; suppose it had bought the whole stock of cotton at 6d. per pound, and paid for it in notes of convenient size, redeemable in specie in England; suppose, further, that no other issues of the Treasury had competed with the £30,000,000 thus thrown into circulation with suitable precautions, nearly the whole would have been floated by the business requirements of the country and but a very trifling percentage would have been offered at the place of payment. The necessity for greater expenditures than could be raised by taxation would have been met by regular loans, to which the people would have been both able and willing to subscribe, and which would not have added to the *volume* of the circulation. The Government should have treated these notes as specie, and received them as such in all cases where specie payments were exacted by law. It is obvious that any serious depreciation would thus have been impossible.

I have not made this supposition idly, for it is not yet too late to try the curative virtue of what, if adopted in time, would have been a preventive. To supplant the present currency by one such as I have described is not practicable at one stroke, but it may be done partially and gradually. Let Congress authorise the issue of $150,000,000 of notes payable at ninety days' sight by the depositaries of the Treasury in Europe. They should not be below the denomination of $50, or the average value of a cotton bale, so as not to interfere too suddenly with the lower issues at present in circulation. Let it further authorise the purchase of all produce, cotton, tobacco, &c., in the country at stipulated prices, with this currency, and this alone. In my opinion, Mr. Memminger made an error in his disposal of the cotton coupon bonds. The sale should be optional with the holder of the produce, but the purchase, under certain precautionary conditions, should be compulsory with the Government. So soon as 10 per cent. of the specie notes, or $15,000,000, are thus paid out, the further issue of new notes of any other description should cease, and then, not before, another 50 per cent. of the specie notes should be offered in the market to the highest bidder, and exchanged for currency. This would still leave 40 per cent. of the original amount, or $60,000,000, as a reserve for continued purchases of produce. The next step would be to provide for the cancelling of the old notes thus returned to the Treasury, and this, I admit, could not be done until the specie notes commenced to flow back in the shape of taxes, subscriptions to national loans, &c. Of course the success of the plan presupposes the prohibition, either by an embargo or by a heavy export duty in specie, of all private exportation, and a vigorous exportation on Government account. I have only to add that the specie notes in question should not bear interest, for the double reason that they should be at once available for currency, which interest bearing notes never are; and secondly, that the holders may have every inducement to invest them in Bonds, thus loaning them again to the Government. I have sketched the scheme roughly; if you think it worthy of consideration, I shall be happy to explain it more in detail in a subsequent communication.

Respectfully yours,
SUGGESTION.

LONDON, January 26.

DAN TO BEERSHEBA.*

A LADY, very *passé* and who had been notoriously ugly from her youth upwards, desired to present to her friends a pleasant memorial of her person, and with this view paid a visit to a provincial portrait painter. She said she wished to have her likeness taken, and thereupon the artist bowed in the semi-grand style peculiar to provincial celebrities. The lady added that she required an unmistakable likeness, and also a pretty picture. The limner was puzzled. Of course he was quite accustomed to make his fair patrons look wonderfully juvenile and fascinating on canvas, or he could not have gained his daily bread by the exercise of his profession, but how to represent a desperately ugly dame as a charming Anglo-Saxon Venus, and yet preserve a resemblance, was a difficult problem. The prospect of a fee sharpened the poor painter's wit. His client had a nose *sui generis*. It was large, hooky, and awry. "Madam," said he, "let me do as I like with your nose, and I will undertake the commission." The lady assented, and the artist painted an exceedingly pretty face, except that he copied the exceedingly plain nose. Everybody recognised the likeness but nobody was deceived by the device. The nose was an evident fac-simile, and the rest of the picture was an evident effort of the imagination.

"Dan to Beersheba" has suggested this story. The purpose of the book is to damage the Southern people in the estimation of those who may chance to read this anonymous work. The author—probably a woman with rather a lax, unfeminine mind—is clever enough to perceive the folly of the Stowe school, and that a slanderer, to be effective, must be cool and discriminating. Upon this sound principle half the volume is written, and displays an amount of tact and ability altogether admirable. Miss Sybil Fanning, the Northern heroine of the book, is from Boston, and is set forth as a precise representative of the genuine Yankee girl. The late Mr. G. P. R. James never sketched a more perfect beauty, Sir E. B. Lytton never dreamt of such a superlatively constituted mind, and the old romance writers never invented such a paragon of all the virtues. Still Sybil has a few faults, or rather some of her virtues lean a little to the wrong side. She is a trifle too independent in her speech, now and then forms a hasty judgment, and is rather unbecomingly conscious of her own manifold perfection. She goes to the South and makes sad havoc with the hearts of the gentlemen, but she does not flirt and cannot be held responsible for the killing effects of her beauty. Perhaps our readers would like to know how a Southern gentleman makes love to a Yankee girl, and we therefore transfer a few sentences from the "offer" made to Sybil by Mr. Gabriel Montfort:—

"'Only give them back to me to-morrow; I meant to ask you that when I gathered them. Oh, Sybil, I love you, and you are looking so beautiful, so divine to-night, that I cannot keep silence. You drove me mad, talking to those two men for so long. You don't care for either of them, do you, Sybil? say you don't care for either of them!'

"'Gabriel Montfort,' she exclaimed. 'Are you out of your senses?'

"'Yes—yes—mad with love, and jealousy, and adoration. You don't love me now, Sybil—dearest, dearest Sybil—but say you will, say perhaps you will!'

"'Mr. Montfort, let my hand go, and let me go into the house. You have no right to call me by my first name, nor to address me in this strain at all. Let my hand go!' she added, peremptorily.

"'No, Sybil, you shall listen to me. I have a right to speak; for I love you—I worship you. Oh, give me some hope! What are all the women in the world beside you? How can a man see you, speak to you, and ever have a moment's thought for another again? Oh, my dear, dear, dear Sybil, give me some hope!'

"'Gabriel,' said Sybil, more gently, 'you are foolish—you are over-excited. You can't mean this really—you don't know what you are saying. Let me go!'

"'She calls me foolish!—she treats me as if I were a boy!' he cried in desperation. 'Sybil, will nothing make you believe in my love?'

"He raised the hand which she had not been able to release to his hot forehead, and she felt that his eyes were wet with tears. They hurt and shocked her; but she was young, and not calm, and hardly knew what she said.

"'I do not, and cannot love you. I am sorry for you; but this is unmanly. Let me go!'

"'Unmanly!—by God!' he exclaimed; and dashing her hand from him, he turned down the steps into the surrounding darkness."

What a dark background does Southern society form to the lovely Sybil! The men are not the insolent, whiskey-thirsty wretches described by our New England brethren, but on the contrary they are sometimes offensively ridiculously ignorant of books and manners, given to drunkenness, scant about their chivalry without knowing the meaning of the word, and their courage is not so much stimulated as exercised by alcohol. The Southern men are as obedient to the Yankees as a faithful dog is to the Yankee—we mean obedience to our own precious cur. The Southern women are poor creatures. Those who are not arrant fools are wickedly inclined, and certainly we prefer the wicked to the foolish. The negroes are not beaten by machinery according to the engravings exhibited at the office of that highly respectable journal, the *Morning Star*, nor cooked or eaten as a regular thing as was reported by the journal which, when it had a little influence, bore we believe, the romantic nickname of the *Daily Lie*; but the servile race is ruined body and soul by indulgence. Idleness, idleness, nothing in the South but idleness. The men do nothing, the women do nothing, the negroes do nothing. In that wonderful land cotton grows without culture, gins itself, bales itself, and ships itself, without help. The corn grows without ploughing or sowing, and is converted into bread and cakes without human intervention. How appropriately does Mrs. Lamar, the Southern heroine, typify the character of her country and countrymen. She is a faded beauty, rather clever, rather accomplished, and kind-hearted, but what the unctuous Beecher would call naughty. Not a commonplace vicious woman, but not a paragon of all virtues and propriety, like the Boston St. Cecilia. The frail Elise (Mrs. Lamar) had several devoted lovers in her youth married an old man whom she did not love, struck up an intimacy with one of her former lovers, and when her husband died conducted herself as a kind of Becky Sharpe *lorette*. Would our readers like to know how a Southern lady behaves herself in a moment of great affliction, according to the author of "Dan to Beersheba"? Mrs. Lamar determined to settle down, and reward one of her old flames, Ralph Montfort, with her hand and often perforated heart. The day before she intends to tell Ralph of the blessing in store for him, the unfortunate gentleman is shot through the heart in a riot attending the recapture of a runaway negro. Mrs. Lamar hears the news, has hysteria, gets icy cold, does all that is proper for a lady in a novel, and has a long swoon. After being insensible for some hours, she rouses up and says:—

"'Oh, Sybil, don't flirt! How much misery I have caused him by that.'"

This absurd anti-climax is, however, near the end of the volume, the last half of which is neither clever nor ingenious. Midway we are plunged into a seething mass of violent scenes of the well worn Abolition type. A Yankee lawyer of considerable reputation loses his way in a Southern wood, is met by a party of negro-hunters, is seized, threatened with death, and is only saved from hanging by making a sign of freemasonry. A negro woman is killed by bloodhounds, because the dogs had not been properly trained. There is a chapter on Southern fanaticism and a chapter on Northern fanaticism, and the latter gives an account of some Southern gentlemen rioting at a Northern Abolition meeting. Mrs. Lamar poisons herself by the aid of her slave, and the Boston damsel is betrothed to a Yankee lawyer, who, after telling of his love, says:—

"'Great Heavens! if I have been mistaken! Do speak!'"

"'How did you dare to suppose that I loved you till I told you so?' she said, turning towards him with a heavenly blush and smile."

This passage is followed by a line of asterisks, thus allowing the reader to imagine what followed the Yankee girl's "heavenly blush and smile." The author is very proper, but for all that the book is full of naughty suggestions. Altogether, we have never met with a more unequal volume. Some passages are sillier than the mawkish trash of the sea-side novel, whilst there are chapters that display much skill and a sensible horror of ridiculous bathos. "Dan to Beersheba" will not hurt the South, and as there is no name on the title-page the author will also escape injury. It is entirely harmless, though written with the evil intent of violating the ninth commandment.

* Dan to Beersheba; or, Northern and Southern Friends. London: Chapman and Hall.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

NEW YORK, January 13.

THE severity of the weather has suspended military operations in Northern Virginia. The two armies are taking what care they can of themselves against the snow storms and freezing winds which have made the winter thus far so much harder than the last. We have shocking accounts of the bitter sufferings of the Union soldiers in camp, protected and supplied as they are out of the abundance of the North. Cared for as they are, we nevertheless hear of numbers that have been frozen to death. There are harrowing tales circulated of the sufferings of the Southern prisoners of war, confined in the

camps out West and at Johnson's Island on Lake Erie, where thousands, who never knew anything of winter more than the elastic coolness of their native South, have been sent, by a Yankee refinement of cruelty, to perish with cold or be crippled for life with rheumatism. How the Confederate soldiers stand this winter, if the half be true that deserters and contrabands and "reliable" gentlemen report of the destitution in the Southern army, is difficult to be conceived. Certainly there is a vitality about them which is amazing, and a fervor of earnestness in their cause which is entitled to the highest admiration; for notwithstanding the general repose of the two armies, parties of Confederates are constantly beating up the out-posts of the Unionists, all along the line to the Ohio River, and occasionally putting them to alarm for an advance in force on some one of their positions. The same inertness prevails generally in East Tennessee and south-western Virginia, which, although some degrees further south, are mountainous regions, and feel the winter very severely. Still there are rumours that the Confederates are not so inactive as they seem, but are engaged in preparing a winter campaign for the re-capture of Knoxville. Longstreet is in command, and the last Federal rumour was that he has been reinforced, and intends to advance, with the expectation of reconquering that part of East Tennessee, and thus making Grant's tenure at Chattanooga uncertain.

The bombardment of Charleston continues, without any further effort to enter the harbour or take the forts. The Union batteries have got the range, and are sending shells and Greek fire into the city from time to time, which occasionally do much damage, destroying houses and churches; but there is no nearer advance to the capture of the city. It will not be captured, although it may be destroyed, bit by bit, from a distance. The excuse for thus destroying a city which cannot be taken is, that it affords a shelter to Southern people, and that it is a legitimate operation of war to destroy everything which may be of any possible use to rebels. The avowed purpose of the North is to repossess the Southern territory; if, in order to do so, it be necessary, to lay the land utterly waste and exterminate the people.

Further south, the military operations are more active. General Banks has returned from Texas to New Orleans; and the reports given by the journals are, that he occupied many points along the coast, and is approaching towards Galveston, but waits for reinforcements before he can hope to penetrate into the interior. The territory he has occupied and controls is that sandy and almost desert region east of the Rio Grande, which is of such a sterile character that it was seriously proposed a few years ago, when the public mind was uneasy about the prospect of border conflicts with Mexico, to forbid settlements on a wide space, and keep it as a desert barrier between the two countries. The United States have now got hold of a large tract of this sort of land, and with it a few thousands of wild adventurers, who have gathered there to be as far as possible from the reach of the law. There is a pause in the movement, but it is suspected, with good reason, that the next step will be more political than military. The sterile region, without civilised population in regular settlements outside of a few ranches, and some clusters of huts, by courtesy called towns—mere places of deposit for goods destined to the interior or the resorts of smugglers and other outlaws, will come up, under the auspices of the military occupants, to claim in time for the next presidential election the benefit of Mr. Lincoln's new process for manufacturing States in the Union. The extemporised constituency will take the oath prescribed by the President to support everything which he and Congress have done or may do in the course of this war; and they may then, if his policy prevails, cast a vote in a presidential election before the House of Representatives, as well as New York or Pennsylvania, and will weigh equally with them forever in the United States Senate.

There are some accounts through Federal sources, which seem to intimate that the Confederates under General Magruder design to interpose an obstacle to the present success of this plan by re-occupying the country. There are reports that the available forces west of the Mississippi are to be concentrated on the Colorado, for the purpose of driving out the occupying troops of General Banks before the reinforcements so urgently called for can get there. Private letters from New Orleans say that there is really an apprehension there among the Unionists that all is not right with them in Texas, and this impression is strengthened by the absolute reticence preserved and enforced by the authorities in respect to all intelligence from that quarter. The more confident among them affirm that all things are going favourably in Texas, and that General Banks, instead of needing reinforcements there for any present purpose, is gathering troops for the purpose of making a land attack upon Mobile.

You will thus perceive there is little variation in the position of military affairs this week. Both parties are suspending the movements of their principal armies during the winter, and straining every effort to prepare for renewed operations on a grand scale in the spring.

The exchange of prisoners halts under the new obstruction caused by the offensive selection by the Government of the United States of General Butler, the most odious man in the Federal army, to be its representative, with full power over the whole subject. Butler has signalised his accession to this appointment, by recommending cruel and unrelenting retaliation, as he calls it, upon the Confederate prisoners in the hands of the United States, in the event that what terms he may dictate shall not be acceded to by the Confederate Government, or that they shall refuse to treat with him. By retaliation, he is understood to mean that a Confederate soldier is to be held for like treatment with every slave whom the Confederates find in Federal uniform and subject to the law of the State from which he is either runaway by the local law, or traitor under the Federal rule of the duty of allegiance, as they apply it in their own case; and that all the Southern prisoners of war should be fed on the same rations only which the Southern Government distribute among the Union prisoners. These rations are the same as the Confederates give their own soldiers. It is the assumption of Butler that these are starvation rations, and his advice is—Starve the prisoners, in order to exact from the Confederate Government submission to indignity and the admission in terms of a fact which would be an acknowledgement that they are subjects in rebellion.

The matter is better managed away from Washington between officers, who have the instincts of humanity, which seem to be wholly lost wherever the direct influence of Government rules the daily transactions of war. There have been, and continue to be, in Louisiana frequent exchanges of prisoners between General Banks on the one side and General Taylor and General Kirby Smith on the other, and the excess of prisoners on either side are admitted to paroles whenever there is not a special order for the transmission of prisoners North. This transmission is, however, going on more or less by nearly every steamer. Hundreds of Southern officers and soldiers have been brought on, since the beginning of this winter, to try what effect the rigours of a Northern climate can have in breaking their spirits or destroying their health.

Congress has been discussing the Conscription Law ever since it reassembled on Tuesday of last week, but has not come to any definite conclusion. The whole subject is at sea again. Anticipations of financial trouble are at the bottom of some of these difficulties. The exemption clause, which allowed any drafted man to escape service by paying $300, was at first thrown out as an unjust and unpopular feature; but its restoration is likely to take place as a measure of financial relief. Some of the leading friends of the war policy of the Administration have been speaking out plainly of the frightful rapidity with which the public debt increases, and the danger that it may reach a point where national bankruptcy will be inevitable. The exemption fee on unwilling conscripts who are able to pay is supported as a means for levying a contribution for war purposes in addition to the regular taxes. The imperfect draft of last summer raised $14,000,000 for exemptions. It is contended in Congress that the Government cannot afford to part with even this source of revenue in aid of the expenses of recruiting the army. The draft of the 5th was postponed to the 15th, and a longer postponement is expected. There is scarcely a probability that the amended Bill will pass both Houses for a week or ten days at least.

In the meantime the members of both Houses are bringing forward multitudes of propositions and schemes for disposing of the Southern States, Southern institutions and Southern property, as though the "rebellion" were, as is assumed among them for these purposes, "at an end." Last week the representatives were tried on the question, whether they would make or accept any proposal for peace, by conference or negotiation. An Administration member from Massachusetts brought forward a resolution declaring, on the part of the House, that it would not consent to any negotiation or overture for peace with the authorities of Richmond. It was carried by a vote of 89 to 24. On the same day an Opposition member from New Jersey moved a resolution which, avoiding the authorities at Richmond, favoured peace, "by the return of the States." This was laid upon the table, equivalent to a rejection, by a vote of 78 to 42. These were meagre votes as to numbers, but they shew the fixed purpose of a majority in this Congress to carry on the war without regard to any question of State rights or the distinctive character of States under the Constitution, as of old, in the South, but simply for the conquest of the territory and the subjection of the conquered people to the pleasure of the conquerors. There are a few members of Congress who resist this, and who hold that it is a total revolution in the Government, but they are a powerless and dispirited minority, who only open their mouths to be scoffed at.

The work of confiscation is going on vigorously in all places where the Union armies have got possession of Confederate soil. The thirst for spoil grows more ravenous with what it feeds on. The provisions of the Act itself are not sufficiently comprehensive and summary, to transfer to the Northern men who rush into those districts titles to the lands of rebels and refugees who have abandoned their estates. There is a *soupçon* of law about that course, and possibly delays may be interposed, which chafe the impatience of the cormorant tribe. A new plan is now put in force, which puts the Northern speculator into immediate possession for a mere trifle, under colour of law. The United States claim that their internal revenue and tax laws have always been legally in force over the Confederate as over the loyal States, and wherever they institute government after military occupation they proceed to seize and sell for arrears of taxes. This is in consideration of the seizures for purposes of confiscation under the statute, and is more convenient, inasmuch as it makes no distinction of Rebel or Unionist, and dispenses with the ceremony of proof or conviction. All estates which the owners have left, or of which they are unable to pay the taxes, are sold, and conveyed immediately to the Yankee purchasers. Government gives special facilities and passes for all such Northerners as desire to go down and take possession of a Southern farm in this cheap way. The motive is plain. Besides the national taste for plunder for its own sake, and the immense value to a party in power of having the property of 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 of people as the spoils to be fought for and parcelled out among the victors, there is the consummation of the Northern policy of driving the Southern people out of their homes, and settling there a population which shall be a ruling class, dependent for their maintenance against the subjected natives on the military strength of the Government at Washington, and therefore subservient allies of the dominant political faction at the North. In some instances Unionists of the South have tried to preserve lands in their vicinity from this spoliation, alleging that the absent owners were Unionists, and offering, to pay the deficient taxes, and hold the land until the question of loyalty was fairly examined. These offers are refused, and the peremptory sale ordered of all property of which the owner is not present to prove his loyalty, and pay the taxes in person. The presumption is, that all absentees are rebels, and all rebels are to be despoiled of whatever they have possessed by every means which can be contrived to make the process as rapid as possible.

The confiscation law is proposed to be further amended, so as to make that process more complete. When it passed Mr. Lincoln had scruples, and gave Congress to understand that he would not approve the Bill, which extended the penalties of confiscation of real estate beyond the life-time of the party convicted. He based his objection on the clause of the Constitution which provides thus: "No attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood or forfeiture except during the life-time of the party attainted." In compliance with the President's wish, Congress passed a declaratory resolution, in respect to the confiscation law, by which it was enjoined that no proceedings or punishment under the Act "shall be so construed as to work the forfeiture of the real estate of the offender except during his natural life."

It is now contended that this phrase in the Constitution means only that no man shall be attainted to the confiscation of his property after he is dead. Mr. Sumner has introduced a resolution into the Senate of the United States, declaring that the Congress only meant by this explanatory enactment to say that they only confined the operation of an attainder to the term of the natural life of the person attainted, because they thought they had no power under the Constitution to carry it further; but if the power could be found in the Constitution the law must be meant to mean something more. By this juggle it is thought to give a wider scope to the Confiscation Bill, and give the entire South, as fast as conquered and occupied, to the Northern spoilers and their heirs for ever.

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

(*From our Own Correspondent.*)

MANCHESTER, January 27th.

AFTER all the scathing criticism Mr. Gibson's pro-Federal speech has been subjected to by nearly the whole of the daily and weekly press, there is just room—nor is it yet too late—for a word or two upon the *local* side of the question—that is, as showing the light in which Mr. Gibson's politics are viewed by a large portion of his constituency on the one hand, and by all but his few co-Federalists in Lancashire on the other. To serve the former of these purposes, I cannot do better than quote the words in which, at the conclusion of Mr. Gibson's speech, the gentleman who was deputed to propose the customary vote of thanks acquitted himself of his formal though significantly performed task:—

"Mr. Alfred Reyner said he rose to perform a pleasing duty; viz., to move a vote of thanks to the right hon. member. Mr. Gibson had descanted upon the quarrel between North and South; and when he (Mr. Reyner) looked around him during the speech, he saw few signs of assent or dissent, and therefore, from his previous knowledge of the state of feeling in Ashton, he concluded that the meeting was very much divided in opinion. He was as much opposed to slavery as any Christian man in this country; but they were not to suppose that, if the South were separated from the North to-morrow, they would be farther off from the abolition of slavery than they were now. Abraham Lincoln, in his proclamation, or whatever it was called, said that the honest Union man should be let off by giving liberty to his slaves in the year 1900; but that the Southern people, the disunionists, must do it instanter. Now, he would ask them what sort of justice or mercy was that? They would excuse him for saying that he could not acquiesce in all Mr. Gibson had said; but although, like many others in Ashton, he entertained different opinions from the right hon. gentleman, he would still move the vote of thanks to him, which he believed he well deserved at their hands."

So much for Mr. Gibson in his relations to his constituents. Nor are the right hon. gentleman's opinions more satisfactorily in accord with those which are most commonly heard throughout the north of England, and are best worth reading in the *Manchester Guardian*. "We do not quite understand," says that journal, "what Mr. Gibson means by saying that a stage of the great contest in America has been reached at which it is fair to speak out frankly one's opinions. The best time would apparently have been at the beginning of the quarrel, or at some point before it had become embittered by recollections which forbid anything which may be said by observers to influence its termination. If the President of the Board of Trade may have meant that the Confederates are now reduced to so low and helpless a condition, that their cause can safely be aspersed with reproaches which, in view of their probable success, it would have been wise to withhold, we are respectfully of opinion that the latest accounts from America do not bear out this magnanimous view of statesmanlike interest and duty. To say the very least of it, there is quite enough uncertainty respecting the issue to make it prudent

that the Ministers of the Crown should observe in the spirit of their remarks, as well as in the tenour of their acts, that neutrality which we all agree to consider their proper attitude in the circumstances. It would be awkward, moreover, if it should hereafter be said, in words borrowed from Mr. Gibson, that we desired the defeat of the Southern States, because their success would be in some sort a rebuke to the past policy of England, or, at least, a qualification of the glory which we assume to ourselves for having emancipated our slaves in the West Indies. It does not by any means follow, as he would have it, that if the Confederates are right, we must have been wrong. Each may be right in doing what it thinks fit, in so far at least as relates to its responsibility to the external world, and its claims to international justice and esteem. When Mr. Gibson, too, blames the Southerners for having seceded without reason, a prior question to that of the soundness of his opinion is, whether it is not for them, right or wrong, to be the best judges for themselves in the matter. It is true, as he says, that their grievances of an ordinary nature were few; but why? Because their liberties were preserved by institutions which existed before the Union, and which still remain; but their political reasons for desiring separation were, apart from slavery, much more substantial than Mr. Gibson seems to be aware, or to be willing to acknowledge; and, if they were wrong, we do not know that any foreign nation can justly disallow their decision."

The newest and cheapest attempt at rigging the Union and Emancipation market is to be seen in the transparent dodge of letting loose upon us a New York negro named Chester, euphemistically described as a "coloured gentleman who has been a resident magistrate in Liberia, and is at present a captain in the Federal army;" and whose mission it seems to be to enlighten us as to the rate at which emancipation is progressing in America under the proclamation of "that good man, Abraham Lincoln." I took the trouble to be present at the "captain's" first lecture, and experienced an agreeable sensation of fitness in beholding George Thompson occupying a seat on the platform. The lecture, I need not say, was a rich joke from beginning to end, and teemed with those self-evident absurdities which, in the mouth of a negro, amount almost to a new and unnamed variety of wit. When his statements were not absurd, they were visibly mendacious—without a rag of probability to cover their nakedness; and when they were neither one nor the other, they were simply profane. Upon the side of the North he saw moderation, forbearance of spirit and brotherly love; upon the side of the South, nothing but arrogance and impudence. He wished to correct a mistake common among Englishmen, that the Southerners had a monopoly of all the virtues, and left the Northerners nothing but the vices, of warfare. That was a very great mistake. General Lee had been set up as a model of a Christian gentleman, and *all that*; but it was not generally known that, in the course of his boasted campaign in Pennsylvania and Maryland, he took forcible possession of every negro he could lay his hands on in those States, to swell his wagon-loads of booty after his army had been annihilated at Gettysburg. And then, there were many English sympathisers with the South who endeavoured to throw slurs upon the friends of the North and upon the noble acts they had recently done on behalf of freedom, by pointing the finger of derision at them, and saying that the North was as bad as the South, and that the negroes were as badly off in the North as they were in the South. An Englishman who made such an assertion was to be pitied for his ignorance, and the American who uttered such a misrepresentation was to be condemned for his falsehood. There was no comparison. It was well known that everything that could be done in the North for the elevation and encouragement of the black man was done by those honest and noble friends of freedom who had been battling for them since the foundation of the country. And so on. The "captain" then proceeded to prophesy that the time was not distant when the Southern States would be held under subjection by negro garrisons, and he hoped that the wealthy and philanthropic men of Manchester would liberally subsidise the freedman's wages for the cultivation of the cotton plant. At all events, let Lancashire possess itself in patience until the war is over. All he asked from us was our moral support. Let us do all we consistently could to aid the North in its holy cause; but whether we aided the North or not, let us at least withhold our assistance from the South. "In preferring this request," (said the waggish resident magistrate in Liberia) "I feel in the position of the man who, on encountering a bear, asked Providence to help him, or, failing so, *not to help Grizzly*,"—adding, as a recommendation to the latter alternative, that Providence would in that case, see such a fight as had not been witnessed on the face of this or any other planet.

The "George Thompson Soirée" came off in due course, the chief object of the affair being to present an address of sympathy to that gentleman on the eve of his departure to the "United States." Mr. Thompson deserved this demonstration of respect from his small band of admirers; indeed, a mere address seems a very feeble recognition of "thirty years' public service," attended with such personal sacrifice as to render "expatriation" an eligible alternative in his future prospects. It was quite proper that the fullest justice should be done to Mr. Thompson in the handsomest form which addresses and complimentary testimonials can assume—for do but listen to what Mr. Thompson has achieved for mankind:—

"For upwards of thirty years you have been prominently and meritoriously associated with nearly every advanced movement for the welfare of the human race; but pre-eminently, and with uniform consistency, have you laboured and suffered in the glorious cause of human freedom. In Great Britain, in India, and in America, your energies and sympathies have been consecrated to the service of mankind—of whatever race, colour, condition, or creed. Nobly have you borne the heat and burden of the day, and never have you flinched in the utmost stress of conflict, in the darkest hour of danger, or in any crisis, however appalling to the less hopeful champions of freedom. Whoever the foe, whatever the difficulty, and however others may have faltered, compromised, or retreated, you have always been the steadfast friend and defender of liberty and justice. Your able pen, your eloquent tongue, your indomitable spirit, have always been at the service of the true friends of universal emancipation. We cannot rehearse the many occasions on which, as a public man, you have stood forward the advocate and friend of those who were prostrated by ruthless oppression, crushed by unjust social burdens, or trampled upon by iniquitous legislation."

Happy the man whose claims on public gratitude justify such a panegyric! Well might one of the "supporters of the address" describe the occasion as "in some respects gratifying, and in others melancholy." A benefactor of the most cosmopolitan order, a teacher of "the great truths that should guide public men and measures," a man who never "set his hands to a bad cause and never turned his back upon a good one," who had "made the homes of many people bright by his efforts," and who, on no less authority than that of Mr. George Wilson (chairman on the occasion) occupied a place "in the very front rank of living men," a philanthropist of this strain and quality finds it desirable to leave his native country for whose sake he had done so much, and, in his own metaphorical language, "go to America to do something to keep the wolf from the door." George Thompson is not the first who has experienced that England is but a stepdame occasionally to "the very front rank" of her worthiest sons, and Carlyle hushed her well for the unnatural neglect some, twenty years ago. George Thompson heaps coals of fire upon her offending head, for, "without reflecting on his country," he apostrophises her after his own favourite Cowper:

"England! with all thy faults," &c.

Charity effaces a multitude of sins, but here it is the ornament and crown of many virtues! Well, well! National gratitude is capricious. To some it awards testimonials more substantial than addresses, though, by the way, modern precedents of this kind of return have not uniformly been successful. George Thompson, it seems, must be content with compliments in his new mission of developing "the virtues," of which (in the words of his speech) "the negro race is redolent."

PARIS TOPICS.

(*From our Own Correspondent.*)

PARIS, January 26.

THE French press is as busy with the question of Slesvig Holstein as if Mr. Milner Gibson had not given utterance to the judgment long since formed by universal Europe, that it is intelligible only to German learning of German patriotism. They eschew, however, the question of right, and take it for what it is worth as a possible cause of European war, and a probable means of dissolving the German Confederation. Behind it, not unwelcome glimpses of the Rhine are discerned by many French politicians, which may account for the doubtful position taken up by France, so unlike her usual readiness to take a part in every quarrel. But there is a very general feeling here that there will be no recourse had to active hostilities. The great German Powers have not only discontent at home to make them pause before entering on an adventure which might embroil them with England; they have in addition to contend with the sentiments of Germany, now excited to frenzy by their disregard of the decisions of the Diet. They may remember the freebooting expedition against Holland in favour of Belgium thirty-odd years ago, but they can hardly hope that on this occasion the weaker Power will be without allies. Unless Lord Russell be voracious indeed, he has of late eaten humble-pie enough, and would hardly survive a fresh surfeit, such as his eating all the "brave words" he has spoken and written about Denmark. The last news, threatening as it is, has not affected the money market this afternoon. There has been a slight rise in the funds, which may be ascribed to the immense success of the loan, for which more than twelve times its amount have been applied for. But if a general war were considered imminent, even this financial success would not have counterbalanced the effect of the alarm this would cause.

Poland is almost forgotten. The *Patrie* and *Siècle*, with the *Opinion*, continue to pour out article after article proving that the insurrection is stronger than ever, but they gain little attention and less credence. As to the American war, from time to time the republican *Siècle* and the infallible *Débats* indulge in a repetition of their old tirades about Southern slavery and Northern liberty; but their articles read like a set task, where there is more care to add words to words and lines to lines, than to produce conviction on their readers. I have for some weeks remarked a very improved tone in the most courtly of the Opposition papers, the *Opinion*, which may be called cousin to the *Constitutionnel*. It contained a short time ago a parallel of the speeches of the two Presidents, not friendly to Mr. Davis, but still more unfavourable to Mr. Lincoln. Last night there appeared in it a most able analysis of Governor Seymour's Message—more fair and more thoroughly French, because more logical, than anything I have before read in its columns. The American quarrel is one of those which Frenchmen are slow to understand. It is a practical one, and therefore completely satisfies no theories, and French minds are so constituted that only theories have the power to impassion the masses. There can be no question that in the last eighteen months very great strides have been made in the right direction—I mean, in recognising the false pretences put forth by the North in its war of appropriation, and the true ground on which the South appeals to the sympathy of freemen—but such ideas, obscured as they have been by declamation and prejudice, make their way but slowly. The lovers of things as they are, more numerous than may be supposed in France, and the friends of indefinite progress, the militant Republicans, were alike inclined to wish well to the North. Now the position is very different, and in all the great centres of thought the majority will be found inimical to their pretensions, and loudly commemorative of the means by which it has sought to make them good.

The news from Miramar represents the Archduke as packing up for his departure to Mexico. The votes of the municipalities are not expected till early in March, when the deputation will return to lay them before him, on which, it is said, he will at once assume the imperial title. His intended stay in Paris is confirmed.

SOUTHERN PRISONERS RELIEF FUND.

MR. J. H. ASHBRIDGE, the Treasurer of the Southern Prisoners Relief Fund, has favoured us with some letters, from which we make the following extracts:—

NEW ORLEANS, December 30, 1863.

J. H. ASHBRIDGE, ESQ.

DEAR SIR,—I have been waiting an opportunity for several days to write you: a violent storm this morning, which prevents all out-door occupation, favours my wish. Your letter to Mr. S——, of November 28, containing kind messages to me and a Christmas present for the poor Confederates of £25, was received by last steamer. The papers you speak of have not come to hand. They may be in the mail just arrived, but not assorted. Thank God! if governments and politicians look coldly on this struggle for home and liberty, there are individuals with hearts not callous to the miseries wrought by civil war, and open hands ready and willing to extend relief to the oppressed and suffering.

My dear friend, I hardly know how or in what language to express our thanks to you and your noble-hearted coadjutors for the timely assistance rendered us. Your liberality, aided by our sympathisers in Nassau and Havana, has enabled us to clothe in a warm and substantial manner many destitute paroled prisoners, many families whose protectors and support are in the army, give clothing and nourishing food to over forty sick Confederates still in the hospitals, besides all the prisoners that have been brought here since the spring. Last week we witnessed the departure of twenty officers and one hundred and twenty-seven privates, exchanged in the Trans-Mississippi Department. Such glad hearts and bright faces I have seldom seen, and the cheer upon cheer they gave as they past us was a moment in my life I shall never forget. God bless you! God bless the good people that help us! was a welcome reward for the many anxieties endured before I could make up my mind to make an appeal to our friends abroad—for that help I found from sad experience had been exhausted at home. But when the helping hand was stretched out to us from over the wide ocean, and our call so quickly answered, from the beautiful isles near our own loved land, my work—our work—became more than a pleasure. With the financial assistance of Mr. S——, and our excellent friend Dr. M—— (you know him by reputation at least), in seeking the best articles on the lowest terms (we are fortunate in having a few Confederates among our merchants), in visiting with me the prisons and finding out the actual wants of each inmate, our time and your charities have been used, we trust with judgment, and we feel in a good cause. I am happy, and am sure the friends of our brave soldiers will be equally so, to know, that every one who left for Dixie, officers and men, were well and comfortably clothed from head to foot, and a blanket beside. The cause will have no better or braver soldiers than these, for another incentive is added to "do deeds of noble daring,"—gratitude and cheering faith in a cause that lives undying amid such surroundings. The remainder of the prisoners still here (about the same number of officers and privates that were exchanged), are as well prepared to leave at a moment's notice. I have never spent so pleasant a Christmas as the last. Many ladies joined in giving a Christmas dinner to the inmates of the three prisons: Rampart-street (Mr. Connor's house), where the officers are confined; Barrone-street (the old slave depot), where ninety Texans are; and at the Custom-house, the home of the remainder of the privates. Many a family spoiled their own usual feast on that day that our poor boys might at least feel they were not forgotten (I know we did with glad hearts); and on a day so calculated to call up thoughts of home and home pleasures, we would do something to drive away home sickness, and give them a few hours' enjoyment, and we must have succeeded if the glad voices that joined in a Confederate song was an indication; and I think the passer-by would have been startled at hearing the dear old "Bonnie Blue Flag," if the joyous shout and our pleased faces had not disturbed the Union feelings of their jailors, who bade them cease their merriment; but they did not prevent the distribution of the good things at any of the prisons. Should no more prisoners be brought here, and God grant there may not be, we will make use of whatever funds our friends advance to the care of the poor, and to assist in liquidating a debt incurred by the burial of those Confederates who have died here. The Federal authorities gave permission to take from the hospitals their bodies; we have the ground, and are allowed a burial without demonstration; four persons, with a clergyman, permitted to follow the hearse. Every unnecessary expenditure is avoided; a plain coffin and hearse, those attending going in the cars, (as the lot is in Cypress Grove, No. 2); and yet we have a debt of over $1,200. So many of the brave defenders of Vicksburg and Port Hudson came here but to die, utterly prostrated by fatigue and sickness, without medicine and proper nourishment. We were only too happy to have our "boys" separated even in death from those who came willingly to destroy their homes and desecrate the graves of their fathers. If your friends can give us further assistance, this would be the use we should wish to place a part of it. It is for the dead, Although no prayer of gratitude can issue from their lips, those of many a wife, mother, and sister, in their far-off home, will call down blessings on those who have saved the remains of their loved ones from unknown and forgotten graves. You cannot imagine, dear Mr. A——, how beautiful this little cemetery looks, with its evergreen wreaths and fresh bouquets, placed almost daily over the simple mounds of the martyrs of liberty.

S.

January 2, 1864.

DEAR MR. ASHBRIDGE,—From prudential motives alone have I refrained from writing until a sure opportunity presented itself, to thank you for the very liberal donation (£40) sent me through Misses S. and Brother Phil., which I had forwarded to a friend in New York to sell when he thought best, in the meantime borrowing from home for the pressing wants of the present time. I cannot express to you how sincerely grateful and thankful our unfortunate friends are for your great thoughtfulness, sympathy, and generosity. Three hundred and forty men were prisoners for a few weeks near us, and when I told them to whom they were indebted for the good things, &c., I assure you that they were deeply affected, and wished with the new year that health, wealth, and prosperity might attend you. Never was there such a need for money, for never was there such a number who required aid. The first money expended after the receipt of yours was in behalf of the unexpected but successful exodus from Ohio. A friend of ours was among the lucky ones, whose name I will mention when I write next. Doubtless you have seen by the papers that General Butler is our master—and a hard one he is—but, believe me, in one of his subordinates we have a harder one still in a general of the coloured troops, by the name of Wild. The outrages committed by this man far exceed anything hitherto practised against any people, save the unfortunate Poles. To give you an idea what he does, and is allowed to do: a few days since he had brought to the city two young girls, white ones, tied hand and foot, and thrown in the common gaol, where they now are. The nature of their offence, or if they offended at all, is an unexplained and never to be answered mystery. And this case is not an extreme one by any means, for these dreadful scenes are daily enacted here; but we are powerless to help ourselves or others, and all that is left us miserables to do is to mourn departed days, when we had gentlemen to deal with. . . . . The white and negro troops disagree so that they dare not keep them in the same station. I find that my letter has been but a dirge, which chapter of horrors pray excuse me for troubling you with, but "from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh" must be my apology. With the hope that your Christmas may have been a merry one, and may the New Year bring you all the blessings that a good man should enjoy, is the sincere wish of

Your Norfolk friend,
M. B. K.

BLOCKADE PRICES AT WILMINGTON.

THE following are the prices obtained in Wilmington at a catalogue sale of imported goods, December 17 :—

French wove corsets, $25 each ; madder handkerchiefs $24 50 to $32 50 per doz. ; linseys, $6 50 to $7 ; orienta lustre, $6 to $6 75 ; coburgs, $8 $62\frac{1}{2}$ to $8 70 ; prints, assorted colours, $4 $37\frac{1}{2}$ to $4 95 ; alpaca, $7 50 to $9 50 ; delaines, $7 to $7 50 ; Welsh flannel, $7 50 to $8 , fancy flannel, $10 ; scarlet Saxony, $10 50 · fancy shirting, $5 ; bleached shirting, $4 to $4 55 ; woollen cloth, $21 to $30 ; blue broadcloth, $65 ; black do., $85 ; rolled cambric, $2 to $2 10 ; mohair, $6 85 to $12 50 ; jaconet, $4 75 ; fancy tweed, $7 per yard ; linen cambric handkerchiefs, $35 per doz. ; shawls, $7 each ; fancy flannel shirts, $230 per doz. ; brown cotton drawers, $130 per doz.; do. do. shirts, $135 ; merino drawers, $70 per doz.; pins, $10 25 per package ; white and coloured hose, $36 ; merino half hose, $41 per doz. ; shoe thread, $9 25 to $9 $87\frac{1}{2}$; flax thread, $12 $12\frac{1}{2}$ per lb.; window glass, $96 per box ; cotton cards, $42 per pair ; bonnet frames, $15 per doz.; envelopes, $40 to $60 per 1,000 ; note paper, $50 ; letter, do., $10 to $60 50; cap do., $57 per ream ; printing paper, $2 $37\frac{1}{2}$ per lb.; steel pens, $5 $62\frac{1}{2}$ to $10 25 ; pen-holders, $15 50 per gross; playing cards, $38 per doz. packs; blue mass, $7; camphor, $19 to $23; calomel, $10 75 to $12 75; balsam copaiva, 5 to $5 50; chloroform, $7 25 to $7 50 ; carb. ammonia, 4 30; Epsom salts, $1 62 to $1 85; calcined magnesia, $3; prepared chalk, $1 05; cream tartar, $4 10; rolled sulphur, $1 95; chloride potash, $275 per lb.; morphine, $50 per oz.; extract logwood, $2 25 per lb.; tanning acid, $3 25 to $4 25 per oz.; copperas, $1 55 ; alum, $1 85 to $1 60 ; black pepper, $3 55 to $6 75 per lb.; sperm candles, $10; Jamaica coffee, $7 $62\frac{1}{2}$; congou tea, $9 62 to $11; sugar, $2 85 for brown, $4 $12\frac{1}{2}$ to $4 20 for crushed, and $5 26 to $5 40 for loaf. Brown soap, $2 ; brown Windsor soap, $15 25 to $15 75 per doz. ; castile soap, $3 75 per lb.; codfish, $1 40 to $1 65 per lb ; salmon, $410 to $415 ; mackerel, $200 per bbl. Sardines, $4 $12\frac{1}{2}$ to $5 $87\frac{1}{2}$ per box ; pickles, $125 per dozen jars ; knives and forks, $19 to $24 per set ; scissors, $25 per doz.; French calfskins, $910 to $970 ; sheepskins, $530 per doz. Ladies' gaiters, $36 to $47 ; ladies' grain boots, $28 to 50 ; ladies' kid boots, $50 ; girls' and misses' cashmere boots, $24 ; French calf bluchers, $44 ; russet brogans, $27 ; russet cavalry boots, $65 ; short Wellington boots, $50 per pair. Alcohol, $70 to 72 ; brandy, $92 50 to $107 50 ; Holland gin, $45 to 53 ; whisky, $58 50 to $62 ; rum, $39 50 per gallon. Bourbon whisky, $237 to $225 per doz.; olive oil, $33 per gallon.

GENERAL BRAGG.—General Bragg has undoubtedly been relieved of the direction of the army now in north Georgia, and General Hardee is in command ; whether temporarily or permanently is yet to be seen. General Bragg has, of late, laboured under difficulties which, independent of all military skill or sagacity, would have weighed down almost any commander. He has not had the cordial confidence of his officers and his army, and without these the battle is half lost before it commences. The cause of this state of feeling towards him is not easy to account for in all its extent. His alleged harshness as a disciplinarian had its effect on the army. The hostility of the newspapers, produced by his rigour towards their correspondents, had much to do with his unpopularity. His want of success, his incomplete victories, and his many retreats, naturally chagrined his subordinate officers, and made them reluctant to follow his fortunes ; while they were further alienated by frequent misunderstandings from whatever cause. And yet there are good judges who see in General Bragg the qualities of a gifted commander. If he has made retreats it has not been without brave and bloody fights. He has not feared or hesitated to stake his reputation and his fame on the gage of battle. If his constrained retreats have lost us territory, they have yielded no more than has sometimes been sacrificed to a mysterious strategy. From Shiloh, where he won his honours, down to Chickamauga, he has had no bed of roses. If unsuccessful, he has, at least, not been idle. And when we consider the untoward circumstances against which he has had to contend, we cannot but think, even after making due allowance for his faults and infirmities, that he has been more sinned against than sinning, and that, if he had been better supported, he would have accomplished more. But whatever the reason—whether through real incompetency or through the suspicion of it, and that unacceptability to which we have referred—the time of Bragg's usefulness as a commander is over. Shaken and crippled before, the unsuccessful battle of Chickamauga has left no further room for question. Bragg himself saw it, and immediately asked to be relieved.—*Richmond Sentinel.*

WE gather from our Mobile files the following items :—

Hon. J. M. Calhoun has been re-elected Mayor of Atlanta.

A number of the Virginia tobacco merchants have begun business at Atlanta.

A number of General Rhode's friends in Lynchburg have presented him with a splendid war-horse.

Governor Milton, in his message to the Florida Legislature, recommends the enrollment of every male Floridian for State defence.

The whole amount of cotton carried out from the port of Wilmington by the blockade runners, from the 1st of January to the 30th of September, was 30,851 bales.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, Jan. 27.

THE MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKETS.

THE Bank directors have not made any further alteration in the minimum rate of discount this week, the late rise having materially checked the efflux of gold, which for some weeks previous had been continously increasing. It is not therefore apprehended that any further change will take place at present. For all commercial purposes money is abundant, but within the last day or two the applications for discount accommodation have been very moderate, both at the Bank and in the general market. The brokers however, are obtaining full rates for their advances, very little indeed being done under the Bank rate. The Joint Stock Banks are employing their resources at $7\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. On the Stock Exchange there is a good inquiry for short loans, for which $6\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 per cent. is obtained.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The bullion movements at the Bank of England since the alteration in the rate of discount have been more favourable than for some time past. This week the withdrawals of gold for transmission abroad have amounted to only £134,000, against which there has been sent in £65,000. The arrivals of specie have been to a fair extent, the total being £399,491, all of which is from America, with the exception of £945 from Alexandria. It is, however, believed that nearly all the American gold has been purchased for France. The steamer for the East which sailed to-day takes out £567,940, of which £23,590 gold is for Alexandria ; £57,100 gold and £487,310 silver for Bombay. There has not much activity in the silver market, and the price for bar has declined $\frac{1}{8}$d. per oz., the present quotations being 5s. 2d. The supply on hand is moderate. Mexican dollars have been in better demand, but there are very few in the market. The gold ships from Australia still to arrive are, the *Suffolk*, which will bring £115,500 ; the *Water Nymph*, £56,000, and the *Omar Pacha*, £71,000, making a total of £242,500.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The English stock market has shown considerable fluctuations during the week. After the rise in the Bank rate of discount on Wednesday last the market became steadier, and the advices from the Continent being regarded as more favourable with respect to the Danish dispute, prices rather rapidly advanced. Later accounts, however, of a far more gloomy character having come to hand, quotations again receded, but not to the full extent of the improvement previously attained. The closing price this evening for Consols was $90\frac{5}{8}$ to $\frac{7}{8}$ for money, and $90\frac{3}{4}$ for the February account, which is an advance on the week of about $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. Exchequer bills are again declining, the present price being 10s. to 4s. dis. There has also been more animation in the foreign stock market, although there has been but little speculation going on, and prices for most descriptions have improved. Greek stock has advanced to 22 to $22\frac{1}{2}$, being a rise of $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. Mexicans are $1\frac{1}{2}$ better, the present quotation being 36 to $36\frac{1}{4}$. Spanish have improved only fractionally, the Passives closing at $33\frac{1}{4}$ to $33\frac{1}{2}$, and the Certificates $13\frac{1}{4}$ to $13\frac{3}{8}$. Turkish continue firm, the Six per Cents of 1854 being $88\frac{1}{2}$ to $89\frac{1}{2}$, and those of 1862, $66\frac{3}{4}$ to $67\frac{1}{4}$.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

Again the business transacted in American Government and railway securities, has been very restricted, the dealings recorded having taken place in the leading descriptions, but the closing prices are lower than at the beginning of the week. The official transactions were—Atlantic and Great-Western, New York section, 75; Do. do. Pennsylvania do., 78, $77\frac{3}{4}$, 78 and $77\frac{3}{4}$; Erie Shares $100, all paid, 66; Illinois Central Seven Per Cent, 72 and $71\frac{1}{2}$; Do. do. $100 shares, $90 paid, $24\frac{1}{2}$, 23, $22\frac{1}{2}$, and $22\frac{3}{4}$ dis.; Do. do. all paid, $69\frac{1}{2}$; Marietta and Cincinnati Railway, 74 ; and Panama Railway, second mortgage, $106\frac{1}{2}$.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

The market for British railway securities, although the amount of business transacted has been large, has shown less animation with regard to prices. Towards the close of business to-day, however, there was a tendency to greater firmness, but without any positive advance. As compared with last week there has been a decline of 1 per cent. in Glasgow and South-Western and London, and North-Western ; of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Great Western, Metropolitan, Lancashire, and Yorkshire and South-Eastern, and of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. in North-Eastern (Berwick). On the other hand there has been an improvement of from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Cornwall and North Staffordshire. In foreign railway shares, business has been of a more quiet character, and the variation in quotations has been only fractional. There has not been any particular demand for shares connected with British Possessions; business in them has been somewhat limited, but prices have been well supported.

THE CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

There is an increased demand for this security, and considerable purchases having been made, the price has advanced to 49 to 51. The favourable accounts from the South, and the approaching dividend and drawing, have induced the public to come forward more freely as buyers, and this security has met with more attention, notwithstanding all others are rather depressed.

BANK MEETINGS.

The half-yearly meeting of the Consolidated Bank took place this afternoon, when the report of the directors was unanimously adopted. It stated that the directors had succeeded in forming an amalgamation with the old established banking firm of Messrs. Hankey and Co., whose business has been incorporated with the Consolidated Bank. The result of this arrangement has proved in every way satisfactory to the board. The net profits of the Bank for the half-year, after deducting current expenses, &c., amount to £49,842, which, with the balance left unappropriated, and premiums on shares allotted during the half-year, makes a total of £58,427, from which it is proposed to carry to the reserve fund £20,000, and to declare a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum and a bonus of 1s. per share, being an additional $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, and to carry forward to the next account £1,076. At the half-yearly meeting of the Bank of London, the balance-sheet showed that the balance of profit upon the operations of the Bank for the past half-year amounted to £61,394. After the payment of all expenses, including a gratuity to the clerks of the establishment of 10 per cent. upon the amount of their respective salaries, there remained for disposal the sum of £35,530. Out of this a dividend was declared at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, with the addition of a bonus of £1 5s. per share, being at the additional rate of 5 per cent. per annum free of income tax; a sum of £12,000 was transferred to the reserve fund, which now amounts to £112,000, and a balance of £1,030 was carried forward. The directors' allowance was increased by a grant of £1,000, and the salary of the auditors was increased to £50 each for the half-yearly audits.—At the meeting of the shareholders in the London Joint Stock Bank, the report of the directors showed that during the past half-year the net profits amounted to £80,573, of which it was proposed to devote £61,500 to the payment of the usual dividend of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, with a bonus of 8s. per share, and to carry £19,075 to the guarantee fund. The report was unanimously agreed to.—At the third general meeting of the proprietors of the Alliance Bank of London and Liverpool a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. was declared. The total amount available for dividend was £26,933. The dividend would absorb £16,000, and after placing £2,000 to the credit of the reserve fund, there remained £8,933 to be carried forward.—At the first ordinary general meeting of the Joint Stock Discount Company, a dividend was declared at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. A sum of £35,000 was carried to the interest new account as rebate on bills not yet due, and £17,988 was appropriated as the nucleus of a reserve fund.—At the twenty-first ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered Bank, the report, which was adopted, stated the balance of profit for the first half-year was £2[illegible]627. This would admit of an increased dividend, but in accordance with the recommendation of the directors it was determined to continue the dividend at 6 per cent. per annum.—At the ordinary general meeting of the proprietors of the Metropolitan and Provincial Bank, the report stated that there was a balance of profit upon the half-year of £14,666. After payment of interest on current and deposit account, £8,183 was applied to payment of current expenses and bad debts, £925 to writing off preliminary expenses, £3,650 to payment of a dividend of 5 per cent. per annum, leaving a balance of £1,874 to be carried forward. The report was adopted.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

In the produce markets business continues to be checked by the uncertainty involving both political and monetary affairs, and transactions in nearly every department are upon a very limited scale. Quotations, as usually is the case in dull markets, have a drooping tendency, but sales are not heavily pressed and the variations are not generally important. The value of cotton has remained nearly stationary, with moderate operations from day to day. The grain trade has not presented any new feature. For all descriptions of wheat the demand is very dull, but rates are upheld. In American provisions a steady business is doing : singed bacon sides sell to a fair extent at 42s. to 44s. For beef prices are still unsettled by fresh arrivals. American butters are rather cheaper, owing to increased supplies. The depression, however, is not heavy, as the receipts of other foreign butters are small. In consequence of a continuous advance in English hops, all kinds of foreign, are held with increasing firmness. In American tobacco there is not much passing, the attention of the trade being attracted to other descriptions by their relative cheapness. Petroleum continues very steady at 2s. per gallon for American refined. French turpentine has receded to 71s. 6d. sellers. American is quite nominal. Linseed oil is rather easier at 35s. 3d , and pale rape at 41s. 6d. per cwt. Sperm is unaltered. Political influences have rather increased the strength of the tallow market, but quotations are not advanced. Saltpetre remains very inactive, with a heavy stock. In chemicals there is not much change, beyond an advance in sulphate of copper, which is now quoted £35 to £36 per ton. In dyes but little is doing. For cochineal there is a limited inquiry, at about the rates of last auctions. Jute has recovered about 10s. per ton from the recent decline. Manilla hemp is in demand for arrival, and £35 per ton has been refused. Sugar remains extremely inactive, but holders still avoid pressing sales, and any material decline is in this way prevented. Spices of all kinds meet a fair demand ; for pepper and cloves the tendency is against buyers. The metal trade is still inactive. Scotch pig iron has drooped to £3, but closes £3 to £3 6s. Business is doing in spelter at £21. Copper is very firm at the recent advances, and lead at £21 10s. for common English pig. For tin there is no inquiry, and the quotation of Straits is quite nominal at £117 to £118 cash.

COTTON AND DRY GOODS MARKET.

LIVERPOOL, Wednesday, Jan. 27.

THE demand for cotton has this week been again very limited, and the market presents a dull and drooping appearance. It is with difficulty that sales are effected, even at the lower prices taken. There is more firmness exhibited with regard to American descriptions, there not being an abundant supply, but even for these lower prices have to be accepted, in order to do business. The sales this week have amounted to 26 000 bales, of which 8,000 were on speculation and for export. The total sales this year have been 98,510 bales, and to the same period in 1863, 129,270 bales. There have been imported this year 68,693 bales; to the same time last year 74,254 bales. The exports this year have reached 17,501 bales, and in 1863, 13,524 bales. Taken for consumption this year, 65,800 bales, whilst last year they were 57,400 bales. 11,170 bales have been taken on speculation this year, against 56,440 bales in 1863. The computed stocks at present are 266,560 bales ; last year at the same time they were 395,680 bales. To-day the market has been rather better supported, prices being firm, but the sales were again limited. The latest official quotations were, American descriptions $25\frac{3}{4}$d. to 28d.; Egyptian, 24d. to 24d.; Bahia, 24d. to $26\frac{1}{2}$d.; Maranham, $28\frac{1}{2}$d. to $28\frac{3}{4}$d.; Pernam. $27\frac{1}{4}$d. to $27\frac{1}{2}$d.; and Surats, 14d. to $24\frac{1}{2}$d.

MANCHESTER, January 26.

Our market still continues in a dull, stagnant state, and the tendency of prices is against producers. The India advices to hand, and dated 28th and 29th ult., give a very gloomy report of our principal markets there, the Calcutta letters more especially, which bring us intelligence of a very serious monetary panic existing there.

This and the threatening aspect of the Dano-German question have produced a most depressing effect on buyers generally, that next to no business is reported.

Many mills have stopped work during the past week, and many more are reported as closing.

Yarns generally are much neglected, and quotations are only nominal. Goods, although not much inquired for, are much more firmly held than yarns. To-day, Tuesday, has been one of the flattest market days known.

DIED.—On January 24th, at 93, Bedford street, South Liverpool, George, W., infant son of Mr. J. H. Ashbridge, of New Orleans.

Among the Contents of THE INDEX *of Jan.* 21, *are*—

NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK AT HOME AND ABROAD.
PARIS TOPICS.
CONFEDERAT[illegible] LANCASHIRE.
THE WAR.
THE "EDINBURGH [illegible] ON THE NEGRO.
[illegible]
THE [illegible]
THE QU[illegible] REVIEWS.
[illegible] NOTES.
THE REPORT OF THE [illegible] SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR :—
THE LIVERPOOL [illegible] CASE.
NEW YORK LETTER.
AFFAIRS, FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

BUST OF JEFFERSON DAVIS.

The only Bust extant of the President of the Confederate States, modelled by Volk, at Richmond, and the most faithful Likeness of this eminent Statesman, has been kindly lent by the Owner for reproduction for the benefit of the Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund of Liverpool. In conformity with the intentions of the donor, the Bust has been registered under the Designs Act, and a number of casts (quarter size) limited to 500, are offered to the public at the following rates:—

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The Bust may be seen at the studio of JAMES REDFERN, Esq., 29, Clipstone street, Fitzroy-square, W., who will also receive orders to execute it in marble; and at the INDEX OFFICE, 13, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street, E.C.

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There are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and Depôts of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellowmen.

Contributions will be received by J. H. ASHBRIDGE, Treasurer, Walmer Buildings, Water Street, Liverpool; or in London, by HENRY HOTZE, Esq., 17, Savile Row, W.; in Paris, by H. O. BREWER, Esq., 6 Rue Circubsire; and DANIEL HUBBARD, Esq., 24, Rue Lord Byron.

THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL REVIEW,

AND

Journal of the Anthropological Society of London.

No. IV., FEBRUARY 1864, CONTAINS:

ON THE HUMAN HAIR AS A RACIAL CHARACTER. BY DR PRUNER BEY.
ESSAY ON THE MYTHS OF THE ORIGIN OF MAN AND LANGUAGE.
ITALIAN ANTHROPOLOGY.
ON THE SCYTHO-CIMMERIAN LANGUAGE.
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ABNORMAL DENTITION OF WHITE
HUMAN REMAINS FROM LIMERICK.
DANISH KITCHEN MIDDENS.

MISCELLANEA ANTHROPOLOGICA.

Journal of the Anthropological Society of London:

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DR. JAMES HUNT, C. R. MARKHAM, GEORGE L. ROBERTS, A. A. BYRON,
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NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK.

AMERICA.

AN unusually severe frost has prevented any important military operations. If the weather prophets are to be relied on, and a very cold winter is the forerunner of a very hot summer, the Federals will encounter a new enemy, and the Confederates will find a powerful ally in the Southern climate. But though there is a dearth of battles, there is by no means a truce to hostilities. General Gilmore renewed the bombardment of Charleston on the 10th of January, and from the morning of the 12th till the evening of the 14th threw 471 shells into the city. The shells exploded at the proper time and the casualties were *nil*. The reason Gilmore has not succeeded in "bagging" some stray women and children is, that the combustible material of which the "Greek fire" is composed turns out to be worthless. It is intimated that the siege operations are temporarily suspended, and the Federal commander has removed his headquarters to Hilton Head, to fit out an extensive secret expedition. Preparing for a secret expedition is now the usual accompaniment of the admission of a Northern failure. The Federals are getting fidgety about Charleston; and to add to their discomfort, the purveyors of news to the New York papers state that four Confederate ironclad rams are lying in Charleston harbour, nearly ready to make a descent on the Federal fleet. It has also transpired that a secret expedition, sent out by Admiral Dahlgren, in December last, has not succeeded. The naval failures of the Federals have lately been so numerous that it is impossible to say to which of them this announcement relates.

There is no news from Virginia. Having tried fighting and strategic movements, the invading army has gone into winter-quarters in the neighbourhood of Washington. Under these circumstances Mr. Lincoln and his friends are carrying on the war in Virginia in their peculiar fashion. The plan is to frighten the Confederates so as to make them lay down their arms. It was proposed in the Federal Congress "to raise 100,000 men for 100 days to drive the Confederates out of Virginia, and to rescue the Federal prisoners at Richmond." This terrible proposition was not carried, perhaps because the majority of the members did not quite see where the 100,000 men for 100 days were to come from, and had some slight doubt as to the certainty of 100,000 recruits being able in any number of days to drive the Confederates out of Virginia. Then we have a semi-official intimation that in the spring two large armies are to simultaneously move upon Richmond by two different routes, each of these armies being able to cope with General Lee's army. Why two armies should be sent to do the work that one of them can accomplish we do not understand, unless it is to reward the patriotism of Government contractors. Moreover, we are quite in the dark as to how Mr. Lincoln is to get two large armies to operate in Virginia in the spring. However, it is very kind to give the South due notice of the double invasion. Possibly the report is only circulated to help Mr. Chase in keeping gold down and greenbacks up. Lastly, for a hundredth time, it is reported that the Confederate Government has abandoned Richmond, and carried its archives into South Carolina. This news did not affect the price of gold.

In Texas the Federals have been taught a lesson. On the 30th December an expedition to the Matagorda Peninsula, after effecting a landing, was driven back by the Confederates and only escaped capture by the protection of the gunboat *Granite State*. This was evidently a small affair, or one gunboat could not have afforded such efficient aid. From this the Federals will learn the wisdom of an invading army in a hostile country keeping together, but this being so, how can any considerable portion of Texas be held and conquered? It is said that the Confederate vessel *J. F. Carr* took part in the engagement, grounded, and was destroyed by her crew to prevent her capture. It is reported that the Confederates had altogether four steamers in Matagorda Bay. The Federal gunboat *Sciota* has been surveying the Texas coast and has discovered strong Confederate batteries at Velasco and Quintana, near the Brazos river.

General Grant telegraphs to General Halleck that General Vance captured twenty-three Federal wagons near Tennille, but that General Palmer recaptured the wagons and took General Vance, two of his officers, and seven of his men prisoners, "with 150 horses and 100 arms." This telegram bears evident marks of General Halleck's editorial supervision.

We are indebted to the Northern papers for some abstracts of the diplomatic correspondence just submitted to the United States Congress. In the style of Mr. Seward's despatches there is a remarkable sameness. He indulges at every opportunity in diplomatic bullying, and is, as usual, boastful about the resources of the North and the conquest of the South. We will give a specimen of his reckless assertions. He writes, "The great question, heretofore, has been, Can the Constitution and Union endure through the trial? There is no longer any ground for despondency on that point. When we compare the military and naval condition of the country now with what they were when Congress came together a year ago (1861), &c." It is certainly a novel doctrine that an increase in the army is a guarantee of civil liberty, but the false theory is nothing to the false statement involved in the foregoing passage. In 1861 the Constitution of the United States existed, though its days were numbered; in November 1862, when the despatch from which we have quoted was written, liberty had fled from the land, and all that remained of the Constitution was its forms and history.

But Minister Adams, as well as Secretary Seward, excels in the art of misrepresentation. Towards the close of 1862 Mr. Adams writes: "It is a little remarkable that both in England and France the tendency of public opinion is gradually to fall into the old channel of party divisions. The advocates of strong power side with the rebels, while the more liberal and popular party befriend the cause of the Government." This is becoming more and more visible as the struggle goes on." The truth is, that at the outset of the struggle all parties were either indifferent or pro-Northern. After a few months there was a great change in public opinion, and thoughtful and generous minded people sympathised with the South. As the war went on the circle of Southern sympathisers widened, until now, in public conveyances, in public rooms, and in all places of public resort, it is rare to meet with a person who favours the Northern cause; and not only so, but the operatives of Lancashire and the working classes in other parts are rapidly getting rid of the prejudices instilled into them by Northern agents, and at large meetings of artisans resolutions advocating the recognition of the Confederate States are passed by overwhelming majorities.

Mr. Seward still harps upon the recognition of the Confederate States as a belligerent Power, and brings forward on this point an argument which has the merit of novelty. He writes: "The whole case may be summed up thus: the United States claim that in this war they are a whole sovereign nation, and entitled to the same respect as such that they accord to Great Britain. Great Britain does not treat them as such a sovereign; and hence all the evils that disturb their intercourse and endanger their friendship." Did not Great Britain claim to be a whole sovereign nation when France recognised the independence of the United States? Did not Spain claim to be a whole sovereign nation when the great Powers recognised the independence of her revolted colonies? Did not Austria claim to be a whole sovereign nation when the United States despatched an envoy to recognise the independence of Hungary?

Mr. Adams complained of the enlistment of British subjects in the Confederate service, and Earl Russell replied, that "If thousands of British subjects are to be found fighting in the ranks of the Federals, on the invitation of the United States authorities, it is no breach of neutrality that some hundreds should be found in the ships and armies of the Confederates upon a similar invitation on their part." To this home thrust Mr. Adams gives rather an evasive reply. He says he is glad to find the British Government does not intend to oppose any obstacles to his Government, remonstrating "against the enlistment by parties within this kingdom, of Her Majesty's subjects, for the purpose and with the intent to carry on war against a nation with which she is at peace." But we are at peace with the South as well as the North, and despite the Fenian Brotherhood, Ireland, where the Federals have so largely recruited, is a part of this kingdom. However, as the Federals got very much and the Confederates next to nothing by the breach of law of which Mr. Adams complained, the subject dropped, Earl Russell not thinking it his duty to take any steps to enforce the observance of the law.

The case with regard to sale of ships to the belligerents is treated altogether differently. The complaints of the Federal Government are persistent, and our Foreign Secretary does what he can to prevent a breach of the law, that would be of considerable service to the Confederates and of very little service to the Federals. Writing about the decision in the *Alexandra* case, Mr. Seward declares that if the British law is not amended, or if the Government construe it according to the ruling of the Lord Chief Baron, the United States will have to protect themselves; that is, the British Government will be held responsible for the damage done by Confederate cruisers, the President will issue letters of marque, and the Federal navy will be instructed to pursue Confederate vessels into British ports. In other words, we must change our laws, or our Executive must act independently of the decisions of our tribunals, for if not, we shall have to reimburse he Federals for their losses at sea, have privateers sent against our commerce, and have our ports entered by the Federal navy in pursuit of vessels belonging to a Power with which we are at peace. Since the days when the Stuarts had become virtually the dependents of the French kings, such an insolent despatch has never been read to a British Minister. A month later Mr. Seward writes about the steam rams, which he describes as "the for-

midable rams which, virtually with the consent of the British Parliament, are within a few weeks to come forth against us from Laird's shipyard." He admits that the naval forces of the United States are strained to the utmost and cannot resist the rams, and therefore he declares that if they leave the British port a retaliatory war will be inevitable. A week later, that is on September 11, Earl Russell wrote a letter to Mr. Adams, which is very apologetic and meek, and shows that Mr. Seward's threats had had their due effect. His lordship assures Mr. Adams that Her Majesty's Government desires to be neutral, and that if there have been breaches of neutrality, it is owing to this country being governed by definite laws, and not subject to arbitrary will, and that our independent Courts "will not admit assertion for proof nor conjecture for certainty." Having thus defined the constitutional system of this country, Earl Russell has a splendid opportunity of proving the friendship of the Government to the Federal Government. Our "independent Courts" will not admit assertion for proof, nor conjecture for certainty; but to oblige Mr. Adams' Government our Foreign Secretary has done so, and writes: "I have to add that instructions have been issued for preventing the departure of the ironclads in question from Liverpool, until satisfactory evidence can be given as to their destination, or, at all events, until the inquiries which are now being prosecuted, with a view to obtain such evidence, shall have been brought to a conclusion." Thus we have it on the word of Earl Russell, that after being threatened with war if the rams left the Mersey, he detained them at the request of the United States Government—not that he had any evidence of an intended infraction of the law, but until Federal spies could discover or concoct such evidence. Earl Russsell had his reward. Mr. Seward, for a moment, ceased from threatening, and patted his lordship on the back. On the 28th of September, Mr. Seward writes:—"This Government has not been forgetful of the agency of disloyal citizens of the United States in inaugurating the hostile enterprise, and in instigating debates in Parliament and in the press, which have tended to embarrass the British Ministry and aggravate the responsibility which has devolved upon them. The President, therefore, thinks that he apprehends in some degree the firmness and fidelity to just principles which the Cabinet of London has exercised; nor does he for a moment doubt that a sincere desire to cultivate the friendship of the United States has had its proper influence in the determination at which the Cabinet has arrived." The one-time Liberal member for the City of London must have experienced a curious sensation upon being commended by a foreign Government for his disregard of parliamentary debates, and the opinions of the press, and for setting aside the law to conciliate the good-will of the Federals.

The correspondence about the *Alabama* is very voluminous. The Federal Government urges from time to time its claims for compensation, and Earl Russell replies by long despatches on international law. At length our Foreign Secretary was tired of the matter, and wrote to Mr. Adams, disclaiming on behalf of the British Government all responsibility in regard to the proceedings of the *Alabama* or any other Confederate cruiser, and hoping that Mr. Adams would not for the future be instructed to put forward claims which the British Government cannot admit to be founded on law or justice. Perhaps the most remarkable passage in the *Alabama* correspondence is in a despatch from Earl Russell, dated December 19, 1862, to Mr. Adams. His lordship writes:—

As regards your demand for a more effective prevention for the future of the fitting out of such vessels in British ports, I have the honour to inform you that Her Majesty's Government after consultation with the law officers of the Crown, are of opinion that certain amendments might be introduced into the Foreign Enlistment Act, which, if sanctioned by the Parliament, would have the effect of giving greater power to the Executive to prevent the construction in British ports of ships destined for the use of belligerents. But Her Majesty's Government consider that, before submitting any proposals of that sort to Parliament, it would be desirable that they should previously communicate with the Government of the United States, and ascertain whether that Government is willing to make similar alterations in its own Foreign Enlistment Act; and that the amendments, like the original statute, should, as it were, proceed *pari passu* in both countries. I shall accordingly be ready at any time to confer with you, and to listen to any suggestions which you may have to make by which the British Foreign Enlistment Act and the corresponding statute of the United States may be made more efficient for their purpose.

Did it not occur to Earl Russell that alterations might be proposed that would be entirely unfair to the Confederate States? Does neutrality consist in altering the law during the continuance of hostilities to meet the requirements of one of the belligerents? We much mistake the spirit of the British Parliament if it would consent to such a course at the request of any Government.

The abstract of the French correspondence presents a marked contrast to that with Great Britain. It is studiously courteous, and even on the subject of Mexico there is no manifestation of anger, but the predilection for a republic is expressed in very respectful terms. Mr. Seward avows that his Government have no desire to intervene in Mexico. They think republican institutions are best fitted for the country, but they only submit their opinions to the Emperor "on proper occasions, as worthy of his serious consideration in determining how he would conduct and close what might prove a successful war in Mexico." A month later, that is on October 23, Mr. Seward, in reply to a despatch from Mr. Dayton, announcing an election in Mexico for the empire, writes: "You will inform M. Drouyn de Lhuys that our opinion remains unchanged. On the other hand, the United States cannot anticipate the action of Mexico, nor have they the least purpose or desire to interfere in their proceedings, or control or interfere with their free choice, or disturb them in the enjoyment of whatever institutions of government they may, in the exercise of an absolute freedom, establish." Contrast this with the language used to Earl Russell, and it is clear that a spirited policy is the best policy for dealing with the Federal Government.

In reference to the Imperial views respecting the American war there is a long despatch from Mr. Dayton. On July 30th, Mr. Dayton writes that he called on M. Drouyn de Lhuys to inquire about the reported intention of the Emperor to acknowledge the South, and about the conversation between the Emperor and Messrs. Roebuck and Lindsay. The questions were not put authoritatively Mr. Dayton remarks: "You will observe that in this way I reached the subject matter without saying I had had any formal instructions from my Government to interrogate France on these questions." Mr. Dayton then gives the "substance" of M. Drouyn de Lhuys' answer, which in some respects is a palpable misrepresentation of what that gentleman said. It may be true that "the Emperor had at no time made any proposition to England to acknowledge the South:" for the Emperor proposed, as a preliminary step, the offer of mediation. But it is not true that the Emperor told Messrs. Roebuck and Lindsay "that the only proposition as to any action in our affairs had been made to him by England, and been rejected by him," because a diplomatic correspondence has been published, in which the offer to mediate is proposed to the British Government by the Government of France. It is not true that Messrs. Roebuck and Lindsay went to Paris to urge the Emperor to acknowledge the South, but their mission was to ascertain if the report circulated by Federal agents that the Emperor would not act with England was true or false, and Mr. Dayton is correct in writing that the Emperor said, "that he had given England no cause to believe he would not act with her."

The correspondence with Russia contains a despatch from Mr. Seward, in which he observes, "Russia has our friendship in every case in preference to any other European Power, simply because she always wishes us well, and leaves us to conduct our affairs as we think best." Prince Gortschakoff is not quite so warm. He told Mr. Taylor, "We earnestly hope for the maintenance of the Union, but at the same time we have no hostility to the Southern people—and for the sake of both sides we shall gladly proffer our services when they are mutually requested, but not until then."

The correspondence with the other Powers does not call for lengthened comment. Mr. Seward instructs the Minister at the Court of Turin to express to the Italian Foreign Secretary the sincere satisfaction of the Federal Government "with the answer which was given by him to the proposition of the British Government concerning visits of the insurgent vessels in Italian ports. Their recognition of the insurgents as a belligerent was an unnecessary proceeding on the part of Her Majesty's Government. It has been very injurious to the United States, while it has brought to the British nation itself only troublesome inconvenience, and requires constant efforts to prevent new and more dangerous complications." France also recognised the Confederate States as a belligeren , but that is not noticed in this dispatch. To the Federal Minister at the Netherlands, Mr. Seward writes on October 10th:—"There are indications that the world's patience toward the utterly vicious insurrection in this country is beginning to fail." Mr. Seward's own patience is exhausted, or he would not get into such a railing passion. Writing to the Federal Minister at Copenhagen, on the 14th April, Mr. Seward became prophetic. He observes, "It now looks as if by another year we can put down the rebellion by starvation if in no other way." The year is nearly gone, and the Confederates have food enough at all events to keep them until the next harvest. How coolly Mr. Seward writes about starving 8,000,000 of people!

We will conclude our summary with two extracts on the question of emancipation, which we commend to the attention of those who place faith in the philanthropic intentions of the Federals. In November, 1862, Mr. Adams writes, "Efforts are now making here, with a good prospect of success, for a more effective organisation of the anti-slavery movement *in our behalf*." So the anti-slavery movement is not for the benefit of the negro but to aid the Federal Government. When Mr. Adams penned the foregoing sentence he did not think of its being published. But on this subject the most remarkable despatch is that addressed to the Federal Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid on September 3rd, 1863, by Mr. Seward. The Federal secretary writes:—

The Spanish Government can easily determine for itself whether the continued enjoyment of Cuba with slavery is more likely to be secured by a recognition of the insurgents, which would be an act hostile to the United States, than it will be secured by the policy of cordial friendship towards the United States, which has induced them for sixty years to respect that occupation themselves, and to insist upon its being respected by all other nations. The United States Government do not want any more territories—certainly they do not want any more slave-holding territories. The United States Government is not a forcible propagandist of emancipation even at home, although it does not hesitate to strike slavery down when it rises in resistance to the Government. Much less is this Government an armed propagandist of emancipation or any other policy in foreign countries. But it certainly could not, if assailed by any foreign slave-holding Power, show any greater forbearance towards the slavery maintained by a foreign army than it shows to domestic slavery when employed by the Government against the insurgents.

Thus the Federal Government can be all things to all nations. In England, hoping to get a little sympathy, they profess to be ardent emancipationists. In Spain a different policy is pursued. Mr. Seward repudiates the idea of fighting for the negro, or of emancipating slaves except from military necessity, and even parades the United States Government as the protectors of the system of slavery in Cuba. What will sincere Abolitionists say to this? According to Mr. Seward, the way to get rid of slavery is to recognise the Confederate States, and the way to preserve slavery is to keep on terms of cordial friendship with the United States.

On the 3rd January his Excellency William Smith was duly installed with the time honoured ceremonies, at the Capitol building in Richmond, as Governor of Virginia. In his inaugural Address the new Governor referred to the fact of his entering on the same high office that day seventeen years before, and drew a rapid sketch of the changes that had come over the land since that period, and the causes of these changes. He argued from the terms of the Federal compact and the recorded action of Virginia in its formation, the right of peaceable separation, as contradistinguished from the right of revolution. "I cannot," he said, "too earnestly insist that the right of secession, practically recognised and admitted, is the guarantee of peace, while the right of revolution necessarily leads to civil war. One applies to a confederation of States, and cannot be politically wrong; the other acts within a nation and is rarely right. It is true, the power of the parts is not equal to the power of the whole; but what of that? Governments are not instituted for aggression, but for the security of the rights of 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.'" Of the future he spoke hopefully, and avowed his unflinching determination to resist the aggressions of the North to the last extremity.

The two branches of the Confederate Congress have passed the following joint resolutions of thanks to Major Heros von Borcke, of Prussia, Adjutant and Inspector-General of Cavalry of the Army of Northern Virginia:—

"Whereas, Major Heros von Borcke, of Prussia, Adjutant and Inspector-General of the Cavalry of the Army of Northern Virginia, having left his own country to assist in securing the independence of ours, and by his personal gallantry in the field having won the admiration of his comrades as well as of his commanding general, all of whom deeply sympathise with him in his present suffering from wounds received in battle: therefore, resolved by the Congress of the Confederate States of America, that the thanks of Congress are due, and the same are hereby tendered to, Major Von Borcke, for his self-sacrificing devotion to our Confederacy and his distinguished services in support of our cause.

"Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to Major Von Borcke by the President of the Confederate States."

The current letter of our New York correspondent gives a very intelligible account of the condition of Northern finances, and explains the late depreciation of the Government issues. Besides the admitted indebtedness there are a vast number of claims pressing for adjustment, which, according to Judge Spalding, of Ohio, will, if allowed, make the Treasury bankrupt. An ingenious plan has been devised to postpone the settlement. In 1861 Congress decreed that certain of the demands incident to the war should be settled by the Court of Claims, a tribunal established some years ago so that Congress might not be liable to the corrupt influences of suitors who were willing to pay members to promote a favourable adjustment of their demands. It is now proposed that Congress should resume the office of settling these money claims, and the plan will no doubt be very acceptable to the "loyal" members.

Our correspondent also comments on the despotic power of the ruling faction and the total loss of popular and constitutional liberty.

The Federal authorities are or pretend to be alarmed at the prospect of an attempt being made to rescue the Confederate prisoners on Johnson's Island. They are aware of the miseries of their captives and think rightly enough that no effort would be spared to liberate the gallant soldiers from their cruel situation. It is reported—we can hardly credit it—that two companies of Canadian Rifles have been sent to Windsor to prevent any attempt at rescue. We are quite aware that the British authorities ought not to allow any expedition to be fitted out against the Federals, but it seems very strange for soldiers owing allegiance to Queen Victoria to be aiding the Yankees to torture and kill their prisoners. If the Federals are wise they will not trust too implicitly to the zeal of Canadian Rifles engaged in such a service.

Travellers tell strange stories, and the *Boston Traveller* newspaper has just shown there is something in a name. A correspondent of that journal asserts "that a convention had been called in Raleigh for the purpose of carrying out the secession of North Carolina from the Confederacy." It is, however, not impossible that several Confederate States may be represented in the Federal Congress in order that the next presidential election may be in accordance with the forms of the defunct Constitution. We hear, for example, that the Federals have abandoned the whole of the Teche country, and by the same mail that General Banks had ordered a State election in Louisiana. It is just as easy for General Banks to manufacture 100,000 votes as it was for General Halleck to capture 10,000 prisoners; and there is this advantage in the system, that when the votes are manufactured by the Government there is no doubt about "loyal" candidates being returned. It is also notified that a delegation, headed by a Confederate deserter, has arrived in Washington to apply for the re-admission of Arkansas. By Mr. Lincoln's plan there is no difficulty in having all the Confederate States represented in the Federal Congress, or, for the matter of that, in having all the Federal States represented in the Confederate Congress.

In the debate in the Federal Senate on the motion to expel Mr. Davis for the introduction of some resolutions which were designated as treasonable, Mr. Wilson declared that in other days the Senate had rung with threats of disunion and civil war from the "rebel chiefs"; and he asked, "Who among us does not now regret that the Senate of the United States did not hurl headlong from this chamber those rebel chiefs, even as the rebel angels were hurled from the battlements of heaven!" Mr. Wilson must be oblivious of the past, if he does not recollect that threats of disunion often came from Northern Abolitionists. In the course of his reply, Mr. Davis said, "He assumed that if a convention of all the States were called together, and should resolve to do away with the Government, that they had the right and power to do it. He was opposed, of course, to any such exercise of power as a practical thing. He considered this compact a political partnership." Mr. Davis also asked Mr. Wilson "if the rebels in the Southern States were to offer to come back, with their rights, under the Constitution, save where it forfeits to them their rights for their rebellious actions, would he agree that they should come back?" Mr. Wilson did not reply to this question.

The Federal Congress is doing what it can to assure the people that the war is not being carried on for "the reconstruction of the Union." In the House of Representatives the following resolution was proposed, and rejected by 79 to 56:—

That the President be requested to make known by public proclamation, or otherwise, to all the country, that whenever any State, now in insurrection, shall submit itself to the authority of the Federal Government, as defined in the Constitution, all hostilities against her shall cease, and such State shall be protected from all external interference with her local laws and institutions, and her people shall be guaranteed in the full enjoyment of all those rights which the Federal Constitution gave them.

It is said that Northern Democrats are about to publish a national address, advocating a vigorous prosecution of the war, but opposing the unconstitutional measures of the Administration. That is, they uphold the cause but object to the effect. There must be very few *bond fide* "War Democrats," or else the United States must have more than an average number of citizens who are not capable of the simplest process of reasoning.

In reference to General McClellan's Report a remarkable letter is published in the *New York World*. The letter states, "In 'the report on the conduct of the war' (Part I. folio 339) I find the same letter with a slight variation. In General McClellan's report the two last sentences of this letter are:—'If I save this army now, I tell you plainly that I owe no thanks to you, or to any other person in Washington. You have done your best to sacrifice this army.' In 'the report on the conduct of the war' this plain, frank charge against Secretary Stanton is left out." The writer asks, "Query? Was it purposely left out in the copy furnished the committee by Stanton to shield himself, or by the committee to whitewash him? If so it shows the partisan conduct of that committee, and throws a suspicion on the truth of their whole report."

Mr Welles has sent a challenge to the New York Chamber of Commerce offering to run the navy steamer *Eutaw* against any side-wheel steamer, foreign or American, now in New York harbour. The challenge was refused, and a New York journal observes: "The Secretary wants to run his steamer *Eutaw* against the *Adriatic*, *Illinois*, *Fulton*, *Eagle*, or any steamer of the Cunard line. We propose that the Secretary shall select three steamers like the *Eutaw* and match them against the rebel steamers *Rappahannock*, *Alabama*, and *Florida*. If our steamers overtake those of the rebels the Government may pocket the stakes. This is a much fairer trial than that offered by Secretary Welles, who will find, if he ever gets awake, that bombast and braggadocio will not catch the rebel privateers any sooner than Government vessels of nine knots an hour."

Confederate patience seems to be tired out in North Carolina, and the cruelties of the Federals have been followed by retaliation. When we consider what the people of Norfolk are now suffering under the rule of Butler, and the atrocities that are committed by Federal soldiers wherever they come, we fear that a plan of retaliation must, ere long be generally adopted.

Mr. Meagher has made a little capital out of the death of General Corcoran. He addressed a large audience at the Cooper Institute on the virtues of the departed hero, and made some observations about the Fenian Brotherhood that were loudly cheered. Our noble Foreign Secretary need not be alarmed. There is nothing in it, despite the friendly and mysterious warnings of Messrs. Seward and Adams. Ireland is not ripe for revolt, and we do not need Mr. Meagher to tell us that the Yankees are at all times longing to injure England.

A military commission has been appointed to try the prisoners in Forts Lafayette and Warren. Thus those charged with treason to the Government are deprived of an appeal to a civil tribunal.

The Maryland Legislature has rejected the nomination of Mr. Lincoln for the next Presidency, although it was elected under the auspices of Federal bayonets.

In a debate in the Federal Senate on the exemption of clergymen from the draft, Mr. Conness objected to the proposition, and said, "He believed the safest and truest way to Heaven was to strike a rebel whenever you can reach him."

The *Isabel*, from Mobile, has arrived at Havanna with 480 bales of cotton. The *Gray Jacket*, loaded with cotton, has been taken by the Federals off Mobile. The British ship *Sylvanus* has been captured off Doboy Sound, Georgia. It appears that Mr. Welles has sent orders to the provost-marshal of New York not to release but to detain the British blockade violators. According to the law of nations blockade running is not a crime, but only involves the forfeiture of the cargo and vessel; and consequently the Federal Government has no more right to imprison "British blockade violators" than it has to hang them. Will Earl Russell think it worth his while to object to this proceeding?

The fluctuations in the price of gold at New York have been considerable. After touching 60 per cent. premium, it fell to 55, in consequence, it is reported, of Mr. Chase operating. But all the efforts of the Federal Secretary could not keep the price down even for a single day. From 55 the price advanced, and on the 23rd January it was quoted at 56¼ per cent. premium. It must be borne in mind that this advance has taken place without any adverse military news, and is therefore indicative of the growing distrust in the resources of the Federal Government to meet its engagements.

The House of Representatives has adopted a Bill for increasing the duty on spirits, and raising the duty on cotton to two cents per lb.

ENGLAND.

HER MAJESTY'S Speech is before the public. It is singularly devoid of interest, and perhaps the most noteworthy feature is the entire absence of all allusion to the horrible strife now desolating the continent of America.

An assembly was held on Friday evening last, under the auspices of the Southern Independence Association, in the *salon* of the Clarence Hotel at Manchester. Numerous and influential representatives of the branch societies in many of the towns in Lancashire, Cheshire, and Yorkshire, were present. The Right Hon. Lord Wharncliffe occupied the chair. Lord Campbell, and T. B. Birley, T. Briggs, C. Pooley, James Spence, and J. H. Clarke, Esqs., were present. There were also present some officers in the army, clergymen, and many ladies. Letters were read from Beresford Hope, Esq., and Sir J. Bowring, expressing their inability to attend. The Secretary then read the report, which stated that during the few months that the association had existed, it had acted upon public opinion in Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Cheshire, by means of the platform and the press. "Papers for the People," conveying argumentatively the fullest information in regard to the origin of the war and the rights on which secession was based, had been issued to the number of 85,000; at least 160,000 handbills had been circulated, and 10,000 placards and reports of speeches. Lectures had been delivered in nineteen towns of importance, and others were in active preparation. In twenty-seven of the great towns branch associations had been formed. A London association had been formed under the presidency of Mr. Beresford Hope, and would take vigorous action during the session of Parliament. Public meetings had been held with success at Oldham, Stockport, Ashton, Bollington, Burnley, Preston, Glasgow, and Glossop, and in each case the chairman had been authorised to sign a memorial to the Foreign Secretary, or petitions to Parliament. Lord Wharncliffe first addressed the meeting, and dwelt on the boastfulness and mendacity of the Northern character, and the identification of the feelings and qualities of the Southern and the English people. The courage of the North consisted in destroying where there was no fear of resistance; their conduct was savage and vindictive beyond all precedent. The object of the North was to retain a great name by extent of territory, at the cost of the subjugation of the South. He believed the best thing for the peace of the world would be the establishment of two well-ordered governments on the American Continent. Lord Wharncliffe was succeeded by Lord Campbell, to whose speech we refer elsewhere. After a few words from Mr. Birley, in favour of immediate recognition, Mr. J. Spence made an address to the meeting. He exposed the mistakes and fallacies contained in Mr. Milner Gibson's speech at Ashton-under-Lyne, at considerable length. He then referred to the cruel manner in which the North had waged war, sinking stone fleets, confiscating all rights, shooting men in cold blood, insulting and calumniating the best of the nation. Public opinion in England was for the South, and the South itself could not have maintained the struggle against the power of the North, unless she had been supported by the conviction that her cause was just. The result of the reconstruction of the Union would be a war with England. The association desired peace, but permanent peace, and peace could only be permanent when based on the independence of the South.

The Lower House of Convocation will assemble in the Jerusalem Chamber at 11 o'clock to-morrow (Friday), to receive the reports which have been prepared by the committees during the recess, and transact formal business. His Grace the President will alone name the day on which the House will be again convened. Yesterday, by the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the bishops met at Lambeth Palace for the purpose of considering the subject of the Burial Service, and other matters of Church discipline likely to occupy the attention of Parliament and Convocation in the ensuing session.

The financial statement and balance-sheet of the Central Committee for relief of distress in the cotton districts are made up for the eighteen months preceding December last. The receipts during that time, including the foreign subscriptions and interest, reached the sum of £874,113. Out of this amount it appears that £396,811 have been disposed of by grants to 161 general relief committees, and £20,619 appropriated to 101 committees, as contra from the employment and school fund.

The weekly meeting of the committee was held at the Town-hall, Manchester, on Monday. The secretary reported the receipt of £1,293 4s. 1d. during the week, including £100 from the Society of Friends, and that the balance at the bank was £195,892. The committee made grants to the various towns in the cotton district, amounting in the whole to £14,060. The distress has by some means increased, the increase of paupers being but 144 during the week. From Preston a few alterations indicative of improvement are reported, but the main tide of events flows in an adverse direction. Strange as the fact may be, yet it is true, that the manufacturers keep building new mills or extending old ones. In Preston vast sums of money have been expended during the last few months in the extension of manufacturing premises, so that in some quarters hopes must be entertained of a return to the ancient days of prosperity. For thirty months the people have asked, in the gloom of disappointed hope, "when will the times mend?" and the utter failure of all attempts to supplement the lack of Southern cotton with foul Surat and the fine but scarce product of Egypt has taught men to look in one direction alone for a change. The ratepayers grumble and the shopkeepers become bankrupt, while the bravest sigh at the hardness of the times and the failing supply of human sympathy.

A Parliamentary paper detailing the general results of the census taken in England in 1861, has just been published, and some of the statistics are instructive and interesting in the highest degree. The paper first speaks of English born subjects domiciled abroad, excluding mere travellers and temporary settlers, and the army, navy, and merchant seamen, of which last three classes the numbers abroad are 250,356. France, of all countries in Europe, is the favourite resort of Englishmen, and there 25,841 English subjects are domiciled. In Belgium 4,092, in Switzerland 1,124, in Germany 7,365, in Italy 5,467, in Portugal 2,072, in Spain 3,879, in Turkey 2,360, in Egypt 931, in Denmark 372, in Norway and Sweden 653, and in Russia 3,749. As to Asia, there are 30 British subjects in Persia, 1,072 in China, 81 in Japan and 24 in Siam. The English population in India, according to returns obviously incorrect, is only 125,379, including the English army 85,008 strong; central America has 145 English residents, Ecuador 27, Chili 4,152, and Brazil 2,838. In the United States in the year 1860, according to the census of Mr. Kennedy, there were no less than 2,224,743 British subjects by birth, of whom 1,611,304 were born in Ireland.

The total population of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in 1861 is stated to be 29,321,288, being an increase over the numbers as found in 1851 of 1,575,339 persons. If to this last number the number of registered emigrants during the ten years be added, the total increase will be swelled to 3,629,917 persons. Of the population of the United Kindom 20,228,497 were found in England and Wales, 3,096,808 in Scotland, 5,850,309 in Ireland, and 145,674 in the islands in the British seas. It is here worthy of remark that in 1801 the population of England and Wales was 9,156,171; at the time of the Reform Bill it was 14,051,986. There was, therefore, in 30 years an increase of no less than 6,176,511 persons. The boys born in England were to the girls as 104,811 to 100,000; and the males of all ages may be taken to be to the females as 100,029 to 100,000. This fine equilibrium was, however, disturbed by unequal emigration, the result of which was a majority of 351,433 women at home, after allowance made for the men of the army, navy, and merchant service abroad.

On the 8th April, 1861, the number of houseless persons was 11,444. Of these 7,130 belonged to the gipsy tribes, and dwelt in tents or caravans. Besides these, 11,915 persons were found living in barges; 6,665 in inland vessels in ports; and 55,765 in sea-going vessels lying in the home ports. There were 26,096 criminals in prisons; 24,345 lunatics in asylums; 10,414 patients in hospitals, and 125,722 paupers in the workhouses, besides 23,598 in charitable institutions. There were moreover, 64,840 soldiers in barracks.

Of houses—and by a house is meant all the space within the external and party walls of the building, whether there be a subdivision into flats or not—there were in England in 1861, 3,739,535, showing an increase of 461,166 in ten years. The mean annual value of all the houses in England is 15 10s. 519,991 houses had rentals varying from £20 to £2,000 a year, and the gross annual value of all the houses was £58,043,181. The capital value of all the houses might be taken to be £870,000,000. There were about 5 37 persons to each house, or nearly sixteen persons to three houses.

The number of families in 1861 was 4,440,524, and the number of persons to a family was as 4·47 to a family, and there were twelve families to ten houses. Two-thirds of the families had a husband and wife at their head.

Mr. Bright has again enlightened the men of Birmingham, and for once in a way he attempted, in deference to the ladies present and the genial occasion of a *soirée*, to give his country some praise and not much abuse. He admitted that there was a bright side of the history of this country, but to him all the splendour consisted in the changes which he himself had supported. Having made this very limited admission, he proceeded to speak of the Catholic Emancipation, the Reform Bill, the emancipation of the slaves, the repeal of the Corn Laws, and of the Navigation Acts, crowning his edifice with the French Treaty and the Penny Press. Of course Mr. Bright called for a further reform, and condemned the Bill as not going nearly far enough. His reason, however, is worthy of observation as affording a marvellous clue to his policy. He says that the insufficiency of the

old Bill is proved by the fact, that in nine years after it passed, so entirely had the old governing class recovered from its fall that it entered Parliament in 1841 with a majority of 90. There is a charming candour in this confession. In Mr. Bright's opinion that state of the law must of necessity be detestable which allows the governing class to govern. It is not with him a question of the men most fitted by education, associations, high honour, and that freedom from corruption which is only possible in the independence of wealth and station. It is enough that a man is of the higher class to ensure his condemnation in the eyes of Mr. Bright. After a cry for the abolition of the Irish Protestant Church, Mr. Bright turned to foreign affairs; and having carefully explained to his audience how utterly absurd the conduct of England was in the matter of the Russian war, and how Mr. Bright alone took the honourable part, he brought Denmark on the *tapis*. He sympathised with the King of Denmark, which, to say the least of it, was a considerable stretch of kindness on the part of Mr. Bright; but he denied that England was deeply interested in the matter. He repudiated the idea of England being bound by the matrimonial alliances of royalty; and indeed, inasmuch as the alliances are far stronger in the German direction, Mr. Bright might have abstained from that imputation. He thought that Austria and Prussia were undertaking great operations from fear of a revolution in Germany. Mr. Bright then explained that in the English Cabinet there were thirteen members, and within that body an inner Cabinet of two or three persons, to whom alone the whole truth of our diplomatic relations was known. So Sir Robert Peel, the Duke of Wellington, and Lord Aberdeen had an understanding or memorandum with the Emperor Nicholas, and yet Lord Derby, who was in the Cabinet of Sir Robert Peel, never discovered the existence of that document until he himself was Prime Minister some years afterwards. So Lords Derby and Malmesbury, during the Ministry of the former, had endeavoured to keep matters of high import to themselves; but another Minister had broken down that secresy, and had shared in their knowledge. At the present time Lord Palmerston and Lord Russell formed the inner Cabinet, and they no doubt wrote despatches while the rest of the Cabinet was ignorant in what direction the country was being dragged. Every member of that body, seeing the peril of the present crisis, ought to insist on knowing every single thing that is being done, and to determine not to be made a partner in transactions of great error or great crime. We candidly admit the excellence of this piece of advice, and, as Mr. Bright is a practical man, we will offer him a suggestion. Let him impress the importance of thus acting on his disciple, Mr. Milner Gibson, and let the latter insist on seeing every despatch and every document before it starts on its destination. We shall be curious to learn the result of such an application on the part of that distinguished member of the Cabinet.

Mr. John Jones, the principal partner in the firm of Jones and Co., of Chapel-street, Liverpool, ship store-dealers, and John Wilding, clerk in the service of that firm, surrendered last week for examination before the magistrates on the charge of committing a breach of the Foreign Enlistment Act, by aiding in procuring a crew for the Confederate steamer *Georgia*. Our readers will remember that Mr. Highet, a partner in the firm, has already been committed for trial on the same charge. After the hearing of some evidence, the two defendants were committed for trial, but were admitted to bail. No doubt the three defendants will be tried at the same time.

The George Victor Townley case has entered on a fresh phase. A letter from the magistrates of Derbyshire to the Home Secretary had contained the astounding intelligence that one out of the two medical men who signed the certificate of Townley's insanity was not a member of the Royal College of Surgeons at all, that the two justices who signed the certificate had not the most remote intention that the effect of it should be to absolve Townley from punishment and to consign him to a lunatic asylum, and that the attorney who managed the formalities was in sublime ignorance of the consequences of the Act. Thereupon Sir George Grey, with the concurrence of the Lord Chancellor, requested Drs. Hood and Bucknill, visitors of Chancery lunatics, Dr. Meyer, the superintendent of the criminal lunatic asylum at Broadmoor, and Dr. Helps, superintendent of Bethlehem Hospital, to examine into Townley's state of mind and report thereon. Their report was conclusive as to Townley being of sound mind, and a formal certificate under the Act of Parliament had been received to that effect. Her Majesty's Government, therefore, have commuted the capital sentence into the sentence of penal servitude for life. So ends this attempt at a defeat of justice, successful so far as the ends of schemers against capital punishment and of morbid philanthropists are concerned, unsuccessful as to the daring endeavour to rescue the murderer from all retribution.

The history of Patience Swinfen, of Swinfen-hall, has been already detailed in our columns. How she, to maintain her claim to the Swinfen-hall estates, fought and compromised an action at law, through her counsel, Sir Frederick Thesiger, now Lord Chelmsford, how she repudiated the compromise and sued her counsel for damages for exceeding his authority, and how she eventually in a fresh action recovered the estates, it is not necessary again to relate in detail. In all her struggles and her victories she relied entirely on the judgment, the wisdom, and the eloquence of Mr. Charles Rann Kennedy, her counsel. By way of recompense she had executed to him an assignment of an interest in the Swinfen estates, for he had neither expected nor received any reward for his professional services except a share of their fruits. She afterwards had married a Mr. Broun, had repudiated all implied contract to indemnify Mr. Kennedy, and had filed a bill in Equity to set aside the deed of assignment. Mr. Kennedy had brought an action at law, had obtained a verdict for several thousand pounds, but had failed to sustain that verdict before the Court at Westminster. He had contested the suit in Equity, and the Master of the Rolls had decided that the deed was null and void, and now he had appealed to the Lords Justices. The deed under which he claimed recited that Patience Swinfen had for a long time past been engaged in legal proceedings in establishing her title to the estates therein mentioned, that the proceedings had been concluded and her title established, and that she desired to recompense Charles Rann Kennedy for his services as her counsel in such proceedings, and to convey to him the estates, subject to her life interest therein and certain other charges. Then it was witnessed by the deed that she, in consideration of those services, and also in consideration of her esteem and friendship for the said Charles Rann Kennedy, did of her own free will give, grant, and convey to him and his heirs all the Swinfen-hall estates, subject to her life interest, her debts not exceeding £10,000 and to any other charges which she might create, also not exceeding £10,000. The Lord Justice Knight Bruce, in giving judgment, said that the contents of the deed were alone sufficient to condemn it. It could not be sustained either as a gift or as made in pursuance of a contract. As a gift it could not be sustained between a client and a counsel so recently engaged in professional matters on behalf of the client for the recovery of the estates in question. As to a contract, the lady had a right to complain of want of sufficient advice, information, and assistance, at the time she executed a deed of great substantial and manifest impropriety. Relief could not be refused without manifest discredit to the administration of justice. The Lord Justice Turner concurred in the decision, and the appeal was dismissed with costs. So, then, the deed is annulled, and the last hope of remuneration for perhaps the most laborious and most successful services ever rendered by counsel to a client must be abandoned by Mr. Kennedy.

The case of O'Kane v. O'Kane and Palmerston came before the Divorce Court again on Tuesday, but inasmuch as the case had not been entered in due form and the counsel could not agree as to their mutual rights of mentioning and examining certain affidavits, the matter was ordered to stand over till to-day. The statements in these affidavits were, however, somewhat peculiar and worthy of attention. The first one was filed by Mr. Wells, the solicitor to the petitioner, and declared that negotiations for a settlement of the case were completed on the 16th day of January last, and that his costs were then paid; that he (Mr. Wells) verily believed that O'Kane was duly married according to the formalities of the Catholic Church on the 2nd of October, 1851; that the petition was not filed for the purposes of extortion, and that there was a good case upon the merits. To this affidavit was attached a letter from O'Kane to Mr. Wells, ordering him to stay proceedings in the suit, and alleging that this course was adopted solely for the sake of O'Kane's children, and not from any inability to sustain the allegations of the petition. The letter also declaimed against the frantic howls of a venal press, asserted that O'Kane was in no want of money, affirmed the marriage, and finally declared that the correspondence and other evidence would have left no doubt had the case gone to the jury. In answer to this affidavit the respondent's solicitor, Mr. Horsley, filed another affidavit, in which he swore that neither directly or indirectly was he a party to, or aware of, any compromise having been made in the suit, until he had a notice to that effect from Mr. Wells. Mr. Horsley then declared that he had inquired of the officers of the court and found that no further steps had been taken in the prosecution of the case; that he had interrogated the solicitors for the co-respondent and they had denied all knowledge of any compromise whatever. Moreover he (Mr. Horsley) had made no compromise, nor had the respondent herself done so. Consequently it appears that O'Kane has written to Wells, that he has settled the matter. If he has done so there must have been some one of the opposing parties or their solicitors with whom the settlement was made; on the other hand it is declared that neither the respondent, the co-respondent, nor their respective solicitors, have even heard of any compromise or proposition for a compromise.

THE CONTINENT.

The hopes we expressed last week have not been realised. The Austrian and Prussian troops have crossed the Eider, and the two great German Powers have thus commenced war against Denmark. Our anticipations that peace would be preserved were based upon the not unreasonable calculation, that when the British Cabinet threatened to make the invasion of Slesvig a *casus belli*, the threat would not fail of its effect at Berlin and Vienna. Nor would it have failed, if the Prussian Government had not been well assured that no steps would be taken to fulfil it. Herr von Bismarck was sufficiently impressed by it to propose a suspension of the invasion; but he was overruled by the King and the Crown Prince, who knew that the menace of Earl Russell was but a *brutum fulmen*.

We see no good reason why we should refrain from putting our readers in possession of the facts which explain this most unfortunate business. They will occupy, in a few days, public attention. The highest personage in the realm has, as we have already hinted, very strong sympathies with Slesvig-Holsteinism. The Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, who gave the signal for the outbreak of the movement in Germany, is the brother-in-law, the Prétender is the nephew of the Queen. As soon as the Crown Prince of Prussia returned to Berlin from England, a change came over the spirit of the Prussian Government. Before that time it apprehended that England would really draw the sword for Denmark. The Crown Prince carried home the assurance that the sovereign would never give her consent to a war on behalf of Denmark against a country for which she has so strong an affection as Germany; and armed with that assurance he succeeded in removing the scruples of his father. The representations which the English Government has made have, therefore, been without effect. Prussia has pressed on, confident that England would do nothing. The Ministry were, we believe, sincere in the pledges they gave to Denmark of assistance; they were prepared to declare war against the German Powers, but when they submitted the measure to the Queen for her approbation they found that Her Majesty would on no account give her consent to war, and would rather see Denmark suffer the worst misfortunes. The constitutional, the honourable course, for them to have taken would have been to resign. They should have refused to be the instruments of their own humiliation. It seems, however, that their love of place was too strong, and they have consented to remain in office to execute a policy they do not approve. Her Majesty is of course perfectly justified by the letter of the Constitution in the course she has adopted. The responsibility devolves upon the Ministers who prefer place and court favour to the discharge of what they avow to be their duty. It may be taken for granted now that England will give Denmark no assistance, and as the French Government is resolved not to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for our accommodation, and incur the risk of war to protect a prince whom it regards as a client of England, we must make up our minds to see the Danes driven from Slesvig, and fraud and violence once more triumphant in Europe.

There is some doubt as to the day—whether Thursday or Saturday—upon which Marshal Wrangel, the Generalissimo of the Prusso-Austrian army, addressed his summons to the Danish Commander-in-Chief, General de Meza, to evacuate Slesvig. The answer, which of course was a refusal, was received on Sunday afternoon, and before the dawn of Monday morning the Austrian and Prussian vanguards had crossed the Eider. The Prussians form the right, the Austrians the centre, and the Federal troops, for all practical purposes—although they have not yet entered and may not enter Slesvig—the left of the line of attack. The Danish entrenchments stretch obliquely from Frederickstadt, on the Eider, the frontier of the two duchies where the Federal troops are posted, to Slesvig, and thence by the Slei to the Baltic. The Austrians, who form the centre, have advanced from Rendsburg towards the town of Slesvig, occupying the Kronenwerk after a trifling skirmish. The retreating Danes blew up the bridge over the Sorge and destroyed the railway, without, however, stopping the advance of the Austrians, who appear to have reached Kropp on the road to Slesvig, and thus to have come almost within cannon-shot of the Danes. As, however, rain has set in, and the Prussians' attempt to cross the Slei has failed, they may probably retire. The Prussians have advanced from Kiel, through the district called the Danischer Wold, by the road leading through Eckenforde across the Slei to Slesvig. They met at first with no resistance. Two Danish vessels of war in the harbour of Eckenforde gave them a parting salute, to which the Prussian artillery replied. Continuing their advance to Missunde on the Slei, they attacked the Danish positions there on the morning of Tuesday. Missunde is one of the few points at which the Slei can be crossed by an army; and if the Prussians could have crossed, they would have turned the Danish line of defence. The Danes, however, are fully alive to the importance of the position, and have strongly fortified it. The Prussians seem to have carried the tête du point on the southern side but to have afterwards lost it, the final result being that all the works remained in the possession of the Danes, and that the Prussians, who had 150 men killed and wounded, retired to Eckenforde. The Prussians were commanded by Prince Frederich Carl. It shows the sincerity of the Prussian profession that they enter Slesvig to maintain the treaty of 1852, that they have allowed the Pretender to be proclaimed at Eckenforde. The stories which come from German sources of the enthusiasm with which the proclamation has been received must be taken with great caution. A German patriot will never shrink from an invention which will serve, as he fancies, the national cause.

The King of Denmark and the Prime Minister, Bishop Monrad, are at Slesvig with the army. The Rigsraad has been convoked; the elections are fixed for the Folksthing for the 5th, for the Landsthing for the 29th March. An embargo has been placed upon all German shipping in Danish ports.

The Pretender, who had taken a short trip to Oldenburg, has returned to Kiel. The Prussians seem disposed to let him stay there.

According to some telegrams, the Crown Prince of Prussia who has joined the Prussian army, is at the Prussian, headquarters with Marshal Wrangel.

Marshal Wrangel has addressed a proclamation to the Slesvigers, in which he announces that civil commissioners of Austria and Prussia will assume the administration of the Duchy.

The Federal Commissioners have applied to the Diet for leave to summons the Estates of Holstein. One of them, Herr von Konneritz, the Saxon Commissioner, has published in a Hamburg newspaper a reply to the charges made in Mr. Murray's letter to Herr von Beust. As a defence of his conduct against the complaints of Mr. Murray, the statement of the Saxon Commissioner is extremely weak. What it wants, however, in argument, it fully makes up in impertinence.

It is said that Sweden has protested at Vienna and

Berlin against the occupation af Slesvig. The protest will not be heeded.

The Lower House of the Austrian Reichsrath has adopted the proposition of the committee to grant the Government only the 5,000,000 florins required by the Diet as the Austrian contribution to the cost of execution in Holstein. The Government had asked 10,000,000. On the other hand it has rejected, by 103 to 59 votes, the resolution censuring the action of the Government against the decision of the Diet.

There are rumours of revolutionary plots in Hungary and Croatia, which show that Austria makes a tremendous venture in provoking war.

According to the *Mémorial Diplomatique*, the plenipotentiaries of the Great Powers have held another meeting *in re* Greece and the Ionian Islands, and signed another protocol, altering in some degree the position of the Islands in the new monarchy, and making fresh arrangements with reference to the destruction of the fortifications. The news from Athens is still extremely unsatisfactory. George I. has little reason to congratulate himself upon his elevation to a throne.

The debate upon the Address in the Corps Législatif is finished. Two amendments have been discussed and rejected in addition to those the fate of which we have already mentioned. The first, in favour of the rupture of diplomatic relations with Russia, produced a very able speech from the Duke de Morny in vindication of the policy of the Government. M. de Morny defended the Emperor of Russia against the attacks of which he had been the object, and declared that to encourage the insurrection was to expose the Poles to ruin. M. Rouher, who also took part in the debate, vindicated the scheme of the Congress, replying with much courtesy but great effect to the objections upon which Earl Russell founded the refusal of England. He expressed his hope that the meeting would still take place, and declared rather curiously that it seemed as if God came to the aid of the ideas of peace which animate France, because the question of the duchies had become so menacing as to make even those who objected to the Congress comprehend that it was the sole possibility of solving the question. The amendment, together with another one, proposing to strike out words declaring that the Chamber would see with regret that the good relations of France with Russia should be disturbed, were rejected without at division. An amendment directed against the occupation of Rome was rejected by 218 votes to 12, after a very brief discussion; and after a few words from the President, in which he expressed his pride in presiding over a body in which eloquence had been carried to such a height, the Address was adopted in its *ensemble* by 246 votes to 12.

The Emperor received the deputation charged to present the Address on Monday, and replied in a speech which may be taken as an indication that, although he will not withdraw one of the liberties he has granted, and will continue to develope them as he may think the nation ripe for them, he will not allow the power to pass from his own hands into those of a Parliament. He observed that the debates upon the confirmation of the members' elections and on the Address had been long and profound, and though they had taken nearly three months from the legislative business of the house, they had not been useless. To an impartial mind the result had been to reduce into nothing the accusations which had been skilfully spread. He continued—"The policy of the Government is better appreciated. We have a more compact majority, and one more devoted to our institutions. These are great advantages. After the fruitless efforts of so many forms of government, the first want of the country is stability. Nothing durable can be founded on an ever-shifting base without consistence. For sixty years liberty has become an arm in the hands of parties to overthrow the existing Government. Thence have resulted incessant fluctuations—power succumbing to liberty and liberty succumbing to anarchy. This must no longer exist. The example of recent years proves the possibility of conciliating what has long appeared irreconcilable. Really fecund progress is the fruit of experience. Its advance will not be hastened by systematic and unjust attacks, but by the intimate union of the Government with a majority inspired by patriotism and unseduced by vain popularity. Let us await from agreement and from time such ameliorations as are possible. Do not let the delusive hope of a chimerical future unceasingly compromise the present good which we have at heart to consolidate together. Let us each remain in our right sphere: you, gentlemen, enlightening and controlling the progress of the Government, I taking the initiative in all that may promote the greatness and prosperity of France." The Chambers has been prorogued until the 4th April.

The loan has been a remarkable success. M. Fould, in his report to the Emperor observes, that to realise the 300,000,000 and 15,000,000 more for discount and other charges, it was necessary to issue 14,253,393 francs of *Rentes*. The amount subscribed for was no less than 219,321,536 francs of *Rentes* by 542,061 persons—134,105 at Paris, and 407,956 in the departments; 2,409,366 francs of *Rentes* were subscribed in sums not exceeding six francs of *Rentes* for each person, and these subscribers received the full amount for which they applied.

The intelligence from Mexico is extremely favourable. The Juarez party has been everywhere defeated, and Juarez himself is a fugitive.

The Italian Senate has passed the bill for the suppression of brigandage in the Neapolitan provinces, *i.e.*, a prolongation of the Act already in force. In the course of the discussion Signor Peruzzi, the Minister of the Interior, declared that the Government would be able, without danger, to withdraw a portion of the forces at present stationed in the Southern provinces, to reinforce the army. This is a statement of which the Austrian Government would do well to take note.

Signor Crispi, one of the leaders of the party of action, has scandalised the Chamber of Deputies by telling them that Greco, one of the four men charged with the conspiracy against the Emperor, had been until very recently a spy in the pay of the Italian Government. He demanded an inquiry, and insinuated that the Italian Government had got up the plot to discredit the Party of Action. Signor Minghetti, in an access of virtuous indignation, refused to defend the Government against the accusation of Crispi, and the Chamber refused an inquiry.

The Emperor of Russia has not allowed the revolution in Poland to stop the progress of reform in the rest of his dominions. An ukase recently published directs that a new system of provincial organisation, which has been for some time in preparation, by which a large measure of self-government is given the provinces and communes, shall be at once put in operation in the larger part of the Empire.

Meanwhile we hear of nothing from Poland but arrests, deportations, and encounters between the Russian forces and small bands of brigands.

The ministerial crisis in Belgium continues, much, we should fancy, to the annoyance of King Leopold, if not to the danger of his shattered health. A house has been taken for him in the Isle of Wight, and he would have been there long before this but for the political dead lock, which will probably terminate by the confirmation of the present ministry in power.

CHILI.

FOR one month previous to the 8th day of December in the Church de la Compania, at Santiago, devotional practices and offices corresponding to the Mes de Maria had been celebrated. That day was the anniversary of the Purissima Concepcion of the Holy Virgin, and was a high day. In the evening the Church de la Compania was gorgeously adorned with clouds of muslin and gauze draperies, flowers and garlands, illuminated with lights of oil, liquid gas, wax, and lamps of luminous camphine. The image of the Virgin in the centre of the high altar glared with a crescent of brilliant lamps. Incense, music, and singing were added to the prodigal splendour. Ugarte, the high-priest of Mariolatry, who never failed to draw tears of hysterical emotion from his audience, and Eizaguire, the apostolic nuncio, and the favourite of Pius IX., were to preach. To the church then came vast crowds of women: 1,000 ladies of fashion and 2,000 of a humbler sort. With these devotees came also a few men. The crowd filled the church to overflowing, and as they knelt in devotion they were packed and wedged in, a living and inseparable mass. The work of lighting all the lamps had scarcely been finished, when the liquid gas in the transparency on the high altar set the woodwork in a blaze. In a moment the whole altar was wrapt in flames. The fire then ran along the wooden roof, gathering fresh energy from the thousand jets of light suspended from the cornices, and playing furiously in the folds of muslin and gauze, in the garlands of flowers, and the ancient wood carving. The audience was seized with a fearful panic; some near the lateral doors escaped at the first alarm, others forced their way to the sacristy, a few burst through the tide of still approaching worshippers to the large door. The remainder made one wild rush to the entrance and became hopelessly entangled and locked together in one vast and increasing pile of helpless women, till a barrier was formed of crushed victims, more impassable than iron-bound gates. Heroic acts of self-sacrifice were attempted by men from without, but to no purpose. A country *guaso*, mounted on a powerful horse, threw his *laso* into the mass, and some were dragged out by the strength of the horse. But the flames had reached the dresses and the hair of the women and they became one body of fire. Some with mad shrieks, others in silent despair, gave themselves over to death. The building became a furnace above and below. Silence at length reigned supreme. As the fire burnt itself out, the bodies were visible lying in horizontal strata, in groups, standing or kneeling, preserving the postures of their last agony. In fifteen minutes the life, the beauty, the hopes that reigned in 2,000 beings had been extinguished and nothing remained but a heap of cinders.

The priests had not been idle. There were men and women to be saved, but than these there were other things more precious in the eyes of the ministers of the Virgin. They rescued from the fire the gilt images, the altar vessels, the vestments, sofas, carpets, tables and chairs. Lest they should fail in this holy work they closed the door of the sacristy in the faces of the flying victims. One priest was more thoughtful for his flock, for as he escaped with the last relic he turned for one moment, absolved the dying women, and bade them ascend to the bosom of the Virgin.

Visitors, on the succeeding day, to the burial-ground of Santiago, saw sixty men digging a huge trench, hard by a ghastly pile of human remains covered over with boughs of trees, which was 180 feet in length, 10 feet wide, and 5 feet high.

LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.

(*From our Own Correspondent.*)

NEW ORLEANS, January 9, 1864.

No event of a military character worth recording has transpired since I last wrote. The "on to Texas" movement is at a standstill, or at least General Washburne, who commands the Federal columns on the coast and frontier of the "Lone Star State," reports no progress. Within a week there have been more than one arrival here, from Brazos, Santiago, and other points on the Texas coast in Federal possession, but the Government organs in New Orleans are silent as to the movement of General Washburne. Every man here acquainted with the interior of Texas, its people and their temper in the war, and with the Confederate general commanding in that department, feel confident that should Washburne advance and offer battle, he will meet with a disastrous defeat. You will readily surmise Magruder's motives for leaving the enemy in undisturbed possession of those points on the coasts he now holds. Were it even worth the necessary sacrifice, had he a force large enough, the Confederate general could not, after dispossessing the enemy, hold the coast fortification without the co-oprration of a fleet. This he lacks, and this the enemy commands, in addition to his land force. By his flotilla he is enabled to hold with a comparatively small force every coast or river defence he captures. Magruder, I am told, will leave Warshburne in undisputed possession of the coast he has thus far acquired. The points Washburne holds are of no commercial or strategic importance, and Magruder is content that the Federal forces should be thus scattered and isolated along the Gulf, while he is left free to assume the offensive on the Rio Grande or, by reinforcing General Dick Taylor, threatening New Orleans from the Teche.

I think, myself, that Magruder will soon have the opportunity to carry out his wishes in either case. Banks is perhaps concentrating for a movement on Mobile, but to attempt the capture of that city with any hope of success he must call in his forces—now greatly reduced—from their very extended lines. His forces are scattered along the Gulf, from the Florida reefs to the mouth of the Rio Grande, and for 150 miles up that river, along Bayou Teche and the line of the Opelousas railroad, western Louisiana, and up the Mississippi, from Ship Island, at its mouth, to Donaldsonville and Port Hudson. This, you see, is a vast territory for any General to attempt to hold, even with a very large force, which Banks by no means has, unless 25,000 men be considered such, but I doubt his having even that many effective men. Now, seemingly, is the golden opportunity of the Confederates to strike an effective blow in the Valley of the Mississippi. It is but a seeming opportunity, for the winter season in this quarter puts an effectual bar to all extensive military operations, by reason of the impassable condition of the primitive roads, from the incessant rains, as completely as would the ice and snow of Northern latitudes. The Confederates, however, are not idle. Taylor, in western Louisiana, is watching his opportunity, and should Banks seriously weaken his forces in that quarter for the rumoured move upon Mobile, the Confederate general, reinforced from Texas, will surely threaten New Orleans.

In Mississippi, too, General Polk (the Episcopal bishop) who has succeeded General Joe Johnston, transferred to Bragg's late command, is busy reorganising, recruiting, and making ready for offensive operations. He has a splendid cavalry force, under command of a young, but daring, skilful, and experienced leader, Major-General Stephen Decatur Lee. General Lee is an officer of great activity and daring, yet prudent withal. He not only enforces the Federals to their fortifications on the river, but has forced Hurlbert, whose headquarters are at Memphis, to abandon the line of the Memphis and Charleston railroad, and withdraw his forces to the fortified suburbs of the city. Such are the rapidity of his movements and the vigour of his attacks, that there is not now a Federal post in the territory bounded on the north by the Tennessee, and west by the Mississippi as far up as Memphis. In West Tennessee, Forrest, Jackson, Stuart, and several other famous cavalry chiefs are pushing their operations with great success, and with constantly increasing ranks. So much for the subjugation and occupation of the rebel States of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. The leaders of THE INDEX know what the Federals have accomplished in these States; they know how long a time was required for the partial results won; and they can form some estimate of the sacrifice of life and treasure on the part of the would-be conqueror. If they hold so small a portion of these States to-day—and that so precariously—how long, it may be fairly inquired, will it be before they overrun, subjugate, and occupy the entire South? Not in a century at this rate of progress.

I do not place much faith in the rumoured preparations for an attack upon Mobile, though there is a suspicious movement of troops in this quarter. Regiments are arriving at Ship Island from Pensacola, while others are being transferred from there and from this city to East Pascagoula, and other points on the Mississippi Sound, south-west of Mobile. Banks cannot mean to threaten seriously Mobile with the forces at present at his disposal, though should he advance inland from East Pascagoula towards the city, even on a raid or for a reconnoissance in force, I am assured the Confederates will attack him vigorously. Banks may have the co-operation of a column moving across the State of Mississippi from some point—Port Hudson, Natchez, or Vicksburg—on the river. I have heard a rumour to that effect, and the arrival here of General M'Pherson, the Federal commander of all the forces on the river between Port Hudson and Memphis, gives some show of colour to the report. He has been here now going on a week, consulting and planning, doubtless, with Banks. The extraordinary and unprecedented weather which has prevailed here during the last ten days would have prevented any movement by either Banks or M'Pherson. General Dabney U. Maury, who commands in Mobile, has doubtless reaped the full benefit of the term of grace vouchsafed by the weather, and is now ready for the enemy. I take for granted that he is fully aware of the intended move, for the Federal commander here has never yet been able to make even the least significant movement without its being promptly communicated to the nearest Confederate post. The spy system of the Confederates in this department is vast beyond precedent and almost wholly voluntary. Should General Maury need them, General Polk, who commands in Mississippi, will be able to spare him fully 10,000 men, and retain at the same time sufficient force to hold in check any Federal column advancing from the river, unless, indeed, that column should turn out to be much larger than General M'Pherson could at present spare for such an expedition. I am assured that a force of from 15,000 to 20,000 men can be concentrated at Mobile in twenty-four hours, and from what I have learned of the extent and nature of the city defences on the land side, this force would be more than enough to hold it against twice its numbers. There is no talk of a fleet co-operating by an attack on the forts in the harbour. I opine the Federals know well enough that there would be just as little glory or profit in such a venture as in their vindictive, protracted, and bootless siege of Charleston. If a fleet does attack Mobile, you need not be surprised to hear of Admiral Buchanan, the hero of the *Merrimac*, receiving his late brothers-in-arms of the United States Navy with a very warm welcome. The navy yards in the Alabama and Tombigbee rivers have not been idle, and if the blockade fleet does not keep a bright lookout, both night and day, Buchanan may repeat the lesson of Hampton Roads

The Confederate navy is growing large and formidable in the former river, in the waters of Wilmington, Charleston, Savannah, and Mobile, and it will prove itself ere long.

No trial has yet been had in the case of the *Sir William Peel*, seized off the Rio Grande some two months ago by the Federal blockaders and sent to this city. I understand that the Federal authorities would be glad to be rid of the matter, but the owners insist upon heavy damages, and the case will go before the United States Circuit Court for this district, unless the Government compounds to the full amount, and in good and lawful money, for this gross and totally unjustifiable outrage upon the rights of neutral commerce.

I learn, through a trustworthy source, that on a certain day in the last week of the last month the largest army train ever seen in the West crossed the Mississippi near the mouth of Red river, protected by about 10,000 Confederate troops. It consisted chiefly of ordnance stores for the armies west of the river. So much for the opening of the Mississippi and the cutting of the rebel territory in twain. We may fairly conclude that the Western Confederate armies are not isolated from those East, and that the Mississippi does not travel unvexed to the sea, as Mr. Lincoln would have us believe.

I have just learned that Magruder has succeeded in capturing 1,500 Federal cavalry sent into the interior of Texas on a foraging and reconnoitering expedition. He paroled the men, not wishing to be encumbered with prisoners. These 1,500 horses, with arms, accoutrements, &c., are just the things the Texans wanted. The story may be exaggerated, but it is said to have been brought by a Federal transport arrived this morning from the Texas coast.

Banks's forces are making raids through the villages on the opposite shore of Lake Ponchartrain, where a number of of refugees from this city are at present located. There are no Confederate forces there, and these raids are nothing but wanton cruelty.

The farce of reorganising the State Government of Louisiana, according to the scheme set forth in President Lincoln's "Amnesty Proclamation," proceeds apace. This scheme requires a registry of one-tenth of the votes cast at the Presidential election in November, 1860. The total number of votes cast at that election in this State was 49,827, one-tenth of which is 4,982, and this number must be raised within the various lines—a comparatively small portion of this State. The Federal calculation is that the parish of Orleans (the city of New Orleans) and the parish of Jefferson, next above, and which is in fact but a suburb of the city, will be able to muster the required vote. What mockery, this! What a huge and unblushing fraud upon the rights of majorities! What a trampling upon the Constitution and upon the principles of representative government! How would the remaining portion of the voters like it if London were to legislate for the whole empire?

The military governor (Shepley) of Louisiana has issued an order for the registry of voters, requiring each one to subscribe to the oath prescribed in President Lincoln's Proclamation. Any adult male who has resided in this State six months, and in the parish where they register one month, is allowed to vote at the ensuing election for a State Convention. There will therefore be no difficulty whatever in obtaining those 5,000 votes. The negroes are clamorous for the privileges of citizenship. They have held several meetings and appointed committees to wait on the military governor, and obtain from him an express recognition of their status as "citizens of Louisiana, entitled, according to law and justice, to all the privileges and immunities belonging to citizens of the United States." Frequent interviews were had, but without any satisfactory result, and the negroes have in consequence sent a committee to Washington, to present their cause to the President and Congress of the United States.

PARIS TOPICS.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

Paris, February 2.

After seventeen sittings, many of them stormy ones, the debates on the Address were ended by a graceful speech, in which M. de Morny proclaimed his pride at presiding over such eloquent discussions, and claimed the credit which he is very generally thought entitled to, of rigid impartiality in the discharge of his duties. No amendment or addition concerning the American war was proposed, but in the discussion on Mexico M. Berryer took the opportunity not to make an onslaught on the South, as it was reported to be his intention to do, but to reproach the French Government with jeopardising *entente cordiale* with the Union, by its enterprise in Mexico and the encouragement this was calculated to give to the South. M. Berryer's line of attack was not a fortunate one, proceeding from him who had so often denounced the servility of Louis Philippe's Government to foreign nations, and especially to the United States. His words were suffered to drop unanswered. They found no echo in the Chamber. Yet the Government commissary need have had no difficulty in quieting his scruples, so far at least as Mexico was concerned. The *Patrie* next evening supplied him with the substance of a despatch from Mr. Seward to the American Minister in Mexico, dated April 6th, 1861, in which he argues the necessity of the intervention of some power to put an end to the anarchy of Mexico, *in the general interest of society*. Doubtless Mr. Seward by "some power" meant the United States, and no other, but his admission is not the less forcible, although the guns of Fort Sumter blew this, with many another scheme, of conquest, into the invisible future a few days after the despatch was signed. While the subject of America was thus avoided in the Chambers by a tacit agreement with the Opposition I find in the press several items which may be worth calling attention to. The *France* shows that in the now acknowledged exhaustion of the North, Mr. Lincoln's determination to secure his re-election is the greatest obstacle to peace. All place-holders necessarily support him, for they have the natural antipathy to relinquish pleasant berths, and a still stronger horror of the idea of the subsequent examination of their accounts. M. Taboulaye, the witty author of one of the best satires on modern France, *Paris en Amérique*, is giving his hearers at the *Collegè de France*, where he is professor of comparative legislation, a review, which he might better call a retrospect, of the internal constitution of the United States. He is one of those few foreigners who saw only the fair side of society as it existed there some years ago, and who obstinately shut their eyes to the fact that, however true the picture may have been once from one point of view, it has utterly vanished under the dissolving influence of a military despotism more crushing than has been known in Europe since the days of the Convention. The *Patrie* furnishes a practical comment on the condition of the people in Mr. Lincoln's States. Thousands of women are now starving in Washington, whither they had gone to claim the arrears of pay due to their husbands, sons, or brothers, who have been killed in the war. "In some countries," says the *Patrie*, the government organisation for payments works slowly; then it does not work at all." In another paper of the same date I read the account of the passage-boat from Rucker's Island (the recruiting depot) bringing over the bodies of five negroes who had died of the effect of the drugs administered to them by the recruiters, who, not satisfied with robbing their victims of the bounty money, rob the government of its men. With all the dislike which I have for the Yankees, there is one point about them which is growing sympathetic to me; it is their indomitable insolence. In old days it was odious, but now, when they have gone down in the world, to see the old spirit bursting out more offensively than ever is really admirable. Not content with bullying England, which is big enough to bear a good deal of bullying, and vowing he will make her pay for the Alabama's exploits, Mr. Seward has been now down upon Portugal, and insists upon making her responsible for the doings of the Confederate cruisers off the Azores. This is asserting the empire of the seas with a vengeance, and reducing other powers to a position of vassalage.

Although no one believes that for the present there is the least chance of France being involved in the Dano-German war, the Bourse had a great fall yesterday—40 centimes. This great fall, immediately following the immense success of the loan, is a sufficient proof that the great mass of applications was speculative. I heard of one great banker, whose application was made only the last day of the subscription, after he had ascertained pretty nearly in what proportion offers would be accepted, who then applied for a very large sum, sending as security for the payment government stocks. The enormous mass of applications may be accounted for in this way:—the answer by the Emperor to the Address of the Legislative Body, is said to have been pronounced in a most courteous tone. As it treats of the internal situation only, no augury can be drawn from it in regard to foreign policy. The desire of the country for peace has been too plainly manifested to make the course he will take doubtful.

There was a small demonstration against the new regulation for the School of Arts made by the pupils one day last week. The police agents arrested a few of the loudest among the brawlers, on which the well known critic, Theophile Gautier, interfered on their behalf. He was told to go about his business, but persisting in his conciliatory endeavours, one of the agents lost patience and took him by the collar. In doing this he knocked the rosette of the Legion of Honour out of his buttonhole, on which the critic, irate at the insult to his dignity, gave him a sound box on the ear. He was at once arrested, but the arival of M. de Nieuwerkerke, with a neat little speech in his mouth, put an end to the fray, and M. Gautier and his young friends were restored to liberty.

The *Debats* of this morning has a very pretty little hit at the French Chambers, in the shape of extracts from Mr. Denison's speech at Mansfield. This is quite a French form of opposition, being accompanied by no kind of comment, but not on this account less relished by the classes who read the *Debats*. Anything which looks like blame proceeding from an official personage in England is eagerly laid hold of. It is the Orleans way of making war, using England as a sort of moral sand-bag.

The evening's *Opinion Nationale* has the following on the siege of Charleston:—"While we wish well to the North we cannot deny that at present the advantage is on the side of the Confederates. They display a vigour and a degree of skill which would be worthy of admiration if they defended a cause with which we could sympathise." The *France* announces that the deputation bringing the ratification of eighteen States of the twenty-three which compose Mexico, is expected at St. Nazaire on the 15th of this month. It will proceed at once to Miramar, which the Archduke will leave in about a fortnight afterwards on visits to the Emperor, the Queen of England, and the King of the Belgians. General Woll a veteran of the Mexican army, is said to have already the appointment of first aide-de-camp.

To-night's paper brings sad news for all who admire a brave woman. The Duchess of Parma, the last lily on the long stem of the House of Bourbon, has died after a few days' illness. As a wife, she was a model of patience and tact, and as regent for her son she made herself loved as well as respected by her subjects.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

In the Senate, January 5, Mr. Semmes, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill amendatory of the Tax Law, that the farmer and planter is not required to pay to the Government one-tenth of his straw of wheat, rye, oats, rice, or barley, or of the shucks and stalks of his corn crop. Passed.

Mr. Clay from the Military Committee, reported back, with the recommendation that they pass the joint resolutions of thanks to Major Heros von Borcke, of Prussia, the Adjutant Inspector-General of Cavalry of the Army of Northern Virginia.

In the Senate, January 6, Mr. Johnson, of Arkansas, submitted the following:—

"Resolved, that the Committee on Military Affairs inquire into the expediency of an act to reform the system of enrolments, and particularly of an act to fix some limitation upon the class of persons, or officers, who may be appointed or assigned to positions of enrolling officers, and to prescribe by whom to be selected or assigned; and to limit the length of time during which any such officer shall be allowed to serve over one and the same district, county, or beat; and to establish some rule or regulation by which an inspector of enrolling districts may be appointed for separate States or sections; and regulating by which such enrolling officers shall be restricted in the number of men placed in their provost guard."

Mr. Johnson said that many of the present enrolling officers were appointed by officers in the field, and were citizens of the enrolling districts to which they had been assigned. These enrolling officers were guilty of the most barefaced favouritism, keeping men out of the army in the field who should be there, and putting in some who ought not to be put in. But he would say the latter cases were, in his opinion, rare. The favouritism of the enrolling officers, in most cases, sprang from a feeling of kindliness to relations and friends. They were unable to say to their relations and friends that they must go into the army, especially when they knew that their act in so doing would be a cause of lasting enmity. Complaints were made of this favouritism in this State. He knew it was practised in his own State, and believed it was more or less in every State. There was another point to which he would call the attention of the committee. It was a fact easily susceptible of proof that enrolling officers put numbers of those they designed to favour into their provost guards, thus keeping them from the army in the field.

Mr. Clark, of Missouri, desired in this connection to call the attention of the Military Committee to a communication in the morning's *Enquirer*, complaining that citizens of other States, but especially Missouri had taken out Maryland exemption papers, and that Maryland had to bear odium she did not deserve, while Missouri, had more skulkers than any other State. He was not prepared to say the statements in the communication referred to were not true, but would say that if any citizen of Missouri had been guilty of the meanness of taking out Maryland papers to avoid military duty, he hoped he would be ferretted out and punished. He thought the subject came precisely under the cognisance of the Military Committee.

Mr. Sparrow said he did not doubt that there were a great number of fraudulent exemption papers. There were many men from other States who claimed to be Marylanders. He had been credibly informed, at the last session, that at a certain place in the Confederacy fraudulent exemption papers were openly offered for sale. He, however, believed that the bill already reported by the Military Committee would reach all cases of fraudulent exemptions, and would also attain the object proposed by the resolution of the Senator from Arkansas. Nevertheless he hoped the resolution of the Senator would be adopted.

The resolution was agreed to.

In the House, January 6, the new Exemption Bill, reported some days ago from the Military Committee, was taken up.

Mr. Miles, Chairman of the Military Committee, explained and argued the provisions of the bill at great length. He said that the bill did not contemplate "putting every man into the army," as some had construed it, but exempted those whose agricultural and mechanical skill was needed by the interests of the country.

In Senate, January 7, Mr. Phelan of Miss., rose to a question of privilege. He had been reported as introducing a bill to authorise the President to suspend the writ of Habeas Corpus. The bill was to suspend the writ, not to authorise the President to do it. That could not be done, as the power to suspend it alone belongs to Congress.

Mr. Phelan introduced the following bill:

"Sec. 1. The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, that all citizens of any of the Confederate States, and all other persons owing military service to the said Confederate States, who shall voluntarily depart beyond the boundaries of the said States after the passage of this act, with the intent to abandon the same, without the written permission of the President first obtained, shall be deemed and held as alien enemies, and shall be subject in every respect to all laws passed in relation to persons and property of alien enemies, in the same manner as if such persons had never been on the soil of the Confederate States.

"Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, that all officers and agents engaged in the execution of the acts known as the acts of sequestration and confiscation, and all other laws involving a forfeiture and disposal of the property of alien enemies, are hereby required promptly and efficiently to urge the enforcement of said enactments against the property of all persons departing from the Confederate States contrary to the provisions of this act.

"Sec. 3. Be it further enacted, that this act, immediately after its passing, shall be published three times in at least two newspapers in each of the Confederate States."

The bill was read and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Henry, of Tennessee, introduced the following bill, which was also referred to the Judiciary Committee.

"AN ACT TO DECLARE CERTAIN PERSONS ALIEN ENEMIES, AND TO SEQUESTRATE THEIR ESTATES.

"The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, that all persons in the Confederate States, liable to military duty, who shall abscond or otherwise leave the Confederacy, and go into any foreign country, or beyond the lines of the enemy within the Confederacy, to avoid performing military service, shall be held to have made their selection to take sides against this Confederacy in the war with the United States, and as such are hereby declared to be alien enemies, and all their lands, tenements, and hereditaments, goods and chattels, rights and credits within the Confederate States shall be and the same are hereby sequestrated by the Confederate States of America, and shall be held subject to all the laws of the Confederate States for the sequestration of the estates of alien enemies.

"Sec. 2. That all deeds of conveyance of real or personal estates, made by persons so seeking to avoid military duty as aforesaid, be and the same are hereby declared to be fraudulent and void."

"In the House, the same day, Mr. Smith of North Carolina, introduced a preamble and resolution reciting the outrages recently committed in Northeastern North Carolina, in which ladies were forcibly seized and handcuffed, and asking that a committee of five be appointed to inquire into and report the facts, and recommend such action as the dignity of the Confederate Government may require. The resolution was agreed to.

In Senate, January 8, the President laid before the Senate a communication from Governor Brown, of Georgia, covering a copy of resolutions adopted by the Legislature of Georgia, expressing a determination to prosecute the present war with the utmost vigour. The communication and accompanying documents were ordered to be printed.

In Senate, January 12, the bill to increase the compensation of certain civil employés of Government being called up,

Mr. Brown, of Miss., offered an amendment that the increased compensation shall not extend to persons able to serve in the army, unless the head of his department certifies that no one can fill the place of said employé, which was agreed to.

In the House, the same day, Mr. Ingram, recently elected from the State of Georgia, appeared and took his seat, after the usual oath had been administered by the Speaker.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the President, transmitting the number of persons, including enrolling officers, surgeons, physicians, and soldiers, employed by the Conscript Bureau in the States appended, as follows:—In Virginia, 94; North Carolina, 870; South Carolina, 219; Georgia, 781. Aggregate, 2,816.

Mr. Russell, of Virginia, offered the following, which was rejected.

"Resolved, that the Committee on Elections inquire into the expediency of authorising the citizens of Maryland serving in the army to elect a delegate to this House, with rights similar to those conferred on delegates from the territory of Arizona and from the Indian nations, and without the power to vote."

In Senate, January 1[illegible], the resolution of the General Assembly of Georgia, asking that the appointment of all [illegible] officers in that State [illegible] liable to conscription [illegible] be revoked, and that citizens not liable to [illegible] be appointed in their stead, was reported on [illegible], and the Committee on the [illegible] discharged from its further consideration.

In the House the same day Mr. C[illegible], of Virginia, offered the following, which was adopted:

"Resolved, that the Committee on Printing [illegible] and report a list of reports [illegible] in the hands of the public printer, ordered to be printed by the House."

Mr. [illegible], of Georgia, [illegible] a bill to be entitled "An Act to authorise the suspension of the writ of Habeas Corpus, [illegible] [illegible] the President [illegible] [illegible] the privilege of the writ of Habeas Corpus [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] or [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. Referred to Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Foote presented the following letter from Mr. Kelley, Delegate in the Virginia Legislature, from the city of Petersburg:

"RICHMOND, January 6, 1864.

"Hon. H. S. Foote. Permit me to call the attention of the House of Representatives, through you, to a very remarkable oversight, as it seems to me, in the financial legislation, of [illegible] respecting [illegible], whereby the revenue from imports is received in Treasury notes instead of specie.

"The transactions of our [illegible] commerce are conducted in specie [illegible], or [illegible] [illegible] converted into specie, and [illegible] are so enormous that there has never been a time when it would have been a hard stress to have imposed a far higher tariff than our own in specie. The stock of [illegible] [illegible] an [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] exceed any [illegible] of [illegible].

"Why, then, should we depart from the standard which, in peace times, and with [illegible] profits, was thought just, and was easily and [illegible] borne?

"The great public interest concerned in this matter will excuse, I trust, the intrusion of a stranger.

"You may make any disposition of this note which will best serve the purpose of calling attention to this evil. Very respectfully your friend and fellow-citizen,

"A. M. KEILEY."

Mr. Foote then offered the following, which was adopted:

"Resolved, that the Committee on Ways and Means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so amending the revenue laws as to subject goods received during the existing blockade from abroad to the payment of duties in specie."

A bill fixing the rations to naval officers was passed, allowing rations as follows:—

To Admirals,	the same as	Generals.
To Vice-Admirals	"	Lieut.-Generals.
To Rear-Admirals,	"	Major-Generals.
To Commodores and to Captains	"	Brigadier Generals and Colonels
To Commanders and to 1st Lieutenants	"	Lieut.-Colonels and Majors.
To 2nd Lieutenants and to Lieuts. for the war	"	Captains and Chaplains.
To Masters and to Pass'd Midshipmen	"	Lieutenants.

And to officers of the medical, pay and engineer corps, and to boatswains, gunners, carpenters, and sailmakers, the same as to the foregoing officers of the line of the navy with whom they have assimilated rank.

Mr. Clay presented a communication from the Chief Engineer of the Confederate States at Mobile; proposing to impress negroes and employ them as labourers in the engineer department, which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

On motion of Mr. Hill, of Georgia, the bill providing that the next regular session of Congress shall begin on the first Monday in May, 1864, was taken up and passed.

In Senate, January 2, Mr. Johnson, of Arkansas, submitted the following:—

"Whereas, the campaigns of the brave and gallant armies covering the capital of the Confederate States, during the two successive years of 1862 and 1863, under the leadership and command of General Robert E. Lee, have been crowned with glorious results, defeating greatly superior forces massed by the enemy for the conquest of these States; repelling the invaders with immense losses, and twice transferring the battle-field from our own country to that of the enemy; and

"Whereas, the masterly and [illegible] achievements rendering for ever memorable the fields of the 'Seven Days of Great Battles,' which raised the siege of Richmond, as well as those of Cedar Run, Second Manassas, Harper's Ferry, Boonsboro, Sharpsburg, Shepherdstown, Fredericksburg, Winchester, Gettysburg and Chancellorsville, command the admiration and gratitude of our country; and

"Whereas, these and other illustrious services rendered by this able commander since the commencement of our war of independence, have especially endeared him to the hearts of his countrymen; and have imposed on Congress the grateful duty of giving expression to their feelings, therefore,

"Resolved by the Congress of the Confederate States of America, that the thanks of Congress are hereby tendered to General Robert E. Lee, and to the officers and soldiers of the Confederate armies under his command, for the great and signal victories they have won over the vast hosts of the enemy, and for the inestimable services they have rendered in defence of the liberty and independence of our country.

"Resolved, that the President be requested to communicate these resolutions to General Robert E. Lee, and to the officers and soldiers herein designated."

After some remarks by Messrs. Johnson, of Arkansas, and Sparrow, of Louisiana, highly complimentary to General Lee and the army of Northern Virginia, the resolutions were unanimously adopted.

In the House, December 29, the following memorandum from the Army of Tennessee in relation to measures best calculated, in their judgment, to maintain the efficiency and vigour of the army, was received and read:—

"To the Congress of the Confederate States.

"In the existing condition of affairs it is hoped your honourable bodies will [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] deliberation, but under the [illegible] conviction that the [illegible] of the country [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible], and that delay, even for [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the dangers [illegible].

"In our opinion, it is essential to [illegible] for the term of the war, without [illegible], the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the President [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] fifty and sixty years of age, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] duty; [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the present system, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and then to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] service as cooks, [illegible], teamsters, and hospital attendants, with the [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible] negroes and mulattoes, [illegible] and free.

"These measures, we think, if properly [illegible] as to give time for organising and disciplining the new material, would make our armies [illegible] at the opening of the campaign of next year, and [illegible] territory, and conquer a peace before that campaign is closed.

"We beg further to suggest that in our opinion [illegible] [illegible], a [illegible] of [illegible], from [illegible] [illegible] depreciated currency and the retention of old soldiers in service might be obtained by allowing [illegible] [illegible] in favour of the retained troops, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] rations not issued; and rations, or the value thereof, to officers.

"We have the honour to be,

"Your obedient servants,

"WILLIAM J. HARDEE, Lieutenant-General.

"C. S. STEVENSON, Major-General.

"P. R. CHEATHAM, Major-General.

"JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE, Major-General.

"JOHN C. BROWN, Brigadier-General.

"EDWARD W. PETTUS, Brigadier-General.

"A. W. REYNOLDS, Brigadier-General.

"JOHN K. JACKSON, Brigadier-General.

"I sign this, with the reservation that I approve the President's proposed system of permanent [illegible].

"P. R. CLEBURNE, Major-General.

"T. C. HINDMAN, Major-General.

"JOSEPH H. LEWIS, Brigadier-General.

"D. C. GOVAN, Com. Liddell's Brigade.

"I approve the above except that portion which has reference to exemptions and the proposition to place in service those under eighteen and over fifty years of age. I believe the old men and boys would be of more service to the country at home; and that ministers of the gospel, and a necessary number of physicians and teachers, shall be exempt.

"M. P. LOWRY, Brigadier-General.

"R. J. HILL.

"Colonel Commanding Thirty-fifth and Forty-eighth Tennessee Regiments and Polk's Brigade."

In addition to the above names, there are some dozen others who have signed the paper, with certain reservations and explanations.

GENERAL BUTLER AND THE CONFEDERATE PRISONERS.

(From the *Richmond Examiner*, Jan. 15.)

BUTLER, in command of all the Confederate prisoners, will be, in Yankee opinion, eminently "the right man in the right place." Brutality and cruelty have been displayed in ample measure by others among their generals; yet, by a happy admixture of pettifogging chicanery with bloodthirsty barbarity, by ingenious invention of oppressive subterfuges and insinuating devices for torturing the feelings of the helpless victims who fall beneath his clutches, Butler has won a deserved pre-eminence of infamy, and stands *facile princeps* on the roll of tyrannical instruments, which comprises such distinguished names as M'Neil, Turchin, and Milroy. Bethel showed conclusively that the field of battle was not the appropriate theatre upon which to display his rare and surpassing talents. After the shock of battle has passed, and the work of danger been performed by others more adapted to that common-place duty, his sphere of glory expands before him. Then, like the jackal, he comes in to gorge himself with the spoil. Then he addresses himself to the congenial work of accumulating plunder while he enforces "loyal oaths," and of insulting women in honour of the flag.

Of course, the appointment of this man to the control of the Confederate prisoners is intended as a punishment of the refusal of this Government to treat with a criminal whom it has solemnly outlawed, and a menace by which to influence our feelings of fear and compassion for the fate of brave men, subjected to the will of such a miscreant, in favour of a consent to proceed with the exchange, even under the conduct of Butler. Doubly desirous, as we certainly must all be, of rescuing our brave and unfortunate soldiers from their sad captivity, now that this additional bitterness has been added to their sufferings, yet the true policy demands that we should adhere to the determination we have announced. To [illegible] from it under the operation of this threat is not only to undergo the mortification of being polluted by intercourse with this degraded being, but to encourage the Lincoln Government in its course of barbarity. Should they be successful in this expedient, they will at each occasion of disputed points in the conduct of the negotiation, recur to the same dastardly and inhuman means in order to enforce our compliance. The opprobrium and execration of humanity will be considered a cheap price to pay for the attainment of their object. With so admirable a tool in their hands for performing their dirty work, there will be a continual inducement to avail themselves of a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] without [illegible] [illegible], claim to possess the monopoly.

[illegible] that the Yankees have fairly [illegible] character of Butler?

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] aptitude.

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Butler.

[illegible] have hitherto proved so effectual.

THE MATERIAL RESOURCES OF THE CONFEDERACY.

(From the *Richmond Examiner*.)

AMID much that is gloomy in our military affairs, we find at least one subject of congratulation in the fact that, during the past year, our supplies of arms and munitions, and our military material generally, have increased.

Arms of approved kinds are being made with more facility, at more places, and in larger numbers than at any previous time. Very valuable additions to our supplies of arms have been made during the year by importations from abroad, and thus have enabled the bureau promptly to repair the very heavy losses which were sustained in the [illegible] campaign in Mississippi. In the manufacture of powder, balls, shell, &c., progress has been marked and with some addition to the supplies of nitre from foreign sources, it is understood, there will be no want of adequate supplies of superior quality.

Special attention has been given to the distribution of these works in different portions of the Confederacy, so as not to leave our supplies dependent on single localities. While not yet wholly independent in the supply of nitre, there has been, until very recently, marked increase in the production. That increase has, during the past year, nearly [illegible] from [illegible] duction. The temporary occupation by the enemy of the districts of the country where the richest deposits of nitrous earth were found has for the present [illegible] the production, but it is encouraging to know that the artificial sources of supply, in beds of nitrous earth, will soon begin to be available, and much more than supply the deficiencies which have resulted from the operations of the enemy.

The mining operations in iron, lead, and coal have all been pushed forward with activity, in despite of all the embarrassments resulting from scarcity of labourers and fluctuating prices, and the result has been in each more abundant production and a better prospect of future sufficiency than we have yet enjoyed.

DIED.—Of typhoid [illegible] at the residence of their grandfather, N. C. Munroe, Esq., of Sylvan Lodge, Vineville, near Macon, Georgia, C. S. A., on the 24th Sept. last, [illegible], aged 2 years and [illegible] months, and on the 25th Sept. Nathan Munroe, aged 5 years and [illegible] months, only daughter and eldest son of Commander John M. Kell of the C. S. Navy, now acting as 1st Lieutenant of the C. S. Steamer Alabama.

Also at the same place and of the same disease, on the [illegible]th Oct., [illegible] [illegible], aged [illegible] years and [illegible] months, second daughter of Mr. John S. Hutton, of Savannah, Georgia, C. S. A.

Gone from the hearts that loved her,
 Gone to the realms of light,
Where [illegible] [illegible] [illegible],
 And [illegible] [illegible] bright.

The tender Shepherd called her;
 [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible].
Over [illegible] [illegible] sorrows;
 Her's the eternal rest.

Her home is the beautiful city,
 Where angels "[illegible] [illegible]" adore;
Her playmates the gentle [illegible] [illegible]
 Who had only "gone before."

There, safe from this world's pollution,
 Safe from all sorrow and sin,
Live the loved of our hearts forever,
 Where death cannot enter in.

J. B. K.

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

OUR friends in the United Kingdom and on the Continent are earnestly requested to forward to us, at their earliest convenience, such information relative to the military movements and condition of affairs in America as they may receive through private letters, either from the United States, or from the Confederate States. They may rely upon the most scrupulous precautions being observed; that no names or facts leading to identification will, under any circumstances, be revealed. No communications, however, will be noticed unless authenticated by a responsible name. Southern newspapers, of any date, will be useful and acceptable presents.

Our subscribers in the South will have their paper supplied through HENRY HOTZE, Esq., the Confederate States Commercial Agent in London, who has kindly tendered us his services in this respect during the continuance of the blockade.

For the convenience of our distant subscribers, all the receipts for subscriptions signed by any of the official representatives, or commissioned officers of the Confederate States, will be recognized at this office.

Subscription, 26s. per annum—post paid, 30s., payable in advance. All communications on business to be addressed, and Post-Office Orders made payable to, J. B. HOPKINS, 13, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street, London E.C.

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At St. Thomas (West Indies), C. W. WHITE, Esq.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1864.

Parties in Parliament.

PARLIAMENT met this afternoon, and the curtain has risen upon a scene curiously at variance with constitutional theories and with the ordinary ideas of political speculators. Power is lodged in the hands of a Ministry which commands the support only of a minority of the House of Commons, and of less than one-third of the House of Lords; and yet, unless it should ruin its own prospects by some gross blunder, unless it should be dissolved by internal dissensions, or broken up by the loss of the link which binds its members together, and the whole body to the country, this Ministry may hold office for months, perhaps for years, with less effective control and opposition than the strongest Government usually encounters from Parliament. The party which supports Lord Palmerston is united by no clear and definite bond of common principles. One portion is attached to the principles which the Ministry professes to represent, another to the policy which it actually pursues; one section is at heart quite as conservative as the Opposition, another really feels some interest in the liberal doctrines which the Cabinet holds with a passive, indifferent, and half affected faith, but does not dream of putting into action.

The Ministry itself contains men of divers shades of opinion: from Charles Villiers and Milner Gibson, who are professed Radicals, to old Whigs like Sir G. Grey and Lord Granville, and semi-Conservatives like Lord Palmerston himself. Even its three principal members are by no means harmonious in their views on any subject whatever. Mr. Gladstone is a sound churchman; Lord Palmerston an indifferent man of the world; Lord Russell has the narrow mind, the bigoted temper, and many of the peculiar views of the Dissenting sectaries, and would be quite willing, if he saw the way, to lead a crusade against Church rates and Church establishments. On foreign policy Mr. Gladstone is said to incline strongly to the party of "peace at any price"—as strongly as a practical statesman can lean to anything so wholly unpractical. Lord Palmerston is jealous of English honour and English influence; holds by the traditional policy of the country, and prefers the risk of an occasional war to the abandonment of our position as the umpire, because the only disinterested party, among the conflicting Powers of Europe and America. He is disposed promptly to punish insults to our flag—to extort apologies from nations amenable to civilised modes of action, and to bombard offenders whose limited knowledge of international comity makes them insensible to more Christian forms of argument. Lord Russell is disposed to meddle more and talk louder than Lord Palmerston; but, except in the case of very small Powers, he has a deeper dread and abhorrence of war and bloodshed than Mr. Gladstone. In finance, Mr. Gladstone is devoted to economy; Lord Palmerston to efficiency; Lord Russell to popularity. The Administration, then, has neither a united party nor an unanimous Cabinet. It has, moreover, bitter enemies. The more thoughtful Radicals, like Mr. Forster, gave it their support for a long time at critical moments, avowedly on the ground that, if the Tories came into power, they would probably take a view of foreign policy less agreeable to the malcontents than that of Lord Palmerston. But Mr. Bright has always been the bitter and unsparing enemy of the Prime Minister; and Mr. Cobden, forgetting the gratitude he owes to the Government for his French mission, and the completion of his free-trade scheme, declared himself last year in open hostility to the Administration. These men are the personal enemies of Lord Palmerston—the only avowed personal enemies whom he has made—and they and their section would do anything and join anybody in order to eject him from office. The more moderate Radicals have gradually been drawn in the same direction. An effort has evidently been made to form a regular and organised Radical party—and such a party must inevitably act in bitter hostility to Lord Palmerston. Without the Radicals, he cannot muster three hundred followers in the House of Commons; and the Conservatives alone are said to count about three hundred and ten. The Administration is therefore in a minority; and yet, as we have said, it is likely to remain in power for a considerable time, unless some unusually gross blunder, some outrage on public feeling, or some disaster clearly attributable to ministerial incompetence, should arouse a general revolt, not only in Parliament, but in the country. In fact, except the Radicals and that portion of the Conservative party which wishes for office, everyone is well satisfied to keep the present men at the head of affairs with the present balance of political power, which makes it impossible for them, either of their own mere motion or at the instigation of their followers, to make any move whatever in a democratic direction. In a word, so long as the Ministry does nothing but carry on the Queen's Government, a great majority, both in Parliament and in the country, are satisfied that the Queen's Government should be carried on by Her Majesty's present servants.

We do not say—we do not think—that this is a healthy state of things. The natural defects of a constitutional government—its tendency to compromise everything, even to national honour, for the sake of peace and quietness, and its disposition to allow too much influence to the personal crotchets of a powerful member of the Cabinet—are greatly aggravated by the want of an effectual, vigorous, and aggressive Opposition. But under present circumstances it is hardly possible that such an Opposition should exist. The Conservatives are too strong for opposition and too weak for government. They are too strong for opposition, because if they really oppose—if they move and press home a vote of censure, say on the Kagosima bombardment, or the imbecile mismanagement of the Slesvig-Holstein imbroglio—they would certainly turn the Government out; and they are too weak to form a ministry, because if they did so the Radicals would be drawn back, by ample promises, into the Liberal ranks, and Lord Derby's Government would again find itself in a minority. The cooler heads of the party, who do not mingle in daily political strife, and have time to look quietly at the future, are not, therefore, eager for office. The rich, thoughtful, unambitious, highbred, patriotic country gentlemen, of whom Colonel Wilson Patten is perhaps the typical representative, do not wish to see their chief in power, unless with a majority, or the certainty of obtaining one by an appeal to the country. Lord Derby himself does not wish to oust the Administration. Consequently, Lord Palmerston knows that there are but three perils that seriously menace his tenure of office. He may be overthrown by any serious complication abroad, or by any secession from his own Cabinet breaking up his party, and forcing office upon the opposition, or by any flagrant disgrace arousing the spirit of the nation. He will not, therefore, allow any affront which takes a strong hold on national feeling to pass unnoticed; he would rather go to war than endure another Trent outrage; but, short of this, he will do his utmost to avoid storms, seeing that in calm weather he may consider himself master of the situation. Also, he will be careful not to quarrel with Lord Russell or Mr. Gladstone. He knows that their crotchets are not likely to upset the Cabinet, but that their secession might do so. Hence Mr. Gladstone will have uncontrolled management of our finances, without that guidance from his colleagues which he above all men requires in order to prevent him from offending public prejudices and practical sense by a budget based on principles too purely scientific; and Lord Russell will be allowed to cringe to the United States and bully Brazil—to make the murder of a British subject the occasion of war against Japan and of mild entreaty to Mr. Seward—so long as his quarrelsome pen and timorous spirit do not involve the country in some intelligible and intolerable disgrace. There have been cabinets in which this latitude might safely be allowed to the chiefs of departments, but the present is not one of them. In the first place, the confidence of the country is not given to the Ministry, but to the Prime Minister. The public distrusts Mr. Gladstone because it cannot understand him; and it distrusts Lord Russell, because it understands him thoroughly. Again, the minor Ministers are none of them remarkable for administrative capacity; some of them are remarkable for the reverse. Sir George Grey, Sir C. Wood, Lord Granville, Mr. Lowe, Mr. Cowper, are distinguished only by their marvellous talent for getting into scrapes, for damaging the public interests, and provoking Parliament beyond its patience. Under ordinary circumstances these men would be held in check by the vigilance of the Opposition and the supervision of their chief; and some of them would probably be removed to less conspicuous posts. At present, they are allowed to go on as they please; because their colleagues confide in Lord Palmerston's power to get them out of the troubles in which they are perpetually involved, and because the Opposition feel that it is of little avail to provoke a debate with the forgone conclusion that the Ministry is not to be turned out. If they gain a few victories, Lord Palmerston threatens to resign, and puts a stop to their proceedings; if they allow themselves to be beaten, the Ministers gain by the division more than they lose by the discussion.

Hence we conclude that the first weeks of the session, at least, will witness no great party fight. It is quite true that the Ministry has laid itself open to some very damaging attacks. The bombardment of Kagosima was an outrage on humanity which certainly will not be seriously approved on either side of the House; and there will be, we suppose, a smart debate thereupon. The American leaders will taunt the Government with having exceeded the crimes which called forth high-sounding protests from the Foreign-office when perpetrated by Federal generals. They will ask, what is the destruction of a harbour compared to the bombardment of a populous city; or what has Gillmore tried to do at Charleston but what Kuper has actually done in Japan? Mr. Disraeli, in fulfilment of his functions as chief of the Opposition, will make a very eloquent and very bitter speech, which may hurt the feelings of some very thin-skinned Ministers—probably the least guilty of all—but which Lord Palmerston will regard merely as a display of fireworks, and not as a discharge of artillery—Roman candles, and not Greek fire. Lord R. Cecil, having no practical responsibility, will speak with still more effect, and probably damage the character of the Ministry more than any other of their assailants unless Mr. Walpole should bring to the aid of the accusers his high personal character, and the influence which he derives from his urbanity, his freedom from all individual animosities, and his unimpeachable conscientiousness. But after all, what can come of all these efforts? The Tories and the Radicals neutralise each other. Many who are disposed to vote with Mr. Disraeli will refuse to go into the lobby with Mr. Bright; many who are strongly impressed by Mr. Walpole will be

repelled by finding Mr. Cobden and Mr. Forster on the same side. The argument will be all against the Government; but we doubt very much whether a division will take place. First, nobody wants to oust Lord Palmerston, especially at the suit of John Bright. Secondly, every one has a painful remembrance of 1857—when the House pronounced against the Chinese war, and Lord Palmerston went to the country; the result being a Parliament in which the Tories were paralysed, and from which Cobden and Bright were both excluded. Nobody wishes to fight on a similar ground again. Still less does any one care to fight about Slesvig-Holstein. If we go to war, the whole nation will be of one mind; till we know whether we are to have war or peace, most men are satisfied to have no strong opinion of any kind upon the subject—except that Lord Russell has probably muddled that, as he has muddled every other matter that he has handled. There are other reasons, to which we need not allude, which will make expectant Ministers very chary of that question. Of course something will be said about the infamous misconduct of Sir G. Grey in the Towuley case; but nothing, short of proved corruption, would induce Parliament formally to censure a Minister for his conduct in the exercise of a discretion so peculiarly belonging to the prerogatives of the Crown. And, we need hardly add, nothing will be done to alter the course of the Government towards the American belligerents. Not that the country approves that course. No one, except the partisans of the North, thinks that Lord Russell has acted honourably or impartially. But there are only two points clear and strong enough to form the ground of a vote of censure: the seizure of the rams and the non-recognition of the Confederate States. The first cannot be discussed in Parliament while the case of the *Alexandra* is pending in the courts of law. The second is in this position: four-fifths of the House wish that the Confederacy should be recognised, but do not chose to pass such a vote except on the responsibility of a leading statesman; and no leading statesman is prepared to take the responsibility of recognition. Lord Derby will not do it; and the Tories cannot come in without Lord Derby. Lord Russell will not do it, and Lord Palmerston dare not throw him overboard. And in truth, except Lord R. Cecil, we doubt if any prospective Cabinet Minister would dare to hazard his position by making the proposal. Moreover, any vote of censure on the American policy of the Government would rally the Radicals to their aid, and with the Radicals they have a sure majority. The Confederate States, therefore, have nothing to expect from either party. The only difference is that the sympathy of the Tories is with them, while the sympathy of some of the Liberals is with the North; and that the Tories, relying on the country gentlemen, would have borne less from the United States than the Whigs, who depend in great measure on the commercial classes and wish to conciliate the Radicals, and who, moreover, are less sensitive on points of national honour, and more alive to the blessings of peace than the country party. The Tories would not have tolerated the blockade of Nassau, and they would not have allowed the Federal Government to recruit in Ireland or to rob and murder on the coast of Africa; but they probably would have seized the *Alexandra*, and they would not have recognised the South.

We are of opinion, then, that so far as circumstances hitherto known affect the political temper of Parliament, the present Government has nothing to fear. At the same time, it is quite clear that any offence to the House of Commons or to the country would at once embolden the Conservative party to use their opportunity and seize the reins of power. And it may be assumed as certain that the death or retirement of Lord Palmerston would dissolve both his party and his Cabinet.

Federal Diplomacy.

MR. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS has this excellent quality in a diplomatist—that he suits his language admirably to the individual whom he addresses. There are passages in the correspondence of this gentleman, which, if addressed to any other Minister than Earl Russell, would probably have resulted in the very prompt departure of the American Minister; there are threats which would not have been endured for an hour by a Pitt or a Canning; there are arguments which could hardly have found a vent anywhere save in the despatches of a Northern envoy or the columns of the New York press. For all that, they tell; Mr. Charles Francis Adams, though he is the *bête noir* of the British Cabinet, is the thorn in the side of Earl Russell. Every despatch acts upon the Foreign Secretary as a touch of the spur upon an unwilling steed. We may discover cause and effect in regular series in comparing Mr. Adams' remonstrances with Earl Russell's acts; and although at times there is something like a struggle on the part of the recalcitrant "Britisher," an attempt to throw this "old man of the sea," who is such a terrible incubus on the shoulders of the last of the Whig Earls, it invariably ends in the acknowledged mastery of the Yankee minister, however cleverly the submission may be secured by a few bold words.

That terrible rover of the seas, No. 290, alias the *Alabama*, it is which most disturbs the peace of mind of Mr. Adams, and very earnest he is in urging his suit against the British Government on her account. We shall not weary our readers with recapitulating the worn-out charges about her evasion of the authorities at Liverpool, her manning and equipment on the high seas, &c., but go directly to the more heinous offences which are brought against this country. Mr. Adams actually complains that her captain, "claiming to be an officer acting under legitimate authority, yet is in the constant practice of raising the flag of Great Britain, in order to better execute his system of ravage and plunder on the high seas." Now this is no doubt very wrong of Captain Semmes, from a moral point of view. But we venture to say that the practice of hoisting false colours to deceive an enemy is one recognised by every rule of war; and we know that in the last naval war between Great Britain and the United States it was systematically resorted to by both Powers. To endeavour to hold this country responsible for this *ruse* is a childish absurdity which could only proceed from the pen of Mr. Adams, and which must have puzzled even Earl Russell's habit of deference to the American Minister. But Captain Semmes not only sails under false colours occasionally; he actually burns his prizes. In the first place, this is not Captain Semmes's fault. We imagine that gallant officer would be far better pleased to be allowed to take his prizes into neutral ports, and there dispose of them and their cargoes, but that privilege is denied him; so he destroys them. But to burn an enemy's ship is surely not an unheard-of thing. We know of no law of nations prohibiting it. It is simply a question of the convenience of the captor. If he burns an enemy's ship, the owner has his remedy against the Government whose flag he flies. But to imply that because Captain Semmes does not take his ships into the blockaded Confederate ports Great Britain is responsible for his depredations, is about as illogical and impertinent a suggestion as was ever addressed by one diplomatist to another. However, Mr. Adams fortifies his case by these and similar considerations, and puts in that convenient claim for "national and private injuries thus sustained," which some day or other, when the present conflict is at an end, is to form the *casus belli* between the old country and the United States. Now this claim has never been abandoned. It crops out in almost every despatch upon the question of belligerent rights during the last fifteen months. Mr. Seward never omits to hold it up *in terrorem*. Mr. Adams, at the risk of wearying even Earl Russell into a passion, reiterates it, and even when threatening reprisals and letters of marque never fails to remind Earl Russell that in his despatch box, ready to be presented at a fitting moment, he keeps the claim for redress which is hereafter to justify the chastisement of Great Britain.

We must do even Mr. Adams the justice, however, to acknowledge that he does not reach the audacity of Mr. Seward. In July, 1863, the Secretary of State of the Lincoln Administration makes use of the following pretty plain threat:—"Can it be an occasion for either surprise or complaint that if this condition of things is to remain and receive the deliberate sanction of the British Government the navy of the United States will receive instructions to pursue those enemies into the ports which thus, in violation of the law of nations and the obligations of neutrality, become harbours for the *pirates?*" Here is a direct threat: such an one as, we venture to say, is almost unparalleled in the correspondence between two friendly and equal Powers. The British Government having once recognised the Confederate States as belligerents, cannot refuse to them the rights that it affords to their enemy. It proclaims perfect neutrality, and in pursuance of that object limits the stay of the ships of either combatant in its ports to a definitely restricted period. The *Alabama* in this respect enjoys no greater advantages than are possessed by any of the United States cruisers; and yet Mr. Seward, crying out for neutrality, asks us to refuse admittance to our ports to the Confederate navy, and threatens us with hostilities in our ports in the event of our non-compliance with his demands. No wonder that, spurred on by this menacing language from his Government, Mr. Adams re-appears again, more courageous than ever, and frames half-a-dozen new indictments against this unhappy country. "Men and money," writes Mr. Adams, "ships, arms, and gunpowder have been continually purchased of Her Majesty's subjects almost from the beginning of the war." We will take these charges *seriatim*. *Imprimis*, the article "men." We wonder that even Mr. Adams did not blush as he penned this monstrous perversion of truth. At the outbreak of the war Her Britannic Majesty's Government warned British subjects from taking part in the strife, and thus responsibility is out of the question. But is it not perfectly notorious that Ireland has been one vast recruiting ground for the Federal armies; that British subjects have been not only illegally enlisted, but forcibly kidnapped; that at this moment hundreds of British subjects are serving in the Federal ranks who have been hired for agricultural purposes, taken off to the provost-marshal's office, drafted to the nearest depot, uniformed, equipped, and despatched to some Federal camp where remonstrance is impossible and desertion is death? For one British subject serving in the Confederate army or navy, one hundred have been deluded into the Federal service by the agents of the Government which Mr. Adams represents, and no one knows that better than Mr. Adams himself. But the Confederate loan is also a grievance. We can perfectly understand that. When Federal credit was so bad that Mr. Chase dared not address European capitalists, European faith in the honour and resources of the "rebels" was so strong that the amount of loan was subscribed in a few hours. Mr. Adams may feel annoyed, but he has no reasonable right to complain. The market was open to his Government, and they did not avail themselves of it. Where would have been British neutrality if it had been announced that a Federal loan was legal and a Confederate loan illegal? As to ships, the right of furnishing them at the builder's risk to either belligerent has never been seriously contested, and the mere fact that the North has no need to purchase does not destroy that right. As to supplies, arms, and munitions of war: 1st. There is no more definite principle of international law than that Governments are not bound to prohibit their subjects from trafficking in articles contraband of war; 2ndly. Unless British neutrality is to be the sham which Mr. Adams desires to make it, it is perfectly monstrous for the United States minister to complain against the export of arms into the Confederate States, whilst not a steamer starts to the Northern States without carrying in its hold those massive crates of "hard ware" which go to arm the mercenaries, the motley herds of Germans, Irish, and negroes, who are raised to devastate and subjugate the Southern Confederacy.

Mr. Adams' pretensions are extravagant, his logic is blundering, his threats laughable; but he has hit his mark. We can trace his influence in the detention of the *Alexandra* and the protracted judicial proceedings which have arisen out of it; in the sudden raid upon the rams at Birkenhead; in the announced intention of the Government to alter the Foreign Enlistment Act of this country in accordance with the views of the United States Cabinet. When one knows the calibre of Mr. Adams one feels inclined to marvel at his success. The astonishment ceases, when one reflects that the British Secretary for Foreign Affairs is Earl Russell.

Mexico in the French Chambers.

THE latest news from Mexico affords a curious commentary on the language of the French Opposition leaders in the recent debate. The week had not ended before the telegraph announced that the man with whom they expressed themselves ready to treat as the lawful ruler of the country, had been driven from his last place of refuge, had fled unattended, and was refused official recognition in the last quarter where a shadow of nominal authority still remained to him. Practically, by the admission even of the Northern American press, which has the most reason to be hostile to French success, all organized and systematic resistance to the occupation of Mexico is at an end, though a species of predatory and expeditionary warfare after the approved Mexican fashion may for a considerable period delay the complete pacification of the country.

We are surprised that any respectable portion of the English press should compliment M. Thiers on his speech of Tuesday week last. Clever enough as the claptrap of a mere partisan, but not rising to the level of his best oratorical efforts, it seems to us to seriously damage his reputation as a historian and philosophic thinker. We find it difficult to believe that a man of M. Thiers' calibre can be serious in putting forth such an argument as that "notwithstanding the large quantity of gold found in California, the Treasury of the United States has been forced to have recourse

to paper-money," as showing the worthlessness of wealthy metalliferous provinces. It would, indeed, have been astonishing if California had from its own resources borne the burdens of the three years' war in America, or if her annual exportation of precious metals had sufficed to redeem a thousand million dollars of greenbacks. Yet California has added more to the power, the commercial prestige, and even the revenues of the Union, than any other single State. There is a certain school of political declaimers who estimate the value of each portion of the national domain according to the precise amount in pounds and shillings for which it stands either on the debtor or creditor side of the Treasury books, and who would economise by abandoning Gibraltar, selling India, and getting rid of the colonies. But we had thought M. Thiers a man of higher intellectual stature. Again, it is incredible that he should fail to perceive his self-condemnation, when he justifies his opposition to such distant expeditions as the Mexican on the ground that the expeditions of Clive and Hastings were in their time opposed in the English Parliament. Surely M. Thiers could not have forgotten that though the opponents of Clive and Hastings had a far better case then he and his party friends have made out last week, the precedent he invokes is that of the establishment of the most magnificent transmarine empire in history.

If we are unable to discover any marked ability in the manner in which the Mexican question has been handled by the best speakers of the Opposition, neither are we able to give the Government orators credit for more than average talent in the performance of their task. Neither the one side nor the other have shown the capacity, perhaps from lack of a deep conviction on either side, to seize on the salient features of the subject. Unless we except a few pompous truisms about national honour, and something about "France covering herself with glory," there has been no enunciation of great principles of action, no bold sketches of long-matured policy, no revelations of the depths of thought of the master mind. With a wealth of material at their command, both the assailants and the defenders of the new Mexican empire have contented themselves with languid commonplaces, giving the debate the appearance rather of a stage duel than of a *combat à l'outrance* in good earnest. There was not even a serious effort to expose the numerous blunders of facts and dates which formed the staple of M. Thiers' hastily and carelessly prepared brief:—a rare opportunity of inflicting a damaging blow, which in the English Parliament would not have been neglected. Perhaps all this may be accounted for by the Government's confidence in the inevitable result of the debate, and it may have been thought expedient to reserve the heavier ammunition for a more formidable attack.

It is less easy to find an explanation of the official indifference in another direction. The Mexican expedition is unpopular chiefly on account of the profound ignorance of the French popular mind on everything connected with it. The tactics of the opposition are as simple as they are obvious. They consist in playing upon this ignorance, and in this respect they are left absolute masters of the field. The average Frenchman is rather a sentimental than a philosophical traveller, knows little and cares less for countries very far beyond the horison of his ordinary vision. The periodical press necessarily reflects this phase of the national character, and with much acuteness and veracity, it is as a rule deficient in that extensive command of facts and painstaking research which constitute the "dull solidity" of English journalism. It requires, therefore, a more emphatic contradiction than has yet been attempted, to dispel the popular impressions about Mexico, which it is the diligent task of the Opposition writers and speakers to disseminate. Thanks to them, the most beautiful and the richest country on the globe suggests to the masses of the French people only ideas of yellow fever, musquitoes, dirty Indians, arid deserts, and deluging rains. And yet no other portion of the inhabited earth is so well calculated to seduce the imagination of a people like the French. It is difficult for the soberest pen to undertake a description that shall not read like a poem. The marvellous grandeur of the scenery, the delicious mildness of perpetual spring, and the fabulous fertility of the soil, have left their traces in the style of every traveller that has visited this favoured region. The American armies which overran Mexico in 1848, returned with glowing accounts of this terrestrial paradise to inflame the cupidity of their countrymen. It is in France alone that this concurrent testimony of the books of every language falls to-day upon sceptical ears; and the student who wishes to consult even so well-known and unimpeachable an authority as Humboldt's *Nouvelle Espagne*, can only find it in the catalogue of some public library. For this paucity of popular information on Mexico the Government must be held, in a great measure, responsible. If a company of merchants invites the public to invest their money in some distant or novel enterprise, they are not slow in employing the necessary means to enlist the interest of the public. A Government similarly situated cannot with impunity disregard this example. If to-day Great Britain were suddenly involved in some expensive and distant expeditions, the press would teem with facts and figures to awaken and to satisfy curiosity. French public opinion, so much more accustomed than ours to receive impulses and directions from above, needs such teaching in a correspondingly greater degree. Yet, with an army actually fighting in Mexico, when everything relating to that country has a peculiar interest to the humblest household, the French press has almost forgotten its existence on the map. There are no correspondents' letters, such as keep vividly before English readers the triflingest details of English achievements in the remotest corner of the world; there are no maps to instruct the curious, no pictures to amuse the idle, no scientific reports for the reflecting. What is almost equally surprising, there is no really good book produced by the expedition, nor even a republication of an old one. There is literally nothing, except, perhaps, a military melodrama or two. All this is far more a cause than a result of the unpopularity of the Mexican expedition; and so long as no systematic effort is made to propagate the truth about Mexico, the unpopularity will continue.

Again, it is a trick of the Opposition to make the wretchedly abject condition of Mexico during the last forty years the standard of what it had always been and always would be. Why did it not occur to one of the speakers of the majority, when M. Thiers spoke of California, to remind him that both California and Texas were, not many years ago, Mexican provinces, and that it was not until they came into the possession of a more energetic race that the one became the land of gold and the other the land of cotton?

There is one thing for which the French Government ought to be obliged to the speakers of the Opposition, especially at this moment, when the diplomatic correspondence published at Washington reveals the hypocrisy and cowardly cunning of Mr. Seward. These gentlemen of the Opposition are notoriously and avowedly the friends of the North, and the ardent favourers of its success. It is, therefore, not a little significant that they should, as M. Thiers and M. Berryer have done, so explicitly threaten the Mexican empire with the irreconcilable hostility of their clients. They do not hesitate to declare, these friends of the North, that France must prepare for war with the United States so soon as the latter are in a position to wage it; which means, so soon as the liberties of a brave and free people shall be trampled under the iron heels of conquering multitudes. We do not think that the Emperor of the French is deceived as to the nature of the *entente cordiale* which Mr. Seward has obsequiously concluded with him, but he has nevertheless cause to thank M. Thiers and M. Berryer for the frankness and opportuneness of their declaration, and to accept as a warning what he must despise as a threat.

The Danish War.

THE peace of Europe is broken. Lately no one has ventured to hope that a pacific solution of the Slesvig-Holstein question was within the region of possibility, yet so rapid has been the march of events, that when the actual outbreak of hostilities was announced everyone was surprised. The Great German Powers have hurried on the conflict as though their very existence depended upon provoking a war with Denmark, and as though they dreaded every day's delay, lest at the eleventh hour their imperious demands should be conceded and bloodshed averted. As to the merits of the original question, there is a great diversity of opinion, but in no quarter, so far as we know, has the conduct of Austria and Prussia found an apologist. But to censure their rash proceeding is now practically useless, for if public opinion is not strong enough to prevent war, it is still less able to stop it. It may be that the unanimity and firmness of other nations will prove to Austria and Prussia that they cannot violate the rights of a small kingdom with impunity, and that peace may be soon restored; but, on the other hand, history teaches us that little wars generally involve other nations in the conflict. We do not, however, propose to speculate on the probable results of the hostilities just begun, but to briefly recapitulate the immediate circumstances that brought about the skirmish of Mussinde.

When the contingent ordered by the German Diet took possession of Holstein, the only pressing difficulty that presented itself was the claim of the Duke of Augustenburg. The right of the German Diet to administer the affairs of Holstein in the name of the King of Denmark was indisputable, and despite the connivance of the army of occupation at the presence and pretentions of the Duke of Augustenburg, there seemed a strong probability that the invasion of the Slesvig would not be attempted, and that time would be given for the Powers interested in the convention of 1852, by which the succession to the throne of Denmark and consequently to the dukedom of Slesvig and Holstein was settled, to arbitrate upon the differences between the German Diet and the Danish Government. The claim of the Duke of Augustenburg was so monstrously unjust that it could have been disposed of to the satisfaction of all Europe, including the leading German Powers, and it was also notorious that King Christian was willing and even anxious to conciliate. Such was the situation, when Austria and Prussia, contrary to the expectation of the majority of the members of the Diet, forgot their hereditary jealousies which had been so lately fomented by the Congress at Frankfort, that was convoked by the Emperor Joseph, and announced their intention of taking the business in hand.

They offered a plausible excuse for so doing. They rumoured that their sole object was to preserve peace, which was jeopardised by the countenance given to the Slesvig-Holstein Pretender; but their actions soon showed that they were instigated by altogether different motives. Before the cabinets of Europe could deliberate on the new aspect of affairs, their armies were marching towards the Eider, and an ultimatum was presented to Denmark, couched in the most peremptory and unacceptable terms. They demanded of King Christian that, disregarding his obligations as a constitutional sovereign, he should at once revoke the constitution which had received the formal sanction of his Parliament. If the Danish Government had returned a scornful answer to this insolent and arbitrary mandate, Europe would have forgiven the act on account of the provocation; but with a rare, honourable, and wise forbearance, King Christian only asked for so much delay as would enable him to obtain the consent of his Parliament to the annulling of the measure which was put forward as the grievance. This reasonable request was incontinently refused. In vain did the English Government awaken too late to a sense of the exigencies of the crisis, and remonstrate daily, almost hourly, with the Governments of Austria and Prussia. Our telegrams and our despatches were treated with contempt. At last the English Government offered to guarantee that the promise made by the King of Denmark should be fulfilled as soon as the Rigsraad could be called together; thus pledging this country to no longer defend the rights of Denmark, if the Danes through their representatives refused to endorse the policy of their sovereign—and we are confident that the royal proposition would have been rejected. Thus every pretext for going on with the war was done away with; but still Austria and Prussia would not be satisfied. They did not want the supposed rights of Germany conceded and granted, but they wanted war, and the spoils they hope to get by war. So the invading army continued its progress, occupied Holstein, entered Slesvig, and with an eagerness that has given the Danes the victory in the first encounter, commenced the campaign.

Some ascribe the hasty movements of the Austrian and Prussian troops to strategic reasons. It would, no doubt, have been greatly to the advantage of the Danes to have delayed the campaign until the spring; for then, not only would the Dannewerk position have been rendered much more secure, but the Danish fleet could have struck a blow at German commerce. Others think that the haste is accounted for by the desire of getting possession of Slesvig before England could come to the assistance of Denmark; and that having obtained the duchy, they would be able to dictate terms involving the complete separation of Slesvig and Holstein from Denmark. The Austrian and Prussian Governments trust to a great extent to the unwillingness of England to go to war, and possibly thought, that though we should not submit to see a wrong done which we had the opportunity of preventing, we should be less disposed to resent it if accomplished, and ready to negotiate for a settlement of the dispute. Nor, we are told, was this the only consideration that weighed with them. We need not observe that the King of Prussia has not the remotest idea of the duties of a constitutional sovereign; and it no doubt entered into his calculation and into the calculation of his ally, that on account of family connections, and by reason of the long and intimate friendship between the respective courts, Queen Victoria would be very loath to take any step that might possibly lead to war between England and Prussia. Such, at least, is the official gossip at Berlin. Undoubtedly the position of our sovereign is an exceedingly painful one, but an English monarch in these days knows how to sacrifice private

feelings for the public weal; and the course that will be pursued by this country will not be influenced because the Princess Royal is the wife of the heir to the throne of Prussia, or because the illustrious lady who is married to the Prince of Wales is the Daughter of Denmark.

But there is yet another, and we think equally fallacious calculation, on which the Governments of Prussia and Austria have acted. They suppose that the relations between this country and France are not so good as formerly, and that there is no possibility of a joint action in the North of Europe. Perhaps the blundering diplomacy of Earl Russell has to some extent impaired the cordial friendship that subsisted between the courts of London and Paris, but only those who are grossly ignorant of the spirit and character of Napoleon III. can imagine that he will permit his public actions to be influenced by the remembrance of Earl Russell's rude rejection of the proposed Congress. We do not pretend to peer into the motives of the Emperor, but we are sure that he will do that which best accords with the interests of France. Now it is notorious that the Emperor is not indifferent to what is passing in the North of Europe, and further, that his relations with the King of Sweden are of the most friendly kind. Is it likely, then, if England is forced to take part in the fray, that France can remain neutral? And can any complication be conceived that could make England and France take opposite sides in such a contest? If England is forced into the war there will again be an armed alliance between this country and France.

The King of Prussia may think that by engaging in a foreign war he will be enabled to put an end to the disputes between him and his people, but the internal condition of Austria affords no such explanation. Hungary is upheaving, the Italians are looking wistfully towards Venetia, and it would seem that the Emperor Joseph had quite employment enough at home for his army, and that to engage in a foreign war was to risk the integrity of his empire.

It is reported that in consideration of helping Prussia to conquer the Duchies, Austria is to receive assistance in Italy and, if necessary, in Hungary. If this is a faithful exposition of the secret treaty, we can only marvel at the blindness of the high contending Powers.

And what part have we played in this eventful drama? Are we altogether guiltless of the outbreak of war? We cannot give a very satisfactory answer to these questions. That Earl Russell has been sincerely and earnestly desirous of preserving peace is unquestionable, but it is hardly less certain that his vacillating policy has contributed to bring on the war. At one time he wrote a despatch favouring the views of Denmark; at another, he addressed a very sharp remonstrance to the Danish Government in favour of the pretensions of the German Diet. As the crisis approached his tone became more and more uncertain. He urged a conciliatory policy on Denmark, but he lacked the courage to warn the German Powers that there was a limit to concession. Only when the affair had virtually passed out of the domain of diplomacy did he take up a position by which Austria and Prussia could understand what bounds the British Government had set to its forbearance. It is rumoured that a few days since, when the Austro-Prussian army was advancing on the Eider, after the King had conceded everything at the solicitation of England, and that England had offered to guarantee the fulfilment of their concession, the Danish Government was notified that in case of need Great Britain would afford it material aid. Six weeks, it may be even a month ago, such a declaration would have averted hostilities; now its only effect can be to pledge us to take part in the war.

Verily, history repeats itself. There is a wonderful parallel between the commencements of the Crimean and the Danish wars. With Turkey, as with Denmark, the original question in dispute had reference to a protectorate over provinces. In both cases England advised concession, and in both cases the advice of England was taken, and the disputed territory was occupied by invading armies. In each instance it was immediately discovered, that the reason assigned for the occupation was a pretence to cover ulterior designs. In each instance the Government of England was influenced by an earnest desire to preserve peace. The Emperor Nicholas, like the German potentates, trusted by rapid movements to forestall intervention, and to secure what is called a material guarantee. Nicholas, like King William and the Emperor Joseph, believed that France and England would not act together. At the commencement of the Russian war, as at the commencement of the Danish war, Englishmen were assured by the Government organs that this country would not have to participate in the contest. Happy will it be for England and Europe if the parallel is carried no further.

Mr. Bright's Platform.

PROFESSOR MAX MULLER, in his lectures, refutes the common idea that language is always the servant and never the master of man. We are, for example, oftentimes obliged to resort to slang, under the penalty of not being understood if we confine ourselves to a more refined and fashionable vocabulary. This is especially true with regard to Mr. Bright's speeches. They are so intensely American, and so thoroughly un-English, that we have no choice in writing of them but to adopt the vernacular of United States politicians. In the ordinary sense of the word, Mr. Bright has not a policy, for no one supposes that any Government could be carried on if his principles were adopted: but he has a platform, that is, a plan for the demolition of certain institutions. It may be objected that the title of our article is neither quite English nor quite Yankee, but that is owing to the peculiar position occupied by Mr. Bright. He has no following, and is a stranger and an exile in the land of his birth. We cannot call his programme "the Birmingham platform," because he no more represents Birmingham than he does Manchester. In this country the most he can hope to achieve is to stir up here and there temporary hostility between classes: but if he lived in that country where his heart is—the United States—he might be a Cabinet Minister as well as a demagogue. We do not intend offering any criticism on Mr. Bright's utterances respecting the Confederate States. His stentorian curses will do the South no more harm than Mr. Lincoln's proclamations, and everybody knows that Mr. Bright is too shrewd to curse, save from lack of argument. When the member for Birmingham parades the sham philanthropy of the North and pretends that the Yankees are fighting for the emancipation of the negroes, it is hardly possible that any of his audience are credulous enough to be gulled by such a ridiculous fallacy, and, if so, the Federal Government takes good care to correct the erroneous impression. Mr. Seward, writing to the Federal representative at Madrid, emphatically repudiates the assumption that Northern Emancipation is anything more than a military measure. Does Spain desire to preserve her institution of slavery against all antagonists? Then, says Mr. Seward, let Spain keep on terms of cordial friendship with the United States. So far from being the enemy of slavery, the United States is the avowed protector of the system. Mr. Bright may curse the South until he is hoarse, but he cannot in the face of Mr. Seward's declaration induce any sane person to regard the Washington Government, the Government elected and sustained by the Abolitionists, as being instigated by a sincere desire to emancipate the negroes.

Mr. Bright has always been noted for coarse vituperation, and has therefore never been a general favourite, yet a few years since he was respected as well as disliked. People thought him very honest, though not patriotic. When he denounced the Crimean war in the House of Commons he was listened to attentively, and cheered when he sat down, because the members deemed him sincere, and believed that his hearty abhorrence of war made him forgetful of the honour of his country. When Mr. Bright thundered against Church Establishments it was supposed he was instigated by just and pious though mistaken motives. When his violence had put him for ever out of the pale of Government, and he sought to avenge his expulsion by clamouring against the rich, people thought him blinded by passion, and forgave his vain attempt to stir up a war of classes. But a change has taken place, and we learn that Mr. Bright's peace principles, and indeed all his principles, are subordinate to his admiration and friendship for the United States. The leader of the Peace party defends and applauds a war waged for the purpose of exterminating six millions of people, who have chosen to assert their right to be governed according to their will and to maintain their hereditary independence. Mr. Bright, who once condemned the power of the sword, now openly rejoices that the sword is invoked to aid the cause of negro emancipation. He was once professedly a religious man, but in his late speech at Birmingham he quoted from an infamous parody on the Bible, called the "New Gospel of Peace," which was published in New York, and republished in this country by Mr. Abel Heywood, of Manchester. This remarkable degeneracy is due to the development of his affection for the United States, or rather for the Republican faction. Mr. Bright's creed is, that the United States Government is the perfection of government, and that the country ruled by the Yankees is a paradise compared to England. He has never visited America, and possibly he may credit the stories told him by his veracious New England friends. Be that as it may, it is certain that Mr. Lincoln has not a more devoted adherent than the member for Birmingham. War is an accursed atrocity when waged to defend the interest or honour of England, but it is a sublime virtue when waged for the maintenance of the Monroe doctrine; to effect a moral revolution by fire and sword is diabolical, except when the Federal government is the propagandist; blasphemy is a crime, save when blasphemy is employed by Federal Republicans against the party in the North which is anxious to put an end to Bloodshed. Never was there such an instance of unreserved devotion to a cause as in the case of Mr. Bright and the Federal Government. He knows that the authorities at Washington are in pressing need of recruits, and he boldly advocates emigration to the United States. He is aware that in the North personal and political liberty is a thing of the past, that the prisons are crowded with political offenders, that a war debt is being created at a rate that will make the war debt of England small in comparison, and that emigrants are drafted into the army as soon as practicable after they land in America. Yet he proclaims the United States to be the land of freedom, plenty, and happiness, and the refuge for the oppressed peasantry of England.

But the crowning proof of Mr. Bright's love for the United States is his dislike of English institutions. He strives, though vainly, to drag down the press of this country to the level of the Yankee press. He denounces the aristocracy as a set of oppressors, and represents the landowners as the enemies of the working classes. He craves for changes in the law so that the lands of the rich may be divided amongst the poor. If this is not his object, then he is deceiving his audiences when he tells them that primogeniture and entail prevent their becoming landowners. Of course he is aware that his scheme is an impossibility, and that if all were equally rich to-morrow, in a very short time there would be rich and poor again, but to make the working classes discontented with their lot, it is necessary to resort to the demagogue's oft-repeated whine, and to persuade them that the rich keep them out of their rightful property. Mr. Bright is conversant with all that has been done of late years to improve the condition of Ireland, but he does what he can to foment illwill in that country, by condemning the government of it in the style of "Meagher of the Sword," and demanding the overthrow of the Irish Protestant Church. Then he strives to get up a reform agitation in England. He deplores the ignorance of the masses, and having shown their unfitness, asks in the same breath that they shall be entrusted with the franchise. Being quite in accord with the ultra fanatics of New England, Mr. Bright ventured to throw out a feeler about the "emancipation of women." He said:—

> I can say with greatest truth that I rejoice on this as I have on many other occasions, to see them exhibiting an interest in the progress of political questions. I venture, not diffidently, but confidently, to say, that politics, by which we understand the science of legislation, have a very direct and constant influence upon the happiness of every woman in the country where there is a government; and that therefore what is done under the name of political action can by no means be indifferent to the mothers, and wives, and sisters, and daughters of England.

To sum up, we will quote a single sentence from the same speech which very well exposes Mr. Bright's hatred of England. He said:—

> It is the most curious thing in the world that, whenever an Englishman leaves these shores, whether it be the effect of the salt air, or of sea-sickness, or of that prolonged meditation which a long voyage invites, he seems to peel off, not the rags of his body, but the venomous rags off his intellect and soul.

Could the most malicious foreign enemy of England have expressed a more malignant antipathy? How is it that Mr. Bright is not anxious for his own purification? Why does he not go abroad and so get rid of "the venomous rags off his intellect and soul"?

Our readers may wonder that we devote so much space to the subject, seeing that it is already well known that Mr. Bright loves the United States and hates England; but there is a practical and important lesson to be learnt from the conduct of the member for Birmingham. Happily he does not represent any class of Englishmen, but he does represent the dominant faction in the United States, and by his sentiments we can accurately gauge the sentiments of the Federal Republican faction. Mr. Bright loves the Union, and wishes it to rule over a continent, and consequently to overshadow every government in Europe, and so does the ruling faction in the North. Mr. Bright hates English institutions, and so does the ruling faction in the North. The Northern States long to strike a blow at the greatness and prosperity of England; but the creation of a balance of power in America by the establishment of the Confederate States destroys their hope of being able to do so. We must not, therefore, be surprised that Mr. Bright blinded by his love for the United States, curse

the South, gloats over a programme of extermination, does not reprove Federal barbarities, does not breathe a word of censure against Butler, Turchin, and McNeil, and does what he can to help the North; but it would indeed be a marvel if all intelligent and patriotic Englishmen did not heartily pray for the success of the Confederate States.

LORD CAMPBELL ON THE AMERICAN WAR.

[We are indebted to our Special Correspondent at Manchester for a full report of the meeting of friends of the South, held under the auspices of the Manchester Southern Independence Association, at the Clarence Hotel, in that city, on Friday last, and of which we give elsewhere a brief account. The demands on our space render it impossible, much to our regret, to give the whole of our correspondent's report, and we have therefore selected one of the several able speeches delivered on the occasion, both on account of the conspicuous position the speaker occupies in Parliament as a champion of Confederate independence, and because he treats boldly and vigorously the only question which really divides the sympathies of Englishmen, that of emancipation and the welfare of the negro race. It is to be regretted that so many of the friends of the South should shrink from telling the whole truth on this question, and should think it necessary to make concessions to the anti-Southern prejudice which are scarcely consistent with the self-respect of the Southern people and their just consciousness of having honourably discharged their duties as men and as Christians to the negro race.]

LORD CAMPBELL, on rising to address the meeting, was greeted with loud cheers. His lordship spoke as follows:—My lord, ladies, and gentlemen. As it has happened to me two or three times in Parliament to refer to the topic now before you, it is not with a little satisfaction I observe in the numbers who have met to-night and in the spirit they evince some augury for the ultimate adoption and the final triumph of these opinions I have endeavoured to support. Mr. Spence, under whose orders and instructions I have the honour to address you, has judiciously explained to me that to-night it was not necessary to indulge in argumentative harangues, because the greater part of us were of one opinion. After the long and assiduous discussions which this topic has received in the press, in Parliament, and in public meetings, it is no wonder that nearly all men should agree on certain propositions. We do see upon certain propositions a remarkable agreement. Few deny that the cessation of the civil war in question can only take place when neutral Powers have acknowledged the insurgents. (Cheers.) Few deny that that acknowledgment ought not to be anticipated, in the present state of Europe and the world, until Great Britain has shown a certain disposition to initiate or sanction it. (Hear, hear.) Few deny that in the present state of parties and of Parliament the British Government will not show the required disposition until public opinion strongly urges and decidedly encourages it. (Hear.) This sufficiently illustrates the political and practical utility of a meeting like the present. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, if ever agitation was essential on this subject it is at the present moment, when certain dangers have arrived and certain circumstances have disclosed themselves which might, unless properly examined, tend to inspire doubt and distrust in the event of Southern independence. Those dangers and those circumstances ought not to be, nor indeed need they be, connived at. The Southern President has not set us the example of ignoring or concealing them. (Hear.) He has not hesitated to fix the attention of the world upon the fact that in the past year unforeseen reverses have been suffered. He has not scrupled to advert to the events at Vicksburg and Port Hudson. The whole world, in common with the Confederacy, deplores the loss of Stonewall Jackson. (Loud cheers.) All those who are interested in the fate of the Confederacy must have heard with regret and with anxiety that the Democratic party, which some months ago seemed to augur well for the cause of peace and separation, has grown more silent, more subdued, and less effective than it used to be. These are undoubtedly circumstances of discouragement, but, as I think, grounds for agitation and activity. (Hear.) There is this grand reason, gentlemen, why these circumstances of discouragement ought not to be considered motives of despondency amongst us—They have not shaken the Confederacy (hear); they have not quenched the spirit which upholds it; they have not chilled the hopes which it indulges; on the contrary, we have good reason to believe that in spite of the darker picture I have pointed to, there never was a moment when their discipline was of a higher character, their armies more mature, their generals more skilful, their strategy more perfect, their resolution more undaunted, or their readiness, if necessary, to take new regards more complete. (Enthusiastic cheers.) When they themselves are thus undaunted by realities it would ill become their friends in Europe to be affected by a shadow and a reflex. (Hear.) I have therefore ventured to allude to those unfavourable circumstances, and also to show why they ought not to lead to a diminished hope or a discouraged spirit upon your part. Gentlemen, if that be so, if the ends of this association are legitimate, which I have not ventured to establish, knowing that such is not a question in this room, if at the present moment those ends ought to be pursued with more zeal and more activity than ever, it is not irrelevant or idle to consider what is the most important and formidable obstacle opposing you. Gentlemen, I cannot help thinking that the most formidable obstacle, looking to the public mind, looking to all that has been said and is said daily on these questions, is summed up in the well-known term, "slavery." I cannot help thinking that if a just opinion were established on that subject—and it is your mission to establish and disseminate it—no further obstacles could very long delay the triumph of your principles. (Hear.) And if you would allow me, I would venture—having given some consideration and reflection to that point in reference to Parliamentary proceedings—to suggest a mode by which, as it appears to me, what you hold to be the truth might be brought home to the convictions of all classes in society. If it were only thoroughly explained by this organisation that the British public has to look merely to one question, namely, Whether, of the two issues in which this war must terminate—for there are but two—the separation of the belligerents or the conquest of the South by the North will tend most to the advantage of the negro race? (hear)—if that were steadily contemplated, if that issue were relieved and disembarrassed of all the rival issues that confuse it, I do not think there would remain a difference of opinion in this country. No doubt there will always be, as there has been up to this moment, both here and on the other side of the Atlantic, a difference of opinion as to how the war originated, as to the motives for which it was undertaken, as to the objects of the South in asserting independence, and of the Union in waging war against secession. These questions are more or less difficult to settle. But if we fix our minds upon the only point it is material to weigh, namely, whether the independence, or the subjugation, of the South will really tend most to that which in this country all have at heart—the amelioration of the negro—little difficulty, as it appears to me, will be found in reaching a conclusion. (Hear.) The history of the world does much to suggest one. It has generally been found that when in any country two races are brought together, of which one is vastly the superior in force, in vigour and intelligence, unless some known relation exists between those two races, the weaker is exterminated. (Hear.) Now, should the Confederacy be subdued, and should reconquest be established over all the great territory that lies between the Gulf of Mexico and the Potomac, two races would be found, so unequal, so incompatible, so bereft of the original relation by which they had been previously cemented, as at least to augur the extermination and the disappearance of the weaker one. But we are not left to speculations of this character. It happens that this very day, not many hours ago, a letter in a leading London newspaper has reached Manchester from the other side of the Atlantic, which gives the best and the latest information on this question. In that letter it is pointed out in what manner the invasion by the North has influenced the prospects and position of the negro. As far as I remember, the writer, speaking from what has fallen, and that recently, under his eyes and his experience, gives a four-fold division of that unhappy class. He points to those who are the victims of a forcible enlistment (hear) compelled to take arms—exposed to the brunt of battle in a cause which they detest and for a people who despise them. (Hear, hear.) He points to another class who have gone to the North-Western States in quest of employment, and who have not found it. He points to a third class, who, in consequence of an infectious disorder which attacks them, are miserably dying in the capital of Washington. He points to another class who are coerced to labour upon the soil which has been occupied and upon the estates which have been confiscated by Northern plunderers, and whose condition, as he points out to us, is infinitely worse than that from which they have been wrested (hear); for, of freedom they have gained nothing except the fact that they are no longer under shelter; that they are no longer cared for; that they are introduced to the double evils of responsibility and servitude. (Hear.) This is the latest eye-witness who addresses to the public of Great Britain the facts he has observed. But supposing him to be mistaken, supposing that improvement is attainable, and assuming that great measures ought not to be despaired of for the welfare of the negro — this, at least, gentlemen, I think may be hazarded with safety before any audience who look to the great principles by which human nature is controlled and by which the world is governed, viz., that those measures of improvement must be loyal, must be well intentioned, must be designed for the good of the negro, and not for the destruction of the planter. (Loud and prolonged cheering.) It has often been remarked that Mr. Lincoln and his colleagues are not men of power, genius, or capacity; but if they were men of power, genius, and capacity, they would not be able to overrule those great laws inherent in the very nature of affairs, by which the mind of a Napoleon would be limited; it would not be possible to them, any more than it was possible to him, to make right the path to wrong, philanthropy the instrument of vengeance, the liberty of one race the forge of shackles for another. (Cheers.) Such, however, is the course on which the Government of Washington have recently embarked — with what ill-success you may see vividly portrayed in the letter to which I have adverted. (Hear, hear, hear.) I therefore cannot help thinking, gentlemen, that if this question could only, by an association such as yours, addressing itself in the first place to Manchester, after that to important towns which surround it, and so gradually pervading the community—I cannot but think if this question were put by you on its proper basis, viz., Whether Southern independence is, or is not, for the ultimate advantage of the negro? a great truth would be established, and a great obstacle would be removed. (Hear.) Because, look at it in this way. Suppose the question of slavery had altogether ceased to agitate or to divide us; suppose there was no such thing as slavery in the Northern or in the Southern States; imagine a civil war such as that which rages, between two federations, in which the productions of the earth were altogether the result, as they are happily in Europe, of free and independent labour—put that case, and then would there be any difference of opinion as to whether it was right, or policy, or wisdom to re-establish the vast, the overwhelming, and the aggressive Power on the other side of the Atlantic, by which the peace of Europe must be seriously threatened, and of which the daily language is a menace to the world. Could there be two opinions on that question to which Lord Wharncliffe has referred, that it is not for the tranquillity of Europe, that it is not for the benefit of any independent State on this side of the ocean or the other, that a Power so huge, so arrogant and so avowedly rapacious—which decade by decade must go on augmenting and accumulating—should be restored to its original integrity? There would be no difference of opinion upon that point. Could a class of men be found, if the topic of slavery was altogether purged from the discussion, who would seriously maintain, before us, that it was just or proper to create a Poland in America? But to create a Poland in America is the object for which Mr. Lincoln and his colleagues are contending. (Cheers.) If his policy succeeded, if his armies triumphed, if his viceroys were established, as they hope to be, from the Gulf of Mexico to the Potomac, the gloom of Warsaw would exist, not in one city but in Mobile, Charleston, Wilmington, Savannah, in Montgomery, Richmond—in every capital of every State which Northern armies had possessed and Northern garrisons had occupied. (Hear.) And what is the gloom of Warsaw, which those armies are designed to fix on the Confederacy? I can speak of that gloom from late and personal experience. (Hear.) It is not like the gloom which sometimes may hang over this city, arising partly from the climate, partly from distress and from a temporary want in some material of industry. It is a gloom which no breeze of spring can waft away, which no rays of sunshine can disperse, which no reviving commerce, or accelerated industry, or new supply of capital, can alter. It is a gloom which must befall a population conscious of their rights, and mindful of their origin, but held down by a foreign occupation of 20,000 men; a gloom, of which no man can walk abroad without observing dark and melancholy traces; where no citizen can leave his home without meeting a patrol, entitled, according to its orders, or perhaps its caprices, to arrest him; and where, when he returns to that home, which ought to be a sanctuary, he has to look forward to the probability of midnight visitation, more destructive than the snares by which his footsteps had been haunted. (Cheers.) Such, gentlemen, is the gloom of Warsaw, and such is the gloom which Northern armies have aspired to perpetuate in a territory more wide than half-a-dozen Polands. I, therefore, come back to the position to which I have ventured to allude—that, if once you contend successfully with your adversaries upon slavery, no further question can exist; and all classes in Great Britain will unite in a common wish for Northern peace and Southern independence — a wish that, finding echoes both in Europe and the world, will tend to realise the noble objects it aspires to. (Cheers.) There is yet another observation I would make. Success cannot, on a subject so complicated and so extensive, be the object of prediction. A man would justly lose his character for moderation and for judgment if he ventured to predict with confidence the issue of the struggle. It seems to me, however, that, whatever that issue may be, this Association will not be wholly unrewarded. Should the issue be that for which you are contending, the reward is evident and ample; but should it not be the destiny of those who are assembled here to see what they desire, this reflection may console them. They will have done something to assist the Southern President in the labours and the cares by which he is encompassed; and, gentlemen, no man of reflection can, in my opinion, glance at the daily life of Mr. Davis without a sentiment which even passes admiration. (Immense cheering). If an independent and despotic power had been granted to him, such as great men are apt to claim under such circumstances—still, to keep the mind engaged upon every part of an almost interminable frontier, to divine the plans of a government whose movements it is difficult to calculate, to prepare for every possible event, to picture each imaginable difficulty, to plan campaigns upon a territory so extensive and under circumstances so unprecedented, would tax the very highest reach of military genius. But this is not the whole of the burthen that devolves upon Mr. Davis. This task he is called upon to perform, while at the same time he is accountable to a representative assembly, to a senate, and to a cabinet. (Hear.) But even that is not the limit of his trials. He has to face these difficulties, to aim at these results, with a free press to criticise, to control, to reprimand him; sometimes to be elated by success, sometimes to be depressed unduly by reverses, and sometimes to reveal to distant armies much which in his opinion it would be more judicious to conceal from them. The liberty of that press he has not once attempted to control or wished to override. (Cheers.) And yet to meet this threefold trial might well exhaust the wisdom of a ruler, the resources of a general, and the temper of an angel. (Cheers.) Come what may, gentlemen, you cannot be deprived of the reflection, that in your day, according to your power, although divided from him by the ocean, you have done something to uphold one of the bravest and the noblest minds which Providence has formed, in one of the loftiest and hardest enterprises with which the fortunes of the world have ever been identified.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

NEW YORK, January 19.

I HAVE no accounts of military events to send you by this steamer. The Federal batteries are dropping Greek fire from time to time into Charleston. The amount of damage is not known. Some activity is said to prevail at Hilton Head, and an expedition to be in preparation for some port further South. In Tennessee it begins to be believed that Longstreet has been considerably reinforced, and that a movement for the retaking of East Tennessee will be made this winter by the Confederates. But the coldness of the weather is very much against the probability of such an enterprise. From Virginia there is nothing new.

Congress has not got through with the amended Conscription Bill. By a short law they have renewed the bounties on enlistments until March 1st, and the draft is suspended to that date. There is an idea in Congress that under this stimulus and by the terrors of a severe conscription pending, the efforts of State and local bodies by straining every source and adding largely to the Government grant, will bring in recruits so that the number required to be drafted to fill up the quota will be inconsiderable. The exertions are very great. Once more it is said that in the spring the Federal armies will take the field in such overwhelming numbers as to be irresistible and to finish the war without fail. Military correspondents at Washington for confidential journals of the Administration are indeed laying out the plan for the campaign, by which Richmond is to be reached by two separate armies, each of magnitude sufficient of itself to cope with the army of General Lee. The elaborateness with which the whole plan and all the details of this campaign are set forth is a very suspicious circumstance. Generals do not usually furnish in advance so much valuable information to an enemy.

The Senate has refused to throw out the commutation clause. A conscripted man may claim exemption from service on the payment of $300. The retention is of less moment than the line of argument by which it is supported by leading friends of the Administration in both Houses. It was advocated as a mode for raising money in order to secure soldiers, and it was said that the Treasury could not possibly meet the payments which the system of paying bounties would require without some such indirect aid. There was this dilemma before them: a peremptory draft would be cheapest in the mere first cost, but it would be seriously obstructed—might fail—and would bring popular odium on the authors. An unrestricted system of bounties would be beyond the ability of the Treasury to meet. Commutation was therefore continued as lightening immediate pressure on the Treasury, and as lessening the difficulties of the draft.

It is one sign only of the increasing terror with which the condition of the public finances of the United States are regarded at Washington. In the course of the debates plainer language was spoken on this topic than has been ventured before since the beginning of the war, in respect to any of the unpleasant aspects of public affairs. It is but six weeks since Mr. Chase published his report, in which he gave assurances that there would be a rapid improvement of the currency, and there were men found credulous enough to believe him, and to shape their business accordingly. Instead of improvement, things have been going on steadily worse, in the face of the most confident averments by all departments of the Government that the war is substantially over, and that all necessary means are ready to enter upon the enjoyment of victory and realise the blessings of peace. Men do not believe that the war is by any means over, nor that it is believed to be so by the men who prophesy that consummation most loudly. They see that the prospect has not lessened the demand for immense expenditures, and that no resources have been contrived with which to meet them which materially check the increase of paper money or the incessant swelling of the national indebtedness. Some very gloomy anticipations were uttered by several of the most zealous partisans of the war. Settling days have begun to come before they were expected, and the contingent expenses of the war, which do not make their appearance in the appropriations for regular army and navy purposes, are looming up with an unthought-of magnitude which is absolutely appalling. Judge Spalding, of Ohio, one of the leading Administration men in the House, stated the other day, that if all the demands which were coming against the United States for expenditures, advances, and losses on account of the war, other than those originated under its direct authority, were allowed, the Treasury would be bankrupt. It was not made a question of the liability of the Government or its duty to pay, but the broad ground was more than once taken, that there must be some rule adopted to shut out the consideration of these claims or limit their amount extensively, because the Government could never pay them all. There is a piece of legislation pending having this object, and so defended by its authors. An Act passed in 1861 allowed States who had claims upon the General Government for a certain class of losses and contributions to the war, to have them adjusted before the Court of Claims, and thus take the form of an admitted obligation, to be paid at the Treasury. A few of the States have come in, and made their claims in part; and at the beginning of the year about $26,000,000 had been allowed, and the calendar of cases has just commenced. As several more are known to be in preparation, and that the class of claims embraced in it is very large and indefinite, the Judiciary committee of the House has been invoked to suspend this method of settlement altogether. The Court of Claims was created a few years ago, for the express purpose of relieving Congress from the duty of examing every application for relief or payment, and to remove the reproach of delay in the payment of just debts, and of corruption in the combinations by which large claimants notoriously bought their way through Congress. A Bill is reported now to take away this power, and to make Congress, as formerly, the only resource for the recovery of these claims. The motive alleged is that of practical repudiation—that is, of delay in adjusting debts, because it is not possible to pay them. There is another result in view, which may be also called a motive, for when the question comes up in force, and creditors unite to demand a settlement, magnificent combinations and enormous subsidies will not fail to carry the question of a general assumption of their liabilities in some form, out of which senators and representatives and lobby-men will make fortunes, though the Treasury and the original creditors be impoverished. It is a bad omen of what may be done, to creditors with adjusted debts and Government securities for payment, that on the first attempt to reach a settlement special legislation is proposed by the regular Committee of Congress, avowedly and expressly to embarrass the creditor in the prosecution of his demand. The President has some ideas of this sort, and is entitled to the credit of bluntness in publishing them without disguise. Some time last summer the Federal authorities occupying Memphis made some exactions upon the property of the citizens there, which were so manifestly unjust, that President Lincoln, being appealed to, overruled them. On being asked to order restitution, the following was his answer:—

"WASHINGTON, Oct. 19, 1863.

"SIR,—Assuming the within to be a true and full statement of the facts, the claim seems to be a fair and just one. On consultation with the Secretary of War, however, he declares that to enter upon the adjustment of all claims even as meritorious as this, while the war continues in its present proportions, is more than his Department can bear. Knowing as I do how nearly overwhelmed he is, I am unwilling to force him in the matter.

"A. LINCOLN."

"HENRY T. HULBERT, Esq., Memphis, Tenn."

The citizens of Memphis must, therefore, go without even an examination of just and meritorious claims until the war is over and the department is relieved and at leisure. It is a sufficient formula for the postponement of all troublesome demands to that same convenient season—the end of the war. The effect of such suggestions in high quarters, and the growing habit of discussing the possibility and the impossibility of ever paying the enormous debt which is starting up in such gigantic proportions, will have considerable influence in affecting the faith in the public securities of the Government. There is not the smallest doubt that before long there will be a large and clamorous party for not paying the debt at all. Nothing is more clear to the understanding than that this debt will one day be repudiated, unless the form of the Government be so changed that mere popular elections will not control its policy.

That point is very nearly reached. There is a presidential election coming on, in which it will be clearly demonstrated that the power of controlling this Government has passed out of the hands of the people, and that the men in power will appoint their successors or re-appoint themselves by means of the army. The process was successfully put into operation last spring, when the Connecticut and New Hampshire elections were notoriously carried by soldiers sent there from the Army of the Potomac to vote the Administration ticket, while its adversaries were kept back, or, in a conspicuous case, punished, an officer being dismissed for having voted in opposition. The same system was practised in the Pennsylvania and New York elections; regiments being detailed to go home for the high duty of voting on a particular side. Maryland and Delaware were worse treated. The polls were taken by the commanding general of the district, State laws abrogated, new laws imposed, inspectors and judges imprisoned, and a majority of voters kept or driven away from the polls. In Delaware the whole body of the opposition, heretofore a majority in the State, were compelled to abandon the right of suffrage, and permit the minority to return their candidates under the patronage of the Federal general, whose headquarters were in Baltimore. A more flagitious scheme is going on in the South, where Federal army officers and their camp followers are encouraged to assume the authority to elect themselves and a miserably small minority of actual residents into a sovereign community, to have a voice in the presidential election, and an equality in the Senate with the oldest States. The men who do all this with insolent success, under cover of the war powers and by means of the war powers, will dispose of the next presidency, and all the mighty power which that office has gathered to itself. No power of resistance is left, for they have the control of an army of three-fourths of a million of armed men, whose chiefs that hold them in hand have been selected from among the partisans of power, or when not originally so selected have yielded to temptation and become its tools. The last days of the republic are passing away in agony. Next November it will emerge a military despotism, as completely, in fact, as that which, under the forms of the lost republic, was inaugurated in the time of the Cæsars by the election of Augustus and Tiberius.

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

MANCHESTER, February 3rd.

A GREAT Confederate "demonstration," enthusiastic in its character, and politically of the most favourable augury, took place in this city, on Friday evening last, under the auspices of the Southern Independence Association. It was in some respects a heterogeneous assembly—and herein consisted some portion of its significance and power. Supporters of the honourable member for Rochdale, who differ *toto cœlo* from Mr. Cobden only upon American affairs; admirers of the honourable member for Bradford, who are grateful to Mr. Forster for his generous and accurate delineation of the noble qualities of the Confederates; constituents of Mr. Milner Gibson, who was deferentially listened to the other day as a Cabinet Minister, while his hearers condemned him as a representative of Ashton; out-spoken electors from Mr. Cobbett's almost unanimously "Southern" constituency of Oldham; Conservatives of Salford, who will again vote for Mr. Massey in order to keep out John Bright's Radical nominee;—all these, and as many more from towns far and near, differing not less in their religious than in their political creed, and comprising people of all social grades and professions—army officers, church dignitaries, merchants whose names are best known on 'Change, wealthy cotton-spinners and their employés, down to the over-looker and the operative mill-hand. Such was the miscellaneous assembly drawn and united together in this city, its single bond of fellowship being a common sympathy with a struggling nation that has gallantly thrown away the scabbard in the cause of liberty.

The occasion, I am glad to say, was a great triumph for the Confederacy. The speakers were the Right Honourable Lord Wharncliffe (President of the Association), Lord Campbell, Mr. James Spence, Mr. T. Birley (Chairman of the Executive Committee), &c. The addresses were received with the most unbounded applause. The closing passage in Lord Campbell's speech, in which he glanced at the daily life of President Davis, created a feeling of the greatest excitement. The saloon rang with cheers renewed again and again with an enthusiasm which showed that his lordship's words were regarded not as a formal peroration, but as expressing in the most unreserved manner the admiration, sympathy, and esteem instinctively felt by a manly and generous mind. The proceedings did not terminate until a late hour.

Oldham has well maintained its character in the cordial reception it has given to its representative, Mr. J. Morgan Cobbett. The honourable gentleman, in making his annual audit, must have been gratified to find how thoroughly his views agreed with those of his constituents. Upon the American question, Mr. Cobbett spoke as follows:—At the very outset of the war President Lincoln described it as not a war for the extinction of slavery, because, he said, under the Constitution he had no right to extinguish slavery; and in the very next breath he added he had no intention of doing so. But I go further than this. I meet those gentlemen who say it is a question on the part of the North of doing away with slavery, and on the South of upholding it, with this—which they cannot deny—that when the whole of the States, North and South, were slave states—for recollect it was only in 1810 that slavery was abolished or mitigated in any of the States—when the whole country was a slave-holding and a slave-working country. There were at that time continual attempts on the part of the South to separate from the North, alternately with attempts on the part of the North to separate from the South; and I believe if we were to examine, point by point, and year by year, the history of slavery in the American Union, we should find it had as often occurred that the North desired to separate from the South, as the South from the North. One of your earliest representatives, gentlemen, was my own father, who, as a politician, was well acquainted in his time with the condition and tendency of American affairs. He visited America shortly after the Declaration of Independence, and remained there until the year 1800. He was actively engaged in politics, and in many of his writings I find constant references to the question of separation between the two sections of the country; and, what is more to the point, I find it was as often my father's speculation that the North would separate from the South, as that the South would separate from the North. There is one remarkable passage I found in his writings the other day, and as it appears really a somewhat singular prediction, I will read it to you. "The reader will do well to observe the point on which Virginian politics turn. Virginia will have either a majority in Congress or a separation of the States. And one or the other she will have, I am afraid, ere two years are at an end. I do not love gloomy prospects better than other men, but to shut one's eyes to the light is folly. The danger to be averted, must be first perceived and acknowledged. It is very certain too that the New Englanders wish to get rid of the Southern States. *Their interests are as opposite as the manners of the inhabitants.* With this inclination, so mutually repulsive, they can be held together by nothing but the Federal influence of the Middle States, and particularly that of Pennsylvania. If therefore this influence should decline in any considerable degree, a separation must inevitably take place, *and happy will it be if it should come unaccompanied by a civil war, long, desolating and bloody.*" My father, you see, was only mistaken as to time. Politicians, ever since I was a boy, were agreed that a separation of the two sections must result from the variance and clash of interests of North and South. As the Northern States became more populous by reason of immigration, they of course obtained a preponderance of power, and this, with its attendant wrongs and political injustice, gradually led the Southern States to declare fore separation and independence; and in my opinion that declaration was fully justified by the very foremost article of the United States Constitution. And, gentlemen, when I heard the violent imprecations uttered by Northern men, whether statesmen, soldiers, clergymen, lawyers, everybody, upon the South; and when I observed the temperate speeches, the able documents, the military generosity and forbearance characterising the Southerners in the council and camp, I plainly avow that my inclinations were in favour of the South struggling for its liberties and all it held dear, rather than in favour of the North, powerful as it was, struggling not merely to subjugate, but to exterminate a gallant people. I do not undervalue the necessity of getting rid of slavery, but this is an evil the remedy for which must not be looked for from the North, for I know from personal observation the feelings and the conduct of the Northern people towards the unhappy negro, whether bond or free. Such being my opinions, I hope to see the South recognised as an independent Power, and although I was unwilling to join those who insisted upon immediate recognition, because I thought the Government best qualified to decide that matter. I still hope to see the Confederacy acknowledged by Great Britain when the proper time is thought to have arrived.

A resolution was subsequently carried with acclamation, approving of Mr. Cobbett's principles and opinions, and pledging the meeting to secure the hon. gentleman's return at the next election.

But this, it may be objected by partisans of the North, was an expression of opinion by Conservatives only, and its value must therefore be discounted by one-half. This objection would appear plausible if the *fact*, in other constituencies as well as Oldham, did not betray its utter nullity. Mr. Barnes, M.P. for Bolton, told us the other day that upon the American question all distinctions of Whig, Tory, and Radical politics were swept to the winds—that Mr. Berkely was not a warmer advocate of the ballot than of the South. Last night the advanced "Liberals" of Oldham—the constituents of Mr. Cobbett's pro-ballot, pro-reform, and anti-church-rate colleague (Mr. J. T. Hibbert) gave an unmistakable proof of the soundness of Mr. Barnes's opinion. Mr. Hibbert found his section of electors every whit as unanimously Southern as Mr. Cobbett found his. On meeting his constituents last evening, Mr. Hibbert had scarcely touched upon the cotton question when he discovered the temper of his audience. "We had the satisfaction of thinking," said the hon. gentleman, "that although the American war was not at an end, and that therefore we were not likely to receive a large quantity of cotton from that country, yet that we should probably receive larger quantities from other countries which were preparing to enter the market; and it was consolatory to know that we had only to wait—though it would be hard to do so—for one or two years longer—(cries of "When?" and laughter)—and we should then not be dependent entirely upon one country for the supply of the raw material. The question called to mind the position in which we stood with respect to the American war. This was, he knew, a very delicate subject to touch upon in any public meeting in Lancashire. He knew that in Oldham, as well as elsewhere, there were many persons who were fully "up" to everthing connected with the subject, and were perhaps even better informed upon it than many members of Parliament were. Another year had now passed, and the war was still "dragging its slow length along." He saw no prospect of its speedy termination; but he could not witness the sad bloodshed and the distress which the war had caused in that once happy country, without feeling that Her Majesty's Government ought to have taken an early opportunity of offering a friendly mediation between the contending parties. (Cheers.) That had long been his opinion; and he was now more convinced than ever that, when we were so ready to mediate between the Germans and the Danes, it would have well become the Government, in the interests of humanity—it would have well become a great Christian nation like England—not to have stood by calmly watching this dreadful carnage and destruction, but to have offered, in concert with the French Emperor, friendly counsels to both nations,

FROM TEXAS.—The following extract from a private letter will interest many of our readers:—

HOUSTON, TEXAS, October 11, 1863.

It is Sunday night, and I am at the office, scribbling away at a lot of official letters. As I learn Major Magruder (the general's nephew, and on his staff as chief of artillery,) is going to Europe on Tuesday, I cannot let escape the opportunity of writing you a few lines.

I know how intensely anxious you must be about the current of events in this part of the Confederacy—an anxiety the greater that you are so far away, and not deadened by daily habit into a tolerable degree of calmness and moderation. We have escaped the horrors of war so far in Texas, except in a few coast fights, in which the enemy have suffered, not we. But they threaten us now with a heavy invasion, and we are looking anxiously to see where the blow will fall. Texas is almost as difficult to invade as Russia, and the spirit with which her people have turned out in response to the general's last call, after the late glorious repulse at Sabine Pass, proves what they will do when the foot of the invader shall actually press our soil. Old men, boys, exempts—all rallied to the call—and as drilling has been going on for two years everywhere, they form a very strong and reliable force. The enemy will be met everywhere with the same spirit that led our Texans at Gaines's Mill, in Virginia; at Galveston; at Sabine Pass; at Val Verde, where odds were not counted, and the determination to overcome all obstacles resulted in the most complete success. Think of forty-two men at Sabine Pass, with six old iron guns, in an open work, whipping three splendidly armed gunboats—causing two to surrender, with some fourteen big guns and 400 prisoners; and one to run away, disabled—while the fleet, close at hand, had 17,000 men aboard, ready to land. The numbers are not exaggerated. I take them from the letters captured in a Yankee mail-bag, a few days ago. Well, when the time comes—as come it will, no doubt—I've got a double-barrelled gun and a couple of pistols, and I don't want my rank to shield me from exposure. W.

THE suffering among the prisoners is represented to have been terribly severe, especially among those who had not been provided with winter clothing by their friends since their arrival at the camp. Against such fearful cold the thin boards of the barracks were but poor protection. It is impossible to keep up or maintain fire sufficient to render the temperature more than endurable by those who are clothed in the woollen dress of the Federal soldiers, and it would be unreasonable to suppose that, with the thin garb adapted to the climate of their respective Southern States that the rebel prisoners could endure the intense cold from which the entire Northwest is now suffering. And should the fearful storm and cold continue for a few days longer, their numbers must be greatly reduced by freezing. Their condition is deplorable enough to excite the pity of every man and woman not hardened by passion and prejudice; and humanity at least would demand that the authorities adopt some effective measures for their comfort.—*Chicago Times.*

MR. HAYT, of Kansas, who was counsel for the notorious John Brown, in a recent speech at a public meeting, said:—

I have believed, I still fondly believe, that the sin of another St. Domingo may rise upon her, and a million of Toussaint L'Ouvertures, clad in the habiliments of war, and with vengeance written on their faces, and with desperate and triumphant stroke, dash to pieces the accursed South.

On which the *Boston Courier*, from which we copy the above, justly remarks: "We have never doubted that the moving spirit of fanaticism is one of hatred, and that the life of Abolition fanaticism is hatred of the South and not love of the negro. It is no 'spirit of health,' but a 'goblin damned.'"

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, February 3.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

IN all the monetary circles business has been greatly restricted through the outbreak of the war in Denmark. Throughout the week the feeling has been one of despondency, but to-day there has been rather less anxiety manifested, in consequence of the nature of the telegraphic news received from the seat of war, and rumours of a more favourable character. There is, however, much anxiety to ascertain the tone of the speech from the Throne on the opening of Parliament to-morrow. The demand for discount both at the Bank of England and out of doors is good, but without any particular pressure, the brokers, however, are not transacting business under the Bank minimum. The joint stock banks are not quite so well supplied with capital, the country banks keeping their resources short to the London market. On the Stock Exchange the demand for money is steady, and rates are well supported.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The bullion market has altogether assumed a better aspect; gold is again finding its way into the Bank, and the supplies to hand have been large. The amount of gold sent into the Bank this week is £332,000, whilst the withdrawals for transmission abroad have only been £21,000. The arrivals of specie have amounted to £1,168,194, of which £755,527 is from the West Indies, £115,476 from Port Phillip, and the remainder from New York. The *Pera*, which sails to-morrow for the East, will take out £316,023, of which £20,500 is in gold for Alexandria, £11,000 gold for Galle, and £3,669 gold and £65,000 silver for Madras, £208,936 silver for Calcutta, and £6,918 for Hong Kong. Silver has been rather less in demand within the last few days, and the price is nominally a shade flatter. Mexican dollars have been in good demand, but the supply is rather limited, and the price steady at previous quotations.

TENDERS FOR BILLS ON INDIA.

The biddings for 40,00,000 rupees in bills on India took place to-day at the Bank of England. The proportions allotted were—to Calcutta, 22,00,000 rupees; to Bombay, 16,00,000 rupees; and to Madras, 2,00,000 rupees. The minimum prices was declared as before—1s. $11\frac{1}{2}$d. per rupee on Calcutta and Madras, and 1s. $11\frac{3}{4}$d. on Bombay. The applications within the limits amounted to 140 lacs. Tenders at 2s. $\frac{1}{8}$d. will receive on Calcutta about 65 per cent.; on Bombay about 8 per cent.; on Madras, about 75 per cent.; and all above that price in full.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market for this stock has been quiet this week; with other speculative descriptions, prices have rather declined, chiefly in consequence of the threatening state of politics. The quotations for the last few days were 46 to 48, and little doing. The market closes thereat to-day.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The English Stock market has been sensibly affected during the entire week by the unfavourable intelligence from what must now be called the seat of war in Denmark. The dealers have shown but very little disposition to do business under the circumstances, and what transactions have taken place have been almost entirely of a legitimate character. From day to day prices have been declining, and Consols leave off this evening at $90\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ for money, and for the March account $90\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$, which, as contrasted with this day week, is a decline of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Exchequer bills remain steady at 10s. to 4s. dis. In the foreign stock market the same degree of inanimation has prevailed, but very little of a speculative movement has taken place even in those stocks which are regarded by the dealers as most inviting for such operations. Almost every thing is declining; within the week the fall in Greek stock has been $1\frac{5}{8}$ per cent.; in Mexican, $1\frac{1}{4}$; and Spanish Passives, $1\frac{1}{2}$. The last quotations this evening were—Greek $20\frac{3}{8}$ to $20\frac{5}{8}$; Mexican, $34\frac{7}{8}$ to 35; Spanish Passives, 32 to $32\frac{1}{4}$; Do. Certificates, $13\frac{1}{4}$ to $13\frac{1}{2}$; Turkish Six per Cents (1854), 88 to $88\frac{3}{4}$, and Do. do. (1862) $66\frac{1}{2}$ to 67.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

Again the dealings in American government and railway Securities have been unusually restricted, the little progress lately made by the Federal forces having caused this class of securities to be greatly neglected. On the whole, however, prices have been fairly sustained. The dealings have comprised Virginia State Six per Cents at $30\frac{1}{2}$ and 31; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, Pennsylvanian Section, $78\frac{1}{2}$, $77\frac{1}{2}$, and $77\frac{3}{4}$; Erie, $100 Shares, all paid, $64\frac{1}{2}$ and $62\frac{1}{2}$; Do., Fifth Mortgage, 63; Illinois Central, $100 Shares, $90 paid, $21\frac{1}{2}$, $23\frac{1}{2}$, and 23 dis.; Do. do., all paid, 71 and 69; Marietta and Cincinnati Railway Bonds, $70\frac{1}{2}$, and New York Central Six per Cents, $63\frac{3}{4}$.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

In harmony with all the other departments, the British railway share market has been comparatively inactive, and prices have been steadily declining. All the leading descriptions are uniformly lower, and the market closed with little signs of improvement. The decline in Chatham and Dover, Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, and Metropolitan has been about 2 per cent.; in Bristol and Exeter, Great Eastern, Great Western, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Midland and Forth Eastern (Leeds) about 1 per cent., and in London and North Western, London and South Western, North British, North Eastern (Berwick), South Devon and South Eastern the fall has been $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. In foreign railway shares business has also been very quiet, but although lower, the decline in prices has not been very material. For shares in undertakings connected with the British possessions there has been more inquiry, a fair amount of business has been transacted in them, and prices on the whole are fairly supported.

THE SPANISH AMERICAN DEBTS.

Messrs. Baring Brothers have caused the following official notice relative to the Spanish American debts to be posted at the Stock Exchange:—"Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co. have received by this mail the following remittances on account of the Granada dividends: from the custom-houses of Santa Marta £979, Cartagena £400, and Sabanilla £221, making a total of £1,600. The Mexican mail just arrived does not bring any remittance on bondholders' account. The amount in deposit in Vera Cruz is now $23,492, and a further distribution of duties which have been in course of collection some time was shortly expected. The imports at Vera Cruz are considerable, and a fair amount of export duties may be expected. Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co.'s agents in Venezuela, under date of the 8th inst., advise having collected for the English creditors for 55 per cent. of the import duties for one week from the custom-house of La Guayra $18,647 43, and Puerto Cabello, $1268 88, making a total of $19,916 31. There is a heavy amount of import duties now pending at the custom-house, which have not been liquidated, owing to the holidays attending the season."

BANK MEETINGS.

At the second half-yearly meeting of the proprietors of the Union Bank of Ireland, the report, which was adopted, stated that after making provision for bad and doubtful debts a gross profit of £7,818 had been realised, and after payment of all current expenses the net balance was £3,303, to which was added the amount brought forward from the previous half year, making the available profit £4,126, which was carried to the new account. The chairman stated that the progress of the bank had been steady and satisfactory.—At the first general meeting of the London Financial Association, a dividend was declared equal to interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the capital paid up, with a bonus at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, being together 18s. per share free of income-tax, and leaving £10,240 to be carried to the current half-year's account. The chairman announced that the directors have decided upon issuing 20,000 new shares at £4 premium, but it was the intention to call up more than £15 on the new shares till the same amount should have been paid up all round. The report was unanimously adopted.—At the first ordinary general meeting of the General Credit and Finance Company of London, the report furnished stated that the net profit on the six months' working, after deducting rebate, expenses, income tax, &c., amounted to £33,168, being at the rate of nearly $18\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. Out of this £4,883 was applied to writing of preliminary expenses, £9,534 was carried to the next account, and £18,750 appropriated to a dividend of 3s. per share, being a fraction above 10 per cent. The report was agreed to.—At the meeting of the London, Birmingham and South Staffordshire Bank, the report, which was adopted, stated that the result of the bank's operations to the 31st December (embracing a period of about seven months) was a gross profit of £6,903, and after payment of all the usual expenses there was a net profit of £1,211, which the directors proposed to carry forward to the profit and loss new account.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

At the meeting of the Scottish Australian Investment Company, a dividend was declared for the past six months at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less income tax. The chairman stated that the position of the company was most satisfactory; there was at present a considerable demand for money in Queensland, and if the board could obtain an adequate supply at 5 per cent. there would be 5 per cent. profit on it.—At the meeting of the Westminster Palace Hotel Company, a dividend was declared at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, out of an available balance of profits of £2,172, and carrying forward £222 to the new account.—At the second half yearly meeting of the United Kingdom Railway Rolling Stock Company, the report furnished stated that the amount to the credit of the profit and loss account was equal to the payment of a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum; but in the present early stage of the Company's existence it was thought better to carry a good balance to the current half-year's account. The dividend recommended was therefore at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of income tax. The report was agreed to unanimously.—At the half-yearly meeting of the proprietors of the Llanelly Railway and Dock Company, the report, which was adopted, stated that the earnings for the half-year have been £16,909, being an advance of £522 over the corresponding period of 1862. The net profits on the half-year was £7,799, and the amount applicable to a dividend was £4,449, which was appropriated as follows:—5 per cent. to the A preference stock; 6 per cent. to the B preference stock, and £1 5s. per cent. to the ordinary shares.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

The produce markets continue to be adversely affected by both politics and dear money, and in every department transactions are of very limited extent, whilst quotations, although not subjected to any serious depression, have in several instances shown diminished strength. Exceptionally, the grain markets have become firmer on the outbreak of hostilities between Germany and Denmark. No real advance has, however, been established. Oil-cake is in steady demand, American barrels, £9 to £9 5s. per ton. The provision trade has not undergone very material change. American bacon sides sell steadily at 42s. to 46s. New long and short middles are held at 40s. to 41s., with a moderate demand. Fine qualities of beef are more saleable at 100s. to 103s. per tierce. for India mess. American butter is 2s. per cwt. lower, quotations now range from 88s. to 105s. Petroleum has not been influenced by the New York advices, and the market continues steady at 2s. per gallon for refined. Crude remains at £17 10s. per ton. Some small American orders for linseed oil are on in the market, and sales are making at 35s. to 35s. 3d. per cwt. Sperm oil remains out of demand, and is quoted nominally £74 to £75 per ton. Some forced sales of cocoanut oil depressed prices at one time as much as 2s. to 3s. per cwt., but there has since been a partial recovery, the closing rates to day being 45s. for Cochin, and 40s. 6d. to 41s. for Ceylon. Palm, after receding to 34s., is now making 35s. per cwt. The tobacco trade is generally good, but American imports are only in moderate request, and are easier in price. The cotton market shows an increased heaviness, with a decline of $\frac{1}{2}$d. to 1d. per lb. Dyestuffs are inactive. Safflower is firm, but cochineal has declined 1d. to 2d. per lb. For chemicals, ratesare much the same as last week, but sulphate of copper has sold a trifle under the late advance. Tallow is rather lower, the continental demand being to some extent prejudiced by political troubles. Scotch pig tin has receded to £3 2s. per ton. cash, but with this exception the metal market is firm. Spelter sold at £21 to £21 5s. Pig lead at £21 10s. and best selected copper at £116. Manilla hemp is dearer, £35 10s. being paid for Sorsogan. Russian is unaltered. Jute is depressed 15s. to 20s. per ton., and the market is dull as the decline.

COTTON AND DRY GOODS MARKET.

LIVERPOOL, Wednesday, Feb. 3.

OUR cotton market has been materially affected this week by the hostile state of affairs in Slesvig-Holstein, and the complications to which they may probably give rise. Buyers have, under the circumstances, been extremely guarded in their operations, and more disposition has been evinced on the part of holders to sell. Prices are generally rather lower, and there appears a tendency to increased depression. The sales this week have amounted to only 22,500 bales, of which 6,500 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year have been 129,800 bales, and to the same period in 1863, 153,680 bales. There have been imported this year 84,010 bales, against 101,457 bales at the same time last year. The exports this year have reached 23,199 bales, whilst in 1863 they were only 18,518 bales. Taken for consumption this year 89,010 bales, and to the same time last year 69,260 bales. Taken on speculation this year 22,290 bales; and in 1863, 63,920 bales. The computed stocks at the present time are 253,950 bales, and at the same time last year 406,160 bales. The latest quotations this evening were: American, $25\frac{1}{4}$d to $27\frac{1}{4}$d.; Fair Dhollerahs, $22\frac{3}{4}$d.; Egyptians, $27\frac{1}{2}$d.; Bahia, $25\frac{1}{2}$d.; Pernams, $26\frac{1}{4}$d. to $27\frac{1}{2}$d.; Maranhams, 27d. to $27\frac{1}{4}$d.; and Surats $15\frac{1}{4}$d. to $23\frac{1}{2}$d.

MANCHESTER, February 2.

Again we have had a week of extreme dullness in our yarn and cloth market which is causing millowners to curtail their production, in many instances to close their mills entirely, till such times as some prospect of a profitable result to working again shall turn up.

Hostilities having commenced between the Austro-Prussian troops and the Danes, coupled with the unfavourable tenor of the India news, tend to keep buyers out of the market, and scarcely any business has transpired during the week. Prices for all kinds of yarn and goods are taking a downward course, and in order to check this as much as possible producers are resorting to short time and closing.

The China telegrams up to the 25th December are to hand, and report very favourably of that market; but so far their is little disposition shown here, by shippers to that country, to enter into contracts.

Among the Contents of THE INDEX *of Jan.* 28, *are*—

NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK AT HOME AND ABROAD.
THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.
THE APPROACHING CAMPAIGN.
MR. MEMMINGER'S REPORT.
"NEVER MIND ME."
LETTER TO THE EDITOR:—
SOUTHERN FINANCES: ANOTHER REMEDY.
DAN TO BEERSHEBA.
LETTER FROM NEW YORK.
SOUTHERN PRISONERS RELIEF FUND.
EXTRACTS FROM SOUTHERN PAPERS.
AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

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There are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellowmen.

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THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL REVIEW,

AND

Journal of the Anthropological Society of London.

No. IV., FEBRUARY, 1864, CONTAINS:

ON THE HUMAN HAIR AS A RACE-CHARACTER. BY DR. PRUNER BEY.
POTT ON THE MYTHS OF THE ORIGIN OF MAN AND LANGUAGE.
ITALIAN ANTHROPOLOGY.
ON THE SCYTHO-CIMMERIAN LANGUAGE.
NOTES ON SCALPING. BY R. F. BURTON.
RENAN ON THE SHEMITIC NATIONS.
ABNORMAL DISTORTION OF WRIST.
HUMAN REMAINS FROM LIMERICK.
DANISH KITCHEN MIDDENS.

MISCELLANEA ANTHROPOLOGICA.

Journal of the Anthropological Society of London:

CONTAINING PAPERS BY
C. CARTER BLAKE, GEORGE G. ROBERTS, AND PROFESSOR BUSK; CAPT. E. JACOB, DR. JAMES HUNT, C. R. MARKHAM, GEORGE E. ROBERTS, A. A. BYRON, DR. F. R. FAIRBANK, COUNT O. REICHENBACH;
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NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK.

AMERICA.

THE Federals are getting anxious about their position at Knoxville. They report that General Longstreet has been largely reinforced, that his cavalry is within four miles of Knoxville, and that that city is in a state of panic. It is rumoured that Athens and Florence, Alabama, have been attacked by the Confederates, and that in both instances the assailants were repulsed. Another item of intelligence, ascribed to Southern sources, is that the Mississippi is blockaded at Granville and Milliken's Bend by Confederate batteries. Meanwhile, as the Confederates will not lay down their arms, "Washington despatches still assert that a mutiny has occurred in Lee's army." Moreover the Washington authorities have got hold of President Davis's "body servant for twenty years," or what is more likely, have instructed a contraband to play the part. The intelligent negro gives graphic accounts of Mr. Davis's conversation. The colloquial style of the President, according to this veracious Sambo, is anything but polished, though remarkably frank and outspoken. He says that Mr. Davis will not have the roof of his house repaired as he intends shortly to quit Richmond. Such is the twaddle that amuses and deludes the Yankee nation, and which consoles them for the forced inactivity of their armies and the determined resistance of the Confederates.

It is said that Vice-President Stephens is seriously ill. We hope his malady has been exaggerated, and that he will speedily recover his health and strength.

We have often wondered whence the Yankees—not an imaginative though an inventive people—derived the inspiration of their horrible and disgusting anti-slavery fictions. The mystery is solved by the publication of the report of the official inspectors of the prisons and reformatories of Massachusetts. For once, even the *New York Herald* does not exaggerate in characterising the extraordinary practices brought to light as "immoral, brutal, shameful, indecent." The details are not fitting for our columns. It appears that men and women, boys and girls, some confined for no greater crime than nonattendance to the public schools, are subjected promiscuously to the indignity of a common washing-tub, in which the prescribed ablutions are performed without the slightest regard to age or sex. It is impossible to conceive a more senseless and wanton outrage on human nature. The accounts of the punishments, of the flogging of young women, &c., read so exactly like a page of an Abolitionist fiction, that we come to think the narratives of this class less imaginary than we had supposed, and begin to suspect whose pictures the writers of that school of literature are drawing when describing the "Legrees" of the South.

General Longstreet is reported to have remonstrated with the Federal General, Foster, upon the impropriety of clandestinely circulating the proclamation of amnesty amongst his forces. General Longstreet will find it much easier to beat the Yankee troops than to inspire Yankee officers with any gentlemanly feelings. It is not from fear of the consequences that the Confederate Commander objected to the circulation of the handbills, because, by the agency of the free press of the South, Mr. Lincoln's "Amnesty" has been circulated throughout the length and breadth of the land.

We find in the correspondence of the New York papers rather a fuller account of the proceedings that took place on the 9th January before the Vice-Admiralty Court at Halifax, in reference to the steamer *Chesapeake*. The conduct of the Hon. Judge Stewart, C.B., seems utterly inexplicable, according to any recognised code of judicial propriety. We are, be it remembered, taking a Northern and not a Southern version as our text. As soon as the court was opened, and before the case was gone into, the judge "took the ground that the seizure of the vessel, being *primâ facie* an act of piracy, and the original captors having violated our neutrality laws by surreptitiously entering our ports, and disposing in an illegal manner of a portion of the cargo, their right to the vessel was necessarily forfeited, and the vessel itself ought to revert to the Federals." We have heard of hanging a man first and trying him afterwards, but this is the first time that a British judge prefaced a trial by delivering judgment. Having thus disposed of the vessel, Judge Stewart observed, "the only questions that would remain would be those touching the infraction of British law, and the outrages of the Federal gunboat officer in seizing a vessel in British waters, and in taking and putting in irons the three men found on British possessions. But for these, the learned judge felt confident that the Federals would readily make ample apology and reparation, as they had always seemed anxious to do on former occasions." Mark the one-sided neutrality of the learned and hon. judge. The Confederates had violated, in his opinion, the laws of the country, and, therefore, let them be punished by the forfeiture of the vessel; the Federals have also violated the British law, but the judge is confident the Federals will apologise, and that is enough. Mr. Ritchie, the counsel for the Confederates, was not satisfied with the judgment, and told the judge that a claim would be made for the vessel by his clients. At this the Judge became angry, and curtly replied that he would not entertain any such demand. Mr. Ritchie then stated that the vessel was, in his opinion, a lawful prize to any citizen of the Confederacy, whether he held a commission or not, and as soon as taken possession of became a Confederate ship. She could not justly be returned to the Federals, because she did not belong to them. If such a thing was permitted the neutrality of the British Government was destroyed at once. The vessel was not brought into our ports as a prize. That could not be done, being contrary to law; but she came in for necessaries, without which she could not have proceeded on a voyage in any direction. He instanced the case of the *Alabama* and the Confederate vessels which had coaled in British ports, and been protected by the British flag. Mr. Ritchie added that he had had a personal interview with one of the leaders in the seizure, whom he knew to be in the Confederate service. That gentleman had entered the Confederate army early in the war, and served under one of its most distinguished generals; that for meritorious acts of bravery he had received the commission of lieutenant in that army; that he had twice been made prisoner, and that soon after his return from his second captivity he engaged in this *Chesapeake* venture. We hear from the Northern report of the proceedings that "the Advocate-General expressed opinions quite at variance with those of the court on several points," and that "the judge subsequently modified his opinions in some degree."

The correspondence between Earl Russell and Mr. Adams in reference to the detention of the steam rams in the Mersey will we trust receive due attention from Parliament. We have not fallen so low that the peers of England and the House of Commons will without a protest see our honour trampled on by a foreign Power, and the insult tamely borne by a pusillanimous Minister. Those who read the correspondence will not charge us with using unnecessarily strong language. On the 1st September, 1863, Earl Russell wrote to Mr. Adams in answer to letters of remonstrance of the 11th, 16th, and 25th July and of the 14th August. His lordship says, inquiries had been instituted about the rams, and the result of them was, that the Government was informed that the evidence adduced by Mr. Adams was mere hearsay evidence, "and generally that it is not such as to show the intent or purpose necessary to make the building or fitting out of these vessels illegal under the Foreign Enlistment Act;" that there was no evidence to show that the alleged French ownership was not true, and that "Her Majesty's Government are advised that they cannot interfere in any way with those vessels." His lordship promised to be zealous in preventing any infraction of the Foreign Enlistment Act, and concludes that "the Government would be blamed for acting in defiance of the principles of law and justice long recognised and established in this country."

Mr. Adams replied on the 5th September. He regrets that the Government have arrived at such a conclusion, and quotes the following passage from "one of their (the Confederates) late publications":—

> In the present state of the harbour defences of New York, Boston, Portland, and smaller Northern cities, such a vessel as the *Warrior* would have little difficulty in entering any of these ports and inflicting a vital blow upon the enemy. The destruction of Boston alone would be worth a hundred victories in the field. It would bring such a terror to the "blue noses" as to cause them to wish eagerly for peace despite their overweening love of gain which has been so feebly administered to since the opening of this war. Vessels of the *Warrior* class would promptly raise the blockade of our ports, and would even in this respect confer advantages which would soon repay the cost of their construction.

Mr. Adams then threatens us with hostilities, observing, "It would be superfluous for me to point out to your lordship that this is war." He states that he will not communicate "such further portions of my instructions as are suited to the case, lest I should contribute to aggravate difficulties already far too serious," and that he waits for more specific directions from his Government.

What was Earl Russell's reply? Did he tell Mr. Adams that it was the business of the United States to protect their harbours against the possible aggression of a single steam ram? Did he tell Mr. Adams that the threat of war would not induce the British Government to act "in defiance of the principles of law and justice long recognised and established in this country?" No; he succumbed to the threat, and on the 8th September sent the following reply to Mr. Adams' letter of the 5th:—

> Lord Russell presents his compliments to Mr. Adams, and has the honour to inform him that instructions have been issued which will prevent the departure of the two ironclad vessels from Liverpool.

Mr. Adams intimates, in a despatch to Mr. Seward, that the above note was telegraphed from Scotland, and therefore it is plain that, alarmed by the menaces of the United States minister, Lord Russell sent off an immediate reply to appease the Federal wrath. This circumstance also accounts for his lordship's ultra-warm neutrality in his utterances in Scotland.

The correspondence about the dismissal of Mr. Magee, the British Consul at Mobile, is likewise worthy of notice. It will be remembered that all Mr. Magee did, was to allow the shipment of some specie for the payment of interest due to British holders on a debt contracted long before the war; and which, upon the Northern theory that Alabama is still one of the United States, the Federal Government ought to desire to see paid. For this not very grave offence, if it is an offence, Lord Lyons addressed a most humble letter of apology to Mr. Seward. His lordship wrote:—

Her Majesty's Government has learned with great surprise and regret that a large sum of money was put on board of Her Majesty's ships off Mobile by Mr. Magee, the acting British Consul, and, in compliance with a requisition made by him, conveyed in that ship to Havana, and put on shore there. It appears that the money in question was placed in Mr. Magee's hands by agents of the State of Alabama, and was destined to pay interest, due to British subjects, and payable in London, on bonds of that State. But this circumstance has not affected the view taken by Her Majesty's Government of the transaction. They consider the conduct of Mr. Magee to have been entirely at variance with the duties of an agent of a neutral Power, and they have directed me to inform you that, on becoming acquainted with his proceedings, they have, without any delay, sent orders to me to dismiss him from their service. Her Majesty's Government have instructed me to say, further, that they greatly regret that any person in their employment should have been guilty of such conduct as that which has led to the immediate dismissal of Mr. Magee.

We quite believe that the interest of the British bondholders did not influence Her Majesty's Secretary for foreign affairs. We think, however, even if the dismissal of Mr. Magee was justified, which we deny, it was not necessary for Lord Lyons to eat so much humble pie. Did his lordship ever hear of the *Trent* outrage? Was the conduct of Consul Magee so flagrant as that of Admiral Wilkes? Yet Admiral Wilkes was not dismissed from the public service. It seems to be the policy of Earl Russell not to protect the interests of British subjects and of British commerce, but only to consider which is pleasing to the Federal Government.

Mr. Seward wrote a very angry despatch to Mr. Adams about the "the Cotton Loan," and instructed him to "give notice to Earl Russell that this transaction necessarily brings to an end all concessions, of whatever form, that have been made by this Government for mitigating or alleviating the rigour of the blockade in regard to the shipment of cotton and tobacco." We were under the impression that the only lawful blockade was a rigid blockade, and we thought that any relaxation of that rigour put an end to the blockade. We were not aware that it was in the power of any government to institute a mitigated blockade. This despatch was written on the 10th April, and as far as we know the blockade has not been more rigorous since then than it was before.

The Northern press is delighted with the diplomatic correspondence between the United States and this country. The *New York Herald* remarks:—"In the great result thus achieved, of bringing the British Government to a sense of shame and danger, we are amply compensated for the mortification involved in the surrender, at the haughty requisition of England, of those arch-traitors, Mason and Slidell." Another New York paper writes:—"Imperious as England habitually is in speech, yet there is not a nation in the world who is so completely, we may almost say so helplessly, tied to the policy of peace. She will not meet us in war, nor will she back down in her diplomacy; but save both her blood and her honour, by an agreement to arbitrate."

To show how cordially we are hated in the North, we will quote two passages that have lately appeared in leading journals. In an article on the Maori war it is observed, "The guerilla system of warfare is always tedious, and, if the British cling to it, the struggle may hold for years, and our rebellion may be crushed and the Union restored ere this conflict at the antipodes between civilised cupidity and savage patriotism is brought to a close." A leader on the Danish crisis thus concludes "From this brief *resumé* of the situation it can no longer be doubted that matters have reached a crisis in Europe which renders a long and sanguinary struggle inevitable. It will afford us some consolation and compensation perhaps for the trials to which we have been subjected by foreign countenance and aid that we shall have ended the war here just as the European Governments are entering upon theirs." Such are the sentiments of the people whom we are to conciliate at the cost of justice and honour. But such animosity is fed, not satisfied, by concessions.

In the Federal House of Representatives, on the 26th January, Mr. Fernando Wood made a speech in favour of peace. The subject under discussion was the repeal of the explanatory resolution that was passed with the Confiscation Act. Mr. Wood contended that to repeal a resolution that was substantially a part of the Act would be wrong, and he further argued that the Confiscation Act itself was unconstitutional and unjust. If the South was within the Union the Southern people could not be deprived of the protection of the Constitution; and if the South was out of the Union then a foreign war was being carried on and the Southern people were entitled to all the immunities which the law of nations recognises. Mr. Wood said he had proposed early in the session that there should be commissioners appointed to treat with the Confederate Government as other Governments had been treated with—England in 1815 and Mexico in 1848. He was told that this was rebellion and should not be recognised by the appointment of commissioners. Well, the United States had formerly treated with rebels—in 1786 with the Shay rebellion; in 1795 with the Whisky rebellion, when Washington and Hamilton were the commissioners, and in 1857 with the Mormon rebellion. Mr. Wood observed, "This war must cease. It was commenced without cause, has been prosecuted without glory, and will end in national impoverishment, disintegration and ruin."

Our New York correspondent furnishes an account of the progress of Mr. Lincoln's canvass for the next Presidency. He points out that the election of Mr. Lincoln is tolerably sure, inasmuch as he can control, as he has controlled, elections by means of the military, and that he is making further provision for a majority by the reconstruction of States. Our correspondent gives some particulars of the manufacture of State governments by Mr. Lincoln's agents.

Mr. Foote, of the Confederate Senate, has thought it his duty on several occasions to sharply criticise the proceedings of the Confederate Government. Therefore Northern writers have charged him with having Union proclivities. On the 7th January Mr. Foote said in the Senate:—

He had denounced all attempts at reconstruction, at all times, perhaps more strongly than any other member of this body. In this he had been perfectly sincere. To reconstruction he would not submit, even if this Administration were to make a reconstruction treaty. He preferred exile, death, torture, degradation, in their most appalling forms, to any political connection with those now in power in Washington city. Whenever a responsible person should accuse him formally of a criminality so monstrous, he should feel himself to be indeed disgraced if he did not make him sorely rue his temerity.

The Federal House Committee on elections, reported adversely to the claims of applicants for seats in the House from Louisiana. The report, written by Mr. Dawes, of Massachusetts, condemns the interference of the military in elections.

Another dodge is being tried to keep up the credit of the Federal Government. "Spirits" are being daily invoked to prophesy good things for the country, and the immediate crushing of the rebellion. On the 24th January there was a large gathering in New York, when General Andrew Jackson, through a medium, informed the meeting that their empire "should stretch from sea to sea—from Nova Zembla to Patagonia."

The Federal Senate has passed a resolution requiring members to take the new oath of allegiance. Senator Bayard, of Delaware, against whom this resolution was carried, took the oath, and then announced his intention of retiring. The Judiciary Committee has thrown out or discharged the resolution for the expulsion of Mr. Davis of Kentucky.

Senator Hale has asked for a committee to investigate the affairs of the navy. He stated from the returns before him that the sum wanted this year for the United States' navy was forty millions more than the sums expended by England and France during the three years and five months of the Crimean war. Senator Hale should recollect that English and French patriotism is not such a costly article as Yankee patriotism. In this country, and in France, loyalty does not depend upon fat contracts.

That distinguished patriot and fiery abolitionist, Colonel Fish, late Provost-Marshal of Baltimore and head-gaoler of General Schenck, has been consigned to the Old Capitol Prison at Washington, charged with corruption and fraud upon the Government.

The price of gold in New York on the 29th of January was 57 per cent. premium.

ENGLAND.

THE judicial committees of the Privy Council gave judgment on Monday last in the two cases of Williams *v.* the Lord Bishop of Salisbury, and Wilson *v.* Fendall. It will be remembered that the Bishop of Salisbury and Mr. Fendall had respectively instituted proceedings in the Court of Arches against the Reverend Dr. Rowland Williams, the Vice-Principal and Professor of Hebrew in St. David's College, Lampeter, and Vicar of Broad Chalke, Wiltshire, and against the Reverend Henry Bristow Wilson, Vicar of Great Staughton, Huntingdonshire. The former of these gentlemen was the author of the essay called "Bunsen's Biblical Researches," and the latter was the author of the essay entitled "Séances Historiques de Genève: the National Church;" and these essays were, perhaps, the most learned and the most bold of those which were published together in the famous volume entitled "Essays and Reviews." Certain passages in the above-named essays formed the ground for a prosecution in the Court of Arches; and in that court the prosecution was sustained, the judge (Dr. Lushington), finding that the accused had published and maintained certain doctrines and opinions contrary to the teaching of the Church of England. Each of the accused was condemned to suspension for one year *ab officio et beneficio*, was monished not to offend in like manner for the future, and was condemned to pay the costs. From this judgment the accused appealed to the Privy Council, and the argument was heard seven months ago before the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Lord Chancellor of England, the Bishop of London, Lord Cranworth, Lord Chelmsford, and Lord Kingsdown. On that occasion the appellants argued their own cases. The Queen's advocate, Mr. Coleridge, Q.C., and Dr. Swabey appeared for the respondents. It may be remarked here by way of preface that the accusation took the form of articles, consisting of the extracts from the Essays on which the prosecution relied, and such passages from the Liturgy and the Thirty-nine Articles as seemed to be denied by the extracts. On Monday, then, the Lords of the Committee before whom the appeals were heard were present, with the exception of the two archbishops, who did not concur in those parts of the following judgment which related to the 7th article of charge against Dr. Williams, and to the 8th article of charge against Mr. Wilson. The Lord Chancellor gave judgment. It was no part, said he, of the duty of the tribunal to pronounce an opinion on the character, effect, or tendency of the publication known by the name of "Essays and Reviews," nor was the Court at liberty to consider the whole of the essay of Dr. Williams or of Mr. Wilson. The judgment must be confined to the matter in the extracts before the Court. The book might, therefore, be liable to condemnation as of a baneful tendency notwithstanding the judgment. The proceedings were of a criminal stamp, and therefore precision and distinctness in the accusation was necessary. The Court had not to determine matters of faith, but merely what was by law settled to be the doctrine of the Church of England. That only was matter of accusation which was advisedly taught or maintained in opposition to the doctrine of the Church. The writer was only responsible for the conclusions directly involved in the assertions made by him. The charges against Dr. Williams were all rejected or given up except those contained in the 7th and 15th articles. The 7th article was based on passages in pages 60, 61, 77, and 78 of the book, and the accusation was, that Dr. Williams had maintained that "the Bible was an expression of devout reason, and the written voice of the congregation;—not the Word of God, nor containing any special revelation of His truth or His dealings with mankind, nor the rule of faith." Dr. Williams had not stated this in terms, but that the Bible "was an expression of devout reason, and therefore to be read with reason in freedom," and that it was "the written voice of the congregation." So speaking of the teaching in the Ordination Service on the abiding influence of the "Eternal Spirit," Dr. Williams said, "if such a Spirit did not dwell in the Church, the Bible would not be inspired;" and again, "the sacred writers acknowledge themselves men of like passions with ourselves, and we are promised illuminations from the Spirit that dwelt in them." Dr. Williams might reasonably contend that these passages meant this: "The Bible was inspired by the Holy Spirit that has ever dwelt and still dwells in the Church, which dwelt also in the sacred writers of Holy Scripture, and which will aid and illuminate the minds of those who read Holy Scripture trusting to receive the guidance and assistance of that Spirit." The words that affirmed that the Holy Spirit dwelt in the writers of Scripture refuted the interpretation that Dr. Williams meant to assert that the Bible was the composition or work "of devout or pious men, and nothing more." The charge, then, that Dr. Williams has maintained the Bible not to be the word of God nor the rule of faith must fail. Now as to the 15th article of the charge. Dr. Williams was an imaginary advocate of Bunsen against the accusation of Bunsen not being a Christian. The topics of defence urged by Dr. Williams against such a general charge, could not be regarded as the advised teaching of Dr. Williams. The 11th article of religion stated that "we are accounted righteous before God only for the merits of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by faith, and not for our own works or deservings." That article was silent as to the merits of Jesus Christ being transferred to us. Therefore it was not penal in a clergyman to speak of merit by transfer as a fiction, however unseemly such an expression might be in connection with the subject. Dr. Williams had explained that by the word fiction he meant the fantasy in the mind of a person that he had enjoyed merit by transfer. Nor did Dr. Williams assert that justification by faith meant only the peace of mind or sense of Divine approval which came of trust in a righteous God. On these grounds the judgment against Dr. Williams must be reversed. Then as to the charges against Mr. Wilson, of which only the 8th and 14th article remained. The 8th article of the charge involved the proposition "that it is a contradiction of the doctrine laid down in the 6th and 20th articles of religion in the Nicene Creed and in the Ordination Service of the Priests to affirm that any part of the canonical books of the Old or New Testament upon any subject whatever, however unconnected with religious faith or moral duty, was not written under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost." The proposition that every part of the Scriptures was written under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost was not to be found either in the articles or in any of the formularies of the Church. The framers of the Thirty-nine Articles had not used the word "inspiration" as applied to the Holy Scriptures, nor had they laid down anything as to the nature, extent, or limits of that operation of the Holy Spirit. The Court was unable to say that the extracts from Mr. Wilson's essay, which formed the subject of the 8th article of the charge, were inconsistent with the articles of the Church or the formularies to which the charge referred. Lastly, as to the 14th article of the charge, which affirmed that Mr. Wilson had declared in effect, that after this life and at the end of the existing order of things on this earth, there would be no judgment of God awarding to those men whom He should then approve everlasting life or eternal happiness, and to those men whom he should then condemn everlasting death or eternal misery; and this position was affirmed to be contrary to the three Creeds, the Absolution, the Catechism and the Burial and Communion Services. Now there was nothing in Mr. Wilson's words denying a judgment awarding happiness; but with respect to a judgment of eternal misery a hope was encouraged by Mr. Wilson that that might not be the purpose of God. The Court thought that it was not competent to a clergyman of the Church of England to teach or suggest a hope of a state of things contrary to the teaching of the Church, but Mr. Wilson was charged with advisedly declaring that there would be no judgment awarding either eternal happiness or eternal misery—an accusation not warranted

by the passage extracted. Mr. Wilson had expressed a hope that those who, at the day of judgment, were not admitted to happiness might be so dealt with as that "the perverted might be restored" and all, "both small and great, might ultimately find a refuge in the bosom of the universal Parent." The hope that the punishment of the wicked might not endure to eternity was not at variance with the teaching in the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed or in the Absolution or in the Burial Service. As to the Catechism, Commination Service, and the Athanasian Creed, there was not necessarily any declaration in the first on the point, and of the expression "everlasting fire" in the two last no interpretation was given. In the 42nd article, as appearing in the articles of A.D., 1552 (King Edward VI.), it was in effect affirmed that "all men shall not be saved at the length," and there was a condemnation of those who held that all "men should be saved after suffering pains for an appointed time." That article was omitted in the year 1562, and to sustain the judgment of the Court below would perhaps be to restore the article so withdrawn. There was not in the formularies referred to any distinct declaration requiring the Court to condemn as penal the expression of a hope that the ultimate pardon of the wicked might be consistent with the will of Almighty God. On the extracts before the court the charge was not proved. The articles then would be rejected without costs, but the appellants must have the costs of the appeal.

It is very worthy of observation that the archbishops objected to that part of the judgment which referred to the question of inspiration, but concurred in the remainder.

The case of the Attorney-General *v.* Sillim and others (the *Alexandra* case) came on appeal before the Court of Exchequer Chamber on Saturday last. The judges present were the Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, the Lord Chief Justice Erle, and the Justices Crompton, Blackburn, Mellor, Williams, Willis, and Keating. It will be remembered that at the trial before the jury, a verdict was given for the claimants of the ship against the Crown, and that in Michaelmas Term the Attorney-General obtained a rule *nisi* for a new trial, on the ground of misdirection by the Lord Chief Baron. The argument on the rule was heard in the same term, and in Hilary Term judgment was given by the Barons of the Exchequer. The Chief Baron and Baron Bramwell discharged the rule, holding that the direction at the trial was right; while Barons Channell and Pigott were of the contrary opinion. In order that an appeal might be made to the Exchequer Chamber, Baron Pigott withdrew his judgment *pro formâ*, and consequently judgment stood for the claimants of the ship. On Saturday, then, Sir Hugh Cairns appeared to argue on the appeal, and submitted a preliminary objection to the jurisdiction of the Court to entertain the appeal, stating that he had given notice of the objection to the legal advisers of the Crown. The question was, what authority existed for the bringing of an appeal by the Crown? Before the passing of the Common Law Procedure Act of 1852 there could have been no such appeal, but it was contended that a rule or order had been made by the Court of Exchequer to that effect on the 4th of November last. That rule had been made on the application of the advisers of the Crown before the rule *nisi* for a new trial was obtained. The rule, though apparently general in its terms, was framed to meet the case, and, therefore, the making of such a rule was a course attended with danger and inconvenience. That rule proceeded on an Act regulating the office of the Queen's Remembrancer, which extended the provisions of the Common Law Procedure Act to the revenue side of the Exchequer. But those provisions had reference only to the powers of the Court over its own jurisdiction, and gave an appeal to themselves for new trials, &c., but gave no power and authority to establish new courts of appeal. That was a power that could be given only by Parliament.

The Attorney-General argued that this appeal was a step in the cause in the Court of Exchequer, and that Court must ultimately issue judgment after the decision of the appeal, and the Exchequer had full power to make rules for its own process. If the Court confirmed the objection the Crown and the subject would be without a remedy. By the old law there was a writ of error on the revenue side on a bill of exceptions, but the Chief Baron had refused to sign any bill of exceptions. The Lord Chief Justice said the Act expressly gave a power of appeal in all cases but this. If it had intended it, in all probability it would have been so enacted; the Attorney-General further urged that Parliament had given the Court of Exchequer a discretionary power to say whether or not in particular cases the power of appeal should lie, but the Lord Chief Justice said he never knew of such a power being given by Parliament to a Court. Sir Hugh Cairns replied, and the Lord Chief Justice said that revenue cases peculiarly belonged to the Court of Exchequer, and as the Court ought to see their way clearly judgment would be deferred for two days. On Monday, therefore, the Court gave judgment; and while three judges held that the appeal would lie, four were of the contrary opinion. Strangely enough, the three former judges were all of the Court of Common Pleas, namely, the Lord Chief Justice Erle and Justices Williams and Willis, while the majority were of the Court of Queen's Bench, namely, the Lord Chief Justice of England and Justices Crompton, Blackburn, and Mellor. It will be sufficient for the purpose if a concise abstract of the judgments of the Lord Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench and of the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas be given, although it is to be understood that all the judges gave judgment. It may, however, be advisable to state the exact question at issue. The Common Law Procedure Act of 1854, which had reference to suits between subject and subject, provided that an appeal, with its ordinary incidents, should lie from any of the three Courts at Westminster to the Exchequer Chamber and the House of Lords, where a rule for a new trial on the ground of misdirection by the judge at the trial had been discharged. After this Act, which had in itself no reference to revenue cases, came the Queen's Remembrancer Act, the 26th section of which enacts that "it shall be lawful for the Lord Chief Baron and two or more Barons of the Court of Exchequer from time to time to make all such rules and orders as to the process, practice, and mode of pleading on the revenue side of the Court, and as to the allowance of costs, and for the effectual execution of the Act and the intention and objects thereof as may seem to them necessary and proper," and from time to time, by any rule or order to extend, apply or adapt any of the provisions of the Common Law Procedure Act 1852, and the Common Law Procedure Act, 1854, and any of the rules of pleading and practice on the plea side of the said Court to the revenue side of the said Court, as may seem to them expedient for making the process, practice, and mode of pleading on the revenue side of the said Court as nearly as may be uniform with the process, practice, and pleading on the plea side of the said Court." In exercise of the powers given by this section, the Barons of the Exchequer in November last, on the application of the Attorney-General made certain rules on the authority of which the present appeal was brought, and the validity of those rules was by Sir Hugh Cairns impugned. It was admitted on all hands that the words "process, practice," &c., in the Act, must be confined to the procedure of the Court itself, properly so called. But the main feature of the difference in opinion existing was whether the appeal could be taken to be part and parcel of the procedure of the Court, out of which issuing of process arose, and which had execution of the last process on final judgment, or whether it was something beyond and above and outside of the procedure of that Court. The Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas held that procedure in a suit included the whole course of practice from such first process to judgment and execution. He analysed with much care the amendments in the practice of the Courts, introduced by the Common Law Procedure Acts, and also the provisions of the Queen's Remembrancer Act, and held that the power of the Barons to make orders as to the process, practice, and mode of pleading on the revenue side was not confined to the Court of Exchequer, but extended to the Courts of Error, into which suits should be brought from the revenue side of the Exchequer. He denied the allegation that the orders would subject suits to a ground of appeal which did not not exist before. The ground of appeal, namely, misdirection, existed before the Act and the appeal, was made by a bill of exceptions from the trial immediately to the Court of Error. It was only the practice that was changed. The orders, therefore, did not create a new ground of appeal. The Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, after reviewing the section of the Act already cited, said that the question was whether the powers given by the Act enabled the Court of Exchequer to create for the first time an appellate jurisdiction in their lordship's Court in causes relating to the revenue. He thought that the words "process, practice, and mode of pleading" could not be taken without a very forced construction to apply to the creating of an appellate jurisdiction where the cause had quitted the sphere of the inferior Court and had passed to the appellate tribunal. Who on appeal in a civil suit ever thought of speaking of the practice of the Court of Exchequer Chamber as the practice of either of the three Courts from which to its superior jurisdiction appeal lay? His lordship then gave numerous illustrations of the Court having its own rules of practice and of its not being regulated by the inferior Court. Yet the Court below had taken upon itself to prescribe and settle these provisions as though they formed part of its own practice. The two Courts were distinct, and a power to order the practice of the one was not a power to order the practice of the other. Where in the history of juridical legislation was such a thing ever heard of as the legislature leaving it to a tribunal to decide whether its authority should be generally subject to revision on appeal? Was it conceivable that Parliament would in a matter of such importance have delegated its functions to a court of law? It was not enough to say that because a bill of exceptions was allowed, therefore the legislature might have given power to the Court of Exchequer to superadd the proceeding by way of appeal. The answer to that was obvious, for nothing would have been easier than for Parliament so to enact—a few short lines, and the matter would have been at rest. The proceeding by a bill and by an appeal were distinct, for the former admitted of less delay, and the position of an appellant was also peculiar in case of disagreement on the point at issue. That the expediency of the appeal was doubtful might be inferred from the fact that it was only after an interval of four years from the passing of the Act, that the Court below had made the orders in dispute. His lordship then reviewed other sections of the Act under which in certain other cases an appeal was expressly given, and according to the well-known rule held that the express enactment in the particular case negatived the intention to extend the provision generally. He regretted that he was obliged to come to such a conclusion, partly because the proceeding by bill of exceptions appeared to have been given up on the belief that this proceeding could have been adopted; still more so, because, if he were right the opportunity would be lost of settling the construction of the Foreign Enlistment Act. The Court, however, could not be influenced by such considerations. He might observe, however, that the parties would not be prejudiced or delayed thereby, because, in any case, the matter would probably have gone to the House of Lords; and now, if that tribunal held their decision wrong on the question of jurisdiction, the case would still be heard by the Lords on its merits. In his opinion the appeal must be dismissed.

The case of O'Kane *v.* O'Kane and Lord Palmerston came again before the Divorce Court on Thursday last. A rule *nisi* had been obtained by the respondent, calling upon the petitioner to show cause why the petition should not be dismissed for want of prosecution, and the want of prosecution alleged consisted in the failure of the petitioner to furnish particulars of his marriage and of the adultery. The affidavits filed by the solicitors were summarised in our columns last week. At the hearing the Queen's advocate mentioned that on the part of the co-respondent he objected to the reading of any part of the affidavits not strictly bearing on the rule for the dismissal of the prosecution. Mr. Browne, on the behalf of the petitioner, called the attention of the court to the charge made by Mr. Horsley, the respondent's solicitor, that the petition was filed for the purposes of extortion, and, in answer thereto, read an extract from the affidavit of the solicitor to the petitioner explicitly denying the charge. Mr. Browne, then proceeded to say that though the petitioner in the affidavit was made to speak of an arrangement, in consequence of which he had retired from the suit, yet that it was not meant that the arrangement was made with either the respondent or the co-respondent, but with third parties unconnected with the suit. He also offered no opposition to the dismissal of the petition. The Queen's advocate stated that he was instructed fully and emphatically to deny that there had been any compromise whatever between the co-respondent and the petitioner. The judge ordinary said that the suit must be dismissed. The petitioner came into court with his complaint, and he now retired from it without any imputation upon either of the other parties to the suit, in consequence of what he called an arrangement with his friends. It was much to be regretted that a man should be able to attack the character of a woman whom he called his wife, but the remedy was to be found in the same publicity by which the evil was aggravated. The petitioner retired from the suit with the evil words still on his lips, and would probably meet with the censure of some and the contempt of many. The court could not part with this suit without one word respecting the co-respondent. It was a matter of great satisfaction to the court that a name never mentioned in England without just pride should have passed from its annals without a stain. The judge ordered the petitioner to pay all the costs.

A ship called the *Flowery Land* left London on the 28th July last, bound for Singapore, with a cargo of wine and other goods. Twenty persons sailed in her. The captain was one John Smith, and his brother George Smith sailed as a passenger. The first mate, Narwell, and the second mate Taffir, were also English. The carpenter was a Norwegian, the cook, steward, and a boy, a lamp-trimmer, were Chinese. There were besides fourteen seamen. Among these were English, Sclaves, Spaniards, Greeks, Turks, and mulattos. On the morning of the 2nd September last a portion of the crew rose in mutiny, killed the captain, the captain's brother, and the first mate. They spared the second mate, whom they ordered to steer for the river Plate, which he accordingly did. The murderers of course plundered and distributed the money, boxes, and goods of the murdered men. On the 13th September they threw the ship's papers overboard. On the 2nd October they sighted land. On that day the steward was killed, and the crew took to the boats after having scuttled the ship. The cook and the wretched lamp-trimmer were left on board and sank with the vessel. On landing, the second mate and Candereau, a Frenchman, gave information, and appeared before a naval court-martial. The crew were brought to England and eight of them were tried last week before Baron Bramwell for murder on the high seas. The Solicitor-General prosecuted on behalf of the Crown. The evidence adduced was that of the second mate, a boy named James Earl, Joseph Williams, a mulatto, and one Powell, a Sclave. Seven of the prisoners, namely: Watto, a Turk, Leon, a mulatto, and Blanco, Duranno, de los Santos, Marsolino, and Lopez, all Spaniards, were found guilty and condemned to be hanged. Carlos, the Greek, was acquitted, but was afterwards tried for scuttling the ship, convicted, and condemned to penal servitude for ten years.

The Irish people are assuredly the most bellicose of men. It is not enough that they should recruit the armies of President Lincoln in a quarrel with which they certainly have nothing to do, but already they are designing an intervention in the Dano-German conflict. A gentleman of Cork, well known from his professional abilities, his social eminence, and his success in the hunting field, has written to the King of Denmark, offering the services of a hundred Irish gentlemen in the war, the corps to be called the "Alexandra Cent Guards," in honour of the Princess of Wales. These heroes are all to be men of good position, to equip and mount themselves, to wear uniform of the national colours, and to exhibit the motto "Right against Might," thus exactly reversing the watchword of their brethren in the Federal ranks. To improve the idea, the projector has written to the Prince of Wales to ask his sanction for the movement. Sixty-four gentlemen have already agreed to take part in the enterprise, but the names are at present wisely concealed. A ball is to be given the night before the troop leaves, and on the following morning at six o'clock the men will mount and ride to Queenstown, where they will embark on board of a Danish frigate. Many horses have been purchased, and the uniform been has determined. Whatever be the success of the scheme, it will at least afford another opportunity for exercising the powers of the Foreign Enlistment Act.

THE CONTINENT.

Consummatum est. Providence has fought as usual on the side of the big battalions. For the moment, injustice is triumphant, and Germany is mad with enthusiasm at the success of the most monstrous violation of international law and pledged faith which the century has

of the Government toward the Government of France has been the opposite of conciliatory. Lord Derby agreed with the policy of withdrawing from the Mexican expedition, but then that necessity ought to have been foreseen from the first, and England should have taken no part in the enterprise. In the case of Poland, our remonstrance was not identical with that of the other Powers, and before we could receive an answer from St. Petersburg Earl Russell declared in the House of Lords that he would not under any circumstances go to war for the enforcement of his remonstrance. The Government of Russia having given Earl Russell "a decided rebuff," the noble lord told the House that "the Emperor of Russia had done a beneficent act towards his subjects." This pacific declaration was not made until France and Austria had joined in the previous policy of the British Cabinet, and consequently those Powers were compelled to share in our humiliation. The Emperor Napoleon's proposal for a Congress might be impracticable, but instead of curtly refusing it our Government ought to have recognised the beneficent intention of the Emperor, and ought to have declared its willingness to accept the plan of arbitration if the scheme could be worked. Then if the Congress had failed it could not have been ascribed to the hostility of England. Besides the uncourteous one of Earl Russell's despatch, it was published in the *Times* before it was communicated to the Imperial Government. "Now, if you treat great Powers with this utter disregard of their feelings and interest . . . how can you expect, when you are in a position of difficulty, and when you call on them, they will give you assistance and advice in cases not affecting their personal or national interests?" Earl Derby dwelt on the Danish question, and whilst admitting the difficulties that surrounded it, was clearly of opinion that, "with a little good judgment, a little good management, and a little good temper, it ought to have been settled without a frightful appeal to arms." He should shrink from a war between England and Germany "as one of the greatest disasters that could happen to this country," and therefore he hoped Her Majesty's Government would be able to assure the House that "we are not committed by the Government, on the one hand, to a disastrous quarrel with Germany, or, on the other, to a betrayal and abandonment of an ally who has trusted to our support." After censuring the policy of the Government in reference to Greece, his lordship declared his conviction "that the vessel of our State is in a most perilous position, that it is surrounded by breakers and dangers on every side," and that he had not "the consolation of being able to repose any confidence in the competence of the hands in which its navigation is now placed."

Earl Russell taunted the Earl of Derby with taking his wit from Shakspeare, and that "he borrowed his wit from his memory and his facts from his imagination," the noble speaker not perceiving that he himself was drawing on his memory for a very hackneyed witticism. With regard to Mexico, his lordship said that from the first the Government had declared that they did not go to war for the purpose of effecting any change of Government; and, therefore, when the object of the expedition was extended the British Minister was right in retiring from it. He had avoided war for Poland, because he deemed it dangerous and inexpedient, and he declared that England would not go to war on that question in order that the Poles might not be encouraged by false hopes. Respecting the proposed Congress, he denied that there had been any discourtesy. Having ascertained what were the principal matters to be discussed at the Congress, the Russian ambassador was asked what he supposed would be the course of Russia with regard to Poland, and the reply was that the Government of St. Petersburg would only maintain its present attitude. The Austrian ambassador was also questioned about Venetia, and replied that Austria would not listen to any proposal for cession or exchange. Therefore, the Congress must have led to war or to no results, and under these circumstances the invitation was rejected, not curtly but in two long despatches, in which the beneficent intentions of the Emperor were fully acknowledged. The noble earl then reviewed the Danish affair, commencing with the Treaty of 1852. He could neither defend the conduct of Austria and Prussia in invading Slesvig nor the conduct of Denmark in reference to the Constitution of last November. The English envoy, Lord Wodehouse, pressed upon the Danish Government the revocation of the Constitution, and he was supported by Russia, and also by Sweden, to the extent of urging the policy of conciliation to Germany. At first the effort failed, because, "most unfortunately, the Minister who then had for some time ruled in Denmark under the late king, although no doubt very patriotic in his sentiments, had most violent views in favour of the Danish people." The Minister referred to by Earl Russell is M. Hall, under whose auspices Denmark became the freest monarchy on the Continent, and who resigned because he persisted in asking for nothing more than an honourable understanding, that on an official promise, that if Denmark made concessions to the advice of England this country should guarantee that in the event of such concessions being used as a means of striking a blow at the integrity of the kingdom. Earl Russell explained to the House that he asked Austria and Prussia for a delay of six weeks, and that his request had been refused, and that afterwards he had proposed a protocol, recording, in the names of France, Great Britain, Russia, and Sweden, the intention of the Danish Government to promote the revocation of the November Constitution;" but the proposal was met by a "peremptory" refusal by Austria and Prussia. These Powers decided the necessity of not keeping their forces inactive on the Eider, and intimated that the advance into Slesvig was necessary to prevent revolution in Germany. The position of Denmark is peculiar. "She is between two parties, one of which says, 'We wish to have one great united Germany, and therefore let us go and attack Denmark;' while the other says, 'We wish to stop democratic agitation in Germany and keep things in their present state, and therefore let us go and attack Denmark.'" Ultimately, when it was apparent to Earl Russell that Austria and Prussia would not listen to remonstrance, the British Ambassador at Berlin asked the Prussian Government whether it adhered to the principle of the integrity of the Danish monarchy. The answer which Earl Russell read to the House is a rare specimen of diplomatic special pleading. M. Bismarck says the act of invasion is a recognition of the integrity of the Danish monarchy as established by the treaties of 1851-2; but if the Danes persist in refusing to accomplish the provisions of 1852 (it should be borne in mind that the great Powers had already agreed to guarantee this accomplishment, and therefore that could not be the object of the war,) that the King's Government will be compelled to renounce the combinations of 1852. Earl Russell remarked that the extent of our engagements to Denmark was sympathy and not mutual assistance; but "what the future may bring forth it would be rash for him to say." His lordship, in conclusion, commented on the constitutional struggle in Prussia, and said, "There may, perhaps, before long be a wise and earnest demand for this German Parliament, and it will then be seen whether this important question can be settled in peace, reason, and moderation, or whether Germany is to continue a great plague to itself, a great terror to other countries."

Earl Grey sharply criticised the Government policy. We have, in respect to Denmark, done too much or too little, and what we have done we have done too late. We ought to have warned Denmark from the first that she could expect no assistance from us, or if we meant to assist her it would have been better to have adopted a bold policy, to have called Parliament together at an earlier date, and to have placed a British army in Slesvig, for then the German Powers would have hesitated before invading the Duchy. He quite agreed with not going to war for Poland, but our interference in the way of advice was "most illusive and most mischievous." He also agreed in the rejection of the Congress proposed by the Emperor Napoleon, but held that the mode of rejection "was needlessly offensive to France." He deplored the war in New Zealand, which threatened the destruction of the Maori race, who, under a different policy, might be made the staunch friends of this country; and also that an enormous outlay should be incurred for a dispute about £20,000 or £30,000. He could not help complaining of the way in which the Speech referred to Japan. He sympathised with those who denounced the Federals for the attempt to burn Charleston before giving notice to the inhabitants to withdraw, but he thought that "the proceedings at Charleston were absolutely merciful as compared with those at Kagosima."

Earl Granville briefly replied on behalf of the Government. He repudiated the doctrine that we were not to give good advice because we were not prepared to back up that advice by material aid; and he explained that the publication of the despatch in answer to the proposal for a Congress in the *Times* before it was received by the French Government, was owing to a misunderstanding between Lord Cowley and M. Drouyn de Lhuys as to the presentation of it. Their lordships then agreed to the Address.

THE COMMONS. THURSDAY.—The Address was moved by Lord R. Grosvenor and seconded by Mr. Goschen, the new member for the City of London. The hon. gentleman acquired at Oxford a considerable reputation for ability and oratory, and his *début* in Parliament must have satisfied the sanguine hopes of his friends, for he succeeded in making his share in a formal proceeding pleasant and attractive. We think he did so rather to the displeasure of the Government whom he represented for the occasion; and we expect the astute Premier will give his political cadet due notice that it is not discreet to utter sentiments which provoke the cheers of the Opposition. Mr. Goschen said in reference to non-intervention, that "it did not seem to him necessarily a warlike policy, which contemplated the possibility of strong measures for the coercion of disturbers of the peace; or necessarily a peaceful policy, which, by laying down beforehand the doctrine of absolute non-intervention, almost held out a temptation to aggression," and seeing how this cut at Earl Russell's proceedings it is not surprising that it was loudly applauded by those who sit on the left of the Speaker. In reference to home affairs, Mr. Goschen did not wish to limit the sense of the paragraph in the Speech which congratulated the Parliament on the internal prosperity of the country, but at the same time he was sorry that the working-classes and the pauper population were living in almost "historical misery," and to them, therefore, such congratulations "might sometimes convey more irony than truth." However, he rejected the theory of Mr. Bright, that this misery was the result of class legislation, and those who endeavoured to breed discontent "appeared to him to be sacrificing the possibility of improvement."

Mr. Disraeli, who was received with loud cheers, like Earl Derby in the Lords, unsparingly criticised the foreign policy of the Government; and although the leaders of the Opposition in the respective Houses treated the subject from somewhat different points of view, yet the sentiments and conclusions were so identical that it proved conclusively that the Conservative leaders are in unison, and also renders it superfluous for us to give a lengthened note on Mr. Disraeli's brilliant and telling speech. The right hon. gentleman found all our foreign relations in utter confusion, and he asked as to the policy of the Government, "What are our objects, and who are our allies?" We had offended Russia by encouraging the Poles for months, and then we abandoned Poland when we found that Russia did not regard our threats. We surrendered the Ionian Islands to Greece, but clogged the concession with such conditions as to alienate the friendship of the Greeks. Having encouraged the Emperor of the French in a policy which towards the close of last year placed him in a difficulty, our Foreign Secretary rejected a proposition that was perhaps intended to tide over this difficulty, not with diplomatic courtesy, but with cynical criticism and a sneer. Turning to the question of the hour, to Denmark, what has been our course in that matter? Earl Russell wrote a despatch which was regarded in Denmark and in Germany as an encouragement to the German Diet to force on a Federal execution. On the last night of the last session the subject was brought before the House of Commons, and on that occasion Lord Palmerston declared that "the independence and integrity of Denmark was of great European interest, and that when the borders of Holstein were past, Denmark would find she was not alone in the quarrel." Though the Speech says nothing about it, the borders of Holstein have been passed, and he (Mr. Disraeli) asked, "Is Denmark alone?" How was the ambiguity in the Speech to be accounted for on such a momentous topic as the war in Denmark? It was that Her Majesty's Ministers had no policy and looked to Parliament to find one for them. Mr. Disraeli urged upon the House not to do so, for it was the unquestioned prerogative of the Sovereign to declare peace or war without the interference of Parliament and under the advice of her responsible ministers. Mr. Disraeli said, referring to an article that lately appeared in the *Times*, "It is only recently we have been reminded, not by the noble lord, but by writers whom he recognises as great masters of the English language, that affairs are carried on in a very satisfactory way, as far as the House of Commons is concerned; that the great departments are principally represented by under-secretaries; that nobody much cares what they say or what they do; and that the relations between the Government and the House of Commons are fast drawing to that satisfactory condition which subsists between members of the French Chambers and their master. Humiliate us if you like. Degrade us, if we must submit to it. But, at any rate, do not call on us to bear responsibility." The right hon. gentleman had no doubt Lord Palmerston would ask him why he did not say at once he had no confidence in the Ministry. When the papers were produced the opinion of the House would be challenged. If the policy of the Government should then appear to be clear and well considered it will be supported; "but," said Mr. Disraeli, "if they have no policy, if they are at this critical moment without allies, looking to the vague sympathies of Parliament to guide and support them, I say that they are taking an unworthy course, and that they are unfit for the offices which they fill and the place which they occupy; and if it is proved that that is the state of affairs I believe that Parliament will not hesitate to express its opinion upon their conduct."

Lord Palmerston, who, on rising, was loudly cheered by his supporters, began by remarking the unanimity of the Opposition, saying he should like to have heard other members besides Mr. Disraeli, but it appeared that "the gentlemen on that side of the House had given him (Mr. Disraeli) an unlimited proxy." His lordship defended the omission of all mention of America, and other affairs in the Queen's Speech, by saying that the Government views were perfectly well known, and that to have inserted them in the Speech would have been a vain repetition. He altogether denied that the Emperor Napoleon's proposal for a Congress had been rudely rejected, and, continued the noble lord, "Indeed, I can give the House the assurance, because I have had recent communication to that effect, that the relations between the two Governments are as cordial as they were before the correspondence." In regard to Mexico, the Government had looked without disfavour upon the establishment of a monarchy under the protection of France, and had stated fairly and candidly that "if the French Government could establish order and regular government in Mexico, even though that might be accomplished by a French army, we thought the step would be for the benefit of the people in Mexico, and for the advantage of all the nations of Europe having commercial intercourse with that country." Mexico, then, was not an instance of coldness and distrust between the two governments, but "an instance of confidence on our part, well deserved and well merited by the Government of France." The noble lord went over the same ground as his colleague in the Lords upon the Danish question, fully endorsing the policy of the Foreign Secretary. He described the despatch of M. Bismarck as "information from the Austrians and Prussians that they are prepared to declare that they abide by the treaty of 1852, and will maintain the integrity of the Danish monarchy in accordance with the provisions of that treaty." This announcement was naturally received with loud cheers. The noble lord was possibly not aware of Earl Russell's intention to read the despatch in the other House; and when, later in the evening, at the request of Sir J. Pakington, Mr. Layard read the despatch, its vagueness caused considerable surprise.

Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald congratulated Lord Palmerston on the adroit way he had avoided answering the objections of Mr. Disraeli. He believed "the policy the Government had pursued was justly stigmatised as ignominious throughout Europe." Mr. G. Duff said little or nothing about the question before the House, but made a speech in favour of the Germans and against the Danes. The hon. gentleman's arguments have not the gloss of novelty, and must have been rather unintelligible to an assembly not accustomed to German political metaphysics. Sir H. Verney also defended Germany, saying that "the only reason why the Germans of Slesvig-Holstein had not experienced the sympathy to which all oppressed people were entitled in England was because the Germans themselves acted the part of oppressors in Posen." Mr. Hennessey enlivened the debate with some reminiscences of court gossip of 1851,

of the Government toward the Government of France has been the opposite of conciliatory. Lord Derby agreed with the policy of withdrawing from the Mexican expedition, but then that necessity ought to have been foreseen from the first, and England should have taken no part in the enterprise. In the case of Poland, our remonstrance was not identical with that of the other Powers, and before we could receive an answer from St. Petersburg Earl Russell declared in the House of Lords that he would not under any circumstances go to war for the enforcement of his remonstrance. The Government of Russia having given Earl Russell "a decided rebuff," the noble lord told the House that "the Emperor of Russia had done a beneficent act towards his subjects." This pacific declaration was not made until France and Austria had joined in the previous policy of the British Cabinet, and consequently those Powers were compelled to share in our humiliation. The Emperor Napoleon's proposal for a Congress might be impracticable, but instead of curtly refusing it our Government ought to have recognised the beneficent intention of the Emperor, and ought to have declared its willingness to accept the plan of arbitration if the scheme could be worked. Then if the Congress had failed it could not have been ascribed to the hostility of England. Besides the uncourteous tone of Earl Russell's despatch, it was published in the *Times* before it was communicated to the Imperial Government. "Now, if you treat great Powers with this utter disregard of their feelings and interest . . . how can you expect, when you are in a position of difficulty, and when you call on them, they will give you assistance and advice in cases not affecting their personal or national interests?" Earl Derby dwelt on the Danish question, and whilst admitting the difficulties that surrounded it, was clearly of opinion that, "with a little good judgment, a little good management, and a little good temper, it ought to have been settled without a frightful appeal to arms." He should shrink from a war between England and Germany "as one of the greatest disasters that could happen to this country," and therefore he hoped Her Majesty's Government would be able to assure the House that "we are not committed by the Government, on the one hand, to a disastrous quarrel with Germany, or, on the other, to a betrayal and abandonment of an ally who has trusted to our support." After censuring the policy of the Government in reference to Greece, his lordship declared his conviction "that the vessel of our State is in a most perilous position, that it is surrounded by breakers and dangers on every side," and that he had not "the consolation of being able to repose any confidence in the competence of the hands in which its navigation is now placed."

Earl Russell taunted the Earl of Derby with taking his wit from Shakspeare, and that "he borrowed his wit from his memory and his facts from his imagination," the noble speaker not perceiving that he himself was drawing on his memory for a very hackneyed witticism. With regard to Mexico, his lordship said that from the first the Government had declared that they did not go to war for the purpose of effecting any change of Government; and, therefore, when the object of the expedition was extended the British Minister was right in retiring from it. He had avoided war for Poland, because he deemed it dangerous and inexpedient, and he declared that England would not go to war on that question in order that the Poles might not be encouraged by false hopes. Respecting the proposed Congress, he denied that there had been any discourtesy. Having ascertained what were the principal matters to be discussed at the Congress, the Russian ambassador was asked what he supposed would be the course of Russia with regard to Poland, and the reply was that the Government of St. Petersburg would only maintain its present attitude. The Austrian ambassador was also questioned about Venetia, and replied that Austria would not listen to any proposal for cession or exchange. Therefore, the Congress must have led to war or to no results, and under these circumstances the invitation was rejected, not curtly but in two long despatches, in which the beneficent intentions of the Emperor were fully acknowledged. The noble earl then reviewed the Danish affair, commencing with the Treaty of 1852. He could neither defend the conduct of Austria and Prussia in invading Slesvig nor the conduct of Denmark in reference to the Constitution of last November. The English envoy, Lord Wodehouse, pressed upon the Danish Government the revocation of the Constitution, and he was supported by Russia, and also by Sweden, to the extent of urging a policy of conciliation to Germany. At first the effort failed, because, "most unfortunately, the Minister who then had for some time ruled in Denmark under the late king, although no doubt very patriotic in his sentiments, had most violent views in favour of the Danish people." The Minister referred to by Earl Russell is M. Hall, under whose auspices Denmark became the freest monarchy on the Continent, and who resigned because he persisted in asking for something more than an honourable understanding, that is, an official promise, that if Denmark made concessions on the advice of England this country should guarantee aid in the event of such concessions being used as a means of striking a blow at the integrity of the kingdom. Earl Russell explained to the House that he asked Austria and Prussia for a delay of six weeks, and that his request had been refused, and that afterwards he had proposed "a protocol, recording, in the names of France, Great Britain, Russia, and Sweden, the intention of the Danish Government to promote the revocation of the November Constitution;" but the proposal was met by a "peremptory" refusal by Austria and Prussia. These Powers pleaded the necessity of not keeping their forces inactive on the Eider, and intimated that the advance into Slesvig was necessary to prevent revolution in Germany. The position of Denmark is peculiar. "She is between two parties, one of which says, 'We wish to have one great united Germany, and therefore let us go and attack Denmark;' while the other says, 'We wish to stop democratic agitation in Germany and keep things in their present state, and therefore let us go and attack Denmark.'" Ultimately, when it was apparent to Earl Russell that Austria and Prussia would not listen to remonstrance, the British Ambassador at Berlin asked the Prussian Government whether it adhered to the principle of the integrity of the Danish monarchy. The answer which Earl Russell read to the House is a rare specimen of diplomatic special pleading. M. Bismarck says the act of invasion is a recognition of the integrity of the Danish monarchy as established by the treaties of 1851-2; but if the Danes persist in refusing to accomplish the provisions of 1852 (it should be borne in mind that the great Powers had already agreed to guarantee this accomplishment, and therefore that could not be the object of the war,) that the King's Government will be compelled to renounce the combinations of 1852. Earl Russell remarked that the extent of our engagements to Denmark was sympathy and not mutual assistance; but "what the future may bring forth it would be rash for him to say." His lordship, in conclusion, commented on the constitutional struggle in Prussia, and said, "There may, perhaps, before long be a wise and earnest demand for this German Parliament, and it will then be seen whether this important question can be settled in peace, reason, and moderation, or whether Germany is to continue a great plague to itself, a great terror to other countries."

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The Commons. Thursday.—The Address was moved by Lord R. Grosvenor and seconded by Mr. Goschen, the new member for the City of London. The hon. gentleman acquired at Oxford a considerable reputation for ability and oratory, and his *début* in Parliament must have satisfied the sanguine hopes of his friends, for he succeeded in making his share in a formal proceeding pleasant and attractive. We think he did so rather to the displeasure of the Government whom he represented for the occasion; and we expect the astute Premier will give his political cadet due notice that it is not discreet to utter sentiments which provoke the cheers of the Opposition. Mr. Goschen said in reference to non-intervention, that "it did not seem to him necessarily a warlike policy, which contemplated the possibility of strong measures for the coercion of disturbers of the peace; or necessarily a peaceful policy, which, by laying down beforehand the doctrine of absolute non-intervention, almost held out a temptation to aggression," and seeing how this cut at Earl Russell's proceedings it is not surprising that it was loudly applauded by those who sit on the left of the Speaker. In reference to home affairs, Mr. Goschen did not wish to limit the sense of the paragraph in the Speech which congratulated the Parliament on the internal prosperity of the country, but at the same time he was sorry that the working-classes and the pauper population were living in almost "historical misery," and to them, therefore, such congratulations "might sometimes convey more irony than truth." However, he rejected the theory of Mr. Bright, that this misery was the result of class legislation, and those who endeavoured to breed discontent "appeared to him to be sacrificing the possibility of improvement."

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The hon. gentleman informed the House that it was in reference to the Treaty of London that Lord Palmerston, then Foreign Secretary, wrote and sent off despatches without submitting them to the Sovereign; and that the late Prince Consort strongly disapproved the Treaty of London, and "thought that the rights and honour of the people of Holstein ought not to have been set aside and signed away by people who had no business with that part of the world." In reply to this, Mr. Gladstone severely condemned Mr. Hennessy for saying "it was notorious—the whole country knew it; in fact there was no motive for concealing it—that it was Her Majesty who had prevented the Cabinet from going to war." But the right hon. gentleman was mistaken, for all that Mr. Hennessy said had an obvious reference to 1851, though it naturally had an indirect bearing on the present aspect of affairs. Mr. Gladstone thought that until now Austria and Prussia had only sought to exercise a right in an unjustifiably harsh manner; but "in the event of any violent attempt being made to overthrow her rights it would not be Denmark alone with which those who made the attempt would have to contend." The object of this remark was to cover the observation made by Lord Palmerston on the last day of last session, that if the Eider was passed Denmark would not be alone. After an amusing speech from Lord J. Manners, and some observations from Sir J. Pakington and others, the debate was concluded by Mr. Kinglake, who of course went in strongly for Germany. He said, respecting the Treaty of London, that "the transaction was very much the same as if we had undertaken to give a reigning prince to the State of New York without consulting either the legislature of New York or the Federal Government." Is the author of "Eothen" and "The War in the Crimea" friendless? Will no one give or lend him an elementary history.

THE STATE OF IRELAND.

The COMMONS, FRIDAY.—On the report of the Address being brought up, Mr. Whiteside addressed the House at length and with great effect on the condition of Ireland. He explained the depression of the distillery interest, and the loss sustained by the paper-makers in consequence of the late legislation of the Government. He said that from 1841 to 1863 the number of emigrants from Ireland was 2,718,567, for which no "parallel is to be found in the history of any other country in the world." As a proof of the comparative neglect of agriculture, and that Irishmen did not leave their native land because is was not fruitful enough to maintain them, he observed that the area of the county of Cork is 1,849,613 acres, and of that only 481,655 acres are under tillage. Much of the distress is directly traceable to a bad theory of government, by which "every gentleman of property and intellect is to be excluded from the smallest share in the political government of his native country." Sir Robert Peel declared that Mr. Whiteside had exaggerated the amount of emigration, and that as only 1,400,000 had left since 1851, so many as 1,300,000 could not have left from 1841 to 1851. He also denied that the agricultural condition of Ireland was so bad as represented, but on the contrary, when "the royal Speech refers to the prospects of the country being on the whole satisfactory, of course the agricultural condition of Ireland is included in that general reference."

THE WAR IN DENMARK.

THE COMMONS, MONDAY.—In answer to Lord Cecil, Lord Palmerston said Her Majesty's Government had remonstrated with Austria and Prussia upon their conduct. The noble lord continued, "It was alleged for some time at Berlin that if resistance were made in Slesvig to the entrance of German troops, that resistance leading to conflict, that conflict would establish war, and war put an end to treaties. Now, we said in reply that that was a most preposterous doctrine—and if that doctrine were once established, any strong Power which had an inconvenient treaty with a weaker Power would have nothing to do, for the purpose of freeing itself from its engagements, but to commence an unprovoked and unjustifiable attack, and then say, war is broken out, and war puts an end to treaties, and thereby, by its own unprovoked and unjustifiable aggression, free itself from the engagements it had entered into. That is a doctrine which I am sure no government which had any regard for itself or for the principles of good faith can seriously appeal to. It would be an utter disgrace to assent to such a doctrine."

THE LORDS. TUESDAY.—The Earl of Malmesbury, who signed the Treaty of 1852, the negotiations for which had been carried on by his predecessor in office, so that both the great parties are not only generally but officially responsible for that compact, gave some noteworthy explanations in reference to the affair. M. Bismarck, who was then a Prussian Minister, approved the Treaty, and was personally responsible for the arrangements. Moreover it was Minister Bismarck and Minister Manteuffel who persuaded the English Government not to submit the Treaty to the Diet. The Duke of Augustenburg, in consideration of receiving the sum of £350,000, agreed, for himself and his family, never to interfere in the succession as arranged by the Treaty of London. The Duke thanked the English Government for their good offices, and pledged himself publicly and privately to maintain the Government. His son, the present claimant, at the time twenty-four years old, was cognizant of the compact, but did not protest against it or in any way express dissatisfaction. The Earl Malmesbury asked, "what shall we say on the point of honour to the Duke of Augustenburg's son?" The noble lord was assured the Government had allowed the matter to stride from a European to a German question, and he wanted to know "whether Her Majesty's Government have obtained any guarantee from Austria and Prussia that they will evacuate Slesvig as soon as the November Constitution is withdrawn? Also whether, in the event of these Powers considering their treaty obligations with Denmark abrogated by acts of war, they still hold their obligations to be valid, and whether Her Majesty's Government holds them to be still so bound to Great Britain to maintain the integrity of the Danish monarchy?"

Earl Russell said he had always maintained that the question of Slesvig must be considered an international one, for Slesvig was no part of the German territory, and other European Powers had a right to take such part as they chose in any question of the relations between Denmark and that duchy. The Government had received no assurance from Austria and Prussia that Slesvig would be evacuated as soon as the November Constitution is withdrawn. He did not consider the treaty in any way abrogated by the war, and "as Austria and Prussia were now violating the engagements of the Treaty of London, they were bound to Great Britain, France, Russia, and Sweden to maintain and respect the integrity of Denmark."

The Earl of Derby regretted the Government had not obtained an assurance from Austria and Prussia, and he hoped Her Majesty's Ministers had pressed for such a guarantee. Earl Russell replied the Government had not asked expressly for a guarantee, but assumed that when the November Constitution was repealed Slesvig would be evacuated.

In answer to the Earl of Carnarvon, Earl Russell said the papers were in the hands of the printer, and could not be printed in less than three weeks. If his lordship is really anxious to produce the papers we have no doubt the Government printers, by a little effort, can turn out half a dozen blue-books in as many days, and we do not suppose the Dano-German correspondence will make more than six ordinary blue-books.

THE DANISH PAPERS.

THE COMMONS. TUESDAY.—A scene of considerable excitement took place in reference to the production of the Danish papers, and the Government had an opportunity of learning the temper of the House. In reply to Lord Cecil, Mr. Layard said he was afraid the papers would not be ready for three weeks. This announcement was received with loud cries of "Oh! oh!" Later in the evening Mr. Fitzgerald returned to the subject. He asked, "What may not have happened in three weeks, when in the space of three days we have seen Slesvig overrun, and a gallant people beaten down by an overwhelming force?" He noticed that when it suited Earl Russell, his despatches were published with wonderful promptness. He appealed to Lord Palmerston to rectify this tortuous policy of the Foreign Office. After a few words from Mr. Layard, who promised the House the papers with every possible speed, Mr. Disraeli arose and spoke against the proposed delay. "If Her Majesty's Ministers did not see fit to assemble Parliament at an earlier date, at all events, the papers ought to have been ready when Parliament met. The Under-Secretary says 'he went to the printer to-day;' but he ought to have gone to the printer long ago. He ought to have gone every day and every hour of the day. He ought to have insisted that these papers should be ready to present to Parliament." He (Mr. Disraeli) assumed, for the credit of the Foreign Office, that the MS. was ready. "Then distribute the documents amongst several printers, and you ought to be ready to produce them in forty-eight hours. The House ought to insist that the papers should be circulated in forty-eight hours, or it is relinquishing the the fulfilment of its highest duty." The honourable gentleman was loudly cheered. Lord Palmerston, in reply, joked about the forty-eight hours, and promised that there should be no delay.

THE BURNING OF KAGOSIMA.

Mr. Buxton moved a resolution, "That this House, while only imputing to Admiral Kuper a misconception of the duty imposed upon him, deeply regret the burning of Kagosima, as being contrary to those usages of war which prevail among civilised nations, and to which it is the policy and duty of this country to adhere." After a long discussion, in which all parties concurred in regretting the burning of Kagosima, the resolution passed, the words imputing any blame to Admiral Kuper being omitted. Will the regret be followed by what restitution is in the power of the country?

THE TOWNLEY CASE.

Sir George Grey introduced a Bill to amend the law in reference to lunatic prisoners. By this Bill it is provided that only the visiting justices of the prison, assisted by medical officers appointed by themselves, can sign the certificate of insanity. In the Townley case, Sir George Grey admitted there was a miscarriage of justice, but denied that he was responsible for it. Mr. Locke could not see why, unless there is one law for the rich and another for the poor, Townley should not now be executed. Mr. Bright defended the course of the Home Secretary, and argued against the right and expediency of the punishment of death. Sir J. Pakington thought Sir George Grey was right in acting on the certificate of insanity, though it had been obtained by a trick; but when the trick was exposed and the prisoner proved to be sane, he did not understand why he was reprieved.

LONDON RAILROADS.

Mr. M. Gibson proposed to appoint a Select Committee of five to inquire into the best method of dealing with the Metropolitan Railway schemes, and that the Lords should be invited to choose five peers to form a joint committee. The estimated cost of railways projected within the metropolis, on which deposits have already been paid, is £34,000,000, and one quarter of the entire area of the City was scheduled for railway purposes. Mr. Crawford said this was a momentous question to commerce and to a large mass of the community. There would soon be nine railway stations in the City, and he contended that was enough. Mr. Massey cautioned the House not to sanction too many schemes or to proceed too fast. Railways constructed ten years ago were already obsolete. The way to relieve the traffic of the City was rather by making new streets and widening old ones than by multiplying railroads.

AMERICA.

THE LORDS. THURSDAY.—The Earl of Derby, commenting on the diplomatic correspondence just published at Washington, said, "Notwithstanding the concessions which the noble earl (Russell) has made to the Federal States of America in carrying out what he calls neutrality, but what I am afraid I must call one-sided neutrality, he has received from these States not thanks, because I believe that papers which have been laid before the Senate of the United States show that we were met by demands and menaces, which I should be much astonished if any one calling himself a British Minister must not have felt a difficulty in receiving when the despatches containing them were placed in his hands." His lordship hoped Earl Russell had sent an answer to the despatch of Mr. Seward, in which this country is threatened with all kinds of punishments unless we put a stop to the sale of such vessels as the *Alabama*, that there would be an end of such monstrous demands for the future. But it appeared that that despatch was received about the end of August, and "early in September the noble earl took the strong step of seizing the so-called Confederate rams in the Mersey upon that very suspicion as to which, a year before, the Attorney-General informed Parliament that the Government would not be warranted in interfering."

THE COMMONS. THURSDAY.—Lord Palmerston said the Government lamented the continuance of the war, and were determined to persevere in the same policy of neutrality. Mr. H. Baillie remarked that though Ministers always professed to be neutral, they had yielded to the threats of the Federal Government, and had connived at a breach of international law which helped the North and injured the South. He alluded to the paper blockade which this country, in violation of the Treaty of Paris, had acknowledged. The Federals, finding they could not make the blockade effective, had committed outrages on British ships and commerce which, in his (Mr. Baillie's) opinion, were worse than the *Trent* affair. Federal officers had been instructed to capture ships sailing direct from ports in this country to Her Majesty's colony of the Bahamas, and vessels so captured have been condemned in American prize courts. "The *Memorial Diplomatique* had pointed out the injustice of arbitrarily assimilating articles of commerce to contraband of war, of seizing a whole cargo on account of a few insignificant articles alleged to be contraband, and of capturing a neutral vessel going from one neutral port to another, under the pretext of an improper ultimate destination. This, however, seemed to be a matter of no interest to Her Majesty's Government." The flag of England no longer protects our commerce and seamen from outrage, but the Federals did not dare to so treat the flag of France. It had been argued that it was for the future interest of England to permit the fullest latitude to the construction of the law of blockade; but this was an error. Because we permitted the violation of that law of nations, could we insist upon other governments following our example? Mr. Whiteside reminded Mr. Gladstone of his declaration that the Southern leaders had made a nation, and asked how it was the Cabinet was not unanimous on the American question.

THE COMMONS. FRIDAY.—Commenting on Irish emigration, Mr. Whiteside said, "It is computed that within the last thirteen months 100,000 fighting men have gone to the States of America. Thus, it appears, that whole armies are going out to fight the battles of America, and while subtle lawyers are fighting sham battles in the law courts, and puzzling their brains to find out why a ship, which is but a mere log upon the waters until it is manned, should not be launched, the Americans are enlisting in Ireland, and inducing to go to the States, under great promises of high pay and remuneration, whole armies of men, of that stuff which in former times, on many a bloody field, defended your empire and maintained your glory." The reply of the Irish Secretary, Sir Robert Peel, cannot be charged with exhibiting any undue sentimentality. He said, "No doubt it is a sad thing to find men induced to leave their homes under false pretences, and on arriving in America forced almost to find employment in the armies of the Federal States. But we cannot order the people not to emigrate if they so please, and I maintain that it is far better for them to leave a country where it is impossible to obtain adequate remuneration for their labour."

Mr. Bentinck thought the Government ought to have told the House whether or not they intended to continue the recognition "of the paper blockade, which had existed for some time, and which was becoming every day a more completely absurd farce." He also was of opinion that the Government should inform the House what was to be done about the outrages on British shipping, and particularly as to the recent cold-blooded murder of the mate of the *Saxon* by a Federal officer.

Mr. W. E. Duncombe denounced the one-sided neutrality of the Government and the straining of the laws of this country by which "the Northern States had been favoured at the expense of the South." How long would the Government let this calamitous war go on, without, in conjunction with other Powers, making some effort to restore peace? A year ago the Chancellor of the Exchequer had declared that the South was a nation, but as yet no step had been taken towards recognising the independence of the Confederate States. He blamed the Government for refusing the proposal of the Emperor Napoleon, "that the two nations should use their good offices between the belligerents; and he regretted this the more, because the Emperor in the *Trent* affair supported the British Government by representations which probably averted war between England and America."

THE LORDS. TUESDAY.—The Earl of Derby asked for correspondence in addition to that already laid upon the table. Earl Russell promised an answer on Thursday, but

in the meantime refused to produce the correspondence about the rams, as the matter is about to be brought before a court of law. His lordship then explained that Mr. Seward's despatch of the 11th July, 1863, in which he threatened and bullied the Government with unusual vehemence, was not delivered by Mr. Adams; and that Mr. Adams, though alluding to this despatch in his correspondence, had "informed him (Earl Russell) expressly that he had not handed it to him." The noble lord therefore had not been called upon to answer it.

What a genuine Yankee trick! Mr. Seward lays the despatch before Congress, and so gets a little popularity by showing how he can insult this country, though he knows that the despatch was not delivered. We expect the true explanation is that Mr. Adams intimated to Earl Russell that he had such a despatch, but that he would not deliver it, if his lordship conducted himself to the satisfaction of the Washington Government.

THE COMMONS, TUESDAY.—In answer to Mr. Peacocke, Mr. Layard said the Government would not produce the papers in reference to the *Alexandra*, as the case was under judicial inquiry. In answer to Sir Hugh Cairns, Mr. Layard stated that Mr. Seward's despatch of July 11, had not been delivered. Upon this the following conversation ensued.

Lord R. Cecil—Do I understand the Secretary to say that no despatch from Mr. Adams to the Foreign-office, conveying the demands which Mr. Seward made, has been forwarded to the Foreign-office? and if there is no despatch, is there any memorandum of any verbal application conveying the same insolent demands?

Mr. Layard.—I have stated that although that despatch appeared in the newspapers, we have no knowledge of it; it was never communicated, and we cannot produce it.

Lord R. Cecil.—And was there no verbal demand?

Mr. Layard.—No verbal communication in that sense was ever held.

It will be noticed that Mr. Layard is careful not to commit himself to the statement that Mr. Adams had not informed the Government of the existence of the despatch of July 11th.

ARTILLERY.

THE LORDS, TUESDAY.—There has for some time been waged a very sharp warfare between Sir W. Armstrong and Mr. Whitworth, each of these distinguished artilleristsclaiming that his inventions are the best; and the matter was brought under the notice of their lordships by the Earl of Hardwicke. Earl de Grey and Ripon said that in 1862 some experiments were made at Shoeburyness, at which Mr. Whitworth's shells passed through the *Warrior* shield. The Government then, at the request of Mr. Whitworth, appointed a committee to further investigate the merits of the gun. This committee ordered a number of guns, 12-pounders and 70-pounders. The former had been delivered, but owing to the difficulty in getting the proper materials, or steel, Mr. Whitworth had not delivered the latter, and the Government would not adopt a new gun for the navy upon imperfect experiments. In the course of the discussion the Duke of Somerset said that "he had very little doubt that in a short time they would be able to send spherical shells through iron-built ships."

"DESPAIR OF THE SOUTH."

(From the *New York Daily News.*)

No less than seven journals of this city, on yesterday, commented on what they choose to consider the signs of despair in the Southern Confederacy. This is not the first time that premature peans of victory have gone forth from the North, and in former cases they have been the prelude to the most stubborn and active campaigns of the war. During the present interval of comparative military repose, the press of the two sections, being somewhat stinted of the accustomed food for excitement, naturally gives more rein to imagination, and follows up the themes best calculated to fix the attention of the public. The journals of the South, with the true American characteristic, launch forth the thunders of opposition against the policy and official conduct of their rulers. The journals of the North, whose habit of fault-finding, inveterate as it is, is not quite so much a ruling trait as the propensity to boast and be oracular, begin to draw air pictures with rosy tints, and read the sealed books of the future through the medium of their most sanguine hopes. But as the Fates work on at their relentless looms, regardless of even the simultaneous prophecies of seven oracles of the metropolitan press, we shall probably in time be startled from visions of Southern submission by the roar of Southern artillery and the shouts of Southern defiance.

In place of accepting the fierce denunciations of Confederate journals against the acts of their officials as evidences of infirmity of purpose or lack of heart, let us rather consider the nature of those acts that thus excite so much open opposition. It is the energy and determined action of the Confederate authorities that have given the complaining editors their cue. Decisive and strong measures on the part of a government will always intensify the antagonism of its opponents, in the same ratio that they encourage and increase the support of its adherents. There never was an administration, not even that of the pure and patriotic Washington, that had not its assailants. So in the Confederacy, the administration of Jefferson Davis is subject to this inevitable rule. The Southern press is divided between condemnation and justification of his policy; and in proportion as that policy is vigorous and energetic it is assailed by one party and applauded by the other.

But while the columns of the Southern press teem either with laudation or abuse, they exhibit no signs of disaffection to the cause. There is nothing in their most bitter invective that can be construed into a confession of despair. On the contrary, those journals that are the most abusive are at the same time the most emphatic in their expressions of repugnance to reconstruction. The very vehemence of their remonstrances against certain measures of their rulers is a proof that they are not in the submissive vein. Men that are broken-hearted, irresolute and despairing, do not criticise their political machinery with so much manly earnestness and spirit. As the Southern people mean to stand by their Government in the field, they insist upon their privilege of railing at its administrators. Hearty abuse is a symptom of pluck, and when the Southern press is silent upon the subject of their political affairs, *then* the North may argue that the spirit of resistance is broken.

But, while it is folly to deduce the signs of despair from the critical temper of the Southern press, it is wisdom to note the sign of strong will and firmness in those measures that gave rise to severe criticism. It is certain that the Confederate Government is arousing its utmost energies and preparing for hard fighting in the next campaign. Its armies, in their present condition, refute those worn-out theories of speedy submission that have so often been advanced and as often contradicted by the stern logic of desperate battles; and whatever may be heard from the tone of the Southern press, it is known, from the same source, that the strength of the Confederacy is about to be concentrated upon the military operations of next spring.

The efforts of the war press to represent the South as always upon the verge of submission or despair are not at all suggestive of their confidence in the war feeling of the North. It looks very much as if they feared that popular opinion needed encouragement, and that the prospect of a very early final triumph was essential to re-create the fire of enthusiasm. If Southern journals are profuse in their professions of determination and anticipated triumph, it is attributed to the necessity of sustaining their fainting spirits. If they are silent upon that theme, and steadily analyse the difficulties that surround them, too is made the evidence of despair. The South has already been subjugated a dozen times, in theory; but it seems that when the theories are most brilliant, the facts are least able to support them. If the South despair it is that kind of despair that stimulates exertion, and calls into action all the elements of resistance. It is that kind of despair that faces the threatened danger, and endures the actual misfortune. It is that kind of despair, a better fighting material than buoyant hope.

TREATMENT OF CONFEDERATE PRISONERS IN FEDERAL PRISONS.

THE following has been sent to us from Canada for publication:—

December 27th, 1863.

To his Excellency, JEFFERSON DAVIS:—

Humanity and justice to your captured officers require that you have their present situation told you. In the Western Penitentiary, Alleghany City, there are 106 of Morgan's officers, principally lieutenants. Since the escape of General Morgan they have all been separated, put in the condemned cells and kept there day and night. They are allowed to cook twice a week a small allowance of beef and a few cold potatoes. In the Penitentiary at Columbus, Ohio, there are a number of Morgan's officers, many of them of high rank in the army; my belief is that there are nearly 200. As soon as it was discovered that General Morgan was gone, they were placed in the condemned cells, which are so cold and damp and dark that they cannot see to read nor write on cloudy days. I will transcribe a part of a letter that I have been allowed to read from a Confederate major to his uncle. He writes: Since the escape of our General we have been kept in the solitary cells; these being 7 by 3½ feet, very cold, damp and dark, I could not write in the day. We were allowed a light from 5 to 8 p.m. It is by its feeble glimmer that I now write to you. Our clothes, goods and chattels of all kinds are taken from us. We are not allowed any newspapers, but they furnish us with items. The latest items of the last two weeks are that Bragg is totally routed with the loss of all his artillery and 18,000 men; that Meade has captured 25,000 men from Lee, and is now within a few miles of Richmond; that Wheeler is captured with 5,000 men; that Longstreet, after heavy loss, is completely surrounded and must soon surrender his whole force. Our promenade is on a plank six feet by one-and-a-half, on which I can take three short steps, then turn, and three more, until compelled from dizziness to rest—not for a long time, however, for the cold soon stirs me to a renewal of my exercise. Colonel Duke and the brothers of Morgan are in dungeons. At Johnston Island the prisoners are not allowed to receive any money, bibles, nor clothing, except from relations. The great proportion sent from relatives is stolen. The same punishment is at Camp Chase. By a refinement of cruelty, they issued an order that there should be no intercourse, even by letter, except with parents, brothers and sisters, as if such persons were in Yankee lines. You may safely act on this information; it is true. You will soon receive a messenger and a token that will confirm all that is herein contained. I cannot give my name nor write my natural hand for fear; should this be captured, I would suffer for having written it. General Morgan will know from whom this comes. I am the lady who, on the 28th of November, fastened his shawl with a black pin. Praying God to shield and protect you and the Confederates in every clime, I write myself,

A TRUE AND SINCERE SOUTHERN.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have heard from a reliable source that Colonel Duke and General Morgan's brothers have been placed in what the Yankees call the sweet box, an instrument of torture worthy of the Inquisition. It is a close box, so small that they have to stand with their heads bowed, can neither stand upright, nor can they sit down. These brave men are kept in this infernal machine for four hours every day, and then taken to their dungeons. If they are not soon rescued they will die.

THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN AMERICA.

THE *auto da fe* of Santiago has caused such a thrill of horror from one end of England to the other, that for the moment it seems to cast into the shade all contemporary events. If any help from us, any strong arm of safety stretched out across the wide Atlantic and the distant continent, could, by an impossible miracle, have snatched these victims from their doom, have rescued these 2,000 unhappy women, in the morning of the sacrifice rejoicing in their strength and beauty, in the evening an undistinguishable mass of blackened corpses, is it conceivable that such help would have been withheld? If, to put an incredible case, we could imagine some half-insane fanatic, who, regarding such a holocaust as a fitting atonement for an act of superstitious worship, would have refused to interfere to prevent it, had that been in his power, would not the common voice of mankind cry out upon such barbarous inhumanity as worthy only of the fiends of hell? And yet the special application which was made by the Prophet to David touches many of us very nearly here. The American civil war is a far more stupendous calamity than even this hideous accident of the burning in Chili. Its victims are numbered by millions instead of by thousands. Not within the walls of a church, but over a vast and once smiling region as large as Europe, is the scene of this tragedy. It is not consummated in the brief agony of fifteen minutes, but extended over a length of years in which a brave and dauntless people is being gradually exterminated by a process of slow torture. It is difficult to conceive how any man professing Christian sentiments or the feelings which are generally supposed to be common to humanity can look on unmoved at such a spectacle. We must suppose that those who tell us that it is neither our duty nor our interest to deprecate such a strife, because, forsooth, America might have been a terrible foe to England had she remained unmutilated, have hardly considered the full meaning of their advice, which boils its issues, from a motive even more unworthy than that of indifference, the cold barbarity of the Levite of the parable, who "passed by on the other side."

Since that long distant day when the fathers of our race, stern and heroic warriors migrated to this island from that same Schleswig shore which is now resounding with the tramp of armed hosts, no calamity comparable to the war between North and South has ever befallen the men of Anglo-Saxon birth. Twice in our civil wars has our nobility been all but exterminated, and in the middle ages the Black Death and other plagues swept off their tenantries from among those whom the sword had spared. But we might almost count on our fingers the thousandth of our country's defenders who have perished in the most disastrous of our foreign wars. We think we speak below the mark if we say that this most gigantic and most murderous of wars which is now raging everywhere from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, has, on both armies at the rate of half a million a year. Let us bring into the calculation the countless widows and orphans who are mourning for the dead, and in reckoning into the picture the wide desolation of a once fertile and happy country, the ruined towns, the deserted villages, the blazing homesteads, let us add to it the moral plagues, the cruelty, the lust, the unquenchable hate and fury, which animate the combatants, the development of the fiendish element, and the eclipse of all that is godlike in the breasts of the combatants, and we shall obtain a faint picture of this Pandemonium which has been made of the America which under such happy auspices was colonised by our kinsmen not many years ago.

The Federal Americans must surely have lost all hope of conquering back the allegiance of the South. It was just a year ago that a New York newspaper editor put plainly before his readers the sum of the advantages which had been reaped in two years of war. Is the picture any brighter now than at the time when the following description was given of the way in which the North was "avenging Sumter?" The sum total of the Federal loss being set at 460,000, that of the Confederates at 223,000, a comparison infinitely unsatisfactory to begin with, the writer continues—"But this is not all. We have spent almost two thousand millions more of money than they have spent. We have made 200,000 of our women widows, 1,000,000 of our children fatherless. We have destroyed the constitution of our country. We have brought the ferocious savagery of war into every corner of society. We have demoralised our pulpits, so that our very religion is a source of immorality and blood. Instead of being servants of Christ, our ministers are servants of Satan. The land is full of contractors, thieves, provost-marshals, and a thousand other tools of illegal and despotic power, as Egypt was of vermin in the days of the Pharaohs. We are rapidly degenerating in every that exalts a nation. Our civilisation is perishing. We are drifting into inevitable civil war here in the North. We are turning our homes into charnel-houses. There is a corpse in every family. The Angel of Death sits at every door. The Devil has removed from Tartarus to Washington." With the exception of the last statement, for the strict veracity of which we cannot vouch, this graphic description, when penned, was as true as it is terrible. If after another year of slaughter and misery we cannot add to it, it is because such darkness does not admit of a deeper shade.

Are we, then, tamely to stand by without so much as lifting up our voice against the continuance of this horror? While America is rushing to her suicide, are there none in England who will even call out, Hold! It cannot, we trust, be laid to the charge of this journal that its writers have been two unmindful of the sacred duty of recommending peaceful counsels, even when such advice becomes wearisome for its very sameness. We rejoice, too, to think that there are many in England who are heartily disposed to work in the same good cause. There are different ways in which they may aim at this end. There are those who, like ourselves, heartily sympathise with the Confederates in their struggle for independence—of such men has been formed the Southern Independence Association, which endeavours to put an end to the war by urging upon the European Governments the duty of recognising the South. It is possible, however, that there are many sincere friends of the North who desire a pacification as earnestly as those who confess to a contrary bias. To include all these there has been lately set on foot a "Society for Promoting the Cessation of Hostilities in America." Its object is by wide association, by petition, by the publication of papers, by enlisting in its cause the great mass of the clergy and ministers of the Gospel, to put all the moral pressure possible on the people and Government of England, the peoples and Governments of America, so as by some means or other to restore the blessings of peace to that distracted country. It is a good work, in which no man should wish to be backward. These societies are prepared to co-operate without jealousy. The only difference is, that the one is on a more enlarged and catholic basis than the other. Every man who deprecates the continuance of this miserable slaughter and havoc among those who speak our language, and are more or less related to us by ties of blood and kindred, must feel that it is not his duty to stand aloof any longer. We recommend every man of any position or influence to join one or other of these societies without delay, and to give at least his mite towards the furtherance of a humane movement.—*Standard.*

THE financial advices from America to-day show that the specie in the banks continues uninterruptedly to decline. The Government deposits have recently been kept up by the subscriptions to the last loan of £100,000,000, but these have now terminated. The weekly return of the New York banks presents another reduction of £161,000, and the total held being only £4,970,000, the question as to the possibility of the Government finding means to pay future dividends in gold is beginning to perplex a few persons among the financial classes, although the general public seem still to entertain perfect confidence with regard to it.—*Times City Article.*

ENGLAND has hitherto been regarded as a powerful State, and as possessing no inconsiderable moral weight in the councils of nations. That reputation has not, however, been gained by pursuing, irrespective of all circumstances, a policy of non-intervention. If England proclaims to the world that, notwithstanding her vast fleets and her well-appointed armies, no considerations will induce her to employ them unless she is personally attacked, it is plain that she will exercise no more influence in staving off a European war than if she were Madagascar. Is she prepared to make this extraordinary confession of narrow-minded selfishness?—*Morning Post.*

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

OUR friends in the United Kingdom and on the Continent are earnestly requested to forward to us, at their earliest convenience, such information relative to the military movements and condition of affairs in America as they may receive through private letters, either from the United States, or from the Confederate States. They may rely upon the most scrupulous precautions being observed; that no names or facts leading to identification will, under any circumstances, be revealed. No communications, however, will be noticed unless authenticated by a responsible name. Southern newspapers, of any date, will be useful and acceptable presents.

Our subscribers in the South will have their paper supplied through HENRY HOTZE, Esq., the Confederate States Commercial Agent in London, who has kindly tendered us his services in this respect during the continuance of the blockade.

For the convenience of our distant subscribers, all the receipts for subscriptions signed by any of the official representatives, or commissioned officers of the Confederate States, will be recognized at this office.

Subscription, 26s. per annum—post paid, 30s., payable in advance.

All communications on business to be addressed, and Post-Office Orders made payable to, J. B. HOPKINS, 13, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street, London E.C.

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At Liverpool, to MR. HUTTON, 6, Commercial-buildings, 17, Water-st.

At Manchester, F. A. HASLEHAM, Esq., Manchester Southern Club Office, Market-street.

At Paris, to Messrs. PFEIFFER and MULLER, 52, Rue du Château d'Eau, Paris.

At Turin, to Sr. FILIPPO MANETTA, 4, Borgo Nuovo.

At St. Thomas (West Indies), C. W. WHITE, Esq.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1864.

Mr. J. H. Ashbridge, Treasurer of the Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following additional contributions:—

Messrs. Fraser, Trenholm, & Co., additional	£100	0	0
James Adger, Esq., additional	100	0	0
J. J. McComb, Esq., additional	25	0	0
Andrew Stewart, Esq., additional	20	0	0
Miss Prioleau, collections	32	0	0
M. J. Klingender, Esq.	10	0	0
T. A. Patterson, Esq.	10	6	0
J. T. Brown, Esq.	2	2	0
John Legrer, Esq.	10	0	0
A. A. Nevins, Esq.	10	0	0
Gastona Cabella, Esq., Genoa	4	0	0
Proceeds sale of music by Mrs. H. O. Bremer	4	14	0
Proceeds of sale of paintings, the gift of a Scotch Lady in Paris	5	0	0
A Confederate Lady. (10-guilder note sold for)	0	16	0

Movements in Tennessee.

AFTER a few weeks of repose during the inclement weather the armies of the South are once more in motion, and we may in all probability expect, before many days are over, the news of the commencement of operations on a grand scale for the expulsion of the Federals from Tennessee. The position of the Northern armies in the eastern portion of that State, though it possesses numerous advantages, if it can be securely held, is, in the present relative proportions of the strength of the two Powers, a source of undeniable weakness to the North. General Grant cannot afford to yield an inch of ground. Retreat from Chattanooga would be almost equivalent to giving up the contest; the abandonment of Knoxville would render Chattanooga untenable. The Federals therefore must hold on, trusting for supplies and support to their very lengthened line of communication; whilst the Confederates, perfectly safe from a blow, their communications open, and their supplies at hand, can gather their strength at any part of the enemy's line for a dash at his trains or even for a serious flank movement imperilling the safety of the invading army. It was very hastily assumed by the Federal organs in this city when Longstreet retired from before Knoxville, that the possession of Eastern Tennessee was fully secured to the Federals—that no new attack was to be apprehended from his army, and that the new base for operations in the spring against Eastern Virginia and North Carolina was thoroughly secured. Nothing could have been farther from the truth. Longstreet, after defeating the Federal army sent in pursuit of him, faced about, advanced, and took up a strong position within twenty miles of Knoxville, his cavalry scouring the country many miles in front, and on more than one occasion cutting off Federal detachments and outposts. Within the last two months this force has been considerably reinforced, and has now resumed the offensive. The latest telegrams from New York announce that a forward movement has commenced, that Longstreet's cavalry are within four miles of Knoxville, and that something like a panic is prevailing. But Longstreet's advance will not be unsupported. We hear from Federal sources that Morgan, the celebrated cavalry leader, is preparing an expedition on a grand scale, which is to pass through the Gaps on the eastern frontier of Kentucky, and operate, simultaneously with Longstreet's advance, upon the Federal line of communication with Knoxville. We are ignorant of the strength of Longstreet's command, but it is sufficiently strong to excite considerable uneasiness at Washington, and if it has reached the numbers ascribed to it by the New York press, it musters very little short of 40,000 men. The Federal army is at this moment at its worst. Many of its regiments have left the seat of war on furlough. It has been found necessary to grant the Northern army this indulgence. Many others are about to be broken up by the withdrawal of the three years' service men. The time, therefore, seems well chosen for a bold stroke, and this, we believe, will not long be delayed. The retrograde movement of General Johnson inspires this belief. The Confederate army under his command, whether forty miles or twenty miles from Chattanooga, is equally incapable of attacking Grant's superior force. Moreover, it has so long "subsisted" in the neighbourhood of Dalton, that its supplies of forage must have been obtained with great difficulty. A forward movement from Chattanooga cannot be attempted while Longstreet is menacing Knoxville, and even the flank of Grant's army. It is quite possible, therefore, that General Johnson has also supplemented the forces under Longstreet, and that the attack, whenever made, will be delivered with an overwhelming force. The retrograde movement of Johnson's army is in this way easily explained. Nor is the Federal army at Chattanooga left in perfect repose. The Confederate cavalry, under Generals Forrest and Stephen Lee—both able leaders of cavalry—are at work all along the Federal line of communication with the West. We hear of them at Florence and Athens in Alabama, and although the Federals in both places report their repulse, there can be no doubt that they did considerable mischief, and that when the Confederate accounts turn up large captures of supplies will be notified.

The chairman of the Military Committee of the Northern Senate, in a recent report, estimates the effective force of the South at 260,000 men, that of the North at 400,000. We will take his estimate as a fair one, and ask the English public if such odds warrant the presumptuous tone of confidence taken by the Federal press in this country. 400,000 men to defeat 260,000 men in the field, and subjugate half a continent, to hold the line of the Mississippi, to overrun Texas, to take Charleston, Mobile, and Wilmington, to beat Lee's army in the field and storm the defences of Richmond, to dispose of Longstreet and Johnson, and march through and over a population as bitterly hostile to them as were the Spaniards to the French when Massena retreated, or the Germans to the first Napoleon's troops after Leipsic. Can any one wonder that the Federal press in New York more prudent than the overzealous organs of the United States published in this country warn the Northern people against indulging in too sanguine dreams of early triumph, and point out to them the strength and the threatening attitude of the Southern armies. As an answer to the jubilant prophecies of the *Daily News* we will quote a few lines from the *New York Times*, a paper which has never before expressed a doubt as to the early termination of the struggle. "There is little doubt," says the *New York Times*, "that the spring will find the rebel armies heavily reinforced as the result of the present active measures. . . . . The military operations that will mark the spring campaign in the West are destined to assume a character of vastness and intensity that will outstrip all we have yet seen. . . . . General Grant's force should be doubled this winter, and if it is not materially increased, we may as well contemplate the possibility, at least, of our being compelled to give up even the region we now hold." And yet the English public is treated about once a week to long disquisitions on the demoralisation and starvation of the Southern armies; on the impossibility of retaining the soldiers in the ranks; on the certainty that Longstreet's and Johnson's and Lee's armies will collapse when threatened by the point of a Federal bayonet. The truth is on the side of the New York paper. This year's struggle will surpass those that have preceded it, in "vastness and intensity of character." Throughout the South President Lincoln's coldblooded message has had its effect, and there is but one resolve in every Southern State—to fight to the end. It is significant of the deferred hopes of the Washington Administration, that even Mr. Seward has given up fixing a day for the final triumph. He still threatens Earl Russell, and would seem by his insulting language almost to desire to stir the gentle temper of that nobleman into patriotic fury. Even he is no longer confident. Events in Tennessee have taught him a useful lesson. He postpones the crushing of the rebellion until the end of Mr. Lincoln's second presidency. With the Mississippi once more blockaded, with Louisiana, three or four strongholds excepted, at the mercy of the Confederates, with Tennessee still unconquered, and Lee's, Longstreet's and Johnston's forces co-operating for a great plan of campaign in the spring, he may well look abroad for a new *deus ex machinâ* to extricate him from his difficulties. For the position of the North is still so hazardous, that one great decisive defeat may awaken her citizens to their perils, their sufferings, and their humiliation, and close amidst the indignation of two great peoples the career of the worst and most incompetent Government the nineteenth century has seen.

Prospects of Parties.

THE personal popularity of Lord Palmerston is a phenomenon which perplexes foreign understandings and baffles English explanations. Indeed, if we were to put any faith in the latter, the bewilderment of the former would be extremely natural. Some of our political theorists seriously tell us that England, the most practical and common-sense nation in the world, trusts her destinies implicitly to the guidance of a single minister, merely because that minister is a vigorous, genial, agreeable veteran of nearly eighty. This is too absurd to be maintained for an instant, when we once begin to question the assertion. In the first place, it supposes a degree of imbecility or indifference in regard to their highest interests, which does not appear in any other manifestation of the opinions and feelings of Englishmen. It supposes that a people keenly alive to political interests, and not generally weakminded or enthusiastic, are willing to sink all political differences, and abandon themselves in confidence to the care of a single statesman, out of more admiration for qualities and merits which, after all, prove nothing more than the vigour of his constitution and the soundness of his digestion. In the next place, it reminds us of the very opposite fate of another octogenarian statesman, a man of far higher intellectual calibre than Lord Palmerston, who nevertheless held but one office, and that only for a short time, and who never exercised any real influence on the course of national policy. Lord Lyndhurst was an older man than the present Premier; he was as vigorous, hearty, and energetic; he was a great orator, while Lord Palmerston is actually a bad speaker; he possessed one of the finest intellects of his generation, while Lord Palmerston never displayed any higher talents than are implied in a sound practical judgment, a remarkable administrative efficiency, and an unrivalled skill in parliamentary strategy. Yet, outside of the circle of politicians by profession, no one knew or cared much for Lord Lyndhurst, while all England likes, respects, and trusts Lord Palmerston. It is plain, therefore, that Lord Palmerston does not owe his authority and influence merely to the accidents of age, good health, and good temper. Nor can we agree with those who think that he represents the real character and feeling of the nation, on any subject whatever. So far as the

vigilant maintenance of our honour abroad is concerned, he was once held to be more thoroughly English in his policy than any of his rivals; but this has ceased to be the case since the Foreign-office has been filled by Lord Russell. In regard to domestic policy, he is a far less true representative of the temper of the nation than the late Sir G. C. Lewis on the one side—who fairly embodied the views of the Liberal section of the educated class—or Lord Derby on the other, who is the natural leader of the Conservative gentlemen of England, and of their powerful following among the commercial and agricultural classes.

But Lord Palmerston is the only man who unites the three great qualities necessary to the composition of a statesmanlike character. He is a man of great practical sagacity; he knows what the policy of England is and ought to be better than any man living. He is a man of quick tact; he catches the tone of public feeling, and understands what the country wants and will have, and, since the death of Sir Robert Peel, he has almost a monopoly of this valuable endowment. And what is of still more importance, he is the only man on either side of the House who is capable of forming a foreign policy, instead of waiting to have it formed for him by the press and by Parliament. Sagacity, tact, and independent judgment are qualities which, in combination, will always give a man weight and influence in public life; and Lord Palmerston owes much to his possession, and still more to his rivals' lack, of these qualifications. He owes, also, a good deal to accident. He was trained in the old school of statesmen, which existed before the Reform Bill, when the Government really governed, originated, and controlled the course of national policy in a manner that has been impossible since 1832. Whatever its faults, that system certainly tended to produce men of stronger will and clearer views than can arise under the present *régime*, in which the Cabinet waits on the House of Commons; and Lord Palmerston is the last of the statesmen whom it produced. Again, he has the advantage of a long official experience in the most important of all administrative posts, and in that which it is most essential for a premier to understand. Parliament can repair the errors of domestic administration, but the blunders of the Foreign-office are irretrievable. And, finally, Lord Palmerston has this personal advantage: that, while only one man of distinguished ability among the statesmen who are comparatively unattached to party refuses to serve under him, there are several who would refuse to serve under any other premier whatsoever.

Thus, Lord Palmerston has two advantages which no rival or successor can possess. He is trusted by the country, which believes him capable of dealing with any emergency in foreign politics, and knows itself competent to deal with any other. And he is able to form a stronger administration, in point of Parliamentary talent, than any other statesman could form. And therefore, while Lord Palmerston leads them, the Liberals are masters of the field. They may be ejected from office over and over again, but so long as their chief is the man to whom the country looks in any serious peril, so long they will always tend towards Downing-street, and no mere blunder in legislation or in government can long exclude them thence.

But it is plain that this influence with the country—this gravitation towards office—is personal to Lord Palmerston. It is not the inheritance of the Liberal party. On the contrary, they have recently shown a strong tendency in the opposite direction. They are disposed to revive questions which the country would like to be left at rest; they are a party of movement in a country which desires stability; they have, moreover, taken up certain crotchets about finance and foreign policy which the country does not approve, and which, in the event of any serious excitement, it will angrily repudiate. Their two ablest men, moreover, both have personal defects which render their tenure of office precarious. Lord Russell has a talent for blundering and quarrelling which, if he were not continually overruled and protected by Lord Palmerston, would send him, ere a month was out, into the cold shade of opposition. Mr. Gladstone has a passion for logical completeness and correctness which fits him rather for aggressive criticism than for financial administration. For, in the first place, the commercial community, which is very illogical, lives in constant uncertainty as to his future intentions; and uncertainty is the one thing which commerce cannot endure or forgive. In the second place, he has too frequently shown himself ready rather to make an enemy than to mar the symmetry of a budget. These are not faults of that kind which debar a politician from office; but they require that he should be supported in office by a power and popularity greater than his own. Except Lord Palmerston, no Liberal premier could sustain the weight of Mr. Gladstone's willfulness and Lord Russell's incapacity; while a Liberal ministry would hardly dare to exclude Lord Russell, and could not stand for a week against the attacks of Mr. Gladstone, if he were left at liberty to criticise its policy.

It is sometimes said that the country would be uneasy at seeing Lord Malmesbury at the Foreign-office and Mr. Disraeli at the Exchequer; and there may be some truth in this. But the country would be still more frightened if Lord Russell were left in the Foreign-office without the superintendence of Lord Palmerston; and there is a large number of influential men to whom any chancellor of the exchequer in the place of Mr. Gladstone would be welcome. The country would be very uneasy at the loss of Lord Palmerston; but it would bear the loss of all his colleagues with amazing equanimity. Apart from him, they have no influence with the nation. While he leads them, they remain in or gravitate towards office; when he leaves them, all parties will be left to stand of their own intrinsic strength or fall by their own weakness.

The Liberal party has no doubt certain elements of strength. It has the prestige of a virtual monopoly of office for seventeen years. It has the traditional influence of Lord Palmerston's name. It has another advantage, derived from the authorship of the Reform Bill—a number of close boroughs, which it contrived to spare in 1832. It has the most brilliant orator and the most scientific financier in the House of Commons. But it has in it elements of terrible weakness. In the first place, its present cohesion is artificial. Sixty or seventy of its members are not Liberals in a practical and party sense—that is, are not men on whose votes a Liberal Government could confidently reckon—but Radicals, with objects of their own to carry, and indifferent, save as the feasibility of these objects is thereby affected, which party may be in power. A hundred and more are Liberals only by accident, and agree in reality with nearly every article of the Conservative creed. They were born Liberals, or they wanted to get into Parliament, and found the Liberal party—then the Palmerstonian party—predominant in the place where their influence lay; or for some similar reason they professed Liberalism when to be a Liberal merely meant to follow Lord Palmerston, and not by any means to hate the Church or to desire the ballot. These men gravitate towards Conservatism, and when they resign or die their seats will be filled by Conservatives. Even now, Liberalism gains no recruits; and in Lewis and Lord Herbert it has lost the only two chiefs who could ever have commanded a national following.

We should have added, had we written this article last week, that the Liberal party had no young men of talent or promise. We cannot say so now. The new member for the City of London, cannot be five-and-thirty, and is therefore, as politicians go, a very young man. His speech on the Address was one of the best speeches of its kind we ever heard, and gave proof of qualities which must command for Mr. Goschen a very high place indeed among the rising generation of English statesmen. It was not only a good speech—many men may make good speeches who will never do anything else—it was a speech which displayed precisely those talents and endowments which make a statesman. There was the power of clear, dignified, graceful and definite expression; every one can understand exactly what Mr. Goschen thinks and why he thinks it. There was a tact in hitting the taste of the audience which was marvellous in a maiden speech. There were spirit, energy, and decision, as might be expected from a young and ambitious man; but there was also a maturity of thought, a range of commercial knowledge, and a measured calmness of expression on exciting topics, which few men learn until youth has long been passed. Nothing could have been better directed to hide the fatal blot of the ministerial programme than the spirited language of Mr. Goschen about Slesvig; nothing more suggestive or more terse than his remarks on the commercial prosperity of England could have been uttered by Mr. Cobden or Mr. Gladstone. Mr. Goschen is a godsend to the Liberals, for he brings them precisely what was wanting to give them a hold on life—a possible future. They have now one man who may reasonably expect to be alive and working fifteen years hence who is capable of becoming, with experience, a real and first-rate statesman. Nevertheless, there are few even among themselves who doubt that the party is doomed speedily to suffer a long and dark eclipse.

The Radicals are strong only for obstruction. It is not merely that they entertain views opposed to those of the country; for if that were all, a change in public opinion, or even a deadlock in Parliament, might bring them, at least for a time, into power. Nor is it that they want men of parliamentary capacity; for Forster, Cobden, Bright, and Stansfeld will bear comparison in that respect with any four Liberals or Conservatives. It is that they are chained to the policy of two men whose transcendent abilities make it impossible to do without them, while their political insanity—for it is no less—makes it impossible to place them in office. The Radicals are nothing without Bright and Cobden; and neither Bright nor Cobden can, under any conceivable circumstances, be tolerated as leading ministers. No one, even among the staunchest Radicals, dreams of putting either of them in the Foreign-office, the Colonial-office, or the War Department; much less could either of them be tolerated as premier.

The practical contest, therefore—though liable to be confused and perplexed by the intrusion of this abnormal faction, which, having no hope of office, has no responsibility in action and no scruples in Opposition—must lie between Liberals and Conservatives. We have shown what are the advantages and weaknesses of the former party. Their opponents, also, have many elements of strength, combined with one or two elements of perilous weakness, cropping out here and there at most inconvenient moments, and making their course in opposition uncertain, and their tenure of power unreliable. They are the party whose principles are now ascendant, and are likely to be so for years to come. They are pretty sure to have, before long, a decided majority in the House of Commons. They have an overwhelming preponderance of rising talent, in Parliament, at the bar, and nearly everywhere else. Against the solitary hope of the Whigs in Mr. Goschen they have to set Lord Carnarvon, Lord Stanley, Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald, Sir Stafford Northcote, and Lord R. Cecil; the last two of whom are likely ere long to hold a position in Parliament second only to that of the respective leaders of the Liberals and Conservatives. On the other hand, they want unanimity and mutual reliance. Except Lord Derby, there is no chief whom they could cordially acknowledge; and yet Lord Derby failed to keep order in his own Cabinet, and two of its most conscientious and respected members went out on a question on which the country, only a few weeks afterwards, almost unanimously decided against them. Except Mr. Disraeli, they have no man who could lead the House of Commons; but nearly a third of their number distrust and dislike Mr. Disraeli, and cannot be depended upon to follow him, unless when he has on his side the prestige and authority of office. And what is worse still, the Conservative feeling in the country is not a feeling in favour of the Conservative chiefs. Lord Derby awakens respect, esteem, admiration, but not enthusiasm; Mr. Disraeli, though he is not regarded with that suspicion and mistrust which liberal newspapers pretend to discern in the public judgment of his character, is yet not the chief whom the nation would have chosen. He puzzles them much as Mr. Gladstone puzzles them, and for much the same reason. Both these remarkable statesmen are destitute of political instincts; both of them form their judgment of political right and expediency by a purely intellectual process; and consequently both of them are apt to come to conclusions in which the nation does not agree, and each of them always reaches his conclusions in a way in which the sympathy of the nation does not go with him. We think that Mr. Gladstone suffers more from the former disadvantage and Mr. Disraeli from the latter. Mr. Gladstone, besides being at variance with the people in his conclusions, is often at variance with himself; Mr. Disraeli is always consistent, and very often in accord with the country. On the other hand, Mr. Gladstone sometimes contrives to chime in with the feelings and awaken the sympathy of the nation; Mr. Disraeli is rarely, if ever, able to do this. This is his defect, and the misfortune of his party. It is not that he is dishonest, or vindictive, or selfish, or insulting, or a mere "intellectual gladiator." He is the reverse of all this. He is a man eminently sincere, as he proves by his most unpopular crotchets about the Jews. He is most loyal as a party leader; most conciliatory as a leader of the House; most courteous to, and consequently most beloved by, the young men of his party. He has never, in his whole political career, begun a personal quarrel; he has never deserted a friend or betrayed a principle that he understood. But he does not feel as his party feels, nor think in their manner of thinking, and therefore their sympathies fail to follow him. He is an Englishman because he was born in England, and a Conservative because he believes Liberalism to be a mistake; but he is not an English Conservative by nature and temper, and therefore, though the acknowledged leader of the Conservative party, he is not the natural chief of Conservative England.

If he were, he would be in office now, and for his lifetime. As it is, he must come into office ere long; and it is probable that in office he will be much more popular than in opposition. The personal spite displayed by his adversaries, his own

good temper and courtesy, and the quiet good government which distinguishes the reign of a Conservative administration, cannot but tend to raise his credit with the country, as well as to confirm and secure his authority with his party. If this should be the case, and we expect that it will, the possession of office will tend to repair the worst defect in the structure of the Conservative party, and may secure its ascendancy until, as must happen in the course of time, Liberal principles shall again resume their hold upon the mind of the English people.

Entail and Primogeniture.

ANY attempt to make the mysteries of a science intelligible to the popular mind, usually results in increased obscurity. If the science has a history in which it loves to bury the secrets of its origin, growth, and nature, the study of it becomes an act of devotion. If to a tradition and a mystery a practical character is attached, so that there is a close relation of the science with the men and things of modern life, the complication is more embarrassing. Yet when violent attacks are made on systems sprung from political and social peculiarities, moulded by unexpected exigencies, and entangled with the specious claims of natural right, and when wild misrepresentation is the offensive instrument, risk of obscurity must be encountered in the endeavour to exhibit a system and refute a fallacy.

Mr. Bright has headed a furious onslaught on primogeniture and on entails. Of the objects of an amendment of the law, as professed, and of the results as anticipated by him, we will speak presently, but our course will be made clearer if at the outset a brief explanation be afforded of the meaning of these words.

What then is an entail? Undoubtedly it is possible in England to discover estates which answer to the popular idea of an entail: that is to say, estates which follow a particular line of descent, from which they cannot by any conceivable process, except failure of issue, be diverted. Such is the case with the Shrewsbury estates, which, by an Act of the legislature, follow the earldom. Examples are, however, excessively rare, and the effects of them on the general condition of real property in this country are utterly inappreciable. Let us suppose, now, that an estate is given or bequeathed to A. and the heirs of his body, then in the eye of the law A. is said to be seised of an estate in fee tail, or in ordinary phrase, the estate is entailed on A. and the heirs of his body. If, then, A. have sons, grandsons, and issue following them in unbroken order, all these persons, in the absence of any Act designed to destroy their succession, will be seised of a like estate. Now the notion is, for we speak of the ideas of the uninitiated, that a break in the continuous entail is either impossible, or, at least, a a matter of enormous difficulty. Perhaps to such persons the assertion may seem strange, that in the time of Henry III. the heir was completely in the power of his ancestor. Such a result of the struggle against feudalism roused, indeed, the barons to a sense of their position; for it was plain enough that if a complete right of alienation were acquired, not only was the interest of the lord in the rent and services of the holder of the estate compromised, but he was cut off from the possibility of again obtaining the land on failure of heirs. To remedy this peril, a law was passed in the reign of Edward I., restraining all alienation of estates held in fee tail, and for two hundred years the ingenuity of lawyers was vainly taxed to evade these restrictions.

At length, in the twelfth year of the reign of Edward IV., an artifice, which was a mere solemn piece of judicial jugglery, was invented, and by means of a process called a "common recovery," the tenant in tail was once more enabled to dispose of his lands as if he had held them in fee simple. Finally, in the year 1833, this cumbrous machinery was swept away; and now, by a simple deed, executed by the tenant in tail and enrolled in the Court of Chancery, entailed estates may be disposed of with as much facility as estates held in fee simple.

Such, then, are the powers of alienation possessed by the owner of an entailed estate, but it would be an error to imagine that the regular descent of such estates without any intervening change is, as a rule, maintained. On the contrary, by a custom which is little less than a law, these entails are broken up after an existence of about twenty-five years, and a fresh entail is substituted. This system is carried into effect by the machinery of "settlements," and it must be most carefully remembered that nearly all the landed property of the noble and gentle families of England is held in strict settlement. Indeed, no great error would be committed if the land so held were estimated at two-thirds of all the land in England. Now the object of a settlement is simply this: to give to every living person who is to take under the settlement a life interest in the property, and to give an estate in fee tail to the eldest son of the last tenant for life, in the order of succession. Thus, supposing that the estates of the Stanley family were put in strict settlement. Then the Earl of Derby would be made first tenant for life, his eldest son, Lord Stanley, second tenant for life, and the eldest son of Lord Stanley, as yet unborn, would be made tenant in tail. Now supposing that a son is born to Lord Stanley, when that son is of age, he, with the consent of the tenants for life before him, can destroy the entail. This will be done as a matter of course, and thereupon the Stanley estates will once more be put in settlement; the son of Lord Stanley will become the third tenant for life, and his eldest son as yet unborn will be made tenant in tail. The operation will be repeated at the manhood of each eldest son of the house in succession, the estate thus being tied up during the lives of all the beneficiaries in existence, and twenty-one years afterwards. As a matter of fact, then, it will result that the entail will never endure for twenty-five years, for the law absolutely forbids the giving of any estate to the child of an unborn child. Thus, then, it is abundantly clear that so far as concerns a very large portion of the landed property of this country, primogeniture is a custom consecrated by the determined resolution, or rather the general consent, of English families, and not a law. But it must not be supposed that a settlement is content with the bare declaration of the descent of the inheritance. It does not throw all the landed property into the hands of the heir, freed from every encumbrance; on the contrary, it effects charges of capital sums on the estate for existing younger sons, and it grants powers to charge for the benefit of future offspring, and powers to jointure wives. It goes even further. The enormous inconvenience of rendering land inalienable, so that the property cannot be dealt with by sale or exchange, can readily be imagined. The spread of wealth and the increase of population demand building ground, commercial enterprises seek in the market for lands teeming with mineral products, and to prevent the sale of land is to cut off the estates from all adventitious aids to the wealth of the family and the improvement of the land. Consequently trustees are appointed by the settlement, and to them the power is given, with the consent of the person in possession to sell any part of the lands, and to lease on long terms, and with the purchase money to buy other lands to be included in the old settlement. The result, therefore, of the present system is, that, as a rule, the entail does not endure for more than twenty-five years, and that all parts of the estate are at all times saleable. Moreover, the power of the tenant for life receives a check, calculated, on the one hand, to preserve the integrity of the property, and on the other to facilitate sales of it. He cannot mortgage more than his life interest, therefore he cannot permanently injure the estate. On the other hand, nothing makes property so unmarketable as a bad title, and a bad title is merely the result of a complication of mortgages. This complication cannot exist in settled estates, for the encumbrance ceases with the life of the encumbrancer. Therefore, in reality, lands held in strict settlement are more marketable than lands held under any other tenure.

Primogeniture exists, however, under another condition. If the owner of an estate held in fee simple dies intestate, the land will, of course, go to the eldest son. The justice of this descent is matter of contest. But in point of fact the quantity of land which descends to the eldest son by intestacy is ludicrously small compared with that which passes under a will or a settlement. However, the origin and the idea involved in the law of descent to the heir are not unworthy of attention. If we are contented to accept the solution of this question offered us by Mr. Bright, we shall admit that feudalism is the foundation and the mainspring of our present law, and that "the destruction of that law would be the abolition of *feudalism* with regard to the land of England, and the redemption of the agricultural labourer throughout the United Kingdom from that poverty and *serfdom* which, up to this time has been his lot;" we shall say with him again, that "this state of things is maintained for the very reason for which it was established, 800 years ago; that there may be in this country a handful of persons, twice as many, perhaps, as there are in this room, who are the owners of nearly all the land in the country, and in whose hands is concentrated all the power," &c. The theory bears on the face of it a strong semblance of truth; and we may observe that it was on it that the French regenerators of 1793 founded the total abolition of their ancient law of inheritance—a precipitate act, which modern France will shortly endeavour to remedy. Unfortunately for the world the fiery regenerators of France were not at the same time very logical; and we—at least in England—have grown to a suspicious habit of examining with some scepticism all general theories advanced by that party; we may, perhaps, fight for an idea, and we may, under certain crises, amputate a limb on a theory; but to fight for a wrong idea is ridiculous, and to amputate on a mistaken theory is insanity. Now, if we examine the matter impartially, we cannot help noticing that it is at least very remarkable that a custom which has thriven in a single spot of earth for 800 years, according to Mr. Bright, which in its very essence requires stability and continuance of tenure, which requires the objects of its privileges to be well-nigh as much attached to the soil as the ancient *adscripti glebæ* or more modern villains, should have been part and parcel of a purely military system; in fact we suspect that a modern Hindoo would be less startled on being told that the law of primogeniture was an inherent part of our military system in India than would an early Saxon, Franconian, or Swabian, on hearing the same asserted of their original feudal system. In times unencumbered by nepotism and red tape, and keenly alive to the value of warlike ability, it would surely have appeared monstrous that the destinies of a nation should run the risk of depending on the success of some young hair-brain, some coward, or some cripple. And it is a relief to find that the history of the earlier part of the dark ages by no means requires us to make so mean an estimate of our ancestors' mental capacity. Thus, in Germany we find an elected chief (as was also, either in fact or in form, the head of every European kingdom then existing); a continuous change of owners in the margraviates and counties, or, as we should say, now in the commandants of frontiers and of inland fortresses; and even, in some of the more remote parts of the empire, where the pressure from without was most severely felt, an elective knighthood. In France we find a remarkable state of confusion: younger brothers contending, often successfully, with their elders, and great feudatories suddenly sinking into insignificance on the desertion of their followers to a stronger and more capable leader; while in England, in spite of the precautionary oath of allegiance exacted by the Conqueror, we may observe that even that great chieftain was succeeded by three kings, all of whom took their crown by their own strength or astuteness in direct opposition to any such law as is suggested.

Theory and history, then, alike forbid us to suppose that the custom of primogeniture was a part or even a consequence of feudalism. The origin which we would suggest for it in the place of Mr. Bright's is one which we submit to be more attractive and more suitable to the genius of the Anglo-Saxon race. It rests on the fact that the leading idea in the early Teutonic mind (and among Teutons we may fairly include the Franks, who certainly crossed the Rhine but few years before, A.D. 500,) was the preponderance of family ties over every other species of association. This, although so abundantly proved by the statements of classical historians and the researches of modern archæologists as to require no confirmation from us, has scarcely been allowed to proceed to its legitimate consequence, as affording us the first principles on which the modern English system of inheritance is founded. For it is evident, that just as we cannot conceive the idea of the circumference of a circle without a mental reference to the centre, so it is impossible to appreciate the idea of family without referring it at once to its head or centre. There is nothing in modern times that can illustrate this peculiar position unless, perhaps, it be the now fast expiring clanship in the Scotch Highlands, among a race differing in origin, but with some striking similarities of custom to those of our Teutonic ancestors. Differing from the feudal chief on the one hand and from the member of a Roman house on the other, the head of the Teutonic family was alike an abstraction and a personification of the unity of his family, of its influence, importance, and strength. The family being the "social unit" of that system, he was the legitimate representative of it in the councils of the people. The several minor influences that all conduced to make up this feeling have each of them impressed upon it their peculiar mark. Thus we find in it the natural affection between father and children, the reverence for blood-relationship, involving the pride in the chastity of their women so peculiar to the Teutonic family, and the pride of race, which identified the humblest clansman (if we may here use the word) with his ancestral chief. Now, where every man chose to make his influence felt rather as a member of a family than as an individual, where family rights were regarded with peculiar indulgence and even reverence, and where the circumstances of the case had modified and limited the personal functions of the head so as to make his actual capabilities a matter of minor importance, no method could have been imagined for perpetuating a state of things so satisfactory both to chief and to clansman, or so congenial to their tempers and wishes, as the system of inheritance by primogeniture.

But the chief of the family had another function. Besides being the representative of it to all outside, he was also what we might call the trustee for all its property, which he might apportion out according to the needs of his dependants, and receive back at their hands for the purpose of similar grants to others. Now, there is only one species of property which is compatible with this object: precious metal (of which there was little) must be expended, flocks and herds and other provisions would be consumed, land alone can be taken, made use of, and returned without any diminution of its value. For these reasons it was highly necessary that the chief of every family should be the owner of all land belonging to it, and that the sole power of temporarily disposing of such land should descend with the dignity of chief. It must be observed how distinct this power was from that in a feudal lord of granting fiefs; the difference (and it is important) lying in this: that whereas the feudal inferior received his land as a favour, for which he made a certain return by military service, the clansman took his as a right accruing to him as a younger brother of the family.

We suppose, then, that the social system of the Teuton races was based on the principle that the eldest son should succeed to the place and privileges of his father, and also to his landed property. We may next observe how the military system of feudalism arose by the side and independent of such a social system. Feudalism was evidently an arbitrary invention, the work of some skilful brain, by which a conquering people were enabled to maintain their grasp. The principle of it was simply this: the chief of a conquering army committed to some one of his lieutenants the care of a certain fortress or district, assigning to him as his salary the life-ownership of the surrounding lands. The lieutenant collected a garrison of the best soldiers he could find, to whom, in his turn, he assigned as salary such portion of his lands as their respective merits warranted, reserving to his own use so much as he thought fit. Each of these soldiers might again, if he chose—or more probably as a condition of his tenure—divide his portion among bowmen or others, to attend him on garrison duty. We have already remarked that in this system there is not only no need for, but an absolute exclusion of, any idea of inheritance, which might put a stripling in the place of the veteran commander, a coward in the place of the soldier or knight, or a cripple in the stead of a sturdy man-at-arms. But it cannot surprise us that during the times of comparative peace that followed on the subjugation of a country, the garrisons, with their commanders, should have forgotten the peculiar conditions on which they held their lands, and reverting to the principle of inheritance innate in their minds, have desired to establish these as the laws of their new acquisitions. We have thus a satisfactory clue to the various disturbances above mentioned to have taken place in the feudal times, and which were, in fact, merely the struggles between the natural principles of inheritance and the arbitrary system of feudalism. They ended, like most struggles, in a compromise, whereby the feudal conditions were retained; but the principle of inheritance admitted subject to those conditions. But the contest was long, and the compromise very gradually effected. In England, for instance, it was never fairly and legally admitted until the 13th century.

The remaining history may be briefly expressed, as it is ground that we have already travelled in examining the power of alienation of property. The two principles bound together in the compromise above spoken of, like a healthy man chained to a corpse, had an existence neither comfortable to themselves nor satisfactory to their neighbours. The dying remains of feudalism stank in the nostrils of many Englishmen who were ready enough to accept the other principle as of their own nation and spirit. One by one, chains that bound the two together have been broken; one by one the rags of feudalism have been stripped off; so that here, in the nineteenth century, we are able to recognise that the principle on which our earliest ancestors founded their social policy, which has come down to us through so many ages and so many vicissitudes, is in fact the very same idea of family affection and pride which we hope we have retained in all its early brightness, while we have also enlarged and developed until it includes well nigh half of this globe as members of the English family.

But Mr. Bright detests and abhors such ideas, and, in his eyes, the consecration of antiquity becomes their curse. He proposes two reforms: first, that in case of intestacy the land shall be divided equally among all the children; and second, that a devise of land to an unborn child shall be void. As to the proposition for the distribution of land on intestacy, we are inclined to believe that Mr. Bright could carry a bill through Parliament to that effect for the simple reason that the consequences would be inappreciable. Mr. Bright confesses that intestacy is very rare, but he thinks that the sanction by the law of the principle of distribution would induce testators to distribute. He is wrong, just as he invariably is wrong whenever he gives an opinion on that which is to him an unexplored country, namely, the English character. Chattels, money, and the like have no durability, and cannot in themselves be ensigns of dignity. The possession of land in England is the highest mark of rank, and, as a fact, the ambition of every successful merchant is to buy an estate and found a family. The permanency of the family, its name, influence, and position, are maintained by the preservation of the integrity of its estate. But Mr. Bright can be refuted by a wonderful illustration. Lands in the county of Kent, being subject to the custom of gavelkind, are distributed on intestacy among all the children of the owner. Yet it is a fact, and we speak on good authority, that neither in the size of the estates, nor in the use of settlements, nor in a determination to preserve the descent to the eldest son, does the county of Kent vary from the remainder of England. Consequently it may be taken that the sanction of the law will not avail to break down the love of the English nation for the family tie, for the representation of the family by the head, and for the dignity of landed property. To effectuate Mr. Bright's wishes, land must be distributed by compulsion; the fatal error of France must be transplanted into England; and the testamentary power of devising lands, which our ancestors won after protracted struggles, and the complete enjoyment of which was not gained till the reign of Charles II., must be destroyed. It is remarkable how liberty is the constant object of attack by that school of politics which ever prates of freedom.

But Mr. Bright lays great stress on the principle that lands should not be given to an unborn person. Here, too, the reform is discovered to be a reaction; for it was only in Lord Coke's time that unborn or unascertained persons could be the objects of the bounty of the grantor. Moreover, Mr. Bright does not see that his proposition would prejudice distribution. Suppose the case of a grandfather desiring to make his son tenant for life, and then to divide the estate equally among all the children of that son. Then, if at the death of the grandfather only one grandson was born, that one would inherit the estate, and all the children born after the death of the testator would be cut off from his bounty. Mr. Bright, however, has a purpose, and a great one, and the sacrifices necessary for its realisation are to him of as little moment as to the Abolitionist are the sacrifices which his wild theories demand. Mr. Bright cares not for the condition of those classes whom he commiserates so profusely; his object is purely political. He seeks to destroy the power of the landowners: for while that exists the ascent of his party to power is simply impossible.

Mr. Bright doubtless has ulterior schemes in view for the distribution of land, but he wisely does not develope his plans. At present our concern is with his known propositions, and we think it will be admitted that they will not effect the object in view. Between the great landowners and that peasantry whom Mr. Bright hates to see divorced from the land, and whom he would convert from workmen at hire to owners or occupiers of a paltry two acres of land, there stands the vast multitude of the middle class of England, enormously rich and eager beyond all things to purchase land. Their wants must be satisfied before the peasant can obtain his share. In England land is the greatest of luxuries and the least productive of all investments. It seldom pays 3 per cent., and it is saddled with necessary legal expenditure. It is bought as a matter of pride and of enjoyment, and not as a speculation. Mr. Bright is deceived if he imagines that the English people will believe that this is a property which the peasant can acquire and retain, or from which he can derive benefit. Experience tells us that a poor man with a landed estate is the most miserable of beings. If Mr. Bright desires to achieve the immortal glory of the regenerator of the English peasantry he must devise some scheme a little less absurd than that which he has propounded at Birmingham.

THE BASIS AND STRENGTH OF CONFEDERATE CREDIT.

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

SIR,—The financial difficulties of the Confederate States appear to me to arise all from one cardinal error, that of having too modestly underrated their own credit. People, indeed, talked vaguely and somewhat foolishly about King Cotton and his ability to bring the recalcitrant powers of the political world to terms. But, apart from these delusive expectations, the South was not conscious of her real financial strength. The North had so long, "for a consideration," relieved her of all trouble about her business affairs, that she had come to believe, though no one confessed it, that she could not attend to them unaided. She was as one who recovers his eyes after years of blindness, and who has at first but very confused notions of perspective; or one who, bedridden for the better part of life, scarce trusts the strength of his new-found limbs.

When this war surprised it, the Confederacy lacked everything, literally everything, save stout hearts and willing hands. Armies were to be equipped, a navy to be improvised; and where to get powder, shoes, blankets, muskets, medicines, tools, machinery, was the question which hauntedthe Southern authorities like some evil presence. No wonder, then, that every proposal for relieving them of this anxiety found willing and even grateful ears; that hopeful promises were believed without too close a scrutiny of the probabilities of performance: no wonder that even the more calm and collected should think no risk or sacrifice too great in view of the pressing emergency. It, therefore, often happened that contracts were given to persons who had no other capital than the credit of the Government, which, under such circumstances, was damaged instead of improved; and no other chance of success than the temptation of enormous profits held out to foreign merchants.

I say the "credit of the Government" advisedly, for there has not been a single transaction on a large scale with the blockaded ports into which that credit did not enter as the principal and indispensable consideration. Owing to the previous relations with the North there were few merchants in the South who, from their own previous standing and connections, could have established an independent credit in Europe, and these few were rarely found in the first list of Government contractors. Instead, therefore, of the contractors economising and sustaining the Government's credit, it was that credit which exclusively sustained them. There has not been a single period since the beginning of the war when the manufacturers and wholesale dealers of the Old World did not prefer to sell, and on better terms, to the Confederate Government direct than through intermediary parties. To-day an officer of any department of the Confederate Government can purchase in any European markets at lower rates and on longer credit than a contractor. A costly experience must by this time have fully demonstrated to the Southern authorities that the purchases directly on their own account have been both cheaper and better in quality. There can be only two considerations inducing a Government to make purchases indirectly. One is to supplement its own credit and resources by those of private commerce. The other is to avail itself of the practical knowledge and fertility of expedients of private enterprise. The first of these advantages did not apply, as a rule, to the contracts which the Confederate Government gave in its anxiety to procure supplies; the latter could still have been amply secured by a system of direct purchase. There are certain maxims of political economy which in great crises as often mislead men as guide them. These maxims are like formulas of arithmetic, infallible in a certain sense, but the correctness or incorrectness of the result depends on the use made of them in computation. Among these maxims are those which led the Southern statesmen to apply the principles of free trade, in which they had been educated as a creed, to a state of blockade. As you have well expressed it, a blockade is in the nature of an enormous bounty in favour of those who are fortunate enough to elude it; but this bounty is paid from the coffers of the blockaded country. To pay this bounty, when it might have been saved, or to pay it to private enterprise gratuitously, without any adequate return, is clearly a waste of the public resources. And such a waste the present commercial system of the Confederacy must be pronounced, unless it can be demonstrated that the Government could not have purchased the same supplies on at least equally favourable terms without the intervention of contractors, or could not have as successfully run the blockade on its own account. I need not explain to you that neither of these propositions could be reconciled with ascertained facts.

It is unnecessary to trace in detail the slippery steps by which this anomaly of free trade in theory and blockade in practice has reduced Confederate finances to their present low level. We have seen that the chief cause of the evil has been, not that the Government has exaggerated its necessities, but that it has undervalued its own unaided ability to meet them. It is a striking, but, rightly considered, a consoling fact, that the financial credit of the Confederacy abroad, despite some rude shocks, is essentially unimpaired. Its foreign promises to pay are actually rising, while its domestic promises to pay are still falling. May we not in this fact see the suggestion of a remedy? The credit abroad rests upon solid foundations; the discredit at home is

due to an unnatural inflation, and the absence of any fixed standard of values. The credit abroad rests primarily upon the confidence inspired by the character of the Southern people, and the capacity of their leaders, but it rests also, and chiefly, upon the known ability to pay; in other words, upon cotton. Confidence in themselves the Southern people have, but their domestic currency lacks unfortunately that material basis which keeps their foreign bonds in so secure a position. I have in a former letter roughly sketched a scheme by which such a basis might be given. I now proceed, with your permission, to add in some of its explanatory details.

According to your calculation, which I consider largely within the limits, the Confederate Government, after prohibiting private exportation of cotton, is able to export some 150,000 bales per annum on its own account, worth in the European market, say, at least £6,000,000. Whether this exportation is made in vessels owned by the Government and commanded by its officers, or not, is of no consequence, so long as the exportation is strictly on Government account. I do not think so favourably as you do of the employment of naval officers for this purpose, for many reasons, one of which is alone sufficient, viz., that vessels so commanded might be regarded in neutral ports as transports, and therefore subjected to the same restrictions as other national vessels. Here is one of the cases where private enterprise could be made far more available, and without vitiating the plan which it is your object as well as mine to recommend. This exportation of 150,000 bales the Government would make without purchasing a single bale during the year, and yet have more than sufficient of its present stock left to redeem the Erlanger Loan bonds. It is scarcely conceivable that one-half of the sum thus realised could be spent in purchases, freights, &c., and the Treasury might safely rely on a surplus at the end of the year of some £3,000,000. If on the basis of this surplus it issued specie certificates, payable say, at ninety days' sight in Liverpool or Havre, and of convenient denominations, as low as £10, it would at one stroke redeem a very large portion of its present home indebtedness, on terms fair to itself and to the individual creditor. Offered to the highest bidder, it is not an extravagant estimate that £3,000,000 of such certificates would to-day buy up all the Treasury notes in circulation and a good amount of the funded domestic debt. Of course I do not contemplate such a sudden flooding of the market, and I am not blind to the fact that the currency requires an immediate remedy, and not a prospective one a year hence. It is in view of these facts that in my former letter I have spoken of a graduated issue of such certificates, and with such precautions as to prevent their immediate tender for payment. In proportion as the old currency was absorbed, a vacuum would be created which the specie notes would fill up as circulating medium, and the Treasury would soon be able to estimate with tolerable correctness what reserve of specie it required on hand at the places of payment. The normal demand for foreign exchange in a country of which the Government has the monopoly of importation and exportation must naturally be inappreciably small, and even after the necessity for such a monopoly had ceased to exist, the requirements of the home trade would greatly preponderate over the demand for exchange. Gold would be wanted at home, not in France or England. At first, however, and until the doubts of the timid had been appeased, and the specie promises of the Government had acquired an unquestioned credit, the demand would be abnormal, and the first two or three millions of certificates issued would be presented for payment as rapidly as they could find their way to Europe.

To the best of my calculations, the Confederacy could float as circulating medium, were there no other in the way, at least £30,000,000 of such specie certificates as I describe. This should remain the unalterable ultimate limit of their issue, representing about the value of the stock of cotton now on hand at prices before the war. It is indispensable, also, to the success of this scheme that the Government should declare itself ready to purchase the whole of this stock at a fixed price, but without either coercing the owner, or without offering an irresistible temptation to self-interest. The price should be so low as to relieve only the needy, but not to tempt the speculative. A large, perhaps the largest, part of the stock is now the property of foreign owners. The price fixed upon as payable here should, therefore, not be so great as to induce these to accept it here in lieu of their expected profits on the cotton being released by peace. Any danger, however, which may be apprehended from this cause, is modified by the risk of transporting the new notes through the blockade, and which the Government should not be over anxious to diminish.

To return, then, to the outlines of the plan, as sketched in my former letter. Congress should prohibit all exportation of cotton, except on Government account or in redemption of obligations already incurred. It should instruct the Secretary of the Treasury, with the assistance of the other departments, to take steps for the exportation of cotton on Government account, estimated, under careful management, to place 150,000 bales into European ports. It should further authorise the Secretary, on the credit of the proceeds of this exportation, to buy all cotton offered to him at a price not exceeding 5d. per pound, requiring such notice from the owner as the Secretary may deem necessary to arrange for the certainty of payment, and to pay therefor in specie certificates, payable at ninety days' sight, at designated places in Europe, bearing no interest, and being of a denomination of not more than £200 nor less than £10. It should further authorise, subject to restriction as to time, the issue of £30,000,000 of such certificates, or sufficient to purchase the whole stock of cotton, if, what is extremely improbable, the whole should be offered. So soon as £3,000,000 worth of these certificates have been paid out for purchases of cotton, the issue of any other Treasury notes, not already in circulation, shall cease, and the Secretary of the Treasury shall offer to the highest bidder £15,000,000 of the new issue; the *bonâ fide* average of such bids shall decide the rate at which the new issue will be exchanged to the public at large for the old notes. If at any time prior to the fulfilment of this condition the Secretary of the Treasury shall have a surplus in specie in Europe, derived from the proceeds of cotton, of not less than £200,000, he may at his discretion sell to the highest bidder specie certificates to that amount. So soon as he may deem it consistent with the requirements of the Treasury, the re-issue of old notes of other denominations shall also cease, and public notice being given of the fact, such notes, when returned to the Treasury in payment of taxes or other dues, shall be forthwith destroyed, with the exception of those of a lower denomination than £10 or $50.

I believe that the above contains the essential features of a plan for substituting gradually, and without financial revulsion, a circulating medium nearly, if not quite, equal to specie, for the almost worthless currency of the Confederacy. I am quite aware that the plan is not perfect, nor even sufficiently elaborated. For this a larger space would be needed than you can afford to give me, and more patience on the part of your readers than I have a right to expect. I am also aware that the plan will shock the prejudices and conflict with the theories of those who forget that in the possession of their wealth of cotton, the Confederates are in a position unprecedented by any other belligerent nation. If these bales of cotton were ingots of gold, would there be any absurdity in the proposition to coin them?—and this is virtually, almost without a figure of speech, what my plan proposes. In the few calculations preceding I have, for convenience' sake, assumed the £ sterling to be equivalent to $5. It would certainly much facilitate the operations I suggest if this were so, and I cordially concur in the recommendation long since made in your columns, that the Confederate five-dollar gold piece should be made of the value of the English sovereign, and the silver dollar reduced correspondingly.

I am, &c.,

SUGGESTION.

THE FOREIGN ENLISTMENT ACTS.*

In the introduction to his Commentaries, Blackstone argues that it is the duty of every man who professes to have a liberal education to study the laws of his country. We are afraid that this sound and sensible advice has not been very generally followed, and that physicians, as a rule, are lamentably ignorant of medical jurisprudence; that nobles who sit in the Painted Chamber, and a host of gentlemen who write M.P. after their names, are as ignorant of the laws of England as they were when they entered and when they left Harrow or Eton; that very few of the clergy know anything of ecclesiastical law; and that the great middle class gathers all its legal knowledge from attendance at the Courts as jurymen or witnesses, or from reading the law reports in the daily papers. Whether cheap law is advantageous to a community may be an open question; but undoubtedly ignorance of the law is a misfortune to individuals and to communities; for in the one case the client is totally at the mercy of his professional adviser, and in the other, a nation has no check over the proceedings of a Government. The observant student of the history of England will say that, so far from English people being ignorant of the laws of their country, that it is to their knowledge of and their determination to uphold them as they apply to the rights of the citizen, that we owe our present constitutional liberty. This observation, as far as it goes, is well founded, and, as it seems to us, justifies the suggestion that he who makes popular a knowledge of the law performs a very useful work. We are confident that if the handy book on international law before us was extensively read, there would be a general conviction that the British Government have been consciously endeavouring to strain the law for the purpose of pleasing the Federals.

* The Foreign Enlistment Acts of England and America. The "Alexandra" and the Rams. By Vigilans. London: Saunders, Otley, and Co.

Vigilans gives the history of the English and Foreign Enlistment Acts, and a very fair and able summary of the proceedings in the *Alexandra* case. It occurs to us the very titles of the Acts in question are of some value in elucidating their objects. We are aware that too frequently neither the title nor the preamble of a legislative enactment is indicative of its purport; but on the other hand, when an object is clearly defined by the title, we may be tolerably sure that the object thus set forth is the main one of the Act. Now there is nothing in the word "enlistment" which is associated with the manufacture and sale of cannon, or with the mere building and selling of ships of war, but has reference to the engagement of persons in a warlike enterprise. We find that the title, "The Foreign Enlistment Act," exactly describes the purpose for which such an Act was passed both in England and America; viz., to prevent the citizens of the respective countries from engaging in warlike enterprises on behalf of foreign governments. In the United States the Act was passed in consequence of M. Genet, the Minister of the French Republic, "fitting out and arming vessels in the port of Charleston, enlisting men, foreigners as well as citizens, and giving them commissions to cruise and commit hostilities against England, a State then at peace with America." The English Act was passed for the purpose of restraining His Majesty's subjects from making war against Spain, and Lord Castlereagh thus described the condition of affairs that rendered the measure necessary: "Not only officers in small numbers went out to join the insurgents' corps, but there was a regular organisation of troops; regiments regularly formed left the country, ships of war were prepared in our ports, and transports were chartered to carry out arms and ammunition." Both these Acts are municipal, and the jurisdiction of the seventh section of the English Act is expressly limited to operations carried on "within any part of the United Kingdom, or in any part of His Majesty's dominions beyond the seas."

The violation or not of the Act depends upon the intent. It is not the equipping, &c., of a ship, that is punishable, but the intent that the vessel so equipped shall be employed in foreign service. Well, but all war vessels built in this country for foreigners are equipped for foreign service. That is so, but this Act contemplates British subjects being connected with, preparing, and taking part in a warlike enterprise. The Attorney-General tried to prove that as soon as a keel was laid down it could be seized, but we read in the Act, "and every such ship or vessel, with the tackle, apparel, and furniture, together with all the materials, arms, ammunition, and stores, which may belong to or be on board of any such ship or vessel, shall be forfeited," thus contemplating, not an unfinished ship, but a ship completed, furnished with guns, ammunition, and all stores necessary for a cruise. It is the Federal Government that has instigated the British Government to endeavour to put such a construction on this Act as would forbid the building and sale of ships of war to the Confederates, and it is therefore of importance to know what construction the United States courts have put on the American Act. The *Santissima Trinidad*, formerly a privateer, was in 1816 armed and equipped at the port of Baltimore by American citizens, and sent to Buenos Ayres under the protection of the United States flag, and was there sold to the Buenos Ayres Government, then at war with Spain. Moreover, the captain declared he had become a citizen of Buenos Ayres, was in command of the vessel, and invited his crew to enlist in the service. Vigilans observes:—

"Here, then, was a ship built and equipped and armed in the United States jurisdiction, manned and commanded by American subjects, and with a cargo of arms and munitions despatched from a United States port, with an *ostensible* destination to the North-West. She changes her course, however, to Buenos Ayres, then a belligerent State, where she is sold to a belligerent Government, and where her commander and great portion of her crew enlist and are commissioned in the service of that State, with the intent of their taking personal part in the hostilities then prevailing between the colony of Buenos Ayres and the parent country. Compare this case with that of the *Alexandra*, a ship in an incomplete state, without guns or any proof of the intention to mount guns, and without crew or commander. Then let us ask ourselves which offence corresponds in the intent and equipment to those cases of personal engagement in hostilities which, as we have seen, led to the passing of the English and American Foreign Enlistment Acts? If the equipment of the *Alexandra* merited the term warlike and its consequent penalties, what description will apply to that of the *Santissima Trinidad*? If the intent of the Messrs. Sidlin, the claimants of the *Alexandra*, was one of a practically hostile nature, what legal epithet or penalty can fitly apply to the American owner, Captain Chaytor, and the crew of the *Santissima Trinidad*? If the owners of the unarmed and unequipped *Alexandra*, in selling her clean-handed to the belligerent, are guilty of misdemeanour, are the owners in the American case quoted guilty of no greater crime in actually transferring to a belligerent service a fully-armed and American-manned ship-of-war?"

Judge Story, in this case, in declaring the judgment of the Supreme Court, said, "It is apparent that although equipped as a vessel of war, she was sent to Buenos Ayres on a commercial adventure, contraband indeed, but in no shape violating our laws or our national neutrality. If captured by a Spanish ship of war during the voyage, she would have been justly condemned as a good prize for being engaged in a traffic punishable by the law of nations. But there is nothing in our laws, or in the law of nations, which forbids our citizens from sending armed vessels, as well as munitions of war, to foreign ports for sale." In the case of the *Bolivar* the judge held that "the law does not prohibit armed vessels belonging to the citizens of the United States from sailing from out of our ports; it only requires the owners to give security that such vessels shall not be employed *by them* to commit hostilities against foreign Powers at peace with the United States." And he further declared that vessels, though manifestly built for warlike purposes, are not to be detained unless it is probable "that such vessels are intended to be employed *by the owners* to commit hostilities," &c. Thus, according to American precedents, the conduct of the British Government in detaining vessels alleged to be in course of construction for the Confederate Government is utterly unjustifiable. We repeat, that no one can read this brief but clear exposition of the law by Vigilans, without arriving at the conclusion that to please the Federals the Government has been straining the law to injure the Confederates.

A CORRESPONDENT from Lincolnshire writes to invite, through our columns, the Rev. H. W. Beecher to preach his next political sermon on Isaiah xliii. 6: "I will say to the North, give up: and to the South, keep not back."

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

NEW YORK, January 26.

THERE is a vitality in the Southern "rebellion" which astonishes the people of the North. Periodically it is told to them that its back-bone is broken and it must immediately die; but before they have done considering what to do with its remains, it is up again and confronting them with unshaken courage, and striking powerful blows. For weeks past, under the stimulus of a series of reports from the South, partly fabricated, all exaggerated, and many totally perverted, the Northern people have settled down into a comfortable faith that the Confederacy is dissolving of itself, its armies are disbanding themselves, and the leaders either seeking the means to escape from the country, or devising some way to save their own lives by abandoning the cause and betraying one another. Wherever you went you would hear but one current of speculation—that the war is about over, and the South about to submit within some brief period. Mr. Seward's old lease of ninety days, renewed so often, was too long for the popular impatience. Sixty days, thirty days, even twenty days, were favourite terms. And I have actually heard a man, not without good sense on general subjects, affirm that there would be a dispersion of all armed resistance to the Union within ten days.

Let me note, in passing, as an ominous sign of what success in this nefarious war is sure to bring about, that this sanguine expectation of peace did not produce that universal buoyancy of feeling which might have been anticipated from the furious zeal with which the war has been supported. In the glow of the triumph, misgivings of what is to come after seemed to weigh heavily on the thoughts of those who allow themselves to consider what comes with the end of the war—the day of settlement for its cost, and the counting up of what they have gained and what they have lost by it; how they are to provide for the burden it leaves, and to recover for themselves the liberties they have lost in the enslaving of others. There is an undefined sense of terror in the most unreflecting minds of the impending ruin of fortunes, the derangement of business, and the paralysis of industrious occupations, in the inevitable collapse of the huge system of paper credits, with which the Government has unsettled all the values of property and intoxicated the people with visions of unreal wealth; and a fearful looking forward by the thinking to enormous debt, grinding taxation, and popular discontent, the dishonour of threatened repudiation, and combinations of factions and intrigues of demagogues to effect it, to resist which will bring up the need of a stronger and costlier government, and the end of constitutional liberty even in form. The *amari aliquid* is tasted in the bubbles of the first froth of imaginary triumph.

Within two or three days there has been a marked change in the tone of Federal despatches about Southern affairs. There are reports by telegraph and letter from East Tennessee, which have evidently alarmed the Administration for the security of their position in that State. The reports are by no means precise; we have nothing to show the Southern view of their own situation in that important region. But the accounts here go to create the belief that General Longstreet has been receiving reinforcements to a large amount, and there is a fear that he is advancing upon Knoxville, pushing the troops of General Granger before him; and apprehensions are felt that he may be able to cut off the communications with Chattanooga, and by a concerted advance from Dalton with General Johnston's army recover the lost ground in Tennessee. This is the latest military rumour, and it has suddenly checked the romantic faith in a speedy close of hostilities. The "rebellion" is held to be alive again, and dangerous; and as General Grant is hurrying back to his post as though he were wanted there for an emergency, there is a turn in the popular feeling; and for a day or two, at least, the huge stories of dissension, demoralisation, and despair among the people of the South will be taken at much nearer their true value.

There is disappointment, and the natural impulse is to find fault with the management of public affairs under which great disasters have happened, that, it is imagined, after the event, could have been averted by different counsels, and would have been averted if rulers had been prescient and infallible. Freedom of remonstrance there is, and license of complaint, which are taken by the North as proofs of disaffection to the Southern cause, for the reason that here to find fault with anything which the Government does is held by the Government and its partisans to be proof of traitorous sympathy with the enemy.

Military affairs in the South-west are confined to the occupying and holding of the coast towns of Texas by General Banks, but without any present purpose of making his way into the interior; and the fitting out of an expedition which is thought to be intended for the Red River country of Louisiana, where there is a good deal of sugar and cotton to be seized, and some signs, although faint ones, of a demonstration against Mobile.

Congress has been engaged in revising the revenue law, and the House of Representatives has passed an Act increasing the taxes considerably. It has yet to pass the Senate, and therefore all estimates of its productiveness and speculations on its character as a financial measure are premature. There is, however, a piece of political scandal current respecting one of the features of the Bill which is worth repeating, as generally believed, and as illustrating the morals of public men here. It was known for some time among the particular friends of the Administration that an additional duty on whisky of at least fifty cents a gallon, and thence to one dollar a gallon, would be recommended, and must pass. Leading senators, members of the house, and outside politicians, went into the market, and bought extensively thousands and tens of thousands of barrels of whisky for the rise. The proposition was introduced, and the rate fixed at sixty cents; but another set in Congress caught wind of the transaction, and have defeated the speculators in the House by enacting that the increased duty shall be chargeable also on whisky in hand and for sale since a past date, which takes in the stock of these speculators. The cliques on both sides were rival speculators, but the House was instructed that the new provision is necessary for a revenue measure and thus could not be talked out of it. The rumour goes that some of the men engaged will lose largely, unless the Senate can be persuaded to come to their relief by striking out the clause. As they are great political favourites it may be done for them. Jobbery for the profit of individuals is one of the normal functions of legislation at Washington. Corruption festers everywhere, and the public have got to be so accustomed to the universal odour that no disgust is expressed except when some huge heap is unexpectedly turned over, as lately in the New York Custom-house. There is then great haste made to cover it out of sight.

If the sense of public decency had not been thoroughly corrupted the recent act of the President and Senate in the making of a United States judge for Alabama of a notorious member of the New York bar, would have roused a universal outcry. As it is, it was assailed by the Opposition press in a few bitter paragraphs, and the subject then faded out of view. The place of United States judge has been hitherto reserved by all administrations for men of eminence in personal and political character. Partisans they may have been; the public tolerated that; but they must, at least, be men of unblemished lives and respectable standing at the bar and in society. President Lincoln has just conferred the appointment of judge of a district in Alabama upon *Richard Busteed* of this city—a low grog-shop politician, without standing at the bar or respectable practice, and of such filthy habits and profane and obscene conversation that decent people shun his company; and they who consort with him know him familiarly as "Dick Busteed," and sometimes more familiarly as Drunken Dick." These qualities made him a useful man among the populace for the Democratic party, to which he belonged; and when Mr. Lincoln was managing to bring over that mob influence at the time volunteering was the rage, he made "Dick Busteed" a brigadier, at which the people laughed "consumedly." I believe the time of his commission expired before the Senate reached his nomination, at any rate he was not confirmed, but went swaggering about with the title. He transferred his party allegiance to the President, and now "Dick Busteed" becomes United States district judge, with a salary for life—but, happily for suitors, with nothing to do. The greatest part of the district to which he is appointed is in the possession of the Confederates, and it will be a long time, at the shortest, before he will preside there. The only extenuation for the appointment is in the conclusion that the President does not expect the new judge to do any duty, and that the appointment was simply a dirty job, giving a sinecure life office to a useful tool.

The schemes for continuing Mr. Lincoln in the Presidency for another term are going on swimmingly. In addition to the legislative and other nominations heretofore reported, he has been recommended for re-election by the Legislatures of California and Maryland. The "Loyal Leagues," got up throughout the country in his interest under the fever of the war-passion last year, are engineering extensive movements to make up a popular cry for his re-election by public meetings and through nominating conventions, and I have no doubt they will be successful in having him brought forward as the candidate of the war.

There is, nevertheless, a serious struggle going on within the war party to displace Mr. Lincoln, in favour of some other Republican. The power of the executive office and the plunder to be distributed are too vast to be conceded as a monopoly to one set of men, and there is a great desire and a great effort, not the less violent because the external manifestations are studiously repressed, to defeat Mr. Lincoln's renomination, and substitute a new man for a new distribution. There is, besides, especially in the Western States, a large element of German Radicals, bitterly hostile to Mr. Lincoln for his treatment of their favourite, Fremont, who threaten loudly not to vote for Mr. Lincoln, under any circumstances.

But Mr. Lincoln is strong enough in his command of the military vote, and the unscrupulous use he has shown himself capable of making of it, and in his control of other powers conceded to him by his party on the ground of military necessity, to baffle all such opposition, to secure a renomination, and make himself President. The whole of these tremendous powers are consistently conceded, with the purpose of securing a renomination and of appointing himself President, in spite of a possible failure to obtain a majority of the electoral votes. The State elections in Connecticut, New Hampshire, Delaware, and Maryland, were notoriously, and in at least the last two examples, confessedly, carried by the direct use of the army, by force of which those States are Lincoln States in the Congress, and will vote for Mr. Lincoln if the choice comes there.

But it is in the South that Mr. Lincoln has provided a reserved fund, which makes the struggle to oust him utterly hopeless.

The late annual message, and the amnesty proclamation and plan of reconstruction accompanying it, develope a scheme, of which the direct effect is to create out of the districts of Southern territory occupied by the Federal armies, new States to any required number, so organised as to make their vote secure for Mr. Lincoln at the next election.

The process is now in operation in the State of Louisiana, or rather in that small part of the State where the Federal army and its followers hold military possession, and "martial law" is proclaimed by General Banks as the basis of all rights that are permitted to the inhabitants.

By the authority of the President, General Banks has authorised one-tenth in number of the voting population of the old State, registered and qualified according to his rules, to organise a new government and become a State, on condition that the voters shall previously take an oath, which the people there have grimly described as the "ironclad oath," not merely to bear allegiance to the Union, but to approve and maintain all the acts and proclamations of Mr. Lincoln. This oath-bound minority becomes thus the legitimate State of Louisiana, and will vote for the next President in the Electoral College, and in the House of Representatives, if the choice comes there—of course, all the time six votes for Abraham Lincoln. The same means are in preparation for the "reconstruction" of Arkansas and Tennessee. One-tenth of the voting population, first qualified by Mr. Lincoln's agents, on swearing to support the President in all things, are to be recognised as the political community and be allowed to vote: *seventeen* votes more for Abraham Lincoln in the colleges; two more States in Congress.

It must be remembered that, in the event of the failure of the Electoral Colleges to make a choice of President next November, the election will be made in the February succeeding by this present House of Representatives, voting by States, with the addition of such States as may be hereafter admitted. There is a clear majority of the partisans of Mr. Lincoln *per capita*, but not by States, in the House as now constituted. The majority, by numbers, can, however, admit as many new members and new States as they may think needful for any purpose. The southern districts will be so reconstructed; and there is another field which is available in the western Territories. Three of these, Idaho, Nevada, and Nebraska—possibly Utah—are ready to be brought into the Union as States, whenever needed; and the power of the Federal authority and patronage there is ample to secure them for the Executive in an election contest.

With all this mass of concentrated power within his hands, and the possession of an immense patronage, which includes the raising and expending of nearly $1,000,000,000 a year, how is it possible to imagine that Mr. Lincoln can be defeated if he wishes the nomination—which it is plain that he desires passionately—and is disposed to employ for himself the means he has been using without compunction or hesitation for others?

It is the common talk of Mr. Lincoln's adversaries, and the ill-concealed boast of his friends, that his nomination and election are in his own hands, and that the military power can thus perpetuate itself; and what is most probable, considering the jealousy in regard to the elective franchise, which used to be the predominant trait in the character of the people, the result is looked upon with a sort of despondent resignation by one side, and the glee of complacent satisfaction on the other, as something which is to come, by a fatality not to be resisted, before which opposition, being useless, must prudently be dumb.

SOUTHERN SYMPATHY IN ITALY.

(From our Turin Correspondent.)

TURIN, February 2, 1864.

There was a time when it was considered highly improper for any of our papers to discredit Northern statements put forward in justification of the war against the South. The Washington Government was regarded as almost infallible. But I am happy to say that the time of this credulity has gone by, and such a change has taken place in our press with regard to America that only those who have attentively watched the course of events can realise. To give you some idea of the progress of the Southern cause, I append extracts from some of our city papers.

The *Commercio*, the organ of the political economists, commenting upon Mr. Lincoln's amnesty, says:—

"Scylla, the terrible Roman dictator, and living a thousand years before Christianity and the Gospel had given a code of peace, brotherhood, and love to mankind—Scylla called things by their proper names, and had not the courage to lie in the face of history, the world, and his country; so that, whenever he wished to get rid of thousands of his conquered but still powerful enemies, he banished them without many ceremonies, and openly called his acts by the name of proscription.

"It belonged to Abraham Lincoln, by religion a Christian, and living towards the close of the nineteenth century, to out-Herod Herod, and to style his cruel edict an *amnesty*."

The *Discussione*, the organ of the Conservative party, in its number of yesterday, passing in review the recent publication of Dr. Girard on the casualties of the American war, shows, in a very clear way, that the Northern, compared with the Southern losses, have been two and a-half to one, and says:—

"It appears evident that the North has come to the determination of exterminating the South, rather than see the immense American continent—twice as large as Europe—divided into two republics. Now, we know that the white population of the South amounted, before the war, to 8,000,000, and that of the North to 20,000,000.

"Supposing, then, the war should be protracted until the total destruction of the Southern people is accomplished, and the casualties should continue in the same proportion—and there is no reason to the contrary—it becomes a matter of fact that the whole affair would end exactly like the famous duel of the two Kilkenny cats.

"We have employed so burlesque a similitude in so tragical an argument to show the more clearly the madness of the Federal undertaking, and because we think the time has come for Europe to address an energetic note, in the name of outraged humanity, to the Washington Government, to the effect that 8,000,000 of people, as unanimous in their resistance as the South, and, as the South, capable of such a resistance, cannot be conquered, and much less exterminated.

"As for the rest, we know that the North has, up to this time, drawn most of its fighting element from the population of Ireland. It is fair to presume that the Federals may be so blinded as to consider feasible their horrid scheme of destruction by carrying on their Irish enlistments for the future. But could England allow the continuation of the Irish exodus, if she was convinced of the criminal intention of the North? Will there be no one to warn Lord Russell that, by so doing, he renders himself the accomplice of two monstrous attempts—the annihilation of an heroic people, and the depletion of Ireland."

The *Stampa*, the semi-official organ of the Home Minister has in its number of the 23rd ult. an article headed, *Is the Southern blockade effective?* in which, quoting from THE INDEX the returns of arrivals into the ports of Charleston and Wilmington of 133 vessels from January to October, 1863, in spite of the blockading squadron it assumes, very reasonably, that the inefficiency of the Federal blockade ought to be recognised by Europe, inasmuch as it violates the Treaty of Paris; and adds:—

"Now, what is the meaning of a *really sufficient force?* Either this expression signifies nothing, and the Treaty of Paris is a delusion, or we must interpret it according to the strictest sense for which it was framed, and then the statistics above mentioned offer us the most luminous proof that the North has been unable to fulfil the conditions of the Treaty of Paris, and we must say that England and France have lacked the courage either to compel her to observe the treaty, or to refuse the acknowledgment of an ineffective blockade."

PARIS TOPICS.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

PARIS, February 9.

IT is the last day of Carnival, the dullest I ever remember in Paris. Your English readers should know that Carnival extends from Christmas to Lent, and is in general the season of balls and all noisy gaiety. The masking only becomes common in the last days, to be resumed on the Sunday of mid-Lent. There have been very gay costume balls at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the Duc de Bassanos, and at M. Rouher's, and to-night, the gayest of all, at M. de Morny's. This is understood to be by command, as etiquette forbids Her Majesty to appear at a subject's ball except in domino and she wished to pay the President of the Assembly the compliment of her presence. The last of the state balls took place on Wednesday. Among the strangers present, Mrs.

Greenhow, lately Mr. Lincoln's prisoner, was remarked. The death of the Duchess of Parma, mentioned in my last, shut up the saloons of the old aristocracy, and every sort of amusement has been banished from the Faubourg St. Germain and the houses which claim connection with it. To conclude my account of gaieties, with which I have thought it proper to begin a letter dated on Shrove Tuesday, I may mention the concert at M. Pereire's, at which the Patti sung. His house is next to the English Embassy, and my friend, who knows Latin, says it is of good augury for the English. He repeated something about *proximus ardet*, which he tells me signifies that Lord Cowley will give an evening party in Lent. What it is to know the classics!

While indulging in gossip, I may mention a rumour with which the papers, not political men, have been amusing their readers during the last week. It is nothing less than the Queen's abdication, which, distasteful as it would be to her subjects under any circumstances, would be doubly so as entirely without a precedent—Richard II.'s cannot count—in English history. There is a story afloat that the Emperor took occasion, last Wednesday, at the ball, to remark to some of the marshals that the Danish war does not concern France; while the Empress, in reply to Lord Cowley's assurances that England is doing all she can to preserve the peace of Europe, said, with her sweetest smile, "the result of which is, that blood flows on the banks of the Eider." A characteristic relic of the French Revolution, which I recommend to the attention of bibliomaniacs, is to be sold next week. It is a copy of the "Constitution of '93," bound in human skin. During the last few days the different papers have reproduced the story which your American friends would do well to take a lesson by, if true. It is alleged that, in a bale of cotton opened at Rouen, there were found four conical cannon balls, the weight of which represented cotton to the value of £10. I had fancied the Southerners made a better use of their shot, and I mention, without guaranteeing, the story.

An imperial decree has been published, naming Prince Napoleon president of a new commission for editing the remainder of the great Napoleon's correspondence. Fifteen volumes have been already published, and they bear the evidence of their completeness. The commission charged with this laborious task was, however, dissolved, not for any remissness on the part of its members, but, it is understood, that having reached the epoch when the brothers of the hero were raised to thrones, the correspondence with them becomes so delicate that a certain sifting has been thought prudent. M. Cousin has occasioned some amusement by the terms of the letter in which he declines to be put on the commission, on the score of his health, and then launches into a political dissertation, in which he declares his opinions to be nearer those of M. Jules Favre than of M. Thiers.

The ordinary session of the legislative body is limited to three mouths, during which, as the Emperor told them, there was but little business done. There is a long list of laws to be examined, as well as the budget to be passed, and it is not certain that even the extra session of two months will suffice to get through all the business. The law on sugar, which is the first in order of discussion, is expected to lead to long debates, as it affects both public and private interests of great magnitude. An Act will be proposed to confer an annuity of 6,000 francs on the inventor of beet-root sugar, now a man of seventy-five, who, after enriching France with a branch of industry, which is the wealth of thousands, finds himself, in extreme old age, reduced to poverty. The budget, which has been distributed to the members of the Assembly, differs in little from that of the present year. The Minister of Finance shows an increased demand on the public purse for 18,000,000, the greater part of which will be absorbed by the interest on the recent loan. There are slight augmentations, also, in the Home Ministry, and those of worship and the household, but as yet, at least, no calls for the war department or the navy.

Friday was expected to have been a field-day in the Senate on the discussion of a petition from a member of the Opposition, M. Darimon, on the liberty of the press. Prince Napoleon and M. Laguerronière had put down their names to speak, but with a disregard of vain popularity worthy of imperial praise, the senators passed to the previous question. Prince Napoleon's silence was ascribed to his having lost or mislaid his voice at a shooting party with the Emperor a few days ago.

The Dano-German war continues to absorb public attention, and although there is but one opinion on the scandalous bloodshed and robbery perpetrated by the great German Powers, there is no attempt made to conceal the pleasure with which this check to English diplomacy is regarded. Lord Derby's speech was inserted *in extenso* in the *Moniteur*, and the official press is again busied with the Congress. There has been for the last few days a very general rumour that England has at last consented to the Emperor's proposal, in return for active co-operation in saving the integrity of Denmark. But it is far from certain that there is still time for this. The Diet seems on the point of recognising Duke Frederick as sovereign of Slesvig, as well as of Holstein, and the two Powers have not accustomed the world to the idea of disinterestedness on their part. Last night the *Patrie* announced a report of a revolution at Copenhagen in favour of the union of all the Scandinavian kingdoms, and this, apart from all questions of individual rights, would perhaps be the best solution the present complications offer. Sweden would be strengthened against Russia, and the Germans would find they had not gained much in the Baltic by their unjust aggression.

In the *Moniteur Financier* of this week, M. Aucaigne terminates his able series of papers on the Confederate cotton loan. After remarking on the extreme dearness of this now-a-days first article of necessity for clothing the most savage as well as the most civilized nations of mankind, he shows how much dearer it must still become, when the last bales of the last cotton crop of the South have been worked up. "The Yankees have just taken the best means to increase still more the dearness of cotton. The Federal Congress, faithful to the selfish spirit which rules the Northern States in matters of political economy, passed a law last month laying a tax of a penny a pound on cotton. At the same time they aimed a blow at our wine growers by adding a supplemental tax of 20d. a gallon on wines and spirits. Fotrunately they are not powerful enough to starve out our workmen in Alsace, Rouen, Lille, &c. They cannot blockade the innumerable ports which nature has given the South and by which the 330,000 bales, belonging exclusively to the Confederate Government, will find their way to Europe to cover the cotton loan and give a handsome profit to the holders. Assuming these 330,000 bales to be at present prices worth £40 a bale, there is a sum of more than £13,000,000 to cover a loan of £3,000,000, thus giving more than margin enough for possible losses and expenses." M. Aucaigne, as I before remarked, views the cotton loan simply as a first-rate commercial speculation, and entirely neglects in his calculations the guarantee of the Confederate States as an element of value.

I shall conclude in mentioning what may be regarded as the first sign of returning life in the cleverest financier of the day, a man who has shown that he will die neither with hanging nor drowning. M. Mirès has at last made a public appearance in a meeting of the shareholders of his old establishment, the *Caisse des Chemins de Fer*, and his explanations were received with general satisfaction by his fellow victims. He has still so many friends that if he could resolve to let by-gones be by-gones, there is no doubt that he might again take a high place in the world of finance. On his release from prison he proposed a subscription of eight millions sterling, without indicating the employment he proposed for it, and there seemed a certainty of its being subscribed at once, when the Bank of France, by rescinding its authorisation for his opening an account, put a stop to the enterprise. It is understood that this veto on his re-entering the financial world has at length been removed.

The *France* of this evening, in an article on public opinion in England, after recapitulating the reasons which it supposes to weigh with the Queen and Parliament in favour of neutrality in the Dano-German conflict, says: "The people of England has more positive tendencies, and what it fears—for fear is the word—in a possible war with Prussia and Austria, is from America, that is, from the United States. It is not doubted that if such a war broke out, there is little for England to fear from the powerful armies of the Continent, but everything from the countless privateers who would swarm out of the American harbours under the German flag, with letters of marque easily obtained in such a case. It is certain that in a month the German Powers would have a fleet at their disposal, a fleet paid by American adventurers, eager to enrich themselves with the spoils of English commerce. The example of the *Alabama* and her consorts, proves the immense damage which quick steamers can inflict on merchant shipping. Therefore the English merchants will have war at no price, and the plethora of wealth in Great Britain imposes on it an inaction, the tendencies of which it is needless to judge." There is, perhaps, some truth in this appreciation, but the writer seems to forget that Prussia and Austria renounced the use of privateers by the Declaration of Paris, and that the North has already more to do than it is equal to in the blockade of the Confederate ports.

Commander M. F. Maury, of the Confederate Navy has addressed the following letter to the editor of the *Herald* on the subject of the purported Report of Secretary Mallory, which was copied from the Northern papers into some of our contemporaries:—

"'YANKEE TRICKS.'

"*To the Editor.*

"Sir,—Soon after the commencement of the American war the Yankees resorted to the trick of getting up facsimiles of Richmond papers, in type, paper, and size; of copying their advertisements, and then filling up with reading matter of Northern manufacture. These papers were then put into the mails, received, copied from, and circulated without suspicion as Southern 'utterances.'

"The English press is now the victim of another 'trick' of the same sort. A document, copied from the Northern papers, is now going the rounds of the continental and English press which purports to be the official report of Mr. Mallory, the Confederate Secretary of the Navy to the Congress in Richmond.

"It is a take in, it bears internal evidence of a hoax, and I know many of its statements to be false. Please, therefore, assure your readers that no such document has ever been uttered by the Secretary of the Confederate navy, and so help me to 'nail to the counter' the spurious thing also.

"Yours truly,

"January 29. M. F. MAURY."

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

Wednesday Evening, February 10.

THE MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKETS.

Although the rates of money have latterly been well supported, there has been a very good supply; indeed it has, within the last forty-eight hours, increased, and there is the expectation that if we do not have lower rates at the Bank the terms in Lombard-street will somewhat diminish. It is important to recognise this fact, because if hostilities continue abroad there will be a contraction of credit which will have the effect of accumulating resources here. Already remittances to Germany and the North of Europe are stayed, and balances will be collected as speedily as possible, for the simple reason that in a state of things such as prevails there, very general alarm is excited. The Bank has been buying bullion, and since the late advices from India, are favourable for this country, the orders for silver have decreased, and consequently the price has also gone down. Trade is generally sound, but while politics continue in an unsettled position, there will be no desire to enlarge consignments abroad. Out of evil there cometh good, and though apprehensions may be occasioned in some quarters, the late perturbation will eventually produce a healthier position of affairs. The Bank rate is 8 per cent. The bankers and brokers work ⅛ to ¼ per cent. under that quotation.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The arrivals of specie this week have been on a very limited scale indeed, but the bullion movements at the Bank may be regarded on the whole as satisfactory, the amount sent in being £232,000, but against which there have been withdrawals to the extent of £150,000 for transmission abroad. The silver market continues dull, there is now less demand, and a further important decline has taken place in the price, owing to the considerable fall in exchange at Bombay of about 5 per cent. For the mail to sail on Friday, the orders are very limited. The bar silver brought by the last West India Packet, has been sold at 61⅛d. per oz., being a decline of 1⅛d from that realised by the previous arrival. Mexican dollars have been in less demand, but those which recently arrived have been sold at 63d. per oz., being an advance of 1d. on previous rates. Advices from Melbourne announced that the shipments of gold since the last mail represent 60,500 oz., valued at £242,000. The ships previously known to be on their way, will bring £127,000, making a total of £369,000.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The English Stock Market has been subjected to considerable and frequent fluctuations during the week, the rise and fall being chiefly influenced by the telegrams received with regard to the progress of the Germano-Danish war. The tone of the debates in Parliament, with the assurance on the part of the Government that there is no intention on their part of entering into the war, and the report that an armistice has been concluded between Austria and Denmark, have had a beneficial effect upon prices, and, as contrasted with last week, there has been a considerable improvement, and the tendency of the market is good. Consols closed this evening at 90½ to ⅝ for money, and 91 to ⅛ for the account, being an improvement of ⅜ per cent.; Exchequer Bills are also rather better, being 9s. to 3s. dis. A fair amount of business has been transacted in Foreign Stocks, and almost all classes show an improvement; Greek has advanced ⅜ per cent., and are now quoted 21 to 21½; Mexican are up to 36 to 36½, being a rise of 1¼ per cent.; Spanish Passives are better by ⅜ per cent.; but the Certificates have declined ⅛; the price of the former being 32⅜ to 32⅞, and the latter 13¼ to 13¾; Turkish Six per Cents (1854) have advanced to 88½ to 89½, and those of 1862 to 66⅛ to 67⅜.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The market for American Government and railway securities is getting less animated week by week. The dealers appear to have entirely discarded this class of securities, the operations being strictly confined to small purchases for investments. But although there is no material alteration in values the general tendency is towards continued weakness. The only dealings recorded have been in Maryland, at 70. Atlantic and Great Western Railway, Pennsylvannia section, 77½. Erie, $100 Shares, all paid, 62 and 61. Illinois Central $100 Shares, all paid, 68 and 67⅜. New York Central $100 Shares, 76 and 75; and Panama railroad, second mortgage, 108.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

There has not been so much fluctuation in the railway share market as in the other departments, but a good business has nevertheless been transacted, and, for the most part, prices have had an improving tendency. To-day the market has been good, and closed firm. The great feature, however, has been a rise of no less than 5 per cent. in Metropolitan. With reference to other shares, as compared with last week, there has been a rise of 2 per cent. in North Staffordshire; of 1 per cent. in Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire; and of ½ per cent. in Caledonian, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Brighton, Midland, and South-Eastern. On the other hand there has been a fall in Edinburgh and Glasgow of 1 per cent.; of ½ per cent. in Great Northern, and ¼ per cent. in North British. In foreign railway shares, business has not been so brisk, and prices show slightly less firmness. A better business has been done in the shares of British possessions; the inquiry for them has been more animated, and prices remain steady and firm.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market for this security has been firm throughout the week, at 49 to 51, occasionally higher; we close very firm at 50 to 51.

BANK MEETINGS.

At the first ordinary meeting of the proprietors of the London and Northern Bank just held, it was shown that the net profit, after payment of all current expenses and making provision for bad and doubtful debts, was £3,172. This sum showed a profit equal to 10 per cent. on the paid-up capital, but the directors recommend that £2,000 should be carried to the reserve fund, and £1,172 should be devoted to the preliminary expense account. The report was unanimously adopted.—At an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the National Discount Company a special resolution was passed for the increase of the capital by the issue of 40,000 new shares. The chairman stated that the applications already received from the existing shareholders were for more than 51,000 shares.—At the annual general meeting of the London and Joint Stock Banking Company the accounts showed that the net profits for the past six months amounted, after payment of all expenses, to £84,325, which, added to £14,313 brought from the previous account, made a total of £98,608, out of which it was proposed to declare a dividend of 6 per cent., together with a bonus of 6 per cent., for the half-year, making, with the dividend paid in August, 18 per cent. for the year. £10,000 was carried to the reserve fund, making that fund now £100,000, and leaving £16,658 to be carried to the current account. The report was unanimously adopted.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

At the ordinary general meeting of the City of London Brewery Company the accounts showed that the gross profit upon the year's working, amounted to £59,817. A dividend was declared, making with the interim dividend, paid in August last, 9 per cent. per annum. The sum of £4,000 was carried to the depreciation of leasehold; £5,584 to the reserved fund, and £500 voted, as usual to Mr. C. Richardson. At the ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the Mediterranean Extension Telegraph Company, a report of a very favourable character was read and adopted, and a dividend of 8 per cent. per annum, on the preference shares, and 4s. per share, equal to 4 per cent. per annum, on the original capital. Ten per cent. on the gross earnings, amounting to £108, was carried to the reserved fund. The Oriental and General Marine Insurance Company have issued their report this afternoon, preparatory to the general meeting on the 25th inst. The accounts show that after having paid all claims and expenses to the 31st December, there remains a balance of £67,274 on insurance and interest accounts. The two years, however, over which the company's operations have extended, not being sufficient to afford a safe basis for the calculation of profits, the directors recommend that £3,339 only be applied in payment of interest or capital, being at the rate of 5 per cent., and the remainder £63,935 carried forward in usual course.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

The prospectus has been issued to-day of the Ottoman Financial Association (Limited), with a proposed capital of £1,000,000, in 20,000 shares of £50 each. First issue, 10,000 shares, with a deposit of £1 on application and £4 on allotment. The object of the company is to supply the necessary means in the Ottoman Empire for the formation of public works, such as railways and horse tram-roads from the interior to the coast; the cultivation of silk and cotton; the development of mining operations; the draining of marshy grounds, and the improvement of inland navigation and the means of land transport. For the accomplishment of the foregoing objects, the capital of the country itself is wholly inadequate, as there is no efficient machinery available by which undertakings on a large and collective scale can be accomplished.—The particulars of the Credit Foncier of Mauritius (Limited), which is brought out under the auspices of the Land Mortgage Bank of India, have also been issued. The board of directors,

which is influential, call attention to the great scope which is presented in Mauritius for the useful outlay of capital in improvements on estates, and it is estimated that a sum of £2,000,000 might be safely invested in the colony, at a rate equal to 10 per cent. per annum. The capital sought to be raised is £500,000, in 10,000 shares of £50 each, and it is proposed to call up by instalments £10 per share, and then to issue bonds, the whole of the company's profit being thus applicable as dividend on the comparatively limited amount of £100,000 of paid-up capital. The prospectus of the City Mercantile Club and Dining Hall Company (Limited) is in circulation. The capital is to be £80,000, in 8,000 shares of £10 each, the object being to establish a new club in the City of London, and also public dining and refreshment halls of a high class. A suitable range of buildings has been obtained in the centre of Cheapside. The Credit Foncier Company (Limited) is another undertaking just brought out by the Mercantile Credit Association. The company will receive money on deposits at fixed rates, and will issue debentures for long or short periods. Advances will be made on all kinds of interests in lands, buildings, and also upon approved securities, to be repaid as may be arranged. The proposed capital is £1,000,000, in 10,000 shares, of £100 each; deposit on application, £1 per share, and on allotment £2.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE AND NEW COMPANIES.

The committee of the Stock Exchange have this day passed an important resolution with regard to new joint-stock companies. It is to the effect that they will not recognise transactions in the shares of any new company, unless one-half of the nominal capital be issued, and at least 10 per cent. paid thereon. It is understood that the rule will apply to companies whose shares have not yet been allotted.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

In most descriptions of produce transactions are restricted, purchases by the home trade being confined to the mere provision for immediate requirements; whilst the Continental demand is checked perceptibly by the uncertainty in which political affairs are involved. During the last day or two there has, however, been a better inquiry in some few articles, encouraged principally by indications of easier money. Cotton has sold more freely both in London and Liverpool, prices moving up ½d. to ¾d. per lb. American provisions move off steadily. Beef is more firmly held, in consequence of the New York advices, which mention small shipments. Recent sales make 40s. to 45s. for prime eastern, and middles [illegible] to [illegible] per cwt. American butter continues to arrive freely, and middling qualities are [illegible] at lower prices, but fine [illegible] [illegible] owing to the small supplies [illegible] [illegible] meets only a retail demand. [illegible] [illegible] really, 1s. 11½d. to 2s. per gallon [illegible] [illegible] been the current rate throughout the [illegible] [illegible] time has risen 2 per cent, [illegible] corn markets were [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] was steady [illegible] [illegible] steady in value, but [illegible] of East India refuse, [illegible] with considerable [illegible] at an [illegible] 1d. per lb on the rates of [illegible] also qualities being in [illegible] made [illegible] per cent [illegible] at the late decline. In [illegible] [illegible] and prices have [illegible] moderate sales of [illegible] at [illegible] ruling has [illegible] again [illegible] 10s. per ton, [illegible] trade is not active, but [illegible] paid. The demand for [illegible] called 6d. to 1s. from the [illegible] been inactive. Spelter [illegible] per ton [illegible] iron, 1s. 6d. Copper also tends to [illegible] prices [illegible] continues very firm.

COTTON AND DRY GOODS MARKET.

Liverpool, W[illegible], [illegible]

There has not been a [illegible] trade doing in our cotton market during the past week, [illegible] [illegible] extreme caution, and the actual business done has been entirely of a retail character, though within the last day or two slightly increased sales have been effected. Prices have been very irregular, with generally a drooping [illegible], particularly in the lower grades of American. [illegible] has been in rather better demand. Surats have been irregular, and lower, particularly for the [illegible] [illegible]. The sales this week have reached [illegible] bales, of which 14,000 were taken on speculation and for export. The [illegible] sales this year have been [illegible] bales, and to the same period in 1863 they were 1[illegible],3[illegible] bales. The imports, so far this year, have reached 119,180 bales, and to the same period last year, 115,954 bales. This year there have been exported 27,624 bales, and to the corresponding period in 1863 the exports were [illegible] bales. [illegible] have been taken for [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Manchester, February 10.

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There are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellowmen.

Contributions will be received by J. H. ASHBRIDGE, Treasurer, Walmer Buildings, Water Street, Liverpool; or in London, by HENRY HOTZE, Esq., 17, Savile Row, W.; in Paris, by H. O. BREWER, Esq., 6 Rue Circulaire; and DANIEL HUBBARD, Esq., 24, Rue Lord Byron.

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NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK.

AMERICA.

MR. LINCOLN has ordered a draft for 500,000 men, to serve for three years or during the war. From this are to be deducted the enlistments made under the last call for 300,000 men, and is in fact an order for an additional 200,000 recruits. This gives a total of 2,039,748 men called for since the beginning of the war.

This order has caused considerable surprise in the North. For the last two months the Washington officials have been persistently declaring that the "rebellion" was crushed; the Confederates were starving; the Confederate Government was about to evacuate Richmond and give up Virginia; Tennessee had been finally wrested from the Confederates; North Carolina, Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas were coming back into the Union; the Confederate armies were depleted by desertion; the troops under General Lee were in open mutiny; Charleston was about to fall; the Mississippi was open to commerce; and the Southern people were ready to accept gratefully the terrible and merciless amnesty of their conqueror. What need, then, of another half million of soldiers? A reference to the military situation, as presented by their own journals, will satisfy the Federals that the amnesty, except so far as it is an electioneering dodge, was a farce; that the reports of Confederate exhaustion were utterly unfounded; and that if the war is to be continued, and even if the Federals are to hold for a time the ground they have gained at such a ruinous expenditure of life and treasure, the Government will require the additional half-million of troops.

Anticipating the usual season, the Confederates have attacked the invading forces at various points with equal vigour and success. In Western Virginia the Federals have been assaulted by General Early, who has captured a large quantity of stores, forced the enemy to temporarily evacuate two important towns, and is now reported to be slowly returning to the Shenandoah Valley laden with spoils. A small expedition sent up the James River has been defeated, and the gunboat *Smith*, which supported the Federals, captured and destroyed. The Confederates have burnt the steamer *Levi*, running between Ohio and Western Virginia, capturing General Scammon, who was on board. In North Carolina the Federal troops in the neighbourhood of Newbern have been driven into that city, after destroying their camp and stores and allowing the Confederates to capture the gunboat *Underwriter* and a battery of artillery. In East Tennessee General Longstreet has been pressing the enemy. General Martin attacked and routed the Federals between Morristown and Louisville; the Federals have evacuated Tazewell and the town has been occupied by the Confederates; enormous captures of stores have been effected; and the Federals admit their retreat into Knoxville was attended with much confusion and heavy loss. Fort Pillow has been evacuated by the Federals, who have also hastily abandoned Corinth, Mississippi, leaving to the Confederates a valuable store of arms. The Mississippi has been temporarily blockaded by the Confederates, and stores of arms passed from east to west; and so effective is the flying artillery, that a battery lately tried its strength against three gunboats, and for a long time maintained the struggle. The Mississippi is, as far as commerce is concerned, as effectually blockaded now as it was when the Confederates held Vicksburg and Port Hudson. In Kentucky the Confederates have entered Scottsville and captured the Federal garrison. Such is the list of Confederate successes according to Northern accounts, and we may be sure it is not a perfect list, and that every item is toned down so as not to alarm Mr. Lincoln's loyal subjects. Against these triumphs of the Confederates all the Washington authorities can claim is, that General Roddy (whose command must be a very small one) has been driven to the South of the Tennessee river, with the loss of his trains; a "reported" capture of a company of Confederate cavalry in Georgia; and that Charleston has been again bombarded vigorously and without effect. Whether Mr. Lincoln can get 500,000 more troops may be uncertain, but that he wants them is unquestionable.

The news from Charleston must delight the loyal citizens who supply the Government with guns and ammunition. On the 23rd January the Federal fire had been reduced to about nine shots per day, and on the 24th the firing was at the rate of one shot per hour. On the 28th the bombardment was renewed in earnest, and 123 shells were fired at Fort Sumter in the course of the night. Loyal contractors will be glad to learn (as they can do from the loyal newspapers) that neither Sumter nor Charleston are in the least affected by the shelling. So far from Fort Sumter being *hors de combat*, new guns have been mounted.

The Federal House of Representatives have passed a resolution that lands of the Confederates may be confiscated in fee, and not merely for life. This, we need hardly observe, is a violation of the United States Constitution; but it is not on the ground of its being unconstitutional that we find any fault with the resolution. The Federal Legislature is justified in holding that the Confederate States have no claim under the Constitution of the United States, and that if subjugated, they are merely entitled to the treatment of a conquered country. But we believe this is the only instance in history in which it has been contemplated to despoil, a great people of the whole of their property.

In the Confederate Senate, Mr. Maxwell, of Florida submitted a series of resolutions respecting the exchange of prisoners. The first resolution approved the action of the Government in refusing to treat with General Butler, "who is held in odium, not more by the people of these States than by the people of all civilised countries," and who was appointed by the Federal authorities "to embarrass and avoid the further exchange of prisoners on any reasonable terms." The second resolution avows the willingness of the Confederate Government to make a fair exchange according to the cartel when the United States appoint a proper agent. The third resolution repudiates any exchange of negro soldiers, on the ground that the law of nations gives every nation a right to the service of all her people, of every class, against a public enemy, and the right to punish any such as may be caught in the act of war against her; and that to admit such a claim would be to give a sanction to insurrection. The fourth resolution declares that the Federal prisoners have been treated as well as the Confederate soldiers, and if there has been any scantiness of provisions and clothing it "is due to the indiscriminate and malicious devastation and destruction of private property by the armies of the United States, such as for ages past has been denounced by the civilised world as only fit to be practised by barbarians and savages." The resolutions were referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and on the motion of Mr. Orr were transferred to the secret calender.

Mr. Lincoln's call for another half-million of men induces the *New York World* to glance at what the war has cost the North up to the present time, so far as the cost is known. Mr. Lincoln has made the following calls for troops:—

April 16, 1861	75,000
May 4, 1861	64,748
From July to December, 1861	500,000
July 1, 1862	300,000
August 4, 1862	300,000
Draft, summer of 1863	300,000
February 1, 1864	500,000
Total	2,039,748

This is for one part of the service and does not include the cost of the navy, the estimates for which for the current year exceed the whole naval expenditure of England and France during the continuance of the Crimean war. In 1860 the total amount of loans authorised by Congress was not more than $50,000,000; the account now stands as follows:—

Loan of 1842	$242,621
Loan of 1847	9,415,250
Loan of 1848	8,908,341
Texas indemnity loan of 1850	3,461,000
Loan of 1858	20,000,000
Loan of 1860	7,622,000
Loan of 1861	18,415,000
Treasury notes, March, 1861	512,900
Oregon war loan, 1861	1,016,000
Another loan of 1861	50,000,000
Three years treasury notes	139,679,000
Loan of August, 1861	320,000
Five-twenty loan	400,000,000
Temporary loans	164,933,103
Certificates of indebtedness	156,918,347
Unclaimed dividends	114,115
Demand Treasury notes	500,000
Legal tenders, 1862	397,767,114
Legal tenders, 1863	104,969,937
Postal and fractional currency	50,000,000
Old Treasury notes outstanding	118,000
Ten-forty bonds	900,000,000
Interest-bearing Treasury notes	500,000,000
Total	$2,774,912,818

Can any of those who think the time has not yet come to recognise the independence of the Confederate States point to any other nation which has resisted such vast and costly efforts for its subjugation? Never were the patriotism and determination of a people more thoroughly tested.

In 1863, according to the report of the Register of the Confederate treasury, the amount of duties collected on imports by the Confederate Government was $1,000,000. Of this $58,000 was received on articles brought across the Potomac.

Not caring for the displeasure of Earl Russell and Mr Seward, Alabama is determined to spare no efforts to regularly pay the interest owing to British bondholders. The dividends due on the 1st of January were duly provided for, and to meet the interest for another year the State treasury has $70,000 in coin, and recommends a loan in coin from one or more of the banks to cover the deficiency. The interest annually accruing in London, with 8 per cent. exchange added, amounts to $80,000.

The Confederate Commissioner of Patents reports that in the past year there were 114 applications. Thirty-one patents were issued for improvements in fire-arms, projectiles, and in machinery for their manufacture. Many of these improvements have been adopted by the Govern-

ment, and have proved of practical value in military operations and in the preparation of ordnance supplies.

The Confederate Congress has unanimously passed a vote of thanks to General Beauregard and the officers and men of his command, for their gallant and successful defence of Charleston—"a defence which, for the skill, heroism, and tenacity displayed by the defenders during an attack scarcely paralleled in warfare, whether we consider the persistent efforts of the enemy, or his boundless resources in the most improved and formidable artillery and the most powerful engines of war hitherto known, is justly entitled to be pronounced glorious by impartial history and an admiring country."

The conduct of the enemy in North Alabama has been extremely barbarous. A few weeks since a party of twenty-five Yankees crossed the Tennessee river into Beech Island, where they captured James Radeu, aged sixty-three years, his son, two of his nephews, and another man. Of these private citizens, four were immediately murdered and thrown into the river. The fifth clung to some bushes. The leader ordered his men to cut off the head of their prisoner, but not being able to get at him easily, they fired two guns. The man dropped as if killed, and the Yankees, supposing him to be dead, went away. The same band proceeded to the house of Mr. Ritchie, took him out of his bed, drove him for about two miles, then made him wade in the Paint Rock river, and when he was about midway in the stream shot him, putting seven balls through his body. They hanged an overseer for helping his employer to carry his stock across the river. They also went to the house of Captain Rollin, robbed him of several thousand dollars, gave him ten minutes to cross the Tennessee river, and threatened to hang him if ever he returned.

It is asserted in the Southern papers that General Bragg is about to take the command in the State of Mississippi; that General Sibley, now in Texas, has been ordered to report at Richmond and that his place will be filled by General Herbert.

The health of Vice-President Stevens was, at the latest dates, improving, and no further anxiety was felt by his friends as to a speedy recovery.

According to law, the session of the Confederate Congress expired on the 18th of February, and the Legislature does not meet again until December. The Senate, deeming the recess too long under present circumstances, passed a resolution that Congress should re-assemble the first Monday in May. A bill was introduced into the House of Representatives ordering the meeting of Congress on the first Monday in April, and was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The rule of Butler in Norfolk promises to exceed in atrocity his rule in New Orleans. On the 10th January, Miss Emma Blunt, of Washington county, North Carolina, was found dead near the picket stand. A *post mortem* examination showed that she had been foully used, and then killed by a blow on the head. A free negro named Moore, living near the place, was suspected and arrested. On his premises an axe was found stained with blood, and according to the medical testimony it was with such an instrument that the murder was committed. It was proved that Moore had been out on the night of the murder, that he returned home with a bloody axe, and hid it under some fodder. The print of an axe was discovered in the road near the body, which corresponded with the axe in Moore's possession. The negro told several stories, and amongst them that he had met a party of Confederates, who offered him $20 to tell them where Miss Blunt lived, as they were going to kill her. Butler's judge thought proper to believe this, and told Moore he should be acquitted if he would volunteer in the Federal service. The condition was accepted, the prisoner was released, and forthwith enlisted as a United States soldier.

The letter of our New Orleans correspondent gives an account of the preparations for the reported attack on Mobile, and of the Federal military situation in Louisiana. It also presents a graphic and sickening account of the condition of the "free" negroes under Yankee rule.

☞ The *Chesapeake* case was resumed on the 30th ult. The counsel for the Confederates produced the "letter of marque," or rather commission to Captain Parker, of the *Retribution*, and Dr. Blackburn, of Mississippi, testified to the signature of President Davis. Captain Davis, of Virginia, who was taken prisoner at Gettysburg, and escaped from Johnson's Island on the 1st January, was sworn, and stated that according to the practice of the Confederate service, officers authorised to do a particular duty had power to delegate authority to others, and that persons acting under such delegated authority have heretofore been treated by the Federals as prisoners of war. This was confirmed by the evidence of Messrs. Coleman and Osborn, privates of the Confederate service, who escaped from camp Douglas on the 2nd of January. Mr. Lock, of Nova Scotia, said he met Captain Parker at Nassau in May last, when he (Captain Parker) was in command of the *Retribution*, and that he then saw his commission from President Davis, and it was the same document that had been produced in court. After hearing this evidence, the object of which was to show that the seizure of the *Chesapeake* was not an act of piracy, the Court adjourned.

Mr. Vallandigham has applied to the Supreme Court of the United States for a writ of certiorari, for the purpose of annulling the sentence passed on him by the Military Commission. The brief of his counsel, Mr. C. E. Pugh, sets forth that Mr. Vallandigham, a citizen of Ohio, and not enlisted or commissioned in the military service of the United States, nor called into actual service as a militia-man, was arrested by a party of soldiers, and arraigned before a military commission, convened by order of General Burnside. The charge brought brought against Mr. Vallandigham was that of expressing sympathy with the South, and with declaring disloyal sentiments and opinions, in order to hinder the Government in its efforts to suppress an unlawful rebellion. The specification of the charge sets forth that Mr. Vallandigham, at a public meeting, declared that the war was wicked, cruel, and unnecessary; that it was not waged for the preservation of the Union, but for crushing out liberty and erecting a despotism; that the Federal Administration could have honourably terminated the war months ago; that peace might have been honourably obtained by listening to the French proposal of mediation; that propositions "by which the Northern States could be won back and the South guaranteed her rights under the Constitution" had been rejected by Mr. Lincoln and his "minions" before the battle of Fredericksburg; that the Government was attempting to establish a military despotism in all the States; that the General Order, No. 38 (relating to Ohio) was a base usurpation of arbitrary authority, and that it was the duty of the citizens to resist the same. At the trial, Mr. Vallandigham denied the jurisdiction of the Court, and the commissioner found him guilty of the charge (portions of the specification excepted), and sentenced him to be imprisoned during the continuance of the war.

Mr. Vallandigham claims the annulment of the sentence on the grounds that the jurisdiction of a military commission is limited, and only extends to cases arising in the land or naval forces or in the militia when in actual service; that the sentence of the commission was in excess of jurisdiction, because neither the charge nor the specification imputes any crime known to the law of the land; that General Burnside had no authority to enlarge the jurisdiction of the commission; that the Supreme Court has the power to grant a writ of certiorari, and that certiorari is a writ of right, not of discretion, and cannot be refused, except by the plain words of a statute. Mr. Pugh observes that the judgment upon certiorari is final, because either the suit must be dismissed or the proceedings of the inferior court must be quashed *ab initio*, for want of jurisdiction. Hence, whilst a writ of error is addressed to the judges of the inferior court, a writ of certiorari is generally addressed to the officer having the custody of the proceedings, and is in fact, an order to annul the same. All the points suggested by Mr. Pugh are supported by long lists of precedents. He told the Supreme Court that the question now is, whether, like the writ of habeas corpus, the writ of certiorari has also been abolished or its privilege suspended.

General Banks has issued a general order announcing the speedy publication of regulations "for the government of persons employed in plantation labour during the present year." It thus appears that the "free labour" is to be carried on under military rule. General Banks orders "the suspension of all unnecessary communication of travel by plantation labourers between the parishes of the State, or between plantations of the same parish. Such communication or travel, therefore, is forbidden, except under regulations established by the provost-marshals of the several parishes, and upon passes issued in accordance therewith. Public officers and managers of estates are requested to assist in the execution of this order." The excuse for this is "consideration of public health," but another reason is the dissatisfaction amongst the negroes and the desire to prevent an organised rising against Federal rule.

General Banks also notifies that all estates not immediately occupied will be seized by the Government.

General Wilde, commanding the coloured brigade at Norfolk, and who is the zealous executor of Butler's decrees, lately hanged a private of the Confederate service, named Daniel Bright, under the pretext that he was a guerilla, and compelled the Southern ladies and gentlemen whom he had arrested to witness the execution. Colonel Griffin informed General Wilde that he was about to hang a Federal soldier in retaliation, and that he was keeping other soldiers in irons as hostages for the ladies imprisoned by the Federals. In his letter to General Wilde the colonel says, "Probably no expedition during the progress of this war has been attended with more utter disregard for the long established usages of civilisation or the dictates of humanity, than was your late raid into the country bordering the Albemarle. Your stay, though short, was marked by crimes and enormities. You burned houses over the heads of defenceless women and children, carried off private property of every description, arrested non-combatants, and carried off ladies in irons, whom you confined with negro men."

The Federal authorities and their agents in this country are still harping upon the well-worn story of the "disaffection of North Carolina," and that that State is desirous of returning to the Union. On this subject a New York paper observes:—

We have before us Wilmington and Raleigh (North Carolina) papers, with dates to the 13th. The *Raleigh Standard* has been regarded as a Union paper, and North Carolina as a Union State, ready at a moment's warning to come back and join the North in battling for the old Union and the old flag, but we have been unable to see any of the signs which, like coming events, cast their shadows before. The *Standard* opposes many of the measures of the Confederate President, but beyond this it denies the soft impeachment; and we have its own denial of the charges now being made in Northern Abolition papers, in the words: "We have made no proposition to go out of the Confederacy." Upon its opposition to some of the acts of the Confederate Congress the charge is based; and if the war is not to end until North Carolina is prepared willingly to submit to the schemes of Mr. Lincoln, then will the war be an eternal one.

It is also significant of "Union sentiment" in North Carolina, that Governor Vance has offered to supply the army of General Lee with clothing, the State having a superabundant store.

The Hon. James B. Clay, the son of Henry Clay, died at Montreal, on the 26th January. In 1849 he was United States minister to Portugal, in 1857 he was elected member of Congress for Ashland district, Kentucky; he was a member of the "Peace Conference," held at Washington in February, 1861; the same year he was imprisoned by Mr. Lincoln, and subsequently released. In 1862 he commenced organising a brigade for the Confederate service in Eastern Kentucky, and on General Bragg's retreat accompanied his army southwards. He declined a command, but ran the blockade and went to Canada, where he remained until his death. It is not without its significance that the son of Henry Clay should die in exile. It is just we should observe that the Federal military authorities in Kentucky, knowing that his mortal disease—consumption—was aggravated by the climate of Canada, offered to permit him to return to his home, but Mr. Clay thought the conditions inconsistent with his honour, and declined the offer.

The New York Senate has authorised a loan of $2,000,000, and the issue of bonds for $4,000,000, for the payment of bounties to volunteers enlisted under Mr. Lincoln's call of the 1st instant. This is one among many proofs that the Federal expenditure does not nearly cover the total cost of the war to the United States.

Marshal Kane and a number of Confederate officers, who are said to have escaped from Johnson's Island, have arrived at Nova Scotia.

The *Richmond Sentinel* of the 1st inst. states that the steamers *Pet* and *Hercules* have run the Wilmington blockade.

The price of gold at New York on the 6th inst. was 58⅛ per cent. premium.

ENGLAND.

A REPORT upon the projects of the railway and other companies applying to Parliament for powers to construct works within the City of London, has been presented by the Engineer to the Commissioners of Sewers of the Corporation. The sums of the areas scheduled for the various projects amount to about 211 acres, but inasmuch as many parts are under notice by three or four companies, it may be taken that 160 acres, or about one quarter of the whole City, are required. The length of the proposed railways is about 20 miles, and 30 roads are doomed to a greater or less interference. The sewage works are to suffer annihilation and reconstruction, about eight bridges are to be thrown across the Thames, and one of these aims at spans of 820 feet with a height of 100 feet above high-water mark. The Monument, Temple Bar, Finsbury Circus, Apothecaries Hall, and the Admiralty are to be consigned to an untimely end. The Thames Embankment, which is scarcely commenced, is considered a fit prey for several lines, while one company coolly proposes to seize the centre of the Thames itself. Some railways will soar high above the houses on viaducts, while more will penetrate the foundations of London. The Thames Tunnel, the unproductive effort of the genius of Brunel, is claimed by two companies. The Pneumatic Despatch Company desires to transmit the letters and parcels of London by a radiation of innumerable pipes. A viaduct is to be formed across the famous Holborn valley, with new streets diverging therefrom. Among all the public buildings the churches alone are respected, not one being touched by the designs.

The return of the gross public income and expenditure for the year ending the 31st December 1863, has been published. The total revenue was £70,133,620 5s. 9d., and the expenditure was £66,910,987 11s. 10d. There was also an additional outlay of £900,000 for fortifications. The surplus therefore amounts to £2,622,632 13s. 11d. The balances in the Exchequer amounted to £7,491,813 3s. 9d.

We have by the last Cape mail the news that the Confederate ship of war *Tuscaloosa*, formerly the Federal bark *Conrad*, put in to Simon's Bay (Cape of Good Hope) on the 26th of December last. She had on her former visit to the Bay, rather more than three months before that date, been received as a duly commissioned ship of war, and her commander, Lieutenant Lowe, therefore supposed that he could safely enter the port, obtain supplies and other necessaries, and get the bottom of his vessel recoppered. He had put into a Brazilian port for water and supplies, but had been denied both. He had also encountered one hundred vessels on the cruise, but only one was a Federal ship, the *Living Age*, and she having on board an English cargo was released on bond. On the day after the arrival of the *Tuscaloosa* in the Bay, Admiral Sir Baldwin Walker despatched from his flagship a lieutenant and a boarding party of twenty-five men to seize the *Tuscaloosa* in the Queen's name. The order was promptly carried into execution. Lieutenant Lowe lodged a formal protest against the seizure; but in answer to a claim by the United States Consul on behalf of the former owners, the Government has detained the ship till she can be handed over to them. The theory on which the seizure is justified is that Captain Semmes could not legally constitute a prize court on board the *Alabama* for the condemnation of captured vessels. The Colonial Government acted on direct instructions from the Home Government.

The case of Her Majesty's Advocate against John Fleming and others claiming the vessel *Pampero*, was

called on Thursday last at Edinburgh, before Lord Ormidale, in the Exchequer Court. It will be remembered that the ship was seized in the Clyde on 10th December last. The information contained ninety-eight counts, framed in accordance with the precedent given in the *Alexandra* case. After some discussion on a point of procedure, the case stood over to Monday last. On that day his lordship said that as they were in the beginning of a new class of Crown cases, they must consider whether it would be better to take the case at once to the jury or to follow the ordinary Scotch practice of of disposing of all questions of relevancy before trial. The Lord Advocate said if the whole case went to trial the Crown would propose the 10th March or the first week in April. The case was, however, again adjourned.

It was reported at Manchester last week that a vessel was about to leave a British port on a cruise after the *Alabama*. The new steamer, purchased and equipped at the sole expense of two English mercantile houses, will, it is expected, steam three or four knots faster than the *Alabama*, being also much stronger and carrying heavier guns than the Confederate ship. Her commander will be a man of high reputation, and, it is said, a foe worthy of the steel of Captain Semmes. After this new ship has caught and destroyed the great Confederate cruiser, she is to direct her power against the *Georgia*, the *Florida*, and *Rappahannock*. Two barks have already left England with coals for the avenging vessel. Such are the rumours which find credence at Manchester. If they are true, they form a striking comment on the prowess of that navy which according to Mr. Welles, has attained historical renown. Moreover they suggest a new and promising field for the application of the powers of the Foreign Enlistment Act.

A Danish frigate arrived in Plymouth on Sunday evening with a Prussian bark as prize, which had been captured off Lowestoft on the previous Tuesday. The Danish ship was the *Nils Juel*, forty-six guns, commanded by Captain Gotlieb, who was under orders to take ships belonging to Prussia, Austria, Bremen, Lubeck, and Hanover. It is said, that the Norwegian merchant ships lying at Plymouth decline charters for belligerent ports, from fear of a termination of the present neutrality. A French gunboat had arrived at Plymouth to look after the French fishing-smacks.

The Mayor of Manchester, on a requisition from a thousand citizens, called a meeting on Thursday last "to consider the propriety of memorialising the Government, and of petitioning the Houses of Parliament to maintain the principles of non-intervention in the war between Denmark and Germany." The illustrious Mr. T. B. Potter was the leading spirit of the evening, and demonstrated to his own satisfaction, and to that of his enlightened hearers, that the honour of England was in no way concerned in upholding the treaty of 1852, but that our interests were all in the direction of peace. Trade would be paralysed by war. The precedent of the *Alabama* would be followed, not by the American Government, which, according to Mr. T. B. Potter, would be loyal and honest in its dealings, but by private individuals in America, and there would speedily be a dozen or twenty *Alabamas* in pursuit of English commerce all over the world. Then would ensue panic in our commerce, starvation and insubordination among our people. Mr. T. B. Potter also spoke of all these horrors being the result of a refusal to listen to fair and just claims in the matter of the *Alabama*. Evidently, the two ideas in Mr. Potter's mind were, that Mr. W. Seward was the most loyal, honest, fair, and just man in the world, and that the effectual way to influence the English people was to frighten them. Mr. T. B. Potter next gave his version of the history of the Treaty of 1852, the off-shoot, in his view, of secret diplomacy; and then argued that because the Treaty of 1815 excluded the Bonapartes from the throne of France, and because, in spite thereof, Lord Palmerston had recognised the Prince President in 1851, therefore the faith of treaties, the honour of the nation, and the balance of power were absurdities. The House of Commons was then attacked, because it held debates on foreign affairs, forgetting that four-fifths of the people were without the pale of the Constitution, and that the agricultural population was acknowledged to be a disgrace to civilisation. Mr. R. N. Phillips followed suit, and commenced by stating that upon the whole he always admired the conduct of Earl Russell in public matters. He acknowledged that he was much perplexed by the Danish question, and so endeavoured to clear up the general obscurity by a slight sketch of the History of England from the reign of William III. to the present time. Finally, he wanted Lord Russell to preface all his remarks to foreign Powers in this style: "Now we, the English people, don't intend to go to war upon this question; but if we can mediate it for you," &c., a method by the way which hitherto has been supposed to ensure the gravest insults, and consequent war. After a short speech from Mr. Bazley, M.P., the well-known Ernest Jones explained that the Treaty of 1852 was hatched at Warsaw in 1851, between Count Nesselrode and the Danish Minister, and was signed in London without the consent of the English people or Parliament. It was the result of a system which struck at the root of English liberty, and which had for its object to lead the people from attending to those reforms which were so much needed at home. Eventually, the meeting voted a resolution in accordance with the sentiments of Mr. T. B. Potter, together with a memorial to Lord Palmerston and petitions to Parliament based on the resolution.

The case of Kahnweiler *v.* Dobson put in a final appearance in the Court of Queen's Bench on Friday last. Kahnweiler was a merchant at Frankfort and a member of the firm of Paisley and Co., at Wilmington, C. S.A., and Dobson was a merchant of Hull. The two had chartered the *Peterhoff* and *Latona* to run the blockade in May, 1862. Both vessels were to carry saltpetre, and the plaintiff swore that it was agreed that if the vessels "could not run the blockade the saltpetre should be taken out and the vessels should go to one of the 'open' ports in the Confederate States." At that time New Orleans, Beaufort and Port Royal were "open" ports. However, in June the plaintiff wrote to the defendant to say that from information received at Wilmington he doubted whether a cargo could be obtained in the Confederate ports unless saltpetre was imported, and it would also be useless to go to an "open" port. The saltpetre was taken out of the *Latona*, sent to New York, and sold by a firm of "Smith and Jones" for the defendant. The *Latona* was captured, the *Peterhoff* was successful. The defendant gave Smith and Jones instructions to sell the saltpetre and invest the money in bacon and clover-seed, which was done. The bacon had been received and sold, and the defendant had the proceeds. The clover-seed was burnt. No accounts had been rendered to the plaintiff. At the trial the judge told the jury to find for the plaintiff if they thought that the defendant had adopted the sale at New York and the conversion of the proceeds into the goods. The jury found for the plaintiff for £930. On Friday, then, the argument was held on the motion for a new trial, and Sir George Honeyman argued the case for the defendant. The court, however, refused to grant a new trial, holding that the defendant had directed the proceeds of the goods to be turned into merchandise, and as that was not authorised by the plaintiff it made the defendant liable for the value received by him for the plaintiff.

The man who has never seen an election in an English borough has no conception of the turbulence, combativeness, and audacity of an English mob. In the latter half of the nineteenth century, in the most liberal of all constituencies, in the most fashionable town in the United Kingdom, scenes were witnessed on Saturday and Monday last, compared with which an Indian war-dance is a trifle, and which an Irish faction-fight can alone excel. Five persons laid claim to the honour of representing Brighton in the House of Commons. These were, first, Mr. Moor, who has made himself well known to the electors by a residence among them, and who came forward on Conservative principles; second, Mr. Fawcett, the Professor of Political Economy in the University of Cambridge, and a man of considerable talent and eloquence; third, Mr. Goldsmid, a young gentleman, whose principal qualification is his wealth and the possession of Sir F. Goldsmid for a parent; and, fourth, a Mr. Dumas, all of the Liberal or Radical school; and last, a Mr. Harper, who came forward as a Protestant, and nothing but a Protestant, and who protested against spending £300,000 a year in support of Roman Catholic institutions, contrary to the coronation oath of the Queen.

On Saturday the nomination was held. On the hustings in front of the Town-hall stood the worthy Mayor, in a large red gown and a big gold chain, supported by the candidates and their supporters. The idea, of course, was that the candidates should be duly proposed and seconded, that they should address the meeting, and that the show of hands should be awarded. However, the whole space of time occupied in this interesting ceremony, during which no less than seventeen speeches were made, was but one hour and fifteen minutes. The area in front of the hustings was crammed with all the ruffians, longshoremen, and "loafers" of Brighton, who, for the space of the said one hour and fifteen minutes, amused themselves by bonneting every respectable individual within reach, by shouting frantically, and by fighting each other. Moreover, they smothered the red gown and gold chain of the Mayor with mud, and they pelted every person on the hustings with orange-peel, eggs, pork, greens, melons, and parsnips. Each candidate, while he spoke a few hurried words, held his hat before him as a shield against the missiles. All were inaudible except Mr. Fawcett, who, being blind and yet boldly facing the storm, excited respect even in that mob. Mr. Moor was not unequal to the occasion, but told the roughs that as they had nothing to do with the election he certainly should not trouble himself to propitiate their wishes. Such was the scene on Saturday. The poll was held on Monday, and the mob, refreshed by a day's rest, returned to their work with renewed vigour. As far as the election was concerned, it is enough to say that the Conservative candidate, amid the dissensions of the Liberal party, gained a complete victory. Mr. Fawcett's friends and Mr. Goldsmid's friends seemed to be animated with an internecine fury, and the latter, in the course of the day, issued a manifesto defying Mr. Fawcett to the last. But the feature of the day was the conduct of the independent unenfranchised multitude. All the worthies who had distinguished themselves on Saturday again collected in front of the Town-hall, and insulted every respectable person who passed by. The shopkeepers put up their shutters in terror. The cab-drivers on their way with voters to the poll, sustained volleys of mud, offal, and seaweed. Conservative voters were in peril of their lives. Private carriages were attacked, the servants were bonneted, liveries were spoiled, stinking fish and dirty cabbages were hurled in at the windows. Many vehicles were upset in wanton sport. But the chief delight was to roll gentlemen in the mud—a process to which a clergyman and a son of a duke were subjected with much success. At length municipal patience was exhausted, and two bodies of police, each thirty strong, were marched down. At once sticks and stones saluted the champions of order. There was a halt, a facing outwards, a drawing of staves, and finally a brilliant charge, in which, no doubt, many a ruffian paid dearly for his day's sport. Till early dawn the streets were in a most disorderly and unsafe condition.

THE CONTINENT.

THERE has been a lull in the war during the past few days. Sharply as the Danes were pursued by the enemy they succeeded in gaining their strong position at Duppel, and the Germans have not yet ventured to attack them there. Duppel is situated on the mainland of Slesvig, immediately opposite to strongly fortified works on the island of Alsen. The strait which separates the island from the mainland is not more than 150 yards broad, and the attacking force will therefore be exposed to the fire from batteries on the island as well as from the works at Duppel. It will have the further disadvantage to contend with, that the fire of Danish gunboats can be brought to bear upon it. The position is one far better suited to a small army like that of the Danes than the Danneixrke, the lines of which are so extended as to require at the very least 60,000 or 70,000 men for their defence, and General de Meza and his council of war must be considered to have acted with wisdom in resolving to retire to Duppel, and with skill in effecting their retreat. Even the Danes are beginning, in spite of their mortification to admit the prudence of the step of the general, if indeed the insinuations against his capacity or courage were ever entertained by any other class than the Copenhagen mob, which created the disturbances magnified into a revolution, but really consisting of a street riot, which has not been repeated. Strong, however as the Danish position is, determined as the Danes are to defend it, the Austro-Prussian army will at any cost attack it. So long as the Danes hold Alsen and Duppel, the position of the invader is not secure, and an immense force is being brought to the scene of action with a view of carrying the position and wresting Alsen —the home, we may observe, of the Augustenburgs, who, however, after 1851, sold their possessions to the Danish king from the Danes.

The Danish navy has commenced operations, and already several Prussian vessels have been captured. We may expect soon, if an armistice is not concluded, to hear that the principal German ports have been blockaded; and after the admission which the English Government—the one most interested in the question—has made of the efficiency of the American blockade, it will be impossible for it to deny the validity of the Danish blockade, even if it should be extended along the whole German coasts of the Baltic and North Sea. At present there is not much hope of an armistice; neither side is disposed to accept it. England made a proposal to that effect, which was coldly supported by France, and which the Austrian Government, which begins to get anxious, was rather disposed to accept, but Prussia refused at once, and now declares she will have the whole of Slesvig islands, and all, before she leaves off fighting. The Danes on the other hand, believe that, by means of their navy, they can inflict serious injuries upon their oppressors. The occupation of Alsen is the utmost mischief their enemies can do them. The Danish fleet can prevent the disembarkation of an army on Funen or Zealand.

Meanwhile the two great Powers have not succeeded in winning the confidence of their colleagues in the Diet, the meetings of which body resound with complaints of the conduct of Austria and Prussia. Prussian troops passed through the principality of Lubeck, a possession of the Grand Duke of Oldenburg, which is situated in Holstein, and completely surrounded by Danish territory. The grand duke has laid his grievances before the Diet. Marshal Wrangel has deemed it necessary to occupy Altona, Neumunster, and Kiel with Prussian troops. The Federal commander and the Federal commissioners protested against this most vigourously, as a violation of the declaration of the two Powers, that Holstein should continue to be occupied solely by Federal troops. Saxony, indignant beyond measure, has moved the Diet. Its representative made a tremendous fuss, and the Diet, as usual with it, referred the whole matter to its committees.

Bavaria has called a meeting of the representatives of the smaller States to decide upon the means to be taken to enforce their views. The conferences open at Wurzburg (the place at which the smaller Powers have already met several times to concoct schemes which have come to nothing) this day. It is announced that Saxony, Hanover, Wurtemberg, Baden, Hesse-Darmstadt, Nassau, and Saxe-Weimar have accepted the invitation, and that the points to be resolved are, how to proceed if the reception of the Pretender's representative at the Diet, as proposed by the Holstein committee, should meet with obstacles, and if the occupation of Slesvig by Austria and Prussia should not effect the separation of that duchy from Denmark.

It is announced that the King of Prussia, whom a strange *canard* lodged at Hamburgh on Sunday morning, has received two Kiel professors, who of course went to plead the cause of the Pretender.

The language of the German press is jubilant and violent in the extreme. Even official organs pretend that the Treaty of London is at an end, and announce that no attention will be paid to any protests of England.

The Upper House of the Austrian Reichsrath by no means shares the views of the Lower House upon the Slesvig question. Its members represent better the whole empire. In the Lower House the Germans have an overwhelming majority. In fact, with the exception of the few Tscheques from Bohemia, the few Roumans from Transylvania, and the Poles, all the members are Germans. In the debate upon the credit asked by the Government for the Federal execution, the most considerable speakers of the Upper House advocated the maintenance of the London Treaty.

The session of the Reichsrath was closed on Monday by the Emperor in person. His Majesty's speech may we think be taken as an indication that Austria is yet disposed to maintain the London Treaty. His Majesty said, "Most serious events have directed our attention to the state of affairs abroad. I have neglected nothing

in order to maintain the precious blessing of peace. The mission of Austria is to be strong against any attack, but to raise the voice of peace in the council of nations. Our friendly relations with the Great Powers of Europe promise the complete attainment of this object. The crisis which for years threatened to occur between Germany and Denmark has resulted in war, notwithstanding the endeavours of my Government to exercise a conciliatory influence. In conformity with the vote of the Federal Diet, I have, as a German prince, taken part in the Federal execution, and, in concert with the King of Prussia, the Duchy of Slesvig has been occupied as a pledge. The excellent conduct and bravery of the allied armies have achieved brilliant results. My joy on this account does not spring from ambition and love of conquest, but from the attainment of the just objects which are known to Europe. I confidently hope that the results achieved will secure a happy future to countries whose rights have long been violated, and will not endanger the peace of Europe in a more extended sphere."

It must be remembered, however, that it is with Prussia rather than Austria that the decision will rest. Austria has been used by Prussia to serve Prussian purposes, and Count Rechberg has been completely outwitted by Herr von Bismarck.

The Emperor said in conclusion, "Austria has shown that in her rejuvenated form she preserves her good old spirit, and that the inheritance of her strength and glory abide with her on the new path of liberty on which she has entered."

These words will not find the echo in Europe which they would have met a few months since.

The Italian Government is said to be making great military preparations. If the war lasts a few weeks longer it is almost certain that Austria will need all her strength to maintain the Quadrilateral.

The Queen of Spain gave birth to a princess, on Friday. Her Catholic Majesty has now five children, and there is not much chance of that contingency which alarmed English statesmen so much in 1846—the accession of a grandson of Louis Philippe to the Spanish throne. The new ministry has presented its budget to Congress. The figures, as given by the telegram, are not intelligible. We will give the amounts next week.

We omitted to mention last week the death of the Duchess of Parma. She was daughter of the Duchess of Berry, sister of the Count de Chambord, and from the death of her husband in 1854 until the Italian war, the seizure of the duchy by Piedmont, governed the little state as regent, on behalf of her son, now a lad of sixteen.

Prince Napoleon presided on Thursday at a grand banquet given by the shareholders of the Suez canal to M. de Lesseps, and made a speech which, remarkable upon several grounds, is especially so for its references to England. The Prince told the shareholders not to trouble about the opposition of England, because that opposition would amount to nothing. He drew a distinction between the English Government and the English nation. There is, he observed, a *mirage* of liberty in England which greatly attracts him—pity he did not tell his audience where to find the real thing. But the Prince is evidently an attentive student of Mr. Bright and takes that worthy's rhapsodies for facts. He accounts for the proceedings of the British Government by the statement that "the lords in power are seventy, seventy-five, and eighty years old," and that their "hearts are therefore cold," and they will do nothing for Italy or Poland.

Carrying this view further, he assured the happy shareholders that if the English Government dared to go to war about the Suez canal "it would have to protect itself against the English people." There is not much fear of war upon this question, but the Prince knows very little of the stomach for fighting of the mass of the English people if he supposes that any Government would have to protect itself for declaring war against any nation, and especially against France. The war once declared, it would be carried on with the greatest vigour, and the longer it lasted the more determined would the people be to prosecute it to a successful issue. It is not the fault of the people that England is not now at war to maintain her own honour, enforce the public law of Europe, and protect a weak nation against its oppressors

NEW ZEALAND.

DESPATCHES have been received at the Admiralty from Commodore Sir William Wiseman, Bart., in command of Her Majesty's fleet on the Australian station, containing an official account of the decisive engagement with the Maori rebels, the result of which was stated in our columns last week. The details have also come to hand from other sources. It appears that General Cameron had advanced skirmishing from a place called Mere-Mere, and that a force of gunboats had steamed up to Rangariri, under the Commodore. The soldiers under General Cameron were 1,200 strong, principally of the 65th, 14th, and 12th regiments, while the Commodore had five vessels, manned by 245 seamen and marines. The Commodore had also 300 men of the 40th regiment embarked on board the *Pioneer*, his own gunboat. The position of the Maoris had been well chosen, and was fortified with extraordinary skill. The landward defences consisted of an embankment and a deep broad ditch, and within was a central fort, the access to which admitted but one person at a time. The Maoris had spent nine months on the works, and had constructed lines scarcely inferior to the efforts of the Russians in the Crimea. The whole of the Ngatiawa tribe, with small detachments from other tribes, manned the works; their total force was about 1,200 men, and William Thompson and the king Matutaere were in command. The action took place on the 30th November last, and the preconcerted signal having been made about 2.30 p.m., the gunboats opened a fire, enfilading the native position, while a battery, worked by sailors, opened fire from the land side. After the lapse of half an hour the firing ceased, and the storming columns rushed to the assault and carried the first works immediately. At the same time the men of the 40th Regiment landed from the *Pioneer*, and took the position on the river side. But the natives only abandoned their outworks in order to defend desperately the centre fort. The assaults delivered by the soldiers were repulsed four times, and the fire was so tremendous that it was impossible to withstand it. At about 6 p.m. General Cameron requested the Commodore to send a party of seamen, armed with cutlasses and revolvers, to carry the place by escalade. A force of ninety blue-jackets, therefore, made two furious onslaughts, but were repulsed with heavy loss: and it being then dark, the General waited till the dawn. At 5.30 a.m. on the following day the enemy surrendered, and 183 prisoners, with their arms, were captured; 100 natives were killed, some escaped by swimming away in the night—and among these the king and William Thompson—and the remainder were lying wounded in the rear of the works and in the swamps. All the chiefs of the tribe, except the king and Thompson, were among the prisoners. Our loss was very heavy. The fleet lost one officer and four men killed, and four officers and seven men wounded. The land force lost three officers and thirty-three men killed, seven officers and about seventy men wounded. The principal loss occurred in the attempt to carry the central fort, and every officer who lead the rush through the narrow inlet was killed or wounded. The fire of the natives was magnificent, and the majority of our men who were hit were struck in the head. It is believed in the colony that a decisive blow has been dealt, but it is not thought probable that the tribes will submit without further fighting.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

AMERICA.

WHEN a barrister objects to the production of documents called for by the other side, it is a reasonable conclusion that he thinks such documents contain statements that will prejudice his client, or he would not pursue a course that gives the jury an unfavourable impression. Very much such a feeling has been called forth by the delay of the Government in producing the papers relating to Danish affairs. The refusal to lay on the table the diplomatic correspondence with the United States has given rise to a suspicion still more uncomplimentary to the Government. In this instance it is manifest there is not much to conceal, since most of the papers asked for have already been submitted to the Federal Congress. But the Opposition in this country cannot adduce as evidence—at least such a course would be inconvenient and dangerous—a foreign version of the correspondence of the British Government, and therefore until Earl Russell thinks proper to present the documents to Parliament, the hands of his critics are tied. People say, and say it very freely and openly too, that Earl Russell is resorting to a quibble to screen himself from the censures that are sure to be visited on his diplomacy. However, his lordship will not be allowed to enjoy the truce for which he is so solicitous. Everybody, including Earl Russell, who was in the House of Lords on Thursday night must have been aware that the hunter was determined to unearth the fox.

The Earl of Derby repeated the question he had put on Tuesday week, as to the willingness of the Foreign Secretary to lay on the table any correspondence, "not only with regard to the *Alabama*, but also as regards the complaints made by the United States of the injuries they had sustained, or apprehended, from other vessels which had left, or may leave, the ports of this kingdom." On the former occasion Earl Russell had refused the papers on the ground that the correspondence included that relating to the Mersey ironclads, a case which was under judicial investigation. In combating this plea the Earl of Derby first directed attention to the dilatory (and as it seems to us most arbitrary and unconstitutional) proceedings of the Government. On the 8th September Earl Russell informed Mr. Adams the vessels were ordered to be detained, but it was not until the 27th October that the vessels were seized according to due process of law. [The reader cannot fail to see the significance of this delay. On the 8th of September, under great pressure from Mr. Adams, the vessels were "detained" on mere suspicion, and seven weeks elapsed before the Government could, with all the aid of their own officers and Federal spies and informers, get together the *primâ facie* evidence necessary to justify the seizure, not the forfeiture, of the vessels. It is not, however, quite clear that even on the 27th of October the Government had any legal evidence to authorise the seizure.] The Earl of Derby informed the House that only on the 6th of the present month—that is, quite five months after the detention and three months and a half after the seizure—was the information filed. Nor is this all. The Government admits it has not yet completed its evidence, and since the 6th instant has informed Mr. Laird that "it will be necessary now, four months after the seizure, to send a commission abroad for the purpose of taking evidence to be used in the proceedings."

Passing from these dilatory proceedings of the Government, Earl Derby contended that the excuse that the correspondence he asked might prejudice the case of the steam rams before the Courts was utterly untenable. The question to be submitted to the English law courts is, "Have the Messrs. Laird, in building the vessels, infringed the municipal law of England?" and with any suit respecting the interpretation or violation of our municipal law no foreign government has any right of interference; and consequently the diplomatic correspondence between the Governments of London and Washington cannot legally and constitutionally have any bearing. It is true that it would be an unfriendly act to one of the belligerents and against the spirit of neutrality to repeal or not to execute the municipal law, "as it would be to strengthen the existing law (which by the way has been proposed) for the purpose of making it more favourable to the other belligerent;" but whether the Messrs. Laird have violated the municipal law of this country is a matter with which the United States "have nothing to do," so far as the investigation and trial are concerned. His lordship could not then admit that the pending trial justified the non-production of the correspondence, and there are "some strong grounds" why the papers should be promptly produced. His lordship wanted the English version of the correspondence laid before Congress, so that he might see how far the charges against Her Majesty's Government have been substantiated, "or whether they have been replied to by despatches from the noble earl (Russell), showing that he has not sacrificed the honour of the country or violated international law." Mr. Seward's despatch of the 11th July, though not presented to the English Foreign Secretary, had been laid before the Federal Congress, without any intimation that it has not been so presented, and it would therefore seem as though it was intended "to show the way in which the United States had menaced England, and the way in which England had received the threat." It was, therefore, desirable that the correspondence should be produced, and that Earl Russell "may be able to satisfy the country that while showing his anxiety to preserve friendly relations between the two nations he has at the same time not failed to uphold the honour of England." The Earl of Derby then called attention to the following noteworthy circumstances as set forth in the United States correspondence.

On the 1st September, Earl Russell wrote to Mr. Adams that the Government were advised that the evidence against the rams was not satisfactory; that the evidence against the alleged French ownership was not sufficient, and that "the responsible agent of the Customs at Liverpool affirms his belief that these vessels have not been built for Confederates." It is to be observed that Mr. Adams had directed the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the rams on the 11th July, and this was the first communication on the subject that he received.

Mr. Adams did not get this letter till the 5th, and on the 3rd felt it his "painful duty" to inform Earl Russell that his Government approved his former communication, but that it did not express "the earnestness" with which in the interim he had been directed to point out "the grave nature of the situation in which both countries must be placed in the event of an act of aggression committed against the Government and people of the United States by either of these formidable vessels."

On the 4th, Earl Russell, "who, on the 1st of September, stated the opinion of the Government that there was no cause of complaint," wrote to Mr. Adams, "I have to inform you that the matter is under the serious and anxious consideration of Her Majesty's Government." On the same day Mr. Adams asked "permission here to record, in the name of my Government, this last solemn protest," &c. On the 5th, Mr. Adams again wrote a vigorous despatch, in which he notifies that he shall wait to receive from his Government more specific directions; which, said the Earl of Derby, is "a very plain indication of the view which would be taken by the United States Government of the decision formally announced by Her Majesty's Government five days before."

On the 8th—one week after asserting that the result of an investigation of seven weeks was that the Government were advised there was not sufficient evidence to proceed upon, and four days after Mr. Adams was told the matter was under the serious and anxious consideration of Her Majesty's Government—Earl Russell informed Mr. Adams—it is supposed by telegraph from Scotland that instructions had been issued to prevent the departure of the ironclad vessels from Liverpool.

The Earl of Derby continued, "I must express my opinion that the correspondence, as laid before Congress and laid before the public, gives the significant step announced in the noble earl's letter, the appearance of being the consequence of increased pressure." He hoped this was not the case, and was most anxious "that there should be the most emphatic contradiction that can be given to it by the production of the whole correspondence." He, therefore, asked for the correspondence, on two grounds: "First, that its production can in no way affect the question before the courts of law; and secondly, that we are entitled to an English version of the correspondence in reply to that given to the American Congress."

The Earl of Derby then pressed for the correspondence relating to the complaints and remonstrances made by Her Majesty's Government in reference to acts of violence committed by Federal cruisers on our vessels. He did not want to go into any particular case, but to ascertain "the general principles of international law which have been maintained by Her Majesty's Government, and those, on the other hand, which are contended for by the United States." The despatch of 11th July, though not delivered to Earl Russell, had been presented to the Federal Congress, and that despatch announces that the policy of the United States Government is "to pursue vessels into British ports and there carry on actual hostilities, notwithstanding they are lying under the protection of the British flag and in British waters." In consequence "of the extreme inefficiency of the American blockade there has arisen a very profitable trade in vessels which are employed in running the blockade." Now these vessels are not to be treated as war vessels. It was reported that one of them had been pursued by a Federal cruiser, and was fired into when so near the shore that some of the shots passed over and lodged on the land. His lordship then referred to the ruling of Judge Betts in the case of

the *Springbok*, which he characterised as an instance in which the American Courts have, apparently at all events, "violated international law," and he wanted the correspondence to ascertain how the Government had dealt with such cases.

Earl Russell then gave the following history of the seizure of the rams.

On the 11th July Mr. Adams wrote "rather complainingly and hastily," and on the 1st September Earl Russell informed Mr. Adams that the Government had not sufficient evidence to convict the persons fitting out the vessels, but inquiries were still going on. "Inquiries went on, and then another story was put forward that they were intended for the Viceroy of Egypt. It was necessary to ascertain whether that story was true, and we found that it was as unsubstantial as the other statement." Then the rams were seized, that is some time before the 8th. [No one can charge the Government with being dilatory in investigating the allegation of the ownership of the Viceroy of Egypt.] His lordship then intimated the ground on which the detention was ordered. "No further evidence having being put forward, the vessels were ordered to be detained, and a few days later were ordered to be seized." [It seems from this passage that the rams were not detained on account of any evidence of guilt, but from want of proof of innocency. By "a few days" elapsing between the detention and seizure, his lordship means forty-nine days, viz., from the 8th September to the 27th October.] Earl Russell denied that the step was taken in consequence of Mr. Adams's vigorous notes. His lordship then declared, what nobody has ever questioned, that it would be an unfriendly act and a breach of neutrality for armed expeditions to leave our ports to operate against the Federals. He said the noble Earl (Derby) complained that no decision has yet been come to. [The Earl of Derby did nothing of the kind, but found fault with the delay in commencing proceedings.] Next, it had been objected to that commissioners had been sent abroad to obtain evidence. [The Earl Derby of made no such objection, but only condemned the delay in sending out the commissions.] His lordship said he felt himself bound by the opinion of the law officers to refuse the papers. With regard to the other correspondence asked for there were a number of cases, and he would look over the papers. "There have been more than a hundred cases in which we have had complaints to make, and have received from the Government of the United States more or less satisfactory answers." He agreed with Lord Derby that the only penalty incurred by blockade running or carrying contraband of war is that vessels "are liable to capture;" and he regretted to say that the Government had cases lately in which they had to complain "of the unnecessary detention of persons belonging to the crews of such vessels." He was "far from maintaining" that the Federal Government "have in every case done justice to our people and to the owners of our vessels, but all these cases have been matters of discussion."

Earl Russell, not satisfied with giving this explanation, returned to the subject on Monday. He said that upon looking over his private papers he found that the Government could not have been influenced by Mr. Adams's despatches of the 4th and 5th September. His lordship said, "I find it was on that day (the 3rd September) that Mr. Layard wrote to the Treasury desiring that they should be stopped; and I find from a passage in a private letter of mine, that I had taken that course on that day. I wrote from Scotland to Lord Palmerston on the 3rd September, stating that 'the conduct of the gentlemen who have contracted for the ironclads at Birkenhead is so very suspicious that I have thought it necessary to direct that they should be detained.' [His lordship meant that he had ordered the detention of the rams, and not of the contractors, as stated in the above passage.] The next day he again wrote to Lord Palmerston, and observed, "The pressing matter, however, is that of the ironclad rams. I have desired that they should not be allowed to leave the port of Liverpool."

These two explanations of Earl Russell present some curious features, which we present, even at the risk of repetition, in chronological order.

1st September.—Earl Russell wrote to Mr. Adams, in answer to the letter of the 11th of July, that the Government had not been able to procure evidence to justify the detention of the rams.

2nd September.—Earl Russell stated in the House of Lords, on Thursday, that after writing to Mr. Adams on the 1st September, "Inquiries went on, and then another story was put forward, that the vessels were intended for the Viceroy of Egypt, and were being fitted out in pursuance of a contract made by the French subject to whom I have before alluded with the Pasha of Egypt. It was necessary to ascertain whether that story was true, and we found that it was as unsubstantial as the other statement. Having done this and no further evidence having been put forward, these vessels were ordered to be detained, and a few days later were ordered to be seized." As we are subsequently informed by the noble earl that the seizure of the rams was ordered on the 3rd of September, we are forced to the conclusion that a wonderful amount of business was transacted on the 2nd. On that day another story was put forward, was investigated, proved to be false, and other evidence looked for and not found.

3rd September.—Earl Russell instructed the Treasury to detain the rams, and wrote the same day to Lord Palmerston to say that he had determined on that course.

4th September.—Wrote again to Lord Palmerston, saying he had detained the rams, but wrote to Mr. Adams to say the matter was "under the serious and anxious consideration of the Government."

8th September.—Earl Russell informed Mr. Adams instructions had been issued for preventing the departure of the rams.

Lord Russell also said, in reference to the rams, that as soon as he "had come to the conviction" they were for the Confederates he thought it was his duty to detain them, "in order to obtain full evidence of their destination." His lordship quoted from the correspondence laid before Congress to rebut the charge of not having, at least on one occasion, remonstrated with the Federal Government on threatening England with hostilities, and to which Mr. Adams responded by denying having used any such threats.

The Earl of Derby, after commenting on the rams being detained on the 3rd, and the United States Minister being informed on the 4th that the matter was still under the consideration of the Government, asked whether any explanation had been asked from the United States Government "why the despatch of Mr. Seward to Mr. Adams, which had never been submitted to the noble earl, was laid before Congress, without any intimation that it had not been transmitted to or received by the noble earl?"

Respecting the letter to Mr. Adams of the 4th September, Earl Russell said, "I being in Scotland at the time, my letter, I suppose, would not reach Mr. Adams until a day or two after." [The noble earl was asked why, after having determined to detain the rams on the 3rd, he wrote on the 4th to say the matter was still under the consideration of the Government. The time of delivery has nothing to do with the date of the letter.] With regard to Mr. Seward's despatch of the 11th July, Earl Russell said,—

As to the last question of the noble earl, I think it more affects the conduct of the United States Government towards their own people than their conduct towards us. It is the habit—and the wise habit, I think—of Mr. Adams to weigh over the despatches which he receives, and when they contain complaints to consider how he can most effectually urge these complaints, and to endeavour to perform his duty in the most conciliatory spirit possible. I can only say that Mr. Adams has pursued that course from the first. Almost the first time I saw him he told me that he had several despatches couched in strong terms, but he did not think it discreet to read them to me, and he then went on to describe in his own language what the complaints of his Government were. I think the conduct of Mr. Adams calculated to maintain friendly relations between the two Governments. I certainly, at present, don't see the necessity for asking Lord Lyons to call Mr. Seward's attention to the presentation of this despatch to Congress. No doubt, a certain effect may be produced by the publication of that despatch, especially when it is discovered that it never was presented.

[It appears, then, that Earl Russell knew that certain despatches were written by the Federal Government incompatible with the honour of this country to receive, and that he was in the habit of acting upon Mr. Adams's version of the substance of the despatches. Thinking Earl Russell implied that this had been the case with regard to the despatch of the 11th July] Lord Derby remarked, "The noble earl surprised me by saying that Mr. Adams had communicated to him the substance of this despatch." To this Earl Russell replied, "No; what I said was, that it was Mr. Adams's habit, when there was any substantial grievance to complain of, to communicate to me his views of the despatch."

In the House of Lords on Tuesday, the Earl of Carnarvon moved for returns of the claims made by British subjects upon the United States since the secession of the South, and for the claims made by the United States Government on Her Majesty's Government for damages done by the *Alabama* and other Confederate cruisers. His lordship thought that those persons who had gone out to the United States with the *bond fide* intention of becoming citizens, had not a strong claim on the consideration of Parliament, but "in the case of persons who are clearly British subjects, and who on mere suspicion have been arrested, put into prison, subjected to indignities and hardships, sometimes even imperilling their lives, Her Majesty's Government, he thought, are bound to require the amplest compensation and redress." His lordship then noticed the case of British merchants, and the outrages committed on British shipping. He also wished to call attention to the seizure of the Confederate vessel, the *Tuscaloosa*, in Simon's Bay by order of the Government. The *Tuscaloosa* appeared at the Cape last year, when the United States Consul asked for her detention, but the Governor did not feel at liberty to take that course. When the facts were brought under the notice of the Government, Earl Russell wrote:—

As regards the *Tuscaloosa* although Her Majesty's Government would have approved the British authorities at the Cape if they had adopted towards that vessel a course different from that which was adopted, yet the question as to the manner in which a vessel under such circumstances should, according to the tenour of Her Majesty's orders, be dealt with, was not one altogether free from uncertainty. Nevertheless, instructions will be sent to the British authorities at the Cape for their guidance in the event of a similar case occurring hereafter, and Her Majesty's Government hope that under those instructions nothing will for the future happen to admit of a question being raised as to Her Majesty's orders having been strictly carried out.

The Earl of Carnarvon wanted, under these circumstances, to see a copy of the instructions that were sent out to the Cape. His lordship, in dealing with the second part of his motion, charged the Government with postponing instead of settling disputed points, and of indirectly offering to hereafter refer the claims of the United States Government for damages done by Confederate cruisers to arbitration. That seemed to be the construction to be put upon Earl Russell's despatches on the subject.

Earl Russell said that people who complained of vessels being captured on their way to Nassau, forgot that if Nassau was the nominal destination, and the vessel was merely to touch at that port, and then, without transhipment, carrying her cargo into a blockaded port, the vessel was a lawful prize. [We never remember any one denying this proposition.] He denied *in toto* that he had held out any hopes to the United States Government of referring to arbitation the demand for damages done by Confederate cruisers; but that he had repudiated all claims for such damages. He repeated what he had written in a despatch, that the case of the *Alabama* "was a scandal, and in some degree a reproach, upon British law." On this point his lordship said:—

I do consider that having passed a law to prevent the enlistment of Her Majesty's subjects in the service of a foreign Power, to prevent the fitting out or equipping, within Her Majesty's dominions, of vessels for warlike purposes without Her Majesty's sanction,—I say that, having passed such a law in the year 1819, it is a scandal and a reproach that one of the belligerents in this American contest has been enabled, at the order of the Confederate Government, to fit out a vessel at Liverpool in such a way that she was capable of being made a vessel of war; that, after going to another port in Her Majesty's dominions to ship a portion of her crew, she proceeded to a port in neutral territory, and there completed her crew and equipment as a vessel of war, so that she has since been able to capture and destroy innocent merchant vessels belonging to the other belligerent. Having been thus equipped by an evasion of the law, I say it is a scandal to our law that we should not be able to prevent such belligerent operations. I venture to say so much because at the Foreign-office I feel this to be very inconvenient. If you choose to say, as you might have said in former times, "Let vessels be fitted out and sold; let a vessel go to Charleston and there be sold to any agent of the Confederate Government," I could understand such a state of things. But if we have a law to prevent the fitting out of warlike vessels without the licence of Her Majesty, I do say this case of the *Alabama* is a scandal and a reproach. A very learned judge has said that we might drive, not a coach and six, but a whole fleet of ships through that Act of Parliament. If that be a correct description of our law, then I say we ought to have the law made more clear and intelligible. This law was said to be passed to secure the peace and welfare of this nation, and I trust it may be found in the end sufficient for that purpose. I say, however, that while the law remains in its present state its purpose is obviously defeated, and its enactments made of no effect by British subjects who defy the Queen's proclamation of neutrality.

The papers in relation to the *Saxon* were promised, and also the instructions sent to the Cape subject to a reference to the Colonial-office.

On Friday, in the House of Commons, Lord R. Cecil asked Mr. Layard if he adhered to his statement that no verbal communication was made by Mr. Adams to Earl Russell of the substance of the despatch of July 11th. Mr. Layard said, "I stated most distinctly the other evening that that despatch had not been communicated to Lord Russell, and that no written or verbal communication in the sense of that despatch had been made to the noble lord. I trust that now at least the noble lord will be satisfied." Lord Cecil thought the answer indefinite, and again asked whether any verbal communication as to the substance of the despatch had been made to Earl Russell. Mr. Layard then said, "I believe that a member of this House answers as a gentleman and a man of honour, and not as a special pleader."

Mr. S. Fitzgerald, pursuant to notice, moved for papers respecting the capture of the *Margaret and Jessie*, the *Springbok*, the *Science*, and the *Saxon*; and in doing so declared his unwillingness to increase the irritability which existed, and that he did not wish his observations to lead to a general discussion on the relations between the two countries, "relations which were at the present moment, he feared, far from satisfactory, if not alarming." The hon. member then gave the history of the four cases referred to in his notice. The *Margaret and Jessie*, owned by a Confederate citizen, was pursued into British waters and fired at when so near the shore that the inhabitants of a plantation adjoining a village on British soil were alarmed for their safety." The *Springbok* had been condemned by Judge Betts, and it had been pointed out by a French writer, M. Vignaud, that the decision contained three flagrant violations of international law: 1st, the abitrary assimilation of articles of commerce to those ordinarily considered contraband; 2nd, the seizure of the whole cargo because a small part of it was contraband; and 3rd, the confiscation of neutral property under a neutral flag, between two neutral ports, on the pretext that the ultimate destination was a blockaded port. The *Science* was a British ship, which sailed to Matamoras with a cargo consigned to British merchants at that port, and was seized by the Federals under pretence that her cargo was intended for the use of the Confederate Government. "A more outrageous breach of every doctrine of international law could not occur." The capture of the *Saxon*, under the British flag and in British waters, was peculiarly painful on account of the murder of a British subject by a Federal officer.

The Attorney-General said that the affair of the *Margaret and Jessie* was being investigated by the United States Government. The captain of the Federal cruiser denied that he had chased a Confederate vessel into British waters, and Mr. Seward had stated that if any hostile act or pursuit had been done within the maritime jurisdiction of Great Britain the act would be disavowed, and ample redress given. Of course, as there was a controversy as to facts, the Government could not refuse the further inquiry called for by the Federal Government. Respecting the *Springbok*, the learned gentleman said he had recently been supplied with a full copy of the judgment of Judge Betts, and he was under the impression that the French writer, M. Vignaud, had only seen a summary of that document. He did not deny that some passages in the judgments of United States Prize Courts were open to criticism as to legal theory, and he was far from saying that the principles of law were always applied correctly to the facts but he knew of no decision since the war that did not imply an honest intention, and the *Springbok* was not an exception. Judge Betts had followed the rule of our courts which was, that "when you find the same persons who are concerned in contraband cargo, concerned also in cargo not contraband, you may escheat the whole of it." As to the destination of the cargo, if the United States court had decided to forfeit the cargo because "the goods on board might ultimately find their way to a

belligerent, when actually transported to Nassau," that would be a principle "unkown to international law." But the ground taken by Judge Betts was that the cargo of the *Springbok*, was intended for the Confederacy by transshipment at Nassau. The Supreme Court may accept or reject this doctrine, but it is in accordance with "the principle of law which is acted on in this country." Lord Stowell laid it down that a mere transhipment at an intermediate port will not break the continuity of a voyage, which "can only be affected by a previous actual incorporation into the common stock of the country where the transhipment takes place." Respecting the *Science*, if the facts are as stated, and the United States should decide that a vessel, having delivered a cargo consigned to Mexican merchants, may be seized because loaded with goods that have come from the Confederate States, Her Majesty's Government would not agree with such a decision. As to the case of the *Saxon*, in which, according to information, "a most wanton and barbarous murder was committed," he had no doubt the Federal Government would offer all the reparation in its power. The *Saxon*, though a grave case of capture, was not taken in British jurisdiction, for the island Angra Pequina, is not formally British territory. In 1861, Sir George Grey, the governor of the Cape, issued a proclamation, subject to Her Majesty's confirmation, declaring the island to be annexed, but "the confirmation was never given, and possession was never taken in Her Majesty's name."

During the animated discussion that ensued it was admitted by the Attorney-General that, whatever might be the ultimate destination of the cargo, a vessel going to Nassau, intending afterwards to make another voyage, could not legally be captured on her way thither. Lord Palmerston replied rather tartly to the sharp criticisms against the Government, denying that it was in the habit "of bullying the weak and truckling to the strong." He asked Mr. Fitzgerald not to press his motion for the papers, and the hon. member acceded to the request.

DENMARK.

On Friday evening Lord Palmerston stated that the Government had proposed, before the war broke out, that a protocol should be entered into by England, France, Russia, and Sweden, as witnesses of a diplomatic engagement on the part of Denmark to revoke the November Constitution, and so give a diplomatic security to Austria and Prussia in lieu of the territorial security those Powers wished to obtain, but that the English Government never offered to give any guarantee. His lordship also stated that the Government, in concert with the Governments of France, Russia, and Sweden, had proposed an armistice.

Mr. Layard said, on Monday, in answer to Mr. Disraeli, that an unsatisfactory answer had been received by the Government in reference to the proposal for an armistice, and that "no armistice is likely to be agreed to at the present moment."

On Monday evening Lord Campbell called the attention of the House of Lords to the treaties and conventions by which the possession of Slesvig and Holstein was guaranteed to Denmark by Great Britain. He did not wish to discuss the policy of Her Majesty's Government before the papers were laid on the table, but Europe ought to be informed that there was a guarantee in existence by which England was bound to prevent Slesvig being held by a foreign Power. The treaties to which his lordship referred were those of 1715, 1720, and 1736, and the guarantee was admitted by Mr. Disraeli and Lord Palmerston, during a debate in the House of Commons in 1848. Admitting that there had been a breach of the engagements of 1852 by Denmark towards Germany, that could not affect the guarantee of 1720, and Denmark had not forfeited the guarantee by repudiating the advice of Great Britain, for, on the contrary, she had followed it. The question was, the guarantee being valid, how it could be fulfilled, and his lordship thought that an armed alliance between England and France would be sufficient to obtain the object.

Earl Russell said that Lord Campbell was justified, having the opinion he expressed, in calling the attention of the House to the guarantee of 1720, but he thought it was not desirable to discuss the matter at the present moment. Her Majesty's Government were examining the question, and it was perfectly clear that the consideration of the treaty of 1720 must have an influence on any transaction in which this country may engage with foreign powers on the subject. He could not without further reflection give a positive statement as to the intention of the Government.

POLAND.

Mr. Hennessy called the attention of the House to one of Earl Russell's diplomatic "muddles." In his Blairgowrie speech, his lordship said that as Russia had not complied with the stipulations in the treaty of Vienna with respect to Poland, the title of Russia to the kingdom of Poland could hardly be upheld. About the same time (in September) a despatch was sent to our ambassador at St. Petersburg, embodying this declaration, but upon the remonstrance of Prince Gortschakoff that despatch was withdrawn, changed, modified, and re-dated. It was of importance that the policy of the Government should be as they declared it, and Mr. Hennessy asked Lord Palmerston to present to Parliament the original despatch.

Lord Palmerston replied that it often occurred that a despatch was altered after being sent to one of our ministers abroad, and that Mr. Hennessy would be equally entitled to ask for the draft of a despatch before it was finally settled by the Secretary of State, as for one that had been so altered. In his (Lord Palmerston's) opinion, the speech of Earl Russell at Blairgowrie did not quite tally with what the Poles wished, or at all events with true Polish interests. To say that Russia no longer holds Poland by a treaty which stipulates for certain things, and that the country is held by conquest, is to place Poland at the mercy of Russia. After 1832, when we remonstrated with Russia upon the treatment of Poland, we were told that the treaty of Vienna was at an end, and that Poland had been reconquered, but the English Goverment, however, had always denied the justice of that position.

METROPOLITAN RAILWAYS.

Earl Granville, in moving the appointment of a committee on this subject, said it was proposed that a committee of that House and a committee of the House of Commons should sit together and draw up a joint report. Although the precedents for a joint committee were very ancient and meagre, he thought the present a case in which the experiment might be tried with advantage.

Earl Derby said he was not surprised that there should be almost a panic in the metropolis in reference to railway schemes. The estimated cost of constructing proposed metropolitan lines was £35,000,000, and 8 per cent. of that had been deposited. No less than 160 streets of the metropolis will be interfered with if all the bills before Parliament were sanctioned. He therefore considered that it was a matter which justified the interference of the Government. A committee of five peers was then appointed.

PARIS TOPICS.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

Paris, February 16.

We have still no clue to the intentions of the French Government in regard to the aggressions on Denmark, but as we, whose machinery for asking questions is in active operation, are equally in the dark as to the action of England we have no right to complain. It was said that in the council held on Sunday it was decided that no interest of France was involved in the Dano-German complications, and that her part is therefore to abstain from any sort of interference. This was the formula used by the Emperor to excuse the inaction of his Government in Russian Poland, but it may fairly be read here with a different meaning. The Polish insurrection commanded the sympathies of large numbers of all parties, and the Government had encouraged the press, both official and opposition, to use very warlike language. But it had no wish to embark alone in a hazardous adventure, and profiting by the indisposition to war, which for the first time has taken hold of the French people, it re-echoed their sympathies, but declared that the interests of France were not engaged in the question. But a feeling of irritation was produced by the steady refusal of England and the more wavering conduct of Austria, which has not yet subsided, and the same plea is again put forward to explain abstention in a war between European governments, which was successfully advanced for refusing to take part in an insurrection. But France does not by this engage her neutrality. She leaves the initiative to other countries, satisfied to look on, if necessary, while Denmark is dismembered, the loss and shame of which she is ready to ascribe to England. A strong Scandinavian kingdom with a Bernadotte at its head would compensate France even for Prussianising Kiel, and England's abstention while formal treaties are set at nought,—confirming all that has been said of her loss of warlike spirit and of her readiness to be browbeaten—would give a moral weight to France which even Kiel would not be too high a price to pay for. But if England at last moves, if she sends a few ships into the Baltic, a couple of regiments to Copenhagen, she will be followed at once by France and perhaps also by Russia. It is worth remarking, that while the *Constitutionnel* and other papers more or less under Government inspiration hold back, the *Siècle*, the advocate of all nationalities, refuses Germany the benefit of this plea, and insists on the traditional policy of France. It reminds its readers that M. Jules Bastide, the Minister of Foreign Affairs under the Republic, protested in 1848 against the separation of Slesvig from Denmark on the ground of the treaty of Copenhagen of 1720 The nationality of Slesvig, if judged by language, is a very doubtful question, but this doubt is not mentioned by the *Siècle* in defence of the rights of Denmark. "Is not France the natural protectress of the smaller States? Will she, like England, suffer the treaties she has signed to be broken with impunity? Does she no longer consider the existence of the Danish monarchy useful to her interests and to the European equilibrium? Does she forget that Denmark took our side in the great question of the rights of neutrals, that she fought with us to the last moment against the coalition, and that she was punished for it by the loss of Norway?" If, however, the attitude of France is at present ambiguous, there are signs that she will not be found unprepared to take advantage of circumstances. There were rumours that 150,000 conscripts would be called out this year instead of 100,000, the usual number, but the drawing began yesterday, and I have heard nothing of a larger draft. At the same time the exact lists of the artillery horses lent out for farm work, have been called for, so that they can be put in requisition at the shortest notice.

Prince Napoleon made a speech at the Suez canal banquet last Thursday, which is the event of the day. It has been sent to all the papers, after a delay of three days, caused by the extensive emendations and omissions which its original vivacity necessitated. Even in its amended form it does not belie the aggressive tendencies of its author. He speaks thus of England as supporting the Ottoman Porte in its opposition to the company.

"They trust to England for support. Well, then, let us speak about England, although I allow it is a delicate question, and the most disagreeable to handle; but yet, with a large dose of moderation and frankness, I shall end by saying what I think. And first of all, even at the risk of displeasing some of you, I have not the least intention of saying anything against the English people, and I make a great distinction between this powerful nation which attracts me. Yes! I cannot deny it. There is a beautiful mirage on the other side of the Channel, the mirage of the liberty I love so well, and which attracts me!" (General chorus of guests: "The mirage of liberty!") "But besides the English nation and English opinion, there is the English Government. Let us not be too hard, even on the English Government. It is opposed to your undertaking. I will not say it is quite natural. I disapprove of it, but I understand it. It does not attack you openly. In your case it prefers means more or less crooked. As for an open opposition, you have nothing such to fear from it; it has written no notes. You will not find a single diplomatic document on the subject. It puts forward the Porte. I do not blame it. But I will explain to you the English policy.

"Where do you suppose I go to look for its explanation? Not in a blue-book, but in the Peerage, where, as you know, the ages of all the nobility of England are to be found. When one opens the Peerage and sees that the noble lords now in power are 70, 75, and 80 years old, one understands how, with all the experience of age, they are somewhat cold-hearted. One understands how aristocratic old England can tell Europe to her face that she will give neither a man nor a shilling to the greatest and justest of causes, to Italy and Poland! (Furious cheers.)"

The Porte is treated quite as amusingly. If such things are in the corrected copy, what must the original have contained?

The *Moniteur* contains long documents from Mexico, one of them, a bulletin of General Bazaine's taking possession of Guadulajura, dated 14th January, from Vera Cruz. It begins, "Vive l Empire Mexicain!" and concludes, "The occupation of all the principal towns of the interior brings about a general pacification, and fulfils the principal condition insisted on by H.I.H. the Archduke." The two members of the deputation, who had gone to Mexico, were expected last night with all the *procès verbaux* of the Ayuntamientos, filling a large box, which they are to present to the Archduke, as soon as he notifies his readiness to receive the deputation.

This afternoon there is again talk of a Congress in April to settle the affairs of Denmark, but as it is added that it will include all the Powers of Europe, it may not be so near as the sanguine suppose. Denmark might serve as text on which to hang many other questions, and it will be a strange compromise which calls all the Powers together to deliberate on the treaties of 1720 and 1852, forbidding them to state their own demands. Sardinia found means in 1856 to plead the cause of Italy under pretence of discussing the neutralisation of the Black Sea. The Baltic may give her Venice, and Spain may put in her claim to stolen Gibraltar, for it seems Gibraltar was stolen, not taken.

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE.—GREAT BRITAIN AND AMERICA.

Below we give Mr. Seward's despatch of July 11th, 1863, and also the letter of Mr. Adams to Earl Russell of the same date, which is interesting from being the commencement of the official correspondence in reference to the ironclad rams:—

Mr. Seward to Mr. Adams.

Department of State, Washington,
July 11, 1863.

Sir,—Your despatch of the 26th of June (No. 438) has been received, together with three paper books, containing a report of the trial of the *Alexandra*.

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If the law of Great Britain must be left without amendment, and be construed by the Government in conformity with the rulings of the chief baron of the exchequer, then there will be left for the United States no alternative but to protect themselves and their commerce against armed cruisers proceeding from British ports, as against the naval forces of a public enemy; and also to claim and insist upon indemnities for the injuries which all such expeditions have hitherto committed or shall hereafter commit against this Government and the citizens of the United States. To this end this Government is now preparing a naval force with the utmost vigour; and if the national navy, which it is rapidly creating, shall not be sufficient for the emergency, then the United States must bring into employment such private armed naval forces as the mercantile marine shall afford. British ports, domestic as well as colonial, are now open, under certain restrictions, to the visits of piratical vessels, and not only furnish them with coals, provisions, and repairs, but even receive their prisoners when the enemies of the United States come in to obtain such relief from voyages in which they have either burned ships which they have captured, or have even manned and armed them as pirates and sent them abroad as auxiliaries in the work of destruction. Can it be an occasion for either surprise or complaint that, if this condition of things is to remain and receive the deliberate sanction of the British Government, the navy of the United States will receive instructions to pursue these enemies into the ports which thus, in violation of the law of nations and the obligations of neutrality, become harbours for the pirates? The President very distinctly perceives the risks and hazards which a naval conflict thus maintained will bring to the commerce and even to the peace of the two countries. But he is obliged to consider that in the case supposed the destruction of our commerce will probably amount to a naval war waged by a portion at least of the British nation against the Government and people of the United States—a war tolerated, although not declared or avowed by the British Government. If, through the necessary employment of all our means of national defence, such a partial war shall become a general one between the two nations, the President thinks that the responsibility for that painful result will not fall upon the United States. In stating thus frankly the views of this Government, it is proper for me to add that it is not the President's purpose to resort to the extraordinary measures of defence to which I have referred unless they shall be rendered necessary by a final decision of the British Government that it cannot and will not interfere to restrain the hostilities which are now apprehended; nor will I allow myself to suppose that Her Majesty's Government will for a moment conceive that anything I have written upon this point is written in a spirit of mere demonstration; on the contrary, while the pacific and friendly disposition of her Britannic Majesty's Government is fully appreciated and relied upon, it is well understood that that Government is the last one in the world to yield to vehemence what cannot be conceded in equity and justice. So, on the other hand, it ought to be understood that the United States, if they could ever be presumptuous, are sufficiently chastened already by the scourge of civil war to seek peace and friendship with Great Brstain and all other nations through any concession that is compatible with the permanent interests of national life and honour.

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I am, sir, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM SEWARD.

Charles Francis Adams, Esq., &c.

Mr. Adams to Lord Russell.

Legation of the United States,
London, July 11, 1863.

My Lord,—It is with unaffected regret that I perform the duty incumbent on me, as the representative of the Government of the United States at Liverpool, and of four depositions, all intended to show a determined perseverance in the same acts of hostility at the port of Liverpool which have formed the subject of my remonstrances almost from the day I had the honour first to occupy this post. In many preceding communications I have endeavoured to set forth the facts which appear to me to prove, beyond the possibility of a doubt, the establishment on the part of the insurgents in the United States of a systematic plan of warfare upon the people of the United States, carried on from the port of Liverpool, as well as in less degree from other ports in this kingdom. In this policy the persons who have been sent out and have acted as agents have received the aid and effective co-opera-

tion of numbers of Her Majesty's subjects. The result of this conduct have been felt in the despatch of numbers of steam vessels laden with arms and munitions of war of every description, together with other supplies, well adapted to procrastinate the struggle, with the purpose of breaking a blockade legitimately established and fully recognised by Her Majesty in the proclamation issued by her forbidding all such acts. It is needless to point to your lordship how exclusively this business has been carried on by British subjects in British vessels, and how much the burden of war has been increased by the necessity of maintaining a corresponding naval force on the ocean in order to suppress it. Nor yet will I enlarge upon the use to which the British islands of Bermuda and New Providence have been put by British subjects, as convenient points for the storing of all these supplies, to the end that they may be more easily despatched to their illegal destination.

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Thus it is manifest that all of those things denominated the sinews of war, to wit, men and money, ships, arms, gunpowder and supplies, have been continually furnished by Her Majesty's subjects almost from the beginning of the contest. A war has thus been practically conducted by a portion of the people against a Government with which Her Majesty is under the most solemn of all national engagements to preserve a lasting and durable peace.

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Having thus acquitted myself of the painful duty of recapitulating the points I am instructed by my Government to present, I have now the honour to solicit your attention to the evidence of the last and gravest act of international hostility yet committed. It is the construction and equipment of a steam vessel of war, of the most formidable kind now known, in the port of Liverpool. All the appliances of British skill to the arts of destruction appear to have been resorted to for the purpose of doing injury to the people of the United States. The very construction of such a vessel, in a country in a state of profound peace, without any explanation of the object to which it is to be applied, is calculated to excite uneasiness on the part of those involved in a contest where only it could be expected to be made of use. But when it further appears that it is constructed by parties who have been already proved to have furnished one vessel of war to the insurgents in America, and who are now shown to be acting in co-operation with their well-known agents on the spot in the preparation of that now in question, it is not unnatural that such proceedings should be regarded by the Government and people of the United States with the greatest alarm, as virtually tantamount to a participation in the war by the people of Great Britain to a degree which, if not seasonably prevented, cannot fail to endanger the peace and welfare of both countries. I trust I need not assure your lordship how deeply concerned is the Government which I have the honour to represent in the view of any such possibility, and how earnestly it hopes that Her Majesty's Government, having the will, may find itself likewise vested with the needful power to guard against any such occurrence. I pray your lordship to accept the assurances of the highest consideration with which I have the honour to be your lordship's obedient servant.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

Right Hon. Earl RUSSELL, &c. &c.

THE SEIZURE OF THE "TUSCALOOSA."—So far as the rules of maritime warfare are generally known to the public, or are contained in the latest work of authority on the subject, there cannot be the slightest doubt as to the legality of the capture and conversion of the *Tuscaloosa*. Some very silly stuff has been talked by ignorant Americans, and by some Englishmen who do not choose to know anything unfavourable to American interests, about the absence of any legal condemnation of Captain Semmes's prizes. Still more absurd nonsense has been talked about some imaginary prize court held on board the *Alabama*. No doubt any such court would be utterly illegal; and if it were to condemn a neutral ship it would be the duty of the injured power at once to demand redress from the Confederate Government. But Captain Semmes never made any such pretension. It needs no court to condemn an enemy's vessel, her flag condemns her, or if she have no flag, she is condemned by her papers. Capture, not condemnation, is here the title of the captors. The reason why enemy's ships are usually brought before a court for condemnation is that municipal laws require such a measure in order to entitle the captors to the proceeds of their prize, not as against the enemy, but as against their own sovereign. But it has always been the right of a cruiser to "take, sink, burn, and destroy" the ships of an enemy without any sort of trial. "Capture alone divests an enemy of his property *jure belli*. Upon the surrender of a vessel under an enemy's flag on the high seas a belligerent may destroy her under the general law of nations." We quote from the "Law of Nations," by Dr. Twiss, vol. II., where it is said again that a captor of an enemy's vessel is "by right *dominus* of the property which he has taken" immediately upon the capture. His right to fit her out as a man-of-war follows as a matter of course. We venture to assert that any one familiar with the details of our naval history could name off-hand a dozen instances in which the captured ship of the enemy has at once, without condemnation, been armed and supplied with men and munitions of war to cruise against the power from whom she was taken. The United States have gone so far during the present war as thus to employ before condemnation vessels taken from English merchants for alleged breach of blockade. It appears, then, beyond all question, that the capture of the merchant ship *Conrad*, and her conversion into the cruiser *Tuscaloosa*, were regular and legitimate belligerent operations. This being the case, it is impossible that any collateral circumstances should give us jurisdiction over a man-of-war belonging to a foreign Government. It will not do to plead the order issued at the outbreak of the war that armed vessels with their prizes should be excluded from our ports. The *Tuscaloosa* did not enter as a prize, and if she had we should still have had no jurisdiction over her except to exclude her. The alleged illegality of the original outfit of the *Alabama* is of equally little avail to Her Majesty's—or, rather, we should say to Mr. Adam's—Ministers. That might give us a jurisdiction to restore her prizes made on her first cruise, if brought within our ports as prizes. It can give us no jurisdiction now, even over her prizes, still less over a ship first known to us as a regular man-of-war, whose belligerent flag precludes all inquiry on the part of the foreign nations.—*Standard*.

WILLIAM MURE, Esq., late Her Majesty's Consul at New Orleans, which post he occupied since 1843, with credit to himself and distinguished usefulness to his country, died in London on the 14th inst.

THE death of Mrs. W. H. T. Lee, wife of the Brigadier-General, whose capture by the Federals while lying wounded in his private residence will be remembered, is announced.

CONFEDERATE PROSPECTS.

Two remarkably able and interesting letters from "the special correspondent of the *Times*" in the South have been published in the last week. We reprint some extracts that give a view of the condition of the Confederate states, and also a passage that has reference to the treatment of British subjects:—

"There is a strange shadowy sense of unreality attached to passing sixteen months in and about Richmond, and then waking up to find oneself in Washington. To describe such a transition would demand not only unrivalled descriptive and antithetical excellence, but also some such quaintness of conceit as has exhumed Rip Van Winkle starting from his long slumber in Sleepy Hollow. In Richmond the spectator has for months and months been familiar with war about his path and about his bed, and at all hours and under every roof. War is breathed in at every breath, watched upon every breeze, heard in every sound, visible at every step. For grace and elegance and letters' sake there is neither time nor superfluity of resource; nor, it must be added, are they compatible with the sublime earnestness of temper exhibited by man and woman. Sentries at the head of every street substantiate the passer's identity and investigate his right to be absent from the army. As early as dawn breaks, you are awakened by the long monotonous chorus of thousands of negroes, engaged in completing the defensive works around Richmond, and going forth cheerfully to their labour, which has long ago assumed such proportions as to defy the assault of 200,000 men. This is no idle statement of my own, but taken from the lips of the ablest, ablest, and least boastful of Confederate officers, whose name will suggest itself to every reader. Cannon are constantly seen in the streets—either new 12-pounder Napoleons going up to the army from the Tredegar Works, or guns which have undergone repair, or field pieces which are going North or South; the well-known lean, lank, ragged, 'grayback' troops, with the same lordly defiant air of individuality and self-assertion as ever, constantly troop through the city, with their old wild, discordant yells, making day or night hideous. The familiar Southern tunes of 'Dixie' or 'The Mocking Bird,' execrably interpreted by a few fifes, a cornet, and a drum, contrast marvellously with the rich swell of fine German bands in Washington, which render to perfection the 'Last Rose of Summer,' or one of Mendelssohn's superb marches, crashing among the distant echoes of Pennsylvania Avenue. And yet there is a heart, a *verve*, and a sanciness about the Southern 'Dixie' and the mien of its interpreters, which are looked for in vain among the stolid German musicians of Washington and the gaudy troops bedizened with gold lace who follow them.

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"But of all things the most astonishing and bewildering to the stranger fresh from Richmond is the incredible ignorance and credulity of these careless sons and daughters. I have hardly patience to dwell upon the evidences of my meaning. A slave who has run away from Richmond, and gives out that he has escaped from President Davis, is elevated into an authority, and mounts the rostrum through the columns of the public journals. 'The Southern armies are melting away by desertion, and Lee and Longstreet can hardly keep the field.' It will be as well to state once for all that in the spring, summer, and autumn months the balance of deserters is always in favour of the Confederates, but that in the depth of winter, while inaction and stagnation prevail, the Federals are, as it were, tethered by their teeth to their own standards. 'North Carolina is on the eve of yielding to the blandishments of General Butler, and, headed by Governor Vance, will be back in the Union by the 4th of next July.' Am I dreaming, or did I hear a fortnight ago from Governor Vance that he would rather fight for twenty years than consent to anything but full, final, and irrevocable dissolution of the Union? 'Vice-President Stephens, the ablest man in the South, is at the point of death.' During sixteen months in the Confederate States I have never seen and scarcely ever heard of Vice-President Stephens. The list of similar chimeras might be swelled to infinity. As it was in the beginning, so it is now, and so it will be to the end. *Suppressio veri* alternates with *suggestio falsi*; the Union must and shall be maintained, because every man in the Northern States so wills it, and will give his last dollar rather than abandon the contest! It is useless to reply that the dollars which they are giving are 'bogus;' that this war will be won, not by those who print fastest, but by those who shed their blood most freely, and face self-denial with most sublime indifference. 'Constantly prefer a state of want to a state of abundance,' says one of the wisest writers of all time. Behold in the contrasted aspect of the two sections the moral conveyed in this apothegm! I could not but think, in the first instance, of my parting conversation, a few hours before, with President Davis; of his calm weighty analysis of the comparative strength of the belligerents about to close in a fourth and deathlier grapple; of his quiet earnest confidence; his kindling eye. Were it not that I remember that the deified Washington was surrounded on earth by detractors and vilifiers—that on his right hand stood Charles Lee fomenting by anonymous addresses discord among the American troops, and on his left Jefferson lending his great powers to secret defamation of his chief—I should search for special attributes in the Southerners to account for the fact that, although almost unanimous against the Yankee, they lack wisdom or virtue enough to appreciate the man whom, of all others, Providence has adapted for his mighty task. But, in spite of their indignant refusal to be gauged by the measure of other nations, history is for the Americans the same revolution of cycles and repetition of incidents as for every other people on earth.

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"Thus far it cannot be pretended that any of the exceptional trials and hardships with which the South has this winter been threatened have begun to overtake Richmond. It is the universal remark that provisions of all kinds are better and more plentiful this winter than last. It is especially impossible not to be struck with the abundance of deer which hang daily at the doors of the *restaurants* and eating-houses, while there is an affluence of wild and tame turkeys, of partridges, ducks, fish, and oysters, which laugh all threats of starvation to scorn. Perhaps there never yet was a country which can so little be dragooned into terms by hunger as the so magnificent Southern states, teeming with the richest gifts of river and forest, sparsely occupied by a scanty population, and warmed by a bountiful and enriching sun. There is hardly a foot of the lower portions of the Potomac, Rappahannock, York, or James Rivers but is paved with oysters, and the same can be said of Mobile Bay (more than 30 miles long), of the rivers about Wilmington, Charleston, and Savannah, and of the inlets of Florida and Texas. There are two, and only two, manifest perplexities with which the South has to cope—an unreasonably depreciated currency, and great deficiency in railroad transport. We are promised an early improvement in the former by the Confederate Congress—a body about whose ability to execute a colossal task it is hard to be sanguine; the latter is obviated, and but ill-armed able so long as the war lasts. But it must be patent to Englishmen that by neither can the South ever be coerced into accepting terms against its will. History exhibits many instances of countries wrestling in the death throes of defensive warfare under vastly severer financial pressure than the South can ever experience; but where can the best instance be quoted of a country so struggling and accumulating loan improvements? In regard to facilities of railroad transport, they have hitherto been found sufficient for Southern necessities, and they will this year be rather enhanced than diminished by the link which will connect Danville, in Virginia, with Greensborough, in North Carolina, and which will be opened for traffic in a couple of months from this time.

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"It is a matter of surprise to all Englishmen in the Confederate States, that Lord Lyons (whose [illegible] I have again and again been unfeignedly glad to see, Mr. Adams) takes no more heed of British subjects in Secession than it does of the codfish in the Atlantic. My own impression has always been that British subjects in the South are not materially worse off without consul than they were before the 'elevation' of Mr. Moore and his colleagues. I have seen dozens of instances in which a hearty desire to act justly between contending claimants to be foreigners and the enrolling officers has been exhibited at Richmond. The efforts of Mr. Gustavus A. Myers, gratuitously and with much self-sacrifice extended to British subjects, have been unremitting; and they have been cordially seconded by the Assistant Secretary of War, Judge Campbell, who brings to the duties of his present post the same mild legal sagacity and uprightness of character which distinguished him while seated on the bench of the Supreme Court at Washington. Exceptional cases of hardship, such as that of Mr. Belshaw, have occasionally occurred, but they have been made the most of in England by the rabid partisans of the North, who are never tired of claiming for the Federal Government the very largest measure of indulgence for high-handedness in 'the hour of their agony,' but who refuse to the Confederate Government and nation the smallest charity under circumstances of vastly severer trial. But I confess it does appear to me strange that the Foreign-office should endeavour to retain within the Confederate States one trusted consular agent in a capacity which he might hold without offence to the Confederate Government. Mr. Cridland, who was Mr. Moore's *bona fides* at Richmond during the first two years of the war, and who is now residing as a private person at Mobile, is, it I am not mistaken, the last of the quondam British Consuls left upon the soil of Secessia. It is well known that the archives of the British Consulate are left to take their chance in the various towns where the Foreign-office was once represented. If these archives are of as much consequence as is vulgarly imagined, and if the Foreign-office still desires to retain one correspondent within the insurgent States, why not appoint Mr. Cridland custodian of the archives of the British Consulates in the South (or what the French call *Chancellier*), and give him authority to proceed at intervals from town to town, and see that those archives are in safe keeping? In no other way can the Foreign-office obtain such trustworthy private information from an agent in whom they will consent to repose confidence. Perhaps Lord Russell, gulled by Mr. Adams, and Lord Lyons, hoodwinked by Mr. Seward, think that yet a few weeks and British Consuls will resume their functions at Richmond, Charleston, Savannah, and Mobile, under the shelter of the Stars and Stripes. There are places and circumstances in which opportunity of observation is of more moment than sagacity of induction, and entitles ordinary men who possess it to instruct philosophers who generalize at a distance. I will venture, therefore, in conclusion, to assure Lord Russell that the gigantic task which President Lincoln has taken in hand is not hitherto half-way towards its accomplishment; that before its completion rivers of blood will flow where rivulets have flowed before; that, if necessary, where one slave is found fighting for Mrs. Stowe and Mr. Sumner, ten slaves will be found fighting for their masters and for slavery; that the fourth year of the war finds the two sections under circumstances of far greater equality as regards men and material of war than its predecessors; that the North is, perhaps unconsciously, bolstering up its faith and stiffening its backbone by a diet of ingenious mendacity; and that if ever it should succeed in driving its enemy from the field, it will find itself face to face with a problem, the difficulties of which it has not begun to gauge, but which are such as have baffled solution by any otbernation since the creation of man, and which will baffle and exhaust even the irrepressible Yankee.

THE prohibition against leaving the plantations is not an isolated regulation, but the most efficient part of a system of regulations soon to be adopted for exacting compulsory labour from the negroes. It is a sort of Fugitive Act to secure their presence on the plantations while the system is put in operation, and to keep them at their tasks afterward. The lessees are likely to be harder task-masters than ordinary slave-drivers, who neither share the profits they extort nor are free from the restraining influence of proprietors, who have a permanent interest in keeping the physical stamina of their slaves unimpaired. Another consequence of this new system of serfdom which is likely to prove distasteful to the radicals, is, that it leaves the negroes in such a condition, and under such control, as to insure an easy restoration of the old form of slavery at the termination of the war. Peace will find the same negroes on the same plantations, doing the same work. If the Supreme Court declares the proclamation void, there will be no difficulty in remanding the slaves to the custody of their masters. If there comes into power an administration which remits the question to the respective State Governments, the relapse from the new to the old system will be a mere legal form, which will hardly change the external aspect of plantation life.—*New York Herald*.

THE *Lynchburg Republican* states that a Captain Dacie, representing himself to be an Englishman, and lately residing at Montgomery White Sulphur Springs, has been swindling by selling bills for sterling exchange to the amount of $1,200 000 without authority. He induced the cashier of the Bank of the Valley of Christiansburg to endorse his drafts. He is reported to have returned to Europe.

IF we had consulted our commercial interests; if we had consented to take part with France in an intervention to bring about a pacific settlement of the quarrel; if we had listened to the suggestions of public opinion; or if we had taken offence when offence was evidently intended, the Confederate States would ere now have been recognised by all the European Powers.—*The Morning Post, February 10.*

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

OUR friends in the United Kingdom and on the Continent are earnestly requested to forward to us, at their earliest convenience, such information relative to the military movements and condition of affairs in America as they may receive through private letters, either from the United States, or from the Confederate States. They may rely upon the most scrupulous precautions being observed; that no names or facts leading to identification will, under any circumstances, be revealed. No communications, however, will be noticed unless authenticated by a responsible name. Southern newspapers, of any date, will be useful and acceptable presents.

Our subscribers in the South will have their paper supplied through HENRY HOTZE, Esq., the Confederate States Commercial Agent in London, who has kindly tendered us his services in this respect during the continuance of the blockade.

For the convenience of our distant subscribers, all the receipts for subscriptions signed by any of the official representatives, or commissioned officers of the Confederate States, will be recognized at this office.

Subscription, 26s. per annum—post paid, 30s., payable in advance.

All communications on business to be addressed, and Post-Office Orders made payable to, J. B. HOPKINS, 13, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street, London E.C.

The INDEX may be obtained, and payments for subscriptions or other dues to the paper made:—

At Liverpool, to MR. HUTTON, 6, Commercial-buildings, 17, Water-st.

At Manchester, F. A. HASLEHAM, Esq., Manchester Southern Club Office, Market-street.

At Paris, to Messrs. PFEIFFER and MULLER, 52, Rue du Château d'Eau, Paris.

At Turin, to Sr. FILIPPO MANEITA, 4, Borgo Nuovo.

At St. Thomas (West Indies), C. W. WHITE, Esq.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1864.

Mr. J. H. Ashbridge, Treasurer of the Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund, begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following additional contribution:—

The Dowager Marchioness of Bath (through Henry Hotze, Esq.) £25 0 0

Opening of the Spring Campaign.

THE spring campaign has opened well for the Confederate armies. After their two months' repose they are active along the enemy's whole line, and at most points have achieved a marked success. In Western Virginia, in North Carolina, in Eastern Tennessee, in Northern Alabama, in Kentucky, and on the Mississippi banks, we hear of simultaneous movements. Everywhere the invaders are threatened with attack, and for a time the Federal and Confederate forces seem to have changed their parts, the latter assuming the offensive, the former content if they can hold the ground they have conquered in the three years' struggle. As we anticipated, the most dangerous movement to the Federal army has been made in Eastern Tennessee. The accounts from this quarter are so conflicting that it is somewhat difficult to determine the precise position of affairs; but there can be very little doubt that what fighting has taken place has on the whole been favourable to the South. The New York press limits Longstreet's designs to the occupation of Strawberry Plains, about a day's march from Knoxville, as the only valley in the neighbourhood from whence there is still forage to be drawn; but his ultimate object is undoubtedly the capital of Eastern Tennessee; and he has made considerable progress towards the achievement of his aim within the last three weeks. His advance took the Federals completely by surprise, driving them across the Holston river, capturing an immense quantity of stores, 200 prisoners, caissons, &c. The Federal army retreated upon Knoxville and recrossed the river in force, to meet Longstreet's advance on the southern side of Knoxville, and here an engagement took place between a Federal force of cavalry and mounted infantry and a Confederate foraging party, which is claimed as a decided victory by the Northern press. At the same, time it is stated from Confederate sources that Tazewell, in the immediate vicinity of Cumberland Gap, has been occupied by some of Longstreet's forces; so that it would appear that something like an investment of Knoxville is aimed at. The Southern general holds a most excellent position. He has full command of the railroad and of the roads into Virginia and North Carolina, and he is said to have an impregnable base of operations at Bull's Gap. If it be true that he has been heavily reinforced from Lee's and Johnson's forces, General Foster, or his successor, will have hard work to hold Knoxville. The latest advices from the South report a battle on the 28th near Sevierville, in which the Confederates were again victorious. But we shall have to wait a week or two before we can form any definite notion of Longstreet's plans, and his chances of success. More mysterious still is the reported retirement of General Johnson from Dalton. It is said that his force is broken up, a portion having marched to the defence of Mobile, another portion having joined Longstreet by a circuitous route. But the whole story rests rather on rumours than known facts. A Federal reconnaissance failed to discover any large body of Southern troops at Dalton, it is true, but it is not easy at first sight to understand why the position taken up by General Johnson, one which could not be turned, and was naturally so strong, that it could be held by an army of 40,000 men against almost any numbers, should have been abandoned. If Johnson has retired, it is quite certain there must be work in prospect for his army somewhere. It was perfectly safe from any attack by General Grant for the next three months. A mere retrograde movement is out of the question. The probability is, that one or two divisions have reinforced Longstreet, and that the real struggle of the spring will be for the possession of Knoxville.

In the meantime the Confederates are keeping the enemy on the alert at various points. One day it is reported that the Baltimore and Ohio railroad has been struck by Confederate cavalry, and some miles of the track destroyed; the next the news reaches Washington that General Early, with a considerable force, has marched into Western Virginia, that he has captured trains and many prisoners, and driven the Federal troops out of several strong positions. The raid accomplished, the supplies obtained, the Confederate general fell back, and the Federals claim a victory; but it says very little for the progress Northern arms have made, that in this the fourth year of the war they cannot protect Western Virginia, which, almost from the first, has been as much under Northern rule as Maryland. Another dash of a similar character is reported upon Newbern, North Carolina, that State which, by the-by, has been of late, according to Northern accounts, exhibiting so strong a desire for reunion. There the Federal troops were driven, after some sharp fighting, behind their entrenchments at Newbern, and a Federal gunboat was captured. Probably the Confederate commander intended nothing more than to beat up the quarters of the invader and withdraw; for a despatch of the 3rd inst. states that the Confederates had retired, but the capture of the gunboat is fair proof of the success of the movement, and of the remarkable activity of the army which the Northern press has so long pictured as starved and demoralised. General Butler also has a reverse to acknowledge. One of those marauding expeditions, whose only object seems to be the looting of inoffensive citizens and the abduction of niggers, has been severely handled on the James River, a gunboat sunk, and nearly the whole of the force engaged in it either killed or compelled to surrender. The check is useful, as it will probably put a stop to a system of warfare which was nothing more or less than the worst kind of *razzia*. From Kentucky the news is equally favourable to the Confederates. A small force had penetrated as far as Scottsville, at no very great distance from the Nashville and Louisville railroad. A considerable cavalry force under Morgan was concentrating for an advance into Eastern Kentucky, probably with a view to aid Longstreet's design against Knoxville. At Athens, and at Florence, Alabama, we hear of the Confederate cavalry at work. It is reported that Corinth has been occupied by Southern troops, and that Fort Pillow has been evacuated by the Federals. Finally, it is announced that Gilmore's land forces are coming North, and that the siege of Charleston is virtually raised. The last item of news is, we fear, too good to be true. Gilmore's abandonment of his operations against Charleston would be tantamount to a confession of absolute failure—a break down on the part of the North. If only to aid Mr. Adams and help on the draft, the siege of Charleston must go on. Possibly the siege of Mobile will proceed *pari passu*. But it is an amusing illustration of the progress the Federals have made at Charleston to find that after six months of incessant bombardment the brave garrison at Fort Sumter has erected new batteries, and that the New York press is so familiarised with failure as to announce without comment the probable return of Gilmore's land forces.

It is not to be wondered at that President Lincoln has ordered a new draft of 500,000 men to take place on the 10th of March. New York politicians may speculate on the causes of this sudden resolve. To us the immediate cause is sufficiently clear: that is, the knowledge that at the commencement of the fourth year of the contest the South is better prepared, in the efficiency and equipment of her soldiers, and even in their numbers, to resist invasion than at any former period; that the feelings of her people were never more thoroughly aroused, and that the prospects of the North were never more gloomy. The Federals may achieve mastery on the sea-coast, but they have reached the limits of their success in the interior. There are no great rivers to aid them now. They must accomplish everything by sheer hard fighting, whether they march upon Richmond or Atlanta. The force now in the field is hardly strong enough to hold the territory gained since the war broke out, and the draft of 500,000 men, unpopular as it may be, is the only step that will carry Mr. Lincoln's Administration over the year. Whether the draft itself is possible, will depend very much on the military events of the next month or six weeks.

The "Foul Blot."

IF a man's house were attacked and set on fire by a gang of ruffians, with the intention of murdering him and his, what should we think of the humanity and piety of the bystanders who devoutly exclaimed, "This man is an evil-doer; the justice of Heaven be done"? Yet their conduct would not be more wickedly absurd than the reasoning of those who plead slavery in justification of the North's avowed purpose of exterminating a whole people. Nay, to make the analogy more perfect, it should be added that the inmate of the burning dwelling was guilty of no worse crime than that of wearing, not from his own choice, a coat after an antiquated fashion which after having been discarded by his neighbours had become exceedingly obnoxious to them. The motives of human conduct, even in great affairs, are too often not a whit more rational. Mankind, whether as individuals or in aggregates, are swayed rather by prejudices or sympathies than by principles of abstract justice, especially when the latter conflict with the former. To keep no faith with heretics was once an accepted dogma of religion, and is still more frequently acted upon in politics and in social life than most of us are willing to confess. To rescue a felon from the grasp of an infuriated mob, requires the prompting of some high sense of duty. In the case we have imagined, abstract justice would have said, "Be the man ever so guilty, leave him to the law;" but this appeal would certainly not have brought such swift and willing aid as the cry, "The man is innocent, save him." Applying our illustration to the issue between North and South, the imputation of a great crime has been the main weapon of the aggressor, and has chilled, or at least neutralised, the sympathies for the wronged. Unfortunately the advocacy of the Southern cause in Europe has been in a great measure confined to the less effective appeal. With the exception of this journal, the champions of the South generally concede the substantial truth of the charge against their clients, contenting themselves with urging extenuating circumstances and prospective promises of reform. We have no hesitation in saying that this is the chief reason why their efforts, zealous and able as they are, have not yet produced ripened fruits.

We shall, doubtless, be told that no other course was open to the friends of Confederate Independence; that the abhorrence of slavery is a feeling deeply rooted in the conscience of the English people, and which must be propitiated; and that, by our own illustration, it would not assist the victim of an attempted wrong, if his friends stopped to

argue vexatious questions. These observations, though founded on truth, are more plausible than ogical. We will not insult the intelligence of the English people by supposing that they have a mere unreasoning senseless hate of a name; they hate slavery because, as their experience as slaveholders n the West Indies and elsewhere gives them a right o do, they associate it with a systematic violation of human rights and Divine laws. But it cannot affront this instinctive repugnance to cruelty and crime, which is the most honourable attribute of our nature, to inform them that the institutions of the South resemble only in name the slavery once practised in the English West Indies and still practised in Cuba and Brazil. Again, it is not necessary for the advocates of the South to stop to argue questions. The events of the last three years have furnished a mass of evidence ready to their hands; all that is required of them is that they shall use it.

This evidence may be classed into three great facts, which will be found to refute the most important clauses of that indictment against the South which debars her from the active sympathies of mankind. First, it is demonstrated beyond the possibility of denial, that the Southern slaveholders who, in the same sense as the owners of property in every other country, may be regarded as the ruling class, have shown themselves, not degenerate in body and mind as they were represented to be, but capable of the highest moral, intellectual, and physical qualities. The South stands before the world as a nation wise in council, brave in the field, heroic in self-sacrifice and endurance, patient in adversity, temperate in the use of victory. Secondly, the non-slaveholding whites, who had been so long libelled with opprobrious epithets that the terms "mean whites" and "white trash," unknown at the South, were currently accepted here as not inappropriate designations, have filled the ranks of the Southern armies with willing and patriotic soldiers. These lazy lawless vagrants and marauders, as beyond the limits of their own country they were described and believed to be, have rivalled the best European troops in all the essentials of warlike discipline. Not an act of wanton cruelty, not an instance of excess when in enemy's territory, not a case of mutiny, can be laid to the charge of the patriot soldiers of the South. Whether in the dash of attack or in the severer trial of retreat, whether in the fatigue of eventful campaigns or in the weariness of inaction, their fidelity, their implicit obedience, and their unshaken confidence in themselves and their cause, were as conspicuous as their gallantry. If "mean whites" and "white trash" are terms descriptive of any phase of degeneracy, the South may proudly claim that her population contains less of these elements than that of any other country in Europe or America. Lastly, the negroes, between whom and the whites, Europe was told, there existed a smouldering but deadly feud, ready to break out at the first opportunity, have resisted, with truly amazing constancy which the lower orders of few countries under similar circumstances could have equalled, every temptation to separate their interests from those of their masters. It is justly due to the negroes of the South, that in proportion to their humbler means and capacities, they have vied in patriotism with the whites, and if aught of good to that race can come out of this war it will be that they, like the whites, are ennobled by unselfish and holy devotion.

Now, what are the accusations brought against the institutions of the South? That they debauched her higher classes, degraded the mass of her white population, and embruted the negro. Is it asking the English people to cease their abhorrence of debauchery, lawlessness, and brutality, if we ask them, with the proofs before us, to acquit the South of each and all of these accusations? Do we solicit their admiration or even their tolerance for all the abominations which they associate with the idea of slavery, by convincing them that these abominations, however inseparable they may be from other systems elsewhere, have nothing to do with the Southern system? It is truly horrible to reduce human beings to the condition of cattle, to breed them, to sell them, and otherwise dispose of them, as cattle. But is it defending such practices to say that the South does none of these things, but that on the contrary, both in theory and in practice, she treats the negro as a fellow-creature, with a soul to be saved, with feelings to be respected, though in the social order in a subordinate place, and of an intellectual organisation which requires guardianship with mutual duties and obligations? This system is called slavery, because it developed itself out of an older and very different one of that name, but for this the South is not to blame.

A whole literature will be opposed to the assertion of the truth. Let the defenders boldly challenge controversy on the field of facts; the more searching the investigation, the more complete the evidence, the more fairly will the character of the Southern people be cleared of aspersion. So is there an anti-social literature in every country, and consisting of precisely the same materials. Substitute in the place of the Southern slaveholder any of the more homely personages of a well-known class of fiction, the debauched nobleman, the aristocratic seducer, the grinding employer, the wealthy villain, and you have the pabulum which the art of printing has provided for obscene imaginations everywhere, and which in its more dangerous form hounds class against class. The *dramatis personæ* change their stage costumes with the changing taste of the period. At one time it was the monks and priests that committed all the monstrous villanies of the novels; during the French Revolution it was the kings and queens, with their courtiers; just now it is fashionable young ladies, and the scene is shifted from subterranean vaults and *oubliettes* to the drawing-room. As for the heroine, whose virtue suffers so many hair-breadth escapes, we recognise her instantly in the mulatto or quadroon slave girl; only that in her case the lovers of the sensational are usually gratified by a refinement on the old and stale-worn horrors. The only difference between this miscalled literature and that which Federal America has bestowed on Europe is, that decent people estimate the former at its just value, while the latter piqued curiosity by the novelty of its scenery, and still imposes on credulity by its former coincidence with a strong current of popular feeling.

But of this the friends of the South may be assured, that so long as they make no determined effort to relieve the Southern character from this false drapery, they will never gain for it that respect, that confidence in the rectitude of Southern motives, that active sympathy, which can alone evoke effective assistance. Men will not readily interfere on behalf of murderers, robbers, and tyrants, wherever the abstract right may lie, and they will be prone to accept excuses for not so interfering, even after they are convinced that it is their duty. The best assurance you can give that the destinies of the negro race are safe in Southern hands is, not that the South will repent and reform, but that she has consistently and conscientiously been the friend and benefactor of that race. Southern expostulations against the tone assumed by some of her advocates are sometimes met by the reply that the South has no right to complain of the manner in which Englishmen endeavour to assist her, and that she has only to accept the benefit of their assistance without questioning their means. Even if this reasoning could appease the scruples of so pre-eminently truth-loving a people as the South, it is utterly fallacious. A powerful prejudice may be likened to an infuriated wild beast; it is unwise to provoke its attack, but, if attacked, there is no safety but in boldly confronting it. Truth must be fought for; it cannot be insinuated by a dexterous mixture with falsehood. And in a bold battle for truth there are many defeats, but the gains of victory are always with the defeated. No cause has ever prospered which its advocates dared not wholly espouse. The Peace party in the North at this moment, reduced from a numerical majority to an insignificant and despised faction, is a melancholy illustration of this axiom in politics.

There is still a higher consideration than that of expediency, why the advocates of the South should make no concession, which is not warranted by the facts, to the popular prejudice. The South fights not only for independence, but for the vindication of her national character. The blood and the tears which she is shedding are not only to baptise her liberty; they are to wash out the stains which a fiendish malignity has cast upon her. To the whole force of the argument which is attested by a national martyrdom, she has an indisputable title, and she has a right to expect that no part of it should be lost or wasted by the timidity of her friends. The hope of material assistance she has long since abandoned: much less would she now purchase it at the price of her self-respect; let her champions, then, lend her the only aid which they are able to render—that of seeing that justice is done to her past as well as to her present.

It is, therefore, always with pain that we hear such expressions as "the foul blot," and similar ones, fall from the lips of earnest promoters of Confederate independence. As a concession they are useless; as a confession they are untrue. There might be some sense in speaking of the paupers, the criminals, or the insane, as the "foul blot" on the escutcheon of the British nation, and yet the expression would be both harsh and unjust. It might fairly be retorted that Great Britain is proud, justly proud, not of having poor, but of the boundless charity which in no other country gushes forth so abundantly and spontaneously for the relief of distress; not of having criminals, but of having set the example of treating them with humanity; not of having in her population the usual victims of density and intense activity, but of the tenderness with which she cares for these unfortunates. Now, the South has no paupers, and remarkably few criminals and lunatics, but one-fourth of her population is of a race marked by nature with striking physical differences and differing equally in moral and intellectual peculiarities. For the presence of this race she is in no other sense responsible than that under her protection they have increased from half a million to their present numbers. The "foul blot" consists in her subjecting all the individuals of this race to family government, upon essentially the same principles and for similar reasons as the whole of one sex, and all the minors of our own race are so subjected. This is literally the head and front of her offending. But under every other system the juxtaposition of two widely differing races has heretofore been impossible, and has ended either in cruel hardship to the weaker race, or more often its utter extermination. The South, on the contrary, has found this race in a condition little above the level of the brute creation—be it always remembered that she neither sought them nor reduced them from a higher to a lower state—and in fifty years she has educated them to such a degree that all mankind now clamours for their freedom as the equals and peers of the white men. We may wish that all men were free, and worthy of freedom, just as we wish that all men were prosperous, virtuous, and of sound mind, but we can only deal with the facts as God has made them, and set ourselves honestly each to the performance of the duties assigned him by an Allwise Power. Thus the Southerner may retort as we have seen that an Englishman would retort for his country. He might say the South is proud, and of nothing more proud than this—not that she has slaves, but that she has treated them as slaves never were treated before, that she has used power as no nation ever used it under similar circumstances, and that she has solved mercifully and humanely a most difficult problem which has elsewhere defied solution save in blood. Or he might use the unspoken reflection of an honest Southerner at hearing much said of "the foul blot:" "It was indeed a dark and damnable blot that England left us with, and it required all the efforts of Southern Christianity to pale it as it now is."

Ministerial Evasions.

There is something very strange in the persistent refusal of the Administration to lay before Parliament the correspondence which has passed between the Foreign-office and the Government of the United States. The alleged reasons for that refusal are two-fold. It is said that in one or two cases negotiations are still pending; and that it is not usual under such circumstances to publish the despatches already sent and received. This is true enough; but it is also true that this rule has been broken whenever it has been thought by the Government of the day that the publication of such despatches would tend to satisfy the public at home without interfering with the action of the Government abroad. Now no one supposes for a moment that the publication of the correspondence in the cases of the *Margaret and Jessie*, the *Science*, and the *Saxon* would tend to delay or hamper any attempts which Lord Russell may be making to obtain redress for the gross violations of public law committed by Federal officers; and it is only fair to conclude that, in his opinion the production of the papers would not tend to satisfy public feeling, but to excite it; that is, that their effect would be to convince the British people that their honour is *not* safe in the hands of Her Majesty's Ministers. In regard to other and still more important papers, urgently demanded by the Opposition in both Houses of Parliament, it is pleaded that the documents called for relate to a matter which has been brought under the jurisdiction of our courts of justice, and that a parliamentary discussion of the subject would prejudice the case of the Crown. It may be answered that the Crown has not usually been in the habit of making a mystery of its case; that the secresy, chicanery, and abuse of legal technicalities which are allowable in a civil suit between private parties have never been supposed appropriate to the conduct of a prosecution by the Attorney-General; that already there has been more than enough of vexation, delay, and oppression practised by the Crown lawyers against the owners of the *Alexandra* and the builders of the Mersey ironclads, and that the country has a right to know why the one was seized more than a year ago and the others so long back as September last. A more conclusive reply is, that what Parliament desires to know is, not the case of the Attorney-General against Sillem or against Messrs. Laird, but what has passed between Lord Russell and Mr.

Seward in regard to certain demands preferred by the latter; and that the two things have no direct bearing upon one another. It is possible that Lord Russell has been right, and has maintained the honour of the country in his correspondence with the Federal Government, and yet that there is no good case for the prosecution instituted by his orders; on the other hand, it is quite possible that the conduct of the Foreign-office has been cowardly and dishonourable, and yet that the Crown has a conclusive case against the vessels under seizure. The one is a diplomatic, the other a judicial question; it is with the former only that Parliament is concerned and on that only can the papers throw light; and the attempt to intermix and confuse the two distinct subjects of inquiry, with a view to postpone that which properly belongs to the House of Commons, is simply a piece of disingenuous special pleading, which raises the gravest suspicions that the evidence which the Government are so anxious to suppress must be of a very damaging character. Nor can the Foreign Secretary escape by pleading the authority of the law officers. Those gentlemen are, of course, anxious that the Ministry shall run no risk of ejectment; and more than this, one of the two was very recently counsel for the Federal embassy under very suspicious circumstances, and has thereby deprived his opinion on such a question of all moral weight. There is, therefore, no reason why the correspondence should not be produced; there are the strongest reasons why it should. Not only is the political reputation of the Foreign Secretary at stake—not only is he suspected, on very weighty presumptive evidence, of having unworthily cringed and truckled to the Government of the United States—but a question has arisen affecting his personal honour. The correspondence, or one version of it, has been published in America; and in the American publication is found a copy of a despatch, supposed to have been communicated to Lord Russell, in which the most insolent menaces are employed in order to compel Great Britain to take steps inconsistent with her duty as a neutral Power. Great indignation was excited by the appearance of this document, and Lord Russell and his subordinate, when called to account, flatly denied that any such despatch had ever been communicated to the Foreign Secretary, whether verbally or in writing, and that he had never heard of it till he saw it in the newspapers, which had copied it from the American correspondence. Now, the rule in such a case is clear. Parliament is bound to accept the word of a Minister of State, whatever may be the counter-assertions of foreign Governments; and on the other hand, the Minister is bound to use all possible diligence in vindicating himself, and proving beyond a doubt that he has spoken the literal truth. It is impossible to suppose that a man of honour would be content to allow such a matter to rest in doubt for a single moment; and therefore the non-production of the correspondence necessary to clear up the mystery and effectually vindicate the personal honour of the Foreign Secretary is a scandal and a source of grave uneasiness. There must be some very serious apprehension of danger from the publication of the required documentary evidence to induce Lord Russell to allow a question which touches him so nearly to remain unsettled for a single hour. Now, there can be no danger to the public interest from the presentation to Parliament of the whole of a correspondence, of which a version, said to be garbled and unfair, has been already given to the world through the American Congress. The apprehended danger, therefore, must be to the Ministry. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the papers are withheld from Parliament because it is felt that they contain evidence on which, if once a discussion be allowed, the Government must be convicted of having forgotten its duty and betrayed its trust.

The evasive, shuffling, disingenuous tone of Lord Russell's reply to Lord Derby, on Thursday night, is sufficient in itself to convince every one that the Minister is conscious of having done that which the country will not approve, and of having failed to do that which the honour and dignity of England required. Lord Derby demanded specific explanations on several matters, which he stated with his usual distinctness. He pointed out that on the 1st September Lord Russell has declared that there was no evidence on which the Mersey ironclads could be seized; that on the 5th September Mr. Adams replied by a note, threatening, in unequivocal terms, that war should be the consequence of their departure from Liverpool; and that immediately on the receipt of this note Lord Russell had communicated to Mr. Adams his determination to seize the vessels in question. Lord Russell's answer—if answer it could be called—was, that the decision to seize the ships, though not communicated to Mr. Adams till after the receipt of his menacing note of the 5th, was formed before that note was received. Of course this is a point of which the sole evidence remains in Lord Russell's own breast. We are bound to believe him, but others will not do so. Europe and America alike will inevitably believe that it was the threat of Mr. Adams, and nothing else, which induced the Foreign Secretary to retract his letter of the 1st September; and they will draw the necessary conclusion, that the way to extort concessions from England is by bluster and menace. Why was no fitting rebuke administered to Mr. Adams? Because Lord Russell thought that gentleman justified in his menace. "If armed vessels go from our ports to wage war on the United States, it is a good cause of war against us." Possibly; but was there any question of armed vessels being despatched from Liverpool? Most assuredly not, and this Lord Russell knows as well as we do, and in insinuating the contrary he was guilty of a gross equivocation. Lord Derby called attention to the destruction of the *Margaret and Jessie* within half a mile of a British island; so close to the shore that shot and shell fell among the dwellings and in the plantations of the inhabitants, to their great peril and alarm. Lord Russell had not a word to say; not the ghost of an answer to make. Lord Derby directed attention to the promise of Lord Russell at Blairgowrie, that the Foreign Enlistment Act should be altered to meet the demands of the Federal Government—a promise which also had the appearance of being extorted by the insolent note of the 5th September—and remarked with great justice, that if it be an act of bad faith towards one belligerent not to put our laws in force, it is equally an act of hostility to the other to alter those laws, *durante bello*, for the advantage of his enemy. Again Lord Russell was silent: let us hope from shame. All he could do was to eulogise the prize courts of the United States, and to shelter himself under the shelter of an appeal, in general terms, to the authority of Sir R. Palmer, and his colleague—late the legal adviser of Mr. Adams.

On the next evening Mr. Fitzgerald brought up several questions touching the proceedings of Federal cruisers in the House of Commons. The defence of the Government was entrusted to the Attorney-General, who contrived to make a defence for the Federal Prize Courts in the case of the *Springbok*, but was compelled to own that, in the three other instances cited by Mr. Fitzgerald, a gross and unpardonable outrage had been committed. The *Science* was seized in the neutral harbour of Matamoras, while loading with neutral property from that town. The Attorney-General had no doubt that she would be released in time, because, although twenty ships seized with similar contempt of law have been condemned, one vessel, by some strange caprice of conscience in the judge, was acquitted. The *Margaret and Jessie* was chased, fired into, and sunk within 500 yards of our shore, as much within our jurisdiction as if she had lain in the Liverpool docks. The captain of the Federal cruiser had, it appears, the impudence to deny that the operation took place in British waters, although his shot and shell actually fell on British soil; the papers were not sent to Mr. Seward till months after the occurrence: months have now elapsed since they were sent and no satisfaction has been offered; and now Mr. Attorney-General bids us wait patiently till it shall please Mr. Seward to support the falsehood of Captain Trenchard or to "disavow" his act, and in either case to accept the decision of a friendly Government with becoming humility and gratitude.

The worst is to come. A cowardly and cruel murder was committed by a Federal officer on board a British ship; deliberately perpetrated, with that evidence of malice prepense which is conclusively afforded by a previous threat of assassination. Mr. Fitzgerald desires to know what means Her Majesty's Government has taken to exact vengeance for this crowning outrage; and he is informed that Lord Russell has intimated to the Federal Government his opinion that the offender ought to be brought to trial; which opinion has been so far respected that an investigation has taken place, and long ere now the murder has been formally pronounced an "accident." It was just as much an accident as a certain murder on a Japanese high road, for which Japan has had to pay £125,000, has seen three ships burnt and a great city shelled and fired. So it appears that when an ignorant barbarian in hot blood cuts down an Englishman who is defying the customs of his country, England exacts the amplest vengeance that a great Power can take on a weak one; even to the bombardment of a populous town and the massacre of hundreds of women and children. When the uniformed officer of a civilised and responsible Government deliberately, wantonly, and in cold blood assassinates an unoffending Englishman, we are delighted to obtain an expression of half-contemptuous regret from his superior, and content to suggest to his Government the propriety of bringing him to trial!

Lord Robert Cecil expressed the almost universal feeling of Englishmen in a speech of remarkable truth and bitterness, describing the policy of the present Ministry in a phrase which will not soon be forgotten: "Unlimited ferocity in the East, unlimited humiliation in the West." Unsparing severity to the weak, unbounded forbearance to the strong; bluster and bombs for those who cannot resist us, soft words and patient endurance for those who are bold enough to threaten us: these are the maxims of Lord Russell's administration, these are now supposed throughout the world to be the standing rules of British policy.

Scandinavia.

When the traveller crosses from Germany into Denmark he soon perceives that he has passed from a lower to a higher grade of political civilisation. In the former country he saw a people who have displayed wonderful intellectual activity, who have on many a bloody field proved their valour, who are numerically greater than any other European nationality, who boast that they are free from the yoke of priestly domination, and yet who, with all these excellent qualities and advantages, are essentially a "prince-ridden" people, being under the yoke of the multitude of royal personages amongst whom the country is divided as though it were their private patrimony. This observation, which is applied to the political and not to the social condition of Germany, is aptly illustrated by what has lately occurred in Prussia. There a king not distinguished for statesmanship or for military prowess, has openly defied his subjects, has treated the Constitution with measureless contempt, and his subjects have submitted to the wrongs and the insults with a servile equanimity, which, happily for the honour of humanity, is without precedent. Or take the late high-handed proceedings of Austria and Prussia as an example. On paper, though not in fact, the German Diet is the representative through the various governments of the rights of the whole Fatherland, and is supposed to be a shield by which the least of the States is protected from the oppressive ambition of the greatest. There is no doubt that lately the vast majority of Germans—the minority only consisting of princes and court parasites—have cultivated a considerable esteem for the Diet, and have endorsed its policy respecting the Danish duchies. A Federal execution in Holstein was ordered, and Germany was in ecstacies; but the joy was of short duration, for it pleased Joseph of Austria and William of Prussia to set aside the order of the Diet, to oust the Federal army of occupation, and to take the business into their own charge. Germany is very indignant, whines, and submits. In short, no people has so little real political power as the Germans, and the Czar is not in practice so thoroughly a despotic ruler as the Emperor of Austria, and still less so than the King of Prussia. What a totally different aspect is presented by Denmark! Under the most unfavourable circumstances, that is, whilst harassed by continual threats of invasion, constitutional government has made such rapid progress that the Danes are in the enjoyment of a full measure of freedom. Neither in theory nor in practice has England a freer constitution than Denmark. With an intense love of country, and with proud and inspiring recollections of past greatness, the Danes, though few in number, present a bold front, and command the cordial respect of Europe. They only need extent of territory and population to wield a powerful influence, whilst the Germans, who have a large country and are a numerous nationality, seem to lack every other requisite for national development. Germany has the opportunity but not the energy; Denmark has the energy but not the opportunity, and has been wont to look to the establishment of a Scandinavian kingdom as a remedy for the weakness that leaves her too dependent on the sagacity, the courage, and the honesty of fallible allies. Perhaps the map of Europe may never be marked with the United Kingdom of Scandinavia, and we do not think that the crown of Christian is now in danger. Earl Russell is no longer his foreign minister, and therefore his people loyally confide in his patriotism and devotion. Our present purpose is not to speculate on possible changes in the North, but to expose some erroneous views that are held on the subject of a Kingdom of Scandinavia.

It is worthy of remark that the Treaty of London (1852) was negotiated mainly on account of a reported project of union between Denmark, Sweden, and Norway. After the last war the Danes openly canvassed the policy of proclaiming the King of Sweden as their king on the demise of their then reigning sovereign, and it was this that induced Russia, Austria, and Prussia to take such a deep interest in the settlement of the succession. But for the fear of having too strong a neighbour Russia would not so generously have resigned her claims to a portion of the disputed territory with-

but the slightest compensation. Prussia, coveting the duchies, would not have been anxious to save Denmark from a war of succession, had it not been for the purpose of averting the threatened amalgamation. Yet there are many who think, when Denmark talks about giving up her individuality, it is an idle menace. They argue that Denmark would be altogether lost in the new kingdom, and that a nation will never, except on compulsion, so stultify itself.

This line of argument is not only false, but the very reverse of the truth. Despite her slight numerical inferiority, Denmark, in a United Kingdom of Scandinavia, would hold a position analogous to that of England in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Denmark has an enormous advantage in geographical situation, which would make her the entrepôt for the foreign commerce of the whole kingdom, and which must contribute to her political importance by bringing her into nearer contact with other European nations. Indeed, so apparent is it that Denmark would lead, that the Swedes formerly shrank from union with her, and used much the same arguments that were familiar to Scottish and Irish patriots, who opposed the consolidation of these dominions; and we may add, the same arguments that were adduced by many Neapolitans against the establishment of the Kingdom of Italy. It is impossible not to sympathise with the sentiment that makes a separate community dislike the prospect of becoming a province, though it may be sufficiently clear that the fusion is advantageous, and peculiarly so to the poorer States. Sweden and Norway would gain in every respect from a political copartnership with Denmark, and the inequalities are not so great as to make Denmark dominant though that country would occupy the most prominent position. Lately the Swedes and Norwegians have seen the matter in its true light and the union would be popular. We only mention the previous disinclination to show that those who are best informed and most interested do not think that to merge herself in a Scandinavian Kingdom would involve a fearful sacrifice on the part of Denmark.

Another error in connection with this subject is the idea very general in Germany and we believe entertained by some Englishmen, that the establishment of a Scandinavian Kingdom would put an end to all difficulties about Slesvig and Holstein by the surrender of those duchies to Germany. We admit that the Swedes abhor the prospect of any political connection with Germany; and that the main objection heretofore urged to a union with Denmark was the relations between Holstein and the Diet. This did not apply to Slesvig, because Germany has no more right to interfere in that duchy than she has in Ireland, and Sweden has never hesitated to declare that Germany ought to be kept out of it at any cost. The present inaction of Sweden is partly due to English diplomacy which has been busy in breaking, as far as possible, the cordial alliance between Copenhagen and Stockholm, and partly to the intimacy between France and Sweden, which induces the latter to wait upon the policy of the former. We shall yet see that Sweden will do something more than protest against the invasion of Slesvig. Besides, it is important to Sweden now, and would be even more so if united with Denmark, that the port of Kiel, the finest harbour in Europe, should not pass into the hands of Germany. So long as Scandinavia retains her naval superiority—that is, so long as Germany has no navy—she has a powerful weapon of offence which, to some extent, compensates for the comparative smallness of her land forces. To permit Germany to hold Slesvig and Holstein would do more than give her a port. Germany has ports already, and Austria some excellent ports, but they have no navy worth the mention because they have no sailors. Slesvig and Holstein have a seafaring population, and would afford recruiting ground for manning a navy. But it may be asked whether Sweden, in the event of a union with Denmark, would wish to retain Holstein as well as Slesvig. In the first place Germany does not care very much for Holstein without Slesvig, and hence the fraudulent claim of the Prince of Augustenburg has been countenanced, to the end that the two duchies might be taken together. The port of Kiel is bounded on one side by Holstein and on the other by Slesvig, so that it is of no military value except to a Power owning both duchies. Now Sweden has never advised Denmark to part with her rights over Holstein, but has advised exactly the settlement proposed by the November Constitution. Holstein was to be entirely self-governed and was only to be connected to Denmark by allegiance to a common sovereign. Every concession was granted except that of permitting the duchy to become the naval recruiting ground for Germany, and thereby enable a powerful and aggressive neighbour to deprive Scandinavia of her sole bulwark—her naval superiority, and, so far as Germany is concerned, her absolute naval supremacy. If Denmark unites with Sweden and Norway it will not be because Slesvig is resigned and Holstein given up to be a Prussian province, but rather to redeem Slesvig from the invader and to prevent Holstein becoming the basis for further aggression.

It would be a real sorrow for Englishmen to see the grandsire of their future king deprived of a crown for no other fault than trusting to the good faith of an English minister, and we cling to the hope that Denmark will be saved from disintegration, not, indeed, by the idle wind that Earl Russell calls moral suasion, but by the might that has before this forced Austria and Prussia to respect right. Were it not, however, for King Christian, we should fail to discover a single objection to the formation of a Kingdom of Scandinavia, and it seems to us that there are many reasons for desiring such a consummation. At all events, it will be wise for those who wish to keep Denmark and Sweden and Norway separate, to remember that there is nothing in the contemplation of a union to wound the pride of Dane, Swede, or Norwegian; and those who strive to enforce a Scandinavian union, hoping thereby to get rid of the Slesvig and Holstein question, should prudently reflect on the situation, and they will see that such a union does not imply an abandonment of the duchies, but rather offers a material guarantee for their retention. We repeat, that if it were not for King Christian, or if the loss of a crown was not one of those misfortunes that are impossible to compensate, we should not hesitate to point to a United Kingdom of Scandinavia as the surest guarantee against the encroachments of Germany; and as the best means for developing the resources of the country, and promoting the welfare and happiness of the people.

MR. DE BOW AND THE "STAR."—It is unpleasant to charge even an enemy with deliberate falsehood, and we are disposed, therefore, to set a good portion of the persistent use of forged documents, which has become a feature in the polemics of the Federal and Anglo-Yankee press, to the account of a childish credulity. A ludicrous instance of this has just been afforded by our contemporary the *Morning Star*. A New York paper reports the arrest at Richmond of Mr. De Bow, the eminent Southern statistician, editor of the *Review* bearing his name, and holding a very responsible position under the Secretary of the Treasury. The report is probably a mistake; at all events the reasons are not stated, and the information is derived exclusively through the dubious medium aforesaid. Whereupon the *New York Evening Post*, the only New York paper which has any claim to genuine wit, invents a reason for the amusement of its readers. Mr. De Bow was remembered as giving place in his *Review* to the writings of the most advanced, and in some cases, the extreme Southern thinkers; but his reputation mainly rests upon his statistical labours, which essentially contributed to arouse the Southern people to a consciousness of their resources and the extortions of the Northern protective legislation. The *Evening Post*, therefore, did not perpetrate so very bad a joke in fathering him with an article, written with some imitation of his style, which it alleges to have been suppressed by the Confederate authorities, who have allowed unbridled license to the press, and to have been the cause of Mr. De Bow's arrest. In this article Mr. De Bow is made to recant all he ever said about Southern wealth and Northern profits, and the commercial importance of cotton, to confess the utter failure of the Southern cause, and to wind up with a new theory of political economy, proposing a new standard of national development, to wit, the *raising of milch cows, and the relative number of these useful animals in various countries.* The intended irony was broadly conveyed, but not, it appears, sufficiently broad for the apprehension of our astute contemporary. Will it be believed that it swallows the joke bodily, and gravely moralises over the conversion of the distinguished Southern economist, in a leader running over the third column? Vide *Morning Star* of 15th inst.

THE CANADIAN EXPEDITION.—A gentleman who was engaged in the frustrated attempt to rescue the Confederate prisoners confined on Johnson's Island, near the Canadian frontier, writes to us to correct some mis-statements which have obtained currency through the Federal press. He says:—"You are aware of the leading facts of this affair and know that our object was defeated by the authorities of the Province. Perhaps you have already learned the secrets of the plan, but if you have not, a few words might be of service. The prisoners who had been released from Johnson's Island, the Federal prison in Lake Erie, conceived a plan to capture the Island and release the large number of officers confined there. The assent of the Confederate Government was asked, but long refused, from a doubt whether it could be effected without violating the neutrality of British territory. This objection was at last so far overcome that a certain number of officers received leave to attempt the hazardous experiment, but under strict orders to do or permit no act, directly or indirectly liable to be construed into such violation, to buy no materials of war and enlist no assistance on British soil, but only to exercise the right of passage as individuals. Accordingly, upon arriving in Canada, arms and cannon were purchased in New York, and were sent by parties there up to the lake where we could get them. Not an article was obtained in Canada. Even medicines and surgical instruments were furnished from New York, and all correspondence with the prisoners was carried on through the personal column of the *New York Herald*. Several British officers wished to join, but they, as also the assistance of many Canadian gentlemen, were refused. The basis of our operations was to be on Yankee territory, the means for carrying out our object, viz., to release the prisoners, were to be obtained there alone. This principle was adhered to in perfect good faith, in spirit as well as in letter, though not without some difficulty. Success would have been certain, had not an unexpected obstacle caused delay. The *Michigan*, a Federal gunboat, had anchored off the island, and it then became necessary to capture her before releasing the prisoners. To do this more men were necessary, and some Confederates, who had recently escaped from camps Chase and Douglas, were taken as volunteers. There was no one of the party owing allegiance to Great Britain, or who had "found an asylum on her soil," as the papers had it. But when we had completed our preparations, with the aid of friends in the Federal States, the very day before it was to have been executed, it reached the ears of the Governor-General, and the Yankees being immediately warned by him, it became impossible.

"Such is the whole affair in a nutshell. You will see that all we asked of the Canadian authorities was the right of passage to Yankeedom, individually and unarmed, we having neither the means nor the intention to commit a belligerent act before reaching Yankee jurisdiction. You can draw your own inference from the facts. Some of the Canadian and even some of the English papers, I am told, have taken a different, and, as it appears to me, a wholly erroneous view of the matter."

THE LATE NEGRO MUTINY.—No authentic account of the termination of the late murderous mutiny of the negro garrison at Fort Jackson, on the Lower Mississippi, has yet reached us, though it is doubtless long since quelled. From the Southern papers we gather a few meagre particulars, which, however, add but little to our previous information. The mutinous regiments, it is stated by released Confederate prisoners, are not Northern coloured regiments, but consisted of negroes enlisted and organised by General Banks. Such regiments are generally unreliable and unmanageable, and their offensive behaviour had induced the commanding-general to rescind the original order by which they were allowed to elect their own officers and of their own colour. All officers of this class had been reduced to the ranks, their places being filled with white men appointed by General Banks, and a very severe system of repressive discipline had been instituted against the privates, a great number of whom were sentenced for trifling offences to long periods of service, without pay. This appears to have been the immediate cause of the outbreak, and of the other disturbances along the Mississippi river, some of which could only be quelled at considerable loss of life by strong detachments of white troops. The Southern prisoners who have returned from New Orleans say that the negro troops enlisted in the South can never be of any service to the Federals, and are rather a danger to them; but they contradict the report, which, indeed, we never credited, that in the special cases referred to the negroes counted upon or expected Confederate assistance. The number of white men hung at Fort Jackson was 27; the garrison at Fort Philip, which is only in part negro, remained comparatively quiet. No general release of Confederate prisoners, as was believed, had taken place, as the only white prisoners in Fort Jackson were a few civilians. At the time of the outbreak in that place, General Banks issued a circular to all the newspapers, assuring them that the disturbance was trifling, and requesting the insertion of a paragraph to that effect. Any publication referring to the matter is strictly prohibited and instantly suppressed.

THE "ARMY AND NAVY GAZETTE" ON THE DANISH WAR.

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

SIR,—The first article in last week's number of the *Army and Navy Gazette* rests upon a hypothesis so entirely false that, in justice to the small Danish army, it ought to be corrected. The article states: "The sharp and dexterous descent of General Wrangel on the left of the Danish position is more perfect and decisive than anything the American generals have yet done;" and further, "if they (the Americans) had a Frederick Carl on the one side, or a Von Wrangel on the other, then," &c..

I should be very sorry to deprive these two personages of the military glory which their antecedents have not yet procured them, and which bombastic proclamations alone, like those of Prince Carl, do not give them, but truth and justice compel me to say that the Danish retreat from the Danneverke had nothing whatever to do with the flank movement on the Schlei, or with the "sharp and dexterous descent of General Wrangel," or, in fact, with any movement of the Allied army. A simple statement of dates and facts will prove this. The retreat of the Danes was decided on in a council of war, held on Thursday night, the 11th inst., while the army under Prince Carl, only crossed the Schlei at 2 o'clock on Saturday morning, the 13th. The evacuation of the Danneverke began at 7 o'clock on Friday evening, and the advanced posts were withdrawn at midnight, while the flanking movement only was effected two hours later. The retreat was ordered simply because the length of the position and the want of sufficient resources made the Danneverke untenable. *Both parties were at the time mutually ignorant of the retreat and the flanking movement, and the former was, therefore, not in consequence of the latter.* Prince Carl did not flank the Danish army, because there was no army to flank; he succeeded in crossing the Schlei, because there was no enemy, and instead of strategic victory, we must simply read "numerical superiority of the Germans."

So far the Austrian *non-German* troops, whose lives are not considered very precious, have borne the whole brunt of the work, and fought well and bravely, while Prince Carl has performed the prodigious feat of walking over the Schlei with the same ease as he might walk over London Bridge; for this his soldiers receive their reward by being called the "Liberators of Slesvig." Whether such generals would be an acquisition to America, I must leave to Americans to decide.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A DANE

A NEW ALLY.

To the Editor of The Index.

Manchester, February 17.

Sir,—The Confederate cause has obtained a new and unexpected ally in the Rev. A. Mursell, a popular preacher in this city, and as much run after as Spurgeon. The effect produced by his lecture on Sunday afternoon has completely taken the "Northerners" by surprise, and the greatest consternation prevails among them at the idea of his following up the subject. Mr. Mursell is the more zealous for being a convert, and I am sure he has a lively recollection of the trick played upon him by the chaplain of the *George Griswold*.

Yours, &c., Q.

LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.

(*From our Own Correspondent.*)

New Orleans, January 23.

The contemplated movement upon Mobile is still the absorbing topic here. As already stated, the movement is being prepared on an extensive scale. Probably I should have said movements, as it is well understood that General McPherson will co-operate with Banks by moving a column out from Vicksburg; but the success of this co-operating movement is extremely problematical, as General Leonidas Polk, who commands in Mississippi, is fully advised of the enemy's intentions, and is making all due preparations. Indeed, so generally known is the designed attack upon Mobile, and the plan of the campaign, that I should think this widespread publicity a ruse, but for the fact, as stated in my last, that troops are being concentrated at such points as leave no doubt that the "Gulf City" is seriously menaced. Banks has occupied East Pascagoula, and is fortifying it as his base; and nearly all the coast villages on the opposite (from New Orleans) side of Lake Pontchartrain are also in his possession. Ship Island is the great depôt of supplies and the halting place for the men before being transported to East Pascagoula. Notwithstanding all these movements, I adhere to my opinion that Banks cannot seriously threaten Mobile until largely reinforced, or unless he should withdraw his forces from Western Louisiana, the line of the Rio Grande, and the strip of Texas coast which he now holds.

Nothing is positively known regarding the co-operation of the Federal fleet in the attack upon Mobile, though Admiral Farragut sailed from New York on the 4th inst. for New Orleans, in his old flag-ship, the *Hartford*, which has been thoroughly overhauled and supplied with several Parrott guns. It was rumoured yesterday that the fleet had begun the attack, the admiral of the Gulf squadron having arrived off the harbour. But as he is ordered to report direct to General Banks, it is not likely he would stop on his way to attack the now formidable forts (Morgan and Gaines) and the numerous sand batteries in Mobile Bay, to say nothing of the gunboats and ironclads of Admiral Buchanan, unless he considered their destruction quite a small job, as "Old Abe" would say. There was some foundation, however, for the rumoured attack, as the annexed extract from a letter, written by an officer of one of the blockading fleet, and dated off Mobile, January 9th, will clearly show:—

> The monotony of our blockade life was broken this morning by the discovery of a steamer ashore under the guns of Fort Morgan. All the vessels of the fleet got under way; and while some repaired to the flag-ship for instructions, the *Octorara* steamed in and opened fire on the rebel craft, which speedily drew a reply from the fort. The rest of the fleet soon steamed in and took up their positions, when the fire became quite spirited. The rebel steamer was struck several times and abandoned; but she lay so near the fort that it was impossible to get her out. Finding our efforts to set her on fire were fruitless, the fleet withdrew, after firing for two hours. The rebels used a fine Whitworth gun, with which they made some fair shots, fortunately doing no injury. During the action a man was lost overboard from the *Itasca* and drowned, by becoming entangled in the lead line, at which he was stationed. Yesterday the *Octarora* went in under a flag of truce, carrying an English officer to communicate with his country's consul. We were allowed to approach to within a quarter of a mile of the fort, nearer than ever they allowed us to come before. We found many changes had taken place since last we took a near view of the place, more than a year ago. The walls are now concealed and protected by a heavy embankment of sand, against which shot and shell vainly pound.
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> "The rebel steamer" to which the writer refers, was one of two that got past the blockading fleet during the previous night. The other was safely moored at her wharf, and the one at which the fleet vainly fired for two hours was also taken off without injury when the enemy withdrew; all of which I learn from a gentleman arrived here this week from Mobile. When the fleet attempts the capture of Mobile it will find "many changes" not witnessed on the 9th inst. There are several batteries contiguous to Fort Morgan, the whereabouts of which the Yankee will never know until with hostile intent he comes within range of their fire. The battered walls of Fort Sumter have taught a lesson which the Confederates have not been slow to improve. Forts Morgan and Gaines are now in condition to "laugh a siege to scorn," at least such a one as the Yankee monitors might attempt. But probably the ironclads and gunboats under command of Admiral Buchanan will prove even of more value in the defence of the city. They form quite a formidable fleet. Some of them are rams of great power, and it is the knowledge of this fact and the well-known fighting character of Admiral Buchanan, the hero of the *Virginia* (the *Merrimac*), that creates a feeling of intense anxiety in the entire department of the Gulf. Every available craft that could be spared from here was despatched this week to the Mobile blockading fleet, to lend a helping hand in case of attack, but they will be only so much the more prey for the destroyer. If their mission is to pick up the drowning crews of the blockaders after their encounters with the rams, why there is wisdom; but to send them there to fight is to seal their fate. When the famous Confederate ironclad ram *Virginia*, constructed from the United States frigate *Merrimac*, had repaired the few slight injuries she received in her encounter with the first monitor and the frigates *Cumberland*, *Congress*, and other vessels of the Federal fleet off Fortress Monroe, she sallied out again to attack her new antagonist, but the latter declined the gage of battle and sought shelter under the frowning walls of the huge fortress. The Yankees were beside themselves over the "impregnability" of the monitor, and boasted that if the *Virginia* dared show herself again Captain Ericsson's craft would sink her. But when the evacuation of Norfolk compelled the destruction of the *Virginia*, the low stage of the James river not admitting her being carried up its waters any distance, the truth came out. Philadelphia and New York were no longer in fear and trembling anticipating a visit of the "rebel monitor," and then it was that the Northern press admitted that the Washington Government's only hope of ridding itself of so terrible an enemy as the *Virginia* was in running her down by the steamship *Vanderbilt*, then a merchantman, now one of the finest vessels in the Federal navy. With this view she was purchased by the Government and despatched to Fortress Monroe. The same expedient has been resorted to here this week, and with all that mystification and systematic lying so characteristic of Federal officials. We have in port a new, very fast and powerful steamship, the *Mississippi*, of the Boston and New Orleans line. She is at present chartered by the Government, and was by authority announced in the city press to leave on the morning of the 21st inst. for New York, carrying the New Orleans mails. The Federal postmaster then put out the usual poster, announcing the closing of the mail-bags on the previous evening. This morning, the 21st, and the evening of the 21st, come and go, but not the steamship *Mississippi*. She has injured her propeller, says Dame Rumour. But the whole affair was a ruse. And while at Federal headquarters they are felicitating themselves on the success of their very elaborate sham, and the Yankee postmaster stows away the mail-bags to await the regular mail steamer on Saturday, the rebels are despatching messengers to Admiral Buchanan, informing him of the "true intent and meaning" of this "Yankee trick." By this time he knows that there was no intention of sending the *Mississippi* to New York with the mails, but that when she had run down the river sufficiently below the city as to be out of the range of rebel curiosity, she would receive a few heavy guns, have her bulwarks strengthened with cotton bales, and be despatched to the blockading fleet off Mobile. The admiral is now prepared to meet the would-be imitators of the *Vanderbilt*'s unacted *rôle*. The thing was being carried out with that low and elaborate cunning, systematic falsehood and shameless disregard of moral responsibility so characteristic of the Yankee. The discovery of the trick is another illustration of the saying of Larochefoucauld, I believe, that a man is never so easily deceived as when he is attempting to deceive.
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> The Confederates continue to "vex the waters of the Mississippi" and the several garrisons on its banks. From New Orleans to Cairo, a distance of a thousand miles, there is not a Federal post that is not in danger of attack, scarcely a garrison that does not nightly sleep on its arms. I will not weary the reader with details of the ever-recurring operations along the river, but state the facts generally, as above, that this great highway of commerce is not free to navigation, notwithstanding the millions of money expended and the thousands of lives sacrificed by the Federal Government to wrest its control from the Confederates. Even here, within Banks's department, with the large number of armed vessels on hand to "shell the woods furiously," Port Hudson, Donaldsonville, Baton Rouge, and Bayou Sara, are considered by no means safe from capture, or at least from a dash by the Confederate cavalry. These posts are mainly garrisoned by negro regiments officered by white men, with a regiment or so of white troops to drill the negroes and keep them in subordination. Last week the Confederates made a dash into Port Hudson and captured an entire company of a Wisconsin regiment, with the lieutenant commanding—a fellow who had made himself exceedingly obnoxious by arresting non-combatants whom he might happen to encounter in his raids beyond the Federal lines. He was constantly sending such prisoners to this city, reporting them to headquarters as prisoners captured in his desperate encounters with rebel guerillas. The day succeeding the capture of this company, a regiment of cavalry left the post, some say without orders, and came to this city, fearing an attack and capture of the place. On Friday, the 15th inst., the Confederates entered Bayou Sara, 165 miles above this city, and captured a Captain Mann, a deserter from the Confederate service, who had done good service to the enemy as a spy. The Confederates had been on the look-out for him, for a long time, and were determined to have him cost what it might. A demand for his surrender was made by the gunboats lying opposite Bayou Sara, with the alternative of fire being opened upon St. Francisville, a small village to the rear of Bayou Sara. Of course the demand was refused, and the gunboats poured in their broadsides; and the report is, that "Mann went up to the sound of the enemy's guns." Mann was an engineer aboard the Confederate States steamer *McCrea*, previous to the capture of New Orleans. Passengers arrived here to-day from Baton Rouge say that the garrison and people of that city are exceedingly apprehensive of an attack. The Federal force there consists mainly of negroes; the Confederate force in the vicinity is said to number something like 10,000 men, which is large enough to keep a negro garrison of 20,000 in fear and trembling night and day, notwithstanding the presence of the gunboats. Reinforcements are needed at Baton Rouge, but there are none to spare, unless of negro troops, and these are not considered of the right stuff in an emergency. The main body of the Federal forces in Louisiana are still in the western portion of the State, their advance post at New Iberia on Bayou Teche. A glance at the map will show how small a portion of that section of the State is in Federal possession to-day, after nearly two years of occupancy, with a large army, a splendid navy, and unlimited resources in the material of war and of money for the corruption of Confederate fealty. New Iberia is in Federal possession simply because it is a strongly fortified position, but even that is expected to be evacuated when the sugar crop of the few plantations under cultivation within the Federal lines shall have been shipped to this city. This has now nearly been accomplished, and we may soon hear that the Confederate forces under General Taylor again hold undisputed sway over western Louisiana, from Berwick's Bay to Red river—fully three-fourths, and by far the wealthiest, part of the State. Such is the progress made in the war of subjugation. And yet Mobile is to be attacked and the Texas coast is seized, all to show to Europe the "rapid and extensive advance of the Union arms." Why, New Orleans is to-day, if possible, more thoroughly loyal to the cause of Southern independence than even before the Federal occupation. The Northerner is among us, but not of us. He gives balls, receptions, promenade concerts, and concerts in the public squares, but the native is contemptuously indifferent; he opens stores, and offers to sell goods at a ruinous sacrifice, but the rebels will not buy; he proposes to modify the rigour of martial law, and inaugurate a civil government, appealing with passionate pathos to the citizen to take some interest or show some concern therein; but these obdurate rebels pay no more heed to the appeal than if he were a mere traveller through the country. And my belief is, that time will but widen the gulf that yawns between the Northerner and Southerner, let the final issue of the war be what it may. Three years of such bloody, vindictive, ruthless, savage war as the North has waged against the South has made the Southerner the eternal enemy of the Yankee. Reunion is as impossible as the resurrection of the Saxon Heptarchy.
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> The condition of the slaves (they are in reality still such, notwithstanding presidential edicts) in the Government plantations is sad beyond expression. They are badly fed and poorly clad, and being in the employ of those who have no interest in them nor the plantation, save what may be realised from the forthcoming crop, the hapless condition of these dependent creatures can easily be imagined. It is work, or starve and go naked; and if sick, die, for aught the Government overseer or the lessee of Government cares. All the able-bodied negro men having been drafted into the army, the only "hands" left on the abandoned plantations are the old men, women and children. The women have become corrupt in body and mind from the presence of the army beyond anything witnessed in the worst purlieus of large cities. Numbers of them have died and are dying from diseases previously unknown to plantation life. The unwholesome salt rations—refuse of the Federal camps—dealt out to the poor unfortunates, and for which they are liberally charged, have produced scurvy and dysentery and kindred diseases to an alarming extent. The smallpox also rages among them to a degree that excites the apprehensions even of the Federal authorities themselves, calling forth from the commanding-general of the department a special order, prohibiting intercourse between the plantations, in the following terms:—
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> III. Considerations of public health require the suspension of all unnecessary communication or travel by plantation labourers between the parishes of the State, or between plantations of the same parish. Such communication or travel, therefore, is forbidden except under regulations established by the provost-marshals of the several parishes, and upon passes issued in accordance therewith. Public officers and managers of estates are requested to assist in the execution of this order.
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> By command of Major-General Banks.
> Geo. B. Drake, A.A.A. General.

Contrast the mild, almost paternal government, of plantations under the control of their owners, the planters; the abundance of wholesome and suitable food, medical attendance when sick, frequent periodic holidays, regular religious instruction, and above all the constant overruling watchfulness, kindly intercourse and exemplary life of the planter and his family; contrast these conditions of slavery with the life of the "free labourers" on the Government and leased plantations, under the management of Yankee speculators and plunderers, and you will not be surprised that the negro is disappearing like the Indian. There are a few mortuary statistics which I have derived from an entirely trustworthy source. On the "Old Hickory" plantation 214 have died out of a working force of 413, between June 5th and September 11th, 1863; on "White Castle" plantation there are but forty-two negroes left, 258 having died; on the Andrews place 178 are left out of 400; some 400 have died in the Ventross place; all have died on the Girot plantation; of the 260 hands on the Magnolia plantation but 100 are living, and nearly every soul, 600, is dead on the plantation of Miles Taylor, ex-member of the United States Congress. All the above are Government or leased plantations: The smallpox is raging with fearful fatality on the plantations along Bayou Lafourche, Bayou Plaquemine and at several other points. Most of the overseers have died, nearly every person has fled the infested region, and, as is the custom with some of our Indian tribes, the stricken outcast is left to live or die, as Providence decrees.

We have late news from Texas, both from the Federal lines by arrivals at this port, and from the Confederate lines by way of Red river. No general engagement has yet been fought, the Federals keeping close along the line of the Rio Grande and cowering under the protection of their gunboats, along the coast, from the mouth of the Rio Grande to Matagorda Bay. Mr. Brande,

member of Congress for Texas, recently arrived in Mobile, informs the *Advertiser and Register* newspaper of that city that the enemy were at Matagorda, moving along the coast in a column about 6,000 strong, accompanied by their naval force. Their immediate destination was Velasco, which they were expected to reach about the 8th, but it was doubtful whether they would succeed, as Magruder's force was ample to meet them. The general himself was in the saddle, and the Texans, mindful of the days and deeds of 1835 and '36, were turning out to a man. Velasco is at the mouth of the Brazos, in close proximity to the southern extremity of Galveston island, and the object of the Yankee movement is to flank Galveston. Both places are strongly fortified, as even the Yankees themselves admit. They dare not attack Galveston in front, and though they are deferring the attack on Velasco till further reinforcements, both by men and ships, have arrived, it is confidently believed that when they do attack the position they will meet with a most disastrous defeat. General Washburne himself seems apprehensive of such a result, for he has not yet ventured inland from the barren realms of sand that constitute his acquisitions along the coast. And now the cry comes for reinforcements to save the invader from being overwhelmed by the invaded.

Matamoras is again in the throes of revolution. The "patriots" were not, however, permitted to settle their affairs alone, or at least, without the presence of a foreign force. The revolutionary leader was one Juan Cortinas, a routed thief and bandit chief. Hostilities were began on the evening of the 13th inst., and by night of the following Thursday Governor Serna was a fugitive on the Texas side of the Rio Grande, seeking the protection of the United States forces at Brownsville. The official organ here, in giving an account of the affair, says:—

In the course of the evening, Major-General F. J. Heron, commanding United States forces at Brownsville, despatched the Wisconsin Twentieth, the Illinois Ninety-fourth, and five pieces of the Missouri First Battery, across the river. All but the Wisconsin Twentieth bivouacked on the banks, but this regiment went up almost to the Plaza, and spent the night in front of the residence of the American consul, who, the next morning, was escorted to Brownsville, together with a couple of million dollars in specie, belonging to Americans and the United States Government.

It would be interesting to inquire how funds of the United States Government got to Brownsville. In fact, the alleged ownership of the specie is rather questionable.

DEMAND FOR LABOUR IN BERMUDA.

(From a Correspondent.)

HAMILTON, BERMUDA, January 6th.

You will confer a great favour upon us Bermudians if you will allow me to direct the attention of your large circle of readers to our want of labour. More we must have, and we are very anxious that it should come from the "old country." We wish for good loyal Englishmen, not refugees from miserable Yankeedom, who, from present indications, we fear, will soon be pouring in from every Northern State, with as great an anxiety to escape from taxation and tyranny as is shown by rats to flee from the fate of a sinking ship.

There is a most favourable opening here now, both for men of some capital, who are looking for an opportunity of investing it on more remunerative terms than can be obtained in England, and for labourers, whether agricultural or otherwise, with all the security and happiness afforded by the laws and customs to which they have been used. Land is plentiful, and sells at from £13 to £25 per acre, according to quality, with the timber upon it. The soil is extremely fertile, and the climate is so favourable, that everything which will grow in England will flourish here also. Almost all tropical fruits can be produced in perfection. Cattle, sheep, horses, poultry, and all live stock thrive excellently. Our houses are built of stone, which is found in great abundance in all parts of the island. When fresh quarried, it is so soft that it can be cut with a hand-saw; but after being lime-whitened and exposed to the weather, it becomes very hard and durable. The roofs are made of slates of the same material, one inch in thickness, laid upon cedar rafters, and are therefore very substantial. Out of a farm of twenty acres, sufficient stone can generally be procured for all the necessary buildings. Taxes are very moderate, averaging only from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 9d. on the £100. Politics do not trouble us at all; we are content to jog along in an easy-going fashion, and, provided affairs are not very much mismanaged, to leave them to the men in whose hands they happen to be. A few days back we had an election for mayor, aldermen, &c., for this town and district, but it scarcely excited any interest. A few attended, and as they thought the "old squad" had done no harm, they unanimously re-elected them.

We are now endeavouring to form a company for the manufacture of the fibre of the agave and yucca plants, and I think the project promises to be successfully carried out, and to prove a lucrative speculation. We are also taking steps to render the island a pleasant summer resort for families from the Confederate States, when this miserable war shall be terminated, and we hope we shall be able to afford them more pleasure and comfort than they ever found at Saratoga or the rest of the springs and watering-places of the United Cormorants. But we sadly need an infusion of fresh capital and energy to stir us up and push us ahead. We are rather inclined to stagnate.

The remains of the hull and cargo of the wrecked steamer *Nola* were sold by auction the other day, and I understand realised a fair sum. The hull and engines were purchased for £125, by a Mr. Frank Smith, in the interest, I believe, of the Confederate Government. A Mr. Murphy, a very clever diver, who has lately been successful in widening Timlins Narrows here, has purchased the remaining goods in her for £50, and is very sanguine of being able to raise her. The loss of this steamer was a sad affair, and shows how great the necessity for caution is on the part of captains nearing our rock-bound coast. She was on her passage to Nassau, and was putting in here for coals, in broad daylight, when she struck upon a rock, full in sight of the shore, and went down. Her stern is still afloat, but her bows are stuck fast on the rocks, with a hole in them 10 feet long. I trust the lesson will not be thrown away.

The steamer *Dee* has arrived safely.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

NEW YORK, February 2.

THE quiet in which the North has lately been resting on the assurance that the last days of the rebellion had come indeed, and that the to-be-of war are to come within a very brief period, was sadly disturbed by the tidings coming on Saturday last, of an order for a new conscription of 500,000 men to be made on the 10th of March. It was utterly unexpected, and no official explanation was given in preamble or proclamation, such as have hitherto accompanied such requisitions.

The order, short as it is, is differently understood. There is a drafting order still unexecuted for 300,000 men. The new order allows a credit upon this draft of so many as may have been enlisted and mustered prior to the first day of March, and "not heretofore credited." Are these two drafts, or one? Is the call for 500,000, or are there two 500,000 for 800,000 men in the gross? Are the men already drafted or enlisted under the draft of October, and now credited to the quota, to be counted or not? Men's ideas are wildly afloat as to the amount of demands made upon them, and angered at the bad faith with which they have been treated. The most narrow estimate of the number now required is, that a full five hundred thousand are to be raised by the two drafts, as consolidated into one. All the machinery of the Government and all the exertions put forth all over the North since October have not succeeded in raising more than 150,000, say, for a large margin, 200,000, of the 300,000 asked for. Extraordinary efforts by enormous bounties were put forth, in the belief that it would be the last call, and that, by great and concerted efforts among the people, the men could be raised by enlistment, and the draft, which is an object of terror, averted. The positive addition of at least 300,000, to be raised within the next five or six weeks, dissipates all thought of being able to fill up the call by any inducements for volunteering. The States and counties which have taxed themselves heavily to pay volunteers, have lost their labour and their money. The drafting must come, and there is a general terror of its effects upon persons and society. A quarter of a million must be drafted, and as the experience of the draft of last year shows the impossibility of getting such a proportion out of the enrolment unless the commutation fee is removed and numerous causes for exemption cut off, there is consternation among the poor and a very unquiet state of mind in the whole community.

The uneasiness is greater because the public were totally unprepared to contemplate the necessity of more men than were already provided for by substituting calls. What has happened? Is the Administration alarmed by some new intelligence from the South? Has it discovered that the Southern armies are not disorganised, the Southern people not disheartened and discontented, but the Confederate Government so strong that it can wield a military power that, in addition to the million of men which have been from time to time sent against it, there needs a new fresh force of half a million more? Is the amnesty proclamation so flat a failure? Is the counter-revolution against Jeff Davis so wretched a myth? And are the accounts of Southern destitution, despair, and discontent so utterly and confessedly fabulous, that the Government of the United States, after three years of war, wants, to be assured of success, an army raised to the magnitude of that which Napoleon thought sufficient for the overthrow of the empire of Russia? These are questions which will run through the mind as this demand falls upon the country, and no direct answer will be given by those in authority. They are circulating reports that there is something in the relations with France which makes war imminent; and that these great military preparations are intended more as a menace against the French emperor than for purposes of Southern war. Mr. Seward, they report taking courage from the success of his blustering towards England, in winning for him the applause of his countrymen for having cowed the British lion, has taken advantage of what he supposes to be the financial and political embarrassments of Napoleon in Europe to venture on a similar style of diplomacy with him, without having had the precaution to learn, as he did in the case of Earl Russell, that the demands for which he took such a high tone were already conceded. The report goes that M. Drouyn de Lhuys has given him a reply which disturbs the Administration cruelly, and that another Trent humiliation or a French war is imminent. These stories are current, but it is doubtful whether they are not exaggerated or altogether invented, in order to cover the more probable fact—that the South is found to be very formidable and thoroughly resolute, and that an immense effort is necessary with which to open the spring campaign with any prospect of success.

The onerous calls for troops since the beginning of the war have been as follows:—1861, April, 75,000; May, 64,748; July to December, 500,000;—1862: July, 300,000; August, 300,000;—1863: draft, 300,000;—1864: consolidated draft, 500,000; total, 2,039,748 men.

Of these, it is computed that the fourth campaign will open with an effective force of 700,000 to 800,000 men—recruits and new enlistments. Yet the authorities of the United States will still proceed in treating a revolution of this magnitude as a revolt, the millions who sustain it as mere rebels, who have no title to their lives or their property, except at the mercy of the conquerors.

There is, doubtless, a reality in the conviction which these immense preparations evince, that the South is a great Power yet, and that a mighty effort is necessary to "crush out"—that is the word—the rebellion, which has defied the armies of the North so stubbornly, in three years of varying, but always hopeful, struggle for independence.

A great deal of private information reaches the North occasionally from the interior of the Southern States. Its uniform tenour is to dispel the gloom which the persistent strain of falsehood which passes through official channels into the Northern journals would otherwise cast over the cause of the South. I had recent opportunities to gain information direct from Richmond, and from authentic sources in other parts of the Confederacy and the statement I receive of the condition of public affairs there is entirely different from that which comes by Yankee telegrams, over the wires, through Washington, and from the military centres, from which false news is systematically radiated. There is no general dearth of provisions, there is no general want in the armies of either food, clothing, or arms, shoes perhaps excepted, of which there is a real deficiency. The army of General Lee is reported to be not only well supplied, but to be more numerous than it has been for nearly a year, and ready and eager to follow wherever their general may lead, in the confidence of success. The people *en masse* are fixed in the resolution never to surrender their independence, and hopeful of being still able to repel or tire out the invading hosts. Allowing for the enthusiasm which may be supposed to colour these accounts, the fact that there is such enthusiasm, and that we hear nothing by private advices of any turbulence or dissatisfaction with the cause, which is more than the cessation of beer, party heat, or some personal disappointment, relates the Yankee at war at Southern despair, as on entering as the enemy which was last week or about from Washington that the people were seeking to be embraced in the amnesty as a protection for surrender, was refuted by the issue on the day after of an order for drafting a new half million of soldiers.

The military events of the week are meagre. There has been fighting in Tennessee, and, if you believe the Government despatches General Longstreet has been baffled in his demonstrations upon Knoxville. Rely upon it, that when he makes one in earnest there, he will succeed. The military authorities at Washington are not at all sanguine with the real belief that Lee's plans are at last known to Longstreet, or that it has been only discovered what they are. There are movements going on which show that they are at a loss to know what the Confederate general intends to do, and how they are to provide against his movements. He has the advantage of so much shorter lines, that they must have large and unsupporting armies at widely still rent points.

The House of Representatives has passed an Act reviving the grade of lieutenant-general in the army, and authorising the President to confer it, with the command of all the armies of the United States, on some major-general in the service. The resolution points to General Grant as the new lieutenant-general, although a discretion is left with the President to choose the man. There has been no lieutenant-general in the army since the days of Washington, during the threatened French war of 1798-9. General Scott had the exceptional rank of brevet lieutenant-general conferred upon him for his services in the Mexican war. But the resolution under which he was appointed limited the President's authority to a single case, and left him no power to supply a vacancy should it occur. General Scott is now on the retired list as lieutenant-general, and General Grant is to be put over him as full lieutenant-general, in a rank permanently added to the army.

Congress has not yet acted on the confiscating law I described to you in my last, but the President is acting as though it were passed—and is seizing, within the Southern districts occupied by Federal troops, upon the lands of the inhabitants, and causing them, without legal powers or condemnation, to be apportioned among the soldiers—black and white—at a nominal price, in fee. The cotton lands in South Carolina are thus divided. An order has recently been issued by General Banks in the department of Louisiana which carries this principle of spoliation even further. The labour by which plantations in Louisiana has been previously worked has been paralysed or boldly carried away by the inroads of the Unionists, so that many plantations cannot be worked by their ruined owners. The order of General Banks is that all plantations which shall not be put into cultivation by the 1st of February shall be deemed and taken to be voluntarily abandoned by the owners, and will be taken by the Government and secured for its own people. There is no question asked of the loyalty of the owner, and no process instituted to test his liability to a legal confiscation. The operation is simple. The Government by its policy first ruins the planter, and then for its own gain treats him as an enemy because he is poor.

Among the thousand instances of the insolent barbarity with which this war is conducted by the United States an example lately occurred on the Mississippi river, about 140 miles above New Orleans, which merits notice for its undisguised and unmitigated atrocity. The Federals put in command of one of their gunboats an Englishman by birth, named Mann, who was a deserter from the Confederate gunboat *McRea*. He was captured on shore, recognised as a deserter, regularly tried by court-martial, convicted, and sentenced to be shot. The Federal commanders demanded his release; the Confederate commanders refused, and the Federal fleet in revenge anchored abreast of the little town of St. Francisville, inhabited only by women and children and in no way responsible for the decision of the military in its vicinity, and laid it in ashes.

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE

(From our Own Correspondent.)

February 17.

IT was I think on Sunday last exactly a year ago when the Rev. C. W. Denison, chaplain of the "relief ship" *George Griswold*, was permitted to lay waste two mortal hours of one evening in discoursing to a fashionable Dissenting congregation in this city upon the text, "Verily we are guilty concerning our brother" [Sambo]. Excepting the questionable pleasure of gratifying one's almost morbid curiosity (for there was something so fascinatingly Barnum-like in the whole of that American flour transaction that I yielded to become one of the rev. chaplain's auditors), it has often occurred to me since that those two hours were very ill bestowed. Not so, however. The "whirligig of Time" has at length "brought about his revenges," and all those who suffered under the rev. chaplain's sermon a year ago may amply indemnify themselves by a keener enjoyment of the turn that is now uppermost.

On Sunday afternoon last, in the Free-Trade-hall, in the presence of between 5,000 and 6,000 people, the Rev. Arthur Mursell, a well-known lecturer and preacher (Baptist)—the very identical gentleman who this time last year placed his pulpit at the disposal of the chaplain of the "flour ship"—delivered one of his popular addresses, in the course of which he exposed, in a strain of sarcasm fine enough for the occasion, the pious fraud perpetrated last year upon Lancashire in general and upon himself and his congregation in particular. It is not to be wondered at that much political excitement, even to rounds of cheering, should have been caused in that vast assemblage, while Mr. Mursell, with an indignant recollection of having been duped into hiring out his pulpit in so disgraceful a service, concluded this portion of his address as follows:—

"But did they (the Yankees) not stretch out a helping hand to you in your distress? Did they not send the *George Griswold* to you for your relief? and was she not freighted with the fat of their land? Of course, it would be ungrateful to say that each bag of flour on board that ship was not intended so much to put food in your mouths as to cast dust in your eyes. But 'ungrateful, or not, I confess I never blushed so deeply for my adopted county, as when she accepted that insulting offering from America; and I only wish Lancashire had done an act which would have been more worthy of an honest people, namely, *scuttle the ship in the waters of the Mersey and indemnify her owners two-fold in money for the vessel and her freight.*"

Strange that an excited audience of "working men"—for such is exclusively the class for whose sake Mr. Mursell is delivering his lectures—should applaud a political sermon on a Sunday afternoon! While one is shocked, however, at the moral unfitness of the thing as regards the day

no objectionable accident of that kind can rob the occasion of its essential importance. But the reverend lecturer went considerably further into his subject than the foregoing extract gives any idea of. Referring to our smokeless chimneys (the title of the lecture was "No Smoking!") he continued as follows:—"If hunger does not raise from us the cry 'How long, O Lord, how long?' at least humanity extorts it from us, as we look despairingly for any far-off portent of peace. . . One of the saddest effects of this long and colossal warfare is the hardening influence it exercises upon the public mind, leading people to read of hecatombs of slain with a horrible *sang froid*, the thought of which would have astonished and revolted us three years ago, but which 'damned custom' has inured into a common thing. But the strangest feature, to my thinking, of this foul exterminating slaughter in the New World is, not merely the toleration, but the admiration with which some of our people persist in speaking of America. That land, whose quarrels and whose spirit of quenchless hate have been the source of all our multitudinous sorrows, is still held up before us, by speakers whom some Lancashire men delight to honour and whose lightest whim or wildest fancy they are ever ready to endorse, as the exemplar nation, the model Government, the home of the pattern people of the world; while every howl of rant which is directed at our Queen and country is eulogised as the apotheosis of eloquence and truth, so long as it comes recommended with the genuine twang of New York. For my own part I wonder how any operative in Lancashire can hear the name of America without aversion—can have any other sentiment than a contemptuous pity for a nation which has been the refuge of every traitor, the asylum where renegades are fêted as illustrious guests, where scoundrelism always feels itself secure, and where the conspirator breathes freely as soon as he touches its hospitable soil. Such is the nation whose glorious institutions your political champions hold up for your admiration—such is the nation which has shut up our rich men's mills and emptied our poor men's pantries. It is the glorious land where each adventurer whom decent society has scouted finds a congenial eminence—where Edwin James is no longer an outcast, but an ornament,—where Meagher is not a traitor, but a hero—and where Barnum is one of the institutions of the country—the land of a brave and manly Butler—the land where clerical auctioneers knock down the stalls of God's own house to the highest bidder, provided always that bidder be not a negro—the land which whips and feeds the black man in the South, and kicks and starves him in the North—where he lives a slave under Davis, and dies a freeman under Lincoln......True it is, the Yankees are starving us; to their persistency in a bootless butchery and causeless carnage we owe all our distress; but still, it is done on such a noble scale, and in such a splendid style, that the least the inhabitants of a small and obscure island like ours can do is to stand by and admire! And they *do* tell us that they love the slave, and are fighting to break his chains. Coming, as the assertion does, from America, where neither falsehood nor exaggeration has yet been introduced, of course we are bound to believe it. Everything tends so much to confirm it. The deep and brotherly affection with which the dark man is cherished by his noble emancipators, the thorough recognition which they make of his equality, the perfect impartiality with which they overlook the difference between his complexion and their own, are proofs positive of the cordial sincerity with which they sympathise with the slave. You are bound to believe in America and in everything American. Is it American? Then it must be true. Only stamp it with the Stars and Stripes, and the ring of it is sterling."

The New York correspondent of the *Manchester Examiner*, referring to the "stir" caused in the Empire city by President Lincoln's recent order for half a million of men, informs us that the excitement would not be so great but for the conviction that in making the call, the President intends to enforce it. Postponement, adds the writer, is impossible, unless the Confederate forces are to be allowed to sweep everything before them upon the opening of the spring campaign, and that, of course, is not upon the programme. "Your readers," he continues, "need no exposition of the reason why the order has been issued at this juncture. In the first place, it is a simple act of justice to the veteran regiments which have recently re-enlisted so generously to fill their ranks promptly, and in the second place, as the Confederates are sweeping into the army everyone capable of carrying a weapon, a proportionately large force must be opposed to them at the opening of the spring campaign, in order to hold back the tide of invasion which is sure to sweep toward the North. This done, the strength of the Confederacy is finally broken, and the end will be at hand. Looking at the matter in this light, the loyal people of the North will respond to the demand, not enthusiastically, but determinedly and deliberately, confident that it is the last call which Mr. Lincoln or any one else will be obliged to make upon them." And in its leading columns the pro-Federal organ in this city continues the subject as follows: "Whether the number of men will be forthcoming is a difficult question, and one which facts alone will decide. If the present draft does not succeed better than the last the required complement will certainly not be filled up. Congress has refused to annul the privilege of purchasing exemption, and New York may again vote immense grants to assist the people in keeping out of the army. The repetition of such a policy would be strangely inconsistent with the professions of the North, and, in the present state of affairs, positively suicidal. If the Union is to be surrendered, soldiers are not wanted; but those who decline the idea of a pacific settlement are surely bound to fight till they can secure one by force of arms."

Upon the same subject, the *Manchester Guardian* writes as follows:—

"President Lincoln is again calling spirits from the vasty deep in spite of the comparatively small success which he has recently met with in conjuring them to his aid. This time he proposes to overwhelm his enemies on paper with a new army of 500,000 men. That some new levies of the kind must be near at hand has long been known, though it would hardly have been supposed that the demand, when it came, would be of the ludicrous magnitude attributed to it by this report. Having regard to the far greater extent of ground which they have to cover, the Federals are undoubtedly at this moment shorter of hands than their adversaries, and though, we may be sure, Mr. Lincoln would be delighted beyond his anticipations to get a hundred thousand recruits, it is very likely he may think that his chances of getting the smallest number really absolutely necessary are increasing by his asking for more than five times as many as he can hope to obtain. It does not appear to damp the confidence of the people of the United States to discover that the orders of their Government are only complied with so far as they are found to be agreeable, and probably their weakness for large words is wisely consulted by giving a nominal extent to their preparations far exceeding any rational prospect of the reality."

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, February 17.

THE MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKETS.

THE bank directors having last week reduced the rate of discount to 7 per cent., and the supply of money having since increased, the question now raised appears to be, will a further alteration in the favourable direction speedily take place? A great many persons of practical experience incline to the view that there will sooner or later be an increased amelioration in the terms for money accommodation —first, through the contraction of trade in consequence of hostilities in Denmark; and secondly, from the steady influx of bullion, and the diminution in the drain to India. Although one or two failures have taken place in the mercantile world through the influence of the late stringency in the money market, they have followed more from over-trading than anything else. Perhaps some failures must be expected sooner or later after a lengthened pressure as that recently experienced, and it is to be hoped that no general collapse in credit will ensue. If it shall arise the public will be well prepared for it; for they have had warnings sufficient to avoid any of the rocks upon which mercantile houses usually split. The rage for companies has not ceased—that it is evident. Several have been seriously compromised by the late revised regulations of the Stock Exchange, which must reduce the number likely to be brought forward, in consequence of the heavy amount of deposit enforced. The rates for the negotiation of first-class paper to-day were 6¾ to 7 per cent.; the demand for discount was comparatively active, and for the next week it will be fairly supported. Should, however, the directors determine upon lowering to 6 per cent. it will create equal surprise to their having varied the price from 8 to 7 per cent. The bank, taken on the whole, is in a very easy position.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The position of the bullion market continues on the whole favourable. There has been sent into the Bank during the week £134,000, but against which there has been a withdrawal of £55,000 for shipment to the East. The arrivals of specie have been to the extent of £554,842, of which £455,740 was from the West Indies and the remainder from New York. The late shipments to the East by the *Ellora* comprised £192,390. Of this £8,549 was gold for Alexandria, £26,450 gold for Bombay, £157,200 silver for Bombay, and £200 gold for Aden. In consequence of the advices from Bombay showing a fall in exchange, bar silver has been flatter, but is again rather firmer, but without any material variation in price. Mexican dollars have not been much in demand, and remain at almost previous quotations. The gold already known to be on its way from Australia is £369,000.

TENDERS FOR BILLS ON INDIA.

The biddings for 30,00,000 rupees in bills on India took place to-day at the Bank of England. The proportions allotted were: to Calcutta, 16,00,000 rupees; to Bombay, 12,00,000 rupees; and to Madras, 2,00,000 rupees. The minimum price declared was as before, 1s. 11½d. per rupee on Calcutta and Madras, and 1s. 11⅝d. on Bombay. The applications within the limits amounted to 187 lacs. Tenders on Calcutta at 1s. 11½d. will receive about 80 per cent., on Bombay at 2s. ⅛d., about 21 per cent., on Madras at 2s., about 63 per cent., and all above these prices in full.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

In the early part of the week business in the English Stock Market was dull, the dealings being restricted to a great extent by the nature of the intelligence with regard to the Dano-Germanic war, and prices showed a further declining tendency; but subsequently a much better feeling has prevailed, and the operators are working with more freedom. Once more prices have advanced, and generally a more buoyant feeling has prevailed. Consols closed this evening at 91 to ¼ for money, and 91¼ to ⅜ for the account, which, since this day week, is an improvement of exactly ½ per cent. Exchequer Bills are also better, being now up to 8s. to 3s. dis. A speculative movement is again apparent in the Foreign Stock Market, a large business in most descriptions has been transacted, and prices have fluctuated considerably, particularly Mexican, which have advanced 2½ per cent. during the week. Turkish have improved from 1½ to 2 per cent.; Greek is better by ½ per cent.; and Spanish from ¼ to ⅜. The closing quotations this evening were:—Greek, 21¼ to 21¾; Mexican, 38¾ to 39; Spanish Passives, 33¼ to 33½; Ditto, Certificates, 13⅞ to 14⅛; Turkish Six Per Cents. (1854) 90¼ to 91¼; and ditto (1862) 68¾ to 69.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

In American, Government, and railway securities business was again exceedingly languid early in the week, but within the last day or two there has been rather more doing, though only to a moderate extent. Prices have exhibited some fluctuations, but on the whole they may be said to have been fairly sustained. The dealings comprised United States Six per Cents. at 64½ and 64; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York section, 76 and 77; Do. Pennsylvania, do., 77, 77½, 7?, 77½, and 78. Illinois Central, $100 shares, $90 paid, 24, 21, 19½, and 20½ dis.; Do. do. all paid, 68½ and 70; Erie Shares, $100, all paid, 61; and New York Central, Six per Cents, 61.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market for this stock has been steadily advancing since last week, in consequence of considerable purchases, on the part of the public, and the closing of accounts by adverse operators. The increasing conviction that the South cannot be subdued, has the very natural effect of raising the value of their bonds. To-day the quotations has ranged from 52 to 53, to 55 to 56, at which we close, the stock being very scarce.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

The market for British railway shares has been more animated than for some time past, and the dealers are again operating more freely in this class of securities. In general prices have improved, the only exception being in Great Eastern and Great Western, each of which shows a decline of about ½ per cent. during the week. On the other hand there has been a rise of 2½ per cent. in London and North-Western; of 2 per cent. in London and Blackwall and Metropolitan, of 1½ in Lancashire and Yorkshire, North British and South-Eastern; of 1 per cent. in Great Northern, Midland and West Cornwall; and of ½ per cent. in Caledonian, Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire, North-Eastern (Berwick) Do. (York) and Shropshire Union. Foreign railway shares have not been in quite so much demand, but prices are nevertheless rather better. For shares in British possessions there has likewise been less inquiry, but still a fair business in them has been transacted at good prices.

BANK MEETINGS.

At the eighth annual meeting of the proprietors of the Bank of Egypt, it was shown that the net profits, including a balance of £5,145 brought from the previous account, amounted to £15,970, out of which a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent per annum for the half year free of income-tax, amounting to £8,750, was declared, and a balance of £7,290 was carried to the current account.—The first meeting of the shareholders of the Mercantile Exchange Bank was held at Liverpool, when a report was presented, which stated that although the Bank had only commenced business in May last, the profits, after paying the usual expenses, amounted to upwards of £14,000, which would enable the directors to pay a dividend of 5s. per share free of income tax. The report was unanimously adopted, and a resolution was passed to increase the capital of the bank from £1,000,000 to £2,000,000 by the issue of 20,000 new shares, to be issued at a premium of £2 per share. The chairman (Mr. Forwood) stated that they had succeeded beyond expectation not only at Liverpool but at Glasgow and in London, and in the former and latter towns they would soon carry on their business in large and commodious premises secured under peculiarly favourable circumstances, and when they might naturally expect their bank to take a high position amongst the commercial institutions of the country.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

At the seventh annual meeting of the shareholders in the British Mutual Investment Loan and Discount Company, Limited, the report presented showed the amount of deposits to be £60,191, which is nearly £14,000 in excess of last year. The net profits, after making all allowances, were £6556, out of which £5384 was appropriated to a dividend of 9s. per share, being at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum on the paid up capital, and £1,000 was carried to the reserve fund, which now amounts to £8219. The report was adopted.—At the fourth ordinary annual meeting of the shareholders in the Universal Marine Insurance Company, a favourable report was read, which stated that the net receipts for the past year for premiums, after deducting all the usual expenses, were £232,762, whilst the amount paid for the adjustment of claims &c. was £169,200. Therefore £83,562 remained as net balance on the underwriting account, and a further sum of £4403 for interest to that date had also been received. The investments of the company, which on the 31st December, 1862, amounted to £91,932, had in the interval increased to £162,608, while £127,904 then at the charge of income and expenditure, had diminished to £53,715. The report was adopted, after the negativing of an amendment for the adjournment of the meeting for a month.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

The prospectus has been issued of the British and Californian Banking Company, Limited. The object being to supplo the want which has long been felt of good banking accommodation in California. It certainly does seem, as the directors state, somewhat remarkable, that while British capital has been seeking investment in every quarter of the globe, California should have been so entirely overlooked. This omission, it is stated, has excited considerable surprise on the part of the merchants and traders of that country, and the present establishment will, it is believed, be eagerly hailed by them. The direct trade with California is rapidly increasing, and a large portion of the precious metals is now being sent to London, instead of, as formerly, to New York. The proposed capital is £2,000,000 to be raised in 40,000 shares of £50 each. But the first issue will be 20,000 shares only. The deposit required in £1 per share, with a payment of £1 10s. on allotment, and a further sum of £2 10s. within fourteen days.—The South Eastern Banking Company, Limited, is another undertaking just brought forward, with a proposed capital of £500,000 in 20,000 shares of £25 each, with power to increase to £1,000,000. The first issue will be 10,000 shares. The required deposit is £1 per share, with £2 paid on allotment. It is intended to concentrate the business in Surrey, Hampshire, Kent, and Sussex, and a provisional arrangement has been made for merging an old established bank and its branches with the South Eastern Bank, the active partner in which will join the bank as soon as the directors are in a position to confirm the provisional agreement. Arrangements it appears are at once being made for opening branches in some large and important towns, where it is not proposed to adopt existing establishments.—A prospectus has been issued of the Selim Tea Company, with a capital of £150,000 (of which one-half is to be first subscribed), in shares of £10. The proposal is to purchase a freehold estate of 4,000 acres in the district of Darjeeling, on the Selim spur of the Himalayas, for the cultivation of tea and cinchona. The price to be paid is £40,000, half in cash, by instalments spread over two years, and half in paid-up of shares.—A prospectus has also been issued of the London Gas Meter Company, with a capital of £100,000, in shares of £10 each. The object is to purchase the business of Messrs. Bischoff, Brown, and Co., at a valuation, one third in cash and two-thirds in paid-up shares, which are not to receive dividend until 7 per cent. is distributed on the remainder.—The Buenos Ayres Bonded Wharf and River Transit Company is another new undertaking just announced, and is brought forward for the purpose of working a valuable concession granted by the Congress of the Argentine Republic for the colonisation and use of the Arroyo del Capitan, together with the erection and construction of such wharves, warehouses, and deposit stores as may be necessary for the requirements of the country trade, and the establishment of towing steamers to and from the rivers Panama and Uraguay. The proposed capital is £300,000, in 15,000 shares of £20 each.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The suspension was announced on Monday of Messrs. Langton and Robinson, largely engaged in the timber trade. The liabilities are roughly estimated at from £180,000 to £200,000, but a dividend is expected to be paid of about 16s. or 17s. in the pound. The suspension was also announced of Messrs. D. and J. Birkett of the Corn Exchange, Mark Lane. The liabilities are expected to reach about £26,000, and the assets are placed at nearly £21,000. A dividend of about 15s. in the pound is therefore anticipated.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

The improvement noticed in several departments has been maintained, but not perceptibly extended, and to-day there has been less animation. The effect of an easier condition of money is to some extent counteracted by political distrust. The grain trade continues extremely dull, and to effect sales in quantity lower terms would have to be taken for foreign as well as English wheat. Seeds also meet only a limited sale, but are generally rather firm. American provisions have not moved off so freely. Butter has declined the top quotation for American being 106s. Cheese is dull of sale, at 56s. to 60s. for best imports. Bacon is firm at 46s. for prime American sides. Only a very moderate business is passing in lard, which is without change in value. For petroleum the demand continues steady, and the market is free from any fluctuations of moment. 1s. 11½d. to 2s. per gallon for American refined having been the current terms throughout. Crude has, however, been sold at £17 per ton for Pennsylvanian, which is cheaper. Turpentine keeps up to 75s.

per cwt. for French, the only kind in the market. Rosin is firm at 23s. to 34s. for French, and 31s. to 45s. for American, with moderate supplies. Linseed oil has receded to 34s. 9d., the market closing however with a tendency to recover. Sperm is quoted nominally at £74 for American fishing; oil-cake is inactive. New York linseed in barrels £9 12s. 6d. to £9 15s. per ton. Plumbago is very firm, and the best Ceylon in lump quoted as high as 28s. to 30s. per cwt. At the quarterly indigo sales which closed on Monday an average decline of 2d. to 4d. per lb. was established, and of some 3,000 lbs. sold in all, only a limited quantity was taken for America. Cochineal at the periodical sales held to-day, advanced 1d. to 2d. per lb. on all but Mexican silvers, which are about ½d. per lb. dearer; low pasty to fine Honduras, ranged from 2s. 11d. to 3s. 3d. per lb. The common kinds of safflower still maintain an upward tendency. Other dyes remain without essential change. Camphor sells at 105s. per cwt. and beyond a rise of 2d. per lb. in Cardamums there is no alteration to notice in the value of drugs. The spice trade is rather dull, and quotations hardly so firm. After some extensive transactions in sugar, in which prices again touched the highest point previously attained, the market has become inactive but is still firm. Saltpetre has further given way, a small parcel of 3 per cent. Bengal having sold at 36s. 9d. The common and ordinary qualities of jute are again 30s. per ton lower, the sales for these descriptions to-day going at £18 to £21. For the better grades however, prices are mostly supported. Manilla hemp has sold freely at £34 10s. to £35 for fair to good roping. Cotton at the moment is dull in consequence of somewhat large arrivals. In metals there is not much doing. Lead keeps very firm at £21 10s. to £21 12s. 6d., and spelter has recovered to £21 10s. on the spot.

COTTON AND DRY GOODS MARKET.

LIVERPOOL, Wednesday, Feb 17.

THERE has been rather more doing in our cotton market this week, but still business cannot be called brisk. Prices, however, are firm, any material advances being prevented by the large supplies on hand.

The sales this week have been 37,000 bales, of which 11,000 were on speculation and for export. The total sales this year have been 217,410 bales, against 210,020 bales at the corresponding period of 1863. The importations so far this year have been 131,053 bales; last year they were 125,773 bales. There have been exported this year 37,186 bales, whilst in 1863 the exportations were 26,636 bales. Taken for consumption this year, 143,500 bales; last year the number was 97,200 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 32,270 bales; same in 1863, 76,650 bales. The present computed stocks are 235,540 bales. At the same time last year they were 394,370 bales. To-day the sales have been 7000 bales, including 2000 on speculation and for export. The official quotations this evening were, for American descriptions, from 24½d. to 28d.; Egyptians, 26½d. to 30d.; Pernambuco, 27½d.; Bahia, 25½d.; Maranhams, 27½d. to 28½d.; and Surats, 14d. to 24d.

MANCHESTER, February 17.

The Manchester markets during the past few days have shown increased animation, particularly in the shipping departments, in consequence of the receipt of more favourable advices from India. At Bombay yarns had improved, and cloths were 1s. to 1s. 6d. per pound higher, as compared with the account by the previous mail. At Calcutta cloth was 1s. per pound dearer and yarns were also higher. Shippers for the Mediterranean markets have again become active buyers particularly for water twists. Prices consequently rule firm but without any material advance in quotations. There has also been a better trade doing in some trade yarns, but still without any advance being recorded in prices. In cloths a much better feeling has prevailed, there has been more enquiry for the different descriptions but buyers refused to submit to any advance. Manufacturers in general appear to stand out for a considerable advance in prices, and this has to a considerable extent checked buyers. A large business has been done in 10-reed cambrics, but the bulk of the purchases have been for the China markets. There has alone been more business in cloths for the home trade; but the bargains have generally been for small parcels. Buyers for all markets seem more disposed to operate, but still evince considerable caution.

Among the Contents of THE INDEX *of Feb.* 11, *are*—

NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK AT HOME AND ABROAD.
PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.
PUBLIC TOPICS.
MONEY NOTES IN TRANSITU.
PUBLIC COMPANIES.
ENTAIL AND PRIMOGENITURE.
LETTER FROM EDINBURGH.
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POTT ON THE MYTHS OF THE ORIGIN OF MAN AND LANGUAGE.
ITALIAN ANTHROPOLOGY.
ON THE SCYTHO-CIMMERIAN LANGUAGE.
NOTES ON SCALPING. BY R. F. BURTON.
RENAN ON THE SHEMITIC NATIONS.
ABNORMAL DISTORTION OF WRIST.
HUMAN REMAINS FROM LIMERICK.
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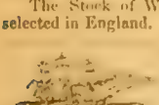

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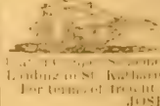

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There are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred, for the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be checked. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The promoters of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellowmen.

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NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK.

AMERICA.

THE military news from America continues to be highly favourable to the Confederates. According to the New York telegrams of the 13th inst the siege of Charleston is abandoned—that is, the firing into the city may be continued at intervals, but the strength of the besiegers is so depleted as to make an attack impossible, General Gilmore and Admiral Dahlgren having despatched a land and naval expedition to Florida. The admiral accompanies the fleet. General Seymour is in command of the land forces, but will act under the supervision of General Gilmore. The announcement of an expedition to Florida will not compensate for the costly failure at Charleston. In Tennessee the progress of the Confederates has not been checked. The Federals have been defeated near Maryaville, the Confederates have cut off the communication between Knoxville and Cumberland Gap, have occupied Liverville, have captured Sevierville, and surrounding Knoxville the garrison of which is suffering from smallpox and from short rations, and, to quote the words of the telegram, "nearly all the rest of Tennessee is in their possession." The strength of the Confederates in Virginia has been revealed by Butler's abortive and ridiculous scheme to release the prisoners in Richmond. Some account of this affair will be found in our Southern intelligence. No one will be surprised that Butler's plan included the assassination of President Davis. The Army of the Potomac for its share in the programme lost some hundreds of men and a quantity of *material*. In Western Virginia General Early has taken 800 Federal prisoners, and secured thousands of cattle, sheep, and swine. As to the much prevaled movement against Mobile, the last report is that General Sherman's expedition is intended for a flank movement against General Johnston, and not to co-operate in that enterprise. The Federal cavalry was defeated on the Yazoo by General Ross on the 5th inst. In North Carolina the Confederates are threatening Newbern and Washington, and it is stated that the Federals lost 1,500 men in the attack on their outposts before Newbern. It is reported that a Confederate ironclad is completed at Kingston, on the Neuse river, and will co-operate with the land forces.

An important, though not unexpected, piece of intelligence appears in our extracts from the Southern papers. A law has passed one branch of the Confederate Congress authorising and regulating the employment of free negroes and slaves in the army, the former by conscription, the latter by impressment. Except, however, as to numbers, the law makes practically few changes, as negroes had free or free. Upon this law many employed in the Confederate armies in various capacities, labourers, and even in some instances as artisans in the arsenals.

It is a fact worth attention that the Federal Congress in the bill just passed for the emancipation of slaves in the Rebel States, provides that the owners should be compensated. Of course this is meant in connexion with loyalty and with law, for which the present Government has not often shown respect; but it is a recognition, or a real recognition, by that body, of the right of property in slaves.

Advices from Houston, Texas, dated January 12 by way of Jackson, Mississippi, state that a large army of Confederate cavalry which had run the blockade had safely reached Monterey, Mexico, "but had been attacked by the English house of Newman and Co., at Matamoras, for the alleged seizure of Major Hart, Quartermaster's Agent for the Confederate Government, to meet his contracts for cotton. The same house attached a large amount of cotton belonging to the Government." Such is a statement, which as to its quite unintelligible. The same advices inform us that General Hamilton, the "Federal Military Governor of Texas," had a public reception at Matamoras, and that at the banquet he said in case of a French advance on Matamoras, the Federals would help the Mexicans to whip them out.

Senator Lane, of Kansas, has introduced into the United States Congress a bill to designate a region on the Rio Grande as a State for negroes. In a report that accompanies the bill he insists upon the necessity of separating the negroes from the governing majority of the white race; and so far as the Yankee treatment of the negro is concerned, Mr. Lane is perfectly right.

Some months since we announced that the United States Government had expressed their willingness for tobacco stored in Richmond on account of the French Government to pass the blockade. On Tuesday night the matter came before the House of Commons. Sir Robert Cliffe inquired whether the British Government had consented to the tobacco coming out, and whether they had thought it their duty to make any similar claim for a supply of cotton for the Lancashire operatives. Mr. Layard said that the British Government had consented to the tobacco being brought out, although a portion of it that has been purchased since the famous "proclamation" of hostilities. Cotton, however, stood upon a different category. We confess we do not quite appreciate the distinction. The French Government wants the tobacco for the sake of its revenue and industry. We want cotton for the sake of our trade and operatives. According to the policy of the British Government all that is necessary for a special suspension of the blockade is that the belligerent Powers and the neutral maritime Powers should consent to it. If the British Government will ask, the Confederate Government of course will not refuse to let cotton come out, for it is not the Confederate Government that is maintaining the blockade. We may be sure the French Government will not object. But what about the United States Government? We have succumbed to Federal threats, and our reward is insult and injury, not courtesy and favour.

Earl de Grey, in reply to Lord Campbell, informed the House of Lords that the Government did not intend to send a commissioner to the Southern States to report on military operations, for two reasons. 1st, that in the Confederacy there is, compared to the North, little to be learnt; and 2nd, that officers would find it difficult to reach the South. With regard to the last assertion we can only say that we never heard of anyone wishing to visit the Confederate States either on business or for a trip, experiencing difficulty in getting in, and also that we were under the impression that it was easy for a belligerent Government to grant a passport in such cases. As to the other objection, it seems to us a very extraordinary one. In this country we have a volunteer army, and it is a matter of deep interest to learn how a volunteer troops will fight, and what are the peculiarities attendant on their management and organisation. In the South the volunteer system, or things much like it, were carried to a large extent, and many valuable communications could have emanated from such intelligent officers as Lord [illegible]. Moreover the Government has no right to interfere with the liberty of the subject in this respect. There is a Foreign Enlistment Act in the Confederate States, and a General Commanding-in-Chief in the army at home. Perhaps the true reason is that Her Majesty's Government are afraid of offending the Federal authorities.

In the debate in the House of Commons on Thursday night Mr. Attorney-General said, with regard to the statement that the [illegible] of the Confederate Navy, which had been published in a pamphlet entitled "Papers of the Confederate Secretary of the Treasury," which had been published in London, was a forgery by the Federal Government, he had no doubt that it was a forgery by the Federal Government, for the purpose of [illegible] the Confederate States in Europe. The statement of Commodore M. F. Maury is confirmed, from positive knowledge, by every person, whose official position enabled or obliged them to be informed of the views and operations of the Navy Department. In Confederate circles, privately, the report was from the first recognised as spurious. It has been published in Southern journals, and in this country has been issued from the Federal press exclusively by papers avowedly in the Federal interest. The exceeding improbability of such a document ever appearing, its contents so far from being [illegible] must be self-evident. Yet it is not unreasonable that it is an intercepted document, even that any confederate authority would for its authenticity. The internal evidence of forgery, affirmed by the Secretary of the Navy, and by Commodore Maury, and by the House of Congress, a proceeding which would be [illegible] among us in the case of any Cabinet Minister's papers, except that of the Secretary of the Treasury, has not been proved yet. What can be thought of the conduct of the Federal Government, which, if it [illegible] all those glaring mistakes, those unnecessary confessions of the only motive that could authorise such a document, permits it to appear as though it formed part of the public records of a foreign Government?

The Federals are endeavouring to engage the Indians in the war. A despatch to the *Richmond Enquirer*, dated "Houston, Texas, January 31," announces that there has been a serious Indian raid in Utah county, in which twelve or fifteen people were killed; and that the Indians were armed and equipped by the Yankees. When the government of George III were charged with employing the Indians, the whole country was indignant and the war became rapidly unpopular.

The condition of the negroes at Island No. 10 is described in the Northern papers as most deplorable. Eight hundred negroes were sent there last autumn, and placed under the charge of the Rev. — Thomas. No provision was made for the winter, and in one week ten men were frozen to death, and forty more were removed to die from exposure. A letter from Cairo says: "When Colonel Shaw went down to the island, and began to [illegible] to examine into matters, he found the negroes huddled together in miserable shanties, with not a stick of wood

to keep them warm, and the themometer indicating a temperature of from ten to fifteen degrees below zero."

According to a Washington letter published in a Northern paper (the *Rochester Union*, New York,) more than 150,000 claims for pensions have been filed by widows and mothers of soldiers, and the claims audited and allowed amount to $12,000,000 per annum. It is supposed that about half the existing claims have been presented, and that the total liability up to the present time is $25,000,000 per annum.

It is impossible to exaggerate the subserviency of the British Cabinet to the Federal Government, or the contempt and insult evoked by that subserviency. England will not send a military commissioner to the South because he may not get in, but Prussia and Russia do so without any hesitation and without offence. France and Austria may get tobacco through the blockade that has been purchased since the commencement of hostilities, but an English consul was dismissed the public service for assisting the State of Alabama to pay its British creditors interest due on a debt contracted long before the war began; and, moreover, the British Government apologised in most humble terms for this act of their consul. When the French Minister at Washington expressed a wish to go South, Mr. Seward courteously give him every facility. Contrast the treatment of this country. We are not just now referring to the seizure of British vessels, the unlawful interference with British trade, the scandalous outrage on British seamen, the murder of the mate of the *Saxon*, or the insolent violation of the sovereignty of Her Majesty. As a marked contrast to the courtesy of the Federal Government to other nations we call attention to a paragraph in the last news from New York. "The British gunboat *Petrel* arrived at Charleston on the 5th instant, wishing to communicate with the British consul at Savannah. Admiral Dalhgren refused permission, and the *Petrel* put to sea."

The Halifax Admiralty Court has restored the *Chesapeake* to the Federal claimants. This decision is in accordance with the judgment pronounced by the Court *before* the trial. No reference is made to the fate of the prisoners.

The price of gold in New York on the 13th February was 59¼ per cent. premium.

ENGLAND.

The glorious Fenian Brotherhood, of whose impending attack on the integrity of the British empire Mr. Seward lately warned Earl Russell, has fleshed its maiden sword in the Green Isle and won its maiden victory. The battle was on this wise. The Corporation of the City of Dublin had determined to erect in College-green a statue to the late Prince Consort. The "National" party burned with indignation and shame. A protest was indispensable, otherwise the glory and honour of Ireland would be trampled in the dust. So the great O'Donoghue, one of the last of the pure-blooded Celts, to whom the title of Mr. or Esquire is an insult, bade his lieutenant, the mighty Mr. Sullivan, call together the "brethren" in the Round Room at the Rotundo. The "brethren" obeyed the summons of their chief, and at the hour of eight on the eventful evening of Monday, the 22nd day of February, A.D., 1864, a vast multitude thronged the doors of the edifice, impatiently awaiting admittance. The doors once open and one wild rush made, the great hall was packed with a swaying, large, and turbulent crowd. At once an ill-organised attempt was made to scale the platform, but strong men armed with sticks repulsed the assault. The O'Donoghue and his lieutenant then entered, and mingled cheers and groans greeted their entrance. Then arose one Gill to speak, and from him came an indignant repudiation of the insult offered to Ireland in the preference of the Prince Consort to Henry Grattan. Why were they not banded like brothers for fatherland under the mighty O'Donoghue? Then the O'Donoghue advanced. Never had he seen so glorious, so magnificent an assembly. Great indeed was Sullivan! No more was heard, but a terrific shout of "Goulah!" arose, and the onslaught commenced. On the platform and in the hall every man in a moment clutched his neighbour's throat and waved aloft his shillelagh. Resistance against a force drilled and led is impossible, and the Fenian men pressed on to the assault in columns compact and overwhelming. In ten minutes the platform was carried. The great O'Donoghue fled, Sullivan fled, the reporters fled. The green flag was hoisted, a naked sword gleamed aloft, and for the space of one hour, like the Ephesians of old, the victorious Fenians shouted in the exultation of triumph.

Many of these "fighting men" were soldiers in the Federal army, and had returned from America to drill fresh combatants to war under the flag of Limerick. Some even wore the Federal uniform. Many mechanics are daily being enrolled in the brotherhood of St. Patrick, and are avowedly training an army to co-operate with the Northerners when they come to invade this country.

No one seems to understand the distinction between the O'Donoghueites and Fenians, any more than one knows the difference between a Nominalist and a Realist; but surely the nerves of Earl Russell must be terribly shaken by this last threat of Federal aggression.

The estimates for the army and navy of England for the current year have been published. With regard to the former it may be stated that the Indian establishment remains unaltered. That empire is garrisoned by a British force of about 78,000 infantry, 6000 cavalry, and 14,000 artillery; the total for 1864 being 72,684 men; in 72,676 for 1863. By a natural consequence, the home depôts of the Indian regiments show no real variance from last year, and are computed to number 9347 men. The whole cost of the Indian establishment falls on the treasury of the Indian empire.

Setting aside, then, this army of about 82,000 men, specially appropriated to India, we find that the army of Great Britain for the year 1864 will number 145,654 men of all arms. In the infantry there is an addition of 1462, and in the cavalry there is a reduction of 816 men. The artillery also loses 1376 men, owing to the cession of the Ionian Isles. Ten regiments are set down as serving in New Zealand. The St. Helena regiment and the Falkland Islands company are disbanded. The three West India regiments lose 50 men each; but a fourth regiment, 866 strong, is added to that establishment. The estimated cost of the army, including the cost of the militia and the volunteer grants, is £14,844,888.

The naval force, including marines, coast volunteers, and naval reserve, as proposed for 1864, is 98,500 men, and the estimated cost is £10,432,610, being a reduction of about £300,000 on the cost of last year. In the number of boys in service on board the training ships there is a reduction from 9000 to 7000, and the coast-guard appears also as 7000 instead of 9000 strong. The estimates bear evidence of a considerable transfer of work from the private to the public dockyards. On the one hand, "ships building by contract" are set down at £384,000 instead of £684,000; and, on the other hand, the "wages of artificers in the establishment of shipwrights" are put at at £324,979 instead of £80,000, the number of these workmen being raised from 1946 to 5678. The result of this transference yet remains to be seen. A vote of £384,412 is asked to close the account for the four large iron-clads *Minotaur*, *Agincourt*, *Northumberland*, and *Prince Albert*, so that we may conclude that these vessels will be fit for service at the close of the year.

The royal navy at the present time consists, according to the last Admiralty return, of 592 ships and vessels afloat, 86 of which, being mortar vessels and floats, are effective sailing vessels, and the remaining 506 are steamers. The screw steamers include 20 armour-plated ships and floating batteries, 56 ships of the line, 37 frigates, 9 blockships, 26 corvettes, 35 sloops, 47 gun vessels, 143 gunboats, 7 tenders, 4 mortar ships, and 15 troop and store ships; of armour-plated screw steam vessels building, there are 3 iron third-rates, and 3 wooden, 1 wooden fourth-rate, a cupola ship, fourth-rate, and another converting, 2 wooden corvettes, sixth-rates, and 1 sloop.

The *Great Eastern* steamship was sold last week by Messrs. Cunard, Wilson, and Co., at the Liverpool Cotton Sales Room. The first bid was £20,000, and the final bid £150,000, the ship being knocked down to the representative of the Great Eastern Company, Limited. This company has lately been formed with the object of again running the vessel. The actual cost, however, of the ship to the new company will be about £80,000, inasmuch as the company has purchased bonds of the Great Ship Company amounting to £70,000, on which however, they will receive about £15,000 by way of dividends.

The Court of Common Council met on Friday last, to take into consideration the report of the special committee appointed to conduct the entertainment given in June last to the Prince and Princess of Wales. The report stated that the total cost of the feast amounted to £15,054. On a motion for the adoption of the report, an amendment was proposed in most vigorous language by Deputy Elliott. He said "that during the six weeks of preparation, the committee had held ninety meetings, and expended on luncheons and dinners £243 at the least. In wine alone for their special use, they spent £107, which, at 60s. a dozen, would represent 428 bottles. Among the miscellaneous disbursements, it would be seen that £277 had been expended in petty cash expenses, of which £165 represented the cost of a breaking-up frolic. The committee had expended £325 on their own personal decoration in the purchase of silk scarves, richly-chased wands, 140 pairs of white kid gloves, and silver-gilt and enamelled badges. Again, it was clear that about £200 worth of things, which he could only designate as costly amenities of the toilet, had disappeared. Some of the members of the committee had valued these at £500 or £700. The perquisites and souvenirs, 'mere unconsidered trifles,' picked up here and there by those gentlemen, and got rid of in some way or other, were of the value of £300. Adding all the items together they had a total of about £1,140—pretty good pay for six weeks' work. The whole entertainment cost £15,000, and as there were 2,000 tickets issued, the cost of each invited guest was £7 10s. Of these tickets the committee had in all 160 at their own disposal, and that number multiplied by £7 10s. gave £1,200 as the value of their patronage. On the occasion of Her Majesty's visit to Guildhall in 1837 the sum of £10 had been offered for one ticket, and no doubt on this occasion some had been sold; indeed it seemed that £400 had been offered by a lady of rank for one ticket. At any rate the committee had a sum of £2,340, or a charge of 16 per cent. on the whole cost. The entertainment to William IV. in 1831 cost £3,000; that to the Queen in 1831 cost £7,000. Now they had gone with a leap to £15,000."

A deputation of the leading members of the council of the Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland waited upon the Lord-Lieutenant last week with reference to the deterioration in the breed of horses in that country. Lord de Vesci said that the committee appointed by the council had before them the evidence of gentlemen from every part of Ireland, and also evidence, reports, and letters from officers commanding regiments in Ireland, and on all sides it was agreed that the deterioration in horses fitted for remounts for cavalry and artillery was increasing so rapidly that it was feared that there would be great difficulty in getting horses for the purpose. On these facts the council had determined to ask for a royal commission. The council had been limited in its field of inquiry, but the Government could obtain evidence as to the systems pursued in France, Austria, and other countries where the Government took the rearing of horses into its care, and the inquiry should also be intended to India, where there was a system of mounting the cavalry and artillery wholly irrespective of private enterprise. In Yorkshire it seemed that similar complaints were made of the injury done by the purchase of the best sires for the foreign market. Lord Talbot de Malahide said that many sires were imported into Ireland unsound and diseased, and great mischief had thence arisen. He also thought that the system of weights for the Queen's Plates and the handicaps was most prejudicial. The Lord-Lieutenant thought that the military branch of the subject furnished the only *locus standi* for an application for a royal commission, and promised to communicate with the Secretary-at-War.

On Saturday last the Solicitor-General of Scotland (Mr. Young) was heard before Lord Ormidale in reply for the Crown, in the objections to the information in the case of the ship *Pampero* lately seized in the Clyde under the Foreign Enlistment Act. He said that the case was precisely identical with that of the *Alexandra*, as far as legal questions were concerned. The whole issue was simply this, was the vessel as it stood at the time of seizure liable to forfeiture under the statute? It would be more convenient to raise the legal points at or after the trial, and not at this stage, by way of objections to relevancy. The Court at the trial could direct the jury, leaving it open for either side to proceed by bill of exceptions or motion. As to the point that "to cruise and commit hostilities" was not the intent of the equipper, he held that the words expressed the employment of the ship and not the intent of the equipper. The charge of "arming" had not been laid, but there might be equipment not extending to arming. It was only necessary to prove that the equipment was made for warlike purposes. If it could be proved that the vessel was not intended for a mercantile but a hostile purpose, a purpose of committing hostilities against the United States, the Crown would be entitled to judgment. In fact the line of argument closely followed Mr. Baron Channell's judgment in the Exchequer. The case was again adjourned.

A somewhat peculiar case, which had already been before the Court of the Vice-Chancellor Kindersley, was again referred to on Saturday last on certain accounts and inquiries which had been directed. One George Roberts, after stating in his will that he was about to leave for America, gave to his two brothers and two other persons $4,000, and $1,000 Virginian Stock, and $2,000 United States Stock, which he then held, and also such money as his executors might recover under a certain policy, and ready money and securities for money, in trust to pay the dividends to his brothers and sisters equally for life, and after the death of the survivor he gave the principal to the President and Vice-President of the United States and the Governor of Pennsylvania in trust, to invest $2,000 in the purchase of freehold land in Pennsylvania, and to permit the remainder to accumulate until it should amount to a sum of $100,000, and to apply this sum, together with the purchased estate, to the endowment of a college in the State of Pennsylvania; and it was his will that moral philosophy be taught therein, and a professor engaged who should inculcate and advocate the natural rights of the black people of every clime and country, until they be restored to an equality in civil rights with their white brethren throughout the Union. After the death of all the tenants for life, a memorial was addressed to the trustees named, and the Attorney-General in America was consulted. He was of opinion that the bequest could not be enforced, and should not even if it could be, being of doubtful utility; and Mr. Dallas, the late American ambassador, thereupon declined the gift. The Court was, therefore, invoked to declare the trusts of the will.

The trial and condemnation to death of the seven men, who, on board the *Flowery Land*, rose in mutiny and killed the captain, a passenger, and the first mate, and afterwards, having sighted land near the river Plate, killed the steward, scuttled the ship, and left on board of her two Chinamen, have been duly recorded in these columns. Two of the convicts, namely, Marsolino and de los Santos, were reprieved on Friday night last, and the remaining five, namely, Leon, Blanco, Duranno, Lopez, and Watto, were reserved for execution on Monday, the 22nd February, in front of Newgate gaol. The authorities, keenly alive to the disasters which would inevitably ensue from the mob likely to assemble to witness the execution, took the most elaborate precautions. Barriers were erected to prevent pressure, and hoardings were built against the railings of St. Sepulchre's church. Three hundred and thirty men, 7 inspectors, and 37 sergeants of the City force were stationed in front of the scaffold, and 300 men of the Metropolitan force kept the great thoroughfares leading to Newgate. Besides these, there were patrols of mounted police. The execution was to take place on Monday morning at eight o'clock, but before the sun had set on the Sunday hundreds of persons had already taken up positions within the barriers, determined to brave the cold of a night when the thermometer was some degrees below freezing point. Throughout the night the crowds of "roughs" and of masculine women continued to increase; and those who stood on the cold ground beneath, bandied their blasphemy against the laughter and jokes of the occupants of the windows above them. For windows facing the gallows had been hired for fabulous sums, and men sat carousing and card-playing through the night by way of a decent prelude to the business of the morning. By 3 o'clock the masses became densely packed, and at that hour the

fixing of the scaffold into its place, by the aid of a strong team of horses, served to afford some diversion to the multitude. At 6 o'clock the hooting, screaming, and cursing, mingled with the exhortations, prayers, and hymns of the emissaries of the Religious Tract Society, produced a demoniacal effect. At 7 o'clock Calcraft appeared on the scaffold, and was recognised in a familiar manner by the mob, on whom he smiled grimly. At 8 o'clock the bell of Newgate began to toll, and Duranno was led, or rather supported to the scaffold; Lopez came next, nervous and breathing hard and short, and then Blanco was carried on to the scaffold and seated in a chair. All the prisoners as they appeared were received with groans and hisses, and when all were placed ready for execution one vast shout of execration rent the air. The bolt was drawn, and the bodies fell at the same instant. Blanco was hung still seated in his chair.

Marvellous to relate, no person in the crowd was killed, and of injuries but two, and those of a trifling character, are known.

CONTINENT.

THE invasion of Jutland is the only intelligence of importance from the seat of war. Some small skirmishes have taken place between the two armies at Düppel, but the great attack has not been made and may be delayed some time. Prodigal as the Prussian princes may be of the lives of Prussian peasants, they wish to avoid a check which would increase the credit the Austrian army has already gained to their disadvantage, and they will probably wait until such overwhelming forces are concentrated in Sundewitt that victory, however high its price, is certain. The details of these small engagements which have mostly taken place in an attempt of the Prussians to advance on Düppel from the south, present little interest.

For strategical reasons, the invasion of Jutland must have appeared to Marshal Wrangel a most desirable step. It was calculated to divide the forces of the Danes and establish again that inequality of numbers, temporarily redressed by the strength of the Düppel position, which has given the Germans the triumph of which they boast so much. But political considerations made him hesitate, and although it is certain that the Prussian advance entered Jutland and remained there some time; it was kept very close to the frontier until instructions could be obtained from Berlin and Vienna. According to some statements, these instructions have resulted in the withdrawal of the Prussians, but it is not determined whether this evacuation of Jutland, as it is styled, was an independent act of the two German Powers, desirous of respecting the territory of the kingdom of Denmark Proper, or was occasioned by remonstrances from France and other Powers. We cannot admire the scruples in the one case, or the newly-found concern for Denmark in the other. Denmark and Germany are at war. Although Germany may be willing to localise the war, Denmark is not. She means to strike her foes everywhere that she can reach them, and if Austria and Prussia mean to bring her to subjection they must break her powers of resistance in the next few days. It would be absurd for the Austro-Prussian army to set gravely down before Düppel and leave the Danes at liberty in every other part of their territory. The indignation of Europe is equally absurd. The invader had just as much business in Jutland as in Slesvig. The occupation of Slesvig was the foul outrage upon justice. Any measures that may be taken in Jutland and the Isles are only its necessary complements. It must have been obvious from the first that if the Danes resisted, the war must become, as between them and their invaders, general. But people seem to have a misty notion that the occupation of Slesvig was very much like the occupation of Holstein by the Federal troops: that is to say, that, although unjust, it had some pretence of legality; and thus we find even ministers of state, who saw the passage of the Eider with equanimity, put themselves into great excitement at the intimation of the passage of the Kongeaa. The Danes certainly will not accept this theory that the invasion of Slesvig was a venial offence and that of Jutland a crime. They are at war with Germany; they will hit their foe where they can, as long as their strength lasts; they expect that the enemy will strike them wherever he can get the chance, and they will exhibit to the world a gallant spectacle of courage and endurance, until the moment comes—if, to the shame of Europe, it should come—that, outworn and outnumbered, they can no longer defend themselves.

The Austrian and Prussian civil commissioners in Slesvig are assuming absolute authority. They have abrogated the November Constitution, the pretext for the war, and cancelled the Danish language regulations. In fact, the great German Powers treat the duchy as a conquered province which is absolutely at their disposition. They have commenced the destruction of the fortifications at the Dannevirke and at Frederickstadt. How these acts can be reconciled with the profession that they only occupy the duchy to enforce the repeal of the November Constitution, we cannot see. If the duchies are given back to Denmark it will be in a perfectly defenceless condition.

All accounts agree that the enthusiastic welcome to the "liberators" ceased at Augeln; thenceforward, although a few Germans were profuse in their welcomes, the people generally have shown themselves hostile.

The civil commissioners will not tolerate too enthusiastic Slesvigers. One or two of these gentlemen who made their way to Flensburg, probably with a view of establishing a provisional government for the Duke, were arrested, and after a short detention sent out of the duchy.

The Prussians have a great objection to newspaper correspondents, and the complaints of these gentlemen, who are accustomed to be treated as very important personages, are amusing. The Prussian officers were deaf to their indignations as well as to their representation of the importance of conciliating the public opinion of England and France. One unlucky Frenchman has been arrested, and with the vanity of his nation and of his profession attributes his detention to some *feuilleton* he wrote in the *Siècle*, in which the Prussians were badly handled. It is very much like the famous editor of *Eatanswill*, who fancied everybody read him and admired or dreaded him.

The Allies make bitter complaints of the obstacles thrown in their way by the commander of the Federal forces and the Federal commissioners in Holstein. Instead of assisting them in bringing their stores, &c., to the front, the commissioners have put every possible difficulty in the way of their communication with Germany.

The two great Powers are, indeed, at the present time upon almost as bad terms with their confederates as with the Danes. The ministers of the smaller Governments are mad with vexation that the glory of beating Denmark should have been taken out of their hands. They seem to be resolved to press to a vote the resolution against the London Treaty, in spite of a strong appeal not to do so. An Austrian circular points out the danger of such a course. "It might force the non-German Powers to a decisive counter-declaration in favour of the Treaty." The conference at Wurzburg is reported to have resulted in an engagement on the part of the States represented to acknowledge at all hazards Prince Frederick as Duke of Holstein, if not of Slesvig, and to resist any attempts of Prussia and Austria to withdraw the dispute from the decision of the Diet. The feeling is becoming very bitter. The King of Prussia sent one of his confidants, General Manteuffel, to Dresden, to try to bring the Saxon Government, which is the prime mover of the whole plot, to reason, but in vain. Prussia, however, will not yield. It is stated that a Prussian force has been concentrated on the Saxon frontier, and one of the organs of the Federal party recommends the occupation of Dresden. It would be a strange freak of fortune if this storm, which Saxony has done so much to raise, should sweep the Saxon government away and complete the work of 1815. We have seen many more unlikely events occur.

The situation altogether is very menacing. Powers which have hitherto looked on the contest with indifference, unwilling to help Denmark lest they should lose the pleasure of seeing England humiliated, are beginning to interfere, and France may yet resolve to save the gallant little State, whose weakness and all whose difficulties are the result of her fidelity to France and the first Napoleon.

We cannot see in the reported acceptance by Austria and Prussia of a fresh English proposal for a conference, any sufficient reason to take a more hopeful view of the chances of peace. The two Powers refuse to assent to a suspension of hostilities, and their views moreover differ so widely from those of the other Powers who will be parties to the conferences that agreement is hardly possible. Indeed, we have not much expectation that the conference will meet. The German Diet denies the right of other Powers to interfere in the settlement of the Holstein succession, and will hardly send a representative.

The trial of the Italian conspirators commences today; Mazzini will be tried *par contumace*. The act of accusation, or indictment, asserts that Mazzini was the author of the plot; documents found upon the prisoners and their own confessions prove his guilt.

A telegram from Madrid announces that the British steamer *Princess*, which had touched at Malacca to coal, has been seized by the authorities of that port. Rifled cannons, muskets, &c., were found in the hold.

The provincial diets of the Austrian empire, with the exception of those for Galicia, Hungary, Transylvania, Croatia, and Venetia, are convoked for the 2nd March.

The Minister of War, Count Degenfield, has resigned, and has been replaced by Field-Marshal Von Frank.

Prince Adam Sapieha, who has been confined for some time upon the charge of participation in the Polish insurrection, has made his escape. The Sapieha family is one of the most considerable in Austria, the chief, perhaps, in Galicia, and the escape of the Prince, unless the proofs of his guilt were overwhelming, was hardly judicious. The Austrian government would have treated him with great lenity; and its object in arresting him was probably not to punish him but to deprive the revolution of the assistance which a man of so much influence gave it.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

AMERICA.

IN the Lords, on Monday, Lord Campbell inquired if the Government was about to send out commissioners to the Confederacy as well as to the Federal States to report on military affairs. Earl de Grey replied, that no officers were to be sent to the United States to fulfil the office of commissioner in the proper sense of the word, but only to report on the *materiel* of war. His lordship said that in the South the information was less valuable, because the resources of the South were less. He also remarked that another reason for not sending an agent to the South was the difficulty of the agent getting into the South.

On Thursday in the House of Commons the Attorney-General, in reply to Mr. H. Baillie, said, that if an English merchant ship was captured by a ship of war in the harbour of a neutral state, it would not be the duty of the Government to await the decision of a prize court before demanding reparation. In the case of the *Science* it was denied by the captain of the United States war vessel that she was captured in Mexican waters, and therefore the Government was obliged to wait until the controversy as to this disputed fact was settled.

On Friday Mr. Layard informed the House of Commons what kind of reparation the present British Cabinet exacts for "a direct violation of the sovereignty of Her Majesty." Mr. Halliburton inquired into the circumstances connected with the *Chesapeake* affair, and Mr. Layard read a despatch from Mr. Seward, together with the reply of Earl Russell, which documents we elsewhere publish. The main facts are briefly these. The *Chesapeake* was captured by Confederates acting under a commission from the Confederate Government, who took the vessel into the British harbour of Pankbar, Nova Scotia. The Federal gunboat, *Ella and Annie*, went into the neutral port and took the *Chesapeake* by force, or to quote the words of Mr. Seward, "directly violated the sovereignty of Her Majesty by the assumption of power and authority in the name of the United States, as well on board the said steamer *Chesapeake* as on board the British schooner *Investigator*, while within British waters." For this Mr. Seward is sorry. Mr. Lincoln censures the officers of the *Ella and Annie*, but at the same time says he believes the proceedings were taken "under the influence of a patriotic and commendable zeal"—an observation that will make the censure rather agreeable to the officers, and ensure their promotion. Earl Russell was satisfied, and instructed Lord Lyons to inform the Federal Government that Her Majesty's Government "are truly glad that the matter has been settled in a manner honourable to both parties." [We commend this correspondence to the attention of our readers as a fair specimen of Federal insolence, of Earl Russell's subserviency, and of his lordship's idea of national honour.]

THE SEIZURE OF THE STEAM RAMS.

On Tuesday Mr. S. Fitzgerald moved for copies of all correspondence between the various departments of Her Majesty's Government or officers in Her Majesty's service, and Messrs. Laird Brothers, relating to the two ironclad vessels the *El Tousson* and *El Monassir*, and of any diplomatic correspondence and papers respecting the same. The hon. member explained that by the terms of his motion the Government could not object to produce the papers on the ground that they had reference to matters under judicial investigation: for the purpose of his motion was not to discuss the validity of the seizure, but to find out whether before the seizure took place the conduct of the Government was lawful or not. Mr. Fitzgerald then gave the history of the case. On the 11th July Mr. Adams informed the Government that the rams were building in the Mersey, and from that date until 1st September the Government was diligently investigating the affair, and on that day informed Mr. Adams that the result of their inquiries was that, "having regard to the entire insufficiency of the depositions to prove any infraction of the law, Her Majesty's Government are advised that they cannot in any way interfere with these vessels." Yet three days later Earl Russell requested the Lords of the Treasury to detain the rams. What had passed in the meantime? [The reader will remember that Earl Russell wrote to Lord Palmerston on the 3rd that he would detain the rams, and wrote to Mr. Adams on the 4th that the matter was still under consideration.] According to the correspondence laid before Congress, the inference is that Mr. Adams had settled the business. That gentleman wrote to Mr. Seward, under date 3rd September, 1863, "As the case seemed doubtful, I concluded that the wisest course would be to put in one more remonstrance. Accordingly I have taken advantage of some depositions, of no great additional weight, furnished to me by Mr. Dudley and others." It appears that this evidence, which Mr. Adams refers to as being of no great additional weight, and which he only used as an excuse for another remonstrance, furnished the Government with the pretext for detaining the vessels. Then what was the conduct of the Government from the 9th September, when the vessels were detained, until the 27th October, when they were seized? The Government sought to get information from Messrs Laird, carefully concealing from that firm that a prosecution was intended, and that the information they furnished might be used against them. Moreover, during that interval the Government proposed to buy the rams, and Mr. Reed the Chief Constructor of the Navy, showed to Messrs. Laird an authority from the Admiralty to negotiate for the purchase. The hon. gentleman at some length contended that Earl Russell had, under a threat from the United States, resolved to detain the rams, and declared that it was expedient that the papers should be produced, so that the proceedings of the Government might be discussed, and that it might be seen if the Executive had exceeded their lawful powers. If the House was to wait till the judicial investigation was over it might have to wait for years. The rams were seized in October, yet it was only in February that any public step was taken to bring the case to trial, and probably it would be the end of the year before it was submitted to judicial investigation.

The Attorney-General said Mr. Fitzgerald asked for a part of the papers, and if they were laid on the table, they would not enable the House to form an opinion on the conduct of the Government, and the Government would not explain their case to the House while it was under judicial investigation. Respecting the right to detain the rams, the learned gentleman would say boldly, and in the face of the country, the Government acted on their own responsibility. The Government did not seize the vessels, but took care that the law should not be evaded whilst the inquiry was pending whether there were grounds or not for seizing them. In criminal cases a person could be brought before a magistrate on imperfect evidence, and remanded from time to time, whilst evidence was being collected that would justify a committal. "That course cannot be adopted in cases of

seizures of vessels of this description; the law gives no means for that." Therefore, the Government acted on their own responsibility "in determining that what had taken place with regard to the *Alabama* should not take place with respect to these ships." It was true the Government had offered to buy the rams, and the learned gentleman ventured to say, "that a course more liberal could not well have been taken." The Attorney-General quoted from a document purporting to be the report of the Confederate Secretary of the Navy, the authenticity of which, as our readers are aware, has been formally and publicly denied by Commander Maury; and the learned gentleman said, "As between this country and the Confederate Government, we have information from headquarters of a character perfectly unquestionable; and we know, therefore, as a matter of fact, that these ships were being built in violation of our laws and for the purpose of being used in the belligerent service of the Confederate States." The Attorney-General concluded by denying that the Government had been influenced by the letters of Mr. Adams, and he said "that they had been actuated by no other motive but that of vindicating the law, and of doing to other countries that which they expect other countries to do unto them."

Mr. Horsfall read a passage from a letter addressed by Mr. Adams to Earl Russell. The United States Minister observes:—"I cannot but regret that your lordship should have adduced the evidence of Mr. Laird in support of any proposition made to my Government. I trust that I may be pardoned if I remind you that the statement made heretofore by that person in Parliament respecting their action are not such as are likely to lead to their implicit credence in any relating to his own." Mr. Horsfall had known Mr. Laird for forty years, and not a slur could be cast upon his character, and he thought it was undignified and unbecoming in Earl Russell, as a British Minister, in allowing such language to pass unnoticed. In his opinion it would be a fatal policy to say that no ships of war should be built in this country for other Governments; such a course would injure our commerce; and, moreover, we ought to remember that if we accustomed other nations to come to this country for their war ships and munitions of war, we could, in the event of being involved in hostilities, cut off our enemies from their supplies.

Lord Cecil denounced the illegal assumption of power by the Government. If it were permitted for the Executive to proceed upon suspicion and to refuse any explanation pending the investigation, the Government might, under threats of war from a foreign Power, ruin any man. He thought the House ought to protest against this assumption of a new dispensing power, "a new power of suspending the rights of the subject, a new establishment of despotic claims, which might, perhaps, be in place in the atmosphere of St. Petersburg or of Washington, but which were entirely out of place in the atmosphere of London."

After some remarks from Mr. W. E. Forster, defending the policy of the English Government and excusing the insolent despatches of Mr. Seward, Sir Hugh Cairns addressed the House. He said he wanted to know what was the precise demand made by the United States Government, and what was the attitude assumed by Her Majesty's Government; but no such information could be obtained from any papers before the House. Had Mr. Seward stated that it was an infringement of international law for unarmed ships to leave this country if they were subsequently armed? Earl Russell had written in a despatch, to be communicated to the United States Minister, that he considered the case of the *Oreto* and the *Alabama* a scandal. Why? Did the noble lord mean that the escape of the *Alabama* was a scandal because we had laws to punish the offence and did not enforce them? Then why did not the Government punish the persons who openly avowed that they had sent the *Alabama* out of the country? "Remember, if there is a case for seizure there is also a case for an indictment for a misdemeanour." If there has been no infringement of the law, where was the scandal, and if the law was violated why were the offenders not prosecuted? And then as to the *Oreto*, she has been tried and acquitted; how can her case be a scandal? But perhaps Earl Russell meant that the case was a scandal because we had no better law to deal with the *Alabama* and the *Oreto*. Then why did not the noble earl propose a change in the law, if he remained in the Government? The learned gentleman then commented on the reasons for the production of the correspondence between the Government and Messrs. Laird. It seemed to him that the Attorney-General objected to anything being said that might prejudice the Government, but that a member of the Government might say anything to prejudice individuals with whom they are in litigation. At Blairgowrie Earl Russell observed that "to permit ships of this kind knowingly to depart from this country, not to enter into a Confederate port, not to enter the ports of a belligerent, would, as you see, expose our good faith to great suspicion." The Attorney-General in addressing his constitutents had said "He hoped and believed that the people of the country at large would not be inclined to identify themselves in feeling with those merchants of ours who seemed to think that they are bound by no obligation to our laws at all." There was another instance of a member of the Government seeking to prejudice the case of the claimants. Mr. Milner Gibson, President of the Board of Trade, told a meeting at Ashton that he did not understand the law, yet "the common sense which does not enable him to understand the law does enable him to say that these parties had entered on a deliberate course of violating the laws of England." Sir Hugh Cairns examined and denounced the unconstitutional proceedings of the Government in detaining the vessels without evidence. He said, "I speak with full consciousness of the gravity of the expressions I use when I charge the Government—let there be no mistake—I charge the Government with having done it, and after hearing the Attorney-General to-night, I say having done on their own confession—what was illegal and unconstitutional, without law, without justification, and without excuse." The pretext of the Government that they violated the law to vindicate it was no justification. And the plea of acting on their responsibility was "the same wretched pretence which, from the worst days of despotism downwards, has always justified the acts of the executive Government." If the Government was right in detaining the Mersey rams in September, they have a right to detain any ship they please on suspicion. The Government is authorised by Act of Parliament to seize a ship, and then the owner can make them continue the proceedings and bring the case to trial, but there is no authority for the detention of a ship without seizure, and in such a case the owner has no remedy. Respecting the *Alabama* the United States Government had been told that the Government could not act upon suspicion and detain a ship, but hereafter Mr. Adams might cite the detention of the rams as a precedent. The offer of the Government to buy the vessels was a mockery: "the Government, with its hands upon the ships, the Government, asserting that the day was coming when the ships would be forfeited, said to the builder 'Come now, sell us these ships, let us buy them of you.'" The climax was this: Parliament meets at last, and the information can no longer be delayed. And then, four months after the seizure, Messrs. Laird are informed that an information will be filed in a few days, and that "it may be necessary to send a commission abroad for the purpose of collecting evidence."

The Solicitor-General, after repeating the protest of the Attorney-General against the production of the correspondence, avoided replying to the arguments of Sir Hugh Cairns, by dwelling on matters not immediately connected with them He was kind enough to say that he did not "desire to reflect on any gentleman entertaining Confederate sympathies," but we ought not to be guided by our sympathies. The Federals, being the stronger Power, insist that neutral nations shall not supply the Confederates with vessels of war, and as England is the strongest maritime Power, it is our interest to insist upon the same rule against the whole world. The learned gentleman observed, "When our territorial rights were infringed we applied for and obtained redress." [The redress in the case referred to was an apologetic despatch.]

Mr. Walpole agreed with the Solicitor-General that we ought to do to America as we would have America to do to us, and also that we should act to neutrals as we expect neutrals to act to us when we are at war. But if the Solicitor-General meant that we were therefore to give up our neutral rights, he (Mr. Walpole) did not agree with him. The law officers of the Crown seem to confound municipal and international law, whereas the two were perfectly distinct. A neutral State cannot supply a belligerent with munitions of war, but the subjects of a neutral State, so far as international law is concerned, can do so, being liable to the penalty of confiscation if they violate the law at home, or of capture if they attempt violate the blockade. The Solicitor-General had stated that it was contrary to the law of nations to furnish any country with a ship of war, but he (Mr. Walpole) hoped that that observation was a slip of the tongue, for neither in America nor in any other country had such a doctrine been held. Mr. Walpole addressed the House, not because he sympathised with one or the other of the American belligerents, but because he was anxious to maintain intact the great principles of international law.

After Mr. T. Baring had spoken against the motion, and Mr. Fitzgerald had made a brief reply, Sir George Grey stated that the Government were willing to present the correspondence with the Federal Government, but not the correspondence with Messrs. Laird. On a division, the motion was lost by a majority of 25; the numbers being, for the motion 153, and against it 178.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TOBACCO AND THE BLOCKADE.

Sir Robert Clifton asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it was true that Her Majesty's Government had, on the application of the French Government, consented that the French Government should pass a quantity of tobacco through the blockade with the approval of the Washington Cabinet; and whether Her Majesty's Government had thought it their duty to make any similar application for the passing of cotton for the benefit of the distressed operatives of Lancashire.

Mr. Layard stated that at the time when the civil war broke out in the United States a large amount of tobacco belonging to the Governments of France and Austria happened to be at Richmond. The French Government asked the Government of the United States to allow them to bring that tobacco out of the country, and the Government of the United States replied that they were willing to consent on condition that the British Government did not object. The French Government made application through their ambassador to Her Majesty's Government, and Her Majesty's Government consented to allow this tobacco to be taken out of the country on condition that it was not made a precedent. Subsequently it was discovered that some portion of the tobacco had been purchased after hostilities had broken out, and a further application being made to Her Majesty's Government it was decided not to raise any difficulty upon that ground. Cotton, however, stood quite in a different category. The tobacco belonged to the Governments of two neutral countries, and formed part of their revenue; cotton, on the contrary, would only belong to private individuals.

DENMARK.

On Friday it was rumoured in town that the Austrian and Prussian troops had invaded, or were about to invade Jutland, and Mr. Newdegate asked Lord Palmerston if Her Majesty's Government would not consider such a proceeding inconsistent with the plea on which the German Powers had entered Holstein and Slesvig, and therefore whether it would not require "more energetic and decisive action, diplomatic or otherwise, on the part of Her Majesty's Government in the sense of the Treaty of 1852." Lord Palmerston fenced these interrogatories with his usual suavity and adroitness. He said that the Government had received no authentic accounts of the invasion of Jutland—a fact which everybody knew. Then he said that "no doubt any entrance into Jutland by the Austrian and Prussian troops would be an aggravation of that violent outrage and injustice which, in our opinion, they have committed in entering Slesvig—a measure involving great sacrifice of life and shedding of blood, for which those two Governments are deeply amenable." Finally, the noble lord declined to state what course the Government would adopt if Jutland was entered. [This will be very reassuring to Austria and Prussia. The Prime Minister of England denounces the invasion of Slesvig as a violent outrage, and speaks of the entrance into Jutland as an aggravation of it. The "violent outrage" has gone unchecked, except by big words, and the noble lord declines to say what the Government would do if a further offence is committed. The inference is that it will not be made a *casus belli*, for a Government desirous of maintaining peace would be anxious to warn the German Powers of the inevitable consequence of "an aggravation of the violent outrage."]

On Monday night the Danish question led to a spirited skirmish in the House of Commons. Lord Cecil asked Mr. Layard how the Danish papers were getting on, and whether the whole of the copy was in the hands of the printer. It is not an ill compliment to Mr. Layard's temper to observe that the words "Danish papers" make him very angry. He prefaced the expression of a hope that "the papers would be produced next week" by saying it was "absurd" to suggest that any other than Foreign-office printers should be employed; and added, rather pathetically, "if any document of a character to injure the public service were abstracted surreptitiously should I not be the first person held responsible by the noble lord?" Poor Mr. Layard. Earl Russell was at "rest" in the serene atmosphere of the painted chamber, and Lord Palmerston was at home with a cold and gout; so he besought the House to remember that if he did as members wished he might lose his place. But the appeal did not succeed, and Mr. B. Osborne, a very hard hitter, asked whether the foreign Powers concerned had given their consent to the production of the papers. Mr. Layard replied that he had never stated that such permission was necessary and that it was only asked as a matter of courtesy. Then Mr. Osborne, who is the most persistent and pertinent questioner in the House, said, "Has the question been asked?" Mr. Layard replied, "Of course it has been asked." Mr. Osborne would not be put off with the "of course," and wished to know if the Powers had assented. The unhappy Under-Secretary replied, "As far as we have gone yet. We cannot ask for permission until the papers are printed." Sir J. Walsh remarked, he could not understand this answer, and would like to know whether all the papers were to be laid before Parliament, or only a selection. Mr. Layard replied, "When hon. gentlemen see the papers, the greediest will not ask for more."

This was preliminary to an angry debate. Mr. Disraeli denounced ministerial evasions and the delay in the production of the papers. He referred to other great occasions when papers had been promptly presented; he called upon the House, for the sake of its interest and honour, to insist upon having the information, to which it is entitled. Mr. Gladstone made a few observations in reply, in which he sought to throw ridicule on Mr. Disraeli's energetic remonstrances, and said that the Government could do no more than express regret for the inconvenience to which the House was put, and to promise the papers as speedily as possible. After a few remarks from Lord Cecil, Mr. Osborne declared that the House was placed in a humiliating position, and that such excuses from the Government ought not to be received; and amidst loud cheers moved that the Navy Estimates should be put off three weeks, in order that the Commons might have the information required before voting supplies. Mr. Roebuck remarked that the motion was one of want of confidence in the Government, and that he should support it. Then ensued an ominous pause, and Mr. Gladstone rose and expressed his concurrence with Mr. Roebuck that the proposed motion was a vote of want of confidence in the Government, and said that such a motion should not be brought on without notice. Mr. Osborne said he would go on. Mr. Disraeli came to the rescue. He did not approve the foreign policy of the Government, and he was not surprised at the temper of the House, but the verdict of Parliament ought not to be pronounced without discussion. This settled the matter, and on a division the Government was in a majority of 173, only 17 voting for Mr. Osborne's motion. Thus the Government was saved by the forbearance of the leader of the Opposition and the strict discipline of his followers.

PENAL SERVITUDE.

On Thursday Sir George Grey introduced a bill making certain changes in reference to the punishment of penal servitude, founded on the report of the Royal Commission. Whether or not the proposed Bill is an improvement on the present law is a matter of opinion, but certainly it is the smallest reform ever put forward. No sentence of penal servitude is to be passed for less than five years. Respecting transportation no alteration is suggested, and Western Australia, as at present, is to receive rather less than 600 convicts per annum. The ticket-of-leave system is to be continued, but there is to be a somewhat closer supervision of the holders of licences, and for a breach of the law a licence-holder may be summarily convicted by two magistrates and remitted to prison to undergo the portion of the sentence not

already served. In some cases the magistrates may sentence a ticket-of-leave man to a short term of imprisonment and then the conviction is to be reported to the Secretary of State, with whom it will rest to continue or revoke the licence. Unless convicts are as ungrateful as they are lawless and dishonest, they will still regard Sir George Grey as their best friend, and will pursue their business without any fear of a conviction leading to more unpleasant consequences than a temporary banishment from their favourite haunts.

INTELLIGENCE FROM THE SOUTH.

THE following extracts and gleanings from Southern newspapers give valuable information as to military and other affairs in the Confederate States, and will in many instances be found useful in the interpretation of the hazy Northern version of the progress of events :—

THE DEMONSTRATION ON RICHMOND

Early yesterday morning intelligence reached the city that the enemy, in considerable force, had reached Bottom's Bridge, with the supposed intention of another advance upon Richmond. As a matter of consequence, considerable excitement resulted, and rumours were abundant and conflicting. Many believed that the demonstration was made by Butler, with the earnest determination of rescuing the Yankee prisoners now in Richmond, while others properly conjectured that it was a feint to divert attention from other, and at present, more important points. During the day we endeavoured to ascertain something reliable with regard to this new movement, and the result of our efforts, as obtained from the most reliable sources of information, disclosed the following facts:—

On Saturday night about 9 o'clock our pickets below Bottom's Bridge discovered that the enemy were advancing in some force—both cavalry and infantry. The pickets retired before them until the bridge was crossed, when a stand was made, and the further advance of the enemy awaited. In the meantime a supporting force had been sent down to the bridge, and preparations were at once made to dispute its passage by the enemy. At daylight yesterday morning the anticipated attempt to cross the bridge was made, but easily repulsed, when they drew off a few hundred yards. Here they formed a line of battle, and it was readily supposed that they intended to make another effort to cross the Chickahominy, but finding our men resolute in their purpose of maintaining their ground, after remaining in line of battle for an hour or two the Yankees retired. Last night matters in the city had settled down, and things again resumed their usual quiet.—*Richmond Dispatch, February* 8.

The unusual ringing of bells early yesterday morning gave notice that the enemy were advancing up the peninsula and in disagreeable proximity to Richmond. Soon everybody was astir, and a "thousand and one rumours" filled the air, and from the manner in which some of the mounted "home guard" dashed about the streets, thereby creating unnecessary alarm among the women and children, a stranger might have been impressed with the belief that a force of Yankees as numerous as the host of Xerxes was coming to overwhelm the city. The facts are believed to be as follows:—Early yesterday morning the enemy appeared at Bottom's Bridge, over the Chickahominy, when skirmishing ensued with some of our cavalry, and the enemy retired. They then crossed the railroad at Dispatch station, and attempted to ford the river, but were baffled in this by the quantity of felled timber in the swamp, which rendered it impracticable. They then retired to Talleysville, which is about eight miles from Bottom's Bridge. Scouts report that a considerable force came up from Barhamsville, and made a junction at Talleysville with that which appeared at the bridge in the morning. It consists, ar far as could be ascertained, of three brigades of infantry, four regiments of cavalry, and two batteries of artillery. At last accounts they were advancing, and a collision with our troops is believed to be probable. In such an event, however, we may safely say that no apprehension need be entertained of the result.

The reign of quiet on the Rapidan was disturbed Saturday morning by the appearance of the enemy at Morton's, Summerville, and Barnett's fords. Two brigades of their infantry crossed at Morton's in the forenoon, but were quickly driven back. They appeared again, when a portion of our troops were sent across the river and repulsed them, driving them back and killing a considerable number. Our men recrossed yesterday morning, and at last accounts were still on the other side.—*Richmond Whig, February* 8.

ORANGE COURT-HOUSE, February 7.—The enemy crossed in large force on Saturday at Morton's Ford, but after a sharp contest were repulsed by General Ed. Johnson's division, and driven back over the river and pursued. Our troops returned this morning. The enemy also attempted to cross at Barnett's Ford, but were repulsed by General Scales's North Carolina brigade and Lomax's cavalry. The casualties on our side were slight. The enemy have retired.—*Telegram in Richmond Papers.*

Richmond is threatened by the enemy. Our pickets were driven in on Saturday night at Bottom's bridge, twelve miles from Richmond. The enemy crossed the York River Railroad near Dispatch station. A large force, massed at Barklemasville, moved forward to Tallisville yesterday afternoon, and was then advancing. Their force consists of three brigades of infantry, four regiments of cavalry, and twelve pieces of artillery.—*Richmond Examiner, February* 8.

THE AFFAIR AT SMITHFIELD.

Captain Pipkin, with three weak companies belonging to the Thirty-first North Carolina regiment, a small party of the Seventh Cavalry, and Sturdivant's battery, were ordered to intercept a party of raiders then in the neighbourhood of Smithfield, composed of cavalry, infantry, and some marines, the whole under command of Captain Lee. The order was gallantly and successfully obeyed. Our troops secured a position in their rear and front which effectually cut off advance and retreat, except by Pagan Creek. At 12 o'clock on Monday the fight commenced, and after firing without much loss on either side, the enemy sent a flag of truce, asking to see the commander of our troops, and to demand their strength. Of course a refusal to both demands was returned, and five minutes given for an unconditional surrender. This was agreed to, and Captain Lee was in the act of signing the parole for himself and command, when one of his men informed him a gunboat was approaching. With genuine Yankee perfidy he refused to surrender his men, and the fight recommenced. The gunboat shelled the banks while the enemy's troops were getting aboard. Sturdivant's battery took a position about one hundred yards distant and opened with effect on the boat. Our infantry lined the banks of the creek and shot down every man who appeared upon deck. Several of the men leaped overboard and were drowned, while others clung to the rudders and sides of the vessel. In a short time her boiler was damaged and she surrendered. The prisoners were scarcely as ore when her magazine took fire, and she blew up, with her stores, ammunition, &c. The boat was named the *Smith Bridges*, and mounted three guns. Her captain was taken after being shot through the neck. One of her lieutenants is severely wounded in the stomach, and all her crew captured. Some of the enemy escaped through a swamp, but ten horses were secured. The enemy lost at least twenty men killed and drowned. Our loss was two killed, belonging to the Seventh Cavalry; they were natives of Georgia.

The Express says:—The enemy numbered about 150 in all, and was made up of a portion of the New York Ninety-ninth infantry, a part of the Thirty-fifth New York cavalry, and a section of a Pennsylvania Battery, numbering two guns. It was reported at Ivor before the train left that a large force was landing at Smithfield yesterday, with the hope, it is thought, of recapturing the prisoners who fell into our hands on Monday. But they were several hours too late, as no time was lost by Captain Sturdivant, after the surrender, in destroying the gunboat and securing the prisoners. The entire force surrendered, save Captain Lee and five of his command, who cowardly and treacherously escaped in a small boat, after the display of the white flag.—*Petersburg Register, February* 3.

THE THREATENED ATTACK ON MOBILE.

MOBILE, February 5.—A special to the *Evening News*, dated Clinton, the 4th, says: "Sherman's two corps, under McPherson and Hurlburt, are advancing. General Jackson has fought them all day. They made but two miles to-day, and will encamp to-night six or eight miles below Clinton. Persons report the advancing column to be 30,000 strong. General Rose whipped their cavalry on the Yazoo yesterday in a hand to hand fight with pistols."

MOBILE, February 4.—A special dispatch to the *Evening News*, dated Okolona, says: "No signs of the enemy in Northern Mississippi or in West Tennessee, except at Memphis and Charleston."

The Yankee programme is an advance from Vicksburg into Central Alabama, necessitating, as they suppose, the abandonment of Mobile.

Our forces occupy Corinth and Jackson. Neither have been destroyed, but everything has been carried off, including stock, farming implements, and household furniture.

The Yankee cavalry, in strong force, crossed the Big Black yesterday, or the day before, and were met by Jackson's cavalry. A lively fight took place. Perhaps this is the commencement of the general advance of the enemy.

TENNESSEE.

Our forces remained quiet in front of Knoxville save a little skirmishing. General Longstreet's headquarters are now at Russelville, though his cavalry forces are beyond Strawberry Plains. Knoxville is not yet evacuated, a portion of the Ninth Army Corps is still there. From gentlemen just through from there we gather the following items:

It is rumoured that our forces have destroyed two of the three small steamers used as transports by the enemy on the Tennessee river between Chattanooga and Loudon. The Yankees are building a star fort near Dr. Baker's, ten miles south of the city. The smallpox is raging at Knoxville. Among the recent victims is Mrs. Joroulman, wife of R. D. Joroulman, Esq.

The Yankees are erecting fortifications on Love's hills, four miles north-east of the city, on the Rutledge-road.

A few days ago Major Day, of Rucher's Legion, captured at Big Spring, Claiborne County, Tennessee, seventy-five Yankees, with their horses and arms, besides killing five or six and wounding several.

The Rev. R. M. Stevens, who was arrested by the Federals on their advent into East Tennessee, and sent to Camp Chase, died of hardships while being transported to that prison. Mr. John Bise, a citizen of Knoxville, died whilst *en route* from that city to one of the Northern bastilles.

We have some interesting intelligence from Knoxville, furnished by a gentleman who has been in the town ever since its occupation by the Yankees, until a short time since, when he succeeded in effecting his escape. The severity of the Federal rule, he represents, has pretty effectually killed the intense Unionism of many of the citizens of the place, and more completely determined the Southern portion of the population to continue the weight of its influence in behalf of Southern rights. When he left Knoxville a great deal of sickness prevailed, and there were over three hundred cases of small-pox in the city. The dead were being buried in yards and gardens, or wherever most convenient. Dead horses and mules were lying in the streets, and for more than a mile around the earth was strewn with decomposing carcases. The beautiful ornamental trees in the streets and in the grounds of private residences have been cut down, and even those in the Asylum grounds have been felled and consumed. The oppression of loyal citizens is represented to be cruel and despotic. They are not permitted to follow their occupations or to sell or buy without a permit from General Foster, and this cannot be obtained without taking the oath. Some who have not the means of procuring food have been starved into taking the oath, in order to draw the scanty rations allowed their loyal subjects. These rations consist of a hard cracker per day, and a little blue, stringy beef. A number of the citizens have been compelled to crowd themselves and effects into one or two rooms, while the other parts of their large and comfortable mansions are appropriated for officers' quarters. The whole country around is a waste of ruin and desolation.—*Richmond Papers, February* 6 *and* 7.

CONFEDERATE VICTORY NEAR NEWBERN.

KINSTON, February 3, 1864.

To General S. COOPER: I made a reconnaissance within a mile and a half of Newbern with Hoke's brigade, and a part of Corse's and Clingman's, and some artillery. Met the enemy in force at Batchelor's Creek; killed and wounded about one hundred in all, captured thirteen officers and two hundred and eighty prisoners, fourteen negroes, two rifled pieces and caissons, three hundred stand of small arms, four ambulances, three wagons, fifty-five animals, a quantity of clothing, camp and garrison equipage, and two flags.

Commander Wood, C.S.N., captured and destroyed the United States gunboat Underwriter.

Our loss thirty-five killed and wounded.

(Signed) G. E. PICKETT,
Major-General-Commanding.

The following despatch was also received by the Secretary of the Navy:

KINSTON, February 4, 1864.

Hon. S. R. MALLORY: The force under my command boarded and captured last night, the gunboat *Underwriter*, four guns, ninety men and officers. Her position, within musket range of several strong works, one of which was raking the vessel during the time we had possession, and her not having steam up, caused me to burn her. Our loss is twenty killed and wounded, and four missing. The enemy's unknown.

(Signed) J. TAYLOR WOOD.

One hundred and twenty Yankee prisoners from Newbern arrived yesterday, probably the crew of the gunboat *Underwriter.—Richmond Enquirer, February* 6.

VIRGINIA.

Orange Court-house. Feb. 2.—Reports received here this evening from several sources state that General Early has captured a force of Yankees at Petersburg, Hardy county, Virginia, estimated at 800.—*Telegram to Richmond Papers.*

The *Richmond Dispatch* of February 8, published the following:—

ORANGE COURT-HOUSE, Feb. 6, 1864.

To General S. COOPER:

On the 30th ult. General Rosser captured a train of ninety-three wagons, loaded with commissary stores and forage, on the way from New Creek to Petersburg; also 300 mules and twenty prisoners.

The guard of 800 infantry escaped to the mountains.

Our loss was twenty-five killed and wounded.

Information of the advance upon Petersburg having been received, the garrison evacuated it during the night.

On the 2nd instant General Rosser destroyed the bridges over Patterson Creek and north branch of the Potomac and canal, and captured forty prisoners.

Two hundred and seventy prisoners, fifty wagons and teams 1,200 cattle, and 500 sheep have been brought off.

General Rosser has shown great energy and skill, and his command deserves great credit.

R. E. LEE.

CHARLESTON TELEGRAMS.

February 5.—Eighty shots were fired at the city to-day, The monitors fired eleven and fifteen-inch shells.

February 6.—Eighty-eight shots were fired at the city to-day. There was no firing at Sumter. The enemy has been hauling ammunition all day to Gregg and Cummings Point batteries. There was a large fire on Folly Island to-day. It is supposed to have been caused by the burning of the Yankee. hospitals.

A gunboat in the Edisto river is lying high and dry. It is believed she will be destroyed.

February 7.—The enemy has ceased firing on the city, but continues working on the batteries and hauling ammunition.

MILITARY ITEMS.

General John C. Breckinridge has been appointed to succeed General Samuel Jones in the command of the Department of South-west Virginia.

Brigadier-General W. W. Mackall has been appointed Chief of Staff for General Joe Johnston.

General Morgan was in Columbia (South Carolina) on the 1st inst.

Lieutenant-General Polk has issued an order in his department which will prevent travelling through his lines and trading with the enemy.

General Bragg has left Montgomery, Alabama, and is on his way to Richmond.

The Meridian (Miss.) *Clarion* says the troops at that point have commenced re-enlisting for the war. Among other re-enlisting organisations are Wright's brigade, consisting of the 8th, 86th, 28th, 38th, 51st, 52nd Tennessee regiments, the Richmond Howitzers, the 1st Arkansas and 10th Mississippi regiments.

It is officially stated that the whole number of troops enlisted for actual service since the month of October is 100,000.

Among recent deaths are those of Colonel Cyrus A. Sug, 50th Tennessee, January 25; Hon. R. A. Harris, of the Mississippi Legislature, killed in an affray; Colonel Thomas M. Baker, South Carolina Regular Infantry; Rev. W. T. Walters, chaplain 2nd South Carolina regiment; Colonel H. M. Shaw, 8th North Carolina regiment.

THE CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

THE CONSCRIPTION OF FREE NEGROES AND THE EMPLOYMENT OF SLAVES IN THE ARMY.—On the 30th inst., in the House, the unfinished bill, reported from the military committee, to increase the efficiency of the army by the employment of free negroes and slaves in certain capacities, was taken up. This bill, in its original form, contains three sections. The first provides for the conscription of all male free negroes resident in the Confederate States, between the ages of eighteen and fifty years, to perform such duties with the army, or in connection with the military defences of the country, in the way of work upon the fortifications or in government work for the production or preparation of materials of war, or in military hospitals, as the Secretary of War may prescribe, but leaves it discretionary with the Secretary of War, with the approval of the President, to exempt such free negroes as the interests of the country may require should be exempted. The second section authorises the Secretary of War to employ for duties similar to those indicated in the first section, as many male negro slaves, not to exceed 20,000, as, in his judgment, the wants of the service may require; the owners of such slaves to be paid $1 per month for their use and service, and to be paid for him in case he is lost or dies while in such service. The third section provides that if the Secretary of War shall be unable to procure the services of slaves in any military department in sufficient numbers for the necessities of the department, upon the terms and conditions set forth in the preceding section, then he is authorised to impress as many male slaves, not to exceed 20,000, as may be required from time to time to discharge the duties indicated. An amendment was offered to this section which provides that if the owner have but one male slave within the ages of eighteen and fifty years, he shall not be impressed against the wish of the said owner. Substantially in this form the bill was passed, after considerable discussion.

THE Senate, in secret session, has passed a substitute for the House financial bill. The bill to establish a volunteer navy was also passed, and a bill to authorise the President to establish a military court for each division of cavalry in the field, and one for each State in any military department, whenever the public interest may require it. Resolutions complimentary of the Louisiana troops, who have re-enlisted for the war, were adopted, and the House bill to establish an asylum to be called "The Veteran Soldiers' Home," was adopted. The bill to provide and organise a general staff for armies in the field, to serve during the war, was passed. Al

staff officers are to be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate. A bill containing almost the identical provisions was passed by Congress at the last session, and vetoed by the President. The bill to organise forces to serve during the war was passed by the Senate in secret session.

FEDERAL BARBARITY.

A correspondent of the *Atlanta Register*, writing from Walhalla, South Carolina, January 24, says:—I presume you have heard of the recent invasion of Western North Carolina and a small portion of Towns county, Georgia, by a column of Yankee cavalry, 1,500 in number. They came from East Tennessee and entered North Carolina through the county of Cherokee. They were stopped by the want of subsistence for themselves and horses, and the frequent assaults upon them in their forages by the Carolina Home Guards, and a portion of the Indian forces of Thomas's Legion, then scouting the mountains in quest of bushwhackers. In their invasion and retreat, as usual, they pillaged indiscriminately, and carried off with them many negroes, horses, cattle, food, and clothing. But the climax of their atrocities was the capture of two Confederate soldiers at home upon furloughs, whom they delivered over to the merciless bushwhackers of West North Carolina and Tennessee, who immediately shot them. The names of these two soldiers were Young Colbert and Davidson.

A BRAVE WOMAN.

The Montgomery (Alabama) papers publish a letter from Miss Emma Sansom, who so heroically guided General Forrest in his memorable capture of General Streight and his raiders. This letter is in response to the one written by Governor Shorter, when transmitting the resolutions of the Legislature to Miss Sansom. Streight and his men were captured in Cherokee county, Ala., within a few miles of Miss Sansom's home.

GLADSDEN, Ala., December 20, 1863.

To His Excellency Governor SHORTER:

Respected Sir: I must acknowledge the receipt of your quite complimentary communication of November 27, 1863, and in doing so, tender my gratitude for the more than expected respect shown me for having done my duty. At the time the duty was performed it was a pleasure to be able to render some service to my country, and give aid to our noble cause. There are other duties that would seem more becoming and adapted to my sex, but feeling it my high privilege upon such an occasion, I went forward, inspired by a sense of duty and of the purest motives, willing to hazard woman's timidity in giving aid to impede the onward march of the marauding foe.

In conclusion, I must acknowledge my profound gratitude for the very liberal donation by the State; and while I continue to live, I shall endeavour to render myself not more unworthy of your high respect than heretofore.

I have the satisfaction to be, very respectfully, your friend,
EMMA SANSOM.

PERSONAL AND OTHER ITEMS.

The *Greensboro'* (Alabama) *Beacon* states that General Hardee was married, on the 18th January, to Miss Mary T. Lewis of that place.

Mrs. General R. E. Lee recently presented 37 pairs of gloves, made with her own hands, to a detail of men from the 53rd Regiment, North Carolina troops, engaged in rebuilding the plank road, near Orange Court House, Virginia.

Mrs. S. C. Lew, at the head of a delegation of ladies, passed through Atlanta last Thursday, in charge of 500 blankets and 1500 pairs of socks, designed for the needy soldiers of General Johnston's army.

In Petersburg, Virginia, on Friday last, Dr. C. K. Marshall collected from the citizens, in a few hours, $10,000, to be devoted to procuring artificial limbs for mutilated soldiers.

The Honourable Duncan K. McRae has become connected with the editorial department of the *Raleigh Confederate*.

The Virginia Legislature has incorporated a company for the manufacture of porcelain and earthenware in Augusta county. A glass factory has been established in Columbus, Georgia.

Mr. J. D. Mordecai, for thirty years a prominent merchant of Columbia, South Carolina, died recently after an illness of several weeks.

Hon. P. C. J. Weston, Lieut.-Governor of South Carolina, died on the 25th ult. at Conwayboro', South Carolina, of consumption, contracted while serving as captain of a company in General Bragg's army during the Kentucky campaign.

Robert S. Forde, of Kentucky, who killed R. E. Dixon, clerk of the Confederate Senate in Richmond in May last, was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to eighteen years' imprisonment.

Eighteen car loads of coffee passed through Petersburg, Virginia, on Friday, *en route* for General Lee's army.

Colonel Claudius Croset, an eminent civil engineer, died at Richmond on the 29th of January. He was a native of Lyons, France.

The steamer *Advance*, which recently ran the blockade, brought 10,000 pairs of shoes, 12,000 blankets, and 8,000 packs of cards for carding cotton and wool.

The Virginia legislature has been occupied in secret session with the discussion of a resolution requesting the Confederate authorities to suspend the ban of outlawry against Beast Butler until an exchange of prisoners is effected.

The Knoxville *Chronicle*, which was suspended on the evacuation of East Tennessee, has resumed regular daily publication at Charlottesville, Virginia, Mr. M. J. Hughs, editor and proprietor.

The Confederate States tobacco agent calls upon the producers to deliver their tithe of tobacco between June 1 and July 15.

LITERATURE IN THE CONFEDERACY.

Among the recent publications reviewed by various journals are the following:—

"The Age," a new literary journal.—Among the contents are:—Our Rancorous Cousins; After the Battle; Smith's English Grammar, "a scathing review of a Yankee publication palmed off on the Southern public"; Woolwich Arsenal; Unctuous Memories.

"Maryland's Hope," a pamphlet, by W. Jefferson Buchanan, a sequel to "Maryland's Crisis."

"Confederate States Medical and Surgical Journal."

"The Magnolia" Weekly.—Contents:—The Missing Form, a poem by Mrs. Jordan; Old Letters, by Professor Joynes; Rest from the March, a poem; General Carrington's Ward, and A Great Victory.

"Southern Illustrated News."—Thackeray, by John R. Thompson; The Little Boy Guiding the Plow (which a Southern paper says is the Yankee way of spelling plough), a poem; and three illustrations—one accompanying the text of Eleanor's Victory, a portrait of General Longstreet, and a humourous cut at the decay of hoops.

"The Southern Literary Messenger" for February announces, among its regular contributors, Jas. Barron Hope Professor M. Schele de Vere, Dr. G. W. Bagby, and Miss Augusta J. Evans, authoress of "Beulah."

Messrs. Ayres and Wade, of Richmond, announce "Eleanor's Victory," "Manual of Military Surgery," and "Surgery and Bandages." The fifth part of "Les Miserables" has just been issued. Messrs. Geo. Dunn and Co. have published a "Complete Grammar of the French Language," by Professor John Christison, carefully revised by Mr. F. W. Rosier.

"The Aide de Camp," a romance of the war, by James D., McCabe, jr., will shortly appear.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF MORGAN.

(From the *Richmond Dispatch*, February 7.)

The country looks forward with high hope to the future movements of General Morgan. If he had incentives to great enterprise before in his ardent patriotism and extraordinary energy, he has motives now which will add ten-fold vigour to his resolutions and fire his heart. The ignominy of his treatment in Columbus, and the cruel treatment, resulting in the death of one of the best and bravest of their number, which has been inflicted upon his imprisoned comrades in consequence of his escape, call trumpet-tongued for vengeance.

His nature is too noble and exalted to visit that vengeance upon the weak and defenceless—upon women, children, and old men—after the fashion of the cowardly savages among our enemies who have made mankind blush for their crimes. But every legitimate method of retaliation he is bound to accomplish by every dictate of self-respect, of justice to his outraged companions in Columbus, and last, though not least, of public policy. We are dealing with a foe who can only be mollified by the most vigorous measures, and who is governed by fear rather than kindness.

At the same time, we expect from General Morgan the greatest caution and prudence, for all the craft and subtlety that the most infernal malignity can suggest will be employed to entrap, circumvent, and destroy him. We believe that he is more than a match for Yankeedom in strategems as well as fight, and that he will prove as profound in counsel as vigorous in the field. The whole country says God speed to the glorious cavalier of the West. May he pay back with compound interest every wrong his comrades and himself have received, and achieve new glories for his immortal name.

A PREDICTION—BULL RUN TO BE RE-ENACTED.

(From the *Richmond Whig*, February 3.)

We venture a prediction that a rout more disgraceful than the Bull Run stampede awaits the Yankees in most of the conflicts likely to occur during the next campaign. They will have to enter upon it with all the disadvantages of raw levies, who will present but a poor bulwark against the gallant veterans of Lee and Johnston. As to the contingent of the three years' men likely to remain in service, if we take the estimates of Yankee authorities, they will not constitute a force sufficiently large to impart an air of martial discipline to the new organisation. The Bull Run stampeders were veterans compared with the material which will compose the new army. The former comprised the well-drilled volunteers of the different cities of the North, and they went cheerfully into the fight, encouraged by a foregone conviction of easy victory, and no dread experience of sad reverse to mar their assurances of triumph. The latter will enter into the conflict with unwilling hearts, novices in discipline, and with the doubts and fears which the presence of a grand army of indomitable veterans must inspire. They will, moreover, have to encounter the serious drawback of malarious infections and ordinary camp diseases, which committed such fearful havoc in the Yankee ranks during the first summer of the war. But we see no grounds to presume that the Yankees will bring into the field a larger force than we will. If they do, it must of necessity be of such material as cannot, if multiplied in the disproportion of ten to one, counterbalance the overpowering advantage which we shall possess in a well-disciplined veteran army. No result, however palpable, achieved now by our arms can be received as an index of what is to come, when we have the "greenhorns" to encounter. We do not desire to underrate in the least degree the fighting qualities of the Yankees. Recently they have done well—much better, indeed, than we ever thought them capable of doing. Our predictions as to what is to result from a conflict between the two armies are justified upon the plainest principles of military science. We, therefore, reiterate our expectation that the Bull Run scene will be re-enacted with increased dramatic effect in more than one conflict during the ensuing summer.

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE.—THE "CHESAPEAKE."

THE following despatches were read in the House of Commons on Friday last:—

"DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington,
January 9, 1864.

"The undersigned Secretary of State of the United States has the honour to present his respects to the Right Hon. Lord Lyons, accredited to this Government as the Minister Plenipotentiary of Her Britannic Majesty, and to state that he has submitted to the President certain papers which were placed in the hands of the undersigned by his lordship on the second day of this month, and which are described as follows:—1. Memorial of Susan Henry; 2. Affidavit of John E. Holt; 3. Memorial of John E. Holt; 4. Affidavit of John E. Holt; 5. Provincial Secretary to the Mayor of Halifax, December 19, 1863; 6. Mayor of Halifax to Provincial Secretary, December 19, 1863; 7. Same to same, December 22, 1863; 8. City Marshal to Mayor of Halifax, December 21, 1863; 9. Police-constable Hutt to City Marshal, December 21, 1863. The undersigned is authorised in the first place to express to his lordship his appreciation of the deficiency of manner in which his lordship has thus, without formal complaint, brought to the notice of this Government the fact that the commander and other officers of the United States' steamer *Ella and Annie* in their recent visit to Halifax, in pursuit of pirates who had captured the American steamer *Chesapeake*, and taken refuge within British jurisdiction, directly violated the sovereignty of Her Majesty, by the assumption of power and authority in the name of the United States, as well on board the said steamer *Chesapeake* as on board the British schooner *Investigator*, while within British waters, without having obtained consent thereto of the authorities of Her Majesty's Government there or elsewhere. The undersigned observes that in some of these papers it is represented that the acts of power and authority referred to were attended with circumstances of severity, rigour, and insult to British subjects. The undersigned, however, thinks that it sufficiently appears from the papers that the rigour and severity alleged were not greater than were necessary to secure the persons of the pirates in pursuit of whom the officers complained of were engaged, and to deliver them up to the British authorities of that place. He hopes that this view of the case may be taken by Her Majesty's Government. The undersigned would observe in the next place that the *Chesapeake* and the prisoners were promptly delivered to those authorities, in compliance with the instructions of this department. The undersigned is further authorised to assure Her Majesty's Government in the spirit of a former communication made by the undersigned to his lordship, relating to the capture of the *Chesapeake* in British waters, that the President disapproves and regrets the act of force, power, and authority which was exercised by the officers of the *Ella and Annie* within British waters on the occasion mentioned, as a violation of the law of nations and of the friendly relations existing between the two countries, so greatly to the satisfaction of the United States, and to the advantage of both nations. The President has reason to believe that the proceedings thus disapproved were taken by the officers concerned under the influence of a patriotic and commendable zeal to bring to deserved punishment outlaws who had offended against the peace and dignity of both countries. The President, while he recognises this circumstance as modifying the character of the transaction and mitigating the censure to be bestowed upon it, nevertheless freely concedes that it does not constitute a justification for the violation of the sovereignty of Great Britain which those officers have committed. He has, therefore, directed that they shall be censured for this violation, and he will take such other means as may be necessary to prevent a recurrence of the grievances complained of. Fully determined to make all the amends that are due to Great Britain in the premisses, the undersigned will await the consideration of Her Majesty's Government upon the case as it has now been submitted. The undersigned avails himself, &c.,

"To LORD LYONS," &c. W. H. SEWARD."

In reply to that despatch Lord Lyons was informed as follows:—

"FOREIGN-OFFICE, February 3, 1864.

"My Lord,—Your several despatches of the numbers and dates specified in the margin, respecting the case of the *Chesapeake*, together with the papers which have been received by the Secretary of State for the Colonies from the colonial authorities in North America, have been submitted to the law officers of the Crown for their opinion on the different questions raised in them. The greater part of those questions have reference to the administration of the law in the colonies, and I need not trouble your lordship with the view taken of them by the law officers of the Crown. The Secretary of State for the Colonies, to whom I have communicated the opinion of the law officers, will doubtless give full instructions to the several colonial authorities. The readiness which Mr. Seward, in his first communication with your lordship, manifested to make all proper and suitable reparation for the acts of the United States officers, has rendered it unnecessary for me to insist upon the questions which, under other circumstances, it would have been my duty at once to instruct your lordship to discuss with the Government of the United States—namely, the wilful and flagrant violation of Her Majesty's territory by the officers of the United States cruiser *Ella and Annie*. The Government of the United States having subsequently made, as reported in your lordship's despatch of the 12th of January, a full apology for the violation of Her Majesty's territory committed by its officers in the case of the *Chesapeake*, it is only necessary for me to authorise your lordship to state to Mr. Seward that Her Majesty's Government accept that apology in the same spirit in which it has been offered, and are truly glad that the matter has been settled in a manner honourable to both parties, and calculated to improve the friendly relations which Her Majesty's Government are always anxious to maintain with the Government of the United States. I am, &c.,

"RUSSELL."

THE ADVENTURES OF MORGAN AND HIS MEN.

(From the *Richmond Whig*, January 15.)

S. C. REID, the correspondent of the *Atlanta Intelligencer*, had an interview with Captain Henry T. Hines, at Dalton, Georgia, on the 4th instant, and obtained the particulars of his capture, escape from the Ohio Penitentiary, and return to Dixie. As the public are familiar with the circumstances of the capture, &c., we confine our extracts to the thrilling incidents of the return to the Confederacy, in company with General Morgan, which will amply repay perusal:—

"It had been previously determined that, on reaching the outer walls, the parties should separate, Morgan and Hines together, and the others to shape their course for themselves. Thus they parted. Hines and the General proceeded at once to the depot to purchase their tickets for Cincinnati. But lo! where was the money? The inventive Hines had only to touch the magical wand of his ingenuity to be supplied. While in prison he had the precaution, after planning his escape, to write to a lady friend in a peculiar cipher, which, when handed to the authorities to read through, openly contained nothing contraband; but which, on the young lady receiving, she, according to instructions, sent him some books in the back of one of which she concealed some "greenbacks," and across the inside wrote her name, to indicate the place where the money was deposited. The books came safe to hand, and Hines was flush. Going boldly up to the ticket office, while Morgan modestly stood back and adjusted a pair of green goggles over his eyes, which one of the men, having weak eyes, had worn in the prison.

"They took their seats in the cars without suspicion. How their hearts beat until the locomotive whistled to start! Slowly the wheels turn and they are off. The cars were due in Cincinnati at 7 a.m. At Dalton, Ohio, they were detained one hour. What keen anguish of suspense did they not suffer! They knew that at 5 o'clock a.m. the convicts would be called, and that the escape would then be discovered, when it would be telegraphed in every direction, consequently the guards would be ready to greet them on their arrival. They were rapidly nearing the city of Abolition hogdom. It was a cool rainy morning. Just as the train entered the suburbs, about half a mile from the depot, the two escaped prisoners went out on the platform and put on the brakes, checking the cars sufficiently to let them jump off. Hines jumped off first and fell, considerably stunned. Morgan followed unhurt. They immediately made toward the river, striking it at Ludlow's Ferry. Here they found a boy with a skiff, who had just ferried across some ladies from Covington. They dared not turn their heads for fear of seeing the guards coming. "Hines," whispered the General, "look out and see if anybody is coming!" The boy was told they wanted to cross, but he desired to wait for more passengers. The

General told him he was in a hurry, and promised to pay double fare. The skiff shot out into the stream; they soon reached the Kentucky shore, and breathed free.

"The boy had told them the place of residence of a lady friend; thither they bent their steps, and were received with the wildest demonstrations of joy and hospitality. They were afraid to tarry long. Horses were immediately procured for them, and that day, the 28th November, they rode to the town of Union, in Boone county, twenty-eight miles from Covington. There they stayed all night and the next day, leaving on the night of the 29th with volunteer guides, and travelling by neighbourhood and by-roads, passing through Gallatin county to the Owen county line, where they stopped with a friend and spent the day of the 30th. They resumed their travels at night, passing through New Liberty, crossed the Kentucky river, and at 2 a.m. on the 1st December stopped twelve miles on the other side of Newcastle. Pushing on that day, they arrived at night eight miles this side of Shelbyville, where they spent the day of the 2nd with their friends, meeting with a glorious reception. At night they departed again, passing through Taylorsville, and reached the vicinity of Bardstown on the morning of the 3rd. Here they remained over until the night of the 5th, having received a most cordial greeting and unbounded hospitality. Again advancing, they passed through glorious old Nelson county, stopping on Rolling Fork. On the 5th they laid over, and at night reached the vicinity of Greensburg, passing between the pickets of the enemy and their base. The fugitives had been joined by four others, and the party now consisted of six. They remained concealed inside of the enemy's pickets during the day of the 6th. Their trip through Kentucky has been one grand ovation, the ladies going wild with joy, and the men offering them everything in their power, showing that the true spirit still breathes in that down-trodden State.

"On the night of the 6th they procured guides to proceed to the Cumberland river, the road being thickly lined with Yankees. At 10 a.m. on the 7th they reached the Cumberland, nine miles below Burksville, having travelled sixty miles that night, and crossed the river in a canoe, swimming their horses and passing for Federal cavalry. That night they stayed at the house of a good Union friend, who, supposing them to belong to Jacob's cavalry, took the best care of them. On the 8th they passed into Overton county, Tennessee, following in the rear of a large Yankee scouting party, who, they learned, were in hot chase after Morgan. The General here learning that a number of escaped prisoners of his command were in the vicinity, a portion being under Captain Ray, he determined to wait until they could be collected, and then take them out, for which purpose he laid over until the 12th of December.

"The squad was now increased to forty men, under command of Captain Hines, and crossing a spur of the Cumberland by way of Crossville, between Sparta and Knoxville, they arrived at Bridge's Ferry, on the Tennessee river, at 10 o'clock in the morning of the 13th. There being no boat or skiff to cross, the party was compelled to fell trees to make a raft. This ferry was within two miles and a half of the Yankee cavalry camp. By 2 p.m. they had succeeded in crossing twenty-five men and six horses. At this time a cavalry force of the enemy appeared on the north side of the river and fired upon the party who had been engaged making the raft. The enemy succeeded in capturing three or four men, but the others made their escape back into Tennessee. At the same moment the enemy also appeared on the south side of the river, when General Morgan, Hines, and four others mounted their horses to escape.

"After riding two miles and a half from the river, Hines rode up to a house, for the purpose of procuring a guide, leaving Morgan and the other men in the road. Hines had obtained the guide when he heard Morgan halloo to him, and soon after a party of cavalry dashed up toward Hines, which, at first, he took for a part of our men, until they approached so close that escape was impossible. Hines had on a Yankee gun-cloth, which covered his clothes, and seeing that they took him for an "Abolish,' he feigned to be a Yankee. The Abolish captain riding up, said, 'Who are you?' 'One of you,' replied Hines. 'Where are the rebels?' asked the captain. "They have just gone down this road; come on and we will catch them," said Hines, riding off in the opposite direction from that taken by Morgan, who, at the time, was near the foot of the hill, and was thus enabled to escape. The party followed Hines, but soon after discovered him to be a true rebel, and taking away his arms, they threatened to hang him for misleading them.

"Hines was carried across the river to their camps and put under guard. He passed off for a private under the name of Bullitt. That night he ate up several letters and private papers, besides the notes of his trip, which would have condemned him, thus making a paper supper, which probably saved his neck. On the evening of the 14th the captain returned from the scout, and reported that the rebels had escaped. He had learned from a citizen that Morgan was one of the party, and suspected Hines of being an escaped prisoner. He charged him with being a Confederate officer, and questioned him very closely. In order to gain Hines' confidence and to pump him, he treated him very kindly and asked him to go to a Union man's house to take supper.

"On leaving the house about 9 p.m., which was half a mile from the camp, after getting off about ten steps, the 'Yankee' remembered he had left his shawl and went back. The night was dark, and Hines struggled with himself to gain his consent to escape, but considering the confidence and kindness of the officer, he concluded to wait until he got out of his hands. Hines remained in camp under guard during the night of the 14th, and the next morning was sent to Kingston, with an escort of ten men, where he was placed in gaol, and kept for five days without fire and almost without food. Here he found three of his comrades who had been captured on the other side of the river. On the 20th he and his three companions, William and Robert Church, and Smith of the 3rd Kentucky cavalry, were sent to the camp of the 3rd Yankee Kentucky infantry, opposite Loudon, on the Tennessee river, nineteen miles from Kingston. The prisoners were confined in a small house in the centre of the camp, the timber being cut down in every direction for half a mile, and there being but one path leading to the mountain from the camp, which was closely guarded. That night it was bright moonlight, but the moon went down just before daylight.

"Hines and his companions, by agreement, under pretence of being very cold, dressed themselves at the time, and sat down with the guards round the fire. At a given signal his comrades rose and stood round the fire, while Hines, keeping one of the guards busily engaged talking, quietly approached the door unobserved, raising the latch, giving the wink at the same time to his friends. Then turning suddenly, he threw the door wide open and said, with composure, "Gentlemen, we have remained here long enough; it is time we were going!" The guards were struck dumb with surprise, and thought it a joke. But before they could recover their senses, Hines flew past the guards in front of the house and ran like a deer for the woods. He heard a struggle for a moment near the house, and then a volley of minie balls whizzed by him. His three comrades must have been caught. The enemy pursued him to the wood and up the mountain for three-quarters of a mile, when they lost his track.

"Hines travelled six miles across the mountains that morning and lay concealed during the day. At night he approached a house in a valley, and finding the occupant a Unionist, he passed himself off as a Yankee government agent. In conversing about the rebels, the Unionist said that there were a few still lurking about, but as the river was well guarded there were but few places they could cross at, and mentioned one place, five miles below Loudon, where he said a rebel lived who kept a canoe. Hines made an excuse to go out that night, and proceeded to the ferry indicated, where he found the canoe and crossed the river. He soon found many friends on the south side of the river to aid him, and travelling altogether by night till out of danger, he finally arrived at Dalton, Georgia, on the evening of the 29th December, having walked the whole distance from Loudon."

GENERAL BANKS'S PROCLAMATION.

THE following is the order issued by General Banks "for the restoration of Louisiana to the Union:"—

HEADQUARTERS DEP'T OF THE GULF.
New Orleans, January 11, 1864.

To the people of Louisiana:—

I. In pursuance of authority vested in me by the President of the United States, and upon consultation with many representative men of different interests, being fully assured that more than a tenth of the population desire the earliest possible restoration of Louisiana to the Union, I invite the loyal citizens of the State, qualified to vote in public affairs, as hereinafter prescribed, to assemble in the election precincts designated by law, or at such places as may hereafter be established, on the 22nd day of February, 1864, to cast their votes for the election of State officers herein named, viz:—

I. Governor.
II. Lieutenant-Governor.
III. Secretary of State.
IV. Treasurer.
V. Attorney-General.
VI. Superintendent of Public Instruction.
VII. Auditor of Public Accounts.

Who shall, when elected, for the time being, and until others are appointed by competent authority, constitute the Civil Government of the State, under the Constitution and laws of Louisiana, except so much of the said Constitution and laws as recognise, regulate, or relate to slavery, which, being inconsistent with the present condition of public affairs, and plainly inapplicable to any class of persons now existing within its limits, must be suspended, and they are therefore and hereby declared to be inoperative and void. This proceeding is not intended to ignore the right of property existing prior to the rebellion, nor to preclude the claim for compensation of loyal citizens for losses sustained by enlistments or other authorised acts of the Government.

II. The oath of allegiance prescribed by the President's Proclamation, with the condition affixed to the elective franchise by the Constitution of Louisiana, will constitute the qualification of voters in this election. Officers elected by them will be duly installed in their offices on the fourth day of March, 1864.

III. The registration of voters, effected under the direction of the military governor and the several Union associations, not inconsistent with the Proclamation or other orders of the President, are confirmed and approved.

IV. In order that the organic law of the State may be made to conform to the will of the people and harmonise with the spirit of the age, as well as to maintain and preserve the ancient landmarks of civil and religious liberty, an election of delegates to a Convention for the revision of the Constitution, will be held on the first Monday of April 1864. The basis of representation, the number of delegates, and the details of election, will be announced in subsequent orders.

V. Arrangements will be made for the early election of members of Congress for the State.

VI. The fundamental law of the State is martial law. It is competent and just for the Government to surrender to the people, at the earliest possible moment, so much of military power as may be consistent with the success of military operation; to prepare the way by prompt and wise measures for the full restoration of the State to the Union and its power to the people; to restore their ancient and unsurpassed prosperity; to enlarge the scope of agricultural and commercial industry and to extend and confirm the dominion of rational liberty. It is not within human power to accomplish these results without some sacrifice of individual prejudices and interests. Problems of state, too complicate for the human mind, have been solved by the national cannon. In great civil convulsions, the agony of strife enters the souls of the innocent as well as the guilty. The Government is subject to the law of necessity, and must consult the condition of things, rather than the preferences of men, and if so be that its purposes are just and its measures wise, it has the right to demand that questions of personal interest and opinion shall be subordinate to the public good. When the national existence is at stake, and the liberties of the people in peril, faction is treason.

The methods herein proposed submit the whole question of government directly to the people: first, by the election of executive officers faithful to the Union, to be followed by a loyal representation in both houses of Congress; and then by a convention, which will confirm the action of the people, and recognise the principles of freedom in the organic law. This is the wish of the President. The anniversary of Washington's birth is a fit day for the commencement of so grand a work. The immortal Father of his Country was never guided by a more just and benignant spirit than that of his successor in office the President of the United States. In the hour of our trial let us heed his admonitions!

Louisiana, in the opening of her history, sealed the integrity of the Union by conferring upon its Government the Valley of the Mississippi. In the war for independence upon the sea she crowned a glorious struggle against the first maritime Power of the world, by a victory unsurpassed in the annals of war. Let her people now announce to the world the coming restoration of the Union, in which the ages that follow us have a deeper interest than our own, by the organisation of a free government, and her fame will be immortal!

N. P. BANKS, M.G.C.

EMANCIPATION AND EXTERMINATION.

(From the *New York World*, February 4, 1864.)

THE remarkable fact stated by our New Orleans correspondent, in the letter which we published yesterday, cannot have escaped the attention of our readers. Passing without comment his interesting statements relative to the management and productiveness of plantations under the new system, we wish to recall his startling picture of the demoralisation and mortality which prevails among the Louisiana negroes. Experience fully bears out the conclusions on the subject which intelligent minds had reached by reasoning. Examinations have in many cases been made into the health and well-being of the negroes on what are called the Government plantations, "and the report is one of most terrible mortality, *equal to that of those awful and hopeless days of slaveship*, from our infant recollection of whose rehearsal we recoil with so much horror." A few instances will suffice as specimens: On the Old Hickory plantation 443 negroes were placed on the 3rd of June, of whom 214 had died by the 11th of September. Of 300 placed on White Castle plantation only forty-two were found living on September 16. On the Antibes plantation only 178 were left out of 400, and a proportionate mortality was found on the Vintress, Magnolia, Lewis and Miss Taylor plantations. We commend these impressive facts to the earnest consideration of our northern negrophilists.

We have no desire to shield slavery. We shall be glad to know that it is crippled—that it is extinct. Our sole regret will be for the unhappy race who thus have misery and final extermination thrust upon them. For to discerning minds it is as clear as the noonday sun that the freedom of the Southern blacks must speedily lead to the annihilation of the race. Perhaps matters have reached such a stage that this is necessary. Perhaps it is ordained by that inscrutable Providence which sometimes makes blind human passions its instrument, that this unfortunate race shall be freed from the restraints as well as from the duties enforced by their masters, and be allowed to follow in the footsteps of the red man; be driven by an over-ruling fatality to reap the inevitable consequences of inferiority of race, in presence of a civilisation the advantages of which they cannot share and under the vices of which they must succumb.

Their speedy extinction will result from the operation of natural causes. The females are almost universally debauched by our soldiers, and the other vices which naturally engraft themselves on licentiousness aid it in its fearful inroads on the physical stamina of its victims. When under the supervision of their masters the diseases of the negroes received the prompt attention of physicians in their earliest stages, for they were too valuable as property to be allowed to die if medicine and nursing would save them. But all this is now changed on the forfeited plantations. Nobody has any but a sentimental interest in the preservation of their lives, and they are dying like cattle. Filth, idleness, exposure, irregularities, and vice have in less than two years so deteriorated their constitutions that their bodies are the natural food of pestilence, and when once an epidemic disease breaks out it is next to impossible to stay its ravages. General Banks has felt constrained to enforce an order, for reasons, as he says, of public health, prohibiting the negroes from going from one plantation to another. The debased morals, debilitated constitutions, and frightful mortality of these poor black wretches are a sickening commentary on Abolition philanthropy.

A RECORD OF YANKEE ATROCITY AND TREACHERY.

(From the *Richmond Examiner*.)

THE correspondence between the commissioners of exchange of prisoners, &c., reported to Congress is very voluminous, covering nearly one hundred octavo pages of printed matter. It, however, affords a summary of great historical interest, with reference to the conduct of the Yankees in the war; and with a view to this interest, we enumerate the points made by Commissioner Ould in the course of the correspondence. They constitute a text for one of the most striking chapters in the history of the war:

1. The arrest and detention of non-combatants.—The Yankee authorities have persistently refused to observe any reciprocal rule as to such parties. Their military commanders have been permitted to make arrests of non-combatants, without regard to their age, sex, or situation. Afterward, they have been thrown into prison, and there indefinitely retained, in most cases, without charges.

2. The retention of exchanged and unexchanged officers and men.—There are officers and men now in Federal prisons who have been there ever since the adoption of the cartel. Commissioner Ould has brought to the attention of the United States authorities again and again the names of some of the parties who were confined in violation of the exchange agreements. In some cases, after long delay, the parties were however, released. Other are still languishing in confinement.

3. The general orders of the enemy, and their connection with declaration of exchange.—So anxious has the Confederate Government been to remove all obstacles to a general exchange of prisoners, that when the computation and adjustment of paroles was made a subject of difficulty by the enemy, we promptly agreed to determine the whole matter in accordance with the general orders issued at Washington. This very liberal proposition has not been accepted by the Federal authorities.

4. The confinement of General Morgan and his officers in the penitentiary at Columbus, Ohio.

5. The detention of surgeons.—Before the date of the cartel surgeons were unconditionally released after capture. That rule was first adopted by the Confederate commanders, and was subsequently followed by the Federals. Some time ago one Rucker was indited by a grand jury in Virginia for several felonies. Although Rucker was never a surgeon in the Federal service, the enemy held Surgeon Green, of the Confederate navy, in retaliation. This caused retaliation on our part, in return, and surgeons were afterwards held in captivity on both sides. In this instance, the Federal authorities proved that they were ready to sacrifice their own medical officers in an endeavour to secure the release of a felon in no way connected with their medical service.

6. The capture of persons upon our rivers and the high seas.—By agreement with the Federal agent of exchange, all such who were captured before December 10, 1862, were declared exchanged. In spite of that agreement, some of our pilots and sea captains were kept in confinement. The correspondence fully shows the refusal of the Federal authorities to adopt any fair and reciprocal rule as to the further exchange of such persons.

This record should be preserved and illustrated for history. It is the incontestable evidence of the brutality and faithlessness of the Yankees contained in the records of an official correspondence, and is, so far, superior to those mere rumours and assertions of Yankee villany, which the world has been disposed to doubt, and to attribute to the exaggerations of our own prejudice and passion.

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

OUR friends in the United Kingdom and on the Continent are earnestly requested to forward to us, at their earliest convenience, such information relative to the military movements and condition of affairs in America as they may receive through private letters, either from the United States, or from the Confederate States. They may rely upon the most scrupulous precautions being observed; that no names or facts leading to identification will, under any circumstances, be revealed. No communications, however, will be noticed unless authenticated by a responsible name. Southern newspapers, of any date, will be useful and acceptable presents.

Our subscribers in the South will have their paper supplied through HENRY HOTZE, Esq., the Confederate States Commercial Agent in London, who has kindly tendered us his services in this respect during the continuance of the blockade.

For the convenience of our distant subscribers, all the receipts for subscriptions signed by any of the official representatives, or commissioned officers of the Confederate States, will be recognized at this office.

Subscription, 26s. per annum—post paid, 30s., payable in advance.

All communications on business to be addressed, and Post-Office Orders made payable to, J. B. HOPKINS, 13, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street, London E.C.

The INDEX may be obtained, and payments for subscriptions or other dues to the paper made:—

At Liverpool, to MR. HUTTON, 6, Commercial-buildings, 17, Water-st.

At Manchester, F. A. HASLEHAM, Esq., Manchester Southern Club Office, Market-street.

At Paris, to Messrs. PFEIFFER and MULLER, 52, Rue du Château d'Eau, Paris.

At Turin, to Sr. FILIPPO MANETTA, 4, Borgo Nuovo.

At St. Thomas (West Indies), C. W. WHITE, Esq.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1864.

The Campaign Developing.

THE fourth year of the struggle between North and South has commenced, and on both sides gigantic preparations are making for a decisive issue. There seems only too much reason to believe that the war will spread this spring over a wider area, and will be waged with deadlier fury than ever, and the latest news shows that neither Federals nor Confederates intend to lose time, and that as soon as the roads are practicable, we shall have accounts of important movements and great battles. The campaign opens, however, under decidedly favourable auspices for the South. The seige of Charleston is at length abandoned. Gilmore and Dahlgren, after hammering away at forts Sumter and Moultrie for six months, have sailed farther south to a safer place, and virtually all offensive operations for the capture of the Palmetto City are discontinued. The Federals have lost a small army by disease and casualties; have found their ironclads a failure, and have sacrificed some half-a-dozen ships of war. On the other hand, they have destroyed a few houses in Charleston, knocked the walls of Sumter into ruins, and occupied Morris Island. If the balance-sheet of the Federal expenditure upon Charleston could be exhibited with the results, we believe such a humiliating display would be made of big words, big figures, and small achievements, as would disgust even the *New York Herald*. It will take nearly one year's successes to compensate for this failure. Nothing was looked for with such pleasing anticipation in New England as the capture of Charleston; nothing would have been so bright a feather in Mr. Lincoln's cap; nothing would have better helped on the Federal cause in Europe. Mr. Adams, when he asked for a few more shells from General Gilmore's big guns in aid of his advocacy at the British Court confessed as much. He will write some very desponding letters to Mr. Seward, now that his last hope has disappointed him. For the Southern Confederacy the triumph is complete, and for the brave sons of South Carolina. There has been nothing more heroic in the history of the war than the defence of Forts Wagner and Sumter; nothing has better illustrated the devotion of the Southerner to his cause than the gallant resistance against the overwhelming resources of the Northern States by the citizens of Charleston. Not that their trial can be considered at an end. The ironclad squadron will maintain its threatening attitude; the guns of Fort Wagner will continue to pour their Greek fire into Charleston, and possibly some attempt may be made in the course of the year to attack by land where entry by sea has been found impossible. At any rate for some months Charleston has very little to fear, and the strength of a portion of her garrison may be devoted to a weaker point. For the present the designs of the Federal commanders are not sufficiently developed to enable us to point out with any certainty where the danger may arise. Two important movements are announced, both striking at the cotton States; the one from Vicksburg eastward along the Mississippi line; the other from Jacksonville, Florida, where Gilmore's army landed on the 8th instant. The command of the Mississippi expedition is entrusted to General Sherman, a resolute and able soldier, who has distinguished himself repeatedly in Grant's campaigns. According to Confederate accounts his whole force marched out of Vicksburg on the 5th inst., crossing the Black river in the direction of Meridian. The intention of the Federal general was supposed not to be an attack upon Mobile, but a direct movement into Alabama, which would threaten the rear of Johnson's army in Georgia. Such a movement would be extremely foolhardy if it were unsupported, but with Grant's army at Chattanooga ready to push on for Dalton when the roads are dry, and another Federal force marching northward from Tallahassie, Florida, into the heart of Georgia, Johnston's army would find itself menaced on three sides almost simultaneously. This plan looks well on paper, and is just the one to attract the Yankees, but somehow or other these vast concerted movements never do succeed. The Anaconda scheme was grand in conception, but a miserable failure in execution, and we confidently predict the same result in the cotton States. For there are no great rivers here to transport the Federal supplies, but there are immense distances to march in a killing climate, deadly swamps to cross, and a bitter enemy to encounter in every village and town. Johnston's army in Georgia, with the reinforcements available at Savannah and Mobile, will at any time muster men enough to outnumber either Sherman or Gilmore. We have no fear for the Confederacy in this quarter. It may be, however, that Sherman's corps is after all destined to take Mobile in the rear, and that the object of the landing at Florida is to distract the attention of the Confederates. This we shall learn in a week or two.

For the present the principal interest of the war centres in Knoxville. It is tolerably clear that the capital of Eastern Tennessee with the garrison occupying it has been surrounded. Communications with Knoxville and Cumberland Gap have been cut off; Sevierville and, later, Marysville, have been occupied by the Confederates. There are no Federal troops available for the relief of General Scholefield *viâ* Kentucky. We doubt very much if General Grant is in a position to spare 25,000 men for Knoxville, and a smaller number would hardly dare to attempt the march from Chattanooga at this season of the year. The Federal army at Knoxville, then is in immediate danger, and as we have shown repeatedly, if Knoxville falls to the Confederates Chattanooga cannot long be held by General Grant, much less can the Federals march on into Georgia and attack the strong position of Johnston's army in the neighbourhood of Dalton. It is significant of the danger of the Federals at Knoxville, that within the last three months three generals have held command at Knoxville. General Burnside was relieved by General Foster, and now it is General Scholefield. The first abandoned his post on the plea of "urgent private affairs;" the second on the ground of ill health. General Scholefield might be excused if he declined to take up a command which his predecessor had resigned for such excellent reasons. At Newbern the Confederates have returned to the charge, and the Federal army is by no means safe. An ironclad gunboat is said to be co-operating with the land forces engaged in the attack; and it will not surprise us to learn that Newbern has fallen. Thus on two points we learn that the Confederates have resumed the offensive; whilst from Virginia it is reported that Lee's army has inflicted a severe repulse on the enemy's advance, and that General Sedgwick has fallen back upon his camp—*à la* Meade. The latter general, *pour encourager les autres*, as Voltaire would say, has in the meantime announced to a delighted Philadelphia audience that since March, 1861, the army of the Potomac alone had lost not less than 100,000 men, killed and wounded. This is only half the truth, but the announcement will no doubt tickle the ears of the New York mob, and furnish one more proof to the New York press of the power of the North. And it says little for General Meade's qualities as a leader. A commander who inaugurates a new campaign by reminding his soldiers of a series of humiliating disasters and terrible losses, may be a useful opposition orator, but is hardly likely to achieve any great military success. We have only one more interesting incident to narrate, and that is, how, while Meade was uttering his Jeremiad over the casualties of the army of the Potomac, eight miles from Harper's Ferry an express train was captured, and the passengers robbed. "It is not known," says the telegraphic operator with some *naïveté*, "whether the attack was made by Confederates or gangs of Federal deserters." Sufficient is known, however, to warrant the assertion that the South has at this moment armies stronger, better armed, and better disciplined than she ever placed in the field before; that her confidence in her cause, in the valour of her sons, and in the skill of her generals, is unabated; and that wherever the armies of the North make a forward movement there they will meet a resolute enemy. It would not become us to predict success. We knew before the war, and its experiences have taught us the lesson again and again—that the race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong; but, humanly speaking, we dare say that at no period of the war was the South better prepared to meet the fury of the invader, and more confident in its ability to roll back the tide of invasion, which months ago had expended its whole strength and broke impotently against the strong barrier raised by Southern manhood.

The Twenty-Second Instant.

MONDAY, the 22nd of February, was the birthday of a man whose name is among the most famous in history, and whose monument was among the greatest that mortal man ever left behind him. There are Englishmen, true to the faith of their fathers, who regard George Washington only as the leader of an unprovoked rebellion and the author of a cruel murder; who speak of him only as the prophets spoke of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, "which made Israel to sin." It is not our business to enter into controversy with the principles of the past or with those who still cling to them. Most Englishmen have agreed to waive this interminable dispute, and to regard the greatest enemy England ever encountered not as the English rebel but as the American statesman. In that capacity he commands the respect of all politicians, American and European, as the chief author and principal support of a scheme which, whatever its imperfections, consolidated the interests of disputing States, and fostered the growth, in peace and security, for more than eighty years, of two great nations. Both those nations profess a reverence for his name which has seldom or never been accorded to the memory of mortal man. Even those who have plundered his patrimony and laid waste his native State, who have violated the principles for which he fought and torn up the Constitution under which he ruled for eight years as President of the United States, pretended to revere him; and it is only by a frantic and thoroughly despised minority that the memory of George Washington is cursed as that of a "slave-holder." In the South, the example of the Virginian statesman is considered the best and most decisive precedent in favour of the claims which his countrymen are now asserting; and the fact that Washington was called a rebel is thought to make that opprobrious epithet almost a title of honour. His birthday, two years ago, was chosen for the proclamation of the permanent Constitution of the Confederate States, and will be, probably, for many generations to come, their great national festival. No one who compares the events which led to the rebellion against England with those which compelled the secession of the Southern States from the Union can well gainsay the right of the latter to invoke in their favour the example of the leader of the first American

Revolution. The colonists, subjects of George III., had but one grievance to allege against their king; he had demanded of them a contribution to the expense of their own defence, and had attempted to levy it by the authority of the Imperial Parliament. For years and years the North had taxed the South enormously, not for the common defence, but solely for the profit of certain Northern manufacturers and merchants; and it had broken in a hundred instances the fundamental compact which held the Union together before the States aggrieved—not subjects but equal Confederates—were driven to declare the Union at an end.

The President of the Northern States has hit on a remarkable method of solemnising this anniversary in the year 1864. By order of his lieutenant at New Orleans, a convention has been called at that city, to vote the State of Louisiana back into the Union. Three-fourths of that State are, territorially, in the possession of the Confederates. Ninety-nine hundredths of the native population of that State are thoroughly loyal to the Government of their choice. General Banks could by no possibility obtain from the people of Louisiana any concession to their enemies; least of all could he obtain their consent to return into Federal union and political fellowship with those who have ravaged their soil, burnt their homes, stolen their property, debauched their servants, outraged their wives and daughters, and offered to the whole womanhood of the State the foulest insult that ever a dastard in uniform dared to inflict on defenceless ladies. What must the men of Louisiana be, if any menaces could coerce or any bribes reduce them to swear allegiance to Abraham Lincoln, the patron and friend of Butler—the President by whom that loathsome and cowardly scoundrel was maintained so long in the government of New Orleans, to torture old men and victimise unprotected women? Certainly the wretches who could send in their submission to such a master could not be the brothers of those soldiers who, against overwhelming odds, maintained the honour of the South at Corinth and Chickamauga. They could not claim kindred with the indomitable resolution of England or the fearless chivalry of France; they must be degenerate to a degree exceeding the degeneracy of the mixed races of Mexico, and have lost the very recollection of European manhood. There are cowards and renegades among all races; but few indeed in any country who are capable of such utter baseness as would be implied by the submission of Louisianians to the yoke of President Lincoln and General Butler. Accordingly it is not on native traitors and cowards that General Banks relies. The Federal President has, as our readers will remember, issued a proclamation expressly directed to further such transactions as that which General Banks has taken in hand. He has ordered that, when one-tenth of the number of qualified voters in any State shall have taken the oath of allegiance, they may call a convention, establish a new constitution, and bring the State back into the Union; being themselves acknowledged by Congress and supported by the Federal arms as the lawful State government. It is necessary only that the new constitution should exclude slavery, which, as the wisdom of Congress has very recently discovered, is inconsistent with a Republican form of government. Of course General Banks's army and camp followers, black, white, and mixed, with the swarm of Yankee plunderers whom he has located on the plantations within reach of his protection, amount to one-tenth of the regularly qualified voters of Louisiana. They are not qualified in any sense whatever, but that is a matter of very small importance, and easily disposed of when Federal officers preside at the polls, when Federal troops occupy the streets, and Federal spies take care that the real citizens of Louisiana have no chance of interfering. If any objection be raised to the vote of a runaway negro from North Carolina, or a sutler from Massachusetts, the objector will be at once set down as "suspect," and sent to rot in a Federal dungeon. An artificial State of Louisiana will be created, nay, is by this time created—consisting of the offscourings of New York, Boston, and New Orleans; of the worst sort of negroes, and the vilest species of Yankee—the few redeeming citizens being Irish and German exiles who have found their way into the ranks of the Federal army. By this bogus State a bogus Convention is elected, which will create a sham Constitution, and give orders for the election of a sham governor and a sham legislature, of sham members of the Federal Congress, and sham electors to cast the vote of Louisiana at the Presidential election of 1864.

This is the explanation of the very strange scheme invented by Mr. Lincoln, and the proceedings taken under it. The Presidential election is nigh at hand. An Electoral College has to be chosen, in which each State has a number of votes equal to the number of its representatives and senators in Congress. A majority of the whole number of electors—not merely of those who are present—is required to a choice; if there be no such majority, the election falls to the House of Representatives, where the vote is given not by heads but by States. Hence our readers may understand the value of the manœuvre to which, under the sanction of Congress, Mr. Lincoln has resorted. If the Southern States be not represented at the election of 1864, Mr. Lincoln will be between the horns of a dilemma. He must either allow the election to proceed without them, thereby virtually confessing that the Northern States form the whole Union; or it is eminently likely that no candidate will obtain a majority of the whole Electoral College. That consisted, in 1860, of 303 votes, and is assumed still to include them all. Now of these votes the seceded States (not counting Missouri and Kentucky) held 88; and these are now withdrawn. There remain 215 votes; but the majority required is not 108 but 152. This majority, it is thought, may very probably not be obtainable in the North, in favour of any one candidate; and thus the choice would fall into the hands of the House of Representatives. But if several of the Southern States be represented by nominees of the Federal generals and their chief at Washington—if to the thirty-two coerced votes of Maryland, Delaware, Missouri, and Kentucky be added the votes, exercised by artificial "States," in the name of Louisiana, Tennessee, Virginia, and the Carolinas (to do which would only require about 50,000 soldiers and camp-followers, under the one-tenth clause), and perhaps of Mississippi, Arkansas, and Texas—then President Lincoln would have nearly one hundred votes in the Electoral College at his own absolute command, and might confidently reckon upon re-election. Again, supposing he failed here, and the matter came into the House of Representatives. As things stand now, Mr. Lincoln could reckon on a majority of heads, but not of States. This majority of heads, however, implies the votes of at least four, and probably of seven or eight States; and if we add to these the votes of the bogus Southern States, it is plain that he will have a majority of States at his command, and be able in any event to ensure that re-election on which, as is now well known, he has set his heart. No President, since the days of Andrew Jackson, has ever been re-elected: but the honour of a second term, denied to Van Buren, Taylor, Polk, Pierce, and Buchanan, is arrogated by Abraham Lincoln—and who shall dare to gainsay him?

This political manœuvre sheds a flood of light over some military movements which it has been very difficult to comprehend. In a strategical point of view, nothing could be more foolish than that dispersion of the Federal forces which has almost neutralised their vast superiority in numbers. Though aware that no diversions would distract the attention of the Confederates from the main purpose of the war, they have sent multitudes of little expeditions to all parts of the Southern coast. They have made it their boast that they have a lodgment in almost every Southern State; and the boast is true. They have a foot-hold in every State except Georgia and Alabama. They have no more than a foothold, except in Tennessee, in any of the eleven Confederate States east of the Mississippi. These footholds are of no military use, and they detain in useless and demoralising idleness large bodies of men who might be better employed. We now perceive their purpose; they enable the Government, under the one-tenth clause, to bring back as many States as it pleases into the Union, and obtain any number of votes required for its purposes. For the same purposes campaigns west of the Mississippi, where no victories can affect the issue of the war, have been undertaken, to obtain a pretence for adding to the strength of the Federal Government the votes of Texas and Arkansas. This is the secret history of the "great anaconda policy;" and we recommend its ingenuity to the admiration of all in Europe, or elsewhere, who wish to carry on a tyranny under the forms of popular government.

These proceedings do not in any way concern the Confederates. It is painful to their feelings, no doubt, that a collection of the scum of Europe and Yankeedom should be christened by the honoured names of Louisiana, or Virginia, or South Carolina; that the vilest creatures of Lincoln and Butler should fill the seats at Washington vacated by Davis and Randolph, by Slidell, Benjamin, and Mason, and call themselves the representatives of Southern States. But it is, perhaps, a sufficient consolation under so poor an insult to reflect that these gentry, by assuming the title of citizens of Louisiana or her sister States, have rendered themselves liable, should they at any future time venture within the jurisdiction of those States, to be dealt with as traitors. There is no doubt whatever, that a citizen of Louisiana who accepts a seat in Congress or a State office at the hands of the new "State" created by the public enemy is guilty of treason; and the offender will not be allowed to plead that his citizenship was in fact a mere pretence and imposture. Beyond this, the Southerners have no concern with the matter. It matters little to the people of New Orleans and Norfolk whether they are ruled by a Federal General or by one of his camp-followers, for, in the Northern army, Generals and sutlers owe their respective positions to mere accident or favour, and to no distinction of merit or education.

But the North has surely some interest in resisting the creation of sham States, and the intrusion of their representatives into the national legislature. Already Mr. Lincoln has military control of four States, and can and does determine their elections by his arbitrary pleasure; is he to be allowed to add to this number as he will, and to swamp with his creatures the Senate and House of Representatives? Will New York tamely submit to have her vote in the Senate—the vote of 700,000 electors, neutralized by five or six thousand rowdies, renegades, and fugitive slaves at New Orleans? Will Pennsylvania allow her whole political powers to be overbalanced by the nomination of senators and representatives by the military authorities in Virginia and Tennessee? Will the North, in a word, allow Mr. Lincoln to nominate at his pleasure, besides the control he now exercises over Maryland and her sisters in captivity, 22 senators, 66 representatives, and 88 presidential electors? For this he will be able to do, if he be permitted to carry out the curious experiment in constitutional law which has just been tried in Louisiana. A hundred thousand soldiers and camp followers, scattered over the South, will be able to neutralise the votes of New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, whose electoral population amounts to 1,600,000; and we need not say that these artificial States will be nothing but "rotten boroughs" in the hands of the executive Government of the day. The Northern people seem to have made up their minds to endure four more years of Mr. Lincoln's rule; but if they allow him to carry out the plan which has been set at work in Louisiana they will find that they have given him more than they meant to do; that he is not only President and Commander-in-Chief, with arbitrary power of arrest, and with that liberty to dispense with the laws which was claimed by James II., but that he is also the master of the legislature and of the people, concentrating in himself the electoral, senatorial and representative power of eleven sovereign States. The despotic power of Cæsar—the most terrific tyranny that the world has ever known—also exercised under constitutional forms, rested upon a slenderer grant of military and political prerogatives, upon a less extensive union of privileges and powers in the head of the Government.

The "Alabama" and the "Tuscaloosa."

THE ingenious author of the letters which bear the signature of "Historicus" and which have done such meritorious service for the policy of Earl Russell, has enlightened the British public with an exposition of the law of nations as applicable to the two famous ships the *Alabama* and the *Tuscaloosa*. In his latest effort he has arrived at one conclusion, from which in all probability no English politician or lawyer of any position will for a moment dissent. On that point it will suffice to state the result of his argument. An adhesion to his judgment on certain other questions will not be so readily given, and his reasoning thereon will require a more elaborate consideration.

First, then, Historicus refers to the demands put forward by Mr. Seward for compensation for the destruction of Federal merchantmen by the *Alabama*. He declares that it "is impossible to find any basis either of authority or of reason to give colour to such a claim; that the injury arising from the violation of the right of neutrality is an injury primarily and essentially to the neutral, and not to the belligerent." Moreover, he points out that the former American practice is conclusive against such pretensions; for although during the war of the Spanish colonies the American courts decreed restitution of prize captured by a cruiser unlawfully equipped whenever the prize happened to be brought *infra presidia*, yet the Government of the United States never pretended to deal with the cruiser herself and never acknowledged any claim on the part of the foreign Power to compensation.

Historicus next proceeds to the capture of the *Sea Bride* on August 5th, 1863, by the *Alabama* in the Bay of Saldanha. He admits that the capture took place more than three miles from the shore. But on the other hand, on the authority of Lord Stowell, in the case of the *Twee Gebroeders*, (Rob. Rep., p. 165) it is said that "it is unlawful for a ship to avail herself of a station on neutral territory, making as it were a vantage ground of the neutral country," and that the act of the *Alabama* comes under this category. It is admitted, however, that in the case of the *Vrow Anna Catharina* (5 Rob. Rep. p. 18)

a distinction was taken between the "making a harbour an *habitual* station for captures," and the instance of a ship *accidentally* lying in the port, and going out to capture an enemy whom she sees approaching." Consequently the whole matter resolves into a question of fact. The *Alabama* entered the Bay of Saldanha on July 28 for the purpose of repainting, and remained till August 5, on which day she sailed for Table Bay and captured the *Sea Bride* beyond the neutral boundary on her way out. No further details appear. Yet on that amount of information Historicus pronounces his judgment that the *Alabama* is not entitled to the benefit of the distinction taken in the *Vrow Anna Catharina*.

This, however, seems to be a matter of trifling importance, compared with the assumptions and propositions laid down in the letter with respect to the *Alabama* herself. Historicus advises that "we should deny to the *Florida* and the *Alabama* access to our ports, by way of expressing in a legitimate and dignified manner our disapproval of the fraud which has been practised on our neutrality." He says, "It is a sound and salutary rule of international practice, established by the Americans themselves in 1794, that vessels which have been equipped in violation of the laws of a neutral State, shall be excluded from that hospitality which is extended to other belligerent cruisers on whose origin there is no such taint. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Washington compelled all the French privateers which had been illegally fitted out in America against England to leave the ports of the United States, and orders were issued to the Custom-house officers to prevent their return." We assume, for the sake of the argument, that the *Alabama* was equipped in contravention of the Foreign Enlistment Act, and we ask any candid person of ordinary plain sense whether the flaw in the above reasoning is not as glaring as the noonday sun. The vessels which the Cabinet of Washington thus treated were *privateers;* the *Alabama* is not a privateer. She is the property, not of one or more private individuals, but of the Government of the Confederate States. She is owned by a belligerent Power, and has a public and national character. In no way is it possible, by reason or authority, to distinguish her from a ship of Her Majesty's navy, unless it be imagined that the Confederate States in its sovereign capacity cannot own property, and that a Government which can issue commissions, has no title to the possession of a gun or a vessel. It will be time enough to exclude the *Alabama* from the rights of hospitality when a precedent has been discovered for the subjection of a French public ship of war to the treatment awarded by the Cabinet of Washington to French privateers. Beyond all doubt, the English Government can exclude the *Alabama* from the British ports, but on the one condition that it also denies access to the ships of war of the Federal States.

Next comes the case of the *Tuscaloosa*, which was captured in August last, being at that time the Federal ship *Conrad*. After her capture she put into Simon's Bay, in the character of a man-of-war belonging to the Confederate States, duly commissioned, and under the command of Lieutenant Lowe, of the Confederate States navy. A claim was put in by her original owner, but she was permitted to depart unmolested from Simon's Bay. On her return thither in December last she was seized, on the strength of instructions sent from England. At present it is extremely difficult to arrive at the grounds of the seizure. Historicus evidently feels that he is treading on thorns, and seems much inclined to hold that, if the commission of Lieutenant Lowe was valid, the seizure was unjustifiable. Even there, however, a difficulty confronts him, for the case of the *Nereyda*, tried in 1823 (8 Wheaton Rep., p. 109), seems to him to conflict with the case of the *Exchange*, tried in 1813 (7 Cranch Rep., p. 116). In the former case the court claimed the right to condemn a duly commissioned vessel of war; but in the latter case such a power was utterly disclaimed. In our opinion both decisions are sound and reconcilable, but it is at least very remarkable that here also Historicus has overlooked the very point which he had already neglected in speaking of the *Alabama*. The *Nereyda* was a privateer; the *Exchange* was a vessel of the imperial navy of France. That distinction is clearly pointed out in what Historicus calls the masterly argument at the bar in the *Nereyda*. There the counsel said, "The commission in the case of the *Exchange* was an evidence or muniment of the sovereign's title. The restitution of the *Exchange* could not have been effected without judging of the validity of the original seizure, annulling the commission, and pronouncing a sovereign's title wholly void." The case of the *Nereyda* moreover is adduced as "on all fours" with the *Tuscaloosa*, but this is by no means a satisfactory view. What were the facts in the case of the *Nereyda?* She, being a ship of war of the royal navy of Spain, was captured by the privateer *Irresistible*, a vessel equipped at Baltimore, and commissioned by José Ortegas, chief of the Oriental Republic of Rio de la Plate, and was condemned by a court in the island of Margaritta in Venezuela; after condemnation she was sold, as alleged, to one Julio Francesche, and commissioned as a privateer by the Government of Venezuela. Having put into a port of the United States, she was claimed by the Spanish consul, and judgment was given in favour of the claim. Now it is to be observed that the decision of the judge, so far as it went, rested almost entirely on the absence of any evidence of the title of Julio Francesche, but from the arguments at the bar it may be deduced, first, that the commission of the *Irresistible* was void, as not being granted by a recognised belligerent Power, and therefore that the captor was a mere pirate; second, that the *Nereyda* came into port as a privateer without even an ascertained owner. The *Tuscaloosa*, on the other hand, was captured by a public vessel, and returned to Simon's Bay as a duly commissioned ship of war, not belonging to a private individual, but to a sovereign State. The distinction is obvious, but it may further be remarked that in reality the *Nereyda* is worthless as an authority on the points at issue, for the judgment never touched them.

But what again were the facts in the case of the *Exchange?* This vessel, being the property of a citizen of the United States, then at peace with France, sailed from Baltimore to St. Sebastian in Spain, and was there seized under the decrees of Napoleon I. She passed into the imperial navy, *without condemnation by a prize court*, was armed, and cruised in the Atlantic. Having put into the port of Philadelphia she was claimed by her original owner. What was the language of Chief Justice Marshall? "It seems to the Court," he said, "to be a principle of public law that national ships of war entering the port of a friendly Power open for their reception are to be considered as exempted by the consent of that Power from its jurisdiction. The *Exchange*, being a public armed ship in the service of a foreign sovereign with whom the Government of the United States is at peace, and having entered an American port open for her reception on the terms on which ships of war are generally permitted to enter the ports of a friendly Power, must be considered as having come into the American territory under an implied promise, that while necessarily within it and demeaning herself in a friendly manner she should be exempt from the jurisdiction of the country." The whole gist of the judgment is the immunity of a public ship of war, irrespectively of all antecedents; and it is difficult to imagine a precedent more thoroughly proving the immunity of the *Tuscaloosa*, provided, of course, that she is the property of the Confederate Government and is duly commissioned. As to the evidence of her character, the matter is simple, and is defined in the argument in the *Exchange*: "The flag, the public commission, and the possession of the officer, have always been sufficient evidence at sea or in port, and for fiscal or executive purposes. Why not in judicial proceedings? No public vessel ever carries any other document." And such evidence was admitted to be sufficient.

It is but just, however, to glance at a precedent which might be adduced to throw doubt on the doctrine of immunity, so clearly laid down by Chief Justice Marshall. The *Cassius*, which belonged to the French Republic, but had been unlawfully equipped within the territory of the United States, was seized in a port of North America on proceedings on a libel for damages in the District Court, brought by a citizen of the United States, whose vessel had been captured by the *Cassius*. The proceedings were at once superseded by the Supreme Court (3 Dall. 132). Subsequently an information *qui tam* was brought in the Circuit Court, and dismissed for want of jurisdiction (2 Dall. 369), and from a note appended to the report in 3 Dall., it seems that "the French Minister, deeming the prosecution to be a violation of the rights and property of the Republic, delivered a remonstrance to the American Government, and *converting the judicial inquiry into a matter of state*, abandoned the corvette and discharged the officers and crew." Now, it is very remarkable that in the case of *l'Invincible* (1 Wheaton, p. 233) the judge, Mr. Justice Johnson, speaks of the *Cassius* as having been prosecuted and condemned. Yet the reports seem to be silent as to any condemnation, and the note in 2 Dall. appears to refute such an idea.

The words of Mr. Justice Johnson are as follows: "The hull or the owners of the privateer may, perhaps, under some circumstances be subject to damages in a neutral court, *after* the courts of the captor have decided that the capture was not sanctioned by the sovereign. In the case of the *Cassius*, which belonged to the French Republic, the vessel was finally prosecuted and condemned on an information *qui tam*, under the Act of Congress for an illegal fit out, and thus had applied to her under the statute the principle which dictated the decision in the case of Talbot *v.* Jansen (3 Dall. 133) with relation to a private armed vessel." It may be remarked that Talbot *v.* Jansen was a case of simple piracy, for the captor had no commission whatever. That being so, and the condemnation of the *Cassius* being doubtful in the extreme, it would be unreasonable to rely on an *obiter dictum*, which was in fact scarcely relevant to the point at issue in the case; at any rate, it would appear that the conduct of the French Minister would justify the Confederate Government in "converting the judicial inquiry into a matter of state," if the precedent of the seizure of the *Cassius* were to be followed in our courts.

Thus much seems to be capable of demonstration: that the *Alabama* is entitled to every respect and every immunity which can be claimed by any public ship of war in the service of a foreign State. That access to our ports and the rights of hospitality when within our ports can only be denied to the *Alabama* in common with all the ships of the Federal navy. That assuming that the *Tuscaloosa* is a public ship of war of the navy of the Confederate States, and duly commissioned, she also is entitled, without regard to her antecedents, to rights and immunities held to be due to the *Alabama*. It is unnecessary to contemplate the barbarity of closing English ports to the ships of both belligerents, because there is little fear of any attempt to irritate the Federal States.

Lastly, let men in power weigh well the words of Chief Justice Marshall, where he says, "a nation would justly be considered as violating its faith, although that faith might not be expressly plighted, which should suddenly and without previous notice exercise its territorial powers in a manner not consonant to the usages and received obligations of the civilised world."

PREDIAL AND PERSONAL SLAVERY.

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

SIR,—The last number of the *Saturday Review* contains an article with the somewhat startling title: "The Advantages of Slavery and the Slave Trade." Despite this eccentric caption, however, the article is as much distinguished for sterling good sense and a manly dealing with facts as for the highly polished irony with which it disposes alike of "the paradoxes of the slaveowners and of the extravagances of the philanthropists." It points out that if the statements of such bitter and thorough-going adversaries as a recent writer in the *Edinburgh Review* are to be believed, and the negroes in fifty years have actually attained an equality if not a superiority over the white men, the slaveholders have accomplished a task even more beneficent and praiseworthy than the most enthusiastic among them lay claim to. The *Saturday Review* concludes:—

"The Confederates have, in the course of their great struggle, exhibited almost all the highest political qualities, in their capacity to command, in their readiness to obey, in their power of organisation, and in their indomitable resolution. They might have commanded universal admiration, and they would probably have rendered their enemies powerless, if they had also possessed sufficient wisdom and courage to exchange slavery for predial serfdom. The state from which the Russian peasants are even now emerging would be a great and beneficial advance to the Southern negroes. The undisputed political supremacy of the whites would enable them to provide against the economical failure which has partially discredited West Indian emancipation. It would have been no hardship to home-loving negroes to remain attached to the soil, and under wise laws the value of their labour might have been not only maintained, but largely increased. The partial experiments of free labour which have been tried by Federal generals and commissioners are insufficient, and they may probably be found illusory. The emancipated slaves feel that they are on their trial, nor have they yet had the opportunity of living in idleness on their own provision grounds. The South would, under any circumstances, have remained subject to the hatred of the unforgiving race of philanthropists, but in disarming their more equitable opponents they would have escaped the moral isolation to which they are at present condemned. If they are finally defeated their Northern successors will probably introduce a system of regulated coercion which will display many of the features of villenage or predial servitude."

It is upon this point that I desire to offer a few observations on a subject which has almost wholly escaped the attention of the British public, and which I have never seen specially treated in your columns. I must premise by saying that I am not one of those who anticipate the plans of Providence by declaring that "African slavery will be perpetual." On the contrary, the progress of the negro race within the last fifty years, even without accepting the self-confuting testimony of such *soi-disant* philanthropists as the *Edinburgh* reviewer, has been so great and in so hopeful a direction, that, unless it is violently interrupted, we have a right to expect that within the next fifty years it will be even greater. Now, I agree with the *Saturday Review* that predial slavery or serfdom is a step in advance of personal bondage. The one is, in fact, the historical and progressive development of the other. Not by any means that the condition of the serf is better than that of the slave; perhaps the reverse is nearer the truth. But in slavery, pure and simple, the idea of property preponderates over that of person, while in serfdom the idea of property is subordinate. Herein lies the progress, though generally dearly purchased. But I venture to say that in the South the idea of personal rights has always, or at least during the life of the present generation, preponderated, and very largely preponderated, over that of the right of property.

In other words, in the mind of a Southern slaveholder, the idea that the slave is property, enters only incidentally, in theory rather than in practice. I maintain, therefore, that the Southern slave enjoys all the real moral advantages of the more advanced phase of servile condition, without being deprived of the material advantages that belong to the lower one. What then I wish to impress on you is, that the liability of being sold, which sounds so horribly in European ears, is a privilege of the slave rather than of the master, and more frequently used by the former than the latter. It enables him practically (not in law) to change a master whom he does not like for one whom he prefers, for no man would willingly keep a discontented slave. It is a fact denied by no one who has any personal knowledge of the South, that by far the greater number of sales, so far from separating families, are for the purpose of forming family ties. There is not a household in the South where some valued servant has not at some time or other been parted with, that he or she might live with wife or husband. Under any circumstances, the sale of a slave involves loss to the owner, as a man always loses in disposing of any property in which he does not habitually deal, and the habitual dealing in slaves is in the South an infamous profession. Again, by changing masters, the slave has the opportunity of bettering his condition and rising in the social scale. Were he like the Russian serf, chained to the soil he tills, he would be doomed to the toil of a drudge for generations. As it is, the Southern slave, if he show ever so little capacity for a higher grade of work, becomes a domestic servant or a mechanic, and he monopolises many professions, such as barbers, with far better success than his "free" brother of the North. I have always looked upon this subject from the point of view of the negro's good, for I sincerely concur with the writer in the *Saturday Review* that "the system is unjust unless it is also beneficial to the slave," and I here express an earnest conviction that the capacity of being sold is one of the redeeming features of our institution, mitigating more than aught else the hardships incidental to the lot of the slave, and one which, were I a slave, strange as it may sound to English ears, I should retain until the very last vestige of servile condition had passed away. I have only to add what is proved *à priori* by the fact that the South numbers more emancipated slaves than there are in all the Northern States together, that I challenge any experienced and observant resident of the South to find a negro, deserving of freedom and desirous to have it, who cannot obtain it, whatever the law of any particular State on this subject may be.

Yours,
A SLAVEHOLDER.

THE WESTMINSTER REVIEW ON AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY.

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

Sir—In the *Westminster Review* for July and October, page 239, in a brief notice of Mr. G. McHenry's "Cotton Trade," occurs the following rather startling passage :—

"In Europe we have been accustomed to suppose that there was but one American Republic, and that it bought nearly all the land now occupied by the Secessionists of Napoleon in 1804 for $75,000,000, or of Spain in 1820, with Union funds ; to which the South can hardly pretend to have furnished one-third. The special possessions of the South rest upon a basis that is inseparable from Union, if there were no higher arguments that condemn their effort to engross their ownership. The vogue which their arguments have so long enjoyed was founded on the too general ignorance of American politics in Europe," &c.

We may pass with a smile the grotesque idea of the writer that the Union in purchasing certain territory also purchased its inhabitants for all time to come, and confine ourselves to the mere question of *fact*. The extensive tracts sold by France and Spain respectively to the United States, comprise the present areas of the States of Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri. In addition to this there is a narrow strip of coast which your readers can accurately identify on any ordinary map, by continuing the northern boundary line of Florida straight to the Mississippi river. Another glance at the map will show what proportion the territory thus bought bears to the area of what is technically called "the South." The *Westminster* reviewer must clearly have forgotten such very insignificant States as Virginia, the two Carolinas, and Georgia, with whom Great Britain concluded a certain treaty of peace and recognition, or the States of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi, respectively carved out of the ample domains of the first-mentioned States. He of course did not consider as "occupied by the Secessionists," the State of Texas, which was an independent republic, so recognised by the great Powers of Europe, when it entered the Federation. So that, if we were to omit from the "special possessions of the South" the whole of the Louisiana and Florida purchases, which the reviewer says is "nearly all," and if we were even to throw into the bargain the two great States of Kentucky and Tennessee, we should still have the following trifle left :—

	Sq. miles.
Virginia (recognised by Great Britain in 1781) ..	61,352
North Carolina (idem)	45,500
South Carolina (idem)	28,000
Georgia (idem)	58,000
Alabama, Mississippi (formed of territory originally belonging to South Carolina and Georgia)	50,722 + 47,151
Texas (recognised by Great Britain in 1842)	325,520
	616,245

In other words, if we give the *Westminster* reviewer all he claims, and the Federal invaders twenty times as much as they hold by precarious military occupation, this model of statisticians will have to look around for new arguments to "condemn the effort to engross the ownership" of a territory more than three times as large as France.

But there is another curious bit of statistics which I commend to the notice of the *Westminster* reviewer the next time he meddles in American political geography. The aggregate area of all the Southern States formed out of the territory purchased from France and Spain is about 200,000 square miles ; the aggregate area of the Northern States formed out of territory *ceded by Virginia* after her recognition by Great Britain, is nearly 300,000 square miles. If by virtue of the former transaction the United States might resume the proprietorship of Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri, might not Virginia reclaim her title to Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin?

So much for the candour or the knowledge of a periodical which takes for its motto Goethe's beautiful aphorism, "The love of truth is shown in finding in all things what is good and knowing how to prize it."

Respectfully,
A SUBSCRIBER.

THE "FOUL BLOT."

To the Editor of the THE INDEX.

SIR,—The article in your last week's number, under the heading of the "Foul Blot," ought, I think, to set the executive of the Southern Independence Association thinking about amending one of the planks in their platform. I, myself, though at least as good a Southerner as any of them, have not the honour to belong to that well-intentioned body; but if those gentlemen feel as I should, they would not be very comfortable under the reflection, that by their timidity (for it cannot be through ignorance) they are assisting Ward Beecher and Baptist Noel in giving credibility to all the monstrous anti-slavery calumnies that have been circulated to the prejudice of a high-spirited nation that will not be very thankful for such service.

Yours, &c.,
TRAVELLER.

MANCHESTER, February 22nd, 1864.

FACTS WORTH BEING KNOWN.

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

SIR,—While Mr. William H. Seward is threatening old England with the vengeance of the universal Yankee nation, if English shipbuilders and merchants are not prevented from selling an unarmed ship to the Confederates, which may afterwards, in some far-off island of the sea, meet a consort and receive the necessary ingredients to change herself into a cruising man-of-war ; and while Earl Russell is making every honest, manly Englishman, who loves the proud fame of his glorious old flag, blush at the manner in which, obedient to the threats of vengeance, he is straining English law in order that he may please the great western joker ; it may not be out of place to turn back the pages of time for a few short years and see what has been the policy of the Yankees themselves on this very question, when it was not thine ox that was being gored by the neighbour's bull.

In all the wars in which Spain engaged with her revolted colonies in America, nearly all the privateering that was done against the flag of Spain, under the various "Patriot Flags," was done by Americans, in American vessels, commanded by American officers ; built, armed and equipped in American ports, openly and without even any attempt at disguise. The present Admiral David Porter, who has burned so many towns and houses on the Mississippi, and who has written such very, very bombastic reports, served in one of these patriot cruisers, called the *Guerrero*, under command of his uncle Captain John Porter, who was formerly, if not at that very time, an officer of the United States navy, and this very *Guerrero* was the terror of the Spanish merchant ships, and fought, most gallantly, with a Spanish frigate. As the poor Spanish ox was then gored, these gallant Americans were "heroes," not "pirates," as the Prophet Seward now calls Southern men, fighting under their *own flag*, and for the country that gave them birth.

Fact No 2. When Greece was fighting for her liberty against the Turks, it had of course the sympathy of that nation founded on revolution and the right of any people to govern themselves. Two splendid frigates were openly built in New York for the Greeks, and armed and equipped. The Yankees love liberty, but they have an eye to the main chance also, and as the Greeks could only pay for one of the ships, only one of them went to Greece, the *Hellas*. The other was purchased into the United States navy, and called the *Hudson*.

Fact No. 3. When Texas was at war with Mexico, a number of ships were openly built for the Texans in ports of the United States, armed, equipped, and manned by Americans, commanded by officers who resigned from the United States navy to be promoted into that of Texas ; these ships sailed openly from New Orleans, under Commodore Moore, with the *Austin* for his flag-ship, to cruise against Mexico and did engage some Mexican steamers. In the town of Norfolk, a United States navy-yard, a regular rendezvous was opened, the flag of Texas hoisted, and men enlisted openly, and went out of the harbour, with the flag of Texas flying at the fore of the vessel that carried them, and drums beating.

These are only a few facts for the consideration of Lord John, which, however, may convince his Yankeeised mind, unless he should take advice from Mr. Adams, that when it suits the great Yankee nation to carry a point, they will not be governed by the precedents which he thinks he is allowing them to record against themselves, but they will repudiate them, as they are now repudiating the principles on which their Government rests, and simply because it suits their present madness to do it. They will never be governed by "principle" or "precedent," but by "fury and passion."

VIRGINIA.

THE SEIZURE OF THE "TUSCALOOSA."

PROTEST OF HER COMMANDER.

CONFEDERATE STATES SHIP "TUSCALOOSA,"
Simon's Bay, Cape of Good Hope,
December 28th, 1863.

SIR,—As officer in command of the Confederate States ship *Tuscaloosa*, tender to the Confederate States steamer *Alabama*, I have to record my protest against the extraordinary measures which have been adopted towards me and the vessel under my command by the British authorities of the colony.

In August last the *Tuscaloosa* arrived in Simon's Bay; she was not only recognised in the character which she lawfully claimed, and still claims to be, viz., a commissioned ship of war, belonging to a belligerent Power, but was allowed to remain in the harbour for the period of five days, taking in supplies and effecting repairs with the full knowledge and sanction of the authorities.

No intimation was given that she was regarded merely in the light of an ordinary prize, or that she was considered to be violating the laws of neutrality; nor when she notoriously left for a cruise on active service, was any intimation whatever conveyed, that on her return to the port of a friendly Power, where she had been received as a man-of-war, she would be regarded as a "prize," as a violator of the Queen's proclamation of neutrality, and consequently liable to seizure.

Misled by the conduct of Her Majesty's Government, I returned to Simon's Bay on the 26th inst., in very urgent need of repairs and supplies. To my surprise, I find the *Tuscaloosa* is now no longer considered as a man-of-war, and she has, by your orders, as I learn, been seized for the purpose of being handed over to the person who claims her on the behalf of her late owners.

The character of the vessel, viz., that of a lawfully commissioned ship of war of the Confederate States of America, has not been altered since her first arrival in Simon's Bay; and she having been once fully recognised by the British authorities in command in this colony, and no notice or warning of change of opinion or of friendly feeling having been communicated by public notification or otherwise, I was entitled to expect to be again permitted to enter Simon's Bay without molestation.

In perfect good faith I returned to Simon's Bay for mere necessaries, and in honour and good faith in return I should, on change of opinion or of policy on the part of the British authorities, have been desired to leave the port again; but by the course of proceedings taken I have been (supposing the view now adopted by your Excellency's Government to be correct) first misled and next entrapped.

My position and the character of my ship will most certainly be vindicated by my Government. I am powerless to resist the affront offered to the Confederate States of America by your Excellency's conduct and proceedings. I demand, however, the release of my ship, and if this demand be not promptly complied with, I hereby formally protest against her seizure, especially under the very peculiar circumstances of the case.

I have the honour to be,
Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,
(Signed) J. LOWE,
Commanding C.S.S. *Tuscaloosa*.

His Excellency,
SIR PHILIP WODEHOUSE, K.C.B.,
Governor of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, &c.

CONFEDERATE STATES SHIP "TUSCALOOSA,"
Simon's Bay, Dec. 28, 1863.

SIR,—I have the honour to enclose for your information copy of a letter which I have forwarded this day to his Excellency the Governor of the Colony, on the subject of the seizure in this port of the Confederate States ship *Tuscaloosa*.

I am, sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,
(Signed) J. LOWE,
Commmanding C.S.S. *Tuscaloosa*.

To Rear Admiral
SIR BALDWIN WALKER, Br. K.C.B.,
Commanding in Chief.

THERE is a significant piece of news in the *Canada* telegrams about the difficulties which the North is beginning to have with the negroes. The Federals are forbidding the blacks to remove from the plantations to which they belonged, under pretence of sanitary regulations. This, as some of their own papers point out, is only slavery in a new form and under another name. Nature and circumstances are stronger than man. The more experience the Federals acquire, the more they will come to understand the difficulty of getting the negroes, accustomed to a system of compulsory labour, to work at all when left free to do as they like. As a question of probabilities, it may be looked upon as morally certain that if the North were in possession of the Southern States and their negroes to-morrow, they would only change the system of industry in name, and keep up slavery under a flimsy disguise. If the prospect is not bright before the South, it is much more gloomy for the North.—*Morning Post.*

INDIA COTTON.—The want of means or care in preparing Indian cotton for shipment seems to have experienced little mitigation. According to the *Manchester Guardian*, the proportion of cotton which is good or even usable in the shipments of November or December last, is stated by Bombay merchants to constitute a very small proportion of the whole quantity.—*The Times City Article, 24th February.*

LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

NEW ORLEANS, January 30.

THE MILITARY POSITION.—THE YANKEES IN NEW ORLEANS.—THE RECONSTRUCTION FARCE.

THE secret expedition which has been here preparing for some time past, and which was supposed to be directed against Mobile, is now said to be intended for Texas. One column is intended to go up Red river, if it can, but where the other is to strike the Lone Star State is yet a secret. Probably the commanding general himself has not yet decided the question. Anyhow there has been no battle as yet in Texas, and the Federal columns in the Teche country are reposing quietly in camp. If Dame Rumour may be believed, this repose will not be a long one, as General Taylor is said to have assumed the offensive. There may be some truth in the rumour, as his force, though small, is very effective, and the Teche country just now is quite free from overflow. The expedition to Red river is thus referred to in the St. Louis (Missouri) *Democrat* of January 19th:—

"Late on Friday evening steamboat-men were thrown into great excitement, which spread extensively on Saturday, by military despatches requiring most of the boatmen here, if not all, to proceed at once to Cairo. Captains and mates rushed wildly through the city, hunting up crews, and numerous despatches were sent to absent officers to report without delay. We presume 1,000 boatmen left on Friday for Cairo, an extra train having been provided for them. It would be an impossible task to compute the number that left on Saturday. It looks as if there was a great expedition on foot—one like those that last year were productive of such important results. Indeed it is rumoured that there are two expeditions on hand: one to the Ouachita and the other to Red river; that all the boats at Cairo are going, and many others as well. Of course we cannot be expected to endorse these rumours as correct."

So far as we can learn, no troops have assembled at Cairo for these expeditions, and yet it is hardly possible that the boats ordered to Cairo will come to New Orleans and transport troops from here to the mouth of Red river.

There is a general movement of troops throughout the department, some going home on furlough, and some being transferred from one post to another, but I do not think any active or offensive movement is at hand. Banks and M'Pherson, who command on the Mississippi, must have reinforcements before assuming the offensive. The one may make a show of transferring troops to the other, but in reality they dare not weaken their already too depleted forces. The Confederate troops are continually hovering round their lines, and being fully acquainted, through an admirable spy system, of the real movements of the enemy, they are ready to strike when an opportunity offers. The expedition to Red river, should it ever reach there, will return as it went. The river is thoroughly blocked, from the falls to its mouth, and every bluff is fortified. The Confederates are also aware of the intended expedition, and have made every due preparation. I derive my information from a letter received here this week from an officer at Shrieveport, Louisiana.

Captain Mann, the Federal spy, spoken of in my last as having been captured at Bayou Sara, was seized after novel fashion. A Texas cavalryman, one of the squad who made the dash into the town, rode after the fleeing Mann to within forty yards of the levee, and right under the guns of the fleet, when, standing in his stirrups, he threw out his lariat and brought down his prisoner as nicely as a Comanche could have done it.

The Yankee in New Orleans is trying hard to ingratiate himself into society. To accomplish this, he is willing, as shown in innumerable instances, to suffer and endure meekly, ay, even good-humouredly, any amount of snubbing. Sometimes his efforts are repelled with scorn, but he is proof against this as he is against the unqualified expression of loathing with which his advances are received by every Southern woman. He has faith, however, in his endurance, in his brass, his low cunning, his greenbacks, his utter want of delicate feeling, as shown in the advantage he would take of martial law and provost courts to punish even women who repel with just indignation all association with the murderers of their kinsmen and the despoilers of their homes. There are not a few of Banks's officers who have relatives in this city, but the shoulder-strap gentry find these same relatives as indignantly averse as the native-born to any recognition. One mode, as they imagine, of softening this repugnance is to visit their relatives in citizen's dress. Of course the uniform and the flag are abhorrent to every "rebel," but to suppose that the putting off of Lincoln livery bridges the gulf that yawns between the Yankee and the Southerner, shows on the part of the former a characteristic inability to measure, say, rather, to understand, the feelings of those he has so foully dealt with. The uniform and the flag are "but the trappings and suits" of tyranny. Their removal does not wipe out the oppressor's wrong.

It would weary the reader to enumerate the various expedients resorted to by the "new comers," as they are styled, to make the acquaintance of the Southerners. Even the commanding-general lends himself and all the influence of his position to the movement. All the agencies of the provost-marshal-general's department are also brought to bear upon this much-desired result. For instance, if a lady is obliged to apply to any one of the officers of that department for a "favour" or "privilege" it is readily granted, provided she consents to return the granter's salutation when they meet in the streets. If permission be asked to give a ball or soirée, the high-toned official intimates his willingness to attend, and attend he does, unless his presence is positively forbidden. He is perfectly indifferent to how his presence may be regarded by the ladies and gentlemen present, and to mark his perfectly imperturbable bearing on these occasions, when no one present regards him save with loathing, one would conclude that, like Uriah Heap, he felt it was good to be despised, especially by his betters. I know of instances where these shoulder-strapped gentry, when passing a gentleman's house where dancing or music was going on, to knock at the door and offer to pay for admission. A *soirée musicale* is a very common entertainment, especially at the houses of our Creole families. New Orleans, as you may have heard, is celebrated for the musical taste and talent of her citizens. Many of our amateurs would rival the reputation of the esteemed artistes of the opera in Europe. Before the war two opera troupes were regularly engaged during the entire season, say from October to May, and the new Théâtre de l'Opera is one of the finest buildings of the kind in the States. While the war lasts, of course New Orleans will continue to be deprived of the opera for many reasons, chief of which are the loss of property and fortune among that class of her citizens who heretofore have been the liberal patrons of the lyric drama, and the fact that attendance at any public place of amusement is regarded as highly unbecoming while the war lasts. Hence the almost nightly *soirée musicale* at some private residence, where the "rebel" can enjoy the compositions of the great masters, without having his ears insulted by such abominable airs as "Hail Columbia" and "Yankee Doodle." The latter is now the "Rogues March" in the Confederate States army, being always played on such occasions as drumming a worthless fellow out of camp. The culprit invariably petitions for the omission of the insulting tune. From what I have already written you can form an idea how utterly hopeless is the task the Federal authorities have undertaken in their endeavours to bring together the Northerners, military and civil, in New Orleans, and the citizens. General Banks, it seems, thought this musical taste to which I have referred afforded him a powerful lever with which to remove this mountain of prejudice. He announced a grand promenade concert to take place at the Théâtre de l'Opera, for the avowed purpose of bringing together the officers of the army and their families and the citizens. No national airs were to be played, and the officers were instructed from head-quarters to appear in citizen's dress, and to avoid every demonstration that might hurt the prejudices, feelings, or sensibilities of the "rebel" ladies and gentlemen who were expected to be present. The affair came off, as announced, on Tuesday evening last, and a more decided *fiasco* has never been witnessed in this city. It was a mortifying failure, a "complete fizzle," as the Yankees themselves would say, if they were to trust themselves to speak of it, but they dare not. I am told by a gentleman who was present, one who has lived here twenty-two years, that there were present exactly seven persons of our old population. With one exception, all these attended for the purpose of seeing how the affair passed off, and the report is that they found a rich fund of amusement in the vulgar and ridiculous airs of the Yankees, especially the officers' wives, who shone forth in all the glory of confiscated jewelry and finery and the barbaric splendour of "shoddyite" opulence. It is said that the fair "rebels" of this city were excessively indignant at the thought that there could be any social recognition on their part of the wives of the Federal officers. Women, it is said, are very intolerant of each others pretensions, and the ladies of this city are by no means reticent as to the humble origin, &c., of their Northern "sisters." I think we have had the last Yankee promenade concert in New Orleans.

That farcical fraud, the restoration of Louisiana to the Union, and the re-establishment of a civil State Government, "loyal" to the Puritan destructionists at Washington, is proceeding as well as could be expected under the circumstances. The Federals are in sore travail with this restoration mouse. Banks has issued a proclamation ordering the election to be held on the 22nd of February next, for Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney-General, Superintendent of Public Education, and Auditor of Public Accounts, which officers are to constitute for the time being the State Government. I enclose a copy of this proclamation, that you may see for yourself the terms upon which "loyal citizens" are allowed to participate in the "restoration."

With all their patronage and their unscrupulous use of power, I now learn that the authorities are despairing of securing the required one-tenth. Only some 1,400 have registered in this city, and fully 1,000 of these are employés of the Government, holding positions in the Custom-house, the city police, and the numerous other departments controlled by General Banks and the military Governor. A large number of Northern adventurers are here speculating in cotton and sugar, leasing confiscated plantations, dealing in "Yankee notions," and engaging generally in any money-making scheme that their sharp mother-wit may invent, and in the anomalous condition of affairs here they soon realise enormous fortunes. Well, this class has of course registered, though they have no more idea of settling here than they have of emigrating to the north pole. Canvassers have been sent into the country parishes, but they report an entire want of success. I am informed that the one sent into St. Mary parish succeeded in registering just twenty-three names, and those he picked up in the highways and by-ways, in the cross-road taverns, in the Government plantations, in suttlers' booths, and this is the result of his three weeks tramp over the parish. St. Mary used to poll 3,200 votes, and she has sent nearly a regiment into the Confederate service. The newspapers published here in the interest of the Federal authorities are in despair at this beggarly account of voters. They do not, to be sure, make any reference to the paucity of names registered, but their passionate appeals to "loyal citizens to come forward and aid the Government in restoring Louisiana to the Union, to poll a large vote, and thereby give the lie to the assertion that the great mass of the people are still wedded to the Confederate cause," and their numerous other *ad captandum* appeals addressed to the ignorant, the prejudiced, the needy adventurers, the political demagogues, and the hungry swarms of expectant placemen, betray their alarm at the impending failure of their nefarious schemes. And yet the fraud will be consummated. It having been demonstrated that the five thousand voters are not to be had in the civil walks of life, preparations are now going on for enrolling the requisite number in the ranks of the army. Circulars have been sent from head-quarters to the provost-marshals of each camp in this State, instructing the said officials to register the name of each man entitled to vote in the State from which he hails—in other words, to ascertain who of the foreigners in the ranks are naturalised and who of the younger native soldiery attained the age of twenty-one years. The proceeding thus far is kept secret. Should these soldiers vote at the election on the 22nd proximo, no doubt it will be said that they intend to make Louisiana their home. Doubtless thousands of them will find their long home here.

This whole scheme of restoration would require a volume to do it justice, and I refer to it now thus briefly to put the English reader on his guard, when the consummated fraud shall be trumpeted to the world as the free, voluntary, uninfluenced return of one of the "wayward sisters." In a subsequent letter I shall expose the whole secret history of the thing, and do ample justice to the character of the Jacobins, Red Republicans, disciples of Tom Paine, place-hunters, convicted criminals, and Northern adventurers, who constitute the "Free State Party" of Louisiana. Judge whether I have characterised thus justly, when I state that one of the candidates for governor—the "working men's candidate"—owes it to Executive clemency that he is not to-day an inmate of the penitentiary.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

NEW YORK, February 10.

MANUFACTURED NEWS.—THE AFFAIR ON THE RAPIDAN.—THE MILITARY MOVEMENTS OF THE CONFEDERATES.—THE RUMOURED EXPEDITION AGAINST MOBILE.—THE FEDERAL CONFISCATION ACT.

A JOURNAL of this city, in speaking of the war news made up at Washington for circulation in the North, said bitterly that "the great interests, political and speculative, now engaged in duping the Northern people, are almost irresistible." It is apparent that there is a combination to "forge news," with branches "in all the armies," for stock-jobbing purposes in the interest of the favourites of the Administration.

The reward of this systematised lying has been a thorough distrust of whatever is published from official sources as army news. The public, which used to believe everything, is coming to believe nothing. They look for to-morrow's despatches to contradict to-day's, and look narrowly to the movements of particular cliques in Wall-street rather than the utterances from the Department at Washington, for a true version of the state of affairs, as the authorities really understand them. The Government has been repeating in every form of telegraphic despatch the disorganisation of the Southern armies, the despondency of the Government, the destitution and despair of the people, and the eagerness of large masses of them to throw down their arms and accept the President's amnesty, on his own hard conditions. At the same moment the Government calls for half a million new soldiers, and the currency, the barometer of the public faith in the closing of the war, refuses to fall.

We are now greeted with reports of active military operations on one side or the other, on all the lines where the armies confront each other. The Union army of the Potomac made on Saturday what is now, since the event, called a reconnaissance in force across the Rapidan, but came back again. Until we get Southern accounts we shall not know what they attempted to do, and what they suffered, before they recrossed and after. But by the showing in the Federal papers they suffered "considerable loss." Some of their pontoons were taken, and two regiments were badly cut up in making their escape. This means something more than is expressed; but the addition of the customary formula, that they accomplished all they went for and that active movements will now follow, can scarcely mean anything. It is not seriously supposed that the army of the Potomac can begin operations towards Richmond now in earnest, since it is well known that the army is in the process of reconstruction for spring work. The regiments are to be reorganised, with a full complement of 2,400 men, and a huge swarm of minor officers then got rid of. The work of filling up the ranks with the men to be drafted is a work of time, and hence it is not believed that an advance movement will be made until April at soonest, on this line.

The Confederates are taking the aggressive and hovering in Northern and Western Virginia, in North Mississippi, and all over Tennessee. They are gathering in East Tennessee under General Longstreet, and threatening Knoxville. In North Carolina they have been very busy, capturing outposts, and at one time approaching so close to Newbern as to give alarm lest they should capture that place and all its stores. The siege of Charleston is practically suspended, although the bombardment goes on with no other object than that of harassing the inhabitants and damaging the city which there is no thought of taking. General Gilmore has gone to Washington to report the causes of his failure, and a part of his troops have been sent away to other places, for more pressing duty. The defence of Charleston against such terrific odds is one of the most glorious events in military annals, and ranks General Beauregard among the most skillful engineers and successful commanders of the age.

Recent reports give reason to believe that a large combined movement is on foot for the capture of Mobile. The forces reported to be destined to this work are troops from General Banks's department, now gathered at Lake Pontchartrain, to go by way of Pascagoula, an army collected at Vicksburg to penetrate through Mississippi, and so descend in the rear, and a fleet to attack in front, under the command of Commodore Farragut. This is a wide net to spread, and there is manifest danger that it may break in some part before it can be drawn round that devoted little city. On the Confederate side it is stated that General Johnston, with a good army, is in the way of Sherman, who has a long and hard country to travel in, and that the city itself is well fortified and garrisoned. There are some incredulous people here who think that the Vicksburg expedition, large as it seems to be, is not meant for any such distant service as the march on Mobile by such a route. It is more consistent with the Washington plans for carrying on the war, that the object of this expedition should be merely to overrun the cotton districts, seize the large stores of cotton supposed to be hoarded there, and disorganise the labour of the country by setting free and conscripting the slaves, and thus preparing the way for the extirpation of the old population and the confiscation of the lands to Yankee occupation. This is now the unconcealed policy of the Administration, and unless this huge raid is intercepted and driven back by the Confederates, the same blazed track of devastation will be left on its march as marks the progress of the Union troops in the "recovered" districts of Virginia, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

The House of Representatives on Saturday got through with its savage debate on confiscation, and passed by a majority of eight votes the declaratory amendment to the Act of 1862. It repeals the positive limitation in that Act, that the forfeiture of real estate for treason shall not extend beyond the life-time of the party convicted, by substituting for it the naked declaration that no forfeiture of estate shall be worked by that law "contrary to the Constitution of the United States." The effect designed and avowed is to subject all the property of the South to universal confiscation, under military law, and without the interposition of the Courts and the defences which might be interposed by pleading the Constitution. To understand the atrocious logic of this enactment, it must be noted that the Constitution of the United States provides—

Article 2, sec. 9.—"No bill of attainder or *ex post facto* law shall ever be passed."

Article 3, sec. 3.—"No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court."

"The Congress shall have power to declare the punishment of treason; but no attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood or forfeiture, except during the life-time of the person attainted."

It is plain, therefore, that no confiscation of real estate could

reach the heirs of any person legally convicted before the courts. The animus of the legislation of Saturday is to make forfeiture universal and perpetual, without trial; and this is the process by which it is thought to be secured. The Act of Congress of July, 1862, made this universal confiscation of the property of all persons, with a few enumerated exceptions, within the "insurrectionary States," who should fail, within sixty days after the proclamation of the President, to lay down their arms and renew their allegiance to the United States. The Act was accompanied by the declaratory amendment, now repealed, that it should not affect succession to real estate. That limitation being removed, the further amendment is added, that no further notices or warnings to delinquents shall be required to bring any property within the operation of the Act, since the President's proclamation of 1862. In other words, it is assumed, that every person who did not before October 23rd, 1862, make open submission to the United States, is a confessed public enemy to the United States, and that his whole property becomes forfeited forever, by virtue of the Act of Congress. This sounds like the merest nonsense, but it contains the substance of the plea for the constitutionality of the Act by such members of the House as felt a need for excusing their acts by an appeal to that instrument. The bolder portion of them, however, discarded the flimsy subterfuge, and did not hesitate to avow that this was a vindictive measure, aimed at rebels, who, having thrown off the obligations of the Constitution, have no title to its protection, and were to be treated as subjugated enemies, over whom there is a natural right to exercise the power to take from them at pleasure their property and their lives; and it was ferociously said, and applauded in the saying, that if it were for the interest of the North that the whole population of the Southern States should be exterminated and their lands divided among the Northern soldiers and their own slaves, it would be done without hesitation and remorse; and it was more than once said that the time has come to proclaim and carry out that purpose. There was a strong but unavailing opposition to the passage of this measure, and on the final vote the Administration was deserted by some of its usual war supporters from the Border States of Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri They denounced it as barbarous and unchristian, and not merely wicked but in the highest degree inexpedient, which, being a blunder, is held to be worse than an infamy. They held it to be the very insanity of predestined destruction to consolidate the five or six millions of the South in a hatred to the Northern Government and race, which will make peace between them, under any possible issue of the war which now rages, utterly impossible for many generations. The Senate is expected to pass the Bill, and, indeed, at a canvass lately held of the Republican members, it was decided to take it up and put it through immediately.

I mentioned in my last that the whisky tax imposed in the House on the stock in hand had troubled the speculators, who, being in the secrets of the Government, had bought immensely for a rise. As I anticipated, they were powerful enough to get this clause struck out in the Senate; but the House, with surprising tenacity, is disposed not to give way. But the influences are so strong, that in some way the difficulties will be so adjusted that the favourites of the Treasury will make their profits.

The presidential question is getting more and more agitated, and has assumed some very remarkable phases, which I will attempt to explain to you in another letter. There is a double struggle going on:—one is that of the Outs against the Ins; the party which wants the offices, the power, the patronage, and the plunder involved in the collection and disbursing of a thousand millions of dollars annually, and the control of an army of 800,000 soldiers; and the other between partisans of the faction which controls them—which of them shall be the master of the position for the next four years. It is a mighty stake to be played for, and I may interest your readers in detailing to you how these "Republicans" play it.

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

MANCHESTER, February 24.

IT would seem harsh and hasty to charge so respectable and so ably conducted a newspaper as the *Manchester Examiner* with deliberately over-stepping even the limits of partisanship by lending its influence, no matter how indirectly, to swell the tide of emigration to the Federal States under circumstances which cannot but call that journal's patriotism into question. And yet, almost from day to day, especially since Messrs. Cobden and Bright gave the key note at Rochdale, the newspaper I have named has found some occasion for chanting the praises of "America" as offering a highly desirable market for the robust portion of our unemployed population. To day the song is sung in a paragraph extracted from a New York paper. To-morrow, in the skilfully conducted correspondence of its own representative in the Empire City; next day, in some more or less authentic letter purporting to be written by a Lancashire emigrant who writes himself down "a citizen" and speaks of his employer as the "boss;" and lastly, and most suspiciously of all, in the refining effusions of mythical "Manchester operatives," who, having been betrayed into emigrating to Canada, deprecate the evil consequences of their example, and broadly add that there is more need of an emigration society in British America than in England—that hundreds of Canadians are emigrating to the States, and that the cry is "still they come."

Instances of this indirect but no less unjustifiable advocacy of an "emigration policy" by the *Manchester Examiner* could be multiplied beyond the limits of this letter. For example, we were scarcely informed the other day that President Lincoln had issued an order for half a million more men, when we were also regaled with the intelligence that "good willing labourers" would find work in the United States, "live well," and "save as much as they could earn at home." Flesh meat, poultry, or some dainty, is, it seems, "put down to each man's meal." After working hours the working man cannot be "detected" from his *boss*. All wear cloth "to their work:" cord and moleskin are "disbanded," square-toed boots are put on, and check shirts are replaced with white linen. Such are the inviting features in the prospect held out to "robust immigrants"—such as carpenters, blacksmiths, hodmen, or other serviceable fighting *materiel* of that kind. To tailors, it appears, the letter-writer in the *Examiner* cannot offer any such inducements, "the business being monopolised by females and sewing machines;" he naively adds, however, that "*unless the poor tailor be moderately strong he would stand but a poor chance of getting employment*," and he winds up all with, "Now I've told you what is good and what is bad, and I think I cannot do better than tell you that of all the trades going there is none like soldiering—fighting for Uncle Sam." Yesterday morning, the same journal, quoting from the *New York Shipping List*, informed us that a number a manufacturers, traders, and farmers of the State of New York had sent "parties" to England with the view of employing mechanics and labourers for service this spring; and "it was confidently predicted by sanguine calculators that the number of immigrants to arrive in 1864 would reach nearly half a million." But the whole of the paragraph is worth quoting:—

"The diversion to the Federal army of such a vast amount of labour from its legitimate channels would produce serious results were it not for the assurances of a large increase in European immigration. There is reason to believe that there will be such a heavy influx of the bone and sinew of the old world to our shores during the current year as to compensate, in a great measure, for the exhaustion of our population by the circumstances of war. Should war break out in the north of Europe we may expect to see a vast increase from that section, second now to that of Great Britain—but likely to surpass it under the disturbing influence of war. It is estimated that nearly one-seventh of our industrial population north and west have been drawn off from their usual vocations by the war. In this condition of our affairs, therefore, we ought to encourage and welcome the accessions to our labouring population from the old world."

The *Manchester Courier* of yesterday, upon the kindred subject of the Irish exodus, writes as follows:—

"There are those who do not regard the decrease of population as an evil. We are told that in proportion to the area capable of cultivation, the country is still over-populated; that two and a-half acres of soil that can be called food-producing in any worthy sense of the word, is all that can be counted against every individual, while under similar conditions in England at least three and a-half is the proportion. Unfortunately, however, it turns out on examination that of the emigrants who have taken their departure for America, the great proportion consists of able-bodied labourers in robust youth, or in the flower of manhood, and that only the very young, and the aged, and the useless have been left behind. We will not again, so soon, follow the bones and sinew of the population to its destiny on the opposite shores of the Atlantic, or stay to contemplate the uses to which it is put when it gets there. Nor shall we pause to consider the inducements that have been held out to the unhappy emigrants—inducements hardly more seductive in the shape of high wages, to be paid in "greenbacks," than in the paradisaic pictures drawn by Mr. Bright and men of his party on platforms devoted to the quackery of agitation in the market-places of this country. We know but too well that high wages for labour, in almost nine cases out of every ten, mean bounties for being sabred and shot on the blood-stained fields of Virginia and Tennessee."

There was some talk, a few weeks ago, of an effort being made by the Union and Emancipation Society to contribute a "George Thompson purse," but owing, it is said, to financial objections, the movement rather halts. Nor does it appear from latest accounts from the other side of the Atlantic that Mr. Thompson is finding things smoother than in England for "shaping his old course in a country new." The following ominous little paragraph appears in one of our morning papers:—"AN UNWELCOME VISITOR.—The *New York Times* urges that Mr. George Thompson, the anti-slavery lecturer, late member for the Tower Hamlets, should receive no welcome from the Unionists and loyal people of America."

The excitement created in Northern circles here by the Rev. A. Mursells' Sunday lectures in the Free-Trade-Hall has still to be allayed. Members of the Union and Emancipation Society have made any number of attempts to answer the rev. lecturer in the columns of the *Manchester Examiner*, but in vain. The sale of the lecture on "No Smoking," of which I gave a brief abstract in my last letter, is said to be unprecedented. The following "notices to correspondents" attest the importance attached by the Northern clique in this city to Mr. Mursell's vigorous attack upon the Yankees:—

"SUNDAY LECTURES IN THE FREE-TRADE HALL.—The numerous letters which we have received in reference to these lectures are inadmissible to our columns, where the lectures themselves have not been reported."

"NO SMOKING.—We beg to inform a very numerous set of correspondents that the Free-Trade-Hall Sunday lectures, not having been reported in our columns, cannot be assailed by them. We have quite enough to do to consume our own smoke."

PARIS TOPICS.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

PARIS, February 23.

THE chronicle of the last week has been singularly bare of interest, so much so that the *Indépendance Belge* has not been once withheld from circulation. When there is anything stirring in the political world, the *Indépendance* is generally stopped every other day.

As disengaging the imperial policy in Mexico, the arrival of the archduke and archduchess on Thursday is an event of great importance. There are some sceptics who fancy they discern a change in the prince's intentions, or at least a hesitation, from his coming here as archduke and not as emperor, as was very confidently announced. This is over refining, and the last news given in the *Moniteur*, which represent the submission of the country to the new *régime* as complete, do not even leave him an excuse for delay. The question of the confiscated Church property threatens to be the great difficulty the new sovereign will have to contend with on his arrival, if we may judge from the eager haste with which the restored bishops are launching general excommunications against all aiders and abettors of the work of sacrilege. In this comprehensive description the French army and the regent Almonte are evidently included. The necessity of at once settling this question has probably some weight in deciding the Emperor's journey to Rome, for it is only there that measures to pacify the contending claimants can be taken.

As a symptom of feeling in the friends of the Government, the debate on M. Bravay's election for the second time for the Garde, has been read with great interest. It came out that the committee had determined to recognise the legality of the election, but at the same time to censure the conduct of the prefect for whose warm support of Mr. Bravay there seemed to be other than political reasons. The Government commissioners refused however to accept a decision which cast a blame upon a public servant of such high rank, whereupon the committee dropped all reference to the prefect, but recommended that the election should be annulled. This proposal was adopted by a large majority, in which the members of the minority figured. Sunday's *Moniteur* contained the commercial treaty with Italy, including the tariff of duties. Only one article is subjected to export duty on the side of France, and this article is rags.

The artistic world has been greatly excited by the results of the sale of unfinished works and sketches left by Eugene Delacroix. During his life his talent was disputed by a large portion of the French public, and his pictures had a slow sale at very moderate prices. He has made a posthumous fortune. His oil pictures and sketches, very few of them in a condition to be appreciated by any one but a painter, fetched nearly £9,000, and the pencil sketches and water colours of which there is an enormous number, seem to be equally run after. It is difficult to account for this sudden burst of enthusiasm, which the wits call, "*L'exaltation de la Croix*," but it is certain that six months hence the same things will not be worth one-third of what is now paid for them.

The press is almost exclusively occupied with the events in Slesvig, and the discontent in the smaller German States to which Austria's and Prussia's high-handed proceedings have given rise. The *Presse*, with that inexhaustible verve which suggests a ready remedy for every ill, seizes this opportunity to lecture on the European Union—a confederation of all the sovereign states of Europe, to be opposed to what?—to the United States of America! The debates on the balance of power in Europe are mere childish quarrels. There is no risk to be feared from such home disputes as Italy, Denmark, or Poland. They are mere family disagreements. The great danger which threatens us is from the insolence of the reconstituted American Union, whose resuscitation, which M. de Girardin, who only a year ago demonstrated to be for ever impossible, now thinks is only a matter of weeks or months. He considers it certain that the necessity of curbing the pride of America, and preventing the application of the Monroe doctrine, will oblige Europe to oppose to it a league of the whole old world. Better, then, at once to erect this bulwark, which, in M. de Girardin's eyes, presents no difficulty. He is certainly the cleverest man alive, ready to fill columns every day on every possible subject, whether it be on the liberty of the press or that of baking, on a new system of banking, or a reform of diplomacy. His suggestions are always ingenious and seldom practical, as in this case, where he proposes, as an easy matter, in view of a future danger, the construction of a great confederacy which should swallow up all the rivalries that have divided the old world since the beginning of time; instead of proposing the far simpler plan of destroying the danger by aiding the separation of the contending States in the North and South of the late Union. He sees the danger which threatens the world, but it is only to shut his eyes to the simplest and only infallible remedy. Meanwhile the little family squabbles of which he speaks so disdainfully threaten to acquire a fresh development as spring approaches. There are signs of movements in Italy which portend fresh convulsions not only in that country but also in the East. The old game is again to be played between the Party of Action and Victor Emanuel's Government. In one paper it is announced that His Majesty and General Garibaldi have come to an understanding, in another that General Turr has resigned his commission to hold himself in readiness for events; and from Spain we hear of an English ship, laden with contraband of war, seized on its way to Ancona by the authorities of Malaga, where it had put in for repairs. Whether to aid or to oppose the designs of the war party, large bodies of troops are being marched from the South of Italy into the Northern provinces.

The *Moniteur Financier* continues its examination of the financial condition of the Northern States. In this paper the rapid accumulation of the debt and the corresponding fall in the public credit are particularly insisted on. The writer sees nothing in prospect but repudiation and bankruptcy, and he adds that to this some of the most influential journals of New York are already pointing. The industrial classes, in whose hands is the Government, have, according to the *New York Herald*, *no direct interest in the national debt*, and when the weight of taxation falls too heavily on them it will be easy for them to bring about repudiation by raising to power only men who partake their opinions. On the other hand, while the debt of the last three years is already nearly half that of England, the interest to be paid on it equals that paid on the whole debt of England. The interest has to be paid in gold, which at 59 premium bring it in fact to more than 9 per cent. Nor does this by any means represent the whole public debt of the North. The State debts in 1860 amounted to an aggregate of forty millions sterling, paying on the average 6½ per cent. interest. Since then these State debts have increased in an enormous proportion, but the official figures have not yet been published. Mr. Chase probably felt that his statement was alarming enough without this addition to its grand total.

I have said nothing of Denmark, although this is really the subject which now engrosses public attention. You have later news than we have in Paris, and the press of all parties here is so unanimous in condemning the action of the great German Powers, that there is not even room for the controversy in which French journalism delights. The most notable symptom of public opinion which the papers present, is a certain readiness to excuse the Austrians at the expense of the Prussians. The arrogant behaviour of the latter, their treatment of newspaper correspondents, that of the *Patrie* among others, is contrasted with the polite bearing of the Austrians, who have come "only to make war," and who seem equally anxious to make themselves agreeable to the inhabitants of the duchies and to their Danish prisoners. The *Moniteur* announced the withdrawal of the Prussian forces from Jutland this morning, but no telegraphic confirmation of this report having appeared the improvement on the Bourse was very feeble.

The confirmation of this rumour is anxiously looked for, because it is remembered that in 1848 the invasion of strictly speaking Danish soil was the signal for both Sweden and Russia to intervene, and that the landing of a Swedish army was only prevented by the retreat of the Prussians. The rumour of an understanding between England and France, which had been at one time believed and was afterwards called in question, seems to have revived this afternoon, but so much uncertainty surrounds the whole question that men of business hesitate to act upon simple reports.

It is announced that the *Kearsage*, which has made so long a station at Brest, having received important despatches, has left in the direction of Cadiz.

Lent is especially the season of dinner parties. At the great dinner given by the Emperor last week, and at which the deputies were present in great numbers, two of the Opposition members for Paris were present. Four others who had received invitations sent excuses. This act of *bouderie* is unfortunate, as exhibiting a feeling which can only give their parliamentary opposition the character of a personal and dynastic one. It is this tendency of all Oppositions in France which renders the enjoyment of constitutional liberty impossible.

A CONFEDERATE PREDICTION.

A Richmond letter of recent date, from a gentleman high in authority in the Confederate States, contains the following passages :—

The course of the British Government has been marked with such complaisant deference for our enemies, that it has become almost as hostile to us as though Great Britain were in alliance with the United States, and we have been compelled to notice the subject on this side. We do not attribute this to any unfriendly feeling on the part of the British Cabinet, but to a dread of offending the United States, which has reached such a point in England as to have become morbid in the extreme. How unwise the course of Great Britain has been will become more and more apparent as the war progresses. For fear of a war with the United States she has refused to do us justice in recognising us—has countenanced and respected a blockade known to be invalid—has protected Federal commerce by shutting her ports against access to our prizes, and has instituted a vexatious and illegal prosecution against her own citizens to prevent their sale to us of vessels, while Yankee purchasers of arms and munitions are unrestricted and their shipment unimpeded. She has submitted to insulting violations of her neutral rights, to contempt of her exclusive jurisdiction over her own colonies, and has allowed the insolent aggression of our foes to deprive Lancashire of bread and to paralyse the most lucrative and important branch of British manufacture. All this to avoid war with the United States, which was beyond the reach of possibility, if Her Majesty's Government had joined hands frankly with France in our recognition, which would at once have ended the contest on this continent. The result is that all the patience and long-suffering of Great Britain have been considered by the North as conclusive proof that England fears the United States and dares not resent any insult, while the concessions already made have so inflamed their arrogance and conceit, that no future event on earth is more certain than an early and bitter war between the United States and Great Britain, for which the former has been trained, prepared, and made effective by the long duration of the struggle with us.

THE American news brought by the Canada shows that the prospects of the Federals for the coming campaign are the reverse of hopeful. There is one great fact which stands out conspicuously in the history of the war of secession. It is, that wherever the North have come in contact with the solid mass of the South they have found it an incompressible body, like the deepseated granite rocks of the earth's crust, which it is impossible to penetrate. Indeed, if they could penetrate it, it would probably be going farther to fare worse. A surging, seething ocean of molten matter is said to underlie the lowest rocks of the outer crust of this planet; and within the confines and border defences of the South there appears to exist a resolute and united people, who, were their country overrun and occupied by the Federals, would give them such a reception and assume such an attitude as the Poles of Warsaw would have given and assumed with regard to the Russians if they were twenty millions instead of four. But such a stage of the struggle, if it should ever be reached at all, is far enough off at present. The North has not yet penetrated the crust of the South. At the point where the greatest efforts have been made by the Federals they have absolutely made no progress since M'Dowell was defeated by Beauregard at Bull Run, in the first great battle of the war, three years ago. The same may be said with respect to the contest that has long been raging at Charleston. After knocking down part of a fort, shelling a city, and gaining an unimportant position on the coast, they have encountered a hard, solid, impenetrable mass, upon which they are unable to make any impression. They have come upon the deepest rock of the Southern crust, and cannot perforate it; it is proof against all the boring tools of the Gilmores, Parrotts, and Dahlgrens. A modification of this common type of warfare is to be seen in the west. There the primitive rocks did not lie so near the surface. There was much water in those parts, which were proportionately softer. The gun-boats could make their way up and down the Mississippi. But the softer parts of the western crust of Secessia have now been got through, and again the Federals find themselves against a solid, impenetrable mass. If from the north, the east, and the west, we turn to the extreme south, we find that matters have long been in this condition of fixity. The Federals cannot get farther into the country than New Orleans, and their occupation of this place, which they have now held so long, is an epitome of what their occupation of the entire South would be if they were able to overrun it. The waters of the rivers and the sea which surround the South are as the arable soil, the clay, the loam, the sand, the gravel in the earth's crust. When a less or greater depth of this soft matter is got through, you come upon solid rock, upon which you can make no impression, and which, if you could penetrate it, would let you through into the boiling chaos beneath.—*Morning Post.*

SOUTHERN PRINTERS IN THE FIELD.—In nearly every paper we pick up we see advertisements for printers, and yet there were, before the war, more papers printed in the State of Georgia than are now published in the Confederate States. The reason of this is that at least 75 per cent. of the fraternity have been, and are now, in the army. Many of them command brigades, regiments, and companies, and are upon different generals' staffs, while hundreds of them have met death upon the field of glory. We venture that there is not an office in the South that has not a representative in the field, and many papers were suspended at the commencement of the struggle, in order that the proprietor, editor, printers, and all might enlist. They are generally men of education, and always of superior intelligence, and therefore fully understand the principles we are fighting for, and the hardships, disease, and death incident to the life of a soldier. It is not to be presumed that they were actuated by blind fanaticism, or from love of change, or from any other cause than the purest motives of chivalry.—*Richmond Enquirer.*

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

THE MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKETS.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, February 25.

THE money market has remained in a very quiet state throughout the week. The demand for discount accommodation, both at the Bank and in the open market, has been partly restricted; in fact, within the last day or two, scarcely any business has been doing, in consequence of the prevailing opinion that a further reduction will be made in the Bank rate of discount to-morrow. At present there appears no reason whatever why such a course should not be adopted; but should the demand for India be revived, which is not impossible, an advance would again have to be resorted to. The brokers are not charging more than 6½ per cent. for their advances, and the Joint Stock Banks are disposing of their resources at 6⅜, at which they are doing but little business. On the Stock Exchange money has been advanced at from 2 to 3 per cent.: but in consequence of an increased demand for short loans the terms were raised yesterday to 5 to 6 per cent., and to-day the quotations was 4½ to 5½ per cent. It may be imagined that if hostilities in Denmark were to cease, what would be the activity in trade. In the absence of the legitimate employment of money, there must be a fresh tendency to encourage speculative adventure.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The bullion market continues in a satisfactory state; the amount of gold sent into the Bank during the week, including £27,000 this afternoon, has been £220,000, whilst the withdrawals for transmission abroad have been only £82,000. The arrivals of specie have been smaller than usual, being only £78,267, of which £35,374 was from New York and the remainder from Alexandria. The shipments of specie by the late steamer to the East amounted to £69,861, of which £42,451 was in gold and £27,410 in silver. These remittances were £7,441 for India, £34,090 for China, £1,500 for Gibraltar, £24,830 for Alexandria, and £2,000 for Point de Galle. The present demand for gold for exportation to the continent is now very slack. Bar silver has been very flat, and, in the absence of any fresh demand for the East, has declined 61¼, at which it is now nominally quoted. There has been rather more enquiry for Mexican dollars, at a fractional improvement in price, but the market is now steady again. The following are the gold ships on their way from Australia:—The *Water Nymph* with £56,000; *Maid of Judah*, £13,000; *Omar Pacha*, £71,000; *Giant Causeway*, £20,500; *Result*, £84,500; *Japan*, £64,000; *Donald M'Kay*, £19,000; and the *Star of Peace*, £75,000; making a total of £403,000.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

There has been considerable animation exhibited in the English Stock Market during the week, and prices have fluctuated considerably. The variations, however, have been almost entirely caused by the nature of the successive telegrams received as to the progress of the war in Denmark. When it was announced that the Federal forces had entered Jutland, there was a large fall in prices, but on the subsequent announcement of their retirement therefrom quotations again improved; and when it was announced to-day that Austria and Prussia had agreed to a conference in London for the settlement of the Danish question, a general impulse was given to all the markets, and a farther considerable improvement ensued. The closing prices of Consols this evening was 91⅛ to ¼ for money, and 91⅛ to ¼ for the account, which as compared with this day week is a rise of ½ per cent. Exchequer Bills show increased firmness, being now up to 5s. dis. to par. A large and somewhat speculative business has been transacted in foreign stocks, at improved prices, nearly all round, but the great advance has been in Mexican, which have risen fully 5 per cent, chiefly in consequence of the news that the terms for the settlement of the debt are in course of arrangement—the terms being the exchange of £60 of Five per Cent New Stock for each £100 of the existing Three per Cents, and £30 of Five per Cents for each twenty overdue coupons of £1 10s. each. A good business has also been done in Greek at an improvement of ½ per cent. Spanish Passives have advanced 1 per cent., but in other descriptions there has not been so much variation. The closing prices were—Greek, 22½ to 23; Mexican, 43½ to 44; Spanish Passives, 34¼ to 34½; Do. Certificates, 13½ to 14; Turkish Six per Cents (1854) 90½ to 91½, and do. (1862) 69 to 69½.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

A larger business has been transacted in American, Government, and railway securities than for some time past, and the market generally has exhibited more firmness. The transactions comprised Virginia State Six per Cents at 31, 32, 31½, 31, and 33½; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York Section, 78, 79, 78½, and 78; Do. do. Pennsylvania do., 79, 79½, 80, 81, and 80; Erie $100 shares, all paid, 63; Do. do. Seven per Cent Preference, 80 and 78½; Illinois Central, Seven per Cent, 70½ and 71; Do. do. $100 shares, $80 paid, 20½, 20, 18, and 20½ dis.; Do. do. all paid, 70; Marietta and Cincinnati Railway, 70, and New York Central Six per Cents, 62.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

Although there has not comparatively been so much business doing in the British railway share market as in the other departments, still prices have generally improved, and have still a buoyant tendency. The dealers in this market appear for the moment to have in some measure curtailed their operations, under the belief that money will almost immediately become cheaper. The most important variations as compared with last week are a rise of 2 per cent. in Metropolitan and South Devon; of 1¼ per cent. in Bristol and Exeter, and London, Chatham, and Dover; of 1 per cent. in Great Northern, Lancashire and Yorkshire, and West Cornwall; an advance of ½ in Great Eastern, Great Western and Sheffield, and of ¼ per cent. in East Anglesea, London and North-Western, and Midland. On the other hand there has been a decline of 1 per cent. in South-Eastern, and of ½ per cent. in Caledonian, North-Eastern (Leeds), and do. (York). Foreign railway shares are quiet, but in general fairly supported, and colonial undertakings remain firm, but without any material alteration in prices.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market for this security has been firm, and large dealings have taken place—the highest price touched was 57 to 58. There has since been a reaction, the quotations being yesterday 52 to 53. To-day there is a little doing—the closing quotation is 52 to 54. The half-yearly dividend due 1st March, is announced for payment, also the first half-yearly drawing at 2½ per cent. Of the amounts at present unredeemed by cotton we understand that over £150,000 has been thus converted. The amount of bonds to be paid off at par next week is therefore about £71,000.

THE OTTOMAN LOAN OF 1863.

Notice has to-day been given of the issue of the balance of 50,000,000 f. (£2,000,000 sterling) specially reserved at the issue in April last, in 100,000 bonds of 500 f. (£20.) bearing 6 per cent. interest. The terms of issue are 68 per cent., with dividend from the 1st January last payable on subscription 100 f. (£3 19s.) on the 31st May 100 f. (£3 19s.) and on the 1st July 140 f., less dividend 125 f., (£4 18s. 10d.) The holders of the loan of 1863 wishing to claim their rights to a proportional share of this balance, viz., one bond for every three existing bonds, must deposit with the Ottoman Bank the latter, together with the amount due as above on subscriptions between the 25th February and the 3rd March.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

At the ordinary meeting of the London District Telegraph Company, a report was read, stating that the receipts amounted to £4,328, and the expenses to £5,125, being a deficit of £796. The net receipts for the half-year however showed an increase of £100 over the previous half-year and £327 over the corresponding period of 1862. The report was adopted.—At the annual meeting of the Scottish Provident Institution, the report stated that the new business completed in 1863 consisted of 880 proposals for sums amounting to £455,493, on which the premiums amounted to £17,100. A further sum of £3,528 was raised in purchase of annuities. The gross receipt of the year amounted to £163,122, and the assurances subsisting to £4,479,402, and the realised fund, accumulated entirely from the premiums received, to £938,962.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

The prospectus of the Imperial Financial Company, Limited, has been issued this afternoon, with an influential board of directors. The objects of the undertaking being the negotiation of loans; concessions for railways and other public works, whether in England, India, the colonies, or abroad. The advance of money on the deposit of approved securities, as well as the purchase and negotiation of the same on commission. Facilities will also be afforded to contractors of undoubted position, who have undertaken the construction of railways and other important works. The capital is to be £2,000,000 in 40,000 shares of £50 each. First issue 20,000 shares. Deposit £1 per share on application and £4 on allotment. It is however not intended in the first instance to call up more than £15 per share.—The General International Agency Company, Limited, have also issued their prospectus this afternoon. The sum required is £500,000 in shares of £10 each, with power to increase. Deposits £1 per share on application and £1 10s. on allotment. The objects contemplated by the company are the undertaking of financial, credit, agency, and exchange operations in England and France, and particularly to afford the further facilities rendered requisite by the operation of the treaty of commerce, for the interchange of commodities and products between the two countries. The transactions will embrace, *inter alia* the discount of dock warrants and the procuring of the sale of the goods represented by them; the opening of accounts current in goods with manufacturers, merchants, &c., in England, France, and elsewhere; the selling *del credere* for account of its customers the goods which may be entrusted to it for the purpose; the buying on commission for account of its customers in England, France, and elsewhere; the making of advances on goods which shall be consigned to it pending their sale by the company, and the establishment of periodical public sales in England and France. At the outset, the company will open with head offices in London and Paris, and agencies for the consignment of goods, &c., will be opened throughout the United Kingdom.—Another important undertaking has been launched this evening. It is called the Gellivara Company, Limited, and is established for the purpose of purchasing an extensive property in Sweden, known as the Gellivara estates, with the view of developing its great resources. The property comprises about 1,200,000 acres of land, of which more than 500,000 consist of good forests of red and white pine; 100,000 acres are already under cultivation, or fit for it, and further extensive districts will become available for agricultural purposes. The Gellivara iron bed, probably the largest in the world, extends over nearly three square miles. The ore consists partly of hematite and partly of protoxide of iron, without any visible trace of pyrite, and yielding on the average 65 per cent. of pure metal. There are also on the property 215 farms, nine water, and one steam sawmill, two blast furnaces, four ironworks, and a shipbuilding yard, &c. During the first three years required for the full development of the property, the vendors guarantee an income on the paid-up capital of at least 6 per cent., and they have bound themselves to make up every deficiency in such amounts. The proposed capital is £500,000, in 10,000 shares of £50 each, with power to increase. Deposit £1 per share on application and £4 on allotment.—The Alexandra Park Company is another new undertaking. The capital is fixed at £500,000, in 50,000 A shares, and 50,000 B shares, of £4 each. The debenture capital is £300,000. The project is already favourably known to the public. The debenture capital has been chiefly created for the purpose of paying for the estates and for the purchase of the International Exhibition building of 1862, now erecting in the park by Messrs. Kelk and Lucas, the contractors, while it is anticipated that the whole of this capital will be redeemed by the sale of surplus lands.—The English, Irish, and Foreign Rolling Stock Company has been established for the purpose of introducing important patented inventions for railway wagons and buffer springs, and other improvements in the construction of railway wagons, and of goods, coal, and other wagons, for the building and sale, or letting on lease or otherwise, such wagons to railway companies, coal owners, and others. The proposed capital is £150,000, in 15,000 shares of £10 each. The first issue to be 10,000 shares, with a deposit on application of 10s. per share and 10s. on allotment.—The prospectus has likewise been issued of the Royal Naval and Military Banking Corporation, Limited, with a capital of £1,000,000, in 10,000 shares of £100 each, of which it is not intended to call up more than £20 per share. Amongst the transactions proposed to be carried out are the general agency of regiments, conducting the private affairs of officers generally, taking charge of claims for prize-money, widows and orphans of officers' pensions, discounting of officers' bills and advancing sums of money upon approved security, and assisting them in the purchase of promotions. Branches or agencies in the different garrison towns and camps, both in England and the colonies, will be established, affording officers the utmost facilities for transmitting moneys from place to place without trouble or expense.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

Business in most departments has progressed slowly since this day week, but encouraged by the easier condition of money, holders of all kinds of produce have continued firm in their demands, and quotations are almost without exception well supported; whilst for some few articles higher rates have been established. In cotton the variations of prices has been trifling, and the dulness which has prevailed for some past seems to be giving way to a better inquiry at the close. In the grain markets no improvement can be quoted. The oil-cake trade is inactive and quotations stationary. Provisions have met a steady demand. Prime sizeable American bacon sides have sold at 44s. to 46s.; middles offer at 40s. to 44s. Beef still hangs on hand, but lower terms are not accepted. Fine American butters are obtainable at 100s. to 106s., heavy arrivals affecting the market. Sugar, after being inactive for some short time, has again sold freely to-day, and at firm rates; clayed Manilla bringing 11s. 6d. per cwt. The tea market has not as yet been perceptibly influenced by the China telegrams. Cassia lignea has declined 1s. to 2s. per cwt.

Other spices remain without essential change, but meet only a limited inquiry. The demand for linseed oil, principally on American account, has caused an advance of 1s., the price to-day being 35s. 6d. per cwt., with a firm market. Rape oil is also the turn dearer, pale making 42s. per cwt. Sperm is unaltered. Camphor has risen to 107s. 6d. per cwt. In chemicals but a moderate business is passing, and rates are unchanged. The principal feature in metals has been a rapid advance in spelter, which is now quoted £23 10s. on the spot. Scotch pig iron, after receding to 59s. 3d., closed to-day at 60s. 3d. Lead continues very firm. There is less doing in hemp, but for Manilla previous rates are asked; Russian may, however, be bought upon rather easier terms. Since last week several parcels of cochineal have been placed; good Honduras silver grain is now worth 3s. 3d. to 3s. 4d., and some holders refuse to sell at these prices. Indigo moves off in moderate quantity, at last sales rates. The colonial wool sales are to commence on the 3rd proximo, and the market is regarded with confidence, as dealers are known to hold only limited stocks.

COTTON AND DRY GOODS MARKET.

LIVERPOOL, Wednesday, February 24.

On the whole a fair business has been transacted in our cotton market during the week, but nevertheless there has been very little animation exhibited, the generally unsettled state of political affairs still operating prejudicially. There has, however, been very little alteration in quotations; but if anything the turn is in favour of buyers. The sales this week have been 29,000 bales, of which 8,000 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year, so far, have been 246,840 bales; and to the same period in 1863, 228,270 bales. There have been imported this year 176,732 bales, against 164,701 bales last year. The exports this year have reached 40,020 bales, whilst in 1863 they were only 32,184 bales. Taken for consumption this year, 171,300 bales; last year the number was only 108,600 bales. This year there have been taken on speculation 37,780 bales; and in 1863, 78,610 bales. The present computed stocks are 246,500 bales; at the corresponding period last year they were 415,350 bales. With regard to the future arrivals of cotton, Messrs. Whitworth and Co. have just issued a circular in which they estimate the total arrivals this year at 226,358 bales, and state the quantity at sea from India, China, and Japan, to the 20th February, at 555,651 bales; of which 456,987 bales had been shipped for Liverpool and the remainder for London. Of this quantity, however, upwards of 190,000 were from China and Japan, which are rather small bales. The latest quotations this afternoon were:—American descriptions, 26¼d. to 27¾. Egyptian, 26¼d. to 34d. Pernambuco, 27d. to 34d. Maranhams, 27d. to 34d. Bahia, 27d. to 34d., and Surats, 12d. to 23d.

MANCHESTER, February 23.

The past week has been one of exceeding dulness in our yarn and cloth market, and the tendency of prices has been against the seller.

The continental agents are almost entirely out of the market, owing to the gloomy aspect of German politics. Liverpool cotton market has been very dull all the week and prices have materially given way; this of itself has depressed this market to some extent. Calcutta telegrams are to hand, bringing two days later news than brought by the mail. That market is reported as rather steadier, but with little business doing. China news is also to hand, reporting a monetary panic at Shanghai, with exchange at 6s. 10½d. to 7s.

Here and there offers have been made for India mule yarns at extremely low prices, and only for small quantities. 2s. 5d. per lb. has been offered for No. 40, which is fully 5d. per lb. below the highest point.

Cloths of all kinds are firmer in price than yarns, but in order to make sales lower quotations must be submitted to.

Some contracts have been entered into for delivery in March and April on the basis of 2s. 5d. per lb. for shirtings. So it is reported, but only to a small extent.

Among the Contents of THE INDEX *of Feb.* 18, *are*—

NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK AT HOME AND ABROAD.
PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.
PARIS TOPICS.
THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.
LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.
LETTER FROM NEW YORK.
OPENING OF THE SPRING CAMPAIGN.
THE "FOUL BROOD."
MINISTERIAL EVASIONS.
SCANDINAVIA.
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE:—GREAT BRITAIN AND AMERICA.
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ON THE SCYTHO-CIMMERIAN LANGUAGE.
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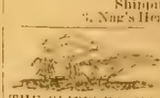

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BUST OF JEFFERSON DAVIS.

The only Bust extant of the President of the Confederate States, modelled by Volk, at Richmond, and the most faithful Likeness of this eminent Statesman, has been kindly lent by the Owner for reproduction for the benefit of the Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund of Liverpool. In conformity with the intentions of the donor, the Bust has been registered under the Designs Act, and a number of casts (quarter size), limited to 500, are offered to the public at the following rates:—

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The proceeds of the sale of the 500 casts being for the benefit of the Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund, all orders must be addressed, and money orders be made payable, to MR. HENRY HOTZE, 17 Savile-row, W.

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There are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellowmen.

Contributions will be received by J. H. ASHBRIDGE, Treasurer, Walmer Buildings, Water Street, Liverpool; or in London, by HENRY HOTZE, Esq., 17, Savile Row, W.; in Paris, by H. O. BREWER, Esq., 6, Rue Circulaire; and DANIEL HUBBARD, Esq., 24, Rue Lord Byron.

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A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

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NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK.

AMERICA.

JACKSON, Mississippi, was occupied by the Federals on the 5th. General Gilmore has returned to Port Royal from Jacksonville, and reports that the Florida expedition "has been successful but unimportant." Such is the sum of the military news of the week. After heavy skirmishing there has been a pause before commencing the spring campaign. But the season for bloodless telegrams is almost over. Winter is disappearing and ere long we shall hear of events which, if they decide nothing else, will show that the military resources of the Confederacy are unimpaired, and that the Confederate soldiers are what they were in past campaigns. There is, however, every reason to hope that the Confederates are on the eve of achieving substantial triumphs.

Two important measures some time since predicted in this journal and fully commented on in advance, have passed the Confederate Congress, and on the 18th February became laws by the approval of President Davis. The *Richmond Enquirer* of the 19th February gives the following brief outlines of the two bills:—

A BILL TO IMPOSE CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN COMMERCE.

This Bill prohibits the exportation of cotton, tobacco, naval and military stores, molasses, sugar, or rice, under the penalty of forfeiture of any vessel or vehicle, or animals, engaged in the transportation thereof. Permits to export may be granted, under rules which may be prescribed by the President.

The Bill also prohibits the sending of any of the above-named articles to any point within the Confederacy in possession of the enemy.

A violation of this law comes within the category of high misdemeanour, and is punishable by fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the Confederate States courts.

A BILL TO PROHIBIT THE IMPORTATION OF LUXURIES INTO THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

This Bill prohibits the importation of luxuries, of which a long list is enumerated, after the first day of March next. A provision in the Bill empowers the Secretary of the Treasury to fix the maximum of foreign prices at which, or within which, all goods made wholly of cotton, flax, wool, or silk may be imported. This is designed to ensure the importation of prime necessity and common use.

It seems incredible that one of Her Majesty's Ministers of State should make such a statement as that made on Tuesday night in the House of Lords by Earl Russell, in a conversation on the subject of Federal enlistments in Ireland. He said, in substance, that the Confederates had dismissed the English consuls for protesting against the habitual conscription—not merely enlistment—of British subjects. We quote, as a matter of record, the exact words of the *Times'* report, March 1st:—

I must say that though they (the Confederates) are entitled to impartial conduct, they are not entitled to any other conduct at our hands, because, though recruiting for the Confederate States does not take place in this country, as far as we are aware, conscription does take place as regards British subjects residing in the Southern States. When we have endeavoured to obtain redress for this we have found that the Consuls, who were appointed when all the American States were united, have on a sudden been driven from the Confederate States, and there is no one there who can take up the case of British subjects, who are very frequently forced into the Confederate ranks against their own will. This and other hardships are inflicted upon British subjects in the Confederate States, and from the loss of consuls they are not able to make complaints and obtain the redress to which they are entitled. (Hear.)

Leaving out New Orleans as being in Federal occupation, there were four British Consuls within the *de facto* Confederate jurisdiction, of whom two, Mr. Bunch, at Charleston, and Mr. Molineux, at Savannah, were, quietly and without reason assigned, withdrawn by Earl Russell; a third, Mr. Magee, at Mobile, for doing what he deemed it his bounden duty to do, and what his colleagues had done without reproof, was *dismissed* by Earl Russell himself. The fourth and only remaining one, Mr. Moor, at Richmond, was requested by the Confederate Government to leave the country, not because of any controversy arising from the conscription laws, but for a flagrant contempt of the *de facto* authority of the Confederate Government. The reasons for this step were distinctly stated by Mr. Benjamin in a despatch to Mr. Mason, which was duly communicated to Earl Russell, and which, furthermore, was published in several of the London newspapers. The whole of the correspondence relating to this subject was laid by the Confederate Government before Congress, and an official copy of the same is at the disposal of the Foreign Secretary. Every disputed case under the Conscription law has been fairly tried before the Confederate courts, which are entitled to at least equal respect from Her Majesty's Government as Mr. Lincoln's prize courts, and it is demonstrable that the Confederate Government, in its anxiety to prevent any cause for complaint, has purposely countenanced great laxity in the enforcement of the law against persons claiming to be British subjects.

We have heretofore been disposed to explain the peculiar neutrality of the Foreign-office, by the fact that in this great controversy he hears only one side, and to blame the Secretary chiefly for not using the ample opportunities he has, without committing the policy of the country, to learn the facts on the other side. His remarks on Tuesday night, in which he went out of his way to eulogise the conduct of the captain of the Federal man-of-war *Kearsage*, and to cast a fling at the Confederacy, betray a kind of personal feeling, which is not only unbecoming a Minister of State, but inconsistent with the character of a gentleman.

General Banks has issued an order by which the negroes are to be held to forced labour, and the white men who will not vote for Government candidates driven into exile. It has been truly remarked that the institution of the South is slavery in name and according to the letter of the law, but that in practice it is a mild system of predial serfdom. The scheme of General Banks is in theory a stringent system of serfdom, but in practice will be slavery of the most cruel and oppressive character. The negroes are to labour for ten hours per day in summer and nine per day in winter, and besides rations, &c., are to receive salaries ranging from $3 to $8 per month. As their wages are to be deducted for sickness, indolence, and insolence, it is not probable that the Yankee contractors will pay away much money on that account. To buy clothes from a negro is to be punished by fine and imprisonment. This regulation would be absurd except upon the ground that the negro is the property of the Yankee contractor, and therefore the clothes he earns belong to his owner. Negroes are not to be allowed to visit other plantations. In a word, they will be in a position exactly analogous to that of our convicts, except that English convicts have not so many hours of labour, and are not under taskmasters whose interest it is to grind as much work out of them as less possible.

The *free* whites are treated with about as much consideration as the *free* negroes. General Banks orders a *free* election, and informs the electors that if they abstain from voting, or do not vote the Government ticket, they will be exiled.

Our New Orleans Correspondent gives a graphic account of these proceedings.

As General Banks has not been able to get more than 1400 names on the register, he has devised a plan for the reception of unregistered voters. In a letter addressed to the "Free State Committee," he says, "Any person who takes the oath on the day of election, when administered by properly qualified officers, although his name may not have been previously registered, should be allowed to vote." To confer the right of voting without previous registration is not an ingenious fraud because it can deceive nobody, but it is novel and impudent.

We elsewhere publish a proclamation of President Davis to the Confederate soldiers. It acknowledges the spirit of patriotism which has prompted the troops to offer themselves for re-enlistment. The tone of this document is earnest, affectionate, and hopeful; and is worthy of the writer, of the occasion, and of the gallant army to which it is addressed.

The judgment in the *Chesapeake* case, from which we give an extract in another column, grants the restitution of the vessel to the original owners upon what seem to us altogether untenable grounds. Judge Stewart admits that the seizure might not have been an act of piracy, and does not offer an opinion on that part of the case. He assumes that the seizure was lawful, but that as the Confederates brought an uncondemned prize into a British port, contrary to the Queen's proclamation, the vessel is forfeited. To whom? According to the law, to the British Government; but Judge Stewart says it would not consort with the dignity of the Crown "to add the proceeds of property which had belonged to the citizens of a friendly nation to the privy purse of the Queen." Therefore he returns the cargo and vessel to the original owners, "not as a favour to them, but as an act of justice to the offended dignity of the Crown; not as recognising any right of the Government of the United States to require such restoration, but as a fit punishment of the offenders, and a warning to others." Yet according to his own showing, the restitution is all favour to the Federals, for the vessel is forfeited to the British Crown. Judge Stewart dwells on the *Chesapeake* being an *uncondemned* prize; but he had no evidence before him to warrant the conclusion. He will perhaps reconsider this part of his judgment, when he hears that the British Government has, in the case of the *Tuscaloosa*, recognised the universal construction of the law of nations, that a vessel may be condemned on the high seas. Nor is it clear that the *Chesapeake* was taken into a British port as a prize. Judge Stewart says the vessel was brought in "not openly but covertly; not in her proper name, but in a false name," that is, she was brought in as a Confederate vessel, and not as a prize, and British ports are no more closed against Confederate than Federal vessels. Judge Stewart remarked that the Confederate captors did not appear at the bar and were fugitives. We are astonished that he should have made such an observation. Does he not know why? Does he not know that the Government whose subjects he favours in a most gross manner violated the sovereignty of the Crown, and by such acts of violence made flight the only resource of the Confederates? Reading

Mr. Seward's apologetic despatch and Judge Stewart's decision together, we arrive at the following conclusions:—

If the *Chesapeake* was forfeited at all it was forfeited to the British Government; but though the United States Government has no right to demand its restoration, it is presented to the Federals to *punish the Confederates*.

That if the Confederates ever so slightly violate the law they are to be remorselessly punished; but if the Federals violate the law ever so grossly an apology is to be accepted, and moreover they are to gain the object for which they trampled on the dignity and rights of the Crown.

The following letter, which deserves a place among the curiosities of political literature, was read by Earl Russell in his place in the Lords on Tuesday night. It will be remembered that the case was first brought to public attention by the excitement produced in Queenstown by the open enlistment of seventeen men for a Federal frigate, and by the publication, in the *Times*, of the depositions of two rejected applicants, who failed to "pass the doctor," and who described the *modus operandi* of enlistment to be precisely the same as it would be on any war vessel in a port of its own nationality. Imagine the captain of a man-of-war, who is unconscious of seventeen men coming on board, "passing the doctor," donning the uniform of his service (in which, with truly Yankee wit, they were some weeks after returned to shore) and receiving rations. Admire also the delicate irony of his keeping them out of "temptation" at Brest. We wonder, when the Foreign Secretary apologised for this meek specimen of injured innocence in the shape of a Yankee captain, whether he did not edify the House of Lords with a grimace, not very appropriate in such a place or from such a person, but pre-eminently suitable to the subject. Here is the letter:—

United States' Steamer, *Kearsage*, at Sea, Dec. 7.

Sir,—A party of men, either by connivance of the crew or otherwise, were concealed on board this vessel on the night of her departure from Queenstown, the 5th ult. These men, I learn, were in expectation of being enlisted in the service of the United States after the *Kearsage* had proceeded to sea, but found their mistake. To have turned them ashore at Brest would have been to open to them the temptation to enlist on board the *Florida*. I therefore detained to have them at Queenstown as soon as it was practicable. You will please notify Admiral Jones that I informed him that no enlistments would be made at Queenstown. I have, therefore, sent on shore this party, that no charge of subterfuge may be alleged in the premises.—Very respectfully, your obedient servant, Jno. A. Winslow, Captain.

E. G. Eastman, Esq.,
United States Consul, Queenstown.

The Supreme Court of the United States has given judgment in the case of Mr. Vallandigham. The Court was asked to quash the proceedings of the military commission on the pleas that Mr. Vallandigham was not in the military service of the United States, and therefore not subject to martial law, that the military commission had exceeded its jurisdiction, and that the charges preferred against Mr. Vallandigham were not offences according to the Constitution and laws of the United States. Judge Wayne delivered the opinion of the Supreme Court, which refused the writ of *certiorari* on the ground that even if the arrest, trial, and punishment of Mr. Vallandigham were illegal, there was still no authority in the Court to grant relief in this mode, and that there is no law by which any appeal, or proceeding in the nature of an appeal, from a military commission to the Supreme Court can be taken. Thus the people of the North are subject to military jurisdiction, and no matter how illegal the arrest, trial, and punishment, there is no appeal or remedy.

The *New York Herald* asserts that President Lincoln will issue a proclamation of universal emancipation, including the Border States, on the 22nd inst.—*Reuter*.

General Banks, in an order dated the 3rd inst., re-establishes a system of compulsory negro labour in Louisiana, under specified conditions. He also declares that in the approaching State elections all persons in his department must vote for the Union candidates; that indifference will be treated as crime, and faction as treason.—*The Times*.

General Banks has issued an order at New Orleans, stating that it is the people's duty to assist in restoring the civil government. Indifference will be treated as a crime. Men refusing to defend their country with the ballot-box or cartridge-box have no claim to the benefits of liberty.

The New York journals consider the equivalent to compulsory voting.—Reuter.

These New York telegrams provoke a smile. It is a peculiarity of the American revolution, that amidst all the carnage and the other horrors that make the sacrifice of human life so enormously disproportionate, the incident of the drama is most welcome to grave and staid spirits. A murder, in a revolution, is a tragedy; Lincoln the lawful representative of the people is the most contemptible of men. Take away the bloodshed, the desolation of country, the ruined homesteads, the crimes committed by a necessarily savage fighting on a foreign soil for pay, for plunder, and for the gratification of those passions which are evoked by such a state of things where there is no restraining discipline, and the whole affair becomes a broad farce. In December the proclamation of the White House produced its effect, and before that earnest was two months old, fifty or another half million of men to spare, or to abolish. Or read the brave New York correspondent. We are told in vain for any precedent for such hideous nonsense, for such an overbearing avowal of hypocrisy. The Federal Government may throw away the flimsy veil with which it has hitherto endeavoured to conceal its purpose, and set forth its enormity without disguise. Mr. Lincoln is about to issue a proclamation of universal emancipation, and simultaneously he is proconsul in Louisiana promulgates an edict which subjects the freed negroes to enforced labour. An election is to take place, and General Banks notifies that men who abstain from voting, or who do not vote the Government ticket, will be treated as traitors. And the New York papers think, they are not sure about it, that this is equivalent to forced voting. We confess that all this does not incline us to mocking and derision. We cannot even for a moment forget the grave aspect of the case. We cannot close our eyes to the affliction which an inferior race is suffering under Yankee rule, nor to the political and social degradation of a people who three years ago were free and prosperous. It may be unavailing, but it is not less a duty to record the first fruits of the despotic Government that now dominates in the United States.

The Federal armies have succeeded in getting a large number of negroes under their control. To describe the fate of these unhappy creatures is impossible. The real and imputed horrors of the middle passage are as nothing compared to the sufferings of the negroes who, by the cruel fortune of war, have been placed under Federal rule. We are not writing from Southern but from Northern accounts. From every quarter we hear of destitution, disease, and a fearful mortality. To-day we publish a letter which describes to what vile uses Benjamin Butler applies the men, whilst he leaves their wives and families to starve and die. Butler, it seems, has succeeded in reviving the barbarous instinct of the negro, which it had taken nearly a century of Southern civilisation to restrain. In this task he is not alone. The negro men are taught that to murder the aged, and the helpless, and to commit offences that are worse than murder, is the way to gain the approval of their Yankee masters. The massacres, such as that at Beckham's Landing, which come to light, and also the hanging of the Yankee officers at Port Jackson, when the negro soldiers turned upon their teachers, show that the Federals are not sowing their devilish seed on barren ground. What becomes of the women cannot be dwelt upon; therefore, suffice it to say, that on the Federal banners is inscribed a licence to rape, and the Federal armies in the South include in their camp followers troops of prostituted negro women. There is a whisper—such things are only spoken with bated breath—there is a whisper that negro women are destroying their children—not their infants only—but children of larger growth, but yet too young to work. The reason for this is, that Federal commanders object to women accompanying the troops with incumbrances, and so it is said the incumbrances are got rid of. We shall be glad if this rumour prove false. With out this horrible climax the condition of the freed negroes is so sad and deplorable, that we suppose no one out of New England can think of it without loathing the authors and perpetrators of such wickedness. And the excuse has been emancipation. Already even that poor apology is given up; General Banks has decreed that the negroes in his department shall be forced to labour. Who, after this, will dare to assert that the Federal armies give freedom to the coloured race, even in name? It may be, and we think it is true, that negroes will not work of their own free will. But will anyone say that Yankee military slavery is preferable to the domestic institution in the South. General Banks's order has a two-fold object: on the one hand, it is hoped that something may be extorted from negro labour to gratify the cupidity of the invaders; and, on the other hand, it is hoped that by keeping the negroes separated on different plantations, and by making them labour, they may be deprived of the time and opportunity for organising a revolt against their ruthless oppressors. It is not improbable that both these expectations may be disappointed.

Whilst we compassionate the wretched condition of the Yankee negro slaves, we are struck by surprise at the readiness with which the white population in the North submits to a military despotism. Personal liberty exists no longer. The Supreme Court has just endorsed Mr. Lincoln's assumption of power by declaring in the case of Mr. Vallandigham that, whilst the war lasts the military overrides the civil authority; but still more remarkable is the way in which a tacit assent is given to the plans for renewing Mr. Lincoln's lease of power by unconstitutional means. A more barefaced fraud than the amnesty cannot be conceived. Mr. Lincoln himself confesses that it was a fraud by ordering a conscription of half a million of men. The amnesty is neither more nor less than an electioneering manœuvre, which will no doubt be effective, but which no government would have ventured on unless assured that it could trample openly and with impunity upon the rights and liberties of the people. Supposing that Mr. Lincoln could have induced a tenth part of the voters in any one of the Confederate States to return to the Union, it was a manifest violation of every principle of self-government to allow such a fraction to represent the whole population. It was also certain that as the elections could only take place under military authority, they would result in the choice of Mr. Lincoln's nominees. Few persons, however, were prepared for the extraordinary proceeding of the Federal commander in Louisiana. It was supposed either that the voters would be intimidated into supporting the Government candidates, or that in case of need Mr. Lincoln's creatures would tamper with the ballot boxes. But, instead, we find General Banks ordering people to vote the Government ticket under penalty of being treated as traitors. To refuse to vote is to be held as a crime, and he says, "Whoever is indifferent or hostile must chose between the liberty which foreign lands afford, the poverty of the rebel States, and the innumerable and inappreciable blessings which our Government affords." It must not be supposed that the Federal Government acts in this manner from choice. The Northern invaders are in an unexampled situation. They did not find any Union feeling in the South, and neither by bribes, threats or barbarity, have they been able to create any. New Orleans has been for nearly two years in Federal occupation, yet the hostility of its inhabitants has not diminished. The people have been beggared and persecuted, but their spirit is unbroken. With the utmost exertion General Banks, who requires 5,000, has only been able to get 1,400 names on the voting list, and it was sure that not a third of that small number would vote. Hence some strong measure was indispensable or Mr. Lincoln's game would be spoilt. *Nolens volens* the people must go to the polling-places, and as such forced voters were likely to vote *en masse* against the Government candidates, it was also necessary to decree the compulsory support of that side. General Banks's order is therefore a noteworthy and honourable testimony to the unanimity and unswerving patriotism of the Confederates.

It is altogether indifferent to the South who is the next Northern President, but if there is any choice it would fall on Mr. Lincoln, who has proved his weakness and incapacity. The South, then, is not affected by the means employed to secure Mr. Lincoln's re-election; but the apathy of the North is unaccountable. It was remarkable that the Federals submitted so easily to the loss of liberty, but that they consent to be openly cheated out of the Presidential election is inexplicable. They do not deserve any commiseration, for they have the power, if they had the spirit, to resist the imposition. With the oppression of the negroes it is different. The coloured race is no match for the Yankee, and its sufferings excite the warmest sympathy in the South, as they will do throughout the civilised world. May the day soon dawn when the Confederates will roll back the tide of invasion, and rescue their faithful servitors, who have been and are to them as children, from the cruel oppression of their enemy.

It is stated that a number of Federal officers, including the notorious Colonel Streight, have escaped from Richmond. Some were retaken, but eighteen are reported to have reached the Federal lines.

The *New York World* explains the purpose of the expedition to Florida. "The conquest of Florida will do no more to put down the rebellion than would the occupation of Yucatan or Coney Island. The object is political. Florida has been marked out as one of the rotten-borough States which is to help to make Mr. Lincoln President."

The steamers *Hatfield*, *Spunkie*, *Dee*, *Jenny*, *Emily*, and *Fanny* are reported to have been destroyed, and the *City of Petersburg*, captured off Wilmington. The *Cumberland* has been captured whilst entering, and the *Dearleigh* destroyed whilst leaving, Mobile harbour.

Mr. Lincoln has declared the blockade of Brownsville, Texas, to be discontinued.

In New York the fluctuations in the price of gold have been considerable, owing to the announcement that Mr. Chase is to be authorised to sell gold in the market, provided he keeps constantly on hand a sufficient amount to pay the interest on the national debt. As Mr. Chase has sold gold without permission this authorisation will not make much practical difference. A bill introduced by Senator Sherman to prohibit speculative sales in gold will not, it is supposed, be passed. The price of gold in Wall-street on the 16th February reached 61¼ per cent. premium. It then fell to 58, and on the 19th February was quoted at 59 per cent. premium.

A letter from our Richmond correspondent, of the 8th February, will appear in our next number.

ENGLAND.

It is now definitely settled that the great annual review and sham fight of the Volunteers of England will take place on Easter Monday next in the neighbourhood of Guildford, in the county of Surrey. An application was first made to Lord Lovaine, as Lord of the Manor of Farley-heath, for the use of that tract of land for the purpose, but his lordship refused to acquiesce in the proposition. Thereupon Lord Truro turned to Lord Grantley, who is lord of the western part of Blackheath, and succeeded in gaining the desired permission. Lord Truro, Mr. Buxton, M.P., and other gentlemen have surveyed the ground, and consider it in all respects suitable to the plan of the day's manœuvres.

The general annual meeting of the National Rifle Association was held on Saturday last at Willis's Rooms, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, as President, occupied the chair. Earl Ducie, Earl Grosvenor, Lords Elcho, Bury, and Coleville, General Hay, Sir John Burgoyne, G.C.B., Colonel M'Murdo, and other distinguished gentlemen and officers, were present.

His Royal Highness, in opening the proceedings, congratulated the meeting on the prosperous state of the association. The income for 1863 had been £12,004, and the prizes given had been 332 in number and of the value of £4,386. There had been an addition of £1,000 last year in the prizes to the Long Enfield classes. The funded property amounted to £1,209. The entries of competitors for the prizes last year had been 2,739 showing an increase of 1,500 on the year 1862. The National Association had now connected with it 31 county and 14 colonial associations. There had been a difficulty about uniformity in the musketry practice of the various corps, but in accordance with suggestions from the War-office, a committee of the council had been appointed to consider the matter. After the adoption of the report of the council, discussions ensued with reference to the sighting of rifles and the system of targets to be used this year at Wimbledon. The concentric targets

were supported by Lord Elcho and opposed by General Hay. At the close of the debate the vice-presidents and members of the council were re-elected, and the Duke of Cambridge was chosen president for the fifth time. The duke, in returning thanks, supported General Hay's view, holding that although great delicacy of shooting was produced by the concentric system of targets, yet that for the practical purposes of war, the oblong target would bring about the most effective shooting.

The Lord Bishop of London has been appointed by the Board of Ecclesiastical Commissions for England to be the Episcopal Member of their "Estates Committee," in the room of the Bishop of Winchester, who retires.

The Lord Bishop of London has invited the clergy of the Diocese of London to meet him in Willis's Rooms this day. He proposes to lay before them the collected statistics respecting the spiritual wants of London, and to consult them as to the best mode of enlisting the sympathy of their parishioners in the efforts now making to supply those wants. Systematic and combined exertion can, as he affirms, alone (under God's blessing) meet the great difficulties of the situation.

A declaration, by way of protest or answer to the judgment of the Privy Council in the case of "Essays and Reviews" is in course of circulation for signature among the English clergy. This document has been put forth by a committee appointed for the purpose at a meeting held at Oxford. The members of that committee were seven in number, namely, Archdeacon Clerke, Archdeacon Denison, Drs. Cotton, Miller, Leighton, and Pusey, and Mr. W. R. Fremantle, the rector of Claydon. The declaration in effect states that "the undersigned presbyters and deacons in holy orders of the Church of England and Ireland hold it their duty to declare their firm belief that the Church of England and Ireland, in common with the whole Catholic Church, maintains without reserve or qualification the inspiration and Divine authority of the whole canonical Scriptures, as not only containing but being the Word of God; and further, teach in the words of our Blessed Lord that the punishment of the cursed, equally with the life of the righteous, is everlasting."

Sir Moses Montefiore has returned from his mission to the Emperor of Morocco, in Her Majesty's ship *Magicienne*, to Gibraltar. His efforts on behalf of the Jews in that empire have been fully successful, and an Imperial edict has been published under which the position of the Jews will be very greatly improved.

The trades societies of London have caused a deputation of delegates to wait on the Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston to urge the importance of opening public museums and picture galleries to the people on Sundays. About sixty societies of 50,000 members in all were represented. The head of the deputation said that the delegates attended to advocate the opening of the museums and picture galleries, especially the British Museum and the National Gallery, on Sunday. Kew Gardens, Hampton Court, and similar places were open, nd the principle should be extended to places more easy of access. Lord Palmerston said that, speaking as an individual, he agreed with most of the views expressed by the delegation; but that in the country and the House of Commons there was much difference of opinion. In fact, he had no doubt that as soon as the knowledge of that deputation got abroad he should be favoured with another on the opposite side. He could not hold out any hope that the Government would interfere, but he would advise the men before him to enlighten public opinion and thereby attain their object.

On Saturday last Her Majesty the Queen received deputations from the Corporation of London and from the Court of Lieutenancy at Windsor Castle. The principal members of these bodies constituted the deputations, and presented addresses of congratulation to the Queen on the birth of the infant Prince. The city of Edinburgh and the city of Dublin were also represented by the Lord Povost and the Lord Mayorof the latter, from whom also Her Majesty received addresses. The English Presbyterian ministers in and around London and Westminster also presented an address. In each case the principal members of the deputations had the honour of kissing Her Majesty's hand. On Monday similar addresses from the cities of London, Dublin, Edinburgh, and York, were presented to the Prince and Princess of Wales at Marlborough House.

On the 1st day of March the jewelled national token from South Wales to the Princess of Wales, was presented to Her Royal Highness at Marlborough House, by the Countess Dowager of Dunraven, Lady Llanover, Lady Frances Pratt, and Lady Jane Walsh. The jewels consist of a badge in emeralds and diamonds, with the leek surmounted by a bouquet composed of trefoil, oak, wheat, and mistletoe, and the motto in Welsh, "From South Wales to her Princess." Also of a bracelet with fine emeralds and diamond centre, the leek in pearls, emeralds and diamonds composing the band, with the motto in Welsh, "God preserve the Princess." The casket is richly mounted in gold.

On the same day an offering to the Princess of Wales from the province of North Jutland was presented by M. de Bille, the Danish Minister. Also an offering of a richly sculptured silver vase from the Danish inhabitants of London, by a committee of Danish gentlemen.

On the same day Lord Harris presented to Her Royal Highness three offerings from South Australia:

1. A flower-stand composed of fine emu's eggs, set in pure gold and supported by a pedestal of pure gold, from the ladies of the State of Victoria.

2. A casket richly wrought in pure silver, from Sir James F. Palmer, President of the Legislative Council of Victoria.

3. A casket formed of a large emu's egg set in pure gold, supported by a pedestal of pure gold, from the ladies of South Australia.

An armour-plated frigate, the property of the Danish Government, was launched last week from the building-yard of Messrs. I. and G. Thompson, at Govan. She is 280 feet long, of 3500 tons burthen, and 600 horse-power; she is covered from stem to stern with armour-plates four and a-half inches thick, upon a strong backing of teak and iron plating. The frigate will not, however, be permitted to leave this country pending hostilities between Denmark and the German Powers. Explanations of the conduct of the Government will be found in our Parliamentary intelligence.

The English Channel is rapidly being converted into an important theatre of war. On Monday a Danish corvette was seen twelve miles S.S.W. of Eddystone, steering across the track of six merchantmen going up the Channel. The Federal war-steamer *Kearsage* is at anchor off Boulogne, taking in coals. She is supposed to be watching the Confederate war steamer *Rappahannock*, which is still undergoing repairs at Calais.

From the papers laid before Parliament with respect to the affair of the ship *Saxon*, it appears that the American ship *Vanderbilt* was not guilty of any breach of neutrality in seizing the *Saxon* within one mile and a half of Angra Pequina, for that island does not belong to the British crown. Sir George Grey, the late Governor of the Cape, had proclaimed the island as British territory shortly before his departure for New Zealand, but the proclamation was never ratified. It further appears that Earl Russell has, through Lord Lyons, demanded compensation for the owners of the coal seized by the *Vanderbilt*, and has remonstrated against the conduct of the officer in taking the coal by force. An inquiry has also been demanded of all the circumstances attending the murder of Mr. Gray, with compensation for his widow and children.

Warren Quinsey, *alias* Wilson, and G. P. M'Murdoch, *alias* Kelly, were brought up last week at the Liverpool police-court, on a charge of piracy. On the 10th November last the schooner *L. Gerity* sailed from Matamoras for New York, having on board a cargo of cotton, valued at more than $60,000, and six passengers, two of whom were the prisoners. On the 17th November the passengers rose and seized the ship, killed the steward, and steered to Brownsville. The vessel was by her captors named the *Eureka*, and as such sailed for Belize, where the captors, under the British flag, entered the port, and sold the vessel and cargo for $70,000. The captain of the schooner came to England, and, under the Extradition Treaty, arrested the prisoners at Liverpool. They had with them some property belonging to the captain of the *L. Gerity* in their possession, and were armed with six-barrelled revolvers.

In the early part of the year 1856 a gentleman of the name of George Nuthall, who resided at Matlock, in the county of Derby, died, possessed of considerable landed estates and other property, and by a will executed about two years before his death he bequeathed the larger portion of the same to his cousin John Nuthall, a contractor in the metropolis. Mr. George Nuthall was a man of eccentric habits, not much addicted to company of any kind. His housekeeper, with whom he was on very friendly terms, was one Catherine Marsden. He had, moreover, a friend of the name of John Else, whom he had educated from boyhood, for whom he had conceived a strong attachment, and who resided in a house belonging to the testator, situated but a short distance from that occupied by George Nuthall.

A short time previous to his death the testator made an appointment with his solicitor, Mr. Newbold, for the purpose of making some alterations in the bequests of his will, but at that time Mr. Newbold was unable to attend. The meeting, therefore, was put off to a subsequent date. Meanwhile, George Nuthall fell ill, and was unable to explain the contemplated changes. His death speedily ensued, and there was no reason for supposing that he had in any way altered or revoked the disposition of his property as set out in the will.

On the day of George Nuthall's death the will was found in the cupboard of the room in which he died. On the day of the funeral a second search brought to light a duplicate will, which, however, contained an interlineation, the purport of which was to give an additional legacy to John Else and Catherine Marsden. The testator's papers were carefully searched upon that occasion, and the principal portion of them was conveyed to the office of Mr. Newbold, the solicitor, and the rest, which were composed of highway books and other matters, were given to Mr. Else, for he had succeeded the testator in the duties of overseer of highways. A short period after the death of the testator Mr. John Nuthall also died, leaving a family. After the lapse of about nine months Mr. Else produced a codicil, which he stated that he had found among those papers of Mr. George Nuthall which had been brought over to him at the time of the funeral, and by that codicil he took a portion of the landed estates of which Mr. G. Nuthall had died possessed, and Catherine Marsden also was further benefited by the same. This codicil, together with the will, was admitted to probate, and two persons, named Gregory and Buxton, who were the attesting witnesses, swore positively to the due execution of the same. Nine months after the finding of the first codicil, John Else, who had occasion to search some of the papers of George Nuthall which at the time of the funeral had been handed to Mr. Newbold, found, as he declared, another codicil pinned in a common account-book. Under this new codicil John Else took a very large interest in the property of Mr. George Nuthall, as did also Catherine Marsden. Dr. Adams, a respectable surgeon residing at Matlock, and a Mr. Knowles, were the attesting witnesses, and swore to their own signatures and to that of the testator. This codicil, therefore, was also admitted to probate. Nine months afterwards John Else produced a third codicil, attested by Adams and Knowles, and drawn principally in favour of himself and Catherine Marsden. He found this last codicil secreted in a hole in a wall under a window-sill in the house of George Nuthall. At last, the suspicions of the executors of the will of John Nuthall were aroused, and they determined to dispute the validity of the three codicils and of the interlineation in the will, and boldly asserted that all these documents were forgeries. The matter having been thrown in Chancery, the Master of the Rolls ordered an issue to be tried as to the validity of these contested documents, and on the same coming on before Chief Justice Erle and a special jury of the county of Derby, the jury decided that the codicils were genuine. The verdict, however, was not satisfactory in the opinion of the Master of the Rolls, and he ordered another trial. The result of this trial was that the jury, under the direction of the Lord Chief Baron, found a verdict for the defendant; in other words, they found that the codicils and interlineation were forgeries. The Master of the Rolls having refused a third trial, and the Lords Justices being divided in opinion, the case was taken to the House of Lords, and their lordships unanimously decided that a new trial should be granted. Last week, then, the new trial came on for hearing before the Chief Justice of England and a special jury of the city of London. On behalf of the plaintiffs it was strenuously insisted that the positive oaths of the four attesting witnesses must prevail against the vague impossibilities and theories put forward by the defendants, and that if the jury found a verdict for the defendants they must necessarily find the four witnesses guilty of perjury, and Else guilty of perjury, forgery, and subornation of perjury. On the other side, these astounding facts were conclusively proved—that the testator was a man of education and ability and could spell accurately, whereas the codicils were full of gross blunders, such as the testator could hardly by any possibility have made. The counsel relied especially on the word "daughter," which, though spelt accurately in the will and in all the examined writings of the testator, in the codicils was spelt "Doughter," while John Else invariably wrote "Doughter." Moreover, many documents in the admitted handwriting of John Else were produced, and in them "Daughter" invariably appeared as "Doughter." Great stress was also laid on a very peculiar discrepancy observable in the crossing of the letter "t," and other differences detected by the experts. The peculiar intervals of time that elapsed between the several discoveries, the odd places in which the codicils were hid, and the finding of all by the individual supremely interested in the revelation, formed a combination of powerful improbabilities against the validity of the codicils.

After a trial of eight days in duration the jury found a verdict setting aside the three codicils and the interlineation in the duplicate will. In other words, the jury found that the disputed documents were forgeries effected by John Else.

Such was the result of a series of litigation which, whether regarded as developing a story of marvellous romance, or as illustrating the extent to which legal proceedings may be carried, is unparalleled in the annals of modern causes.

By the latest advices we learn that New Zealand has advanced so far in the path of civilisation as to institute a national debt. The Government has proposed a loan for £3,000,000, and expects that it will be guaranteed by the Home Government. It is to be redeemable in fifty years by a sinking fund. Roads, lighthouses, the suppression of the rebellion, and the planting of settlers on the lands of the evicted tribes will absorb that sum. It has also been determined to remove the seat of government from Auckland to some place in Cooks' Straits.

CONTINENT.

The distrust we last week expressed as to the settlement of the Dano-German quarrel by a Conference has been fully justified. The probability is that the Conference will never meet. It may be taken as certain that if it does it will arrive at no satisfactory conclusion. Austria and Prussia have only accepted the English proposition conditionally. Denmark postpones her determination. France may consent to take part in the deliberations, but she throws no cordiality into her assent.

Meanwhile military operations seem to have been entirely suspended. The allies are waiting for more men and material before they make their grand assault upon Düppel. Jutland has not been evacuated, but the Prussians have not advanced beyond Kolding. As will be seen by our Parliamentary Notes, the Prussian Government repudiates the act, but means to retain all the advantage of it. The officer who crossed the frontier has been reprimanded, but he is to hold the position he had taken because it has considerable strategical importance. The Danish Government has declared the whole east coast of Sleswig and Holstein blockaded, and a Danish force has occupied the island of Fehmern, which lies to the extreme east of Holstein and belongs to that duchy. Supported by Danish gunboats, the Danes occupy here a position which the allies may find inconvenient.

An Austrian naval force has been ordered to the English Channel to protect German commerce, and the Prussian "fleet" is being equipped in hot haste. Unfortunately the Danish navy now bears no proportion to that of former days. It has never recovered the blow England struck it in 1807. A victim then, and again in 1815 to her fidelity to France, Denmark is a victim now to her faith in the promises of England, France, Russia, and Sweden.

Austria and Prussia are not at all daunted by the big words of the Wurzburgers. They succeeded in the last sitting of the Diet in rejecting the two most dangerous of Herr von der Pfordten's proposals—those declaring the Treaty of London invalid; the refusal to receive the Danish Minister, and the instructions to the Committee to report as soon as possible upon the succession question without taking the Treaty of London as a basis, were carried. They have, moreover, proposed that the Federal troops in Holstein should be placed under the commander of the Austro-Prussian army in the duchies, and that they should appoint commissioners to administer the government of Holstein—apparently not to supersede the Saxon and Hanover commissioners, but to act with them—a distinction without any real difference.

It is said that the Austrian and Prussian Governments have a perfect understanding as to their policy towards the duchies, and that Austria, who objected to the invasion of Jutland, has been satisfied by the explanation of General Manteuffel. A deputation of Slesvigers has been received both by the King of Prussia and the Emperor of Austria. William the First gave them an answer of the sympathetic non-committal sort he gave the Kiel professors. Francis Joseph told them that lasting satisfaction would be given to the just claims of their country, but that Providence had imposed upon him duties which he could not permit desires threatening the general peace to override. The prospects of the Pretender do not improve; the middle and minor States, which are ready to recognise him and go to war to put him in possession, can do nothing against Austria and Prussia. And whatever the great German Powers may intend, the elevation of the Pretender to the throne of Slesvig Holstein is not at present among their schemes.

The Danes have not lost a jot of their courage and determination. In reply to an Address presented to him the King said, "I will admit of no abolition of the existing political connection between the kingdom and Slesvig. I wish to be a free king over a free people. A king is only free when his country is independent, and when the constitutional condition is maintained and developed."

Upon the proposition of the Minister of War General de Meza has been dismissed from the army, and General Gerlach has been appointed commander-in-chief. The dismissal of de Meza seems a singular proceeding. According to the reports of impartial witnesses he did everything possible under the circumstances.

Count Hamilton, the Swedish Minister at Copenhagen, has been recalled at his own request. Before the death of Frederick VII., the Count had negotiated with the Danish Government a treaty of alliance, by which Sweden undertook to aid Denmark in repelling Federal Execution. A far greater wrong has been done to Denmark, and the Swedish Government refuses to enter into this alliance. This is one more of the benefits for which the Danes have to thank the English Government.

It is said that there is a ministerial crisis at Copenhagen, that the Ministers are divided upon the question whether concessions should be made or the war continued vigorously. According to the same report, M. Quaade, the Foreign Minister, has resigned.

The elections to the Corps Législatif for the two seats vacant for Paris are fixed for the 20th March.

M. Pietri is dead. He was a warm Napoleonist, and has rendered the Emperor considerable services. He was for several years Prefect of Police, and organised the *plébiscite* by which Savoy and Nice were annexed to France. He was a senator, and about 54 years old.

The news from Mexico continues to be very favourable.

The trial of the prisoners charged with the conspiracy against the Emperor's life terminated with their conviction. Their guilt was clearly brought home, and, indeed, was admitted by them. Greco and Trabuco were condemned to transportation for life. Imperatori and Scaglioni to twenty years' imprisonment. The Procureur Imperial created considerable sensation by announcing that the house to which Mazzini had directed his letters to be sent was that of an English member of Parliament. The address given by Mazzini was M. Flower, 35, Thurlow-square, Brompton. The subject was introduced into the Senate without the slightest relevancy by MM. Le Verrier and Boissy, and England was abused most vehemently as a den of assassins. If the indignant senators had known that the member of Parliament was also a member of the Government their fury would have been even greater. Mr. Stansfeld, a lord of the Admiralty and a friend of Mazzini, resides at 35, Thurlow-square. It will be seen by the Parliamentary Notes that Mr. Stansfeld indignantly repudiates, both for himself and Mazzini, any part in the conspiracy. Mr. Stansfeld will, of course, be absolved by everybody.

Whilst an Austrian army is fighting for German nationality in Slesvig, the Austrian Government finds it necessary to proclaim Galicia in a state of siege, and adopt the most rigorous measures against the Poles contending for their nationality. It would seem that a most dangerous revolutionary organisation exists in Galicia, and that the Austrian Government, if it means to retain the province, must resort to the same severe measures which have been applied in Russian Poland. This revolutionary organisation exists also, it is said, in Posen, Silesia, and Western Prussia, and the Prussian Government will probably have to employ most energetic means in these provinces. Even in Russian Poland the insurgents are not yet annihilated, and the secret National Government continues to send forth its orders, and, although upon a smaller scale, raises taxes and strikes down its enemies.

The Belgian ministerial crisis is over; the Catholics would not undertake to form a ministry, and the old Administration retains power. The King has consequently been at last able to carry out his intention of visiting England.

The Italian Parliament is discussing the ministerial project for the reorganisation of the land tax.

The Minister of the Interior has brought forward a measure of very great importance. He proposes to suppress all monastic establishments and convert the property to the uses of the State, paying the inmates pensions varying from 600 to 150 francs a year. The number of convents to be suppressed is about 2400, belonging to more than 80 religious orders, with nearly 65,000 members.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

AMERICA.—DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE ABOUT THE STEAM RAMS.

On Thursday night the House of Lords was treated to a most extraordinary specimen of ministerial evasion and forgetfulness. The Earl of Derby complained of papers being refused in one House and granted in the other, and that such a course destroyed that confidence between the Government and Parliament, which induced members to abstain from discussion when a minister announced upon his own responsibility that the production of papers asked for would be injurious to the public service. The papers in the case of the *Saxon* were refused in the House of Commons and promised in the House of Lords. But the case to which the Earl of Derby particularly called the attention of their lordships was, that when he asked for the correspondence between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the Federal States respecting injuries to Federal commerce apprehended from vessels that might leave British ports—that is, the diplomatic correspondence relating to the steam rams in the Mersey—Earl Russell refused to produce it on the plea that the law officers of the Crown had advised that it would affect injuriously an action still pending in a court of law. The noble earl did not assent to the argument of the Foreign Secretary, but he deferred to his position, and did not press for the papers. Yet it had been since announced by the Government that the correspondence thus refused would be laid upon the table of the House of Commons. The Earl of Derby wanted to know whether Earl Russell was still of opinion that the production of the correspondence laid before the United States Congress and promised to the House of Commons, would be injurious to the public service, or if not, whether Earl Russell could inform the House "what has occurred since the last discussion to effect a revolution of opinion quite as rapid and complete as that which the noble Earl Russell) has stated to have occurred as to the detention of the steam rams between the 1st and 3rd September."

Earl Russell replied that the noble Earl (Derby) did not "correctly remember the facts of the discussion to which he alludes." He (Earl Russell) had not stated that the production of the correspondence between the two Governments would be dangerous, but that it was the opinion of the Attorney-General that it would lead to an injurious discussion in the House of Commons. It was the Attorney-General who had made the objection, but upon reconsideration his learned friend had come to the conclusion "that the papers could not be produced entirely without mischief, but without all the mischief which he apprehended. The objection of the Attorney-General being waived my (Earl Russell's) objection is waived too, because I have no other objection than that which he stated." His lordship added, "at the same time, I think it very probable that the production of these papers will have some mischievous and bad consequences attached to it."

[This answer is, as our readers will see, altogether at variance with the statements made by Earl Russell on the 10th and 12th February. On the 10th, the Earl of Derby said, "I have seen elsewhere that a considerable amount of correspondence has taken place upon another subject, namely, the remonstrances made as to injuries apprehended or sustained by American commerce from vessels sailing from British ports. I wish to know whether the Government are prepared to lay upon the table that correspondence as well as the despatches relating to the *Alabama*." To this Earl Russell replied, "If the noble earl refers to any discussions with the American Government about the ironclads at Birkenhead, I can only say that as that matter is about to be brought before a court of law I shall object to produce that correspondence." Here we have from Earl Russell an emphatic declaration that he will not produce the diplomatic correspondence about the steam rams because the matter is under judicial investigation. On the 12th the Earl of Derby, in the hope of inducing the Foreign Secretary to reconsider this answer returned to the subject, and at great length explained that the prosecution of Messrs. Laird was a municipal affair, that it did not relate to international law, that no foreign Power could have any authority in it, and that consequently the case could not be affected by the production of a diplomatic correspondence with the United States. To this Earl Russell replied, "Upon every consideration, upon the opinion of the law-officers of the Crown, and upon the best judgment I can form, I say it would be prejudicial to the course of justice if I were to produce the papers." Yet on the 23rd February Sir George Grey informed the House of Commons that "the Government were ready" to produce these very papers; and that they only objected to produce the correspondence with Messrs. Laird, which, be it observed, Earl Derby had not pressed for. The explanation is easy. If Sir George Grey had not made that announcement just before the division on Mr. Fitzgerald's motion the Government would have been beaten; but this explanation does not remove the Earl of Derby's cause of complaint.]

Lord Chelmsford asked when the Attorney-General had communicated his change of mind to Earl Russell, and why, as from what took place in the House of Commons on the 23rd, it must have been known for some time before that there was no objection to produce the papers, the House of Lords had not been informed "at the earliest moment that a portion of the papers moved for would be given."

Earl Russell replied [we must quote his lordship's words, for it is utterly impossible to show that they have any relation to Lord Chelmsford's inquiry], "I consider the communication between the Secretary of State and the Attorney-General a privileged communication, and shall decline to say when it was made." The Earl of Derby summed up the discussion by observing, "The noble earl has just made out my case, unless he can inform us what was the precise period at which the Attorney-General changed his mind. The noble earl has, in fact, admitted that without any ground, papers refused in the House of Commons have been granted in the House of Lords." [The noble earl here referred to the case of the *Saxon*.]

The Earl of Carnarvon expressed his surprise to hear from Earl Russell that it would take "two months or upwards" to prepare the promised list of claims made on the United States Government by British subjects, as he believed that "it would be contained in one or two sheets of foolscap."

THE SEIZURE OF THE "TUSCALOOSA."

In reply to Mr. Peacocke, Lord Palmerston stated in the House of Commons on Thursday last that the *Tuscaloosa* was seized on instructions forwarded to the Cape founded on a former supposed condition of things. When these instructions arrived the *Tuscaloosa* had departed, but on her return the Governor, acting on them, had seized her. "Upon further representations, however, and a full consideration of the case, it has been determined that there are no proper grounds internationally for seizing her, and orders have been sent out to set her at liberty."

Lord Cecil asked if any compensation would be given for the injury. Lord Palmerston parried the inquiry with a joke, telling Lord Cecil that he must give notice of the question.

On Friday, in reply to Mr. Peacocke, Lord Palmerston declined to explain the instructions that had been sent out to the Cape, but said the Government would produce the papers, which fully detailed them.

FEDERAL RECRUITING IN IRELAND.

The Marquis of Clanricarde moved for copies of any reports that might have been received by Her Majesty's Government, respecting recruiting in Ireland for the Federal army. After commenting on the serious character of the offence, and its notoriety, his lordship remarked that the Irish constabulary were honest and intelligent, and could not have failed to report to the Government what was going on. Besides, Earl Russell had incidentally adverted to the subject in his correspondence with Mr. Adams. The returns of the Emigration Commissioners also furnished additional evidence. The marquis referred to the case of a man who arrived at Galway and engaged men ostensibly for railroad works in America, but who was really recruiting for the Federal army. This man was arrested, and it came out that he was an Irishman who had been in the Federal service, who was wounded, and returned to his native country on the pretext of enrolling labourers for the construction of railroads. This man did not refer to a commercial firm, but to the American Consul at Liverpool. How did the United States act towards England in 1855? The British Consul at New York thought there was no harm in paying the travelling expenses of British subjects, who wished to return home to enlist in the army and navy. The Supreme Court, however, decided that the words of the Act, "hire and retain," were susceptible of a very broad interpretation, and met the case. The United States Government withdrew the exequaturs from our consuls, and insisted upon the removal of Mr. Crampton, the British Minister at Washington. Yet this was a very different matter from enlisting foreign subjects as the Federals are doing in Ireland. His lordship then referred to the case of the *Kearsarge*, and to the distribution of Federal uniforms in Ireland. "If the Confederates had done one-tenth of what the Federals have done, it would have been put a stop to long ago. But the neutrality of Her Majesty's Government has been from the first a partial neutrality."

Earl Russell did not deny that enlisting soldiers in Ireland for the United States was a serious offence, but he could not proceed without evidence. He said that, as he understood, the Marquis of Clanricarde argued, "that because the American Government acted improperly in 1855, therefore we ought to act improperly now." [This was greeted with cries of Oh, oh!] One case had been presented to the law officers of the Crown, but they advised that the evidence was not sufficient. His lordship said, "My noble friend must perceive that even although it could be proved that many of those young men are arriving in New York, tempted by the large bounty offered to them, many enter the army of the United States, yet if they go from this country without any contract to enter the army, if they go for the purpose of obtaining good employment and good wages, and wait till their arrival in New York to decide whether they will

be railway labourers or soldiers, there can be no ground for a prosecution under the Foreign Enlistment Act." [It did not occur to Earl Russell that men who emigrate under contract to do railway work, who have their passage paid, and who receive a handsome bounty, are not quite free to choose their career.] Respecting the *Kearsage*, his lordship read a letter from the commander of the vessel, which we reproduce in our American Notes. In the same part of our impression will be found some comments on his lordship's assertion that British subjects are oppressed in the Confederacy, and that the British Consuls have been driven out of the Confederacy.

The Earl of Donoughmore compared the conduct of the Government about the steam rams, and about Federal recruiting in Ireland. In the one case Earl Russell did not wait for the advice of the law officers but acted on suspicion; but in the other he had adopted a different policy. Was it because his lordship is friendly to the North, or that he did not care what became of the poor Irish people? The Earl of Donoughmore said he should like to hear from the Government if their attention had been called to the "Fenian" brotherhood? [As we are informed it was, in the first instance, by Mr. Adams.] It might be a contemptible scheme, "but when men were enlisted in the service of a foreign Government, were drilled, and received a military education, then, he thought, not so much in the interest of the State as in mercy to these deluded people, the Government ought to interfere."

Earl Granville said the attention of the police had been directed to the military drilling which was said to be going on in Ireland. He could not then give any detailed information, but he might observe that the police had arrived at the conclusion that the Fenian organisation "was a perfectly contemptible one."

The Marquis of Clanricarde would not press his motion, but he believed that if he had had the opportunity he could have proved that breaches of the Foreign Enlistment Act have been committed, "and he had been informed by a brother magistrate that, to his personal knowledge, men had been seduced from the ranks of the county militia, and were now serving in the United States army."

DENMARK.

On Thursday the Earl of Malmesbury asked Earl Russell to produce the correspondence of 1851 and 1852. There was a wide-spread ignorance of the facts of the case because all the public information had been solely derived "from garbled statements in German papers, from German pamphlets, and from extracts published by the French Foreign-office." He had received a letter from the brother of the Duke of Augustenburg, asking him to retract what he had stated in the House of Lords about the negotiations. He knew his statement was accurate, and therefore declined to retract it. If the correspondence he asked for was produced, it would put an end to mis-statements. Earl Russell said he should like to communicate privately with Earl Malmesbury, to ascertain how far the correspondence can be produced.

In the House of Commons on Friday, Mr. Griffith asked whether the Government had received information that, by order of Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia, numbers of the inhabitants and almost all the clergymen of Gravenstein and its neighbourhood had been arrested as spies, and a warning issued to the inhabitants, complaining of their Danish sympathies, and informing them that all those arrested as spies in future would be executed; and whether such treatment of the loyal inhabitants of an invaded country was in accordance with the modern usages of war among civilised nations. Lord Palmerston replied the Government had no such information.

In reply to Mr. Forster, Mr. Layard said no formal notice of the blockade had been given by Denmark; and he believed "there was no fixed period for giving notice. A reasonable period was generally allowed between notice and seizure."

In reply to Mr. M'Evoy, Mr. Layard said that under the Treaty of London Her Majesty's Government were not called upon to interfere. Respecting the guarantee of 1720, the Government were of opinion that the case anticipated by that instrument had not arisen. He understood that an application had been made to France for assistance, and that the French Government had not felt called upon to give an opinion. He had no information as to the alleged offer of the Government of Italy to assist Denmark.

Respecting the Conference, Lord Palmerston said Austria and Prussia had agreed to it without an armistice; he believed France was willing to join it, and he fancied Russia was likewise disposed to do so. He was not quite sure about Sweden, and no answer had come from Denmark. Respecting the invasion of Jutland, Lord Palmerston said that on a representation being made at Berlin, the Government was informed that the advance to Kolding was against positive instructions, and that the commander of the forces would be reprimanded; but "it appears that the occupation of that place being of great strategical value for the security of the allied forces in Slesvig, the occupation will nevertheless be continued." [This was received with shouts of laughter. To reprimand a commander for doing what was necessary for the security of his troops, and not to withdraw from the position, is very funny. But what followed was not less curious.] Lord Palmerston did not deny that the invasion of Jutland was an infraction of the guarantee of 1720, but he said that Austria and Prussia still acknowledged the validity of the Treaty of 1852, and the maintenance of the integrity of the Danish monarchy, and, therefore, a case had not arisen under the guarantee of 1720. [According to this, "words not deeds" is the motto of the British Cabinet. A practical violation of a treaty is not an offence, provided the aggressive Powers *say* they acknowledge the validity of the treaty.]

On Friday, in the House of Lords, Earl Russell, in reply to the Earl of Malmesbury, said the Prussian minister had stated informally that Austria and Prussia had intended to make the war local, and merely to take a material guarantee, but the Danish order to seize German ships made the war general; and if German ships were seized, the Prussian Government might have to occupy Jutland until compensation was given for the vessels and cargoes. He (Earl Russell) stated long ago, that though "a material guarantee" may sound something different from war, the Danish Government were not bound to regard the invasion of their territory in any other light than as an act of war, and would be justified in attacking Prussian ships and making war against them on the high seas.

The same evening, in the House of Commons, Lord Palmerston said the basis of the negotiations would be the integrity of the Danish monarchy. The German Diet had not answered the invitation to be present at the proposed Conference.

In the House of Commons on Friday, Mr. Disraeli made some inquiries respecting our relations with the continent of Europe. He had great distrust of a conference that did not include an armistice. In nine cases out of ten when conferences had been carried on during war they have failed. In this case he (Mr. Disraeli) had more than a theoretical objection, for Earl Russell, nine years ago, was the manager of the Conference at Vienna, *pendente lite*, and the noble earl failed. It appeared that the British Government had made various offers to France for joint notes and remonstrances and all that "diplomatic rubbish," but it appeared from a despatch of M. Drouyn de Lhuys that such propositions had been rejected, and seeing how the English Government had led France into difficulty in regard to Poland, the French Government was determined not to interfere unless the English Government was "prepared to proceed further and enter into a course of action." Perhaps France had now consented to the conference and he wanted to know on what terms. The Ministers state that the basis of negotiation is to be "the independence and integrity of Denmark." If that means a mere personal union between the kingdom and the duchies it will not result in peace but in anarchy. Or is Europe to interfere "and by force of arms to render the inhabitants of Holstein and Slesvig loyal and contented subjects of the King of Denmark? But that is a solution not consistent with British policy, nor in my mind, perfectly in harmony with the spirit of the age in which we live." Mr. Disraeli then observed that probably the Emperor of the French would be called upon to settle pending affairs, and possibly might renew the Confederation of the Rhine, or effect the rectification of the Saarlouis frontier. If the Government had been firm the difficulty would not have arisen. If the Government had not brought about an estrangement from France the integrity of Denmark would not have been in jeopardy. Respecting the papers laid before Parliament, the hon. gentleman remarked that he expected that in the recess other papers would be published by Denmark. A similar event had happened twice before to Earl Russell. The papers at present published do not throw any light on the conduct of the Government. In conclusion the hon. member said, "I hear nothing from Her Majesty's Government to guide, to enlighten, to animate the House and the country at the present moment. The drivers have lost the road, the reins have fallen from their hands, and the horses are wild."

Lord Palmerston taunted Mr. Disraeli with finding nothing in the Danish papers on which to found a charge against the Government, and with having to ransack *Hansard*, the *Annual Register*, and the blue-books of ten years ago. He thought the country was quite as well governed by the present Ministry as it would be by the Opposition leaders, if credit is to be given them for sincerity in the line of argument they have adopted. We are at peace, and Ministers are told they ought to declare war against Russia for Poland, and against Germany for Denmark. It was hard to please Mr. Disraeli. He complained of not having papers, and when he had them, complained that he was more than ever unable to come to a definite conclusion. The object of the Government had been to conciliate differences. Earl Russell was fruitful in expedients, and when one plan failed he tried another. He thought that this, which was charged against Earl Russell, was really a compliment to his noble friend.

Mr. Fitzgerald complained that Lord Palmerston did not give the information asked for by Mr. Disraeli. The noble lord defended the conduct of Earl Russell at the Vienna Conference, saying that all that occurred redounded to his credit, but "if that were so, the wonder was that the noble lord (Russell) left the Government in 1856." Mr. Fitzgerald also commented on a statement made by Lord Palmerston, that Mr. Disraeli was pursuing an unfair course in attacking an absent man (Earl Russell). "Did the noble lord mean to say that because a member of the Government was a peer therefore he was to be exempt from criticism in that House; and that when the leader of the Opposition rose to call attention to foreign affairs he was to curtail his remarks because the Foreign Minister was a peer, and, consequently, privileged from criticism?"

THE DANISH WAR STEAMER IN THE CLYDE.

Mr. Dalglish, adverting to the statement that a steamer of 3000 tons and 500-horse power, plated with 4½-inch armour from stem to stern, was just launched, and said to be the property of the Danish Goverment, asked whether the Government would seize her as they had seized the *Pampero*, or would permit her to sail from the Clyde? Mr. Layard replied that shortly before hostilities broke out, the Danish Minister informed Earl Russell that the vessel was being built, and offered to stop the fitting, if the Government wished it. Earl Russell thought it the best course, but at the request of the builders the vessel was finished and got off the stocks, the Danish minister giving his word that she should not leave the Clyde: and the vessel is "detained in this country until hostilities shall have ceased."

MAZZINI AND THE GRECO CONSPIRACY.

In the House of Lords on Monday, the Marquis of Westmeath said there was probably no legal evidence to convict Signor Mazzini of participation in the detestable conspiracy against the life of the Emperor Napoleon; but he hoped, if the Government had a moral conviction that Mazzini, or any one else in this country had been so implicated, they would take the matter up.

Earl Russell replied that without evidence the marquis had no right to say that Signor Mazzini or any other person was guilty of a crime, "and there being no such evidence, and no such powers vested in the executive, as the noble marquis seemed to suppose he, (Earl Russell) could only say that he did not mean to take any steps in reference to the subject." [It is only to oblige the United States Government that the British Foreign Secretary acts upon "moral conviction," or upon the statements of professional spies.]

A very lively scene in reference to the same affair took place in the House of Commons. Mr. James Stansfeld, M.P., for Halifax and a Junior Lord of the Admiralty has before now been charged with complicity in the designs or imputed designs of Italian revolutionists At the late trial in Paris the Procureur-General said, "He (Greco) was to write to that address in London if he was in want of money. It is as follows:—'Mr. Flower, 35, Thurlow-square, Brompton.' I searched the *London Directory*. At page 670 I found what I was looking for, and it was not without sadness that I recognised the name of a member of Parliament of England, who already had been in 1857 appointed to be the banker of the Tebaldi conspiracy against the Emperor's life." Mr. Stansfeld, lives at 35, Thurlow-square, and Mr. Cox wanted to know if the hon. gentleman's attention had been called to the foregoing pargraph.

Mr. Stansfeld expressed his intense indignation that the Crown Prosecutor of a friendly Power should imagine and venture to insinuate that a member of the British House of Commons and a minister of the Crown should be directly or indirectly implicated in attempts which, if serious, must merit the execration of mankind. He had known Signor Mazzini for 18 years, than whom no man has been "more cruelly and more shamefully maligned." He pledged his "personal knowledge" of Signor Mazzini that he is absolutely incapable of being concerned in such an attempt. He had made inquiries, and he was satisfied that if the case should be tried, the answer to it will be satisfactory in every respect.

Mr. Hennessy said Mr. Stansfeld had no right to defend Signor Mazzini without giving due notice that the subject was to be brought before the House. A few weeks since Signor Mazzini had written to the *Times* that Greco was "an enthusiastic patriot," yet it was admitted that Greco was a spy and a miscreant of the lowest order.

Mr. Stansfeld said he had no knowledge of letters addressed to "Mr. Flower." He did not know if Mr. Flower was Signor Mazzini. He had never acted as treasurer to a committee for the collection of money to be distributed to Italian patriots.

Lord C. Hamilton wanted to know if Mr. Fiore, the secretary of Signor Mazzini, is not the intimate friend of Mr. Stansfeld; and Mr. Alderman Rose asked if Signor Mazzini has not lived with Mr. Stansfeld. After a few remarks from Mr. Forster, defending Mr. Stansfeld, and Signor Mazzini, the conversation dropped.

THE TAXATION AND CONDITION OF IRELAND.

On Friday, in the House of Commons, Colonel Dunne moved for a select committee to consider how far the taxation of Ireland is in accordance with the provisions of the Union, or just in reference to the resources of the country. In doing so, Colonel Dunne made an interesting statement. One of the conditions of the Union was that Ireland should contribute 2-17ths of the taxation; an arrangement which was opposed by a powerful minority in the Irish Parliament as being grossly unjust. At the time of the Union the debt of England was £420,000,000 and of Ireland £26,841,000. It was arranged that the debts should be kept separately; but an unfair amount of the entire debt had been imposed on Ireland. The original debt was taken at £18,000,000. The total debt contracted since the Union was £289,000,000, of which 2-17ths was £34,000,000. There had been deficient revenues to the extent of £9,000,000. Yet Ireland had £107,000,000 imposed upon her as her portion of the debt. On this point, then, he (Colonel Dunne) thought inquiry should be made. Moreover the Act of Union provided that at the end of seven years the proportion might be reviewed and if necessary altered. Now, according to the value of property assessed to the income-tax the portion of the taxes payable by Ireland ought to be smaller than that authorised by the arrangements made at the time of the Union. The last official return gives the taxation of Ireland at £6,845,000, but that does not represent the entire amount. Goods on which customs' dues have been paid in England are consumed in Ireland, the produce of the sale of the Crown lands has been applied to England, the rents of Ireland are spent out of the country, and altogether the real amount of Irish revenue may be put down at £9,000,000. Taxation in Ireland has increased in a greater ratio than in England. In 1816 taxes to the amount of £17,190,324 were repealed, from which Ireland was benefited only to the extent of £163,155. "The property assessed to income tax in Great Britain is £302,380,730, and in Ireland £21,631,975. The gross revenue of Great Britain is £61,360,749; of Ireland, £6,792,606. Thus for every pound of gross revenue Great pays 4s. 6¾d., while Ireland pays 6s. 3½. If however, there were added to the account uncredited customs and absentee rents, there would be a drain from Ireland amounting to at least 10s. in the pound." Therefore Ireland was becoming impoverished, and had lost two millions and a half of her population. He believed it to be quite

true that 100,000 fighting men had left Ireland for America. Such an emigration was not a benefit to the country. In ten years the quantity of arable land under cultivation in Ireland had decreased by upwards of 2,000,000 of acres. "Ireland used to export cereals to the value of from £4,000,000 to £5,000,000. She now imported £5,000,000 worth, showing a loss of £9,000,000 on that head alone. The falling off had also extended to green crops and to stock. The diminution of green crops last year amounted to 19,336 acres. Of horses there was in the same period a loss of 23,715, valued at £189,720; of cattle, 93,415, of the value of £1,777,998; of sheep, 153,201, of the value of £147,421; and of pigs, 89,821, of the value of £98,000, making altogether a loss within the last year—that was from within 1862 to 1863—of stock worth £2,207,616." Manufacturing industry has also been declining. Cotton mills have died out. In 1839 woollen manufactures employed 1,231, in 1862 only 862 persons. "According to the report of the inspectors of factories, worsted had sunk even lower than the woollen manufactures." In 1845 the investments in savings banks were £2,921,581, and in 1862 only £2,153,211. The traffic on the railroads has decreased. In 1846 there were 15,932 boats and 70,011 men engaged in Irish fisheries; in 1862 the numbers had fallen to 11,375 boats and 48,601 men.

Mr. Gladstone agreed on behalf of the Government to the appointment of a select committee, though he did not think much benefit would be derived from it. He deplored the distress in Ireland, but he did not altogether assent to the arguments of Colonel Dunne. Ireland paid less than two-seventeenths of the gross revenue, and the calculations based on the assessments of property were in some respects fallacious.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

On Thursday, Lord C. Paget moved the Navy Estimates for the current year. The following gives the principle statistics in a tabular form :—

	Last Year.	Present Year
Cost	£10,736,032	£10,432,610
Number of men and boys	76,000	71,951
Men in the Royal Navy Reserve ..	—	16,000
Line-of-battle ships in commission 1st Feb. in present year	11	10
Armour-plated ships	4	7
Frigates, &c.	41	42
Sloops, &c.	98	99
Guard ships, &c.	82	85
Vessels of all classes	236	243

His lordship informed the House that there are eighteen armour-plated ships in course of construction. Six can be got ready by the middle of the year, six at the end of the year, and six next year; making, with the seven now commissioned, twenty-five. Besides this, the Government proposed to build six gunboats, at a cost of £120,000. These vessels are to be 700 tons burden, to be built on the twin-screw principle, to be armour-plated throughout to the water-line, to have a limited space on deck for turrets, and to carry two powerful guns. These gunboats, it was expected, would be found useful for river purposes and wherever a light draught of water is required. It will be noticed that the estimates for the year are £303,422 less than for last year. This is effected by a reduction in the *personnel* and in the storekeepers' department; but the reduction would have been much greater except for an increase in the vote on account of the war in New Zealand, and an increase in the wages paid to artificers in the dockyards. But how is it that, as the number of vessels is larger, the number of men and boys required can be less? Lord Paget explained that the armour-plated ships required less men, and that, relying upon the large naval reserve (16,000), and upon the facility for getting seamen, the fleet was being weeded of inferior men. However, the reduction in the number of seamen was only 600, and the total reduction was made up by 1,500 coast-guardsmen and 2,000 boys. The naval officers complained of only having little boys to attend on them, and the Admiralty had determined to allow 700 or 800 servants to supply the place of about 2,000 boys. The boys are divided into two classes, and both have hitherto gone into sea-going vessels, the second class acting as officers' servants. It is now proposed that only the first-class boys should go to sea, and the second-class kept in training ships. Lord Paget informed the House that the repairs of vessels was a heavy item, but that it was indispensable to keep up our wooden fleet. Out of 153 ships on foreign stations, 119 were singly despatched on special services, and therefore the power of armour-plated ships was not a substitute for numbers. Besides, for some purposes, iron vessels were not so advantageous. He did not think, for example, that the *Alabama* could have cruised so long without being docked, if she had been an iron ship. Respecting the armour-plated ships constructing, his lordship said the *Bellerophon* is a remarkable vessel. She is 4,200 tons, will carry plates 6 inches in thickness along her entire length, and she will throw a broadside of three-quarters of a ton of iron or steel. Her speed will almost equal that of the *Pallas*, which will, it is thought, be the fastest ship in the navy. Other vessels in course of construction are not so excellent, but the activity in the French dockyards obliged the Admiralty to go on building without awaiting the results of experiments. The *Royal Oak*, the *Caledonia*, the *Prince Consort*, the *Royal Alfred* and the *Ocean* were valuable iron-plated ships, but no longer impenetrable. He (Lord Paget) believed that scarcely any of our ships are impenetrable against the guns that are coming. He altogether denied that the Admiralty had been dilatory. Before the encounter between the *Virginia* (*Merrimac*) and *Monitor* the *Prince Albert*, a turret ship, was commenced, and immediately after that affair the Admiralty ordered the *Royal Sovereign* to be cut down and reconstructed upon the principle advocated by Captain Coles.

Sir J. Pakington considered it unwise to reduce the number of seamen. He condemned the reduction in the number of boys, who, being thoroughly trained, were invaluable to the navy, and he regretted the reduction in the coastguard, which was our best reserve. He thought the Government had been wasteful in constructing vessels without awaiting the results of experiments. He wished the pay of naval officers to be increased. When he was at the Admiralty he was much struck with distinguished officers declining the command of ships because they could not afford to accept the commissions.

THE "CHESAPEAKE" AFFAIR.

To the Editor of The Index.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, February 16th, 1864.

Sir,—It has occasioned some little surprise on this side of the Atlantic that as yet no English journal has furnished its readers with any information concerning the affair of the *Chesapeake* other than that gleaned from the Northern press. Even the *Times*, with all its enterprise, has simply given the telegrams from the New York journals, which were neither more nor less than a tissue of the grossest falsehoods. There are some points connected with the cruise of the *Chesapeake* which I think the English public should be informed of; not only that the people of this province may be vindicated from the calumnies showered upon them through the American press, and unwittingly republished in England, but that it may be seen how little the British flag is respected or the laws regarded by those who wear the uniform of the Federal navy.

The incidents connected with the seizure of the *Chesapeake* are pretty well known in England, I fancy, and need not be referred to now. The ship was taken to St. Johns, New Brunswick, or rather, I should say, to the mouth of that harbour, where the passengers and crew were landed, with the exception of the engineer, who was kept to work the engines. A vessel with coal was to have met the *Chesapeake* in the neighbourhood; but the person in St. Johns to whom this duty was entrusted failed to fulfil his agreement, and the ship was obliged to put to sea without having coaled. She was next heard from at the south-western end of this province, having passed in sight of the town of Yarmouth, where there is a telegraph-office. Here commenced the blundering and mismanagement which subsequently led to her recapture. Had she gone to the other extremity of the province, she would have found coal in abundance, and no telegraph lines or Federal consular agents. For several days the *Chesapeake* lay in port at Shelburne and La Flore, her movements watched by Federal officials, and promptly telegraphed to Halifax. Meanwhile a dozen or more of craft, from the frigate *Niagara* down to the swift blockade-runners captured but a short time previous, were sent in pursuit of the the ill-fated craft. By selling portions of the cargo, the captors of the *Chesapeake* were enabled to procure small quantities of coal, with which they brought the ship to Sambro harbour (some twenty or thirty miles from Halifax) on the 16th of December; and that evening a small schooner was loaded with coal and sent to her aid, as well as two engineers, who shipped in this city for a cruise. But the time for escape had gone by. The Federal gunboat *Ella and Annie*, was even then lying in this harbour, and the next morning she slipped quietly down to Sambro, and the *Chesapeake* fell into her clutch without a struggle. It is to the incidents of this capture that I wish to call particular attention.

At the time of the capture the *Chesapeake* had finished coaling from a British schooner alongside, and the crew were sitting down to breakfast. Lieut. Braine was not on board. When the *Ella and Annie* hove in sight the crew left the ship, leaving on board the two engineers shipped in Halifax, the engineer who was on board the steamer at the time of her capture by the Confederates, and another man belonging to her original crew. These latter, when the Federal gunboat was about one hundred yards distant, hoisted the American colours, Union down, as a signal of distress. On boarding the ship the two young men from this city were at once placed in irons by the Federals. An armed boat's crew also boarded the British schooner near by, and commenced searching her, and taking away every movable thing of value which they found on board. When the captain of the vessel asked by what authority this was done, a pistol was presented at his head by the Federal officer, who informed the captain of this British schooner lying in a British port that this (the pistol) was his authority. In the cabin one of Braine's men, named George Wade, was lying sick; he was seized, ironed hand and foot, and flung into a boat to be conveyed to the Federal gunboat. Steam having been got up on the prize, the two ships got under way and were heading for Boston, when they were met by the Federal ship *Dacotah*, whose commander ordered them to Halifax, where they arrived the same afternoon. I shall not refer to the excitement caused by their arrival, but confine myself strictly to the more important events connected with the recapture.

Contrary to general usage no steps were taken to inform the authorities here as to the cause of this appearance of two Federal ships and a prize in our neutral waters. A demand being forwarded to the senior officer commanding the *Dacotah* to state the names of the ships under his command, together with the object of their visit and the particulars of the capture, finally elicited a document which afterwards proved to be in many respects grossly inaccurate, if not knowingly false. For the sake of brevity I will refer only to the more important of these mis-statements—mis-statements, too, which must have been made with a full knowledge of the facts. Both in his official communication and in a personal interview with the authorities here, Commander Cleary, of the *Dacotah*, stated that when captured the *Chesapeake* had on board only *five of her old crew*—she being deserted by her former captors. Nothing was said concerning the boarding of the British schooner in British waters, nor with regard to the confinement in irons of three British subjects on board the gunboat *Ella and Annie*. These facts, however, had meanwhile become known to some of the citizens, one of whom—Dr. Almon, a gentleman of the medical profession who occupies a prominent position in the community—exerted himself to have the matter brought to the notice of the authorities. Acting upon this information, the provincial authorities promptly notified Commander Cleary of the *Dacotah* that none of the United States ships would be suffered to leave port until the matter was investigated.

He then admitted that he had the men described, and agreed to deliver them up at 1 o'clock on the following day—Saturday, the 19th December. The authorities then notified Commander Cleary that the High Sheriff of Halifax would be in attendance at the Queen's-wharf on that day, at the hour appointed, for the purpose of receiving the men. He was also notified that on the same day, at 2 o'clock, the *Chesapeake* would be taken formal charge of, on behalf of the Queen's representative. On Saturday morning Captain Cleary transmitted to the Provincial Government the correspondence which had taken place between Lord Lyons and Mr. Seward on the subject, and asked if the Government still adhered to its determination. It was replied that his Excellency the Administrator saw no reason to change his decision as previously expressed, and at the appointed hour the *Chesapeake* was formally handed over. But it is with the three prisoners that I have to do.

About half-past 1 o'clock a boat arrived from the ship at the Queen's-wharf, in command of an officer wearing the uniform of the Federal navy, and having in her stern-sheets the three men, *in irons*. They were ordered out of the boat on to the wharf, but the Sheriff refused to receive them in irons, and these were accordingly removed by the officer in charge. The High Sheriff then pronounced the men free. There were at this time standing upon the ship some fifteen or twenty persons, including two members of the Provincial Government, the acting American Consul, an officer of Her Majesty's 16th regiment, and a number of the most respectable and influential citizens of Halifax. On the wharf beside the ship there were some twenty or more persons standing; all citizens of the highest respectability, and among them some leading men. As soon as the men were declared free, Dr. Almon called to a boat, in which sat two fishermen, and which was making out into the harbour from the Fish-market slip, not many yards distant. The boat was then backed into the slip until the stern touched it, when Wade, one of the men just released, was directed to step into the boat. He did so, and just as he had seated himself and the boat was being pushed off, a man in the garb of a civilian rushed down the slip, pushing his way through the people, and calling out, "Stop that boat! Stop that boat!" at the same time drawing a pistol and threatening to fire if the men did not obey. When he reached the water's edge, still brandishing the pistol, he was seized by Dr. Almon, who knocked the pistol into the air, and grasping the man round the body held him fast. The boat was at this time some two or three yards distant, the men laying upon their oars; but the people on the wharf shouted out "Go on! Go on!" and they struck out nobly, soon rounding the wharf and disappearing from sight. I ran to the head of the wharf as the boat started, and Wade, looking up as he passed, twice exclaimed, "Thank God and the Queen for my liberty!" To go back to the struggle on the ship: the pistol held by the man, who was afterwards discovered to be a policeman, was brandished wildly about; sometimes in the face of Dr. Almon, and at others pointing into the crowd, until the fear of bloodshed induced others to interfere. But when the boat had gone the policeman gave in, and so ended the contest. It appeared afterwards that the United States Consul had obtained a warrant from the authorities, under the Extradition Treaty, for the arrest of the captors of the *Chesapeake*, Wade being one of the number, and he was to have passed from Yankee manacles into those of the civic authorities, had not he providentially escaped.

On the 11th of January, Dr. Almon, Mr. A. Keith, and Dr. P. W. Smith were made to appear before his worship the Mayor, on a charge of obstructing an officer in the discharge of his duty. The investigation lasted some eight or nine hours, during which time the court-room was crowded. Commenting upon the evidence given on this occasion, the *Morning Journal* of this city, said :—

"The most important facts elicited at this investigation were, that there was no riot, no mob, no preconcerted movement for the spiriting away of Wade, as alleged by Yankee sympathisers in our midst and by statements furnished by the Northern press. The High Sheriff testified that at the time the affair took place not more than thirty persons were present, including the employés of the Commissariat Department; that there was no scuffle until Policeman Hutt presented a pistol; that no one behind him could tell that he was a policeman, and that he came to the conclusion the interference was for the purpose of preventing bloodshed. Dr. Smith declares that his sole motive in seizing policeman Hutt was to prevent blood being spilt. The testimony of Lieutenant Reyne, of Her Majesty's 16th Regiment, in command of the main guard on the Queen's-wharf on

the day in question, is very strong on this point. He said: "I thought that the person who first interfered with the supposed policeman would have been shot had not Dr. Smith interfered. I expected every moment to see some one go down, from the manner in which the pistol was held." He also stated that on the day in question there were not above thirty to forty civilians on the wharf when the occurrence took place; and that he saw nothing to lead him to suppose that there was any preconcerted arrangement to prevent the arrest of Wade. From the evidence of several persons present, it was clearly shown that the boat in which Wade got away was proceeding down the harbour at the time it was hailed, and brought to the slip at the Queen's-wharf. Mr. Ritchie, counsel for the accused, gives the gist of the evidence in a very few words: "The facts were, that three men—at least two of them British subjects—were brought on shore manacled, and it was determined not to receive them in that condition, and they were freed; and while free, one of the number escaped in a boat that was casually passing at the time. There was no riot, yet a pistol was presented, and the man holding it threatened to shoot, and it was natural for bystanders to interfere when it appeared that human life was in jeopardy."

His worship the Mayor, however, committed the gentlemen named for trial at the Supreme Court, and they are now under bonds to appear there upon the charge specified.

Trusting that you will publish these facts in justice to all concerned, and that you may give further publicity in your editorial columns to some of them,

I beg to subscribe myself,
Your most obedient servant,
CHARLES A. PILSBURY.

T. W. AND FLETCHER BEAUMONT.

To the Editor of the The Index.

Sir,—It would be gratifying to many friends as well as to the bereaved parents, if you could find space in The Index for the subjoined extracts from the Tennessee papers, containing a well-deserved tribute to the memory of two as gallant youths as ever gave up life in their country's cause.

A FRIEND.

Death of Fletcher Beaumont.—Intelligence of the sad event indicated in this heading reached this community a few days ago, and was received by every one with unaffected sorrow.

Fletcher Beaumont was the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs H. F. Beaumont, of this city. In December, 1861, although only about 17 years old, he volunteered as a private in the 50th Tennessee regiment, and soon afterwards went with it to Fort Donelson, where he shared its glory and suffering in the memorable fight at that place. Here he was made a prisoner, and was taken to Camp Chase, where he was held for about seven months. Upon being exchanged, he wrote to his friends that he had resolved he would never be taken prisoner again. He rejoined his regiment in Mississippi, and was soon sent to Port Hudson. Just before the fall of that post his regiment was ordered up to join Johnston's command, and participated in the fights and other engagements around Vicksburg. Fletcher fought gallantly at Jackson, and was wounded in the fight. He had now been made adjutant of his regiment—an honourable position well deserved.

In the battle of Chickamauga his regiment was again engaged. When General Gregg was wounded, Col. Sugg took command of the brigade, and appointed Fletcher as an aide-de-camp upon his staff.

At the battle of Mission Ridge the 50th bore its accustomed part of hard fighting, and here Fletcher received the wound that caused his death. After several days of suffering he expired at Dalton, on the 27th of November.

Here, where the deceased was known, where he was born and reared, we need say but little of him. He was a young man of fine promise, and, had he lived, one who would have filled an honourable place in society.

His life was a brief one, but it was unspotted; death came to him easily, but it came only as it comes to the brave. The high hopes and the stirring ambition of the young soldier are all stilled in the summons of death, and a manly young form fills a soldier's grave in the field of blood—the Aceldama of his loved South.

There let him rest! The sod on which a soldier falls is a sepulchre more honorable than marble shafts or sculptured urns. No loving hands may plant the jonquil or crocus there, but the coming multitude who shall tread life's highway by his grave will, each one, stop to pay a tribute of tears at the shrine of glory. To the family of the deceased we feel that we can offer not only our own, but the heartfelt condolence and sympathy of this whole community.

The Heroes of the 50th Tennessee Regiment.—The winds of autumn have wafted the smoke of battle from the crimsoned fields of Chickamauga, and to-night the breezes are chanting in Eolian tones a requiem over the heroic dead who sleep beside the "River of Death." The thousand camp-fires which girdle the hills of "Look-out" as with a zone of fire are fast declining, and the soldier, stretched on the ground beneath a starless sky, is visiting in his dreams the loved ones at home. The fierce grapple of the foe is forgotten in the soft embrace of a mother's love. I sit alone, while memory is busy calling up from the battle-field the forms of the noble dead whose names have called forth this tribute of praise. 'Tis a fit theme for memory and tears.

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas W. Beaumont, of Clarksville, Tennessee, was a young man gifted with no ordinary degree of intellect. To a mind naturally bold and vigorous, he had added all the charms of modern and classic literature. As an editor, for several years preceding the war, of an influential public journal in Nashville, he gained an enviable reputation as a political writer. His style was bold, terse and graceful. His argumentation was clear, cogent and conclusive. His editorial bearing was cordial and friendly. When the alarum of war was first sounded, with all the ardour of a knight of old, he flew to arms and was stationed at Fort Donelson for many months before its fall. As captain of one of the river batteries in that first great conflict with the ironclads of the enemy, he exhibited the coolness and self-possession of a veteran. Shot and shell fell thick around him in that terrible conflict, but bold and defiant he walked from gun to gun, the very incarnation of valour. From the first battle-field he went to a Northern prison, where he spent seven months, the same undaunted, unfaltering friend of Southern independence. When exchanged, he was elected Lieut.-Colonel of the 50th Tennessee regiment, and went through the campaign of Northern Mississippi, thence to Vicksburg, thence to Port Hudson, thence to the bloody field of Raymond, where he received a slight wound on the head; thence through the battles at Jackson, in all of which he displayed the great qualities of the soldier, courage and perseverance. When the order came for his regiment to move to his own beloved Tennessee, to drive from her soil the hireling invader, his eye kindled with patriotic enthusiasm. He marched to the field of Chickamauga on Saturday morning with the elastic tread of a willing martyr to the cause of his native State.

The battle raged furiously. Shot and shell, canister and grape, mingled with the booming of a hundred cannon, made war's grand chorus fearfully sublime, but on through the missiles of death he bore himself, as though he courted death on the threshhold of his State. Evening came, and still high above the din of battle his voice was heard cheering his gallant followers, to "strike for God and their native land." The sun had dipped low down the western sky. The victorious shouts of ten thousand brave Confederates is heard above the storm. Look-out, from her every gorge and lofty peak, answers back to Chickamauga, "All is well." But the gallant Beaumont, with sword in hand, had given his heart's blood to his country.

"Oh, if there be on this earthly sphere
A boon, an offering, Heaven holds dear,
'Tis the last libation Liberty draws
From the heart that bleeds and breaks in her cause!"

He sleeps on the field of Chickamauga, among the honoured dead. Friend of other days, companion of my prison life—farewell!

NORTH CAROLINA.

To the Editor of The Index.

Sir,—You will see from the within extracts from the Rolls-office of England, that as far back as 1788 North Carolina was *charged* with disloyalty, and *how loyal she in truth was*, even at that early day, to the cause of *freedom* and *independence*.

This gallant State is now again charged in some quarters with disloyalty to the South.

Since this war broke out no soldiers could have shown more bravery in the field, and in the end no people will establish a higher claim to loyalty, to independence, and to free government, than will the people of North Carolina.

B——.

STATE PAPER DEPARTMENT OF HER MAJESTY'S PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE.

Extract from a despatch of Josiah Martin, the Royal Governor of North Carolina, to Lord George Germaine, Secretary of State, dated 21st September, 1780.

"Our friends have been intimidated beyond belief by the cruel oppressions of their persecutors. They continue to give great assurance of aid and strength to Lord Cornwallis and myself."—(America and West Indies. No. 313.)

Extract from despatch of Lord Germaine to Governor Martin, dated Whitehall, 9th November, 1780.

"I have much satisfaction in acquainting you that His Majesty is graciously pleased to accept your recommendation of Mr. Lewis De Rossett to be Secretary of North Carolina, as soon as I am informed that province is retored to peace, which I hope will not be long.—(Same, 249.)

Extract from despatch No. 10, from Governor Martin, dated 13th January 1778.

"The port of Occracock has become a great channel of supply to the Rebels; while the more considerable ports of the continent are watched by the King's ships. They have received through it considerable supplies for carrying on their warfare from France and the French West Indies. This has been reported to Commodore Hotham, the naval commander here, who will take all proper measures for shutting up that avenue of succour to the rebels.—(Same, 313.)

BUTLER'S RULE IN NORFOLK.

The following letter, written by a Baltimore merchant to one of his correspondents, has been sent to us for publication:—

"Baltimore, February 13, 1864.

"Yesterday I returned from Norfolk. I utterly failed in making the expected collections. The business of Norfolk is entirely suspended in consequence of the military occupation and the strict regulation against any of the old residents, who are all avowedly "disloyal," or what is the same, suspected of being "disloyal," pursuing their usual avocations. Law, justice, the rights of property and the protection of life from violence are no longer regarded and the place is ruined. The visitor to Norfolk can hardly believe that he is in a civilised, much less in a Christian country. I have read sadaccounts of the desolation of Poland under the rule of Russia, but they are not to be compared to the misery that Butler and his ruthless creature, Wild, have brought on Norfolk. At every turn there is a spy who listens for some words that may be construed into treason, or else tries to entrap you into saying something that is offensive to his employer. You may be very careful; you may resolve to say nothing about the state of affairs, but still it is not certain that you will escape. To rob you of what you possess, or to gratify a fiendish malice, Butler's spies are ready to swear to conversations that never occurred. I will give you two or three instances of tyranny that happened within the last few days. A lady was summoned to the provost-office, was questioned about matters of which she was entirely ignorant, and was sent without further proceedings and without a change of clothes to Old Point, to be kept there until she gives the required information. A gentleman reported to have money was fined $2,000 for speaking disrespectfully of Butler to one of Butler's spies. Major Burroughs a Confederate prisoner, was seized with the smallpox and removed from prison to the hospital. On the way the negro guard warned the sick man he should never again see daylight. The same night he was shot through the back whilst asleep. The negro guard pleaded that their prisoner, who was too weak to move, was trying to escape from a third story window and with an armed guard in the room. A court-martial was held, and it was admitted that the guard, who killed the prisoner, had a little exceeded his duty. But still the negro was acquitted on the score of ignorance, and a medal was presented to him as a reward for bravery.

Norfolk is thronged with negroes, and if many more come thep resent fearful mortality will be greatly increased. Small-pox is carrying off numbers from day to day. When I had the opportunity and when I dared I conversed with negro women. In nearly every instance I heard the same story. They came against their will; they pined for their old homes, and looked upon their husbands being in the Federal army as a final separation. As for the negro soldiers, it is likely enough that they are loyal to Butler, for he permits them to pillage and plunder, and to commit with impunity crimes that are too horrible to be named. But this licence has made them useless for fighting, as Butler will find if ever his body-guard meets the foe. The negroes have possession of many blocks of houses in the town. As the Government does not supply fuel as well as food, they have burnt the fences and outhouses, and have even pulled down habitable wooden houses to make firewood. A large building used as a ladies' seminary was broken into by the negroes. Happily no pupils were there. The negroes remained in the house, and the owner appealed to the authorities. General Wild replied that as the negroes had worked so hard to get possession they might keep the place. Even some Federals told me indirectly that they were rather disgusted with these proceedings. They say the negro must stay in the South, and must be kept out of the North, where he is a useless encumbrance. I see plainly that if the North prevails the negroes will be exterminated.

The chief magistrate at Norfolk, selected for the post by Mr. Seward, was lately a dram-shop keeper, and also a dealer in a quack medicine. He is, however, not an unfair specimen of the Union men of the town, and from what I tell you about him you may guess what becomes of the property that is seized by the officials for the taxes that the citizens have no means to pay. It was suggested to Butler by an ex-dealer in marine stores, and now a loyal spy, that the disloyal people ought to find money to keep the loyal people who are out of employment. Acting upon this hint, a schedule of questions was sent to each of the inhabitants, the answers to which form the basis of the assessment. Amongst other interrogations are:—

What is the amount of your property?
What were your former sentiments?
What are they now?
Have you taken the oath?
Have you ever aided the rebels?
What will you give in the next six months to aid those out of employment?

Six months! If the Federals stop so long, there will only remain in Norfolk soldiers and paupers.

You are aware that Butler is particularly generous in allowing mails to be sent into the Confederacy under a flag of truce. Do you know why? One condition is that the letters may be opened. They are opened, and as many are addressed to Confederate soldiers, Butler gets a few hints as to the position of the Confederate armies. Moreover, he gets information as to the circumstances and sentiments of the writers. It would be better to give up this Southern correspondence. I am sure the Norfolk people would make the sacrifice, for in spite of their bitter persecution they show a proud, unbroken spirit, and they look forward confidently to a time when they will be freed from their oppressors.

The "Chesapeake".—Extract from the jugdment of Judge Stewart of the Vice-Admiralty Court, Halifax.—"If this were an ordinary case of recapture from pirates, the prescribed salvage would have been ⅛ of the value of the property, and this, on the value of the vessel alone (which I am informed is more than $60,000,) would have been $7000, and the owners of both vessel and cargo have been fortunate that they were not destroyed at sea, and so, wholly lost to them. It is unnecessary to recur to the circumstance of the recapture. It suffices to remark that the taking was not an ordinary piratical capture. It is even *possible* not to have been a case of piracy at all. This court would stultify itself were it to effect ignorance of what is patent to everybody, namely, that those who wrested the *Chesapeake* from the master and crew, are at the present moment in the adjoining province of New Brunswick, asserting that they made the capture as citizens of and parties duly authorised by the Government of the Confederate States and that they have produced documents and proofs thereo before magistrates there, duly invested with the right to determine the validity of their claim, so far, at least, as affects their alleged piratical character. I allow this claim, and will decree a writ of restitution when moved, to be given to the claimants upon payment of the costs and expenses, as I have before specified."

Confederate Documents.—We have received, too late for use in this impression of the Index, official copies of the Reports made by the heads of Departments, to be laid before the Confederate Congress. It is a suggestive fact that there is none of these papers which bears the slightest resemblance to the pretended "Report of Secretary Mallory," which, notwithstanding a public denial of its authenticity, the Attorney-General quoted as genuine in his place in Parliament. In our next number we shall commence to publish the most interesting portions of these documents, among which are:—Documents accompanying Mr. Memminger's Report; Reports of the Confederate Secretary of War, of the Post-master-General.

Consumption of Coal.—At the last sitting of the Academie des Sciences Morales et Politiques, M. Dalloz gave the following interesting particulars on the consumption of coal:—In 1789 France consumed 500,000 tons of coal, 220,000 of which were imported; in 1811 the quantity was 773,000 tons; in 1830 it rose to 1,800,000 tons, and in 1847 to 76,000,000 tons 2,500,000 of which were imported. At the commencement of the present century England produced 13,000,000 tons; in 1838 the quality rose to 26,000,000 tons, and in 1862 to 84,500,000 tons. England alone produces much more than half the coal extracted throughout the world. The production of coal in the United States is valued at 15,000,000 tons; that of Belgium at 9,000,000; the Zollverein produced upwards of 14,000,000 tons in 1862; so that, if England be omitted, France is one of the richest coal-producing countries in the world. The production of coal is intimately connected with that of iron, in which article England again holds the first rank. In 1789 France only produced 69,000 tons of cast iron. This quantity rose to 115,000 tons in 1812; in 1830 to 347,773 tons of cast iron and 237,379 of wrought iron; in 1847 the figures were respectivels 602,772 and 372,686; ie 1850 the production had fallen to 406,000 tons of cast iron and 249,000 of wrought iron. A new rise occurred immediately after the Republic; in 1859 France produced 856,000 tons of cast iron and 520,000 of wrought iron; and in 1863 is vaguely stated at the enormous figure of 1,180,000 tons of cast iron and 705,509 tons of wrought iron. The production of England is nearly 4,000,000 tons of cast iron; that of the Zollverin, 591,593 tons; of Sweden, 143,000; of Austria, 270,000; and of Belgium, 161,000.—*Galignani.*

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

Our friends in the United Kingdom and on the Continent are earnestly requested to forward to us, at their earliest convenience, such information relative to the military movements and condition of affairs in America as they may receive through private letters, either from the United States, or from the Confederate States. They may rely upon the most scrupulous precautions being observed; that no names or facts leading to identification will, under any circumstances, be revealed. No communications, however, will be noticed unless authenticated by a responsible name. Southern newspapers, of any date, will be useful and acceptable presents.

Our subscribers in the South will have their paper supplied through Henry Hotze, Esq., the Confederate States Commercial Agent in London, who has kindly tendered us his services in this respect during the continuance of the blockade.

For the convenience of our distant subscribers, all the receipts for subscriptions signed by any of the official representatives, or commissioned officers of the Confederate States, will be recognized at this office.

Subscription, 26s. per annum—post paid, 30s., payable in advance.

All communications on business to be addressed, and Post-Office Orders made payable to, J. B. Hopkins, 13, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street, London E.C.

The Index may be obtained, and payments for subscriptions or other dues to the paper made:—

At Liverpool, to Mr. Hutton, 6, Commercial-buildings, 17, Water-st.

At Manchester, F. A. Hasleham, Esq., Manchester Southern Club Office, Market-street.

At Paris, to Messrs. Pfeiffer and Muller, 52, Rue du Château d'Eau, Paris.

At Turin, to Sr. Filippo Manetta, 4, Borgo Nuovo.

At St. Thomas (West Indies), C. W. White, Esq.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1864.

The Armies on the Move.

The Federal press is, as usual, full of sanguine auguries as to the results of the movements in the South-West. For three years it has been demonstrated in New York and Washington, at the commencement of every spring campaign, that the war would not last six months; and it is not surprising that great faith is placed upon the mysterious marchings and countermarches now reported all along the Federal lines south of Tennessee. We confess we are still in the dark as to their precise object. In some quarters an invasion on a grand scale is talked about, by which the heart of the Cotton States is to be attacked; in others an attack upon Mobile, Charleston, and Savannah; in others the annihilation of Johnston's army, by a simultaneous attack on his left flank in rear and in front. In all, there is a wonderful amount of praise of General Grant's new "Anaconda" scheme, which is to crush the rebellion in the Cotton States in three months, and leave Lee and Longstreet to be finished off in the month of June. So far as we can extract the truth from the confused accounts that have reached us, there are no less than three distinct columns set in motion, all directed towards the same object. General Sherman is moving in a north-easterly direction for Meridian, Mississippi, from Jackson, the Confederate force retiring slowly in his front, and occasionally administering a check. General Grierson, whose raid through Mississippi last year was one of the best conceived and executed exploits of the war, has started from Corinth and Holly Springs, also bound, it is said, for Meridian, at the head of a powerful cavalry expedition. General Logan is starting southward with the 15th army corps from Huntsville, Alabama, with the alleged intention of operating on the left flank of General Johnston's army at Dalton. Now to meet the invading armies in Mississippi, the Confederates have Lee's and Forrest's cavalry, and a considerable force under Polk, and, we believe, Hardee, whilst Logan's force, marching southward unsupported, is itself exposed to a flank movement from Dalton. So far, there is little danger to be apprehended by the Confederates. But there is the Army of the Cumberland to be counted in. Stationed at Chattanooga, with numbers in all probability equal to those of the Confederate force at Dalton, it is said to be watching for the opening effected for it by the withdrawal of troops from Dalton to oppose the advance of Sherman and Logan, and prepared at once to take advantage of it by a direct march upon Atlanta. But, in the first place, the overland route from Jackson, Mississippi, to Atlanta, Georgia, in the face of an active army, and through a hostile population, would be an affair of months, and would give abundance of time for Johnson to deal effectually with Grant. In the second place, we have reason to know that the difficulties of subsisting the troops at Chattanooga and Knoxville are already almost insuperable, and that an advance of another eighty miles through the country in front of Dalton, wasted by the Confederate army, is out of the question. The truth is, Chattanooga is an excellent, easily defensible, advanced post. But the experience the Federals have gained of the difficulty of getting up their supplies, has convinced them of the utter hopelessness of taking the direct road whilst Johnson is in front; and we believe that at this moment, perhaps for months to come, the force at Chattanooga is more likely to have to fight to hold its own than to attempt an advance into Georgia. This view is borne out by the latest news. Logan faces Grant's army threatening Dalton; it is reported that Johnson is preparing to attack Chattanooga; and from all we learn from Confederate sources, we have little doubt that when the fighting begins in earnest the initiative will be taken by the Southern armies. For if Chattanooga is threatened we may rely upon it Knoxville is in serious danger. The attack will be simultaneous, or, at any rate, so concerted as to prevent the despatch of reinforcements to Knoxville. With the Confederate cavalry scouring Eastern Tennessee, capturing the Federal supplies, and gradually creeping up almost within range of the batteries defending the town; with Longstreet making preparations, not twenty miles distant, with an army considerably stronger than the garrison, we are prepared to hear any day of the advance of that general, and a renewed struggle for the possession of that stronghold which, once more in the hands of the Confederates, would be an impassable barrier to any considerable progress of the Federal army in the South-West. Pending these more important operations, there are plenty of rumours of expeditions against Mobile and Savannah, of new combinations under General Banks, who has for the nonce abandoned the field for the council-chamber, and is devoting himself to the task of bringing a new Louisiana into the Union. But nothing is certain, except that unless the Federals send a powerful army as well as a fleet, Savannah and Mobile will teach them the lesson they have learnt at Charleston.

In Virginia quiet is the order of the day in both armies, except with the Federal outposts, which have anything but a quiet time of it, what with bush-whackers and Mosby's horse. But General Butler has made an attempt to immortalise himself by a dash into Richmond, which resulted only in the mere repulse of the army under Sedgwick, with heavy loss, and the return of Butler's force without a fight. Both sides are preparing, however, for an early movement, and here again it seems probable that the South will strike the first blow. Speculation is rife in the Northern press as to the point where the blow will fall. Pennsylvania is in a scare. Ohio is alarmed. At one time it is Longstreet, who is meditating a move through Kentucky; at another, Early and Ewell, who are about to cross the Potomac. All that is known is, that the South is full of fight, and anxious to come to blows; and that, from undeniable sources, the North is informed that the "rebels" were never better drilled and equipped, or numerically stronger, than they are at this moment. Of course the Northern press keeps up its wretched fictions to the last. There are the usual wonderful encounters between Kentucky regiments that want to desert, and Alabama regiments that won't let them go; and there are deserters coming in such flocks as would in the space of six months "deplete" the ranks of the Southern army without the necessity of firing a shot. Our readers must know by this time what value to attach to these reports. We have noticed that whenever the demoralisation of the Southern armies has been most complete, and Southern soldiers were deserting by hundreds, the Confederate commanders were in reality on the point of making their strength felt at some important point, and we have little doubt that something similar will occur now. When Bragg retreated from Tullahoma last year it was said whole divisions had flung down their arms and deserted. The victory of Chickamauga followed almost as a natural consequence. The Federal leaders are probably better informed than the newspaper correspondents. If not, they will be terribly surprised. It is not for us to lay down a programme for the Southern armies. The South stands on her defence, and none but those who know the internal difficulties she has to contend with can decide of what she is capable. But we are sanguine that it is not a mere war of defence to which the army of invasion has to look forward. Great movements, on a scale such as have not yet been attempted by the South; a vigorous initiative; the consolidation of her strength to strike effective blows, and make her blows decisive; the defence of what is vital and abandonment of unnecessary outposts, these we believe to be the objects of the Southern leaders, and we hope to see accomplished. The language of President Davis is full of cheering hope, and he is not the man to speak false words of comfort. He has sometimes been charged with understating his case, with making too much of reverses and speaking too plainly the truth, but never with bombast or exaggeration; and the tone in which he has addressed the Confederacy is ominous of disaster to the Federal arms. Any mail may now bring us important news. The armies are closing. In Virginia, in Eastern Tennessee, in Texas, in Mississippi, and Alabama, they are within skirmishing distance. Federal squadrons are gathering along the coast; and for months and months the Confederate arsenals have been busily preparing for the struggle. But come when and where it may, and last as it may, the issue will be the same. The South has conquered its nationality. Every successive effort of the North will only develope its strength.

Parliament.

Week by week, as the session continues, the position of the Administration becomes worse and more untenable. Every occurrence proves their weakness and unpopularity; every debate damages their character and diminishes their authority. It is becoming a very serious question whether the forbearance of the Opposition, to which alone Lord Palmerston owes his security, can or ought to continue much longer. Lord Derby and his followers have a reputation to maintain, and constitutional functions to fulfil; and it is exceedingly doubtful whether they will not irretrievably damage their fair fame and be guilty of a gross dereliction of duty if they permit a Government in which they have no confidence, and in which we may almost say that the country generally has no confidence, to remain in office on sufferance. There are, it is rumoured, reasons which make the leaders of the Conservative party very loth to eject Lord Palmerston from power; and, not to speak of any other motives, one strong reason for not doing so was indicated by Mr. Disraeli on Monday last. The mismanagement of Lord Russell has brought our European relations into a condition so unsatisfactory that it may be doubted whether either he or any possible successor could now achieve a result satisfactory to the country. The English people do not wish to go to war with Austria and Prussia. English statesmen of all parties are still more reluctant to quarrel with Powers which, however little their conduct of late years may be calculated to render them popular or respected in this country, are nevertheless our natural allies. But both the English nation and the great majority of English statesmen would prefer any extremity of political misfortune to a policy damaging to the influence and disgraceful to the character of England; and there is, unhappily, too much reason to believe that one horn or other of the dilemma must eventually impale us; that Lord Russell has behaved with such signal folly, irresolution, and timidity, that no choice remains but between war or dishonour. Now a Ministry that goes to war with the German Powers will certainly lose popularity by so doing; and on the other hand, a Ministry that for fear of such a war allows Denmark to be conquered and the fair fame of England to be tarnished, will incur very just and indelible obloquy. Feeling that they have not been guilty of sowing the wind, the Conservatives are

naturally desirous that it shall not fall upon them to reap the whirlwind; that those who are answerable for the sins and blunders which have brought matters to the present dead-lock should bear the whole blame of the measures—likely in any case to be very unpopular—which may be necessary to untie the diplomatic tangle. This feeling is just and inevitable; but it ought not to prevail over considerations of public interest and constitutional duty. It is highly undesirable that the present state of things should long continue. Night after night the chiefs of Opposition rise to put questions which Ministers will not and dare not answer, or to inflict censures to which no reply can be found. Every discussion leaves the Administration more discredited, less powerful, and less capable of useful action than before, and the weakness of the Government is leading to mischief at home and paralyses the action of England abroad. This will not do. The Opposition should either refrain from exposing the feebleness of their adversaries, because those adversaries are Her Majesty's advisers, and ought at the present moment to be strengthened as far as possible; or if they distrust Lord Palmerston's colleagues too much to do this, they should move a formal vote of censure. It is most unfortunate that, at a critical moment for the destinies both of Europe and America, the power of England should be suspended almost as much by the parliamentary weakness of the Administration as by the unrivalled and dangerous incompetence of the Foreign Secretary. It is the duty of the Opposition to terminate this state of things. A vote of want of confidence would bring them into power, and an appeal to the country—which, this Parliament being in its old age, though convened by them, they are in a position to make—would probably give them strength enough to carry on Her Majesty's Government with vigour and efficiency. If they tried and were beaten, as is possible, though not probable, the victory would strengthen the hands of Lord Palmerston, and enable him either to get rid of or to control the "antiquated imbecility" of the Foreign-office. In either case we should have a Ministry which could speak to Europe and to the world, not only in the name of a party, but in that of the nation; which, relying at once on the trust of the Queen and the approval of the country, would dare to act with vigour and decision, or to await the fitting moment for action with dignity and self-possession. The present situation is thoroughly unconstitutional, and all parties are greatly to blame if they allow it to last.

The scene of Monday last in the House of Commons was very damaging to the Ministry. We do not think much of the attack on Mr. Stansfeld, which was pressed with a vehemence and bitterness that prove how strongly party feeling is excited and agitated, but prove nothing more. What Mr. Cox and Mr. Hennessy are allowed to take in hand cannot be deemed of very serious moment. But so violent an attack on a young man, just rising into notice and into a sphere of public usefulness—an attack more personal than political, and calculated to damage his prospects in public life rather than to gain a party advantage—is so unusual as to call for a few words of comment. We do not admire Mr. Stansfeld, either as a politician or an orator. In the former capacity he is hotheaded, impracticable, and visionary; in the latter, we think—though this is not the general opinion—affected, conceited, and unconvincing. But Mr. Stansfeld is a man of unquestioned honour and no ordinary degree of courage, and he is utterly incapable of lending himself to any proceeding which the most scrupulous conscience could call in question. Weak and unwise he may be, but never treacherous. There is no man in the Government less capable of saying one thing and meaning another. When he denounces schemes of political assassination as infamous, we know that he thinks them so; and when at the same time he energetically defends Mazzini, we know that he believes Mazzini innocent of all these charges. So does the whole English press, almost unanimously. Knowing the man, and being his intimate friend, Mr. Stansfeld has probably so far committed himself as to allow letters to Mazzini to be sent to his address under feigned names; for no letter to Mazzini could pass through a continental post-office except under a feigned address. But if he has done this, it has been in the certain conviction that no such letter would contain anything otherwise than politically criminal; and we have so good an opinion of Mr. Stansfeld as to believe that since he has been in office he has not done even this. The vehemence of the attack upon him probably arose from the notoriety of his friendship for Mazzini, and the very general misconception which exists concerning the character of that eminent misleader of the Italian youth. There is in Mazzini a touch of the prophet and a spice of the madman, but we need not therefore condemn him without trial as an assassin.

We have been thus particular in doing justice to Mr. Stansfeld and his friend, because we are bound to say that we think that, in one respect, the discussion was damaging to the Government. The appointment to office of a devoted friend of Mazzini's was, as regards our Continental allies, not unlike the appointment by the Federal Government of the hero of the *Trent* outrage to command its squadron in the West Indies. It was not exactly a wrong or an insult, but it certainly was an indiscretion; it would bear an unfriendly appearance, and was on that account much to be regretted; and the collision of Monday night illustrated its extreme inconvenience. It is most unfortunate that it should be possible for the French police to suggest that letters concerning a proposal to murder the Emperor passed through the hands of a Minister of the Crown, and that such suggestion should not be too palpably absurd to obtain credence even in France. The Emperor, who knows England, will not for a moment believe that Mr. Stansfeld had any concern in or knowledge of the scheme of Greco; but he does, unjustly and unfortunately, believe that Mazzini had a hand not only in that but in other similar crimes; and it is deplorable that he should have cause to think that a Minister of this country is the friend and protector of his would-be dethroner and assassin. As bringing into strong light the impropriety of Mr. Stansfeld's appointment, the brief and bitter controversy between himself and Mr. Hennessy was certainly injurious to the Government.

What followed was still more so. Mr. Disraeli, in a vigorous speech, recalled some of the most dishonourable transactions in the past life of Lord Russell, and expressed great alarm with regard to the probable results of the intended "conference without an armistice," and great doubts whether the despatches published contained the whole history of the correspondence and communications on the Danish question; hinting at suspicions of some such suppression as occurred just before the outbreak of the Crimean war, when the confidential communications in which the Czar had made known his intentions were kept back from Parliament, and a totally false impression was consequently produced by the papers which were actually presented. The attack was sudden and sharp; but it was quite within the rules of Parliamentary warfare, and it was exceedingly necessary that it should receive a clear and complete reply. It received nothing of the kind. Lord Palmerston shuffled and retorted, but neither answered nor refuted his assailant; and transgressing the usual bounds imposed by the courtesies of Parliament, he angrily accused Mr. Disraeli of being peculiarly successful in attacking an absent man. This was very absurd. In the absence of Lord Palmerston, not many days ago, Mr. Disraeli saved the Government. He has always been noted for the fearlessness, even more than for the fierceness, of his attacks. And, as Mr. Fitzgerald very justly observed, it is a new doctrine that because a Minister is a peer, and cannot reply in the House of Commons to censure or criticism, therefore his political character and conduct are not to be canvassed by the representatives of the people. Lord Palmerston's reply damaged the Government even more than Mr. Disraeli's attack; and the result of the passage of arms was to shake still more the already unstable equilibrium of the Administration and to diminish its waning prestige.

But by far the severest blow that the Ministry has received was the discussion on Mr. Fitzgerald's motion, on Tuesday week, for the production of papers touching the seizure of the steamships in the Mersey. The division, indeed, was a victory for the Government; and this may have had some effect out-of-doors in counteracting the impression produced by the debate. But this was not the case within the House. In the first place, everyone knew that the division was a foregone conclusion; that the Opposition did not mean to win, and to turn out the Ministry on a question which the country could not have been made clearly to comprehend in all its bearings. In the second place, it was observed that the Government had made a great concession; they had refused, in the first instance, to furnish any papers whatever, and in the course of the debate they consented to produce the most important. The discussion itself was extremely damaging to them. The very clever special pleading of the Attorney-General failed to remove the impression left by Mr. Fitzgerald's speech, that Government had in point of fact yielded to outrageous menaces, and broken the law to conciliate a foreign and very unfriendly Power. The bitter insolence which characterised the reply of Sir Roundell Palmer, usually so calm and courteous, to the very temperate argument of his adversary, and the angry impatience which prompted him repeatedly to interrupt Mr. Fitzgerald by sneers and impertinences, convinced the House that he felt the badness of his cause, and was irritated thereby beyond his self-control. His treatment of the Messrs. Laird also did him great harm. That firm had behaved with great openness and candour; and he spoke of them as if they stood convicted, not only of breaking the law of the land, but of violating the laws of honour. Then Mr. Horsfall, a member who speaks seldom, never but on subjects he understands, and never without being respectfully heard, delivered a speech which hit Lord Russell very hard. He showed that Lord Russell had requested information from Mr. Laird concerning the *Alabama*; that the questions put to that gentleman were very frankly and completely answered; that the answers were communicated to Mr. Adams; and that Lord Russell then allowed Mr. Adams to use language grossly false and outrageously insulting to Mr. Laird without resenting it. Now the House knows Mr. Laird as a man of the highest and most unblemished character; it knows that he is the most influential and respected man in the second seaport in the realm; and when it heard from Mr. Horsfall how he had been treated it felt that Lord Russell had shown himself sadly wanting in the spirit of a gentleman and the apprehension of what was due both to his own honour and to the feelings of a man who had at his request placed information of great importance in his hands. The House is jealous on points of honour, and this kind of meanness is peculiarly hateful to its feelings. Lord Robert Cecil followed with one of his clearest and most temperate speeches, exposing and condemning the oppression and chicanery practised against Messrs. Laird, and carrying with him the sympathy of his audience. Mr. Forster, on the Ministerial side, was less effective than usual: the Solicitor-General was rude, unscrupulous, and contemptible as usual; and the speech of Mr. Baring lost the effect which it would otherwise have had when the commercial relations of the speaker with the Northern States were remembered by his auditors. Mr. Walpole did terrible mischief to the Ministry. He is one of the most respected, beloved, and impartial men in the House; he would never be induced by party feeling to go one step beyond what he felt to be just and right; and when he expressed his strong disapproval of the conduct of the Government, he virtually summed up the debate, and in the name of Parliament pronounced the Ministers guilty. Only thoroughgoing Northerners or equally devoted Palmerstonians doubted after Walpole had pronounced. But the most crushing blow of all was the clear, logical, and conclusive speech in which Sir Hugh Cairns demonstrated the unconstitutional character of the detention of the rams by Government, without evidence to justify their seizure; and denounced the assumption by Ministers of a right to violate the law on their own responsibility. That speech has certainly settled a great constitutional question beyond the possibility of further controversy, and left no doubt on any honest mind that Ministers have gone further than any law or usage will warrant, and far enough to warrant the severest censure that Parliament can bestow. Lord R. Cecil has given notice of his intention to ask from the House of Commons a formal verdict on the point of constitutional law; and we sincerely trust that, at whatever cost, he will insist on a decision, even though the consequence should be the resignation of the Government. Better a dozen changes of Administration than one unpunished infraction of constitutional liberty.

The Embargo on Cotton.

The readers of this journal will not be surprised at the announcement that after the 1st day of the present month, cotton in the Confederate States can be bought for exportation only with the Bonds of the Confederate Cotton Loan, or with goods of prime necessity to the army and people of the blockaded territory. This is the plain meaning of the intelligence brought by the last steamer, that the Confederate Congress has passed, and the President approved, a Bill virtually prohibiting the exportation of cotton and other produce on private account,

and the importation of luxuries. As yet, we have only a meagre outline of the law itself, but this, so far as it goes, describes precisely the measure which was predicted in the letter of Hon. C. J. McRae, the European fiscal agent of the Confederacy, as early as December 15th, 1863, and the necessity and objects of which were discussed under various aspects, editorially and by correspondents, in our numbers of 24th December and 7th January, as well as at subsequent dates. We need, therefore, only refer those who desire a complete understanding of the Bill, to our columns for the last two months and a-half, and a very few additional explanations will suffice.

First, it is obvious that though the prohibition extends equally to tobacco, sugar, molasses, rice, and naval and military stores, it is chiefly directed against cotton, and in this respect alone can it have any practical effects appreciable in this country. Of the other articles of produce named, tobacco is the only one which could be profitably exported abroad, and even in this the prospective profits, with Maryland and Kentucky in Federal possession as competitors, are relatively small. The reasons for embracing these articles in the provisions of the Bill are, therefore, partly to give to the measure that uniformity and impartiality which the Constitution and fairness to all sections of the Confederacy require; but chiefly to reach more effectually by legal penalties, and, indeed, to render almost impossible, an offence which public opinion in the South has always condemned with great severity, viz., trading with the enemy. Under the present Act, not merely the sale of agricultural and other produce to the enemy, but also its transportation with obvious intent of such sale, is punishable by law. It might be thought that the penalties of fine and imprisonment, superadded to confiscation of the property, are unnecessarily harsh, unless it is remembered that the law is in effect designed to shelter patriotism rather than to restrain disloyalty. The number of cases where planters or farmers, rich or poor, have been tempted by Yankee gold to part voluntarily with their commodities is amazingly small, as is proved by the utter failure of the Federals to "re-open commerce" where they obtained lodgments on the coasts or footholds in the interior. It must be fresh in the recollection of many that when the invaders were still hopeful and lavish in promises of supplying the world with the Southern staples, and when the experiment of force had failed before the stern determination with which Southern owners applied the torch, expeditions were sent up the rivers to try the efficacy of fair words and gold. In one instance a steamboat returned with *one* bale of cotton from an excursion of 800 miles, and in none was the object obtained. To-day the Federals claim possession of the whole length of the Mississippi and the great emporium at its mouth, and yet they depend for cotton on the produce of confiscated plantations, and the Atlantic has become familiar with the phenomenon of cotton going from Liverpool to New York. The quantity of the staple which, braving the risks of blockade, finds its way to Europe, exceeds several fold that obtained by the North with the aid of all its armies and river fleets. It is not, therefore, as a terror to its citizens that the Confederate Congress passes the stringent prohibitory law, but as a protection to the defenceless inhabitants—aged men and females, and faithful slaves—of vast districts of country exposed to predatory excursions of the enemy. These may at least have the shelter of the plea of compulsion—the only plea which Federal rapacity can understand or is willing to listen to.

As far as the Act affects neutral commerce, it is designed to give to the public defence the full benefit of the vast reserved financial strength, which has heretofore been almost unavailable except for the purposes of private speculation. The exclusive right to export cotton, even were the Federal blockade twice as effective as it has been in the past or is likely to be in the future, would be cheaply purchased at a million pounds sterling per annum. Now, from its very nature, a blockade-running trade must always be practically a close monopoly in the hands of a few enterprising men; the public at large, which bears the heavy burden of such a trade, is of necessity debarred from participation in its hazardous profits. It seems fair, therefore, in a country circumstanced as the Confederacy is, that the Government, that is to say, the whole community, should take advantage of every means for lightening its burdens, or at least distributing them more equally. Under the old system the holder of cotton accessible to a convenient place of export had an immense fortuitous advantage over the holder whose property was less fortunately situated; the new system makes the Government the only authorised seller of cotton for export. It does not diminish the inducements for blockade running; on the contrary, it is thought that the trade being placed upon safer bases will considerably increase them. It simply regulates that what of capital and enterprise has heretofore been wasted shall be husbanded for the public good, and the burdens inseparable from a blockade be distributed equally. The prohibition of the importation of luxuries is a logical sequence of this measure. It is not what pays the importer best, but what the State needs most, that should fill the ship-room of the vessels which defy or elude the enemy's vigilance. What does a country, in the agonies of a life and death struggle, want with silks and patés and champagnes? Every bale or box of such commodities takes up room that is wanted for soldiers' shoes and housewives' cards.

The terms of the law leave the Confederate Government free to select the best mode of employing to the public advantage the rich stores of the precious staple. It may either itself assume the duty and risks of exportation, or it may, as heretofore, devolve them on private enterprise. The former would perhaps be more lucrative to the Treasury, the latter certainly more safe and more consonant with the views of those in authority. Assuming, as we may safely do with the information at present in our possession, that the latter is the plan contemplated, the Government has a two-fold machinery already in operation. It may either sell its cotton in the European market for cash, as is the case with the Erlanger Bonds, or it may sell it at the port at specified rates for specified descriptions of goods. In both cases the risk of exportation devolves on private enterprise, and is covered by the margin between the Government price of cotton and the European price, a margin which will probably never be less than 1s. 6d. per pound. In the former case, that of selling cotton bonds for cash, the risk of importation is of course represented by the difference between the cash price of goods here and the contract price on delivery at the blockaded ports. To the merchant dealing with the Confederate States the only change, therefore, is that henceforth he deals with the Government directly, instead of through intermediary speculators. As the Government has always been the largest purchaser of imported goods, the change will be generally welcomed, as simplifying and rendering more secure the transactions of that portion of the commercial community.

The only immediate effect of the measure here will be a rapid recovery of the Confederate securities based on cotton, which indeed was perceptible already in January on the mere announcement that such a measure was in contemplation. In December last Mr. McRae stated the sum total of all the cotton obligations of the Government afloat, including the Erlanger Loan, to be in round numbers £3,200,000. Of these about £150,000 worth have since been redeemed with cotton; £71,300 more were redeemed with cash at the semi-annual drawing of the sinking fund on the 1st instant; so that the total amount of these securities is now rather less than the sum originally contracted for, when three times as much was offered. It is well known that the Confederate Government, without making further purchases, holds nearly 150,000 bales of cotton more than is necessary to redeem these obligations, which, since the 1st day of March are, besides goods of prime necessity, the only medium for foreign purchases of cotton in the Confederacy. As to the price of cotton in this market, we do not believe that it can be materially affected by the legislative enactments of the Confederate Government, whose obvious interest it is to bring it through the blockade as expeditiously as possible. Until other countries approximate more nearly to supplying the present demand, the price of cotton must mainly depend on the degree of efficiency of the American blockade; and here it may be observed that if all the larger ports were hermetically sealed, blockade running would merely alter its tactics, not its dimensions. There are innumerable small harbours and inlets tapping the richest cotton regions of the Confederacy, which are comparatively neglected only because vessels of larger draft have a chance elsewhere.

The exportation of cotton during the year 1863 amounted to about 130,000 bales, for obvious reasons distributed unequally among the different seasons of the year, being largest in the autumn, and smallest during the summer months. We do not apprehend that the receipts from this source during the current year will be less, and many competent judges expect it to be larger.

We have before met the objections of those who, arguing upon principles of political economy, forthwith condemn all interference on the part of a Government with the industrial system of a country. Their principles are abstractly infallible and undeniable; but they err in the application of those principles. The Confederate Government in the present case does not interrupt the course of free trade—the enemy's cruisers had done so already; it simply adapts itself to the necessities of a situation which it neither desires nor wishes to perpetuate, and which, being abnormal, requires abnormal measures to meet it. The Confederate States, hemmed in on all sides, are like one huge camp, and its relations with the outside world must be regulated accordingly.

POEMS BY DR. MACKAY.*

THOSE who are familiar with the former works of Dr. Mackay will not wait for critical commendation before they read the new volume of his poems that has just been published; and if our brief notice should meet the eyes of anyone hitherto unacquainted with the poetry of the author of "Egeria" and "A Man's Heart," the best criticism we can offer is to remark that "Studies from the Antique" is, in the true sense of the word, a collection of poems, and not merely prose translated into verse, according to the rules of art and with the aid of a rhyming dictionary. An admirable feature of Dr. Mackay's poetry is its high-toned morality. We do not mean that, after the manner of Mr. Tupper, he writes verses for the sake of a moral tag. We are not impressed in Dr. Mackay's case with the idea that the versification is only a mask for inflicting on us some of those dreary lithographed sermons, which are sold by accommodating booksellers at so much per dozen to clergymen who eschew the labour of composition. The moral influence of Dr. Mackay's poetry is not apparently the purpose, but the happy incident of it. Thus, in "Studies from the Antique," a series of poems, founded on mythological stories, the author avoids the rock on which so many have split, and does not attempt to invest heathen traditions with the semblance of a kind of Christian apocrypha, but allows the stories to give their own moral lessons. Take, as a specimen, the following extracts from "The Eumenides: a Vision of Thales," which we select for no better reason than its being the first in the book:—

"I, Thales, sitting on the seat of Judgment,
And striving to distinguish Truth from Falsehood,
To uncoil the tangled knot of human Error
And solve the riddle of capricious Fortune,
Beheld a vision.

"Suddenly before me,
Instead of busy mart and swarming people,
I saw on level of mine eyes, uplifted,
A mountain summit, bathed in light Eternal,
With sharp cold pinnacles of ice and granite,
'Mid which there stood, each touching close the other,
Three thrones of adamant with golden footstools,
And on them seated three celestial maidens,
In robes of grey, with crowns upon their foreheads,
And in their pale white hands three silver sceptres.

"Most beautiful they were, but sad and solemn.
Their brows were heavy with supernal wisdom;
Their deep dark eyes shone passionless and starlike,
As if the great world-pageant spread beneath them,
And mirrored in their orbs, were but the shadow
Of mighty purpose hidden in the silence
Of their inscrutable will, on which for ever
And evermore they turned their inward glances.
Serene and calm they seemed, and yet most mournful;
As men might be if God had given them knowledge
Of misery to come, but had denied them
All right or power to lessen or avert it.

* * * * * *

"The three calm sisters saw me not, nor heeded:
But gazing there alone, and sore bewildered,
I felt the need of human speech and counsel,
And found them suddenly. Beside me standing,
Partakers with me of the heavenly vision,
I saw a little child, a five-year infant,
With mild blue eyes and hair of golden lustre;
A youth in prime of over lusty vigour;
And an old man, bowed down with care and sorrow,
And hoary with the weight of eighty winters.

"'See!' said the child, and plucked me by the garments
'How beautiful they are—the lovely maidens—
Smiles on their lips and crowns upon their foreheads!'
The young man shuddered; his right hand was bloody:
I saw the stains of murder as he raised it
To cover up his eyes. 'Their hair is snaky,
Their looks assassinate, their breath is poison,
They read my inmost secrets to denounce me.
Oh! let me fly to darkness and the Desert,
To Hell itself, if only to escape them—
The furious, terrible, avenging Horrors!

"The old man sighed: 'They look on me reproachful—
They speak to me, although thou canst not hear them,
And tell me of my miserable errors—
My promise unfulfilled—my glory tarnished—
My opportunities misused, perverted,
And lost for ever! More than this; they tell me
Of grievous wrong committed, unatoned for—
Of life that had no object but indulgence
In selfish passion. I would die most gladly
If they would only cease to look upon me,
And let me pass into the quiet Hades,
As the stone sinks into the deep sea caverns,
And lies untroubled and forgot for ever."

"'Behold the sisters three!' a soft voice whispered,
Far in the upper air; or in my spirit:
'Behold the Fates! the dreadful yet auspicious;
Regents of Earth and Heaven, of Man and Nature;
Good to the good, and terrible to the wicked,
Just and inflexible. Behold, and fear not!'

* * * * * *

"The still voice spake no more—my soul was silent,
And lifting up my head from mine abasement
I looked around; and lo! I sat in judgment
On mine accustomed seat, and heard around me
The murmur of the people.—Heed the vision,
Ye who come up to me to plead for Justice!
Those who miscall the pleasant Fates, the Furies,
Condemn themselves. The Fates are as we make them."

There is a somewhat saddened tone pervading many of the pieces, but we can forgive a little sadness when it is not egotistical, particularly if we perceive that the poet is blithe of heart on fitting occasions, and rejoices in the good as well as deplores the evil. Thus "Heart-sore in Babylon," which consists of twelve cantos, is, as the title suggests, very mourn-

* Studies from the Antique and Sketches from Nature. By Charles Mackay, author of "Egeria," &c. London: Virtue, Brothers and Co.

ful, but in the last canto, called "The Last Estate," hope triumphs over sorrow:—

"What signify the care and pain
That I must yet endure,
The loss of Love—the Love in vain,
The crime of being poor?

"I've an estate of solid earth,
Nor broad nor very deep,
Where cold winds blow and daisies grow,
And moonlight shadows sleep

"'Tis six feet long and two feet wide,
Shut out from sorrow's call
It shall be mine some happy day
Enough, though it be small.

"Till trump of doom it shall be mine,
And make me rich for all—
Lost health, lost heart, lost love, lost hope,
More than amends for all."

There is in this volume of Dr. Mackay's a great variety of subject and style, though the grave pieces are never morbid, and the gay ebullitions are such as the gravest of us can read without the slightest offence. We shall conclude by quoting a song, entitled "The Little Man":—

"There was a little, very little,
Quiet little man,
He wore a little overcoat
The colour of the tan;
And when his weekly wage was earned
On Saturday at night,
He had but half-a-crown to spare
To keep his spirit light;
'But that,' quoth he, and twirled his thumb,
So blithe he was, and free,
'Is quite enough for happiness
For a little man like me.'

"And oft this little, very little,
Happy little man,
Would talk a little to himself
About the the great world's plan:
'Though people think me very poor,
I feel I'm very glad,
And this I'm sure could scarcely be
If I were very bad.
Rich knaves who cannot rest o' nights
At every turn I see,
While cosy sleep unbidden comes
To a quiet man like me.

"'For though I'm little, very little,
Do whate'er I can,
Yet every morning, when I shave,
I shave an honest man;
And every night when I go home,
My winsome little wife
Receives me smiling at the door,
And loves me more than life:—
And this is joy that kings themselves,
If thoughts were spoken free,
Might give their sceptres to exchange
With a little man like me.

"'And I've a little, quite a little,
Bonnie little child,
A little maid with golden hair,
And blue eyes bright and mild;
She sits and prattles on my knee,
She's merry as a song,
She's pleasant as a ray of light,
She keeps my heart from wrong.
And so, let kingdoms rise or fall,
I'll earn my daily fee,
And think the world is good enough
For a little man like me.'"

LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.

(*From our Own Correspondent.*)

New Orleans, February 6.

THE "FREE STATE CONVENTION."—THE CANDIDATES: THEIR CHARACTERS AND ANTECEDENTS.—THE FEDERAL COMMITTEE MEN.—THE "CONSERVATIVE UNION PARTY."—ORDER 23.—YANKEE NEGRO SLAVERY.—FREEDOM OF ELECTION.—CASES OF "DISLOYALTY AND SEDITION."—THE LATE H. E. WALWORTH.

Social and political questions absorb for the present the attention of all in this Department. The military situation is regarded as of secondary importance by the side of the fast consummating restoration fraud, or the adoption of Mr. Lincoln's "decimal system," as the one-tenth scheme is termed. The so-called Free State Convention, composed mainly of adventurers from the North, met on Monday last, but the hungry place-hunters quarreled over the distribution of the anticipated spoils, and fully one-half withdrew to a "Convention" elsewhere. Both wings have now their tickets in the field, all the candidates in both being pledged to "wipe out slavery." It is being "wiped out" very fast in the freedmen's camps along the Mississippi, where slavery is buried at the rate of several hundred per day. For the amusement of the Louisianians abroad I subjoin the two tickets of the "Free State men." For Governor, Michael Hahn; for Lieutenant-Governor, J. M. Wells; for Secretary of State, J. Wrolnoski; for Treasurer, Dr. Balden; for Attorney-General, Charles W. Horner; for Auditor of Public Accounts, A. A. Atocha; for Superintendent of Public Education, John McNair. The above ticket is understood to receive the support of the commanding-general. The candidates of the seceders are:—for Governor, B. F. Flanders; for Lieut.-Governor, J. M. Wells; for Secretary of State, John. C. White; for Treasurer, Dr. A Shelley; for Attorney-General, Charles W. Horner; for Auditor of Public Accounts, William M. Abbot; for Superintendent of Public Education, B. L. Brown. Many of these are new and strange names to the citizens of this city, but they, with the few unprincipled residents who have sold their birthright for a mess of potage, are the only tools to be found willing to consummate the fraud, treachery, corruption, and executive despotism involved in the "restoration." Michael Hahn is a notary public, publicly noted as a demagogue of much pretension among the masses. He is a German by birth, but has resided here since infancy. His character may be judged from the fact that he voluntarily took the oath of allegiance to the Confederate States, and was prominent before the fall of New Orleans as a speaker on the occasion of presenting flags, swords, &c. B. F. Flanders is a Yankee peda-

[redacted] who was cast out of [redacted] General Lovell, after having been [redacted] by [redacted] and [redacted] through Western Louisiana. A [redacted] power[ful] [redacted] Constitution, which [redacted] and [redacted] to the [redacted] here some twelve months. It would be [redacted] that he is therefore a citizen of the state. [redacted] reasonable for Banks and his gang to claim [redacted] in Louisiana. Old citizens tell me that [redacted] Orleans, his father being at that time a [redacted] ball room in the French part of the city. [redacted] for the North soon after the birth of [redacted] had not returned until General Banks' arrival [redacted] paying them "honour even unto" to rebel [redacted] to each candidate. With few exceptions, [redacted] citizens of this State, have no interest here, never had, never intend to have any. They are the purchased tools of the Lincoln Government, bought to do the work of a party that laughs at honesty, honour, and principle, as well as the restraints of law and the Constitution. In civil communities like that now agitating this country, it is no uncommon thing to see just such wretches as these rise to prominent positions in the State. Being without principle, and wholly unscrupulous in the pursuit of their aims, their advancement is rapid, and their career of success may be taken as the true measure of how far society has departed from its normal condition. Curran has aptly described such accidental demagogues as, "buoyant by putrefaction, rising as they rot."

And yet it is to these men the restoration of Louisiana to the Union is entrusted, and it is with them the commanding general corresponds relative to so weighty a matter, and to the qualifications of voters, virtually conceding to them (*vide* Letter to the Free State Central Committee) the right to decide whether or not those who took the oath of allegiance within the sixty day proclamation (under Bailey's *regime*) should vote at the coming election without also taking the ironclad oath, as it is called, appended to Lincoln's Proclamation of December last. The social character of some of these "Free State men" is such that no gentleman should recognise them. Banks has selected from among them a committee to report upon the basis of representation, with a view to the abolition of the three-fifths (of slave population) basis. One of the said committee is a quack, or herb "doctor," who hawked his simples—villanous poisons—around the streets of New Orleans on a wooden tray strapped around his neck, and a card on his breast bearing in large letters the advertisement, "DEATH TO RATS," a poison for the destruction of this vermin being his chief article in trade. Would that there were some social poison for ridding the body politic of such vermin as he!

Remember the character of the Unionists in Louisiana when you hear the Yankees talk of the people of Arkansas and Tennessee, of St. Augustine, Florida, and of Newbern, North Carolina, returning to the Union. Ere this reaches you the Federal governor, supported by Federal bayonets, will have been inaugurated here. Yet will Louisiana still cling with unfaltering faith and unconquerable love to the fortunes of her sister Confederate States. The Federal employés and Yankee adventurers here can go through the mockery of electing a governor, but he cannot be, and dare not try to be, anything but a puppet in the hands of military power—an unsubstantial sham that passes away with the power that called it forth. I enclose a copy of Banks's letter to the Free State Central Committee, upon reading which you will learn with how lordly an air these Jacobins carry themselves, and what cant and deference the commanding general pays them. Banks is a presidential aspirant, and Louisiana, restored to the Union, will have several votes to give in the nominating convention.

A number of very respectable gentlemen, styling themselves the "Conservative Union Party," are trying to stem the torrent of Jacobin Radicalism which has set in upon us from the North; but they might as well attempt to put out a fire on the prairie with a watering-pot. They will be overwhelmed, and with them, every vestige of civil liberty that bars the progress of the fanatics and mobocrats of the North. They held a very imposing meeting on the evening of the 4th instant in the St. Charles theatre, a very large building, which was filled to overflowing. The attendance was of a highly respectable character, hundreds of Confederates being present to hear what one faction of the Unionists had to say of the other, and truth to say, the "Rebels" were well pleased with what they heard. The speakers were J. Ad. Rozier and Christian Roselius, Esqs., two eminent members of the bar of New Orleans, and to their credit be it told, they uttered many brave words in defence of the citizens' civil and political rights, not even shrinking from severe but just criticism of certain positions taken by General Banks in his recent proclamations. They bitterly denounced the "ironclad oath" and the dicta of the commanding general in General Orders, 23, that "indifference was crime and faction treason." But what boots it—all this indignant denunciation of tyranny? Might makes right; and General Banks wields as absolute a power in this department as does the Czar in Russia. He sets aside the Constitution and the laws made in accordance therewith, anticipates and ignores the actions of Congress, robs the citizen of all appeal to the courts, and forestals even the judgment of the Supreme Court of the United States. Look at the condition of affairs in this State, read the orders and edicts he allowed to see the light, and then say whether I have done him injustice.

The latest edict is of the date of the 4th inst., prescribing "regulations for the information and government of all interested in the subject of compensated plantation labour, public or private, during the present year, and in continuation of the system established January 30th, 1863."

Not content with prescribing regulations for plantation labour, the general launches forth into frothy declamation, interspersed with glittering generalities about social and political economy, the social compact, civil rights and duties, obligations of resident aliens, capital and labour, with all the "spread-eagle" fustian and jargon usual in stump oratory, closing after the manner of the Mexican patriots' pronunciamento, "God preserve the Union of the States! By order of Major-General Banks,"—a very singular mingling of the Creator and the creature. I subjoin the main portions of "the Regulations":—

"I.—The enlistment of soldiers from plantations under cultivation in this department having been suspended by order of the Government, will not be resumed except upon direction of the same high authority.

"II.—The Provost-Marshal-General is instructed to provide for the division of parishes into police and school districts, and to organise, from invalid soldiers, a competent police force for the preservation of order.

"III.—Provision will be made for the establishment of a [redacted]

"VI.—[redacted]

"VII.—[redacted]

"VIII.—[redacted]

"IX.—[redacted]

"X.—[redacted]

"XI.—[redacted]

"XII.—Labourers shall render to the employer, [redacted] during 10 out of each 24 hours, [redacted] hours [redacted] winter, or [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] clothing, quarters, fuel, [redacted] for children; wages per month [redacted] half of which, at least, shall be [redacted] the year:—

For first-class hands	.. ..	$ per month.
For second-class hands	.. ..	6 "
For third-class hands	.. ..	5 "
For fourth-class hands	.. ..	4 "

Engineers and foremen, when faithful in the discharge of their duties, will be paid $2 per month extra. The [redacted] of wages may be commuted, by consent of both parties, at the rate of one-fourteenth part of the net proceeds of the crop, to be determined and paid at the end of the year. Wages will be deducted in case of sickness, and rations also, when sickness is feigned. Intolerance, insolence, incumbrance of others, and crime, will be suppressed by forfeiture of pay, and such punishments as are provided for similar offences by army regulations. Sunday work will be avoided when practicable, but when necessary, will be considered as extra labour, and paid at the rates specified herein.

"XIII.—Labourers will be permitted to choose their employers, but when the agreement is made, they will be held to their engagement for the year, under the protection of the Government. In cases of attempted imposition, by feigning sickness, or stubborn refusal of duty, they will be turned over to the Provost-Marshal of the parish, for labour upon the public works, without pay.

"XIV.—Labourers will be permitted to cultivate land on private account, as herein specified, as follows:—
1st and 2nd class hands, with families .....one acre each;
1st and 2nd class hands, without families, one-half acre each;
2nd and 3rd class hands, with families....one-half acre each;
2nd and 3rd class hands, without families....one-quarter do.;
to be increased for good conduct at the discretion of the employer. No exemption will be made in this appointment, except upon imperative reasons, and it is desirable that for good conduct the quantity be increased until faithful hands can be allowed to cultivate extensive tracts, returning to the owner an equivalent of product for rent of soil.

"XV.—To protect the labourer from possible imposition, no commutation of his supplies will be allowed, except in clothing, which may be commuted at the rate of $3 per month for first-class hands, and in similar proportion for other classes. The crops will stand pledged, wherever found, for the wages of labour.

"XVI.—It is advised, as far as practicable, that employers provide for the current wants of their hands, by per quisites for extra labour, or by appropriation of land for share cultivation; to discourage monthly payments so far as it can be done without discontent, and to reserve till the full harvest the yearly wages.

"XVII.—A Free Labour Bank will be established for the safe deposit of all accumulations of wages and other savings and in order to avoid a possible wrong to depositors, by official defalcation, authority will be asked to connect the bank with the Treasury of the United States in this department.

"XVIII.—The transportation of negro families to other countries will not be approved. All propositions for this privilege have been declined, and application has been made to other departments for surplus negro families for service in this department."

Can any unprejudiced man read the above and tell me the system of slave labour is destroyed in Louisiana? So absolute a system as this, enforced as it will be with the iron hand of military power, was never dreamed of by the worst of Mrs. Stowe's ideal "lords of the whip and branding iron." Surely poor Sambo has reason to cry out "Save me from my friends!" Such are the fruits of the dishonest abolition philanthropy of the North, of the people that vaunt themselves as the Heaven-elected labourers "in the interests of God and humanity." The honest Abolitionists of England should be undeceived. The North is not fighting for the abolition of slavery nor for a restoration of the Union, but to possess itself of the property of the South, the land and negroes, and thereby retain the control of the great staple productions of this region. The Yankee Puritan's shibboleth of "the flag," "the glorious Union," "the crime of slavery," "the best government the world ever saw," &c. &c., *ad nauseam*, is all fudge, and he has but a poor opinion of any man that believes in the sincerity of his declarations.

The Yankee is a money-making animal. How he makes or gets it, provided he does get it, does not matter much to him. Just now he finds it quite profitable to proclaim himself a labourer "in the interests of God and humanity."—an Aminadab Sleek on a grand-national-*e-pluribus-unum*-manifest-destiny-*esto-perpetua* scale—pretending to the broadest philanthropy, while his heart is filled with malice and all uncharitableness towards those he was once proud to call his fellow citizens, his brethren.

The decree of extermination proclaimed against the Southern people, the Emancipation Proclamation, so-called, and the Confiscation laws, were begotten as much in rapacity as in

hate, as so many aids to a gigantic scheme of spoliation and robbery.

In this Order, No. 23, General Banks says:—

"Those who profess allegiance to other Governments will be required, as the condition of residence in this State, to acquiesce, without reservation, in the demands presented by Government as a basis of permanent peace. The non-cultivation of the soil without just reason will be followed by temporary forfeiture to those who will secure its improvement. Those who have exercised, or are entitled to the rights of citizens of the United States, will be required to participate in the measures necessary for the re-establishment of civil government. Open hostility cannot be permitted. Indifference will be treated as crime, and faction as treason. Men who refuse to defend their country with the ballot-box or cartridge-box, have no just claim to the benefits of liberty regulated by law. All people not exempt by the law of nations, who seek the protection of the Government, are called upon to take the oath of allegiance in such form as may be prescribed, sacrificing to the public good and the restoration of public peace whatever scruple may be suggested by incidental considerations. Whoever is indifferent or hostile must choose between the liberty which foreign lands afford, the poverty of the rebel States, and the innumerable and inappreciable blessings which our Government confers upon its people."

A good deal of this is so vague, so very Delphic in its structure, that one is at a loss how to construe it definitely. It is plain, however, that the planter will be forced at the point of the bayonet to grow cotton and sugar for the benefit of the Yankee manufacturers and commission merchants and the internal revenue. It is clear, too, that foreigners are not regarded with much favour, and it is equally clear that the declaration that, "indifference will be treated as crime, and faction as treason," is not an idle threat, at least as far as the Federal minions in power here can have their way. I quote the following from the *True Delta* newspaper, a Union journal edited by Michael Hahn, Banks's candidate for governor:—

"Neu trality Objected to.—A tall, red-faced individual and a much younger one, were before the court to-day on the charge of using treasonable language. Recorder Vennard investigated the matter, and it became clear that the taller and elder proclaimed to be a citizen of the United States and his neutrality as to the approaching election. For this the younger one had rebuked the other, with the remark that it was the duty of every citizen to comprehend and comply with the 24th section of the proclamation of the commanding general, dated 3rd instant. He held that it was a crime for a citizen of the United States to stand by pretended neutrality between the Government and its wise purposes. Recorder Vennard said that was sound doctrine; in times like these men take sides, and he who is not for the Government is against it. The recorder commended the young man for his patriotic instructions, and left the other one the choice to pay a fine of $15 or to go for a term to the workhouse for controverting patriotic doctrines."

A rather amusing case of "sedition" is thus reported in the same journal:—

"Sedition.—Two little darkeys had made up their minds to abuse each other. In this duel of mortifying insinuation the one called the other 'cross-eyed Butler.' This was too much for the other party to stand. He applied to the law and prosecuted his adversary for seditious language. Recorder Beaumont heard the case, and appeared to consider whether to send both to prison or not. He solved the point by sending the accused for five days."

There are few Louisianians who have not heard of H. F. Walworth, of Baton Rouge, now deceased. He was a warm friend of the Confederate cause, and proved his zeal by frequent liberal contributions. The *New Orleans Picayune* thus speaks of his will:—

"Yesterday the will of Horace Fayette Walworth, of East Baton Rouge, was admitted to probate in the Second District Court of this city. Deceased was a man of great wealth, his property in real estate and money, being estimated at $400,000. Several years before his death he became blind, and in the darkness which followed this afflicting visitation he reflected much on the advantages of books for the blind, and resolved to devote a portion of his fortune to the procuring of a proper supply. Of his estate he gave $250,000 to an adopted daughter and another lady, and most of the residue he devoted to the purpose of establishing a printing-office for the weekly publication of 'a paper or magazine to be distributed gratuitously among the blind of the Confederate States of America, or for sale to such as are able and willing to pay for the same.'" Item six of the will provides, that in the event of the death of the legatees before him, and without their leaving issue, then and in that case he devotes all the property that he shall die possessed of to the support of the paper or magazine above mentioned. The legatees named to carry out the benevolent intentions of the testator are, the Governor of Louisiana, the State Auditor, the Treasurer, the Chief Justice, the Mayor of New Orleans, the minister of the First Presbyterian Church of New Orleans, the rector of the oldest Episcopal Church of New Orleans, the Bishop of the Episcopal Church of the Diocese of Louisiana, and the ministers of the oldest Methodist Church of New Orleans for the time being, and their successors in the several offices and positions for ever.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

New York, February 16.

PROSPECTS OF THE SPRING CAMPAIGN.—THE MORALE OF THE CONFEDERATE AND FEDERAL ARMIES.—THE FALSE REPORTS OF THE NORTHERN PRESS.—THE FLORIDA EXPEDITION.—THE SHAM ELECTIONS IN LOUISIANA, ARKANSAS, AND TENNESSEE.—LESSONS TAUGHT BY THE ACTS OF THE WASHINGTON ADMINISTRATION.—THE CONFISCATION BILL.—THE ENROLMENT BILL.—THE WHISKY TAX.

The extremely mild weather which has been prevailing for several weeks gives promise of an early opening of the campaign in the spring. There is great activity in preparation on both sides, and there will undoubtedly be gigantic efforts made on both sides, such as have not been made before during the war, to bring it to a close in some decisive way during the summer. It is the Northern hope to do this by overwhelming the Southern armies at all points by superior numbers, pushed on with a vigour not yet put forth by any of the Federal generals. General Grant is the "coming" man by whom these crushing triumphs are expected to be directed. The South, on the contrary, looks to baffle superior numbers by superior discipline, by concentration, activity, and the indomitable energy which inspires men fighting on their own soil for freedom and independence against a cruel invasion, which menaces them with utter ruin and degradation, the seizure of their possessions, and political slavery under the stranger in their own land.

Concurrent accounts from the South, which have at length made a deep impression on the public mind here, show that the Southern armies, instead of being disorganised by despondency and depleted by desertion, are largely recruited, and will present a formidable and well-disciplined front at all the principal points at which the invading columns may aim. The stories of mutinous regiments and crowds of deserters seeking their way into the Union camps, with which Northern confidence of a speedy dissolution of the Confederacy was lately so much inflated, have tapered off into rumours repeated and discredited until they are laughed at as absurd exaggerations by a few runaways, such as are to be found in all armies, and who shift their places from one side to the other either for ease or plunder. In the Southern accounts appear—what is of course never repeated on this side—reports of the swarming in certain localities of great numbers of deserters from the Federal ranks, coming into the Confederate lines, or lurking in squads on debatable grounds, and depredating as the chances turn up on either side.

There is lurking confession of the existence of this state of things near Washington City, in the explanation lately made in the Government papers of the probable authors of a late audacious attack upon an express train near Harper's Ferry, and the robbery of the passengers by a party of armed men. It was immediately surmised that it could not be a force of Confederates, but must have been a "gang of robbers" from the loyal States, and probably *deserting Federal soldiers*. There is no longer any faith seriously entertained that there is any discontent in the Southern army or in the Southern people with the cause in which they are engaged, or that there will not be the most powerful and concentrated effort possible made and continued to fight this battle out, for independence, to the last extremity; and that, whatever may be the issue of an engagement or a campaign, there will never be among the masses of the Southern people, now, or among their children after them, anything but inextinguishable animosity and perpetual resistance to the North.

You will see in the journals the proclamation of Jefferson Davis, returning in a few, simple, and eloquent words the thanks of the Government for the unanimity with which the Confederate soldiers have re-enlisted for the war. Well does he appreciate the contrast between this spirit of heroic and self-sacrificing devotion by the Confederate soldier of heart and arm to the holy cause of a country which cannot pay and can but scantily feed and clothe him, with that of the despotic and sordid North, which, with four times the numbers of the South, can only fill up its armies by tempting mercenaries from abroad, and holding out to the unemployed labourers, whose conscience it first constrains and then debauches, the lure of such extravagant bounties as were never given before for bloodshedding in war, and the promise of such plunder as never before glutted the rapacity of a freebooter.

In this difference between the character of the material of the opposing forces in the immense advantage of being on the shorter lines of a defence, and with the power of more rapid concentration, and above all, in the difference of *morale* between the contending forces, rests the faith which seems to pervade the Southern mind, and to be received here among the few who are faithful to the cause of civil liberty which the South is fighting for, that the new invasion will be signally repulsed, and that the close of the next campaign will find the conquest of the South as remote as ever, and the North again foiled, and possibly turned from its fell purpose of destroying and enslaving the people of the South, to consider how it may save itself from internal convulsions, bankruptcy, and ruin.

In the near prospect of the commencement of active operations, the journals affecting inspiration from the War Department are speculating on the plans for the campaign, and pointing out how, and from what quarters, the devoted Confederacy is to be assailed and overwhelmed. These are idle—or artful—men's fancies, or possibly the promptings from official quarters, meant to mislead. It has during the last season been repeatedly found that the press has been systematically used by the authorities to create false impressions of military movements. An idle notion seems to have filled the heads of the Secretary of War and the generals that a good way to deceive the "rebels" is to cause false intelligence to be published in the newspapers, and to create, by accounts which might be taken as official, the expectation of movements not intended to be executed, as well as to give false versions of the results of what has been attempted. There is an inside inducement for this: that a knowledge of what is really true—such as is not given to the public, but confided to a few confidential friends—helps them to speculate safely and make fortunes out of this official imposture, which makes deliberate lying one of the indispensable virtues of loyalty. But the practice has grown stale. Little credit is given to statements which emanate from these sources; and the nearer any statement of what the Government intends to do comes to a "semi-official," a "thoroughly well-informed," or "entirely reliable source," the more it begins to be scrutinised as probably containing a premeditated mystification, out of which some favourite of the Government calculates to make money; the excuse for which, if it be afterwards questioned, is, that it was meant to mislead Jefferson Davis, or General Lee, or General Beauregard: as if those personages are guided by what they read in the Yankee newspapers.

I see no change in the military position worth advising of. The expedition from Charleston sent down into Florida is not a military, but a political expedition. Florida is a large State in area, with a very sparse population; it is of no military importance, and is not defended by any Confederate forces. Its fate, as a member of the Confederacy, depends entirely on the result of the great combinations elsewhere. The occupation by a Union army, in large numbers, detached from the forces already engaged elsewhere, has the only intelligible purpose of prosecuting the Government project of creating new States out of the subjugated portions of the old States, to represent in the Congress of the United States and in the elections the party now in power. The President's theory of reconstruction has a very clear field there. Florida cast at the Presidential election of 1860, 10,357 votes. If the army of the United States can occupy enough of the territory to include one-tenth of this number—that is to say, 1036 voters—these men may, under Mr. Lincoln's proclamation, accepting his terms of amnesty, erect a new State, to be received into the Union, with two senators in Congress and one representative to vote at the next election for President, casting the three votes of the State in the Colleges, and if the election fails there, to give one vote for the State, potential as the vote of the largest of the States, in the final election in the House of Representatives.

The example of what is going on in Louisiana shows that there is a fixed determination by the authorities that the requisite number of voters to satisfy the President's purpose shall be obtained. The manner of securing it exhibits the last shape in which the theory of republican government clothes itself in this country.

The election in Louisiana for a new State Government on the model prescribed by Mr. Lincoln, has been ordered by the commanding general to take place on the 22nd of February. About 5000 votes of persons qualified under the laws of the State, are needed to make up the tale of the new constituency. It had become evident that the old inhabitants of the State would abstain from voting. Not merely those hostile in their feeling to the foreign rule imposed upon them were disposed to keep aloof from the creating of a new government for which they have no sympathy, but moderate Unionists revolted from voting under the dictation from Washington for a form of government to which they have conscientious scruples, as adverse to the true interests and territorial rights of Louisiana, as a State already in existence and not yet lawfully extinguished. In all of Louisiana within the Federal control the Government despaired of obtaining, with all its facilities for multiplying voters, the 5,000 Louisianians to record themselves as the pardoned convicts of Mr. Lincoln, doing his will in an election instead of their own.

A new order has come forth by which neutrality and silence are made as criminal as opposition. It had been already decreed that no person shall be allowed to vote who does not, in addition to the general oath of allegiance to the Government of the United States, take the oath to support the proclamation and other edicts of the President, and all the acts of Congress, and to aid in enforcing them everywhere in the State. It is now further ordered that every man who refuses or omits to vote on these terms, shall be held as a declared enemy of the United States, and must forfeit his property and quit the State! The privilege of quiet submission is refused to the vanquished. The privilege to have a choice among the various shades and parties of the conquerors is denied to the conservative loyalist who has the slightest scruple in regard to any of the acts of the Government party at Washington. A "Free State" is be formed by putting the power to control the whole population into the hands of one-tenth of the number; and this tenth are to be oath-bound to do the will of the President, and their allegiance to him made the condition on which alone they are permitted to remain in the State.

The following are among the passages of the military orders by which the commanding general of the district regulates this process for creating a vassal State.

"It is a solemn duty resting upon all persons to assist in the earliest possible restoration of civil government. Let them participate in measures suggested for this purpose. Opinion is free and candidates are numerous. Open hostility cannot be permitted. Indifference will be treated as crime, and faction as treason. Men who refuse to defend their country with the ballot-box or cartridge-box, have no just claim to the benefits of liberty regulated by law.

"The amnesty offered for the past is conditioned upon an unreserved loyalty for the future, and this condition will be enforced with an iron hand. Whoever is indifferent or hostile must choose between the liberty which foreign lands afford, the poverty of the Rebel States, and the innumerable and inappreciable blessings which our Government confers upon its people."

This is the brief but terrible code, to be promulgated in this boasted land of republican freedom.

Every man must vote on the "measures suggested" by the Government. Opinions are free as to candidates, but opposition to measures will not be tolerated. Men may think what they please, but they must vote as directed. Indifference will be treated as a crime, and faction as treason. A refusal to vote as directed will be held as proof of the crime and the treason. The penalty for the offence is banishment from the State, and confiscation of property follows of course.

Old original Unionists, the very few among respectable citizens who have held to the Union from the beginning, remonstrate against this "iron" rule, but in vain.

The march of a large body of troops into thinly populated districts of Florida has the same reconstructing process in view. If one thousand of the inhabitants can be found so abject in spirit as to welcome the invaders, or so utterly helpless as to be unable to abandon their homes to escape from the "iron-hand" with which General Banks threatens the indifferent within his province—can be seduced or terrified into becoming the sworn followers of the head of the Government—there is another State made ready to vote for its master at the next election.

Arkansas is nearly reconstructed under the same rule from Washington. It has had its Convention framed on the Administration pattern, with the additional fact that after the Constitution was framed and thought to be sufficiently loyal, the President disapproved of a part of it, and altered it by his own mere order.

Tennessee is undergoing a similar process, under the superintendence of its military governor, Andrew Johnson, who is in Washington, representing that the Government is not rigorous enough with the rebels and the indifferent there, and asking additional power to compel men to vote on the Administration standard of loyalty, or be held to the penalties for treason—banishment and confiscation.

These are a few of the latest public manifestations of the true character of that ferocious despotism which, in the name of "republic," administers at Washington an autocracy as stern and remorseless as that of Russian or Turk. They may help to enlighten the English public on the "innumerable and inappreciable blessings"—to quote the boasting words of General Banks—which the successful imitation of this model, recommended so strongly by their Cobdens and their Brights, would confer upon the people of England, whenever a frenzy of desire shall seize upon a majority in numbers to oppress and plunder the others. Another practical conclusion useful to them in estimating the moral power of the Southern cause is, that even within the reconquered territory not even one-tenth of the inhabitants can be brought to take sides with the intrusive Government, except by the employment of the most tremendous engines of persecution and terror. Another is, that a real revolution in the whole character of the Government has been effected, and that if there were not enough in the original provisions to their injury of which the South complained, and to resist which they determined to withdraw and seek better protection in independence, there is enough in the terrible developments of Northern tyranny, rapacity, and lawlessness, to justify revolution, or rebellion, if the word be preferred, in order to escape from such associates.

The leading measures of legislation before Congress have

been further debated, but are not yet completed. The confiscation scheme has got through the house, by a majority of eight votes—small, but sufficient. The effect is to take off the limitation imposed by the Act of 1862 upon the operation of the power of confiscation therein contained, so as to confine it, in respect to real estate, to the lifetime of the offender. There is substituted a declaration that the confiscation shall be as unlimited as the Constitution will permit. To make it universal and perpetual a further declaratory clause was added. Confiscation, by the Act of 1862, was made by the President, under the military power, on the proof of treason afforded by the neglect to accept the terms of pardon offered by the President in a proclamation he was directed to issue, giving sixty days to the inhabitants of insurgent States, within which to make their submission. The time of the proclamation expired in September, after which all persons who had neglected to take advantage of it were liable, as confessed traitors, to all the penalties of the Act. The declaratory resolution which has passed the House, enacts, in substance, that no other public proceedings shall be required than that proclamation to determine the status of a Southern "rebel," and to forfeit his property. In this way the confiscation policy is thought to be made universal and perpetual, and to escape the constitutional inhibitions, which are construed as being directed only against persons convicted after judicial trial. The theory is, that by condemning before trial, or without it, the penalties may be inflicted which the Constitution forbids after judgment. There is no doubt that the Senate will concur in these provisions as soon as they read the Bill. The Enrolment Bill for conscription has also passed the House, in a form to be reconsidered in the Senate, where it originated. It is thought certain that it will finally be adopted, with the commutation clause of $300 included; but that the exemption for that sum shall only last for the single draft, and only until the numbers drawn therein shall be exhausted, when the names of the exempt by commutation shall be added. The enrolment is to be made of all able-bodied free men, between the ages of 20 and 45, and all able-bodied slaves between 18 and 45. It is a very severe bill, and causes great apprehensions among both poor and rich. There is immense difficulty in getting recruits with the lure of enormous bounties and the terrors of drafting. The volunteering is not even so brisk as it seems to be, for large numbers take the bounty and are not to be found when the regiment is called to march. One regiment here reported itself full after a short recruiting, and when the order came to move less than a hundred men appeared, and it was sent to quarters until enough could be gathered in to make a respectable show.

The Senate, under the influence of the speculators, struck out the House-tax on whisky "in hand," which would put some millions of dollars into the pockets of some shrewd politicians, who, acting on some hint of what was going to be done, bought largely of whisky for a rise, not expecting the tax to reach their purchases. Mr. Fernando Wood, a city member, in opposing the Senate measure of relief, stated that he knew of three men in New York, "not traders," who had nearly a hundred thousand barrels. Thus the release of the tax would give them nearly, if not quite, two millions of profit, which would otherwise be paid to the Government. There was a large ring formed of politicians for this speculation; and, notwithstanding the opposition in the House of Representatives, which still holds out against the Senate, I think it will succeed. The tax will be removed, or a compromise effected between the two Houses, by which they will get at least half. They are too strong at the political headquarters to be defeated.

The Lower House of Congress passed an Act creating the office of Lieutenant-General, intending it for General Grant, and made a special request to the President to confer it, conferring the command of the army in chief on that general. The Senate demurs, and the President is said to demur, and General Halleck, the present general-in-chief, is said also to demur, and the resolution, therefore, hangs in the Senate. There is great envy of Grant as a possible and probable candidate for the Presidency, and some doubt whether the Congress is not too fast in rewarding him for what he has done, before a test comes by which it might be shown that they make a mistake in setting him up so high.

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

(*From our Own Correspondent.*)

Manchester, March 2.

Whether or not the exertions of the friends of the Confederacy are in all particulars as well directed as they might be, there is happily no doubt that the Southern cause is becoming every day more unquestionably indebted to the action of its enemies. The most recent move of the Northern sympathisers here is notably characterised by this curiously beneficent tendency. The avowed object of their new scheme is neither more nor less than to cajole us into making some substantial return to the Yankees for their generosity to us in the matter of the *George Griswold*. "Manchester," says one of those ever ready letter writers who seem to be always at the elbow of the editor of the *Examiner*, "should not forget that the Americans sent out a great quantity of flour to relieve the distress in Lancashire," and, overlooking the fine opportunity of protesting against the Rev. Arthur Mursell's wish that the ship had been scuttled in the waters of the Mersey and her owners indemnified twofold for the vessel and her freight, the correspondent contents himself with adding that "he encloses a sailing's worth of stamps," in the hope that "some of the leading men in the city will feel themselves moved to carry out his suggestion." And what does his "suggestion" amount to? Why, this: that the miseries of the wretched negroes, the so-called "coloured refugees"—the aged, the sick, the helpless women and the young children—who, having been philanthropically deprived of lawful guardianship, protection, and care, are perishing by hundreds in daily testimony of their "deliverance,"—might be judiciously *capitalised* by the pro-Federal party in Manchester, who, while forging out of such pathetic materials a public appeal to our pity and our purse, could, by a side wind, turn our philanthropy to account in such a way that, unless the deception were too apparent, Mr. Adams would not feel it incumbent upon him to expose the trick to his Government! One's first thought upon the mere statement of such a suggestion is—alas, for the poor negro! Three years ago, while he was in the enjoyment of all he now so sorely misses, it was for his *happiness'* sake we were implored to sympathise with the only enemy he had: to-day, it is for his *miseries'* sake we are asked to sanction the unparalleled atrocities which have ended in his undoing. His case is indeed a hard one, and in nothing harder than this: that, in its most pitiable phase, it is about to be traded upon by philanthropists, who postpone compassion to politics. Sympathy for the forlorn wretches, one might hope, a feeling common to us all, but the idea of deriving political profit from the extremity of suffering they have helped to bring upon us could only have originated with the people of the Confederate Emancipation Society, and might safely be sworn to as their private property in a court of law.

The natural contempt inspired by the contemplation of artifices such as these is tending to unite a liberal minded men more and more on the side of the Confederacy. The aversion felt for the North would not be nearly so rooted and general but for the damning advocacy of its friends. It one were to disassociate in his mind the warlike policy of President Lincoln from the mixture of hypocrisy and humanitarianism attempted to be inculcated by the pro-Federalists in England—and not less by those in Lancashire than by those in London—it would be surprising to find how much of the unpopularity of their cause the Yankees owe to Messrs Cobden, Bright, Baptist Noel, Forster, the *Star*, and the President of the Union and Emancipation Society (Mr. T. Potter). Even to this day, President Lincoln, when addressed by any of our local anti-slavery associations, whether for purposes of condolence or congratulation, has the honesty and good sense not to speak of his emancipation proclamation as other than a war measure, although in a somewhat curious instance which has just come to my knowledge he appears to have instructed Mr. Adams to throw some sort of sop—so far as mystifying words go—to the anti-slavery Cerberus. The case was this: early in the year, when the Right Hon. Milner Gibson was down at Ashton, it occurred to the executive of the local branch of the Union and Emancipation Society that it would give point to Mr. Gibson's speech if the newspaper report of it were to reach Washington accompanied by an anti-slavery address, from such of the right hon. gentleman's constituents as were of his way of thinking. An address was accordingly despatched through the United States Legation in London, and the following reply to it has just been received:—

"Legation of the United States,
London, February 23, 1864.

"Sir,—I am directed to apprise you of the reception by the President of the United States of the interesting address of citizens of Ashton-under-Lyne, which was transmitted to him some time since through this legation. It is with lively satisfaction that he accepts their assurances that under all the disadvantages of a distant position they have not been unable to understand the policy of the Government, and to comprehend how a fixed and unswerving determination to rescue the State from the assaults of domestic faction is compatible with the policy of lawfully extinguishing the chronic evil of African slavery.

"I have, &c.
(Signed) Charles Francis Adams.

"Mr. John Tucker, Secretary
of the Union and Emancipation Society, Ashton."

Since the opening of Parliament, the Manchester Southern Independence Association has received a vast accession of strength. From every county in the United Kingdom friends of the South are sending in applications from to day to day requesting that their names may be added to the members' roll. The Irish gentry are swelling the list in great numbers.

The exodus from Liverpool for the United States is assuming larger proportions from month to month. It appears from the returns made up for the month of February that the number of steerage passengers was upwards 6,000, of whom nearly two-thirds were Irish.

The "deliberate opinion" expressed by Mr. Commissioner Farnall in his recent report to the President of the Poor-Law Board, viz., that by the end of this month the Central Executive Committee might terminate their labours, is not favoured by the present facts of the case. At the last meeting of the executive, the commissioner reported an increase of 1,763 in the number of distressed operatives, as compared with the returns of the previous week, and at a meeting of the Board of Guardians at Ashton a motion has been unanimously adopted by way of correcting Mr. Farnall's "deliberate opinion." The motion is at follows:—

"That the report of the cotton districts, dated January 4 and February 11, which Mr. Farnall has forward to the Poor-law Board, misrepresents and does not apply to this union. The actual condition of the trade of this neighbourhood is such that the guardians do not consider that the manufacturers have either mastered their difficulties or have passed the climax of the grave calamity that has befallen them. The present high prices ruling and the uncertainty as regards the future supply of the raw material have led to a greater curtailment of the time worked in its manufacture. This has not only increased the pressure upon the rates, but is compelling a larger number of persons to seek relief. 15,281 persons were relieved during the week ending November 30, and not fewer than 16,898 were relieved during the week ending the 25th instant. The guardians, therefore, consider the prospects of this district such as to cause great anxiety; and they cannot determine upon what grounds Mr. Farnall was justified in the report alluded to in asserting, as his deliberate opinion, that the Central Committee in Manchester will be in a position to abandon their onerous duties at the expiration of March next."

PARIS TOPICS.

(*From our Own Correspondent.*)

Paris, March 1.

The trial of the conspirators against the Emperor's life occupied only two days, nearly the whole of the first being devoted to the interrogatories of the prisoners. Greco and Trabucco were the most remarkable of the group; the former a handsome young fellow, with the air of an opera brigand; the other a perfect *buffo*, a fellow whose every expression has something irresistibly comic. In the rambling speech he addressed to the jury, he drew tears of laughter even from the judges—the tones, the grimaces, and the action, all belonged to the best order of Italian low comedy. The entire interest of the trial turned upon the proofs of M. Mazzini's participation in the plot, and I believe here no one entertains the shadow of a doubt that M. Mazzini was really the instigator or abettor of the conspiracy. Whether, if tried by the forms of English law, there is proof enough to obtain a conviction, is a question on which opinions sdiffer; for there is many a loophole through which to escape from the meshes of the law, even when most guilty. The Anglophobist senators, Marquis de Boissy and Le Verrier, have also taken occasion, in remarking on certain petitions to the Emperor from English societies for the protection of animals, to say that while Englishmen are so tender-hearted to the brute creation, their humanity does not prevent them from harbouring assassins.

The debates on petitions in the Senate prove how important a part the petitions to plays in every institution of life. When the right of petition to the Senate was the rule in the Constituent Assembly it was not anticipated that this would open the door to a discussion on every possible question, and that while the functionaries of the Legislature were so carefully circumscribed, the Senate might indulge its garrulity at pleasure. Yet it is the great talkers to whom so long as the two great men also distinguished themselves on this last, as on so many points of resemblance, remain in the land of the living.

A man of many a political ebb, the Senator Pietri has just died at the ripe age of 81. He represented Corsica in the Constituent Assembly, and made the first step to the position of Senator by proposing the abrogation of the law which excluded the Bonaparte family from France.

The Archduke Maximilian is still expected here, and the delay in his arrival is likely to shorten his stay. In the meantime the Emperor continues the system of parallelism in which he excels, by appointing a scientific commission, similar to the *Institut Egyptien*, to examine the natural resources and artistical wealth of Mexico. The work, of conquest by arms being completed, the aim of the new experiments is to effect another by the useful and fine arts. There can be no question that a rich harvest of historical discovery awaits the labours of men of science, working under the protection of Government and learned really the learning of modern Europe.

The last news from America is considered here to be very favourable to the South, as indicating for the spring a great movement, which it is hoped will be more decisive than military operations have yet proved in this war. But, excepting by the Southerners in Paris and a few ardent friends of Southern independence, little heed is given to any news from America. Denmark, in its heroic struggle against the legions of Germany, attracts exclusive attention, and a sort of apathetic sympathy. At another time the feeling of imagination at the abuse of great force would have been louder, but the invasion of Denmark places England in so humiliating a position in Europe, a position seemingly so monstrous, that the French press and public may be excused if, in the enjoyment our embarrassment affords them, they overlook the danger of an old and faithful ally. We, although so large a portion of kindred blood flows in our veins, have never been so influential in Danish counsels as France. It has always been her policy to protect the weaker Powers, and one with such sustaining abilities as Denmark was sure to obtain all her sympathies. This traditional feeling may probably prevail with the Emperor in the end, but in the meantime he leaves England to make the discovery how difficult it is for a country whose Ministers have not a friend abroad to exercise the influence in Europe which she once enjoyed. In the higher financial circles, generally so well informed of the intentions of Government, no doubt is entertained that the Emperor is only biding his time to prove that he is really the Napoleon of Peace.

The telegraph has just brought the summary of last night's debate, but those of the evening papers I have seen content themselves with referring to it without any comment. Probably to-morrow they will show Lord Russell that the want of legal proof against M. Mazzini is no reason for not applying to him the law which entitles the Government, without reason given, to remove from the soil of England an alien whose presence is so likely to embroil her with her neighbours. It strikes me that Lord Russell and the *Times* have said some very clever things on the duties of a great nation, apropos of the *Alabama* and consorts, which would be very applicable here. It cannot be that they know the Emperor Napoleon to be more enduring than the Emperor Lincoln, and take advantage of his amiable weakness; but this is the interpretation which it is in the nature of things that foreigners should put upon the inaction of a Cabinet which does not hesitate to go beyond, if not to violate, the law, as well as the rules of fair play, in favour of a very troublesome bully, who, unfortunately, is the too near neighbour of a distant possession.

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT DAVIS TO THE CONFEDERATE ARMIES.

Soldiers of the Armies of the Confederate States!

In the long and bloody war in which your country has been engaged you have achieved many noble triumphs. You have won glorious victories over vastly more numerous hosts. You have cheerfully borne privations and toil to which you were unused. You have readily submitted to restraints upon your individual will, that the citizen might better perform his duty to the State as a soldier. To all these you have lately added another triumph—the noblest of human conquests—a victory over yourselves. As the time drew near when you who first entered the service high, well have expected to claim relief from your arduous labours and restoration to the endearments of home, you have heeded only the call of your suffering country. Again you come to tender your service for the public defence—a free offering, which only such patriotism as yours could make—a triumph worthy of you and of the cause to which you are devoted.

I would in vain attempt adequately to express the emotions with which I received the testimonials of confidence and regard which you have recently addressed to me. To some of those first received separate acknowledgments were returned; but it is now apparent that a like generous enthusiasm pervades the whole army, and that the only exception to such magnanimous tender will be of those who, having originally entered for the war, cannot display anew their zeal in the public service. It is therefore deemed appropriate, and it is hoped will be equally acceptable, to make a general acknowledgment, instead of successive special responses. Would that it were possible to render my thanks to you in person, and, in the name of our common country, as well as in my own, while pressing the hand of each war-worn veteran, to recognise his title to our love, gratitude, and admiration.

Soldiers! By your will—for you and the people are but one—I have been placed in a position which debars me from sharing your dangers, your sufferings and your privations in the field. With pride and affection my heart has accompanied you in every march; with solicitude it has sought to minister to your every want; with exultation it has marked your every heroic achievement; yet never in the toilsome march nor in the weary watch, nor in the desperate assault have you rendered a service so decisive in results as in the last display of the highest qualities of devotion and self-sacrifice which can adorn the character of the warrior patriot.

Already the pulse of the whole people beats in unison with yours; already they compare your spontaneous and unanimous offer of your lives for the defence of your country with the halting and reluctant service of the mercenaries who are purchased by the enemy at the price of higher bounties than have hitherto been known in war. Animated by this contrast, they

exhibit cheerful confidence and more resolute bearing. Even the murmurs of the weak and timid, who shrink from the trials which make stronger and firmer your noble natures, are shamed into silence by the spectacle which you present. Your brave battle cry will ring loud and clear through the land of the enemy as well as our own; will silence the vainglorious boastings of their corrupt partisans and their pensioned press, and will do justice to the calumny by which they seek to persuade a deluded people that you are ready to purchase dishonourable safety by degrading submission.

Soldiers: The coming spring campaign will open under auspices well calculated to sustain your hopes. Your resolution needed nothing to fortify it. With ranks replenished under the influence of your example, and by the aid of representatives who give earnest of their purpose to add by legislation largely to your strength, you may welcome the invader with a confidence justified by the memory of past victories. On the other hand, debt, taxation, repetition of heavy drafts, dissensions occasioned by the strife for power, by the pursuit of the spoils of office, by the thirst for the plunder of the public treasury, and, above all, the consciousness of a bad cause, must tell with fearful force upon the overstrained energies of the enemy. His campaign of 1864 must, from the exhaustion of his resources of men and money, be far less formidable than those of the last two years, when unimpaired means were used with boundless prodigality, and with results which are suggested by the mention of the names of Shiloh, Perryville, Murfreesboro, and the Chickahominy, Manassas, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville.

Soldiers: Assured success awaits us in our holy struggle for liberty and independence, and for the preservation of all that renders life desirable to honorable men. When that success shall be reached, to you, your country's hope and pride, under Divine Providence, will it be due. The fruits of that success will not be reaped by you alone; but your children and your children's children in long generations to come will enjoy the blessings derived from you that will preserve your memory ever living in their hearts.

Citizen defenders of the homes, the liberties and altars of the Confederacy: That the God whom we all humbly worship may shield you with his fatherly care, and preserve you for safe return to the peaceful enjoyment of your friends and the associations of those you most love, is the earnest prayer of your Commander-in-Chief.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

THE BIRTHDAY OF WASHINGTON.

WE have received the following from an American correspondent in Paris, writing under the signature of "Chronicler":—

On the occasion of the anniversary of Washington's natal day (February 22) it may not be either unseasonable or without interest to reproduce in your columns a short recital of the circumstances under which he received his first military commission from the Crown and in the colonial army of Virginia. The statement on the subject is to be found at pages 3 and 4 (in a note which I subjoin) in Marshall's Life of that great and good man, yet the most illustrious rebel of any age or country. It will be seen that his first essays as a soldier were made when wearing a British sword and royal uniform. In that service he acquired the experience and the prestige which subsequently raised him to the head of the rebel levies of Virginia, and thence to the command of the Confederate armies of the thirteen revolted colonies. Actuated as he was by the loftiest motives, seeking no selfish ends, but looking singly to the weal and independence of his country, it can hardly be doubted on which side he would have been found in the present unholy crusade of the New England Puritans against the very rights and liberties he so generously aided them in securing for themselves as well as the children of his native Virginia and her sisters of the South. That in the defence of these, in resistance to injustice and a sordid lust of power, he would again have approved himself a rebel, like all of his name and race at this day, will not be questioned by any Southern man of sound affections and a purified understanding. The following is the statement above referred to:—

"With an unaffected modesty which the accumulated honours of his after life could never impair, Major Washington, though the most distinguished military man then in Virginia, declined being a candidate for the command of this regiment. The following letter, written on the occasion to Colonel Richard Corbin, a member of the council, with whom his family was connected by the ties of friendship and affinity, was placed in the hands of the author by Mr. Francis Corbin, a son of that gentleman:—

"'Dear Sir,—In a conversation at Green Spring, you gave me some room to hope for a commission above that of a major, and to be ranked among the chief officers of this expedition. The command of the whole forces is what I neither look for, expect, nor desire; for I must be impartial enough to confess it is a charge too great for my youth and inexperience to be entrusted with. Knowing this, I have too sincere a love for my country to undertake that which may tend to the prejudice of it. But if I could entertain hopes that you thought me worthy of the post of lieutenant-colonel, and would favour me so far as to mention it at the appointment of officers, I could not but entertain a true sense of your kindness. I flatter myself that under a skilful commander or man of sense (which I most sincerely wish to serve under), with my own application and diligent study of my duty, I shall be able to conduct my steps without censure, and in time render myself worthy of the promotion that I shall be favoured with now.'

"The commission he solicited was transmitted to him in the following laconic letter:—

"'Dear George,—I enclose you your commission. God prosper you with it.—Your friend,

"'RICHARD CORBIN.'"

(*From Galignani.*)

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

THE MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKETS.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, March 3.

ALTHOUGH money has been easier since the reduction in the Bank rate of discount, the demand for accommodation has greatly revived within the last few days, in order to meet the requirements of the 4th, which are expected to be rather heavier than usual. The applications both at the Bank and amongst the brokers, have been equally pressing, and out-of-doors the terms are now fully up to the Bank minimum of 6 per cent. The joint-stock banks are fairly supplied with capital, but they will not dispose of it under 5¾ per cent. On the Stock Exchange money continues in fair demand, and short loans on Government securities command from 5 to 6 per cent.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The bullion market continues in a very satisfactory state. For the present most of the arrivals of specie find their way into the Bank, whilst the withdrawals for transmission to the Continent have ceased. The amount sent in this week has not been particularly large, being only £121,000, but there have been no sets-off in the shape of withdrawals. The arrivals of specie have been large, the total reaching £390,667, of which £168,644 was from the Australian colonies, £208,823 from the West Indies, and £13,200 from New York. The specie taken out by the *Delta* on Saturday last amounted to £264,308, of which £20,000 was in gold for Alexandria, £69,460 gold for Bombay, and £174,348 silver, also for Bombay. The silver market has been subjected to some fluctuations in consequence of the demand for the East. That which arrived by the previous West Indian packet was disposed of at 61¼d., but on the receipt of accounts advising a considerable rise in the China exchanges, the price advanced to 61⅜d., at which it is at present firm. Mexican dollars have also been in good demand, but there are scarcely any in the market. The gold ships known to be on their way from Australia are the *Water Nymph*, with £56,000; the *Giant Causeway*, £20,500; the *Japan*, £64,000; *Donald McKay*, £19,000; and the *Star of Peace* with £75,000; making a total of £234,500.

TENDERS FOR BILLS ON INDIA.

The biddings for 40,00,000 rupees in bills on India took place to-day at the Bank of England. The proportions allotted were, to Calcutta, 22,00,000 rupees; to Bombay, 16,00,000 rupees; and to Madras, 2,00,000 rupees. The minimum price was as before, 1s. 11½d. per rupee on Calcutta and Madras; and 1s. 11¾d. on Bombay. The applications within the limits amounted to 237 lacs. Tenders on Calcutta at 1s. 11¾d., will receive about 11 per cent.; on Bombay, at 2s. 0⅛d., about 16 per cent.; on Madras, at 2s., about 44 per cent.; and all above these prices in full.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The market for the English funded securities has been somewhat depressed during the week, the advices with regard to the war in Denmark continuing to have an unfavourable influence, and the anomalous state of affairs, as respects the proposed conference, being looked upon as anything but assuring, adds to the depression. The dealers are acting with great caution and seem indisposed to enter into extensive engagements. Consols closed this evening 91 to 91⅛ for money, and 91⅛ to 91¼ for the account, which is a decline as compared with this day week of about ⅜ per cent. Exchequer Bills are without alteration, at 5s. dis. to par. There has been a little more animation in the foreign stock market, but still little business has been exhibited. The largest business has been done in the more speculative descriptions, which have also shown the greatest variations in prices. Mexican have declined 1½ per cent., but Greek has improved ½, and Spanish Passives 1 per cent. Turkish are unchanged. Greek closed at 22¾ to 23; Mexican, at 42¼ to 42½; Spanish Passives, 35 to 35½; Do. Certificates, 13¾ to 14; Turkish Six per Cents (1854) 90½ to 91¼, and do. (1862) 68¾ to 69¼.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

A rather more animated business than usual has been transacted in American Government and railway securities, the recent advices from New York inducing operators to deal with more freedom, and in general prices exhibit an improving tendency. The official dealings are recorded as follows:—Virginia State Six per Cents., 33½; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York Section, 78, 78¼, 79, 80¼, and 80½; Do. do. Pennsylvania Section, 81 to 81½; Erie $100 shares, all paid, 63½, 64, 64¼, and 65; Illinois Central, Seven per Cent. 71½ and 72; Do. do. $100 shares, $90 paid, 18¼, 18½, 18, 15, 14, and 15½; Do. do. all paid, 71, 71½, 74, 75, 74, 73½, and 73¾; Pennsylvania Railway Bonds, first mortgage, 60½, and Do., second mortgage, 87.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

On the whole a good business has been transacted in British railway securities, but although in some few instances prices showed an advance, the general tendency of the market is towards lower values. The decline has been 1 per cent. in Bristol and Exeter and North London, of ¾ per cent. in North Eastern (Berwick), and of ½ per cent. in Lancashire and Yorkshire, London and Blackwall, London and North-Western, Sheffield, Midland, North British and North-Eastern (York). On the other hand there has been an improvement of 1 per cent. in Glasgow and South-Western and Chatham and Dover, and of ½ per cent. in Great Northern and Great Western. In foreign railway shares there has been rather less doing, but prices are steadily sustained. For shares in undertakings in the British possessions a better inquiry has existed, but there has been no material alteration in prices.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market for this security, apparently, after the settlement of outstanding "bear" accounts, has undergone a reaction, and after touching 41 to 43 ex. div. and drawing, the market closes 43 to 45, with a firm market. The half-yearly dividend became due yesterday, and the first half-yearly drawing likewise took place yesterday, particulars of which will be found in our advertising columns.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

At the first general meeting of the shareholders in the International Financial Society, Mr. R. A. Heath in the chair, the report, which was unanimously adopted, stated that the accounts embraced the operations of the society to the end of December last, and showed that the net profit amounted to £199,950. The directors being of opinion that it would be unwise to declare too large a dividend at present, recommended that the balance should be applied as follows: £19,934 to payment of interest at 5 per cent.; £77,568 to bonus, to make together a dividend of 13s. per share, free of income tax; £18,000 to the reserved fund which would leave a balance of £76,680, to be carried to new account.—At the ordinary general meeting of the Oriental and General Marine Insurance Company, a dividend was declared at the rate of 5 per cent., and the chairman intimated that they were in a position to divide a larger sum, but they deemed it prudent not to do so. A much larger dividend might be expected for the next year.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

The Thames Iron-Works, Shipbuilding, Engineering, and Dry Dock Company has just been brought forward, the object being the purchase of the business of the Thames Iron-Works and Shipbuilding Company at Blackwall, and transferring to the new all the old Company's contracts, assets, goodwill, and effects, together with its liabilities from the 1st of January last, in consideration of the payment of the sum of £275,000, of which £150,000 is to be given in fully paid up shares, and £125,000 in debentures of the new company, bearing interest at 5 per cent. per annum. It is proposed to extend the business by purchasing eight acres of freehold land immediately by adjoining the works, and to construct graving docks, which will be situated in the vicinity of the East and West India and Victoria Docks, and also to erect an establishment for carrying on engineering operations. The capital to be raised is £500,000, in shares of £100 each.—The prospectus has been issued of the Tunbridge Wells Hotel Company, with a capital of £50,000, in shares of £10 each. The object is the purchase of the Royal Sussex Hotel, with the adjacent pleasure grounds, and the erection of a new establishment at the rear of the present building, commanding uninterrupted views of the surrounding country, and containing billiard, reading and club-rooms, with a gymnasium and racket-ground. Part of the property will be sub-let, from which an adequate fund will be provided for the payment of interest at the rate of 5 per cent. on deposits, allotments, and upon calls paid in advance.—The Queensland Sheep Investment Company, Limited, has just been announced, under the auspices of the Mercantile Credit Association. The capital is to be £400,000, in 10,000 shares of £40 each, but it it proposed only to call up £20 per share, £1 per share to be paid on application, and £3 on allotment. A provisional offer, it appears, has been made to the directors for the purchase of the leases of certain stations on the Darling Downs, now in full operation, comprising an area of upwards of 1,500 square miles, with the sheep and cattle located thereon, the vendors taking payment for a considerable portion of the purchase in the shares of the company. Large returns will thus be immediately secured, which it is estimated will pay an early and satisfactory dividend, independent of the accumulated profits to be derived from the increase of the breeding flocks, which in ordinary seasons may, it is said, be calculated at about 80 per cent.—The Financial Discount Company, Limited, has just issued its prospectus. The objects, in the first instance, will be the purchase of the business of Messrs. Feltham and Cooper, which has been successfully conducted for nearly fifty years. The senior partner retires, but an arrangement has been entered into with Mr. Cooper, the acting partner, by which his exclusive services are secured on satisfactory terms, his remuneration being to a certain extent dependent on profits. Mr. Cooper, in order to show his confidence in the undertaking, has, on behalf of himself and friends, guaranteed to subscribe for one-fourth of the entire capital, which is fixed at £300,000, in 60,000 shares of £50 each, with a deposit on application of £1 per share, and £4 on allotment.—The prospectus has been issued of the Frontino and Bolivia South American Gold Mining Company. The object of the undertaking is to purchase and work the well-known Frontino and Bolivia gold mines, in the province of Antioquia, New Granada. The capital asked for is £100,000 in 50,000 shares of £2 each.—Another new undertaking is the National Marine Insurance Company, Limited. The operations of the company will, it is expected, be chiefly directed to the country districts, and while the head office will be in London, immediate connexions will be opened with Bristol, Cardiff, Gloucester, Hull, Leith, Liverpool, Newcastle, Sunderland, and other towns whose commercial importance affords a large and profitable scope for this description of business. The capital proposed to be raised is £500,000 in 20,000 shares of £25 each; but the first issue will be 10,000 shares only; £1 per share to be paid on application and £1 10s. on allotment.—The prospectus of the Credit Mobilier, Limited, has been issued this afternoon, with a proposed capital of £1,000,000 in 20,000 shares of £50 each. First issue 10,000 shares; deposit on application £1 per share and £4 on allotment. It is not intended to call up more than £20 per share. The principal objects of the undertaking are, to co-operate with other first-class and financial undertakings; to negotiate Government and municipal loans; to aid in carrying out concessions based upon Government guarantees and subventions; to make advances to responsible contractors for English and foreign railways, and other public works; and to lend on the security of stocks, funds, shares, debentures, and other approved securities, with special reference to the requirements of the Stock Exchange. The company will also receive money on deposit, for long or short periods.—The United Merthyr Collieries Company, Limited, has also issued its prospectus to-day. This company has been started, as alleged, in consequence of the extraordinary demand for Welsh steam coal, and which has induced the proprietors of two of the principal producing collieries in South Wales, whose properties adjoin, to enter into arrangements with this company for uniting their respective holdings and plant, with the object of making the whole of their outlying fields of coal available to meet such demand. The properties are known as Forchamman and Cwm Neol. The capital sought to be raised is £120,000 in 6,000 shares of £20 each.—The prospectus has likewise been issued this evening of the Cleveland Iron Company, Limited, with a capital of £100,000 in 5,000 shares of £20 each. The company is formed for the purpose of working and winning the iron ore lying under the estates of Skeldusken and Fowle Green, in Commondale, in the Cleveland district, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, and for the erection of blast furnaces, rolling mills, &c.

MEETING OF CREDITORS.

At a meeting of the creditors of Mr. Richard Birkett, trading under the firm of Daniel and John Birkett and Co., in the corn trade, a balance sheet was presented, showing unsecured liabilities amounting to £21,476, and the assets about £18,000. It was agreed to accept a composition of 15s. 6d. in the pound: 7s. to be paid in fourteen days, 5s. in a month, and 3s. 6d. in three months.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

In most descriptions of produce trade progresses rather slowly but steadily. The export demand is retarded by the unsettled state of politics on the Continent, but home buyers operate to a fair extent, and sufficient is doing in this way to lend good support to prices, which, as a general rule, are very firmly maintained. The clearances from warehouse do not keep up to those of last year in all cases, but are very good, and indicate a healthy undercurrent of trade which could not but produce an extension of activity in the leading markets if the prevailing uneasiness in reference to politics were removed. Cotton arrives freely and prices have a downward tendency. American provisions find buyers to a fair extent at about previous rates; fine butter, 88s. to 106s.; Bacon sides, 38s. to 46s., and cheese, 48s. to 60s. per cwt. The corn markets continue as dull as ever, and prices are still drooping in the face of very moderate arrivals. Petroleum is in less demand, owing in some measure to the advance of the season, and refined American now offers at 1s. 11d. per gallon. French turpentine has been nearly stationery at 74s. since our last report. Rosin continues firm at 5s. 6d. to 25s. 6d. for French; linseed oil has again met a fair demand at 35s. 9d. to 36s. on the spot; brown rape has advanced to 40s., and pale is very firm at 43s. per cwt. Rather a large business has been done

COTTON AND DRY GOODS MARKET.

Liverpool, Wednesday, March 2.

THOMAS DE LA RUE & CO.,

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MANUFACTURERS OF PATENT PLAYING CARDS, MOUNTS FOR CARDS, DRAWING AND CARD BOARDS, MACHINE-FOLDED ENVELOPES, POCKET AND OTHER ALBUMS, TOURIST CASES, DESPATCH BOXES, INDELIBLE AND LETTER DIARIES, &c., &c.

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HOOP IRON BANDS.—PATENTED.

SUBSTITUTE FOR ROPE IN BALING COTTON.

Costs less. Is put on faster.

Holds the Bale 20 to 25 per Cent. smaller than Rope, and will not rot.

ADJUSTED TO ANY SIZE OF BALES AS QUICKLY AS ROPE.

Painted and put up in the most convenient packages for transportation, the relative bulk being much less than that of Rope.

A supply always on hand, from which orders for any quantity will be promptly filled, and further information given on application to

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Two Continents, both friend and foe, combine to mourn the premature death of General JACKSON, hero and Christian. Two years have been sufficient to create a fame which has won the kindly respect of enemies and the admiration of the Old World, which twenty-four months since was ignorant of his existence

It has been suggested that some general recognition from Great Britain of the worth of such a man, by name, by race, and by character related to us, although the citizen of another land, would be a graceful token of friendly feeling from the old country to our kinsmen across the Atlantic.

The eminent sculptor, J. H. FOLEY, Esq., R.A., has undertaken to execute a Marble Statue, heroic size, of the General, for £1,000, while £500 may be required for pedestal, inscription, and other extras. Accordingly, for £1,500 a complete Statue of "STONEWALL" JACKSON, by one of our most distinguished sculptors, may be prepared for transmission to his native country when the unhappy war shall have ceased. Towards raising this sum, the Subscriptions of our countrymen and countrywomen are earnestly solicited. Central and Local Committees, with auxiliary Ladies' Committees, are being formed to collect the necessary funds.

The undersigned will gladly receive Subscriptions until the final arrangements are made, and an account has been opened for "General JACKSON'S Statue," at Messrs. COUTTS and Co.'s, Strand, London, W.C.

N.B.—*It is not at all intended that Subscriptions to the Statue should imply any opinion on the merits of the American struggle. They will be taken solely and simply as a recognition of the rare personal merit of General Jackson.*

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SEVEN PER CENT. COTTON LOAN

OF

THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,

FOR £3,000,000 STERLING.

SINKING FUND.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the FIRST HALF-YEARLY DRAWING for the REDEMPTION of this LOAN at PAR has taken place this day in the presence of the undersigned Agents to the Contractors of the Loan, and of Mr. Salem Constable Harris, Notary Public; and the following 185 Bonds, amounting to £71,300, which forms one-fortieth of £2,848,500, the amount of the Loan at this date unredeemed by Cotton, have been drawn by lot:—

SERIES A.—38 BONDS AT £1000.

103	301	539	684	819	996	1103	1240	1456	1618
171	306	560	717	824	947	1113	1257	1530	1636
204	434	598	755	858	971	1177	1297	1531	—
216	511	659	800	859	1018	1229	1378	1567	—

SERIES B.—37 BONDS AT £500.

57	148	368	602	894	1016	1185	1231	1380	1429
93	208	449	765	899	1063	1161	1235	1384	—
108	292	526	777	958	1066	1244	1360	1392	—
128	325	601	883	1005	1110	1251	1378	1401	—

SERIES C.—38 BONDS AT £200.

137	279	439	556	816	871	945	1125	1232	1504
224	320	469	670	889	895	980	1192	1277	1510
242	348	501	678	847	912	1002	1158	1288	1425
252	398	540	725	859	932	1036	1115		

SERIES D.—72 BONDS AT £100.

12	152	550	996	1298	1521	1661	2169	2386	2567
28	170	558	1014	1329	1558	1690	2181	2439	2576
46	256	704	1027	1511	1582	1818	2199	2440	2577
67	272	725	1083	1595	1576	1837	2221	2467	2829
107	277	775	1153	1139	1690	2079	2234	2478	2872
114	440	814	1240	1467	1654	2083	2320	2508	2887
132	468	901	1275	1487	1999	2154	2335	2521	2945
147	484								

These Bonds must be forthwith sent in for payment at the Counting-house of Messrs. J. HENRY SCHRODER and Co., between the hours of 11 and 2 o'clock, and all Interest thereupon ceases from this date.

The Bonds, with lists arranged in numerical order, must be left two clear days for examination.

J. HENRY SCHRODER & CO.

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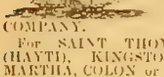
Who will forward letters to address of H. O. BREWER and CO.



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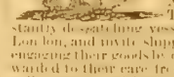
Will be despatched on Thursday, the 15th October. For rates of freight or passage, having superior Accommodation for passengers, apply to J. M. CERRUTI, Paris and Havre, GRAECKEL and HENNING, Hamburg; LAFILLE and VANDERCRUYCE, Bordeaux; W. D. ROBERTS and Co., Glasgow; SIMKIN and BLOCKMAN, London; J. N. SALE and Co., Manchester; or here, to

LEECH, HARRISON, & FORWOOD.



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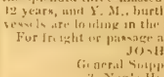

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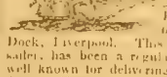

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Chez M. JOUFFROY, Officier d'Academie, Vice-President des Associations des Eleves de l'Ecole Imperiale des Mines. Rue Cassini, 6, à Paris.

References may be obtained at this Office.

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The only Bust extant of the President of the Confederate States, modelled by Volk, at Richmond, and the most faithful Likeness of this eminent Statesman, has been kindly lent by the Owner for reproduction for the benefit of the Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund of Liverpool. In conformity with the intentions of the donor, the Bust has been registered under the Designs Act, and a number of casts (quarter size), limited to 500, are offered to the public at the following rates:—

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The proceeds of the sale of the 500 casts being for the benefit of the Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund, all orders must be addressed, and money orders be made payable, to MR. HENRY HOTZE, 17 Savile-row, W.

SOUTHERN PRISONERS RELIEF FUND.

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WM. H. TRAPMAN, ESQ.

There are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellowmen.

Contributions will be received by J. B. ASHBRIDGE, Treasurer, Walmer Buildings, Water Street, Liverpool, or in London, by HENRY HOTZE, Esq., 17, Savile Row, W.; in Paris, by H. O. BREWER, Esq., 6, Rue Circulaire; and DANIEL HUBBARD, Esq., 24, Rue Lord Byron.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF CONFEDERATE CELEBRITIES.

A series of very fine PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS, principally taken in Camp within the last nine months, including Jefferson Davis, Generals Stonewall Jackson (photographed ten days previous to his death), R. E. Lee, Beauregard, Longstreet, Johnston, Bragg, A. P. Hill, Stuart, Ewell, Buckner, Price, Hood, Morgan, Kirby Smith, Fitzhugh Lee, &c. &c., are now published in CARTES DE VISITE, and large size, by

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TURIN.

SHOULD this meet the NOTICE of MATTHIAS JONES SCOTT, of Covington, Louisiana, he is earnestly requested to communicate with his late wife's brother, W. Williams, 8, Morgan-street, Commercial-road East, London.

Southern papers are requested to copy.

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THE INDEX

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Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

THE threatened attack upon Mobile has not yet been made, and the Northern public is impatient and disappointed. It was stated that General Sherman had reached Quitman on the railroad about 109 miles from Mobile with 30,000 men, but an official despatch gives the Federal force at Quitman as 1,000 men. It was also reported that General Sherman had defeated the Confederates near Bandon and captured 12,000 prisoners. Even the Northern papers had the grace to describe this story as 'a doubtful rumour.' That the Federals had been repulsed at Grand Pass, thirty-five miles from Mobile, is authentic. Admiral Farragut is waiting for good weather. Meanwhile Mobile is ready for the foe, and prepared to make a gallant struggle to save the city. The statement we made last week upon Northern authority, that General Sherman had occupied Jackson, Mississippi, is contradicted. The only news of importance from Tennessee is that the Confederates have blockaded the Tennessee River against steamers for Chattanooga; and we learn from the Northern reports that they have cut off the communication between Knoxville and Cumberland Gap. General Gilmore has returned to Port Royal. He reports officially that in Florida he captured eight guns—he does not say whether they were worn out cannon—and 100 prisoners. It is reported that the Federals were repulsed at Lake City, Florida, but that will not prevent the expedition answering Mr. Lincoln's electioneering purpose. It is said that two unsuccessful attacks have been made on the Federals opposite Natchez, Mississippi.

THE Presidential election interests the North more than the war in the South. Mr. Lincoln is opposed by Mr. Chase, and it is assumed that the latter gentleman will retire from the Cabinet. Mr. Lincoln has been able to vex and harrass his opponent. As Mr. Chase determined to go in for the Presidency, Mr. Lincoln's Congress would not authorise him to sell his reserve of gold. Our New York correspondent narrates the progress of the election campaign.

ELSEWHERE we publish the first of a series of papers on 'Slavery and President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation,' from the pen of Hon. C. S. Morehead, of Kentucky. If an experience in public affairs combining a period longer than the span of a generation can give weight to opinions and testimony, no one from either section of the late Union can speak with greater authority than Governor Morehead. Entering on the arena of politics in early youth, he has successively filled nearly ever station of trust and honour in his native State, has represented it in the Congress of the United States, and was its chief magistrate up to the very moment of the disruption of the Federal tie. The contemporary of the great statesman of a happier and purer period in American history, he was from education, from long habit, and from conviction, devotedly and even enthusiastically attached to the Union. As a member of the Border States Convention, no man made more strenuous efforts to prevent separation, and his own graphic account of his interview with President Lincoln, for the purpose of making a last appeal, may still be in the recollection of many of our readers. To this day he prides himself upon having never done an act or said a word contrary to the laws of Kentucky and the constitution of the United States. Yet for no crime than that he opposed the unconstitutional measures of the Washington Administration he was one of the earliest victims of Mr. Seward's despotic usurpation. In the summer of 1861, his house was surrounded by a party of soldiers, who dragged him from the bosom of his family at midnight, and hurried him across the Ohio river into Indiana, thence without even the form of trial, he was sent to Fort Warren, and consigned to a long and painful imprisonment, until the general release of State prisoners on the temporary ascendency of the Democratic party, since which he has remained an exile in Europe.

The first paper of the series gives a rapid but graphic picture of the sufferings, drawn almost exclusively from Northern sources, of the negroes 'emancipated' by Federal violence. As one of the largest planters in the South-west before the war stripped him of home and property, he knows the negro character well, and feels for them a genuine tenderness which unfortunately seldom underlies the so-called philanthropy of those who do not hate the slave the less, but the master the more. It is proper remark that this paper was written before the intelligence of General Banks' proclamation, remanding negroes to compulsory labour, had reached Europe.

So the English Government is already tired of the policy of non-intercourse, and desires direct communication with the Confederate Government. How the matter is to be managed we know not, but Earl Russell, who according to Lord Palmerston is a man of expedients, will no doubt hit upon a plan to undo his former work. The ministry being very weak it is necessary to throw a bone to the small but hungry Anglo-Federal faction by promising to remonstrate with the Richmond Government about the purchase of war vessels from British ship-builders. It would be great fun to permit Messrs. Lefevre, Taylor, and Foster to prepare the bill of indictment. An angry partisan is not usually scrupulous or logical, but Mr. Lefevre's reckless assertions and absurd deductions are unprecedented. Contrary to facts, law, and reason, he insisted upon calling the Confederate cruisers 'British privateers.' If that be so what on earth has the Confederate Government to do with them? If the cruisers are Confederate war vessels and not British privateers, what business has the British Government to interfere with the damage they inflict upon Yankee commerce? Mr. Lefevre and his comrades seemed rather to pride themselves on their forbearance is not asking for an immediate declaration of war against the Confederates. Certainly we should feel deeply humiliated if British soldiers were helping Generals Butler and Banks to plunder Southern towns, and maltreat Southern women, and it would be very degrading for English naval officers to cooperate with Admiral Wilkes, and to associate with the ruffian who murdered the mate of the Saxon; but we can assure the Anglo-Federals that though the Confederates are anxious to cultivate friendly relations with this country the threat of hostilities will not induce them to submit to insult and injustice without a protest. We would suggest to Earl Russell that he should send out with the remonstrance a copy of Mr. Seward's despatch in reference to Federal violations of British sovereignty in the case of the Chesapeake, so that if the Confederate Government should think that any of its agents have at any time transgressed the law, they may know that the only reparation required by the British Government, is an apology, accompanied by loud praise of the zeal and patriotism of the offending officers. The papers in the Tuscaloosa case might also afford some useful hints.

THE diplomatic correspondence about the Mersey steamrams was published last night, and we now understand why Earl Russell shrank from producing it. On the 19th of January, Mr. Adams forwarded to our Foreign Secretary a copy of 'The Report of the Confederate Secretary of the Navy'—a document which the Confederate agents in Europe declare to be a Northern forgery,—and asked for 'some measures of greater stringency than have yet been taken, as necessary on the part of Her Majesty's Government,' against the Confederate agents. Mr. Adams has the audacity to propose to a British Minister that England should exclude the citizens of the Confederacy from her dominions. Mr. Adams writes: 'I am further directed respectfully to represent that the toleration of these avowed enemies of the United States, whilst known to be carrying on these hostile practices, now fully revealed, within the British realm and its dependencies, without restraint of any kind, cannot be regarded as an exercise of the unquestioned right of sheltering political exiles, but rather as equivalent to permitting them to abuse that right for the purpose of more effectually availing themselves of British aid and cooperation, now notoriously given them in waging war with a country with which Great Britain is at peace.' Earl Russell could not promise to oblige the Federal Government in this particular, but his refusal is couched in the mildest terms. He writes: 'In reply to this allegation, Her Majesty's Government think it right to state that Her Majesty's dominions must necessarily continue to be open to the subjects of both belligerents as long as Her Majesty is at peace with both of them; but that Her Majesty's Government will, at the same time, continue to put in force, as they have hitherto done, to the full extent of the means in their power, the laws of this country against those subjects of either of the belligerents who may be found by transgressing those laws to have abused the rights of hospitality and to have offended against the authority of the Crown.'

WE publish a letter from our Richmond correspondent, dated January 11, which, though so long in reaching us, has not lost its interest. It relates chiefly to the internal affairs of the Confederacy, and is an instructive commentary on the reports of 'Southern despair' that appeared in the Federal newspapers at the beginning of the year.

AN official report received by the Federal Navy Department shows that the captains of blockade runners are determined that the enemy shall not gain much prize money. According to the despatch of Admiral Lee, the Wild Dayrell, Nutfield, Dee, Emily, and the Farmyard Jennie were in every case destroyed by their crews, or left in such a state that the captors could not get them off, and could do nothing else but complete the work of destruction.

The British steamship Cumberland lately fell into the hands of the Federals, owing to the treachery of the mate, who was in the pay of the United States Consul.

THE Federal Government has recommended to Congress an appropriation of 141,000 francs as compensation to the owners of the La Manche for the illegal capture of that vessel in August last. The ship was owned by a French firm.

A LETTER published in the *New York World*, dated 16th of February, testifies to the inefficiency of the Federal navy. It states that since the beginning of the war, 866 vessels of all classes have been captured, and of these 170 were steamers. Of these steamers, 150 were taken by private-built vessels, and only 20 by the entire naval force.

IT was reported last week that the steamer Denbigh, with a cargo of cotton, paid by the Confederate Government in redemption of Cotton Loan 7 per cent. bonds, had been destroyed. We learn, however, from the *Mobile Register* of the 4th ult., that, in attempting to run the blockade at that port, the Denbigh got aground, and was fired upon, but that she was little injured by the enemy, and has since got afloat and returned to port.

IN the Legislative Assembly at Halifax, Mr. Bourinot moved for the documents relating to the Chesapeake. He

complained that the Confederates had been unjustly shut out from the privilege of asserting and supporting their rights; that a special messenger was dispatched to Richmond, but had not returned; and in the meantime the Judge had delivered a final decree. The Government replied that all the communications were strictly confidential and could not be produced.

It is reported in the Northern papers that the Alabama is in dock at Amoy, China; and that the Federal vessels Wyoming and Jamestown are keeping watch over her movements. This is not the first announcement of the Alabama being 'nearly captured.'

Advices from San Francisco state that Mr. Greathouse, who was imprisoned for assisting in fitting out the 'privateer' Chapman has been released on taking the oath of allegiance; Judge Hoffman having decided that President Lincoln's amnesty proclamation applies to the case. Another person committed for the same offence refuses to take the oath and remains in prison.

It appears that General Halleck was rather surprised at General Gilmore going from Charleston to Florida, but he now knows why the movement was made without orders from his Department. Mr. John Hay, the Private Secretary of President Lincoln, has been appointed with the rank of Assistant Adjutant-General to conduct the enterprise. The expedition is of course a mere electioneering manœuvre. As Florida at the last presidential election polled only 10,359 votes, it follows that, under the terms of the amnesty proclamation, but 1,036 votes in that State will give its three electoral ballots to Mr. Lincoln next November. It is calculated the expedition will cost about $1,000,000.

The Confederate Congress adjourned on the 18th February.

General Butler has ordered the Provost-Marshals in Portsmouth and Norfolk to take charge of the churches, and to replace the present clergymen by others of known 'loyalty.'

The price of gold in New York on the 23rd February was 57½ per cent. prem.

ENGLAND.

The Fenian Brotherhood has been denounced by a malediction despatched from the western shores of the Atlantic, and the fulminator is no less a person than the Roman Catholic Bishop of Chicago. He, an Irishman by birth, deeply sympathising with the people of his own race and creed, has, after due deliberation, and after consultation with his episcopal brethren in America, publicly and solemnly condemned the Brotherhood, and has refused to administer the sacraments to any of the Society. By him that body of persons is declared to be turbulent, illegal, and fraudulent. Their secret is known, and the object of their confederation is to wrest Ireland from England by violence, force of arms, and bloodshed. To him their success in so wild an attempt would appear to be fraught with the greatest misfortune that has ever befallen Ireland. The testimony of Mr. Smith O'Brien declares that the leaders of these men are intent merely on acquiring salaries, and that men of no note make handsome incomes by such traffic in the sympathies of their countrymen. The 'National Brotherhood,' or 'the Brotherhood of St. Patrick,' is, in the eyes of the Bishop of Chicago, equally to be condemned. As for the American Fenians, heavy denunciation is pronounced on such men by Dr. Duggan. 'An appeal,' he says, 'is made to your sympathies to encourage what I believe to be a delusion and a fraud. These men have no thought of being able to reach Ireland, but in the meantime your kindly sympathies are appealed to, your purses are drawn open, and all is abused. I do not think, and cannot believe, from what I know of the power of England and the weakness of Ireland, that any serious attempt is likely to be made to free Ireland.'

We are confident that the Roman Catholic Bishops of Ireland, in their unswerving patriotism and love of their country, entertain sentiments on this subject similar to those of Dr. Duggan, and that in their eyes all such enterprises are condemned as fraught with enormous evil to the deluded people who are made the victims of interested agitators. The efforts of the latter are contemptible, but through their machinations foolish men are led blindfold into acts which can only result in ruin and misery.

If there is any one among our readers who is amazed at the present unhappy state of Ireland, we beg to recommend the following case to his most serious consideration. The neighbourhood of Belfast has hitherto been free from agrarian outrages, and in and around the town dwells a busy and peaceful community, immensely superior in wealth and intelligence to many thousands of the people of Ireland. At no great distance from Belfast lies the Ballymorphy estate, which was purchased before the year 1836 by a Mr. Hamilton. On the estate the purchaser found two joint tenants, holding a farm of twenty acres at a yearly rent of about 28*l*. The lease expired in 1839. Mr. Hamilton renewed it to Duncan, one of the tenants, at the fair rent of 39*l*. 6*s*. Duncan fell deeply into arrears, and in 1851 he owed his landlord 160*l*. Thereupon Mr. Hamilton forgave him the debt, and reduced the rent to 26*l*. per annum. At that reduced rental Duncan, in November 1863, owed his landlord 70*l*., so that, in fact, Mr. Hamilton lost some 300*l*. or 400*l*. On the same estate was another man, Coates, who was always deeply in arrear. Of course the property in such hands was going to ruin. At length the landlord ejected these men, but he showed every kindness to their families, and rendered the process as merciful as possible. However, his conduct was held up to reprobation in true 'sensation' style by a local journal. Shortly afterwards Mr. Hamilton received a threatening letter. On it was the picture of a coffin, with the letters H. H. on the lid, the words 'Herdman's fate,' with a large splash of red ink. The agent also received a letter with a coffin thereon pictured, and his name on the lid, with the warning, '*Prepaire* (sic) for hell.' Both coffins were illustrated with death's-head and crossbones. Mr. Herdman was shot in open day near his house some time since, but the outrage was not of an agrarian character. At the assizes, two judges, in charging the grand jury, have adverted strongly to the prevalence of the crime of writing threatening letters, and have remarked how very rarely the infamous authors are brought to trial.

It will be in the recollection of our readers that, at a meeting held last summer at London House, it was resolved by the clergy and laity of the metropolis to endeavour to raise one million sterling in the course of ten years, and to apply that sum to the relief of spiritual destitution within the diocese of London, at the discretion of the Bishop and an Executive Committee of subscribers to the fund. The Committee has been organised, and has entered on its labours. In furtherance of these objects the Bishop of London held a meeting at Willis's Rooms on Thursday last, to which the clergy of the diocese were invited. About 700 of that body attended. After a few words from His Lordship, the report of the Committee was read. It appeared that attention had been directed to two principal points—the proportion of clergy to population, and the proportion of church room to population. It was assumed—first, that one clergyman could not minister to more than 2,000 souls; secondly, that 58 per cent. of the population could attend religious worship, and, therefore, that accommodation should be provided by the Church and by Dissenters for that proportion. It was found then that there was a population of very nearly 1,000,000 souls for whom a further provision of 500 clergy would be required, and that there was an equal number for whom the Church should provide accommodation after the rate of 25 in every hundred persons. Moreover, 600 paid lay agents were required, an increase of mission stations was recommended, with mission-rooms attached to the parsonage houses.

The Bishop of London then addressed the meeting. He freely confessed that to carry out all their objects they would require about 6,000,000*l*. But suppose they only did half, and so required but 3,000,000*l*., could that sum be obtained within ten years? In the year ending October 1863, the Ecclesiastical Commission had appropriated to the diocese of London a capital sum of 120,000*l*. If such grants were continued, that would give more than a million sterling in ten years. He expected one million sterling in ten years to result from their exertions and their appeal to the public; and having thus got 2,000,000*l*., he would place confidence in the exertions of private individuals to raise, in one way or other, another million. The great point was to do an entirely new work, and not in any way to interfere with existing societies. They desired to reach the hearts of the poor; they wished for suggestions on the questions of increase of building and increase of men, on the best methods of raising money, and on other matters. The Bishop concluded with an earnest appeal for the cooperation of the clergy.

Last week Miss Burdett Coutts laid the foundation-stone of a new church at Carlisle. After service in the Cathedral, the Mayor and Corporation of the town, the Bishops of Carlisle, Ripon, and Melbourne, and many Church dignitaries went in procession to the site of the new church. The crew of the life-boat, which Miss Coutts presented to the National Association a short time ago, accompanied the procession. After the presentation of several addresses, Miss Coutts spoke a few words to the assembled multitude. The ceremony concluded with the usual prayers and hymns. The church will be erected at the sole cost of Miss Burdett Coutts, and the expense will be not less than 5,000*l*.

We have at length received the details of the mission of Sir Moses Montefiore to the Sultan of Morocco on behalf of the Jews dwelling in that empire. The party, on their journey up to Morocco, left Mogador on the 17th of January, with a Moorish escort of cavalry and infantry, 21 camels, 25 baggage mules, and a numerous retinue of attendants. On the second day's journey they sighted the snow-capped chain of Atlas. Sir Moses was carried in a kind of palanquin, but at his age the journey was one of no ordinary difficulty. The governor of each district traversed by the party furnished the requisite provisions, by order of the Sultan. Sheep, poultry, eggs, milk, tea, sugar, &c., were duly levied on the inhabitants, who deducted the value of their contributions from their taxes. At Morocco the travellers were lodged in the Sultan's palace, called Sidi Ben Dris, situated in the midst of an orange garden. Six days were allowed by the Sultan for the recovery of his guests from fatigue. Audiences are by him always granted on horseback, and the colour of the charger indicates the temper of the monarch. Sir Moses, on the seventh day, awaited His Majesty in a spacious courtyard lined with thousands of troops, and hailed with pleasure the appearance of the Sultan on a charger of spotless white. His Majesty welcomed the English visitors with great courtesy, declared that the fame of Sir Moses and his benevolence had reached the imperial ears, that to him the friendship of England was dear, and the English uniforms of the naval officers present a sight of pleasure. Then Sir Moses presented his petition, praying for a removal of the grievances under which the Jews were suffering.

Four days afterwards a firman was delivered, granting the prayer of the petition. The commencement thereof was as follows: 'In the name of God, the Merciful and Gracious. There is no power but in God, the High and Mighty. Be it known by this our Royal Edict—may God exalt and bless its purport and elevate the same to the high heavens, as He does the sun and moon!' The firman then declared that it was the imperial pleasure that all Jews residing within the Empire should be placed in a position of perfect equality with other people in the administration of justice, that they should suffer no wrong, should receive the just recompense of their toil, and that injustice to them should be severely punished. The concluding words were: 'This decree blessed by God is promulgated on this 26th of Shaban of the year 1280. Peace!'

Mr. Reade, Her Majesty's Consul at Tangier, Captain Armytage, and other officers of H. M. S. Magicienne, accompanied the expedition.

The Government has appointed a Committee, with General Sabine as Chairman, to sit at Burlington House, to examine into the merits of gun-cotton as an explosive substance.

His Majesty the King of the Belgians arrived at Dover on Wednesday evening, March 2, and was received, on landing, by M. Van de Weyer, the Belgian Ambassador, and by Lord Cremorne, Colonel Ponsonby, Colonel Maclean, and other officers. The pier was lined by a guard of honour of the 78th Highlanders. The guns from Fort George fired a royal salute. His Majesty slept at the Lord Warden Hotel, and on the following day proceeded to Windsor. The King was met in London by the Prince of Wales. Her Majesty the Queen, with the Princess Helena, received His Majesty at the railway station at Windsor, and accompanied him to the Castle.

The two Universities, on Friday last, offered their congratulations on the birth of a Prince to their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales. The reception took place at Marlborough House. The deputation from Oxford consisted of the Chancellor (the Earl of Derby), the Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Lightfoot), the President of St. John's, the Wardens of Merton and All Souls, the Proctors, and many other officials, and was accompanied by the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone and Sir W. Heathcote, the representatives of the University in Parliament, many noblemen, Doctors in Divinity, Law, and Medicine, Masters of Arts, and Bachelors in Civil Law. The deputation from Cambridge consisted of the Chancellor (the Duke of Devonshire), the Vice-Chancellor, Drs. Whewell, Okes, Jeremie, and Adams, the Public Orator, the Proctors, and Registrar. It was further accompanied by the Earl of Powis (High Steward), and by a large body of noblemen, learned Doctors, and Masters of Arts. The Princess was present at the reception.

On Saturday last Oxford afforded to the visitor a spectacle calculated to inspire with delight all those who believe that the greatness of a country depends on the nobility of her youth. The two Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, who have for a long period of years contested the superiority in the gay cricket-field and at the laborious oar, did on that day for the first time measure their strength in athletic sports. The excitement, the crowd, the prizes, and the struggles were worthy of the auspicious occasion. The success of the first meeting presages a long series of annual games.

In the result the victories were evenly balanced, for of the eight prizes four were won by Oxford and four by Cambridge. But it is worthy of remark, that while the former University shone supreme in the more artistic feats, the latter bore the palm in those struggles which required endurance. The flat race of 100 yards was won by Mr. Darbyshire, of Wadham College, Oxford, who ran the distance in 10½ seconds. The same gentleman won the race of a quarter of a mile on the flat, and occupied but 53 seconds in the performance. Similarly the high jump went to Oxford, the winner being Mr. Gooch, of Merton College, who topped 5 feet 5 inches, while the same gentleman cleared no less than 18 feet of ground, and thereby won the prize for the long jump. Such were the victories of Oxford. To Cambridge went the hurdle race of 120 yards over 10 flights of hurdles, and Mr. Daniel, of Trinity College, accomplished the feat in 17¾ seconds. Next the hurdle race over 200 yards and 10 flights was won by Mr. Wynne Finch, of Trinity College, the time being 26¾ seconds. Then Mr. Lawes, of Trinity College, won a flat race of a mile, and did the distance in 4 minutes and 56 seconds with consummate ease. Lastly, Mr. Garnett, also of the renowned Trinity College, won the steeple chase over about two miles of fair hunting country.

About 12,000 persons were present to witness the sport.

The tide at Birkenhead docks, owing to the violence of the south-easterly wind, rose to an extraordinary height on Sunday last. At night the 170 feet of the old North Wall in the Morpeth Basin, which has long been in a tottering condition, gave way. Repairs to a considerable extent were at the time in course of execution. Part of the wall fell forward into the basin and part into the excavations, while 50 feet of the masonry were lifted bodily up, carried across 20 feet of excavations, and deposited in one mass against the splendid granite of the new Morpeth Lock. The gates of the lock were closed, and fortunately withstood the shock. All the vessels in the Morpeth Dock broke their chains and ropes, and some drifted into the Egerton Dock, but few sustained any damage of importance. No lives were lost. The vessels were removed, and everything was put in a proper condition before the next tide.

News has been received of the total loss of the steamer 'Bohemian,' 2,000 tons, Captain Borland, from Liverpool. She is supposed to have struck on the rock off Portland during a snow-storm, and there filled and sank. All the officers and crew saved themselves. There were about 120 passengers on board, of whom 20 or 30 were cabin passengers. All the persons who are missing were steerage passengers.

The great annual race on the River Thames between the

crews of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge is fixed for the 19th day of March. The Oxford crew will make their first appearance for practice on the Thames this day, having already, of course, been many weeks in training on the Isis. The Cambridge men are unusually heavy and powerful; but the Oxford style and regularity of rowing so far exceed that of their opponents, that at present the chances, as tested by the state of the betting, are strongly in favour of the oarsmen of the Isis.

THE CONTINENT.

The statement made by Mr. Disraeli in Parliament, and received with some derision by his opponents, that spring is fast coming on, may be a natural truism, but is a most important political fact. The genial influence of the season has possibly some stirring efficacy on the tough rind of the diplomatic intellect as well as on the material chains of ice in which it is restrained during the winter; and to these agencies combined we must attribute the fact that large military movements are taking place throughout the whole of Central Europe. To begin from the East, Russia is massing the Imperial Guard upon the Prussian frontier, while it has withdrawn a *corps d'armée* from the interior to strengthen the hands of its paternal government over the unfortunate but still unconquered Poles; Austria has proclaimed a state of siege in Galicia, which it is to be feared that she will sustain by military reinforcements; she is further securing her position in the Venetian territory by a skilful 'echelonnage' of troops in and about the Quadrilateral; large depôts of warlike munitions are being formed at Verona, Peschiera, Rovigo, and other fortresses, 360 pieces of cannon are reported to be lying ready for disposition at Venice, whose old Darsena or naval arsenal awakes once more after the death-sleep of a century, under the strenuous efforts of the Austrian Rear-Admiral von Wallerstorf to assemble a competent squadron. The Italians are no less alive to the rumours of wars than their neighbours; indeed, unless we are much mistaken, they have every reason to appreciate the situation, as having been the first to take the aggressive attitude which has been so quickly responded to by their old foes in Venetia.

The situation in Denmark is rapidly passing into a more distinct, if less satisfactory phase; the Austro-Prussian troops have occupied Kolding within the boundaries of Jutland, i. e. of Denmark Proper; and the Austrians have further orders to invest the town of Fredericia; in the face of such actions it will be difficult for the two great German Powers to assert much longer the pacific nature of their occupation; there is a plain rough logic in the Northern races which tells them clearly enough that invasion means war—a logic too practical, or call it thick-headed, to appreciate the distinction between war localised, or killing them for their good, and war generalised, or killing them simply. Straw-splitting of this nature is undignified on all occasions; but between a great and a small power it is contemptible; when the lamb rebutted the wolf's accusation that he had fouled his water by pointing out that the flow of the stream made such a thing impossible, the wolf declined to argue the point, but ate him on another pretext. We submit the fable to the attention of the German Governments.

The dearth of military news of any importance from the seat of war in Denmark, has been but partially supplied by the official Prussian account of a cavalry skirmish that took place near Fredericia, between a squadron of Danish dragoons and two squadrons of Prussian hussars, on the 29th of February. The Prussian account substantially acknowledges the loss of 33 men and 1 officer, but attributes it partly to an inferiority of numbers, partly to the amount of snow in the ditches, which appears to have been so great as to swallow up divers men and horses, who were reported missing, but were then turning up here and there from their moist hiding-places; they moreover claim to have inflicted at least equal loss on their antagonists. The Danish account of the same skirmish reports a loss of nine wounded and missing (three of whom were taken prisoners), and the capture of 1 Prussian officer and 28 hussars; a simple subtraction sum gives us for the losses of the Prussians in the snow ditches five men. The attention paid to this little affair is noteworthy; it must be remembered that the Prussians have complained that their allies have swallowed up all the fighting, and consequently all the glory: it is, therefore, unfortunate for them that on one of the first occasions offered to their troops they should be obliged to confess a failure, and to allege excuses which are not exactly borne out by the facts; and that, too, where an arm of the service is concerned, for which their allies have ever been famous. We say this without prejudice to the Prussian army, whose reputation is too well established to require further proofs.

The political situation is sufficiently complicated to satisfy the most enthusiastic admirer of political chess-playing. First, with regard to the Conference, without cessation of hostilities, proposed by England: all the Powers have given their assent to the theory of it, France with some coldness, Russia with heartiness, Prussia and Austria with the good-natured easiness of a man who gives a thing worth nothing; Denmark after some deliberation has agreed to the principle, but made the evacuation of Jutland a condition *sine quâ non*. The Austrian answer to this is contained in the order to advance upon Fredericia; a step which must be attributed partly to the successful arguments of the Prussian envoy, Manteuffel, partly to the umbrage which the Emperor has taken at the unsubmissive tone of Denmark. Of the determination of the Danes to die fighting there can be no doubt; Copenhagen has returned all fighting deputies to the Volksthing; and there is a report of the return of M. Hall to the ministry in the place of M. Quaade. Next as to the relations between the two great German Powers and the Federal diet; a most important resolution has been passed by the latter body, refusing to comply with the request of the Austro-Prussians, to have confided to them the command of the Federal Corps of Execution now in possession of Holstein; the object of the allies was to take into their own hands the entire authority over the two Duchies, and thus, if possible, to avoid the complications arising from the notorious favour given by the Federal authorities to the claims of the Duke of Augustenburg. The refusal of concessions on the same point, and is accepted in that light by the Austrian press, which scornfully asks what the small German Courts intend to do if the great Powers refuse to acknowledge their protegé? what advantage will they have gained by creating another Frederick Lackland? It is remarked, on the other hand, that the Crown Prince of Prussia, in answer to an address from Apenrade (Sleswig), dwelt much on his own personal friendship with the Duke of Augustenburg, and on the relationship between the two families. It is evident that Prussia has still a very strong card to play, from the use of which Austria has precluded herself by her decisive statements; she might disengage herself from Austria, accept the leadership of the pro-Augustenburg States, and thus acquire a temporary popularity. But in the first place there is honour among thieves, an adage which is not wholly inapplicable to the case; and secondly, there is probably now in existence a counter-attraction which will far outweigh the brilliant but empty fascinations of such a leadership, in the shape of a new Holy Alliance between Russia, Austria, and Prussia, for mutual support generally, and in the matter of Poland especially. The movement of Russian troops mentioned above simultaneously with the proclamation of the state of siege in Galicia, make the existence of such a treaty extremely probable, as far as regards Russia and Austria; while in all matters that concern Poland, we may be sure that Prussia is little likely to adopt a course divergent from that of the other two Powers. The latest despatches on the relations between the great and small German Powers point to a decided change in the policy of the latter. The Bavarian representative at the last moment withdrew his motion in favour of the Duke of Augustenburg. It appears that a telegraphic despatch from his government reached him at the moment that he was entering the Federal palace. It is generally believed on the Continent that the part taken by England in the whole Danish affair has been much more decided than our ministers are willing to confess. One story goes that the English minister has orders to inform the Danish Government that, in case of a continued resistance to his advice, this country would not be unfavourable to the extinction of Denmark and the formation of a Scandinavian confederacy. Another just received appears to be as fine a specimen of the *lusus naturæ* called 'mare's nest' as any we have yet seen: according to it England, at the request of Austria, was about to send a fleet to Copenhagen to force the Danish Ministry into accepting the Conference. The project, however, was divined by the sharp-nosed politicians of the Tuileries, and an immediate order sent to Cherbourg to prepare the iron-clad squadron for immediate service. The combination has consequently failed, and with it the last effort of England in that direction.

It would be doing an injustice to Prussian ingenuity to omit mention of a scheme devised by the *Ost-Preussische Zeitung*, whereby that country is to demand of Denmark the cession of all its African possessions as an indemnity for the expenses of the war, and then convert them into a Cayenne to which all the Progressist party may be transported when convenient. We need not say that the journal in question is Feudalist.

The Italian press, in commenting on the new Holy Alliance, asserts that the only hope of Europe now rests in a strong counter-alliance of France, Italy, and England. The persistent efforts made by the kingdom of Italy to take a place in the European 'society' are deserving of all commendation; Victor Emmanuel must feel the irksomeness of a crown which he wears less by the grace of God than by the permission of Western Europe. While we acquit Austria of any desire wantonly to add another to the two wars now on her hands, we must allow that the warlike eagerness of Italy is not without excuse. What the base will be of the next campaign between these ancient foes is by no means clear; but the collection of military stores and munitions at Bologna, and the assembly of an Italian squadron at Ancona, lead to the suspicion that the Quadrilateral will be attacked at its south-eastern angle, while the Austrian navy will be challenged for the possession of the mouths of the Po, if not of Venice itself.

The ancient Roman Forum has revived to unwonted sounds of strife; but 'quantum mutatus ab illo.' For togaed senators, and fiery tribunes, for Rienzi of the white robe and his knightly guard, we have substituted red and blue-breeched Frenchmen, and outlandishly dressed, outlandish speaking, Pontifical Zouaves. These worthies appear to have had a regular pitched battle on the classic ground, to the intense delight of the Roman populace, who, with much good sense, pelted both sides indiscriminately with stones. Heaven knows there was no want of the necessary missiles in that ruin-strown wilderness; we can fancy a thrill of ecstasy passing through even the cold stone on which a Gracchus once trod, on finding itself in violent contact with the thick skull of a Papal defender.

There is undoubtedly a sympathy, or rather identity of thought in the minds of the Russian and Yankee, which goes far to account for the fulsome adoration of the great Autocrat displayed by the latter people. Such a sympathy can alone account for the fact that we find the abolition of serfdom, begun on the most honourable motives, now prostituted to be a political weapon to enforce obedience in a rebellious province. By four decrees issuing from the Imperial will all connection between the landowners of Poland and their serfs, or rather villeins holding a tenure under them, is completely severed. The said tenants are now complete proprietors of the land they farm, subject to a certain ground-rent due, not to their former lord, but to the Imperial Government. For this spoliation an indemnity is offered to the landowners, the amount of which is to be settled by a committee sitting at Warsaw; the committee, however, is to have power to refuse compensation entirely.

A new Cabinet has been formed in Spain by Señor Mon and the Marquis de Nocedal; it is a coalition of the Liberal and Conservative parties, and has taken for its general programme a return to the Constitution of 1845; it is to be hoped that this Constitution includes among its principles that of common commercial honesty: Señor Mon and Señor Pacheco, the new Foreign Minister, have as yet enjoyed great confidence in England on the strength of their views on the Cuban debt, which it is hoped they do not intend to sacrifice. The rebellion in San Domingo is in a state of discouragement, and the Captain General has declared that he needs no further reinforcements. We understand that the British ship seized at Malaga on account of its concealed warlike cargo, has been released on the understanding that the munitions in question are intended neither for Spain nor for Italy, but for the armament of certain Confederate vessels.

When great bodies, like Austria and Russia, are in motion, it is natural that they should communicate some disturbance to neighbouring bodies of less gravity: thus, we are not surprised to find that Prince Couza has again drawn upon himself the attention of the Turkish authorities: a despatch, addressed to him by Ali Pasha, remonstrates strongly on the addition which he has lately made to his forces, limited by treaty to the number of 6,025. The patience with which the Western Powers bear the vagaries of this potentate, would be remarkable at any time but this, when patience appears to be the order of the day.

The Mexican mail has brought with it the unanimous vote of the notables and communes of Mexico, offering to the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian the imperial crown. The Archduke is brother to the present and nephew of the late Emperor of Austria; he married the Princess Charlotte, daughter of King Leopold of Belgium, and grand-daughter of Louis Philippe. He is described by a Paris contemporary as about thirty-two years of age, of an appearance both prepossessing and commanding. The imperial pair are at present enjoying the hospitalities of the Tuileries, whence they come on a visit to the Queen, which will also be a farewell visit of the Empress to her venerable father. The new Emperor has resolved to receive the final deputation from Mexico at Miramar, where he received the first official offer of the crown.

The death of M. Pietri at the commencement of this month has been generally considered a political as well as a personal loss to the Emperor. M. Pietri was a Corsican by birth, and a republican lawyer by education. Attached to the Bonaparte family by patriotism he was sufficiently wise or sufficiently devoted to sacrifice his Republican proclivities to Imperialism: in return for this sacrifice he received the post of Prefect of Police, which he held up to the time of the conspiracy of Orsini in 1858. From that office he retired to the placid life of a Senator, still rendering to the Government such political service as it demanded; his talents as an electioneerer were great, and among his triumphs may be counted the spontaneous vote given by Savoy in favour of annexation. His funeral obsequies were performed in Paris with all the ceremonies due to a Knight Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour.

The first and fifth electoral districts of the department of the Seine are without representatives; the elections for them come off on the 20th and 21st inst.; as yet no Government candidate has appeared, and the choice lies at present between the candidate put forward by the operatives specially, and divers others of differing shades of the opposition.

The observations made by the Imperial prosecutor in the trial of the conspirators concerning 'Mr. Flower, 35, Thurlow Square,' are unsatisfactory to both Governments. It is an insult to that of England to say that the French law officers have a criminal charge, which they can substantiate against one of its members; and it is equally derogatory to the dignity of the Imperial Government to suppose that it has either made an unwarranted insinuation, or subordinated public morality to reasons of policy.

Some of our readers may remember that a certain Sous-Lieutenant Fleury was tried at the beginning of the year for the murder of his mistress, and (the *extenuating* circumstances having been taken into account) sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment. This judgment has been quashed owing to an informality, and the prisoner is to be tried again by court-martial in Paris. There is no doubt that the law will do its utmost to protect the lives of so important a part of the Emperor's subjects.

A celebrated tailor of the name of Worms has practised upon the Lyonnaise ladies of his 'clientèle' a cruel trick, by disposing of all his business and debts to a successor and starting for England. The successor has of course enforced the payment of these debts, much to the tribulation of the fair ladies of Lyons, and even of Paris. We read of one ambassadress whose bill for fancy ball dresses amounts to 100,000 francs.

North Carolina Troops.—Among the re-enlistments of whole brigades and divisions, constantly announced in the Southern papers, we notice the following: General Robert D. Johnston's brigade, General Roder's division, General Lane's brigade, General Wilcox's division, and the brigade commanded by this last-mentioned General upon his promotion to a division. All these are North Carolina troops.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

CAPTURE OF THE SAXON.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, Lord R. Montagu asked if it was true that the Saxon was captured because her cargo was alleged to be the property of the Confederate States, and, if so, whether it was according to the law of nations to seize enemy's goods under a neutral flag, and whether it is lawful to capture a vessel for carrying such goods. His Lordship also asked, if the capture of the Saxon should be defended on the ground that the cargo consisted of Federal property taken by a Confederate man-of-war, whether that would be a valid plea, and if it was in accordance with international law to seize lawfully captured goods shipped on board a neutral vessel.

The Attorney-General replied that no answer had been received from the United States Government to the representations made by Her Majesty's Government about the Saxon; and, therefore, as he did not know the grounds on which the vessel was captured, it was no use discussing hypothetical cases. [But why should the chief law officer of the Government decline to assent to generally accepted principles of international law? Does he fear to put any pressure on the United States Government? Are Her Majesty's Ministers waiting for Mr. Seward's despatch to make their construction of the law accord with it? It is not the first time that our Government have manifested a reluctance to avow any principle of law that was likely to prove distasteful to Mr. Seward.]

THE CONFEDERATE CRUISERS.

On Friday evening, in the House of Commons, Mr. Shaw Lefevre called attention to the course pursued by the agents of the Confederate States in fitting out vessels of war and enlisting seamen in the ports of this country. [We are sorry that our limited space does not enable us to do justice to the vigorous onslaught of the honourable member. But we can assure our readers that it was a very strong hash of what the *New York Herald* has written, and of what such men as Senator Sumner and Parson Brownlow have said, about perfidious England fitting out privateers to prey upon United States commerce.] Mr. Lefevre admitted the Florida had been judicially acquitted; but still there could be no doubt she left England commissioned by the Confederate Government. The Alabama, in Mr. Lefevre's opinion, ought to have been detained on suspicion. He said the Alabama has been 'destroying and burning commerce,' and that not only had American vessels been burnt, but also an American vessel 'that had been transferred to the British flag.' Mr. Lefevre is confident that the steam-rams in the Mersey, and vessels building or built in other places, were intended for the Confederate Government. The honourable member remarked that these vessels were in the habit of flying the British flag, 'a thing that constitutes a crime against the law of nations.' [If Mr. Lefevre reads any other journal than the *Morning Star*, he cannot be ignorant that Federal cruisers are in the habit of resorting to the same ruse.] The honourable member has no doubt the Rappahannock is a Confederate vessel, and putting all these cases together, he concludes that there has been an 'organised scheme' on the part of the Confederate Government to violate our neutrality and our laws. Mr. Lefevre declared that, in his opinion, the Federal cruisers were not men-of-war, but 'British privateers.' He considered that the British Government ought to go direct to the Confederate Government, and say, 'We will stand this no longer.' Mr. Lefevre is of opinion that if we were at war with Germany, German privateers would be fitted out in Federal ports. [We think the hon. member is right.] He also said: 'Hundreds of American merchants are yearning for the first opportunity of fitting out privateers to prey on British commerce;' and he thinks that we ought to propitiate Yankee anger by stopping the Confederates from getting any more ships from England. He concluded by moving for a copy 'of any correspondence which has taken place between Her Majesty's Government and the Confederate agents in this country or elsewhere, with respect to the fitting out privateers in British ports.'

After a few words from Lord R. Montagu—who thinks it is the business of the Federal Government, and not of the British Government, to catch the Alabama—Mr. Baxter informed the House that he considered Mr. Lefevre's speech 'was marked by force of expression' [which is undoubtedly true] and by 'continuity of argument,' and that, in his opinion, the Government had fulfilled a great public duty in stopping the steam-rams. Mr. P. A. Taylor, who is rather notorious for forcible expressions, declared that 'the attitude of the Government of the United States has been honest and loyal towards this country; whilst the British Government, however honest in its desire to maintain the principle of non-intervention, had certainly been actuated by very strong sympathies for one of the belligerents [as witness the uninterrupted shipment of parts of artillery on English mail steamers to Federal ports, the uninterrupted Federal recruiting in Ireland, and the stoppage of the steam-rams 'on suspicion']. Mr. Taylor asked a question which admirably exhibits the spirit and value of his speech: 'While the Northern States respected our neutrality, what had been the conduct of the Confederate States?'

The Solicitor-General, whilst regretting the escape of the Alabama, denied that the Government had been remiss in their duty, and maintained that, whilst promising to be vigilant, they could not promise 'that no vessel could possibly escape, or that our laws would not be evaded.' The learned gentleman then said:—

> He could not agree with the remark that those ships should be treated as English vessels. He denied they were English vessels. They were not officered by British officers. They were Confederate vessels having Confederate commissions; and because some Englishmen had enlisted in them, and some more might have been employed in fitting them up, that was no ground for calling them British vessels. His honourable and learned friend had said, in the first place, that they ought to pursue and capture those ships. Capture the Alabama! But they should catch her first. He would remind his honourable and learned friend that when a vessel was commissioned by a recognised belligerent no enquiry could be made into her previous history. It had been decided in the American courts that a commission from a recognised belligerent obliterated the past offences of the vessel. Therefore, as they had every reason to suppose that the Alabama and the other vessels referred to were public vessels of war, commissioned by a recognised belligerent, it would not be in accordance with the law of nations to pursue and capture them on account of the original illegality in their proceedings. An act of that kind might be construed as no less than an act of war. But, secondly, his honourable and learned friend had said, 'You ought to keep them out of your ports.' No doubt there was more to be said for that. Her Majesty had a right to prohibit the entrance of any vessel into her ports. But, at the same time, Her Majesty's Government thought that, while preserving neutrality and admitting Federal vessels into our ports, if Confederate vessels or even a limited number of them were to be excluded, they would be accused of oppressing the weak and truckling to the strong. On the whole, therefore, it was thought more consistent with a fair neutrality to allow the vessels of both parties to come into our ports.

[This opinion, emanating from the legal adviser of the Government, is in exact conformity with the views expressed in an article entitled 'The Alabama and Tuscaloosa,' which appeared a few weeks since in our columns. We have only to hope that the Government will adhere unflinchingly to the doctrine which has been thus laid down. It is based on reason and on authority, and has now received a sanction which, as against the Government, is irrefragable. It, moreover, completely annihilates the latest edition of the theories of 'Historicus.']

The Solicitor-General said the Government were considering the matter, and that a remonstrance would shortly be conveyed to the Confederate Government, though 'it was by no means easy to make communications to the Confederate Government, nor was the difficulty lightened by their having *expelled* our consuls.' [We presume this statement was made under instructions from Earl Russell; but surely the Solicitor-General must know that the principal consuls were *withdrawn* from the South, and, according to English etiquette, it is not proper for an advocate to knowingly put forward a false statement, even though it appears in his brief.]

In answer to Sir J. Colebrooke, Mr. Lefevre said he did not mean to assert that the shipbuilders of Liverpool and Glasgow were guilty under the Foreign Enlistment Act, 'but he conceived they were virtually and morally breaking the law, if they knew that they were selling vessels to a belligerent.' [We suppose, in the Hon. Member's opinion, those who sell rifles, cannon, and ammunition to the Federals do not 'virtually and morally break the law.']

THE ISLAND OF SAN JUAN.

United States papers have asserted that the conduct of General Doyle has been censured, and that he has been recalled. In reply to Mr. Haliburton, Mr. Layard said General Doyle has not been recalled, and his conduct has received the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government.

CONTRABAND OF WAR IN BRITISH VESSELS.

Mr. Long asked whether a ship belonging to the Confederate navy would have the same right to search and make prize of an English vessel carrying contraband of war to a Federal port that a Federal war-vessel would exercise in the case of a British ship carrying contraband of war to a Confederate port; and, if not, whether such partiality in favour of one of two belligerent Powers was reconcilable with the 'strict neutrality' professed by Her Majesty's Government. The Attorney-General said there could be no doubt whatever that a Confederate vessel would have exactly the same right to visit, search, and capture a British vessel carrying contraband of war to a Federal port as a Federal vessel would to act in like manner to a British vessel carrying contraband to a Confederate port; but that it should always be remembered that neither was entitled to make any such capture except for the purpose of taking such ship for adjudication before a competent prize-court.

THE PAMPERO.

Mr. Dalglish asked whether the Government were prepared to accept from the owners of the Pampero and other steamers seized by the Government on the plea that these vessels were intended for the Confederate States of America a similar assurance to that which the Government have declared themselves satisfied with when given by the Danish Ambassador. The hon. member said that the contract for the building of the Pampero had been cancelled before the seizure, and that she had since been offered for sale to Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. Layard said the cases were different. The Danish Minister had come forward and given the fullest information, whilst in the case of the Confederate vessels, 'subterfuge, not to use a stronger word, and every means of evading the law, were had recourse to.' Mr. Layard also said: 'Moreover, the word of the Danish Minister amounted to a diplomatic guarantee, on which Her Majesty's Government had the utmost reliance. On the other side, he doubted whether any such engagement upon which Her Majesty's Government could place similar reliance could be given.'

[An insult from the hon. member will never damage any Government or individual, but his praise is dangerous. We hope that M. de Bille will be able to assure his Government that he has done nothing to merit any commendation from Mr. Layard.]

DENMARK.

An important debate took place in the House of Lords on Tuesday. The Earl of Derby called attention to the changed character of the war. Slesvig was no longer held as a material guarantee; the Dannewerke has been destroyed, Jutland has been invaded, and preparations are going on for the capture of the town of Fredericia. Under these circumstances, His Lordship enquired if the Government would, without loss of time, lay before the House the papers on this subject, running down to the latest period.

Earl Russell thought it necessary, in reply, to state his views. He holds that the war, on the part of Austria and Prussia, is unjustifiable. The reparation asked for by the German Powers had not been refused, but the Danish Government had avowed its willingness to reconsider their position before the allied forces entered Slesvig. Therefore Denmark was justified in considering the invasion a cause of war. Moreover, Denmark had declared war against all the German Powers, and this was also justifiable on account of the Federal army of occupation encouraging the pretender to the sovereignty of the Duchies. Earl Russell would not at present lay upon the table the papers relating to the pending negotiations for a Conference. His Lordship then explained the course pursued by the Government. After the rejection of the proposed armistice, the Government proposed to the belligerents that they should meet 'and endeavour to restore peace without any cessation of hostilities.' Austria and Prussia assented, and have since declared they are ready to agree to an armistice 'on the present military *status quo*.' He has no doubt France, Russia, and Sweden are willing to join the Conference. The answer of Denmark would be received not later than the beginning of next week, and then the papers could be produced.

The Earl of Derby wished for the papers before Easter, but Earl Russell said he could not fix a time, 'as there is great pressure in the Foreign Office on account of preparing papers on China and America.'

In reply to the Earl of Ellenborough, Earl Russell said that one of the conditions of the armistice proposed by Austria and Prussia was, that the Austrian and Prussian forces should occupy the Duchy of Schleswig, and that the Danes should occupy the whole of Jutland.

The Earl of Ellenborough: Then I hope the noble Earl will at once reject that proposition.

[We need hardly remark that Denmark will not accede to such a proposition.]

The Earl of Shaftesbury asked for information respecting the movements of the Austrian fleet towards the Baltic. His Lordship bitterly denounced the conduct of Austria and Prussia. He said: 'Never have I known the people of England more profoundly stirred than they are on the present occasion. Never have I known exhibited a greater anxiety than is shown at the present moment in contemplating the issue of the struggle between the little and gallant kingdom of Denmark and its two overgrown and powerful oppressors. It is fifty millions against two millions in that unequal contest. I must say that the feelings of this country have been much touched by the conduct of the King of Denmark. The concession which the King of Denmark has promised to make must be considered a sufficient reparation for any wrong which has been committed. This little kingdom comes before its mighty oppressors and says, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you all;" but instead of that they seize it by the throat, invade its territory, inflict upon it unutterable calamities, and institute a war which I think every one will say, for wantonness and needlessness, is one of the most disgraceful to be found in the pages of ancient or modern history.' In conclusion Lord Shaftesbury said, if an Austrian fleet was sent to the Baltic, he hoped it would be met by a British fleet, 'that fleet having instructions from Her Majesty to watch its movements, to restrict its operations, and, if necessary, to defend by force of arms the integrity and the sanctity of the kingdom and people of Denmark.'

Earl Russell replied that he had heard from the Austrian Ambassador that the fleet was not intended for the Baltic, but to aid in protecting German commerce. He thought that every true friend of Austria must deplore her present proceedings.

The Earl of Ellenborough made a spirited appeal to their Lordships, which was greeted with such cheers as are rarely heard in the House of Lords. He declared that little confidence could now be placed in the promises of Austria. He believed that the Austrian fleet was on its way to join the Prussian fleet in the Baltic; and if that happened, the Danish strongholds must fall, and the very existence of Denmark would be sacrificed. He asked Earl Russell 'whether he will stand by and see that atrocity perpetrated upon a weak power?' The fate of Denmark to-day might be the fate of Holland and Belgium to-morrow. He considered that before the Easter recess Parliament ought to assure Her Majesty that it is ready to support any measures necessary for the maintenance of the independence of Denmark.

Earl Grey and the Earl of Harrowby expressed their entire concurrence with the observations of the Earl of Ellenborough.

Earl Russell said: 'What Her Majesty's Government have done has been to negotiate, but also to maintain themselves at liberty to act with other Powers, or if they thought fit to act alone, if the honour and the paramount interests of England should require it.' And he subsequently added: 'All I can say is, that the Government will consult according to their own opinions the honour and the interests of this country. They will not make war when the safety and the interest, the integrity and the independence, of Denmark can be secured by negotiation; but otherwise they will not neglect any means by which that safety and that independence and integrity can be secured. With regard to the fleet, ten days or a fortnight ago, that we might be able to have it at command, it was ordered into one of the home ports, so that any orders given to it might be at once obeyed. If it were thought necessary to give any orders to that fleet, it would be at once within our reach; and certainly I should not expect that any fleet of Austria or of Prussia would venture to encounter a squadron of ours.'

[It is remarkable that this important declaration that the Government is preparing to defend the integrity and independence of Denmark by force of arms should have been extorted by an incidental discussion, and that no similar announcement should have been made in the House of Commons.]

On Monday, in the House of Commons, Lord Palmerston stated, in answer to Mr. Disraeli, that, in the opinion of the Government, 'the whole matter with reference to

operations beyond the Eider is an outrage on the independence of Denmark,' and that 'any extension of the occupation of Danish territory is an outrage, whatever excuse for it may be given.'

THE BRITISH ARMY.

According to the forms of the House of Commons, a motion for the increase of an estimate is not admissible, on the assumption that the Government may be inclined to ask for too much, but not for too little. Under these circumstances, Mr. Baillie, before the army estimates were submitted on Thursday last, protested against the proposed reduction of the forces. The hon. member had two principal objections. The first is, that our present force is too small to relieve the regiments in the colonies, and particularly in India. Our Indian Empire is a costly possession. The term of continuous service in India is limited to ten years. Now, a battalion goes out 1,000 strong. What is left of it at the end of ten years? The mortality is 690, and of the balance, 310, so many are invalided and sent home, that, 'practically speaking, the battalion is annihilated in ten years.' On January 1 we had 107 battalions serving abroad, and to give them relief every ten years, and a rest of five years, a reserve of 53 battalions is necessary; but the force at home does not exceed 34 battalions. Therefore, to reduce our reserve is to impair the health, efficiency, and the discipline of the army. The Marquis of Hartington stated that during the ensuing year there will be 11 battalions at home, 45 in the colonies, and 55 in India.] Mr. Baillie's second objection was that the influence of England had declined, owing to the impression in Europe and America that the people had grown rich, and were more anxious to preserve their money than the honour of the country. To this must be attributed 'the humiliation of England's Foreign Minister, and his failure in all diplomatic negotiations.' Earl Russell had failed with regard to Poland and Denmark, because it was well understood that 'the Ministers of England had decided, under no circumstances, to go to war.' Mr. Baillie did not say we ought to go to war, but he maintained that, 'if England interfered, England ought to be prepared for the result.' The Ministers were attempting to trade on the reputation of the country, 'forgetting that, under their hands, that reputation had passed away.' At first sight it seemed strange that a reduction of the army should be proposed; but the reason was the divisions in the Cabinet, and the necessity the Prime Minister was under of making concessions 'even to the humblest section of his political supporters.'

In moving the estimates, the Marquis of Hartington made the following financial statement, premising that he should have to submit a supplementary estimate of 400,000*l.*, part of which was for the war in New Zealand:—

ESTIMATES FOR

	£
1861–2	15,883,000
1862–3	15,672,730
1863–4	15,060,237
1864–5	14,844,888

Compared with 1861-2, there was this year a reduction of 1,038,112*l.*, and, compared with last year, of 213,349*l.* But deducting the amounts that would, it is calculated, be repaid into the Exchequer, the present estimate was, in fact, 13,529,440*l.*, or 2,362,714*l.* less than the estimates for 1861-2. The number of men proposed was 146,766 men of all ranks, being a reduction of 1,464 compared with last year. In defence of this reduction the Marquis said: 'He fully admitted that the estimates he was going to move were peace estimates. The Government had not based their estimates upon the supposition that the country was likely to be soon involved in war.' After some discussion the vote for the men was agreed to.

A MINISTERIAL MAJORITY OF 'ONE.'

On Thursday, Colonel Edwards moved a resolution that the discontinuance of the annual assembling of the Yeomanry Cavalry for six days' training would be detrimental to the efficiency of that force. The Marquis of Hartington and Lord Palmerston defended the policy of the Government, and on a division, the Government had a majority of 'one,' the numbers being 157 to 158. The announcement of the result of the division was loudly cheered by the Opposition. On a question touching the efficiency of the defences of the country, such a majority was nearly as damaging to the Government as an actual defeat.

GOVERNMENT ANNUITIES BILL.

On Monday, Mr. Gladstone explained to the House his proposal for a system of Government Life Assurance. He states that at present the societies to which the working classes resort are so unsafe that the insurers are under a great risk of losing their money. The Bill he has introduced provides that the Government shall issue policies for small amounts, so as to give the working classes an unfailing security that the provision they make for their families will not be taken from them by fraud or mismanagement. Mr. Gladstone did not deny that this would be an interference with private enterprise, but he contended that there were exceptions to the principle of Government non-intervention (as with factory children and sanitary regulations), and that this was a proper exception. After rather an animated discussion, the further consideration of the Bill was adjourned till next week. This measure is producing considerable agitation amongst the working classes.

THE GALWAY PACKET SERVICE.

Mr. F. Peel stated that the Galway Company has asked to have their contract suspended until the beginning of June. During six months the Company had omitted four voyages on each side.

THE ALLEGED COMBINATION AGAINST FRANCE.

On Tuesday Mr. Hunt asked Lord Palmerston for an explanation of a passage which occurred in a despatch from Lord Napier to Earl Russell, dated January 6, 1864, in which the following language is attributed to Prince Gortschakoff: 'The four Governments (i. e. England, Russia, Prussia, and Austria), happily now thinking and acting in harmony on a question still more important than that of Holstein and Schleswig, ought not in this matter to be split into two camps opposing each other.' Lord Palmerston replied that he thought Prince Gortschakoff must have alluded to a general European Congress. His Lordship added: 'If the honourable gentleman means to enquire, as I suppose he does, whether there was any combination by these four Powers against France, I assure him there was no ground whatever for any such supposition.'

A GOVERNMENT SURRENDER.

Mr. Adderly moved: 'That grants made from the Treasury to schools for the working classes should not, in every case, be reduced by the whole amount of all endowments.' As this is opposed to the education system so strongly contended for by the Government last Session, it was expected that the Ministry would resist the motion. But a glance at the Opposition benches determined the Government to surrender at discretion; and Mr Lowe consented to the motion, not that he was convinced it was right, but in deference to the feeling of the House.

CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Manchester, March 9

I remarked last week the not insignificant fact that since the opening of Parliament the Southern Independence Association has been receiving daily a very large accession of strength. Every post brings applications for membership from all quarters of Great Britain and Ireland, and from, politically, religiously, and socially, all sorts and conditions of men. One of the most recently enrolled members is a county magistrate, of that peaceful creed to which John Bright nominally belongs, but to which his daily thoughts and wishes continually give the lie. Another is a conscientious advocate of anti-slavery principles, who nevertheless writes as follows: 'I beg to say that I think the Southerners have clearly the right to dissolve partnership and withdraw from union with the North. I think also the abolition of slavery a contemptible subterfuge in the mouths of the Federals, but I think likewise that slavery is wrong, and do not use or purchase fabrics manufactured from slave-grown cotton; so that I am not sure that, with these opinions, your society would think me properly a member of the Southern Independence Association.' A third applicant for membership philosophises upon the slavery question thus: 'Any people having no occupation and no talent for reproductive industry, must, in the nature of things, under the proposed new system, be treated ultimately with cruelty. Slaves, coaxed or forced from their regular employment, must suffer under Northern rule from competition with those who occupy the lowest walks of labour. For the sake of the negro, therefore, I cannot forbear saying that, in common with almost every one I know, I wish success to the Confederates in their struggle for independence.'

A gentleman writing from County Mayo says: 'I desire to have my name enrolled as a member of the Southern Independence Association, and am indeed glad to see that so excellent a means has been established of testing the real feeling of British subjects on a question so vital to their interests, for I have no doubt that the present cowardly truckling to the Northern States, so far from satisfying them, will only encourage and urge them, at the first opportune moment, to 'come down upon us' in a way they would never attempt if their dishonesty and bullying had been met by our Government as it ought to have been, —a line of policy which I hope is not yet too late to be adopted. . . . I only know of one proprietor in this quarter who sympathises with the Federals.'

At an influential meeting held last evening at Rochdale, Mr. Robert Duncan, cotton spinner and manufacturer, in the chair, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—'1st. That a requisition, signed by the merchants, manufacturers, and general tradesmen of the town, be sent to Mr. James Spence of Liverpool, requesting him to deliver an address at Rochdale upon the American question.' 2nd. That the Secretary of the Southern Independence Association, Mr. Staley, be authorised to draw up such requisition and take the necessary steps for getting it influentially and numerously signed. 3rd. That this meeting form a committee, to be called the Rochdale Branch of the Southern Independence Association.' Sympathy with the Confederacy and antipathy to Mr. Cobden are to some intents and purposes convertible terms, and we are therefore not surprised that the Southerners of Rochdale are meditating a course of action not included within the limits of the foregoing resolutions. The *Rochdale Pilot*, referring to an important meeting of the Conservative party, thus speculates upon some political movement against John Bright's colleague in his advocacy of pro-Federalism:—

'That a feeling has long been entertained of the impropriety of the Conservative party in Rochdale acquiescing in the representation of the borough by Mr. Cobden is undoubted. That feeling found very strong expression at the recent public dinner of the party, and has at length, we are glad to say, developed into action. On Thursday evening last, in accordance with a numerously-signed requisition, which set forth the present isolation of the party in Rochdale, and the advisability of an effort to redress such a condition of things, a meeting was held in the warehouse of Messrs. Stott and Pilling, Cheetham Street, J. S. Entwistle, Esq., presiding, to take into consideration the propriety of contesting the borough at the next election. It would be premature at this stage to say more than that the attendance was very large, that a strong and unanimous opinion was expressed as to the desirability of reversing the existing political representation of the borough, and matters put in a train for the accomplishment, if possible, of that result; and that the proceedings of the meeting, from the inception to the close, were marked by great enthusiasm.'

There needs some political check like that to counteract—unless it be too late—the mischievous tendency of the speeches recently delivered by Messrs. Cobden and Bright, in their rabidly anti-patriotic desire to recruit from our own population the wasted armies of the North. Thanks to the eloquent aid of those representative Englishmen, the *threat* conveyed, in an extract from the *New York Shipping List*, that agents and emissaries were on the eve of being despatched to the United Kingdom, to swell the immigration to the States in 1864 to at least half a million of able-bodied men, is already beginning to be enacted with a vengeance. The following paragraph in the *Manchester Courier* is the first, but will probably not be the last, upon this subject:—

'Emigration from Ashton and the District. — A considerable number of emigrants to New York, said to have been engaged as weavers, left the Charlestown station, Ashton-under-Lyne, yesterday morning. The departure was witnessed by

[illegible]

PARIS TOPICS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Paris, March

However unwilling the great [illegible] to believe in the imminence of war, the [illegible] far distant as gradually to [illegible] The press of all shades of opinion [illegible] rumour's thousand tongues are [illegible] little facts calculated to confirm [illegible] the only topic of conversation. Last [illegible] diplomatist said to me, 'This time next year we shall be at peace, and you will be at war.' I do not [illegible] is likely to come true in the first part [illegible] from the knowledge of things as they are, [illegible] often proved false in regard to America, that I [illegible] is quite wrong. Events seem fast tending [illegible] second part of his prophecy. The [illegible] seems to remain, the common sense of mankind [illegible] poor assurance, for that which the [illegible] uncommon sense has rarely prevented [illegible] or a monarchy, from rushing into [illegible] already called your readers' attention [illegible] preparations quickly in progress [illegible] these must be now added the hastened armaments of the iron-clads at Cherbourg.

M. Fould is said to be on the point of resigning, and this would be thought the most conclusive [illegible] far distant, as the Minister of Finance, [illegible] has always insisted on peace as the indispensable [illegible] restoring the equilibrium of the budget. Another Ministerial change, by which Gen. Fleury would replace Marshal Randon, is also spoken of, and it also is considered symptomatic of war.

The Archduke Maximilian arrived at last on Saturday. The delay in his coming, and the threatening attitude assumed by Austria in Italy, had led to an unfounded rumour that the difficulties which have surrounded this negotiation were insurmountable. The *Nation* of last night—which, by the way has of late assumed a very decided tone of opposition—thus sums up its judgment of the decision the Archduke has come to:

'Behind him he leaves Europe troubled, its States mistrustful of each other; he leaves his brother, the Emperor of Austria, in presence of Denmark mutilated, Poland revolted, and Italy still menacing. He leaves Germany hesitating and wavering between the various influences which pretend to sway her. Even the relations between France and Austria, the only ones which need cause the Archduke serious reflection, if we regard them in the light in which they present themselves to most bystanders, show us the possibility that while France with one hand puts a crown on the head of the Archduke Maximilian, she may with the other draw the sword against the Emperor Francis Joseph. It would be a strange sight, and new to history, to behold a great power protecting and attacking at the same time two members of the same family, and able to hold him she protects as a hostage against the other whom she combats. Yet such eventual possibilities seem to have no terrors for the Archduke. He goes straight to his end, and with such undaunted assurance, that, after admiring his courage, we cannot refrain from regarding the resolution he seems to have taken as a pledge of peace for Europe.'

I have made this extract because it expresses very faithfully the general feeling here. It reflects the irritation felt against Austria both in regard to Denmark and the state of siege in Gallicia, and, above all, in consequence of the rumoured alliance with Russia and Prussia of which these acts are considered the result. It reflects also the wish of the French people to see the expedition to Mexico triumphantly concluded. While the *Times* was expressing its displeasure with Germany by proposing to restore to France the Rhine frontiers—an act which would be totally at variance with the system of nationalities of which France is herself the protectress—the French Government addressed a note to England on the eventualities of a European war, in which it is proposed not to restore the Rhine provinces to France, but to erect them into a neutral state destined to guard the eastern frontier against the ambition of Germany.

The Isthmus of Suez has of late occupied the law courts here after exhausting the resources of diplomacy. The dispute between the Company and the Viceroy, which turns on the employment of forced labour and the grant of an immense tract of land made by the last Pasha, was referred to M. de Morny, whose decision, based on a legal report, is understood to have been averse to the Company. It has now been offered to the Emperor's arbitrage, and he has appointed a commission, presided over by M. Thouvenel, Lord Stratford's old adversary, to report on the whole case.

The attention which the state of Europe attracts may account for the comparatively little interest taken by the French public in American affairs. The *Presse* is the only paper which has mentioned them in the last week, and this only to repeat its gloomy vaticinations of the speedy victory of the Federals; but this has little influence on opinion, for the *Presse* takes such delight in inventing and defending paradoxes, that its approval is now almost equivalent to universal discredit. The *Pays*, which for some time seemed wavering in its view of what it wished, gives in its last number a very fairly written summary of the latest news, and does not fail to call attention

to the position made for the *slaves* which fall to the conscription, and who are to have the honour of being killed for the Union, without forming a part of the United States army. In the same paper there is a letter from a subscriber, illustrating the celebrated *civis romanus* theory, in a fashion which our English experience of its value makes us envy. He tells how one of twelve young abbés who followed a bishop to Texas from the Lyons seminary, having been ordained, was in charge of a parish there, when the Federals reached, destroyed the village, rifled the chapel, and were on the point of shooting him. The muskets were already pointed, and the word 'Fire!' only had to be pronounced. 'I am a Frenchman!' he cried. 'As a priest you may shoot me, but as a Frenchman you must answer for my blood to my Emperor and my country.' At these words, says the correspondent of the *Phys*, the muskets were lowered, the altar-vessels and other valuables were restored, and a sum was paid for the damage done. When all was settled, the first danger past, the thirst of martyrdom seems to have seized the young priest, who, turning to the Yankees, said, 'You may now shoot me if you dare.' It is hard to believe the story, for the Federal troops are little given to disgorging their prey, still less to paying for damage done.

This morning's *Constitution*, in an article proceeding from M. Limayrac, deprecates any hasty appreciation of the events which now disturb Europe. It concludes in the following words, which at least have the merit of committing no one: 'The Holy Alliance which the *Times* and *Morning Post* have conjured up is, we repeat it, a phantom. As for the triple alliance of Prussia, Austria, and Russia, we desire, before judging it, to be assured of its existence, and then to know on what conditions it exists.'

On the approaching elections for Paris, which occupy a large space in most of the papers, I shall be better able to write next week. As yet, the candidates are not designed by the grand electors, as the *Daily News* calls the editors of the three Liberal papers and the nine representatives of the City. M. Carnot seems designated for one of the two vacant seats, and an artisan claims to represent the Faubourg St. Antoine. Government has not yet announced its abstention or participation in the struggle.

The *Discussione* publishes the text of the Emperor's answer to the address of the National Association on the subject of the late conspiracy. The last phrase is much remarked on. 'Such attempts, doubt not, can in no wise change my feelings towards your country; and I shall always consider it an honour to have contributed to establish its independence.'

THE NEGRO'S PLACE IN NATURE.

(From the *Reader* of March 5th.)

Professor Huxley has, for some cause, been induced to make a public attack on a paper entitled 'The Negro's Place in Nature,' which I recently read before the Anthropological Society of London. If Mr Huxley had confined his remarks to a fair statement of the arguments of that paper, I should not have troubled you with this communication: but there is such a misrepresentation (unintentional, I hope) of my position, that I feel bound to give an indignant denial to the charges there insinuated against me—viz, that my views were brought forward in behalf of the 'slave-holding interest.' When such charges were made by the *Morning Star*, they were amusing; but when men of science indulge in such contemptible imputations, silence is no longer possible, and the 'stigma of public condemnation' will not fail eventually to be affixed to one who resorts to such fanatical expedients. Professor Huxley is reported to have said: 'I hold in my hand an address to a scientific body of this country;' and he then quoted as a specimen extract a portion of a letter from a lady who had paid some attention to this subject in America.

I cited this extract, not as a scientific argument, but simply as an illustration of the interest taken, and knowledge possessed, by some ladies; and, imperfect as some of these observations undoubtedly are, I still hold that they contrast favourably with much of the scientific teaching on the physical characters of the Negro in this country. It is an utter misrepresentation to assert this to be a part of the paper which I submitted to the Anthropological Society. When a demand arose for copies of my paper, the Council consented to its separate publication, and gave their sanction to my affixing a letter which I had written to Captain Burton; and the extract so much complained of merely occurs in a postscript to this printed letter, erroneously alluded to by Professor Huxley as a 'preface.' It can only be wilful misrepresentation which attempts to exhibit this extract or any portion of the letter as a part of the paper; and, as it was not intended as a scientific argument, I shall take no further notice of Mr. Huxley's misplaced strictures. Nor is Professor Huxley more happy in his criticisms on the assertions contained in the paper. Vrolik's meaning is clearly given in the words I quoted, although I might have added, for person, dull of comprehension, that the pelvis of the male Negro did not bear absolutely 'a great resemblance to the lower mammalia,' but simply a greater general resemblance in comparison with that of the European.

Professor Huxley asserts that the observation 'that the grey substance of the brain of the Negro is of darker colour than that of the European, that the whole brain has a smoky tint, and that the pia mater contains brown spots, which are never found in the brain of the European,' is contradicted by the note which I inserted in support of this opinion; but one extract from the note is, 'The pia mater of the negro presented in certain spots a brown tint; nothing of the kind existed in the white subject. The white substance of the negro brain had a smoky tint, but it was especially in the grey substance that the brown tint was marked. The two brains were placed in two separate vases containing the same quantity of alcohol. After three days they were sufficiently firm to be examined. The difference of coloration was then as decided as on the first day.' This is the opinion of Dr. Paul Broca; and Professor Gubler's observations only indicate that there is a trace of coloration sometimes to be detected in the brain of some Europeans of dark complexions, and in no way invalidates the assertion that the brain of the negro is darker, and that the pia mater contains brown spots, which are never found to the same extent in the European.

I certainly differ very materially from Professor Huxley respecting the justifiability of the Northern expenditure of blood and treasure for such a cause as the abolition of negro slavery, but shall not resort to the unscientific practice to which he has now given his sanction, of railing at those from whom we differ.

I can readily understand the vexation which Professor Huxley must feel at the little support his own speculations have met with at the hands of the anthropologists of Europe, and I am glad to know that he now feels deeply for the 'unsuspecting public' on whom he has called for so large an amount of imagination and conjecture to supply the place of true science.

No one surely can hold me in any way responsible for the opinions of Dr. Van Evrie or any other writer whom I have quoted, and I protest against the assertion that I quoted from Dr. Evrie 'apparently with entire approbation,' for I said nothing which warrants any one in making such a statement. It is equally false to assert that I quoted Dr. Van Evrie's opinions as the 'verdict of science.'

Mr. Huxley may feel it his duty to affix the 'stigma of public condemnation' to my paper, as others have done to his own labours; such sentiments, I cannot but think, come with a very bad grace from the author of such a book as 'Evidence as to Man's Place in Nature.'

It is my good fortune to know that my paper has been received with the highest approval by many of the chief anthropologists of Europe. It is also satisfactory for me to feel that my scientific brethren in this country have, for the most part, returned me their thanks for my efforts to elucidate the truth on the difficult question of the physical, mental, and moral characters of the Negro race.

As evidence that I am not unsupported on this question by those who have paid the most attention to it, I have obtained permission to quote the following extract from a letter received from Dr. Barnard Davis, one of the learned authors of 'Crania Britannica,' and who, from the continuous attention he has paid to the subject, is far more capable of judging of the value of my paper than a mere theoretical anatomist. Dr. B. Davis writes:—

'I received your capital "Negro's Place in Nature" yesterday, and hasten to return you my warmest thanks for the moral courage and ability you have exhibited in endeavouring to raise the standard of truth, which has been so long and so sadly trampled in the mire by the pretented and mistaken friends of humanity.

'It is a bold, manly, temperate, and clever effort to stem the torrent of bastard philanthropy, which is now producing a vast and immeasurable amount of evil to mankind, especially to the negro, enough to make every human heart weep.

'I have all along felt most keenly the inhuman cruelty aimed at the hitherto happy and most useful negro slaves in the Southern States by the abolitionists and pseudo-philanthropists. The ignorance of these people would carry the negroes back into a state of barbarism and misery, which is likely to result in the most fiendish acts.'

When I receive numbers of such letters from my scientific brethren, I can well afford to treat ungenerous attacks on my scientific honesty with all the contempt they merit.

JAMES HUNT.

Ore House, near Hastings, Feb. 27, 1864.

SOUTHERN PRISONERS' RELIEF FUND.

To the Editor of The Index.

Sir,—Some of your readers will no doubt have heard that an attempt is being made to get up an amateur theatrical performance in aid of the '*Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund*.' Arrangements are now sufficiently advanced for us to ask the assistance of sympathisers. If you would kindly give this note a place in your columns, and permit letters to be addressed to your care, such assistance would, no doubt, be freely offered. It might take the form either of personal aid on Committee, &c., or of pecuniary contributions towards expenses. There are still vacancies in our *corps dramatique*. I may add that a drama, founded on events of the war is being written for the occasion. I am, &c.,

C. W. A.

London, 8th March, 1864.

FEDERAL ENLISTMENT IN IRELAND.

(From the *Irish Times* of March 1.)

On Saturday last 600 able-bodied young men left the North Wall for New York. They had been collected from this city and the suburban districts, and were brought to the quays in groups of four, ten, fifteen, or twenty. Wherever in the neighbourhood of Dublin labourers' work was proceeding, there the Federal agent appeared, picked out the strongest men, talked them over, and generally succeeded in buying their lives. The men are not told in express words that they must enlist in the Federal armies, but they know very well what they are required to do, and what they must do. They are ostensibly engaged to work the construction of a railway for three months. The whereabouts of the railway we have been unable to discover. Their passage, clothes, and food are paid for, and they are nominally allowed a dollar a day until the expiration of the three months. Their accounts will be settled, and the cost of their passage, clothes, and keep, is to be deducted from the money due from the quarter's service. When that settlement is made, the men 'may enlist in the Federal armies if they please' or, if they prefer it, they may seek work. The Northerners are a sharp people, and they take good care that the 'three months men' must enlist in the Federal army to keep themselves from prison.

For on arriving at New York the 'emigrants' are placed by themselves either on some island or in an isolated depot. While there they must buy food, water, boots, and clothing. They are charged ten dollars for what is worth two. Temptations are offered to them of every kind. If they have no money, so much the better. An accommodating dealer in greenbacks attends every company, and cashes their notes in advance at an enormous percentage. On the expiration of the three months the emigrant has had some experience in digging trenches, more in drill, but he is overwhelmed with debt. He has been exposed to the rapacity of a swarm of harpies and to a legion of seducers. He is told he may find employment where he pleases, *when he has paid his debts*. In his difficulty he is offered 165*l*. in greenbacks, a sum which will clear off his liabilities, and give him some capital to commence a new score, until that too is wasted, and then he 'is sent to the front.'

There never was devised a more iniquitous scheme of deception, and, unhappily, never was a wicked device so successful. Misguided young men are hired and then plundered, and they are plundered to compel them to enlist. When they are once regularly enlisted, they have nothing before them but death—death either in the sudden shock of battle, for they will be placed, as usual, in the van or on the forlorn hope; or death after lingering suffering, when they have been abandoned wounded on the field; or death by fever, which kills them off like flies in pestilential hospitals, whose very walls are impregnated with disease.

Out of every hundred men who leave their sweethearts, their families, and their work behind them, not ten will be alive at this time next year, and of these more than half will be maimed and crippled for the brief term of their days. A more deadly war was never waged than that between the North and the South—deadly by wounds, deadly by hardship, deadly by disease; and in this war five Irishmen have been slain for one native American.

It is such an emigration as this that *dilettanti* professors pronounce to be the hope of Ireland and the blessing of the people. The opinions of these theorists might be laughed at were they not indicative of something which is very sad. All those who pronounce this emigration to be good are persons well known for their connection with Government. It follows, then, that the Government will never interfere to prevent that which their scribes are required to represent as a blessing. A ship is seized because there is a suspicion that it is intended for the use of the Confederates. Her owner is called upon to produce proof that she is designed for some non-belligerent state. Yet a ship is useless without men, and stores, and arms; but within bowshot of the Castle of Dublin, under the very eyes of Her Majesty's Government, bodies of 600 men, whose walk and movement betray that they have undergone some preliminary drilling in this country, are marched to the transport ship, bound for the great seaport of the Northern belligerent. If the destination of a ship must be known, why not the destination of regiments of 600 men? Why are not the captains of emigrant ships compelled to give bonds to guarantee the peaceable character of the employment for which these emigrants are designed? Our Consuls in the American cities could readily ascertain how these emigrants were distributed, and the Federal Government, grateful as they should be for many favours, ought to engage to enlist in their armies no emigrant from these countries until a year after his arrival. There is employment now for every able-bodied man in Ireland. Many of those men who departed on Saturday held situations, some of them to our knowledge under public bodies, at salaries of from 15*s*. to 18*s*. a week. There is a good prospect of still better remuneration now that so many sources of employment are being gradually opened. But where will labourers be found? Where peasants to till the soil? Where soldiers whom we may soon need? The blind apathy of Government sees not the cruel deportation of the strength of the land, or, perceiving that the flight of 'emigrants' occurs when they are at the helm, proclaim loudly that the depopulation of a country is the greatest of blessings.

ITEMS ABOUT FORT SUMTER.

The garrison of the fort was five hundred men of the First South Carolina Artillery, under command of Colonel Alfred Rhett.

At the commencement of the bombardment of August 17, 1863, there were in the fort 131,000 pounds of gunpowder. The magazine containing it became in a few days unsafe, from the destructive effect of the 200-pounder Parrott shells and shots hurled into the walls and casements adjoining it. The powder was removed by night to the west magazine, and shipped as fast as possible to Charleston.

On Sunday, August 23, the Ironsides and seven Monitors commenced a terrific bombardment. A fog protected them from the guns of Moultrie. Sumter, having only two ten-inch and one eleven-inch gun left en barbette, could only fire an occasional shot to show life. For seven hours at close range, the fleet hurled shot and shell into the work. Striking the wall near the parapet, loose bricks were thrown up in columns, and fell in showers around the gunners and about the work. Walls were ploughed through, casemates were filled with sand, and the shells passed across the parade, striking the interior wall of the west magazine, containing powder enough to destroy fort and garrison. One shell struck the ventilator and exploded. It filled the magazine with smoke. Another more successful shot, and all would have been lost. It was an anxious moment, but the fort was held.

Gradually the morning dawned. The fog lifted, and Fort Moultrie opened fire on the ships. Instead of continuing their fire at this critical period, the fleet withdrew, and the danger was remitted. The object was now, in the unsafe condition of the fort, to get rid of the powder. It depends on time and the movements of the fleet. Had the fleet early renewed the attack, the business might have been done. The fleet delayed! Night after night the powder was moved in barrels under the enemy's guns. Only eight hundred pounds were left—the crisis was passed! The fort was now safe from the explosion of the powder in its magazine.

Another grand combined attack of land batteries and fleet was made, during which a shell from a ship passed through the wall into the shell-room and exploded, imminently endangering piles of loaded shells, and bursting open the door of the magazine adjoining. Colonel Rhett ordered the shells to be rolled into the water. This was done under a heavy fire directed upon that portion of the work.

The fort was now safe from explosion of any sort; it only remained to hold the work under the enemy's battering, and to repulse assaults.

The attack of September 2 failed, and the first bombardment of Sumter ended. It had lasted sixteen days. Since then no such grand attack of all the Monitors and the Ironsides has been made upon Fort Sumter. During the fight of September 8, three Monitors were disabled in an effort to save the Weehawken, grounded within range.

Besides the detachment at the guns, men and officers were incessantly occupied. Heavy ordnance was mounted, shifted, and dismounted. Banks, temporary buildings, and combustible matter were cleared away. There was much work to be done by the soldiers in digging dirt from the parade and filling casemates with sand. Negroes were also engaged in this duty, as also in protecting the hospital, magazines, and guns, by sand traverses. Troops, ammunition, and provisions were carried all night long, in small boats, to and from Fort Sumter and Morris Island. Invaluable pieces of huge ordnance, shot, shell, powder, and commissary stores were saved to the Confederacy by this night-work of the garrison.

On August 27, the artillery was withdrawn, leaving but one company in the fort. General Beauregard offered to relieve Colonel Rhett, if he needed rest. The Colonel declined to be relieved while any of his men were in the work or it was considered to be an artillery post.

The south wall of the fort was knocked into a mass of rubbish. The north-east and north-west walls were cut down and honeycombed; the casements battered into heaps of brick and mortar. The east wall was scarred, pitted, and breached. Every available gun had been dismounted and rendered unserviceable. The fort was a mere wreck, but the Confederate flag still flew over the silent ruins. Half of the men left in the fort were unfit for duty from want of sleep and exhaustion.

On the night of September 8 the enemy assaulted Sumter, but, as had been anticipated, Major Elliot, in command, easily repulsed them, sinking many of their barges and launches.

The engineers were allowed fifty days to build bomb-proofs of earth and erect additional traverses for protection of the garrison, before the second bombardment of October 26. To-day

(January 15), for all purposes of defence, Fort Sumter is stronger than ever.—*Charleston Correspondence.*

THE CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

On Saturday, Feb. 13, Mr. Johnson of Ga. offered a joint resolution, which passed, giving thanks to Commander John Taylor Wood, C. S. Navy, for the daring and brilliantly executed plans which resulted in the capture of the U. S. transport schooner Elmore, on the Potomac River; of the ship Alleghany and the U. S. gunboats Satellite and Reliance, and the U. S. transport schooners Golden Rod, Coquette, and Two Brothers, on the Chesapeake; and more recently, in the capture from under the guns of the enemy's works of the U. S. gunboat Underwriter, in the Neuse River, near Newbern, N. C., with the officers and crews of the several vessels brought off as prisoners.

Rations of Yankee Prisoners.—Mr. Preston of Virginia, from the Committee on Quarter-master's and Commissary Departments, to whom was referred the resolution of the House inquiring into the facts concerning the allegation that an insufficient quantity of food has been furnished to the Federal prisoners, made a report, accompanied by a mass of evidence, going to prove, conclusively, that the allegation was entirely without foundation. The report was tabled, and ordered to be printed.

Thanks to Gen. E. Kirby Smith.—On Monday, February 15, Mr. Johnson of Arkansas offered resolutions of thanks to Gen. E. Kirby Smith and his officers and men for the signal victory achieved by them at the battle of Richmond, Ky., for that highest order of generalship, with which this victory was followed up, utterly annihilating with five thousand men an army of ten thousand, of whom full five thousand were actually captured, besides the slain in battle, and for the brilliant campaign in which the speed, vigour, and constancy of a rapid advance resulted in the planting the Confederate flag upon the capital of Kentucky and upon the shores of the Ohio River, in front of the great city of Cincinnati.

The Destruction of Confederate States Treasury Notes.—House joint resolution for the relief of Maj. Wm. F. Hines, Quartermaster, who, by order of Gen. Bowen, burnt $94,000 in Confederate States Treasury notes in the streets of Vicksburg, to prevent its falling in the hands of the Yankees, was taken up and passed.

NEUTRALITY.

(From the *Church and State Review.*)

We do not propose to argue the question of intervention or non-intervention in American affairs. For ourselves, we believe that a firm and friendly mediation would have been better for all parties concerned. For the Southern white, whom it would have saved from a costly and fearful war; for the negro, in the amelioration of whose condition it would have given us the right and the influence of a proved friend to interpose; for the North, from which it would have averted, at least for a time, the fearful revolution now so rapidly hurrying on; for ourselves, more than all, to whom instead of famine in Lancashire and disaffection in Ireland, instead of the contemptuous indifference of the South, and the still more contemptuous hatred of the North, it would have given peace and plenty at home, and abroad the reluctant respect of one belligerent and the cordial, grateful friendship of the other. This has been our belief from the first; the experience of three years of an opposite policy has strongly confirmed it. Our rulers, however, have thought otherwise, and our present concern is not with the wisdom of their policy, but with the manner in which it has been carried out. Accepting the decision that in this quarrel—affecting ourselves as no quarrel, not absolutely our own, ever did or ever can again—it was our duty, or at the least our interest, to be neutral, we simply ask of what kind has our neutrality been?

To recognise the political existence of the Confederate States would have been, as is admitted on all hands, to put a stop to the war. In direct opposition to our action in every similar case, this recognition is refused. To treat the States as still a portion of the old Union would have been to secure their ports against blockade. We acknowledge them as belligerents. To grant them full belligerent privileges would be to lessen the effects of the blockade to which that acknowledgment has subjected them. We qualify our acknowledgment to precisely the extent most fatal to them, and most favourable to their foe.

Accepting unreservedly the abandonment by the South of their solitary weapon, the issuing of letters of marque, we make a merit with the North of disregarding the solemn promise given in return, and enforcing the obligation of a paper blockade. The export of tons of arms and whole batteries of artillery; the enlistment of men by thousands and tens of thousands for the Federal army, goes on almost openly under the very eyes of our authorities; and the only notice taken is the granting, at public expense, of a huge subsidy to a new packet line, whose sole traffic is the carrying of Federal recruits. The spies of the Federal minister suspect that certain vessels may possibly be ultimately intended for Confederate service, and without a tittle of evidence these vessels are promptly seized by an armed force and confiscated for months until their 'innocence' can be proved. A Yankee merchantman captured on the high seas, condemned as a prize and commissioned by the Confederate authorities as a man-of-war, claims the slender hospitality of a distant colonial port, and orders are sent express across the two Atlantics for her instant seizure and 'restitution.' A Confederate merchantman is driven by a Yankee gunboat on our own shores, and fired there by shells that fall but half spent among the houses of our own people, and our Government repudiates with lofty indignation any claim for compensation or redress. We need not multiply cases; they are but too numerous and too well known. But in each and in all the principle by which our conduct is guided is the same. No severity can be too stringent as against the weaker belligerent; towards the stronger no subservience too complete.

At the present moment three cases have arisen if possible more grave and critical, more wounding to our honour and more dangerous to our peace, than any that have yet occurred. A British subject has been deliberately murdered by a Federal officer on the deck of his own ship. The recruiting agents of the Federal army, the leaders of a band of conspirators avowedly leagued for a war of extermination against ourselves, have appeared in Federal uniform at the head of a riot in the Irish capital. Significantly supported by these signs of friendship comes the demand of indemnification for Confederate reprisals upon Federal commerce. What will our 'warm' neutrality reply to pressure such as this?

> Fair Sir, you spit on me on Wednesday last;
> You spurned me such a day; another time
> You called me dog; and for these courtesies
> I'll pay you thus much monies?

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THE SPIRIT OF THE SOUTH.

Mr. Cobb, Ex-United States Secretary of the Treasury, delivered a speech in Atlanta, which concludes as follows:—

'Your fate is in your own hands. Are you looking forward with a hope which has no resting-place in your conviction, and is only flitting through your minds, that perhaps after all some foreign interference will come to our rescue to save and preserve us from the enemy? Banish it from your minds; it is a wild and visionary dream; it is a fatal delusion. The sympathy of the world is against you. If you are cowards you will falter and faint when the fact is announced to you; if you are brave men, it will arouse in your hearts the spirit of true manhood, which you have inherited from your revolutionary fathers and mothers, and make you truer than ever to your country and her cause.

'Do you look forward with some hope to what has been termed the Conservative element of the North, and expect to be preserved and protected by it from Lincoln's power and dominion? Banish the fatal delusion. Conservatism at the North lies prostrate in the dust. In their mad efforts to take away our liberties they have lost their own. They are as powerless to aid you as they are to protect themselves. You must either submit to Lincoln and Abolitionism, or by your own unaided arm, with the blessing of a kind Providence, win your liberty and your independence. Think not that there is a power at the North to restore to you the Constitution and the Union as they were, even were you prepared to accept it. You must either be freemen, or you must submit to Lincoln, and he has given you his terms.

'I put the picture before you. Do you stagger before it, or does it arouse within you anew the spirit of resistance—the spirit of freemen, worthy of the ancestry from which we sprang? Look at these things; consider well of them, and let us, with hearts purged and purified with afflictions, appeal to Him who alone can give victory and success to our arms.'

Dr. Elliott, Bishop of Georgia, in the course of a sermon lately preached at Savannah, thus exhorted his congregation:—

'Forward, my hearers, with our shields locked and our trust in God, is our only movement now. It is too late even to go backwards. We might have gone backwards a year ago, when our armies were victoriously thundering at the gates of Washington, and were keeping at successful bay the Hessians of the West, had we been content to bear humiliation for ourselves and degradation for our children. But even that is no longer left us. It is now victory or unconditional submission—submission not to the Conservative and Christian people of the North, but to a party of infidel fanatics, with an army of needy and greedy soldiers at their backs. Who shall be able to restrain them in their hour of victory? When that moment approaches—when the danger shall seem to be over and the spoils are ready to be divided—every outlaw will rush to fill the ranks, every adventurer will rush to swell their legions, and they will sweep down upon the South as the hosts of Attila did upon the fertile fields of Italy. And shall you find in defeat that mercy which you did not find in victory? You may slumber now, but you will wake to a fearful reality. You may lie upon your beds of ease, and dream that, when it is all over, you will be welcomed back to all the privileges and immunities of free citizens, but how terrible will be your disappointment! You will have an ignoble home, overrun by hordes of insolent slaves and rapacious soldiers. You will wear the badge of a conquered race—Pariahs among your fellow-creatures, yourselves degraded, your delicate wives and gentle children thrust down to menial service, insulted, perhaps dishonoured. Think you that these victorious hordes, made up in the large part of the sweepings of Europe, will leave you anything? As well might the lamb expect mercy from the wolf. Power which is checked and fettered by a doubtful contest is very different from a power victorious, triumphant, and irresponsible. The friends whom you have known and loved at the North, who have sympathised with you in your trials, and to whom you might have looked for comfort and protection, will have enough to do then to take care of themselves. The surges that sweep over us will carry them away in its refluent tide.'

We hear from Nassau that Major-General Preston and Captain Walker Fearn, both of the Confederate army, had arrived at that port, *en route*, as it is said, for Mexico, on a diplomatic mission, and had been received with much distinction by the civil and military authorities of the island. General Preston was at the outbreak of the war United States Minister to Spain; and Captain Fearn has also considerable diplomatic experience, both before and since the disruption of the Union.

'The Autographic Mirror.'—This new candidate for public favour is, we think, likely to meet with success, because it fills an hitherto vacant place, and is a well-arranged and admirably executed work. Its object is to present its readers with fac-similes of the autographs of celebrities of all countries and of all times. Besides gratifying the very natural curiosity to see something of the handy-work of illustrious personages, a publication like *The Autographic Mirror* can hardly fail to bring to light some interesting, historical, and literary documents. Many persons have in their possession valuable autographs, which they will be glad to place at the disposal of the editor of the *Mirror*. We would suggest that the practice of giving English translations of French manuscripts is not desirable. When the writing is too illegible to be read by any one except an expert, it would be better to give a printed transcript of it in the margin, for we may fairly assume that the subscribers to *The Mirror* are sufficiently *au fait* with the French language to translate for themselves. It must not be inferred from this remark that *The Mirror* is a dear publication, for, considering the quantity of matter given, and the necessary cost in producing it, we think sixpence a number a very low price.

The Imports of Cotton.—The Board of Trade tables, just published, credit the Confederate States with only that cotton which has been imported direct from their ports, and place to the account of 'other countries' the shipments of Southern produce received into the United Kingdom *vid* Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and Cuba. The figures thus furnished for the year 1863 are 57,090 cwts., whereas they would, if stated correctly and in accordance with the facts, read nearly ten times that quantity—namely 540,000 cwts. The arrivals of Southern cotton at Philadelphia, New York, and Boston, in a great measure through the same intermediate channels for the past twelve months, were about equal to those that reached Europe. The total exportations of cotton from the Confederate States to all places in 1863, were not much short of 300,000 bales, and weighed about 1,300,000 cwts, or just one-third the quantity reported by the Government returns as received from the British East Indies—3,878,757 cwts. When, however, an allowance is made for the additional loss in spinning Surat cotton, with a reduction for the portion that is worthless for manufacturing purposes, it will be found that the quantity of American cotton was, by reason of its superior quality, equivalent to nearly one-half that of Indian. (From Mr. George M'Henry's pamphlet on 'The Cotton Question.')

The Anti-Fenian Movement.—The truly Irish demonstration of Irish brotherhood at the Dublin Rotunda has been followed by another, and less lawless, indication of the discord which prevails in the 'National' party. In the course of last week two broadsheets, of which copies are in our possession, were posted on the gates and doors of Roman Catholic churches in Dublin. It must be presumed that this liberty was not taken without the sanction of the Roman Catholic Archbishop, and the character of the documents themselves is sufficiently remarkable to deserve attention for its own sake. Both are signed 'Sacerdos;' one is headed 'Letters of his Holiness Pius IX. on the American War,' and the other 'Letters of John Mitchell, William Smith O'Brien, John Martin, and "Sacerdos" on the American War.' Their object is decidedly anti-Fenian—to discourage Federal enlistment in Ireland, and it is but justice to their compiler to say that they contain passages of which the good sense and logical force are perfectly startling. No statement that we have yet read on the causes and consequences of the emigration from Ireland to the United States is more thoughtful and rational than the letter of Mr. Smith O'Brien. No attack from the pen of Confederate journalists upon the Yankee Government and people is more bitter and incisive than the sallies of Mr. John Mitchell. If the Fenians have any writer capable of repelling these assaults by other than physical means, their literary resources must be greater than we have any reason to believe.—*Times.*

Are States Nations?—It is ominous of great evil that we read now-a-days, in all the journals which are in the service, from principle or from pay, of the reigning Administration, disparaging and contemptuous allusions to the term 'State,' as if a 'State,' as it figures in American politics, were something a little more perhaps than a county, but much less than a sovereign nation. It offends the ear of these sensitive critics to hear it asserted that when the thirteen colonies declared their independence, they erected themselves into so many nations which they called 'States,' each possessing the plenary sovereign character and attributes. Now the fact is that State and nation are convertible terms. A State is a nation. A nation is a State; and we every day, and in the most formal political documents, see these terms used indifferently, as quite synonymous. Nation does not always imply the possession of sovereign character by the community to which the term is applied. Then we hear of the Irish nation, the Scotch nation, the English nation, though the individual sovereignty of Ireland, Scotland, and England is absorbed and lost in that of 'The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.' The term *State*, as used in American politics, no less than nation, implies the highest condition of political being, and is consistent with the highest sovereign attributes. Witness the language of our own Declaration of Independence, the best authority that can be adduced for the purposes of this article. That instrument declares that the thirteen colonies 'are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as free and independent States they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and do all other acts and things that independent States may of right do.' Is it not clear? What more can be necessary to rescue the term State from the puerile criticism by which it is so often attacked?—*New York News.*

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

Our friends in the United Kingdom and on the Continent are earnestly requested to forward to us, at their earliest convenience, such information relative to the military movements and condition of affairs in America as they may receive through private letters, either from the United States, or from the Confederate States. They may rely upon the most scrupulous precautions being observed that no names or facts leading to identification will, under any circumstances, be revealed. No communications, however, will be noticed unless authenticated by a re-ponsible name. Southern newspapers, of any date, will be useful and acceptable presents.

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Mr. J. H. ASHBRIDGE, *Treasurer of the Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund, begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following additional Contributions:*—

Mr. J. F. Stead (additional) . . .	£20	0	0
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THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1864.

The Attack upon Mobile.

THE real object of the complicated movements of the Federal armies in the South-west is at length disclosed. It is nothing more or less than the capture of Mobile, and the establishment of a new basis of operations in the heart of the Western States. For this SHERMAN's column has made its bold and rapid advance through Mississippi, while FARRAGUT's flotilla, and, it is said, a portion of BANKS's forces, occupy the attention of the Confederate garrison. General SHERMAN left Vicksburg about the 4th ult. with an army estimated at from 25,000 to 40,000 men, principally infantry, carrying but a few days' rations with them, and relying mainly on the districts through which they had to march for subsistence. As he swept along he tore up the railroads, and destroyed all the bridges in his rear, thus plainly indicating the intention of opening up for himself a new base on the Gulf, and of establishing communications with some cooperating force, naval or military, on the coast of Alabama. His progress does not appear to have been opposed, the Confederates prudently retiring before him, with their guerillas hovering on his rear and both flanks, cutting off stragglers, and capturing here and there a gun or a few wagons. With the exception of a slight skirmish at Jackson, and a repulse at Clinton, he seems to have had no fighting. The victory claimed at Bandon turns out to be an utterly unfounded rumour, and the last authentic intelligence we have of his progress is the announcement of the evacuation of Meridian by the Confederates, the result probably of a southward movement which left this station in the rear. That any considerable portion of his force had reached Quitman, on the Mobile and Ohio railroad, about 100 miles from Mobile, is officially denied. Some miles of the rail had been destroyed by a small Federal cavalry force, which immediately retired. But it is not probable that, in the ten days which had elapsed from the start from Vicksburg, SHERMAN's column had accomplished more than 100 miles, considering the difficulties of the route, the wants of the army, and the attacks of the Confederate guerillas. Time, however, was of the utmost importance to the Federals. It is a vital necessity to SHERMAN's army that it should reach the coast, or, at any rate, open communications with FARRAGUT without delay. A march of 300 miles through an enemy's country, at the rate of 20 miles a day, will leave his forces for a time quite unfit for an assault upon a fortified town. They will need rest, support, and supplies; and unless FARRAGUT is in a position to cooperate with them, as they approach Mobile, they will be in extreme peril. A direct advance from Quitman along the railroad would bring SHERMAN upon the rearward defences of Mobile. These consist of three lines of strong earthworks, the outer line distant about five miles from the city. He must carry these lines before he can enter Mobile. But it is not likely he will have all the fighting to do. The next mail may bring us the intelligence that FARRAGUT has renewed the attack, or that BANKS has succeeded in landing a force at Mississippi City. By the last accounts FARRAGUT had failed in one attempt to force Grant's Pass, a narrow and shallow passage from Mississippi Sound into Mobile Bay, but was preparing to renew it as soon as the weather was more favourable. But it is doubtful whether he has a sufficient number of vessels of light draught, even if he should effect the passage, to force his way up to the town; and he will yet, in all probability, be compelled to run the gauntlet of the guns of Fort James and Fort Morgan. All depends, however, upon FARRAGUT's progress. If he should succeed in passing the sea defences of Mobile, SHERMAN will be safe. The garrison will be between two fires, and the assault on the lines will be a much easier matter. If FARRAGUT fails, SHERMAN, short of supplies and ammunition, will be reduced to the alternative of an assault in which failure would be destruction, or a retrograde movement somewhat equivalent to M'CLELLAN's famous change of base from the Chickahominy to the James River for strategic reasons. We are not aware of the strength of the Confederate garrison of Mobile. It is not the habit with the South to disclose its tactics or display its numbers. But we have good reason to believe that it is fully able to hold the town against the forces which now threaten it. Altogether, we think SHERMAN's march has lost much of its terrors now that its object is revealed. The Federal press is very exultant about its boldness and rapidity, but a successful result alone can justify it. A mere change of base, a flying raid through Mississippi, will have accomplished nothing. If SHERMAN could march 300 miles in three weeks, we may rely upon it General POLK's forces in Alabama will not be very far from Mobile by the time he reaches the lines of defence. Their presence would postpone the capture at least for months, and in the meantime SHERMAN's energies will be sufficiently taxed in provisioning his army and holding his ground.

At other points the Confederates are displaying an activity which must, within a few weeks, bring about important collisions and decisive results. LONGSTREET, who a week ago was reported to be in full retreat southward, as if to effect a junction with JOHNSON's army, has reappeared in great strength within a few miles of Knoxville, heavily reinforced by General BUCKNER. The Federal communications between Cumberland Gap and Knoxville have been cut off, and there is every indication that the long-threatened attack upon the capital of Eastern Tennessee will not be much longer deferred. At the same time, JOHNSON's army is said to be in motion, and the Tennessee river is blockaded, so that the supplies on which the Federal garrison at Chattanooga depend are with difficulty got up. MORGAN, the renowned guerilla leader, has reorganised his force, and has crossed to Tennessee. Everything portends the renewal of the struggle for the possession of the hilly country of the State of Tennessee and a desperate effort on the part of the South to execute the programme laid down by President DAVIS last autumn, and drive the army of the Cumberland beyond the Ohio. The Virginian Generals, LEE and MEADE, are busily organising soldiers for the spring campaigns. But the growing boldness of the Confederate army sadly harasses the Federal army. Not a day passes without its long list of casualties and losses of *matériel*—the captures amounting sometimes to more than 100 men and officers. MOSLEY, who is decidedly one of the most dashing cavaliers in Virginia, keeps every Federal outpost, and even whole camps, in perpetual alarm; and although it may be admitted that these guerilla services will not be decisive of the issue of the war, nothing could more signally illustrate the hopelessness of the task in which the Federals are engaged than this presence and activity of a large Confederate cavalry force virtually within their lines. At Washington it is expected that LEE will take the initiative, and that another great battle will be fought on the historic ground of Bull's Run. Curiously enough, the reason assigned is the despondency of LEE's army. We can undeceive the people of Washington, and assure them that LEE's men were never in better fighting trim or in higher spirits; and that when a forward movement does take place, it will be made with a confidence justified and heightened by three years of victories undisgraced by a single defeat.

Parliament.

THE Ministry certainly does not gain in power or popularity as the session advances. A sad change—a change in some respects to be regretted for other than party reasons—has come over the Liberals since their fortunes culminated in 1853. In that year they held an ascendency in Parliament such as no Government had held since the days of PITT. They had a preponderance of administrative talent, and an unquestioned supremacy in debate. On the front bench, to Mr. Speaker's right, sat nearly all the ablest men in the country. Mr. DISRAELI was the sole reliance of the Opposition. The Government had the benefit of the administrative and Parliamentary ability of Sir JAMES GRAHAM, whose genius was allowed to atone for a character which was damaged and blackened by more than one very questionable transaction. By him sat SIDNEY HERBERT, a man of no common powers, but owing his influence less to his acknowledged abilities than to the respect and love inspired by one of the purest and noblest spirits that ever mingled in political strife. Lord JOHN lent them the aid of his Parliamentary experience and his indomitable pluck; for Lord JOHN was as brave in Parliament as Lord RUSSELL is timid at the Foreign Office. Lord PALMERSTON was there, with his thorough knowledge of the temper of Parliament, and his perfect sympathy with the feelings of the country, one of the poorest speakers yet most formidable debaters that ever led a party. Mr. GLADSTONE added to the authority of the Coalition the force of his brilliant oratory and the weight of his thorough mastery of finance; and they were presently strengthened by the accession of Sir GEORGE CORNEWALL LEWIS, the profoundest statesman and most impartial politician of his time. Since that time the Liberals have been constantly losing strength, and the Conservatives have constantly gained it. The substitution of Sir R. PALMER for Sir R. BETHELL is a very doubtful advantage; the former is a better man and probably a better lawyer, but he is less versatile, and consequently less effective in general debate. Sir JAMES GRAHAM has gone to his account. The country has lost the invaluable services of SIDNEY HERBERT and CORNEWALL LEWIS. Lord JOHN has been advisedly removed—as was aptly observed by the official jester to the House, Mr. BERNAL OSBORNE—to another and a happier place. Their places have not been filled, and the defence of the Government rests solely upon Lord PALMERSTON and Mr. GLADSTONE. The latter does not speak frequently except on financial questions; the former, though he is probably the ablest and halest of octogenarians, is becoming more and more evidently unequal to the heavy burden which devolves on him. Mr. DISRAELI now enjoys the support of such allies as Lord STANLEY, Lord ROBERT CECIL, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. WALPOLE, and, above all, Sir HUGH CAIRNS. It is not wonderful, therefore, that—as Lord R. CECIL the other day remarked—the Opposition has the lion's share of the debates, or that the debates generally damage the Government. As uninterested observers, we cannot but discern the possibility of a shipwreck at no distant date; nor do we suppose that such an event can be postponed for many weeks after Lord PALMERSTON shall be forced to confess that his present task is too heavy for his strength.

Thursday night witnessed a conflict which certainly shook the Government not a little. The Yeomanry Cavalry is not a popular force with the Radicals. It has been used to put down those disloyal outbreaks with which Americanised Englishmen, like Mr. BRIGHT or Mr. FORSTER, feel a great and natural sympathy; and it could be depended upon as surely as the line to crush any Fenian outrages at Liverpool, or prevent any such seditions as that of Bristol in 1831, or of Birmingham in 1842. Its value, moreover, is generally underrated by the borough members and their constituents, who know nothing about it. On the other hand, it is highly popular with the farmers and the country gentlemen; it is an institution standing midway between the militia and the Volunteers, and a necessary supplement to both; and any proposal to disband it might overthrow a Government. The measure actually proposed by the Ministry is hardly intelligible. They asked for the usual vote of 41,000*l.* for its permanent staff, but refused the 46,000*l.* necessary to call it out for its usual period of annual training. This was taken up angrily by some of the Colonels of Yeomanry who have seats in the House. Colonel EDWARDS made a very sharp onslaught upon the Government, showing that it was simply absurd to vote money for the Yeomanry at all, unless they were to be called out yearly for duty. He was supported by General PEEL, late Minister for War. Lord PALMERSTON attempted a reply, and was reminded by Sir W. MILES of language held by him in 1853, diametrically opposite to that which he was holding now. The House divided; and the Government had a majority of one. They might almost as well have been beaten; especially as they were saved by the votes of two deserters from the Opposition.

What followed hurt them less. The attack might have been a very formidable one, but it fell into injudicious hands. There is no manner of doubt that the Liberals have been guilty of certain manœuvres in regard to Dockyard patronage precisely akin to those for which Mr. STAFFORD was hunted to death in 1853. It is equally certain that Admiral Sir BALDWIN WALKER—the same who seized the Tuscaloosa—was sent out of the country merely in order that he might not be compelled to confess the

manner in which these manœuvres were carried out; for he was appointed while a commission was actually waiting for his evidence on that subject, and he hurried to sea in such haste as sufficiently proved his fear of being detained by that Parliamentary enquiry, which, in fact, was made but a day too late. The whole proceeding was one of the most impudent political stratagems ever perpetrated by the head of a great department of State; and there would have been good grounds for moving an address to Her Majesty to dismiss the Duke of Somerset from her councils. Nor would the leniency generally extended to political misdemeanants be here in place; for the Duke of Somerset was the chief agent in the malicious and vindictive persecution of Mr. Stafford. Well handled, the subject might have afforded the means of a very damaging attack on one of the most unpopular members of the Administration. But Mr. Ferrand, who as member for Devonport took the matter in hand, is notorious for his want of temper and self-control. He treated the question from an electioneering point of view; he made it a personal quarrel between himself and Sir Baldwin Walker; and he very foolishly dragged in the name of another officer, who had been guilty of nothing worse than a trivial indiscretion. Under these circumstances, the feeling of the House went with the absent party to the quarrel. Lord Clarence Paget aptly took advantage of this, and was aided by Sir A. Buller and Mr. Bernal Osborne; and that which might have been a discussion of great importance, clearing the character of Mr. Stafford, and bringing to deserved infamy two of the worst and most unscrupulous of political jobbers in the Naval Department, degenerated into a violent personal squabble, disgraceful not only to the actors in it, but to the House of Commons. The general result was favourable to the Ministry. Mr. Ferrand may thank his own intemperate folly for the loss of an excellent opportunity of rendering justice to the memory of a cruelly injured friend, and taking condign vengeance on his assassins.

The debate of Friday was a transparent manœuvre. Mr. Lefevre was put forward, as a friend and partisan of the Ministry, to counteract by a violent attack on the Confederates the effect of the recent discussions in which charges of gross partiality towards the North have been made and proved against Lord Russell. The only defence ever set up by the Ministers to which any attention has been vouchsafed has been this: 'We are accused, on the one hand, of straining the law, municipal and international, against the South. On the other hand, we are accused by the North of rendering to the South services altogether inconsistent with neutrality. The presumption, therefore, is that we have been honestly neutral.' It has been felt, however, that this presumption was too feeble to bear the weight of their defence. It has been apparent that, even if the facts alleged by the North were admitted, its charges would be wholly untenable—that there is not even a shadow of foundation for any complaint of unfriendly conduct towards the North; whereas even those who defend the Administration most warmly speak rather apologetically than confidently when taunted with its violations of neutrality at the expense of the South. Under these circumstances, a Ministerialist, not known as a violent Northern partisan, comes forward to accuse the Government of over-forbearance towards the Confederacy. This is exactly what they want, as an excuse for the violence and injustice of which they are conscious, and they meet the attack with a gratitude which they cannot conceal. The real character of the manœuvre was sufficiently explained by the commission of the duty of reply to the Solicitor-General. That gentleman is one of the least important and least respected members of the Government. He was lately counsel to the Admiralty; and while he held that office he gave advice to Mr. Adams in furtherance of his suit against the Government in the matter of the Alabama. To put him forward to answer an attack on the Confederate Government—to desire the legal adviser of Mr. Adams to vindicate the rightfulness of our dealings with the Alabama and her consorts, is sufficient evidence of a foregone determination that the reply shall only be a sham one, the defence wholly insincere. The announcement made by the Solicitor-General, that the Confederate Government is to be called to account for having purchased ships of British builders, was one which neither an honest lawyer nor a respectable statesman would have cared to make; and, therefore, it was properly intrusted to one who owes his professional position entirely to the scarcity of lawyers in the ranks of his party. As it was admitted, or rather contended, by the Attorney-General, in the case of the Alexandra, that the Foreign Enlistment Act had no relation to international law, and as there is no question whatever of the right of neutrals to sell and of belligerents to purchase ships, as a matter of international right, we shall be curious to see the correspondence on this subject between Lord Russell and Mr. Benjamin. In the meantime we take note of one act of humiliation and self-abasement on the part of the British Government; one more case—the worst, and let us hope the last—in which the obligations of neutrality and the honour of England have alike been trampled under foot by a British Minister in his eager servility towards the United States.

Lord R. Cecil has given notice of his intention after Easter to press a motion of which the importance can hardly be overrated. It is confessed by the Administration that they acted illegally in detaining the vessels built by Messrs. Laird until those gentlemen should give a satisfactory account of their destination; but it is urged that they did this 'on their own responsibility,' transgressing the law at their own risk for the public good, and trusting to escape from punishment by making it clear that they acted on good and sufficient grounds. This doctrine of responsibility has, as Sir Hugh Cairns observed, been made in past times to cover the worst excesses of tyranny, and is dangerous in the extreme to the security of the Constitution and the liberty of the subject. It is not likely that it will again be employed to cover outrages on individuals so gross as have been formerly committed; but, on the other hand, if once suffered by Parliament to prevail, it is likely to be much more freely and recklessly used now than in former days. For in those days Ministerial responsibility had a very serious meaning; it meant sometimes impeachment—always the peril of political ruin and permanent disgrace, if Parliament should condemn the conduct of the Executive. Now it means nothing more than the liability to be dismissed from office, which attends just as much on political errors, or on mere unpopularity, as on the gravest derelictions of duty. It is not to be tolerated that a Minister should deliberately violate the law—should lay an embargo on an important branch of trade—should seize the property of British subjects—should inflict upon them all the oppression, injury, vexation, and expense involved in a lawsuit that may last for years, and be carried from court to court—and, having done all this, should turn round and say, 'Well, I did it at my peril; if you disapprove of it, pass a vote of censure.' Is a vote of censure an adequate penalty for such an offence? Is it adequate either as deterrent or as retribution? You cannot practically punish a Minister for political crimes. Impeachment is a dead letter; criminal prosecution is impossible; costs are paid, not by the guilty party, but by the boundless purse of the nation. You have therefore no check on official misdeeds, no power of restraining the abuse of Executive authority, but by timely prevention. This check it is the constitutional duty of Parliament to apply. It is the duty of the House of Commons to declare that a penal statute shall not be strained for political purposes at the pleasure of the Executive advisers of the Crown; and the neglect of that duty would be more dangerous, and the license thereby given to abuses of power would be more disastrous, than any consequences which could possibly flow from violations of the Foreign Enlistment Act. We heartily hope that the guardians of national liberty will not be led astray from the performance of their proper functions by any considerations of policy or partiality; and that a peremptory veto will be placed upon proceedings which, if they were suffered to pass with impunity, might well be made a precedent for the most fatal invasions of the privileges which eight centuries of constitutional struggles have extorted and confirmed.

The Fear of a European War.

The glass has gone down again. The hopes which the premature announcement that Austria and Prussia had agreed to a conference, and the practical suspension of hostilities for some days, had disposed, have given place to fears of a general war. The pessimists are again in possession of public opinion, with even less right to it than the optimists had. It was absurd, no doubt, to assume that the Dano-German dispute was in a fair way of settlement because Austria and Prussia declared that they had no objection to take part in a conference whilst carrying on the war with all their might; it is still more absurd to assume, from the failure of that idle project to obtain the concurrence of other Powers, that Europe is on the verge of a general war. There is reason enough, no doubt, in the present state of Europe, for apprehension and alarm. The fact that a war is waging in which one of the parties enjoys all the sympathies, and has the strongest claim to the assistance, of France and England, may well justify an apprehension that Europe will find itself arrayed in hostile camps. But the danger is no greater now than it has been at any time since the Germans crossed the Eider; on the contrary, all the signs of these latter days point to the preservation of peace for the present.

There are two States ready and anxious to fight, but neither will venture to draw a sword without the encouragement of one of the non-German great Powers, and that encouragement no great Power is at present disposed to give. Sweden would send her army and her navy to the assistance of the Danes, if either England or France would promise to stand by her. Italy would attack Venetia if France would allow her. The English Government was willing—indeed, anxious—to concert with France, Russia, and Sweden, measures for defending the integrity of Denmark. It believed, and with good reason, that such a quadruple alliance would restrain Germany without any recourse to arms. But France and Russia have both refused that concert, partly because they do not believe that they are sufficiently interested in the integrity of Denmark and the prosperity of a dynasty closely connected with England to quarrel with Germany, and partly and mainly because they place no reliance upon the promises of the English Government. They believe that, after committing them to threats against Germany, it would find some pretext for sneaking out of its engagements, and leave them the burden of defending English interests. By itself the English Government, unless forced by some expression of popular feeling which it would be dangerous to disregard, will render no material aid to Denmark. Its will may be good, but only under some such pressure would it essay to overcome the repugnance which exists in the highest quarter to war against Germany. Nor, indeed, could it at present find any good reason to draw the sword. It has allowed Germany to invade Slesvig with a view of taking possession of that Duchy as a material guarantee for the fulfilment of Danish engagements, contenting itself with a pledge that the Treaty of London is to be maintained. Until Austria and Prussia avow their intention to set that Treaty aside, it can hardly, having acquiesced in the invasion, interfere by force of arms. The invasion of Jutland cannot be taken as a *casus belli*. The Germans cannot be expected to confine the war to Slesvig if the Danes carry it on in every part of the sea or land where they can strike a blow with advantage. To sit down before a formidable position like Düppel, and allow the Danes to use Fredericia and the whole of Jutland for the maintenance of that position, and to proceed to the destruction of German commerce, would be an act so suicidal that no sensible man could ask the allies to commit it. Denmark and Germany are at war—have been so from the moment the invaders crossed the Eider—and so long as the war lasts they will strike each other wherever they can. It would be absurd for England, after having assented to the war, to attempt to limit it, and tell the Germans they must fight with one hand tied behind them, or she will interfere on behalf of Denmark. The policy of the English Government will be to wait until Austria and Prussia proceed to deal with their conquest. If then they propose to break the engagement they made on crossing the Eider, it will be for England to interfere, by force of arms if necessary, to compel its fulfilment. Some time will elapse before that juncture arrives; and even then, if the present Government is in power, it will probably submit to any spoliation of Denmark, and any insult to England, rather than fight.

France is equally disposed to maintain peace. It is clear, from the papers recently published, that the Emperor will not go to war with Germany unless the honour and interests of France imperatively demand it. At present he does not consider that France has any imperative call to interfere. France, which boasts of having destroyed the Treaties of 1815, will not come forward as the vindicator at any cost of the Treaty of 1852, which the Emperor is of opinion in some degree violated the principle of nationalities. What she may eventually do if the German Powers propose to sever both Duchies from Denmark is another question; but it is certain that even then the Emperor would enter upon war with great reluctance. The war in Italy was a very different matter. There he had a people at his back, a great national feeling to sustain him. There were great dynastic and national interests to be advanced. The prowess of the French soldiers received a new seal; its achievements reflected a new lustre upon the second Empire. France obtained a direct territorial advantage. The possession of Savoy and Nice, valuable in itself, pushed forward French frontiers so as to command Italy. Although without any possessions in Italy, France is again triumphant in the long struggle with Germany for influence in that country. Italy is practically a satrapy of France, and the Mediterranean a French lake. A war with Germany would be quite another thing. The dangers and difficulties would be much greater, the gain in any case much smaller. All that France could gain by such a struggle would be the Rhine Provinces, and their retention would be harder than their conquest, as Germany would ever be seeking to recover them. Moreover, in such

a war the Emperor could never be secure that he might not have to face a coalition of the whole of Europe. He could place no reliance upon the alliance or even the neutrality of England. England, he knows, however angry she may now be with Germany, would look with alarm upon an extension of the French frontier, and, if she did not directly oppose it, would do so indirectly. The Emperor may resolve to save Denmark, but he certainly will not interfere upon her behalf unless the demands of the German Powers are so outrageous that acquiescence becomes impossible; and those Powers will hardly risk that danger.

The story of an alliance between Austria, Russia, and Prussia, which has excited in some quarters so much alarm, is not worthy of credit. Did, however, the alliance exist, it would furnish no ground for apprehending a general war. Such an alliance could only be a defensive one. Putting all their forces together, the three Powers could undertake no aggressive designs, and it is idle to talk of a great coalition between the Western Powers and the revolution against them. Assuredly England, which would not fight on behalf of Denmark, where her honour and interests called upon her to fight, will take no part in a revolutionary war against Austria, Prussia, and Russia. As little likely is the Emperor of the French to approve of such a crusade. But the Holy Alliance is a *canard*, resting on no better foundation than some approximation between the hitherto estranged Courts of St. Petersburg and Vienna. It is not improbable that the three Powers may have agreed upon common action against the Polish insurrection. Such an agreement was inevitable from its outbreak. The interests of all three are practically the same. Each must be anxious to destroy the Polish national sentiment; when insurrection is blazing in the territories of the one, the possessions of the other two are in danger. Austria did, indeed, try to throw upon Russia the whole burden of extinguishing the present movement, she gained political capital, and, as her co-partitioners were determined to suppress it, risked nothing. But now Austria, by her conduct towards Denmark, has lost all the sympathy of Europe, and has nothing to gain by liberal professions. What little credit she might still get is dearly purchased by the insecurity in which the manœuvres of the insurrectionary Government keep Galicia. She has therefore proclaimed the state of siege, and the next spring will probably witness a combined and vigorous movement for the extirpation of the insurrection. Western Europe will not interfere with it. The understanding certainly does not at present go beyond this agreement to cooperate in a matter of common interest. It may be extended to other subjects; in any case it cannot be regarded as threatening the peace of Europe. Its action will not be aggressive, because the allies would have nothing to gain and everything to lose by aggression. As to a regular alliance, that is out of the question. Austria and Prussia dare not venture upon it. It would render them so unpopular with their own people and country, so weak against invasion or insurrection, that the thrones of King and Emperor would not be worth a year's purchase. The enthusiasm of the Germans on behalf of Slesvig and Holstein is due in very large part to the belief that in getting rid of the London Treaty they throw off a shameful check imposed upon them by Russia; and unless the whole of the national strength effervesces in the present agitation, Austria and Prussia, which feared revolution if they set themselves against the Slesvig-Holstein mania would conjure up a more dangerous madness in renewing the Holy Alliance.

SLAVERY AND PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S PROCLAMATION.

By Hon. C. S. Morlhead, ex-Governor of Kentucky.

No. I.

A plain statement of facts in relation to slavery in the Southern States of America, in connection with the military proclamation of emancipation of President Lincoln, may tend to show how adroitly the true issues between the sections have been perverted by the North, and account in some degree for the gross misrepresentation on this subject which, with the best intentions, foreign public journals are liable to make.

Before, however, proceeding with this task, it may not be out of place to take a rapid glance at the condition of the negroes who have been brought under Federal rule.

The breath of the President's proclamation has swept like a deadly sirocco over a large portion of the once beautiful valley of the Mississippi, leaving in its track one unvarying scene of devastation and ruin. Let those who are fond of the recital of horrors far surpassing the creations of fancy read the accounts of Federal atrocities in this worse than Vandal warfare. But the wretched blacks, for whom, it is pretended, this desolation has been wrought—they, for whose liberty rivers of blood have been shed, and the hate of hell kindled in once fraternal breasts—where are they, and what has freedom done for them? General Grant answers from the banks of the Mississippi. From 'plantations stripped of everything, they have come in to us, utterly destitute, utterly ignorant. All the able-bodied among them are forced into the army as soldiers or camp servants.' The rest, 'a sable throng of women, children, and infirm persons,' are huddled along the river.

In one city, Memphis, during a space of three months, out of 4,000 there collected, 1,200 perished miserably from want and starvation. Swarming in worse than savage misery among the camps of the soldiery, an eye-witness says, 'Their presence moves all that is ribald and brutal in those camps to hatred and contempt, to outrage and abuse.' In the report of the Rev. William D. Butler, agent of the Christian commission sent to Vicksburg from the North, the most deplorable account is given of the sufferings of these poor creatures, upon whom the boon of freedom has been forced. A few extracts only can be given, but, to appreciate all the horrors he witnessed, the whole report should be read. He commences by his visit to the Missouri troops in General Sherman's corps, where, he says, 'I saw large numbers of these negroes grouped in camps and companies, in a most wretched and pitiable condition. Their only shelter was brush, pieces of old tents, quilts, and whatever else would afford them any protection. They lived upon such food as they could obtain in camps by working for soldiers, or *in other ways gratifying them.*' After the capitulation of Vicksburg and the departure of Pemberton's army on the 15th of July, 1863, he says: 'Thousands of these miserable creatures filled the vacant houses, churches, and caves. Here they crowded together, sometimes twenty or more in a single room, weary, weak and sick from their long march and abstinence, spiritless and sad, and many of them longing to be once more on *old Massa's plantation.*' On the 30th of July, 1863, he went out early to examine the premises. He says: 'The first object that attracted my attention in the rear of the church, was the tall skeleton of a negro man sitting on the ground, with his back to a post, and his head hanging down upon his breast, and his arms resting almost powerless at his side. He evidently was very sick. I raised his head a little, and asked what ailed him. "O Sir," he feebly exclaimed, "I have the di-re-a and the fever." "Have you no friends?" I asked. "Yes; my mother and sister live in that house there, and I have come out here to be cool."' He continues: 'I passed to the front, and on the stone door-sill I found another lying with a gourd filled with water at his side. As I looked at his dirty and wasted form, I thought his sufferings would be but short. I roused him a little, and he told me that he had no medicine, no bread, nothing to eat.' Further on, he says: 'I turned to enter the basement, and was met by a third negro, with swollen feet, trembling from weakness and want, asking for a little water. *All these men told me that they had been servants of officers in the Union army, and, when taken sick, were driven away.*' He visited one of the post hospitals, and he says: 'I went into the Baptist church, where a large number of negroes had taken quarters. I shall not attempt to describe the scene. I had before me as pitiable and suffering a group of humanity as was ever gathered together. We saw a poor negro who had crawled half up one of the terraces which surround the building, and was dying. The doctor remarked that he would die there, that he had crawled up there to get some medicine, and that they were frequently found dead in the shrubbery and fence corners.'

About the 1st of August, peremptory orders were issued to remove across the river 'all negroes of every age or sex, whether sick or well, who were not in some employment. About 3,000 were thus removed to the low grounds opposite Vicksburg, and there left in the woods without any shelter. . . The chaplain told me that these negroes had suffered, and were still suffering, untold want and wretchedness; that 400 had died since he took charge of them, that from 15 to 20 die daily; that sometimes they would crawl off into the woods and die, where their bodies would be found only by the stench which would arise from their decay; that rations were furnished them by the Government, but once they were five days without receiving any food, and they threatened to kill him, thinking the fault was his. He also stated that he had no tents, or shelter except brush, to shield them from the sun or storm or dews of night.' There were 2,000 at this point, 8,551 at Young's Point, on Papaw Island 2,400—in all over 16,000. 'All,' says he, 'were either sick or taking care of the sick. I saw nothing but one sad scene of misery.'

I am in possession of a letter from a gentleman of as high respectability and veracity as any in the State of Mississippi, in which he says: 'My negroes came to me and told me that they had no idea of leaving, although the Yankees had been to see them every day to persuade them to do so. The day after the Yankees left, I went out and found no living thing upon my place except one colt and numerous cats and dogs. Celia, a woman that you may have noticed about our house, had been sent to the plantation, and had a baby eight days old only when she was forced away. We have heard from them, and learn that they are very anxious to get back. Many have made their escape and returned, and give the most horrible and revolting accounts of their treatment and sufferings. I saw myself an extensive encampment in Madison parish in August last, and many women and children were lying dead, with no one to bury them. Many of the children were fly-blown, and had vermin in their mouths and eyes before they were dead. There is not a doubt but that the mortality, suffering, cruelty, and bad treatment of every sort towards these poor creatures, surpass anything in the annals of crime and suffering in modern times.'

In the emancipation proclamation, the President 'declares that all persons held as slaves in certain designated States, and parts of States, are, and hereafter shall be, free.' Are they free even in those localities where the proclamation has had full effect? On the contrary, I venture the assertion, susceptible as I know it to be of the fullest proof, that, so far as these wretched beings are concerned, a more hideous and cruel bondage has never existed on earth.

Plantations from which the white inhabitants have been driven at the point of the bayonet, are said, in official proclamations, to be '*abandoned.*' They are now called 'Government plantations,' and are rented out to greedy Yankee adventurers. All the able-bodied negro men are forced into the army. The old men, women, and children, are taken to these rented plantations, and certainly General Phelps can no longer complain that they live 'in comparative idleness and ease.' They call them free. They say they are *hired* labourers. Yes, hired! when a string of glass beads, a yard of coarse calico of gaudy colours, or a pint of whisky, will pay for a day's work. The little pittance which, by contract, they are entitled to, amounts literally to nothing. The insatiate appetite for gain of the Yankee lessee makes him look alone to the profits which may be realised from his 'sharp bargain.' He feels, and certainly manifests, no interest whatever in the hapless condition of these dependent creatures, except to wring from their thews and sinews the greatest possible amount of labour. In a letter from a reliable source it is stated that they are fed 'on unwholesome rations, the refuse of the Federal camps, dealt out to the poor unfortunates, and *for which they are liberally charged.*' The same writer says: 'The women have become corrupt in body and mind, beyond anything witnessed in the worst purlieus of large cities. Numbers of them have died and are dying from diseases previously unknown to plantation life.' In the *New York World* of February 4, 1864, it is said that 'examinations have in many cases been made into the health and well-being of the negroes on what are called Government plantations;' 'and the report showed *a most terrible mortality*, equal to that of those awful middle passages of slave ships, from our infant recollection of whose rehearsal we recoil with so much horror.' The same paper gives a few instances from this report as specimens: 'On the old Hickory plantation 413 negroes were placed on the 3rd of June, of whom 214 had died by the 11th of September. Of 300 placed on White Castle plantation, only 42 were found living on the 16th of September. On the Andliers plantation only 178 were left out of 400, and a proportionate mortality was found on the Vintress, Magnolia, Richland, and Miles Taylor plantations.' With characteristic Yankee philanthropy, the editor calls to his aid the consoling philosophical reflection that 'perhaps it is ordained by an inscrutable Providence that this unfortunate race shall be driven by an overruling fatality to reap the inevitable consequences of inferiority of race in presence of a civilisation the advantages of which they cannot share, and under the vices of which they must succumb.' If this reflection be just, God save these poor creatures from Yankee civilisation!

It is useless to enlarge this detail of horrible barbarities. Such is Republican philanthropy for the black race; such is military emancipation of the slave! Who can doubt that such emancipation is extermination?

Confederate Official Documents.

SYNOPSIS OF REPORT OF COMMISSIONER OF TAXES.

No argument could be so forcible in showing the compact organisation and the still unimpaired resources of the thirteen sovereign States which the powers of the earth persist in regarding as mere insurgents, as are the dry facts and figures contained in the papers laid before the Confederate Congress at its present session. The Report of the Secretary of the Treasury has already been published *in extenso* in this Journal (Jan. 21); but the documents accompanying this report are at least of equal importance, and permit us a more comprehensive insight into the internal economy of the Confederacy. First among these is the Report of the Commissioner of Taxes. We have seldom read an official document more strongly characterised by practical good sense and plainness of statements. A great portion of it is taken up with pointing out the deficiencies and flaws of the existing tax laws and suggestions of remedies; but the principles of the act are highly commended, and the European reader is startled right at the beginning with the statement, 'that the great body of tax-payers not only submit to the burdens cheerfully, but manifest a willingness to have them increased.' 'Notwithstanding the evil predictions of croakers and demagogues, the people have yielded a ready acquiescence everywhere,' with scarcely any, and these very inconsiderable, exceptions. The war taxes of the Confederacy are of two sorts—one in money, the other in kind. Of the latter the Commissioner speaks less confidently, as less generally popular and more easily evaded, though successfully collected everywhere, and having produced some excellent results in the provisioning of the armies.

The results of the money tax afford, indeed, a curious commentary on the boasted progress of the Federal invasion. It appears from the Commissioner's Report that during the six months ending July 1, 1863, this tax has been assessed and collected in the various States to the extent as follows:—

In Alabama, in all the collection districts, excepting only the counties of Franklin, Lawrence, and Winston. The State, therefore, still owes to the Confederate Government $141,087·47.

In Arkansas, forty-eight districts have been assessed, only eight remaining unassessed. The State still owes $151·606·03.

In Florida, all the districts assessed, leaving only the counties of Duval and Clay, which are in possession of the public enemy.

In Georgia, full assessment made in all the counties of all the districts.

Louisiana having assumed the collection of the tax, and paid in advance into the Confederate Treasury the estimated amount due by her, is found to have a balance in her favour of $75,825·61, which has been refunded.

In Mississippi, all the districts have been assessed, and the collection made by Confederate officers; but, the State

having suffered greatly by incursions of the enemy, $146,012·97 still remains due.

In North Carolina, all the counties have been assessed. Payment being assumed by the State in advance, she is entitled to a balance of $111,171·09, which has been refunded by the Confederate Treasury.

South Carolina assumed the collection of the tax through State officers, and the tax has been paid in the whole State, excepting the parishes of All Saints, St. George's, Winyon, St. Helena, St. John's Colleton, St. Andrew's, and in the parish of St. Luke's and St. James' (Santee), on behalf of which, being contiguous to the sea, and exposed to the depredations of the enemy, the Governor of the State claims exemption in the sum of $146,547·97; leaving, however, the Confederate Government still indebted to the State to the amount of $8,447·63.

In Tennessee no general apportionment of the tax has been practicable; but the State has paid on account the sum of $1,499,706·77, and the amount estimated to be still due is only $705,233·23.

From Texas, owing to the difficulty of mail communication, the accounts were not yet fully made up; but the tax had been there more than ordinarily productive, and the State had already paid into the Treasury $1,212,964·51, leaving an estimated balance due of $411,343·54.

In Virginia there are 149 counties and 11 cities, making as many collection districts, of which 97 counties and 9 cities have been assessed, leaving 52 counties and 2 cities (Alexandria and Wheeling) unassessed, owing either to disloyalty of the population, as in North-western Virginia, or to the temporary occupation of hostile armies. The State, however, has paid into the Confederate Treasury $2,125,000, leaving a balance of only $311,738·97.

The amounts severally paid by the States since the date of the Commissioner's last Report of Jan. 6, 1863, to the end of the fiscal year, July 1, 1863, will be best perceived from the subjoined Table, upon which we need offer no comments to the readers of Federal war bulletins and Federal 'progress maps.' It is clear that each of the eleven States properly comprised in the Confederacy has contributed a fair share to the revenue of the general Government, and that even those which have the most severely suffered from the war, and which are most confidently claimed by the enemy as his conquests—Louisiana and Tennessee—are not greatly, if at all, in arrears.

	$ c.
Alabama	2,000,000 00
Arkansas	400,000 00
Florida	225,374 11
Georgia	2,494,112 41
Louisiana	2,424,174 39
Mississippi	2,094,990 23
North Carolina	1,288,825 31
South Carolina	1,651,528 55
Tennessee	1,499,766 77
Texas	1,242,964 51
Virginia	2,125,000 00
	17,446,736 28

This tax is levied upon an amount of taxable property, so far as assessed by Confederate or State officers, which is classified as follows:—

	$ c.
Real estate	1,393,719,759 64
Slaves	1,480,399,656 17
Merchandise	67,521,668 54
Bank Stock	94,465,231 46
Railroad and other corporation stock	51,502,063 13
Money at interest	498,765,468 70
Cash on hand	41,300,341 88
Horses, cattle, &c.	44,563,258 26
Gold watches	7,169,290 00
Gold and silver plate	4,568,697 65
Pianos	5,474,126 00
Pleasure-carriages	16,813,670 75
Stock not returned by corporations	10,147,291 03
Sum total (excluding Tennessee, which does not appear in the classified assessments)	3,716,410,523 21
Tennessee (estimated assessment)	490,000,000 00
Non-rendered and sequestrated property	14,345,311 00
Final aggregate	4,220,755 834 21

This, for a 'local insurrection, chiefly adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico,' appears a tolerably fair showing of taxable property. And it must be remembered that the principle upon which the assessment is based, insures, as nearly as possible, the real or old values of property, and that, therefore, but slight allowance, if any, must be made for the fictitious value which some of the articles enumerated have acquired through the depreciation of the currency or the operation of the blockade.

In regard to the probable proceeds of the war tax during the current fiscal year, ending July 1, 1864, the Commissioner says:—

'Judging from the collections already made of taxes from business and occupations, it may be safely affirmed that the money tax alone (the tax in kind not computed) this year will amount to at least one hundred millions of dollars. If the law could be carried out, and full returns and collections made in the territory of the Confederate States under our control at the beginning of the year, it is believed the amount will reach $150,000,000. But even this sum, without the cooperation of a successful system of funding, will not produce such reduction in the volume of currency afloat as will reduce the price of the necessaries of life to that standard so essential to the safety of the Government and the happiness of the people. In levying taxes, therefore, two prominent objects should be sought—first to raise a certain amount of revenue, and secondly to so adjust the taxes as to make it the interest of capitalists to invest their surplus moneys in Confederate bonds or stocks; and to that end it is believed that the present rate of taxation in certain cases should be greatly increased.

MILITARY AND OTHER ESTIMATES.

Of the estimates submitted by the several Departments and their respective bureaux to the Confederate Congress, as the bases of the appropriations for the current half-year, the most interesting are those of the pay, subsistence, and clothing of the army. The Quartermaster's and Commissary's estimates are for an effective force of [illegible] men, in the classification of which [illegible] the singularly large proportion of [illegible], appropriating a sufficient number to their [illegible] not exceeding the last and second year of the war, as [illegible]

[illegible] at 40 [illegible]
[illegible] 20,000
[illegible] 60,000
[illegible] 60,000

This force, as appears from the estimates for pay, is commanded by 200 general officers.

What is most conspicuous in these estimates is the low rate at which the rations are computed, [illegible] be explained on no other supposition than that the [illegible] prices prevailing in Richmond and the [illegible] lation are far from having the [illegible] Commissary's Department [illegible] the provisioning of the army. The following is the [illegible] which the appropriations for the purpose are asked:—

Bacon	$0·40 a pound
Beef	10 "
Flour	1·3 "
Meal (maize)	9 "
Vinegar	50 a gallon
Candles	1·00 a pound
Soap	1·00 "
Sugar	1·00 "
Molasses	5·50 a gallon
Whisky	5·00 "

These prices suggest a curious fact recently mentioned by a Richmond paper, as illustrating the difference between the real and the apparent depreciation of the currency. It is stated that a foreign visitor, boarding at one of the principal hotels at that city, paid his bill in specie at the rate of 60 cents per day. The charge in currency is $8·00; before the war it was $2·50.

The soldier's daily ration, consisting of bacon or beef, flour or meal, with a small allowance of other articles to each company, is estimated at $0·74·5, a trifle less than three-quarters of a dollar; or 3s. English. Coffee is not mentioned in the estimates, from which we conclude that this part of the soldier's ration is no longer furnished to the Confederate armies. In contrast with the relatively small estimates for subsistence are those for clothing. The articles are not specified; but, from the appropriations asked for, it appears that each enlisted man of the line costs the Government for clothing about $142·00 a year. Altogether the War Department asks Congress for the following amounts, under the several heads enumerated, for the period of six months, ending June 30, 1864, inclusive:—

	$
Quartermaster-General	320,028,745
Commissary-General	57,988,000
Surgeon-General	17,020,000
Engineer Bureau	10,000,000
Ordnance Bureau	23,000,000
Nitre and Mining Bureau	9,500,000
Adjutant-General's Office	50,000
Bureau of War (Compensation of Secretary, Assistants, Clerical Force, &c.)	242,125
Contingent Fund	250,000
	438,078,870

The other departments of State, as might be expected, are less exacting in their demands upon the public purse. The estimates for the naval service are not published. The others are as follows:—

	$ c.
State Department	541,409·50
Department of Justice (Attorney-General's)	222,587·76
Treasury Department	390,200,000·00
Interest on public debt	20,000,000,000·00
Payment of principal under loan of Aug. 19, 1861, falling due July 1, 1864	1,340,200·00

The Post-Office Department, instead of asking for an appropriation, returns a net surplus of $675,048·44.

Among the detailed estimates of the clerical expenses of the Treasury Department, we observe the salaries of 159 female clerks. The War Department and its different bureaux employ as clerks invalided officers and soldiers exclusively.

Startling as these estimates of expenditure, amounting for six months to nearly $500,000,000, or at the rate nominally of about £2,000,000 sterling per annum, will appear, it may be well to remember the fact, that while the taxable property of these States, as returned in the Tax Commissioner's Report, is estimated at nearly, if not quite, its true value before the war, the expenditures of the Government are almost wholly in a depreciated currency. At the present rate of exchange, all the necessities of the Government could be met with specie at about 6 per cent., or at most 7 per cent., of the estimated amount, and with this fact in view, the expenditure will not be deemed excessive, especially when it is considered that the six months, for which we have the estimates before us, are a period of supreme effort. At prices before the war, the stock of cotton now in the Confederacy, though not equal to a single ordinary year's crop, represents £30,000,000 of gold—at present Liverpool prices about four times as much, or £120,000,000; and this, at the same rate of exchange, would represent in Confederate currency an amount many times larger than the entire indebtedness of the Confederacy and of the several States. This comparison is useful as illustrating that, however exhaustive the drain is upon the public resources, it is not so utterly disproportionate to them, as might at first glance appear.

POSTAL ROUTES AND REVENUE.

If the foregoing figures are calculated to impress the European reader with the vitality, the vast extent, and the efficient internal organisation of the Confederate States, no less impressive are the figures which exhibit the peaceable operations of the Government, and by which we may measure not only the enormous territorial extent, but the activity of social and business intercourse among the population.

It was determined by the framers of the Confederate [illegible]

[illegible] currency. If, then, the [illegible] no doubt have been [illegible] [illegible] to be in proportion to the [illegible] the considerable sum of $6,5[illegible] much larger. This [illegible] whenever the volume of the [illegible]

For this return [illegible] it with the returns for the last [illegible] ment of the United States, and the first [illegible] Confederate Government:—

Year ending:	Receipts	Expenditure	Profit	Loss
	$	$	$	$
June 30, 1860	1,517,549	4,290,249		2,772,700
(U.S. Govt.)				
June 30, 1862	1,911,189	2,924,290		1,013,101
June 30, 1863	3,337,853	2,662,804	675,084	

The Postmaster-General remarks: 'Adding the increase of receipts to the decrease of expenditure between these two years, there is an improvement of the revenue of the year which ended the 30th of June last, over those of the year which ended June 30, 1860, of $3,453,754.'

The number of post-offices in the Confederate States is 8,287. The number established during the year ending June 30, 1863, was 137, and during the same period 430 were discontinued. The Report before us does not present the number of the Confederate postal routes, but in setting forth the particulars of the contracts entered into for Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, it gives some suggestive statistics. Independently of the railroads, the number of routes in these five States is 887, and the (still not taking into account the railways) aggregate lineal length of these routes is 27,961 miles, and the aggregate number of lineal miles length of routes let to service in these States is 23,459 miles. We may judge of the extent of the railroad service by the following return of the cost per annum in these States:—

	$
Railroad service	360,105
Contract works as	352,466

We have no account of the number of letters that passed through the Post-Office; but the following return of the number of postage-stamps sold during the year shows that it must have been very large:—

2 cent stamps	557,200
5 " "	37,952,977
10 " "	10,417,700
20 " "	95,100
Total	49,023,977

The number of letters sent to the 'Dead Letter Branch,' in consequence of the postage not being prepaid, was 43,211.

Postmaster Reagan says that the service of the Trans-Mississippi Department 'has been interrupted, and irregular, but he hopes from recent arrangements 'that postal intercourse with these States will be secured with more or less regularity,' and he suggests that an officer should be employed west of the Mississippi invested with powers to conduct the postal business, his acts to be subject to the final revision and approval of the Postmaster-General. The object of this recommendation is to give greater vigour to the Trans-Mississippi service, and that under trying circumstances the subordinate officials may not be without competent direction.

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Richmond: Jan. 11, 1864.

NEW YEAR'S DAY IN THE CONFEDERACY—GENERAL MORGAN'S OVATION AT RICHMOND—THE ABOLITION OF THE SUBSTITUTE SYSTEM—A PROPOSAL TO AUGMENT THE POWER OF THE EXECUTIVE—THE PUBLIC WILLINGNESS TO MEET THE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES—THE EXTREME COLD—THREATENED VENGEANCE OF THE YANKEES—REFUSAL TO RECOGNISE GENERAL BUTLER AS COMMISSIONER OF EXCHANGE—THE WILMINGTON BLOCKADE—THE NEWLY APPOINTED ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

The old year went out and the new year came in stormily, in respect of the elements—quietly, so far as military operations were concerned—cheerily, in the social circle—anxiously, in the look-out for the future, upon which the attention of all thoughtful men is fixed. President Davis held a public reception on New Year's Day at the Executive Mansion, where large numbers of ladies and gentlemen paid their respects to His Excellency; but this apart, no official formalities marked the anniversary. The editorial columns of the daily press gave us, as usual, their retrospect of the past in phrase more or less moralising and rhetorical, and their prognostics for the coming time, in language hopeful or despondent, as was the mood of the writers. The newly-elected Governor of Virginia, General William Smith, took up the reins of State administration, which had just dropped from the hands of John Letcher, and entertained a large audience in the hall of the House of Delegates for an hour, prefatory to taking the oaths of office, by telling them how he meant to drive the State coach, please Heaven,

without upsetting it, during the next four years. And so passed New Year's Day, with a high wind, such as only Dickens could describe, blowing out of the west, and increasing in bluster and intense bitterness of cold as the first sun of eighteen hundred and sixty-four went down in bloody wrath and splendour.

The event of the last week was the arrival in Richmond of Brigadier-General John H. Morgan, the renowned Kentucky partisan, whose brilliant and various adventures have attached such distinction to his name at home and abroad. He came in a whirl of snow by the train from Danville at midnight of Thursday the 7th instant, and was escorted to the Ballard House, where cheerful fires were lighted and brimming bowls prepared in his welcome. From that moment till the present he has been undergoing the martyrdom of fame. Aldermen have waylaid him, committees have come upon him from ambuscade in the corridors of the hotel, and managers of public entertainments have rushed into his rooms with tickets to fancy-dress balls. On Friday he was escorted through the principal streets in an open carriage, with every aggravation of discomfort, attended by His Honour the Mayor and a couple of common councilmen, the thermometer being at only 14° of Fahrenheit, and a brass band blaring in his ears, to the City Hall, where His Honour the Mayor made him a speech in the open air, and everybody shivered and shouted for the space of thirty minutes; and the hero of the occasion, no doubt, wished himself, for the nonce, back in the Ohio Penitentiary. On Saturday, General Morgan, with his brother-in-law, General A. P. Hill, visited the Libby Prison, and exchanged compliments with Generals Neal Dow and Colonel Streight, guests of the Confederate States in that establishment. Yesterday, with Mrs. Morgan, he attended St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and today he has been received in due form by both Houses of the Virginia Legislature, the new Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon. Samuel Price, as President of the Senate, addressing him in that body, and H. W. Sheffey, Esq., Speaker of the House of Delegates, firing off a very pretty little oration at him *ex officio* from the Speaker's chair. General Morgan remains to be welcomed at the festive board, &c. &c. This is the first ovation that has been paid to a popular hero in the capital of the Confederacy, and if it has been just a little excessive, the fault may be pardoned for the circumstances surrounding the worthy recipient. General Morgan has been honoured with a demonstration such as was not given to Lee, Jackson, or Longstreet, crowned with the laurels of victory; but the public sympathy conspired with the public gratitude to bring it about. Setting aside the romance which hangs around the bold rider, the man of hair-breadth 'scapes, of numberless disguises, of solitary perils in the enemy's country by day and by night, and of the recent marvellous adventure in getting out of the penitentiary at Columbus, there was the ignominious treatment he received at the hands of his captors to inflame the resentment and excite the enthusiasm of our people. He who was consigned by our enemies to a felon's cell, who was made to wear the felon's dress and to undergo the felon's tonsure—he it is whom naturally enough we delight to honour. General Morgan seems to bear it all with becoming modesty. If his digestion is as little impaired by the dinners as his vanity has been stimulated by the compliments he has received, he will be none the worse for the ovation. In a few days he will proceed to Georgia to take command of his old companions in arms, who are already rallying to his call; and there is not one who will not fling the old shoe after him, and cry, Jack Morgan, God speed!

The bill abolishing substitutes in the army having passed both Houses of Congress (in the Senate there were but two votes recorded against it Mr. Orr of South Carolina, and Mr. Herschel V. Johnson of Georgia) has received the signature of the President and become a law, and the enrolling officers are already engaged in sending to the Camps of Instruction the new men who are brought by its provisions into the army. The expedition with which the measure was perfected and put in operation has prevented in great degree the escape of the class effected by it beyond the limits of the Confederacy. A stampede, however, was the immediate result, chiefly among the Jews, who had procured substitutes and fancied themselves safe to 'puy and shell' and make their 'shix hunder per shent' during the continuance of the war, and the gamblers, a lamentably numerous fraternity, who cried out with one voice against the bad faith of the Government, these purist patriots, who had never practised bad faith themselves, not they. The Jews and gamblers ran off, some to the Potomac, some to Wilmington. Enormous sums were paid by them to hackmen in this city to take them to the border. One vehicle is said to have made several trips to a point on the Rappahannock, sixty miles distant, receiving for each trip the sum of two thousand dollars. Stringent orders from the War Department, requiring all parties leaving the Confederacy to produce passports countersigned by the Secretary of War, have operated to check the hegira, and but a small number comparatively of the substitute conscripts will succeed in getting away. As a general rule, the persons on whom the new law will work the greatest amount of hardship, good citizens with families, quiet men who have passed forty years of age, have submitted to it with the best grace, and gone most willingly into camp.

A disposition has been manifested in both Houses of Congress to augment the power of the Confederate Executive to an extent that would make the President little less than an absolute dictator, armed with authority greater than that of any monarch of Europe, the Czar Alexander alone perhaps excepted. Mr. Phelan of Mississippi has offered a resolution in the senate, suspending the writ of *habeas corpus* in all cases involving service in the army; and Mr. Miles of South Carolina, the chairman of the Military Committee of the House of Representatives, has reported a Bill making a *tabula rasa* of exemptions, and subjecting all classes of the community to military duty. Among a people so jealous of their liberties as our own—a people who braved the calamities of war sooner than relinquish their inestimable birthright, a very natural alarm has been excited by propositions involving the abrogation of the writ of *habeas corpus* and the freedom of the press: for the bill of Mr. Miles in effect abrogates the freedom of the press. It would silence every press in the country by mustering editors and printers into service. The bill proposes to shift the responsibility of naming such exempts as would be indispensable to carry on the commercial, industrial, and manufacturing business of the country from the shoulders of Congress to the shoulders of the President. It would empower the President, calling to his assistance the Secretary of War, to designate the persons who shall be permitted by special detail to cultivate the soil, to drive the wheels of the factories, to do this, that, or the other work or labour necessary to the public economy. The editor, in the event of the passage of the bill, would write only by express permission of the Executive. It is not a supposable case that any President would detail an editor from service in the army to conduct a paper inimical to his administration. Indeed, it is clear that no President could do this, consistently with his sense of duty; and it is equally clear that a press whose conductors are the mere creatures of executive favour would be a tame and subservient machine, an automaton to squeak the opinions of the Government, not a fearless thinker to challenge the soundness of these opinions and to express the sentiments of the people. The bill reported from the military committee has met with able opposition, not only in the newspapers of the country (where opposition was as naturally to be expected, Mr. Miles would doubtless say, as the outcry of the silversmiths of Ephesus of old when the making of shrines for Diana was endangered), but on the floor of Congress. Mr. Staples of Virginia has protested against its passage in an earnest and well-considered speech, which I cannot but think the faithful expression of the public sentiment of Virginia; and other voices will be heard on the same side before the debate is brought to a close. The feeling against this augmentation of power in the Executive head is not to be construed as indicating any want of confidence in Jefferson Davis: it would be as deep and general if George Washington were the man who was thus to be invested with a virtual dictatorship. Mr. Davis, in the purity of his motives and the singleness of his patriotism, in the excellence of his private life and the amenity of his manners, commands the respect and affection of the Southern people; but these Southern people are unwilling to commit their liberties to the keeping of any one man, were he the wisest and best of his race.

There is no danger that the people will not sustain Congress in the most drastic measures they may adopt for the relief of the currency and the maintenance of the public credit. And yet the House of Representatives sits the greater part of its time with closed doors discussing the Report of the Currency Committee, as if they distrusted the people, and were unwilling to let it be known what schemes were under consideration. A few days will probably terminate the debate on this subject in the passage of a bill which will call in, more or less promptly, the outstanding Treasury notes, and raise by taxation money enough to meet the expenses of the war.

For a fortnight we have had the severest winter weather that is known to the climate of Virginia. The mercury has reached a depression of 8° of Fahrenheit, and ice has formed to the thickness of five inches. Snow has fallen to a greater or less depth throughout the State and in Eastern Tennessee. As a necessary consequence, active hostilities have been suspended everywhere along the extended lines of the opposing armies. At Charleston the enemy's batteries have kept up their fire upon the city at the rate of twenty-five shells a day, and upon Sumter irregularly, accomplishing very little. The rumour prevailed last week that a land attack was about to be made upon Wilmington from the direction of Newbern, and that Meade had gone thither to command the attacking column; but this is not believed, although some demonstrations of an advance from Newbern had caused a movement of Confederate troops in that direction to repel any serious attempt that might be hazarded. The Northern papers declare that Meade's purpose is to open the spring campaign by coming down on Richmond with an overwhelming force, which shall reduce its reduction to a certainty. Three large armies, led by three mighty captains, perhaps Meade, Rosecrans, and Burnside, are to approach the capital by three different routes, and having won three splendid victories, are to celebrate the indubitably final downfall of the rebellion in the pillage of the town, and the execution of the leading rebels. The three mighty captains, like the fearful Trinity of Coleridge's Eclogue Fire, Famine, and Slaughter will confer upon the measures of ruin that shall be adopted. Salt will be sown over the site of the Libby Prison. Belle Isle will be utterly wiped out, blown up, removed, every cubic foot of it, earth and granite, and the James River made to flow over the accursed spot where it stands. Such is to be the fate of Richmond. The enemy is kind to announce his intentions so long beforehand.

As I conjectured in my last letter, our Government has officially refused to recognise General Butler as Commissioner for the exchange of prisoners, *vice* General Meredith, removed by the Yankee authorities, and there has been no communication with the enemy by flag of truce since Judge Ould's letter, making this refusal known, was forwarded to Fortress Monroe, now two weeks ago. There is a rumour that Burnside has been sent to take Butler's place, in which event negotiations will probably be renewed at an early day. But nothing positive is known on the subject.

From Wilmington we have intelligence of the loss of the fine steamer 'Dare,' on her first trip to the Confederate States, with a large and valuable cargo, forced to run ashore under pressure of the blockading fleet. The continued inefficiency of the blockade, despite the addition of several large and swift Yankee steamers to the squadron, is shown, however, in the arrival at Wilmington, during the past week, of six or eight steamers from Bermuda and Nassau. The trade with these ports goes on regularly, as if no line of fire had to be passed by the daring sailors engaged in it.

The appointment of the Hon. George Davis, recently Senator in Congress from North Carolina, as Attorney-General, in the place of the Hon. Thomas H. Watts, who resigned on being elected Governor of Alabama, has given universal satisfaction to the Confederacy. Mr. Davis is not a relative of the President, as has been stated, nor had he any political association with Jefferson Davis under the old Union, having always acted with the Old Line Whig party.

The city is full of distinguished military men. Besides General Morgan, the army is represented here by Generals Buckner, John C. Breckinridge, A. P. Hill, Preston, Edward Johnson, Kemper, Hood, Quarles, and Jeb. Stuart.

LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New Orleans, Louisiana: Feb. 15, 1864.

GENERALS BANKS AND GRANT SHELVED FOR POLITICAL REASONS — GENERAL SHERMAN AS A MILITARY COMMANDER — THE PROBABLE OBJECT OF HIS MOVEMENTS—THE REINFORCEMENT OF THE CONFEDERATE ARMIES THE CONSCRIPTION BILL —GENERAL BRAGG IN WESTERN LOUISIANA. THE NAVIGATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI, AND THE PARTISAN RANGERS —NORTH CAROLINA —A NORTHERN JOURNAL ON FEDERAL ATROCITIES THE SITUATION IN TEXAS.

Notwithstanding all the parade of apparent preparation, it is now very generally understood that the land forces in this Department will figure but little, if at all, in the movement upon Mobile. Knowing well the strength of the army in the Gulf Department, and the vast extent of territory it is expected to hold, I expressed the opinion several weeks ago that General Banks was in no condition to undertake any movement seriously threatening Mobile. Since then, his chances of figuring in the campaign are much less flattering, from which we may conclude that the general's vanity and the politician's aspirations have received a mortifying blow. The goal of Banks's ambition is the 'White House,' and for that reason the Administration would not lend itself to the strengthening of his claims to the nomination by intrusting him with the conduct of the campaign, and the materiel and men necessary for its successful prosecution; for were he to succeed, he would surely overtop both Chase and Lincoln in his claims to the nomination. Party politics and the rivalry of Presidential aspirants are controlling questions with the Federal Government in the conduct of the war; and it is owing to such considerations as these that Banks is now shelved, and Grant is forced into comparative inaction, his army being very materially weakened by the withdrawal of troops for the campaign just opened, under General Sherman, in the State of Mississippi. Sherman is a brave, but a blundering and unfortunate old soldier, who drives right on, regardless of consequences, to victory or disastrous defeat. He is a soldier of undoubted pugnacity, scientific acquirements, and fair tactical skill; but the most unfortunate, blundering, headlong, and headstrong strategist that ever set squadron in the field. In his attempt to storm Haynes' Bluff last year, he led his men into a slaughter-pen, where they were literally shot down by hundreds by the three Confederate regiments who held the position under that skilful young general, S. D. Lee. In the late battles near Chattanooga, he was thrice repulsed, with fearful loss, and still he led his corps to the fourth attack, till his columns, broken and scattered and panic-stricken, were chased down the mountains, and driven helter-skelter across the river. I doubt not he would have rallied his men, and led them once more to the slaughter, had not the Confederates destroyed his pontoon bridges. And to such a leader is intrusted the campaign which is thought to have for its object the capture of Mobile. Sherman is not a politician, so the rival Presidential aspirants have no fears that even so important a military achievement as the capture of Mobile would lead his thoughts to political honours, but with Banks or Grant the result would be far otherwise.

The movement of troops in Mississippi under Sherman, begun about the 1st inst., does not appear to be aimed directly against Mobile, but rather to seize and occupy important strategic positions on the line of the Alabama and Sombigbee rivers, say Selma and Montgomery. With these commanding positions in their possession, and the forts and batteries in the harbour being silenced or passed by Farragut's fleet, the enemy, in his fervid imagination, unhesitatingly concludes that Mobile would fall without a blow. To say nothing of the resistance the Confederates are prepared to offer, the natural difficulties which Sherman would have to overcome in a march across the State of Mississippi, and thence to Selma and Montgomery in the very heart of Alabama, would entail such an amount of suffering, privations, and hardships upon his troops as would leave him but the remnant of an army.

My own opinion is that Sherman's movement is intended as a grand feint to draw troops from Northern Georgia for the defence of Mobile, so that Grant may be able to give further succour to Foster at Knoxville, now sorely pressed by Longstreet, while he still retains sufficient force to move upon Joe Johnston's army. But, whatever may be Sherman's objective point, he is now certainly across the Big Black River with a large force, and is doubtless by this time in Jackson, the capital of Mississippi—that is, if General Polk did not attempt to hold that place. Even should he attempt nothing more, if his force be large enough, Sherman will compel General Polk to contract his lines, so as to cover Mobile more effectively, whether threatened direct or by the line of the Sombigbee River. But this contracting of his lines will not, in effect, involve the abandonment of any considerable portion of the State of Mississippi; for the large and very effective force of Confederate cavalry in that State, under the command of General S. D. Lee, will be amply able to hold in check and punish any reconnoitring, marauding, or foraging columns of the enemy. As yet it is difficult to decide whether Sherman's movement be a feint or the opening of a regularly planned campaign. At all events, I can assert with confidence, from my knowledge of what is going on within the Confederate lines, that, whether it be a feint or an offensive movement, it can neither deceive the Confederates, nor find them unprepared for the shock of arms. The armies of Lee, Johnston, Longstreet, and Polk, are being strengthened to a degree even many of the most sanguine do not dream of, and the Federal generals will soon be startled from their dreams of successful invasion, and their bloody conquests be snatched from them even while they meditate 'the last blow to the expiring rebellion.' I know of that whereof I write. The sole business of the Confederate States just now is war, and it is cheering to know that both Government and people are bending all their energies for the tug of war, giving assurance to the observer that this year is destined to witness a series of brilliant and decisive victories for the Confederate arms. There is a kind of sublimity in the quiet earnestness with which the Southern people are preparing for the coming struggle, while they appreciate to its full value the cost and the consequences of victory or defeat. Their preparations are not confined simply to raising of new levies of troops, but (as I am informed by gentlemen from across the lines, and as I read in Confederate journals) the whole territory is, as it were, laid out into Commissary, Quartermaster, Ordnance, Recruiting, &c., Departments, and the citizens detailed for service in these several sections. In a word, the armies are being rapidly augmented to the desired strength, and the whole resources of the country organised for a decisive campaign. The Congress, too, has at length consented to relieve the army of all work on fortifications, Government workshops, &c., by detailing negroes for such service. On the 1st inst. the House of Representatives passed a Bill which provides that all male free negroes between the ages of eighteen and fifty be held liable to perform duty in the army, in the way of work on fortifications, Government works, and hospitals, and receive rations, clothing, and eleven dollars per month. The Secretary of War is authorised to employ 20,000 slaves, if necessary, and furnish rations and clothing, and pay their owners eleven dollars a month, and pay for the loss of slaves while so employed, and may impress if unable to procure them otherwise. The Bill authorises the impressment of not more than one in every five male slaves, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, to be taken from one owner. Free negroes are to be first conscribed, and then slaves impressed to make up any deficiency. Those free under the Treaty of Paris of 1803, and with Spain of 1819, are not liable under this Act.

On the 29th ult., the Senate removed the injunction of secresy from the Military Bill passed by that body on the 16th of the same month. It provides that from its passage all white residents of the Confederate States between eighteen and forty-five shall be in the service during the war, and between forty-five and fifty-five shall enrol within such time as the President shall prescribe, and all failing to enrol shall be

conscribed into the army in the field. All details for provost and hospital guards, the service of the Quartermaster, Commissary, and Nitre Bureaus, agents, clerks, &c., shall be taken from those between forty-five and fifty-five now in the service, or below the age of forty-five and unfit for field service. All exemption laws are repealed, except as regards mail contractors, and the following provisions are substituted:—

All persons unfit for service; members and officers of Congress and State Legislatures, and such officers as the President or the Governors of States shall declare necessary to administer the Government; ministers authorised to preach on the 10th of April, 1862; one editor of each newspaper published on the 10th of April, 1862, and which has been regularly published, and of which he has been editor ever since, and printers; one apothecary to each store engaged at that time, and regularly engaged since; physicians over thirty-five years of age in regular practice for seven years; teachers continuously engaged for two years; one overseer on each farm of 20 field hands, the sole property of minors, insane persons, femmes sole, or persons in the service, provided such overseer has been so employed since the 10th of April, 1862, and if there be no white man able to discharge the same duties and not liable to service; one person under each Government contract, with certain restrictions. Any quartermaster or commissary not in the field, provost-marshal, nitre or enrolling officer, who shall employ any one liable to service between the ages of eighteen and forty-five shall be cashiered. These are the principal features of the bill as passed by the Senate. It is still under consideration in secret session in the House. What changes have been made in it are not known.

The Congress has also passed a Bill providing a home for veterans, a Confederate Hôtel des Invalides.

There is a strong probability of the Confederate forces west of the river, especially those in Western Louisiana, undertaking some important movements very soon. General Bragg is now in command over them, but whether he relieves General Kirby Smith, who commands the entire Trans-Mississippi Department, or his jurisdiction extends no farther than Western Louisiana, does not yet appear. It is said that Kirby Smith goes to East Tennessee to relieve Longstreet, who is to take a special and important command in Virginia. If General Smith comes east, of course Bragg succeeds him. The latter has not been among the most fortunate of the Confederate generals, but his great and many merits as a commander cannot be denied, and his appointment to the Trans-Mississippi Department I think a good one. He has had full time to review the past; and let us hope that, profiting by his experience, and being inspired with a new zeal while fighting on the soil of his own State, and almost within sight of his desolated home, he may retrieve his ill fortune, and redeem the Department. On several occasions, both before and since the General crossed, large supplies of arms and all kinds of military stores have been shipped to the west bank of the river, without let or hindrance from the Federal gunboats or garrisons. Since the opening of the present month, the Confederates have, in fact, had things pretty much their own way on the Mississippi. Their light field batteries, with which they attack the passing transport or gunboat, seem to be ubiquitous, and have inflicted great damage. The Gilman has been destroyed, the Lillie Martin captured and taken up the Arkansas river, and the Arago, Freestone, Shreveport, Sir William Wallace, and other steamboats have been fired upon and more or less damaged, and with loss of life in some instances.

All this is the work of the Partisan Rangers, who have also captured Island No. 60, with all the negroes, agents, stock, stores, &c., in the 'Government plantation' on that island. Fort Pillow, Hickman, and several other points on the river have been occupied by this dashing, restless, and enterprising body of soldiery. And yet President Lincoln says the Mississippi travels unvexed to the sea. He ought to ask the opinion of the steamboat captains on that point. If these small bands of Partisan Rangers can thus defy the armies on the river and Admiral Porter's great naval flotilla, how will it be when General Bragg comes in to effect certain well-matured plans of his? Do not be surprised if you should shortly hear of another Vicksburg or Port Hudson on the Mississippi. And speaking of Port Hudson reminds me of the fact that the garrison at that place is still confined to its ditches. I have it, on Federal authority, that the pickets dare not go from under cover of the guns, or they would surely be 'gobbled' by the Confederate cavalry, who are constantly in sight, and who may be almost said to have invested the place. The same is true of Baton Rouge. All this is very mortifying, especially at the present time, when it is so desirable to extend the Federal lines, and drive or bribe those brought within them to the ballot-box on the 22nd inst. But it cannot be helped. The conquest of these 'rebellious States' is a slow business—so slow, indeed, that, were it not for his fortifications and the presence of the navy, Banks could not hold his territory one week.

I perceive in the Northern press a persistent effort to produce the impression that North Carolina is fast becoming alienated from the Confederate Government. Their support of the war and the steady adherence of her public men give the lie to this slander. Not one North Carolinian of the least prominence has advocated the tender of any terms to the North save those of absolute independence. Even the *Raleigh Standard*, from which the Northern press is so fond of quoting, scornfully repudiates Mr. Lincoln's 'Amnesty Proclamation.' The repudiation not happening to be a sharp criticism upon the Richmond Administration, the Northern editors entirely overlooked it in their clippings from Southern journals; so, concluding it has not come under your eye, I append the article from Holden's paper, the *Raleigh Standard*:—

'We publish to-day that portion of Mr. Lincoln's message which relates to the Confederate States. . . . Without entering into any argument in reply to any portion of this document, we say that if "the rebellion" were in the condition which Mr. Lincoln claims, which we by no means admit, and if our people were reduced to the painful necessity of reconstructing the old Government, the terms of such reconstruction, as indicated by the oath proposed, would be exceedingly repugnant to a high-spirited and gallant people. Terms of pardon based on an oath to support certain acts of the Federal Congress relating to slaves strike us as strange and absurd. Terms might be imposed with equal reason based on the support of any other law. This, it seems to us, would be an abuse of the pardoning power, even conceding, as we do not, that we are rebels, and asking pardon.

'Again, the assumption that *one-tenth* of the people of a State may shape the action of the State on a question so vital in its character, is opposed to the fundamental principle of the right of a majority to govern, and would, if carried into effect, lead to civil war among ourselves. We tell Mr. Lincoln that the people of North Carolina may be overrun and physically subdued, but their honour and their proud port as freemen they can never sacrifice. They will take no oaths which their *State*, in Convention assembled, does not require them to take; and whatever may happen, North Carolina will act as a *State* by a majority of her people, and thus shape her own destiny. Her people would not rally round a *tenth* to do anything. North Carolina may be forced to walk through the valley of humiliation, but she would do it in her own proud integrity, with her garments unstained save by the blood of those who, presuming on their physical might, would dishonour and degrade her.'

As we are on the Old North State, let me quote for you the opinion of a North-western journal, the *Chicago* (Ill.) *Times*, upon the recent Federal negro raid into that State. It was ordered by General Butler, and was wholly worthy of that 'tyrant without courage, and coward without shame.' This criticism of a journal published in a 'loyal State' is more damaging than anything which could be said by the Southern press:—

'THE ATROCITIES OF THE LATE RAID IN NORTH CAROLINA.

'Taking the Northern and Southern accounts of the late raid of General Wild into North Carolina, and deducting a fair percentage from both in order to get rid of abolition and secession, bombast and exaggeration, we are able to arrive at the truth in the case, and also to learn several valuable lessons relative to our new allies. In the first place, the lengthy and particular account furnished by a New York paper does not show that the expedition was projected against any organised enemy, but, rather, that it had for its object the testing of the endurance and other qualities of the negro troops.

'If we take no other evidence than that furnished by the *New York Times*, we cannot resist the conclusion that the whole affair was a disgrace to the age in which it occurred. When we add to this the accounts given by the Southern papers, it assumes a character only equalled by the atrocities charged against the Russians in their Polish dominions.

'From the *Times*' account we gather, in brief, that private houses were visited, ransacked, and plundered at discretion, by these sooty devils. The correspondent relates, with evident gusto, how white women went down on their knees to the thick-lipped, greasy blacks, and prayed for protection for themselves and their little ones; and how delicate white ladies were compelled to go to their kitchens and cook for the woolly-headed gorillas who chattered and threatened on every side.

'To the shoddy-abolitionism of the North—to the abolition plebeians whose hatred of the South and Southern institutions grows out of that jealousy which vulgarity always entertains towards refinement—this spectacle of delicate white women being forced at the point of the bayonet to perform menial offices for a mob of sweltering, offensive negroes, is one affording unmixed delight. To them nothing on earth could be more replete with enjoyment than the sight of shrinking, refined, delicate young ladies, and pale, anxious mothers, driven about, threatened, and insulted by armed negroes. They gloat over such affairs, as the *canaille* of France in revolutionary days gloated over the indignities committed upon some member of the hated *noblesse* at the prison or guillotine.

'We do not learn that there was any organised force to call out this expedition. There was simply a desire to inure the negroes to war by instructing them in marching, in insulting slaveholders' wives, and in robbing slaveholders' houses, henroosts, and plantations. One Confederate soldier was captured, and, for no assigned reason, hung; hence, we suppose, it was done simply to teach the negroes a lesson, and show them how to serve Confederates hereafter when they should succeed in catching them.'

By way of Mobile we have late intelligence from Texas, under date of Houston, January 11, viâ Jackson, Mississippi, January 29. The Indians, armed and equipped and hounded on by Yankee emissaries, have made a bloody raid in Cook County. They killed some fifteen of the inhabitants, mostly women and old men, and stole a large amount of stock.

'Brigadier-General and Military Governor' Hamilton, on his visit to Brownsville in January last, crossed over to Matamoros, where he was publicly received by Governor Serna and Colonel Cortina, the latter of whom, as I have already informed you, has driven out the former, and now rules in his stead. The 'Governor' made a speech at the banquet given in his honour, in which he declared that, in case the French should advance upon Matamoros, the Yankees would help the Mexicans to 'wipe them out.' Fine talk this for a 'governor' without a government, a general without a command! This Lincoln satrap has since returned to New Orleans, where he passes most of his hours in a state of intoxication. He might make Brownsville, or any one of the sand islands on the coast in Federal possession, his seat of government, but doubtless the Federal officers in command would not tolerate his presence among them. At the rate the occupation of Texas is progressing, it will be many a day and many a year before Jack Hamilton is installed at Austin, the capital of the State. The intelligence from Houston is to the following effect respecting military affairs:—No engagement, scarcely a skirmish, has occurred on our coast since the fall of Fort Esperanza at Pass Cavallo; the health and spirit of our troops are good; the organisation of the army is thorough; many of the regiments number from 800 to 1,100 men, and veteran officers, from lieutenants to general, are in command in each brigade. The 'Amnesty Proclamation' of Lincoln excites hardly a passing thought. It is not regarded as even of enough importance to be worth laughing at. In a word, Texas is all right. The enemy has in two months taken no point that was regarded as defensible or intended to be defended, and they will not attempt to do so until largely reinforced. The people have looked the emergency squarely in the face, and they are determined to fight it out, no matter against what odds or under what difficulties. Texas will not succumb, even though other States in the Confederacy should be overwhelmed. About four hundred Federal prisoners captured in Texas and Western Louisiana have been exchanged at Vermillionville, Louisiana; and several hundred more remain in Texas, as Banks has no Confederate prisoners to exchange for them.

☞In the above you have the substance of the latest news from Texas. The latest arrivals of United States transports from the points in Federal possession' announce no change in the situation. As I have repeatedly said, the Federals dare not advance into the interior without large reinforcements—much larger, indeed, than there is any prospect of their receiving within the next twelve months. Meantime, the army of Texas and its gallant and enterprising leader, General Magruder, are chafing under their forced inaction; and, if the enemy does not advance and give them battle, I feel assured Magruder will strike a crushing blow where the enemy least expect it. That general, it is well known, is too full of resources and too enterprising to sit down with an army of some 20,000 men in front of the few Federal posts on the coast, while other points held by the enemy elsewhere are so invitingly open to attack. Indeed, the Federal forces in Texas may be regarded as so many men *hors de combat*. They can do nothing where they are, except watch the progress of events along the Rio Grande frontier; and doubtless, but for that and the consequent loss of prestige involved in the abandonment of points occupied with such a flourish of trumpets, the whole force would be brought back to New Orleans, where they are much needed.

Were these forces now here, Banks might be able to co-operate very effectively in the much talked-of movement upon Mobile. As it is, it taxes his utmost strength to hold his lines in this State. Several regiments, whose term of service has expired, have left for home on furlough, it is said, after having 're-enlisted as veteran volunteers.'

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York: Feb. 24, 1864.

GENERAL SHERMAN'S MOVEMENTS—THE FLORIDA EXPEDITION AND THE MISSION OF MR. LINCOLN'S PRIVATE SECRETARY—MR. LINCOLN'S ELECTIONEERING TACTICS—THE POWERS CONFERRED ON HIM BY THE POPULAR PASSIONS OF THE NORTH—THE POLITICAL DIVISION OF THE STATES—THE SPLIT IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY—THE CANDIDATURE OF MR. CHASE—THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION—THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

The whole interest of military affairs is now transferred to the South-west. The Federal expedition under General Sherman, said to be twenty-five to thirty thousand strong, has crossed the State of Mississippi to the line of the Mobile and Ohio railroad, a distance of one hundred and forty miles, and was at the latest accounts, which we get from Confederate sources, at Quitman, a station on that road, fifteen miles below Meridan, the point of junction. The distance by railroad from Quitman to Mobile is 109 miles. The fleet of Commodore Farragut had made a demonstration against the harbour defences of Mobile Bay, but without success. It is inferred from this, that an immediate attack on Mobile is intended by this land force descending the railroad, with a combined assault on the water point. Such is the opinion of the War Department at Richmond, which has issued a notice for non-combatants to quit the city, to avoid the threatened attack. But it is by no means certain that the expedition means to reach Mobile now, by that route. It may continue to advance eastwardly direct to the Alabama river, and by passing Selwa and Montgomery, operate against Atalanta in that direction. Sherman's move is a very bold, and has been a very rapid one. It may prove to have been a perilous one. The Confederates are in force above him, on the Mobile road, and have closed upon his rear toward Jackson, thus cutting off his connexions there. Indeed, it is said that he destroyed the roads and bridges behind him so as to prevent the junction of the Confederates, until he should have advanced beyond their power to check him. The position is a very critical one, and only great success can excuse it.

There is another batch of rumours from East Tennessee, that the Confederates are in motion in large force. Nothing new on the Potomac or at Charleston. The bulk of the army which was before Charleston has been sent into Florida on one of Mr. Lincoln's campaigns, to see to the getting up of a spurious State, to give Mr. Lincoln its votes at the election in November.

Accompanying this army, sent to take possession of a barren and undefended peninsula, was Mr. John Hay, private secretary to Mr. Lincoln, made an assistant adjutant-general of the army for the purpose. His mission was, as was announced in Federal orders from the head-quarters of the army, to extend to the citizens of the State of Florida the benefits of the Federal proclamation of awards, by offering to their signature the oath therein prescribed. This is what is called the 'iron-clad' oath of allegiance to the United States, and to all the measures of the Administration and Congress since the beginning of the war. When a thousand of them are collected, the process, which General Banks has carried through in Louisiana, by the election ordered to take place there on the 22nd, will be applied to Florida; and the army of 10,000 men, sent into Florida, will have accomplished what Mr. Lincoln intended.

It is said from Warbylow, that the whole expedition, involving the withdrawal of the force from before Charleston, and its transfer to the Florida peninsula, was executed, under an order by Mr. Lincoln, to the commanding general in the Department, without the knowledge of the Secretary of War or the General-in-Chief at Washington. This would scarcely be credited but through the testimony of published reports of the military operations of last year, that Mr. Lincoln continually interfered, during the campaign in Virginia last year, to alter the plans of the generals in command, and order and counter-order movements of large bodies of the army without consulting them. It is therefore not unlikely that he assumed to march these troops into Florida on a campaign, for the bloodless acquisition of a State for his own political profit.

Arkansas, Louisiana, and Florida are now shaped for reconstruction—if not yet re-constructed—after the Lincoln pattern. A small minority of the population, in a small portion of these States, have qualified themselves by hard swearing, under the pressure of a military force, devoted to Mr. Lincoln, to be received into the Union as States, and counted in the presidental election.

These are bold moves towards that re-appointment of himself as President, for which his adversaries have charged that Mr. Lincoln has been steadily labouring during the past two years. The national insanity for crushing out the Southern struggle for independence, with overwhelming forces, at all costs, helped him to formidable powers, which he has used with great dexterity, and thus far with signal success, to make himself the centre of an irresistible political influence, as well as the possessor of unlimited executive authority. Congress and the people gave him all the resources of the nation in money and men, and finally surrendered to him despotic power over their own liberties. They furnished him with immense armies, which he has carefully weeded of the popular chiefs who might have opposed his will, and converted into an enormous electioneering machine devoted to his service. These armies he has employed everywhere in suppressing all discontent with the measures of his Government as disloyalty to the Union, and in identifying support of himself with the popular idea of nationality and patriotism. He has overawed elections in some places by the presence of his troops, and carried the elections in several doubtful States by squads of soldiers, detached for the purpose of voting there on the side of the Administration, while its opponents were held back or severely punished for appearing at the polls; and general orders of congratulation were issued from military head-quarters on the result of a State election as for a victory in battle. The Border States were entered by Federal troops, their election laws set aside, the polls occupied by the military, and the adversaries of the Administration driven away by military force, or by such edicts as only permitted its partisans to vote.

Two fierce popular passions concurred in the heaping of

these and other enormous powers upon the President, and in sustaining him in the most despotic use of them without remonstrance. The whole North was carried away in a transport of rage and revenge into an unrelenting purpose to force back the South under their rule, and took no heed of cost or consequences. They were ready to bestow everything and excuse everything, and sacrifice everything, to attain this object. The republican party, in power for the first time, was eager to use the Government to keep down their opponents, and to make them odious by identifying them with the cause of the public enemy; a device which succeeded in seducing many into allies by these arts, and turning others into silence by their terrors.

All this went smoothly for the President's desire for re-election—because it conferred on him such powers that he might reasonably calculate upon dictating a re-nomination—if a nomination was desirable, or make himself a candidate by popular acclamation, or ensure his own election by Congress, if the conflicting claims of rival individuals should prevent a choice by the Electoral Colleges, and the election should be sent to the House of Representatives, where it must be decided by States votes as units.

The reconstructive scheme going on in the South-west is part of this Presidential policy for the election. The number of States represented in the House of Representatives, of this Congress, upon which the election of President, in the contingency of a non-election by the colleges, would devolve, is now twenty-five, including the spurious State of West Virginia, recently created, on the reception of which there would be a serious question raised, if the decision should affect the result of the election. Of these twenty-five, the political opponents of the Administration control only four, New York, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Two, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, are equally divided, and might be expected to vote blanks. There are, therefore, nine new states in Congress, which are expected to have votes for a president of the same political party as Mr. Lincoln. I include the border state of Kentucky, because its members were chosen under the control of General Burnside's army. Several of the members are, however, discontented with Mr. Lincoln and his party, and might, perhaps, be set down as uncertain. Eighteen, therefore, is the fixed vote for a republican for President, and the whole of the eighteen will be necessary to effect an election. The full complement of States, including West Virginia, is thirty-five – that is, on the assumption that the insurrectionary States are still constitutionally in the Union, and, whether 'reconstructed' or not, are to be counted. The constitutional majority is eighteen, and that is precisely the number of the unequivocally republican states, which may, nevertheless, be divided in their presidential preferences. Mr. Lincoln is, by computation—the present computation—reasonably sure of a greater part of these. It is easily to be perceived that he can control the position, and dictate his own re-election if he succeed in increasing the number of loyal States, represented in Congress, by adding to them delegations from insurrectionary States, 'reconstructed' so as to be pledged, and oath-bound, to make their support for him sure.

Since these reconstructive schemes of Mr. Lincoln have taken so unmistaken a shape of personal politics, there is a great deal of bitterness manifested among the most devoted of the adherents of his war policy, and within a few days, the signs of a revolt within the party have become glaring. The movements of his personal followers to obtain nominations for him from State, legislative, and other bodies outside of the organisation of the party, have stimulated a large class of men, of great political influence, supported by powerful party organs, to bring forward other candidates, and to require the regular endorsement of the usual party convention, at which they hope to supersede Mr. Lincoln with a new candidate. This class of malcontents look to Mr. Chase, the Secretary of the Treasury, as their candidate, and an organisation at Washington City already prepared to advance his interests has come before the public with a circular announcing their preference of Mr. Chase to Mr. Lincoln, and their purpose to urge his name before the Convention. The friends of Mr. Chase carry on the movement in a temper of some bitterness against the efforts of the President to renominate himself, and reflect, as well on the corruptness of the Administration as on the lack of sincerity and thoroughness of the President in the final carrying out of the wholesale policy of subjugation and extermination towards the Southern people into which it is charged, that he has been reluctantly forced by the more unquestionable radicalism of which Mr. Chase is presented as the type.

The effect of the Chase circular at Washington has been to create intense political excitement. It is signed by a United States senator as chairman of the Chase organisation, and as soon as issued produced a fluency of rumours that the Cabinet of Mr. Lincoln was to be immediately dissolved by the retirement of Mr. Chase—their conflict of position as rival candidates making it impossible for them to act together in harmony. At all events it is made certain that there is a conflict; and whether it displays itself or not in the breaking up of the Cabinet immediately, it is impossible an Administration can continue together with two Presidential candidates struggling to use the various powers of the Government in opposite directions, each for his own profit.

It may be thought desirable by Mr. Lincoln to have under his own control all the immense influence of the Treasury department. Some of Mr. Chase's interested admirers might fall off from power, if he should lose his office, and with it the power to be so essentially useful as he has been to his friends. But there is another aspect of the question in which the loss of his office may be a gain. Thus far, the management of the finances of the Government, by Mr. Chase, has been, in the popular judgment, a great success. It has been received as the indispensable duty of every 'loyal' man to aid him, to exalt his administration, and to give him the glory of having carried on the greatest war of modern times, without abating seriously the prosperity of the country. Thinking men know this to be a huge imposture, and anticipate the day when the crash of credit will come, and the whole fabric of fictitious prosperity collapse with frightful ruin. It will be lucky for Mr. Chase if he shall be out of office when the catastrophe occurs, and his friends be able to charge all the calamities of the country to his withdrawal from the Treasury department. This most 'thinking people,' as Cobbett used sarcastically to call the English, when they were running a similar race of fictitious prosperity under Bank suspensions, will be made to believe that Mr. Chase could have carried them on his shoulders, safe to land through the sea of greenbacks.

The National Republican Committee appointed by the Chicago Convention of 1860, re-assembled at Washington on Monday, and fixed upon the 7th of June for the holding of a Republican National Convention, at Baltimore, for the nomination of candidates for President and Vice-President. This is thought to be the beginning of a series of efforts to check and defeat the re-nomination of Mr. Lincoln. The most significant action bearing on that subject was the adoption of a resolution by which the delegates are to be allowed seats, except from States represented, in the present Congress. This shuts out the delegations which were to be sent from the 'reconstructed' States, Louisiana, Florida, Arkansas, until that subject is definitively determined by the action of Congress on the credentials presented; and it is inferred that the mere admission of representatives will not be sufficient without a formal recognition of the new status by both Houses of Congress. The Lincoln programme of spurious representation in the Convention is, therefore, in all probability suspended until after the nomination is made in June.

I give you the outlines of the position of this Presidential question as it stands now, on the side of the party in power, which thinks itself strong enough to divide and contend afterwards, one franchise with the other, for the mastery of the Government, without much apprehension that its divisions will let in the opposite party. I am not sure that they are not entirely right in that estimate. The Democratic party is utterly demoralised. There is nothing of vitality left in it by which it could be galvanised into life, for a spirited and successful campaign. Its only hope for power is in the nomination of General M'Clellan on the war platform, with the propitiation of the most rampant republicanism, by conceding that which the administration has done—unconstitutional and wrong against the social order, prosperity, and property of the South, as an accomplished fact; and that the mission of Conservatism is to rest upon that basis, and build up a new Union by force on a foundation which is laid in the ruins of the Constitution, and cemented by the unatoned blood and sacrifices of seven or eight millions of an oppressed nationality.

The revolt against Lincoln is a revolt against the suspicion of moderation. It is shocking evidence of the ferocious temper which this war has engendered among the people of the North, that there should be radicalism so bloody and exterminating, that the policy of Mr. Lincoln shall be held up in contrast by them to the rebuke of the people as too mild and merciful for the demands of the crisis.

It would not surprise me, if the conflict gets doubtful, to find Mr. Chase giving way, always for the good of the cause, on assurances that his policy will be vigorously adopted, and with such assurances for the future as will secure him any position to which he may aspire. When the feeble breath of an old man of eighty-five years goes out, Mr. Chase may be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL & COMMERCIAL.

Wednesday Evening, March 10.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

Since the 4th of the month, the Money Market has been in a very quiet state. The pressure then experienced from the payments of the 3rd and 4th falling so closely together, for the moment occasioned a strain that was little expected. It was, nevertheless, felt that it would not be continuous, and therefore the change to comparative ease has not produced surprise. Every now and then a temporary fright is created by a large withdrawal for Brazil or Egypt to meet cotton indebtedness. Still, as the influx of gold from America and Australia is making steady progress, it is not probable the Bank Directors will immediately move upwards. So far as can be perceived, there will be about an average level in the value of money for the next few weeks; and though it is believed in some quarters we may once more touch 5 per cent., this view is not generally entertained by those who watch the strides making in the export trade of the country. It is satisfactory to know that the latest Indian and Chinese exchanges manifest steadiness, and that nearly 200,000*l*. in gold is *en route* for London and Liverpool. While the demand for silver will thus be kept under, we shall have also additional supplies of the metal to assist in the material development of business. The Bank minimum continuing 6 per cent., the Lombard Street houses are charging $5\frac{1}{4}$ and $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Any symptoms of stringency are not likely to present themselves, unless the mania for new companies should expand. The little success that has attended recent introductions, save in exceptional instances, will not warrant any great further movement in the same direction. On the Stock Exchange the supply of capital has become so abundant that the terms for short loans do not exceed 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

Although the bullion operations this week do not present quite so favourable an aspect as for some time past, still there is nothing to cause any uneasiness. The amount of gold sent into the Bank, including 30,000*l*. this afternoon, has been 285,000*l*.; but, on the other hand, there have been withdrawals to the extent of 411,000*l*., of which 95,000*l*. was in sovereigns for Alexandria, and 316,000*l*. for the Brazils. The arrivals of specie have also been rather limited, being only 87,184*l*.; of which 64,300*l*. was from New York, 5,020*l*. from the Brazils, and 18,164*l*. from Geelong. The Ripon steamer took out 242,198*l*., of which 27,643*l*. was in gold and 211,555*l*. in silver. For Alexandria the amount was 20,300*l*.; Point de Galle, 25,250*l*.; India, 83,298*l*.; and China and the Straits, 113,350*l*. The Magdalena steamer will take out to the Brazils 324,000*l*. in gold, and 20,000*l*. in silver. The silver market has been rather more animated, in consequence of the demand for the East; but bar silver being rather scarce, owing to the absence of important remittances by the last mail, the price has remained very firm at $61\frac{1}{2}$*d*. per oz. Mexican dollars have also been more enquired after, but there having been only a short supply on hand they realised $64\frac{1}{4}$*d*., an advance of $1\frac{1}{4}$*d*. per oz. compared with the previous official price. There have, however, been some sales at intermediate rates.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

Business in the English Funded Securities has not been particularly active; the same causes which have for some weeks past prevented active operations on the part of the dealers still continue to exercise an adverse influence; and till something definite is decided with regard to the Danish war, much improvement cannot be expected. Although prices close the same to-day as on Wednesday last, still the tendency is towards increased depression. The last prices for Consols were 91 to $91\frac{1}{8}$ for money, and $91\frac{1}{4}$ to $91\frac{3}{8}$ for the account. Exchequer Bills remain unaltered at 5s. dis. to par. In the Foreign Stock Market a fair amount of business has been transacted, but chiefly of a speculative character in some of the leading descriptions; but with the exception of Mexican, which exhibit an advance of $1\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., there has been no material alteration. Greek have declined $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and Spanish from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$; but Turkish have recovered about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The last quotations this evening were—Greek, $22\frac{1}{4}$ to $22\frac{3}{4}$; Mexican, $43\frac{3}{8}$ to $43\frac{5}{8}$; Spanish Passims, $34\frac{3}{4}$ to 35; ditto Certificates, $13\frac{1}{2}$ to $13\frac{3}{4}$; Turkish Six per Cents. (1854), 91 to 92; and ditto (1862), $68\frac{3}{4}$ to $69\frac{1}{4}$.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

There has been little doing in this stock during market an advance of 1 or 2 per cent. succeeded by a reaction to 43 and 45, at which the quotation stands to-day, represents the only noticeable change.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

Although the amount of business transacted in American Government and railway securities has not been so extensive as last week, still the transactions have been tolerably numerous, and prices for the most part continue well supported. The following dealings have been officially recorded:—United States Six per Cents., at $65\frac{1}{4}$; ditto ditto Five per Cents., 60; Virginia State Six per Cents., 33; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York section, 78, 80, 79, and $79\frac{1}{4}$; ditto ditto, Pennsylvania ditto, 81, $81\frac{1}{4}$, $81\frac{3}{4}$, 81, and $82\frac{1}{2}$; Erie Shares, $100, all paid, $67\frac{1}{2}$ and 67; Ditto Seven per Cent. Preference, 60; Illinois Central, $100 shares, $90 paid, 17, 16, and $16\frac{1}{4}$ dis.; ditto, ditto, all paid, 74, $73\frac{1}{2}$, $73\frac{3}{4}$, and 73; Marietta and Cincinnati Railway, 72; Pennsylvania Railway, second mortgage, 87 and $87\frac{1}{2}$.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

A moderately active business has been transacted in British Railway securities, but nothing like a pressure of business has been exhibited. In the present unsettled state of affairs there appears but little anxiety to increase operations, and under these circumstances prices generally exhibit a retrograde tendency. As compared with last week there has been a fall of between 2 and 3 per cent. in Brightons; of 1 per cent. in Great Eastern, Great Northern, London and Blackwall, Chatham and Dover, London and North-Western, Metropolitan, and South-Eastern; of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Great Western; of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. in North-Eastern (Berwick), and do. (York); and of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Caledonian, Edinburgh and Glasgow, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Sheffield, North British, North-Eastern (Leeds), and North Staffordshire. On the other hand, an improvement of 1 per cent. has to be noticed in North London and South Devon. In foreign railway shares there has been still less doing, at a proportionate reduction in prices. For shares in British Possessions there has again been rather more enquiry; business has shown more briskness, and prices continue to be fairly sustained.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

At an extraordinary general meeting of the Intercolonial Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, resolutions were passed, in accordance with the directors' report, for the creation of 37,500 new shares of 10*l*. each, representing the nominal sum of 375,000*l*. At the same time it was determined to alter the name of the Company to the Panama, New Zealand, and Australian Royal Mail Company.—At the half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Submarine Telegraph Company, the report was adopted unanimously, and a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum less income tax was declared. The earnings for the half-year ending December 31 showed an increase of 100*l*. a week as compared with the corresponding period of the former year. At an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Australian Mortgage, Land, and Finance Company, a resolution was passed altering the 22nd clause of the Articles of Association, so as to authorise the directors to issue bonds, debentures, or obligations of the Company, as soon as a sum equal to 3*l*. per share of the subscribed capital of the Company has been paid up.—At the annual general meeting of the proprietors of the Commercial Union Assurance Company, Mr. Henry Trower in the Chair, a very favourable report was presented and adopted, and a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum free of income tax declared.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

New joint-stock undertakings continue to be brought forward in rapid succession, and this week they have if anything been more numerous than usual, though the majority of them are not of great magnitude. Perhaps the most important is that of the Albion Bank (Limited), for which a capital of 1,000,000*l*. is proposed to be raised in 20,000 shares of 50*l*. each, but of which only 10,000 shares are to be issued in the first instance. The special object of the undertaking is the accommodation of the business of the agricultural and cotton markets of the metropolis. There is to be an office in the City, as well as at the Metropolitan Meat Market in Smithfield and the Metropolitan Cattle Market, and it is intended subsequently to extend the operations to the provinces. One of the old established private Banks, more particularly connected with this description of business, is to be absorbed by the new company, and the active partner in the business will join the board.—The directors of the Panama, New Zealand, and Australian Royal Mail Company's (late the Intercolonial Royal Mail) having been authorised to increase their capital, invite applications for 375,000*l*., in 37,500 shares of 10*l*. each. The object is to enable the company to perform the contract recently entered into with the Government of New Zealand for a monthly mail service between Sydney, New Zealand, and Panama, in correspondence with the Royal Mail Company's steamers between Southampton and Aspinwall. The route thus opened will bring New Zealand 2,000 miles nearer to England, than by the present Overland Route, and 4,000 miles nearer than by the Cape. The nominal capital of the company will, in the aggregate, be 562,500*l*., of which 412,500*l*. will be paid up. It is not anticipated that calls beyond 7*l*. per share will be requisite. The London and Liverpool Hotel Company (Limited) is another new undertaking, for which a capital of 120,000*l*. is sought in 6,000 shares of 20*l* each. The object of the promoters is the purchase of the land, goodwill, &c., of the Washington Hotel, a large establishment recently erected in Lime Street, Livepool, and fitted up on the model of the great American and Continental hotels. Extensive ice-wells (now filled) under the hotel, and of which there are no others in Liverpool, are included in the purchase, and from that source alone, the directors anticipate that a dividend of at least five per cent. on the capital will be realised.—The Liverpool Adelphi Hotel Company is also announced, the object being the purchase of the well-known Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool, which is to be sold in consequence of the death of the late proprietor and to enlarge it by additional buildings, for which there is ample room. A considerable portion of the purchase money is to be paid in the Company's shares, and, as the business is still going on, as soon as the purchase is completed profits will accrue. The proposed capital is £100,000, in 10,000 shares of £10 each. Another prospectus is that of the Bristol Indigo Blue and Black Lead Company, for which a capital of 50,000*l*., is sought to be raised in 5,000 shares of 10*l*. each. The Company proposes to take an old established business, in this line, in Milk Street, Bristol. The premises are extensive and completely fitted with steam machinery, and the connection is large, consisting of 2,200 customers in all parts of England, Ireland, and Scotland.—Another prospectus just issued is that of the Kentish Royal Hotel Company (Limited), Tunbridge Wells. The object is to purchase the lease,

goodwill, furniture, and fittings of the Great Kentish Royal Hotel, and it is proposed to re-construct the building on a scale commensurate with the prevailing tastes and growing wants of the community. The hotel is within two minutes walk of the chalybeate springs, and only four from the railway terminus. The capital to be raised is 50,000*l.* in 5,000 shares of 10*l.* each; deposits on application 10*s.* per share, and 30*s.* on allotment.—The General Credit and Finance Company of London, and the London Financial Association, have this afternoon issued a prospectus inviting subscriptions for the capital of the Central Argentine Railway Company (Limited). The projected railway which will be about 247 miles in length is to connect Rosario and Cordova, two of the most important cities in the Argentine Republic, commencing at the city and port of Rosario, it will pass through the provinces of Santa Fé and Cordova, and about midway will form a junction with the high roads penetrating the southern and western provinces, thus opening up a vast country now very deficient in means of transit. The railway will be under special concession from the Argentine Government, with a Government guarantee of 7 per cent. per annum for 40 years. A grant of land adjoining the railway, and interest at 7 per cent. on deposit and calls from date of payment. The capital fixed by the concession is 1,600,000*l.*, of which it is now proposed to raise 1,000,000*l.*, in 50,000 shares, of 20*l.* each, and 600,000*l.* hereafter, as may be found necessary. The deposit required will be 1*l.* on application, and 1*l.* 10*s.* on allotment.—Another prospectus issued to-day is that of the Umzinto Plantation and Trading Company of Natal (Limited), with a capital of 125,000*l.*, in 5,000 shares, of 25*l.* each, with power to increase; but it is not intended to call up more than 12*l.* per share. The Company is formed for the purpose of working to their fullest extent the valuable Umzinto Sugar Plantation Estates in Natal, and to extend the operations of the existing Colonial Company, a preliminary arrangement for the purchase of which has been entered into.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The suspension has been announced of Messrs. Bakewell, Southey and Co., commission merchants. Their liabilities are not at present known, but they are not anticipated to be large. The stoppage is also announced of Messrs. E. Yeoman and Son, in the gun and general export trade. The firm, it is believed, have been connected with transactions for running the blockade, from which they have sustained heavy losses.—Letters from Amsterdam announce the suspension of Messrs. G. and H. Deckker, in the seed trade, with debts and liabilities amounting to about 40,000*l.*

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

Transactions in produce have during the last few days been upon a diminished scale. Several arrivals having taken place, buyers are induced to reserve the execution of their orders to some extent, that they may secure the advantage of choice which the fresh supplies will afford so soon as they become available. Meantime the quantity of produce offering on the market is small, and prices are consequently firm, notwithstanding the abatement in the demand. Cotton, however, forms an exception to the general firmness, and, with good arrivals and small sales, quotations have receded ½*d.* per lb. American butters meet a fair demand, being relatively cheap, and 84*s.* to 106*s.*, according to quality, are still the quotations. Other foreign butters are declining, but are still high. American bacon sells slowly. In barrel middles there is nothing doing. A moderate business is pressing in cheese, at 56*s.* to 60*s.* for the better kinds of New York imports. Petroleum, after being dull all the week at 1*s.* 10*d.*, is to-day rather more saleable at 1*s.* 10½*d.* and 1*s.* 11*d.* per gallon for American refined. French turpentine has risen to 77*s.* per cwt., prices having come higher from ports of shipment. Rosin is firm, with a fair enquiry. Linseed oil has further advanced to 36*s.*, the market closing buyers at that price to-day. Rape oil has been sold largely for arrival at 41*s.* for brown and 43*s.* for pale; but purchases may now be made about 6*d.* under these rates. Cocoa-nut has declined 1*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. since this day week. The tallow market, affected partly by political affairs on the Continent and partly by the state of the speculative account, is firmer at an advance of 6*d.* to 9*d.* per cwt. Russian hemp is dull, but Manilla sells freely, good roping at 36*l.* to 36*l.* 10*s.* per ton. Jute is not materially altered. The activity in the sugar market has subsided, but the firmness of prices is retained. Coffee, with diminished stocks, has risen 1*s.* per cwt. for Ceylon kinds. The corn trade remains as dull as it very well can be, but sales are not pressed, and quotations of foreign are without any perceptible depression. The metal trade has been extremely dull. Scotch pig iron has receded to 2*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* per ton, cash; spelter to 22*l.* 5*s.* on the spot; and English copper was to-day reduced 5*l.* per ton, making common cake 103*l.*, and best select 106*l.* per ton. Lead continues very firm. In drugs and dyes the advance recently noticed is well maintained. The colonial wool sales are progressing at firm rates for all descriptions, except Cape wools, which are depressed 1*d.* per lb. Scarcely anything is doing for America, and less than an average for the Continent of Europe.

LIVERPOOL, March 9.—Our cotton market still continues rather dull; nevertheless, there has been a fair demand, but prices have a downward tendency, as holders appear more disposed to realise. In American, particularly the lower descriptions, and Brazil, the decline has been about ¼*d.* per lb. Egyptian have been very irregular, and are down about ½*d.* Surats have been more depressed than any other descriptions, and for the inferior qualities the decline is from ½*d.* to 1*d.* per lb.; of the better kinds, however, there has been a great scarcity, and the fall in them cannot be quoted at more than ¼*d.* The sales this week have been 24,500 bales, of which 6,500 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year, down to the present time, have been 318,800 bales, against 280,600 bales to the corresponding period in 1863. There have been imported this year 235,994 bales, and to the same time last year 201,733 bales. The exports this year have been 53,229 bales, and the same period in 1863, 47,763 bales. Taken for consumption this year, 222,500 bales; last year it was 137,900 bales. 45,800 bales have been taken on speculation this year, against 86,490 bales in 1863. The computed stocks at the present time are 241,430 bales, whilst at the same period last year they were 408,520 bales. Advices from Bombay to the 13th February give the export of cotton for Liverpool for the fortnight ending that date, as—the Latona, with 4,534 bales; the Nile, 3,031 bales; City of Delhi, 3,576 bales; Coromandel, 2,927 bales; the Sardinia, 4,248 bales; the Iduna, 2,486 bales; Neptune's Car, 3,460 bales; and the Mercia, with 2,466 bales. The total export for the fortnight had been 27,845 bales; and since the 1st January, 95,424 bales, against 89,223 bales in the corresponding period of 1863. The closing quotations this evening were American descriptions, 24*d.* to 27½*d.*; Pernambuco, 26½*d.* to 26½*d.*; Maranhams, 26½*d.* to 27½*d.*; Bahia, 26*d.*; Egyptian, 25*d.* to 31*d.*; and Surats, 12*d.* to 24½*d.*

MANCHESTER, March 9.—All the Manchester markets have been very flat, and prices consequently depressed. Business in shipping yarns has been almost entirely suspended, it being impossible for spinners to effect sales without even a greater reduction than was demanded last week, and the market closes flat, with a tendency to a still further reduction. Home-trade yarns have been in but little demand; prices are again lower by fully ½*d.* per lb., but even this reduction has failed to induce business. There is no improvement whatever in the state of the cloth market; buyers appear to have no confidence in the present state of affairs, and refuse to give even the smallest orders. The little business that has been transacted has only been at a further retrogression in prices from last week. There are numerous buyers in the market, but they cannot be tempted to operate at any reasonable concession. The prices of cloths are fractionally lower, but not quite to the same extent as the prices of yarn; but that is to be attributed mainly to the fact that, stocks of cloth being light, manufacturers do not press their goods so much upon the market. The chief cause assigned for this flatness is the unsatisfactory state of continental politics. The large quantity of cotton known to have been shipped from India, China, and Japan, and now at sea—altogether 567,000 bales—is also doubtless having a material effect on these markets.

Among the Contents of THE INDEX *of March 3 are:—*

NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK AT HOME AND ABROAD.
PARIS TOPICS.
PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.
THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.
THE ARMY ON THE MOVE.
PARLIAMENT.
THE EMBARGO ON COTTON.
POEMS BY DR. MACKAY.
LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.
LETTER FROM NEW YORK.
PRESIDENT DAVIS'S ADDRESS TO THE ARMY.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:—
THE CHESAPEAKE AFFAIR.
NORTH CAROLINA.
T. W. AND FLETCHER BEAUMONT.
AFFAIRS, FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

DEATH.

FOGO.—January 17. At Columbia, South Carolina, of typhoid pneumonia, William Fogo, Esq.; and on the same day, Isabel, his beloved wife.

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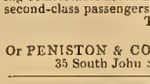
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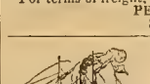
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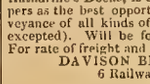
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THERE are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £4,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellowmen.

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A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

VOL. IV. No. 99.] LONDON: THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 17, 1864. [PRICE 6D

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AMERICA.

THE details of the Federal disaster in Florida fully account for the anxiety of the Government to suppress the news. The expedition was undertaken solely for electioneering purposes, and it was not unreasonably assumed that the Confederates would offer very little resistance to a movement that could not exercise any influence on the issue of the war. It was supposed that President Lincoln's private secretary, Mr. John Hay, would be able to announce a bloodless conquest, and to fulfil his mission of 'reconstruction.' That the Confederates have spoiled the game and defeated the Yankee army is as encouraging to the South as it must be discouraging to the North.

When the Federals landed, the first business of the General was to telegraph the complete success of the enterprise to Washington. Next it transpired that the success had been perfect, but unimportant; and the opponents of the Government calculated how many dollars Mr. Lincoln's election campaign in Florida had cost the country. A day or two elapsed, and there was a rumour that the Federal army had met with a slight reverse or a momentary check, and that Mr. Lincoln's election campaign in Florida had cost a little blood, as well as a large sum of money. At length the slight reverse developed into a complete and bloody defeat. The estimates of the numbers killed and wounded differ; but the lists of killed and wounded, as far as known, fill three closely printed columns of the New York papers. Our impression is, that the Yankee estimate of 1,200 killed and wounded is very far below the mark.

On January 31, General Gilmore promulgated a General Order in which he offered pardon and an amnesty to the people of Florida in the name of President Lincoln, and informed them that Mr. John Hay was ready to administer to them the oath of allegiance. On February 17, General T. Seymour, who had charge of the army, issued a General Order, 'heartily congratulating his command on the success which had attended all their movements thus far into Florida,' and telling his men that 'their deeds will be among those remembered by us with the greatest pleasure and honour.' In this spirit of arrogance the Federal army advanced, and on February 20 encountered a Confederate force at Olustee, a place between Jacksonville and Tallahassee. Never was a surprise more complete and disastrous. Suddenly the invaders, who were unprepared for any resistance, found themselves under a heavy artillery fire, which, according to one account, was so destructive that more than one regiment was immediately broken. The fight, it appears, was continued for about two or three hours, but every attempt to penetrate the Confederate position was repulsed with heavy slaughter. Finally the Federal army retired, leaving all its dead and many of its wounded on the field of battle. The victors captured a number of prisoners and several pieces of artillery.

Such is the information that we gather from Northern newspapers about what they call 'the Battle of Olustee.' We must wait for Southern accounts to get a reliable and perfect history of the engagement. At present we do not know the strength of the Confederate army, which, it appears, was under the command of General Finnegan. But whether the Yankee army was beaten by the secret and rapid concentration of a superior force, or whether it was beaten by surprise and the skilful organisation of an inferior force, is comparatively unimportant. Whatever the immediate cause, it is to the Confederates a brilliant success, and to the Federals a severe defeat.

GENERAL GILMORE ordered General Seymour to be arrested as soon as he heard of the defeat at Olustee. He charges him with not taking proper precautions, and with falling into a trap. May not General Seymour plead that his over-confidence was inspired by the conduct of his superior officer? Did not General Gilmore, twenty days before the disaster—that is, on January 31—publish an order in which he treated Florida as a conquered province in Federal possession?

AN incident in connection with this Federal defeat is published in the *New York Tribune*, which, if we were not acquainted with the inhumanity of Federal officers, we should deem almost incredible. When the *Cosmopolitan* arrived at Beaufort with a cargo of 240 wounded men, a ball was going on. Generals Gilmore and Saxon, who were present, immediately left the festive scene and went to the boat, and then heard for the first time of the defeat of the army; the only intimation of a reverse prior to this was a telegram from Hilton Head stating that some wounded men were on their way. General Saxon returned to the ball-room, informed the guests of the catastrophe, and ordered the lights to be put out. We will give the rest of the narrative in the words of the *New York Tribune*:—'A second time he had to give the command before it was obeyed. A surgeon present made a little speech, setting forth the superfluity of the mandate, inasmuch as the wounded men were not to be removed until the following morning. About half a dozen doctors were at the ball. A telegram had been sent from Hilton Head to Beaufort, an hour and a half before the boat arrived, to prepare the hospitals for the sufferers on the *Cosmopolitan*, and to have ambulances in readiness on the dock. Nevertheless, no transportation was at hand to take away the wounded for three-quarters of an hour after the boat arrived. And the poor fellows were not removed until morning, sure enough.'

THE *Providence Journal* publishes a letter from Lieutenant Eddy, of the 3rd Rhode Island Battery, giving some account of the battle of Olustee, at which he was wounded. Lieutenant Eddy writes: 'It was our misfortune to have for supports a negro regiment, who, by running, caused us to lose our pieces.'

THE news of the invasion roused the people of Florida to offer a determined resistance to the enemy. The *Floridian*, published at Tallahassee, thus stimulated the spirit of resistance:—'We tell the people of Florida to be of good cheer. Don't give way to despondency. Don't lend a too credulous ear to false or exaggerated rumours. Rally to the defence of your country. Prepare to act a sublime, an heroic part, in this war. Every man should have his arms and equipments in readiness for immediate use. If a Yankee army ever penetrated into the forests and swamps of Florida, it would be a shame if it were allowed to escape; nor will it if our generals and people do their duty.' It is not improbable that the main body of the Confederate army which defeated the Yankees consisted of newly-enlisted volunteers.

To the long list of Federal failures we suppose we may now add General Sherman's projected attack on Mobile. For the last week the accounts have been unusually confused and conflicting, and all that could be gathered from them was that the Confederates were offering a staunch resistance to the invader at every available point. A cavalry expedition, which set out from Memphis at the beginning of the last month to co-operate with Sherman, has been beaten in several small engagements, and driven back to the place from which it started, [illegible] a large number of prisoners and [illegible], being constantly harassed by the Confederate army under General Polk, and his own [illegible] by Confederate cavalry, has, it appears, [illegible] as he could, and is reported to have [illegible] Vicksburg. About Admiral Farragut [illegible], except that he [illegible] Mobile, on the 23rd [illegible]. The [illegible] Federal fleet was repulsed, which may be true, though denied in Washington. At all events, Mobile appears in no danger of an attack. Nothing is allowed to transpire as to the losses sustained by Sherman, which must doubtless have been considerable.

THE Federal Government gives out that the expedition against Mobile was a mere feint made for the purpose of inducing General Johnston to divide his army. If so, they have learnt that Southern cities can be strongly defended without weakening the principal Confederate armies. But we do not credit this excuse. We believe that the Confederate authorities were justified in treating it as a real demonstration, and by so doing frustrated the scheme. The plan of Sherman was to cut the railways leading to Mobile, and so isolate the city, and prevent its garrison being reinforced. Sherman found himself checkmated by the activity of the Confederates, who threatened to cut off his communications and to place him between the force at Mobile and General Polk's force. It is remarkable that the North continues to regard the caution of the South as a proof of weakness. When it was notified that Mobile was making ready for the assault, and that non-combatants were ordered to leave the city, there was a chorus of triumph raised by the Federal press. The South never underrates the power of her foe—the North always does so. The South often prepares for encounters that never take place—the North is constantly rejoicing over victories that are never achieved. The Southern policy is not only the more dignified, but also the more secure.

THE Northern public has been treated to another 'On to Richmond.' General Meade crossed the Rapidan on the 27th ult., and, having advanced his forces a few miles, marched them back again to their old encampment. According to the official story circulated in Washington, the object of this movement was to cover an attempt of the Federal cavalry under General Kilpatrick to reach Richmond and rescue the Federal prisoners. We should think that even Mr. Lincoln's loyal subjects can hardly give credit to such nonsense. But, whatever the motive, we know the results of the expedition. General Custer, who was to make a diversion in favour of Kilpatrick, was roughly handled at Charlotteville, and had to flee in hot haste to escape capture. Kilpatrick, finding 'Richmond a hard road to travel,' returned to Butler's lines, having, according to his own account, 'destroyed a portion of the Virginia Central Railroad, and lost three colonels and 150 men killed and missing.' It will be strange indeed if, when a true version of the affair is published, it does not appear that the portion of the railway damaged was exceedingly small, and that the Federal loss was much larger than 'three colonels and 150 men killed and missing.'

BESIDES the disaster in Florida, the retreat of Sherman, and the failure of the last 'On to Richmond,' the Federals have met with other mishaps. It was stated that General Johnston had been successfully attacked at Dalton, but it is now admitted by the Federals that we must read unsuccessfully for successfully. General Grant despatched a division of his army under General Thomas to Dalton, and after three days' skirmishing the Federal force retired to Tunnel Hill, and confess to a loss of 1,000 in killed and wounded.

On the 22nd ult., the Confederates surprised and captured a battalion of Federal cavalry near Cumberland Gap. We can understand that in Federal circles 'it begins to be admitted that the spring campaign, both in Virginia and the South-West, has been an utter failure.'

Besides the usual intelligence from Charleston of so many shots being fired into or at the city, we have intelligence of the sinking of the Federal screw sloop *Housatonic*, by the agency of the Confederate torpedo-vessel *Davis*, on the 18th ultimo. The *Housatonic* was a new vessel launched in November 1862, and, besides six broadside guns, carried two pivot guns, one an eleven-inch and the other a 100-pounder rifle. The torpedo struck her under the starboard quarter, lifted her two feet, and she sank in less than eight minutes. It is said that one of her officers and some of her crew were drowned, the rest saving themselves by clinging to the rigging until taken off by boats.

For a political purpose—that is, to conciliate the Germans—General Sigel has been appointed to supersede General Kelley in Western Virginia. The change has caused much dissatisfaction. How unreasonable to object to Mr. Lincoln taking necessary measures to secure his re-election!

The *Richmond Examiner* of February 17 has an editorial on the Tax Law, of which the leading features are an *ad valorem* tax on all property, a tax of 5 per cent. on incomes, and a tax of 10 per cent. on the profits of trade and speculation. To illustrate 'the cogency of the measures just enacted,' the *Examiner* gives the following approximate estimate of the results of this taxation :—

From property . . .	$200,000,000
,, income and profits . .	100,000,000
,, tax on currency . . .	250,000,000
Total	$550,000,000

This is independent of the revenue derived from the Tax Law of 1863, under which a large amount has been collected. The Confederates are not afraid to face their financial difficulties, and to submit to a sharp and trying remedy.

The Address of the Confederate Congress to the people of the Confederate States commences by showing what is the real as distinguished from the pretended object of the Northern Government. There was a general and sincere attachment to the Union, and therefore the Federal President resorted to the pretext of restoring the Union, in order to obtain soldiers to commence and carry on the war. But it is absurd to suppose that the Government desires to restore the Union when it violates every provision of the Constitution, and conducts the war not 'as betwixt two military and political organisations,' but as 'against a whole population.' The atrocities of the Federals 'are too incredible for narration.' The track of the enemy has been marked by cruelty and rapine. 'Houses are pillaged and burned; churches are defaced; towns are ransacked; clothing of women and children is stripped from their persons, jewellery and mementoes of the dead are stolen; mills and implements of agriculture are destroyed; private salt works are broken up; the introduction of medicines is forbidden; means of subsistence are wantonly wasted to produce beggary; prisoners are returned with contagious diseases; and the last morsel of food has been taken from families, who were not allowed to carry on a trade or branch of industry. The cartel for exchange of prisoners has been suspended, and our unfortunate soldiers subjected to the grossest indignities. The wounded at Gettysburg were deprived of their nurses, and inhumanly left to perish on the field. Helpless women have been exposed to the most cruel outrages, and to that dishonour which is infinitely worse than death. Citizens have been murdered by the Butlers and McNeils and Milroys, who are the favourite generals of our enemies. Refined and delicate ladies have been seized, bound with cords, imprisoned, guarded by negroes, and held as hostages for the return of recaptured slaves. Unoffending non-combatants have been banished or dragged from their quiet homes to be immured in filthy gaols. Liberty to preach the Gospel has been refused except on condition of taking the oath of allegiance.' The Address comments on the emancipation proclamation, which, according to Northern authorities and the law of nations, is not a lawful act of war. One of the reasons assigned by Pennsylvania for separating from the mother-country was, that the 'King had incited the negroes to revolt.' Lawrence, in his notes on Wheaton, says: 'The policy adopted by Dunmore, of arming the slaves against their masters, was not pursued during the war of the Revolution; and when negroes were taken by the English, they were not considered otherwise than as property and plunder.' Napoleon I., in his war with Russia, refused to proclaim the emancipation of the serfs. He said: 'I could have armed against her a part of her population by proclaiming the liberty of the serfs. A great number of villages asked it of me, but I refused to avail myself of a measure which would have devoted to death thousands of families!' In discussing the peace of 1814, the United States maintained the principle that the emancipation of the enemy's slaves is not among the acts of legitimate warfare. In 1820 John Quincy Adams wrote, as Secretary of State, to Mr. Middleton at St. Petersburg: 'The British have broadly asserted the right of emancipating slaves (private property) as a legitimate right of war. No such right is acknowledged as a law of war by writers who admit any limitation. The right of putting to death all prisoners in cold blood and without special cause, might as well be pretended to be a law of war, or the right to use poisoned weapons to assassinate.'

The Address declares that it is inexpedient for the South to make any further overtures for peace. It says: 'Until some evidence is given of a change of policy on the part of the Government, and some assurance is received that efforts at negotiation will not be spurned, the Congress are of opinion that any direct overtures for peace would compromise our self-respect, be fruitless of good, and be interpreted by the enemy as an indication of weakness. We can only repeat the desire of the people for peace and our readiness to accept terms consistent with the honour, and integrity, and independence of the States, and compatible with the safety of our domestic institutions.'

In conclusion, the Address takes a hopeful but not boastful view of the state of affairs, and calls upon the people to aid the Government by all the means in their power, so that, by 'an all-comprehending and self-sacrificing patriotism, and by the blessing of God,' they may achieve for themselves and their children 'peace and freedom.'

The escape of Federal captives from Richmond has determined the Confederate Government to remove about 6,000 of their prisoners to Georgia, whither they are being sent at the rate of 800 a week. It may seem extraordinary that so many should have been kept at Richmond, seeing that food was comparatively scarce at the capital, and that it was more difficult to insure their safe custody so near the lines; but the explanation is easy. The Confederate Government were bent on carrying out the cartel of exchange, and therefore held their prisoners at a convenient depot.

Up to February 16, forty-eight of the runaways had been returned to the Libby. The *Richmond Enquirer* of February 12 thus describes a capture by a negro :—

One of the captures on Wednesday was made by 'an American citizen of African descent.' The dusky captor was engaged in a matutinal 'dig' in his potato patch, when he observed the fugitive officer streaking it across the field. Seeing that he wore suspiciously blue garments, the darky hailed him and asked him where he was 'gwine.' Something to the effect of 'nowhere' being the reply, the darky, with courage and patriotism worthy of immortality, brought his hoe to a 'charge,' and responded, 'Yes, you is, dough – you done broke out o' one o' dem prisons—come along—you got to go wid me.' He marched him to the house, handed him over to his master, and returned to his potato patch covered with glory. The Yankee arrived, under due guard, yesterday morning.

The Report of Dr. John Wilkins, the medical officer of the Libby, completely refutes the mendacious stories circulated in the North about the sufferings and mortality of the prisoners. From Feb. 1, 1863, to Jan. 22, 1864, 1,060 Yankee officers were admitted. The number on the sick list during that period was 310, and the total number of deaths was 13.

Before the Confederate Congress adjourned, it resolved: 'That the Congress of the Confederate States of America for its next regular session shall assemble the first Monday in May, Anno Domini 1864, and not the first Monday in December 1864.'

The Tennessee troops, under General Joseph E. Johnston, before their term of service expired, voluntarily re-enlisted for the term of the war, and received the thanks of Congress for their patriotic alacrity. The ardour of the Tennessee soldiers is not singular, and the *Richmond Examiner*, a paper not given to premature rejoicing, observes: 'The army has cheered the popular heart, put backsliders to shame, and opened a new chapter in the history of the war. Well may the Northern President proclaim another draft, for it is more than probable that the South will be stronger in the campaign of 1864 than it has been in any previous year of the war.'

There is no thirst so insatiable as the thirst for blood. Anticipating the surrender by the British authorities of the Confederates charged with joining in the affair of the *Chesapeake*, the *New York Commercial Advertiser*, whilst waiting for the trial, declares the men guilty, and clamours for their execution. It says the plea of the prisoners 'was held to be worthless in the St. John Court, and so it must be in our Courts! . . . . If the Government, knowing precisely what the course of events will be, can make up its mind to do its duty fearlessly and regardless of consequences, then let it accept the pirates of the *Chesapeake*, try, convict, sentence, and execute them.' The *Commercial Advertiser*, we are ashamed to say, has found a sympathiser in a British police magistrate. This is a question of life and death, and we beg to direct the special attention of our readers to the following.

The police magistrate (a Mr. Gilbert) at St. John, New Brunswick, has decided that the capture of the *Chesapeake* by the Confederates was an act of piracy, and that the law authorises him to commit the prisoners to gaol until they are handed over to the United States authorities. We are not surprised that this Mr. Gilbert should be ignorant of the law of nations, or that he should follow the example of Judge Stewart of the Vice-Admiralty Court, and decide the case upon *ex parte* evidence—or, rather, against the weight of evidence—but we are astonished that any person should violate the decencies of civilisation, as this Mr. Gilbert did in delivering his judgment. Surely he might have been satisfied with committing the three Confederates before him—Messrs. David Collins, James McKinney, and Lewis Seely—to the vengeance of their cruel and relentless enemy. This did not satisfy Mr. Gilbert, but, 'dressed in a little brief authority,' and sitting securely on the bench, he abused his prisoners as 'cowards and villains.' We submit that it was neither brave nor just to so brand men who were about to be remitted for trial in the United States. The St. John (N.B.) *Morning Telegraph* of February 27 thus comments on the decision :—

Interrogating the magistrate on those matters which lie outside his juri-diction, we ask him how he dared in the face of Heaven order these men to be sent to the States branded by himself as 'cowards' and 'villains?' He has decided that they shall be tried before their enemy's tribunals, but to the evidence collected against them by paid agents he has added that of *his own*, not, indeed, the evidence of Mr. Humphrey Gilbert himself, for that might not weigh heavily upon their innocence, but the testimony of a British Magistrate, a title everywhere respected abroad, if not always adorned by private virtues in its wearer. Yet, if Collins and McKinney, both respectable men, are finally sent for trial before an American Court, under what circumstances will their defence be conducted? Why, when the counsel rises to address the Court, will he not be met in the teeth with the declaration that the police magistrate of the city of St. John, a British subject like themselves, had not only declared them guilty of mistaking the value of those commissions in the Confederate service which they held, but of his own motion, and after weeks of thought and deliberation, had with much feeling pronounced them outlaws in the sight of God and man! What answer could be made to such an argument? What chance for life under such merciless logic? Yet this is the position in which the magistrate would place these men. *Their* argument is that they were regularly commissioned officers and men in the Confederate service; that they intended to do nothing that was not agreeable to the laws of war. Mr. Gilbert would send them to Yankeeland branded with the words—'*Robbers, pirates, outlaws, assassins.*' 'The tender mercies of the wicked are cruel,' but the stupidity or malignity of Mr. Gilbert is, beyond all question, quite outrageous.

It may be too late to save the Confederate prisoners from a cruel death. It may be that the Court of Appeal has confirmed the decision of the police magistrate, and that the men are on their way to a mock trial and to execution. It may be the Federal Government will forget that the Confederate Government is strong enough to punish an offence against its citizens. But it is not too late to do something to vindicate the honour and humanity of England. Doubtless Mr. Gilbert's conduct will be approved by the Federal Government, and will gratify those who are so clamorous for the execution of the Confederates; but we trust that the conduct of Mr. Gilbert will not go unreproved by the British Government.

The suppression of Mr. Seward's despatch of July 11 has made the Northern public angry, and Mr. Seward's friends try to get him out of the difficulty by asserting that the despatch 'was simply for the private use of Mr. Adams.' If so, why was it presented to Congress as though it had been duly presented? And the wording of the despatch demolishes this excuse. After threats of war Mr. Seward wrote: 'Nor will I allow myself to suppose that Her Majesty's Government will for a moment conceive that anything I have written on this point is written in a spirit of mere denunciation.' How could Her Majesty's Government conceive anything about a writing they had not seen and were not informed of? It also happens that on August 20 Mr. Adams wrote to Mr. Seward: 'I now infer that my judgment was correct in postponing further action under your despatch, No. 651 [that of July 11], as explained in my No. 465, of the 31st July.' Mr. Adams's despatch of July 31 was not given to Congress, and it is not unreasonably inferred that it contained Mr. Adams's explanation for not presenting the despatch of July 11 to Earl Russell. Mr. Seward will have to find a better excuse for what his Yankee enemies call 'caving in to the British.'

According to advices from St. Thomas and Bermuda to the 20th ult., the steamers *India*, *City of Petersburgh*, and *A. D. Vance*, have arrived from Wilmington with a large quantity of cotton.

Some ladies in the Confederacy are sending their plate to the Treasury as a free offering to their country to relieve the pressure on the currency. It may be that such relief will be small, and that other resources will rapidly relieve the finances from embarrassment, but the spirit that dictates such an offering is indicative of the unanimity, resolution, and strength of the Confederacy, and adds to the laurels the Southern women have already gained by their steadfast devotion and their noble self-sacrifices during the war.

A resolution introduced by Mr. Farrow, of South Carolina, passed the Confederate House of Representatives recommending that April 18 should be set apart as a day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer. The preamble exhorts the people to prayer by 'gratefully remembering the guidance, support, and deliverance granted to our patriot fathers in the memorable war which resulted in the independence of the American colonies;' and the resolution defines the objects of national prayer to be 'the attainment of an honourable peace,' and the enjoyment of 'the blessings of a free and happy government.'

The *Richmond Enquirer* of February 12 announces 'the arrival at a Southern port of an extremely valuable and much-needed cargo on Government account.'

The Federal Quartermaster's steamboat *Harriet Weed* grounded whilst proceeding up the St. John's River, and was destroyed by her crew to prevent her falling into the hands of the Confederates.

The telegraphic summary from New York says: 'The Confederate General Pickett, commanding in North Carolina, in a correspondence with the Federal General Peck, declares it his intention to execute every negro he catches who is proved to have killed a Confederate, and that, should retaliation be adopted, he will hang ten Yankees for every Confederate executed.' Probably this is not true; but if so, it is a lawful threat of punishment. Are not the negroes slaves? Then, according to the laws of all nations, it is a capital crime for them to revolt against their masters. Are the negroes, by virtue of Mr. Lincoln's Proclamation, free citizens of the South? Then, according to the laws of all nations, they deserve the fate of deserters if they go over to and fight in the armies of the public enemy.

The price of gold in New York on the 5th inst. was 62 per cent. premium.

ENGLAND.

On Thursday, the 10th March, being the first anniversary of the marriage of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, the infant Prince was christened. The ceremony took place in the chapel within Buckingham Palace, with as much state and magnificence as the size of the chapel would admit, at half-past twelve o'clock. The sponsors, in addition to the Queen and the King

of the Belgians, were His Royal Highness Prince John of Slesvig-Holstein-Sönderburg-Glücksburg, representing His Majesty the King of Denmark; the Princess Helena, representing the Crown Princess of Prussia (Princess Royal of England); His Royal Highness the Prince Alfred, K.G.; the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, representing the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha; the Duchess of Cambridge, representing her Serene Highness the Downger Duchess of Slesvig-Holstein-Sönderburg-Glücksburg, and the Duke of Cambridge, representing His Serene Highness the Landgrave of Hesse. The infant Prince is named 'Albert Victor Christian Edward.'

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales held the second *levée* on behalf of Her Majesty on Saturday last, at St. James's Palace.

The Queen has intimated her intention of subscribing the sum of 3,000*l.* to the Bishop of London's Fund. The Prince of Wales has also contributed 1000*l.*

The town of Folkestone rejoices in a Mayor who is a Frenchman, one Monsieur Docidant, the proprietor of the Pavilion Hotel. This gentleman, who is immensely popular among his fellow-citizens, determined to celebrate the christening of the Prince by an international banquet; so he invited the municipal body of Boulogne, who, having obtained the consent of the Minister of the Interior, crossed the Channel at midday in state. The visitors were received on landing by the Mayor of Folkestone, and were greeted with the ringing of church-bells and a magnificent display of flags from the houses in the town and the ships in the port. The dinner was a brilliant affair. The band of the 5th Regiment enlivened the company with their music. The civic uniforms of the French officials contrasted grotesquely with the befurred aldermen and the gowned common-councilmen. The Mayor made several eloquent speeches. The Sous-Préfet, M. le Baron de Friencourt, delivered a warm eulogium on England: and the Mayor of Boulogne presented to each guest a medal struck in honour of the Queen's visit to France. The proceedings of the day terminated with a ball.

A letter has been published from the Archbishop of Canterbury, in which the Primate states that he agreed in the judgment of the Privy Council in the case of the 'Essays and Reviews' on the subject of eternal punishment solely on technical grounds; that to his mind the eternity of punishment rests exactly on the same ground as the eternity of blessedness, that both must stand or fall together, and that the Church of England, as his Grace maintains, holds both doctrines clearly and decidedly.

The Peace Society of this country has presented a memorial to the Emperor of the French, congratulating His Majesty on the proposal for a Congress, and the substitution of the arbitration of reason for that of the sword. The memorial is signed by Joseph Pease, Samuel Gurney, and Henry Richard. The following is the reply of the Emperor to Mr. Joseph Pease:—

'Sir,—Your committee, in the address which it has forwarded to me, congratulates me on having proposed a European Congress. The expression of its sentiments touches me all the more, because your society, occupying itself with an enlightened zeal with the means of maintaining the general peace, is on that very account better able to appreciate my constant solicitude for the attainment of that end.

'Will you be my interpreter to your honourable colleagues, and offer them my sincere thanks?

'Believe me, Sir, with all sentiments, &c.,

'Napoleon.'

We hope we shall not be considered uncharitable in the remark that a similar memorial was presented to the Emperor Nicholas immediately before the Russian war.

Sir Rowland Hill has been compelled by loss of health to resign his position at the Post Office. His name will be ever memorable as that of one of the greatest benefactors of society. He is to enjoy a pension for life, and the pension is to be continued to Lady Hill, in case she survives her husband.

The new turret-ship *Royal Sovereign*, the first of her kind in the English navy, was launched on March 9. In these columns last autumn a full description was given of this remarkable ship, which is entirely the work of Captain Coles, R.N. She is 450 feet in length, 63 feet in breadth; the outside level of her upper deck is 10 feet above the water-line amidships, 12 feet at the stem, and 8 feet 6 inches at the stern. Her turrets rest their base on the lower deck below the ship's side-armour, and have only 4 feet 6 inches exposed above the level of the upper deck. Her pilot-house is also a separate structure from her turrets. The Federal ships, on the contrary, have turrets 15 feet above the level of the deck, the base of the turrets being on the upper decks, and the turrets are capped by the pilot-house. The armour, moreover, of the Federal vessels is composed of layers of inch plates bolted together; that of the *Royal Sovereign* is composed of solid masses of metal. The sides of the latter vessel are built of 3 feet of solid timber, strengthened internally with diagonal iron bandings and double the usual number of upper deck beams, and clothed with 5½-inch rolled armour plates from the Atlas Works, Sheffield. There are four turrets. The foremost has two 10·5 inch guns (150 lb. smooth-bore), and the other three one gun each. The first turret presents 115 square feet exposed to the enemy's fire, and the other three 84 square feet. The area of the ports is 6 square feet.

On Tuesday, March 8, Mr. R. E. Turner, on behalf of the Attorney-General, appeared before Mr. Justice Meller at Judges' Chambers (Serjeants' Inn), in the matter of the steam-rams *El Toussin* and *El Mounassir*, now detained for the purposes of the information filed against Messrs. Laird under the Foreign Enlistment Act. The application of Mr. Turner was for a Commission to Cairo and other places to examine His Highness the Pasha of Egypt, and other persons, on behalf of the Crown. Mr. Watkin Williams, for the defendants, stated that his clients courted the fullest investigation, as they had a complete answer to the case, but contended that this was merely a vexatious application, adopted solely for the purpose of delaying proceedings. The vessels had been seized early in November, but no information was filed till February. Now the defendants were to be put to further loss and delay. The Judge remarked that the evidence was, on oath, declared to be essential, and therefore that he could hardly refuse the Commission. Mr. Watkin Williams then contended that the names of the witnesses should be given. That of the Pasha of Egypt was illusory, as of course he would not be examined personally. The Crown ought also to state what it intended to prove, and the Commission ought to be returned in time to try the case at the sittings after Easter term. The Judge said that he should grant the Commission, but the Crown must set forth the names of the witnesses and the facts intended to be proved. The Commission also must be returned into court by the 10th May next.

A Conservative, in the person of Mr. Surtees, has been returned as a Member of Parliament for Hertfordshire, by a majority of 260 over the Hon. Mr. Cowper (Liberal). The latter gentleman is the son-in-law of Viscount Palmerston.

The great reservoir of the Sheffield Water Company is situated on the brink of a valley lying between the Loxley and Stannington Hills. It covers an area of 76 acres, and is capable of holding 114,000,000 cubic feet of water. An embankment crosses the end of the valley, and bars the waters with an obstacle 85 feet high, 40 feet thick, and 300 yards in length. Beneath the shelter of this guarding force, the inhabitants of the valley dwelt in apparent security. There were cottages closely packed and densely populated. Imagination never dreamed of danger.

At midnight, when the houses were filled with their drowsy inmates, the enormous barrier gave way. The engineers had left before nine o'clock that evening, and, being hurriedly recalled by a countryman who discovered an alarming fissure in the bank, vainly endeavoured to blow up a weir that crossed the dam. They were too late. A portion of the embankment, 110 yards long by 70 feet deep, gave way at one moment, and the torrent rushed with a roar into the valley below. It is difficult to conceive, and impossible to describe, the terrible effects consequent on this irruption of waters. Whole streets of houses and factories were swept away, the inhabitants being drowned before even an attempt or a struggle could be made for the salvation of life. The flood stood 18 feet above the level of the streets, and even attacked the upper stories of the houses. It was impossible to render assistance — the darkness precluded that. Men ran about eagerly with torches, but only to listen helplessly to screams and cries for help.

Down the course of the rivers for 14 miles the country was laid waste; the entire valley of the Don was inundated. Thousands of acres of growing crops were submerged. Property to the value of half a million sterling was destroyed, and the lives of at least 250 persons were lost. Such was the dire calamity which befell the inhabitants of the valley beneath the waters of the town of Sheffield.

The Liverpool Grand National Steeple Chase was run on Wednesday, March 9. The course was four miles and a quarter in length, the ground very heavy, and the fences sufficiently difficult. The race was run in 11 min. 50 sec., and the value of the stakes was 1,035*l.* Jerusalem, Bantam, and Emblematic were favourites in the order named. Emblematic won, beating Arbury by three lengths, a considerable distance separating the pair from the rest of the field. The winner is the property of Lord Coventry, who purchased her last year for 300 guineas. She is by Teddington, and sister to Emblem, who won this same race last year for Lord Coventry. She is six years old, and, like her sister, is small and weedy. Her performances, moreover, up to this race had been of the most moderate description. She was ridden by G. Stevens, who rode Emblem last year, and to whom Lord Coventry gave £500 after the race. Oddly enough, Arbury was second for this race last year. A large sum of money was won by Lord Coventry, who had every faith in Emblematic after a favourable trial of the mare with Emblem.

The stewards of the Liverpool meeting were the Duke of Beaufort, Lords Sexton, Uxbridge, Westmoreland, and Courtenay, and Messrs. Craven and Payne.

Her Majesty's staghounds met at Cobham on Tuesday, March 8. The stag, after being started, crossed the Thames below Marlow, and, going direct north, passed High Wycombe, Great Missenden, Little Hampden, and Wendover, and was taken at Kymbol, four miles from Aylesbury. The distance from point to point was 19 miles, while the distance traversed by the hounds must have been more than 25 miles. The run occupied three hours.

The *Alexandra* case came before the House of Lords on Saturday last. The Lord Chancellor, and Lords Cranworth, St. Leonards, Wensleydale, and Chelmsford, were present. The whole question before their Lordships was whether from the decision of the Court of Exchequer on the rule for a new trial an appeal lay to the Court of Exchequer Chamber, and thence to the House of Lords. The Exchequer Chamber had refused by a majority of the Court to hear the appeal. On Saturday, then, the Attorney-General addressed their Lordships in favour of the appeal. He reiterated the arguments which he had advanced before the Court below, contending that the Barons of the Exchequer had power, under the Queen's Remembrancer's Act, to make certain rules regulating such appeal, which rules were made after the trial of this case before the jury. The Solicitor-General followed on the same side. On Monday, Sir Hugh Cairns and Mr. Mellish argued against the right of appeal and the validity of the rules. We have already set forth the substance of the speeches on both sides before the Exchequer Chamber, and inasmuch as the point at issue is purely of a technical character, it is unnecessary to repeat them. On Tuesday the Attorney-General replied. Their Lordships took time to consider their judgment.

THE CONTINENT.

It is very necessary, in considering the present state of the Danish question, to keep its various branches perfectly distinct. The quarrel is so complicated, and involves the same parties in so many different characters, that a very little carelessness may cause us to entangle irremediably the thread of the history. Thus we have the relation of Denmark to Austria and Prussia as a belligerent, as a member of the German Diet, and as a European nation. Again, we have the relation of Austria and Prussia to one another as sisters in the same 'Pentarchy,' as they now call, in the slang of German politics, the union of the five great Powers; their common interests as German Powers; and their opposing interests as rivals for the leadership of the Fatherland. No less hard to appreciate is the position of the Federal Diet: supreme over its members, yet powerless to restrain them; created by European diplomacy, and at the same time passed over without notice in treaties that concern it vitally; containing within itself two of the five Powers, yet with less real existence than Switzerland. Where anomalies and contradictions are so numerous, we must be prepared to find a difficulty in the proper valuation and classification of the mass of apparently heterogeneous news which reaches us. The great military fact of the week is that the Austro-Prussian troops under Marshal von Wrangel have at length advanced in force—the Prussians with 60,000 men (including a reinforcement of 16,000), the Austrians with 25,000. The former have the task of mastering the fortifications of Düppel assigned to them: the latter are moving against Fredericia, which is to be invested and regularly besieged. Engagements have already taken place of no great importance, but generally in favour of the Allies: the Prussians took 180 prisoners, with the loss of two killed and twenty wounded. The Austrians, under Lieutenant Field-Marshal von Gablenz, had an encounter with the Danish cavalry about three miles south of Viele, which terminated in a more general engagement; the Danes were repulsed, and driven back upon Horsen. They have since evacuated Scanderborg, which has been thereupon occupied by the Austrians. The Allies have thus committed themselves to the invasion of Jutland — a step of such gravity, that the Austrian Government has found it necessary to send an explanatory circular to the Courts of London, Paris, Stockholm, and St. Petersburg, stating that the course of action thus entered upon is based solely on strategic reasons, and that the Allies disclaim any wish to render the war general. In the meantime, the siege train required for the reduction of Fredericia and Düppel is assembling at Rinhenis, in the shape of numbers of rifled cannon of 60 lbs. calibre, and several mortar batteries. The Danes on their side show no disposition to yield these important fortresses without an obstinate resistance. The description of the defences of Düppel is in itself enough to cool the ardour of a Demetrius Poliorcetes; the first obstruction which its assailants will meet is an irregular line of masked ditches, with sharp stakes firmly fixed at the bottom to impale the unlucky man who may fall through; next come a line of *chevaux de frise*; then another of large mantraps; and finally a common wire fence—the latter a simple but very effective impediment to both infantry and cavalry. Not content with these lines of circumvallation, the Danish engineers have crowned both scarp and counterscarp of the earthworks with palisades crested with a bristling line of sharp swords, an expedient borrowed apparently from the French defences of the breach at Badajos. Both within and without the works are fixed planks studded with long nails, the points upwards, and concealed by a light covering of earth. When we add to these amenities the mines that underlie all the assailable parts, we may have a faint idea of the difficulties which the Prussians have before them, and of the determination of the Danish army. The numbers of the latter are not exactly known, but it must comprise nearly all the available troops in the little kingdom, as the garrison duty in Copenhagen itself is now performed by the civic guard. The unimportant successes of the Prussians have nevertheless emboldened them already to present medals to some of the soldiers. Twenty men have thus been decorated by the hands of the Prince Royal, and in the presence of the Commander-in-Chief—a piece of premature exultation which has not passed unnoticed in Europe.

The peculiar position of Denmark gives her an advantage in naval matters which she has not been slow to make use of; a general blockade of the coast has been proclaimed, which is to be extended to the several ports as they may respectively fall into the hands of the invaders. Captures have been made at sea, and an embargo has been laid on German ships now within Danish territory. The latter, however, has been, to a certain extent, remitted on the earnest remonstrances of Austria and Prussia, but the ships captured at sea before the proclamation of war reached them have been retained in spite of protestations, and have thus afforded the Allies another reason for taking a substantial guarantee in Jutland. The Prussian squadron is ice-bound at Stralsund, and must perforce submit to the presence of a Danish squadron just outside the bay; an Austrian fleet is hovering about the Adriatic, and has made some captures of merchantmen. Whether they will dare the furies of the Bay of Biscay in the month of March, coupled with a jealous if not hostile surveillance by the English and French fleets, should they attempt to reach the line of blockade before the coast of Holstein, is still uncertain.

It appears to be now clearly understood that the two great Powers of Germany are, though not actually divided, yet inclined to take opposite views with regard to the integrity of Denmark—Austria being still anxious to rest on the treaties of 1851-2; Prussia, on the contrary, wishing to set those treaties at nought. Unfortunately, the latter Power has been up to this time the more successful in carrying out its views. The Danish officials, even the most local, have been dismissed without compensation of any sort; the Danish currency has been prohibited, and declared to be no legal tender on and after the 1st of April next. A decent opposition has certainly been made to the pretensions of the Duke of Augustenburg, but the general and persistent course of action has tended to the 'Germanization' of the Duchies: such proceedings, however, are peculiarly ungrateful to the Austrians, and a Vienna journal has declared, in very precise language, that it is impossible for them with one hand to hold Venetia by the right of a treaty, and with the other to grasp at the Duchies by the right of nationality.

The attempts to bring about a Conference can scarcely be called successful. The Allied Powers have addressed a note to the Courts most interested, expressing their willingness to accept an armistice either on the basis of a military 'uti possidetis,' each party remaining in the ground they may then hold; or on that of an evacuation of Jutland and Düppel, the Danes on their side retiring from Düppel and the Isle of Alsen. It is certain that no such terms will be accepted by the Danish Government. It is confidently asserted by a Viennese newspaper that the bases of a Conference have been proposed by the King of the Belgians and accepted by Denmark, whereby either the Duchies are to be restored to the condition (we cannot say constitution) which they enjoyed before 1848, or a separation is to be effected of Denmark and Holstein, Slesvig being incorporated into Denmark. An important circular has been addressed by M. Drouyn de Lhuys to the Imperial diplomatic agents on the attitude which France intends to occupy. He begins by adverting to the English proposition of a Conference, without cessation of hostilities, made to the belligerent powers. He then proceeds to point out that while the Austrian Government has declared itself in favour of the integrity of Denmark, that of Prussia has not yet spoken out on the subject, while the Federal Diet is in open hostility to it. Denmark is likely to demand an armistice, and he therefore hints at the disfavour with which the French Emperor would view the refusal of it. He concludes by requesting his subordinates to abstain from all action until the acquiescence of the belligerents is declared; 'the French Government will then be found ready to share in any serious attempt at pacification.'

A still greater gloom has been cast over the politics of Central Europe by the decease of Maximilian II., King of Bavaria, who died somewhat suddenly at 11.45 A.M. on the 10th inst., at the age of 52; the immediate cause of his death was erysipelas. The late Sovereign succeeded to the throne during the lifetime of his father, who abdicated shortly after his not very reputable connection with Lola Montez. Although more of a philosopher than a politician, he had strong views on many subjects; a persistent friend of Austria, he resisted all attempts to isolate that Power from the rest of Germany. As the chief of the largest of the smaller German States, he was, to a great extent, their representative and adviser. The recent Conferences at Würzburg were very much due to his activity, and the decisions by them arrived at were undoubtedly the expression of his own wishes. His dislike of the Danish dynasty was more personal than political: the substitution of a Danish Prince for his own nephew on the throne of Greece was esteemed by him as a deliberate injury. He is succeeded by his son, Ludwig II., born in 1845, who is thus the fourth of the dynasty since their Electoral cap was converted by the first Napoleon into a Royal crown. The life of the King of Wurtemburg is also despaired of; his physicians doubt whether he can live through the week; and the interests of the Duke of Augustenburg before the Federal Diet are thus deprived of their most material support. The proposition of the Bavarian representative, involving the recognition of the Duke's pretensions in Slesvig-Holstein, has been held back for the present at the request of Austria and Prussia; the objections to such a proceeding entertained by the former Power have been already mentioned. As to Prussia, the difference of opinion between the Government and the people on this point is notorious, and will, it is said, forbid any idea of a reassembly of the Prussian Houses until the claims of the Duke have been positively negatived by Europe. Whether the following plan for the reconstruction of Germany has in any way influenced the Berlin Government is probably doubtful; but it is curious as coming from a leading journal of that country. Slesvig-Holstein and Lauenburg are, according to this scheme, to be erected into a Grand Duchy, and to be given to the Duke of Oldenburg; Rendsburg and Rastatt to be Federal fortresses, the former garrisoned by Prussians, the latter by Austrians; Kiel to become a Federal Prussian port; part of Oldenburg to go to Prussia, the remainder to Hanover, who should in her turn cede to Prussia her claims to the reversion of Brunswick; Austria to rectify her frontier in Northern Silesia, whereby she would regain some of the territory lost by Maria Theresa to Frederick; and, lastly, the Duke of Augustenburg to be recognised as successor to the Grand-Duchy formed of Slesvig-Holstein, on the extinction of the Oldenburg dynasty, and in the meantime to be presented with a large estate in Prussia. So cool a remodelling of the map of Europe has not been suggested since the time of Napoleon I. *En attendant*, the relations between the two great German Powers and their small colleagues in the Diet are improving. It is said that the proposition made by them to take command of the Federal reserves in Holstein, and rejected last week by a majority of ten to six, is now assented to by Saxony and Hesse-Darmstadt, thus reducing the majority to an equality. Probably the small States, having made their protest against the despotism of the 'Pentarchy' over Europe, and having lost their most influential member in the King of Bavaria, will return to their accustomed obedience. The waning fortunes of the Duke of Augustenburg have not, it is supposed, received material support from the visit of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg to Paris. It is understood that the object of that visit was to enlighten the Emperor on the feeling of the minor States of Germany, and to engage him, if possible, in favour of the Slesvig-Holstein pretender. His Majesty does not appear to have considered either the grievances of the small Courts of Germany, or the personal and hereditary merits of the pretender, sufficient to warrant a general European war on their behalf.

The danger of Denmark has excited the most vehement sympathy in the sister State of Sweden. An enormous meeting has been held at Stockholm, at which resolutions of the most decided character in favour of intervention were carried. Intoxicated with the eloquence of their leaders, the mob rushed to the King's palace to give him also the benefit of their opinion. His Majesty was, however, unfortunately absent, opening the Norwegian House of Representatives. They therefore, acting on Cicero's advice, who tells us that when we cannot attain the first it is most honourable to arrive at the second, marched straight to the residence of M. von Manderström, the Foreign Secretary, and after breaking in all his windows, apparently to deprive him of the possible excuse that he had not heard them, made him aware of their resolutions: the Secretary most unfairly, as it seems to us, summoned the military to assist him in arguing the other side of the question, and of course was completely successful in silencing his opponents. The Swedish Government prefers to wait—a policy which, whatever its other merits, has not just now that of novelty.

Some surprise has been felt that Prussia alone of the three Polish Powers has not proclaimed a state of siege in that part of her territories. The reason generally given is the reluctance of that State to confess that the management of her Polish provinces has been no more successful than that of Austria. The journals have been at some pains to deny the report that General von Manteuffel's mission to Vienna related in some measure to this point; however that may be, it is believed that Austria has come to no agreement with Prussia for common action in the matter, although it is probable that they have both made some arrangement with Russia with respect to it. The programme of the Russian campaign is simple: masses of troops are to occupy the frontiers and advance slowly inwards, until the rebels are collected, like game beaten out of a cover, under the walls of Warsaw.

The text of the proclamation emancipating the serfs in Poland has been published. It begins with a résumé of the labours of the late and present Czar in the cause of freedom, accuses the landlords of creating the rebellion, and praises the peasants for their fidelity; it then proceeds to give a broad statement of the privileges granted, the most noteworthy of which are—one that refuses municipal rights to all but peasant landholders, thus excluding a great body of priests and shopkeepers, while it gives the Government officials discretion to admit to these rights any persons of the excluded class whom they may think deserving. Another clause provides for the creation of commissions throughout the country to which peasants may appeal, and enacts that, *until such creation*, they may apply for aid to the military power. It concludes with a pathetic allusion to the universal law that man shall eat bread by the sweat of his brow, recalling to the mind of the reader, in an almost comical manner, the same allusion in General Banks's Edict of Re-enslavement at New Orleans. With all the Imperial solicitude for his Polish subjects, it cannot be said that the situation in that country is much altered: the insurgent armies have been reduced to guerilla bands, but these are excessively numerous, and overtax all the strength that Russia has yet exerted against them. The deportations to Siberia still continue to such an extent that the population will undoubtedly be seriously affected. The state of the prisons at Warsaw, and the nature of the punishments inflicted therein, are such as might excite the envy and emulation of a Butler, but must be allowed by all civilised Europe to be an excuse for any act of desperation. Warsaw itself is tolerably quiet; like the criminal broken at the wheel, it has lost the power of active suffering after the first crushing blow, but the neighbourhood still shows signs of life. The rails were torn up last week on the line between Warsaw and Bromberg, and all communication stopped; the names, by the way, of the insurgent officers under whose direction this was accomplished, are Szukalski, colonel, and Brzesc Kujawski, district chief of the insurgents. The Polish language has certainly an awkward look on paper.

Letters from Venetia inform us that the last link in the chain of fortifications protecting that country is now completed by the erection of certain batteries on the Po. The great depôt of coal has been removed from Venice to Pola. Austria waits for the blow which is to summon her forth to battle. On the Italian side of the river two camps of observation, to contain 80,000 men each, are being formed, one at Bologna, the other near Pavia; 10,000 mules have been bought for the military train; munitions are being brought up on all sides. We hear from Naples that 50,000 yards of cloth have been lately accepted, though already once refused because made of wool 'mixed with cotton.' The omnipotent 'shoddy' is apparently forcing its way even into the halls and temples of Pompeii.

The reception of the Crown Prince in Sicily is described as having been most enthusiastic; the Prince is much more popular with the Southern Italians than his royal father; he has taken more trouble to please them, and enters with less restraint into their feelings than Victor Emmanuel has ever cared to do. Considering the immense personal influence that can be acquired among that sensitive people, of which Garibaldi has given us so notable an example, it is most fortunate that there should be one of the royal family of Italy capable of commanding that influence.

Some curious statistics have been published of the number of newspapers now issued in Italy; they are 365 in number, of which the old provinces of Piedmont claim 119, and Milan alone 60; of foreign journals received in the kingdom 269 are British, and 188 French; America supplies 37; and the remaining States of Europe 146.

On the 3rd inst. a solemn service was performed at Rome in the Church dell' Umiltà, attached to the American College, for the repose of the soul of Monsignor John Hughes, Archbishop of New York. The funeral oration was pronounced by the Rev. William M'Kloskey, rector of the College. The service was attended by many distinguished personages, among whom were several of the best Irish families.

His Holiness, struck with the capabilities of some parts of the Pontifical Territory for the growth of cotton, has offered a reward of 25 scudi for every 'rubbio' of land from which a crop of that plant is obtained. To qualify for the reward, at least 30 'rubbii' must be cropped; the Government supplying the seed, and all necessary instructions for its proper cultivation.

A late despatch from Turin contains the important news that Garibaldi has disappeared from his villa on the Isle of Caprera; he is supposed to have left during the night, and no one knows the direction which he has taken. But the advanced state of the volunteer corps of Genoa and Florence, in spite of all Government resistance, gives reason to believe that he has turned thitherwards. His son Menotti is the only person who has any cognisance of his plans.

The new Ministry in Spain are testifying most energetically to the truth of the old proverb concerning 'new brooms.' A new law has been published, disabling most public functionaries from sitting in the Cortes: to this rule ambassadors and general officers are the only exceptions. Every person who takes any contract under Government also loses his seat. We wonder whether they also exclude from their House railway directors. An entire reorganisation of the military divisions has also taken place; the country is now divided into three Capitanates — North, Central, and South. Another Capitanate, but of an inferior grade, is formed out of the Canary Islands.

An attempt has been made to acclimatise the sugar-cane in Spain by the Marques d'Aziany, which bids fair to be successful. The crop has not yet arrived at full growth, but is considered by the experienced to promise well. The plantation rejoices in the name of Puigpatrent, of which neither the sound nor the meaning smacks much of the sugar-cane.

We are sorry to have to report that His Holiness the Pope has been suffering from a bad attack of fever caught in St. Peter's on Friday, March 11. The reports of his illness have been often unfounded, but we fear that there is too much reason to believe this to be true. His death at this moment would add another to the already too numerous complications in European politics.

The 'entente cordiale' between France and England is now so intimate that the two nations can mutually sympathise not only in the loss of their mightiest men, but also in that of less European and more domestic celebrities. We have this week to record the decease of two men whose loss is felt on the other side of the Channel. M. Cordoën, Procureur-Général at the Cour Impériale, expired somewhat suddenly on the morning of the 11th inst. He had served as Deputy-Procureur in the provinces, and was promoted to the rank of Procureur du Roi in 1841. In this capacity he acted at Bayeux, and again under the Republic at Rouen; in 1856 he was appointed Procureur-Impérial in Paris, and finally in 1862 Procureur-Général at the Cour Impériale. His name is associated with two remarkable trials—the first that of M. de Montalembert, the second that of the four Italian conspirators recently convicted. The immediate cause of death was congestion of the lungs, but he had evidently been failing ever since his pleading in the case of the Italians. His death was noticed by M. Dufaure, at the conclusion of a pleading before the Cour Impériale on the 11th inst., in that graceful manner which is so eminently a gift of the French gentleman. The death of M. Alaux, the painter, is the second loss that we have to record; he was a pupil of Vincent, and early distinguished himself as a prizeman in the Academy; he long enjoyed the private friendship of Louis-Philippe, for whom he executed some paintings at St. Cloud, Fontainebleau, and elsewhere. He was a member of the Académie des Beaux Arts, and was attended to the grave by many of his brethren in that body.

The Archduke Maximilian left Paris at 7 P.M. on Saturday, March 12, and arrived in London on the following day. It is now arranged that he will formally publish his acceptance of the Mexican crown on the 27th inst., and will notify the fact to the five great Powers of Europe, and also to Spain and Belgium. His Imperial Highness has already exercised his power by concluding in Paris a loan of 200,000,000 francs at 6 per cent., to be issued at 70. His passage to his adopted country will be effected, not by the Austrian frigate *Novara*, as at first intended, but in the French *Themis*, which will be accompanied by the *Novara*. He has accepted no easy task, nor one that can be accomplished by the mere repetition by rote of the commonplaces of diplomacy; but the confidence with

which he has begun augurs well for his future success. A disciple of Napoleon III., he will never want for statecraft; a descendant of the Hapsburgs, he will fill with dignity an Imperial throne. To those who care at all for the sentiment of history, it is gratifying to see the provinces, once the gems in the crown of Ferdinand and Isabella, restoring their allegiance to the representative of their old sovereigns. It remains for him to resuscitate the still glowing embers of the ancient Spanish pride and loyalty, that the country of Mexico, now half blurred out by Federalism, may reassert itself in its own individuality; and side by side with its neighbours of the Confederate States, then once more peaceful and happy, may present itself to its European parent, neither mother nor child unworthy of the other.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

THE SEIZURE OF THE VOLANT.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, Mr. H. Baillie presented a petition from the owners of the brig *Volant*, which vessel, after proceeding from the port of London directly to the port of Matamoros, was captured in Mexican waters by the United States gunboat *Virginia*, on the ground that part of her cargo—that is, some cloth and stockings—was contraband of war. The *Volant* was sent to New Orleans, and the owners complain of being unfairly subjected to the dilatory proceedings of the American Prize Court, and pray the House of Commons to take their case into consideration.

FEDERAL RECRUITING IN IRELAND.

On Monday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Roebuck, pursuant to notice, asked, 'as the Solicitor-General has stated that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to remonstrate with the Government of the Confederate States upon their employment of agents for illegal purposes, if, in the maintenance of strict neutrality, it is intended to remonstrate with the Government of the Federal States upon the employment by them of agents in Ireland for the purpose of enlisting as soldiers the subjects of Her Majesty.' In introducing this matter to the House, Mr. Roebuck complained that the Solicitor-General, a law officer of the Crown, had, in the presence, and therefore with the tacit sanction of, the Attorney-General, given a distinct and official opinion upon a case now pending in our law courts by promising to remonstrate with the Confederate Government about acts which as yet no tribunal in this country had pronounced illegal, and which, so far as the case had yet been tried, had been decided against the Government. The hon. member said he believed Lord Palmerston was ready to uphold the honour of the country, but he felt that the honour of England had been tarnished by the policy of Earl Russell. He called upon the noble Lord to maintain a strict neutrality between the belligerents. He frankly admitted he had no sympathy with the Northern States, and as the Government was about to remonstrate with the Confederates on suspicion, then the Federal Government ought to be remonstrated with on the suspicion of their recruiting in Ireland. He did not ask the Premier to declare his sentiments, but to be really neutral, and not to be a party to that kind of neutrality which is all on one side.

Lord Palmerston declared emphatically that he thoroughly endorsed the policy and proceedings of Earl Russell in American affairs, and that he was responsible for them. He admitted that the Federals had the best of our neutrality, but that was not that our laws were unequal, but that the circumstances of the belligerents were different. The Federals commanded the sea, and therefore the markets of Europe were open to them, whilst the Confederates were shut out from these advantages. [So much the greater reason for not employing any unlawful means for hindering the Confederates from remedying the inequality.] The noble Lord said: It is true that there is a great difference between the obtaining ships from a neutral country and the obtaining of arms and ammunition. I don't dispute that in point of principle and our own municipal law these two things stand on an equal footing—that is to say, that by international law and obligation, if a belligerent goes to a neutral country and buys arms, cannon, and ammunition, wherewith to arm large armies, he derives from that neutral a greater assistance towards deciding the war than perhaps one, two, or more cruisers can have on the ultimate fate of the war, although they may effect the injury of individuals. But we have a municipal law which overrides in some respects international obligations, and we are bound to prevent certain things being done in this country for the benefit of one belligerent against another. We are bound not to permit enlistments and organisation of men, and also to prevent the equipment and armament of ships.' It is easy to prevent the equipment of ships, but difficult to prevent enlistments. It is likely enough that agents of the Federal Government in Ireland are inducing men to go out to America who would enlist, but they were too cunning to enlist them in Ireland. They coaxed the men to go out as labourers by the offer of high wages [We were under the impression that a breach of law. was not covered by a fraudulent pretext.] In the case of the *Kearsage* a prosecution is going on, and if a conviction is obtained, the Government will remonstrate with the Federal Government. If any proofs can be obtained, he (Lord Palmerston) and Earl Russell will be ready to vindicate the honour and laws of the country by adequate representations.

Sir J. Fergusson censured the barbarous mode of warfare adopted by the Federal Government, and felt confident that if such conduct had been proved against a European power, that House would not have remained silent. The hon. member said: 'It is notorious that enlistments are taking place in this country—that our fellow-subjects are being drawn away to become the instruments of savage cruelty,' and therefore it is fitting that there should be a remonstrance addressed to the Federal Government. Two years ago a naval officer informed him that large bounties were being offered to the men on board his vessel to induce them to enlist in the Federal marine. These things must be known to Her Majesty's Government, and if they were about to remonstrate with the Confederate Government on mere suspicion, at least an equally strong representation should be made to the Federal Government.

Mr. Bright found fault with the tone of Mr. Roebuck's speech, and said that the Federals were only in one sense a foreign nation, 'for they were, after all, another English nation growing up on the other side of the Atlantic.' [If Mr. Bright were an Englishman in anything besides birth and name, he would be quite right in describing the Yankee and English peoples as being identical.] He contended that the emigration from Ireland to the United States was the result of high wages and also of the bounty offered to soldiers. The hon. member said: 'When it was known that the bounty for soldiers in the United States is 100*l.*, the only marvel is that any Irishman not a freeholder or a man of some capital should remain in that blighted and unhappy country.' Mr. Bright thinks it not unlikely that some sharp fellow may have found out that he can get a handsome remuneration for taking over Englishmen or Irishmen who think proper to enlist when they get to America. Mr. Bright concluded his genuine Yankee speech by an insolent attack upon Mr. Roebuck.

Lord R. Cecil remarked that he was not disturbed by the announcement of Her Majesty's Government intending to remonstrate to the Confederate Government, and he had no fear that we should plunge into a war with the Confederacy. 'There is no stronger proof of the Confederate States being among those Powers which are thought too strong to go to war with than the fact that Her Majesty's Government intends to remonstrate with them. There is not a strong Power in the world with which this Government has not remonstrated, and there is no doubt they will go on remonstrating to the end of the chapter, their remonstrances producing not the smallest effect.'

Mr. Kinglake abused Mr. Roebuck, and Mr. Caird expressed an opinion that the high remuneration offered to labourers in America was sufficient to attract emigrants without the intervention of the recruiting officer.

HER MAJESTY'S SHIP THE PRINCE CONSORT.

As our readers are aware, Her Majesty's Government, being very much alarmed for fear the steam rams in the Mersey should, in defiance of the authority of Her Majesty's Customs, and in spite of what appeared to all reasonable men adequate precautions, put to sea, suddenly determined to send Her Majesty's armour-plated ship the *Prince Consort* to aid the authorities in keeping the unfinished and unarmed rams in safe custody. On her voyage to Liverpool, the *Prince Consort* was caught in a gale, severely damaged, and was, it is reported, in some danger of going to the bottom. On Thursday night, in answer to a question put by Sir J. Elphinstone, Lord C. Paget said: 'There were reports that certain vessels in the Mersey would probably put to sea, and it was necessary that these ships should not be allowed to go. The *Prince Consort* was not unfitted. She was ready, and, moreover, the Controller of the Navy had expressed a wish that she should have a trial at sea under steam. The crew was put on board—for under our present arrangements we can put a crew on board in twenty-four hours—and she went to sea. It is true that the men, having been only so short a time on board, did not know all the various arrangements of the vessel with respect to stores, and hatches, and matters of that sort; and unfortunately, the moment she left Devonport, there came on a very heavy gale of wind, and when she rounded the Land's End she experienced one of the heaviest gales that have been known for a great number of years. She rolled—I need not tell you that our armour-ships do roll; it is a peculiarity of our armour ships that they do roll. Had she been in a long sea—had she been on the Atlantic, probably she would not have shipped any water, because we know that a long sea is better than those short seas which prevail in the Channel for a large vessel like the *Prince Consort*. Well, she got into the Race of Holyhead, where, as every one knows, the sea boils. She did take in water in the Race of Holyhead; the water was over her engine-room, and matters began to look serious. She came up to the South Stack, but the captain, finding that he could not bear into Holyhead with safety, hauled his wind and made for Dublin. It so happened that for some time the vessel lay to, and while she lay to she did not take in water, but when her head was forced against the sea she took in water over her bows and over her sides—in fact, she shipped a great deal of water; and when they reached Dublin all on board were very glad, and they got their pumps out and worked them.'

[We quote Lord C. Paget's statement because we think it is evidence that under the influence of panic induced by the threats of the Federal States' Minister, her Majesty's Government placed a costly vessel in imminent jeopardy. That she escaped with damages that could be repaired for 1,000*l.* was a fortunate circumstance, for which the Government is not entitled to any credit.]

DENMARK.

On Friday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald called attention to a discrepancy between the statements made by Earl Russell and Lord Palmerston as to the proposed Conference. The Foreign Secretary had stated that a cessation of hostilities was a part of the programme, and Lord Palmerston had stated the Government had proposed a Conference without an armistice.—In reply, Lord Palmerston could not explain the discrepancy, but said, that the proposal was for a Conference without a cessation of hostilities.

In the House of Lords, on Monday, in reply to the Earl of Derby, Lord Wodehouse said that the object of the advice of Her Majesty's Government to the Danish Government in December last, was, if possible, to prevent the invasion of Slesvig, and accordingly they had recommended the withdrawal of the November Constitution, in order to remove a ground or pretext for the invasion. In tendering this advice to the Danish Government, he (Lord Wodehouse) could not engage for the German Powers that they would not invade Slesvig.

On Tuesday, in the House of Lords, the Earl of Ellenborough expressed a hope that Denmark would accept the armistice proposed in the joint note of Austria and Prussia. Without a cessation of hostilities there was little hope of any success from the Conference.—The Duke of Somerset, in the absence of Earl Russell, who is temporarily indisposed, said, without vouching for the exact words, the joint note of Austria and Prussia, as published in the newspapers, is substantially correct.

A PARLIAMENTARY SURPRISE.

In committee of supply on Thursday night there was an incident which resulted in rather a lively discussion. On the vote for 1,275,316*l.* for wages to artificers in Her Majesty's dockyards, Mr. Stansfeld rose as if about to address the committee on this vote, which it was known would not be passed without criticism; but he immediately resumed his seat without speaking, and to the astonishment of the Members, Mr. Massey, the Chairman, put the vote next in order, and in reply to Mr. Lindsay, said the vote for the artificers had been passed. Mr. Lindsay immediately moved that the Chairman report progress, and strongly denounced the conduct of the Government in hurrying the vote through. Sir J. Pakington said it was perfectly well understood that Mr. Stansfeld was to address the Committee on the vote. Mr. Bright said the affair had the appearance of a trick, and was insulting to the House. This observation has resulted in a correspondence between Mr. Bright and Lord C. Paget, in which Mr. Bright retracts his words, so far as they were supposed to apply to Lord C. Paget.]—As Mr. Lindsay refused to withdraw his motion at the request of Mr. Gladstone, the vote was ultimately recommitted.

FLOGGING AND BRANDING IN THE BRITISH ARMY AND NAVY.

In Committee on the Mutiny Bill, Mr. Cox called attention to the subject of corporal punishment in the army and navy. In the year 1862, nearly 35,000 lashes had been inflicted in the navy, and 5,999 in the army. One man had been sentenced to forty lashes for using bad language. Mr. Cox moved the omission of the clause which authorised this punishment. Colonel North said he should be glad if any better punishment could be suggested, but he did not believe it could; our system was more merciful than that of other nations. In France they shot when we flogged. 'In Austria they had a torture chamber, the floor of which was composed of angles, arranged in such a way, that a prisoner could neither sit nor stand at ease, and the punishment was so intense, that offenders could not be retained there for long at a time, but were taken out for a little while and then put back again. In Prussia, again, the non-commissioned officers carried sticks for the correction of private soldiers.' —Mr. Ayrton remarked, that our native soldiers in India were exempted from all flogging, and the discipline did not suffer thereby, and that the native pointed the finger of scorn at the Englishman who was amenable to the lash.—The Marquis of Hartington advocated the retention of the clause, because it was the opinion of British officers that the lash was the only sort of punishment to which many of our soldiers and sailors were sensible. At length the Committee divided, and the clause was retained by a majority of three.

On the 'branding' clause being moved, Mr. Cox said he was utterly at a loss to know what possible reason could be given for retaining the still more brutal punishment of branding. If a man were so bad as not to be fit to remain in the army, they should at once get rid of him, and afford him the chance which privation might offer of retrieving his character. This clause was a disgrace to our statute-book. It enabled courts-martial, in addition to any other punishment, to order the letter 'D.' to be deeply marked on the left breast of a deserter, with ink or gunpowder, or other preparation, in such a manner as to 'be clearly seen, and not liable to be obliterated.' They might also recommend that the letters 'B. C.' (bad character) should be branded indelibly upon his person. He knew one case of a man entering the army who, as the noble Lord said, was rather 'wild,' and who was afterwards guilty of all sorts of military offences. After he had had his flogging he at last came under the operation of Clause 26, and received both the brands of 'D.' and 'B. C.' He turned out some few years later to be an honest, worthy, and hard-working labourer, and as such obtained the recommendation of several respectable persons as a candidate for the police force. He was rejected, but he would unquestionably have been successful in his application but for the indelible marks showing that he had once been a bad man. He maintained that it was not a Christian mode of punishment to brand a man with infamy for life without leaving him a *locus pœnitentiæ*. Such a punishment could never conduce to the benefit of the army. He moved the omission of the clause.

After a few words in defence of the system from Colonel North and Mr. Headland, Mr. Bright warned the House that, owing to the increase of emigration, the price of labour was rapidly rising in the country, and that in a few years it would be more difficult to recruit our army than it was at present; and this being so, it would be wise to make the service honourable and popular, and not to disgrace it by the infliction of cruel and degrading punishments. Mr. Gladstone expressed a hope that the Committee would not interfere with the discipline of the army without having the matter fully discussed. Upon a division the branding clause was retained by a majority of 30.

THE BURNING OF KAGOSIMA.

Mr. Layard read a letter from Colonel Neale, which stated that the inhabitants of Kagosima did not exceed 40,000, that they withdrew from their huts during the bombardment, and by offerings of fruit to the crew of the British flagship showed that they appreciated the moderation and caution of Her Majesty's agents. [We are glad to hear that the affair was not so bad as reported, but we do not think much of the offerings of fruit. As far as we know, barbarous nations are ever anxious to propitiate cruel Powers.]

THE GRECO CONSPIRACY.

On Monday, in the House of Commons, in answer to Sir J. Palk, Mr. Layard said no correspondence had taken place with the French Government with reference to the charge against Mr. Stansfeld, and that it would be unworthy of Her Majesty's Government to take notice of such a charge. Mr. Hennessy read copious extracts from a work written by M. Mazzini which defended tyrannicide. Mr. Disraeli considered the accusation a very grave affair, and that Mr. Layard's answer to Sir J. Palk's question was very unsatisfactory.

AMERICAN LIFE, BY AN AMERICAN.*

The aphorism that one must live with a man to know him—live with him, not as a guest, but as a member of the family—is as applicable to nations as to individuals. A traveller may be very industrious and conscientious, singularly free from prejudice, and enjoy excellent opportunities for observation, but still the inner life of the people among whom he sojourns will be hidden from him. England and France are near neighbours, yet how little the respective peoples understand and appreciate each other! Nor can we marvel at, however much we may deplore, such ignorance. We boast, and not without reason, that our newspapers are so free and comprehensive that they record the story of our lives from day to day. Suppose a foreigner read our papers to learn our character, can we hope that a favourable impression would be produced? What a fearful record of vice, crime, cruelty, and suffering would meet his eye! Yet we are not so bad as we seem, and the black spots are sores on the surface, and not cancers eating into the very life of the nation. It is true that year by year so many people die in London from sheer destitution, but this does not happen from any harshness in the theory of the law, or from any hardness of heart on the part of the rich. It is true that the reports of proceedings in the Bankruptcy and Divorce Courts reveal some hideous depths of dishonesty and immorality, yet we have cause to be proud of our commercial integrity and the proverbial chastity of our women. Like photography, our press portrays prominent features and not character, and to discover the latter time and study are indispensable.

But the United States are a better illustration than England of the difficulty of ascertaining something about national character. For many years before Secession, steam had effectually bridged the Atlantic, and the New World was inundated with emigrants, tourists, commercial travellers, and distinguished lions of all sorts and conditions. But neither from the settlers, nor from the visitors, nor from the shrewd men of business, nor from writers famed for acute observation and marvellous insight into human nature, did we obtain any exact information about the manners and customs of the inhabitants of North America. Before 1861 we knew not that there were as great international differences between the peoples of the North and South as there are between Englishmen and Frenchmen. Intelligent men were not deceived by the rancorous malignity of the Yankee preachers, lecturers, and novelists, but still there was a prevailing impression that the Southerners, owing to the influence of climate and domestic institutions, were both physically and mentally rather effeminated. We did not credit Abolition stories, but still the general idea was that the negroes were unhappy, uncared for, and insubordinate. The war has taught us that the Southerners are an athletic, heroic, and highly gifted race, and that the negroes were so kindly treated that they have in the midst of hostilities manifested a noble and faithful attachment to their masters. Our opinions, too, about the North have been completely revolutionised. We never doubted that the Yankees were braggarts, and that they deified the dollar, but no one supposed that they would wage a cruel war against national independence, or that they would resign their own liberties without a struggle and even without a protest. We are indebted to the war for this enlightenment; but if Dr. Nichols had published his 'Forty Years of American Life' five years ago, we should have known beforehand that the South would defend her national independence at any sacrifice of property and life, and that Northern liberty would go down at the first attack.

Dr. Nichols was born in New Hampshire in 1815. He relates little about his own career, but we learn incidentally that he has travelled North and South; that he has been a journalist; that he has been acquainted, more or less intimately, with nearly all the American celebrities of the past and present generations; and that when this war broke out he came to England rather than aid the North in her wicked aggression on the South, or than join the South and fight against the country of his birth. He does not think it altogether proper that he should have left America instead of doing what he could to put down 'that miserable usurpation at Washington;' but then, if he had remained, he would have been imprisoned in Fort Lafayette. So he came to the old country, and sought to relieve the tedium of exile by writing one of the best books on America ever published—a book which, if it meets with the attention it deserves, will be exceedingly useful. 'Forty Years of American Life' is not a political essay, or a book of travels, or a history, or a biography, but a series of sketches of what the author has seen and observed. There is something very touching in the enthusiasm Dr. Nichols manifests when he describes his native land. He dilates on the beautiful scenery and the riches of the country copiously and without restraint; but when he speaks of the people, there is an evidence of the pain and regret with which he sets forth the follies and vices of his fellow-countrymen. Better would it have been for the United States if his frankness was not exceptional, and if the Northern people had been inspired by such earnest and unswerving patriotism.

After these general observations, we propose to comment on a few of the leading topics, and we regret that it is impossible in a review to do justice to the whole work. We might as well attempt to criticise in detail a book of proverbs or a cyclopædia. There are fifty-four chapters, and each chapter, though not isolated from the others, has a separate interest, and both volumes abound with characteristic anecdotes. In justice, then, to the author and to our readers, we are called upon to state that our review of this able work is so far from being exhaustive that it only points out some interesting passages and incidents exhibiting the national characteristics of North and South.

It is natural that Dr. Nichols should, almost at the beginning of his book, direct attention to a prominent and ruling passion with the North—hatred to England. From his earliest years the Northern American is taught to regard this country with enmity, and it is true that 'there has not been an election in America in forty years—no, nor in eighty—in which a sustained charge of friendship to England would not have defeated the most hopeful prospects of success.' Nor is it difficult to account for this sentiment of hostility. The history of the United States dates from the War of Independence, and the only wars in which they have been engaged, except the Mexican, were with England. We may be their best customer and their best friend, but we are unquestionably their only historical enemy. The results of the wars with England were calculated to foster a spirit of rivalry and vanity that is incompatible with cordial amity. In the War of Independence, the colonists, though not without foreign aid, were successful. In the war of 1812, England was fighting Napoleon, and the United States came out of the struggle triumphantly; and the disaster of New Orleans after peace had been concluded in Europe gave them additional *éclat*. It is true that we held our own in Canada; that we could have maintained the struggle with the colonies much longer had it not been for the intervention of France: that in the last war we should have done much better had our arms not been engaged in Europe; but we must not wonder that the issues of our contests with the United States should induce the people to think their military prowess superior to ours. Another reason for their enmity to England is, that we hold a large portion of the continent, and the Yankee believes that the whole continent is his property. On September 18, 1860, Mr. Seward delivered a speech at St. Paul, Minnesota, in which this idea was fully embodied. He declared the power of the United States Government 'is not to be established on the Atlantic or the Pacific coast,' but 'at the sources of the Mississippi and the St. Lawrence;' and he concluded by saying: 'I had never, until now, occupied that place whence I could take in and grasp the whole grand panorama of the continent, for the happiness of whose present people and future millions it is the duty of the American statesman to labour.'

Nothing made the secession of the South more galling than the mortal blow it dealt at the popular view of the Monroe doctrine, and the barrier it seemed to throw up against the conquest of Canada. What more natural than that England should rejoice in an event that decreased the power of an aggressive and unscrupulous rival? What more natural than that the great cotton and tobacco consuming country should form a defensive and offensive alliance with the great cotton and tobacco producing country? And if this happened, what prospect was there of turning the British out of Canada, seeing that England could sweep the seas with her fleets, and that the Northerners could not invade Canada without simultaneously providing against a Southern invasion of their own territory? Hence the jealousy with which the British Government has been watched, and why, in spite of its friendliness to the North, it has been bullied and insulted, whilst France has been treated with the utmost courtesy, although the establishment of the Empire of Mexico is an infraction of the Monroe doctrine. It is so palpably the interest of England to be on good terms with the South that, no matter how meek and submissive our Government is, the North will not believe in its sincerity, and longs for the opportunity to avenge our hypocritical neutrality. Perhaps our Government may succeed in making a friendly alliance between this country and the Confederate States impossible, and so give a tremendous triumph to Mr. Seward's diplomacy. By so doing, however, the bitter hatred of the Yankees will not be lessened, but rather stimulated.

Dr. Nichols gives a graphic survey of religion in the United States. The Pilgrim Fathers were relentless spiritual tyrants. They claimed religious freedom for themselves, but denied it to others, hanging Quakers and whipping heterodox women.

While adopting the Bible as their code of laws; robbing and murdering the Indians on the plea that the earth was the heritage of the saints; compelling men to go to meeting on Sundays under pain of fine and imprisonment; permitting none but Church members to vote for magistrates; driving Baptists out of the colony; hanging witches by dozens, according to the laws of Moses; enslaving the Indians, or importing negroes from Jamaica, and doing very much as their brethren were doing on the opposite side of the Atlantic, the Yankee colonists were laying the foundations of that group of free, prosperous, and happy Republics which Mr. Bright expects to spread over the Western hemisphere.

Puritan intolerance begat that species of Deism called Unitarian Christianity, and in Boston there are fifty Unitarian churches. The denominations in the North are almost innumerable; and many sects, though retaining the name and some of the forms of Christianity, profess doctrines that are altogether opposed to the doctrines of the Bible, and which are in fact infidel. In respect to religion, the difference between North and South is remarkable. 'The great bulk of the Southern people are Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, and Roman Catholics. The great bulk of the Northern people at this day are none of these. They are Rationalists and Spiritualists.'

Amidst the war of sects, the Roman Catholic Church has continued to steadily progress, and there appears some ground for the boast, that what Catholicism has lost in Europe it is fast recovering in the New World. In 1808, the Roman Catholic Church in the United States had 2 bishops, 68 priests, 80 churches, and 2 ecclesiastical educational institutions; and in 1861, it had 45 archbishops and bishops, 2,317 priests, 2,517 churches, 1,278 stations and chapels, and 48 ecclesiastical educational institutions. Nor are these figures the only, or even the most important, indications of progress. Besides 28 hospitals, 102 orphan asylums, 100 other charitable institutions, 100 monasteries, and 173 convents, there were, in 1861, 96 colleges and academies for young men, and 212 female academies. In America it is customary for Protestant parents to send their children to Catholic schools, where they get an excellent and refined education. Dr. Nichols assures us that the directors of these establishments do not use the opportunity for converting their pupils, but they necessarily exercise a powerful and abiding influence over them. Hence there is none of that bitter animosity which in this country Protestants display towards Catholicism. The increase in the Roman Church in America is mainly due to the immigration of Catholics, though the conversions are numerous. The priesthood, however, do not exert any marked political control over their flocks. They have been stoutly opposed to the doctrines of Abolitionism, and at the time of secession vainly sought to avert hostilities. The late 'Archbishop Hughes was opposed to Abolitionism and to the war; and yet his influence was used by adroit management to fill the ranks of the Federal army.'

We shall not comment on the social condition of the people of the North. That it is one of degeneracy is unquestionable. That falsehood and commercial dishonesty are prevalent is undeniable. But we are more immediately concerned with their political morality, which is a fair subject for criticism, and which is also a sure test of the morals of the community. When a popular government is corrupt, it needs no argument or facts to prove that the people are not virtuous.

Europe has been startled at the corrupt practices that have been revealed since the commencement of the war. 'Honest Abe' has violated, with reckless audacity, the Constitution he swore to defend, and is resorting to scandalous and arbitrary measures to secure his re-election. Mr. Seward has been guilty of deceit and misrepresentation such as no other diplomatist has ever descended to. Federal generals have shown themselves dishonest and mendacious. The 'loyal' supporters of the Lincoln Government have been growing rich on peculation. But it must not be supposed that this widespread corruption is the result of the war, for in fact the war is the result of the general corruption. For many years offices have been sold to the highest bidder, and office-holders have held themselves entitled to make the best of their bargains.

Hired gangs of rowdies, fighting men by profession, have long been the most active and influential politicians in the large American cities. They live upon plunder. No man can be nominated or elected to the lowest office without paying them. When a man who depends upon his office for bread pays more for a nomination than the entire salary of his office, it is easy to see that he must reimburse himself by some kind of corruption or robbery of the public.

As with the minor officers, both State and Federal, so it is with the higher officers and with members of Congress. Dr. Nichols says, and he supports his statement with copious extracts from Northern journals:—

I am not speaking of idle rumours or party slanders. Every person who has been intimately acquainted with American politics for the last ten years, knows how public, notorious, and unquestionable these matters have become. Money is paid for nominations even to important judicial offices. The very thieves of New York are bribed to nominate the judges who are to try and sentence them. Money is paid for votes, and in certain States the man or the party that can pay the most money can make sure of carrying an election. Money is paid to secure the passage of legislative enactments for charities, appropriations, contracts, and monopolies.

But it may be asked whether these observations do not apply to the South as well as to the North. Both sections were living under the same Constitution, and if one is so corrupt, is it likely or possible that the other can be virtuous? National character is the result of circumstances and disposition, and is very little affected by forms of government. A people cannot be made virtuous or vicious by a parchment deed, though we are willing to admit that with such a mixed population as that of the North universal suffrage is quite inimical to good government, and that the South owes much of her political purity to the circumstance of having a large labouring population not entitled to vote. But, whatever the causes, it is true that the political degeneracy of the North did not find a home in the South. The art of wire-pulling was not in vogue south of Mason and Dixon's line, and, as our author observes, in that part of the continent 'political caucuses and nominating conventions are almost unknown.' In the South the 'isms,' including freelovism, communism, and Fourierism, have never found disciples. When a Southern gentleman wants to go to Congress, he openly canvasses the constituency, and if he performs his duties satisfactorily he is certain of re-election.

This frank and open way of political management suits the temper of the Southern people. They detest cunning and underhand measures as unworthy of white men and freemen. It is thought by many that they are more choice of the dignity of freedom, because surrounded with slaves. It is also to be borne in mind, that when the Southern States formed a constitution, they abolished the corrupting practice of giving offices as a reward for partisan services, by making appointments to all but a few of the higher offices during good behaviour, and providing that office-holders should not be removed for merely political reasons.

Dr. Nichols illustrates his political strictures by some sketches of politicians. Englishmen will not be shocked to hear of firemen, barmen, and eating-house keepers attaining high positions. In this aristocratic country there are a host of what are technically called self-made men. We have peers who have risen from the ranks, and many more whose fathers were the architects of their own for-

* *Forty Years of American Life.* By Dr. Thomas L. Nichols. 2 vols. London: John Maxwell & Co.

tunes and the founders of noble families. When it was announced that an ex-railsplitter had been chosen for President of the United States, no one condemned the choice on account of the humble beginning, and Mr. Lincoln's origin is only remembered because in high office he plays the part of a West-country clown and of a provincial attorney. But for the bestowal of offices on men tainted with corruption and crime there is no excuse, and there are men in Mr. Lincoln's service who would not be tolerated in any European society. And where there is neither peculation nor crime, we find, as in the case of Mr. Seward, a want of political integrity that is hardly less disgraceful. Mr. Seward has been the ready tool of his party, and for his own advancement has flattered the worst passions of an ignorant and misguided mob. Dr. Nichols cites a letter from Mr. Greeley, in which he charges Mr. Seward with base ingratitude and false dealing. We do not sympathise with Mr. Greeley's political sentiments, but still we admit that he has been tricked and cheated by Mr. Seward out of the honours and emoluments that he had earned by arduous and unscrupulous party services.

Dr. Nichols devotes several chapters to the negro question, and he is peculiarly fitted to deal with the subject. He has seen the negro North and South, and he tells us that he knows something of the condition of the race, 'in Ashantee and Dahomey, in Cuba and Brazil, and in the British West Indies and in Hayti.' Moreover, he was brought up in an Abolition school, and although he has changed his opinions he has not become a violent partisan of the Southern institution. He places before his readers such an array of facts, that any one giving them due attention and consideration can form an independent and satisfactory judgment.

In the North the horror of the negro is deep and abiding. It is not on account of the colour of the skin, for there is no such dislike to the Indian. Americans are not ashamed of an alliance with Indians, 'but let it be known that there is even one infinitesimal drop of blood of Central Africa flowing in the veins of an American, and it were better for that man that he had never been born' Of the hundred hotels of New York, there is not one in which the negro can obtain a bed, unless he is engaged on the establishment as a cook or waiter. 'He may cook every meal; he can't eat one out of the kitchen. He may stand behind the chair; he must not sit at the table.' Some years ago Barnum engaged a genuine negro to dance, but before he dare present him to a Northern audience he was obliged to disguise him so that he appeared like a counterfeit negro. In the South there is none of this feeling, except as to the amalgamation of the races, because the Southerner associates with the coloured race from his infancy. But it is a work of supererogation to show that the negro is kindly treated in the South and hated in the North.

Dr. Nichols brings out a fact that deserves special notice. A Society is being organised in the United States for promoting the amalgamation of the negro and white races, though we are confident that the most advanced Abolitionist would be indignant and disgusted at the idea of his daughter marrying a negro. And this disgust is natural and well-founded. In America, the pure-blooded negro attains the greatest longevity of any race, and, on the other hand, the mulattoes, the offspring of the negro and white, are the shortest-lived race. In Philadelphia, the deaths of coloured people to those of the whites is 196 to 100, and in the penitentiaries 316 to 100. In the North the coloured race has hardly increased at all, whilst in the South the black race has increased from half a million to four millions. In the North, and particularly in the New-England States, there has been an amalgamation of races, and the offspring, the mulattoes, have died out: in the South, the purity of the black race has been preserved, and it has increased eightfold. How a fact like this disposes of the Northern calumnies about Southern immorality, and at the same time exposes the way in which the negro has been debauched in the free States!

As to the moral and religious condition of the negroes in the South, we shall quote one fact, but that one is conclusive. Our author finds, from a late return of the Methodist Episcopal Church, that in Mississippi, Louisiana, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida, there were 111,000 negro church members of that particular denomination. 'Allowing proportionate numbers in other States and to other denominations, the aggregate will be very large, reaching to at least half a million, and will show that there must be a powerful and pervading religious influence over the whole negro population.'

Dr. Nichols writes much more that is interesting and informing on the subject of negro slavery in the Confederate States. He discusses the question of secession, both theoretically and practically, in a very able manner. He cites numerous Northern authorities to prove that, before 1861, the North admitted and insisted upon the right of a State to go out of the Union. He gives a brief but clear summary of the resources of the country. Amidst the more serious portions of his work, he introduces some amusing narratives — such, for example, as accounts of the receptions given in New York to distinguished foreigners. But we have no space for further comment; and we therefore conclude this review by recommending those who want an amusing book, or who desire to be well informed of the character of the American people, to read Dr. Nichols's 'Forty Years of American Life.' It is rare indeed that we bestow such unmixed praise, and for the reason that we rarely meet with a work that so nearly merits unqualified commendation.

THE RECORD OF STARVATION.

(From the *Times* of March 12.)

SCARCE a day passes without there appearing in the papers, like a spot in the sun or a mote in the eye, a dismal little paragraph, headed 'Death from Starvation.' When some poor helpless and neglected creature has died at last, and must be buried, and his death accounted for in some fashion, then there is a gathering of neighbours, and an inquest, a verdict, and a nine days' indignation. It is the revenge which the weakest take at last, and must take. Simple as the story usually is, there is always a good deal to notice about it. One must be grateful to find that the most miserable and forlorn unit in our two or three millions all under one smoke cannot fall to the ground without being observed, and even lamented. Then it must be said that there is generally, if not always, an apparent absence of reason for the death, though, as we shall presently see, a significant and very suggestive absence of reason. The story reads as if there was no lack of social machinery of some sort. Poor Laws, officers of charity, asylums for poverty, sound roles, and neighbourly kindness, all frustrated by some accident, or personal quality in this instance, that defied all attempts to do good, whether those of the State or the smaller acts of private kindness. Many readers stop at that point, pause on the subject no longer, and pass on lightly to the description of a new war steamer, a railway work, or a Royal ceremony. But a very trifling and intelligible incident may show, like a straw, which way the wind lies, or may suggest, like Newton's falling apple, most serious and important speculations. If there was no occasion that these poor creatures should die of starvation, why did they die? What was the want in our system, or the neutralising cause, that did such sad work, when to our imagination all had been done that could be done? When a shed, or a hovel, or a thing of lath and plaster tumbles down, or cracks, or leans, we expect it, and are not alarmed. But when we have built for ages, laid our foundations deep and strong, and spared neither brick nor iron, but nevertheless detect the ugly 'settlement' stealing through the solid masonry, and threatening to rive the whole edifice in twain, then we are alarmed, because it ought not to have been so, and because the fullest enquiry brings out the important truth that nobody was to blame. We shudder at the calamity which we did our utmost to avert, and which certainly ought not to have been. We shudder, because it betrays the working of influences that we had not taken into account. A new power intrudes into our little sphere, which we had so thoroughly mastered, which we had so fully arranged, so amply provided for.

The 'death from starvation' yesterday was that of a dressmaker, aged 50, who had presented herself to a lodginghouse-keeper, who knew nothing about her, at Edmonton, last year. Her landlord allowed her to fall into arrears with her rent — sixpence a week — offered her food and fuel, which she refused, saying she had her own, and when, finally, he perceived from her moans that something was amiss, forced the door, found her dying, gathered the neighbours, and sent to the workhouse. The people there took their time about it, and only sent for the poor creature when she was indeed at the point of death. She had an ulcer on her foot, but there is no doubt, from the report of the medical officer, that she died from want of food. The Coroner animadverted very properly on the inhumanity of the officials in leaving her seven hours in such a condition. One feels, however, that a neglect, or stupidity, or delay, comprised within seven hours, cannot be the worst incident in such a story, except as showing probably that the world was the same to the end, as it generally is with poor creatures of this sort. Charlotte Hampton was very proud, the neighbours said. She was at once above and below her lot, for she would not accept relief but could not help falling into debt, and could not do or keep her work. But what a story was there if one did but know it! After 50 long years all she had was her pride. She had lost property, friends, employment, health, strength, and the commonest power of taking care of herself, and all that remained was the sense that she had been something, and ought still to be something, and, if she had her right, would be beholden to nobody. We may suppose, if we please, that she had been self-willed, headstrong, perverse, ill-tempered, disagreeable, and a good deal more: but we have an equal right to suppose that she had suffered all the wrongs that women are pretty sure to suffer if they have none to protect them, or, what is even worse, if they have none but weak and wrong-headed protectors. We know nothing about her, except that she was too proud to thank the landlord of the lodginghouse for a meal or a little warmth, but that her pride did not save her from dying in a workhouse.

The other day there was a 'death from starvation' and pride, with some striking differences. Naomi Norman died from rupture of the heart, accelerated by want of food, warmth, and clothing, at 63 years of age. She had not been able to work for many years, but she had a sister who gave her a shilling a week, as much as she could spare. She had another shilling a week and a loaf from the parish, but she had to pay 9*d.* a week for her lodging, leaving, at the most, 1*s.* 3*d.* and her loaf to live on. But she kept within limits, and had a stock on hand. That she died of cold and want was evident, but there were found in her box two gowns, and a little bacon, tea, and sugar. She had often said she would never enter the workhouse—she would rather starve to death. Whatever may be said as to the sufficiency of the outdoor allowance, it was not enough to sustain life, even with an amount of private assistance that few of the poor can afford to give an old relation. Another 'death from starvation' is that of a labourer, destitute and ill, and therefore incapable of work. Though only 32, he looked 60. He had been sleeping about the streets for several nights in succession, miserably clad. He was carried to the workhouse to die there; and it was then found that the whole system—head, brains, spinal cord, chest, and lungs—was in that state that he could not have worked, and had wanted nursing. Of course, that poor man wanted somebody to tell his ailments to, and to be believed; and, wanting that, he died. The fourth 'death from starvation' in our columns the last week is that of a Sarah Dove. Her husband was a casual labourer at the docks, earning, when employed, 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. What he got on the average is not stated. His wife had to maintain herself and two growing daughters, and to pay 2*s.* 9*d.* a week for rent out of the precarious allowance. She had had asthma for years, could not work herself, and wanted proper food, as well as bed and body clothing. At last she obtained an order for medical attendance, and as soon as the district surgeon had made himself acquainted with her case he said that she must go into the parish infirmary. The Bethnal Green authorities, however, would not take her into the workhouse without her husband and children. The husband would not go in, and the wife was sacrificed to the economic rules of the Union, and the personal pride and independence of the husband. As everybody will feel that the husband was right under the circumstances in preferring to work and keep the children out of the workhouse, it follows that in a case very likely to occur, and not at all reflecting on the sufferer, the rules of the Union must inevitably involve lamentable and unmerited death. The humane portion of the British public will regard such a result with something more than sorrow. They will wish to see its recurrence guarded against, as far as possible. We feel sure they will join in the verdict, which deserves to be repeated in this place. It was, 'That the deceased, Sarah Dove, died from the effects of exhaustion, consequent on continued want of food, clothing, and warmth; and the jury are of opinion that the husband was not solely wanting in care over his wife; that Mr. Cowley was to blame for not having made himself fully acquainted with the deceased's condition on his first visit; that Rowney Otheris ought immediately to give admission to a patient on the recommendation of the medical officer; that as the present case has developed defects in the law empowering relief that in such cases the relief of the workhouse is inadequate and not properly adapted to its end, as it has been thereby verified; and the jury request that the Coroner forward this verdict to the Poor Law Board.'

CONFEDERATE CAPTURE OF AMERICAN VESSELS.

(From the *New York Daily News*.)

A DOCUMENT of unusual interest was lately published in the Congressional proceedings, which gives an alphabetical list of vessels captured by Confederate privateers reported up to January 30, 1864, with the port of clearance, destination, place of capture, and tonnage, prepared by Captain J. H. Upton, Secretary American Shipmasters' Association. This list, far from being complete, we think gives as the total number of vessels captured 193: total tonnage 89,704: value of vessels at fifty dollars per ton, $4,485,200: cargoes at one hundred dollars per ton, $8,970,100: total value, $13,455,300. Of the vessels thus captured, thirty-five were from New York, and their tonnage was 19,361, which, at the estimate given in the table, amounted to $968,050; the cargo to $1,936,100. Twenty-three of the captured vessels cleared for New York, the tonnage of which amounted to 12,312, worth $615,600; the cargo, $1,231,200. Thus, in tonnage to and from New York, there has been a loss of $1,583,650, in cargo, of $3,167,300, showing a total loss of $3,755,950, caused by the few vessels of the Confederate navy, so often sneered at by those whose voice is still for war, as long as a shoddy contract is to be given, or shoulder-straps bestowed as a reward for supporting the Administration.

With but a limited commerce, the Confederates have suffered comparatively little in comparison with our own shipping interest. Of the one hundred and ninety-three vessels thus captured, all save seventy-four fell a prey to the three famed Confederate steamers, Alabama, Sumter, and Florida: the Alabama capturing sixty-two, the Sumter twenty-six, and the Florida twenty-two—in all, one hundred and nineteen vessels, by three Confederate cruisers.

With but a limited commerce, the South, in the loss of vessels, has suffered comparatively nothing. Most of the blockade-runners captured by the Federal fleet were owned in England. Two successful trips, at the high prices the South pays for English goods, will pay for loss of vessel and cargo in a third unsuccessful voyage, and still leave a large margin of profit. While the people of the United States are taxed, and the Treasury bled to the amount of more millions, to build and buy ships and support the navy, than it would cost to pay the whole expenses of the Government in time of peace, still we have the record of Captain Upton to show a loss of one hundred and ninety-three vessels, worth in vessel and cargo over thirteen-and-a-half million dollars. The Confederate Government scarce pretend to have a navy, and all they have has been improvised since the war commenced. Over one-half of the vessels captured were prizes to a single vessel—the Alabama—which the Federal navy has been in pursuit of since first she was launched, but managed never to catch. The loss is startling; yet great as it is, we doubt not if the whole truth were told it would be much greater.

NAVAL RECOGNITION.—Notwithstanding the fact that the Great European Powers still withhold the political recognition of the Southern States of America, in every other respect they are fast receiving the justice due to them. Socially they have been long recognised by the civil and revenue regulations of all countries, their commercial status is universally acknowledged upon the same basis as an independent Power (by being recognised belligerents), and we see by the last number of Marryat's naval signals for 1864, just received in Nassau, that their different standards are engraved and displayed in that work along with those of other independent Powers, as entitled to respect and recognition. This latter fact also embraces the privilege of insurance and the maritime rights consequent thereunto.—*Bahama Herald*.

PRESIDENT DAVIS.—In 1860, Mr. Jefferson Davis made a speech at Vicksburg, Miss. Little did he think, while graphically painting the wrongs of the South, what a series of struggles that gallant little city would witness. He said: —'If Mississippi, in her sovereign capacity, decides to submit to the rule of an arrogant and sectional North, then I will sit down as one whose brand of infamy and degradation has been written, and bear my portion of the bitter trial. But if, on the other hand, Mississippi decides to resist the hands that would tarnish the bright star which represents her on the national flag, then I will come at your bidding, whether by day or by night, and pluck that star from the galaxy, and place it upon the crest of battle, and, gathering around me a nucleus of Mississippi's best and bravest, will welcome the invader to the harvest of death; and future generations will point to a small hillock upon our border which will tell the reception which the invader met upon our soil.'

MEXICO.—Notwithstanding the knowledge professed in some quarters of the alleged private intention of the Archduke Maximilian not to proceed to Paris, and of a proximate renunciation by him of the Mexican throne, the Archduke *has* arrived, and there is no renunciation at all. In this respect, therefore, our often-expressed anticipations have been fully borne out by the facts. As regards the alleged postponement of the public and official completion of the act of acceptance until His Highness's return to Miramar—a delay which has given rise to a number of other wise predictions—we certainly do not see how so solemn and important a proceeding could be expected to take place in a foreign country. On the contrary, we consider the Duke would necessarily wait until his return home before receiving the deputation, and putting the irrevocable seal to that which is already virtually concluded. With regard to the financial part of this question, we can only express our belief that nothing has as yet been concluded, and we would especially counsel bonâ-fide holders of Mexican Bonds to place no credence in the countless rumours which are circulated, but to rest content with the fact that their claims are now transferred from a worthless Government to one whose very existence will depend on a just and proper estimate of the responsibilities they have assumed with the acquisition of the country.—*Money Market Review*.

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

OUR friends in the United Kingdom and on the Continent are earnestly requested to forward to us, at their earliest convenience, such information relative to the military movements and condition of affairs in America as they may receive through private letters, either from the United States, or from the Confederate States. They may rely upon the most scrupulous precautions being observed that no names or facts leading to identification will, under any circumstances, be revealed. No communications, however, will be noticed unless authenticated by a responsible name. Southern newspapers, of any date, will be useful and acceptable presents.

Our subscribers in the South will have their papers supplied through HENRY HOTZE, Esq., the Confederate States' Commercial Agent in London, who has kindly tendered us his services in this respect during the continuance of the blockade.

For the convenience of our distant subscribers, all the receipts for subscriptions signed by any of the official representatives or commissioned officers of the Confederate States, will be recognised at this Office.

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THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1864.

The Spring Campaign.

IT is once more our pleasing task to record a series of reverses to the Northern armies, as decisive, if not as disastrous, as any that have befallen the invading hordes since the war began. North, south, east, and west, their generals have pressed forwards and been heralded with such glowing anticipations of overwhelming success, as are to be met with only in the columns of the Yankee press; and everywhere they have encountered resistance, and marched but to defeat. The spring campaign, it is now admitted by the Northern authorities, both in Virginia and in the South-west, has been an utter failure—but a failure which will assuredly stamp the operations of the year with its own aspect, and materially influence the struggle yet to come. The Federals may be said to have made an attack along the whole Confederate line. The right wing, under General LEE, menaced by MEADE in front, was further assailed by two large bodies of cavalry operating on both its flanks. The centre, under General JOHNSTON, at Dalton, was threatened by the direct advance of General GRANT's army from Chattanooga; whilst the left was imperilled by SHERMAN's and GRIERSON's columns moving upon Alabama in parallel lines from Vicksburg, and along the Memphis and Charleston railroad. To add to the formidable nature of the attack, Mobile was assailed by a powerful flotilla under Admiral FARRAGUT, and may be said almost to have been taken in reverse by the landing of a Federal army in Florida, which threatened the left flank of the Confederate line, and had in fact turned it. This was, we presume, the grand project, the result of General GRANT's deliberations during the winter months, which was announced with so much confidence as the spring programme. We pointed out, a week or two ago, that it was one of those magnificent hallucinations which have never yet achieved anything but disgrace and ridicule for their originators. The idea of invading half a continent with four or five big armies, of operating against a line some 1,000 miles in length, by detached bodies never less than 500 miles apart, is a taking one with the Northern people, but is singularly illustrative of the utter want of generalship which has characterised their conduct of the war. Everybody familiar with modern history knows what grand schemes of conquest have been marred, and what brilliant combinations have been upset by the impossibility of moving brigades and divisions of troops with the regularity and precision of pieces on the chessboard, even on such a circumscribed field as the plains of Lombardy or the marshes of the Ticino. But where there are distances to be traversed, such as no modern general has attempted, primeval forests to be penetrated, rivers to be bridged, an entire army to be maintained, and with no supplies to be had, except such as are transported thousands of miles, and will 'give out' the first week's march from the base of operations, it is little less than a certainty that the whole affair will end in failure and confusion, as it has done in the present instance.

The movement which was surrounded with the greatest mystery, and, as a natural consequence, inspired the greatest amount of alarm, was SHERMAN's advance from Vicksburg. The Northern journals estimated his force at 35,000 men, and GRIERSON's cavalry, which was to cooperate with him, at 10,000. All that we know of SHERMAN's army is that it reached Meridian. A rumour was current, and of course readily believed in New York, that it had penetrated as far as Selma and was bound for Montgomery, Alabama. That was too extravagant, however, to disquiet any one who knew the distance of the march, and the impossibility of feeding an army of 35,000 men. How under such circumstances he was to find his way to Selma or Mobile, it is not easy to see. Luckily for himself and his army, he, too, adopted the prudent resolve of retreating in time, and is already reported to have arrived at Vicksburg. The details of his march will be highly interesting, if they are ever allowed to reach the public, after all that has been written about the weakness of the South. It was supposed that SHERMAN would make a new military programme, that with Charleston and Mobile threatened, with Florida invaded, and with JOHNSTON watching GRANT at Chattanooga, there wanted nothing to oppose the triumphant march of the Federals into the heart of the country, and that the troops could subsist for a week on the scant verdure of the month of February, in the sunny South. GRIERSON's cavalry did not fare well. Assailed within a few miles of Memphis by small bodies of Confederate horse, under MOSLEY and LEE, it struggled on to West Point, Mississippi, firing homesteads, destroying grain, pulling up railroads, with the Confederates every day growing in numbers and audacity, until at last its progress was partly arrested; and after some desperate fighting, a retrograde movement began. From all that we can learn, this movement partook very much of the nature of a rout, the Federals losing many officers and men and three cannon, and only stopping in their flight when they reached the defences of Memphis. After this breakdown, SHERMAN's position was obviously one of extreme peril. His cavalry force was insignificant. Every mile he advanced, the numbers of his assailants increased. They hung upon his rear, cut off stragglers, plundered his very scanty train, and threatened him with absolute destruction. The results show how terribly the resources of the Confederacy have been underestimated. Not only does JOHNSTON confront THOMAS and drive him back beaten—not only are the Federals disgracefully whipped in Florida—but 50,000 Federals, moving through Mississippi, are resisted foot by foot, and eventually compelled to retreat, disgraced if not routed. Of GRIERSON's force we have heard the safe arrival. But we are curious to know if SHERMAN has really reached Vicksburg, and, if so, in what condition his troops marched in.

General GRANT's advance from Chattanooga was not more fortunate. As usual, the first accounts received in the North were most satisfactory. General SHERMAN was said to be driving all before him, General JOHNSTON being weakened by the withdrawal of two divisions despatched to the relief of General POLK. We know now that General JOHNSTON held his ground firmly; that something like a battle took place on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th ult.; and that, finally, General THOMAS fell back upon Chattanooga with an admitted loss of 2,000 men. The direct advance upon Dalton is not likely to be renewed. General THOMAS found the Confederates occupying an immensely strong position, which could only be taken by assault, and at such a tremendous cost as would effectually dispose of the army of the Cumberland for some years to come. Under these circumstances, the Federal force at Chattanooga is not likely to give any trouble for some time to come unless it turns northward. But it is to be expected that the Confederate commanders will avail themselves of the present spring to assume the initiative, and that General JOHNSTON will follow up the blow struck at Dalton by a movement against some portion of the Federal lines in Tennessee. The movements of LONGSTREET, which have for the last few weeks sorely puzzled the Yankees, may possibly result in a junction with the Confederate force at Dalton and a combined movement against Chattanooga. But we are still inclined to believe that Knoxville will be the point first assailed.

The Florida expedition fared still worse. Whether it was designed as a great political *coup*, or as part of 'Anaconda' scheme No. 2 invented by General GRANT, it has opened the campaign with a signal disaster for the North. It will be in the recollection of our readers that a considerable force detached from Charleston landed a few weeks ago in Florida, and marched inland. Rumour said that this force was to be followed by large reinforcements, and that Jacksonville was to become a new basis of operations against the Eastern States. It was thought that the 'rebels' would have enough to do at Mobile, in Alabama, and Mississippi, and Georgia, and that the march through Florida would be unopposed. Thoroughly confident, the Yankees marched up the country, and about forty-five miles north of Jacksonville encountered a large Confederate force. The Federal papers say that their army walked deliberately into a trap, and that the numbers were three to one. However this may be, it is certain that the contest was never an instant in doubt—that the Federals, though claiming a superior force of artillery, were driven from one position after another with fearful loss, and that when the fighting ceased, they were flying, a panic-stricken rabble, to their gunboats and defences at Jacksonville. The Federals admit the loss of 5 guns out of 16, although they state that the Confederates brought only 5 into the field; and they estimate their own loss at upwards of 1,200, a heavy proportion of the 5,000 said to have been engaged. At Jacksonville the Federals are tolerably safe, but they are not likely at present to renew the advance into the interior.

In the meantime, General MEADE had made another 'feint,' and two bodies of Federal cavalry had endeavoured to cut the communication of General LEE's army, and, if possible, reach Richmond. General CUSTER, with 1,500 troops, was so severely mauled as to be compelled to fall back upon his old quarters with all possible speed, and in imminent risk of capture. General KILPATRICK fared little better. He accomplished the destruction of a few hundred yards of the Virginia Central Railway, with the admitted loss of three colonels and 150 men, and succeeded, with some difficulty, in regaining the Federal lines, hotly pursued by Confederate cavalry. MEADE's 'feint,' we need hardly say, deceived nobody, and the only result is that he has been summoned with hot haste to a Council of War at Washington, presided over, of course, by Mr. LINCOLN. The disasters in Virginia conclude the series of mishaps. Since the memorable first battle of Bull Run there has been no such quick succession of reverses; and we can understand that the Council of War is somewhat nonplussed as to a new programme. Probably the North will now wait to be attacked, a prudent resolve, but somewhat inconsistent with its programme of invasion and conquest. How many more campaigns will be necessary to prove to the English public that Southern independence is established?

The Alleged Mallory Report.

THREE weeks ago the ATTORNEY-GENERAL read, from his place in Parliament, an extract purporting to be a part of the official Report of Mr. MALLORY, the Confederate Secretary of the Navy, which, he argued, fully justified the arbitrary course HER MAJESTY'S Government had seen fit to adopt towards the ship-building interest of this country. A short time afterwards, another high officer of the Crown, the SOLICITOR-GENERAL, also from his place in Parliament, announced that HER MAJESTY'S Government were about to address remonstrances to that of the Confederate States, on the evidence afforded by this same Report. A document which, on the one hand, serves as the best justification for a most dangerous, and in later years unprecedented stretch of executive power, and, on the other hand, warrants a step only short of actual hostilities towards a friendly foreign Government, is necessarily one of considerable importance, and of the origin and authenticity of which there should not exist even the possibility of a doubt. HER MAJESTY'S Ministers, indeed, do not appear to have entertained any doubt, and to have accepted the paper without hesitation as part of the public records of the Confederate States. Now it is remarkable that no publication authorised by the Government of those States comprises a document of this character or one even resembling it, nor does any one pretend to have seen an official copy. It is still more remarkable that no newspaper in the Confederacy has published it, and yet it is not alleged that the Report is a secret one intercepted or otherwise furtively obtained. It is further to be observed that the so-called Report is addressed to the SPEAKER of the House of Representatives, the lower branch of the Confederate Legislature—a mode of address which is not only inexplicable on the face of it, but which is actually in violation of the usages and the Constitution of the Confederate States, every Cabinet Minister, excepting the SECRETARY of the TREASURY, being responsible, not to the Congress, but to the PRESIDENT, to whom alone they report on the subject of their official duties. These facts, coupled with the extreme improbability of the Confederate SECRETARY of the NAVY, at such a critical juncture, and with so many political and judicial issues pending, voluntarily presenting his enemies with all the evidence against himself which they had heretofore failed in obtaining, were, to say the least, not circumstances in favour of the presumptive genuineness of this questionable document. But this is not all. On January 29, shortly after its first republication in this country from the Federal newspapers, Captain M. F. MAURY, one of the most distinguished officers of the Confederate naval service, emphatically denounced it as a forgery, in a letter of that date, which appeared in the *Herald*, the *Standard*, and other London journals. Surely, Captain MAURY may be assumed to be a competent judge of the genuineness of a document purporting to emanate from his own official superior, and his world-wide reputation may be accepted as a guarantee that he would not stake it on a hasty assertion, much less a knowingly false one.

Thus, then, so far as the public knew, when the correspondence on the Birkenhead iron-clad vessels was, after a protracted struggle, laid before Parliament, there was not only no evidence of any kind of the genuineness of the alleged Report, but there was a direct and public denial of its genuineness, in the most emphatic terms, by a man to whom the whole civilised world by common accord assigns one of the foremost places among his contemporaries. We naturally open the Blue Book on North America, No. 5, with much curiosity to ascertain what rebutting testimony induced Her Majesty's Ministers, in spite of so many suspicious circumstances, to give unqualified credence to the impugned paper. We find that they obtained their information from two sources. On December 24 Lord Lyons transmits, with short comments, an extract from the *Washington Star* of December 19, headed, 'A Miserable Couple—Memminger and Mallory in a Muddle.' This, in Lord Lyons' language, '*purports* to be part of a Report of the Secretary of the *so-called* Confederate Treasury and Navy.' We will not stop to notice the uncalled-for discourtesy of this allusion to a Government whose *de facto* existence and functions no one, at Washington at least, has a right to dispute, and the still greater discourtesy of making a newspaper article of so scandalous a style the subject of diplomatic comment. On the 31st of the same month, Lord Lyons writes again, and transmits—what? Another newspaper extract. This time, the *New York Times* is his authority, and any latent doubts appear to have been removed. Without stating the reasons for his positive assertion, he 'has the honour' to enclose 'a complete copy of the Report of the Secretary of the so-called Confederate Navy.' Three days after the receipt of this, Mr. Adams transmits the same extract, in the same form, to the Foreign Office. He, however, is more guarded in his language introducing it. If the document is forged or garbled, and Her Majesty's Government choose to accept it as genuine, his, at least, will not be the fault. Here are his very words:

> I have the honour to submit to your consideration a copy of *what purports to be* the Annual Report of Mr. S. R. Mallory, the person who is known to be officiating as director of the naval operations of the insurgents in the United States. *Although this paper has been received only in the form here presented*, I entertain little doubt that *in substance* it may be relied upon as authentic.

This is literally every tittle of reason that Her Majesty's Government have yet been able to adduce, for receiving as part of the public records of a friendly nation, and as a basis for acrimonious remonstrances with that nation, a paper which first saw the light of day in a press notorious for unparalleled falsehood and systematic forgery—a paper which has been disclaimed by the highest authority in Europe competent to do so. Even the man who of all others had the greatest interest in assuming the authenticity of this paper, the representative of a country in deadly feud with the Confederate States, who had just bullied this Government into acting without that evidence which this paper pretended to supply, even he did not venture to accept it without such reservations as virtually to destroy all its diplomatic or judicial value. 'In substance' the Report may be authentic, for if there is a Report of the Secretary of the Navy, it must have recited events which are a part of history, and known to all the world, and which a forger must needs have embodied. But the omission of a sentence, or the interpolation of one, or the change of a phrase, might so alter the whole import of the document, as to make it a base fabrication, while 'in substance' it would still remain 'authentic.' Is there a court of justice in any country where such a paper, under such circumstances, would be admitted as evidence? It is precisely as though a defendant was convicted of an offence on the evidence of a confession produced by his accuser without even the pretence that it was in his handwriting, and without the shadow of proof to combat his disclaimer of it. Not so reasons Earl Russell. In his reply to Mr. Adams, he does not say that he cannot take cognisance without further investigation of a paper so questionable in its form, so uncertain in its origin, so wholly unvouched for on one side, so emphatically denied on the other. On the contrary, he quotes from the document, and it 'appears to Her Majesty's Government to contain the strongest proof,' &c. And 'Her Majesty's Government are fully sensible of the nature and importance of the admissions made in Mr. Mallory's Report,' &c.; and 'Her Majesty's Government have already taken steps,' &c.

Is there an Englishman so infatuated with the beauties of Mr. Bright's 'warm neutrality,' that he does not blush for the want of dignity and decorum here exhibited? Suppose the document to be precisely what Mr. Adams wishes it to be believed without vouching for it, was it consistent, not merely with the courtesy due to another State, but with self-respect, to accept it in this form and on such evidence, and to proceed to semi-hostile measures on the strength of it? In private life, would a gentleman use a paper thus obtained against an enemy, much less against a professed friend? The very necessity under which the Goverment felt to defend themselves against the constant attacks on their policy towards the ship-building interest, and to sustain themselves under the repeated checks this policy has suffered in the courts of law, obliged them in decency to avoid the suspicion of seizing over-hastily and unscrupulously a weapon which there was too great and obvious a temptation to use.

We will still, for the sake of argument, suppose the genuineness of the Report, although every naval officer of the Confederate Government in Europe avers his inability to reconcile the statements it contains with the knowledge he has of the operations and plans of his Government. We will so suppose, because we wish to direct attention to a fact which the curious incidents of the publication appear to have caused to be forgotten. On this supposition of genuineness, then, what ground for remonstrance does the Report afford? Earl Russell distinctly states that he will remonstrate against 'the endeavours of the Government of the so-styled Confederate States, by their agents in this country, to violate in various ways Her Majesty's neutrality.' If Mr. Mallory's Report is correctly given, he has expressly enjoined upon his agents to take 'precautions against contravening the laws of England.' Now what the laws of England are in regard to the building of ships that may be subsequently fitted for belligerent uses, and whether any of these laws have been heretofore violated, form at this moment questions under the consideration of the highest judicial tribunal in the land, and which, so far as yet decided, have been decided adversely to the position taken by Earl Russell. The most able and effective advocate of his peculiar form of neutrality, the *Saturday Review*, admits that the laws, as they at present stand, have been violated, not by the ship-builders or the Confederates, but by Earl Russell himself, and justifies him on the ground of political necessity which required a modification of the laws, and the introduction of a new and heretofore unthought-of article into the international code. But even when the question is thus removed from the judicial to the political arena, it has not yet been decided by the Parliament or the country, and Earl Russell has not yet ventured to ask for a sanction of his course on these grounds. What possible pretext for remonstrance, then, can this Report give, even supposing it genuine? On that supposition, it is an admission, most opportune for Earl Russell's purpose, that the rams in the Mersey do, or did at one time, belong to the Confederate Government; but what else? That the Confederates are anxious and trying to build ships in England, if they can do so without contravening the laws? This has never been denied, and could not be, unless the existence of the *Alabama* and the *Florida* was equally denied. If the building of ships is to be ground for remonstrance, why has not Earl Russell remonstrated before? Why wait, having such very palpable facts as ships actually at sea and cruising, for such extremely unsafe and more than doubtful ones as two unfinished hulks of disputed ownership? And, remonstrating at last, what is he to remonstrate about? That Mr. Mallory, through his agents, has done what neither the courts of justice, nor Parliament, nor the country, have yet construed any law to forbid, and which, by Earl Russell's own admission in words and deeds, the laws, as they now stand, are insufficient to prevent? We remember having seen the identical suggestion, that if legal measures failed the Government, its diplomatic powers were under less inconvenient restrictions, thrown out many months ago in a letter of Historicus to the *Times*, while Earl Russell still held out against Mr. Adams's gentle persuasion. Is it possible that Historicus, not Earl Russell, is the real Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs?

We have only one word more to say about this correspondence now laid before Parliament. On Mr. Adams's part it evinces certainly greater diplomatic ability than we had given him credit for. He thoroughly understands his man, and treats him accordingly. When he wants a favour, he asks many times as much as he expects will be conceded, and does so in threatening tones. The things that are not granted and were not expected, he quietly allows Earl Russell to plume himself upon as triumphs of his, Earl Russell's, surpassing diplomacy. An amusing illustration of this amiable arrangement occurs in the two last despatches. Mr. Adams had the astonishing impudence to flatly request of the Foreign Secretary that the agents of the Confederate Government should be dismissed from the soil of Great Britain and her dependencies. Earl Russell could not quite do this, but so far from resenting the insult, his refusal is couched in the politest, almost apologetic, terms. 'Her Majesty's dominions must *necessarily* continue to be open to the subjects of both belligerents.' 'But' he promises to enforce the laws to the fullest extent upon the subjects of either. How this *but* is meant to soften the refusal we learn from the eulogistic apology made by Earl Russell in the House of Lords for the Yankee captain who at Queenstown shipped seventeen British seamen *without knowing it*, though they 'passed the doctor,' received rations, and were afterwards landed in the United States uniform. There is a personal feeling of spite and dislike to the Confederates, a readiness to find them in fault and to excuse their adversaries, which is scarcely disguised in this correspondence, which has recently manifested itself more and more often in the utterances of the noble Lord and some of his colleagues, and which is the least excusable feature of the American policy of the Foreign Secretary.

The masterpiece of this correspondence, however, is the following brief despatch from Mr. Layard to Mr. Stuart, Her Majesty's Chargé-d'Affaires at Washington, written the very day that Mr. Adams's threatening despatch of same date was received, and three days before Earl Russell informed him in three lines that the threat had succeeded. We give it in full:—

> Foreign Office, February 5.
>
> We have given orders to-day to the Commissioners of Customs at Liverpool to prevent the two iron-clads leaving the Mersey. These orders had scarcely been sent when we received the note from Mr. Adams, of which I send you a copy. Mr. Adams is not yet aware that orders have been given to stop the vessels. You may inform Mr. Seward confidentially of the fact.

What an admirably-placed feather-bed for British honour in this desperate leap to light upon! Of course this refutes all the malicious inferences which evil-minded persons would draw from the suspicious propinquity of dates, and the apparent relation of cause and effect between the Federal despatches and the seizure of the rams. Of course, we are not permitted to suspect this note as an afterthought. We have Mr. Layard's well-known veracity and candour as a guarantee that it belongs just into the place where it fits so well, in the correspondence. Mr. Layard says so, or at least implies so—

> And Brutus in an honourable man.

The Empire of Mexico.

The Archduke Maximilian's brief visit to this country concludes his leave-taking of Old World Royalty. In a few days he will take his place among the crowned monarchs of the earth, and only a few days more will see him on his way to the most gorgeous dominion of the New World. In spite of sneers, doubts, and evil prophecies, the far-seeing plans of the French Emperor have thus far met with a success which the most unfriendly-disposed towards him cannot dispute; and the curtain drops on the first act of a drama which, in grandeur of conception and magnificence of incident, bids fair to be unsurpassed in modern history. Even yet the matter-of-fact temper of our age is slow to comprehend the full importance of the revolution which the last three years have been rapidly accomplishing on the Transatlantic Continent, and of which the regeneration of Mexico is a necessary, though in some respects an incidental part. But French policy may at least triumph in the universal admission that the Mexican Empire is now a living and recognised fact. The bitterest of its enemies in English journalism is forced to concede this much, and oddly enough predicts for the new monarchy additional vitality from the only and highly improbable event which its friends consider a serious danger. 'By the aid of the banished generals and dispersed armies of the Southern Confederacy,' the *Daily News* thinks that 'a new balance of power on the American continent' may be established by Mexico. We quote the passage for the small but valuable truth it contains. Generals such as Lee and Longstreet, and armies such as theirs, would indeed be an accession of strength to any country; but if they failed in rescuing their own inheritance from the clutch of the Northern spoiler, they could not save a foreign land. The grain of truth lies in this, that whenever peace solemnises the independence of the South, there must be great numbers of veteran soldiers, and many able and experienced commanders, who will prefer a service promising military activity to the tame routine of civil life. The South will not, for this generation, require a disproportionately large standing army, her whole population being trained to arms and ready at the first alarm. She can supply, therefore, from her abundance one of the greatest wants of her neighbouring State; and the relations of the two countries are likely to be of so closely intimate a character as to make the cause of one virtually the cause of the other. The *News*, therefore, has hit unconsciously upon the suggestive fact,

that, once Confederate independence secured from all danger, whoever attacks Mexico will have to fight the best native soldiers of America.

The military power of the young Empire thus established beyond a doubt, there is only one other vital want to be supplied, and that is credit. In this respect Mexico is in the position of a spendthrift, who, having unbounded estates, has mortgaged every inch of them, owes everybody, and has not the wherewithal to buy a meal. Even this, the most serious difficulty, may be overcome with a little patience and good management. No country on the habitable globe has been so bounteously favoured by Nature. A geographical situation unequalled in its facilities for commerce, a healthful mountain climate, an inexhaustible soil, and fabulous mineral wealth, all unite in forming what the writers of the Middle Ages, with very little stretch of poetic fancy, described as *El Dorado*. Says a French writer, from whose excellent pamphlet on 'La Question Mexicaine' we have before had occasion to quote: 'When the indigenous civilisation of which Mexico was the cradle when CORTEZ landed on its shores, crumbled under the rude contact with Europe, what remained of its fragments and ruins sufficed to make Spain for a time the foremost maritime and commercial nation. In spite of the most rapacious and improvident administration, Mexico continued for four centuries to pour treasure into the lap of the Old World. It is not more than forty years since argosies laden with the precious metals still crossed the Spanish main. During these forty years steam, electricity, mechanism, have realised miracles of swiftness, accuracy, saving of labour and of time—have a hundredfold increased man's power to develope the resources of the soil. Striking contrast! Precisely during these forty years, which to the rest of the world opened a new era of progress and prosperity, Mexico has to record only anarchy, disorder, intestine wars. Once the proud queen, whom great potentates sought as a bride, she became a beggar, despised and despicable. But her elysian climate is still there, the perennial spring still reigns in those tropical Alps, her fertile soil preserves its pristine freshness, the bowels of her mountains are still pregnant with the choicest treasures of Nature's laboratory. Like the enchanted palace of the fairy tale, she awaits but the touch of the magic wand to spring again into life and prosperous activity. And if the past, with means so defective, and used with so little intelligence, has done so much for the country, what may we not expect from the future, aided by the appliances of modern civilisation!' The answer to all the evil auguries about Mexico is written in this passage. If it was the richest country before steam and electricity had been forced into man's service—if all the natural elements of wealth are still there—why should they not come forth more plentifully than of old at the bidding of those powerful agents? Only a few years ago California and Texas were desolate, scarcely inhabited Mexican provinces. The magic wand of which the author speaks, touched them, and lo, the one becomes the land of gold, the other the land of cotton.

It is a characteristic of our time that we are prone to forget the past and to despise its lessons. Thus, Mexico in the mind of the masses of our generation is associated only with wretchedness, brigandage, and debt. Of what it once was and what it may be again, few have any distinct impression. We have always thought that the unpopularity attaching to the Mexican expedition in France, and the indifference with which it has been generally regarded elsewhere, were mainly due to the neglect of the proper means of popularising information concerning the country. The surprising success of the expedition up to this point will do much to direct public interest to that quarter. Brains and capital, the adventurous and the prudent, will soon experience the attractions of an irresistible temptation: and we doubt whether any colony now open to the European emigrant will be able to compete within the next few years with Mexico in seducing alike the imaginations of those who have nothing to lose and the expectations of those who risk much to gain more. There can be no fear of the finances of such a country, and a brief period of quiet, which only the consciousness of solid strength at home and abroad can give, is all it needs.

In the bright horoscope we have cast for the nascent empire, we have left out of consideration, as wholly unworthy of notice, a suggestion which has of late been frequently repeated. This suggestion, as impolitic as it is base, is, that Mexico might purchase external tranquillity by committing herself beforehand to act the part of a treacherous neighbour to the Southern States. There are those who actually believe that the French EMPEROR has entered into a compact with the Washington Government at the expense of the just rights and legitimate title of the Confederacy. In one respect, we admit, such a convention would be flattering to French *amour propre*, which might justly claim that while England had purchased peace with the North at the price of bitter humiliation, the North had humbled itself to purchase peace of France. But so far as the North could offer any valuable *quid pro quo* in the transaction, the idea is simply absurd. Pending the present war, the hostility of the North is harmless, and it would cheaply exchange recognition of the Mexican Empire for non-recognition of the South. But if the subjugation of its enemy left it with a victorious unemployed army, what would restrain the rapacity and the arrogance of a people then more than ever confirmed in their delusion that they were the providentially appointed rulers of a Continent? Even if an Administration had gained credit for such a shrewd Yankee bargain, and was disposed to respect it, would not, at the termination of its four years of power, a President be elected on the express pledge of repudiating an engagement no longer profitable or convenient? The French EMPEROR is too sagacious a statesman to commit so gross and fatal a blunder; and if the North flatters itself that any diplomatic nods and winks or a few vague phrases have bound him hand and foot, we may rest tolerably sure that in the end not France, but Mr. LINCOLN and his advisers, have been overreached and outwitted. The writer in the *Daily News*, who speaks of banished Southern generals and dispersed Southern armies supporting the Mexican Empire, evidently hugs some such delusion, and is scarcely able to disguise the premature triumph of Yankee astuteness over French diplomacy. In him this is to be expected and excused; but when friends of either Mexico or the South give currency to such a suggestion, they plant a fruitful seed of discord and distrust between both countries. The worst enemy of Mexico could do her no more fatal injury than by associating her regenerated existence in the minds of the Southern people with the cruel wrongs they are now enduring and will long thirst to avenge.

SLAVERY AND PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S PROCLAMATION.

By Hon. C. S. MORHEAD, ex-Governor of Kentucky.

No. II.

The subject of Slavery has very often been treated in this country in a manner to convey the idea to the uninformed mind that the Southern States were now engaged in reducing to bondage for the first time a race of people which happened to be in their power, and that the Northern States were heroically and magnanimously resisting the oppression. It is scarcely necessary to say that when the thirteen colonies succeeded in separating themselves from Great Britain, African slavery existed in them all. 'The Institution,' as it is called, was, perhaps, infused with more vigour in Massachusetts than in any of the other colonies, from her early code of rights, styled 'fundamentals,' by which the slave-trade and the bondage of negroes and Indians were legalised. Under this code, the African slave-trade at a very early period became a regular and not an unimportant branch of her foreign commerce. While she and other New-England States thus early and eagerly engaged in a lucrative slave-trade, capturing young Indians to be transported and sold as slaves in the West Indies, Virginia as persistently protested against their introduction into her territory. It is too well known to need particular citation, that her colonial legislature passed numerous laws forbidding their introduction, all of which were vetoed by the royal authority of the mother-country. This action on the part of England was the subject of frequent and of just remonstrance; and when the causes of complaint against the parent country were solemnly arrayed in the Declaration of Independence, a clause was contained in the original draft, as drawn by Mr. Jefferson, denouncing the King of Great Britain for prostituting his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or restrain the slave-trade, which was pronounced an execrable commerce, made more horrible by the effort to excite 'those very people to rise in arms among us, and to purchase that liberty of which he has deprived them by murdering the people on whom he also obtruded them; thus paying off former crimes committed against the liberties of one people with crimes which he urges them to commit against the lives of another.' This clause was struck out by Mr. Jefferson himself, and he has left to posterity the reason which induced him to do it in the following words:—'Our Northern brethren, I believe, felt a little tender under those censures; for though their people have very few slaves themselves, yet they had been pretty considerable carriers of them to others.'

Prior to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the colonial Congress, the substance of the omitted clause above quoted was unanimously adopted by Virginia as one of the causes justifying the revolution. She complained of the King of Great Britain for 'prompting our negroes to rise in arms among us—those very negroes whom, by an inhuman use of his negative, he had refused us permission to exclude by law.'

As late as 1850, when her Constitution was revised, the same declaration of opposition to the slave-trade was made, and that the original importation had not been of her own choice, but in obedience to sovereign orders. If any one fact is clearly and conclusively established, it is that the Southern States are not responsible for the introduction of this foreign element of African slavery into their social organisation. It was forced upon them against their repeated and urgent protestations. It existed in every State when independence was achieved, and in every State but one when the Federal Constitution was adopted. In the Convention which framed that instrument, the States represented voting as such in all cases, the question of the foreign slave-trade naturally enough came up. Upon this subject there seem to have been three parties in that body—one for its immediate prohibition, another for tolerating it until the year 1800, and a third to the year 1808. The contest in the Convention was between these two designated periods. Seven States voted for the longest period, among which were Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut; and four against it, among which were Virginia and Delaware. Maryland was equally divided, and gave no vote. But connected with the slavery clauses of the Constitution was the great and absorbing question of the regulation of commerce. The Constitution, as well remarked by Daniel Webster, was 'a series of mutual agreements or compromises'—mutual agreements made by sovereign States, 'one thing being yielded by the South, another by the North.' The Southern States were agricultural and not commercial. Their interest always was, what they think it now to be, free trade. It is not therefore surprising that, in the Convention which made the Constitution, they should have insisted on a clause which might protect them from oppression. Accordingly we find a proposition, offered by Charles C. Pinckney, of South Carolina, requiring the concurrence of a majority of two-thirds of each House to pass any law regulating commerce or navigation. This gave rise to an excited controversy between the sections. Every clause of the Constitution relating to slavery was assailed with some degree of acrimony, when *Mr. Gouverneur Morris, of Pennsylvania*, proposed that the *whole subject* should be committed, including the clauses relating to taxes on exports, and to a navigation act. 'These things,' said he, 'may form a *bargain* among the Northern and Southern States.'

The bargain *was* formed, and the result was that commerce and navigation were left to be regulated by an ordinary majority; that a provision was made that three-fifths of the slaves should be estimated in fixing the ratio of representation in the Federal Congress, and in the assessment of direct taxes—that those who escaped into another State should not be made free on account of any law existing in said State, but should be delivered up, on the application of the legal owner, and that the foreign slave-trade should not be prohibited until the year 1808. Mr. Webster, in speaking of this compromise, said: 'The South agreed to form a Government that should regulate commerce according to the wants and wishes of the Northern States, and when the Constitution went into operation, a commercial system was actually established on which has risen up the whole glory of New York and New England.' This commercial system was the result of the *bargain* suggested by Mr. Morris, South Carolina having agreed to yield the two-thirds restriction, and voting with the North.

What was done for the North under this compromise cannot be better told than in the language of Mr. Webster himself, in his speech to the young men of Albany, New York. 'What,' says he, 'did Congress do under Northern lead with Southern acquiescence? What did it do? It protected the commerce of New York and the Eastern States by preference, by discriminating tonnage duties; and that higher duty on foreign ships has never been surrendered to this day, except in consideration of a just equivalent. So in that respect, without grudging or complaint on the part of the South, but generously and fairly, not by way of concession, but in the true spirit of the Constitution, the commerce of New York and the New-England States was protected by the provisions of the Constitution to which I have referred. But this is not all.—Friends, fellow-citizens, men of New York! does this country not now extend from Maine to Mexico, and beyond? Have we not a State beyond Cape Horn, belonging to us, nevertheless, as part of our commercial system? And what does New York enjoy? What do Massachusetts and Maine enjoy? *They enjoy the exclusive right* of carrying on the coasting trade, from State to State on the Atlantic, and around Cape Horn to the Pacific . . . . . It is this right to the coasting trade, to the exclusion of foreigners, thus granted to the Northern States, which they have ever held, and of which up to this time there has been no attempt to deprive them; it is this which has employed so much tonnage and so many men, and given support to so many thousands of our fellow-citizens. Now what would you say, in this day of the prevalence of the notions of free trade—what would you say if the South and South-west were to join together to repeal this law? What would you say if they should join hands and resolve that these men of New York and New England, who put this *slight on their interest*, shall enjoy this exclusive privilege no longer—that they will throw it all open, and invite the Dane, the Swede, the Hamburger, and all the commercial nations of Europe who can carry cheaper, to come in and carry goods from New York coastwise on the Atlantic and to California on the Pacific? What would you say to that?'

In addition to this, a law was enacted, July 4, 1789, allowing a drawback on fish exported equal to the supposed quantity of salt used. In 1792 this drawback was changed to a direct bounty per ton on all vessels engaged in the fisheries, which has been continued to the present time. The Federal bounty on fishing-vessels amounts in the aggregate to $12,944,998, of which Massachusetts and Maine received $12,101,323.

The North being thus left, '*without grudging or complaint*,' in the full and undisturbed enjoyment of every stipulation of the Constitution made for their benefit, it is not surprising that the people of the South should have had their passions excited to exasperation by continued vituperative denunciation against the free enjoyment of their part of the compact—at first, it is true, by a small party, but one which they saw year by year increasing in numbers and fanaticism, until that fanaticism became a political element, and finally culminated in the election of a sectional President for the purpose of arraying a common Government for *all* the States in antagonism to the property of nearly half the States composing a part of that Government. They saw 'Helper's impending crisis,' well known in the North as 'the Republican bible,' endorsed by sixty-eight members of the House of Representatives of

the Federal Congress, and made the subject of a special letter of commendation by William H. Seward. In that book, the design of making an exterminating war against slaveholders is avowed. They are denounced as destitute 'of every spark of honour or magnanimity.' In speaking of immediate and unconditional emancipation, it exclaims: 'Compensation to slaveowners for their negroes! Preposterous idea! The suggestion is criminal—the demand wicked, unjust, monstrous, damnable! Shall we pat the bloodhounds for the sake of doing them a favour? Shall we fee these curs of slavery to make them rich at our expense? Pay these whelps for the privilege of converting them into decent, honest, upright men?' Such ribaldry would scarcely have attracted the notice of the South, but for the endorsement of the leaders of the revolutionary party in the North, and the emphatic commendation of Seward after having '*read it with deep attention*.'

During the canvass which resulted in the election of Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Seward made a series of speeches in the North-west, in which he displayed such bitterness of feeling towards the South as could not fail to produce, as long as human nature remains as it is, its corresponding effect. At Lansing in Michigan, September 6, 1860, he announced the Republican policy to be 'to decrease and diminish slavery in all the States' as far as could be done within the limits of constitutional action; and this constitutional action was to be by disbanding the army of the United States, because he said 'that its only purpose was to prevent the freed and emancipated negroes in the Free States from entering and introducing civil war in the Slave States.' From this suggestive declaration it was evident that he was opposed to using the power of a common general Government to suppress a servile insurrection brought on through such an intimation from him by the freed and emancipated negroes in the North. This was, it is true, supremely ridiculous in the eyes of the South, but it was received as conclusive evidence of the malignant feelings of that party of which he was the acknowledged leader, and which was soon to come into power. But in the same speech he announced his purpose of abolishing the navy. No man in the South could object to an abstract opinion on such a subject; but when he gave his reason for the destruction of the navy, it manifested to the South that the common Government under the incoming dynasty was to be administered solely for the benefit of the Northern section, and that the interests, and the rights, and the protection of the Southern section constituting a portion of that common Government, were to be utterly ignored. He asks what do we keep up a navy for? 'There is not a nation on earth that dare attack any one of the Free States, if they were all separated and disunited from the Union. Not one: and yet we are keeping up a navy . . . . because if we provoke a foreign war, the Southern frontier is exposed to invasion from England, France, and Spain. That is the whole object of our navy. Have I not a right then to say that I would rather have no navy?'

In the same speech, he tells his hearers '*that one single Administration will settle the slavery question finally and for ever*'—settle it, according to his suggestion, by raids similar to John Brown's, by exciting servile insurrection. I do not refer to these things for the purpose of setting forth the causes which brought about the existing revolution in the South—that is altogether foreign to my present design. I only wish to show the character of that violent hostility arrayed in the North against the Southern section of the then Union, and leave all calm and dispassionate minds to reflect upon the likelihood of changing by such means the feelings of the South upon the subject of slavery. It it were the humane and philanthropic object of the North really to ameliorate the condition of the slaves of the South, was the engendering of violent animosities between the sections the mode to do it?

The Republican press for many years teemed with the expressions, in speaking of the people of the South, 'nest of thieves, brigands, paupers, ruffians, assassins, barbarians, brutes, tyrants, scoundrels'—epithets which were not certainly very persuasive arguments to Southern minds. Jefferson, a statesman eminent for sagacity, and believed to be not adverse to emancipation, as early as 1821 spoke of the slavery question 'as a mere party trick.' He adds: 'They are taking advantage of the virtuous feelings of the people to effect a division of parties by a geographical line; they expect that this will insure them, on local principles, the majority they could never obtain on principles of Federalism.' I do not doubt that there are good men in the North who have been deluded and betrayed into political action through advantage being taken of their virtuous abhorrence of slavery by reckless and ambitious demagogues, the effect of which was the very reverse of what they hoped for.

The agitation in the North, as it was carried on, never had any other effect than that of binding more firmly the chains of slavery. I can state from my own personal knowledge, that when I first had a seat in the Legislature of my native State (Kentucky), now more than thirty-five years ago, a majority of one branch of that body was in favour of a system of gradual emancipation. The agitation in the North, however, became more envenomed and denunciatory, and their pulpits were filled with pugilistic divines, who, utterly regardless of their own sins and shortcomings, seemed only anxious about the sins of their neighbours. The natural repugnance to an offensive foreign interference in a matter which, by constitutional compact, belonged exclusively to themselves, produced such a revulsion of feeling, that when a Convention was called in 1850 to revise the Constitution of the State, not *one* delegate was elected in favour of emancipation on any terms, notwithstanding the powerful influence of Henry Clay, which had been considered almost omnipotent in the State, was thrown on that side. It is undeniable that the insane fury of the North not only retarded the emancipation movement in Kentucky, but produced, to some extent, the very opposite feeling in Maryland, Virginia, and Missouri. The North was the aggressive party, and the South threw itself naturally in a belligerent attitude of defence. In such a warfare of opinion, I am well aware that it would be unfair to take the extreme utterances on either side as a correct standard of public sentiment; but when twelve of the Northern States nullified, by solemn legislative enactment, the only law of Congress for the protection of the property of the South, in defiant disregard of the Constitution, the character of Northern aggression was certainly placed in a shape so tangible as to be no longer mistaken.

It was in vain that the North was told that slavery had been forced upon the South against its repeated protestations—that by Northern vote in the Convention of States which framed the Federal Constitution, the foreign slave-trade had been tolerated for twenty years for their exclusive benefit—that they had grown rich upon that commerce—that they were in the undisturbed enjoyment of all the advantages resulting from the stipulations of the Federal Constitution made for their benefit, and that if the compact was binding on one side, good faith and common justice required that it should be equally obligatory on the other. The South said, If you insist upon violating the compact between us by your unconstitutional interference in a matter which you have agreed was reserved for our own exclusive control, refund the money which you have received for the sale of your own slaves, and for those which during a period of twenty years you imported from Africa and sold us; give up your discriminating tonnage duties, your fishing bounties, your monopoly of the coasting trade, and your right to make a tariff for the protection of manufactures in which we are only interested by the enhanced price of the goods we buy—place us, in fine, where we stood before the compact between us was made, and you might then claim to come into the moral forum as one must go into a court of chancery, with 'clean hands.' However the question may have been argued on the one side or the other, slavery in the abstract has never been the issue between the contending sections. While incidental questions have sprung up, about some of which there might be an honest difference of opinion, the great and radical issue, so far as it relates to slavery, involved only the right of Northern interference in the social organisation of the South.

When the Constitution of the United States was made, the Confederacy was composed of thirteen sovereign and independent States with plenary power to legislate on all subjects. Property of every kind was under the exclusive control of each State. The Federal Constitution was framed with reference to the existence of property in the several States. It did not pretend to define what was or was not property. Property, such as was made so by State authority, *preexisted*, and was left under the sole and exclusive control of the several States. The only property made by the Constitution was that to authors and inventors, by securing for limited times the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries. In the Amendments to the Constitution, there is a clause that 'no man shall be deprived of life, liberty, or *property*, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation,' and this is the only clause in which the word is used. What was property was left to the regulation and control and under the sole jurisdiction of the States. They made the laws of succession and of testamentary disposition, and the State Courts had full jurisdiction over all rights of property. As already stated, slave property existed at that time in all the States but one. The Constitution was made with reference to that state of things, and, of course, slave property, like all other property, was left to the exclusive control of each State. When, therefore, those who had sold many of their slaves, and were in the enjoyment of the riches resulting therefrom, undertook to claim the exclusive right of manufacturing morals as well as cotton goods, there was necessarily that just feeling of indignation which it might be supposed would naturally arise under such circumstances. Their interference was boldly and defiantly met by the South. With fearful odds against them, they dared the contest. They know the strong feeling of the civilised world against slavery, and they know that that feeling has been invoked against their heroic efforts for freedom; yet during the whole unequal contest you have seen them stand self-poised, claiming the right to decide for themselves all questions of domestic policy. When that right is yielded, either to the North or to any foreign nation, they would cease to deserve the liberty for which they are struggling. It is no part of my purpose to discuss the merits or demerits of slavery as it exists in the Southern States. That issue, for a period of more than thirty years, has been banished by the course pursued by the North, and the question of *foreign interference* has taken its place. I say *foreign interference*, because upon that subject the non-slaveholding States of America stood in relation to the slaveholding States as foreign powers. They had no more right to interpose on the question of slavery in the South than they had to interfere with it in Cuba or Brazil. On that subject there has been no diversity of opinion in America. In his inaugural address Mr. Lincoln said: 'I have no purpose directly or indirectly to interfere with the institution of slavery where it *exists*. I believe I have no right to do so, and I have no *inclination* to do so.' In a conversation, invited by himself, with the members of Congress from the border slaveholding States, March 9, 1862, he volunteered the declaration 'that emancipation was a subject exclusively under the control of the States, and must be adopted or rejected by each for itself; that he did not claim, nor had the Government any right, to coerce them for that purpose, and he wished this to be clearly understood.' In answer to a remark of Mr. Hall, of Missouri, he said, 'slavery existed, and that, too, as well by the act of the North as of the South, and that he recognised the rights of property which had grown out of it, and would respect those rights as fully as similar rights in any other property.' Thus it is seen that the constitutional right of exclusive State control over the subject of slavery was clearly and fully recognised by the chosen leader of the Black Republican party; but of what avail were these declarations from such a source? When Charles I. endeavoured to prevent the passage of the celebrated Petition of Right, a message was sent down desiring to know whether the House would rest on the royal word, as declared to them by the Lord Keeper. Pym answered, with consummate address, 'We have His Majesty's coronation *oath* to maintain the laws of England: what need we then to take his *word*?'

Mr. Lincoln had taken the solemn *oath* to obey the Constitution: how could freemen take his *word* when his oath had been violated by trampling under foot every vital principle of the Constitution? His own acknowledgment to Congress of this violation, and the paltry excuse for it, will in future ages constitute not the least remarkable feature of this Black Republican revolution. But the Personal Liberty Bills of twelve of the Northern States were nearly all, if not all, still in force, nullifying a law of Congress for the benefit of the South, while those very States claimed all the benefit of the compact of the Constitution, and were in the enjoyment of that commercial system, to the actual detriment of the South, which, in the language of Mr. Webster, constituted the 'whole glory' of the North. The abstract right of the South to non-intervention by a common Government for all the States, was acknowledged at the very moment that the whole power of that Government was exerted, in violation of all the purposes for which it was framed, to destroy (with the existing relation in all the border States. I repeat, therefore, that the question between the sections was never one of slavery, but, so far as the South was concerned, the resistance to the unconstitutional interference of the North in what is conceded to belong solely and exclusively to separate State authority. England, until a comparatively recent period, held slaves in her West Indian colonies. For very many years there was a strong and growing feeling against its continuance, until, finally, a compensated system of emancipation was devised by the wisdom of Parliament. Suppose, before Parliament saw proper to act, France had indulged in the bitter denunciations against England which have characterised the Black Republican party of the North when speaking of the South; suppose organised bands had been employed to seduce the slaves from their owners, and that poison, to be used against their owners, had been distributed among them as was done in Texas—that raids like John Brown's into Virginia had been made with the avowed purpose of exciting servile insurrection and indiscriminate massacre, and that all the newspapers of the party about to succeed to political power should have either openly applauded the act or palliated its horrors—a contest arising between the two countries, growing out of such conduct, would scarcely, even among Exeter Hall abolitionists, be considered as involving the question of slavery; and I am wholly mistaken in English character if all parties had not in that event cordially united in repelling indignantly any such interference. Yet the case between the North and the South is a parallel one, with the superadded obligation on the North arising from the common compact. As England would claim the right, without the officious interference of an unfriendly foreign nation, to exercise her own sound judgment and discretion, when and how she thought proper, in acting on a matter of her own peculiar cognisance, the same Anglo-Saxon blood which flows in the veins of the people of the South makes them not less earnest in vindicating the same inherent principle of national individuality. They are contending in a terrible and bloody strife for the guaranteed right of deciding for themselves, in their own way and in their own time, what, according to their own sound judgment, may be best for the two races which have been thrown together without any fault of either.

BUTLER'S LAST INFAMY.

To the Editor of The Index.

Sir,—I have to request you, as a duty which you owe to your position as a journalist, to place on record the following order of one of Butler's immediate subordinates, and promulgated under his eye, and therefore with his implied sanction. I cut it from the Norfolk *Old Dominion* newspaper, where it is published by authority. The Rev. Mr. Wingfield—who is sentenced without trial, on the mere suspicion of having used 'seditious language,' to the punishment of sweeping the public streets—is a gentleman of refined education, high social standing in the community, and universally respected by his fellow-citizens. Please notice also the hellish malignity of the sneer which envenoms this brutal order. It is of a par with the ingenuity which forced in the same town a professor of Union sentiments to help building the gallows of a condemned 'rebel' and 'traitor.' Heretofore, the English press, which was so prompt in avenging New Orleans, has given little or no heed to the murders, the robberies, the infamies of the same man at Norfolk. I hope that the subjoined will rouse the generous impulses of your contemporaries in vindication of outraged humanity.

Yours, &c., Norfolk.

Head-quarters Norfolk and Portsmouth,
Norfolk, Va., Feb. 25, 1864.

Special Orders, No. 44—[Extract]—IV. It having been reported to the General Commanding that S. H. Wingfield, of Portsmouth, is an avowed secessionist, and that he takes every opportunity to disseminate his traitorous dogmas, much to the annoyance of his loyal neighbours, and that on one occasion, at a place of worship, while the prayer for the President of the United States was being read, his conduct was such as to annoy and disgust the loyal portion of the congregation, and believing a wholesome example is necessary for the benefit of Mr. Wingfield in particular, and the class in this community he represents in general, men of education and ability, who use the talents God has given them for the purpose of stirring up strife against the Government of the United States, it is therefore ordered that the Provost-Marshal arrest Mr. S. H. Wingfield, and that he be turned over to Colonel Sawtelle to work for three (3) months cleaning the streets of Norfolk and Portsmouth, thus employing his time for the benefit of that Government he has abused, and in a small way atone for his disloyalty and treason.

By command of
Brig.-Gen. E. A. Wild.
George H. Johnston, Capt. and A. A. G.

EQUIPMENT *VERSUS* ENLISTMENT.

To the Editor of The Index.

Sir,—In a leader on Mr. Roebuck's motion, and the contemplated remonstrance of Her Majesty's Government to that of the Confederate States, the *Times* of 15th inst. says in substance, that for the offence charged against the Confederates, we have the 'tangible thing,' to wit, the ships built in English ports and now cruizing in their service; while in the offence charged against the Federals, viz. the enlistments in Ireland, there is no such 'tangible thing;' that therefore the Government in the latter case 'have no facts upon which to proceed.' I should gladly have you quote the passage, if it will not occupy too much of your space; but you will find that I have correctly stated its meaning. Now I merely wish to ask whether 100,000 able-bodied men annually leaving Ireland—which is the lowest number stated in Parliament, and this without denial—and finding their way into the Federal service, does not form quite as much 'a tangible thing' as a vessel of war, and is not quite as strong a fact upon which to proceed?' Yours, &c., D.

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Richmond: Jan. 26, 1864.

WHO IS QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL?—PROPOSAL TO LIMIT THE TERM OF SERVICE OF CABINET OFFICERS—THE EXEMPTION BILL—THE TAX BILL—THE INFLATION OF THE CURRENCY—THE SPIRIT OF THE ARMY AND OF THE PEOPLE—CHARLESTON—YANKEE RAVAGES IN VIRGINIA—THE CARTEL OF EXCHANGE—GENERAL SORROW FOR THE DEATH OF THACKERAY.

'Who is Quartermaster-General?' is the question which now occupies the public mind of the capital, apropos of a report made to the Senate of the Confederate States by Mr. Sparrow, of Louisiana, in which the President's appointment of General Lawton is declared to be null, and all the expenditures of money made since the latter entered upon the duties of the office are pronounced illegal. The report has been adopted by the Senate, and the Administration and that body are therefore directly at issue, though such variance does not involve the reinstatement of Colonel A. C. Myers in his old position. The matter will come, in due course of time, before the courts of law for their adjudication, and meanwhile the action of the Senate will be of no practical effect.

Another report made to the same branch of Congress has created considerable discussion. It refers to the limitation of the term for which Cabinet officers shall serve under the appointment of the President, recommending that all secretaryships shall be deemed vacant at the expiration of two years from the time they were originally filled, and that the President shall be under the necessity of submitting other nominations to the Senate for its approval or rejection. The report evinces great ability and research on the part of its author, Mr. Semmes, of Louisiana; but it may be reasonably doubted whether the time of its preparation has not been thrown away. The object it has in view immediately is beyond all doubt to get rid of those members of the present Cabinet who have lost the confidence of a certain party. That the President retains these gentlemen in office, is satisfactory proof that he regards them as valuable public servants.

While these, and other matters equally unprofitable at the present moment, have been engaging the attention of Congress in open session, the vital subjects of taxation and the currency and the exemption have been before both Houses, sitting with closed doors. The Exemption Bill is still pending in the House of Representatives, but will very certainly not pass in the form in which it was reported by Mr. Miles, the chairman of the Military Committee. Congress will not commit into the hands of the President the sole authority of declaring what classes of men may be spared from the army, and what individuals shall represent these classes in maintaining the industrial and agricultural interests of the country. Beyond all peradventure, the list of exempts will be narrowed down to the smallest possible limits the dental surgeons throughout the Confederacy have memorialised Congress to be relieved from the operation of the conscript law, and though the class is so restricted that it may be counted in hundreds, and though their memorial was endorsed by the Surgeon-General and the Army Board of Medical Examiners, Congress refused to relieve them — but it will not be so cut down as to render necessary the total discontinuance of the daily newspapers, nor, let us hope, as to check seriously the cultivation of grain and the raising of beef cattle. The Currency and Tax Bill passed the House of Representatives several days ago, and is now under discussion in the Senate. Its leading features are not known to the public, although it is said that a perfect copy of the Bill as it came from the House is in the hands of the brokers of the city. But the rumour runs, that a general tax of five per cent. has been laid on all descriptions of property; that the profits arising from all manufacturing and mercantile business are yet more heavily burdened; that no imposition has been made upon the currency itself, but that this is required to be funded with all possible promptness.

Whether this general outline of the Currency and Tax Bill is correct or not, we can but await the action of the Senate to ascertain, but it is in the highest degree desirable that the Senate should pass it in some form or other, and give repose to the public mind. A sale of furniture, belonging to a departing Hebrew jeweller, took place a few days ago, at which the prices obtained for articles were absolutely bewildering. Two mirrors, not of the largest size, brought $10,000. An *étagère*, with the rubbish of Parisian statuettes, shell-work, odour-bottles, and other inutilities on its shelves, sold for $6,500. A set of chamber crockery, consisting of seven pieces which need not be specified, neither *Sèvres* nor Dresden, was knocked down at $13,000. A corresponding inflation of prices in all goods, fabrics, manufactured wares, necessaries and luxuries, is to be remarked. Nor is this referable in any manner to scarcity. There never was a time when the cost of living was so small, estimated in gold or sterling. Board at our first-class hotels is $20 a day, but this dwindles down to ninety cents in coin or foreign exchange—about one-third of the charge in time of peace. Reduced to the same standard, coals are less than $2 a ton of twenty-five bushels, flour $8½ a barrel, beef fifteen cents a pound, oysters eighty cents a gallon, and so on, through the whole range of what we eat and drink and wear. It is clear that, if the currency were restored to a healthful condition, prices would subside to figures very near those which obtained before the establishment of the blockade.

Despite this precarious state of the finances, the general condition of the Confederacy is hopeful, and the spirit of the people undismayed. The question of supplies for the army is not wholly free from embarrassment, but unless Congress shall legislate the whole male population into the army, there is no danger of a famine. The tanneries established by the Government are supplying the Confederate shoemakers with leather of good quality, and in abundance, and these shoemakers are turning out not less than four thousand pairs of shoes weekly. We are, therefore, independent of Europe for the means of protecting the feet of our soldiers. The nitre beds in our mountain regions are yielding a sufficient quantity of nitre to the Government powder-mills at Augusta and elsewhere, and the powder made at these establishments is of superior strength to that used by the Yankees. The temper of the army is buoyant. One has only to visit the lines of General Lee to shake off the despondency which may have been superinduced by 'too curiously considering' the depreciation of the currency, or nursing his disappointment over the course of the English Cabinet. The brave fellows are animated by the liveliest confidence of the repulse of the enemy at all points on the opening of the spring campaign. They want the Yankees to come on, and 'come a-running.' In our towns and cities the new conscripts, under the Act abolishing substitutes, are winding up their business affairs preparatory to going into the field on February 1. Throughout the Confederacy all classes recognise the solemn responsibility of putting forth the whole vigour they possess to meet the last desperate onset of the foe. Something perhaps of the cheerfulness of the troops may be attributed to the careless *abandon* of the military life, which breaks out in the chorus of

Why, soldiers, why,
Should we be melancholy, boys,
Whose business 'tis to die?

But there is a calm composure among the masses of the people at home, both among men and women, that springs not from ignorance of the extreme peril, nor from the reckless indifference of despair, but from that unwavering faith in their ability under God to maintain the right which has nerved their arms and cheered their hearts since the beginning of the conflict. That the Christian nations of Europe should regard with apathy a struggle which involves nothing less than the existence of 8,000,000 of human beings, the countrymen of Stonewall Jackson—that they should coolly calculate the probable extermination of a gallant people, and the devastation of half a continent, as they would the chances of a race at Epsom or Chantilly—is one of those moral phenomena which stagger our belief in the gradual but certain improvement of mankind.

Almost perfect quietude prevails along the whole line of military operations. From the direction of Knoxville we hear that Longstreet's cavalry have been within four miles of the town, and have cut off a provision train of the enemy, capturing 500 head of cattle, and 100 wagons with their teams. There is a blockade of the Mississippi river at Milliken's Bend, and the Yankees below that point are beginning to feel the want of supplies. At Charleston, the fire of the batteries upon the city, after having reached a maximum of 250 shells per day, has slackened, and a purpose is now indicated of making another grand bombardment of Sumter. The enemy were lately engaged in hauling ammunition to Gregg and Cumming's Point, and considerable activity was observed among the fleet, three Monitors having anchored inside the bar. The damage done in Charleston, so far, by the shells, is inconsiderable, and but little attention is paid to the falling missiles. Business has been moved higher up town; but the daily papers are published as usual, the boys trundle their hoops or play at marbles in the streets, wagons move about on their accustomed rounds, the trains arrive and depart upon their schedule time, all goes on as if ne'er a Yankee were within a thousand miles of Charleston, and Gilmore had never ordered its destruction. Now and then a shell, thrown farther than common, drops in among the mules and the urchins, or comes crashing through a house, and creates a momentary excitement, perhaps kills somebody. But the bombardment has become a matter of rather contemptuous familiarity. A correspondent of a Columbia journal writes that he saw a shell flying over a dwelling-house, in the open upper portico of which a lady sat sewing. Disturbed by the whizzing sound of the immense projectile as it hurtled above her head, the lady laid aside her needlework, walked across the portico to see where the shell struck, and then, immediately returning, resumed her seat and her occupation. A considerable force of the enemy has occupied the Northern Neck of Virginia since Christmas, plundering the dwellings of the inhabitants and destroying all grain and meat that could be found. In like manner, they have moved up the peninsula, and made predatory landings on the lower James River. One of the finest seats in this region was Lower Brandon, in the county of Prince George, the former dwelling of the Harrisons, and, before the war, the abode of a profuse and elegant hospitality, where Millard Fillmore and Edward Everett had been honoured and welcome guests. The estate was large and productive, the dwelling was an antique and rambling structure, dating back to the time of George II. Here the Yankees last week destroyed all the farm buildings, together with 3,000 bushels of Indian corn and a considerable supply of meat, rifled the mansion-house, laid waste the beautiful grounds, and carried off by violence, against their earnest protestations, more than 100 slaves. There are many gentlemen in England who remember with delight the charming repose and high social enjoyment of the Brandon household, and who will learn with equal indignation and regret that the ruthless Yankee has devastated its acres and profaned its halls.

So much for the hostilities of the past fortnight. Some ten days ago, on the flag-of-truce boat from Fortress Monroe, came to Richmond, by special permission of Lincoln and Butler, Mr. Henry Warfield, of Baltimore, well known for his sufferings and his endurance as one of the gentlemen immured for fourteen months in Fort Warren. The object of Mr. Warfield's visit is not known to the public, but it is supposed that he was allowed to approach our Government in the character of mediator with regard to the resumption of an exchange of prisoners. Whatever his purpose was, he has not been successful in accomplishing it, and will return home as soon as the flag-of-truce boat comes back to City Point. It is generally understood, both here and in the United States, that General Butler was selected as Meredith's successor expressly because of Lincoln's and Stanton's belief that he would not be recognised by our authorities. The Cabinet at Washington does not desire that the exchange of prisoners should be resumed, and this appointment was resorted to as the surest means of preventing it. Humanity cries aloud against such conduct, but what care Abe and his coadjutors for humanity?

Another extensive financial swindle has just transpired. Large sterling drafts were sold, several months ago, to parties in this city by a Captain Decie or Dicey of England. The drafts have come back protested for non-acceptance, and the Captain is awa'.

A public meeting was held last week, and an association formed here for the praiseworthy object of procuring artificial legs for the mutilated soldiers of our army. Speeches were made by Senator Henry of Tennessee and others, and a considerable sum of money was subscribed on the spot.

The trial of Forde, charged with the murder of Dixon, late Clerk of the House of Representatives, is now in progress before Judge Wm. H. Lyons. A great array of talent appears in the prisoner's behalf. Wm. W. Crump, Allan B. Magruder (a brother of the General, and one of the counsel in the case of Sickles in Washington City), George W. Randolph, Ex-Secretary of War, Senators Simms and Burnett, and Humphrey Marshall, of Kentucky, conduct the defence; Littleton Tazewell, Attorney for the Commonwealth, and Judge Dougherty of Georgia, carry on the prosecution. The trial excites but little attention in the whirl of events and the multiplicity of crimes.

There has been a very destructive fire, the result of accident, near Columbia, S. C., in which cotton to the value of $3,000,000 was consumed.

President Davis and Governor Smith have established public receptions or levees at their respective residences. The President receives every Tuesday, and the Governor every Friday evening.

The death of Thackeray has created a general sorrow among the reading men and women of the Confederacy. All the public journals contain paragraphs on the event. His popularity here, as you know, was unbounded.

The intense cold of four weeks ago has been followed by a succession of the balmiest and loveliest days, and the softest moonlit nights. Temperature and atmosphere, and the radiance of sun and moon, conspire to make this January a bright halcyon season of physical enjoyment.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York: March 1, 1864.

THE FEDERAL MILITARY MOVEMENTS—SHERMAN'S EXPEDITION—THE FLORIDA DISASTER—ITS EFFECT ON MR. LINCOLN'S ELECTION PROSPECTS—REPUBLICAN OPPOSITION TO THE RECONSTRUCTIVE SCHEME—MR. CHASE AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION—THE GROWING FEROCITY OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY—THE POSITION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

The past week has been fruitful in military excitements. In the coming week we look for stirring events. The army of the Potomac is said to be again in motion towards Richmond. Union forces are on the move, and very strong demonstrations have been made, with no decisive result yet except in Florida, where they have met with a disastrous defeat. Sherman's great expedition, which left Vicksburg four weeks ago today with 30,000 men, to march across the State of Mississippi into Alabama, threatening Mobile from the rear, and menacing an approach towards Atalanta, in concert with sustaining armies advancing in different directions, has not yet been heard from. He carried twenty days' provisions with him, and cut himself off from communication with his base on the river. He has been variously reported to be at Meridian, on the Mobile and Ohio railroad, 140 miles east of Vicksburg; and again at Selma, on the Alabama river, still east by at least 100 miles; but no intelligence has been received authenticating either of these facts, other than the Confederate report from Richmond that a portion of his force was at Quitman, which is a station on the railroad, 15 miles below Meridian, and 109 miles from Mobile. It is certain that the large cavalry force which was despatched from Memphis to form a junction with him, has been met by the Confederates and repulsed. The whole force returned to Memphis, with the usual Federal report, that it was a triumphant *raid*, and had succeeded in destroying or carrying away an immense amount of corn, cattle, and other property of rebels. The indiscriminate plunder or destruction of private property is the boast of almost every general order which announces the result of any Federal incursion into the interior of the South. It is a poor compensation for leaving General Sherman without support at a time when his provisions must be nearly, or quite, exhausted. The total failure of all communication with him for so long a time, and the doubt whether any forces can be sent to his relief, create great apprehensions about his position. General Grant made an advance about the same time towards Dalton, and very boastful telegraphic despatches were sent forward, amusing the public with accounts of his triumphal progress, the capture of the important point of Dalton, and the opening of his great march on to Atalanta. The advance appears to have been a feint, or it is a failure. Grant's forces are on their way back again, and some of them may probably be sent to try and reach Sherman.

The incident in Charleston Harbour, of the blowing up of a Federal ship by a torpedo, is of not much military significance, except as an inspiriting proof of the activity of the Confederates, and the infusion of a new alarm into the Federal navy, who have already had some unpleasant misgivings about this mode of warfare.

But the heaviest disaster of the Union troops has befallen them in Florida. There are no official accounts published; and the military authorities have taken extraordinary measures to suppress private intelligence. What news we have comes from Hilton Head. Before the steamer left which brought the reports, she was visited by order of General Gilmore, all private letters were seized, and the officers of the boat strictly forbidden to furnish any news for publication. The Government only has any authentic news, and this is withheld. But from verbal accounts by passengers, and such private letters as escaped the search, it is known that General Truman Seymour, advancing towards Lake City, was encountered near Olustee, twenty-eight miles from Jacksonville, on the 20th of February, by a strong Confederate force, and was badly beaten, and driven back upon Jacksonville, with a very heavy loss of men and artillery. It is conceded in these reports that his loss of men is not less than 1,200, and that his possession of Jacksonville is not secure. It is certain the expedition has come to an ignominious stop, and cannot be proceeded in without large reinforcements. It is not known what was the number of the Confederates, or who commanded them. It is said, of course, that they had a great superiority of numbers. They always have, by Union computation, when they are victorious. At the same time it is very curious that, whenever there is no fighting just over and to be explained, these Union accounts continually describe the Confederate armies as dispirited, deserting, and running away. Apropos of this, there is a characteristic anecdote told of Mr. Lincoln. In the earlier part of this war, when the Confederates were winning victories, and the defeated generals were always accounting for disaster by this story of the overwhelming numbers brought against them, a Western farmer asked Mr. Lincoln confidentially to tell him, for his private information, what he thought was the real strength of the Southern armies. Mr.

Lincoln gravely replied that, by the best computation, they must have 1,200,000 men. The farmer stared, on which Mr. Lincoln added: 'I come by these figures this way. I know we have 400,000 men, and my generals who are fighting report that everywhere the rebels have three to our one.' If not true, this is well invented.

There have been but few Confederate troops in Florida. It is rumoured that this force was sent down from the army about Charleston. The Union reports make Beauregard or Hardee the commanding officer. The brief accounts from Richmond seem to name General Finnegan as sole in command.

The victory is an important one for the Confederates. It is very damaging to the military cause of the Unionists, and a severe check to the political campaigning of Mr. Lincoln for re-election to the Presidency.

It has come to be seen and acknowledged at the North, and charged boldly by the malcontents with Mr. Lincoln in his own party, that this Florida expedition had really no military object, and that no success, in a military point of view, would compensate for one-tenth of the cost, or any part whatever of the loss of life. It is averred that none of the military authorities who have the direction and execution of the regular plans of campaigning for the war were consulted, or even informed of the movement, before it was ordered by Mr. Lincoln. The motive was explained in General Gilmore's order to be that of affording protection to loyalists in Florida, who might be disposed to accept President Lincoln's Proclamation of Amnesty, and take the oath of allegiance to the United States on the terms therein prescribed. What was unexpressed is not less evident—that there was the personal expectation, of more importance than the result, either military or political, to the Union cause, that a thousand men—Mr. Lincoln's prescribed number for a Florida constituency—might be gathered in that State to profess loyalty, make any pledge to save themselves from robbery and exile, and become oath-bound supporters of the personal policy, and by consequence of the partisan schemes, of the President. There was already a revolt within his own party to wrest power from his hands at the next election; and this Florida expedition, as an enterprise and as a failure, will be a strong weapon in the hands of those of his own household who would slay him if they could for their own gain. It has already been muttered among them that Mr. Lincoln has wasted an army and lost a thousand lives for the sake of making three votes to help him to a re-election.

This ignominious failure will encourage the opposition, which has recently been shown among the leading Republican politicians who are not in Mr. Lincoln's interest, against this whole scheme of making spurious States, through his military subordinates, by executive will, within the districts of the Southern States which are occupied by his armies. There were two very admonitory signs of this in some proceedings in the House of Representatives on the presentation of members for admission from the State of Arkansas, lately 'reconstructed' at Little Rock on Mr. Lincoln's model, and under the direction of his army officers; and in the proceedings of the National Republican Committee at Washington. When the Arkansas credentials were offered, Mr. H. Winter Davis, of Maryland, a Border-state convert to extreme Radicalism, opposed the reception, and inveighed bitterly against the unconstitutionality and dangers of the military interference of the President, and sought to have the subject referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, for the purpose of having an official enquiry into the lawfulness of these transactions. The House was not prepared to make this appearance of open conflict with the President, and the motion of Mr. Davis was lost. The credentials were referred to the Committee on Elections; but events have hurried on with such rapidity since, that a considerable body of the Republicans are not only ready, but eager, to damage the President with the country, in view of defeating what they call his attempts to re-nominate and to re-elect himself, and they will undoubtedly make fight on this whole scheme of the military manufacture of States under executive proclamations.

The regular National Committee of the Republican party, appointed at Chicago, in 1860, to call future conventions and fix the place of meeting, have named the 7th of June, and selected Baltimore. It is proclaimed as a move necessary to check the schemes of the President's personal followers to frustrate the action of the Convention, by getting up nominations for him by popular meetings and State Legislatures, so as to furnish a plea that a convention nomination is superfluous, or to exert an outside pressure to compel it to take him up, as already designated by the voice of the people. They adopted another measure, which is held to be a rebuke of the President, and a sign of opposition to his re-nomination. They made a rule that no delegates shall be received at the Convention from States not represented in Congress. This shuts out the expected Lincoln delegates from Arkansas, Louisiana, Florida, Texas, and Tennessee, in all which States the Lincoln process of 'reconstruction' is in various stages of advance. It stigmatises, too, the costly and bloody experiment upon Florida, as a great political blunder, no less than a military failure, and an official crime.

Simultaneously with the outbreak of these signs of discontent with Mr. Lincoln is the sudden development of a wide-spread concert of effort among the friends of the Secretary of the Treasury to have him nominated by the National Convention over Mr. Lincoln, on grounds boldly stated, which read very much like charges against Mr. Lincoln's Administration, and which, if uttered two years ago, would have subjected a democrat to the perils of a midnight arrest by a file of soldiers, and confinement during the will of the President in some military dungeon. I mentioned in my last the *circular* issued by a committee at Washington of the friends of Mr. Chase, of which U. S. Senator Pomeroy, of Kansas, was chairman, which was the first public breaking of ground in favour of Mr. Chase for the succession. It contained some severe reflections on Mr. Lincoln's capacity, and some offensive imputations against his administration as corrupt and feeble. It was met—not exactly answered—in the House of Representatives last Friday by a speech of General Frank Blair, representative from the St. Louis City district in Missouri, brother of Montgomery Blair, who is the Postmaster-General in Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet. It was a tremendous philippic against Secretary Chase, whom he denounced as a dangerous and ambitious intriguer, and boldly charged with corruption in office, saying that for the truth of the charge he held himself responsible as 'a soldier, a gentleman, and a representative.' Such language reminds one of the furious debates of the Mountain during the stormy days of French Jacobinism.

In aid of Mr. Chase, a pamphlet has been issued by his friends, and circulated among the members of the Legislature of Ohio—Mr. Chase's State—to influence them against the nomination of Mr. Lincoln for re-election. It is said to be an emanation from the Central Committee of the supporters of Mr. Chase near the Department in Washington City. It contains a formidable recapitulation of the many reasons for the opinion that Mr. Lincoln ought not to be nominated, and if nominated cannot be elected without the use of unlawful and unconstitutional means, which it insinuates that he is apparently ready to use; and that his re-election, with or without such appliances, would be a public calamity. It asserts that the nation is weary of his feebleness and incapacity; charges that he has had no policy, but has been swayed to and fro by interested persons, or by considerations of personal interest in retaining office; draws an unfavourable comparison between him and President Davis; ridicules him as a 'jocular President;' pronounces the epithet of 'honest old Abe' as a cant, which was 'at first amusing,' then became ridiculous, and is now absolutely criminal; and calls for the nomination for President, in place of Mr. Lincoln, of 'an advanced thinker, a statesman profoundly versed in political and economical science, one who fully comprehends the spirit of the age in which we live.'

The name of this august coming man is not given, but the fingers which traced these lines were mentally describing the name of Salmon P. Chase.

The war grows thus in bitterness every day, and will continue until the nominations are made in June, if some convenient arrangement between the chief belligerents does not in the meantime furnish a plea for the reunion of the factions on one or the other of them, or on some third man who will engage to restore harmony by a reasonable provision out of the abundance of the spoils of success for the chiefs of both sides—of course, purely for the patriotic purpose of the better enabling them to save the nation.

You will observe that, in all this revolt against the Administration, there is not the slightest trace of reaction against the war, or against the wicked and cruel passions of which it is made the instrument, or the horrible purposes for which it has come to be waged, as a war of spoliation and extermination against a gallant people struggling heroically for independence. The stimulus to revolt is, on the contrary, simply another form of that frightful passion for power and plunder, and that shocking indifference to crime and carnage, which the war has developed as a national trait. The chiefs of the movement rather assail Mr. Lincoln, because they believe he sometimes hesitated before going forward in the career of violence, bloodshed, and spoliation—because he is suspected of having had a lurking willingness to close the rebellion, if possible, by restoring the States as they were with their original rights, if they could be induced or compelled to submit; and that it is not with his whole heart, and only for the chances of renewed power, that he has become the Radical which his recent measures would show him to be. They denounce a portion of his policy, not because it is unjust, inhuman, lawless, and tyrannical, but because it is selfishly devised for his own profit, and is employed to retain in his own hands the tremendous powers which they are eager to seize and clamorously pledged to employ, if they can attain them, with a fiercer and more unrelenting energy of destructiveness against the Southern people than Mr. Lincoln is capable of exerting.

It is history repeating itself. In all popular frenzies, when a nation goes mad, the demagogues who first excite them are speedily outstripped in zealotry by the disciples they make. Unless they march onward with the accelerated pace of the multitude, they are pushed out of their places, and left by the wayside. When this conflict first commenced as a war of opinions, Mr. Seward was the Radical whom constitutional and moderate men shunned as the most dangerous fanatic of the day, although his fanaticism was only a cold-blooded calculation of political profit. The popular passions which he kindled got beyond his control, and undoubtedly went far beyond his original wishes, and he was left behind when the man of action was wanted. Mr. Lincoln was taken up, in preference, as the representative man of Northern designs against the South, and Mr. Seward, taunted and suspected, was dragged after Mr. Lincoln into excesses such as he had pronounced to be calumnies when imputed by his adversaries to be the inevitable consequences of his artful appeals to the frenzy of the fanatic and to the sordid appetites of the greedy. Now comes another brood of fiercer and greedier chiefs of furious factions, who are clamouring to set aside Mr. Lincoln, as Mr. Seward was set aside for Mr. Lincoln, for some more 'advanced' prophet and statesman—the more violent faction always coming in to displace and absorb their rivals who may not, in the language of the Chase pamphlet, sufficiently 'comprehend the spirit of the age.'

There might be the hope of some possible good to come out of these quarrels among the wrangling factions of the dominant party, if there were virtue enough among those who affect to oppose them on principle to seize the opportunity and use it courageously in an effort to restore the national sanity—in discouraging by every possible means the evil passions which made and which support this war, and invoking peace, even at the cost of giving up the struggle for territorial dominion over an unwilling people, and taking the broad ground that the first duty of the people is to stop this horrible bloodshed and turn their sobered thoughts to repairing their own shattered institutions, regaining and consolidating anew their own lost liberties, and labouring in patience to recover some portion of that social and material prosperity which they have recklessly cast away in the obstinate perpetration of a self-avenging wrong.

But there is no such courage or virtue in the Democratic party. There are a few men of rare qualities within it who give sane counsels, but they are overpowered and outvoted in the organisations which direct the combined action of the party, and which are under the sway of leaders who have not convictions strong enough to enable them to face a popular clamour, and are mostly mere traders in obsolete maxims and traditions for the sake of gaining power. These men are making haste, and taking the party along with them, to get rid, for the purposes of the coming Presidential election, of the apprehended odium that they too are not zealous for the unconditional prosecution of the war upon the Southern people. Ex-President Fillmore, the very type of Conservatism, who has recently acted with the Democrats on general questions, expressed the whole idea in a brief passage of a speech recently made at a meeting at Buffalo for the sanitary relief to the soldiers. He declared for unrelenting war to the attainment of utter subjugation, leaving all questions of lenity and justice to be settled afterwards, and, in the meantime, an unreserved grant of all the men and money the Administration needs, 'even though we may not always approve of the use that is to be made of either.'

This is the political position of the Democratic party, and it is powerless for any possible good.

NEGRO LONGEVITY.—In the mortuary report for the past week, the names of two coloured women occur, one free and the other a slave, who died at the respective ages of 120 and 115.—*Mobile Register*, February 3.

LETTER FROM HALIFAX.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA: March 3, 1864.

NOTHING has transpired here in relation to the *Chesapeake* since the last mail to England, by which I forwarded the final decision of Judge Stewart in the Court of Vice-Admiralty. The steamer still lies alongside one of our wharves.

Lieutenant Parr, one of the parties concerned in her capture, has arrived at Richmond. It is not probable that any demand will be made by the Confederate Government for the restitution of the *Chesapeake*, but they will not suffer her captors to be treated as pirates in case they should fall into the clutches of the Federal Government.

Sad havoc has been made in the blockade-running fleet. The last mail from Bermuda brings intelligence of the capture of ten fine swift vessels, within as many days. Not one fell into the hands of the Yankees, all being burned or sunk rather than the enemy should get possession of them. Of course, in running the blockade, there are many risks to be run, but brandy is more to be feared than the vigilance of the Yankee blockading squadron, and it is an undoubted fact that Yankee gold has had an evil influence upon more than one pilot and engineer. The American Consul at Halifax is said to have bribed the engineer of the *Robert E. Lee* to betray his trust, and there is much circumstantial evidence which tends to strongly substantiate the assertion. Some measures should be taken to exercise a sharper supervision over the conduct of those engaged in blockade-running. It is a shame that through drunkenness, knavery, or stupidity, so many valuable cargoes and swift steamers should be destroyed within sight of the Southern coast.

Colonel Kane and a party of Confederate officers who made their escape from the Federal prisons at Camp Douglas and Johnson's Island, passed through this city *en route* for Bermuda a few weeks since, and are reported to have safely arrived in the Confederacy.

The captain of a captured blockade-runner, lately arrived here, tells fearful tales of the outrages committed by the blockading squadron—of cold-blooded murders, almost by dozens—of men shot dead after their ships have been surrendered, or while making their way to the shore through the boiling surf. Then the bodies of the murdered are counted, as an Indian reckons up the number of his scalps, and a lying tale of so many 'drowned' goes to the Yankee press. Are these men or fiends that do such foul deeds?

Earl Russell has his disciples and followers in these provinces as elsewhere. Witness the decision of the Judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court in this province, before the case was submitted for his judgment. Witness also the decision of the police magistrate in St. John's, an official who claims to interpret international law, and is yet unable to prepare an ordinary law document by which to commit three men to a common gaol! A writ of *habeas corpus* has been granted in this case, and it is now being argued before a judge of the Supreme Court.

The telegrams from Yankeedom bring us tidings of Confederate victories in Florida and Mississippi.

PARIS TOPICS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS: March 15.

THE elections for two of the circumscriptions of Paris takes place next Sunday. No official candidate has been presented by the Government, which seems to have decided on pursuing the same system of *laisser-faire* in the partial elections which circumstances render necessary, as in the question of Danish duchies.

The maintenance of peace seems still somewhat problematical; but as men sleep through a storm, or in the trenches, when exhaustion or habit has rendered the danger familiar, so public opinion seems to be recovering a sort of apathetic tranquillity. The publication of Lord Cowley's despatches has no doubt contributed to this feeling, as every line of them goes to prove that in the Danish quarrel France is determined to look on from an upper window. This conviction, added to the action of the great banker in favour of a rise, has improved the money market, and the public funds are a half per cent. higher than they were a week ago. M. Fould also remains in office, which seems to many a guarantee for peace. On the other hand, the din of preparation is loud in Italy; large purchases of mules are being made, both in the Peninsula and in the South of France, for the military equipages of the Italian army; and the withdrawal of the Austrian forces from Slesvig, which is said to be the subject of negotiation with the smaller States of Germany, seems to indicate that their presence will be wanted in Italy. The prospects of peace or war in Europe seem therefore still as equally balanced as they were a week ago; the wishes of Government and people are on the side of peace—war has the chapter of accidents in its favour.

The French jurisprudence is acknowledged, notwithstanding the undisputed excellence of the Code, to be still open to many emendations, both in the criminal and commercial law. One of the petitions lately discussed in the Senate had reference to time bargains, which it was sought to legalise. Another reform of far greater value is now before the Council of State, which has the function of preparing new laws. It is called a law for the *mise en liberté provisoire*, and is intended to do away with the system of preventive imprisonment, of the hardships of which we have daily examples. It will be for France something like our *habeas corpus*, and will secure liberation on bail, until trial, for all misdemeanours and several minor crimes. On the present system, the previous inprisonment is often a greater punishment than the law awards on conviction, as in the case of M. Myres, when it resulted in ruin to himself and a large number of his shareholders. A curious instance of the working of trial by jury occurred this last week at Havre. It arose from some excise frauds, and the jury had to decide on 878 points which were submitted to them. They got through this more than Œdipean task in something less than four hours, or rather more than three questions and a half in a minute.

The evening before they left Paris, the future Sovereign of Mexico held a *levée* of his new subjects at the Austrian Embassy.

American affairs continue to attract little attention. The *Moniteur*, in the form of letters from New York, gives its usual well-written summaries of the news brought by each mail, but nothing which betrays a bias in favour of either party. President Davis's address to the army was printed entire in its columns, but without any comment. The *Presse*, in one of its exhortations in favour of peace, recalls the 60,000,000f. spent in the Crimean war, and holds up the 400,000,000f. of Northern debt as a warning to the too well taxed people of Europe; but it is only to point a moral incidentally that the *Presse* remembers America this week. If the French papers are too intent in

watching the affairs of Denmark to give a thought to the gigantic struggle in the West. I observe that the Italian papers still turn a sympathetic eye to the war of liberation which the Confederate States are waging. The constitutional Liberals seem, without an exception, to appreciate, in their true light, both the conduct of the Washington Government, and the gallant self-assertion of the men of the South.

This last has been a week of suicides. A banker, a lawyer, and a man of letters, are among the list of these casualties of cowardice.

CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Manchester: March 16.

So far from resting either upon its own successes or upon the expressions of increased favour and acceptance the Confederate cause is receiving in Parliament, the Southern Independence Association is giving token of renewing its exertions with redoubled energy and vigour. It is confidently anticipated that within a few weeks after the Easter recess, the Society will be in a position to lay before both Houses the most unmistakeable evidence of the popular will throughout the whole of the manufacturing districts in the North. Arrangements are now in progress for the attainment of that object, and, apparently, there needs nothing but methodised action and sustained zeal to conduct the affair to a prosperous issue.

Mr. T. B. Kershaw's has been the chief labouring oar in this agitation, and at this time it is superfluous to add that, as an advocate or a debater, Mr. Kershaw is, upon the American question, more than a match for any force the enemy can bring against him. One of the most ably reasoned and popularly received lectures he has yet delivered, was given by him on Saturday evening at Burnley. The town-clerk of the borough, Captain Creek, occupied the chair, and the meeting, which was a crowded one, bore unanimous testimony in favour of the lecturer and his cause. Mr. Kershaw opened his subject by briefly reviewing the circumstances under which, exactly a hundred years ago, the revolted American colonies began their War of Independence. Why, he asked, did they throw off their allegiance? For precisely the same reason that the Southern States have separated themselves from the Union. The lapse of a hundred or any larger number of years could have no effect in altering men's feelings upon questions of practical injustice. In the autumn of 1860, when South Carolina exercised her right of sovereignty by disconnecting herself from the Union, she did so upon the same principle as that which governed the thirteen States in their revolt from the mother country. The lecturer then proceeded to review the position in which the South was placed by the preponderating political power of the North, and in illustrating and enforcing this portion of the subject he quoted largely from M. Victor, whom he held to be a most acceptable authority upon such a matter, considering that his paramount object in writing his book was to make out a good case for the North. Then he passed to the immigration question and produced tables of population showing the rate of increase in the North in contrast with that in the South, and dwelt with considerable emphasis upon the tyranny of the 'resistless majority.' For the last forty years the taxation levied by Congress had been laid with a view to promote Northern interests, three-fourths of the taxes being spent in the North; and it was for the sole purpose of continuing its selfish advantages that the North was now making war. The lecture occupied two hours in the delivery, and at its close the lecturer received a cordial and unanimous vote of thanks.

Applications are still pouring in from all quarters, from persons of rank and gentlemen of standing in their respective counties, requesting that their names may be enrolled on the books of the Southern Independence Association. A noble lord writes as follows:—'I have long agreed with the first and second paragraphs of your excellent, truthful, and humane circular. . . . The present Lord Abinger, in a sensible and warm-hearted speech in the House of Lords, in February 1862, declared that, from personal observation, he felt convinced that the North never could by force of arms subjugate the South. . . . I hope it may not be out of place here to observe, that I think our consuls should be in direct correspondence from the Southern States with Great Britain, in the same way as the United States Ministers were with the South American Republics long before their recognition by Spain, from whom they revolted. . . . As to the last paragraph but one in your circular, I think that the interest of the negro is safer in the hands of the South than of the North, for I believe that the "wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." I may add, that my brother, Admiral D——, who is no mean authority on the condition of the negro, long ago expressed an opinion in favour of the immediate recognition of the Southern States.'

An eminent Conservative historian writes as follows:—'I hesitate to become a member of your Association from a doubt whether I should take that open step to which my inclinations strongly prompt me, or adhere to the neutrality in public life to which, as holding a high and responsible judicial situation in this country, I have hitherto invariably confined myself. And after mature consideration I am of opinion that it will be more decorous to abide in this instance by my former rule. I am the more inclined to follow this course from the reflection that by not appearing in public as an advocate of the Southern States, I shall be able to serve their cause more effectually in my literary character. And the printing of a new edition of my "History" (which is now going on), will afford me several opportunities of doing so, of which I shall not fail gladly to avail myself.'

A Gloucestershire baronet writes as follows:—'I will confess that all my sympathies are with the South. Some years ago, I spent some time in Charleston, and Georgia, Alabama, &c., and a more gallant, hospitable, and kind set of gentlemen I never met with. All the slaves I saw, on all the slave plantations, were happy and well fed and housed and cared for, and far better off than most of our labourers; and if some alterations were made in the slave laws, the bugbear of slavery would lose all its supposed horrors . . . I have said thus much because I have some knowledge of the country, and because I earnestly desire the success of the South.'

An Irish M.P., after congratulating the Association upon the success that has attended its efforts to educate the popular mind, writes in the following cordial strain:—'With sincere pleasure I beg you will enrol me a member of your Association. I have dwelt with extreme anxiety upon the prolonged struggle of the noble people of the Southern States; have rejoiced at their successes, have deplored their reverses, and think, indeed, it would be shameful for a free nation such as ours to allow a people who are so gallantly struggling for liberty, for independence, for the rights of man, and for the privilege of free-trade, to perish without a word of remonstrance against its Northern tyrants. Their War of Independence is to be waged, not only on their own well-fought fields, "where valour's self could do no more," but a struggle equally energetic must be made in our House of Parliament, and pledges should be exacted from the representatives of all counties, cities, and boroughs, to urge the speedy recognition of the Southern Confederacy. Your powerful Association should withhold all parliamentary support from any government that pursues a craven policy, and, alarmed by the vain threats of the Yankees, unjustly refuses to recognise the independence of a nation equally entitled to self-government with its Northern neighbour.'

The Yankee recruiting movement—that is, the Fenian part of it—is said to be attempted in Manchester. A correspondent of one of the morning papers, who signs himself 'An Irishman and a Catholic,' and who 'has it upon the most reliable authority that some Hibernico-American agents have taken up their quarters in this city,' writes:—

'I respectfully call upon the Catholic clergy to be on the alert against those wolves who are prowling among their flocks, and I entertain a strong hope that the police will be enabled to ferret them out, and bring them to condign punishment, as a warning to others, and as the surest means of preventing the simple, the illiterate, and the unwary from falling into a trap. . . . I have always been happy at finding Englishmen, Irishmen, Scotchmen, Welshmen, &c., spending their national festival days in a patriotic and convivial manner. Should, then, the gathering that will take place on St. Patrick's Day in the Corn Exchange be a large assemblage of well-conducted men—of men of principle, fully resolved to resist every effort that may be made to induce them to trample upon divine and human laws—I most heartily wish them every success. But should it be a Fenian convention, got up under false pretences—and rumour more than whispers something of that kind; indeed, the absence of any respectable patronage is a ground for strong suspicion—then I hope that it may be a miserable failure, and that its originators may be sent back to that obscurity out of which neither God nor nature ever intended they should emerge.'

The *Manchester Courier* of this morning, referring to the Solicitor-General's statement that Her Majesty's Government would endeavour to 'remonstrate' with the Government of the Confederate States, on their alleged employment of agents in this country for illegal purposes, asks *whether there will not be some little difficulty about this?* If Earl Russell, adds the *Courier*, had been moderately civil to Mr. Mason, instead of driving him away by his downright rudeness, the thing could have been done at once. But it is not now quite so easy a matter, and it is strongly to be suspected that if Earl Russell do not take care what he is about, he will get what is commonly called a slap in the face. The same journal concludes its complimentary speculations as follows:—'Who is now to communicate with the Confederate Government? and how, and in what sort of phraseology, is it to be approached? Is Mr. Jefferson Davis to be addressed as His Excellency the President of the Confederate States of America? and is he, as the representative of that Government, to be dealt with as one established Government usually deals with another? And if that is the case what will Mr. Adams say? The probability is that that particularly sensitive gentleman will think that it would have been better not to have addressed the representatives of the Confederacy at all, but, notwithstanding the formal recognition of its "belligerent" character (which, by the way, cannot be got over), to have treated them and all connected with them as "rebels" and "pirates." It is not very difficult to foretell what the answer of Mr President Davis will be. He will excuse himself and demand to be treated in the same way, in all respects, as the *other* belligerent. And, perhaps, at this point Lord Russell will begin to think that he had better have left remonstrance in that quarter alone.'

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL & COMMERCIAL.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

Wednesday Evening.

The money market is looking easier, the large influx of gold is evidently exerting a beneficial influence. It is generally conceived that the time has nearly arrived when the Directors of the Bank of England will feel themselves justified in making a further reduction in the *minimum* rate of discount; but still the large and daily increasing introduction of new Joint Stock projects renders it necessary to act with great caution. The applications for accommodation, both at the Bank and out of doors continue good, but without anything approaching to pressure. Amongst the brokers the lowest terms are 5¾ to 6 per cent.; they are, nevertheless, well supplied with capital; and should the weather continue fine, the aggregate seeking employment may be expected to be still better. The Joint Stock Banks have also good resources, and they are dealing with their advances at 5¾ per cent. On the Stock Exchange there continues a good demand for loans, and the terms for accommodation have improved from 3 to 5 per cent. The late Australian and West India arrivals will be sufficient for present necessities, as there is now no external draw of importance.

THE SOUTHERN STATES AND MEXICO.

While it is allowed that the proposed negotiation of a loan for Mexico will be a very satisfactory thing, as placing the new Emperor in a very favourable position, there is likely to be further benefit from an alliance between the Southern States and Mexico. The price of Mexican Stock has advanced on this prospect of affairs, and it will be highly beneficial to the interests of the South if no delay ensues in the final arrangements. The whole would, therefore, appear to be working well, and it is not improbable we may find shortly a great change, not only in the condition of Mexican, but also in Confederate Stock.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market for this security has been steadily improving this week upon extensive purchases both here and in Liverpool—the highest price being the closing quotation, 50½ to 51½. At these prices purchases have been made.

The news received from America this week are of an encouraging nature, and have doubtless tended to cause this improvement.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The operations in bullion and specie continue to be of a very satisfactory character. With the large amounts of gold just arrived, and the absence of any demand of consequence for shipment, there is every probability of a further reduction in the rate of discount at no distant period. The amount sent into the Bank this week has been 115,000*l*.; but, on the other hand, there has been a withdrawal of 50,000 sovereigns for transmission abroad. The total arrivals of specie this week amount to 1,343,823*l*., of which 59,446*l*. is from New York, 11,400*l*. from the West Coast of Africa, 1,038,897*l*. from the West Indies and Pacific, and 234,080*l*. from Australia. The *Syria*, with the Peninsular and Oriental mails, has taken out 185,310*l*., of which 2,580*l*. was in silver for Gibraltar, 66,700*l*. gold for Alexandria, 61,130*l*. gold for Bombay, and 104,900*l*. silver for the same destination. The silver market has been less active during the last few days. The bar silver disposed of has been purchased at previous rates. Mexican dollars have also been in less demand, and the price has declined to 5*s*. 4*d*. per oz. The following is the only gold ship at present known to be on its way from Australia, viz., the *Star of Peace*, which will bring 75,000*l*.

TENDERS FOR BILLS ON INDIA.

The biddings for 30,00,000 rupees in bills on India took place to-day at the Bank of England. The proportions allotted were to Calcutta, 16,00,000 rupees; to Bombay, 12,00,000 rupees, and to Madras 2,00,000 rupees. The minimum price was as before, viz. 1*s*. 11½*d*. per rupee on Calcutta and Madras, and 1*s*. 11¾*d*. on Bombay. The applications within the limits amounted to 230 lacs. Tenders on Calcutta, at 1*s*. 11¾*d*., will receive about 7 per cent; on Bombay, at 2*s*. 0⅛*d*., about 12 per cent.; and on Madras, at 2*s*., about 56 per cent., and all above these prices in full.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

A prospectus has been issued of the Warrant Banking Company, with a capital of 2,000,000*l*., in 40,000 shares of 50*l*. each; but the first issue will be limited to 20,000 shares. The establishment is formed for the purpose of making advances on merchandise and securities, and relieving bankers and discount brokers disliking to make advances upon merchandise, having no organisation for examining goods and properly estimating their value. The chief business of the company will, therefore, consist in making advances upon the staple articles of produce, but these advances will be made in acceptances by the company of the drafts of its customers, and since every bill will represent merchandise readily convertible, and be at the same time secured by the whole capital of a powerful Company. Advances will also be made upon stocks and shares in permanent undertakings, readily convertible; and branches, it is proposed, shall be established at Liverpool, Manchester, and Glasgow.—The General Credits and Finance Company of London invite subscriptions for the British Columbia and Vancouver's Island Investment Company. The capital is to be 500,000*l*., with power to increase; the first issue, 250,000*l*., in 10,000 shares of 25*l*. each. The undertaking is established for the purpose of extending to British Columbia and Vancouver's Island, principles of business long since adopted in other Colonies with beneficial results to English capitalists and the local property-holders. The rates procurable for money in British Columbia and Vancouver's Island average from 12 to 16 per cent., on the most unexceptionable securities. The Company propose also to act as agents in all matters of investment and finance as between home capitalists and the colonial property-holders.—The Fore Street Warehouse Company have just issued their prospectus, asking for a capital of 600,000*l*., in shares of 20*l*. each, of which it is stated 400,000*l*. has been privately subscribed. The object of the undertaking is to purchase the good-will, stock of goods, freehold and leasehold premises and entire business of Messrs. Morrison, Dillon and Co., from which Mr. Charles Morrison is about to retire, leaving Mr. Brown and Mr. Slater, the present active partners, to continue their connection with the business, as Directors in the Board of the new Company. The purchase-money is to be payable by instalments at intervals of six months, spread over five years, and the profits, which have averaged more than 71,000*l*. per annum for the last five years, are to date to the Company from January 9 last. The prospectus has been issued of the English Opera Association, with a capital of 50,000*l*., in shares of 2*l*. each, the intention being the establishment of an English Opera at Covent Garden during the period of the year when the Italian Opera is closed. The amount of rent to be paid is made contingent on the success of the enterprise.—Another Joint Stock Company has been established, with a capital of 1,000,000*l*., in shares of 100*l*. each, for the purchase of the extensive iron, steel, and armour-plate works of Messrs. Charles Cammell & Co. at Sheffield, known as the Cyclops Works.—A Company has also been formed, to be called the Avonside Engine Company, and the capital is fixed at 150,000*l*., in shares of 10*l*. each. The object is to take over the business of Messrs. Slaughter, Grüning & Co., locomotive manufacturers of Bristol. The Company will undertake the construction, maintenance of locomotive and marine engines, and such other work as is usually comprised in the business of engineers and contractors. Mr. Slaughter, the present managing partner, will be Managing Director.—The prospectus has been put forward of the Dutch Tramway Company, with a capital of 50,000*l*., in shares of 10*l* each. The object in the first instance is to carry out a concession which has been obtained for a double tramway from the Hague to Scheveningue, and for the full completion of which for 40,000*l*. an agreement has been made with English contractors.—Another prospectus is that of the West of England Woollen Manufacturing Company (Limited). The proposed capital is 100,000*l*., in 10,000 shares of 10*l*. each; the first issue to be 5,000 shares only. It is proposed to establish works for the purpose of manufacturing, with improved machinery, various descriptions of woollen fabrics, by felting, by which the process used in spinning and weaving is dispensed with, and a saving of time and material effected of at least 30 per cent.—The British Copper Company has been started with a capital of 100,000*l*., in 20,000 shares of 5*l*. each, and it is intended to work several copper mines, including the Lochfyne sett, the Rednal and other mines; for the purchase of these properties a provisional contract has been entered into of an advantageous character.—The North Australian Company (Limited) have issued their prospectus this afternoon. The proposed capital is 200,000*l*. in 20,000 shares of 10*l*. each; first issue, 10,000 shares; deposit, 10*s*. per share on application, and 1*l*. on allotment; but it is not intended to call up more than 5*l*. per share.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

Although the news with reference to the war in Denmark is not of a character to inspire much confidence in monetary circles, still the market for the English Securities has shown more animation within the last few days, and prices exhibit an improving tendency, but this is to be chiefly attributed to the more satisfactory state of the money market and the large arrivals of gold. Consols closed this evening at 91⅞ to 91½ for money, and 91⅞ to 91¾ for the account, which is an advance of ⅜ per cent. as compared with this day week. Exchequer Bills remain very firm at 5*s*. dis. to par. There has also been more animation exhibited in the Foreign Stock Market, but within the last day or two the dealers have been more particularly engaged with the periodical settlement, and which, it is believed, has proved a very heavy affair. Nevertheless, prices have generally improved—Greek to the

extent of nearly 2 per cent.; [illegible] (1862) 70½ to 70.

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THERE are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellowmen.

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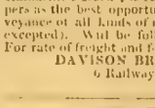

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AMERICA.

Amongst the slain in the late abortive and ridiculous attempt to reach Richmond was Colonel Dahlgren, and in his pockets were found papers explaining the objects of the expedition. If it was not conceived and arranged by Butler, then there is in the world a more infamous wretch than Mr. Lincoln's favourite general; and if it was planned by Butler, then we cannot but feel astonished at the ingenuity with which he makes a name execrated by mankind still more execrable. Not that Butler is the only or even the chief criminal. The New England faction at the White House who employ him are more culpable than their tool; and the men who joined the late enterprise, well knowing its objects, deserve as well as Butler the opprobrium of mankind.

The scheme was not to capture Richmond, but to destroy the city, and murder the inhabitants. The instructions found on Dahlgren are very precise, as the following quotations will show:—

> Guides and pioneers, with oakum, turpentine, and torpedos, signal officer, quartermasters, commissaries, scouts and pickets and men in rebel uniforms—these will remain on the north bank, &c.
>
> All mills must be burned and the canal destroyed, and also everything which can be used by the rebels must be destroyed, including the boats on the river.
>
> The men must be kept together and well in hand, and once in the city, *it must be destroyed and J. F. Davis and his Cabinet killed. Pioneers will go along, with combustible material.* The officer must use his discretion about the time of assisting us. Horses and cattle which we do not need immediately must be shot, rather than left.
>
> The pioneers must be prepared to construct a bridge or destroy one. They must have plenty of oakum and turpentine for burning, which will be soaked and rolled into balls and be given to the men to burn when we get into the city.

We will not comment on the above, but extract a few sentences from an editorial published in the *Richmond Sentinel*:—

> The papers found on the person of Colonel Dahlgren, copies of which we publish to-day, reveal clearly the character and objects of the late expedition against this city, and make more evident the grossness of its folly and the completeness of its failure. The enemy moved from Culpepper, according to the programme, in two columns of picked men, three hours apart in time, and diverging in different directions. Colonel Dahlgren led the advance column. A part of his object was to destroy our artillery at Frederickshall, but he found the artillery in a hollow square, with muzzles outwards, and he passed on. Another purpose was to cross James river with his main force, and move down in great secrecy and take Richmond by surprise. . . . . The soldiers were to scatter firebrands everywhere, our bridges were to be burned, our President, the commander-in-chief of our army, was to be killed. His Cabinet was to share his fate. So far as they were concerned, *the black flag was to be raised and no quarter given.* Man proposes, but God disposes. Lincoln, through his armed emissaries, has told us what he would like to do, and he has made the attempt to do it. Morally, therefore, he and his officers are guilty of the crime. As for Dahlgren, he has paid the penalty. He has found the death he came to deal. Instead of writing his name among the stars, as he fondly hoped, he has been buried like a dog, without priest or coffin, in the swamps of Virginia. His name will stink and his memory will rot. The odium due to him attaches in greater force to his superiors, both civil and military. Let Lincoln and Kilpatrick remember that they have bidden their subordinates give no quarter to the Confederate chiefs. Perhaps even a Scotch cap and a military cloak will not prevent a just and stern vengeance from overtaking them for this revolting outrage on civilisation and the rules of war. . . . . The orders which Dahlgren proclaimed to his men and the purposes avowed are unexampled in the history of the world. Cities have indeed been sacked, but it was only after an obstinate and useless resistance had inflamed the passions of the soldiers and made them uncontrollable by their commanders. Dahlgren expected to take Richmond by surprise, not after an [illegible] defence, or, indeed, any defence. Yet he proclaimed that it was his purpose to *sack, burn, and* [illegible] *will.* What imagination can paint the horrors of which this city would have been the scene on Monday, if Dahlgren's purpose had succeeded? History furnishes no example of the murder, arson, robbery, rape, and conflagration which would have prevailed. The President and his Cabinet were doomed by name, and were to fall at the hands of the [illegible]. Does any one believe that any official of any grade would have escaped the [illegible] of prisoners?

It is announced in the New York papers that General William Preston and Captain Walker Fearn were officially presented by the Confederate agent at Havanah to the Captain-General, and officially received at the Viceregal palace. As the distinguished diplomatic character of these gentlemen gives more than ordinary plausibility to the report of their mission to the Empire of Mexico, this exhibition of Spanish courtesy has doubtless some of the significance which the New York press appears to attach to it. The report acquires further probability from the well-known and sincere desire of the Confederate States to establish and to maintain the most cordially friendly relations with their neighbour. But we risk nothing in asserting our well-founded conviction that in the formal expression of this desire the future Emperor must himself take the initiative, and that the Confederacy will not expose itself to the risk of a rebuff from the youngest and least mature of Governments. It is Mexico, far more than the Confederate States, which needs an indulgent construction, on the part of other nations, of her title to rank as their peer. It is impossible to conceive of any single substantial advantage that Mexico has it in her power to confer upon the Confederacy by recognition. The Emperor Maximilian, on ascending his throne, finds as his neighbour a Power with a more united population, with a Government more firmly seated, with greater military and financial resources, than he for some years can hope to command. He has not the excuse of European monarchies of being hampered by preexisting obligations, for the Confederacy is actually older than his Empire. To invite intercourse with one of the fragments of the late Union, and to ignore the political existence of the other, as a leading London journal a few days ago informed us was his intention, would, therefore, in his case at least, be not only a departure from the strict neutrality which it must be his policy to preserve, but it would be a deliberate and gratuitous insult to the Power which he can least afford to offend, and which alone in America has alike the wish and the ability to befriend him. Even that alliance between Mexico and the South, which, with equal disregard of the circumstances and requirements of either, has been talked of by over-zealous friends, would not be so absurdly purposeless and suicidal a step. We refer to this matter only because a stray paragraph in last Saturday's *Globe* has given a certain degree of currency to an idea which is, to say the least, not flattering to the tried sagacity of the French Emperor and the high expectations universally entertained of his Imperial *protégé*. The same subject is treated with remarkable clearness and breadth of view by another of our London contemporaries, to whose generally just appreciation of American politics we only pay a deserved tribute by adopting its article *in extenso* into our columns.

The inferences drawn from the appointment and arrival at New York of a Consular representative of the Mexican Imperial Regency, appear to be premature. The appointment, as we learn from the New York papers by the last mail, is that of a 'commercial agent,' who, though possessed, in regard to his Government and compatriots, of all the powers of 'Consul,' requires for the discharge of his duties no *exequatur*, and therefore implies neither a request nor a grant of recognition. This convenient form of representation is employed either by a Government unwilling to recognise the *de facto* or *de jure* authority of another, or, *vice versâ*, by a Government whose own authority is not diplomatically recognised. It has frequently occasioned surprise, that the British Government has not availed itself of this legitimate and universally admitted means of being represented in the Confederate States without any committal to recognition.

The following is the official despatch of the Governor of Florida to President Davis respecting the battle of Olustee:—

> To the President.
>
> Tallahassee, Fla.: February 21.
>
> I have just received the following despatch from General Finnegan, dated yesterday: 'I met the enemy in full force [illegible]
>
> [illegible]
>
> [illegible]

The Richmond papers publish accounts of the battle in [illegible] at 7,000 [illegible]. The Federal loss is computed at 2,000 in killed, wounded, and prisoners, besides [illegible] hundred stand of arms, and a vast quantity of ordnance, quartermaster's and commissary stores.' The Confederate loss is estimated at 'about 75 killed and 150 wounded.' The engagement lasted for nearly four hours.

General Finnegan, the Confederate commander at the battle of Olustee, is an Irishman by birth. In early life he enlisted in the United States regular army as a private, and after his discharge went to Florida, where he obtained a local reputation as an engineer, and became a prominent citizen. When the war broke out he joined the Confederate service. His merits secured him rapid promotion, until at last he was made Brigadier-General.

Where is General Sherman? The accounts are various and conflicting; but they agree in one point—that he has reached, or is rapidly retiring to, Vicksburg. But in what condition? The Washington Government, whilst professing ignorance of Sherman's late movements, pretends that he is returning laden with spoils, and after inflicting great damage on the railroads. But the Northerners, though generally willing to credit any story that consorts with their wishes, are not consoled by these official rumours. Besides, it is stated very positively and persistently that Sherman was badly beaten near Meridian, and that he has retired to Vicksburg, harassed on his way by Confederate cavalry, with only a remnant of his army. That this was believed in New York we know by the rapid advance in the price of gold.

The letter of our New Orleans Correspondent gives an account of General Sherman's movements as far as they had transpired.

Admiral Farragut has bombarded Fort Powell, but at the latest dates had not produced any effect. Even if he could reduce and pass Fort Powell, he would have to traverse a narrow channel nine miles long, and fortified on either side, to reach the city. A Federal gunboat has been sunk. The Confederate ram *Tennessee*, plated with six inches of iron, and carrying seven 100-pounder Parrotts, is lying under the guns of Fort Morgan.

It is reported, *viâ* Baltimore, that the torpedo boat *Davis*, commanded by Lieutenant Dixon of Mobile, which sank the *Housatonic*, has been lost. The Charleston papers of February 27—that is, ten days after the event—had only just heard from Northern sources that the sinking of the *Housatonic* had been caused by the torpedo.

The attempt to conquer Texas has been abandoned, and a part of the 'army of occupation' has already been withdrawn, and had arrived at New Orleans on February 21.

The Federals in North Carolina report that the Confederates are preparing to attack Newbern, Plymouth, and Washington. They say that, besides the land forces under General Pickett, the Confederates have three powerful rams, one in the Neuse river, another in the Roanoke river, and the third in the Tar river.

We have to record another daring naval feat of the Confederates. The steamer *Iolas* (not *S. P. Thomas*, as reported by telegraph), employed as a despatch steamer between Fortress Monroe and Cherrystone Point, and the steam transport *Titan*, loaded with commissary stores, were lying at anchor at Cherrystone Point on the morning of March 5. The crews were awakened about 4 o'clock, A.M., and found the vessels in possession of a body of Confederates. This gallant adventure was achieved by thirty men under the command of Captain Fitzhugh and Captain Taylor Wood of the Confederate navy. Captain Webster gave bonds for $70,000 for the *Iolas*, and the vessel was released. The *Titan*, a strong and useful vessel, and having on board a valuable cargo of army stores, was taken into the Rappahannock river.

Besides capturing the two vessels, the Confederates destroyed the telegraphic station at Cherrystone Point,

and the submarine cable, which was the only means of communication between Fortress Monroe, Baltimore, and Washington.

The *Savannah News* gives the following account of a fight below Savannah, that took place on February 22:—

Early on Monday morning the Yankees landed a force from 300 to 400 on the island from a number of barges. A force of about 150 men from the 85th Pennsylvania, under the command of First Lieutenant Michener, immediately advanced and drove in our pickets. So rapid were their movements that they succeeded in cutting off about 150 negroes, together with their overseers, who were engaged at work in that vicinity. These negroes, however, and their overseers, succeeded in making their escape, and reached our lines in safety. Our troops soon opened on the enemy, and repulsed them. We captured Lieutenant Michener, a corporal named Shallenberger, and a private named J. C. Bailey, of the 85th Pennsylvania regiment. Several of the enemy were wounded. We lost one man killed, belonging to Maxwell's Light Battery. This was the only casualty on the Confederate side. No negroes were lost. Lieutenant Richardson brought the prisoners to this city; and they are now confined in the barracks.

Northern papers are constantly assuring their readers that the negroes are anxious 'to escape' into the Federal lines. It will be seen from the above, so far from having any desire to join the Federals, that even when captured by the enemy, they return to the Confederate lines if they have the opportunity.

From the *Richmond Whig* of March 2 we learn that the recent raid of Kilpatrick's cavalry upon Richmond failed primarily through the treachery or ignorance of a negro guide. Colonel Dahlgren, one of the officers in command, appears not to have hesitated between these two alternatives, for at Goochland, on the march, he had the negro hanged forthwith. The *Whig* adds: 'It is not to be supposed that it would have been successful had it been otherwise. The whole force is estimated at about two large brigades, and, whatever the object, they have won a title to considerable boldness, to say the least of it.'

The following address from the Confederate Governor of Louisiana to the people of New Orleans has been extensively circulated in the latter city in the form of a handbill:—

Executive Office, Shreveport, La.:
January 30, 1864.

To the citizens of New Orleans: I greet you as the Governor of Louisiana. Your trials and your troubles are well known, your patriotic conduct fully appreciated by the Executive of your State. Do not be despondent. Do not despair, but rather let the fires of patriotism burn brightly at every fireside, for in a few short months you shall be free. You have been despoiled, and robbed, and basely insulted. Every indignity that a brutal, unprincipled, and vindictive foe could invent, has been heaped upon you. Bear your persecutions as did your fathers before you, and nerve your hearts for the coming hour. Our people are flocking to the army in every direction, and when the spring campaign opens, half a million of gallant Confederate soldiers will strike for Liberty and independence. Citizens of New Orleans! be true to yourselves, and your State will be true to you. Spurn all propositions for compromises of any kind. Spit upon the insulting proposal for a bastard State Government. Keep your own counsels, do your duty, and bide your time—you shall be free. The hated tyrants who lord it over you now, who daily insult you without remorse, and rob you without shame, these accursed villains, this crew of thieves and murderers, will yet receive their reward. Ladies of New Orleans! God Almighty bless you and sustain you in your trials—may Heaven guard you and protect you! When the spring time comes, gentle ladies, you will see the 'grey coats' again, and then you shall welcome back to New Orleans the sons and daughters of Louisiana. You are the treasure of the earth. Oh! be not weary in well-doing! cheer up the despondent. Be kind to our prisoners who are languishing in the wretched cells of the enemy. You will receive the undying gratitude of your country, and in Heaven above will have your reward.

Henry W. Allen, Gov. State Louisiana.

The disasters of the opening spring campaign appear to have brought even the Republican organs to their senses. At any previous period of the war, such a paragraph as the following, which we copy from the *New York Times* of March 7, would have appeared simply impossible as the editorial utterance of the leading Administration journal:—

The Rebel Spirit.—We are very sorry indeed that the opinion entertained for some time past by many excellent people, that the rebel army and Confederacy were so badly broken down that they would do no more serious fighting this spring, or henceforward, has not been sustained by our latest experiences. The rebels in their recent encounters, in different parts of the country, with our troops, under Generals Seymour, Sherman, Smith, and Palmer, have fought with their usual obstinacy and pertinacity, and marched with their ordinary celerity. Their small detachments everywhere show fight, and their large armies stand their ground. The rebel backbone is undoubtedly in a frightful condition, and those unacquainted with morbid anatomy might easily imagine that it was quite impossible for the monster to stand erect. But he does stand, nevertheless, and it is wisest for us neither to ignore his vitality nor his power. As long as the armies of Lee and Johnston exist, we shall have a great deal of work to do; and even they, we fear, will have to be killed half a dozen times before they can be accounted dead.

The Southern people are now exhibiting to the world a spectacle which we believe has no parallel in history. We do not refer to their prowess in the field to the practical evidences they are now giving of the noiseless but energetic preparations of the last winter, which have made them stronger at the opening of this campaign than in any previous one. We refer to the tax which retires two-thirds of their entire currency from circulation, to restore value to the rest. One of the Richmond papers truly calls this a 'forced loan,' but it is self-imposed by the people, and is such a measure as no great self-governed community ever before submitted to with cheerfulness and enthusiasm.

More important than even the war news are the hourly-growing symptoms of the speedy disintegration of that solid phalanx which, outwardly at least, the North has heretofore presented against the South. As the hour of contest for the great prize of the Presidency draws nearer, we foresee more clearly the scene of anarchy and intestine strife which in November next may culminate in the overthrow of what is still left of the Federal Union. The confusion of their adversaries has also made the Democrats bolder. Never before did their organs speak in such clarion tones as this haughty defiance we find in the *Boston Courier* of the 8th instant:—

For more than two years the moral, social, commercial, and political interests of America have been neglected and sacrificed, to serve the purposes of a bigoted and ignorant faction that assumes and is allowed the name of philanthropy, for no possible reason, unless that its members are the most malignant haters upon earth. With a persistency proportionate to the narrowness of their ideas, the conspirators of this faction have pressed upon the feeble and time-serving Chief Magistrate whom, for our sins, Heaven permitted to be chosen to rule us, until they have induced him to violate his oath of office, and every pledge of adherence to duty, policy, and law which he made to the people on his induction into office. For this subservience to the tempter, that unfortunate and guilty functionary is now receiving the usual and appropriate reward which falls to every deluded victim of such agencies of evil. He is deserted and reviled by those whom he has sacrificed his country and his good name to serve, and is on his rapid way to a position compared with which his former insignificance might well be thought a blessing. Meanwhile the country groans in agony. Ruin and death threaten it on every side, and the people, breaking the withs of party and tearing the bandage of Radical delusion from their eyes, are seeking safety in earnest. The great reaction is beginning—not an hour too soon.

In the discussion on proposed amendments to the Constitution, the Hon. Garrett Davis, of Kentucky, offered a resolution to divide New England into two States, Massachusetts and Maine constituting one, and New Hampshire, Connecticut, Vermont, and Rhode Island the other. Nothing could be more equitable than this, if the 'reconstructed Union' is to have a consolidated Government, in which the States, instead of being contracting parties, are to be mere subdivisions for more convenient local administration. Nothing, on the other hand, can show how directly opposite to this theory is the Constitution as it now exists, than the status which it gives to the New England States. The area of all New England is 65,093 square miles. There are five other single free States larger than this. New England, by the last census, had a population of 3,135,301. New York alone had 3,887,542. New England in its States possessed a value in real estate and personal property of $1,863,848,765; New York alone had $1,843,238,517. Yet the six New England States have *twelve* members of the Senate, while New York has but *two*. Here is New York superior in population and nearly equal in wealth to all New England, yet outvoted in the Senate of the United States by twelve to two. Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York, not far from three times greater and richer than the six New England States, have but six members of the Senate, while New England has twelve, enabling the latter section in the Senate to offset and control in its vote any six of the largest States of the Union.

Another scene in Mr. Lincoln's electioneering farce in Louisiana has been played out by the choice of Mr. Hahn as Governor. It is amusing to find that there are a few individuals who treat this farce as a serious matter. A person signing himself 'A Free-State Man and a Freeman' writes to the *New Orleans Times* to protest against the election. He says: 'We believe that if such elections are held valid, free Republican government will be more disgraced in the eyes of the world than by anything that has occurred before in America. Finally, we give notice to those who claim to have been elected State officers at that time, that if they shall presume to exercise those functions they will be deemed by the mass of the people of Louisiana but usurpers and intruders.'

Mr. Chase has been roughly handled by Congress. The House of Representatives passed a Bill authorising him to anticipate the payment of the interest on the public debt, but would not authorise him to sell gold under any circumstances. Considering that Mr. Chase has been selling gold, the rejection of a measure that would have covered the unconstitutional proceeding was annoying and dangerous. The telegraphic summary from New York, just received, says that Mr. Chase has formally withdrawn his name as a candidate for the Presidency, and that the Senate has passed a Bill authorising him to sell gold, and that the Bill has been sent to the House of Representatives. No one can fail to see why Mr. Chase has ceased to oppose Mr. Lincoln's reelection, and why Mr. Lincoln's Congress has passed Mr. Chase's Gold Bill. The fall in the price of gold from 63 to 62¼ is less the result of legislation than of the withdrawal of Mr. Chase from a position that, if persevered in, would have involved his resignation, and his resignation would have precipitated the downfall of his paper edifice.

In endeavouring to manufacture three sham votes in Florida, Mr. Lincoln spent a large sum of public money, and sacrificed above 1,500 men. He does not, however, despise more vulgar electioneering tricks. The *New York World* says: 'We are informed, on the best authority, that President Lincoln has ordered the Secretaries of War and of the Navy to give out no more of the advertising patronage of their departments, except, under his direction, to papers which he selects.'

The friends of General Fremont are working hard to procure for their man a formal nomination for the next Presidency. The German Republicans are enthusiastic for Fremont, and threaten vengeance if he is beaten.

Englishmen will be unfeignedly glad to hear that Mr. Justice Ritchie, of St. John, New Brunswick, has released the Confederates taken from the *Chesapeake*, 'upon the grounds that no proper requisition has been made by the Federal Government, that there is no treaty existing which would justify their being delivered up, that Mr. Magistrate Gilbert had no jurisdiction in the case, and that the warrant issued for their arrest was insufficient.' So the Yankees will lose their anticipated feast of blood, and the shameful conduct of the British police magistrate Gilbert—who, as we announced last week, bullied his prisoners, and stigmatised them as villains and cowards—will not consign these brave men to a cruel death.

On February 25, thirty-four Confederate prisoners escaped from confinement in New Orleans. Ten of them were brought back the next day, but the rest appear to have got off.

An amendment of the Constitution of the State of New York, by which soldiers are allowed to vote in camp, has been carried by a large majority. The numbers in New York City and Brooklyn were 25,235 for it, and 7,479 against it. It will thus be seen that the Democratic party did not oppose the change, but even supported it. We think no one can dissent from the views of our New York Correspondent, that the policy of the War-Democrats is foolish and disastrous.

The Northern papers deny that General Sickles has charged General Meade with nearly losing the battle of Gettysburg by ordering a retreat, but say that this fact was elicited by the Military Committee in the course of an enquiry into matters connected with the above-named battle. A much more serious charge against General Meade, in the eyes of those who gain power or money by the war, is that he has expressed an opinion that the North cannot conquer the South.

The draft in the North, ordered for March 10, has been postponed, and the term for the payment of bounties ha been extended to April 1.

The Annual Report of the Commissioners of Emigration to the Legislature states that the total number of aliens landed at the port of New York in 1863 was 156,844. Of these emigrants 92,157 were from Ireland, 35,002 from Germany, 18,757 from England, and 10,928 from other countries.

The correspondent of the *New York Tribune* announces that blockade-running at Charleston has been actively renewed.

General Grant has visited Washington, received his commission as Lieutenant-General, inspected the army of the Potomac, and gone to Nashville. It is expected he will replace General Meade, who is just now out of favour, for reasons explained by our Letter from New York.

It is said that Admiral Wilkes is to be brought before a court-martial for disobedience and insubordination.

The fluctuation in the price of gold in New York has been considerable. It advanced in consequence of the bad military news to 69 per cent. premium, but was quoted on the 12th inst. at 62¾ premium, the fall being brought about by the causes set forth in a preceding note.

ENGLAND.

At Cork, last week, John Sullivan, John Murphy, Edward Pyburn, Thomas Murphy, Denis Leary, and Daniel O'Connell, appeared before the Court on an indictment charging that they, being natural born subjects of the Queen, did, on the 4th November last, at Queenstown, without license from Her Majesty, agree to enlist and enter service as sailors on board a vessel called the *Kearsage*, an American ship of war, contrary to the provisions of the Foreign Enlistment Act. The defendants severally pleaded guilty, and one of them stated that they did not think it was any harm. The Attorney-General (for Ireland) then addressed the Court, and said that the defendants had submitted wisely; for the evidence was conclusive, and a trial could not have resulted favourably for them. He would take the opportunity of announcing to the people the nature of the statute, the mischief which it was intended to prevent, and the determination of the Executive to enforce its provisions. Presented in the briefest untechnical language, the effect of the 2nd section of the Act 59 Geo. III. c. 69, was to forbid any natural born subject of the Queen, without her express authority, to enlist in any foreign military or naval service, under pain of fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the Court. The policy of the law was wise. It tended to the maintenance of amity and peace among the great family of civilised nations. It prevented the interference of the people of one State with the affairs of others; it forbade men to shed their blood for the wretched hire of the mercenary without the justification of self-defence. The circumstances of Ireland made the strict enforcement of the statute especially necessary. He lamented the vast emigration which had been produced by much suffering and depression in latter years, and encouraged by the increased facilities of transit and the larger rewards of labour beyond the seas. Yet the free egress of the people could not be forbidden, save when made for purposes condemned by the law. A fearful struggle was convulsing the Western continent, great interests were in deadly conflict, and gigantic armies were striving for triumph with unexampled sacrifices on either side; that struggle commanded their anxious attention, as it affected the interests of humanity and the destinies of the world. Those who administered the law must see that, so far as may be possible, the subjects of this realm should not meddle with it to their own destruction, and the interruption of friendly

relations with Powers which, though hostile to each other, were not either of them hostile to the British Power. When all the blood that had been shed and all the suffering endured by Irishmen in that terrible contest were considered, the necessity for the enforcement of the law became more painfully apparent. The Irishmen had been slaughtered wholesale. It was said that 200,000 of them from first to last had lost their lives. It had been stated that in December last there were in New York, in a condition of pauperism, 108,911 persons born in Ireland, of whom 65,500 were Irishwomen. It was impossible to offer proof more appalling of the wretchedness which had been born of that war, or argument more persuasive of the propriety of efforts to save the people who still remained at home from the calamities they tempted by seeking to engage in it. Not merely, therefore, for the loyal maintenance of international relations, but also from regard to the safety and well-being of the Irish community, would the Government put the law in force to the best of its power, and with perfect impartiality towards the South as well as the North. This was the first prosecution of the kind, and the Court would deal leniently with the offenders, but thereafter the heaviest punishment would be awarded.

After the speech of the learned counsel, a conversation ensued between the Judge and the Attorney-General, in the course of which the latter stated that in his opinion justice would be satisfied if His Lordship would bind the defendants to come up for judgment at a future day if necessary, the real object being to let the whole country know what the law was, and that it would be enforced.

Thereupon His Lordship said that the young men before him had entered the service of the United States of America, a Power at peace with Great Britain; had gone on board an armed vessel of that State in the friendly harbour where she was received—at Queenstown—in the grossest violation of all amicable relations which ought to exist between friendly Powers. The officers of that navy well knew that they were violating the municipal laws of Ireland in taking the subjects of the realm on board their ship, to commit a gross violation of the municipal law, to entrap the men to expose their lives on a foreign soil and for a foreign object in which the people of this country were in no way concerned. He regretted that these young men, who were seduced perhaps, in their ignorance of the law, by a love of adventure and a desire to see other lands, were now before him, and that those who had induced them to violate the law were not before him. His Lordship fully concurred in all that had fallen from the Attorney-General, and in the advice to his countrymen to hold aloof from that internecine conflict in which so many Irishmen were engaged. He hoped that the men before him would reflect on the lesson they had just heard, and that they and their friends would not again be found violating the law. He should order the prisoners to stand out on their own recognisances to come up when called on.

The prisoners were discharged upon their own recognisances in 20*l.* to come up for sentence when called on to do so.

The Lords of the Treasury have drawn up a minute granting a special pension to Sir Rowland Hill, K.C.B., Secretary to the General Post Office. The minute bears date March 11, 1864. It recites that Sir Rowland Hill had been compelled by ill health to resign his appointment. It states that under ordinary circumstances the pension would amount only to 666*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, but that an occasion is offered of peculiar fitness for calling into action the special clause of the Superannuation Act, and for thus bringing before Parliament the services of Sir Rowland. His term of office had been 20 years, but mere time was not the measurement of his merits. Under his auspices the postal system had been transformed. The number of letters transmitted had increased ninefold, and the transmission was made at a cost not exceeding one-ninth of the former charge. Reference is next made to the carrying of books, the sending of money, and the system of savings' banks, to the improved condition of the servants employed in the Post Office, and to the moral and social benefit that has accrued to the masses from facilities of communication. The present gross revenue is stated at 3,878,000*l.*, as against the ancient revenue of 2,346,000*l.*, while the net revenue is 1,790,000*l.* in lieu of the almost equal sum of 1,660,000*l.* Their Lordships wish to do justice to all who have promoted in any way the system of the penny post, but Sir Rowland Hill reduced matter of speculation to practice, overcoming all obstacles.

On Wednesday, March 16, being the anniversary of the death of the Duchess of Kent, the Queen and Royal family visited the mausoleum of the Duchess at Frogmore, to witness the ceremony of uncovering the statue of Her Royal Highness. The statue, which is by Theed, and was modelled under the superintendence of the late Prince Consort, represents the Duchess standing. It is on a pedestal of imperial red Portuguese marble, and is placed in a temple over the chamber containing the sarcophagus. Over the statue is inscribed,

Her children arise up and call her blessed.

The following lines, composed by Alfred Tennyson, are also inscribed:—

Long as the heart beats life within her breast.
Thy child will bless thee, guardian, mother mild,
And far away thy memory will be blest
By children of the children of thy child.

The temple forming the mausoleum was also designed by the late Prince Consort.

By the command of Her Majesty the Queen, Colonel the Hon. C. B. Phipps has addressed a letter to J. A. Roebuck, Esq., M.P. for Sheffield, informing the latter gentleman that it is Her Majesty's intention to contribute 200*l.* towards the relief of the sufferers by the calamity at Sheffield. In the same letter is contained an expression of the deep sympathy of the Queen for the poor persons thus suddenly overwhelmed with grief, and exposed to suffering of every description in consequence of that unexpected and dire calamity.

It is now ascertained that the number of persons missing is 241. The subscription for the relief of the survivors already amounts to nearly 20,000*l.*

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, was taken suddenly ill on Saturday morning last, and is still extremely unwell.

The clergy of the diocese of Sarum have addressed their Bishop on the subject of the late decision in the Privy Council in the case of the 'Essays and Reviews.' It will be remembered that the prosecution against the Rev. Dr. Williams and Mr. Wilson was commenced by the Bishop of Salisbury. The clergy, then, in their address sympathise with His Lordship in the anxieties which must have harassed him in the course of the prolonged litigation, and assure him of their respect and affection. The clergy are convinced that the judgment of the Privy Council is such as to cause deep anxiety to a large majority of the members of the Church of England. They do not doubt that the learned Lords decided according to the law, but they console themselves with the reflection that they are not bound to acquiesce in decisions which, though not contrary to the law, are adverse to the spiritual faith of the Church of England. Therefore they conclude that the law and discipline of the Church must be defective, inasmuch as it allows doctrines to be promulgated entirely inconsistent with the teaching of the Church in its obvious and received meaning. They desire a revision of the ecclesiastical laws and courts. In the meantime they hope and believe that by the Formularies and Articles of the Church her members may be preserved in the faith.

Every year brings fresh proof of the deep and increasing interest taken by the general public in the athletic contests which, whether waged between the two great Universities, the public schools, or the rival clubs attached to other public bodies, serve to develope the manly vigour of the English race. Perhaps no struggle attracts so vast a crowd, or creates so much excitement, as the annual boat-race between the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Saturday last witnessed no falling off in the crowds of anxious spectators, or in the enthusiastic desire for victory of both parties. The course appointed for the race was the four miles of the River Thames between Putney and Mortlake, and the vast multitude that was conveyed in twenty-one steamers, loaded till the decks were almost flush with the stream, and that lined the shore and the bridges, and every point from which anything could be seen, carried the imagination back to Epsom and the unrivalled glories of the Derby day. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was present on board the Thames Subscription steamer *George Peabody*, and was accompanied by Prince John of Glücksburg. Some additional interest attached to the contest of Saturday last, from the fact that of the twenty races which have marked previous years, Cambridge has won ten and Oxford ten, and that now the honour of supremacy was in the balance. Unfortunately, however, for the fame of Cambridge, victory had gone for three successive years to Oxford, and that, too, without any such prowess on the part of Cambridge as to make a defeat less painful. The betting at starting was about 2 to 1 on Oxford, and few were found bold enough to take the odds in face of the manifest superiority of the style of Oxford. The race itself requires but little description. Immediately after the first hurried effort had subsided into a regular sweep, the Oxford boat went to the front, and with a fine and level stroke quickly gained a considerable lead on their opponents, who in vain tried, by superhuman efforts, to avert the defeat which seemed inevitably to await a style of rowing which was little better than a series of spasmodic jerky strokes. Eventually, without any real exertion, the Oxford crew won by about twelve boats' lengths, completing the course in 21 min. 48 sec. It may be as well to remark that the race is always rowed in eight-oared boats, and that the crews are selected from the students or undergraduates of the Universities, to the exclusion of all persons who have taken a degree.

In the evening, according to custom, the rival crews were entertained at dinner by the Thames Subscription Club, at Willis's Rooms. The chair was taken by the Hon. G. Denman, M.P. Due honour was of course done to the customary toasts.

On Friday evening last, the four-handed billiard match between the representatives of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge was played. Messrs. Payne and Horne appeared for Cambridge, and Messrs. Starkey and Hobbs for Oxford. The game was 500 up, and after an exciting struggle, Cambridge won, the score at the finish standing at 500 for Cambridge and 481 for Oxford.

On the following evening the single match was played, and resulted in favour of Oxford.

The racket-match was also gained by Oxford.

The unrivalled herd of cattle which has won for Colonel Towneley more prizes and more glory than it has ever before fallen to the lot of any breeder to acquire, was disposed of by auction on Thursday last, at the Home Farm, Towneley. Mr. Strafford acted as auctioneer. More than 2,000 persons were present, and among them were many breeders from Australia, America, and the Continent. The whole of the cattle was put up to sale without reserve, with the exception of the renowned bull Royal Butterfly, on whom the price put was 1,200 guineas. However, no advance was made on that reserve, and the animal returned to the Farm. Ten bulls were then put up for sale in succession, and realised an aggregate sum of 1,416 guineas, the bull Royal Butterfly II. going for 400 guineas. Next 44 cows and heifers were put up, and realised 5,093 guineas. Royal Butterfly's Duchess was bought by Mr. Betts, of the county of Kent, for 500 guineas. Brampton Butterfly went for 350 guineas, Double Butterfly for 300 guineas, and Royal Butterfly's Pageant for 500 guineas. The Dukes of Sutherland, Devonshire, and Newcastle, Lords Derby, and Sudeley, Colonel Douglas Pennant, and Mr. Naylor, the owner of Maccaroni and other great racehorses, were among the principal purchasers.

The House of Lords will give judgment in the *Alexandra* case (the Attorney-General v. Sellim and others) on an early day after the Easter Recess.

The trial of the case of the *Pampero* is fixed for the 5th May next.

On Tuesday last the case of Lord Coventry *v.* Willes came on at the assizes at Cambridge, before Mr. Justice Compton and a special jury of the county. The defendant is the sporting correspondent of the *Morning Post*, and usually enlightens the world on racing topics under the name of 'Argus.' Certain differences had arisen some time since between the defendant and the stewards of the Jockey Club, and the power of the pen as wielded by 'Argus' had so far exasperated the stewards, who had been the subject of some strong remarks, that they determined to exercise their prerogative and to warn Mr. Willes not to come upon Newmarket Heath. Mr. Willes in spite of such prohibition attended the races, and therefore the stewards brought an action against him for trespass. The defendant put on the record about a dozen pleas, some of which set up a right of way, and others a custom to attend and see the races run. To this class of pleas the plaintiffs had demurred, and the Queen's Bench had given judgment in their favour. There was also another class of pleas denying the trespass, the possession of the stewards, and setting up a leave and license of the plaintiffs to the defendant. On these pleas issue had been joined, and now the trial of those issues had come on. Mr. O'Malley, Q.C. and Mr. Bulwer appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Keane, Q.C. and Mr. Phear for the defendants. There was no question as to whether a trespass had been committed, nor indeed could a leave and license be maintained in the face of a correspondence which had passed between Mr. Willes and the attorneys to the Jockey Club. The only difficulty was as to the possession of the stewards. It seems that some years ago the portion of the Heath on which the trespass occurred, was purchased by the Jockey Club, and that the stewards of the Jockey Club, who are chosen by the Club from among their own members, manage the heath, and exercise over it certain acts of ownership. The most important witness was Mr. C. Weatherby, the secretary to the Jockey Club, whose cross-examination, ably conducted by Mr. Keane, elicited an amusing history of the debates and conduct of the Jockey Club. In relevancy to the action the learned counsel attempted to get from the witness admissions that in all their conduct in office the stewards were mere agents for carrying out the directions of the Jockey Club, in fact, mere servants of the Club; that there were three stewards, each of whom was elected for three years, one going out every year. Mr. Keane, in an eloquent address to the jury, admitted the credit which generally attached to the conduct of the Jockey Club, but severely censured their severity in the present case. He argued that the Jockey Club invited all the world to come, that between the appointment of the new stewards in April 1863 and the alleged trespass, the defendant was never forbidden to come, and, therefore, that the defendant had the leave of the owners of the soil to come. That was the question for the jury. Then again the prohibition was conditioned on an apology. The defendant made an apology, and the Club had not pronounced the apology insufficient. The learned judge summed up, leaving to the jury the three questions of the trespass, the occupation, and the license. The jury found at once for the plaintiff, damages, one shilling.

THE CONTINENT.

The military circles at Berlin have apparently some foundation for their complaints: they have gained very little martial glory, and still less credit for combination, celerity, or even dash, in the Danish war. The Austrians have advanced up the peninsula with some rapidity, occupying Veile, Horsens, Skanderborg, and Aarhus on their way, and thus cutting off the besieged fortresses of Düppel and Fredericia from the seat of government at Copenhagen; to the Prussians, on the other hand, has been left the prosaic task of occupying the ground seized by their smart brethren in arms, of reducing the beleaguered places by slow and regular siege, of gnawing, as it were, the well-picked bones of glory cast aside by the Austrian dogs of war. To describe the infinitesimal operations of the Prussians before Düppel would be wearisome to all parties: how they took Nübel and Räckebull with a loss of four killed and eleven wounded; how they captured thirty-three prisoners at Lillemolle; how they overpowered a company of ninety-six men on the island of Femeren or Fehmorn (the nomenclature of these places is as uncertain as their nationality). Are they not written in the German newspapers? The only fact of any importance resulting from all these movements is that the bombardment of Düppel has commenced, and preparations are being made for the shelling of Sönderburg across the strait. The investment and bombardment of Fredericia is also in progress, the advance of the Austrians covering the left flank of their allies during the operation.

The statement of the Allied and Federal forces made last week may be contrasted with a calculation of the strength of the Danish army opposed to them. It appears that the reserve corps of Royal Guards is stationed at Copenhagen, and a few battalions for the organisation of recruits in the islands of Zeeland and Fünen; of the force actually on service, three regiments, together with the strength of the cavalry, are in North Jutland, awaiting, we suppose, the advance of the Austrians; ten regiments are in Fredericia, and nine occupied in the defence of Düppel and Alsen; of the latter, one half is kept at Sönderburg, one regiment holds the advanced posts, another

holds the ten redoubts covering the western face of the position, the remainder are engaged on the works not yet completed within the line of redoubts. What the strength of a Danish regiment is we are not told; but, according to the usual Continental rules of computation, the twenty-two regiments would number about 35,000 effectives. The loss on the whole number, up to March 13, was 1,926 men, 43 officers, and 2 surgeons, killed, wounded, or missing.

While we are on this subject we may also give a computation of the Danish naval forces recently received. They consist of 1 ship of the line, 4 frigates, 2 corvettes, 1 turret ship, 2 schooners, 4 paddlewheels, and 3 gunboats, all propelled by steam; to man this force more than 8,000 men are required, over 6,000 of whom have still to be raised.

A sea-fight took place on the 17th inst., off the island of Rugen, between five Danish vessels, and two Prussian frigates assisted by gunboats; the object of the Prussians was apparently to break the blockade, but in this they were unsuccessful, being forced to retire into Schwinemunde, hotly pursued by the enemy. It may be remarked that this is the first naval combat that has taken place in European waters since the battle of Navarino (unless the massacre of Sinope is to be considered as such). What would the old sea-dogs of the time of Nelson have thought, had it been prophesied to them that the style of battle they loved was to be re-inaugurated by Prussia? However, the ice is now fast disappearing; the southern ports of the Baltic have been officially declared open; three Prussian ships now at Brest have orders to attach themselves to the Austrian squadron, when it arrives in these seas from the Mediterranean; it may be that even Prussia shall have its day of naval glory.

We hear of two prizes taken by Austrian men-of-war which have given rise to difficulties. The *Frethe*, Danish brig, captured by the *Schwarzenberg* and *Schaud*, has been ordered out of the port of Lisbon by the Portuguese authorities; and a Danish ship captured off Tenedos has been reclaimed by the Danish Legation in Constantinople as illegally taken in Turkish waters. It remains to be seen whether the Danes or Germans are willing to consider the law of capture so absolutely fixed as Earl Russell has attempted to prove it; we should say that they will rather side with those writers on international law who assert that the law must vary with the circumstances, so that it shall not press more hardly on the one side than on the other. One thing at least is certain, that should the Allies in Denmark occupy all the ports from the interior, as is by no means impossible, the Danish navy will be forced to make war as the Confederate navy now does under exactly analogous circumstances. We are glad to hear that both belligerents have agreed to forego their claims over ships lading in their ports at the commencement of the war. It will be remembered that all such were laid under an embargo by Denmark, and that the German Governments retaliated; the Danes have now offered to take off that embargo if the same concession is made on the other side, an offer which has been accepted by Prussia and Hanover.

As to the proposed Conference between the belligerent Powers without cessation of hostilities, we cannot be said to know much. A report—traceable to English sources—prevails on the Continent, that Denmark has agreed to the proposition, Austria and Prussia having already given in their adhesion to it. It is to be observed that the Continental press have been most assiduous in representing this proposal as the last and only means of averting further hostilities; they state that the Danish Government has been informed by England, France, Russia, and Sweden, that, if this be not accepted, Denmark must take the responsibility and the consequences of the war upon her own shoulders.

The prospects of the Duke of Augustenburg are not more cheerful than they were last week. To begin with, we have had a report of his death; but the victim turned out to be only his uncle. Next in the list of calamities may be reckoned the defence of his cause by the Baron von Roggenbach, Foreign Secretary to the Grand-Duke of Baden, who can substantially find nothing better to urge in his favour than the refusal of Denmark to accept a personal union with the Duchies. The proposition made by the Bavarian representative in the Federal Diet to recognise the Duke, and admit M. de Mohlas as his representative, has been shelved by various technical objections made by Austria and Prussia, so that his cause has not gained much ground in that quarter. Last, but by no means least, comes an article in the *Kölnische Zeitung* reopening the whole question of his hereditary right *ab initio*, and stating that his claims are found, after careful and favourable investigation, to be 'partly invalid and partly doubtful.'

The *on dits* with regard to the expected conduct of Russia are innumerable. They involve an occupation of the Duchy of Posen, and a closer union with Prussia on the basis of the famous, or infamous, treaty of February 1863. The relations of Austria and Prussia are intensely perplexing. A story is abroad that the death of the King of Bavaria has brought to light a secret intrigue between Austria and that country, whereby the latter had promised to send troops into Slesvig in case the Austrian element there should require strengthening. She was, further, to occupy the Tyrol in the event of an Italian war. What greater insult could be offered to so close an ally as Prussia than secretly to conclude such a treaty? What an opportunity for Herr von Bismark to 'step forth and whip hypocrisy!' Unfortunately, it has also transpired that negotiations of exactly the same character have been going on between Prussia and Hanover, without the knowledge of Austria; so now both sides are to cry quits, and Prussia is to assist Austria in Hungary if necessary. Such necessity may not be very far distant: the revolutionary excitement of Poland has spread through Galicia into Hungary, and some demonstrations have occurred in Pesth. Count Palffy, the Imperial Governor of that country, has made a hurried visit to Vienna, and has returned armed with full powers to take any steps he may think convenient. Similar powers have been given to General von Benedek, Commander-in-Chief in Venetia, and the proclamation of a state of siege is shortly expected. As the Emperor is about to pay a visit to that country, and more especially to Venice itself, it seems probable that the proclamation will be delayed until after that event. Some journals have taken particular notice of a long interview between the King of Prussia and Prince Antony von Hohenzollern, who was the leader of the Liberal Cabinet in 1859; they would like to presage from this a favourable change in the royal opinions.

There is no doubt of the popular excitement of Sweden in favour of the integrity of Denmark. The French journals have been at some trouble to prove that Sweden's strength is to sit still; but neither the Government nor the people of that country accept the advice. The troops at Schonen are under immediate orders for service, and an extraordinary credit has been asked for by the King in the Norwegian Parliament. The people, on their side, have continued to assemble in front of the Prussian Ambassador's residence, and some collisions with the military have occurred.

The uneasiness felt around the shores of the Black Sea has not diminished. Both Russian and Turkish forces are being assembled, and a fleet of iron-clads, supported by 13 gunboats, has been launched at Nicolaieff. An iron-clad, built in America for the Russian Black Sea service, has been stopped at the Dardanelles by the Turkish authorities.

Active measures are being taken in Poland to carry out the Imperial proclamation with regard to the serfs; no less active are the police authorities in the execution of their duties. What with the wholesale robbery of property and the extensive deportations to Siberia, it is a marvel that the Polish nation can yet exist. The insurgents still, however, make their presence felt. Arrests, with accompanying circumstances of atrocity and horror, are the principal items of news from that unhappy country. The last story was of an old man of the name of Skrzypecki, a saddler by trade, who was dragged out of his sick-bed by the soldiery and died in their hands, there being no authority to arrested a doctor also.

The command of the army on the Po has been given by the Italian Government to General Cialdini: that on the Mincio has been confided to General Durando: both command ...ve under them a force of 100,000 men. The vigorous efforts against the brigandage in Southern Italy continue; eight known bands still exist, but their whereabouts is pretty well defined; two in the west, under Egidione and Masini; six in the centre and south, under Tortosa, Marciano, Tasca, Manfra, and Crescenzio Gravina; one on the Papal frontier, under Fuoco. Several of these are very small in number, but more from choice than necessity; they have not, apparently, up to this time found much difficulty in recruiting themselves. Four notorious bandits have been convicted at Naples—two of them, La Gala by name, condemned to death, one to penal servitude for life, the last for twenty years. One of the La Galas united to a taste for butchery a singular cannibalism; it appeared on the trial that he had cut off a priest's ears, and eaten them with great satisfaction to himself.

The accounts of Garibaldi's escapade mentioned last week are most conflicting. Some assert the whole story to be fictitious; others say that he did go out, but has now returned; others, again, declare that the search made for him by the Italian Government has been fruitless, and that he has probably landed at some point on the Turkish coast of the Adriatic. The truth is that, whether Garibaldi ever left Caprera or not, he was in the island on the 18th, and has embarked on the *Valetta*, with six companions, to pay a visit to England. We hope that our countrymen, in their reception of him, will beware of mistaking the admiration due to the patriotic hero for the factious clamour with which too many are inclined to greet the political agitator.

The last accounts from Malta bring the welcome news that the telegraphic communication between that island and Alexandria is restored; the broken ends of the cable were recovered and successfully spliced.

The dissensions between the French and Papal troops at Rome have elicited from the Duc de Montebello, the French Commandant in that city, a remarkable letter, in which he comments on the refusal of the Papal Government to take the only step which will put a stop to the quarrels, by uniting in himself the supreme command over both armies; he declines to remain in so false a position, and begs that he may be recalled to France. It is well known that the Pope objects to the French intrusion as much as the Government of Victor Emmanuel can do, although on it rests his own only chance of sovereignty: but the Emperor of the French is not likely to let his own plans be disturbed by the whims or wishes of Pio Nono. The health of the Pope is still a matter of anxiety; there are great fears of erysipelas in the legs, and the death of the King of Bavaria from that disease has been carefully concealed from him.

If the happiness of a people is to be measured, as some say, by the tameness of its annals, the Belgians ought just now to be the happiest people on earth. On the 19th inst. the Minister of the Interior was called upon to explain to the House the meaning of certain sums asked for the maintenance of the Government offices at Liège. He stated that the Governor of that city was so badly supplied with necessaries in the way of official plate and linen that he was obliged to use those of his own family; at that moment there were only twelve forks and spoons and thirty-five napkins in the Government House; would honourable members have the Governor feed his guests off Britannia metal? ('Why shouldn't he?' from an honourable member.) The explanation was stopped by the murmurs of the House; but it was nevertheless divided by the economical member above mentioned, when there appeared in favour of Britannia metal 6, against it 57.

The elections that have just taken place in Paris present some noteworthy features; they have of course terminated in favour of the Opposition candidates, M. Carnot in the first, and M. Garnier-Pagès in the fifth circumscription: in fact, no Government candidate presented himself, and the choice lay between various shades of so-called 'Democracy.' It is much to be wished that the officious police had abstained from all interference in the matter; their conduct with regard to M. Garnier-Pagès was, to use the mildest term, most ill-advised. It appears that that gentleman had requested his Committee to meet him at his own house, to consider the progress made in canvassing, &c. Notice of this meeting was sent to the police, in order to avoid all difficulty, and no objection was made till the very hour of the meeting, when some commissaries of police entered the house, and required them in no very gentle terms to disperse. A considerable force of police agents was also posted in the street, either to compel obedience, or to see that no further assembly took place; or was it to attach to the meeting the odium of a public surveillance? Such measures are always unpopular, and always defeat their own objects; for there are few cities in which injustice or unfair treatment is so acutely resented as in Paris.

The elections had also their comic element. What should we say in England to a notice similar to that posted up by M. Imbert, calling upon electors not to give way to the blandishments of the 'sex,' and to vote for him like a single 'man?' Or what should we say to the adjurations of another candidate, M. Hugelmann, who, in direct opposition to M. Imbert, calls upon mothers of families to assert their influence over their fathers, husbands, brothers, &c., and send them to support him, M. Hugelmann, who will never drag them into the wrong path.

On the 16th inst., the Prince Impérial entered his ninth year. The event was celebrated by reviews, receptions, promotions in the Legion of Honour, &c. The young gentleman is now a sergeant in the Imperial Guard, having been lately promoted to that grade from the ranks; we have no doubt that he has worked for, and thoroughly deserved, the distinction.

A debate of some interest has taken place in the Senate with regard to the spread of infidel works in France. Cardinal de Bonnechose lifted up his voice against such publications, and required the support of Government to suppress them. It was held, however, unwise on the whole to interfere in these matters: heresy and infidelity must, for the future, be combated by the spiritual arm only.

A peculiar feature of Parisian life is the yearly anxiety with which the signs of spring are looked out for. Every child in the Tuileries looks up with curiosity, as March progresses, to see whether the famous chesnut-tree of March 20 will keep up its reputation; and it is now duly chronicled that that tree was in leaf on the said day—a punctuality for which it was ill repaid by the loungers in the gardens, who stripped off every leaf within reach as mementos.

The French public appear to be fairly satisfied with the result of the debate on Mr. Stansfeld's conduct; the small majority of ten against further enquiry is allowed to be due to the unreasonable manner in which it was made a Government question, while the tone of the daily press has convinced them that the English people is fully alive to the awkwardness of the position.

Every nation has its grievance. Some have not land enough, some have not money enough; some want votes, others liberty. The people of Lima in Peru want ice; the want of ice is their great problem; the power of making ice is their Palladium, their Habeas Corpus, Magna Charta, Code Napoleon—in fact, everything. What then was to be the fate of the company who, promising to supply ice enough for double the population, has allowed its machines to become so ineffective that there is a positive scarcity? Of course hot tempers prevailed, and fiery proposals were made; the municipality, jealous alike of its honour and its ice, stepped in, and the thermometer of public opinion sank down comfortably to its normal freezing point.

The Peruvian Government has introduced another measure for the benefit of the world at large as well as of its own citizens: the coinage is to be thoroughly restored, the debased money called in, and a fresh issue made. The contract for it has been given to a native and an English firm. Even under a Peruvian sun, we suppose the greatest blessing, next of course to plentiful ice, is the knowledge that the shilling you hold in your hand is really and substantially equivalent to twelve pence.

The *Richmond Examiner* of a late date says: 'The Yankee prisoners have all been supplied with a comfortable outfit of clothing, forwarded from the North. Notwithstanding their assertions to the contrary, every article of food, or stitch of clothing, intended for the Yankees and sent to Richmond, has been delivered to them.'

The Mobile Fortifications.—A correspondent of the *Richmond Whig* writes of the fortifications of Mobile: 'The fortifications at Mobile are being pushed forward to completion, and are of the most formidable nature, being almost the first self-enfilading works properly and scientifically constructed in all our numerous besieged places. A comparatively small force of infantry—nearly all of whom are also drilling as artillerists—will be able to hold these works against almost any attack.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

MR. STANSFELD AND M. MAZZINI.

The Greco conspiracy has given rise to very animated discussions in the House of Commons. As the case is now concluded, it may be useful to give a brief summary of the circumstances that led to the debates on Thursday and Friday last. At the trial of the conspirators in Paris, the Procureur-General said

He (Greco) was to write to that address in London if he was in want of money. It is to be with 'Mr Flower 35 Thurloe Square, Brompton.' I searched the London Directory.' At page 670 I found what I was looking for, and it was not without some surprise that I discovered the name of a Member of Parliament of England, who recently had been in 1857 appointed to be the leader of the Tibaldi conspiracy against the Emperor's life.

The name Flower is not supposed to designate M. Fiore, the private secretary of M. Mazzini, but M. Mazzini himself; the word 'flower' being the English equivalent for the Italian word 'mazzini,' a little nosegay or flower. No. 35 Thurloe Square is the address of Mr. Stansfeld, M.P. for Halifax and the Civil Lord of the Admiralty. When the affair was first mentioned in the House, Mr. Stansfeld expressed intense indignation at the charge, and warmly defended M. Mazzini, whom he declared to be incapable of the crime of assassination. This was held to be an improper way of meeting such a grave charge against a member of Parliament and a member of the Government, and on another evening the Government was asked if any correspondence had taken place with the French Government about the case. The reply was, that no correspondence had taken place, and that the Government thought it would be undignified to notice such an accusation.

On Thursday last, Sir H. Stracey moved that 'the statement of the Procureur-General on the trial of Greco, implicating a member of the House and of Her Majesty's Government in the plot for the assassination of our ally the Emperor of the French, deserved the serious consideration of the House of Commons.' Sir H. Stracey said that in the trial of Tibaldi and Orsini in 1857 and 1858, Mr. Stansfeld's name had been mixed up: the *acte d'accusation* contained the words, 'Two other names are still to be cited—that of the Sieur James Stansfeld, brewer, of London, who was also made banker of Mazzini.' Mr. Stansfeld having declared that M. Mazzini was incapable of the crime of assassination, Sir H. Stracey narrated the case of Gallenga *alias* Marriotti, in which the said Gallenga undertook to kill Charles Albert, and, through a person named Sciandra, obtained from Mazzini 'a poignard with a *lapis lazuli* handle.' [This Gallenga relented, became a supporter of the Piedmontese Government, and a deputy. M. Gallenga wrote an account of the plot, calling the would-be assassin Marriotti. Mazzini published a letter declaring that Marriotti and Gallenga were the same. Upon this M. Gallenga had to resign his place as deputy, to give up the Cross of SS. Maurice and Lazarus which he had received from the King, and to retire from political life.] Sir H. Stracey also commented on the circumstance of Mr. Stansfeld's name being printed on bank-notes issued by the Italian Liberation Society.

Mr. Stansfeld said he had on a former occasion given a general denial because he did not think there was any evidence adduced by the Procureur-Général to justify the charge being brought against him; but as the matter was regularly before the House, he should not hesitate to give a full explanation. He had never corresponded, directly or indirectly, with Greco, or known his name until he saw his arrest in the papers. No such plot as the Tibaldi plot had ever existed, and he could not therefore have been guilty of supporting it. If any direct accusation about the Orsini matter was brought, he could reply to it. He had assented to his name being put upon the notes of the Italian Liberation Society as London agent, but he was told it was improper, and he withdrew it almost immediately. M. Mazzini could not receive his letters through the continental post-office if openly directed to him, and therefore he had asked his English friends to have them sent to their houses. Letters for M. Mazzini under the name of Fiore had been sent to his (Mr. Stansfeld's) house. He did not know the contents of the letters, but he admitted that, occupying the position he now did in the Government, it was not proper that the correspondence of M. Mazzini should be sent to his house, and M. Mazzini had volunteered to state that he had taken measures to prevent any more of his letters being addressed to 35 Thurloe Square.

Mr. Taylor stated that he was a friend of M. Mazzini, and had had letters addressed to his house for him.

Sir J. Pakington asked Lord Palmerston if he had taken any notice of the affair in his correspondence with the French Government.

Lord Palmerston said Her Majesty's Government had not made any such representation to the Government of France, and he should have felt humiliated if he had been called upon to communicate to the French Government that 'an English gentleman, a member of Parliament holding office under the Government, was not connected with an infamous plot against the Emperor's life.'

Mr. Disraeli addressed the House with great effect. He said Mr. Stansfeld had admitted the facts charged by the Procureur-Général, and therefore, as Lord Palmerston would not promise to communicate with the French Government, it was the duty of the House to pass the motion brought forward by Sir H. Stracey.

The discussion was continued by Mr. Bright, who spoke against the motion, by Lord R. Cecil in favour of it, and by Mr. Gladstone, who denied that the Procureur-Général had made out any case against Mr. Stansfeld. Upon a division the numbers were:

For the motion	161
Against it	171
Majority	10

[The announcement of the numbers was received with cheers and counter cheers, and the excitement of the House, which had been very great during the whole of the debate, reached a climax. It was certainly a narrow majority on such a question, and it is worthy of observation that Mr. Stansfeld voted. It is usual in a personal matter for the member whose conduct is in question not to go into the lobby.

On Friday the subject was again brought before the House by Lord Elcho, who asked Lord Palmerston if Mr. Stansfeld had tendered his resignation. Lord Palmerston replied that when the matter was first noticed in the House Mr. Stansfeld had placed his office entirely at the disposal of the Crown; but he (Lord Palmerston) at once assured that, 'I did not wish him to take that step, that I wished him not to take it.'

Rather an angry discussion ensued; but it was not quite so bitter as that of the preceding evenings. The subject will probably be again brought before Parliament.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER AND THE BRITISH PROVIDENT.

In introducing the Government Annuities Bill, Mr. Gladstone severely criticised the position and conduct of some insurance offices, and amongst others the European and the British Provident. Referring to the latter, he said that Mr. Sheridan, the member for Dudley, had been connected with it. This remark has led to very long explanations. On Thursday night he reiterated his statement that the British Provident had acted dishonestly, that it had not regularly filed its accounts, and that Mr. Sheridan was acting as auditor in 1859, when the accounts were not filed.

Mr. Sheridan denied that the British Provident had been dishonest. He said that, when it was wound up, another company had given a bonus of 6,000*l.* (it afterwards transpired that the amount was between 7,000*l.* and 8,000*l.*) for the policies. He was only auditor for three years; he ceased to be auditor in 1856, and while he was auditor the accounts were filed. He had nothing to do with an action brought against Mr. John Sheridan (his brother), and was not aware of any impropriety in the conduct of the British Provident.

On Friday the matter was again discussed. Mr. Gladstone said he could not withdraw the allegations against the company. If the House thought them untrue, a Committee might be instructed to enquire into the facts; or a resolution might be proposed to the effect that even if the British Provident had been unfortunate, it could not be charged with any dishonest conduct. He could not vote for such a resolution, but if it passed the House, he would 'at once express regret for having been so unfortunate originally as to form an opinion at variance with that of the high authority of the House.' Respecting Mr. Sheridan, the right hon. gentleman said: 'When the name of an hon. gentleman is found bearing a responsible office in a company which appears to be of the character to which I have referred, the effect is twofold. In the first place there arises against him a certain amount of adverse presumption that he is implicated in the transactions of that company, and in the second place there arises this patent and important fact, that his name as connected with these offices in the company has gone out to the world, and has presumably served in the eye of the public as a guarantee of the soundness and respectability of that company. Now, sir, that is precisely what I intended to convey with regard to the hon. member. I should be ashamed to say that I don't think my words are calculated to establish against him a certain amount of adverse presumption. I should also be ashamed to say that I don't think it is most unfortunate that many gentlemen are in the habit of permitting their names unhappily to become guarantees to the public on behalf of institutions of which they don't perhaps know the real character in many cases—which they may in many cases believe, and which they do in many cases believe, to be thoroughly respectable and solvent, but which at the same time may be quite otherwise. And I do not deny that I think a certain amount of blame is to be attached to any one who, as an officer or trustee of a company such as I believe that company was, whether he has direct cognisance of its transactions or not, allows his name to be held out as a guarantee.'

After a few words from Lord Palmerston, expressing a hope that the explanation of Mr. Gladstone would be deemed satisfactory, Mr. Sheridan said: 'Immediately after the speech to which this discussion refers, I rose and stated that I had acted as an auditor of the company many years ago; that the position of the company was then of such a character that the business was both sound and profitable; that I knew of no transaction of the company that deserved any censure; that I ceased to hold office immediately after 1856; that I was in entire ignorance of any of the other incidents by which he characterised the company; that I was not responsible for any of the conditions which attached to its management, and that neither then nor last night could I understand how or why my name was brought forward in connection with the company.'

Mr. Gladstone said: 'Accepting the declaration as made on the first night of the debate, I can only say I regret that anything should have fallen from me calculated to give pain to the hon. gentleman, owing to my failing to perceive the effect of the statement he made.'

THE ENLISTMENTS FOR THE *KEARSAGE*.

On Friday, in the House of Lords, the Marquis of Clanricarde asked Earl Russell if he could give any further information respecting the enlistments of British subjects for the *Kearsage*. Captain Winslow, of the *Kearsage*, said, in a letter that had been read to the House, that the men did not enlist—that they hoped to be enlisted, but found out their mistake and were brought back to Queenstown. This was a matter that affected the honour of Captain Winslow; for the men had been indicted, and all pleaded guilty to enlisting, and were bound over on their recognisances to keep the peace. How did the Americans act in a somewhat analogous case? James Wagner was indicted for hiring Abraham Cook, a British subject, to go into British territory, and Judge Ingersoll sentenced him to two years' imprisonment, and to pay a fine of $100. The Marquis also complained that the people of Ireland were left in ignorance of the law and of the Queen's proclamation.

[illegible] Earl Russell said he could not explain the circumstances of the case. [illegible] Captain Winslow [illegible] Captain Winslow [illegible] Lord Russell also had the grace to say [illegible] said something about the word 'lowering' [illegible] being very strong, and that on the following [illegible] strange were found on board, and that [illegible] any discrepancy to which the Lord of [illegible] ferred. The Earl of Derby [illegible] discrepancy, but to a transparent [illegible] would be an object of pity if he were [illegible] the statement of Captain Winslow [illegible] impossible that any person can be [illegible] story.

THE TUSCALOOSA PAPERS.

On Thursday night, in reply to Mr. Peacocke, Lord Palmerston refused to produce the opinion of the law officers of the Crown upon the subject of the *Tuscaloosa*. He Lordship said such opinions were confidential and for the information of the Government. 'It is obvious that, for professional as well as political reasons, it is not proper to lay such papers before Parliament.' What professional motive can the law officers have for concealing the publication of their opinions? If they give a [illegible] opinion, they need not be ashamed of it. Are we to understand that they construe the law according to the opinion of the Government? Respecting the political reason for not producing the papers, we may conclude that it is not because the Government is afraid to show that it is acting in accordance with the law. The only obvious reason is that the Government may sooner or later find it expedient to act in opposition to the opinion of its legal advisers.]

THE IRISH CONSTABULARY.

On Thursday, in the House of Lords, the Earl of Donoughmore enquired if the Government intended to introduce any measure for the reform and improvement of the Irish Constabulary. Grand juries, magistrates, public bodies, and judges, have been complaining for years of the inefficiency of the Irish police force. As a further proof there was the admission made by Earl Russell 'to the effect that 600 men had been carried off in one day to be made food for powder on the other side of the Atlantic, and that detection was impossible.' The Irish Constabulary consists of 12,000 men, and costs 715,000*l.* per annum. The men are armed, equipped, and drilled, and have a military organisation. The stipendiary magistrates, who are in constant communication with the Government, have the control of the police; and the local magistracy has very little to do with the force. The noble Earl holds that this military organisation is exceedingly detrimental. The way in which it is officered does not promote efficiency. Instead of taking the best men, who could ride well and knew the people and the country, recourse is had to competitive examination: and 'a knowledge of Cæsar's Commentaries, trigonometry, the differential calculus, and French spoken with an incurable Irish accent,' are the requisite qualifications for an Irish police officer. The Earl of Donoughmore said that, in his opinion, there ought to be promotion from the ranks.

Earl Granville did not altogether dispute the failure of the Irish police, but he maintained that the detection of crime was more difficult in Ireland than in England. The Government would consider if any improvement could be effected. The Marquis of Clanricarde said the Irish Constabulary was a good body of men, but not put to the proper work. If they were to be kept up as an army, they ought to be under the Mutiny Act. The Earl of Leitrim condemned the practice of the police patrolling two and two with arms on all occasions.

'PROTECTION' IN AUSTRALIA.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, Mr. W. Millar directed attention to the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, in following the example of Canada, and imposing a heavy duty on British as well as on foreign manufactured goods. Mr. C. Fortescue, the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, said the Government of New South Wales had to provide for a deficit of 900,000*l.* at the end of next year, on a revenue of 1,500,000*l.*, the deficit being caused by the cost of public works. To meet this, import duties had been imposed, but the Colonial Minister distinctly stated the object was revenue and not protection. Mr. Fortescue believed 'that the good sense of the colonists would prevent this coquetting with protection from developing into a regular and permanent system.' Lord J. Manners asked if Mr. Fortescue 'intended to deny the right of the Colonial Government and Parliament to arrange their taxation as they may think best.' This question was not answered, and, we submit, did not call for an answer. Neither Mr. Fortescue nor any other sane man in this country denies the right of Colonial Governments and Parliaments 'to arrange their taxation as they think best.' If they choose, they may place differential duties on imports in favour of foreign and against British manufactures.]

THE BRITISH ARMY—TEN YEARS' SERVICE MEN.

On Thursday, in the House of Lords, the Earl of Desart asked if the Government is preparing to meet the difficulties that threaten to ensue from the operation of the Ten Years' Enlistment Act. Ten years ago a great many men joined the army under this Act, and it is apprehended they will now leave it. In one regiment of the Guards a loss of 700 men is anticipated. Unless something is done our army will be reduced to a more inefficient state than it was in before the Crimean war. The Earl of Desart said: 'England is at present regarded in Europe as undecided and untrustworthy. I hope she is not about to become an object of contempt and derision.'

The Earl de Grey and Ripon denied that the evil was so great. Many, but not nearly the whole, of the men would leave the army, and the Government is considering measures to induce the old soldiers to continue their service. In answer to Viscount Hardinge, the noble Earl said that the total reduction in the Artillery is 1,300 men, and that this reduction was justified on two grounds: the companies of garrison artillery have hitherto been kept at their war strength, and in a few months we shall not have to supply garrison artillery in the Ionian Islands.

THE EASTER RECESS.

Parliament adjourned on Friday—the House of Lords to April 5, and the House of Commons to April 4. As Easter approached the attendance of members fell off. This was particularly the case with the Conservatives. The Liberals, being chiefly recruited from the boroughs, are less eager than their opponents to escape from town and toil to the pleasures of rural life, and they will stay within call as long as their chiefs require them; but the country gentlemen, who form the bulk of the Conservative party, with their strong interest in field sports and county business, always anticipate the holidays, whether at Easter, or Midsummer, or on the eve of the Derby Day.

LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New Orleans: February 21, 1864.

ABANDONMENT OF THE 'OCCUPATION' OF TEXAS—THE MISFORTUNES OF GENERAL BANKS—PROBABLE EMPLOYMENT OF THE TROOPS FROM TEXAS—RUMOURED INTENTION OF THE FEDERALS TO ATTEMPT THE OCCUPATION OF THE RED RIVER COUNTRY—THE SEA ATTACK ON MOBILE—GENERAL SHERMAN'S MOVEMENTS.

While I write a great battle may be in progress in Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, or Mississippi. Our latest news from these States indicates the near approach of active movements. The threatening attitude of the armies in the three last-mentioned States forbids the idea that they can much longer put off the great trial of arms. As your advices direct from New York anticipate anything I might send you in regard to the situation in Virginia, East Tennessee, and North Georgia, or the operations along the coast, it remains for me to speak of the movements in progress, or projected, in this immediate neighbourhood.

The conquest, reoccupation, or restoration of Texas, is abandoned, at least for the present—an event which, it will be remembered, I anticipated, and for the reasons now set forth by Banks and his apologists. The few points on the coast and along the Rio Grande in Federal possession, have proved barren conquests. They still hug their fortifications under cover of their gunboats, not daring to advance inland, where Magruder and his Texans await impatiently their coming, and chafe under their forced inactivity. It would require fully fifty thousand men to occupy and hold Texas; and as there is not the most remote possibility of Banks getting reinforced to the extent of one-fifth of that number, he is now withdrawing from the State the main body of the 'army of occupation'—a most humiliating instance of the performance not coming up to a sounding promise. A portion of the withdrawing forces have already arrived here, and are being transferred to the Teche country, it being now understood that the occupation of Western Louisiana is to be attempted once again, notwithstanding the repeated and disastrous failures that have attended previous efforts in that direction.

Banks is truly an unfortunate general. The few successes that have attended his efforts have been won at a most enormously disproportionate cost of life and treasure. Witness Port Hudson and the advance to Alexandria. Preparatory to the last-mentioned movement, he accumulated at Brashear City stores of all kinds, to the value of over two million dollars, all of which were subsequently 'gobbled' by the Confederates. This affair sustained for him among General Dick Taylor's men the reputation he acquired in Virginia, while the lamented Jackson was making such a laughing-stock of him, as being 'the best Commissary-General in the Confederate service.' From the number of transports the General has constantly in use for his heedless expeditions, captains and owners of steamships must begin to look upon him in the matter of contracts, as do the Confederates in the matter of supplies. Some of the transports in the 'Texas expedition' were engaged at sums almost equal to the value of the craft themselves, and the same vessels will now no doubt be employed in bringing back the 'Texas expedition.' One thing, however, can be said in Banks's favour, and that is, that he is still a poor man in spite of his golden opportunities in this department, where his immediate predecessor, Butler, accumulated hundreds of thousands, not only by the so-called 'legitimate stealings,' but by every expedient suggested by his fertile and opulent brain, dominated and impelled solely by the basest passions, and restrained only by the most abject of fears—'tyrant without courage, and coward without shame.'

Though several regiments from Texas are crossing to the other side of the river, and the report is that another advance through Western Louisiana is about to be made, I still think that Banks is preparing to send a force towards Mobile, but whether for a regular movement against that city, or as a feint to keep forces in the place which would otherwise be sent to General Polk, now fronting Sherman, does not appear quite clear.

All the steamboats on the river between here and Cairo are being seized by the Government for the transportation of troops, rumour says towards Mobile, but most probably for the long-talked-of expeditions up the Washita and Red Rivers. There is a very large amount of cotton in the region watered by these rivers and their tributaries, and the Federal programme is to occupy Alexandria and Shreveport on Red River, and Monroe on the Washita, while the Federal columns under General Franklin would advance from the Teche towards the line of the Red River, and General Taylor's army, being thus between two fires, would be compelled to fall back into Texas, leaving the vast Red River country in undisputed possession of the enemy to devastate, plunder generally, but steal cotton particularly. This campaign, if attempted, will certainly prove disastrous to the Federal arms. They have repeatedly met with severe defeats in that region in their engagements with the gallant little army of General Dick Taylor. The withdrawal of the main body of the Federals from the Texas coast leaves Magruder free to reinforce Taylor in numbers fully equal to the enemy; and, judging from the past, the most blinded Union zealot would concede in advance a brilliant and decisive victory to the Confederates when the Texans and Lousianians again meet the enemy in anything like equal numbers. The matériel of Banks's army is no match for these fiery Southerners. The Commanding General had better confine himself to 'expeditions in force after a little cotton,' as Horace Greely phrases it, to turning Louisiana into an American 'rotten borough,' preparatory to the Presidential election, or even to his weekly promenade concerts, which have proved even less effective in overcoming social prejudice, than have his troops in overcoming rebels in the field.

With regard to Banks cooperating in Sherman's movement upon Mobile, there is talk of his sending some regiments from here to Pensacola, to threaten the city from that direction. My own opinion is, that if Mobile be invested by the forces under Sherman, which are now moving apparently in that direction along the Mobile and Ohio railroad, the Commanding General of this department is in no condition to distract the attention of the Confederates from the main army of the enemy. The squadron of Admiral Farragut has already begun the attack upon Fort Powell, the mortar fleet under his command having been pegging away, as Abe Lincoln has it, for now more than a week past, but without any material results so far as we can learn. There are rumours that the squadron had suffered very seriously, and was obliged to go to Pensacola for repairs, but these are only rumours. Farragut has discovered that this time he has something more than mere brick walls to penetrate, and that the trick of running past forts, as at the capture of New Orleans, is wholly impracticable in Mobile Bay, or would be attended with the destruction of every vessel attempting it, since the waters swarm with obstructions and torpedos, and the channel is commanded by the concentrated fire of over one hundred guns.

Our advices regarding Sherman's movements are conflicting, and his ultimate design is still involved in doubt. We have Mobile papers of the 14th; but reports of a date several days later are in town, to the effect that the Federal army has met with a decisive defeat, and was retreating upon Vicksburg, after having lost very heavily in killed, wounded, prisoners, and guns. The battle is said to have been fought in Lauderdale County, Mississippi, at a spot some 35 or 40 miles from the Alabama line, and about 140 miles from Mobile. I may add that the reports are very generally credited here, and that they are known to come through Federal as well as Confederate sources. I shall not attempt to argue myself into the belief that these reports are absolutely true; but there are strong probabilities that a great battle has been fought, and it is not unlikely the Federals have been defeated. On the 7th inst., General Polk offered the enemy battle at Morton, a point on the Southern Mississippi Railway, 79 miles from Vicksburg; but Sherman declined, and, dividing his forces, after General Polk retired, sent one column directly east, with the supposed intention of striking the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. The other column moved directly south, in the direction of Mobile. These latter movements were on the 10th and 11th inst. Heavy forces were immediately moved against the column coming south, and General Polk, with two large divisions, took position to give battle to the force moving against the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. Such, in brief, was the 'situation,' according to the Mobile papers of the 14th. If, as rumour has it, a battle has been fought, doubtless it was between the forces under General Polk, and the Federal column moving east; and if the enemy is retreating upon Vicksburg, it is because of the severe defeat of that column, and the consequent retrograde movement of the Federal column which was moving directly south upon Mobile. The battle was said to have been fought on or about the 16th inst.; and if it had been a Federal victory, we should have had it proclaimed in New Orleans several days ago.

But whether Sherman is as yet defeated or not matters but little. Should he move with his whole force direct upon Mobile, then General Polk can, at the worst, retire within the fortifications of the city and sustain a protracted siege, while his large and effective force of cavalry under Generals Lee, Forrest, and Jackson, completely isolate the besieging army. In fact, they have done this already. Confederate cavalry and infantry are now operating unchecked in the country lying between Sherman's rear and the Mississippi. Of this we have positive assurance from Federal authority. Jackson, the capital of the State, was reoccupied immediately after the enemy passed through it and crossed to the east bank of the Pearl river. The Federal General may attempt to march across the country to Selma on the west bank of the Alabama river, seize that point as a base of operations against Mobile, or as a halting-place on his march to Montgomery, 70 miles higher up on the same river. From Montgomery a railroad is in operation to Atalanta, distance 175 miles, and to Columbus (Ga.), distance 115 miles. It has been said that Sherman's movement was intended to flank Johnston at Dalton, and the long inactivity of Grant, with his powerful army in front of Johnston, seems to give some colour of probability to this speculation, as this inactivity may be broken as soon as Sherman's flank movement developes itself in the right quarter. The whole idea of such a flank movement is, however, simply ridiculous; and vainglorious and self-confident as Grant has grown to be, he never could have seriously contemplated such a campaign. If he planned and ordered such a movement, and Sherman is now attempting to carry it out, it has failed in its intended effect up on Johnston, for the latter still fronts Grant with a larger and better army than Bragg had at the battle of Chicamauga.

Instead of Sherman drawing forces from Johnston by his feint upon Mobile, Johnston's army is growing in strength each day, and Mobile is made safe beyond a doubt by large reinforcements from points not now menaced by the enemy. General Polk has an army fully equal to Sherman's, and I am confident the latter will not be permitted (if the attempt is not already frustrated) either to invest Mobile or move upon Selma. My belief is that General Polk has forced his enemy to a decisive battle ere now, and that he has signally defeated him. Polk is cool and wary, a good strategist, and a thorough master of the art of grand tactics. In every battle he has fought, his disposition of troops has won for him the highest praise. If he has fought, or should yet have to fight, Sherman, we may be sure the battle-field will be of his own selection, and the enemy, if defeated, will suffer a decisive repulse, and be compelled to retreat under every possible disadvantage. From the Alabama line to the Mississippi river would be a long and terrible line of retreat for the enemy, with his communications already cut off by the Confederate cavalry; and yet all this may be forced upon Sherman, if, indeed, it is not already matter of history. During the skirmishing which had taken place between the two armies up to the 12th inst., large numbers of Federals were made prisoners. Some of these Western braggarts had on their hats the words, 'Mobile or hell.'

To show the determination of the Alabamians to defend their chief city to the last, I transcribe the subjoined, with the remark that the spirit which prompted this action burns the brighter as the hour of trial draws nearer.

The following preamble and resolution passed the Legislature of Alabama in the session of November 1862:—'Whereas the Abolition Government at Washington has been for the last year past, and is now, straining every nerve to consolidate its naval force for the destruction of the seaport towns of the cotton States, the consequent invasion of the homes and firesides of the interior, and the savage massacre of our helpless women and children; and whereas we, the representatives of the people of Alabama, inspired by the noble daring and the gallant and successful defence of the city of Vicksburg by her indomitable soldiery, would fain hope that the city of Mobile, our only seaport, and the gem of the gulf, shall never be desecrated by the polluting tread of our foes:

'Be it therefore resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Alabama in General Assembly convened—That, in the solemn judgment of this General Assembly, the city of Mobile shall never be surrendered; that it should be defended from street to street, from house to house, and inch by inch, until, if taken, the victors' spoils should be alone a heap of ashes.'

The mayor of the city endorsed the above in the following terms:—'I can assure your Excellency that the resolutions of the Legislature meet the hearty approval of the citizens of Mobile. Nothing is more certain than that the people of this city, without distinction of class, long ago made up their minds that, come what might, Mobile should be defended to the last.'

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York: March 9, 1864.

THE FLORIDA EXPLDITION—THE COUNTRY AND INHABITANTS PLUNDERED—SHERMAN'S EXPEDITION—THE MEMPHIS CAVALRY EXPEDITION—GENERAL THOMAS' ADVANCE ON DALTON—THE KILPATRICK RAID—WANTON DESTRUCTION AND PILLAGE THE CONFEDERATES IN LOUISIANA—THE FAILURE OF THE TEXAS EXPEDITION—MOBILE—POLITICAL REASON FOR DISPLACING GENERAL MEADE—CHANGE IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK—SOLDIERS PERMITTED TO VOTE IN CAMP—WHY THE DEMOCRATS APPROVE THE MEASURE—THE MISTAKEN POLICY OF THE WAR DEMOCRATS.

Federal prospects are clouded all round the horizon. The news from all quarters, since the beginning of the spring operations, has been a record of unvarying disaster. The defeat in Florida turns out to be even worse than was at first reported. The losses are now conceded to have been eighteen hundred instead of twelve hundred; the survivors are entrenched at Jacksonville, and the best said of them is that, being reinforced, they expect to hold it. There is no thought of advancing further, or occupying the State. It would not, however, be very different from what has taken place in Louisiana, if President Lincoln should decide Jacksonville to be Florida—as he decreed eight or nine parishes about New Orleans to be Louisiana—and order a State to be manufactured there, under the protection of a beaten army; that is, if, in the course of his campaign for re-election, he shall think it desirable.

In one thing, which is always a main object of every Yankee expedition, this Florida expedition was a success. It destroyed a very large amount of private property before it was met and checked. The Commanding General, in a gasconading address, made it his boast that he had already captured to the value of a million and a half of dollars in 'tar, resin, clothing, cotton,' &c. Of course no part of this was public property; it was simply the plunder of non-combatants. The private letters from the expedition add to this list of spoils the wardrobes and trinkets of women, furniture, books—indeed, everything upon which hands could be laid to bring away or to destroy. It was only six days after this robber manifesto was issued that the plundering army was met and driven back in shame over the same country that it had been stripping of everything portable. It is to be hoped that the troops had to abandon such of their plunder as they had not already destroyed.

The great Sherman expedition of thirty thousand men, which left Vicksburg five weeks ago to penetrate through Mississippi into Alabama, and threaten Mobile in the rear, and the armies in Georgia in the flank, has not yet been heard from definitively, but it is evidently a perfect failure in all its avowed objects. There are rumours that it has met with disaster, and is turning back to Vicksburg in serious peril of being cut off. There is very great uneasiness to-day at Washington for its fate. The Confederates displayed themselves with unexpected activity and numbers: and the most now hoped for by the Federals is, that General Sherman may be able to get back without a heavy disaster in the field. Here, too, the great consolation expressed is that he has been able to do great damage in the interior, by the destruction of the property and means of living of the inhabitants which is the now received process for the propagation of Union sentiments.

In concert with General Sherman's expedition, another of cavalry, seven thousand strong, started from Memphis, to ride through the northern part of Mississippi, and make a junction with Sherman in Alabama for the grand movement onward. The force seemed to be too formidable for resistance by the Confederates, especially as the region to be penetrated was said to be full of Union sympathisers, rebels tired of the war, and stragglers from the Confederate army eager to come in and be pardoned. But, after pushing forward but a short distance, this large force was encountered by Confederate cavalry (the accounts say in superior numbers; and after several attempts to advance, and repulses, and defeats, they have gone back to Memphis, and abandoned the expedition, leaving General Sherman to his fate. Here, too, the Yankee boast comes in as a compensation for their defeat: they captured from the people on the route, and brought away or destroyed, 'several millions' worth of property. It is said, with great glee, that they burnt *two millions of bushels* of grain, and that there will therefore be great distress for food in the country they overran. The starving of women and children, to make their male pro-

tectors surrender to the Government, is the civilised warfare of these Republicans.

Nearly at the same time with these movements, General Grant ordered an advance, under General Thomas, from Chattanooga towards Atalanta, and glowing accounts were published of the success of the movement, the defeats of the rebels, and the occupation of Dalton, a pivot point for the march upon Atalanta. But Dalton was not occupied. The Federal army reached Tunnel Hill, which is ten miles short, and has now been withdrawn still further back to Ringgold, and is seeking its old resting-place at Chattanooga. The army of General Johnston was found too formidable and well-posted to be attacked, and Longstreet's movements about Knoxville gave warning of a danger to provide against which a retreat was necessary. The army of Thomas is therefore drawn in again, and the telegraphic despatches say that all along the lines the Confederates are active and pressing.

From Washington a daring raid was projected by Mr. Lincoln, without the assent of the General-in-Chief (General Halleck) or the Commanding General of the Army (General Meade), for a sudden advance of cavalry upon Richmond. The expedition, six thousand strong, started under General Kilpatrick, and a portion of them claim to have got within sight of the steeples of Richmond. They owe it to the speed of their horses that they got away again, and got safely within the lines of General Butler. They lost a good many men, and disabled a thousand horses. The most they effected for any military purpose was the destroying of a few telegraphic wires, and the tearing up of a few miles of railroad that can be repaired in three days. But they boast that they destroyed millions of property in corn and provisions, burned all the mills which ground the food of the people, and many of the houses which sheltered their families. Among the boasts which they give to the public is, that having impressed a negro to guide them, and finding the contraband misleading them, they hanged him, and, 'being exasperated' at his treachery, burned down, in revenge, the dwelling-house and outhouses of the Hon. James Seddon, who is the Confederate Secretary of War. Thus wanton destruction and pillage are found to be the universal practice of the armies of the Union under all their commanders.

The intelligence from New Orleans is that the Confederates have reentered the Teche country in force, have captured Franklin, and threaten Brashear city. Large forces have been sent by General Banks to protect this latter place from apprehended assault. The Confederates are getting very active again along the river, and seem to cross and recross in large bodies whenever they please.

The grand expedition into Texas is melting away. The forces sent there have been withdrawn by degrees, until there is scarcely enough left to keep the few coast places which it is desired to hold. There will be no attempts for some time, and perhaps not for a long time, to occupy this great State, or even a corner of it, for reconstruction into a Lincolnised State. That process is getting a double check, from the armies of the Confederacy, and from the jealousy of some of Mr. Lincoln's own partisans against it as a means by which he is seeking to secure his own personal continuance in power.

Charleston is left in quiet. The siege is practically discontinued. Even the shelling grows more languid, as it becomes demonstrated that it does not pay in destructiveness for the expenditure of the powder.

The point of immediate military interest is the attack, by Farragut's fleet, on the outer defences of Mobile harbour. The failure of Sherman's expedition to reach the interior and threaten the rear alters the conditions of that enterprise, and it is now imagined that the withdrawal of the United States troops from Texas and the concentration of such a large force in General Banks's department have reference to a land attack upon Mobile in concert with Farragut. The other theory is that it is meant to penetrate to Montgomery, with Pensacola as a base, and thus make approaches for a cooperation with Grant in an advance upon Atalanta, which, after Richmond, is the most important point in the Confederacy.

But it is evident that the Federal plans for the spring campaign have been all baffled, and most of their combinations completely destroyed, by the energy and activity with which they have been encountered by the Confederates at all points. The ideas of Southern disorganisation and despondency have been rudely dissipated, and there has been a hasty summoning of General Grant to Washington, with a view to a consultation and a reconstruction of the whole plan of the campaign. He is now Lieutenant-General, and in the first flush of his popularity as a successful leader of armies, and his voice will probably be potential in deciding what shall be undertaken to repair the disasters of the last month, and win a victory somewhere to cure the distrust which so many accumulating failures have generated in the public mind towards the Administration.

There is a very serious effort to displace General Meade from the command of the army of the Potomac, on charges that he fought the battle of Gettysburg unwillingly, and had even given orders for retreat, which could not be persisted in because one of his corps was actually engaged. Testimony is being taken before a Congressional Committee 'on the Conduct of the War,' which sits as a sort of political conclave to decide on the merits of generals, more with reference to their utility in politics than their military conduct and qualities. General Meade is not enough of a Radical politician to suit the purposes of those who think of the army only as a great electioneering machine; and it is quite likely that they will find for the President a reason for displacing him and putting a more thorough partisan in his place.

The army is, by the confession of all parties, the power in the State by which the next Presidency is to be disposed of, and all sides are sedulously fomenting the war passion, and courting the army influence. It is a game in which all the advantage lies with the party in power, and the Democrats are wasting their time, demoralising themselves, and hastening the national destruction they deprecate in words so loudly, by joining in a competition at once dishonest and fruitless.

There was a vote in this State yesterday, to alter the Constitution so as to receive at the State elections the votes of soldiers absent on service. It was attempted last year to provide for this by law, but it was palpably unconstitutional, and the Governor's veto was in the way. The objection was met by proposing an amendment to the Constitution. The vote was taken yesterday, and of course it is adopted. No one has ventured to advise a vote against it; so all the votes recorded will be in its favour. Nevertheless there are hardly five men in the Legislature who do not believe it to be an injudicious and perilous change. The motives for pressing it are purely partisan. The dominant party sees in it a potent instrument for controlling the politics of the State, by means of the hundred and odd thousands of New York soldiers who are subject to military law, under the eyes of officers of its party selected by the President, and carefully weeded of all opponents, and dependent for pay and rank—and, it has been shown, for personal freedom too—on his political favour. The opposition dared not risk the unpopularity of a position sure to be used against them as an attempt to disfranchise the soldiers, and another proof of hostility to the Union in proscribing its defenders. All sides, therefore, became vociferous in protesting peculiar zeal for the rights of the soldiers; and the Constitution is accordingly amended, to give the absent men the right of casting votes and sending them home, or sending them home to be cast by proxy. There is really no conceivable way in which free discussion on political topics can be had in the camp, or independent opinion formed of the acts of those in authority; or in which the qualifications to vote under the State laws can be ascertained with certainty, or for the prevention of fraud, or the fidelity of the return made satisfactory to the public; or in which a soldier can cast a free vote in the presence of superiors interested in suppressing it, and armed with all the power which military law gives to persecute and proscribe privates for offences of a hundred names, but of one real character only—insubordination in politics. There are many well-authenticated accounts of the direct interference of officers of the army, and of the Government itself, in the ill-treatment and punishment of soldiers for the expression of Democratic opinions and the casting of Democratic votes; and there will doubtless be a feeble demonstration at Albany to enter an indirect protest against the transfer of this tremendous power within the State of New York to the hands of the Republican managers and their Executive, and some abortive project suggested pretending to secure the promise of political freedom to Democrats serving under an instructed corps of Republican officers in rice-fields and swamps a thousand miles off, where the defeat of the New York Democrats at the election last November was promulgated at head-quarters—a victory over traitors. But this will not prevent the consummation of some measure to confer this right of voting nominally on the soldiers, but almost literally on the politicians who hold in their hands the power of military coercion, if coercion be needed.

But direct coercion is not needed to determine the general drift of an army vote. The soldier's habit of obedience to a superior, and dependence upon him not merely for privileges and comforts, but for rights—the *esprit de corps* which so soon identifies him with the passions and prejudices of his class—the contagion of association, by which opinions not firmly settled take the hue of those which prevail, and of course but one hue when all others are proscribed—are in themselves sufficient to determine that, with the mass of privates, political opinions grow to be those of the officers; and the direct action of the Government in selecting its own partisans, and its success in winning over, by the allurements of rank and favour, nearly every leading man who entered the army as a Democrat, determine the vote as universally Republican. The Democrats have a forlorn sort of hope that they can break up this Republican consolidation of the army vote by contesting the Presidency with a military candidate of their own, and think, with the personal popularity of General M'Clellan in the army, to make a powerful diversion. For this reason they call for uncompromising war as loudly as the fiercest bar-republican, and are shaping their policy simply to foment the war passion to their own advantage, and divide the soldiers' vote, in both of which projects they will fail lamentably and disgracefully.

PARIS TOPICS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS: March 22.

THE exact numbers resulting from the elections concluded last night are not yet known, but the election of the Democratic candidates by a vast majority is certain. The first and fifth circumscriptions or electoral districts, the Louvre being in one, and the Faubourg St. Antoine in the other, have agreed to return as their representatives members of the Provisional Government of 1848. This return to the surface of the political stream of men whose only merit is the having proved that a *république honnête* is impossible in France, might seem symptomatic of danger to the Government, if the rural population of the country, and even that of many of the chief towns, had not shown a determination to resist the domination of Paris, in which the existing Government will always encourage them. Even as a manifestation of opinion these elections are less favourable to the Democratic party than those of last summer, for their candidates are elected only by a large minority of the electors, little exceeding one-third of the whole number, while only about one half of the electors possessing the suffrage voted. In the only other country in which I have been able to observe the working of universal suffrage, in Greece, I had occasion to remark, and even on a larger scale, the unwillingness of the electors to go to the poll. In an electoral body of 6,000, something less than one-sixth were induced to vote. It would seem that the right of voting is really only valuable in the eyes of the majority on the condition that it shall be a privilege. One half of the electors of Paris do not care to assert their right, or think the presence in the Chamber of a few members of the old parties no menace to public order.

The Government reaps the benefit of its abstention on this occasion. The elections were so quietly conducted that no one could perceive that a political demonstration was being made; and having no candidate either patronised or accepted, Government could suffer no defeat.

Public confidence in the preservation of peace, grounded on the evident desire of the Government to avoid all foreign complications, is still not sufficiently strong to affect the movements of the money market, which shows no permanent symptoms of recovery. The financial papers offer all kinds of reasons to account for the depression, but the very fact that they have to seek for them, and do not at all agree in the results of their researches, is the proof that there is an undercurrent of mistrust in the ultimate success of the peace party. The old grudge against Prussia, as strong at the present day as fifty years ago, in the agricultural parts of France, would render a war against that Power tolerable if not popular. The Prussians have contrived to revive a painful recollection here, by the destruction of the monumental lion under which slept the Danes who fell at Flensburg in 1848. The bridge of Jena and the resolution to blow it up, which was only prevented by Louis XVIII.'s threat that he would place himself on it, is the only parallel in modern European history to this act of profanation. Our Chinese wars may be excluded by our self-love from European history, so that we may be spared having to count the destruction of the summer palace at Pekin and the oldest and richest library in the world as acts for which we are responsible. We may have rivalled them in the far East, but in European warfare the Prussians have proved themselves the most unpitying victors, and their conduct during the invasions of '14 and '15 is still remembered, especially in Champagne, with lively execration.

There has been a press trial, which, after exciting the attention of literary men for the last two months, has ended in the conviction and condemnation to fine and imprisonment of the parties accused. The press law of 1852 forbids the publication of all periodical writings treating of politics without the permission of Government. The gentlemen now condemned for a breach of this law had established a correspondence with various provincial papers, which they forwarded periodically by the post. The letters were identical, the editor of each paper using so much or so little as he pleased of the matter thus supplied. As French provincial papers are not rich, this decision is almost equivalent to forbidding their publishing news of the capital, for it was only by clubbing together that they could remunerate a correspondent; while, their circulation being local, the simultaneous publication in several papers diminished the interest of none.

The *France* of Friday evening contained a paragraph, apparently on authority, contradicting the reports which have been current that the Federals under Banks had violated the territory of Mexico. It goes on to state that Mr. Lincoln has given orders to his generals to observe the strictest neutrality, and to suffer no supplies or succours of any kind to pass the frontier to Juarez.

There were rumours last week that a new plot against the Emperor's life had been discovered, and that some of the conspirators had been arrested in the palace itself. The *Moniteur* of Sunday contained a contradiction of the story, which it declares has no foundation. The Archduke Maximilian or one of his suite left behind him a box containing, besides a sum of money, a jewel to which great value was attached. The loss having been discovered, a telegram was sent to request the missing box might be forwarded. The apartments were searched without effect, on which the police were called in, and two servants, who, supposing it was intended for them, had appropriated it, were arrested.

It is seldom that a debate in the English Parliament obtains the approval of French public opinion. The expression of opinion, backed by so large a minority, on the Stracey motion has given the greatest satisfaction here. The *Moniteur* reproduced the whole debate, as well as the explanations of MM. Mazzini and Saffi, and the leaders on the subject from the *Times*. Most of the other papers, excepting the *Italianissimi*, have noticed in leaders what they regard as evidence of the good feeling of the country towards the Emperor of the French, though they express no little surprise at the conclusion to which Lord Palmerston seems to have come. There are some who think that the Danish war has saved Mr. Stansfeld as well as his chief, because the Conservatives are little likely to seek so embarrassing a legacy. The news of Garibaldi's departure from Caprera to England has caused a very painful sensation here, as it is thought calculated to augment any feelings of dissatisfaction which the presence of other well-known persons has occasioned. The grand feasts which it is understood are already in preparation to greet the hero of Aspromonte, may give occasion for incautious language that may well neutralise the good effect of the Conservative speeches in the House of Commons. In official spheres, this *hegira* seems still more suspicious. The position of Italy, armed to the teeth and with crippled finances, which render necessary either an immediate reduction of forces or a war to employ them, has lately caused great uneasiness here. Garibaldi's visit to England is considered as calculated to precipitate in the direction of rashness the impatience already existing in Italy. Nothing could be more unpopular in France than another war for the Italian idea, and if the Italians rush imprudently into a conflict with Austria, they are likely to be left to their own resources.

MISCEGENATION.—The *New Hampshire Patriot* gives facts to show that the female Abolitionists who went as teachers of the negroes at Port Royal, have been very successful in at least one branch of juvenile development. It says: 'Private advices from Port Royal say that many of the female Abolitionists who went to Port Royal to teach the little niggers how to read and pray, have been obliged, within the past few months, to abandon their black charges and open nurseries on their own private account. An officer informed us recently that no less than sixty-four spinsters had contributed to the population in and about the neighbourhood of Port Royal harbour. The climate seems to favour population even more than the production of Sea Island cotton by paid negro labour. The information furnished us by the officer concerning the sixty-four little mulattoes has been confirmed by the testimony of the Rev. Liberty Billings, Lieutenant-Colonel of the First South Carolina Regiment, who is here in consequence of ill health. He says it is a sad truth.'

FEDERAL EXPLOITS.—A correspondent of the *Boston Courier* gives the following summary of Federal exploits at the opening of the spring campaign:—'If there were any intelligence left among Mr. Lincoln's partisans, the "mung" news with which he tries to keep up their spirits, would be a daily and deadly insult to it. His spring campaign has opened with these brilliant exploits:—1. Charleston is made secure against every attempt by land or sea, and smashes up, without compunction, every "expedition" or "iron-clad" that gets *too near*. 2. Farragut is "attacking" Mobile "out of range." 3. General Thomas has retired from his "successful reconnaissance," having found the enemy "in force" at Tunnel Hill. 4. Generals Smith and Grierson returned to Memphis, having accomplished all their objects, except the single one with which they started. 5. General Sherman is retreating, having also done everything but what *he* set out to do. 6. General Butler's great raid to release the prisoners in Richmond, returned, having really accomplished his *only* object, which was, to figure for once in some other way than as flogging women, or putting superannuated clergymen to hard labour on the highways. 7. Mr. Hay's attempt to get a bogus electoral vote from Florida, has ended in the ruin of his expedition, with a loss of one man out of three. To counterbalance these trifling reverses, three distinguished successes are to be recorded, viz.:—1. One detachment of the grand army has mobbed a Democratic newspaper in Ohio. 2. Another has robbed a poor old Dutch trader in Pennsylvania, who was under suspicion of being a Knight of the fabulous order of the Golden Circle. 3. A third has successfully attained its "objective," without disaster by flood or field—a considerable army having been safely and gratuitously transported to New Hampshire, where it is to engage in the glorious and patriotic work of putting down the people at the polls.'

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

Our friends in the United Kingdom and on the Continent are earnestly requested to forward to us, at their earliest convenience, such information relative to the military movements and condition of affairs in America as they may receive through private letters, either from the United States, or from the Confederate States. They may rely upon the most scrupulous precautions being observed that no names or facts leading to identification will, under any circumstances, be revealed. No communications, however, will be noticed unless authenticated by a responsible name. Southern newspapers, of any date, will be useful and acceptable presents.

Our subscribers in the South will have their papers supplied through Henry Hotze, Esq., the Confederate States' Commercial Agent in London, who has kindly tendered us his services in this respect during the continuance of the blockade.

For the convenience of our distant subscribers, all the receipts for subscriptions signed by any of the official representatives or commissioned officers of the Confederate States, will be recognised at this Office.

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THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1864.

Federal Failures.

The latest intelligence from America confirms all the reported Federal disasters. At all points the invading armies have been met and worsted. The spring campaign is over almost as soon as it is begun, and the whole North seems for the time paralysed by its misfortunes, despondent, and even hopeless. We miss even the familiar jubilations and boastful anticipations of the New York press, so complete is the break-down, so stunning is the blow; and overwhelming as have been the reverses of the last month, there is a terrible misgiving that the truth is not all told. There are rumours that Sherman has been defeated with the loss of half his army—that he is cut off from Vicksburg, out of supplies, penned in at Canton by a numerous and ever-increasing Confederate force. The probability is that the bulk of his army has reached Vicksburg. But nothing is known of his whereabouts in the North, and we can understand the suspense that broods over Washington in the absence of news of his safety, for a great disaster to Sherman's force would mean the immediate loss of the whole South-West to the Federals. Apart, however, from the fate of this column, the North may well stand aghast and bewildered at the result of its latest struggle with its unconquered and unconquerable foe. At the beginning of the fourth year of the war, it finds the armies of defence more strongly posted and more numerous than ever. It tries every link in the Southern armour, but in vain; its swords and bayonets gleam about the Southern cuirass, but find it impenetrable, and we fancy that for the first time we detect indications of a consciousness, that will betray itself, of the impossibility of subjugating the Confederacy. They are shown in the reported assertion of General Meade that the South cannot be conquered, and in many other ways. Meade may be the first Northern General who has openly recognised this truth; but is there one officer of repute who has boldly declared the conquest of the South possible? Not Scott, who declared it to be feasible only on impossible conditions; not McClellan, who retired in despair after destroying the finest army the North has ever possessed; not Rosecranz, nor even Grant. Braggarts like Hooker and the Butlers and Popes of the North have sworn to overrun the South with fire and sword, but the real soldiers of the Federal army have never professed to be sanguine; and it is to the credit of General Meade, however much it may detract from his popularity with a ferocious and reckless mob and a self-seeking Cabinet, if he has dared to speak the truth. It is said that Meade will be superseded by Grant. He is the last card in President Lincoln's hand, but we hardly think he will win the trick. General Grant would have opposed to him in Virginia the flower of the Confederate army. There is no royal road to Richmond. He must march by the old routes that proved so disastrous to M'Dowell, and M'Clellan, and Pope, and Hooker, and Burnside. He would meet the same men who beat his predecessors, and would share the same fate. If General Grant consults his own reputation, he will not supersede Meade. But the mere fact of his being summoned to Washington is a sign of weakness. Grant is wanted not in the Cabinet, but in the field. If any man can retrieve the disasters in the South-West, it is he. And at this moment more than at any other period of the war, a controlling mind is required to direct the movements of the Federal troops in Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee, unless the summer campaign is to end in a series of objectless unconnected raids, utterly incapable of influencing the war. At this moment the position of affairs is exceedingly critical for the North. It is possible that the Federal army in Florida is safe behind its entrenchments at Jacksonville and under the fire of its gunboats; that Sherman has led his army back into Vicksburg without material loss; that General Thomas has retired from Tunnel Hill for 'strategic reasons;' and that Knoxville is safe. This would be certainly a sanguine view to take. But, even in this light, it would be difficult to overrate the advantage gained by the South in the knowledge that the enemy had struck its blow and failed, and that the armies and garrisons of the South, relieved from apprehension for some months to come, were free to resume the initiative, and hurl their concentrated strength against the lengthened and dangerously weak lines of the invaders. Everybody now knows that Grierson's cavalry has been crippled; that Sherman's army, if not cut to pieces, is incapable of a new forward movement; that the Federal army at Chattanooga is in reality on the defensive. Whence is aid to come if the Confederates seriously assail the communications of the army of the Cumberland? The Federal cavalry at Memphis has been outnumbered and routed by the Confederate horse under General Forrest; Sherman cannot move; Knoxville is in danger; no relief can be expected from Meade, who is in daily fear of Lee's advance; and yet we say unhesitatingly on the retention of Chattanooga and Knoxville rests Mr. Lincoln's only hope of continuing the war. We must wait a few weeks for the development of the Confederate plans; but there are abundant signs that the favourable occasion now presented will not be missed, and that the Federals will have in their turn to stand on the defensive at at least as many points as those recently threatened by their own armies.

To what desperate straits the War Administration of the North is reduced, is shown by the recent endeavour to reach Richmond. It was fondly hoped that what successive armies of 150,000 men had failed to accomplish might be achieved by a cavalry force 7,000 or 8,000 strong. And this enterprise was seriously undertaken with the same confidence in a triumphant result which has marked every Federal undertaking. Nothing less than *the burning and sacking of Richmond and the murder of President* Davis *and his Cabinet* was aimed at. A bold *coup de main* was to destroy Richmond and the 'rebellion' at a blow, and a cavalry force with a few light guns was to effect all this in the teeth of the defences of a well garrisoned and fortified town. The peddling incapacity of the Federal War Administration was never more clearly demonstrated. The diabolical malignity of a bloodthirsty and cowardly enemy was never more disgracefully patent. Three bodies of cavalry were told off for the murderous work, the first under Kilpatrick, the second under Dahlgren, the third under Custer. Kilpatrick's and Dahlgren's columns moved from Culpepper in divergent directions; Dahlgren making for Fredericksburg, the depôt of Confederate artillery. Instead of destroying it, he met with a warm reception, and rode on. He then attempted to cross the James River, missed the ford, hanged an intelligent contraband who had undertaken the office of guide, and ultimately was attacked and driven off by a body of the Richmond city troops. Kilpatrick was a little more successful, for he marched by a route where no resistance was offered; but he failed to destroy the bridges over the North and South Anna, and when he reached the outer defences of Richmond, a few shells sent him flying across the Chickahominy, to seek safety at Williamsburg. General Custer's column was disposed of a very few hours after its departure, being chased ignominiously into the Federal lines. The affair turned out a mere headlong dash in the rear of the Confederate army, in which the Federals never showed fight, were 'whopped' wherever they were caught, burnt whatever property they could lay their hands on safely, and sacrificed whatever faint respect for their cause may still linger in the minds of European nations, by the endeavour to accomplish by midnight fire and assassination, what they have not the manhood to achieve on a fair field. Colonel Dahlgren, put to flight by the city guards of Richmond, endeavoured to cross the Pamunkey, but in vain. He was hunted down, his force was routed, he himself was killed. He richly deserved his fate. But if he had been caught and hanged as a felon, no great outrage would have been committed. On his body were found instructions, which, if proved to be authentic, will hand down his name to eternal infamy. One address contained the following spirited programme: —

> We hope to release the prisoners from Belle Isle, first, and, having seen them fairly started, we will cross the James River into Richmond, destroy the bridges after us, and, exhorting the released prisoners to destroy and burn the hateful city, will not allow the rebel leader Davis and his traitorous crew to escape.

In another copy of 'special orders and instructions' was found this extraordinary extract: —

> The men must be kept together and well in hand, and, once in the city, it must be destroyed, and Jeff. Davis and his Cabinet killed. Pioneers will go along with combustible material.

In fact, 10,000 prisoners, stimulated by every possible incentive to that diabolical work of lust, of rapine, of violence, which must inevitably have ensued on the success of the enterprise, were to be let loose upon Richmond; and the murder of the Southern President and his Cabinet was openly announced and proclaimed as the crowning hope of the planners and leaders of the expedition. Modern history furnishes no parallel to this atrocity. Imagine two European Powers at war, and the ruler of one—for we cannot absolve President Lincoln of complicity—organising a plot for the assassination of the sovereign of the hostile State. We wait to hear the verdict of the English press upon this horrible outrage. We wait to see if the feelings of indignant humanity will be for once fairly outspoken upon such a scandal to civilisation, or if there will be found apologists even for Dahlgren, and admirers of this savage and cowardly mode of conducting a great war between nations speaking the same tongue, sprung from the same stock, and born in the same faith. Butler, and Turchin, and Mitchell have disgraced the North. But this new crime throws even their misdeeds into insignificance, and reveals the men who conceived and attempted it in their true character as *hostes humani generis*.

The Mersey Steam Rams.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH MESSRS. LAIRD.

Our readers will remember that, in demanding from Government the correspondence with Messrs. Laird and with Mr. Adams on the subject of the arrest of the steamships building by the first-named gentlemen at Birkenhead, the Opposition were especially anxious to distinguish between the legal and the political bearings of the case. The Attorney-General, whose forensic talents have been turned to excellent account in the House of Commons, declared that the correspondence ought not to be produced: first, because it would prejudice a case then pending before the courts of law, by disclosing to the defendants the evidence on which the Crown relied; and secondly, because it was demanded in order to afford materials for a discussion in Parliament of questions which would have to be discussed and decided before a fitter tribunal. It was rejoined, first, that all the papers required were already accessible to the defendants in the case about to come before the Court of Exchequer, as Mr. Adams's share of it had been published in America, and Messrs. Laird had of course copies of every letter which had passed between them and the Government. It was rejoined, secondly, that what the Opposition proposed to discuss was not the legal question, whether or no the *El Tousson* and *El Monassir* were liable to seizure, but the political question, whether the conduct of the Administration, apart altogether from the fact of seizure, had been wise, just, honourable, and dignified. The former rejoinder was unanswerable; the latter failed to convince the House, which, not having seen the papers, was not aware how very small a part of the whole matter is the mere fact of the seizure of the vessels. Now, the whole correspondence demanded by Mr. Fitzgerald is before the public. That which had passed between themselves and Mr. Adams the Government found themselves forced to produce, in order to put a stop to the reading of fragments from the American State papers in the House of Commons. That to which the firm of Laird Brothers was a party has been published in the form of a pamphlet by those gentlemen. Of the former set of papers we spoke last week. We propose now to examine the correspondence between the British Government and the builders of the steam-rams; to see whether there be ground for canvassing the conduct of the Administration altogether apart from any question as to the legality of the seizure—a question which is nowhere mooted in this correspondence. It is clear, *à priori*, that the ships might not be legally liable to seizure, and yet the Government may have acted with so much fairness, good faith, impartiality, and dignity, that no one would accuse them of anything more than an error of judgment as to the meaning of a dubious statute. Or, on the other hand, the seizure might be legal, and yet it might appear that the conduct of the Administration had been unfair and undignified, needlessly oppressive and insulting to persons who ought to have been treated with courtesy and forbearance, and attended with an ostentation of eagerness to gratify a foreign State altogether degrading to the character of an English Ministry. In this latter case, it is clear that a legal decision in their favour on the construction of the statute would be consistent with a Parliamentary

condemnation of the general tenor of their proceedings, as contrary to the duty of the Government and the interests of the country.

Now, supposing the law to be in their favour—supposing that the purchase of ships by the Confederates is as illegal as the enlistment of soldiers by the Federals—supposing that a statute on which the best lawyers are divided has really been violated by one of the most eminent firms in England—granting all that the Attorney-General demands—how should the Government have proceeded? Surely with all possible courtesy towards Messrs. Laird, doing them no needless injury and offering them no insult; with no servility towards the Federal Government, which was known to be busily violating in Ireland the law it sought to enforce in Liverpool; with no harshness towards the Confederates, who, if they were breaking the law, had been assured by some of the ablest lawyers that they were not breaking it; doing no more than was absolutely needful, and doing that as quietly as possible. This they should have done; now let us see what they did.

The correspondence begins with a promise, volunteered by Messrs. Laird to the Collector of Customs, that neither of the ships shall leave Liverpool till after a week's notice given to him. We venture to say that the most violent Northern partisans in Liverpool would have unhesitatingly accepted this assurance as sufficient. Messrs. Laird further say that one of the ships will not be ready for a month, the other only in six or seven weeks. This is on September 4. On the same day Mr. Layard writes to ask for whom the ships are building. Messrs. Laird reply that they are building for Messrs. Bravay, 6 Rue de Londres, Paris; and add that they are to be delivered to Messrs. Bravay in the port of Liverpool, when completed. On the 8th they give notice of a trial trip of *El Tousson*, pledging their word for her return—in fact, as subsequently appears, she was in no condition to go to sea. Next day the Treasury write to detain the vessels till a satisfactory account of their destination shall be received. Messrs. Laird refer the Treasury to Messrs. Bravay for further information. Thus it is made clear that Messrs. Laird—whose word is just as reliable as would be the word of Barings, or any other firm of the highest reputation—are simply in the position of builders; that if there be any illegal intentions, they rest with Messrs. Bravay, and Messrs. Laird have nothing to do with them. On their part all is frank and aboveboard; they neither know nor choose to know anything of the use to which their customer proposes to put the craft he buys from them; and having referred the Treasury to him, their part is done. For the future they only endeavour to complete their contract with Messrs. Bravay, leaving Government to deal with those gentlemen—the real owners—as it pleases. Government, therefore, knows that while the vessels belong to Messrs. Laird they are safe; it has no need to seize them till Messrs. Laird give up the property in them, which will not be till their completion.

The next step is the permission given by Lord Russell, on September 17, for the trial trip of *El Tousson*, in reliance on Messrs. Laird's pledge for her return, which they renew. On the 19th, Mr. Brand writes an extraordinary letter, informing Laird Brothers that 'circumstances have come to the knowledge of Her Majesty's Government which give rise to apprehension that an attempt may be made to seize the vessel in question while on her trial trip.' Her Majesty's Government is, however, convinced that Laird Brothers are privy to no such scheme. They being the owners, the seizure would be piracy; the captors would be liable to be hanged wherever a British man-of-war could catch them, and no civilised Government could dream of adopting their act. It is difficult, therefore, to believe that the Government really believed in this strange story; and it seems much more in keeping with the whole of their conduct to suppose that Mr. Adams had warned them of some such plot, imagined by Mr. C. R. Young or Mr. Chapman, and that they were eager to seize an opportunity to display their vigilance in protecting the interests of the North. Mr. Brand informs Messrs. Laird that the *El Tousson* cannot go on her trial trip unless a force of seamen and marines are placed on board for her protection. Messrs. Laird don't believe in the danger, but accept the protection; and, meantime, postpone the trial trip for further enquiry.

On October 7, the Treasury write again, to say that they fear a forcible abduction of the *El Tousson* from the dock where she lies, and must place a Customs officer on board. Messrs. Laird are much surprised; but being assured that no imputation on their own good faith is intended, they submit. On the 9th, the Treasury write that, in consequence of the apprehensions entertained of a forcible abduction, they must seize the ships. On the 17th, Messrs. Laird reply that the abduction is impossible—that the ships are not ready to go to sea—and that one of them is a mere hull; and they point out that under such circumstances to seize the ships, to place an armed force in charge of them, and to inflict vexation and injury on the builders, is unjustifiable. On the same day they ask permission for a trial trip, subject to the conditions proposed by the Government; and repeat their conviction that the alleged plot is altogether unreal. This request is positively and peremptorily refused. On the 27th, their workmen are removed from the vessels; and on the 29th, Captain Inglefield announces that he has orders to take the vessels out into mid-stream, and moor them under the guns of H.M.S. *Majestic*. Of course no additional security could be gained by this measure. The *Majestic* could effectually prevent the escape of the vessels from the docks, had such an escape been attempted; there was an armed force in charge which rendered the attempt itself impossible; the opening the dock and removal of an ironclad would be a work of some time and great difficulty, and could not be accomplished in silence and secresy; the ships were wholly unfit for sea: in a word, their escape was in any case impossible, but they were safer in the dock than they could be in the Mersey. It was not, therefore, to secure them that they were taken out. It was an act perfectly inexplicable on the supposition that the Ministry were really afraid of the escape of the ships, but quite consistent with that policy which is traceable in all their measures—a policy of conciliation towards the North and insult towards the South and their English well-wishers. Throughout this correspondence we find an ostentation, or rather an affectation, of suspicion against the Confederate agents, against Messrs. Bravay, against Laird Brothers; an insulting parade of precautions to prevent them from committing treason and piracy; a display of zeal, extending even to outrageous violence, on behalf of the North; and of the series of acts inspired by these motives, this removal of the ships from their safe berths in the docks is one of the most striking. One still more remarkable instance in which the *animus* of the Ministry was displayed is not referred to in these letters—we mean the ostentatious despatch of the incompletely fitted *Prince Consort*, with a crew got together at a moment's notice, in a gale of wind, to prevent the escape from Liverpool of an unfinished and unarmed ship, and of her consort, a mere hull, without masts or rudder or funnel, already lying under the guns of a man-of-war—a piece of eager servility which nearly cost the loss of ship and crew. No one can recall that proceeding, and read these papers, without being forcibly impressed with the ostentatious nature of the Ministerial policy—the manifest anxiety to make a parade of friendliness towards the North, and of harshness towards those who were accused of taking part with the South; nor is it possible to regard the pretended plot for the piratical abduction of the rams in any other light than as a pretext invented, or eagerly snatched at, to afford opportunity for demonstrations of this character.

In the removal of the ships we catch a glimpse of another feeling, which seems to have animated some persons, at least, in high place and power in Downing Street. Messrs. Laird, who had endured patiently the affronts and injuries previously put upon them, entered an indignant protest against this. The detainer of the ships, their seizure, the prohibition of the trial trip, the guard, though no doubt involving great inconvenience to Messrs. Laird, were nevertheless acts directed rather against the ultimate owner than against the builders; and Messrs. Laird, being merely builders, left to their employer, M. Bravay, to protest against measures injurious to *his* interests, and which must be justified or condemned by *his* intentions. But the removal of the ships was a blow struck at Messrs. Laird as the temporary owners of the vessel. It was an insult, as the removal from their docks implied distrust of them; it was an injury, inasmuch as the immediate destruction of the vessels, which was not improbable, would throw the whole loss upon them, as they would fail to fulfil their contract with M. Bravay. They wrote to the Foreign Office, representing that the removal involved imminent danger of loss or injury to the ships; and they addressed to the Treasury a very spirited remonstrance, in which the whole of the correspondence is summed up: 'On September 4 we told you for whom we were building; on the 9th you told us you would detain the ships till you had ascertained their destination, whereupon we told you that it would be a month before they could leave port, and asked leave for a trial trip. On the 17th, you granted that leave; on the 19th, you added a condition of armed protection, which we accepted; on October 7, you placed an officer on board, telling us a cock-and-bull story of a plot to carry off the ships. We bore all this'—such is the substance of the letter—'because it did us no substantial injury. But now you seize our vessels, turn off our workmen, and remove a helpless hulk into an open roadstead; this is too bad, and we hold you answerable for the consequences. We have dealt candidly and openly with Her Majesty's Government. We have, with the owners' permission, given the names of the owners; and we believe we have a perfect legal right to build ships for a French subject, without requiring from him a disclosure of his object in having such vessels constructed. It forms no part of our duty to interfere in any way with his affairs, and we shall not do so.' This letter received a mere formal acknowledgment, conveying a refusal to discuss any further questions which would have to come before a court of law. Messrs. Laird's protests were disregarded, and the ships were removed into the Mersey; Captain Inglefield, the commander of H.M.S. *Majestic*, doing his offensive duty as civilly as possible, and receiving all assistance and information from Messrs. Laird, while inflicting upon them a grievous and unnecessary injury. On December 7, Messrs. Laird call the attention of the Treasury to the continued danger of the vessels, and point out that they ought to be insured. The Treasury reply on the 18th: 'We will insure, provided that, in the event of the vessels being restored to you, you will pay the premiums.' On the 22nd, Messrs. Laird answer: 'Certainly not. The whole need for insurance is created by your act—an act which, if the vessels be restored to us, will be pronounced wrongful. We are not to bear the costs entailed by your proceedings. It is your part to insure.' No reply is obtained till January 20, when the Government promise to provide against risks 'in the manner they may consider requisite.' On January 12, Messrs. Laird ask permission to have the ships removed to Birkenhead docks and there finished. This proposal would have made the ships, in the event of condemnation, much more valuable to the Government—it would have reduced the risk—it would not have made escape less impossible—but it would have diminished materially the injury inflicted by the seizure upon Messrs. Laird; and it was accordingly rejected by the Government in the most peremptory manner. On the 25th Messrs. Laird renew their request, pointing out that they are heavy losers by the delay in completing the vessels; and the Government repeat their refusal. The correspondence closes with a protest by Messrs. Laird against the delay in bringing the case to trial, to which the Government replies that an information will be filed in a few days, and that it may be necessary to send a Commission abroad to collect evidence. This in February! Why was not the information filed in November, and the Commission sent abroad at once? The Government knew then, as they know now, what evidence was wanted, and it is impossible to believe that they have any material information now which they did not possess three months ago. If they could not or would not avoid the delay, they were bound in common honesty to take care that Messrs. Laird did not suffer by it. This they might have done by allowing the completion of the vessels. Why was not that course adopted?

The correspondence makes three things abundantly clear. First, that Messrs. Laird had nothing to do with any illegal purposes or fraudulent designs, but were simply building the ships for a foreign customer in the regular way of business. Secondly, that, instead of so directing their measures that Messrs. Laird might complete their contract with this customer, and applying the check to him—with whom, if with any one, the illegal intention rested—the Government took their measures so as to exempt M. Bravay and inflict all possible injury upon Messrs. Laird. Thirdly, that there has been a most extraordinary ostentation of precautions against impossible dangers, and a parade of outrageous and insulting suspicions, most offensive to an English firm and to a friendly nation, for which no credible motive is assigned, and for which we are utterly unable to assign a creditable one. It seems to us beyond a doubt that this correspondence contains ample materials to justify a Parliamentary vote of censure, even if the mover of that vote should begin by declaring the conviction of the House that it is not lawful to build ships of war for foreign belligerents.

Flogging and Branding.

Week before last the House of Commons, in committee on the annually passed Mutiny Bill, had under discussion the clauses authorising the infliction of corporal punishment in the army and navy. The clause authorising flogging passed by a majority of three, that authorising branding by a majority of thirty. In the course of the discussion, it was shown by Mr. Cox that, in the year 1862, nearly 35,000 lashes had been inflicted in the navy, and within one of 6,000 in the army. We do not accept this vote as an evidence of the approval of these forms

of punishment by the British House of Commons. Privately, we have no doubt, most of the members share our own opinion about these disgraceful punishments, and would prefer to see them replaced by others less inconsistent with the dignity of manhood and British self-respect. If they voted for these clauses, it was for the only reason which could have induced us to vote for them—that no change relating to the discipline of two great national services should be made in haste, or be sprung upon the country as a surprise. Whatever private opinions they entertained were not likely to be affected by the arguments *pro* and *con* that were thrown out in the discussion, and which in some instances were flavoured with a nearer approach to Dundrearyism than we are accustomed to meet with off the stage. We may believe flogging a very wholesome dose to be administered to a certain class of malefactors; but the flogging of garrotters does not appear to be a sound reason for flogging British soldiers, and does not alter our conviction that reprobates deserving such a punishment are not fit to be in Her Majesty's service, in even the humblest capacity. Neither is our opinion, that infliction of a life-long disgrace by branding is a remnant of barbarism, altered by the assertion that it gives no pain, and is rather a pleasant operation than otherwise, or by the astounding announcement that it is necessary to protect officers against a trifling pecuniary risk.

We refer to this subject chiefly because, in the course of the debate, words dropped quite incidentally, which no Confederate American, accustomed as Southerners are to misrepresentation and abuse, could have read without pain and indignation. It was not surprising that Mr. Bright should have sharpened his condemnation of the practice of branding by saying that it was only resorted to in the Southern States by owners of slaves to identify their property, to which he had the grace to add that even there it was gradually becoming obsolete. But it was surprising that a man of Mr. Gladstone's extensive information, and one who cannot be accused of a perverse prejudice against the South, should not only have accepted the statement, but enlarged upon it. He is reported to have said that 'the comparison made by the hon. member for Birmingham between branding in the army and in the Southern States, was hardly fair. *The brand in the latter case was placed upon a part of the person where it was always visible*, while in the former it was concealed from the eyes of the world.'

We are at a loss to surmise whence this new accusation against the South has its origin, unless it be from an obscure pamphlet of the *Honourable* Robert J. Walker, a Northern born man, who when himself a slaveholder, was the most eloquent defender of the institution, and solemnly invoked Almighty God as his witness to its justice and humanity, but who in his later days, with his eyes fixed on Mr. Chase's seat, apostrophised his former associates as the 'lords of the whip, the chain, and the *branding iron*.' This we were disposed to regard as a rhetorical flourish in Mr. Walker's characteristic style, though a decided improvement upon Mrs. Beecher Stowe and her humbler followers, all of whom, in their recital of Southern enormities, forget this particular one. What may have been done, or permitted to be done, when the Southern States were British colonies, and African savages by shiploads were forced upon them against their protests and prohibitory legislation, we are unable to affirm; but this is certain, that since the Southern States have had an independent existence, no man ever saw a branded slave or heard of one in their ample territory. The Northern philanthropists have photographed the scarred backs of negroes, and sent them to England to excite pity for the sufferings of the slave; but they have yet to catch or manufacture the specimen which shall exhibit this novel invention of Southern cruelty. We do not hesitate to aver distinctly that any master using the 'branding iron' would inevitably be amenable to the law for mutilation of his slave, and would not escape the indignant prosecution of his neighbours. It is possible that the laws of some of the States still retain this punishment on their Statute Books, to be inflicted by judicial sentence for certain offences committed by slaves; but if so, there is no case within the recollection of the present generation where it has been put in practice. If those who are disposed to believe anything monstrous about the Southern people, and ascribe to them none but the basest and most selfish motives, would only reflect for a moment, they must see how extremely unlikely it is, upon their own assumptions, that the owner of so valuable a property should purposely and wantonly render it unsalable. What earthly motive could he have? To prevent escape or insure re-capture of a fugitive? If the slave escaped to a neighbouring plantation, he would, of course, there be as well known as at his own; if to a distance, the brand would be useless. These credulous persons seem to imagine that the negroes are as undistinguishable from each other as a flock of sheep, and require similar precautions to prevent confusion of ownership. Even if we left them in this ludicrous supposition, they should be reminded that, by the official statistics of the United States, greatly more than half the slaveholders in the South do not own exceeding five slaves, who, of course, are as much a part of their household as their children—that the number of plantations on which there are over two hundred slaves is exceedingly limited, and those on which there are over five hundred can be counted on the fingers. And if branding for the purpose of identification is absurdly unnecessary, for the punishment of offences it is almost equally absurd. If we are to consider the Southern master as the mere brutal dealer in human flesh of the Abolitionist fictions, are we also to couple his wickedness with the exceptional candour which would stamp his 'chattel' as worthless to any purchaser?

One finds it difficult to treat at once seriously and temperately statements which are, if not supremely silly, designedly malicious. Yet, when they are made in the British House of Commons by men who are not in the habit of either saying silly things or making malicious assertions, we can only deplore that thirty years of systematic lying on the part of her enemies have so shrouded the South in a cloud of prejudice and falsehood, that even to her warmest friends in Europe the simplest truth appears literally stranger than the grossest fiction. Men capable of believing that the Southern masters brand their slaves to identify them, will of course not believe that even the punishment of flogging is less often administered on adult negroes than on soldiers in the British army; on grown females so rarely that we do not number in our acquaintance a Southern man who can recollect a case; and on aged people never. In the cases where the law requires and administers flogging, the maximum number of stripes in all the slaveholding States uniformly is thirty-nine, one less than, Mr. Cox says, a British seaman receives for 'using bad language.' It is well to remember, also, that the famous 'instrument of torture,' the Southern lash, resembles in no respect the British 'cat-o'-nine-tails' or the Russian knout. It is invariably a strip of leather, perforated by holes, so devised that, though it may inflict smarting pain, not even its most excessive use could produce bodily injury. On an ordinarily well-managed plantation a stranger might reside for months without ever having an opportunity to see corporal punishment administered, and it is justly held to argue extreme ill-management where it is necessary. An incorrigible offender is gladly got rid of to another master, and usually the threat of sale suffices for the most severe repressive or corrective measure. As a rule, the worst, and often the only, flogging on a plantation is that of children by negro parents, unless the master or overseer interfere. As for domestic servants, if English masters and mistresses of households would only think of Southerners as ordinary men and women instead of stage or novel characters, they might judge of the frequency with which a gentleman's family is likely to be disturbed by a flogging scene. In this, however, they would still do the Southerners injustice, that they could form no adequate conception, from their own most favourable experience, of the leniency and forbearance which men and women, born among and accustomed to slave-domestics, unconsciously practise every hour of their lives. Much of the credulity which the fictitious horrors of Southern slavery meet with is due to the doubts which very good and kindhearted people feel of their own patience and justice in the use of supposed absolute power. They forget that practically, in a Christian community, the power over a bondsman is not greater, if indeed as great, as over a hired servant; and, secondly, that, by a merciful law of Providence which has made human nature pliable to all human circumstances, the master and the slave, the white man and the negro, if born on the same soil, and reared under the same sun, adapt themselves to each other's characters. The one has the habit, and understands the duties, of command; the other has in an equal degree the habit, and understands the duties, of obedience. Both act much more from a habit which fits them for each other, than upon any abstract reasoning; and in so doing neither dreams of being wrongdoer or wronged. To neither do their mutual relations appear in the light in which the European views them; and for this reason alone, if not for so many others, the grotesque fictions which are supposed at least theoretically possible, are not even probable in the ordinary tenor of Southern domestic or plantation life.

The conclusion at which we are forced to arrive by the statements made in Parliament on the occasion referred to, and among which was that Continental nations, in abolishing flogging and branding, had substituted far more cruel punishments, is that four millions of negroes in the Southern States are held to obedience by eight millions of whites, with less of physical coercion and less exhibition of practical severity than is thought necessary to enforce the discipline of a regiment or of a ship of war. Yet the four millions of negroes are of a confessedly inferior race, and their ancestors only three generations remote were heathen savages of the lowest type; while the rank and file of a regiment or the crew of a man-of-war are men, like ourselves, of the highest Caucasian castes, our fellow-citizens and fellow-subjects, theoretically at least perfectly our equals, and inheriting, like ourselves, at birth the instincts and aptitudes of five thousand years of civilisation. Nay, more, these British, French, and Austrian soldiers and sailors are not 'mean whites,' 'degraded by their contact with negro slavery,' like the soldiers under Lee and Stonewall Jackson, or the sailors who manned the *Merrimac* and the *Arkansas*. Yet it is thought necessary to subject them to the terrors of the lash, or worse, while their countrymen and countrywomen shed sympathetic tears over the fancied miseries of the 'poor slave.' Another incidental conclusion we arrive at, which is confirmed by tolerably extensive experience in both hemispheres, is, that the average Southern human nature is more merciful, more generous and considerate to inferiors, than the average human nature in other parts of the world. It is certainly less prone to think ill of its neighbour. Such stories as the British public readily believes about a kindred race, would not be credited by the Southern public even of a race of savages. We do not assign the reason for this difference; we simply chronicle the fact.

SLAVERY AND PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S PROCLAMATION.

By Hon. C. S. Morehead, *ex*-Governor of Kentucky.

No. III.

As a general rule, there is no part of the civilised world where there are kinder feelings for the black race than in the South.

This is so well understood by the negroes who emigrate North, that their deferential respect towards a Southern gentleman is a subject of universal observation. How could it be otherwise? The two races in the South play together in childhood, and grow up together with ever-recurring manifestations of the strongest attachment, which never fails to elicit kindness and assure protection. On the other hand, the antipathy to the black race in the North is unmistakable and notorious to all the world. There they are a degraded outcast race. They neither improve in civilisation nor in physical comfort. In the celebrated interview between Mr. Lincoln and a delegation of free negroes, he told them that 'on this broad continent not a single man of your race is made the equal of a single man of ours. Go where you are treated best, and the ban is still upon you. I do not propose to discuss this, but to present it as a fact with which we have to deal.' In a letter from the Hon. Montgomery Blair, a member of Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet, bearing date March 2, 1862, he says: 'That this jealousy of caste is the instinct of the highest wisdom, and is fraught with the greatest good, is abundantly attested by its effects on our own race, in which it is stronger than any other. We conquer and hold our conquests by it.' Mr. Seward, in his speech in the Senate, March 11, 1850, says that 'the African race, *bond and free*, and the aborigines, savage and civilised, being incapable of assimilation and absorption, remain distinct, and, owing to their peculiar condition, constitute *inferior masses*.'

This 'instinct of highest wisdom' is in unremitting operation in the North upon the inferior masses of Mr. Seward, so that no fact is better established than that the free negroes there, as a race, have been constantly descending in the scale of civilisation. If it be true, as few will deny, that 'ill-treatment, overwork, neglect in infancy and sickness, drunkenness, want, and crime, are the chief causes of idiocy, blindness, and lunacy,' and that want and guilt fill the poorhouse and gaol, official statistics will show that the condition of the free blacks of the North is the most deplorable of any people on earth. In a carefully prepared table by the Hon. R. J. Walker, formerly Secretary of the Treasury of the United States (I purposely quote from Republican authority), which, he says, 'was compiled entirely from the official returns of the census of 1840, except as to prisons and paupers, which were obtained from city and State returns,' the following results are shown:—

'1. The number of deaf and dumb, blind, idiots, and insane of the negroes in the non-slaveholding States, is 1 out of every 96; in the slaveholding States it is 1 out of every 672, or 7 to 1 in favour of the slaves in this respect as compared with the free blacks.'

'2nd. The number of whites, deaf and dumb, blind, idiots, and insane, in the non-slaveholding States, is one in every 561, being nearly 6 to 1 against the free blacks in the same States.'

'3rd. The number of negroes who are deaf and dumb, blind, idiots and insane, *paupers*, and *in prison* in the non-slaveholding States, is one out of every six, and in the slaveholding States, one out of every 154, or 22 to 1 against the free blacks as compared with the slaves.'

'4th. Taking the two extremes of North and South, in Maine the number of negroes returned as deaf and dumb, blind, insane, and idiots, is one out of every 12, and in slaveholding Florida, by the same returns, is 1 of every 1,105; or 92 to 1 in favour of the slaves of Florida as compared with the free blacks of Maine.'

After commenting on these statistics, this gentleman subjoins the following solemn declaration:—

'Indeed, I could truly say, if passing into the *immediate presence of the Most High*, that, in morals and comforts, the free black is far below the slave; and that while the condition of the slave has been greatly ameliorated, and is improving every year, that of the free blacks (as the official tables demonstrate) is sinking in misery and debasement at every census.'

'The jealousy of caste' has repeatedly exploded in open violence in the North against the black race. To remedy this 'irrepressible conflict' in that section, Mr. Boutwell, Ex-Governor of Massachusetts, in a speech delivered at a meeting in Washington City, in which, for the first time in the history of that country, the President participated, urged the extermination of the white people of the South, in order to get clear of the free blacks of the North. He said, 'he had heard recently of riots between whites and blacks in Brooklyn, Cincinnati, and elsewhere. What, said he, is the difficulty? How is it to be remedied? If South Carolina and Florida were declared free by the President, the blacks would flock there from the North. Then the competition between the white and black man in the North would cease from this cause. The North would be alone in the possession of free white men, and the regions of cotton and rice fields for the coloured race would become their places of abode.'

Thus this humanitarian apostle of liberty panders to this instinct of antipathy to the black race in the North, by the alluring display of this newly invented scheme of philanthropic enterprise. General Phelps, the Federal commander at Ship Island, forgetting the commercial monopoly secured by law to the North, developes the same idea, in a somewhat different form, in an official proclamation. In it he says: 'It is our conviction that monopolies are as destructive as competition is conservative of the principles and vitalities of republican government; the slave labour is a monopoly, which excludes free labour and competition; that *slaves* are *kept in comparative idleness and ease* in a fertile half of our arable national territory, while free labourers constantly augmenting in numbers from Europe are confined to the other half, and are often distressed by want; that the free labour of the North has more need of *expansion* into the Southern States, from which it is virtually excluded, than slavery had into Texas in 1848.' The antipathy of Mr. Boutwell was especially directed against the black race in the North, while that of General Phelps manifested itself against the 'idleness and ease' of the black race of the South. Nearly all the States of the North, especially those of the border, have at one time or other passed laws against the introduction of free blacks within their jurisdiction, and at this time, in the States of Indiana and Illinois, the prohibition exists by constitutional enactment. When Mr. Lincoln proposed emancipation in the border slaveholding States, a petition was immediately got up in Ohio and extensively signed, reciting 'that by the laws of some of the States, to be hereafter enacted, many of the negroes held as slaves may be set at liberty; and fearing that they may wander into Ohio, to the great damage of the white inhabitants of the State, and especially those who have to depend on their labour to support themselves and families,' it respectfully asks for the enactment of 'a law so stringent in its provisions as totally to prohibit any negroes from emigrating into, settling, or holding property in Ohio, and that you also cause those now in Ohio to be removed in as reasonable a time as your judgment may suggest.' These evidences of the deep and settled prejudice and hostility of the North against the black race, might be almost indefinitely multiplied; and nowhere have they been more signally manifested than in the merciless massacre of negroes in the New York riot.

This being the case, it may well be assumed that the proclamation of President Lincoln attempting to confer liberty upon the slaves in certain States and parts of States was not prompted by any feeling of humanity for the black race, but was the result alone of a wicked desire to destroy the white race.

Notwithstanding his repeated acknowledgments, so solemnly made, that he had no power whatever over this subject, by one gigantic bound he overleaped all the barriers of the Constitution, and fulminated, to use his own characteristic language, his 'bull against the comet.' No principle is better established, both in America and England, than that military law is the mere creature of the legislature. In England it derives all its authority from the annual Mutiny Act, and in the United States from the rules and articles of war. It is impossible in either country that it can have any legitimate jurisdiction beyond what the civil law confers, as has been clearly and distinctly established by an unvarying current of judicial decisions. Yet Mr. Lincoln, as chief magistrate of a Government of delegated powers, accurately defined and strictly limited, assumes that there is a kind of paramount sovereignty incident to and arising out of the nature of the office of Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, analogous to the dictatorial power which the Roman Senate might confer upon an individual, by virtue of which he may issue a *military order* which, if enacted into a law by Congress with his approval, would be null and void on account of being in conflict with the Constitution—in other words, that he, as Commander-in-Chief, can make his *military order* a law which the whole legislative department of the Government would have no constitutional power to do. But he has so habitually violated every provision of the Constitution that it would be but a waste of time to dwell on this.

Governor Dunmore, during the American revolution, issued a proclamation giving freedom to the slaves 'who were able and willing to bear arms, and who joined His Majesty's forces.' How this was received in England may be learned from the journals of that day. The *Annual Register* for the year 1776 says: 'This proclamation was received with the greatest horror in all the colonies, and has been severely condemned elsewhere, as tending to loosen the bands of society, to destroy domestic security, and encourage the most barbarous of mankind to the commission of the most horrible crimes and the most inhuman cruelties; that it was confounding the innocent with the guilty, and exposing those who were the best friends to the Government to the same loss of property, danger, and destruction, with the most incorrigible rebels.' One single specimen may suffice to show how it was received in the colonies.

Samuel Adams of Boston, one of the noblest of that band of patriot heroes who achieved American independence, in the course of a speech he delivered at that time, exclaimed: 'But when I am roused by the din of arms; when I behold legions of foreign assassins paid to imbrue their hands in our blood; when I tread over the unconfined bones of my countrymen, neighbours, and friends; when I see the locks of a venerable father torn by savage hands, and a feeble mother clasping her infant to her bosom, and on her knees imploring their lives from their own slaves who have been allured to treachery and murder—Heaven forgive me if I cannot root out those passions which it has implanted in my bosom, and detest submission to a people who have either ceased to be human, or have not virtue enough to feel their own wretchedness and servitude.' He continues: 'Countrymen! the men who now invite you to surrender your rights into their hands, are the men who have let loose the merciless savages to riot in the blood of their brethren—who have taught treachery to your slaves, and courted them to assassinate your wives and children.' The proclamation of Dunmore attempted to give liberty only to those who were 'able and willing to bear arms,' while that of Mr. Lincoln attempts to confer what he calls freedom upon the entire race in certain localities 'by *forcing* all the men able to bear arms into the Federal army,' and by placing the women and children and infirm persons in such a condition as to die from destitution and starvation. That this barbarous and inhuman act should want no feature of revolting atrocity, no means have been spared to excite a bloody servile insurrection. The evidence is abundant to establish the fact, which seems no longer to be disguised. The picture, which was the result to some extent of the vivid imagination of the great New-England orator, has become a living reality under the proconsulate of Butler. In a letter from Norfolk, Virginia, known to be from an entirely reliable source, in speaking of a raid of negro troops into the interior, it is said they seized six citizens, said to be guerillas, 'to get whom the negroes whipped, stripped, and kept exposed all night in this inclement season, *two females*, and threatened to hang them if they did not expose their place of concealment. This part of the story will never appear in the Northern papers; also the one that the negroes burned up, in a house on the roadside, *a woman and her four children*, for some fancied insult.' These atrocities might be multiplied, but the heart sickens at their recital. My particular object is to show that this horrid and inhuman warfare has its foundation in no desire to ameliorate the condition of the black race, and that so far from having that effect, if carried out by force of arms, it is the certain and swift extermination of an unoffending people. By the proclamation, one million of blacks are still to be left in bondage in the States of Maryland, part of Virginia, Delaware, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri. If Mr. Lincoln's object had been really to free the slave, why not extend the boon to those in States over which he was then exercising unlimited and despotic control? Will it be said that this would have been in violation of the Constitution? It is true it would have been; but no greater violation than that attempted by his proclamation upon other States. Besides, is it not the merest farce for him or his minions to talk of the sanctity of that instrument, when so many hundreds of citizens were seized without the forms of law, and sent to distant prisons, and deprived for indefinite periods of their liberty, without a charge of crime—when he had abolished the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus*, and utterly destroyed the freedom of the press? When, by his own acknowledgment, he had violated the Constitution in so many essential features, it could be but a slight addition to the enormity of his guilt to extend his proclamation to the exempted States. But the truth is, Mr. Lincoln is only a cunning party tactician, and certainly Mr. Seward has no one element that entitles him to a higher rank. On coming into power they resolved on a policy that might have restored the Union and avoided the calamities of a war, which they knew could only end in final disunion. They saw, however, that the Republican party would be divided by such policy, and to save a party they were willing to destroy a great nation. When General Fremont issued his famous emancipation proclamation, Mr. Lincoln wrote him a private letter furnishing evidence of the above estimate of his character, in which he tells him that there was great danger that the closing paragraph in relation to liberating slaves 'will alarm our Southern Union friends, and turn them against us—perhaps ruin our rather fair prospect for Kentucky;' and then asks him 'as of his own motion to modify that paragraph.' His object was, as a mere party manœuvre, to avoid giving *offence* to the Radical Republican wing. But Fremont published his letter and defeated his object, and it was not long before the General of Proclamation memory was removed.

After a knowledge of these facts, no one will be astonished to find that his *only* motive for his own proclamation of emancipation, against all his previously declared convictions of right, and justice, and humanity, was based solely upon party considerations. In a paper read by him to the members of Congress of the border slaveholding States, in the month of July 1862, and published in the *National Intelligencer* of Washington City, when speaking of General Hunter's proclamation of freedom to the slaves, issued from Hilton Head, South Carolina, he says: 'He (General Hunter) proclaimed all men free within certain States, and I repudiated the proclamation. He expected more good and less harm from the measure than I could believe would follow. Yet in repudiating it I gave dissatisfaction, if not offence, to many whose support the country cannot afford to lose. And this is not the end of it. The pressure in this direction is still upon me, and is increasing. By conceding what I now ask, you can relieve me, and much more can relieve the country, in this important point.'

It is certain, therefore, that the proclamation was not issued from any humane or philanthropic motive, but to avoid giving *dissatisfaction* or *offence*, and in obedience to an *increasing pressure*. He distinctly states that he could not believe with General Hunter, and repudiated his proclamation. Yet, in about two months after this time, he yielded to the pressure from fear of losing a fragment of his party, and issued one himself.

It may be said, with emphasis, that it is a proclamation not against slavery, but against the slaves. In a carefully prepared letter of the Hon. M. Blair, a Cabinet Minister, before referred to, written evidently to sustain the President's views with regard to Hunter's proclamation, and doubtless submitted to him before publication, he says: 'I am morally certain that to free the slaves of the South, without removing them, would result in the massacre of them.' The prediction of Mr. Blair, who has since so readily become the supporter of the proclamation, has been fully verified thus far. The chief places where the edict has had any effect have been within the valley of the Mississippi river. Regiments of blacks have there been formed either by voluntary enlistment, or, as was more frequently the case, by forcing them into the ranks. Marauding squads of white Federal soldiers would devastate plantations, and if they found the negroes unwilling to go with them, they would burn their cabins and destroy their food, so that they were compelled to accompany them. I have accounts detailing horrors which have no parallel in civilised warfare. But an account has already been given, chiefly from Federal authority, of the inhuman and merciless treatment of the black non-combatants who have been forced to leave comfortable homes to die in wretchedness and want, and it would be occupying too much space to enter into further details in this connection.

But the *freed* men, who have been forced into the Federal ranks, how have they fared?

The manner in which they were driven at the point of the bayonet by Federal troops to a position in full range of the Confederate batteries at Port Hudson, where 900 out of 1,200 fell as helpless victims, is too well known to need more than an allusion, to show the absolute indifference, to use the mildest term, of the Northern people to their fate. These poor deluded blacks are beginning themselves to appreciate the inextinguishable antipathy of their white allies, as is fully evidenced by their revolt at Fort Jackson, the particular details of which will be carefully concealed during the war, as well as by the trial of many of them in the city of New Orleans for 'secession proclivities,' as we learn by their papers. I have before me an extract from the *Atlanta Confederacy*, a paper published in Georgia, in which I find the following statement: 'Some time since (at Baton Rouge) there was a fight there between the negroes and the whites. The negroes clamoured for pay, and, when paid, declared they were not paid as much as their white-skinned brethren. The ill-feeling created a row; the darkies fired upon the whites, killing about fifty, when the Yankees formed, pitched into the sable crowd, and massacred the greater portion of them. Those who survived were disarmed and ironed.' It adds: 'There is no doubt of the accuracy of this statement.' This extract was republished in the Cincinnati papers without a word of comment; and since that time I have seen no allusion to it, or any reference made to the facts detailed.

I venture the assertion, that there is not this day one in ten of the negroes who have been brought under Federal control, who, if they had the opportunity, would not seek refuge within the Southern lines; and I feel a perfect assurance, if there should be a servile insurrection, it will be where Banks has so recently established his heartless system of bondage.

MEXICO.*

We smile at the infantile credulity of the 16th century, which gave credit to the absurd stories told by the early voyagers about their fabled India. They described the country as a vast storehouse of gold and priceless gems; and they spoke of a race of giants and of other natural phenomena equally astounding. Yet, in sober truth, the actual wonders of the New World are greater than the fictitious marvels which our forefathers believed in. America did not reward its explorers with the cargoes of gold and precious stones they expected to collect easily and in profusion, but it has by its productiveness enriched the whole world. The progress of civilisation and the spread of Christianity are intimately connected with the increase of commerce, and without American cotton and American tobacco commerce could not have attained its present enormous development. Those who take a philosophical view of history cannot fail to be struck with the timeliness of the discovery of the New World, which at a critical era opened up a new field of enterprise, and administered a stimulus that saved the nations of the West from the chronic anarchy that seems to have been the immediate cause of Oriental degeneracy. To many readers these observations may appear wearisomely trite, but they are naturally suggested to any one who thinks on the past, present, and future of Mexico.

Three hundred years ago, people were deceived in reference to America because there were no means at hand of testing the reliability of the narratives of the adventurers, but the 19th century is not less deceived through passing by and ignoring very palpable facts. When it transpired that the mission of Napoleon III. in Mexico had a vastly grander object than securing the liquidation of debts due to French subjects—that the Imperial purpose was to afford the Mexicans an opportunity of founding a strong and equitable Govern-

Mexico, Ancient and Modern. By M. Michel Chevalier, Senator and Member of the Institute of France. Translated, under the Author's superintendence, by Thomas Allpass. London: John Maxwell & Co.

ment in the place of the wretched and corrupt rule of Juarez—that the French army was to attempt to achieve the first step necessary for the reorganisation of the country—there was a prevalent impression, both in England and France, that, even if the enterprise succeeded, the results would be too unimportant to repay the cost. Surely a more unfounded or more inexcusable prejudice never possessed the popular mind. Mexico has a climate very diversified, yet singularly salubrious. Its yields of the precious metals are prodigious, and the harvest of silver, and we may add of gold, is only limited by the amount of labour bestowed on the work of mining. But it is not in her mines that the whole wealth of Mexico consists. The surface of the earth produces abundant crops of cereals, and, if the labour were bestowed, would compete with other lands in supplying many of the chief articles of commerce. Look at Mexico on the map, and see how excellent is her geographical situation for being the centre or avenue of an immense commerce. Her western coast is washed by the Pacific Ocean, which, since the ocean has ceased to be a pathless waste, links her to the productive countries of the far East. Her opposite coast faces Europe, and the distance from coast to coast is so short—at one point being only 137 miles—that we may look forward to the day when a Mexican railroad—some are sanguine enough to think of a canal—will connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Nor are these the whole of the advantages incident to the geographical situation of Mexico. Her neighbouring States promise in a few years to open up to her a large continental trade which may even rival her foreign trade. We are not indulging in fantasy or hyperbole. Such an exact and scientific writer as the author of the *Cosmos* tells us, the descriptions that the Spaniards gave of the beauties of the country and climate of Mexico were not exaggerated, though poetical. M. Chevalier observes: 'In the beginning of the past century, whilst wheat cultivated in France yielded five or six grains for one, Mexican cultivation, which was not better, but certainly worse, presented an average produce of at least twenty-two or twenty-five times the seed sown. Humboldt was much surprised at this. He took a great deal of pains to verify the fact, and found it correct.' In spite of the unsettled state of the country, the silver and gold mines of Mexico produce about 5,000,000*l.* annually. Yet this highly favoured land, a land teeming with riches, blessed with a climate which bestows health and plenty on its inhabitants, geographically situated to become a great emporium of trade, has been regarded as worn out and exhausted—as if a bad government could blight the climate, could render the soil sterile, could transmute into dross the riches yet in the bowels of the earth, could subvert the order of nature as well as ruin the people.

And strange to say, when bitterly assailed for the Mexican expedition by opponents who made capital out of the general ignorance and misapprehension, the French Government did not adopt measures for exposing the true state of the case. With the exception of M. Chevalier's book, we are not cognisant of any other important work on Mexico that has lately issued from the French press. There has even seemed a disinclination to aid in correcting the popular prejudice, for a very able and sensible pamphlet entitled 'La Question Mexicaine et la Colonisation Française,' which clearly explained the resources of Mexico, was hardly noticed by the French journals. Perhaps the Emperor Napoleon may deem it better to leave the justification of his policy to the lessons that will be taught in the future by events; but, whatever the motive of this reticence, we are confident that if the French people had been informed of the grand results to be achieved—if they had known that the Imperial eagles swooped on Mexico, not to collect a debt, but to redeem a country from waste and a nation from political degradation, to increase the wealth and to advance the civilisation of the world, the enterprise would have been applauded with generous enthusiasm, and the entry of the French troops into Mexico and the planting of the French standard over the Halls of Montezuma would have been hailed as a triumph that added to the lustre of the military and national glory of France.

In one particular it would have been very easy to have stopped the unscrupulous clamour of the opposition. When it was announced that an empire was to replace the republican form of government, we were told that this would outrage the feelings of the Mexicans—that it could not be their voluntary choice; and Mr. Seward wrote that Republicanism was the only species of government suitable for America. What are the facts? A Republican Government has not existed in Mexico for more than half a century. When the colonists—as we are well reminded by M. Chevalier—threw off the yoke of Spain, they did not desire Republicanism, and were incensed at not being able to find a European prince to reign over them, and in their extremity set up Iturbide as sovereign. Certainly the fruits of Republicanism cannot have removed the monarchical partialities of the people. In fifty years Mexico has lost more than half her territory, and the condition of the people has gone from bad to worse. It was therefore to be expected that, when left free to choose a form of government, the Mexicans would vote for a Monarchy as they have done.

The misapprehension about the resources and value of Mexico is almost inexplicable when we remember that it did not exist at the beginning of the century. In this case it is not that we have not failed to acquire knowledge, but that we have forgotten that which we knew. In 1810 a work in two volumes was published in London, entitled 'Present State of the Spanish Colonies, &c., by W. Walton, jun.,' which gives an exceedingly graphic and truthful account of the country. This book, which is a diary of travels, describes the magnificent scenery, the splendid flora, and the beauties of the city of Mexico, which have enraptured every visitor from the time of Cortez until the present. After referring to the fine buildings of the capital, Mr. Walton adds: 'Their warehouses and shops, from their great display of precious metals and massive jewellery, are the richest and most valuable in the world. The great market-place is a superb and spacious square. Every morning at sunrise, innumerable boats, canoes, and craft of various descriptions, laden with a vast variety of articles of food, arrive at the great market-place, where the inhabitants are supplied with the greatest abundance and at moderate prices. There is a beautiful park well planted with trees. Several hundreds of coaches, drawn by two or by four mules or horses, parade here every fine evening, attended by numerous retinues of black slaves, dressed out in the richest liveries. Mexico is the most populous city of all those which the Catholic King has in his vast dominions, and contains upwards of 200,000 inhabitants.' Mr. Walton gives a long list of the products of Mexico, and sums up by observing: 'The city of Mexico is the emporium or grand magazine in which are collected all the gifts of nature.' Regarding the climate he writes:—

The greatest cold of any of the inhabited places does not equal the cold of England, or even the cold of Spain; nor can the greatest heat be compared even to the heat felt during the dog-days in many countries in Europe. The difference between summer and winter is actually so little felt in any part, that the most delicate persons wear the same clothing in June and in January; no other relief is wanted in the hottest season but to retire to the shade, and the animals sleep all the year round under the open sky.

But Mr. Walton, in 1810, in writing of the climate, productiveness, and indigenous wealth of Mexico, only endorsed the record of every other writer, and only anticipated the verdict of every other book on Mexico that has been published since 1810. Is it not an extraordinary anomaly that under such circumstances Mexico should have been looked upon as an exhausted, barren, and worthless country? It will be still more extraordinary if, now a strong government is established, and the days of the bandit and official spoiler are over, the unfounded prejudice is not dissipated, and European capital and emigrants do not wend their way to Mexico.

Very anomalous and romantic is the whole history of Mexico. When Cortez first surveyed the country we can understand that he felt all the rapture and surprise expressed in his letters. Instead of savage tribes he found a thickly populated and orderly governed community. The monarchs were absolute, but the rights of the people were protected by irremovable judges. So powerful was the monarchy, that the only way in which Cortez could obtain a footing was by fomenting discord amongst the native rulers, and even then he narrowly escaped destruction. He found the people skilled in many of the arts, particularly in the working of gold and silver. He found, too, an Aztec literature which was extensive and vigorous, and pervaded by a high-toned morality. M. Chevalier quotes from 'Zurita's Memoirs' a paper called 'A Father's Counsel to his Son,' which is unexceptionable—as for example: 'Offend no person, nor attack his honour. Make thyself worthy of the rewards God giveth to every one as it pleases Him: receive what He shall give thee; return thanks, and if it be much be not puffed up.' The religious writings of the ancient Mexicans are worthy of an advanced stage of civilisation. 'In the exhortation that ended the confession, the priest said to the faithful, "Give food to those who are hungry, clothing to those who are naked, whatever may be the privations that care imposes on thee; for the flesh of the unfortunate is thy flesh, and they are men like unto thyself."' Yet notwithstanding these moral and religious sentiments, Cortez found the hideous custom of human sacrifices in full practice.

Perhaps we ought not to be surprised that so little pains were taken by Spain to develope the resources of colonies which had already enriched the empire and sustained its credit. The English are essentially a colonizing nation, yet it required the sharp and bitter lesson of 1787 to teach us to govern colonies rightly. On the other hand, we cannot be surprised at the desperate effort made by Spain to retain Mexico, for Spain knew the value and importance of the country. But it is surprising, though explainable, that when the Spanish colonies became independent, they did not, at least for a while, manifest a healthy vigour. How is it that Mexico has steadily and rapidly declined since the separation from Spain, until in all things except human sacrifices the condition of the population is now worse than it was when Cortez conquered it?

There is but one reply and one explanation. The population has degenerated by the amalgamation of the white and negro races; and with a population constituted of different races, a republican form of government is but another name for anarchy.

It is generally unwise to speculate upon the future, but, without presumption, we may predict for Mexico an era of prosperity. We know the capabilities of the country, we know what has hitherto kept the country down, and we know that that evil is remedied. M. Chevalier, in his introduction to the English edition, refers to one danger that he thinks threatens the new Empire; but we dare say by this time—although his introduction is dated March 10—he will agree with us that his fears are chimerical. He says:—

There is now reason to fear that, once victorious in her struggle with the South—as events appear to promise she will be—the North may look at the affair in another light. It is not impossible but that, in the vast Republic of America, ambition and the spirit of domination, excited by the mischief-working influence of bidders for popularity, may stifle the voice of reason and justice. There will be no lack of tribunes to urge that powerful democracy to seize on the territory left to their unfortunate neighbours, whom they have already despoiled of half the space they occupied.'

M. Chevalier has been reading the Washington stories about Southern exhaustion and the speedy triumph of the Federals. The last mails from America must have changed his opinion. But M. Chevalier is quite right in assuming that the conquest of the Confederate States would doom Mexico to lose her present chance of happiness and prosperity. The Confederacy is alone in the fight, but she does not fight for herself alone. Her independence will secure the independence of Mexico and the peace of Canada. She fights against a despotism that would make the New World the heritage of New England. She fights to found a balance of power that will make America free and prosperous, and a source of wealth and security, instead of an object of disquietude and danger, to the rest of the world.

FROM LONGSTREET'S HEAD-QUARTERS.

We are permitted to copy the following from a private letter, written by a principal member of General Longstreet's staff to a military friend in England. The letter is dated from General Longstreet's head-quarters, then in Tennessee, in January:—

As our mutual friend L. is about to cross the water, I thought I would trouble you with a line, to inform you of the progress of affairs here.

We are carrying on the war as when you were here, hopefully, though under many difficulties, but the fact is that we know full well that we must win our independence after a while, and with this consciousness impressed upon officers and men, sacrifices are borne with comparative indifference. The end must come, and when it does come, we will reap our full reward in being free from the despicable race to whom we have heretofore been bound. If a truthful history of this war could be written, with all its details, what an amount of human suffering it would unfold! You saw nothing of it in the the Pennsylvania campaign. Think of an army of 25,000, 8,000 of them cavalry, sent to drive back an enemy numerically stronger, and provided with all the appliances of war, while we were without efficient transportation, without any supplies, except the beef we could drive up within our lines, and the wheat we could haul and grind at mills from which we could expel the enemy. Our railroad communication entirely cut off by the defeat of poor unfortunate Bragg at Missionary Ridge, our very horse-shoes had to be made of old iron picked up in the country, and when that gave out we had to draw the spikes out of the railroad iron, in order to shoe our wagon horses, that they might haul wheat to mills ten or fifteen miles, and then haul the flour from ten to thirty miles to the troops. No ammunition, except a limited supply in the reserve ordnance trains: we had to economise even the lives of our enemy to protect our own. Without ambulances for the wounded, I have seen men carried on litters, through mud and rain, 23 miles to a hospital. And yet, under all these circumstances, we have held our position until the railroad communication to Richmond is nearly completed. We are now trying to build a pontoon bridge across the French Broad, to forage with our cavalry, and we have to send 80 miles by wagon road for nails and axes. No one but a military man can appreciate these difficulties: and if you add to them a scarcity of shoes, clothes, and blankets, with winter snows, and a scarcity of the supplies to be collected, you can then appreciate the leading difficulties overcome by General Longstreet in holding this portion of East Tennessee. We could hardly bear up but for the assistance given us by the Federals, but the fact is, wherever they get a foothold their atrocities are so great, and their tyranny so unlimited, that they teach us that these sacrifices are light to the humiliation and suffering we should have to bear if they were our masters. We have nothing left us but to fight on, fight ever, rather than wear the chains which they would forge for us; but now we shall bless the day of honourable peace; how sweet will be the quiet of home and the restoration of law and order! May 'Merrie England' never bear the sorrow that she may feel the joyous change. Dr. —— has just passed out, and desires to be remembered to you; —— is in Richmond, where he is no doubt at present 'over all the ills of life victorious.' —— is under the weather, having been cut off from spirituous supplies, but he is at present running a distillery on his own account, and expects in a few days to revel in rye. The General is wrapped up in his own thoughts, and looks as if he would give his kingdom for horseshoes, as that is what he chiefly lacks to make a forward movement. I am kept pretty busy devising ways and means to spread a daily repast to my hungry family, and when bad weather drives me to shelter I luxuriate in your india-rubber overcoat which —— very kindly gave me.

BUTLER'S RULE AT NORFOLK.

To the Editor of The Index.

Sir,—As you kindly inserted at my request the infamous order of one of Butler's subordinates sentencing a clergyman of the Church of England (called with us Episcopalian) to street-sweeping for seditious conduct, it is only 'giving the devil his due' to send you Butler's own order rescinding that sentence five days later. You will please observe that Butler's head-quarters, Fortress Monroe, is only a few miles from either Norfolk or Portsmouth, and in hourly communication with those places. It is, therefore, impossible that such an order should have been published without his knowledge and previous consent, and, indeed, he does not pretend to disapprove the order. He is simply acting on a hint from higher authority of the impolicy of carrying it out into execution. Please also inform your readers that the charge against the Rev. Mr. Wingfield was that he 'sat bolt upright' in the church when the compulsory prayer for the President of the United States was read. The reasons for rescinding the order are given by Butler himself as follows: 'Not because the punishment is unjust, but because its nature may be supposed to reflect on the Christian Church, which, by his connection with it, has already been too much disgraced.' Mr. Wingfield is therefore to pass the period of his sentence as a prisoner in Fortress Monroe.

I have now to enclose to you two other orders, scarcely less infamous and tyrannical. The charge against the two cashiers amounts to this, that they refused to betray the trust reposed in them professionally by customers of their respective institutions. One of the victims, Mr. Baine, is about seventy years of age; the other, Mr. Hodges, is a cripple. Think of their carrying a ball of twenty-four pounds weight on their feet.

Yours, &c., Norfolk.

Special Orders, No. 49.

Fortress Monroe, Va.: Feb. 18, 1864.

VI. W. H. W. Hodges having been Cashier of the Merchants and Mechanics Savings Bank of Portsmouth, in which were deposited the savings of the widows and orphans of the labourers of that city, and having, as such Cashier, been faithless to his trust, and having sent away into the Confederacy

the funds belonging to the Bank, and having been called upon by the Bank Commission and examined regarding the affairs of that Bank, and being asked concerning it, and declining to answer, and afterwards being brought before the Commanding General, and being by him duly cautioned as to the consequences of declining to answer, and putting at contempt the authority of the United States, but still refused to answer as to the means and manner by which, and upon by whom all funds were abstracted and lost to the depositors, and so refusing to answer:

It is Ordered, That he be confined at hard labour at Fort Hatteras, on Hatteras Island, upon the coast of North Carolina upon bread and water, with a twenty four pound ball attached to his leg by a chain not more than six feet long, until he answers the questions, and that he stand committed to the Guard House until he is removed on board the transport to be conveyed to Fort Hatteras in execution of this order.

By Command of
Major-General Butler.

R. S. Davis, A. A. G.

Special Orders, No. 49.

Fortress Monroe, Va.: Feb. 18, 1864.

VII. Geo. M. Baine, senior of that name, late Cashier of the Portsmouth Savings Fund Society, and formerly a minister of the Gospel, having had in his charge over $13,000 of the funds of said Society, which funds have been sent to Richmond, being duly inquired of by the Bank Commission investigating the affairs of said Savings Bank, as to the persons by whom and the means by which the said funds were withdrawn from the Bank, and the labourers, widows, and orphans, depositors therein, defrauded of the same, in violation of his duty, and showing contempt for authority, by refusing to disclose his accomplices in the fraud, and saying he 'proposed to suffer for them, and would not answer for fear of implicating' the other robbers of this Bank, was called before the Commanding-General, and fully and duly cautioned by him as to the consequences of declining to answer, and putting at contempt the authority of the United States; and after full deliberation the said George M. Baine, the senior of that name, still refusing to answer the question, put put to him in that behalf, or to disclose his accomplices, and nowhere putting it upon the ground that it might criminate himself:

It is Ordered, That he be confined at hard labour at Fort Hatteras, on Hatteras Island, on the coast of North Carolina, until he does answer the questions concerning the robbery of the funds of the said Bank.

No further punishment is put upon him in consideration of his age.

The said George M. Baine will stand committed to the Guard House until he is removed on board the transport-ship to be conveyed to Fort Hatteras in execution of this order.

By Command of
Major-General Butler.

R. S. Davis, A.A.G.

PRECEDENTS IN THE CASE OF THE TUSCALOOSA.

To the Editor of The Index.

Sir,—As the case of the *Tuscaloosa* is likely to occupy for some little time the attention of the public, an examination of the following enactments and cases may be found useful to show what have been the decisions of the English prize-courts in analogous circumstances:—

The Prize Act, 33 Geo. 3, c. 66, contains a section (s. 42) ordering that all ships, vessels, and goods belonging to British subjects and retaken from the enemy shall be restored to the owners on payment of salvage, 'but if such ship or vessel so retaken shall appear to have been, after the taking by His Majesty's enemies, by them set forth as a ship or vessel of war, the said ship or vessel shall not be restored to her former owners or proprietors, but shall in all cases, whether taken by any of His Majesty's ships or by any privateer, be adjudged lawful prize for the benefit of the captors.'

This statute expired at the conclusion of the then subsisting war, and was re-enacted by 43 Geo. 3, c. 60, with an additional clause, identical with that here cited. It was necessary under this section for the courts to define exactly what was a 'setting forth for war,' and what line of conduct on the part of captors would invest their prize with the character of a hostile vessel of war.

The first case reported is that of the *Horatio* (6 C. Robinson, Adm. Rep. 320), which was an English slaver, captured by three French privateers, and fitted out by them as a privateer. She was recaptured, and a claim put in by her former owners, and opposed by her recaptors under the above section. The Court held that the recaptors had no claim except to salvage, because the vessel was not *properly* 'set forth for war;' she had no commission, no commissioned officer, no further armament, her slaver's armament being deemed sufficient for privateering purposes. The mere act of putting an additional number of men on board was not sufficient to defeat the title of the original owners. (Dec. 19, 1806.)

Next comes the case of the *Ceylon* (1 Dodson, 105), an East Indiaman partially armed; she was captured by the French and taken into the neutral and *non-military* port of Johanna, where she was supplied with additional guns, and a French crew; she did good service in assisting to destroy the English blockading squadron, and was subsequently used as a prison-ship; in this capacity she was recaptured when the Isle of France was taken. In deciding whether she was or was not a ship of war, Sir William Scott said, that the words 'setting forth for war' did not necessarily mean 'sending out of port' or 'giving a regular commission.' In this case the addition of two guns, the placing of a lieutenant de vaisseau holding a military commission on board of her with a sufficient complement of men, constituted 'a setting forth for war.' There was no proof that the ship had been condemned by a competent court, but he (Sir William Scott) was bound to presume that she was regularly condemned, as she had remained so long in the possession of the enemy. (Nov. 15, 1811.)

The *Courrier* (1 Dodson, 67), a whaler, was captured by the American frigate *Essex*. Captain Porter, the commander of the *Essex*, *without carrying the Courrier into port* or taking out her crew, equipped her with additional guns and sixty men, and employed her under the command of one of his lieutenants against other British vessels in those seas, three of which were by that means actually taken. On her recapture by a British ship it was urged for the captors that the capture by the *Essex* was unlawful, because Captain Porter was on his station, and was not acting under the immediate order of his Government. Sir William Scott said: 'Captain Porter was cruising in those seas, and how he could do it by no means material.' A further objection was urged that Captain Porter had commissioned the *Courrier* in his own sole authority. The learned Judge answered that we had allowed (in the case of the *Ceylon*) a commission by an admiral in command of two or three ships to be valid: *he could not see why a commission issued by the commander of a single ship should be less good.* Judgment that she was a hostile ship of war, and therefore lawful prize to the recaptors.

It is satisfactory to know that on such clear and unmistakable precedents the *Tuscaloosa* is secure from miserable litigation and persecution.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Lincoln's Inn. Lex.

THE NEGRO'S PLACE IN NATURE.

(From the *Reader* of March 19.)

I have read with much admiration Professor Huxley's clever letter which appears in the *Reader* of this day; yet, while awarding him all the praise due to such a brilliant display of forensic talent, I must still confess that the stern facts seem to me to be altogether untouched, in spite of the special pleader's device to which he has resorted, alluding to my letter as a plea of '*guilty*' to charges which he, nevertheless, leaves totally unsubstantiated.

To the broadside of objurgatory invective which, be it remembered, was originally levelled from that 'Coward's Castle,' the Hustings, I can only offer the invulnerable defence of the naked truth.

I shall dismiss Mr. Huxley's frivolous objection to the extract from the lady's letter before quoted with the single remark that it (which I still hold to be very intelligent) bears on its surface the unmistakable evidence of never having been designed, any more than it was brought forward by me, as a scientific premise, and I clearly stated the reasons for which I quoted it. With regard to the courteous insinuation of Professor Huxley that I cited an essay of M. Gubler's which I had never read, its true value will at once appear when I simply affirm that I never cited M. Gubler at all.

It is some consolation for me to know that the stigma of 'public condemnation' has been affixed to my paper by one who shows little respect for any authority except his own, and utterly ignores the teaching of all those laborious investigators and truth-loving philosophers, the anthropologists of France.

Surely it is at least inconsistent that Mr. Huxley, while disclaiming any attacks on my scientific honesty, should yet on the same page profess his readiness to exchange for 'broad assertion' his original insinuation that my 'views were brought forward in behalf of the slaveholding interest.'

I cheerfully accept the challenge, and, while defying Mr. Huxley to make good his calumny, I at the same time totally and expressly deny that I have any other aim, object, or interest in the opinions which I have propounded than the destruction of error and the advancement of truth.

The gentlemanly feeling for which I still give Professor Huxley credit will, I am sure, dictate to him the necessity of either withdrawing or proving the charge he has here brought forward.

Although I am no more a Southern agent than Mr. Huxley is a Northern one, I yet maintain my views unchanged—views radically opposed to those expressed by Mr. Huxley in his assertion that 'the North is justified in any expenditure of blood or of treasure which shall eradicate a system hopelessly inconsistent with the moral elevation, the political freedom, or the economical progress of the American people'—thus reiterating in the teeth of incontestable facts the usual fanatical language of the Abolitionists.

In the first place, every child in this country knows that the North is not fighting for the abolition of slavery, and fortunately the history of the Southern States is sufficient to invalidate each and all of Professor Huxley's gratuitous assertions with regard to the effects of the slaveholding system; for in the slave States the moral elevation both of the European and the negro is far higher than in the free States; and it seems hard to reconcile these words of Professor Huxley with those which he gives utterance to in another passage, where he challenges our sympathetic admiration for the Southerner as exhibiting in a very high degree the 'indomitable courage and self-denying persistence'—surely no despicable moral qualities. It is true, indeed, that the South is not favourable to the system of Abraham Lincoln and his bullies, which seems to be the lecturer's ideal of 'political freedom.'

Finally, it is difficult to conceive that Professor Huxley can be ignorant of the fact, demonstrable by the merest tyro, that the greatness of the Euro-American nation is almost entirely to be ascribed to the cultivation of the rich lands of the Southern States by the negro, territories such as Louisiana and Florida, quite incapable of being worked by the European, while at the same time Mr. Huxley's pet Government has demonstrated to us most conclusively that the negro will not work except under compulsion.

Although conscious that the subjects considered in the Negro's Place in Nature, from their extent, might well tax the energies of even the highest intellect, I submit that, in the expression of my opinions on the subject—the result of no hasty investigations—I was at least entitled to more courteous treatment than the charge of ignorance of Physics and Anthropology, and incapacity for understanding the subject I was treating. Mr. Huxley appears to mistake abuse for argument: but I shall not degrade myself by following his example. The real cause of this extraordinary and ill-tempered attack on myself and my friend Mr. Blake seems to have leaked out in the conclusion of Professor Huxley's letter, so that I should be almost justified in taking Professor Huxley's words in a 'natural sense' when he says he awaits 'in fear and trembling' [illegible] of the next number of the *Anthropological Review*.

I trust the Council will duly respond to the appeal of every [illegible]

James Hunt.

Oct. Hunt, 1st Hussars. March 12, 1864.

THE EMPIRE OF MEXICO.

(From the *Spectator* of March 26.)

For [illegible] years [illegible] empire of Mexico would have [illegible] the most [illegible] in the [illegible] of the Atlantic. [illegible] United States would have [illegible] to [illegible] body [illegible] the Pacific of Mexico [illegible] a monarchy of which an American would be [illegible] The civilized world would have [illegible] the [illegible] of such a solution on the part of [illegible] most powerful existing [illegible] of political society. Yesterday [illegible] and yet it [illegible] so [illegible] as it were, two great [illegible] by the Atlantic [illegible] the American continent. To-day [illegible] two [illegible] severed into two parts, [illegible] were for [illegible] history [illegible] to [illegible] in reference to the [illegible] of the [illegible] attend the [illegible] or the [illegible] of the [illegible] likely to follow [illegible] the struggle. The [illegible] of the two [illegible] the [illegible] of hopeless [illegible] by [illegible] and [illegible] vanished with the [illegible] but to a [illegible] [illegible] administered, yields almost without a struggle to the [illegible] of a foreign power, and, with an appearance of [illegible] on the part of its [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] any epoch in their career as a [illegible] [illegible] people, they cross the Atlantic and the entire continent of Europe to call a Hapsburg Prince from his quiet home upon the far-away shores of the Mediterranean to be their monarch. Within the brief period of a few weeks the first crowned head since the fall of the Montezumas for the brief career of Iturbide is hardly worth notice—will occupy the throne of Mexico.

Will the new Emperor be able to establish a firm and a good Government out of the materials before him? Considering this question only in reference to its internal aspect, we can discover no cause which would render such a result improbable. Mexico has, through a long series of convulsions and revolutions, reached a point of imbecility when to reject the monarchy would be to court dissolution. Just as an individual, who after a long career of reckless dissipation and life-destroying excesses, finding himself prostrate, and his vital powers almost extinguished, accepts, with an instinctive love of life, the medicine which may restore him to health and strength, so may it be expected to be with the Mexican nation. It is not, then, from within that we may anticipate any serious impediment to the establishment of the empire. A people thus united by a common necessity, a common desire, and a common danger, constitute materials out of which it is not unreasonable to hope that a Government may be constructed, and Mexico again restored to her lost position in the family of nations. There is a danger, however, of startling magnitude which will confront the new Emperor from the very commencement of his career. Upon the manner of meeting and combatting this danger on the part of Maximilian, and that of his protector and ally, the Emperor of the French, will depend the duration of the monarchy which they propose to establish. The empire of Mexico cannot separate itself altogether from the cause by which it was produced. Owing its very existence to the gigantic war which is desolating the late great Federal Republic, its progress will be to a certain extent dependent upon the incidents, as its fate will be eventually decided by the result, of that war.

The prevailing sentiment amongst the people of the North is, of course, decidedly hostile to the establishment of any stable government in Mexico, but more especially to the creation of a monarchy. The Radical party carry this hostility to the extreme limit of a bitter and uncompromising opposition. From amongst thousands of similar evidences of the public sentiment of the Northern people, we extract the following paragraph from a speech delivered by General Fremont on the last day of February to a crowded audience assembled in the Cooper Institute, New York. It will be remembered that General Fremont was the Republican candidate for the Presidency in 1856, and that he is at this moment a leading contestant for that prize in the approaching election. As a recognised oracle of the dominant party, and the probable President of the United States in 1865, his deliberately expressed opinions may well be pondered by the rulers of the Mexican Empire in deciding upon the line of policy to be adopted in regard to the two great warring republics. General Fremont said: 'Indications during the past year have led us to infer a disposition towards friendliness on the part of England. This may come in part from an opposition to French policy, and more recently from that necessity for an ally which England begins to feel. But we believe it mainly due to the efforts of this class that she is still in a position to render an alliance between us possible. We recognise this influence in the check it has given to Southern sympathisers among them, and we take pleasure in believing that it has been under pressure of the same influence that England withdrew from all alliance with the attempt to place an Austrian throne upon the ruins of a sister republic—an attempt which shocks the public sentiment of this country, and is eminently hostile to the stability of its institutions.' In the South, on the contrary, up to the present moment, the project for the establishment of the monarchy has met with no opposition from any quarter, and has been received with most decided marks of favour by the great body of the public.

It must be manifest to the most casual observer that the only possible security for the permanence of the new order of things in Mexico will consist in the eventual severance of the South from the North. The Mexican Empire would never have existed but for the determined effort of the South to establish its own independence, and it would perish upon the instant were that struggle to terminate in its resubjugation. The Emperor Maximilian, but for the heroic struggle of the South, would never have been called to the throne of of Mexico, and by Southern valour and Southern successes alone

can he maintain his power. To the permanent establishment of that power two things, and only two things, are necessary—First, the independence, and second, the friendship of the South. Not all the resources of the French nation, wielded even by the sagacity of a Napoleon, could perpetuate the monarchy upon the failure of either of these conditions of its existence. Under such a state of incontrovertible facts we may well doubt the rumours to which the recent visit of Maximilian to the Emperor of the French has given rise, to the effect that these two sagacious rulers have entered into an arrangement with the representative of the United States, by which the latter is to offer no opposition to the establishment of the empire, upon conditions agreed to by the former which would place them in an attitude of at least negative hostility to the South. The Government of the United States, under the pressure of present exigencies, may accord a hollow and a deceitful acquiescence in the new order of things, but upon the instant that pressure shall be removed, no effort will be spared to sweep the new empire away, just as the late feeble republic will have been obliterated by the monarchy. Even though the pledges or promises of President Lincoln, implied or expressed, possessed of themselves an intrinsic value, the preannounced policy of his probable successor, made in admitted conformity to the notorious sympathies of the nation, may well cause the Emperor of the French and the new Monarch of Mexico to ponder long before they decide to shape their policy in accordance with the desires of the Federal Government. If, then, on the one hand, they have little of good to hope for, let them consider, upon the other side, that the existence of such a league or understanding as the rumours referred to declare to have been established, would at once and for ever alienate the South, and convert its present kindly feelings towards the new empire into an antagonism as intense and even more irreconcilable than that which now animates General Fremont and the great body of the people of the North.

It is true that nations, like individuals, often seek to make profit out of the misfortunes which befal their neighbours. True, they often lavish their smiles upon powerful enemies, and turn the cold shoulder upon friends whose misfortunes may be supposed to have deprived their friendship of immediate value. But it is a short-sighted policy, even viewed in the mere light of expediency, to adopt such a line of action as, without a reasonable prospect of changing the adversary into a friend, incurs the hazard of converting the friend into an adversary. It is precisely because the policy ascribed to the two Emperors would just as certainly fail in winning the favour of the United States as it would forfeit the friendship of the South now and for ever, that we refuse, without other and more reliable testimony than mere deductions from isolated and possibly unconsidered acts, to credit the existence of the arrangement referred to.

Southerners have been led to regard the establishment of the empire in Mexico with a large measure of favour from two considerations. First, becamse it suggested a well-grounded hope that it would be the means of establishing a stable and well-ordered governments upon the Southern border; and secondly, because they believed that as friends and allies they would be each a mutual protection against the ambitious designs of their powerful neighbour. They believed that the existence of three great Powers in North America would afford a reasonable guarantee for the preservation of a balance of power which would secure each in its own rights and liberty for all. These favourable dispositions were augmented by the reputed ability and general character of the new monarch, and it says much for him that those who knew him best were the most zealous in their efforts to instil these feelings and opinions into the minds of the Southern people. If Maximilian enters upon the discharge of the high trust confided to him animated by similar sentiments, and with a determination to establish and to maintain friendly relations with the Southern Confederacy, the favour with which he is now regarded in the South will ripen into a friendship which will do much to smooth the difficulties of his arduous task. We do not, of course, mean that any alliance between Mexico and the Confederacy should involve either one in the quarrels or the wars of the other. Such an alliance would be not only impolitic but wholly unnecessary, unless in the improbable contingency of their being assailed by a common enemy. In that event they would be allies, not from choice but from necessity. What we mean to say is, that the Emperor of Mexico should maintain a rigid, strict, and impartial neutrality between the North and the South. Whatever relations he may seek to establish with the one he should endeavour likewise to establish with the other. If he invites the one to accredit a diplomatic representative to his Court, he should extend a similar invitation to the other. By these means, and these alone, may he secure the respect of both, and perpetuate the good will which so generally prevails throughout the Confederate States towards him and the great scheme of regeneration with which he is identified.

If it should be believed that the United States would resent such impartial neutrality, it should also be borne in mind that the friendship of the South can be secured in no other way. The latter may not at the present moment be in a condition to resent a slight or an insult, but the former is equally powerless to dictate the policy of the new empire. The United States might, under such circumstances, forget, because they would be in the wrong, while the South could scarcely be expected to forgive an offence which was committed against her in deference to the wishes or the requirements of her enemy. The South is maintaining to-day her heroic struggle for independence, is virtually fighting the battles of at least one nation from which she has met with no return save insult and wrong, accompanied by a constant concession to the arrogant demands of her adversary. It is to be hoped, in the interest of the great cause which has been undertaken by the Emperor of the French and the Archduke Maximilian, that the example of the British Government will not be contagious, and that the policy of those who have assumed the direction of the destinies of Mexico will not be so moulded as to forfeit the friendship of the South by refusing to extend to her the same respectful consideration which may be accorded to the United States. It is not even primarily in the interests of the Confederate States that we desire to witness the adoption of the policy we have indicated. On the contrary, if we consider only the exigencies of the moment, it is impossible to imagine a contingency in which the new Empire of Mexico could afford the slightest aid to the South in her present struggle. But it is in the interests of Mexico, whose continued existence as a monarchy is and must be dependent upon the attitude occupied towards her by the Southern Republic, that we would deprecate a line of conduct which would divert the current of public sentiment in the South into a different and opposite channel from that in which it now flows.

THE NEGRO.

(From the *Richmond Examiner*, Feb. 25.)

It was officially stated in the last Congress that in all the localities of the Confederacy where the enemy had obtained a foothold, the negroes had been reduced by mortality during the war to not more than one-half their previous number.

The remark has recently obtained not only some striking illustrations, but an official addition to it of the most melancholy interest. The Governor of Louisiana, in his official message, has recently published to the world the appalling fact, that more negroes have perished in Louisiana from the cruelty and brutality of the public enemy than the combined number of white men, in both armies, from the casualties of war. In illustration, he states, that when our forces surprised and captured Berwick's Bay, last summer, they found about two thousand negroes there in a state of the most utter destitution, many of them so emaciated and sick that they died before the tender humanity of the Confederates could be applied to their rescue from death.

The fate of these poor wretches is to be attributed to sheer inhumanity. The Yankees had abundant supplies of food, medicines, and clothing at hand, but they did not apply them to the comfort of the negro, who, once entitled to the farce of 'freedom,' was of no more consequence to them than any other beast with a certain amount of useful labour in his anatomy.

The immoral practice of the enemy in the parts of the Confederacy he has invaded is to separate the families of the blacks without notice. Governor Moore officially testifies to this practice in Louisiana. The men are driven off like so many cattle to a Yankee camp, and are enlisted in the Yankee army. The women and children are likewise driven off in droves, and put upon what are called 'Government plantations'—that is, plantations from which the lawful owners have been forced to fly, and which the Yankees in Louisiana are cultivating.

The Yankees have fairly unmasked to the world their ferocious insincerity on the subject of slavery. Intelligent persons in Europe do not now fail to perceive it; and one of the benefits of this war is that it is developing a statistical and moral defence of our peculiar institution, which sentimentalism will assail in vain, and which the most adventurous representation can never surmount.

MONEY NOT TO BE A DRUG.

(From the *Richmond Examiner*, Feb. 23.)

The currency has reached its highest inflation. If the laws are but enforced, it must now, at last, begin rapidly to contract its volume. If faithfully executed, the laws just enacted must have the effect of withdrawing from circulation some $800,000,000 of paper money; replacing it with a new currency of only about a third the amount. The future expenses of Government are to be defrayed by taxation and by the sale of bonds; the disastrous practice of paying every debt with new current notes being suspended.

The collection of several hundred millions of dollars from the country cannot but make money scarce and dearer. Prices must soon begin to fall. Speculation has reached its zenith. As many fortunes are now to be lost as have been made during the progress of the late protracted inflation. For a long time speculation has been so safe that a fool could not go amiss, and the veriest dunces who chose to engage in operations on the market made fortunes. Now, the few shrewd ones only will save themselves, and the many simple ones will lose what they have gained.

All this supposes, however, that the laws will be enforced; or more particularly, that the taxes will be speedily and rigidly collected. Happily for the country an energetic exaction of the taxes will effect the highest benefit that Government could confer upon the people. The pecuniary condition of the public, collectively and individually, will be improved by taking from them the principal part of the money in their possession. An operation of this sort performed by the Government on an individual or a class, would be an injury. The same operation performed upon the whole community, by a power other than Government, which would not remove from circulation the money taken, would also be an injury, and be attended by no compensating advantage. But when Government takes away from all alike, and cancels a large portion of the currency, ruined by redundancy, then a positive benefit is conferred—even though the taxation, under other circumstances, would have appeared appallingly oppressive and crushing. If the taxes be faithfully collected, then the people will find that one dollar left will buy as much as three did before—the loss in amount being fully compensated by the gain in value.

The sufferers by the tax and by the contraction of prices and currency will not be the tax-payers—will not be the people; but will be the speculators. These last have had their saturnalia; tribulation is now in store for them. The prudent ones will reef sails and make ready for the storm; the rash and headstrong, spoiled by success, will go into new ventures. Since finance has had a history, contractions of the currency have invariably been attended by collapse and bankruptcy. The contraction about to be witnessed in the circulation of the Confederacy, will bring its harvest of disastrous adventures, crushed hopes, and blasted fortunes. The effect will be as withering as that of frost upon the prurient vegetation of premature spring.

Among the business classes of this city, the prevailing disposition of the moment is to change money into property at very high rates. This temper will not last long. Very soon money will be anything but a drug. By the time a third is taken off the value of all Treasury notes, and the taxes of two years are collected in one payment—taxes as heavy as to be really a forced loan—money will be anything but plentiful. Large numbers of people have little cash on hand. These will have to sell property to raise the means of paying taxes. Much property will be thrown into market at reduced prices. These will decline, and the more promising speculations will shrivel into losses.

When several hundred millions of taxes are to be paid, it is folly to say that Confederate money is of no worth. As it begins to disappear by absorption into the Treasury it will become of great worth, and be in most urgent demand. Then the men who have squandered their funds at fabulous prices upon property which, in former times, they would not have touched at any price, will regret their want of thought and want of sense. How can several hundred millions of taxes be drawn from the people without producing an eager and exhausting demand for money? Money will not long be a drug; it will be the very thing which everybody will want, which everybody must have, which very many will have to buy with property or borrow on mortgage.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL & COMMERCIAL.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

Wednesday Evening.

The money market has been comparatively easy during the last few days, and the applications for discount both at the Bank and in the open market have been moderate. At one time there was an expectation that the Bank rate might probably be reduced to-morrow, but some large parcels of gold having been taken off the market to send abroad, it is not now considered likely that any change will be made this week. Still there is a good supply remaining on hand. The brokers are obtaining 5¾ to 5⅞ for the discount of the best bills, and the joint stock banks are making advances at 5¾ per cent. On the Stock Exchange money is rather plentiful, and short loans from day to day have been negotiated at 3 to 4 per cent., but the demand for accommodation having increased, the terms have advanced to 4½ to 5 per cent.

THE NEW MEXICAN LOAN.

The Stock Exchange has been greatly excited, within the last day or two, with reference to the terms and arrangement of the new Mexican loan. Although it will not be formally introduced till after the holidays, it has been officially announced this afternoon that the loan will be for 8,000,000*l.* in a 6 per cent. stock, at the price of 63. The Emperor Maximilian having appointed Messrs. Glyn & Co. as his financial agents, they have arranged with the International Financial Association its issue. It is mentioned that some very important Paris houses will take part in the operation.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market for this stock has been very firm, again advancing to 54 to 56. This improvement has been followed by a slight relapse, and we close 51 to 53, with but little doing.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The bullion and specie movements continue to be of a very satisfactory character, and as there appears to be increased ease in the money market, the prospects of a speedy reduction in the rate of discount have increased. The amount of gold sent into the Bank this week has been 549,000*l.*, and the withdrawals have been only 40,000 sovereigns for transmission to Alexandria. The arrivals of gold have not been very large, only 78,925*l.*, all from New York. The shipments of specie by the last mail for the East amounted to 175,470*l.*, of which 129,610*l.* was silver, and 45,860*l.* gold. The proportions were as follows: 3,860*l.* for India, 129,610*l.* for the Straits and China, 12,000*l.* for Alexandria, and 30,000*l.* for Mauritius. The silver market has been rather more active, and the bar silver brought by the last West Indian packet has been sold at 61½*d.* per oz., being an advance of ⅛*d.* on previous sales; some large purchases have also been made for Bombay, at 61½*d.* and 61⅝*d.* per oz., in consequence of the nature of the advices from India, Mexican dollars have been in some demand at 5*s.* 3½*d.* per oz. The following gold ships are advised as on their way from Australia:—*Jasson*, with 64,000*l.*; *Great Victoria*, with 73,000*l.*; *Essex*, with 93,000*l.*; *Calliance*, with 55,000*l.*; *Moravian*, with 17,000*l.*; and the *Agincourt*, with 12,500*l.*; being a total of 314,500*l.*

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The English Stock Market has been well supported throughout the week; business has been tolerably active, though prices have not exhibited any material variation. Consols closed this evening at 91½ for money, and 91⅝ to 91¾ for the account, which is as nearly as possible the same as on this day week. Exchequer Bills are not quite so good, having receded from 8*s.* to 3*s.* dis. There has been more animation shown in the Foreign Stock Market, where a large speculative business has been transacted in most of the leading descriptions, particularly in Mexican, which have still further advanced about ½ per cent. on the report of the new loan, and the prospect of a satisfactory arrangement of the existing debt. Greek has also been largely dealt in; but the price has declined ½ per cent. Spanish have likewise declined, the Passives ⅞ per cent., and the Certificates ¼. Turkish, on the other hand, have improved about 1 per cent. The final quotations this evening were:—Greek, 23½ to 24; Mexican, 44½ to 45; Spanish Passives, 35⅝ to 35⅞; Do. Certificates, 13⅜ to 13⅝; Turkish 6 per cents. (1854) 93 to 94, and Do. (1862) 71¼ to 71¾.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

In the early part of the week the transactions in American Government and Railway Securities were to a fair average extent; but, within the last two or three days, the advices from America being of an unfavourable character with regard to Federal prospects, business has become nearly stagnant, but, nevertheless, prices are fairly supported. The transactions recorded are as follows:—United States 6 per cents., 61¼; Virginia State, 32¾ and 33; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York Section, 80; Do. do., Pennsylvania do., 81, 81¼, and 80; Erie, $100 shares, all paid, 66½, 67, and 67½; Illinois Central, 85 and 85½; Do. $100 shares, $90 paid, 15¼; Marietta and Cincinnati Railway, 72; and Pennsylvania Railway, first mortgage, 88 and 88½.

Liverpool: Wednesday, March 23.

The cotton market has presented a more active appearance than for some time past. The demand for both trade and exporters having been to a considerable extent, and stimulating the operations at Manchester, has given more general confidence. During nearly the whole of the week prices have been improving, but to-day there has been less animation, and a decline of about ½*d.* per lb. has taken place. The sales this week have been 39,000 bales, of which 16,500 were on speculation and for export. The total sales this year down to the present time have been 421,910 bales, and to the same period in 1863, 370,080 bales. There have been imported this year 336,178 bales, and to the corresponding period last year, 238,770 bales. The exports this year have been 64,710 bales, last year they were 66,657 bales. Taken for consumption this year, 292,000 bales; same period in 1863, 180,300 bales. Taken on speculation this year, 64,270 bales, against 107,780 last year. The computed stocks at the present time are 260,660 bales, in 1863 they were 378,280 bales. By advices from Bombay to 27th ult., we learn that the ships *City of Benares* and *Eagle* had been engaged to load cotton for Liverpool, and the exportation for the fortnight had been: *Queen of Beauty*, with 5,295 bales; *Elizabeth Fry*, with 4,818 bales; *Slieve Donard*, with 7,855 bales; *Dorothy*, with 2,901 bales; *Red Jacket*, with 5,141 bales; *Radnagore*, with 3,528 bales; and *Eagle*, with 3,165 bales, all for Liverpool; the *Malvern*, with 155 bales, and the *St. Hilda*, with 1,651 bales, for London; and the *Charlotte*, with 2,075 bales, for Falmouth. There had also sailed for Liverpool, the *Royal Alfred*, *Eliza Bencke*, and *Mogul*, but as they only cleared on the 26th their cargoes are not given. Forty-one vessels were loading for Liverpool. The closing quotations this evening were: American, 24¾*d.* to 26¼*d.*; Pernambuco, 26¼*d.* to 26¾*d.*; Maranhams, 26*d.* to 27*d.*; Maccio and Bahia, 25*d.* to 25½*d.*; Egyptian, 26½*d.*;

Smyrna, 21⅞*d.* to 23*d.* China, 18*d.* to 18½*d.*; Peruvian, 26¼*d.* to 26½*d.*; and Surats, 13½*d.* to 23⅜*d.*

The Manchester markets have been greatly influenced during the past week by the increasing importations of cotton, and their probable influence on business and prices. These heavy arrivals, in conjunction with the unfavourable commercial advices from Bombay and Calcutta, have seriously affected business. The yarn market has been very quiet, with little or no business doing in shipping descriptions. Spinners, however, having been placed well under contract by the orders obtained during the temporary improvement which took place in the early part of last week, have shown no disposition within the last day or two to press sales. The market is certainly weaker, and to have forced sales, sellers would have had to take lower prices than they accepted last week. In the coarser counts of home trade descriptions prices have again declined. In fine counts there is no material change, but the market is flat. In the cloth market during the last two days business has been unusually flat. There has been an entire absence of business, but a stronger apprehension as to the stability of prices than they have hitherto been willing to acknowledge. Buyers have not only abstained from making purchases, but they have refrained from making any offers as to which there was the least probability of acceptance. The quotations asked are merely nominal. Manufacturers do not hold large stocks, and they do not press sales, and it is the general impression that, were manufacturers desirous of realising, they would be unable to obtain anything like the prices they are asking.

A private letter from a Confederate gentleman at Bermuda, by the last mail, contains the following:—"By recent arrivals from the coast our people are reported to be in fine spirits, making vigorous preparations for the opening of the spring campaign. All the depleted regiments are being rapidly filled, and a spirit of enthusiasm pervades the army, which has reacted most favourably on the whole country. What has transpired in Congress you will have learned from the Northern papers. The restrictions of the exportation of cotton, if carried out, will have an important effect on our credit abroad and on our currency at home. With a little more patience, a little more suffering, a little more hard work, and a favouring Providence, we may soon be able to return to our peaceful homes, and watch the course of retributive justice in other countries. The recent heavy losses of blockade steamers has resulted more from carelessness than any additional hazard. Fortunately none of them fell into the hands of the enemy.

Our readers will remember a story, some weeks ago brought to this country by the Northern papers, of a conspiracy to assassinate President Davis, discovered in Richmond. The story was based upon the arrest, by some officious Richmond policeman, of two vagabond Germans, who appear to have talked treason with a view of getting a night's lodging and a full meal in the town gaol. The *Richmond Examiner* of Feb. 19 reports their examination before the Mayor, and anything more pitiably inconsistent with the character of conspirators than these two forlorn Teutons, cannot well be imagined. Of course they were dismissed, after having enjoyed a week's board at the expense of the municipal authorities.

THE STEAMER DENBIGH.—We are glad to learn that this steamer, reported to be ashore and a wreck in her late attempt to run out of this port in a fog, is not damaged to the extent supposed. She has been relieved of her cargo, and is now afloat, and is expected up to-day. The enemy's fleet discovering her unfortunate position tried to vent their spite upon her. They succeeded in hitting her but once in her wheelhouse, doing her no damage. She was defended by the guns of Fort Morgan, which succeeded in putting three shots in one of the blockaders and driving the rest off. The enemy's ship that was struck was sent off in the direction of Pensacola, supposed to be disabled. The energy of General Higgins and his command in defending the unfortunate ship is highly commended. *Mobile Register.*

CAPTAIN JOHN C. CALHOUN, of the 4th Regiment South Carolina Cavalry, exposes, in a card addressed to the *Charleston Mercury*, a Yankee trick, which for rank absurdity could probably not be matched in the military history of any other nation. It appears to have been long a cherished design to force or to entrap the Confederates into communication with the negro-regiments stationed at various points of the coast, and whom the Confederates decline to recognise as lawful combatants. With this view, in December last, Major Trowbridge, commanding one of these negro regiments, sent a flag of truce under the assumed name of Captain Filler, 55th Pennsylvania, to the nearest Confederate post. Receiving a flag of truce in return, he still personated this fictitious character, and it was only when the business had been transacted, that he avowed his real name and position. Whereupon the Yankee press chuckles over the acuteness which has entrapped the Confederates into officially recognising the officers in command of negro troops.

THE NEGRO IN THE SOUTH.—The severity with which masters treat their slaves in the South may be judged from the statement of Mr. Edward S. Philbrick, Superintendent of cotton lands on St. Helena Island, S. C., published in the *New York Post*. He had 400 labourers under his charge, and he says: 'Many have done, habitually, double the amount of work they were formerly required to do by their masters in a day, and, as they say, with no more fatigue.' What Northern free labourer could double the amount of work required of him by his employer, and yet remain unfatigued? This report, by the way, though written by a man who is as much of an Abolitionist as is consistent with any practical talent, contains many other facts of importance, which, coming from such a source, are especially valuable. For instance, Mr. Philbrick has found out, contrary to Abolition dicta, but in accordance with all experience, that 'the natural tendency of the freed negro is to rest satisfied with supplying his simple wants, which he can do in the Southern States with a very small amount of labour.' He thinks this may be overcome by a trick analogous to that of fastening a bunch of hay so that it will swing before an ass just out of reach, to make him go on. 'This fault is easily corrected by bringing within his reach, by purchase at low rates, articles which minister to new and civilised wants, stimulating industry for the sake of gratifying his newly acquired tastes.' Mr. Philbrick only needs a little longer experience to satisfy himself that this scheme will not work permanently, or with any certainty.—*Boston Courier*, March 4.

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THERE are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellowmen.

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AMERICA.

SOME curious revelations have come to our knowledge about the remonstrance which Her Majesty's Government has announced its intention to address to that of the Confederate States, upon the basis of an alleged Report of the Confederate Secretary of the Navy, which is denounced by the Confederates in Europe as a forgery. It will be remembered that the recall of three of the four British Consuls within the Confederate jurisdiction, and the dismissal by the Confederate Government of the fourth and last remaining, left the Foreign Office no alternative but to communicate with the authorities at Richmond by a special envoy. For this delicate mission Mr. Crawford, Her Majesty's Consul-General at Havannah, was selected, and it must be admitted that in this selection Earl Russell displayed far more tact and discretion than he has of late been able to claim credit for. Mr. Crawford, both before and since the war, has been well and favourably known in the Southern States, and is universally esteemed there. Few persons, therefore, could have been found better adapted to discharge so disagreeable a duty without giving offence. Before, however, proceeding in person to Richmond, he was instructed to acquaint the Confederate Government with the nature of his communication, and ascertain whether it would be received. For this purpose the steamer *Petrel* was sent to a Confederate port; but was peremptorily refused admission by the Federal blockading squadron, on the ground that no direct communication with the Confederate authorities by a foreign Government could be permitted. Here the matter stands at present, and it leaves Earl Russell in no very agreeable or dignified dilemma. It is generally believed in Confederate circles that the object of the Washington Government is to delay as long as possible the official exposure of the forgery, which must inevitably ensue on the presentation of a remonstrance based upon a document to which the name of the Confederate Secretary of the Navy is fraudulently appended.

THE steamer *Denbigh*, lately reported lost, but subsequently announced as having safely returned to port without material injury, has since succeeded in running the blockade at Mobile, and arrived at Havannah, on March 14, with over 400 bales of cotton in redemption of bonds of the Erlanger 7 per cent. Cotton Loan. This enterprise, which was initiated by the firm of H. O. Brewer & Co. of Mobile, is the first of a series of experiments, on a larger and increasing scale, for exporting the cotton pledged to the redemption of the Confederate three-million loan.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL GRANT has been adopted by Mr. Lincoln as the man for the crisis. Halleck is removed from the post of Commander-in-Chief, and assigned to other duties. Two hundred thousand more men have been called for, with the threat of a draft if they are not raised by the 15th of April. General Sherman is to command in the West. Something must be done before the nomination for the Presidency in June.

There are other reasons for extraordinary energy and desperate efforts. Banks, compelled to abandon Texas, is threatened in Louisiana. The failure of the attack on Mobile sets free the armies of Generals Polk and Maury in Mississippi and Alabama. Johnston, at last accounts, was advancing on Chattanooga. The Federals were expecting an attack in North Carolina, and Longstreet, with a large mounted force, appeared to threaten Kentucky.

The veteran troops in the Confederate service are stated, in careful estimates, at 224,000, and 120,000 recently added conscripts make up an army of 344,000 men, better armed, clothed, supplied, and all accounts say with a better *morale*, than at any former period. The Government of the Confederate States, judging from Southern and Northern statements, was never so strong, the army never so efficient, and the spirit of the people never so united and unconquerable as at the present moment.

THE occurrence of a Presidential Election at the crisis of the war is felt to be so full of danger to the North, that there is a strong disposition to postpone it to a more convenient season; but, though the Republicans might adopt this plan, the Democrats would probably still go to the polls and elect their candidate, who, in due time, would claim admission at the White House. But even if Mr. Lincoln were disposed to adopt the theory of Mr. Seward, and hold over on the plea that he had not yet filled the office of President of the United States, to which a sectional minority elected him, there are other Republican candidates who might not be satisfied with such an arrangement. Mr. Chase has withdrawn, but in a fashion so equivocal and suspicious that no one would be surprised to see his name on the list of candidates at Baltimore. Mass meetings are held and organs established in the interest of General Fremont, who, though not much of a soldier, is not to be despised as a political aspirant. General Banks is strong in New England, while General Butler is considered by many to embody, more completely than any other candidate, the spirit of the war and the ruling popular opinion.

THE 'fire in the rear,' long dreaded by the partisans of the Lincoln Government, grows annoying. The damaging criticisms of the Democratic press upon the conduct of the war, and official corruptions, and despotism, have excited Republican mobs in several places in Ohio and Indiana, some of which have been accompanied, not only with the destruction of newspaper offices, but loss of life. Leading Democratic papers have urged the party to organise for defence and retaliation, and the threatenings of a conflict between the war and peace parties have alarmed the Government. A feeling of bitter hostility is also growing between the West and East, not only among civilians, but in the army. The burdens of war and taxes fall heavily upon the West, while it reaps comparatively few advantages in offices, contracts, and profitable manufactures. Western troops with Eastern officers are disgusted at being employed to guard the plantations on the lower Mississippi, worked by forced negro labour for the benefit of Yankee contractors.

THERE are many indications that the war, during the campaign now commenced, will be conducted with extraordinary vigour; but there is also much reason to dread that it will be conducted with increased ferocity. As a rule, the Southern armies have borne themselves with chivalry and forbearance. They have suffered much—they have seldom retaliated. Contrast the conduct of the Confederate army in Pennsylvania, where General Lee was seen mending a fence with his own hands, and protecting cherry trees, with the miserable raid of Kilpatrick and Dahlgren, whose followers, while contemplating wholesale arson and murder, found time to rob henroosts, pocket spoons, rip open feather beds, tear clothing from little children, and break up the tools of poor mechanics, in their career of crimes from insult and petty larceny to rape and murder. To hope that such deeds will not be revenged—that a vindictive retaliation from a sense of justice will not at some time take the place of forbearance and mercy—is to expect too much of human nature.

The truth is, the two parties engaged in the war have been fighting upon different theories. The South has resisted the North for three years, as an enemy to be repulsed and driven from her soil; but the North has made war upon the South, as upon felons to be punished—as upon men whose rights, liberties, property, and lives were already forfeited—as a nation of outlaws. For their own convenience they have recognised them, to a certain extent, as belligerents, but this recognition has been only partial. According to the Northern theory, they are not citizens of sovereign States and an independent Government fighting for their rights, but rebels on the land and pirates on the sea, against whom every outrage is allowable.

THE failure of the expedition of General Sherman, though apparently not accompanied by any considerable losses in men or artillery, was still one of a very damaging character. It had been prepared with great care and at a heavy expenditure. Picked troops were furnished with light arms and condensed rations. Sixty-four pieces of artillery were made as light and strong as possible. At the end of a twenty days' march, this army found itself at Meridian, the village deserted, supplies removed, General Polk entrenched on the opposite side of the Tombigbee, Montgomery fortified, an army moving to protect Selma, and a large and active cavalry force in the rear. There was nothing left for him but a rapid and not unmolested retreat to Vicksburg.

THE defeat of the Florida expedition was more crushing and humiliating to the Federals than any event of the war since Bull Run and Ball's Bluff, its early disasters. Of the force of five thousand Federals engaged, two thousand five hundred—one-half—were killed and wounded, with a long account of prisoners and missing. The fact that this expedition, utterly useless from a military point of view, was ordered by Mr. Lincoln without consulting his military advisers, in the interest of speculators, and for partisan purposes, is used with great force against him by the organs of the other aspirants to the Presidency.

THE wretched failure of the cavalry raid of Kilpatrick and Dahlgren upon Richmond seems to have involved the Confederate authorities in more difficulty than the scheme ever had of danger. The people and army were filled with an indignation, very natural under the circumstances, and not easy to repress. Hundreds of men, who had dashed upon Richmond with intent to commit rapine, pillage, and murder, were prisoners, and the press and people demanded their punishment. It required all the firmness of President Davis and General Bragg to protect the lives of men who had entertained the deliberate intention of murdering them. There can be no doubt of this intention. Three years ago, the letter envelopes in common use in the Federal army, and throughout the Northern States, had upon them pictorial representations of President Davis hanged by Federal soldiers.

ANOTHER grand failure of recent Federal operations has been that of General Banks's attempt to subjugate Texas. It would have required two hundred thousand men, and the effort to accomplish so vast a work with twenty thousand has been abandoned in despair. General Banks has returned to New Orleans, to defend the small portion of Louisiana which he has formally annexed to the Federal Union, threatened as it was by the whole Confederate army west of the Mississippi.

To the long list of Federal failures, disasters, and disgraces, we have now to add the abandonment of the siege of Mobile by Admiral Farragut. He found the first of a long line of sea defences impregnable, and withdrew, probably to assist in defending New Orleans, threatened by the Confederates from Western Louisiana and Texas. The siege ended before it had been well begun. The best judges consider Mobile impregnable by sea; and no town in America is so well fortified, or would be more bravely defended by land. Every citizen of Mobile between fifteen and fifty-five is a drilled soldier; and the State and city authorities and people have long since determined that it should never share the fate of New Orleans, that it should be defended to the last, and that last should be a heap of ashes.

THE adage—'When rogues fall out, honest men learn the truth'—is receiving a new illustration in the criminations and recriminations among the Presidential candidates in the Federal States. Wendell Phillips denounces Mr. Lincoln; Mr. Blair, brother of the Post-master-General, accuses Mr. Chase of the grossest favouritism and corruption; the organs of Fremont trenchantly criticise General Grant and the general conduct of the war; Pomeroy abuses Lincoln in behalf of Chase; Mr. Seward is accused of having betrayed the country in abandoning the Monroe doctrine; Butler is said to be terrible only to those whom the successes of other generals have enabled him to outrage and plunder; and Meade is accused before a military commission of incompetency and cowardice. The anti-war party of the North listens to all these accusations, and knows the greater part of them to be true.

WHILE the dominions of Butler in South-Eastern Virginia and North Carolina, where he works his wicked will on clergymen, women, and those who are too old and feeble to be in arms against him, grow

Small by degrees, and beautifully less—

while Kentucky is threatened, and Washington is scarcely safe, a great expedition is reported as preparing to ascend the Red River, to conquer a new world beyond the Mis-

sissippi. In the metrical prayer which all loyal Britons sing with so much devotion is the pithy petition, 'Confound their politics.' Such a prayer seems to have been answered for the Confederate States. A great army gathered against them is scattered around a circle of three thousand miles, in squads too small to be effective, while any surplus which might act as reserves or reinforcements is sent off on wild-goose chases into Texas, or tom-fool expeditions into the wildernesses of Florida, or beyond the Mississippi. Had the Confederate Government selected the men who guide military affairs at Washington, they could scarcely have been better served. It has been said that General M'Clellan's greatest anxiety was not to injure the Confederates. To all appearance the same might be said with equal justice of Abraham Lincoln and most of his subordinates. Pope, Burnside, Hooker, Rosecrans, Gilmore, Seymour, Butler, Banks, Sherman, Kilpatrick, are names allied with failures, defeats, disasters, and infamies.

The great effort in the North is to get men for soldiers. Federal agents are active in England, Ireland, and Germany, in enlisting emigrants. Raids are made in the South to gather negroes. In General Sherman's late retreat in Mississippi, he took all the able-bodied negro men he could find for the army, leaving the old men, women, and children behind to starve in a ravaged country. In New York negro regiments are sent to the field with high bounties and honours, because a thousand negroes will save from the draft a thousand white men. But as Northern white men avoid or resist the draft, which is used as a threat, but has never been carried out effectively, there now comes a protest in favour of the negro. The Governor of Kentucky protests against the conscription of slaves, and declares that he will enforce the laws of the State against those who take them without the consent of their owners.

The Free State Government, the late mail informs us, has been inaugurated in New Orleans with imposing ceremonies. In the same paragraph we are informed of the death of the wife of General Beauregard in the same city, and that her funeral was made the occasion of a great public demonstration of sympathy. Those who know New Orleans need not be told which demonstration was the more sincere and earnest expression of the real feeling of the people of that city. The late election was a farce, as well as an outrage. The new Governor's loyalty to the North is not without suspicion, and the portion of the State under his jurisdiction contains as many square miles as can be covered by the range of Federal artillery. Three-fourths of the State and people of Louisiana acknowledge the constitutionally elected Governor.

The Federal Government and its favourite officers have the same regard for religious as for civil liberty, and 'run the churches,' in rail-splitting phraseology, wherever they get the opportunity. General Rosecrans has ordered that no religious synod or convention be held in his department the members of which have not taken the oath of allegiance. General Butler banishes a minister who will not pray for the success of Mr. Lincoln.

The *City of New York* steamer, wrecked at Queenstown, brings New York dates to March 19.

Lieutenant-General Grant has assumed the chief command of the Federal armies, with his head-quarters with the army of the Potomac. General Halleck takes a subordinate position. The plan said to be determined upon for the campaign is a large increase of this army, and a new 'On to Richmond.' Two hundred thousand additional men have been called for by President Lincoln. General Sherman is at Nashville. The siege of Charleston is ineffectual and hopeless, and that of Mobile is abandoned, as has been the conquest of Texas, while the attempt on Florida was a bloody and humiliating defeat, with a Federal loss of more than 1,000 killed and 2,000 wounded and prisoners. The great expedition of General Sherman, consisting of 32,000 men, specially equipped and supplied, against Selma, Montgomery, and Mobile, was defeated by Lieutenant-General Polk with a force of 15,000, and converted into a miserable raid, resulting in the tearing up of railway tracks, burning and plunder of villages, and the stealing of mules and negroes. General Banks was organising a cotton and negro raid up the Red River.

On the other side, it is reported that General Stuart, with 5,000 cavalry, has crossed the Rappahannock, and is threatening the lines of the army of the Potomac; General Longstreet has mounted his forces, and is expected either to invade Kentucky or assist in expelling the Federals from North Carolina; one white and two negro regiments have been captured at Yazoo City; and General Johnston has advanced in strong force to Taylor's Ridge, near Ringgold. 'The entire South,' says a correspondent of the *New York World*, 'is now bracing up for a new encounter, which, I am afraid, will be more terrible and bloody than any one recorded in the three years just elapsed.'

Great meetings at New York have nominated General M'Clellan and General Fremont for the Presidency, on widely-varying platforms; but the partisans of both agree in denouncing the present Administration.

A great Confederate conspiracy is said to have been discovered in Kentucky, and many persons arrested for organising forces for the Southern armies. The Governor of Kentucky threatens to resist the conscription of negroes.

Gold in New York, March 19, was at 62⅛ premium.

ENGLAND.

Mr. O'Leary, the chivalrous knight who, with 100 followers mounted on 100 steeds, desired to stand in the gap against 80,000 Austrians and Prussians, and save the glory and integrity of Denmark, has been frustrated in his hopes of renown. The Grand Marshal of the Court at Copenhagen has conveyed in the loftiest terms the thanks of his Royal master to Mr. O'Leary and his noble companions. At the same time it is intimated that the bravery of the Danish army will compensate for want of numbers. The disappointment to the captain of the Irish 'Cent Gardes' must be grievous, yet a noble charger, purchased at the cost of 125 guineas by devoted followers may sooth the sorrow of their leader. Indeed, it is asserted that 'the gallant chief does not abandon the hope of realising his dreams of glory.' To speak seriously it seems to us a matter of regret that a project singularly Quixotic from the number and nature of the proposed force should have been intruded on the public notice. The struggle in which Denmark is engaged is not child's play. The Danish troops are men

> Non cauponantes bellum, sed belligerentes;

and the sooner the ridiculous enterprises of the O'Learys cease to excite laughter or a sneer, the better will those minds be satisfied which contemplate with deep anxiety the Danish crisis.

On Easter Monday, the volunteers held their grand annual field day, and, despite the horrible weather and the contracted nature of the ground selected for the manœuvres, covered themselves with glory. This year Guildford, in Surrey, about thirty miles from London, was the favoured town, and Blackheath the chosen field. The South-Western Railway carried one-half of the army to Guildford Station, and the South-Eastern carried the other half to Chilworth. Large numbers of the volunteers went down into Surrey on the Saturday and Sunday, and took by storm every available room and house in the neighbourhood of Guildford. In vain the general in command at Aldershott desired to send a force of regular cavalry. No quarters could be found for either men or horses, and the idea was abandoned. However, on Saturday, Captain Jay's mounted troop of the Hon. Artillery Company arrived, having ridden the whole way from London, and brought with them their two brass 6-pounders. Nine hours were occupied in that journey. On the same day detachments of Sussex Artillery, with their heavy guns of position, came from Brighton. On the Sunday there was a parade, and special service at St. Nicholas' Church. On Monday morning the trains began to leave London about 6.30 a.m., but it was not till after mid-day that the troops were placed in position. The Heath was approachable only by a few lanes remarkable for steepness and sandiness. Enormous difficulty was found in dragging up the 18-pounders and 24-pounders of Lord Truro's artillery battalion. When in position the defending force showed a host of 9,750 men in four brigades, with ten 18-pounder guns, under the command of Major-General Russell. Lord Raneleagh, Colonel Lloyd Lindsay, V.C., Earl Grosvenor, and Lord Radstock were the brigadiers. The attacking force consisted of 8,500 men, with Captain Jay's horse, four 6-pounders, four 18-pounders, and four 24-pounder guns of position, under the command of Major-General Rumley. Lord Colville, Colonel Bigge, Lord Bury, and Colonel Macdonald were brigadiers. The whole force was under the command of Lieutenant-General Pennefather, K.C.B. The field of operations was but one mile and a half long and one mile wide. Just as the fight was about to commence the weather set in with furious alternations of rain, hail, and snow, without however damping in any way the ardour of the combatants. The fight itself was one tremendous roar of musketry and artillery at close quarters. General Rumley made a feint attack on the enemy in front with 4,000 men, while his main body of 5,000 men made a flank march under cover of the woods, and fell with tremendous energy on the extreme right of General Russell. The latter general brought up with all possible alacrity every available regiment to oppose the furious onset of the enemy. This attack had been well concealed, and when fully developed was almost in the nature of a surprise. The withdrawal of force from the left to the right of General Russell induced the feint attack to become a reality, and the battle became general throughout the whole line, the defending force changing front to avoid being completely outflanked. The battle lasted about two hours, and at the close of it the whole force marched past in columns of companies. The railways succeeded in bringing the men home before midnight.

The corps of Commissionnaires has now been established for five years. Of the utility of the institution it is superfluous to speak. The most trustworthy of messengers, the most obliging, civil, and pleasant of men are the gallant old soldiers, who in their neat uniforms stand in the principal streets in London, ready to give information for nothing, and to carry messages and parcels at most moderate charges. Five years ago the prudent and benevolent founder of the corps selected seven men, and commenced his experiment. He drew up a stringent set of rules for the discipline of his men, formed them into a kind of military club, gave them an organisation, and neglected neither their physical nor their mental welfare. An occasional hour or two devoted to the supervision of the corps was all the time required at his hands, and that he gave freely, and of course without remuneration. Now, the corps numbers 250 men, and the excellent founder finds himself chained to a desk for eight hours daily. There are barracks for the single men of the corps; there is a band, a salaried adjutant, and a sick fund. The corps owes nearly 1,000*l.*, but that sum is guaranteed by the founder's friends. Now, therefore, it is proposed to start the corps on its full career. It is an increasing force; it must be organised on an expansive principle, and it requires able supervision. Seven officers of high distinction, of whom three are generals and four are colonels, have consented to act as provisional trustees for receiving and investing subscriptions for the endowment of the staff necessary to carry on the discipline of the corps. The expenses of such staff will be about 350*l.* per annum. As to the management, subscribers of 10*l.* are to be life governors, and regiments subscribing 25*l.* are to be perpetual governors. The future trustees are to be elected triennially, and are to choose the commanding officer.

We sincerely hope that the public will come forward and help this excellent undertaking. The great city firms, public companies, and public institutions cannot afford now to lose those services, which are rapidly becoming indispensable, and which certainly cannot be replaced by the substitution of other men of equal integrity and aptitude.

The coroner for the county, on Wednesday, March 24, and the following day, held his inquest on the bodies that perished in the Sheffield inundation, at the Town Hall, in Sheffield. Mr. Robert Rawlinson and Mr. Nathaniel Beardmore, the civil engineers, appeared on behalf of the Home Office. M. Mille, the engineer of bridges and roads to the French Government, and other distinguished engineers and officers of public companies, were also present. Mr. J. S. Leather, of Seventhorpe, near Leeds, the consulting engineer to the Sheffield Waterworks Company, Mr. John Gunson, the acting engineer, Mr. Matthew B. Jackson, of Sheffield, civil and mechanical engineer, and Messrs. Rawlinson and Beardmore, were examined as scientific witnesses. The jury, after an enquiry of considerable length, gave an opinion that 'there had not been that engineering skill and that attention to the construction of the works which their magnitude and importance demanded; that in their opinion the Legislature ought to take such action as would result in a governmental inspection of all works of this character, and that such inspection ought to be frequent, regular, and sufficient; and that they (the jury) could not separate without expressing their deep regret at the fearful loss of life which had occurred from the disruption of the Bradfield Reservoir.' Mr. Leather and Mr. Gunson were in considerable doubt as to the cause of the accident, but thought that it was caused by a slip in the ground. However, Mr. Jackson, who built the Melbourne, Adelaide, Ballarat, and Bendigo Works, gave a decided opinion, and held that the structure of the dam caused an unequal pressure, fractured the pipes, and so produced a leakage. It appeared also that there had been some departures from the specifications, and on this point the coroner made some strong remarks. Mr. Leather doubted very much the theory advanced by Mr. Jackson, and thought that the confidence of that gentleman alone made the idea worthy of some credit.

Intelligence has been received of the cruel treatment of an English missionary, by Theodore, king of Abyssinia. Mr. Stern, Mr. Rosenthal, and Mr. Haussman, on their return from the Jewish Palashas, called to take leave of the king. It was contrary to the etiquette of the court to receive persons at so late an hour, and matters were further complicated by the stupidity of the interpreters. These last were ordered by the king to be at once flogged, and Mr. Stern, in fright and horror at the sight, made a gesture which was interpreted as an insult, and for which he also paid the penalty of a severe flogging. The unhappy missionary was then put into chains, and the efforts of the English consul, Captain Cameron, were vainly used in exhorting the king to release Mr. Stern. Eventually the king allowed Mr. Haussman to depart, and the latter arrived at Khartoun, and announced the situation of his brother missionary.

The Earl of Aberdeen died on Tuesday, March 23, at Haddo House, Aberdeenshire, in the forty-eighth year of his age. He succeeded his father in the year 1860. His eldest son is now in New Brunswick, of which colony the Hon. Arthur Gordon, brother of the late Earl, is Governor.

Lord Ashburton died on Wednesday, March 24. He was born in 1799, and his mother was the eldest daughter of Mr. William Bingham of Philadelphia. His father was Ambassador to America in 1842.

Lord Sidmouth died on Friday last at Albury, near Guildford. He was the son of Henry, first Viscount, who was for twelve years Speaker of the House of Commons, and who succeeded Pitt as Prime Minister in 1801. His Lordship is succeeded in the peerage by his son the Hon. William Addington, M.P. for Devizes.

The steamer *City of New York*, on her passage from New York, struck upon Daunt's Rock, at the entrance of Queenstown Harbour. The accident occurred about 2.40 a.m., on Tuesday last. The ship was steaming 14 knots an hour at the time. The crew and passengers were saved. Some of her cargo, which is chiefly cotton, will probably be saved, but the vessel will become a total wreck.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has addressed a Pastoral Letter to the clergy and laity containing a public declaration of his opinion on the theological questions involved in the late judgment of the Privy Council in the case of Dr. Williams and Mr. Wilson ('Essays and Reviews'). His Grace holds that 'the Church authoritatively declares Holy Scripture to be identical with all those canonical books of the Old and New Testament of whose authority was never any doubt in the Church that it is "the Word of God," and "God's word written;" and that by the term "canonical books," is meant books which lay down a rule of faith authoritatively.' He holds that the opinions of Dr. Williams are at variance with the terms of those formularies. So also he says that Mr. Wilson, when asserting that there are parts of Scripture which are not the Word of God, contradicts the same teaching. On the question of eternal punishment, the Primate maintains that the doctrine of the Church of England is that the reward of the righteous is everlasting life, and the punishment of

the wicked everlasting death. The obscurity of Mr. Wilson's expressions on the point caused the Primate to give a decision favourable to him on this part of the accusation. The Pastoral Letter, which is of considerable length, concludes with an eloquent exhortation.

An ancient and peculiar custom received its due celebration on Maunday Thursday. The royal charities were on that day distributed to forty-five aged men and forty-five aged women in Whitehall Chapel, with the customary ceremonials, the number of each sex corresponding with the age of Her Majesty the Queen. A special service was held, and between the anthems the Lord High Almoner (the Bishop of Oxford) gave to the recipients donations of clothing and other articles. The purses formed the most peculiar feature in the series of gifts. Each red purse contained the usual gold sovereign, and 30*s.* from the Lord Steward's Department; each white purse contained the Maunday coin, consisting of 4*d.* 3*d.* 2*d.* and pence in silver, amounting to forty-five in all, thus representing the age of the Queen. About 1,000 other persons were also relieved by the Lord High Almoner in the same week.

Our readers will learn with much pleasure that the Queen has announced her intention of holding a court at Buckingham Palace, on Wednesday, April 6, to receive the principal members of the diplomatic corps. A second Court will be held on April 13, at which the distinguished personages of the realm will have an opportunity of paying their respects to Her Majesty. In the months of May and June two state concerts and two state balls will by command of the Queen take place at Buckingham Palace. Her Majesty's birthday will be celebrated on May 24.

The managers of the theatres have duly bestirred themselves to meet the demands of the pleasure-seeking crowds of Easter. Four important theatres rely so confidently on their existing arrangements as to offer no novelty to the public. Mr. and Mrs. C. Mathews still appear in the 'Golden Fleece' at St. James's; 'Bel Demonio' still draws at Mr. Fechter's theatre; 'The Ticket-of-Leave Man' fills the Olympic; and best of all, Miss Bateman fails not to move the crowded audiences with her admirable *Leah*. But Drury Lane, the Haymarket, the Strand, Princess's and Astley's have put on an entirely new appearance. At the Haymarket Theatre, Mr. F. C. Burnand has produced a mythological extravaganza, called 'Venus and Adonis,' with his wonted success, and has once more proved the good use made by him of his Eton acquaintance with the whole family of Olympic Divinities. 'A Hunt for a Husband' at the Strand, a new comedietta by Mr. J. P. Wooler, is worthy of commendation, as also is Mr. J. M. Morton's new farce, 'Drawing-rooms, Second Floors, and Attics;' but the most remarkable effect is that exhibited at Drury Lane. There 'Henry IV.' 'revived' is marvellously good, for Mr. Phelps in the character of *Falstaff* is at any time or place attractive enough, but here the art of Mr. Beverley has added scenic ornaments of no mean kind. The *chef-d'œuvre* of the artist is the Battle of Shrewsbury. The stage is divided from back to front by a large solid mound, and there the opposing armies meet. The multitude is not small, the shock is terrific, and the confusion that results is admirably worked out.

On Easter Monday the usual places of amusement were extensively patronised by the holiday people. The Crystal Palace, Zoological Gardens, Polytechnic, and the Alhambra had their full share of visitors. Madame Tussaud's was of course crowded, and we may mention that to that exhibition the President of the Confederate States, Mr. Mason, and Mr. Slidell are now added.

The Covent Garden Theatre opened on Tuesday night with Bellini's 'Norma,' and the part of *Norma* was played with success by Mademoiselle Emilia Lagrua. Signor Nandin sang the music of Pollio with energy, and Signor Atry was admirable as *Oroveso*. Mr. Costa of course conducted with his usual ability.

THE CONTINENT.

The German diplomats have seized with avidity on a principle enunciated by Lord Castlereagh in 1814, that 'the varying effect of the military movements must tend continually to modify the diplomatic aspect.' This means, 'when biled and the skin took off it,' as Sam Slick says, that if the Allies take Düppel and Fredericia, they will demand harder conditions than if Denmark had at once agreed to an armistice. 'In fact,' they say, 'what do we want with a Conference, with or without armistice? These fortresses once taken, we are secure from Danish annoyance, and can discuss the question with other European Powers at our leisure.' The offer made by Denmark to negotiate on the basis of the treaties of 1852 is rejected by the Germans with scorn. They say (and from their point of view it is not without reason) that it is absurd to take for a basis of a Conference the very treaties which that Conference is to discuss; the high discussing parties might find themselves as summarily disposed of as was the Irishman of old who sat on the branch of a tree and sawed it off from the trunk. The address of the King of Denmark, on the close of the Rigsdag, does not point to any diminution of the determined spirit which has, up to this time, prevailed in His Majesty's councils. It comments on the exactious and tyrannical regulations of the Allies in the Duchies, confesses that Denmark at present stands alone in Europe, and concludes with these words: 'We are ready to do anything to obtain a peace which would be serviceable to the country; but our enemies must be aware that the time is still distant when we or our people can be compelled to submit to a peace humiliating to Denmark. The last word of your King to you and your constituents is Endurance.'

While the views of the two belligerent parties are of this nature, it is evident that no Conference on definite bases can take place; the choice lies between the proposal of the English Government and an indefinite prolongation of the war. Both alternatives are subject to the same risk of further complication through the obstinacy of the belligerents and the intrigues of neutrals; but in favour of the British proposition there is at least a glimpse of hope, which is entirely wanting in the gloomy prospect of indefinite war. We are not sorry, therefore, to know that the English proposal has been definitely accepted by Denmark, Austria, and Prussia; France has also given in her adhesion; the answer of Sweden has not yet been received, while the Federal Diet has referred the proposal, as usual, to the Slesvig-Holstein Committee. The Conference is to be held in London, and will begin on April 12.

The Danes complain bitterly of the exactions and requisitions made on the people of Jutland by their invaders. Kolding alone has been compelled to pay 20,000 rigsdalers daily as a contribution to the expenses, while the troops are billeted on the inhabitants without scruple. Not content with this, the Allies have thought fit to pursue in Jutland a course exactly similar to that whereby they hope to Germanise the Duchies; the Danish municipal officers are all expelled and replaced by Germans or German sympathisers. What excuse can be made for such a proceeding within the boundaries of Denmark proper, we are at a loss to conjecture.

On the 17th inst. the allied forces captured the position of Avnbjerg, a place of so much strategic importance that an energetic attempt was made on the following day to retake it, but without success. The bombardment of the earthworks continues: our Sebastopol experience has taught us how long we may batter at earthworks without producing any impression. On Sunday, the 20th inst., the bombardment of Frederica ceased, only to begin again on the 21st with renewed vigour. The town has been set on fire by the shells in various places. The Prussians have profited by the lessons given by America, France, and England in both the theory and practice of gunnery. Their rifles are more effective than those of the Danes; their cannon carry further and straighter, and hit harder. We have it now on undoubted authority that the *Skjold*, one of the armour-plated frigates engaged in the affair off Rugen, mentioned in our last, was penetrated by the Prussian guns, although no further damage was done.

The Austrian Commandant has informed the Captain of the Danish ship stationed off Horsens that the first shot fired from his ship would be the signal for the destruction and pillage of the town.

The Prussians have resuscitated an old and somewhat barbaric form of armament. They have 22 galley gunboats now ready to take the sea, and awaiting only the inspection of the Prince-Admiral. Their office will be the defence of the northern coasts, though their utility against the very minimum of steam power is doubtful.

The good-natured attempt of certain Irish gentlemen to embroil this country with the Austro-Prussians by offering their services to the King of Denmark has been frustrated. His Majesty thanks them, and hopes to get on very well without them.

On the 28th inst., at 3 A.M., an attack was made by the Prussians along the whole line of the Dybbol (or Düppel) works. The Germans were completely repulsed with heavy loss. The iron-clad *Rolfe Krake* took an effective part in the contest.

The Prussian Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Marine, and Commerce, have officially declared that the blockade of the ports of Stralsund, Wolgast, Barth, Greifswalde, Camenin, and Swinemunde has not yet been carried out. This declaration is somewhat remarkable. It raises the important question whether such a declaration made by the blockaded power is sufficient to make the blockade invalid as regards neutrals. Moreover, we may ask, who are to be the jury to determine on the truth of the facts stated? Surely not the blockaders, nor the blockaded? And of the neutrals, who are sufficiently disinterested to decide? Satisfactory answers to these questions would be of the utmost value on both sides of the Atlantic.

The propositions made by the King of Sweden to his Norwegian Parliament involve (1) permission to make use of the Norwegian Militia and coast-fleet (the national fleet is already at the command of the Sovereign), and (2) a credit of 800,000 rigsdalers (about 180,000*l.*), $500,000 for immediate use, and $300,000 to be ready on application. The necessity for these demands arises, according to the Royal speech, from the state of affairs in Denmark, which may at any time require military action from other Powers. The propositions have been referred to a Select Committee of the House, which has reported in favour of the whole of them. The Scandinavian kingdom has for some time been the only Continental power remaining in a peaceful attitude; now every nation of Europe stands with hand on hilt, awaiting the signal.

The Polish National Government has published a circular levying an income-tax of 1 per cent. for the relief of the families of those who have been or may be killed during the revolutionary war.

The number of those transported to Siberia since the beginning of the troubles is upwards of 23,000. The crime for which many of these unfortunate people suffer is that of refusing to confess that they have paid taxes to the Revolutionary Government.

The new Civil Governor of the Kingdom of Poland is M. Milutyne; the Minister of the Interior is the Prince Tscherkaskoï; neither of these gentlemen has ever been in Poland, or has any personal knowledge of the people whom he is appointed to govern. A letter from Vienna states that the number of persons crossing the Galician frontier to support the national cause in Poland is daily increasing; this arises from the active surveillance of the Austrian police, which drives all persons conscious of suspicion to take a decided course rather than expose themselves to extradition (i.e. banishment by the Russians into Siberia), or 'internment' (imprisonment by the Austrians in a remote fortress). It is, however, positively denied that the Austrian police have delivered into the hands of the Russians any Polish political refugees whatever.

The departure of the Archduke Maximilian and his spouse had been fixed to take place on the afternoon of the 23rd inst. A sudden but slight indisposition of His Imperial Highness has made it necessary to defer the event. A family council has been held by the Emperor of Austria, in which the rights of succession and reversion belonging to the Archduke have been definitely regulated.

The Government of Juarez still continues to assert a sort of existence; at least, Juarez himself has issued a statement denying in set terms that he has abdicated, or even thought of doing so. The Yankees have so far swallowed the bitter pill of a Mexican Empire as to admit a 'commercial' agent acting under the directions of the Imperial Government—but commercial, purely commercial.

The address of General Santana to the people of Mexico, declaring his adhesion to the new Government, has had a very good effect.

The Italian navy consists of 31 screw steamers, 36 paddle-wheels, 14 iron-clads, and 18 sailing-vessels. The steam-power is calculated at 26,030 horses, the guns at 1,324, the crews at 21,930. Six iron-clad frigates are now on the stocks, besides several wooden ships. Six other iron-clads are expected in the course of the year from France and America; thus in a few months the Italian fleet will be double that of the Austrian.

From Sicily we continue to receive glowing reports of the reception of Prince Humbert. The Bourbonist partisans exploded some of their favourite bombs at Palermo during his visit, but several of their fraternity have been arrested. A small Bourbon demonstration appears also to have taken place at Naples on the occasion of the King's birthday; an ex-officer of the Bourbon army was stopped, and a copy of sentence of death on the King and others found on his person.

Prince Humbert has returned by sea to Genoa, where he was received with due honours on the 24th inst.

The Italian journals are prolific in speculations on the object of Garibaldi's voyage. First they calculated with anxiety the chances of his changing ship at Malta; and the *Italia*, which was so fortunate as to predict that such a change would occur, announces the fact with all the pomp of a successful Derby prophet. Next come speculations as to the time he will spend on his voyage—2,133 miles, at ten miles an hour, such is the sum which the same journal proceeds to work out with the utmost gravity. Finally, what is he about to do in England? Well, some say he wants to see a doctor; perhaps he wishes to thank Dr. Partridge for the benefit he has derived from that physician's accurate judgment. Others think of that mysterious campaign terminated at Aspromonte, and wonder whether the purses which supplied the funds then are again to be laid under contribution.

The Austrian practice of removing troops as far as possible from the districts where they were recruited is well known. Thus there are no Italian soldiers in Venetia. A legend of Solferino tells us that two battalions of that country might have changed the fate of that day had they not refused to fire at a most critical moment. The authorities have taken the hint, and found work for them elsewhere. Their place is filled by Croats, Tyrolese, and Uhlans. The inspection of the fortresses and troops in Venetia is careful and incessant. Arrangements are being made with the proprietors of land immediately adjacent to the fortresses with regard to the demolition of buildings, felling of trees, &c., which may be necessary.

The Pope had on the 19th inst. so far recovered from his illness as to be able to give a formal reception to M. de Sartiges, the French Ambassador. After the reception the Ambassador made a state visit to the shrines in St. Peter's, and concluded by paying his respects to the Dean of the Sacred College at his apartments in the Quirinal Palace; the eminent Cardinal escorted His Excellency back to his carriage in person, and shut the door of it, according to traditional usage, with his own sacred hands. Who can doubt that such humility on the part of a Cardinal must have blotted out of the mind of M. de Sartiges the snappishness of His Eminence Antonelli and the insolence of Monsignor de Merode?

Advices from Santo Domingo inform us that an engagement came off, on February 6, between the Royal troops under General Suero and the rebels, and again another on the 9th, in both of which the insurgents were worsted.

The Spanish Senate, in discussing the proposed reform of the Constitution in that country, has negatived the amendment of the Marques de Miraflores, proposing to leave undisturbed the hereditary peerage.

A story from Port-au-Prince (Santo Domingo) enables us to judge of the natural African character better than we can, perhaps, from the civilised specimens of the plantations. Four labourers and four washerwomen, all negroes, have been apprehended on the horrible charge of having murdered and cut up a child according to the rites of their fetish or Obi. They have been condemned on their own confessions, and were executed on February 13.

The Queen of Spain has conferred upon Christian IX., King of Denmark, the dignity of the Golden Fleece. We may remind our readers that there is another Sovereign who claims the disposal of this Order—namely, His Imperial Royal and Apostolic Majesty of Austria. It is to be feared that the throat of the King of Denmark would have been long destitute of the noble Fleece but for the timely intervention of the Queen of Spain.

Of all the national monuments in the world, there are few that equal, and none that surpass, the tomb of the Emperor Napoleon I. at the Invalides. Not less in the magnificent sculptures and surrounding ornaments than in the idea which they are intended to embody does the immortality of genius combine and sympathise with the coldness of death; and the chance visitor may stand for hours gazing upon the stern impassive faces of the angels which surround the tomb, till the chill of the snowy marble creeps into the very marrow of his bones. To this tomb a pendant has been added by the filial piety of the Prince Napoleon-Jérôme, in the shape of a mausoleum to the memory of his father, the late Prince and ex-King Jérôme. Report speaks highly of the execution of the work; it must, indeed, be of the highest order to match the last resting-place of the Great Emperor. The mausoleum stands in the Chapelle Saint-Jérôme, the same in which, a few years ago, the body of the Emperor lay under the flicker of one funeral lamp, and surrounded by the flags of Austerlitz.

Our neighbours beyond the Straits have not the horror of fairs which is the fashion in this country. Thursday, the 24th inst., was the last day of the Ham Fair, which is held in the middle of Paris, lasts several days, is a source of much edification to the flâneurs, and, we hope, a great economy to the good housewives; on Easter Sunday comes the turn of the children—fifteen days of gingerbread fair! What a prospect for mothers, children, and doctors!

A trial has just been concluded at Aix, in the South of France, which bids fair to be remembered within the French nation as a *cause célèbre*, and in foreign lands as an extreme specimen of criminal justice in France. The facts on which the trial arose were simply these. On the 7th July last, a man of the name of Maurice Roux, servant to a wealthy merchant in Montpellier of the name of Armand, was found in a cellar of M. Armand's house, lying on the ground, his hands tied behind his back, a cord round his neck, and his feet fastened together by a handkerchief marked with M. Armand's initials. His life being despaired of, he was taken to the hospital, but when there he quickly revived, and the first use he made of his tongue was to accuse M. Armand of attempting to murder him, in revenge for certain disrespectful words and the neglect of some trifling duty. On this accusation, M. Armand was committed for trial at the assizes; popular feeling being decidedly against him, the police followed an example set them lately in England, and transferred the 'venue' from Montpellier to Aix. The presiding Judge was M. Rigaud; the Procureur-Général prosecuted; M. Jules Favre, famous for his independence alike at the bar and in the Chamber of Representatives, was for the defence. The sparring between the opposing counsel began early. The Procureur-Général stated his case: Armand is rich, insolent, brutal to his inferiors; he deliberately sought out his servant in the cellar in order to murder him. M. Jules Favre can bear it no longer, and appeals to the Court whether these statements are to be allowed, taking for granted the very acts of which the prisoner is now accused: he is informed by the judge that he has now no right to criticize, and the prosecutor continues as before. The judge adjures the prisoner to confess his guilt, sneers at his feelings, allows the evidence of the magistrate by whom the prisoner was committed to be taken in spite of the remonstrances of M. Favre, suffers the accuser, Roux, to insult the prisoner in open court, cuts short or explains away all evidence in favour of the accused—in short, takes the accuser completely under the protecting ægis of the magisterial robe. In spite of all these endeavours, however, M. Armand is acquitted by the jury after a consultation of twenty minutes.

One might have thought that a man found 'not guilty' of a crime was also not answerable for any further consequences of it. Not so in France. On the next day a civil action, brought by Roux against Armand, was tried, wherein the damages were laid at 50,000 francs. The Court found that the defendant had 'struck and wounded' the plaintiff, and sentenced him to pay the sum of 20,000 francs. It appears that the verdict of the jury had negatived only the *criminality* of the accused, not the occurrence of the act. It is most satisfactory to know that the educated classes in Paris reprobate in the strongest terms the conduct of the Judge of the Assize Court at Aix.

Tennyson somewhere tells us that 'he keeps but a man and a maid, ever ready to slander and steal.' He is by so much better off than the Duke of Brunswick, who keeps four men and a maid for the embellishment of his person, besides a head valet; as to their capacities for stealing, we need only carry our recollections back to the month of December last, when his servant Shaw was so very nearly successful in getting clear off with all the far-famed diamonds of the Duke on his person, and was condemned to twenty years' penal servitude in consequence. However, it appears that the Duke had had occasion to make the Laureate's complaint even before that time, and that Shaw was himself a substitution for one Morin, who had been discharged from the Duke's service, at an hour's notice, with some suspicions of dishonesty. The affair has come up in consequence of an action brought by Morin against the unlucky Duke for the sum of 100 francs wages due, the restitution of his box and papers now detained by his late master, and 200 francs damages for loss of time. The Duke's defence was that certain property placed in the hands of the plaintiff, and lost while so intrusted to him, was of greater value than the arrears of wages, together with the valet's box and its contents. The Courts, however, have decided against him, and the head of the Imperial Royal Ducal House of Guelph has been condemned to pay 600 francs and costs to his ex-valet.

Confederate Official Documents.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

Confederate States of America,
War Department:
Richmond, November 26, 1863.

To His Excellency Jefferson Davis, *President C.S.A.*

Sir,—I have the honour to submit the following report:—

During the past year the war has raged with increased violence, and on a more extended arena. From Central Pennsylvania to Southern Texas, the shock of arms has been felt in many battles, on a grand scale, and in numberless engagements, varying from the conflicts of thousands to the skirmishes of a few.

Such extended warfare, as was almost inevitable, from the superior numbers and more abundant resources of the enemy, has been chequered by some reverses, as well as illustrated by not a few brilliant victories and glorious achievements.

These events are, at the same time, too vivid in remembrance, and too near in occurrence, to make needful or appropriate their full recital. To illustrate the sustained glory of our arms, it will fully suffice to recall, in the east, the victory, against all odds of numbers and position, at Chancellorsville, the capture of Winchester, the invasion of Pennsylvania, closing with the grand but indecisive battle of Gettysburg, where the glorious successes of two days' combat barely failed on the third of being crowned by a crushing defeat to the enemy, and inflicted such heavy loss as enabled our gallant army, with many of the ends of the movement accomplished, to retire unassailed and defiant within our limits.

In the south, the complete repulse at Charleston, in the spring, of the grand attack by sea, made with the plated ships and guns of unprecedented calibre and range, which the arrogance of the foe imagined must overpower all resistance, has been followed, in the renewed attack, conducted now by land and sea, by the bloody repulse at Wagner and Sumter, which last, reduced to a pile of crumbling ruins, yet harbours resources and heroic men, that keep in distant awe and impotent malignity the enemy, with all his ingenuity of land and naval war.

In the far west, beyond the Mississippi, the valour and patriotism of our soldiers have been signalised by achievements which, though on a less grand scale, lose not in glory by comparison with any triumphs of the war. If we have, then, to report the loss of the Arkansas Post, and the repulse at Helena, we have to glory in the hard-fought battle of Prairie Grove; at the skilful evasion of an overpowering force in Lower Louisiana; the steady resistance and judicious strategy that enabled a force wholly inadequate to a direct encounter yet to harass, pursue, and finally to expel the hordes of the enemy. Then at the brilliant success of Brashear City, Milligan's Bend, and many minor affairs that asserted again the supremacy of our arms in Western Louisiana.

Texas, meantime, has been preserved intact, feeling the step of the foe only to expel him with shame and blood in the repulses at Galveston and Sabine Pass, which, for the results obtained by limited means, have been rarely matched in history.

The gravest reverses of the year have been sustained by us in Mississippi, and resulted in the capture of Vicksburg and Port Hudson, with their garrisons; in the partial command, by the enemy, of the Mississippi river, and the temporary evacuation of Jackson, the capital of the State, by our remaining forces. Yet these were, to the enemy, bloody acquisitions, and to us errors not unredeemed by much of glory and vengeance. Port Hudson and Vicksburg, by the gallantry and constancy of their defence, fully sustained the renown of their previous deeds; and the repeated efforts of the vastly superior forces of the enemy to snatch their prizes by violence, ended only in fearful loss and shameful rout. Our brave soldiers succumbed only to privation and exhaustion. And whatever may have been the loss to the country, they, at least, lost not honour.

The campaign in Mississippi was certainly disastrous; and with the forces and resources collected in the State, it is difficult to resist the impression, that the disasters were not inevitable. Their causes, and whether attributable to any deficiencies in prescience, skill, or valour, on the part of either commanders or their troops, it is felt to be inappropriate here to discuss, as, under a just sense of what is due to all concerned as well as to the Confederacy, a court of enquiry has been instituted to make full investigation of the whole campaign. It met; but its session has, in consequence of military events occurring in its vicinity and demanding the presence of witnesses and judges at other points of duty, been temporarily suspended. It is, however, expected soon to resume and complete its enquiries. Justice requires judgment to be suspended by all, until, from such acknowledged authority, facts and conclusions can be attained.

These events caused great exultation and renewed confidence to the enemy, who imagined they had sundered the Confederacy, and secured the unlimited command and free navigation of the Mississippi river, the great conduit of western trade; while readily a corresponding shock of despondency and foreboding of the consequences to ensue from the capture of so many brave soldiers, and the loss of command over the river, and the means of ready communication with the west, affected the public mind of the Confederacy.

As results develope themselves, the exultation and the depression are found to have been alike exaggerated. The gallant soldiers captured, after brief furloughs, having, by exchanges, declared out of the excess of prisoners before so largely made by us, been released from their paroles, are, for the most part, already reorganised and equipped, and now stand ready, with their approved valour and constancy, to meet the invader of their country.

The communication with the trans-Mississippi, while rendered somewhat more precarious and insecure, is found by no means cut off, or even seriously endangered.

This cannot well be otherwise, when it is recollected how difficult it is to guard, by gunboats or troops, hundreds of miles of river bank, if even securely possessed by the enemy, and how wholly impracticable when on both sides, for the greater portion of the distance, the possession is with our own troops or people. Besides, the resources of the trans-Mississippi are such as to make it self-sustaining; and against any force which the enemy, while engaged in their desperate struggle with the States on this side, can spare for attack on those beyond, it is not extravagant to say, that they have better means of resistance, and greater assurance of final success, than the rest of the Confederacy. This department, too, in view of the contingency of losing command of that river, has been endeavouring to aid the self-sustaining capacities of that section, by the establishment of works for the production of all supplies needful for the maintenance and efficiency of its armies. To these considerations may be added, that a general, among the ablest, the most zealous and judicious, the Confederacy can boast, is happily intrusted with the command and improvement of their resources, and enjoys the full confidence of the Government, the people, and the army. With circumstances thus favourable, the people of the trans-Mississippi States have only to manifest the energy, courage, and devotion to the common cause of the Confederacy which have signalised them in the past, to dissipate, as well among themselves as their more eastern brethren, needless apprehensions.

The hopes of the enemy have proven more illusive than the forebodings of our people. The Mississippi river is not opened to them for the purposes of trade or travel.

Without a stronghold on the river where heavy guns may be placed or defended, we may not debar passage to their vessels of war. But with the command of long stretches of the river bank, and ready access to nearly all parts, it would be strange indeed if we allowed security or impunity to their boats of trade or passage. The river is nowhere so wide that sharpshooters, even, cannot prove formidable, and batteries of light artillery, sustained by small detachments of cavalry, may almost absolutely command its channel. The frequent bends of its course, opening the boats, despite all side defences, with their boilers and machinery, to a raking fire, and the wooded coverts that yet line many miles of its banks, give facilities and efficiency to such modes of attack. Above all, except as a mere outlet to the gulf, for the solid advantages of trade, which have been so realised in the past, and are now as longingly anticipated by the States of the Federal Union on the northern Mississippi and its tributaries, the river must have, in its lower course, a friendly people, engaged in the avocations of peace and productive industry, and not, as now, a desolated and deserted region, occupied only by men maddened by accumulated wrongs, and eager for every means and opportunity of retribution. The folly of these vain expectations must soon be acknowledged, and may contribute to dissipate the wilder delusion that the Confederacy can be subjugated, and the ends of unity and peace be obtained by violence and oppression.

On the other hand, the people of the Confederacy have been enabled to realise how little, with courage and constancy on their part, their fate is determined by even signal reverses, and by the loss of single strongholds, however relatively important. While material injuries are freely admitted to have resulted to the Confederacy from the disasters in Mississippi, yet some real benefits have undoubtedly accrued from the compulsory abandonment of fixed points of defence on the river. In view of the superior numbers of the enemy, and the larger appliances of war enjoyed by them, the necessity of defending special strategic points may justly be deprecated, since it retains stationary a large force, and offers a wager of battle against all odds, in which the result is less to be determined by valour and skill than by accumulated numbers and the improved armaments of modern warfare, in which alone circumstances give them unquestionable advantage. In the extent of our territory, and the absence of vital centres, the mobility of our troops gives for our defence advantages more than compensatory, and is therefore ever to be preferred.

The loss of Port Hudson and Vicksburg has, on our side, liberated, for general operations in the field, a large army, while it requires the enemy to maintain, cooped up, inactive, in positions insalubrious to their soldiers, considerable detachments from their forces.

Nor, in a country not accessible by inland waters where their gunboats can penetrate, are they enabled, from their garrisoned points, to establish control or dominion over any extended district. This is illustrated in Mississippi, where, after having overrun, amid the dismay inspired by our reverses there, a large proportion of the State, they have now been constrained to release and send off their forces, until they control little more than the ground their garrisons rest on; while the experience of their recent ravages, and the insulting presence of a hated foe on their soil, are rousing to fiercer indignation and resistance the people of the State.

In Tennessee the campaign has been conducted with more varied fortunes. The deficiency of resources in men and provisions, rather than reverses in battle, during the summer, compelled the withdrawal of our army from middle Tennessee to the south side of the Tennessee river, where, for a long time, they held at bay the superior forces of the enemy. At length, with large reinforcements, and the combination of a formidable army advancing from Kentucky, the enemy moved on the one side to possess East Tennessee, and on the other to cut off our larger army under General Bragg. The necessity of concentrating forces to encounter the main attack left East Tennessee, with feeble defence, to rely chiefly on the stronghold that guarded the main pass of the mountains. Unaccountably, and under circumstances which would force suspicion of cowardice or treachery, but for the hope of satisfactory explanation from the commander, now a prisoner to the enemy, this almost impregnable post was surrendered without a struggle. In consequence, East Tennessee came easily into the possession of the enemy; but when their invading forces, attempting to press their advantage, advanced towards South-west Virginia, they were successfully encountered and repelled by our forces in that quarter. Meantime, the grander aim of the enemy to cut off the army of General Bragg had been evaded by a quick withdrawal towards his base, and, having received considerable reinforcements from the veteran army of Northern Virginia, General Bragg advanced in turn on his pursuers. Once again, the superior prowess of our arms was established on the bloody field of Chickamauga, in what ranks among the grandest victories of the war. Its immediate effects were to relieve all the more southern States from the dread of invasion and ravage, and to hold invested, under privation and suffering, the dismayed and shattered remnants of the enemy's grand army of the West. Its ulterior results yet await development, and may bring recovery of the soil and deliverance to the people of a most important portion of Tennessee.

From the achievements of our army the transition is natural to its numbers, condition, and prospects.

The labours, perils, and sacrifices of the past year could not fail to exact losses from its glorious ranks. Time and the occasion forbid more than a passing allusion to the heroic dead, whose deeds and their memory constitute the glory of the present, as they will the proudest inheritance of future generations. To the foremost of the illustrious throng, resting in the immortality of assured fame, more special reference may be demanded by just appreciation of his heroic qualities and eminent services, and by the saddened hearts of the people of the Confederacy, who mourn the death of their chosen champion, stricken by 'an accursed chance' in the hour when the prowess of a stroke of daring and generalship, just accomplished, had opened the way to crowning victory. Without disparagement to others, it may be safely said he had become, in the estimation of the

Confederacy, emphatically 'the hero of the war.' Around him clustered, with peculiar warmth, their gratitude, their affections, and their hopes. His deeds had approved him a warrior of the highest order, as the whole tenor of his life, in peace as in war, had shown him the very type and model of the Christian and hero. From the first battle of Manassas, when, by his firmness and invincible will, he earned the title now indissolubly connected with his name, down to the battle of Chancellorsville, where his dauntless valour struck its final and most decisive blow, he was identified with almost every important movement and brilliant victory in Virginia. He had lived long enough to reap a full harvest of fame, and to have become an example to his countrymen and the admiration of the civilised world. But to the Confederacy his loss is felt to be only not irreparable, because the memory of his deeds and the spirit he inspired glow through the hearts of its armies to animate to noble emulation and kindred deeds of valour, patriotism, and self-devotion. The blood of such a martyr to the cause of Southern liberty and independence canonizes it to the faith and devotion of all its defenders, and constitutes a resistless appeal to the sympathies of mankind, as to the justice of God, against the foul aggressions of our invaders.

Our army may be less in the number of effectives present, but, in every other respect, is believed to be superior to its condition at the close of the last year. The men are more veteran, indurated to all the hardships and exposures of a soldier's life, familiar with danger, and confident in themselves and their officers. Their discipline is improved, and while their fiery valour is unabated, their firmness and constancy may, under all circumstances, be more confidently relied on.

The officers, through the tests to which they have been exposed, and the purgation effected by the aid of examining boards, have been rendered more efficient and capable. Altogether, whether the character, valour, efficiency, or morale of the men and officers be regarded, it is but simple justice to them to assert that they have never been surpassed, if ever equalled, by any like number of troops in the records of modern warfare. It only remains that their numbers should be increased and kept up to the standards required by their organisations to give assurance of their invincibility and the early triumph of our cause. It becomes important to consider the sources whence such increase of numbers may be drawn.

The first means to be adopted naturally is to bring back to the army the large and undue proportion of men who, from the provisional character of the army, from the vicinity and temptations of their homes, under the trials of early service, and in a more relaxed state of discipline, have deserted and straggled from their colours.

The effective force of the army is generally a little more than a half, never two-thirds, of the numbers in the ranks. From the absentees, considerable allowance is doubtless to be made for those disabled by wounds and sickness, to whom, as the law makes as yet no adequate provision, discharges have not been granted. It may yet be safely assumed that one-third of our army, on an average, are absent from their posts, and may, with due efforts, be returned. The best means for the accomplishment of this end, it is believed, will be found in some agencies to be added to the service for the enrolment and collection of conscripts. They will be more naturally suggested in connection with the consideration which will be given to that branch of the service.

The classes liable to conscription constitute the natural aliment for the support and increase of the army. During the most trying period of the past campaign, when reverses and captures so greatly diminished our forces in one important department, it was deemed expedient to subject to the call for conscription those between the ages of forty and forty-five. Thus, the male population between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, with the exception of such as, under existing laws, are exempt, or have put in substitutes, are liable to military service. It is difficult to give, with accuracy, the number who, under the past action of the conscript law, have been brought into our armies, and still more, those who yet remain to be called into the field. The law, it will be recollected, gives to all the privilege, before being enrolled, of volunteering into the companies they may prefer; and as calls have been made, a large proportion of those who, under it, have come into service, have availed themselves of this privilege, and thus do not come under the cognisance of the conscribing officers, or on the lists of enrolment. On the nearest approximate estimate that can be made, it is believed that, to every one assigned, there have been three volunteers. The number assigned during the past year in Virginia amounts to some 5,000, and hence the addition to the army from that State would be some 20,000 men. Supposing, as there is no reason to doubt, that other States have done as well, some 80,000 to 100,000 men should have been added to our forces. Yet, with so serious an addition, our armies have not fully maintained their strength in numbers. This affords a startling, but, it is feared, not an incorrect, view of the waste by sickness, casualties of battle, captures, desertions, and discharges.

The resources of supply from collection of deserters, and from conscription, must evidently diminish as the service becomes more active, and the numbers are exhausted; and it cannot be confidently expected that they can, during another year, increase, or even maintain our army in its present numbers. Yet the enemy is making every effort, and scrupling at no means, to raise to overwhelming numbers his already superior forces. One draft for 300,000 men is scarcely finished, with results, indeed, but little satisfactory to him, before another call for a like number is made. The army of the Confederate States, it is clear, must be at least maintained, and, if practicable, even increased. Our final triumph and independence must else be precarious, and consequences worse than ever visited a conquered people may be our hateful and enduring lot. All means within our reach to swell our armies should unhesitatingly be employed.

The able-bodied men between eighteen and forty-five years of age constitute, naturally, the active force for the field, and would probably suffice, and be as numerous as the means and products of the country would equip and sustain. It seems to have been the scheme of the conscript law that all such should be so devoted to active service; but the provision allowing substitutes, and the exemption law, have exonerated considerable numbers and classes. Both, it is submitted, should be repealed.

The law allowing substitutes has proved a means for depleting the army, while it has done more than any single measure to excite discontent and impatience under service among the soldiers. The persons received as substitutes have proved for the most part wholly unreliable; have, in many cases, only entered to desert, and often elsewhere again to make sale of themselves, with a view to like shameful evasion; while the fact that the wealthy could thus indirectly purchase liberation from the toils and dangers necessary for the defence of the very means that gave them the privilege and of the country itself, [illegible] produced among the less fortunate and poorer classes repining and discontent.

The men thus exonerated, too, were, from the advantages of position and [illegible] and reliable of our soldiers who had [illegible] hardships than the perils of a soldier's life. The law is deservedly regretted and reprobated by all acquainted with its operation. It is earnestly recommended that [illegible] repealed, and that all who have enjoyed its benefits be once again subjected to the sacred duty of defending [illegible] property, their liberties, and their country. [illegible] and justice precludes this, while every [illegible] and equity commands it.

The liberty to put in a substitute as it was given by act of Congress, may, regularly and constitutionally, be abrogated by the same instrumentality. There has been [illegible] been alleged, between the soldier or conscript, exempting himself by putting in a substitute, and the Government. It is nothing more than a privilege which, from grounds of policy, the Government has accorded to him, and [illegible] at its abrogation, he ought to be grateful for the [illegible] exemption which he has been allowed to obtain. But if it may be insisted that there is a contract existing, if not between the Government and the principal, yet at least between the principal and the substitute, of which, though made on the faith of an existing law, the former loses all benefit when he is recalled to service.

Were this the correct view, it would be better for the Government that it should return to the principal a fair proportion of the sum expended by him in obtaining his substitute, in all cases in which such substitute has adhered to his engagement, and not cheated the Government of the service to which the contract bound him, than to allow the further exoneration of the principal.

But, in reality, the just view of the matter seems to be, that whenever a call is made on certain prescribed classes for military duty, the privilege of substitution only exempts from that call, and neither can, nor ought to, liberate the principal from the paramount duty, ever incumbent on every citizen as a patriot soldier, to defend his country. The principal when called, by having his substitute accepted, is exonerated from service under that call only, and if he enjoys that, has the full consideration for the contract he has made, whether with the Government or his substitute, he falls back into the body of citizens, and becomes one of the militia of the country, liable like all others to be summoned on other exigencies, and upon further calls to military service. In his exemption from service under the special call which his substitute meets, he has enjoyed his full privilege, or, if it be contract, has received his stipulated consideration; a further call may not be made, future exigencies may not demand more levies for the army; peace may be obtained, and then his exemption will have proved complete, and have been gained by the substitution. He, falling back into the militia, as every citizen liable to military duty, takes his chances of future calls and future necessities. He is subject to be again called, whenever, in the judgment of the Congress, having power to determine, the service of himself and any others is necessary for the public defence. Such need, it is submitted, now exists, and the class of principals, as well as all others constituting the militia, being under the paramount obligation, neither to be evaded nor bargained against, of military service to the State, may be summoned to the field. A man can no more, by privilege granted or contract made, escape the paramount obligation of defending his country from invasion and ruin, than, by promise or purchase of absolution, he can evade the duty of obedience to God. This view of the right of the Government to claim such service is submitted rather to remove scruples which have been imagined to exist on the part of Congress in authorising the call, than to obviate difficulties to be anticipated from the class of principals. It is confidently believed their courage, zeal, and patriotism will disdain all paltry quibbling to evade their country's call, and that by prompt response in that country's need will they manifest their appreciation of their own highest duty, and their alacrity to meet whatever of peril or sacrifice it may entail.

No records exist which will furnish the precise number of principals who may thus be recalled to service. The best conjectural computation places the number throughout the Confederacy, at not less, certainly, than 50,000 men, of an age and class calculated to make approved soldiers.

The classes covered by the exemption law may also, it is believed, be advantageously abridged. The aim of the law seems to have been to exonerate only a sufficient number of experts in various professions, trades, and mechanical pursuits, to meet the requirements of society; but as from the mode of effecting this, in various instances, all of special trades or pursuits have been exempted, the consequence has been, that a larger number of persons, more in various localities than are needed by the requirements of the country, have been relieved from service. This has caused some natural dissatisfaction among those whose services are exacted in the field, as well as operated to the diminution of the numbers liable to conscription. A wiser course, it is believed, would be to render all within the prescribed ages, capable of bearing arms, subject to conscription, and allow details to be granted from the professions and mechanical pursuits to the extent that may be necessary for the industrial wants of society. A considerable number might thus be added to the army without unduly impairing the necessary supply of skilled labour for the needs of the country.

Another means of replenishing the army would be by lessening or withdrawing the details which, from time to time, have been made from the army and from conscripts for the works and various operations of the Government. It has been the policy and earnest effort of this Department to make them as limited as possible; but still they have, under the unceasing demands of all branches of the services swollen to a number that constitutes a serious abstraction from the army. One great cause of the number thus required has been the exceptional state of the market for labour caused by the enhancement of prices and the paucity of labourers. The comparatively few men who are at command for hire claim, and can obtain, wages that almost preclude their employment by the Government; and besides, as the public works have to be carried on by labourers assembled in considerable numbers, and in many instances, as at mines, saltpetre caves, and the like, at distant points, the men above conscript age, having, for the most part, families and settled abodes, are reluctant to render their services for any rewards. The only remedy that is seen for this, would be the extension of the claim of service by Government to a greater age, and allow details from those not now subject to military calls. Priority would thus be afforded to the Government in the command of labourers; and when it was thus distinctly recognised by them as their contribution to public defence, and [illegible]

[illegible]

them in their negro regiments, and wherever they have established anywhere a temporary occupation, they practise a regular system of compulsory recruiting from the slaves within their reach. Not merely, therefore, for the purpose of preserving to the Confederacy this valuable labour [illegible], but from the plainer necessity of preventing the enemy from recruiting their armies with our own slaves, [illegible] on the military authorities of the Confederacy to remove from any district exposed to [illegible] the effective male slaves. Were there any white population within our country so affected to the enemy as to afford recruits to their army, there could be neither doubt nor delay in removing them to a secure distance on the approach of hostile forces, and surely the obligation is even more clear in regard to the slaves, whose employment by the enemy as soldiers converts them from valuable labourers into savage instruments of [illegible] war against our people and their institutions. All male slaves capable of arms, in such cases, should, on the approach of the enemy, be at once removed, by military authority, to more secure districts, where they may be reclaimed by their masters, or, on their failure to do so, be employed, on reasonable terms of hire, by the Government. In this way, it is probable a large number of efficient negroes may be obtained to supply the details from the army for all unskilled labour, and also to liberate for arms the soldiers now engaged in unwarlike duties in the trains and camps of our armies. While it may be difficult to ascertain the precise numbers that may, from these various sources, be thrown into our armies, there can be no doubt they would be swelled considerably beyond their present numbers, and constitute an army larger, as well as more effective, than any we have yet mustered. In view of the increasing repugnance of the enemy to furnish recruits to their army, and the failing hopes it indicates, it is almost certain that manifestation of strength and resolution on the part of the people of the Confederacy would soon be decisive of the struggle. When all the disastrous consequences of long, wasting warfare are weighed, and the mighty issues to ourselves and our posterity, dependent on our success, are realised, and it is apparent our people have only, with united wills and a supreme effort, to put forth their entire strength, to assure the prize of peace and independence, should there be misgiving, or hesitancy even, in adopting all the means requisite to summon forth the full number of our population of age and ability for arms, and to hurl them against the invading foe? The only enquiry, it is hoped, will be for the agencies that can most speedily accomplish the desired marshalling.

The organisation already engaged in the execution of the conscript law, may, with some slight modifications, be readily made available. With its officers, it now extends to all portions of the Confederate States, and by systematised action it may be rendered as available to collect stragglers and deserters, to give information of the details that may be spared, and of the labourers, whether free or slave, that may be commanded to fill the places of the soldiers returned to service, as to enrol conscripts, and the exempts and principals who may be again recalled to military service. One addition may be required to give it fuller efficiency. As originally designed, the law was expected entirely to enforce itself by its prestige and the sanction of public sentiment. Every man, on being enrolled and summoned to his duty, was expected promptly to respond, and no adequate means of compulsion were incorporated. This, in the main, has been sufficient, as among a free people ready obedience to law—specially a law for the public defence—might be expected; and the appearance of compulsion, particularly by military authority, was to be deprecated as both unnecessary and revolting. But as the war has been realised in all its trials, repugnance and recusancy have, in some limited portions of country, been manifested occasionally to the call of the conscribing officers; and when desertion and straggling have added in those districts numbers of lawless and desperate men, there have been combinations and organisations for open resistance to the regular action of the law. It is always best to overcome such evils in their inception, and to prevent such lawless feelings from coming to the head of open violence and insurrection. There has, therefore, been found the necessity, at times, of small supporting forces to aid and enforce the execution of the law, both of conscription and for the arrest of deserters. Such forces could only occasionally, and at intervals, be spared from the armies in the field: and it is, therefore, found expedient to organise, of non-conscripts and the least available of the conscripts, local or temporary organisations, which could be more constantly employed in arresting deserters and collecting the conscripts. A regiment or battalion in each State would probably suffice for the full accomplishment of these ends; and while, under the general laws

already existing, a few companies have been organised and are thus employed, it might be well to have more special authority of law for the constitution and employment of such limited forces by the officers of the conscript service.

One of the subjects demanding early attention is to make provision respecting the troops whose term of service will expire during the ensuing spring and summer. The number is considerable. According to the records of the Adjutant and Inspector-General's office, three hundred and fifteen regiments and fifty-eight battalions contain more or less of those whose original term of service having been for twelve months, either re-enlisted for two years, or were embraced within the operation of the act of April 16, 1862. That act authorised the re-organisation of the regiments, battalions, squadrons, and companies within its scope, which was completed—once for all. And though the individual soldiers, composing such organisations in a greater or less degree, be entitled to their discharge from them, the organisation itself is not disturbed or broken up, but remains the more or less a skeleton according to the numbers of those discharged.

It is earnestly recommended that these organisations be not broken up by any legislative action. Great injustice would thereby be done to the gallant officers who have been tested in every way; the inspiriting associations and prestige of courage and success attached to the existing organisations would be lost. Should new organisations be authorised, much injury would be done to the service, by the unsettled feelings, discontents, and the demoralisation, in order and discipline, which follow general electioneering throughout a command. These evils were so vividly realised in the re-organisation of the twelve-months men, and operated so harshly on many of the best officers in the service, that their renewal is most earnestly deprecated.

The men whose terms of service would thus expire cannot finally be discharged from the service. The country needs their assistance for defence against our oppressors. Under the present law, they would have the privilege of selecting their companies. But the exigencies of the service may advise a modification of the privilege of selecting the existing companies in which to serve, before enrolment, so as to restrict it to a company of the same arm of the service; otherwise, a partiality for certain branches of the service, as, for instance, the artillery, the desire of change, of trying a new sphere of action, so natural to the individual, may operate to impair seriously, if not destroy, the efficiency of one or more arms of the service, while others might be increased beyond all proper proportion for usefulness.

The necessary legislation is therefore recommended, to retain in service all those between the ages of eighteen and forty-five at the close of their present terms of enlistment, with the privilege of selecting beforehand an existing company in the same arm, in which to serve preserving the present organisations, with their officers, to be filled up by such selections and the assignments of enrolled conscripts.

From peculiar circumstances or influences, some of the present organisations will be greatly reduced in numbers; and to place them in a proper condition of efficiency will furnish an additional reason for the adoption of the means suggested to increase the numbers of our troops, especially of recalling to service the principals who have furnished substitutes.

In some instances, doubtless, the reduction of existing organisations will compel the necessity of consolidating them. This furnishes an additional reason to some hereafter produced for the bestowal of this power upon the Department.

The law providing boards to determine the competency of officers has operated very favourably, both to secure efficiency, and to promote improvements among all aspiring officers and men. It has done much to obviate the evils anticipated from the system of election and promotion in the provisional army, when so few had the benefit of previous learning or experience. Still, the policy of elections at all may be well questioned, since inseparable from it arise an undue regard to popularity, especially among the non-commissioned officers, and a spirit of electioneering subversive of subordination and discipline. Promotions by seniority, too, as the rule, may be judicious; but it might, considering the number of officers who have no military education, be advantageously varied with a large latitude to selection. Boards to test competency, instead of being casual and at discretion, should, it is thought, examine every officer on his promotion by seniority. The universality of the test would thus deprive it of that apparent invidiousness which often prevents its application. In that certainty, too, would be found a greater incentive to constant preparation on the part of all junior officers. It might be expedient to extend to those boards a wider power of recommendation, so that they might not be restricted to determining merely the competency of those before them, but might make recommendations of more efficient officers, whether in or out of the special organisation, giving, however, preference, on an approach to equal qualifications, to the former. In determining the competency of officers, the boards have extended their enquiries to physical disabilities. In consequence, many officers, whose gallant services are attested by their wounds, or whose health has been broken down by the privations or exposures of service, are honourably retired, and thus deprived of their commissions. The efficiency of the service may be thus promoted, but every feeling of gratitude and justice revolts at such reward for wounds and sickness received in the service of the country. From such feelings it often happens that there is no call of a board in cases of disability, and then the position of the disabled officer cannot be filled in the field, and the road to promotion is effectually blocked to the junior officers. This state of things is often felt by gallant officers under disability with such honourable sensibility, that, even without adequate provision for their own maintenance, they feel bound to resign. Nor can relief from this painful necessity be given by assigning them to posts or other duties than those of the field. For only by virtue of their commissions can such assignment be made and held; and their retention of the commission debars their juniors in the field from advancement, and leaves their command without the necessary complement of officers. All this results from the feature incident to the organisation of the provisional army, that the commission is restricted to, and dependent upon, the special organisation. To obviate the serious mischiefs resulting, it is recommended that all officers disabled by wounds or sickness incurred in the service should be honourably retired, and severed from connection with their special organisations, but be allowed during the war to retain their rank and pay. They would thus be available, as far as their disabilities for field service would permit, for posts and other light duties, and might, without injury to the service in the field, be scarcely less useful to the country in less exposed but still important positions. Some measure of relief in these cases will be promotive of the efficiency of the army in the field, while it is imperatively called for by the simplest justice to the brave officers who have been shattered in health or maimed in body in noble discharge of patriotic duty.

In connection with the subject of these boards, it seems appropriate to invite attention to the number of reports proceeding from them, and to the onerous duty which is imposed on the Executive to examine and decide on all which retire or dismiss officers. With other arduous labours, of even more importance, it is not physically possible that the proceedings should receive from the Executive a consideration that is desirable for just revision. A like remark applies to the many cases from courts-martial and the military courts, which are sent up, or brought by appeal to Executive clemency, to the consideration of this Department and the President. At the same time, a painful responsibility attaches, in all these cases, which will not allow them to be lightly treated. To obviate the difficulty, it is recommended that an officer, in the nature of a judge advocate, be appointed specially to examine all such cases, and to make report on all that require the exercise, finally, of Executive discretion. Some measure of this kind should be adopted, or the approvals of the commanders in the field be made final, except on direct appeal, within reasonable time, to the Executive.

In reference to the cavalry, under the system of requiring the men to furnish their own horses, it is becoming daily more difficult, and, it is feared, will soon become impracticable, to keep mounted a sufficient number for effective service. Under the advance in price, and the increasing scarcity of suitable horses, few have the ability to supply themselves, while the contingencies of active and exhausting service, often on inadequate forage, too frequently imposes the necessity. The difficulty is enhanced by the limited range of casualties for which provision of payment is made—only those 'killed in action.'

The difficulty of procuring horses is also becoming almost equally applicable to officers. The law of the provisional Congress, making provision for the payment for horses killed in battle, did not, according to the received construction, embrace officers. This was probably owing to the liberal rate at which, with existing values, their pay was fixed. In consequence, they would receive no allowance whatever for horses, even when killed in battle, had not a law of the United States, embraced in the general re-enactment of the provisional Congress, allowed them compensation, not exceeding in any case the sum of $260 for the horse. The change which the increase of prices has made, partially in the rate of pay, as also in the price of horses, renders it beyond the ability of many to procure suitable steeds when dismounted. Justice, as well as the interest of the service, urges the correction of these evils; and it is suggested, either that the system be changed and horses be furnished by the Government to both officers and men, with a disallowance of the compensation granted for the service or loss of the horse, or that provision be made to pay all officers, as well as men, the appraised values of their horses, when lost by any of the actual contingencies of service, and not through remissness or neglect.

The advantages anticipated from the allowance of corps of partisan rangers, with peculiar privileges of prize to stimulate their zeal and activity, have been very partially realised, while, from their independent organisation and the facilities and temptations thereby afforded to license and depredations, grave mischiefs have resulted. They have, indeed, when under inefficient officers, and operating within our own limits, come to be regarded as more formidable and destructive to our own people than to the enemy. The opportunities, too, afforded them of profit by their captures, as well as the lighter bonds of discipline under which they are held, serve to dissatisfy the trained soldiers of the provisional army, who, encountering greater perils and privations, are denied similar indulgences. There are certainly some honourable exceptions to the general estimate thus held of the partisan corps, and, in several instances, partisan leaders have distinguished themselves and their corps by services as eminent as their achievements have been daring and brilliant. They constitute only notable exceptions, and experience of the general inefficiency and even mischief of the organisations would recommend that they either be merged in the troops of the line, or be disbanded and conscribed. To preserve the few that are valuable coadjutors to the general service, a discretion may be intrusted to the Department.

The military courts have been found to operate beneficially on the morale and efficiency of the army. They have dispensed with the necessity of such frequent details of officers from their regular duties for courts-martial, and, from their disconnection with the rivalries and interests of the line, as well as their larger experience and superior qualifications, have generally secured a larger measure of satisfaction to their judgments. As the courts, under the existing law, are each separately constituted, the members cannot, under temporary exigencies, be interchanged or assigned from one court to another. Inconveniences have sometimes resulted from this, when, from any cause, it was desirable some member should not sit in a particular case, or when some members of a particular court were detained by sickness or some other reason, and, from inability to supply their places, the court is rendered inoperative. As a remedy, it is proposed the Executive be authorised, at any time, to assign judges from one court to another, as, in his judgment, the service may require. And a similar authority to detail field officers as members of the court, in temporary exigencies, might be given to the commanders of corps or departments, as is granted them, by the law creating such courts, to detail an officer to perform the duties of the judge advocate in case of his absence or disability.

For the due complement of staff officers, the powers reposed by law in the Executive seem adequate, with one exception. The appointment of quartermasters and commissaries, for service in the field, has never been extended beyond brigades, and consequently no such officers can be directly appointed for divisions, corps, or an entire army. The experience of the service indicates, that for every army a chief quartermaster and commissary, in direct communication with the general, through whom the general supplies and movements of the army may be arranged and directed, are essential. So also, as corps, and even divisions, have often, in the operations in the field, to operate separately, sometimes at considerable distances apart, almost as separate armies, for like uses, to them a principal quartermaster and commissary are always important, and, at times, indispensable. The necessity of the case has, therefore, led the generals, under their discretionary control over all the officers of their commands, to withdraw or assign from their brigades quartermasters and commissaries to act for the army, the corps and divisions; and as such assignment proved continuous, their places have not unfrequently been filled as vacancies by new appointments to the brigades. Indeed, this has become a practice so recognised, that Congress, in one of its acts, has seemed, by its reference to division quartermasters, to have given to it an implied sanction. The Department, however, has, in the absence of express law, felt an embarrassment in either making such appointment, or in giving to the officers assigned rank appropriate to their superior position and more extended duties. It is suggested that such difficulties had better be removed by direct authority for the appointment and assignment of such officers, with rank determined by the dignity of the commands to which they are to be attached.

For the more effective organisation of the army, it will be necessary to have the power, when companies or regiments are reduced in numbers below a certain complement, to consolidate and organise them anew. This is a necessity greatly to be regretted; for many honourable associations, as well as the prestige of courage and success attached to the old organisations, make it alike matter of feeling and policy to retain them. Justice to the many gallant officers, who by such consolidations must lose their commissions, likewise increases the repugnance to the proceeding. With most of the organisations contributed from the States where the conscript law can be enforced, it is hoped the necessity may be avoided. But no alternative seems to exist in regard to those coming from the States overrun or in the occupancy of the enemy. Without such measure, the organisations from these States will dwindle to extinction. From them the recruits that can be procured come only in organisations of their choice, and are generally induced to come forth from the enemy's lines by the active exertions of officers interested in forming new commands. This power of consolidation has sometimes, from the necessity of the case, been exercised by generals in commands, but, unless effected by consent, the Department has felt its inability to regard them otherwise than temporary arrangements, and as leaving the old organisations with their officers in legal existence. This leads to the inconvenience of having officers of the line retained in commission without appropriate commands, and in every way causes complaint and confusion. In an indirect way the power is indeed possessed, and, under the stress of necessity, has sometimes been exercised by the Department, of effecting consolidations—that is, by disbanding one of the organisations from the same State, thus dismissing the officers, and leaving the men liable to conscription, and then assigning the latter to the other organisation. The effect of this, however, is to retain all the officers of the one organisation, while all of the other lose their commissions; or if, in lieu of this plan, both organisations are disbanded, and the men thrown together in a new one, all the mischiefs and demoralisations resulting from elections and a new set of officers are hazarded. It evidently would be far better there should be the discretion reposed either in the commanding general or the Department to consolidate directly, and let the best officers from both organisations be selected, either by the Executive, or on the recommendation of impartial examining boards. Power should be given, too, in such cases, to permit such of the officers not needed, who are recommended as deserving, to retain their commissions, and be subject to assignment to other appropriate duties. Thus, as far as practicable, in the painful necessity of reducing commands, efficiency in the commands would be reconciled with justice to the officers.

By the means recommended, all of military capabilities between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, excepting such as the actual needs of society or the Government render more serviceable in peaceful avocations, may be effectively devoted to active service in the field. But there will still remain large numbers, of ages less adapted to the field, but still capable of arms, who may be rendered effective as a reserve, and for purposes of local defence and internal police. In a struggle such as the Confederacy is engaged in, with all the dearest interests of the present and future dependent on the successful resistance to foes superior in numbers and material resources, and animated by the most malignant passions for our complete subjugation or extermination, all of whatever age, capable of striking a blow or mustering for defence, should be unhesitatingly summoned, as they should be prompt to answer, to the sacred duty of repelling the invader. The Confederacy may well be regarded as a beleaguered city, where all capable should be placed at the guns, and all privileged from age or infirmity should yet minister to the common safety. The ruthless policy, recently adopted by the enemy, of cavalry raids through important districts of the country, with the nefarious purposes of destruction and devastation, that, by depriving of the means of production and subsistence the helpless and dependent, they may compel to submission the men they have feared to confront or been unable to subdue, renders more clear and imperative the duty of thus organising and preparing our reserve population. These raids, hitherto made with little danger through extensive but sparsely populated districts, and prosecuted rather in the spirit of brigands than of soldiers, might be easily checked and punished by comparatively few brave men, however little adapted to continuous service, if only duly organised and armed. A few instances of merited vengeance from the intended victims of their rapacity and cruelty would effectually stop such malignant marauders. To accomplish such organisation, it will only be necessary to enforce, as an obligation, the duty on all capable of arms to unite in such companies as are provided for voluntary engagements by the acts of August 21, 1861, and October 13, 1862. The former contemplated organisations for local defence and special service within prescribed districts, when the members remained uninterrupted in their ordinary avocations until, on the occurrence of an emergency, called by the President into actual service, and, when the need had passed, were again returned to their civil pursuits. While in service, they are armed, paid, and provided by the Confederate Government, and constitute a part of the provisional army, subject to the military authority, and governed by the rules and articles of war. The latter provided for mere defensive bands of twenty or more, who, on the approach of a hostile incursion, should, with their own arms and means, bravely seek to defend their homes and punish the spoilers. It cast around them the ægis of the Government, and recognised them as among the authorised defenders of their country.

These two laws may readily be adapted to a division of the reserve population into two classes—those whose age and health would sustain service throughout the State, or some extensive district, and who might be called on for continuous service during an emergency; and those who would only be adapted to defensive or police operations within their counties. By this adaptation, and a compulsory requirement, the whole arms-bearing population not in active service could, without seriously impairing the productive and industrial resources of the country, be organised as effective aids in our great struggle. They would suffice to insure defence and internal security to each State and county, while the armies in the field could be employed solely in overthrowing the invading hosts of the enemy. A grander spectacle would never have been presented in history than a whole people thus organised and armed, prepared, old and young alike, at home and on their frontiers, to meet and repel their rapacious aggressors.

The subject of the exchange of prisoners of war has excited

much attention, and has a painful interest to our people and our brave soldiers, whom the fortune of war has thrown into the hands of our enemies. It was the desire of the Government, from an early period of the war, to agree upon a fair and equitable system of exchanges. The large preponderance of prisoners being on our side, negotiations were opened and had been nearly consummated, the terms having been agreed upon in accordance with the views of his Government as expressed by the Commissioner of the United States, and under his assurance of satisfactory settlement, a large number of prisoners held by us were delivered up. Some serious reverses, however, just then befalling us, and large numbers of prisoners being taken by the enemy, they refused to consummate the agreement, and broke off the negotiation. Their losses in prisoners in subsequent military operations, especially in their disastrous defeats around this city, again giving us the preponderance, a cartel of exchange was agreed on and executed. Various efforts to obtain unfair advantages by quibbling as to its terms and operation were made, and its provisions violated by the enemy, but the cartel was recognised as being in force, and exchanges continued to be made. Our reverses in July again gave them, as they claim, the preponderance in the number of prisoners, since which time they have openly disregarded its obligations, and have now, upon a false and flimsy pretext, declared it to be inoperative. All exchanges have now ceased, with little apparent prospect of renewal. The exchange of prisoners was desired on our part for the sake of humanity, to prevent, in accordance with the usages of war among civilised nations, individual suffering, as far as practicable. And all the obligations imposed on us, as to the treatment of prisoners and exchange, by such usages and the cartel of exchange, have been fulfilled on our part with entire and scrupulous good faith, while the course of our enemies has been marked by perfidy and a disregard of their engagements and the dictates of humanity.

The report of Mr. Ould, our Commissioner of Exchange, which accompanies this, will fully explain the present position of this interesting subject.

It is gratifying to be able to report that, during the past year, the ordnance and mining bureau has steadily increased the production and supply of arms and munitions. Notwithstanding the serious injury sustained from fire by one of the leading establishments of the Confederacy for the manufacture of ordnance, yet, by prompt repairs and the establishment of similar works in other portions of the Confederacy, the manufacture has rather increased, and is now believed to be adequate to the regular demands of the service. Arms, too, of approved kinds are being made with more facility, at more places and in larger numbers, than at any previous time. Very valuable additions to our supplies of arms have been made during the year by importations from abroad, and thus have enabled the bureau promptly to repair the very heavy losses which were sustained in the disastrous campaign in Mississippi. But without such aids in the future, unless unwonted losses occur, confidence is felt in our ability, by internal manufacture, to provide arms adequate to the demands of our armies. In the manufacture of powder, balls, shell, &c., progress has been marked, and with some addition in the supplies of nitre from foreign sources, there will be no want of adequate supplies of superior quality. Special attention has been given to the distribution of these works in different portions of the Confederacy, so as not to leave our supplies dependent on single disasters. While not yet wholly independent in the supply of nitre, there has been, until very recently, marked increase in its production. That increase has, during the past year, nearly doubled from production. The temporary occupancy by the enemy of the districts of the country where the richest deposits of nitrous earth were found, has, for the present, diminished the production; but it is encouraging to know that the artificial sources of supply, in beds of nitrous earth, will soon begin to be available, and much more than supply the deficiencies which have resulted from the operations of the enemy.

The mining operations in iron, lead, and coal have all been pushed with remarkable skill and activity, under the direction of the zealous head of the nitre and mining bureau, in despite of all the embarrassments resulting from paucity of labourers and fluctuating prices; and the result has been in each more abundant production, and a better prospect of future sufficiency, than we have yet enjoyed. A more decisive exhibition of the resources and exhaustless capacities of endurance possessed by the Confederacy could not well be presented than the decided increase, amid unprecedented efforts and sacrifices in the field and numberless impediments in procuring machinery, labour, and supplies, of all the great manufactures essential for successful defence.

The quartermaster and commissary generals, in the administration of their respective departments, have had, during the past year, extraordinary difficulties and embarrassments to encounter. The manufacturing operations of the former, as in the other bureaus, have indeed been conducted on a large scale, with more economy of material and with greater skill and energy than at past periods, and have made more largely the supplies for the army from internal resources; but still for some essential articles, such as shoes, blankets, and woollen cloths, partial dependence on importations could not be avoided. In these articles it can scarcely be expected that domestic production can be increased, for, under the wasting consumption of war, the production of the raw material is more likely to be diminished than increased. But the difficulties of both the quartermaster and commissary generals have been most grave in the large necessary purchases and transportation of forage and subsistence. The abstraction of so much male labour from culture, and the barbarous ravages of the enemy pursued with a systematic view to curtail our resources by spoliation and destruction, combined with unfavourable seasons to limit, almost beyond precedent, the production of these essential articles. The scarcity, too, was greatest in one or two of the States nearest to our largest armies; and the necessity for months of sustaining almost entirely the armies of Northern Virginia from supplies of corn drawn from South Carolina and Georgia will strikingly illustrate both the dearth and the difficulty of supplying it. At one time it was thought necessary to make appeal direct to the feelings and patriotism of the people for the prompt rendition of all surplus of supplies for subsistence; and it is a grateful duty to acknowledge that they who have never failed to recognise as their own the cause of the Confederacy, with zeal and emulation met the exigencies of the case, and, in very many instances, stinted themselves and their dependents to supply the army. It is most creditable to these departments that they have been able, amid the real deficiencies existing, and the many hindrances from distance, defective transportation, and other causes, to keep the armies at all times moderately supplied, and even able to make all the movements in the field which the exigencies of the campaign demanded. How long their exertion will avail to assure such results, it must be confessed, is now a matter of grave anxiety.

The consumption of all animal life in the army has been very great [illegible] and well-spread [illegible] constitute the [illegible] ferment [illegible] the army and the people [illegible] It is considerably [illegible] most in the Confederacy, to [illegible] army and yet [illegible] people [illegible] result it must be [illegible] country than our people have been [illegible] The supplies of beef and bacon [illegible] doubtedly [illegible] in superabundance in the Confederacy [illegible] decidedly unfavourable. Many [illegible] of long forage may be readily [illegible] hoped the people will recognise the necessity of [illegible] the best of their stores for the use of the [illegible] the much harsher toils and labour of the [illegible] more necessary, as another of our immediate needs [illegible] supply of horses for cavalry and artillery, and [illegible] of the service. Our safety demands that we preserve [illegible] during the rigours of the winter, and in a condition to render efficient service in the spring, as it would then be next to impossible to replace them.

But the gravest difficulty encountered by the [illegible] Department is, that the only mode of obtaining supplies [illegible] to them is impressment. The inflation of the currency, and the insatiable thirst for gain and speculation [illegible] have caused inordinate enhancement of the prices of all products, and a yet continuing advance, stimulated in part by the increasing volume of the currency, and in part by the [illegible] calculation of large gains from hoarding by holders or speculators. To this has likewise contributed some distrust, not of the cause of the Confederacy, but of its future ability, however earnest its desire to preserve its credit and good faith, to redeem the large issues which such enhancements of price rendered inevitable. The consequences have been an almost universal repugnance on the part of producers and holders to sell at any price, except under compulsion. This evil had begun to manifest itself before the close of the last Congress, to such a degree that some legislative remedy was recognised to be indispensable. To buy at current prices was seen to be suicidal to the credit of the Government, to swell its indebtedness, in a brief period, beyond its utmost capacities for redemption, and, at the same time, to raise, by daily accessions, the advancing scale of extravagant prices, until both the fears and interests of the holders would forbid sales at all. Under these circumstances, Congress devised and authorised a system of impressment of all property required 'for the good of the service,' or the accumulation of adequate supplies for the army, at the same time recognising, that under the exceptional circumstances of the country, and the disturbance of the ordinary laws of trade regulating supply and demand, current prices constituted no criterion of just compensation required by the Constitution to be allowed for the appropriation of private property to public uses. Congress provided for the ascertainment of such just compensation by reference, in the first instance, in part to local appraisers, and then to two commissioners to be appointed for each State, one by the Governor and the other by the President of the Confederacy. These officers, combining, by their appointment, the sanction of the State and Confederate authorities, were not only to entertain appeals from local appraisements, but from time to time to ascertain and prescribe fair rates of valuation to govern in impressments. As there seems no other alternative, this was, perhaps, as judicious an arrangement on this delicate and difficult subject as was practicable, and on it the Government has been compelled to rely almost exclusively during the past year. This resource, operating with increasing stringency and strain, is, at this time, its only reliance. The evils attending it are, however, very great, and only less than the failure or deficiency of supplies, which, so far, it has managed to avert. Impressment is, evidently, a harsh, unequal, and odious mode of supply. With the utmost forbearance and consideration, even its occasional exercise is harassing and irritating; but when it has to prevail as a general practice, to be exercised inquisitorially and summarily in almost every private domain, by a multitude of subordinate officers, it becomes beyond measure offensive and repugnant to the sense of justice and prevalent sentiment of our people. It has been, perhaps, the sorest test of their patriotism and self-sacrificing spirit afforded by the war, and no other people, it is believed, would have endured it without undue manifestations of discontent and resistance. It has caused much murmuring and dissatisfaction; but a knowledge of the necessities which alone justified it has caused the outcry to be directed rather to the mode and, as alleged, occasional excesses of its exercise, than against the system itself. Casual irregularities and abuses in the use of such a power, by numerous agents in so many quarters, may not be wholly unavoidable, but every effort to obtain information respecting them, and to afford prompt correctives, has been earnestly made by the Department. As to the mode of action, great misapprehension has prevailed. It has been supposed that it was the system of the Department to attempt to regulate the prices for the public, according to the schedule rates prescribed by the State appraisers, by impressing the products held by all who sold at higher rates, and in like spirit to keep supplies from being enhanced in price by the competition of consumers in the large cities, by the impressment of all supplies in transitu to market, unless the holders would agree to sell at schedule prices. To this supposed policy was ascribed the great enhancement of prices in the markets of the cities, and the gravest apprehensions of want were entertained by many, from the alleged exclusion of free supplies to the cities. The orders and instructions of the Department had been, in fact, against such policy, and the republication and reiteration of the regulations on the subject, which had been made soon after the initiation of the system, have, it is hoped, removed such injurious impressions. At the same time, it is found, as throughout it had been feared by the Department, that the scarcity and high prices of supplies in the markets of the country have not been due to the law of impressment, or to the supposed policy under it. The impressment law applies only to the surplus of producers, and expressly exempts, to them and others, the reasonable supplies they may have or obtain for the consumption of themselves, their families, or dependents. Thus, all consumers are privileged freely to supply themselves. All supplies, too, it is now at least fully known, are exempt in transitu to market, and for a reasonable time afterwards. Yet it is found that all prices have only the more rapidly advanced, and are still advancing, and that neither are the markets of the cities adequately supplied, nor can consumers, by purchase at current rates, without the utmost difficulty supply themselves. The truth is, that the explanation, as the cause, is to be found outside of the impressment law, or the action under it. The real difficulty is, that the price advancing from day to day, with an [illegible]

[illegible] character. If the present system be continued [illegible] many hundred per cent. above [illegible] enhanced, the credit of the Government [illegible] utterly, and no alternative left for the [illegible] tracted struggle, and the preservation of our [illegible] but grinding taxation, and the [illegible] present compensation of all supplies [illegible] as well as the armies of the Confederacy.

The necessity of reliance on impressment, as the ordinary mode of supply, it is trusted, will, by judicious [illegible] be obviated; but, as it may, at all times, be of occasional necessity and employment, it is desirable that the law should be perfected in some of its features. In [illegible] with justice in the main, in the deference of our people for law, and in their patriotic disposition to comply with the requirements for their defence, Congress has made imperfect provision as to the mode of procedure for its enforcement, especially when evaded or resisted. It is very important that the enforcement of all laws, even those having direct connection with military affairs, should not look to, or be dependent in the first instance on, the sanction of armed force, but should be attained by civil procedures, and the regular administration of justice. The absence of such provisions in this law has compelled the Department to frame and issue regulations assimilating the proceedings to civil administration, which regulations partake more the character of legislation than is felt to be appropriate to military orders. They have been acquiesced in, with commendable recognition of their aim, by the public, but it is preferable they, or more perfect provisions, should have the legislative sanction.

The tax in kind, which was adopted in some measure to obviate the issue of notes and the resort to impressment, has been as yet but measurably operative; but beneficial results have so far followed, and greater are expected to flow from its application. Delays have resulted, it is believed, from inevitable causes for the most part, in the lists of assessment to be made by the officers of the Treasury, and handed over to the quartermasters. To obviate these, and realise early supplies, invitations were extended to all producers to deliver spontaneously to the quartermasters and commissaries what they considered as their tithes, for which receipts would be given, to be allowed in evidence of delivery on the future reception of the assessor's lists. To some extent this invitation has been responded to, and has relieved, so far, the Department from the necessity of impressing supplies, and had lightened the labour of future deliveries. Owing to reluctance, however, generally felt by producers, either to indicate the extent of their crops, or to prepare them for market, from both the fear of impressment, and the indisposition to sell, deliveries before assessment have been less prevalent than was anticipated. It is yet too early to form any reliable estimates of the amounts of supplies that may be counted on from this tax, but it is certain that the loss of several productive districts, the wanton ravages of the enemy in others, and an unfavourable season for growth in considerable regions of the Confederacy, must materially lessen the supplies that were calculated on from this source. Enough has been realised to justify the wisdom of the imposition of this tax, and as earnest injunctions have been given to both assessors and collectors to expedite as far as practicable their operations, it is hoped sufficient returns may be obtained at an early day to direct the future legislation of Congress to the attainment of larger supplies by this mode of taxation. Its increase would evidently contribute to the financial relief of the Government, while a larger contribution in kind, if only equitably apportioned in comparison with the impositions on other classes, would probably prove to the producers the most acceptable mode of taxation.

The inflation of the currency and inordinate prices of all supplies have caused to the Department a painful embarrassment, from the inadequacy of the salaries and all wages of its clerks and employes to maintain them. Single men in such positions are barely able to subsist on their official compensation, and those with families, when without other means, have been obliged to yield their places, depend on the charity of friends, or suffer dire privations. Cases of such real suffering have resulted from this cause, that it would be culpable remissness, or unfeeling obduracy, not to urge earnestly a more just provision for them. Their whole time and labour are given, with a zeal, devotion, and industry rarely surpassed, to the toilsome and unostentatious duties of the bureaus and offices. Means at least of subsistence and lodging should be accorded without delay, by the Government, to such faithful labourers.

(To be continued.)

Captain James F. Lalor, C.S.A., has arrived in this country from Richmond as a bearer of despatches and on leave of absence. Captain Lalor was formerly of Dublin.

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

Our friends in the United Kingdom and on the Continent are earnestly requested to forward to us, at their earliest convenience, such information relative to the military movements and condition of affairs in America as they may receive through private letters, either from the United States, or from the Confederate States. They may rely upon the most scrupulous precautions being observed that no names or facts leading to identification will, under any circumstances, be revealed. No communications, however, will be noticed unless authenticated by a responsible name. Southern newspapers, of any date, will be useful and acceptable presents.

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THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1864.

The War.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL ULYSSES GRANT, for whom the New York press, with true classical and historical instinct, has invented another cognomen—SCIPIO AFRICANUS—is appointed Commander-in-Chief of the United States Armies, vice HALLECK, dethroned. With characteristic promptitude, the new Generalissimo has placed all the most important commands in the hands of officers who have been his own colleagues in the late campaigns in the South-west; and thus Generals MACPHERSON and SHERMAN have jumped at once over the heads of a dozen generals, their superiors in rank and experience, and have attained a position and responsibilities which NAPOLEON I. would hardly have delegated to the most tried and able of his Marshals. MACPHERSON is twenty-seven years old. He is energetic and 'plucky,' but there his qualifications end, and he is to command the department of Tennessee; that is to say, he has to protect the long Federal lines from Memphis to Chattanooga, and from Louisville to Nashville and Knoxville, to hold Chattanooga and the capital of Eastern Tennessee, and to make head against two such commanders as LONGSTREET and JOHNSTON. General SHERMAN, whose most remarkable military exploit is his march from Vicksburg to Meridian and back again, takes the division of the Mississippi, including, we presume, Louisiana and Arkansas. General GRANT will establish his head-quarters in the field, 'with the respective armies operating under his personal supervision.' Considering that the North has about six large armies in the field, General GRANT's powers of ubiquity will be pretty well tested; but how on earth he is to 'personally superintend the operations of the respective armies,' conducting a series of campaigns over an area as large as half Europe, must surpass the comprehension and faith of any one but the editor of a New York paper. It is true the elevation of General GRANT is not announced with the usual exultation of Yankee journalism. Whether successive failures have made the press cautious, or whether the appointment is regarded as another of those clever dodges of 'honest ABE LINCOLN' by which a dangerous rival for Presidential honours is to be got out of the way, certain it is that GRANT's command has excited very little enthusiasm, and that its probable political results are much more a matter of speculation and discussion than its prospective military triumphs. A month ago GRANT's praises were very loudly sounded. Then his Anaconda scheme No. 2 was on the verge of execution. He had submitted a plan which could not fail. SHERMAN, THOMAS, GRIERSON, SEYMOUR, and FARRAGUT were threatening the cotton States at all points, and SCIPIO AFRICANUS—we beg his pardon, ULYSSES GRANT—was the man who had *inventé la poudre* which was to shatter the Confederacy into ruins. We all know how the affair has ended; how FARRAGUT is still pounding away at the outer defences of Mobile Harbour, with about as much hope, and probably as little desire of attempting a passage of the Channel, as Admiral DAHLGREN has of testing the inner batteries of Charleston; how GRIERSON's command fled in disorder into Memphis; how SHERMAN, after marching up and down Mississippi with 'wonderful vigour and celerity,' thought himself lucky in reaching Vicksburg; how THOMAS tried at Dalton, only to suffer a disastrous repulse; and how SEYMOUR got hopelessly beaten at Olustee with the loss of a third of his army. It is not to be wondered that, after this surprising proof of General GRANT's abilities for directing a bold and comprehensive plan of campaign against the South, the Federals should regard his appointment with more of curiosity than delight, and, in the modest words of the *New York Times*, should 'look anxiously for speedy and happy results as the consequence of these fundamental changes in command.'

As we anticipated, a period of inaction has succeeded the last disastrous effort of the North. It is not given even to a GRANT to initiate a new plan of campaign once a month. The recent changes demand time for their carrying out in all the Departments, and the strength of the Confederacy has been so clearly demonstrated that the enemy must wait until re-enlistments and the draft have placed it on its old footing of numerical superiority at all points. It is probable, then, that the next important blow will be struck by the Southern armies. By the latest mail we learn that General JOHNSTON has moved forward his artillery to Ringgold, an advance which probably accounts for GRANT's sudden departure from Washington for the South-West. The Federal army at Chattanooga is notoriously weakened by the withdrawal of large numbers of the three years' service men, the élite of the Northern troops, and is not in a position to receive large reinforcements from any quarter. By assuming a threatening attitude near Chattanooga, General JOHNSTON will compel such a concentration of troops at this point as will leave Eastern and Middle Tennessee in considerable danger from the unrestrained movements of MORGAN's cavalry and LONGSTREET's army. The whereabouts of the latter general sadly discomposes the Federals. They have not the slightest clue to his movements or his objects. In some quarters he is represented as falling back into Virginia to effect a junction with General LEE; in others he is said to be making for North Carolina; a third report sends him on his way to JOHNSTON; another alarms the whole North with the promise of an invasion of Ohio through Western Virginia. It is a tolerably good sign of the weakness of the North that there should be this general uneasiness and ignorance about the movements of an army of 40,000 men close enough to penetrate the Federal lines at any moment. Nor is this uneasiness surprising. The State of Kentucky is full of combustible materials which any Confederate success near its borders may explode. It is plain that a very formidable and extensive conspiracy against the United States authority is in existence, that the forcible enlistments of negroes have aroused a deep-seated spirit of hostility to the Washington Cabinet, and that the presence of a Confederate force in Kentucky would secure to the South a very considerable body of sympathisers. General MORGAN is said to have been for some time meditating a raid into this State, which would at once enlist all the disaffected on the side of the Confederacy, and seriously imperil the Federal garrison at Knoxville. We shall not be surprised to hear in a week or two that something of the kind has been attempted. In other quarters, the Confederates are openly threatening the initiative. A movement of STEWART's cavalry across the Rappahannock is reported, which may turn out a raid, but which is not unlikely to prove the prelude to a general advance by General LEE. At the same time a Confederate army is slowly closing in, apparently for an attack upon Newbern, and the Federal garrison is in a state of constant anxiety about some mysterious ironclads which are to take part in a general attack upon its defences in North Carolina. *En révanche* General GRANT is supposed to contemplate the concentration of a large force for an attack upon Richmond. A simultaneous advance is to be made from the Rappahannock, from Western Virginia, from York Town, and from Newbern. The plan had its favourable aspect two years ago, when M'CLELLAN was in command of the finest army the North ever possessed. But where now are the 200,000 men necessary for such a combination? President LINCOLN has done wisely in proclaiming another draft to meet the emergency. He will want every man of it.

In the meantime, a new conquest of Western Louisiana is said to have been decided on, and a great expedition of troops and gunboats is being assembled at the mouth of the Red River, to overrun and ruin the territory that has been twice ravaged and twice abandoned by Federal armies. It is perfectly well known now that the campaign in Texas is a failure, and that the North has only been able to gain a hold of such positions on the coast as can be protected by its gunboats, whilst it has prudently avoided fresh disasters at Galveston and Sabine Pass. So, for the third time, Louisiana is to be added to the Union. The operations in this quarter will exercise so slight an influence upon the issue of the war, that the warmest friend of the South could hardly select a better field for Federal operations. We can only hope that the news is not too good to be true, and that the War Administration of Washington, not convinced by failure in Texas, at Charleston, and at Mobile, is still intent upon fretting away the strength of its armies upon remote and isolated points of attack, whilst the decisive battles of the war are fought out thousands of miles away.

The Entente Cordiale.

THE alliance, or, to speak more accurately, the cordial union, of France and England has been, since 1851, the turning-point of European politics. With the Republic it was impossible for English statesmen to act; for no one regarded the Republic as anything more than a transition, the end of which must be at hand. On LOUIS-PHILIPPE it was impossible to depend; a less honourable man, a prince less mindful of his duty, less honest in his personal conduct, less loyal to his word, or more capable of the worst and meanest political treachery, never filled the throne of France since LOUIS XI. descended to his grave, laden with the curses of his subjects and the contempt of Europe. The bestowal of supreme power on LOUIS-NAPOLEON first presented to the mind of the experienced diplomatist who then presided at the Foreign Office a prospect of permanent alliance between the two most powerful and most civilised nations of the world; and the opportunity was seized with an eagerness which overstepped the bounds of respect towards his own Sovereign, and provoked HER MAJESTY to dismiss Lord PALMERSTON from office. But Lord MALMESBURY carried out the views of Lord PALMERSTON so prudently and effectually as to establish a thoroughly cordial relation with the EMPEROR without offending the strong anti-imperial feeling which the events of December 1851 had aroused in England; and since that time the policy of both countries and the destinies of Europe have been principally controlled by the joint counsels and united action of the English and French Governments. Coolness between England and France has twice led to European wars. The Crimean war might well have been averted had the CZAR comprehended the possibility of an intimate and effective alliance between the two great Western Powers. Our relations with France were not cordial in 1858-59, and France plunged into the Italian campaign. Our relations with France were again disturbed in the winter just passed away, and Austria and Prussia were thereby emboldened to push their quarrel with Denmark to the extremity of war. Separate, the two Powers can do little or nothing save by force; united, they can carry almost any just proposition without the necessity of even menacing a recourse to arms.

Beyond the bounds of Europe, England and France are the representatives of European ideas and European civilisation. They are propagandists of Christian principles and commercial intercourse—France intentionally and by choice, England by the necessity of her national character, and in spite of her declared intentions to the contrary. When their flags appeared side by side in the Eastern seas, they brought Japan into connection with the commercial world, and forced upon China a liberal policy towards the mercantile pioneers of European principles of government and international relations. Side by side, in the West, they resolved to bring Mexico within the pale of civilisation, and to terminate the miserable anarchy which has deprived that magnificent country of liberty, of prosperity, and almost of hope—side by side at the commencement, though the enterprise was finally carried out by France alone. Where they act in opposition to each other, as in Turkey, law and liberty make no progress, and barbarism maintains its ascendency. Where, as in the American quarrel, they resolve to remain quiescent, there is no power on earth that can interpose with effect between warring nations, whether to terminate an equal struggle that has lasted longer than modern principles teach us that such wars ought to last, or to assert against infuriated enemies the supreme authority of the usages of civilised warfare, or to pronounce in the name of Europe the fiat which declares that a people has maintained its independence by the sword, and is entitled to admission as a member of the family of nations. The abstinence of France and England is nothing less than the abdication of its powers by the Supreme Tribunal of the world, the public opinion of Christendom; the divergence of policy which causes such abstinence amounts to nothing less than the paralysis of the moral force of Europe. And if such divergence should become permanent, or should even be of long continuance, farewell to the great result obtained by the progress of diplomacy and of enlightenment during half a century of peace—the authority, in international quarrels, of the great neutral Powers. In that case, every war would threaten to become general; for no preponderating and decisive force can be brought to bear on one side, which may not be or is not likely to be checked by a countervailing interposition on the other.

In Europe, France and England, united, are the

competent, and the only competent, upholders of public law against the wrongdoing of powerful nations. Sovereigns will rarely yield to reason, however strong: for before their own course has been decided on, they have had the means of hearing whatever reasons can be urged; and their pride disposes them to listen more readily to the arguments of their servants than to those of their equals. It is, therefore, simple folly on the part of a statesman to lecture or to argue with a foreign Government. Reasoning, in diplomacy, assumes the form of protest, and the only argument which is seriously respected is heard from the lips of cannon. When both parties to a quarrel are honest, and desire not so much to fight as to obtain an honourable settlement of a dispute, one foreign Power, if respected by both parties, may offer mediation; but where the aggressor cherishes designs he will not avow, the only interposition that can be effectual must be one which can command attention. Now no one of the great Powers will yield, without fighting, to an equal, if she have gone so far that she must appear to yield; but no one of them would be ashamed to make any honourable concession to France and England combined. And this, not merely because France and England command half the effective force of the world, but because the two conjointly have something of the moral authority of an international tribunal. First, they have no joint interest. It is well understood that England covets nothing, and will not let France take anything; and that, therefore, when England and France interpose together, they do so disinterestedly, and in the name of what they conceive to be public justice. Again, France and England represent in effect the enlightened public opinion of Europe. The opinion of Germany has even less weight than it deserves, and there is no such thing in Russia. To defy France and England, then, is to defy European public opinion, and that is a thing which only a very perverse and foolish Government would willingly do. Finally, to break a law which France and England arm to uphold is to incur certain failure and punishment; and therefore, when France and England are known to be on good terms, no European Power will venture to commit a wrong which these two nations are likely to resent. Denmark would never have been assailed, had France and England sent a joint remonstrance to the German Courts.

Finally, France and England represent and champion the cause of national independence, of civil and religious liberty. True, they interpret these words very differently. England has none of that enthusiasm for the formulæ of nationality which inspires France, and especially her Emperor; France understands religious liberty better than civil, and of political freedom she only desires

> The liberty to choose her chief,
> And bow to none beside.

But practically, in every European question between Governments and their subjects—in Poland, Germany, Italy, Hungary—the sympathies of France and England are, though for different reasons, on the same side. Still more is it the case that France agrees with England in desiring to uphold those constitutional Governments which are so obnoxious to men like M. von Bismark and his master—that it is her policy as much as ours to maintain the Parliamentary Governments of Holland, Denmark, Sweden, and Italy, against their foreign enemies.

Thus the alliance of England and France is at once the best security for the extension of civilisation, the only guarantee for the preservation of peace and public justice in Europe, and the main reliance of those who hope to witness the gradual extension of enlightenment, constitutional principles, and self-government among civilised nations. On this account the wisest statesmen on both sides of the Channel are anxious to maintain it. On this account—from an instinctive sense rather than from a logical appreciation of its uses—the English people wish to see it maintained, without anything like servility or complaisance towards the French Government, but with loyal good faith and frankness, with courtesy and mutual consideration. And we should have thought, of all living statesmen Lord Palmerston, author and martyr of the *entente cordiale*, would have jealously maintained the keystone of his policy, the crowning achievement of his diplomatic life. But we know that the two Governments are at present on far from friendly terms, and that, in consequence of their misunderstanding, Denmark has been left at the mercy of Germany. If the result of the invasion of Slesvig should be a general war, the responsibility of that war will rest ultimately with the statesmen whose policy has produced this mutual alienation between the Governments of France and England.

It is not difficult to trace the causes of that alienation, one by one, in the conduct of the English Ministry. Not that the Emperor has asked from them unworthy or unrighteous concessions, and taken umbrage at their refusal. The Emperor understands England thoroughly; and if he did not, the experience of 1858 would teach him that no English Government which should make any sacrifice of English honour or English interests at his demand could hope to retain power. He has never asked or expected servile compliance with his policy: but he, like all other men, deserves from his allies courtesy and good faith. Now, as we know from the rest of his policy, Lord Russell can be servile to the lowest degree of abasement—as servile as an Oriental courtier or an American demagogue—but loyal or courteous he cannot be. And it is by a series of disloyal and discourteous acts that he has disgusted and irritated the French Emperor to the point of severing every tie beyond that of mere amity between the two countries. Those acts are diplomatically recorded; their effects are visible in the whole of the recent history of Europe.

Our Government consented to join with those of France and Spain in the Mexican expedition: which certainly had more extensive objects than that of extorting a promise from Juarez to acknowledge debts which he had no means of liquidating. The necessity of restoring law and order in Mexico was admitted and alleged by the Allies as a principal justification of the war. But the moment that France proposed to carry that purpose into vigorous execution, the English Government hesitated, and finally drew back, throwing the whole peril and expense of the enterprise upon France. Perhaps this was not the result of bad faith, but of sheer irresolution. Perhaps Lord Palmerston's Ministry had agreed too readily to a vague proposition, without taking thought how it was to be reduced to practice. Some irritation was caused in France by this desertion. But the Emperor, who understood his position, and was determined not to be made ridiculous, went on alone, and conquered. Alone he had reduced and given away an empire; and he could have forgiven the desertion which had left him free in such an enterprise and secured him the sole glory of such a triumph, had this been the sole shortcoming of his ally.

But the restless activity of Lord Russell prompted him to meddle where he could only act as the enemy of France. He proposed to the Pope to quit Rome and place himself under British protection. His Holiness demurred, and was angrily informed that France would not always be willing or able to protect him in his capital. This intrigue, conducted in secret, was revealed to the French Ambassador, whose master took just and deep umbrage, not at the opposition to his policy, but at the treachery which had accompanied it. He knows that England wishes his troops removed from Rome; it is one of the points on which the two Governments agree to differ. But, as our intimate friend and ally, he had a right to expect that we should not attempt to thwart and outdo him by an underhand intrigue; and the detection of Lord Russell's manœuvre naturally incensed him against a statesman so incapable of comprehending the requirements of friendship and good faith.

Next, the two Governments concerted with Austria a joint interposition on behalf of Poland. They talked loudly, they wrote indignantly; they went so far that honour certainly seemed to require that, if refused attention by the Russian Government, they should enforce their remonstrances at the point of the sword. At this conjuncture Lord Russell thought proper publicly to declare that England would not fight, happen what might. Of course, on receiving this intimation, Russia took the opportunity of rebuking, in the haughtiest terms, the Governments which had gone so far in threats while utterly unprepared for action. We were snubbed in the most humiliating manner. France was equally snubbed; and was, moreover, accused of fomenting discontent and exciting rebellion in Poland. The Emperor is a calm, cold-tempered, self-controlled statesman; but his blood must have boiled under this affront. His ally, however, who had induced him to go so far by the semblance of cordial support, had deserted him, and left him powerless to avenge the insult—left him humbled in the face of the world—and, which alone can endanger him, ridiculous in the eyes of France. How keenly he felt this desertion and its consequences, we know by the despatch in which M. Drouyn de Lhuys informs Lord Russell of the determination of the French Government not again to unite with England in a joint remonstrance which is not to be followed by action—not to be insulted by Germany as it had been snubbed by Russia. To the imbecility and disloyalty of Lord Russell on that occasion, we owe the Danish war. Had it not been understood that France would no longer act with us, Germany would never have dared to act in contempt of us.

To cover his retreat from the Polish disaster, the Emperor proposed a Congress. The proposal was open to many objections, and, in truth, seemed to most statesmen wholly impracticable. But the objections concerned not us. The objects to be attained were all objects which England has much at heart; the views of France and England thereupon are not very divergent, certainly not antagonistic; and if we had cordially supported the Emperor's project, we should have had a claim on him for goodwill if it had failed, for concessions if it had succeeded. Englishmen generally and the English Government did not incline to it. They thought that the Congress probably would not meet, and certainly would fail, because three out of the four great Powers would have to be asked for sacrifices which they would not make. But surely it might have been left to *them* to object. England might safely have said, 'We approve the proposal, and will join in the Congress if the other Powers will do so, and on certain terms,' leaving it to those whose interests were threatened to take care of themselves. We owed something to our ally; we ought to have shown ourselves willing to help him out of the scrape in which we had entangled him, even if we did not overmuch relish the mode of extrication he had chosen. But Lord Russell saw an opportunity for a display of dialectics and discourtesy, and he sent a peremptory refusal, the sting of which was envenomed by needless refutation. The Emperor would have been endowed with more than the proverbial patience of politicians, if, after these repeated affronts, he had maintained the old relations of confidence and intimacy with the English Ministry, and its mischief-making, pretentious, unreliable Foreign Secretary.

One more opportunity for insult and offence occurred; and it has not been thrown away. The Imperial police reported that they had detected a plot against the Emperor's life. Papers produced, and the confession of the accused, point to Mazzini as the author of the plot, and to Mr. Stansfeld, Civil Lord of the Admiralty, as the unconscious intermediary of the correspondence. The charge was publicly made by the Attorney-General of France: Mr. Stansfeld, amid many indignant protests against charges which were not in point, admitted that Mazzini's correspondence had passed through his hands, so that, if Mazzini were guilty, the charge against Mr. Stansfeld would seem probable enough. No one suspected him of voluntary connection with the plot; the question was whether, among the uses to which Mazzini has put his friend's address, it had been employed to cover the correspondence of assassins. If so, it was clear that Mr. Stansfeld ought not to remain a member of the Government, and that an apology was due to the Emperor of the French. If, on the other hand, as Mr. Stansfeld's friends affirmed, the whole plot was a fabrication, got up to injure Mazzini and his English partisans, amends were due from the French Government to Mr. Stansfeld. The charge was not absurd enough to be laughed at; for Mr. Stansfeld had been the intermediary of Mazzini's correspondence, and Mazzini had, once in his life, been privy to a conspiracy to murder. It was too serious to be neglected; for it is not pardonable that the address of a Minister should cover, by his indiscretion, the correspondence of those who would assassinate our ally. The duty of our Government was either to have said to France, 'Your police have made a false accusation. Mazzini never corresponded with assassins; therefore, Mr. Stansfeld never covered such correspondence;' or to have said, 'You have allowed a serious accusation to be made against a member of our Government. Bring forward your proofs; and we will bring Mazzini to trial, and we will have this matter thoroughly cleared up. We cannot suppose that such accusations have been made without evidence.' This would be but justice to Mr. Stansfeld and Signor Mazzini, if they be innocent of the respective charges; in any case, it is but justice to the French Government. To allow Mr. Layard, in his place in Parliament, to 'treat with contempt' a charge of this kind, made on such high authority, is to offer a flagrant insult to France. While the matter remains in this condition—on the one hand an unretracted charge against a member of the English Government of lending his house to men who plot against the life of the Emperor—on the other hand a 'contemptuous' disregard of that charge by our Foreign Office—it is impossible that the two Governments should be on any other terms than those of distance, coldness, and mutual suspicion.

An Infamous Outrage.

It is not the purpose of this article to offer any criticism upon the expediency or morality of the system of non-intervention on which Earl Russell now conducts the foreign affairs of England. On this occasion let us assume that when, as in the case of Denmark, the territory of a faithful ally is invaded without any justification, and treaties to which we are parties are grossly violated, it is not our duty to interfere except by tendering advice which is treated

with contempt. Let us assume that after three years of successful warfare, it is right to still refuse to recognise the independence of the Confederate States. Let us for argument's sake admit that because Mr. Lincoln has had to call for 2,239,748 soldiers to carry on the invasion of the South, that such a fact does not afford sufficient evidence of the strength and endurance of the Confederacy to entitle it to recognition. Let us say that it consorts with our obligations and our interests as one of the Great Powers to make no effort to stop a useless warfare which will for years to come cripple our industry and our commerce. Yet, though we may not intervene, and though our Government is bound to submit to all kinds of insults rather than offend the Federal Government, we trust that the men of English birth who think that the people of this country are not to denounce the savage brutality of the Federals can be counted upon our fingers. It may be a poor gratification to hiss at Federal outrages, and sure are we that Mr. Lincoln's creatures will not blush to find themselves infamous, yet it is fitting that we do denounce them. We owe it to our good name when Yankee ingenuity discovers a novel kind of villany to put on record our disgust and detestation of crimes which are a disgrace to civilisation and to humanity.

We need not resort to Confederate witness to prove that the Federals wage war with unparalleled barbarity. Their official reports and official documents too amply testify to it. When they make a raid, or when one of their expeditions is driven back, the shame of defeat is forgotten in loud boastings of having devastated large tracts of country, destroyed farming implements, and burnt the mills that converted the grain to flour. They glory in making war on women and children, and reducing the districts they overrun to a state of famine. It was in Northern newspapers we read of Union soldiers warming themselves at a fire whilst their prisoners were frozen to death in open cars. It is in Northern newspapers we read of the horrible sufferings of the negroes who have fallen under Yankee dominion. It is in Northern newspapers we find accounts of Butler's rule in Norfolk, of how a clergyman is condemned to sweep the roads, of how an elderly gentleman is condemned to imprisonment, hard labour, and cruel torture, and we know that these things are slight offences compared to Butler's ill-treatment of Southern ladies. The history of the war, even upon Federal testimony, is a catalogue of wanton barbarities and scandalous outrages; but we question whether, with all their inventiveness, the trusted agents of the Federal Government will be able to do anything more cowardly and despicable than that conduct to which we now invite attention.

In New Orleans two events occurred on March 4, both calling for comment though neither of any political importance. On that day Mr. Hahn, elected by Mr. Lincoln's soldiers, was inaugurated as Governor of Louisiana. Of this Hahn it will be sufficient to remark that he is a disreputable adventurer and a purchased renegade. Whilst the Confederates were in possession of the city he sought to curry favour with the authorities, and, amongst other manifestations of zeal, presented some colours to a company of Confederate soldiers. When Butler came to New Orleans, he made overtures to Hahn, who readily accepted them, and, besides other dirty work, managed the *True Delta* newspaper, after it had been confiscated by Butler. We may here remark that when Banks succeeded Butler, the *True Delta* was replaced by the *Era*, and a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Corps d'Afrique was detailed for duty as editor. It was reported that the editor was a negro, but, says the *New York World*, referring to a passage which we shall also quote: 'This was no doubt a blunder, for no negro could be found in Louisiana who would degrade himself so much as to use the language quoted below.'

The papers that gave an account of the inauguration of Hahn also contained an account of the funeral of the wife of General Beauregard. For nearly three years the deceased lady had been separated from her husband by the cruel fortune of war. Being connected with some of the first families of Louisiana and of France, and being highly esteemed for her own and for her husband's sake, she had about a year ago, when seized with an illness which her medical attendants deemed mortal, the opportunity of rejoining the General. She was a fond wife and yet refused the proffered boon, lest she should be a burden to one who had momentous duties to discharge for his country. She was most assiduous in concealing her sad condition from him, and the better to do so bore her long sufferings with such courageous cheerfulness as to deceive every one except the physician. At length her time came, and, surrounded by friends who were privileged to wait upon her, she died on the morning of March 2. When the people of New Orleans read, amongst the obituary notices, the death of 'Marguerite Caroline Deslonde, wife of General G. T. Beauregard, C.S.A.,' we can understand how even those who only knew her by name, must have felt sorrow for the bereavement of her husband. And all that the people could do was done by them to mark their sympathy and respect. The streets through which the funeral passed were crowded with rich and poor and the funeral service was performed by the Archbishop, assisted by a numerous body of the Catholic Clergy. This homage did no good to the dead, but it honoured them who rendered it,—nor could an insult offered by the Federal authorities hurt the dead, though it brands its authors with lasting infamy.

The *Era*, as we have explained above, is the organ of Mr. Lincoln's proconsul Banks, and is not edited by, but under the immediate direction of the sham Governor, the perjured and contemptible puppet, Hahn. And here follows what the *Era*, the official Lincoln organ, published about the brave lady whilst she was yet lying dead in the city—about the wife of the gallant soldier whose heroism even his enemies have confessed, and who on all occasions has treated his enemies as a Christian gentleman should do:—

[From the *Evening Era*, March 3.]

Death of Mrs. Beauregard.—The morning papers announce the death of the wife of P. T. Beauregard. She died at her residence on Esplanade Street, on the evening of the 2nd inst. This woman has, we learn, been in poor health for the past two or three years, and has required what has been denied her, the care and attention of the man who gave her his word at the altar to cherish and protect her. He also swore at one time to support the Constitution of the United States. He does not hold his oaths in very high estimation, as we find him not only plotting for the destruction of his country, but deserting his invalid wife for years together, and leaving her dependent upon others for those acts of kindness and support that should be given by a husband. We know very little of the life or character of the deceased, further than she was an invalid, neglected by her sworn protector, and left by him under the powerful protection of the flag whose glory he is devoting his puny energies to sully. But when he is called to his final account, he will have the mortification of knowing that the lustre of the stars and stripes is all the brighter, and his betrayed country the more powerful, for the treason of himself and co-conspirators.

Commenting on this the correspondent of the *New York World* writes:—

As the *Era* is the property, so to speak, of the United States military authorities—for they have seized and hold it as their own—as it is edited by men detailed for the purpose, as the persons held out as proprietors have not even a qualified right of ownership in it, but can be turned off as readily by the commanding-general as could be his orderlies, it is not strange that the people hold the United States Government responsible for this wanton insult to common decency and humanity. Of all the many acts which have been done in this city, from the first landing of Butler down to the present time, to alienate this people from the Union to which they were once devotedly attached, there has occurred nothing, not even the infamous 'woman order' of Butler, which has done more to destroy any remains of real attachment to the United States which still abided in their hearts than this despicable and cowardly paragraph, which will go to Europe and all over this continent as indicative of the sentiments which inspire the conduct of the administration in this war.

We repeat we do not now enter into the question of the righteousness and policy of non-intervention or non-intercourse. We merely assert the right and bounden duty of all honourable men to express, and not with bated breath, their abhorrence of Federal barbarity. We say every honourable man who reads the passage which we have quoted from the *New Orleans Era*, cannot help denouncing such cowardly and heartless brutality. What! does it not satisfy Mr. Lincoln's chosen officers to insult and maltreat living women, but that they must spit their venom on the coffins of the dead? No words have yet been coined which fully express the ineffable contempt and loathing which are called forth by such a pitiful, scandalous outrage.

The Confederate Commercial Policy.

RECENT ACTS OF THE CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

Some weeks since it was announced by telegraph from New York, that President Davis had approved various Acts of the Confederate Congress, prohibiting the exportation of cotton except on account of the Government or its creditors, and also the importation of certain specified articles of luxury. We are now able to lay before our readers the authentic text of the two most important of these Acts, from which it will appear that we have correctly anticipated their intent and scope in former articles on this subject.

An Act to establish a Bureau of Foreign Supplies.

Section 1. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact*, That, for the purpose of exporting cotton and other produce to supply by import the military and other necessities of the Government, during the continuance of the war with the United States, an independent bureau of the War Department be established, to be entitled the 'Bureau of Foreign Supplies.'

Sec. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That the said bureau shall be charged with the purchase of cotton and other produce for export, and with all the duties and expenditures connected with the import of munitions of war, and such other supplies as may be required by the several departments of the Government.

Sec. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That all steamers now owned by any of the departments of the Government, and used to supply their necessities from abroad, and all contracts for the increase of the number of such steamers and vessels, be and are hereby transferred to the said bureau

Sec. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That the chief of the said bureau shall, under the Secretary of War, have full power to purchase and contract for such steamers and vessels, to be owned wholly or in part by the Government, as may be necessary for the discharge of the duties imposed upon the bureau, and to attain the general objects of its establishment, as set forth in the first section of this Act.

Sec. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That all permits or licenses for the exportation of cotton or other domestic produce on private account, that may be authorised by the Act of Congress entitled 'An Act,' &c., shall be issued from this bureau, under such regulations as may be prescribed in the said Act, or under any authority granted therein to the President, the Secretary of War, or other department, and under such conditions as may be effectual to secure the fulfilment of the objects of the present Act: *Provided*, That nothing in the present Act shall be construed to affect the export of cotton or other produce under the control of the Treasury or other departments, to secure any of the bonds or obligations of the Confederate States.

Sec. 6. *Be it further enacted*, That the said bureau shall devote to the wants of the several departments of the Government such proportion of the exporting and importing facilities at its command as may from time to time be fixed by the President.

Sec. 7. *Be it further enacted*, That the said bureau shall consist of one colonel, and such subordinate officers as may be necessary, said agents to be appointed and to have their compensation fixed by the Secretary of War.

An Act to prevent the running of the blockade, except on Government account for articles necessary to the prosecution of the war

Section 1. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact*, That the export of cotton, tobacco, military and naval stores, sugar, molasses, and rice, from the Confederate States, and from all places in the occupation of their troops, is prohibited, except under such regulations as shall be made by a Bureau of Foreign Supplies to be hereafter established, or it may be by the President of the Confederate States.

Sec. 2. That if any person or persons shall put, place, or load on board any ship, steamboat, vessel, or any other water-craft, or into any wagon, cart, carriage, or other vehicle, for conveyance or transportation beyond the Confederate States, any of the articles mentioned in the first section of this Act, or shall collect the same for the purpose of being conveyed or transported, contrary to the prohibition aforesaid, within the Confederate States, the said articles and the ship or other water-craft, wagon, cart, carriage, or other vehicle, with the slaves or animals that may be employed or collected for the purpose of aiding therein, shall be forfeited, and all persons, their aiders and abettors, on conviction of being interested or concerned in the enterprise, shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and be punishable by such fine as the court may impose.

Sec. 3. That it shall not be lawful to put on board any ship, steamboat, vessel, or other water-craft, or upon any wagon, cart, carriage, or other vehicle, for transportation or conveyance as aforesaid, any of the articles aforesaid, unless a permit be previously obtained from some officer of the Confederate States specially authorised to grant the same, particularly describing the articles thus to be laden, and the ship, boat, vessel, water-craft, or wagon, carriage, or other vehicle, on which the same is to be transported, and until bond shall be given that the same shall be conveyed and transported to the place of destination under such conditions and regulations, and for such objects as shall be prescribed by the President under the first section of this Act.

Sec. 4. That the collectors of all the districts, upon application of any officer or agent of the Bureau of Foreign Supplies hereinbefore mentioned, and any other officer of the Confederate States shall have power and authority to take into their custody any of the articles before mentioned, found in any ship, steamboat, or other water-craft, when there is reason to believe they are intended for exportation, or when in vessels, carts, wagons, or any other carriage or vehicle whatsoever, or in any manner apparently on their way towards the territories of a foreign nation, or territory in the occupancy of the United States, or the vicinity thereof, or towards a place whence such articles are intended to be exported; and not to permit the same to be removed until bonds shall be given, and satisfactory sureties that no violation of this Act, and the regulations under the same, be intended.

Sec. 5. That the powers granted by this Act to the revenue or other officers of the Confederate States, under this Act, to allow, or to refuse exportation of the articles before mentioned, or for the seizure and detention of any of the said articles, shall be exercised in conformity with such instructions as the President may give through the Department of War or of the Treasury, which instructions may impose conditions as to the destination and sale of the same, and the investment of the proceeds of the same, or a portion thereof, in military or other supplies for the public service, which instructions such officers shall be bound to obey; and if any action or suit shall be brought against any such officer or officers, or their agents, he or they may plead the general issue, and upon proof of a compliance with the provisions of this Act, or of the regulations and instructions of the President, he or they shall be absolved from all responsibility therefor; and any person aggrieved by any of the acts of any of the officers or agents aforesaid, may file his petition before the district court of the district in which such officer or agent resides, and after due notice to him, and to the district attorney, the said court may proceed summarily to hear and determine thereupon as law and justice may require, and the judgment of the said court and the reasons therefor shall be filed among the records of the court, and in case any release shall be granted, the judge may impose such conditions as to giving bonds as sureties as may, in his opinion, be necessary to secure this Act from violation, and in case of refusal may impose double or treble costs upon the petitioner, if circumstances warrant it.

Sec. 6. That exclusive jurisdiction is conferred upon the district courts of the Confederate States, and all suits or actions that may arise under this Act, whether in behalf of the Confederate States, its officers and agents, for the recovery of all fines for forfeitures and penalties imposed on the same by indictment, information, or action, according to the practice of the court, and

of all suits against them for acts done or committed under the same, and the distribution of the penalties and fines, shall be made under and according to the laws now in force for violation of the revenue Acts, and all laws for the mitigation and remittance of penalties and forfeitures shall be applied as in similar cases.

Sec. 7. That it shall be lawful for the President, or such officers as he may designate, to employ any portion of the military or naval forces of the Confederate States, or of the militia, to prevent the illegal departure of any ship, vessel, or other water-craft, or for detaining, taking possession of, and keeping in custody the same, or any wagon, cart, or other vehicle heretofore mentioned, their teams and drivers, and their products aforesaid, and to suppress any armed or riotous assemblage of persons, who may resist the execution of the Act, or oppose the fulfilment, by the officers, of the duties imposed by the same.

It will be seen from the proviso in the 5th section of the Act to establish a Bureau of Supplies, that the holders of any bonds or obligations of the Confederate States are fully secured in their rights. To place these, however, in the most favourable position possible, a special Bill *formally recognising the right of foreign creditors to introduce their own ships, and to carry out cotton due to them*, was framed. There is no doubt whatever that this Bill also became a law before the adjournment of the Congress; and we are in hopes of being able to give it *in extenso* on the receipt of the next mail from Richmond, as well as the Act for the prohibition of luxuries. In this connection, we take great pleasure in availing ourselves of the permission to publish the subjoined letter from the chief of the Bureau of Supplies, established by the Act above quoted, to a prominent officer of the Confederate Government in Europe. The letter, it will be observed, was written before the legislation on the various subjects referred to had passed Congress; but it clearly indicates the spirit and the policy of that legislation:—

Richmond, Va., Jan. 20, 1864.

* * * * * *

The steamer *Denbigh* has arrived safely at Mobile. In consideration of the fact that she was specifically sent out by the holders of the Government cotton obligations for cotton due to them, the Secretary of War at once instructed the agent at Mobile to exonerate her from the usual requirement of carrying out a proportion of cargo for account of the Government. This may be taken as an intimation of the policy to be pursued in similar cases. Far from throwing any obstacles in the way, every facility is to be afforded the bondholders to get out their cotton. While there is no obligation to actively aid them in getting it through the blockade, it would be manifestly bad policy, to put it on no higher grounds, to interfere with any proper agencies they might employ for the purpose. They could not expect us to yield up any part of the tonnage now at our command, or that may hereafter be at our command, to carry out cotton for them; but when, as in the case of the *Denbigh*, a new vessel is specifically purchased or chartered by them, and sent to one of our ports for the purpose, they may reasonably expect us not only not to interfere with such arrangement, but to afford any facilities in our power to the despatch of such vessel's mission.

In the contemplated legislation, the matter is now under discussion in both Houses of Congress, restricting the export of cotton and other produce except for account of the Government. A special exception will doubtless be made in favour of all our foreign cotton creditors.

At first blush it may have appeared to many persons that the assumption, by the Confederate Government, of the entire direction of the foreign commerce of the country, was too violent an interference with the operations of private enterprise. We have on several occasions pointed out that the abnormal position in which the Confederacy was placed deprived such an objection of all the weight which it would have under ordinary circumstances and until the natural laws of trade are forcibly suspended. At present, we believe, the wisdom and the justice of the course adopted by the Confederate Government are universally recognised; and since all fears are removed that this course might interfere with pre-existing obligations or private rights, the expediency of the measure meets no longer with any opposition. Its beneficial effects have already been abundantly felt by those to whom Confederate interests are intrusted abroad, and from the multitude of propositions submitted to them they could scarcely select one so likely to place the Government in a more advantageous financial position than it has enjoyed since the beginning of the war. This, coupled with the gradual absorption of the home currency, which has now commenced by a system of taxation practically amounting to the calling in of two-thirds of the circulating medium and the consequent appreciation of the remainder, warrants the confident prediction that an entirely new era of Confederate credit has been auspiciously inaugurated. This is done, literally, to the advantage of every class that have had dealings with the Confederacy. The holders of contracts entered into before the passage of the prohibitory measures, are benefited by being freed from the risks of competition; the commercial public at large by dealing henceforth with the Government directly and without the interposition of third parties. But it is, of course, especially the policy of the Confederate Government to favour, by every legitimate means, the bondholders who trusted it in the hour of its greatest need; and the success which has attended such experiments as that of the *Denbigh*, to bring out cotton under the Erlanger loan, renders it not only certain that the bonds of that loan will experience a steady and rapid rise, but also exceedingly probable that the greater part, if not the whole, will ere long be absorbed and disappear from the market, thus presenting to the world the unprecedented spectacle of a Government at war paying off its foreign war debt *pendente lite*.

LITERARY NOTES.

Sir Emerson Tennent's 'Story of the Guns'* is hardly so impartial as a work of that sort ought to be. The writer has an enthusiastic admiration for Mr. Whitworth, who is no doubt a very able engineer, and a mechanician of genius unrivalled in the present day. If this admiration were a little less vehement and obtrusive, the work would be more satisfactory, and would do more effectual justice to the merits of a man who has really rendered great services to the country. The first part of the work, and that which will have most interest for the general reader, has reference to small arms. It carries us back to the time—not many years ago—when old 'Brown Bess' was the weapon of the British army; when it was calculated that one shot in 250 found a lodgment in the body of an enemy; when the soldier's rule was to wait till he could see the whites of his enemy's eyes before he fired; when the fire of a square of infantry at close quarters only emptied three or four saddles in a charging force of cavalry; when a target twelve feet by six was not hit, at 250 yards, by one shot in ten; and when it was literally true that a trained marksman could not, with the regulation weapon, hit a haystack at the lowest range at which rifle practice now commences. No change took place till after the death of the Duke of Wellington, though that distinguished captain and statesman was well aware of the deficiency of the old musket, and in 1851 took measures to have the Minié substituted for it. The Minié did not prove altogether satisfactory, and it was superseded in 1853 by the Enfield. About this time application was made to Mr. Whitworth for his advice and assistance. He was no gunmaker; but the gunmakers could not do what was wanted of them. The problem was not to produce now and then a first-rate rifle, but to produce a vast number of first-rate rifles uniform in character and quality. To ascertain whether this could be done, it was natural to consult a mechanician whose reputation was chiefly due to his marvellous inventions for securing mechanical accuracy. Before his time the 50th part of an inch was an almost inappreciable error; he had contrived machinery for detecting and rectifying errors of $\frac{1}{10000}$ (·0001) of an inch. Mr. Whitworth took up the matter with great earnestness; he induced the Government to build him a rifle gallery near Manchester, wherein experiments might be tried under the most favourable circumstances; and, finally, he produced an hexagonal barrel, wherein the ball must make a complete revolution in 20 inches—thus obtaining a rapidity of rotation which is found to obviate the principal difficulties which previously attached to the Enfield. At first the Whitworth rifle had one serious defect. Its cartridges were too long—so long that they were certain to break in the hands of careless soldiers, or even in their cartridge-boxes; but this has since been corrected. It has the advantage of carrying a harder bullet than the Enfield, it is made of a better and more durable material, and it has infinitely greater accuracy. At 500 yards it was found that the Enfield, without Mr. Whitworth's improvements, could lodge its bullets, one after another, within a circle of 27 inches radius; the Whitworth bullets all lodged within 2½ inches of the centre. Sir Emerson Tennent inserts a diagram, exhibiting the targets riddled by the two rifles; of which we can best give an idea by saying that, while the Enfield marks are scattered over half a page, those of the Whitworth all lie in a cluster which may be covered by a sixpence. And we believe there is no doubt of the infinite superiority of the Whitworth rifle as a marksman's weapon; what doubts there are have reference to the quickness of firing so essential in actual service, and to the delicate character of the weapon, which is said to unfit it for the use of the common soldier. The Whitworth cannon is made on the same principle; but it enters into competition, and very angry competition, with a number of other weapons, all of them possessing merits of no ordinary kind. Into this part of the subject we shall not venture to follow the author; those who feel competent and anxious to understand the subject ought certainly to read, among other works, this 'Story of the Guns.'

Dr. Sandwith, to whom the public were indebted some time ago for a very interesting narrative of the siege of Kars, has published what we suppose must be called by courtesy a tale of Turkish life.† Its hero is an Italian adventurer of the medical profession, who seeks employment in Turkey, and endeavours to ingratiate himself with Beys and Pashas by the basest arts. As a fiction, the work has no merit whatever. Every one you meet in its pages is a scoundrel, and the hero is perhaps the greatest scoundrel of all. Not a single virtue is allowed to any one of the many Turks introduced upon the scene, from the Grand Vizier downwards; nor is there a character in the book in whose fortunes it is possible to take the slightest interest. But the 'Hekim Bashi' is not to be judged as a tale. It is simply a two-volume pamphlet on the evils of Ottoman dominion; and a more violent, abusive, and unreliable pamphlet it has not often been our lot to read. If we are to believe Dr. Sandwith, the government of Turkey, from the capital to the remotest provinces, is not bad, not tyrannical, not iniquitous or corrupt, but simply diabolical, directed to no other purpose than the misery of the people and the impoverishment of the country. Murder, rape, and robbery are not merely frequent outrages very ill-repressed and very little regarded—they are the daily occupation and nightly amusement of every servant of the Sublime Porte, from the Minister of State down to the cadi of the village. Every Turk is corrupt beyond all Western precedent, living only to rob his inferiors, and purchasing permission to do so by sharing his gains with those above him: all are cruel without provocation, and dishonest without limit; their sensuality is loathsome beyond description, their ignorance is profound, and their degradation hardly less vile than that of the African savage. We do not hesitate to say that it is simply impossible that a tithe of what the author would have us believe can be true. When we find that he attributes the massacres in Syria to the instigation of the Ottoman Government, and altogether ignores all misconduct and provocation on the part of the Maronites, we need hardly trouble ourselves to pay more attention to the remainder of his diatribes than we should accord to Mr. Urquhart's account of Lord Palmerston's treasonable compact with Russia, or to Mrs. Stowe's descriptions of Southern slavery. The exact truth in regard to the government of the Turks is not easily to be ascertained; but we believe that all unprejudiced Europeans who know the country agree that it is abominably ill-governed, a little worse than Greece was governed by Otho, and not quite so ill as Naples was governed by Ferdinand II.—that the Turks are frequently corrupt, generally tyrannical, and almost always given to disgusting sensuality, but that the Greeks are quite as corrupt and cruel, rather more bestial, and—which the Turks are not—cowardly and treacherous. Such extravagant representations as those of Dr. Sandwith only injure the cause they are intended to serve; independently of which, it is not to be tolerated that heinous accusations against a whole nation should be preferred under the guise of fiction. The license accorded to the novelist must be used for its proper ends, not perverted to serve the purposes of international animosity or political malice.

We trust that some of the morbid interest which, a few years back, attached to the criminal class, and particularly to female criminals, has died out; and that the interest which is still felt in one of the most difficult of the social problems which this generation is called upon to solve is rather of a political than of a philanthropic character. So far as legislators and administrators are concerned, there is no proper place for sympathy in dealing with convicts. They are not misguided and much-tempted brethren who in a moment of weakness have fallen into error, but enemies of society, peace, property, and industry, against whom we must wage a constant and unsparing war. They are not sinners by misfortune, but criminals by trade; and the first thing to be done is to teach them, by sharp and painful lessons, that their trade will not pay—that it involves severer sufferings and worse privations than attend on the career of the honest but unskilled labourer. Having taught them this lesson effectually, we may busy ourselves with finding them other occupation; but it would be sheer waste of time to do this till we have taught them that they must perforce abandon the old. Those who have learnt this much may read 'Jane Cameron'* with advantage; it is a work which throws a good deal of light on a part of the task in hand which, though not extensive, is beset with peculiar difficulties. The female thief is a very curious specimen of human nature, and differs more widely from ordinary women than the burglar or the footpad from the common run of men. In prison she is especially difficult to manage. She is liable to fits of ungovernable fury, in which she will do all possible mischief for mischief's sake; and the prompt and sharp remedies which are applied to outbreaks among men cannot be employed against the other sex. Hence 'breaking out'—that is, an ebullition of sudden and apparently causeless fury, in which the criminal destroys her bedding, window, clothing, and everything within reach, and finally screams with all her force till utter exhaustion silences her—is a regular incident of female life in prison, and the worst trouble and terror of the officers of female prisons. The dark cell is not found an effectual preventive, and one woman after another breaks out until prison officers are fain to relax the already mild discipline of the gaols as the only method of obtaining peace. The same peculiarities of temper which make the female convict so uncontrollable in prison, place extreme difficulties in the way of all efforts to reclaim her afterwards. Happily the number of female criminals is comparatively small, and their line of life does not include as a rule the more formidable class of crimes; so that, if sufficiently deterrent influences can be brought to bear upon the men, the women may safely be left to the care of the philanthropists, and to that dread of the monotony and solitude of a prison which is much stronger in them than in the other sex. We are sorry to say that the Prison Matron betrays an inclination to regard the criminal with too much compassion and too little severity—to think less of what is due to the protection of the innocent than of what may be done for the benefit of the guilty. But she is a very truthful relator of facts; and her book, while it possesses a good deal of the merits and interest of a well-conceived fiction, gives substantially a true and useful picture of a character which may be considered typical of a large class of thieves. It has this further value, that it exposes incidentally some very common and pernicious delusions in regard to prison discipline; among others, the delusion that mere good conduct and obedience to rules in prison is any test of merit or any proof of an honest intention to lead a better life after release.

'Peculiar'† is a work of which it would be difficult to speak in terms too condemnatory, if it were to be regarded as the production of an accountable being. Abolitionist tales are always full of falsehood and lewdness; but this certainly outdoes all that we have ever read. We need hardly say that it depicts the slaveowners as at once ruffians and cowards, while the Abolitionists—the 'hell-

* *The Story of the Guns.* By Sir James Emerson Tennent, K.C.S. &c. London: Longmans.

† *The Hekim Bashi; or, the Adventures of Giuseppe Antonelli, a Doctor in the Turkish Service.* By Humphry Sandwith, C.B. &c., Author of the 'Siege of Kars.' Smith, Elder, & Co.

* *Memoirs of Jane Cameron, a Female Convict.* By a Prison Matron, Author of 'Female Life in Prison.' Hurst & Blackett.

† *Peculiar; a Tale of the Great Transition.* By Epes Sargent. Edited by William Howitt. Hurst & Blackett.

fire and Greek-fire' party—figure as gentlemen of the mildest temper and the noblest spirit. The reader will be surprised, however, to learn that Mr. Lincoln is pronounced to be intellectually the superior of Mr. Davis; and that certain conversations between the Southern President and one of the villains of the book are invented to confirm this novel assertion. This is a transgression of the laws of literary decency which ought not to pass unnoticed, and to which we wish to direct the attention of Messrs. Hurst & Blackett. It is open to them to publish, if they choose, the loathsome imaginations of morbid sensuality; it is open to them to print assertions of 'facts' the most monstrous on the authority of 'respectable' Abolitionists who dare not give their names. These are matters of which they are the fittest judges. But no respectable firm has a right to publish a book in which language which he never used is put into the mouth of a living man—in which a distinguished statesman is vilified as the associate of imaginary scoundrels.

'Mr. and Mrs. Falconbridge'* is a novel not without merit. It is not very interesting. It opens with large promises of a future which never arrives, and it turns upon a clumsy device by which a sister is made to pass as a wife—a stratagem which, it is needless to say, belongs as completely to the realm of the impossible as the female pages of mediæval romance. But the tale is well written; the characters are natural, and the story runs easily onward to its dénouement. It is altogether unworthy of the reputation of Hamilton Aidé, but it would do credit to a writer who had earned less credit already.

Major Evans Bell is one among several of our Indian administrators who condemned the annexations of Lord Dalhousie, and stoutly maintained the righteousness of the Hindoo law of adoption. His work,† as proceeding from a man of practical knowledge, without that unworthy jealousy of the public service and the local government which distinguishes the European settlers in India, is well worth reading.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York: March 15, 1864.

FEDERAL FAILURES—THE NEXT SCENE OF ACTION—LIEUTENANT-GENERAL GRANT—GENERAL MEADE—ANOTHER CALL FOR MEN—THE STRENGTH AND RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH—FEDERAL ATROCITIES—THE KILPATRICK EXPEDITION—RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT—THE FEEBLE ATTEMPT TO DENY THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE DAHLGREN PAPERS—EXCITEMENT IN RICHMOND—THE DEMAND FOR RETALLIATION—THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

The Confederates at the South are more buoyant and hopeful now than they have been at any time before for two years past. Their arms have been successful at every point on which they have been assailed. Every 'Federal advance' has turned out a failure or a disaster. The losses of Smith in the abortive raid from Memphis are yet unknown, and all official accounts are suppressed; a letter from a Federal officer which has got into print expresses an apprehension that they will amount to two thousand men. Sherman has got back to Vicksburg, and the newspaper accounts make it out that he lost only a few men, and brought back immense spoils, after having desolated the whole country. The devastating part of the story may have a grain of truth in it; but that he achieved this without resistance and without loss, is contradicted by the official statement of the Confederate General Polk, who, with a far inferior force, hovered about him and contested his advance. Under date of February 26, he announces that he compelled the retreat of the enemy, with the loss of men, small arms, and artillery, and still harassed in their retreat by the pursuing cavalry. Sherman was back at Vicksburg, and afterwards in New Orleans, consulting with General Banks on some retrieving move. It was during his presence there that private accounts were received from that city of the great losses sustained by his expedition, which the papers here refuse to publish. The advance of Grant on Dalton has been turned back, the siege of Charleston is virtually at an end, and the army in the process of being gradually transported elsewhere. Texas is almost abandoned by the Federal troops, and Mobile resists successfully the attempts of Farragut to enter the harbour. When he gets there he has heavy work to do to get up to the city.

Western Louisiana is thought to be the next scene of action in the south-west. A large force is assembled at New Orleans, and the visit of General Sherman there is supposed to be for the purpose of arranging a combined effort to get possession of the Red River region, and reach the north-western section viâ Alexandria, in order to force the Confederate State authorities out of Shreveport, to which place on the Red River, near the border of Texas, the State Government has been removed.

The new Lieutenant-General Grant was hastily summoned to Washington, to consult on the means for reconstructing the campaign and retrieving their disasters. He has gone west again, but with the annunciation that he means to return shortly; and the rumour is that he is to assume the direction of affairs on the Potomac, and make the capture of Richmond the first and paramount object of the year's work. It is predicted of him, by those who know him, that he will be another failure, and a more complete one than his predecessors in that place, from McDowell and McClellan, down through Pope, Burnside, Hooker, and Meade. This last general has been sick in Philadelphia, and is not yet recovered. During his illness there has been a great effort among the generals under him to have him displaced, for alleged mismanagement at Gettysburg and general want of tact as a commander. At one time it was positively announced that he was to be removed, and his successor was named: I think there will be no change until General Grant gets back. The Federals have suddenly awakened to the knowledge that they have heavy work before them this spring, and the President is particularly anxious for some military success, wherewith to go before the Republican nominating Convention in June. The failures at all points, during the months of February and March, have made some of the most ardent Republicans impatient with the management of affairs at Washington, and given the President's rivals a sharp weapon to handle against him.

It has been rumoured for some time that, as soon as the present call for five hundred thousand men is filled up, another for three hundred thousand more is to be issued, and enforced by draft. The rumour gains credence from an official letter recently written by the Provost-Marshal-General, in which he states that the excess of volunteers obtained, in certain places, over the quota for conscription, will be credited in the 'next draft.' These words have created a feeling of uneasiness, because the most extraordinary efforts and lavish contributions have been made to get the five hundred thousand call filled up without resort to drafting, on the assurance that it was the last call, and would be ample for all the possible wants of the Government in finishing up the war. To have a call for another 300,000 announced is a shock, and is resented as bad faith. The call for the half-million was, at the time, felt to be the confession that the Government had no faith in its own vainglorious proclamations of the disintegration of the Confederacy, the disorganisation of the Southern armies, and the despair of the people. Since they have struck back so proudly and fiercely, the assumed necessity of an additional enormous force will be taken as the measure of its estimate of its recent disasters, and its increased conviction of the unity, power, and resolution of the South. What do you in Europe think of Mr. Seward's little disturbance of 1861, which he advised Mr. Lincoln to disperse by reading a riot act, and which, after three years of such gigantic efforts as never nation in the world's history ever sustained so long before, still places among the confessed necessities of the Government a fresh demand for this one year of 500,000, and now 300,000 men—800,000 soldiers beyond what can be retained of the enormous force already in the field? And what do Englishmen, whose instincts have been always on the side of the weak everywhere, in the struggles of the oppressed to throw off bad governments, and who now feel so strongly for the gallant Poles, and are fretting with generous impatience to help the Danes—what do they now think of the title to independence of that people who have heroically sustained these successive shocks from thrice their own numbers, and still stand up, not merely unconquered, but undismayed, and resolute, and hopeful?

All the accounts which reach here from within the Confederacy testify to this tone of courage and hopefulness, and, beyond this, to an unflinching and unanimous purpose to let no adverse fortune, if such should come, abate one jot of the inflexible resolve never to assent to peace with the North on any terms short of final separation and absolute independence. The conviction there is, that the South is now stronger in its military organisation, has a larger army, better armed, and fed, and clothed, and supported by a more absolute dedication to the cause of all the strength and all the means of the people, than at any period since the war began.

As the war goes on, the feelings of mutual exasperation which it engenders are rising to a height which threatens to make it a war of horrors. The late raid upon Richmond by Kilpatrick's cavalry, with its attending circumstances of brutality of conduct and discovered atrocity of purpose, created an intense excitement there, which is likely to bring the Richmond Government up to the point of instituting some general system of unrelenting retaliation and reprisal, to compel the observance by the Federal Government of the usages of civilised warfare, and exact for the soldiers, the inhabitants, and the territory of the Confederates, the full rights of lawful belligerents.

The Southern patience has been sorely tried, at different periods of the war, by the brutalities of Federal generals in various quarters, in treating the Southern country as a mere field for depredation, and its inhabitants as outlaws. The Government at Richmond steadily resisted the popular cry that this system of warfare should be met by one equally stern and unsparing. Of late these practices have come to be all but universal; every inhabitant of the South, whom a Federal force can reach, is held to be stripped at once of his right to property and life, unless he will renounce his Government and swear fealty to its enemies. It has evidently become a settled maxim of the Federal Government that the Southern Confederacy is only to be successfully assaulted by making a war on the unarmed populations, carrying the torch and the sword into their habitations, robbing them of their food, destroying their crops, laying waste their lands, and depriving them of the means of subsistence. Immense cavalry expeditions are sent out, not to meet Southern armies, or to occupy or even to seize the country, but simply to plunder it and leave it desolate. The four great enterprises which Southern valour has lately baffled have here been applauded as important and brilliant achievements, because they destroyed and carried away such immense amounts of the food and property of the non-combatant inhabitants, the aged, and women and children, whose defenders were absent. General Seymour, just before his terrible defeat at Olustee, bragged of the *million and a half* of which he had robbed the people of Florida. Gen. Smith, driven back with the loss of a thousand men from his raid into Northern Mississippi, is lauded for a successful 'reconnaissance,' because he killed or carried off the cattle of the country, burned 'two millions of bushels of corn,' and 'left the land impoverished.' General Sherman, with nearly 25,000 men, marched across the State of Mississippi and back again, with what loss of men he has not stated; but it was a brilliant demonstration, because it effected the purpose of destroying the food and habitations of the people. No official account has been given; but one of his officers, writing to contradict the rumour that the expedition was a failure, calls it a great success, because 'the entire country through which the expedition passed was desolated, scarcely a vestige of a house, barn, or fence being left behind. Brigade commanders were instructed to burn all unoccupied houses, but the soldiers were not very particular whether the houses were occupied or not.'

After General Sherman got back to Vicksburg from this raid, he went to New Orleans, and was there when the Federal newspaper boasted for him that 'he burned and destroyed whatever he could not carry off. The retribution has fallen heavily on the people of this section; everything which could support the life of man or beast, or contribute to rebel arms, has been crushed. He went empty and came back full.' The hideous vanity of successful crime has doubtless exaggerated this picture. The Confederate troops, though inferior in numbers, were near enough to prevent such a wholesale stripping of the entire country as this fiendlike glee attempts to describe and gloat over. But the demon spirit is there, and the horrible warfare of the Union troops upon the unarmed and helpless inhabitants of the country is a matter for boastful and exaggerated triumph. The seven thousand from Memphis, and the twenty-five thousand from Vicksburg, are excused for the want of any military success on encountering the armed defenders of the South, because they have proved themselves mighty marauders among terrified women and children.

Next, and nearly contemporaneous, is the raid from Washington on Richmond, with some attendant circumstances of its own which identify more completely the highest authorities at Washington and the popular sentiment at the North with the most malignant spirit and atrocious practices the war of devastation. That raid never had more than the faintest pretence to be a military movement directed against the military prison of the Confederacy. It was the special act of the President, without a military object which he could get his generals to approve. Six thousand cavalry were sent under two young and reckless officers with a mission which proves that of havoc and destructiveness. Their track was that of a gang of marauders intent on laying waste everything within their reach which could be used for the sustenance of man, woman, or child. They destroyed or carried away, as far as their hurry would permit, every sort of provisions for man or beast. They broke into barns, and pillaged and burned them, shot cattle and horses, sacked farmers' houses, hacked the furniture to pieces, and, where the humour took them, applied the torch. From mere revenge, they set fire to the dwellings of gentlemen of estate who were absent in the Confederate service. They added hateful personal wrongs, and acts of shocking outrage upon the persons of unarmed men and helpless women. It was, under the direct mission from the President of the United States, more of a Cossack descent on the unsuspecting village of an absent enemy, than the march of a troop of civilised soldiers in a lawful war between Christian nations.

Next to Kilpatrick and the actual commander of the force, most active was Colonel Dahlgren, who was killed in a night march of his troop towards Richmond. Upon his person was found a copy or the original of his plan of attack, and the line of action which his men were expected to observe in their march to, and when they reached Richmond, of which he appears to have had a strong expectation. It contains the following passages:—

'In approaching the city, all the mills must be burned, and the canal destroyed.'

'The bridges once secured, and the prisoners loose and over the river, the bridges will be secured and the city destroyed.'

'The men must keep together and well in hand, and, once in the city, it must be destroyed, *and* Jeff. Davis and Cabinet killed.'

'The prisoners,' when released, 'are to go along with combustible material.'

'Pioneers are to have plenty of oakum and turpentine for burning, which will be rolled into soaked balls, and given to the men to burn when we get into the city.'

In getting off, 'horses and cattle which we do not need immediately must be shot rather than left.'

These directions might have been given by one of the old buccaneers, starting on a midnight expedition to pillage and burn one of the defenceless cities of Spanish America. They show a horrible malignity of purpose, traced by the hand of an American officer in this day, and directed against an American city filled with thousands upon thousands of women and children, whose roofs he thus devotes to the flames, and their bodies to the tender mercies of the actors in such an infernal deed.

There has been a feeble attempt in the Northern journals to dispute the authenticity of this paper, and to pronounce it a forgery, since the attempt failed, and cannot be claimed as a glorious achievement for the cause of the Union. One of his friends, who accompanied the expedition, has come forward to express his opinion that the paper was never prepared by Colonel Dahlgren or used by him; but he condemns himself and his cause by limiting his denial to the possibility that Colonel Dahlgren could have written the passage about the killing of Jefferson Davis and his Cabinet. 'Stripped of that interpolation,' he says, 'the memoranda and proclamation do not exceed the bounds of legitimate warfare.' *Qui s'excuse s'accuse.* The defence is a damning confession. The man who can deliberately approve of the design to reduce a populous city to ashes, and turn its thousands and tens of thousands, escaping from their burning habitations, into the hills and fields for shelter, without food or a roof-tree, may be well suspected of a willingness to the assassination if it had been executed. He professes to have been in Dahlgren's confidence, and, quoting from memory of these papers, only protests as not genuine against that one passage. It might be spared, without lessening the common horror for the crime which was meditated. There is no doubt whatever that the whole atrocious scheme was in his thoughts as he laid it down in his papers, and none that, had he succeeded in carrying out the plan, it would have found defenders and eulogists and rewards, as merited punishment for rebellion, and a grand achievement for the reestablishment of the authority of 'the most beneficent Government on the face of the earth.'

In Richmond there is the profound conviction that this paper fully represents the designs of the raiding party. They see in it the natural sequence of acts first tolerated, then encouraged elsewhere, and now reduced to a system of warfare which treats the inhabitants of the Southern Confederacy as detestable inferiors, whom it is a virtue to exterminate if they will not consent to their own subjugation, and own the North as their masters, to whose grace only they are to owe the right to live and to have anything.

The excitement was at first almost ungovernable. There was a popular cry for the summary hanging of the prisoners brought in, who were not entitled to the rights of prisoners of war captured in battle, but murderers, thieves, and outlaws. The President, whose self-possession never deserts him, has resisted this clamour, doubled the guards to protect the prisoners from violence, but has separated them from the ordinary prisoners of war, and reserves their case for graver and more mature deliberation upon the duties which the Government owes to itself and its people in such an emergency.

The Confederates have been long-enduring, but there is danger that their patience will be exhausted, and, finding themselves treated as outlaws, determine to return life for life, and either compel the Federal authorities to return to the usages of civilisation and humanity, or make the war unrelentingly and universally unsparing, as the only means left them for self-defence. The thought is full of horror, but the South may fearlessly challenge the judgment of the world that not upon her lies the responsibility of the crime.

The Presidential campaign in the North has assumed a new shape since I wrote last. After all the violent denunciations of Mr. Lincoln, made by the friends of Secretary Chase in his interest as a competitor for the Presidential nomination, the Secretary has addressed a letter to his friends in the Ohio Legislature, authorising them to withdraw his name; this was done immediately after he received the intelligence that a majority in the Ohio Legislature had declared a preference for Mr. Lincoln, as a candidate is nothing without the support of

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* *Mr. and Mrs. Falconbridge.* By Hamilton Aidé, Author of 'Rita,' &c. Smith, Elder, & Co.

† *The Empire in India; Letters from Madras and other Places.* By Major Evans Bell. Trübner.

the majority of his party in his own State. This movement of Mr. Chase is taken variously, as in favour of Mr. Lincoln, and as designed to supplant him by another. His letter contains no recommendation of the support of Mr. Lincoln, only an exhortation to harmony, which may in the progress of events be turned into a plea for setting Mr. Lincoln aside. This is made more plausible by the circumstance that, notwithstanding the letter of Mr. Chase, the partisans who have been supporting him continue to assail Mr. Lincoln, as not fit to be nominated or re-elected. But these are fallacious calculations, and will, I think, disappear in the course of the canvass. So also will General Fremont, who is presented by a large body of supporters as the embodiment of the Federal opinions, on which Mr. Lincoln is strangely supposed not to be trustworthy. He looms up just now into great importance, as a possible point of union, in the Convention, for the adversaries of Mr. Lincoln, or out of it to defend him if nominated. But Mr. Lincoln is supposed to have it in his own power to overtide this obstruction. He may satisfy Fremont himself by a great military appointment, of which he has a great ambition, and he may easily take away the political grounds of opposition in that quarter by professing a degree of Radicalism which will not suffer in comparison with that of Fremont. He has already begun by certain acts looking that way.

Mr. Lincoln's strategy in his Presidential campaigns has been much more successful than his military management of the war. If he plays his game, for the future, with the audacity and skill of the past, there is nothing which can prevent his re-election, and Chase and Fremont will be among the most prominent, and doubtless, hereafter, the best rewarded of his supporters.

LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New Orleans, Louisiana: March 6, 1864.

GENERAL SHERMAN AT NEW ORLEANS—AN ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT OF HIS 'GREAT RAID'—GENERAL BANKS' RUMOURED EXPEDITION—THE 'INAUGURATION'—DEATH OF MRS. BEAUREGARD—DISGRACEFUL PARAGRAPH IN THE FEDERAL OFFICIAL PAPER—THE FUNERAL—PUBLIC SYMPATHY.

The mystery of many days past in this region has been the whereabouts of General Sherman. We have had astounding stories of all sorts about him and his army. He has been everywhere, according to report and rumour; in Meridian, in Middle Mississippi, in Mid-Alabama, and almost in Mobile. He had conquered General Polk, and taken several thousand prisoners. No—General Polk had beaten him, and he had lost the thousands. Rumour was never so rife, or street report so wild. At last, down comes a boat from up-river one evening this week, bringing General Sherman and staff from Vicksburg. The next day a single Administration paper published a flaming account of General Sherman's 'great raid' in Mississippi. It was too extravagant. Sherman had gone out empty-handed into the most barren portion of Mississippi, and had returned with fifteen miles of wagons—say about eleven hundred wagons—richly laden with spoils, and 'eleven hundred mules' (one to each wagon), several hundred contrabands, and his march had made 'the whole Confederacy shake in its shoes.' It is doubtful if this paper credited its own story, which appeared in its evening edition, disappeared next morning, and no farther particulars ever followed. If the editor of that journal did believe his Sherman narrative, he is the only man in the city of New Orleans of so great faith. None of the other journals had the story. It was a pure coinage from beginning to end, and was esteemed as a gigantic joke.

Meanwhile, Sherman stayed here a day or two, and then returned, at least report says so, to Vicksburg. It is probable that he has made an expedition through Wayne and Clarke counties, in Mississippi, found the country too poor to feed his army; his foraging parties suffered more or less by skirmishes and captures, and he returned with no spoil whatever. We shall know by-and-by.

General Banks has been some time preparing for an expedition to Shreveport and the Red River country in this State. Twelve or fifteen thousand men for this march have been concentrated at Franklin on the Teche, and it is said that Banks goes to the front early next week. It is surmised that Sherman came here for a consultation as to this movement, and that, while Banks moves down Red River from Shreveport (when he gets there), Sherman will send down a force from Vicksburg to move up the river, the two forces to do a general 'gobbling' business along the banks. This will be a repetition of the campaign of last year. It is reported that the object of the expedition is the procurement of cotton, and there are those who believe that a positive arrangement has been made, by which the cotton is to be exchanged for provisions—that is, that the cotton is not to be destroyed, but left in the way of the advancing armies, and provisions and other articles much needed in the Confederacy are to find their way into the opened country. It may be that it is intended also to extend the Federal lines, so as to show something more than one-fourth of the territory of Louisiana for the government of the new State officers. Although the inauguration has taken place, there is no legislature, and the Convention which is to revise the State constitution so as to seemingly authorise the extraordinary election, has not yet assembled. Thus do politics, plans for the return of delegates from this 'restored' State to the Republican convention for the nomination of the next President, and schemes for the collection of cotton, go hand in hand with the efforts to 'suppress the rebellion.'

The 'Inauguration,' the 4th inst., was almost as extraordinary as the election of the officers who were inaugurated. There was much of the theatrical about it—a huge amphitheatre of seats in Lafayette Square; five thousand singing children from the public schools (and one Administration paper has published a case or two of the stories current that children who refused to go and sing for the new governor were turned out of the schools); a band of three hundred performers; a cannon accompaniment to 'Hail, Columbia;' at night an illumination of the buildings on the Square; a ball at the Opera-house, and much public and private jollification. The official accounts are quite as extensive as the celebration itself. They give among other things lists of 'old' citizens present—such men as Eugene Rousseau and James D. Denegre, who have published cards to say that they did not participate, and J. B. Planché, who has been dead three years, and Alfred Hennen, who has not been in the city since last spring. I wonder if there can be any humbug in these things.

And if this was a bonâ-fide 'State election,' it is singular that the governor-elect should announce the course of action he should pursue upon questions which (I quote his words) 'may be expected to demand attention upon the reestablishment of civil government and the assembling of a legislature.' The legislature is yet to be elected, and, indeed, it is necessary to cover a considerable portion of the State with the Federal arms before such a legislature can be elected. It is true enough, as General Banks said in his 'Address to the people' on Inauguration-day, that States 'to be permanent must be founded in the habits and the customs of the people,' and that 'like a statute, they cannot be brought into existence by an edict, or decree, or constitution.'

Another 'free' State election will shortly occur in Florida.

The new 'Governor,' as well as all who voted for him, took the amnesty, or iron-clad oath prescribed by the powers at Washington. In taking the oath the individual swears to 'abide by and faithfully support all proclamations of the President, made during the existing rebellion, having reference to slaves.' Well, the first of these proclamations emancipating slaves declares in so many words that slavery shall exist in this city, and in some of the parishes of this State. Let us see if these men keep to their oath, and uphold slavery in the 'excepted' districts, as the President's proclamation decrees.

The operations of the new 'free' State Government will afford an opportunity for comment by-and-by.

Wednesday evening, March 2, Marguerite Caroline Deslonde, the wife of General Beauregard, died at her residence in Esplanade Street in this city. The following morning the obituary notice appeared, under the usual head, in one or more of the daily papers; and in the evening the *Era*, which calls itself at the head of its columns, 'The Official Paper for the publication of Military Orders, the Official Paper of the State Department, for the publication of the Laws of Congress, and the Official Gazette of New Orleans,' printed the following article:—

'Death of Mrs. Beauregard.—The morning papers announce the death of the wife of G. T. Beauregard. She died at her residence on Esplanade Street, on the evening of the 2nd inst. This woman has, we learn, been in poor health for the past two or three years, and has required, what has been denied her, the care and attention of the man who gave her his word at the altar to cherish and protect her. He also swore at one time to support the constitution of the United States. He does not hold his oaths in very high estimation, as we find him not only plotting for the destruction of his country, but deserting his invalid wife for years together, and leaving her dependent upon others for those acts of kindness and support that should be given by a husband. We know very little of the life or character of the deceased, further than that she was an invalid, neglected by her sworn protector, and left by him under the powerful protection of the flag whose glory he is devoting his puny energies to sully. But when he is called to his final account, he will have the mortification of knowing that the lustre of the stars and stripes is all the brighter, and his betrayed country the more powerful, for the treason of himself and co-conspirators.'

It was difficult to procure a copy of the *Era* half an hour after the paper was in the streets. Nor was the article republished with the other matter from the evening edition the following morning. The *Picayune* the next morning published the following article:—

'Marguerite Caroline Deslonde, Wife of Gen. G. T. Beauregard.—Our obituary column yesterday recorded the death of a lady in this city—so well and widely known, and so tenderly regarded by so many warm and affectionate hearts, that in ordinary times more than a mere announcement of her death would have been made in our columns. Belonging to one of the best Creole families in Louisiana, closely connected with those who have held honourable positions in their country and abroad, known and esteemed by a large and loving circle of friends at the South, at the North, and in Europe, yet to none of these was she so warmly, so devotedly endeared, as she was to her husband who was absent, and to her relatives and friends who, night and day during the years of her illness, have watched by her bedside, have anticipated every possible want, and soothed her sickness with an unwearying devotion commensurate with and comparable with their love alone. When the immediate predecessor of the present Commanding General was in this department, he personally tendered to her an escort and every facility if and whenever she should wish to join her husband. She was too weak, too ill to be removed. The devotion of this lady to her husband, her love for him, was such that she would not allow her family to communicate to him her critical position. Her sorrows and her sufferings have been respected, even by strangers, to the day of her death, and her entrance into the land where there is always peace.

'Not long ago we read in a prominent Northern journal the remark that "war never fails to demoralise and brutalise not only those directly engaged in its operations, but also the entire community for whose account it is carried on." It is a sad thought—sad that we should so harden that we regard with indifference almost the griefs of hearts broken after battles; but sadder still when a quiet, home death-scene is made the subject of heartless comment—where politics banish pity, and where malignity follows mourners even to the tomb.'

And early in the morning of the 'Inauguration' day the body of Mrs. Beauregard was removed from her house to the boat *Nebraska*, to be conveyed to the family tomb in St. John's Parish. Annexed is a brief account of the funeral, from the *Evening Picayune*, March 4:—

'Mrs. Beauregard's Funeral.—The body of Marguerite Caroline Deslonde, wife of General G. T. Beauregard, was removed this morning from her late residence, 128 Esplanade Street, to the boat *Nebraska*, for conveyance to the Parish of St. John the Baptist. A larger throng was never assembled at any private funeral in this city. As early as eight o'clock the street in the vicinity of the house was crowded with people—a very large number of whom were ladies—who came from every part of the city. The house was filled and the adjacent streets were thronged. The Archbishop of the diocese and several priests were in attendance to perform the funeral rites, and the coffin was profusely decorated with beautiful wreaths of flowers. After the prayers, the body was taken to the boat which lay at the foot of Esplanade Street, and the coffin was followed by a procession that fairly filled the street from the levee to Rampart Street. Mr. Theod. Guyol, Mr. Maspero, Mr. Jules Toledano, and Lieutenant Lefort, of the French war-steamer *Catinat*, were among the pall-bearers, with others whose names we did not learn this morning. Several thousand persons were present. Our limits this evening prevent a more extended account of the funeral.

'It is rare indeed that so large a funeral throng is assembled where all is so orderly, and where not a single incident occurs to detract from the solemnity of the scene. The arrangements this morning were perfect and complete, and the thousands who attended the funeral testified by their presence their sincere respect for the memory of the deceased, and their sorrowing sympathy for her surviving friends.'

There is much more to be said about this funeral procession. The best, the most respectable, the real citizens of New Orleans were there. The French Consul and the Spanish Consul were among the mourners. The French gunboat *Catinat* made the usual demonstration of respect when the coffin was carried on board the *Nebraska*. And the vast concourse that assembled to honour the memory of Mrs. Beauregard, in its sincerity and in the expression of its real feelings, was a marked contrast with the throng then gathering at Lafayette Square. As the *Era* is understood to be the organ of General Banks, it has been suggested that he ordered the suppression of the infamous article that appeared in that journal. It appeared in the 'local' column, and the reporter who is understood to have had the conduct of that department of the paper, has to-day issued the following card, in circular form, and it has been widely distributed throughout the city:—

'To the Public.—It is due to myself, it is due to my friends, it is due to General Beauregard, it is due to refined feeling and gentlemanly courtesy, it is due to the purity of journalism, it is due to the profession of arms, it is due to everything in the mind of man that is generous and noble, that I should say that I am not the author (neither did I know anything in regard to it) of the disgraceful, ungentlemanly, ignoble, inhuman, barbarous, dastardly, unmanly, and cowardly paragraph in regard to the death of Mrs. General Beauregard, that appeared in the 'local' columns of the *Era* on Thursday evening, March 3, 1864.

'Albert P. Bennet.'

You may well imagine the indignation manifested almost universally among the Federal officers, as well as by the people, at the conduct of the *Era* in publishing the article. The *Times*, which is a Federal Administration paper, strongly condemns it in an editorial to-day; and so great was the demand for copies, that it promises to reproduce the article to-morrow.

PARIS TOPICS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Paris: March 29.

The event which has furnished the subject of conversation in every drawing-room, café, and railway-carriage in France for the last few days is a criminal trial which has just terminated at Aix. Every one in England must have read by this time the evidence against M. Armand, accused of attempting the assassination of his servant, his acquittal by the jury, and his subsequent condemnation by the court, without the intervention of the jury, to 20,000 francs damages for accidental wounding. A sentence in such flagrant contradiction with the judgment of the jury which had just pronounced his acquittal, has taken the greater part of French society aback, and to minds unacquainted with the administration of French law, seems a scandalous mockery of justice. But on inquiry I find that all persons learned in the law agree in recognising the right of the court to make this strange application of an article in the civil code, although it is generally thought that in Cassation the judgment will be reversed. The French jury, unlike the English which decides only on the question of fact, acts as the real judge in criminal trials, and applies rather than dictates the law. Thus a series of questions is addressed to them which their verdict answers affirmatively or negatively. In this case they acquitted M. Armand of culpable intention, but their verdict did not declare that he had not inflicted a blow on his servant's head; the court, therefore, accepting the verdict as discharging him from the criminal intention, marked its sense of his guilt by the infliction of the fine. This is not a parallel case to the condemnation of the Duc de Caderousse in costs for the death of Mr. Dillon in a duel, for the finding in this case was equivalent to accidental death, and the costs were awarded for the awkwardness which caused it. Here the jury of Aix, by whatever proofs it arrived at its decision, was evidently at variance with the opinion of the court, but its verdict has been received with general satisfaction in France. Not so in Montpellier, M. Armand's native place, where serious disturbances have followed his acquittal, and the prefect has been obliged to issue a proclamation to enforce the law. In this contradictory state of feeling it is difficult to form any opinion on the merits of the case, for the medical evidence was contradictory, given for the most part by men who had not seen the supposed victim till long after his recovery; and on the other hand the animus displayed against the accused by the public prosecutor and judges carries no conviction to those who have seen that as a general rule the bench joins in running down the legal game. The jury in their deliberations may have thought that the eight months of preventive prison to which M. Armand had been subjected was punishment enough, and may have acquitted him on this consideration. A few years ago a young man was tried for theft, breach of confidence, forgery, and uttering of forged documents. As clerk to a banker he had robbed him of securities worth 300,000 francs; some he had negotiated after forging the necessary signatures, others prepared for sale were found in his possession. He was, however, of a good family, a prepossessing appearance, and exhibited all the externals of deep penitence. The jury were determined not to send him to the galleys, and although the different articles of accusation were fully proved, they found him guilty only of a breach of trust, with extenuating circumstances, which limited his punishment to one year of simple prison. I have heard of another case where the aggravating circumstance of a crime was the tender age of the victim. To the question, 'Was the victim at this date less than fifteen years old?' they answered in the teeth of the registry of births, 'No.'

The Conference finds this week a greater number of backers than seemed probable a few days ago. But if France, in accordance with the avowed desire of the Government to contribute in every way to the maintenance or restoration of peace, has agreed to the English proposals, it does not at all follow that any great hope of a successful result is felt here. To judge from trifles, the irritation against the English Government is as great as ever. The *Charivari* continues its attacks on old Lady England's stuffed lion and buttoned trident, and Lord Palmerston is attacked by name. One of these caricatures represents a Prussian officer on his charger quietly smoking his cigar. A huge umbrella and a hand belonging to an unseen figure are in front of him, the hand holding in leash a vixenish terrier, on whose hat surmounting the human head (Palmerston's) is written the motto, 'He barks, but don't bite.' Such personal caricatures are seldom allowed here.

The managers of the late elections seem rather afraid of the red phantom they have raised, and their organs have been proving to their readers that they only put forward two members of the provisional government of '48 for want of better men. The *Presse* announces that a Senatus consultus will prohibit the publication of any remarks whatever on the

debates in the Senate or Chamber henceforward. This and the closing of the literary readings or lectures in the Salle Barthélemy, given in aid of the wounded Poles, are supposed to be decisions taken in consequence of the elections, but this we may be allowed to call a rather forced interpretation at least of the measure affecting the newspapers which has been long spoken of and is not yet become a fact.

The last news from the scenes of war in America has recalled attention to the transatlantic struggle; and while the heroic determination of the South to defend their territory, as the volunteers defended France in '92, calls forth the admiration of the journals which represent the various categories of official persons, the *Opinion Nationale*, which may be called the *Moniteur* of the United States Legation, becomes querulous and threatening. It publishes in last night's number the correspondence between MM. Drouyn de Lhuys and Dayton on the subject of four vessels which are in course of construction at Nantes, it is supposed on account of the Confederate Government. The writer of the article, evidently dictated by the United States Legation, does not state where the despatches, three in number, which he prints, are taken from, nor where others to which he refers are to be found. They may be contained in some American blue-book which I have not heard of; if not, whatever the value of documents whose authenticity seems from the context to be denied by their supposed authors, the publication of despatches from two French ministers can hardly be otherwise than very offensive. Jonathan was never famed for his observance of the courtesies of international life, but this seems a breach of the proprieties which even the difficulties he is floundering in will hardly excuse.

I find the *Indépendance Belge* bearing witness to the sympathies felt in official circles here for the Confederate cause, sympathies which it does not by any means share. In a recent letter from Paris it is said: 'I need not remind you that the sympathies of the semi-official world here have always been favourable to the cause of the South. In this sphere the favourable news lately received has caused general satisfaction and is implicitly relied upon. But —' and he goes on to prove that no confidence should be placed in them; the telegrams, more than confirming the news to which he refers, appearing in the next number of the paper. There are some writers who have a real talent for predicting bad news when good is on the eve of arriving. The *Opinion* never publishes a prediction of the approaching triumph of the North, or the utter prostration of the South, that the next day does not bring information which seems expressly intended to upset the writer's arguments.

The *Opinion Nationale* devotes an article to the new Emperor of Mexico. It begins by praising the spirit of adventurous chivalry which lead him to exchange the splendid ease of his position of an Austrian Archduke for the labours of government. The good impression he has everywhere left behind him, and even in Italy, proves that he is no vulgar character.

CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Manchester: March 30, 1864.

The following observations upon the spread of Southern sympathy in the cotton districts are from a gentleman who has just returned from a tour through some of the chief manufacturing towns in the north of England:—

'Some twelve months ago the Northern party, by means of its unscrupulous agents, and with the assistance of its not too nice ally (the Union and Emancipation Society), opened a seemingly successful campaign, for the purpose of convincing Lancashire that the Federal cause was the cause of right and justice, and, therefore, worthy of the best sympathies of a liberty-loving population. No measures were left unadopted, no artifices were left unresorted to—even including the theatrical but unappreciated display of beneficence in distributing American flour to our starving operatives—that were calculated to mislead the masses, and to win an appearance of favour for the policy of President Lincoln. The Rev. Chaplain of the *George Griswold* laboured in the same field with President Davis's negro ex-coachman, and the glorious cause of "universal emancipation" bade fair to prosper among us. Scarcely a town or village but was invaded by one or other of these missionaries from Washington; and whenever an opportunity offered for indulging in the higher flights of declamatory arrogance, a George Thompson or a Dr. Massie was seldom too far off to embrace it. So matters continued for a time, and men, whose duty and interest it was to have checked this state of things, quietly stood by and left it to the press. At length, however, a few working men were found to resist the illogical reasoning of the advocates of the North, and this step was speedily followed by the formation of a nucleus around which has gathered the present Southern Independence Association, whose members now are not only amazingly numerous, but include, I believe, some of the most eminent men in the United Kingdom. The very formation of a Southern Association struck terror into the Northern camp, for it was only too clear that their misrepresentations would speedily meet with a further refutation. The first great overthrow of the Union and Emancipation Society was witnessed in June last, in the Free Trade Hall, when a single placard cautioning the public against the false pretensions of the dissenting ministers was sufficient to neutralise the efforts of that body, and to spoil the grand resolutions which were intended to have been passed at the meeting. So signal was the failure that no attempt has since been made to beguile our people of their sympathies in behalf of President Lincoln's exterminating policy. Happily, wherever the minions of the North have gone, the friends of the South have followed and refuted their misrepresentations, until, as Mr. Hibbart told us at Oldham, the men of Lancashire are well acquainted with the American question. Except in some out-of-the-way locality, the Union and Emancipation Society cannot now muster even a limited audience. Its sometime chiefs of debate have taken wing across the Atlantic; and only one or two speculating speakers are left in possession of the Northern platform, and these, apparently, as much for the love of pence as for the sake of advocating the abolition of slavery. Neither of these remaining champions as yet has shown any wish to face the discussion of the true issues between North and South. It may be said without exaggeration that the Southern Independence Association has served as an excellent medium for eliciting and gathering as it were into a focus the Southern feeling in Lancashire and the adjoining counties. During a visit I recently paid to Saddleworth, a thriving manufacturing town some twelve miles east of Manchester, I was struck at finding that, almost without an exception, the whole body of merchants and manufacturers were in favour of the South. Many of them detailed the losses they had sustained through Northern roguery, and all of them asserted that the protectionist tariffs of the North had completely driven them out of the American market. It would be impossible to find a greater amount of practical intelligence upon American matters in any part of England than in Saddleworth, or a more Southern feeling than exists among its spinners and manufacturers. If any Northerner doubts the effect of the American tariff in causing the disruption of the Union and in driving our woollen manufactures out of the United States, let him take a tour in Lancashire and converse with our people on the spot. Our men of business and their operatives know well that the success of the North would not mean peace or prosperity for Great Britain, but that the independence of the South would mean a return to good profits and high wages.'

Sherman's Miscalculation.—A letter from Mobile, dated 27th February, by the steamer *Denbigh*, which recently ran the blockade at that port, contains the following:—

'I send you some papers containing the news. The Federal invasion of Mississippi resulted disastrously to Sherman's plan. He expected Polk to fall back upon Mobile; but the latter's retreat to Demopolis saved Alabama. Much property was destroyed along the route, particularly at Enterprise. The usual barbarities were practised, and but few escaped without the destruction of dwellings and carrying off of slaves. Fleming (the superintendent of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad) says the road will be all right again in three or four weeks.'

Defeat of General Sherman.—General Polk's Address to his Army.—General Orders—No. 22.—Headquarters, Demopolis, Ala., Feb. 26, 1864.—The Lieutenant-General commanding offers his congratulations to the army on the successful termination of the campaign just closed. The cheerfulness with which the troops have borne the fatigues and inconveniences of the march, and their ready acquiescence in the orders directing their movements, have entitled them to the highest commendation. To the firmness and good conduct of the men, and the skill and judgment of their officers in checking the enemy's march, the Commanding General is indebted for securing the public stores and depriving the enemy of the use of the railroads and other facilities for foraging and subsistence. The concentration of our cavalry on his column of cavalry from West Tennessee formed the turning point of the campaign. That concentration broke down the only means of subsisting his infantry. His column was defeated and routed, and his whole force compelled to make a hasty retreat. Never did a grand campaign, inaugurated with such pretensions, terminate more ingloriously. With a force three times that which was opposed to its advance they have been defeated and forced to leave the field with a loss of men, small arms and artillery. Both their columns are retreating before the squadrons of our pursuing cavalry. The Lieutenant General commanding offers his grateful thanks to the whole army, and trusts that this opening campaign of the new year may be an earnest of the successes which await us in the future.—By command of

Thos. M. Jack, A.A.G. Lieutenant General Polk.

The Next Campaign.—Undoubtedly we shall have a severe and trying campaign. With all the obstacles which Lincoln has met in replenishing his army, we shall certainly have a very strong force to contend with. We must not flatter ourselves with other expectations. This campaign is the crisis of the war. We have been favoured with cheering signs in the last few weeks—signs in every quarter of the horizon—that the campaign and the victory will be ours, if we do our duty. But not otherwise! Let every man, therefore, stand to his work and to his post! Let our soldiers resolve to finish this year that war for whose whole duration they have just enlisted so nobly! Let every man who is wanted to swell our ranks, hasten to take his place. Let the producer drive the spade, and hurry the plough, and hold it his duty, as he loves his country and fears his God, to make every bushel and every pound of food and provender of which his soil and his labour are capable. We have a great work to do, and this is the year in which it must be done. Lincoln's hordes are pressing us on every hand. They come with sword and fire, with robbery and confiscation. We must withstand them, and drive them back, and we must disappoint those schemes of starvation of which an honourable foe would burn with shame to be even suspected. We must do all this, or we are ruined for ever—ruined as a people were never ruined before. We are sufficient for the great work, if we put forth united, energetic efforts. God has recently given many tokens of his favour, to steer and to rouse us to a glorious exhibition of public virtue and manliness. Let us accept them in this light, and not pervert them into snares for our injury, by sinking into false security. 'The Philistines be upon thee, Samson'—it is no panic alarm to declare this. But thank Heaven, our Samson's locks are not short. Let him but arouse himself, and put forth that full vigour of which we now enjoy the pleasing signs and promise, and all will be well.—*Richmond Sentinel*, Feb. 29.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL & COMMERCIAL.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

Wednesday Evening.

The state of the money market is just now exceptional. The revenue payments are absorbing large sums, and consequently the influx of currency into the Bank is proportionate. The pressure, though temporarily severe, will not be continuous, because the April dividends will shortly be in course of distribution. It is quite certain, however, that no immediate reduction in the rate can be anticipated, since we have yet to see the effect of the 4th of the month, and the readjustment of advances recently made by the Bank. In the present state of things we may look for full terms without any substantial stringency, though from time to time we expect to see occasional apprehension respecting a rise in the Bank *minimum*. As companies still come out they will assist to absorb capital, and in the case of the credit and financial institutions, they are already trenching upon the ground hitherto occupied exclusively by bankers and the discount companies. At the Stock Exchange there has been a much better enquiry for short loans through the full employment of resources in other quarters. Five and a half and six per cent. are the rates charged for loans from day to day.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The bullion and specie transactions this week have not been of so favourable a character as for some time past; but still there is nothing to create alarm, although it may for a time have the effect of delaying the anticipated reduction in the rate of discount. There has not been any gold sent into the Bank this week, but the withdrawals have amounted to 126,000*l.* for transmission abroad. The arrivals of specie, on the other hand, have been to a fair extent, having reached 930,852*l.*, of which 798,000*l.* is from the West Indies and Pacific, 72,612*l.* from Australia, and 60,240*l.* from New York. The *Ellora*, which left on Monday for the East, took out 411,000*l.*, of which 307,000*l.* was in silver for Bombay, and 83,000*l.* in gold. 21,000*l.* in gold has been sent to Alexandria. The silver market has shown increased activity; that brought by the previous West India mail was sold at $61\frac{1}{2}d.$ per oz., but since then further telegrams have been received from India, which has caused more firmness, and the price has advanced to $61\frac{3}{4}d.$ The Mexican dollars have not yet been disposed of, and the nominal price is as previously quoted.

BANK MEETING.

At a special meeting of the shareholders in the Ionian Bank, power was given to increase the capital by 150,000*l.*, in 6,000 shares of 25*l.* each; half to be allotted *pro rata* to the shareholders at par, and the other half to the public at a premium.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

Business in the English Stock Market—indeed, in all monetary circles—has been exceedingly limited this week, in consequence of the intervention of the Easter holidays. On Friday, of course, all places of public business were closed, and on Monday there was another holiday on the Stock Exchange, and during the remainder of the week there has been very little doing. Although there is no quotable alteration in prices, the market for the English Funded Securities is not quite so firm, Consols closing at $91\frac{3}{8}$ to $91\frac{1}{2}$ for money, and $91\frac{1}{2}$ to $91\frac{5}{8}$ for the account. Exchequer Bills are unchanged at 8*s.* to 3*s.* dis. In the Foreign Stock Market business has also been dull, with very little variation in prices. The chief transactions have been in Mexican, which have exhibited some fluctuations, according as the reports with regard to the New Loan have been read favourably or otherwise. The meeting of the existing bondholders, which was to have taken place to-day, is postponed till Monday next, by which time it is hoped something definite may be announced on the subject of the loan. The latest rumours were—on the one hand, that the proposed terms will be satisfactory to the bondholders, and on the other, that the negotiations for the loan are likely to prove abortive. The stock closed this evening at $44\frac{1}{2}$ to 45, which is precisely the same as on this day week. There has not been much doing in Greek Securities, and the quotation remains steady at $23\frac{1}{2}$ to 24. Spanish Passives are $35\frac{3}{4}$ to 36, being an improvement of $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., and the Certificates are $13\frac{1}{8}$ to $13\frac{3}{8}$, being $\frac{1}{4}$ better. Turkish descriptions are unchanged, the stock of 1854 being 93 to 94, and that of 1862 at $71\frac{1}{4}$ to $71\frac{3}{4}$.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market for this security has been fairly active during the last few days, and the price is again rising—we quote to-day 54 and 55, with a firm appearance.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The transactions in American Government and Railway Securities have been unusually limited, and prices continue to show weakness. The consecutive accounts of the successes of the Confederate army prevent the dealers from operating at present to any extent in this description of stocks. The only dealings recorded are the following:—Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York section, at 82, 81, 80, and $80\frac{1}{2}$; ditto, Pennsylvania section, $81\frac{3}{4}$, 82, $82\frac{1}{2}$, and 82; Erie, $100 shares, all paid, $68\frac{1}{2}$, $67\frac{1}{2}$, 69, and $69\frac{1}{2}$; Illinois Central, $100 shares, $90 paid, 17; ditto, all paid, 73; Panama Railway, second mortgage, $102\frac{3}{4}$; Pennsylvania Railway bonds, 6 per cent., second mortgage, $87\frac{3}{4}$ and 88.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

Business in the British Railway Share Market has been dull, but nevertheless a fair amount of transactions have been recorded, and on the whole prices show an improvement, though in a number of instances there has been a falling off. To-day the chief business has been with regard to the half-monthly settlement. As compared with this day week there has been an improvement of 3 per cent. in North London; of 2 per cent. in Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, and Vale of Neath; of 1 per cent. in Great Northern; of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. in South-Eastern; and of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Metropolitan. On the reverse side there has been a decline of 1 per cent. in Edinburgh and Glasgow; of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. in Lancashire and Yorkshire; of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Great Eastern, London, Chatham, and Dover; and of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. in North Eastern (Berwick) and ditto (York). Foreign railway shares have not been much enquired for, and prices, if anything, are slightly weaker; but a better business has been done in Colonial shares, though values do not exhibit much change.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

A prospectus has been issued by the Financial Corporation, inviting subscriptions for shares in the European Central Railway Company, the capital being fixed at 1,400,000*l.*, with a first issue of 700,000*l.* in 17,500 shares of 40*l.* or 100*f.* each; the remaining 700,000*l.* to be raised subsequently in shares, bonds, or obligations, as may be considered advisable. The route is described as the first connecting link between the North and South of Europe, and as affording the shortest and most convenient connection between England, China, and Australia. The route is to run from Chiasso to Biasca, in the canton of Tessin, Switzerland, with the design of extending the line to Lucerne by the Alpine Pass of the St. Gothard, or to Coire by the Pass of the Luckmaniers, thus forming a junction with the system of railways of Central Europe.—The prospectus has been issued of the West Worthing Investment Company (limited), with a capital of 250,000*l.*, of which 150,000*l.* is to be first subscribed, in shares of 25*l.* The object of the undertaking is to supply an admitted deficiency of houses of a superior class at Worthing, by a purchase of 100 acres of land, with a sea frontage of nearly one mile, and to adapt it to building purposes, the Directors being also empowered to sell houses built upon the estate to shareholders, receiving in payment, in whole or in part, the shares of the Company at par.—The prospectus of the North-Western Bank of Liverpool (limited) has just been circulated. The capital asked for is 2,000,000*l.* in 100,000 shares of 20*l.* each. The first issue will be for 50,000 shares only. The deposit on application is to be 1*l.* per share, and on allotment 1*l.* 10*s.* The object of the undertaking is to carry on and extend the old-established business of Messrs. Moss & Co., who will completely identify their interests with those of the new bank, and they give their aid in the conduct of its affairs, 20,000 shares at par being retained by Messrs. Moss, of which 16,000 will be included in the first issue, and 4,000 are to be

allotted at a future period.—The Port Augusta and Northern Railway Company of South Australia have issued a prospectus, asking for a capital of 300,000*l*. in 60,000 shares of 5*l*. each, for the purpose of constructing a line under the powers of an act of the legislature of the colony, granting 128,000 acres of land for 100 miles of railway. The route is to be from Port Augusta into the mineral and pastoral districts north of the said port.—The prospectus has been issued this evening of the National Financial Company (Limited). The first capital is to be 500,000*l*. in 10,000 shares of 50*l*. each. Deposit on application 1*l*. per share, and on allotment 4*l*. As the operations of the Company increase, further issues of shares will be made, which in the first instance will be offered to the then existing shareholders, on such terms as the Directors may deem advisable. The operations of the Company will be of the usual character of such undertakings, and the Directors have already promises of a large amount of support; and a provisional agreement has been entered into for acquiring a valuable railway concession with a Government guarantee. Negotiations are also pending for securing business arising from several undertakings, which will materially contribute to the success of the Company.—The Metropolitan Music Hall Company is another undertaking of which the prospectus has been issued this evening. The proposed capital is 30,000*l*. in 6,000 shares of 5*l*. each. The Company, it appears, have purchased the well-known premises of Mr. Turnham in the Edgeware Road, consisting of the White Lion public-house; the music hall attached, bowling alleys and billiard rooms, with shop adjoining; and it is calculated that the rental from the bowling alleys, billiard rooms, and shop will yield a sum sufficient to pay the rent and taxes on the whole premises.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

In these departments business has been interrupted by the holidays, which commenced on Thursday last, and did not terminate until last evening. Transactions have consequently been of unusually small amount, and prices have, in many cases, remained little better than nominal. Meanwhile deliveries are progressing satisfactorily, and, with continuously light imports, stocks are still reducing. The cotton market during the last day or two has shown increasing dulness, and prices are tending in buyers' favour, but cannot be quoted lower. The corn trade remains in the same state of inactivity as noticed for some time past, ample home supplies throughout the provinces diverting the trade from importing markets. American provisions continue to find a steady, quiet sale. Butters are, perhaps, a shade weaker in price, owing to a decline in Friesland and other fine marks of foreign. The best American cheese sells with moderate freedom at 58*s*. to 60*s*. per cwt., and bacon is firm at 38*s*. to 46*s*., according to quality. In American lard there is very little doing. Petroleum offers at 1*s*. 10*d*. to 1*s*. 10½*d*. per gallon for American refined, and 1*s*. 3*d*. to 1*s*. 4*d*. for spirit. Crude is quoted 15*l*. 10*s*. per tun. Linseed oil after advancing to 38*s*. is again purchasable at 37*s*. 6*d*. to 37*s*. 9*d*. Rape oil is firmer at 40*s*. per cwt. for brown, and 42*s*. for pale. Sperm remains at 71*l*. to 75*l*. per tun. In tallow scarcely any variation has occurred, but higher quotations from St. Petersburg have caused rather a stronger market. Dye stuffs in general are at this moment inactive, and at the continental sales to-day only a very small proportion was disposed of, whilst prices were barely maintained. The few transactions in metals have not altered previous quotations except for spelter, which has receded to 21*l*. 12*s*. 6*d*. to 21*l*. 15*s*. per ton.

LIVERPOOL, Wednesday, March 30.—The great buoyancy exhibited in our cotton market last week has entirely subsided; the demand for all descriptions is again limited, and nearly the whole of the late advance in prices has been lost. The sales this week have amounted to only 21,000 bales, of which 4,000 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year down to the present time have been 454,200 bales, and to the same period in 1863 they were 105,700 bales. The imports this year have been 408,608 bales, and to the corresponding period last year 285,360 bales. There have been exported this year 70,095 bales; last year the numbers were 70,095 bales, and in 1863, 75,699 bales. There have been taken for consumption this year 312,500 bales, and last year they were 208,500 bales. On speculation this year the quantity taken has been 68,190 bales; the same in 1863, 113,560 bales. The comparative stocks at the present time are 307,210 bales, and at the same period last year 393,630 bales. The exports of cotton from China from the 1st January to the 11th February, the dates embraced by the present mail, are: For Liverpool, from Hong Kong, the *Juanpore*, with 4,252 bales; the *Koh-i-Noor*, with 7,958 bales; the *Dolfijie*, with 2,676 bales; the *Cornelia Hendrika*, with 3,456 bales; the *Devonshire*, with 9,368 bales; the *Bella*, with 4,274 bales; and the *Norwood*, with 4,000 bales. From Shanghai there had sailed for Liverpool the *Spirit of the Thames*, with 5,840 bales; the *Veloz*, with 4,072 bales; the *Ralston*, with 3,841 bales; the *Alice Tainter*, with 4,343 bales; the *Queensbury*, with 4,368 bales; the *Thomas Roydon*, with 5,892 bales; the *Isabella Hircus*, with 3,480 bales; and the *Constantine*, with 4,642 bales. For London from Shanghai there is the *Strathallan*, with 4,123 bales; the *Lansdowne*, with 4,577 bales; the *Oliver Cromwell*, with 3,300 bales; the *Oithona*, with 5,479 bales; the *Wagoola*, with 4,232 bales; the *T. Dryden*, with 3,185 bales; the *Annie Archbell*, with 4,500 bales; and the *Alchymist*, with 1,662 bales. From Yokohoma the *Vampyre* had sailed with 300 bales, and from Kanagawa the *Forerunner* with 4,728 bales, and the *Alexandra* with 4,538 bales. The latest quotations this afternoon were: Middling Orleans, 26¼*d*. to 26½*d*.; Mobile, 26*d*. to 26¼*d*.; Uplands, 25¾*d*. to 26*d*.; Fair Egyptian, 26*d*. to 26¼*d*.; and Surats, 10*d*. to 23¼*d*.

The markets at Manchester have been exceedingly dull during the week, business having been for some days entirely put a stop to by the Easter holidays. The improvement in prices noticed last week has been entirely put a stop to, the market having been seriously affected by the large arrivals of cotton at Liverpool. Within the last day or two there has been a slight increase in transactions in shipping yarns, at the full prices of last week, a quantity of yarns having been sold for delivery in May. Home-trade yarns are very quiet, with a small amount of business doing, but without much alteration in values. The cloth market is in a very depressed state; but the Indian telegrams and letters to hand report on the whole a more favourable state of things in that market, and have caused a little more cheerfulness. There has been a little enquiry for fabrics for India, and a small business in this has taken place. The demand, however, was not general, and business could only be transacted where sellers were willing to accept the lowest quotations. There are but few orders in the market, and what little disposition there is to do business is chiefly on speculative accounts.

Among the Contents of THE INDEX *of March 24 are:—*

NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK AT HOME AND ABROAD.
PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.
LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.
LETTER FROM NEW YORK.
PARIS TOPICS. FEDERAL FAILURES.
THE MERSEY STEAM RAMS.
FLOGGING AND BRANDING.
SLAVERY AND PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S PROCLAMATION.
MEXICO.
FROM LONGSTREET'S HEAD-QUARTERS.
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THERE are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellow-men.

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AMERICA.

THE *Australasian* left gold rising. The passage of the 'Gold Bill' by Congress checked only for a moment, if at all, its upward tendency. The elevation of General Grant to the supreme military dictatorship has not kept it down. Never, since the war began, has the Northern press given such signs of discouragement, and almost of panic. Some throw the blame on President Lincoln. He 'has checked the forward career of a great people determined to put down a wicked rebellion'—wicked in contradistinction to other and good rebellions. 'He has brought the war to a standstill.' 'He has drained almost to exhaustion the resources of a rich and populous country, and the spirit of a brave and proud people.' The *Tribune* speaks of the Republic as in the crisis of a desperate struggle for existence. The *National Intelligencer* mourns over the national folly and delusions. The *Herald* says: 'We must bring the rebellion to the dust this coming summer, or the discontent of the people of the loyal States may ripen into scenes of violence, discord, and anarchy, and our Presidential election of November next may be the end of the chapter.' A Fremont paper declares that, as the first condition of success, 'Abraham Lincoln must be beaten at all hazards totally, overwhelmingly beaten.' And the *Army and Navy Journal*, a respectable military organ, takes perhaps a more gloomy and ferocious view of the situation than any of its frightened contemporaries. It speaks of 'the critical and perilous aspect of the times,' and says: 'This double conflict upon which the country is about to enter may well induce serious thought, if not grave apprehension. This division of forces and of energies is weakness. It must diminish the power which the nation requires for the one great essential work—for the defence of its menaced life. Until the rebellion is crushed this nation is in peril—in imminent and perpetual peril. While the rebels can marshal hundreds of thousands of men against us—while in ten States they spurn the authority of the Government and defy its power—we can neither afford to indulge in idle repose, nor to waste our strength upon side issues. While a desperate foe, with drawn knife, is struggling to get at our jugular, let us neither rest nor trifle until his head is crushed.'

This is strange language for people to use who have so long believed that a nation could be 'crushed' in ninety days, but who seem to be making the discovery that crushing is a game that two can play at.

THE Confederate papers received through the blockade and by late arrivals from New York are full of interesting news. Yankee deserters are wandering through Florida. These poor fellows were assured that they would meet with no opposition, and were promised farms. Some had written to their families to join them. In the battle at Ocean Pond, the negro troops which were placed in front, and forced on by the Yankee troops behind them, had scarcely two companies left to a regiment. One account says only 150 were left of two regiments. The retreating Federals threw away 130,000 cartridges. The work of repairing the railroads destroyed by General Sherman was going on rapidly. Mississippi, by the defeat of Sherman, is almost cleared of her invaders, who scarcely hold the area of one county. The very boasts of the amount of property destroyed or stolen in a march along a narrow belt of this great State are evidences of its wealth and resources. More than 300 of those engaged in Kilpatrick's raid are in the prisons of Richmond. The lead mines of Virginia have furnished 10,000,000 ounce balls the past year, and this year the amount will be doubled. Kentucky is in a ferment; it is more than 50,000 recruits in arrears to the Federal Government; it refuses to allow the conscription of negroes, and Confederate guerilla bands are organising on the backs of the Ohio. General Hood has left Richmond for his command in Tennessee. Marshall Kane of Baltimore, after a long imprisonment, arrived at Richmond, *via* Canada and the Bahamas, and has been appointed a colonel in the Confederate service. General the Prince Polignac is distinguishing himself as a Confederate cavalry officer beyond the Mississippi, by dashing attacks and successful raids. General Dick Taylor, a popular officer in the same department, and now engaged in opposing General Banks, is the son of General Zachary Taylor, the hero of Buena Vista, and afterwards President of the United States. President Davis, his son-in-law, and General Bragg both served under 'old Rough-and-ready' in that famous battle. The appointment of Generals Buckner and Breckenridge in East Tennessee and South-western Virginia is believed to indicate an invasion of Kentucky, which would relieve all Tennessee not commanded by the rivers. Brigadier-General Mahone has been made a Major-General and Military Superintendent of all the Southern railways. Confederate guerillas stopped a freight train on the 16th ult. near Nashville. There is a Confederate ironclad on the Red River, and three rams building. All the damage done to Fort Powell, Mobile, by 1,000 shot and shell, was repaired in a few hours. It is believed that the attacking squadron did not get off so easily.

THE statistics of blockade-running at Wilmington show that only one out of twenty has been captured; and such is the nature of the coast, with its numerous channels, that the entire navy of the Federal States could not make the blockade of this single port effective.

THE course of the Federal Government in the conduct of the war has seldom been more forcibly and truthfully described than by one of its advocates, the *Louisville Journal*, which says:—

> The Republican party, with Mr. Lincoln at its head, has repudiated alike the Crittenden Resolutions, the Chicago platform, and the Constitution of the Union. It has made a clean sweep of all its solemn engagements to the people. It has forsworn itself and betrayed the nation. In order to get into power, the Republican party pledged itself to maintain inviolate the constitutional rights of the States, and, in order to collect a mighty army, it renewed the pledge; but now that it has got into power, and has collected a mighty army, it tears its pledge to shreds, and tramples the constitutional rights of the States in the dust.

IT may aid those who wish to 'keep the run' of the Federal Anaconda, if we point out the position of the numerous joints into which the monster is divided. With the aid of a good map, his coils may be traced as they wind around the Confederacy. Beginning at the Southern point of Florida, there are:—1. The garrisons of Key West and Tortugas; 2. The remnants of General Seymour's force at Jacksonville; 3. General Gilmore's troops on the coast of Georgia and South Carolina; 4. The garrisons of Beaufort, Newbern, &c., in North Carolina; 5. General Butler's force at Norfolk; 6. The army of the Potomac on the Rapidan; 7. The garrisons of Washington and Baltimore; 8. The troops of North-western Virginia; 9. The army of Ohio at Nashville; 10. The army of Chattanooga; 11. The troops at Memphis; 12. The troops at Vicksburg; 13. The garrison at New Orleans; 14. The troops in Texas; 15. The troops in Missouri; 16. The troops in New Mexico. Thus is the monster coiled around some 3,000 miles of frontier, but everywhere either acting upon the defensive or too weak to make a forward movement, and at scarcely a single point in all this vast territory able to hold a position out of the range of gunboats.

THE Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives at Washington is expected to report a series of resolutions reaffirming the Monroe doctrine, and denouncing the establishment of an Imperial Government in Mexico as fraught with evil to the Federal Government. The partisans of General Fremont having adopted the Monroe doctrine as a chief plank in their platform, the friends of Mr. Lincoln may find it necessary to pass some resolutions.

ONE of the brilliant hand-to-hand fights, by which the advancing Federals were lately driven back on Memphis, was the battle of Okolona, in North-eastern Mississippi, February 22. The *Mobile Register* says the Confederate General Forrest with a force of 2,000 attacked the enemy, estimated at 6,000, fought all day, drove him from position to position, at night repulsed three sabre charges, and completely routed him, with a heavy loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners, and his [illegible] said to have [illegible] horses [illegible] Colonel [illegible] Confederate [illegible] prisoners.

THE [illegible] upon the [illegible] an entire [illegible] kettles and [illegible] raid through [illegible] he claims to have burnt [illegible] corn, and stolen [illegible] several millions. General [illegible] GRANT [illegible] that, in a [illegible] trict of North Carolina, [illegible] of pork, 80 barrels of lard, 75 [illegible] bushels of corn, 5,000 [illegible] salt, and [illegible] Orleans the peaceful inhabitants [illegible] furniture, pianofortes, plate, and jewellery. In Mississippi every man [illegible] plundered of horses, mules, and negroes [illegible] Kilpatrick's raid, near Richmond, [illegible] open and scattered, and [illegible] little children; but the climax of Yankee [illegible] the comparison be not an injustice to the Yankees [illegible] probably described in the following extract [illegible] from a lady of Meridian, giving an account of the conduct of General Sherman's troops:—

> 'My two milch cows were killed, and every one in the town, and for eight or ten miles around, [illegible] horses. There is not a fence in Meridian. I have not one rail left. I do not think you have any idea how bad the Yankees are. I thought I knew, but I did not know the half. *They took old Mrs. ——'s teeth*, all her spoons and knives, and destroyed all provisions and everything they could not use.' Having destroyed the mills, killed or driven off the cattle, burnt the corn and provisions, and taken the ladies' knives and spoons, it was as well to take her teeth: she evidently had no use for them.

THE great war cauldron cannot bubble long without throwing the negro to the surface as a [illegible]. The Federal Government, while recognising the slave of the loyal States as property, claims the right of [illegible] them for the war, with compensation to [illegible] The Governor of Kentucky denies any such right, and threatens to resist its exercise. [illegible] Federal army, a Kentuckian [illegible] Abolitionism, and the effort to pervert the war from its legitimate purpose—the restoration of the Union—and make it a war for the negro. Abolition members of Congress demand that the wives and children of negro conscripts should be free. Compensation for these would cost the Government $8,000,000. The *Boston Courier* estimates the cost of the war so far at £[illegible] of sterling silver, which would be twice the weight of every negro set free. Another reckons that each freed negro has cost the lives of three white men, while more than half the negroes have died of starvation and neglect. A correspondent of the *New York Tribune* says, the negro women and children brought to Vicksburg by General Sherman were almost starved and half naked, and presented such a picture of want and misery as could not be imagined. The poor contraband who failed to guide Colonel Dahlgren into Richmond was hanged without mercy. The negro soldiers taken prisoners by the Confederates were not shot or sold, but placed in cells with their white comrades. Meantime, we have the customs of Dahomey cropping out in Hayti, where eight negroes and negresses have been shot in the public square of Port au Prince for stealing, killing, cooking, and eating children, at a religious festival held only fifteen miles from the capital. The same New York papers which tell us this news are having a lively discussion on the theory of 'miscegenation.'

THE holders of Federal bonds are beginning to ask, with some anxiety, where the gold is to come from to pay the interest. By the end of this year the amount required will be $86,000,000. The only gold revenue is the duties on imports, and these may not amount to half the sum required. Instead of being able to lower the premium on gold by throwing a surplus upon the market, the Government is much more likely to be obliged to buy gold to pay its interest.

The spirit of the South, stern, heroic, and devoted, has never been more apparent than at the commencement of the fourth year of the war, after all its toils, privations, and sufferings. Not only the Southern but Northern journals are filled with evidences of this unconquerable spirit. Thus a correspondent of the *New York World* tells us, as the result of his observations, that a self-sacrificing spirit pervades all classes. It actuates the rich and the poor:—

The hundreds of women who have sent their husbands and sons to the battle-field; the hundreds of widows who have parted with their last boy, their only support; the hundreds of citizens who have given their last dollar; the hundreds of ladies who have given up their last jewels; and the hundreds of ministers who have shouldered the musket during the last month in defence of the sacred soil, are as many evidences in support of my assertion. There is a captain of a regiment, Mr. Chatard, sending five hundred dollars to a Sister of Charity for the relief of the sick and wounded; there is an Alabama brigade re-enlisting with the oath that they will live on bread alone, and go barefooted, rather than leave the flag under which they have fought during the last three years; Howell Cobb, proposing to sell the Government thirty thousand pounds of bacon and forty thousand bushels of corn at its own price; Wade Hampton, the wealthiest citizen of South Carolina, sending an order for all his slaves, his money, and his estates to Jeff. Davis. Add to this the farmers pouring their crops into the Government granaries, the planters turning their cotton and rice to its credit, the people cheerfully giving up eight hundred millions of dollars of their hard-wrought earnings to be converted into bonds bearing a low interest, and consenting to be burdened with a new issue half as large, and you will have a faint idea of the spirit of devotedness and self-sacrifice which now animates the South. This is not a fanciful but a real picture, rather below than above truth.

Of course, a Government supported by so numerous acts of personal abnegation, by so general a sacrifice of individual will to the interest of the commonwealth, by so many continuous demonstrations of devotion and unbounded enthusiasm, must be strong indeed. It must be strong, not only on account of its own political skill, but by reason of the strength which unfaltering majorities and the support of an immense army, often victorious and never annihilated, must impart to it; strong in the public spirit which pervades all Southern communities and which is revealed to us in the unmistakable accent of their public prints; strong in the readiness with which its armies are filled up; strong in the devotedness of its adherents, flying to arms unrewarded, unfed, and unclad; strong, in fine, by that strength which no word can describe, and which great revolutionary crises alone can produce.

Those who can remember the terms in which the Northern press characterised each successive leader chosen to put down the rebellion, restore the Union, or conquer, subjugate, confiscate, and exterminate the Confederate States—how Scott, M'Clellan, Pope, Burnside, Hooker, and Meade were heroes of the hour, and predestined victors—will not be surprised at finding General Grant 'the coming man,' 'the man on horseback,' the military dictator of a new campaign. The *New York Herald* long since nominated him for the Presidency: now it declares him the Government. He comes to Washington, says his organ, in the greatest crisis of his country's history. If he has the intellectual power and force, the moral courage to be a Cæsar, a Napoleon, a Cromwell, all will be well. He is the Government, and wields the power of the nation. But the *Herald* is not very sanguine. It says:—

Two hundred thousand men have been called for, it is to be supposed at his suggestion. Let them be given. We must not stint in men or money now; for this is to be the final trial. If, with General Grant at the head and the struggle as it now is, we cannot put the rebellion down in the coming summer, we can never put it down. Never again, if we fail now, shall we be in so good a position to strike the decisive blow. Before another summer a Presidential election and an unparalleled political strife will tear the country to pieces with intestine quarrels. Let the country understand this, and rally now in earnest to support Grant for a final attempt.

Not a very encouraging prospect!

There are indications that the ferocious spirit towards the South which the North has fostered, may soon be turned upon itself, as it was, for a warning, in the draft riots of New York. The Democratic, or Peace party, will not always endure with quiet submission the outrages to which it is subjected. The whole Democratic party is a party of peace. War Democrat, in this contest, is a contradiction in terms; and when a Democrat professes to be 'in favour of a vigorous prosecution of the war,' the Republicans do him the justice to believe him an arrant hypocrite. No Democrat of the school of Jefferson and Madison can be in favour of this war. And the time cannot be distant when there will be something more than passive acquiescence or passive resistance. The mobbing of editors and destruction of printing-offices, the outrages of soldiers upon railway passengers, and the war that is growing up in every village on the men and issues of the coming Presidential contest, will surely lead to reprisals and conflicts. The Democrats of the West are counselled by their ablest newspapers to organise and arm for retaliation, which even Mr. Vallandigham advises as the only remedy.

The tone of the Northern press is anything but encouraging. The deficiency under the various calls for recruits amounts to 315,000. A few States have filled and even exceeded their quotas, but others, and notably the great States of New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, are largely in arrears. As the period for nominating candidates for the Presidency approaches, the attacks on the Government grow more virulent, and this feeling increases the danger of a draft. Mr. Lincoln is accused of having produced all the calamities of the war by ignorant or interested interference. Even the *New York Times* admits that 'the huge proportions and rapid increase of the public debt' are contributing 'most powerfully to create and spread despondency as to the result of the war;' while the *Herald* predicts that the failure of General Grant by the treachery of the Lincoln Administration will cause confusion and anarchy of the worst description—the currency destroyed, public confidence paralysed, civil war at the North, and the hanging of the Radical leaders.

The steamer which left New York on the 23rd brought little but rumours of expected movements. General Lee, largely reinforced, was reported as moving towards the Shenandoah Valley, with the purpose of flanking and attacking the army of the Potomac, or getting in the rear of Washington, or invading Pennsylvania. General Longstreet's forces, twenty thousand strong, and effectively mounted, were reported to be concentrated at Bull's Gap, either for an invasion of Kentucky, or to join General Lee. The Federals were expecting an attack on Norfolk, by land forces and ironclads from Richmond. General Johnston was reported in strong force, estimated at 38,000, confronting the Federal lines near Chattanooga. General Forrest was expected to operate with a large force of mounted infantry, so effective in the battle of Okolona, on the railways in West Tennessee. The only Federal movement reported was the expedition up the Red River, where there was supposed to be much cotton. The river is defended, however, by strong Confederate works and thirty gunboats. General Price has resumed the command of the Confederate forces in Arkansas. The telegraph was at work in Mississippi, and the railway damage being rapidly repaired. The Southern papers are filled with exultations over the failure of Federal plans and expeditions. Among these failures was that of the negro colony to Hayti, which had returned after great sufferings and the loss of about one-fourth of its numbers. The ship *Saxon* and cargo has been restored to the owners, and it is reported that Lieutenant Donoghue is to be tried by court-martial for shooting Mr. Grey.

Gold, at New York on March 23, was at 65 per cent. premium.

ENGLAND.

The following communication appeared in conspicuous type in the *Times* newspaper of Wednesday last. Our readers will at once perceive that it derives inspiration from the highest quarter.

THE COURT.

An erroneous idea seems generally to prevail, and has latterly found frequent expression in the newspapers, that the Queen is about to resume the place in society which she occupied before her great affliction; that is, that she is about again to hold levees and drawing-rooms in person, and to appear as before at Court balls, concerts, &c. This idea cannot be too explicitly contradicted.

The Queen heartily appreciates the desire of her subjects to see her, and whatever she *can* do to gratify them in this loyal and affectionate wish she *will* do. Whenever any real object is to be attained by her appearing on public occasions, any national interest to be promoted, or anything to be encouraged which is for the good of her people, Her Majesty will not shrink, as she has not shrunk, from any personal sacrifice or exertion, however painful.

But there are other and higher duties than those of mere representation which are now thrown upon the Queen, alone and unassisted—duties which she cannot neglect without injury to the public service, which weigh unceasingly upon her, overwhelming her with work and anxiety.

The Queen has laboured conscientiously to discharge these duties till her health and strength, already shaken by the utter and ever-abiding desolation which has taken the place of her former happiness, have been seriously impaired.

To call upon her to undergo, in addition, the fatigue of those mere State ceremonies which can be equally well performed by other members of her family is to ask her to run the risk of entirely disabling herself for the discharge of those other duties which cannot be neglected without serious injury to the public interests.

The Queen will, however, do what she can—in the manner least trying to her health, strength, and spirits—to meet the loyal wishes of her subjects, to afford that support and countenance to society, and to give that encouragement to trade which is desired of her.

More the Queen *cannot* do; and more the kindness and good feeling of her people will surely not exact from her.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle has been compelled by ill-health to resign the seals of the Colonial Office. Mr. Cardwell, who, at the first construction of the Ministry, was Secretary for Ireland, and subsequently became Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, has succeeded the Duke as Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Earl of Clarendon has been appointed Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. His Lord-ship held the same office in 1840, and has also been for five years Viceroy of Ireland, and for five years Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. From our Parliamentary intelligence it will be seen that Mr. Stansfeld has retired from the post of Junior Lord of the Admiralty.

M. Joseph Mazzini has again come forward on behalf of Mr. Stansfeld. He declares that never was any money handed over or sent by him to Mr. Stansfeld for the purpose of helping Greco, Tibaldi, Donati, or any other, in an attempt against the Emperor's life; that never had Mr. Stansfeld the slightest contact with Greco, Tibaldi, Donati, or any other known to Mazzini, implicating him possibly, directly or indirectly, to the knowledge of Mazzini, in any political schemes of theirs. He says that Mr. Stansfeld has been to him a friend of eighteen years' standing, and has deeply sympathised in his aspirations for Italian unity; that Mr. Stansfeld has in his own name and in that of Mazzini contributed money to subscriptions for Italian exiles. Italians too came to Mr. Stansfeld for help and advice. But all this had nothing to do with any connection of Mr. Stansfeld with unlawful designs.

The Conservative party in this country is evidently girding itself up for a great struggle, in confident anticipation of a great triumph. The first signal has been given in one of the strongholds of Conservatism, the county of Devon. In Exeter, on Wednesday, March 30, the leaders of the party in the West of England met at a public banquet. After the customary toasts, that of 'Lord Derby and the House of Lords' was proposed, and Earl Devon responded thereto. His speech consisted chiefly of a splendid eulogy of Lord Derby. He said that 'behind and almost within the present Government there were men whose views he could not but disapprove—men whose antagonism was not obscurely shown to all the institutions in Church and State which his friends had learned to prize—men whose object had been, and that shown in no doubtful way, to set class against class, and to imperil the existence of all those institutions under which this country had flourished.' The next toast was that of 'Mr. Disraeli and the House of Commons,' and to this Sir Stafford Northcote replied. He referred to the position of the party five years ago, when expelled from power by the Parliament summoned under its own auspices, and to the gloomy prospects then before them. Men then thought that the day of the party had gone by. But Mr. Disraeli was a man who did not know when he was beaten; he took courage and rallied his forces, and now they might look back to bygone events and say that he had met his reward. The difference in the position of the party could not be measured by numbers alone; it had gained most in tone and spirit. The present Government had lost character and the confidence of the country. They had come in on a cry of Reform, and now they desired only to 'rest and be thankful.' They had no Church policy; with every opportunity, they had never attempted to settle the questions that so pressed for a solution. As to their 'foreign policy,' on the success of which they had so plumed themselves, why their patent invention, the universal medicine of England's moral influence, had been puffed and vaunted, and the only result was that the name of England was at this moment a byword and a reproach among foreign nations. They had allowed questions which admitted of a pacific settlement to issue in war, and they had used bold and threatening language without any intention of following it up. The day on which the Government must appeal to the people on the hustings was not far off. It could not be longer off than next year; it was probable that it might even be this year. If then the result of the general elections should coincide with those of the particular elections, the Conservative party would be placed in a position such as it had not occupied for eighteen years past. There were great questions pressing for a decision which could only be set at rest by a powerful Conservative Government.

The great banking-house of Messrs. Jones Loyd & Co. has transferred its business to the London & Westminster Bank. The fact became public in the City on Friday last. On Saturday, the 16th of this month, the private bank will transact business for the last time, and the new arrangement will come into force on Monday, the 18th. The premises of Messrs. Jones Loyd will at once be added to those of the Westminster Bank. Messrs. Lewis Loyd and William Jones Loyd will retire from business, and Mr. Henry Newman will join the Board of Directors of the Westminster Bank. The negotiations were conducted, on behalf of the latter institution, by Messrs. Dobree, Catley, and Alderman Salomons. The measure is entirely approved by Lord Overstone.

The *Great Eastern* steamship has been taken up by Messrs. Glass, Elliott, & Co., the contractors for the Atlantic cable, for the purpose of laying it between England and America. On completion of the work, the proprietors of the ship are to receive 50,000*l.* in paid-up shares of the Atlantic Telegraph Company. It is not intended to make any attempt to lay the cable till next year.

The contest between the Armstrong and Whitworth guns commenced on Monday last at Shoeburyness. Most of the members of the Select Ordnance Committee were present. Of Armstrong guns there were three twelve-pounder breech-loaders, and three muzzle-loading shunt guns on the ground. Three seventy-pounder breech-loaders and a like number of seventy-pounder muzzle-loaders are on their way from Woolwich. Mr. Whitworth has three twelve-pounder muzzle-loaders and three seventy-pounder muzzle-loaders. It is expected that 3,000 rounds will be fired from each gun, and that afterwards the guns will be tested with gradually-increasing charges of powder. The experiments will extend over a period of two or three months.

General Garibaldi landed at Southampton on Sunday last from on board the *Ripon*, one of the Peninsular and Oriental steamers. He was accompanied by his sons Menotti and Ricciotti Garibaldi, Signors Bosco and Lugeso, his secretaries, Colonel Chambers, and an Italian surgeon. The General was received by the Duke of Sutherland, Mr. Seely, M.P., and a deputation from the Italians resident in England. The mayor of Southampton welcomed him with an invitation to his house in East Gate Park, which was cordially accepted. On the Monday morning Garibaldi rose at daybreak, drove out, and paid visits. At 10 o'clock the members of the corporation arrived at the house of Mr. Brinton, and an hour later the *cortège* started for the Old Town Hall. The streets were densely crowded with people, every window was occupied, and even the housetops were covered. The shouting and cheering was terrific as Garibaldi, in the uniform of the Italian Legion, was conveyed in triumph along the route to the Hall. The building was crammed to suffocation by an enthusiastic multitude. The mayor was seated in the chair, with Garibaldi on his right hand. The proceedings opened with a complimentary speech from his worship. Then the town clerk read the address of the corporation. The General, in returning thanks, said that, 'without the help of the English nation it would have been impossible to complete the deeds which were done in Southern Italy. What the English did and said, was worthy the eternal gratitude of the Italian people.'

Thereupon, there were renewed bursts of applause, cheers for Garibaldi's son, and cheers for United Italy. Then everyone rushed to shake hands with the General, who at length made his way through the crowd, was conveyed to the pier and embarked on board the *Sapphire*. The vessel steamed away for Cowes, amid the thunder of cannon, and the shouts of the people. Garibaldi stood on the deck waving his cap in reply.

The General will remain the guest of Mr. Seely till Saturday, on which day he will come to London. There he will remain for a week, as the guest of the Duke of Sutherland, at Stafford House.

At a meeting held at Driffield last week under the presidency of Lord Hotham, M.P., it was resolved to erect a memorial to the late Sir Tatton Sykes. A large number of the noblemen and landed gentry of Yorkshire were present, and pledged themselves to further the attempt to record the respect and regard of the county for the noble qualities of that fine English gentleman. The idea most approved by the meeting, was to erect an obelisk on the highest point of the Wolds.

Cases of breach of promise of marriage are not edifying, but are, undoubtedly, matter of considerable amusement. Certainly, the action tried last week at Liverpool, by the name of Rowlinson *v.* Gordon, successfully animated the bar and bench, convulsed the susceptible public, and created a fund of delight to the readers of the daily journals. The plaintiff, Miss Eliza Blanche Rowlinson, was the daughter of a Mr. Rowlinson, a retired indigo broker, residing at Liverpool; and the defendant was Mr. William Alexander Grant Gordon, of Hunlow, in China. The plaintiff was twenty-four years old, and the defendant was but one year older. They had been known to each other about the year 1858, but had never met since that date. One day, in the month of June, 1861, the young lady's father received a letter from Mr. Gordon asking his consent to a marriage between Miss Rowlinson and himself. He stated his income at 1,100*l.* a-year, with good prospects; and after a full account of himself, his connexions, and his ideas on things in general, requested Mr. Rowlinson to hand an enclosed document to the young lady. That document was a proposal couched in terms of most ardent affection. The young man was accepted at once both by father and daughter, and the latter wrote an answer which was excellent in the profuseness of its affection, which confessed a preconceived love for her admirer, expressed a desire for an immediate flight to him, and was in every way sufficient evidence that his love was not unrequited. A long correspondence of a most endearing nature ensued, winding up with a note of the 12th May, 1862, from the lover, which contained the words, 'Only fancy, six months more and we shall be married, I hope.' Eight days later, however, a change came over the scene of enchantment, and Mr. Gordon wrote to postpone the match on the ground of the want of parental consent. Subsequent letters were brief and cold, and the last announced that all hope was at an end, for the youth had discovered that there never could be that 'congeniality of feeling between them which ought to exist between man and wife.' Certainly Mr. Gordon was a very clever man to discover that remarkable fact from a correspondence; but surprise will be diminished when it is known that in her first letter to him the lady called him 'her pet' and her 'darling boy,' explained that 'she was a very naughty child,' and stated that 'she knew nothing about money, but that 1,000*l.* a-year seemed to her an enormous quantity.' Nothing could exceed the pathos of the learned counsel for the plaintiff or the dry sarcasm of his opponent. The jury, however, was clearly not romantic, and thought that 750*l.* would sufficiently atone for the injuries endured by the disappointed lady.

On Tuesday last Thomas King, John Carmel Heenan, Thomas Sayers, John Tyler, Jerry Noon, John Macdonald, James Mace, and Robert Travers were tried at the Sussex Quarter Sessions held at the Shire Hall, Lewes, on the charge of having riotously assembled, and of having assaulted and beaten Thomas King and John Carmel Heenan. Mr. Roupell and Mr. Willoughby prosecuted. King, Mace, Calvin, and Tyler were defended by Serjeant Tindal Atkinson and Mr. E. Besley, while Mr. Sleigh and Mr. Gates represented Heenan, Sayers, and Macdonald. Serjeant Atkinson and Mr. Sleigh said that their clients would plead 'Guilty,' with the exception of Mace, against whom there was no evidence. The Chairman thought that it would be sufficient to call upon the defendants to enter into their own recognizances in the sum of 100*l.* each to appear and receive judgment when called upon. The defendants entered into the required sureties and left the court.

Calcutta.—The last mail from Calcutta brings intelligence of a piece of legislation which deserves a passing notice. The new Penal Code had abolished the punishment of whipping, and the effects of that enactment were painfully apparent in the overcrowded state of the gaols, the frightful diseases thereby generated, and the enormous cost entailed. The rate of mortality in the prisons increased to 20 per cent., at least 10,000 offenders were committed in one year for crimes formerly punishable by flogging, and two lacs of rupees represented the additional burden thrown on the State. Under these circumstances, a Bill has been passed to restore the permissive use of the lash. Sir Charles Trevelyan opposed the Bill, which was supported by Sir C. Napier, Mr. Beadon, and Mr. Maine.

Cape of Good Hope.—The Cape mail brings intelligence that the *Ariel* had sailed on the 25th January for the Zambesi, and would bring down Dr. Livingstone and his party, whose mission was about to be closed. Bishop Mozer was to remain behind to complete the arrangement.

THE CONTINENT.

The visit paid by the King of Denmark to his troops was of happy augury to them, being followed so closely by the successful affair of March 28. Further particulars have been received concerning that engagement: but, coming almost entirely from German sources, they are rather palliations of the defeat, and conjectures as to the reason of it, than historical narratives. The most probable account of the matter is that the Prussians were endeavouring to take up a more advanced position, when they were met by the Danes and forced to retire to their former lines. The gallant conduct and high service of the turret-ship *Rolf Krake*, in braving the fire of batteries, such as it was supposed must inevitably annihilate her, has received the admiration of Europe and the respectful attention of the enemy. The Prussians have thought it necessary to erect earthworks on their sea flank, as a protection from such another assault from the Danish navy. The loss of the Allies in this affair is reckoned at 172 killed, wounded, and missing; about 60 Danes were taken prisoners. It is worthy of remark, that the regiment which, at its own request, held the post of honour and of peril on the Danish side, was raised in Slesvig.

The whole of the siege train intended to be used against the fortifications of Düppel is now on the spot; and the first parallel of a regular siege has been opened. The good practice made by the rifled artillery is a matter of great boast in the German army; they talk of the destructive effect of a few shots fired at Fort No. 6 by a piece of 24 at the distance of 1,300 paces, or about two miles. The Prussian shells are so constructed as to explode immediately on striking and penetrating an object, while the Danes still use the old time-fuse, and are said to display great skill in the proper adjustment of it. It appears, however, that the game of long-bowls, however gratifying to artillerists, is not sufficiently decisive for the Austro-Prussian aspirations; and a flank movement is now talked of, in which the Allies are to cross over to Alsen on Austrian pontoons, and attack the left of the Danish position.

The operations against Fredericia are conducted with the utmost regularity: the second parallel was opened *secundum artem* by the Austrians on the 27th ult. A remarkable *canard* has gone the round of the daily journals, relating that the Austrian army had withdrawn with precipitancy from the siege of Fredericia, and retreated southward. The cause assigned for this hurried movement was the discovery of an extensive conspiracy among the Hungarian and Italian troops to throw off their allegiance and side with the Danes against their common oppressor. So widespread was this rumour that it was thought worthy of an express telegraphic contradiction from Count Rechberg, the Austrian Foreign Secretary. Another report, traceable to Danish sources, states that an engagement has taken place between 6,000 Danes and a body of Prussian troops near Veile, in which the former were victorious.

The anxiety felt by the Germans with regard to the Danish fleet is greater than they choose to confess. We learn that reinforcements are to be sent as speedily as possible to the North Sea squadron, which, by the way, has not yet appeared on the scene of its action: and Prussian engineers have undertaken a regular system of defensive works for the protection of Hamburg.

By the last despatches from the theatre of war we learn that the Prussians have kept up a terrific bombardment of Sonderburg; no notice was given of the intended bombardment, and consequently the massacre of non-combatants has been terrible. Eighty-nine women and children have fallen victims. The cannonade commenced at 3 P.M. on the 2nd inst., and continued for forty-eight hours without intermission. A great part of the town has been destroyed.

The question of the blockade is beginning to attract the attention of the Northern Powers. A notification from the Prussian Cabinet, which we noticed last week, has declared the blockade of the Baltic ports non-existent: we have this week another notice utterly at variance with the former, emanating from the Danish authorities, and forwarded by them through the English Government to the neutral Consuls at Swinemunde. It purports to issue from the admiral in command of the blockading squadron, and declares that on and after the 4th inst. all ships breaking the blockade of Swinemunde, Stralsund, &c., will be liable to capture. To this the *Gazette de la Baltique* raises several technical objections, and amongst other things urges that the document is geographically false, being dated from the Bay of Stettin, a name unknown in any map of the Baltic. However that may be, it appears that the officers in command of the blockading squadron mean to make good their word, as they have already turned back a ship on its way to Swinemunde. The absence of blockade on which the Prussian notification was founded must then be explained by supposing that the Danes were unwilling to begin the annoying and wearisome task of blockading one moment before it was absolutely necessary.

The Powers who signed the treaty of 1852 have agreed to meet in conference on the Danish question. The German Diet was also requested to attend by representative. Two questions of course arose: first, should they accede to the request? secondly, whom should they send? We may conclude that the first has been answered in the affirmative, considering the awful amount of diplomacy which is being employed on the solution of the second question. The first idea which struck the Prussian Government was that there were no persons so 'fit and proper to represent' Germany as themselves; they therefore suggested that the Prussian envoy should also speak in behalf of the Confederation. The inconvenience of such an arrangement was acutely felt by Austria, who proposed in turn a more equitable and equitable plan—namely, that the minor German States should choose an envoy to represent them all. To this plan Prussia has agreed. Three names are before the public as candidates for the post: a Herr von Pfordten, Foreign Minister of Bavaria, Herr von Beust, Foreign Minister of Saxony, and Herr von Platen, Foreign Minister of Hanover. The two former are pretty well known in Europe, the latter distinguished by the peculiar favour of Austria, but is nevertheless one of the ablest diplomatists, Bismarck-Schönhausen and Rechberg not excepted. The Austrian interest by very much at heart. This is to account for the peculiar disposition shown by the Cabinet of Vienna. Denmark and the Duchies of Germany will delay their decision until they know some of the views to be maintained by the Austro-Prussian party in the Conference. They are not anxious to see the integrity of the Danish monarchy, if any reliance may be placed on the propositions attributed to Russia, suggesting that the present King should be succeeded, to the same extent of territory as his predecessor, that the Duke of Augustenburg should be declared next agnate to the heir-presumptive to the throne, and appointed Viceroy of the Duchies during his life. But there is still a strong opposition to any proposal tending to leave Christian IX. even suzerain of the Duchies: the party, headed by the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, have caught eagerly at the French suggestion of an appeal to universal suffrage, and are, of course, careless of the difficulties in which Austria and Prussia would be placed by an appeal to nationalities. The able envoy presented by Denmark to the Conference, to appeal to the voice of the people, seems to wish nothing else to be present, or to go back to first principles.

Among the remarkable features of the situation in Prussia we may cite the harmony with which the King refuses to take counsel with or be hampered by any of the *sacrosancta burgensia*, however high may be their merit. He has even refused to create in the army the rank of lieut.-generals-major, for which they have already a precedent in their corps of pensioners. The only exception to this rule, announced by authority, occurs in the artillery and engineers, services which are apparently too degrading, be it said, too useful, for the contact of ennobled hands.

The following edicts have been issued in Poland for the more speedy suppression of the rebellion:—First, an order applicable principally to the districts infested with bands of guerillas. According to it, every proprietor shall render to the military authorities an exact account of the number and nature of the horses in his stables: no transfer of horses is to take place without the express permission of the commandant: furthermore, no person shall for the future ride on any horse, unless he is actually engaged in the Government service, and for further security, all saddles are confiscated: lastly, no bells are to be sounded in any place whatever, except in factories, where signals for rest, &c., can only be given by that means, and in the latter case a list of the hours at which the bell shall be rung is to be posted up under the bell-rope. The two first regulations are intended to restrain the general supply of horses to the insurrectionists: the last is to prevent the warning signals given by means of the bells.

Another order given at Warsaw regulates the use of mourning among the people: nobles may wear it for six months: merchants, tradesmen, and others for three months: but the permission is restricted absolutely to the wife and children of the deceased. Funerals are subject to a municipal tax: the number of mourners is made proportionate to the tax paid: if it is under 1 rouble, 10 mourners are allowed: if under 10, 15 mourners: and so on, 5 mourners for every 10 roubles. The National Government has published an ukase in answer to that of the Emperor manumitting the serfs: it declares such a measure superfluous, as it had been anticipated by themselves (the National Government) more than a year ago: no duty should therefore be paid by the peasants on account of it.

A gallant action was fought at the beginning of the last week at Cionzyn on the Prussian frontier by a body of Poles under Haller. Twice they met a fresh force and routed it: the third time their gallant commander, seeing the awful disparity of numbers, led his small force right through the enemy in a bayonet charge: no sooner had the band of insurgents got to the rear of the Russians, than they dispersed in all directions: the pursuers were baffled by the variety of routes taken by their foes, and the latter were enabled to re-assemble in security.

A Circular issued by the Austrian General Graf von Mensdorf-Pouilly, and dated Lemberg, March 16th, orders that all strangers unprovided with proper passports, shall be sent back forcibly to their own country. All Turkish subjects are to be sent *viâ* Trieste and the Adriatic, that they may not be subjected to the evil influences now dominant in the Principalities, the hot-beds of revolution.

Our readers may remember that a grave letter of remonstrance was addressed towards the beginning of the past month by the Turkish Minister, Fuad Pasha, to Prince Couza: it treated of the three charges made by the Imperial Government of Turkey against their vassal governing the Danubian Principalities, of having violently appropriated the property of the monasteries, of having increased his army beyond the number fixed by the regulations of 1858, and of having made a general distribution of arms among the peasantry. Prince Couza has answered the letter at some length in an able though not very reassuring manner. As to the first charge regarding the spoliation of the monasteries, he briefly states that it was accomplished by the will of the House of Representatives, and was a measure alike popular and politic: as to the second charge, he refers to the regulations of 1858, and

points out that by them the number of the troops was restricted to 7,034; that the number raised by his predecessors was 14,500, and that this was the force which he found in existence on his accession; that the Imperial Government had made no objection in former times, and that consequently it was now estopped from doing so; he then says that the recent measures had no other object than the better distribution and armament of his small forces, and respectfully hints that he has other similar measures still in view; as to the last charge, concerning the arming of the peasantry, he declares that he has only distributed from two to eight muskets to every township, the number varying with their size, for their better protection against thieves and wild beasts. The Prince then delicately insists on the virtual independence of the Principalities, subject only to the tribute paid annually to the Sublime Porte, and to the mutual assistance which it owes to and expects from that Power; lastly, while he proposes to strengthen the alliance between himself and his suzerain, he disclaims any desire to make himself more independent. We may fairly look at this document in conjunction with the recent conduct of the Parliament of the Principalities; a vote of want of confidence in the present Government was proposed in that body and negatived by a large majority; it was generally understood that this proposition was instigated by the Prince himself. Now when we remember that M. Cogolintschoanu, the head of the Government, is a deadly foe of the Turkish suzerainty, we may infer that there is more sincerity in the Prince's protestations of fidelity than some folks would allow. The collection of arms in the Principalities is a very sore subject with the Turks, and they do their best to restrain it. A Turkish man-of-war stationed at the Sulina mouths of the Danube, had occasion lately to stop two ships laden with munitions of war, and ordered them to discharge their cargo. One of them, belonging to the Austrian Lloyd, obeyed the order; the other claimed French nationality and refused; the Turk threatened to sink her, but gave twenty-four hours for reflection: the recusant took advantage of the delay to summon French aid, and at the expiration of the time was lying safe between two French gunboats.

Intelligence has arrived of another difficulty for the Turkish Government; the populace of Bagdad have risen in revolt against their governor, Namik Pasha: the intrigues of Persia have probably much to do with the insurrection.

The Turkish fleet has received orders to cruise in the Adriatic: the town of Parga, the scene of so much fighting and diplomacy in the Greek War of Independence, is to be re-colonised by Turks, and to be made into a military port.

The moment for the ultimate cession of the Ionian Islands to the kingdom of Greece is rapidly approaching. The ports are being blown up, and the English troops removed. The inhabitants are already feeling the loss of British capital, and certain improvements in which a quantity of money would have been invested have been countermanded. The 28th inst. has been fixed upon for the handing over of the islands to King George I. His Majesty is to open the first Parliament of the islands in person. A battalion of the Greek army which mutinied lately at Missolonghi has been disbanded.

Great anxiety has been caused in Italy by the reported loss of the frigate, *Re Galantuomo*. She was spoken on the 17th ult. by the *Star of the West* about 250 miles north of the Bermudas, and was then in distress. The English ship stayed all night on the spot, but in the morning no signs of the frigate were visible. It is hoped that she made for the Bermudas in the course of the night.

'The theory of the Dagger' has been lately much before the English public. We are sorry to have to report a practical application of it in the country which has unfortunately the infamy of having given birth to it. Signor Murgia, the Sub-Prefect of Mola, a small town south of Bologna, has been cruelly assassinated. Of course the whole power of the police has been brought into action for the discovery of the murderer, and twenty-one arrests have been already made; but it is a horrible thought that this is only the culminating point of some hundred other assassinations which have already been perpetrated in this small town of 11,000 inhabitants.

Contrary to expectation, the Pope was able to appear in St. Peter's on Easter Sunday, and to give his pastoral benediction to the people: in consequence of the badness of the weather the benediction was given inside the Basilica. The operation performed on His Holiness has been apparently successful; yet all that part of Christendom that acknowledges the Papal authority is expecting with anxiety the day when the Conclave will assemble to elect another Pope: all possible measures to secure the tranquillity of the city during the election have been taken in anticipation.

The Spanish Government are about to apply to the Cortes for a vote of nine millions of reals, to be continued for four successive years, and to be applied to the reform of the army in the matter of firelocks and artillery. It is believed that the present Ministry have the intention of recognising the Kingdom of Italy, and that they will also be ready to acknowledge the new Emperor of Mexico, when his acceptance of the crown is officially notified to them.

The French despatches from Mexico are all encouraging. The town of Zacatecas has been successfully occupied; commerce and animation are returning to Vera Cruz; the roads between that city and the capital are at length secure; the Indians in the South are generally declaring for the empire; Vidauri, the Governor of Nueva Leon, has broken with Juarez and Doblado, and captured three guns and three hundred prisoners from the latter general. He is now anxious to make terms with the Imperial authorities.

The Peruvian Government has addressed a long despatch to the States of Chili and Bolivia, setting forth the horrors of war, and imploring them to accept the mediation of Peru for the settlement of their differences. These differences arose first out of a squabble for the possession of a certain lot of guano, discovered by a party of gold-seekers somewhere in the debateable ground about the boundary of the two States.

The Emperor of Brazil has accepted the mediation of Portugal with reference to the long-standing quarrel between that empire and England.

The precaution taken by the counsel for M. Armand in his trial for the attempted murder of Roux is abundantly justified. The town of Montpellier has been in a state of ferment ever since the publication of the verdict; the witnesses for the prosecution have been fêted and honoured in every possible manner, while those for the defence have been mobbed and hooted. Finally a deliberate attack was made upon the dwelling-house of M. Armand, and the mob would have proceeded to the last excesses but for the exertions of the military commandant, the Avocat Impérial, and the Procureur-Général, who personally circulated in the crowd, and implored them to think of the consequences of their actions. M. Armand may congratulate himself that he was not tried in his native city.

Two trials have lately been the subjects of great interest in Paris; in the first Mazzini was accused of being an accomplice in the late conspiracy against the Emperor's life, and condemned by default. In the course of the accusation several documents were read to prove the connection of Mr. Stansfeld with the affair. The whole speech of the Procureur Impérial was as much directed against the Englishman as against the Italian. The second cause which collected the good people of Paris into the law-courts was based on a demand made by the Duc de Grammont-Caderousse to be relieved from the 'conseil judiciaire' or tutorship to which he was subjected by an order of the Court. The Duke pleaded that he is now thirty years of age, that he has become *rangé* or a respectable member of society, and that his present little indiscretions are unworthy of the notice of the Court. The Court deferred judgment. The duke's name is extremely well known, not to say notorious, in Parisian scandal. Some of our readers may remember a duel that took place between him and a certain Irish editor of a sporting journal, in which the latter was killed. The Duke was condemned to undergo a year's imprisonment, and to pay an annuity for the support of the widow and children of the deceased.

The death of M. Ampère has vacated one of the seats in the French academy; this gentleman had a European reputation for the belles lettres, philosophy and archæology. Among the persons named to succeed him in the honours of the Académie is M. Jules Janin, the famous critic of French literature.

The theatres of Paris have been relieved from the influence of a 'protection' which was considered most injurious by the smaller places of entertainment. It seems, however, that, under the bracing air of Free Trade, the supply will be so enormous that there will be a deficiency of the requisite buildings. Those who are not lucky enough to secure theatres will content themselves with 'cafés-concerts;' these latter will, therefore, find themselves subject to an enormous competition.

A journal may base its claims for popularity on many different grounds. It may be political, literary, religious, or sporting; it may be satirical or humorous; it may tickle the souls of its readers with broad caricatures, or instruct them by graphic illustrations; it has been left to the French press to overwhelm the world with the gigantic size of their sheets. The monster *Grand Journal* large enough to be read by four people at once—to be folded round the humble stall in the theatre until the occupier can fancy himself in a private box—large enough to roof a house, to paper the side of a room, to cut up into spills that would outlast the year-long sittings of a club-smoking-room such is the journal which the French nation delights to honour. Everywhere may be seen the fluttering of its enormous sheets, as the public crowd round to gloat over the astounding length of its columns. We do not, however, hear that they also read them.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

ENGLAND AND THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

On Tuesday, in the House of Lords, the Marquis of Clanricarde moved for 'a copy of any correspondence that might have taken place between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the Confederate States of North America, relating to the removal of British Consuls from those States, or the cessation of the functions of the Consuls or any of them therein; and of the correspondence with the Consuls thereupon; also, for copies of all correspondence with any agents of the Confederate Government in this country up to this date, in continuance of that already before the House.' In submitting this motion His Lordship said, 'on a previous occasion Earl Russell had stated that British subjects were compelled to enter the Confederate armies, and that British Consuls had been driven from the Confederacy, so that there was no redress for British subjects. This was a serious charge to bring against the Confederate Government, and their Lordships had very imperfect means of ascertaining its truth. Putting New Orleans aside, there were four principal consulships—in Richmond, Charleston, Mobile and Savannah—and the Consuls residing at these places were acknowledged by the Confederate Government on the authority of the *exequaturs* issued to them by a former Government. The Confederate Government 'did not stand on the formality of requiring letters of credence, but at once admitted them to full access, and treated those Consuls as long and as far as possible with friendship and cordiality.' The British Consul at Charleston sent a bag of letters to Lord Lyons by a gentleman, who also took with him other letters which he could do legally. This gentleman was arrested by the Federals; his certificate as a bearer of Government despatches was disregarded, and he was imprisoned. At length the United States Government apologised for the arrest, but withdrew the *exequatur* from the British Consul at Charleston. [It is usual with the Federal Government, when it apologises to the British Government, to compliment or promote the offender, or to injure or put some slight upon the offended party.] Mr. Magee, the British Consul at Mobile, was requested to afford facilities for the transmission of specie to pay the London creditors of the State of Alabama. It was the modern doctrine that State payments to private creditors ought not to be liable to the incidents of war, and during the Russian war we discharged our obligations. Mr. Magee wrote to the Consul at New Orleans, and suggested that a British ship was lying at that port, and might, with the consent of the Federal commander at the station, take home the money. The Consul at New Orleans communicated with Captain Jones of Her Majesty's ship *Vesuvius*. That officer thought the transaction legitimate, and told the Federal commander that he wanted to go into Mobile to transact business with the Consul, who had money for him to take back to England. 'The Federal commander was told the money was going to be sent, and it was put on board before his face.' After the money was gone, Mr. Magee received a telegram from Lord Lyons, instructing him not to send it. The Federal Government was offended, and upon their demand Mr. Magee was dismissed. Lord Lyons then sent Mr. Cridland, who occasionally acted as Consul at Richmond, to Mobile. It was reported in the *Richmond Whig* that he had a commission and *exequatur* from the United States Government. Mr. Cridland called on Mr. Benjamin, the Confederate Secretary of State, denied that statement, and assured him that he was proceeding to Mobile to look after British interests unofficially, and without any commission or *exequatur* whatever. Mr. Cridland also procured the insertion of a similar contradiction in the *Richmond Whig*. Yet Mr. Cridland was introduced to Admiral Buchanan, and produced an official document, signed by Lord Lyons, appointing him British Consul at Mobile. Upon this the Confederate Government forbade Mr. Cridland exercising any of the functions of a consul with the Confederate States. Mr. Moore, the consul at Richmond, was dismissed, not for protecting British interests, but because he used most disrespectful language towards the Confederate Government, and in consequence of misconduct, or what was considered to be misconduct, on his part. When the Consuls were forcibly dismissed, there were only two remaining in the Confederate States. Why were they dismissed? The war began in 1861. In 1862 a stringent law was passed to enable the States to raise militia. The British residents remonstrated, and Earl Russell wrote a despatch, which was communicated to the Confederate Government, 'in which he laid down sound principles about the injustice of *ex post facto* laws, and the necessity of exempting from their operation foreigners who were residing in the country, unless they had had notice of the intention to enact them.' In 1862 the law was not put in force, but in 1863 it seemed likely to come into operation, and the British residents were alarmed. From the letter of Mr. Benjamin to Mr. Fullarton it appeared that the consular agents of the British Government had been instructed to assume the power of determining whether British soldiers who had enlisted under the Confederates were bound to serve them, or whether they might not advise the men to throw down their arms in the face of the enemy. It was this intolerable attempt at interference that brought about the dismissal of the two remaining Consuls. Under these circumstances Earl Russell was not justified in making a curt declaration to the effect 'that our fellow-subjects in the Confederate States were driven into the ranks of the army and deprived of protection because Consuls were not permitted to reside there.' He (the Marquis of Clanricarde) did not ask for the immediate recognition of the Confederate States, though it might be a question of grave discussion, if that recognition had taken place a year and a half ago, whether 'torrents of blood and hundreds of thousands of lives might not have been spared.' He hoped before long the proper occasion for recognition might arrive, for he was anxious to see peace restored. But before recognition we might have consular relations. We had Consular agents in the Spanish American States before the year 1820, although it was not until the year 1826 that their independence was acknowledged. But, be that as it might, Mr. Benjamin, in commenting on the conduct of some of the Consuls to whom he alluded, instructed Mr. Mason to call the attention of the British Government to the expediency of instituting a renewed examination of the subject as connected with the relations between the two Governments, with the object of placing those relations on a footing more in accordance with accomplished facts. In reply to these representations, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in a despatch dated August 19, said he was 'willing to acknowledge that the so-styled Confederate States are not bound to recognise an authority derived from Lord Lyons, Her Majesty's Minister at Washington;' adding, 'But it is very desirable that persons authorised by Her Majesty should have the means of representing at Richmond and elsewhere in the Confederate States British subjects who may be in the course of the war grievously wronged by the acts of subordinate officers. This has been done in other similar cases of States not recognised by Her Majesty, and it would be in conformity with the amity professed by the so-styled Confederate States towards Her Majesty and the British nation if arrangements were made for correspondence between agents appointed by Her Majesty's Government to reside in the Confederate States and the authorities of such States.' Now, that was exactly what Mr. Benjamin had previously suggested through

Mr. Mason; and, that being so, why was it, he should like to know, that we were left without proper persons to afford protection to British subjects in that quarter? The Marquis then referred to a report that appeared in the last number of the *Index*, about the mission of Mr. Crawford, the British Consul at Havannah, and the refusal of the Federal authorities to allow Mr. Crawford to go into the Confederate States. He wished to know if that report was true. The authenticity of the alleged annual report of the Confederate Secretary of the Navy was denied. Was that document a forgery? So long as the British Government encouraged the Federals there could be no chance of peace. In Earl Russell's action he saw evident signs of Federal influence. If the *Kearsage* had belonged to any other Government, her officers would not have been allowed to come into our ports, convicted as they have been of breaking our laws. He hoped that the last report of our Consul at Boston would be produced. It was notorious that Irish emigrants—he might say Irish recruits—were when landed compelled to enter the Federal service. Earl Russell had submitted to too many of these things, and he certainly ought not to have spoken of the Confederate Government in the tone he used when he referred to the dismissal of the British Consuls.

Earl Russell said he would make a few remarks on the various circumstances to which the Marquis of Clanricarde had alluded. With regard to the dismissal of the British Consuls and the compulsory enlistment of British subjects in the Confederate armies, he had spoken from facts as reported to him, and which he thought quite notorious. [The Marquis of Clanricarde did not deny notorious facts. He pointed out that only two Consuls were remaining when the Confederate Government dismissed them, that the Confederate Government was justified in this proceeding, and that it was the fault of the British, not of the Confederate Government, that we had not consular relations with the Confederate States.] He believed that 'it was not fair to make British subjects, not being American citizens, serve in the armies of either belligerent without giving them time to leave the country if they thought fit.' [Does his Lordship not know that it was a year after the war commenced before there was a demand for the service of aliens, and that the demand was not enforced for nearly another year? How many years' notice to quit does he suppose ought to be given?] He thought Mr. Burch's *exequatur* had been very unfairly withdrawn by the United States' Government. Respecting the dismissal of Mr. Magee, His Lordship said:—

'Permission was obtained from the American Government that British ships of war should be allowed from time to time to go to blockaded ports; but Lord Lyons thought it an abuse of the privilege that specie should be sent to a Confederate port in a British ship-of-war, inasmuch as such specie might afford means of carrying on war against a State friendly to Great Britain. He accordingly stated that opinion, and if he had not done so the American Government might have withdrawn the privilege, and I think there is nothing in the law of nations that would have deprived them of the power to do so. I thought that Lord Lyons was right; and I sent out an order that the Consul who had sent the specie should not be continued in his functions.'

Mr. Cridland was sent to Mobile, not as Consul, but to act as Consul. Respecting the conduct that led to the dismissal of the Consuls, His Lordship said:—

'It was certainly a very unjustifiable act on the part of our consuls, or of any one acting for a British consul, to tell British subjects that they were not to resist their enlistment in the Confederate army, but to desert their colours in the moment of action. I think that very improper advice on the part of a consul; and I do not think there was any instruction given to our consular agents which could justify any of them in giving that advice. I do not find either in the opinion of the law officers of the Crown, or in any directions that I gave myself, anything that would justify that course; and if the Secretary of the Confederate States had written to this country to complain of that conduct, I should have thought it right to reprimand and even to dismiss the consul who had acted in so improper a manner. Instead of that, the President of the so-called Confederate Government sent away our consuls, though these are the persons to whom British subjects would naturally have recourse, in order to obtain redress for grievances. The only remedy they would have when the consuls were removed was that suggested by Mr. Benjamin—namely, that soldiers in the field might apply to the tribunals of the country. A man might easily write to his consul to claim redress, but that a man marching about should go to a court of law—that was a thing which could not be done. I therefore thought that was a very harsh and unfriendly proceeding on the part of the Confederate Government. At the same time, it ought to be remembered, likewise, that the Confederate Government had good reason to complain of our consul; and our consul saying that he had been so instructed, the Confederate Government might at first have believed him. Therefore, I did not enter into any complaint or angry remonstrance; but I asked Mr. Mason whether, if consular agents, or persons under any other name, were sent to the Confederate States, intercourse might not be carried on and negotiations opened, by which we might be able to obtain redress where redress ought to be given, or have reasons stated for its refusal.

His Lordship then referred to the mission of Mr. Crawford, and endorsed the statement that appeared in the last number of the *Index*. He said:—

It was thought necessary to send a letter to Richmond to know whether such persons (Consuls) would be received; *and that letter the Federal Government would not allow to be sent.* But I think it is quite right of the British Government to endeavour to open communications with the so-called Confederate States, without recognising them, yet, as being States of considerable extent, in which civil war is carried on, and in which there is a considerable number of British subjects, I say there can be nothing wrong in endeavouring to enter into communication with those States. My noble friend has addressed your Lordships on various other subjects. I desired Mr. Crawford, when he arrived at Richmond, to call the attention of the Government to the intercepted correspondence, a correspondence which I believed at the time to be genuine, and which showed that a party in the country had been employed by the Confederate Government to procure means of carrying on war against a State in amity with us.

His Lordship then explicitly admitted that the alleged report of Mr. Mallory is a forgery. He said:—

With regard to the document to which my noble friend alluded, it has been the subject of a great deal of inquiry. It was said to have been published in a New York paper as genuine; but Mr. Seward states that, having made further inquiry, he finds it to have been altogether a forgery. It was supposed to have been issued by the Secretary of the Confederate Navy, but it was, in fact, an invention of some gentleman in New York. Certainly, I should not think of making any complaint on that subject to the so-called Confederate Government.

In conclusion, he said he supposed the Marquis of Clanricarde would not object to the words 'or extracts' after the word 'copies,' nor to the insertion of the words 'so-called' before 'Government of the Confederate States,' or it might seem 'as if the House recognised the Confederate States although Her Majesty did not.'

The Marquis of Clanricarde did not object to these amendments, and the motion was agreed to.

THE KEARSAGE.

On Tuesday, in the House of Lords, the Earl of Donoughmore said that certain persons, at the last assizes for the county of Cork, had pleaded guilty to an indictment charging them with having violated the Foreign Enlistment Act. Their offence was having enlisted certain subjects of Her Majesty to serve on board the United States' ship-of-war *Kearsage*. The captain of that vessel stated that the men came on board without his knowledge, and that when he went to Brest he put them on shore, but that, as they were then without the means of subsistence, he conveyed them back to Cork. When the subject was last alluded to, Earl Russell made what certainly appeared to be a very extraordinary statement, for he said he could not see what else the captain could have done. It appeared, however, from the evidence that had been taken, that the men were actually put into the uniform of the United States' navy, by the order of the officers of the ship. He wished to know whether the noble earl had required any explanation from the American Minister with regard to this circumstance.

Earl Russell said that at an early period of the discussion of this matter he had complained to the United States' Minister of the conduct of the officers on board the *Kearsage*. After what had passed in that House, and in a court of justice in Ireland, he had again called the attention of the United States' Minister to the subject, and had asked him to refer to the newspapers, and to the opinion given by Mr. Justice Keogh. The United States' Minister informed him that, in the month of November last, he had received instructions from his Government that if the Consul had been at all instrumental in violating the Foreign Enlistment Act he should be at once dismissed, and that, with regard to the officer in command of the ship, if the Minister found that he was to blame he was to be reported to the Government, in order that the proper notice might be taken. Mr. Adams did not act upon those instructions, because he did not consider that there was any blame due either to the Consul or the officer in command of the ship in enlisting these persons into the service of the United States. The correspondence was not yet concluded, but when further explanations had been given, the despatches would be laid on the table.

The Earl of Derby said it appeared Mr. Adams did not deny the essential facts of the case—viz., that these men were examined by the surgeon and attested, that their names were borne on the books of the ship, and that they were clothed in the uniform of the United States. It was impossible, therefore, that the officers of the ship should not be cognizant of the men being on board.

The Marquis of Clanricarde said he believed the *Kearsage* was now repairing at one of our ports. If so, why should not the officers at once come to London, and make such a statement of the real facts as the American Minister would be prepared to vouch for? It was rather too much to extend to them the hospitality of this country in the face of such statements as were made on the trial at Cork. Either these gentlemen had stated the truth or not. If they had told the truth, let them come forward and verify the facts.

THE SAXON.

On Tuesday, in the House of Commons, in reply to Colonel Sykes, Mr. Layard said the *Saxon* and her cargo was ordered to be restored to their respective owners, free from all costs, charges, and expenses, 'reserving the questions of salvage and probable cause of capture.' [We should have thought that the cause of capture would have been settled before ordering the restitution of the vessel and cargo.] He understood Lieutenant Donoghue was to be tried, but he did not know under what circumstances.

RESIGNATION OF MR. STANSFELD.

The House of Commons assembled on Monday, after the Easter recess. The Ministerial papers announced in the morning that the Duke of Newcastle had resigned the seals of the Colonial Office, that Mr. Cardwell had succeeded him, and that Lord Clarendon had accepted the position of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, *vice* Mr. Cardwell. Soon after the House met, the members saw that these were not the only Ministerial changes. Mr. Stansfeld, the Civil Lord of the Admiralty, did not take his seat upon the Treasury benches, but on the second Ministerial bench below the gangway. After some formal business, Mr. Stansfeld rose to offer a personal explanation, there being at the time a very small attendance of the Opposition.

Mr. Stansfeld thanked Lord Palmerston for the confidence and courage that induced him to refuse his resignation when he first tendered it; but he now considered it his duty to resign, because he felt convinced that to continue in office would embarrass the Government he wished to support. He had therefore ceased to be a member of the Government. Moreover, as the attack of the late Procureur-Général had been repeated by his successor, he (Mr. Stansfeld) preferred to meet it as a private member, rather than 'beneath the protecting ægis of the noble Lord.' He did not, on the first occasion, give such an explicit statement as he made subsequently, because he thought the House did not wish it, and because he thought it due to M. Mazzini to let him have the first opportunity of explanation. He repeated what he had already stated, that he knew M. Mazzini 'to be incapable of the kind of low and odious criminality which is laid to his charge.' Respecting his acquaintance with M. Mazzini, Mr. Stansfeld said: 'I have long been personally and intimately associated with him. I have long had a very deep general sympathy with that which has been the object of his life—the unity and independence of Italy.' He had not always agreed with M. Mazzini's practical views, sometimes deeming them less wise than sanguine. As for the charge of the Procureur-Général, he begged to deny it in the strongest general terms that were permitted by the rules of the House: 'I say that every insinuation of that nature is untrue.' Mr. Stansfeld said he never 'heard the name of Greco, or knew of his existence, nor of the names nor the existence of any of his supposed accomplices until he saw them in the newspapers.' He never saw Tibaldi, no matter by what name he may be called who came to him in 1857 to suggest the notion of such a plot. He knew Massarenti well, but his only transactions with him had been to pay for maccaroni and Italian pastes, in which he (Massarenti) dealt. He knew Campanella well. 'He was a gentleman and a scholar, a student, almost a recluse. He was a man utterly incapable of soiling his fingers in dirt of that kind. I pledge my knowledge of that man to the House, and I do him this act of justice to-night, when I say he was one who expressed his utter contempt for plots of this description.' Respecting the alleged extracts from his letters, he could not tell if they were genuine or not, or, if they were genuine, to what they referred. The first extract asserted his friendship for Mazzini, and that he never sought to conceal. The second extract referred to a remittance, and, said the honourable member, 'Upon my honour and upon my conscience, I believe it must have referred either to some mere private transaction, or to the distribution of some probably moderate or trifling sum for a charitable purpose.' He hoped his explanation was satisfactory, and said in conclusion he was ready to answer any questions; and, 'Meanwhile, I leave this subject, and I put myself upon this House, and, I may add, upon my countrymen, with reference to a question in which is involved that which is every man's dearest inheritance—an unblemished character and a fair name.'

Lord Palmerston said Mr. Stansfeld had left him no option but to accept his resignation, and he had no doubt the motives that prompted that peremptory decision were highly honourable. His Lordship said: 'I can only express the great regret which I and my colleagues feel at having lost the official assistance of a man whose great ability, whose untiring industry, whose perfect suitableness for the office he held, and whose unswerving integrity of mind, made him a most valuable member of the Administration, and endeared him to all those who had the advantage of his friendship.' Not only were the base proceedings to which reference had been made abhorrent to Mr. Stansfeld, but he was convinced that his honourable friend attached the same value as any man in the House to the welfare and personal safety of the Emperor of the French—'that he is as sensible as we are, that that great Sovereign has, on many grave and important occasions, proved himself to be a true friend and faithful ally of this country; and we all feel that his personal security and his dynastic welfare are not only of the utmost value to the loyal and attached people he governs, but are equally essential to the general interests of Europe.'

PRIVATE SHIPBUILDING YARDS.

On Monday the Navy Estimates were proceeded with, and in the course of the discussion Mr. Lindsay expressed his regret that the Government plant in dockyards was being increased, so that the private yards were discouraged, and would not be available in time of war except for building gunboats. At present Messrs. Laird's docks would in case of war be as valuable as any dock for which the House might be about to vote a large sum of money.

[If it is decided that ships of war may not be built by private firms except for nations that are at peace and do not want them, then the Government does right to provide for increased plant. But setting aside the question of economy and the development of skill in design, it is impossible to gainsay the justice of Mr. Lindsay's conclusion that 'it is a dangerous thing to throw overboard the private yards.]

ARMOUR-PLATED NAVIES OF ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

Mr. Corry quoted from the correspondence of the *Times* a statement that the French armour-plated navy built and building consisted of 43 vessels and 24,000 horse-power, while that of England was 25 vessels and 23,000 horse-power. Lord C. Paget said that, according to the information of the Government, on February 8 the French had 28 armour-plated vessels and 5 small iron gunboats built and building.

DENMARK.

On Monday, in reply to Mr. Osborne, Lord Palmerston said all the Powers who signed the Treaty of 1852 had consented to send representatives to the Conference. The German Diet has not answered the invitation. 'The basis proposed for the Conference to start from is an endeavour to restore the peace of Europe. [This observation caused considerable merriment.] An armistice has not been agreed upon.'

POSTAL DELIVERIES IN THE PROVINCES.

On Monday Mr. Long moved for a Select Committee on the Post Office, with an especial view to the improvement of existing arrangements for the transmission of mails in provincial districts. The honourable member recited many instances in which carts were used though there were railway facilities. In Sussex there were two towns nine miles from each other, and it took as long to send a letter between these places and receive an answer as it did to write and get an answer from Paris—four days. He suggested letter-boxes at all the railway stations, and

that there should be mails sent by every train to all places along the line. He also thought there ought to be free deliveries of letters in rural districts, and a cheaper rate of charge for the transmission of newspapers.

In reply to Mr. Long and other members, Mr. Gladstone said he could not agree with the principle laid down by Mr. Baillie, that the revenue derived from the Post Office ought to be used only for extending postal facilities. The Post Office yielded a net revenue of 1,500,000*l.*, and if that were taken away, it would have to be supplied by increased taxation. He denied the justice of the doctrine that profits derived from populous places were to be employed to give facilities in thinly-populated places. That would be taxing one part of the country for the benefit of another. It was the custom of the House to leave executive matters to the Executive, and it would be better to see first what remedies were proposed by the Government, and if they were not deemed sufficient, it would be proper to appeal to the House to appoint a committee.

Mr. Long's motion was negatived without a division.

Confederate Official Documents.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

(*Concluded from last week.*)

The administration of the Department, in all its extensive operations, has been greatly impeded by the deficiency of transportation, especially on the railroads. Shut off from the sea, and with command of very few of its rivers, the Confederacy is dependent almost wholly on the railroads for communication and transportation. The roads were not constructed with reference to such extensive needs, and even in time of peace, with all facilities of supplies and repairs, would have been inadequate to such duties. How much less in time of war, with every drawback of deficient labour, insufficient stock, defective machinery, and scant supplies, and with exposure often to seizures or spoliations by the enemy, could they be expected to meet such unprecedented requirements! It must be matter of surprise and gratification that they have sustained themselves so well, and have afforded to the Government and the people the measure of accommodation they have. It is but a just tribute to them to say, that in the main they have been managed in a patriotic spirit, and have rarely failed to meet the requirements of the Government with alacrity and zeal. It has not been necessary during the year to exercise the large discretionary powers of control vested by Congress in the Executive over the railroads, for if repugnancy existed to the just demands of the Government, the known possession of such powers has sufficed to exact compliance. But while the dispositions of the railroad companies have been good, their means have been gradually becoming less. The Government has already given to many some aid, but will have hereafter to render fuller and more constant assistance. Some of the minor roads will have to be sacrificed to keep up the tracks of the leading lines. Iron will have to be provided and rolled for machinery, and the construction and repair of locomotives and rolling stock. Skilled mechanics, to some extent, will have to be furnished from the army, and for some of the more delicate machinery needed by them, importations from abroad may have to be attempted. With these aids it is hoped they may not only be maintained, but improved in their means of transportation. The lowest point of depression has probably been passed. For the first year or more, under the delusive expectation of the early termination of the war, the companies relied almost wholly on their existing stock, and made few efforts at supply or reparation. They scarcely husbanded their resources, which, under the exhausting demands made on them, became greatly diminished. Of late, with more experience, a wiser prescience guides their management, and, besides practising economy of means, they are sedulously engaged in endeavouring to increase their stock, and to provide for the contingencies of future service or loss. In their best estate, they will not be able to furnish adequate facilities of transportation for both the Government and the people. From considerations of public utility and supreme duty, as well as from their dependence on the aid of the Government, they should be required by law, as nearly all have engaged by contract, to give preference, in all cases, to Government freight, so as to command all their means of transport when necessary. Beyond that, it is the fixed rule of the Department to make no exaction on them, and to attempt no regulation of their surplus means of transportation, or to award no special privileges to any in their use, but leave such free to the discretion and management of their officers. On this subject misconception has often prevailed, and the charge of favouritism has been alleged against the Department, but on no point has inflexibility been more steadfastly maintained, and all special privileges denied.

It will have been noted that, in nearly all the branches of supply, we are not yet exempt from dependence, to a greater or less extent, on foreign importations. These can only be obtained by the command of sterling funds or exchanges on foreign countries, and be introduced by evasion of the existing blockade. Without credit in foreign countries, so established as to enable the Government to borrow without great sacrifice, if at all, and with the difference of exchange appreciating daily to a ruinous rate, it became early apparent to me that recourse must be had to our great staple products, which in the markets of the world were readily exchangeable for coin. They had only to be placed abroad, and the same means which exported them would serve for the necessary importations. The business of evading the blockade had previously been in private hands alone, and, while precarious, had been, under skilful charge, a source of enormous profits. So excessive had become the rates of freight and exchange, that on calculation it was found that the mere charge, independent of the cost of the cargo, for the freightage of a steamer of 300 tons from the West India Islands to one of our ports, was to the Government upwards of $2,000,000 in its currency. Under these circumstances, the Department did not hesitate to inaugurate the plain policy of evading the blockade with steamers purchased and run by its officers. The limited means at the command of the Department abroad, which could be spared from the necessity of procuring immediate supplies, were employed in purchasing several steamers. These, under competent officers, were at once engaged in exporting cotton and importing supplies. The number which the means of the Department could command were far too few to meet its requirements, and contracts were made with capitalists to provide and engage in the trade, other steamers, in which the Department took an interest, to be paid for in cotton, either to be delivered here or to be exported in them. In this way, while more vessels were induced to venture in the business of evading the blockade, a controlling influence was secured over the importations made in them for private account. This constituted an important consideration for the public good, as, under the temptations merely of private interest, it had been found that, to a great extent, articles of mere luxury or noxious use, as liquors, from the superior profits they afforded, rather than goods of real utility to the people, were introduced by the steamers of private traders. The steamers owned by the Department, four in number, were, for a long time, run between Wilmington and the islands with signal success, and almost the regularity of packets. The profits by the outward and the saving by the inward trips to the Department were very great, as at each trip, according to the current rates, the value of the vessel was fully reimbursed. It is a moderate calculation to estimate the gain thus effected for the Department at upwards of $20,000,000 in currency. Still the quantity of cotton which could be carried out by the steamers, owned or held in part by the Department, by no means supplied the sterling which was required abroad for the wants of the Government, and the experiments made had only served to demonstrate what resources for establishing credit and commanding funds abroad could be afforded by larger exportations of our staple products, cotton and tobacco. About the same time, too, the closing of the port of Charleston by the successful operations of the enemy on Morris Island, caused apprehensions that the business of evading the blockade would soon become more difficult and precarious. This made it more important to place abroad, as rapidly as possible, a stock of cotton, which would afford means of commanding large supplies while they could be introduced. The Department, therefore, in conjunction with the Hon. Secretary of the Navy, who fully appreciated this mode of supplying the demands of his Department for sterling, proposed, and succeeded in effecting, arrangements with the companies and merchants engaged in evading the blockade on private account, by which, on fair terms of freight, payable partly in cotton here and partly in drafts on the cotton taken out by them, they undertook on every voyage to take out, some a third, and some one-half of their cargoes of cotton for the Government, and likewise placed at the command of the Government a fair proportion of their capacities for freight on the return trip, for the importation of its supplies. The Department was aided in effecting this arrangement, not only by the patriotic feelings of the private owners, but also by the facilities it was enabled to afford them in commanding cargoes of cotton without unnecessary delays, through the preference in transportation given by the railroads to cotton ordered by the Government. Hence, in view of the importance of continuing these arrangements with private merchants, it has become more than ever essential that the priority of transportation on the railroads should be maintained to the Government; for, under present laws, by that preference alone can these arrangements for the exportation of cotton be continued.

These arrangements were made in good time, for, as anticipated, the blockade of Wilmington, the port of the Confederacy best adapted for evading the blockade, has been of late more stringent. All the blockading ships of the enemy have been transferred from Charleston, and within the last two months a considerable number of steamers, among them those belonging to the Department, have been captured, or destroyed to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy. While the risk is now certainly increased, still, with the additional steamers which the contracts with the Government or the temptations of private gain have brought into the trade, it is believed the blockade may be evaded, so far as to add greatly to our resources abroad from the exportation of our staple, and to bring in the supplies needed by the Government. Measures meantime, are being taken to increase the facilities of entrance into the port, by the use of moveable batteries of Whitworth guns, of long range, along the coast, and to endanger the safety of the blockading vessels.

So long as our staples can be exported, and supplies introduced, with reasonable exemption from capture, there cannot be a question of the policy of pursuing the venture; and when all the advantages to our credit abroad, and to our means of resistance within the Confederacy, are estimated, it may be well questioned whether the whole trade should not be subjected by law to equitable regulation, so as to secure to the Government a fair proportion of the profits resulting from all shipments. As the trade could not be carried on at all except to fortified cities, and through the special protection afforded by the armaments of the Government, the benefits derived by the Government would be only a reasonable return. The regulation of the trade, both to secure a participation in the profits to the Government, and to require the introduction mainly of articles of use or necessity, instead of luxuries and noxious liquors, it is believed, is demanded by the general sentiment of the country, and would be readily acquiesced in by the sense of justice and patriotic feelings of the merchants engaged in the trade.

The business of export and import for the Department became so large and important that it was found necessary to devote officers of the Department and special agents at Wilmington to its management. It has grown almost a separate branch of administration in the Department, and to be nearly assimilated to a separate bureau. While thus it has been conducted with success, some serious practical inconveniences have resulted from not having a separate officer or bureau established by law, and specially charged with the whole business. All the bureaus, depending in some measure on foreign supplies, have been interested in the operations thus conducted, and all have had to contribute out of their appropriations, according to their interest, in providing means for the purchase of ships and cargoes; and as, under the interruptions of the blockade, the exact proportions in which cargoes are furnished are not known for a long time, and when the vessels are lost can never be precisely ascertained, great difficulties exist in settling and apportioning the credits and charges to each. This is apt to create dissatisfaction, as well as irregularities in the accounts of each bureau. It would manifestly be simpler and more satisfactory that the business should be made a separate one, under the control of a competent head, that appropriations should be made directly for its operations, all sales and purchases abroad be made under his instructions, and that, providing means abroad, he should be only called on by the bureaus for their appropriate supplies. When it is considered to what extent cotton and other staples have to be purchased and forwarded in the Confederacy, arrangements for procuring and running ships, or contracting with the owners of vessels in the trade to be negotiated, shipments and sales in foreign countries to be effected, and purchases and importations made from abroad, it will be readily seen that the business requires an able head, and will constitute by no means the least important branch of administration pertaining to the Department.

A proper officer, as well as judicious regulations, are likewise desirable for the conduct of the trade in cotton and supplies between Texas and Mexico. The law leaves the trade entirely free, but as the export of cotton affords almost the only means of obtaining supplies for the Trans-Mississippi Department, the generals commanding there have felt themselves under the necessity of prescribing regulations and conditions for the conduct of the trade. This was rendered the more necessary from the limited means of transport which could be commanded, and which, without some restriction, there was danger would be engrossed by private parties, eager to participate in a most lucrative trade, or to remove beyond the contingencies of war the funds realised by them from the conversion of their property in the Confederacy. The regulations imposed by military authority were, however, regarded by many, whose pursuit of gain was hindered, as vexatious and illegal, and produced such complaint and dissatisfaction that they were abrogated by the Department. The necessities of that command now more than ever require the control of this trade and its direction to the supply of funds and stores for its military needs. The trade should either be carried on directly by competent officers of the Department, or conducted on conditions or by permits that would secure to the Government as its results necessary credits and supplies from abroad.

In other points, likewise, comprehensive legislation will be required for the proper administration of the military affairs in the Trans-Mississippi Department, since, by the interruption of command over the Mississippi river by the enemy, facilities of communication with the more eastern States and the seat of Government are greatly diminished. In anticipation of such contingency, as already stated, arrangements, months prior to our reverses in Mississippi, had been initiated by this Department to make, as far as practicable, the Trans-Mississippi Department self-sustaining, and capable of separate administration. Foundries, manufactories of arms, powder-mills and workshops, as well as exportations for mines and nitrous earths, had been instituted, and while some have been already in successful operation, others were in progress of early completion. To conduct and further complete these various branches of military administration, it is desirable that separate offices, under competent heads, should be established. Indeed, so far is this Department isolated and severed from direct communication with the Department here, that it is deemed judicious, some extraordinary powers of military administration should be intrusted to the general commanding, and that office assimilated to the bureau of the Department here, under his immediate supervision, yet reporting as opportunities offer to the heads of the corresponding bureaus here, so as to preserve harmony and conformity of action, should be constituted by law. A separate office should certainly be established there for the conscript service, and either the conscripts be directed to be appropriated entirely to the organisations west of the Mississippi river, or some ratio of apportionment, as well as mode of sending recruits to the organisations on this side, be prescribed. It may be necessary, too, to give some unusual power of recommending and assigning officers to service, subject to the future approval and action of the Executive. By these means it is believed that serious embarrassments and inconveniences from the isolation of that Department will be remedied.

It is gratifying to know that the severance of the States west of the Mississippi from those of the east, has caused no abatement in their devotion to the Confederacy, their confidence in its cause, or in their spirit or resolution to achieve a common independence. Entire harmony and cooperation prevail between the Confederate and State authorities there, and in the valour of their soldiers, the ability of their generals, the patriotism and hardy, resolute character of their people, the wide expanse and impracticable nature of their territories, and the great, though only partially developed, resources of their country, all find an assured augury of ultimate triumph.

It is gratifying to be able to state that our relations with the Indians, under the protection of this Government, continue to be of a satisfactory character. Though there have been some instances of disturbances among individuals, as was to be expected under the machinations of our enemies and the withdrawal of our troops from the coterminous territory under military operations in adjoining States, yet Mr. Scott, our Indian agent, who has just returned from a visit to and a sojourn among them of some months, gives assurance that they continue unshaken in their loyalty to the Government, and in their devotion to our cause and sacred rights. His report, accompanying this, will furnish details of interest.

The estimates for the expenditures of this Department, for the six months from January 1 to June 30, 1864, are herewith transmitted. The amount is large, but, at the existing rate of prices, certainly not greater than is required to maintain the armies of the Confederacy in a state of efficiency. Indeed, if there be a continuance of the constantly accelerating advance in the cost of all supplies that has attended the inflation of the past year, these estimates will scarce prove adequate to the wants of the Department. Should, however, there be a reduction of the currency to the actual needs of the country, and its maintenance on a stable basis, these estimates may be largely reduced. Such policy is the only mode of correcting this, as the many other resulting evils of our redundant currency.

Since the foregoing was written, the shifting fortune of war has brought reverse to our army in Northern Georgia, near the theatre of its late great triumph. While a large portion of our forces were engaged in improving their victory by the expulsion of the enemy from East Tennessee, and on the eve, as appeared, of entire success, the enemy accumulated large reinforcements within their beleaguered lines at Chattanooga. With overwhelming numbers they assailed our army in position before them, and, though meeting bloody repulses on either wing, carried the position when weakened in the centre. This unexpected reverse seems to have caused something of panic in a portion of our troops dreading to be cut off, and led to a hasty retreat of the whole army with considerable loss both in men and materiel. The enemy pressed their advantage with alacrity, and were pursuing with exultation and confidence, when they were encountered by one of our unshaken divisions and driven back, with fearful loss, in confusion and dismay. This more than checked their advance, for it compelled the rapid retreat of their whole army, with all the attendant indications of dreaded pursuit, behind the lines of Chicamauga, where they have since remained. Meantime, deep interest concentrates on the events occurring in East Tennessee, where it is yet uncertain whether our disasters in front of Chattanooga may not have compelled the sudden retreat of our forces, when on the eve of consummating their work, by the capture of Knoxville with General Burnside and his army.

Movements of the enemy on the Rappahannock have again proven the invincible army of Northern Virginia, under its consummate commander, the sure bulwark of the capital. Em-

boldened by some partial success, the results to us of incaution or over-confidence, the Federal army crossed the Rapidan in full force, and with every indication of making, by battle, an open way to Richmond. General Lee was prompt to offer them the coveted opportunity, but while they ventured to confront, they dared not encounter the veterans before whom they had so often recoiled in defeat and humiliation. After their vaunting manifestation, they have ignominiously slunk off under cover of night, and again sought an inglorious shelter in their lines beyond the river.

A fair review of the varied events of the year should cause no abatement of confidence in the ultimate triumph of our cause. Our very reverses, as already stated, will only demonstrate to our enemies the futility of their aims and the vanity of their hopes. A brave people, commanding a territory of such extent and resources, never have been, and while true to themselves and their liberties never can be, subjugated. Those reverses, however, admonish our people, as they would avoid the desolating ravages and costly bloodshed of protracted war, to unite their wills and concentrate their energies and resources to the grand aim of expelling the invader. We have only to will and to dare as one man, and our work is sure of accomplishment. Every motive and incentive that can fire the soul or nerve the arm of man is urgent upon us. All that is dear to humanity—property, honour, wives, children, and homes—nay, the very lives of the present and the hopes of future generations—for us are staked on success. The malignant intents of the foe would exterminate or debase us, through the insolent lordship of our slaves, to the mastery of his brutal despotism. No alternative exists but stern defiance and unflinching resistance. Our only, as our certain safety, is in victory. Every impediment should be cast aside. The insatiate spirit of greed must be exorcised, distrust and despondency be displaced by the confidence of invincible resolve and the might of a firm faith. Our means without stint, and our men without favour or affection, must be rendered to the cause. Each man should rise to the height of a supreme duty, counting all cost as gain, and exulting in every sacrifice that shall free us for ever from loathsome association with a despicable people, and establish the Confederacy of our choice on the basis of approved strength, in permanent fruition of peace, prosperity, and independence.

Respectfully submitted,
JAMES A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

THE DAHLGREN PAPERS.

We subjoin copies of the papers found in the pockets of Colonel Dahlgren, of which we gave a summary, and on which we commented in a previous number:—

ADDRESS TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN.

The following address to the officers and men of the command was written on a sheet of paper, having, in printed letters, on the upper corner, 'Head-quarters, Third Division, Cavalry Corps, 1864:'—

'Officers and Men,—You have been selected from brigades and regiments as a picked command to attempt a desperate undertaking—an undertaking which, if successful, will write your names on the hearts of your countrymen in letters that can never be erased, and which will cause the prayers of your fellow-soldiers, now confined in loathsome prisons, to follow you and yours wherever you may go. We hope to release the prisoners from Belle Isle first, and, having seen them fairly started, we will cross the James River into Richmond, destroy the bridges after us, and, exhorting the released prisoners to destroy and burn the hateful city, will not allow the rebel leader Davis and his traitorous crew to escape. The prisoners must render great assistance, as you cannot leave your ranks too far or become too much scattered, or you will be lost. Do not allow any personal gain to lead you off, which would only bring you to an ignominious death at the hands of citizens. Keep well together and obey orders strictly, and all will be well; but on no account scatter too far, for in union there is strength. With strict obedience to orders and fearlessness in their execution, you will be sure to succeed. We will join the main force on the other side of the city, or perhaps meet them inside. Many of you may fall; but if there is any man here not willing to sacrifice his life in such a great and glorious undertaking, or who does not feel capable of meeting the enemy in such a desperate fight as will follow, let him step out, and he may go hence to the arms of his sweetheart, and read of the braves who swept through the city of Richmond. We want no man who cannot feel sure of success in such a holy cause. We will have a desperate fight; but stand up to it when it does come, and all will be well. Ask the blessing of the Almighty, and do not fear the enemy.

'U. Dahlgren, Colonel Commanding.'

SPECIAL ORDERS AND INSTRUCTIONS.

The following special orders were written on a similar sheet of paper and on detached slips, the whole disclosing the diabolical plans of the leaders of the expedition:—

'Guides and pioneers, with oakum, turpentine, and torpedoes, signal officer, quartermasters, commissaries, scouts, and pickets, and men in rebel uniforms—these will remain on the north bank and move down with the force on the south bank, not get ahead of them, and if the communication can be kept up without giving an alarm it must be done; but everything depends upon a surprise, and no one must be allowed to pass ahead of the column. Information must be gathered in regard to the crossings of the river, so that, should we be repulsed on the south side, we will know where to recross at the nearest point.

'All mills must be burned and the canal destroyed, and also everything which can be used by the rebels must be destroyed, including the boats on the river. Should a ferry-boat be seized which can be worked, have it moved down. Keep the force on the south side posted of any important movement of the enemy, and in case of danger some of the scouts must swim the river and bring us information. As we approach the city the party must take great care that they do not get ahead of the other party on the south side, and must conceal themselves and watch our movements. We will try and secure the bridge to the city, one mile below Belle Isle, and release the prisoners at the same time. If we do not succeed they must then dash down, and we will try to carry the bridge by storm. When necessary the men must be filed through the woods and along the river bank. The bridge once secured and the prisoners loose and over the river, the bridges will be burnt and the city destroyed.

'The men must be kept together and well in hand, and once in the city it must be destroyed, and Jeff. Davis and his Cabinet killed. Pioneers will go along with combustible material.

'Everything on the canal and elsewhere of service to the rebels must be destroyed.

'As General Custer may follow me, be careful not to give a false alarm. The signal officer must be prepared to communicate at night by rockets, and in other things pertaining to his department. The quartermasters and commissaries must be on the look-out for their departments, and see that there are no delays on their account. The engineer officer will follow and survey the road as we pass over it, &c. The pioneers must be prepared to construct a bridge or destroy one. They must have plenty of oakum and turpentine for burning, which will be soaked and rolled into balls, and be given to the men to burn when we get into the city. Torpedoes will only be used by the pioneers for burning the main bridges, &c. They must be prepared to destroy the railroads.

'Men will branch off to the right with a few pioneers, and destroy the bridges and railroads south of Richmond, and then join us at the city. They must be well prepared with torpedoes, &c.

'The line of Falling Creek is probably the best to march along, or, as they approach the city, Good's Creek, so that no reinforcements can come upon any cars.

'No one must be allowed to pass ahead for fear of communicating news.

'Rejoin the command with all haste, and if cut off, cross the river above Richmond and rejoin us. Men will stop at Bellona Arsenal and totally destroy it, and everything else but hospitals; then follow on and rejoin the command at Richmond with all haste, and, if cut off, cross the river and rejoin us. As General Custer may follow me, be careful and not give a false alarm.'

THE FORGED CONFEDERATE REPORT.

To the Editor of The Index.

Sir,—A few months ago a pamphlet, emanating, as is believed upon undoubted authority, from the Government of the United States, which purported to be a report made by the Secretary of the Navy to the Congress of the Confederate States, was circulated throughout England. The time chosen for the dissemination of this document was almost simultaneous with the attempt made by the British Government to create a public opinion adverse to the Confederate States in the matter of the steam rams in process of construction by the Messrs. Lloyd. Lord Lyons forwarded a copy of the paper to the British Government; the United States' Minister in London made a formal communication thereof to Earl Russell, while the Federal sympathisers took every opportunity to give it a general circulation. In the debates in Parliament, certain members of the Government appealed to the disclosures contained in this reputed report of a Confederate official as a full justification of the extreme measures which had been resorted to to prevent the sailing of the rams in question. So great was the indignation of Lord Russell, that, in addition to other extreme measures, he determined to address a direct remonstrance to the Confederate Government predicated upon the assumption that the report was genuine. In fact, grave intimations were thrown out that it might be necessary to adopt harsher measures than mere paper protests against a Government which thus avowed its purpose to violate the municipal laws of the British empire. It is fair to presume that there were many well-informed persons who doubted or wholly disbelieved the genuineness of the document, yet there is just as little reason to doubt that the great mass of the public trusted the revelations which were supported with so much zeal, and in such high quarters. The reputed report of the Confederate Secretary accomplished the work which its authors intended. The British Government was justified in its extreme harshness of act and speech in reference to the Confederates; and, it being impossible any longer to keep up the delusion, a formal contradiction being daily expected to arrive from Richmond, Lord Russell on Tuesday announced in his place in Parliament that Mr. Seward, having made further inquiries, declares that he finds the reputed report 'altogether a forgery.' Earl Russell, in making the announcement, made no comments upon the criminal conduct of the United States in palming off upon him as genuine this disgraceful cheat, but rather sought to shield the Washington Government from blame by fixing the responsibility of the forgery upon a nameless 'gentleman of New York.' He does announce, however, in view of all the facts, that he does 'not think of making any complaint on that subject to the *so-called* Confederate Government.' How can we sufficiency commend the magnanimity of our Minister of Foreign Affairs, who, in consideration of the extenuating circumstances that the sole authority upon which his accusation against the Confederate States rested, was an admitted forgery, consents to forego his meditated act of hostility! He has no word or reproach for those who practised upon his ready credulity by the most unworthy means, while he utters no syllable of apology to those whom he has wronged. The poison has done its work. Opinions which were confirmed and established by a belief in the genuineness of the publication may not now be disturbed by the admission of the forgery, and the Federals may congratulate themselves that they have, upon the whole, lost nothing in the esteem and regard of the British Government for the practice of a deception and the utterance of a forgery which the enlightened judgment of the world must decide was the deliberate act of the United States' Government, notwithstanding the intimation of Lord Russell that the guilty party was an unknown gentleman of New York.

Spectator.

The Alexandra Case.—The House of Lords gave judgment yesterday in the case of the *Alexandra*. There were six law lords who took part in the judgment. Of these, four were against the Crown, and two in its favour. The Lord Chancellor headed the majority, and moved that the appeal be dismissed with costs. Lords Chelmsford, Kingsdown, and St. Leonards took the same view. The minority was composed of Lord Cranworth and Lord Wensleydale. We shall give a summary of the judgment in our next number.

The Progress of Despotism.—The attempt to deprive our brethren of the South of their right of self-government will result in the confiscation of our own. The civil liberty which so exalted us among the nations is already well nigh stifled to death beneath the pall of a gloomy despotism. Time after time we have acquiesced in the assumption of illegal power by the Administration upon the insufficient ever-ready plea of military necessity. Impunity emboldens the despotic Executive to further usurpations. Submission soon becomes habitual; even protest is omitted; the authority irregularly assumed is not voluntarily demitted; and ere the war is ended, if it continues much longer, the citizens of the United States will find themselves as completely deprived of all the rights of freemen as would be the citizens of the Confederate States after military subjugation.—*New York Daily News.*

Why Grant was made a Lieutenant-General.—The reason why Mr. Lincoln has given up the personal conduct of the war, is given by the *New York World*:—

'The rebels have had a long breathing-spell, and most industriously have they improved it. Their military strength has never been so great as it is at this moment. While the Administration, for electioneering purposes, has been amusing the country with the idea that the rebellion was tottering to its downfall, the South has been quietly putting forth all its energies in strengthening its armies and recruiting its shattered strength. The consequence is, that after this eight months' remissness on our side and of energy on theirs, we are about to enter upon an unequal contest in the spring campaigns. Our numerous *reconnaissances*—the new euphemism for defeats—have disclosed the alertness and vigour of the rebels in every part of the Confederacy. There is great danger that the military tide will set in a different direction this year from what it did last, and the Administration is so apprehensive that it dares not face the consequences. To shirk the responsibility of possible disasters in the spring campaigns, it has invested General Grant with the supreme command, to make him a scapegoat for the sins of the Administration.'

To the Soldiers of Virginia.—The General Assembly of Virginia has issued an address to the soldiers of that State, which we should be glad to publish entire, as another evidence of the unconquerable spirit of the South, but we have room only for the following extract:—'Men of Virginia! you are soldiers of a renowned commonwealth, whose fame you have illustrated and borne aloft on every battle-field. We need not unfold to you the muniments of your right to self-government. We are assured that you fully comprehend the necessity of a successful assertion of that right, and that you will never lay down your arms until you have secured it. Born to an inheritance of freedom, you cannot hesitate to choose between slavery or death. Submission to an enemy who has exhausted every infamy is not endurable even in thought, but were we base enough to desire peace upon any terms less than the unqualified recognition of our independence, self-interest alone would teach us the folly of relying upon the forbearance of a nation, who have shown in every step of the war that their faith is perfidy, and their only policy is rapine, plunder, and oppression. The whole history of our former association with the Northern States admonishes us that in a common government they will never fail to employ their power to take away our property. Their present malice springs chiefly from baffled cupidity. But for this master passion of their nature, an honourable and speedy peace would be easy. The war has fully developed all the purposes, and you now know the fate that awaits you in the event of subjugation. Your liberties will utterly perish. Your State organisation will be blotted out. All your property of every description will be confiscated; for all of us have participated in the revolution. Your lands will be divided out among the banditti from the North and from Europe, who have invaded our State. A free negro population will be established in your midst, who will be your social equals and military governors. Negro guards will, at their pleasure, give you passes and safe conducts, or arrest you, to be tried and punished by negro commandants and magistrates. And to these, yourselves, your wives and children will be menial labourers and slaves, except those of you whom the malice of your enemies shall reserve for the dungeon or the gallows. Such is the doom denounced for the people of the South by the wicked race now warring upon us. But we know it can never be executed. An army of veterans have resolved that their country shall not be enslaved; and while their purpose stands, the enemy's designs will continue to be baffled. Among you there is one spirit—that of eager and resolute determination. The temper of the army has reached the people at home, and inspired them with a fresh courage and a more assured confidence. Everywhere we see multiplied evidences of energy and enthusiasm. In all the States we find the resolution to endure every extremity rather than submit, and with this spirit our people are invincible.'

Lincoln's Blunders.—President Lincoln is the responsible author of the Kilpatrick raid. We are prepared to assert that it was planned by Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Kellogg, of the Military Committee of the House, and General Kilpatrick. The latter is a gallant and brave officer; but the dashing qualities which he exhibits in the saddle are not those of sound judgment and prudence in council; Mr. Kellogg, to say the least of it, is not known to the world as a Carnot or a Wellington; and as for Mr. Lincoln, he is the same man who, just before the crisis of the peninsular campaign, which he had crippled at the outset, sent Blenker's force to Fremont, sent half of McDowell's forces flying across the country towards the Shenandoah, and withheld the rest from effective co-operation with the main army of the Potomac; he is the same man who, after Grant's successes, apologised to him for the almost accomplished blunders of his attempted interference in the western campaigns; he is the same country lawyer who writes to trained and able soldiers about "my plan of campaign," the same military meddler and blunderer everywhere and always. To his Florida massacre, where fifteen hundred men were lost, the country must add the Kilpatrick raid, in which the cavalry of the army of the Potomac were uselessly knocked up, and five hundred men lost.—*New York World.*

Settlement of the Pampero Case.—We understand that the case of the Pampero will not now go to jury trial, an arrangement having been made for its settlement. We believe that by the arrangement the owners have consented to a verdict being entered for the Crown, forfeiting the vessel on some one count of the information, to be selected by the owners; they making such explanatory statement on the subject as they may think desirable. It is provided, on the other hand, that the owners are to retain and trade with the vessel, but are not to sell it for two years except with the consent of the Crown; and that alterations are to be made in the structure of the vessel. We understand that the builders are no parties to the compromise, which provides for settling their claim and having it withdrawn from the proceedings.—*Scotsman.*

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

Our friends in the United Kingdom and on the Continent are earnestly requested to forward to us, at their earliest convenience, such information relative to the military movements and condition of affairs in America as they may receive through private letters, either from the United States, or from the Confederate States. They may rely upon the most scrupulous precautions being observed that no names or facts leading to identification will, under any circumstances, be revealed. No communications, however, will be noticed unless authenticated by a re-ponsible name. Southern newspapers, of any date, will be useful and acceptable presents.

Our subscribers in the South will have their papers supplied through Henry Hotze, Esq., the Confederate States' Commercial Agent in London, who has kindly tendered us his services in this respect during the continuance of the blockade.

For the convenience of our distant subscribers, all the receipts for subscriptions signed by any of the official representatives or commissioned officers of the Confederate States, will be recognised at this Office.

Subscription, 26s. per annum; post-paid, 30s.; payable in advance.

All communications on business to be addressed, and Post-office orders made payable, to J. B. Hopkins, 13 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C.

The Index may be obtained, and payments for subscriptions or other dues to the Paper made—

At Liverpool, to Mr. Hutton, 6 Commercial Buildings, 17 Water Street.
At Manchester, F. A. Hasleham, Esq. Manchester Southern Club Office, Market Street.
At Paris, to Messrs. Pfeiffer & Muller, 52 Rue du Château d'Eu, Paris.
At Turin, to Sr. Filippo Manetta, 4 Borgo Nuovo.
At St. Thomas (West Indies), to C. W. White, Esq.

Mr. J. H. Ashbridge, *Treasurer of the Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund, begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following additional Contributions*:—

Messrs. W. R. & Co.	£5	0	0
Mrs. G. W. Oliver (collected)	50	0	0
Mr. Joseph Hubback	20	0	0
Messrs. Rogers & Calder (second subscription)	20	0	0
Mr. James M. Calder	20	0	0
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Mr. J. R. Armstrong (additional)	1	0	0
	£195	4	0

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1864.

The Foreign Office and the Confederate Government.

The Confederate Government is amply avenged for all the slights and indignities it has suffered at the hands of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. A document, purporting to emanate from one of the chief officers of a friendly foreign Government, is eagerly accepted as genuine, not only without any evidence whatever, but in spite of a distinct public denial. It is quoted in the despatches of the Foreign Office, and by members of Her Majesty's Government from their seats in Parliament; it is officially declared to afford good ground for remonstrances to the Government from which it is assumed to have emanated, and steps are actually taken to carry the threat into execution. Of course we refer to the 'Report' of Hon. S. R. Mallory, Secretary of the Navy of the Confederate States, which Earl Russell on Tuesday night declared, upon the authority of Mr. Seward, *to be a forgery*, committed by 'a gentleman in New York.'

We have no desire to exult in the mortification and ridicule which is the deserved punishment of a diplomatic blunder literally without precedent, and of an unprovoked affront to a country temporarily unable to resent it. We do not in the least doubt that Earl Russell was misled, partly through his personal antipathy to the Confederates, partly through the temptation of finding so opportune a vindication of his conduct in regard to the rams. We are even willing to accord him the credit of having acted, though too late, as becomes a man in his high position, by taking the earliest occasion to confess his error, and by doing it with a better grace than we had expected of him. As for Mr. Seward, it is impossible to acquit him so easily. There is certainly something suspicious in the manner in which this spurious paper, which first saw the light in an obscure New York daily, the *Sun*, was foisted upon the Foreign Office, simultaneously through the channel of the British Legation in Washington, and that of the American Legation in London. It is also a passing strange coincidence that this forgery should have appeared, and should have imposed on Mr. Seward, at the most convenient moment, and should have been detected only when an official disclaimer from Richmond may be expected by any steamer, and has only been delayed by the Federal refusal to allow the *Petrel* to enter Charleston harbour with official communications from the British to the Confederate Government. The ostensible author of the forgery has been traced; who the real originators or accomplices after the fact are, history may never definitely know; but certain it is that the fraud has recoiled with fearful effect upon those for whose benefit it was intended, and by whom it was encouraged.

The incident may be productive of really beneficial results if Earl Russell is not above learning the lesson it so obviously teaches. The absurd fiction that Mr. Adams represents near the Foreign Office the eleven States whom for three years his Government has strained every effort to overcome by arms, cannot be otherwise than productive of mischief. In a war of such fearful magnitude, in which not the interests of Great Britain alone, but those of humanity and of civilisation, are so deeply concerned, the statesman who obstinately persists in receiving his facts and impressions from one side exclusively, must necessarily, and perhaps unconsciously, fall into grave error and commit much injustice. A great portion of the odium and the ridicule which Earl Russell has attracted upon himself in his American policy has probably no other cause than this first and fatal fault. We trust that the willingness and even anxiety which he expressed on Tuesday night to enter into some form of communication with the Confederate Government is an evidence of his beginning to see this himself, and that it may lead to the recognition, not of the Confederate States—for of him we do not expect that—but of his duty, as head of the foreign affairs of the greatest empire in the world, to inform himself accurately and impartially of the events of a struggle in which hundreds of thousands of lives have already been sacrificed, and the happiness of millions is permanently at stake.

In regard to the late abortive attempt to communicate with Richmond, defeated by the refusal of the Federals to allow a British ship of war to pass through the blockade, Earl Russell added nothing to the information which we gave our readers last week, almost in the same words, on that subject. We may now again anticipate the noble Earl's Parliamentary disclosures by stating that a second attempt has since been made and equally failed—this time through the refusal of the Confederate authorities to treat on official subjects with a person known to them only as a private resident, and who accompanied his communications with no credentials of any kind whatever. The gentleman selected for this second overture of relations with Richmond is Mr. Cridland, referred to in the speeches of both the Marquis of Clanricarde and Earl Russell on Tuesday.

The Invader on the Defensive.

After three years of a war of invasion it is curious to notice the respective positions of the belligerent Powers in America at the commencement of a new campaign. One would have expected, after so prolonged a contest, begun in such wild confidence, and conducted with such an enormous superiority of force on the side of the invader, that the relations of the combatants would by this time have been very clearly defined, and that we should now at least be witnessing the last desperate struggle of the weaker party, cooped up within an ever-narrowing circle of triumphant foes, its great armies scattered, its chief towns occupied, its leaders flying, its envoys suppliants at the courts of foreign Powers. A nation of seven millions of people, without a navy, isolated and virtually cut off from communication with the rest of the world, might have reached this extremity without disgrace to its manhood, considering the fearful odds against which it contended. But, as it is, the South faces the coming conflict more hopefully than ever. With a coast line nearly 3,000 miles in length, only one of her great seaports has fallen into the enemy's hands; her capital is practically in less peril than Washington; her leaders are still defiant and confident; her envoys self-reliant and even sanguine; her great armies have still the prestige of victory to urge them on; and singly her cruisers roam the seas, the terror of Northern shipping, destined one day, perhaps, to inflict a heavier blow on the pride of the Yankees than has yet befallen their forces in the field. And at this moment it would be difficult, glancing only at the attitude of the armies, to understand their distinctive *roles*. The news brought by the last mail would assuredly lead to the inference that it is the North which is on its defence; the South which is the assailant. Ordinarily, when an invader betakes himself to defensive positions—when his armies are reduced to a standstill, or the bold advance is converted into a dead halt—the object of his movement is supposed to be defeated. That is precisely the state of affairs on the American continent. The whole North is in anxious suspense, awaiting the initiative of the Confederate commanders. It is not at Richmond, but at Washington, that panic prevails. The telegrams tell us that 'an early attack by Lee is apprehended on the army of the Potomac;' that Longstreet is mounting his forces for a raid with 20,000 men into Kentucky; that Johnston is advancing upon Chattanooga; that Norfolk is threatened with a combined sea and land attack; and that even the fleets of the Federals off Charleston and Mobile are uneasy about the movements of ironclads and torpedos, reported to be ready for a dash, at a favourable moment, upon the blockading squadrons. True, at some remote point, where no great amount of resistance is expected, the North keeps up a semblance of invasion. On the Red River there is a terrible force of gunboats and niggers concentrated to clear Western Louisiana. But substantially all the fighting has to be forced by the Confederates. It seems to depend on them whether the tactics of Meade are to be repeated; whether the army of the Potomac is to march, and countermarch, and bivouac peaceably between the Rappahannock and the Potomac; whether Butler is to confine his labours to the streets and churches of Norfolk, or to show, what he has never yet exhibited, the qualities of a soldier; whether there is to be a real struggle in the field, or only a Presidential campaign.

Meantime the popularity of the war in the Northern States may be tolerably well estimated by the figures of the Provost-Marshal of Washington. The total deficiency of troops under the several calls of President Lincoln is 311,722. Only one State, that of Illinois, doubtless full of faith in President Lincoln, has returned its quota. New York shows a deficiency of, in round numbers, 60,000; Pennsylvania is minus 74,127. And in spite of these warning figures, Mr. Lincoln, acting upon the advice of General Grant, calls for 200,000 more. No wonder that even the warmest advocates of the war are growing despondent, and that those doubt now who never feared before. The last *Candide* is the Rev. Mr. Beecher. He has arrived at the conviction that slavery is not dead, and that President Lincoln's proclamation cannot kill it. He has even asserted that the people of the South fight better in a bad cause than the Northerners in a good one. If this is not throwing up the game, it is something very like it. To confess the failure of the proclamation, which was supposed to give a principle to the war of invasion, to throw a cloak over the real pretexts for which the war is waged, and to cover the multitude of enormities committed against civilisation and humanity by the Turchins and M'Neils and their barbarous hordes, is an admission that we could hardly have looked for from so eminent an Abolitionist authority. If Mr. Beecher turns faint-hearted, as so many better men have done, when gazing into the remote future, for the issue of the bloody contest, what can be expected of those thousands of moderate politicians who have from the first regarded the war policy of the Administration with aversion and disgust? At no time since the outbreak of the war has the policy of the North swayed so undecidedly between a resentful pride and a consciousness of the hopelessness of the task which is to be accomplished. At no time has the South been so resolutely one-minded in its scorn of Northern pretensions and defiance of Northern strength.

A few days may bring us very important news. But, we repeat, it is not from the North that we are to expect the assault. It is from the veterans of Lee's army, thoroughly rested, their numbers raised to a greater strength than ever by the well-drilled recruits of the autumn and winter; from Morgan's cavalry, and Longstreet's mounted force, threatening a State already more than half inclined to throw the decisive weight of its sword into the Southern scale; from Johnston and Hardee and Lee and Forrest, who, secure from all chance of attack, are free to act along the dangerously weak lines of the Federals in Eastern Tennessee. There may be no more gigantic raids into western territory; no occupation of Pennsylvanian farms and Ohio railroads by Confederate armies; the contracted lines of the Southern defences will be firmly held, and when the opportunity offers a decisive blow will be struck. The Southern generals have already proved that they are alive to one great military truth—that a judicious offensive is in nine times out of ten the surest defence of an assailed position. They have the generals to lead and the men to follow; we know that they were never more confident than at this moment of immediate success and ultimate triumph.

The Confederate Financial Legislation.

The first Congress of the Confederate States, which succeeded the provisional Government a little over two years ago, expired by Constitutional limitation on 18th February last. No legislative body in ancient or modern times has had to grapple with problems more momentous, or confront difficulties more appalling. No body of representatives of the people, directly accountable to the constituencies by whose will they hold their seats, ever acquitted itself of such a task with equal boldness and stern resolution. A series of acts, forming together a consistent and harmonious system of stupendous dimensions, concludes the labours of the Confederate Legislature, and prepares the Confederate people, after nearly three years of exhaustive warfare, for still another,

a greater, and it is to be hoped a decisive, effort for Constitutional liberty and national independence. One series of laws places the whole adult male population in the field, including even the two extreme periods of the military age as a corps of reserve. Another series of laws, by giving to the Government the monopoly of foreign commerce, devotes the entire wealth and productive resources of the country absolutely to the common defence. But the most astounding, and in its conception and execution altogether unprecedented, scheme of legislation is that which applies a heroic remedy to the evils of the currency, and provides for the withdrawal, by a system of funding at 4 per cent., and by taxation, of $600,000,000 (about 125,000,000*l.* sterling) of the circulating medium within eight months, at least one-half of this amount by direct taxation.

What must impress the philosophic student of contemporaneous history even more than the unprecedented magnitude of these measures, is the cool deliberation with which they have been devised. There is a stoicism in the voluntary self-application of the caustic and the amputating knife to the morbid parts of the body politic, which belongs rather to the best days of Rome than to the highly artificial civilisation of our age. For be it remembered that these acts are not the desperate expedients of absolute power or of military dictatorship. Were they so, they must inevitably fail, as no country on earth, even the most habitually and blindly obedient to its rulers, would submit to such sacrifices at the bidding of individual will. On the contrary, these laws have been, so to speak, forced upon a reluctant executive by popular clamour, speaking through a multitudinous and noisy press, and at last assuming its present shape in the hands of the direct representatives of the people. Between Congress and the Administration there did not always exist a perfectly cordial feeling, only because Mr. Davis and his advisers were on principle averse to extreme or unusual measures, and thus exposed themselves, with an influential section of public opinion, to the charge of not being sufficiently vigorous in the prosecution of the war, or energetic in the selection of the means. Thus it has happened that several of the most important of the laws now under consideration were introduced and mainly supported by avowed opponents of the Administration; and if the President has in the end given them a cordial approval, it is because he had become convinced that the almost unanimous voice of the people had anticipated his approval. Even now doubts are expressed by those who mistake his scrupulous hesitation for lack of vigour, that in the administration of these laws he may soften and relax their severity, and thus impair their usefulness. Such doubts are founded in an utter misconception of the character of the man into whose hands Providence has entrusted such momentous destinies.

In these laws, as in every other fact which this war has brought to light, it is instructive to notice the contrast between the two nations whom the Powers of Europe still affect to consider as one and indivisible. While the North, heedless of the future, seeks only to prolong the intoxication of the present, dashes on recklessly, blindly, madly, neither knowing nor caring whither, the South, undaunted, gauges the depths of her present sufferings, and girds her loins to meet the worst that the future can have in store. With not a hostile foot on its own soil, the North has flung herself, in the very wantonness of folly, at the feet of a vulgar and idiotic tyranny; an invasion of one million of armed men has not forced the South to abandon a single safeguard of individual liberty; but every other sacrifice save that she has made, and the only complaint of her population is, that the leaders are too parsimonious of blood and treasure. To the feverish excitement of the North the South opposes a calm self-possession which is never tempted by a seductive delusion, which husbands every resource, and profits by every substantial advantage. The North, rich, arrogant, apparently prosperous, has not yet had the courage to tax herself in earnest; the South, poor, depleted, blockaded, finds in the patriotism of her people the strength to tax herself to the extent of two-thirds of her entire circulating medium.

It is to this financial legislation that we desire especially to direct attention. In periods of patriotic exaltation, blood is more readily poured forth than treasure, perhaps because the one is generally given by a class different from that which can give the other. In all wars, even popular wars, men are more easily found than money, which has, therefore, become proverbially accepted as the sinews of war. In the Confederate States the one is as cheap as the other when paid as the price of independence. It is possible that other nations may have done as much in offering up the flower of their youth on the field of battle; the financial heroism of the Confederacy is, we believe, without a parallel.

In a report of the Special Committee on Finance of the Confederate Senate, Hons. R. M. T. Hunter, and Thomas J. Semmes, composing the Committee, give a plain-spoken account of the financial errors heretofore committed, and their consequences.

The first attempt of the Government (they say) to convert its credit into a currency, and thus borrow, to a certain extent, without interest, was made at the second session of Congress in Montgomery, Alabama. By the Act of May 6th, 1861, provision was made for a loan of $50,000,000 on bonds bearing eight per cent. interest, and for the issue of twenty millions of treasury notes, without interest, payable after the war, and receivable in payment of public dues. These notes were fundable at the pleasure of the holder in eight per cent. bonds, which were reconvertible into like notes whenever he might desire to do so. Upon the theory of this system of finance, the currency was to be self-regulating in regard to an undue expansion or contraction by adjusting itself to the level of a bond paying eight per cent. interest in specie. If such a bond was worth par or nearly par in specie, then the currency could not fall much below that value by expansion, or rise much above it by contraction. For in the one case the surplus would be funded by the operation of individual interest, and in the other the equilibrium would be restored by a reconversion of a portion of the bonds into notes. But to sustain such a scheme of currency, the payment of the interest upon the bond in specie was indispensable. When, therefore, it became obvious that this could not be done, and that war on a great scale was to be maintained chiefly by the use of public credit, it ought to have been understood that the self-regulating feature of this system was lost, and that the necessity had arisen to place the finances upon a different foundation.

The result of the initial error in finance was that the prices of all commodities increased fourfold; but gold, the ostensible standard of values, became worth five times as much as it was at the outbreak of the war. This double and apparently anomalous phenomenon the Committee keep distinctly in view, never confounding the value of gold with that of necessaries of life. 'When trade is open to the world, the value of specie is nearly equal in all places between which there is a free exchange of commodities; but when a country is closely blockaded, and cannot export its products freely in exchange for specie, that article may become of greater value there on account of its scarcity than it bears to the rest of the world.' They are not, therefore, frightened by the abnormal quotations of gold, and, measuring the value of the Confederate paper currency solely by its purchasing power, they find that its depreciation is very nearly proportionate to its redundancy. They assert, as a fundamental principle, that, whenever the circulating medium is fully equal in amount to the business wants of the community, every additional issue operates as an indirect tax upon the holders of the currency. Every time the currency is doubled, the public is taxed 50 per cent. on the amount of currency previously held, because after every such duplication the same nominal sum will purchase only half the quantity of commodities. As such a tax is unavoidable when the necessities of the Government vastly exceed its ordinary resources, they call upon the public to submit to it in a form which, being least disguised, is most onerous to the individual, but least exhaustive to the community. 'If we tax the notes by diminishing their amount we appreciate their value, but if we tax them indirectly by new issues we depreciate the value of the note.' It is generally difficult to make the great body of tax-payers accept such a principle in practice, and to see its operation in the light of the public good; but in the Confederacy this difficulty appears not to have existed. The tax law now in operation embodies the essential recommendations of the Committee. For its provisions in detail we refer the reader to another page. It is sufficient here to point out that it provides for the rapid funding at low interest of the entire volume of the currency, to be replaced by a new currency of fixed and invariable volume. In default of funding at an early date, the larger denominations of Treasury notes are smitten with a tax which, at one blow, reduces their amount by one-third, to be deducted from their face on their being presented for payment, and if the funding is further delayed, the accelerating operation of the tax gradually extinguishes the note altogether. The smaller denominations of notes are exempted from this tax, probably for the reason that they may be held in amounts insufficient for funding, and that they form the only money of the poor, but it is calculated that they will be exchanged, at rates provided in the law, for the new and more valuable issues.

We cannot better conclude our brief reference to this remarkable scheme of taxation than in the words of the Committee whose report we have already quoted:—

> The sense of justice and public opinion which have already smoothed down many difficulties in the way of our circulation, will probably prescribe the true standard by which contracts will be settled. Indeed, it may be a question for the courts to decide whether, in the absence of an express stipulation to the contrary, the values contemplated in the contract are not to be measured in the actual values of the Treasury notes at the time when it was made, as estimated in the currency in which the debts are to be paid. It has been apprehended by some that so large a tax upon the note will be regarded as repudiation, and seriously injure our credit in public opinion. But if it be true that the proposed scheme leaves the note as valuable in the hands of the holder after its operation as before—that, in any aspect of the case, it gives him more than he gave for the note—and that, viewed as a tax alone, the imposition is equal and just, then there is no man of fair mind who would discredit a government for such legislation. It cannot be denied but that the world is often carried away by appearances. The plausible is sometimes the worst enemy of the true. But in this case our people at least are deeply interested in ascertaining the truth, and there is not much fear but that in the end they will find it. They will sustain any scheme of finance which they believe to be just, and which promises the means to carry on the war for some time to come. Of course no scheme can operate successfully in the face of serious military reverses, or if the industrial system is too much impoverished in the effort to place men in the field. But the first we do not apprehend, and the latter we must guard against. For the rest, it is to be said that it is the people's government, the people's war, and the people's credit.

Ministerial Changes.

Says Lord Palmerston to Earl Russell (vide *Punch*, of April 2), 'My dear Johnny, the Easter vacation is a great institution, so—*rest and be thankful!*' Never before had a British Cabinet so much reason to be thankful for the brief Easter recess. Daily, we might almost write hourly, the Government was assailed, and always with more or less effect. When the House divided, the Ministerial supporters were shocked at the smallness of the majorities; nor were they less horrified at seeing the Civil Lord of the Admiralty worried and mangled by such a very small creature as Cox—Wat Tyler Cox—of Finsbury, and at seeing Mr. Gladstone dragged through the mire by an honourable nobody who rejoices in the name of Sheridan, and by a peculiar freak of fortune represents the select constituency of Dudley. Messrs. Cox and Sheridan were quite unconsciously playing the *rôle* of political hangmen. So long as we punish murder with death, the office of Jack Ketch is necessary, but it will never be esteemed an ennobling employment; and in like manner did the Parliamentary heroes of the Lent Session perform a necessary but nasty office.

The Opposition were perfectly aware of the charge brought against Mr. Stansfeld by the Procureur-Général, but it was not pleasant to have to attack a very young, and, officially, a comparatively insignificant member of the Government. It was, therefore, a relief when Mr. Cox, who certainly is not thin-skinned, and who has not any political reputation to jeopardise, brought the matter before the House; and if Mr. Stansfeld had been discreet, and, instead of defending M. Mazzini, had frankly stated his position, and avowed his intention of doing nothing, so long as he held office, to compromise the Government with our ally, we are confident that the Opposition would not have given him any further trouble. Then, with Mr. Gladstone, it was desirable that some check should be applied to too sweeping denunciations of a rotten system of business, and it was a comfort to the Opposition that Mr. Sheridan put himself forward, and in his case also a discreet explanation would have prevented the damaging discussions that ensued. However, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Civil Lord of the Admiralty were indiscreet; and Messrs. Cox and Sheridan, doubtless to their surprise and delight, were, for a few weeks, dragged out of befitting Parliamentary obscurity, and were able to hurt the Ministry, already reeling from the sharp criticisms on its foreign policy. Towards Easter the county members leave London, or it is not improbable that the Government might have been defeated on a question that would have involved a resignation or the announcement of a dissolution after due provision had been made for the requirements of the public service. But the Easter vacation came, and came unusually early, and the Government rested awhile from their Parliamentary toils, and could prepare for the ensuing campaign.

The resignation of the Duke of Newcastle is, no doubt, the result of ill-health, but the moment chosen for it indicates that the Government think they need all the help they can obtain. The illness of the Duke is not of recent date, and we are happy to say that, so far from getting worse, his health has lately improved. But as he is not able to attend the House of Lords, and as sharp debates are expected, it was necessary to replace him by some one who could help the Government at the crisis. The recess has been used amongst other things in filling up the vacancy advantageously, and the arrangements being completed on Saturday—on the eve of the meeting of Parliament—the Duke sends in his resignation. The Ministerial organs have not cause for excessive exultation, though it is true that the Government is rather stronger than it was before the changes that

have just been announced—stronger, that is, only for the conduct of business, for the new member of the Government has no following that is not already in the Ministerial camp.

It is no compliment to Mr. Cardwell to express an opinion that he is capable of discharging the duties of Colonial Minister to the satisfaction of the country. It is supposed that anybody who is poor and a scion of one of the governing families can administer the affairs of a colony, and that anybody who has to be handsomely provided for in the Cabinet can be properly intrusted with the seals of the Colonial Office. And there is considerable truth in this assumption. The business of the British Colonial Minister is to help the Governors of British colonies to do nothing, the routine duties prescribed and permitted by colonial Legislatures excepted. It is much to be regretted that Earl Russell was not Colonial Secretary, for then he could have written any number of despatches without doing any harm. So far, then, as the Colonial Office is concerned, there is nothing to regret in the recent changes, and Mr. Cardwell, though not a great debater, will be of service to his party, in occupying a more dignified position. It is also a matter of congratulation that another department of the Government is represented by its chief in the House of Commons.

The acceptance of office by Lord Clarendon is more important. His Lordship was for five years Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, and five years Foreign Secretary, and some surprise has been expressed that he should accept the insignificant post of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. We do not share this surprise, or think that the proceeding results solely from an intense desire to hold office. In politics, as in love, it is often necessary to stoop to conquer. Lord Clarendon may naturally regard himself, as others regard him, as the heir-apparent to the Liberal Premiership, and he confers a much greater obligation on his party by taking a minor office at a critical moment than he could by accepting one of the chief offices. Lord Palmerston owes much of his popularity to the cheerful alacrity with which he discharged the duties of Home Secretary after holding higher appointments. Self-sacrifice is the virtue most esteemed by party men, and is, indeed, the strength and vitality of party organisation. Of course, if Lord Clarendon had wished it, he could have had the Colonial Secretaryship, but the Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster is a safer and even more dignified place for one who expects to be First Minister of the Crown. But, whatever the motive, the enrolment of Lord Clarendon in the Ministerial ranks will be a boon to our Foreign Secretary, who will now have able and well-informed aid in defending the proceedings of the Government. It will also do the Government good abroad. Lord Clarendon is much respected for knowledge of foreign affairs and for firmness of purpose.

The resignation of Mr. Stansfeld is an unquestionable gain to the Government, by depriving the Opposition of a ground of attack; but it is not the less a confession of weakness on the part of Lord Palmerston. If it was proper for Mr. Stansfeld to resign, why did he not do so before Easter? Lord Palmerston declared that he regretted the loss of Mr. Stansfeld's services, and that his faith in his late colleague's good conduct was unshaken. Then why accept the resignation? The reason is sufficiently clear. The Government was warned that its existence was menaced, and that it could only fight through the session by throwing overboard every incumbrance. If Lord Palmerston had not been conscious of his weakness, he would not have yielded the point. Indeed, no attempt was made to conceal the reason of the resignation, but, on the contrary, Mr. Stansfeld said 'he could not continue to be a cause of embarrassment to a Government which he desired to support.' A more ungracious and untenable excuse cannot be conceived. It is an intimation to the Emperor of the French that it is not from any good-will to him that a Minister of the Crown resigns office because his name has unfortunately been mixed up with plots of assassination. And the excuse is untenable as well as discourteous. We fully and entirely acquit Mr. Stansfeld of having at any time been privy to, or of having consciously aided, any assassination plot. The charge is preposterous; and if it were not, the denial of a man of Mr. Stansfeld's integrity is conclusive. But we cannot acquit him of gross indiscretion, and we hold that it was his duty to resign, and Lord Palmerston's to accept his resignation. Mr. Stansfeld, however, declares himself blameless, and Lord Palmerston avows the same opinion. This being so, Mr. Stansfeld ought not to have resigned, and Lord Palmerston ought not to have accepted his resignation. A frank confession of error would have been better policy. Now the country, if it give credit to the statements of the honourable gentleman and the noble Lord, must believe that Mr. Stansfeld resigns because the Government is too weak to repel an unjust accusation, and that Lord Palmerston sacrifices an innocent colleague and a useful public servant rather than incur the risk of losing office.

Altogether, the recent Ministerial changes will not permanently strengthen the Government. They will enable it to make a better fight and to arrest a damaging discussion, but they do not increase its force or diminish the force of the Opposition. In one respect they will tend to weaken the Government. Mr. Stansfeld's promotion did not conciliate the Radicals so much as his loss of office will irritate them.

Legal Aspect of the Chesapeake Case.

The Hon. J. P. Holcombe, of Virginia, has been despatched by the Confederate Government as a Special Commissioner to Halifax, Nova Scotia, to represent and defend the interests of the Confederacy, as a recognised belligerent Power, in the judicial proceedings that have arisen, or may hereafter arise, in the case of the *Chesapeake*. It is understood that the Confederate Government claims that the captors of that vessel acted under its authority, and that, unless the facts connected with the capture should hereafter appear very different from those known at Richmond, or as yet developed by judicial enquiry, the Confederate Government maintains and vindicates the act of the captors, and assumes all the responsibility properly attaching to it. We are not advised whether Mr. Holcombe arrived in time to present his claim before the recent decisions of the colonial Courts, but at all events these decisions do not by any means end the matter. By the law of nations, the assumption of responsibility by the Government of the captors relieves them from all the consequences of their act, and entitles them to immediate and unconditional liberation from all restraint upon their persons. But even if this result had been already anticipated by the action of the colonial authorities, the ownership of the vessel will probably give rise to very difficult and interesting questions of law. It will scarcely be contended that the Confederate Government cannot become a party to this litigation on account of not being diplomatically recognised by the British Government. Its rights as a belligerent Power are not dependent upon its political relations with neutrals, and are as distinctly recognised and as ample as if those relations were as completely satisfactory as they are the reverse. It is therefore not inopportune, especially while a very analogous case is about to receive judicial investigation at Liverpool, to invite attention to the many and important points of law involved in the capture of the *Chesapeake*, her condemnation, and the trial of her captors by a British colonial Court. Before doing so it will be necessary to glance briefly at the facts of the case.

John Clibbon Braine and Henry A. Parr, two citizens of the Confederate States, enlisted in its military service, and who had been previously prisoners of war in the hands of the Federals, formed a plan with Captain Parker, bearing a letter of marque from the Confederate States Government, to make prize of a merchant steamer of the United States, and take her into a Confederate port. The stratagem devised was that they should proceed, disguised, to New York, and, with a party of men under their orders, make pretence of a desire to go as passengers from New York to Portland, in the State of Maine, and, if successful in deceiving the enemy, to rise upon the captain and crew of the steamer when at sea, seize the vessel, and, after taking in sufficient coal, to make the port of Wilmington, running the hazard of passing through the enemy's blockading fleet. They went to New York, and purchased there the necessary arms and equipments for their contemplated enterprise; thus armed and equipped, they succeeded in obtaining passage, without detection (for themselves and a body of men, twelve in number, whom they had engaged to serve under them), on board the United States merchant steamer *Chesapeake*, which left New York on Saturday, December 5, 1863, bound for Portland in Maine; when on the high seas, early in the morning of Monday, December 7, they surprised those in command of the *Chesapeake*, and captured her after a struggle of a few minutes' duration, without further bloodshed than the killing of one and the wounding of two of her officers. The captors announced themselves as in the service of the Confederate States, and informed the prisoners that they were prisoners of the Confederate States. The captors, who had thus obtained possession of the prize in strict accordance with the instructions usually given to the private armed vessels of the Confederacy, took the *Chesapeake* into the Bay of Fundy; and when near the port of St. John, New Brunswick, the officers, passengers, and crew of the *Chesapeake* (except two engineers and three firemen) were released and placed on board of a pilot-boat which had been procured for that purpose. The steamer then proceeded to the southern coast of Nova Scotia to receive the fuel and supplies necessary to enable her to prosecute her voyage to the Confederate States. She arrived in Sambro' Harbour, Nova Scotia, where she was lying in possession of her captors, and receiving coal from a British vessel in the harbour, when the United States gunboat *Ella and Annie* entered the British port, and her commander, with that habitual contempt of the territorial sovereignty of Great Britain and of her neutral rights which characterises his nation, recaptured the prize steamer, arrested one of the crew and two engineers who had been employed to aid in running her to Wilmington, committed acts of violence on the coal schooner, and then left the British port with the *Chesapeake* in possession, bound for the United States. The captain of the *Ella and Annie*, it appears, was met at sea by a superior officer of the Federal navy, and was ordered by him to return to Nova Scotia, and to restore the *Chesapeake* to the jurisdiction of Great Britain, from which it had been wrongfully abducted. The *Ella and Annie* accordingly took the *Chesapeake* to the port of Halifax, where she was delivered up to the British authorities. The prisoners were kept concealed by the Federal officers, and their existence denied; but upon the peremptory demand of the Governor accompanied by a demonstration of military preparation, which indicated that the demand could not be evaded with impunity, the prisoners were delivered up. The official agents of the United States then commenced a series of attempts to obtain possession of the persons of those engaged in the enterprise, on the absurd pretence that they were pirates and murderers who had committed crimes within the jurisdiction of the United States, and who ought, therefore, to be delivered up to the Federal authorities under the Extradition Treaty of 1842 between the United States and Great Britain.

On these facts arise grave questions of international law, involving the reciprocal rights and duties of the belligerents, not only as between themselves, but between each belligerent and Great Britain as a neutral Power. The principles of the law of nations touching this case are among the clearest of those recognised by the publicists of the two Governments (Federal and English), and sanctioned by the decisions of their Courts; and the following positions will, doubtless, be insisted on as the basis of the claims put forward by the Confederate Government.

1. Braine and Parr, as citizens of the Confederate States, had the right, during the pending war, even without a commission from their Government, to capture and make prize of the public and private vessels of the United States, wherever and whenever found (except when within the protection of neutral jurisdiction); and vessels and cargoes belonging to the enemies of the Confederate States, when thus captured by Confederate citizens, may be lawfully condemned to the Confederate Government as prize of war, or, as they are technically called, 'Droits of Admiralty.'

Lawrence's Wheaton's Law of Nations, ed. 1863, p. 627, p. 189, Lawrence's note. 3 Phil. International Law, 50, 486-9, 562. Case of McLeod: see Phil. 50.

2. Citizens of the Confederate States engaged in any enterprise, plot, or stratagem for the capture of vessels of the enemy, can by no possibility be classed as pirates or murderers, without a perversion of the meaning of words whose signification is well established. Whether, under certain aggravated circumstances—not existing in the present case—such persons would forfeit their claim to be treated as prisoners of war, if they fell into the hands of their enemies, is foreign to this discussion; the sole question here being whether a neutral Power can lawfully deliver up the citizens of one belligerent in order that they may be made to answer as criminals for acts of hostility committed in the name of their Government against an enemy on the high seas. (See authorities last cited.)

3. The steamer *Chesapeake*, while lying within the jurisdiction of a neutral Power, in the hands of her captors, was beyond the reach of recapture. The tortious seizure of the vessel and cargo by the armed cruiser of the United States was absolutely illegal and void, and imposed on the British Government the duty of demanding the restoration of the vessel to the possession of the captors. The voluntary rendition of the vessel and cargo to the neutral authorities confers no right to retain them, but imposes the duty of restoring them to the captors.

3 Phil. 227-8. Lawrence's Wheaton, ed. 1863, p. 715, and notes by Lawrence.

4. The Courts of Admiralty of the neutral Power have no jurisdiction to determine whether the *Chesapeake* was or was not good prize of war. The jurisdiction over that subject is exclusively vested in the Courts of Admiralty of the Confederate States. The proceedings, therefore, before the British Vice-Admiralty are 'coram non judice,' and cannot

affect the rights of the Confederate Government in the premises.

3 Phil. 228–468. The *Flow Oyer*, 1 Rob. Adm. 135. Lawrence's Wheaton, 670.

5. The Admiralty Courts of the Confederate States are vested with jurisdiction to determine whether the *Chesapeake* and her cargo are prize of war. The proceedings instituted in the Admiralty Court in Richmond are justified by the law of nations, which permits the adjudication of prize causes, when the prize is within neutral jurisdiction, with the same validity as if within the jurisdiction of the captor.

Lawrence's Wheaton, 670. 3 Phil. 482.

6. The present case is not affected by the fact that the British Government has prohibited the armed ships and privateers of both belligerents 'from carrying prizes made by them into the ports, harbours, roadsteads, or waters of the United Kingdom, or of any of HER MAJESTY'S colonies or possessions abroad' —first, because the case is not within the terms of the prohibition; secondly, because the *Chesapeake* was carried into a British port, not in disregard of the QUEEN'S prohibition, but under the stress of necessity, temporarily, and for the sole purpose of procuring the fuel without which she could not proceed to a Confederate port; and thirdly, because, even if an infraction of the rule established by the British Government had occurred, this fact might justify that Government in compelling the immediate departure of the prize vessel from its ports, but could not vest in it the right of withholding the prize from the possession of the captors, or assuming jurisdiction to dispose of it.

7. Nor would the case be altered if it should appear that the parties engaged in the capture of the *Chesapeake* took their departure from the neutral jurisdiction with the intent of making the capture. The Courts of the neutral Power have an exceptional jurisdiction in cases of prizes brought within its territory, if the capture was made within its territorial limits, or by armed expeditions fitted out within its limits. In the present case the expedition was fitted out, and all the arms and equipments of the captors were procured and prepared, in the port of New York, within the territory of the enemy.

The *Estrella*, 4 Wheaton, 298. The *Santissima Trinidad*, 7 Wheaton, 283. Wheaton's Law of Nations, 671. 3 Phil. 477–9.

8. The fact that the Confederate Government is not recognised by that of the neutral Power as an independent Government, does not affect the question now involved. The recognition of the Confederate States as a belligerent entitles them to the exercise of all the rights and powers of an independent belligerent nation as against both the enemy and the neutral. (See authorities just cited.)

9. The British Government is bound to reimburse to the Confederate Government the value of the *Chesapeake* and cargo.

Lawrence's Wheaton, 720. 3 Phil. 478. Case of the *General Armstrong*.

THE BAHAMAS.

THE following correspondence between the Duke of Newcastle and Governor Bayley will repay a careful perusal:—

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K. G., to Governor Bayley, C. B.

Downing Street, April 11, 1863.

SIR,—I have just received your despatch, No. 18, of 8th March last, enclosing a copy of the speech which you addressed to the Bahama Legislature on the 2nd of that month.

I am obliged to inform you that I can by no means approve that part of your speech in which you allude to the practice of despatching vessels from Nassau to the blockaded ports of the Confederate States.

It is perfectly true that the British Government is not bound to interfere in order to repress or even to discountenance this practice, just as the British Government is not bound to interfere with operations carried on by British subjects in violation of the revenue laws of a foreign country.

But it is undoubted that a belligerent has a right to blockade the port of his enemy—that a breach of blockade is an invasion of that right—and that the power whose belligerent rights are thus violated may reasonably complain that Her Majesty's representative speaking publicly in his official capacity should refer to proceedings thus injurious to its interests in a tone of encouragement or protection.

I have no doubt the language which you used was very acceptable to the inhabitants of the colony, who are naturally anxious to make the most of what are apparently the advantages of their present position relatively to the seat of war. But I think you failed to observe that, in using it, you were laying yourself open to a charge of unfriendly conduct towards a neighbouring power, and were impairing the position of the Government which you serve.—I have, &c.

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Governor Bayley, C.B., to His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.

Government House, Nassau, Bahamas, May 5, 1863.

MY LORD DUKE,—1. I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Grace's despatch, No. 354, of the 11th of April.

2. The communication of your Grace's strictures on some parts of the speech delivered by me at the opening of the Legislative Session, while it has naturally caused me great concern, has induced me to reperuse the censured paragraphs, in conjunction with the comments upon it contained in your Grace's despatch.

3. I can assure your Grace that nothing could give me greater pain than the conviction that I had, in my official capacity, justly laid myself open to the charge of unfriendly conduct to a neighbouring power, or had by any act of mine impaired the position of the Government which I serve.

4. I have accordingly devoted some time to the reconsideration of the paragraphs of my speech which provoked your Grace's criticism, with a view to their retractation or palliation on some future opportunity.

5. But I trust that your Grace will bear with me when I avow my inability to discover in what respects I have laid myself open to the strictures contained in your Grace's despatch.

6. Your Grace remarks that 'a belligerent has a right to blockade the ports of his enemy.' I would respectfully ask in what way I have gainsaid this proposition. If your Grace will have the goodness to look at the speech again, I think it will appear that I have distinctly admitted this right, and that I have spoken of our right of trading with the blockaded ports as one conflicting with and limited by the exercise of this right of blockade. Again, I would deferentially submit that I have said nothing to controvert the other proposition; viz., that a breach of blockade is an invasion of the blockading right. But I would at the same time avow my belief that the right of blockade is dependent on and co-equal with its power of maintaining itself. It is a right which exists so long as those who claim it have the power to enforce it, and no longer. It is a right which is necessarily subject to attempts of defeat and evasion, during the whole period of its assertion. A blockade which cannot be maintained by force virtually ceases to be a blockade. And whether it can maintain itself or not, can only be ascertained by the success or failure of those who seek to regain for the purposes of commerce a general liberty restricted and qualified for the temporary purposes of war. Indeed, your Grace will not fail to observe that throughout those paragraphs of my speech which relate to the blockade I have studiously regarded the right of neutral commerce as conflicting with and modified by the privilege of hostile blockade. In this respect I have followed the doctrine of the principal authorities on international law, including Chancellor Kent as quoted by Her Majesty's Solicitor-General in the House of Commons, in the debate of February 20, 1862. This great jurist says: 'It was contended on the part of the French nation in 1796, that neutral Governments were bound to restrain their subjects from selling or exporting articles contraband of war to the belligerent powers. But it was successfully shown on the part of the United States, that neutrals may lawfully sell at home to a belligerent purchaser, or carry, themselves, to the belligerent powers, contraband articles, subject to the right of seizure *in transitu*. This right has since been explicitly declared by the judicial authorities of this country. The right of the neutral to transport, and of the hostile power to seize, are conflicting rights, and neither party can charge the other with a criminal act.'

7. Now the illegality of these commercial operations is, I take it, purely conventional. It is entirely the creation of law. It does not emanate from the conscience of mankind. It involves no consciousness of moral guilt. It is a '*malum prohibitum*,' not a *malum in se*. Yet for months past the journals and mob orators of the Northern States had been hurling the heaviest denunciations at our colonists, as if they had committed some flagrant enormity in doing or attempting to do the very same things which their accusers had always done, not only without self-reproach, but even with extreme self-complacency.

8. I hope your Grace does not consider that under such circumstances it was more improper for me to remind the colonists that illegality differed from criminality than it was to admonish them that a certain risk accompanied the illegality. For, while the people of the Northern States denounced them as deserving the punishment due to actual crime, they themselves claimed complete immunity and full protection in the prosecution of that which they considered a neutral and innocent trade.

9. I think that, on a second perusal of my speech, your Grace will perceive that I clearly explained to them that the enterprises in which they had embarked exposed them to risk and dangers from which it was not the duty of the Imperial Government to protect them.

10. I should be extremely sorry to think that any words uttered by me on this occasion had justly wounded the susceptibilities or provoked the indignation of a friendly power; and the longer I dwell on the subject, the less reason does there seem to me for supposing that such an impression can have been made. For your Grace will see that the right which I claimed for the colonists is the right of trading, not only with one, but with either or both of the belligerent States. And two things induce me to believe that no unfavourable impression was made upon just and reasonable men in the Northern States. The first is the opinion expressed by many respectable Northerners staying here during the winter, the general tenor of which may be summed up in the words of one of them: 'You (*i. e.* the English) have done exactly what we should have done in similar circumstances; you have traded with both parties at the same time.' The second is that the *New York Herald*, in an article designed to be bitterly severe upon my speech, entirely misquotes and misinterprets it, disconnecting its consecutive paragraphs, and inserting inappropriate glosses. This article of the *Herald*, to which I refer, is copied into the English paper, the *Public Opinion* of April 11.

11. On the whole, my Lord Duke, I trust that a later perusal will convince your Grace that in this speech I have stated nothing with regard to the rights of blockade but what has been recognised by the general consent of the most eminent jurists; that with regard to the risks of blockade it would hardly have become me to remain silent at a time when some of the colonists seemed to expect a more ample protection from Her Majesty's Government in prosecuting their traffic with the South; and that as to any encouragement which my words may have given to those who are engaged in it, I could not well have spoken unfavourably of a traffic which, if it has been profitable to Nassau, has been infinitely more profitable to the mother country, and has in no small degree contributed to readjust the equilibrium of commercial speculation, so severely tried and endangered by the depression of the manufacturing interests in the Northern counties.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. J. BAYLEY, Governor.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G., to Governor Bayley, C.B.

Downing Street, June 6, 1863.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 45, of the 5th ultimo, in answer to the comments made in my despatch of the 11th April on that part of your speech to the Bahama Legislature which relates to the traffic carried on from Nassau with the blockaded ports of the Confederate States.

2. As your explanations now received have not removed my objections to that speech, I think it best to transmit you that whatever opinions you may individually entertain on the points to which you advert, what is expected of you is that you will not without urgent occasion or without authority express opinions affecting the relations of Her Majesty's Government with foreign Governments and countries, and that you will abstain from adopting a tone and sphere of action leading to questions of the right of blockade, which can only be settled by yourself, is, I think, what ordinary forethought should have led you to anticipate.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

LETTERS FROM RICHMOND.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

February 22, 1864.

THE ADJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS—THE MILITARY BILL—THE TAX BILL—THE CURRENCY BILL: THE PEOPLE APPROVE THIS STRINGENT LEGISLATION—THEIR INDOMITABLE RESOLUTION—THE CLOSING SCENES IN CONGRESS—THE MOVEMENTS OF SHERMAN—THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON—THE FEDERALS DEFEATED IN AN ATTEMPT TO OCCUPY JOHN'S ISLAND—THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE YANKEE PRISONERS IN THE SOUTH—THE CASE OF MRS. PATTERSON ALLAN—RICHMOND ITEMS.

THE first Congress of the Confederate States under the permanent Government adjourned on the 18th instant, after having nobly performed its duties to the country in the passage of a series of measures which will undoubtedly fill up our armies, provide ample funds for carrying on the war, and raise the currency from its present state of extreme depression. The Military Bill places the entire male population of the Confederacy, between the ages of 18 and 45, in the field, and creates a reserve force of such as are between 17 and 18, and 45 and 50. The list of exemptions is very small indeed. The Tax Bill imposes a burden of 5 per cent. on all descriptions of property. The Currency Bill calls in all the outstanding Treasury notes, to be funded in 4 per cent. stocks, before April 1, and declares that such as remain in circulation after that time shall be subject to a depreciation of 33 per cent., or, in other words, that, when presented at the Treasury, they shall be redeemed by the payment of 67 cents in the dollar of the new currency. There is but one opinion expressed as to the wisdom of all this stringent legislation. The people everywhere approve it. That it will work great hardship in many cases, they know full well. Indeed, such weighty burdens could not be laid upon any people who were not terribly in earnest in what they were about. A tax like this would cause a revolution in any Government of Europe. Such a conscription would hardly be attempted by the Czar. Experiments of a like character would not lightly be determined on in Turkish finance. Let the Yankees and the world at large see, from the boldness with which Congress has carried out this work of patriotism and the cheerful acquiescence which it has met with at the hands of their constituents, that the Confederates are willing to make any sacrifices which are necessary for the accomplishment of their independence. You will recollect, in the affecting story of Palissy the Potter, how, when every resource had been exhausted to keep up the fires in his furnaces, that resolute child of genius broke up his furniture and fed the flames with the costly fragments. He pursued his dream of beauty in enamelled porcelain with heroic self-abnegation to final triumph, and left behind him, in the exquisite wares which are now kept in the museums of the Continent as the richest legacies of art in the 16th century, the invaluable lesson that earnestness and fortitude will ultimately overcome all opposing obstacles, and *command success*. Palissy's plates and dishes are very delicate things—*bien fragiles*, indeed—and may all go the way of less precious crockery: but the moral of his life will survive the mutations of empire: it is, in truth, imperishable. Like Palissy, the Southern people are prepared to part with everything that is necessary for the prosecution of the mighty work in which all their energies are engaged. They will be free—they will rid themselves of the tyranny of the North—they will stand up in the majesty of an independent people, though the end involve everything of a material nature that is prized by man. It is amusing to see with what eagerness the Yankees publish the avowals of anti-slavery opinions on the part of English sympathisers with our cause, as if they thought that we would be willing to go back into their accursed Union if we could but hold on to slavery. Slavery, we believe, will vindicate itself in the forum of the world's opinion; we can respect the natural prejudices of men like Lord Wharncliffe, and leave it to time to remove from us the obloquy under which we have suffered; but if slavery were to be swept away utterly by this war from the face of the Confederate States, we should accept the result as fortunate in comparison with political reunion with the Northern people. We will undergo anything but that; and such is the significance of the legislation of Congress. Happy Yankees, if they would but recognise and heed the same!

The closing scenes in both Houses of Congress were full of pathetic interest. The day before the adjournment, the noble 'Address of Congress to the People of the Confederate States' was read in the House of Representatives. There was not a heart unmoved in the crowded auditory, as sentence after sentence of lofty defiance and patriotic sentiment rang out on the ear like the blast of a trumpet; and when, after a simple recital of our wrongs at the hands of the enemy, the eloquent memorial turned to the sufferings and heroism of individual States, at the name of Virginia floor and galleries broke out together in an irrepressible burst of applause. This address is from the pen of J. L. M. Curry, of Alabama, one of the forty members who failed of reelection to the House, and, like everything else that has come from that gentleman, bears the impress of a naturally powerful and highly cultivated mind. Mr. Curry goes directly from his labours in the councils of his country to the hard service of the field as a private in a cavalry company in an Alabama regiment. Of such material are largely composed the armies which are battling for freedom against the Federal hosts recruited from the Shannon and the Rhine! The last moments of the session, as well in the Senate as in the House of Representatives, were devoted to paying the custo-

mary tributes to a deceased member, the late M. R. H. Garnett of Virginia. Something beyond the ordinary feeling on such occasions entered into the speeches which were made in both Houses. The decorous solemnity which befitted such proceedings was rather heightened in effect by the valedictory remarks of Mr. Bocock, the Speaker of the Representatives, and Mr. Hunter, President *pro tempore* of the Senate; and then the members of the First Congress bade each other farewell. But you will have remarked that they did not adjourn until they had recommended by joint resolution the observance of Friday, the 8th day of April next, as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer. In this they but reflected the sentiment of our people, which is that of firm reliance on Almighty God, and humble submission to His chastisements in effecting the work of their national deliverance.

There have been some important military movements of the enemy in Mississippi, although in what force or with what purpose we are utterly unable to know here at the capital. It would seem that a very large body of Federal troops under Sherman have traversed the State from Vicksburg to the line of the Mobile and Ohio railroad, which road they now hold at Meridian. The telegraph has played its usual tricks with us with regard to this movement, now representing this column to be 35,000 strong, intended for the attack of Mobile, and now assuring us, on the authority of General Maury, that it did not exceed 1,000 in numbers, and meant nothing beyond a raid on the railroads. General Polk, who is in command of the Confederate troops in that department, has fallen back before them after some slight skirmishing, and chosen a point south of Meridian, where he will await their advance. It is most improbable that they seriously design attacking Mobile from this direction. The fate of that city is bound up in the struggle which must be soon fought out between Grant and Johnston for Georgia and Alabama. If Grant should defeat Johnston, then Mobile might fall into the hands of the Federals without further fighting. Meanwhile, it would seem premature in Sherman to hazard the attempt of taking the city, when failure would be the entire destruction of his command. It seems far more likely that the enemy desires to secure a *point d'appui* somewhere on the gulf, where the land forces would be in constant communication with the fleet, and from which they may move upon Mobile in a combined land and water assault some months later. By holding the lines of railway from Mobile and New Orleans to Northern Mississippi, they would possess themselves of a large cotton-growing region, and at the same time protect the navigation of the river, which is still interrupted at various points by our troops on this side. On the 16th inst. an expedition, fitted out by Farragut at New Orleans, consisting of seven mortar boats and four gunboats, acting in concert with Sherman, approached Mobile by Grant's Pass, and opened a terrific fire on Fort Powell, which replied with so much spirit and effect that the fleet was compelled to withdraw. But little damage was done to the fort, and the only casualties were one lieutenant and one sergeant slightly wounded. The siege of Charleston goes on as heretofore. The enemy's shells are crashing into the houses of the city, and doing considerable injury to the pavements, and an innocent cannonade is kept up irregularly on Sumter. The weekly record of the siege has been varied, since the date of my last letter, by two pleasing incidents—the sinking of one of the enemy's ships of war, an old-fashioned, three masted wooden vessel, and the defeat of the land forces, in an attempt to occupy John's Island, by the command of General Henry A. Wise.

Streight, with sixteen other officers escaped from the Libby prison, has reached Fortress Monroe. The Yankee papers are good enough to inform us that the advance of the enemy upon Bottom's Bridge, a fortnight ago, was made with the view of liberating their prisoners on Belle Isle and their compatriots of the Libby, and that, but for the unfortunate desertion of that inevitable scamp who is always sure to come over to us and reveal their plans just at the critical moment, it would certainly have succeeded.

The examination of Mrs. Patterson Allan for treasonable correspondence with the enemy, which has been going on for several weeks before Commissioner Watson, was brought to a close on Friday last, the Commissioner remanding her for trial at the next term of the Confederate States District Court, Judge Halyburton. Little doubt exists in the public mind of her guilt, but the public heart is tender towards women; and should she be found guilty, as is not improbable, it would sanction her pardon by the President. Meantime she has been admitted to bail under a bond for one hundred thousand dollars.

The weather during the past week has been absolutely hyperborean. On the morning of the 16th instant the mercury fell to 4° Fahrenheit. The James River was frozen over at the wharves of this city so firmly, that men walked across on the ice. One dreads to hear from our prisoners in their cruel exposure at Camp Douglas and on Johnson's Island.

Generals Bragg and Robert E. Lee are in town. There is a rumour that Bragg is to be reinstated in command in the South-Western department. General Lee is in the finest health and spirits, and the smile that lurks under his grizzled moustache is full of cheer for the summer campaign.

Marshal George P. Kane, of Baltimore, who was so long imprisoned in Fort Warren, and has been for some time past in Canada, arrived in Richmond yesterday, and, it is said, will enter the Confederate army.

The anniversary of the birthday of Washington was observed here to-day by closing all the offices in the several departments of the Confederate Government, the adjournment of the State Legislature, and the display of the national flag on all the public buildings.

Richmond: February 15, 1864.

THE REPORTED FAMINE IN THE SOUTH—REVELATIONS OF JIM, THE LATEST CONTRABAND—THE ADVERTISMENTS IN THE DAILY PAPERS—THE WANTS AND AMUSEMENTS OF THE PEOPLE—A VIEW OF THE ACTUAL CONDITION OF RICHMOND—PRESIDENT DAVIS'S ADDRESS TO THE ARMY—ACTS OF CONGRESS—THE ESCAPE OF FEDERAL OFFICERS FROM THE LIBBY PRISON—THE RECAPTURE OF FORTY-EIGHT—THE OBSERVANCE OF LENT—ADDRESS OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL BISHOP OF VIRGINIA—DEATH OF CLAUDE CROZET AND OF M. R. H. GARNETT.

A letter just received by flag of truce mail from a kind friend in the North, who yet retains tender feelings for Southern associates in days long syne, despite the ferocity of hate which rages from Maine to Minnesota for all 'Rebeldom,' expresses the Christian hope that your correspondent's household may be happily exempted from the prevailing horrors of the Confederate capital. The writer of the letter is evidently much touched by the grim revelations of Jim, the latest 'intelligent contraband' who has arrived safely in New York a fugitive from the family of Jefferson Davis, and who tells a delighted Northern public that the President is reduced to such culinary straits that a turkey is made to serve his establishment for three dinners—that it is served warm on Monday, reappears cold on Tuesday, and is finally finished in a hash on Wednesday. The amount of destitution and famine which such a restricted commissariat in the President's mansion would imply among the Confederate people at large, appears to give the liveliest gratification to the Yankees. If the story of Jim were true, the quiet endurance of the severest privations by the Confederates ought not only to secure the respect and sympathy of mankind, but convince the Yankees themselves of the utter hopelessness of Southern subjugation. It is due to truth, however, to declare that Jim is as great a liar as any of his predecessors or present associates, and that, while there is certainly some scarcity of provisions in Richmond, there is nothing like starvation. If the President's table is moderately served, about which your correspondent knows nothing whatever, it is because His Excellency does not think it becoming to feast while the army is stinted, and not because he cannot dine on partridges and venison when he pleases. The condition of affairs in a city can be derived as readily and as accurately, perhaps, from the advertisements in its daily papers as from any other index of current life: and the foreign reader, looking over the Richmond *Daily Dispatch* for Thursday, February 11, 1864, certainly would not gather from its 'wants,' 'special notices,' 'lost, strayed, &c.,' 'amusements,' and other contents of a business nature, that the citizens were suffering for food, or were under any immediate apprehension of being handed over to the enemy. If Richmond were blotted out of existence to-morrow—if, indeed, the Confederate States should disappear for ever beneath the waves of the ocean, and this copy of the *Dispatch* were all that should remain to convey to after times an idea of the habits and manners of their people, and the state of things in their capital, just before they became non-extant—it would never be suspected by the student who should ponder it that Richmond's citizens were perishing for want of provisions, or were exceedingly miserable at the danger which threatened them from the army of the United States. We read herein that Messrs. George Dunn & Co. have for sale a large assortment of valentines for the approaching Valentine's Day, and that these same public benefactors have published a pleasing variety of new music, among the titles of which that of 'No Surrender,' the piece itself illustrated by a battle-scene and picture of Fort Sumter, strikes us as patriotic and inspiring. And, as if to show that the Messrs. Dunn's musical publications were not neglected, and that the Confederates did not intend to permit music to become one of the lost arts among them, one gentleman advertises for a pianoforte, which he wishes to rent by the month, and another, who signs himself 'Beauharnais,' desires to secure for a Female College in South-western Virginia a professor of music. We learn, too, from these advertising columns that President Davis held a levee on Tuesday evening, the 9th instant; and we infer that it was crowded from this—that a lady offer liberally to reward any person who will restore to her a 'fine linen cambric handkerchief, trimmed with Valenciennes lace,' which she lost there. The stunning reward of one hundred dollars is promised to the fortunate finder of a 'black-and-tan terrier pup,' which certainly does not suggest the menace of starvation to the owner, unless we suppose that he wished to convert the terrier pup into pies. But, on the other hand, there are several advertisers who are willing to take boarders, and groceries of all kinds are set forth as for sale privately or at public auction. In the line of amusements there are some notable cards. There is to be, on the evening of the 11th, a 'grand select ball' at Monticello Hall. Dean Milman's tragedy of 'Fazio, or the Italian Wife,' is to be done in the most truly tragic manner (*Bianca*, Miss Eloise Bridges) at the Broad Street Theatre. 'Madlle. Donseux' proposes to make her 'fourth grand ascension on the tight-rope' that evening at Metrop'itan Hall. And a 'Professor,' who rejoices in the overpowering duplication of aristocratic names of 'J. St. Maur Bingham,' and who might be supposed therefrom to leave Mr. Turveydrop in melancholy eclipse for deportment, announces at his Concert Hall and Dancing Academy, Exchange Hotel, a series of most bewildering *tableaux vivants*, with sailor's hornpipe and highland fling. For the quieter and more intellectual portion of the community the Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association have made arrangements with the Rev. Dr. Duncan to give a lecture that evening on the 'Inspirations of the Age.' Such is a newspaper view of Richmond for the 11th day of February, 1864, and assuredly it does not afford the idea of a half-starved, badly-scared, mutinously discontented, thoroughly demoralised community, such as is to be derived from all the accounts of the Confederate capital that enliven the Northern newspapers. There has never been during the war a more cheerful temper or a more resolute spirit in the citizens of Richmond, one and all, old residents and officers of the Confederate Government, than we may remark at the present moment.

Reverting for one moment to the *Dispatch* of the 11th instant, a document may be found therein which will naturally attract a very large share of attention both in America and Europe—the address of President Davis to the soldiers of the Confederate States on their voluntary reenlistment for the continuance of the war. Admirable as have been all the previous official papers of the President, none has gone forth to the world which to a greater degree challenges the approval of the intelligent reader for the sentiments it contains, and the style of eloquent simplicity in which these sentiments are expressed. Earl Russell himself must read it, if not with satisfaction, at least with a constrained respect for its author. The sympathies of educated Englishmen must always be with good grammar and manly majesty. But there is an elevation of tone, a true dignity, a serene confidence in the ultimate triumph of right, an affecting recognition of the hand of Providence in human affairs, manifested throughout this address, which cannot but call up at once the noble language of Washington.

But three days more remain of the present session of Congress, which expires by limitation of law on the 18th, and the most important measures which have occupied the attention of both Houses yet hang suspended in the Committees of Conference, the Currency Bill and the Military Bill. Confederate bonds have gone up with astonishing activity in the Stock Exchange, under the general belief that the funding system will make the outstanding Treasury notes utterly worthless. It is not supposed that the Senate's extension of the conscription age to fifty-five will be a part of the Military Bill as it will become the law of the land. But we shall so soon know the exact provisions of both these vital acts of legislation, that it is idle to indulge in conjecture as to what they may or may not provide. One thing may be said of both, however—that the people and the army will respond with hearty enthusiasm to whatever the wisdom of Congress shall determine as indispensable to the public security. Among the Acts which have already passed both Houses and obtained the signature of the President, are two, complementary to each other, which will affect very materially the private convenience and interest of the speculator, and come home to the palates and pockets of a very considerable class of our population. The first absolutely prohibits the importation into the Confederate States of all articles of luxury, apparel, beverages, fruits, jewellery, furniture, paintings, or statuary. No more pale ale, no more cognac, no more London coats, no more Stilton cheeses; we must come down to Confederate homespun and ash-cake, and bid a *longum vale* to the julep. The second absolutely prohibits the exportation *out of* the Confederate States of cotton, tobacco, military and naval stores, &c., &c. No more running the blockade, therefore, by the private owner, thereby transferring his capital to England. The effect of this enactment must be salutary if the Government will take the exportation of cotton and tobacco into its own hands, and thus establish a credit abroad as a basis for our finances at home.

On Tuesday night of last week, the 9th inst., one hundred and nine Federal officers succeeded in making their escape from the Libby prison in this city, and, striking off into the country in every direction, had left their place of confinement many miles behind them before their flight was discovered. An animated pursuit of the fugitives was commenced early the next morning on all the roads and byways leading out of Richmond, and has been ever since kept up. Forty-eight of them had been recaptured up to last evening, and others will probably yet be brought in. Such as took the line across fields for York River have doubtless arrived within the Yankee lines of Butler, and we may look out for astounding narratives in forthcoming issues of the *New York Herald*. Their mode of escape was by tunnelling underground into the open street. The notorious Colonel Streight led the party, and has not yet been retaken. The modes of recapture of the forty-eight that have been recommitted to the Libby were various, and some not a little amusing. Two valiant Captains were brought to surrender by a couple of unarmed boys. One Colonel was overhauled by a negro on the tow-path of the James River Canal, and after a severe tussle conquered and led into town. The rejoicing of the Yankees over what Artemus Ward would call the Libbyration (no pun designed on the word ration) of Colonel Streight will doubtless be excessive. They will regard it as an offset to the escape of Jack Morgan. Let us see which of the two will use his freedom to the best advantage.

The social gaieties of the capital have come to an earlier termination than usual this winter, in consequence of the Lenten season commencing in the second week in February, some weeks sooner than last year. The weekly receptions at the President's have been intermitted in observance of the fast. The discipline of the Episcopal and Roman Catholic Churches having put all within their respective communions on half rations, like the army, something ought to be saved of the stock of provisions on hand against a season of real scarcity, which may possibly be in store for us. On this subject of keeping Lent, the Right Rev. John Johns, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Virginia, has addressed to the clergy and laity of his diocese a pastoral letter, full of Christian patriotism, which deserves to go, with the President's address to the army, wherever men read English, all round the globe, that the character and temper of the Confederate people may be as widely known as possible.

Two men of worth, ability, and high position have just been lost to Virginia, the one full of years, the other, as it were, just entering upon what promised to be a successful and distinguished career of statesmanship:—Claude Crozet, by birth a Frenchman, Captain in the Grand Army, follower of Napoleon to Moscow, these many years Chief Engineer of the State of Virginia, author of many scientific works; and Muscoe R. H. Garnett, member of the Confederate House of Representatives, and formerly member of the same branch of the Legislature of the United States, a young man of honourable ambition, a ripe classic scholar, a true Virginian, devoted to the interests of his mother commonwealth, and already reflecting credit upon her—credit which, had he lived, would surely some years hence have been renown, and might have been glory. Mr. Garnett died at his home in Essex County yesterday morning. The news has created universal sadness in the Capitol.

The exchange of prisoners has not been resumed. Judge Ould, in the interests of humanity, wrote to Meredith, some weeks since, offering to receive a certain number of Yankee surgeons, with medicines and supplies, for their sick and wounded prisoners, but Lincoln paid no attention whatever to the letter. It was not addressed to Butler. Why comment upon such heartless indifference on the part of the President of the United States to the sufferings of his soldiers? If he believes all that has been said of the pitiable condition of the prisoners in Richmond, he is a monster to sacrifice their lives to Butler's dignity. But we may leave his conduct to the condemnation of his own people.

The plot to assassinate the President turns out to be a *canard* of the most ridiculous kind. The German who was arrested has been discharged, and the parturient mountain has shown us the smallest possible muscipular abortion.

After five weeks of glorious weather, winter seems disposed to resume its severity, and a dense snow is falling out of doors, which, however, melts as it touches the surface of the earth, yet warms with the kisses of yesterday's sun.

LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New Orleans, Louisiana: March 9, 1864.

THE SPRING CAMPAIGN IN LOUISIANA—DISINCLINATION OF NORTHERN OFFICERS TO TAKE THE FIELD—PROBABLE INFLUENCE OF CITY LIFE—HATRED TO THE YANKEE—FEDERAL INVITATIONS TREATED WITH DISDAIN—THE PROJECTED CAMPAIGN IN THE RED RIVER COUNTRY—THE PROBABILITY OF 'A GREAT EXPEDITION AFTER A LITTLE COTTON'—THE SHERMAN EXPEDITION—A FEDERAL CORPS NOT YET HEARD FROM—GENERAL SHERMAN'S EXPLANATION OF HIS FAILURE—FIGHT AT OKOLONA—CONFEDERATE VICTORY—POSITION OF GENERAL GRANT—THE CONFEDERATES OPERATING ON INTERIOR LINES.

Ere this reaches you the spring campaign will have fairly opened in this department. The troops have already been concentrated for the forward movement, and the Commanding General goes to the front to-day. The chosen field of operations is West Louisiana, that cemetery of Federal ambition, prowess, and power, where dreams of victory and conquest were rudely dispelled by the determined bravery of a mere handful of men fighting for liberty and independence. It would not surprise me if this inspiring lesson should repeat itself this summer. And, indeed, one might suppose that Banks and his lieutenants anticipated such a result, so both do they seem to enter upon active operations in that section. Or perhaps their tardy movements are owing to a not unnatural disinclination to exchange the comfort and pleasures of city life for the hardships

and hazards of the tented field, they having indulged during the past winter in all the follies and festivities incident to the season. In truth, I should not be surprised if Banks and his officers had found their Capua in New Orleans. They have been passing months of elegant idleness in this gay Southern city, with its varied populations—delicious climate steeping the senses in 'golden languors'—where, even with the busy, business is but a means to pleasure, and pleasure such as is characteristic of the quick fancy and warm imagination of the semi-tropics. It would be strange indeed if, with such seductions, the unsophisticated Northerner had not dreamt away his thirst of conquest, and sickened of what to him had never been a passion—the blood-bought honours of the battle-field. Such dangerous dalliance might have proved fatal to the *morale* even of a French or English army, though officered, as it is, by gentlemen of birth and fortune; and if such, or any other foreign army, had been the army of occupation, its presence might have proved fatal to the oppressed as well as the oppressor. But the Austrian is no more hated by the Venetian than the Yankee by the Southron. This was very clearly shown during the past winter in the great but fruitless efforts of the 'conqueror' to bring about a reunion of the citizens and the military in the round of festivities incident to the season. These efforts were mortifying failures in every instance. The military authorities gave open-air concerts, promenade concerts, soirées, levees, and bals-masqués; but though urgently invited, none of the citizens—that is, none of any consideration—attended. They were assailed with threats, blandishments, and bribes (in the shape of valuable favours or concessions), and warned of the penalties and pains incident to such contumelious 'disaffection;' but they still attended not. High officials and high officials' better-halves did them the 'honour' of special invitations, and yet they attended not—not only refused, but, as some loquacious 'rebels' assert, the specially invited actually turned these prom-made concerts and bals-masqués into ridicule, and laughed at them as refreshing instances of Yankee 'high life below stairs.' But what better could have been expected of these rebels to the 'best Government the world ever saw'? As usual, the Southern women were most prominent in heaping ridicule upon these 'Yankee balls,' &c. They express themselves quite indignant at the bare supposition that they would lend their presence to such festivities—that they could be brought in contact with these shoddy aristocrats, especially the female portion, whose humble birth and way of life had wholly unfitted them to grace the positions to which the fortune of war had elevated them. We may attribute much of this asperity of feeling to the hate engendered by civil war, to the fallen fortunes of the Confederates in this city. The Pole, the Hungarian, the Venetian, has little left to him save a heritage of hate, and no generous heart will find fault if he does not pause to do justice to whatever virtues his oppressor may possess. Be this as it may, these expensive experiments (for money has not been spared) to bring about a brotherhood of feeling between the 'rebel sympathisers' in this city and the army with its hosts of adventurers, were almost irredeemable abortions, and brought no little ridicule upon the prime movers. Of course I have reference solely to the primary, or at least ostensible, object of these festivities. Viewed in this light their failure must have caused no small mortification to their originator, especially if, as was said by a 'loyal' journal of this city, the result sought to be achieved was more to be prized than a great victory in the field. Such a moral or social victory remains to be won, unless the military authorities are satisfied with the fawning fellowship of such purchased minions of Federal power as claim to be citizens of New Orleans, but whose hopes and prejudices are all with New England, whence they migrated hither. I have dwelt upon this social phase of the war, as it illustrates in that respect the relations of the belligerents, demonstrating how settled is the hostility of the one, and how delusive are the hopes and vain the expedients of the other. Viewed in any other light, these social festivities are, of course, undeserving of serious attention. They have been resorted to as a means to the 'suppression of the rebellion;' as such they received the particular attention of the Commanding General of the department.

But this 'weak piping time of peace' is at an end. The Yankee cavaliers must now forego 'the idle pleasures of these days,' these 'sportive tricks,' these 'merry meetings,' these 'delightful measures' to which 'he capers nimbly in a lady's chamber.' All these his new-found delights he must forego, even for the 'dreadful marches,' 'stern alarums,' and dire encounters of 'grim-visaged war.' Though no knight-errant, and wholly unconscious of the spirit of chivalry, he will surely figure to more advantage in the field than in promenade concerts and bals-masqués.

I have said that active operations were about to begin in Western Louisiana, and the movements already made certainly look that way. No change has as yet been made in the plan of the campaign indicated in my last letter. Banks is to march with a strong column from Bayon Teche through the Opelousas country to the line of the Red River, striking it at Alexandria, where he will be joined by an auxiliary force sent from Vicksburg. A portion of this force will disembark at Alexandria and unite with Banks, who will then push forward to Shreveport, while the remaining portion of the forces sent from Vicksburg will proceed in their transports up the river under convoy of the gunboats. Such is the plan of the coming campaign in the Red River country; and the Yankees, unmindful of the past, are already exultant in anticipation of easy victory, permanent occupation of that region, and of securing 'any quantity of cotton.' *Nous verrons.* Banks is said to have intended this movement for some weeks past, but whether in conjunction with the force from Vicksburg does not appear. Sherman, it is said, planned the combined movement while in this city last week, but after all Banks may have to make the movement alone. Sherman is wanted elsewhere, and the spring campaign in this State, which it was boasted would destroy the forces of Generals Dick Taylor and Magruder, may turn out to be nothing more than an expensive raid—a great expedition after a little cotton, as the *New York Tribune* satirically terms most of the movements in the Gulf Department. The Federal forces in the Teche consist mainly of cavalry and mounted infantry; and this fact, taken in connection with the immense wagon-train which has been sent to the front, strengthens the supposition that Banks intends nothing more than a raid after cotton.

Magruder is gone to reinforce Taylor with 10,000 troops, having now but little use for an army in Texas, and General Taylor thus reinforced can defeat the columns of Banks and Sherman combined. But it is even doubtful whether Sherman could proceed up the Red or Ouachita river. I am told that they have been very effectually obstructed, and every commanding position on either bank well fortified; and this receives some corroboration from the report circulated this evening, that a Federal flotilla had met with a decided repulse on the Ouachita. The report comes through Federal sources.

The Sherman expedition is still wrapped in mystery—or rather, I should have said, the object of that expedition, and the extent and nature of the disasters which befell it. All we know is, that Sherman came to this city last week; that one of his corps commanders has returned to Vicksburg, but whether with all or a portion of his corps does not appear; and that the other corps (General Hurlbut's) has not yet been heard from. General Sherman says it started from Meridian for Memphis, after he found that General Polk was too strong for him, and the Confederate cavalry was 'gobbling up' all his foraging parties. Now, if Sherman did not lose a portion of his army in an engagement with Polk, why are we still ignorant of the whereabouts of Hurlbut's corps, and kept in doubt whether McPherson has really returned to Vicksburg, and, if so, how many men he brought back? The Federal authorities do not deny that the whole movement was a failure, but they do not deny that it met with any serious disaster. Advices from Mobile or rumours rather, I should have said—say that 1,000 prisoners taken in engagements with Sherman's forces have already been brought to that city. The cavalry column, which was to sweep over the country like a tornado, cut off Polk's retreat, and play havoc generally, has fared no better than the main body. General Sherman, while in this city a few days ago, was said to have attributed his ill-success, in no small degree, to the failure of his cavalry to unite with him. He said that he took 7,000 picked men, the best cavalry he ever saw, but they wholly failed him in the hour of need. In fact, they did not come within fifty miles of him during the whole time. It was not, however, for want of effort. They might have been the 'best cavalry General Sherman ever saw,' but the Confederate horse of General S. D. Lee proved themselves their masters. With little more than half their numbers, they thoroughly routed the Federals, following them up with such persistent valour that the enemy was glad to escape the seemingly impending annihilation. Here is an account of the fight at Okolona, in which Bedford Forrest, one of General Lee's lieutenants, made one of his characteristic fights—hazardous and desperate, but brilliant in results:—

(Telegraphed to the *Mobile Register*.)

'West Point, Miss., Feb. 25, *vid* Gainesville and De Soto.—There was heavy fighting on Tuesday, the 22nd, in the vicinity of Okolona.

'General Forrest, with a force not exceeding 2,000 men, attacked the enemy, estimated at 6,000. After severe fighting all day, night closed on the enemy routed and flying.

'They contested every step, falling back and forming, but were successively driven from every position. General Forrest pursued them to a short distance from Pontotoc, where, late in the evening, the enemy formed three separate lines, and made their last desperate stand. They made three sabre charges on horseback, but each recoiled, driven back with great slaughter. Many passed through our lines and were captured. The road was lined with abandoned sutlers' stores and dead horses.

'The next morning General Forrest's command was too tired to continue the pursuit; but General Gholson, with six or seven hundred State troops, arrived, and went on in pursuit of the enemy. The enemy left their dead on the field. Their loss is estimated at a hundred killed, including two colonels; their wounded are much more numerous, many of whom fell into our hands.

'Our loss will not exceed 100 killed and wounded. Colonel Jeff. Forrest, commanding a brigade in Chalmers's division, was killed; and Lieutenant-Colonel Barksdale, commanding 5th Mississippi, mortally wounded.

'Colonel Barteau, of Ball's brigade, was severely wounded in the breast, and Colonel M'Cullough, commanding a brigade of Chalmers's division, in the hand.

'About 150 prisoners have arrived here, including a colonel and a lieutenant-colonel. More are coming in. A courier, just in from Okolona, reports that General Gholson has captured a large number of prisoners in his pursuit. Five pieces of artillery, and a large quantity of small arms, sabres, saddles, &c., are among the spoils. General Forrest's command have returned.

'Demopolis, Feb. 24.—General Gholson is pursuing the routed and scattered columns of the enemy above Pontotoc. In the recent engagement General Forrest killed two men with his sabre, and had two horses killed under him. Sherman's advance had reached Pearl river.'

In about a month hence I suppose we shall be allowed to know all about the Sherman expedition. The probability is that the Federals calculated upon an easy victory over Polk, and the consequent and immediate fall of Mobile: the city being occupied by the enemy, the eventual surrender of the water defences became a mere question of time. Holding Mobile, they would have uninterrupted water-communication far up into the State; and with the immense means of transport at their command, the Federals might then talk with some show of reason about flanking Joe Johnston at Dalton. As it is, Sherman has not succeeded even in making a diversion in favour of Grant. The latter finds himself confronted by General Joe Johnston at Dalton, with a large and effective force, and so he hesitates at attacking him, contenting himself with reconnaissances in force, and making feints upon Johnston's communications by moving a column towards Rome. The Confederate General is the superior strategist of the two, so Grant will make nothing by such diversions. If he had his usual superiority of numbers—four or five to one, as at Vicksburg and Lookout Mountain—he would undoubtedly have attacked Johnston before this. At present, being compelled to strengthen Knoxville, threatened by Longstreet, keep up a bold front before Chattanooga, and protect his communications, Grant cannot muster a force greatly superior in numbers to that of his opponent. The talk in military circles here is that Sherman has been ordered to retire to Chattanooga with his grand division, and that the expected battle between Johnston and Grant is postponed until Sherman's arrival. It would take him fully two weeks, perhaps longer, to go from Vicksburg to Chattanooga, viâ the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, and the Louisville, Nashville, and Chattanooga railroads, which is the route, I believe, he would have to traverse. Meantime Polk can reinforce Johnston within a week, viâ the Alabama river, or by railway to Montgomery and Selma, thence by railway to Atlanta, Johnston's base, whence reserves can be forwarded to him in a few hours. Thus we have those interior lines again, playing sad havoc with Federal strategy, and enabling the Confederates to provide against the numerical superiority of the enemy by rapid concentration of forces. Should Sherman move to the support of Grant, or unite with Banks in the expedition to the Red River region, it strikes me the Confederates might become masters of the situation in Mississippi.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York: March 23, 1864.

MR. LINCOLN'S CALLS FOR TROOPS—THE MILITARY POWER OF THE NORTH—THE FAILURE TO SUBDUE THE SOUTH—THE RIGHT OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES TO RECOGNITION—CONDUCT OF THE ENGLISH MINISTRY—ABANDONMENT OF THE ATTEMPT ON MOBILE—FEDERAL DISPUTES ABOUT THE DIVISION OF PLUNDER—MR. CHASE'S SCHEME FOR KEEPING DOWN THE PRICE OF GOLD—INDIFFERENCE TO THE OBLIGATION OF CONTRACTS IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK—INEFFICIENCY OF THE GOLD BILL—MR. CHASE'S LATEST INVENTION—A BLUNDER IN HIS ESTIMATES—HOW THE NORTH REGARDS THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEBT.

The order for a new levy of 200,000 men—not 300,000, as I mentioned in my last that it was expected to be—came last week. Seven hundred thousand is now the number of recruits the Government has called for since it was exultingly proclaimed at Washington, and re-echoed at every cross-road in the North, that the South was conquered and despairing, the Confederacy dissolving, and its broken armies crowding the roads with fugitives hastening to shelter themselves under President Lincoln's proclamation of pardon. There has been heavy fighting since all round the circumference of the beleaguered Confederacy; and these same starving and ragged fugitives have been found baffling the best-laid plans and beating the best troops of the North. Now comes the Government demand for enormous levies, and there has been a military consultation at Washington between the President and the new Commander-in-Chief, Lieutenant-General Grant, resulting, as given out, in an entirely new organisation of the military plans of the Government, of which the addition of 200,000 men to the already enormous force in the field is a part.

The whole number of volunteers and conscripts called out under the successive requisitions of the President since the beginning of the war, to create and fill up armies, now exceeds 2,000,000 men, of whom more than a million are reckoned to be in arms.

This is the grand array of military power which, after three years of prodigious exertion, this Government pronounces to be still necessary to break up the Government of the Confederate States, and bring their territory and people into subjection to the North. In addition to these enormous levies, it has, wherever it could penetrate into Southern territory, seized upon slaves, and put arms into their hands against their masters, thus summoning to the side of the invaders the alarms of servile insurrection, which they looked for to be potent auxiliaries in breaking the spirit of the South. Exasperated by the failure to conquer the armies of the South, they added to the calamities and sufferings of regular warfare the horrors of a war of devastation and pillage, and summoned fire and famine to the help of the sword. Huge armies are sent into peaceful districts, merely to lay them waste and make them uninhabitable—to destroy the crops in the field and the food in the granaries—to drive off or kill the cattle—to burn mills and factories and shops, and all tools and implements of industry—and to sack dwellings—with the savage purpose of reducing the unarmed population, the houseless women and the children, to hideous want. Nevertheless, the fourth year of this war is commencing, and the South is not subdued, nor repentant, nor dismayed; it is even hopeful, and more sternly resolved than ever to fight the battle for independence until it is won.

Certainly, here is a spectacle of faith, valour, and endurance, to win the admiration of mankind. If ever the title to be free were won by sublime devotion and heroic deeds—if proofs of the unanimous desire and inflexible purpose of a brave and intelligent people, educated to self-government, and resolved to do all and suffer all rather than become the vassals of a usurping invader, were ever held to give a claim to recognition among nations—the people of the South and the Government of their choice have earned that title and given those proofs. They establish, at least, in all generous hearts, and among just men everywhere, their right to the moral support of mankind, in demanding that the strong oppressor shall be held strictly to all the duties and obligations which the law of nations places under the guardianship of civilised governments, and the practices of modern times have made the common law of humanity.

It is the reproach of England that she should have a Ministry which, on mean calculations of gain or under the meaner promptings of fear, is straining its own powers and sanctioning the perversion of English laws to embarrass the struggle of a gallant people who, fighting for independence, have thrice beaten back their enemies, and are now girding themselves for a fourth encounter against terrific odds; and that an English Solicitor-General should be so swift to do them wrong as to read against them, in the House of Commons, papers which are shown to be forgeries, and a British Secretary of State should grossly misstate, in the House of Lords, facts in his own department to their prejudice. How long will English love of fair-play, English sympathies for oppressed nationalities struggling bravely for freedom, and English pride which resents a menace as an insult, endure all this?

There has been no marked military event this week, unless the abandonment of the attempt on Mobile from the sea is to be considered important. It was doubtless designed to be part of a concerted attack by the army and navy; but the other parts failed, by Sherman's retreat and by Banks's delay in cooperation, and Farragut is said to have retired also, and to give out that he is waiting to be reinforced by a new class of boats, prepared for this service, before renewing the attempt.

General Banks, in concert with General Sherman, is moving upon Western Louisiana with a considerable land force, aided by gunboats, by way of the Red River. The expedition is a renewal of the gigantic Mississippi raid, for the seizure of what property can be found and the laying waste of the lands of the rebels. There is thought to be a large quantity of cotton and sugar in that region, and the south-western armies have a voracious appetite for cotton and sugar, and care more about gathering booty than for fighting the rebels. The division of the plunder among the rival branches of the service, army and navy officers, and camp followers, and speculators, has already caused violent feuds: and they complain at Washington that the national arms stand still, because the clamorous chiefs cannot settle the proportion each is to have of the spoils of the people they are robbing and going to rob. It is boldly charged by adverse factions of these robbers against each other, that of a hundred thousand bales of cotton which have been taken from their owners along the Mississippi, under the plea of confiscation for the use of the United States, not five thousand have reached the Treasury. There is a universal scramble, and they are quarrelling beforehand about the division of the

booty they are expecting from this grand raid into Upper and Western Louisiana. It is to be hoped they will find Confederate bayonets to stop their way.

The domestic topic most agitated here and at Washington for some time past is Mr. Chase's latest expedient for improving the currency: The continued high price of gold is the subject of constant apprehension, and Congress, under the advice and at the request of the Secretary of the Treasury, has legislated for the purpose of arresting the depreciation of the paper currency. They have passed a law authorising him to use the gold received into the Treasury for duties on imports, to regulate the market for gold, and put down speculation by overstocking the market with a sudden supply at his discretion. The idea is, that the possession of this power will prevent the speculation to which it is a fashion to attribute a good deal of the 'high price' of gold, which is the popular form of describing the low value of Government paper. The power, as given, is more restricted than he wanted; for it confines him to the use of so much of the gold only as is not required for the payment of the interest on the public debt, or for the reserve of one per cent. on the amount of the public debt which the law of 1862 sets aside as a sinking fund. The surplus above these sums he may employ, paying it out in anticipation of the interest accruing within twelve months, or by selling it at his discretion in any manner he may think expedient.

The attempt to repeal the sinking fund was made in the Bill as reported, and actually got majorities in both Houses on separate propositions, but was set aside by an amendment at the last moment. It would have been a deadly blow at all faith in the public engagements if the securities in the law upon which these loans were negotiated could be set aside thus summarily by a legislative vote on a collateral question of financial expediency. The demonstration is, however, a very significant one, and will have ill effects on the public credit.

This indifference to the obligation of contracts has even reached the State of New York, which has heretofore been one of the most punctilious of the American States, and consequently in the highest credit at home and abroad. The State Senate has voted to pay in currency the interest on the bonds of the State contracted in gold; and although the House has not yet acted upon it, the success of such a proposition in one body, after long and strenuous debate, is an omen, of which foreign holders would do well to take notice, of a willingness to break contracts and repudiate one-third of the interest of the debt which may easily ripen into a willingness to wipe off the principal.

Mr. Chase has got his Gold Bill, but it has thus far proved to be utterly inefficient, even to frighten the gold-dealers. Prices have actually risen since it was passed, and range somewhere between 161 and 163. It is doubtful, under these circumstances, whether he will bring any considerable sum into the market, with the risk that, if he puts down the price, it will be bought up and exported, and this unnatural reduction of the domestic supply react in increasing the subsequent rates. The only step he has decided on is now said to be that he will sell occasionally custom-house certificates of gold to *bonâ-fide* payers of duties in commercial cities, 'without notice,' at rates 'below the selling price of gold.' The simple meaning of this is, that Government will receive from the favourites of the Treasury its own depreciated paper in payment of duties at better rates than they can use it for in buying gold in the open market. The Government thus speculates on its own discredit, with a percentage of loss, which is the profit of those who are specially favoured. The practical value of this power is that of making the fortunes of those to whom the Secretary confides his plans, from choice or from the necessity of executing them. That it will be so used is as certain as that, in the same way, the management of the Treasury heretofore has enabled a class of men, confidentially associated with the Secretary, to help themselves and their friends to millions. As an aid of the Government finances it is an abortion, which it is discreditable to the understanding of the Secretary to have ever devised or encouraged. It may help private speculations on the necessities of commercial men, setting aside as useless all intelligent calculations on the course of events and the laws of natural demand and supply, but for any influence in giving permanent improvement to the currency it is of as little use as the setting of the weathercock by hand is to fix the direction of the wind.

A most damaging statement for Mr. Chase's financial sagacity, has recently been furnished from his own department in an official report of the 'recognised' public debt of the United States as it stood on the 15th of this present month.

In December last Mr. Chase made his annual report to Congress, in which he stated the amount of the public engagements and debts, and gave his estimates of what they were expected to be at different periods, for which Congress was expected to make provision.

The latest date to which he made up his account was the 30th of the preceding September. The amount of 'recognised' debt was then $1,222,113,553. Estimating for all expenditures, with a liberal margin for contingencies, he advised them that the debt would, in certain contingencies, which he pointed out as possible, be $1,634,150,042; but it might reach a maximum of $1,686,956,641. To these calculations he added the following paragraph, encouraging the hope that events, with the aid of discreet legislation, would reduce even the smaller amount.

'It is not impossible that vigour in the prosecution of the war, and economy in every branch of expenditures enforced by new legislation, may reduce actual disbursements and consequent increase of debt below these figures.'

He left himself the power to accuse others of want of vigour in war matters, want of economy in administration, and want of wisdom in legislation, if the increase of the debt were not reduced below the liberality of his estimates. He left nothing with which to excuse himself for having largely understated it.

The report of March 15 states the recognised public debt on that day at $1,580,201,776, which is an addition of more than $358,000,000 to the debt of September 30, and, at the rate of increase of debt (not of expenditure), of more than $2,113,000 a day for 167 days. At the same rate of increase, the public 'recognised' debt will be, on the 1st of July next, a little over $1,805,600,000, in lieu of the $1,634,000,000 estimated by Mr. Chase.

Here is a demonstrated blunder of Mr. Chase, in his estimate of the progress of the debt for seven months, of $171,000,000, or more than $600,000 a day on his best estimate, and nearly $450,000 a day on his worst.

A Minister in any other country, who in such a crisis as this should make such an enormous blunder, would lose his credit instantly, and be removed for a more competent director of finances. Here nobody seems to think it of any other moment than to point a political sneer. Foreigners, who are tempted by high rates of interest to invest their money in the securities of a Government thus administered, may judge therefrom how lightly the future responsibilities for this debt weigh on the minds of the people. Perhaps the true explanation of this recklessness is contained in a speech made at one of the late political gatherings in Connecticut by a leading politician of the dominant school: 'A debt of two thousand millions, with the corresponding taxation, would be intolerable; a debt of five thousand millions would be nothing.'

When, as this war goes on, and this 'recognised' debt accumulates with a rapidity which Mr. Chase cannot foresee or imagine for half a year before him—and to that are added the unnumbered millions not yet recognised for claims, services, losses, expenditures, advances, and provisions for bounties and pensions—the advent of that five thousand millions is seen to be no great way off; and the common class of voters have begun to consider it settled that it matters but little how quickly it is piled up to the nominal amount of what will turn out to amount financially to 'nothing.'

Emigration to the United States.—Nearly two hundred thousand emigrants have arrived in this country during the past year, mostly at New York. At least one hundred and fifty thousand have joined the army.—*New York Herald*, March 13.

The New Hampshire Election—How it was Done.—The election in New Hampshire was carried practically by force. The object was effected completely by force and bribery combined. Those who have had means of information allege that the Administration sent 6,000 soldiers into the State. It seems quite certain that not less than 4,000 actually arrived. The soldiers, promised a holiday, accepted their furloughs and voted as they were directed. No Democrats were permitted to come home. This was as plain farce applied to the election, as if a bayonetted squad had attended every poll. It is as roundly asserted, that the Administration spent not less than half a million of money in transportation of troops for purchase of votes.—*Boston Courier*.

Railroads in the South.—The principal railroads in the Confederacy are now sedulously engaged in endeavouring to increase their stocks, and to provide for the contingencies of future service or loss. Under the delusive expectation of an early termination of the war, the railroad companies have, heretofore, relied almost wholly on their existing stock, and made but few efforts at supply or reparation. They scarcely husbanded their resources, which under the exhausting demands made upon them, became greatly diminished. Of late, with more experience, a wiser prescience seems to guide their management. In different parts of the Confederacy iron is now being provided and rolled for machinery and the construction and repair of locomotives and rolling stock.—The Secretary of War has recommended that skilled mechanics be furnished from the army for some of the more delicate machinery needed by the railroads. The railroad transportation is of incalculable importance to the Confederacy. Shut off from the sea, and with command of very few of its rivers, the Confederacy is dependent, almost wholly, on the railroads for commmnication and transportation.—*Richmond Paper*.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL & COMMERCIAL.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

Wednesday Evening.

The state of the money market has not experienced any great change. The tendency, if anything, is towards stronger rates, previously to the payment of the dividends, but it is scarcely supposed the full quotations will be eventually maintained. The encouragement to public enterprise—for new companies continue to make their appearance—will of course hereafter interfere with the supply of capital, but so long as the *minimum* keeps at its present point, or there is the slightest prospect of a reduction, we shall have the existing animation, with probably an occasional increase of activity. It is very certain, nevertheless, that this state of things cannot exist for ever, and it a reaction once sets in, the effect will be astounding particularly after the late speculation in the shares of the bank, credit, and finance companies. For first-class paper, the quotation is $5\frac{7}{8}$ to 6 per cent.; for 6 months' bills, the rate is $5\frac{3}{4}$: the Joint Stock Banks charge $5\frac{3}{4}$ and $5\frac{7}{8}$ for advances; and on the Stock Exchange, the terms rule from 5 to $5\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The transactions in bullion and specie are again of a rather unsatisfactory character, inasmuch as there has been no gold sent into the Bank during the past week, whilst the withdrawals have amounted to 97,000*l.*, though this certainly is a smaller amount than for some few weeks past; but it is sufficient, with the high price of money, to prevent any reduction at present in the rate of discount. The amount of specie arrived is 365,394*l.*, of which 28,070*l.* is from New York, and the remainder from Australia.

The shipments of specie by *La Plata*, which sailed on the 2nd inst. were 81,880*l.*, of which 79,760*l.* was in gold, and 2,120*l.* in silver. The *Ceylon*, which sailed yesterday, took out for the East 188,965*l.*, of which 174,780*l.* was silver, and 14,185*l.* gold. The proportions were:—for India, 131,513*l.*; the Straits and China 48,848*l.*; Alexandria, 6,500*l.*; and Aden and Galle, 2,164*l.* Bar silver has been in considerable demand, and the price has advanced to 5*s.* $1\frac{3}{4}$*d.* per oz. The Mexican dollars by the last West India mail have been disposed of this afternoon at 5*s.* $1\frac{1}{4}$*d.*, being a fractional advance upon previous quotations. The gold ships at present known to be on their way from Australia are the *Jassen* with 64,000*l.*, the *Calliance* with 55,000*l.*, the *Moravian* with 17,000*l.*, and the *Agincourt* with 12,500*l.*

BANKING AMALGAMATION.

It has been officially announced that the old-established private bank of Messrs. Jones Loyd and Co. have transferred their business to the London and Westminster Bank. The reason alleged for such a change is the desire of the partners of the former establishment to retire from business, and if such be the case, it might naturally be expected that the firm would seek the aid of some other important establishment to take over their accounts. On the first announcement of the Amalgamation, the shares of the London and Westminster Bank advanced from 20*l.* to 22*l.* per share, but there has since been a considerable reaction, though nothing like the extent of the advance.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSION.

The suspension has just been announced of Mr. Thomas Freeman, of Spa Road, Bermondsey, engaged in the timber trade. The liabilities are said to amount to 20,000*l.*; and the assets, it is said, are not likely to be very favourable. The accounts are under investigation by Messrs. Cooper Brothers & Co.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The English Stock Market has within the last day or two shown an improving tendency, particularly as regards business, but with only a fractional advance in prices. There seems now to be rather more confidence on the part of the dealers, who operate with more freedom. Consols closed this evening at $91\frac{1}{2}$ to $91\frac{5}{8}$ for money, and the same for the account, which, as compared with last week, is a rise of $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. Exchequer Bills are a trifle firmer, being now at, 7*s.* to 2*s.* dis. A rather extensive business has been transacted in foreign stocks, particularly in Mexican and Greek. The former has fluctuated considerably under the influence of the various reports with reference to the ultimate assumption of the throne of Mexico by the Archduke Maximilian, a hitch having at the last moment arisen with reference to family matters. It is, however, thought that the affair will ultimately be satisfactorily arranged, and at the last moment the price of the stock has again improved. A good business has also been done in Greek stock, and quotations have improved $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Spanish and Turkish have also been fairly dealt in at a fractional advance. The latest official quotations were—Greek, 25 to $25\frac{1}{2}$; Mexican, $45\frac{1}{2}$ to $45\frac{7}{8}$; Spanish Passives, $35\frac{1}{4}$ to $35\frac{3}{4}$; Ditto Certificates, 13 to $13\frac{1}{4}$; Turkish (1854), 93 to 94; Ditto (1862), $71\frac{1}{2}$ to 72

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market has been firm, and the price advanced to 55 to 57. During the last day or two sales to some extent have produced a reaction—and we closed 52 to 53, but firm thereat.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The transactions in American Government and Railway Securities still continue on a very limited scale, and prices, though on the whole fairly supported, exhibit, if anything, a declining tendency. Dealers show no disposition whatever to enter into speculative operations whilst the result of affairs across the Atlantic remains in such a very doubtful state. The official dealings comprise:—Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York Section, $80\frac{1}{2}$ and 79; do. do., Pennsylvania Section, 77, $76\frac{1}{2}$, and 76; Erie, shares $100, all paid, $70\frac{1}{2}$ and $69\frac{3}{4}$; do. do., seven per cent. preference, 60; do. do., second mortgage 1863, $63\frac{1}{2}$; Illinois Central, $100 shares, $90 paid, 16 dis.; Michigan Central, 72 and $72\frac{3}{4}$; New York Central seven per cent. convertible bonds, $74\frac{1}{4}$; and Pennsylvania Railway Bonds, second mortgage, $85\frac{1}{2}$ and 85.

TENDERS FOR BILLS ON INDIA.

The biddings for 40,00,000 rupees in Bills on India took place to-day at the Bank of England. The proportions allotted were:—to Calcutta, 22,24,000 rupees; to Bombay, 16,00,000 rupees; and to Madras, 1,76,000 rupees. The minimum price was, as before, 1*s.* $11\frac{1}{2}$*d.* per rupee on Calcutta and Madras, and 1*s.* $11\frac{3}{4}$*d.* on Bombay. The applications within the limits amounted to 126 lacs. Tenders on Calcutta at 2*s.* will receive about 18 per cent., and above that price in full; on Bombay, at 2*s.* $0\frac{3}{4}$*d.*, about 76 per cent.; and on Madras, at 2*s.* $0\frac{1}{8}$*d.*, in full.

NEW LOAN FOR VENEZUELA.

The Government of Venezuela, through the agency of the General Credit and Finance Company, have issued terms for a loan of 1,500,000*l.* The price of issue is 60*l.* for every 100*l.* in a 6 per cent. stock, the dividends to be paid half-yearly on April 1 and October 1. The money is to be applied to a settlement of the general finances of the country, to assist in making roads, to pay off existing claims, and to develope the agricultural resources and industry of the country. The loan interest and sinking fund are secured by a special hypothecation of the whole export duties of the republic. Out of the proceeds 120,000*l.* per annum will be applied to the payment of the interest and redemption of the debt, 90,000*l.* to the payment of interest, and 30,000*l.* to a sinking fund, this amount being augmented periodically by the interest on bonds bought up or redeemed.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

Since the settlement of the half-monthly account, business in the British Railway Share Market has shown rather more animation, the continuation of favourable traffic returns having brought forward buyers, and the brokers appear inclined to enter more into speculative transactions. Prices have varied to some extent, but on the whole the result is more favourable than otherwise. The transactions recorded exhibit a rise of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Metropolitan; of $1\frac{1}{2}$ in London, Chatham, and Dover; of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Caledonian, London and South-Western, North-Eastern (Berwick), Ditto (Leeds), and Ditto (York); and of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. in Great Northern and London and North-Western. On the other hand, there has been a decline of 3 per cent. in Scottish Central; of 1 per cent. in South Devon; of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. in South-Eastern; of $\frac{1}{2}$ in Great Western; and of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. in Lancashire and Yorkshire. Foreign railway shares have not been in so good request, but prices do not show any material variation. For shares in British possessions a much better business has been transacted, and prices are firmly supported.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

A variety of new undertakings have again been brought forward during the past week, and various others are only awaiting a favourable opportunity for launching. Amongst the most important schemes just introduced, are the Clyde Engineering and Iron Shipbuilding Company (Limited), under the auspices of the London Financial Association. The object is the purchase and extension of the old-established shipbuilding and engineering business of Messrs. Smith & Rodger, of Glasgow. The arrangement, it is said, will be most satisfactory, part of the purchase money being paid in cash and the remainder in shares; and it is stated that the establishment of a London Board will place the directors in a position of being able to contract at once with our own and foreign governments and the large shipping companies for business. The proposed capital is 500,000*l.*, in 10,000 shares of 50*l.* each, with a first issue of 5,000 shares. There will be required a deposit of 1*l.* on application and 1*l.* on allotment. The Home and Colonial Assurance Company (Limited), Fire, Life, and Marine, have just issued a prospectus, and the object of the undertaking is the consolidation of numerous small local and colonial institutions. In addition to the colonial connection sought to be preserved, it is also proposed to cultivate a home

business, a department likely to be supported through its foreign relations. It is also anticipated that, as a Fire Insurance Company, its business will be extensive. The proposed capital is 1,000,000*l.*, in 20,000 shares of 50*l.* each, with power to increase; but the first issue will be 10,000 shares only. Beyond the deposit of 1*l.* per share on application, and 1*l.* on allotment, it is not intended to make any call.—Another undertaking is called the British Shipowners' Company (Limited), and has been started at Liverpool with a proposed capital of 2,000,000*l.*, in 100,000 shares of 20*l.* each. The business of the Company will not be confined to one branch or class of ships, or to any particular trade, but will embrace all descriptions, so that every opportunity may be made available for employing its sailing or steam vessels, either of wood or iron, in any trade likely to be advantageous to its interests. Another announcement is that of the Oriental Financial Corporation, with a capital of 1,000,000*l.*, in 20,000 shares of 50*l.* each. The object is the promotion of financial, commercial, and industrial enterprise in India and the East by the application of English capital, for which it is stated there is ample scope. The directors propose to act as general financial agents, making advances on approved security, and also to undertake the investment of funds, either in the purchase of property, or in lending it out on mortgage.—The Brighton Brewery Company has been brought forward with a capital of 100,000*l.* in 10,000 shares of 10*l.* each, and it is intended to be an adjunct to the three large hotel companies recently established in that town. A brewery has already been purchased; consequently the expense and delay of building new premises will be avoided.—Another financial undertaking, to be called the English and Foreign Credit Company, has just been brought forward, with a capital of 2,000,000*l.*, in 40,000 shares of 50*l.* each. The first issue is to be for 20,000 shares only. The deposit to be 1*l.* per share on application, and 4*l.* on allotment. 15*l.* per share is all that is intended to be called up; but as the operations of the Company extend, additional capital will be raised. It is stated that promises of business have been secured, which will place the undertaking in a most favourable position. The general objects of the Company are described as 'the same as those of other companies of a kindred nature which have lately been started in this country.'—This evening two fresh important undertakings have been announced. The first is the International Land Credit Company (Limited), with a capital of 8,000,000*l.*, with power to increase. The first issue is to be for 6,000,000*l.*, in 300,000 shares of 20*l.* each, of which 250,000 are subscribed for on the Continent, the remaining 50,000 being reserved for England. There will be required a deposit of 1*l.* on application and 1*l.* on allotment. There will be two calls of 2*l.* each during the present year, after which it is not expected that further calls will be made. The founders of this Company have previously established in Belgium La Banque Hypothécaire Belge and La Banque de Crédit-Foncier et Industriel; in Holland, La Banque Hypothécaire Néerlandaise; and in Austria the Vindobona Mortgage Assurance Company. The present Company has been formed under the English law of limited liability, and with an office and direction in London, as well as at Brussels, and arrangements have been made with the Banque Hypothécaire Belge for a complete fusion, while a treaty has been concluded with the Banque de Crédit-Foncier et Industriel, which insures the benefit of their experience and a large and profitable business from the commencement, a minimum dividend of 11 per cent. on the paid-up capital being secured in any event as the result of the first year's working. The second undertaking is the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company (Limited), with a capital of 1,000,000*l.*, first issue 750,000*l.*, in 37,500 shares of 20*l.* each; deposit on application 1*l.* per share, and on allotment 3*l.* per share. The object of this Company is the making and maintaining telegraphic lines of communication, both submarine and on land, in every part of the world. Hitherto the manufacture of cables and wires has been conducted at two distinct establishments, viz., the wire-manufacture and the coating with gutta-percha. It is considered that it will be far more economical to perform the whole process under one establishment. Consequently, a contract has been entered into for the purchase of the entire machinery, &c., of the Gutta-Percha Company by Messrs. Glass, Elliott, & Co., and that firm have agreed to transfer to this Company, at the cost price to them, the works so acquired. A contract has also been entered into with Messrs. Glass, Elliott, & Co., for the purchase of their manufactory, stock, business, &c., the consideration being paid, to the extent of 100,000*l.*, in fully paid-up shares of the Company. Under these arrangements, the Company will enter into possession of the amalgamated businesses, and be entitled to their profits from the 1st January last.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKET.

Business in these departments continues without activity, purchases being confined to the bare provision for immediate requirements; but in what is passing, steady rates prevail. Imports, whilst slightly increased, are still very moderate; and the clearances, both for consumption and export, being of fair extent, stocks have further diminished. Cotton has been in limited demand, without material change in price, during the last few days. The corn trade does not present any new feature. A want of demand is experienced, and notwithstanding that arrivals are light, easier rates would have to be taken to effect sales of any extent. The American provision market is steady; fine butters make 90*s.* to 100*s.*, and cheese 54*s.* to 64*s.* per cwt. American bacon moves off slowly, at 44*s.* to 48*s.* for new. Lard is very unsaleable. Petroleum meets a good enquiry at 1*s.* 10½*d.* per gallon for refined on the spot, 2*s.* for July and August, and 2*s.* 2½*d.* for last four months' delivery. Crude offers at 15*l.* 10*s.* per ton. Linseed oil is more in demand, and the supply offering being light, the price has advanced to 33*s.* per cwt. Rape oil is firm at 43*s.* 6*d.* for foreign pale, and 41*s.* to 41*s.* 6*d.* for brown. There is no movement in fish oils, and quotations are little better than nominal. The tallow market is weaker, but without sensible depression, present rates being considered moderate. The hop trade is at the moment dull, and prices a shade weaker; American are quoted 105*s.* to 132*s.* per cwt., according to quality. Holders of sugars are firm, expecting a reduction of the duties when the Chancellor of the Exchequer brings forward his financial statement to-morrow. Meanwhile the trade have bought sparingly until to-day, when purchases were extended, and prices have risen 6*d.* to 1*s.* per cwt. Ceylon coffee during the last few days has slightly given way, in consequence of dull reports from the Continent; Brazil kinds are, however, firm, with more enquiry. Extensive tea sales have been in progress since Tuesday, and evidence a steady but not an active market. Spices sell well. Singapore pepper making the advanced price of 4*d.* to 4½*d.*; pimento is readily disposed of at 2½*d.* to 2⅝*d.* per lb. Jute has been rather largely offered to-day, but the demand has proved sufficient to support prices at about their previous level. Saltpetre is the turn cheaper, 5 per cent. having sold at 34*s.* 9*d.* cash. There is rather more doing in metals; spelter brings 21*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* on the spot, and 21*l.* 15*s.* May and June shipping. Lead is firm at 22*l.* for soft English pig. Scotch pig iron, after touching 59*s.*, closes 58*s.* 6*d.* to 58*s.* 9*d.* per ton cash.

LIVERPOOL, April 6.—There has been rather more demand for cotton during the last few days, and in this respect the market shows a decided improvement; but, nevertheless, prices remain without any material change. Holders show rather more disposition to realise, doubtless being influenced, to a certain extent, by the large quantity of cotton known to be on its way from India, China, and other countries. The chief demand at present is for American descriptions, which being scarce particularly for the better qualities, the price is well maintained; but for the inferior descriptions quotations are less steady. The sales this week have reached 32,000 bales, of which 8,000 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year amount to the present time to 492,180 bales, and to the same period last year they were 154,370 bales. There have been imported this year 433,357 bales, and to the same period in 1863, 369,375 bales. The exports this year have been 78,531 bales, and to the same period last year 81,171 bales. There have been taken for consumption during the present year 339,800 bales, and to the corresponding time in 1863, 237,600 bales. The quantity taken on speculation during this year has been 72,530 bales, and to the same last year 122,270 bales. The computed stocks at the present time are 296,560 bales, and at the corresponding period in 1863 they were 383,120 bales. The closing quotations this afternoon were: American descriptions, 24¾*d.* to 27½*d.*; Pernambuco, 26*d.* to 27*d.*; Maranhams, 26½*d.* to 26¾*d.*; Egyptian, 21½*d.* to 31½*d.*; Smyrna, 22*d.* to 22½*d.*; Surats, 12*d.* to 21½*d.*; China, 17*d.* to 17½*d.*; Japan, 18*d.* to 19½*d.*; and Peruvian, 26*d.* to 27*d.*

The markets at Manchester have not yet shown signs of animation from the recent depression, and business for all descriptions of goods continues very slack. For all sorts of hank-yarns suitable for shipping there is little or nothing doing, but in the Bolton class of yarns a rather better business has been doing, at full rates. Home-trade houses report a very small business, without any change in prices. The same inactivity pervades the cloth markets, and the buyers show no disposition to enter into transactions in the present unsettled state of affairs. Any offers that have been made have generally been at rates below what manufacturers could accept, and they seem tired of making concessions, and in many cases are more disposed to withdraw their stocks than accept the very low prices offered. There are not many orders in the market that appear to be of a pressing character, and there seems no disposition whatever to speculate. What few purchases have been made are said to have been effected at the very lowest quotations.

Among the Contents of THE INDEX *of March* 31 *are*:—

NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK AT HOME AND ABROAD.
CONFEDERATE OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS:—REPORT OF THE CONFEDERATE SECRETARY OF WAR.
THE WAR. THE ENTENTE CORDIALE.
AN INFAMOUS OUTRAGE.
THE CONFEDERATE COMMERCIAL POLICY.
LITERARY NOTES.
LETTER FROM NEW YORK.
LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.
PARIS TOPICS.
THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.
AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

DEATH.

M'COMB—February 25, at Memphis, Tennessee, David M'Comb, in his 45th year.

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THERE are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellow-men.

Contributions will be received by J. H. ASHBRIDGE, Treasurer, Walmer Buildings, Water Street, Liverpool; or in London, by HENRY HOTZE, Esq., 17 Savile Row, W.; in Paris, by H. O. BREWER, Esq., 6 Rue Circulaire; and DANIEL HUBBARD, Esq., 24 Rue Lord Byron.

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GENERAL THOMAS J. STONEWALL JACKSON.

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It has been suggested that some general recognition from Great Britain of the worth of such a man, by name, by race, and by character related to us, although the citizen of another land, would be a graceful token of friendly feeling from the old country to our kinsmen across the Atlantic.

The eminent sculptor, J. H. Foley, Esq., R.A., has undertaken to execute a Marble Statue, heroic size, of the General, for 1,000*l.*, while 500*l.* may be required for pedestal, inscription, and other extras. Accordingly, for 1,500*l.* a complete Statue of 'Stonewall' Jackson, by one of our most distinguished sculptors, may be prepared for transmission to his native country when the unhappy war shall have ceased. Towards raising this sum, the Subscriptions of our countrymen and countrywomen are earnestly solicited. Central and Local Committees, with auxiliary Ladies' Committees, are being formed to collect the necessary funds.

The undersigned will gladly receive Subscriptions until the final arrangements are made, and an account has been opened for 'General Jackson's Statue,' at Messrs. Coutts & Co.'s, Strand, London, W.C.

N.B.—It is not at all intended that Subscriptions to the Statue should imply any opinion on the merits of the American struggle. They will be taken solely and simply as a recognition of the rare personal merit of General Jackson.

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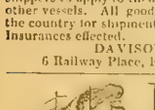

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Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

THE *Arabia* has brought New York advices to April 1. The threatened invasion of Kentucky has been commenced by General Forrest, with a force of cavalry and mounted infantry, stated to number 5,000 and 7,000. We heard of him last at Okolona, in North-eastern Mississippi, where he routed the Federal General Smith with about one-third his numbers. On the 24th ult. he attacked and captured Union City, on the north-western border of Tennessee, taking 500 Federal prisoners. Pushing forward into Kentucky, he crossed the entire State, a distance of about sixty miles, and captured the important town of Paducah, on the Ohio river, at the mouth of the Tennessee, with large quantities of Government property. He attacked the fort, but being destitute of heavy artillery did not capture it. Two Federal gunboats arriving from Cairo commenced shelling the Confederates, and the town was nearly destroyed. On the 29th, General Forrest was at Eddysville, on the Cumberland river, thirty-five miles east of Paducah. Another large Confederate force is reported as concentrated at Pound Gap, doubtless to act in concert with General Forrest in a grand effort to recover Kentucky, and with it Tennessee, compelling the evacuation of Chattanooga and Nashville.

It is reported that General Polk has joined his forces to those of General Johnston at Dalton, and that the Confederates were advancing their artillery, indicating an early movement on Ringgold and Chattanooga. A telegram announces that General Longstreet's cavalry has arrived at Marietta, Georgia; but as this place is seventy miles south of Dalton, it is probably an error.

Lieutenant-General Grant was still inspecting his forces. It is rumoured that he will remove General Meade, and offer commands to Generals M'Clellan and Fremont.

President Lincoln has issued a proclamation further defining the terms of amnesty.

Probably the most important news by the *Arabia* is that of the outbreak of serious riots in Illinois. These conflicts are between the Republicans and Democrats, or the war and peace parties. At Charleston, near the centre of the State, twenty or thirty were killed or wounded, and the peace men or 'copperheads,' 1,500 strong, were entrenched near the town. General Heintzelman, with 5,000 troops, had marched to suppress the insurrection. Outbreaks were threatened in other districts, and these disturbances are not unlikely to spread over the Western States.

THE Federal expedition up the Red River appears to have taken Alexandria, and there is a rumour of a reconnaissance as far as Natchitoches. Fort de Russey, on the river below Alexandria, was surprised by General Smith, commanding the Federal land forces, and taken with 8 guns and 283 prisoners. There appears to have been a race for the fort between General Smith and the Confederate General Taylor, which the former won by three hours. The Confederate iron-plated ram, *Missouri*, yet to be encountered, is believed to be able to sink any vessel in the Federal navy, and the *Webb* and *Mary Jane* ironclads, and a fleet of cotton gunboats, will dispute the passage to Shreveport. Even if successful, the expedition can only be one of plunder and destruction, like that of General Sherman in Mississippi, uniting the South in a more bitter hatred against its invaders. The object of the expedition is stated to be 'to free Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas by one movement, to destroy the rebel armies therein, and prepare the States for "reorganisation."' These States have an area of 340,000 square miles, and are to be conquered by a gunboat expedition up one of their ten or twelve great rivers. Its real objects are cotton and other plunder for speculators, and votes for Mr. Lincoln.

AMONG the last acts of the recent session of the Confederate Congress was the passage of resolutions thanking the Louisiana troops for enlisting for the war without limitation or conditions; Humphrey's Mississippi Brigade, McLaw's Division, for enlisting for forty years or the war: and the North Carolina troops, for enlisting for the war. The Confederate army, which has borne the brunt of battle for three years, has re-enlisted by companies, regiments, and brigades, without bounties or stipulations for reward. Since the war began, we are assured on every hand, the army was never so well provided, and the generosity and devotion of the people are worthy of the heroism of the army. It is the general opinion that at no time had the North so little prospect of carrying out its plan of conquest and subjugation.

BITTER complaints begin to be made in the Federal States of the war on the Churches levied by the Lincoln military authorities. In sections of the South occupied by Federal troops, the Presbyterian and Baptist churches have been taken forcible possession of, their preachers turned out, imprisoned, or banished, and Northern preachers installed in their places. This is justified on the Abolition theory that slaveholders cannot be Christians, though it is not very long since that nearly all Christians were slaveholders. The complaints made against this religious war are none the less bitter from the fact that no Roman Catholic church has been interfered with—probably for two reasons: the prayers are in Latin, which the Federal officers do not understand, and a considerable portion of the army is Roman Catholic.

THE reports of Federal Generals are pleasant reading for warm weather. We thought General Sherman's account of his expedition to, and retreat from, Meridian tolerably cool, but General Smith, the commander of the cavalry force that did *not* join him, beats him as decidedly as he was beaten by the Confederate General Forrest at Okolona. His expedition, he says, 'was perfectly successful, and the retreat was not at any time a rout, although there was some straggling.' Perhaps, however, both must yield the palm in the 'happy despatch' business to General Butterfield, who says of the Sherman raid that 'the captures of prisoners exceed all losses;' leaving, of course, a clear gain to the Federals!

PROMINENT New England Abolitionists are engaged in getting up a testimonial to George Thompson, the man, they say, who 'never turned his back upon a good cause, nor put his hand to a bad one.' It might be suggested that, as Mr. Thompson had done something to plunge America into a civil war now in its fourth year, involving a national debt equal in its burden to that of Great Britain, with an amount of bloodshed and suffering difficult to conceive of, it would be well to wait for the result of all this carnage, debt, and devastation, before rewarding any one for his agency in producing it. We have no desire to impeach motives, nor should we like to stand in George Thompson's shoes if men were rewarded according to their works.

'How many fleeces?' asks a Yankee kidnapper for the Federal army of his agent in Montreal. He is informed that he can have from ten to twenty a week at seventy-five dollars each. Federal agents are now at work in Canada, Ireland, England, and Germany, sending men to America upon every pretext, but, when landed, to be drugged, enlisted, robbed of their bounties by these greedy sharks, and sent to swell the armies in Virginia and Tennessee. Enlisted under false names, no help can reach them. If they have relations who apply to British Consuls, and enquiries are made, the ready answer is that no such names are on the army lists. Of course they are not. And these nameless men find nameless graves on the battle-fields of Virginia or in the swamps of Mississippi, 'and are never heard of more.'

IT would be the part of wisdom, clearly enough, for the Government at Washington to quietly submit to, if it cannot cheerfully accept, what it has no power to prevent, the inauguration of the Mexican Empire; but it cannot make up its mind to swallow the leek so nicely cooked and laid before it. We read that the House Committee of Foreign Affairs is preparing to report resolutions emphatically reaffirming the Monroe doctrine, which would simply be a declaration of war against the French and Mexican Empires. Too impatient to wait for the action of the committee, we are told that 'Mr. M'Dougall introduced a resolution to declare war against France for its attempt to place a throne within the Mexican Republic.' Nothing less than an American army, we are elsewhere told, will secure to American citizens their rights in one of the Mexican provinces. No doubt the abandonment of the Monroe doctrine, and the conversion into waste paper of so many Buncombe speeches based upon it, will be a great humiliation, but it will be better than a fleet of French ironclads in the Chesapeake, or off the harbour of New York.

THERE are certain significant items, cropping out of the most 'loyal' of Northern papers, which are better indications of the actual state of things than the most laboured leading articles. Such is the headline: 'Deficiency on all Calls, 315,000.' Such is the admission of the perhaps leading Government paper of New York, that 'the huge proportions and rapid increase of the public debt' are contributing 'most powerfully to create and spread despondency as to the result of the war.' Such is an elaborate argument, by a leading member of Congress, that a failure to pay the interest on the public debt 'would not retard the national growth for a single hour.' Such, above all, are the arguments in favour of a military despotism—the articles urging General Grant to seize upon the dictatorship, displace the imbecile Government at Washington, and bring the war to some kind of a termination. But General Grant must win his place at the head of the army before he can save the country.

THERE seems little danger of a lack of fighting material in the Confederate States.

In the debates on the Conscription Law in the Confederate Congress, it was stated that a call upon all persons liable to military duty, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, would give an army of 1,100,000 men. This estimate takes no account of 3,000,000 of negroes, who have not yet been called upon to fight. A Bill was, however, passed authorising President Davis to call out 20,000 negroes, slaves and free, to serve in the army as cooks, teamsters, &c.

IT has been centuries since the people of any civilised country have suffered calamities so great as the civil war in America is inflicting upon the negro, in whose behalf, as some pretend, it is waged by Northern fanatics and mercenaries. Torn from his home by invading armies—for he has not voluntarily left it—he has become the victim of cold, hunger, disease, idleness, filth, and demoralisation. On the Mississippi the negroes have died 'like rotten sheep;' at Washington whole camps were swept away by the small-pox: on the coast of South Carolina they rapidly fell victims to all the vices of the army, and a population that had been sober, orderly, industrious, and moral, became the reverse. Conscripted into the army, they are placed between the fire of the Confederates and the bayonets of their white comrades, and where four out of five are killed, as at Port Hudson, or Ocean Pond in Florida, they are said to 'fight like devils.' Of 3,000,000 of negroes in the Confederate States, it is probable that 200,000 have been driven from their homes by invading armies: but it is doubtful if one-third of this number is now living. Of the survivors, the able-bodied are in the Federal army, or working plantations for Yankee speculators. The aged, the weak, and the children are dying in camps of exposure and neglect.

Happily, this sad fate has come to comparatively few of the whole number. Had the hopes and expectations of very short-sighted philanthropists been realised, similar and greater calamities must have fallen upon millions. The negroes have been as deaf to the proclamation of Lincoln as they were to the call of his prototype, John Brown. Even Henry Ward Beecher sees that slavery is not dead. 'Dead!' he exclaims; 'we know that within the lines of the frontier army there are yet 3,000,000 of slaves. As yet we learn they are docile, amenable to the will of their masters, patient and subservient.' And that, it is not hard to see, is their safest and happiest condition.

THE testimony of the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher to the heroism of the army and people of the Confederate States will be accepted, we presume, by his English admirers. We must say that it is frankly given, and does him credit as a shrewd observer of the present and prognosticator of the future. The New York correspondent of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* says he rather startled his hearers, at the Plymouth Church, by an eulogy of the rebel troops, in which he said: 'Where shall we find such heroic self-denial, such upbearing under physical discomfort, such patience in poverty, in distress, in absolute want, as we find in the Southern army? They fight better in a bad

cause than you do in a good one; they fight better for a passion than you do for a sentiment. We believe them to be misguided, but we must do them the credit of saying they fight well, and bear up under trouble nobly; they suffer and do not complain; they go in rags, but do not rebel; they are in earnest for their personal liberty; they believe in it, and, if they can, they mean to get it.' We have the testimony of Mr. Sala that the same sentiments are freely expressed in the army of the Potomac, where the word 'rebel' is never heard—that term being left to the newspapers. It may be hoped that this wholesome respect will spread from the camp and pulpit to the press and the people.

After three years of fruitless effort, the mind of the North comes back to its first idea—the idea that led to the first great disaster of the war, and which has cost it the lives of two hundred thousand men—the 'On to Richmond!' 'Richmond must be destroyed!' General M'Clellan led a great army to the very suburbs of the city; his head-quarters were not more distant from the Capitol at Richmond than the Crystal Palace from St. Paul's; yet he was defeated day after day, and driven to the cover of his gunboats, and then back to the Potomac. At that day Richmond had scarcely any defences but the genius of the Confederate generals and the valour of their soldiers. Three years of persevering labour have made the city a fortress, with extensive and elaborate defences. As described in the *Boston Courier* by a refugee, they consist of an almost continuous outer embankment, with an inner line of works, all heavily armed, with a military road between the outer and inner defences. The citizens are drilled in companies, so that at the first alarm of the sentries every man is at his post, and General Pickett's division, stationed about thirty miles distant, can reinforce the militia at short notice. Richmond is probably secure enough against any force that can be brought against it, and can be taken only by first defeating the Confederate armies in the field.

The Presidential election, which is absorbing public attention in the Federal States, and to the same extent paralysing the warlike energies of the people, is operating as a 'fire in the rear' on the military commanders. Grant, Butler, Banks, Meade, Sherman, in the field, and Fremont and M'Clellan out of it, as well as Lincoln, Chase, Stanton, and we know not how many other civilians, are possible candidates. There were several more some time since, as Pope, Hooker, Burnside, Rosecrans, but their claims have been summarily disposed of. All the worse for those who remain. Mr. Lincoln, as the man in possession, has the friends of all the other candidates against him, since he must at all hazards be defeated. He is now daily arraigned in their newspaper organs, as the one sole cause of three years of failure and disaster. Lincoln has brought the republic to the verge of ruin. Lincoln has heaped up a mountain of debt which must be a perpetual burden or a perpetual disgrace. Lincoln—honest old Abe—is held responsible for such a state of widespread rascality and corruption as probably never existed since the Roman Empire was sold by auction to the highest bidder. It is hard to say whether the partisans of Fremont or of M'Clellan are the more bitter and violent in their denunciations of the existing Administration. By both the President is accused of incompetency and dishonesty, of ruining the nation while he is destroying the liberties of the people.

It is impossible that such a contest should go on with increasing bitterness for six months longer without producing the most serious effect upon the army and the people. In the army it is treason to vote for any one but Lincoln—with the people it may well be considered treason to vote for him.

Gold, which fluctuated from the 26th to the 31st between 63 and 68, closed on April 1 at 66¼ per cent. premium, in spite of Government efforts to 'bear' the market.

The lateness of the hour when the *Arabia's* mails were delivered in London, compels us to hold over, this week, our usual correspondence from New York and New Orleans.

ENGLAND.

It is officially announced that the Earl of Clarendon will shortly proceed to Paris upon a private mission to the Court of the Tuileries.

Our account last week of the doings of Garibaldi left him on board the *Sapphire* steaming to the Isle of Wight. There he became the guest of Mr. Seeley, M.P., at Brook House. On Thursday evening last he was entertained at dinner by the corporation of Newport and presented with an address. On Saturday the General crossed to Portsmouth and visited the dockyards and shipping. He was received by Vice-Admiral Sir Michael Seymour and Major-General Lord W. Paulet, C.B., Commander of the Western District. On Monday morning the General left Brook House at nine o'clock, and crossed to Southampton, where he was received by the Mayor and conducted by him to the railway terminus *en route* for London. The train with the General and his friends was to arrive at the Nine Elms station at 2.30 P.M. There an enormous crowd had collected, consisting of those persons who had tickets for the platform, and of the members of various associations destined to take part in the coming procession. The shed was decorated with flags inscribed, 'Welcome Garibaldi,' the 'Pure Patriot,' the 'Hero of Italy,' the 'Man of the People.' With much endeavour the police got the procession into some kind of order. There were bands, marshals, carriages, Shoemakers' Society, Temperance Society, Friendly Societies, Foresters, Odd Fellows, Freemasons, Executive Committees, Hungarian Nationality, Italian Nationality, Polish Nationality, Garibaldian Legionaries, Trades' Unions, and Working Men's Committees. On his arrival Garibaldi was received by Sir Robert Clifton, Colonel Sykes, and Messrs. Ewart, Ayrton, Locke, Dunlop, W. E. Forster, and Guildford Onslow, all members of the House of Commons, and also by some City aldermen and officials. When Garibaldi appeared with his two sons Ricciotti and Menotti, the cheering of the crowd in the open courtyard of the station was very great. Then the addresses from the City, the working men, and the Italian Committee were presented, and the General acknowledged each in a few plain words. Those from the City and the Italian Committee were of the ordinary stamp, that from the working men was remarkable enough. It not only offended by its turgid language and fulsome adulation, but also by an allusion to Joseph Mazzini, whom it spoke of as 'illustrious' and as 'having done so much for Italy, freedom, and humanity.' That address was signed on behalf of the working men of Great Britain's metropolis by a person called Robert Hartwell, and, whether it emanated from that individual, from Mr. Potter, or any other pretentious demagogue, was simply a gross insult to the working classes of England. After the reading of these addresses, an Italian lady, 'got up' in a most amazing costume, rushed forward, and astonished the public with an illustration of the powers of an '*improvisatrice*' of her native country. When her oration had at length terminated, Garibaldi made his way to the carriage, drawn by four horses, provided for him by the Duke of Sutherland. Then the procession commenced to march past, and occupied an hour in so doing, the poor General standing the while, and seemingly thankful that at last the mob had ceased to wring off the hands of himself and his sons. After the procession had passed, Garibaldi's carriage moved forward, and slowly made its way through the packed masses in Miles Street and Bond Street, to find, on debouching into Kennington Lane, a seemingly impassable barrier of living creatures. Indeed, it was only by driving the pole of the first carriage into the mass and chancing the consequences that a way could be obtained for the vehicles to pass. In the Westminster Road matters were, if possible, more hopeless, and so slow was the rate of progress that Westminster Bridge was not reached till past six o'clock. Twenty-five minutes were consumed in crossing the river, and at least an hour in passing along Parliament Street, Charing Cross, and Pall Mall. The multitude assembled on Charing Cross, at the foot of the Haymarket, and at Waterloo Place, was truly marvellous, while the windows of the clubs and houses were filled with ladies, and scaffolds in every available position were packed with occupants. The General reached Stafford House at twenty minutes to eight o'clock, after a drive of five hours and twenty minutes, and was received by his noble host the Duke of Sutherland. Garibaldi has every reason to be satisfied with the reception accorded to him. Doubtless the mob was disorderly enough, and afforded to the quiet observer the speculation that curiosity, not enthusiasm, had brought the great bulk of the people together. Never was so motley a crowd seen. The artisans and mechanics mustered in good force, and that, too, not in their holiday attire; but a considerable proportion of the multitude consisted of those persons whose clothes and appearance betoken that they are not industrious workmen, and whose lives certainly must be classed as 'existences problématiques.' These people are found in abundance in great cities, but only appear in public on the occasion of a pageant, an illumination, or a row. It is at least to be hoped that when these worthies pressed around the General with their boisterous clamour and rude violence, they were not regarded by him as the English people. The foreign element was in great force, and the novelist would have found ample materials for descriptions of any number of dark conspirators. Garibaldi was cheered considerably. The ladies were vigorous enough, and there was a sufficient waving of flags and kerchiefs.

There was no attempt at any disturbance on political grounds, though men were to be seen marching about in the crowd fiercely demanding of the bystanders whether they were for the Pope or Garibaldi, the intensity of their manner leading one to suppose that no third course was open to a peaceable citizen. The streets of the metropolis were monopolised till early dawn by multitudes not sober, and decidedly boisterous.

On Tuesday, about noon, the General left Stafford House and visited Lord Palmerston, and then, accompanied by the Duke of Sutherland, drove to the beautiful villa of the Dowager Duchess of Sutherland at Chiswick. There a brilliant assemblage of Dukes and Duchesses, Earls and Ladies, met him. Among the most notable were the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, the Earl and Countess of Clarendon, the Earl of Granville, the Earl and Countess Russell, Viscountess Palmerston, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mrs. Gladstone, and the Earl and Countess of Shaftesbury. The General walked in the glorious grounds of Chiswick, and planted a cedar on the lawn. After luncheon the General left, and on his return visited Mr. Stansfeld, M.P., at the now famous house in Thurloe Square. In the course of the day the Duke of Wellington, the Earl of Harrowby, Sir J. D. Hay, the Lord Mayor, and other persons of mark called on the General. It is a matter perhaps deserving a passing thought, that up to Tuesday evening no Conservative of any position had been invited to meet or had called on Garibaldi. However, on Wednesday night there was a dinner and reception at Stafford House, at which all parties were represented. The General will attend the Royal Italian Opera at Covent Garden to-night. The opera of 'Norma' and the two principal acts of 'Massaniello' will be performed on the occasion.

The costs incurred by the Bishop of Salisbury in the prosecution of the Rev. Dr. Rowland Williams in the case of the 'Essays and Reviews' amounted to the sum of 2,000*l.*, for the payment of which His Lordship is, of course, personally liable. However, more than two-thirds of the amount have already been subscribed in the diocese.

At a meeting of the Common Council of the City of London held on Thursday last, Mr. Alderman Phillips proposed that 'the thanks of the Corporation be respectfully tendered to Sir Moses Montefiore for the signal services rendered by him to the cause of humanity, by having undertaken missions to various countries for the relief of those oppressed for their religious convictions, and more especially for his journey to Morocco, to solicit from His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of that country that his Jewish and Christian subjects should be relieved from all civil and religious disabilities.' The resolution was prefaced by an eloquent speech on the part of the worthy Alderman, who gave an admirable sketch of the journey and reception of Sir Moses. The resolution, having been seconded by Deputy Elliott, was carried with acclamation, and was followed by another resolution to the effect that Sir Moses should on an early day be invited to Guildhall to receive the compliment.

Lieutenant-Governor Eyre has been appointed Lieutenant-General, Governor-in-Chief, and Vice-Admiral of Jamaica. The Hon. Manners Sutton has been appointed Governor of Trinidad. Sir Richard Graves McDonnell has been appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia. Mr. Anthony Musgrave has been appointed Governor of Newfoundland, in the room of Sir A. Bannerman. Mr. R. Rawson, C.B., has been appointed Governor of the Bahamas, in the room of Mr. Bayley, C.B. We presume that this change may be explained by the correspondence between the Duke of Newcastle and Governor Bayley, which was published by us last week.

General James Ahmuty, the oldest officer in the Indian army, has recently died at Lahore. He was gazetted to the Bengal Artillery in 1790, at the time when Tippoo Sultan was at the height of his renown and power. He took part in the siege of Delhi in 1803, in the very same month in which Sir Arthur Wellesley won the battle of Assaye.

As we announced briefly last week, the great *Alexandra* case has been brought to a close by a judgment of the House of Lords, the effect of which judgment is that the verdict for the claimants of the ship stands. It is unnecessary to go over the ground already so often trodden by us, and to relate the history of the trial or the argument and decision of the Court of Exchequer. It will be remembered that on the day before the case was heard in the Exchequer, the Barons, on the application of the Attorney-General, framed certain rules under the authority of the 26th section of the Queen's Remembrancer's Act. That section empowered the Barons to apply to the revenue side of the Exchequer the provisions of the Common Law Procedure Acts of 1852 and 1854, for the purpose of making the process, practice, and mode of pleading of the revenue side uniform with that of the plea side. The latter statute had granted in all *civil* suits an appeal from the decision of any one of the three Courts at Westminster, wherever a rule *nisi* for a new trial had been made absolute or discharged. The appeal was to the Exchequer Chamber, and thence to the House of Lords. The Barons thereupon drew up certain rules, ordaining and regulating an appeal in revenue cases from their own court to the courts above of precisely similar character to that which obtains in civil actions. On the strength, then, of these rules, the Attorney-General took the cause to the Exchequer Chamber. That court, however, decided that the Legislature had not given the Barons the power to make rules which should bind the Exchequer Chamber to hear an appeal from a lower court. The Crown then appealed to the House of Lords to reverse this judgment, and the cause was argued before their Lordships on the 11th, 14th, and 15th March. On April 6 their Lordships gave judgment. The Lord Chancellor and Lords St. Leonards, Chelmsford, and Kingsdown agreed with the majority of the Exchequer Chamber, while Lords Cranworth and Wensleydale upheld the validity of the rules. The Lord Chancellor gave judgment to the following effect:—The appeal, he said, depended on the question whether the rules made by the Court of Exchequer on November 4, 1863, were warranted by the power contained in the 26th section of the statute of the 22nd and 23rd year of the Queen, commonly called the Queen's Remembrancer's Act. The Common Law Procedure Act of 1854 gave new rights of appeal from decisions on motions for new trials, and defined and bound certain courts to entertain those appeals. The operation of the Act was expressly limited to the superior courts of common law. Therefore another exercise of legislative authority was necessary to make such rights of appeal applicable to suits between the Crown and subject. The Barons had assumed the power of determining at their pleasure whether, in certain cases, these rights of appeal should or should not exist. By the 20th section of the Queen's Remembrancer's Act the power of appealing by a Bill of Exceptions was for the first time created on the revenue side, but not the right of appeal contended for, and so the impression was almost irresistible that the latter right was intentionally omitted. Then as to the said 26th section, the Barons were authorised to make rules as to the process, practice, and pleading of the revenue side, and to apply to the revenue side the provisions of the Acts relating to the plea side in matters of process, practice, and pleading, so as to effect uniformity therein. The word 'practice' was equivalent to the *cursus curiæ*, or regulation of proceedings within the court itself. Could then sections creating new rights of appeal be denominated as provisions respecting 'process, practice, and pleading?' It seemed absurd to denominate the paramount right of entering a superior court, and invoking its aid to redress the error of the court below, as a part of the practice of the inferior tribunal. No one using the common language of lawyers would call those rules provisions relating to the practice of the Court of Exchequer. They were, in fact, legislative enactments purporting to create a new jurisdiction in the Court of Exchequer Chamber and the House of Lords, and prescribing the mode in which such new jurisdiction should be exercised. In conclusion, His Lordship said that it was

a subject of deep regret that any rules should have been made expressly with a view to the determination of a particular cause. Four years had elapsed without the necessity of such rules occurring to the Barons. On the eve of the argument of the motion for a new trial in this important case, the rules in question had been made without due deliberation. The result was that the efforts made to settle a question of the gravest importance, and most essential for the guidance of the Government, and regarded with great expectation, had been rendered abortive; or, to speak correctly, the *mons parturiens* of this great cause, raised with so much labour and expense, would produce nothing but the ridiculous issue of some discordant opinions on the meaning of the word 'practice.' The learned Lord then moved their Lordships that the appeal of the Crown be dismissed with costs.

Few more able judgments on a purely technical point have ever been delivered than that of the Lord Chancellor, and it will be quite unnecessary to give here even an abstract of the judgments given by the three learned Lords who coincided with the view taken by the Lord Chancellor. At the same time it is right to mention that the speech of Lord Chelmsford was eminently luminous and exhaustive, and that those of Lords St. Leonards and Kingsdown were logical and precise. On the other side, Lord Cranworth did not belie his great reputation; and Lord Wensleydale displayed that wisdom which in former days made the name of Baron Parke so justly celebrated. It perhaps may be worthy of remark that the rules framed by the Barons of the Exchequer found support in the opinions of the two noble Lords who formerly occupied seats in that court, and their defence of the course taken by the Barons, therefore, partook of a chivalrous character. We shall endeavour to give very briefly the main points urged by Lord Wensleydale. He held that the words in the latter half of the 26th section, taken in their plain grammatical sense, allowed the Barons to frame rules embodying all or any of the provisions of the Common Law Procedure Acts of 1852 and 1854. Such a power was not unreasonable, and precedents of such delegations of authority by the Legislature were not wanting. Nor again did the express importation by the Legislature into the Queen's Remembrancer's Act of certain provisions of the Acts of 1852 and 1854 afford any inference that no other provisions of those Acts were to be applied by the Barons. There was, in fact, special reason for the express enactment of those important provisions. Finally, the intention declared was that the process, practice, and mode of pleading of the revenue side of the Exchequer should be assimilated to that of the plea side. The word 'practice' had the same meaning as in the preamble of the Act of 1852. Suits were begun and ended in the same court. The cause was not removed. Execution issued from the same court, the Court of Error giving its assistance to come to a right conclusion. In fact, the whole proceeding from the beginning to the end of suits constituted the practice of the court. The objection that the rules were framed to affect pending suits was not in his opinion valid.

The hearts of the men who delight in the English race-horse and the thousand excitements of the turf are once more gladdened by the return of the racing season. Epsom opened the campaign in good earnest last week with a short and merry meeting, and Newmarket this week wears its full air of business. The principal events at Epsom were the City and Suburban Handicap and the Great Metropolitan Stakes. For both prizes there were numerous competitors, and those, too, of no mean stamp; while the contests were magnificent in their severity, the wagering heavy, the crowds great, and the weather splendid. Twenty-five animals went to the post for the City and Suburban, of whom the favourites were Mr. Jackson's Veterinarian, Count de Lagrange's Jarnicoton, and the Duke of Beaufort's Lord Zetland. The odds of 20 to 1 were betted against Merry Hart, and those of 40 to 1 against Bradamante. The ground traversed was the last mile and a quarter of the Derby course. At the distance the race was left to Lord Burleigh, Bradamante, and Merry Hart; but in the final struggle his Lordship succumbed to the weight of 8 st. 12 lbs., and Merry Hart, challenging in the last few strides, defeated Bradamante by a length. The value of the stakes was 1,300*l.*, and the owner of the winner also won 7,000*l.* in bets. Probably our readers will remember that Merry Hart was beaten by a head last October for the Cambridgeshire Stakes, and that a mistake in the weights on that occasion alone deprived her of victory. Therefore it is a matter of great pleasure to find the popular Earl of Westmoreland to some extent consoled for that disappointment. For the Metropolitan Stakes, which were contested on Friday last, eleven horses went to the post, and of these Lord Zetland, Joco, and King Charming were the favourites. The length of the course was two miles and a quarter, and the stakes were worth about 800*l.* At the Stand, Joco, Touch-and-Go, King Charming, and Major were leading exactly in line, and the probability of a dead heat with the four was imminent. Lord Zetland had come with a rush at the finish, but the leaders closed in, and he could not pierce the rank. Speculation vainly endeavoured to determine the winner, until the judge awarded the victory to Mr. William Day's Joco by a short head, Touch-and-Go, King Charming, and Major running a dead heat for the second place. We defer any report of the Newmarket Meeting to next week.

The new steamship *Matilda*, from Cardiff for Bermuda, and laden with coal, was wrecked in a dense fog off Lundy Island, in the Bristol Channel, on Monday, April 4. The captain and crew were saved, but lost everything. The vessel was insured for about 20,000*l.*

THE CONTINENT.

On March 29, a dashing descent was made by the Danes upon the village of Assendrup close to Veile; the Prussians were surprised, and suffered a loss of twenty-two hussars and twenty-three horses. The assailants, finding that the force stationed there was too strong to be further trifled with, retired to their ships, leaving the Prussians in a fury of impotent indignation which unfortunately vented itself upon the innocent farms and homesteads of the neighbourhood.

The projected flank attack on the position of Düppel was attempted by the Austro-Prussian forces on the 3rd inst.; the pontoons were brought to the sea-shore, and the troops furnished with the necessary provisions. Such, however, was the force of the current and the violence of the north-west wind, that after several ineffectual trials they were forced to desist. The Danes were apparently quite prepared to receive them on the opposite shore, and the presence of seven Danish cruisers in the vicinity may doubtless have had its effect in shaking the resolution of the allies.

The siege operations of Düppel are going on very slowly; a fresh parallel has been opened under cover of a smart advance of the Prussian outposts; eighty fresh guns of heavy calibre are on their way to reinforce the siege train. Nevertheless, the criticism of a distinguished French officer on the Prussian works is somewhat remarkable as contrasted with these accounts of siege preparations; it is to the effect that the Prussian trenches are of no value whatever for the protection of breaching batteries, and can only be useful for the purpose of covering the advance of a body of men, and of throwing them somewhat nearer the line of hostile fortification.

On the morning of the 11th inst. an assault was made by the Prussians upon Bastion No. 8 of the defences of Düppel, and a weaker attack upon the Danish left wing. Both attempts were totally unsuccessful. A German letter of the same date, states that the fire from the bastions had become very feeble, and that the Danes were preparing to evacuate their entrenchments.

The bombardment of Sonderburg was continued fitfully through several days, and has resulted in the utter annihilation of the little town. A semi-official account of the affair states that, about an hour after the cannonade had begun, the Danes sent a flag to require the Allies to remove their sick and wounded from the church at Düppel, as they found it necessary to direct their fire upon it; to this an answer was returned that they were welcome to do so. The Danes availed themselves of the permission, while the Prussians recommenced their bombardment of the devoted town, with what results we know too well. This, in German minds, constituted a violation on the part of the Danes of the compact whereby both Düppel and Sonderburg were to be respected; and this sophism they allege as a justification of their conduct. Another excuse given is, that Sonderburg, although nominally unarmed, was in reality a military position of the enemy, filled with men and warlike stores; moreover, that a notice of intended bombardment was sent upwards of a month ago, and that the peaceful inhabitants of the town had deserted it, carrying away all their movables. Technically speaking, the first excuse given is a question of law, while this is a question of fact; and, treating it as such, we shall more readily admit the disinterested evidence of correspondents on the spot than the biassed conjectures of the belligerent press.

From Jutland Proper we hear that several cavalry skirmishes have taken place in the neighbourhood of Fredericia and of Horsens; the cavalry are probably used to lay the more distant country under contribution, while the towns have to suffer under the immediate oppression of the military power. The exactions made on the town of Horsens during twelve days amounted to $70,000 in cash and $50,000 in kind, or 8,400*l.* and 6,000*l.* respectively.

The Prince Admiral of Prussia has made an abortive attempt to assert the existence of his navy by a reconnaissance with the fleet of gunboats outside the port of Stralsund. The sea was high, and a Danish frigate in dangerous proximity; the gunboats therefore returned to the security of their harbour.

A circular has been addressed by the Danish Foreign Secretary to the Representatives of that monarchy at the European courts, commenting in the strongest language on the political conduct of the Allies, not only in the Duchies but also in Jutland Proper. After professing the most tender regard for the integrity of the Danish monarchy, they have seized every opportunity—nay, have gone out of their way to insult and to do violence to the royal authority. Loyal officers have been dismissed and notorious rebels promoted; the King's arms have been torn down from public buildings; the circulation of his money prohibited; his name violently suppressed, even in the prayers and services of the church. Secessionist demonstrations are everywhere looked upon with favour by the authorities of the invasion, who do not even scruple to permit factious assemblages to proclaim solemnly the accession of the Pretender to the 'ducal crown.' The ministers addressed are requested to communicate these facts to the Courts to which they were accredited.

As the day for the meeting of the Conference approaches, the Continental press takes wider flights, and launches into broader seas of speculation. Luckily we have two facts which beam through the fog and obscurity of conjecture with a certain if not reassuring light. The first is the despatch addressed by M. Drouyn de Lhuys to the Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne, French Ambassador in London. The French Minister dwells on the natural sympathy and traditional friendship of France for Denmark, but confesses that the treaty of 1852, on which the quarrel began, is of a most anomalous nature. According to that treaty, Denmark was placed in a certain position with regard to some of the European Powers totally independent of any engagements, but with regard to other Powers conditionally on the fulfilment of divers requirements. Moreover, of the European States, some had withheld, others had withdrawn, their assent to the treaty. The Federal Diet in particular had entirely ignored it, as not having been a party to its ratification. The main cause of the difficulties is the rivalry of populations, and the main remedy for them lies in an appeal to the wishes of the populations. Such are the official sentiments of the French Minister, and they have been received, by the Prussian press at least, with a clamorous welcome. The result of such an appeal will be, they doubt not, the Germanisation of Holstein and Southern Slesvig; Northern Slesvig may be incorporated into the Danish monarchy if it pleases. These ideas, however, are by no means re-echoed by the Austrian organs, which are perfectly aware of the danger of driving the principle of universal suffrage to its logical extremity. The divergence of tone between the two Cabinets is becoming more and more decidedly marked; and if, as is most probable, the Conference is to divide itself into two camps, we may expect to see the two great German Powers on opposite sides. The other great fact, which throws some light on the possible event of the Conference, is the adherence of the Federal Diet to the proposition. Without following our foreign contemporaries into the quicksands of speculation, we may at least infer from this fact that the German Diet are ready to discuss the difficulties on European grounds, without dragging in the pitiful question of the succession of the Duke of Augustenburg.

The day of meeting has been changed from the 12th to the 20th inst., in order to give the German Diet ample time to consider the question and appoint a representative. France will be represented by her Ambassador at the Court of St. James's, Denmark by MM. Quaade, Krieger, and Bille (Danish Minister to England). M. Quaade resigns his portfolio of Foreign Affairs to Bishop Mourad during his temporary absence from Copenhagen. The representatives of Prussia will be Count Bernstoff, Ambassador to the English Court, and Herr von Balau, formerly Minister at Copenhagen.

The States of Holstein have held a meeting, at which forty out of forty-nine members attended: a resolution was voted protesting against any decision of the Conference of London which may in any way interfere with the rights of the Duchies; it further declares that the meeting acknowledges no sovereign but their hereditary ruler Frederick VIII. (the Duke of Augustenburg).

The members of the Extraordinary Rigsraad of Denmark have been elected. The result of the elections is that the Second Chamber is ultra-Danish, and desires to maintain a political union between the component parts of the kingdom; the First Chamber takes broader views, and would be satisfied to see Denmark Proper bounded by the Eider, and all due allowance made for differing nationalities.

A remark made by a Bavarian journal shows the length to which pretensions may be carried if not kept in proper check: it asserts that a large body of Germans may be found in Slesvig who, in consequence of the inhuman regulations of the Danish Government, have actually forgotten their native language, and are to all appearance Danes. To such unfortunates we suppose it behoves the Federal Diet to hold out a helping hand, to awaken their indignation against the wrongs which they have suffered and ought to feel, and by a judicious supply of German grammars and dictionaries to restore them to the place which they have so pitiably lost. Now to force any man to change his nationality is bad; to drag him under the dominion of the Federal Diet is worse; but to make him learn German against his will is simply an unparalleled atrocity.

After the most conflicting statements with regard to the intentions of the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian, it is a relief to find that all difficulties have at length been surmounted; it is believed that the Archduke has renounced for himself and his heirs of both sexes all pretensions or claims to the throne of Austria, so long as he or his dynasty sit on the throne of Mexico. The formal offer and acceptance of the Crown took place on the 10th inst. at Miramar. The answer of the Archduke to the deputation was made in the Spanish language. His Imperial Highness recognised the offer as the result of a universal vote, and acknowledged that all the guarantees that he had at first demanded had been supplied by the generosity of the Emperor of the French. He took possession of the constitutional power given to him by the nation, and would keep it only so long as was necessary to create regularity in Mexico, and to organise liberal institutions. He expressed his earnest desire to place the monarchy on a constitutional basis; he was determined to respect liberty, and to enforce a respect for order; a thorough concord would give Mexico the blessings of strength, prosperity, and peace. He again expressed his gratitude to the illustrious Sovereign 'whose friendly aid has made the regeneration of our lovely country possible,' and concluded by informing the deputation that he should, before leaving Europe to take possession of his throne, obtain the blessing of the Pope, which would now be doubly precious to him. The new Emperor was to leave Miramar for Rome on the 11th inst.; but it is said that a slight attack of fever has at present confined him to his old residence.

By the permission of the Emperor of Austria, a body of 3,000 men and 300 sailors is to be raised in the Austrian dominions for service under the Crown of Mexico. The force is to consist of three battalions of infantry, one regiment of hussars, a company of pioneers, and a battery of artillery. Two hundred and sixty officers are also required for the service, 200 of whom have already volunteered.

An important discovery has been lately made in the neighbourhood of Turin in the shape of a mine containing rich veins of nickel, copper, and cobalt. Some question having already arisen as to the propriety of a new coinage, this accession to the mineral wealth of the country is most welcome. Those of our readers who have travelled in Switzerland will remember, with pleasure, the clean and extremely pretty small coinage with which that

country is blessed, all made of the metal nickel. After the traveller has got over the first propensity to give to each silvery 20-centime piece the value of half a franc, he will acknowledge that for cleanliness, portability, and general convenience, there is nothing like nickel.

Apropos of money matters, the Papal Government is projecting a new loan of 40,000,000 francs (1,600,000*l.*). The Italian press, in commenting on this, quietly asks, who is to take the responsibility for the sum? The Italian Government was cognisant of the state of the Papal finance in 1859 and 1860, and was then ready to take upon itself the burden; but it protests that it is not to suffer for all the extravagances which a moribund Government has indulged in since that time.

The movements of General Garibaldi have created a considerable stir in Europe; of course the press has made much of his visit to England, the French viewing it in too political a light, the Italians seeing in it, for some reason, a general adherence to the principles of the Italian Ministry. The Spaniards have contrived to find out that they also are concerned in the affair, inasmuch as the General in passing Gibraltar is said to have dropped a friend or two, or to have there met Señor Olozaga, the Spanish Progressionist, or to have required a certain number of Mazzinists to rendezvous at that place, with a view to a revolution in Spain and Portugal. There appears to be little foundation for any of these stories, and the most effectual preventive for any such occurrences as are feared is now being put into operation by the Spanish Ministry: the press law is to be seriously modified, and a restraint put, except in very extraordinary cases, on the preliminary seizure of newspapers.

A visit was lately projected by the King and Queen of Portugal to their Imperial Majesties in Paris. A lively opposition to it has for some reason been started in the capital, going so far as to call such a visit 'impolitic and unnecessary.' The project has, for the present at least, been given up.

Two Austrian frigates and a gunboat have left the port of Lisbon, destined for the Baltic.

The National Government of Poland has found it necessary to publish a circular denying the truth of the Russian statements that the members of the National Government had been discovered, and its organisation annihilated. Great irritation is felt among the Government officials at an order emanating from Prince Tscherkaskoj, the new Governor of Poland, ordering all reports to be made in the Russian language. In vain the officials pleaded that they knew no language but Polish: the Prince retorted that he knew none but Russian, and would learn no other. A strange story is told concerning the Polish refugee Kutzschinski, captured lately by the Russian Consul at Constantinople. His compatriots, finding that the Turkish Government declined to assist him, organised a plan for rescuing him on his way to the Russian steamer that was to take him to Odessa. Unfortunately, they mistook a Greek assassin, whom the police were carrying off to prison, for their countryman, and made a premature attack. The Russians, thus warned, took other means of transporting their prisoner to a place of security. Prince Couza, of the United Principalities, is in disgrace with the Russian Government for the favour which he has shown to Polish refugees. The Russians have threatened, on a continuance of such conduct, to occupy the northern frontier of Moldavia.

A report has been presented to the French Government on the subject of the currency, which will probably bring about a remarkable change in the value of French coinage. The report states that, since the beginning of the present century, 246,171,107 coins have been struck, varying in value from 50 centimes to 2 francs; in spite of this enormous supply, there has been so great a deficiency in small change that, out of 89 departments, 6 only have not made it a matter of special complaint. The causes of the deficiency are, first, the general increase of business, and, secondly, the drain caused by the debased currency of some neighbouring countries. It is recommended that the intrinsic value of each coin should be reduced by making it of $\frac{835}{1000}$ instead of $\frac{9}{10}$ of fine silver. In so doing, France will only be following the example of England, Russia, Portugal, Brazil, the United States, &c., and will speedily be followed by Belgium.

The Boulevards of Paris are to be completed in the course of the year. When finished, they will be some miles long and 60 yards broad; set with a double avenue of trees, and lighted by four rows of lamps: they expand into 40 'places,' at different points of their course: and will be adorned throughout their whole length with benches for the accommodation of the tired wayfarer. Augustus boasted that he found Rome of brick and left it of marble; Napoleon may say that he found Paris in barricades and left it in squares.

The Duc de Luynes has performed an interesting feat in transporting a small steamer to the shores of the Dead Sea on the backs of camels; its dimensions were not large, it being only 30 feet long, and consequently easily put together on the spot; but its appearance has frightened the phlegmatic Arabs out of their composure. They assert that it is an evil spirit risen from those accursed depths, and have accordingly dubbed it Shaitan (Satan).

The Emperor, on the request of Prince Murat, has given the sum of 10,000 francs to be run for at the Vincennes races on May 29.

The French soldier has carried all his gaiety and bonhomie with him to Mexico; he soon worked his way into the affections of the natives, who had bitter cause to fear the approach of a military force. He now drinks 'pulque' with the Mexican citizen with as much cordiality as if it were the cognac of his native café.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

THE BUDGET.

On Thursday the House of Commons was inconveniently crowded to hear the financial statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. From an early hour in the morning a number of persons were in waiting for admission to the Strangers' Gallery. A great many peers were in the members' galleries, and foreign Ministers and other distinguished persons filled the space under the galleries. Mr. Gladstone did not disappoint his eager and expectant audience. Whatever may be the difference of opinion as to the merits of the Budget, no one can deny that the speech by which it was introduced was singularly clear and eloquent. A glance at the facts and figures with which Mr. Gladstone had to deal will show that his oratorical skill can scarcely be overpraised when he could for three hours so discourse on them as to charm one of the most fastidious and exacting audiences ever assembled.

Mr. Gladstone commenced by explaining at length the position of the country and the progress of the revenue. In the past financial year, the distress in Ireland was mitigated, Lancashire was rather better off than in 1862-3, and we had an unusually abundant harvest, and therefore he considers that it was an average financial year. Our expenditure since 1859 has been as follows:—

1859-60	70,017,000
1860-61	72,504,000
1861-62	70,838,000
1862-63	69,302,000
1863-64	67,056,000

The expenditure for the past year, as compared with 1859-60, shows a diminution of 2,961,000*l.*; but, allowing for the costs of fortifications, it shows a diminution of 3,286,000*l.* But in 1860, terminable annuities fell in, which relieved the country of an annual charge of 2,146,000*l.* From a peculiar arrangement of accounts, 1859-60 was charged with 2,540,000*l.* in respect to the terminable annuities, and therefore that amount must be deducted to correct the above estimate. That is to say, the reduction in our expenditure last year, as compared with 1859-60, was 740,000*l.*, independent of the saving from the falling in of the terminable annuities.

Turning to the revenue, Mr. Gladstone was able to point to a steady and important increase. In 1860-1, since which time we have imposed no fresh taxes, the revenue was 70,283,000*l.*, which was larger than the revenue for the past year by 1,657,000*l.* [We wish to give the right hon. gentleman's statement as clearly as possible, and therefore omit all details that do not affect the main results.] But this falling off in revenue is only apparent. Since 1860-1 the following taxes have been taken off:—

3*d.* in the pound on Income Tax	£3,525,000
Paper Duty	1,340,000
Reduction in Tea Duty	1,660,000
Charges on Shipping	143,000
	£6,668,000

Consequently, instead of diminishing, the revenue in these years has increased by 5,011,000*l.*, or at the rate of 1,670,000*l.* per annum. The elasticity of the revenue is shown by comparing the receipts of 1862-3 with those of 1863-4. It was estimated that the remission of taxes would involve in the latter year a loss of 3,343,000*l.*, whilst the actual loss was 677,000*l.* Going back to 1853, Mr. Gladstone calculates the annual increment of the revenue at 1,000,000*l.*—that is, independently of additional taxation, and from 'its own proper and inherent vigour.'

Before introducing the Budget for the year, Mr. Gladstone reviewed the progress of trade and the effect of free-trade legislation. Since 1842, when free-trade legislation commenced, our trade is three times greater. The account for the past three years is as follows:—

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
1861	217,485,024	159,632,498	377,117,522
1862	225,716,976	166,168,134	391,885,110
1863	248,980,942	195,974,773	444,955,715

Respecting the effects of the repeal of the paper duty, Mr. Gladstone said the importation of foreign paper, which, in 1859, was 18,000 cwt., had risen in 1863 to 197,000 cwt. In 1859 we imported materials for paper-making 115,000 cwt., and in 1863 731,000 cwt. The price of paper has been reduced to a greater extent than the amount of the duty. Printing paper is nine farthings per pound cheaper than it was in 1859, whilst the duty remitted is only six farthings per pound. Mr. Gladstone thought that the withdrawal of protection would give a stimulus to the trade, and compel the makers to exercise skill and invention. He cited the case of a maker who found, in October last, that his paper cost 57*l.* a ton, and did not pay, but who by improvements in process and the use of chemical agents had reduced the cost of a paper equally good, if not superior, to 39*l.* per ton. The position of the British paper trade would be improved with regard to the raw material, as the Government of France intends to make concessions respecting the export duty on rags. Mr. Gladstone noticed another difficulty the paper-makers have had to meet. He said: 'The paper trade is in no small degree dependent upon the cotton trade, and the consumption of paper in the export of cotton goods is enormous. And you must recollect that while the value of our cotton goods exported, being, from their almost doubled price, very high in amount, may tend to diminish the apparent loss in trade, yet the dear cotton goods require no more paper for wrapping than the cheap goods; and therefore a large demand for paper has, since the repeal of the duty, and from causes quite unconnected with it, been entirely cut off.' [Here the right hon. gentleman alluded to an important fact that cannot too often be impressed upon the attention of those who are interested in the industrial welfare of the country. Until now, so far as our wealth is concerned, we have not suffered from the war in America, and in one view we have been gainers by the strife. When the war broke out, we held an enormous stock of cotton and cotton fabrics, and the increase in the value of this stock has been a heavy addition to our wealth. But that is over. We have now to do a trade with less profit, for we have to pay dearly for the raw material; and the enhanced price, by checking demand, diminishes the margin for profit. Moreover, the increased cost of the fabric does not tend to revive our staple industry. It needs no more hands to make dear than to make cheap cotton.]

The revenue from the spirit duties has very slightly increased though the duty has been raised. Mr. Gladstone ascribes this to the distress in Lancashire and in Ireland, and to the increased consumption of wines. In 1858-9, the import of wines was 6,974,000 gallons, and in 1863-4, 10,729,000 gallons, being an increase of 55 per cent. The import of wines from France since the change of duties has increased 330 per cent. The result of free trade with France is highly satisfactory. In 1859 our imports and exports were 26,431,000*l.*, and in the past year 46,987,000*l.* Respecting the trade in tobacco, Mr. Gladstone reported an increase since the decrease of the protective duty on manufactured tobacco. In the eleven months ending February 1863, the import of cigars was 2,316,000 lbs.; and for the eleven months ending February 1864, 3,976,000 lbs. Last year 36,590,000 lbs. of raw tobacco was entered for home consumption, against 35,735,000 lbs. for the preceding year, that is, the year ending March 31, 1863. The export of British manufactured tobacco was, in six months of 1862-3, 50,000 lbs., and, in the corresponding period of 1863-4, 123,000 lbs. From 1842 to 1862 the average annual increase of revenue from tobacco duties was 105,000*l.*; but since the change of duty was adopted last year, the increase has risen to 290,000*l.*

Looking to the extent of pauperism as a test of the condition of the country, we find that in 1848-9 the total number of paupers was 981,330; and in 1863-4 it was 828,320. [This return includes Lancashire; but the extent of avowed pauperism is by no means a true gauge of the extent of Lancashire distress. In all parts of England, but particularly in Lancashire, there is an unconquerable aversion to become classified paupers; and, rather than do so, men and women frequently suffer the direst distress.]

The public debt at present is 791,574,000*l.*, and the annual charge on it is between 26,000,000*l.* and 26,500,000*l.* During the past year 3,360,000*l.* has been paid off. In 1815 the debt was 861,039,000*l.*, and the annual charge was 6,435,000*l.* more than it is at present. The Russian war added 39,026,000*l.* to the debt, of which about 16,500,000*l.* has been paid off. During the past year 433,000*l.* has been converted from perpetual into terminable annuities.

The estimates for the current year are:—

Charge for funded and unfunded debt	£26,400,000
Consolidated fund	1,930,000
Army	14,844,000
Navy	10,432,000
Collection of revenue	4,693,000
Packet service	883,000
Miscellaneous services	7,628,000
Reserved	80,000
Together	£66,890,000

The revenue for the current year is estimated as follows:—

Customs	£23,150,000
Excise	18,030,000
Stamps	9,320,000
Taxes	3,250,000
Income-tax	8,600,000
Post Office	3,950,000
Crown lands	310,000
Miscellaneous	2,250,000
Indemnities	600,000
	£69,460,000

This shows a surplus of about 2,560,000*l.* Of this Mr. Gladstone disposes of 10,000*l.* in various minor changes, including the reduction to 1*d.* of the duty payable on proxies used at meetings of joint-stock companies. On sugar the following alterations are proposed:—

	Present duty.	Proposed duty.
	s. d.	*s. d.*
Refined per cwt.	18 4	12 10
2nd class sugar ,,	16 0	11 8
3rd class ,, ,,	13 10	10 6
4th class ,, ,,	12 8	9 4
5th (a new class) ,,		8 2

This gives an average of 4*s.* per cwt. reduction; but it is difficult to compare classified duties, and Mr. Gladstone thinks that 'the effect of this change will be to reduce the duty on sugar to 1*s.*, or more than 1*s.* a cwt. less than it has ever been before.' This will cause a loss of 1,719,000*l.*, but allowing for entries of sugars now practically excluded, and 6 per cent. for increased consumption, the loss to revenue in 12 months would be 1,358,000*l.* Deducting for the fraction of the current year that has gone, Mr. Gladstone estimates the loss of revenue at 1,330,000*l.* He proposes to make the sugar duty a permanent enactment, instead of a duty granted from year to year. [The trade will appreciate this, for the system of granting the duty from year to year keeps the market in a state of chronic excitement.]

Mr. Gladstone proposes to take 1*d.* in the pound off the income-tax, which will involve an immediate loss of 800,000*l.*, and an ultimate loss of 1,230,000*l.* per annum. He also proposes to reduce the duty for fire insurance on stock-in-trade from 3*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*, which will involve a loss of 283,000*l.* The whole of these changes will decrease the revenue by 2,232,000*l.*, leaving the actual surplus 238,000*l.*, which he considers ought not to be further diminished.

In reference to the malt-duty, Mr. Gladstone urged several reasons why it should not, in his opinion, be re-

duced. The beer-tax had been removed thirty-five years ago; but its repeal had been a total loss to the revenue, though it was practically a part of the malt-duty. It was not, therefore, likely, that if we reduced the malt-duty by one-half (the whole duty yields about 6,091,000*l.*), the revenue would be benefited by a large increase in consumption, but there would be a heavy loss. Then the repeal of the malt-duty would be an injustice to Scotland and Ireland. Taking the revenues from spirits and from malt together, England pays 10,500,000*l.*, or about 10*s.* per head; Scotland pays 3,620,000*l.*, or about 22*s.* per head; and Ireland pays 2,653,000*l.*, or about 10*s.* per head. The malt-duty paid by England in the past year was 5,722,000*l.*, by Scotland 263,000*l.*, and by Ireland 300,000*l.* Therefore Mr. Gladstone contends that to repeal the malt-duty would be to relieve England at the expense of Scotland and Ireland.

KIDNAPPING BRITISH SUBJECTS.

On Friday, in the House of Commons, Sir A. Agnew said that two months ago the son of a gentleman residing in this country went on shore from his ship in New York, and it was believed that he was kidnapped by the Yankees. The agent of the ship told the unhappy father that New York had become a horrible place, and that hundreds of young men had been kidnapped and never after heard of.

Mr. Layard said Her Majesty's Government had received reports from our Consuls at Boston, Portland, and New York, about kidnapping Irishmen. It appears from these reports that at Boston 102, and at Portland 47 British subjects had been pressed into the Federal service. 'These persons had been tempted under various pretences to leave Ireland, and on arriving in the United States were actually imprisoned for some time, kept without sufficient food, and then plied with whisky. When in a state of inebriety they were prevailed upon to enter the army of the United States.' [This, be it observed, is the statement of Mr. Layard, the representative of the Foreign Office in the House of Commons.] Lord Lyons has been instructed to make enquiry and to ask for redress, and also to call upon the United States Government in future to protect British subjects who might be induced under false pretences to proceed to the United States. [Would it not have been rather more to the purpose to ask the United States Government not to employ any more agents in inducing emigrants to go to the United States under false pretences?]

THE STEAM-RAMS.

On Friday, in the House of Commons, Sir L. Palk called the attention of the Attorney-General to the evidence which was being obtained in Egypt about the steam-rams at Birkenhead. It appeared from the correspondence that has been published, that Messrs. Laird had furnished the Government with the fullest information they were able to give, and had afforded free access to the vessels whenever it was required. From the first they had stated that M. Bravay was the purchaser, and, so far as they were concerned, the transaction was a *bonâ fide* one. Why then could not this statement have been investigated long ago? Why was there a delay both unfair and prejudicial to the interests of commerce? If the Government could send a roving Commission into foreign countries to beat up evidence about the steam-rams, there could be no difficulty in seeking for evidence about arms, cannon, and men that were shipped for the North. So common was it to ship arms to New York that the other day an account was published of how the *Germania* was detained at Southampton in shipping some heavy siege-guns from the Low Moor Ironworks.

The Attorney-General, in reply to the question put by Sir L. Palk, said, the Commission to obtain evidence in Egypt was applied for by his advice. The Commission was to return by May 10, and, if the arrangements of the Court permit, the Government will be ready to proceed with the trial after Easter term. The delay in sending out the Commission has not delayed the trial. A single Commissioner has been sent out. 'Of course, if the other side go to more expense, that is a voluntary action on their part.' [Of course it is voluntary. It is voluntary on the part of the defendants whether they will engage proper legal assistance. It is voluntary with them whether they will defend the action at all; but if they do so it is not altogether voluntary that they watch the proceedings of the Commission.]

THE DANISH WAR.

On Thursday, in the House of Lords, the Earl of Shaftesbury called attention to the bombardment of Sonderburg for forty-eight hours without notice, by which eighty women and children were killed or wounded. Assuming the account to be true, His Lordship said: 'It is a state of things which will bring us to believe that the Prussian Government which is responsible, and the Prussian military which are the instruments, are not fit to be counted in the list of civilised men or civilised nations.' Earl Russell said he had instructed the British Minister at Berlin to enquire into the circumstances, and he will not give an opinion until he knows the real facts of the case.

On Monday, Lord Campbell moved: 'That in the opinion of this House, if the demand made by Denmark for mediation, according to the principle laid down in the protocol of Paris, 1856, had been more decidedly supported by Her Majesty's Government, the bloodshed and the other evils already occasioned by the war in Denmark might have been prevented, and there would have been less danger than there now is of a more extensive disturbance in the peace of Europe. That in the opinion of this House, a Conference upon the Danish question, in order to lead to a practical result, ought to be accompanied by such steps as may convince the Powers of Europe that Her Majesty's Government adhere to the treaties in which the Duchy of Slesvig has been guaranteed to Denmark by Great Britain.' His Lordship reviewed the progress of the negotiations as set forth in the papers laid before Parliament, and he considered the dignity of the country had been lowered. We had obligations towards Denmark which would not be satisfied by an unsuccessful Conference, and the Danes who are most interested are most sceptical as to the success of the Conference. It was the duty of the British Government to make such declarations, and to pursue such a course, as to convince Europe that we are determined to defend the integrity of Denmark. Suppose through our supineness that Flensburg and Kiel should be occupied by a German navy, we could not submit to such a proceeding, and war would be the result. If Kiel were occupied by a British fleet, we should have a diplomatic *locus standi*. If the German Powers are entitled to take possession of Danish territory as a material guarantee for vindicating a doubtful right, this country is entitled to occupy the waters with a view of discharging an undoubted obligation.

The Duke of Argyll denied that England was bound by the treaty of 1862 to act alone for the defence of Denmark, and the Government had spared no effort to induce the other Powers who were parties to that treaty to enter upon some common action. Her Majesty's Ministers were no more to be blamed for not preventing the outbreak of the present war than was the Government of Lord Derby for not preventing the Italian war. There was nothing in dispute between Denmark and Germany that might not have been settled without resort to hostilities, and the Government had sought to avert unnecessary bloodshed. 'They desired nothing but to restore peace to Europe, no doubt compatibly with the local rights of the two Duchies, and consistently, if possible, with the integrity of the Danish monarchy.' [The 'if possible' is an ominous expression, from which we may infer that if Her Majesty's Government deem it expedient they will consent to the dismemberment of the Danish monarchy.]

Earl Grey gave a history of the events that preceded the outbreak of hostilities, and censured the conduct of the Government in advising Denmark to pursue a policy of concession when they did not intend to afford her material aid in the case of an aggression which the Government had described as an outrage. Denmark would have been better off if we had not proffered any advice. If the Government had been firmer, and Germany had known that she would have to meet England in the conflict, there would not have been the slightest chance of war. His Lordship condemned the barbarous way in which the Germans were carrying on the war.

Earl Russell said that, as Foreign Minister, he had endeavoured to divest his mind of all partisanship, and to meet this important question with perfect fairness. Neither Denmark nor Germany was free from blame, but he was of opinion that Germany might have obtained all her rights by negotiation, and it seemed to him that the German Powers were rather disposed to excite a quarrel than to exhibit a conciliatory temper. His Lordship observed that the Government was not found fault with because they did not avert a war, but because they did not join in one. He rejoiced that England was not taking part in a general war and so adding to our burden of debt. The Government were not called upon to assert the treaty of 1720, but the object of the Government was to maintain the treaty of 1852, and to have it recognised by the Powers of Europe. The French have great sympathy for the Poles, there being amongst other causes the tie of religion between the two peoples. While France sympathised with Poland, the sympathies of England, a maritime nation, were with Denmark, and, said His Lordship, 'while we refused to join France in the proposal regarding Poland, she refused to join us in the proposition with regard to Denmark. We have no reason to find fault with France on that ground, but still I must say that, if we are to defend Denmark on the grounds of the interests of Europe and the balance of power, the Powers of Europe ought to go together, and not to leave that great task to be undertaken by us alone.'

The Earl of Derby observed that he had been through the papers, and he commended the industry of Earl Russell, who had written, during the last year, 170 despatches upon the subject of Denmark and Germany. And, said the noble Earl, 'although certainly I have not been struck with admiration of the style of these despatches—although I have seen them characterised by what I consider a most forcible weakness, I must say that I have been struck with astonishment and admiration at the persevering industry with which the noble Earl has gone on spinning, day after day, thread by thread, his political cobwebs, utterly regardless of every single thread being swept away one after another—spinning, spinning, spinning on, but at the same time not making the slightest progress towards the completion of his web, and not having been able to catch a single diplomatic fly.' His Lordship condemned the vacillating policy of the Government, because firmness might have averted hostilities, whilst indecision had jeopardised the peace of Europe. He was not sanguine about the Conference, seeing that the principal parties concerned came to it with diametrically opposite declarations. In conclusion His Lordship said: 'I do justice to the motives which actuated the noble Earl throughout the whole of this correspondence. I cannot, however, conceal from myself my conviction that, by the strength of his remonstrances and the feebleness of his acts, he has confirmed the impression, so prevalent throughout Europe, that we have ceased to be a great Power, that our military and naval position has been made subordinate to our trading and commercial interests, and that, however England may bluster, and however loudly she may talk, there is not the slightest danger of her interfering materially to exercise the slightest influence or control in the affairs of Europe.'

Lord Wodehouse said that Denmark had consented to follow the advice given her by the British Government when it was unfortunately too late; but that advice was sound, and had not injured Denmark. He could not conceal from himself that the position of the Government to prevent war had been materially injured by the policy pursued with respect to the Poles. After entering into diplomatic correspondence, the Government were compelled to withdraw—wisely, he thought, but under circumstances which could not but weaken to some extent the good understanding which existed between this country and France. He hoped that this country would have again the full cooperation of France, without which he despaired of seeing this question satisfactorily and speedily settled. If this cooperation should not be obtained, and if the Conference should unfortunately fail in settling the question, a grievous shock would be given to the whole system under the protection of which the treaties of Europe existed, because they were preserved by the confidence existing among the great Powers. He questioned the expediency of such treaties as that of 1852. He thought that the British Government should interfere in the affairs of Europe as seldom as possible; but when led to do so, it should be in a manner to make the country respected.

After a few observations by Earl Granville, who is of opinion that the first act of the Conference should be to obtain an armistice, Lord Campbell withdrew his motion.

Earl Russell said the Prussian Government had given notice that Sonderburg, being part of the fortress of Düppel, was liable to bombardment. It appeared to him that that justification—if so it was called—was perfectly insufficient, because the people of Sonderburg naturally would not act on a general notice, but were entitled, according to the usages of war, to a special notice of 24 hours.

On Friday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Dillwyn called attention to the bombardment of Sonderburg. Mr. Osborne followed in a caustic and humorous speech, and this called up Lord Palmerston. The noble Premier, who defended the conduct of the Government and said a few kind words for the Conference, was also rather humorous. After some remarks by Mr. Kinglake, who is rabid on the so-called national rights of Slesvig and Holstein, General Peel rose 'merely to say that it was not a fit subject for ridicule. The hon. member for Swansea asked whether it was true that Sonderburg was bombarded without notice, and eighty of its inhabitants killed. Then the noble Lord got up, and the world will hear of the House of Commons being convulsed with laughter. I say that is adding insult to injury.'

VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, Mr. H. Berkeley asked the Under-Secretary of War if any steps were to be taken to supply the Volunteer Artillery with useful guns. At present they had old guns that would be of no avail against an enemy. In reply, the Marquis of Hartington said the main object for which Volunteer Artillery was raised was not to act as field artillery, but to take part, if necessary, in the defence of the coast as garrison artillery. Up to the present time no field batteries had been granted to the Volunteer Artillery Corps, but provision is made in the Estimates for a limited supply.

THE BRITISH FORCE IN JAPAN.

In reply to Colonel Sykes, the Marquis of Hartington said that a small force had been sent to Japan to protect the settlements of Yokohama, but it was expected they would soon be withdrawn. It was not at all correct to suppose that any regiment was to be quartered in Japan.

MONASTERIES AND CONVENTS IN ENGLAND.

On Friday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Newdegate made a very long speech about Roman Catholic establishments, in which he gave vent to a great deal of bigotry, which is as inimical to the spirit of Protestantism as it is uncharitable and distasteful. The gist of his complaint was that on the tombstones in the private burial-ground of the Oratorians, the baptismal and not the registered names were inscribed. Lord E. Howard made a telling speech in reply, in the course of which he alluded feelingly and gracefully to the faith of his family and to his family bereavements. His Lordship was loudly cheered.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT.

On Friday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Moffatt called attention to the working of the new Bankruptcy Act. It was estimated that the amount of insolvency in England annually exceeds 50,000,000*l.* Under the new Act 9,663 persons had been freed from their liability, and of these 7,000 had not paid a farthing of dividend. The law as it stood is a boon to the debtor and a burden to the creditor. Out of 9,000 persons who had gone into the Bankruptcy Court, only 700 went on the petition of the creditors, and the rest on their own petition. He moved for a Select Committee.

Mr. Murray complained of the expenses of working. In two years the charges amounted to 224,000*l.*, or a sixth of the value of all the bankrupts' and insolvents' estates in England and Wales.

The Attorney-General did not deny that there were many evils in the working of the measure; and the Lord Chancellor, who was the author of the Bill, was desirous of having them remedied. The Government would be glad to see a Select Committee appointed at some future time.

THE GOVERNMENT ANNUITIES BILL.

This measure, which has led to such frequent and angry discussions, was referred, with the consent of the Government, on Monday night, to a Select Committee. In the course of the discussion Sir F. Kelly complained that Mr. Gladstone had reflected on the Professional Company. Mr. Gladstone said he did not mean to say that the Professional Company had been guilty of any greater offence than reckless speculation.

FLOGGING FOR RAPE.

On Tuesday, in the House of Lords, the Marquis of Westmeath moved the second reading of a Bill giving the judge power, when more than one person was concerned in the crime of rape, to order the infliction of corporal punishment in addition to the present penalties. After a brief discussion, in the course of which Lord Cranworth expressed his regret that punishments were not more severe than they now are, the Bill was read a second time.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

On Tuesday, in the House of Commons, in reply to Mr. D. Griffith, Lord Palmerston said it is to be regretted

that whilst England and France are both in need of cotton, '30,000 or 40,000 people who might be usefully employed in the cultivation of cotton in Egypt, are occupied in digging a canal through a sandy desert, and making two harbours in deep mud and shallow water.' He hoped such an occupation would soon be put an end to. [It is fair to remark that French engineers differ from Lord Palmerston as to the practicability of forming the Suez Canal.]

DAUNT'S ROCK.

On Tuesday, in answer to Mr. Maguire, Mr. M. Gibson said the Government did not intend, at present, either to blow up Daunt's Rock, or to place a lighthouse on it. The Inman Company signified their willingness some time ago to contribute to the expense of a lighthouse. A private survey is going on of Daunt's Rock, which may enable the Government to decide upon the expense and practicability of removing it by blasting. Meantime an improvement has been sanctioned by the Board of Trade in the light on Roche's Point, which will then indicate to a ship making for Cork Harbour when she is approaching Daunt's Rock.

MUTILATION OF EDUCATIONAL REPORTS.

On Tuesday, in the House of Lords, Lord R. Cecil moved: 'That, in the opinion of this House, the mutilation of the reports of Her Majesty's inspectors of schools, and the exclusion from them of statements and opinions adverse to the educational views entertained by the Committee of Council, while matter favourable to them is admitted, are violations of the understanding under which the appointment of the inspectors was originally sanctioned by Parliament, and tend entirely to destroy the value of their reports.' Lord R. Cecil declared he had ample proofs that passages were cut out of the reports of the inspectors which were unfavourable to the opinions of Mr. Lowe; but he would not, unless challenged, be more precise, lest Mr. Lowe should punish his subordinates who had given the information. Mr. Walter cited a case within his own knowledge of such unfair mutilation. Mr. Lowe made a strong appeal to the House to reject the resolution, but in vain. On a division, it was carried by 101 to 93, being a majority of 8 against the Government.

ENDURANCE AND DETERMINATION OF THE SOUTHERN PEOPLE.

We are permitted to publish the following extract from a private letter addressed to an English gentleman by a citizen of the Confederate States, who is himself a heavy tax-payer, and who has been a heavy loser by the devastations of the Yankee armies in Tennessee. The letter is not less interesting as an illustration of the unflagging determination of the Southern people to dare all and to suffer all which may be necessary to the achievement of their independence, than for the evidence it affords of the calm but fixed confidence of all in their final triumph.

Atlanta, Georgia: Feb. 23, 1864.

My dear Sir,— * * * * Congress has at length passed the Tax Bill. It is radical certainly, but, so far as I have been able to learn, it will be cheerfully borne even by those upon whom it falls heaviest. Although the bills passed are objectionable in some of their features, yet we all accept them with good will as an earnest of the good faith of the Government, and of the fixed determination, at whatever cost, to fight out the war to a successful termination. I beg to refer you to the provision made by the 6th section of the bill for the payment of the bonds therein provided. They offer the highest security in the power of the Government—that is, a lien upon all export and import duties, and the receipt of the coupons at par with gold or foreign exchange, in which alone the interest is to be paid. These bonds are also exempt from taxation.

We are confident—more so now, if possible, than ever before—of our ultimate success. Not that we look for an uninterrupted series of successes, or that we expect to repel every effort of the enemy at a further advance. We have made up our minds for the worst—the worst that even Yankees may do—plunder, devastation, insult, and every species of outrage that may be inflicted. We shall bear it all, if need be; but it will not change the fixed resolve to be a free people. The slaves within our lines give us neither trouble nor uneasiness. Very few leave us, even where the enemy has occupied the country, except such as are forced off, or tempted by other promises than that of freedom, about which they manifest a most supreme yet sagacious indifference. Our troops have nearly all voluntarily re-enlisted for the war—that is, until our independence is achieved. This action on the part of the army, and the cheerful acquiescence of the tax-payers in the recent unprecedented taxation, must remove the last doubt, if there were any, that there is but one heart and one purpose in the Confederacy. Our muster-rolls number upwards of four hundred thousand men. From these, and others to be added, we shall be able to bring into the field an army, composed chiefly of veterans, of about three hundred thousand effective troops. We met with a series of reverses last year from causes not yet investigated. We hope for better success and better management in the ensuing campaign. Do not believe a word of Yankee delusion or falsehood about our nakedness or starvation. We neither enjoy nor care for dress or luxuries. But we have now, and shall continue to have, enough to keep us in heart and strength till the hated Yankee shall have abandoned the struggle for our subjugation. Our troops are in the main comfortable, and, when need be, those who remain at home will live cheerfully upon half-rations.

While we have strong hopes of being able to change the tide of events which last year turned temporarily against us, yet we have looked squarely in the face the possibility of further reverses. We no longer flatter ourselves with the hope of recognition, mediation, or even justice and fair play, from foreign Governments, until we shall first have extorted them from a reluctant foe. Our Government has never asked, unless it has exceeded the public wishes, for help from abroad. We have no claim upon their gratitude. But we did not expect, on the other hand, that proud, defiant old England, the terror of despotism everywhere, would turn her back upon a young nation, struggling for its existence, and for rights which she had once acknowledged, and which had never been relinquished, upon the haughty demand of an imperious, domineering, vulgar, upstart, Radical democracy. It does not change our firm purpose, nor excite any feeling of despondency, yet I do not deny that we were disappointed and grieved that any Ministry of England could be sustained in a promise to subvert the laws, if need be, to satisfy the demands of a Government which awaits impatiently the first favourable opportunity of dealing her a death-blow. We did in the sincerity of our hearts hope that nothing might occur during the progress of this war which would in the slightest degree mar the cordial good feeling created by mutual interest and kindred blood.

I will still hope that I may be wrong: that I am misinformed: that I look at the conduct of the British Government from a wrong standpoint; that I and the rest of my countrymen have fallen into an error; and that our old, respected, and almost venerated mother is, has been, and will continue to be, just to those who would be proud to call themselves friends as well as kinsmen.

Very truly yours,

W.

MR. LINCOLN'S HONESTY AND CAPACITY.

(From the *New York New Nation.*)

We all recollect that worthy citizen of Athens who banished Aristides solely because it annoyed him to hear the epithet, 'the Just,' constantly coupled with his name. We have all been struck by this strange specimen of political liberty, and by the lack of judgment in its application. It was not because this undue notoriety given to the name of a citizen of the republic might, after a time, prove dangerous, nor because the epithet of Just was questionable, that the worthy citizen of Greece banished Aristides. He would not even discuss the matter; the epithet annoyed him, and that was enough to ostracise its unfortunate bearer. In this we see an excess of liberty and a lack of political education.

Now, we are annoyed and irritated at hearing the words Abraham Lincoln and honesty always coupled together; but being more generous than the excellent Athenian citizen aforesaid, we propose, before ostracising honest Abe from the White House, to consider his right to the surname of 'Honest.' To call one man honest out of a population of 30,000,000, is not so much a compliment to him as a sarcasm upon all the rest. Let us look into his honesty and capability. After three years of patient silence we have a right, and it is moreover our duty, Mr. Lincoln, to examine your acts and show them to the nation. You commenced by confiding the fate of our cause, the honour of our arms, and the lives of our sons to men having no higher claim to such trusts than a host of voters at their command, whose support you coveted—in order to advance the welfare of the nation.

We have allowed you to further your political and personal interests, and to transform into heroes men whose inefficiency has swallowed up thousands of lives and millions of dollars, so that you might be able to dazzle the eyes of the people with victories far more apparent than real. We have permitted you to sacrifice tried patriots, whose popularity alarmed you, and whose energy disappointed your calculations.

We have allowed you to deceive the people; we have let you transform disgraceful defeats into victories; and we even made no outcry when you were reduced to beg exoneration for acts which have eternally disgraced the honour of our arms. You have been unable either to foresee or to forestall anything. What has become of the nation's enthusiasm? What have you done with the immense resources, unprecedented in history, that the nation has lavishly given you?

You are now appealing to conscription, and we will not enter into a discussion of the principle itself; but we will tell you that you should have foreseen that the day must come when you would need these men, and that you were to blame in not calling for them when the people's enthusiasm was first aroused, when they certainly would not have been refused you. You are to blame, inasmuch as, through your incapacity and personal schemes, the necessity for such an appeal has become a question of public safety. You are to blame for depriving us of the services of the men whose popularity stimulated that enthusiasm.

You have told the country that both the rebellion and slavery were dead; you have told the people that the forces of the rebels were reduced by desertions, and that they could not be recruited, fed, or clothed, and yet you are forced to act upon the defensive, being threatened at all points.

Whenever you have directed the action of our troops, they have been uniformly unsuccessful: you have perpetually offered us the wretched spectacle of splendid resources and excellent chances of success sacrificed to incapacity. The only success which you came near attaining, but the credit of which we intend to take from you, is due to the incredible imaginativeness that you have displayed in describing facts. Changes of base, masterly retreats, and reconnaissances have succeeded each other with a rapidity worthy of the greatest showman of modern times. The immense variety of circumstances is only equalled by the identity of the results.

We have:—

Sherman's reconnaissance
Smith's reconnaissance
Thomas's reconnaissance
Kilpatrick's reconnaissance
Custer's reconnaissance
Seymour's reconnaissance
Gilmore's Charleston reconnaissance.

The result is everywhere the same, ridiculous and disastrous. The sole concession we can make to your honesty is that you have improved upon the changes of base in 1862: you destroy fewer soldiers and burn less of the nation's property.

How is it that, after three years of incomparable victories, according to Halleck's facetious expression, 'unprecedented in the military history of nations,' you are still pondering how to preserve the national capital and your bases of operation?

Is it as a reward for such success, for the achievement of such results, that you now ask the nation to pass a vote of confidence, and re-elect you for another and perhaps still another term?

In your inaugural address, you gave a very striking illustration of your peculiar honesty by virtually pledging yourself, in accordance with the well-known principles of the party which had elected you, not to serve a second term, you did this in a manner which none of your supporters then misunderstood; but your words were evidently designed to bear a double meaning; so that, if you should find the sweets of office more enticing than you possibly anticipated, you might change your purpose without seeming to violate your promise. Candid people will see in this a good deal more evidence of cunning than of honesty.

The whole truth is this: you are leading the nation quietly to its destruction by deceiving the people as to the dangers which threaten it. In the first part of the campaign of 1862, you gained advantages which you were unable to utilise or even retain in 1863.

You sacrificed the entire West for the capture of Vicksburg, and then you proclaim to the four winds that the Mississippi is free, while not a single steamboat can navigate it without being attacked or perhaps burned, and without every passenger having the fear of death or captivity before his eyes.

To serve the ends of your cause, you have made a hero out of a man upon whom you have lavished everything, who had every obstacle removed from his path, and who was promptly furnished with reinforcements and supplies, while Rosecrans could get none; and who has scarcely been able to hold, with the immense resources at his command, the ground which his predecessor gained in spite of you by his own talents.

You have offered us the distressing spectacle of the sacrifice of merit to caprice and personal political interests; and this in a republic, in the name and under the plea of popular sovereignty.

And, to cap the climax, we are obliged to hear definitions like this: An unconditionally loyal man is one who, although not satisfied with the measures taken by the Government, approves them all and gives his constant support.

It seems almost incredible. Are we in Constantinople, in St. Petersburg, in Rome, or in Paris? Are we the descendants of those proud Saxons who refused to succumb to any yoke, or the illegitimate offspring of cardinals seeking to secure fortune and greatness by a perpetual worship? Are we really the descendants of those disciples of Luther and Calvin, who, rather than subject their reason to an authority which they despised, preferred to expatriate themselves to these shores, where, through the agency of liberty, they founded our national greatness which you are now striving to drown in a sea of cowardice and adulation, corruption and incompetency? Were our ancestors to visit the earth, they would certainly be surprised to see that, eighty years after the revolution which gave life and liberty to the nation, the Lincoln party could find no other definition of loyalty than a blind submission to the decrees of the Government.

But we have exercised this blind and mute submission during three years; during three years we have kept silent—and what is more generous than silence?

Some true Radical patriots said not long since, 'We have lost confidence in Fremont. What has he done or said for a year past?'

What could he do? what could he say? He has done for you that which Butler and Sigel have done: what we have all done: he has been charitable enough to keep silence, and to our eyes this is more than he should have done. In the face of so much incapacity and corruption, patriotism alone has kept us silent. Each time that a fresh defeat or a fresh concession to foreign Powers brought an indignant exclamation to our lips, we restrained its utterance. And yet have much grief, and love, and admiration, accompanied each fresh hecatomb of these unknown heroes, these martyrs to their country, who have fallen through the incompetency and the cold and insatiable ambition of the men whose mission it was to lead our sons to victory, but who, being blinded by political considerations for their personal advancement, led them only to a profitless death.

And you have not displayed more talent or energy abroad. Napoleon has trampled upon the rights of a friendly republic; he has insolently notified us of the blockade of the Mexican coast, and *thrown the Monroe doctrine in our face.* We ask, then, who is master now in America, he who lays down the law or he who submits to the same? Is it Napoleon III. or the successor of Washington?

God alone, by bestowing upon the country inexhaustible natural wealth and that ardent patriotism which makes every soldier a hero, has saved the country from the ruin into which your selfishness would plunge it. This is the secret of the difference between your currency and that of the South.

We have been imposed upon long enough. The ruin which you have been unable to accomplish in four years, would certainly be fully consummated were you to remain in power four years longer. Your military governors and their provost-marshals override the laws, and the *echo of the armed bad rings forth as clearly now in America as in Prussia or Austria. You have encroached upon our liberty without securing victory, and we must have both.*

You have dishonoured us abroad by shameless misrepresentations as to our true condition. Places that we occupied in 1862 are now again in the hands of the rebels, and God knows whether your preparations for the approaching campaign are adequate. Corruption has entered into every department of your administration, rendering it a very Augean stable, which needs a Hercules as your successor. It is time for the light to shine forth and for the truth to fully appear, so that all sincere patriots, all men who look for nothing further than the advancement of their country and of liberty, may rally in one compact body around the great principle of Liberalism, and form a Liberal party really worthy of the name. Such a one only can save the country.

Away with all the impostors who have invaded the temple of liberty and turned it into a vote-market! Let there be an end of this ridiculous farce of unconditional loyalty, which is only fit to secure the votes of those fools who, instead of delving to the root of the matter, blindly believe all the interested falsehoods published by journals that are paid to applaud and submit, whether right or wrong.

Mr. Lincoln's honesty is of a strange description. It consists in nearly ruining his country and in disregarding its interests in order to make sure of power for four years longer. To our eyes, the man who has deprived his country of the services of some of its best citizens, who has been unable to make any better use of the incredible resources confided to him, and who, after agitating so many public questions without solving one of them, disregards his own utter incapacity, is, of all the citizens of the United States, the least honest and the most dangerous.

But even if President Lincoln were the honest man that his penal organs represent him to be, how dangerous would his re-election prove to the liberties of the people, under existing circumstances, surrounded as he is with the military influences that he has at his back! Let us remember the teachings of history and the instances of feigned or real imbecility, all of which have resulted in despotism. Sixtus V., the half-stupid monk in his cell, and Napoleon III., the sottish debauchee, belong to the same school. The men who have had to endure them, elected them as unimportant individuals, whose election would give time for reflection and consideration, it will soon be sixteen years that France has reflected and pondered over her lost liberty. Fearing the unknown, and shrinking from the perturbations incidental to change, they have had despotism and ruin, which are leading them inevitably to the most terrible of all the revolutions that history has hitherto recorded. Americans of the old school will not believe us; they say our liberties are so firmly implanted in the blood of our old Anglo-Saxon race that none dare disturb them. But we think differently, and say with the poet,

Ce bloc enfariné ne me dit rien qui vaille.

PARIS TOPICS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Paris: April 12.

Great satisfaction is felt here at the termination of the uncertainties which up to the last moment seemed to render the acceptance of the Mexican crown by the Archduke Maximilian doubtful. This was not accomplished without the intervention of the French Emperor, to whose good offices it was due that the Emperor Francis Joseph at length agreed to reasonable terms. It is understood that the family convention, while it provides for the new Emperor's resumption of his rank in Austria, in case of losing the Mexican crown by civil war or foreign invasion, excludes him in any other case from his rights of succession in Austria, and at all events deprives him of a large part of his private fortune. In his speech accepting the crown, the passage referring to the guarantees obtained from France has been much remarked. In addition to an aide-de-camp of the Emperor's who was sent from here to Vienna, the bearer of letters to vanquish Francis Joseph's tardy objections, there was also present at Miramar a secretary of the French Foreign Office, M. Herbet, authorised to receive the new Emperor's signature to a convention already agreed upon during his visit here, but which he then only signed conditionally. In this, it is understood, a Franco-Mexican commercial treaty was included. The telegrams of this morning announce that the Archduke's departure is delayed by a slight attack of fever, the natural result of the anxiety which so weighty a step as he has just taken must inevitably have cost him, heightened as it was by the vexatious obstacles thrown in his way at the last moment. He carries with him the best wishes of all who have been brought in contact with him, and in general of all Frenchmen.

The Budget report was distributed with the *Moniteur* this morning. It is a very long document, covering more than eight full pages, and I have only had time to look over it cursorily. I am struck with one article, that which imposes a stamp of one-tenth of a penny on cheques. These convenient media of exchange have only just been introduced into France, and they are still very little known, and, what may seem still stranger, their object and meaning are so little understood that they have given rise to innumerable discussions in the newspapers, some displaying an incredible amount of ignorance of the subject discussed. In the estimation of some of the writers a cheque was a bank-note issuable by every man who had an account at his banker's, and bearing interest. The Committee on the Budget explains what a cheque is, the advantages it offers, discusses the safest form in which it should be worded, whether as a receipt or as an order to pay, and devotes a paragraph to the London clearing-house, of which it explains the mechanism. The want of the cheque is severely felt here sometimes, and must be a source of hourly anxiety to persons in trade. A robbery in England, unless it be that of a bank, rarely produces a large booty in cash, because persons who receive and pay away considerable sums lodge all they have at their banker's. Here the head of a mercantile establishment has a bag for his gold and a tin box for his bank-notes, and these do not quit him. At breakfast they take their place on the table beside him, at night they are locked up in the safe, and on Sundays they probably take an airing with him in the country. I have known as much as 3,000*l.* sterling carried about in this way; and in the case to which I refer the bag and tin box, fuller or emptier according to circumstances, have been thus carried about for more than twenty years. Their proprietor, being a person of remarkable good sense, appreciates the advantage, not of security—this does not seem to impress him—but of receiving interest for the money thus literally locked and tied up; but he does not adopt the system of cheques, because a majority of the persons he deals with would refuse them.

While I am writing about money, I take the opportunity of mentioning to your readers the abnormal position of the French funds, which seem unable to rise above 66, at the same time that the political prospects of Europe become every day more reassuring. Everybody knows the *Crédit Mobilier*, the subject of so much laudation and so much abuse, whose success cannot be denied, and whose adversaries have been reduced to questioning its continuance. The *Crédit Mobilier* is inimical to the monopoly of the Bank, but was naturally anxious to preserve its own monopoly, which was threatened by the projected foundation of a new company with exactly the same objects. After a year's struggle in the limbo of the Council of State, the *Société Générale pour favoriser l'industrie Française* has at length obtained the authorisation necessary for its constitution. It is supported by the combined forces of the principal Paris bankers, Rothschild, Pinard, Talabot, Schneider, and others, and is viewed with great alarm by the *Crédit Mobilier*. Its nominal capital is 120 millions of francs, of which one-half, 2,400,000*l.* sterling, will be called up. It is said that, in view of preventing the Council of State from encouraging the introduction of a scheme which would absorb so large a sum, the managers of the *Crédit Mobilier* have been bearing the market to make it appear that the public credit would suffer by a fresh demand for capital. The manœuvre has not succeeded in its real object, the statutes have been approved, and the 20*l.* share, 10*l.* paid up, is already at 6*l.* premium.

We have had another monster balloon, larger than Nadar's, but more fortunate than his; on three successive Sundays it has been unable to get off, so that no accident has happened. Instead of being inflated with gas, it is intended to rise from the rarefaction of the air, on the principle of the fire-balloons boys sometimes play with in England. A furnace for burning straw is suspended beneath the orifice, and below this is the car. It is the oldest system, that of Montgolfier, and has been found efficient for balloons of smaller dimensions, but it seems more difficult of application on so large a scale. On Sunday, at least, it failed for the third time, the currents of air interrupting the hot air in its ascension into the vast receptacle, and after four hours vainly waiting for the signal, the crowd beginning to lose patience, the police interfered and caused the ground to be evacuated. But for this there might have been a serious riot; hisses and whistling rose shrill and menacing, and a party of the spectators in the outer line was already discussing the plan for burning the balloon and all its belongings, when a lady who overheard them called the attention of the police to the group, on which, with telegraphic speed, a compact squad, supported by soldiers, seemed to rise from the ground, which was cleared in a few moments. I understand that it is M. Godard's intention to go up the first time the weather is favourable, without any public announcement, and then at a more settled season to give their money's worth to the ticket-holders.

The balloon did not go up; there is one of the Paris papers, the *Opinion Nationale*, perhaps too often quoted in my letters, which I am told threatens to break down. Like all the French papers, excepting perhaps the *Siècle*, its sole dependence was upon the advertisements farmed by a company which has refused to renew the arrangement. At the same time its subscribers have fallen off so alarmingly, that the manager has addressed a circular to the recalcitrants expressing his regret at the withdrawal of their subscriptions, and requesting each to state in what respect the *Opinion* has ceased to meet his approbation. This proceeding excites grave murmurs among literary men, who consider such an appeal derogatory to the dignity of the press. A large portion of the capital, on the strength of which the *Opinion* was founded, was supplied by M. Ratazzi when Prime Minister in Turin; and I am told that although it has generally been considered as the organ of the Palais Royal, it has never received pecuniary assistance from that quarter, civil speeches and dinners being more freely dispensed there than the coin of the realm.

There are rumours of renewed complications in the Danubian provinces, where Prince Couza has always had to struggle with a powerful party representing old interests and foreign sympathies. It is alleged that the Duke de Grammont, the French Ambassador at Vienna, has only come here on account of these.

France, not content with her indigenous glories, seems about to claim a share of that belonging to our own Shakspeare, or perhaps, more properly, to their 'divine Williams.' A grand banquet is to be given at the Grand Hôtel on the 23rd in his honour.

The general impression caused by the Budget is highly favourable to the preservation of peace, and notwithstanding the little cloud in the East, and the storm-mutterings in Italy, I find that there is a general feeling that the strong expressions contained in the paragraph relating to the European position of the French Empire are the strongest guarantee against the misfortunes of war.

I shall be silent on the subject of the ovations of which General Garibaldi is the hero. They afford the press here the opportunity of indulging in all manner of surmises as to the object England has in thus honouring the agitator of nationalities.

LETTER FROM HALIFAX.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Halifax, Nova Scotia: March 31, 1864.

HOW IRISHMEN ARE KIDNAPPED BY THE YANKEES—A NORTHERN ACCOUNT—THE CHESAPEAKE.

If the Palmerston-Russell Government is to remain passive while Yankee recruiting agents depopulate Ireland—if it is to suffer the Irish peasantry to be drilled upon neutral soil for service against the South—perhaps against England itself—why then, it only remains for the friends of these misguided victims of Northern greed and avarice to raise a warning voice in behalf of suffering humanity; to point out to those who still remain at home the trials and temptations, and the terrible fate in store for them on this side of the Atlantic. I beg to call public attention to the annexed article from the *Boston* (*Mass.*) *Daily Courier*, which gives an account of the mode in which the United States crimps try to sell Irishmen to the Yankee recruiting officers. It ought to serve as a warning to any who may be tempted to emigrate by promises of employment and high wages:—

'The Irish citizens of Charlestown and Boston have been greatly excited this week, in consequence of the arrival in Charlestown of eighty-six young Irishmen from the city of Dublin, under extraordinary circumstances. These young men, one hundred and two in all, left Liverpool on February 27, in a steamer for Portland, which reached that city on Wednesday morning, March 9. The men took an early breakfast and then landed. A few of them strayed away from their companions, but the remainder came on to Boston in the afternoon train, in charge of the emigrant agent, a Mr. Finney, under whose inducements and promises they left their homes. Upon their arrival in this city, the men were conducted to an old building on Bunker Hill Street, Charlestown, belonging to Mr. Jerome G. Kidder, of this city, formerly used for his business purposes, but now improved as a "Mission House." At this building nothing was provided for the reception of the men; no food, although they had eaten nothing since early morning, and it was now half-past 9 o'clock; no bedding, no comforts of any kind, not even straw to sleep upon. After a little while some crackers and cheese were procured, and a tub of ale was brought in, with which the wearied men sought to refresh themselves. In the morning they had whiskey for breakfast, and a number of those who partook of it were made senseless.'

'Mr. Kidder, the owner of the building, presented himself on the night of their arrival, and told the men—so it is reported by several of them—that the work they were brought over to do was not ready; but that need make no difference; they need not be idle a single day: they could enlist at once, and recommended the 28th, an Irish regiment, to them. Upon this the suspicions were confirmed which had been growing upon the men, that they had been deceived and enticed from their homes under false pretences.

'The men are fine, stalwart fellows, young mechanics, all from the city of Dublin. One of them, a young man, by the name of Ward, is a comedian, who has acted upon the Dublin boards and in the Irish provinces, in parts like those assumed by Barney Williams and Florence. Their story is, that they were induced to come to this country through the representation of this Mr. Finney, who was announced in the papers as an "emigration agent for the principal railroads in New England, who was commissioned to procure 1,000 labourers." The terms he offered them were a free passage, work immediately upon arrival, a new suit of clothes, and two pounds a month and found, for wages. Mr. Finney now declares himself to be agent for Mr. Kidder, and Mr. Kidder protests that he caused the men to be brought over here in good faith, actually and *bona fidely* to work upon the Charlestown Water Works, and that he was ready on Friday to take as many of the men to West Medford as would consent to go, and put them at once to work. He says, moreover, that he has no knowledge of who ordered the liquor to the men on the night of their arrival. It was certainly done without his privity.

'The condition of the men the morning after their arrival in Charlestown was anything but gratifying. Their number had already been diminished by those left behind at Portland, and of these, the recruiting agents had snapped up eight. Without money, without friends, with scanty clothing, with no means to procure sustenance, they would have suffered greatly, had not kind-hearted countrywomen supplied their wants. Recruiting agents, however, found them, and in the course of the day gobbled up several. On the evening of Thursday they had another interview with Mr. Kidder, when they were told the hall must be cleared, and they would not have had a place to lay their heads, had not Capt. John Warren, who keeps an establishment on that street, near by, bestirred himself and procured billets for them upon the neighbours round. Yesterday morning they were still in Bunker Hill Street, subsisting upon charity, and still pestered with recruiting agents. In the course of the forenoon Mr. Kidder again appeared among them, offering to take as many as would go to the water works at West Medford. But the men had lost confidence in him. They cost Mr. Kidder $70 a head to land them in Boston. It will prove a poor speculation as it has turned out. But if they had taken his recommendation on the night of their arrival, to enlist, he might have made himself whole and something more.

'The Irish citizens of Boston and vicinity, feeling indignant at the imposition practised upon their countrymen, called a meeting at the Stackpole House to investigate the facts in the case, which was very largely attended. Charles P. Donnelly, Esq. was called to the chair, and Edward Ryan was appointed Secretary.

'The Irish who attended the meeting resolved to provide for the immediate wants of the emigrants, and to do all that can be done to punish those by whom they were deceived so cruelly. The wretches calculated well that at this time of year their victims could not easily find work.'

The notorious steamer *Chesapeake*, under convoy of the Federal revenue cutter *Miami*, sailed from this port on Saturday week, and arrived at Portland, Me., on the following Monday. Her commander declined to take any passengers, and instituted a thorough search before putting to sea, for fear of larking piracy. We see by the Richmond papers that a notice from the Hon. James D. Halyburton, Judge of the District Court of the Confederate States of America, has been published in the Richmond *Sentinel*, *Enquirer*, and *Examiner*, calling upon the captors of the *Chesapeake* 'to be and appear before the said court, to be held in the city of Richmond, in the said district, on the 2nd day of March next, at twelve o'clock, noon, if that shall be a day of jurisdiction; otherwise on the next day of jurisdiction thereafter; then and there to interpose a claim for the same and to make their allegation in that behalf.'

Over at St. John's, New Brunswick, the steamers have commenced running to the States. Passengers have to submit to a most minute search before they are allowed to sail for the 'land of liberty.' Even ladies' reticules are viewed with suspicion, and visions of deadly bowie-knives, revolvers, and rifled cannon haunt the Yankee officers of these Yankee steamers by day and by night.

The news from the Confederacy is most cheering—could not be better. The people and the army are in the best of spirits, and hopeful with regard to the future. The spring campaign promises to open much earlier than it has in former seasons, and the currency is improving under the prospective operation of the new tax-bill, which goes into effect April 1.

Private letters from Richmond state that no Government property was destroyed in Kilpatrick's raid—only personal property suffered from the Northern Vandals. The Yankees were met and repulsed solely by the local defence corps, consisting of old men and beardless youths.

Arms for the Federals.—In the year 1862 no less than 196,053 rifles and muskets were shipped at Liverpool for New York, Boston, Portland, and Philadelphia; also above 34 tons of ordnance and ordnance stores, 11,947,000 percussion caps, 119 fowling pieces, 82 swords, and 28 pistols. There was no shipment of munitions of war avowedly to any Confederate port.—*Times*, April 13.

Northern Fanaticism.—The *Boston Courier*, published in the hotbed of New England Abolitionism, gives it the following unpleasant character:—'It is impossible to converse ten minutes with an average Abolitionist without being satisfied that his ruling passion is not love of liberty, or even of the negro, but hatred, dire, malignant, unrelenting hatred, of the Southern people. To ruin the objects of his mad rage, he is willing to sacrifice every interest of the country, to demoralise its population, see its best blood shed in civil strife, and its whole future mortgaged in irretrievable debt. Religion, honour, patriotism—all are swallowed up in his blind passion and hatred of his own countrymen.'

Federal Prisoners at Richmond.—We are happy to have it in our power to lay before our readers the following proof of the falsehoods of the Federal press respecting the alleged cruel treatment of their prisoners by the Confederate authorities in Richmond. It is the statement of the special artist and correspondent of the *Illustrated London News*, and accompanies an admirable view of the camp of Federal prisoners on Belle Isle, Richmond, in that paper of April 9:—'When I visited Belle Isle, at the latter end of January, there were more than 7,000 prisoners in the camp, all of whom were rank and file from the Federal armies of Virginia and Tennessee. The officers are confined in the "Libby," a large and well-ventilated building, formerly used as a tobacco-warehouse—since it has been found politic to separate the private soldier from his commissioned superior. At the time I mention, the Northern journals were filled with accounts of barbarities practised by the Confederates upon those whom the fate of war had placed in their hands, and I was anxious to judge for myself of the correctness of these statements. Let your readers determine from my statement whether the charge of cruelty can be established:—The rations which I saw distributed to the prisoners were in every respect the same as those issued to the Southern soldier; possibly the former may get more fresh meat, and that, I apprehend, is scarcely a ground for objection. They certainly do not get such luxuries as coffee or sugar, but then the Confederates themselves are no better off with respect to these condiments, which, indeed, are only to be procured in the Southern States at such ruinous blockade prices as to prevent their finding their way into the commissariat of the Southern army. The doctor's report, on the day I visited the island, will also serve to indicate that the treatment to which the prisoners are subjected is not such as to affect their health. I am convinced your readers will be astounded when I tell them that, out of 7,000 of these *cruelly*-used captives, the sick-list only gave thirteen in hospital. Why, I have known, in one morning's report, as many as seventy-five or a hundred to be returned as unfit for duty out of a skeleton brigade of 1,500 in Bragg's army. After six months' confinement of these Federal prisoners at Belle Isle, there were only seventy-five graves to indicate the number of those who had died under the privations to which they are said to have been subjected. Any Adjutant-General of a division of 5,000 men in Lee's army could show a very different bill of mortality from sickness and hardship embracing a corresponding period. I think that these statements should go a great way to disprove the charges made by the Northern press. The Northern journals have undoubtedly been misinformed in this particular, and it is only an act of justice on my part to dispel from your readers' minds any wrong impressions they may have formed as to the treatment which the Federal prisoners meet with at the hands of the Confederates.'

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

Our friends in the United Kingdom and on the Continent are earnestly requested to forward to us, at their earliest convenience, such information relative to the military movements and condition of affairs in America as they may receive through private letters, either from the United States, or from the Confederate States. They may rely upon the most scrupulous precautions being observed that no names or facts leading to identification will, under any circumstances, be revealed. No communications, however, will be noticed unless authenticated by a responsible name. Southern newspapers, of any date, will be useful and acceptable presents.

Our subscribers in the South will have their papers supplied through Henry Hotze, Esq., the Confederate States' Commercial Agent in London, who has kindly tendered us his services in this respect during the continuance of the blockade.

For the convenience of our distant subscribers, all the receipts for subscriptions signed by any of the official representatives or commissioned officers of the Confederate States, will be recognised at this Office.

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The Index may be obtained, and payments for subscriptions or other dues to the Paper made—

At Liverpool, to Mr. Hutton, 6 Commercial Buildings, 17 Water Street.

At Manchester, F. A. Hasleham, Esq. Manchester Southern Club Office, Market Street.

At Paris, to Messrs. Pfeiffer & Muller, 52 Rue du Château d'Eu, Paris.

At Turin, to Sr. Filippo Manetta, 4 Borgo Nuovo.

At St. Thomas (West Indies), to C. W. White, Esq.

Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund.—In our last number the name of Messrs. Thomas Littledale & Co., who have given 50*l.* to the fund, was printed as 'Messrs. Thomas Settledale & Co.'

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1864.

Forgery as a Weapon of Diplomacy.

Whether in private or public affairs, in matters of law or diplomacy, a resort to forgery is considered by the mass of mankind as the confession of an intrinsically bad cause by whomsoever it may be employed. The instincts of men naturally lead them to reject even truthful testimony in favour of an accused individual who is convicted of introducing false testimony in his defence. If the Confederate States Government could have been placed as an individual upon trial before an English jury for criminal complicity in the violation of the British Foreign Enlistment Act, under charges submitted by the United States Government, we cannot doubt but that the mere fact of the forgery of the pretended Mallory Report would have induced the immediate acquittal of the defendant, and entailed against the latter a bill of indictment for a far more criminal offence against the law than that with which the Confederacy was charged. If the pretended Mallory Report was the only instance in which the United States Government had employed, even if they had not themselves wrought out and fashioned, the rankest forgery as an implement of diplomatic warfare against the Confederacy, a lenient friend of their cause might perhaps seek to palliate the offence against morality upon the plea of indiscretion under a pressing need, and not again to be repeated. But, unfortunately for the reputation of the Federal Government, the isolated case referred to is but one of many instances in which similar means have been resorted to to bolster up their cause. The business of forgery seems to have been reduced to a system, to be employed in all cases where other testimony is wanting. It is practiced alike by the Government in its diplomatic intercourse to operate upon opinion in other nations, and by the leaders of the American press and people when they desire to deceive their fellow-countrymen. The intelligent public of Europe and America will bear us witness that we neither misstate nor exaggerate the lamentable truth. A simple statement of the fact itself conveys a degree of censure upon the enemies of the Confederacy which could not be heightened by any language of denunciation which might be employed to characterise such conduct. When, therefore, we quote the words of Earl Russell in the House of Lords, announcing, upon the confession of Mr. Seward, that the pretended Mallory Report was '*altogether a forgery*,' we may without further comment pass on to the consideration of a more recent case of a similar character, equally criminal, more barefaced, and still more compromising to the United States Government, because its own recognised officials are the pretended discoverers.

The Parliamentary papers recently published in reference to the seizure of the United States steamer *Chesapeake* furnish us in full detail with the progressive steps taken by the United States Government to impose once more upon the too easy credulity of the British Government, by the disclosure of another pretended intercepted Confederate despatch. Even if Lord Lyons had not been once before so egregiously duped by the employment of a similar artifice, the ready credence which he gave to Mr. Seward's marvellous disclosures cannot but afford occasion for extreme surprise. In No. 4 of the Parliamentary publication referred to, Lord Lyons, upon the authority of Mr. Seward, discloses to Earl Russell, in a grave and earnest manner, the thread of discoveries which, crowned by information derived from an intercepted despatch of a Confederate agent, proved beyond question the imminence of an invasion of Nova Scotia by the Confederates, and the probable rescue of the steamer *Chesapeake*. Lord Lyons does not seem to have been at all impressed with the ludicrous conception of a Southern raid with a thousand rifled muskets upon the North American possessions of Her Majesty. He does not even seem to have enquired of Mr. Seward how he was able to decipher with such marvellous celerity and certainty the cabalistic characters of a despatch written in cipher; for he forthwith despatched a telegram to General Doyle at Halifax, informing him of the imminent danger with which Nova Scotia was menaced by the rebellious South, and asking, at the special request of Mr. Seward, if it would not be better to turn over the *Chesapeake* to the United States claimants, to avoid the contingency of the threatened rescue.

The communication made by Mr. Seward to Lord Lyons was to the effect that the Confederate despatch referred to had been intercepted by the Postmaster at New York, and had been by him translated, 'with the exception of some of the proper names,' and transmitted to the State Department. Unfortunately for the bungling originators of this ridiculous forgery, they managed somehow or another to decipher the name of Mr. Slidell as one of the parties to the meditated invasion of Nova Scotia, and a correspondent upon this very subject with the reputed writer of the intercepted paper. It is almost needless to say, by way of disproving that which upon its very face disproves itself, that Mr. Slidell pronounces the whole affair, so far as his knowledge goes, to be an arrant forgery out and out from beginning to end.

How long may the British Government be expected to tolerate the practice of such repeated deceptions without inflicting some rebuke, if for no other object than in vindication of its own outraged dignity? It is bad enough to be made the victim of an innocent and unintended deception; but when the proof is palpable that the practice of forgery, or, what is equally culpable, the employment of forged papers, is thus reduced to a system, it is difficult to imagine how the British Government can maintain its self-respect, and allow such a violation of diplomatic propriety, not to apply the harsher epithets which more properly describe such conduct. The patient and uncomplaining submission of the Government to these repeated attempts to betray it into a false position by such scandalous means, is scarcely less surprising than that, in the consideration of matters thus suggested, the object seems rather to appease the Government of the United States than to ask redress for outrages committed against the rights of British subjects and British territory. Even the kindly-disposed Lord Lyons, whose heart seems always to be overflowing with gentle affection for Mr. Seward and the Government to which he is accredited, and who, though often duped, is ever ready to confide again, cannot restrain himself from giving expression to his indignation when writing about the outrages of the Federals. We can almost imagine at times that we discover flashes of the spirit of the ancient Briton in the complaisant representative of Her Majesty at the Court of President Lincoln, when for a moment he chances to glance at the indignities which have been offered to his own country and countrymen. Even he, though a warm partisan of the United States Government, expresses himself, in this very matter of the *Chesapeake*, in a manner which proves the marvellous endurance of wrong and outrage which has ever characterised the conduct of the British Government in its intercourse with the United States. 'The details of the events,' wrote Lord Lyons to Earl Russell, under date December 29, 1863, 'which grew out of the arrival of the *Chesapeake* in the waters of that province [Nova Scotia] have been brought to my knowledge for the first time by these papers. I had not been without misgivings, but I confess that I was by no means prepared to learn that the violation of the territorial rights of Great Britain by the United States naval officers had been so flagrant and so serious, or the proceedings of those officers so violent and so unjustifiable, as they are now shown to have been. Mr. Seward was absent from Washington when the papers reached me, and he has not yet returned. He is expected to-morrow, and I shall, without a moment's loss of time, confer with him upon the intelligence I have received. . . . The question which now remains is the nature and extent of the reparation due from the Government of the United States for the wrong committed by its officers.'

Thus, with just indignation, wrote the long-patient Lord Lyons, under the influence of that proud spirit which is regarded as a characteristic of the true Briton. Upon reading this paragraph we hailed it as the incipient roar of the long-hunted Lion of England, who, having at length resolved to retire no longer, at last turns upon his pursuers. The grievous wrongs and insults are not any longer a matter of doubt, and patient endurance is no longer a virtue. To avenge the insult, and to redress the wrong, are duties which may be no longer evaded or postponed; and the representative of England's majesty only improves the time occupied by the absence of Mr. Seward from Washington in meditating upon the extent of the demand he should make upon the Government of the United States for the wrongs committed. We could not but feel that the Government of Great Britain had at last through its accredited agent resolved to vindicate the honour of the British nation. Alas! the next sentence of the despatch dispelled at once the pleasing but transitory illusion. The roaring of the Lyons was acknowledged to be only by sufferance, and the indignant determination to demand redress for grievous and admitted wrongs was only the result of a previous agreement and understanding with Mr. Seward; for, said His Lordship in continuation, '*Mr. Seward announced beforehand*, in his note of the 18th of this month, that if any authority had been assumed by any officers within the waters or on the soil of Nova Scotia, the Government of the United States would at once express its profound regret, and be ready to make amends which would be entirely satisfactory.' *Sic transeunt*—the glorious illusions which, originating in the earlier paragraphs of this indignant protest against the acts of the wrong-doer, were destined to be dissipated for ever by a perusal of its closing words, to which we have nothing to add: 'The case being in this position, I think that it is prudent, and that it is due to Mr. Seward, that I should discuss the matter with him in a friendly and confidential manner before taking any further steps with regard to it.'

Garibaldi in England.

Where everybody is shouting and throwing his cap in the air, it seems churlish to keep a sullen silence, or to sermonise on the ephemeral character of popular caprices. It is far easier and pleasanter to move along with the crowd than to be elbowed and knocked over in the vain attempt to stand still or to get out of it. In the present case, however, there are certain grave reasons why we cannot adopt the pleasanter and safer course; but while we do not join as heartily as we might wish in the universal enthusiasm, we shall endeavour to make our solitary note of dissent as little discordant as possible. At this moment England is Garibaldi-mad. All our contemporaries, great and small, unite in chanting a pæan of praise to the Italian hero. Even the most staid and least excitable among them fill their columns with adulatory phrases. We are told, on the authority of the leading journal, that the crowd which welcomed the revolutionary chieftain was scarcely exceeded in numbers by that which did homage to the coming bride of the heir-apparent of the throne; and if we are to gather our impressions from the descriptions of enthusiastic reporters, Britannia has indeed received her guest with regal, perhaps more than regal, honours. We hope to be pardoned if all this appears to us of ill-omen for Garibaldi's permanent popularity. It reminds us involuntarily of spectacles too frequently witnessed on the other side of the Atlantic, where a king-hating democracy compensates itself for the absence of royal pageantry, and gratifies the natural love of show and demonstration, by worshipping noisily the idol of an hour. Englishmen have made great progress, within the present generation, thanks to a cheap and ubiquitous press, towards becoming 'Americanised,' or rather 'Yankeeised,' in this respect; and if they have not, Heaven be praised, reached that point when an opera-singer, a troop of cross-eyed Asiatics, or the marriage of a dwarf, stirs the popular heart to its deepest depths, and if they still select the objects of their hero-worship with better taste and more discrimination, there is, nevertheless, sufficient resemblance between what passes here and what so often happens in New York, to make the comparison 'odious,' or, at least, disagreeably suggestive. There is an unvarying diagnosis to all such mental epidemics. They always last precisely in inverse proportion to their violence. They are always succeeded by something akin to the reaction of a surfeited appetite, and a brilliant popularity which might have lasted a lifetime is thus often consumed, within a few days or hours, to mere cinders. Poor Kossuth was so sacrificed to a popular gratification in this country and in America, and his fate might well warn Garibaldi's friends. 'Lionised to death' is, in such circumstances, something more than a figurative expression. Most short-lived celebrities deserve their doom, but when that doom overtakes a truly great man, it is melancholy. It then seems

as if he were made to assist, while living, at his own funeral obsequies.

Let us not be accused of grudging the Italian guest the honours that are being paid him here. If these honours are rendered to noble, though often mistaken purpose—to patriotic devotion—to lofty but unselfish ambition—then he fully deserves them. When that is said, all is said. As a man and a patriot, Garibaldi occupies the highest niche in the temple of Fame; as a statesman or as a captain, the truest kindness to him is to abstain from criticism. We believe him to have been the providentially appointed instrument for a great purpose almost miraculously achieved; but that purpose achieved, we also believe that his destiny is fulfilled, and his mission ended. We may respect him for his own moral goodness and heroic temper of soul, but we cannot respect the school of politics to which he belongs, or the associations which belong to that school—the worst of Connental heresies, and the most in antipathy to British instincts. It is partly Garibaldi's own fault, but more that of his career, that we cannot publicly dissociate him from Mazzini, from conspiracies, civil strife, and European conflagrations. Once in a while, at long intervals in history, a meteor flashes across the dazzled vision of mankind; once in a while a volcanic shock accomplishes what centuries of toil have failed to do, and a great crime becomes an heroic deed. But these are not the normal agencies which do the work of social and political regeneration. Such qualities as Garibaldi has, self-sacrifice and steadfastness, go indeed far towards it; but to make them fruitful of good instead of a danger of evil, it requires furthermore patience, obedience to authority, reverence for constituted order, and greater faith in Divine than in human wisdom.

Garibaldi, when we separate the man from the idea which he embodies, represents, in its most seductive and therefore most dangerous form, that destructive principle which aims at reforming the world by first returning it to original chaos. An adventurous life, a utopian disposition, *one* wonderful success, have invested him with that melodramatic character and theatrical splendour which most readily captivate the imaginations of the multitude. A hero of the genuine Anglo-Saxon type seldom possesses these attractive attributes. The constructive genius, which knows no higher law than duty, which seeks to evolve liberty from discipline and subordination, which patiently commits the seed to the soil, and is content to await its natural growth—this genius, which, with the less imaginative races, governs as well as conquers empires, is usually incorporated in sterner and sometimes unlovable moulds. In the list of England's great men there are many greater and wiser than he, and as brave; but few, if any, of that list could have evoked such spontaneous and cordial enthusiasm in their own, much less in a foreign country. Only, while obeying the impulse of doing homage, in the man, to the rarer and nobler qualities of our nature, let us beware lest we appear abroad to give deliberate sanction and bodily substance to the dreams of the visionary. It may be admirable diplomacy to play off Garibaldi against Austria and Prussia, to inspire them with a wholesome dread of danger while devouring their Danish prey; but the revolutionary element in Europe has other enemies besides Austria and Prussia; and it is, to say the least, an open question whether the sort of court English public men are now markedly paying its representative may not embolden it to attempt mischief which would occasion nowhere more sincere regret than in England.

It is a thankless task to say these things at this moment. A short time hence everybody will think of them, and many will say them. If we say them a little earlier, it is because we have had peculiar cause to be reminded of them. As a journal, our best efforts have been devoted, and will continue to be devoted, to advocate the cause of a nationality which has at least equal claims to respect with any that heroes ever bled and died for. This fact has given us an inexpressibly warm and sympathising interest in the trials and struggles of a country endeavouring to consolidate a nationality but partially achieved; and it is only fair to add that, with the exception of England, nowhere have the just rights of the Southern States found more able and effective advocacy than in Italy. Now, we firmly believe that, great as are the services Garibaldi has rendered to his native country in the past, she has in the present more to fear than to hope from his sincere but mistaken zeal. Furthermore, we cannot forget that this same great champion of oppressed nationalities, when applied to by a Yankee official to take service in the army of which Butler, McNeil, and Turchin are fitting ornaments, did not spurn the offer with indignation, but gratefully acknowledged the compliment while declining solely on the ground of nearer engagements. On another occasion he apostrophised Abraham Lincoln as 'the steersman of liberty,' and likened John Brown, the Kansas ruffian, to Our Saviour. We are charitable enough to regard such vagaries as errors of judgment only, and as the faults, not so much of Garibaldi, as of the school to which he belongs, and which, in the professed name of philanthropy, preaches bloodshed and extermination. But we think we have sufficiently, and yet without needless offence, alleged our reasons for not joining without large reservations in the enthusiasm which welcomes Garibaldi as no stranger was ever welcomed on the shores of Britain.

Advance of the Southern Armies.

The Confederate army has resumed the offensive. As yet, the programme of the campaign is involved in mystery. The movements of troops are unintelligibly reported, and it is only the 'raiders' who are heard of. But it is clear that a comprehensive plan of operations is on the point of being carried out; and that the Northern leaders, instead of continuing their advance into the heart of the Confederacy, will have to fight hard to hold their present ground. So many thousands of miles away from the theatre of the war, with the authorities at Richmond suppressing any information that might be useful to the enemy, and the *bureaux* at Washington inventing war news to order, it is a venturesome thing to attempt to foreshadow the course of the coming struggle. Still, there are not wanting indications of the real designs of the Confederate leaders, and from these we gather that the great conflict of the next few months will be for the possession of Eastern Tennessee. At no period since the day after the battle of Chicamauga Creek were the prospects of recovering Eastern Tennessee from the invader more favourable, and we think it may be inferred from all our recent information that the task of driving back the army of the Cumberland beyond the Ohio will be once more essayed. Sherman's late advance across Mississippi has taught, both to North and South, a useful lesson. It has given the North an idea of the peril and the absurdity of marching an army 500 miles through an enemy's country without supplies or the means of transport, without rivers and gunboats to fall back upon. It has given the South fresh confidence in one of her chief defences; the enormous extent of her territory has relieved her from all apprehension of an attack upon the Cotton States from Vicksburg, and has enabled her to draw away portions of her forces which might otherwise be still employed in guarding the western frontier of Alabama from attack. The earliest visible effect of Sherman's failure is Forrest's rapid dash across Western Tennessee into Kentucky. The last we heard of Forrest's gallant troops was their pursuit of General Smith's discomfited cavalry column almost into the streets of Memphis. 2,500 of the Southern cavalry had checked, stopped, and finally beaten back, with heavy loss, a force of treble its own number. Not waiting idly in the outskirts of Memphis, Forrest has now pushed boldly into what may almost be called for the time Union territory, and captured Paducah, a great depôt of Northern supplies on the confluence of the Tennessee and Mississippi rivers, picking up on his way the Federal garrison of 500 men at Union City, Western Tennessee. The Northern papers say that he was shelled out of Paducah by the Federal gunboats. But it is preposterous to suppose that Forrest intended to do more than surprise the town and carry off the supplies stored up there. He is next heard of within eight miles of Columbus, which is, however, too strong a position for Confederate cavalry to carry. His object will have been attained if he draws away a large force into Western Kentucky and succeeds in getting off with his booty. But Kentucky is threatened in another quarter. A considerable body of Confederate troops was concentrated, according to the last accounts, at Pound Gap on the Kentucky-Virginia frontier. The only object of this gathering can be the invasion of Kentucky and the interruption of the direct line of communication with the Federal army at Knoxville. There are large depôts scattered about Kentucky which will be exceedingly useful to the Confederates for the coming campaign. There is an abundance of recruiting material available. But, above all, these incursions in the rear of the far-advanced outposts of the Northern army, Chattanooga and Knoxville, will seriously jeopardise the whole Federal position, and greatly facilitate any offensive movements that may be contemplated by Johnston or Longstreet.

It would seem, indeed, that the advance of Forrest into Kentucky and the concentration of troops at Pound Gap are parts of the grand scheme for the ejection of the Federals from Tennessee. Simultaneously with these we hear of Johnston closing up towards Ringgold, of General Polk reinforcing him with troops from Alabama and Mississippi, and of the appearance of Longstreet's cavalry at Marietta, Georgia, on the road to Dalton. If it be true that Longstreet has turned up again in Georgia, we may be quite sure that a great and decisive action will shortly be fought somewhere between Dalton and Chattanooga. It will be remembered that, previously to the battle of Chicamauga Creek, Longstreet's division found its way to Bragg's army by the same circuitous route which it is now reported to have taken. Then its arrival was the signal for an attack; and if Longstreet be really in the neighbourhood of Dalton, General Thomas will not be allowed much more rest at Ringgold. We confess, however, we have some doubt about Longstreet's junction with the army of Georgia. His withdrawal so far South would leave the South-western frontier of Virginia dangerously exposed to an incursion from Knoxville, and would enable the Federals to drive farther in the wedge intended to isolate Virginia from the rest of the Confederacy. Moreover, supposing there be any foundation for the report that Grant contemplates a combined movement upon Richmond from all sides, Longstreet's division could hardly be spared by Lee. The latter General must be much stronger than he is alleged to be if he can spare so powerful an auxiliary force at this juncture. Still, the Confederate authorities may be in possession of information that Grant cannot move forward for another month or two, and may have intended to strike a crushing blow in the South-west at once. What the strength of the Federal army at Ringgold and Chattanooga is we cannot even approximately estimate. We know it has been weakened by the retirement of whole regiments of three-years' service men, and that there has been much sickness in its ranks. If Johnston be reinforced by Longstreet and Polk, his whole force will probably not be far inferior to the army under General Thomas, and we need not fear the result. Under any circumstances no Federal advance is likely to take place from Chattanooga. With Sherman's forces occupied on the Red River, with Forrest in Kentucky, and civil war in Illinois, no aid can be forthcoming for General Thomas. He is clearly in no position to take the initiative now. The next month or six weeks will show us whether he is able to hold his ground in the face of a determined attempt by General Johnston to dislodge him.

From Virginia nothing more is heard of the threatening movements reported a week ago. All is quiet along the Rappahannock. General Grant is busy reorganising the army of the Potomac and getting rid of dangerous candidates for the Presidency. His latest move is, it is said, to recall Fremont and M'Clellan to active service and give them new commands, the object of the movement being doubtless to remove them from President Lincoln's path. M'Clellan's candidature is somewhat popular; but 'honest Abe Lincoln' will contrive to employ him in some post where his military talents may be serviceable to the country without alarming the present occupant of the White House. And thus the three formidable opponents, Grant, Fremont, and M'Clellan, are shelved. When these politico-military promotions have been made, Grant will, we suppose, make his final move upon Richmond. His arrival at Fortress Monroe looks as if the old route up the York Town Peninsula were to be tried again, simultaneously with a direct attack from the north; and Fremont's and M'Clellan's appointments may be connected with this new arrangement. In the meantime, it is not impossible that he may be anticipated by Lee, and that his combinations may be spoiled by another of those flank movements which have so often disconcerted the Federal commanders, and thrown President Lincoln into paroxysms of alarm for the safety of Washington.

MORE FEDERAL FORGERIES.

To the Editor of The Index.

Sir,—In looking over the Parliamentary Papers, 'North America, 1864, No. 9, relating to the seizure of the *Chesapeake*,' I find another gross forgery, which should be exposed in connection with the famous 'Report' of Mr. Mallory. You will perceive to what I refer by turning to page 8, Lord Lyons's Despatch to Earl Russell; page 9, Translation of a pretended Letter in cypher from a Confederate Agent to Mr. Benjamin; page 27, Letter from General Doyle to the Duke of Newcastle, and Mr. Gunnison, United States' Vice-Consul at Halifax, to Mr. Tupper. The forgery ought to have been patent to any one who did not wish to be deceived; but you may denounce it as such on my authority, since I am mentioned by name as cognisant of the facts stated in the pretended letter.

Yours, &c.,

John Slidell.

19 Rue de Marignan, Paris, April 11.

We subjoin the passages referred to in Mr. Slidell's letter. It will be observed that they directly connect the Federal

Government with the forgery, through its Secretary of State, the Postmaster in New York, the War Office, and its Consular Agent at Halifax,

Page 8.—On December 24, 1863, Lord Lyons writes to Earl Russell:—

'Mr. Seward then gave me a paper, a copy of which forms Inclosure No. 3 in this despatch. It was, he said, the decipher of a letter from a Confederate agent at New York to Mr. Benjamin, the Secretary of State at Richmond. Some of the proper names were, he observed, undecipherable, but the rest of the letter had been made out, and it showed that there were plots to seize two other steamers besides the *Chesapeake*, and to make use of the neighbouring British territory to further the nefarious designs of the enemy.

'Mr. Seward went on to say that the statement in the letter that a large number of rifled muskets had been sent to Halifax, and other facts which had come to his knowledge, made him apprehensive that the *Chesapeake* might not be safe at that place. He begged me to warn the authorities, and to ask whether the vessel would be made over at once to her owners if they applied for her with the sanction of the United States' Government. In consequence of this request, I despatched to Major-General Doyle a telegram.

'Mr. Seward said that the plots to get possession of United States' steam-packets by sending Confederate emissaries on board them in United States' ports in the guise of passengers rendered it necessary to take extraordinary precautions at the ports, and to enforce restrictions there which might, he feared, cause some inconvenience to foreigners as well as to Americans, but the matter was too urgent and too important to admit of the neglect of any means of frustrating the nefarious designs which had been conceived.'

In addition to this verbal representation to the British Minister at Washington, Mr. Seward sets his Consular Agent at work to frighten the colonial authorities. Consequently, Mr. Gunnison writes to Mr. Tupper:—

'MR. GUNNISON TO MR. TUPPER.

'Consulate of the United States,
'Halifax, Nova Scotia,
'December 23, 1863.

'Sir,—I beg to inform the Government of this province that I have received information from my Government of the fact that 1,000 rifles have been shipped from New York to Nova Scotia by the rebel agents for rebel purposes in Halifax. The fact is reported to me as certain.

'I beg to call the attention of the Government to the matter, and request that such steps be taken by the proper authorities for the seizure of these arms.

'I would further say, that I have reason to fear the re-seizure of the *Chesapeake* by the pirates and their abettors in this province.—I have, &c.

'(Signed) N. Gunnison, Vice-Consul.'

It is much to the credit of General Doyle that under the combined influence of the Consular warning and Lord Lyons's telegram, he did not lose his head and restore the ship without delay to the claimants and the protection of the United States Government. He contents himself with informing the Duke of Newcastle of the alarming state of affairs:

'Government House, Halifax, Nova Scotia,
'December 24.

* * * * * *

'At the same time I received a second despatch (from Lord Lyons) dated December 22, informing me that the United States' Government had intercepted a letter, which had excited apprehensions that the *Chesapeake* would be seized in this port by Confederates, and enquiring when this Government would give her up to the owners on the requisition of the United States' Government.

'To this I replied by telegram, that my Government had decided to put the *Chesapeake* into the Court of Vice-Admiralty, and that she could only be given up upon the order of that Court, but that proper precautions had been taken for her safety.'

Last, but not least, we present our readers with the 'intercepted' document itself, as we find it on page 9, forming Inclosure No. 3 of Lord Lyons's despatch:—

'Office of United States' Military Telegraph, War Department,
'Washington, December 21, 1863.

'*Translation of a Letter in cypher forwarded to the Secretary of War by Postmaster Wakeman, New York City.*

'New York, December 18, 1863.

'—— is here. The two steamers will leave here about Christmas. Lamar and Boners left here *viâ* Bermuda two weeks ago. The 1,000 rifled muskets came duly to hand, and were shipped to Halifax as instructed. We will be able to seize the other two steamers as per programme.

'—— has followed the President's orders. We will have —— under arrest before this reaches you; cost—000 dollars.

'We want more money. How shall we draw?

'Bills all forwarded to *Slidell*, and receipts received.

'Write as before.

'(Signed) J. H. C.

'Hon. J. P. Benjamin.

'Please detach and forward as before. Telegraph when return answer is received. Very important.

'(Signed) J. H. C.

'A. Keith, Halifax, Nova Scotia. per T.'

FEDERAL RECRUITING IN LANCASHIRE.

To the Editor of The Index.

Sir,—In the *Manchester Courier* of this morning, I met with the following astonishing paragraph; and considering the statements contained in it were made at a meeting of the Central Executive Committee, their general accuracy can scarcely be doubted.

'At the meeting of the Central Relief Committee in this city on Monday, Mr. Thomas Ashton made a most important statement. He said he had been informed 'by persons upon whose testimony he could rely' that persons representing themselves as agents from some of the mills in America were engaging people here for factory work in those mills. Every man so engaged received a certain sum to defray the cost of outfit and passage money, and had to sign an agreement binding him to repay the advance within a period of ninety days, or, in other words, in about two months after his arrival in America. 'On stringent measures being adopted to enforce repayment, the emigrants who had not then saved sufficient money were induced or compelled to enlist in the army.' This is a sufficiently wicked device, but what follows is still worse. 'This system was at first tried with single men, but, as many of them contrived in some way to raise the amount of their individual expenses, it was now being applied to married men, with families of children over ten years of age, whose emigration expenses were much larger; consequently men so situated had scarcely any prospect before them but enlistment, when pressing demands were made for repayment of the emigration loans.' No one, we suppose, will deny that the Government is bound to cause investigation to be made into the facts here represented. They present the system of enticing people from this country in its worst and most odious aspect. The war has evidently worn out the courage, the patriotism, and the endurance of the subjects of the Federal States; and now the plan is, by dint of the most unscrupulous means, to entrap the bone and sinew of the 'old country' into going over and fighting the battle for them. If Lord Russell has no longer any terrors for the Federal Government, surely he and his colleagues can devise some plan to prevent British subjects from being ensnared to their ruin in this infamous manner.'

I am, Sir,
Yours respectfully,
Manchester: April 6. English.

Confederate Official Documents.

A BILL TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS UPON THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENCE.

Whereas, the Confederate States are engaged in a war, upon the successful issue of which depend the integrity of their social system, the form of their civilisation, the security of life and property within their limits, as well as their existence as sovereign and independent States; And whereas, the condition of the contest demands that they should call into requisition whatever resources of men and money they have for the support of their cause, to faithfully administer the same: Therefore, as a part of the system of the public defence:—

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the exportation of cotton, tobacco, military and naval stores, sugar, molasses, and rice, from the Confederate States, and from all places in the occupation of their troops, is prohibited, except under such uniform regulations as shall be made by the President of the Confederate States.

Sec. 2. That if any person, or persons, shall put, place, or load on board any ship, steamboat, or vessel, or any other water craft, or into any wagon, cart, carriage, or other vehicle, for conveyance or transportation beyond the Confederate States, or into any portion of said States occupied by the enemy, any of the articles mentioned in the first section of this act, or shall collect the same for the purpose of being conveyed or transported, contrary to the prohibition aforesaid, within the Confederate States, or beyond them, the said articles, and the ship, boat, or other water craft, wagon, carriage, or other vehicle, with the slaves and animals that may be employed or collected for the purpose of aiding therein, shall be forfeited, and all persons, their aiders and abettors, on conviction of being interested or concerned in the enterprise, shall be deemed to be guilty of a high misdemeanor, and punishable by such fine or imprisonment, or both, as the court may impose.

Sec. 3. That it shall not be lawful to put on board any ship, boat, vessel, or other water craft, or upon any wagon, cart, carriage, or other vehicle, for transportation or conveyance as aforesaid, any of the articles aforesaid, unless a permit be previously obtained from some officer of the Confederate States specially authorised to grant the same, particularly describing the articles thus to be laden, and the ship, boat, vessel, water craft, wagon, carriage, cart, or other vehicle, on which the same is to be transported, and until bond shall be given that the same shall be conveyed and transported to the place of destination under such conditions and regulations, and for such objects, as shall be prescribed by the President under the first section of this act.

Sec. 4. That the collectors of all the districts of the Confederate States, and such other officers as may be designated by the President of the Confederate States, shall have power and authority to take into their custody any of the articles before mentioned found on any ship, boat, or other water craft, when there is reason to believe that they are intended for exportation, or when in vessels, carts, or wagons, or any other carriage or vehicle whatsoever, or in any manner, apparently on their way towards the territories of a foreign nation, or towards the territory of the Confederate States in the occupation of the United States, or the vicinity thereof, or towards a place whence such articles are intended to be exported, and not to permit the same to be removed until bond shall be given, with satisfactory sureties, that no violation of this act, and the regulations under the same, is intended.

Sec. 5. That the powers granted by this act to the revenue or other officers of the Confederate States under this act to allow or refuse exportation of the articles before mentioned, or for the seizure or detention of any of the said articles, shall be exercised in conformity with such instructions as the President may give through the Departments of War and of the Treasury, which instructions may impose conditions as to the destination and sale of the same, and the investment of the proceeds of the same, or a portion thereof, in military or other supplies for the public service, which instructions such officers shall be bound to obey; and if any action or suit shall be brought against any such officer or officers, or their agents, he or they may plead the general issue, and upon proof of a compliance with the provisions of this act, or with the regulations and instructions of the President, he or they shall be absolved from all responsibility therefor; and any person aggrieved by any of the acts of any of the officers or agents aforesaid, may file his petition before the district court of the district in which such officer or agent resides, and after due notice to him, and to the district attorney, the said court may proceed summarily to hear and determine thereupon as law and justice may require, and the judgment of the said court and the reasons therefor shall be filed among the records of the court, and in case any release shall be granted, the judge may impose such conditions as to giving bond and security as may, in his opinion, be necessary to secure this act from violation, and, in case of refusal, may impose double or treble costs upon the petitioner if circumstances warrant: Provided, That nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the Confederate States, or any of them, from exporting any of the articles herein enumerated on their own account.

Sec. 6. That exclusive jurisdiction is conferred upon the district courts of the Confederate States of all suits or actions that may arise under this act in behalf of the Confederate States, its officers and agents, for the recovery of all fines, penalties, and forfeitures imposed in the same, by indictment, information, or action, according to the practice of the court, and the distribution of the penalties and fines shall be made under and according to the laws now in force for violation of the revenue acts, and all laws for the mitigation and remittance of penalties and forfeitures shall be applied in similar cases.

Sec. 7. That it shall be lawful for the President, or such officers as he may designate, to employ any portion of the military or naval force of the Confederacy or of the militia, to prevent the illegal departure of any ship, vessel, or other water craft, for detaining, taking possession of, and keeping in custody the same, or any wagon, cart, or other vehicle heretofore mentioned, their teams and drivers, and their products aforesaid, and to suppress and disperse any assembly of persons who may resist the execution of this act, or oppose the fulfilment, by the officers, of the duties imposed by the same.

Sec. 8. That this act shall expire on the day of the ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States.

Approved, February 6, 1864.

OFFICIAL REGULATIONS TO CARRY INTO EFFECT THE ACT 'TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS UPON THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENCE.'

I.—As to the Sea.

1. The owners of any vessel intending to sail from a Confederate port with a cargo consisting in whole or in part of cotton, tobacco, military and naval stores, sugar, molasses, or rice, shall, before the lading on board of any of such articles, file with the collector of the port from which the vessel is to sail a copy of her register, with a declaration of the names of the owners and officers thereof, the place of their birth, and of their residence for the preceding year, together with the port or place to which the said vessel proposes to sail. The said declaration shall also set forth the quantity and value, in Confederate currency, of the cargo proposed to be taken out, as also the consent of the said owners, that one-half of the tonnage of the said vessel may be employed by the Confederate Government for its own use, both on the outward and homeward voyage, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned. The collector shall submit a statement as to the owners and officers to the military commandant of the port, and if he shall not object to their loyalty, or to the sailing of the vessel for reasons of military necessity, the collector shall grant a permit for the lading of the said vessel, one-half for account of the owners, and one-half for account of the Confederate States.

2. Before the said lading shall be completed, the owners of the vessel shall execute to the Confederate States a bond in double the value of the vessel, with security deemed adequate by the collector, conditioned that she will pursue the voyage designated, and that she will return with reasonable despatch to a Confederate port after her outward cargo shall be discharged, with a cargo consisting one-half of articles not prohibited by the laws of the Confederate Government, and the other half of such articles as the Government shall offer for shipment from such port, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned.

3. Each shipper of any portion of the cargo proposed to be laden on board the said vessel shall, before the lading thereof, make application to the collector for a permit to lade the same, which application shall declare the articles to be shipped, and the quantity and value thereof in Confederate currency, the port of destination, and the name of the consignee. A permit shall then be granted by the collector if the application is deemed satisfactory. The lading shall be had under the inspection of a revenue officer, who shall be charged with the duty of seeing that the goods laden conform to the permit.

4. Before the completion of the lading on board, or the granting a clearance, each shipper of any portion of the cargo shall execute and deliver to the collector a bond to the Confederate States, in double the value of his shipment in Confederate money, with security deemed adequate by the collector, with condition that at least one-half the net proceeds of said shipment shall be invested in goods or articles not prohibited by law, and that the said goods or articles shall be shipped by the same, or some other vessel, to the Confederate States within 60 days from the unlading of said cargo; or that the said half of the net proceeds shall be paid in coin or sterling exchange to the proper agent of the Confederate States, to be reimbursed to the shipper by the delivery to him of cotton at the port of departure in the Confederate States, at the rate of 10*d.* sterling per lb. for middling uplands.

5. The freight to be paid by the Confederate States on all cotton and tobacco shipped from a Confederate port shall be 5*d.* sterling per lb., payable on delivery at the port of destination, in coin or sterling exchange. Return freight shall be at the rate of 25*l.* per ton, payable on its delivery in the Confederate port, in cotton at 10*d.* sterling per lb. for middling uplands, and at a proportionate price for cotton of other qualities. In calculating the ton of freight by weight, 2,240 lbs. shall be allowed; by measure, 40 cubic feet shall be allowed.

6. If the outward-bound vessel shall consent, at the request of the Government, to take two-thirds her cargo for account of the Confederate States, the outward freight shall be 6*d.* sterling per lb.; and whenever the Government is not prepared to fill up any portion of the tonnage reserved for its use at the time at which any vessel may be made ready to sail, the owners may fill up the same on their own account; but no vessel shall, without consent of the Government, sail on her outward voyage until one-third of her cargo shall be laden for the use of the Government.

7. The rates of freight for articles other than cotton and tobacco shall be adjusted at the same relative rate, and be payable in the same way.

8. The Government reserves the right to limit or prohibit the shipment of resin, turpentine, or any manufacture thereof, whenever deemed dangerous to its own shipment.

9. Upon the completion of the lading of the vessel, and before receiving her clearance, there shall be delivered to the collector, in addition to the usual manifest, another, setting forth the names, ages, and description of her officers and crew, and of every passenger intending to sail in her. The said last-mentioned manifest shall be delivered to the commandant of the port, who shall thereupon cause the entire vessel to be searched, and if satisfied that the parties on board are persons who may safely be permitted to leave the Confederacy, and that the passengers have the proper passports, he shall certify the same on the manifest, and return the same to the collector, whereupon, and not before, a clearance shall be granted to the vessel, and she shall be permitted to sail.

10. The owners of each vessel, and of each portion of a cargo sailing from a Confederate port, shall be allowed to take up

their respective bonds, by producing to the collector the certificate of the proper agent of the Confederate Government at the port of delivery, setting forth the particulars showing that the said party has complied with the obligation of the said bond, so far as the same was practicable; and the collector, upon being duly satisfied, shall be authorised to surrender the said bonds.

11. Nothing in these regulations shall be so construed as to conflict with the provisions of the law which declares 'that nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the Confederate States, or any of them, from exporting any of the articles herein enumerated on their own account;' nor shall a bond be required of a State in any case.

12. The penalties of all bonds executed in conformity with these regulations shall be recovered in full on proof of breach of the conditions of the bond, and without proof of any damage suffered by the Confederate States in consequence of such breach, and all bonds shall be executed in such force as to give effect to this regulation.

13. Vessels sent into the Confederacy for the purpose of exporting cotton received in payment of any Confederate bond or obligation, shall be subject to these regulations only so far as relates to such portion of the tonnage, if any, as may remain vacant after the lading of the cotton received in payment as aforesaid.

14. The regulations for overland commerce with neutral countries will be issued separately within a few days.

Approved.

(Signed) C. G. Memminger, Secretary of Treasury.
(Signed) James A. Seddon, Secretary of War.

Approved, March 5, 1864.

(Signed) Jefferson Davis.

March 7.

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE IMPORTATION OF LUXURIES, OR OF ARTICLES NOT NECESSARIES OR OF COMMON USE.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That from and after the first day of March next it shall not be lawful to import into the Confederate States any brandy, wines, or other spirits, or any other article specified in schedule A of an act entitled 'An act to provide revenue from commodities imported from foreign countries,' approved May 21, 1861, or any goods, wares, or merchandise, enumerated in schedule B of said act, except the following articles:—All things for medical purposes, camphor refined, pickles, molasses, pepper, pimento, cloves, nutmegs, cinnamon, and all other spices; soap, Castille, Windsor, and all other toilet soaps; sugar of all kinds; syrup of sugar; galloons, laces, knots, stars, tassels, tresses and wings of gold and silver, or imitations thereof, intended for uniforms of officers in the military and naval service.

Sec. 2. And it shall not be lawful to import the following articles enumerated in schedule C of said act: Beer, ale, and porter; muffs and tippets, and all other manufactures of fur, or of which fur shall be a component part, except caps and hats; carpets, carpetings, hearth rugs, bedsides, and other portions of carpeting, of any kind or description; carriages and parts of carriages; cider and other beverages not containing alcohol; clocks and parts of clocks; cotton laces, cotton insertings, cotton trimmings, or laces of thread and other material; coral, manufactured; dolls and toys of all kinds: fire crackers, sky rockets, Roman candles and all other similar articles used in pyrotechnics; furniture, cabinet and household; glass, coloured, stained, or painted; India matting of all sorts; jet and manufactures of jet, and imitations thereof; jewellery, or imitations thereof; manufactures and articles of marble, marble paving tiles, slabs, or blocks, and all other marble; matting, China or other floor matting and mats made of flags, jute, or grass; paper hangings, paper for walls, and paper for screens or fire boards; paving and roofing tiles and bricks, and roofing slates and fire bricks; thread lacings and insertings; velvets of all kinds.

Sec. 3. And it shall not be lawful to import the following articles, enumerated in schedule D of said act: Angola, Thibet, and other goats' hair, or mohair, unmanufactured; bananas, cocoa nuts, plantains, and oranges; cabinets of coins, medals, gems, and collections of antiquities; diamonds, mosaics, gems, pearls, rubies, and other precious stones and imitations thereof, set in gold or silver or other metals; engravings, bound or unbound; rattans and reeds; paintings and stationery: leaf and unmanufactured tobacco and cigars; or the following articles enumerated in schedule E: Diamonds, cameos, mosaics, pearls, gems, rubies, and other precious stones and imitations thereof, when not set.

Sec. 4. None of the manufactures of metal, designed as either household or personal ornaments, shall be admitted; and in order to confine importations to articles of necessity and of common use, the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe the maximum foreign prices at which and within which importations of goods manufactured wholly or partly of cotton, flax, wool, or of silk, and designed for wearing apparel, and not herein prohibited, may be made, and beyond which importations thereof shall not be made: Provided, That articles herein allowed to be imported shall not be impressed by the Government or its agents after they have reached the Confederate States: Provided further, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit any importation for the use or account of the Confederate States, or either of them: Provided further, That this act shall not apply to any articles which have been or shall be shipped, without knowledge of the passage of this act, before the first day of March next, but which shall arrive in a Confederate port after that day.

Sec. 5. That whenever any article or articles, the importation of which is prohibited by this act, shall, after the first day of March next, be imported into the Confederate States, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, or shall, after said first day of March next, be put on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, with the intention of importing the same into the Confederate States, all such articles, as well as all other articles on board the same ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, belonging to the owner of such prohibited articles, shall be forfeited, and the owner thereof shall, moreover, forfeit and pay double the value of such articles.

Sec. 6. If any article or articles, the importation of which is prohibited by this act, shall, nevertheless, be on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, arriving after said first day of March next in the Confederate States, and shall be omitted in the manifest, report, or entry of the master, or the person having the charge or command of such ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, or shall be omitted in the entry of the goods owned by the owner, or consigned to the consignee of such articles, or shall be imported or landed, or attempted to be imported or landed, without a permit, the same penalties, fines, and forfeitures shall be incurred, and may be recovered, as in the case of similar omission or omissions, landing, importation, or attempt to land or import, in relation to articles liable to duties on their importation into the Confederate States.

Sec. 7. Every collector, naval officer, surveyor, or other officer of the customs, shall have the like power and authority to seize goods, wares, and merchandise imported contrary to the intent and meaning of this act, to keep the same in custody until it shall have been ascertained whether the same have been forfeited or not, and to enter any ship or vessel, dwelling-house, store, building, or other place, for the purpose of searching for and seizing any such goods, wares, and merchandise subject to duty, and if any person or persons shall conceal or buy any goods, wares, or merchandise, knowing them to be liable to seizure by this act, such person or persons shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a sum double the amount or value of the goods, wares, and merchandise so concealed or purchased.

Sec. 8. The following additional oath or affirmation shall be taken by masters or persons having charge or command of any ship or vessel arriving at any port of the Confederate States after said first day of March next, viz.: 'I further swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, on board [insert the denomination and name of the vessel] any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, on board [insert the denomination and name of the vessel] any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover or know of any such goods, wares, or merchandise, on board of the said vessel, or which shall have been imported in the same, I will immediately, and without delay, make due report thereof to the collector of the port of this district.'

Sec. 9. After said first day of March next, importers, consignors, or agents, at the time of entering goods into the Confederate States, shall take the following additional oath, viz.: 'I also swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, amongst the said goods, wares, or merchandise, imported or consigned as aforesaid, any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law: and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover any such goods, wares, or merchandise among the said goods, wares, and merchandise so imported or consigned as aforesaid, I will immediately and without delay report the same to the collector of this district.'

Sec. 10. All penalties and forfeitures arising under this act, may be sued for and recovered, and shall be distributed and accounted for, in the manner prescribed by the act entitled 'An act to regulate the collection of the duties on imports and tonnage;' and such penalties and forfeitures, mitigated or remitted, in like manner and under the like conditions, regulations, and restrictions as are prescribed, authorised, and directed by the act entitled 'An act to provide for mitigating or remitting the forfeitures, penalties, and disabilities accruing in certain cases therein mentioned.'

Sec. 11. That this act shall expire on the day of the ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States.

Approved, Feb. 6, 1864.

AN ACT TO LEVY ADDITIONAL TAXES FOR THE COMMON DEFENCE AND SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That, in addition to the taxes levied by the 'act to lay taxes for the common defence, and to carry on the Government of the Confederate States,' approved 24th of April, 1863, there shall be levied from the passage of this act, on the subjects of taxation hereafter mentioned, and collected from every person, copartnership, association or corporation, liable therefor, taxes as follows, to wit:

I. Upon the value of property, real personal and mixed, of every kind and description, not hereinafter exempted or taxed at a different rate, five per cent.: Provided, That from this tax on the value of property, employed in agriculture, shall be deducted the value of the tax in kind derived therefrom, as assessed under the law imposing it, and delivered to the Government: Provided, That no credit shall be allowed beyond five per cent.

II. On the value of gold and silver wares and plate, jewels, jewelry and watches, ten per cent.

III. The value of property taxed under this section shall be assessed on the basis of the market value of the same, or similar property, in the neighbourhood where assessed in the year 1860, except in cases where lands, slaves, cotton or tobacco have been purchased since the 1st day of January, 1862, in which case the said land, slaves, cotton and tobacco, so purchased, shall be assessed at the price actually paid for the same by the owner.

Sec. 2. On the value of all shares or interests held in any bank, banking company, or association, canal, navigation, importing and exporting, insurance, manufacturing, telegraph, express, railroad and dry dock companies, and all other joint stock companies of every kind, whether incorporated or not, five per cent.

The value of property taxed under this section shall be assessed upon the basis of the market value of said property in the neighbourhood where assessed, in such currency as may be in general use there, in the purchase and sale of such property, at the time of assessment.

Sec. 3. I. Upon the amount of all gold and silver coin, gold dust, gold or silver bullion, whether held by banks or other corporations or individuals, five per cent.; and upon all moneys held abroad, or upon the amount of all bills of exchange, drawn therefor on foreign countries, a tax of five per cent.; such tax upon money abroad to be assessed and collected according to the value thereof at the place where the tax is paid.

II. Upon the amount of all solvent credits, and of all bank bills, and all other paper issued as currency, exclusive of non-interest bearing Confederate treasury notes, and not employed in a registered business, the income derived from which is taxed, five per cent.

Sec. 4. Upon profits made in trade and business, as follows:—

I. On all profits made by buying and selling spirituous liquors, flour, wheat, corn, rice, sugar, molasses or syrup, salt, bacon, pork, hogs, beef or beef cattle, sheep, oats, hay, fodder, raw hides, leather, horses, mules, boots, shoes, cotton yarns, wool, woollen, cotton or mixed cloths, hats, wagons, harness, coal, iron, steel or nails, at any time between January 1, 1863, and January 1, 1865, ten per cent., in addition to the tax on such profits as income under the 'act to lay taxes for the common defence, and carry on the Government of the Confederate States,' passed April 24, 1863.

II. On all profits made by buying and selling money, gold, silver, foreign exchange, stocks, notes, debts, credits or obligations of any kind, and on all profits made by property, or effects of any kind not connected with a business taxed by paragraph I. between the [illegible] and the [illegible] and subject to the tax on such profits as income under said act aforesaid.

III. On the amount of profits exceeding twenty-five per cent. made during the year 1863 and 1864, by any bank or banking [illegible] and on profits accruing, importing and exporting [illegible] manufacturing, [illegible] and on the profits of any description, whether [illegible] the [illegible] twenty-five per cent. on such excess.

Sec. 5. The following exemptions from taxation under this act shall be allowed to wit:

I. Property of every kind of a family to the value of five hundred dollars, and [illegible] of the family to the further value of one hundred dollars, and [illegible] actually engaged in the army or navy or who have died or been killed in the military or naval service, and who were members of the family when he entered the service, to the further value of five hundred dollars.

II. Property of the widow of any officer, soldier, sailor, or marine, who may have died or been killed in the military or naval service, or whose there is no widow, then of the family, being minor children, to the value of one thousand dollars.

III. Property of every officer, soldier, sailor, or marine, actually engaged in the military or naval service, or of such as have been disabled in such service, to the value of one thousand dollars: Provided, That the above exemptions shall not apply to any person, whose property, exclusive of household furniture, shall be assessed at a value exceeding one thousand dollars.

IV. That where property has been injured or destroyed by the enemy, or the owner thereof has been temporarily deprived of the use or occupancy thereof, or of the means of cultivating the same, by reason of the presence or proximity of the enemy, the assessment on such property may be reduced, in proportion to the damage sustained by the owner, or the tax assessed thereon may be reduced in the same ratio by the district collector, on satisfactory evidence submitted to him by the owner or assessor.

Sec. 6. That the taxes on property, laid for the year 1864, shall be assessed as on the day of the passage of this act, and be due and collected on the 1st day of June next, or as soon after as practicable, allowing an extension of ninety days west of the Mississippi river. The additional taxes on incomes or profits for the year 1863, levied by this act, shall be assessed and collected forthwith; and the taxes on incomes or profits for the year 1864 shall be assessed and collected according to the provisions of the tax and assessment acts of 1863.

Sec. 7. So much of the tax act of the 24th day of April, 1863, as levies a tax on incomes derived from property or effects, on the amount or value of which a tax is levied by this act, and also the first section of said act, are suspended for the year 1864; and no estimated rent, hire, or interest on property or credits herein taxed *ad valorem*, shall be assessed or taxed as incomes under the tax act of 1863.

Sec. 8. That the tax imposed by this act on bonds of the Confederate States heretofore issued, shall in no case exceed the interest on the same, and such bonds when held by or for minors or lunatics, shall be exempt from tax in all cases where the interest on the same shall not exceed one thousand dollars.

Approved, Feb. 17, 1864.

AN ACT TO REDUCE THE CURRENCY AND TO AUTHORISE A NEW ISSUE OF NOTES AND BONDS.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the holders of all treasury notes above the denomination of five dollars, not bearing interest, shall be allowed until the 1st day of April, 1864, east of the Mississippi river, and until the first day of July, 1864, west of the Mississippi river, to fund the same; and until the periods and at the places stated, the holders of all such treasury notes shall be allowed to fund the same in registered bonds, payable twenty years after their date, bearing interest at the rate of four per cent. per annum, payable on the first day of January and July of each year.

Sec. 2. The Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorised to issue the bonds required for the funding provided for in the preceding section, and until the bonds can be prepared he may issue certificates to answer the purpose. Such bonds and certificates shall be receivable, without interest, in payment of all Government dues payable in the year 1864, except export and import duties.

Sec. 3. That all treasury notes of the denomination of 100 dollars, not bearing interest, which shall not be presented for funding under the provisions of the first section of this act, shall, from and after the first day of April, 1864, east of the Mississippi river, and the first day of July, 1864, west of the Mississippi river, cease to be receivable in the payment of public dues, and said notes, if not so presented at that time, shall, in addition to the tax of thirty-three and one-third cents imposed in the fourth section of this act, be subject to a tax of *ten per cent. per month* until so presented, which taxes shall attach to said notes wherever circulated, and shall be deducted from the face of said notes whenever presented for payment or for funding, and said notes shall not be exchangeable for the new issue of treasury notes provided for in this act.

Sec. 4. That on all said treasury notes not funded or used in payment of taxes at the dates and places prescribed in the first section of this act, there shall be levied at said dates and places a tax of thirty-three and one-third cents for every dollar promised on the face of said notes. Said tax shall attach to said notes wherever circulated, and shall be collected by deducting the same at the Treasury, its depositories, and by the tax collectors, and by all Government officers receiving the same, whenever presented for payment, or for funding, or in payment of Government dues, or for postage, or in exchange for new notes as hereinafter provided: and said treasury notes shall be fundable in bonds as provided in the first section of this act until the first day of January, 1865, at the rate of sixty-six and two-third cents on the dollar.

And it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury, at any time between the first April east, and the 1st July, 1864, west of the Mississippi river, and the 1st January, 1865, to substitute and exchange new treasury notes for the same, at the rate of sixty-six and two-third cents on the dollar: Provided, That notes of the denomination of 100 dollars shall not be entitled to the privilege of said exchange: Provided further,

That the right to fund any of said treasury notes after 1st day of January, 1865, is hereby taken away: And provided further, That upon all such treasury notes which may remain outstanding on the 1st January, 1865, and which may not be exchanged for new treasury notes as herein provided, a tax of *one hundred per cent.* is hereby imposed.

Sec. 5. That after the 1st day of April next all authority heretofore given to the Secretary of the Treasury to issue treasury notes shall be, and the same is hereby revoked: Provided, The Secretary of the Treasury may, after that time, issue new treasury notes, in such form as he may prescribe, payable two years after the ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States, said new issues to be receivable in payment of all public dues except export and import duties, and to be issued in exchange for old notes, at the rate of two dollars of the new for three dollars of the old issues, whether said old notes be surrendered for exchange by the holders thereof, or be received into the Treasury under the provisions of this act; and the holders of the new notes or of the old notes, except those of the denomination of 100 dollars, after they are reduced to sixty-six and two-third cents on the dollar, by the tax aforesaid, may convert the same into call certificates, bearing interest at the rate of four per cent. per annum, and payable two years after the ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States, unless sooner converted into new notes.

Sec. 6. That to pay the expenses of the Government not otherwise provided for, the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorised to issue six per cent. bonds to an amount not exceeding 500,000,000 of dollars, the principal and interest whereof shall be free from taxation, and for the payment of the interest thereon the entire nett receipts of any export duty hereafter laid on the value of all cotton, tobacco, and naval stores which shall be exported from the Confederate States, and the nett proceeds of the import duties now laid, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay annually the interest, are hereby specially pledged: Provided, That the duties now laid upon imports, and hereby pledged, shall hereafter be paid in specie, or in sterling exchange, or in the coupons of said bonds.

Sec. 7. That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorised, from time to time, as the wants of the Treasury may require it, to sell or hypothecate for treasury notes said bonds, or any part thereof, upon the best terms he can, so as to meet appropriations by Congress, and at the same time reduce and restrict the amount of the circulation in Treasury notes within reasonable and safe limits.

Sec. 8. The bonds authorised by the 6th section of this act may be either registered or coupon bonds, as the parties taking them may elect, and they may be exchanged for each other under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe. They shall be for one hundred dollars, or some multiple of one hundred dollars, and shall, together with the coupons thereto attached, be in such form and of such authentication as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe. The interest shall be payable half yearly on the 1st January and July in each year—the principal shall be payable not less than thirty years from their date.

Sec. 9. All call certificates shall be fundable, and shall be taxed in all respects, as is provided for the Treasury notes, into which they are convertible. If not converted before the time fixed for taxing the Treasury notes, such certificates shall, from that time, bear interest upon only sixty-six and two-third cents for every dollar promised upon their face, and shall be redeemable only in new Treasury notes at that rate; but after the passage of this act, no call certificates shall be issued until after the 1st day of April, 1864.

Sec. 10. That if any bank of deposit shall give its depositors the bonds authorised by the 1st section of this act in exchange for their deposits, and specify the same on the bonds by some distinctive mark or token, to be agreed upon with the Secretary of the Treasury, then the said depositor shall be entitled to receive the amount of said bonds in Treasury notes bearing no interest, and outstanding at the passage of this act: Provided, The said bonds are presented before the privilege of funding said notes at par shall cease, as herein prescribed.

Sec. 11. That all Treasury notes heretofore issued, of the denomination of five dollars, shall continue to be receivable in payment of public dues, as provided by law, and fundable at par, under the provisions of this act, until the 1st of July, 1864, east, and until the 1st October, 1864, west of the Mississippi river, but after that time they shall be subject to a tax of thirty-three and one-third cents on every dollar promised on the face thereof, said tax to attach to said notes wherever circulated, and said notes to be fundable and exchangeable for new Treasury notes, as herein provided, subject to the deduction of said tax.

Sec. 12. That any State holding Treasury notes, received before the times herein fixed for taxing said notes, shall be allowed until the 1st day of January, 1865, to fund the same in six per cent. bonds of the Confederate States, payable twenty years after date, and the interest payable semi-annually. But all Treasury notes received by any State after the time fixed for taxing the same, as aforesaid, shall be held to have been received, diminished by the amount of said tax. The discrimination between the notes subject to the tax and those not so subject shall be left to the good faith of each State, and the certificate of the Governor thereof shall in each case be conclusive.

Sec. 13. That Treasury notes heretofore issued, bearing interest at the rate of seven dollars and thirty cents on the hundred dollars per annum, shall no longer be received in payment of public dues, but shall be deemed and considered bonds of the Confederate States, payable two years after a ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States, bearing the rate of interest specified on their face, payable on the 1st January in each and every year.

Sec. 14. That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby authorised, in case the exigencies of the Government should require it, to pay the demand of any public creditor whose debt may be contracted after the passage of this act, willing to receive the same, in a certificate of indebtedness to be issued by said Secretary in such form as he may deem proper, payable two years after a ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States, bearing interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually, and transferable only by special endorsement, under regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and said certificates shall be exempt from taxation in principal and interest.

Sec. 15. The Secretary of the Treasury is authorised to increase the number of depositories so as to meet the requirements of this act, and with that view to employ such of the banks of the several States as he may deem expedient.

Sec. 16. The Secretary of the Treasury shall forthwith advertise this act in such newspapers published in the several States, and by such other means as shall secure immediate publicity, and the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy shall each cause it to be published in general orders for the information of the army and navy.

Sec. 17. The 42nd section of the act for the assessment and collection of taxes, approved May 1, 1863, is hereby repealed.

Sec. 18. The Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorised and required, upon the application of the holder of any call certificates—which by the 1st section of the act 'to provide for the funding and further issue of Treasury notes,' approved March 23, 1863, was required to be thereafter deemed to be a bond—to issue to such holder a bond therefor upon the terms provided by said act.

Approved, February 17, 1864.

Address of the Confederate Congress to the People.

In closing the labours of the First Permanent Congress, your Representatives deem it a fit occasion to give some account of their stewardship: to review briefly what, under such embarrassments and adverse circumstances, has been accomplished; to invite attention to the prospect before us and the duties incumbent on every citizen in this crisis; and to address such words of counsel and encouragement as the times demand.

Compelled by a long series of oppressive and tyrannical acts, culminating at last in the selection of a President and Vice-President by a party confessedly sectional and hostile to the South and her institutions, these States withdrew from the former Union, and formed a new Confederate alliance, as an independent Government, based on the proper relations of labour and capital. This step was taken reluctantly, by constraint, and after the exhaustion of every measure that was likely to secure us from interference with our property, equality in the Union, or exemption from submission to an alien government. The Southern States claimed only the unrestricted enjoyment of the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. Finding, by painful and protracted experience, that this was persistently denied, we determined to separate from those enemies, who had manifested the inclination and ability to impoverish and destroy us; we fell back upon the right for which the colonies maintained the war of the revolution, and which our heroic forefathers asserted to be clear and inalienable. The unanimity and zeal with which the separation was undertaken and perfected, finds no parallel in history. The people rose *en masse* to assert their liberties and protect their menaced rights. There never was before such universality of conviction, among any people, on any question involving so serious and so thorough a change of political and international relations. This grew out of the clearness of the right so to act, and the certainty of the perils of further association with the North. The change was so wonderful, so rapid, so contrary to universal history, that many fail to see that all has been done in the logical sequence of principles, which are the highest testimony to the wisdom of our fathers, and the best illustration of the correctness of those principles. This Government is a child of law instead of sedition, of right instead of violence, of deliberation instead of insurrection. Its early life was attended by no anarchy, no rebellion, no suspension of authority, no social disorders, no lawless disturbances. Sovereignty was not for one moment in abeyance. The utmost conservatism marked every proceeding and public act. The object was 'to do what was necessary, and no more; and to do that with the utmost temperance and prudence.' St. Just, in his report to the Convention of France, in 1798, said, 'A people has but one dangerous enemy, and that is Government.' We adopted no such absurdity. In nearly every instance, the first steps were taken legally, in accordance with the will and prescribed direction of the constituted authorities of the seceding States. We were not remitted to brute force, or natural law, or the instincts of reason. The charters of freedom were scrupulously preserved. As in the English Revolution of 1688, and ours of 1776, there was no material alteration in the laws beyond what was necessary to redress the abuses that provoked the struggle. No attempt was made to build on *speculative* principles. The effort was confined within the narrowest limits of historical and constitutional right. The controversy turned on the records and muniments of the past. We merely resisted innovation and tyranny, and contended for our birthrights and the covenanted principles of *our race*. We have had our Governors, General Assemblies, and Courts; the same electors, the same corporations, 'the same rules for property, the same subordinations, the same order in the law and in the magistracy.' When the sovereign States met in council, they, in truth and substance, and in a constitutional light, did not make, but prevented, a revolution.

Commencing our new national life under such circumstances, we had a right to expect that we would be permitted, without molestation, to cultivate the arts of peace, and vindicate, on our chosen arena and with the selected type of social characteristics, our claims to civilisation. It was thought, too, by many that war would not be resorted to by an enlightened country, except on the direst necessity. That a people professing to be animated by Christian sentiment, and who had regarded our peculiar institution as a blot and blur upon the fair escutcheon of their common Christianity, should make war upon the South for doing what they had a perfect right to do, and for relieving them of the incubus which, they professed, rested upon them by the association, was deemed almost beyond belief by many of our wisest minds. It was hoped, too, that the obvious interest of the two sections would restrain the wild frenzy of excitement, and turn into peaceful channels the thoughts of those who had but recently been invested with power in the United States.

These reasonable anticipations were doomed to disappointment. The red glare of battle, kindled at Sumter, dissipated all hopes of peace, and the two Governments were arrayed in hostility against each other. *We charge the responsibility of this war upon the United States.* They are accountable for the blood and havoc and ruin it has caused. For such a war we were not prepared. The difference in military resources between our enemies and ourselves; the immense advantages possessed in the organised machinery of an established government; a powerful navy; the nucleus of an army; credit abroad and illimitable facilities in mechanical and manufacturing power, placed them on 'the vantage ground.' In our infancy we were without a seaman or soldier, without revenue, without gold and silver, without a recognised place in the family of nations, without external commerce, without foreign credit, with the prejudices of the world against us. While we were without manufacturing facilities to supply our wants, our ports were blockaded; we had to grapple with a giant adversary, defend 2,000 miles of sea-coast, and an inland frontier of equal extent. If we had succeeded in preventing any successes on the part of our enemy, it would have been a miracle. What we have accomplished, with a population so inferior in numbers and means so vastly disproportionate, has excited the astonishment and admiration of the world.

The war in which we are engaged was wickedly, and against all our protests and the most earnest efforts to the contrary, forced upon us. South Carolina sent a commission to Washington to adjust all questions of dispute between her and the United States. One of the first acts of the Provisional Government was to accredit agents to visit Washington, and use all honourable means to obtain a satisfactory settlement of all questions of dispute with that Government. Both efforts failed. Commissioners were deceived and rejected, and clandestine but vigorous preparations were made for war. In proportion to our perseverance and anxiety have been the obstinacy and arrogance in spurning offers of peace. It seems we can be indebted for nothing to the virtues of our enemies. We are obliged to his vices, which have enured to our strength. We owe as much to his insolence and blindness as to our precaution.

The wager of battle having been tendered, it was accepted. The alacrity with which our people flew to arms is worthy of all praise. Their deeds of heroic daring, patient endurance, ready submission to discipline, and numerous victories, are in keeping with the fervent patriotism that prompted their early volunteering. Quite recently, scores of regiments have enlisted for the war, testifying their determination to fight until their liberties were achieved. Coupled with and contributing greatly to this enthusiastic ardour, was the lofty courage, the indomitable resolve, the self-denying spirit of our noble women, who, by their labours of love, their patience of hope, their unflinching constancy, their uncomplaining submission to the privations of the war, have shed an immortal lustre upon their sex and country.

Our army is no hireling soldiery. It comes not from paupers, criminals, or emigrants. It was originally raised by the free, unconstrained, unpurchaseable assent of the men. All vocations and classes contributed to the swelling numbers. Abandoning luxuries and comforts to which they had been accustomed, they submitted cheerfully to the scanty fare and exactive service of the camps. Their services above price, the only remuneration they have sought is the protection of their altars, firesides, and liberty. In the Norwegian wars the actors were, every one of them, named and patronymically described as the King's friend and companion. The same wonderful individuality has been seen in this war. Our soldiers are not a consolidated mass, an unthinking machine, but an army of intelligent units. To designate all who have distinguished themselves by special valour, would be to enumerate nearly all in the army. The generous rivalry between the troops from different States has prevented any special preeminence, and hereafter, for centuries to come, the gallant bearing and unconquerable devotion of Confederate soldiers will inspire the hearts, and encourage the hopes, and strengthen the faith, of all who labour to obtain their freedom.

For three years this cruel war has been waged against us, and its continuance has been seized upon as a pretext by some discontented persons to excite hostility to the Government. Recent and public as have been the occurrences, it is strange that a misapprehension exists as to the conduct of the two Governments in reference to peace. Allusion has been made to the unsuccessful efforts when separation took place to procure an amicable adjustment of all matters in dispute. These attempts at negotiation do not comprise all that has been done. In every form in which expression could be given to the sentiment—in public meetings, through the press, by legislative resolves—the desire of this people for peace, for the uninterrupted enjoyment of their rights and property, has been made known. The President, more authoritatively, in several of his messages, while protesting the utter absence of all desire to interfere with the United States, or acquire any of their territory, has avowed that the 'advent of peace will be hailed with joy. Our desire for it has never been concealed. Our efforts to avoid the war, forced on us as it was by the lust of conquest and the insane passions of our foes, are known to mankind.'

The course of the Federal Government has proved that it did not desire peace, and would not consent to it on any terms that we could possibly concede. In proof of this, we refer to the repeated rejection of all terms of conciliation and compromise, to their recent contemptuous refusal to receive the Vice-President, who was sent to negotiate for softening the asperities of war, and their scornful rejection of the offer of a neutral Power to mediate between the contending parties. If cumulative evidence be needed, it can be found in the following resolution, recently adopted by the House of Representatives in Washington:

'Resolved: That as our country and the very existence of the best Government ever instituted by man are imperilled by the most causeless and wicked rebellion that the world has seen, and believing, as we do, that the only hope of saving this country and preserving this Government is by the power of the sword, we are for the most vigorous prosecution of the war until the Constitution and the laws shall be enforced and obeyed in all parts of the United States; and to that end we oppose any armistice, or intervention, or mediation, or proposition for peace, from any quarter, so long as there shall be found a rebel in arms against the Government; and we ignore all party names, lines, and issues, and recognise but two parties in this war—patriots and traitors.'

The motive of such strange conduct is obvious. The Republican party was founded to destroy slavery and the equality of the States, and Lincoln was selected as the instrument to accomplish this object. The Union was a barrier to the consummation of this policy, because the Constitution, which was its bond, recognised and protected slavery and the sovereignty of the States. The Union must, therefore, be sacrificed, and, to insure its destruction, war was determined on.

The mass of the Northern people were not privy to, and sympathised in no such design. They loved the Union and wished to preserve it. To rally the people to the support of the war, its object was proclaimed to be 'a restoration of the Union,' as if that which implied voluntary assent, of which agreement was an indispensable element and condition, could be preserved by coercion. It is absurd to pretend that a Government, really desirous of restoring the Union, would adopt such measures as the confiscation of private property, the emancipation of slaves, systematic efforts to incite them to insurrection, the division of a sovereign State without its consent, and a proclamation that one-tenth of the population of a State, and that tenth under military rule, should control the will of the remaining nine-tenths. The only relation possible between the two sections, under such a policy, is that of conqueror and conquered, superior and dependent. Rest assured, fellow-citizens, that although restoration may still be used as a war-cry by the Northern Government, it is only to delude and betray. Fanaticism has summoned to its aid cupidity and vengeance; and nothing short of your utter

subjugation, the destruction of your State Governments, the overthrow of your social and political fabric, your personal and public degradation and ruin, will satisfy the demands of the North. Can there be a man so vile, so debased, so unworthy of liberty, as to accept peace on such humiliating terms?

It would hardly be fair to assert that all the Northern people participate in these designs. On the contrary, there exists a powerful political party, which openly condemns them. The Administration has, however, been able thus far, by its enormous patronage and its lavish expenditures to seduce, or by its legions of 'Hessian' mercenaries to overawe the masses, to control the elections, and to establish an arbitrary despotism. It cannot be possible that this state of things can continue. The people of the United States, accustomed to freedom, cannot consent to be ruined and enslaved in order to ruin and enslave us. Moral, like physical epidemics, have their allotted periods, and must sooner or later be exhausted and disappear. When reason returns, our enemies will probably reflect, that a people like ours, who have exhibited such capabilities, and extemporised such resources, can never be subdued; that a vast expanse of territory, with such a population, cannot be governed as an obedient colony. Victory would not be conquest. The inextinguishable quarrel would be transmitted 'from bleeding sire to son,' and the struggle would be renewed between generations yet unborn. To impoverish us would only be to dry up some of the springs of Northern prosperity—to destroy Southern wealth is to reduce Northern profits, while the restoration of peace would necessarily re-establish some commercial intercourse. It may not be amiss, in this connection, to say that at one time it was the wish and expectation of many at the South to form a treaty of amity and friendship with the Northern States, by which both peoples might derive the benefits of commercial intercourse, and move on side by side in the arts of peace and civilisation. History has confirmed the lesson taught by Divine authority, that each nation as well as each individual should seek their happiness in the prosperity of others, and not in the injury or ruin of a neighbour. The general welfare of all is the highest dictate of moral duty and economic policy, while a heritage of triumphant wrong is the greatest curse that can befall a nation.

Until some evidence is given of a change of policy on the part of the Government, and some assurance is received that efforts at negotiation will not be spurned, the Congress are of opinion that any direct overtures for peace would compromise our self-respect, be fruitless of good, and interpreted by the enemy as an indication of weakness. We can only repeat the desire of the people for peace, and our readiness to accept terms consistent with the honour and integrity and independence of the States, and compatible with the safety of our domestic institutions.

Not content with rejecting all proposals for a peaceful settlement of the controversy, a cruel war of invasion was commenced, which, in its progress, has been marked by a brutality and disregard of the rules of civilised warfare, that stand out as unexampled barbarity in the history of modern wars. Accompanied by every act of cruelty and rapine, the conduct of the enemy has been destitute of that forbearance and magnanimity which civilisation and Christianity have introduced to mitigate the asperities of war. The atrocities are too incredible for narration. Instead of a regular war, our resistance of the unholy efforts to crush out our national existence is treated as a rebellion, and the settled international rules between belligerents are ignored. Instead of conducting the war as betwixt two military and political organisations, it is a war against the whole population. Houses are pillaged and burned. Churches are defaced. Towns are ransacked. Clothing of women and infants is stripped from their persons. Jewellery and mementoes of the dead are stolen. Mills and implements of agriculture are destroyed. Private salt-works are broken up. The introduction of medicines is forbidden. Means of subsistence are wantonly wasted to produce beggary. Prisoners are returned with contagious diseases. The last morsel of food has been taken from families, who were not allowed to carry on a trade or branch of industry. A rigid and offensive espionage has been introduced to ferret out 'disloyalty.' Persons have been forced to choose between starvation of helpless children and taking the oath of allegiance to a hated government. The cartel for exchange of prisoners has been suspended, and our unfortunate soldiers subjected to the grossest indignities. The wounded at Gettysburg were deprived of their nurses, and inhumanly left to perish on the field. Helpless women have been exposed to the most cruel outrages, and to that dishonour which is infinitely worse than death. Citizens have been murdered by the Butlers and M'Neils and Milroys, who are favourite generals of our enemies. Refined and delicate ladies have been seized, bound with cords, imprisoned, guarded by negroes, and held as hostages for the return of recaptured slaves. Unoffending non-combatants have been banished or dragged from their quiet homes to be immured in filthy gaols. Preaching the Gospel has been refused, except on condition of taking the oath of allegiance. Parents have been forbidden to name their children in honour of 'rebel' chiefs. Property has been confiscated. Military governors have been appointed for States, satraps for provinces, and Haynaus for cities.

These cruelties and atrocities of the enemy have been exceeded by their malicious and bloodthirsty purposes and machinations in reference to the slaves. Early in this war, President Lincoln averred his constitutional inability and personal unwillingness to interfere with the domestic institutions of the States and the relation between master and servant. Prudential considerations may have been veiled under conscientious scruples, for Seward, in a confidential instruction to Mr. Adams, the Minister to Great Britain, on March 10, 1862, said: 'If the Government of the United States should *precipitately* decree the immediate abolition of slavery, it would reinvigorate the declining insurrection in every part of the South.' Subsequent reverses and the refractory rebelliousness of the seceded States caused a change of policy, and Mr. Lincoln issued his celebrated proclamation, a mere *brutum fulmen*, liberating the slaves in the 'insurrectionary districts.' On June 24, 1776, one of the reasons assigned by Pennsylvania for her separation from the mother country was that, in her sister colonies, the 'King had excited the negroes to revolt,' and to imbrue their hands in the blood of their masters, in a manner unpractised by civilised nations. This, probably, had reference to the proclamation of Dunmore, the last royal Governor of Virginia, in 1775, declaring freedom to all servants or negroes if they would join 'for the reducing the colony to a proper sense of its duty.' This invitation to the slaves to rise against their masters, this suggested insurrection, caused, says Bancroft, 'a thrill of indignation to run through Virginia, effacing all differences of party, and rousing one strong, impassioned purpose to drive away the insolent power by which it had been put forth.' A contemporary annalist, adverting to the same proclamation, said, 'it was received with the greatest horror in all the colonies.'

'The policy adopted by Dunmore,' says Lawrence in his notes on Wheaton, 'of arming the slaves against their masters, was not pursued during the war of the Revolution; and when negroes were taken by the English, they were not considered otherwise than as property and plunder.' Emancipation of slaves as a war measure has been severely condemned and denounced by the most eminent publicists in Europe and the United States. The United States, 'in their diplomatic relations, have ever maintained,' says the Northern authority just quoted, 'that slaves were private property, and for them, as such, they have repeatedly received compensation from England.' Napoleon I. was never induced to issue a proclamation for the emancipation of the serfs in his war with Russia. He said: 'I could have armed against her a part of her population, by proclaiming the liberty of the serfs. A great number of villages asked it of me, but I refused to avail myself of a measure which would have devoted to death thousands of families.' In the discussions growing out of the treaty of peace of 1814, and the proffered mediation of Russia, the principle was maintained by the United States that 'the emancipation of an enemy's slaves is not among the acts of legitimate warfare.' In the instructions from John Quincy Adams, as Secretary of State, to Mr. Middleton, at St. Petersburg, October 18, 1820, it is said: 'The British have broadly asserted the right of emancipating slaves (private property) as a legitimate right of war. No such right is acknowledged as a law of war by writers who admit any limitation. The right of putting to death all prisoners, in cold blood and without special cause, might as well be pretended to be a law of war, or the right to use poisoned weapons, or to assassinate.'

Disregarding the teachings of the approved writers on international law, and the practice and claims of his own Government in its purer days, President Lincoln has sought to convert the South into a St. Domingo, by appealing to the cupidity, lusts, ambition, and ferocity of the slave. Abraham Lincoln is but the lineal descendant of Dunmore, and the impotent malice of each was foiled by the fidelity of those who, by the meanness of the conspirators, would only, if successful, have been seduced into idleness, filth, vice, beggary, and death.

But we tire of these indignities and enormities. They are too sickening for recital. History will hereafter *pillory* those who committed and encouraged such crimes in immortal infamy.

General Robert E. Lee, in a recent battle-order, stated to his invincible legions, that the 'cruel foe seeks to reduce our fathers and mothers, our wives and children, to abject slavery.' He does not paint too strongly the purposes of the enemy or the consequences of subjugation. What has been done in certain districts is but the prologue of the bloody drama that will be enacted. It is well that every man and woman should have some just conception of the horrors of conquest. The fate of Ireland at the period of its conquest, and of Poland, distinctly foreshadows what would await us. The guillotine, in its ceaseless work of blood, would be revived for the execution of the 'rebel leaders.' The heroes of our contest would be required to lay down their proud ensigns, on which are recorded the battle-fields of their glory, to stack their arms, lower their heads in humiliation and dishonour, and pass under the yoke of Abolition misrule and tyranny. A hateful inquisition, made atrocious by spies and informers; star-chamber courts, enforcing their decisions by confiscations, imprisonments, banishments, and death; a band of detectives, ferreting out secrets, lurking in every family, existing in every conveyance; the suppression of free speech; the deprivation of arms and franchises; and the ever-present sense of inferiority would make our condition abject and miserable beyond what freemen can imagine. Subjugation involves everything that the torturing malice and devilish ingenuity of our foes can suggest—the destruction of our nationality, the equalisation of whites and blacks, the obliteration of State lines, degradation to colonial vassalage, and the reduction of many of our citizens to dreary, hopeless, remediless bondage. A hostile police would keep 'order' in every town and city. Judges, like Busteed, would hold our courts, protected by Yankee soldiers. Churches would be filled by Yankee preachers. Every office would be bestowed on aliens. Absenteeism would curse us with all its vices. Superadded to these, sinking us into a lower abyss of degradation, we should be made the slaves of our slaves, hewers of wood and drawers of water for those upon whom God has stamped indelibly the marks of physical and intellectual inferiority. The past or foreign countries need not be searched to furnish illustrations of the heritage of shame that subjugation would entail. Baltimore, St. Louis, Nashville, Knoxville, New Orleans, Vicksburg, Huntsville, Norfolk, Newburn, Louisville, and Fredericksburg are the first fruits of the ignominy and poverty of Yankee domination.

The sad story of the wrongs and indignities endured by those States which have been in the complete or partial possession of the enemy, will give the best evidence of the consequences of subjugation. Missouri, a magnificent empire of agricultural and mineral wealth, is to-day a smoking ruin and the theatre of the most revolting cruelties and barbarisms. The minions of tyranny consume her substance, plunder her citizens, and destroy her peace. The sacred rights of freemen are struck down, and the blood of her children, her maidens and her old men, is made to flow, out of mere wantonness and recklessness. No whispers of freedom go unpunished, and the very instincts of self-preservation are outlawed. The worship of God and the rights of sepulture have been shamefully interrupted, and, in many instances, the cultivation of the soil is prohibited to her own citizens. These facts are attested by many witnesses; and it is but a just tribute to that noble and chivalrous people, that, amid barbarities almost unparalleled, they still maintain a proud and defiant spirit towards their enemies.

In Maryland, the judiciary, made subservient to executive absolutism, furnishes no security for individual rights or personal freedom; members of the Legislature are arrested and imprisoned without process of law or assignment of cause, and the whole land groaneth under the oppressions of a merciless tyranny.

In Kentucky, the ballot-box has been overthrown, free speech is suppressed, the most vexatious annoyances harass and embitter the unhappy people, and all the arts and appliances of an unscrupulous despotism are freely used to prevent the uprising of the noble patriots. Notes of gladness, assurances of a brighter and better day, reach us, and the exiles may take courage and hope for the future.

In Virginia, the model of all that illustrates human heroism and self-denying patriotism, although the tempest of desolation has swept over her fair domains, no sign of repentance for her separation from the North can be found. Her old homesteads dismantled, her ancestral relics destroyed, her people impoverished, her territory made the battle-ground for the rude shocks of contending hosts, and then divided, with hireling parasites mockingly claiming jurisdiction and authority, the Old Dominion still stands with proud crest and defiant mien, ready to trample beneath her heel every usurper and tyrant, and to illustrate afresh her *sic semper tyrannis*, the 'proudest motto that ever blazed on a nation's shield or a warrior's arms.'

To prevent such effects our people are now prosecuting this struggle. It is no mere war of calculation, no contest for a particular kind of property, no barter of precious blood for filthy lucre. Everything involved in manhood civilisation, religion, law, property, country, home—is at stake. We fight not for plunder, spoils, pillage, territorial conquest. The Government tempts by no prizes of 'beauty or booty,' to be drawn in the lottery of this war. We seek to preserve civil freedom, honour, equality, firesides; and blood is well shed, when 'shed for our family, for our friends, for our kind, for our country, for our God.' Burke said, 'A State resolved to hazard its existence rather than abandon its object, must have an infinite advantage over that which is resolved to yield rather than carry its resistance beyond a certain point.' It is better to be conquered by any other nation than by the United States. It is better to be a dependency of any other power than of that. By the condition of its existence and essential constitution, as now governed, it must be in perpetual hostility to us. As the Spanish invader burned his ships to make retreat impossible, so we cannot afford to take steps backward. Retreat is more dangerous than advance. Behind us are inferiority and degradation. Before us is everything enticing to a patriot.

Our bitter and implacable foes are preparing vigorously for the coming campaign. Corresponding efforts should be made on our part. Without murmuring our people should respond to the laws which the exigency demands. Every one capable of bearing arms should be connected with some effective military organisation. The utmost energies of the whole population should be taxed to produce food and clothing, and a spirit of cheerfulness and trust in an allwise and overruling Providence should be cultivated.

The history of the past three years has much to animate us to renewed effort and a firmer and more assured hope. A whole people have given their hearts and bodies to repel the invader, and costly sacrifices have been made on the altar of our country. No similar instance is to be found of such spontaneous uprising and volunteering. Inspired by a holy patriotism, again and again have our brave soldiers, with the aid of Heaven, baffled the efforts of our foes. It is in no arrogant spirit that we refer to successes that have cost us so much blood, and brought sorrow to so many hearts. We may find in all this an earnest of what, with determined and resolute exertion, we can do to avert subjugation and slavery; and we cannot fail to discern in our deliverance from so many and so great perils, the interposition of that Being who will not forsake us in the trials that are to come. Let us, then, looking upon the bodies of our loved and honoured dead, catch inspiration from their example, and gather renewed confidence and a firmer resolve to tread, with unfaltering trust, the path that leads to honour and peace, although it lead through tears and suffering and blood.

We have no alternative but to do our duty. We combat for property, homes, the honour of our wives, the future of our children, the preservation of our fair land from pollution, and to avert a doom which we can read both in the threats of our enemies and the acts of oppression we have alluded to in this address.

The situation is grave, but furnishes no just excuse for despondence. Instead of harsh criticisms on the Government and our generals—instead of bewailing the failure to accomplish impossibilities, we should rather be grateful, humbly and profoundly, to a benignant Providence for the results that have rewarded our labours. Remembering the disproportion in population, in military and naval resources, and the deficiency of skilled labour in the South, our accomplishments have surpassed those recorded of any people in the annals of the world. There is no just reason for hopelessness or fear. Since the outbreak of the war the South has lost the nominal possession of the Mississippi river and fragments of her territory; but Federal occupancy is not conquest. The fires of patriotism still burn unquenchably in the breasts of those who are subject to foreign domination. We yet have in our uninterrupted control a territory which, according to past progress, will require the enemy ten years to overrun.

The enemy is not free from difficulties. With an enormous debt, the financial convulsion, long postponed, is surely coming. The short crops in the United States and abundant harvests in Europe will hasten what was otherwise inevitable. Many sagacious persons at the North discover in the usurpations of their Government the certain overthrow of their liberties. A large number revolt from the unjust war waged upon the South, and would gladly bring it to an end. Others look with alarm upon the complete subversion of constitutional freedom by Abraham Lincoln, and feel in their own persons the bitterness of the slavery which three years of war have failed to inflict on the South. Brave and earnest men at the North have spoken out against the usurpation and cruelties daily practised. The success of these men over the radical and despotic faction which now rules the North may open the way to peaceful negotiation and a cessation of this bloody and unnecessary war.

In conclusion, we exhort our fellow-citizens to be of good cheer and spare no labour, no sacrifices, that may be necessary to enable us to win the campaign upon which we have just entered. We have passed through great trials of affliction, but suffering and humiliation are the schoolmasters that lead nations to self-reliance and independence. These disciplinary providences but mature and develope and solidify our people. We beg that the supplies and resources of the country, which are ample, may be sold to the Government to support and equip its armies. Let all spirit of faction and past party differences be forgotten in the presence of our cruel foe. We should not despond. We should be self-denying. We should labour to extend to the utmost the productive resources of the country. We should economise. The families of soldiers should be cared for and liberally supplied. We entreat from all a generous and hearty cooperation with the Government in all branches of its administration, and with the agents, civil or military, in the performance of their duties. Moral aid has the 'power of the incommunicable,' and by united efforts, by an all-comprehending and self-sacrificing patriotism, we can, with the blessing of God, avert the perils which environ us, and achieve for ourselves and children peace and freedom. Hitherto, the Lord has interposed graciously to bring us victory, and in His hand there is present power to prevent this great multitude which come against us from casting us out of the possession which He has given us to inherit.

T. J. Semmes, J. L. Orr, A. E. Maxwell,
Committee on the part of Senate.

J. W. Clapp, J. L. W. Curry, Julian Hartridge,
John Goode, Jun., W. N. H. Smith,
Committee of House of Representatives.

THE MAGAZINES.

Blackwood's Magazine sustains its high political reputation by a remarkably able article on the debate provoked by the seizure of Messrs. Laird's steam-rams. Of all the papers we have read on this much-vexed question, this seems to us the most cogently and closely reasoned. The writer points out at the beginning under what circumstances that debate arose. Three days before he seized the rams, Lord Russell had formally declared to Mr. Adams that he could not seize them; and it did not appear that any evidence to justify that step had been produced in the meantime. There arose, therefore, a strong suspicion that Lord Russell had yielded to the menaces of Mr. Adams, and had done an act legally indefensible at the instigation of a foreign Government. This was the argument of the Opposition; and the writer in *Blackwood* shows, by a careful analysis of the debate, that it was not answered by the Government. They alleged that fresh evidence had, in the interval between the refusal to seize and the seizure, come into their hands. But they produced no such evidence before the House: and the language of the Attorney-General, who admitted that the Government had acted 'on their own responsibility'—that is, had transgressed the law—implies that it was not of a character to afford them a legal justification. It stood confessed, then, that the law of England had been broken, not by Messrs. Laird, but by the Ministry. The task of justifying this violation of law was undertaken by the Solicitor-General, after the magnificent speech of Sir Hugh Cairns had placed the fact of such violation beyond question. The Minister affirmed that international law bound us to such a step, because we had always insisted that neutrals had no right to supply ships to belligerents. That this is not true is a matter of notoriety; and the writer of the article before us quotes in reply to it the declaration of the Attorney-General in the *Alexandra* case, that international law permits the sale of armed ships by neutrals to belligerents, and that such a transaction would not, on merely international grounds, give the Americans any cause of complaint against us. It results from the debate as is clearly shown in this essay—that the Government did break the law of England in order to satisfy the demands of the envoy of the United States: that they were guilty of the charge brought against them. Whether that guilt were venial or not seems to depend upon the further question, how far the Federal demands were well-founded. Into this question, accordingly, the writer next enters. He establishes clearly, first, the right according to international law to build ships for a foreign Power: secondly, the duration of this right, unaltered by the intervention of war. He goes on to remark that as there is no law which requires the seller of a ship to deliver it at a port of the purchaser's Government, therefore the existence of a blockade of all the ports of a foreign Power does not supersede the right of neutrals to sell ships to that Power; and concludes that 'international law the only law of which a foreign Government has a right to demand the execution does not prevent the *bonâ fide* sale of a ship of war to a belligerent;' and further, that the object of the Foreign Enlistment Act was not to prevent trade in ships, but to put a stop to acts of private war under a foreign flag. The partisans of the Ministry have gone up and down proclaiming that these ships were justly seized because they were intended for the South: while it remains unproved that the South has not a perfect right to buy ships from us, provided she do not take them out of our ports armed, manned, and in fighting trim. This is highly reprehensible; and more reprehensible still is the abuse which has been lavished on those who do not take that peculiar view of neutrality some time since enunciated by Mr. Bright, and now adopted by the Administration. 'Mr. Laird is gravely lectured on the enormity of wishing to forward his own commercial interests at the risk of involving his country in war—that is, he is pronounced culpable because he did not cease his customary trade, not at the dictation of the law, but in accordance with the opinions of a certain party; those opinions being based on the absurd assumption that the Federal Government has a right to dictate the terms of our municipal law under penalty of war.' It is admitted that there is no municipal law which will justify the acts of the Government; and the correspondence of the Government with Messrs. Laird proves that those acts were not necessary in order to prevent the evasion of the rams *pendente lite*: therefore the Ministry has clearly done wrong. It seems that there is no municipal law forbidding distinctly the building and sale of ships of war for a belligerent Power; therefore Mr. Laird has been wronged, both by the censures of Ministerial partisans and by the acts of the Ministry. It is clear that there is no international law which forbids the South to buy ships in Liverpool: therefore, in seizing ships on the ground that they were so bought, we have done a grievous wrong to the South.

Having disposed of the question of law, the writer takes up that of interest, and his remarks on this subject well deserve attention.

We have a right to take sides with either party, as our feelings or our interests lead us. But to do so is not to be neutral. If our interests lead us to favour the North, as is affirmed by the only independent reasoners who have ventured to defend the course of the Administration, we have a right to favour the North, but we have not a right to call such favour neutrality. Those who argue that we ought to concede the demands of the North, because our interests as a paramount maritime Power lie in the same direction, argue in fact that we ought not to be honestly neutral. What, then, is our interest?

1st. It is said that it is our interest to keep the peace: and that if we let the rams go, we shall have war. Well, and if we have? War will give us cotton, and open to us the Southern markets. War will sweep American cruisers and American commerce from the seas. War will put an end to those dangers which menace us if the South should be conquered. And, grant that war be never so terrible, can it be averted by concession? Will not our unworthy yielding to unjust demands make the Northerners more insolent, more aggressive, and more bellicose? No one who knows them doubts it.

2nd. It is said to be our interest, as a great maritime Power, to prevent the neutralisation of our maritime supremacy by cruisers issuing from the ports of Powers with whom we are at peace, under the flag of those with whom we may be at war. But the fact is, that no country except America could turn out ships dangerous to us, or else the South would have gone to that country to buy the ships which we refuse her. Now America is pretty sure to be our enemy whenever we do go to war, with whomsoever we may be engaged, and it is vain to make sacrifices to avert her inevitable hostility. And no other Power will consent to be bound by precedents which we have established, *ex hypothesi*, solely from regard to our own interests as the greatest of naval Powers. We need hardly trouble ourselves to prove, by her past course and her present demands, how little respect the American Government entertains even for precedents of its own making. And we may be sure that our seizing or releasing these rams will neither cause other nations to refrain from sending forth *Alabamas* from neutral ports when we shall be at war, nor offer them additional inducement to do so. Their conduct then will depend on their then convenience, not on our present example. It is not then our policy to depart from neutrality in favour of the North: and the advances which we have made in that direction involve as great a sacrifice of interest as of honour. Such is the final conclusion of one of the clearest and most exhaustive essays which it has been for some time past our fortune to read.

The rest of the magazine is quite up to the usual level: and there is an entertaining account of the successes and final defeat of a notorious advertising swindler, contributed by 'Cornelius O'Dowd,' which ought not to pass unnoticed. The article of greatest importance, next to that on 'Our Neutrality,' is a 'Letter from Schleswig Holstein,' written by a violent partisan of the ultra-German faction, as hostile to Austria and Prussia as to Denmark. Apart from the writer's opinions, the paper seems a good and sensible one, but its contents are not of very great value. 'Past and Present Troubles in Herat and Afghanistan' is not full or explanatory enough to render the importance of the subject fully intelligible to uninformed readers. To do this would have required a hundred pages; and only twelve were at the writer's disposal. 'Annie and her Master' is a tale of maiden shyness and lovers' misunderstandings, pretty, but not very sensible. We wonder what the fair readers of *Blackwood* will say to the final scene, in which the heroine lays her head on her lover's feet, and kisses his boots, to the great satisfaction of his mother. Does the kind of relation so indicated really subsist between German wives and husbands; or does the action only convey the author's idea of what ought to be?

The *pièce de résistance* in *Fraser* is an article on Russia and her dependencies, which deals chiefly with the Caucasus. Its tone is rational and moderate, neither exaggerating nor unduly depreciating the dangerous ambition and aggressive designs of Russia; but the impression left on the reader is one of disappointment. Much more might have been made, and ought to have been made, out of a subject so vast, so important, and so suggestive. We learn little or nothing of the force of Russia, of her method of administration, or of her relations with the subject populations of Turkey, or of her alleged encroachments on Persia and China: and these are the questions in which Europe, and especially England, is most interested. The article is therefore dull. That which concludes the number—'How may a Peace Income-tax be supplanted?'—is decidedly better. The author's preference is for a house-tax, extending to houses of 16*l.* in value, exempting 8*l.* of the rental, or even 12*l.*, and levied at the rate of half-a-crown or three shillings in the pound—less than the local taxation of many urban parishes. This, he conceives, would enable us to reduce the income-tax to 2*d.* or 3*d.* in time of peace, leaving us with a large financial margin for times of war. The suggestion is not new, but it deserves consideration. The writer meets many of the obvious objections to his scheme with great skill and clearness; but he unfortunately omits to give us the statistical evidence which alone could justify it.

The *Cornhill* contains two more chapters of 'Denis Duval,' a continuation of 'Margaret Denzil,' and the conclusion of Mr. Trollope's story. Several of the minor articles are readable—the most thoughtful being one on 'Pagan and Christian Religious Sentiment,' and the poorest that 'On Words best left Unsaid,' which in no other respect answers to its title than that it had best been left unwritten.

Macmillan contains several good articles. There is an 'Inaugural Lecture on Political Economy,' by the Professor of that science at Cambridge, Mr. Fawcett, which is sound and sensible. 'Subscription no Security,' by the Dean of Christ Church College, Oxford, is intended to pave the way for a movement against the Articles, leaving them still as the law of the Church, but removing the obligation of signature. The effect of this would be that the disciples of Jowett and Colenso might swarm into our pulpits and places of ecclesiastical dignity, unchecked by any necessity of professing their belief in the Church's doctrines, and use their position and revenues, derived from the Church, to undermine the faith she teaches. The only way of getting rid of them would be by prosecution, which they would denounce as persecution, and which would create scandals and heart-burnings without end. Surely it is better to keep the wolves out of the fold than to let them in with the view of turning them out, if possible, as soon as they fall upon the sheep. The 'Competition Wallah' furnishes a letter on Christianity in India, which does not throw any new light on the subject. It contains, however, two sensible remarks:—First, that secular education has hitherto succeeded in disabusing Hindoos of their Hindoo superstitions, but has not tended in any degree to Christianise them. Instructed in classics and mathematics, in science, literature, and law, the Hindoo youth becomes, not a Christian gentleman, but an obstinate and self-satisfied infidel. Secondly, that the very un-Christian life and spirit of a large proportion of English planters, merchants, and journalists in India offer a continual and very effective contradiction to the preaching of the missionaries. The article on 'Sleep and Dreams,' by the Rev. Dr. Cunningham, is interesting and readable, dealing with the question whether we ever become absolutely unconscious in sleep, or whether the absence of any recollection of dreams, when we wake, is due simply to the discontinuance of memory.

London Society is as trivial, pleasant, and amusing as ever, affording little ground for notice and none for censure. There is no better reading for a tired man, who has been overworked all day, and is compelled to find his recreation at night in the company of books rather than of friends, than this lively and well-named magazine affords. True, we never remember anything it contains for a week, any more than we remember the conversation of a ball-room; but it always gives us pleasure at the time, and leaves behind an impression of moments agreeably if not profitably bestowed.

Good Words contains several articles of a distinctly religious type, an instalment of a good story, and a paper on coal-mines, giving an interesting account of a new coal-mining machine, worked by means of compressed air, which promises to do the hardest and most perilous part of the miner's work. The article might, with advantage, have been longer and more explicit, seeing how few of us understand anything about the internal appearance and arrangements of a coal-mine. There is also an interesting paper on 'Stenography,' by a Parliamentary reporter.

Married.—At the residence of the bride's mother, on the evening of the 18th inst., by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Quinlan, of Mobile, Miss Electra Louisa, eldest daughter of Commodore and Mrs. Raphael Semmes, C. S. Navy, to Pendleton Colston, Esq., Judge-Advocate of the Navy.—*Mobile Register.*

A QUERY.

To the Editor of The Index.

Sir,—Whatever may be Earl Russell's faults as a statesman or as a diplomatist, he has at least had the manliness to profit voluntarily by the very first opportunity for exposing the trick practised on him by the forged Mallory 'Report.' Will you permit me to ask through your columns when Sir Roundell Palmer, who quoted at length from that document in his place in Parliament, will make the amend which he owes in an even greater degree than Earl Russell?—Respectfully,

An Enquirer.

The *Morning Post* of to-day, commenting upon the Federal practice of foisting forged documents on Her Majesty's Government, concludes its article with the following gentle but significant warning:—'For the second time this species of fraud has been successfully practised upon English officials, the effect of which, both upon the Government and people of Great Britain, must be to cast a grave shadow of doubt over communications of a similar character which may be hereafter made by the United States Government. International courtesy may require that statements made with so much gravity should be respectfully considered, but the too frequent use of such means as were employed in the two cases referred to, to stimulate the British Government to act upon evidence furnished by forged papers, is well calculated to create a distrust and a reserve which cannot fail in the end to produce unpleasant, if not more serious, consequences.'

The Prospects of the North.—The *Army and Navy Gazette* of April 9 says: 'We have through good and evil held to the faith that the North must succeed. But ignorance and incapacity, faction and corruption, may counterbalance all the influences which should operate in producing a natural result. The Union, let us say it for the twentieth time, can never be restored. It begins to be doubtful at last if the means which the Northerners employ to subjugate the South are equal to the work.'

A Confederate Wedding.—The *Mémorial Diplomatique* gives the following account of a recent marriage in Paris, which will be interesting to a circle of friends of the parties in the Confederate States:—'A touching ceremony has lately been celebrated in Paris—a marriage between two citizens of the Confederate States of America. The lady is the daughter of an eminent surgeon, one of those creations of nature in her gayest and most indulgent moments; for two years she had been engaged to a young surgeon of the Confederate army, who had been taken prisoner, but being put on parole had seized the opportunity to join his lady-love in Paris. After some months of bliss the young man was exchanged; duty recalled him to his country. What was he to do? He could not ask a young lady to undergo all the dangers and fatigues of a campaign. But to return without being married was too terrible! The young people had not the courage to decide for themselves, when the lady's father solved the difficulty; marriage was decided on. The bridegroom was on the eve of departure; the very next day at eleven o'clock the ceremony was performed by a Protestant minister. The lady wore a simple muslin dress; a veil of "tulle illusion," thrown negligently over her head, scarcely hid the beauty and sadness of her countenance; a small bouquet of natural orange flowers was her only other ornament. The bridegroom, a handsome young man, full of courage and noble sentiments, wore his uniform with as much grace as dignity. None were present at this touching ceremony save the family and their most intimate friends. The same evening this husband of a few hours old was on his way to obey his country's call, leaving his young bride under her father's roof.'

A Horrible Narrative.—A shocking crime has been committed by a band of negroes at Port-au-Prince (Hayti). The following are the details of this most revolting murder as reported in the *Gazette des Tribunaux*. Towards the middle of December last, a negro of the name of Congo, finding himself reduced to the last stage of necessity, had recourse to the oracle of the negro god Veaudou to discover how he might better himself; the god commanded him to offer a human sacrifice; he communicated the command to his sister, Jeanne Pellé, also a believer in negro 'spiritualism.' At that time a child called Claircine, of the age of eight years, a niece of Jeanne Pellé, was residing with her aunt; she was fixed upon by the brother and sister as the destined sacrifice. On the morning of December 28, the child Claircine was induced by the arts of Congo and his sister to commit herself to their protection during the absence of her mother, who resided near the spot. When in her uncle's hut, she was ordered by him to go to the dwelling of Julien, another accomplice, in whose house the crime was to be perpetrated. The poor child started, but, as if foreseeing her destruction, soon returned, saying that she had missed her road; the bloodthirsty ruffian was not to be baulked of his prey; he took her by the hand, led her to the house, and delivered her up to Julien in the presence of three other negroes of the names of Floréal, Guerrier, and Beya. They seized on their victim, gagged and bound her, and deposited her in a mysterious spot dedicated to the god Veaudou, and called by his votaries 'humfort.' Neréine, the wife of Floréal, having seen the child in this pitiable state, was admitted by her husband into the secret. For four days did the wretched child linger in this condition, while Congo and his sister Jeanne were unceasing in their pretended searches after her; the unfortunate mother was told that a 'pana' or soothsayer of the name of Dago had been consulted, and had declared that the child had been carried off by spirits. At the end of the four days the infernal crew, believing that their clumsy stratagem had lulled to rest all suspicion, proceeded to complete their crime; they met on December 30, at 10 P.M., eight in number, Floréal, Jeanne, Congo, Guerrier, Neréine, Rosécide, Julien, and Beya, all votaries of the god Veaudou, a divinity whose followers are only remarkable for their abject ignorance, their brutish laziness, and their diabolical malice. The poor child was brought in, already, we trust, half dead under the exposure and privations of the last four days; from the arms of Congo she was delivered to the hands of Jeanne, a creature of her own race, of her own sex, of her own blood; the fiend clutched her round the throat, while Floréal held her sides, and Guerrier restrained the weak and convulsive struggles of her lower limbs. A few moments and a short spasmodic agony, and the little life was departed. Then began a butchery and a cannibalism more revolting than was ever conceived in the brain of man; the head was cut off, and the eight wolves, or worse than wolves, threw themselves on the mutilated trunk, tearing it limb from limb. The remaining story is too horrible; suffice it to say that orgies at which a cannibal would turn faint, feasts from which the most degraded of brutes would revolt, were celebrated that

night in the cabin of Jeanne Pellé. The head was carried off and boiled with yams; it was then placed on an altar, and a procession formed round it, accompanied by some mysterious invocation to their god. A second feast was then made, the head having apparently been reserved as the choicest item in this feast of devils. The blood, bones, and other remains of the poor little victim were reduced to powder and buried at a little distance. On the completion of the rite the party separated intoxicated with blood, and promising to meet again on January 12 for a similar sacrifice, for which another child was designated. Thank God that such crimes do not long fester in concealment; the eight cannibals were arrested and charged with the crime. They confessed it in the most unconcerned manner, trusting entirely to the protection of the god Veaudon, so fearfully propitiated. After a verification of the facts they were all condemned to death, and the sentence appointed to be executed on the open space attached to the town cemetery, in full sight, we earnestly hope, of all their fellows and compatriots.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL & COMMERCIAL.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

THERE is very little change in the state of the Money Market, but if anything there is a tendency to rather more ease. For legitimate mercantile purposes the demand for accommodation has not been beyond the general average, but occasional pressure has been experienced in consequence of the repayment of advances to the Bank; but, on the other hand, the disbursement of the dividends has to a great extent eased the market; still available capital is not anywhere abundant. The present very fine weather has caused a better feeling to prevail, and should it continue, a further improvement may be looked for, unless an increased demand for money should be stimulated by the continued introduction of new joint-stock projects. Out of doors the terms demanded for accommodation are from 5⅞ to 6 per cent., and the joint-stock banks are obtaining 5⅞ per cent. On the Stock Exchange money has been in considerable request in connection with the account, and very high rates indeed have been paid for carrying over. Short loans on Government Securities, however, are now negotiated at from 4½ to 5½ per cent.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The English Stock Market has been steady throughout the week, and business has been tolerably active, nothing of a political character having occurred to cause any retrograde movement, although occasionally a slightly declining tendency has been exhibited, through the bullion movements continuing rather of an adverse tendency. The dealers, notwithstanding, appear to transact business with far more freedom, which in a great measure tends to support prices. Consols closed this evening at 91½ to 91⅝ for money and 91¾ to 91⅞ for the account, which, as compared with this day week, is an improvement of about ⅛ per cent. Exchequer Bills are not quite so good, having receded to 7s. to 2s. dis. A good business has also been transacted in the Foreign Stock Market, but the chief operations have been in Mexican, which have considerably advanced in consequence of the announcement of the immediate intended departure of the Emperor Maximilian for Mexico, and the more satisfactory arrangement with regard to the position of the existing bondholders. Greek stock has also been extensively dealt in, and has advanced from ¾ to 1 per cent. Spanish securities remain steady, but Turkish descriptions have declined from 1 to 3 per cent. The closing prices this evening were: Greek, 25¾ to 26¼: Mexican, 46⅞ to 47⅛; Spanish Passives, 35⅛ to 35⅜; do. Certificates, 13 to 13¼; Turkish six per cents. (1854), 90 to 90¼; and do. do. (1862) 71 to 71¼.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market has been steady all the week, the price advancing again to 54 to 56. We close 53 to 55, with a fair market.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

On the whole, a fair average business has been transacted in American Government and Railway Securities; but still there is very little disposition to press business in this class of securities in face of the continued accounts of the satisfactory progress made by the Confederate troops. With one or two trifling exceptions prices exhibit a further tendency to depression, and there does not appear, at present, much prospect of any improvement. The dealings recorded are in Atlantic and Great Western, New York section, at 79; ditto Pennsylvania section, 77, 78, 76, 77, 76, 76½ and 76; Erie, $100 shares all paid, 68; Illinois Central 7 per cents. 66½; ditto $100 shares, $90 paid, 15½ discount; ditto all paid, 71¼ and 73; Michigan Central, 68 and 69¼; and Panama Railway, second mortgage, 105 and 104.

THE MEXICAN DEBT.

A meeting of the Mexican bondholders was held on Monday, Mr. Capel in the chair, for the purpose of considering the terms to be insisted upon by the creditors under the old debt, in the issuing of the proposed new loan. The terms now offered are, in effect, to capitalise the bonded coupons representing the arrears, with the exception of 1*l*. 10*s*., to be paid in cash within two months from March, and 1*l*. 10*s*. in July. For the remainder, 47*l*. 10*s*., bonds will be issued, bearing 3 per cent. interest, so that each existing 100*l*. stock will stand at 147*l*. 10*s*., and of the loan about to be issued, sufficient is to be retained to pay two years' interest. In the course of a lengthened conversation, it was explained that the old and the new debt would stand on precisely the same footing in regard to their claims upon the customs and other duties liable for the interest. It was eventually agreed unanimously to accept the terms offered.

NEW SWEDISH LOAN.

A new loan for the Swedish Government has just been announced by Messrs. J. H. Schröder and Co. The amount is to be 2,223,000*l*., in a four and a half per cent. loan, at 92½, 5 per cent. being payable on application, and 15 per cent. on allotment, with three subsequent instalments of 20 per cent., and one of 12½ per cent. The bonds will be issued in sums of 1,000*l*., 500*l*., 200*l*., 100*l*., with coupons payable in sterling half-yearly in London, viz., on April 15 and October 15. Through a sinking fund the loan will be redeemed at par in the course of 54 years by half-yearly drawings, the first of which will take effect on the 15th October next. The Swedish Government, however, reserves to itself the right to repay the whole loan at par after the expiration of 15 years from this time.

LIVERPOOL: Wednesday, April 13.

There has again been a reaction in our cotton market. The transactions in all quarters have greatly increased within the last few days, and prices exhibit an upward tendency. The sales this week have reached 69,000 bales, of which 31,000 have been taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year down to the present time have been 538,240 bales, whilst for the corresponding period in 1863 they were 489,770 bales. The total imports this year have been 492.276 bales, and to the like period last year 320,757 bales. There have been exported this year 89,810 bales, whilst to the same period in 1863 the exports were 88,567 bales. There have been taken for consumption this year 374,100 bales, whilst last year they were 261,100 bales: 122,270 bales have been taken on speculation this year against 125,400 bales in 1863. The quantity of cotton at present arriving from India and China is very large. Since Saturday nearly 100,000 bales have reached Liverpool from Bombay and the China ports. There have also been several arrivals from Matamoras, Nassau, and Bermuda, all laden with 'blockade-run' cotton. The latest official quotations are, American descriptions, 23*d*. to 27½*d*.: Pernambuco, 25½*d*. to 27½*d*.; Maranhams, 27½*d*. to 28*d*.; Maceio, 25½*d*. to 27½*d*.; Bahia, 25¾*d*. to 27¾*d*.; Egyptian, 27*d*. to 30*d*.; Smyrna, 22½*d*. to 26¼*d*.; Surats, 12½*d*. to 22½*d*.; and China, 17½*d*. to 18½*d*.

Notwithstanding the general improvement in the Liverpool market, there has not been a corresponding improvement at Manchester. Although it has to a slight extent told upon yarns, it has not had the effect of causing increased enquiries either for cloths or yarns. Manufacturers, it is true, have rather more to pay for cotton now, which disposes them to be firm as regards prices, and to ask somewhat higher for anything they have to make. The cloth market, in fact, presents few characteristics differing from that of last week, the operations being few, and the demand slight. Quotations for cloth in stock remain without alteration, but sellers are not more able to effect sales and certainly not more able to realise any advance upon them than last week. The yarn market has been more immediately affected by the improvement in cotton, and some considerable sales have been made to shippers at very full prices, chiefly for India and the Mediterranean. Dealers in home trade yarns report a better market generally, and prices are about ½*d*. per lb. above the rates of last week, the finer counts of yarn being the dearer of the two, a moderate business having been done in the latter, and the market for all kinds of yarn closes very strong, with an upward tendency. The chief reason why cloth has not responded to the advance at Liverpool to the same extent as yarn, is, that merchants appear to have but few orders in hand, while speculators are deterred from operating by the large and increasing arrivals of cotton, which must at no distant period have the effect of permanently reducing prices.

Among the Contents of THE INDEX *of April* 7 *are*:—

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THE FORGED CONFEDERATE REPORT.
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LEGAL ASPECT OF THE CHESAPEAKE CASE.
THE BAHAMAS.
LETTERS FROM RICHMOND.
LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.
LETTER FROM NEW YORK.
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THERE are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellow-men.

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A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

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Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

THE *China*, which arrived at Queenstown April 17th, brought New York dates to the 6th. Heavy rains have suspended all military operations in Virginia. It was estimated that it would require a month to enable the army to move. The reorganisation of the army had produced disaffection and several arrests. The Confederate Commissioner Ould had visited Fortress Monroe and settled the conditions of exchange of prisoners. It is stated in several New York papers that Mrs. Todd White, a sister of Mrs. Lincoln, and a Confederate spy and sympathiser, had passed into the Confederate lines *via* Fortress Monroe, with her trunks filled with contraband articles and papers, protected from search by an autograph pass from President Lincoln.

The attack on Mobile was suspended, Admiral Farragut having sailed to Pensacola. The Red River expedition had advanced thirty-three miles above Alexandria, and captured some cotton, but a much larger quantity had been burnt.

Generals Forrest and Chalmers, with forces estimated at 7,000 or 8,000, were in West Tennessee. Colonel Marsh, with 600 Federal cavalry, had been defeated. The riots in Illinois are reported quelled. The Governor of Indiana is calling out State troops to guard against invasion. The Confederates occupy Hickman, an important town in Kentucky.

Brownsville, the Rio Grande, and probably all Texas, it is said, will be evacuated by the Federals, the expedition to that State having entirely failed in its objects.

An apprehended raid by the Confederate ram *Merrimac* No. 2, in the waters of Hampton roads, had caused the hurried departure of the two-turreted monitor Onondaga.

No movements are reported near Chattanooga, but the army of General Johnston was believed to be largely increased.

THE reaffirmation of the Monroe Doctrine by the Federal House of Representatives, and the unanimous passage of a resolution against the recognition of the Mexican Empire, are the most significant items of news brought by late arrivals from America. They are for present political capital, and to be carried out or not, according to circumstances. If the North succeed in subjugating the South, they are to be adhered to, and the conquest of Mexico will be the next work of the victorious Northern armies. If they cannot conquer the South, of course they cannot enter upon more difficult and distant operations, involving also a war with one or more of the greatest powers of Europe. The safety of Mexico from, at least, an effort to overthrow the new Empire rests upon the success of the Southern cause. That and that alone will prevent the attempt to once more plant the 'old flag' upon 'the Halls of the Montezumas.'

IT is a curious fact, and most suggestive of the true mode of dealing with the Yankees, that at this very moment, when Congress is fulminating against monarchy in Mexico, a Bill is passing through its last stages to appropriate five millions of dollars to the extinguishment of certain claims of French citizens on the United States Government, which have been pending for years. These claims are familiar to all acquainted with Congressional history as the 'French spoliation claims.' Truly this is holding the thunderbolts of war in one hand and the olive branch in the other.

KENTUCKY, to all appearance, is destined before long to bear the brunt of war, and to become once more 'the dark and bloody ground,' which its name signifies. In Kentucky, the contest is a civil war, with divided populations, with one Congressional delegation at Richmond and another at Washington, and with thousands of her citizens in both the Federal and Confederate armies. General Forrest, after his bold and successful dash upon Paducah, appears to have fallen back to Western Tennessee, where he has been reinforced by other Confederate chieftains. We have a report that General Jones, with a small cavalry force, had entered the State by Fulkerson's Gap, and it is believed in the North that these expeditions are only preparatory to a formidable invasion by Generals Longstreet, Buckner, and Breckenridge. It is said that the whole Confederate Congressional delegation was engaged in preparing the people for the arrival of the Confederate army. The report from Chattanooga is, that while General Longstreet occupies Kentucky with 26,000 men, General Johnston, with 50,000, is prepared to capture Chattanooga, and occupy Tennessee.

Kentucky, though represented at Washington and in the Federal army, and long occupied by Northern troops, is Southern in heart, and, with a fair opportunity, will throw herself with enthusiasm into the Confederate cause. Her people are disgusted with Federal proclamations, legislative corruption, and rapacity.

If the programme we have indicated be carried out, General Lee will remain quietly on the defensive in Virginia, awaiting that tremendous concentration of troops under Lieutenant-General Grant of which we hear so much, and with which the last stake of the war is to be played by another move on Richmond.

THE progress of the Presidential campaign tends perceptibly to divide the people of the Federal States into discordant factions. The opposition to Mr. Lincoln by war democrats, peace democrats, and the partisans of Fremont, Grant, Chase, and other Republican aspirants, grows every day more violent, and their criticisms of his policy more damaging. All the terrible losses and misfortunes of the war are charged upon the imbecility or corruption of the Administration, and the man who was a short time ago held up as a model of honesty, is now denounced as a traitor. M'Clellan, Rosecrans, every general who has been defeated, charges his defeat upon the Government; while the country holds it responsible for a million of lives lost, and two thousand millions of debt incurred—lives vainly lost, and debt vainly incurred. Under the pretext of political discussion, thousands of newspapers, and thousands of speakers discuss the origin, motives, conduct, and results of the war, and there is considerable probability that before the election in November next, the chief fighting will be between the rival factions of the Northern States.

GENERAL PRESTON, formerly U. S. Minister to Spain, accompanied by General the Prince Polignac, has passed through Texas, *en route* to the city of Mexico, on a mission to the Imperial Government. The best understanding exists between the Governor of the Mexican States of New Leon and Tamaulipas and the Confederate authorities of Texas, and a large trade has sprung up across the Rio Grande, in which supplies of all kinds are exchanged for cotton.

THE Federal Congress has been four months in session, and has done nothing, as the *Tribune* complains, 'to replenish the Treasury, fortify the national credit, and shore up our sinking currency.' For a sufficient reason. Not a man of them dare vote the necessary taxation, and then go home and face his constituents. The Confederate Congress passed the most sweeping laws relating to taxes, finance, and conscription, with the assurance that public opinion would sustain and reward them.

'WE are marching on with a tread that is shaking the very foundation of things,' says the *New York Examiner*, the organ of the Northern Baptists. The cause of this triumphant ejaculation is an order from the Federal Secretary of War, Stanton, authorising the New York Baptist Home Mission Board to take possession of every Baptist chapel in the rebel States. Northern and loyal Baptist ministers, protected by Federal cannon, and escorted by such Generals as Butler and Turchin, are to march down South and enter the promised land as soon as a few slight obstacles — such as the armies of Lee, Johnston, Beauregard, &c. — are removed. There may have been sometime and somewhere acts of religious confiscation and despotism as atrocious as this, but we do not remember them.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN does not lose sight of that war with England which the loyal North looks forward to as the climax of its military enterprises. On March 29th he communicated to Congress the report of Charles B. Stewart, consulting engineer, on the cost of enlarging the canals of New York and Illinois, and making a canal around the Falls of Niagara, to admit Federal gunboats to pass from the Atlantic, through the great lakes, to the Mississippi. The cost will be about fifty millions of dollars — a mere trifle, considering the importance of the undertaking.

WHILE the Federal armies are waiting for recruits, and the Government shrinks from ordering a draft, we learn from a report of the Secretary of the Navy, that thirty-five vessels of war are awaiting their complement of men, while many of the seamen in service are detained, notwithstanding their time has expired, and that but for this forced service, the blockading ships could not be kept on their stations. It appears that no transfer of seamen from the army to the navy has been effected.

IT is not easy to ascertain the losses of the Federal army from any cause, or all causes combined, but we can form some general estimate from particular facts. The *New York Times*, in speaking of the reorganisation of the army of the Potomac, says all the corps have become greatly reduced in numbers by losses in battle and by disease: the second corps, for example, having lost twenty-five thousand men, or five-eighths of its full number; and others had lost three-quarters. The losses in this army are probably less than an average of the whole, and this would give a loss of 750,000 men. The losses of the present year will probably raise the number to a full million!

A million of men, not reckoning Confederate losses, sacrificed to the Moloch of Northern ambition and greed, and the object of the war very much farther off than when it began!

THE war in the Confederate States is not without its pleasing and romantic incidents. We recorded in our last the marriage of a daughter of Commander Semmes, of the *Alabama*, to a surgeon of the Confederate army. The gallant General Hood, who has lost a leg and had an arm shattered, is about to wed 'one of South Carolina's fairest daughters.' General Kirby Smith, wounded at the battle of Bull Run, was taken to the residence of a wealthy Virginian, and nursed by his fair daughter, who has since become his wife.

Religious rites are not neglected amid the turmoils of war. Officers and soldiers near Richmond are notified through the press of opportunities for confirmation, and we find in one of our exchanges a notice of the baptism and confirmation of no less distinguished a personage than General Braxton Bragg, by the Bishop of the Episcopal Church of Virginia.

THE strength of the Southern army is not wholly in its numbers, since it has often defeated the Federals with the odds of three to one against it. It is not probable that the Confederate forces in the field have been at any time more than half the number of the Federals. An estimate before us, by a correspondent of the *New York World*, gives 130,000 under the orders of General Lee in the Department of Virginia, 75,000 under Generals Polk and Johnston in the South-west, 20,000 under General Longstreet, 35,000 at Charleston, Savannah, and Mobile, and 15,000 west of the Mississippi. These items give a total of 275,000 troops; but these, it must be remembered, are disciplined veterans—men who enlisted for three years, and have now renewed their enlistments for the war. To these must be added 150,000 or 200,000 new levies, which will bring the armies up to the necessary numbers. These levies will be used as railway guards, garrisons, &c., so that a force of 300,000 veteran and effective troops will be ready to meet any combination or concentration that can be brought against them.

'THE siege of Charleston,' standing as a permanent heading of the columns of the *Courier* and *Mercury*, reminds us of the bills of the London theatres. 'The two hundredth and fifteenth day,' reads like the announcement of the appearances of Miss Bateman or Lord Dundreary. The number of shells thrown for the past twenty-four hours is chronicled, and the mischief done, if any, which is rare, recorded. The boys who watch the descending shells, and dig them out of the ground, in which they burrow to the depth of six or seven feet, with spades and shovels, are cautioned against accidents, while Mrs. Brown informs the public that her boarding-house is removed to a safe and pleasant locality. The

fleet refuses to enter the harbour because 'three or four iron-clads would be sure to be disabled, and must be left inside.' The army has got as far as it can, unless the fleet can silence the interior fortifications. Moreover, there are rebel iron-clads in Charleston Harbour, and a new one lately launched, which may sally forth, attack the Federal fleet, break the blockade, cut off the Federal army on the coast, and, perhaps, attack Northern cities. The Federals at Charleston are like the man who caught the wolf by the ears. It is dangerous to hold on and death to let go.

'The crisis of the war is upon us,' shouts the *New York Herald*. Three hundred thousand veteran and well-disciplined troops in the hands of the ablest and most experienced Confederate generals are skilfully disposed for defensive or aggressive operations. 'They will fight with the stubbornness of despair, and their subjugation, if they are subdued, will be achieved through a series of the most sanguinary battles of any campaign of modern or ancient times.' There is much virtue in an *if*, but as to the despair, we do not see it. In our Southern files we find plenty of determination, enthusiasm, and devotion, but no appearance of despair. The gloom and desperation are seen more in the press of New York and Boston than in that of Richmond and Charleston.

'Opening day in New York; spring and summer fashions fully described; the modistes in their glory; loves of bonnets, laces, and lingerie; Flora M'Flimsey in full feather; new things in millinery, dress goods, headdresses, jewellery, gems, perfumery,' &c. These are the headings of a description of the spring carnival of the New York milliners, which fills more than four columns of a daily newspaper. Another page contains an appeal for the oppressed and starving needlewomen, with battles, raids, and insurrections, forming very curious material for the future historian.

The spirit of the war, as waged by the North against the South, illustrated by Butler, M'Neil, Turchin, Dahlgren, Sherman, and more than we care to name, was concentrated by Parson Brownlow into a pithy and, at the North, popular apothegm: 'Greek fire for the masses: hell fire for the leaders!'—the first portion of which General Gilmore did his worst to carry into effect at Charleston. The reverend rival of Beecher has expanded his idea in the following pious thought, in his paper, the *Knoxville Whig and Rebel Ventilator*:—'Had we our wish, we would throw hell wide open, and place all such beast-like officers and men upon an inclined plane, at an angle of forty-five degrees, grease the plank with hog's-lard six inches thick, with a wicket at the bottom, and send them, as one stream of traitors, robbers, and assassins, into the hottest part of the infernal regions.' It would not be just to say that this man is a fair sample of Northern preachers and editors: but it is true that he was not long since listened to by crowds in many of the Northern cities.

Mr. Horace Greeley, engaged in writing one of the thirty odd histories of the war, now in course of publication in the Federal States—and very odd histories many of them are—gives us now and then the benefit of his researches in *Tribune* leaders. In a recent one on the Richmond campaign, he asserts that the defeats and disasters which have attended every successive 'On to Richmond!' have been caused by the 'stupendous blunders of incapable generals.' M'Dowell was defeated at Bull Run by his own incompetency and the treachery of Patterson. M'Clellan, with 168,000 men, was stopped a month at Yorktown by 7,500, and then lost five opportunities of taking Richmond by his 'sluggishness and timidity.' General Burnside 'was defeated by generals who refused to obey his orders.' General Hooker began his campaign with 123,000 fighting men, present for duty. The 'shock of battle found him incompetent to wield the vast force placed in his hands; and Lee, with 49,700 men, beat him and drove him back across the Rappahannock. He retreated before an enemy whose forces he outnumbered two to one: retreated because he was physically and mentally exhausted, and because one corps commander, [name!, paramount in personal influence, overpersuaded his weakness.' A round about way of charging that he was, in the terser language of our police returns, 'drunk and incapable.' 'Nothing could be plainer, Mr. Greeley concludes, 'than that we have been the victims of incapacity—and of worse qualities—in commanders.' And where is the security that it will not be the same to the end of the chapter?

Senator Wilson stated in Congress lately that there were 40,000 deserters from the Federal army. The common estimate was double this number, or 80,000. By great activity in the Provost-Marshal's department, 28,000 had been returned. 10,000 or 15,000 were supposed to be in Canada.

Gold, which had reached 170, closed April 5, at 169.

ENGLAND.

We have to report further changes of considerable importance in the English Ministry. The Lordship of the Admiralty, rendered vacant by the retirement of Mr. Stansfeld, was offered to Mr. Baxter, M.P. for Montrose, but was declined by him in consequence of his numerous private engagements. The office was subsequently accepted by Mr. Childers, M.P. for Pontefract. The Right Honourable Robert Lowe, M.P., has resigned his office as Vice-President of the Council in deference to the vote of the House of Commons passed on April 12, on the motion of Lord Robert Cecil, with reference to the alleged mutilation of the Educational Reports. The terms of the motion are given in our Parliamentary Notes. Mr. H. A. Bruce, M.P. for Merthyr Tydvil, late Under-Secretary for the Home Department, succeeds Mr. Lowe at the Council.

His Majesty the King of the Belgians left England yesterday for Brussels.

The Craven Meeting at Newmarket commenced on Monday, April 11, and continued during the four following days. There was a fair muster of visitors, the weather was extremely beautiful, and many of the races were of considerable interest both in relation to the past and the future. The proceedings of the first day began with the Craven Plate, which was won in excellent style by Bathilde the daughter of Stockwell, who, it may be remembered, carried off for her noble owner the Earl of Chesterfield the Cambridgeshire Stakes in 1862. A match for 200*l*. between Catch-'em-Alive, the winner of the Cambridgeshire in 1863, and Lord Glasgow's Clarissimus, excited much attention; the son of Flatcatcher, however, defeated his Lordship's 'most illustrious' animal with much ease. A three-year-old colt named Planet subsequently won a sweepstakes for Mr. Craven, and on the strength of that effort was backed for the Epsom Derby at 1,000 to 8. On Tuesday the Newmarket Handicap was run, for which twelve horses came to the post. The distance to be traversed was one mile and six furlongs, but the configuration of the ground marked the course as one of the most formidable in England. Mr. Savile's Guerilla, the son of Skirmisher, who carried but 5 st. 7 lbs., was made the favourite, while the glorious Asteroid found a host of supporters at 6 to 1. This noble son of Stockwell and Teetotum, now six years old, whose grandeur of shape and immense success have justified Sir Joseph Hawley in boasting the possession of one of the best of race-horses, was in blooming health, and inspired great hopes of victory in spite of the crushing weight of 9 st. 6 lbs. which the handicapper had thought fit to put upon him. The steep hill, however, was too great a trial, and Guerilla achieved an easy victory, the Wandering Minstrel being second and Outlaw third. The only remarkable feature in the sport on Wednesday was the accident to Mr. Nayler's admirable horse Carnival, who, having been made the favourite for the Derby Trial Stakes, broke down in the off hind-leg at the distance, and brought his racing career to a termination. His half-brother Macaroni (for both are sons of Sweetmeat), the winner of the Derby of last year, has also, it is said, retired from the struggles of the turf. So also the mighty Tim Whiffler, victorious at Chester, Epsom, and Doncaster—the most enduring, most sound, and best tempered of racehorses—is destined for the stud: and inasmuch as '*Est in equis patrum virtus*,' we may look for no deterioration in the English horse while such sires exist as the stout Tim Whiffler or the excellent son of Sweetmeat. Thursday at Newmarket was marked by an event of striking interest. The great Lord Clifden, whose appearance and qualities have more than once formed a theme of unbounded praise in our columns, came upon the scene of action. This horse, now four years old, the son of Newminster and grandson of Touchstone, has pursued a glorious but chequered career on the turf. As a two-year-old he was never defeated. Last year he was first favourite for the Derby and lost the race by a head to Macaroni, the whole blame of his defeat being, as we at the time intimated, attributable to the injudicious conduct of his rider. Then he was most unfairly raced at the same Epsom meeting, next transported to France, and in an unfit state contested unsuccessfully the *Grand Prix* at Paris. People shook their heads; some said that Lord Clifden was a mistake, some declared him to be no better than a 'clothes-horse;' others persisted that he was the best horse in the world, and so on the plain of Doncaster he proved himself to be, for he won the St. Leger as no horse ever won a great race before, and now he came to Newmarket to gallop away with the Claret Stakes, and men looked at him, and hailed with an enthusiasm, which even the mere money-seeker felt, his glorious sweeping stride, his coat that shone like burnished copper, and his gallant bearing. But some thought that it was the old story over again, that the trainer had spared his favourite from that severity of toil which alone can ensure victory, that Lord Clifden was the more splendid, precisely because he was the less fit to race; and then these prudent men looked at his antagonist the Rapid Rhone, Lord Glasgow's colt, the son of young Melbourne: and though they scarcely trusted his excess of bone, his conformation not dissimilar from that of the old English coach-horse, yet they perceived that every muscle was visible, that he was the very picture of health and endurance, and they reflected that at Epsom last year the Rapid Rhone was but half a length behind Lord Clifden at the final struggle. The chance was tempting: 2,000*l*. to 500*l*. was laid on Lord Clifden. It was taken by one whose sagacity is a proverb. The race was run, a terrific contest over more than two miles of ground, the last mile on a regular ascent. The rider of Rapid Rhone made furious running, in order, as the phrase goes, to 'cut the favourite down'; and he succeeded. The hill was too severe, Lord Clifden was too sleek, and the colours of the great winner of the St. Leger were struck in defeat. The Rapid Rhone passed the post ten lengths ahead of his antagonist. The course (2 miles 119 yards) was traversed in the short space of 3 minutes 53 seconds. Each horse carried 8 st. 10 lbs. We shall not stay to dilate on the racing of Friday; its most noticeable feature was the success of Baron Rothschild, who carried off the prize in four races, and ran second for a fifth.

Newmarket will again welcome the public on Monday, April 25, on the following day the great Two Thousand Guineas Stakes will be run. For this race Fille de l'Air, the property of Count de Lagrange, is first favourite; but the French stable has but rarely fulfilled sanguine expectations, and the sudden collapse of Hospodar and Stradella may find an antitype. Mr. R. Ten Broeck may glorify the State of Tennessee by a victory with his clever horse Paris; but John Bull has no mean chance with General Peel, Sir Roger, and the champions of Lord Glasgow.

We must not omit to state that on Wednesday, April 13, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was elected a member of the Jockney Club, on the motion of Lord Coventry, seconded by Admiral Rous. The event will be hailed with delight by all lovers of the national sport.

General Garibaldi will leave London to-morrow morning on his return to Caprera. He will go to Cornwall for a few days, and afterwards will make the trip home on board the Duke of Sutherland's yacht, accompanied by his noble host. Rumour was busy in London on Tuesday inventing reasons for this sudden departure, and all kinds of stories of Government interference at the instigation of the Emperor of the French found credence. It is on the other hand stated, that what with receptions, shows, levees, shouts, and shaking of hands, we have fairly worn out the hero. Much more of this was in store for him in the provinces, and consequently it was thought best to cut away entirely that part of the programme. The Premier in his place in Parliament declared in favour of the latter theory. A meeting has been held at Stafford House, at which it was resolved to open a public subscription to secure for ever from care the General and his family. It is well known that Garibaldi's pecuniary affairs have been embarrassed by his necessary neglect of them for greater objects, and that he has throughout life depended on his personal exertions for his few and simple requirements. Beyond doubt the subscription will amount to a very considerable sum.

We gave our readers last week a cursory glance at the doings of General Garibaldi up to Wednesday, April 13. On the following day Garibaldi received a deputation from the city of Manchester, consisting of the mayor and other authorities charged to present an address from the corporation: afterwards a deputation from the fire brigade, an institution in which the Duke of Sutherland takes the deepest interest, was introduced. The afternoon was consumed in paying visits. In the evening the General, accompanied by a very large party of friends, visited the Royal Italian Opera to witness the performance of 'Norma' and 'Massaniello.' The theatre was crammed to excess with a most fashionable audience, and the General was received with much applause. The part of *Norma* was played by Mdlle. Emilia Lagrua, and that of *Ororeso* by Mr. Schmid, from the Imperial Opera of Vienna. The patriotic duet between *Massaniello* and *Pietro* was sung by Signors Mario and Graziani with immense *éclat*. The curtain did not fall till past midnight, and then the audience rose to their feet and cheered loudly, while flowers fell from the boxes on the head of the General as he bent forward to acknowledge the applause of the company. On Friday morning the General left town early by the Great Northern Railway, and proceeded to Bedford. The train conveyed him to the famous Britannia Works of Messrs. Howard, the agricultural engineers. After an inspection of the works, the General with his party visited the Mayor of Bedford, and took luncheon with him. The whole population had turned out and received Garibaldi with waving of flags and shouts of applause. Thence the party drove through the principal street of the town, and beneath a triumphal arch, where the address of the corporation was presented. Afterwards a visit was paid to the farm of Messrs. Howard, where the method of steam-ploughing was exhibited and explained. Garibaldi returned to town in the evening, and dined with Mr. Panizzi, the curator of the British Museum. The Earl of Shaftesbury, Lord Wodehouse, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Master of the Rolls were invited to the party. On Saturday morning the General visited the brewery of Messrs. Barclay & Perkins, received a deputation from Salford, and then drove to Sydenham to visit the Crystal Palace. He was enthusiastically cheered on his road to the Palace, and on arriving there found a multitude of 24,000 visitors prepared to welcome him. At the Palace the General sat through a concert, saw the splendid fountains play, received, and lunched with, the members of the Italian Committee, and was presented with a sword. In the evening the General dined at Cambridge House with Lord and Lady Palmerston. A distinguished party were invited to dinner, and her Ladyship held a reception in the evening. On Monday morning deputations from the parish of Marylebone, from the Danish residents in London, and from the members of a Polish lodge, waited upon Garibaldi. Then the General drove out and called upon Mr. Karl Blind, M. Ledru Rollin, and M. Louis Blanc. In the afternoon he drove to the Crystal Palace. As on Saturday he had received the welcome of the upper classes, so on Monday was he to receive that of the working classes. Immense preparations had been made, excursion trains had arrived from all parts of England; the weather was most attractive; but, strange to say, there was precisely the same number of visitors on Monday as on Saturday. The General was seated on a dais, and before him innumerable processions of delegates, Freemasons, Odd Fellows, Orange-men, Universal Leaguers, Congregational Dissenters, members of clubs, corporations and associations passed in order. After all these came the Polish and Swiss nationalities. At the sight of the deputation of Poles, Garibaldi rose from his seat, walked forward to the audience and exclaimed, 'Generous English nation, abandon not Poland.' So also to the Swiss he exclaimed, 'And you, also, I beg that you will not allow poor Poland to die.' On his return from Sydenham the General drove to Mr. Seeley's house, at Prince's Gate. In the evening he dined with the Marquis of Clanricarde, where he was met by the Duke of Wellington, Earls Grey, Malmesbury, and Shaftesbury; Lords Sydney, Stratford de Redcliffe, and Elcho, Sir Robert Peel, M.P., Mr. Whiteside, M.P., Mr. Bernal Osborne, M.P., and Mr. Goschen, M.P. Tuesday morning was consumed in paying visits. In the afternoon Garibaldi held a reception at Mr. Seeley's house at Prince's Gate, and from two until six o'clock crowds of ladies and gentlemen came and went. Not less than 1,000 persons of more or less note in London arrived to pay their

respects. In the evening Garibaldi went to Her Majesty's Opera, to witness the performance of Lucrezia Borgia. Mdlle. Titiens, Mdlle. Bettleheim, Signor Giuglini, and Signor Gassier supported the principal parts. At the termination of the opera, the whole force of the operatic company sang the new war-song, 'La Garibaldina,' the music of which is by Signor Arditi. Hereupon the applause was so great, that the General, who, up to that time, had sat in the back of the box, came forward, and was received with a burst of enthusiasm. The chorus of the song was then given again, and the audience joined lustily, to the increase of the noise rather than to the correctness of the music. The words of the *refrain* are these—

O Garibaldi! nostro salvator!
Te seguiremo al campo dell' onor!
Risorga, Italia il sol di Libertà;
All' armi! all' armi! andiam!

The General went yesterday to the Guildhall, where he was presented with the freedom of the City.

Both Houses of Convocation assembled for the first time this year for the despatch of business on Tuesday. In the Upper House the Bishop of London brought up the report of the Committee on the proposed new order of lay teachers in the Church. The report recommended that every incumbent of a parish should be empowered to recommend one or two of his parishioners, being communicants, to be lay teachers to help him, and that the bishop of each diocese should issue by authority his licence to those persons, the licences to extend to the end of each year, and to be determined three months afterwards, if not renewed. After some discussion the report was received and referred to the Lower House. In the Lower House Canon Selwyn proposed Dr. Jelf as Prolocutor in the room of Dr. Eliot, Dean of Bristol, who had resigned. Dr. Jelf declined the office, and thereupon Canon Wordsworth proposed the Ven. Edward Bickersteth, Archdeacon of Buckingham, who was elected unanimously. Canon Wordsworth presented a petition from the Rev. Dr. Rowland Williams, setting forth that the petitioner 'had heard that Convocation would be asked to proceed to judgment of a certain essay of which he was the author. He, therefore, prayed that before judgment he might be heard. The effect of the prosecution had been to exclude discussion of all the questions on sacred literature which he had raised, and in all the organs of opinion of every shade, personalities, not arguments, had been found. He felt that after hearing him the House would not treat as criminally censurable concessions thought laudable when made by Bishop Middleton, by Archbishops Newcome and Secker, by Lousden and Hengstenberg, and by Calvin himself. The petitioner believed Divine revelation to be a spiritual and not a mechanical process. He had endeavoured to solve new difficulties by ancient principles, and would interpret fresh facts or discoveries by the light of those truths which had been most firmly held by every saint in every age. He deprecated the suppression by any means of those general facts of literature and history which might be explained differently by different divines, but which must be taken into account by all.'

The Bishop of Peterborough died on Monday last, at his Palace, at the age of 84. George Davys graduated at Christ's College, Cambridge, and afterwards became a Fellow of that society. He held the curacies of Littlebury and Chesterford, and afterwards that of Swaffham Prior, in the county of Cambridge. In the last-named parish, as we have good reason for knowing, the recollection of his services is still gratefully remembered. Afterwards he was appointed tutor to the Princess Victoria, and resided at Kensington. He was advanced to the Episcopate in 1839. His Lordship belonged to the Evangelical section of the Church, but was not in any way a partisan. Her Majesty the Queen, from her accession to the throne, neglected no opportunity of proving her esteem and regard for her former tutor.

A deputation, headed by Sir M. Peto, M.P., Mr. Horsfall, M.P., the Hon. A. Kinnaird, M.P., Mr. Somes, M.P., Mr. Abel Smith, M.P., and consisting of about 100 representatives of various associations formed for promoting the due observance of the Lord's Day, had an interview with Lord Palmerston at Cambridge House last week. The memorial presented by them prayed His Lordship to discourage the efforts now being made to open places of public amusement on Sunday, and to afford greater facilities to the labouring class to visit such institutions as the British Museum, the National Gallery, and others of a similar character by causing them to be opened on two or three evenings of the week between the hours of seven and ten.

A lesson not without interest may be learned from a proceeding which took place at the quarterly meeting of the Justices at the Middlesex Sessions last week. It may be remembered that last year a bill passed through Parliament empowering the various Courts of Quarter Sessions to appoint ministers not members of the Church of England to attend prisoners of their persuasion, even without any request from the prisoners to that effect. At the meeting in question, Mr. P. N. Laurie moved that, 'whereas it appeared that there were 639 Roman Catholic prisoners in the gaols under their inspection, it was expedient to provide for the regular ministration of ministers of the Roman Catholic Church, who should receive a reasonable payment under the Act, and that a committee be appointed to arrange all details.' To this resolution Mr. Serjeant Payne moved an amendment to the effect that, 'by the existing law prisoners were entitled, at their own request, to be visited by a minister of their own persuasion; that but few prisoners had made such requests, and that all such had been duly visited; that the Court was of opinion that present arrangements were sufficient, and that any appointment for Roman Catholic priests to attend at the prisons on all occasions, whether their ministrations were required or not, would be unnecessary and improper.' Mr. Payne regarded the proposal before them as an attempt to increase the number of Roman Catholic subjects. Three centuries ago their ancestors had fought for an amended form of religion, and they ought to hold by a Reformation which was founded in good sense. There were about 25,000 prisoners in Middlesex in a year, and of these less than 1,000 were Roman Catholics. They were now asked to appoint three priests to attend on these prisoners. When once the door was opened there was no knowing when it would be closed. If they admitted priests there would be a sealed confession, and what would there be to prevent improper communications being made between the priests and the prisoners. He would quote the teaching of Roman Catholic works of high authority. Thus, in 'Den's Theology,' vol. vi. p. 219, he found this passage: Question, 'Can a case be given in which it is lawful to break the sacramental seal?' Answer, 'It cannot, although the life or safety of a man depended thereon, or even the destruction of the Commonwealth.' So in 'Liguori,' vol. vi. p. 276, 'This seal is an obligation of Divine right, most strict in every case, even where the safety of a whole nation would be at stake.' So again in Den's work, vol. vi. p. 219; Question, 'What answer then ought a confessor to give when questioned concerning a truth which he knows from sacramental confession only?' Answer, 'He ought to answer that he does not know it, and if necessary confirm the same with an oath.' He (Mr. Payne) further objected to priests being allowed to visit the women alone, and put questions in the confessional which might be perfectly unjustifiable. It was said that the strong Protestant feeling of the country was sufficient to check Roman Catholic arrogance. He trusted that it was so, and he hoped that resistance would be made to every attack, however small, from a sense of thankfulness that we no longer lived under the blighting influence of a Roman Catholic 'Priesthood.' The chairman on putting the question to the meeting declared the amendment of Mr. Serjeant Payne carried by a majority of 70 to 24. The result was received with loud applause.

An announcement was made on April 13, in the city that the banking-house of Messrs. Masterman, Peters, Mildred and Co. had been amalgamated with the Agra and United Service Bank. The firm of Messrs. Masterman and Co. was established more than a century ago. The Agra and United Service Bank was established at Agra in 1833, and in London in 1857. It has a capital of 2,000,000*l.*, of which half is paid up. The dividend paid by it last year was at the rate of eighteen per cent. Mr. Edward Masterman, Mr. William Peters, and Mr. Frederick Mildred will be actively associated in the management as directors of the united Bank.

Intelligence has been received that Mr. Francis, the vice-consul at Constantinople, had arrived at Cairo to question the Viceroy, on behalf of the English Government respecting *El Toussin* and *El Monassir*, the two famous steam-rams at Liverpool. Mr. Hamel, of Liverpool, had also arrived out to represent the Messrs. Laird.

A telegram was received on Tuesday evening to the effect that the Hamburg and American Company's steamship *Bavaria*, bound from Hamburg to New York *via* Southampton, had been captured by a Danish frigate off the mouth of the Weser. The *Bavaria* had a large number of passengers on board and with her cargo was valued at 120,000*l.* sterling. The *Germania*, belonging to the same line, has arrived at Southampton from New York. She has landed her passengers, and will tranship her cargo into neutral bottoms, and return from Southampton to New York.

The steamship *The City of New York* which ran aground on Daunt's rock parted amidships at noon on Tuesday, and broke up with the rising tide. Large portions of the wreck drifted towards Cork harbour with the south-westerly gale.

A shocking calamity has befallen the goodly city of Edinburgh. The whole body of scavengers and carters have struck. They insist on entire relief from night-work and Sunday work. Neither the eloquent entreaties of the Lord Provost nor the solemn pledge of the Convener of the Cleaning Committee has moved the obdurate purifiers of the public streets. The recusants number 150 scavengers and 70 carters. Meanwhile the neighbouring farmers, aided by an irregular force of undisciplined scavengers, are vainly endeavouring to prevent the streets from putting on an Augean appearance.

A marvellous dramatic treat was afforded last week at Drury Lane Theatre; an afternoon performance was given of the 'School for Scandal,' and on no previous occasion has greater histrionic talent been called into use. The profits of the performance were given to the funds of the Dramatic College. Mr. Phelps played *Sir Peter Teazle*, Mr. Charles Mathews represented *Charles Surface*, *Sir Harry* was given by Mr. Paul Bedford, and *Sir Benjamin Backbite* by Mr. Buckstone. Besides these great artists, Messrs. H. Compton, J. L. Toole, Horace Wigan, and Frank Matthews, together with Mrs. Charles Mathews, Mrs. Billington, Mrs. Stirling, and Miss Henrietta Sims, took part in the piece. The theatre was crowded, and the applause immense.

THE CONTINENT.

The ill-success of the allied flank-movement on the Island of Alsen has blighted all hopes of accomplishing much in that direction; the efforts of the besieging army have therefore been concentrated on the fortifications before them. Reversing the legend of the web of Penelope, the destruction of each day is repaired during the night, by the heroic obstinacy of the defenders. Still, the almost superhuman exertions of the Danish engineers are taking severely on their small and overtasked forces; the pale and weary faces, betraying morning and evening from the twelve hours' work in the trenches, tell a tale of physical labour and mental anxiety which can hardly be appreciated, but but to our cost. In the meantime, the Prussian forces are slowly, wearing their way onward, gaining a few yards nightly.

On the 11th inst., a brisk engagement occurred, the end of which was that the Prussians have established themselves within eighty yards of the redoubts, and connected their entrenchments with a new parallel. The Danish Commander-in-Chief has met with a striking accident: a shell burst near him and cut his horse's girth in such an extent as caused him, if not actually to dismount his rider, yet to knock him about so severely on the saddle that he was confined to his bed for a day or two.

Gravenstein, April 12, 9.30 p.m.

'The assault upon the Danish works at Düppel was delivered at 10 this morning. Redoubts No. 1 to No. 7, together with the communications in the rear, were occupied by the Prussians while the brigade Raven took redoubt No. 8, 9, and 10, and the *tête de pont*. The bridge was destroyed. Up to the present time, 51 Danish officers and 2,000 privates have been brought in prisoners.'—*Reuter's Telegrams.*

This of course amounts to a capture of the whole position of Düppel.

On the 16th inst. two transports flying the English flag, entered the bay of Horrup, Island of Alsen. Seven Danish merchantmen were directly in that harbour, having been gallantly cut out of Flensburg harbour by a Danish gunboat on the night of the 9th inst. By orders from Copenhagen the blockade of Pillau and Dantzic is to take place from April 19. Several Danish men-of-war, including two frigates and two corvettes, were cruising off the mouths of the Elbe on the 14th inst. Several captures had been made by them.

The German fleet intended to operate in the Baltic will consist of one liner, one iron-clad, and two wooden frigates, three screw and one paddle-wheel gunboat, belonging to the Austrians; one sailing-ship of the line, paddle-wheel corvette, and two small gunboats of the Prussians. Until this force is assembled, the German commanders have been obliged to make use of the cunning of the serpent for its defence. The Russian Government has already remonstrated on the indiscriminate use made of its flag by the German merchantmen; and we now hear that the free town of Bremen has applied to the Swiss Confederacy for permission to use the Swiss flag on the sea. The permission, has, of course, been refused; though it is doubtful what respect the Danish cruisers would have thought fit to pay to a flag which has never yet appeared on the high seas, and would consequently be a more certain sign of hostile character than even the flags of Prussia and Austria.

On the 18th inst.,' the Hamburg and American Company's mail steamer *Bavaria* which left Hamburg for New York on the 17th inst., was captured by a Danish frigate off the mouth of the Weser. The *Bavaria* had a large number of passengers on board, and the value of the ship and cargo is estimated at 120,000*l.* The *Germania*, belonging to the same company, which was to have sailed from Southampton to Hamburg and so to New York, has in consequence of the capture of her sister vessel transhipped her Hamburg cargo into another vessel, and will sail to New York direct from Southampton.

A curious proclamation has been issued by Field-Marshal von Wrangel, ordering all firearms in Jutland to be given up to the military authorities under pain of trial by court-martial; the only exception made is in favour of such royal Danish gamekeepers 'as are furnished with a certificate that they have engaged to supply the game *necessary* (*sic*) for the Allied army.' This is the first time that we hear of haunches of venison or braces of partridges being a necessity for an army on active service. A second part of the same proclamation orders that all the poor in Jutland shall be supplied with a year's fire-wood out of the royal forests. This is a most gratuitous and impertinent interference with the royal property, and one which for its insolence and unblushing 'cajoling' after the plebeian vote is only to be paralleled by the confiscations and grants of property made by the United States authorities in Louisiana. Prussian wiseacres are discussing the important question of the title which Field-Marshal von Wrangel is to receive after the victories to be achieved in Denmark: on the whole they incline to the opinion that he should be called Prince von Düppel, on the analogy of Blucher's title after his French victories.

It is supposed that the 22,000 men to be put on active service by Sweden will be ready by the end of May or the beginning of June. This force is not supposed to represent anything but a 'moral' support given to Denmark; but it is obvious that a moral support so energetically realised will have a more serious and weighty effect than the moral support of protocols.

The Austrian journals have expressed themselves very distinctly on the subject of the Conference: they animadvert on the confused and uncertain action of the Diet with regard to the management of the Duchies as well as to the succession of the Ducal throne, necessitating a vigorous course of conduct on the part of the great German powers. They further remark on the singular lukewarmness with which the matter has been practically taken up in Germany; to all the agitations of the Progressist party and the appeals of sentimental patriots a pitiful half million of florins (50,000*l.*) has been the only response. Under these circumstances, they must not be surprised that the

Austro-Prussians should disregard any but the European question, and join the Conference in London on the basis of the treaties of 1852.

The choice of the Federal Diet has fallen almost unanimously on Herr von Beust, the Saxon minister, who will accordingly represent that body in the Conference.

The leading points of the principles on which the two German Powers intend to act in the Conference are, according to the official *Abend Post* of Vienna, 'the inseparability of the Duchies, their occupying towards Germany the position of protected States, and their administrative and political independence.' Baron von Beust, the representative of the German Diet at the Conference, received on the 16th inst. the deputation from the Holstein estates.

The new Emperor of Mexico quitted Miramar on the 14th inst. for his preliminary visit to Rome. His adieux to his brother-emperor were somewhat cold, as was to be expected, after the very cavalier manner in which the Empress Charlotte (late Archduchess) was treated on her visit to Vienna. No member of the Imperial family escorted her to the station, nor were any steps taken to prevent the discourtesy from appearing the same evening in the journals. The question of the succession is, however, at last settled; the new Emperor has renounced all contingent claim to the throne, stipulating only for the honours of an Archduke of Austria. It is known that the whole affair has been viewed with disfavour by the head of the Hapsburgs, who is perhaps not too well pleased to see Imperial crowns given away by his brother of France, even though the recipient be one of his own family. The *mot d'ordre* in official circles in Vienna now is, 'Mexico and its Emperor are strangers to Austria and its interests;' and great care is taken to point out that there is not even a personal bond of amity between the two empires. This feeling is partly to be accounted for by the conspicuous absence of all mention of Austria in the speech of the Emperor of Mexico—an absence which is readily to be accounted for when we remember how utterly the Cabinet of Vienna ignored the arrangement from its very beginning.

The Convention between France and Mexico has been published. It states that the French troops are to be reduced as soon as possible to 25,000 men, including the foreign legion. The French troops will evacuate Mexico as the organisation of the national troops proceeds. The foreign legion will remain in the country six years after the recall of the other troops. The expense of the French expedition up to July 1861 is fixed at 270,000,000 francs; after July, Mexico will pay an annual indemnity of 1,000 francs for each French soldier. The French debt will be paid off by annual instalments of 25,000,000 francs.

Another important addition has been made to the mineral wealth of Italy by the discovery of a large coal-mine in the territory of Raffadali, province of Girgenti, in Sicily. So large is its extent that it is expected that it will seriously influence the imports of that valuable material from England. The gas that is naturally formed from this coal is said to give a light far superior to that of the English manufactory.

No further news has been received of the Italian frigate *Re Galantuomo*, spoken last week in a sinking condition off the American coast. A vessel has cruised over the whole of the neighbourhood without seeing sign of ship or any traces of wreck.

The *Botschafter* publishes the following: 'Turin, April 10.—The journals are silent on an event of some importance in our political circles. Victor Emmanuel has had a *second* attack of apoplexy: the health of the King, on which all the hopes of Italy are based, is altogether none of the best.'

The state of Greece is by no means reassuring to those who regard that country as a crucial example of the benefit arising from an 'appeal to the population.' The German correspondents in that country, though certainly one-sided in their views, and biassed in their judgments on the affairs of that kingdom, have nevertheless found a sufficiency of facts to add great weight to their strictures. It must be allowed that the enthusiasm of the people, so ardent while revolution only was its object, has sensibly declined ever since it has turned its attention to civilisation and self-government. Difficulties in the Cabinet, insubordination in the army, and sanguinary quarrels between the Greek and Roman creeds among the people, are heavy burdens for a young nation, and lead to grave doubts whether the addition of the Ionian islands to its territory is not rather what they themselves might call *cupor dicupor*, an incumbrance rather than a benefit.

The destruction of the fortifications in Corfu is complete; nothing remains standing which can be of any use against modern artillery.

A letter has been addressed to the English journals by a director of the Suez Canal Company, pointing out that there are as many English and Scotch now engaged in the works connected with that undertaking as there are Frenchmen. It is unfortunate, therefore, that dissensions should have arisen between the private English residents in Egypt and the local Government. The latter has had to face all the ordinary difficulties of an Oriental administration, aggravated by the extraordinary though constant pressure of an enormous through traffic, as well as the natural misfortune of an inundation. Where so many disadvantages have to be combated, we ought, if possible, to exceed the scriptural measure of forgiveness, 'seventy times seven.'

A report has been received of the opening of the fresh-water canal from Ismailia to Port Said, adding another instalment to the amount of work completed on the Suez Canal.

The diplomatic relations of the United Principalities with the neighbouring Powers are still in a high state of tension. Russia is now the aggrieved party, on the grounds of the attack made on Greek orthodoxy by the spoliation of the convents and the undue favour shown to Polish refugees by the present Government. It is said that the Russian Minister has received orders to demand his passports in consequence of the refusal of Prince Couza to dismiss his present Ministry. It is pretty well understood, as we have stated in a previous number, that the Ministry exists entirely by the support of the House of Representatives. The Prince may therefore shield himself behind the popular vote. The said House of Representatives has further voted a sum of 88,000,000 for the formation of a camp to command the approaches into Bessarabia.

La Presse of the 16th inst. says: 'It is asserted that the interview between the Emperor and Lord Clarendon was of an essentially reassuring character for the peace of Europe, and that it is not impossible that considerable reductions may be made in the naval estimates of the budget of both countries.'

The *Presse* of Paris has made some caustic remarks on the inconsistency of English conduct. The Government of this country have decided (?) to work out a result to the Conference by the threadbare and obsolete forms of diplomacy, instead of concurring in the wholesome modern practice of an appeal to the wishes of the people for a solution of the difficultics. The people of England, on the other hand, are receiving, with triumphal honours, Garibaldi, the hero and incarnation of these very principles which the rulers of the people reject. England will, therefore, have no right to complain that the Conference will have become a nullity.

On the 12th inst. a decision was given by the Imperial Courts on an appeal affecting the well-known speculator, M. Mirès. The circumstances of the case are uninteresting, but not so some observations made in the course of the judgment. The Court declared that in any civil action the verdict of a criminal court on the same matter must be respected; and that the judges in the civil court must admit such verdict as the basis of a decision in favour of the acquitted prisoner. These remarks come in with a certain flavour of singularity after the decision given by the civil judge in the case of M. Armand. It will be remembered that that gentleman was fined 20,000 francs as damages, for the commission of an act of which he was acquitted by a criminal court: the judge then declaring that the verdict of the jury, while it negatived the criminality, in no way affected the actual commission of the deed. While our friends beyond the Channel are twitting us with political inconsistency, we may fairly wonder at the versatility with which they skip from one general principle to its opposite in their judicial procedure.

M. Leverrier, a name known both in the scientific and political world, although in truth his science far outshines his politics, has been doing good service to France by attempting to institute a system of private scientific observation. At a great *réunion* held by him at the Observatoire Impérial, he made some very forcible remarks on the dearth of private energy in France; true, the Government was most bountiful, but there were many details of science which a Government could not and ought not to undertake. Thus, he pointed to a mass of private astronomical observations made by Lalande in the course of the last century; their publication was due, not to the public munificence or private energy of his own countrymen, but to the scientific zeal of an Englishman. (The learned professor's known antipathy to England must have given additional force to this complaint.) He then adverted to the great use which had been made of private observations for the predictions of storms and hurricanes, and to the great saving of life that had been effected by telegraphic intelligence of these predictions. It would be well to consider whether we have in England made sufficient use of the large amount of scientific knowledge scattered about the country. We turn out of one University only an average of thirty first-rate mathematicians yearly, the greater part of whom are speedily merged in the general educated class. Why could not some of these gentlemen employ some spare moments in working out some of the observations taken by our astronomers, and so relieving them from a part at least of the laborious drudgery which falls upon them?

M. Bazier, of the Italian Opera in Paris, is evidently an ill-used man. He is only director of the chief opera-houses in Paris and Madrid, purveying in the former capital for one of the richest and most luxurious nations in the world; and yet, in spite of a position so disadvantageous for the making of money, the Imperial Government have withdrawn from him their subsidy of 4,000*l.*, and granted it to the Lyrique. For once the theatrical journals have consented to an armistice, and have raised a chorus of complaints and remonstrances on the injustice of Government: the school of French music has received a mortal blow; no longer shall its careful precept and splendid example act as a hotbed for French votaries of the joyous science; the portals of the palace of music are closed; the baton of the conductor falls from his nerveless grasp, &c. We have heard something very like this before; only, as the scene of the tribulation was prosaic England, the cause of the woe was equally prosaic, being nothing more than the Repeal of the Corn-Laws. There is certainly a trifling difference between 'Don Giovanni' and daily bread; but the principle of protection is alike for both. We can only say that if the French musical world is dependent on a Government grant of 4,000*l.* for its existence, the sooner it is starved into fiddle-strings the better.

The Cathedral of Lyons, like that of Milan, and like many of our own cathedrals before the time of the Reformation, rejoices in a peculiar liturgy, or 'use,' as it is called in the preface to our Book of Common Prayer. For this liturgy the indiscreet zeal of the Papal See has attempted to substitute that of Rome, in spite of official protests and the remonstrances of its own clergy at Lyons; the attempt has been treated as a violation of the liberties of the Gallican Church and an infringement of the Concordat. Notwithstanding these protests, a Papal brief has gone forth ordering the change to be made; the Government has forbidden the printers to issue a single copy of it. Thus the matter stands at present—the Government, the people, and the body of the clergy on one side; the Pope, Cardinal Bonald, Archbishop of Lyons, and the Ultramontane priesthood on the other.

The *Moniteur* of the 20th inst. says: 'The *Morning Star* and the *Daily News* assert that Earl Clarendon, in the name of the British Government, promised, as a concession to the Emperor, that Garibaldi should shorten his stay in England. This statement is entirely incorrect. No observation was made to Earl Clarendon by the French Government on the subject of Garibaldi.'

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

THE MALLORY REPORT FORGERY.

On Monday, in the House of Commons, Lord R. Cecil asked the Attorney-General whether he still considered the Mallory Report as 'a document of a character quite *unquestionable*,' as he had on a former occasion described it. He also wanted to know if the Government would produce Mr. Seward's despatch in reference to that document.

The Attorney-General said that when he referred to that document on a former occasion, and used the word 'unquestionable,' his meaning was simply this—that never having heard any suggestion that the document was not what it professed to be, and knowing that it had been sent to Mr. Adams, and by him to Her Majesty's Government; being ignorant also of the peculiar form in which such documents are presented to the Confederate Congress; and also not being aware at the time that an opinion had been expressed doubting the genuineness of the document, he, in his simplicity, did believe that the document was what it purported to be. Had it been so, emanating from the Confederate Government, it would, undoubtedly, have been, as he had represented it, of unquestionable authority. [We are not aware that any one has ever said or hinted that a document emanating from the Confederate Government was not of unquestionable authority. The *simplicity* of the learned gentleman is almost pathetic.] His impression was that the despatch of Lord Lyons should be produced.

THE MERSEY STEAM-RAMS.

The Earl of Derby has given notice that on Tuesday next he will call the attention of the House of Lords to the published correspondence between Her Majesty's Government and Messrs. Laird about the seizure of the steam-rams.

UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On Monday night Mr. Disraeli proposed a resolution in reference to a subject which he mentioned on Friday. This affair, which is calculated to embarrass the Government, and may involve rather awkward consequences, admits of a brief explanation. At the beginning of the 18th century, it became evident that the practical value of the rights of the House of Commons depended upon that body being free from Court influence. If, for example, the Sovereign could fill the House with placemen, the power of withholding supplies would be a mere farce; and, practically, the national purse-strings would be under the control of the Crown. To meet this danger, in 1707, a measure was introduced, which eventually became law, and is known as the Act of Queen Anne. It was enacted by this that any person accepting an office of profit under the Crown created after 1705 should not be eligible for election to the House of Commons, or be entitled to sit or vote. At that time (1705), there were three Secretaries and three Under-Secretaries of State, respectively presiding over the Home, Foreign, and Colonial Departments. It should be observed that the law does not take cognisance of the division of offices, and in Bills relating to this subject it is enacted that such and such a number of Secretaries and Under-Secretaries of State shall be privileged to sit in the House of Commons. We may also in this place notice the reply of the Attorney-General to this point of the case. He denied that the Act of Queen Anne had anything to do with the Under-Secretaries. The learned gentleman said:—'The 26th section is to the effect that if any person, being a member of the House of Commons, should accept of any place of profit from the Crown, his election should be deemed void, and there should be a new election, as if in consequence of a vacancy by death, the member in question being, however, capable of re-election. Upon that clause rests the practice of members when taking office in the Government resigning their seats and going down to their constituencies to ask for re-election. Consequently, if an Under-Secretaryship of State is an office of profit under the Crown, then each of the Under-Secretaries who accepted office from the date of the statute of Anne to the present time ought thereupon to have vacated his seat, but not one of them ever did so. I appeal to you, Sir, whether it is not the notorious and universal practice of the House that a member on accepting the office of Under-Secretary of State does not vacate his seat and has not to be reelected? Therefore the uniform practice of the House, which is the best commentary on the meaning of the Act, proclaims distinctly that an Under-Secretaryship of State is not an office of profit under the Crown within the scope of the Act, whether created before or after the passing of the statute. What is the reason of that? It is that an Under-Secretary of State is not appointed by the Crown, but by a Secretary of State. Thus the Act of Anne has no more to do with the matter than any other Act in the statute-book.' But, as we shall perceive,

the issue does not at all depend upon this construction of the Attorney-General, except so far as pains and penalties are concerned. In 1742 an Act was passed, providing that deputies and clerks in the offices of the Government, including those of the principal Secretaries of State, 'the Under-Secretaries to any of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State' excepted, should not sit in the House of Commons. Three-quarters of a century after the Act of Queen Anne—that is, in 1782—a Bill introduced by Mr. Burke was passed, by which the office of Colonial Secretary and all the offices dependent on it were abolished, it being supposed that, after the loss of our North American colonies, we should have no employment for a Colonial Secretary. Mr. Burke's Bill contained a proviso that if at any time the office should be revived, it should be considered a new office, and therefore subject to the provisions of the Act of Queen Anne. Thus, then, the number of Secretaries was reduced to two, and a corresponding reduction took place in the number of Under-Secretaries privileged to sit in the House of Commons. After another interval of three-quarters of a century—that is, in 1855—we come to an Act which is too plain to admit of a difference in construing it. When the Crimean war broke out, the Colonial Secretary—we need not observe that the office had been long since revived—had charge of the army abroad in time of war; and this was found so inconvenient, that a new Department was established called the War Department, and a Bill was brought into the House authorising the Secretary and Under-Secretary to sit in the Commons—that is, the Bill permits three of Her Majesty's Secretaries of State and an equal number of Under-Secretaries to sit in the Commons. Next came the change of government in India, which has given rise to the office of Secretary of State for India, and an Act was passed permitting four Secretaries and four Under-Secretaries to sit in the Commons. Such is the law; and yet, since April 1863, there have been five Under-Secretaries of State in the House of Commons, viz., the Under-Secretaries for Foreign Affairs, for the Colonies, for India, for the Home Department, and for the War Department.

Mr. Disraeli introduced the subject in a very able speech. He complained of the number of Secretaries of State that were in the House of Lords. In his opinion, a large majority of the Secretaries, including the heads of the two great departments of public expenditure, should be in the House of Commons. The Constitution has provided for the representation of the Government in the Lords. One Secretary of State must sit in the Upper House, because there are five Secretaries, and only four can sit in the Commons. The Lord Chancellor, the Lord President of the Council, and the Lord Privy Seal, must be peers. The Postmaster-General is prohibited from sitting in the Commons, and is therefore selected from the peers. [This prohibition may operate injuriously to the public service.] The Commander-in-Chief is a peer, and several of the chief offices of the Household are held by peers. Considering the division of business, the House of Lords has, by the Constitution, a full share of Ministerial offices attached to it. The present Government gave too much to the House of Lords, and was represented in the House of Commons by Under-Secretaries. Mr. Disraeli did not deny the ability of these gentlemen; but questions arise 'which no one can properly treat who is not in the counsels of his Sovereign, who is ignorant of the policy really pursued by the Cabinet, and who cannot enter into their engagements, and make those representations which Ministers of the Crown alone can express.' After paying a courteous tribute to the Duke of Newcastle, the late Secretary for the Colonies, Mr. Disraeli said that in considering the distribution of offices between the two Houses, it was discovered that the state of affairs was not only politically injurious, but flagrantly illegal. There were five Under-Secretaries in the House of Commons, whilst only four were entitled to sit and vote. The matter is urgent and important. A popular assembly cannot maintain its authority unless it respects the example and experience of its predecessors, and important laws have been passed by a majority of one. In 1841, a majority of one brought Sir Robert Peel into office. In the present session, the reduction in the estimates for the Yeomanry was carried by one vote. On that occasion the Under-Secretary of State for War spoke and voted for the reduction, and yet he was not entitled to sit in the House or to vote. Mr. Disraeli in conclusion proposed a resolution that 'Notice having been taken by a member of this House that more than four Under-Secretaries of State have been sitting and voting in this House at the same time during the present Session,—Resolved, that the provisions of the 21st and 22nd of Victoria, cap. 106, sec. 4, have been violated, and that the seat of the fifth Under-Secretary of State has been and is thereby vacated.' [This resolution pointed to the Marquis of Hartington, the Under-Secretary for War, whose appointment made the fifth Under-Secretary in the Commons.]

Lord Palmerston said that when the present Government was constituted, four Secretaries of State were in the House of Commons; but in consequence of the elevation of the then so-called Lord John Russell to the peerage, and the death of Sir G. C. Lewis, the Secretaries for Foreign Affairs and for War were removed to the House of Lords. He frankly admitted that the Government had inadvertently violated the law, but the Opposition must share the blame in not sooner finding out the error. [Mr. Disraeli had stated that the Opposition was not entirely free from blame.] By the resignation of the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Bruce), who has accepted the office of Vice-President of the Committee of Privy Council for Education in the place of Mr. Lowe, there are now only four Under-Secretaries in the House. As the law had been violated, some person must be liable for penalties, and the Government proposed a Bill of Indemnity, which would be a more effectual record than a resolution. The Government did not agree with that part of Mr. Disraeli's resolution which asserts that one of the Under-Secretaries has vacated his seat.

The Attorney-General [who delights in special pleading and legal subtleties] contended that the offence was for five Under-Secretaries of State to sit in the House, but that it was not within the province of the House to decide which of them had violated the law and was subject to penalties. He denied that the seat was vacated, because the meaning of the Acts was that a fifth Under-Secretary of State should not sit and vote, but the Legislature contemplated the possibility of a man retaining his *status* as a member of the House, and 'his being placed under disabilities depended upon varying circumstances of voting and sitting.' Thus Mr. D. O'Connell and Mr. Salomons [and also Baron Rothschild] were members of the House at a time when they could not sit or vote in consequence of not complying with the requisitions of the Oaths Act of Charles II. When a member becomes bankrupt, he remains a member for a year, though he cannot sit or vote unless his debts be paid in full or the commission of bankruptcy be suspended. At the end of a year if his bankruptcy continue, his election becomes void, and a new writ is issued. 'Every reason which induces Parliament to preserve the *status* of members of this House to persons who hesitate to take the oath, but who may do so at any time, and affords to bankrupts the opportunity of ridding themselves of the incapacity, must surely apply *à fortiori* to the case of Under-Secretaries.' Therefore he held that there was no warrant for declaring the seat of the member for North Lancashire (the Marquis of Hartington) vacant. The Government was to blame for the oversight, but it was some excuse that the error had escaped the vigilance of the leader of the Opposition and of the Speaker.

Mr. Walpole supported the resolution, and replied to the speech of the Attorney-General. He could not agree with the construction sought to be put upon the Act which gave bankrupt members the privilege of retaining their seats for a year to see if they could pay their creditors or annul their bankruptcy. The point was that as soon as the Speaker declared a bankrupt member ineligible the seat was vacated. Was there any doubt that a fifth Under-Secretary was ineligible to sit and vote?

Sir George Grey proposed a Select Committee, to which Mr. Disraeli consented upon Lord Palmerston promising not to proceed with the Bill of Indemnity until the Select Committee had reported.

RESIGNATION OF MR. LOWE.

On Monday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Lowe explained why he had resigned the office of Vice-President of the Council of Education. On the 12th inst. the following resolution, moved by Lord R. Cecil, was carried against the Government: 'That in the opinion of this House the mutilation of the reports of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, and the exclusion from them of statements and opinions adverse to the educational views entertained by the Committee of Council, while matter favourable to them is admitted, are violations of the understanding under which the appointment of the inspectors was originally sanctioned by Parliament, and tend entirely to destroy the value of their reports.' Mr. Lowe said that Lord R. Cecil had not brought forward any evidence in support of the charge, and he (Mr. Lowe) had met it by an emphatic denial. The House had thought proper, in spite of that denial, to pass the resolution, and it therefore became his duty to resign his office; for such a resolution conveyed a stronger censure than a simple vote of want of confidence. He would now offer an explanation of the circumstances on which he believed Lord R. Cecil relied; and he would on the former occasion have offered the explanation if he had then known of a document that was circulated amongst the members. It is difficult for a man to defend himself against evidence which he has not seen or heard of, and there is probably 'no public department in the country which may not be overturned or discredited if its subordinate officials are base enough to communicate confidential documents.' [We are confident that if Mr. Lowe's successor summarily dismisses such persons from their offices he will be supported in such a proceeding by Conservatives as well as Liberals.] The documents thus communicated were reports of inspectors, in which certain passages were marked in the margin. These marks in the margin were improper, and were contrary to orders. When he assumed office he found the system was to strike out objectionable or improper passages, but he thought the plan was inconvenient, and a Minute was framed by which reports objected to were returned to the inspectors for revision, and if they were not revised to the satisfaction of the Council they were not published. This went on for two years, when he received a letter from an inspector saying that he had looked over the marked passages in a returned report, and could find nothing in them to alter. Then for the first time he (Mr. Lowe), who could not read the reports himself, and had them read to him, found that the practice had been continued of marking certain passages as in the time of his predecessor, and he instantly gave orders that a custom opposed to the new regulation should be discontinued. Mr. Lowe said: 'I gave orders that this kind of thing should never be done again, and pointed out that it was contrary to the whole intention and spirit of the Minute, that it entirely conteracted the object we had in view, and would expose us to all kinds of difficulties. In 1863 the same inspector unfortunately had his report returned to him, and he wrote back to ask that the passages objected to should be marked. I desired a letter to be written in answer to him to say that the Committee of Council could not undertake to mark any passages, that to do so would be contrary to the spirit of the Minute, and that he must himself discover, as well as he could, what there was in them that militated against the Minute under which the report ought to have been framed. And this was my practice in the matter. It was on the strength of these facts that I made the statement I did make in answer to the noble Lord, and I can only reiterate that what I said then was entirely true to the best of my knowledge and belief. One more thing I have to say, and that is, my noble friend and myself had received reports—three of them, I remember—from very important and influential inspectors, in which they spoke in terms of high commendation of the changes introduced under the name of the Revised Code. Those passages were not of such a nature as would have justified us in sending back the report, and they did not appear to us to violate the Minute that we had made. But we were very anxious that they should not appear, and we requested these gentlemen privately, not officially, to be good enough to expunge these passages from their report.'

After Mr. Lowe resumed his seat, there followed a volley of regrets from both sides of the House. Lord R. Cecil was sorry that the explanation was not given on the 12th, for then the resolution would not have been carried, and he was sorry Mr. Lowe had resigned. Lord Palmerston warmly eulogised the ability and character of Mr. Lowe, deplored his loss, and was sorry that neither he nor his colleagues could dissuade him from resigning. Mr. Disraeli regretted that 'so much talent has been lost to the public service.' Mr. Walter was sorry the vote [he voted with the majority] of the 12th had led to Mr. Lowe's resignation. Mr. Foster, who also voted with the majority, regretted that Mr. Lowe 'should have thought that the vote was one which affected his personal honour.'

Altogether, Mr. Lowe must have been greatly consoled for the loss of office by such lavish praise from foes as well as friends.

The same evening, in the House of Lords, Earl Granville, the President of the Council, made a statement in which he avowed his responsibility for what Mr. Lowe had done, and fully approved his conduct. His Lordship highly commended the zeal, ability, and high character of Mr. Lowe.

THE MACKAY GUN.

On Monday, in the House of Lords, the Earl of Derby called attention to a gun invented by Mr. Mackay, and which had been lately tried. Till now it had been a leading principle in the construction of cannon that the windage should be diminished to the greatest possible extent. This new gun, however, proceeded on the principle of utilising the windage, and rendering it serviceable for the purposes of the weapon. The projectile used was a smooth cylindrical bolt, and the interior of the gun was furnished with spiral grooves. The gas escaping up these grooves communicated a rotary motion to the bolt similar to that of a rifle-ball. This system, if it could be successfully worked, would, of course, lessen the necessity for extraordinary strength in cannon and for very heavy charges, and would also reduce the amount of the recoil. It was stated that the initial velocity obtained at the trial in question was remarkably high. The gun was manufactured at the well-known establishment of the Mersey Steel and Iron Works. It weighed nine tons, and was fired with a charge of 30 lbs., and a projectile of 167 lbs., at a range of 200 yards. The target, which was 6 ft. square, represented a side of the *Agincourt*, an iron-plated frigate now being built for the Government. It consisted of a plate of iron, 5½ in. thick, backed by 9 in. of teak, with behind another plate of iron about 1 in. thick, a series of strong bolts, and last of all a thick plank of timber. The bolt struck nearly the centre of the target, shattered the woodwork, and passed through the whole breadth of the target, many yards beyond which it was found, carrying with it a plug of iron which it had drilled out of the plate in its progress. If that statement was correct, the performance was certainly most extraordinary, and it was remarkable that the plug and the bolt were found lying nearly together on the sand, the marks on which showed that the rotary motion had been continued to the last. The bolt was perfectly sound and entire, although the force of the impact had diminished its length and added to its breadth. He should like to know if the Secretary for War had received any report as to this trial.

The Earl De Grey and Ripon said the statements of the Earl of Derby were confirmed in regard to the main features of the gun by the report of an officer sent down to Liverpool to make enquiries. The Government could not yet form any decided opinion, but the matter called for investigation.

THE PENAL SERVITUDE BILL.

The Penal Servitude Acts Amendment Bill passed through Committee on Monday in the House of Commons. On Clause 4, Mr. Hunt moved an amendment to the effect that a holder of a ticket-of-leave should report himself to the police, and not change his locality without giving notice under pain of having his license forthwith revoked. Sir George Grey opposed this amendment, but the Government was beaten by a majority of 28.

FLOGGING FOR RAPE.

The Bill for adding flogging to the present punishments for rape passed through Committee in the House of Lords on Thursday. An amendment proposed by Lord Wensleydale makes flogging compulsory, and not optional with the judge. On Tuesday, Earl Carnarvon moved the insertion of a clause making flogging compulsory when the offence has actually been committed, and optional when only attempted. This amendment was agreed to.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF SHIPS OF WAR.

On Thursday, in the House of Lords, a petition was presented by the Earl of Hardwicke from Mr. Chalmers, who alleges that an invention of his for the construction of iron-plated ships has not been fairly tried, and that the Chief Contractor of the Navy has pirated the main features of his invention.

The Duke of Somerset said the Chalmers target did resist shot better than the *Warrior* target, except the 68-pounder; but it was more complicated in construction and more costly. It was a mistake to suppose that anything had been copied from Mr. Chalmers. There had been very little advance upon the construction of the *Warrior*, except that they now got thicker plates and better iron.

THE DUTY ON MALT.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, Colonel Barttelot moved a resolution: 'That the consideration of the duties upon sugar be postponed until the House shall

have had the opportunity of considering the expediency of the reduction of the duty on malt.' After a long discussion, the resolution was rejected by a majority of 248. Mr. Disraeli declared his opinion about the malt duty was not changed; but he held that the House was pledged to first remove the taxes imposed for the Crimean war, including the increased duties on sugar.

LIMITED ENLISTMENT IN THE BRITISH ARMY.

On Friday, in the House of Lords, Earl Lucan, in moving for a return of the reserve force, commented on the working of the Limited Enlistment Act. No less than 10,000 men per annum were entitled to their discharge: and, considering the difficulty of obtaining recruits, and the calls likely to be made for an army 210,000 strong, a great portion of which was in India, this was a very grave matter. After seventeen years' trial, he thought the system ought to be changed, or at least the term of service ought to be extended to fifteen years in the infantry and sixteen years for the cavalry and artillery.

Earl De Grey and Ripon said that it was not likely that more than 4,000, or perhaps 3,000, men would claim their discharge. In ten years—that is, from 1852 to 1862—the death ratio in the army had fallen from 29·7 per 1,000 to 18·4 per 1,000, which was an annual gain of 2,200 men. This was chiefly due to the operation of the Limited Enlistment Act. The difficulty of recruiting arose from the competition of the labour market, and to revert to the old system of enlistment would increase the difficulty.

FREE TRADE AND DIPLOMACY.

Mr. W. E. Forster, on Friday, moved for a Select Committee to enquire into the arrangements between the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade in reference to our trade with foreign nations. The object of this motion was to induce the Government to exert their influence in promoting the adoption of free trade in other countries. After considerable discussion, the motion was agreed to.

DEPARTURE OF GARIBALDI.

When it was announced that General Garibaldi would forthwith depart for Caprera on account of ill health, it was currently reported that the hurried departure was not due to physical but to political causes. It was said that the Earl of Clarendon had received a hint from the Emperor of the French, and that the English Government had intimated to Garibaldi that his presence was inconvenient. The affair was noticed in both Houses of Parliament on Tuesday night. In the Lords, the Earl of Clarendon said, that neither by the Emperor, nor by any member of the Imperial Government, was any allusion made to him as to the cause or the probable duration of Garibaldi's visit. He (Lord Clarendon) had spoken to the Emperor about the reception. 'I said that the ground of the enthusiasm of the people was that Garibaldi had risen from the ranks of his countrymen by the great services that he had rendered to them, and because he was brave, and because he was honest, and that I was convinced he would command a similar reception in whatever part of England he might visit. No one can be more unwilling than I am—because I know the inconvenience of such a course—to allude to any communication that I have received from the Emperor, but I think I am not betraying any confidence when I state that the Emperor said that he entirely understood and fully believed how completely such qualities as Garibaldi had displayed went straight home to the English heart, and commanded their approbation.' The French Government has no more to do with the departure of Garibaldi than the English Government. His Lordship also said: 'I think it will be more satisfactory to your Lordships and the country to know that no concessions have been either made or asked of the Emperor of the French or of the English Government the one from the other. I found when I was in Paris that there existed on the part of the Emperor and his Government the same desire that exists on the part of Her Majesty's Government that, on all important questions which may arise, there should be, as far as possible, a combination of action between the two countries and the two Governments on the various matters that may agitate Europe, without any compromise of dignity on the part of either.'

In the Commons, in reply to Mr. D. Griffith, Lord Palmerston explicitly denied that the English Government had anything to do with the departure of Garibaldi. Respecting the Emperor His Lordship said: 'I am empowered by my noble friend Lord Clarendon, who had some conversations with him upon the reception which General Garibaldi met with in this country, to say that, so far from the Emperor of the French having looked upon this reception with the slightest degree of jealousy—for which there cannot be the smallest foundation, because there was nothing in the reception which was connected with any feeling or any tie bearing on the French Government, but simply an expression of admiration felt by the people of this country for a great and distinguished man—I am authorised by my noble friend to say that in those conversations the Emperor of the French, so far from expressing the slightest umbrage at what had passed, said that he looked with admiration upon the feeling which that reception expressed on the part of the British nation, and that it did them the highest honour.' After testifying from personal observation that the health of Garibaldi was being impaired by his visit, His Lordship said that the General's 'most ardent admirers must feel that in foregoing the pleasure which an opportunity of seeing him affords them, they are contributing to that health, strength, and life which every one who admires him wishes might remain unimpaired for the service of his country.'

THE BOMBARDMENT OF SONDERBORG.

On Tuesday, in the House of Lords, the Earl of Malmesbury asked Earl Russell if he had received any explanation of the bombardment of Sonderborg. Every private letter that arrived tended to aggravate the atrocity of the act. If there had been an arsenal in the place, still the Prussians were bound by the usages of civilised warfare to give 24 hours' notice. The hospitals were the first buildings destroyed, and the sick had to be carried out in the midst of the bombardment. The shells used were not merely such as would set fire to the buildings, but contained materials for the destruction of human life.

Earl Russell said the Prussian Minister told the British Ambassador that he was not aware of the circumstances, and that it was not usual for a neutral Power to enquire as to the proceedings of belligerents. 'He promised, however, that if an official enquiry were made he would give an answer. He (Earl Russell) supposed the answer would be merely that Her Majesty's Government had no right to enquire in regard to the proceedings of the belligerents, and he had not directed any official enquiry to be made in the matter.' [His Lordship seems to be quite prepared for being snubbed.] His Lordship observed: 'As no official explanation has been given of the occurrence, it must remain under the reprobation of civilised nations.'

DENMARK.

On Tuesday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Osborne moved a resolution against using the treaty of 1852 as a basis of negotiations. After a long debate, in the course of which Mr. Disraeli attacked the foreign policy of the Government, but objected to the motion on the eve of the assembling of the Conference, and said that the Opposition would take the first fitting opportunity of asking the House to pronounce judgment on the foreign policy of the Government, Mr. Osborne expressed his willingness to withdraw his motion, and it was disposed of by Mr. Disraeli moving the previous question.

THE COUNTY FRANCHISE.

On Wednesday, 13th inst., Mr. Locke King's Bill for reducing the county franchise to 10*l.* was rejected on the second reading by a majority of 27. In the course of the debate Lord Palmerston said: 'It is plain to every man, I think, who attends at all to the indications of public opinion in this House and in the country, that there does not exist at the present moment in this House or out of it the same interest in such changes as existed some short period since. The fact is that organic changes have been looked to not as a mere end so much as a means. They were looked to as a means of effecting great alterations and improvements in our internal system, our commercial system, our laws, procedure, and other matters. Many of those improvements have been made. Commerce has been freed from its enshacklements, industry has been encouraged by liberty, and many of those alterations and improvements which were to be the result of organic changes have been accomplished by the Legislature as it stands, and therefore there is a less ardent desire for change than existed before those improvements were made. There are also other considerations connected with external affairs which have tended to allay the desire for organic changes, arising from the events which have occurred in other countries, and which are attributable in a great measure to the influence of organic changes in those countries.'

Confederate Official Documents.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE ON THE MALLORY REPORT FORGERY.

Department of State, Richmond, March 11, 1864.

Sir,—I have the honour to inclose copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Navy in relation to a forgery extensively circulated by the European press, purporting to be a copy of an official report addressed by him to 'T. S. Babcock,' Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Confederate States.

The paper is on its face so palpably a fabrication that one could scarcely have supposed it could dupe the most credulous, even if experience had not already demonstrated the facility and abundance with which 'telegraphic news,' 'Confederate confessions,' 'intercepted letters,' and 'extracts from Richmond papers,' have been manufactured for European consumption. You will notice that the paper is stamped as a forgery in the mere address, not only by the misnomer of our Speaker, but because the reports of the head of the Navy Department are never addressed to the Speaker of the House. The contents of the paper are too absurd for comment.

The Secretary of the Navy has been informed by Commodore Maury that this paper is 'going the rounds of the Continental press as gospel.' It may be well, if you think the matter worth notice, to make public the fact that the paper is a forgery.

I am inclined to think the publication should be made, for no fable concerning us is too absurd for belief, real or pretended, in England or on the continent. A short time ago, European papers were gravely commenting on the 'fact' that our Vice-President, Mr. Stephens (who can at once abandon his constitutional position here as successor to the Presidency, in the event of the death of the Chief Magistrate, and who was at the time sick at his home in Georgia) had arrived in Europe, for the purpose of concluding a treaty with France for the concession of Texas and other sovereign States to that power.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
(Signed) J. P. Benjamin,
Secretary of State.

Hon. John Slidell, Commissioner, &c., Paris.

March 12, 1864.

P.S. We have just received the debates in the House of Commons, on the 22nd ult., on Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald's motion, and find that Her Majesty's Attorney-General succeeded in defending the conduct of the Ministry, on the subject of Mr. Laird's rams, by quoting, as authentic, this clumsy fabrication, and that his citations from it were received with cheers. This is the more unaccountable, inasmuch as the paper had been characterised as a 'Yankee trick' and a 'hoax' by the unexceptionable authority of Commodore Maury, in a card published by him in the London papers three weeks before the speech of the Attorney-General.

The same mail brings the statement made by Lord Palmerston in the House of Commons on the 25th ult., that the release of the Confederate vessel of war *Tuscaloosa*, which had been seized by instructions of the British Government in a colonial port, had been ordered, on the ground that 'her detention would not be warranted by international law.' It is to be regretted that the eager desire of the British Government to observe that 'impartial neutrality' which Earl Russell has so happily defined as being 'conduct exceedingly advantageous to the more powerful of the two parties,' had not been restrained until international law had been investigated, before instructions were issued to violate our rights by the seizure of one of our armed vessels in a port where it had sought asylum under the sanction of the Queen's proclamation. This promptness to do 'neutral acts exceedingly advantageous to the stronger side' has had the result in the present case of enabling all of the enemy's vessels that had been threatened by our cruiser to escape, while the British Ministry was engaged in its tardy examination of the law of nations on the subject of a neutral's right to seize the national vessels of the less powerful of the two belligerents.

Confederate States of America, Navy Department,
Richmond, March 10, 1864.

Sir,—I have the honour to hand you herewith a paper, purporting to be an official report made by me to the Hon. Mr. Babcock, Speaker of the House of Representatives. This paltry forgery, widely circulated and generally commented on in England and France, originated in the United States, and bears intrinsic evidence of having been prepared by those having access to the Navy Department of the enemy. The main purpose of it seems to be to present the Government of the Confederate States as engaged in building iron-clads and other ships in England and France; and as it may possibly be regarded as authentic by foreign Governments, I deem it proper to apprise you that it is, from beginning to end, a forgery.

On its appearance in England, Commander M. F. Maury, over his own signature in the *Times*, denounced it as a 'hoax,' and a leading journal of the United States, in commenting upon his letter, reasserts the authenticity of the report.

I am respectfully, your obedient servant,
(Signed) S. R. Mallory,
Secretary of the Navy.

Hon. J. P. Benjamin, Secretary of State.

AN ACT TO ORGANISE FORCES TO SERVE DURING THE WAR.

The *Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact*, That from and after the passage of this act all white men, residents of the Confederate States, between the ages of seventeen and fifty, shall be in the military service of the Confederate States for the war.

Sec. 2. That all the persons aforesaid, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five now in the service, shall be retained, during the present war with the United States, in the same regiments, battalions and companies to which they belong at the passage of this act, with the same organisation and officers, unless regularly transferred or discharged, in accordance with the laws and regulations for the Government of the army: *Provided*, That companies from one State organised against their consent, expressed at the time, with regiments or battalions from another State, shall have the privilege of being transferred to organisations of troops in the same arm of the service from the States in which the said companies were raised, and soldiers from one State in companies from another State shall be allowed, if they desire it, a transfer to organisations from their own State in the same arm of the service.

Sec. 3. That, at the expiration of six months from the first day of April next, a bounty of one hundred dollars, in a six per cent. Government bond, which the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorised to issue, shall be paid to every non-commissioned officer, musician, and private, who shall then be in the service; or in the event of his death previous to the period of such payment, then to the person or persons who would be entitled by law to receive the arrearages of his pay, but no one shall be entitled to the bounty herein provided who shall at any time during the period of six months next after the said first day of April be absent from his command without leave.

Sec. 4. That no person shall be relieved from the operation of this act by reason of having been heretofore discharged from the army where no disability now exists, nor shall those who have furnished substitutes be any longer exempted by reason thereof: *Provided*, That no person heretofore exempted on account of religious opinions, and who has paid the tax levied to relieve him from service, shall be required to render military service under this act.

Sec. 5. That all white male residents of the Confederate States, between the ages of seventeen and eighteen and forty-five and fifty years, shall enroll themselves at such times and places, and under such regulations as the President may prescribe, the time allowed not being less than thirty days for those east, and sixty days for those west, of the Mississippi river; and any person who shall fail so to enroll himself, without a reasonable excuse therefor, to be judged of by the President, shall be placed in service in the field for the war in the same manner as though he were between the ages of eighteen and forty-five: *Provided*, That the persons mentioned in this section shall constitute a reserve for State defence and detail duty, and shall not be required to perform service out of the State in which they reside.

6. That all persons required by the fifth section of this act to enrol themselves may, within thirty days after the passage hereof, east of the Mississippi river, and within sixty days, if west of said river, form themselves into voluntary organisations of companies, battalions, or regiments, and elect their own officers; said organisation to conform to the existing law; and, having so organised, to tender their services as volunteers during the war to the President; and if such organisation shall furnish proper muster-rolls as now required, and deposit a copy thereof with the enrolling officer of the district (which shall be equivalent to enrollment), they may be accepted as minute men for service in such State; but in no event to be taken out of it. Those who do not volunteer and organise shall enroll themselves as before provided, and may by the President be required to assemble at places of rendezvous, and be formed into companies, battalions, and regiments, under regulations to be prescribed by him, and shall have the right to elect their company and regimental officers; and all troops organised under this act for State defence, shall be entitled, while in actual service, to the same pay and allowances as troops now in the field.

Sec. 7. That any person who shall fail to attend at the places of rendezvous as required by the authority of the President, without a sufficient excuse, to be judged of by him, shall be liable to be placed in service in the field for the war, as if he were between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years.

Sec. 8. That hereafter the duties of provost and hospital guards and clerks, of clerks, guards, agents, employés, or labourers in the Commissary's and Quartermaster's Departments, in the Ordnance Department, and clerks and employees of navy agents, as also in the execution of the enrollment acts, and all similar duties, shall be performed by persons who are

within the ages of eighteen and forty-five years, and who [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] to have him tried for [illegible] shall be dismissed from the service.

Sec. 10. That all laws granting exemptions from military service [illegible], and the same are hereby repealed, and hereafter none shall be exempted except the following:

I. All who shall be held unfit for military service, under rules to be prescribed by the Secretary of War.

II. The Vice-President of the Confederate States, the members and officers of Congress, and of the several State Legislatures, and such other Confederate and State officers as the President or the Governors of the respective States may certify to be necessary for the proper administration of the Confederate or State Governments, as the case may be.

III. Every minister of religion authorised to preach according to the rules of his church, and who, at the passage of this act, shall be regularly employed in the discharge of his ministerial duties, superintendents and physicians of asylums for the deaf, dumb, and blind, and of the insane; one editor for each newspaper being published at the time of the passage of this act, and such employees as said editor may certify on oath to be indispensable to the publication of such newspaper, the public printer of the Confederate and State Governments, and such journeymen printers as the said public printer shall certify on oath to be indispensable to perform the public printing; one skilled apothecary in each apothecary store, who was doing business as such apothecary on the Tenth day of October, Eighteen hundred and sixty-two, and has continued said business, without intermission, since that period; all physicians over the age of thirty years who now are, and for the last seven years have been, in the actual and regular practice of their profession; but the term physician shall not include dentists; all presidents and teachers of colleges, theological seminaries, academies, and schools, who have been regularly engaged as such for two years next before the passage of this act: *Provided*, that the benefit of this exemption shall extend to those teachers only whose schools are composed of twenty students or more; all superintendents of public hospitals established by law before the passage of this act, and such physicians and nurses therein as such superintendent shall certify on oath to be indispensable to the proper and efficient management thereof.

IV. There shall be exempt one person as overseer or agriculturist on each farm or plantation upon which there are now, and were upon the 1st day of January last, fifteen able-bodied field hands between the ages of sixteen and fifty, upon the following conditions: 1. This exemption shall only be granted in cases in which there is no white male adult on the farm or plantation not liable to military service, nor unless the person claiming the exemption was, on the 1st day of January, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, either the owner and manager or overseer of said plantation; but in no case shall more than one person be exempted for one farm or plantation. 2. Such person shall first execute a bond, payable to the Confederate States of America, in such form, and in such security, and in such penalty, as the Secretary of War may prescribe, conditioned that he will deliver to the Government, at some railroad depôt, or such other place or places as may be designated by the Secretary of War, within twelve months then next ensuing, one hundred pounds of bacon, or, at the election of the Government, its equivalent in pork, and one hundred pounds of nett beef (said beef to be delivered on foot), for each able-bodied slave on the farm or plantation within the above said ages, whether said slaves be worked in the field or not, which said bacon or pork and beef shall be paid for by the Government at the prices fixed by the Commissioners of the State under the impressment act: *Provided*, That when the person thus exempted shall produce satisfactory evidence that it has been impossible for him, by the exercise of proper diligence, to furnish the amount of meat thus contracted for and leave an adequate supply for the subsistence of those living on said farm or plantation, the Secretary of War shall direct a commutation of the same to the extent of two-thirds thereof in grain or other provisions, to be delivered by such person as aforesaid at equivalent rates. 3. Such person shall further bind himself to sell the marketable surplus of provisions and grain now on hand, and which he may raise from year to year while his exemption continues, to the Government or to the families of soldiers at prices fixed by the Commissioners of the State under the impressment act: *Provided*, That any person exempted as aforesaid shall be entitled to a credit of twenty-five per cent. on any amount of meat which he may deliver within three months from the passage of this act: *Provided further*, That persons coming within the provisions of this exemption shall not be deprived thereof by reason of having been enrolled since first day of February, 1864.

In addition to the foregoing exemptions, the Secretary of War, under the direction of the President, may exempt or detail such other persons as he may be satisfied ought to be exempt on account of public necessity, and to secure the production of grain and provisions for the army and the families of soldiers. He may also grant exemptions or details, on such terms as he may prescribe, to such overseers, farmers, or planters as he may be satisfied will be more useful to the country in the pursuits of agriculture than in the military service: *Provided*, That such exemptions shall cease whenever the farmer, planter, or overseer shall fail diligently to employ, [illegible]

[illegible]

Sec. 11. [illegible] to grant details [illegible] War Department [illegible] fifty years [illegible] when, in his judgment, [illegible] such details, [illegible] [illegible] the President to [illegible] for furnishing supplies of any kind [illegible] shall fail diligently and faithfully to [illegible] of such contract, [illegible]

Sec. 12. That in appointing [illegible] examination of persons [illegible] composing the same shall be appointed [illegible] rolling district in which they are [illegible] to make [illegible] examination.

Approved, Feb. 17, 1864.

CONFEDERATE PROSPECTS IN THE SOUTH-WEST.

We condense the following from a long and interesting letter in the *Morning Post*, dated New Orleans, March 21, 1864:—

Farragut keeps 'pegging away,' as 'Old Abe' would say, at Mobile. The present attack is said to be a mere preliminary affair. Farragut's squadron is to be very largely increased by the addition of some twenty vessels of various classes, including the ironclads *Canonicus*, *Onondaga*, *Tecumseh*, *Manhattan*, and *Atlanta*. According to the talk in naval circles here, the Admiral will soon have by far the largest and most effective squadron yet fitted out by the Federal Government, and the fall of Mobile before so powerful an armada is accepted as a foregone conclusion. Something similar, I think, is predicted of Charleston. The regular investment of Mobile by the fleet and the grand attack upon the water defences will take place about June 1. These water defences are as strong and elaborate as art can make them, and are manned and officered by veterans. I notice that Major-General Gilmer, General Beauregard's chief adviser at Charleston, has arrived in Mobile probably to assume command of the fortifications, though this is not stated in any of the Mobile papers. General Gilmer is fully entitled to share with his superior the honours of the defence of Charleston. He was a captain of engineers in the old army, and ranked among the ablest officers in that branch of the service. There is a report that Beauregard is also to be transferred from Charleston to the command of the department of Mississippi which includes West Tennessee, Alabama, and Louisiana. Certain it is that, by unanimous acclaim of friend and foe, President Davis could not do a more popular act or make a better military appointment than by assigning General Beauregard to the command spoken of. A Louisiana officer who has served with distinction in Mississippi expresses the belief that his assignment to that command would be worth 10,000 men to our forces from Mississippi and Louisiana.

General Polk contented himself with keeping Sherman's main column under observation, intending, apparently, to run a race with his antagonist either for Mobile or Selma, according as the latter should elect. But the Federal General, finding that he had a bigger contract on hand than he could execute (so General Sherman is said to have expressed himself), did not choose to go in either direction, but deliberately returned to the Mississippi by the route he came. The retrograde movement was deliberate, because wholly unexpected by Polk, who, even if he anticipated it, was not in position to prevent it.

Fortunately for the Confederate armies of the West, Generals Lee and Forrest, commanding the cavalry in General Polk's department, proved themselves men of entirely different character, though Bedford Forrest is but a volunteer, having never 'set' a squadron in the field before this war; and with no military, and but little of any other education, he has proved himself in the late campaign a cavalry officer of the highest ability. He was ordered to meet and thwart the cavalry column which left Memphis to cooperate with Sherman, and he did so with 2,000 horse and a few hundred Mississippi State troops, hastily levied militia. The enemy's loss was 1,000 in killed, wounded, and prisoners; a large number of horses, arms, stores, and wagons, and six pieces of artillery. So confident was General Smith, the commander of the Federal cavalry, of 'wiping out' the rebel cavalry, that he wrote from Colliersville, Mississippi, Feb. 9, to a friend as follows:—'I expect to start to-morrow or next day, with —— thousand

[illegible]

[illegible] to the Convention [illegible] in undisputed possession of all Western Louisiana as high up as the line of the Red River.

By the latest proclamation of the United States' Marshal, New Orleans, the property of [illegible] has been confiscated:—Hon. A. P. [illegible], John Thompson, John Th[illegible], [illegible] Thomas M Knight, A. B[illegible], John [illegible], and J. C. [illegible], Esq.

Returning Sanity.—[illegible] ... and the sci[illegible] ... people to explore, have been endured. Moreover, [illegible] the period [illegible] which foreign Powers [illegible] for struggling populations to earn the stamp of nationality is very nearly up. Is it not, therefore, painful, nay, alarming, that, at such a crisis, mediocrity and divided purpose should wield the entire sway? Yet such is the case, and as we dwell upon it, we are almost driven to believe that God not only is not with us, but against us. He has confounded our judgments, divided our counsels, and delivered us into the hands of the feeble, the faint-hearted, and the blind. And why should He be with us, base, grovelling, and corrupted as we are? We are not with Him! We are a godless, conscienceless, religionless people. There is no honour, no virtue, no [illegible], except among the masses, while ninety per cent. of all whose annual income exceeds one thousand dollars are mere lynx-eyed sharpers, who are watching every neighbour with suspicion, and who subordinate every sentiment to self. Debauched by an extravagant prosperity, and spared mercifully from all sacrifices, we have ungratefully forgotten our dependence upon Heaven, and the result is, that, except in the case of the simple, virtuous labouring people, we have practically become a community of atheists. There is no conscience attached to the intelligence and wealth of the community; and knowing, as we are, and of the world, we say unto you, fellow-countrymen, that there can be no lasting government without public virtue, no enduring nationality without a universal sense of God. Handled as our country has been in the field and stupified as it is by the tricksters of the Cabinet, it would seem that we are only to arrive at the stage when we may be permitted to rebuild, by sufferings and sacrifices, and perhaps through a preliminary chaos which it is dreadful to anticipate.'

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

OUR friends in the United Kingdom and on the Continent are earnestly requested to forward to us, at their earliest convenience, such information relative to the military movements and condition of affairs in America as they may receive through private letters, either from the United States, or from the Confederate States. They may rely upon the most scrupulous precautions being observed that no names or facts leading to identification will, under any circumstances, be revealed. No communications, however, will be noticed unless authenticated by a responsible name. Southern newspapers, of any date, will be useful and acceptable presents.

Our subscribers in the South will have their papers supplied through HENRY HOTZE, ESQ., the Confederate States' Commercial Agent in London, who has kindly tendered us his services in this respect during the continuance of the blockade.

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At St Thomas (West Indies), to C. W. WAITE, Esq.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 1864.

The Break in the Storm.

FOR many months past there has been no such dearth of military news from America as we have had to record during the last month or six weeks. Like one of those dread pauses which precede a great convulsion of nature—like that lull in the tempest which preludes a wilder outburst of the war of elements—a temporary truce, as it were, holds back the struggling hosts of North and South from mortal conflict, and bids the din of battle cease. For a time only. The most casual observer can hardly fail to perceive that the thunder-clouds are gathering more thickly than ever, and that the crash, when it comes, will be terrific. There are many persons familiar with the resources of both Federals and Confederates who look upon this as the decisive campaign of the war—who say that, whatever be the issue of this year's fighting, it will be the last in which great armies will be brought into the field, and that thenceforth the struggle will degenerate into a kind of desultory guerilla warfare, of which predatory incursions and irregular enterprises will be the chief features. Without endorsing this opinion, we may venture to say that this year, more than in any year which has preceded it, the energy and power of either side will be fully tested, and that, whichever way fortune may turn, the advantage will be very nearly conclusive as to the final issue of the war. And we confess that our hopes never ran higher for the Confederacy. The North must fight under obvious disadvantages this year. Her internal difficulties are already beginning to tell. The Administration is carrying on two wars. It has to subdue the South in order to carry the Presidential election; it must win the Presidential vote in order to beat the South. Thus at one and the same time a powerful army has not only to be held in check, but driven from the field, and a threatening opposition in every village and town and State of the Union has to be overawed and coerced. There is a faint foreshadowing of the days of trial that are to come for the North in the Illinois riots. It suits the Federal Government to deal lightly with this very serious matter. But Illinois is the State which has given proportionately the largest quota of soldiers for the war. President LINCOLN is a citizen of Illinois, and yet in Illinois there is civil war between the supporters and enemies of the Administration, and 5,000 troops are needed to crush a formidable insurrection. Let our readers imagine all the latent disaffection in the North worked upon, stimulated, fanned into flame by unscrupulous electioneering agents; let them suppose a great battle lost, a great national disaster sustained; and then contemplate the probable effect of such a humiliation befalling a people already shamed, disappointed, and disgraced by the imbecility of the Government. Is it possible that defeat in Virginia or Tennessee should not be followed by Copperhead demonstrations in every village and town and State of the Union? Is it not certain that the opposition would assume a bolder tone—that its candidates would become not the mere political opponents but the deadly enemies of the Administration; and that President LINCOLN would need at least as many soldiers to repress discontent at home, as would be required to crush secession in the Confederate States? The North may increase its enormous armies in the field, may strain every nerve to overwhelm by numbers the foe which has so long bid defiance to its arms; but practically it commences this campaign with heavier odds against it than it ever encountered before; and although the onset will be desperate, and the struggle tremendous, there ought to be in every Confederate heart less anxiety about the issue than there was one year, or two years, or three years ago.

General GRANT seems to be aware of the momentous nature of the conflict in which he is about to engage, and is neglecting no means that are available to him to insure success. He is said to have expressed his opinion that all the fighting is to be done in Virginia, that Richmond is the primary object of the war, and everything must be secondary to the capture of the Southern capital. This is not quite a new theory. But how is it to be worked out? Three years ago the road to Richmond was tolerably open. Now, all the engineering talent of the Confederacy has been for months and months employed in perfecting the defences of the capital; in ascertaining the most available points for the concentration of troops, and for giving battle; and in erecting fortifications. MEADE'S last advance found LEE'S army drawn up behind entrenchments at Mine End Creek, which it would have been positive madness to assault; there are twenty such positions on the road to Richmond, whose capabilities of defence have been carefully surveyed and reported on; and finally there are the lines of the town itself, the redoubts, the batteries, and the ironclads, before which even a better drilled and appointed army than that of the North must perforce recoil in dismay. General M'CLELLAN thought 150,000 men too few to give battle to LEE'S forces and capture Richmond in 1862. GRANT is not his superior in strategy, nor does he inspire more confidence in his troops. With what force does he intend to march 'on to Richmond' against LEE'S veterans in their strong entrenched positions? Where is his reserve? Where are his recruits to fill up the great list of casualties that he must expect? It is well known that the North is already in straits about its military and naval forces. It is passing laws to convert soldiers into sailors. It cannot fill up the muster-rolls of its regiments in the field. Germany is nearly closed to it as a recruiting ground. There are influences at work to materially reduce its recruiting resources in Ireland. The native white material is used up, and the intelligent contrabands can only be obtained by successful raids. Whence is the future army of the North to come, if GRANT shares the fate of his predecessors, McDOWELL, and M'CLELLAN, and POPE, and BURNSIDE, and HOOKER? These are considerations which may well make General GRANT cautious about his advance, and which yet render that advance imperative. We are on the eve of great events. The North must strike, and without delay. But the inherent weakness of its cause must paralyse its arm. Neither PRESIDENT nor COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF can face this new conflict without the consciousness that there is a party within their camps, and within their cities, within their very capital, watching their movements with suspense as great, with hopes almost as fervent, with intent almost as hostile, as those which animate the hearts of the Southern people fighting for their freedom.

Mexico and the United States.

'WE have at length,' exclaims the *New York Herald* of the 6th inst., 'an expression of opinion from the popular branch of Congress which represents, though in its mildest form, the universal public sentiment of our loyal States in reference to LOUIS NAPOLEON'S seizure of Mexico.' 'In this,' says (the same day) the *New York Daily News*, a paper in every way opposed to the *Herald*, 'this Congress, if in nothing else, has fairly and honourably represented the American people.' And thus all classes and all shades of opinion unite in ratifying the only unanimous vote that has passed the popular branch of the Federal Congress since the outbreak of the war—the vote pledging the United States to implacable hostility against the Mexican monarchy. The sole objection that has risen from any quarter is that referred to by the *Herald*, and urged by some of the ultra-radical members of Congress, who nevertheless voted for it, viz. that the 'form' was too 'mild.'

Of course the *Herald* profits by the occasion to fulminate its usual extravagant denunciations of the French EMPEROR, and threats of dire vengeance on him. The *News*, more rationally, predicts that France will now be driven to recognise Southern independence, and says the only course of the North 'is to forestall him with the South, and, by negotiating an honourable peace, to unite the two sections in defence of the Monroe doctrine.' It adds: 'We must fight France, and Mexico, and the Confederacy all together, or make common cause with the South against the interlopers' 'The French fleets and armies, combined with those of the Confederacy, would prove too much for the utmost resources of the North.'

We are not disposed to exaggerate the importance of a vote, even though a unanimous one, from that turbulent and impulsive body which on a memorable occasion passed by a large majority resolutions of thanks to the officer who had grossly insulted the British flag. This vote means precisely what the most outspoken advocate of the Federal cause in London, with its usual frankness, says it means, when 'translated into plain, cool, and practical resolution.' 'If the United States,' says the *Star* of the 18th instant, 'have much of other and difficult business to attend to, they will let the Mexican Empire alone. If the Emperor MAXIMILIAN . . . should prove himself equal to a great emergency, and qualified to be a formidable military chieftain, the United States would probably let him and his Empire alone. But if the United States should have time and favourable opportunity, they will probably find some means of disturbing the career of the new Empire.' The other recognised exponent of Federal interests, the *Daily News*, writes in the same sense, though not with the ingenuous and unconscious frankness of its humbler colleague; and it even betrays some little spleen at the imprudence of the open declaration of hostilities. 'The world,' it says, 'was in no danger of misunderstanding the feelings with which the citizens of the United States must regard the proceedings of the French in Mexico. Why then proclaim a dissatisfaction which can only be expressed in words?'

For once we find ourselves able to agree with our pro-Federal contemporaries, and like them we do not exaggerate, nor on the other hand do we underestimate, the significance and importance of the vote. The journal last quoted can conceive of no other explanation than that it has been decided at Washington, at least for the present, not to recognise the Mexican Empire. In this again we agree in opinion. A vote such as this is not the mere wanton ebullition of ill-temper or impotent spite. There can be no doubt that it was had in obedience to an irresistible pressure from without, and to calm the public excitement that had been produced by repeated and to some extent substantiated reports of a private understanding having been entered into between the French Government and Mr. SEWARD on the subject of Mexico. The resolution was introduced as a Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, by the Chairman of that Committee. Now, in the Federal Legislature, where Cabinet Ministers have no seats, the Chairmen of Committees corresponding to executive Departments are always supposed to represent in some degree the views of the Government, if the Government has a working majority. It seems, therefore, an inevitable conclusion that Mr. SEWARD himself approved, and perhaps initiated, the resolution, with a view of anticipating and preventing one in much stronger terms and more offensive to France. At all events, the Administration is so far inextricably bound by it that it is precluded from any recognition, diplomatic or otherwise, of the young Empire. The resolution must now be submitted to the Senate, and the same reasons which caused its unanimous acceptance by the Lower House will certainly obtain at least a majority in its favour. Mr. SEWARD, who, with all his faults, is by far the most moderate of the public men of his party, would probably be sincerely glad to make, and, so far as it is in his power, to carry out, some such tacit or expressed understanding with France as has been laid to his charge. But if such an arrangement has already been entered into, his excuse for the non-fulfilment of his part of the compact would now be a ready and an unanswerable one. Without the assent of the Senate, no Minister, not even a Consul, can be appointed; and even the Lower House, by simply withholding the necessary appropriations, might, if so disposed, defeat any such appointments. These facts Mr. SEWARD would plead, if called upon to fulfil a promise to send to or receive from the Emperor MAXIMILIAN diplomatic or consular representatives. Upon this supposition Mr. SEWARD has, by one clever dodge, sheltered himself at one and the same time from the storm of popular indignation at home and diplomatic reproaches abroad.

We do not believe that a single one of the French EMPEROR'S plans is traversed by this circumstance. We do not believe that he ever dreamed of the Yankees as possible neighbours to the monarchy reared under his protection, except in the parched plains of the interior desert and the frontier of isolated California. We do not believe that, though he may have been willing to receive assurances of present peace, he ever deceived himself that these assurances would be kept longer than convenient to the Federal Government, or indeed could be kept beyond the terms of office of the men now in power. It was a significant fact, and one which may have much to do with the easy pliancy of Mr. LINCOLN'S Government to the universal clamour, that his most formidable rival in the impending Presidential election has based his chief appeal to the suffrages of the people upon a pledge of irreconcilable and active enmity to the monarchy in Mexico. Both the Emperor NAPOLEON and the Emperor MAXIMILIAN understand too well the situation which they

have thus far commanded with singular tact and sagacity, to be taken unawares at this late moment. As long as Mr. Seward could restrain the impatience of the Northern people, it might have suited their convenience to temporise, though in doing so they jeopardised the good will of their only natural allies and cordial friends in the New World. But they will know how to pick up at the proper moment the gauntlet thrown at their feet from Washington; and the New York journal is perhaps right in anticipating that the unanimous vote just passed may hasten, quicker than had been expected, the solution of others besides the Mexican question on the American continent.

A Catalogue of Villanies.

We are not about to recapitulate the misdeeds of Butler, Turchin, McNeil, and the other names that are inseparably associated with Federal warfare and infamy. We shall not refer to Dahlgren's orders to his command, to the systematic destruction of agricultural implements, the permanent laying waste of fertile districts occupied by an invading army, the flooding of territories equalling a kingdom in size, the use of Greek fire against an inhabited town without any military pretext whatever, the fruitless attempt at exciting servile insurrection, the wanton persecution of non-combatants. We will not even glance at the revolting inhumanity practised towards the poor deluded or kidnapped negroes who are rotting away by tens of thousands in the swamps of the Mississippi valley. All these crimes, however indefensible, may be palliated as acts of war, and we do not expect war to be waged in the perfect spirit of Christian love, nor, when waged by Yankees, in the chivalrous spirit of gentlemen. Besides, however much Federal officers and soldiers may suffer in comparison with other civilised nations, or with the usages of our time, they are still some little way behind what is recorded of the Spanish conquest of Mexico and Peru, or the Duke of Alva's government in the Netherlands.

Our theme to-day is not of those greater and more horrid crimes which men commit in the heat of passion and the devilry of hate. We have to treat of more ignoble villanies, such as consign the perpetrators to the galleys, and such as, lacking the crimson lustre of the battle-field, have only the dim shabby colour of the gaol-bird's plumes. The indignation of the English public at the shameless forgery of an official document with the signature of a Minister of State, confessed, after several months of deception, only just in time to anticipate by a few days the exposure from Richmond, will soon lapse into contemptuous disgust. We, who knew the ruling faction of the Northern States by longer experience, were neither deceived nor very much surprised by such clumsy impostures. Moreover, we remembered the wholesale forgery, not many months since, of the list of officers of the Southern Independence Association of London, published by the *Daily News*, and not retracted until after the reiterated protests of the persons whose names had been abused. So we were somewhat accustomed to the Yankee practice, though on a smaller scale. We had also seen, not two years since, forged Confederate Treasury notes publicly exposed for sale in Fleet Street by avowed Yankee sympathisers, and we know that such notes, warranted as 'perfect *facsimiles*,' are advertised in the Northern papers, and are plentifully scattered in the track of the Northern armies. But let not an honest and truth-loving public suppose that our catalogue of Northern villanies ends here. Clarence Randolph Young, the pet witness of the Federal Legation, has not yet left the witness-box, despite the scorching rebuke from the bench. Look over the Parliamentary papers on North America during the present session, and you will still find his name, with a trifling alteration of spelling, in all its euphonious amplitude at the bottom of the depositions with which poor Earl Russell's head is pelted from Portland Square. And, judging from these papers, and from facts not yet published, the tribe of Youngs has grown and multiplied, until now it presents an array more numerous and mentally more deformed than Falstaff's recruits. Some of the doings of these gentry would be amusing, if they were not so intolerably annoying to decent people. A short time since, in Liverpool, the residence of a lady whose husband (then absent) is connected with Confederate affairs, was beset by spies, who watched it night and day, and sought ingress under various pretences, until the nuisance at last became so great that the police had to be applied to. In or near Glasgow, an outrage even more flagrant was perpetrated. A Federal official, bearing a commission from the President of the United States, obtained, under pretext of seeking lodgings, access to the chambers of a gentleman supposed to be implicated in the building of some suspected vessel in the Clyde, and upon the *data* acquired in this ingenious reconnaissance, a search-warrant was actually issued afterwards, though, of course, without producing the expected revelations. There is scarcely an officer or prominent citizen of the Confederate States, resident in England, who is not more or less beset and pestered by this ubiquitous and proteau-shaped espionage. Servant-maids are bribed to purloin letters; landladies are frightened by a mock assumption of inquisitorial authority; wives in the absence of their husbands are imposed upon with fictions. When successful, which they seldom are, these practices are avowed by the Federal agents, or at least the fruits are unblushingly used to swell the 'mass of evidence' transmitted through Mr. Adams to the Foreign Office. That we are not exaggerating the extent of the organisation to which this system of Federal espionage has been carried will be evident to every ordinary reader of the newspapers. It is a notorious fact, repeatedly complained of through the press, that every considerable shipyard in Great Britain is watched by spies. The circumstances of the seizure of the *Peterhoff* will also be recollected, and how it was partially excused on the ground that she was marked on a list of suspected vessels with suspected owners furnished by a Federal consul to his Government. A short time since it was made a boast of in a Northern newspaper that an officer of a blockade-runner, the *Cumberland*, had been bribed by the Federal Consul at Havana, or his employé, to bring the ship to a designated spot, where the *De Soto* lay five days in wait for her.

But these things are puerile compared to what remains to be told. During last autumn or winter the confidential clerk of the eminent French naval contractor, M. Voruz, of Nantes, disappeared, and with him very important and valuable papers relating to the business transactions of the house. As the man enjoyed a highly respectable position and an ample salary, it was clear that no ordinary or small temptation could have induced him to forfeit his prospects and his country, and to risk the galleys. Not long afterwards, Mr. Dayton, the Federal Minister at Paris, in a correspondence which has been recently published, submitted to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs what purported to be copies of papers implicating M. Voruz, and also his correspondent, M. Armand, of Bordeaux, by the evidence of their own signatures, in extensive transactions for building vessels of war for the Confederates. Upon this evidence, Mr. Dayton based a formal demand for the seizure, or at least detention, of certain vessels, and other measures to frustrate the nefarious attempts of the Confederates against the neutrality of France. We have no means of judging of the genuineness of this evidence, and we understand that both Messrs. Voruz and Armand decline, as they have a perfect moral and legal right to do, to pronounce in the matter until the originals are produced, of which these papers profess to be copies. Mr. Dayton's dilemma, however, is no enviable one to a gentleman and the representative of a foreign nation. Either the papers submitted to the French Foreign Office are of a piece with the report of the Confederate Secretary of the Navy palmed on Earl Russell, and in that case the simultaneous employment of forged documents for the same purpose with the two Governments would bear somewhat too suspicious a character. Or, on the other hand, if they are genuine, then he confesses himself guilty of subornation of robbery, and liable, but for his diplomatic character, to a criminal prosecution.

Here we leave the subject. Comments are needless on the conduct of a Government whose official representatives perform the functions of spies, and are rewarded and promoted in proportion as they prove themselves adepts in bribery and subornation. If the Confederate States can only triumph over their adversaries by the use of similar means, then their cause is hopeless. Their people lack the cunning, the base propensities, the aptitude for lying, which are indispensable requisites for success in such a mode of warfare. So utterly loathsome and repugnant to their feelings is what the Yankees call 'smartness and cuteness,' that we do not hesitate to say, were they a neutral nation, practices such as these by any belligerents within their jurisdiction would not be tolerated one day after they had been publicly exposed. We are prouder, in this respect, of the people of the South than even for their admitted valour in the field, and their moderation in good or adverse fortune. No extremity of need has ever tempted them into 'pious frauds,' or into consenting to enlist sympathy and help under false pretences. May it always be so, and so sure as truth is mightier than falsehood, so sure will their moral battles be won as gloriously as those of the sword. And let us add also, that if the Southern people have so sternly adhered to the truth, even when to lie seemed almost patriotism, it is because few people have so much to gain, and so little to fear, from 'the whole truth and nothing but the truth.'

Lincoln and Fremont.

In our last number we quoted from the *New Nation*, a journal started in New York as the organ of the Fremont party, an important political manifesto. Important we mean, as an indication of the condition and prospects of the North, for respecting the issue of the Presidential contest the South is supremely indifferent. The Confederates who are fighting for peace, would exceedingly rejoice at the election of a peace candidate, so that the horrible and useless strife might be forthwith concluded; but if there is to be a 'war-President' it signifies not to them whether Lincoln or Butler, Grant or M'Clellan, Fremont or a negro, be the next tenant of the White House. The Confederates cannot hope to have a more incapable enemy than Mr. Lincoln, and, perhaps, if they had any influence, would exercise it in his favour. On the other hand, none of the Republican Candidates have military ability of a high order; if they had, it would be paralysed by the necessity of sacrificing merit to party jobbery. If Grant was the warrior his supporters represent, making him President is just the way to shelve him. Suppose M'Clellan should be chosen, he cannot restore the legions of men and the vast resources sacrificed by the present imbecile and corrupt administration; and he would be thwarted at every opportunity by the Republicans unless he conciliated the leaders by adopting a Republican policy. But though the South is not interested in the issue, the contest itself is very instructive. The curtain is lifted, and we are permitted to look upon the actual condition of affairs in the United States. If the failure and exhaustion, rottenness and corruption, confessed by the Yankees themselves, had been ascribed to them by their enemies, it would have been hard to believe that the Confederates had not indulged in gross exaggeration. Even now Europe is loath to believe that the Yankees are guilty of the crimes most clearly established against them. The Captain of the *Kearsage* penned and signed a palpable falsehood, and Earl Russell endeavoured to frame an excuse for it, much to the amusement of the House of Lords. A forged document is foisted upon the British Government, and the *Times*, with mild credulity, intimates that the authorship is rather uncertain; by which we are asked to suppose that it is possible Mr. Seward did not know the document to be a forgery when he uttered it. Another forgery perpetrated by the Federal Government for a purpose analogous to that for which the 'Mallory Report' forgery was executed, is discovered, but the *Times*, which is famous in the *suppressio veri* art, does not make the faintest allusion to it. As in the case of the Mallory Report forgery, the *Times* will only credit the guilt of the Yankees when Mr. Seward admits it. We trust that ere long the attempt to whitewash the Federal Government will be abandoned, for it is an unthankful task. What can be done by an advocate, however ingenious, when the prisoner at the bar persists in pleading guilty, and drags before the Court superabundant evidence that his plea is true?

All parties and all men in the United States, except his employees and immediate supporters, denounce the conduct of Mr. Lincoln. All the journals, except those in his pay, are bitterly hostile to him. It may be suggested that the unanimity on this point arises from the common desire to share the spoils of office, and that the Chaseites, Maclellanites, Fremontites, Grantites, and all the other 'ites' pitch into Mr. Lincoln, because he is their most formidable competitor. To admit this would be to defend Mr. Lincoln by utterly condemning the whole nation, and would be saying in effect that out of twenty millions of people he is the only honest person. But it is not true that Mr. Lincoln is unjustly charged. Granting for argument's sake that no virtue is left in the Republic, that the New York *Daily News*, as well as the *Herald* and the *New Nation*, is instigated only by the desire for place and pay, we are also obliged to grant that whether the motive of the prosecutors be worthy or unworthy, the bill of indictment against Mr. Lincoln is fully proven.

The *New Nation* comments upon Mr. Lincoln's incapacity and dishonesty. Non-success is not always the result of individual incapacity, but three years of such failures as the United States have passed through indelibly brand the Government with imbecility. We admit that Mr. Lincoln is not to be blamed because he has not accomplished an impossible task—the subjugation of the South; but that he has done so little with resources so great that it taxed Yankee ingenuity to exaggerate them, is wonderful and discreditable. After three years of warfare, the Federals are as far from Richmond as ever, and are still anxious about the safety of Washington. After holding New Orleans for two years, neither that city nor the State is Unionised. Charleston, Mobile, and Wilmington still defy the

enemy. So far from the Confederate army being broken, it was never before so large or more eager to meet the foe. Everywhere grand expeditions have been checked and defeated, and in place of signal victories the Federals have had to record devastation and robberies by fleeing and demoralised soldiers, and reconnaisances very costly and entirely worthless. What can be more complete than the naval failure? What has the United States navy done during the war? It has saved beaten armies from surrender, and it has blockaded British ports, insulted the British flag, and maltreated British seamen. But beyond these deeds there is only a record of disaster and imbecility. All the naval laurels of the war have been won by the nascent navy of the South; and in every encounter, whether at sea or against forts, the Yankee fleet has been beaten. Unmolested by Federal men-of-war, the little band of Confederate cruisers have patrolled the seas and inflicted severe injury on Yankee commerce. The Foreign Policy of Mr. Lincoln is also a conspicuous failure. At the outbreak of the war the sympathies of the world were with the United States. That this should change was inevitable because the sympathy was not merited; but it did not follow that it should happen, as it has happened, that after three years all respectable and virtuous men should look upon the United States as a country disgraced by a Government to whom falsehood, fraud, and forgery are habitual.

Nor is there any excuse for Mr. Lincoln. Never was any potentate so lavishly supplied with means. He has called for two millions and a quarter of men, and, according to his own statement, over a million and three-quarters have enlisted. His armies have been lavishly equipped from the markets of Europe, and, let us add, his soldiers have fought and died with a courage worthy of a better master than the jester, who amid the horrors of the battle-field ordered an officer to sing a comic song. As for money, Mr. Lincoln was better off than any monarch has ever been at the commencement of hostilities. The friends of the Confederacy thought that a financial crisis would soon cool the Northern fever; but they forgot that Mr. Lincoln—thanks to the economy and probity of Southern statesmen—was unhampered with debt, and that he had to draw on the totally unfettered resources of an exceedingly prosperous trading and agricultural nation of twenty millions. Under the clever management of Mr. Chase, the Federal Government has been able to spend more in three years than this country did during the long continental struggle. And besides giving men and money, the people of the United States gave up their liberty, so that popular rights might not impede the military operations of the Executive. These enormous means have been expended with astounding prodigality. In three years, despite recruiting in Ireland and Germany, the Federal armies are languishing for the want of reinforcements, and Mr. Lincoln cannot fill his ranks by bounties, and is afraid to resort to drafting. In three years the wealth of the country has been so mortgaged that the most sanguine, whilst hoping that national bankruptcy may be postponed, do not think it can be altogether averted. Invested with despotic power, with the charters of liberty crushed beneath his feet, Mr. Lincoln, even in the midst of a foreign war, has not preserved the country from anarchy.

But Mr. Lincoln's administration has been as remarkable for dishonesty as for imbecility. A genuine thoroughbred Yankee is rather proud of being called 'smart,' that is of being sharp to take unfair, though not illegal advantage of unsuspecting customers; and to charge him with falsehood does not in the least ruffle his temper. He has, however, no sympathy with unsuccessful roguery, and hence expresses unmingled contempt for him derisively nicknamed Honest Abe. Some men seek for a bad end by honest means, and others try to promote a lawful purpose by censurable measures. Mr. Lincoln has sought to obtain an improper object by the most objectionable agencies. We do not at this moment condemn him for the crime of entering upon an unnecessary and therefore wicked war, nor shall we enlarge upon the atrocity of waging war for the sake of retaining political power. Unhappily, Mr. Lincoln is only one amongst very many who have thought dominion cheaply purchased by a sea of human blood and the desolation of a country; but he is singular in his determined adherence to wrong-doing in every step, important and unimportant. Having decided for war, what availed the shameful deceit practised upon the Southern commissioners in Washington? A frank declaration of hostilities would have less offended the South, and promoted greater enthusiasm in the North, but from first to last everything that has been done has been done crookedly. A bare list of Mr. Lincoln's misrepresentations about the war would outrun our space; but we submit, without fear of contradiction, that no statement about the war made by Mr. Lincoln, or any report emanating from his Cabinet, has been free from shameful exaggeration and gross falsehood. Look at the negro question. How he fenced and trifled with it! To keep some terms with the Democrats he snubbed the negro, and recommended him to leave the country. To win favour with the ultra-Abolitionists he issued his so-called Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that 'loyal' citizens were to be rewarded by keeping their slaves, and disloyal citizens were to be punished by the loss of their slaves. The real object of this edict was to stir up a servile war. Lately Mr. Lincoln has done rather a 'smart' stroke of business with the negro. Some of his Democratic supporters were asking what was to be done with a negro population that would not work, as was the case with the 'freedmen' in the command of General Banks. Mr. Lincoln answered the complaint by remitting the 'freedmen' to forced labour; and as, in years gone by, their forefathers admired and upheld the slave trade because it was profitable, so now the Abolitionists wink at General Banks's system of forced labour, because the profits are to go into Yankee pockets. But we do not believe in the policy of low cunning. Sensible men would have been less disgusted, and the cause of Abolition in greater repute, if Mr. Lincoln had been loyal to his party and his principles. Nor is this less true of the Lincoln foreign policy. Mr. Seward is not more, indeed is not so responsible as his chief, for the diplomacy that has made the Government of the United States contemptible in the eyes of Europe. The Governments of England and France have not been kept from intervention by the multitude of false promises and assurances that the 'rebellion' would be crushed in sixty or ninety days. The indignities to which the British Ministry has been subjected may have gratified the pride of Mr. Seward, and suggested a few jokes to Mr. Lincoln; but the Federal Government would have stood better abroad if its conduct had been truthful and honourable, according to civilised customs and manners.

Certainly Mr. Lincoln has succeeded in uprooting constitutional government and freedom in the United States, and, as a natural sequence, he will not, unless upon compulsion, lay down his power. There are only two ways in which he can be re-elected. The one is by the suffrages of the people; but he knows full well that, in a fair fight, he has no chance. So the master of legions resolves to renew his lease of office by other agencies than free voting. Still he resorts to unnecessary chicanery. Mr. Seward proclaimed a bold policy by asserting that Mr. Lincoln was elected to rule over thirty-four States for four years, and that he must do so. But this was too direct a course for the West Country attorney, and he hits upon the scheme of manufacturing bogus States, and in pursuance thereof ordered the disastrous Florida expedition. Surely the Fremont party are justified in saying to Mr. Lincoln, through their organ, the *New Nation*:—

> You have told the country that both the rebellion and slavery were dead; you have told the people that the forces of the rebels were reduced by desertions, and that they could not be recruited, fed, or clothed; and yet you are forced to act upon the defensive, being threatened at all points.
>
> The whole truth is this: you are leading the nation quietly to its destruction by deceiving the people as to the dangers which threaten it.
>
> You have dishonoured us abroad by shameless misrepresentations as to our true condition.
>
> Corruption has entered into every department of your administration. Your honesty is of a strange description. It consists in nearly ruining the country and in disregarding its interests, in order to make sure of power for four years longer.

This is a melancholy picture of the condition of the country; but no party in the United States except the 'loyal contractors' party will say it is too highly coloured, and no one in Europe except the retainers of Mr. Lincoln will assert that it is a false representation. So far from being conspicuous for integrity, 'honest Abe' is pre-eminently dishonest. We suppose no one will imagine we have any desire to promote the cause of Mr. Fremont. He is quite as capable as Mr. Lincoln, he is an ultra-abolitionist, he is pledged to continue the war, he is the advocate of the Monroe doctrine, and would seize the first opportunity for making war in Canada, and for attacking the Empire of Mexico. Yet if we were a citizen of the United States, and had to choose between Lincoln and Fremont, we should rather vote for the latter. His administration might not be more efficient or less corrupt, but it could not be less efficient or more corrupt, and he would probably eschew the disgusting vice of canting hypocrisy.

Parliament.

Thus far, matters have gone much more smoothly than, before Easter, the Government or its warmest supporters ventured to expect. This may have been owing, in some degree, to a rumour which found expression in the *Economist*, to the effect that Lord Palmerston, if unmolested, would not dissolve till the end of the session of 1865; whereas, if defeated, he would of course make an immediate appeal to the country. Party spirit must be very strong when it overcomes the instinctive reluctance of Parliament to commit suicide; and the intimation that docility might postpone the dreaded hour of dissolution for another year had no doubt a good deal to do with the change which has come over the spirit of the Opposition. Again, it was announced that the promised Conference would actually meet to consider the affairs of Slesvig and Holstein, and no one wishes to take out of Lord Russell's hands the duty of settling the disputes he has so mischievously inflamed, or to relieve him from the full responsibility of an almost inevitable failure. This feeling had no doubt some share in pacifying the excited spirit of the Conservative party. A still more potent sedative was the resignation of Mr. Stansfeld, a step honourable to himself, and beneficial, as we think, to both political parties. Thanks to his blunders, and the still worse blunder of Mr. Layard, the presence of the Civil Lord of the Admiralty had become a source of embarrassment and peril to the Government. It rendered all but impossible the renewal of intimate relations with France; and it assumed the appearance of a challenge to the Opposition, and a defiance of the strongly marked sentiment of the House of Commons. Mr. Stansfeld sacrificed himself to the necessities of public policy and party convenience, resigned his office, and made his final explanation and defence from the second bench below the gangway. The Opposition leaders were all absent; and their absence bore the semblance of discourtesy, and seemed to imply an ungenerous unwillingness to accept the atonement and pronounce the personal acquittal of a political opponent. They owed Mr. Stansfeld something, for he had saved them from committing a blunder. Had they defeated the Administration and gone to the country on the issue of Mr. Stansfeld's guilt or innocence, they would have given a very formidable advantage to their antagonists, and might have incurred an unpopularity as great as that which attached to Lord Palmerston's Conspiracy Bill. If, therefore, Mr. Stansfeld's resignation saved the Ministry from trouble and defeat, it also saved the Opposition from a damaging and dangerous victory. In itself it is not to be regretted. Mr. Stansfeld, as a member of the Administration, had allowed letters intended for Mazzini to pass through his hands—to be sent to his house in a feigned name—and the loss of office was not too severe a penalty for an indiscretion so serious.

The second night of the session witnessed a debate in the House of Lords which placed Lord Russell in a sufficiently ludicrous position. First, in answer to a question from Lord Donoughmore, the Foreign Secretary had to profess his belief that the captain of the *Kearsage* had, without knowing or intending it, carried off several Irishmen from Cork; that these Irishmen had been, against the will and express command of the captain, stripped, examined by the surgeon, attested, enlisted, clothed in the Federal uniform; and that it was not by the captain's will, or with his knowledge, that when these Irishmen were relanded at Cork they went ashore in the uniform of the Federal army, to proclaim to their countrymen the generosity of the North and the advantages to be found in its service. This amiable credulity, this generous belief in the purity of human nature, this touching confidence in the loyalty of a foreign officer, this chivalrous faith in the word of a Yankee, might in better days have won honour for Lord Russell; in this degenerate age it simply exposes him to ridicule and sarcasm.

Lord Clanricarde followed, with a series of charges affecting the neutrality of the British Government, and tending to show that our conduct throughout had been actuated by an unfriendly feeling towards the South, and an unworthy eagerness to gratify and conciliate the North. He pointed out by what chain of circumstances, by what long series of affronts and slights, the Confederate Government had been compelled to dismiss our Consuls within its jurisdiction. He showed how, through those officers, the British Government had ostentatiously manifested its disregard of the Confederate authorities and its adherence to the cause of the United States; and, instead of acknowledging the claim of the latter to empire over the South only as a claim to be substantiated or defeated by the fortune of war, had taken every occasion to treat the Government of the Union as the *de facto* Government in the seceded States, and to ignore, not officially only, but by every possible display of disrespect, the Government which those States had established at Richmond. First, Mr. Bunch was withdrawn from Charleston. There was no charge against him. He had done his work exceedingly well; he had not committed his Government by any lack of caution; he was on extremely good terms with the

authorities with whom he had to deal and the people among whom he lived. Why was he recalled? Simply because the Government of the United States, with whom he had no longer anything to do, which had ceased to possess the shadow of *de facto* authority in South Carolina, which was at open war with that State, had pretended to withdraw his *exequatur*. Here we had the Federal Government assuming to exercise sovereign powers in South Carolina; and Lord Russell at once acknowledging that claim, and in deference to it withdrawing from his post a Consul whose only fault, even in the eyes of the enemy, was that he had carried on his functions in time of war—had communicated with the Confederate authorities, as it was his duty to do. This was an outrageous impertinence to the South, and a violation in spirit, if not in letter, of neutral impartiality. Lord Russell's next proceeding was to recall Mr. Magee, Consul at Mobile, because he had transmitted, by a British man-of-war, with the knowledge and consent of the officer commanding the blockading squadron, money due from the State of Alabama to the British holders of her bonds. The act of Mr. Magee seems to have been strictly lawful, and his withdrawal betokened an unfriendly spirit towards the South. But worse; his removal was not the spontaneous act of Lord Russell. It took place at the demand of Lord Lyons, our Ambassador at Washington, who complained that Mr. Magee had disobeyed his orders. What business had Lord Lyons to give orders to Consul Magee? Lord Lyons is not accredited to the Confederate States. He is our Ambassador *at Washington*; his business is to conduct our diplomatic transactions with the Federal Government, which is at present waging war upon the South; and his interference with the Southern Consulate, and his pretensions to exercise the authority of an Ambassador in a country to which he was not accredited, ought to have been severely rebuked by his superior. But Lord Russell never seems to have perceived the gross indecency of allowing the Ambassador accredited to one belligerent Power to direct the Consuls whose duties lay within the territories of the other; and Lord Lyons was allowed to appoint a Mr. Cridland as successor to Mr. Magee, thus actually taking upon himself the full authority of an Ambassador to a Government in *de facto* possession, and asserting by implication the sovereignty of the Federal Government over the State of Alabama. Even this would have passed unnoticed by the forbearing Government at Richmond, had not Mr. Cridland given one account of his mission to the Secretary of State, and another to the authorities at Mobile—an inconsistency which necessitated his dismissal. Finally, to crown this long series of insults, a Consul thought fit—according, as he declared, to orders from home—to direct *soi-disant* British subjects enlisted in the Confederate armies to throw down their arms when brought into the presence of the enemy. Then, and not till then, did the Confederate Government determine that it could no longer submit to be insulted and defied by officials who had, in fact, no *locus standi* within its jurisdiction. The Consuls who were friendly to it had been recalled because they were friendly, at the instance of a hostile Power. Those who remained were at the disposal of an envoy accredited to, and eager to maintain relations of good will with, the public enemy, and one of them had formally denied the authority of the Confederate Government even over its soldiers in the field. That Government, therefore, dismissed the subordinates of the Washington Embassy from the Southern States. Such were the circumstances which led to the dismissal of our Consuls. After recapitulating these facts with great force and clearness, Lord Clanricarde questioned the right of Lord Russell to complain that the Confederate Government had deprived British subjects of consular protection. Lord Russell pleaded guilty to every item in the charge. He had withdrawn Mr. Bunch at the demand of the United States; he had dismissed Mr. Magee at the desire of Lord Lyons; he had allowed Lord Lyons to appoint an acting successor. He confessed, in a word, that our Consuls in the South had been subject to our Embassy in the North; and he offered no apology for keeping them in that subjection. He confessed that, under the circumstances, the Confederate Government was entitled to dismiss the Consuls, but he thought it would have been more friendly if they had in the first place addressed a remonstrance to him—to him, who had refused to see their representative, and neglected to answer his letters! Really, Lord Russell is endowed in no common measure with the art of oblivion!

His cup of humiliation was crowned by the enforced confession that the Report of the Confederate Secretary of the Navy, of which he and the Attorney-General had made such unscrupulous use, proved to be a Federal forgery; that he had received from Mr. Adams a slip cut from a New York journal, avowedly resting on no other authority than that of the editor; that he had greedily accepted this excerpt from the *New York Times* as a genuine Confederate State paper; that he had denounced vengeance against a friendly Government on the strength of this precious document; that he had promised to remonstrate upon it; and that after all it stood confessed a simple and transparent fabrication. What was Mr. Stansfeld's error to this? To accept a Confederate State paper on the word of a Yankee editor, implies either the very dotage of credulity, or the wilful blindness of unscrupulous partisanship. Never before had a Minister to make such a confession; and as Lord Russell left the House, he must have felt that he had effectually, in clear and legible characters, 'written himself down an'—exceedingly incompetent Foreign Secretary.

The great event of the month has been the Budget, or rather the Budget Speech. The former is considered, on the whole, exceedingly satisfactory. A surplus of two millions and a half enables Mr. Gladstone to make a very large reduction in the duty on sugar—the most universal of luxuries—which, if not intercepted by the growers, will be an invaluable boon to the working-man. The reduction of the income-tax by another penny is universally acceptable; and though the diminution in the duty on fire insurances is grudgingly and reluctantly made, it gives hopes of a further and more satisfactory step in this direction. The Budget Speech was an apotheosis of free trade, which since 1842 has trebled the amount of our exports and imports, and maintained the revenue in spite of the repeated reduction and abolition of productive taxes. If not one of Mr. Gladstone's finest efforts, it was worthy of the theme and of the occasion; and though it contained an imprudent reference to the condition of the paper trade, and a still more impolitic menace of the reintroduction of last year's proposal for the taxation of charities, it was heard with attention and applause by a crowded house. Subsequently, an attempt was made to put the claims of malt in competition with those of sugar. It is undeniable that the malt tax is a very bad one. It is a duty on a raw material; it depresses the industry of the agriculturist; it fetters that of the brewer; it tends to promote the adulteration of our national beverage. But it produces £6,000,000 a year, so that it cannot be spared; while to divide it would be to cheapen the labourer's quart of beer by a smaller sum than the smallest coin, so that he would gain no reduction in price, and no increase of consumption would take place to repair the loss sustained by the Exchequer. Besides, beer is at all events a fitter subject of taxation than sugar. Mr. Disraeli, knowing that the Exchequer cannot spare the malt-duty, for once forgot the claims of party, and came to the rescue of the public interest. The result was seen in an overwhelming majority against the proposal to substitute a reduction of the malt tax for a diminution of the sugar duties; and the Budget was saved.

The Government has sustained one important defeat in the person of Mr. Lowe, the Minister of Education. Schools which receive aid from the public purse are inspected by officers appointed for the purpose; and it is the duty of these inspectors—gentlemen of the highest character and education—to report on the progress of education in their respective districts, and on the working of the established system. Their reports are addressed to the Education Office, but are intended for the information and edification of Parliament. Now Mr. Lowe is at feud with the educationists in Parliament, with the supporters of schools in the country, with the inspectors, and indeed with everybody interested in the education of the people. He had thought proper to announce in Parliament his opinion that the report of the inspectors ought to contain no matter unfavourable to his views; and he has been in the habit of suppressing reports which did not conform to his standard. On Tuesday week, Lord Robert Cecil called attention to this practice in terms which implied that the reports were actually garbled in the Education Office. Mr. Lowe denied the fact in the strongest terms; but the vote passed notwithstanding, and Mr. Lowe thereupon resigned office. On Monday he explained a circumstance which had seemed to impugn his veracity, and which had had something to do with the vote of the House. Obnoxious passages in the Reports had been marked, not by Mr. Lowe for the purpose of excision, but by a clerk to call Mr. Lowe's attention. The reports being sent back with such marks to the inspectors, they of course conceived that they were to strike out the passages marked; and hence the charge of 'garbling' preferred against the Department. This practice had long escaped Mr. Lowe, as he was unable to read the reports himself; but when it was brought to his notice, he put an end to it. This explanation cleared Mr. Lowe of the suspicion attached to him by the vote of the House; but it did not impugn the justice of that vote, as touching the practice of sending back for correction or suppressing altogether reports obnoxious to the Committee of Council, which practice the House intended to condemn.

On the same occasion Mr. Disraeli called the attention of the House to a curious violation of the law. From the earliest days of Parliamentary government, precautions have been taken to prevent the inundation of the House of Commons with placemen; and so lately as 1858 a law was passed, in contemplation of the appointment of a fifth Secretary of State, which enacted that no more than four Secretaries or four Under-Secretaries of State might sit at one time in the House of Commons. But for some time past five Under-Secretaries have sat there. Lord Palmerston acknowledged the error, and after some discussion it was agreed to appoint a Committee to enquire into the consequences of this illegality. In the meantime, a Bill of Indemnity is to be prepared.

Denmark has received the benefit of a warm expression of sympathy from the House of Lords. Lord Grey made plain, beyond the possibility of further defence, the incoherence, inconsistency, and radical unsoundness of the Ministerial policy. But then Lord Grey has a policy of his own. Though a strong advocate of peace, he would in this case have gone to war; he would have given material support to Denmark; and from this standpoint he criticises the timid, irresolute, wavering conduct of Lord Russell with terrible effect. But the leaders of Opposition lack the moral courage of Lord Grey. They dare not say that it was our duty to fight, for fear that the idea of war should prove unpopular, and thus all their criticism of Lord Russell's course is met by the effective retort: 'Well, what would you have done?' The effect of such debates is to convince Europe that England is degenerate; that in future nothing will provoke her to fight; and the mischief which such an impression, fostered by the moral cowardice of our statesmen, may eventually do is not easily to be calculated.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York: April 6, 1864.

THE MILITARY MOVEMENTS—THE BURNING OF PADUCAH—THE MILITARY CENSORSHIP OF THE PRESS—CONVERTED DEMOCRATS—MILITARY INCAPACITY AND POLITICAL SUBSERVIENCY—ROSECRANS, BUTLER, AND BURNSIDE—HOW AN UNCONVERTED DEMOCRAT IS TREATED—MR. LINCOLN'S POWER AND THE USE HE IS MAKING OF IT—THE PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST—PROSPECTS OF MR. LINCOLN—DISCONTENT AND RIOTING IN THE WEST—IMMINENT PERIL OF CIVIL WAR—THE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY.

There have been few war events since I wrote you last week. In Virginia, heavy storms have made the roads utterly impassable. The military camps are scarcely habitable. Virginia mud, after such rains, is of a consistency that will take weeks of good sunshine to make practicable for army movements. The projected campaigns, whatever they may be, are thrown over for at least three weeks.

The latest accounts from Tennessee and Kentucky show the Confederate cavalry to be in large force, and very active, along the whole line. They swarm along the whole length of the railroads, from near Paducah on the Ohio river, through Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi, down to the Louisiana border; and eastward, hover about Chattanooga and Knoxville, keeping the Federals in constant alarm for their communications and supply trains. A part of Forrest's cavalry recently captured Paducah, on the Ohio river, a base of supplies for the Federals; and, though driven away by the gunboats, destroyed and carried off a great amount of Federal stores.

On the other hand, the Confederates have met with a loss in the fall of Fort de Russey, on the Red River; and the capture of Alexandria and Natchitoches. Until we get Confederate accounts, we shall not know the real extent of the injury to the planters, nor the prospects of preventing a further advance. The other portion of the same expedition, which was advancing into Western Louisiana by the way of the Teche, has had a miscarriage, and been turned back, as the Confederates say, with considerable loss.

In the affair at Paducah, when the Southern troops had taken the place, and were destroying or carrying off the Government stock of supplies, the Yankee gunboats came down and shelled the town, during which it was fired, and a large portion of it was burned down. The bulletins to the Northern press announced, in flaming letters, that the rebels had 'sacked and burned Paducah'—the sacking being a large figure of speech, and the burning done by their own shot. More than one journal made it the theme for passionate tirades against the barbarities of the rebels. The story will, however, remain, and be repeated as a set-off, in Yankee histories, to the well-authenticated details of the wanton burnings of scores of undefended villages by Yankee armies in all parts of the pillaged South.

The Yankees are determined to have the writing of the history of this war for themselves, not only in the daily lies of the bulletin, but by suppressing the circulation, even among themselves, of any accounts but their own. Of this General Rosecrans, who was late in command of the army of the Cumberland, from which he was removed after his defeat at Chicamauga, and sent to the Missouri Department, has just given a notable example. He has issued orders prohibiting the circulation of Pollard's 'History of the War,' a Southern publication written at Richmond, and other works and histories written from Southern sources of intelligence, and has seized the stock on hand. It is disloyalty there to read anything that is not written at the North, and moreover not in favour of the whole policy of the Administration; for the same General has issued another order prohibiting the circulation, within his Department, of the *Metropolitan Record*, a Roman Catholic weekly paper of New York, for certain editorial articles therein impugning the justice of the war upon the South. These acts of military tyranny are merely noticed in the newspapers among items of public news which do not provoke a comment as being anything extraordinary.

The conduct and the treatment by the President of this man Rosecrans, and of one or two other generals, will serve to illus-

trate the political management of this war by the Administration.

General Rosecrans was a Democrat, and shared fully in the doctrines of that party in respect to the limited powers of the Federal Government and the original powers retained by the States. When first put in command in Tennessee, he was watched with jealousy from Washington, as not well affected to the Administration; and even when his military career was going on most successfully, he was assailed, and opportunities were sought to get rid of him. He was badly beaten at Chicamauga, and immediately afterwards the friends of the Administration assailed him bitterly in his military capacity, and for personal misconduct of the most gross and disgraceful character. This assault suddenly stopped, and he was, without trial or enquiry for the loss at Chicamauga, transferred to an important command. Immediately afterwards he became one of the most active and rabid advocates of the extreme policy, and the willing instrument of the worst excesses of the Administration. He made public speeches, in which he advocated the raising of the conscripted slave of the South, by virtue of wearing the United States uniform, to political equality with the white man as a voter. He stops the circulation in his Department of books and papers that discuss public questions and narrate facts differently from his standard; and he has, moreover, undertaken to regulate the churches by military code. In his Department no preacher can enter a pulpit, and no congregation of any religious denomination can hold a meeting for ecclesiastical purposes, without previously satisfying the Commanding General that they are 'loyal' according to his pattern of unquestioning submissiveness. It is by this excess of zeal that a renegade Democrat finds pardon with the Administration for fatal military blunders and gross personal delinquencies; Rosecrans, too, is a Catholic, and political cunning had further uses for him on that score.

Butler bought his immunity in the same way. He, too, was a Democrat of the strictest sect, and adhered to the South after the split at the Charleston Convention in 1860. Long after he entered the army, he professed the same opinions, and declared his repugnance to any prosecution of the war, in the interests of Abolitionism, as against the constitutional rights of the Southern States. He failed as a general at Big Bethel, as he has done everywhere as a soldier, and was sent to the Gulf of Mexico under a cloud, and without the expectation that he would do anything there. New Orleans was not looked for to fall so soon, or the command would not have been given to Butler. When Commodore Farragut had taken the city with his gunboats, and Butler following after occupied it with his troops, he continued to profess to leading citizens there, whom he sent for to consult, that he came as a deliverer, not merely from the tyranny of Secessionism, but against Abolitionism. He seems to have fancied the war over with the fall of New Orleans, and the rescued South restored to the Union to be a great counter to be played with, in an after game of ambition, by one who could stand up and prove that he had been always her friend. In this tone he talked to such men as Mr. Soulé, with whom he had acted intimately in old party relations. I hope Mr. Soulé has preserved memoranda of these conversations as contributions to history. The substance was well known at the time to many who like Mr. Soulé were incredulous of all Northern faith, and stubbornly resolved never to be cheated again. The South being unyielding, and Lincoln growing strong, Butler rapidly conformed, and, by becoming the subservient follower of the Administration, earned the privilege of converting his Government of Louisiana into an Oriental satrapy, for such cruelty, extortion, and plunder as have made his name infamous throughout Christendom. Mr. (now Senator) Reverdy Johnson, an agent of the Government sent out to enquire into affairs in his Department, made a report against his administration which should have subjected him to trial, and on conviction to dismissal in disgrace from the service. Unionists made representations as to his outrages and pillagings, and implored the Government to interfere for the sake of its own character and its cause. But he was left undisturbed until the complaints of foreign Governments against his maltreatment of their subjects constrained his new-made patrons to displace him for a season, only to transfer him, after a short delay, without censure or even investigation, to another responsible employment, where he has renewed the same career. This man has never shown the slightest military capacity, nor done the smallest military service; and his administrative capacity consists in doing, with a brutal energy, the ferocious will of those to whom he sold his political faith, and pledged his political services, for immunity in crime.

Burnside is another of the same sort—a Democrat bought over by office. A wretched failure as a general, execrated for his horrible blunders which drove the Union army into that useless slaughter at Fredericksburg, he made his peace by disgracefully taking upon himself responsibilities that he did not deserve, in order to screen the War Department. Displaced for a brief period, he was restored to service in the west, where, in a few weeks, he made himself, by his cruelties and arbitrary orders and lawlessness, a peer for Butler and Rosecrans—in being also the most servile among the most abject tools of the Administration.

When this manner of dealing with generals, who compound for the loss of battles, and the disgrace which their personal misdeeds cast on the reputation of the country, by forswearing their political faith and doing partisan service to the Administration, is contrasted with the persecutions to which the ablest officers who hold fast to their integrity are exposed, the base motives are easily discerned. General M'Clellan, if not the vast military genius he is claimed to be by many of his admirers, is a head and shoulders above all the other Union generals. I do not except Grant, the idol of the present hour; and the event of this campaign will show I am right in respect to him. During two campaigns, although thwarted and hampered by the President and the War Office at Washington, M'Clellan built up a military reputation which grows more solid the more it is tested by the scrutiny of impartial history. He failed in no instance where the blame of failure to do what was possible cannot be traced to faults not his. He was a Democrat, and, mistaken as he unquestionably is in supporting such a war at all, he would not depart, in carrying it on, from the principles upon which Democrats at the beginning persuaded themselves to assent to it—for the restoration of a union of equal States. He stood, and still stands, aloof from the whole Lincoln scheme of confiscation, forced negro emancipation, State subjugation, and State extinction, and the savage practices of devastation and pillage by which it is prosecuted. Therefore he was displaced from his command, and driven into retirement, where he has been followed by bitter revilings and incessant detractions; and Congress has been beset for months with projects of new laws for the army, of which the President may make use to get rid of General M'Clellan altogether, by dropping his name from the army list.

When Butler, and Rosecrans, and Burnside—I note them as examples of a numerous class of similar renegadoes—are rewarded for their adhesion by amnesty from the hugest blunders and grossest offences, and clothed with honours and great appointments, and M'Clellan is proscribed and hunted out with vindictive animosity, the political source of the discrimination is not to be mistaken. The army is a machine in the hands of the President to be used for the perpetuation of power in the hands of his party, and is manipulated so as to make that use effective.

It has been discovered, by many who were lavish in their support of this whole system of measures to keep the party in power, that the President has been industriously employing them to maintain himself in power as well as them, and in spite of them. Mr. Lincoln has so employed the subserviency which they have exacted from all others towards him, and the powers with which they invested him to bind the army and the whole immense body of army followers, and office-holders, and contractors, and all who support the war from interest, and so given him the benefit of the sympathy of those who support it with passion, that a large body of them begin to see with alarm that he is aiming at the reappointment of himself, by patronage and the army, for another term, and to apprehend that there are no means by which he can be foiled.

I have already described to you some of the internal struggles of the Republican party to get rid of Mr. Lincoln as a candidate. The opposition continues to be very strong, and, especially among the adherents of General Fremont, very loud and denunciatory. The whole body of German Radicals is rampant in proclaiming their determination not to vote for Mr. Lincoln under any circumstances, but I doubt whether their leader himself is quite so implacable. The efforts of Mr. Lincoln's adversaries are just now centred in the attempt to procure the postponement of the nominating Convention from June 7 to a later day in August, or even to September, in order, as is said, to wait for the results of the summer campaign, but, as Mr. Lincoln's friends suggest, in order to tamper with the Convention, and consolidate all opposing interests in the party against the President.

There is no present prospect that the postponement will be allowed. It is within the control of the Republican National Committee at Washington, and that is in the hands of Mr. Lincoln's supporters and of Mr. Lincoln himself. The present indications are that Mr. Lincoln will certainly be renominated then and there; and I see no reasonable ground for supposing that he will not be very generally supported by the party, or that he can be defeated by anything but some serious civil convulsion, or some war disaster which shall finally break down the Northern hope of ever subjugating the Southern States, and roll back upon the party in power a sudden flood of popular wrath as the authors of the national ruin. The idea that a Democratic, Conservative, or Opposition candidate, by whatever name called, can be peacefully elected so long as there is a hope left in the North of overcoming the resistance of the South by arms, is the fancy of a moonstruck politician. Mr. Lincoln can only be displaced by some one more purely radical than he; and between him, his rivals, and a Democratic war candidate, there is so little to choose, and the results of success, in the present attitude of parties, promise so little of good, that no effective rally can be made against the party in power. The spring elections just over show this. The Democrats last year outvoted the Republicans in New Hampshire, and made a close run for victory in Connecticut. Last month they were badly beaten in New Hampshire, and this week again in Connecticut. The Republicans, however disposed to wrangle with each other for the lead among themselves, come together at the polls, and their opponents are dispirited and disunited. These defeats are apologised for in the party press on the ground that the true vote of the States was overwhelmed by the direct action of the Government in sending home picked or pledged voters from the regiments belonging to these States in service; and very good evidence has been published showing the fact of the use of the soldiers, and it is also certain that a great portion of the opposition, seeing the hopelessness of the case, and not sanguine of much good even from success, were dispirited, and ceased to make exertion. But these facts describe the future as well as they do the past. It is but a faint hope with which to disguise despair which affects to expect that these agencies will be less unscrupulously used and less effective at a Presidential election, where the continuance of the power to do these things, and to control the whole force and all the means of the nation, will be staked. There is really no hope of a change of men or a change of policy in the event of a peaceful election for President. The change is to come by a convulsion, and things are tending with irresistible force to a social, political, and financial convulsion, in which the machinery of Administration will be irretrievably shattered, and the whole fabric of Government be dislocated.

There is a very dangerous state of feeling growing up in the West. It prevails extensively in nearly all the States there, but mostly in Southern Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. The population is divided sharply, not into opposing parties merely, but into hostile factions, which have almost ceased to hold social intercourse together, and glare upon each other as enemies. There is a great deal of suffering to aggravate this feeling against the Administration as the author of many of the calamities of which they complain. The origin of the war is the grievance of some; but with most the mismanagement which has protracted it and made peace impossible, which exhausts them of the labour to till their farms, and, having deprived them of their Southern markets, loads their diminished crops with ruinous costs of transportation to the favoured Eastern ports, and takes away half its value in the depreciation of the currency, which threatens them with intolerable taxation, without any of the compensations which the domineering States on the seaboard get in manufacturing monopolies, huge Government contracts, and unlimited public expenditures. But, above all, the fury of the Opposition is excited by the tyrannical manner with which the opponents of Administration are treated by its military commanders of high and low degree, and the acts of outrage and violence they are subjected to without redress from the partisans of power in the army and out of it. Scarcely a week passes without some outbreak of personal violence upon citizens for any degree of complaint against the policy of the Government, or for suspicion of being disaffected to the full support of the Administration. The local papers, rarely quoted here, contain variously coloured accounts of the conflicts which this state of things provokes; but not the half is told, for scarcely a week passes without some newspaper office being mobbed, or actually torn down, for giving currency to these adverse opinions. Bands of returned soldiers and roving parties of soldiers in service are mostly the agents in these acts. The 'loyal' press takes up their defence by suppressing or distorting the facts, or justifies them as deserved by 'copperheads,' and the military authorities directly authorise, or covertly protect, the delinquents. The consequence has been that society is disorganised. Laws being contemned on one side are no longer relied on or respected on the other; men organise to take their own defence into their own hands; and it has become notorious, although no Eastern journals of any party will dare avow it, that there is a general arming going on on both sides, and that large bodies of men drill together, not for the purposes of public war, but as against each other. The conflict at Charleston, in Coles County, Illinois, a few days ago, which is carefully slurred over by the press, is only an example of what happens frequently and is not mentioned at all, and illustrates the excited temper of the people. It included a Republican design to mob a judge who was odious to the partisans of the Administration, an attempt to break up a meeting called to hear the address of a Democratic candidate for Congress against the policy of the Government, and the prominent rioters were United States soldiers. They were resisted by armed men, and in the tumult several persons were killed. The sheriff of the county interfered to quell the disturbance, and was for his reward gazetted throughout the Union as the leader of a 'copperhead' rebellion. The same state of feeling, aggravated by the same provocations, is heard of, by private advices, in almost every part of the Western States, and is growing into a fierce determination to overthrow the powers that be, at the first opportunity, and by any available means, even if it should compel the abandonment of the war. It is a very dangerous element for the excitable times of a Presidential election, in which there is every probability that the new provocation will be thrown in of a President imposed upon the country by a vote which will be vehemently charged to be fraudulent, either dictated through the army, or consummated by cheating devices in the manufacture of electoral votes by the military orders of the Executive. In that direction lies the imminent peril of civil war in the North.

Another proximate danger is the commercial and financial revulsion that must come before many months; how soon it is in vain to prophesy, for it may be here before the words go out and come back again, and may be deferred until the failure of another Treasury expedient or two to check the decline of the public credit, and the financial explosion of the gigantic paper expansion, on which the public expenditures have been hitherto so wastefully supported. The debt increases frightfully fast; the expenditures swell with the undiminished necessities of war and the enormous enhancement of prices; the loans put on the market to meet the current deficiencies for immediate uses, that have reached to more than $250,000,000, have failed; the shabby attempt to reduce the premium on gold by 'bearing' in Wall Street has failed ridiculously; and there is no present resource but in the issue of more unredeemable paper, and hence more enhancement of prices. The Secretary calls for $250,000,000 more of direct taxation, and Congress hesitates and holds back, afraid to tax, and afraid of instant financial ruin if it do not tax: and the whole community, rioting in the abundance of paper money, is running mad in luxury and the wildest speculations, as if anything were preferable to holding on to the Government currency. It is a question of time only when these combined causes will produce that crash of fortune and credit, and precipitate those internal but inevitable convulsions with which the Nemesis of nations will punish this people for the gigantic wickedness of this war against liberty and self-government.

New York: March 30, 1864.

THE SANITARY FAIR—RECKLESS EXTRAVAGANCE THE GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE—THE PUBLIC DEBT ITS RAPID GROWTH NO PROSPECT OF A REDUCTION IN THE EXPENDITURE—INDIFFERENCE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS OF MR. CHASE—CONGRESS SHRINKS FROM TAXATION—THE PROSPECT OF REPUDIATION—PEACE WILL NOT BRING RELIEF, BUT WILL BE THE SIGNAL FOR AGITATION.

The Easter holidays have come, and feasting and revelling are going on throughout the land as they were in the palace of Belshazzar when the finger came to write the sentence of doom on the wall. There was, indeed, but slight intermission for the privations of Lent. The solemn fast had its own gorgeous pretensions. Pomp and vanity knelt in silks and jewels in the morning, and flaunted all day in a whirl of excitement for the getting up of the grand gala of the continent—a Sanitary Fair, in which New York aims to astonish the rest of the country by the magnificence of the display and the lavish amount of contributions to a Sanitary Fund for the use of the sick and wounded soldiers of the Union armies. There is an ambition to raise a very large sum, and it will succeed. The people—men and women, and especially the women—are in a delirium of excitement. Multitudes have grown so suddenly rich on the war, the flood of paper money from the Treasury has so swollen the nominal value of every man's property, that he fancies himself rich; and even the lurking distrust that all this may be unreal, and a sudden change may come, so encourages the free expenditure of money in which men have not much confidence, that the rage to spend and to appear to spend has seized on all classes who have the similitude of anything. This fair will undoubtedly show the effects of this epidemic prodigality and ostentatiousness far beyond the real sympathy for the subjects for whom it is professedly got up. There will be a great sum raised, but there is an undercurrent of suppressed enquiry how it is to be used; and hereafter there will be many a squabble among those who are most conspicuous in raising it, to make themselves conspicuous in calling for an account of how it is expended. A large portion of it will undoubtedly go to the profit of those who handle the money, and in supporting in ease a large corps of officers, agents, and retainers, before the filtered residuum reaches the camp and the hospital. It will be found to be the most wasteful expedient possible for the raising of means for a charity; and when the corruptions and vanities which are inherent in the plan are taken into the account, it will, I think, be found that it would have been cheaper, as it certainly would be more proper and effective, for the Government, which has the charge of conducting the war, to have taken on itself the duty and the responsibility of providing sufficiently for its own soldiers.

But the ostentation, excitements, and extravagances of this fair are only symptoms of a universal disease. There are serious pretences and self-deluding excuses for most of them; but the disease is in all parts of the system. The Government is expending, by its own computation, all its revenues, and more than $2,000,000 a day besides. Its debts swell so rapidly, that, with all its power of suppression, it is obliged to confess that within the current six months it has added $170,000,000 to its ascertained debt more than it estimated for at the opening of Congress. It is expending at the rate of $1,000,000,000 a year, and has made no other provision for four-fifths of it than using inconvertible paper and raising forced loans by making it a legal tender. Redundant paper

carries prices up enormously, and thus adds, with every increase, new millons to the cost of the war and to the accumulating debt. The degradation of the currency makes money so plentiful that it begets fictitious prosperity. The deluded populace run riot in extravagances of every sort, fine houses, fine furniture, fine horses and carriages, rich dresses, and jewellery, and laces, and costly entertainments, until the friends of the Government have begun to be alarmed at the frightful recklessness, and its journals, which have been the loudest eulogists of the financial plans which begot this frenzy, and the destructive policy which gave excuses for the plans, are joining a chorus of reprobation of this wanton waste, and pleading for caution, prudence, and economy as public duties which may be needed to save the nation in a coming emergency. But they plead in vain. The deluded will believe, and the sordid will not heed. The multitude are frenzied with the dreams of unbounded wealth; and the more shrewd, who know what the inevitable end will be, plunge boldly into the same whirlpool, confiding in their strength or their luck to get out in time, and to bring out with them enough to provide for themselves against the coming catastrophe.

How long can the public credit sustain itself in this course? Whoever can answer this question will enable us to see the beginning of the end of this war.

By the recent Treasury statement, the debt of the Government, funded, and payable at various periods beyond five years, was, in round numbers, $700,000,000. Its liabilities for temporary loans, short borrowings, unpaid requisitions, certificates of debt, and its currency issued, approached to $880,000,000. The whole of this sum is to be carried by the Treasury, at the same time that the expenditures are going on at a rate which the Secretary himself was unable to estimate. It has outrun his calculations by half a million a day for six months; and is going on, by his own figures, at the rate of more than $2,000,000 a day above all the revenue of the Government.

There is no assignable limit to the growth of this debt. It has outrun the imagination as it outran the control of the Secretary by tens of millions of dollars a month. The 'recognised' debt is but a portion of what the final amount will figure up. When all outstanding and contingent claims for the advances and debts of States and corporations and individuals, and for indemnities and compensations, and bounties and pensions, are put in and settled, the sum will be swelled by hundreds of millions. Nor is there any assignable period when these expenditures and this expansion of debt will stop. There is no imaginable date at which a return to the state of peace, or of the rate of expenditure in time of peace, is to be hoped for. No estimate of the most speedy and complete military success leaves the Government in a condition to reduce the volume of the debt which will have been incurred, or even to maintain, with any revenue-system which has been projected, the burden of interest, and provide for the garrisoning and holding of the Southern States, and keeping the population in military subjection. The South continues to show such power and resources, such a formidable military front, and such unbroken purpose of resistance, that even a pause in the huge cost of moving armies of invasion is not within a rational contemplation of the future of any given year.

While the debt and higher prices are moving on with accelerated pace, there is at Washington an indifference, accounted for only by suspicions of premeditated bad faith, or by the despair of being able to check them or hold them in control. With nine hundred millions of floating liabilities and deferred debts, and comparatively no revenues, the only resource of the Treasury is in the continual issue of unredeemed promises, and converting them from one class of debt into another until the redundancy and the discredit have reached that point where a Government dollar has come to be worth less than sixty cents in specie. The premium on gold in Government currency has been within the week as high as 70 per cent. The United States Treasury note was at a discount of over 41 per cent. The Secretary, armed with the power conferred on him to speculate on Government reserves of gold, has been trying to bring down this premium; and that, with outside causes, has affected it to the extent of three or four per cent. It may for a time go down further. But the expedients are damaging to the public credit, and will infallibly react. By one of them he offers to supply importers, for the payment of Custom-house duties, with gold certificates, to be used for that purpose only, at one-quarter per cent. below the current market price of the day. In simpler words, he will agree to receive from importers his own paper in lieu of the lawful gold, at a slight premium over the rate of its depreciation in the market. He thus officially recognises the Government issues to be debased, and deals with them like any private dealer who trades on the suspicion of his own insolvency. When gold was, as one time yesterday, at a premium, between 66 and 67 per cent., the Secretary of the Treasury recognises the Government dollar to be worth only 60 cents. This presumes that the Government has the gold for which it gives certificates, and desires to keep it; but it is plain that it will be but one step further—and a natural if not a necessary one—to issue the certificate for duties without the gold, and make the Treasury deal altogether in paper at its current value.

While this is going on, and the Government credit has sunk to this degree of abasement in its desperate needs for money, Congress has done positively nothing, and matured nothing for its own action to confront the future with. It has, indeed, passed a Gold Bill, which is the Secretary's authority to fight Wall Street with broker's weapons, and scuffle with gold gamblers over their few percentages. It is discussing an elaborately contrived new machine, in a gigantic system of national banks, for reconverting the funded debt into currency; and it is amusing the public by talking of the reduction of the volume of the currency by taxing the State banks out of existence, that the place occupied by their notes may be filled with the new Federalised issues. But it has shrunk, and still shrinks, from the task of meeting the issue in the only way in which even an alleviation is to be found, by bold, thorough, immediate, and heavy taxation.

While the legislators shrink, the huge task grows more and more beyond their strength; and the unspoken belief is gaining ground that no possible revenue system can be devised, which the people will bear, sufficient to provide the means to defray the necessary expenses of the costly government which the war entails, and the burden of the debt when its gigantic proportions shall be fully ascertained. There is something in the apathy with which Congress looks on this threatening aspect of public affairs which is well calculated to weaken public credit still further, by the apprehension that recklessness of public expenditure, and indifference about providing for payment may be signs of a growing despair of ever being able to pay in full, if in the convulsions of the future it may not be made impossible to pay at all.

It can hardly be said that such a design is actually conceived, or that there is a matured purpose yet developed to help it forward. But this amazing indifference in Government circles is one ominous sign of an unhealthy state of opinion, and another is the frequency and patience with which in financial circles the possibility of repudiation, and various plans for 'equitable adjustment,' are listened to. It is only a few weeks since Mr. Stebbins, a member of Congress from the Richmond district (Staten Island, in New York Bay), who is a leading banker in Wall Street and President of the Board of Brokers, made a speech in the House of Representatives, and was listened to with favour, and applauded by the public press, in which he descanted on the grandeur of the resources and prospects of the United States, and actually cited as proofs of their indestructible capacity, that they might postpone or get rid of this debt, and rise with augmented power, and reestablish a firmer credit.

But the real danger of repudiation, the unexpressed alarm for which is part of the discredit of the Government currency, lies beyond the management of Government financiers and statesmen.

This is a country of universal suffrage, and that suffrage will control everything, unless overborne by bayonets for a while, and in that attempt the same thing comes round, a little later, but just as surely. This debt can only be paid by taxation—enormous, continued, perpetual taxation. In other times and wars, when hostilities are over, there comes an alleviation of burdens. Here, peace, however and whenever it comes, will be only a day for readjustment of details for an indefinite duration of war taxes. If it were the best cause in which sword was ever drawn, and had been conducted with unimpeachable integrity and with unanimous popular approval, the time would not fail to come when the toiling masses on whom the burdens fall would become restive under a grinding taxation to which they see no limit or end. If now, when the passions are all excited—when loyalty is identified with sacrifices, and national disgrace and personal humiliation are held to be the true penalties if we hold back whatever is demanded—the Congress is afraid to try the virtue of the people by a system of full taxation, what will happen when the fever-fit is over, and, amidst the wreck of national prosperity, with a broken constitution and national dismemberment, popular resentment shall charge these calamities to those men and their retainers, who alone will come out of the dreadful trial without the smell of blood on their own garments, but radiant in a prosperity made out of the public miseries, and when the ambitious politician and party demagogue shall arise and teach the people that they who have engrossed for themselves and their posterity the right to gather without return the proceeds of the labour of the poor man and his children are his enemies and oppressors, whom it is righteous to strip of the unjust spoil? It requires no power of divination to foresee the early formation of a party with such objects, nor to predict its fortune. The proofs are written unmistakably in the history of the past three years, that there is no principle of good faith for their engagements with others or of obligation to their own creeds, nor sense of Christian duty, nor law of humanity, which will restrain the majority of the Northern people from following out any plan to which their passions or their cupidity invite them. Whenever the pressure of this war ceases, by voluntary surrender of its objects, or by internal exhaustion and revolt against its further continuance, there will assuredly be, if not before, a wide and deep agitation for the repudiation of the debt, and such a spread of the feeling that it will either convert or conquer all other parties.

If you could hear and know, what it is impossible to convey to you, all that is said on this topic even now among the labouring classes here, and by men of higher position and definite aspirations in the west, you would believe that it only needs some political shock at home—the collision of parties over a fraudulent Presidential election, or the breakdown of the Administration by some serious military disaster—to stir up a popular rage to throw off the men of the east and the burdens with which they have overloaded the west.

LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New Orleans, Louisiana: March 26, 1864.

THE BANISHMENT OF MR. JAMES D. DENEGRE — THE PROBABLE CAUSES OF THIS ORDER—THE 'COTTON SHARKS'—SUSPENSION OF COTTON CULTIVATION WITHIN THE FEDERAL LINES—CONFEDERATE RAIDS—THE NEGRO WILL NOT WORK — ORDER OF GENERAL REYNOLDS RESPECTING 'SUPERFLUOUS OR INSUBORDINATE' COLOURED PERSONS—THE NEGRO'S IDEA OF FREEDOM —THE RESULTS OF FEDERAL EMANCIPATION — THE MILITARY EXPEDITION AT A STANDSTILL—STATE OF AFFAIRS AT MATAMORAS.

James D. Denegre, Esq., the President of the Citizens' Bank, has been ordered to leave the city and go into the Confederate lines. The order was peremptory, but assigned no reason for his banishment. Friends of Mr. Denegre appealed to General Banks to withdraw the order, or at least permit Mr. Denegre to go to Havana, Nassau, or any other foreign city; but the General refused all concessions, declining even to state the nature of the charges against Mr. Denegre. That gentleman is himself as much at a loss as his friends to know the why or the wherefore of his banishment. It cannot be because of his active sympathy with the Confederate cause, for in that he has been tried and found wanting. Immediately upon the fall of Forts Jackson and St. Phillipe, the banks of this city began packing up their specie preparatory to sending it within the Confederate lines before the arrival of Butler and his army of plunderers. Mr. Denegre is said to have advised this measure very strongly, urging it upon his brother bank presidents as prudent and patriotic. But he did not appear to view it in that light for his own bank. For when Butler arrived, and the seizure of specie was begun, it was discovered that the Citizens' Bank had not sent its specie across the Confederate lines, though every other city bank had done so. Mr. Denegre had the specie of his bank concealed in the building formerly occupied by the old Bank of Orleans, but the report that he had sent it into the Confederacy was very industriously propagated. Subsequently, when Butler began to tax his devilish ingenuity in devising schemes of coercion and robbery, the seizure of individual and special deposits was attributed to the agency or suggestion of Mr. Denegre. Whether this accusation was just or not, it is certain that the Citizens' Bank and its officers were regarded as no friends of the Confederate cause, and from having been the fiscal agency of the Confederate States Government, it suddenly became the recipient of Butler's favour and protection. To be sure, it is not very difficult to secure the favour and protection of so venal a wretch as Butler; but it is incredible that any gentleman could lend himself to the furtherance of his tyrannical, sordid, and malignant schemes. In saving its specie, the Citizens' Bank lost the respect and friendship of the Confederates, both Government and people. And now it is thought that Mr. Denegre will meet with a very cold reception within the Confederate lines. In the absence of any assigned reason, various conjectures are made as to the cause of his banishment. Some think it was for the publication of the following card in one of the city papers:—

'New Orleans, March 5, 1864.

'Editors Picayune—I find my name mentioned in the public prints as having assisted in the inaugural ceremonies of yesterday. Although an invited guest, I did not attend nor participate therein. But I am still more surprised to find that the old Veterans of 1815, J. B. Planché and Alfred Hennan, were present—the former being dead three years, and the latter absent since last spring.

'James D. Denegre.'

Two other gentlemen, Messrs. A. M. Buchanan and Eugene Rousseau, published cards to the same effect, but they have not been banished. Perhaps their turn is yet to come. Another conjecture is his formidable opposition to the National Banking Scheme. Mr. Denegre is a very able financier, President of a powerful and influential bank, and his arguments against Mr. Chase's pet scheme, which he has unreservedly condemned, have necessarily much influence in the community. It is also said that the representations of a rival bank president, one on very close terms with General Banks, have been mainly instrumental in effecting M. Denegre's banishment.

The lessees of 'Government plantations,' and those venturesome speculators the cotton sharks, are coming to grief at the hands of the guerillas. Rumour has it that some thirty cotton sharks were captured and hung recently a short distance from the Federal lines outside Baton Rouge. Of course the hanging part of the story is a malignant falsehood, in keeping with the hue and cry of savage warfare which the Yankees have raised against the South. I am, however, informed by a gentleman from that place that within the current month some twenty of these cotton speculators have been captured by the Confederate cavalry in the vicinity of Baton Rouge. Many of them were friends of my informant, and all of them had large sums of money on their persons.

The cultivation of the 'Government plantations' in that section and in the vicinity of Natchez, Miss., and on the Louisiana side of the river, from Donaldsonville to the mouth of the Red River, has been partially suspended, owing to the persistent raids of the Confederate cavalry.

It was only the other day, as a correspondent of a city paper informs us, that 'the Confederates, numbering some 300 cavalry, under the respective commands of Captain Bryan, Captain Henry Gentles and Captain Bob Prynne (all late residents of Baton Rouge), ambushed a squad of the Fourth Wisconsin cavalry, under Lieutenant Williams, whom they killed, and wounded one or two others. The object of the raid was to pick up men and mules (horses would not be objected to), and we believe they were tolerably successful. They even came in open daylight under the very nose of the videttes, and took mules and teams from General Bernard's plantation, now occupied by Goodale & Co., situated close to the city limits.' In the so-called Natchez district the plantations have also been pretty thoroughly 'cleaned out,' as the Yankees term it. With such a state of affairs in and around Baton Rouge, the 'first governor of the free State of Louisiana' shows his prudence in preferring New Orleans to the capital as a place of residence. But guerillas are not the only trouble the squatter planters have to contend with. Even with the military power at their beck and call they cannot get the negro to work, as I have more than once affirmed, and as is officially admitted in the subjoined order:—

Head-quarters Defences of New Orleans.

New Orleans, March 24, 1864.

General Order, No. 12.

All coloured persons, of either sex, who are unemployed, or who have no visible means of support, will be taken in charge by Colonel G. H. Hanks, Superintendent of Negro labour, who will make provision for their employment and pay, in accordance with existing Department orders on the subject of labour.

Citizens are requested to report all cases of vagrant coloured people to Colonel Hanks, at No. 138, Julia Street.

That no private servant may be interfered with in executing this order, parties who employ coloured people will give to each a certificate of employment, which certificate will exhibit the name and residence of the employer.

Citizens having coloured people in their employ, who are superfluous or insubordinate, will be promptly relieved of them by reporting the fact to Colonel Hanks.

By command of Major-General Reynolds.

John Levering.

Major and Assistant-Adjutant-General.

This order was made public yesterday, but the military authorities have been enforcing it for several weeks past, with but little success, however.

Having been declared a freed man, the negro insists upon the enjoyment of his freedom as he understands it—freedom from labour, the freedom of the vagabond, and liberty to gratify all the gross instincts of his brutal nature. This does not, however, consort with the economic notions of those who proclaim him 'a man and a brother.' The celebrated General Orders of February 3 failed to impress the 'freed man' with either the necessity or dignity of labour. Neither does the Educational Order of the 22nd inst., with its visions of innumerable parish school-houses, circulating libraries, and smart Yankee 'school-marms,' induce these intelligent contrabands to return to the sugar and cotton fields. Perhaps if the school-marms of the Louisiana contrabands prove such 'frail sisters' as those at Port Royal, P.C., this Educational Order may tend to the elevation of the negro in this Department. At all events the freedom shriekers are in a dilemma, and now call upon the citizens of New Orleans to seize and deliver up to them these fugitives from labour; for General Reynolds' order means nothing if it does not mean that. They have despoiled those citizens of their exclusive and legal right to the labour of those fugitives. They proclaimed their labour free. But the proclamation has proved a mockery of freedom, a delusion and a snare for the hapless negro, a living lie, as Mr. Elliot of Massachusetts termed it, and yet a very deadly lie, as experienced in the freed men's camps along the Mississippi.

Though Fort de Russey was captured on the 14th inst., and Alexandria occupied on the following day, the Federal army up to the 21st had not advanced beyond Bayou Rapides, about twenty-one miles from Alexandria. On the date last mentioned there was an engagement on Bayou Rapides, in which the Federals claim to have captured some prisoners and a few guns. The Federals seem to hesitate about pushing forward in force farther up the river, and the Confederate cavalry are reported to be hovering still around Alexandria. On the 17th they made a successful raid upon a Federal wagon train. It is rumoured that General Grant has ordered the recall of the expedition.

There is little or no cotton to be 'gobbled' up in that region; and to advance to the Texas boundary, and give battle to the united forces of Taylor, Magruder, and Price, is regarded as a movement full of danger to the Federal army. The withdrawal of the main body of the Federal forces from the Texas coast, which was begun some weeks ago, still goes on. Indianola was evacuated on the 13th inst.; and though no enemy is said to have hurried the movement, yet it was not unattended with the loss of life. In crossing one of the bayous, twenty-two men of the 69th Indiana, two of the 7th Michigan Battery, and eight of a negro regiment were drowned. The Union families of the town, all of whom are Germans, went with their Yankee protectors.

That Yankee officer who wrote from Brownsville that a fleet of French frigates was off the mouth of the Rio Grande, told about as much truth as his superior officers generally tell in their bulletins from the battle-field. Up to the 13th inst., the date of our latest advices from Matamoros, no French fleet had arrived off the Rio Grande. Advices from Havana state that two war-steamers from France were daily expected there on their way to Matamoros. A land force was also spoken of in cooperation with the fleet. Meantime, Cortina, the bandit and horse-thief, who still holds sway in Matamoros, levies his contributions upon the inhabitants, preparatory, as he says, to a movement against the invaders. Those who know Cortina believe that he is simply feathering his nest, and has no design of making 'a movement against the invaders.' He is for sale to the highest bidder. All the cotton in Matamoros was being transported to the *Boca del Rio* with all haste, in order to get it on shipboard before the arrival of the French.

PARIS TOPICS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS: April 19.

SUNDAY'S *Moniteur* gives us the terms of the convention with the Emperor Maximilian, by which it appears that not 6,000, but 8,000 French troops are to be left at his disposal after the final withdrawal of the army of occupation, for which no time is fixed. On the previous day the same official paper had published the series of financial devices by which the new Sovereign inaugurates his reign. The good wishes with which the French accompany him have almost become enthusiasm since the appearance in yesterday's *Moniteur* of the letter from the Emperor to M. Fould, suggesting the suppression of the tax called the 'second décime' in the registration of property. This was exigible on all sales and successions of real property, and fell very heavily upon the small proprietors, who are so numerous in France. It is a sacrifice of more than half a million sterling to the Treasury, and is presented to the landowners as the first-fruits of the arrangement of the Mexican difficulty. This practical result goes to the hearts of the people. The *Opinion* does not fail to growl out its disappointment, or rather its disapprobation of the whole proceeding. It, the Northern journal *par excellence* of all the newspapers of Europe, begins by saying that the war of the North against the South may still last a year or two, for it no longer counts with Seward by days. But it will end some day, and the *Opinion* has such a gift of faith that it does not doubt that the end will be the victory of the North. Then France will find herself like a poacher in the midst of a posse of gamekeepers, caught in the act of infringing the sacred doctrine of Monroe. The formidable armies of Peru and of the other South American republics will make common cause with the Re-United States, and then woe will betide the French flag. These vaticinations have little effect, and they will only damage their authors if the report which circulates in Paris be confirmed, and the Washington Congress has really committed itself to resolutions insulting to the Mexican throne and its founder.

Lord Clarendon's short visit here, though less noisily, has not been less really, triumphant than General Garibaldi's progress in England. And it is quite as exceptional a proceeding. His Lordship superseded the ambassador without bringing any credentials, and treated directly with the Emperor independently of M. Drouyn de Lhuys. Thousand conjectures have been rife as to the subjects he had to treat; for it is not supposed that his negotiations were confined to the Danish question: but one thing only is certain, the re-establishment of cordial relations with France. The general peace of Europe seems by this assured for another year. The critical period which is always dreaded by those subject to the war-fever, the opening of spring, has passed without any premonitory symptoms. All Paris is wild with delight: the funds of every kind have run up to prosperity prices without any appearance of stopping there, politics are discarded, and the Bourse quotations are the only interesting reading. There is a rise in every species of security—the 3 per cents. have improved 2 per cent. since the beginning of the month, and the holders of *crédit mobilier* are 250 francs richer than they were a week ago. This is in great part due to Lord Clarendon's visit; in some degree to the termination of the long struggle between the *crédit mobilier* and the new *Société générale*, which has ended in both drawing prizes.

M. Mires, the man of many lawsuits, has just obtained, in the highest tribunal here, a judgment which quashes all of those which have been pronounced against him. By this his character is cleared of all imputation of unfair dealing, and his fortune is exonerated from all the claims of the customers of his bank. By this decision the judgment of the court of Douai is confirmed in all its consequences, and the decree of the Court of Cassation, solicited by the legal authorities which left Mr. Mires under the stigma of fraud, notwithstanding his previous acquittal, is invalidated. The law's uncertainties are nowhere so uncertain or in their effect so cruel as in questions arising from the commercial code of France. This is intelligible, for the legislator dealt with a state of things in which greater changes have been brought about in the last fifty years than in 500 years before.

I extract from the *Constitutionnel* a paragraph which may not have reached England, and which is too characteristic of a small German court not to be registered for the benefit of those who do not know them. 'His Highness the Duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin having received the cross of the Red Eagle from the King of Prussia for his brilliant conduct in several engagements in the Danish war, His Highness has resolved to bestow upon His Highness' own self the cross of military distinction which he has founded.'

The fall of Düppel calls forth in all this evening's papers expressions of the deepest regret. 'Danish heroism is vanquished. The garrison of Duppel has succumbed to an army three or four times as numerous as it was, and Berlin rejoices over the easy triumph as if it were a great victory.' What influence will this exercise on the Conference? The Conference of London opens under sad auspices in the eyes of those who have always doubted the efficacy of the English proposal. Lord Palmerston's policy of hesitation has again received a check. This policy, so vaunted on the other side of the Channel, has not even succeeded in preventing the bloody day of April 28, which wrings from the Danes their last strategic position in Slesvig.' 'We cannot suppose that the powers who take part in the Conference can form to-day a different judgment from what they did a week ago on the rights of Denmark and their own duties. The times are gone when the law of might permitted the sword of a conqueror to weigh down the balance in which were placed the destinies of a people. Though beaten at Düppel, Denmark has lost, in the eyes of Europe, none of her rights; her very defeat gives her a new claim on the powers which signed the Treaty of 1852.' In the same tone all the other papers comment on this morning's news. Rumours to the effect that the Conference will be enlarged to embrace the functions of a general Congress are beginning to gain credit in Paris; and although I hear no fact cited in proof of this, so generally accredited a report has probably some foundation. In connection with this there are rumours that the naval estimates in the present budget are to be considerably reduced, as a first step to a general disarmament.

I remark that the telegrams printed in all the papers here reproduce the condemnation pronounced by the *Post* and *Times*, of the practice of diplomatic forgery so largely indulged in by Northern Statesmen. The *Opinion* alone has suppressed these unpleasant comments. Instead of this, it publishes the despatch from the *Sun*, with the refusal of Congress to recognise the Mexican Empire.

It is announced this evening that the performance of three translations from Shakspeare, 'Hamlet,' 'The Midsummer Night's Dream,' and the 'Merry Wives of Windsor,' which had been announced for the 23rd at the Porte St. Martin, has been forbidden by authority.

CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

MANCHESTER: April 20, 1864.

DURING the past week or ten days several important meetings have been held, under the auspices of the Southern Independence Association, for the purpose of eliciting by argument and discussion an expression of popular opinion upon the American war. In each case the result has been a decided victory for the Confederate side; and in more instances than one the 'opposition' was in so small a minority that the resolutions met with scarcely any resistance, and were carried with acclamation, waving of hats, and other such tokens of triumph. One of the most animated and influentially attended of these meetings was held on Wednesday evening last in the hall of the Church of England Institute, Burnley, upon the occasion of Mr. T. B. Kershaw delivering his second lecture in that town. The platform was occupied by some of the leading inhabitants, and the body of the hall was well filled by an attentive and enthusiastic audience. The lecture alone occupied nearly two hours in the delivery, to say nothing of the debate that followed, or of the motions with which the meeting wound up. A very brief abstract of the lecturer's arguments must suffice in this place. As he entered Burnley, he said, he cast an eye over what he might style their 'tallest elements,' their chimneys. He saw that, with very few exceptions, they were smokeless. He knew very well what that betokened: either that their mills were stopped altogether, or were running short time. Take it as they liked, the American war had grievously affected, and would continue to affect, the value of their labour. For upwards of three years this war had raged with unabated fury, and the latest intelligence brought from the wretched theatre of its devastation was, 'the spring campaign of 1864 had opened.' They had already heard of Sherman's raid on the Mississippi; of the raid of Thomas; of the raid of Kilpatrick; and, generally of the so-called onward movements of the North. But what had been the results? Sherman compelled to retire, Thomas defeated, Kilpatrick foiled. In point of fact, at no period since the commencement of the war was the South in a better condition to continue it. There could be no mistrust as to the issue. When they found a people carrying on a struggle in that heroic spirit of patriotism and self-sacrifice which had characterised the action of the South throughout this terrible war, they may be sure there must needs be some potent reasons urging them to so fearful an alternative. It betokened the sternest resolve to achieve the priceless blessings of liberty and independence—a resolve that the South should belong to the South—a resolve to entertain no thought of other argument than the sword until that object was fully won. The lecturer then proceeded to show cause why the South seceded from the Union, and demonstrated that it was high time they should do so. He pointed out that it was to the South the North owed the material greatness upon which it based its monstrous arrogance and tyrannical power. This portion of the lecturer's argument was received with marked favour, and he was highly complimented for the intimate acquaintance he showed with the minutest details of the financial history of the Federal Union. Upon the question of separation, he said that if the South had remained in the Union, all political power would have been in the hands of the North, and that, too, not for a term of years or a period of office, but beyond recovery and for all time. He would put the necessity of secession in this way. Here was a firm—the North and South. Ever since the establishment of the concern the South had been the losing partner, and the chances grew less and less from day to day that this would ever be otherwise. The constant flow of immigration into the Northern States would not only prevent the possibility of redress, but would more and more intensify the political injustice of the situation, so that separation and independence would become a necessity, and that necessity, which was also a 'right,' had now also to be fought out by the sword. The lecturer concluded by drawing a most favourable picture of the advantages that would result from the independence of the South as regards the trade with this country. Referring to the capabilities of the South, he showed from statistics embracing every article of produce, that the South was in this respect far superior to the North, and therefore no heed should be given to the reiterated falsehoods of the Northern press in America or England, as to the South being compelled to surrender by reason of supplies failing its armies. The tyranny and treachery of the North, the treatment of negroes in the war, and the wanton havoc and desolation caused by Federal marauders, were shown up in a strong light, and condemned with a severity and force which frequently excited the enthusiastic cheers of the audience.

A similar meeting, and as decidedly 'Southern' in tone and spirit as the one of which I have given a brief abstract, was held on Thursday evening, at the New Hall, Farnworth. On this occasion also the lecturer was accompanied on the platform by many of the principal local residents, including clergymen of different denominations, many officers of Lancashire volunteers, members of municipal bodies, and chief representatives of the trade and commerce of the town. The chairman, John Greenhalgh, Esq., of the Farnworth Board of Guardians, said that on ordinary occasions the office of Chairman was more a matter of ornament than use; but upon an occasion like the present, when controversial questions were about to be discussed, and when the people were about to ask for an expression of their opinion upon affairs involving their dearest interests, he would have to bespeak the assistance and indulgence of that assembly to enable him to discharge his duties. For his own part, he was, in the proper acceptation of the term, 'neutral' upon the question of the great strife between North and South. But fair play was a jewel, and seeing so much had been said by American Englishmen in support of the bloodthirsty and internecine war, which, for more than three years had been raging on that continent, destroying its people, wasting its resources, plunging it into debt, and inflicting the most calamitous injuries upon other countries, he confidently bespoke for Mr. Kershaw a calm and patient hearing, so that he might speak to wise men, judging what they heard. The lecturer, who was received with the most cordial expressions of approval, and was repeatedly cheered in his statements and arguments, then proceeded to review the American question in his most forcible manner, and called upon the meeting to endorse the conclusion which all right-minded men had arrived at, viz., that for all that had taken place the North was responsible, and on their heads the blame would rest when a true history of this awful crisis should be written. A long discussion followed, and was kept up with great animation until nearly midnight. The opposition was led by a Mr. Charles Mason, formerly of Manchester, and more recently of the State of Illinois, America, who said he was astounded at the view taken by Mr. Kershaw, declared the object of the war was slavery, but oddly agreed with the lecturer that the increase of the population of the North 'had also something to do with it.' The meeting broke up with cheers for Mr. Kershaw, the chairman, and the 'South.'

The Southern movement has also reached the Potteries, and arrangements are in progress for establishing branch associations in those localities. On last Tuesday evening a most successful meeting was held in the Lyceum, in Stafford, under the presidency of Mr. Farrand, a resident in the town, and author of some popular works on the 'spirit of Christianity.' Here, also, as at Burnley and Farnworth, an animated debate took place, and the proceedings terminated with resolutions of the same favourable character.

Several other meetings, though less important as regards localities and numbers than those I have just noted, have been held since I last wrote, and there appears to be no reason to expect that in large as well as small centres of population, the friends of the South will cease to agitate with vigour.

SECRET POLICE IN NEW YORK.—The *New York World* publishes a long and minute account of the secret police system maintained by the Federal Government in that city. It employs 500 officers, besides an immense number of subordinate spies, male and female, and, like the Inquisition, has its own prisons where victims are incarcerated, tortured, and sometimes disappear, leaving no trace. This system, worthy of the worst days of Rome and Naples, costs the Government $50,000 a month.—*Times*.

YANKEE OFFICERS AND MISCEGENATION.—By a special order of General Banks, four captains and two lieutenants of the 'Fourth Regiment, Corps d'Afrique,' are dishonourably dismissed the service of the United States, for various disgraceful proceedings demoralising to their command, notably one specified in the order, 'having forced an entrance into the quarter occupied by the coloured laundresses.' Lieutenant-Colonel Benedict, of the same regiment had previously been dismissed on similar charges; and the Colonel, named Drew, is under close arrest, awaiting his trial by court-martial.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SHIPS ARRIVED HOME.

LIVERPOOL.—April 11: Virgen del Carmen, Esperanza, Zabala, from Havana. Selina, Ann and Mary, from Matamoras. Emma, Caroline Goodyear, from Nassau. —April 12: Elizabeth, from Matamoras.—April 15: Rinadaveu, Kert, from Matamoras. April 18: J. W. Davies, from Nassau.—April 19: Lucy Caroline, Margaret, from Matamoras.

FALMOUTH. April 12: The Texel, The Tay, from Havana. The Prince Albert, from London for Nassau.

BRISTOL.—April 14: The Selina, from Havana.

SHIPS SAILED.

LIVERPOOL.—April 12: Kurrachee, Clark, for Havana. —April 13: Orissa, Evans, for Havana. —April 14: Dazzele, Cox, for Nassau.

HOLYHEAD. April 14: Georgina M'Caw, Corbet (steamer), for Nassau.

FALMOUTH.—April 14: Prince Albert, for Nassau.

LONDON. April 17: Prima Donna, for Bermuda.

SHIPS SPOKEN WITH.

The Jane Duncan, from Cardiff for Nassau, March 3, 20° N., 44° W.

SHIPS ARRIVED OUT.

AT HAVANA.—R. D. Shepherd, Gale, and Amazon, all from Liverpool. Alciope, from Cardiff, lost off Cape San Antonio; crew saved. Deri Shaptein, from Swansea, on shore on Chromera Beach.

AT HALIFAX.—City of Petersburg (steamer) from Bermuda.

WILMINGTON. March 12: The Alice (steamer), The Hansa (steamer), have sailed.

SHIPS LOADING.

St. Thomas (steamer), at Liverpool: Leech, Harrison, & Forwood. Floridé (Imperial mail steamer), at London; Stringer, Pembroke, & Co. The Ann and Mary, for Bermuda, at Liverpool: Peniston & Co. The Pet, for Nassau, St. Katharine's Docks: Joshua Worley. The Jessie, for Nassau, St. Katharine's Docks; Davison, Brothers, & Co.

The schooner Linda, from Nassau, and the British sloop Havana of Nassau, have been captured.

WASHINGTON, April 1.—On the 20th March the steamer Honeysuckle captured the sloop Florida, from Havana, with a cargo of powder, caps, &c.

NEW YORK, March 31.—The steamer Cosmopolitan, at Hilton Head, 27th inst., reports that a naval expedition up the St. John's river captured the Confederate steamer Hattie Breck, with 100 bales of cotton, rice, tobacco, &c.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL & COMMERCIAL.

THE MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKETS.

Wednesday Evening.

It is very evident we are again approaching a period of stringency. The Bank directors without any premonitory notice raised the rate of discount on Saturday last to seven per cent., and it is thought that the court may see fit to take further action in the course of a short period. Loans for Russia and Mexico to the extent of 6,000,000*l.* in the one case, and 8,000,000*l.* to 12,000,000*l.* in the other, are sufficient to create uneasiness after the late excess of public companies. It is only surprising that we have stood our ground so well as long as we have, and that there has not already occurred a general break-down. Perhaps the advance in the *minimum* terms of discount will save such a calamity by inspiring caution and inducing many to limit their outstanding engagements. If not, this state of things cannot be supported. A change will come sooner or later, and then there will be a terrible reckoning to encounter. No foreign drain has yet been experienced, but the process of the absorption of capital is going on so rapidly that it is difficult to say where it will end. At the Bank, and out of doors, seven per cent. is freely charged, but the pressure is not so severe as it was. As a singular anomaly the supply of money at the Stock Exchange is large, and there the terms do not exceed 4 to 4½ per cent. for loans from day to day. The late fine weather will encourage confidence if the warmth shall continue.

THE NEW MEXICAN LOAN.

The official proposals for the new Anglo-French 6 per cent. Mexican Loan have just been issued. The amount in sterling is 7,790,000*l.*, representing a nominal capital of 12,385,000*l.*, and is to be issued in bonds to bearers of 1,000*l.*, 500*l.*, 200*l.*, 100*l.*, and 50*l.* each, with others of smaller amounts for the Continental markets. The issue to the public will be at the price of 63, and will be required to be paid as follows:—5*l.* on application, 5*l.* on allotment, and 10*l.* each on the 15th June, the 15th August, the 15th October, the 15th December, and on the 15th February, 1865. The dividends will be payable on the 1st April and the 1st October, and as the instalments extend to February next year the actual price will be about 61⅜. Of the total amount to be negotiated 8,000,000*l.* will be on account of the Mexican Government, and the remaining 4,365,000*l.* on account of the French Government, by whom these bonds have been accepted in payment of expenses incurred in Mexico. An amount equal to two years' dividends will be retained in hand, and a sinking fund of 1 *per cent.* is to commence on the 1st April, 1869. The loan is introduced in London by Messrs. Glyn & Co. and the International Financial Society, and in Paris by the Crédit Mobilier and the Crédit Foncier.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market continues exceedingly steady, with only small transactions. 54½ to 55½ is the closing quotation.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The dealings in American Government and Railway Securities appear to be gradually declining under the adverse accounts which have been received by all the late mails from America. There is no disposition whatever on the part of the brokers to deal in this class of securities, and unless a change in favour of the Federal troops is speedily announced, the dealings are likely to be almost *nil*. To-day not a single transaction has taken place, and the only dealings recorded during the week have been in Atlantic and Great Western Railway, Pennsylvania section, 76, 76½, and 76. Illinois Central, $100 shares, $90 paid, 14½, 14, and 15; ditto all paid, 74, 73¾, and 73½; and Panama Railway, second mortgage, 104½.

Liverpool: Wednesday, April 20.—A good business has been transacted in cotton again this week, but not to so great an extent as the week previous. The arrivals have been rather considerable, particularly from India and China, and, on the whole, prices continue well supported. American descriptions have been more enquired after, and a slight advance in quotations has consequently been obtained. The sales this week have amounted to 44,000 bales, of which 14,000 have been taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year, down to the present time, have been 622,750 bales, whilst to the same period last year they were 554,010 bales. There have been imported this year 602,237 bales; and to the same period in 1863, 349,422 bales. The exports this year have been 99,551 bales, whilst to the corresponding period last year they were 99,316 bales. There have been taken for consumption this year 417,900 bales; and to the same period in 1863, 291,700 bales. The quantity taken on speculation this year has been 94,120 bales; and to the like period last year, 139,590 bales. At the present time the computed stocks are 366,010 bales; last year they were 350,900 bales. The latest official quotations were: American descriptions, 24*d.* to 27*d.*; Pernambuco, 25½*d.* to 27¼*d.*; Maranhams, 27¾*d.* to 27⅞*d.*; Egyptians, 26¼*d.* to 29*d.*; Smyrna, 22¾*d.* to 26*d.*; Surats, 11*d.* to 23*d.*; China, 17½*d.* to 18¾*d.*; and Japan, 20*d.*

The Manchester markets have been pretty steady for all descriptions of goods, particularly for the better class of yarns, in which there has been more doing, at rather improved prices. For shipping yarns of the commoner qualities, there has not been a great deal doing, but for the finer and better descriptions, there has been more doing, at extreme prices. The cloth market remains dull, but the advices from India have caused a rather better feeling, and manufacturers are holding out for firmer prices, with evidently less disposition to submit to the reduced terms offered by buyers. At the same time buyers show but little inclination to operate, unless at reduced rates, and then only on a small scale. Amongst some of the smaller houses, a fair business of a miscellaneous character has been transacted, but that has been confined to limited and retail quantities. The large arrivals of cotton this week at Liverpool have influenced speculators in holding back, whilst amongst *bonâ-fide* dealers it is believed that but few orders are held at all pressing for execution.

Among the Contents of The Index *of April* 14 *are*:—

Notes on Events of the Week at Home and Abroad.
Parliamentary Notes.
Endurance and Determination of the Southern People.
Mr. Lincoln's Honesty and Capacity. Paris Topics.
Letter from Halifax. Forgery and Diplomacy.
Garibaldi in England.
Advance of the Southern Armies.
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Confederate Official Documents.
Address of the Confederate States. The Magazines.
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There are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellow-men.

Contributions will be received by J. H. Ashbridge, Treasurer, Walmer Buildings, Water Street, Liverpool; or in London, by Henry Hotze, Esq., 17 Savile Row, W.; in Paris, by H. O. Brewer, Esq., 6 Rue Circulaire; and Daniel Hubbard, Esq., 24 Rue Lord Byron.

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When it is considered that the choicest portion of the country is found in the Army, which will, of necessity, give character to the Confederacy, and control its destiny for years to come, the importance of sustaining this Institution, which seeks to consecrate to Christ this mighty influence, cannot be over-estimated.

The expenditure of means it involves is very great, and we respectfully solicit donations for the Society and for the *Messenger*, from all, everywhere, who have at heart the religious welfare of our Soldiers, and the advancement of the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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AMERICA.

GENERAL MEADE, still in command of the army of the Potomac, on the 12th had moved his head-quarters to Culpepper, six miles beyond Brandy Station. A destructive storm had interrupted communication between Washington and the army of the Potomac, and delayed operations. General Grant, it is reported, is to advance upon Richmond across the Rapidan; General Smith takes the old route of M'Clellan, up the Peninsula; while General Burnside, whose forces have been collected at Anapolis, is to advance upon the Confederate capital by way of Goldsborough, North Carolina. General Grant will have over 60 miles to march south, General Smith about 50 west, and General Burnside about 200 northerly.

THE news of military movements, to the 14th inst., is meagre and unimportant. We hear of a formidable massing of forces in Virginia, of a hurrying of men and supplies towards Nashville and Chattanooga, but of no advance. Heavy rains and deep mud paralysed army operations in Virginia. General Lee is reported to be receiving large reinforcements, including cavalry and mounted infantry, and to be strengthening his defences on the Rapidan, so as to be able to hold General Meade or General Grant in check with a portion of his forces, while he attacks General Smith's column advancing from Fortress Monroe. The Government papers are boasting, as usual, of the tremendous results to be achieved; but Wall Street gives little indication of confidence.

We have nothing from Charleston. The attack on Mobile appears to be entirely abandoned. The report of the loss of the powerful Confederate ram *Tennessee* at that place is contradicted. The New Orleans papers give flourishing accounts of the success of the Red River expedition—in stealing cotton; but there are rumours that even this success is not as great as reported, and fears that the Confederate policy of enticing the Federal troops as far as possible from their base of operations had led or would lead to some disaster. The accounts from Western Kentucky and Tennessee are conflicting. General Forrest had been largely reinforced; he had scattered his forces; he was summoning forts on the Mississippi to surrender, and about to attack Memphis; he was moving into central Kentucky; he had sent his officers to stir up insurrections in Ohio and Indiana.

BY the arrival of the *Hibernia* at Greencastle, on the 20th, we have New York telegrams to the 16th. The Confederates, under General Forrest, carried Fort Pillow by assault, on the 13th, after a desperate struggle, in which 400, out of the Federal garrison of 600, were killed or wounded. The capture of this important fort, which is a short distance above Memphis, again closes the Mississippi, and may have an important influence on operations in the south-west. The Confederates were reported to have again occupied Paducah, on the Ohio, and removed large quantities of stores, and to be preparing to attack Memphis, which was not supposed to be able to offer a formidable resistance. The taking of Memphis would cut off one of the bases of the Federal army in Tennessee. The draught ordered for April 15, has been again postponed. Mr. Chase arrived in New York on the 14th, and gold, which had risen to 189, fell to 174. On the 16th there was a panic in the Share Market, with gold at 171¼.

THE speech of Mr. Long, member of the Federal Congress from Cincinnati, Ohio, with the proceedings to which it gave occasion in the House of Representatives, may be said to mark an epoch in the war. Mr. Long, though little known in American politics, is a gentleman of character and position, and his speech, given elsewhere from the report of the New York *Daily News*, will repay perusal. The scene that followed the speech of Mr. Long was of an extraordinary character. The speaker of the House, Mr. Colfax, of Indiana, left the chair, and moved the expulsion of Mr. Long for treason. Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Schenck, of Ohio, late general commanding at Baltimore, supported the resolution. It was opposed by Mr. Cox, Mr. Voorhees, Mr. Harris, of Maryland, and Mr. Fernando Wood, of New York. The two latter avowed that Mr. Long's opinions were their own, and that if he were expelled they must be also; Mr. Harris saying amid great excitement, 'The South ask you to leave them in peace; but no, you say you will bring them into subjection. That is not done yet, and God Almighty grant it never may be. I hope that you will never subjugate the South.' On this a resolution was offered for the expulsion of Mr. Harris, which failed to obtain the constitutional two-thirds majority, the votes being, yeas, 81, nays, 58. A vote of censure on Mr. Harris was, however, passed. Two days after, the resolution to expel Mr. Long was withdrawn, and a vote of censure passed 80 to 70.

THE Confederate commanders on the Mississippi are introducing new methods of warfare, if not new principles of military science. In several instances, cavalry troops have attacked, and in some cases captured, Federal gunboats, fairly earning the title of horse marines. We hear now that General Forrest, since his capture of Paducah and unsuccessful attack upon the fort near that town, has summoned two Federal forts on the Mississippi—Fort Halleck, near Columbus, Kentucky, and Fort Pillow, above Memphis, in Tennessee. As it is not likely he would attempt to take two strong forts by cavalry charges, or even an assault with mounted infantry, he has probably been reinforced by artillery, and Fort Pillow, as we learn by the latest telegrams, has been captured.

'GOLD 70' was the text of a pungent satire on the Federal Government and the war, copied last week from the New York *Round Table* into several English papers. Since then we learn that gold has risen, in a panic on the 14th inst., to 89, and exchange on London to 1904; and this while Lieutenant-General Grant was marshalling his forces, stopping furloughs, ordering non-combatants to the rear, and making energetic preparations for one more advance on Richmond. In the midst of these immense preparations, with the Government papers full of assurances of victory, with no great disaster to cause a panic, so far as news has been allowed to reach us, gold rises 20 per cent., or, more honestly expressed, Government paper sinks to a little more than half its nominal value. With violent fluctuations it receded to 176½.

THE Union party of the Federal States is startled every little while by some revelation of stupendous absurdity, or disaster, or villany, chargeable upon the Washington Government. One of the latest exposures is that of the authorisation of an extensive trade between Federal speculators and the Confederate authorities in the Trans-Mississippi department, in which military supplies and munitions of war have been exchanged for cotton—in other words, Mr. Lincoln has been engaged in supplying the Confederate army with the means of fighting his own soldiers. Until lately, anthracite or smokeless coal has been sent to Canada for the blockade-runners; New York merchants, full of zeal for the Union, have sent the Confederates all kinds of supplies, *viâ* Halifax, Bermuda, and the Bahamas; but it now appears that the Washington Government itself has been engaged, in a more direct manner, in transactions of a similar character. Loyalty is a noble sentiment, but what Northern speculators want is cotton.

THE little Confederate navy is growing with a rapidity that begins to give serious alarm to the Northern papers. On March 10, a new ironclad steamer, the *Ashley*, was launched at Charleston, making seven in that single port ready to attack the Federal fleet on the first favourable opportunity. The Confederacy has thirty-four ironclad steamers, either finished or in progress of construction, between the James and Red Rivers, and a larger number of other steamers and sailing vessels. The time is not distant when a few of the more formidable of the iron-clads may be expected to leave the harbours and rivers they now defend, and illustrate for the Yankees their favourite apothegm—'Some things can be done as well as others.'

WE quote from the ode sung at the opening ceremonies of the New York Sanitary Fair, two stanzas, which probably did not strike those who sang or listened to them as false and blasphemous:—

God of all nations, Sovereign Lord,
In thy dread name we draw the sword,
We lift the starry flag on high
That fills with light our stormy sky.

No more its floating folds wave
To bar from hope the trembling slave,
No more its radiant glories shine
To blast with woe one child of thine.

And this is written of the flag under which armies march to slay, subjugate, plunder, and exterminate those whom they were a few years ago proud to call their brethren! But better than any observation of ours, as a commentary on these earth and heaven defying lines, is the following brief extract from the *New York World*:—'We were told when the war broke out that the people of the North—Christians—were going South to regenerate the "lost tribes" of that region. How has it been done? Let the still-smoking ruins of Hopefield and Greenville, and Lake Providence, and Young's Landing tell the story. We were told, too, that the war would redeem the race of blacks from bondage. How has this been done? Let the lecherous scoundrels who disgrace the name of officer or private answer. The morals of the North were shocked by the narratives of Harriet Beecher Stowe and Mr. Trowbridge, but what has *our army* done? What became of the poor contrabands that escaped into our lines at White River, Nashville, and Bridgeport? The brutality of our officers at these points exceeded anything that fiction could produce. Has it come to this—that the stars and stripes, once so respected and feared, are to cover robbery and piracy, and make them legal through power?'

No more its radiant glories shine
To blast with woe one child of thine.

THE Federal flagship *Minnesota*, lying in Hampton Roads, has been seriously damaged by a Confederate torpedo. The *Maple Leaf*, a Federal gunboat in Florida, has been completely destroyed, with the loss of four of her crew, by a similar agency. The rivers and harbours of the South have not only formidable artillery on their shores, but their bottoms are covered at certain points with batteries that would hurl every ship in the Federal navy much nearer the clouds than they care about sailing. A monitor might possibly run into Charleston harbour under the fire of the batteries, and get out again: but what could a monitor do when blown into the air by the explosion of a ton of gunpowder under her? With such dangers lurking in their path, the Federal commodores have considered that 'the better part of valour is discretion.'

THE following is the resolution unanimously adopted by the United States House of Representatives in regard to the establishment of a monarchy in Mexico:—

Resolved,—That the Congress of the United States are unwilling by silence to leave the nations of the world under the impression that they are indifferent spectators of the deplorable events now transpiring in the republic of Mexico; therefore they think it fit to declare that it does not accord with the people of the United States to acknowledge a monarchical Government erected on the ruins of any republican Government in America, under the auspices of any European Power.

The Committee of Foreign Affairs in the Senate, acting, it is said, under the influence of the Government, had reported against the concurrence of the Senate with the above resolution, and it was indefinitely postponed—which means that it was postponed until the success of General Grant in the subjugation of the South should give to the Monroe doctrine an odour of practicability. Meantime, we learn that three French frigates were at last dates preparing to enter the Rio Grande, and that French troops were about to occupy Matamoras, on the borders of Texas.

THE officers of the Federal Government continue to make seizures of persons and things. The Provost-Marshal-General has ordered the seizure of Pollard's History of the War, the Confederate Official Reports, the Life of Stonewall Jackson, Morgan and his Men, and 'all publications based upon rebel information' in the department of General Rosecrans. General McCullum has seized for

the United States Government all the unfinished locomotives at Portland, Maine, which were being constructed for the Grand Trunk (Canada) Railway. Finally, there is a large business done in seizing runaway British subjects for soldiers, disloyal clergymen who refuse to pray for the Union, and unhappy contrabands, who, if able-bodied men, have the choice of working on plantations under Yankee drivers, or being marched to slaughter by Yankee officers.

Counterfeit greenbacks have been taken to Canada in large quantities for the purchase of horses, cattle, and provisions, says the *Montreal Telegraph*; a fact which, we presume, does not increase the affection of the Canadians for their Yankee neighbours. 'Early in the war the Confederate currency was openly counterfeited in New York. The retribution comes now from possibly the same ingenious speculators, and can scarcely fail to produce the most disastrous effects upon the sinking currency.

The *New York Herald*, which has persistently glorified General Grant for months, does not approve of a simultaneous advance of three columns on Richmond, and predicts that if his orders are in any way interfered with, 'this division of forces will originate disaster.'

The Court of Appeals of the State of Virginia has unanimously affirmed the constitutionality of the recent Act of the Confederate Congress abolishing substitutions in the military service. The permission of substitution, it was held, was not a contract, but an act of grace and favour, which the Government had the right to repeal whenever the exigencies of the country required it. The Confederacy is a camp, and every citizen a soldier. There are, no doubt, exceptions to the almost universal devotion, but there are also thousands of old men regretting that their age unfits them for service, and thousands of ardent youth longing for the day when they can be soldiers. Among the defenders of Richmond is a corps of boys, whose commander is eighteen.

General Johnston's army is reported to have been largely reinforced, as expected, from the armies of Generals Beauregard and Polk, which have been engaged in the defence of Charleston and Mobile.

The renowned Confederate war-steamer *Alabama* was at Cape Town, March 21, where, as in every British colonial port she has visited, she is a great favourite, and was greeted, says the correspondent of the London *Telegraph*, by a crowd of citizens with hearty congratulations on her arrival once more in safety under the protection of the British flag. She took in coal and supplies, and Captain Semmes entertained numerous visitors. Yankee ships are very scarce in the eastern seas, so that she had taken only nine prizes.

The rule of General Banks in New Orleans, as described in our correspondence and exchanges, does not appear to differ very essentially from that inaugurated by his infamous predecessor. The banishment of Mr. Denegre for declining to be counted in with several deceased citizens of New Orleans as parties to the organisation of the new State Government; that of Dr. Mercier, a distinguished physician, for writing a private letter of kindly advice; the imprisonment and banishment of a lady for an innocent, misinterpreted gesture—were acts worthy of General Butler; but an order to the banks of New Orleans, transmitted to us in manuscript, seems more crafty and rapacious, if possible, than the acts of that unscrupulous satrap. The banks are ordered to report the minutest particulars of all their business transactions for three years past, both before and since the Federal occupation of the city, with the evident object of wholesale confiscation, reaching them and their customers, whether private individuals or the Confederate Government. It is a bill of discovery directed against the wealth and finances of the South-west. The evident motive is plunder; the immediate incitement was probably the fact that the notes of these banks are some five per cent. nearer the standard of gold than the paper of the Federal Government.

ENGLAND.

The first sitting of the Conference on the Danish question was fixed for Wednesday, April 20, and some of the members thereof met at the official residence of the First Lord of the Treasury in Downing Street on that day. However, Herr von Beust did not appear, and the meeting was adjourned to Monday last. On the latter day the Conference met for the despatch of business. The Plenipotentiaries are: Earl Russell and Lord Clarendon for England; Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne for France; Count Apponyi and Privy-Councillor Biegeleben for Austria; Count Bernstorff and Privy-Councillor Balan, formerly Ambassador at Copenhagen, for Prussia; Herr von Beust, Saxon Minister, for the German Confederation; Baron Brunow and Councillor Ewers for Russia; General Wachtmeister for Sweden; Baron de Bille, M. Quaade (the Minister), and Councillor Krieger, for Denmark.

The difficulty with respect to the Under-Secretaries of State, as already explained in our columns, has been overcome. Mr. Chichester Fortescue will remain at the Colonial Office; Mr. Thomas Baring, now in the India Office, will be Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, in the room of Mr. Bruce, who has been made Vice-President of the Council in the place of the Right Hon. Robert Lowe. Lord Wodehouse will be Under-Secretary for India. By this arrangement only four Under-Secretaries of State will have seats in the House of Commons.

The Bank Court, influenced probably by the present Governor, has determined that the Bank of England shall become a member of the Clearing House. Hitherto the Bank has effected settlements by the agency of collecting clerks. The new system will render yet more perfect the banking facilities already existing in London.

A writ from the Court of Exchequer was served on the Collector of Customs at Liverpool on Friday last, ordering him to deliver the *Alexandra* to her owners; and in consequence the Collector informed Messrs. Fletcher & Stone, solicitors for Messrs. Sillem and others, that the vessel would be delivered up at once to them.

General Garibaldi has quitted England. On Wednesday, April 20, Garibaldi went from Mr. Seely's house at Prince's Gate along Piccadilly, the Strand, and Cheapside, to Guildhall. On his arrival he was conducted to the Council Chamber, where, after the reading of the resolution of the Common Council, the Chamberlain of London addressed the General in a lengthy speech replete with eulogy. Afterwards the General signed the Roll of Honorary Citizenship, and his name appears in succession after those of Mr. George Peabody, Mr. Cobden, and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. The General was further presented with a gold box of the value of 100 guineas, with the arms of the City engraved thereon, with a raised star in gold and the letter G. in brilliants mounted upon it, and the resolution of the Common Council engraved on the inside of the lid. On leaving Guildhall, Garibaldi was escorted to the Mansion House, where he was entertained at a magnificent luncheon in the Egyptian Hall. In the evening Garibaldi dined with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mrs. Gladstone. After dinner Mrs. Gladstone held a reception, which was very numerously attended. Three Archbishops, the Bishops of London and Gloucester, the Premier, the Speaker of the House of Commons, great numbers of earls, barons, and ladies of title, and men of high position were present. On Thursday morning the members of the Reform Club entertained the General at luncheon. Lord Ebury was in the chair. M. Jullien's band was in attendance with the leaders of the chorus of Her Majesty's Theatre. After the toast of the General had been honoured, the chorus, led by Signor Arditi, sang the Garibaldi Hymn. In the afternoon the General visited the House of Commons and the House of Lords. He was conducted by Sir Augustus Clifford, bearing the Black Rod, through the Peers' Library to the House of Lords, and was accompanied by Lord Shaftesbury to the space within the railings at the foot of the throne. The Bishop of Oxford, Lord Harrowby, and Lord Russell left their seats to greet him. In the evening the Fishmongers' Company entertained Garibaldi at dinner, and presented him with the freedom of their order enclosed in a gold box studded with precious stones. On Friday the General left London. Previous to his departure the Prince of Wales, who had come to London on business, paid a visit to the General at Stafford House. Afterwards Garibaldi proceeded to Clifden House near Maidenhead, where he remained as the guest of the Dowager Duchess of Sutherland till Monday; on that day he left for Cornwall. On Tuesday he embarked on board the Duke of Sutherland's yacht on his voyage home to Caprera.

Last Saturday, the 23rd April, had been definitely fixed upon as the tercentenary anniversary of the birth of Shakspeare, and the worthy inhabitants of Stratford-on-Avon have made, and are now carrying into effect, the most elaborate designs for the due celebration of the interesting period. The idea, however, has spread far beyond the limits of the Warwickshire town, and London itself is inundated with pictures, books, and various publications commemorating the festival. Even *Punch* has condescended to produce a tercentenary number. The interest, however, of the whole affair is of course centred in Stratford-on-Avon. The programme for the festival embraced a banquet, fireworks, the 'Messiah,' a grand concert with the words from Shakspeare, the plays of 'Twelfth Night,' 'Romeo and Juliet,' the 'Comedy of Errors,' 'As You Like It,' with a grand fancy ball, and other amusements. The services of Mesdames Parepa, Sainton-Dolby, Arabella Goddard, and of Messrs. Sims Reeves, Santley, and Alfred Mellon, have been engaged for the musical part of the affair, while Mr. Sothern, Mr. Buckstone, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Compton, Mr. Vining, Mr. Chippendale, Miss Lindley, Miss C. Carson, Mrs. Charles Young, and other dramatic celebrities, have been secured for the performance of the plays from Shakspeare and the other pieces. Of these designs many have been realised.

The Shakspeare jubilee, as celebrated on Primrose Hill on Saturday last, renders ordinary mortals suspicious of the existence of that sound sense to which Englishmen lay claim. Handbills had been stuck about the streets imploring the public to march in a vast procession from Russell Square to Primrose Hill, in celebration of a 'Working Men's Shakspeare Jubilee and Great National Festival.' The procession no doubt did assemble, and did march along the prescribed route: but inasmuch as it consisted of only 500 persons, principally remarkable for their idiotic attire of green velvet, feathers, and paint, and the tattered condition of their miserable banners, and inasmuch as the cabs and omnibuses took a fiendish delight in cutting up the regularity of their ranks, it may well be imagined that the spectacle was not imposing. At Primrose Hill Mr. Phelps and Mr. Fechter turned up; a 'people's oak' was planted, and, having been planted, was christened with water from the Avon, brought in a bottle so ably corked as to defy for some minutes all attempts at extraction of the stopper. A lady made a speech, and a gentleman recited an ode, and all was supposed to be over. But the 'Working Man's Garibaldi Reception Committee' resolved to hold a meeting 'for the purpose of protesting against the manner in which Garibaldi had been hurried away from England, and to demand further explanations from the Government as to the cause of his hurried departure.' Mr. Edward Beales was called upon to preside, and proceeded at once to declare that Mr. Gladstone and Lord Shaftesbury had not stated all they knew. At this moment an inspector of police with a division of constables appeared on the scene, and interrupted the harmony of the meeting by threatening to disperse the assembly by force. Mr. Robert Hartwell has written to the public journals to protest against the conduct of the police, and another meeting is called for Saturday week.

On the 25th inst., Mr. Justice Crompton charged the grand jury of Middlesex in the Court of Queen's Bench. It was expected that an indictment would be preferred before them on the case of the *Rappahannock*. It will be recollected that this ship belonged to our Admiralty, and was purchased from them by certain persons on behalf of the Confederate Government; the defendant in this case, Mr. Rumball, was said to have been concerned in getting her refitted and sent to Calais, and further in getting men to embark on her with a view to their enlistment under the Confederate Government when she arrived at Calais. The case arises under the same statute as that by which the cases of the *Alabama*, the *Alexandra*, and the steam-rams were governed. The duty of the Judge on the present occasion was to direct the grand jury as to the effect of that statute upon the case before him—in fact, to state to them his construction of the Act. The learned Judge directed them on the question of fact, to decide whether the defendant had procured the enlistment of any persons into the Confederate service in this country, or had gone over to France and there procured such enlistment; the former proceeding being a violation of the Act, the latter not being so. Coming then to the notorious seventh section, which forbids any person to 'equip, &c., any ship or vessel with intent that such ship should be employed in the service of a foreign State,' the learned Judge declared that he agreed with the judgment of Mr. Baron Channell in the case of the *Alexandra*; he considered that if the equipment was of such a nature as to make the vessel more available for warlike purposes, that would be sufficient to justify the jury in finding a true bill. There was no dispute that as to the equipment whatever was charged had been done in this country. If then the jury thought that there had been in this country such a hiring or such an equipment as he had explained, they must find the bill, leaving it to the Court to deal with the questions of law. The evidence on this case is not yet complete, so that in point of fact no bill was ready to be preferred, and the matter will not come on till May 4.

The first case that came before the Court of Queen's Bench was that of the Confederates now in custody at Liverpool, on a charge of piracy alleged to have been committed in the seizure by them of the Federal schooner the *Gerity*. This vessel, bound from Matamoros to New York, was in the Gulf of Mexico, about five miles from land, when certain passengers who had embarked at Matamoros suddenly seized upon the master and crew, informed them that they were prisoners to the Confederates, and showed them documents purporting to be granted by President Davis, and authorising what they did. The crew were put ashore on the coast of Yucatan; the ship was taken to Belize, and has not since been heard of. In February last, the prisoners, who were among those concerned in this seizure, were found in this country, and thereupon a requisition was made by Mr. Adams, the United States Minister, to Sir George Grey, the Home Secretary, to have them delivered up under the extradition treaty of 1852. A warrant for their detention was accordingly issued, the terms of which state that the said prisoners, by name J. Clements, T. Wilson, D. O'Brien, and — Kelly, were to be apprehended 'for the purpose of their being dealt with according to the provisions of the extradition treaty, and delivered up to justice pursuant to the Act for giving effect to the said treaty, if found to be within the same.' According to this treaty it was agreed between Her Majesty and the United States that 'the authorities respectively should deliver up to justice all persons who, being charged with the crime of murder or piracy or arson or robbery or forgery committed within the jurisdiction of either of the contracting parties, should be found within the territories of the other, provided that this should be done only upon such evidence of criminality as would, according to the laws of the place where the fugitive should be found, justify his apprehension and commitment for trial if the crime had been there committed.' Upon the Home Secretary's warrant, and the information of Nicholas, the master of the schooner, the men were apprehended by the local magistrate; but, it being contended on their behalf that they had acted under the orders of their Government and not as pirates, it was thought advisable to give them the opportunity of applying to a higher tribunal. Mr. Justice Willes, the Senior Judge of Assize at Liverpool, to whom application was made on their behalf for a writ of *habeas corpus*, took the same view, saying that it would be an abuse that the men should be given up to their probable doom without their having the opportunity of taking the opinion of the superior courts. They were accordingly remanded. A motion was made on the 25th inst., by Mr. James, to the Court of Queen's Bench for a rule ordering a writ of *habeas corpus* to be directed to the gaoler at Liverpool, with a view to the discharge of the men from custody. He contended that they were entitled to the writ on several grounds. First, the act committed was not piracy; it was an act done on behalf of one belligerent upon another; the actors in the affair might or might not be British subjects; it was sufficient that they were none of them Federal subjects. Secondly, even if the act was one of piracy, it was piracy *jure gentium*, and therefore not within the treaty, but a crime triable and punishable in England as much as in the United States: a pirate was *hostis humani generis*. The learned counsel further contended that the extradition treaty could not apply in this case, inasmuch as the act was not piracy by English law. He quoted 'Wheaton's International Law,' p. 253, to prove that the act, in the eye of the United States courts,

was not piracy *jure gentium*, but only piracy against their own municipal law, to which we have none corresponding. Mr. Justice Blackburn said his doubt was whether it would not be lawful to detain the men to be tried in this country. The learned counsel pointed out that the warrants were made out for their apprehension not for the purpose of being tried here, but expressly that they might be delivered over to the United States authorities; and if their detention was declared lawful, they must be at once delivered up, as Mr. Justice Willes had observed, 'to their probable doom.' The Court granted a rule *nisi* for the writ of *habeas corpus*.

THE CONTINENT.

On April 18, the assault and capture of the Danish position at Duppel took place. At early dawn on that day the troops destined for the assault were stationed in the trenches, with the reserve in rear under shelter. A terrific cannonade of about three hours' duration was the inauguration of the combat. Suddenly, at 10 A.M. precisely, the batteries by common consent became mute; a few moments of silence, the dead calm of the impending storm, and from the most advanced Prussian trenches, with wild cheers, the six columns of attack dashed simultaneously. A feeble fire of grape and musketry did not check their course; the columns bore onwards like parallel waves, preceded by a fringe of skirmishers and crested with a light foam of sparkling bayonets. Not a shot had been fired on the Prussian side to mar the symmetry of the picture. Another quarter of an hour, and the wave had flooded the first six bastions of the Danish lines; in the midst of it struggled the few defenders, soon all to be killed, wounded, or captured. Again three-quarters of an hour, and the advancing tide of steel had reached bastions Nos. 7, 8, and 9, and the second or rear line of redoubts. Bastion No. 10 capitulated. All the endeavours of the shattered Danish army were now directed to an escape; there was shelter on the Isle of Alsen, but the Prussians were pressing them hard: what if the enemy should succeed in passing over the connecting bridge together with the fugitives? The danger was too great, the evil too imminent, to admit of half-measures; the better part of the Danes had passed the bridge in security; as the Prussians came up, it was destroyed, leaving three Danish regiments on the other side. The *tête de pont* and its defenders, thus cut off from their base, were quickly overpowered: the capture of the position was complete at noon. The *Rolf Krake* tried to help her countrymen from the sea, but was forced to withdraw from a heavy fire; the Danish liner *Skiold* could not take any share in the fight. Marshal von Wrangel and the Prince Royal of Prussia were present at the assault, which was led by the Prince Frederick Charles. General von Gerlach, though still suffering from his accident, was carried in an arm-chair to the Danish front, and superintended the defence.

The losses on the two sides, as officially published, are, on the Danish side:—Killed, 1 general, 2 colonels-commandant, the second in command of the staff, 18 other officers, and 580 men; wounded, 21 officers or more, and about 1,380 men; prisoners, 44 officers, and 3,145 men; making a general total of upwards of 5,000 men. Expressed in another way, the loss included almost one entire brigade (the 1st) and more than half of the 8th. In the 18th regiment every officer was killed, several colours were lost, and between 80 and 90 guns. On the Prussian side the general statement gives us 2 generals, 60 officers, and about 1,000 men killed, wounded, and missing.

Immediately after the capture of the redoubts orders were given to the Prussian siege train to hold itself in readiness for an advance to Fredericia. The Allies have stated their intention of occupying the whole of Jutland as a compensation or substantial guarantee for the losses occasioned to German commerce by the Danish fleet. Since the retirement of the Danes into the Isle of Alsen, a number of transports have been seen hovering about its coasts; and it is supposed that the garrison of the island is to be or has been already transferred to Fredericia, the fortress which in 1848 arrested the onward march of the Germans.

The news of the victory was of course received at Berlin amidst the greatest enthusiasm; and gratifying as it must be to the nation in general to find their fighting tools in good order, it must be more especially pleasing to the King, who sees in it a national, a royal, and an individual success. It is a national victory; it is a pledge of the reconciliation of the people and the Crown; and, finally, it is a proof of the King's individual wisdom as shown in his efforts for military improvement in the teeth of the advice of his people. On receipt of the news at Berlin, the crowds flocked around the palace of the King, with tumultuous cheers; so great and universal was the enthusiasm that the King himself for once acknowledged the existence of a people, and, coming out on to the balcony with the Queen, called for and led off three cheers for their valiant army. He has since paid a short visit to Düppel, accompanied by Herren von Bismark and Manteuffel, in the course of which he paid great compliments to the commanders, and distributed some medals in the army. The Emperor of Austria is also expected to honour the conquered provinces with his presence.

The naval affairs on both sides remain very much in the same state as last week. We hear of gallant expeditions made by the Prussian ships out of Stralsund and other ports; but as the gallantry is entirely confined to the action of leaving the port in the teeth of the blockading squadron, and returning to it when 'convenient,' they cannot yet be said to have produced any material effect one way or the other. The *Rolf Krake* is reported to have been so severely handled on April 18, as to have been towed away by the *Skiold* for repairs.

The complete success of the Prussian assault on Düppel, the ruinous condition in which the redoubts were found, the weakness of the fire opposed to the Prussian advance, have led all good judges to the conclusion that the lines of Duppel had for some time been untenable, and ought to have been evacuated without a contest. It is answered, on the other part, that the Danish commanders not only had no authority to retire, but had received distinct orders from Bishop Monrad to defend the position to the last. The responsibility for the sacrifice of human lives is thus shifted from the military authorities to the Executive Government. In their behalf it is said that the Danish people, whose anger on the evacuation of the Dannewirke was scarcely propitiated by the sacrifice of General Meza, would have received the report of the unopposed capture of Düppel with an uncontrollable burst of fury: the Government would have been lost, and the monarchy itself would have been in grievous peril.

These are rather the arguments of unscrupulous office-seekers than of true statesmen and patriots, and tally well with the circumstances under which Bishop Monrad formed the present Ministry. It is well known that the retirement of M. Hall from the Premiership was expected to be followed by his immediate recall, as there was no one else capable of forming a Cabinet. When, therefore, Bishop Monrad, a member of M. Hall's Cabinet, undertook the duty of constructing a fresh Government, it was evident that he had betrayed his former chief and repudiated his principles, and was prepared to trust for success to his skill in executing and anticipating the will of the populace. The good fortune of the present Prime Minister of England in the same line may have emboldened him in this course, but none can draw Ulysses' bow but himself; and the history of the siege and capture of Duppel is a fair specimen of the effect of Palmerstonian policy without Palmerstonian skill.

The reception of Garibaldi in England has been generally gratifying to the Italians. Several expressions of thanks have been transmitted from Italian corporations to the English people by telegraph, and the English Consul at Turin has been enthusiastically serenaded. The feeling is, however, not perfectly unanimous. Signor Ferrari, deputy in Parliament, on being requested to preside at a meeting held to embody these sentiments, very candidly informed the deputation that he was so thoroughly French in idea, and so devoted to the principles of 1789, that he could not consent to take the chair for them. The *Italia* of the 22nd inst. suggests that Garibaldi would be better satisfied with fewer words and more action, with less enthusiasm and more help, with fewer addresses and more rifles. It is generally believed that the 'party of action' are meditating some new attempt, although the scene of it has not transpired. A seizure of arms was made lately by the police at the goods station at Brescia. They were concealed in bales purporting to contain rags for paper, and consigned to a party at Salò on the Lago di Garda. It is remarkable how the tradition of Garibaldi lingers about that lake; it was on its waters that he cruised for three months during the Austrian war, levying contributions and doing as much damage as he could to the Austrians, and, if report speaks truth, not quite scrupulous, when short of provision, whether his hand fell upon German or Italian property.

The Italian cotton factories have imported a good deal of material lately from Persia. A bale was opened lately at the factory of Peregallo coming from that country, and inside it was found the body of a Persian woman in a very good state of preservation. The story hints at a romance, and would certainly make a very good basis for a melodrama; at the same time it reminds us irresistibly of the famous Yankee who killed his adversary, put him in a barrel, and sold him as pickled pork.

Two important elevations to the dignity of Cardinal are about to be made in Rome. The first is Monsignor de Mérode, the present Papal Secretary for War, who is to go out to Mexico as Cardinal-Nuncio; the second is Prince Louis-Lucien Bonaparte, now Chamberlain to the Pope. The first of these appointments will extinguish one of the most unpleasant features of the French occupation of Rome. Monsignor de Mérode's fiery nature is by no means fitted for his present position, which requires the utmost care and tact to avoid collisions between the French and the Papal military authorities. The second is just now very significant; the elevation of a Bonaparte to a position in which he may be candidate for the Papal chair, may possibly lead to an unexpected solution of the whole difficulty.

The annexation of the Ionian Islands to the kingdom of Greece has been completed. A formal address has been presented by the National Assembly of the seven Islands, and answered by King George I. The Chambers have been dissolved, and a new election ordered of double the number of members.

We hear of fresh bloodshed on the eastern shores of the Black Sea; a sharp engagement has taken place between Russians and Circassians, in which the former lost 1,500 and the latter 2,000 men. It is known that the Poles have made an attempt at disturbance in that direction; but the idea was not taken up by the nation generally with much enthusiasm.

The Church of Rome is often great in adversity. Monsignor Felinski, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Warsaw, who has been banished from that city for some time, was to be allowed to return on certain conditions: the only condition which the Archbishop would accept was one involving a general recall from banishment. On this the Imperial Government deprived him of his see, and conferred it upon the Father Rzewuski, at the same time requiring their nominee to order the mourning now used in all Roman Catholic churches of Warsaw to be discontinued. M. Rzewuski, however, true to his country and to his class, has declined the appointment, and has refused to recognise the deprivation of M. Felinski as not emanating from the Pope, or to give orders for the discontinuance of the mourning: at the same time he declines to receive any part of the salary belonging to the Archbishopric.

On April 11, Baron Offenberg, the Russian Consul-General at Bucharest, paid a formal visit to Prince Couza to demand of him the immediate dismissal of the Cogolnitchoanu Ministry on the ground of their complicity in schemes favouring the Polish insurgents. The Prince demanded of the Consul-General whether he had the authority of his Government for making such a request, but refused to inspect the proof of the authority with which Baron Offenberg supplied him, declaring that he would not believe that the Russian Government intended to pass upon him so grievous an insult. The Russian diplomat was of course furious, but after being thus discomfited he had no alternative but to retire from the palace, and ultimately from the country. General Kotzebue, commanding the Russian forces in Bessarabia, has informed the Government of the Principalities that he cannot respect the Moldavian frontier in the pursuit or arrest of the Polish rebels. Prince Couza has despatched messengers to the Princes of Servia and Montenegro to concert measures of defence with them. Another complication has been added to the whole affair by the protest of Turkey as Suzerain of the Principalities against the raising of any loan in those countries without her express permission. In consequence of this protest the English capitalists have retired from the affair. The French still continue to believe in the ultimate success of Prince Couza. A conference is to meet shortly at Constantinople for the consideration of all difficulties connected with the Principalities.

On the 7th of Prairial, Year VII. of the French Republic, a date more generally known as May 25, 1799, an additional tax of 10 centimes was imposed upon all stamps used in business. The tax, levied originally under the pressure of war, and continued into the years of peace, returned to its proper element in the Crimean and Italian wars: it has now again become an anomaly, through the pacific conduct and intentions of the ruler of France. Under these circumstances the French Government, acting under Imperial guidance, have taken a most wise and logical step in proposing its abolition. The amount of revenue sacrificed is not less than 26,000,000 francs, or upwards of 1,000,000*l.* sterling, a loss which, in the present state of French finances, is of a most serious character. But it is highly important, and more especially so in despotic governments, that the distinct object of a tax, where such exists, should not be lost sight of: while the power given to each citizen of measuring the pressure exerted by war upon himself individually by the presence or absence of an additional charge such as this is invaluable.

The Parisian world of fashion had every opportunity afforded to them of enjoyment at the Paris races of April 17. Longchamp put on its gay appearance, and to the visitor's eye maintained its character as one of the most pleasant of race-courses. Indeed, what more can mortals desire than the charming drive through the Bois de Boulogne, the view of the circular course with its handsome stand, its crowd of equipages and spectators, the Seine encompassing the western side of the plain, and beyond the river the beautiful palace of St. Cloud? Thanks, moreover, to the Emperor, racing in France has become not merely a pastime for the creatures of pleasure, but a matter of earnest business for the sporting community. On the day in question five prizes were set for competition, and one of these at least offered no mean reward to the fortunate winner. The Prix de Longchamp, a produce stake of 3,000 francs, with an entry of 300 francs, deserves a passing notice, as it brought out Nepto, a colt of some reputation from a previous passage of arms with Sonchamp. However, in spite of the public's earnest support, Nepto was compelled to succumb to Gédéon, a son of Monarque, the property of the Duc de Morny. In the following race, the Prix de la Seine of 8,000 francs, the Duc de Morny was again successful. Partisan, now five years old, by Launcelot out of Partlet, promised great deeds of fame in his younger days; and when at the age of three years he took his gallops at Newmarket, and drew the French Minister from Paris to the capital of the racing world to be the eyewitness of his progress, he seemed to hold within his grasp the best rewards of the English turf. However, neither joints nor sinews of iron can be dispensed with in these days of early and hard-fought battles, and Partisan was incapacitated from even an effort. His trainer was not to be discouraged, and adopted the sensible plan of converting him into a hunter for a winter season to the great improvement of his limbs and of his energy. Therefore he was able once more to appear, and to defeat in grand style Flibustier and Guillaume le Taciturne. The race of the day was the Grand Prix de l'Impératrice of 15,000 francs, which the excellent Dollar, the son of the Flying Dutchman and Payment, won by a head after a terrific race with Stradella. The latter mare, the property of Count de Lagrange, in 1863 overthrew at Newmarket the English horse The Marquis, the winner of the Two Thousand Guineas Stakes and of the Doncaster St. Leger; but, in spite of that victory, the French public bravely supported Dollar at the small odds of 7 to 4. The sport terminated with the Prix des Acacias, for which nine horses came to the post, and which was won by Eva, the daughter of Allez-y-gaiment and of Junction, of whose success not a speculator had dreamed. Senorita, by the Flying Dutchman out of Lola Montes, was second, and the Duc de Morny's Gédéon third.

Another Japanese embassy, consisting of three plenipotentiaries and their suite, has arrived in Europe: they have, for the present, taken up their quarters in Paris at the Grand Hôtel de la Paix. For a nation which three years ago was the pattern of exclusiveness, two embassies in the course of two years sent to the very extreme of the earth is not a bad beginning.

The admirers of Rabelais will be pleased to hear that Panurge still exists in Paris, and apparently in high feather; he is now called Gremier, but is otherwise unmistakable. We subjoin a conversation between that worthy and a police magistrate which took place during the past week:—*Magistrate:* 'What is your profession?' *Gremier:* 'A dealer in fire.'—'And what may that be?' 'Why, lucifers; I light them, and offer them to gentlemen as they leave the theatre for their cigars.'—'That is not a serious trade; it is the occupation of a vagabond.' 'Well, it's not a bad position; I get sometimes thirty sous at one theatre door.'—'The police watched you for a whole evening; you were offering to hold horses and opening carriage doors.' 'Yes, all that sort of thing, and lucifers; it's the same business.' The magistrate went on to ask him whether he had not been convicted as an incorrigible beggar. The prisoner rejoined that the only reason for the conviction was that his trousers were torn; and said, 'It is certain I should not have been arrested had I worn a black coat, patent leather boots, and gloves.' —'You appear to have a very decided opinion on that subject; you were wearing a pair of straw-coloured kid gloves, with your blouse and cap, when you were arrested.' 'Certainly, I wore gloves that I might not be mistaken for a barefooted rascal; but I was arrested all the same. I don't know what course to take now.'—'Why not work at your trade? You are a scullion.' 'I could get no work because I was too badly dressed, and yet I presented myself with my gloves on.'—'Where did you get these gloves?' 'A gentleman threw them away after the theatre; then, of course, I picked them up.'—'The police took you to your landlord, who refused to receive you.' 'That was a dirty trick of his (*C'est une saleté qu'il m'a faite*). I don't owe him anything; wait till some one asks me to recommend furnished apartments, he'll see if I will send him customers.' Alas for poor Panurge! he was condemned to one month's imprisonment, to the relief, doubtless, of the landlord whose prosperity was thus threatened.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

THE LAW OF PRIZES—CASE OF THE TUSCALOOSA.

On Tuesday, in the House of Lords, this subject was brought forward by Lord Chelmsford in a very able and exhaustive speech. After a few prefatory remarks, His Lordship recited the history of the case. The *Tuscaloosa* was originally a Federal vessel named the *Conrad*, and on the 21st of June last she was off the coast of Brazil with a cargo of wool, and was there captured by the *Alabama*. The captors put some guns on board, a lieutenant of the Confederate navy, and ten men, and changed her name to the *Tuscaloosa*, and employed her as a tender of the *Alabama*. The two vessels were in company at the Cape of Good Hope in the beginning of August, and Captain Semmes ordered the *Tuscaloosa* to Simon's Bay for the purpose of obtaining provisions and undergoing some slight repairs. She arrived off Simon's Bay on the 7th of August. The Admiral upon the station, Sir Baldwin Walker, doubted whether she could properly be considered as the tender of the *Alabama*, whether she did not retain her previous character of an uncondemned prize, and therefore whether she could be admitted under the terms of Her Majesty's proclamation forbidding the armed ships of both belligerents from coming into British ports with their prizes. He wrote to Governor Wodehouse, who consulted the Attorney-General at the Cape. The Attorney-General gave it as his opinion that, by reason of the vessel having been armed by the captors, and having had a lieutenant and crew put on board, the *Tuscaloosa* was a vessel of war, and might enter the bay; and accordingly the *Tuscaloosa* anchored in Simon's Bay on the 8th of August, and remained there till the 15th. While she was lying at anchor there, the United States Consul claimed that she should be retained on behalf of the original owners. Having mentioned that the *Tuscaloosa's* true name was the *Conrad*, and that she had never been condemned as prize by any lawfully constituted Admiralty Court, he proceeded to say:—

I am well aware that your Government has conceded to the so-called Confederate States the rights of belligerents, and is thereby bound to respect Captain Semmes' commission; but having refused to recognise the 'Confederacy' as a nation, and having excluded his captures from all the ports of the British Empire, the captures necessarily revert to their real owners, and are forfeited by Captain Semmes as soon as they enter a British port.

In reply, the Governor wrote to the United States Consul:—

The Governor is not aware, nor do you refer him to the provisions of international law by which captured vessels, as soon as they enter our neutral ports, revert to their real owners, and are forfeited by their captors. But His Excellency believes that the claims of contending parties to vessels captured can only be determined in the first instance by the courts of the captor's country.

The United States Consul rejoined that by the terms of the Queen's proclamation the *Tuscaloosa* was forbidden to enter Simon's Bay, that she was there as a prize, having on board her original cargo of skins and wool, and as Captain Semmes could not hold prizes in Simon's Bay, 'who else could hold them except those whose right to hold them was antecedent to his—that is, the owners? That claim was extravagant and illogical, but it has been sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government. In reply to a despatch from Governor Wodehouse, an answer was sent by Her Majesty's Government, and he (Lord Chelmsford) 'could not help thinking that the instructions conveyed in it were the result of Federal pressure.' After 'rather a menacing correspondence on the part of the United States Minister,' the following instructions were sent to Governor Wodehouse on the 4th November from the Colonial Office:—

With regard to the vessel called the *Tuscaloosa*, I am advised that this vessel did not lose the character of a prize captured by the *Alabama* merely because she was, at the time of her being brought within British waters, armed with two small rifled guns, in charge of an officer, and manned with a crew of ten men from the *Alabama*, and used as a tender to that vessel under the authority of Captain Semmes. It would appear that the *Tuscaloosa* is a bark of 500 tons, captured by the *Alabama* off the coast of Brazil on the 21st June last, and brought into Simon's Bay on or before the 7th of August, with her original cargo of wool (itself, as well as the vessel, prize) still on board, and with nothing to give her a warlike character (so far as is stated in the papers before me) except the circumstances already noticed. Whether, in the case of a vessel duly commissioned as a ship of war after being made prize by a belligerent Government, without being first brought *infra præsidia* or condemned by a Court of Prize, the character of prize, within the meaning of Her Majesty's orders, would or would not be merged in that of a national ship of war, I am not called upon to explain. It is enough to say that the citation from Mr. Wheaton's book by your Attorney-General does not appear to me to have any direct bearing upon the question.

And then the Duke of Newcastle concluded as follows:—

The question remains what course ought to have been taken by the authorities of the Cape,—1st, in order to ascertain whether this vessel was, as alleged by the United States Consul, an uncondemned prize brought within British waters in violation of Her Majesty's neutrality; and 2nd, what ought to have been done if such had appeared to be really the fact. I think that the allegations of the United States Consul ought to have been brought to the knowledge of Captain Semmes while the *Tuscaloosa* was still within British waters, and that he should have been requested to state whether he did or did not admit the facts to be as alleged. He should also have been called upon (unless the facts were admitted) to produce the *Tuscaloosa's* papers. If the result of these enquiries had been to prove that the vessel was really an uncondemned prize, brought into British waters in violation of Her Majesty's orders, made for the purpose of maintaining her neutrality, I consider that the mode of proceeding in such circumstances most consistent with Her Majesty's dignity, and most proper for the vindication of her territorial rights, would have been to prohibit the exercise of any further control over the *Tuscaloosa* by her captors, and to retain that vessel under Her Majesty's control and jurisdiction until properly reclaimed by her original owners.

The Governor replied that he was in a state of uncertainty, but he was relieved of responsibility by an extraordinary departure from the ordinary course of procedure. On December 26, after an absence of four months, the *Tuscaloosa* returned to Simon's Bay, and Admiral Sir B. Walker wrote to the Governor:—

As it appears that this vessel, the *Tuscaloosa*, late Federal ship *Conrad*, is an uncondemned prize, brought into British waters in violation of Her Majesty's orders, made for the purpose of maintaining her neutrality, I therefore consider that she ought to be detained with the view of her being reclaimed by her original owners, in accordance with the opinion of the law officers of the Crown forwarded for my guidance, the copy of which I have already transmitted to you.

The *Tuscaloosa* was seized, and the Government offered to give her up to the United States Consul, but, fortunately for this country, that official had some scruples about receiving her. Lieutenant Lowe, in command of the *Tuscaloosa*, put in a protest against the seizure. [We published this protest on February 25.]

On March 4 the Duke of Newcastle wrote to the Governor to deliver the *Tuscaloosa* back to the Confederate officers. Her Majesty's Government could not assert they were right, and did not like to admit they were wrong, and therefore, 'in the despatch communicating the reasons why the *Tuscaloosa* was to be restored, they took a course which was always an indication of weakness—they made the *Tuscaloosa* a special case.'

Lord Chelmsford then pointed out the error and illegality of the instructions sent out by Her Majesty's Government. He challenged his noble and learned friends to point out in any writer on international law a passage declaring that where a neutral had prohibited belligerents from bringing prizes into its waters, that neutral, on the prohibition being disregarded, had any right whatever to seize the prize and to restore it to the original owners. The power of the neutral was confined to ordering the vessel away, and if she refused to go force might be used to expedite her departure. By the rules of international law the moment a capture took place the property, as between belligerents, was vested in the captors, and therefore a neutral dealing with the property in the way attempted by Her Majesty's Government was in effect to take it from one of the belligerents and to give it to the other. Further, the neutral had no right whatever to enter upon the consideration of the validity of prizes brought into its waters. The capture might have been invalid and illegal, but the neutral had no power to inquire. There were only certain cases in which the neutral might and ought to inquire, and those were exceptions very strongly establishing the rule. Where a vessel was seized by a belligerent within neutral waters, a violation of neutrality took place, and it was not only the right, but the duty, of the neutral to restore the vessel to its original owners, because there never was a moment at which the vessel was legally a prize. But that rule certainly could not be made to apply to the case of the *Tuscaloosa*, which after a lapse of six months from the time of her capture came into neutral waters and was seized for the purpose of being delivered back. It was also said that a neutral might exercise the authority of seizing prizes brought into its waters, and of returning them where the property of its subjects had been illegally captured and was afterwards brought into its ports; the very extraordinary reason given being that this was intended as a compensation for the asylum afforded. But that no authority was to be found for the proposition that neutrals were entitled to deal with prizes brought into their waters in the manner in which Her Majesty's Government had sought to deal with the *Tuscaloosa*. It would, no doubt, be urged by the Government that the bringing of a prize into neutral waters, contrary to the prohibition contained in the proclamation, was a violation of neutrality. But with this view, taking the plain meaning of the words 'violation of neutrality,' he could not agree. He contended that the instructions issued by Her Majesty's Government were wholly illegal, void, and improper; and there was this further disadvantage, that, he presumed, they had not been confined to the Governor of the Cape of Good Hope, but had been sent round to all our colonial possessions. At that very moment it might be that prizes had been seized in some of those quarters and delivered up by the different local Governors either to the Confederates or the Federals. If the prize improperly seized under the instructions of the Government belonged to the Federals, he could anticipate fully well what would happen: strong remonstrances and high-toned menaces on one side, submission, apology, restoration, and, perhaps, compensation on the other. Should the prize taken be from the Confederates, the remonstrances might be equally loud, but they would not be so much regarded. Restoration, as shown by the present case, might be necessary, but it would be restoration unaccompanied by any apology; it would be mere restoration, and nothing more. Whichever alternative happened, the position of the British nation would not be very dignified.

Earl Russell (who was evidently very angry) said: 'It must be recollected that all these applications of international law to the contest between the Federals and so-called Confederate States have to be made under very exceptional circumstances. It has been usual for a Power carrying on war upon the seas to possess ports of its own in which vessels are built, equipped, and fitted, and from which they issue, to which they bring their prizes, and in which those prizes, when brought before a court, are either condemned or acquitted. But it so happens that in this conflict the Confederates have no ports except those of the Mersey and the Clyde, from which they send out ships to cruise against the Federals; and having no ports to which to bring their prizes, they are obliged to burn them upon the high seas. It is natural, under these circumstances, that the Confederate officers and Confederate authorities should somewhat resent the orders of Her Majesty, of which the noble and learned Lord was pleased to approve, and should endeavour to evade their operation. These orders, as your Lordships are aware, were not to bring prizes made by either belligerent into the ports of the United Kingdom or of Her Majesty's possessions abroad. [It is untrue that 'the Confederate officers and the Confederate authorities' have resented the orders of Her Majesty or have endeavoured to evade their operation.] His Lordship contended that Sir B. Walker had a reasonable ground for the seizure of the *Tuscaloosa*, because if the Confederates were allowed to send in all their prizes or cruisers they might set at defiance the Queen's proclamation. It was, however, he admitted, difficult to decide whether the *Tuscaloosa* ought to have been moved off, or whether she should be seized, and taken possession of, and restored to her owners. The Duke of Newcastle had gone a little beyond the opinion of the law officers of the Crown, and he (Earl Russell) should have done the same. The point was still open to consideration whether the proper treatment of such vessels as the *Tuscaloosa* would not be to move them off. He thought that 'to say that the question can be decided in the courts of the captors is altogether an error.' He denied that there had been any truckling to the United States, and, in proof of his assertion, cited the cases of the *Trent*, the *Saxon*, and the *Chesapeake*, in all of which the Federal Government had granted satisfaction and justice.

Lord Kingsdown said that the question involved in the present discussion was one of the most important that had arisen out of the application of the principles of international law. Sir B. Walker had rested his case upon the supposition that a prize remained the property of the original owner until it had been condemned by a court of legal adjudication. That also was the principle on which, so far as he understood, the Government and the Duke of Newcastle in his despatch acted, but he confessed it was a great relief to him to find that in writing that despatch the noble Duke had gone beyond the opinions of the law officers of the Crown, on whose judgment and learning the utmost reliance was to be placed. The question of capture as between belligerents was conclusive when the capture was made. It required no adjudication. The moment one belligerent obtained possession of the goods of another, they were as much his property as if they had been condemned by all the prize courts in Europe. In that view of the subject he was supported by Wheaton, who said: 'The obligation of a captor to bring his captures into port for enquiry and adjudication depends on the instructions which he has received from his own Government. But this obligation under the law of nations exists only with respect to vessels navigated under the neutral flag, the object being to ascertain whether the property belongs to a neutral or an enemy. Enemies cannot claim a right that their property, upon capture by a belligerent cruiser, should be taken into the port of the belligerent, or his ally, for inquiry and adjudication. Capture alone divests an enemy of his property. Upon the surrender of a vessel under an enemy's flag on the high seas a belligerent may destroy her under the general law of nations, and if the captor is unable to bring her into port, he will be justified towards his own Government in destroying her. In the present case Her Majesty had forbidden armed vessels, with their prizes, to come into her ports. According to law, if a ship of war with her prize entered a British port, she could be ordered away, but he was at a loss to understand how our Government obtained a right to take possession of the *Tuscaloosa*. That vessel had violated the Proclamation of Her Majesty, and might have been sent away, but how could she become confiscated and liable to seizure by our Government? Even supposing it could be said that the violation of the laws of neutrality of which she had been guilty entitled the British Government to seize her and confiscate her to the Crown, their lordships would observe that the conduct pursued by our authorities was based upon entirely different grounds. Their argument was that, the *Tuscaloosa* having come under their control, they were entitled to seize her and restore her to the original owner, forgetting that the original owner was Captain Semmes, she never having been recaptured. It was highly important that there should be no mistake on this point, because the Confederate States could not

obtain adjudication in their own ports, to which access was barred by a blockade recognised by Europe, and under any circumstances the enforcement of the laws of neutrality must operate with very different force upon one belligerent and upon the other. What, then, was the opinion of Lord Stowell upon the want of adjudication? Lord Stowell was reported to have held, when a captor could not bring in his prize, that

Nothing is left to the belligerent vessel but to destroy the vessel which she has taken, for she cannot consistently with her general duty to her own country, or, indeed, under its express injunctions, permit enemy's property to sail away unmolested. If it should be impossible to bring her in, her next duty is to destroy enemy's property.

It was laid down everywhere in the same way that adjudication had nothing to do with the matter except as between neutrals, and that the moment an enemy's ship had struck her flag and was taken possession of by an officer of the other belligerent she became the property of her captor, and remained so until she was recaptured. There was no ground for saying, as had been said in the present case, that, the *Tuscaloosa* having innocently come into the power of our Government, she was liable to seizure, and that the effect was to revest the property in the original owner, because there had been no adjudication. The law was so clear that it could not be misunderstood.

The Lord Chancellor denied that it was an indisputable law that the property in a prize was transferred by mere capture. That was as between belligerents. He wished to show that this matter was one which, in the language of the law officers of the Crown, deserved 'very serious consideration.' That serious consideration it had received; and the result would be embodied in clear and definite instructions, which would be generally circulated throughout our colonial harbours.

Lord Chelmsford said, as they were now told there was to be a modification of the instructions, he thought their Lordships were entitled to know what that modification was.

The Lord Chancellor said, what he stated was that new and definite instructions were under consideration.

A FEDERAL OUTRAGE ON A BRITISH SUBJECT.

On Friday, in the House of Commons, Lord R. Cecil called attention to the outrage committed on a British subject, of which a report had recently appeared in the public papers.

Mr. Layard said they had received information on the subject which agreed very much with the statement that appeared in the newspapers. A correspondence had been going on for some time with the American Government in relation to it, and Her Majesty's Government had made a demand for redress.

[We give elsewhere a full and detailed account of the outrage from the New York correspondence of the *Times* of Thursday last.]

HARBOURS OF REFUGE.

On Tuesday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Lindsay moved, 'That, in the opinion of this House, Her Majesty's Government should now adopt measures for the construction of harbours of refuge on the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland, recommended by a committee of this House in 1858, by a royal commission in 1859, and by a resolution of this House in 1860.'

Sir Stafford Northcote moved the addition of the following words:—'And to make provision for wholly or in part defraying the expense of such harbours as it may be thought right to construct by means of tolls upon shipping, as recommended by the committee of this House.'

Mr. Milner Gibson opposed both the original motion and the addition, contending that the House would not be justified in passing a resolution which would pledge it to an indefinite and enormous expenditure without indicating the means by which that expenditure was to be met.

Both the original motion and the addition were negatived by large majorities.

THE LAND TRANSFER ACT.

On Thursday, in the House of Lords, the Lord Chancellor, in reply to Lord Chelmsford, denied that the Act of 1862 had been a failure. In sixteen months, despite great opposition on the part of the solicitors, nearly two millions' worth of property had been brought into the Transfer Office. The difficulty to be overcome is the manner in which solicitors are remunerated. They are paid according to the length of the work. As the law now stands, they are rewarded for prolixity and fined for brevity. The Land Transfer Act so simplifies the titles to property that, in one case within his (the Lord Chancellor's) knowledge, a title of which the abstract required 150 sheets, was now contained on one side of a piece of parchment, on which, in accordance with the provisions of the new law, are a map of the estate, an accurate abstract of the title, and a copy of the entry of the register. If the owner wants to sell, he has only to carry this document to the auctioneer, or if he wants an advance he can deposit it with his bankers. A title under the new law of registration is cheap and convenient. His Lordship anticipates that the regulation will become general as soon as the solicitors are disposed of, and that the titles to real estate will become clear and certain, precisely in the same manner as the title to stock in the funds, to railway, or any other analogous form of property.

PARTNERSHIP LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

This Bill is of great importance to the commercial community, as it will enable a private capitalist to invest money in business without risking all his fortune.

Mr. Scholefield, in moving the second reading on Monday, said in his opinion this was emphatically a creditors' measure, for at present a loan to a partnership was a secret transaction. This Bill did not in the slightest interfere with the present law of partnership *qua* those who were held out to the public as being partners. The only persons who would be limited to the amount which they had put down were those who had no contract with the creditors, and whom the creditors did not know, excepting as far as they appeared on the registry for the amount for which they were liable.

Mr. Hubbard opposed the second reading, but his amendment was negatived without a division.

REDUCTION OF THE DUTY ON FIRE INSURANCE.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Sheridan moved that, in place of the proposal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to reduce the duty on insurances on stock in trade, there should be a uniform reduction to 1*s.* per cent. on all descriptions of property liable to the duty. This was rejected by a majority of 53, and Mr. Gladstone's resolution was carried.

DEPARTURE OF GARIBALDI.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Gladstone, in answer to a question put by Mr. Kinnaird, said he went to Stafford House at the request of the Duke of Sutherland to consult about the desirability of advising Garibaldi to contract his provincial tour. He was requested to tell Garibaldi his opinion, and he did so. He represented to the General that he could not go through such labour without great injury to his health, and he also added, 'that there was some risk lest the magnificent national reception which had been given to him in the great metropolis of this country, and which really formed an historical event, should not gain, but even lose, some of its real dignity from being frequently repeated elsewhere.' The reports about his having used any official influence, and of his being instigated by political motives in the advice he offered Garibaldi, were entirely without foundation.

THE GARIBALDI MEETING.

On Monday, in answer to a question put by Mr. H. Lewis, Sir George Grey stated that, owing to the scenes which some short time since had taken place through meetings held in the parks, a notice was issued forbidding all assemblages of persons in the parks for the purpose of delivering speeches or discussing exciting topics leading to disorder, such meetings being wholly inconsistent with the object for which the parks were thrown open to the public. The inspector of police, though acting under no special instructions, might naturally think that he was acting in the spirit of that notice when he stated that the meeting ought not to be held there. But he had acted on his own discretion alone, and had no express authority to prevent the meeting being held.

RAILWAYS AND THE WORKING CLASSES.

On Friday, in the House of Lords, the Earl of Derby brought forward a subject which very nearly concerns the happiness and well-being of the working classes. The dwellings of the poor in towns, and above all other towns in London, are, as a rule, overcrowded hovels that disgrace our civilisation, and induce physical and moral degeneracy. The evil was conspicuous twenty-five years ago, and has been growing worse from year to year. As population and wealth have increased, the value of land and the demand for houses have increased, so that the dwellings of the poor have been pulled down to make space for houses of a better class. With the middle classes the growth of the population has been met by the development of the suburbs, and by the facilities afforded by railroads for men of business residing a few miles from the city. With the working classes it has been altogether different. The increase in numbers has been simultaneous with a decrease in accommodation, and the evil is getting unbearable. The Earl of Derby therefore proposes that the railways which are such a boon to other classes, and which by their coming into London take not a little from the house accommodation of the working classes, shall be compelled to run trains night and morning, at convenient hours, and at cheap fixed rates—say at 1*s.* per week, or 1*d.* per journey—so that working men will be able to keep their families in a pure atmosphere and in decent dwellings. A resolution embodying this recommendation was proposed. Seldom has it fallen to the lot of a statesman to propose a more beneficent act of legislation. As usual, all kinds of objections are stated; but we are confident that the scheme is as practicable as it is desirable.

CHINA.

On Friday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Liddell moved, 'That, in the opinion of this House, further interference on the part of this country in the civil war in China is impolitic and unnecessary.' The hon. member said that Mr. Lay, the Inspector-General of Customs, had sought to obtain a supremacy over the Imperial Government by means of the Anglo-Chinese fleet, under Captain Sherard Osborn, which had been fitted out under his direction, and which was to be at his disposal. Prince Kung had properly refused to consent to a compact which would have established a British protectorate—a protectorate that would have offended all the other Powers. Our policy in China ought to be merely a commercial policy. We ought not to aid the rebels or the Government, which was a foreign and hated despotism. [The Tartar dynasty has ruled for 200 years, and yet the country is prosperous. The fact is that the Chinese Empire is in practice a federation, and the federal chief (the Emperor) has very little real authority, except in the immediate neighbourhood of the seat of the Imperial Government.]

Mr. Layard replied to Mr. Liddell's long and able speech. He denied that any attempt had been made to establish a British protectorate in China, and said that our policy had been eminently successful, and in proof of this cited some statistics of trade showing that the exports and imports at Chinese ports amounted to 60,000,000*l.* Our policy had also been approved by Mr. Burlingame, the United States Minister at Pekin, and other persons capable of forming an opinion.

After a few remarks from Mr. Forster, Mr. Ferrand rose to address the House, and was almost immediately interrupted by the House being counted out at a quarter past eight o'clock, there being only 35 members present.

On Monday Mr. Baxter gave notice that, in consequence of the abrupt termination of the debate, he should, at an early date, call attention to the state of affairs in China.

THE BUDGET OF BLOOD.

We find the following statement in the Philadelphia *North American*, the organ of the Administration in that city. The awful list is made up to September, 1863, including the battle of Chickamauga. We cannot vouch for the figures, and we are at a loss to understand with what object so damaging a statement is made on undoubted 'loyal' authority by the war party:

CONFEDERATES.

	Killed.	Wounded.	Prisoners.	Total.
1861 .	1,270	3,955	2,772	7,987
1862 .	14,556	47,204	15,876	77,646
1863 .	12,321	48,300	71,211	131,832
Total .	28,147	99,459	89,859	217,465

Confederates died of disease and sickness from commencement of war to present time 130,000.

FEDERALS.

	Killed.	Wounded.	Prisoners.	Total.
1861 .	4,724	9,791	9,144	23,709
1862 .	20,879	68,973	46,534	136,386
1863 .	15,363	53,981	33,281	102,625
Total .	40,966	132,745	89,009	262,700

Federals died of disease and sickness during same time, 290,000.

RECAPITULATION.

Federal losses in battles, &c. . . .		262,720
„ „ by sickness, &c. . . .		290,000
Federals' total loss in three years . .		552,720
Confederate losses in battles, &c. .	217,465	
„ „ by sickness, &c.	130,000	
Confederate total loss in three years		347,465–347,465
Excess of Federal loss		205,255

In Doctor Kirkbride's last report of the Insane Asylum, he notes an enormous increase of female patients, whose insanity is caused by the loss of relatives—literally 'Rachel mourning for her children and will not be comforted, because *they are not.*'

Speech of Mr. Long, of Ohio,

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 7, 1864.

The House being in Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union in consideration of the President's Message, Mr. Long said:

Mr. Chairman—I speak to-day for the preservation of the Government, and, although for the first time within these walls, I propose to indulge in that freedom of speech and latitude of debate so freely exercised by other gentlemen for the past four months, and which is admissible under the rules in the present condition of the House; but for what I may say and the position I shall occupy upon this floor and before the country, I alone will be responsible, and in the independence of a Representative of the people, I intend to proclaim the deliberate convictions of my judgment in this fearful hour of the country's peril. And now, Mr. Chairman, as we are in Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, let us inquire, how stands the Union to-day?

A little over three years ago, the present occupant of the Presidential mansion, at the other end of the avenue, came into this city under cover of night, disguised in plaid cloak and Scotch cap, lest, as was feared by his friends, he might have received a warmer greeting than would have been agreeable on his way through Baltimore at the hands of the constituents of the honorable gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Davis). On the 4th of March he was inaugurated, and in his address deprecated civil war, using that ever to be memorable language, 'Suppose you go to war, you cannot fight always, and when, after much loss on both sides, and no gain on either, you cease fighting, the identical old questions as to terms of intercourse are again upon you.' Seven States had up to that time seceded from the Union. All believed that war would be averted. At the conclusion of the address the lamented Douglas, who had closely watched every word as it escaped from the lips of the President, turned to a friend, and, with tears in his eyes, 'thanked God that after all the election of Abraham Lincoln would not involve the nation in war.' A secret meeting of the Governors of a number of States was soon after held in this city. A scheme was devised and a vessel sent out under pretence of furnishing provisions to the troops with Major Anderson in Fort Sumter. On arriving in Charleston Harbor the people of that city fired upon the Fort. The telegraph bore the news to this city, and on its first mention to the President, he exclaimed, 'I knew they would do it,' which to my mind is conclusive that it was intended expressly for that purpose. Seventy-five thousand men were immediately called for, war was inaugurated, twenty days were given the insurgents to lay down their arms; an additional five hundred thousand men were soon called for, hostilities commenced. The rebellion was to be crushed inside of sixty days, more troops were called for, the Union was to be restored with all the rights, equality and dignity of the States unimpaired. No man was permitted to question for a moment the right of the Government to coerce the States back into the Union. To doubt the right or question the speedy suppression of the rebellion and restoration of the Union, was to be denounced as a traitor to the Government and a sympathiser with the South. Thus, Sir, was the war inaugurated. The first year passed away; the second came and passed in like manner, so of the third; and now, Sir, let me again inquire how stands the Union to-day? The brief period of three short years has produced a fearful change in this free, happy, and prosperous Government; so free in its restraints upon personal liberty, and so gentle in its demands upon the resources of the people, that the celebrated Humboldt, after travelling through the country on his return to Europe, said, 'The American people have a Government which you can neither see nor feel.' So different is it now, and so great is the change, that the inquiry might well be made to-day are we not in Constantinople, in St. Petersburg, in Vienna, in Rome, or in Paris? Military Governors and their Provost Marshals override the laws, and the echo of the armed heel rings forth as

clearly now in America as in France or in Austria, and the President sits to-day guarded by armed soldiery, stationed at every approach leading to the Executive mansion. So far from crushing the rebellion in sixty days, three years have already passed away, and from the day on which the conflict began up to the present hour, the Confederate army have not been forced beyond the sound of their guns from the dome of the capitol in which we are assembled. The City of Washington is to-day, as it has been for three years, guarded by Federal troops in all the forts and fortifications with which it is surrounded to prevent an attack from the enemy, and as an evidence of the despondency of the Administration, and the unsuccessful opening of the Spring campaign of the fourth year in the progress of the war, the *Morning Chronicle* of this city, the President's organ, in an editorial a few mornings since, said: 'Charleston has not been taken; Lee maintains a bold front on the Rapidan; the Florida expedition was a failure; the Sherman expedition has not been a success, and the rebels have everywhere shown more vigour than they were supposed to possess.' Although the same paper, and others in support of the Administration, have told the country from time to time during the past winter, that the rebellion was crushed and slavery was dead; that the Confederates were deserting in whole regiments at a time, coming within our lines, taking the oath, and describing the most horrible suffering and demoralisation from want of food, clothing, and ill-treatment, yet at the very time the people have been so deceived and misled from day to day the President calls for 500,000 more troops, and in a few weeks follows it with an additional call for 200,000 more, making 700,000 since the first of January, and over 2,500,000 since the commencement of the war out of the 3,500,000 who voted in the so-called loyal States at the last Presidential election, when 75,000 militia were to end it in twenty, or at most sixty days.

Mr. Chairman, I have thus made a very brief statement of facts as to the condition of the Union to-day, and for doing which I have no doubt the usual charge of 'encouragement for the rebels,' 'the prolongation of the war,' 'the rebels are aided by their friends on this floor,' and the like charges, will be repeated again by gentlemen on the opposite side of the House: and, as I have heard such charges so repeatedly during the past four months, I say now and here that the real friends of the Confederates—those who give them aid and encouragement, and enable them to carry on the war—are on the opposition side of the House and in the control of the Government. Your confiscation resolution, voted for and passed by the friends of the Administration, by which you propose to thrust your hands into the coffin of the deceased father, and take all he may have left at his death to his widow, and innocent and unoffending children, is worth more than fifty thousand men to the Confederate army. The order issued by the President to General Saxton, dividing up and parcelling out the State of South Carolina among the negroes and enterprising Yankees of Massachusetts, gives courage, energy, and enthusiasm to the men now in arms in the Confederate States. The order of the President to his military commanders in Louisiana and Arkansas, and the order issued in pursuance thereof by General Banks to the people of Louisiana—in which, by a single dash of his pen, he strikes out of existence the Constitution and organic law of the State, and by virtue of the power vested in him as a major-general proceeds to call and hold an election, and inaugurate State officers, and set up a State Government—and the legislation consummated and proposed by Congress, and speeches made upon this floor in support of Radicalism, is strengthening the Confederacy and prolonging the war. Herein, Sir, is where they find strength; the true friends of the Confederacy in the North are the Radical Abolitionists, and the Radical press goading on the President to issue proclamations and military orders which provide food, raiment, strength, and support for the Confederacy.

If Mr. Lincoln had made a gift of millions of greenbacks to Jefferson Davis to be used as bounty money in recruiting the Confederate army, he could not have done better service to the cause of the South than he has done by his silly, absurd, and insulting Amnesty Proclamation, and his equally absurd attempt to create State Governments by dictatorial power. He has in effect said to the Southern people: 'You shall not return to the Union except under such local Governments as I and my military officers dictate,' and with the aid of his friends in Congress he is enabled to add: 'in the event of your submission and return your estates shall be confiscated; your property, personal and real, shall be taken from you; your children shall be disinherited and left homeless and penniless to starve under the scorn and hatred of Northern fanatics; your lands and manor houses shall be parcelled out among our retainers; the negro (Freedmen) and the adventurer shall sit and rule at your hearthstones, and you—beggars and outcasts—shall be forbidden representation in our national councils, and be shut out for ever from offices of trust and honor.' Such is the language in which Lincoln and this Congress and the preceding Congress have spoken and are speaking to the people of the South—and now, Sir, with such a prospect before them as the sequel of submission, outlawry, disfranchisement, social, moral, and political degradation, penury for themselves and their children, decreed as their portion, will they throw down their arms and submit to the terms? Who shall believe that the free, proud American blood, which courses with as quick pulsation through their veins as our own, will not be spilled to the last drop in resistance? This is the source, Sir, from whence comes encouragement, strength, support, and sustenance for the Confederates; herein lies the secret of the unity of their action, the prolongation of the contest, and the desperation of the conflict produced, not by anything said, or measures proposed by gentlemen upon this side of the House, or by any measures proposed or policy advocated by the Democratic party, but by the acts of the gentlemen who make the charges, and the President and his military commanders who issue the proclamation and the military orders.

Mr. Chairman, I have deemed it proper thus to advert to the charges of encouragement to the Confederates so repeatedly made upon this floor, and I again recur to the consideration of the Union. Can the Union be restored by war? I answer most unhesitatingly and deliberately no, never; 'war is final, eternal separation.' My first and highest ground of opposition to its further prosecution is that it is wrong: it is in violation of the Constitution and of the fundamental principles on which the Federal Union was founded. My second objection is, that as a policy it is not reconstructive but destructive, and will, if continued, result speedily in the destruction of the Government and the loss of civil liberty to both North and South, and it ought therefore immediately to cease.

In order, Mr. Chairman, that we may know what views were entertained upon the right as well as the expediency of coercing States into submission by some of the departed as well as living statesmen of the country, previous to the commencement of the present war, I propose to call the attention of the House and the country to a few extracts, which to my mind are worthy of consideration at this time.

In 1827, during the administration of John Quincy Adams, when the Legislature of Georgia had passed an act setting aside the laws of Congress regulating intercourse with the Indian tribes within her limits, the messages of the President on the 5th and 8th of February, 1827, in relation thereto, were referred to a select committee of the Senate, of which Colonel Benton was Chairman, and of which Martin Van Buren and General William H. Harrison, each afterwards President of the United States, were members. The committee, in their report, Senate documents, Second Session, Nineteenth Congress, Document No. 69, say:

'It is believed to be among those axioms, which in a government like ours no man may be permitted to dispute, that the only security for the permanent union of these States, is to be found in the principle of common affection, resting on the basis of common interest. The sanctions of the Constitution would be impotent to retain, in concerted and harmonious action, twenty-four sovereignties, hostile in their feelings toward each other, and acting under the impulse of a real or imagined diversity of interest. The resort to force would be alike vain and nugatory. Its frequent use would subject it, with demonstrative certainty, to ultimate failure, while its temporary success would be valueless for all purposes of social happiness. In such contests, however unequal, and however transient, the seeds of disunion would be thickly sown, and those who may be destined to witness them will speedily thereafter be called to lament the destruction of the fairest prospect of civil liberty which Heaven in its mercy has vouchsafed to man.' 'The committee will not enlarge upon the frightful consequences of civil wars. They are known to be calamitous to single governments, and fatal to confederacies.'

The prediction of the committee of the destruction of the fairest prospect of civil liberty which Heaven in its mercy has vouchsafed to man, is already in great danger of being realised, and every hour the war is continued only widens the separation and increases the danger. But, Sir, I propose to introduce the opinion of another departed statesman, of the school of politics to which the gentlemen on the opposite side of the chamber belong, and for whose political opinions they entertain the highest regard. That profound statesman, after the experience of many years in the most exalted positions of the nation, and with a perfect knowledge of the subject upon which he spoke, said:

'Nations acknowledge no judge between them upon earth, and their Governments from necessity must, in their intercourse with each other, decide when the failure of one party to a contract to perform its obligations absolves the other from the reciprocal fulfilment of his own. But this last of earthly powers is not necessary to the freedom or independence of States connected together by the immediate action of the people, of whom they consist. To the people alone is there reserved, as well the dissolving as the constituent power, and that power can be exercised by them only under the tie of conscience binding them to the retributive justice of heaven. With these qualifications we may admit the same right as vested in the people of every State in the Union, with reference to the General Government, which was exercised by the people of the United Colonies with reference to the supreme head of the British Empire, of which they formed a part, and under these limitations have the people of each State in the Union a right to secede from the confederated Union itself. Thus stands the Right. But the indissoluble link of Union between the people of the several States of this confederated nation is, after all, not in the right, but in the heart. If the day should ever come (may heaven avert it!) when the affection of the people of these States shall be alienated from each other; when the fraternal spirit shall give way to cold indifference; or collisions of interest shall fester into hatred, the bands of political association will not long hold together parties no longer attracted by the magnetism of conciliated interests and kindly sympathies; and far better will it be for the people of the disunited States to part in friendship from each other than to be held together by constraint. Then will be the time for reverting to the precedents which occurred at the formation and adoption of the Constitution, to form again a more perfect Union, by dissolving that which could no longer bind, and to leave the separated parts to be re-united by the laws of political gravitation to the centre.'

Thus, Mr. Chairman, spoke John Quincy Adams in an address delivered before the New York Historical Society on the 30th of April, 1839, in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington as President of the United States. Mr. Adams was a believer in the doctrine therein set forth, and the leaders of the party to which he belonged shared in that belief; and continued to do so until the commencement of the present unnatural civil war. If it was sound doctrine before secession took place and the war began, what is there in either to change the principle?

Andrew Jackson, in his farewell address to the American people, has solemnly warned them that the citizens of one section of the country arrayed in arms against the other would be the end of the Union and an end of the hope of freedom. He says, that: 'If such a struggle is once begun, and the citizens of one section of the country are arrayed in arms against those of the other in doubtful conflict, let the battle result as it may, there will be an end of the Union, and with it an end of the hope of freedom. The victory of the injured would not secure to them the blessings of liberty; it would avenge their wrongs, but they would themselves share in the common ruin. The Constitution cannot be maintained nor the Union preserved, in opposition to public feeling, by the mere exertion of the coercive power of the Government.'

But this opinion, that the Union cannot be preserved by the coercive powers of the Government, was not confined to the departed statesmen of the country.

William H. Seward, in his letter of April 11, 1861, to Mr. Adams, our Minister to England, said:

'For these reasons the President would not be disposed to reject a cardinal doctrine of theirs (the Rebels) namely: that the Federal Government could not reduce the seceding States to obedience by conquest, even though he were disposed to question that proposition. But in fact the President willingly accepts it as true. Only an imperial or a despotic government could subjugate thoroughly disaffected and insurrectionary members of the State. This Federal Republican system of ours is, of all forms of government, the very one which is most unfitted for such labour.'

Such was the language of the Secretary of State in April, 1861, three days before the Sunday on which the President wrote his proclamation calling out seventy-five thousand troops, but after seven States had seceded. The Secretary shared in the fears of the President, that the attempt to subjugate the South would destroy the Government. Three years of civil war in a vain and fruitless effort at subjugation attest and prove to-day the correctness of the opinion then held by the President: 'Only an imperial or despotic government could subjugate thoroughly disaffected and insurrectionary members of the State.' 'This Federal Republic of ours is of all forms of government the most unfitted for such labour. Who does not believe it? If there is truth in the Declaration of Independence—and the gentlemen on the opposite side of the House will certainly not dispute it, since they incorporated it in the Chicago platform, which became a law unto the President — who, I ask, can deny the conclusion of the Secretary of State, having in view always, as he and the President undoubtedly had, the great cardinal truth underlying all republican governments 'deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.' If the President and his Secretary of State gave utterance to truth in 1861, is it any less a truth to-day? Has not rather the experience of three years of war confirmed it? I believed it then. I believe it now. But, sir, I propose to call another witness to testify against this coercive policy, who also spoke in advance of the war. Edward Everett, in his letter of May 29, 1860, to Washington Hunt, accepting the nomination as Vice President of the Union party, of which, I believe, the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Henry Winter Davis) was a member, and for whom a number of gentlemen upon this floor voted, then said:

'The suggestion that the Union can be maintained by numerical preponderance and military prowess of one section exerted to coerce the other into submission is, in my judgment, as self-contradictory as it is dangerous. It comes loaded with the death-smell from fields wet with brothers' blood. If the vital principle of all republican governments "is the consent of the governed," much more does a union of coequal Sovereign States require, as its basis, the harmony of its members and their voluntary co-operation in its organic functions.'

It will no doubt be said Mr. Everett has changed his views upon the subject. That may be so, but I have not. I believed it sound doctrine in 1860, before secession occurred or coercion began. Three years' experience in attempting 'by numerical preponderance and military prowess of one section exerted to coerce the other into submission' has convinced me more thoroughly that it is 'as self-contradictory as it is dangerous'—contradictory because it violates the great principles of free government, which 'derive their just powers from the consent of the governed;' and dangerous, because, by its exercise, especially when wielded by a weak, vacillating, and unscrupulous man, it destroys instead of maintaining the Union, Constitution, and organic law; civil liberty and personal security are forced to yield to what is claimed to be a military necessity, and the Government itself, in the brief period of three short years, is to-day verging on the very brink of ruin.

I am well aware, sir, that the cry of disloyalty, want of patriotism, and lack of devotion to the Government, which is in every place and at all times raised against those who have the independence to disapprove of any of the acts of Mr. Lincoln, as well as an inordinate desire for Government patronage, from the building of a steamship and a shoddy contract down to the insignificant position of taking charge of a mutilated and depreciated greenback in the Treasury building, has changed the opinion of many men, but the fixed principles of free government, as well as the rules of right, reason, justice, and truth, are unchangeable; and although it may be unpopular, and even at the risk of personal liberty in times like the present, to advocate them, they are nevertheless eternal and immutable.

The distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Stevens), who stands upon this floor and before the country as an acknowledged leader of the Administration party, has had the honesty and independence, in a speech delivered at an early part of the session, to announce what he holds to be the true position of the Confederate States. He says:—

'Some think that these States are still in the Union and entitled to the protection of the Constitution and the laws of the United States.'

This idea he at once repudiates, and then boldly affirms that which he holds to be the true doctrine:—

'Others hold that having committed treason, renounced their allegiance to the Union, discarded the Constitution and laws, organised a distinct and hostile Government, and by force of arms have risen from the condition of insurgents to the position of an independent power *de facto*; and having been acknowledged as a belligerent, both by foreign nations and our own Government, the Constitution and the Union are abrogated, so far as they are concerned, and that as between the two belligerents they are under the laws of war and the laws of nations alone, and that whichever Power conquers may treat the vanquished as conquered provinces, and may impose upon them such conditions and laws as it may deem best.'

In answer to any objections that may be raised to this position, he says:

'But it is said that this must be considered a contest with rebel individuals only, as States in the Union cannot make war; that is true so long as they remain in the Union; but they claim to be out of the Union, and the very fact that we have admitted them to be in a state of war, to be belligerents, shows that they are no longer in the Union, and thus they are waging war in their corporate capacity, under the corporate name of the Confederate States, and that such major corporation is composed of minor corporations called States, acting in their associated character.

'When an insurrection becomes sufficiently formidable to entitle the party to belligerent rights, it places the contending Powers on precisely the same footing as foreign nations at war with each other.

'No one acquainted with the magnitude of this contest can deny to it the character of a civil war. For nearly three years the Confederate States have maintained their declaration of independence by force of arms.'

'What, then, is the effect of this public war between these belligerents, these foreign nations? Before this war the parties were bound together by a compact, by a treaty called a 'Constitution.' They acknowledged the validity of municipal laws mutually binding on each. This war has cut asunder all these ligaments, abrogated all the obligations.'

Now, sir, for once at least, I agree with the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania, that the Confederate States are out of the Union, occupying the position of an independent power *de facto*; have been acknowledged as a belligerent, both by foreign nations and our own Government; maintained their declaration of independence for three years, by force of arms; and that the war has cut asunder all the ligaments, and abrogated all the obligations, that bound them under the Constitution. So far I agree with him, and however unwilling we may be to accept such position as the actual condition of the Confederate States, the history of the past three years, the law of nations, the genius of our government, and a regard for truth, compel me at least to accept it, and my judgment to

approve it; and if the charge of disloyalty is brought against me for this opinion, I have only to shield myself under the broad mantle of the distinguished leader of the Republican party. At the commencement of the war England and France both declared the Confederate States to be belligerents; the United States has treated with them as such in the exchange of prisoners, and the Administration is to-day, without the honesty or independence of the gentleman from Pennsylvania to avow it, doing precisely what he proposes to do under a war of conquest, waged against the Confederate States as a foreign nation. It is not now even pretended that the war is carried on, having for its object the restoration of the Union; 'reconstruction,' 'consolidation,' 'centralisation,' 'with an entire change in the Constitution,' are the terms employed in speaking of the Government that is to exist hereafter. To speak of the Constitution as it is, and the Union as it was, is an offence, subjecting an officer in the army to punishment by dismissal from the service, and conclusive evidence of disloyalty in the citizen. If the time ever was when the Union could have been restored by war, which I do not believe, it has long since been dispelled by emancipation, confiscation, amnesty, and the like proclamations; military orders annulling State constitutions, setting aside State laws, obliterating State lines, and attempting to organise and set up a form of State government in their stead, in which one man out of ten who shall turn Abolitionist, take and subscribe an oath to execute and obey the will of Abraham Lincoln, whatever it may be, shall govern and rule over the remaining nine who refuse to become Abolitionists. These follies of the Administration, and others of the like character, have, instead of 'crushing the rebellion,' crushed out whatever Union sentiment may have remained among the Southern people. It is possible that, in districts of country occupied by the army, occasionally a man may be found who, seeing nothing before him but ignominy and death, his wife and innocent children appealing to him for protection with all the ties of filial affection, his property to be confiscated, and his family to become outcasts and beggars in the world—that such a man, in order, for the time being, to save himself, save his family, and save his property, may take the oath, but the effect of it will be, as it ought to be, like that of Galileo, who invented the telescope, and who first taught the rotary motion of the earth. That noble old Italian, after many years of labour in the study of science, and when he had advanced to the extreme age of seventy, was summoned before an inquisition, tried, condemned, and imprisoned in a dungeon for teaching a heresy; subsequently he was brought out and offered liberty on condition of renouncing his heretical doctrine. The effect of beholding the glorious light of the sun and breathing again the pure air of heaven, as contrasted with the loathsome dungeon in which he had been cast, and to which he must return or renounce his belief in the earth's motion, so far overcame his humanity that he consented to comply, and upon his bended knees, with his hands upon the gospels, he abjured his belief in the Copernican doctrine. Part of his abjuration ran in these terms: 'With a sincere heart and unfeigned faith, I abjure, curse, and detest the said errors and heresies (viz., that the earth moves, &c.); I swear that I will never in future say or assert anything, verbally or in writing, which may give rise to a similar suspicion against me.' Rising from his knees with his eyes still fixed on the earth, he whispered to a friend, '*E pur si muove.*' 'It moves for all that.' So it will be with the man who is forced to take the oath to save himself, his family, and his property. He may take it, but in his heart he will detest and despise the authority that required it. Will such a man be devoted to or make a good citizen of the Government in which he lives? The history of Poland, of Hungary, of Ireland, and of Italy, furnishes an answer to the question. If imperial governments are not able to hold in submissive obedience small portions of a vast empire, once in revolt, how much less a government having for its basis the consent of the governed! But 'subjugation' is the watchword. Liberty and freedom for the slave, and subjugation and extermination for the master, is the popular cry. Meet them, fight them, crush them, says the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. Green Clay Smith). Sir, that is easily said upon this floor, and is popular with those who from day to day fill the gallery of this House, but even the gentleman from Kentucky, as well as a number of other military gentlemen, were quite willing to forego the pleasure of the performance, and exchange their commissions as generals in the field for a certificate entitling them to a seat upon this floor; and were I to judge by the willingness with which it was done, and the tenacity with which they hold on to it, and the efforts some of them are making to return here again, instead of the war spirit they breathe within these walls, I should strongly suspect them of being in sympathy with the peace party.

Mr. Chairman, I am no military man, and therefore incompetent to give advice or advance an opinion in military affairs, but I have been often forcibly struck by a remark of Marshal Ney, in reply to Napoleon, as related by Headly in his 'Napoleon and his Marshals:'—'One day, at Madrid, Napoleon entered the room where Ney and several officers were standing, and said in great glee, "Everything goes on well: Romana will be reduced in a fortnight; the English are defeated and will be unable to advance; in three months the war will be finished." The officers to whom this was addressed made no reply, but Ney, shaking his head, said with his characteristic bluntness, "Sire, this war has lasted long already, and our affairs are not improved. The people are obstinate; even their women and children fight; they massacre our men in detail. To-day we cut the enemy in pieces, to-morrow we have to oppose another twice as numerous. It is not an army we have to fight, it is a whole nation. I see no end to this business." Bonaparte followed his own inclinations, and was eventually defeated.'

Mr. Chairman, is there not instruction in the blunt yet forcible reply of the old French Marshal to his superior officer for us? Have we not had, from time to time, the predictions of Napoleon during the past three years, but without a Marshal Ney to say, 'I see no end to this business?'

But, Mr. Chairman, how do we stand in the eyes of the civilised world to-day, in waging a war of subjugation and conquest against the Confederate States, which have seceded from us and set up a Government of their own? Are we not inconsistent with all our former acts? Have we not been early to admit this doctrine with regard to others? There never was a people on the face of the earth that demanded an independent government, that did not have the sympathy of the American people; and ought we now to shrink from the doctrine we have been willing to apply to others? My earliest recollection is the appeal made by Clay and Webster in behalf of Greece, in 1824, when they so eloquently declaimed in that behalf on this floor and in the other branch of Congress. Whether it was Greece, or the States of South America, or Poland or Hungary, or Italy or Ireland, the fact that a large country, for any cause, demanded a distinct and separate government, always received the warmest sympathy and support of the American people, irrespective of party. Even as late as December, 1860, after Mr. Lincoln was elected, and after the preliminary steps for secession had been taken, the paper having the largest circulation of any in the Republican party, and having more influence than any other in the formation of Republican opinion, declared that it could see no reason why, if three millions of colonists could separate from the British Crown in 1776, that five millions of Southerners could not separate from us in 1861. I have been as much puzzled as the distinguished Republican editor, Mr. Greeley, to find, looking at it as a revolutionary right, the difference in position. Ought we to shrink from the application of a doctrine to ourselves which we have been so willing to apply to other nations, such as Austria, Russia, and Spain? If we do, what will be the judgment of impartial history? How much better it would have been for us and the cause of Democracy throughout the globe. What a splendid tribute it would have been to a republican government if we had parted in peace with our dissatisfied sister States, as Mr. Everett recommended as late as February, 1861, sustained by such leading Republican journals as the Cincinnati *Commercial*, New York *Tribune*, Indianapolis *Journal*, Chicago *Tribune*, New Haven (Connecticut) *Palladium*, Columbus *Journal*, and Salmon P. Chase, now Secretary of the Treasury, and many others of that school. What in monarchial countries had required a long and bloody war, would have been accomplished by Democratic principles and Republican sense of justice. What a splendid proof it would have afforded of the capacity of the people for self-government. What a valuable lesson it would have conveyed to the whole civilised world. The fact that we could rise superior to all prejudices and passions, and have conquered ourselves, would have been the highest triumph that we had ever achieved. I regret as much, Mr. Chairman, as any gentleman upon this floor, that any of our sister States should have desired to cut asunder the ligaments that bound them to us. None would be more willing than myself to make any reasonable sacrifice to induce them to return to their partnership with us; but still recognising the truth of the doctrine taught by the fathers of the Republic, and so fairly expressed by Mr. John Quincy Adams, that our Government was after all in the heart, it would be better, severe as would be the pang of regret, to part in friendship, rather than to hold sovereign States pinned to us by the bayonet, as Mr. Greeley expressed it, in 1861. What advance have we made in the science and principles of government, Mr. Chairman, if we cannot rise above the Austro-Russian principle of holding subject provinces by the power of force and coercion? What becomes of the Declaration of Independence and of all our teachings for eighty years? After all, Mr. Chairman, it is not the extent of territory which should be the object of our desires. Better sacrifice over nine-tenths of the territory than destroy our republican form of government. What our people desired in 1861, and which I honoured, though I regarded as mistaken, was the preservation of the Government and the retention of our jurisdiction over the whole territory. They were rightly willing to sacrifice every material consideration for that purpose. Land is nothing, Mr. Chairman, compared to liberty. We existed as a Republic when the mouth of the Mississippi was held by a foreign power, when we had nothing west of that river, when Florida was held against us: and we could exist again, if by the chastisement of heaven we should be curtailed to our old territorial dimensions. For fifteen millions of dollars we purchased the whole of that immense territory, and were it a hundred thousand times as valuable its preservation would not be worth our admirable form of Government. Pride of territorial ambition is a vulgar and low ambition of national greatness. Russia and even China can vie with us in that; but who would not rather reside in one of the cantons of Switzerland, or in Great Britain, than in those countries? It is not in the extent of territory we possess, but the manner in which we govern it that renders us respectable. Many gentlemen seem rather to look to the quantity than the quality. All republics have been destroyed by the thirst of territorial aggrandisement and the lust of conquest. The great object of our government should be to develope and cultivate the internal resources of those friendly to its jurisdiction, rather than to extend it over hostile and foreign people. It is in that character that true patriotism is to be cultivated and true national glory found. Especially should all republics cultivate the arts of peace, since it is by the war power that free governments are commonly overturned. The charge has been made that democracy is turbulent, warlike, and aggressive; but, if so, it is a terrible misconception of its true interests, for upon the people fall the awful calamities of armed collisions. An eminent poet has said—Lord Byron—that war was a game which, if the people were wise, kings and princes would never play at. The venerable Dr. Franklin, at the close of his illustrious career, remarked: 'That there was never a good war or a bad peace.'

We have made, Mr. Chairman, by this war, eight millions of bitter enemies upon the American Continent. While time shall last, the recollections of this bloody strife will never fade from the memories of the people North and South, but will be handed down to the latest generation. The words Shiloh, Antietam, Gettysburg, Murfreesborough, Richmond, Vicksburg, and Fort Donelson are words of division and disunion, and will serve to bring up emotions of eternal hate. If it were true, as was alleged by a distinguished Senator from Ohio (Mr. Wade), in a speech in Portland in 1855, 'that he believed that no two nations on the earth hated each other at much as the North and South,' how much more true is the remark now, after they have been arrayed in such bloody contests. It is the object of the sword to cut and cleave asunder, but never to unite. What union is there between Russia and Poland, between Austria and Hungary, between England and Catholic Ireland, where the sword and the bayonet for centuries have been employed? Instead of conferring national strength, they are sources of weakness to countries that held them in subjection, and which would this day be stronger without them than with them.

Mr. Chairman, these lessons of history are full of warning and example. Much better would it have been for us in the beginning—much better would it be for us now—to consent to a division of our magnificent empire and cultivate amicable relations with our estranged brethren, than to seek to hold them to us by the power of the sword. Here let me advert to the common, yet perfectly glaring and apparent error, that to part with our jurisdiction over eleven States involves the destruction of our Government. The statement of the proposition demonstrates its absurdity. As well might one say, who had a farm of two hundred acres of land, that he had lost his title deed to all of it because, by some misfortune, he had parted with fifty. In losing the South, not one function of our Government over us is surrendered. It remains over us as completely sovereign as it ever did. Here let me say, as the experience of my individual belief, that if it had been understood in the North, as in the South, that by the terms of the Federal compact a State had a right to secede from the Union, this disruption would never have occurred. Had the North so understood the matter there would have been upon its part a forbearance from the exercise of extreme measures, and a desire not to press its Southern sisters to the wall, that would ever have maintained the Confederacy unbroken. It was the prevalence of the idea of the Consolidationists in the North, that the Southern States had no right to and would not secede, that tempted them to that fatal policy that has sundered the Confederacy.

It is said that no confederacy can exist by a recognition of this principle, but such was not the view of the fathers of our Government; it was not the view of Jefferson and Madison, in their immortal resolutions of 1798 and 1799.

It has been said, Mr. Chairman, that it would make a confederacy a rope of sand, but if so it is strange that the Southern Confederacy, where it is recognised, should hold together through such a bloody pressure as we have applied to it for the last three years; it is a strange rope of sand that endures all that.

But to return, Mr. Chairman. As will be judged, perhaps, by the tenor of these remarks, I am reluctantly and despondingly forced to the conclusion that the Union is lost, never to be restored. I regard all dreams of the restoration of the Union, which was the pride of my life, and to restore which even now now, I would pour out my heart's blood, as worse than idle. I see neither North nor South any sentiment on which it is possible to build a Union—those elements of union which Mr. Adams described have by the process of time been destroyed. Worse, yes worse than that, Mr. Chairman, I am reluctantly forced to the conclusion that in attempting to preserve our jurisdiction over the Southern States, we have lost our constitutional form of government over the Northern. What has been predicted by our wisest and most eminent statesmen has come to pass; in grasping at the shadow, we have lost the substance; in striving to retain the casket of liberty in which our jewels were confined, we have lost those precious muniments of freedom. Our Government, as all know, is not anything resembling what it was three years ago; there is not one single vestige of the Constitution remaining; every clause and every letter of it has been violated, and I have no idea myself that it will ever again be respected. Revolutions never go backward to the point at which they started. There has always been a large party in this country favourable to a strong or monarchial government, and they have now all the elements upon which to establish one. They have a vast army, an immense public debt, and an irresponsible Executive. Ambitious to retain power, he is a candidate for re-election, and as Commander-in-Chief, it is charged (whether true or false I shall not undertake to decide), that he has already used the army in the Florida expedition to advance his chances of success. One of the Generals he has decapitated (General Fremont) has entered the field to dispute his claim to a continuance in power, and if the *Chronicle* of this city, the President's organ, is correct in its construction of the suggestions of the *New York Herald*, speaking of Lieutenant-General Grant, the question is already mooted whether he, in certain contingencies, at the head of the army, would not be justified in assuming the reins of government.

The very idea upon which this war is founded—coercion of States—leads to despotism; to preserve a republican form of Government under any constitution, under the prevalence of the doctrines now in vogue, is clearly impossible. These convictions of the complete overthrow of our Government are as unwelcome and unpleasant to me as they are to any member of this House. Would to God the facts were such that I could cherish other convictions. I may be denounced as disloyal and unpatriotic for entertaining them, but it will only be by shallow fools and arrant knaves, who do not know or will not admit the difference between recognising a fact and creating its existence. A man may not desire to die, but nevertheless his belief will not alter the fact of his mortality. I shall not in these remarks revive the unpleasant and acrimonious controversy of who is responsible for the death and destruction of our Republic. I do not see that any such discussion now would be productive of good. I entertain clear and strong convictions upon that point, convictions that I have no doubt will be shared in by the impartial historian of the future. For the present I am willing to let the past, with all its recollections, rest, provided we can snatch from the common ruin some of our old relics of freedom. I do not share in the belief entertained by many of my political friends on this floor and elsewhere, that any peace is attainable upon the basis of union and reconstruction. If the Democratic party were in power to-day I have no idea, and honesty compels me to declare it, that they could restore the Union over thirty-four States. My mind has undergone an entire change upon that subject. I believe that there are but two alternatives, and these are, either an acknowledgment of the independence of the South as an independent nation, or their complete subjugation and extermination as a people, and of these alternatives I prefer the former.

Mr. Chairman, I take little or no interest in the discussion of the question which many of my political friends would make an issue, as to how this war shall be prosecuted, its manner and object. I regard that as worse than trifling with the great question. I do not believe there can be any prosecution of the war against a sovereign State under the constitution, and I do not believe that a war so carried on can be prosecuted so as to render it proper, justifiable, or expedient. An unconstitutional war can only be carried on in an unconstitutional manner, and to prosecute it further under the idea of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Stephens), as a war waged against the Confederate States as an independent nation, for the purpose of conquest and subjugation, as he proposes, and the Administration is in truth and in fact doing, I am equally opposed.

I will say further, Mr. Chairman, that if this war is to be still further prosecuted, I prefer that it shall be done under the auspices of those who now conduct its management, as I do not wish the party with which I am connected to be in any degree responsible for its results, which cannot be otherwise than disastrous and suicidal—let the responsibility remain where it is until we can have a change of policy instead of men, if such a thing is possible. Nothing could be more fatal to the Democratic party than to seek to come into power pledged to a continuance of a war policy—such a policy would be a libel upon its creed in the past and the ideas that lie at the basis of all free governments, and would lead to its complete demoralisation and ruin.

I believe that the masses of the Democratic party are for peace, that they would be placed in a false position if they should nominate a war candidate for the Presidency and seek to make the issue upon the narrow basis of how the war should be prosecuted. For my own part, as I have already indicated, I fear that our old Government cannot be preserved, even under the best auspices and under any policy that may be now adopted; yet I desire to see the Democratic party with which I have always been connected preserve its consistency and republican character unshaken.

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THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1864.

The Peace Party in the Federal Congress.

The better sense of the Northern people has at length found an articulate voice in the halls of Congress. A year ago Mr. Fernando Wood protested against the further prosecution of the war; but his speech was only printed, and not spoken, and no doubt, if he had attempted to deliver it in the House, the cries of the members would have rendered his words inaudible. Mr. Wood did what he could; he published his patriotic appeal, and his own party, alarmed at his boldness, shrank from him, and for a while he stood apparently almost alone. Mr. Long has just done more than ask for peace; for he has, in the House of Representatives, suggested and advocated the only possible terms of peace—the recognition of the Confederate States. Yet he has not been cried down or expelled, and, so far from standing alone, he must, we should think, be as much surprised as pleased to find how many men are ready to brave the fury of the Administration, and to support him.

The events of the last twelve months sufficiently account for the altered position of the Democratic party. From the beginning they have disliked the war; but, with the timidity characteristic of American politicians, they have feared to stem the torrent of popular passion, and, instead of opposing, have consented, and even, though most unwillingly, aided the work of destruction. But the imbecility and despotism of the Lincoln Government have goaded them into open resistance. After three years of carnage, after contracting a debt that inevitably involves repudiation and bankruptcy, the subjugation of the South is as far off as ever, and the impossibility of achieving it still more palpable. The liberty and rights of the citizens have been utterly ignored. In carrying out his electioneering scheme of reconstructing States, Mr. Lincoln has acted with a high-handed insolence that would provoke the patience of the most abject community on the face of the earth. In its foreign relations the Lincoln Government has resorted to flagrant misrepresentation, fraud, and forgery, and has made the diplomacy of the United States contemptible and scandalous. The prospect is so profoundly gloomy, that the Democrats gather courage from despair, and though they cannot redeem the past, they may do something to avert or mitigate the miseries looming in the future.

We can readily discern that the present demonstration of Democratic spirit is not a sudden impulse, but the manifestation of a growing strength and conviction. In the first year of the war Mr. Wood's speech would have insured his imprisonment or banishment. Last summer Mr. Vallandigham was tried and exiled for advocating peace as a means of restoring the Union, and for censuring the unconstitutional proceedings of one of Mr. Lincoln's generals. A few months have wrought a vast change. In New York, in the West, and even in New England, journals are published day after day in which the Administration is bitterly denounced. About seven weeks since Mr. Voorhees, of Indiana, spoke in the House of Representatives in favour of immediate peace as the only way to save the country from irretrievable ruin, but though he was so much more outspoken than Mr. Vallandigham he was not molested. Finally, Mr. Long, casting off all reserve, asked for the recognition of the Confederate States. Mr. Colfax proposed a vote of expulsion, and Mr. Harris and Mr. Wood endorsed Mr. Long's sentiments, and declared themselves ready to share his fate. Mr. Harris went so far as to express a fervent hope that the South might never be conquered, yet the Republican party could not command votes enough to expel him. The proposal to expel Mr. Long was allowed to drop, and a vote of censure was carried by 80 to 70. A majority of 10, under such circumstances, was a signal triumph to the Opposition; and that 70 members should vote that it is not censurable to advocate the recognition of the South is marked testimony to the strength and progress of the Peace party.

The protest against the war and the Administration comes from the quarter where it has always been expected by those acquainted with the circumstances and condition of the United States. Messrs. Vallandigham, Voorhees, and Long represent the great West—that section that has by far the most to lose by the ruin of the South, and nothing to gain by her subjugation. The men of the West begin to perceive that they have been the tools of New England, and have been fighting to gratify the ambition and avarice of the East, to their own commercial and political detriment. In the West, the storm has long been gathering; and the speech of Mr. Long, and its reception, will vastly encourage those who are preparing to resist the despotic rule of Mr. Lincoln, even at the cost of civil war.

We have not the least desire to exaggerate the importance of the event on which we are commenting, but still we believe it highly important, and we think that it is likely to be too little estimated in Europe. For three years it has been dinned into our ears that the North would continue the struggle so long as men and money could in any way be procured—that peace has been held to be impossible except through foreign intervention or from the complete exhaustion of the North. But why may we not derive some hope from this evidence of returning sanity? It may be a weary while before the peace party at the North acquire power to stop this desolating war. A military success, a victory by Grant, may revive the drooping war sentiment and check the efforts of the Democrats. We are aware that those in the North who desire to put an end to the bloody strife have the special difficulty to contend with, that as yet foreign Governments, and especially the Government of England, do not consider the case of the North desperate, and therefore refuse to recognise the South. We are aware that there is no precedent for a Power to be the first to recognise the independence of a nation which was lately a part of itself. Spain did not do so with respect to her revolted colonies; England did not do so when her colonies asserted their independence. Still we hail the mention of recognition in the Federal Congress as a happy omen, and though peace may be distant, we believe that it will somewhat hasten the consummation which every patriot, North and South, desires, and which so nearly concerns the prosperity of Europe in general, and the welfare of England in particular.

On to Richmond!

General Grant has assumed the chief command of the Federal army in Virginia, and it is understood that an advance will take place forthwith. Furloughs are suspended, the baggage is sent to the rear. As soon as the damages caused by the recent floods are repaired, and the roads are traversable by large armies, the new campaign against the Southern capital will be opened. Grant's plans are involved in mystery, so far as the New York press is concerned, but they are probably well known at Confederate head-quarters; and as the roads to Richmond are few, it is not likely that there will be any combination which the Southern generals have not long ago foreseen and prepared for. As usual, the Federals describe Grant's army as more numerous and in better condition than any of the forces which have hitherto operated against Lee, and 'invincible' is the mildest of the laudatory epithets heaped upon the captor of Vicksburg. But competent authorities tell us that the Federal army is very inferior in every respect, numbers included, to that magnificent host which advanced under M'Clellan in 1862; whilst it is certain that the forces under General Lee are twice as effective as when they drove the invaders from their lines on the Chickahominy to their gunboats on the James River. With a splendid artillery and abundance of ammunition, with a plentiful supply of the best rifles that the arsenals of Europe can turn out, with the prestige of twenty victories on their side, and with unshaken confidence in their skilful leader, the Confederates await the advance of the Northern army, conscious that, in everything but numerical strength, they have the advantage, and more sanguine than ever as to the result. In point of numbers, the army under Grant can hardly come up to M'Clellan's estimate of the force required for a successful march upon Richmond. That general fixed the effective strength of the army of the Potomac at 208,000 men, its aggregate numbers at 240,000. Considering that this army had to garrison Washington, to guard the Potomac from Harper's Ferry to the sea, and to garrison Baltimore, the estimate was not too high. But Grant has nothing like this effective force, and if it be his intention to divide his strength, to advance simultaneously by Fortress Monroe up the York Town Peninsula, by Goldsborough, and across the Rappahannock, he will run imminent risk of being beaten in detail. It is true Grant's army has been largely supplemented by regiments withdrawn from the South-west, whose places have been filled by negro troops, but the bulk is composed of the conscripts of the autumn of 1863, who have never been under fire, and are described as altogether an inferior class of recruits to the men who formed the army of 1862; and if M'Clellan in 1862 found his force too small, and abandoned in despair the direct advance upon Richmond, it is difficult to imagine on what reasonable grounds General Grant bases his hope of triumph. The dangers of an advance across the Rappahannock and Rapidan have been illustrated in half a dozen great Federal defeats. Bad roads and few, unfordable rivers, dense forests, a surface soil which twenty-four hours' heavy rain converts into mud almost impassable by large armies—these are the natural obstacles to the invader, which no thoughtful commander can overlook, and which to anybody but a great military genius present almost insurmountable difficulties in the way of concerted manœuvring of troops. It is, and ever will be, the weakness of the North that it must send armies into the field which only a Napoleon could handle, and must place at their head men scarcely fit to manœuvre a division. It is not possible that this unwieldy army, under General Grant, can advance through such a country as that south of the Rappahannock without giving a fatal chance to the Confederate General. We have abundant proof that if the chance is offered, it will not be refused. The position of Lee at Richmond gives him immense advantages in this respect. He cannot be forced to give battle except at his own time and on his own ground. He may defend the line of the Rapidan and inflict terrible loss upon his opponents; fall back upon an inner line of defence, strengthened by all the engineering science at his disposal; and, if driven thence, he can retire behind the works round Richmond, which can only be approached by regular siege operations. M'Clellan's disaster on the Chickahominy is not encouraging to the hopes of those who indulge in anticipations of a second siege of the Southern capital. The fate of Hooker, Burnside, Banks, and Pope ought to teach a lesson to those sanguine Northerners who believe that Grant will outmanœuvre and outfight his opponent in the field. Hitherto, Grant has done nothing to justify the confidence reposed in him. What he has accomplished he has achieved with immense superiority of force. With an army four times as strong as General Pemberton's, assisted by an enormous naval force to which the Confederates had nothing to oppose, he captured Vicksburg. He narrowly escaped utter rout at Shiloh. He was again victor at Chattanooga with an army at least twice as strong as the army he beat. But he has now to deal with the ablest generals and the flower of the Confederate army; and he must display qualities which his best friends have as yet failed to discern, if his reputation is to survive the new and terrible encounter to which he is leading the Federal army.

In the meantime, the Confederates are busy in Kentucky and Tennessee in a manner which cannot fail to tell seriously upon the issue of the general campaign. Forrest seems to have acquired a permanent hold upon Western Kentucky and Western Tennessee, and his presence there in force must prove an immense embarrassment to the Federal army in the South-west. His latest success is the capture of Fort Pillow, with its garrison of 600 men—an event not so important in itself as in the evidence it gives of the weakness of the Federals in those parts, and of the great drain upon the force in the South-west in order to keep up the strength of the main armies under Grant in Virginia and

Thomas at Chattanooga. Six months ago it would have been thought an impossibility for Forrest to maintain himself in Western Tennessee. At present he is master of the whole country between the Mississippi and Tennessee rivers; he is accumulating enormous stores of supplies; is said to meditate an attack upon Memphis; and may at any day swoop down upon the long line of Federal communications between the Western States and Nashville and Chattanooga, and work incalculable mischief to the Federal Army of the Cumberland. Strange to say, we hear of no efforts to dislodge him. General Grierson's cavalry keeps at a respectful distance. The Federal troops in Kentucky are more intent upon guarding the eastern frontier and protecting the communications with Knoxville, and Forrest carries on his raids almost unmolested. Possibly General Grant can afford to disregard this insignificant enemy; but the moral effect of these uninterrupted successes of the Confederates in Kentucky and Tennessee must greatly injure the Union cause in those States, for they demonstrate more clearly than ever the hopelessness of the task the North has set itself. If after three years of war the Federals cannot protect and hold the territory of which they were in undisputed possession during the first two campaigns, what prospect is there of subjugating the Confederate States? What inducements can they offer, even to men of doubtful allegiance to the Confederacy, to throw in their lot with the fortunes of the Union?

The Federal movements in Louisiana are still enveloped in considerable obscurity. The advance of General Banks's column, aided by its gunboats, has achieved some unimportant successes on the Red River, having captured Fort de Russy by surprise and occupied Alexandria, without a struggle. The correspondents attached to it boast of large quantities of cotton destroyed or captured, and of the speedy annihilation of the Confederate forces in Louisiana, or their flight into Texas. But the last mail or two from New Orleans to the North has brought some very sinister rumours. There are reports that all is not going well; that, instead of advancing to Shreveport, Banks has enough to do to hold Alexandria and protect himself from the Confederate attacks. It is certain that several large captures have been made by the Federals; and if it be true that a force of Confederates 12,000 or 14,000 strong, under General Dick Taylor, is in the neighbourhood, we may any day hear of a battle decisive of the fate of Louisiana for the present campaign. Under any circumstances, the results of the fighting in this State will not materially affect the main issue. And it is little less than marvellous that the Federal authorities should despatch an army of 40,000 or 50,000 men to a locality where their services are so little needed. One-half of that force might have recovered Western Tennessee, or dangerously strengthened Grant's army in Virginia.

Mr. Seward's Immigration Scheme.

It would scarcely be possible to exaggerate the significance of the measure lately proposed to Congress by Mr. Seward, with the approval of the Government of the United States, concerning the immigration of foreigners. Were the intelligence to arrive to-day that another great battle had been fought and another decisive victory achieved upon the memorable plains of Manassas, and that the Federal hosts were fleeing panic-stricken before the victorious armies of the South, the great world, dazzled by the spectacle, would regard the event as a harbinger of the final success of the Confederate cause. But to the statesman the evidence furnished by the suggested enactment of the law in question points with far more certainty to the approaching overthrow of the Federal power than would the result of any single battle however bloody, or of any single victory however decisive. In whatever aspect it may be regarded, it exhibits to the philosophical mind the features of a nation, if not in the agonies of immediate dissolution, yet bearing the most unmistakable evidences of an incurable malady. The convulsive exhibitions of physical force put forth by the dying man may deceive the uninformed, but the skilled physician knows that they are but the premonitory evidences of the approaching prostration of the vital powers. The first thing proposed by Mr. Seward is, that the Government of the United States, in order to fill up the ranks of 'labourers,' which have been so fearfully thinned by the war, shall advance the means necessary for the outfit and passage to America of European immigrants. The nature of the services which are expected to be rendered by those who may be lured by this tempting opportunity to seek their fortunes in the New World, may be readily inferred by the provision that the money thus advanced shall be reimbursed to the Government by the 'labour of such immigrants as shall accept the proffered bounty.' That the enactment of such a law would amount in effect to the establishment of recruiting stations in every seaport of Europe will hardly be questioned. It is a bold and scarcely disguised attempt to fill up the Federal armies by the virtual enlistment of soldiers wherever they may be had, whether in Ireland or Germany, in France or Italy. Although it is well known that vast bodies of Europeans have been tempted by the golden promises of Federal agents to offer themselves as food for the powder and ball of Southern armies, yet hitherto these violations of the neutrality of foreign nations have been accomplished under the disguise, however transparent, of seeking for skilled artisans and workmen to take the place of native Americans who had gone into the army. Mr. Seward now proposes to take this job out of the hands of private speculators and secret agents, and to impose this duty upon the regularly appointed officials of his Government, acting directly under his orders, in compliance with the provisions of a law specially enacted for the attainment of the same purpose, but upon a much wider field. It may hereafter become a question of grave enquiry, how far the Governments of Europe may tolerate the establishment of such a universal system of recruiting for the Federal armies within their respective jurisdictions. While they may have hitherto winked at the violation of their own laws, as well as of the law of nations, on account of the alleged difficulty of procuring legal testimony, or because the character of the enlisted 'labourers' was such that their emigration, under such doubtful auspices, was regarded as a compensating advantage, yet their self-respect, if not their material interests, may suggest grave objections to the system when put into universal practice under the sanction of a general law enacted for that specific purpose. In whatever aspect the measure may be regarded by other nations, the fact that such a scheme has been thus solemnly inaugurated by the Government at Washington proves the desperate straits to which the United States are now reduced in the effort to fill up the fast melting ranks of their immense armies. Volunteering from patriotic considerations, high bounties to tempt the cupidity of the mercenary and the necessities of the poor, and forced conscription, have each in turn been tried, and all have failed to bring forth new victims for the slaughter-fields of the South in sufficient numbers to fill up the chasms made by wounds and death. Fanatical patriotism no longer animates the bosom of the citizen, and he will not volunteer. Cupidity finds a more extended field for successful enterprise than in the ranks of Federal armies. The poor prefer moderate wages and a quiet life at home to the most extravagant bounties and the highest monthly stipend as soldiers. The great body of the people have proven by a bloody resistance to Federal authority, both in New York and the great west, that they prefer to die in the effort to avoid the forced conscription, rather than incur the privations and hazards of the camp and the battle field. Within the limits of the Federal Union, it has been for a long time apparent to outside observers that the armies cannot be recruited by any means which may be devised. The measure now proposed by the Government to procure in foreign countries that which is no longer to be had at home for love or money, or even by coercion, is an admission of the fact that if the South is to be subdued at all, the task may only be achieved by the employment of mercenary hosts, enlisted in foreign lands. It is a humiliating confession of inability to perform the task they set out to accomplish, a grave imputation upon their manhood, and a virtual admission of an intrinsically bad cause.

If the proposition of the Government had stopped short with the proposal to transfer their recruiting agencies from America to Europe, it might possibly have been regarded as a simple enunciation of the fact that the United States were unable without foreign aid to carry out the gigantic war of subjugation in which for three weary years they have been so fruitlessly engaged. If nothing else had been proposed, it might have been regarded as a simple evidence of inability to achieve the purpose for which the war was inaugurated. But the last inducement offered to foreign adventurers to accept the terms of immigration proves as plainly as language can explain, that patriotic national pride no longer exists in the American heart, and that the once proud title of American citizenship is no longer regarded as of any value even by those whose American ancestry dates back through the first revolution to the days of Colonial dependence. The Government proposes that all Europeans without distinction, who will accept of a pre-paid passage to the United States—the money thus expended to be reimbursed by the labour of the immigrant—shall be at the end of a single year's residence endowed with all the rights, privileges, and immunities of citizens born upon the soil of America. When we consider the probable character, quality, and qualifications of the class of Europeans who will be likely to accept the terms thus offered, we may well conceive that if Americans ever prized the title and the privileges of citizens of the Republic, both the title and the privileges have lost their value. Never before were the rights of citizenship held so cheap by any other people; never before were the citizens of a great nation willing to consider so insignificant a service as a full equivalent for the title and rank of citizen. When we look back to the days of know-nothing-ism, but a few brief years ago, when the States which now acknowledge allegiance to the Washington Government rose, almost as one man, against the laws which secured to foreigners the rights of citizenship only after the lapse of five years succeeding their formal application therefor, accompanied by a renunciation of all allegiance to any foreign potentate or State, we may well contrast that not distant past with the reality by which we are now confronted. Then they demanded that no foreigner should be invested with the sacred name of American citizen who had not resided for a period of twenty-one years within the limits of the Republic. The popular excitement in the North against foreign-born citizens and Roman Catholics was so great, that but for the united action of the Southern States in their behalf, it is difficult to decide what would have been the result of the popular clamour against them. Now, how all is changed! The released galley-slave, the Italian brigand, the ticket-of-leave man, the European adventurer, and the European criminal, have but to accept a free passage to the hospitable shores of the Model Republic, with a guarantee that within twelve months from the date of their arrival they may deposit their votes in that 'great palladium of liberty, the ballot-box,' and stand forth in all respects the peer of the descendants of the Washingtons, the Adamses, the Jeffersons, and the Madisons. Citizenship may possess a high value in the estimation of those who have not the right to claim it, yet it is quite clear that it is held at a marvellously cheap price by those who own and may bestow it.

Southern Independence and Northern Liberty.

No European observer, who is not rendered blind to facts and deaf to principles by his passionate admiration for the wisdom of President Lincoln and the chivalrous character of General Butler, can see without surprise the confidence with which the people of the Northern States have surrendered their liberties into the keeping of those statesmen and their associates, in the full belief that when the immediate necessity is over those liberties will be restored to them, and that the men who have so long enjoyed an absolute authority will contentedly sheath the sword red with blood not spilt on the field of battle, and retire into private life, as the equals and fellow-citizens of those whom they have persecuted without warrant of law and punished without pretence of trial. To those who look on from a distance, this belief seems unreasonable, if not absolutely irrational. The exact circumstances of America are not very well understood in Europe, and American prospects are consequently judged by the rules of historical experience. We know that hitherto no nation has found it possible to abdicate freedom at pleasure and resume it at will—that those who have once tasted the sweets of tyranny are seldom willing to resign it—that those who have long usurped a power beyond the law have not been in haste to yield to the law its rightful supremacy; and we are prone to believe that what has been will be again, and that the experience of the Old World will be repeated in the New. Americans know little of any history but their own, and are disposed to claim for themselves a superiority to the errors and an exemption from the dangers of less gifted nations. They conceive themselves favoured by Providence with an absolute immunity from the disasters which, in former instances, have always attended aggressive ambition and too extensive dominion; and as in former days they refused to believe that the Union could ever be shaken, and as now they believe that it cannot be finally destroyed, so they look forward less with hope than with certainty to the quiet resumption of those privileges which for the present they have been content to lay aside. They are confident that when the immediate peril which has induced them to permit the exercise of despotic power by the President has passed away, that despotism will cease of itself; or that if it do not, they will be able at any moment to re-enter on the enjoyment of their suspended rights, and put down the usurped authority which now exists only by their permission. It is this feeling which induces

the people of the North to endure without remonstrance excesses of power as gross as those which twice provoked their English ancestors to open rebellion. They are content that during the war the Government should have the power of crushing domestic opposition; they are willing to give it every facility which it declares to be necessary for the efficient prosecution of its purposes; because they entertain no doubt that they are consenting not to an abrogation but to a suspension of liberty—are creating not a despot but a dictator.

It must be admitted that they have some reason for this opinion. The power which the Federal Government has exercised has rested undoubtedly upon the consent of a majority of the people, and, though enforced by military violence upon the minority, has not military strength for its foundation. Thus far, at least, the army could not be depended upon, if it were necessary to act against the people at large. It will support the Government, so long as the war lasts, against those who avow themselves, or who are alleged, to be opposed to the war. But it is not attached to the President, nor to any of the generals in whom he has confidence. They have done nothing to merit its attachment; they have not led it to glory, but to shame; under their guidance it has achieved no victories, it has reaped no laurels, it has sustained many defeats and endured much suffering. A general who has led a great army to victory, and whose successes have added subject provinces to the dominions of his country, may become dangerous to the commonwealth by his hold on the affections of the army; but no military tyranny can subsist on a foundation of disgrace and disaster in the field. Military despotism is not to be exercised by a President whose military administration has been incapable and unfortunate beyond all example, or by generals who have never won a pitched battle. If, when the war is over, either Mr. Lincoln or General Fremont were to attempt to perpetuate by force the system of government which has hitherto prevailed, he would probably find himself deserted even by the army. So far, therefore, as present circumstances may guide our anticipations of the future, it seems probable enough that the conclusion of peace will crumble to pieces the foundations of the usurped authority of the Federal Executive, and leave it perhaps weaker than ever. The army is sick of war, and is even now with difficulty held together. Peace would entitle the disgusted volunteers and discontented conscripts to their discharge, and nothing is less likely than that they would forego that right in order to sustain a Government which has deserved and incurred their indignation by its reckless waste of their lives, and their contempt by its unparalleled blundering. A Government without an army cannot send free citizens to prison without trial, or impose its own candidates on disaffected constituencies. Should President Lincoln, under such circumstances, escape impeachment, and succeed in retaining his office till the end of a second term, he would probably be the weakest, as he would certainly be the most unpopular, chief magistrate that has ever filled the seat of Washington.

It is not to be supposed that, after so long a period of suspended animation, liberty would prove to have suffered no injury, and would revive in the same vigour and perfection as in former days. The people have been accustomed to the sight of tyranny. They have ceased to consider the personal freedom of citizens as a right sacred and inviolable. They have learned to endure the spectacle of political persecution—to see opposition put down by force, and the dominant idea of the hour enforced on dissentients by martial law. They have seen statesmen of high repute imprisoned and banished for opinion's sake. They have become habituated to the presence of armed men at the polling booths. They have been taught to look with patience on such outrages as the arrest of a judge by order of a military officer, and the trial of civilians before a drumhead court-martial. The effect of lessons like these is not effaced by the mere overthrow of the Government that taught them. The political demoralisation which such scenes, enacted by Government, and witnessed with calmness or with approval by the people, inevitably produce, will not fail to bear fruit. Personal liberty is no longer inviolable; the majesty of the law has lost its sacred character; and we may look to see mobs exercising the right of proscription claimed at present by the Government, and lawless violence on the part of the people, proving that the example of lawlessness set by the Executive has not been thrown away. But it is probable that, so far as the Federal Government is concerned, the anticipations of the North may prove more correct than those of Europe, and that, the war once over, it may relapse into more than its former feebleness, and find its sphere of action more limited than ever. What else may happen—what possibility there may be of closer union or of further disruption—we need not now conjecture; we admit the probability that, when the Northern people are left to settle accounts with their Government, they will be able to recover from its hands the liberties they have hitherto been content to leave there.

But it is manifest that this is only possible because it is utterly impossible that they should achieve the end for which they have consented to forego the present enjoyment of liberty. It is defeat which has saved them from bondage; it is by the failure of their hopes that they have escaped from the dangers they rated so lightly. Had Mr. Lincoln been a skilful ruler—had he had the luck to find good generals and the honesty to support them—had Providence fought on the side of the heavier battalions, and the conquest of the South crowned the efforts of the Federal armies—what would have become of Northern liberty then? The Administration would have been enormously strengthened by the prestige of success, and the unthinking majority would have submitted cheerfully to the will of those who had accomplished its one ardent political wish, and restored, if not in constitutional integrity, yet in territorial extent, the long-idolised Union. The army would have been devoted to those who had led it to victory, and would with satisfaction and pride have remained under arms, glorying in its trade, and full of contempt for the civilians who had borne no share in its triumph. The maintenance of a great army would have been a matter of necessity. Every condition of the problem would have been different, every circumstance of the case would have been reversed, and the liberties of the North would have been placed at the mercy of those who had succeeded in crushing out the independence of the South. All the blood which the North has shed, all the sacrifices it has made, all the treasure it has wasted, have been directed to its own enslavement; and it is only because they have been spent in vain that the possibility of freedom still exists for those who have so ill deserved it. History often recalls to us the poet's warning anent *rota Dis exaudita malignis*; but never was Providence more gracious to an erring people than when in mercy He disappointed the aspirations of the North for the recovery of the Union.

It is strange that so few men in the North have seen, what has been patent to all Europe, that the conquest of the South, bringing with it the necessity of administering by martial law a subject country, would have been necessarily fatal to the Republican Constitution of the Free States. The truth would seem obvious enough; and yet we could count on our fingers the public men at the North who have understood it, and who have in almost every instance suffered captivity or exile for daring to be wiser than their fellows. Had it proved possible to subdue the South, how could she have been governed? The fiction of a Unionist party held down by Secessionist violence speedily disappeared; the fact of a small Unionist minority in certain localities also disappeared before the advance of the Federal marauders, and under the rule of Butlers, and Mitchells, and Turchins. If the South had yielded to superior force, the conquerors would have had to deal with two elements of difficulty and danger, either one of which would have sufficed to task their skill and strength to the uttermost. There would have been the Southern whites, resentful, desperate, full of the sense of unpardonable wrong and the bitterness of undeserved defeat, rebels to the core, and ready to raise the flag of rebellion on every hopeful occasion—a Poland to be ruled not by a Czar at the head of half a million of bayonets, but by the citizens of a Federal Republic. How could Republican institutions have been shaped to meet the necessity of such a situation as this? Then there would have been the negroes, entitled, by the promise of their conquerors, to a freedom for which they were totally unfitted, and, if freed, entitled to claim an impossible equality. How could they, with the President's proclamation fettering the discretion of the victors, have been retained in slavery? and yet what could have become of them as free and equal citizens of a Republic? Granting to the Abolitionist all his wildest assertions as to the perfectibility of the negro, and his capacity of becoming the equal of the white man, the present fact of an enormous and almost infinite inequality remains unquestionable; and to have forced on two races thus placed in close physical proximity, but at a vast moral distance from each other, that political equality which belongs to freemen under a Republican Constitution, would have been to insure endless misery for the negro and endless difficulties for the Government. To provide for the negroes, as to keep down the whites, an arbitrary Government with martial law would have been indispensable; and he must be thoroughly incredulous or thoroughly ignorant of all political philosophy and historical experience who conceives that one and the same Government could have performed the duties of a limited Federal Executive in one half of the territory of the Union, and of a military despotism in the other half. The conquest of the South would not only have enabled the Federal Government to make itself absolute, or rather to perpetuate its present absolutism, but would have made such a course imperative; and, as has always hitherto happened, in trampling out the independence of its foe the North would effectually have strangled its own liberty.

Nor would the people of the North have acquired, in the extension of their territorial dominion, any real compensation for the terrible sacrifice at which it would have been purchased. What do they want with an extended empire? To a nation which already possesses four or five times as much land as its present population can possibly cultivate, an extension of territory brings neither extended power, nor increased wealth, nor any other gratification than that of vanity. The North possesses abundance of land to employ and feed a population of a hundred millions; and this without anything like overcrowding, and without even bringing land of inferior quality into cultivation. Hitherto, its population has only followed the course of the great channels of water communication; nothing but the construction of railways is needed to open up for profitable cultivation lands quite as rich and as favourably situated as those which are at present occupied. And an industrious and prosperous population, settled between the lakes and the Ohio river, will necessarily form a more powerful nation than would the same numbers if spread over the continent from the lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. The loss of the Southern territory will diminish nothing of the splendour of that destiny to which the Yankees lay claim; it will not dim in the slightest degree the brightness of that future which so dazzles their eyes. They will still have a larger territory than they can subdue; more wealth than they can fairly and fully employ; room for a larger population than, probably, can conveniently dwell under the protection of a single Government. Their strength will be all the greater for its concentration; their prosperity all the surer for the confinement of their energies to a climate wherein the white man can work without injury and without competition. They lose nothing in losing Southern territory; if they have run the risk of losing their fair share of Southern trade, this is not because the South insisted on political severance, but because they chose to resist it—not because the Union is dissolved, but because they have chosen to place between themselves and their neighbours the remembrance of a cruel, wanton, and devastating war. The fact of vicinity, and the geographical position of the two countries, would secure to the North, if ever a good understanding should be established, a large and profitable trade with the South. More than this she ought not to ask; more than this, in substantial value, even absolute conquest could not give her.

BUTLER'S RULE AT NORFOLK.

We desire especially to direct the attention of the reader to the fact that the report of the Rev. Mr. Armstrong's examination, which we publish elsewhere, is General Butler's own report. We faithfully reprint it directly from the *New Regime* of March 29, the 'official journal of the Department,' edited by one Clark, a member of Butler's staff. It is evidently, therefore, the authorised version of a conversation in which Butler appears to have admired himself so much that he gave it to the world as his portrait, drawn by himself. The sequel of the story is told in the following order, which we cut out from the same journal:—

Head-Quarters, Provost-Marshal's Office,
District of Virginia, Norfolk, Va., March 9, 1864.

Owing to the vacancy of the pulpit of the Presbyterian church of this city, caused by the deposing of its late pastor, the Rev. James D. Armstrong, D.D., by the action of the Commanding General, the Rev. C. L. Woodworth, Chaplain of the 27th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, will officiate as pastor until further orders. It is not doubted that the true loyalists of the congregation will approve of this change, and cheerfully co-operate in the usual services of the church. The church officials will continue on duty as usual in their respective spheres.

Chas. M. Whelden,
Lieutenant-Colonel and Provost-Marshal.

Approved,
By command of Brigadier-General Wild,
Geo. H. Johnston, A.A.G.

The episcopal authority of a Provost-Marshal can only be understood by reading the subjoined, of a somewhat earlier date:—

General Orders, No. 3.

Head-Quarters, Norfolk and Portsmouth,
Norfolk, Va., Feb. 11, 1864.

All places of public worship in Norfolk and Portsmouth are hereby placed under the control of the Provost-Marshals of Norfolk and Portsmouth respectively, who shall see the pulpits properly filled by displacing the present incumbents and substituting men of known loyalty and the same sectarian denomination, either military or civil, subject to the approval of the Commanding General.

They shall see that the churches are opened freely to all officers and soldiers (white or coloured) at the usual hours of worship, and at other times if desired, and they shall see that no insult or indignity be offered to them, by word, look, or gesture, on the part of the congregation.

The necessary expenses will be levied as far as possible, in accordance with the previous usages or regulations of each congregation.

No property shall be removed, either public or private, without permission from these head-quarters.

By command of Brigadier-General E. A. Wild.

Geo. H. Johnston,
Captain and Assistant Adjutant-General.
(Official)

Hanford Struble, Lieutenant and A.D.C.

While the Rev. J. D. Armstrong is put to hard work at Fort Hatteras, and the Rev. W. Wingfield is serving out his sentence (commuted from street-sweeping), the persecution of women and children continues. The wife and child of the last-named clergyman are kept alone in a house under an armed guard, are allowed no communication with any one, nor to leave the house under any pretext. Again, take the following from the *Norfolk and Portsmouth Old Dominion*, of March 11:—

Held as Hostages. Mrs. Murden and Mrs. Weeks, ladies of Elizabeth City, N.C., were brought to this city and committed to gaol, Saturday, to be held as hostages.

These ladies are wives of officers in the Confederate army, and are held as hostages for the return of certain negro soldiers captured by guerillas. Is there any precedent for this in modern warfare?

Where the General Orders and Provost-Marshal's Orders, which govern these unfortunate towns, are not absolutely brutal, they are sometimes ludicrously childish. Take the following:—

Provost-Marshal's Office,
Portsmouth, March 15, 1864.

Rev. Chas. E. W. Dobbs,
Court Street Baptist Church.

Sir,—On Sunday last, at the reading of the prayer in the morning service for the President of the United States, Mrs. Susan Williams, a member of the congregation, behaved in a very improper and disrespectful manner. Complaints were made at this office, and Mrs. Williams was arrested. She was released upon writing the enclosed humble apology, which you will please read from your pulpit for the benefit of the parties offended, and at the same time admonish the disloyal of your congregation that, hereafter, a mere apology will not atone for so grave an offence as that committed by Mrs. Williams.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
Daniel Messinger,
Provost-Marshal.

Wherewith follows the poor woman's apology, that 'she meant no disrespect to the minister who prayed, or to the President in authority, or to those in authority for whom he was praying.'

From an order for the disposal and relief of the poor, we extract the following:—

If any one, able to work, lacks a visible and honest means of support, and is desirous of living at an expense to the United States Government, such person is informed that street-paving, under guard, will be offered as a means of earning his daily bread honourably.

An order for the destruction of dogs may somewhat puzzle our readers. It reads:—

General Order, No. 6.

Head-Quarters, Norfolk and Portsmouth,
Norfolk, Va., March 7, 1864.

Let every fourth dog in this district be killed.

The Provost-Marshals of Norfolk and Portsmouth will see this order executed.

By command of Brig.-Gen. E. A. Wild,
George H. Johnston,
Captain and Assistant Adjutant-General.

Chas. M. Whelden,
Lieut.-Colonel and Provost-Marshal.

Still another, not less characteristic than the preceding, must for the present conclude our selection. Altogether, the file of dingy, dirty, ill-printed papers before us tells a tale of vulgarity and malignity such as, we venture to say, cannot be paralleled by any page in the records of tyranny.

Special Order, No. 75.—Extract.

Head-Quarters, Norfolk and Portsmouth.
Norfolk, Va., March 31, 1864.

Charles W. Butts, Attorney-at-Law, so called, having applied contemptuous and abusive language to me, and an officer of my staff, the Provost-Marshal of Portsmouth, and having used this means to undermine our authority, and to obstruct the Military Government of this district, can no longer remain within the limits of this command. Let him not be seen here later than eleven o'clock at noon of Sunday, April 3, 1864.

Edward A. Wild,
Brigadier-General Commanding.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York: April 12, 1864.

THE RED RIVER EXPEDITION—THE ENGAGEMENT AT CANE RIVER—COTTON STEALING—THE PROJECTED MOVEMENT AGAINST RICHMOND—THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION RESPECTING SLAVERY—THE OBJECTIONS TO IT—IT WOULD BE IMPOTENT—THE CURRENCY QUESTION—THE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES OF THE GOVERNMENT—THE MONROE DOCTRINE—THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—MR. SEWARD'S POLICY AND HIS CORRESPONDENCE WITH MR. DAYTON—HOW THE LINCOLN GOVERNMENT WILL ENDEAVOUR TO CONCILIATE THE PEOPLE—THE SERIOUS DILEMMA THAT IS INVOLVED.

We have conflicting accounts of the progress of the Red River expedition into the interior of Louisiana. Telegrams from Federal sources *viâ* Cairo and the land route have reported a battle on the 28th ult. at Cane River, a few miles beyond Alexandria, in which the Union troops achieved a decided success, and were pursuing the routed rebels. The direct accounts from New Orleans of April 2 do not confirm this. They agree that there had been a severe conflict, with great slaughter; but leave it doubtful whether the United States troops had made any advance. There are, on the contrary, rumours from Confederate sources that it was repulsed, and would have to turn back. [illegible] Orleans [illegible] of Confederate [illegible] the rear of the Federal [illegible] Federal steamboats from Alexandria [illegible] at Alexandria [illegible] night, from apprehension [illegible] federates. The [illegible] very small. [illegible] and the planters are completing the [illegible] ferring the total loss of the cotton [illegible] stolen by the Yankees. There is said to be a [illegible] the conduct of the army officers and the navy [illegible] expedition in the matter of cotton robbery. The army, having a crowd of civilian followers, with greenbacks and other facilities for converting cotton into currency, want the cotton tenderly dealt with, especially what is in the hands of such as may profess loyalty, that good speculations may be made out of the traffic in tears and in pardons. The navy are for [illegible] at once, without all this ceremoniousness. It is [illegible] policy, and not of principle [illegible] that a Southern man has no right to have anything of which he can be dispossessed by contrivance or force.

Commodore Farragut has withdrawn from the attack on Mobile, conceiving that it is not to be taken without the co-operation of a large land force, which it is not within the range of the present plans of campaign to give him.

The main interest of the war is concentrated in the projected movements of General Grant against Richmond. Not much faith can be put in plans of campaign [illegible] from Washington City. In half a dozen instances before, these have been shown to have been paraded with the design to deceive. But there are [illegible] in the movements of troops and preparations, which cannot be disguised, to make it extremely probable that it is the intention of General Grant to make a combined attack against Richmond in overwhelming force, by several columns at once, of which the main and strongest will be by way of the Peninsula, the old route selected by General M'Clellan, and rejected by the Administration until now overruled by the energetic disposition of the new Lieutenant-General, to whom the whole direction of the war is intrusted. The Confederates are evidently preparing for such a campaign, and are hopeful of successfully repelling it, as they did that of M'Clellan. The North seems to have great confidence in the military genius of General Grant, but he is not held in much estimation by the Southern Generals. They think him a good fighter, who has been favoured by fortunate accidents and the blunders of his adversaries, but that his star will pale before that of Lee, in whom the South has unlimited faith. They say at Richmond that Grant is destined to a greater defeat than M'Clellan, and a greater downfall than Pope, Burnside, or Hooker. There is a good omen in this confidence. Nevertheless, the friends of the South will hold their breath with intense anxiety for the issue when the mighty struggle commences.

In Congress they are legislating as though the victory were accomplished, the South at their mercy, and the power of the Union extended over all the Southern States. The Senate has just got through a long debate on the slavery question by adopting (38 to 6) a resolution proposing to the States an amendment of the Constitution for the immediate abolition of slavery. To make this amendment a part of the Constitution requires two-thirds of both Houses of Congress, and a ratification by three-fourths of the States. It is not certain that the House of Representatives will agree, because more than one-third may be of opinion that an amendment to the Constitution, adopted in time of war against ten or eleven States which are from any cause prevented from having any share in the decision, would be, if the Union is ever restored, a fraud and a robbery as to people of those States, loyal and disloyal alike; and, if the Union is not restored, a useless and senseless demonstration, which will have contributed to make the breach irreparable.

It is further a serious objection to many, that the amendment cannot be ratified without the sanctioning of the monstrous frauds and usurpations of the Executive in the creation of spurious States by military authority, to the destruction of the most important relations of the old States towards each other and towards the general Government. The number of States which will be required to ratify the amendment is 29, or is certain to be when the new Western territories are admitted, as they will be at the present session of Congress, making the whole number of States 38. The number of States represented in the Federal Congress is 25, and if they are unanimous in ratifying the amendment, with all the three new States, they will make only 28. So the design cannot by any possibility be effected without recognising and counting as a 'lawful State' at least one of the proconsular governments which Mr. Lincoln has set up, by the aid of his army, over a minority of the population in some subjugated district of a Southern State. There is no portion of the President's conduct in office against which the opposition within his own party is more decided than against the usurpation of the functions of a legislator in the attempt to recreate States out of the fragments of the subverted sovereignties of members of the old Union. There is so much discontent on that topic, and it blends itself so intimately with the opposition to Mr. Lincoln's plans for reelecting himself by those agencies, that I think it possible the scheme will be defeated in some way before it comes to the point where so momentous a question may depend on the formal recognition or peremptory exclusion of a State or States created in this way.

But, after all, it is a most absurd assumption that slavery in the Southern States is to be effectively abolished by a constitutional amendment which can have no possible effect until they are subjugated and the Federal jurisdiction is extended over them, which in the present aspect of things is a contingency so remote as to make the legislating on that the merest of political farces, and only serious as it involves the forcible destruction of slave rights in the border Slave States, which by force or choice adhered to the Northern side in this struggle, and are rewarded by being summarily despoiled of five hundred millions of property. In the South it will have no more effect than any other war measure which carries spoliation by the power of conquest, and will be as arrogant and as impotent as an amendment of the Constitution would be, authorising Congress to 'regulate the currency' by making greenbacks a legal tender in Europe.

This currency question is hourly growing more embarrassing to the Government. Greenbacks depreciate in comparison with gold, in spite of the devices and struggles of the Secretary, who is floundering through a circle of contrivances to keep up the credit of the Government, and at the same time multiplying [illegible] A Treasury [illegible] from Washington [illegible] The reliance of the Secretary [illegible] is on his authority to borrow and his power to issue more irredeemable paper. The resource [illegible] negotiating of the 10-40 loan for $200,000,000 [illegible] in the market at five per cent. interest payable in gold, the principal redeemable also in gold at any time, at the pleasure of the Government, after ten and before forty years. The necessity and the [illegible] of the Secretary are that, in the present relations of currency to gold, a five-per-cent. stock will not be readily taken up, and it has not been, even with the steady inflation going on for some time past. With gold ranging from 166 to 172, not more than three-fourths of a million are taken up daily, which is not one-third of the daily increase of the debt. On the other hand, an expansion of the currency, enough to float his loan, will be necessarily followed by a rise of prices, and an increase of the expenditure of the Government by many millions in all that it has to pay out, except for fixed salaries. Even if the whole loan should be taken, it would not be more than sufficient to discharge accrued obligations; and, at the best estimate, at the end of sixty days the Government will again be just where it is now, and the channels of circulation further swollen with a redundant paper money. The Secretary is bewildered with the prospect, and well he may be. There is no possible support for this fabric of public debt but immense and immediate taxation, and taxation which will be immensely and immediately productive, and Congress is evidently afraid to tax boldly, and doubtful whether any system can be devised which will not produce discontents and combinations to obstruct its operation, prove fatal to the political prospects of those who vote for it, and give the signal for agitations which may end in the repudiation of the debt.

If Grant meets with a reverse in this campaign, the whole fabric will cave in. If he has a success, it may last a while longer; but there is not such a success possible, within the range of calculations, as will save this Government from financial ruin, and the people from a fearful convulsion.

In the midst of these portents of internal troubles, the American Congress and people have suddenly roused themselves into excitement about their interests in Mexico. The Monroe doctrine, which has been quietly put aside, since the coming in of this Administration, as a dangerous subject to deal with before the war is over, has been forced into a prominent place by a resolution brought forward by a member from Maryland, and unanimously adopted by the House of Representatives, and hailed by journals of all classes as expressing the sentiments of the country, declaring that the American people do not consent to the recognition of an Empire in Mexico.

To understand the force of this declaration, it must be considered that in the American Government the House of Representatives has nothing to do with the relations towards foreign Powers. Communication with other Governments is exclusively an executive function. It was decided in the cases of the Panama mission instituted by Mr. Adams, and the Turkish mission instituted by General Jackson, that the President alone originates missions. He nominates all Ministers; the Senate has the power of approving or rejecting nominations, but not naming Ministers or originating missions.

But though the House resolution is theoretically a nullity as to foreign Governments, it is to be noted as a public fact to aid in the forming of an estimate of the value of public engagements, which depend ultimately for their execution on the power of public opinion over Administrations.

Mr. Seward's administration of the State Department is open to attack for having offended the popular sentiment. Immediately after commissioning Mr. Corwin to Mexico, he wrote to him (August 1861) to refrain from renewing the assurances given by the preceding Administration to Mexico, that the United States would support its nationality and independence against all foreign intervention. The pendency of Mr. Seward's little war with the South was the cause assigned for postponing the Monroe doctrine to a more convenient season.

'Prudence,' wrote Mr. Seward, 'requires that, in order to surmount the evils of faction at home, we should not unnecessarily provoke debates with foreign countries, but rather repair, as speedily as possible, the prestige which those evils have impaired.'

French intervention, of which Mr. Corwin warned Mr. Seward in vain, came soon after this, perhaps hastened by fuller developments of Mr. Seward's policy of abstention. The project of an Empire was next ventilated in the public journals,

but Mr. Seward wrote that there was no danger of that. 'It had been discarded.' Finally, the Empire came, and during the whole of the series of events which ended there, Mr. Seward only put forth the Monroe doctrine and the American idea in the form of advice and suggestions to France, that it would be found 'neither easy nor desirable' to establish 'a permanent foreign or monarchical government' in Mexico; that the 'normal' state of Mexican opinion would be against it; that the people of the United States would be disturbed about it; and that it would, by political necessity, lead to unpleasant differences between France and the United States, and 'other' American republics: it 'would sow the seeds that might ripen into a collision.'

Notwithstanding these gentle expostulations, France went on, and the Empire became a fact. As events were hurrying it on, Mr. Seward, still very desirous not to come into collision with France while his domestic troubles lasted, further separated his Government from any specially American interest in Mexico, by directing Mr. Dayton to inform the French Cabinet that the United States claim no interest in Mexico more than in any other foreign nation at war.

He accordingly wrote on September 26, 1863, as follows:—

'The United States hold in regard to Mexico the same principles that they hold in regard to all other nations. They have neither a right nor a disposition to intervene by force in the internal affairs of Mexico, whether to establish or maintain a republic or even a domestic Government there, or to overthrow an imperial or a foreign one if Mexico chooses to establish or accept it.'

The French Cabinet seems to have wanted a more specific engagement, and propounded a distinct question to Mr. Dayton in a conversation held with him by M. Drouyn de Lhuys on October 8. The account of it was sent forward by Mr. Dayton to Mr. Seward on the 9th. It is worth noting that between the despatch of Mr. Seward, dated from Washington, September 26, and the conference with M. Drouyn de Lhuys at Paris, there is a space of but thirteen days—just the period for a quick arrival by mails—and the response is sent back the next day. Mr. Dayton reports:—

'M. Drouyn de Lhuys went on to say that the dangers of the Government of the Archduke would come principally from the United States, and the sooner we showed ourselves satisfied, and manifested a willingness to enter into peaceful relations with that Government, the sooner would France be ready to leave Mexico, which France would in any event do as soon as it with propriety could; but that it would not lead or tempt the Archduke into difficulty, and then desert him before his Government is settled. He added, France could not do that. He said that the early acknowledgment of that Government would tend to shorten, or perhaps to end, all the troublesome complications of France in that quarter.'

Mr. Seward was equally prompt in answering this despatch. The reply is dated October 23, just fourteen days afterwards. It is a renewal of the assurances that the United States have no objections on principle to the recognition of any Government that may be established in Mexico. He says:—

'The United States cannot anticipate the action of the people of Mexico, nor have they the least purpose or desire to interfere with their proceedings, or control or interfere with their free choice, or disturb them in the enjoyment of whatever institutions of government they may, in the exercise of an absolute freedom, establish.'

In respect to the specific recognition asked for Maximilian as an indispensable condition, without which France cannot leave Mexico, Mr. Seward simply replies, not yet, because the war was not yet ended in the subversion of the former Government; and *for this reason* 'the United States are not at liberty to consider the question of recognising a Government which in the further chances of war may come into its place.' But he concludes thus:—

'The United States, consistently with their principles, cannot do otherwise than leave the destinies of Mexico to the keeping of its own people, and recognise their sovereignty and independence in whatever form they themselves shall choose that this sovereignty and independence shall be manifested.'

This rapid interchange of notes, two being interchanged each way at intervals of only fourteen days for each, shows the importance assigned to the understanding which was desired by both sides. It is perfectly plain that Mr. Seward renounced all ground of opposition to the establishment of a monarchical Government by foreign interference, except as to the question of the time when it should be considered to be actually established.

In this position of affairs, the popular branch of Congress, transcending its proper functions as a branch of the Government, pronounces, by a unanimous vote, that the recognition of an Empire in Mexico is not in accordance with the sentiments of the people. The declaration was moved by Mr. N. Winter Davis, of Maryland, a violent partisan of war and abolition, but a very decided adversary of Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward. It contains an unquestionable vote of censure on the position to which Mr. Seward has advanced in the question, and adroitly took hold of a popular passion so successfully that the only course left for the friends of Mr. Lincoln to adopt was to join heartily in the enunciation of the principle, and look subsequently for the means of averting its consequences from the heads of the President and Secretary. The ready expedients are to insist that Mr. Seward has only meant to temporise and stave off collision until the civil war is terminated and the United States are in a condition to resume their old position; and that, in reserving the question whether and when the Empire is sufficiently established to be entitled to be recognised, Mr. Seward covered enough ground to keep the control of the matter in his own hands. In confirmation of this view it is now said that Mr. Seward has made haste to caution Mr. Dayton not to give the French Government any assurance of the recognition of Maximilian.

There is in all this very serious consequences, which the promoters of this movement did not seriously consider. The popular branch of Congress has been hurried into a formal declaration that the condition on which alone the French Government rests the security of the Government of Maximilian from the hostility of the United States, without which security France cannot quit Mexico, will not be accepted by the American people. The Administration shrinks before the national manifestation, and if it did not, and should have the hardihood to exercise the constitutional functions of recognising the Empire, it could no longer be accepted as a measure of peace, or satisfactory evidence that the Empire is safe from United States hostilities. I am at a loss to conjecture how Mr. Seward is to make his peace with the Emperor, or to divert that sagacious monarch from taking the steps which he may think necessary to put the barrier of a friendly people between the threatened Mexican Government and the menacing North.

LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New Orleans, Louisiana: April 2, 1864.

INFAMOUS TREATMENT OF MRS. DARLING—THE DEFENCES OF MOBILE—SHERMAN'S EXPEDITION—NO COTTON OBTAINED FROM THE RED RIVER REGION—ELECTION OF DELEGATES FOR A 'FREE STATE CONVENTION'—ESCAPE OF CONFEDERATE OFFICERS FROM FEDERAL PRISONS—THE 'DEFENDERS OF THE MONROE DOCTRINE.'

Many of your English readers must be familiar with the name of General Darling, a gallant Englishman who was killed at the battle of Murfreesboro, where he commanded a brigade in General Bragg's army. Though not bred to the profession of arms, he showed rare fitness for command, and his advancement, which was rapid, was owing solely to his distinguished services. He was colonel of the 5th Confederate States (Regulars) Regiment, but at the time of his death held the rank of Brevet Brigadier-General. Though he offered up his life for the Confederate cause, General Darling did not (so I am informed) throw off his allegiance to the British Crown. The widow of this brave and high-souled Briton has been a prisoner in New Orleans for the last three months. It may seem singular that this lady should have been held in durance for so long a period. It will appear still more singular—if any act of capricious tyranny could by this time excite our special wonder—when it is known that Mrs. Darling was deprived of her personal liberty without any process of law, martial or municipal, and that, too, after having purged herself of every taint of suspicion, and taken the so-called alien oath of neutrality. Mrs. Darling arrived here from Mobile December 14, 1863, in a schooner sailing under a United States flag of truce. The schooner was, of course, under the command of Federal officers, so the coming of Mrs. Darling and some half-dozen other passengers was necessarily by consent of the officers. Upon their arrival here the passengers were sent to prison, whence they were taken the next day before a military commission composed of two colonels and a major. Contrary to any warrant or authority—except that of military despotism—and without any explanation, this commission put Mrs. Darling upon her oath, and then demanded that she should reveal all she knew regarding the defences of Mobile, the condition and location of the Confederate armies—in short, everything she knew respecting the 'rebellion' that might be of interest to the enemy. To impose an oath under such conditions and for such purposes was treacherous and base. The commission knew that Mrs. Darling's Confederate passport pledged her in honour not to tell anything she knew respecting the very matters about which they were questioning her; and their respect for plighted faith must be small if they supposed that the oath which they surprised their prisoner into taking absolved her from the prior and equally binding parole of honour. Had they succeeded, I suppose they would have spoken of it as a 'smart Yankee trick.' Mrs. Darling adhered to the obligations of her passport, and declined to answer the questions of the commission. She, however, concealed nothing respecting herself and her object in coming to New Orleans, which was to take passage for Liverpool *viâ* New York, and, when asked, readily subscribed to the 'alien oath of neutrality.' It is in these terms:—

'I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that so long as my Government remains at peace with the United States, I will do no act, or consent that any be done, or conceal any that has been or is about to be, that shall aid or comfort any of the enemies or opposers of the United States whatever.'

Though she subscribed without hesitation to the above oath, she was sent back to prison, but the other prisoners were discharged. Mrs. Darling concluded there must be some mistake on the part of the guard in reconveying her to prison, and after much expostulation induced her gaoler to enlarge her prison bounds to the St. Charles Hotel. She had been at the hotel but a few hours when she was again arrested, and taken before Colonel Beckwith, then acting as Provost-Marshal of the city. The colonel, who is an officer of the old army, and, it might be added, *ipso facto* a gentleman, received Mrs. Darling with much courtesy, and upon being told of her examination before the military commission, and of her having taken the 'alien oath,' promptly ordered her release, and expressed his regret for having caused her arrest. But Mrs. Darling had not yet escaped the clutches of the military power. On the following day she was taken by a military guard to the office of General Bowen, Provost-Marshal-General of the Department of the Gulf. Here she was kept standing, while one of General Bowen's staff insisted upon a cross-examination, which he conducted in a style exceedingly rude, if not positively insulting. He wanted to know 'what she came to New Orleans for, anyhow.' 'Was she sure her husband was dead?' Was she 'the woman that trunk belonged to?' (pointing to one of Mrs. Darling's trunks, all of which were still kept from her). He continued in just such a strain as this, asking many other equally irrelevant and heartless questions relative to the gallant dead, when his chief, General Bowen, entered and directed that Mrs. Darling be turned over ('turn her over' was his expression) to Major Porter. Bowen was one of the Commissioners of the New York City (Metropolitan) Police, and when Superintendent Kennedy was on trial, before the Board of Commissioners, for his outrageous treatment of Mrs. Brinsmade, the General was understood to defend his course, and was one of the majority who voted for and succeeded in effecting his acquittal. Mrs. Darling was accordingly 'turned over to Major Porter,' and ordered to report to him daily until further notice. She called upon General Banks and demanded her release or the reasons for her detention, but in vain. The General talked vaguely about her having travelled to Mobile in company with President Davis; of her 'rebel sympathies and superior intelligence,' and consequent 'dangerous character;' of her intention to be in Liverpool early in January, of the urgent necessity for the same, as was learned from one of her letters, and of his suspicions that her going to Liverpool had some connection with the Laird rams; and, finally, that in his judgment Mrs. Darling should be detained in New Orleans until her news or instructions for the rebels abroad should become stale and profitless—three months, he thought, would not be too long. And so for three months Mrs. Darling was kept here as a paroled prisoner, defraying her own expenses at the hotel, and reporting herself daily at the office of Major Porter, of the 8th New York Regiment. Most of General Banks's charges were so silly as to need no reply. But as to the Laird rams, he was assured that her going to England and the necessity for her being there early in January was solely to attend to her private affairs, particularly a lawsuit, involving property to the amount of $25,000, which was to be decided about the period referred to.

I cannot conjecture how General Banks can justify the detention of this lady and the retention of all her papers, including even a journal of her private affairs. It is said that Mrs. Darling intends to lay her case before Lord Lyons, with a demand for indemnity of pecuniary losses. Though a prisoner, she was obliged to pay her expenses at the hotel during her three months' detention, and the lawsuit was decided against her owing to her non-appearance, as Mrs. Darling learned by a letter she received here last week. This hapless lady left New Orleans for New York some days ago, and is at length free from the capricious and absolute despotism that reigns in the department of the Gulf. Before leaving, she showed General Banks the letter which announced the result of the lawsuit. The General, who is remarkable for his lip-service, expressed much regret, and declared that, had he known the real object of Mrs. Darling's return to England, he would not have prevented her departure. But he did know, and this excuse is an after-thought that cannot extenuate his arbitrary conduct.

Farragut makes but slow, if any, progress in his attack upon the water defences of Mobile. He has not yet tried his guns upon Fort Morgan or Gaines, and the regular bombardment of Fort Powell has ceased for the present. The Admiral is waiting for the ironclads, but I believe none of those promised him are ready for sea. We have a report from the fleet that the ram *Tennessee*, the most powerful of the Mobile ironclads, sank near Grant's Pass on the 1st ult. It is said that the day was boisterous, and 'that a squall struck her, and she, being very low in the water, heeled over and went down. Two feet of her smoke-stack can now be seen above the water where the great ram once lay at anchor.' The letter conveying this intelligence, and from which I have quoted the above, is of the date of the 20th ult., and is published in one of the 'loyal' city journals—two circumstances that throw a doubt upon the correctness of this report. Complete files of Mobile papers, from the 1st to the 18th ult., have been received here, but no mention is made by them of this disaster. It is possible that a steamboat or other craft may have gone down during a squall, and the Yankees, with that quick credulity which shows when the wish is father to the thought, jumped to the conclusion that the sunken craft was their dread antagonist, the 'rebel ram *Tennessee*.' Even if the *Tennessee* is gone down, she can easily be raised.

It is stated that there is some apprehension among the officers of Farragut's fleet that the enemy will use means to sink or destroy some of their vessels by torpedoes. The famous Davis, the pilot, who made the attempt to blow up the Ironsides, is said to be in Mobile at present, and his presence there may create these fears and bode some mischief. In order to prevent a surprise, the watch is doubled at dusk, and continues, with occasional relief, till dawn. Reflectors light the stream for some distance, to prevent the approach of any dangerous missile from the enemy.

We have no news of the operations along Red River other than that from the Federal head-quarters. Past experience teaches us how to interpret Federal war-bulletins.

All the troops that could be spared from Texas, New Orleans, and the Attakapas county (Louisiana), together with 10,000 men from Sherman's command, are now up Red River, the whole under command of Banks. Porter's Mississippi (river) squadron of gunboats is cooperating with the army, the boats of lightest draught having succeeded in getting over the shoals at Alexandria. One of the Federal transports was wrecked in endeavouring to get over the shoals. The Confederate cavalry are still active in the neighbourhood of Alexandria. The evening papers yesterday gave reports of a battle having been fought thirty-five miles above Alexandria on the 28th ult. Of course the 'rebels were routed.' These reports are given on the authority of the officers of a steamboat from Alexandria But the same officers tell to others a very different story; and it is very generally reported and believed that the Federal army was defeated and driven back to Alexandria with a loss of 800 killed and wounded. We are in telegraphic communication with Alexandria, and if a Federal victory had been achieved on Monday or Tuesday, we should have been told it before Friday, April 1.

This 'Union victory' looks very like a joke of the season. We are receiving no cotton from the Red River region. Letters received here from officers of Banks's army say the people burn their cotton as the army advances. As there is no cotton to be had, it is probable the expedition may soon return.

The second act in the Restoration farce—the election of delegates to a 'Free State Convention'—came off on Monday last. The candidates elected, with one exception, merit no consideration either socially or politically. They might as well aspire to seats in the House of Commons as pretend to represent the people of Louisiana. How then shall we characterise the high crime of these men in attempting to mould the social and political institutions of the whole State for generations to come? It will prove a barren fraud, and so let it pass. Since March 4 seventy-five Confederates, nearly all of whom were officers, have escaped from the Federal prisons in this city. This is a good offset for the escapes from Libby Prison. The French brig *Marie Félicité*, Captain Babardy, from Havre, January 25, was wrecked near the Grand Gosier Island off Pass-a-l'outre, on the night of the 24th ult. The vessel and cargo are a total loss; the passengers were saved. The remains of the late Lieutenant Thomas Gibbes Morgan, who died while a prisoner on Johnson's Island, have been brought to Baton Rouge for interment. He was a member of a well-known Louisiana family. A large number of British subjects, the crews of captured blockade-runners, are in prison here, and are likely to remain in durance. The acting British Consul, Mr. Coppell, declines to take any interest in their fate. The military authorities continue to seize the negroes for labour on the plantations. If the negro is now a 'freedman, a man, and a brother,' why seize him like an escaped convict, and force him to labour? A new secret order, called Defenders of the Monroe Doctrine, has been established here. It has the support of numbers of General Banks's officers, and its primary aim is the overthrow of the French arms in Mexico. As was anticipated in a previous letter, the Confederate authorities have refused to receive Mr. Demegre within their lines. Even were Mr. Demegre a welcome guest, the Confederates would, as in the case of Mr. Vallandigham, decline to allow their territory to be made a Cayenne for the victims of Yankee tyranny.

PARIS TOPICS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Paris: April 26.

Public opinion in France begins to grow, I will not say threatening, for France has a serene contempt for petty annoyances, but at least cross, on the subject of the resolutions of the Northern Congress against the Mexican Empire. The blind self-sufficiency of the impotent fraction of a Union which was powerful in its day, will not do that which diplomacy has failed to do. The news of the protest of the Congress against

the establishment of the Mexican Empire was received here with a shout of derision. The only effect of the resolutions has been to increase the feeling of ill-will towards the United States, which has in the last two years made progress in some classes of French society. 'The *Moniteur* of this morning announces the Senate's decision as having been taken 'in conformity with the desire of the Government.' The harmonious relations of Washington with the Tuileries have not been interrupted by an incident which Mr. Lincoln has turned to good account by seizing the opportunity thus offered him to prove his friendly feeling for France.

While London has been vying with New York in demonstrations of enthusiasm, as the late Mr. Braham, *teste* Byron, used to say, the French press has been sparing neither of praise nor blame, as they saw in the honours paid to the Italian condottiero the voluntary homage of a free people to a hero of liberty, or the flunkeyism of a great aristocracy confiscating the newest lion to their own profit, and then sending him back to his island. The *Pays* has a capital story suggested by the Garibaldi reception, which, from internal evidence, has every appearance of being only a story; and, as it may therefore be new to your readers, though its scene is supposed to be in England, I shall transcribe it with abridgment. In the reign of George IV., the King of the Sandwich Islands sent an embassy to salute the Majesty of England. The members of the embassy were in due course presented at the English Court, on which occasion they performed their most complimentary dances. On their return to their hotel, they found a gentleman in irreproachable black, with white tie, waiting for them. He had come to explain to them the Parliamentary system, and how in England kings reign but do not govern. The real sovereign of Great Britain is the English people, and in a word he recommended that, having visited His Majesty the King, they should now pay their court to their Majesties the electors. So the ambassadors, edified as to their duties, suffered themselves to be conducted to a great room which was crammed with miscellaneous royalties. Here the gentleman with the white tie respectfully requested that, in accordance with the Court etiquette of the Sandwich Islands, they would perform their national dance; after which he reconducted them to their hotel, announcing that a fresh batch of the electoral body would receive them the next day. This went on for a fortnight, till at length the ambassadors, tired above all by the insolent familiarity of the public, complained to Sir Robert Peel, who, on making enquiries, learned that their Excellencies had been made a show of by the gentleman with the white tie, 'whose name it was Barnum.' The *Pays* then goes on to say that even so Garibaldi was shown for money as a 'great attraction' at the Crystal Palace—the most colossal success, as the money-taker is said to have asserted, since Blondin. Why was there only one representation? The story is capitally told in the *Pays*.

The proceedings of the Conference are looked to rather with curiosity than interest, for the general impression here is that nothing will come of it unless it be transformed into a general congress. There are many who still flatter themselves that this will be its *dénouement*, but, though it be the wish, it is not the expectation of the greater number. The general feeling is very strongly against Prussia, but there is as little inclination to interfere by force of arms in favour of Denmark on this side of the Channel as among the governing powers in England. Some of the papers go so far as to warn the Government against entering into any engagement of this sort, certain as it would be to find itself at the last moment left in the lurch by Great Britain. The Russell Administration of Foreign Affairs has brought things to such a pass, that the alliance of England is now as much dreaded as it once was sought after.

The fluctuations of the last ten days in the French money market are by no means to be accepted as indicating any political event. Since the measure taken some four or five years ago by which the outside speculation, the free trade in speculation, was put a stop to by the suppression of the *coulissiers*, the Bourse has become the *champ clos* in which the two rival parties in finance fight it out at the cost of the general public. There is always a compact phalanx ready to attack every great project brought out by the opposite party, and thus the Mexican loan has furnished the occasion for a display of all the worst characteristics of the Bourse. The fluctuations of the French Bourse are no longer determined by any cause appreciable by the world at large. At this moment the best informed are equally in the dark as to the issue of the present struggle between bulls and bears; and the startling fluctuations of the last few days convey only one moral, which points to their utter insignificance as a barometer of public opinion.

AN APOLOGY FOR FORGERY.

The only reference to the fact that the 'Report of Mr. Mallory' is a forgery, yet made by the journal which first reproduced the Report in England, is sufficiently curious to be placed on record. Assuredly it is a most ingenious attempt to distil precious medicine from noisome weeds. We copy from the *Daily News* of 22nd inst.:—

THE FORGED REPORT OF THE CONFEDERATE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

To the Editor of the Daily News.

Sir,—It appears certain that the alleged report of the Confederate Secretary of the Navy is a forgery. No words of course can be too strong to express the criminality of such an imposture, or the amount of damage which it does to the cause which it was intended to serve. But the yell of exultation which is raised by the enemies of America here, as though the mendacity of the American Government and nation and the untrustworthiness of everything that emanates from them stood confessed at last, though not unnatural, is entirely misplaced.

The American nation must be judged, at the present moment, not by the standard of peaceful times, when the moral perceptions of men are undisturbed, but by the standard of civil war, when all that is most violent, basest, most insane in human passions is stirred up from its depths, at the same time that the higher qualities, at least a certain class of them, are manifested perhaps with more intensity than ever. That was, in effect, a civil war, of which the greatest observer of antiquity said that it changed the moral vocabulary of Greece, and made innocence mean crime and crime innocence where party was concerned. Under such circumstances the acts of depraved or infuriated men are by no means to be taken, without further evidence, as tests of the character, much less of the ordinary character, of nations.

Let us look at the period of our own history which bears the closest analogy to the present crisis in America. The famous 'Icon Basilike' is unquestionably a forgery, committed for the obvious party purpose of stirring up the feelings of the nation in favour of the Royal Martyr. It was the work, in all probability, of an ecclesiastic of some eminence, who afterwards founded on it a claim for reward. It had great currency and produced great effect. The proclamation which purported to emanate from the exiled court of Charles the Second, offering rewards and honours for the assassination of the Protector, was also, in all probability, a forgery, in the genuineness of which, notwithstanding, both parties seem to have believed. These forgeries, committed by unscrupulous partisans, and rendered current by the public excitement, do not throw any doubt in the eyes of historians on the veracity of the authentic state papers of the period, or cause us to mistrust the official accounts of Naseby and Worcester. Much less do they lead us to set down the English as a nation of habitual liars.

After all, though the authenticity of the report is denied by the Confederate Government, the destination of the vessels in the Mersey, the only charge to which, so far as appears, it was the object of the forger to give currency, remains undenied, and rather receives confirmation from having been so pointedly brought under the notice of the Confederates, and allowed by them to pass without repudiation.—I am, &c.,

Goldwin Smith.

CATHOLIC CHURCHES BURNT BY NORTHERN TROOPS.

To the Editor of The Index.

Sir,—A statement made in the second column of the first page of the last Index, relative to the immunity enjoyed by 'Catholic churches' from destruction at the hands of the Northern army is not quite correct.

You can scarcely have forgotten the burning of the Roman Catholic churches at Jacksonville, Florida, Jackson, Mississippi, Frederick, Missouri, and a dozen others, by Northern troops during the progress of the war.

Yours, &c.,
A Priest.

PORTRAIT OF GENERAL BUTLER, DRAWN BY HIMSELF.

THE EXAMINATION OF REV. W. ARMSTRONG.

[The subjoined appears, precisely as here given, in the *Portsmouth New Regime*, of March 29. The *New Regime* styles itself 'the Official Journal of the Department' of Major-General Butler, and is edited by a member of his staff.]

General. I have read a report, Mr. Armstrong, of an examination of yourself, by one of my aides-de-camp, in regard to the question of your loyalty. Now I need not say to a man as experienced as yourself, that taking the oath of allegiance is only a manifestation of loyalty—that as a man might join your church and still be a very bad man after so doing, so a man may take the oath of allegiance and still be a very disloyal man.—*Rev. Mr. A.* If you will allow me to make a statement to you, I will do so, or I will answer such questions as you please.

General. Make your own statement, sir.—*Mr. A.* The view with which I took the oath was this: I believe the Military Commander has a right to demand of the citizens at any time that they shall take a parole. I regard Norfolk as for the present a conquered city; indeed, I have had no idea that the Confederates would again take it, and that if it ever again did become a part of Virginia, it would be by treaty at the end of the war. I wished to act in accordance with the scriptural injunctions, to obey 'the powers that be,' and I believed the United States to be 'the powers that be.' I took the oath with the intention of keeping it so far as my actions were concerned. *My feelings, of course, I cannot control.* My words and actions I can.

General. That brings me, sir, to a matter to which I wish to call your careful attention. Your unrevealed thoughts I can only get by asking questions. Now, sir, I want to ask you a few questions. Did you in any way advise, consult with, or give any information to Mrs. McIntosh in relation to selling any property in Norfolk?—*Mr. A.* Not that I recollect.

General. Let me try and quicken your recollection a little. You know her?—*Mr. A.* Yes, sir.

General. She is a sister of Captain McIntosh of the so-called Confederate States Navy?—*Mr. A.* His wife; she is a member of my church. She was about selling her property.

General. Wait one moment. Don't you remember whether you advised her about selling it in any way?—*Mr. A.* I talked with her. I don't recollect what I said. I believe there was a conversation about her selling her property and removing to Baltimore,—no, not about selling her property. She told me, as her pastor, that she was going to remove to Baltimore.

General. Did you then and there say to her, that she had better not remove or sell her property, because the Confederates would soon have the city of Norfolk, and her property would then be worth more, or words to that effect? Answer me that question, now, without mental reservation or equivocation.—*Mr. A.* No, sir. I urged her not to go away from Norfolk, on account of her church.

General. Did you say anything like it?—*Mr. A.* No, sir.

General. Did you say anything as to the time when you thought the Confederates would have Norfolk?—*Mr. A.* No, sir.

General. Anything of the sort?—*Mr. A.* No, sir.

General. Well, sir, you may proceed. I will hear the rest of your statement.—*Mr. A.* Well, in conducting the exercises of the sanctuary, I have read the prayer that was asked before the war, with the addition of a prayer for peace.

General. You pray that God would sustain all rightful authority, or words to that effect?—*Mr. A.* No, sir. I have not made that prayer for eighteen months.

General. You pray for the authorities?—*Mr. A.* I pray for the authorities over us; and I publicly explained to my congregation that, in so doing, we were praying for the President of the United States.

General. Do your people so understand it?—*Mr. A.* They do. I have publicly explained it.

General. Have you, since taking the oath of allegiance, or at any other time, checked one of the members of your congregation when he was praying for the President?—*Mr. A.* Have I checked them?

General. Chided them in any way or form of words?—*Mr. A.* No, that I recollect.

General. I beg your pardon, sir; it is not a matter of recollection. It is a thing you cannot forget.—*Mr. A.* No, sir.

General. Did not one of the members of your congregation pray for the President of the United States, and did not you say that it had better not be done; that there were two parties to please here?—*Mr. A.* Never, sir.

General. Nothing of the sort?—*Mr. A.* Nothing of the sort.

General. I perceive that in your former examination you declined answering this question: 'Do you call yourself a loyal man in letter and spirit to-day?'—*Mr. A.* I do not decline to answer now. If I were to put my own interpretation upon it, I should say I am; but I don't know, sir.

General. Well, sir, perhaps I can teach you. Now, sir, what is the name of that gentleman who had taken the oath, and, while coming out of the Custom House with you, made the remark that he 'would like to spit upon the Northern Yankees?'—*Mr. A.* Mr. Charles Reid. I declined to answer on my former examination because I had not his consent to tell, sir; but since then I have seen him, and he has given me his consent to mention his name.

General. Where is Mr. Reid?—*Mr. A.* He is in Norfolk.

General. (To an Aide.) Telegraph to Colonel Whelden (Provost-Marshal, Norfolk), to arrest Mr. Charles Reid and send him here. He lives on Main Street.

General. He stated that as he came out from taking the oath?—*Mr. A.* Yes, sir.

General. With the oath fresh on his lips and the words hardly dry in his mouth, he said he 'wanted to spit in the face of the Northern Yankees?'—*Mr. A.* Well, General, *he took it with the same view as I did.*

General. I agree to that, sir.—*Mr. A.* I meant to say——

General. Stop, sir. I don't like to be insulted. You said, sir, that that infernal Secessionist wanted to spit in the faces of loyal men of this Union, and that you took the oath with the same view as he did, or rather he took it with the same view that you did—it makes no difference which. I agree, sir, that you did. I have treated you, sir, during this interview, with propriety and courtesy up to this moment, and yet you, sir, here tell me, in order to clear this vile wretch who shall be punished as he deserves, that *you took the oath to my Government with the same view that he did.* *Mr. A.*—Well, sir, it was a mortifying fact to confess that we were a conquered people; and it was the irritation growing out of that fact.

General. You have not helped it, sir. You had better not go on in that direction any further, sir, for your own sake. Now, sir, while you did preach a very virulent sermon upon 'The Victory of Manassas,' at the recommendation of the Confederate Congress, have you ever since preached in your pulpit a sermon favourable to the Union cause, or one that would be likely to please the loyal and displease the disloyal?—*Mr. A.* No, sir, I never have.

General. You have said you 'do not think this a wicked rebellion.' Do you still hold to that opinion?—*Mr. A.* Yes, sir.

General. You have not opened your church upon any of the days recommended by the authorities. I want a more explicit answer, sir, than you have given previously. You know whether you have or not. How is it?—*Mr. A.* I should have to answer, sir, that *I did.* There were prayer-meetings held in the church. No addresses were made. There was a prayer for peace.

General. You said you 'would not willingly open your church to any recognised minister of the Gospel from such denominations as before the war you would have exchanged with, did you know he would pray for the Union, and against the rebels'?—*Mr. A.* Yes, sir.

General. You said you looked upon the hanging of John Brown as just and right because he interfered with the peace of the country?—*Mr. A.* Yes, sir.

General. Very good, sir. Now, then, would you look upon the hanging of the prominent rebels, Jefferson Davis for instance, as just and right? You know the rebels have interfered with the peace of the country and have caused rivers of blood to flow where John Brown only caused pints. What do you say to that?—*Mr. A.* I would not, sir.

General. Are your sympathies with the Union or the Confederate cause?—*Mr. A.* With the Confederates.

General. You do not think that Davis, Wigfall, Slidell, and their former colleagues are traitors, and you do think that if they so desired they should again resume their seats in Congress?—*Mr. A.* I don't think they are traitors. I don't see why they should not again take their seats in Congress.

General. I don't see, sir, what good the oath has been to you.—*Mr. A.* I thought the oath was an oath of amnesty.

General. You took the oath, sir, for the purpose of having the United States protect you, while you should by your conduct and your life aid and comfort the rebels. It is an oath of amnesty to those who take it in truth, and come back repentant to the United States. You are a Presbyterian. A man comes to you; you are about to take him into communion. You say to him, 'You have heretofore been a wicked man?' He says, 'Yes, sir.' You ask him if he has experienced a change of heart. He says, 'No, sir.' You ask, 'Are your sympathies with us or with the devil?' He says, 'The devil.' You ask, 'Which would you like to have prevail in this world, God or the devil?' He says, 'The devil.' You ask, 'Where are your friends?' He says, 'With the devil.' Then you ask him, 'Do you think you can join the church with your present feelings?' He replies, 'I think I can, to get the bread and wine at the altar.' Think of it, sir, anywhere else, and as a man of Christian professions, saying nothing of Christian practice. I call upon you to think of it. Sworn to be loyal and true to the United States, here you are with your sympathies against them. You, sir, are a perjured man in the sight of God. It is an oath of amnesty to those who truly repent, precisely as Christ shed his blood for those who repent, but not for those who would crucify him afresh. For you, sir, it was not an oath of amnesty. I should be just as wrong in receiving you, sir, as a loyal man, as you would in receiving such a man as I have described into your church. (To an Aide.) Make an order that this man be committed to the guardhouse, in close confinement, there to remain until he can be consigned to Fort Hatteras, there to be kept in solitary confinement until further orders; and send a copy of this examination to the officer in command there.

OUTRAGE ON A BRITISH SUBJECT.

(From the *Times*, New York Correspondent.)

It appears that on the 21st of March, 1863, a British blockade-runner, the steamer *Nicholas I.*, was captured off Wilmington, North Carolina, by the United States' gunboat *Victoria*, taken charge of by a Lieutenant Ivison, or Everson, of that vessel, and a prize crew, and ordered to New York for adjudication. One of the firemen on board, named James O'Neill, 45 years of age, a native of Dublin and a British subject, was asked by the chief engineer of the captor to volunteer to work as fireman, or rather to continue to work as fireman, till the prize reached New York, and promised wages at the rate of a dollar and a half a day. O'Neill consented, and the engineer having been ordered to get up steam about ten o'clock on the

morning of the capture, he worked until two o'clock, under the superintendence of a first-class fireman, named Gurdon, sent on board from the *Victoria*. At that time the prize was brought to anchor off Wilmington, and O'Neill stepping to the ventilator to cool himself, told Gurdon that quantities of gunpowder and salt were stowed in the bows of the vessel, and that it would be advisable to inform Lieutenant Everson of the fact, in case any of the crew should be careless in smoking or in going about with lights. Gurdon was of the same opinion, and left O'Neill below while he reported the circumstance to the officer. In a few minutes Lieutenant Everson made his appearance, drunk, and wildly excited, and seeing O'Neill called out to him to keep back, or he would shoot him. O'Neill had no time to reply before the Lieutenant discharged a pistol at him, the ball from which entered the left thigh, severing one of the arteries. Gurdon indignantly remonstrated with the Lieutenant for shooting a man who had been working hard and doing good service, but the Lieutenant made no other remark than 'It's all right,' and left the man to his fate. By Gurdon's promptitude and care the wound was bound up till the surgeon arrived. O'Neill had fainted from loss of blood, and was taken on deck. A tourniquet was applied, and he was removed on board the *Victoria*. After remaining there for five days he was sent to Fortress Monroe, and thence to the hospital at Norfolk, where he was subjected to the painful operation of having the artery tied, and lay upon his back helpless for 62 days. As soon as he was able to crawl about by the aid of a stick he was transferred from the hospital to the *Brandywine* storeship at Fortress Monroe, and kept a close prisoner *in irons*, until the doctor, after two days, seeing his utter helplessness, had the irons removed. He remained in prison in this ship from June 15 to November 13, when he was again put in irons, placed on board the transport ship *Newbern*, and conveyed to the navy-yard at Brooklyn, preparatory to his consignment at Fort Lafayette as a prisoner of State. In this dungeon he was confined in a casemate with two other prisoners—one named Andrews, charged with being a ringleader in the New York anti-conscription riots in July last. He was locked up night and day, allowed neither exercise nor fresh air, nor permitted to leave his cell even for the calls of nature. This particular casemate was called 'the doomed cell.' He obtained his liberty early in March, through the representations of Lord Lyons, to whom the facts were officially transmitted by the British Consul at this port; but his wound, and the subsequent cruelties he experienced, have seriously, and, perhaps, permanently, injured his health. He has not recovered the use of his leg, is quite unable to work, and totally destitute.

Lieutenant Everson, on being called upon by Admiral Lee, his superior officer, to explain his conduct, had nothing further to say than that O'Neill had a keg of gunpowder in his hands, which he was about to cast into the furnace to blow up the ship and all on board, when he shot him to prevent the catastrophe. He still persists in this statement, though it has no foundation but in the temporary insanity of his own intoxication and alarm at the time, and is disproved by the evidence of Gurdon and the other firemen who witnessed the circumstance.

RECEPTION OF RETURNED PRISONERS.

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT.

(From the *Richmond Enquirer*, March 16.)

Richmond opened wide her arms yesterday. Four hours the hills at Rocketts bloomed with beauty, and the streets about the Navy Yard were alive with throngs of pleased, expectant, joyous-hearted people. The glittering muskets of a battalion shone in their midst, and the music of a band added to the attractions of the scene. At half-past one o'clock, two steamers loaded with Confederate soldiers just released from Northern prisons, after ten months of cruel captivity, appeared, coming slowly toward the wharf. Cheers from the shore and cheers from the boats arose. As the boats touched the wharf, the prison-worn 'heroes of many a fight' were seized upon by a thousand ladies or more, and welcomed with Virginia warmth and womanly enthusiasm. The military presented arms; the band did its best; the people cheered. Everybody did something, or said or shouted something that evinced overflowing, irrepressible, indefinable gladness. The prisoners were then escorted up town. The march was a triumph. When the large crowd of returned soldiers and citizens had reached the Capitol Square, a halt was made at the Washington monument. President Davis then made his appearance among the returned soldiers, and was received by them with rapturous cheers and waving of hats. In response to the general wish, the President took a position on the Washington monument and addressed the returned soldiers, who crowded around him with eager desire to hear what he had to say.

The President said:—

Friends and Fellow-soldiers. I welcome you to your native land. When I have heard of the sufferings you have endured, and the indignities to which you have been subjected, while helpless prisoners of cruel captors, my heart has yearned for you with a father's deep sympathy and affectionate solicitude; it has burned with indignation at your wrongs; but it has also pulsated with an unspeakable pride and exultation at the fortitude you have evinced under the severest trials, the integrity you have preserved amid the most insidious temptations, and the calm trust you have never ceased to repose in the righteousness of your country's cause.

A colour-bearer among you, when captured, secreted his battle flag in his bosom, and possessed it through a long captivity, until the proud moment arrived when, standing on the deck of a Confederate vessel, he gave its folds, amid the cheers of his comrades, once more to the light of his native skies. With a no less jealous care, through the long weary months of a vile imprisonment, you have kept entwined around your heart of hearts an unfading love of that sacred emblem, and your faithful guardianship earns for you the admiration of your Government, and is hailed by the plaudits of your grateful countrymen.

You have passed through many bitter trials. You know there are many more in store for you. You have followed that flag with unfaltering steps on many a bloody field. You will follow it again with no less enthusiasm, as each day makes it more precious, and sheds a new radiance on its bright folds. To the spirit that has carried you forward to so many heights of victory in the past, will be added the inspiration of new wrongs and outrages, that will strengthen your arms and nerve your hearts to a resistance that nothing can overcome in the future. Your brother soldiers have awaited your coming with painful anxiety. They will welcome you with open arms. You will tell them, by the camp fires, of the horrors of your long captivity. You will contrast your sufferings with the generosity with which their prisoners have been treated at our hands, and, though you have felt, many times, this broad distinction, you responded to the sentiment of your comrades at home, that we must never forget what is due to ourselves as a civilised people, though the enemy have nothing to claim.

Your words will excite them to an unconquerable determination. They will arouse you to the highest pitch of martial enthusiasm by accounts of their glorious deeds in your absence. Together you will be stimulated to renewed exertion until you plant our banner on the heights of Southern Independence, and deck it with the rich fruits and fragrant flowers of an enduring peace.

You will find your families suffering less than you have been led to suppose. You will find much of our territory devastated, but the people still true to the spirit of '76. You will find the old State of Virginia, baring her bosom to the storm, with lion heart and eagle eye defiant as ever. So long as she has a crust you will share her hospitality. After a short respite you will be called again to the front. I know you will come.

May God bless you all.

The South commercially independent of the North.—Commercially considered, the South has of course suffered more than the North. With a blockaded seaboard, the trade of the South became almost extinct. In one respect, however, the war has not been unproductive of good effects in the South. Instead of being simply the exporters of a raw material which a coloured population prepared for the market, the Southerners have now become manufacturers. The necessities of the present war compelled them to develope their industrial resources, and they have now learned to supply themselves with those articles for which they were previously dependent upon the Northern States. The Southern population desired political independence, but the experiences of the present war have taught them the necessity of equally making themselves commercially independent of their Northern neighbour. *Morning Post*, April 26.

Europe and the Confederate States.—Colonel L. Q. C. Lamar, who lately visited this country, delivered an address last month at Milledgeville, Georgia, on 'The Sentiments of Europe towards the Confederacy.' Colonel Lamar said that he found amongst all intelligent classes a strong sympathy for the South, and an earnest admiration of Southern statesmanship and Southern valour. The Governments of Europe were deterred by political considerations from recognising the Confederate States. That of Great Britain was sensitive of any act that might incur the hostility of the United States. France was deterred from recognition by other Powers holding back. The Russian Government alone avowed any partiality for the United States. The German populace, misled by the agents of New England, has recruited the Northern armies. The Pope has declared the nationality of the South an accomplished fact. The financiers of London took the Confederate loan, while they refused to touch that of the United States, which was a substantial evidence of confidence and a financial recognition.

Lincoln's Re-election.—The late elections in the United States indicate that the Lincoln party is still triumphant, though not overwhelming. It carries the elections generally, though by an insecure majority. Lincoln personally seems to have a great start over his rivals for the Presidency in his own party. The Republicans of the various State Legislatures are very generally nominating him, and with alleged unanimity. Thirty or forty newspapers have also declared for him, while only five or six (mostly German) have come out for Fremont, and three or four for Chase. Add to this the immense patronage of Lincoln and the vote of his army, which is given by word of command, and it would seem that he is pretty secure from the rivals of his own household. If dethroned, it will be by a Democrat, and it will either result from an increased dissatisfaction with the war, or he will be defeated through distractions among his friends, just as he was elected by division among his opponents. As some offset to the foregoing, however, we see it stated by Wendell Philips, that only five United States Senators are in favour of Lincoln's re-election. So far as we now see, we do not think that Lincoln's defeat, except on principle, is a result to be desired. If the war against us is to be persevered in, better that it be by one worn and wearied with the labours and chagrins of four years, than by a successor who would come to the task with fresh ambition, unchilled ardour, and, perhaps, a higher capacity. Lincoln, by his own account, must have very nearly his fill of the war, for he says he is the most miserable man alive. The fable of the fox and the flies teaches that it will probably be better for us if he be kept at his post, rather than bring in a new man, with a fresh set of retamers, to pursue the same line of policy. *Richmond Sentinel*, March 18.

Spirit of the Confederate Army.—The following resolutions were adopted by the Second North Carolina regiment with respect to the re-enlistment of its members for the war:—'Whereas, having noticed the patriotic course of many of the regiments in the Confederate armies, who are voluntarily enlisting *for the war*, we deem it our duty to send them forth a brotherly greeting and welcome them into our ranks: Therefore '1. *Resolved*, That, having, at the commencement of hostilities, enlisted *for the war*, we have seen no reason to regret our choice: but, on the contrary, the continued cruelty, barbarity, and vindictiveness of our malignant foes, as well as our leafless roof trees, deserted firesides, and desolated homes, make us more and more resolute in our determination to continue steadfast until the end. 2. *Resolved*, That we declare ourselves enlisted in the cause of Southern rights and Southern independence as long as one armed foe shall remain on our soil. That we declare ourselves *in for the war*, without conditions, and this we do most cheerfully, as is our bounden duty. 3. *Resolved*, That we send a warm and fraternal greeting to our friends at home, and bid them entertain no gloomy apprehensions for the future, but put the ban upon all croakers, malcontents, speculators, and skulkers from the battle-field; for history will never record that the minions of tyranny, oppression, and fanaticism can ever subdue the *freemen* of the South, if true to themselves. 4. *Resolved*, That we have full confidence in those in authority over us, and that the liberality manifested by our commanders, and the successful efforts they have made to supply our necessities, are an earnest of their increasing care in our behalf, and should, and do, receive our heartfelt thanks.'

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Ships Arrived.

At Liverpool.—April 18: The Sea Foam (steamer), The Ariosto, from Nassau.—April 19: The Louisa, The Caroline, The Margaret, from Matamoras. The Albatross, from Nassau. —April 20: The Mathilda, from Havana. The Amazoné, from Matamoras.—April 21: The Jeff. Davis, from Havana.—April 22: The Bloomer, from Nassau.—April 25: The Ocean Belle, from Nassau.

At the Clyde.—April 20: The Louisa, from Bermuda.

At Halifax.—The Keder (steamer), for Bermuda. The Edith (steamer), for Bermuda. The Helen (steamer), for Bermuda. The Tristram Shandy, for Bermuda.

At Bremen.—April 19: The Sophie, of this port, and three Hamburgh vessels, all from Matamoras, were captured by Danish frigates off the Weser.

At St. Nazaire.—April 17: The Tampico (mail steamer), with 154 passengers.

At Gravesend.—April 26: The Actio, from Havana.

Ships Sailed.

Liverpool.—April 18: The Mannella, for Havana.—April 19: The Zigzag, for Nassau.—April 20: The Royal William, for Demerara.—The Askalon, for St. Thomas, &c.—The Tyrol, for Havana.—The Stampedo, for St. John's.—The Lynx (steamer), for Bermuda.—April 22: The Fawcett, for St. John's.—April 23: The M. de Wolff, for Nassau.

London.—April 21: The Ocean Sprite, for Bermuda.

Deal.—April 21: The Elite, for Nassau.

Ships Spoken with.

The Rapid, for Havana, March 11, 18° N., 40° W.—The Harkaway, for Bermuda, March 12, 17° N., 39° W.—The Salem, from St. John's, April 12, 50° N., 9° W.—The H. A. Stephens, from Matamoras, March 1, 24° N., 80° W.

Ships Arrived Out.

Matanzas.—The Earl Powis, from Ramsgate. The Frey, from Newport.

St. John's.—The Argo, from the Clyde. The Inchiquin, from Liverpool. The Caledonia (steamer), from the Clyde. The Devonshire, from Dublin.

Havana.—The Melville (steamer), from Matamoras. The Denbigh, from Mobile. The Ida, the Columbus, from Cardiff. The Vesta, from Shields.

St. Nazaire, April 16.—The Vera Cruz (mail steamer), for Mexico, with 74 passengers.

Bermuda, March 1.—The Index (steamer), with 989 packages of merchandise. The Coquette (steamer), the Thistle (steamer), sailed for Nassau.—March 7: The Caledonia, from Wilmington, with 308 bales of cotton. The Florie (steamer), returned to port.—March 16: The Will o' the Wisp (steamer), hence for Wilmington, has put into Nassau leaky.

Wilmington.—March 15.—Arrived: The Index (steamer), The Hansa (steamer), The Coquette (steamer).—Sailed: The A. D. Vance (steamer), for Nassau.

St. George's.—March 8.—Arrived: The St. Petersburgh (steamer), from a Confederate port.

The Pet (steamer) has been captured and taken into Boston.

Nassau.—March 17: The Syren (steamer), The Coquette (steamer), from Wilmington. The Petrel (steamer), from Charleston. The Greyhound (steamer), for Wilmington. The Will-o'-the-Wisp (steamer), having repaired damages, has sailed for Wilmington. The Syren (steamer), for Wilmington. The Juno (steamer), from Wilmington, has foundered; nearly all hands were lost.

Cape Town (Cape of Good Hope).—March 21: The Confederate war steamer Alabama, three months from Singapore, arrived in Table Bay, March 20.

Custom House.—April 26.—Entered Inwards: The Active, from Havana. Entered Outwards: The Albion, for Bermuda; The Metina, for Halifax; The Brooking, for Bermuda.

Ships Loading.

St. Thomas (steamer), Liverpool; Leech, Harrison, & Forwood. Floridé (Imperial mail steamer), London; Stringer, Pembroke, & Co. Pet, Lightning, both for Nassau, St. Katharine's Docks; Joshua Worley. Jessie, for Nassau, St. Katharine's Docks; Davison Brothers & Co.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL & COMMERCIAL.

THE MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKETS.

Wednesday Evening.

The prospects of the money market are not unsatisfactory. True, the quotation for discount is supported at 7 per cent., and the price for the present is not likely to go lower; but if it does not advance, it will be held to be favourable, especially in the face of the introduction of such numbers of public companies. The Russian loan of 6,000,000*l*. and the Mexican loan of 12,000,000*l*. have neither of them proved great successes, because the public have properly imagined that if they had encouraged them, it would have led to a serious drain of bullion, and this, in the existing state of things, would have been extremely prejudicial. Home and local enterprise has been so much encouraged that it is felt it would be dangerous to adventure in foreign loans, and though, on other occasions when money is more completely abundant, support may be given to them, it is very evident they are not popular just at present. If we secure favourable crops this year, we may be enabled to struggle through without a panic; but if there should be the least doubt of the sufficiency of the harvest, the immediate result would be a reaction in prices, and a general state of depression at the Stock Exchange. The mania continues in the direction of Bank, Finance, and Credit Companies, and in consequence of this, a rapid absorption of money is going forward, which will support the terms for discount. It is not, however, thought that the rate will for the instant advance, particularly if foreign loans shall continue to be eschewed. The terms for first-class paper may be called 6⅞ to 7 per cent.; the general quotation is 7 per cent. Money in the Stock Exchange on English securities is worth 4 to 5 per cent.; higher rates are paid in the foreign stock and share settlements, in consequence of the employment of capital in carrying over stocks and shares to the middle of next month.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The English stock market has shown rather more buoyancy during the last two or three days, in consequence of the more favourable aspect of the money market, but in the earlier part of the week the brokers were deterred from operating freely in consequence of the apprehension that the Bank rate of discount might have been further advanced; that fear, however, appears now, in a great measure, to have subsided; and with a continuation of very fine weather, there is more disposition evinced to do business. Consols closed this evening at 91½ to 91⅝ for money and 91⅝ to 91¾ for the account, which is an improvement of ¼ per cent. on the price current this day week. Exchequer Bills are rather less firm, being now down to 10*s*. to to 4*s*. dis. The Foreign Stock Market has been less animated, the causes which have created a speculative movement in some of the stocks, particularly Mexican and Greek, having subsided, and prices in those cases exhibit a declining tendency. Spanish, however, show a slight improvement. Greek closes at 24¾ to 25, being a fall of ½ per cent. Mexican 45½ to 45¾, showing a

decline of ⅞ per cent. Spanish Passives 35¾ to 36¼, being an improvement of ⅛ per cent., and the Certificates 12¼ to 12¾. Turkish six per cents. (1854) 89 to 90, and those 1862 69 to 69½, being a decline in the former of ½ per cent., and in the latter of 2 per cent.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The Confederate loan has advanced this week, the latest quotation being 57½ to 58½.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The continued favourable accounts with regard to the progress making by the Confederate armies are telling seriously upon the value of all the American Federal Government and railway securities. The brokers appear to keep quite aloof as respects this description of property, and the only dealings appear to be on behalf of persons wishing to get rid of the stock they hold, and purchasers are only to be found where lower prices are accepted. The transactions for some weeks past have been gradually declining, and they have been this week less than for a very long time past. They comprised Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York section, at 79, 78, and 77½, ditto, Pennsylvanian section, at 76, 75½, 75¼, and 75, Erie shares, $100, all paid, at 64, ditto, fifth mortgage, 65, Illinois Central seven per cent., at 65, ditto, $100 shares, $90 paid, 22 dis., and Pennsylvania Railway, second mortgage, 85.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The bullion and specie movements still continue of an unfavourable character. During the week there has not been any gold sent into the Bank, but there have been withdrawals to the extent of 82,000*l*. for transmission abroad. The arrivals of specie have reached 586,935*l*., 529,895*l*. being from the West Indies and the Pacific, and 57,040*l*. from New York. The specie shipped by the steamer for the East which sailed to-day, amounted to 114 205*l*., of which there was in gold 17,000*l*. for Alexandria and 38,765*l*. for Bombay. The amount of silver was 61,840*l*. The silver market has been very quiet, there being scarcely any demand for India, and the transactions have consequently been on a very limited scale. The bar silver brought by the last West Indian packet has been sold at 61[illegible]*d*. per ounce, being a decline of ⅛*d*. from the price [illegible] the previous arrival. Mexican dollars have been [illegible] and the price remains unchanged. About [illegible] is on its way from Melbourne [illegible] *Dover Castle*, and the *Red Rover*. There is also [illegible] on its way from New Zealand by the [illegible].

Liverpool, Wednesday, April 27. Although the sales of cotton this week have been beyond what [illegible] extent, the dealings have not been so animated as they were last week but on the whole prices continue to be well supported. There have been more enquiries for American descriptions, which are rather scarce, and they consequently command better prices. The sales this week have amounted to [illegible] bales, of which 30,000 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year down to the present time have been 706,020 bales, against 610,310 bales the corresponding period [illegible]. There have been imported this year 712,[illegible] bales, and to the same date last year 400,076 bales. The exports so far this year have reached 107,685 bales, [illegible] 1864 they were 109,165 bales. There have been taken for consumption this year 472 300 bales, last year [illegible] 318,300 bales. On speculation this year, 105,[illegible] have been taken, whilst in 1863 the amount was [illegible]. The computed stock at the present time is 311,260 bales [illegible] the same period last year they were only 365,0[illegible] bales. The latest quotations were: Middling Orleans, 27*d*. to 28*d*.; Mobile, 27¼*d*. to 27¾*d*.; Uplands, 26½*d*. to 27*d*.; and [illegible] fair Egyptians, 27½*d*. to 28½*d*.

Business at Manchester during the past week has shown rather more animation, but the dealings to a considerable extent have been limited in consequence of the high prices demanded by the holders of almost all descriptions of goods. For all kinds of yarns made from good cotton particularly long stapled yarns for shipping, there have been increased enquiries, and the qualities also made from the lower [illegible] of cotton have improved, and nearly all descriptions of yarn must be quoted about 1*d*. per pound dearer. There is no [illegible] [illegible]

Among the Contents of The Index *of April 21 are*—

Notes on Events of the Week at Home and Abroad.
Parliamentary Notes.
Confederate Official Documents. Official Correspondence on the Mexican [illegible]. An Act to Organise Forces to Serve During the War.
Confederate Progress in the West.
The Break in the Storm.
Mexico and the United States.
A [illegible].
Lincoln and Fremont.
[illegible].
Letter from New York.
Letter from New Orleans.
[illegible].
Confederate Cause in Lancashire.
Shipping Intelligence.
Affairs Financial and Commercial.

MARRIAGE.

Pratt—Sims. March 17, at her father's residence in Paris, by the Rev. Dr. Forbes, Miss Eliza T. Sims, eldest daughter of Dr. J. Marion Sims, to Dr. T. T. Pratt, C. S. Army.

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THERE are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellow-men.

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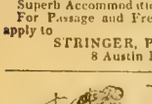

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A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

VOL. IV.—NO. 106.] LONDON: THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 5, 1864. [PRICE 6D.

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Blockade-Running Statistics.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NASSAU, N.P.: March 17, 1864.

RUNNING the blockade became a business in this port in November 1861. Thinking that reliable statistics of this important trade will be not only of interest to the commercial community, but equally so from a political point of view, as affording a standard for measuring the efficiency of the blockade, I subjoin a table carefully compiled and corrected up to the date of March 10, 1864. This table comprises the names of all steam-vessels belonging to this port which have run or attempted to run the blockade from this port between the dates mentioned, the number of round trips and runs made by each from and to this port up to March 10, or until lost or captured. Where vessels belonging to this port have made trips to or from other ports, the number of such trips so far as known is also given, but my figures in this respect are of course not so complete as in the case of arrivals and clearances here. You will please observe that most of the boats here enumerated were wholly unfit for the purpose to which they had been hastily applied under the inducements of the large profit, and are very different from those which have been more recently built, and expressly for blockade-running. Still, even now it is by no means an uncommon thing for a five or six-knot boat to make several successful trips, while the better class pass the blockading squadron almost as carelessly as if none such existed, frequently in open daylight. The average life of a boat, which from the subjoined table would appear to be about five runs, is therefore in reality much higher, and may be safely estimated, with proper management, to be at least four round trips, or eight successful runs.

Taking all the craft, good, bad, and indifferent, together, you will find that out of eighty-four steamers, eleven only failed on the first run, thirty-seven have been captured, and twenty-five lost from various marine accidents, while twenty-two are still safe, after having paid themselves many times over. But perhaps the most striking way of explaining the annexed table to the ordinary reader is to say that of 425 attempts to run the blockade from this port alone, 363 have been successful, and only sixty-two (or about one in seven) unsuccessful. If, as should fairly be done, the number of trips made by the same vessels from other ports be added, the proportion becomes still more favourable to the blockade-running interest. I need only add that of the vessels enumerated several have changed their names at various times, in which case I have identified them under one name, generally the last.

List of Steam-Vessels engaged in Blockade-Running to and from the Port of Nassau, N.P., between November 1861, *and March* 10, 1864.

Name.	From Nassau. Trips.	Runs.	Other Ports. Trips.	Runs.	
Anglia	0	0	.	.	Captured
Arabian	1½	3	.	.	Lost (part cargo saved)
Antonica	12	24	2	4 (Bermuda)	Lost (total loss)
A. D. Vance	2	4	3	6 (Bermuda)	. .
Alice	8	16	1	2 (Bermuda)	. .
Annie	½	1	.	.	. .
Brittania	2⅔	5	.	.	Captured
Banshee	7	14	1	2 (Bermuda)	Captured
Beauregard	5	10	2	4 (Bermuda)	Beached (part cargo saved)
Bendigo	1	2	.	.	Beached (cargo saved)
Calypso	3	6	.	.	Captured
Cambria	0	0	.	.	Captured
Cecile	8	16	.	.	Captured
City Petersburg	1½	3	2½	5 (Bermuda)	. .
Cronstadt	½	1	.	.	Captured
Charleston	2	4	.	.	Captured
Don	3	6	2	4 (Bermuda)	Captured
Dee	1	2	3	6 (Bermuda)	Lost (part cargo saved)
Despatch	1	2	.	.	. .
Diamond	0	0	.	.	Captured
Ducro	1	2	.	.	Beached
Emma	2	4	2	4 (Bermuda)	Captured
Emilie Seabrook	½	1	.	.	Captured
Ella Starley	1½	3	.	.	Captured
Eugenie	½	1	4	8 (Bermuda)	. .
Ella and Annie	3	6	1	2 (Bermuda)	Captured
Eagle	3	6	.	.	Captured
Economist	½	1	.	.	. .
Elizabeth	2	4	1	2 (Bermuda)	Beached (total loss)
Elizabeth	0	0	.	.	Captured
Flora	6½	13	.	.	Confederate gunboat
Fannie	9	18	.	.	. .
Fannie & Jemie	0	0	.	.	Lost (ran ashore)
Giraffe	2	4	.	.	Captured
Gordon	2½	5	.	.	Captured
Gem	1	2	.	.	. .
Georgiana	0	0	.	.	Lost
Gertrude	1½	3	.	.	Captured
Granite City	1	2	.	.	Captured
Gladiator	1	2	.	.	In England
Hero	1	2	.	.	In England
Hansa	7	14	2	4 (Bermuda)	. .
Heroine	2	4	.	.	Condemned
Hebe	1	2	.	.	Beached (part cargo saved)
Jupiter	0	0	.	.	Captured
Juno	½	1	.	.	Confederate gunboat
Kate	7½	15	.	.	Lost (cargo saved)
Kate	1½	3	.	.	Lost (engines and cargo saved)
Lodina	0	0	.	.	Captured
Leopard	4	8	.	.	Lost
Little Ada	½	1	.	.	. .
Lloyds	1	2	.	.	In England
Lucy	4	8	.	.	. .
Lizzie	1½	3	.	.	Captured
Modern Greece	½	1	.	.	Lost (cargo saved)
Memphis	½	1	.	.	Captured
Moultrie	½	1	.	.	. .
Minho	2	4	.	.	Lost
Mail	½	1	.	.	Captured
Mary Anne	2½	5	1	2 (Havana)	Captured
Nellie	½	1	.	.	Captured
Nashville	2	4	.	.	Lost (total)
Norseman	½	1	.	.	Lost
Nicolas I.	0	0	.	.	Captured
Nina	½	1	.	.	Foundered at sea
Margaret & Jessie	9	18	.	.	Captured
Presto	1	2	.	.	Lost (part cargo saved
Pet	8	16	.	.	Captured
Phantom	½	1	1	2 (Bermuda)	Beached (engines and cargo saved)
Rothsay Castle	1	2	.	.	. .
Raccoon	1	2	.	.	Lost
Ruby	3	6	1	2 (Havana)	Lost
Scotia	2½	5	.	.	Captured
Syren	5½	11	.	.	. .
Spunkie	3	6	.	.	Lost (cargo saved)
Spaulding	1	2	.	.	Captured
Scotia	1	2	.	.	Captured
St. John's	½	1	.	.	Captured
Tubal Cain	0	0	.	.	Captured
Thistle	½	1	.	.	Captured
Venus	1	2	2	4 (Bermuda)	. .
Victory	1½	3	1	2 (England)	Lost (total)
Wave Queen	0	0	.	.	Captured
Wild Dayrell	2	4	.	.	Beached
Total	84	363	65*		Beached (part cargo saved)

Schooners, about 100 arrived.

* Several of the vessels enumerated in the above have made runs from other ports, which are not indicated in this list.

The following vessels are now in port, viz., *Rose, Mars, Alliance, Will o' the Wisp, Druid, Star.*

The recent regulations framed, under the Act of Congress, by the Confederate Secretary of the Treasury have caused great commotion here. Many persons express themselves very strongly on the subject; but there are not wanting many blockade-runners, heavily interested in the trade, who yet heartily approve and defend these regulations, seeing in them the re-establishment of Confederate credit abroad and relief of the currency at home. To some extent, however, these enactments may for the present reduce the business of this port, especially as regards English orders. The stock of goods now in the market is estimated at the Custom House at 1,000,000*l.*, and the prospective demand not so flattering as before the issue of the late regulations. Private letters from the Confederacy bear evidence of the buoyant spirits and high hopes of Government and people. The results of the ensuing campaign are looked for with an absolute confidence which never existed in the most prosperous tide of Southern fortunes. The great, and probably last, trial of strength, is spoken of in somewhat the spirit of Cromwell's soldiers, who 'rejoiced greatly at the prospect of a battle.'

April 9, 1864.

AFTER a long period of dulness, during which business, like old age, has been forced to live upon the memory of the past, symptoms are at last becoming manifest of a reaction. The late restrictions imposed upon the blockade business, the news of which we received towards the close of 'last moon,' fell like a bomb-shell in our midst, and caused the wildest consternation. The notice was so short, the law itself so comprehensive, and at the first blush so unfair, that it served to put an effectual stop to trade, and turn us all into a community of political wranglers; the aid of the local press was invoked in the discussion, and a series of correspondence enshrined in its columns characterised by considerably more feeling than depth of argument. The vessels in port were detained, and really it looked at one time as though the prophecies of the croakers were about to be realised, and the phantom Commerce vanish from the scene. At length, however, the arrival of the *Coquette* (Government boat) and *Syren* on Monday morning last turned the current of public opinion. The new law, like many other bugbears, was found not half so terrible on closer acquaintance, and, despite a little continued grumbling, really advanced several steps towards popularity. There are certainly some of its provisions that will require alteration, in order that small vessels may not be taxed disproportionately. Otherwise it is well calculated to benefit both the Government and the shipper. The consequence is that every one interested seems determined to make the best of it, and we hear no more threats of boats being withdrawn; while the letters that have gone forward to detain new boats in Europe will all doubtless be recalled either this or the ensuing mail. This happy change of sentiment is not a little influenced by the news of the rapid improvement in the Confederate currency, gold in that locality having inversely emulated its action in the Northern market, being rapidly on the decline, reaching 1,400—the last dates with a lower tendency. If gold is to be considered a political barometer, the Confederacy is evidently in a happy condition. My own opinion is that its commerce will hereafter be conducted on a firmer basis than ever. Three years' experience has demonstrated the fact that blockade-running is highly profitable, the average of success and losses continuing constantly the same, notwithstanding the renewed efforts of the North to destroy it. Fortunes will not probably be acquired so easily or rapidly as in the early period of its history, but better profits will be realised commensurate with the risks. At all events the merchants of Nassau will be great gainers by the new order of things, as it is now necessary that all cotton brought out must return half its value in goods, instead of being buried in the pockets of the fortunate speculator as formerly.

The news received by the *Coquette* and *Syren* is of the most flattering nature. The Confederate armies were never in better condition as regards numbers, clothing, provisions, and munitions, than at present. The suffering that marked the early history of the war has entirely disappeared, and the comfort of the Confederate soldier is now, perhaps, as effectually secured as that of his Northern rival. The apparently strict and harsh laws enacted by the late Congress seem to be not only cheerfully, but enthusiastically, acquiesced in; and a spirit of confidence pervades their journals and the private correspondence received here, that can only be the reflex of a general spirit of confidence in the result of the coming 'shock of arms.'

I conversed yesterday with a gentleman direct from Johnston's army, who speaks of it in the most satisfactory terms with regard to numbers; while Longstreet's army, also greatly enlarged, is in a position from whence he can join either Johnston or General Lee, in Virginia, in seventy hours. A great battle is expected in Virginia during the present month, that will probably be the first really decisive action of the war; and as the time rapidly approaches, our hearts throb with renewed anxiety for the fortunes of the gallant little nation. But she has already braved many storms, and the same God rules above that smiled upon her in the darkest hour of her need.

A very important addition to the late Regulations on Blockade-running, of especial interest to the holders of Confederate Cotton Bonds, will be found under the head of our Commercial and Financial Intelligence.

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

General Banks's expedition up the Red River has met with a signal check, if not a total defeat. On April 8, it had reached Grand Ecore, some fifty miles below Shreveport, the Confederate State capital and military depôt. General Taylor had fallen back to Pleasant Hill, where he made a stand against the Federal cavalry, who imagined they were driving him before them, but who suddenly found themselves attacked in 'overwhelming numbers,' and were driven back in disorder upon their infantry supports. This force was commanded by General Stone, who was so signally defeated at Ball's Bluff in 1861, for which he suffered a long imprisonment. The panic of the cavalry is said to have demoralised the infantry, and the retreat became a rout, in which the cavalry trains and all the artillery were lost. The loss of the advance is put down at 2,000, and that of the Chicago division, in killed and captured, is put down at 3,100. While the fourth division was falling back in disorder, the third division, numbering only 1,800, came up, and was immediately routed. Finally, the Nineteenth Army Corps, 7,000, came up and formed in line, checked the pursuit of the Confederates, and enabled the Federals to save a portion of their trains and fall back to Grand Ecore.

Confederate papers report the destruction of two gunboats by torpedoes. Nothing has been heard from General Steele's column, from Little Rock, Arkansas, which was intended to cooperate with General Banks. It will be observed that the Federals loosely admit a loss of over 5,000, and not 2,000 as first stated, while the Confederates estimated it at 14,000. It is probable that the expedition, every way a failure, will be abandoned, and that General Banks will attempt to return with his shattered forces to New Orleans, pursued by Generals Kirby Smith and Taylor and the victorious Confederates. The hospitals at Baton Rouge were filled with the Federal wounded.

The *Peruvian, via* Greencastle, brings New York telegrams to April 23. The rout of General Banks's expedition was confirmed. A rumour that he successfully attacked the Confederates on the 9th was not confirmed by later dates from New Orleans. The army had retreated to Alexandria, and Commander Porter's fleet of gunboats and transports was fiercely assailed on its return down Red River. Several of the transports barely escaped capture.

The operations for driving the Federals from the coast of North Carolina have commenced. Fort Gray, near Plymouth, at the mouth of Roanoke River, was attacked by the Confederates under General Ransom on the 17th without success. On the following day a Confederate ram sank three out of five Federal gunboats, and held the mouth of the river, while the fort was closely invested. A fleet of gunboats had been sent from Fortress Monroe to the relief of the garrison; but it was believed that both Plymouth and Newbern would be taken.

The Federals have evacuated Pilatka, Florida, and another transport has been sunk in St. John's River by Confederate torpedoes.

The armies of General Lee and General Grant were supposed to be moving; but the Government had stopped despatches from Virginia. Deserters reported that Longstreet was moving down the Shenandoah Valley, and that Lee's army was supplied with ten days' rations.

The apprehension of an invasion of the Western States had induced the governors of four States to go to Washington to advise the President to call out 200,000 six months' volunteers. The Governor of New York had proffered the State militia to guard the coast from the expected visits of the rams of the Confederates.

A Confederate force, estimated at 2,000 to 4,000, commanded by General Forrest, aided by Brigadier-Generals Chalmers and M'Cullough, attacked Fort Pillow on the Mississippi river, in Tennessee, 70 miles above Memphis, at sunrise, April 13. The fort was commanded by Major Booth, and its garrison consisted of 200 Tennessee volunteers and 100 negroes, aided by a gunboat on the river. A summons to surrender having been refused, the fight began, and lasted till four o'clock, P.M. The Confederate forces charged and carried the outer defences in the face of a murderous fire, and the garrison was driven to the river battery. General Forrest then sent another summons to surrender, which was refused, and the fort was taken by assault. Of the 600 who defended the fort General Sherman states the killed at 300. The Federal wounded were placed upon a steamboat and sent to Cairo.

All is silent within the Confederate lines in Virginia. When earnest work begins, the North is left without information. General Mosby, indeed, captured a Federal train on the 16th, near Fairfax Station, burning the wagons and carrying off the horses. There was a rumour at the last moment that General Lee had crossed the Rapidan, and there was a strong apprehension that he would not wait for the movements of General Grant, but himself take a vigorous initiative. Conscripts arriving at Richmond were sent forward to the Rapidan without delay, and General Lee's army is supposed in New York to number not less than 90,000.

One of the New York bounty brokers is confined in Fort Lafayette on charges of swindling soldiers to the amount of $400,000.

Forgery appears to be the favourite and most effective weapon of the Yankees. It now appears that a letter, reported to have been sent to the 'bogus' Governor Hahn of Louisiana, by Confederate prisoners in Indiana, asking pardon and endorsing emancipation, was a vile Federal forgery, concocted in New Orleans to influence the Louisiana prisoners.

Secretary Chase, in operating in New York to raise the market value of his greenbacks, produced a panic in stocks. By suddenly throwing $16,000,000 in gold upon the market, he forced the sale of about the same value in railway and other stocks, causing many large failures and heavy losses. After all it was but a momentary expedient which he may not be able to repeat.

The invasion of Kentucky, and of the Northern States on the opposite bank of the Ohio, is still insisted upon by the correspondents of the Northern press as one of the chief objects of the Confederates in the opening campaign. General Morgan, the *Raleigh* (North Carolina) *Confederate* says, 'is about to undertake one of the boldest expeditions he has ever yet made, which, if successful, will be productive of great good to our cause.' The *Louisville Journal* reports that a Confederate brigade of two thousand men, under General Jones, had entered Kentucky through a gap in the Cumberland Mountains. General Forrest is reported to have disbanded three Kentucky regiments in the western part of the State, that they might scatter over the country and stir up the elements of disaffection. The banks are sending their money to Covington, opposite Cincinnati, on the Ohio, for safety, and the whole State is filled with hope and fear, agitation and alarm. There can be little doubt that the dashes and raids of small bodies of Confederate cavalry and mounted infantry are but the precursors of more important movements. We are told that, among other indications, Kentucky soldiers in the Confederate army have written to their friends, advising them to sell their horses and cattle to Union men, since they would all be taken in a short time by the advancing Confederates. The *New York Herald* says: 'We do not see what should prevent such a force, united in Kentucky, and supplied by plunder, from operating on the communications of our force at Chattanooga, so as to compel its retreat, with Johnston at its heels.'

For the first time since the war began, we find the Northern press, Republican and Democratic, filled, at the commencement of a campaign, with forebodings of disaster. 'It seems to us easier,' says the *New York World*, 'to state reasons for fearing that the country is on the verge of a terrible catastrophe, than for believing that the hour of its redemption draweth nigh. If General Grant's campaign should result in disaster, who does not see that the country would be at once overtaken by a financial tornado, prostrating everything in its path?' The *Springfield Republican*, a Government paper, makes, if possible, a more gloomy record. It says: 'Things begin to look squally. A Government dollar is worth but 55¼ cents; speculation is running up the prices of the necessaries of life, even faster than the Government paper runs down; the wealth of the country is passing from the many to the few, and the labouring classes are becoming dispirited and sullen.' The nation is spoken of as 'passing through terrible struggles.' The *New York Times*, the organ of Mr. Seward, and advocate for the reelection of Mr. Lincoln, storms at Congress, and asks if the state of the country is caused by their 'imbecility or treachery.' The *New York Journal of Commerce*, one of the most reliable and conservative of American journals, says: 'Ruin is before us as a people, a nation, a Union, if we go on under present guidance, with the principles which now prevail in the halls of Congress and the President's house. All the promises and prophecies of the men who lead the Radical party are but a repetition of just what such men promised and prophesied for other nations in other times, and the end always was, as it will now be—destruction.'

It is useless to speculate on what a few weeks may decide—the results of the campaign in Virginia—but it may be doubted if any possible success of General Grant can save the North from repudiation, bankruptcy, and ruin.

Who will be President? Nothing but military success will secure the nomination of Mr. Lincoln, and that, if of a decisive character, might lead to the nomination of General Grant. The dissatisfied Republicans propose to hold a convention at Cleveland about May 20. General Fremont, unless he can be bought off with a command suited to his ambition, will run for President even if Lincoln is nominated. It is proposed to make him General-in-Chief of the negro forces. The great interest of the New York Sanitary Fair appears to have consisted in voting, at a dollar a vote, a sword to one of the two popular Generals, M'Clellan or Grant. Eleven thousand votes had been cast, leaving a majority of a few hundred for M'Clellan, which would be increased, it was expected, by votes and dollars sent from the army of the Potomac. General Grant, it was reported, wished to give his rival an important command, but had been overruled by Mr. Lincoln, who said, 'Anything but that.'

General Butler, superseded in military command by General Baldy Smith, still reigns a petty civil despot at Fortress Monroe, where it appears by a report to Dr. M'Cormack that men have been confined on bread and water for fifty days at a time, and, but for the aid of their fellow-prisoners, would have died of starvation.

We are informed in two lines of telegram that the Federals have been driven from Big Black River, with the loss of several hundred prisoners. The State of Mississippi must now be clear of Federal troops, with the exception of two or three towns on the Mississippi river.

The official report of the capture of Paducah states that a quantity of stores were taken, a steamer was burnt in the dry dock, and fifty prisoners brought out. General Forrest says that he held the town for ten hours, 'and could have held it longer, but found the small-pox raging, and evacuated the place.'

While the Confederates have been represented as wearing out their railways without being able to replace them, it appears that they have established extensive rolling mills for railway iron, locomotive manufactories, and are making carriages for all their needs. They have even built new lines of railway in Georgia and North Carolina, to complete internal communications. Railway iron is manufactured at eight different places in the South, and locomotives are built at Macon and Atlanta by workmen brought from Scotland.

The British barque *Saxon*, captured by the *Vanderbilt* at the Cape of Good Hope, has been released by a decree of Judge Betts, of New York, and Mr. Donovan, the United States officer who shot Mr. Gray, has been put on trial for murder at Philadelphia.

If the last report from Virginia prove to have been true, that General Longstreet was moving down the Shenandoah, General Grant is flanked before he has made a move, and may be obliged to march back to Maryland instead of 'on to Richmond.'

The defeat of General Banks's Red River raid must be considered a merited retribution. The correspondents of the Northern press describe the progress of the troops as being accompanied by acts of the most wanton vandalism. The houses on the route were robbed of their valuables, and the floors and hearthstones dug up in search of such as might be concealed. Elegant mansions were wrecked, and works of art maliciously destroyed. More revolting crimes and outrages were perpetrated on helpless women and negroes. The worst acts were done by the soldiers who had been engaged in General Sherman's raid into Mississippi—they were practising the lessons learnt in that wretched expedition.

After violent fluctuations, the price of gold at New York on April 23 was 77 per cent. premium.

ENGLAND.

The bill of indictment in the case of the Queen *v.* Rumball (case of the *Rappahannock*), was preferred before the grand jury of the city of Westminster yesterday. Mr. Justice Crompton as senior judge of the Court of Queen's Bench, charged the jury last week by way of anticipation, but the charge had reference to the Bill presented yesterday. The learned judge observed that the tribunal of the grand jury before him was peculiarly fitted to deal with State prosecutions. The prosecution was against Mr. Rumball, under the Foreign Enlistment Act, which enabled the Crown to prosecute such cases in the Queen's Bench at Westminster. The first question for them under the second section was whether the defendant had engaged any persons in the foreign service, or induced any one to go abroad with the view of being so engaged. Then as to the seventh section, his opinion was that an equipment not necessarily warlike would be within the Act, if it was made out that the equipment was for warlike purposes; nor need the intention be proved by the particular character of the equipment. It was not necessary to wait for a complete equipment. If, then, the defendant was in any way concerned in such equipment, the jury should find a true Bill. His Lordship took the same view of the law as did Mr. Baron Channel in the *Alexandra* case.

It is not necessary to discuss the facts of this case which will be put forward in a complete manner in the report of the approaching trial. It may, however, be well to remind our readers that in November last the English Government sold a steamer called the *Scylla*, that the parties who purchased her executed certain repairs upon her at Sheerness, and that subsequently she steamed across to Calais, and entered that port under the Confederate flag. The charge against Mr. Rumball is that he enlisted men to serve on board a Confederate ship of war, and that he also was concerned in her equipment for a warlike purpose. Mr. Rumball was an employé in the Government dockyards at the time, but was discharged by the Lords of the Admiralty.

The case is appointed to be tried at bar before the Court of Queen's Bench. Such a trial cannot be had without leave of the Court, even though the parties consent to it. It is entirely a matter of discretion with the Court to grant or refuse it, unless the Crown be actually and immediately interested, in which case the Attorney-General may demand it as of right; otherwise it will not be granted, except where the matter in dispute is of great value and the cause of great importance. It was formerly granted where a judge or officer of one of the Superior Courts was a party to the suit; but in 1850 the Court of Exchequer refused such a trial in a case where an attorney was plaintiff and the Lord Chancellor was defendant. The last instance of such a trial being held was in the case of Baron *v.* Denman in 1848, which arose out of matters connected with the slave trade. The cause may be brought before any of the three Superior Courts at Westminster. The trial may be held in term or vacation. It is held before the full Court at Westminster with a special jury. The Court sits as in *Banc*, four, or at the least three, judges being present. The Chief Justice or the Chief Baron, as the case may be, sums up the evidence; and if any question of law arise either collaterally or as forming a part of the case, each of the judges delivers his opinion upon it *seriatim*. A Bill of exceptions lies to the Exchequer Chamber upon the reception of improper evidence, and each of the presiding judges may on the trial make such observations to the jury upon the whole case by way of direction as he considers to be requisite. In other respects the trial at bar is similar to the trial at *nisi prius*. The Bill is presented to the Grand Jury of England, who may be summoned from any part of England, except the city of London, and perhaps the counties palatine, and who are charged by the Senior Puisne Judge or Baron of the Court, who receives a salary of 40*l.* per annum for this usually nominal service.

The sport which Newmarket last week afforded was marked by one peculiar feature. In two races all the

interest of the general public was concentrated, and of these but one satisfied expectation. The residue had charms for the owners of horses and the money-seekers alone. Enthusiasm can only be created when a gallant veteran appears again on the field of his former glories, and demands admiration by his noble bearing and the *prestige* of his victories; when animals of illustrious parentage first bring to the trial the uncertain promise of their blood and form; or when the dazzling prizes of Newmarket, Epsom, and Doncaster attract the flower of the English turf at the most prime hour of their youth. We then, following a natural impulse, shall ask our readers to concentrate their attention on the contests for the Two Thousand Guineas and One Thousand Guineas Stakes, and to disregard the thirty-eight other races, not as contemptible, but as eclipsed by the superior lustre of two great lights. Of the vast plain which constitutes Newmarket Heath, the course marked out by long usage for the Two Thousand occupies the most choice portion. It is one mile and seventeen yards in length; the greater portion of it undulates in so slight a manner as to deserve the name of a dead level; it has no curve or bend whatever, and its turf is such as the world cannot match. Yet, as though to attain perfection in its conformation, it falls towards the middle of the sixth furlong for the space of one hundred yards, and rises again with a gradual incline to its termination. It at once demands the highest combination of speed and endurance, it scarcely admits of accident, it offers no hindrance to the sweeping stride of the largest racehorse. The prize this year was worthy of the course, for the winner was to secure to his owner the sum of 4,500*l*. Beyond, however, the magnificent prize and the exultation of victory, there was the solution of a problem of no mean interest. It is much to decide the merits of the three-year-old horses at Newmarket—it is more to unravel even partially the greater problem of Epsom. It was, then, no marvel that such a race, combined with the charms of the grand old Heath and made doubly attractive by the most serene of skies, should have drawn together royal princes and dukes, nobles and commoners, and ladies of rank, in numbers never exceeded at Newmarket.

For the race, out of the eighty-nine horses nominated, thirteen came to the post. Of these a few demand a word of comment. Fille de l'Air, esteemed throughout the winter the most deserving of popular favour, had raised to the highest pitch the hopes of Count de Lagrange and his adherents. She had won last October the Criterion Stakes, and had defeated with consummate ease such horses as Coast-Guard, Prince Arthur, and Ely. Up to the hour of the race she had maintained her position in the market, and seemed destined to secure the enormous sums which fame declared had been risked upon her prowess. Yet some looked only for the antitype of Hospodar and Stradella, and others thought that nature and human care had done but little for the growth of the lauded daughter of Faugh-a-Ballagh. Next there was Mr. Hill's Copenhagen, by Newminster, who never yet had engaged in the struggles of the turf, but whom the confidence of his owner and the money of his supporters had placed at the short odds of 5 to 1. Yet he was fated to bring no more success to his worthy owner than the ill-fated Trumpeter or Pitsford, who, fourteen years ago, succumbed at Epsom to the mighty Voltigeur. Then there was Historian, the son of Stockwell, of no pretensions to the public eye or ear, in the cold shade, with the odds of 40 to 1 laid against him, but withal a horse that may yet gain renown. Hollyfox, by Voltigeur, the property of Lord Falmouth, and the sole representative of the great John Scott, was also despised at the odds of 50 to 1. Mr. Merry reserved the Scottish Chief for the prize of Epsom, and sent Sir Roger, the son of Saunterer, and brother of Rogerthorpe, vainly to struggle at Newmarket. Then, also, there were the two champions of Lord Glasgow. One of these was a marvel to behold. The son of Young Melbourne, and thereby grandson of the immortal Melbourne, boasting also Orlando for his maternal grandsire, he seemed to carry in his form the history of his magnificent lineage, and the promise of a noble posterity. He would have worked a conversion in the most sceptic calumniator of the English racehorse. Standing sixteen hands and one inch in height, with knees and hocks of immense size, with back, and barrel, and arms equal in might to the drayhorse, he seemed to require the hunting-field for the display of his powers. Yet another glance showed the most perfect shoulders, detected an activity that was almost gay, a precision in step unsurpassed by the best of palfreys. Indeed, he was a grand horse, and, as he moved in all the pride of conscious superiority, excited the hope that the English turf had produced the compeer of the unrivalled Stockwell. Still, he had a dangerous opponent, for Mr. R. Ten Broeck is a man justly to be feared when he is confident, and Paris might raise the confidence of the least sanguine of men. At Goodwood he had defeated horses of good repute—he was in the most perfect condition—he was the picture of elegant yet robust beauty. His lineage was traced through Mildew to Slane and Royal Oak. The race itself was interesting. All the horses were despatched to an excellent start, and the pace at once became terrific. Poor Fille de l'Air was beaten in the first four hundred yards, and struggled on with hopeless enterprise, while Sir Roger could scarcely be considered in the race at all. The remainder galloped in a compact body for about six furlongs. At the descent of the ground Paris was galloping wide of the ruck, on a line with Hollyfox, Historian, and General Peel, while Copenhagen and the rest of the field gave way in despair. In truth, the race was at an end. It was not difficult to perceive that General Peel was restrained only by the vigorous efforts of his rider, cautious not to press so large an animal down even a moderate descent. The scene, however, changed at the foot of the incline. With the speed of lightning Aldcroft set the General at his full effort, and the gallant horse with his sweeping stride ascended the elevated ground with a speed that defied his antagonists. Nothing could be more admirable than the rush with which Fordham sought to save the day, nothing more excellent than the gallant effort of Paris. General Peel passed the judge a length in advance; Paris defeated Historian by the same distance; and Hollyfox was a neck behind Historian. The race was run in one minute forty-eight and a half seconds. General Peel has, by his victory, become first favourite for the Derby, at the odds of five to one. The Scottish Chief is at seven to one, and Cambuscan at twelve to one.

On Thursday, April 28, the race for the One Thousand Guineas Stakes took place. The contest is confined to fillies of the age of three years, and bears much the same relation to the Oaks at Epsom as the Two Thousand bears to the Derby. Fifteen fillies came to the post, and many of these were, in point of blood, of the highest stamp. Moreover, to the eye, they were by no means unworthy of the rich prize of 3,500*l*. at stake. The most attractive were Molly Carew, daughter of Wild Dayrell and of Alma; Sardinia, daughter of Stockwell and Ferrara; Becky Sharpe, the sister of Buccaneer; Amicula, the daughter of Pocahontas, and the sister of Stockwell, Rataplan, and King Tom. The odds at starting were three to one against Sardinia, five to one against Mr. Merry's Masquerade, and six to one against Molly Carew. The race was run at a most indifferent pace, all the fillies of renown were defeated most ingloriously, and the winner turned up in Tomato, the daughter of King Tom and Mincemeat, and the property of Baron Rothschild. The Baron was also second with Breeze, thus rivalling the feat of Lord Stamford last year. Mr. J. Scott's Tooi Tooi was third. The distance of the course was 7 furlongs and 210 yards, and one minute and fifty-three seconds were consumed in traversing it. From this fact, and from the forward position of Breeze, it is clear that the field for the race was extremely bad, and exhibited a striking contrast to the Two Thousand horses.

The great event of the present week has been the race for the Chester Cup, which was won by Flash in the Pan, a rank outsider. Little Stag was second, and Tippler third.

THE Channel squadron, under Admiral Sir C. Dacres, C. B., is ordered to the Downs. All officers on leave of absence have been commanded by telegram to join their ships immediately. The *Warrior*, 40, iron frigate, arrived at Spithead on Saturday, and after filling up with coals and provisions, and shipping stores and provisions for the other ships of the squadron, sailed again to rejoin the fleet. The French squadron is expected in the Downs, and it is probable that the combined fleets will at once enter the Baltic.

VISCOUNT PALMERSTON was confined to his house during last week by a violent attack of gout. The noble Lord, however, was present at a Cabinet Council on Saturday last, and at a second Cabinet Council on Monday.

MESSRS. FLETCHER, HULL & STONE, of Liverpool, have received information that the commission to Egypt for evidence in the matter of the steam-rams *El Toussin* and *El Monassir* has been executed, and that the commissioners will return to London this week. It is expected that the trial will take place on May 29.

THE Confederate war-steamer *Georgia*, Captain Evans, arrived in the Mersey at 4 o'clock in the morning of Monday last, and anchored opposite the landing-stages. In the afternoon her powder and shell were removed according to the harbour regulations, and she was taken into one of the Birkenhead docks. She mounted six guns and had a crew of 60 men. It is confidently asserted at Liverpool that she has been brought thither to be sold. Her commander and officers were on Tuesday night entertained at dinner by the Liverpool Southern Club.

SOME months since we gave a full account of the plan and operations for placing Calcutta in immediate telegraphic communication with London. On Monday, intelligence was received at the India Office that the cable was landed at Fao on March 29. Its junction with the Turkish line was effected on April 8. The line between Irak and India is completed and works well, and communication between Bussorah and Kurrachee is made in five minutes. The Persian line will be completed in July.

THE Earl of Ellenborough has introduced a Bill into Parliament with reference to capital punishment. It enacts that no sentence of death shall be carried into execution 'without the authority of one of the Secretaries of State.' Every judge after sentence of death is to make a report thereof to the Secretary of State, and thereupon the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice, and certain members of the Privy Council are to meet and advise Her Majesty. If Her Majesty desire to be present, the great officers of State are to be summoned. The Secretary of State will after much such meeting receive the orders resolved on. The Bill is confined to England, and does not affect the royal prerogative of mercy.

MR. FRANK SMEDLEY died on Sunday last in London. His novels, 'Frank Fairleigh,' 'Lewis Arundel,' and 'Harry Coverdale's Courtship' have achieved a great and well-deserved popularity. Few men have possessed in so remarkable a degree the power of describing English country life, and none have drawn such vivid and charming pictures of the noble animals which afford to English gentlemen delights unparalleled in other countries.

IT is officially announced that the Rev. Samuel Crowther, a pure-blooded negro, born in Africa, is to be ordained Bishop of Niger. He will be the first Anglican bishop of his race and colour.

SOME time since Mr. Serjeant Glover brought an action against the Duc de Persigny and M. Billault for work done and money paid to and about the publishing and conducting the *Morning Chronicle*, the *Morning News*, and the [illegible] for the [illegible] *Moniteur*, *Constitutionnel*, [illegible] 11,000*l*. That action is still pending. M. Billault, however, having died, the plaintiff [illegible] a separate action against James Henry Bowen [illegible] Fanny Bowen, his wife, of No. 7 Rue [illegible] and [illegible] Rue St. Armand, Paris, to recover [illegible] 21,000*l*. on the same causes of action. The [illegible] of the late M. Billault. [illegible] that they were not [illegible] with the cause of action, nor were they the legal representatives of M. Billault. On this [illegible] Mr. [illegible], Q.C., moved the Court of Queen's Bench to set aside the writ, observing that the joint action against the Duc de Persigny and M. Billault was still pending, that unless the plaintiff was stopped, he would proceed to judgment without further notice, and that the power vested in our courts to proceed against persons resident abroad must be watched with great care to prevent abuse. The Court granted a rule *nisi* to set aside the proceedings.

IN the year 1833 Mr. George Hutchison, a cashier in the Bank of England, died, leaving two children, a son William, born 1822, and a daughter born in 1818. A Mr. Smee was trustee and executor to the will of Mr. Hutchison, and also guardian of his children. Mr. Smee had a son who married the daughter of the testator. In 1843 William Hutchison went to the University of Cambridge and became a student of Trinity College. In 1845 he went to Italy, and there made the acquaintance of Dr. Faber, who was a member of the University of Oxford. Shortly afterwards Mr. William Hutchison informed Mrs. Smee, his sister, of his intention of embracing the Roman Catholic religion; and, in answer to such information, he received from Mr. Smee, his sister's husband, a long letter couched in the most violent language, and replete with abuse of the religion which the writer called 'the Papacy,' and to which he had long ago prophesied that the Puseyites were going. Two other epistles followed, in which the friends of Mr. Hutchison were spoken of as 'relentless inhuman demons,' and Dr. Faber denominated as an 'ambitious villain' and 'a debased man.' The letters were also full of righteous denunciation and Scriptural quotations. However, inasmuch as the writer complained that his business had been impaired by the action of Mr. Hutchison, the reader might be tempted to think that worldly considerations were not entirely put out of sight. In December 1845 Mr. Hutchison joined the Roman Catholic Church, and in August 1847 was ordained a priest. In 1848 Dr. Newman established the community of the Oratory near Birmingham, and the 'Wilfridians,' of whom Mr. Hutchison was one, joined the Oratory. Subsequently the members were divided, and Dr. Faber, Mr. Hutchison, and others came to London and established themselves in King William Street. In 1850, the community removed to Brompton. Mr. Hutchison occupied himself all this time in works of charity and devotion; he established ragged schools near Holborn, and in Charles Street, Drury Lane, and personally superintended them. In 1855, he travelled in France and Belgium, and went to Rome. In 1856, he again went to Rome to make arrangements with the Pope about the business of the congregation. In 1857 and 1858, he travelled in the East, and subsequently published some letters and documents relating to his travels. From that time, with the exception of visits to Filey and to Switzerland for the sake of his health, he resided in the Oratory at Brompton, and in that at Sydenham till his death in July 1863. By his will, dated July 1860, he left his property to Dr. Faber, and in case of non-survivorship to the Rev. Charles Bowden; Dr. Faber survived his friend, but died a few months afterwards. This will was disputed by Mr. Smee, on the ground of infirmity of mind and undue influence; and the case was heard last week in the Probate Court. The Rev. George Ballard was called as a witness in support of the will, and gave some interesting information with regard to the Brompton Oratory. He stated that it was one of the few religious orders in which no vows were taken beyond those of the priesthood. There was no distinct vow of poverty or obedience, and the members could withdraw from the community at their pleasure. All the members contributed a small annual sum by way of commons; with that exception, they had the perfect control of their own property. Any questions as to the common property of the society were decided by the votes of a majority of the members. The deputies were elected by ballot triennially. The congregation could dissolve itself by a unanimous vote. The Superior was elected by ballot every three years. The members signed no rules. The Superior could not enforce obedience, or direct penance or mortification. He exercised a moral power only. The witness also said that Dr. Faber was a man of considerable distinction and ability, and of remarkably pleasing manners, and was very much beloved by men of both religions. Dr. Faber and Mr. Hutchison were much attached to each other; but the influence of Dr. Faber would not supersede the exercise of private judgment. This witness also spoke to the state of Mr. Hutchison's mind at the time of the execution of the will. Sir Henry Holland, who met Mr. Hutchison on Mount Carmel, and the Rev. George Williams, Senior Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, who has published many books and reviews of great merit on Palestine, and who had been in frequent communication with Mr. Hutchison on the subject of such publications, gave evidence establishing the competency of the testator. Sir James Fergusson, M.P., Mr. David Lewis, and the Rev. Mr. Rowe gave similar evidence. The defendant and two medical men gave evidence in support of the theory that Mr. Hutchison was incapacitated from making a will, but the Court pronounced for the will, and condemned the defendant in costs. The property left amounts

to about 5,000*l.*, Mr. Hutchison having spent the bulk of a fortune of 40,000*l.* in works of charity and for the purposes of the Oratory.

In the Upper House of Convocation, on April 20, the Bishop of Oxford moved for a Committee to report on a *gravamen* brought up from the Lower House on the subject of a condemnation of a book known as 'Essays and Reviews.' His Lordship said that the question of a condemnation by the House had been allowed to slumber pending the prosecution of the book before the Court of Arches. He did not think that it would be understood that there was any intention on the part of that House to frown down opinions, or to assert that men of active and enquiring minds were to be stifled in their pursuit of truth. But clergymen of our Church seemed to be bound, as long as they held a commission in the Church, to teach what the Church taught, neither more nor less; and if a man in such a position could not say what the Church said, it was only right that he should say what he thought in some other place. It was not under the notion of compelling thought under authority that he considered this action desirable. Such a course would be most mischievous; but the Church, as a Church having a definite faith, gave clergymen the power of teaching upon conditions, the leading condition being that they had satisfied themselves of the correctness of that faith, and bound themselves by subscription to teach that faith, and that they were precluded from teaching what was contrary to that faith. The Church had reason to complain when her ordained clergy put forth publications which denied, as he believed this book of 'Essays and Reviews' denied, miracles as being real and true, the inspiration of God's Word as being anything ascertainable so as to convey authority to the mind of the receiver. He might go on to say, that while he for one should deprecate speculation on the state of the accursed, and confine himself to using the words of our Lord and of the universal Church—not attempting to explain anything beyond that—he was not bound to give a new theory if those words were contradicted, but simply to assert that they meant what their plain literal meaning implied. He would not attack any person, or desire to put down opinion by authority; but he did most earnestly desire to protect the Church from complicity with false teaching in the persons of her ministers.—The discussion was resumed on the following day. The Bishop of London addressed the House, and 'held that this *gravamen* was only the petition of certain individuals, and not the work of the Lower House. The report which came from the Lower House was in fact the report of one individual. Of all the foolish productions it had ever been the misfortune of controversy to call out, this was the worst, and was more calculated than anything he had ever seen to injure the Christian faith, inasmuch as it consisted of extracts from the volume in parallel columns with extracts from the articles and formularies of the Church. The sooner that document was committed to the flames, the better. The Committee, if appointed, would be asked to pronounce a synodal judgment. That judgment must be judicial, or else nugatory. If it differed from that of the Privy Council, it would be an impossible attempt on the part of the House to override the Council. Nothing was more dangerous than the feeling that it was necessary to do something. Men had not faith enough to believe that God who had watched over the Church would continue to watch over it still, and they came forward with their petty and temporary devices in order to aid God, which He was able to do well enough for Himself. He must express his conviction that in quietness and confidence the strength of the Church of England lay in this age, and that persons in their high position should not be parties to the increase of an agitation which he feared had already done some harm. It was a most painful thing that every deacon throughout the country had been called upon to subscribe that melancholy declaration. He rejoiced to know that the clergy of the diocese of London had maintained their calmness throughout all the recent storms. He did not think that the Church was in danger because the highest court of appeal had said that a clergyman was not legally liable for holding that statements with regard to physical science in the Bible were not the inspired word of God, nor did he believe that the Church was in danger because a clergyman might think that God in His infinite mercy might find a means of escape for lost souls.' The Bishop was understood to refer to Dr. Pusey as the 'one individual,' and to allude to the Oxford Declaration, which was drawn up by way of protest against the judgment of the Privy Council, and circulated for signature among the clergy. The words of that document have been given in our columns on a former occasion. The question before their Lordships was, after a long debate, put to the vote, when five bishops (viz. Oxford, Llandaff, Salisbury, Gloucester, and Bangor) voted for the appointment of a Committee, and five (viz. London, St. David's, Lichfield, Lincoln, and Ely) voted against the appointment. Thereupon the Archbishop of Canterbury gave a casting vote in favour of appointing the Committee.

THE CONTINENT.

The victory at Düppel was followed by a short breathing-time for the victors to exult over their conquest, and heap honours on the commanders in this strange game of war where the success of one side was certain, and for the vanquished to bury away their dead out of their sight and concert if possible a new scheme of resistance. Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia and Field-Marshal von Wrangel have been respectively made Colonels-Proprietors of the 7th Austrian Hussars and 2nd Cuirassiers, an honour somewhat similar to that of the colonelcy of an English regiment in the old days when the regimental clothing was a valuable source of income to its commander. On the other side the city of Copenhagen is stricken with mourning; as in Egypt after the dread night of the Passover, 'there is not a house where there is not one dead;' a grand military funeral has been celebrated, in which Bishop Monrad officiated in his episcopal capacity; it was attended by the King, the Ministers, and the whole city of Copenhagen. To Major Rosen, the second in command of General Duplat's staff, the honour of a special funeral was reserved in honour of his heroic courage and devoted death; he was stricken down while attempting to rescue his wounded general from further peril.

In the meanwhile it has been necessary to take some decisive steps with regard to the Danish army, or what is left of it after the decimation of Düppel. The first step taken was the evacuation of the island of Alsen. Little by little its defenders were withdrawn; the first three battalions were transferred to the Island of Fünen on the evening following the capture of Düppel; the guards followed shortly after, finally the head-quarters were moved; now one division only of two or three thousand men with twelve field-pieces is left, rather to assert the right of possession than to offer any effectual protection. A very short deliberation must also have made it manifest to the Danish Ministry that if Düppel was untenable, Fredericia is at least as much so. Though well fitted for withstanding the artillery of twenty years ago, with solid well-built bastions and all the requirements of the past generation of engineers, it cannot stand for three days against the modern gun-practice; more particularly is it deficient in casemates, so that the garrison and town would be alike exposed without protection to the Prussian shells, which would be poured in with fatal accuracy at a distance of two miles. Under these circumstances nothing remained but to withdraw the defenders: all the more valuable war *matériel* was removed, and the remaining guns spiked; the garrison has retired into the island of Fünen; the Allied forces may advance and occupy the whole of Jutland at their leisure. Of this permission the Prussian forces have not been slow to take advantage; all but a small portion of the north of the peninsula is now in their hands; they have levied a contribution of 100,000 thalers towards the cost of the war; the inhabitants have refused to pay it, and Field-Marshal von Wrangel has consequently sent eleven of their number as hostages to Prussia. His next step will, we suppose, be to sell the remaining inhabitants into slavery—at least that was the common practice at the time when the taking of private citizens as hostages was a recognised principle of warfare.

We have had occasion to remark upon the threatened appearance of an Austrian fleet in the Baltic, and to observe that the threat was some little time in being realised. The course of events has again brought forward a report of this intention; it has, however, been distinctly negatived by the Austrian Cabinet, who are probably quite as well aware as London politicians that such a proceeding would be to thrust their head into the lion's mouth, and to enable England to take a most satisfactory guarantee for the pacific nature of the Austrian intentions.

The external politics of Europe are at this moment focussed in the Conference of London; not only the hopes and fears, the aspirations and prejudices, but the very spitefulness and insolence, the cunning and intrigue of the different nations represented, have been displayed and exaggerated on the small arena of the Downing Street council-table. The Conference was originally postponed through the tardiness of Herr von Beust, which fitly represented the somewhat undignified procrastination of his principals; the first business meeting was abruptly brought to a close by the refusal of the German envoys to discuss the question of an armistice without further communications with their Governments. We are to believe that the Cabinets of Vienna and Berlin had never heard of the proposal of an armistice when they sent forth their representatives, or that they thought it too distant a prospect to admit of definite instructions; of course we may not conclude that they wilfully refused to give the necessary instructions in order to have another pretext for lengthening out their inglorious war. Of the many reports with regard to the question of an armistice, the only one which we need notice is that which states that no armistice will be agreed to by the German Powers which does not take off the blockade of the Baltic ports.

An unofficial Congress of Sovereigns will very probably take place at Kissingen, on or about May 15. The Emperor and Empress of Russia will repair thither on that date, and will be met there by the Emperor and Empress of Austria; it is not improbable that the King of Prussia may find himself in the neighbourhood about the same time. As to princelets and dukelets to make up the under-stratum of such a *réunion*, there is no lack of them in that quarter.

The Pope had occasion recently to make some remarks upon the grievances of the Church in Poland. He said that the Emperor of Russia, after having driven his subjects to insurrection, now endeavours, under the pretext of suppressing the rebellion, to extirpate the Roman Catholic religion, and transports whole populations into frozen countries, exiles bishops, and deprives them of the functions to which they had been ordained by the hand of the Pope. His Holiness continued: 'Nobody will venture to say that I wish to maintain revolution by these necessary protests. I protest in order to satisfy my conscience, and that I may not one day hear the Sovereign Judge ask, "Why didst thou remain silent?"' This address of the Pope, which is generally called an *improviso*, has produced a great impression in Rome; the energetic language, enhanced by the most magnificent voice in Europe and a dignified even apostolic presence, was well calculated to enforce the admiration of his supporters, and the respect of those who refuse to acknowledge his power. The Russian *chargé d'affaires* has asked for an explanation of the Pope's allocution; Cardinal Antonelli has in answer to him defended the right of the Pope to make such remarks if they seem necessary to him. We may observe here that Mgr. Felinski, the Archbishop of Warsaw, has published an order discontinuing the use of mourning in the churches of his diocese.

The *Re Galantuomo*, the Italian frigate, concerning which fears were lately expressed, has touched at Gibraltar, and taken in coals. She suffered severely from heavy weather in the Atlantic, lost one of her masts, and sprang a leak; she was obliged to throw all her lower-deck guns overboard, and it was probably while in this condition that she was spoken with somewhere north of the Bermudas. She is now on her way to Naples.

A new Ministry has been formed in Greece by M. Balbi, who takes the Presidency of the Council and Ministry of Finance; M. Angerino is Minister of the Interior; M. Papazaphiropulo Minister of Justice and Public Worship; M. Zimbrakaki Minister of War; M. Canaris Minister of Marine; M. Caligas Minister of Foreign Affairs. The question of the Ionian elections has come before the National Assembly, and has been satisfactorily settled. Count Sponneck, the Danish adviser of His Majesty George I., appears to have aroused some opposition to his conduct; we must hope that this is only the reflection of the odium which the Foreign Ministers of the late King of Greece seem to have so richly merited.

Disturbances have taken place at Tunis of such magnitude as to warrant the appearance of English, French, and Italian ships of war on the spot. The army has revolted, and on the 25th instant had encamped at a distance of one day's march from the city. The Bey has taken some measures to appease the public indignation, one of them being a reduction of the capitation-tax from 72 to 36 piastres per head, but he still refuses to dismiss two of his Ministers against whom the popular cry is mainly levelled. The imperial and suzerain Government of Turkey has sent one or two vessels of war to act in concert with those of the Western Powers in defending their respective fellow-citizens. By the latest advices we learn that the insurrection is becoming general; 20,000 Bedouins have cut off the communications between Tunis and the provinces, and occupied Kirvan.

Some time ago General Narvaez attacked the Spanish Government with some bitterness for having taken no steps to wrest Gibraltar from English domination. Any future diatribes on the part of that gentleman will be spared if the scheme of M. Laya be carried out; he proposes to cut a vast canal through the Spanish territory, joining the waters of the Atlantic and Mediterranean, and thus rendering the possession of the naked rock useless. Schemes not a whit more extravagant than this have been received favourably by the public. M. de Lesseps is perfectly sanguine as to the ultimate and permanent success of the Suez Canal; nor were the Federals of America particularly astounded at the proposal once made and actually attempted to divert the waters of the Mississippi from below the walls of Vicksburg. Four or five millions sterling will pay the little bill, a sum no doubt easily raised in a country of such affluence as Spain; and then the advantage of humbling England must be considered as worth some expenditure.

We regret to have to announce the death of M. Meyerbeer, the author of 'Robert le Diable,' 'Les Huguenots,' 'Le Prophète,' and other operas known throughout the whole world of music. This illustrious master was born at Berlin in 1794; he showed early talents for music, and was a fellow-pupil of Weber under the Abbé Vogler at Darmstadt at the age of 15. In his style he has carried the power of sound, *per se*, to its highest allowable pitch, and has thus paved the way for the modern German school of music. While at times he terrifies his audience with the amazing breadth and volume of sound in which he exults, he can also charm them to tears by the delicate manipulation of his subject and the exquisite pathos of his melody. He lived and died in the Jewish persuasion, like Halévy, his brother and competitor, whom he has followed so closely to the grave.

The Paris *Moniteur* is known as the type and principal of official papers. It contains the official documents, decrees, &c., the report of the debates, telegraphic despatches and explanations of them, reports of any remarkable doings in French society, and a general padding of anecdotes and *faits divers* somewhat of the 'enormous gooseberry' class. An abridgment of this journal, containing little more than the two latter items, has lately been issued in an evening edition for the sum of five centimes.

The draft of a law has been read in the French Legislative Chamber proposing to deal with the coalitions of workmen, or trades' unions. The law on this subject has varied a great deal during the last seventy years, beginning with an absolute prohibition of such coalitions in 1791, and modified by a relaxation in favour of deliberative meetings of workmen in the year XI. of the Republic, and afterwards in the year 1849. The committee now appointed to report on the matter nominated M. Emile Ollivier as their spokesman. This gentleman, though in the Opposition, has displayed great fairness in his statement of the case. He recapitulated all the history bearing on the question, examining into the motives, both political and social, which influenced former legislators. He came to the conclusion that all prohibition should be removed from the association of workmen, whether for purposes of deliberation or for 'strikes,' in the assurance that the misery attending all unjust strikes would soon teach the artisan class the necessity of using their liberty and not abusing it. The principal speakers on the question have been M. Jules Simon and M. Garnier-Pagès. The latter was well answered on behalf of Government by M. Cornaudet. The debate on the principle of the Bill has closed, and the articles or details of the Bill have been carried by the usual majority.

The Protestant Church of France has not been less troubled with variance of opinion than its more powerful sister in England. M. Coquerel, a Protestant minister in Paris, well known to the visitors of that city for his singular eloquence and persuasiveness, has expressed

certain opinions which show a decided 'proclivity' for the doctrines of M. Ernest Renan; M. Coquerel is further known to be a personal friend of the latter gentleman. These circumstances have given the ruling elders of that Church occasion to censure their pastor's views, and to suspend him from the further use of their pulpit. M. Guizot, a leading member of that Church, has expressed himself strongly on the subject, declaring that a line must be drawn somewhere to mark the limit of orthodox religious speculation. We may record here that M. Renan is about to add to the 'Vie de Jésus' the 'Vie de St. Paul' and 'Vie de St. Jean.'

AN insurrection has broken out in Algeria, not however of much importance. The French journals, while they see nothing extraordinary in the event, express some dissatisfaction with Marshal Pelissier, the Governor of Algeria, to whose apathy it may, according to them, be largely attributed. The Marshal has addressed a circular to the Arabs, in which, after declaring the intention of France to punish insurrection, he utterly repudiates any desire on the part of his Government to abolish Arab chieftainships and native offices; he refers them in confirmation to the Emperor's letter of February 3, 1863, in which His Majesty says he is 'the Emperor of the Arabs as well as the Emperor of the French.' By the last advices, dated April 27, the French troops were masters of the situation in the southern division of Oran, and no possibility existed of any further spread of the insurrection. The French army has, however, suffered severe losses. A sudden attack was made on a party of about 600 men under the command of Colonel Beauprêtre by an overwhelming force of natives. After seven hours' heroic endurance under fire, the loss of the French amounted to 200 under the head of 'killed' alone, among whom were 5 officers, viz. one colonel, two captains, and two lieutenants; the party was in fact literally cut to pieces. The Marabout Si-Seliman was killed by Colonel Beauprêtre with his own hand at the beginning of the affray.

IT appears that the Emperor of the French, however anxious to see his empire expand to its just proportions under the invigorating influences of peace, is fated never to see the temple of Janus close its gates. Scarcely is the affair at Mexico concluded before the Arabs in Algeria revolt; and even before that revolt is checked, we find another Power claiming to measure arms with the first military Power in the world. Who is this, we may ask, who thinks himself worthy of so high an honour? What battle-fields can he name, what victories can he show blazoned on his battle-flag, as pledges and credentials of his right to cross swords with a French soldier? Or, on the other hand, what woful tale of injustice can he relate, what persistent course of tyranny and despotic insolence, what outrages on humanity can he bring forward to justify him in so desperate a step, and to enlist our sympathies against the high-handed oppressor? Alas for the requirements of logic, for the expectations of common sense! It is General Banks, the despot of New Orleans, the emancipator, the enslaver, the bully of peaceful citizens and of women, the worthy successor of Butler—who declares that the Monroe doctrine has been outraged by the French conduct in Mexico—that American liberty is compromised by the substitution of order for anarchy in that country—that war with France is inevitable. The 'Defenders of the Monroe Doctrine' have their mystic lodge in New Orleans, with pass-words, grip, and ritual; they number among their brethren the officers of the Federal army; they acknowledge as grand patron General Banks himself; they look to a war with France as the natural and necessary end of their aspirations. Eager to accept any aid, without regard to its nature or quality, they suffer Michael Hahn, the notable 'Free' State Governor of Louisiana, the puppet and creature of General Banks, to say that, 'if ever one nation was justified in going to war with another, we (i. e. the Federals) would be justified in going to war with France.'

THE *Unità Cattolica* gives the text of the allocution addressed by the Pope to the Emperor and Empress of Mexico, before administering to them the Communion in the Vatican. In the course of it his Holiness says: 'In the name of God I recommend to you the prosperity of the Catholic people who have been intrusted to you. Great are the rights of the people, and they must be satisfied; but greater and more sacred are the rights of the Church, the spotless spouse of Jesus Christ, who has redeemed us with his blood—that blood which is now to crimson your lips. You will, therefore, respect the rights of the people and of the Church, and will thus labour for the temporal and spiritual welfare of your subjects.'

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

THE MERSEY STEAM-RAMS.

On Friday, in the House of Lords, the Earl of Derby moved for the production of the correspondence between the Government and Messrs. Laird. This correspondence has already been published by Messrs. Laird, and the object of the motion was merely to bring the subject under the notice of the House.

After commenting on the previous refusal of the Government to produce the correspondence, and protesting against the course that had been pursued with other correspondence of refusing it to one House and granting it to the other, the Earl of Derby adverted to the position of the Messrs. Laird. They are young men, now conducting one of the largest shipbuilding establishments in the world, being at this time constructing an iron-plated steam frigate for the Government. The father of these young men, on retiring from business, was elected member for Birkenhead in opposition to a strong supporter of Her Majesty's Government. His Lordship then adverted to the correspondence which he held in his hand, and from which he read copious extracts. It will be remembered that Mr. Adams made repeated remonstrances about the rams to Earl Russell, and on September 1 received an answer that the Government could not interfere because 'there was no legal evidence against M. Bravay's claim, nor anything to affect him with any illegal act or purpose.' On September 3, Mr. Adams wrote a more pressing letter, and next day Earl Russell informed him that these matters were under the consideration of the Government. On September 5, Mr. Layard wrote to Mr. Stuart (representing the British Government in Washington during the absence of Lord Lyons) that orders had been given to prevent the rams leaving the Mersey, and he adds, 'Mr. Adams is not yet aware that orders have been given to stop the vessels; you may inform Mr. Seward confidentially of the fact.' And Mr. Adams was kept in the dark until the 8th, when he too was informed that the rams should not leave the Mersey. It was about this time the correspondence with Messrs. Laird in reference to the vessels commenced. On September 4, they wrote to the Collector of Customs at Liverpool to say that as many rumours were afloat about the rams, inducing frequent and unusual visits from the Surveyor of Customs, they would save further trouble by promising to give a week's notice of their intention to deliver them over to the owners. This note also stated that one vessel would not be ready for a month, and the other for nearly two months. The Collector of Customs thanked Messrs. Laird for the communication, which he felt certain would be highly satisfactory to the Board of Customs; 'and,' said the Earl of Derby, 'I here take the opportunity of saying that throughout the whole of this correspondence all those who had to deal with these gentlemen—the authorities of the Customs, Captain Inglefield, Admiral Dacres—one and all express in the strongest language their entire and absolute reliance on the good faith of the Messrs. Laird.' On September 5, the firm wrote to the Foreign Office (in reply to a letter of enquiry) that although it was unusual to give up the names of parties for whom ships are building, yet in this case they had obtained the permission of the owners, and that the vessels were being built for Messrs. A. Bravay & Co., of Paris, and that they were to be delivered in the port of Liverpool. Mr. Laird, sen., told him (the Earl of Derby) that he had built fifty vessels for the English and foreign Governments, and that his contract invariably was to deliver in the port of Liverpool unless requested to do otherwise by the English Government. Upon receiving this information, Her Majesty's Government directed the naval *attaché* to the Embassy at Paris to wait on M. Bravay. He did so, and reported himself perfectly satisfied with the *bonâ-fide* ownership of M. Bravay. On September 8, Messrs. Laird informed the Collector of Customs at Liverpool that it was their intention to take the *El Tousson* for a trial trip, and that after the trial the vessel would be brought into the Birkenhead Float, where it was intended to complete her. The Collector replied that he could not allow the trial trip without the leave of the Government, and on the 17th again wrote to the firm, saying that the trial trip would be allowed, 'relying upon the honourable engagement which has been given by you that the ship shall, after the usual trial trip, be brought back again to Liverpool, and shall not leave without a week's notice.' Meanwhile, Messrs. Laird had received a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, informing them that the vessels 'are not to be permitted to leave the Mersey until satisfactory evidence can be given of their destination, or at least until the enquiries which are now being prosecuted with a view to obtain such evidence shall have been brought to a conclusion.' The Earl of Derby denounced this proceeding as utterly unwarranted by law, and one for which there was not the slightest justification. He could understand a seizure, for that would involve a trial, and give the parties an opportunity of vindicating their conduct, but detention until guilt or innocence was proved is 'inconsistent with the first principles of English law and justice.' The Government ought not to call upon a person to prove his innocence, but is bound to prove the guilt of the accused. The Attorney-General admitted that the Government had taken that course to prevent an evasion of the law, and to this Sir Hugh Cairns had replied by saying, 'Well, then, the answer on the part of Her Majesty's Government is, "We have violated the law for the purpose of vindicating the law."' No lawyer in the House of Lords will 'venture to say that Her Majesty's Government were justified in detaining the vessels without cause shown, and for an indefinite period.' On September 19, two days after permission had been given for the trial trip, the Secretary of the Treasury informed Messrs. Laird that though Her Majesty's Government were convinced that they would do all in their power to honourably fulfil their engagement, they feared that an attempt might be made to seize the vessel, and therefore the trial trip would not be allowed, 'except under provision against any forcible abduction of the vessels.' Was the vessel to be seized by the hands of Messrs. Laird, or by other vessels making an attack upon this powerful ram, and carrying her off to sea? At that time the whole Channel fleet was in the Mersey, and an unusually large population was crowding the river who could not be peaceable witnesses of any such attempt. On the 19th Admiral Dacres was visiting his Lordship at Knowsley, and 'a message came to say that there was not a moment to lose, for that he (Admiral Dacres) was charged by Her Majesty's Government to take measures to prevent the escape of the steam-rams.' Admiral Dacres went to Liverpool, was treated with the greatest openness and candour by the Messrs. Laird, and returned to Knowsley. 'It occurred to me then,' said his Lordship, 'and it occurs to me now, that the gallant Admiral was sent on a fool's errand.' On the 21st Messrs. Laird wrote to the Government that they were not aware of any attempt being made to seize the vessels; but under such circumstances, and as the vessel was incomplete and the river Mersey crowded, it would be better to defer the trial trip. They added: 'In the meantime, we trust that Her Majesty's Government will be able to obtain further information as to any project that may exist to deprive us of our property.' On September 24, the Government informed Messrs. Laird that the trial trip was to be allowed. On October 7, the Government informed Messrs. Laird that as the trial trip 'has been abandoned' (it had been postponed, not abandoned, by Messrs. Laird), it became necessary to take additional measures of precaution. A Custom-house officer was to be placed on board the vessel, with authority to seize her if any attempt was made to remove her from the float or dock where she was then stationed, and Her Majesty's ship *Majestic* was to afford any necessary aid or protection. It was added that these precautions were not taken from any distrust of Messrs. Laird, nor to prevent the completion of the vessel, but for the purpose of preventing an attempt that might be made by other parties to seize the vessel. Messrs. Laird offered no objection, and the Custom-house officer came on board. What was the position of the vessel at the time? She was in the dock in the midst of other vessels, the dock gates could not be opened except at particular times of the tide, and she had not her steam up nor fuel on board. The authorities might have adopted the simple expedient of removing the rudder, or displacing some portion of the machinery, so that it would have been impossible to remove the vessel suddenly. 'Could anything be more ridiculous than the apprehension of the seizure of such a vessel in its incomplete state in the middle of the port of Liverpool?' On October 9, the Government wrote to say that in consequence of information as to the probable abduction of one or both of the vessels, they had ordered the seizure of both of the vessels. The second vessel was a mere hulk, without masts, funnel, or steering apparatus. She was lying in the private yard of Messrs. Laird, and could not be floated out of the dock unless the sluices were opened, the keys of which were in Messrs. Laird's custody. His Lordship then showed the connection, from the papers that had been submitted to Parliament, between Mr. Adams's remonstrances and the proceedings of the Government in reference to the steam-rams. Although the rumour about the seventy men discharged from the *Florida* being intended to seize one of the vessels was unfounded, yet there can be no doubt that the alarm of the Government was genuine. The Government thought it necessary to have the *Liverpool* and a gunboat, as well as the *Majestic*, to watch the steam-rams; and when it was proposed to withdraw the *Liverpool*, a first-class ironclad was despatched to Liverpool in an incomplete state, and was within an ace of foundering in the Channel. So far as this alarm was caused by the presence of part of the crew of the *Florida*, it was manifestly uncalled for. When those discharged seamen arrived at Liverpool, Captain Bullock was not there, and they applied to a firm for payment of their notes, and payment was refused on the ground that the said firm was not liable. Then the men—'these dreadful depredators, conspirators, and incendiaries, who, in their mad love for the Confederates, were about to venture on a deed of unparalleled audacity—went to the United States Consul.' That person sent them to a lawyer, who, on September 17, made a formal demand on the firm supposed to be liable for the wages, and, after an action had been commenced, the affair was arranged and the men were paid. [We call special attention to these circumstances. On September 24 Mr. Adams wrote to Earl Russell: 'I am credibly informed that seventy or more of the men belonging to the insurgent vessel the *Florida*, formerly the *Oreto*, nearly all of them British subjects, have been sent over from Brest, and are now in Liverpool. They were provided with a letter to the person acting on behalf of the insurgents at Liverpool, a copy of which is herewith transmitted. . . . . I have further reason to believe that under this sentence is intended a transfer of many of these men to one of the ironclad war vessels now in preparation at Liverpool, with intent to carry on war against the United States.' Yet we now learn from Earl Derby that seven days before this, on September 17, Mr. Carr, the attorney of the United States Consul, was acting for the men against the Confederates. The inference is too plain for evasion. When Mr. Adams sought to frighten the Government about the men having some connection with the ironclad vessel, he knew that he was concocting or giving currency to a falsehood.] On October 24, Messrs. Laird were informed that the trial trip could not take place 'that week or within any other suitable time,' and, on the 27th, that the vessels were detained for a breach of the Foreign Enlistment Act, and that the workmen would be removed. The subsequent proceedings were extraordinary. The vessels were perfectly secure in the docks, but they were moved into the estuary, where there was no other protection than the guns of Her Majesty's ship. Messrs. Laird represented that taking the vessels into the river at that inclement season involved a great risk of damage, but the Government paid no heed to the remonstrance. On October 29, Messrs. Laird sent a formal protest to the Admiralty, the Foreign Office, and the Treasury, in which, after detailing the circumstances, they wrote: 'We need hardly say that we hold the Government responsible to us for the large pecuniary loss we shall sustain by these arbitrary proceedings.' On December 7, Messrs. Laird again remonstrated, representing the risk the vessels incurred, and enquiring if the Government had insured or intended to insure them against fire and loss by sea. This led to a proposal from the Government to the effect that the vessels should be insured provided Messrs. Laird would agree to repay the cost if the vessels were adjudged to them! Messrs. Laird declined to do this, as the risk arose from their being taken from their docks and moored in the river. Several letters were sent by Messrs. Laird, and on January 20 'a response is vouchsafed from the Treasury, saying Her Majesty's Government would do what from the first they were bound to have done—namely, provide against the risks from fire and other dangers whilst the vessels remained in possession of Her Majesty's Government.' On January 12, Messrs. Laird made a proposition to the Government to the effect that the vessels should be placed in the Birkenhead Docks, at the top end of the Great Float, about a mile from the entrance, the Government retaining possession by an armed force. In that case, Messrs. Laird

would complete their contract, and put additional fittings on board of great value. If the vessels were forfeited, they would be more complete: if they were released, they would be ready for delivery. By this Messrs. Laird showed they were not conscious of any guilt, and it was a proposal by which the Government could not lose and might gain. But the only reply was an absolute refusal. 'It was a self-stultifying policy on the part of the Government.' On January 25, Messrs. Laird called the attention of the Government to the fact that, though the vessels had been seized for several months, no steps had been taken to bring the matter to trial. On February 3 they wrote again, and said they were informed by their legal advisers that the case might have been brought to trial in November or January. On February 8 they were informed that an information would be filed in a few days, and that it was necessary to send a commission abroad for the purpose of collecting evidence. 'To send,' said his Lordship, 'a commission abroad for the purpose of collecting evidence on February 8! Why, four months before the Government had actually seized these vessels on a charge of violating the Foreign Enlistment Act, and a month before that they had illegally detained them upon no evidence or information whatever, and at the end of four months they inform the owners of these vessels, which had been lying through the whole winter unprotected in the open estuary of the Mersey, whereby they had been prevented from completing their contract, that they are about to send out a commission for the purpose of obtaining evidence.' His Lordship then referred to the Mallory Report forgery, which he considers 'one of the most extraordinary transactions that ever occurred in the history of diplomacy.' It was a clumsy forgery, though it took in Her Majesty's Government and the Attorney-General. It was addressed to the House of Representatives, and not, as is usual with such reports, to the President. It stated five rams were ordered in England, whereas only two were ever held or assumed to be building for the Confederates. It entered into no details whatever about the internal management of the Naval Department, which was the main object of the reports of the Secretary of the Navy. 'Lastly, it gave information, as from the President, that these rams had been ordered by persons sent from Richmond in the early part of the year 1863. If that was so, the expedition displayed in their construction must have been something surprising and unheard of, because they were represented by the United States Consul to be ready for sailing in the month of August, and if the agents sent from Richmond in the early part of the year arrived in England, looked about them, gave their orders, had them executed, and got the vessels launched and ready for sailing in the month of August, it is the most astounding feat in shipbuilding ever heard of.' On the strength of this forgery Mr. Crawford was sent to remonstrate with the authorities at Richmond. Fortunately for the Government, the Federals would not let him proceed on his mission and make these remonstrances, which he (Earl Derby) 'was mischievous enough to wish he had been permitted to make.' This forgery was a grave matter, and ought not to have been treated lightly by Earl Russell. Mr. Seward ought to have made enquiries before accepting the report as genuine, and he had the opportunity of doing so. The forgery first appeared in a very obscure paper in Washington (the *Star*), and was thence transferred to the *New York Times*, which 'is notoriously the organ of Mr. Seward' and 'is under the control of Mr. Seward.' After reading from the *Philadelphia Age* an article severely censuring the forgery, his Lordship observed: 'I thought it but right to bring these statements under your Lordships' notice, to show the light in which the matter is viewed by some persons in America, and I must express my disappointment that not even the last despatch from Lord Lyons contains any expression of feeling with respect to the discreditable trick which was played on him. We do not even know up to the present moment whether any apology has been made to Her Majesty's Government for, to say the least of it, the credulity with which Mr. Adams and Mr. Seward have laid themselves open to be charged.' In conclusion, he said: 'I have brought forward this subject, not for the purpose of protecting the Messrs. Laird against any consequences to which they may be fairly liable, or entering into the question whether they have or have not been guilty of a violation of the provisions of the Foreign Enlistment Act. All I desire is that justice may be done. I have no wish that persons should be permitted to violate the law with impunity. I hope the noble Earl will continue in the same course which, he says, he has always adopted, of dealing with all parties with the utmost impartiality. I am anxious to see an equitable neutrality preserved between those who are engaged in the unhappy conflict raging on the other side of the Atlantic. But, while I entertain these views, I do not like to find legal proceedings unjustly and unnecessarily delayed, and I am desirous of seeing all Her Majesty's subjects enjoying the full benefit of that protection which the laws of the country were framed to confer.'

Earl Russell began by submitting two propositions to their Lordships: first, that it was desired to maintain friendly relations with the United States; and, secondly, that the power of going to war was a prerogative of the Crown, and Messrs. Laird had 'no right to go to war with any Power in friendly relations with Her Majesty.' He then argued that if the rams were building for the Confederates and got out, it would incur a risk of war with the United States, that Messrs. Laird were building the rams, and therefore that Messrs. Laird were trying to go to war with the United States. He was not surprised that the Confederates, in their struggle for independence, should do all they could to hurt their enemies, but he was surprised that Englishmen — Messrs. Laird, Messrs. Miller, and Messrs. Fraser — should do all in their power to give the United States just cause of war. Be it remembered, this is only Earl Russell's opinion — an opinion from which it appears judges and juries differ.] He did not regret detaining the rams in the least. His Lordship said: 'Only suppose that instead of Foreign Secretary I had been Home Secretary, and that I had information, on which I could rely, that a treasonable plot was about to break forth — that parties meditating high treason were on the eve of completing their bad designs against the internal peace and welfare of the kingdom. Under such circumstances, I should have no hesitation for a moment in desiring that those parties should be detained. The information might be wrong, but if I felt I had reason to believe it, it would be my duty as Secretary of State to take the reponsibility of directing the apprehension of the parties.' [This was the only part of his Lordship's speech that touched upon the question at issue, and, we submit, it tells against the Government. No doubt the Home Secretary can and ought, in case of treason, to 'detain' and 'apprehend' parties upon his warrant. That he can do legally, but what follows? Can the parties be detained for months upon suspicion, and without any evidence being offered of their guilt? Surely Earl Russell does not think the Habeas Corpus is suspended in this country as well as in the United States. The persons so apprehended would be forthwith brought to an examination that would give them an opportunity of rebutting the charges brought against them. The complaint against the Government is that in the case of the steam-rams they did not proceed according to law and equity, that they did not seize the vessels as they had a right to do, but detained them, and so prevented the owners getting any redress, and that when they did seize it was without evidence, and that months elapsed before they took any steps to submit the case to a court of law. If Earl Russell would act by persons as he has done with the rams, we ought to be infinitely glad that he has no control over the liberty of the subject.] His Lordship gave his reasons for believing the rams were destined for the Confederates, and justified the precautions that had been taken by reciting an account of the departure of the *Alabama*, which was ordered to be seized the day she left. His Lordship concluded by saying that the issue in America was whether or not 4,000,000 slaves would be emancipated. He did not sympathise much 'with either of the contending republics of the United and Confederate States.' 'It may be,' said his Lordship, 'that the result of this contest, the beginning of which we all deplored, the continuance of which we all regret — it may be that the end of this contest may see that sin, that crime, that detestable state of slavery for ever abolished from among civilised nations.' [What the question of emancipation has to do with the detention of the rams we know not, but there is one point of Earl Russell's speech we will not mock his Lordship by calling it a reply to Lord Derby's — that is curious and worthy of attention. Indeed, according to Earl Russell's former statements, it may lead to serious consequences. It will not be forgotten that on previous occasions his Lordship has been very particular to speak of the Confederate States as the 'so-called Confederate States;' and when, on April 6, the Marquis of Clanricarde moved for papers, the Foreign Secretary said: 'With regard to the motion of my noble friend, I suppose he will not depart from the usual form, and object to the introduction of the words "or extracts" after the word "copies," and also that he will not object to the insertion of the words "so called" before "Government of the Confederate States." Otherwise it might seem as if the House recognised the Confederate States, although Her Majesty has not done so.' Now, on Friday night, Earl Russell never once used the words 'so called,' though he frequently spoke of the Confederate States. We must not suppose the Earl of Derby's satirical remark — 'Perhaps I might borrow the noble Earl's own phraseology and say the "so-called United States"'—induced Earl Russell to make such an important change. It did not arise from his Lordship being too angry to think of what he was saying, for he was so guarded as to speak of Captain Bullock as 'a certain Captain Bullock.' But, whatever the cause, the fact remains that Earl Russell over and over again mentioned the Confederate States without the prefix 'so-called.' In short, he 'recognised the Confederate States though Her Majesty has not done so.' Does his Lordship want to give the United States just cause for war?]

Lord Chelmsford replied to Earl Russell, and contended that the Government had acted illegally, oppressively, and under pressure from the United States Government. After a few words from the Duke of Argyll in defence of the Government, the Earl of Derby said he had formally moved for the papers to enable him to bring the facts before the House. As that had been done, and as the papers were already in his hands, he did not care whether they were produced or not. Earl Russell said he would rather not produce the correspondence, after it had been refused in the other House. [Our readers will recollect that, during the present Session, papers refused in one House have been granted in the other.]

THE TUSCALOOSA.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Peacocke, pursuant to notice, called attention to the seizure of the *Tuscaloosa*. Having in our last number given a full summary of the debate in the Lords upon the same subject, a comparatively brief note of what was said in the House of Commons will be sufficient. Mr. Peacocke commented on the party zeal displayed by Admiral Sir Baldwin Walker. The Admiral wrote to the Governor of the Cape to know how the *Tuscaloosa* was to be treated, and was told that, in the opinion of the Attorney-General of the colony, she was to be regarded as a tender and not as a prize. Not satisfied with this, he repeated his question, and was referred to 'Wheaton.' Upon this Sir B. Walker wrote a despatch to the Admiralty, in which he said that the power of a captain of a ship of war to make every prize he took a 'tender' was likely, in his opinion, to lead to abuse and evasion of the laws of strict neutrality. 'Under the difficulties,' said Mr. Peacocke, 'which may possibly arise, it can hardly be a matter of congratulation that we have a second Commodore Wilkes commanding at that station.' The United States Consul claimed the vessel on the ground that England 'having refused to recognise the "Confederacy" as a nation, and having excluded her captures from all the ports of the British Empire, the captures necessarily revert to their real owners, and are forfeited by Captain Semmes as soon as they enter a British port.' Her Majesty's Government had thought fit to endorse the claim, and it was desirable to know if they acquiesced in the reasons which were urged in its favour. Under a good deal of pressure from Mr. Adams, Earl Russell wrote a despatch to that Minister, in which he said, 'Instructions will be sent to the British authorities at the Cape for their guidance in the event of a similar case occurring hereafter, and Her Majesty's Government hope that under those instructions nothing will for the future happen to admit of a question being raised as to Her Majesty's orders having been strictly carried out.' This promise was fulfilled to the letter. An extraordinary despatch was sent to the Governor of the Cape, which bore the signature of the Duke of Newcastle, but which was not that nobleman's despatch, for the Colonial Office was acting merely as an official channel for the transmission of the despatch from the Foreign Office. Under instructions contained in that despatch, the *Tuscaloosa* was seized, but those instructions were not in accordance with the principles of international law, and he (Mr. Peacocke) did not believe they were issued on the advice of the law officers of the Crown, but that they were a weak and illegal concession by Lord Russell to the demands of Mr. Adams. That the *Tuscaloosa* was a vessel of war when she reached the Cape was unquestionable, and it was equally certain that a captain could convert his prizes into war-vessels without taking them into port for condemnation. In the case of the *Ceylon*, which was an English East Indiaman captured by some French frigates, Sir Walter Scott held that it was not necessary that she should be regularly commissioned, and that it was enough that she was employed in the public military service of the enemy. Referring to the case of the *Castor*, which ship was not carried into port, Sir Walter Scott said: 'I think this vessel was sufficiently commissioned by the French commander on the station. This *lieutenant de vaisseau* and seventy men were put on board by his order in the first instance, subject undoubtedly to the approbation of the French Minister of Marine; but can I doubt that this appointment would have been confirmed by the constituted authorities at home in the present situation of the French navy?' There could be no doubt the commission granted by Captain Semmes would be duly confirmed by the Confederate Government. The case of the *Georgiana* was still more to the point. She was a British whaler, captured by the American frigate *Essex*. The American captain, without taking his prize into port or taking out the cargo, supplied her with ten additional guns and sixty men, and employed her, under one of his lieutenants, to cruise against British vessels. The force with which she had been supplied was subsequently reduced, and when she was taken, she had only four guns and fifteen men on board. In that case Sir W. Scott held that she was sufficiently set forth for war, and that a commander of a single vessel had the same authority to grant a commission as a commodore. The practice of commissioning ships taken from the enemy is so common and notorious, that the United States Captain at the Cape told the authorities there that if he captured the *Alabama* he would turn her into a Federal cruiser. Were we to apply this principle to a strong Power, and not to a Power unable to resent a breach of neutrality? But the instructions sent to the Cape were manifestly illegal, and would not be enforced against a great Power. Mr. Peacocke concluded by moving 'that the instructions contained in the despatch of the Duke of Newcastle to Sir P. Wodehouse, dated the 4th day of November, 1863, and which remain still unrevoked, are at variance with the principles of international law.'

The Solicitor-General contended that when the *Tuscaloosa* first came into Simon's Bay, she was not a vessel of war, and that under any circumstances the authorities were justified in enquiring what was her real character. He admitted the Government did not think the instructions so full and explicit as they might be, and the subject was under consideration. New instructions were about to be sent to Colonial Governors, and they would shortly be laid on the table of the House. The *Tuscaloosa* was an isolated case, and could not be drawn into a precedent. He objected to the resolution proposed by Mr. Peacocke, because if it were adopted it might be said, 'You have passed a resolution which, in fact, avers that, however much, and in whatever manner, the neutrality of a State has been violated, the State has no jurisdiction to restore prizes.'

Mr. Whiteside maintained that the *Tuscaloosa* was really a ship of war, and that her commission was not a sham as alleged by the Solicitor-General. The fact of capture entirely changed the ownership, and the captor could make what use he liked of his prize; and the effect of the commission granted by Captain Semmes was to make the *Tuscaloosa* a vessel of war. After sailing for five months under the Confederate flag, she returned to the Cape and was seized. Was not Lieutenant Lowe, who was in command of the *Tuscaloosa*, justified in saying that he was first misled and then entrapped? That she was improperly seized was proved by her subsequent release, and as she was improperly seized in obedience to certain instructions, it is manifest that those instructions were wrong.

The discussion was continued by Mr. J. Powell, Mr. Neate, and others, on the side of the Government, and by Sir J. Elphinstone, Mr. M. Smith, and others, in favour of the resolution. Whilst Mr. Shaw-Lefevre was speaking, an attempt was made to count out the House, but it was frustrated by a rush of members from the lobbies and dining-room. The Attorney-General regretted the seizure of the ship on her second visit, but defended the instructions that had been sent out. The principle contended for in the Duke of Newcastle's despatch was that Her Majesty had a right to forbid the entrance of prizes into her ports, and that if such prohibition was disregarded, she was the

only judge of the measures to be taken for the vindication of her authority. The Attorney-General said: 'Well, then, is the House to affirm the resolution of the hon. member that the principles laid down in the despatch are contrary to international law? I say that if the House affirms any such thing it will be affirming that which will be derogatory to the supremacy and the sovereignty of the Queen; it will be affirming that there are Powers in time of war which have a right to set at naught, either by device and fraud or otherwise, the orders of the territorial Sovereign, not only upon the high seas but within the territory of that Sovereign; it will be affirming that belligerents may violate that territory, and at the same time claim the benefit of international law against any measures taken in vindication of the authority of the territorial Sovereign. I hope the House by its vote will protest against such a doctrine.' The debate was concluded by Sir Hugh Cairns, who denied that the Government had any precedents for the instructions sent out to the Cape; and as the Attorney-General had defended those instructions, he appealed to the House to pass Mr. Peacocke's resolution.

The House divided, and the numbers were:

For the Resolution . . .	185
Against it	219
Majority .	34

THE MALLORY REPORT FORGERY.

On Monday, in the House of Commons, Sir J. Elphinstone asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Her Majesty's Government had expressed any opinion on the circumstance of Mr. Seward having presented a document to Lord Lyons on the 22nd December last which on March 19 he 'felt bound' to tell him he had 'just discovered' to be 'a forgery;' and whether Her Majesty's Government communicated with the agents of the Confederate States in Europe on the subject, or with the Government of the Confederate States at Richmond, and with what result. He also wished to know whether Mr. Seward had been called upon to name the gentleman who was the author of the report.

Mr. Layard said Her Majesty's Government had not expressed any opinion upon the communications from Mr. Seward. As the hon. member was aware, there was no agent of the Confederate States in this country to whom questions could be addressed, and it was not usual to address questions to the agent of a Government which was not recognised. Every endeavour was made by the Government to ascertain whether the document referred to was genuine. There was a conflict of testimony upon that point, but as soon as it was found the document was a forgery, that fact was stated by the noble Lord in another place.

Sir. J. Elphinstone then asked whether an agent had not been despatched from the Havannah to the Confederate States in order to communicate with the Government at Richmond, and whether that agent was not refused permission to pass through the blockading squadron.

Mr. Layard.—That was so. He was not permitted to pass through the blockade.

Sir J. Elphinstone further asked whether the circumstance of an agent being accredited by Her Majesty's Government and sent to communicate with the Confederate States' Government did not amount to an acknowledgment of the Executive power of the Confederate States. No answer was given to this question.

THE CHANNEL FLEET.

On Monday, in the House of Commons, Sir J. Pakington asked the Secretary of the Admiralty whether it was true that the Channel fleet had been removed from Portland to the Downs; if not, whether it was not under order to proceed from Portland to the Downs; also, whether the noble Lord was in a position to state that the ships which constituted the Channel fleet had been completely supplied with coals and provisions and other stores; and also whether the large iron ships of the Channel fleet had been in dock since their return from their winter cruise in the Atlantic?

Lord C. Paget said the Channel squadron was now in the Downs. The ships were very nearly completely supplied, and were perfectly ready to proceed to any part of the world in twenty-four hours. With respect to the iron ships, although they had not been docked since their return from their winter cruise, yet they had all been docked within a few months.

THE AUSTRIAN FLEET.

On Tuesday, in the House of Commons, in answer to Mr. D. Griffith, Sir George Grey said: 'Three or four Austrian ships have arrived in the Downs, and we have reason to believe that there are a few more on their passage from the Mediterranean to join them; but the Austrian Government have given the most distinct assurance to Her Majesty's Government that, for the present, the only order which the commander of this squadron has received is to protect German commerce in the North Sea, and to prevent the blockade of the Elbe and the Weser. The Channel fleet is in the Downs, and the Admiral is fully informed of the movements of the Austrian squadron. Her Majesty's Government decline to say what orders may be given in the event of different instructions being given to the Austrian squadron; especially as we have reason to entertain a confident expectation that the Austrian squadron will not enter the Baltic.'

FLOGGING FOR RAPE.

The Bill for punishment of rape was read a third time in the House of Lords on Thursday. An amendment moved by Lord Wodehouse, leaving the infliction of whipping to the discretion of the judge, was carried. The Lord Chancellor, who had consulted the judges, said that it was their opinion that to make flogging compulsory would have the effect of increasing the disinclination of juries to convict, and that it would be better to make it discretionary.

[Owing to a press of matter, we are compelled to omit notes of Parliamentary proceedings which, though of some interest, are not of paramount importance.]

CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

MANCHESTER: May 4, 1864.

MESSRS. Ed. C. Egerton and J. Brocklehurst, members of Parliament for so important a borough as Macclesfield, will no doubt have heard with some interest that a majority of their influential constituents, without regard to minor political differences, met together last week in overflowing numbers, at the Town Hall, to make common cause on the side of the Confederates in their gallant and victorious struggle for separation and independence. The chair was taken by W. Bullock, Esq. The chairman, in introducing to the meeting the Secretary of the Southern Independence Association (Mr. T. B. Kershaw), observed that, however much he might congratulate his fellow-townsmen on the numbers present, he must regret for once that they had not a more spacious hall to meet in, for he was aware there was a large crowd outside who could not find room. (Mr. Kershaw was welcomed with prolonged and enthusiastic cheering.) The Chairman added that, at the conclusion of the lecturer's address, ample time would be given for debate, and, as far as he himself was concerned, 'he would stay with them until morning if the meeting desired it.' This latter proposition of Mr. Bullock's was received with great applause, and, as the event proved, the people availed themselves of it almost to the letter, for the proceedings, which were characterised by much earnestness, did not terminate until within a few minutes of midnight. Mr. Kershaw, in opening the debate, delivered an able and conclusive speech, which was listened to with the deepest attention, interrupted only by applause. He dwelt at considerable length upon the various political and other causes of secession, contrasting the high military and statesmanlike qualities of the South with the unprincipled incapacity of the North, and claiming for the Confederates the recognition of that national independence which was their right, and in maintaining which against almost overwhelming odds they had given to the world a pledge of their patriotism and capacity for self-government unparalleled in the history of nations. The lecturer also made a sensible and timely appeal to the working classes, and warned them against being duped by Mr. Seward's new scheme for recruiting the armies of the North by a bribing system of immigration. Partisans of the North were very fond of telling them that the cause of the American Union was also the cause of the English working man. It did, indeed, concern the working man, but in a sense very different from that in which the question had been artfully placed before him. Before the war the working man who emigrated to the United States, went to a country without taxation and where there was a wide territory in which land was cheap. In those days there was no national debt, or next to none, for it amounted only to about 7*s.* 6*d.* a head. But since that time the angel of death had been stalking through the land, and there had suddenly grown a debt of 600,000,000*l.*, which would entail an annual burden of 20,000,000*l.*, so that the emigrant who now took his labour to the 'so-called' United States would scarcely find so eligible a market for it as he anticipated. The lecturer concluded his address amid loud and general cheering. In the debate that followed, the opposition was of the most meagre character, and was conducted amid signs of disapproval from the great majority of the meeting. Upon a vote of thanks being passed to Mr. Kershaw, the opinion that was almost unanimously expressed was that General Grant was the last card the Federal Government had to play; that if he failed in the great campaign that was now opening, the Washington Cabinet would probably be compelled by the people themselves to give up the contest; that if, on the other hand, he should be fortunate enough to escape defeat, the war would be no nearer its end than before; and therefore that, in either event, it behoved the people of Macclesfield to urge upon Her Majesty's Government, by petition and through their representatives in Parliament, the propriety of entering into concert with other European Powers with a view to the recognition of the Confederacy as an independent nation.

A meeting has also been held this week at Glossop, and there too, as at Macclesfield, the feeling was almost unanimously 'Southern.' Mr. Brocklehurst, cotton spinner, presided.

The Executive of the Oldham branch of the Southern Independence Association are making arrangements for a grand public 'demonstration' in that town, to take place as early as possible. Mr. Cobbett and Mr. Hibbert will be invited to attend.

A YANKEE BASTILE.—Rats are abundant in Fort Lafayette. It is stated that as the unfortunate prisoners lie in their uncomfortable cribs at night they are literally covered with the disgusting vermin. One case is reported, in which the unhappy occupant of one of the cells was aroused, as by a nightmare, to find six of them revelling upon his breast, and of another who felt something nibbling at his pedal extremities, and, immediately kicking, a rat was thrown to the ceiling and fell with a thud upon the floor. This is a part of the punishment inflicted by a paternal government upon the unfortunates who incur its *suspicion*, or the enmity of its subordinates. Not a single prisoner in that fortress has been confronted with his accuser, or tried by his peers. Many have languished there almost from the beginning of the war.—*Boston Courier*, April 11.

CHARLESTON TO BE IRON-CLAD.—The indomitable energy of the American people, and their infinite capacity of adapting themselves to the circumstances in which they are placed, are well exemplified by the action of the citizens of Charleston, who now look upon a state of siege and fiery bombardment as the normal condition of their city. They are accordingly erecting an iron-clad church in which they may perform their devotional excreises undisturbed, and propose to rebuild the whole city after that style of architecture. This being done, all they will need to make them perfectly happy, during the remainder of their natural existence on earth, will be the invention of a light and portable bombproof umbrella, which will enable them to take physical exercise without fear of the iron-hail belched forth from the guns of the Union batteries.—*N. Y. Atlas.*

THE ALABAMA IN DANGER.—On a recent fast-day, in Boston, says the *Courier*, the Rev. Mr. Grimes (Baptist) rose in the assembly, and earnestly requested his Christian friends to join him in praying for the destruction of the Pirate *Alabama*. He then fell on his knees, and in a very boisterous prayer asked God to run her ashore, high and dry,—or, if he could not destroy her so, that He would sink her to the bottom of the sea. After praying thus he made an appeal to the audience upon the subject, and besought his Christian friends to make it the special business of the day to pray for the destruction of the Confederate Pirate.

'MARION.'*

MANHATTAN is deservedly popular in England. His letters in the *Morning Herald* are in their way inimitable. There is just enough truth about them to make them instructive, and such abundant humour as to make them very amusing. They reflect with wonderful fidelity the ever-changing sentiment of New York. Manhattan is a more reliable barometer of Northern opinion than the Wall Street money market, and by what he writes we can always tell whether the people are elated or depressed. His undisguised egotism, his confidential communications about his domestic concerns, and his jokes stuck in almost at random, are enjoyed by readers of every degree, even by those who profess to be scandalised by his audacity and effrontery. His talent for description is conspicuous. In half a dozen lines he portrays a man or a scene more graphically than other writers can do in a column. His portraits are caricatures, but, like Mr. Leech's caricatures, we recognise them as faithful likenesses, even if we have not seen the originals. How well he has portrayed Mr. Lincoln! When credulous folk were disposed to think that Mr. Lincoln was really 'honest Abe,' that he was a good-natured jester, and that his worst fault was imbecility, Manhattan represented him as not only of poor intellect, but cunning and unscrupulously ambitious. The progress of the Presidential campaign has borne ample testimony to the exactness of his representation.

It was with some curiosity that we looked into a novel by Manhattan. He is in one department a clever writer, but it did not follow that he would succeed as a novelist. If his novel bore any affinity to his letters, it was sure to be a miserable failure. 'Marion' is so much after the style of the Manhattan letters, that no one would have been in doubt as to its authorship if it had been issued anonymously. Yet 'Marion' is by no means a failure, because it is by no means a novel. Manhattan has hit upon an ingenious device. He knew that as a novelist he had no chance of success. He also knew that a biography by Manhattan would be sure to sell. But then there was an objection to biography, because there are certain restraints and proprieties to be observed. Why not combine the two? Why not give a biography in the form of a novel? This Manhattan has done. He is so solicitous to show that he is the hero of the story, that the most casual reader cannot fail to see it, and at the same time he introduces scenes and characters that would not be tolerated in a biography. In place of a novel, we have truth and fiction so blended together that the uninitiated might think the whole to be truth, here and there thinly disguised. We have three volumes of 'fast life,' and those who are fond of tales of vice, and who were disappointed at finding 'Anonyma' and 'Skittles' too proper to be exciting, will be charmed with 'Marion.'

Commercially, this work is independent of the reviewer. Commendation will not increase the demand for it, and censure will not probably stop the sale of a single copy. Still we are bound to say something about it, and propose to adopt a course of which neither the author nor our readers can complain. We shall sketch, of course very briefly, a few of the personages who figure in 'Marion.'

Marion Monck, the hero, was born in South Carolina, came in his youth to New York, and found a situation in the 'store' of Messrs. Nordheim and Granville. Marion is introduced to the pretty wife of Nordheim, and forthwith the lady calls him Marion, and he calls her Bessy: she kisses his forehead, and he kisses her lips. Nordheim has a mistress to whom Marion is sent on an errand, and for whom he is commissioned to find a tutor. Marion thinks it his duty to tell the wife of her husband's profligacy, and the wife is charmed with the frankness of her adopted brother. The relations between Bessy and Marion are supposed to be quite Platonic. Marion loses his situation for offering to marry the daughter of one of his employers, becomes a contributor to the *New York Herald*, and travels in the South as correspondent for that journal, and, says Manhattan, his letters were inspired by Mr. Calhoun! After many adventures Marion for a while relinquishes the pen, and sets up as a merchant, being lucky enough to meet with a partner who has excellent business connections and a capital of $30,000.

Nordheim, after ruining a score or so of women, is struck at the Opera-house for insulting a lady, and the blow proves mortal in consequence of his spectacles being broken and the pieces of glass penetrating his eyes.

Count Adolphus Falsechinski turns up in New York, without shirt or stockings, and in fact with no other possessions than a coat, a pair of trousers, a pair of boots, and a cap. He becomes tutor to Nordheim's mistress, and a clerk to the firm. He makes money by gaming and speculation, becomes the favourite client of an astute banker, lays up $250,000, negotiates through his banker a marriage with an heiress, and is permitted by the Emperor of Russia to return to his native land.

Thomas Granville deserts his wife, lives with the late Nordheim's mistress, is turned adrift by this woman, goes to Washington, gets appointed to a European Consulate by Jackson, takes the aforesaid woman with him, and introduces her as his wife: the trick is found out, and he returns to the United States utterly ruined. He has the happiness at last, however, of being present at the marriage of his nephew with the woman who was at one time his mistress, and, after reforming a little, dies of small-pox at the hospital.

Clara Norris is a beautiful girl, who, in consideration of some money given to her parents, becomes Nordheim's mistress, makes a profitable trade of prostitution, buys an estate, and returns to her home, with her health and beauty unimpaired, to enjoy the wages of her corruption.

Rose Barker is introduced to us in a disreputable house. She is affected by hearing a poem of Marion's, supplicates her lover not to let her become such an outcast, her lover is also touched, and a clergyman being present for the purpose of marrying Clara Norris to Walter Granville, she becomes in a few minutes Mrs. Henry Robinson.

Miss Benson is seduced, finds herself in an interesting condition, follows her lover to the South, and is kindly received by the mother of the young man, who insists upon his marrying her. He does so, and, like all Manhattan's *dramatis personæ* who repent, he soon after dies.

We suppose our readers have had enough of this: and if they wish to read about Mrs. Woodruff, the vilest of the vile, or about O'Doemall, an unmitigated blackguard, and a host of such characters, we refer them to the book itself. Having indicated what kind of work 'Marion' is, any comment is superfluous.

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* *Marion.* By MANHATTAN. In 3 vols. London: Saunders, Otley, & Co.

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

OUR friends in the United Kingdom and on the Continent are earnestly requested to forward to us, at their earliest convenience, such information relative to the military movements and condition of affairs in America as they may receive through private letters, either from the United States, or from the Confederate States. They may rely upon the most scrupulous precautions being observed that no names or facts leading to identification will, under any circumstances, be revealed. No communications, however, will be noticed unless authenticated by a responsible name. Southern newspapers, of any date, will be useful and acceptable presents.

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THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1864.

The Last Falsehood.

NORTHERN newspapers have charged the South with a horrible massacre, in cold blood, after the storming of Fort Pillow; and although it has been expressly stated, both in the telegraphic news from New York and by impartial correspondents, that no official confirmation has come to hand, the Federal partisans in Europe have made haste to believe the story, and even some friends of the South appear to have been so far imposed on as to cast about for palliative explanations. Our latest direct advices from the Confederacy are of earlier date than the taking of Fort Pillow, but we promise the reader that we shall not conceal or extenuate the facts, if, upon Confederate testimony, they shall be proved true. Meanwhile we ask the European public to suspend their judgment, and to remember the unscrupulous character of the Federal press, the MALLORY forgery, and the systematic lying which has pervaded even the official documents of the Northern Government. We ask them also to do the South the justice to recollect that such atrocities as are ascribed to FORREST'S men are utterly at variance with the past conduct of Confederate soldiers, even when on enemy's soil, and under the most fearful provocations. English officers who were eyewitnesses of the invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania have given their testimony to the fact that neither non-combatants nor private property were in a single instance molested. The South has frequently threatened retaliation, yet in no case—not on enlisted slaves nor on their white officers, not on the men engaged in DAHLGREN'S infernal plot, not even for MCNEAL'S murders—has the threat been carried out to the taking of life in cold blood. A few newspapers have indeed bitterly complained of the Administration for its leniency, and have clamoured for meting out to the Yankees their own measure. One such is said to have been found on DAHLGREN'S person, together with his own orders, a statement probably put forth to mitigate the brutality of the latter. But newspaper declamations have never caused Mr. DAVIS or the Generals in the Confederate service to swerve one hair's breadth from the dictates of humanity and chivalry in war. A short time since the Northern press raised a similar howl over the sufferings of prisoners at the hands of the Confederates. It is known now, how utterly without the pretence of a foundation were the accusations then made and very generally believed in Europe. It is our firm conviction that the present case differs in no respect from other 'Yankee facts.'

The absurd exaggeration of this 'massacre' should be obvious to any unprejudiced eye. We are told that 'the rebels in many instances did not await until life was extinct before proceeding to interment.' Now, unless a charge of intentional torture is implied by the naïve writer who makes this statement, it is certainly strange that men who have just massacred a garrison should trouble themselves at all about burying their victims. The circumstance which gives point to the story is precisely that which most confirms us in considering it a pure fabrication. It is said that the victims were negro soldiers. Whoever is acquainted with Southern character must be fully aware that the improbability would be lessened if it had been alleged that the Confederate fury has spent itself thus savagely on whites. The Southerner bears no malice to the negro, scarcely holds him morally responsible for his acts even when in Yankee uniform, and as prisoner taken in arms, looks upon him as recovered property, to be carefully secured instead of destroyed. If there is any ground at all for this sensational report, it must, in our opinion, be sought in the obstinate and doubtless desperate defence of the Fort, which, after being thrice summoned to surrender, was finally taken by assault. Probably, also, the negroes, as in the case of the Federal attack on Port Hudson, were used as 'breastworks for the white men,' maddened to their fate by strong drink, and kept to their work by Federal bayonets in the rear. That the losses of the garrison bore a dreadful proportion to their numbers we may readily assume, though the Northern mind always exaggerates figures; but that one human being suffered death at the hands of the Confederates after the day was won, would belie the whole history of the Confederate people since the outbreak of the war.

We cannot dismiss this subject without a passing reference to a ludicrous and yet painful exhibition of the extent to which the judgment of probably an honest, if not an able, man may be perverted by strong passions and prejudice. The same eccentric gentleman, whose unique defence of the MALLORY forgery we transferred to our columns last week, now writes to deprecate, on the part of the North, the vengeance which would sully its untarnished escutcheon. As an evidence how a Professor of History can read the history of his own time, commend us to the letter of Professor GOLDWIN SMITH to the *Daily News* of the 3rd inst.:—

Hitherto, I am prepared to maintain, the civil war has been, on the part of the Federals, the most humane in history. We who feel ourselves bound up in this great struggle with the cause of freedom, ought to pray that its champions may not, in a moment of just exasperation, tarnish a glory which in after times will shine more brightly than the glories of the battle-field. Of the Southern aristocracy alone it can be said that they traffic in human flesh, that they breed men and women for the market, that they tear children away from their mothers and wives from their husbands, that they send women to be flogged in public torture-houses, that they sell their own children, that they make laws to forbid education, to forbid emancipation, to brutalise a whole race. Of them alone let it be said that they murder prisoners of war in cold blood.

It would, of course, be ridiculous to argue with a man who can sign his name to such a paragraph; but, returning good for evil, we shall hold at his disposal a photographic facsimile of the manuscript Orders and Instructions of Colonel DAHLGREN to his command. This curious document, photographed by order of the Confederate Government from the original in the ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S office, has just reached Europe, and will form an interesting addition to Professor GOLDWIN SMITH'S historical collections.

The War.

CONFEDERATE triumphs are still the staple of the news from America. Within the last three months the tide of success has flowed on steadily, almost without a check. Almost every encounter has resulted in signal discomfiture to the Federals; and now, on the eve of the decisive struggle of the campaign, there is panic and consternation in New York, and Washington, and all the great cities of the North, whilst in Richmond the shock of battle is awaited with the quiet confidence which is the augury of victory. It is not surprising that the North should be despondent and the South hopeful. The commencement of the fourth year's fighting has dissipated many illusions on both sides, has reassured the Confederacy of its strength, and taught the invaders the all but hopelessness of their dream of conquest. All through the winter months the Northern press drew forcible pictures of the broken fortunes of the South. There remained, it was said, but two Southern armies in the field, LEE'S and JOHNSTON'S, both 'depleted' by desertions and losses. Richmond might offer a show of defence, and JOHNSTON fight one desperate battle for the defence of Georgia. Elsewhere no resistance was to be expected, and the march of the invader would be a mere military promenade. The strength of the army at Chattanooga has been tested, and General PALMER recoiled from Ringgold with the loss of nearly 2,000 men. LEE'S position has not been assailed; but at this very moment the cannon may be thundering over another great battle-field in Virginia. But the most remarkable disproof of Yankee anticipations has been given in those States where the presence of Southern soldiery was unsuspected, and where the Federals marched with the conviction that they could sweep everything before them. An army of 40,000 men left Vicksburg under SHERMAN, to strike at the heart of the Cotton States. Its route lay through the State of Mississippi, which the Federals have claimed to hold for the last twelve months, and whose sons are fronting General THOMAS in Georgia, or hurling death upon the invader in Virginia. A force of 7,000 cavalry under SMITH and GRIERSON moved forward to cooperate with it. To oppose it were the old men and boys, the home guards of the State, a portion of FORREST'S cavalry, not three thousand men, and the small force under POLK covering the line of the Mobile and Ohio railroad. SHERMAN'S force marched 200 miles and marched back again, with Confederate horsemen hanging on his flanks and rear, cutting off stragglers and trains. SMITH'S cavalry was absolutely routed and driven into the streets of Memphis; and now that a portion of SHERMAN'S army has been despatched up the Red River, the Confederates, growing bolder, have assumed the offensive, and have successfully attacked the Federals on the Big Black River.

SHERMAN'S march was a *fiasco*. The invasion of Florida was a tragedy and a lasting disgrace. No one knew of the existence of a Confederate army in that State. General SEYMOUR landed his forces, marched up the country, suddenly found himself in front of an army sprung apparently from the soil, and was miserably defeated with the loss of more than half his force. No one had heard of General FINNEGAN before. His army was composed principally of State volunteers, hastily levied and marched off to meet the invader. Yet he inflicted a defeat as disastrous to the Federals, in proportion to the numbers engaged, as any defeat of the war. But the story is not yet all told. Louisiana has given another illustration of the inherent strength of the Confederacy. General BANKS'S Red River expedition is a failure, and his grand army, from which so much was expected, is probably by this time barricaded in Alexandria, or well on its way to New Orleans. Here again the surprise to the Federals has been complete and overwhelming. They estimated the united forces of Generals STEELE, SMITH, and BANKS at 40,000 men. In addition they had an immense flotilla of gunboats. The country they traversed was one hitherto spared by the scorching flame of war, so that the army could provision itself easily as it marched. But the Confederates played their old game. They abandoned position after position with little or no resistance. The Federals pushed on. Already Shreveport, the prize of the expedition, lay within their grasp. Suddenly their advance comes upon a Confederate army, is attacked and routed. The reserves hasten up and are in their turn thrown into confusion by the fierceness of the Confederate attack. Finally, after a precipitate retreat, a stand is made some miles from the field of battle, where, strengthened by reinforcements, BANKS'S army turns at bay, and the Federal generals think themselves lucky to save a portion of their train and of their artillery. The admitted loss of 2,000 killed and wounded and of one battery is obviously under the mark. The Confederate estimate of 14,000 killed and wounded is equally extreme, for there were probably not more than that number of Federals in the field. Under any circumstances, the defeat must have been decisive, and it will be some time before BANKS resumes his onward march. As to the report of a second battle, that is extremely improbable. No mention is made of it in the accounts of a later date; and there is every reason to believe that it was manufactured for the Northern market. Of a similar character is the statement of an engagement between the Confederates and the Federal gunboats. What man in his senses would attack a gunboat flotilla with an army? Possibly, a masked battery, here and there, has opened upon the flotilla, but an attack is out of the question. In the meantime, the whereabouts of General STEELE'S army in Arkansas is becoming a matter of anxiety. When last heard of, he was pushing forward for Shreveport, with a strong body of Confederate cavalry laying waste the country before him and harassing his rear. Now that the hope of effecting a junction with BANKS is gone, we may hear of another disastrous Federal retreat. The battle of Grand Ecore was a surprise to the Federals. But those of our readers who have followed the communications of our well-informed correspondent at New Orleans, must have been to some extent prepared for what has taken place. To them it would not be a surprise, but the realisation of a distinct and deliberately executed programme.

But the struggle to the west of the Mississippi, and even the brilliant successes just announced from North Carolina, are of comparatively slight immediate importance in the presence of the despe-

rate conflict about to commence in Virginia. For that conflict the resources of North and South have been strained for the last six months. Grant is the last hope of the Federals, his army the last stay of the Union. The defeat of Grant means revolution in the Northern States, and a financial crisis unparalleled in history—his success, the prolongation of the war for an indefinite period. No doubt the forces he can bring into the field are enormous; but they are not so large as those which proved insufficient under M'Clellan; we have the highest authority for saying that in point of *physique and drill* they are inferior, and that in every respect but numbers Lee's army has the advantage. Grant's plans are unknown, but it is still said that Richmond is to be assailed on three sides—by the York-town Peninsula, by Gordonsville, and by the Rappahannock. We can only say that if Grant divides his army he makes a fatal mistake. Lee's position on the Rapidan is so strong that 25,000 men can hold it against three times their number. His central position at Richmond will enable him to take any one of the three columns in detail. The lines around Richmond, upon which he can fall back in safety, are said, upon competent authority, to rival those of Torres Vedras. What hope has Grant, even if he can force Lee from the field, of taking the Southern capital? It is possible, however, that the latter may anticipate the advance of his adversary. The Confederate army is said to be already on the move. Lee may make another of those famous flank movements which have so seriously disturbed the Federal plans, and the battle for Richmond may be fought once more nearer to Washington than to the Southern capital. Whatever be its result, the fate of the Confederacy does not depend upon it. How long the war party in the North would survive another great disaster in Virginia is a question which a few weeks may decide.

Buncombe in High Places.

The House of Lords has, as a deliberative assembly, a character of its own. The quiet and order of its proceedings, the dignity of its demeanour, the business-like air which pervades its sittings, the gravity of its debates, contrast forcibly with the livelier tone and more combative spirit of the House of Commons, and have no parallel in any other political council. The Lower House has a great deal of the debating society about it; it welcomes a jest, it pardons flippancy, and it has a ready cheer for that conventional claptrap—those appeals to trite moralities or assumed prejudices—by which an unsuccessful orator contrives to avoid the mortification of open discomfiture, and to resume his seat under cover of at least a perfunctory applause. Anything of this sort falls very flat in the House of Lords; and that august body is not often indulged with such perorations as that by which Lord Russell sought on Friday night to cover his retreat from a position which Lord Derby's crushing logic and merciless sarcasm had rendered untenable. To defend the conduct pursued towards Messrs. Laird by any course of serious argument after the speech of Lord Derby, and with Lord Chelmsford watching the helpless struggles of the Minister, and evidently waiting to give him the *coup de grâce*, was out of the question. Abuse of Messrs. Laird had been tried, and not very successfully. The House remembered that these gentlemen, of whom Lord Russell spoke in so contemptuous a tone, had been very differently treated in the correspondence which he and his colleagues had held with them. It knew that throughout the whole course of their persecution Messrs. Laird had behaved with a frankness and courtesy which had extorted acknowledgments, thanks, and expressions of respect and confidence from all employed against them. It knew that the Foreign Office had professed implicit faith in their word. When, therefore, Lord Russell began to sneer at 'these respectable gentlemen,' to accuse them of conspiring to plunge the country into war, to charge them with trickery and 'false allegations,' the impression made on the House was not what the orator intended. Instead of being convinced of Messrs. Laird's unworthiness, it was offended by the Minister's intemperance. Instead of believing the charges, it felt that the accuser had been carried by passion beyond the bounds of Parliamentary decorum and gentlemanly reserve. And when Lord Derby interposed as Lord Russell denounced a 'false' allegation, and said 'Messrs. Laird made no such statement,' and Lord Russell answered, 'What matter who made it?'—when the House found that the Minister was actually making charges of falsehood against gentlemen and men of honour without the shadow of foundation, and thought it matter of indifference whether he applied those charges to the right man or the wrong one, the unfavourable impression was deepened and confirmed. Abuse of the Confederates, who clearly had the good wishes of the House, as of all educated English society, did not mend the matter: the orator was getting deeper and deeper in the mire, and perceived, as a practised speaker easily perceives, that he was addressing an audience that grew more hostile every minute. Then it was that he resorted to the arts which he had learned 'in another place,' and endeavoured to extricate himself by one of those pieces of conventional declamation which are the stock 'points' of a certain class of debaters. The House of Commons would have cheered; the Lords listened unmoved to the following outburst of Abolitionist enthusiasm:—

It is to be hoped, with respect to this contest in North America, with whatever calamities it may be fraught, whatever slaughter may be committed, and whatever industries may be interrupted, that Providence will decree that some atonement for all the misery shall be made to mankind, and that the issue will be one which will place those four millions of the black race in a condition of freedom—in that condition which may hereafter lead to their prosperity by the proper employment of that liberty which the United States have proclaimed as the most sacred principle of their constitution. It is evident that it must be left to the contending Powers to work out this great problem, and I, for my part, should think it a great misfortune if this country should be obliged by any paramount considerations to take a part in the present contest. It may be that the result of this contest, the beginning of which we all deplored, the continuance of which we all regret—it may be that the end of this contest may see that sin, that crime, that detestable state of slavery for ever abolished from among civilised nations.

Had this bit of buncombe been delivered by an independent member of the House of Commons, we should not have thought it deserving of a moment's notice. But, uttered in the House of Lords, and by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, it assumes something of serious significance, and cannot be passed over without notice. We cannot but ask, when language of this sort is employed by the Minister by whom, immediately and principally, our policy towards the American belligerents is directed, what is the meaning of such a declaration, and what are its motives? Is it intended to foreshadow a change in our policy, or to justify its past course? Is it seriously meant to indicate that the possible emancipation of the negro is an element in the considerations which have determined and will determine our course in American affairs? or had it no meaning at all, save to catch a cheer and conceal a disaster in debate?

At the outset of the war, Lord Russell expressed his opinion of its character in the truest and tersest phrase yet employed to describe it—'The North fights for empire, the South for independence.' What was that but to say that the sympathies of England, and above all of the Liberal party, of which Lord Russell is still a principal member and was once the leader, ought to be with the South, as they have been with every other nation that has fought for nationality? What was it but to say that, though the principles of our policy forbade us to interfere until the ability of the South to maintain her freedom had been proved in the field, the good wishes of England and of the English Government were with her in the struggle? But Mr. Adams came, threatened, and conquered; the representative of those who were fighting for independence was snubbed, insulted, refused an interview, and finally obliged to quit the country; and the Power that fought for empire received the caresses, the excuses, the friendly professions, almost the open assistance, of the Foreign Secretary. Those that lust after empire are 'our allies;' those that are defending their ancestral homes and immemorial liberties against a foreign foe can obtain no word of sympathy, no act even of common courtesy, from the Government of England.

We would not attribute this policy to any unworthy motives. We would not hint that it has been adopted mainly from the belief that the North would be victorious in the struggle. We would not assert that it is due to the experience that the way of concession was easy, and that honest neutrality might entail much bluster, many disagreeable scenes, and perhaps some danger. But we must declare our utter astonishment at the gradual change which has come over the spirit of the Foreign Secretary since, at the beginning of the session of 1863, he expressed himself convinced that the conquest of the South and the forcible emancipation of the negroes would be a calamity for all concerned. What recent experience, what new flood of information, has taught him to consider that calamity a blessing, and to desire that consummation which he then so anxiously deprecated? It cannot be that he has been appalled by new evidence as to the horrors of slavery; for if 'Uncle Tom' had failed to convert him heart and soul to the cause of Abraham Lincoln, it is not likely that the false and filthy tales of recent imitation, full as they are of prurient anecdotes of atrocity and indecency, should have succeeded, even had he reposed in them the same unquestioning faith which he accords to Northern versions of Southern State papers. All recent information, the evidence of travellers, the simple facts narrated by Southern visitors, the great fact of negro fidelity, have convinced English society that, even if wronged in being a slave, the negro has no other wrongs to complain of; and Lord Russell must be as well aware of this as others are. Has his conversion been effected by the wonderful success of the Federal conquerors in dealing with the negroes that have fallen into their hands? Has the treatment of the inferior race by its emancipators convinced Lord Russell that forcible emancipation would not be a calamity? If so, the Foreign Secretary must regard facts and figures in a manner peculiar to himself; for the fate of the negroes who have been thrown upon the tender mercies of the invaders has almost staggered the faith of the Abolitionists in their own work. Two hundred thousand men, women, and children, who were formerly slaves, have become freemen under the merciful care and supervision of the Federal Government. Thousands of these have been enlisted, whether they would or no, in the Federal army; and these, though so ill-fed and ill-treated as often to be goaded into mutiny, may be considered fortunate by comparison, even where they are ranged in the front of the line of battle, to be the first victims of the Confederate fire. Thousands have been collected at various places in the valley of the Mississippi, lodged in swamps, fed with the offal of the camp, left to die of the most loathsome diseases and the most horrible neglect, no one of their liberators giving them any aid or comfort. Thousands have been sent to the plantations seized by Yankee speculators, and have there perished miserably of want and neglect; so utterly uncared for that three months have sufficed to destroy one-half the population of a well-stocked plantation. Need we recal to the recollection of our readers the horrible pictures of negro life under Yankee protection, extracted by Governor Morehead from the reports of Federal officials? Swarming in the unhealthiest localities in the neighbourhood of Federal camps, or in the purlieus of the garrisons; subject to every species of brutal outrage at the hands of the most brutal and licentious soldiery in the world; without shelter, without medicines, almost without clothing, often without food, untended in sickness and unprotected in health, these wretched victims of Abolition lived a life of squalid misery which no words can describe, and perished by every species of disease which vice and want and the worst conditions of camp life engender. In a few weeks, at Memphis, 1,200 died out of 4,000; at Vicksburg, on the low grounds on the Western bank of the river, 15 or 20 daily out of 3,000. All along that portion of the Mississippi the miserable creatures lay by hundreds and thousands, 'all sick or taking care of the sick;' and of the whole number who have fallen into the hands of the Abolitionists, probably one-half have rotted out of existence in this miserable fashion. Are these the results that have converted Lord Russell to the belief that the victory of the North and the extension of 'freedom' among the negroes would be to mankind an atonement, and not an aggravation of the misery which this war has caused? Or are we to attribute his change of opinion, after all, to the eloquence of Mr. Adams, backed by the distant echoes of Federal artillery, and strengthened by Federal reports of Confederate disasters? We hope that the fortune of war may speedily supply the noble Lord with ample reasons for returning to his former more accurate and more statesmanlike opinion?

Parliament.

The stormy promise of the earlier portion of the session has not as yet been fulfilled. There are abundant signs of weakness on the part of the Administration, and disaffection among its followers. There are damaging debates and close divisions. But there are no efforts on the side of the Opposition to bring on a pitched battle, and avail itself either of Liberal disunion or of Conservative strength to storm the strongholds of office. Mr. Lowe and Mr. Stansfeld have fallen victims to isolated attacks in which there has been little concert and no organised display of party force, and similar assaults have been directed against a more powerful and more tenacious Minister. If it were not well understood that Lord Russell cannot fall alone, and that a vote of censure on his policy must involve the resignation of the Cabinet, the Foreign Secretary would ere now have been compelled to follow the example of the Vice-President of Council and the Civil Lord of the Admiralty, and quit office for his party's good. But the Opposition seem determined to avoid a regular engagement, in which a victory might strengthen or a defeat overturn the Ministry. Many reasons are assigned for this resolve.

It is said, in the first place, that a Ministerial defeat would be followed by a dissolution; whereas, if Parliament shows itself considerate and forbearing, the present Government will reward its patience by prolonging its life to the close of the next session. As the trouble, risk, and expense of contested elections are always exceedingly disagreeable to members of the House of Commons, it is probable that the hope of postponing their fate for another year has had some effect. It is said, moreover, that while the Conference is sitting and the Danish question unsettled — while difficulties are at hand which have been created by the incapacity and impolicy of the present Administration, and of which it is hardly possible to conceive a satisfactory and honourable solution — Lord Derby and his friends prefer to leave the duty of finding a remedy, and the danger and disgrace of a too probable failure, to those who are responsible for the existing embarrassments. However this may be, and to whatever cause we are to ascribe the armed truce at present prevailing in Parliament, so far as party conflicts are concerned, there can be no doubt that the possession of office at this juncture is a party misfortune; and that the longer the Liberals remain in power, the weaker and the more unpopular they become. The expectation of a Conservative reign of five or ten years, following on the retirement of Lord Palmerston, gains ground daily; and expectations of this kind have a tendency to realise themselves. Meantime, Lord Palmerston's frequent absences do his colleagues more service than his presence in the House could do, by staving off inconvenient discussions, and precluding severe criticisms on the policy of an absent man.

The retirement of the Duke of Newcastle is not a misfortune to the Administration. The late Colonial Secretary was not a great debater, and the Government stood in need of support in the House of Commons, which they could only obtain by means of a Cabinet vacancy. The accidents—for they were mere accidents—which had placed the heads of so many great departments in the Upper House had caused a good deal of discontent in the Lower; and discussions on colonial matters were threatened which would make it extremely inconvenient to have the department represented only by an Under-Secretary. The resignation of the Duke, and the appointment of Mr. Cardwell to his vacant office, came just in time to render the New Zealand debate a source of strength rather than of weakness to the Administration, which can now address the provincial Government with all the authority derived from the manifest inclination of the House to a policy less repressive and vengeful than finds favour at Auckland.

Several subjects of minor importance have been got over, in one way or another, without any unpleasant results. A motion of censure on the Ministerial policy in China—the only defence to which must have been the impossibility of condemning a policy until you know what it is—was evaded by a count-out. The departure of Garibaldi has been the cause of much trouble and many explanations, but it finally remains shrouded in impenetrable mystery; and though it is quite clear that the reason assigned — consideration for the General's health — is a mere pretext, no one has been able to fix the responsibility upon the right person, or to assign the real reason for the proceeding. The interruption by the police of a political meeting held to consider this subject might have caused some unpleasant discussion but for two circumstances. First, it is quite clear that Primrose Hill is a park, and is Crown property, and that nobody has a legal right to hold a public meeting there without leave of the proprietor. Secondly, it is not desirable that meetings should be held in the parks, to interfere with the public recreation for which those parks were intended.

The case of the *Tuscaloosa* led to two important debates, one in the Lords, introduced by Lord Chelmsford, and the other in the Commons, on a motion of Mr. Peacocke censuring the despatch of the Duke of Newcastle upon the subject. The history of the case was made very clear in the course of the discussion. The *Conrad*, a Federal merchantman, became prize to the *Alabama*. Captain Semmes equipped her and armed her with two small guns as a tender to his vessel. He then sailed for Simon's Bay, Cape Colony, and, entering it, announced to the authorities that he had a tender outside, which had been taken from the Federals, and which was now a commissioned ship of war in the Confederate service. The Admiral on the station was Sir Baldwin Walker, formerly Surveyor of the Navy. That gentleman, in his official capacity, had rendered eminent services to his party, of a character which would not exactly bear investigation before a Royal Commission or a Parliamentary Committee; and, therefore, when such an investigation had been commenced, and dangerous disclosures were apprehended, Sir Baldwin was appointed by the Duke of Somerset to a naval command, and sailed in all haste for his station. A sea-voyage and a distant command did not cool his party zeal; and, as Mr. Peacocke remarked, he was still at the Cape the same devoted Whig that he had proved himself at Devonport. He flew into a passion at the idea of the admission into a British port of a prize taken from the friends of Earl Russell; and when the colonial authorities decided that the *Tuscaloosa*, Confederate man-of-war, ought not to be refused admission because she had once been the *Conrad*, Federal merchantman. Sir B. Walker wrote an angry letter home, declaring that Captain Semmes would bring all his prizes into port as tenders, dispose of them and their cargoes, and thus make Her Majesty's proclamation of none effect. This sort of alarm reminds us very much of that kind of logic by which an angry woman assures her luckless husband, who has for once in his life somewhat transgressed the rules of sobriety, that now he will *always* be coming home drunk and beating her. No intention had been manifested to sell either the *Tuscaloosa* or her cargo; and the idea that Captain Semmes would convert all his prizes into tenders, and that Her Majesty's colonial authorities would be taken in by such a barefaced trick, hardly deserved serious consideration. However, the law officers of the Crown, on Sir B. Walker's version of the facts, declared that the *Tuscaloosa* was not entitled to the privileges of a Confederate man-of-war; the Duke of Newcastle took upon himself to decide that she ought to have been seized and restored to her original owners; and on her return to the Cape, after cruising for months as a man-of-war, she was seized by Sir B. Walker. The indignant protest of her commander, 'first deceived and then entrapped' by that gallant Admiral, brought the Home Government to its senses, and the *Tuscaloosa* was released. But the order under which she was seized remained in force, and it would still be the duty of a colonial Government to seize and restore to her former owners any vessel under like circumstances brought within their jurisdiction. It was against this gross outrage on international law that the Opposition in both Houses directed their remonstrances. The lawyers of the Government did their best to turn off the argument upon the question whether or no the *Tuscaloosa* was a ship of war, on which argument was possible, but totally irrelevant. To assert the right of a neutral to seize a prize brought within his waters against his will, and to restore her to her original owners, seemed too perilous an outrage on truth and common sense. But to this at last they were driven; and the Solicitor-General had to devise an excuse for this very novel doctrine. We may set aside at once all the cases quoted by him and by Lord Westbury concerning the exercise by neutrals of jurisdiction in matters of prize. They all fall under two heads—capture in the waters of the neutral, where an offence has actually been committed against his sovereignty within the limits of his municipal jurisdiction, and where, as concerns him, the capture is simply a maritime robbery; and secondly, capture by vessels originally equipped in the neutral territory, while on their first cruise, and while, therefore, they still remain offenders against the neutral's municipal law. Now, the *Alabama* was not equipped in a British port, nor has she taken any prizes in British waters. There is, therefore, no precedent for an assumption of authority over her prizes, in violation of the general law that neutrals have no jurisdiction in matters of prize. But, said the Crown lawyers, the entrance of a prize into our ports, in disobedience to the Queen's proclamation, is a violation of our neutrality, for which we have a right to inflict the penalty of confiscation. Now, in the first place, the proclamation which excludes prizes is a municipal and not an international law. Apart from any such proclamation, prizes would have a right to enter our ports; and it was because that right was notorious, and because its operation in favour of the Confederates was obvious, that the proclamation was issued. Disobedience to a municipal regulation is no breach of neutral rights. Secondly, the right to exclude prizes is of the same character as the right to exclude men-of-war. Suppose the Queen had exercised this latter right as against the American belligerents; that the *Kearsage* had entered Cork harbour on pretext of stress of weather; that this pretext had proved to be false—would the Crown lawyers dare to affirm that we might seize and confiscate the *Kearsage*? If not, then we have no right to seize the prizes of the *Alabama*. The right of warning them off, and of driving them off if necessary, is all that we can possibly claim.

The debate in the House of Lords ended without a motion. That in the Commons, after a futile attempt at a count-out, and in the absence of any organised gathering of Opposition members, resulted, as a matter of course, in a Ministerial victory. But the Government was so decidedly worsted in both debates that the fresh instructions to Colonial Governors, which were promised by the law officers on behalf of the Ministry, will probably be conceived with more regard to the law of nations, and less servile devotion to the interests of the United States, than distinguished the incriminated despatch of the Duke of Newcastle.

Lord Derby's speech on the seizure of the Birkenhead steam-rams, on Friday night, hit the Government exceedingly hard; and Lord Russell's arrogant but ineffective reply only showed the severity of the blow. The Conservative leader had laid bare with a master's hand the secret history of one of the most disgraceful transactions by which the honour of an English Minister was ever tarnished. He showed the close connection of Mr. Adams's menaces with Lord Russell's measures; he indicated the political motives which induced the Government to treat Messrs. Laird with exceptional and unwarrantable severity, and to avail themselves of all the chicanery and oppressive machinery of the law, in order to crush, if possible, the man who had won the new borough of Birkenhead for Her Majesty's Opposition; he treated with just but merciless ridicule the pretended fears of a forcible abduction of the vessels which had induced the Government first to place an armed force on board, and then to seize them and place them under the guns of a frigate; he tore the veil from their conduct, and exposed it, in all its meanness, injustice, malice, and illegality, to the contempt and condemnation of the country. Lord Russell had nothing but angry curses and ribald abuse to return; and never did he exhibit a more miserable spectacle than when he stood at the table, writhing under the castigation he had suffered, endeavouring to revenge raillery by railing, and to answer demonstration by invective.

A good deal has been said of Mr. Roebuck's violent language in describing the Government of the United States; but Mr. Roebuck's invectives were courteous in comparison with the terms in which the advocates of the Ministry have spoken of the Confederate Government, of Captain Semmes, and of Messrs. Laird. The first has been repeatedly charged with systematic endeavours to infringe our neutrality, and evade our laws; the fact being that the most careful instructions have been given to their agents to avoid by all means anything approaching to an infraction of British neutrality or British law; and that those orders have been so faithfully obeyed that, if the Court of Exchequer be right in its interpretation of the law, no act inconsistent with their duty towards a neutral Government can be charged against any one connected with the Confederacy. In the meantime the Northern Government carries away recruits by the thousand from Ireland, captures ships in British waters, and murders British subjects on the decks of British vessels; and these outrages do not provoke from Her Majesty's Government a single harsh expression or indignant word. The captain of the *Kearsage* screens a gross violation of our law by a flagrant and obvious falsehood, and Lord Russell expresses his perfect satisfaction; while Captain Semmes is reviled by the Solicitor-General as guilty of 'shams, tricks, and impostures,' because he arms and commissions a captured vessel before disposing of her cargo—that vessel having proved his *bona fides* by cruising for several months in the character assigned to her. This is not the language in which English gentlemen are wont to describe the lawful acts of the commissioned officers of a foreign and friendly Government; and it is language utterly unbefitting the responsible advisers of the English Crown. Lord Russell's denunciation of a Power which pretends to make war at sea without being able to relieve its own ports from blockade—a thing which Napoleon did for years after Trafalgar—his angry vituperation of Messrs. Laird, in whom as a writer of despatches he professes the most implicit confidence, while in his place in Parliament he charges them with gross treachery and open falsehood—the whole tone and tenor of his speech betray his bitter animosity towards a nation of English blood and English speech, fighting, as he himself declared, for national independence, and towards all who dare to render it those services which neutrals may render at pleasure to either belligerent,—this open manifestation by the Government of a spirit totally inconsistent with neutrality, and utterly at variance with the feelings of the country, ought not to pass unrebuked; and assuredly it ought to serve as a warning to Parliament that the official custodians of the nation's honour require to be closely watched, if they are to be prevented from committing new errors as scandalous as the seizure of the *Tuscaloosa*, and from entailing on England the reproach, already not unfrequently heard, that in this American quarrel her neutrality is really hostility to the weak and friendship to the strong—towards the South, a neutrality like that 'armed neutrality' which once arrayed half Europe in enmity to England; towards the North, a sympathy which only just falls short of that 'alliance' which one incautious speaker actually avowed.

Financial Position of the United States.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York: April 20, 1864.

THE FINANCIAL PANIC IN NEW YORK—BLUE DAYS IN WALL STREET—THE EFFECT OF MR. CHASE'S MEASURES THE FINANCIAL HISTORY OF THE LAST SIX MONTHS THE EXPANSION OF THE CURRENCY—THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAPER CIRCULATION ON APRIL 12 THE FURTHER AMOUNT AUTHORISED TO BE ISSUED ERROR IN MR. CHASE'S ESTIMATES WHAT THE PUBLIC DEBT WILL PROBABLY BE ON JULY 1—THE GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE MR. CHASE'S EXPEDIENTS SELLING THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES OF GOLD SELLING GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATES MR. CHASE'S EFFORTS TO GET MONEY—THE NEW NATIONAL BANKS BILL TO RESTRAIN THE TRAFFIC IN GOLD MR. CHASE'S LETTER TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE DISCONTENT—CONGRESS WILL NOT PASS AN EFFECTIVE TAX BILL—THE ATTEMPT TO TAX WILL GIVE RISE TO A REPUDIATION PARTY.

Secretary Chase has had, within a few days, a premonitory spasm of the coming convulsion. It is not time for the great upheaving. This was a sudden undulation, and passed almost in a moment; but it shook his paper fabric so fiercely, and scattered such wrecks about while it lasted, as to give a fearful idea of what will happen when the final crash comes, of which it is the presage and the warning.

Saturday and Monday were blue days in Wall Street. Mr. Chase had been in the city conferring with his financial advisers on the condition of the Treasury and the currency. Large sums are wanted for instant use; and, in spite of all his efforts, aided by the extraordinary legislation of Congress, which empowered him to go into the market and break down the premium on gold by underselling the regular dealers with the Government stock, there was a continued and increasing depreciation of Government paper. He was here several days, and, having matured his plans, left on Friday. The effect of the measures he put into operation was immediately felt, and, doubtless, surprised even himself. To help him, the banks were compelled to call in loans, and, although the operation was comparatively slight, it disclosed how little real there is in the huge transactions, built up on the paper basis. In a few hours the street was in a panic. Money-lenders tightened their purses, and looked askant at everything but the most unquestioned securities, and narrowed their lists of these so as to hamper men of absolute solvency. Nearly everybody was trying to borrow, and everybody afraid to lend. The bubble speculators caved in. The strong had hard work to get through, and the weak were shoved mercilessly to the wall. Immense quantities of stock were thrown on the market, and sold at any price for money. The losses were enormous. Some of the heaviest operators—millionnaires last week—went by the board. Bubble fortunes, which existed in the inflated value of stocks, disappeared in an instant, and thousands who, in the intoxication of the paper-money delusion, had been tempted to hazard the patient earnings of years in order to get suddenly rich, found themselves utterly ruined. The fall in shares was absolutely frightful to think of. 10 per cent., 15 per cent., 20 per cent. were common, and in some stocks 40 per cent. was lost on large contracts. Wall Street has not seen such times for many a long year, but within two days there has been a recovery, and stocks are up again, although few have got back to near their original point. A new set comes in, and since there is no real cause for expecting any contraction of the Government issues, but that, on the contrary, it is likely that more paper will be put out, and the expansion continue, there is a looking for higher prices again, and a new rage for speculation. It is said that men learn only by experience, but in stock gambling and the similar adventurous speculations of the times, it is their own experience that they wait for. The experience of others is the record of some mistake they think they can avoid. They have faith that the adversity they know must happen some time, will not happen to them nor in their time, and they go on with as much confidence as though they were sure to be safe out of reach when the inevitable calamity comes to others. There are very few who do not see that there is a terrible revulsion coming upon the Government and the people, and the lesson of the last few days ought to be an impressive warning that it may come, by some unforeseen accident or from some cause apparently trivial, at any time; and the utter helplessness of Mr. Chase, except to do injury to whatever he touches, is made conspicuous by his late efforts to check the flood on which he is carried along to ruin.

His financial history, for the last six months, is one of constant blunder and failure.

The Government expenditures have outrun his means, and hugely exceeded his calculations. The estimates with which he commenced the present Congress have all proved to be fallacious, and the promises with which he encouraged the hopes of the people have all failed of performance. He began with gold at 143, and promised a reduction of the Government issues which would materially reduce that premium, and prepare the way for an early return to specie payments.

By April 12, four and a half months later, how the account stands with him I shall state to you somewhat in detail.

His issues of Government currency have been steadily enlarged, month by month, in the following rate of progression. They were, on the day of his report—

December 1	$453,900,000
January 1	488,300,000
February 1	500,700,000
March 1	544,600,000
April 1	620,900,000

And at the date of his last report—

April 12	660,000,000

I omit the fractions under hundreds of thousands. The expansion has been at the rate of nearly $50,000,000 a month.

On the same day gold had reached in the regular market to 175, against repressive measures to be noted. In the course of a few hours that day, under a stimulus thrown into the market by some eccentric movement of the Secretary and his friends, it went up, touching 190, and suddenly subsided; but, under all circumstances, it has not been down so low by twenty per cent. as it was at the opening of Congress.

But this $660,000,000 does not represent the whole paper circulation which was then swelling the arteries of trade and lifting everything upwards on a flood of high prices. A summary of the paper money actually in circulation on that day, and of the legal capacity for the issue of more, against which there is no check in convertibility or responsibility for redemption, otherwise than in more and similar paper, makes the following startling exhibit.

In circulation, omitting fractions under tens of millions—

Government legal tenders . . .	$660,000,000
Notes of State Banks . . .	160,000,000
,, New National Banks (est.) .	10,000,000
Fractional currency	20,000,000
Outstanding . . .	$880,000,000

Mr. Chase has authority to issue $200,000,000 more. The New National Banks, a contrivance of his by which the funded public debt is converted again into currency, are limited to $300,000,000—that is, have a power to put out $260,000,000 more. The State Banks, unless suppressed by the legislation now levelled at them in Congress, may issue still further $100,000,000. There is, therefore, in addition to the $880,000,000 of currency actually afloat, a capacity to put forth $560,000,000 more, making altogether an irredeemable paper circulation of $1,440,000,000 of inconvertible paper. If, according to Mr. Chase's project now before Congress, the State Bank circulation should be taxed out of existence, to make place for the new issues of the favoured National institutions, there will still remain a paper capacity of inflation, without check or convertibility, amounting to $1,180,000,000. There is nothing in the condition of the country which gives assurance that it will not be exercised in full. After the failure of all the Secretary's predictions and promises made in December, no faith is attached to his assurances that this volume will be reduced, or to his capacity to devise any means by which it will be reduced. Indeed, there is no obvious way by which he can carry on the government at all, except by the further use of paper issues to an amount which it is impossible for him to define.

He commenced the session by estimating, for the means he asked of Congress to carry on the government, that the expenditures would exceed the revenues to the extent that the debt would be, on the 1st of July next, $1,686,000,000. They have so outrun his estimate, that the debt is now (April 12) $1,626,000,000, with two months and a half before him of the heaviest expenditure of the year, in addition to the conceded fact that there are more than a hundred millions of audited accounts waiting for payment, and a huge amount of temporary accommodations and suspended claims which ought to be settled and paid. In May the expenditures for the pay of the army will be very large, so that it is not an unreasonable estimate to fix the adjusted debt on July 11 at $2,000,000,000, instead of Mr. Chase's estimate of $1,680,000,000. His estimate was made for December 1, and he has accordingly, by underestimating his expenses, made an error of about $47,000,000 a month, or more than $1,500,000 a day.

The elements for calculating the actual expenditure of the Government are very imperfect; but the shrewdest observers in the political interest of the Government put it down at not less than $1,000,000,000 for the year, and do not see in the condition of public affairs any grounds for calculating upon a reduction.

This was the financial condition in April: a vast paper issue, constantly expanding—a debt growing beyond Mr. Chase's own conception—no revenues and no preparation for taxing—and gold at 175. Mr. Chase had fancied a large part of this rise in gold to be due to the speculations of gold-gamblers in the markets, and obtained from Congress the Bill he asked for, enabling him, as he thought, to go into the market with the Government reserves of gold and beat down the speculators. He tried the gold certificate expedient—selling Government certificates at prices below the market rates to importers, receiving them back at the Custom-houses for gold. The experiment cost him several millions of dollars and a great deal of odium before it was abandoned as a failure. A few merchants in a single city realised a large profit by obtaining from the Government the means of paying duties at a large discount from the prevailing market rates for gold; but the market rate was never reduced to the Government rate, and the attempt was given up as hopeless; and now other expedients are projected.

Under these perplexities and failures, Mr. Chase came to New York last week for money. He wanted to sell his bonds—the 10-40's—and he wanted to support his credit by reducing the premium on gold—two things manifestly incompatible, unless he put his rate of interest so high as to compensate lenders for the increased value of the medium in which they made their advances to him. A low interest would require an easy market, and to float such a loan the expansion must continue. He got some subscriptions and some other help, but it was because it was felt that the expansion must go on, as the tenacious maintenance of the gold prices during all these troubles sufficiently demonstrates. The violent measures he took in his attack upon gold—selling large Government stocks and large amounts of exchange—had such a damaging effect on the markets as to make it probable that no such experiments will be repeated. To secure the taking of his loan, the money market must be kept easy, and no contraction will be directly encouraged by the Secretary. Increased paper and paper money are his only resources against stoppage of payment. The sale of these bonds is increasing, but is not at all adequate to the daily necessities of the Government, even to the keeping down of the increase of paper emissions for circulation. If the whole amount be taken, of which he has authorised the sale, and so much of the currency be thereby converted into a fixed debt, payable in gold, with five per cent. interest in gold, a hundred dollars for fifty-nine dollars in hand, the sum obtained will not check the expansion of greenbacks for more than ninety days. Mr. Chase sees this, and has called upon Congress to give him a temporary relief, in his present difficulties, by two more acts of legislation, which, in asking for them, he confesses to be merely palliatives. Other people pronounce them to be absurd and mischievous nostrums. But one effect of the terror which the New York panic has excited at Washington is to increase Mr. Chase's power to get whatever legislation he asks for. Congress is perplexed and frightened into abandoning the whole question of financial administration to the discretion of the Secretary, without asking questions. Only a few days ago, the House of Representatives, after long debate, rejected a project which he had elaborately urged upon them for compelling the State Banks to withdraw their circulation in favour of the New National Banks. The scheme is now suddenly revived, and passes through the same House without material change by a large majority. Some time ago an eccentric senator from Kansas introduced into the Senate a Bill to restrain the traffic in gold, which was shelved away in that body, and laughed at out of it for its grotesque absurdity. Mr. Chase has revived it almost in the identical terms, and recommends that dealing in gold, or in foreign exchange, on time, or for credit, or otherwise than for cash and by actual owners dealing for themselves, payment in currency actually passing at the time by manual delivery, and at the actual place of business of the dealer, shall be a misdemeanor punishable by fine and imprisonment. Notwithstanding the crude novelty of this measure, the Senate gratified him by passing the Bill, although several of the senators voting for it stated that they had scruples about its constitutionality, and did not believe it would do any good, but gave it to the Secretary because he asked for it, and they thought he ought to have all he asked for in these times of national difficulty. Is it not just possible that some of them were altogether willing to get rid of personal responsibility by heaping it all on him, with the provident thought that the time may not be far off when it will be a responsibility for something which will have happened, from any event in which every public man will be anxious to clear himself?

Mr. Chase himself is not without his own precautions. Nothing less than a thorough conviction of impending disaster, from which he sees no method of escape, could impel the Finance Minister of a Government at war to make the avowal of impending bankruptcy, in language like that which Mr. Chase caused to be laid before the Senate in a letter which he addressed to the Finance Committee recommending the adoption of the two measures I have mentioned. His language is:—

'It must not be thought that I regard either or both of these measures adequate remedies for financial disorder. Nothing short of taxation to one-half of the amount of our current expenditures, and a reduction of those expenditures to the lowest point compatible with efficiency, will insure financial success to the Government; and without military success all measures will fail.'

The annual rate of expenditure is now at least $1,000,000,000 per annum. There are sagacious and well-informed men who insist that it is not less than *four millions* a day. Of present reduction of expenditure there is no possible prospect. The taxation which Mr. Chase invokes, as essential to insure success to the finances of the Government, is not less than five hundred millions of dollars a year—that is, *five hundred millions* of fixed permanent revenue are necessary, even if there be a military success. Otherwise 'all measures will fail.' It requires military success, now, to make five hundred millions of taxation sufficient to carry on the government. That, too, be it noted, will be for a peace establishment. What would be needed for a continual war establishment, if success shall not come in time, and so completely as to close up the war and stop the expenditures, Mr. Chase does not profess to compute; for it is plainly in his thoughts that, unless the war be thus finished the present year, the Government is bankrupt.

The friends of Secretary Chase and others are turning fiercely upon Congress with reproaches for having broken down the public credit, and brought the country to the very verge of bankruptcy by failing to provide taxation, in time, for the support of the Government in maintaining a sound currency and unstained credit. Already it is quoted here, as a bitter humiliation and the sign of shameful discredit, that the 6 per cent. stocks of the proud Government of the United States, rule in London only a trifle above the rates at which a loan was negotiated for the intrusive Emperor of Mexico, who has not yet entered upon his dominions, nor organised an Administration. It almost seems as if this were the beginning of a wrangle among the factions, to throw off upon each other the odium of the national dishonour which they fear or foresee in the ultimate if not the early repudiation of the debt, by the failure to provide means for discharging the interest or giving security for the principal.

The twofold condition by which this is to be averted is, first, complete military success; and, secondly, immediate taxation to raise five hundred millions of dollars a year. Knowing the strength, endurance, preparation, and determination of the South, the first condition may be dismissed as unattainable. There can be no success by arms which will do away with the necessity of raising more than this five hundred millions.

Congress, however, has indulged the Secretary by bringing forward a Tax Bill. How much this scheme is estimated to produce does not appear in the published reports or debates thus far. But if you watch the progress of the Bill, you will not fail to discover that substantial, effective taxation is not in the contemplation of members so much as the tiding over of a political crisis, and the deferring of embarrassing questions till after the Presidential election. They will all be for the redemption of the public faith as a sentiment, and for taxation in the abstract. But the positive laying of sufficient taxes, and the actual collection of them afterwards, are a very different affair. Every man will be for all sorts of taxes that do not touch his constituents heavily, or endanger his popularity in voting for them. There will be fighting over the details between the East and the West, and of two things you may be sure: there will be no Tax Bill of any practical value which will go into operation before the Presidential election, and whatever Bill may be passed will be the subject of angry contentions and the germ of a party which will, sooner or later, and probably soon, avow the purpose of throwing off the burden of the debt altogether.

Decline of Beecher-Stowe-ism.—The silly cant which concluded Lord Russell's speech—the appeal to the passions and prejudices of a bygone age, when Englishmen knew no more about Southern slavery than Mrs. H. B. Stowe could tell them—the endeavour to cover a false position and wind up successfully a lame defence by eliciting a cheer for emancipation—was worthy of no audience above the level of a tavern debating society. The blunder showed how completely the speaker mistook the general feeling not only of his immediate audience, but of English society in general. Once satisfied that the negro, though called a slave, enjoys as much happiness and personal freedom as he is capable of turning to good account, no educated Englishman is disposed to indulge in sentimental pity for his imaginary degradation; while the manful efforts of a people of English blood, inheriting to the full our English love of liberty and pride of national independence, to preserve the rights they have hitherto maintained inviolate, to defend their country and their homes against a foreign invader, appeal to all our strongest, most generous, and most universal sympathies. No one can enter any numerous society of Englishmen, from the House of Commons downwards, without perceiving that this is the dominant feeling in regard to the American war; that while the sentiments of Earl Russell are shared only by a few eccentric sentimentalists or narrow-minded political fanatics, the sympathies of educated men for the Confederate cause—distinctly as the cause of freemen battling for freedom—are strong and almost universal. Three years ago Lord Russell's affectation of Abolitionist enthusiasm would have been, in almost every circle, the correct thing—a hollow but decorous formality: now it is an hypocrisy without motive or purpose, a homage to prejudices which are forgotten, and an offence to feelings which are general, warm, and vivid.—*Standard, May 2.*

LETTERS FROM RICHMOND.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Richmond: March 21, 1864.

THE RETURN OF PAROLED CONFEDERATE PRISONERS—THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS—THE SUFFERINGS AND MORTALITY OF CONFEDERATES IN THE NORTH—PROBABLE RECOGNITION OF BUTLER AS AGENT—THE PROCLAMATION OF OUTLAWRY AGAINST HIM WILL NOT BE WITHDRAWN—THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE DAHLGREN PAPERS.

The vernal equinox has come cloudy and cold—a leaden sky betokening snow, and the smile of the rosy spring withdrawn from the shivering fruit-trees and the poor little pinched blades of grass. The rosy spring, like the Yankees, made a premature advance, and has retreated. In a few weeks both will return—the one with banners of green and chains of lilac and larkspur, to establish her genial supremacy over the rejoicing land; the other, as we hope and believe, to be driven back disgraced in the eyes of the world.

The most interesting event of the week in Richmond has been the return of paroled Confederate prisoners from Point Lookout. On Tuesday last, the 15th, the boats brought up 800, with 30 or 40 officers, from City Point, and yesterday there arrived 1,100 more with 60 officers. On both occasions there was an enthusiastic demonstration of welcome, but yesterday the ovation was exceedingly striking. Notice was given out in all the churches at morning service that the prisoners might be expected at four o'clock in the afternoon, and the citizens were requested to send provisions to the Capitol Square, that the long-famished Confederates might enjoy a hearty meal immediately on their arrival in the city. Accordingly four o'clock found a vast multitude, probably 10,000 persons of both sexes, collected in the square, with long trains of commissary stores, to wit negro servants, each bearing on his or her head, with that delicate yet perfectly firm poise peculiar to the Confederate African race, a tray or hamper filled with ham, tongue, oysters, rolls, biscuits, and other edibles, or carrying large pots of coffee with the means of keeping the same warm; and at five o'clock the long column of the expected guests made its way into the enclosure, passing though the gateway in front of the Governor's mansion, in time to the music of a military band. They were under the escort of the Public Guard, and moved in good order, though not with the precision of a parade in review, for at every few steps some ragged brave would break the line to receive a sandwich or a plug of tobacco from a bystander, or to pick up a bouquet flung by fair hands from a neighbouring window. As they entered the square, the enthusiasm of the assembled throng broke out in tumultuous cheering; and to one looking down upon the scene from the upper story of the Capitol building, the swaying to and fro of the dense mass resembled the agitation of an angry sea—the frequent flutter of cambric handkerchiefs here and there being the counterpart of the 'white caps,' and the wild hurrahs of the excited crowd uniting in a roar which answered to the voice of many waters. When the last man had passed in, the whole body of the returned prisoners was drawn out in double rows of two ranks, five or six feet apart, and the President and Governor walked between, from one end to the other of the line, shaking the men by the hand and congratulating them on their safe return to Dixie; and then these two high dignitaries were followed by the negro commissaries 'toting' the trays and hampers as aforesaid. The band meanwhile discoursed the 'Mocking Bird' and the 'Marseillaise,' and other threadbare Confederate music (our martial and sentimental airs are worn even more ragged than our soldiery), and the crowd fraternised with their guests, hearing from them such fragmentary accounts of their imprisonment as they might give with their mouths and hearts full of biscuit and emotion. Otway did not gobble up his fatal roll with more avidity than many of these poor fellows devoured their complimentary rations. After a little time, the President moved to a small cleared space near the base of the Washington Monument, and addressed the paroled prisoners in a short speech, characterised by his usual good taste and nervous eloquence.* Such of the soldiers as heard the President, perhaps two hundred, cheered him roundly; but there was no need of invoking the memories of '76 to rouse the men who had marched to the beat of Jackson's drums, and charged up the blazing heights of Gettysburg. They have set up a standard for themselves, and their own deeds impel them to maintain the highest, proudest defiance to the foe. If they falter, they will be recreant to their own fame, and this were enough to make them faithful unto the last. When the President had concluded his remarks, Governor Smith was called out and spoke for a few moments, and then, darkness coming down out of a cold cloudy heaven, the column formed again and moved out to Camp Lee, where quarters for the paroled prisoners had been provided.

The exchange of prisoners, which had thus been informally resumed between Messrs. Mulford and Ould, it was hoped, would go on without further interruption until accounts between the two belligerents had been fully settled. But it would seem that the Yankees have not, by any means, yielded the point of the recognition of Butler as Commissioner, and that they intend making this a *sine qua non* to any further surrender of Confederate prisoners. Not another Confederate shall be given up, they declare, until we agree to treat with Butler in the matter. I have no means of knowing whether our Government will recede from the position it has taken on this subject, but it is quite certain that a very great change has taken place in popular sentiment with regard to the recognition of Butler, and a very large majority of our people, from principle or expediency, are in favour of resuming the exchange under the cartel upon the basis demanded by the enemy. Upon second thought, reflecting men gravely doubt whether the original refusal to treat with Butler was justified by any authority in public law, and whether we have the right to dictate to the Lincoln Government as to whom they shall appoint to conduct business arising out of the accidents or exigencies of a state of war. It will be borne in mind that, in the matter of the cartel, Butler was named merely as an agent to carry out the provisions of an agreement already entered into. Were the question of Butler's acceptance as Commissioner to be considered *de novo*, the parties would stand in different relations to each other from those which now exist between them; but even then, the necessity of the case would overrule objection, for undoubtedly we would not hesitate to send a flag of truce into Butler's lines to recover our dead and wounded after a battle, or to receive one from him upon a like occasion. But the voice of humanity pleads more eloquently than the voice of reason. We have 30,000 men languishing in Yankee prisons, wasting unto death in Yankee pest-houses. They are our brothers, once the light and joy of Southern homes, not mercenaries from the Shannon or the Rhine. For months they have been subjected to cruel exposures and hardships, to cold, hunger, and the want of clothing. Their sufferings have never been wholly absent from our thoughts, but by the return of two thousand of their number we have been made more fully acquainted with the actual condition of the unhappy inmates of Point Lookout, Fort Delaware, and Johnson's Island. Messages from those who were left behind have reminded us, in a most affecting manner, of the love and loyalty so long shut out from our recognition.

The Confederate prisoners are dying by scores every day, the life ebbing away from them almost imperceptibly, by no acute disease, in no 'fiery, throbbing pain,' but through what the doctors call *nostalgia*, a ceaseless sighing for home and friends. The cheek grows pale and thin, the vitality wastes in the once strong limbs, the eye loses its brilliancy, and thus the men who bore up against the rigours of the winter campaigns of old Stonewall, and endured without a murmur the midsummer heats of Mississippi, give up their lives to that heart-sickness which the wise man tells us comes from 'hope deferred.' The matter of Butler's recognition or rejection must be finally settled at the close of the present week, for it is the intention of the Yankees to bring 1,100 more of our prisoners to City Point on Saturday next, to be taken back to Point Lookout in case our Government should adhere to its present position. My own opinion is that Butler will be received, and that the exchange will go on until all the prisoners on both sides are returned. It is understood, however, that under no circumstances that can arise, will the proclamation of outlawry against Butler be withdrawn, and Commissioner Ould will probably be instructed to tell him this in the very letter, should he write one, indicating the willingness of this Government to treat with him as the agent of Lincoln for carrying out the provisions of the cartel. The *caput lupinum*, which has been put upon him, will not be removed, and he may rest assured that, should he fall into the hands of the Confederates, his execution is certain.

Butler is so well satisfied on this point that no prospect of military glory will ever induce him to come into close quarters with the Confederates. A week ago, while the officers and men last returned to us from Point Lookout were at Fortress Monroe, Butler sent for a young 'rebel' colonel, and begged that the latter would answer with perfect frankness a few questions which he wished to propound, remarking that the Colonel's status as a prisoner of war would not be affected in any manner thereby. The Colonel signified his willingness to enlighten General Butler as to any matters that lay within his knowledge. 'Colonel,' said Butler, 'should the chances of war throw me into your hands, what would you do with me?' 'I should execute you upon the spot.' 'Is this purpose entertained generally by the officers of your army?' 'Yes, and by the privates too.' 'Sir, I thank you for your candour.' 'Sir, you are entirely welcome to it.' Here the interview terminated, and the Colonel retired.

As we supposed, the Yankee press is out in full chorus upon the Dahlgren papers, charging the Confederate Government with forgery. Their voices are somewhat discordant, indeed, but they unite in the general acclaim of accusation, and in a certain amusing and agreeable horror of the atrocity of imputing the intent to commit rape, arson, and murder to that lamented young hero. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* declares that no such orders were found, and that the lie was manufactured 'out of whole cloth;' while the *New York Times* tells us that one E. A. Paul, a travelling correspondent of the Northern papers, saw the orders before Kilpatrick set out on his expedition, and that the words concerning the assassination of the President and Cabinet were not then contained in them. So we have the story of the kettle over again. Let Mr. Paul's admission as to the promulgation of the orders for the sack of Richmond and its destruction by fire be received as conclusive against the assumption that the documents are spurious, until an official authentication shall be given to the world of their genuineness in every particular.

The transfer of Grant to the command-in-chief of the armies of the United States, 'with his head-quarters in the field' in Northern Virginia, and the call of Lincoln for 200,000 men in addition to the 500,000 already called for and not yet obtained, make it certain that a grand attack will be made upon Richmond at no distant day. The utmost confidence is felt here that this attack will be repelled, while the war spirit of the army is excited to the highest point at the prospect of again engaging the Yankees. Meanwhile, doubtless, Mr. Seward, through Mr. Adams, is again assuring Earl Russell, with his most distinguished consideration, that the rebellion will be effectually crushed out in ninety days, if, indeed, as is highly probable, the rebels do not sooner lay down their arms. 'We are a great people.'

March 28, 1864.

A PAUSE IN MILITARY OPERATIONS—A REVIEW OF THE PAST AND FUTURE OF THE WAR—THE CONFEDERATES ARE COMPELLED TO CONTINUE THE WAR—THE THREE YEARS OF WARFARE—THE RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES—THE STUPENDOUS EFFORTS MADE TO CONQUER THE CONFEDERATES—THEIR FAILURE—DOES IT NOT IMPRESS ENGLAND AND FRANCE WITH THE HOPELESSNESS OF THE NORTHERN CAUSE?—THE MORAL SIDE OF THE WAR—NORTHERN DESPOTISM—FEDERAL ATROCITIES—THE BLOODSHED AND DESOLATION ARE IN VAIN—THE NEED OF EUROPEAN RECOGNITION—THE PATRIOTISM OF THE SOUTHERN PEOPLE—THE BURDEN OF TAXATION BORNE WITHOUT A MURMUR—THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

A snow-storm, accompanied by a violent wind from the NE., which prevailed throughout Virginia during the day and night of the 22nd instant, the snow drifting in many places to the depth of ten or fifteen feet, followed since by a downpour of rain, has made the roads, which had been previously dry and firm, as bad as Tony Lumpkin's Feather-bed Lane, and the movement of artillery and provision trains being just now impracticable, there is a pause in military operations at the very moment when we had expected the opening of the spring campaign. At other points along the border, there is a lull in active hostilities. All is quiet in General Johnston's front. The bombardment of Charleston has ceased for a time. The silence of desolation reigns in the track of Sherman's retreating footsteps; and in the solemn woods of Florida, where lately the din of battle disturbed the immemorial stillness, the carol of jay and mocking-bird, and the careless song of the bivouac, alone break the deep repose of nature.

At such a moment of impressive inaction, it is impossible that the mind should not turn to the past and future of the war in which we are engaged, and that the melancholy *cui bono* should not furnish the material of serious meditation. To the Confederates the answer to the question is easy and simple. 'To what good end?' is resolved by them thus—to liberty and peace, to the protection of their homes and loved ones, *pro aris et focis*, to the conservation of all that is held dear on earth. The continuance of the war is compulsory on their part, for it is a matter of life and death, existence or annihilation, with them. Better, far better the absolute extinction of the Southern people than submission to the ruthless enemy who has already announced his fell purpose of wholesale execution, exile, imprisonment, and confiscation. But what good end can the nations of Europe see as the result of a struggle which they regard with an apathy that seems to strengthen with the lapse of time? Let us look for a moment at the present condition of affairs on the American continent, and deduce therefrom the moral that Europe refuses to draw in her stolid indifference to our future. The United States has been at war with the Confederate States during a space of three years. Or, if you please to state it in accordance with the views of Mr. Seward, the United States has been engaged for three years in putting down a local rebellion under the lead of a few misguided men, which rebel Power it was a grievous wrong on the part of Great Britain and France to recognise as a belligerent. The United States undertook to do this work with 75,000 men, and in the space of ninety days. They have already called into the field more than two millions of fighting men. And it is to be borne in mind that the three years spent by them already in the attempt to 'put down' this 'local rebellion,' when properly computed by the calculus of modern mechanical invention, would equal thirty years of warfare, not in the days of Parma or of Frederick, but in the days of the first Napoleon. In manufacturing enterprise, industrial skill, and improved engineering, the United States, at the beginning of this war, was surpassed by no nation on earth, or surpassed by England alone. The mechanical arts had been carried by the Northern people to the highest degree of perfection. They had great forges, well-appointed navy-yards, immense workshops all over the land. On the other hand, the Confederate States were comparatively poor in material resources or in the effective means of employing them. [The minutely observant reader will remark that while I use the *United States* in grammatical connection with a verb in the *singular* number, I use the *Confederate States* with a verb in the *plural* number. This is not to be taken either as a grammatical blunder or as a *lapsus pennæ*. The whole sum of our calamities is involved in the distinction. Centralisation and overgrown Federal power on the one hand, and separate State sovereignty and republican freedom on the other, are indicated respectively as the verb is written in the singular or the plural form.] By the agency of steam in the propulsion of its large and rapidly augmented marine, the United States was able to transport great armies to points the most remote in less time than, forty years ago, it would have been possible to collect the same number of men at the appointed places of rendezvous. It is the boast of our enemy, and probably with reason, that their siege ordnance is heavier, their solid and explosive projectiles more destructive, their field ammunition more perfect, and their naval construction for bays and rivers more economical and efficient than any war-making power on earth has yet shown its capability of producing. Mr. Seward, in one of those remarkable essays addressed to Mr. Adams for the moral edification of mankind, wherein he carries every point by mingling the discursive with the didactic, observed that England seemed to be entirely satisfied with her preparations for war when it appeared imminent with the United States on account of the affair of the *Trent*, and yet the daily performances of the United States in the manufacture of implements of war to put down a 'local rebellion' largely exceeded what England could, or was content to, do in the same time, to place herself on a military equality with 'the greatest nation on the globe.' Making every allowance for Yankee self-laudation and bombast in this assumption of Mr. Seward, it must be admitted that the machinery which the Yankees have fashioned and employed in their attempts to conquer the Confederate States has been more tremendous than any of which history makes mention. And now what has been accomplished, after three years of ceaseless endeavour, by all this combination of warlike appliances? Has the 'rebellion' been crushed? Is it likely to be crushed in three months or in three hundred? The Yankees have not acquired undisputed and uninterrupted possession even of the river which separates us from Arkansas and Texas. And Texas, cut off to a great extent from her sister States and without the means of communicating directly with the seat of government, has suddenly risen up with something almost of imperial might to resist the invader, who has not as yet penetrated three miles into the interior. The enemy holds Norfolk; but Charleston defies him. And the armies of the Confederacy, which all parties at the North, from Conservative Fillmore to infuriate Beecher, agree must be driven from the field before they can hope to see the beginning of the end, are now stronger, better disciplined, and more buoyant than ever. Does this fact fail to impress the people and the Governments of England and France with the utter hopelessness of the cause of Lincoln and Seward?

So far the survey we have taken thus rapidly of the condition of American affairs has left out of view the moral side of the war and the considerations which should impel an enlightened people who stand aloof heartily to desire its speedy discontinuance—to insist, indeed, that the combatants should lay down their arms, and that the braggarts who have so vauntingly undertaken an impossible task should no longer outrage humanity and disturb the peace of mankind. When we come to consider the *morale* of the American war, we see on the one side a people under the iron rule of a military despotism, with every muniment of constitutional liberty struck down, their whole social system disorganised, their Government under a debt which is fearfully increasing and can never be paid, intent upon the extermination of a race superior to them, we may say without arrogance, in all manly qualities, and banded together in the unalterable resolution to win their independence or perish in the effort. The stronger party has excited the indignation of mankind by its numberless atrocities. Discarding the pretext that the war is carried on for the restoration of the Union, the Yankees now declare that its object is the wholesale assassination and spoliation of the Confederates. Accordingly, the devastation of the country, the sack of cities, the pillage, imprisonment, or murder of non-combatants, mark the progress of their arms. One general robs the repositories of the dead, and puts up the tombstones at public auction; another carries off silver plate, and decks his wife with the diamonds he has stolen from Southern houses; a third violates the unhappy women whom the cruel fortune of war has thrown into his hands; a fourth desecrates the temples of religion, and puts the ball and chain of the felon upon the servants of God who have ministered at their altars. The President of the United States himself claims a jurisdiction over the churches of the States in 'rebellion,' and sends his agents to seize every house of worship within the Federal lines, and provide for loyal praying and Union thanksgiving therein. And while all these diabolisms have been going on, half a million of the human race have perished on the field of battle or in the sick wards of

* We published the President's speech in our last number.

the hospital; among them the very flower of the youth of a brave, virtuous, and cultivated people—the gifted and learned who, under less stormy fates, had ornamented and illustrated the literature, the science, the society, or the statesmanship of the land in whose defence they fell; and the sun has gone back for half a century on the dial of Western civilisation. And now, while the perfidious and malignant Yankee still carries the torch and the gyves and the halter into those regions which a stern military necessity leaves unprotected, half a million more of men are about to rush into deadly conflict in the unequal struggle—unequal, as it finds the free-born men of the soil, the young and those of matured years, the representatives of every class, arrayed against a horde of foreign mercenaries and men even more brutal than they, who follow the flag of the Union for the gratification of the vilest passions—hatred, avarice, and lust! *Cui bono* say you again? What are the nations to gain by letting this strife go on? It can never end in the restoration of the ancient Union. One of two results *must* follow upon its conclusion—either the South will establish its separate nationality, after infinite sorrow and tribulation, and through a long and wasting war, which will reduce North and South to beggary; or the North will subjugate the South, and in that subjugation will have transformed half a continent, which once contributed immensely every year to the happiness and wealth of the human race, to the condition of the wilderness, and put to the sword a distinctive people, who by their representatives in the past and present generations, and by their own lofty virtues, have elevated the general conception of the human character; who gave Washington to the eighteenth, and Stonewall Jackson to the nineteenth century. Neither of these results can be immediate. How can England, how can France remain passive in contemplation of the waste of treasure, the sacrifice of life that is involved in the further continuance of this mad quarrel? What length of time shall be set down as necessary to the recognition of a Government administering the affairs of eight millions of people? If three years' maintenance of its individuality cannot suffice, will thirty? If three years of warfare carried on without result against it with colossal means of offence—three years, which, I have said before, ought to be reckoned as thirty by reason of the improvement in war-making machinery—does not satisfy the world of its ability to sustain itself, will a hundred?

Throughout this whole weary period, the Confederate States have asked nothing of Europe but the simple acknowledgment of their separate existence. They make no appeal at this moment but that mute appeal, more eloquent than speech, which the spectacle of heroic endurance of suffering for principle's sake must always make to the heart of humanity—an appeal which is addressed with wondrous power to the eye and the human feeling of every foreigner of sensibility that comes among us, by the empty sleeves and the wooden legs of the mutilated men whom he sees in our streets. Sometimes I think that these sights would move even the stony breast of Earl Russell, and that if he could be brought into the Confederacy and shown the wasted fields, the smouldering ruins of what were once pleasant homesteads, the general havoc of Seward's ruthless armies—if he could be made to see the cheerfulness and courage and devotion of our people—he would be ashamed of his alliance with the Yankees, and adopt a policy more in accordance with the magnanimity and justice, not to say the pluck, which ought to characterise the British nation of to-day. But when we behold him truckling to the insolence of the Yankee Secretary of State, and stooping to secure his Ministerial majority in the House of Commons by the production of a paper already known to be forged—when, year after year, we find him refusing to listen to the voice of reason, speak she never so wisely nor so forcibly—we cannot but think that neither would he be persuaded though he beheld such sad scenes.

Nothing could exemplify the patriotic devotion of the Southern people more strikingly than the ready acquiescence they have given to the recent legislation of Congress. No obstacle has been thrown in the way of the enlarged conscription. Within a few days the old currency will have been in greater part called in, and the most daring measure of finance ever attempted in the history of government will have been carried into effect. Instead of a circulation of nine hundred millions, we shall have a circulation of two hundred millions. The management of an enormous debt will be shown by the success of the Currency Bill to be as easy as was its creation; and though the transformation of so immense an amount from the form of currency to that of bonds is necessarily attended with much hardship, there is no murmur on the part of the people, and even the holders of small sums, who must suffer the instantaneous depreciation on April 1 of 33⅓ per cent., do not cry out against it. The taxes, onerous enough, under the Tax Bill of 1863, have been cheerfully paid, and the still heavier burdens imposed by the last Congress will excite no clamour. The speculators apart, the people of the Confederate States are submissive to the loss of property, and willing to give up everything for the cause, and a morning paper (the *Examiner*) has remarked upon the striking fact, that in those regions where the people have been made to undergo the cruelest sacrifices, the spirit of undying resistance to the enemy is fiercest.

The widow and children of William B. Mumford, who was murdered by Butler in New Orleans, have arrived in Richmond. They are penniless, and a subscription in their behalf is in circulation in this city and in the camps. Their support is a sacred duty to the people of the Confederacy.

THE TUSCALOOSA.—The question of law involved is not that with which the Solicitor-General dealt at so much length—whether or not the Tuscaloosa was by Captain Semmes converted into a vessel of war. If this were the question there could, we think, be little doubt that it must be decided, as Mr. Whiteside argued it, in favour of Captain Semmes. The ship was armed and manned; she cruised for several months as a vessel of war, which decides the fact; and the right of Captain Semmes so to convert her is unquestionable. But this is not to the point. The question really involved is this: grant that the *Tuscaloosa* was a prize; grant that she was an uncondemned prize; had we any right to seize her? Now, as a general rule, it is clear that we had not. A neutral has no jurisdiction except over prizes taken in his waters, or taken by vessels armed within his waters. And the absence of condemnation is of no sort of consequence except as between the captor and his government: property in an enemy's vessel vests by capture merely. Again, the Queen's proclamation of neutrality enables us to exclude prizes from our ports, but it gives us no sort of power to seize them, and no kind of jurisdiction over them. The Solicitor-General affirmed that they might be seized 'for a violation of our neutrality.' But this clearly untrue. There is no violation of our neutrality in the entrance of a prize into our ports. By the common law of nations, all belligerent vessels, prizes or not, have a right to enter our ports; and our right to exclude them is limited to exclusion, and does not extend either to confiscation or to jurisdiction.—*Standard.*

LETTER FROM HALIFAX.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia: April 14, 1864.

WE have at present sojourning in our city a victim of the Federal despotism—John Torell, a British subject, and until lately a resident of Nashville, Tennessee, where he had been for some time the business editor of the *Tennessee Baptist*. When the Yankees took possession of Nashville, among other measures taken for the creation of a 'Union' feeling among the unfortunate inhabitants, was the suppression of the *Baptist*. But this was only the commencement of Mr. Torell's persecution. Shortly afterwards he had occasion to officiate at the grave over the remains of a victim to Yankee vindictiveness, and took occasion to deprecate the acts of violence daily committed in and around the city by Lincoln's lawless soldiery. For this he was arrested and thrown into prison, and for seven long months he was incarcerated in a penitentiary at Nashville, for the nonce turned into the Federal Bastile. Among other victims to the reign of terror established in Nashville was an old man of disordered mind, who had been thrown into prison upon some pretext, and who was treated in the most shocking manner. Mr. Torell says: 'That any civilised Power, or its accredited agents and high functionaries, should become implicated in such outrages as I saw perpetrated on that old man, surpasses all belief. He would be handcuffed for hours at a time around a tree in the prison yard. His back was almost an entire scab from bayonet stabs. His face and head were fearfully bruised by the blows he was constantly subjected to from the ruffianly guards.

'On one occasion, he had a most fearful fall, and was doubled up into a most painful position, from which it was impossible he could extricate himself. While hugging the tree, handcuffed, he had been allowed a stool to sit on, and he essayed, by raising himself up on this stool and by pushing the heel of one boot against the shackle of one hand, to extricate himself; but in doing so his stool fell, and his leg went over or outside his arm and handcuffs. In this condition he called loudly for help to extricate himself, but no one dared come to his rescue. At last he exclaimed, "What! have you no feeling for a fellow-creature—none of you?" I happened to be walking in the yard at the time, and determined I would brave the fury of the guard, and the lieutenant in charge too, and went to try if I could get him free from his entanglement, but found it utterly impossible without taking off his manacles, and made some remark about treating the poor wretch with that sort of barbarity. The orderly sergeant, hearing me, immediately called to one of the men to "bring that other pair of cuffs, for, by G——d, he would teach that d——d Englishman to behave himself." At this juncture the lieutenant made his appearance and ordered the old man to be released, and I heard no more about the "other pair of cuffs," and suppose the lieutenant countermanded the sergeant's order. The old man was well off, had a valuable plantation and a number of good servants, and at the time of his capture had something over $300 on his person. Of this the guard robbed him to the last cent.' This is one of the milder examples of Federal barbarism in the once happy and moral 'Rock City.'

After Mr. Torell had been seven months in prison, he received an order to go South at one day's notice. He was not permitted to go home, and was entirely without necessaries for the journey. He was kindly treated in the South, and speedily made his way to the sea-coast, ran the blockade, and reached this city in safety. His wife and family still remain at Nashville, while he has been banished from the Federal lines until the end of the war. The case has been submitted to Lord Lyons, and it is but one of many. With regard to French subjects residing in the Northern States, the Government is much more courteous, and very careful not to molest or injure them, and they are at once accorded the fullest redress when their rights are infringed upon. The contrast thus afforded does not tend to reflect any great amount of credit upon the Government of Great Britain. I have now before me a copy of a weekly religious paper published in this city, containing a letter from a father in relation to the kidnapping of his son, a British subject, born and bred in Nova Scotia, by the harpies of the North. He was so drugged by a single glass of beer, offered him in a private dwelling in Boston, on the Sabbath-day, by a man professing to be a fellow-countryman, that he knew no more until he found himself in prison in New Hampshire, in the dress of a Yankee soldier, along with a number of others. On awakening, some put their heads out of the windows, and called for aid, when one poor fellow was shot through the head by the sentry. The inhabitants of the town were much excited at these outrages, and were threatening to rescue the men. This caused them to be hurried on board a train of cars to be taken elsewhere; and after the train was in motion many jumped off and were maimed for life. One young man jumped off near a piece of woods, and ran for his life; they fired and broke his leg, yet he hopped on the other into the woods, and no further notice was taken of him. The young man above mentioned afterwards succeeded in making his escape, after undergoing the most fearful privation and suffering. The father says: 'And now I would just say, in conclusion, it is high time the British Government should speak out, and not allow her subjects with her protection in their possession to be drugged, drafted, knocked on the head, kidnapped, abducted, and spirited away after this manner.' Time, indeed, it is!

The iron steamer *Florie* is now in port, undergoing repairs upon the Marine Railway. The *City of Petersburg* (s. s.) is also undergoing repairs here. The steamer *Calcdonian*, which sailed for Nassau *viâ* Bermuda a few days ago, sprang a leak shortly after leaving port, and in attempting to breach her she got on to the rocks on the coast, and is likely to prove a total loss. She was insured.

The *New York Daily News* of April 16 has an able and earnest article against that last of Yankee abominations, 'miscegenation,' in the course of which the writer says: 'God did not make the mulatto. It is an invention of man's, and is produced only by the desecration and destruction of two admirable and perfect creations of God's wisdom and handicraft. The mulatto is a blasphemy.'

'THE FIRST NATION IN ALL CREATION.'—The *New York Journal of Commerce* puts the ideas of the radicals upon the freedom of debate in Congress into the form of a new rule, to be adopted by that body, as follows:—'No member of Congress shall advocate any plans of government, or make any speeches on the state of the Union, which shall controvert the views of the majority, or propose any other way of governing the United States, than the way determined on from time to time by the caucuses of the majority.'

THE GROWING SAVAGENESS OF THE WAR.—No matter in what direction a raid takes place, arson and plunder are now considered to be legitimate orders of the day. Burning up plantations and farms, demolishing grist-mills, and turning helpless inhabitants out to starve—which ought to bring the perpetrators of such deeds to courts-martial—are triumphantly quoted as proofs of enterprise and valour. It is strange, too, that this atrocious and impolitic system is approved by a people who have not shown themselves, so far, addicted to wanton cruelty. We have, however, no hesitation in stamping it as disgraceful to the arms, and calculated to bring ill-will upon the cause of the North among the North's most abiding friends. . . . It will be held, and rightly, that the destruction of railroads and of public stores and provisions is an entirely different matter from the indiscriminate application of the torch. Does not the fiendish glee with which these devastating processes are described fully bear out our oft-made assertion, that war is not, and never can be, a moral purifier? There is something humiliating in the avowal that, with hundreds of thousands of brave men in arms, a nation should be called upon to admire flour-mills laid in ashes and happy homes made desolate. Neither should it be forgotten that, while the seeds of eternal hatred are thus deliberately sown, the narrators of these exploits contradict all their previous assertions that the South was universally starving.—*New York Albion* (English organ).

SOLDIERS VOTING.—Already we see the evidence of the grand wrong done to republican institutions by authorising soldiers to vote in the ranks. If an officer speaks 'against the Administration,' or condemns the policy of 'Mr. Lincoln,' he is placed under arrest. How is it possible to have a free vote of the army in the face of this regulation? Is it possible to vote freely in the coming election without approving on the one hand, or condemning on the other, the policy and the conduct, both civil and military, of Mr. Lincoln? If any of our warm-hearted readers, who have confidence in Mr. Lincoln, do not see plainly the wrong of this matter, let us reverse the picture and imagine that, in spite of all the exertions of the Administration to perpetuate itself in power, the people should this fall elect a Democratic or Conservative President, or that, by means of a triangular contest, some out-and-out Radical like General Fremont should come into power. Then remember that a soldier is liable to punishment for discussing the measures of the Administration, and that, if any officer or private should undertake to instruct his fellow-soldiers in Radical doctrines against a Democratic President, or in Conservative doctrines against a Radical President, he must at once be arrested. What prospect for American freedom of ballot is visible in such a future? It is the most severe blow that has been struck at free institutions, this creation of a vote which is made a *crime* if it is cast against the ruling Administration. For that is the simple result. It is made criminal, and punishable by court-martial and imprisonment or degradation, for a soldier to use the free privilege of an American citizen and ask his comrades to vote against an Administration in power! There was a deep meaning in the dismissal of that New Hampshire officer for distributing and voting the Conservative ticket. It ought to have been a fearful warning to men who love our free institutions. But if, in his own town and State, at home, a soldier cannot vote for what ticket he pleases without being punished, will some one explain how he can be expected to exercise the freeman's right in the camp, under arms, with the sharpest military discipline over him?—*New York Journal of Commerce.*

NORTHERN 'JUSTICE' TO THE NEGRO.—A Radical paper says of the United States,—'It has shown no generosity to the slave, but has granted him justice.' What crime has the slave committed, we would like to know, that would entitle the horrible treatment he receives within our lines to the name of 'Justice?'—*Boston Courier.*

THE SEIZURE OF THE GERITY.—In the present case we apprehend the main question will be whether the prisoners at Liverpool—two of whom, by the way, are British subjects—were acting under orders when they seized the Federal schooner. If the court feels satisfied that this was the case, however novel the enterprise may have been in which they were engaged, and however desirable it may be to repress irregular warfare of every kind, we can hardly believe that the act committed by these men will be held to be piracy. If they fail upon this point, there remains the question of jurisdiction; so that, although we do not expect the case to be discussed in the same elaborate fashion as that of the *Alexandra*, we shall find, nevertheless, that much is to be said on both sides. We trust, moreover, that, unlike the *Alexandra* case, the matter in dispute will be definitely settled on its merits, and not upon mere technicalities, which, though infinitely interesting and profitable to lawyers, are unintelligible to the mass of mankind. —*Morning Post.*

BLAIR ON CHASE.—General Blair, member of Congress from Missouri, and brother of the Postmaster-General, in advocating an enquiry into the management of Mr. Chase in the Treasury Department, made the following observations:—'I say here in my place, and upon my responsibility as a Representative, that a more profligate administration of the Treasury Department never existed under any Government; that the whole Mississippi Valley is rank and fetid with the frauds and corruptions practised there by his agents; that "permits" to buy cotton are just as much a marketable commodity as the cotton itself; that these permits to buy cotton are brought to St. Louis and other Western cities by politicians and favourites from distant parts of the country, and sold on 'change to the highest bidder, whether he be a secessionist or not, and that, too, at a time when the best Union men in these cities were refused permits. That is equally true of the 'trade stores,' as they are called—monopolies of trade in certain districts or cities in the South. These 'trade stores' are given to political partisans and favourites, who share the profits with other men who furnish the capital, Mr. Chase furnishing capital to his friends and partisans in the shape of a permit or privilege to monopolise the trade of a certain city or district; and, furthermore, it can be established that the practice of taking bribes on the part of these Treasury agents for permits to trade, and for conniving at violations of law, is so common that it has almost ceased to attract attention or excite comment. It is the most corrupting and demoralising system that ever was invented, and has become a public scandal.'

THE WOUNDED AT GETTYSBURGH.—In a letter to the Sanitary Committee, General Meade says—At the battle of Gettysburg the number of wounded of our army alone amounted, by official reports, to thirteen thousand seven hundred and thirteen (13,713); those of the enemy left on the field were estimated by our medical officers as amounting to eight thousand. This would make in all nearly twenty-two thousand suffering beings requiring immediate care and attention to save life.

THE MALLORY REPORT FORGERY.

DESPATCH OF LORD LYONS.

The following is a copy of Lord Lyons' despatch referring to the alleged report of the Secretary of the Navy to the Congress of the Confederate States:

'Lord Lyons to Earl Russell.

'Washington, March 22, 1864.

My Lord—In my despatch of the 31st December last, I inclosed an extract from a newspaper containing what purported to be a copy of a report of Mr. Mallory, the Confederate Secretary of the Navy. Your lordship will recollect that the supposed report contained passages avowing the attempts to organise an invasion of the United States from Canada, and giving details with regard to ships of war stated to be building for the Confederate government in England and France. Some stress has, as your lordship is aware, been laid upon this document by Mr. Seward in his communications on the two subjects just mentioned. After alluding to the importance which he had attached to it, Mr. Seward said to me on the 19th inst. that he felt bound to tell me that he had just discovered that it was a forgery. He had, he said, taken considerable pains to discover whether it was authentic when it first appeared, and although he had been unable to procure any Southern paper containing it, he had quite satisfied himself that it was genuine. Recently, however, the person by whom it had been concocted, hearing of his inquiries about it, had thought it right to let him know that it had been published originally as a mere *jeu d'esprit*, and that partly the amusement which it had afforded to see every one taken in by it, and partly the notion that it was injuring the Confederate cause, had prevented an earlier avowal of the truth. Mr. Seward stated that it was very remarkable that no disavowal of the supposed report had, so far as he knew, appeared in the Southern newspapers. Its authenticity had indeed been denied by Captain Maury in England, but Captain Maury might not have had the means of knowing for certain whether it was really authentic or not. There was, however, now no doubt, Mr. Seward said, that it was a forgery.—I have, &c.

(Signed) 'Lyons.'

The Peace Party in the North.—To-day, in many important districts, the Peace party are the majority, and in every Northern State they hold the balance of power. The separation between the peace and the war advocates is widening. There is no half-way house. The war power must have all or nothing. If you concede it, *ex proprio vigore*, it implies everything that is objectionable. All 'other rods' will be swallowed up of this 'Aaron's rod,' which has become a serpent. Every individual in the Peace party should make peace paramount. Therein lies the only hope of the country.—*Cincinnati Enquirer.*

The Progress of the Confederates.—The present prospects of the Confederates in this fourth year of the Civil War are certainly brighter than they ever were before. In the South-West the Federal expeditions have everywhere miscarried, and one considerable victory has been added to the military achievements of the South. The recent battle in Louisiana is admitted to have cost the Northerners at least 2,000 men, besides the whole of their artillery, and nearly the whole of their train. In Mississippi a combat on a smaller scale ended also in the defeat of the Federals, with a loss of several hundred prisoners. In Tennessee the progress of the Confederates, if less decisive, has been still more remarkable. There they have regained some of their old positions, and, for the first time in the history of this contest, have recovered lost ground. Mr. Seward used to delight in telling us that if the advance of the Federals had been slow, it was at any rate sure, and that the arms of the North had never receded from territory once occupied. But this boast must now be omitted from his diplomatic circulars. The control of the Mississippi is again in Southern hands. General Forrest has captured Fort Pillow, and is threatening Memphis, nor is it supposed in New York that the worst has yet been heard of the designs of this enterprising commander.—*The Times.*

The Attempt to Blow up the Minnesota.—A Northern paper, the *Old Dominion*, gives the following account of this daring exploit:—

'On Friday night, during the darkness, one of those bold efforts was made to destroy the flag-ship frigate *Minnesota*, now lying off Newport News, at the mouth of James River, by the fixing of an infernal machine, that came near ultimating in the destruction of this noble frigate. A small steam yawl was discovered coming down the river. When hailed the reply was "Roanoke," which signified the boat belonged to the *Roanoke*. All the picket boats, it is said, passed the stranger, without examination, lulled into security by their familiarity with our usages after dark. Approaching the *Minnesota*, she was warned to keep off, or she would be fired upon. Regardless of the warning, she came on drifting with the tide, and when quite near steamed straight at the port-quarter, striking the *Minnesota* with a torpedo, which exploded, shaking the noble craft with a terrible concussion from stem to stern, and throwing the yawl several yards from the ship. Immediately steam was gotten up on the yawl, and before anything could be done by the people on board the flag-ship, the yawl was safe off in the darkness. The infernal machine was rigged on a long detached pole over the stern of the yawl, and although it proved a failure, either because of its own weakness or the strength of the *Minnesota's* sides, yet it exhibits a daring and enterprise on the part of the rebel pirates, as well as a perfect knowledge of our naval vessels at the mouth of the James, that is as brilliant as it is vicious.'

The Political Change in the North.—No observer of American affairs can fail to have been impressed by the remarkable divisions in Congress on the case of Mr. Long This gentleman, a representative of the State of Ohio, had not only made a speech in favour of peace, but had distinctly recommended the recognition of the Southern Confederacy. He had proposed, in short, that the seceding States should be allowed to have their own way, that the dissolution of the Union should be accepted as an accomplished fact, and that the North should desist from the prosecution of a hopeless war. On this the Speaker moved his expulsion from the House for treason, and such a vote, however arbitrary it may appear to us, would probably have been carried almost without opposition a year or two ago. Now, however, things have changed. It was first found impossible to carry a motion against a member who, in supporting Mr. Long, had even surpassed him in boldness of opinion. Then, after a week had been consumed in debates and delays, the motion for the expulsion of Mr. Long was exchanged for a simple vote of censure upon him, and even that vote was only carried by a majority of 10 in a House of 150. We cannot but consider these proceedings as more ominous of political change than any events of the campaign.—*The Times.*

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Ships Arrived.

At Liverpool.—April 25: The Annapolis, from New Orleans.—April 29: The Dart, from Nassau. The Joachim, from Matamoras.—April 30: The Eugene (steamer), from Bermuda. —May 1: The Hayti, from Jamaica. The Cassandra, from Nassau.—May 2: The Confederate war-steamer Georgia, Commander Maury, from Bordeaux. The R. A. Stephenson, from Matamoras.—May 3: The Guiding Star, from Demerara. The Carioca, from Matamoras.

At Gravesend.—April 30: The Wanderer, from Demerara. —May 1: The Caroline, from Jamaica. The Martha Clay (steamer), from Havana. The Intrinsic, from Bermuda. The Roseau, from St. Vincent.—May 2: The Cambrian, from Jamaica. The Candidate, from Barbadoes. The Ludwig Buchard, from Demerara. The Wilton, The J. E. Lockhart, The Vere, from Jamaica.

At Deal.—May 2: The Wave Queen, The Dundee, from Jamaica. May 3: The Prima, from Trinadad.

At Falmouth.—April 26: The Hansa (steamer), from Wilmington.—April 29: The Agnes Fraser, from Havana. The Love Bird, The Legal, from Havana.—May 1: The Cambrian, from Jamaica.—May 2: The Hiram, from Havana. The Ostrich, from Havannah.

At Portsmouth.—May 2: The Sherman, from the Mauritius.

At Queenstown.—April 28: The Fox (steamer), for Nassau. —May 1: The Wanderer, The Aurora, from Demerara. The Myrrha, from Havana.—May 3: The Hallyards, from Matanzas. The Criterion, from Madeira. The Alciope, The Catharine, from Demerara. The Maria, The Fernandré, from Havana.

At Bristol.—May 2: The Eliza Olive, for Bermuda.

At the Clyde.—May 2: The Trelawney, The Dr. F. A. S. Hunter, from Jamaica. The Tay, from Havana. The Jane, from Trinidad.

At Madeira.—April 17: The Let her B (steamer), The Badger (steamer), for Nassau.

At New York.—April 20: The Corsica (steamer), from Havana. The Melissa, from Nassau. The Gorilla, from Bermuda. The Caledonia (steamer), from Halifax, for Bermuda; totally lost; crew saved.

At St. John's.—April 20: The Alarm, The Cora, from Liverpool.

At Portland.—April 20: The Star of Hope, The Peruvian, from Liverpool.

At Havana.—April 28: The Mary (steamer), from Jamaica. The Aurora, from Bermuda, The Fox (steamer), from Nassau. The Belle, from Mobile; with a cargo of cotton valued at $185,000.

At Demerara.—The Helana, from Liverpool. The Johnstone, for Liverpool.

At Bermuda.—The Greyhound, from Liverpool. The Mathildé, for a Confederate port. The North Heath (steamer), from Nassau. The Romp, from Matanzas.

At St. Thomas's.—The Letus, The Viscaya, from the Clyde.

At Nassau.—April 22: The Alice (steamer), from Wilmington.

At Copenhagen.—April 23: The Sophie, from Matamoras.

Ships Sailed.

Liverpool.—April 25: The Captain Hathorn, for Nassau.—The Queen of Trumps, for Havana.—April 26: The Fox (steamer), for Bermuda. The Elizabeth, for St. John's.—The Conqueror, for Newfoundland.—April 28: The Sulina, for Matamoras. The M. Celestia (steamer), for Bermuda.—April 29: The China, for St. John's.—May 1: The Thomas, for Havana.—The Anne Johanne, for Halifax.—The Firman, for Havana.

Southampton.—May 2: The Seine (steamer), for West Indies.

Gravesend.—May 1: The Pet, for Nassau.

Newport.—April 27: The Margaret Falconer, for St. Thomas's.—The Meridian, for St. Thomas's.

Swansea.—April 27: The Wintonia, for Cuba.—The Francisca, for Valparaiso.

Cardiff.—April 27: The Dorré, for Jamaica.

Nassau.—April 22: The Alliance, The Mars, The Will-o'-the-Wisp, for St. John's.

Custom-House.—May 3: Vessels entered outwards.—The Azorian, for Canaries.—The Vere, The Glenhook, for Jamaica.

Ships Spoken with.

The Marquis of Worcester, for Valparaiso, April 2, 2° N., 24° W.—The Antigua, for Jamaica, April 4, 19° N., 37° W.—The Caldera, for Nassau, April 4, 18° N., 38° W.—The Zircon, for Havana, April 8, 26° N., 34° W.—The Etoah, April 10, 39° N., 47° W.—The Electoress, for Nassau, April 12, 25° N., 36° W. The Estremadure (steamer), for Bahia, April 13, all well. The Elizabeth, April 15, 37° N., 36° W.—The Jenny, April 18, 41° N., 11° W.—The Claudia, April 22, all well, 23° N., 44° W.—The Tancock, April 22, 46° N., 20° W.—The Pilita, April 23, 50° N., 28° W.—The Delmina, April 23, 48° N., 8° W. The Robinson, April 23, 49° N., 7° W.—The Agnes, April 26, 50° N., 15° W.

Ships Loading.

The St. Thomas (steamer), Liverpool; Leech, Harrison, & Forwood. The Louisiane (steamer), London; Stringer, Pembroke, & Co. The Lightning, St. Katharine's Docks, London; J. Worley. The Jessie, St. Katharine's Docks; Davison Brothers & Co.

New York Repudiates.—The Republican majority in the New York Legislature have decreed that the interest on the debt, which was contracted at the gold rates, and for which the state was solemnly pledged to pay principal and interest in the same money that was received, shall be paid in depreciated greenback currency. That is to say, for every dollar of interest we owe our foreign creditors the great State of New York proposes to pay at the present rate something less than fifty-nine cents. *New York World*, April 19.

The Confederate Victory in Louisiana.—The only Confederate report of the defeat of General Banks which we have seen is the following:—

Mobile, April 11.

To General S. Cooper, A. and I. General.

The following report was received at Baton Rouge, on the 3rd inst., from the surgeon-general of Banks's army: 'We met the enemy near Shreveport. Union force repulsed with great loss. Steamer *Essex*, or *Benton*, destroyed by torpedoes in Red river, and a transport captured by Confederates.'

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL & COMMERCIAL.

THE MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKETS.

Wednesday Evening.

There has been quite a revolution in the appearance and prospects of the money and discount markets. Although Monday was a holiday at the Stock Exchange, great perturbation was caused in banking and financial circles through the directors of the Bank raising the rate of discount to 8 per cent. The movement was not unexpected, and it was hoped that, the Stock Exchange dealers being absent, the fall the next day would be broken; but this turns out not to have been the case. On Friday there was a drop in prices; but to-day it greatly increased, leaving the markets in a doubtful and prostrate condition. Political, as well as financial, affairs have had a great deal to do with the semi-panic just experienced, the effects of which will be yet felt for some time if a check is not interposed to the downward current. The refusal of Austria and Prussia to accept an armistice has weighed, with the Bank rate at 8 per cent., most severely upon all classes of public securities; but this was to have been anticipated from the late strain of speculation. To-night the aspect of things was rather better, and it was said the preliminaries for an armistice had been arranged, while the Bank (it was rumoured) would not deem it requisite, except in very extreme cases, to go to 9 per cent. The full rates for money have brought out capital, and there has been a better supply; but quotations have not been lower than the Bank *minimum*, while in many instances they have been above, owing to the distrust generally reigning. It will be satisfactory indeed to find the Bank does not advance its terms to-morrow; for if such a change takes place it will greatly augment the difficulties likely to be experienced. The large amounts of American gold from New York have come to hand at a most opportune moment. On the Stock Exhcange the rates for advances on Consols have been as high as 9 per cent.; this afternoon they were 7½ to 8 per cent.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

Although very little indeed has been done in bullion and specie at the Bank of England this week, the result is rather more favourable than for the last few weeks, inasmuch as 36,000*l.* in gold has been sent in, whilst there have not been any withdrawals. The arrivals of specie, however, have been rather below the usual average, having amounted to only 301,085*l.*, of which 12,200*l.* is from the Brazils, and the remainder from New York. The *Syria*, steamer, took out to-day 152,773*l.* in specie, of which 16,700*l.* was gold and the rest silver. There was for Alexandria 16,000*l.*, Madras 700*l.*, Calcutta 20,000*l.*, Penang 20,800*l.*, Singapore 33,400*l.*, Hong Kong 47,473*l.*, and Shanghai 14,400*l.* The silver market is very flat, increased dulness having been caused by the rise in the rate of discount, and there are scarcely any orders to buy for the East; the last price of bar silver was 61¾*d.* per oz., and of Mexican dollars 62¼*d.* per oz.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The stock of the Confederate loan has been gradually rising on good purchases, and the price has at last reached 65 to 67, with a very fine market. The operations have been on London, Liverpool, and French account. It seems that the large houses interested in the cotton trade have at length made arrangements to take quantities of the stock as fast as they can secure it, to make its privileges available in obtaining supplies of the staple. The result is that the few parcels floating in the market have been cleared at the advance, and that it will shortly be difficult to get any quantity, save at a further enhancement. Rumours have been circulated of the prospects of fresh loan engagements. These are authoritatively contradicted, and for two very good and sufficient reasons. First, that though more than one offer for a new loan has been made, the Congress has refused to listen to any kind of proposal; and, second, that in consequence of judicious management and payments in cash, the expenditure is kept at the lowest possible point.

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS FOR BLOCKADE-RUNNING.

We are requested to publish the following important regulations:—

Treasury Department, C. S. A.
Richmond, March 16, 1864.

The following additional regulations are established to carry out the act to impose regulations upon the foreign commerce of the Confederate States, and to provide for the public defence, approved, February 6, 1864.

The bond required by the second article of the regulations shall be in one half the value of the vessel; and that required by the fourth article shall be in the single value of the shipment; and the security which the Collector may accept may be either personal security, or a mortgage of the vessel, or a transfer of the Bills of Lading, or of cotton, tobacco, or Confederate securities.

2. Whenever any vessel shall bring into the Confederate States an entire cargo for account of the Confederate States, the owners of the said vessel, and the shippers of her cargo shall be relieved from the bonds previously given to invest and bring in one-half the nett proceeds of her outward cargo; and the certificate of the agent of the Treasury Department at the port of lading, that such cargo was duly shipped in pursuance of the regulations, shall authorise the Collector to cancel and surrender the said bonds.

Approved March 16, 1864.

C. G. Memminger,
Secretary of Treasury.
James A. Seddon,
Secretary of War.

Approved March 17, 1864.

Jefferson Davis.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The accounts of the Confederate successes in America are now telling seriously upon the market for American Government and Railway Securities. For some time the market has been in anything but a satisfactory state, but during the past week the falling off both in the business transacted and the value of the securities has been much greater than usual. The transactions are chiefly confined to a few holders of the various stocks, who appear to have a desire to rid themselves of them, and, to find purchasers, very great reductions have to be made. The only transactions recorded during the week have been in Virginia State six per cents. at 32 and 33½; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, Pennsylvania section, 75; Erie Shares, $100, all paid, 64, 62, 63, and 60; Ditto ditto, second mortgage, 1883, at 61; Illinois Central, $100 shares, $90 paid, 19½, 23, and 25 dis.; Ditto ditto, all paid, 69 and 67; and New York Central seven per cents., 1864, at 50½.

TENDERS FOR BILLS ON INDIA.

The biddings for 30,00,000 rupees in bills on India took place to-day at the Bank of England. The proportions allotted were, to Calcutta 13,37,000 rupees, to Bombay 12,00,000 rupees, and to Madras 4,63,000 rupees. The minimum price was as before, 1*s.* 11$\frac{1}{16}$*d.* on Calcutta and Madras, and 1*s.* 11$\frac{3}{4}$*d.* on Bombay. The applications within the limits amounted to 85 lacs. Tenders on Calcutta and Madras at 1*s.* 11$\frac{7}{8}$*d.* will receive about 21 per cent.; on Bombay at 2*s.* 0$\frac{1}{8}$*d.* about 66 per cent.; and all above these prices in full.

LIVERPOOL, WEDNESDAY, MAY 4.—Our cotton market during the week has been rather less animated than for the last two or three weeks, and prices now have a slightly declining tendency, chiefly in consequence of the intelligence just received of the great successes of the Confederate forces in America, a belief being generally entertained that the war is now likely to be brought to a close more speedily than was a short time ago anticipated. The sales this week have reached 65,000 bales, of which 25,000 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year down to the present time have been 802,440 bales, and to the same period in 1863, 634,760 bales. The imports this year so far have been 731,336 bales, and to the corresponding time last year, 429,965 bales. The exports this year have been 119,210 bales, whilst last year they were 119,504 bales. Taken for consumption this year, 525,900 bales, whilst in 1863 the number was 333,200 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 125,910 bales, against 153,020 bales last year. The computed stocks at the present time are 367,400 bales; at the same period last year they were 369,690 bales. The latest official quotations were: American descriptions, 25$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 28$\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Maranham, 29*d.*; Maceio, 27$\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Bahia, 27$\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Egyptians, 28$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 31*d.* Smyrna, 23$\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Surat, 13*d.* to 22$\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Bengal, Scinde, &c., 16*d.*; China, 18$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 19$\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Japan, 20*d.*; and Peruvian, 28*d.* to 28$\frac{1}{4}$*d.*

Business at Manchester has been greatly restricted within the last day or two, in consequence of the further advance in the Bank rate of discount, and the expectation that another rise will speedily take place. Yarns and cottons are equally affected, but spinners being largely under contract, they are generally disposed to demand higher rates for shipping yarns. The amount of business transacted, however, has been very limited. For home-trade yarns the market remains very quiet; spinners are asking the rates current last week, but buyers will not operate freely unless at a reduction. In the Cloth Market buyers are quite indisposed to give the additional rates asked, consequently business has been very quiet; nevertheless manufacturers have advanced their quotations 6*d.* per piece, and in some cases 1*s.*, since last week, and appear quite indisposed to make any reduction. Madapollams are 6*d.* higher; prints of 10 lbs. weight have advanced from 26*s.* to 27*s.*; shirtings (45 inch of 10 lbs. weight) have advanced from 25*s.* to 26*s.*; 39 inch and 45 inch descriptions are from 6*d.* to 9*d.* higher; Jaconets, long cloths, T. cloths and figured shirtings have been put up in the same proportion. Mills which have been long idle are recommencing work, and the production is likely to augment considerably.

THE FORCES OF THE BELLIGERENTS.—In the present unhappy war the numbers of the combatants have always been exaggerated. The armies of the North are usually estimated at 700,000 and those of the South at 400,000, while in fact they are relatively about 400,000 and 250,000. In the first battle of Bull Run the Confederates had but 28,000; Albert Sydney Johnston attacked Grant at Shiloh with 29,000 men, and had Beauregard followed up the advantage gained before Johnston fell, the Federal commander and his army of 40,000 men would have been captured. Buell's timely arrival with 30,000 fresh troops forced the Confederates to retreat. General Lee's force in the battles around Richmond amounted to 65,000; and distasteful as it may be to our national pride, it is true that Lee had but 35,000 muskets all told at Antietam, and made a draw fight of it at that. General Bragg had 33,000, including cavalry, at Murfreesboro, though Rosecrans estimated his adversary's force at 65,000. At Fredericksburg General Lee had 60,000, and but 20,000 of these were engaged. He declared that his position was worth 50,000 men. The same General won the battle of Chancellorsville with 17,000 men against double that force. This is estimated his best-fought battle. The strategy was admirable, and the execution, especially of Stonewall Jackson's part, superb. Yet, two months later, the great Lee failed at Gettysburg, when his army was but little inferior to that of Meade. Bragg won a great victory at Chickamauga with a small army, but it resulted quite as much from the errors of the Federal commander as the valour of the Confederates. In all these conflicts, it will be observed, the armies of the South were far under the public estimate, as also were those of the North. It is not probable that the armies of this campaign will be much larger, if any, than those of the past. But they are large enough to fight what are termed great battles, to widen the gulf of separation between the States, and to send mourning and grief into the hearts of thousands.—*The New York Daily News.*

Among the Contents of THE INDEX *of April* 28 *are*:—

NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK AT HOME AND ABROAD.
PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.
THE BUDGET OF BLOOD.
SPEECH OF MR. LONG IN THE FEDERAL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
THE PEACE PARTY IN THE FEDERAL CONGRESS.
ON TO RICHMOND!
MR. SEWARD'S IMMIGRATION SCHEME.
SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE AND NORTHERN LIBERTY.
BUTLER'S RULE AT NORFOLK.
LETTER FROM NEW YORK.
LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS. PARIS TOPICS.
OUTRAGE ON A BRITISH SUBJECT.
PORTRAIT OF GENERAL BUTLER, DRAWN BY HIMSELF.
RECEPTION OF RETURNED PRISONERS.
SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.
AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

DEATH.

HUSE—April 27, at Auteuil, Paris, Norman Bullock, son of Major Caleb Huse, C. S. Artillery, aged 11 months.

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THERE are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellow-men.

Contributions will be received by J. H. ASHBRIDGE, Treasurer, Walmer Buildings, Water Street, Liverpool; or in London, by HENRY HOTZE, Esq., 17 Savile Row, W.; in Paris, by H. O. BREWER, Esq., 6 Rue Circulaire; and DANIEL HUBBARD, Esq., 24 Rue Lord Byron.

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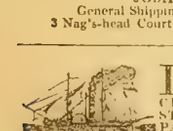

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THE STORY OF FORT SUMTER.

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

FORT SUMTER, CHARLESTON HARBOUR:
March 1, 1864.

SIR,—It affords me much pleasure to address you a letter from within these battle-scarred walls.

At the very commencement of this war public attention was directed with anxious solicitude towards this fort, as to the pivot on which hung suspended the issues of war or peace; and when on the 12th of April, 1861, our first battery opened upon it, the alarm-gun was fired, whose reverberation echoing throughout the land summoned a nation to arms. Here was achieved the first victory over our national enemy, which wrested the key which held fast the approaches to Charleston from the hands of its enemies, and intrusted it to the charge of its friends.

Here, two years afterwards, was witnessed that glorious triumph of the fort over that ironclad fleet which the enemy had spared neither time nor money in preparing for its reduction, and whose *invulnerability* had been boastfully proclaimed by the foe. And here, when, after having been foiled in their efforts to compel the surrender of the fort by long-continued bombardment, they attempted a night assault in barges, they were signally repulsed, a large number captured, and the very flag which had formerly waved over its Federal garrison, and which the enemy had now brought back to grace their 'certain' triumph, was recaptured by us.

The rage and chagrin of the foe at his defeat called into vigorous exercise all his mighty energy. Having silenced by their constant bombardment its power to injure them, by reducing it from an artillery to an infantry post, they now laboured with persistent zeal in advancing, perfecting, and strengthening their batteries, and in preparing to open a fire upon it unparalleled for the size and power of ordnance used, and the weight of metal thrown, in the annals of history.

Five successive times have they opened upon it in heavy bombardments, while in all the interim desultory shots have been fired. Fully forty-five times has the flagstaff been shot away, four flags have been completely ruined by the enemy's shell, but to-day our national ensign proudly waves over the pile of rubbish which marks the outline of this noble fortress; and while it bears daily testimony to the heroic deeds of valour by which it has been defended, it stands like a guardian angel in the pathway of our invaders, shouting to these modern Balaamites, 'Thus far shalt thou go, but no farther.'

The history of Fort Sumter is brilliant with glorious victories. Shattered and crumbling under the hailstorm of iron hurled against it, the energy and skill of Southern engineers has raised a new fort like a Phœnix from the *débris*, whose resistive strength defies the utmost malice of the foe.

It is for the purpose of giving you a brief sketch of her history, and to place in your possession some statistical tables, which I have carefully prepared from the records of the fort, that I write you this letter.

I.—DESCRIPTION OF THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF MISSILES THROWN AT FORT SUMTER.

Spherical Shot and Shell.

	Shell.	Shrapnell.	Shot.	
Columbiad	10 in.		10 in.	2
Dahlgren naval gun	15 in. dia. weight 350 lb.	15 in. dia.	15 in. dia. weight 425 lb.	
	11 in. dia.		11 in. dia.	5
24 pdr.		5·82 in. dia.		1
Mortar	10 in.			
	13 in.			2
				10

Rifled Ordnance.

		Shell.	Shrapnell.	Bolt.	
Parrott	30 pdr.	12 in. lgt. 4½ in. dia.	12 in. lgt. 4½ in. dia.	10½ in. lgt. 4½ in. dia.	3
	100 pdr.	long shell 20 in. lgt. 6·4 in. dia.		18 in. lgt. 6·4 in. dia.	
		short shell 16 in. lgt. 6·4 in. dia.			3
	200 pdr.	long shell 20 in. lgt. 8 in. dia.		long bolt 17 in. lgt. 8 in. dia.	
		short shell 17 in. lgt, 8 in. dia.		short bolt	4
	300 pdr.	23 in. lgt. 10 in. dia.	Mormon filled with small shells which burst	long bolt 16 in. lgt. 10 in. dia. with head of 1 in. lgt. and 5 in. dia.	
				short bolt 16 in. lgt. 10 in. dia.	4
					14
Wierd			7 in. lgt. 3½ in. dia. fluted shell		1
Whitworth				15 in. lgt. 5 in. dia.	1
Schenkl naval gun	200 pdr.	20 in. lgt. 8 in. dia.			1

SUMMARY OF THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF MISSILES THROWN AT FORT SUMTER.

Spherical Shot and Shell.

	Shell.	Shrapnell.	Shots.
Columbiad	1	0	1
Dahlgren	2	1	2
24 pdr.	0	1	0
Morton	2	0	0
	5 +	2 +	3 = 10

Rifled Ordnance.

	Shell.	Shrapnell.	Bolts.
Parrott	6	2	6
Wierd	0	1	0
Whitworth	0	0	1
Schenkl	1	0	0
	7 +	3 +	7 = 17

Spherical Missiles	10
Missiles from Rifled Ordnance	17
	27

II.—CLASSIFICATION OF SHOT FIRED AT FORT SUMTER BY THE ENEMY TO FEBRUARY 21, 1864.

Date.	Struck. Monitors.	Land guns by day.	Mortars by day.	Shots at night from land guns.	Mortars at night.	Total.	Missed. Monitors.	Day shots from land guns.	Day mortars.	Night shots from land guns.	Night mortars.	Total.	Total fired.
1863.													
April	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
August	33	5,216	...	...	...	5,249	17	1,628	...	...	...	1,645	6,894
September	191	258	...	...	...	449	54	240	...	...	...	294	743
October	459	3,030	253	524	21	4,287	...	518	120	130	12	780	5,067
November	587	1,847	3,735	2,373	664	9,206	35	545	1,701	1,309	352	3,942	13,148
December	...	365	109	26	...	500	...	87	64	29	...	180	680
1864.													
January	...	392	7	2	82	483	...	68	6	...	41	115	598
February	...	35	...	7	...	42	...	6	...	2	...	8	50
	1,270	11,143	4,104	2,932	767	20,216	106	3,092	1,891	1,470	405	6,964	27,247

Monitors.	Land guns by day.	Land guns by night.	Mortars.	Total.
1,443	14,235	4,402	7,167	27,247

III.—ESTIMATE OF WEIGHT OF METAL FIRED BY ENEMY AGAINST THE FORT.

1,443 Monitor shots	average 200 lbs.	=	288,600 lbs.
14,235 Land shots by day	„ 180 „	=	2,562,300
4,402 Land shots by night	„ 30 „	=	132,060
7,167 Mortars	„ 90 „	=	645,030
27,247 shots	„ $133\frac{152}{27247}$ lbs.	=	3,627,990 lbs. or $1,619\frac{143}{224}$ tons

IV.—TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF MEN KILLED.

1863.			
August	5 killed	Captains killed	2
September	„	Lieutenants „	1
October	17 „	Sergeants „	5
November	8 „	Corporals „	1
December	11 „	Privates „	31
		Overseer „	1
	41		41

Killed by falling of wall of garrison barracks	13	
„ „ explosion of magazine	11	
		24
„ „ enemy's shot		17
		41

V.—ESTIMATE SHOWING THE AMOUNT OF METAL THROWN BY THE ENEMY TO CAUSE THE LOSS TO US OF ONE MAN.

41 men killed by 3,627,990 lbs. of metal, i.e. 88,487½ lbs., or 39¼ tons of iron to the man.

Deducting the number killed by accidents, 24, it leaves 17 men killed by 3,627,990 lbs. of metal, i.e. 213,411 lbs. or 95¼ tons of iron to the man.

VI.—ESTIMATE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF MILES OF RAILROAD-TRACK THE AMOUNT OF METAL WASTED ON FORT SUMTER WOULD HAVE LAID.

A single rail weighs 50 lbs. to the yard, which would require 80 tons to lay a track one mile; therefore,

1,620 tons, or the amount thrown, would have laid a track for 20¼ miles.

Want of time must compel me to touch lightly on the account of that diplomacy which relates so intimately to the early history of the fort, and to confine my remarks more particularly to that portion of her career which renders her the pride and glory of the South. I then proceed to a

Description of the Original Fort.

The United States Government commenced making the foundation for it about 1827 by throwing large piles of rock on a shoal at the entrance to the harbour, situated $3\frac{3}{8}$ miles from the city, $1\frac{1}{8}$ mile from Sullivan's Island, and 1,200 yards

from Cumming's Point, Morris's Island. Shipload after shipload was cast overboard here, only to sink entirely from the view, until about 1840, when the foundation was completed, and the building of the Fort was commenced.

The outer wall was made to enclose an area of 4 acres. It was built of a pentagonal shape, with the angles cut off to accommodate one gun. The work upon it was of the most substantial and solid masonry. The outer wall, with the exception of the Morris Island face, was from 5 to 7½ feet thick of brickwork with concrete filling. Its height was 40 feet from the berm to the crest of the parapet. There were two tiers of casemates, built of a series of longitudinal arches on transverse sections, while the interior of the casemate allowed a traverse room of 18 feet.

On the Morris Island side were erected the officers' quarters and commissary buildings, making a total width, from the scarp of the wall to the interior crest, of about 40 feet. The garrison quarters were upon the interior of the sea and north-west faces. The fort was intended to mount 127 guns.

The work had lingered along year after year until the autumn of 1860, when the threatening aspect of the political sky in this quarter aroused the latent energy of the Government, who sent engineers and workmen of approved skill and pushed it rapidly forward towards completion.

On December 20, the day which witnessed the secession of South Carolina, the fort had not been finished, and workmen were busily employed in erecting curtains to protect the casemates and in mounting guns.

At this time Fort Moultrie, Sullivan's Island, was garrisoned by about 100 United States regulars under command of Major Robert Anderson. Although the Government exhibited like energy there in erecting defensive works, the positive assurances of the officials in Washington to our commissioners, that no military movement should be made here unless their forces were attacked, served to quiet the over-heated excitement of the Charlestonians.

On the morning of December 26, the country was startled by the announcement that on the previous night Anderson's force had evacuated Moultrie, spiking the guns and setting fire to the carriages, and had made their way in small boats to Sumter, where they were in garrison.

Immediately this action of the United States forces was answered by the investment of the fort by batteries, which placed us in a position to demand her surrender.

The courtesy exhibited at this time by the belligerents forms one of the most amusing chapters in the history of the war.

This was mostly owing to the conviction of our authorities that Major Anderson was compelled, by his duty as a Federal officer, to act in a manner contrary to his personal feelings. This conviction was strengthened by his personal assurances, and by the statement that he had twice forwarded his resignation to his Government, which had been as often rejected. Being aware that he had a limited supply of provisions in the fort, he was for a long time allowed to procure his daily supplies from the Charleston market; while he in return allowed us to go on unmolested in the erection of our batteries.

The United States Government, although they had made repeated assurances to our commissioners that Fort Sumter should be quietly evacuated, clandestinely despatched a steamer from New York with sealed orders to reinforce the beleaguered garrison, and to supply them with provisions and ordnance stores.

On the morning of January 9, 1861, this steamer, the *Star of the West*, hove in sight over the bar. As she steamed up the harbour, a small sand battery on Morris's Island, which had been hastily thrown up, and mounting three 24-pounders, opened on her and compelled her to beat a hasty retreat.

Months rolled on, and it becoming known to our authorities that a hostile fleet was preparing to sail for Charleston for the relief of Sumter, General Beauregard sent to Major Anderson a demand for its immediate and unconditional surrender, and threatened that if his demand was not previously complied with, his batteries should open fire the next morning.

The First Bombardment.

At about 5 o'clock on the morning of April 12, Fort Johnson on James Island fired the signal gun, which was immediately answered by our other batteries. After 36 hours' bombardment, and without the loss of a single life, the hot shot was thrown from Moultrie, which, setting fire to the officers' quarters, caused the white flag to be raised from Sumter's parapet.

On the morning of the 14th Anderson formally surrendered, and was allowed to salute and carry away with him his flag, while the men were permitted to retain their side arms.

By this surrender, a large number of fine guns came into our possession, which have since borne an important part in the defence of Charleston.

The fort was now garrisoned by a detachment of South Carolina regulars, under the command of Major Ripley. Under him and the subsequent commanders of the post, that strict discipline was used, and that constant artillery practice required, which in April 1863 enabled the fort to triumph so gloriously over the fleet of the foe.

Two attempts had been made by the enemy's land forces to take Charleston, in both of which, at Secessionville and at Pocataligo, they had been severely defeated, when that naval combat occurred near Norfolk, Va., which proving to them the superiority of ironclad vessels for warlike purposes, they gave their whole energy to the construction of an armoured fleet which it was asserted would place the capture of Charleston beyond a doubt. Time and money were not spared in making them as complete as possible. Erricson's plan was adopted for most of them. It consisted of a long and low vessel which in action could be sunk so as to leave its deck barely visible above the surface of the water. Upon this deck was a heavy revolving turret which carried two guns. The armour for the turrets was from three to seven inches thick of iron, with an oak backing, while the deck and sides of the vessel were also covered with 4-inch plates. The rotary motion of the turret greatly lessened the danger of injury in action, while the heavy armour upon the vessels rendered the enemy confident in his boast of their invulnerability.

The Second Bombardment (the Naval Attack).

During the latter portion of March 1863, the enemy's turreted monitors, which had by many been thought to be unseaworthy from their great weight, began to appear off the bar, bringing with them an armament of 11 and 15-inch Dahlgren guns and 200-pounder rifles.

The new *Ironsides* had been here for some months. She was a formidable vessel, plated with 6 inches of iron amidships, and carrying sixteen 11-inch Dahlgren broadside guns and a 200-pounder rifle in the bow and stern.

Every one looked forward with anxiety to the approaching conflict, for its successful result was of vital importance to our Confederate cause. While the effect of the heavy projectiles of the fleet upon Sumter's walls of masonry was to be dreaded, she had yet to prove whether she could injure the 'invulnerable' target they presented.

On the morning of April 7, a despatch from Fort Sumter announced that the ironclads were gradually moving forward to the attack. The *Passaic* led the van, followed by the other monitors and the *Ironsides*. The leading vessel pushed before her a heavy raft with long iron hooks, designed to remove or explode any torpedoes which might obstruct the channel.

Within the fort all were preparing for the conflict. The garrison, regimental, and palmetto flags were hoisted, and saluted with 13 guns, and while the band played the national air, the men with a merry cheer sprang to their batteries and stripped for action. When the monitors had reached a position about 1,400 yards from the fort, the ball was opened by a shot from Fort Moultrie, to which they responded by throwing a 15-inch shrapnell at Sumter. Forming themselves into an ellipse, they commenced winding slowly around nearer and nearer the fort, until they reached a point about 1,100 yards distant, when the action commenced in good earnest. For two hours and a quarter the earth fairly trembled under the tremendous shock of battle. As the heavy missiles from the fleet struck the sides of the fort, she would shake off cartloads of crumbling masonry. Her shots were not less effective. The *Keokuk*, a two-turreted monitor, leaving her consorts and gallantly pushing up within 900 yards of the fort, was so severely handled, that she withdrew from action only to sink off the Morris Island beach. The command was now given to open by battery on the *Ironsides*, which had not approached nearer than 1,700 yards, when great strips of iron were seen peeling off from her, and with steam issuing from her sides she left the action in distress. Every monitor was somewhat injured, while four were seriously disabled. During the action of two and a half hours' duration, from the thirty-four guns of the fleet only sixty-seven shots were fired at the fort, while she with forty-four guns threw about 400 projectiles. Although the garrison and regimental flags of the fort were much torn by shell, not a man was killed. The fleet bore evident marks of injury, for while their smoke-stacks were completely riddled, some of our shots had penetrated the heavy armour of their turrets.

From Northern accounts we learn that the commanders of the vessels held a council of war after their defeat, at which the unanimous voice was that 'it was impracticable to renew the attack.'

The torn and ragged appearance of their ironclads bore evident testimony to their *vulnerability*, and the next day all the monitors left the harbour in disgrace for Hilton Head.

Second Movement of the Enemy against the Fort.

On July 10, 1863, the enemy upon Folly Island unmasked heavy batteries upon the south end of Morris's Island, assisted by their fleet, which had a flanking fire upon our position.

Being surprised by this attack, our small force, after bravely fighting their guns, were compelled, by the landing of a large body of infantry in barges, to retreat to Battery Wagner, in order to make a successful stand. The gallant manner in which that post was defended against assault, and under bombardment during two long months of trial, might well fill a separate history. After the enemy gained a foothold on Morris's Island, the brave commander of Fort Sumter, Colonel Alfred Rhett, while annoying the enemy in his approaches to Wagner with his parapet guns, was busily employed in filling up the casemates on the Morris Island side with sandbags to shield her in her expected trial.

At the distance at which the enemy upon Gregg's Hill were from Sumter, it was not deemed probable that they would open fire on her until they had reduced Wagner; but on August 16 was commenced the

Third Bombardment.

Up to this date the Gregg's Hill battery of Parrott guns had kept up a steady fire upon Battery Wagner; but now by elevating their guns they opened a breaching fire upon Sumter at a distance of 4,400 yards, and boastfully announced that in two hours they would compel her surrender.

For ten days did they keep up a continuous bombardment, throwing in that period 6,349 shots, most of which were from 100-pounders. The effect of their fire was daily evident, for after silencing all our parapet guns, they gradually chipped off block after block of the wall, which, falling with the sand upon the berm, formed a *débris* through which no shot could penetrate. On the 30th and 31st of the same month they opened fire again, throwing 690 shots, after which date for a while their land batteries ceased from their heavy bombardment. The work of preparation within the fort now rapidly went forward. The guns were removed, while large quantities of sand were carried there and securely packed in the casemates. The regulars still remained as a garrison, and now with as much alacrity and cheerfulness responded to the call for fatigue, as they had formerly sprung to the batteries to fight their guns.

On the 1st day of September occurred

The Fourth Bombardment.

The enemy now made a demand upon General Beauregard for the surrender of Fort Sumter. 'Come and take it,' was his laconic reply, an answer as characteristic of his courtesy as a gentleman as of his chivalry as a soldier. The night of September 1 was calm and peaceful. Even the ordinary firing seemed for the time to have died away, when lo! a rocket is thrown up from our guard-boat. The signal is seen by our batteries, and from one to another it is extended. The monitors are coming in! Our batteries speedily open, and the quietness of the night is disturbed by the heavy booming of artillery.

Running in near to the fort, the four monitors pour a crushing fire into its sea face, throwing 185 shots, when they retire. They are no more successful than were their land batteries in reducing the fort, for the piles of brick, concrete, and sand falling upon the berm, only render their efforts for reduction utterly futile.

On September 4 Major Stephen Elliott, with a detachment of infantry volunteers, relieved Colonel Alfred Rhett and his brave garrison from the post they had so long and so gallantly defended.

The evacuation of Morris Island by our forces on the following day gave the enemy considerable advantages, for now they could advance their batteries to within 1,200 yards of the fort; but, thinking that they might surprise and capture the garrison, they prepared for

A Night Assault in Barges.

About one o'clock on the morning of September 9, between 30 and 40 barges, with 700 or 800 men, approached the fort in the hope of surprising it. The sleepless vigilance of the commander and his garrison alone prevented the success of their plan. They were hailed by the sentinel on the parapet with the challenge, 'Who comes there?' The only answer was a curse, when volleys of musketry and showers of bricks and hand-grenades were poured upon the assailants, while signal lights displayed from the parapet brought a raking fire from our gunboat and Sullivan's Island batteries. Many on the boats were injured and carried off, while all those who landed surrendered. One hundred and thirty-two of the enemy were captured, and the very flag which had formerly waved over its Federal garrison, and which the foe had brought back to replace in triumph on the flagstaff, was recaptured, and was forwarded as a trophy to the Legislature of the State.

They returned to open the

Fifth Bombardment.

Again, for one week, they opened their Gregg's Hill battery, and kept up a steady fire. The 564 shots thrown only effected the displacement of more masonry, and the adding to that pile of *débris* which was fast rendering the fort impregnable.

The view of the interior of Sumter was now grand in the extreme. Gazing at it by moonlight from the parapet, one might readily have imagined himself, from the confusion and disorder which reigned within, to have been looking into the crater of a suppressed volcano. Its cragged and broken walls, its shattered arches, its crumbling masonry, mingled in an indescribable mass with broken guns, pieces of carriages, splintered chasses, and unexploded shell, all gave a graphic idea of the ruinous consequences of war. That place, once so much admired for its beauty and symmetry, was grand even in its fall; and but for the merry voices of the workmen within, one might almost have imagined himself on enchanted ground.

But the great hour of Sumter's trial was yet to come. Under a heavy fire, the enemy had at last completed the work upon their advanced batteries, and on the 26th of October they opened

The Sixth Bombardment.

They had now advanced their works, and had 12 heavy guns and 3 mortars mounted in three heavily-traversed batteries, in Fort Putnam 1,200 yards, in the Middle battery 1,500 yards, and in Fort Strong 2,200 yards from the fort. From these, for a period of 41 days, they kept up a continuous fire night and day upon the fort, assisted by a flanking fire from their ironclad fleet.

During that period 18,577 shots were fired, making probably the longest-continued and the heaviest bombardment to which any place has ever been subjected. Long and deep furrows were ploughed through the sand by the heavy missiles of the foe, while the shots whirled through the air with such velocity that the pier of an arch, 7 feet wide by 5 feet thick, of solid masonry, was demolished by one stroke from a 300-pounder bolt.

Time and time again the flagstaff was shot away, only to be quickly replaced by the gallant garrison, who, as the shells were bursting around and above them, proudly waved their hats in triumph at the foe. After every day of trial, the evening gun was fired as a salute to our banner, while our brave commander, as he heard this proud evidence of the day's victory, could not restrain himself from saying, 'Boys, this is glorious,' and taking our band upon the parapet, he favoured the foe with our national air.

Early on the morning of October 31 occurred that mournful accident which cast the shadow of gloom over the whole garrison. A Parrott shell striking the already weakened arches of the garrison barracks, brought down the whole structure with a tremendous crash, burying in its ruins 13 brave men. As one after another they were dug out of the mass of rubbish by which they were covered, the hearts of their sorrowing comrades might well bleed with anguish at the painful fate of those who had stood by their side amid so many scenes of trial and hardship.

On December 5 the enemy, apparently discouraged by the ill success of his long-continued bombardment, ceased firing upon the fort, and since that date has only thrown an occasional shot by way of practice.

The Explosion of the Magazine

in the south-west angle of the fort occurred on December 11, and was the second dreadful accident which had taken place within Sumter's walls. The cause of the explosion, by which eleven men lost their lives, has never been fully ascertained.

During the efforts of the garrison for the rescue of their comrades, the enemy poured a heavy fire of shell among them, which added greatly to the terrors of the scene. But, notwithstanding all their repeated efforts against the fort, she stands to-day as defiant as ever, a proud monument of Southern valour and heroism.

On the present internal arrangements of the fort, prudence requires that I should remain silent.

From the above tables it will be seen what mighty efforts have been made by the enemy to reduce this noble fortress, involving them, doubtless, in six or seven times the expense of her original construction. Twenty-seven thousand of the most destructive projectiles have been hurled against her from the heaviest ordnance ever used in war, and still to-day she stands proudly defiant, and stronger in her defensive qualities than ever before. The kind providence of God has wonderfully shielded her and her garrison in their hours of trial, and to Him would we confidingly leave her future history, in the hope that, as in the past, she may ever dwell under the shadow of the Almighty.

G. S. B.

Head Quarters, Fort Sumter, March 8, 1864.

I have examined the foregoing, and find nothing prejudicial to the service. Stephen Elliott, Jun.,
Lieut.-Col. Commanding.

Why the South is Despoiled.—The spoliation of the South is not an unavoidable incident of the war—it is the very object the war has in view. Long ago has the hope of subjugation been abandoned, and this purpose of ruin has become fixed in the breasts of the Northern people as the amiable alternative. The children of Massachusetts, Mr. Everett, are wiser in their generation than to desolate the fields they expect to divide among themselves, to deface and demolish the dwellings they hope hereafter to occupy. If they believed that the next year or the year after would find them masters of the South, they would take care not to impoverish their future possessions.—*'A Virginian' to Edward Everett.*

Southern Liberality.—When the nominal prices of provisions in the Confederate States were highest, and the difficulty of supplying the armies greatest, General Cobb placed at the disposal of the Government 30,000 lbs. of bacon and 80,000 bushels of corn.

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

THE defeat of General Banks's Red River Expedition appears to have been of a decisive and humiliating character, notwithstanding the efforts of some New York prints to cypher out a victory. General Banks is in disgrace, and his recall is mooted, if not decided upon, at Washington. The very sensation headings of the newspapers tell the story. 'Three days' fighting.' 'Federal panic and rout.' 'Retreat of General Banks's army.' 'Our army meets with complete disaster.' 'Three thousand brave men sacrificed to a Treasury speculation.' 'The great cotton raid ended.'

The New Orleans correspondent of the *Boston Courier* says: 'I have seen a large number of those who were in the fight, and they all agree that Banks, by marching up his men in *brigades*, to encounter the *massed* army of Kirby Smith, simply led them to a wholesale slaughter;' and a private letter from New Orleans, furnished to the same paper by a mercantile house, says: 'The disaster to our arms in the Red River has proved a very serious one, in which we have lost some 7,000 in killed and wounded, 200 army wagons with stores, &c., nineteen pieces of artillery with caissons, ammunition, &c., even the personal effects of staff officers. We have the entire gunboat flotilla above the rapids, with the water of the river turned into Bayou Pierre, so that the boats are useless. General Banks has been forced to retreat sixty miles, after suffering great loss, and the enemy are now between the gunboats and the army.'

Other accounts estimate the entire losses of the Federals as high as fifteen thousand men, with all their trains, artillery, and the horses of their cavalry. One division went into battle three thousand strong, and came out with one thousand.

General Banks left Natchitoches, on the Red River, for Shreveport, the State capital, on April 6, his forces numbering 30,000, of which 9,000 were cavalry. On the 7th, the Confederates, who had fallen back, were discovered in position near Mansfield, forty-five miles from Shreveport, from which point they retired after a sharp skirmish. On the 8th, the Confederates were found in force at Sabine's Cross Roads, and were attacked by the Federal cavalry and artillery, under command of General Ransom and General Banks. The action continued most of the day, but at four o'clock a heavy attack on the Federal left threw the troops into confusion, and they were driven from the field with the loss of twenty guns and the cavalry trains, leaving their killed and wounded. Four brigade commanders were killed and wounded. The panic and confusion are said to have equalled any in the war. After holding a council of war, General Banks decided to retreat in silence and darkness to Pleasant Hill, which was successfully accomplished, where he was followed the next day and impetuously attacked, but it is claimed that this attack was repulsed. General Banks appears at least to have been able to continue his retreat to Grand Ecore without further molestation, where he was represented, at last accounts, to be engaged in reorganising his shattered forces. But the river was falling. Some of his gunboats were already aground, others were hastily sent down the river to find deeper water; the Confederates were attacking both gunboats and transports, and while it appeared certain that no new advance could be made, even a safe retreat was becoming doubtful. In the meantime General Steele, advancing from Little Rock with some 15,000 men to cooperate in the attack upon Shreveport, was liable to be routed by the victorious Confederates. The lists of Federal killed and wounded fill several columns of the New York papers. We have, as yet, no particulars from Confederate sources. The Confederate troops are said to have been commanded by General Kirby Smith, General Dick Taylor, and Generals Price, Morton, and Green, and are stated to have numbered about 20,000 men, but, as usual, they appear to have attacked the Federals 'in overpowering numbers.' The telegraphed report of Admiral Porter states that the Federals lost 4,000 prisoners, besides their killed and wounded, 30 cannon, a great number of small arms, their train of provisions and munitions of war, and $1,000,000 in greenbacks. The best ironclad in the Federal fleet, the *Eastport*, also grounded and was lost. The entire loss was certainly not less than 10,000. At last dates, April 30, the Confederates were reported to be advancing upon General Banks at Grand Ecore.

THE brilliant victory achieved by the Confederate land and naval forces in North Carolina finds its briefest record in the following official despatch:—

Plymouth, North Carolina, April 20, 1864.

To General Braxton Bragg.

I have stormed and carried this place, capturing one brigadier, one thousand six hundred men, stores, and twenty-five pieces of artillery.

R. F. HOKE, Brigadier-General.

A telegram to President Davis from Colonel John Taylor Wood says 'that about twenty-five hundred prisoners were taken (three or four hundred of them negroes), thirty pieces of artillery, one hundred thousand pounds of meat, one thousand barrels of flour, and a full garrison outfit. Our loss was about three hundred in all. Colonel Mercer was among the killed. Two gunboats were sunk, another disabled, and a small steamer captured.'

Plymouth is on the south bank of the Roanoke River, in North Carolina, eight miles above its entrance into Albemarle Sound. It was occupied by the Federal forces in February, 1862, after the capture of Roanoke Island, and Fort Gray and other works were erected for its defence. These works were defended by a garrison of about two thousand men, aided by a fleet of gunboats. The attack was commenced April 17, and five assaults, according to the Federal General Peck, were repulsed. While the Confederate land forces were engaged in making these repeated assaults on the forts, a Confederate ram, said to resemble the *Merrimac*, came down the river, passed the forts, and sank two Federal gunboats, a third having been sunk by the fire of the artillery on shore. While the mouth of the river was held by the ram and a floating battery, a final and successful assault was made upon Fort Williams, with the results above stated. Another Confederate ram was said to be descending the River Neuse, to make a similar attack upon Washington and Newbern; but the last dates contain no account of further movements.

A singular incident of the naval action was the rebound of a shell from the iron plating of the ram with such force that it killed Commander Flusser, of the Federal gunboat *Miami*, who had fired it with his own hand.

'GOLD 189'—'Exchange on London 202.' These handwritings on the wall of Federal Finance have startled even the speculative optimists of New York from their dreams of bliss. Mr. Chase, the 'Great Gold Bear,' rushed from Washington to New York, and from the Jersey City Ferry to Wall Street, to stop the panic. By selling gold certificates ten per cent. below the market price of gold, and throwing upon the market the gold held to pay Government interest, he effected a fall in the precious metal, or a rise in greenbacks; but he had scarcely got back to Washington before his paper was sinking deeper into the gulf. Mr. Chase calls on Congress for aid. At his request they have made speculation in gold—that is, in greenbacks—a misdemeanor, punishable by fine and imprisonment. The financial world laughs at such legislation. At his request Congress has increased duties on importations fifty per cent. for the next sixty days—an outrage on the merchants, who were entitled to fair notice. Congress is also passing a Tax Bill, such as Mr. Chase requires, but which will prove a failure like the income-tax of last year. The truth is that the country neither will nor can pay the taxation which the Government and the war papers demand. It is a simple impossibility. The surplus production of the country is not sufficient. The national banks, throwing upon the country more than a thousand millions of irredeemable paper, having no basis but fast depreciating Government stocks, will only increase the difficulty, and each day's addition of $3,000,000 to the already overwhelming debt renders the approaching end nearer and more terrible, but not more certain. 'Nothing but military success can save us,' said Mr. Chase, in the late panic. It is as certain as any fact in nature, that not even that will do more than delay the avalanche of ruin which is now descending upon the Federal States.

THE French ships in the James River, sent for the tobacco belonging to the French Government, have been ordered away without it, their presence being considered inopportune by the Washington authorities.

IT is not Federal generals alone that fail and are thrown aside as of no further value. A similar fate seems likely to fall upon civilians in the highest positions. 'Military success' alone can save Mr. Lincoln, and yet that may defeat the object of his present ambition. The attack of General Blair on Mr. Chase in Congress is more startling perhaps than that of the press upon Mr. Lincoln. He declared that Secretary Chase was a peace man—'opposed to the employment of troops against the South'—that he 'had never abandoned this position, and was now endeavouring to frame a programme by which there would be a permanent dissolution of the Union;' that under the Secretary's trade regulations five barrels of percussion caps lately went to the enemy; that contraband goods go the same way constantly, and that through those regulations the Secretary's son-in-law, Senator Sprague, will make two millions of dollars; that he is playing Fremont against Lincoln only that he may betray both and be himself nominated to the Presidency. What gives peculiar force to these charges is the fact that General Blair, who is the brother of the Postmaster-General, has just left his seat in Congress to take command of the 17th Army Corps, to which he has been appointed by Mr. Lincoln. It is difficult to see how Mr. Chase can remain in the Cabinet with such charges against him endorsed by the President. These charges have been renewed amid great excitement, and an investigation will be demanded.

THE birthday of Thomas Jefferson was celebrated in New York by the Anti-Abolition of State Rights Association, at which toasts of Peace and Recognition were drunk, and speeches made by Ex-Governor Seymour, of Connecticut, and others. Among the letters read was one from Hon. Wm. B. Reed, of Pennsylvania, which expresses in the following paragraph the spirit of the celebration. He says:—

> In all that you say about this wicked war I entirely concur. It ought at once to stop; and if recognition for the purposes of negotiation, or even ultimate recognition of Southern independence, be necessary to arrest bloodshed, then there should be recognition. Two years ago I thought I saw this necessity, and honestly said so. The dreary chapter of blood which has since been written has not weakened my faith. I cling to it resolutely, and am proud of the obloquy which, in certain quarters, such faith attracts. If peace does not come soon, we may have anarchy—as we now have oppressive despotism.

THE addition of 50 per cent. to duties on foreign goods, and the immense demand for articles of value for which depreciating paper can be exchanged, must give a new impetus to smuggling around the whole frontier of the Federal States. The country will be drained of its gold, while the Government will get less than ever.

AMONG the prisoners taken by the Confederates at Plymouth were three or four hundred negroes; but it is too near Washington and New York for any report that they were murdered, buried alive, or burnt, to be credited. The Confederates take negro prisoners of war and treat them in the same manner as their white prisoners, going so far in the direction of equality at Richmond as to confine black and white prisoners in the same cells. If the miscegenarians want better treatment than that, they are hard to satisfy.

THE *New York Herald*—which is a sort of Yankee *Charivari*, in its own fashion—proposes General Banks as a new Presidential candidate, and says 'that, by his recent brilliant victory in Louisiana, he has come prominently forward as a hero.' This is a slight mistake. He *went* forward to within forty-five miles of Shreveport, got terribly beaten, and then came back, not at all as a hero, to Grand Ecore—a strategic movement, that had not even, as far as we can see, placed him 'in safety.'

THE want of the North now is 'speedy and emphatic taxes on everything taxable.' The people are anxious to be taxed, so the newspapers inform us. Do they not also wish for the conscription? If it were so, gold would not be at 180, nor bounties for volunteers at $700 or $800.

THE 'sword controversy' in the New York Sanitary Fair has been decided in a characteristic if not satisfactory manner. At the close of the balloting, at a dollar a vote, General McClellan had 11,903 votes, and General Grant 9,647, leaving a majority of 2,256 for McClellan; but this did not suit the managers of the fair, and they opened a ballot by letter, in which by large contributions, in one case $10,000, possibly of the funds of the fair, or some secret-service money, they gave General Grant some 15,000 majority, and the sword, with which he is expected to win a victory in Virginia.

GENERAL FORREST, whose advance to the Ohio river seems to have greatly alarmed the loyal Governors of the North-western States, was reported, at last dates, to be about to join General Polk in Alabama.

THE only news from Chattanooga is that of the massing of supplies for the Federal army, preparatory to its march into Georgia, or to provide against the breaking of its lines of communication in Tennessee and Kentucky.

COMMODORE PARKER reports that the Confederates have placed torpedoes in the Rappahannock and in all openings into Chesapeake bay. The torpedo has now become a regular arm of defence in all the Southern waters.

EIGHTY-FIVE thousand militia, of the Western States, are to be called into the service of the Federal Government, to do garrison duty during the summer campaign—the hundred days during which the war is to be continued. This movement is not popular with the farming population, nor with those who are expecting a Confederate invasion.

IT may interest skilled workmen who propose to emigrate to the Federal States, to know that two hundred mechanics in the department of General Thomas passed through Louisville, Ky., the other day, under military guard, to be sent out of Kentucky during the war, for refusing to work for the wages government officers choose to give them. When the workmen at the foundries near West Point, New York, struck for higher wages, on account of the depreciation of the currency, General Dix attended to their case, by sending up a gunboat. They could not get more greenbacks, but lead and iron were quite at their service.

THE shameful act of repudiation by which the State of New York compels the foreign holders of its bonds to receive their interest in a depreciated currency, by which, at recent rates of exchange, 202*l.* of interest would give them only 100*l.* in London, less than half, which proportion may sink in a few months or weeks to a quarter, or an eighth, cannot but affect all American credit in Europe. United States Stocks are said to have found some purchasers of late in Germany, where lotteries are licensed, and gaming houses among the fashionable amusements.

MR. DANENHOWER, the officer of the Federal steamer *Vanderbilt*, who shot Mr. Gray, mate of the *Saxon*, and was tried for murder at the demand of Lord Lyons, has been acquitted by the naval court martial, and, it is said, not only acquitted but commended, the act having been, in the estimation of his fellow-officers, not only no crime but a positive merit. As the *Saxon* has been given up to its owners, and it is conceded there was no right to meddle with her, it is difficult to see how the shooting of the unarmed mate in cold blood, and without provocation, was not only innocent but commendable.

THE fluctuations in the price of gold in New York are still violent. A variation of 5 per cent. in a few hours is no longer uncommon. On April 30 the quotation was $79\frac{3}{4}$ premium.

THE FEDERAL DEFEAT AT DALTON.—One of the sharpest fights of the war, which resulted in the repulse of an attempted advance from Chattanooga, has been scarcely mentioned in the accounts of the Northern newspapers. A correspondent of the *New York World* throws a little light upon it in the following:—

> 'The manner in which our army was defeated at Dalton, in its recent attempt to drive the rebels from that point, proves the ease with which a comparatively small body of troops can hold the line defending Atlanta against a large hostile force. When our army advanced against Dalton, it was confidently expected that the place would be carried, and the rebels driven from it. But the very reverse took place; and the attack, well planned and brilliantly executed as it was, only revealed the great strength of the enemy's position. It was then only that it was called a reconnaissance, as all of our defeats have been called, from Big Bethel, Bull Run, and Belmont, down to Mine Run.'

ENGLAND.

The Conference on the Danish Question sat on Monday at the official residence of the First Lord of the Treasury, in Downing Street, and agreed to a suspension of hostilities between Denmark and the German Powers. The terms of the armistice are on the basis of the *uti possidetis*, each Power retaining its own position both by sea and land. The blockade is to be raised, and the suspension of arms is to be for one month. The Conference was to meet again this day.

The grand jury of Westminster have returned a true bill against Mr. William Rumball (case of the *Rappahannock*) for misdemeanour. The trial will probably take place at the sittings after Trinity Term.

The case, '*ex parte* Ternan and others,' was heard on Monday last, in the Court of Queen's Bench, before the Lord Chief Justice of England and Mr. Justices Blackburn, Mellor, and Shee. The facts may be shortly recapitulated. In November last, an American schooner, the *Gerity*, left Matamoras for New York, laden with a cargo of cotton. Some six or seven men embarked on board of her as passengers, and at midnight of the day after the sailing of the ship rose on the crew, seized the ship, cast the master adrift in the Gulf of Mexico, and took the ship to Belize, where they abandoned the ship and sold the cargo. In January last, three of the men (two of them British subjects) were found to be in Liverpool, and on the requisition of the United States Minister, Sir George Grey issued his warrant to the magistrates of Liverpool, the magistrates issued a warrant to arrest the men, and they were accordingly taken into custody, and from time to time remanded. It was proved that the men acted under the command of Major Hogg, of the Confederate army, and that they seized the ship in the name of the Government of the Confederate States. The prisoners also stated that Major Hogg showed them instructions signed by General Bee. Now the object of the arrest, of course, was that the men might be delivered up to the United States under the Extradition Treaty. The article in the treaty relied on by Mr. Adams, is to the effect that 'the United States and Her Majesty shall, on mutual requisition by them or their Ministers, &c., deliver up to justice persons who, being charged with the crime of murder, piracy, robbery, arson, or forgery committed within the jurisdiction of either of the contracting parties, should seek an asylum or be found within the territories of the other: provided that this should only be done upon such evidence of criminality as, according to the laws of the place where the fugitive person so charged should be found, would justify his apprehension and commitment for trial for the crime alleged to have been committed.' Mr. Edward James, Q.C. had, on behalf of the prisoners, obtained a rule *nisi* for a *habeas corpus* directed to the gaoler at Liverpool for the purpose of bringing them up with a view to their discharge, and now moved to make the rule absolute. Mr. Lush, Q.C. appeared to show cause against the rule, instructed on behalf of the United States Minister. 'The question,' he said, 'was whether there was sufficient evidence before the magistrate to justify him in committing the men for trial.' The Lord Chief Justice interposed and said, that there was a question much more important, for 'Mr. Lush was in this dilemma: either the act of the men was not piracy at all, in which case the matter would be at an end; or if it is piracy, then it was cognisable by the courts of this country, and so was, of course, not within the treaty.' Mr. Lush thereupon proceeded to show that there could be a piracy not *jure gentium*, but by municipal law, and that there were acts punishable as piracy by the law of the United States which were not so punishable in this country. Thus the word piracy was used in both senses in the treaty. Then again as to piracy *jure gentium*, if committed on board an American ship, the offence would be within the jurisdiction of the American courts. In answer to the remark of the Court that the offence would be triable in England, Mr. Lush contended that the statute did not apply merely to cases triable exclusively in the American courts. The Lord Chief Justice then cited Kent's Commentaries to the effect that such treaties applied to crimes which could not be punished in the country where the offender was found. Thereupon Mr. Lush argued that the offence of piracy was peculiar and exceptional, and that the word piracy in the treaty embraced the act in question. Mr. Justice Blackburn remarked that piracy destroyed the nationality of the ship so that the crime became punishable in the courts of any country, and moreover it was clear that the treaty pointed to extradition in cases of exclusive jurisdiction. Mr. Lush maintained that piracy committed on a ship was cognisable by the courts of the nation to which the ship belonged, but the Court cited cases from Wheaton to prove that the act of piracy divested the ship of its nationality, and constituted a crime equally punishable everywhere. At length Mr. Lush was driven to argue that the country on whose ship the piracy had been committed had a greater interest in trying it, but the Court replied that the trial could be held as effectually and impartially here. Mr. Lush then said that there was the act of robbery on the high seas independently of the seizure of the ship, and that was piracy by the American law; but the Court said that the seizure of the ship was the real act, that it was either piracy *jure gentium* or nothing. If it was justified as the act of a belligerent, it was nothing. If it was not so justified, it was piracy. Mr. Lush then argued that at all events in any view the men were liable to be tried here and so could not be discharged; but the Court said that the men were not detained for trial in this country, but for the purpose of delivery up to the United States. Nothing in the case showed that they were detained for trial here, otherwise that might be a good return to the writ. The Lord Chief Justice gave judgment to the effect that the rule must be made absolute. The Court would not express a decision on the construction of the statute, but would wish to have before it all the materials for an authoritative judgment. The matter will therefore be argued next term. As far as the prisoners are concerned, the rule for the *habeas corpus* is made absolute, and they will be brought before the Court next term to await the decision of their Lordships.

Final judgment has been given by Lord Ormidale in the case of the *Pampero*, according to the terms of compromise agreed upon between the parties. The judgment allowed Messrs. Thomson, the builders, to withdraw from the case; allowed the minute for the defenders, Fleming and others, consenting to a verdict without any liability being incurred by any parties to the suit; and found for the Crown on the thirty-seventh count, to the effect that the defenders attempted to furnish the ship, with intent and in order that such ship should be employed in the service of the Confederate States, with intent to cruise and commit hostilities against a certain foreign State with which Her Majesty was not then at war—to wit, the Republic of the United States—and further declared that no penalty had been incurred by the defenders, and that no expenses were due from either party.

The Government, to use a vulgar saying, has been 'one too many' for Messrs. Beales, Hartwell, Nicholay, & Co. On April 23, Mr. Edmond Beales, while addressing a meeting on Primrose Hill on the subject of the sudden departure of General Garibaldi, was requested to desist by the police. Mr. Beales wrote a letter demanding an explanation from Sir George Grey, and the statement of the Home Secretary on the point not being satisfactory, the Garibaldi Committee waited on the Minister on April 27, Sir Richard Mayne being present. Sir George Grey handed over the Committee to the First Commissioner of Works. Thereupon Mr. Hartwell wrote to the Hon. W. Cowper, and informed him that the City and Working Men's Garibaldi Committee intended to hold the adjourned meeting on May 7 on Primrose Hill, and begged to know whether the Commissioner intended to interfere with such meeting. The Hon. W. Cowper, with a shrewdness which almost induces the suspicion that the advice of the skilful Premier was obtained, gave for answer that he had not the smallest objection whatever to the holding of such meeting. Now this was precisely what the Committee did not want. They were completely 'non-plussed. They were determined that, whether Mr. Cowper liked or not, the Government should interfere. So at poor Mr. Cowper another terrible epistle was hurled by the indefatigable Secretary, Robert Hartwell, who demanded a clear and distinct reply to two questions: first, whether the Commissioner claimed the right of stopping meetings on Primrose Hill; secondly, if so, then on what Act of Parliament or what principle of law such right was claimed? The discussion of all such questions was politely declined. Finding the Government impenetrable, and themselves in a ridiculous position, the Committee were, nevertheless, under the clear necessity of holding their monster meeting. So on Saturday last Mr. Edmond Beales, Mr. Nicholay, Mr. Washington Wilks, and other members of the Committee walked up Primrose Hill with a white and red banner borne before them. Members of Parliament were promised by way of an attraction, but not a single M.P. was there. On reaching the top an attempt was made to form a circle, in order that the Chairman might be seen and heard; but the attempt was a failure. The reason was simple enough. The police were not present, and so of course no order was possible. The crowd altogether numbered about 1,500 persons, and some half-dozen speeches, involving all sorts of denunciatory propositions, with which it is not necessary to trouble the reader, were delivered. The affair concluded with three cheers for Garibaldi and one more for Mazzini. A crowd of about 5,000 had collected before the termination of the proceedings. Not a single policeman was anywhere visible.

On Tuesday last Mr. Gladstone received, at his official residence in Downing Street, a deputation from the City and Working Men's Garibaldi Committee, in order to give explanations as to the part taken by him in connection with the sudden departure of the General, and to correct the universal misapprehension of the facts of the case. Mr. Gladstone said that he had no personal knowledge of what occurred before April 17: on the evening of that day he met the Duke of Sutherland, Lord Shaftesbury, Mr. Seely, M.P., Signor Negretti, General Eber, Mr. Stansfeld, M.P., and Colonel Peard, at Stafford House, by invitation. They read Mr. Fergusson's letter on the subject of Garibaldi's health, and came to the conclusion that it would be perilous for the General to go through the intended programme of visits. General Eber and Colonel Peard communicated that opinion to the General, who thereupon asked to see Mr. Gladstone privately. Mr. Gladstone then warned Garibaldi against endangering his health, and also told him 'that such a magnificent reception (as he had had) was not in the nature of things likely to bear repetition.' There was nothing whatever of a political character in the conversation that passed between them, and not a word was said about the Government desiring that the General should leave. In answer to this statement, Mr. Shaen declared that Garibaldi had expressed to him his impression that the Government wished him to go—that he had said that the explanation of Lord Palmerston in the House of Commons did not release him from the obligation to go—and that the matter had become a question between the Government and the English people. Some further questions were put to Mr. Gladstone, who denied that he knew anything about the history of Mr. Fergusson's letter, and said that he had been glad of the opportunity afforded to him of stating all he knew.

Some further correspondence between the Earl Russell and Mr. Adams on the subject of the enlistment on board the *Kearsage* has been published. It is not necessary to enter into a lengthened investigation of these documents. The gist of the series is simply this. Mr. Adams sees no evidence to justify him in doubting the statement made to him by the officers concerned; believes that Captain Thornton gave no authority to enlist any one in Queenstown or elsewhere; and contends that, on a comparison with the depositions of other witnesses, the statement of the Captain is credible and consistent. Earl Russell, on the other hand, regrets that the officers Thornton and Haley, who have clearly violated the municipal law of this country, are still retained in the service of the United States, and cannot see how the circumstances occurring on board the ship could have escaped the knowledge of the captain. Finally, Mr. Adams promises to submit to his Government the wish of Lord Russell for further investigation.

The Very Reverend Francis Jeune, D.D., Dean of Lincoln, has been appointed to the bishopric of Peterborough, vacant by the death of Dr. Davys. Dr. Jeune graduated at Oxford in 1827, having taken a first class in classics. He was made head master of Birmingham school in 1834, and in 1838 was appointed to the deanery of Jersey and rectory of St. Heliers. In 1843 he was made Master of Pembroke College, Oxford, and also rector of Paynton by the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Gloucester. At the time of the enquiry held by Her Majesty's Commissioners into the condition of the University of Oxford, Dr. Jeune rendered such assistance in the explanation of affairs, as secured to himself the goodwill of a party in the State rather than the respect or gratitude of the authorities in the University of Oxford. Dr. Jeune belongs to the extreme Evangelical party in the Church.

An Irish baronet, Sir Thomas Fitzgerald, committed suicide about a fortnight since, by drowning himself. The unfortunate gentleman was driven to this act by mental affliction caused by embarrassed circumstances. The jury returned a verdict of 'temporary insanity.' That decision was at variance with the view taken by the peasantry of Tipperary, who held that the deceased had been guilty of murder, and was unworthy of Christian burial. The grandfather of the late baronet had, by his severity in 1798, in the course of which he earned the title of 'the Flogger,' fixed in the heart of the people a deadly animosity against the family. Moreover, the popular belief in divine retribution had been strengthened by the evils which had befallen the Fitzgeralds since that year of cruelty, and the misfortunes had in turn justified the wrath of the believers. The heir of the 'Flogger' was drowned on board the *Nimrod*: a son of the late baronet had hanged himself with a cord fastened to a nail in the wall, while explaining to his little brother and sister the method pursued by the 'Flogger.' From opinion the peasantry rushed at once to action, and took measures to prevent the burial in the churchyard. The family had warning, and the funeral proceeded to the churchyard of Ballygriffin, accompanied by a few relatives and without ostentation. At the gate a mob was assembled, and in spite of all entreaties, refused to admit the corpse into consecrated ground. The coffin was borne back to the house. On the Sunday following the priest addressed the people from the altar in condemnation of their conduct. On the next day the interment took place in the presence of a force of 150 constables; and exhortations were delivered to calm the popular excitement. A guard, however, remains day and night at the grave to prevent an outrage.

The Secretary of State for War has received intelligence by telegraph *viâ* Alexandria, from Lieutenant-General Cameron. The despatch is dated from Head-quarters, Te Wamuta, February 25. It states that a force under General Cameron had made a flank march on February 10, and had turned the whole of the native strongholds, which had been constructed with immense labour to oppose his advance. The natives thereupon retreated to Rangiawahia and took up a strong position. On the 22nd, the men of the 50th regiment attacked and carried with great gallantry the position of the enemy. Three officers were wounded, and four men killed, and twenty-four wounded in the engagement. The English troops are now in possession of the rich country between the Waipa and Waikato rivers.

THE CONTINENT.

On Monday evening, the 9th inst., Sir George Grey read out, amid the tumultuous cheers of the House of Commons, a telegraphic despatch from Heligoland, saying that an engagement was then going on, within sight of the island, between 2 frigates and a corvette of the Danes, and 2 frigates 3 gunboats of the Austrians; and, again, another and later despatch, saying that the Danes had gained the victory; one Austrian frigate was in flames, and the remaining Austrian vessels were about to take refuge in the English waters. A more detailed account informs us that the Danes, after their victory, steered away northwards; the fire on board the Austrian vessel, the *Schwartzenberg*, was extinguished, and no vital injury had been sustained; but she lost her foremast and bowsprit, besides suffering in other parts. The loss of the German squadron amounted to 170 killed and wounded. When we remember how inferior are both the armament and the gunnery of the Danes, we shall not be surprised to hear great jubilations over this not very important success; nor need we be very much shocked if the glorifications on account of it are a little too loud either for its intrinsic merits or its political importance. It was really a gallant affair—a regular sea-duel, with the chances evenly balanced, or, perhaps, rather unfavourable for the Danes. If the asylum of neutral waters had not been so near, who knows but that the victory might have been made more decisive? It is better as it is. The sight of an Austrian war-steamer brought as a prize to Copenhagen in tow of a Dane, would have been a cup of triumph too intoxicating for that light-headed and violent democracy. Politically the event is of some weight; it leaves the Danes, at the commencement of a truce, winners of the last trick, and with all the solid

advantages of that honour. Moreover, it exhibits to the world in plain terms the falsehood of a statement which, in the face of the best testimony, is often asserted in England, that the blockade of the German ports is a farce, an imposture, a diplomatic fiction. The German papers assert the contrary, as they foam with rage at the so-called 'piracies' of the Danish navy; the German diplomats confessed the contrary, when they tried to make the raising of the blockade a *sine quâ non* of an armistice; the King of Prussia allows the contrary, when he exempts foreign ships trading with German ports from differential dues for the next six months.

A great mass of speculation and theorising has been wasted during the last week on the probabilities of the armistice, the conditions *sine quâ non* of the two belligerents, and the mutual concessions which might be made in order to bring it about. The conclusion of a truce for a month on the *uti possidetis* terms, to the rejection of any notion of an armistice, has set at nought all such conjectures. The only remark worthy of record on the subject of the Conference which we can extract from the German newspapers is on another though parallel subject: 'The signal for the departure of the English fleet on a hostile errand would be the signal for the withdrawal of the German Plenipotentiaries from the Conference' (*Nord-Deutsche Zeitung*, May 4). This is very 'big talk.' We can afford in England to wait for the event, but we admire the boldness of the man who could describe as 'Plenipotentiaries' these German gentlemen who have been obliged, on the second meeting of the Conference, to send home for further instructions.

The hostages taken in Jutland have been released, on the payment of the exactions made by Field-Marshal Von Wrangel. The requisitions made of the town of Viborg, containing 8,900 inhabitants, are as follows: Quarters for 5,000 men, stabling for 1,500 horses, 19,600 lbs. of bread, 30,000 lbs. of oats, 380 lbs. of roasted coffee, 2,700 lbs. of rice, 380 bottles of wine, 1,200 bottles of brandy, 3,000 cigars, 1,300 lbs. of tobacco, 25,000 lbs. of hay, and 11,000 lbs. of straw. This is a sort of entrance fee only: for daily contribution, 380 lbs. of coffee, 11,000 lbs. of fresh beef or 5,000 lbs. of bacon, 300 lbs. of salt, 19,600 lbs. of bread, 7,000 lbs. of peas, 380 bottles of wine, 29,000 lbs. of oats; brandy, cigars, tobacco, hay, and straw, to the same amount as above. In the town of Habro, of 1,900 inhabitants, the amount of supplies demanded was about the same, and in addition a war contribution of 24,000 rigsdalers was levied; the unfortunate town, however, had not more than 5,000 to produce.

A despatch from Fredericia informs us that the Austro-Prussians are putting that fortress into a state of defence, and intend to occupy it with a strong garrison. The Prussian troops have begun the demolition of the Düppel works; three of the ten redoubts had disappeared on the 30th ult. The report is rife that the Prussian Government intend to require guarantees that the fortifications of Slesvig shall never be restored; they wish that the country should, at any rate, be exposed ever hereafter to their patriotic incursions.

THE *Boersenhalle*, in an article treating of the wonderful concord hitherto displayed between the Austrians and Prussians, observes that 'the solidity of that alliance will not be fairly tested until the foundation of the whole affair is reached; that is, until they have to ask what shall be done with the Duchies. As if to add a new complication to the question, the Duke of Oldenburg has come forward as superior claimant to the sovereignty of the Duchies over the head of the Duke of Augustenburg. A pamphlet has been published in Vienna containing a statement of his claim, and a genealogical proof of its correctness. He has at least this advantage over the Duke of Augustenburg, that he is not laying claim to a property for which he or his family have already received a good round price.

From Breslau another pamphlet has issued urging the Duchies to unite to Prussia; besides this, or probably together with this, a petition has been circulated in Slesvig, to be addressed, when properly signed, to the King of Prussia, praying him to incorporate the Duchies into his kingdom; thus only the petitioners hope to obtain real inpendence, and to protect themselves from the Danish reign of terror, which will infallibly follow the withdrawal of the German armies.

A delightful story is told of a certain small sovereign duke, so small that his name has unfortunately escaped us: being an officer in the Prussian army, he had occasion to be present in the trenches during the bombardment of the Düppel position; astounded with his own valour he returns to his quarters, and writes a despatch to his Minister of the Interior, informing him that in consequence of his own heroic conduct he has thought fit, in his exceeding graciousness, to confer upon himself the Cross of the Order of Military Merit lately instituted by himself.

THE law which reestablished the right of the noble to inflict the bastinado has caused great agitation in Mecklenburg-Schwerin. It was abolished in 1849, but restored provisionally in 1853, with the additional proviso that the canes used should, for the future, be a yard and a half long and half an inch thick, instead of a yard and a quarter long and a quarter of an inch thick, 'the old sticks not having produced the desired effect.' The noble has the right of inflicting twenty-five blows on his colonists, servants, and even temporary workmen; he may administer the punishment with his own hands. (*Berliner Volks-Zeitung.*)

(From the *Times*.) '*A very questionable honour*.'—On Sunday the King of Prussia conferred the Order of the Black Eagle on His Royal Highness Prince Alfred. Who was it who said, 'Two things there are which no Prussian can escape—Death and the Order of the Black Eagle'? We cannot exempt our Royal Family from the former; but what have they done to be haunted by the latter?

A MOVEMENT is at this moment taking place in the East of Europe which excites the most painful interest in the Western world. The Russians, having taken the last stronghold of the Circassians, have intimated to the tribes dwelling in and around those mountains, that they must either bear allegiance to the Emperor of Russia or emigrate; the seacoast tribes are given five years to take the choice; the hill tribes must do so immediately. The choice has been quickly and generally taken; multitudes to the number of 300,000 are flocking to the shore, and looking out for any coasting vessel that will transport them to Turkish territory; few vessels are found, and on those few the accommodation is, of course, wholly inadequate. In the meantime the people die like sheep; some on the coast where they are awaiting transports, some in the country where they take refuge, many on shipboard during the passage; 20 per cent. is the least proportion of loss that can be calculated; of 600 passengers on a steam transport 370 only arrived alive. The Turkish Government has done what it could; the few available transports were sent to the coast, and now some men-of-war are to be disarmed for the same duty. Shelter, nourishment, and sanitary regulations have been provided to the full extent of their present means; a subscription has been started, which the Sultan has most munificently headed with the sum of 50,000*l.*; but it is calculated that the permanent establishment of the emigrants will cost the Government more than 1,000,000*l.* In the midst of disaster there are many who love to speculate on the possible advantages which may result; these people talk of the immense benefit which the addition of a strong mountain race will be not only to the blood of the country, but to its labouring powers over the vast uncultivated Edens of Asia Minor. The latter hope may have good foundation, but as to the former we must remember that the Turk is already more than half Circassian, through the continual mingling of that race with the Turkish on the mother's side. Another idea is that they may be profitably used to recruit the army; this will be a great benefit to the Turks, and we doubt not the greatest of boons to the hardy mountaineer, who may, perhaps, thus meet his oppressor and exterminator on equal terms on the plains of Bessarabia, or wherever else the next blow will be struck by Russia against Turkish independence.

The submission of the Circassian tribes has set free a Russian force of about 50,000 men. It is announced that these troops are now on their way to Bessarabia to reinforce the army of observation on the Moldavian frontier under General Kotzebue.

WE continue to hear of encounters between the Russian troops and the Polish insurgents, but the result of them is always hidden in mystery. A report is rife at Dresden that a review is about to be held of Russian and Prussian troops combined, on the Polish frontier.

A DESPATCH from Corfu speaks of fresh troubles at Athens. It was expected that the commanders of the English and the French squadrons would send their marines on shore for the protection of the bank.

Other advices from the same island state that the remains of the English garrison are to leave on June 3. The citadel and new fort are to be left uninjured. The crew of Her Majesty's ship *Fox* were informed by Albanians visiting their ship from the mainland, that they were only awaiting the final departure of the English to make a descent upon the island.

TURIN, May 4.—Signor Peruzzi, Minister of the Interior, in answer to some observations of the Opposition, said that it was not for the Government to declare its intentions with respect to Garibaldi and his party, until they knew what course Garibaldi had in view. He hoped that, after the encomia paid by the General to English institutions and the English loyalty, no one in Italy would permit himself to set up a policy of his own, or to aim at any object except by the means provided by the Constitution.

ON the visit of their Mexican Majesties to Rome, the Imperial party were invited to join the Sovereign Pontiff at breakfast after the celebration of mass. Cardinal Antonelli was the only other guest. Mgr. de Mérode alone was permitted to wait upon the Pope; their Majesties were served during the meal by a bishop.

THE French Senate has had rare sport this week. M. le Marquis de Boissy, the distinguished Anglo-phobist, took the occasion of the Prince of Wales's visit to Garibaldi to indulge in some excessively rude remarks upon our heir-apparent, whom, by the way, he degraded into 'heir-presumptive.' The official report of the speech omitted certain phrases of peculiar ferocity on which the Marquis especially prided himself; whereupon on Wednesday the 4th inst., he taxed the President of the Senate with intentional falsification of the debates, and called the *Moniteur* a liar ('Non pas *Moniteur*, mais *Menteur* autorisé du Gouvernement'); the President mildly remarked that such language was indecorous, whereon a smart discussion ensued. In the course of it the President asserted his right to erase from the records of the House anything which might disgrace it or lower its reputation. The Marquis then proceeded to insult the President himself, and was called to order; and, on his persistence, the call to order was inserted in the Minutes of the House.

The speech by M. Thiers on the financial situation of France in the Chamber of Representatives was, if less exciting, more worthy of record. It was a literary and rhetorical *chef d'œuvre* in this sense—that although irrelevant throughout, although adhering only nominally to the subject, it commanded the attention of the house, and evidently gave expression to many sentiments till then dormant in the breast of his hearers. He commenced with a comparative statement of the finances under the Orléans régime, under the Republic, and under the Empire, showing thereby that the budget had nearly doubled itself; then going into the details of expense, he bestowed on each unqualified praise. As to the army it is on a peace footing; 400,000 men are the least number that can be employed in foreign service and home defence. The objections of the orator turned chiefly on certain points in which he desired to contrast the imperial policy unfavourably with that of the Orleanist Government, of which he had been a member.

THE Japanese Ambassadors were received by the Emperor at the Tuileries last week: they presented to him the autograph letter of the Tycoon, and made an address, in which they expressed their profound regret for the attack made by their nation on the French ships, and for the murder of a French officer; they begged the Emperor to name plenipotentiaries with whom they might arrange all matters between the two Empires. The Emperor's answer expressed his satisfaction at the advances made by the Tycoon; and observed that they must clearly understand that any settlement must be based on a strict observance on their part of the requirements of international law.

ON the 4th inst. was celebrated, under the dome of the Invalides, the service commemorative of the death of the Emperor Napoleon I. The 5th is the proper anniversary, but the day was changed on account of the Feast of the Ascension. The service was attended by a battalion of old soldiers, decorated with the St. Helena medal, the mark of service under the old Empire. Among the more distinguished persons who assisted at the ceremony were the Comte de Flahault, and the Princesses Julie and Charlotte Buonaparte. The officiating priest pronounced the absolution; then the Governor of the Invalides, General Marquis de Laurestine, advanced to the sarcophagus, and sprinkled it with holy water; the old soldiers then defiled in slow time past the last resting-place of their beloved commander.

ON Sunday, a brilliant *fête* was held by the Empress and the Prince Imperial in the gardens of the Tuileries for the entertainment of children associates of the Prince Imperial's Infant Society for loans to the labouring classes (*Prêts de l'Enfance au travail*). Some notion may be formed of the general magnificence of the entertainment provided, when we say that a concert, several platforms for dancing, and a circus, were collected within the gardens. Every *marionnette* theatre in Paris was engaged, and installed in some part of the great central avenue. Last, but not least, at the foot of the great horse-shoe terrace adjoining the principal gates on the Place de la Concorde, were two immense tables with fifty refreshment stalls in their rear, laden with sweetmeats, pastry, and all the other delicacies so dear to the eye and palate of infancy. The number of tickets distributed for children alone was about 13,000; each of these was authorised to introduce also the father and mother, or one attendant not a parent, so that we may conceive the gaiety of that day to have been something out of the common, even in the gayest capital in the world.

M. ARMAND, who, after having been acquitted by a jury of an attempt to murder Maurice Roux, was condemned by the judge to pay a fine of 20,000 francs as civil damages for the commission of the deed, has appealed against the condemnation to the Supreme Court in Paris. After some argument, and a consultation of two hours and a half, the Supreme Court reversed the decision of the inferior court at Aix against M. Armand.

THE Emperor is desirous of assuring himself on the amount of military proficiency possessed by the recruits of the French army after the three months' drill to which they are subjected during their first year of enlistment. For this purpose a body of 2,000 infantry, artillery, and engineers of the class of 1862 will be assembled at the camp of Châlons from July 20 to August 20 next. They will be taken from the contingents of the departments nearest to the camp, in order to avoid the inconvenience of removing so large a body far from their native place. This month of extra service will be counted as a substitute for the two months' drill to which they would ordinarily be liable in January and February next.

IT has been decided in the Civil Tribunal of St. Etienne (Loire) that, by Art. 162 and 184 of the Code Napoléon, a marriage with a deceased wife's sister is null, and the children of the marriage incapable of inheriting.

ON Tuesday the 10th instant, the Spring Meeting at Longchamps took place. The great event was the Emperor's prize for three-year-olds, but it brought only 7 horses to the post; of these Arcturus was the favourite at 9 to 4, followed by Bois-Roussell and Baronello at 5 to 2; both the latter have won races in the last fortnight, but Baronello's temper is so uncertain that his prominence in the betting appears scarcely justified. At any rate he has disappointed his backers in his usual style, displaying great fractiousness at the post, and getting off half a dozen lengths in rear of the lot. Count de Lagrange's Antinous made the run at first, and then gave way to his stable-companion Torcière, but Flatman, on Bois-Rousseil came up with a rush, followed by Arcturus. The former took the lead and held it to the finish, winning easily by 6 lengths. Arcturus was beaten by Torcière by a neck for the second place, and the same distance separated him from Perle, who was fourth. The value of the stakes was about 1,200*l.*; the distance a mile and a quarter. The other events of the day were the Prix des Tertres won by Baron Daru's Astrolabe, who was the favourite at 4 to 1; Prix du Trocadero, won by Count Lagrange's Comme-ça, favourite, at 2 to 1; Prix du Lac handicap, won by Baron d'Auriol's Tambour Battant at 10 to 1, beating a field of 14, among whom was Jamicoton; Prix de Neuilly, won by Count Lagrange's Villafranca, the favourite at 3 to 2.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

IRISH EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES.

On Friday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Scully asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention had been directed to the proposed Act of the United States Congress providing for the reduction of tonnage dues on immigrant vessels, and for the appointment of a Government Commissioner of Immigration, who shall be empowered to contract for the importation of immigrants, and for their transmission into the inland districts of the United States; and whether it is the intention of the present Government to adopt any measures either towards diverting into some of Her Majesty's colonies the increased and increasing emigration from Ireland, or towards arresting that emigration by providing industrial employment at home, or by reducing exorbitant taxation, or by improving the land laws, or by abolishing religious distinctions, or by conceding to Irishmen some participation in the government of their own country, or otherwise.

Sir G. Grey said his attention had not been called to the proposed Act of Congress referred to until the previous evening. There was undoubtedly a large emigration going on from Ireland, and mainly directed towards the United States; but the reason was obviously to be found in the fact that wages of labour in that country were very high, while in Ireland they were low. Her Majesty's Government did not think it would be expedient, even were it practicable, to endeavour to resist such emigration by the providing industrial employment at the public expense. He must also say that he thought Irishmen had a fair share of the benefits accruing from reductions of taxation, and he was not aware that any alteration of the laws relating to land would tend to diminish emigration. Religious distinctions had, happily, been abolished, and as to participation in the government, Irishmen had the same rights and powers under the same Constitution as Englishmen and Scotchmen.

THE MALLORY REPORT FORGERY.

On Thursday, the 7th inst., the Attorney-General briefly stated that he had received a courteous letter from the Hon. S. R. Mallory, authoritatively denying the genuineness of the Report on Confederate Naval Affairs, to which that gentleman's name had been fraudulently appended, and which the Attorney-General had quoted on a former occasion in the House. We give elsewhere the correspondence of Mr. Mallory with Sir Roundell Palmer on this subject.

THE MURDER OF THE MATE OF THE SAXON.

On Tuesday, in the House of Commons, Sir J. Elphinstone asked if the Government had received any information with regard to the murder of the mate of the *Saxon*. He understood that the murderer had not only been acquitted, but highly applauded for the manner in which he had behaved. At the request of Mr. Layard, Sir J. Elphinstone agreed to repeat his question on Thursday (to-day).

THE STATE OF NEW YORK AND ITS CREDITORS.

On Tuesday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Layard, in reply to Mr. Cochrane, said the Government had not received any official information that a resolution had been carried in the State of New York, by which it was proposed to pay the interest due to foreign bondholders in paper instead of specie.

DENMARK AND GERMANY.

On Monday it was announced in both Houses, that the Conference had agreed upon a suspension of hostilities for one month. Earl Russell said: 'I have to state to your Lordships, with great satisfaction, that the Conference has to-day agreed to a suspension of hostilities between Austria and Prussia on one side and Denmark on the other. The terms on which the suspension of hostilities has been agreed to are on the basis of the *uti possidetis*, each Power retaining its own position both by sea and land. The blockade is to be raised, and the suspension of arms is to be for one month. The question was between a suspension of arms and an armistice. The allied Powers agreed to a proposition in Conference by which Jutland would have been evacuated by the Germans, and Alsen by the Danes; but the Danish Government have preferred a simple suspension of hostilities for one month.'

Early in the sitting in the House of Commons, Sir George Grey stated on behalf of the Government that 'an armistice for a month had been agreed to,' but he was quite unable to communicate the terms. Soon afterwards Mr. Disraeli said that the terms had been stated in the House of Lords. Sir George Grey replied that he had not been informed of the terms, and therefore had not withheld any explanation which it was in his power to give. [It may be quite proper for the Foreign Secretary to snub the Home Secretary, but we submit the House of Commons ought to be treated with rather more consideration.]

The feeling of the House of Commons has been strikingly manifested on two occasions. On Friday, in the course of a short debate on the Duchies, Lord R. Cecil observed that the vast majority of the members sympathised with Denmark, and this was the signal for loud and prolonged cheering from all sides of the House. On Monday, when the naval victory of the Danes was announced, there was as much loud and continued cheering as if an English fleet had just achieved a signal triumph.

THE AUSTRIAN SQUADRON IN THE NORTH SEA.

On Friday, in the House of Commons, it was elicited from Lord C. Paget that the *Aurora* had gone to Heligoland 'probably to ascertain the proceedings of the Austrian Squadron.'

POLAND.

On Monday, in the House of Lords, Lord Campbell moved, 'That, in the opinion of this House, the correspondence of Her Majesty's Government with the Cabinet of St. Petersburg on the Polish question has not yet reached a satisfactory conclusion.' His Lordship pointed out the difference between the speech of Earl Russell at Blairgowrie and his despatches to St. Petersburg. He considered that the balance of power in Europe, the peace of Central Europe, and in some contingencies the welfare of England, depended upon a fair adjustment of the Polish question. He thought there was no difficulty in showing that the rights of Russia over Poland were based upon the Treaty of Vienna, and that the stipulations of that treaty had not been fulfilled by Russia.

Earl Russell thought the resolution, if accepted, would impair the authority of the House. It was wrong to assert that the Russian Government had ever repudiated its obligations under the Treaty of Vienna. He believed that the time would come when the Emperor of Russia would cease to govern Poland as if it were a country in perpetual insurrection. Unfortunately, in every contest between the Government of Russia and the Polish people, there had been a strong national feeling among the Russians that the greatness and glory of their country were concerned in putting down anything like resistance on the part of Poland. When that feeling was entirely done away with, the Poles might look for a better future. He thought there had been great forgetfulness on the part of the Poles of the changes which had taken place not only in the Duchy of Poland, but, to a still greater degree, at Dantzic and in Galicia, making it hopeless to think that those provinces would ever form part of Poland again. If, however, their views were confined to Poland only, they might look forward to a better state of things, and after a time to a government conducted on principles of liberty by the Poles themselves.

Lord Campbell withdrew his resolution.

THE DISPUTE WITH BRAZIL.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, in answer to Mr. Macaulay, Mr. Layard said that no communication had yet been received announcing the acceptance of the mediation of the King of Portugal by the Emperor of Brazil. He had seen a statement in the newspapers that the Emperor had announced his intention of accepting the mediation, but no official intelligence had been received. It was the impression of the Portuguese Minister at this Court that a satisfactory communication would soon be made. No reply had been received from the Government of Brazil to that portion of Earl Russell's despatch referred to by Mr. Macaulay [to the effect that Her Majesty's Government hoped that the Government of Brazil, in its future intercourse with Great Britain, would not omit the courtesy that was usual between Governments.] It was deemed most proper not to produce the correspondence, as there were reasonable expectations entertained that relations would speedily be resumed between the two countries.

INCREASED COST OF LIVING AT BERMUDA.

On Tuesday, in the House of Commons, in answer to Mr. Cave, the Marquis of Hartington said the Government did not think that they would be warranted in granting an extra allowance to officers at Bermuda on account of the high price of provisions. Comparing the rates at Bermuda with those of other West Indian stations, they were not excessive. The officers were permitted to obtain provisions for their wives and families at the contract prices.

TAXATION.

On Tuesday, in the House of Commons, Mr. J. White moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to enquire into the operation and incidence of our present fiscal system, and to consider and report if any and what measures could be devised to secure a more equitable adjustment of the burden of imperial taxation. Mr. White advocated a system of direct taxation as being more just and more expedient. We raised 20,000,000*l.* a year for local purposes by direct taxation, and he did not see why we could not do the same for the 60,000,000*l.* or 70,000,000*l.* required for imperial purposes. At present the working classes paid more than their fair share, and though our commerce and wealth had enormously increased, there was an appalling amount of poverty and destitution. The prevalence of infanticide proved this. In the eighteen months ending in June, 1862, no less than 921 children under two years of age were found dead in ditches, ponds, and other places, while the total number of children of the same age who during the same period met with untimely deaths was no less than 5,547. If all indirect taxation were abolished, there would be more employment for the people owing to the stimulus that would be given to trade. Mr. Gladstone did not deny that some improvements were desirable, but he thought a scheme of direct taxation impracticable. He agreed with the late Sir R. Peel that the direct taxes of this country for a time of peace had very nearly reached their furthest limit. He did not object to enquiry, but the enquiry proposed by Mr. White was too extensive. Mr. White withdrew his motion.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

On Thursday and Monday the House of Commons proceeded with the Army Estimates, and passed them. On the former day, in reply to General Peel, the Marquis of Hartington contended that the cost of the English soldier was about 90*l.* per annum, whilst that of the French soldier was about 45*l.* per annum. The difference would be reduced if the strength of the army was increased, but still the cost of the English would be much greater than that of the French soldier.

POOR DEBTORS.

On Friday, in the House of Lords, a Bill of great importance to the working classes was introduced by the Lord Chancellor, and read a first time. His Lordship said the imprisonment for debt was fearful in amount, and attended with most injurious consequences. In the two years ending December 31, 1863, 17,979 persons were committed to prison for a total number of 309,777 days, and the number of days they actually passed in prison was 253,860. Many men were imprisoned 'for sums of money as low as 1*s.* 6*d.*, 3*s.* 1*d.*, 1*s.* 10*d*, 2*s.* 9*d.*; and one person was committed to prison for several days for the sum of 9*d.*' Nearly all the debtors were artisans or agricultural labourers; and taking their average earnings at 3*s.* per diem per man, and multiplying this sum by the number of days spent in prison, it will be found that the amount of labour lost to the country in trying to bring about the payment of 62,438*l.* was 43,434*l.* His Lordship denounced the system of small credits, and maintained that the creditor had no right to imprison his debtor to the detriment of the country. At all events, before he does that he is bound to show that the debt was contracted under circumstances that gave him just cause of complaint. But there was a peculiar hardship in reference to the law of debtor and creditor for the poor man. In all other cases, except county-court commitments, after a man has been imprisoned, even for a few hours, it satisfies the debt; but in the case of the poor man summoned before a county court, he can be imprisoned over and over again for the same debt. [Men have been committed several times for a single debt of a few shillings owing to a baker or a butcher.] His Lordship then explained the provisions of his Bill. It entirely abrogates the present law. And under the new law, the judge will have the power of imprisonment only in case the debt is contracted by fraud, false pretences, or without reasonable expectation of ability to pay it; and the debtor will be liable to only one imprisonment for one debt—that is, as in the case of debts above 20*l.*, the imprisonment will satisfy them. The County Court Judge is to have the power to call together the creditors of a working man, fix the amount of dividend the insolvent can pay, order the payment to be made into court, and distribute it amongst the creditors. In that way there is some hope of restoring the poor man who has been involved in debt to a condition equal and corresponding to that in which the administration of the bankrupt and insolvent law has for a long period placed those who are in a better condition of life. The Bill provides that no action shall lie, or judgment be given, for a debt owing for ale and beer consumed in an alehouse or beershop, so that the publican shall not tempt the poor man by offers of credit to drink beyond his means. All debts under 20*l.* must be sued for, or judgment enforced, within one year from the time when the last item of the account was contracted or the last payment made. In seizures for debt, a certain amount of household furniture must be left, and tools shall not be taken so as to interfere with a man's calling. [Those who know something of the fearful manner in which the poorer classes in this country are oppressed by their creditors will appreciate the value of this Bill. If it becomes law, it will vastly ameliorate the condition of the working classes, and free them from the villanous petty traders who prey upon their wages.] The Lord Chancellor makes provision in his Bill for the distribution of the property left by poor men by the County Court Judge. At present, if any dispute arise, the only remedy is a reference to the Court of Chancery, which is far too costly a process for small properties.

PUBLIC HOUSES ON SUNDAY.

On Friday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Somes asked for leave to introduce a Bill for closing public houses from eleven o'clock on Saturday night to six o'clock on Monday morning, except from one to two and from eight to nine P.M. on Sunday. After a brief debate, the House divided, and permission to introduce the Bill was refused by a majority of 36.

A NEW CRIME.

On Monday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Hunt asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention had been called to the committal of a whole family for three weeks with hard labour for the crime of sleeping in a tent. The prisoners were seven gipsies—a mother and her children, the age of the youngest being only eight. The case had been tried on the 25th or 26th of March last at a place called Hayle, in Cornwall, and the prisoners had been sentenced by the Rev. Uriah Tonkin. He would also move, unless there were any objection to such a course, that the depositions should be laid upon the table of the House.

Sir G. Grey said that he had received no information respecting the case referred to by the hon. member. No application had been made to him by any of the parties concerned. If the hon. gentleman would give him the particulars, he would make enquiries, but he could not give any intimation as to what the result of those enquiries would be. It was probable that the prisoners were sentenced as vagrants.

The Rev. Uriah Tonkin has written to the *Times* to say that the family were punished for 'sleeping under tents, having no visible means of subsistence, and not giving a good account of themselves.' We know not which is the more remarkable—the Rev. Uriah's harshness, or his obtuseness in offering such a defence.]

The Poor Negro.—It is said that General Kilpatrick attributes the failure to capture Richmond wholly to the treachery of the negro guide hung by Dahlgren. The negro was perfectly familiar with the country west of Richmond, and was sent to Colonel Dahlgren from General Meade's head-quarters, with the note dated just previous to the departure of the expedition, and found on Dahlgren's person. It is believed that upon approaching Richmond the negro's cowardice induced him to direct the command above Goochland, with the view of avoiding a fight. And upon this mere suspicion the poor negro was hanged; but he was speedily and terribly avenged.

Slavery and the War.—As to the question of slavery, it has no more to do, constitutionally or legitimately, with the 'putting down of this rebellion,' than any other local property held under local law. Do our armies not destroy property of all kinds, from houses and horses to gold watches and finger-rings? Are houses 'the cause of this war?'—are horses the cause of the war?—are family trinkets, corn, cotton, flour, cattle, fences, and pigs the cause of the war? If not, why are they burnt, carried off, stolen, used up, 'liberated' from their owners, the same as negroes, if one is not as much the cause of the war as the other?—*New York Daily News.*

Presidential Manœuvres.—The friends of Mr. Lincoln are unreserved in denouncing the pretended withdrawal of Secretary Chase from the Presidential contest. They say the Chase programme now is to make a great fuss about Fremont and carry the fight into the Baltimore Convention on that issue. Then when the fight waxes hot and furious, they are to propose for the sake of harmony that a new man be taken up; and that new man is to be 'General Greenbacks.'—Washington Correspondent of *New York Herald.*

PARIS TOPICS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS: May 10.

THE speech of M. Thiers on Friday was a masterpiece of tact, playing with figures as agreeably as Mr. Gladstone ever did. He attacked the budget, its items, and the form in which it was presented. He complains that the monster which had two heads in his day, now has three. There were of old the ordinary and extraordinary budget, and now there is the special one. M. Thiers, who had disapproved, but had acquiesced in the first two divisions, when himself in office, is alarmed at the third. What cake, thinks he, will satisfy such a Cerberus? But he commands the attention of the Assembly because he declares that his 'voice is still for peace.' The other one, I think, said 'war,' but the meaning is the same. But while he spoke for peace, he declared that with less than 400,000 men under arms, and the power of increasing this force to 750,000 men in a few weeks, as a peace establishment, France cannot be safe; and so, with such ideas on the subject of the army, his strictures, which were confined to a few details, made little impression. He approved, as was to be expected, the expenditure on the navy. Passing from the National Budget, which was before the House, to the Budgets of the Towns, which were not under discussion, he made out a *primâ facie* case against the present mania for destruction and rebuilding, which was unquestionably the strongest feature in his speech. But as regards the Budget itself, his whole argument rested on a fallacy. In 1847, the Budget was sixty millions of francs in round numbers; why is it in 1864 about eighty-eight millions? That is, the earth stands still, and for him all financial Galileos cry out in vain 'and yet it moves.' Since 1847 even England has added some twenty millions to her budget, and what is the history of the budget in France? In 1806, Napoleon's normal budget, that which he considered sufficient in all times of peace, was twenty-four millions sterling. In '29, the Restoration had brought this up to thirty-eight millions, say forty, when M. Jacques Lafitte, who was preparing the overthrow of the dynasty, declared that such an enormous expenditure could result only in ruin. The revolution of which he was the tool, if not the author, exceeded this sum even in '31, and in '47 the budget of France had for several years been hard upon sixty millions. It is now eighty-eight millions, but some small expenses which did not formerly figure in the budget are now included in it. Thus the progressive increase of the last few years is by no means abnormal, while the wealth of the country has increased out of all proportion with the increased taxation. If in round numbers the forty millions which the government of Charles X. cost the country had become sixty millions in seventeen years, without any foreign war—that is, had been increased by one half—the sixty millions of '47 may well be 90 in '64, after two foreign wars, the annexation of Nice and Savoy, and many distant expeditions.

The *Moniteur* of this morning announces in a dry paragraph the suspension of hostilities for a month, so that there is no ground for the alarm with which the *Débats* would have inspired its readers when it declared yesterday that the rejection of the armistice would produce a general war 'unless England and France were decided to resign their position as great Powers.' But we are too well satisfied that the Dano-German quarrel is foreign to French interests to lend an ear to such vaticinations, and we find no lack in subjects to divert our attention from such political preoccupations. We have had M. Armand's appeal against the strange judgment of the Court of Aix, which, after he had been acquitted of any assault on his servant, condemned him to pay him twenty thousand francs, on the ground, I suppose, that it was in his cellar that Roux was discovered half-strangled. There are countries where all the persons found near a murdered man are arrested and required to prove their innocence; in some parts of India or China, a poor man who has a spite against a wealthy one sits down at his door and starves himself to death in the intention of making the other legally responsible. The Aix judges must have had some such notion, but the Court of Cassation did not appreciate this train of reasoning, and has quashed their judgment. The Armand affair has absorbed more than enough of public attention, and, of late, interest in it has flagged, notwithstanding the graceful tribute which the fashionable world paid to his popularity. The *Armandine* is the last new figure of the cotillon; it is danced with the hands tied behind the back with coloured ribbons.

A real *cause célèbre* commenced yesterday, and is likely to last at least through the week. Before this reaches your readers the name of Conty de la Pommerais will probably be familiar to them. As yet I can speak of the facts only from the indictment, which, as is usual in French law proceedings, is as dramatic and well worked-up a narrative as one of Balzac's novels. He is accused of being a homœopathic doctor, and this part of the indictment he does not deny, but it goes on to tell how he poisoned first his mother-in-law, and afterwards his ex-mistress, after he had insured the latter's life for a large sum. Judging, like James I., only from the allegations of the indictment, I should convict him with all the extenuating circumstances which the relations of the parties suggest, although, when his story is told, I may be equally ready to acquit him. It is, therefore, best to hold the prudent silence which is due to justice.

I fear it is not much to our credit that we are already tired of the Japanese embassy, especially since some of its members or servants have put themselves body and tail into European clothes, the tail being stuck under their coats. The Government has therefore determined to send them to see the ports, and has provided them with a steamer. The tone of the Emperor's answer to the speech of the First Ambassador on his presentation, is well adapted to the understanding of Asiatics, and deserves to be much admired.

The last brilliant successes in the South are welcomed here as likely to lead to an end of the struggle. The *France* says: 'It is certain that the South everywhere proves its superiority over the North, notwithstanding its numerical inferiority. It becomes daily more and more impossible to regard men who fight with such unexampled courage and energy as insurgents or rebels. It is evident that they are a people struggling for national independence.'

A VOLUNTEER NAVY.—We learn that the amount of capital already subscribed upon the books of the Virginia Volunteer Navy Company exceeds one million of dollars. The charter of the company authorises a maximum capital of $10,000,000, but operations will be commenced as soon as an amount sufficient for the inauguration of the enterprise has been subscribed and paid in. Ninety per cent. of the prize profits go to the company and crew, and ten per cent. to the Government.—*Richmond Whig*, April 15.

A SOUTHERN VIEW OF MISCEGENATION.

[From the *Richmond Dispatch*, April 14.]

THE Yankee project of commingling their breed with the African race is open to this dreadful objection—What will become of the Yankees?

We feel assured they have never weighed the awful consequences of such a catastrophe. The Yankee race blotted out of existence! They have threatened to exterminate the South, and behold, they are about to exterminate themselves! Alas! what will become of the cause of civilisation, of humanity, of progress, without Yankees? What will the world do for steam engines and wooden nutmegs, philanthropic associations and paper-soled shoes, and patent medicines, puritanism and pumpkin pies, cuteness and codfish, without Yankee Doodles?

Did that blessed *Mayflower* cross the wide ocean for such an end? Was Pilgrim Rock consecrated for such a superstructure? Did the saintly Pilgrim Fathers fit out slave-ships for the coast of Africa, and sell the cargoes to the South, with any idea that these sable heathens were to be united in wedlock to the descendants of the true believers? We wish that their grim old spectres could revisit the earth, and receive the due reward of their deeds in beholding the final result of their notable system for improving the morals, religion and politics of mankind.

It is not for us to complain of the great loss which mankind at large must suffer from the deprivation of Yankees. Three years of self-denial have enabled us to dispense with even such luxury as their companionship. We find that, by dint of manly fortitude and abstemiousness, we can manage to exist without Harper, Beecher, Greeley, Everett, or any of their works. But how can Yankeedom give itself up in this wholesale suicide, immolate the memory of its ancestry, and slaughter that 'manifest destiny' which was to appropriate the whole continent of America to the Yankee race?

The Confederacy can look with philosophical composure upon this tragical performance. We are not to be astonished at this time of day at any exhibition which Yankees may make. After all the atrocities and diablerie which for three years we have beheld and suffered, winding up in the effort to make a bonfire of a city of fifty thousand souls, we are not to be amazed by any new wickedness which Yankee ingenuity can invent. Having cohabited spiritually with the devil till their souls have become as black as the ace of spades, it is right and proper that they should adopt some process by which their bodies will approximate the complexion of their souls. Our only sympathy is with the sable medium of this national transformation. The polishing of Yankee boots, which has hitherto been their chief occupation in the free States, will now give place to the polishing of the entire Yankee nation, an achievement which no human power has yet been able to accomplish. A quarter of a century hence, the United States bids fair to be an empire of mulattoes, inheriting some improvement, perhaps, upon its abolition blood; but a sad depreciation of the African stock, which, in its lowest thraldom, was never so debased as when its 'rich currents' commingle with the vile spawn of Black Republicanism.

THE SOUTHERN PRESS ON THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

[From the *Richmond Dispatch*.]

THIS ridiculous doctrine—which never had the sanction of Mr. Monroe, and is, therefore, most improperly called by his name—was revived a few days since in the Yankee House of Representatives, and of all other men, by Mr. Henry Winter Davis, the man who probably has said more and bitterer things than all other persons combined, and who once wrote a foolish book, with a foolish title, to prove that Russia and the United States were to fight out the final battle of monarchy and republicanism on the soil of the Western Continent. It seems, however, that Mr. Davis is not prepared for any immediate step of a warlike nature. He does not propose that the Yankee Congress shall say in so many words to the Emperor of the French: You shall not establish a dependency of your empire in this hemisphere; if you do we will fling you and your soldiers into the sea. He only goes to the length of letting that ruler know that if he does so, the Yankee Congress will be very much displeased.

We wonder if the French Emperor did not know that before Mr. Davis took the trouble to assure him of it! We wonder if he is ignorant of what all the rest of the world has known and been commenting on for the last twenty-five years. We wonder if he is not aware that the universal Yankee nation has long fixed its greedy eyes upon Mexico—has long been looking forward to the day when it might find a pretext for making a meal of it, regrets the present war with the Confederacy chiefly because it has raised a lion in the path to the silver mines and gold beds of the dilapidated republic. We wonder if the French Emperor never reads the editorials of Yankee newspapers, or the speeches in the Yankee Congress, or has never heard of the 'Manifest Destiny' of the amiable and interesting Yankee people. If he has heard and read of all this, we suggest that he was well aware that the Yankee Congress would not take his movement kindly, and that Mr. Davis's motion is, therefore, an oath of supererogation, especially as it is not to be backed by any material thunder. The Yankee Congress is to 'protest,' and if that protest does no good it is to protest again. If Napoleon still turns a deaf ear, Mr. Davis will then follow the advice of Dogberry, and tell him, 'he is not the man he took him for.'

While this farce is in course of enactment at Washington, Mr. Dayton, in Paris, hastens to prostrate himself before Maximilian and declare the readiness of his Government to send a minister to Mexico, as well as to receeive a minister from her Whatever may be the real feeling of the Yankee Doodle upon the subject, and we doubt not that it was fully expressed by the resolution offered by Mr. Davis, their Government dare not hold back at such a crisis. The whole process through which it has been compelled to go from the beginning to the end, finds no parallel, except in the persistent resolution with which *Fluellyn* compels *Ancient Pistol* in the play to swallow the leek which he had to scoff at, though the badge of a brave and honourable nation, and Yankee Doodle has swallowed the leek 'with a vengeance!' He did not even wait for the Emperor of the French to resort to that last persuasive of obstinacy employed by the valiant Welchman, blows. He gaped and swallowed without waiting for the infliction of the cudgel, although he had rather have swallowed arsenic or prussic acid, or any other drug that most speedily divorces soul and body.

The 'Monroe Doctrine' is, from this time forth, an exploded humbug, and the Yankee nation will not rule from the St. Lawrence to Cape Horn. They might have thus ruled, had not the Confederate States forbidden it, and thus far the world owes them a debt of gratitude which it seems in no haste to pay.

[From the *Richmond Dispatch*.]

The last foreign news announces the departure of the new Emperor of Mexico for his Mexican home and empire, on the 13th, i. e., to-morrow. As the reader is aware, from our paper yesterday, it has been stated by the London *Globe* that Mr. Slidell, our Commissioner to France, sought an interview with the Emperor while he was in Paris, which was 'courteously but firmly declined.' Very little attention need be paid to this statement. If true, it is of but little moment; but it is very doubtful. The recognition of the Emperor of Mexico is of small interest to us, except so far as it may involve that of the Emperor of France. Indeed, Maximilian stands more in need of our recognition than we do of his, though a polite bow from either to the other just now could confer no material advantage, and only give assurance of that sympathy and friendship which we all know must of necessity exist by force of circumstances. We all know that the power by whose aid alone Maximilian can become firmly seated on his throne is decidedly friendly to the Southern Confederacy, and that nothing will grow out of the Franco-Mexican policy that can be prejudicial to us.

Even the Yankees cannot chuckle over this bit of diplomatic rumour, as they know these facts as well as we. Moreover, they find enough in their own relations with Mexico to absorb their attention. If rumour, also from Paris, be correct, Mr. Dayton, United States Minister, has tendered to Maximilian amicable resolutions on the part of the United States with the Mexican monarchy, and this tender the Federal House of Representatives has just unanimously repudiated.

So the Confederacy is easy—has nothing to apprehend from Mexican relations—while the Yankees are neither easy nor inapprehensive on the subject.

NORTHERN COMMENT ON THE REPORTED MASSACRE AT FORT PILLOW.—Writing about this Abolition story, the *Philadelphia Age* observes: 'Large allowance must of course be made, in reading the reports of the capture of Fort Pillow, for the imaginative tendencies of Cairo correspondents, and the statement that a steamboat was hailed, and large numbers of wounded put on board, is not entirely consistent with the assertion that they were all murdered in cold blood; but even if the accounts were in every respect true, as the Abolition organs assume them to be, one cannot help thinking that it does not lie in their mouths to find fault with the conduct of the Confederates. Their patron saint planned an extensive insurrection, by which he hoped to massacre women and children by the hundred, and the only object aimed at in making soldiers out of the negroes was, that the slaves might be incited to outrage and murder the non-combatants, who were thought to be defenceless in their homes. This purpose was boldly avowed by the pet orators of the League; and Miss Anna Dickinson was never so jubilant as at the prospect of an outbreak on the part of the blacks. This scheme of rapine and devastation, however, has miscarried; and not only have the slaves failed to slay and ravish as had been hoped, but "the incarnate Confederates," as the telegraph calls them, seem abundantly competent to protect their wives and children against the "Black Regiments" poet Boker can find to sing about. That it is this fact which now so exasperates the philanthropic heart is unfortunately clear, not only from the avowals of their design in raising these regiments, but from the utter indifference which they show in reference to the mangling and killing of white men.' The *Boston Courier* remarks: 'It is not perhaps at all singular, that those disposed to make the most of the Fort Pillow affair against the rebels, are the philanthropic hearts, who think it positively treason to refuse to justify the proposed extermination of the whole body of inhabitants of the revolted States! Would it not be well for those persons to read anew the orders which Colonel Dahlgren proposed to have executed in Richmond, supposing he had effected entrance into that city? After much indignant denial of such atrocious purposes, those orders are now authenticated.'

THE RED RIVER RAID.—The New Orleans correspondent of the *New York World* says that in the route of General Banks's expedition, 'every mule, every horse, every ox, every cow, every hog, and every sheep have been driven off, and everything portable carried away from most plantations, and even the cabins of the negroes burnt up and their patches and chicken-coops robbed of all they contained. It is asserted here that it is all done by the Western men who were out with Sherman in his raid through Mississippi. How they acted there you may discover from the following statement in the *Mobile Tribune* of March 25:—"People from Mississippi say that it is painful to pass over the track of Sherman's Vandals. The newspaper account of the whipping of a lady is unquestionable. She is one of the most respectable of her sex—her husband a man of considerable wealth. They maltreated her shamefully, in such a way as one can hardly mention in print. The reason of this brutal act we have not heard. Probably, however, she could not suppress the expression of her 'treason' in the presence of these shameless scoundrels."'

THE TENDER MERCIES OF THE WICKED.—The Vicksburg correspondent of the *New York Tribune* gives the following account of the condition of the negroes torn from their homes by General Sherman in Mississippi:—'Some 3,000 slaves of all ages and colours reached here yesterday. It was one of the saddest spectacles witnessed for a long time in Vicksburg. The women and children were almost starved and half naked. Such a terrible picture of abject want and squalid misery can neither be imagined nor portrayed with pen. Many of the women and children were sick with fevers, brought on by the great fatigue and exposure of the long march from Meridian, Enterprise, Quitman, and other places. Will not the friends of freedom and the humane philanthropists of the North come forward at once, and with their generous hands rescue these liberated slaves from premature graves?' We learn from the *Boston Courier* of a later date that the suffering of these poor homeless wretches continued in all its intensity. No more political capital could be made out of them, and nothing was done to help them. They were free *to perish*.

Justice and mercy are characteristics of a civilised, humane, and christian people, but these are not qualities to be found in the Federal Administration, whether civil or military; and when this war ends, and the records of it are written, the pages of history will be stained with the narrative of some of the worst crimes that ever disgraced a nation.—*Letter from an Englishman in Richmond.*

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THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1864.

The Recent Victories.

THE North must surely begin to feel its dream of conquest flitting away in the presence of the terrible reverses now telegraphed to Washington from almost every Southern State in which the Union flag has been planted. Hitherto it has been the boast of the Northern advocates that the progress of the Federals has been slow but sure—that wherever they have effected a footing they have maintained it—that, whether on the Rapidan or the Mississippi, in Tennessee or in Louisiana, they have never receded for any length of time—and that the end of the campaign has always found their outposts further advanced into the 'rebel' country. It would be easy to show that this boast is a hollow one, but it has a certain amount of truth in it. No doubt in many quarters the overwhelming numbers of the Northern armies have, by sheer weight, borne back the Confederates, and we will do the Yankees the justice to admit, that wherever they have gained half-a-dozen miles of territory they have, in a very short space of time, contrived by the use of the spade, which they handle better than the bayonet, to render them tolerably secure from attack. But, with the exception of the positions at Chattanooga and Knoxville, their outposts have been gained principally by the cooperation of a fleet, to which the South had nothing to oppose, so that, considering their immunity from attack, the boast is, after all, not a triumphant one. Now, however, at the beginning of the fourth year of the war, things are changed. The Confederates have everywhere taken the aggressive, and in quarters where for two years past every Confederate soldier has been a stranger and an outlaw, the Confederate flag is flying. BURFORD in Kentucky, and FORREST in Tennessee, have for weeks occupied large tracts of country without opposition. The latter has stormed Fort Pillow, one of the earliest acquisitions of the Union forces; and it is admitted by the New York press, that all the Federals can do is to watch him at a safe distance and pick up stragglers. At the latest date FORREST is reported to be retiring unmolested, with long trains of provisions and captured supplies, from Western Tennessee, to reappear, it is supposed, in increased strength, upon some unguarded point in SHERMAN'S communications. The Federals have made very little of the affair of Fort Pillow. They even affect to regard it as a sort of trap for the dispersion of the Confederate forces. But the last week has brought us the news of a similar disaster, on a much larger scale, nearer home. North Carolina was the scene of the earliest triumphs of Northern arms. The capture of Roanoke Island gave the Federals the command of Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds, and of all the adjacent coast of North Carolina. Their gunboats steamed up every inlet and river, and, one by one, all the important towns of the neighbourhood were occupied by their troops. Newbern, and Plymouth, and Washington (North Carolina), were among the first to fall, and they have been securely held until now. The advantages of the position were obvious. They obtained a firm footing in a State a portion of whose inhabitants were supposed to be of very doubtful allegiance to the Confederate authorities; they occupied an apparently unassailable base, whence, by a sudden movement, they might easily intercept the communications of Richmond with the South, and even direct a formidable attack upon the Southern capital. So much was this position valued that at one time nearly 50,000 Federal troops were concentrated there under General FOSTER, and even within the last six weeks it has been currently reported that an advance *viâ* Newbern formed part of General GRANT'S programme.

Suddenly and unexpectedly the Federals have been deprived of all the advantages they possessed in this quarter, and it is within the range of probability that, by the time these lines reach the public, they may have been compelled to evacuate North Carolina. It had been known for months that the Confederates had been collecting a small flotilla up the Roanoke river, and that they had in course of construction an iron-plated ram, with which an effort was to be made one day to drive the Federals out of Albemarle Sound. Another ram was said to be building up the Neuse river, with a view of effecting a junction with the sister craft, and making a dash at Plymouth and Newbern. The attack came off last month. About the 17th ult., a considerable land force drove in the Federal outposts round Plymouth, and planted batteries commanding the Federal fortifications. The Federals had placed obstructions in the river to prevent the descent of the rams, and had called up two or three powerful gunboats to assist in the defence. They could do nothing, however. One was sunk by a land battery; another was struck by the ram, pierced, and sunk within a few minutes. The rest of the squadron steamed off, with the ram leisurely pursuing them. We ought to mention that with the ram *Albemarle* was another vessel of ingenious construction called the '*Cotton Plant*,' armed with light guns and rifles, a sort of tender to the ram, intended probably to prevent her from being carried by boarding. The Federal garrison, consisting of 2,500 men, made a gallant resistance for a time, but were compelled to surrender. The trophies of General HOKE, the Confederate commander, were thirty guns, many of them of large calibre, upwards of 2,000 prisoners, the fortifications and town of Plymouth, and a small steamer. But the most important gain is the command of Albemarle Sound. Whether the victory is to be followed up by a march upon Washington (North Carolina) or an attack upon Newbern, it is impossible to say. It is said that the object of the expedition is accomplished with the capture of Plymouth, that a Federal advance from North Carolina is now out of the question, and that HOKE'S forces will be held in readiness to reinforce LEE, if they are required. But we shall not be surprised to learn that Newbern is threatened, and that, as well for the diversion it would create, as for the *prestige* success would confer upon the Confederate arms, the attempt will be made to procure the complete evacuation of North Carolina.

The confirmation of BANKS'S decisive defeat in Louisiana will add to the confidence of the Confederate army. Notwithstanding the efforts of the Administration to conceal its severity, it is now beyond a doubt that the battle of Pleasant Hill has resulted in one of the most disgraceful reverses of the war. BANKS, who has never yet displayed the qualities of a general, has suffered the fate we have always predicted for him when he should encounter the Confederate commanders in Louisiana in anything like equal numbers. The issue seems never to have been in doubt. BANKS was led completely into a trap. His advance was made with as little precaution as if there had been no enemy in front; when the skirmishing began, his only tactics were to send regiment after regiment and brigade after brigade into the fight, without any attempt at forming a line. The consequence was the army was beaten in detail, and the remnant only saved by the determined stand of the rear of the army on some well-protected ground, and a retreat, or rather a flight, of forty miles in twenty-four hours. Correspondents describe it as a second Bull Run. Artillery, trains, treasure—all were lost, a fearful number of killed and wounded left upon the field, and 4,000 prisoners captured. To add to the disaster, the Red River fell, leaving a portion of the Federal flotilla unable to get up or down, and General BANKS was at the latest date entrenching himself at Grand Ecore on that river, the Confederate generals marching to attack him. The expedition to Shreveport is, of course, abandoned, and the problem is how BANKS is to reach New Orleans. We have yet, however, to receive the Confederate accounts of this great victory; when they reach us, we shall probably hear of such disasters to army, transports, and gunboats as have not yet been recorded during the war.

These reverses, though not bearing immediately upon the issue of the campaign, tell their tale. They reveal more clearly than ever the growing weakness of the North; they show that such concentration of strength as GRANT thinks necessary for the successful conduct of an advance against Richmond can only be obtained by dangerous reductions in other quarters; and they inspire but faint confidence in the judgment of the man to whom the North, as a last hope, has given the almost irresponsible control of its entire military resources.

Gold and Greenbacks.

THE United States is not the first nation that, at the beginning of a great war, has flattered itself with a brilliant, though unreal and shortlived vision of increased prosperity and growing wealth. Unless war bring disaster in its train, such is usually its first effect. It creates a new demand for capital and labour, long before it begins to impair that which peace had fostered; it enables a certain number of pushing men of business to make rapid fortunes; it stimulates certain trades and manufactures into preternatural activity; it raises the rate of wages and the rate of interest at the same time; it promotes for the moment a state of excitement in the markets, and increases the profits of those busy and noisy classes whose prosperity is taken to be the prosperity of the nation; and thus it happens that a nation which can protect its commerce and its frontiers generally imagines itself at first enriched by war. In the Northern States, another circumstance has contributed to the stimulation of commercial activity, and the creation of that semblance of prosperity which commercial activity involves—that is, the rapid increase of the currency by the issue of inconvertible paper to meet the necessities of the Government. While the currency increases, prices are of necessity constantly rising; and the inveterate habit of measuring value by price, and regarding money as its standard, prevents men from clearly realizing the fact that this increase of prices is a mere delusion. The sharp men who have money are eager to invest it in property whose value will endure after the crash which they know to be inevitable; the dull and thoughtless men who have property are tempted to dispose of it when they are offered twice as many dollars as they gave for it three or four years ago. In the meantime the fluctuations in value which the currency itself undergoes, and which, as the fortune of war has varied from time to time, have been in the United States peculiarly frequent and extreme—furnish employment to a host of speculators, and enable hundreds to rise in a few weeks from absolute poverty to affluence. The wealth so easily gained is lavishly spent—as lavishly as if the conditions under which it had been won would last, and as if the speculator would expect to make in future years the same income he has just been realising. Consequently the trades that minister to luxury and ostentation are very busy; the city assumes a gayer aspect than it wore during the brightest years of its peaceful and real prosperity; and we need not wonder that a people like the Americans, imagine that by some mysterious process war is really increasing their wealth, and set at nought the teachings of historical experience and the warnings of economical science.

Of course this state of things will not last. Our New York correspondent, in his last letter, gave a graphic account of the shock which a comparatively trifling occurrence had given to the insubstantial fabric of wealth founded on speculation and built of paper—a shock which ought to warn the sanguine believers in a war-begotten prosperity of the utter overthrow which is in store for them. By negotiating for temporary assistance from the Banks, Mr. CHASE so limited the means of the moneylenders as to bring dozens of speculators to ruin, and to send down stocks of all kinds by ten, twenty, or even forty per cent. By selling a certain quantity of gold from the Government coffers he sent down the value of that commodity so fast and so far as to reverse

all the calculations of those speculators who were not in his secrets, and to reduce to poverty and to bankruptcy those who had made fortunes by judicious anticipation of the events of the war and their effect upon public feeling. Of course this stratagem was altogether disreputable; of course a Government has no right to rig the market in order to revenge itself on private individuals whose mode of doing business indicates distrust of its solvency: and if such a thing could occur in England it would consign the offender to total and ignominious exclusion from the councils of the Queen and the society of gentlemen. But it behoves the believers of the prosperity of the North to ask themselves what that prosperity is worth which a trick of this kind can so affect; what can be the foundation of that trade, that vast edifice of apparent wealth, which a Minister can shake to its foundations in a single morning; and what, if so slight a cause can produce such consternation and ruin so many fortunes, would be the effect of the financial revolution which would follow a serious disaster in the field, or a confession of Mr. Chase's inability to meet the obligations he has contracted. The hollowness of that fabric of seeming prosperity, over whose rapid creation the wiseacres of the Federal press are jubilant, has been clear from the first to all in Europe who are either scientifically or practically acquainted with the nature of a paper currency or the course of stock-exchange speculators. Recent events ought to make it apparent even to those who have helped to construct it, who have found shelter within it, and who are in daily peril of being crushed by its fall.

Mr. Chase's sales of gold, and of certificates receivable in payment of duties leviable in gold at the Custom-house, sent down for some time the premium on gold below its natural rate. This was to be expected; but effects obtained in this manner cannot last beyond the moment. The new supply of gold was speedily absorbed, and the market rose again nearly to that point from which Mr. Chase's violent interference had reduced it. After some fluctuations it stood at last at 181, making the paper dollar worth about 55 cents. It is possible that the effect of Mr. Chase's stratagem may be to make speculators more cautious, and bargains shorter, in fear of a repetition of such practices. But one effect it will have which the Minister, in his anxiety to take vengeance on the speculators, appears to have overlooked. A portion of the interest on the debt of the United States must be paid in gold; and the time will come when Mr. Chase will have to purchase back for this purpose the gold he has sold; and then he will do at least as much to raise the market as he has now done to lower it. The loss which the Treasury sustains by such operations is hardly worth mention. A Government which is spending 200,000,000*l.* a-year on devastating and plundering the South need not be chary of throwing away a million or two for the sake of revenge on the disaffected brokers of Wall Street. But Mr. Chase is not satisfied with so poor a vengeance as this. It is not enough for him to have ruined a number of speculators; he wants to put down speculation altogether. He proposes to make it penal for a man to buy gold, except to be delivered on the spot and for cash down: that is, to punish all speculators in the precious metals as our Plantagenet kings were wont to punish "forestallers and regrators" of provisions. The spirit which actuates him in this proposal is much the same as that which induced the French Government, during the Reign of Terror, to make it treason to refuse to accept assignats at their nominal value in all transactions. The Federal Government thinks, as Robespierre thought, that it is disloyal to prefer gold and silver to a currency which derives its value from the sanction of the Executive: and Mr. Chase, following the French anarchs at a humble distance, as he and his colleagues have done throughout, substitutes for the guillotine the milder method of fine and imprisonment. Of course, it is as impossible to keep up in this way the value of greenbacks as it was found to prevent the rapid depreciation and final demonetisation of the assignats. It may or may not be possible to interrupt the regular course of business, and put down the open practice of speculation in gold; but the only result would be to make the fluctuations more frequent, more violent, and more mischievous.

It argues a strange blindness in so astute a financier that Mr. Chase should attribute to the malice of speculation the impossibility of maintaining at a uniform value a currency which is perpetually increasing in quantity. Of late the issues of greenbacks have been at the rate of ten millions sterling per month; and the amount now floating is not less than 130,000,000*l.*, besides some 45,000,000*l.* of other inconvertible paper money. This is a sum so very much larger than the business of the country can possibly require, that the only matter of surprise is that the paper dollar should be worth so much as 55 cents. That it will continue to depreciate, and that with increased rapidity, whatever may be done to prevent, puzzle, or punish speculation, is absolutely certain. Over-issue and depreciation act and react upon each other. As the Government issues more paper to meet its expenses, the value of the paper falls; as the value falls, larger and larger sums are required to meet the expenditure of the Government. What can be done by the issue of loans and the conversion of currency, Mr. Chase will be wise to do; but it seems quite clear that he must continue for the present to issue some 10,000,000*l.* of paper money every month, and that if he does so, the price of gold will continue to rise, and even more rapidly than it has risen during the winter. Unless the expenditure of the Government can be defrayed by some other means, the fate of the French assignats will be that of American greenbacks.

Mr. Chase himself is not unaware of this. A currency of 175,000,000*l.*—a debt, apart from currency, of about two hundred millions sterling, besides unfunded obligations to between a tenth and a fifth of that amount—an expenditure, at the nominal value of paper, of 200,000,000*l.* a-year—these are the facts that stare him in the face. If the progress of depreciation is to be checked—if a commercial crash is to be averted—if, in a word, the Government is to remain solvent for any considerable period, it is plain even to Mr. Chase that a large proportion—he says one-half—of the expenditure of the year must be met by taxation. The rest he supposes himself able to borrow, if credit and confidence could be restored by the exhibition of a revenue equal to one-half the yearly expenditure of the Union raised by taxation within the year. That is, to save themselves from commercial ruin and national bankruptcy, the people of the United States must submit to raise by taxation nominally 100,000,000*l.*, but really about 55,000,000*l.* sterling.

At first sight, to a European observer, this does not seem altogether a hopeless undertaking. The United States are rich and prosperous; as rich, probably, man for man, as any country in Europe except Great Britain, and wealth is much more evenly diffused among the people than in European countries. Great Britain, with a population of 30,000,000, has raised as much as seventy millions annually; and it does not seem quite impossible for the United States, with a population of 20,000,000, to raise four-fifths of that amount. But, in the first place, we must remember that the Federal taxes, in America, are but a portion of the public burdens; that the States and cities also impose a heavy direct taxation for purposes of internal government and municipal administration; and that this must be added to the sums demanded by the Federal treasury in any comparison instituted between American and European taxation. Taking this into account, it would seem that to levy 55,000,000*l.* for Federal purposes, the total taxation per head would have to be very nearly twice as high as in England. Again, we have to consider not merely the total amount of taxable wealth, but also the manner in which it is to be reached. In this point of view, the States are a peculiarly untaxable country. The income-tax has proved a dead failure. The Customs serve protective rather than revenue purposes; and can never yield a large revenue in a country which produces at home so large a part of its consumption. Direct taxes would be of necessity the sole resort; they would be very expensive in collection, and very oppressive to the payer; and to raise by a property-tax or other direct impost even 30*s.* per head of the population (30,000,000*l.*), would be a most painful operation. We do not, therefore, entertain any belief in the success of this, Mr. Chase's last scheme of financial redemption. We believe that he will be obliged to go on trusting in fortune and issuing paper: that the depreciation will continue and increase, and that ere long the Federal Government will find itself on the verge of bankruptcy, and Wall Street on the point of absolute ruin.

It does not follow that the North should be forced to abandon the war. The example of the South has shown that it is possible for a nation to pass through this very ordeal, and to come out of it with financial honour unstained and with national strength unimpaired. The ruin which suspends over the commercial classes of the North overwhelmed those of the South within a year after the outbreak of the war. That lowest depth of depreciation to which the Federal currency is slowly sinking was reached by the currency of the South before the end of 1863. Yet the South has sustained her courage, has contrived to restore her finances, and enters upon a fourth year of warfare with more hope, strength, and confidence than she has ever before displayed. The North, with greater resources, and being yet at some distance from that gulf out of which her rival has struggled, may save and retrieve herself, *if she be prepared to make such sacrifices as the South has made*—if she will endure for the lust of empire all that the South has borne for the love of independence. But if she will not do this; if she be not ready to sacrifice her commercial interests, to undergo a grinding taxation, to suffer a searching investigation into her state, and to apply the severe remedies which it requires—if she have not the courage to postpone everything else to the gratification of her vindictive passion—she is approaching a crisis which will sorely try her resolution, and which may possibly bring about a considerable change in the sentiment of a people who have hitherto shown themselves much more ready to sacrifice others than themselves at the shrine of a false patriotism and an evil ambition.

The Confederate Navy.

This war has disabused Englishmen of a good many strange delusions concerning the condition of the Southern States and the character of their people. It was a common idea, in 1860, that the planters of the Cotton States were a degenerate race, scarcely superior to the Mexicans and infinitely inferior to the freemen of the North both in moral and physical vigour; that the negroes were a suffering, discontented, oppressed race, sighing after the freedom of which they had been robbed, and ready at a moment's warning to rise in murderous revolt; and that the majority of the white population—all those who did not hold slaves—were in a state of ignorance and degradation hardly to be paralleled in Europe. The boasts of the North, that its armies would in ninety days crush the rebellion and overrun the South, were, by a certain number of English readers, thought not altogether absurd, or were ridiculed rather on geographical than on moral grounds. The events of the war—the fidelity of the negroes, the superiority of the Southern soldiery, the disciplined courage of the troops, the steadfast endurance of the people, the maintenance of law, order, and liberty in the midst of a struggle for national existence, the intelligent devotion of all classes of the population to the common cause—have dispelled most of these absurd misconceptions. Here and there an Abolitionist fanatic, who has read nothing on American affairs that did not bear the imprimatur of the Federal Government, and takes his ideas in equal proportion from Mr. J. E. Cairnes and Mrs. H. B. Stowe, is found still to believe in roasted negroes and to talk of 'mean whites;' but the sane portion of the English public has forgotten that it ever believed such nonsense, and has recognised in the Southerners a kindred people, English in blood and character, in virtues and in principles—a race surpassed by none in chivalric courage, in heroic endurance, in devoted patriotism, and as different from the effeminate and indolent sensualists painted by 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' as Englishmen from Greeks, or Danes from Neapolitans. Still, we are not sure that there is not a lingering trace of the old delusions in the idea of the Southern character at present popular among us, and suspect that Englishmen have very little idea indeed of the busy, energetic, striving life of a planter in the Cotton States. And we are sure that, in spite of the notices which have from time to time appeared in the press concerning the development of manufactures connected with the war in various parts of the Confederacy, there is an impression abroad in England that the South has been indebted for the means of carrying on the war—for arms, ammunition, and clothing—almost entirely to English blockade-runners. This impression is altogether inaccurate. It is true that during the lull which followed the Battle of Manassas Junction, in June 1861, while as yet the blockade was extremely inefficient, the Confederate Government had the forethought to introduce from Europe a quantity of arms and stores to meet the immediate needs of the next campaign. But at the same time the President and his Ministers were busying themselves in establishing manufactories of every kind to supply their own wants in future, and it is on these that they have chiefly depended. The Southern armies have taken far more rifles and cartridges from the enemy than they have obtained from England; and they have supplied themselves with munitions of war in a manner and to an extent perfectly astounding when we remember in what condition they were when the war broke out.

They had been accustomed to employ their whole labour in the production of food or of articles for export. They had scarcely a factory for weaving cloth or cotton; and, except among the small farmers, those domestic manufactures which thirty years ago had been practised in almost every household had gone entirely out of use. They had imported everything they required—clothing, shoes, arms, iron, sulphur, saltpetre, powder, the necessaries of life and the necessaries of war. The Government, foreseeing at the outset the long duration of the struggle, set itself diligently to work to provide all these things at home, and it was energetically seconded by the inventive genius of the people. The South had iron in abundance, but no practical iron-miners, and no iron mines. Science was made to

supply the place of practice, and iron mines were opened and worked, which are supplying the railroads as well as the Government. Foundries were established where as yet no iron had ever come but in a finished state from abroad; and, till the mines should supply them sufficiently, all the old iron that could be found was collected for their use. Factories, cotton and woollen, have been enlarged, to clothe the negroes and the army. Southern ingenuity has obtained sulphur from the copper mines, and salt from the floors of the smoke-houses where hogs were formerly cured with imported salt and saltpetre; and powder mills have been established, whose machinery, from first to last, had to be made in the South. Guns have been cast, and Southern forts and field batteries are armed with home-made cannon, where they have not been provided by the spoils of the enemy. Such proofs of ingenuity and skill in invention and adaptation no people ever gave before; for no people of Anglo-Saxon race, accustomed to the shifts and enterprises of a half-peopled country, and having their wits sharpened, and their hands taught to turn to everything by a quasi-colonial life, were ever before subjected to so stern and sudden a necessity.

Mr. Gladstone, in giving to the Southern President the praise which is his due, and expressing the sentiment of respect and admiration which nearly all English gentlemen entertain for Jefferson Davis, remarked that the leader of the Southern people had made an army, was making a navy, and had succeeded in making a nation. The second clause gave offence to some English critics, who know of no Confederate navy except that which has been purchased—as Sir R. Palmer affirms, illegally purchased—in England. This is a common mistake; but it is one which reflects no great credit on the memory of those who make it. We should be as reluctant as any one to detract from the merits of Capt. Semmes and Capt. Maffit. The *Alabama*, the *Florida*, and the *Georgia* have done a dangerous and disagreeable duty with wonderful energy, skill, and tact; they have inflicted severe injury on Northern commerce, and done something to revenge the sufferings of their country. But so did the *Sumter* and the *Nashville*, which sailed from Southern ports. And there are Southern vessels which have had an opportunity of rendering service and achieving glory altogether denied to mere cruisers. The *Virginia* destroyed two Federal men-of-war, and sustained a combat on equal terms with the *Monitor*. The *Arkansas* defeated and scattered a Federal squadron in the Mississippi. The rams which are still lying in Charleston harbour once beat off the blockading squadron, and opened the port for twenty-four hours. Another ram has just sunk two Federal gunboats and kept a flotilla of transports at bay, thus intercepting the enemy's succours, and contributing materially to the capture of Plymouth, N. C. Her consort, a floating battery carrying sharp-shooters, seems also to have done terrible execution. The injuries which Federal vessels have received from torpedoes are another remarkable feature in this war. These vessels, as employed by the South, are an entirely new weapon of naval warfare, and promise, when practice has made them more efficient and more manageable, and remedied the defects which at present interfere with their complete success, to be a most formidable one.

There are now in various Confederate ports, and at points on the inland waters of the South, ironclad vessels as formidable as those which rendered such good service to their country, and spread so much terror and dismay among the enemy, at Hampton Roads and at Plymouth. It may be that they are very much inferior to the wonderfully powerful vessels which constitute the chief naval strength of England and France, nor do they seem to be intended for ocean service. But, considering that they are built by a nation which had to begin with no military dockyards, and scarcely a building yard of any kind; which had been used to import its iron and purchase its ships, and which has had no opportunity of profiting by the experiments and examples of Europe; considering that they are intended for the defence of ports and of inland waters; that they have gained repeated victories, and sustained only one total defeat, due to the overwhelming weight of the enemy's broadside; we must say that the existence of a navy of this kind reflects no little credit on the inventive skill and energy of the Southern people, and on the resolution and enterprise of their Government. They might well have despaired of having a navy, and contented themselves with the effort to resist their enemy on shore. Russia, much less seriously overmatched, did this when assailed by France and England: she sank her ships, and confined herself to a defence by land. The Confederate States, encouraged by statesmen who have let slip no chance of benefiting their country or striking a blow at the enemy, have contrived to keep the sea with their every port blockaded, and at home they have prepared for a naval contest against such odds as never before were encountered as patiently and diligently, adapting their ships to the conditions of the conflict, and waiting the time when they shall be strong enough to engage with a reasonable prospect of success. That time seems now to be approaching. Report affirms that some thirty-five ironclad vessels, of one sort or another, are ready for active operations in the various harbours and rivers of the Confederacy. They are manned by seamen whom those of England might be proud to greet as brothers, and commanded by the best officers of the late navy of the United States—among others, by the American officer who remembered, when English lives were in danger, that blood is thicker than water. In their construction, we cannot doubt that the defects of the *Virginia* will have been repaired. The campaign of 1864 has opened with the fairest auguries for the success of the Confederate army; and it is no small element in the calculation of its probable issue, that for the first time the Confederates have a navy to bear its part in the struggle.

Monarchy in the New World.

The common idea of Europe has been that the statesmen of the American Revolution adopted the system of a Federation of democratic Republics from a firm conviction that it was the best and wisest of all forms of government — the one prescribed by Nature, and only postponed by the selfish and corrupt ambition of nobles and princes; and that the great and unexampled wealth and progress which America had enjoyed, the diffusion of prosperity among all classes, the absence alike of enormous estates and of grinding poverty—all that favourably distinguished the condition of the United States from that of European countries—was due to that form of government. And this delusion is probably as prevalent in America as in Europe. Yet it would scarcely be possible to misread more grossly alike the records of the past and the phenomena of the present. It certainly is not true that Washington and Hamilton were democrats, whatever Jefferson might be. It is not true that the original form of the Constitution of any of the older States was properly democratic; it is certain that none of the fathers of the Union dreamed of a democracy where the reins of government are in the hands of a landless, half-pauperised, foreign-born proletariate; and certain that if Washington or Hamilton had conceived of such a thing, they would have taken every precaution in their power to provide against it. It is not even true that they deliberately chose a Republican form of government because they believed it to be the purest and best of all. On that point opinions were divided. But the fact was that they had simply no choice about the matter. Nothing but a Republic was possible under the circumstances of the United States. The revolt against the English Crown, spontaneously commenced, and assuming larger proportions by degrees, naturally developed in each colony a Republican government, and formed the colonies into a defensive confederation. Nor was there at the command of the Convention any material out of which a monarchy could be constructed. No monarch could have been named who would have had any natural hold on the affections and reverence of the people, unless it had been Washington; and even Washington, as one of the people, would hardly have seemed to stand so high above them as undisputably to wear a crown. Again, there was no class which could be or become an hereditary nobility; and without an hereditary nobility no monarchy has yet been able to stand. Driven back upon Republicanism, the States were also forced to adopt a very liberal form of franchise, and to exclude no freeholder from citizenship; but, as yet, those principles which have become ingrained in the political faith of America, and have placed the newly-arrived Irish labourer on a level with the chief merchants of New York and Boston, had not prevailed, and in every State a qualification was required. Thus, in the best days of the American Republics, the States were not democracies in the modern sense of the word. And most assuredly the Federal form was not adopted by choice, but simply because all that was permitted to the Convention was to form a Confederacy. The States would not part with their perfect independence and individual sovereignty, and it was impossible to merge them in a single Republic under one central and sovereign power. Thus it appears that those peculiarities which have been extolled as the fruit of the highest political wisdom on the part of the founders of the Union were essential conditions of their task, or faults which they fain would have avoided—so completely has American history been mistaught.

A delusion quite as extravagant is that which ascribes to democracy and to Federalism the prosperity of the American people. That prosperity — that even diffusion of wealth — that general possession of independent means—belongs to their colonial, not to their imperial condition; it arose in their earliest days from the same cause which has hitherto sustained it—the abundance of land and the immense value of labour. Where every man can buy good land for a dollar and a quarter per acre, and where every man can earn, by two years' labour, the price of a farm, it is clear that no man who is willing to work need remain poor; and whether the United States be governed by martial law or by universal suffrage, so long as the fruits of industry are secured to the labourer, the people of the United States will be a people consisting chiefly of small farmers farming their own land, until all the available land be taken into cultivation. Wherever there is plenty of land and scarcity of labour, there, under any government under which property is safe, grow up necessarily great prosperity and great social equality. So far from these blessings being the fruit of democratic institutions, it is these that have brought democracy into the States and made its working there possible. It was because all classes stood on a tolerably equal footing in the Northern States, that those States found it impossible and undesirable to maintain in political rights distinctions which had no root in social circumstances. You cannot have an aristocratic government in a country where all men are tolerably equal in means and education, where there are no hereditary fortunes, and where the man who is poor to-day may, if he will but display ordinary talent and more than ordinary energy, be in ten years independent, and in twenty years rich. It was not, we repeat, democratic government that diffused wealth among the people: it was the diffusion of wealth that made democratic government inevitable.

This being the case, it is clear that no mistake could be greater than to conclude that institutions which have worked tolerably well in a country where no natural distinction of classes exists would work well where such distinctions are great and strongly marked. Constitutions must be the growth of social conditions if they are to have in them any germ of stability. Where social equality exists, political distinctions would be purely artificial, and therefore utterly unstable. Where equality is excluded from social conditions, it cannot be artificially maintained in political institutions except by the expedient to which all nations which have tried the experiment have been brought—that of a despotism reducing all classes to the political level natural to the lowest. You can keep down a class below that level of political rights for which it is fitted; you cannot raise it above them; and, therefore, if you are to maintain political equality among classes widely unequal in fortune, education, and independence, it must be by depressing the highest to servitude, not by elevating the lowest to self-government.

It should not be forgotten that the Americans themselves have practically shown their consciousness of this truth in its most obvious application—in the case of distinct races. Without discussing at this point the question whether or not, through the education of generations, and by a gradual extension of personal, civil, and political rights, the negro can be brought up to the level of the white man, no question exists of his present vast inferiority. To make him the free citizen of a free country, equal with the white man, would be to carry out logically that principle of political equality which European democrats deduce from American precedents. If this had been done, and successfully done, then we should have had an instance of political equality enforced in a case of social inequality. But this has not been done. In no State wherein the negroes are present in force have they ever been admitted to any political privileges. From every State which has given them civil freedom they have been as far as possible deported. In spite of political theory, the political instincts of America have recognised the falsehood of that which is supposed in Europe to be the American principle of democracy; and in the one case in which there exists in the late United States a real and marked social distinction of classes, such as is the natural condition of European society, the application of the doctrine of political equality has been carefully eschewed. Even, therefore, if the example of the United States were one to be quoted with satisfaction by the democratic philosopher, it tells against, and not in favour of, the application of his principles to cases in which a great and marked social separation of classes exists.

America, however, furnishes one example to his hand; an instance in which an endeavour has been made to build up a structure of political equality on a basis of social distinction—an artificial democracy resting on a natural hierarchy of classes. The history, the character, the population of Mexico were as utterly different as possible from those of the United States. In climate and soil, indeed, Mexico had the advantage, as she has the advantage of every country on the face of the earth. She has the richest territory

that exists in the world; she has a climate varying from that of Southern India to that of Northern Italy, but, situate as she is between the two oceans—a country of snow-capped mountains in the tropics—she has less to suffer from extreme heat than the one, and less to endure from cold than the other. She can grow everything—rice and bananas, coffee and sugar, tea and cotton, wheat, maize, and barley. She has silver mines of unrivalled richness and unlimited extent. But she had not, like the British colonies, a training in self-government, nor an English ancestry, nor a homogeneous people. Her native inhabitants had been excluded from all share in the offices of government, and but one-sixth of them were of European blood. That sixth were Spanish by extraction; they came of a race courageous in war, but unused either to political freedom or to reverence for law; the rest were half-castes and Indians. The example of the United States made Mexico first a Republic, and then a Federal Republic, both arrangements taking their rise not in her natural circumstances, but in the desire to imitate her powerful and prosperous neighbour. What has been the consequence? Anarchy that has plunged the wealthiest regions of the earth into abject poverty; anarchy that has made cowards of the Spaniards, and robbers and banditti of all classes; anarchy that has driven foreign capital and enterprise from the country, that has degraded, demoralised, pauperised the natives, and made a hell on earth of what Nature meant for an earthly Paradise. We need look no further than Mexico to learn the folly of those who dream of emulating the peculiar prosperity of the United States by borrowing their institutions, and conceive that Federalism and universal suffrage contain in themselves some hidden virtue capable of redressing the evils inherent in national character or incident to national circumstances, of fusing distinct classes and diverse races, and making the wages of labour as high in densely-peopled Europe as in those vast American States where half the cultivable land is yet without an owner. Mexico under Spanish misgovernment pottered on in tolerable comfort; Mexico under a central Republican government sank lower and lower every year; Mexico under a Federal system has reached the lowest depth of misery at which a civilised people ever retained their national existence, and at length welcomes the footsteps of a conqueror, and places all her hope of recovery in the advent of a monarch of the House of Hapsburg—the representative of the European idea of hereditary monarchy. True, the circumstances of Mexico were exceptionally unfavourable to the Federal and democratic experiment, as those of the United States were exceptionally favourable. We do not apprehend that under any system of government England or France could sink to the Mexican level. But, nevertheless, the Mexican lesson is that which it behoves us most attentively to mark and to digest—which teaches us that Republicanism has no more chance than monarchy to root itself in an uncongenial soil and unpropitious climate; that to force political equality upon a community composed of social strata distinctly and naturally separate and subordinated, is to doom that community to convulsions which can only result in chronic anarchy or all-levelling despotism. The example of the United States alone seduced Mexico into an experiment of Republicanism for which she was totally unfitted, and into Federative Republicanism, which, in her case, unlike that of the United States, was purely artificial. The experiment has ended where it commenced, and she has now returned to the only form of government which is suited to the habits and traditions of her populations, and therefore the only one in which order can be consistent with individual liberty.

RAILROADS IN THE SOUTH.—The Baltimore correspondent of the *New York World* writes: 'The road from Danville, in Virginia, to Greenborough, in North Carolina, was completed a few months ago; and the rolling-stock was placed on it a few weeks before my informant left Virginia. Railroad iron is now manufactured at no less than eight different places in the South. The Tredegar Iron Works at Richmond (which the Abolition newspapers of the North removed to Alabama some months ago) has been engaged day and night for two months past in the manufacture of bars of railroad iron for a new railroad in Georgia. The other places where railroad iron is made are at Charleston, Raleigh, Lynchburg, Danville, Fayetteville in North Carolina, Rome, and Atlanta. At Macon, in Georgia, and also at Atlanta, locomotives have been built for more than two years past. During the last six months a large number of skilled machinists from Scotland have arrived at these two places, and locomotives are turned out now more rapidly than heretofore. They are at work on nearly all the Southern roads, and are said to work as well as those formerly brought from the North. Passenger cars and freight cars are now being built at Savannah, Fayetteville, Greensborough, and at other two points in Georgia. The cars are sadly deficient in the painting and gilding and ornamental work that distinguishes the passenger cars on the Northern railroads. But in point of strength and substantial comfort they are said to be all that could be desired.'

THE LATE MRS. GENERAL BEAUREGARD.—A grand requiem high mass for the repose of the soul of Caroline Deslondes, the lately deceased wife of General Beauregard, was celebrated at Mobile on April 7.

THE MALLORY REPORT FORGERY.

THE following is the correspondence briefly referred to by the Attorney-General, Sir Roundell Palmer, in the House of Commons, May 5:

Confederate States of America,
Navy Department, Richmond, March 10, 1864.

Sir,—My attention having been called to the debate in the House of Commons of Tuesday the 23rd ultimo, and to the paper introduced by you on that occasion, and read to the House as an authentic 'report of the Secretary of the Confederate Navy to his Congress,' I deem it proper to inform you that the paper in question is a forgery.

As you have thus inadvertently been misled into lending the authority of your name to a paper fabricated by the enemies of my country for purposes too obvious to require explanation, I confidently appeal to your own sense of justice and propriety for the correction of your mistake with the same publicity as was given to the erroneous assertion.

With great respect, I have the honour to be
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) S. R. MALLORY.
Sec. Navy, C. S. A.

Sir Roundell Palmer, Attorney-General, &c. &c.

6 Portland Place, W. London, May 4, 1864.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 10th March, which I propose, with the permission of the House, to read on an early day in the House of Commons.

In so doing I shall only repeat, on higher authority than before, the acknowledgment of an error, which I regret having been led into by circumstances which seemed to myself (in common with others) to give credit to the document, since ascertained (and now authoritatively stated by yourself) to be a forgery.

Thanking you for the courtesy of your communication,
I remain, Sir, with much respect,
Your very obedient servant,
(Signed) ROUNDELL PALMER.

The Hon. S. R. Mallory, &c. &c.

THE QUARTERLIES.

THE April number of the *Quarterly Review* contains three articles of special interest for our readers. The first is entitled, 'The Prospects of the Confederates.' It is a very readable article. It deals with a multitude of very interesting and very important facts, and it contains some information altogether new both to ourselves and to our readers, though it deals much more extensively with the past than with the future, and Southern prospects occupy comparatively a small part of the writer's space and attention. As to the relative positions of the two belligerents, and the probabilities of the ensuing campaign, we find the following very just and sensible passage:—

'Secondly, let it not be forgotten that the combatants advance to this fourth and (as seems likely) deadliest collision under circumstances of greater equality than have heretofore existed. It is idle to pretend that the Federals have 500,000 effectives, or anything like it, now under arms. It is not denied at Washington that there are at least 250,000 Confederates in the field, and to this number, without exceeding the truth, might be added 50,000 more. It is hardly necessary to state that in cannon, small arms, and gunpowder, the Confederates are now as well found as their opponents. Bearing these facts in mind, the reader will understand the force of the following passage in President Davis's recent address to the Confederate soldiers:—

'"The enemy's campaign of 1864 must, from the exhaustion of his resources of men and money, be far less formidable than those of the last two years, when unimpaired means were used with boundless prodigality, and with results which are suggested by the mention of the names of Shiloh, Perryville, Murfreesboro', and the Chickahominy, Manassas, Fredericsburg, and Chancellorsville."'

In his estimate of the past history of the war—the extreme difficulties with which the Confederate Government had to contend—the mischievous effect of that period of triumphant security which followed the victory of Bull Run—the manner in which the Federals wasted their enormous resources—the extravagant caution displayed by their best general, M'Clellan—the gradual approach of the combatants to equality—the vast superiority in numbers which failed to achieve victory for the North at Antietam and Chancellorsville—the writer is at once sound and original. The curious anecdote which he contributes to the secret history of the first campaign in Maryland, showing how it happened that, several days before the battle of Sharpsburg, General Lee's orders for that battle were in M'Clellan's hands, is certainly deserving of notice, if not of implicit credence. And we are glad to find that the writer has rendered justice to a statesman who has been very much abused, and who has not obtained a fair share of that credit which, as the second personage in the Southern Government, he is justly entitled to divide with his chief and colleagues. We ought not to pass unnoticed the collection of documentary evidence by which the reviewer establishes, out of the mouths of Abolitionist witnesses, the infamous maltreatment and neglect of the negroes by their pretended liberators—maltreatment and neglect under which the unhappy human prey of the Northern marauders have perished, and are perishing, by tens, by hundreds, and by thousands, in the outskirts of the camp, or in the plantations whereon they have been re-enslaved to harder taskmasters than they ever encountered in their lives before. The article is carefully and scrupulously accurate; its estimates of books, men, and things are for the most part exceedingly just. Perhaps, however, the writer has hardly done full justice to General M'Clellan. In censuring that officer for over-caution, account should be taken of the quality of the troops whom he led. A European officer commanding an army of Hindoos would be warranted in displaying a caution wholly without relation to comparative numbers, if he found himself opposed by English soldiers. General M'Clellan had been made aware of the infinite inferiority of his mercenaries to the Confederate volunteers, and there can be no doubt that this knowledge had much to do with his determination not to be tempted by any disparity of numbers to expose himself to a crushing blow from such an antagonist as Lee—a blow which would, perhaps, be easily endured and returned by French or English troops, but which would have proved fatal to his demoralised and half-disciplined soldiery. At Antietam, moreover, it should not be forgotten that he commanded runaways who had been tremendously beaten, despite all advantage of numbers and artillery, by the very troops they there encountered, and who needed all the encouragement that overwhelming force and the conviction of the presence of strong reserves could give them. Had M'Clellan commanded a disciplined army of foreign soldiers, he would hardly have thought it necessary to employ that extreme caution which has afforded so much matter for newspaper criticism, and which, after all, did not suffice to save him from one crushing disaster.

Another article treats of the Empire of Mexico, which the writer, in common with all Englishmen who do not look at the subject through spectacles supplied by the Government and press of the United States, regards with exultation and with hope. This paper contains one of the best and most succinct sketches of the past history of Mexico—of her wealth and her poverty, of the errors that have made her the most miserable among nations, and of the gifts which, under any decent Government, should make her the most prosperous.

A third article reviews at length the foreign policy of Lord Palmerston's Government—the acts of high-handed violence against the weak and submissive concession to the strong which have distinguished Lord Russell's administration of the Foreign Office. First, there was the quarrel with Brazil. A ship had been wrecked on the Brazilian coast, in one of the wildest portions of that vast and half-peopled empire. It was said, but not proved, nor was any evidence offered to show, that the crew had been murdered: the coroner's inquest found a verdict of 'found drowned.' It was said, but not proved, nor was any evidence offered to show, that the wreck had been plundered. The Brazilian Government caused enquiries to be made. Lord Russell was not satisfied; he demanded that Brazil should reimburse the owners for the ship and cargo; he used violence, and Brazil yielded to violence and paid under protest. There was another ground of quarrel. Three officers from Her Majesty's ship *Forte* went ashore to dine. Returning home in a state of great exhilaration, they were taken up for assaulting the police, and being in mufti were locked up. As the offenders could speak no Portuguese, and the police could speak no English, it is possible that misunderstandings had arisen, and that neither party was so much in the wrong as the other supposed. Lord Russell chose to treat the arrest of the three jovial gentlemen in plain clothes as an outrage on the British flag which they did not carry, and on the British uniform which they did not wear, and demanded the punishment of all concerned in the arrest. The matter was referred to the arbitration of the King of the Belgians, who pronounced Lord Russell utterly in the wrong. But the noble Lord has made no apology or amends, and diplomatic relations with Brazil are still suspended. *Per contra*, two instances are cited in which British subjects were imprisoned by the Federal Government, without show of law or reason, for acts done not on American but on British soil, and detained not for hours but for months—released only after the exaction of unlawful oaths, and at the good pleasure of Mr. Seward—in which Lord Russell demanded no indemnity or redress whatever; avowedly because he was sure that it would be refused, and because the idea that he might be asked, 'Why did you not treat the United States as you treated Brazil, and employ against Abraham Lincoln the mode of argument used with Pedro II.?' never entered into his Lordship's mind. The contrast is drawn with great skill and force, very much in the tone and style in which Lord Robert Cecil handles such subjects in the House of Commons. The reviewer criticises with great force and distinctness the policy pursued towards Japan. He gives an exact though succinct account of the circumstances under which Mr. Richardson was murdered; shows that the Japanese Government was in nowise to blame—that there is no evidence whatever to prove that the assassin was a follower of the Prince of Satsuma—that both the Tycoon and the Daimio did their best to get hold of the murderers, but were unable to do so—and that, under such circumstances, the exaction of a pecuniary indemnity from the Tycoon and the private war waged on Satsuma were acts of extravagant lawlessness. Turning to Europe, Lord Russell's conduct in the case of Poland has done serious injury to our credit, honour, and influence. It was open to him to be silent; it was open to him to enter a solemn protest, and, having recorded that protest, then to be silent; or it was open to him to offer counsel and remonstrance of a peremptory character, on the understanding that if they were not regarded he would go to war: and if he had taken any one of these courses, he might have commanded the support of the country. But what he did do was the only thing which he was not at liberty to do, and which the country could not endorse. He said, virtually, 'We don't wish to quarrel; but if you won't listen to our advice—if the insurrection goes on—if you offer no concessions to the Poles—it will be impossible for us to forbear.' This is the only construction which can be put upon the language he held to the Russian Ambassador. By that language he did three things. He encouraged an insurrection that had been commenced and continued only in the hope of foreign interference. He induced France, relying on his support, to join in his menaces, and assume a position from which no honourable retreat was open. Lastly, he pledged England, by every tie of honour, to enforce a better treatment of the Poles, if need were, by war. The conditions of forbearance were not fulfilled. Russia did not listen to advice: the insurrection went on; and, instead of offering concessions to Poland, Russia increased the severity of her repression. Yet, to the disgust of England, the disappointment of Poland, the astonishment of Europe, Lord Russell declared that nothing should induce him to put his clearly implied menaces into execution. He would betray the Poles; he would leave France in the lurch; he would submit to the sneering rebuke of Russia and to the contemptuous ridicule of Europe; he would be scoffed at, kicked, 'posted'—but he would not fight. After the close of the Polish negotiation, England stood in the position of Charles Sumner; she had been struck in the face, and she had crouched to the striker. The contempt of Germany and the distrust of France paralysed her efforts on behalf of Denmark; and thus Lord Russell's blustering threats and timid retractation have already borne terrible and practical fruit. They have not only dishonoured England; they have dismembered the Danish monarchy, and buried five thousand brave men under the ruins of Dybbol. This article contains the best account that can yet be written of the Danish negotiations. Thus much is certain: that up to the moment of the outbreak of war, in abandoning Holstein, in revoking the Patent of March, in offering to repeal the Constitution of November, Denmark was acting under the advice and direction of England, and of course with the understanding that, while she followed that advice, she was entitled to the material support of England; that in obedience to this policy she sacrificed the chance of utterly annihilating the Federal army of execution, and making a stand in Holstein even against Austria and Prussia; and

that, after this, Lord Russell not only refused her the aid of England, but intercepted that which Sweden was prepared to afford. Every line of the indictment contained in the *Quarterly* article is true; and certainly such a tale was never before told against a Minister of England.

The *Quarterly* contains also a most interesting article on the Excavations at Pompeii, worth the attention of all who are capable of taking pleasure in information which throws light on the domestic life of the greatest nation that ever ruled on earth—that is to say, of all who do not think that a copy of the *Times* contains more wisdom than the whole of Thucydides. It notices a valuable discovery made by the present guardian of the buried city—that it is possible, by pouring plaster into the cavities where the volcanic mud has suffocated and buried the inhabitants of Pompeii, to obtain an exact model of the form, features, and dress of the sufferers, as they were at the time of their destruction. In this manner some interesting figures, and some curious details as to the secrets of a Pompeian lady's toilet, have been procured. It is a surprise to find the garment which was held peculiar to the Celtic barbarians—so peculiar that it gave a name which distinguished Transalpine Gaul (braccata) from Cisalpine (togata)—worn by the women of an Italian city thoroughly and completely Roman.

The *Edinburgh* is dull. It has chosen its subjects badly. The only article of any present interest is on Rifled Ordnance—tolerable. There is one on the 'Diaries of a Lady of Quality,' written after the pattern of the *Athenæum*, with a good many readable extracts; and one on Charles Victor de Bonstetten, of whom we never heard before, and suspect that few others ever heard, of whom the reviewer has nothing to tell that is worth knowing, and of whose uneventful life no records seem to remain. Renan's 'Life of Jesus' comes in for a late castigation, not effective enough to be worth administering now: and Mr. Kirk's 'Charles the Bold' and its author are the subject of a considerable amount of merited rebuke. The sleepiness and ponderosity of the whole number are unaccountable, unless we are to suppose that a duke of a 'Revolution family' has assumed the editorship, and that the author of 'Don Carlos' has been one of the principal contributors, assisted, perhaps, by Sir Charles Wood and Mr. Milner Gibson.

Whatever else it may be, the *Westminster* is never exactly dull. The Radical organ is always saved, if only by its flippancy and ferocity, from that leaden level of dead and dignified dulness which characterises a bad number of the *Edinburgh*. This time it contains four articles which are at least capable of arresting attention. The first is on Strikes and Cooperation. It is incomplete, especially in regard to the first branch of the subject, and does not abound either in original information or original thought; but as there are many people who have not yet made themselves acquainted with the achievements of co-operation in this country, and as this article puts those achievements readably before us, it may doubtless do good. Another article, on Capital Punishment, maintains in a moderate and sensible tone, though without much force or logic, the doctrine of those philanthropists who hold that only innocent men ought to die violent deaths. The Abolition of Religious Tests is a theme which calls forth all the power and all the bitterness of the *Westminster* reviewers; but its article on this topic is little more than an amplification of Mr. Goldwin Smith's arguments, which are reiterated with all the fervour of hatred and feebleness of moral apprehension which characterise that distinguished advocate of everything that Englishmen in general abhor. The article on New Zealand, which takes the native side in a moderate and discriminating spirit, is good and clear the only good and clear account of the Maori quarrel that we have seen. It is difficult to believe that it is written by an *habitué* of the violent and venomous school whose extravagant crotchets generally hold exclusive possession of the *Westminster*.

The *National Review* has several articles which come up to its usual average, but none which reminds us of those very excellent and thoughtful essays which it has from time to time contained. The first and last articles treat of the Apocalypse, and of the growth of 'Messianic Ideas.' The second and eighth are literary, and deal with Mendelssohn, Sterne, and Thackeray. The third and fifth are historical, and treat of the Provincial Assemblies of France, and of Mr. Kirk's 'Charles the Bold.' The Races of the Old World is not a subject to be satisfactorily disposed of within the limits assigned to it by the editor of the *National*. The paper on the Germanic Diet is easily written, and contains information worth preserving for future reference; and that on Ireland, but for the intrusion of a very violent and unnecessary tirade against the Irish Church, wholly unworthy of the general tone and tenor of the article, would be very good indeed. As it is, it contains much that is true and worth remembering, but the writer, like every one else, fails to suggest any remedy for the evils which still render Ireland an eyesore and a reproach to the British Empire. It is worth note that he, a rigid economist, is inclined to feel some alarm at the disproportionate emigration of persons in the prime of life, which threatens in the next generation seriously to impair the labour supply of Ireland; but for the rest, he considers the removal of a large portion of the Celtic population, and the introduction of Scotch and English in their place, as the only means, and not a very certain means, of rendering Ireland gradually content, prosperous, and loyal. To us, the truth seems to be this—that England has made the fatal mistake of giving to a Celtic people an Anglo-Saxon form of government, and institutions which require for their success virtues altogether alien to the Celtic character; that an unnatural system of government has failed in the first object of government, the preservation of order and the maintenance of security for life and property; that this failure has excluded Ireland from the benefits which the increasing wealth and growing intelligence of England would otherwise have conferred upon her; that the defect is political, not economical; and that the remedy must be applied to the root of the mischief in the lawlessness of Ireland, rather than to the consequences in a disproportion between labour and capital. If you could cure the Irish of shooting landlords who dare to improve, and striking against employers who will carry on their trade in their own way, trade would speedily return to Irish towns, and English capital would make the land of Ireland capable of supporting her population.

Southern Resistance.—The rebels are striking blow after blow, while the Federal armies seem to be entranced in a spell of lethargy. There is a fearful task before us if we persist in the attempt to subjugate a people possessed of such elements of resistance. There is no lack of prospective Federal victories—fought and won in the buoyant anticipations of the war press—but meanwhile the rebels are culling substantial triumphs in the actual field. We are confirmed in our opinion that the power to resist is greater with men of calm attributes than the power to compel. We are nearer to the ruin of the North than to the submission of the South.—*N. Y. Daily News.*

MARYLAND.*

Mr. Buchanan, in the pamphlet before us, deals with a subject the bare mention of which is sure to evoke a vast amount of enthusiasm amongst Southerners. The State of Maryland has done much and suffered very abundantly for the cause of the South, and what she has done and endured will never be forgotten. Mr. Buchanan gives a *résumé* of the ties that unite Maryland to the Confederate States, and of the mutual advantages that are incident to their political connection. He also gives an account of the conquest of Maryland—for Maryland is indeed a conquered State—and of the brutalities of the Lincoln despotism. This part of the pamphlet deserves the attention of the European reader. When the history of the Second War of Independence comes to be written, it will be found that the treatment of Maryland affords the best and most conclusive evidence of the designs and character of the now dominant party in the North.

It has been assumed that at the outset Mr. Lincoln's intentions were good, that he did not contemplate the overthrow of the Constitution he had sworn to defend, and that the exigencies of an unwise and unjust war have forced him to become a despot. It has been supposed that Mr. Lincoln believed in Mr. Seward's fiction of Union feeling in the South, and that he had to deal with a conspiracy and not a national uprising. Mr. Buchanan's pamphlet demonstrates from official documents that from the beginning Mr. Lincoln was fully aware that Secession was the will of the Southern people, and that he was prepared to overthrow the Constitution and to resort to tyranny. On September 11, 1861, Mr. Cameron, Secretary of War, ordered General Banks to prevent an act of secession by the Legislature of Maryland, and, if necessary, to arrest all the members. Next day General M'Clellan wrote to General Banks, urging upon him the importance of 'secresy and success.' Mr. Seward was advised as follows of the condition of the Legislature:—

The Senate—	
Secessionists arrested	11
Secessionists absent from the State	1
Secessionists at large	3
Union men at large	6
Doubtful men at large	1
	22
The House—	
Secessionists arrested	40
Secessionists at large	10
Union men at large	15
Doubtful men at large	8
	73

So out of 22 Senators only 6 were for the Union, and out of 73 members of the House only 15 were opposed to Secession. Such being the case with Maryland, a border State, Mr. Lincoln could not have been in doubt as to the thorough unanimity of the South, and he must have known that Maryland was being kept in the Union solely by fraud and force and entirely against her will.

Of the infamous rule of Mr. Lincoln's military satraps in Baltimore we have recorded many instances. It has been a brutal war on women, children, and defenceless citizens, and a system of robbery. On this occasion we will reproduce an account quoted by Mr. Buchanan from the *New York Times*:—

'But perhaps no case can compare in wanton malignity with that of the treatment of the Rev. Mr. Harrison, the father-in-law of the Rev. Dr. Hoge, and brother-in-law of the Rev. Dr. Backus, the well-known Union clergyman of a Presbyterian church in Baltimore. This reverend gentleman pays large taxes on property in the United States, but upon being asked if he had property in Virginia, and answering in the affirmative, he was required to make out a list of it that it might be taxed also. On presenting it to the official, he made the remark that it seemed rather hard he should have to pay taxes on property from which he derived no income. He was arrested on a charge of 'treasonable utterance,' confined in a small room with six others, kept there for several days—was tried, but allowed to employ no counsel. If he attempted to speak for himself, Don Piatt, the worthy tool of his prototype, General Schenck, shook his fist in his face, cursing him and calling him fool and liar. On Sunday, between 1 and 2 o'clock P.M., this venerable minister, sixty-three years of age, was marched down under a broiling sun, with a gang of deserters, to Fort McHenry, a distance of between two and three miles from the Gilmore House. When he reached there, he was so utterly exhausted that he dropped to the earth, where he was suffered to lie, without a morsel of food or a drop of water, till the following morning.'

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* *Maryland's Hope: Her Trials and Interests in connection with the War.* By W. Jefferson Buchanan. Richmond, Confederate States: West & Johnston.

A Useful Publication.—The Speech of Mr. Long, on the recognition of the South, in the Federal House of Representatives on April 7, has been neatly published in pamphlet form by Mr. Anderson Eadie, printer, 14, Princes' Square, Glasgow. It is sold at the low price of 1*d.* or 9*d.* per dozen. By the quantity, it is furnished at 35*s.* per first thousand, and 30*s.* for each additional thousand.

The Florida Expedition.—In the investigation before a Congressional Committee on the origin, objects, and results of the ill-starred Federal expedition into Florida, the following characteristic letter from President Lincoln to Major-General Gilmore was produced:—'Executive Mansion, Washington, January 5, 1864.—Major-General Gilmore: I understand an effort is being made by some worthy gentleman to reconstruct a legal State Government in Florida. Florida is in your department, and it is not unlikely that you may be there in person. I have given Mr. Hay a commission of major, and sent him to you with some blank books and other blanks to aid in the reconstruction. He will explain as to the manner of using the blanks, and also my general views on the subject. It is desirable for all to cooperate, but, if irreconcilable differences of opinion shall arise, you are master. I wish the thing done in the most speedy way possible, so that, when done, it be within the range of the proclamation on the subject. The detail labour will, of course, have to be done by others, but I shall be greatly obliged if you will give it such general supervision as you can find consistent with your more strictly military duties.—A. Lincoln.' The result of this little operation was to bury in the swamps of Florida more Federal soldiers than the number of citizens required to reorganise the State under Mr. Lincoln's proclamation.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York: April 25, 1864.

Banks's defeat in Louisiana—the cotton haul—disappointment of the Yankees—the capture of Plymouth—it interferes with Grant's plans—Butler not a military man—the situation in Virginia—Grant's military reputation—the efforts to reinforce Grant—in what sense the campaign may be decisive—the capture of Fort Pillow—the story of the massacre—the negroes placed in front by their white officers—the position held by the Confederate government in reference to negro troops.

The past week records two important achievements of the Confederate arms—the repulse of the Banks expedition up the Red River in Louisiana, and the capture of Plymouth on the Roanoke River in North Carolina by the Confederate troops.

Your accurate correspondent in New Orleans will doubtless send you by this steamer fuller accounts than are received and published here of the extent of the disaster of General Banks. The bulletins and despatches from that quarter are framed on the principle laid down by General Halleck, the late General-in-Chief, never to confess a defeat. But, with all the glosses which the art of lying can put upon it, this is a signal defeat. The expedition, instead of going forward to the capture of Shreveport, and thence on to further occupations, has been shattered in battle and turned back to Alexandria. The Federal reports for the press, in the midst of claims of victory—which consists only in the fact that the army was saved and enabled to get back without being captured to Alexandria, come freighted with a good many explanations why it will be found expedient to stay at that place for a good while. The main reason, though suppressed, is transparent. Banks suffered such terrible losses that he is unable to go on; and an important condition for his remaining where he is is omitted—it is not so clear that the Confederates will let him go on. Passengers by the transports which bring the latest accounts confess, in private conversation, that the Federal forces were terribly cut up.

The cotton haul has been a very meagre one. The army got a few hundred bales, which went down to New Orleans. The navy picked up more; it is estimated that between two and three thousands of bales were sent up the river as the gunboat spoil. But after the fall of Fort de Russy the torch was applied by the Confederates as they retreated up the river, and the planters helped the work of destruction by firing their own cotton wherever there was danger of its falling into the hands of the Yankees. For mile after mile along the rivers and bayous, there was an incessant smoke from the conflagration of this precious material. The reports of the Confederates, who are not unwilling to exalt the merit of this sacrifice by their friends, as well as the private reports of the disappointed cotton-robbers, as to the amounts destroyed, are very vague, and doubtless exaggerated. They talk of a hundred thousand bales as having been burned, but there will be some abatement of these figures. The number is, however, very large, and the losses are enormous. The Yankees are very indignant at this wanton waste of property, and complain more bitterly than the men who owned it and helped to destroy it. It is cheating them out of so much of their pay for saving the Union.

The exploit of the Confederate ram on the Roanoke, which resulted in the capture by the land forces of the town of Plymouth with the whole Federal garrison, has astonished the Yankees exceedingly. Since they got over the shock of the *Merrimac*, they have begun to think all Confederate attempts to build ironclads and rams at home a contemptible failure. This was a dashing and brilliant affair, and the results are in other respects important. It interferes seriously with that part of General Grant's combinations which included an advance from North Carolina, simultaneously with other concentrating columns, upon Richmond. There will be occupation in North Carolina to take care of Newbern and protect their coast possessions, which will hinder, if it do not break up, the projected movements into the interior. Grant has undertaken to manage some very extensive combinations, and here is a serious accident at the outset to one of the most important of them.

Plymouth is in the military district of General Butler. That personage has military mishaps wherever he goes; his forte is in bullying women and old men, insulting and robbing the defenceless, and disgracing his uniform by the manners and morals of a brigand. He has lately announced that he intends to take the field in person. Its enemies could not wish the arms of the Union worse luck.

The air from the Potomac comes heavily laden with rumours of military movements on a grand scale. The Government is very reserved; and when it does communicate news, or allow news to be transmitted by the telegraph, the suspicion immediately attaches itself that there is something suppressed, or that what is told is meant to deceive. We have accounts one hour that heavy columns are marching in one direction, and the movements are precisely explained, even to the hearing of the sound of the cannon, and the listening public are taught that the great shock of arms cannot be delayed; the next, it is as positively stated that all this is imagination or invention. The forces and the position of the opposing armies are described with the exactitude of certain knowledge, when, at the same time, any careful observer must know that much is positively false, and a great deal impossible to be true. I continue in the belief that there will be no battle brought on by General Grant for some time to come, if he can avoid it. His scheme is, doubtless, a grand enveloping one, bringing immense forces from different points into a simultaneous movement against Richmond. I am much mistaken if General Lee does not break up his combinations.

Notwithstanding the journalist laudations of the new Lieutenant-General, there is a misgiving that he is not a match for the consummate general who commands the Confederate defences. General Grant has been suddenly raised to a higher military rank than has been conferred except upon General Scott, since Washington, for a military success which, when carefully analysed, is found to give no proofs of military genius or knowledge of the science of war. He prevailed, by the force of overwhelming numbers, over a defence gallant indeed and stubbornly maintained, but imperfectly and unskilfully conducted. He has yet to be tried against the best master of the art of war, on this continent at least; and his claims to the distinctions which have been heaped upon him in advance are to go through an ordeal, of the issue of which his best admirers may well feel doubtful. At Richmond, the confidence in Lee's genius and fortune is buoyant.

It is evidently felt at Washington that the campaign now opening with so much pomp of preparation is to be a decisive one, and extraordinary efforts are made to swell the Federal troops in Virginia to the highest point of numbers and effi-

ciency. In addition to the recruits collected under the recent call for 500,000 men and the supplemental call for 200,000 more, the President has authorised the raising of 85,000 militia for a hundred days in the Western States, to guard the frontiers and do garrison duty, while all the enlisted troops are sent forward to swell Grant's forces. They mean at Washington that this shall be a crushing and closing campaign, with which to finish up the war. In one sense it may be. The defeat of Grant will be the signal for such a revulsion of popular feeling and such a financial collapse—already foretold by the Secretary of the Treasury—that the war for subjugation will be practically over. I am sure all noble hearts in England pray with me that this consummation may come thoroughly and quickly.

The capture by assault of Fort Pillow, and the great loss of life among the besieged, particularly of the negroes who were in the fort, raised a great outcry in the North against rebel barbarities. The journals, on the first report, which was drawn up in exaggerated terms to cover the shame of the defeat, clamoured universally for instant retaliation, man for man, two men for every victim of what was called a cowardly massacre. Congress took it up; resolutions were adopted demanding a stern inquisition into the facts, and urging thorough measures for retaliation in this case, and a stern system for the protection of the negro soldiers in all the rights of prisoners of war when taken hereafter, by reprisals on the white soldiers of the Confederacy in the prisons of the United States. The President encouraged this clamour in a speech at Baltimore, in which he assumed that the facts might be as charged, and only hesitated about the kind and manner of punishment and retaliation.

The truth is coming out slowly, but is very faintly acknowledged. Fort Pillow was taken by assault, after repeated demands for surrender and refusals. In the fight, the negro soldiers were placed by their white officers in front. When the fort was entered the white officers surrendered. The negroes, through terror or despair, continued to resist, running with their arms and firing on their pursuers. The white Union officers could not restrain them. So long as this resistance was continued, the usages of war leave no doubt that the killing was justifiable, as against the right of the enemy to make complaint.

It must be borne in mind, that the Confederate Government makes no distinctions on account of colour in its practices between the white and the coloured troops employed by the United States in its armies. A negro volunteer, duly enlisted as a free man within a 'loyal' State, is held, when captured by Confederates, to be a prisoner of war, however offensive to them the use of such troops may be as an instrument for subjugating them. But the pretension of the United States is, that it may go into the Confederate States and take away a negro, bound by the law of the place to certain duties, put arms in his hands, and incite him to do acts against his legal superiors which are highly criminal, and punishable with heavy penalties; and, if he should be taken with these arms and in the act of committing the crime, that the uniform he has put on holds him safe against the reclamations of the laws he has violated. By the law of the Southern States insurgent slaves are criminals, punishable as social enemies, whom the common safety requires to be dealt with severely. Besides being made traitors to the sovereign authority of the State, they are offenders against its criminal laws. The United States would not respect the claim of the Confederate States to protect a murderer who, having escaped from the city of New York, had taken service in the Southern army, and, being captured, was reclaimed by the courts to be tried for the crime. Yet the claim would be as reasonable and as well founded in law as that of the United States, that they can, by putting a Federal uniform on an insurgent slave within the State against whose society he is a conspirator, secure for him immunity under the laws of war, and make the life of a Confederate prisoner of war a hostage for his safety.

The subject is capable of copious illustration, showing how untenable it is. Indeed, the pretension is only another form of that Federal insolence which holds the South to be a rebellious mob to whom none of the courtesies of war or the rights of a belligerent are to be extended, unless extorted for the time by the power to enforce them; and it will never be submitted to by the South, whatever may be the consequences.

New Orleans as it is.—Alas! what a change! In three short years the long line of ships and steamers have almost entirely disappeared; what few there are left seem drowsily looking on in sorrow and dilapidation at their own loneliness, and the apparent helplessness and decay which surrounds them. The long, broad, and boasted *levee* is now a chocolate-coloured plane, except dotted here and there with a few barrels of molasses, a stray hogshead of sugar, and not cotton enough to keep a one-horse factory running on half time! Whole squares, and long rows of fine stores, are vacated and unoccupied; while many were left in a half-finished condition, some without roofs, and all going rapidly to decay. 'Decrepitude and decay' is certainly written upon everything in New Orleans, and, were it not for the army, one might as well be in the wilderness of Judea. The city looks sorry, the citizens look sorry and mad both; while the strangers and soldiers go it on the high-pressure principle, looking in vain for that peaceful 'good time' which is said to be coming, but which 'I don't see.'—*New York World.*

A Trophy of Sumter.—We have the pleasure of chronicling a most delicate and deserved tribute paid by one of the most distinguished men in the South to the first Englishman who, in Parliament, proposed the recognition of Confederate Independence. Mr. W. H. Gregory, M.P. for Galway, has just received from Charleston a fragment of the flagstaff which so long and gloriously held aloft the Southern flag over the battered ruins of Fort Sumter. This interesting trophy bears the following inscription:—

Head-Quarters, Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.
Charleston, S. C., February 10, 1864.

Piece of flagstaff of Fort Sumter, Harbour of Charleston, sent with my compliments to W. H. Gregory, M.P. for Galway. The flagstaff of that fort has already been shot down forty times by the enemy's fire since the commencement of the siege, July 10th, 1863.

G. P. Beauregard, General C. S. A.

The Democratic Party a Peace Party.—The *Cincinnati Enquirer*, the foremost Opposition paper in the West, affirms: 'The Democratic—at least in these Western States—is a peace party. It ought to be so everywhere; and its members are settling down upon its organic principles *thus to become.*'

A LANCASHIRE MAN IN RICHMOND.

Our Manchester Correspondent has forwarded to us a long and interesting letter dated Richmond, March 29, from a gentleman who was one of the chief promoters of the Confederate movement in Lancashire, and who has since migrated to the Confederate States. The impressions of an intelligent Lancashireman visiting Richmond just now for the first time, can scarcely fail to be of interest to many of our readers, and therefore we have much pleasure in making the following extracts:—

When I left England for the Confederate States, if I had put my trust in the representations of Northern fanatics in Manchester or London, I ought to have found, on my arrival in the South, a disaffected army, a half-starved and dissatisfied people, the slaves uneasy and insubordinate, and everything at sixes and sevens.' But all these things I found to be dreams, without the slightest foundation in fact. On the other hand, the first thing that takes the attention of the stranger is the method and care which characterise the transaction of public business in the several departments. The machinery of the Confederate Government is working as smoothly and satisfactorily as though it had been in existence for fifty years. As with the Government so with the people—no breath of discontent anywhere, but a determination to make any sacrifice that may be required of them.

I see from some of the London papers (*Daily News* and *Star*), that we are short of food in Richmond. That is the first I knew of it. Scarcity, I assure you, there is none: the only inconvenience the people suffer arises from the temporary difficulty of getting supplies from the country. I am now staying at the American Hotel, an establishment equal in size to your Queen's in Manchester, and the waiting is done by four hundred coloured servants, who are exceedingly civil, well-mannered, and obliging. As for the 'destitution' that prevails, I can only say that anybody can live here at half the cost he can in Manchester.

I have been to the Libby and Belle Isle prisons several times, and found the prisoners looking very well and enjoying themselves over the chess-board and at other games. I thought Neal Dow looking better than when I last saw him. The Sunday before he left (by the exchange 13th) I was invited down by the Rev. Chaplain Cameron, and was surprised to see the prisoners doing a soldier's justice to ham, bacon, and chickens. Everything was very clean and tidy, the doctor going his rounds every morning, or as often as his services are required. The mode of 'exchange' shows that the terms are pretty much at the dictation of the Confederates. For every ten prisoners the Federals send, the Confederates send seven; but the Southerners will not recognise Butler in this matter, nor will they surrender any captured negroes. Many exchanges have taken place of late, so that few prisoners now remain here.

I have travelled through a great portion of the South, and have had more than ordinary opportunities of observing the institution of 'slavery' in all its forms. The other day I met a clergyman of my acquaintance in Main Street, who invited me to accompany him some sixteen miles in the country, as he was about to preach on the following day (Sunday) to some 400 slaves on a plantation. It occurred to me, as a piece of pleasantry, that, by accepting the invitation on the spot, I should give the horrid planter no time for preparing for my reception, by decorating his kitchen with hams and bacon, which, according to the Union and Emancipation Society, are hung up for the delectation of visitors, but which the slaves 'smell but never touch.' We drove on together, and arrived at the estate of a Major Allen, by whom I was received and entertained for seven days with the greatest hospitality and the most gentlemanly feeling. The estate consists of about 4,000 acres, and is one of the finest in Virginia. I found the negroes living in cottages in different parts of the plantation. They receive their supplies weekly, and cook them as they please. By the way, it is the practice to pay the slaves for overwork, and I know many instances of slaves making a considerable sum of 'pin-money' or bounty annually. There is a church on the estate for the benefit of the negroes, and a hospital, which I found very clean, with separate divisions for men and women. I went into several of their dwellings, which I also found very clean and comfortable, the walls hung with pictures, floors well swept, chairs, tables, flock-beds, clean white sheets and bed-covers, &c., &c. The boys and girls were clean and well clad, and made courtesies to me as I took them by the hand. Major Allen is a gentleman in heart as well as manners, and is well known to Mr. Lawley of the *Times*.

Before the war, the South had paid no attention to manufactures, although iron, lead, and other mineral ore were known to exist in great abundance. But things have wonderfully altered since then. Your Lancashire friends will be interested in hearing that several spinning and weaving establishments have been opened, and 10s. yarn is being sold at forty dollars the five-pound bundle. The looms are made of wood and iron, and run 110 per minute. It is out of the question to compare cloth made from these looms with Manchester cloth, the former being the best as regards the cotton, but at present ill-managed. As an instance of the necessities and perseverance of the Southerners, it may not be amiss to mention that nearly all the planters find some difficulty in buying clothing for their slaves, and they have therefore resorted to the common spinning-wheel and hand-loom for the manufacture of woollen and cotton. A few days ago the first thing that attracted my attention on a plantation I was visiting was the sight of a negress weaving by hand; and, by the way, in two mills I visited at Richmond, I found slaves, both men and women, engaged in weaving by power, in the card-room, at the throstles, mules, winding and warping, and heard upon inquiry that they made tolerable hands. But to come back to what I saw on the plantation. There was neither picking stick nor any other article to throw the shuttle across, that operation being performed simply by the hand. I saw no signs of either Arkwright or Crompton. The work-people were using a pair of cards or strickles measuring 12 in. by 3¼, and costing $75! These answered all the purposes of machinery up to the mule. After the cotton is combed, the ends are twisted together, and, by the aid of the spinning-wheel, it is thus finished for the loom. You may imagine the kind of cloth produced.

Little or no hope is entertained as to European recognition. The people are confident of their ability to win their independence on the field of battle. The forthcoming campaign will, no doubt, be the most active and decisive of any during the war. I know for a certainty the arsenals are well stocked, and you may look to hear great news before midsummer.

Richmond is a fine place, and I only wish some dozen of you were coming over. The country is delightful, the people hospitable, women beautiful, and everything full of heart and hope. You can get as much shooting as you like, free of license or other cost.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Ships Arrived.

At Liverpool.—May 2: The Eureka, from Baltimore. The Nina, from Nassau.—May 3: The Ceres, from Jamaica.—May 4: The Vereinigung, from Matamoras. The Mary Ellen, The Diogenes, from Jamaica. The Wild Pigeon, from Nassau. The Victory, The Ibs, from Demerara. The Salem, The John Barbour, from St. John's. The Agnes, from Havana.—May 5: The War Queen, with 850 bales of cotton, The Weser, The Louisa, from Matamoras. The Eugenia, The Bravo, The Golden Hind, from St. John's.—May 7: The Hallyards, from Matamoras. The Bathier, from Jamaica.

At Gravesend.—May 3: The Mizpah, from St. Lucia. The Aurora, from St. Vincent. The Prince Albert, The Shamrock, from Jamaica. The Radcliff, from Trinidad.—May 4: The Prima, from Trinidad. The Warrior Queen, The Dundee, from Jamaica.—May 5: The Elizabeth, from Trinidad. The Simeon Hardy, from Barbadoes.—May 6: The Heroine, The Claudia, The Arnerica, from Jamaica.—May 7: The Rescue, from Trinidad.

At Falmouth.—May 8: The England, The Susanna, The Zuider Zee, The Flying Scud, The Ostrich, all from Havana.—May 9: The Dunkeld, from Havana and Matamoras. The Joaquim Victoria, from Havana.

At Pill.—May 4: The Carolity, from Trinidad.

At the Clyde.—May 5: The Isabella, The Hayinke, The Endeavour, all from West Indies.—May 7: The India, The Helena, The Marmion, all from Havana.

At Dundee.—May 7: The Boris, The Molly, from Matamoras.

At Newport.—May 8: The Adler, from Bermuda.

At Queenstown.—May 5: The Agnes, from Havana.—May 7: The Glengal, from Matamoras.—May 8: The Queen of the Chase, from Barbadoes. The Evening Star, from Havana.

At Wexford.—May 9: The Florist, brig, of and from Liverpool, for, Nassau, with coals, on the Long Bank full of water.

At Jersey.—May 6: The Chatillon, from Havana, for Havre, in a leaky condition.

At Halifax.—The Sunderland, The Borelia Cycla, The Persia, all from Liverpool. The Roseneath, from the Clyde.

At St. John's.—The Star of Hope, The Netherton, The Jane, all from Liverpool. The Portia, The Busy Bee, The Caroline Brown, all from London. The Othello, from Bristol. The Isabella Hunter, from the Clyde.

Hilton Head.—The Alliance, blockade runner, from Nassau, has been captured in Calebogue Sound, near Douluskie Island, where she had grounded in endeavouring to ascend the Savannah river to Savannah.

Sabine Pass.—The Clifton, gunboat, in attempting to put out to sea grounded on the bar. She was burnt to prevent any possibility of capture by the blockaders.

Ecropos, Jersey.—The Jane Goujon, of Bordeaux, from Havana, for Havre, was totally wrecked on the night of May 2, crew saved.

At Havre.—May 6: The Marechal Harrispe, from Havana.

At Bermuda.—The Index (steamer), from Wilmington. The Ionian Belle, The Helen (steamer), from London. The Queen of Britain, from Liverpool. The Pevensey (steamer), from England. The City of Petersburg (steamer), from Wilmington.

At Nassau.—The Cornucopia, from Swansea. The Nyanza, the Ann Staniland, from Liverpool.

At Matamoras.—The Linda, the Ocean Ranger, the Walter Scott, from Liverpool.

At Havana.—The Rapid, from London. The Tasmanian, from Liverpool.

At St. Nazaire.—May 11: The Confederate Government war steamer Florida, from Vera Cruz.

Galveston, Texas.—April 4: It is reported that the schooner Mary Sorley (another account says the Mary Darling), with 250 bales of cotton, was captured on the night of the 3rd of April while attempting to run the blockade, and that the Harriet Lane, an English steamer, the Isabella, and a barque were lying behind the forts waiting for an opportunity to run the blockade.

New York.—April 26: The M. P. Benton, British schooner, from Havannah, loaded with iron and shot, and purported to be bound to Matamoras, has been captured by the United States steamer Anstook. The Mary Darley (late the United States revenue cutter Dodge) was captured on the 4th of April by the United States steamer Scotia.

The steamer Advance has again arrived at a Confederate port, with a large cargo for the State of North Carolina. Among other things she brought thirty thousand cotton cards.

Ships Sailed.

Liverpool.—May 3: The Oceana, for Cuba.—The Neva, for St. John's.—The Edward Hawkins (screw steamer), for Matamoras.—May 4: The Tygia, for Nassau.—May 5: The Walter Baine, for St. John's.—The George Rainey, for Demerara.—The Dyson, for Matamoras.—The Rosarita, for Havana.—May 7: The Florist, for Nassau.—The Chloe, for Valparaiso.—May 8: The Hayti, for St. Thomas.—The Elizabeth, for Cape Verd Island.—May 9: The Jane Dowell, for Bermuda.—The Architect, for Nassau.—The Ada, for Bermuda.—The Midas, for Matamoras.—May 10: The Ann and Mary, for Bermuda.—The James, for Newfoundland.

Gravesend.—May 6: The Regina, for Antigua.—May 10: The Jessie, for Nassau.

Cardiff.—May 7: The Lilian, for Bermuda.—May 10: The Emma, for Havana.

Ships Spoken with.

The Pepita, April 1, 23° N., 57° W.—The Hampton, April 5, 23° N., 35° W.—The Josephine, April 5, 20° N., 43° W.—The Addison, April 7, 25° N., 35° W.—The Village Girl, April 8, 27° N., 50° W.—The Emma, April 9, 27° N., 37° W.—The Wallkynian, April 14, 42° N., 24° W.—The Crocus, April 17, 56° N., 20° W.—The Anne, April 19, 28° N., 47° W.—The Columbus, April 20, 31° N., 40° W.—The Crimea, April 22, 40° N., 68° W.—The Genu, April 23, 50° N., 27° W.—The Volent, April 23, 49° N., 15° W.—The Frère and Sœur, April 24, 46° N., 20° W.—The Sarah, April 26, 50° N., 19° W.—The Banana, April 27, 36° N., 37° W.—The Trinculo, April 28, 46° N., 19° W.—The Fox (steamer), April 29, 50° N., 11° W.—The Speedwell, April 29, 49° N., 7° W.—The Patrician, April 30, 49° N., 8° W.—The Kathleen, April 30, 51° N., 11° W.—The Washington, May 5, 49° N., 10° W.

Ships Loading.

The St. Thomas (steamer), Liverpool; Leech, Harrison, & Forwood. The Louisiane (steamer), London; Stringer, Pembroke, & Co.

Rates of Freight at New York.—In consequence of the absence of cargoes at New York, flour is now conveyed from that port to Liverpool at the rate of about ½d. to 1d. per barrel. Wheat is brought as ballast and without charge.—*Telegraph*.

Great activity continues to be displayed in connection with Clyde shipbuilding. There has been launched from the yard of Mr. Denny, an iron screw steamer 1,200 tons, named the Kentucky, fitted by Messrs. Denny & Co., Engineers, with direct acting engines of 200 horse-power.

Messrs. Aitken & Mansel launched from their yard, Whiteinch, a paddle steamer of 630 tons, with oscillating engines of 180 horse-power, by Messrs. James Aitken & Co., Cranston Hill.

The new screw steamer Penguin, built by Messrs. Tod & McGregor, made her first voyage from Greenock in a little over sixteen hours against a head wind all the way; she steamed 12 knots per hour. She is 220 feet long, 28½ feet beam, 15 feet depth of hold, and 876 tons, builder's measurement.

The Alfred, built by Messrs. Caird & Co., ran the distance between the Clock and the Cumbrea lights in fifty-five minutes, or at the rate of more than seventeen miles an hour.

The Lillian, a paddle steamer recently built by Messrs. Thomson & Co. of Glasgow, has adjusted her compasses at Garelock.

The Lafayette, the second of the three steamers which Messrs. Scott are building on the Clyde for the French Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, has been receiving her engines at Greenock.

Messrs. Scott & Co. have launched another of the extensive series of powerful steamers intended for the Nassau trade, her engines to be fitted by the Greenock Foundry Company.

The new paddle steamer Dumbarton, on her trial trip down the Clyde, ran at the rate of fifteen statute miles an hour.

Messrs. Blackwood & Gordon have launched a screw steamer named the Ta Pang Nyo.

Messrs. Barclay, Curle, & Co. have a paddle steamer called The Vivid, of great power.

American Cotton Still King.—In an article on our cotton industry, which appeared in the *Times* of Tuesday week, it is observed:—'But the truth is, we cannot have our old cotton trade with our new cotton. What we want is not so much 3,500,000 bales in place of 2,500,000 as good cotton in the place of bad, and certainty instead of speculation in prices. The inspectors tell us of a singular state of affairs in the manufacturing districts. There is confidence in the future, but no contentment with the present. The manufacturers are building new mills and enlarging old ones, but not for the trade as it now is, or the cotton which they now get. The operatives are hanging on with similar expectations, reluctant to migrate, and clinging to their homes, but sorely discontented with Surat cotton, and compelled in many cases to eke out by the acceptance of relief what would otherwise be insufficient earnings. What form the desired consummation is expected to take it would be hard perhaps to say, but probably the leading idea is that some day or other cotton will come from America once more. This would not only furnish a good material, but would remove the present element of risk. As things now stand, there is on one side an actual supply of indifferent cotton, and on the other a possible supply of excellent cotton; so that, besides the dissatisfaction created by Surat, there is the chance or prospect or anticipation of some such sudden influx of American as would turn the market upside down. As long as the American War continues a revolution in the cotton trade will be a possibility at any moment. Whenever it ends, Lancashire industry will take a fresh start. Those seem to be the impressions prevailing in the cotton districts, and in the meantime there is work enough to keep the mills going, and to enable the employers and employed together to hold out for better times. . . . Perhaps American peace may not bring us American cotton as before, and yet the misfortune is that hitherto no other cotton has taken its place. Lord Derby expressed his hope that we should never again be dependent on a single source of supply; and it is certain, that, as far as mere bulk of imports goes, we seem to have outgrown this risk. But it is, we fear, equally certain that the new supply is not accepted as the equivalent of the old, and that either the former must be improved, or the latter must be forgotten, before the cotton trade can really be revived.' We have on several occasions shown that, though cotton can be procured from India and other countries, yet a substitute for American cotton is not to be found. Without American cotton, our staple industry cannot resume its former dimensions.

True Charity.—The *New York Daily News*, in commenting upon the Great Sanitary Fair to raise money for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers, says:—'A charity worthy of a Christian people is to stop the war. The millions you may contribute to those now suffering will not shield others from like agonies. To-day you give comfort to the wounded of yesterday, and to-morrow another field will be strewn with mangled men. Look into the future and think, if this war continues, how little your most lavish outlay will avail to staunch the torrents of blood that must flow, to heal the thousands of ghastly wounds that must be given. It is well that Charity should go to the fought field and minister to the wounded and the dying; but it is better that Charity should interpose before the battle, and, summoning Reason to be her interpreter, should plead for peace. If it be mercy to heal the sick, how much more merciful to abate the pestilence! If it be charity to mitigate the horrors of war, how much more charitable to end the war!'

Who 'Proclaimed War?'—The *New York Times*, in its issue of the 6th ult., in an editorial taking issue with Thaddeus Stevens for stating that the rebel States are belligerents, and 'that they are no longer in the Union,' writes this down as a fact that cannot be gainsayed: 'The Confederacy wanted peace, and sent Commissioners to Washington to secure it. We would not receive them, and proclaimed war! They accepted war. The question who fired the first gun is nothing.'

Negro Soldiers.—When we consider the philanthropic pretences under which Abolitionism so long assailed and finally destroyed the peace of the country, it is impossible to suppress the feelings of disgust and contempt which this treatment of the negro inspires. To the miserable victims it is in the last degree treacherous, inhuman, and base—a fit commentary, however, on that hypocrisy which Abolitionism for years has been acting before the world. Boasting of twenty millions of whites to our five, they yet stoop to do what no pressure of the war has extorted from us; and calling on Africa to save them, they thrust the poor negroes in the front ranks of the battle, and drive them to the slaughter with fixed bayonets.—*Richmond Sentinel*, March 15.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL & COMMERCIAL.

THE MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKETS.

Wednesday Evening.

The state of the money market has rather improved the last few days. Although the Bank directors placed the rate at 9 per cent. last week, it created no panic; and, notwithstanding the tendency was slightly unfavourable, the pressure gradually wore away, and there has been since comparative ease. Of course, the principal business has been at the Bank, where the demand has been stimulated by the caution of the brokers out of doors; and it may be well imagined that if the directors charged 9½ and 10 per cent. for exceptional transactions, it kept the bankers and other persons associated with financial affairs in a state of nervousness. The influx of gold since from America, with a disposition to exercise by the banks more freedom towards their customers, has produced a favourable effect, and the impression is that the rate for the moment will not go higher. The Bank of France have raised the *minimum* to 8 per cent., but that was to be expected after the movement on this side of the Channel. There is no necessity for the Bank of England to take further restrictive measures, with bullion following forward in the manner it does, but if there should be any extraordinary change in the prospect of things, it is not at all improbable that an advance would take place. The bill brokers in their respective operations charge 9 and 9½ per cent. for the engagements they conclude, and to-day (Wednesday) a stronger enquiry ensued than was looked for even among the bankers and brokers themselves. On the Stock Exchange the demand for accommodation was partially influenced by the approaching half-monthly settlements, and in consequence of the belief that in arranging differences money will temporarily command high terms.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The general aspect of the bullion market has greatly improved within the past week, the advances in the rate of discount having for a time quite changed the aspect of affairs. The amount of gold sent into the Bank during the week has been 526,000l., whilst the withdrawals have been only 100,000l., for transmission to the Brazils. The arrivals of gold have also been large, having reached 622,809l., of which 159,772l. was from New York, 67,400l. from Port Phillip, 83,340l. from New Zealand, and 12,297l. from the Brazils. The shipments of specie to the East by the *Baroda* to-morrow amount to 117,800l., of which 86,000l. is in gold and 31,800l. in silver. The Brazil mail took out 117,450l., of which 100,950l. was gold and 16,500l. silver. The silver market has not been particularly active; the bar silver brought by the last West India steamer has been sold at 61d. per oz., being a decline of ¼d. as compared with previous prices. The Mexican dollars by the same mail have been sold at 61¾d., which is also at a decline of ¼d. per oz. The gold ships already announced as on their way from Australia, are the *Agamemnon* with 12,500l., the *Red Rover* with 30,000l., the *Kosciusko* with 14,000l., and the *Chile* from New Zealand with 119,000l. Later telegrams from Melbourne announce further shipments to the amount of 186,000l.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The market for the English funded securities has within the last few days presented a greatly improved appearance. Business, under the brighter aspect of the money market, has increased, and prices show a corresponding advance. The brokers appear to have more confidence, and their operations are conducted with increased freedom. Consols closed this evening at 91¼ for money, and 90⅝ to 90¾ ex div. for the account, which is a rise as compared with this day week of nearly ½ per cent. Exchequer bills have also improved, being now at 9s. to 13s. dis. The foreign stock market has also been more animated, but prices have not shown so much fluctuation as might have been expected under the circumstances. Greek stock has declined ½ per cent., being now at 22½ to 23. Mexican, on the other hand, are up to 43¼ to 43¾, being an advance of ¾ per cent. Spanish Passives are 31¼ to 31¾, and the Certificates 11¾ to 12, being an advance of ¼ and ¼ per cent. respectively. Turkish are without change; the six-per-cents. of 1851 being 88 to 89, and those of 1862, at 71 to 71½.

THE CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The stock of the cotton loan still attracts attention. But for the high rate of money, a further advance would have taken place. As it is, its value is becoming more appreciated daily, and we shall shortly see a further advance. The price in the midst of the financial pressure receded to 62 and 64, since again it has reached 65 to 67; buyers for amount at 66½. To-day it fluctuated with the other markets, and was last called 63 to 65.

The *Economist* of 9th instant has the following:

'Our readers will not be surprised to learn that the crude and financially unsound scheme for "*the redemption of the Confederate Cotton Loan*" by means of blockade-running, which we noticed in our publication of 2nd April last, has been definitively abandoned by its concoctors.'

Our usually accurate contemporary is likely to lead its readers into more than one error by this announcement. First, the scheme of redeeming Confederate Cotton Bonds by running the blockade is not only not abandoned, but is at this moment being prosecuted with singular activity and success. Within the week we have learned of the return of the *Denbigh* to a neutral port, after three round trips, in each of which she has brought out over 400 bales of cotton pledged to the redemption of bonds. This conversion of the bonds is open to all the holders, and the success of the *Denbigh* has caused her example to be very extensively imitated. The particular scheme to which the *Economist* refers as 'crude and financially unsound,' is probably one which the Confederate Government discouraged for this very reason, but this scheme proposed to absorb nearly the whole loan, and to make the Government a sharer in the profits of the enterprises. The Confederate Government, besides being in principle averse to partnership transactions, has no interest in withdrawing the loan, which, despite many fluctuations, has been in the main eminently successful, from the market. The only interest it could have in doing so would be to place a new loan, and this, in the opinion of the Confederate Government, is unnecessary, and the Congress, before its adjournment, declined to give the requisite authority. But if holders, at their private risk, wish to convert the bonds into cotton at 6d. per pound, the Government not only cannot prevent them, but is in honour bound to give them all necessary and reasonable facilities; and of this an increasing number of persons interested in blockade-running continue to avail themselves. This is, doubtless, the true reason of the steady rise in the loan, and it is supposed that but little remains in the market except what had been purchased, generally in moderate amounts and for permanent investment, at the issue price, and which, therefore, the holders will not part with, even at the comparatively high quotations of the last few weeks.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

American Government and Railway Securities are more depressed than ever, and scarcely any business is now transacted in them, and under present circumstances there appears very little chance of improvement. Except under special orders, the dealers may be said to be out of the market. The only transactions recorded during the week have been in United States Six per Cents., at 60; Virginia State Six per Cents., at 34 and 32½; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, Pennsylvanian Section, at 74; Erie Shares, $100, all paid, at 59; Illinois Central, $100 shares, $90 paid, 28 and 29 dis.; and do. do. all paid, 66.

BANK MEETINGS.

At an extraordinary general meeting of the Bank of London, Sir J. V. Shelley in the chair, it was agreed to increase the capital of the bank by the sum of 200,000l., to be issued at 70l. per share premium. The Chairman said he was sure it would be admitted on all hands, that the success obtained by the bank was most satisfactory. A larger business had rendered an increase in the capital necessary, and he believed that the premiums to be obtained on the new shares would, by the increase made to the reserve fund, tend greatly to confirm public confidence.—At an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Mexican Bank, with which is amalgamated the London and South American Bank, Mr. J. Paterson in the chair, it was resolved to alter the name of the Company to 'The London Bank of Mexico and South America,' and also to amend the articles of association, in order to prevent the monies of the Company being invested in its own shares.—At the third annual general meeting of the London and South African Bank, a dividend for the half-year ending 31st December last, on the original capital, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, was declared.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

Notwithstanding the agitated state of the money market business in the railway share market has been rather brisk; but although in the early part of the week prices were much depressed, a considerable improvement has taken place since the money market became more settled. As compared with the quotations of this day week, there has been an advance in Metropolitan of 3½ per cent., in Midland of 2½ per cent., of 1 per cent. in Great Western, Lancashire and Yorkshire, North Staffordshire, and Vale of Neath; of ¾ per cent. in North British, and of ½ per cent. in Caledonian, Great Eastern, London and North Western, and North Eastern (York). On the other hand, there has been a decline of 1 per cent. in London, Brighton, and South Coast, and Shropshire Union, of ¾ in London, Chatham, and Dover, and of ½ per cent. in North Eastern (Berwick). The dealings in foreign railway shares have been to a fair extent, with a slight improvement in prices, and for those connected with British possessions rather more business has been doing, and quotations are well sustained.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

At the annual meeting of the Trust and Agency Company of Australia, a dividend of 7½ per cent. free of income-tax was declared, making a total distribution for the year of nearly 10½ per cent.—At a meeting of the shareholders in the City of London Brewery it was agreed to authorise the issue of 24,000 shares of 5l. each, to rank as ordinary shares. At the annual general meeting of the proprietors of the Vauxhall Bridge Company, the report, which was unanimously adopted, showed a decrease in the receipts during the year of 27l. 10s. 11d. A dividend of 17s. per share free of income-tax was agreed to. The purchase money is 13,000l., and the vendors guarantee a *minimum* dividend of 10 per cent. per annum, for three years.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

The recent advance in the value of money has put a sudden stop to the issue of the prospectuses of the new companies, which have been so prolific of late, only one or two, and those of minor importance, having been put forth during the week, the chief being that of the Cadiz, Oporto, and Light Wine Association (Limited). The capital is placed at 150,000l. in 15,000 shares of 10l. each, of which 10,000 shares have been privately subscribed for, the remaining 5,000 being now offered to the public. The object is to acquire and carry on a business which has been conducted for several years by an association bearing a similar name, and which is described as 'exceedingly profitable.'

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

With diminished stringency in money, the produce markets are becoming more animated, and whilst purchases of some of the primary articles have already extended perceptibly, prices have in several instances improved. During the last day or two cotton has been very active, the closing transactions showing an advance of ½d. to 1d. per pound on the rates of the previous week. The colonial wool sales, which will offer over 100,000 bales, are progressing with considerable spirit, at fully the rates of the previous series to 1d. per lb. advance for combing descriptions. Russian hemp is firmer, and a fair trade is passing. Clean is quoted 35l. to 37l. per ton. At the decline quoted last week jute is more saleable, both on the spot and for arrival. The quarterly sales of East India indigo, comprising 9,343 chests, have opened at an advance of 2d. or 3d. on the rates of last auctions for Bengal and Kurpah, and also for the better qualities of Oudes and plant Oudes. Dry leaf Madras is saleable only at a small discount. Other dye stuffs are inactive; cochineal has declined 1d. per lb. for Mexican, and 1d. to 2d. for Teneriffe grain. No particular change has occurred in the petroleum market; 2s. 3d. per gallon is still the price for American refined; crude is quoted 19l. per ton. The provision trade continues dull in most departments, with very little variation in prices. American bacon is firm, and there is a moderately good demand for boneless middles. Lard is still extremely dull. Cheese moves off slowly at 52s. to 60s. for American. Linseed oil, after receding to 38s. 6d., to-day advanced to 40s. Rape oil is also firmer, brown having made 41s. 6d. to 42s. per cwt. Sperm oil remains inactive at 73s. for foreign fishing. Common fish oils offer on easier terms, owing to recent favourable reports from the Greenland seal fishery. Palm oil sells steadily at 35s. 6d. to 36s. per cwt. In drugs and chemicals there is not a great deal doing, and prices show scarcely any change. Exceptionally sulphate of quinine has been purchased rather extensively at 6s. to 6s. 1d. for French. Camphor remains quoted 100s. to 105s. per cwt. Gums of all kinds are in steady request at full rates. The spice market is not active, but quotations of cloves, nutmegs, and ginger are well maintained. Cassia lignea and pepper have sold on slightly easier terms. Sugar has been very dull of sale until the last two days, when rather an extensive demand

sprang up, resulting in an advance of fully 6*d*., and in some instances 1*s*. per cwt. Floating cargoes have been most in request. Ceylon coffee has also risen 1*s*. on plantation kinds, and Rio continues firm.

LIVERPOOL, WEDNESDAY, MAY 11.

The improved state of monetary affairs has given quite a reinvigorating appearance to the Cotton Market here. Business has greatly improved within the last few days, and prices have again advanced considerably, with a tendency to a still further improvement. A large quantity has been taken by the manufacturers, and a larger quantity than usual for exportation and on speculation, the total sales having reached 72,000 bales, of which there were taken for speculation and for export 26,500 bales. The total sales this year have been 901,110 bales, and to the same period last year 725,300 bales. The imports this year have reached 792,110 bales, and in 1863 they were 463,414 bales. The exports this year have been 133,091, against 135,829 bales last year. For consumption there have been taken this year 532,600 bales, and in 1863 381,800 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 125,910 bales; last year the number was 176,180 bales. The computed stocks at the present time are 357,600 bales, and at the same period in 1863 they were 328,220 bales. The latest quotations to-day were: American descriptions, 26¼*d*. to 28¾*d*.; Panamas, 29*d*. to 29½*d*.; Maranhams, 28½*d*. to 29*d*.; Maceio and Bahia, 27½*d*. to 27¾*d*.; Egyptian, 28¼*d*. to 31½*d*.; Smyrna, 22½*d*. to 24½*d*.; Surats, 13½*d*. to 21*d*.; China, 19*d*. to 19½*d*.; and Peruvian, 28½*d*. to 29*d*.

The improved and agitated state of the Liverpool Cotton Market has had a corresponding effect upon the Manchester markets, and for most descriptions of goods a large business has been transacted. In shipping yarns the dealings have been very extensive for all descriptions, and the advance may be quoted ½*d*. to 1*d*. per lb., purchases having been made for all the markets, particularly those of India, Germany, and the Mediterranean. There has also been more doing for the home markets, but only at very extreme rates, the advance being quite equal to that on shipping yarns. In the cloth market there has not been quite so much doing, buyers showing but little disposition to meet the high rates demanded by the manufacturers. The improved aspect of affairs, however, has increased the pretensions of sellers. Buyers still express their willingness to operate, particularly for goods in stock, at the old rates, but they appear quite indisposed to give anything like the increased rates at present demanded by manufacturers. In fact the great advance demanded has put a very material check on business.

NAVAL EXPERIMENTS.—A letter from on board the new United States gunboat *Metacomet* (double-ender), states that on the passage from Key West to New Orleans she rolled tremendously, so that she was momentarily expected to go down. Her pilot-house and foremast were swept away, and two or three of the guns were shifted. When she reached the Mississippi she was so crippled as to be unfit for active service until thoroughly overhauled on the dry dock.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.—A return has just been published of claims of British subjects against the United States Government, from the commencement of the civil war to March 31, 1864. There were 450 claims and 2,871 despatches and letters to and from the Foreign Office. A memorandum states that this return comprises the result of the fullest examination of the correspondence in the Foreign Office, and is believed to be complete as far as that correspondence goes. In order, however, to [illegible] prejudice which might result to British claimants from their claims not being inserted in this list, it is necessary to observe that the return is not to be taken as conclusive, and this reserve is the more necessary inasmuch as it is understood that numerous claims have been registered in the British Mission at Washington, though not reported home, which may not even yet be brought before the Government of the United States.

GENERAL FAIDHERBE, Governor of Senegal, has sent to the *Jardin d'Acclimatation* some chrysalides of a new silkworm discovered in that country; the scientific name of the moth is *Bauhinia reticulata*; the grub feeds on a plant spelled (we dare not say pronounced) [illegible], which grows there in great abundance; the fly is a contrast to our old friend the silkworm moth, being rather more than three inches broad, white in colour, with a broad purple and yellow border, and a large blue eye at the point of each wing; it is a variety of the *Bombyx Atlas*. The silk is naturally grey, brilliant, and very strong; some specimens of it were to be seen in the London International Exhibition of 1862.

THE REMOVAL OF BRITISH CONSULS FROM THE CONFEDERATE STATES. The official correspondence respecting the removal of British Consuls from the Confederate States, was presented to the House of Lords yesterday. The letters which, irrespective of enclosures, are twelve in number, range in date from June 9 to November 20, 1863. They refer to the removal of Mr. Moore from Richmond, Mr. Cridland from Mobile, Mr. Walker from Charleston, and Mr. Fullarton from Savannah. The correspondence was moved for on April 5 last. A return moved for at the same time of all copies or extracts of all correspondence with any agents of the Confederate States in this country, was also presented to the House of Lords yesterday. It consists of letters exchanged between Earl Russell and Mason, and extending from March 2 to October 6, 1863.

In the *Palais de l'Industrie* of the *Champs Elysées* is a very curious collection of poisons from the west coast of Africa; among these is the remarkable plant called the 'bean of ordeal,' or, botanically, *physostigma venenosum*: it is used by the monarchs of Old Calabar as a cheap substitute for the judge and jury required by the formalities of colder climates. When prosecutor and prisoner come before the king, he administers to each a bean, whether poisonous or not he himself knows not at the time. One party dies, sometimes both, and judgment is delivered accordingly. The bean is also used for executions; the king reserves to himself the possession of the plants producing this useful fruit. The medicinal value of the poison has been discovered by an Edinburgh physician, and it has been found of great use to produce a contraction of the pupil of the eye, the contrary of [illegible] *belladonna*, whose property it is to dilate the pupil.

LEATHER IN NEW YORK.—No amount of duty will check the importation of [illegible] [illegible]

THE COST OF [illegible].—The *[illegible] Courier* [illegible] [illegible]

Among the Contents of THE INDEX *of May 5 are*

BLOCKADE-RUNNING STATISTICS.

NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK AT HOME AND ABROAD.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

MARION: A NOVEL.

THE LAST FALSEHOOD. THE WAR.

BUNCOMBE IN HIGH PLACES.

PARLIAMENT.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES.

LETTERS FROM RICHMOND.

LETTER FROM HALIFAX.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

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THERE are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellow-men.

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AMERICA.

THE Presidential election occupies more space in the Northern papers than the great and momentous campaign in Virginia. There are those who believe either that General Grant will be prevented from moving on Richmond, or that his defeat will be insured, to prevent his becoming a too formidable rival to the present occupant of the Presidential chair. Others hold that Mr. Lincoln must have military success to insure his nomination. Every way the situation is becoming alarming. The President has taken the responsibility, and he is held to it. He has made himself the Government, and is called to account for its misdeeds. Too fast for the Conservatives, too slow for the Radicals, and surrounded by ambitious and unscrupulous aspirants to the position he has abused, only the military power can save him, and that, perhaps, will be the first to destroy him. The war is almost forgotten in the fight of Northern factions. General Fremont is about to assemble his Radical, Red-Republican, and German admirers at Cleveland, Ohio, to nominate him leader of the 'new nation.' Mr. Chase, vainly trying to lay the gold demon in Wall Street, is accused in Washington of favouritism, corruption, and treachery, and of connivance at the grossest frauds and the most shameless debauchery. Major-General Blair accused him of crimes which should hurl him from office if they did not consign him to a penitentiary, and the President endorses his charges by appointing him to an important post in the army. Mr. Chase threatens to resign, but holds on to a place in which he can enrich his friends with greenbacks, if not with gold. Mr. Brooks, of New York, followed up the attack of General Blair with charges against the Treasury department of profligacies which he would not describe while there were ladies in the gallery!

FEDERAL officers have resorted to the use of torture upon their unhappy victims. A correspondent of the *New York Daily News* gives an account of the use of the cold douche to extort testimony at Washington, and the *Albany Evening Journal* alludes in the following matter-of-course way to the use of the thumb-screws, a horrible mode of torture:—'Johnson, the deserter, *after the thumb-screws had been put to him at the barracks*, owned up yesterday. He said that he enlisted in this city, and gave the number of the regiment to which he belonged. He escaped from the barracks.'

A VERY important decision has been made in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, in which it was held that the Treasury notes of the Federal Government are not legal tender for the extinguishment of a ground-rent where the covenant required lawful money of the United States. This ruling, if confirmed by the higher courts, may lead to important consequences.

MR. CLAY, an Administrative Member of Congress from Kentucky, in a speech on the treatment of the negro, denounced the cruelties to which he has been subjected by the Federal civil and military authorities. 'Thousands of contrabands,' he said, 'were dying in camps of all diseases ever described or imagined. They are rotting in filth. Such mortality is the result of your system. You care no more for the negro than you do for a horse. I would rather be a slaveholder than a robber, stealing all over the country. The system inaugurated is worse than the system of slavery. More money is required to carry it out than it costs to provide for the slaves of the South.' The *Boston Courier* remarks: 'This is a very strong denunciation of the philanthropists, who carry on the war to emancipate the negro and then leave him to perish, but it is just. They care nothing for humanity, but seek to indulge their spite. It is robbery and murder, not honourable warfare.'

THE Washington correspondent of the *Cincinnati Enquirer* says the President has received information that a fleet of ironclad rams and gunboats of the most approved structure is ready to come out of the James River, and not only destroy Washington, but threaten Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. This is one of the many excuses for the panic now pervading the Administration circles.

THE charges against Mr. Chase, Secretary of the Federal Treasury, brought by General Blair, brother of another member of the Cabinet, and Mr. Brooks, of New York, and which are of so serious a character as to demand a committee of investigation, are the employment of men of bad reputations in his department, giving permits to buy cotton of and sell supplies to the enemy, enriching his friends, relations, and agents to the amount of millions, and selecting venal, corrupt, and purchasable men to carry into effect his trade regulations. There is also a charge of quartering a large section of the 'social evil' on the Government, as female clerks in the Treasury department.

FORGERY appears to be growing more and more in favour in Federal politics and diplomacy. The forged report of the Confederate Secretary of the Navy, palmed by Mr. Seward upon Earl Russell, has been blandly confessed by the Federal diplomatist as the ingenious fabrication of a 'gentleman of New York.' A few weeks ago, a member of the House of Representatives at Washington made some charges of corrupt malfeasance against General Blair, a fellow-member, supported by documents which were proven to be forgeries; and now it is settled that the letters produced in the House by General Garfield, purporting to have been written by J. S. Davis and D. R. Eckles, of Indiana, were also forgeries. The Indianapolis *Sentinel* states that they were written at the desk in the office of a hotel in that city, and that they were fabricated for the spy Rankin in the hope that they might protect him in case he fell into Confederate hands.

'Go where we will,' says the *New York Commercial*—'to Charleston, Ringgold, Olustee, Meridian, Camden, or up the Red River—we find a force confronting us sufficiently large to accept battle.' It might have added that, according to Federal reports, this force always meets them in 'overwhelming numbers.' One of Mr. Lincoln's grim jokes was to tell an anxious enquirer that the Confederate armies must amount to three millions, because he had a million himself, and wherever he sent his troops they were met and beaten by three times their number. Another paper accounts for the 'backbone of the rebellion' still remaining unbroken by the fact that 'the Southerners have an immense and fruitful territory, have slaves to raise the necessaries of life, and, as all legitimate business has been destroyed, the whole arms-bearing population can take to the field.'

THE Northern ladies are coming to the relief of Mr. Chase and the Federal Treasury by forming a league, and pledging themselves to purchase no goods of foreign importation during the war—no tea or coffee, silks or laces, jewels or ornaments from foreign parts. The gold is to be kept at home; but these fair ladies have no idea of bating their extravagances. At a masquerade ball in Madison Square, where everything was as gorgeous as if there were no war, or debt, or depreciated greenbacks, the hostess appeared in a coronal of living flame. Attached to her hoop-skirt was a small gasometer, and a connecting pipe, passing up between the elaborate braids of her back hair, secured the brilliant triumph at the risk of the wearer's life.

GENERAL MAGRUDER, who has a reputation in the Trans-Mississippi department very similar to that acquired by Stonewall Jackson in Virginia, is reported to have an army in Texas, 30,000 strong, on the Guadaloupe, Colorado, and Brazos rivers, with 5,000 at Galveston. Texas having been almost entirely abandoned by the Federals, its army will be free to cooperate with the Confederate forces in Louisiana.

THE health of General Johnston's army is reported to be excellent, and the hospitals in the south-west are almost emptied. The army was being filled up with sturdy young recruits, who, as soon as they arrive at the military age, hasten to join their fathers and brothers in the camp. Food is so abundant, that West Alabama and East Mississippi alone could supply the whole Confederacy with corn and nearly with pork, if it were not for the difficulties in transportation.

WHILE the chief of the Federal Treasury is in hot water at Washington, some of his subordinates at New York are not comfortable. Their offence is having received bribes of Confederate agents to permit the shipment of supplies for the Southern States. These transactions having come to the knowledge of a gentleman engaged in the laudable occupation of counterfeiting the bonds of the Confederate States, he was arrested by an order procured from Washington, and shut up for four months in Fort Lafayette, to get rid of his testimony. Thus this gentleman forger was prevented from serving his country by circulating counterfeit bonds, while the officers of the Government were pocketing heavy bribes for conniving at treason. These precious scoundrels, high and low, seem to be quarrelling so violently, that honest men have a prospect of hearing the truth.

THE sudden increase of the exorbitant duties of the Morrill tariff, fifty per cent. for sixty days, was one of those effects of pressure and panic which sometimes produce indescribable confusion. The entire commercial press of all parties condemns it as unjust, useless, and mischievous. The effect has been, to empty the bonded warehouses before the act became a law, to raise the price of goods, to put enormous profits into the pockets of American manufacturers and holders of heavy stocks of goods, to cause smuggling on a large scale, to paralyse commerce, irritate merchants, and not to increase the revenue.

THE *New York Herald* of May 4 says, with a quiet irony which, we suspect, is scarcely appreciated in the North, of the situation in Virginia, and the rumours of movements and battles:—'We are told that the only fear is that General Lee will "attempt to escape" from his position before General Grant moves upon his works. It may be a vague fear, however, which need not distress those who are anxious upon the question. It is far more likely that such a sagacious strategist as Lee has proved himself will not change his base, except it be for a stronger position.'

As a preparation for a battle in Virginia, fifteen car loads of sick and wounded soldiers in the hospitals of Washington were sent North, and additional accommodations provided for twenty thousand.

WHILE Mr. Chase is violently attacked in the House of Representatives, a commission has been appointed to examine into the conduct of General Butler, who has been regulating preachers, bankers, and schoolmistresses at Norfolk, and gorging himself on greenbacks, if reports are true, from every possible source of plunder. His claims to a presidential nomination are easily disposed of. Theft may not be a disqualification for the presidency, but being found out is, and General Butler is no longer feared as a candidate.

THE Federal senate has rejected an amendment to the National Bank Bill, requiring the redemption of notes in specie six months after the rebellion shall be crushed, considering, possibly, that such a clause would be equivalent to an indefinite postponement.

THE pay of the Federal troops has been raised to sixteen dollars a month, and the negro raised to an equality, in pay and rations, with his white comrades. But sixteen dollars in greenbacks, now worth little more than half that amount in money, may soon be much less, and not enough to tempt black or white men to risk their lives in a useless contest.

THE Confederate Colonel Ponors, with two hundred cavalry, is reported to have dashed into Port Hudson, killed and wounded ninety Federals, and captured one gun and nineteen prisoners.

THE Confederate ram *Roanoke*, which did such good service at the capture of Plymouth, North Carolina, and which may have joined the rams in the Neuse, in the attack on Newbern, appears to possess extraordinary powers of resistance; for Federal officers report that several pointed steel bolts were fired at her, from the *Miami*, at not more than twenty feet distance, without making the least impression.

THE rear of General Beauregard's army, consisting of the reserves from South Carolina we presume, is said to have

passed through Petersburg, Virginia, on the 30th ult. General Lee is reported to have a well-equipped cavalry force of 22,000.

A fire in Wilmington is said to have consumed property to the value of $5,000,000, including a cotton press and several thousand bales of cotton.

The first act of the Federal troops in the campaign of Virginia was characteristic. It was to burn the beautiful village of Madison Court House—a harmless rural village, with beautiful residences and delightful scenery, having a population of about 1,000 persons, made homeless by this Vandal atrocity. The pretext of justification was that a squad of Confederates, driven by a superior force of Federals, used some of the houses to defend themselves—a thing that has happened, we presume, in almost every town in Europe. This destruction, however, is in accordance with the doctrine laid down in a recent letter of General Sherman, in which he asserts that the Northerners have a right to take the lives and property of the whole Southern people.

The Federals have evacuated Washington, North Carolina, without waiting to be attacked, and it was rumoured that the Confederates had invested Newbern. North Carolina, with its great sweep of rivers and bays, is almost freed from the invader.

Admiral Wilkes has been sentenced by a naval court-martial to be publicly reprimanded, and suspended from the service for three years. This is the gentleman who received ovations for having taken the Confederate Commissioners from a British mail steamer. His offences appear to have been failing to capture the *Alabama*, and speaking disrespectfully of Secretary Welles.

General Forrest is said to have gathered recruits in West Tennessee and Kentucky, to the number of 12,000 or 15,000, and to have joined General Johnston at Dalton, who was expecting an attack from the Federals. Another rumour represents him as about to attack Memphis.

Taking gunboats with cavalry appears to be a regular portion of Confederate tactics. The Federal gunboat *Petrel* was boarded and captured, April 23, near Yazoo City, by a portion of General Wirt Adams's cavalry. General Adams's force is estimated at 3,000 to 5,000, operating chiefly against steamboats on the Lower Mississippi and its branches.

General Banks has not only reestablished slavery in Louisiana, with all its hardships of enforced labour, and without its modifying and beneficent features, but he has reorganised the slave trade; and negroes, escaped from their masters, and who imagined they were free under Mr. Lincoln's proclamation, are captured by Federal soldiers, confined in gaols, and then sold for ten dollars a head to speculating Yankees who have seized upon Southern plantations.

The military movements in Virginia, up to May 4, seem to have been only obscurely guessed at. General Grant appeared to be concentrating all available forces for an advance on Richmond, but the wary Confederates, while bringing troops from Charleston to Richmond, did not forget that there was a Federal army in Tennessee, and that Atlanta was to be guarded as well as the capital. According to the most reliable statements, General Lee, with an army of 90,000 men, was strengthening the line of the Rapidan, extending from the Blue Ridge, about forty miles to the Rappahannock; and here it seemed probable that he would await the attack of the Federal Commander-in-Chief, while a smaller force, commanded perhaps by General Beauregard, would dispute an advance up the Peninsula.

The Federal disasters in Louisiana have not been exaggerated. General Banks may or may not be removed from his command, but he is removed far enough from competing with Mr. Lincoln as a candidate for the Presidency. A sudden fall in the Red River, aided by the diversion of its waters into one of the bayous of the great delta of the Mississippi, has left Federal ironclads aground, and Federal transports above the falls, in imminent peril of capture. Some of the gunboats had already been attacked by infantry.

There are rumours that the column of General Steele was at Camden, entrenched, and awaiting reinforcements, which can scarcely be sent. The mendacious New Orleans Government papers, which have invented for General Banks battles never fought, and victories never won, reported that General Steele had taken Shreveport, a place quite impregnable to any Federal force now west of the Mississippi.

ENGLAND.

The Conference met on Tuesday last. All the members were present. After a lengthened discussion, the meeting adjourned until Saturday the 28th inst. We understand that the Austrian and Prussian representatives have formally intimated that their Governments consider themselves released by the war from all the obligations of the Treaty of London.

The Queen left Windsor Castle on Friday last for Balmoral, where she arrived on the afternoon of Saturday. Her Majesty was accompanied by Prince Leopold and Princesses Helena, Louise, and Beatrice.

Her Majesty the Queen held a Court at Buckingham Palace on May 11. On the evening of the same day a State concert was given, to which about 800 persons were invited. Madlle. Titiens, Madame Parepa, Mr. Santley, Signor Giuglini, and Herr Mayerhofer were the principal singers. Mr. Anderson conducted. The Princess of Wales held a Drawing-room at St. James's Palace on Saturday. On Thursday last the Earl of Granville gave a soirée in the new courts of the South Kensington Museum. The Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duchess and Princess Mary of Cambridge, and about 1,000 guests, were present.

Mr. Kelk has commenced the works in connection with the Albert Memorial. The excavations for the foundation in Hyde Park, opposite the Horticultural Gardens, are in course of progress. The memorial will be 160 feet in height, and the base of it 130 feet square. There will be a double flight of steps of grey granite. The basement of the memorial proper will be of marble, and the figures thereon will be in high relief and of life size. The columns supporting the superstructure will consist of groups of red granite pillars. Beneath the canopy will be placed the statue of the Prince Consort, who will be seated on a chair in robes of state. The figure will be formed on such a scale that if erect it would attain to the height of 30 feet. The spire which terminates the canopy will be built of red and grey granite and Darley Dale stone. The surmounting cross will be of copper gilt. The work will occupy four years in completion, and Mr. Kelk has contracted to finish it for the sum of 120,000*l*.

Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Montpensier, with their family and suite, arrived at Southampton on Monday last, on board the Spanish war steamer *Isabella Secunda*. Their Royal Highnesses are staying at Claremont.

The Ladies' Polish Committee in London have received an earnest and pitiable appeal from the Ladies' Committee at Cracow. The letter bears date May 1. It states that the Committee is at the end of its means, and that doubt of ultimate victory is still far from them. They, therefore, as the wives and sisters of the martyrs to their holy cause of liberty and civilisation, address the ladies of Great Britain. They have given all they possessed, even to their marriage rings. The prisons overflow with victims of both sexes nearly deprived of clothing and medical assistance. Many ladies have been imprisoned for attending their wounded relatives, and these, if discovered, are given up to the Russian authorities. The Committee then once more calls for aid. Madame Schwabe and the Countess of Shaftesbury are Treasurers of the Polish Fund. Messrs. Ransom, Bouverie & Co., and Messrs. Barnett, Hoare & Co., receive subscriptions.

Five ships belonging to the Channel squadron arrived in Plymouth Sound from the Downs on Friday afternoon: namely, the *Edgar*, 71, Captain Hornby, Flag of Rear-Admiral Dacres, C. B.; the *Black Prince*, 41, Captain Wainwright; the *Warrior*, 40, Captain Cochrane; *Defence*, 16, Captain Phillimore; and the *Prince Consort*, 35, Captain Willis, C. B. The ammunition and shells were discharged from the *Warrior* and *Defence*, and they were docked on Saturday. The *Black Prince* and the *Prince Consort* were also to be docked. The officers of the squadron were not, however, expecting to stay more than ten days at Plymouth.

The pilot-boat *Whisper* put in at Plymouth on May 11, and landed Captain Howes, his wife and two children, three officers, the steward, and some of the crew of the ship *Avon*, of Boston, United States, 151 tons. The *Avon* was captured on March 20, in lat. 14° 40′ N., long. 33° W., by the Confederate war steamer *Florida*, Captain Morris. The *Avon* had a cargo of guano from Holland Island in the Pacific, and was bound for Queenstown. After her crew, provisions, &c., had been removed, she was set on fire. Captain Howes was put on board the *Francis Milly*, Captain Eynon, from the Mauritius. Ten of the crew of the *Avon* joined the *Florida*.

The memorial submitted last year to Earl Russell with reference to the Foreign Enlistment Act by certain shipowners of Liverpool has been followed by a petition to the same effect to the House of Commons. The petition has been forwarded to Mr. Horsfall for presentation. It has been signed by all the firms which signed the memorial, with one exception. The document declares that the petitioners view with dismay the future consequences of a state of affairs which permits a foreign belligerent to construct in British ports and send to sea vessels of war in contravention of the provisions of the law; that the effect of placing at the disposal of the foreign belligerent a small number of steam cruisers has been to paralyse the mercantile marine of a powerful maritime and naval nation, inflicting within a few months losses direct and indirect on its shipowning and mercantile interests which years of peace may prove inadequate to retrieve. The document then proceeds to contemplate the dangers which threaten England in the event of her becoming a belligerent from the like cause, and states that the sea carrying trade will inevitably be transferred to neutral flags to the ruin of the petitioners. A regret is next expressed at the successful attempts made to evade the Act, and a hope that the law will be amended by the English Parliament, and efforts made to induce other Powers to adopt similar regulations.

On Monday last, Mr. Laird, M.P. for Birkenhead, laid the foundation-stone of the Birkenhead Workmen's Hall. This undertaking is being carried out by a Working Men's Company. The building is to be of great size, and will contain reading, smoking, and coffee rooms, a lecture room, and a large hall. Mr. Laird, in the performance of the ceremony, said that this would be the most complete building of the kind in England, and that the success of the undertaking was mainly to be attributed to the fact that persons of all shades of opinion had cooperated in its accomplishment.

The Rev. James Amiraux Jeremie, D.D., the Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge, has been nominated by the Crown to the Deanery of Lincoln, vacant by the elevation of Dr. Jeune to the Bishopric of Peterborough. Mr. Jeremie was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, of which society he became a Fellow. He was ordained in 1830, and appointed Professor of Classical Literature in the East India College at Haileybury. In 1833 he was elected Christian Advocate in the University of Cambridge. In 1848 he was made sub-dean and canon residentiary in Lincoln Cathedral, and in 1849 he was appointed by Lord John Russell to the Regius Professorship. Dr. Jeremie is the author of the articles on 'The History of Rome from Constantine to the death of Julian,' and 'The History of the Church in the second and third Centuries,' in the *Encyclopædia Metropolitana*, and of a great number of pamphlets and sermons on various theological questions. He preached the Latin sermon at St. Paul's, at the Assembly of Convocation in 1852, and in 1862 he preached in the French language to a large congregation of foreigners in Westminster Abbey. The appointment of Dr. Jeremie to the Deanery will give universal satisfaction.

Of the numberless parties who celebrated Whitsun Monday by keeping high holiday, there were few who had so rich an opportunity of enjoying their holiday as the three battalions of Volunteers who were brigaded at Leatherhead under Colonel McMurdo. Not even the plenteous dust of the high road between the station and the Downs sufficed to spoil the poetry of that beautiful woodland scenery, in which every shade of green, every variety of foliage, every most exquisite undulation of landscape combined under the glorious May sun to form a picture which made Englishmen thrill with pride. The Inns of Court, four companies of the London Rifle Brigade, the 2nd and 8th Tower Hamlets, and the 20th Middlesex (the two latter being formed into one battalion) were the corps which took advantage of so fair an occasion. The Inns of Court were the first on the ground, and were immediately sent out in pickets to watch the edge of the brush-wood covering the south of the position. On the arrival of the remaining battalions the brigade was formed facing to the east, and after a few preliminary movements advanced in line to meet the supposed enemy. The ground was eminently favourable to cavalry, who, of course, seized the opportunity to make a charge on our lines; but the wily brigadier, disdaining the obsolete formation of square, threw his flank battalions into echelon of companies, formed four deep, and prepared to receive the attack in that formation. It is needless to say that a well-directed fire emptied the opposite saddles, and completely checked the advance of the supposed horsemen. The brigade then changed their front to the right and advanced up a slight incline. The London Rifles were thrown out in skirmishing order to cover the front. The tide of war rolled over the plain with steady progress. Soon the skirmishers were in the midst of the brushwood, driving the enemy before them relentlessly; but beyond the brushwood and between that and the skirts of the forest beyond was an open space, on which the shattered lines of the enemy might be re-formed. The 'Devil's Own' stole off towards the right, and found a narrow but practicable passage through the yews and juniper, leaving the line of skirmishers to their left. They gained the open space in the nick of time, just as the enemy had been driven in on the left. The shouts of the victorious Tower Hamlets were heard as the head of the column emerged from the brush. The brigade re-formed, and again advanced on the luckless foe; a few volleys were exchanged, and the whole line advanced in a magnificent charge, driving all that remained of the opposers into the shelter of the forest. Enough, even of victory, is as good as a feast; the brigade prudently retired to its original ground as fresh forces came on to the attack. One more charge down the southern hill, and the enemy was taught, on that side at least, the Leatherhead Downs were not to be taken. The brigade then formed mass, and were addressed by Colonel M'Murdo. He said that he had put the Volunteers on that day to a hard trial by ordering the execution of divers brigade movements 'on the move,' an ordeal to which even line regiments were not subjected. He made some remarks on the peculiar brigade formation used that day to receive cavalry. He thought that in these days of Enfield rifles the old formation of squares was passing away. No cavalry would dare to attack except in front; any flank movement on their part must be made on the circumference of a wide circle, of which the infantry would be the centre, and would consequently be exposed to a continuous and murderous fire. If by chance a flank attack was made, the flank battalions, being in echelon, could be quickly wheeled back to meet it. The field day thus ended, under the last rays of the sun, the battalions returned to the station, whence they came, tired but merry, covered with glory and dust.

Before the publication of our next number, the great event of the year in sporting circles will have been decided. The race for the Derby Stakes at Epsom promises to be of unusual interest, for it is difficult to point to a year in which the number of really magnificent competitors has been so great. We think it right, therefore, to give the names of the horses that now attract public attention, with the state of the betting. Lord Glasgow's General Peel, by Young Melbourne, his dam by Orlando out of Brown Bess, is first favourite at the odds of 5 to 1, his position as such being of course due to the victory in the Two Thousand Guineas Stakes at Newmarket. Captain White's Cambuscan by Newminster out of The Arrow, bred at Her Majesty's paddocks at Hampton Court, and sold last year at Lord Stamford's sale for 5,100*l*., presses hard on General Peel at the odds of 6 to 1. Cambuscan won the July Stakes and the Croome Stakes last year at Newmarket. Next comes the Scottish Chief, by Lord of the Isles out of Miss Ann, the property of Mr. Merry, the winner last year of the First Biennial Stakes at Ascot and of the Chesterfield Stakes at Newmarket.

The odds against Scottish Chief are 7 to 1. Next follows Lord Westmoreland's Birch Broom, by Idle Boy out of Bavaria, who beat twenty-six horses last year at Ascot for the Maiden Plate, and also won the Two-year-old Stakes at Hampton Court. The odds against Birch Broom are 8 to 1. Then follows Coastguard, by Saunterer, out of Lady Elizabeth, the property of Mr. Naylor, who last year won the Derby with Maccaroni. Coastguard won the Gimcrack Stakes last year at York, and also a sweepstakes at Doncaster, beating Prince Arthur and Fille de l'Air, and the odds against him are 12 to 1. Against Mr. R. Ten Broeck's Paris, the son of Mildew and Daisy, who ran second for the Two Thousand Guineas, the odds are 14 to 1. This horse won the Findon and the Mersey Stakes last year at Goodwood. Next follows Mr. W. I'Anson's Blair Athol, who has never yet ran, but who boasts for his sire the renowned Stockwell, and for his dam Blink Bonny; thus combining in his blood the *prestige* of victory in the four great races, for Stockwell won the Two Thousand Guineas and the St. Leger, while Blink Bonny won the Derby and Oaks. These are the most notable of the colts who will contest the great prize at Epsom on Wednesday next. We shall not hazard a prophecy on the result, but content ourselves with stating that the event will probably be very much in accordance with the betting; for the market this year seems to take a very just estimate of the merits of the horses. Our anticipations on the Two Thousand Guineas proved true to the letter; but to anticipate the result of a Derby is a more daring enterprise.

THE Court of Aldermen of the City of London has been thrown into a complete state of panic by the introduction of a bill into the House of Commons. From time 'whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary,' that honourable Court has held and exercised a stringent control over persons following the calling of 'brokers' within the City. To obtain admission it was necessary to show to the Court, by a certificate signed by six respectable merchants, that the applicant was a man of fitness and integrity, and on admission the broker entered into a bond for himself in the penalty of 1,000*l.* and two sureties in 250*l.* for the honest execution of his office, and also pledged himself by a solemn oath that he would truly and faithfully perform his work 'between party and party, and in all things appertaining to it, without fraud or collusion, to the best of his skill and knowledge.' Moreover, the Court took cognisance of the behaviour of the brokers, more especially with a view of preventing them from being dealers and brokers at one and the same time. The brokers have now promoted a bill before Parliament entirely abolishing the jurisdiction of the Court of Aldermen in this respect, and therewith sweeping away fees heretofore payable to the corporation to the amount of 5,000*l.* a year. On the merits of the question, it is urged on the one hand that the supervision of the Court is necessary to secure to the trader not only honesty on the part of the broker, but also to prevent the broker from indulging in business on his own account. On the other hand, it is said that if the broker act fraudulently, the person wronged can appeal to the law of the land and obtain more satisfactory redress than he can from the Court of Aldermen; and if the broker chose to act in the double capacity of broker and merchant, his clients would soon find him out, and his business would suffer in consequence. The Lord Mayor lately presided at a meeting of the Aldermen, and an animated debate ensued, in which Messrs. Aldermen Rose, M.P., and Copeland, M.P., ably upheld the privileges of the Court, and a motion was carried that a copy of the bill, with the evidence adduced before the Committee, should be furnished to the members of the Court. Much indignation was caused by the discovery that three Aldermen had given evidence not unfavourable to the bill, and that neither the City Remembrancer nor the City Solicitor had exerted themselves to sustain the rights of the Court.

AUSTRALIA.

BOTH Houses of the Parliament of the Colony of Victoria have agreed to certain resolutions in answer to the despatch of the Duke of Newcastle on the convict question. That despatch announced that the recommendation of the Royal Commissioners would not be carried out, but that transportation from England to Western Australia would be continued for a short time at the rate of 500 persons a year. By the resolutions the Houses desire to acknowledge the consideration paid by the Home Government to the remonstrances of the Parliament of Victoria against the continuance of transportation to Western Australia. They learn, however, with deep regret, the determination to maintain the existing system, and protest against it. They deny the right of the colonists of Western Australia to calculate on the continuance of the policy, which has produced mischievous effects to the other colonies. They record their belief that so long as convicts are transported to Australia, the feelings of attachment of the people of Victoria to the Crown of England will be mingled with a deep sense of unmerited wrong inflicted upon the colony by the advisers of Her Majesty.

The vintage in Victoria had failed, and breadstuffs had gone up 40 per cent.

Dr. Patteson, Bishop of Melanesia (Salomon Islands), had been in Victoria on a visit. He addressed large audiences in Melbourne in support of his mission, in which he had met with considerable success. He had gone on to Sydney.

The 'All-England Eleven' were in Sydney. Their trip to New Zealand had been most fortunate, and they were shortly expected in Melbourne. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean had met with a splendid reception at Ballarat, where Mrs. Kean had been presented with a large nugget of gold. On the whole, their tour had been successful.

INDIA.

Sir Charles Trevelyan has made his financial statement to the Council. The surplus realised has exceeded Mr. Laing's estimate by more than a million and a half sterling. The Land Tax showed an increase of 710,000*l.* The whole increase in the revenue during the past five years is nine millions sterling. The estimated surplus for the coming year is 800,000*l.* It is probable that next year the Income Tax will be entirely removed. The Government further promised to consider the introduction of gold into the currency.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

The only important news from China is the continued success of the operations of Major Gordon against the rebels. He had captured three cities and was rapidly isolating Nankin. It was said that Chung Wang, 'the fighting king,' was collecting his property in Nankin with a view to a retreat. The siege at Hangchow was progressing vigorously. Her Majesty's gunboat *Cockchafer* had captured three piratical junks. The pirates confessed to having taken two Portuguese lorchas and a French schooner laden with arms.

From Nagasaki we have news of an attack on an Englishman—Mr. Sutton—by a Japanese two-sworded official. Sir R. Alcock had been received at Yokohama, with the usual marks of respect.

AFRICA.

The insurrection at Tunis has progressed in the provinces, but has not yet affected the tranquillity of the capital. It is understood that Italian, French, and English troops are to be disembarked in order effectually to protect the interests of their respective nations. It appears that the revolt originated in a mutiny among the soldiers of the Bey, whose pay was in considerable arrears. The army of the State consists of 12,000 regulars, and a mass of irregular troops. It is said that should any untoward circumstance deprive the Bey of life, the military chiefs are prepared to nominate a new sovereign immediately in the person of Sid-Hamouda, the heir-presumptive to the vice-regal title.

Some of our readers may remember a considerable amount of excitement which was caused by the death of Radama II., King of Madagascar, whose heterodox notions on foreign policy had made him insupportable to his Ministry. Whether poison or yet more violent measures were used, does not appear to be clear; it would evidently, however, be worth while to clear up that point, as the report now obtains in the island that the late King has returned to life, and is soon about to reappear. Great excitement has been caused at Tananariva, the capital, and an order issued forbidding the sale of powder to the natives.

Advices from Abyssinia state that complete anarchy now reigns there. The Emperor Theodore is hemmed in by his revolted subjects. All the troops are concentrated at Goudar.

His Majesty the King of Dahomey has been defeated with enormous loss in an attempt to capture the city of Abbeokuta. His Majesty entertained a settled hatred of that new city, which bade fair to outgrow in wealth and strength the dominions of the King, and he had moreover expressed to Captain Wilmot, on the occasion of the visit of that officer to the King's capital, his determination to reduce the obnoxious refuge. So about two months since the King set his army in array, and marched forth with a force 10,000 strong and three brass six-pounders to glut his sweet revenge. On March 16 he appeared before Abbeokuta. The Egbas (for by that name the 200,000 people who dwell around the rock 'Olumo' are called) had received due warning, and the Abashorun had made preparations for the attack. The assault of the Dahomians was delivered with the most reckless fury, the Amazons forming the storming column, and fighting with desperate valour. But the defeat of the King was complete, and as he broke up from his position and retreated, the Egbas pursued and slew without mercy the beaten host. The country people also rose and joined in the general massacre. The King of Dahomey lost 3,000 troops, 1,000 killed and 2,000 prisoners. The King, however, with the remnant of his army made good his retreat.

MEXICO.

As the day approaches for the arrival of the Emperor Maximilian, the feelings of expectation and joy take the place of every other. Even politics are suspended, and the whole activity of the nation is concentrated on the magnificent welcome which it is preparing for its sovereigns. It is said that all the Ministers will tender their resignation, and submit to the Emperor's inspection a report of their respective administrations. All Mexicans hope that, after fifty years' civil war and tumult, an age of peace and happiness is in store for them. The news from the interior and from the coast of the Pacific is good. Three French men-of-war are at San Blas, another at Mazatlan, and others are about to occupy Manzanilo and Guaymas. Thus commerce will find for itself new vents. M. Cota, a deputy in the legislative body, has just returned from a tour of financial inspection in the provinces. He reports that in them, as in the capital, commerce, agriculture, and industry of all sorts have returned to their normal condition; and a still greater development is anticipated as soon as the Prince so anxiously expected shall come to take the reins of the Empire.

Juarez is determined either to prove that 'there is life in the old dog yet,' or to give his Yankee friends a more decent excuse for the faith they still have in his authority. He has issued a proclamation saying that whereas Signor Vidaurri, Governor of Nueva Leon, has demanded of the people a vote on the question of peace or war (that is to say, of adhesion to Maximilian or Juarez), the said Vidaurri has been guilty of treason, and every person voting according to the proclamation will also be guilty of treason, and liable to be punished in person and property.

GENERAL BUTLER.—The general has never been under fire since the commencement of the war, and never will be even by accident. His discretion is perfectly well understood to be too great to permit him to expose himself to the foe, but he is immense in his onslaughts upon rebels in petticoats in general and rebel property in particular.—*New York World*, April 28.

THE CONTINENT.

THE details of the naval action between the Danes and Germans off Heligoland, on May 9, have come to us; they confirm the previous despatch in all important particulars. It appears that on the 7th inst. the Austrian frigates *Schwartzenberg* and *Radetsky*, in company with the Prussian gunboats *Adler* and *Blitz*, started on a cruise after the Danish flotilla; the search was fruitless, but immediately on their return to their anchorage a telegram was received stating that three Danish frigates were off Heligoland. Captain Tegetthof, who was in command of the squadron, immediately got up steam, and soon came in sight of the enemy, who showed every willingness to meet him. The opposing forces were, on the German side, the *Schwartzenberg*, 50 guns, the *Radetsky*, 30 guns, the *Adler* and *Blitz*, iron-plated gunboats, carrying 4 guns each; on the Danish side, the *Niels-Juel*, 42, the *Zylland*, 44, and the *Hindal* or *Daymar*, 16. Captain Tegetthof immediately ran the *Schwartzenberg* in between the *Niels-Juel* and *Dagmar*, and delivered a double broadside; the Danes lost no time in returning it, and the engagement soon became general. The *Niels-Juel* used her shells very effectively, and the *Schwartzenberg* was soon on fire in two places; a lucky shot carried away her bowsprit, and her foremast was burnt down. The *Radetsky* attempted to divert the enemy's fire from her partner, but without success, receiving herself some damage. The Prussian gunboats kept out of range, and appear to have been of no use. The Germans, finding themselves so severely handled, prepared to beat a retreat; this, however, was not effected without difficulty, the Danes hanging pertinaciously on to their victim. The Austrian frigates succeeded, however, in getting into English waters, and their foes steamed away northwards. The losses on board the *Schwartzenberg* were one officer and thirty men killed, forty-four severely wounded, and between thirty and forty slightly wounded—total about 110; the *Radetsky* lost one naval cadet and five men killed, and thirty-one wounded—total, thirty-seven: making the whole loss 147. The Danish loss, according to a despatch addressed to the Minister of Marine, amounts to fourteen killed and fifty-four wounded. The news of this action was received at Copenhagen amidst the most tumultuous joy; nor were the Austrians dissatisfied with the conduct of their ships, who were in truth fighting against some odds: the Emperor has sent to Captain Tegetthof his admiral's commission in token of his approval. On the other hand, the burst of applause raised in the House of Commons by the receipt of the telegraphic news respecting the engagement has caused the liveliest irritation at Vienna. Some of the journals assert that the English ships *Black Eagle* and *Aurora* gave notice to the Danes of the inferiority of their enemy, and so forced on a disadvantageous battle.

The Austrian squadron under Admiral Willerstorf is now at Cherbourg, and consists of the *Kayser*, 90; the *Don Juan*, iron-plated frigate, 31; the *Königin Elisabeth*, 10; the *Archduke Frederic*, 22; and the *Wedl*, gunboat, 4.

THE following is the text of the suspension of hostilities between the two belligerents: 'There shall be a suspension of hostilities by land and sea, to begin on the 12th of May, and to endure for one month. On that date Denmark shall raise the blockade. Prussia and Austria pledge themselves, during the suspension of hostilities, to put no obstacle on commerce, or the communications, or the regular course of administration in those parts of Jutland which are occupied by their troops; also not to raise war contributions, but, on the contrary, to pay for all that shall be furnished to the German troops; the latter shall only remain in occupation of the strategic positions they now hold. The belligerents agree to keep the military positions which they now respectively hold both on land and at sea, and bind themselves not to reinforce them during the suspension of hostilities.' Another article ordains that ten days' notice shall be given before the resumption of hostilities by either party.

The conclusion of this truce and the agreement to raise the blockade has brought about a Ministerial crisis at Copenhagen; the Ministers of Justice, of the Interior, and of War have tendered their resignations. The Danish press considers that the last stipulation was only forced upon Denmark by English pressure. We are decidedly at a discount with both the contending parties.

The war contributions in Jutland, as stated last week, have been of the most severe nature; besides these, however, Marshal Wrangel, who has 'certainly' built himself an everlasting name' among the Jutlanders, has imposed a land-tax of nearly 6,000,000 rigsdalers, or more than 900,000*l.* The number of natives employed in the forced labour of demolishing the defences of Kolding and Fredericia was 2,000. The Copenhagen *Dagbladet* complains that, notwithstanding the armistice, the Prussians continued pillaging on the 12th and 13th inst. in Aarhuus, and on the 12th inst. in Randers; it is also officially stated the confiscations were continued on the 14th inst.

THE German atmosphere just now is alive with petitions and addresses. One presented to the King of Prussia congratulates him on the victories of his troops, comments on the faithlessness and tyranny of the Danes, and concludes by declaring that hereafter Slesvig and Holstein must be united into one State, and either placed under a sovereign of their own or annexed to some neighbouring great German Power. The address was got up among the Conservative party in Prussia under the auspices of Count von Arnim-Boytzenburg. There is no concealment in the formula, 'a neighbouring great German power;' Prussia alone can be alluded to, and thus the Viennese public understand it, and also the Liberal party in Prussia itself. To both of these the suggestion is unwelcome, though probably for very different reasons; the former inclining to the maintenance of Danish integrity, the latter to the formation of an independent Duchy. An address has also been presented to the Duke of Augustenburg, informing him of the resolutions passed at a great meeting held at

Rendsburg. In his reply the Duke declared that 'a king of Denmark shall never again rule in this country.' We may also mention a petition signed by 1,349 members of the various legislative assemblies of Germany. It has been forwarded to Baron von Beust, who has undertaken the duty of submitting the document to the Conference of the Seven Powers. Considering that Lord Russell only last week declined to present a petition from the Slesvig-Holsteiners, on the ground that the Conference could not deal with individuals, we may consider this conduct of Herr von Beust as savouring strongly of impertinence.

The Crown Prince and Princess of Prussia have paid a visit to Lubeck and Hamburg: the latter had at one time the intention of visiting the seat of war, but has since relinguished it. Their Royal Highnesses received a visit from the Duke of Augustenburg, and passed some time in conversation with him, a circumstance which has not failed to be remarked.

The Austrian loan of 70,000,000 florins has been issued at 77.10; 23,000,000 were taken up on issue by the Anglo-Austrian Bank, Messrs. Baring Brothers, Wodianer and Sina; the remainder is also taken by the Anglo-Austrian Bank for disposal on commission. The company will in the meantime make partial advances to the Finance Minister.

Continental journals have made some remarks on the gradual concentration of Austrian troops in Transylvania on the Moldavian frontier. It appears that matters have at length come to a crisis in the Principalities. The Chambers were assembled to discuss a new electoral law proposed by the Government; they refused to do so, and were consequently dissolved. The electoral law and an additional article to the Constitution were then proclaimed by Prince Couza, and the people invited to vote a simple 'yes' or 'no' on those two points. The people appear to overlook the strangeness of such a proceeding in a country pretending to have a constitutional government, and greet the Prince with the greatest enthusiasm wherever he appears.

The long-vexed question of the Principalities is at last likely to meet with a solution. The Conference on that subject has been opened, and its first sitting attended by the representatives of the Five Great Powers and Italy. We think that this is the first general Conference, including all the great Powers, at which Italy has been recognised as an aspirant to that dignity.

The news from Poland is uninteresting: after the recapitulation of a few tales of horror, the appetite palls with mere accounts of judicial murders, even when performed *en grand*. We read that General Bolaklanof has ordered the execution of fifteen Poles together, ten to be hanged and five shot. The luckless Polish General Langiewicz, who was taken prisoner by the Austrians after his defeat by the Russians, and confined in the fortress of Josephstadt, is by some means or other recognised and claimed by the Swiss Government as a citizen of their Confederation. We have not yet heard whether the Austrians will accede to the demand for his extradition made by the Swiss Federal Council.

A more cheerful subject is the chance of a direct land telegraphic communication with America over Siberia. The lines have already been run as far as Irkutsk, the capital of Eastern Siberia, and will now be carried on farther. Mr. Collins, an American, the sole manager of that line of Russian telegraphy, has obtained leave from the English Government to run his wires over British Columbia.

The Pope is again suffering from severe indisposition. He was engaged in administering confirmation to a brother of the ex-King of Naples, when he was observed to totter and support himself against a table with difficulty. Medical assistance was immediately summoned, and it was found that he was in a high state of fever, consequent on the reopening of the wound in his leg.

In the Turin Chamber of Deputies, May 4, a discussion took place on foreign politics in general, and the state of the Roman question in particular. The Ministry defended themselves from the charge of timidity levelled against them, and declared that Italy had now entered the European bond, and must take into account the general condition of Europe. With regard to the Roman question, they asserted that the principle of non-intervention formed the basis of all the negotiations. They opposed every resolution brought forward which tended in any way to interfere with their liberty of action. They considered that the measures taken by Government in concert with the French for the repression of brigandage had produced real results. Among the speakers in favour of energetic conduct against the present state of affairs in Rome was the notorious Abbé Passaglia and Signor Chiaves. The latter proposed that the Papal States should immediately be divided into electoral districts, whose deputies should be admitted into the Italian house. This was a course which France could not oppose, as it was in no way contrary to her present watchword, 'the defence of the Head of the Church.'

Considerable excitement was caused lately at Ancona when it was heard that Cardinal Morichini had been arrested for an alleged disrespect to Government. The tribunal has now, however, acquitted him, and he was instantly set at liberty.

We recorded last week, with great regret, the death of the great composer, Meyerbeer. His funeral has been of a most magnificent character. The body was removed with great pomp from Paris to Berlin, according to the wishes of the deceased. On the 9th inst. the final ceremony was celebrated. The coffin, as it lay in the house of mourning before the commencement of the procession, was covered with flowers and garlands, some of which had been sent by the Queen and the Princess Frederic-Charles. A numerous company of royalty, nobility, and talent assembled to do the last honours to the illustrious dead. The ceremony was begun by a funeral hymn, the work of Meyerbeer himself, sung by the chorus of the Opera; next the Chief Rabbi Joel, of Breslau, pronounced the funeral oration; then the procession was formed. The bier was preceded by bands of musicians, and followed by an immense mob, in the midst of which were the Royal carriages. The bier was stopped for a short time before the Opera, from which a flag of mourning floated, to hear a chorus executed by the artists of that establishment. It then wended its way to the Jewish cemetery, where the solemn ceremony terminated. A compliment was paid to the memory of Meyerbeer on the 7th inst. in the Opera at Brussels, which deeply affected the audience. The opera given that night was 'Les Huguenots,' one of the composer's most magnificent conceptions. The artists employed executed their parts with a power and a passion which the regrets of the day might well call forth. Two of them—Madame Meillet and M. Bertrand—were enthusiastically called for by the public. They appeared in front of the curtain bearing between them a white chaplet veiled with funereal crape, which they placed in silence on the music which lay extended on the conductor's desk.

Seldom probably in the ordinary history of a city, has a programme been presented of amusement and occupation so varied and of so high a character as the French capital has afforded during the past week. In the Chamber, debates on a variety of the most important subjects, conducted by men of the greatest renown for eloquence and sarcasm; in the law courts a trial of the most absorbing interest, in which a man of high education is accused of a capital crime of the most revolting description; for the sporting world, the Chantilly First Spring Meeting with its Prix de Diane: if Government, judges, and race-horses had planned it of benevolence aforethought, they could not have done more for their Whitsuntide visitors than has been already brought about by chance. In the Chamber of Deputies, the tactics of the Opposition have been developed with exactly the amount of success which might have been anticipated where a number of talented men belonging to one party can only agree to differ, and to bring their individual sentiments before the House single-handed. The Imperial Government has been attacked on every point assailable or non-assailable; the budget, the general financial system, the Danish, Polish, and Mexican questions, the proposed Congress, the criminal law, the liberty of the Press, have all been rudely handled by various members of the Opposition. MM. Thiers, Jules Favre, Garnier-Pagès, Ernest Picard, and Berryer, have all had somewhat to say; but the Government has never been at a loss for a fluent reply, and an overwhelming majority.

The trial of the *soi-disant* Comte de la Pommerais, which bids fair to be considered hereafter a *cause célèbre*, has been before the Criminal Court in Paris for the whole of the past week. The accused, a homœopathic physician, had formed a *liaison* with a widow named La Pauw, which had been interrupted by a marriage which he thought fit to make. The Count, being anxious to get rid of the widow, devised a plan for accomplishing the purpose, which would bring in some solid advantage to himself. He suggested to her that she should insure her life, and then simulate a severe illness; the insurance companies on seeing her state would be glad enough to compound for her policies, by an annuity of some 240*l.* a year; she might then recover and enjoy her annuity as long as she pleased. The widow caught at the notion; the plot was commenced and carried out successfully up to the very last stage. Just as the time came for her to recover, M. de la Pommerais paid her a visit of congratulation; she immediately became really ill; another visit from the Count was followed very closely by her death. The gentleman then presented her policies to the insurance offices for payment. He held them, he said, as security from the lady for a debt. Suspicions were excited, a post-mortem examination was made; the physicians found strong signs of poison, but no traces of it. Such would be the case, they said, if the poison digitalis had been administered. Search was thereupon made in La Pommerais' house, and a bottle of digitalis was found nearly emptied of its contents. He was arrested on the charge of poisoning, and brought up for trial on Monday the 9th instant. Besides the accusation of having poisoned his mistress, there is another indictment against La Pommerais for the murder of his mother-in-law under very suspicious circumstances. The evidence brought forward by the prosecution went to prove that La Pommerais was an adventurer, ready to better himself by any means, good or bad; that he had effected an assurance of the life of Madame la Pauw to the amount of 550,000 francs, the premiums of which he was utterly unable to pay for any length of time. The medical evidence proved that there was no trace of internal injury in the body of Mme. La Pauw, such as was suggested by the prisoner as the cause of her death; and that the contents of her stomach, as well as the remains of the food she had taken and afterwards rejected immediately before her death, had been fatal to dogs and other animals. The defence was, that the prisoner had lent very large sums of money to the deceased, which the assurances effected were intended to cover; some medical evidence was also given, to the purport that the deaths of the dogs and animals to which the contents of the stomach, &c., had been administered might be attributed to the decomposition which had already commenced in the substances used. Evidence in favour of his character was also given by divers of his patients. The weak point in the defence was undoubtedly the largeness of the insurance effected on the life of the deceased. We are informed by telegraph that the accused has been found Guilty, without mention of extenuating circumstances, and will consequently be condemned to death. Some of our daily contemporaries have kept up a continual fire of sarcasm upon the conduct of the judge in this trial; we must say, for our part, that, however unintelligible to us may be the process of conviction in the mind of a French judge, the sneers and contempt expressed by Englishmen with regard to it are absolute and flagrant intolerance, as bad as that of the most bloodthirsty Spanish inquisitor. Surely, if we are expected to tolerate what we believe to be vital errors in matters of religion, we are bound to apply the same measure to seeming faults in the administration of justice.

The marvellous splendour of the weather attracted immense crowds to the beautiful racecourse of Chantilly on Sunday last. Nothing could exceed the condition of the running ground, the magnificence of the foliage, or the toilettes of the ladies. The programme provided had for its chief feature the *Prix de Diane* (the French Oaks), and was also rendered attractive by the prospect of contests between horses of considerable reputation. The first race, *Prix de la Reine-Blanche*, for three-year-olds, was won by Courlis, the property of the Prince de Beauvau, after a most exciting struggle with M. Lupin's Cascarilla. For the *Prix du Gros Chêne*, the Duc de Morny's famous horse Partisan was made the favourite, while Count de Lagrange's Villafranca and M. Shickler's Grande Mademoiselle found also a host of supporters. In the event Partisan won with consummate ease, Grande Mademoiselle being second, and Généréux third. The Duc de Morny was also victorious in the *Prix des Ecuries*, a handicap for three-year-old horses, with an entrance of 100 fr. and 6,000 fr. added. In this race Démon made play at a great pace to serve his stable-companion, Ninon de l'Enclos. At the distance a struggle ensued between Jean sans Peur, Birette, Scrupule, and Ninon de l'Enclos, the latter winning very cleverly, Jean sans Peur being second. For the *Prix de Diane* eight fillies put in an appearance, and Fille de l'Air was made the favourite, Perle and Poudrière being also backed for money. Fille de l'Air secured the victory without an effort by six lengths; Poudrière, the property of M. Shickler, was second, and M. H. Lunel's Fantasia third. Constellation, Somo-Sierra, Gueule de Loup, Bonelle, and Civility also started. The stakes amounted to 16,300 fr. The running of Fille de l'Air in this race by no means harmonises with the wretched exhibition which she made at Newmarket a few weeks since in the race for the Two Thousand Guineas. No doubt the quality of the French fillies at Chantilly was very inferior to that of such animals as General Peel and Paris. But even with the broadest allowance on that account, it is, at first sight, difficult to understand how a filly, who at Newmarket was unable even to gallop with her competitors, could defeat her opponents in the *Prix de Diane* in so hollow a fashion. These are among the mysteries of the turf, and though such a variation in results rouses suspicion in the mind of a stranger, yet to those who have some experience it merely affords a fresh illustration of that uncertainty for which fillies are so remarkable. The final race was chiefly worthy of notice for the mishap that befell Partisan. In an exciting struggle with Soumise, the son of Launcelot and Partlet 'broke down' and brought his racing career to a sudden termination. Soumise, the property of Count de Lagrange, won easily, Guillaume le Taciturne being second, and Nobility third. The second meeting at Chantilly is fixed for this day.

The following official statement is made in the *Moniteur* with regard to the contest between the Pope and the Lyonnese clergy:—'The Government, by virtue of the right given to it in the organic articles of the Concordat (law of the 18th of Germinal, Year X, Article 1), has refused to authorise the publication in France of a brief issued at Rome on the 17th of March last past, in favour of the introduction of the Roman liturgy into the diocese of Lyons. Any publicity given to this brief will therefore constitute a violation of a law to which the Government is bound and is determined to enforce respect.'

The Princess Anna Murat is the last convert from Protestantism to the Catholic faith; this step was the consequence of a few religious conversations with M. Duguerry, the curate of the Madeleine, in whose church she chose to make her formal abjuration.

The loungers through Covent Garden Market in the winter and early spring can scarcely believe the cheapness and plenty of the spring vegetables supplied to Paris from Algiers; this year they have had the additional virtue of a remarkably fine flavour, due no doubt to the improvement of cultivation in the African gardens, and therefore expected to be permanent. The early potatoes are a very proverb for delicacy, and the green peas, the growth of which in those climates presents a difficulty scarcely less than it meets at home in the wintry season, will vie with the produce of the best European gardens. When shall we see the day that brings to us Londoners green peas from Africa in the month of January at a price not absolutely destructive of our self-respect?

Gambling for Daily Bread.—The *New York Daily News*, in the course of an article on the general spread of corruption in the United States, observes:—'The wealth and avarice and luxury that it took whole centuries of Roman conquest to produce, the devil's magic of the Secretary of the Treasury has brought upon us in three years. The lying promises to pay, which flow like water from the printing presses of "the Government," have answered all the purposes of wealth in the corruption of the people. They have done even more, for they have made the whole of this vast nation one great gambling hell. The commonest transactions of the counter and the counting-house are simply bets on the appreciation or depreciation of the currency. We need not go to William Street nor to the Coal Hole for our illustrations. Every man who buys, and every man who sells, lays down his stake in goods or money on the simple principle of heads or tails. In the whole catalogue of crimes, none is more utterly demoralising than the vice of gambling. Who shall tell the future of a nation thus compelled to gamble for its daily bread?'

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

THE GEORGIA.

On Friday, immediately before the House of Commons adjourned until Thursday (to-day) for the Whitsuntide holidays, Mr. T. Baring called attention to the circumstances under which the Confederate ship *Georgia* had been allowed to enter the port of Liverpool. Mr. Baring prefaced his remarks by a short account of the history of the vessel according to the Federal version. A Liverpool firm equipped the *Georgia* and engaged her crew. The vessel left Greenock as the *Japan*, and without an armament. She was met off the coast of France by the *Allar*, freighted with guns and ammunition, and this cargo was transferred to her. A member of the Liverpool firm was on board the *Allar*, and the *Georgia* was registered as the property of that gentleman, and remained his registered property from April until June 23, during which time she was making war on the mercantile marine of the United States. The Liverpool firm continued to pay the wages of the crew, and in October enlisted 20 men for her in Liverpool and sent them to Brest. The *Georgia* has now returned to Liverpool, her crew have been paid off without any concealment, and she is laid up in dock. Moreover, the *Georgia* has never once entered a Confederate port. Mr. Baring did not mention these circumstances to bring a charge against the Government; on the contrary, 'he felt assured they had done all that lay in their power, and was consistent with their duty under the existing law.' What he complained of was 'the impotency and insufficiency of the Foreign Enlistment Act, which our courts of justice found it impossible to interpret.' [It will be perceived that Mr. Baring does not ask for an impartial administration of the law, but that we shall change our laws so as to meet the wishes and requirements of the belligerent whose side he takes, and in whose success he is no doubt sincerely and deeply interested. The hon. member is, however, manifestly wrong in asserting that our courts cannot interpret the Foreign Enlistment Act. It is incredible that he should have forgotten three cases of recent occurrence. The *Pampero* has just been tried under the Act in Scotland, and a verdict taken for the Crown by consent. The *Florida* was tried at Nassau and acquitted. The *Alexandra* has been tried at home and acquitted.] Mr. Baring contended that when a vessel had violated our laws (as he avers the *Georgia* has done), she ought not on any future occasion to receive our hospitality, and ought to be refused admission to our ports. He did not cite any legal authorities in support of his view, but quoted from the letters of 'Historicus.'* He warned the House that if we went to war, our commerce would suffer terribly unless we now made some change in our law, and that the present was a favourable opportunity, because we could make such a change now 'without giving rise to any idea that we had been threatened.'

The Attorney-General rebuked, we might even say abused, some persons who he suspects have violated the spirit if not the letter of our neutral obligations, and expressed a hope that the time was coming when such persons, though disregarding the Queen's proclamation, would be restrained by the voice of the mercantile community. He then defended the conduct of the Government in reference to the three vessels which are said to have been unlawfully fitted out in British ports. The *Florida* was tried at Nassau and released. The *Georgia* left this country before the Government were in possession of any evidence against her. The Government tried to stop the *Alabama*, but failed. The *Pampero* has been tried in Scotland, and a verdict taken by consent for the Crown. Action has also been taken with respect to the *Alexandra* and the Mersey steam-rams. The Attorney-General thinks that these proceedings have 'impeded the progress of the system of fitting out naval armaments for a belligerent State,' and he trusts that they may result in a well-defined and lucid construction of the law. The Government therefore hope that the present law is sufficient for the vindication of our neutrality, and consequently no change will be proposed. If the law should prove ineffective, then an alteration would be necessary, but in proposing it the Government must look to having the warm support of the House of Commons and of the country, without which any such proposals could not be carried into effect. The proper time for the consideration of the subject will be 'when no party feelings nor temporary sympathies may exist to induce the House to take a course which it will be difficult afterwards to retract, and which, if persevered with, might be attended with serious consequences to the welfare of the country.' The Attorney-General then noticed the principal points in Mr. Baring's speech. It was not true, as stated by Mr. Baring, that because the *Georgia* was registered in the name of an English merchant from April 1 to June 23, she was during that period a British ship, and consequently, as she was engaged in war against a friendly State, a British privateer. The register was only for municipal purposes in this country; and a ship which has a British register when transferred to a foreign belligerent Power, cannot be justly styled a British ship because she is still registered in England as the property of a British subject. The Attorney-General regretted that Mr. Baring should have given countenance to the assertion that these vessels are British privateers—'a proposition so extravagant and so completely without foundation.' The *Georgia* had returned to Liverpool as a regular commissioned ship of war, and was entitled to be received under the rules issued by Her Majesty in January 1862. It was reported that the vessel was to be sold, and if so, 'no harm could be done to the other belligerent Power by relieving her from all fear of opposition on the part of the dismantled vessel.' It had been argued that because the *Georgia* had not been into a Confederate port, she was not to be regarded as a regularly commissioned ship of war. 'It has been said that there is some rule or other, some settled principle of international law, which will bear out this conclusion. It should not be our practice to invent new rules of international law to suit particular cases, *and such a rule as this was never heard of*. To say that a country whose ports are blockaded is not at liberty to avail herself of the resources which are at her command in other parts of the world, that she may not buy ships in neutral territory and commission them as ships of war without bringing them to her own country first, is a doctrine which is quite preposterous, and all the arguments founded upon such a doctrine only tend to throw dust into men's eyes and to mislead them. We cannot, therefore, upon those grounds make this ship an exception to our ordinary rules.' No doubt the Government had a discretionary power to refuse admission to any particular ship or class of ship, but it was a power to be exercised with due regard to all the circumstances of the case. The question raised by Mr. Baring was—'Does the circumstance of a ship happening to have been fitted out in violation of the neutrality of a neutral nation entitle her to be refused recognition as a public ship of war?' The history of the jurisprudence of the United States affords an answer. In the cases of the *Santissima Trinidad* and the *Cassius*, 'the particulars of which were similar to those of the *Georgia*,' Mr. Justice Story held that under no circumstances could the character of a public ship of war be enquired into, observing: 'The commission, therefore, of a public ship, when duly authenticated, so far at least as foreign courts are concerned, imports absolute verity, and the title is not examinable. The property must be taken to be duly acquired, and cannot be controverted.' And Mr. Justice Story gives a reason for this rule. He says that any enquiry about such a ship 'would be to exert the right of examining into the validity of the acts of the foreign Sovereign, and to sit in judgment upon them in cases where he has not conceded the jurisdiction, and where it would be inconsistent with his own supremacy.' The *Santissima Trinidad* and the *Cassius* were both received into the ports of the United States. The Attorney-General added: 'There are also a very considerable number of cases reported in which prizes brought into the ports of the United States were either restored, or questions raised in courts of law as to their restoration; but I can find no instance of any prohibition or exclusion from any port of any prize after her conversion into a ship of war. We are not, therefore, warranted upon the authority of the United States in excluding this vessel from our ports.' The Attorney-General again quoted from Mr. Justice Story the case of the *Amisted de la Ruez*, to show that the Federals had no right to complain about the admission of the *Georgia*, and that all such demands as compensation for damage done by the *Alabama* are preposterous. Mr. Justice Story 'distinctly says that we are to execute our laws fairly, we are to give no asylum to prizes captured by ships fitted out in violation of our neutrality, and to property unjustly captured; but he does not say that an asylum may not be given to public ships of war, whatever their previous history; and he adds that, beyond the limits which he mentions, we are not obliged to interfere between the belligerents. The authority of Mr. Justice Story, therefore, distinctly excludes the proposition that belligerents have any rights entitling them to require interference by the neutral, to the extent of excluding absolutely from her ports ships of this description, if it does not seem to the neutral herself necessary so to do.' There were several reasons that deterred the Government from complying with the requirement to exclude such ships as the *Georgia*, *Florida*, and *Alabama* from our ports. It is quite consistent with neutrality to insist upon our neutral rights, though they may happen to press hard upon one of the belligerents. It is not consistent with neutrality to make a new law that would benefit one and injure the other belligerent. Then it is only suspected, not proved, that the *Georgia* was fitted out in violation of our neutrality. The difficulty of getting proof is much increased because we have 'no diplomatic relations with the Confederate States, and cannot communicate with them in the ordinary way. We have not recognised them, and, what is more, the Government of the United States, by its ships, bars us from the means of communication. Only the other day Her Majesty's Government were anxious to communicate and remonstrate with the Government of the Confederate States, and actually gave a commission to one of our diplomatic servants, a Consul, to do so; and then it was announced that the blockading squadron under the orders of the United States Government could not permit even a ship of war of this country to enter into a blockaded port for the purpose of this communication.' If there is any doubt at all, the Confederate States are entitled to the benefit of it, and that is a view endorsed by Mr. Justice Story. If the Government are to proceed on moral belief, then there is this difficulty, that it is impossible to acquit the agents of the United States 'of acts which are inconsistent with our neutrality.' In the case of the *Kearsage* 'there can be no doubt that there had been a violation of our neutrality,' yet that vessel has been afterwards admitted into English waters. The Attorney-General then referred to the enlistments of British subjects in Ireland and in Canada. He said: 'From all quarters reports reach us which we cannot doubt to be substantially true, that agents for recruiting for the Federal army, with or without the concurrence of the Government, are in Ireland, and engage men under the pretext of employing them on railways and public works, but really with the intention of enlisting them, and that many of these men are so enlisted. In Canada and New Brunswick the same practices prevail. Representations have been made to the United States' Government respecting particular cases of persons who have been kidnapped into the service, and I feel bound to say that those representations have not met with that prompt and satisfactory attention we might have expected. How are we to act in this case? Are we to exclude from our ports all the ships of the belligerent whose agents are believed to have engaged in these practices?—practices which, whatever may be the intention of the United States' Government, operate to supply their ranks with British subjects in violation of British law. If we are to act in the one case upon suspicion, or upon moral belief going beyond suspicion, it would be difficult to say that we ought not to act so in the other.' Another reason for the Government not doing anything at the request of the Federal Government which they are not compelled by law to do, is the unwarranted and extraordinary claims made upon us in reference to the *Alabama*. What the Government may fairly say is this: 'We will adhere to the rules laid down by your own authorities. We will execute our own law. We will allow no asylum to prizes or to property unjustly captured. If any such are brought in, any demand for their reclamation shall be investigated. But we will not undertake to recognise claims going beyond these limits. We will not undertake to interfere between belligerents in any other way than that in which by the rules of international law we can fairly be called upon to interfere.' The Attorney-General resumed his seat amidst cheering from both sides of the House.

Mr. W. E. Foster said 'that the strong sympathy which he felt with one of the parties in the American contest might have enabled him to obtain information which he could not have otherwise procured; but he should endeavour to treat this question in an impartial manner.' [What information? Another forged report? or a cipher letter forgery? or a letter from the captain of the *Kearsage*? or a deposition from one of Mr. Adams's witnesses—from R. C. Young, for example? We are glad that Mr. Foster is wise enough to see, and has grace enough to admit, that reliance upon *exclusive* Federal information is inconsistent with impartiality.] Mr. Foster repeated the warning of Mr. Baring as to what might happen to us in time of war unless we now changed our law: he said he only wanted some ships and not the whole Confederate navy excluded from our ports; he did not think that in international law the same certainty in evidence was necessary as was required in municipal law; he bemoaned the decadence of the United States carrying trade; and he contended that there was a great difference in selling munitions of war and sending out armed ships from our ports.

Mr. Cobden expatiated upon the losses sustained by the United States from the Confederate cruisers, which he estimates at nearly 3,000,000*l.* sterling. But the loss in ships destroyed and captured was the least part of the injury inflicted. The mercantile marine has been ruined. In 1860 two-thirds of the commerce of New York was carried in American bottoms, and in 1863 three-fourths was carried in foreign bottoms. Mr. Cobden fears that this constitutes a 'gigantic material grievance' that will cause enmity between the two nations; but he does not feel sure that any legistation can meet the grievance. He said: 'I candidly confess I don't think that, if you were now to pass a law to alter your Foreign Enlistment Act, you would materially change the aspect of this matter. You have already done your worst towards the American mercantile marine. What with the high rate of insurance, what with these captures, and what with the amount of damage you have done to that which is left, you have virtually made valueless that vast property. Why, if you had gone and helped the Confederates by bombarding all the accessible seaport towns of America, a few lives might have been lost which, as it is, have not been sacrificed; but you could hardly have done more injury in the way of destroying property than you have done by these few cruisers.' [It will be noticed that Mr. Cobden does not hesitate to charge on this country the responsibility for the injuries sustained by the Federals at sea from Confederate cruisers. To hear him talk, it might be supposed that he thinks the United States is the first nation that has suffered from high rates of insurance in time of war. Does he not know that lately the rates on German ships have enormously advanced, and that German ships have been transferred to English owners? Does he know that in time of war the insurance on English ships has been exceedingly high? Does he forget that when England was involved in a continental war, her merchantmen had to voyage under the protection of ships of war?] After asserting that the *Alabama*, the *Georgia*, and the *Florida* ought to be excluded from our ports on the ground of a 'moral conviction' that they have violated our neutrality, Mr. Cobden following in the wake of Messrs. Baring and Foster, dwelt upon the expediency of altering our law in order to protect our commerce in the event of our being engaged in hostilities. He also asserted that the *Florida* is a privateer, because she does not make war on armed vessels.

Lord Robert Cecil commented on the fallacy of supposing that by refusing to admit the *Alabama*, *Georgia*, and *Florida* to our ports, we should add to the safety of our mercantile marine in any future war. Mr. Cobden and his friends do not wish us to keep the law. They say, Break the law, and the other nations will keep it to your advantage in any future war. It is much more likely that other nations will follow our example and break the law to suit themselves and injure us. And the peculiar baseness of the proposal is that 'you are asked to take this course, not because you believe one side to be right and the other wrong, but solely that it may give you an advantage in some future war.' Much had been said about the injuries inflicted on Federal commerce, but there were also injuries on the other side. In 1862, through Messrs. Baring & Co. there were sent to the Federal States rifles and muskets of the value of 546,000*l.* and 11,947,000 percussion-caps. 'Do you suppose,' said Lord R. Cecil, 'that the Confederates have no feelings? Do you suppose that they do not feel for their rich country desolated, for the enormous injury which has been inflicted upon their industry, for their towns bombarded, for their population slaughtered, and for the fearful trials to which every class of their people have been exposed? And do you suppose that when they learn that all this havoc has been committed through the instrumentality of munitions of war conveyed by English merchants, the bitterness on one side will not be as great as that on the other? If our neutrality is honest, we must regard the bitterness of one side as much as that of the other. I am sure that, considering what in the future are likely to be the opportunities of greatness offered to the two divisions into which the American republic is fast dividing, we shall have as much cause for regret

if we permanently alienate from England the inhabitants of that country which lies to the south of the Potomac as we shall have if we alienate those who inhabit the smaller country which lies to the north of that river.' It was to be hoped that the moderate and learned speech of the Attorney-General would be accepted as an official reply to many fallacies which have been current in this country. It will be time enough to talk about the *Georgia* violating our neutrality when those who made the charge could get a verdict. There is not 'a ghost of a justification for saying that the *Georgia* has violated our Foreign Enlistment Act.' Probably Mr. Cobden knew that it is quite as much within international law to sell ships of war to another nation as it is to sell any munitions of war.

Mr. Shaw-Lefevre spoke in favour of Mr. Baring's proposal. Lord R. Montagu remarked that we were not responsible for the Confederate States making a navy and beating the Federal ships. Mr. Alderman Rose said it seemed that the period was not far distant when England would have to recognise the Confederate States.

The debate then concluded.

KIDNAPPING BRITISH SUBJECTS.

On Thursday, in the House of Lords, the Earl of Ellenborough read the following letter written by the Federal General Wistar to General Dix:—

Yorktown, April 15, 1864.

General,—An extended spirit of desertion prevailing among the recruits recently received from the North in some of the regiments of my command has led me to make some enquiries, resulting in apparently well-authenticated information, which I beg respectfully to communicate to you in this unofficial manner, deeming it required by humanity no less than by our common desire to benefit the service. There seems to be little doubt that many—in fact, I think I am justified in saying that most of these unfortunate men were either deceived or kidnapped, or both, in the most scandalous and inhuman manner in New York City, where they were drugged and carried off to New Hampshire and Connecticut, mustered in and uniformed before their consciousness was fully restored. Even their bounty was obtained by the parties who were instrumental in these nefarious transactions, and the poor wretches find themselves, on returning to their senses, mustered soldiers, without any pecuniary benefit. Nearly all are foreigners, mostly sailors, both ignorant of and indifferent to the objects of the war in which they thus suddenly find themselves involved. Two men were shot here this morning for desertion, and over thirty more are now awaiting trial or execution. These examples are essential, as we all understand, but it occurred to me, General, that you would pardon me for thus calling your attention to the greater crime committed in New York of kidnapping these men into positions where, to their ignorance, desertion must seem like a vindication of their own rights and liberty. Believe me to be, General, with the highest esteem, your obedient servant,

J. J. Wistar.

To Major-General John A. Dix, New York City.

The noble Earl said that many of the men thus infamously kidnapped [and, we may add, foully murdered] were British subjects, and that it was scarcely possible the United States Government was not aware of these facts. He wanted to know if Earl Russell had any information as to these transactions, and if he had done anything to remedy the grievance.

Earl Russell said he knew nothing of General Wistar's letter, except that a copy had been sent to him. It appeared that in some instances persons landing in the United States were drugged, kept without food, tempted to enlist, and marched off to some depôt and deprived of all chance of obtaining their liberty. [When a man is drugged, it is easy enough to *tempt* him to enlist.] Lord Lyons had made frequent complaints; but he (Earl Russell) was sorry to say 'he had not obtained that satisfaction he had a right to expect.' [The Earl of Ellenborough had cited a case in which a Frenchman had been kidnapped, and was immediately released on the demand of the French Admiral. It is only British subjects who are kidnapped and murdered with impunity.] These proceedings would render it necessary for Her Majesty's Government to make the strongest remonstrance. If the facts referred to by Lord Ellenborough were authentic, , 'they formed a very great hardship, and disclosed conduct on the part of the agents of the United States Government which was highly reprehensible.' [Well, that is a comfort! It is a comfort that a British Minister is not afraid to say that kidnapping British subjects, drugging and enlisting them whilst in a state of unconsciousness, and shooting them for trying to regain their liberty, is reprehensible conduct!]

EXTENSION OF THE FRANCHISE.

On Wednesday, May 12, Mr. Baines moved the second reading of the Borough Franchise Bill, the object of which is to give votes to what may be called the upper working classes. The debate was remarkable for a speech delivered by Mr. Gladstone. The right hon. gentleman avowed himself in favour of an extension of the franchise, and opposed to the present arrangement by which forty-nine fiftieths of the working classes are excluded. He did not wish for a sweeping but for a gradual measure of reform, and he contended that the working classes are fit for the exercise of the privilege of the franchise. It was the duty of those who opposed the measure to prove their unfitness, and in the absence of such proof the working classes were entitled to have votes. Mr. Gladstone was followed by Mr. Whiteside, who spoke against the Bill with his usual eloquence and power. The House divided, and there was a majority of 56 in favour of the 'previous question.'

THE MURDER OF THE MATE OF THE SAXON.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, Sir J. Elphinstone asked Mr. Layard whether he had received the report of the court of enquiry held on Acting-master Danenhowen, or Donovan, of the United States ship *Vanderbilt*, for the murder of Mr. James Gray, mate of the ship *Saxon*, at Angra Peguina, held at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, with the finding thereof; also the proceedings of the court-martial subsequently held upon him, with the remarks of the Secretary to the Navy of the United States, and the correspondence of Lord Lyons on the subject; and, if so, whether he would lay the papers upon the table of the House.

Mr. Layard said that an enquiry had taken place, and this was followed by a court-martial. The enquiry was a private one, and the proceedings had not been published, nor had the result been communicated to the Government. With regard to the court-martial, the Foreign Office had received from time to time a report of the proceedings, but they had not yet received any official account of the verdict. Of course the Consul at New York would have to communicate with Lord Lyons, but he presumed that the Government would shortly receive official records of the whole trial. He should then be able to inform the hon. gentleman whether the papers were such as could be laid upon the table.

MR. LOWE'S RESIGNATION.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, Sir George Grey moved a resolution that a Select Committee be appointed to enquire into the practice of the Committee of Council on Education with respect to the reports of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools. The object of this was to see if there is any ground for the charge preferred against a department of the Government in the resolution adopted on April 12, which asserted that the reports of the inspectors were garbled. An amendment to extend the scope of the enquiry was rejected, and the resolution was adopted.

WAR CONTRIBUTIONS IN JUTLAND.

On Friday, in the House of Lords, Earl Russell, in reply to the Earl of Ellenborough, said that the Conference did not lay down any rule with regard to contributions imposed before the armistice, but in his view the spirit of the article is that the allied troops should cease to levy contributions of war. [This is not the German view. On the evening of the 11th (the armistice was agreed to on the 9th) Marshal Wrangel made a heavy requisition on some inhabitants of Jutland, and seized goods for it on the 13th and 14th.]

AMERICAN LIFE BY AN AMERICAN.*

[SECOND NOTICE.]

There has been a long and lively discussion in Europe as to the cause of the disruption of the American Union. Some assert it to be slavery, and some the tariff; but the true reason, we apprehend, is not to be found in any single difference, but in a multitude, which, if we are determined to sum up in a phrase, we may designate—Dissimilarity of character. In the North was one kind of people, in the South another; and every year of existence served to render the distinction more pronounced and irreconcileable. Commerce, railways, telegraphs, in nowise conduced to union; they brought South Carolina and Massachusetts face to face to prove, as it were, to demonstrate, that union was impossible. As Dr. Nichols observes:—

'To understand the causes of the civil war, it is necessary to have a very thorough knowledge of the character of the American people, North and South. This knowledge no traveller in America, no mere visitor, ever seems to get. They do not appear to comprehend the broad and strongly-marked differences that exist between the Northern and Southern people. If you could give the landed aristocracy of England the traditions and feelings of the Cavaliers, and the manufacturers, merchants, and shopkeepers those of the Puritans and Roundheads, you would form some idea of the feelings of the Southerners for the Yankees.'

The aversion in the case was most strongly betrayed by the South, for the influence of the North was aggressive. The South did not care to control the North; the South was quite willing to let the Yankee have his own way in his own household; but the Yankee, not content with his own business, must likewise meddle and dictate in the domestic concerns of the South. Such interference was naturally resented; and, persisted in, at last provoked such bitter feelings, that the South felt that self-respect and happiness were only possible in isolation—in the dissolution of a partnership which was growing into an intolerable tyranny. How ancient was the annoyance of the South from Yankee aggression, how long the irritation has been borne, and how clearly the upshot was foreseen, are manifest from a speech made in 1826, in the Senate of the United States, by Mr. Hayne, of South Carolina, and cited by Dr. Nichols:—

'On the slave question my opinion is this: I consider our rights in that species of property as not even open to discussion, either here or elsewhere; and in respect to our duties (imposed by our situation), we are not to be taught them by fanatics, religious or political. To call in question our rights is grossly to violate them; to attempt to instruct us on this subject is to insult us; to dare to assail our institutions is wantonly to invade our peace. Let me solemnly declare once for all, that the Southern States never will permit any interference whatever in their domestic concerns; and that on the very day on which the unhallowed attempt shall be made by the authorities of the Federal Government, we will consider ourselves as driven from the Union. Let the consequences be what they may, they never can be worse than such as must inevitably result from suffering a rash and ignorant interference with our domestic peace and tranquillity.'

Oddly enough, whilst the North pestered the South with impertinent suggestions and threats, the Yankees personally stood in awe of the Southerner, not alone for the cash in his pocket, but for that air of nobility and munificence which contrasted so strongly with his own 'cuteness and greed; and only as the present war has passed into the bitterness of defeat and despair, has its feeling of reverence changed into hate—that hate which meanness always feels for greatness, when greatness ceases to be placable and conformable to its selfish ends. In the early days of the war, the North was willing to pay any price for the reconciliation of the South. 'Only come back,' was the inarticulate cry, 'and Greeley, Beecher, and Garrison, we shall never hearken to more.'

In the course of the present war the English people have had a fair education in American politics, and it is now possible to have a discussion in a company of gentlemen without any of those amazing displays of ignorance not uncommon before 1861. If any one yet feels his notions hazy as to the conditions of the Federal compact, let us commend his attention to the closing chapters of Dr. Nichols's work, where, as the saying is, 'he who runs may read.' The story of the original coalition of the States, and under what conditions and limitations they united for mutual defence and the general welfare, is told with a clearness and conciseness which leave no room for misapprehension.

We were at one time asked by Northern advocates, what should we do if Yorkshire or Kent seceded from England? and not a few have been misled by the vicious analogy. Kent or Yorkshire in reference to England bear no manner of correspondence with Pennsylvania and Georgia in reference to the United States. Pennsylvania and Georgia are themselves composed of counties which might with a greater degree of fairness be compared to Yorkshire and Kent. Analogies in which lurk essential differences are always dangerous to truth, but if we are determined to make a comparison, Pennsylvania and Georgia might be likened to Hanover and Bavaria in the German Bund and Zollverein, or as they appear in the Diet of Frankfort. Every State in the American Union under the Constitution was a complete commonwealth in itself, having its own governor, its own legislature, and its own peculiar laws; so that had every State been struck out of existence except Rhode Island, in Rhode Island we should have seen a perfect and self-existent republic. For the sake of internal commercial intercourse, for the sake of common defence and protection, and for the sake of a uniform tariff over imports from abroad, these Sovereign States combined in a partnership strictly limited and defined, and for the transaction of the business of the Union selected Washington as a capital.

The Abolitionists were for a long time without influence in New England, and their efforts to upset the Constitution were regarded with indifference or abhorrence. Of any real knowledge of the South they were as destitute as of Japan, and from their tirades any listener would have inferred that slaveholders habitually relieved the tedium of their existence by scourging, torturing and murdering their negroes. If any one tried to expose it as mischievous nonsense he was boldly denounced as a false witness, and the slanders repeated with a bolder and bitterer emphasis. The most acrid vials of Abolition wrath were, however, reserved for the temperate and rational politicians who argued that as there were no slaves in New England there was no occasion for New Englanders to afflict themselves about a sin in which they had no share, that slavery in Maryland and Louisiana was the exclusive concern of the inhabitants thereof, and that over it Massachusetts had no more control than over slavery in Brazil, or serfdom in Russia. In spite of their fanaticism the Abolitionists had intellect enough left to discern that such a reply was justified by the Constitution, and hence the heat of their fury against that document and all who stood true to it. Beyond the custom of cursing and scolding, wrought to rare perfection by incessant practice, the Abolitionists showed no well defined political purpose; indeed, many refused to vote or take any share in civil affairs. For negroes in themselves they had no affection; the joy of their life was 'pitching into' slaveholders and their abettors: and if by any means slavery had ceased to exist, dismal indeed would have been the Abolitionists' outlook. He makes a great mistake who fancies that the people who rage against real and imaginary sins would experience any real satisfaction in the cessation of what they denounce. Their pleasure is in the exercise of their combativeness, and in the gratification of their Pharisaic vanity. Accomplish what they demand, and they would be as fish out of water, or shopkeepers in a deserted street. Even so with the Abolitionists; they never expected for a moment to be taken at their word; utterly insincere, they never attempted to reduce their demands to practical shape. Indeed, their two loudest cries, 'No union with slaveholders,' and 'Immediate and unconditional emancipation,' were mutually destructive. The first cry involved secession, and secession Garrison and his crew screamed for; but as soon as secession presented itself actually they refused to accept it. The second cry was manifestly inconsistent with the first; for if union with slaveholders were dissolved, how were the slaves to be instantly emancipated? In fine, Boston Abolitionism was a noisy hypocrisy. Its leaders made no honest attempts to face the questions they raised, but sought notoriety in extravagance, and satiated every malignant passion under the cloak of black philanthropy.

Abolitionism, as represented by Garrison and his company of Ismaelites, was too wild to meet with favour from the reasonable American people; but there were many in the North who, stimulated by their own prejudices, and by political antagonism, professed anti-slavery opinions, and railed at the South. They admitted their inability to interfere with slavery in the Southern States under the Constitution; but their helplessness in deed they tried to repair with volubility in sentiment. At last a notable scheme was devised whereby sentiment, it was thought, might be reduced to practice. We cannot, said the moderate Abolitionists, touch slavery as it exists in the South, but let us circumscribe its area—let us determine that it shall not be allowed to plant itself in any new territory. Thus arose the Free-Soil or Republican party, represented in the Presidential election of 1856 by Freemont, and defeated by Buchanan.

The Republican programme, plausible as it appeared to Europe, with only a *dilettante* interest in America, was pregnant with menace to the South. The interests and feelings of the South were, in a host of particulars, divergent from those of the North; but the South had met, and was willing to meet, the North in fair fight on the floors of Congress, and abide the issue. The triumph, however, of the Republicans involved the doom of the South. Increase of strength was for ever forbidden to her; and supremacy for ever guaranteed to the North. All the conditions of honest rivalry were taken away.

The Free Soil policy was on its very face tyrannical and unconstitutional. It was a formal insult and outrage to the South, it usurped the possession of territory in which the South had equal interest with the North, and it abolished the liberty accorded by the Constitution to every State to control its own internal affairs. The South did not desire to establish negro servitude in any new State, but simply claimed that the inhabitants of every State, new or old, should be left free to manage their domestic affairs as they should see fit. The reader, however, must not run off with the notion that the North held one opinion on this matter and the South another. The South was indeed unanimous; but in the North the great Democratic party united in the repudiation of the Republican 'platform' as a violation of the sacred State Rights secured by the Constitution. A long run of success had made the Democrats reckless, and in the year 1860 they divided, and were conquered.

Mr. Lincoln was elected in November, 1860. The Southern States had declared that they would secede from the Union in such an event; not that they cared personally for Mr. Lincoln, but because he would be elected upon a platform, or system of policy, which, if carried out, as they had a right to believe it

* *Forty Years of American Life.* By Dr. Thomas L. Nichols. 2 vols. London: John Maxwell & Co.

would be, would destroy their rights and security in the Union. The war which had been waged against the South in pulpit and press, in State legislatures and in Congress, in underground railways and John Brown raids, in a thousand forms of insult, injury, and outrage, culminated in the election of Abraham Lincoln and the triumph of the Black Republican party in the Northern States. The South could remain in the Union with all its disabilities as long as the Democratic party in the North was strong enough and united enough to stand by the rights of the State sovereignties. When that party became demoralised and divided, and it had no hope of justice in the Union, no honourable course was left but to retire from the Federation.

Commencing with South Carolina, State after State seceded from the Union. In the early months of 1861, in the last days of Buchanan's presidency, one opinion seemed to pervade the North, namely, that if a State resolved to quit the Union there was no power in the Constitution to compel such a State to remain. The right of secession was universally confessed, and confessed emphatically by the blackest Republicans, who now, with the customary vehemence of apostates, assert a contrary doctrine. Not to quote the Boston Abolitionists, who for thirty years had been screaming for separation from the South, nor the long line of historic and contemporary testimony in favour of secession adduced by Dr. Nichols, let us be content with the evidence of the editor of the *New York Tribune*, the author of the cry, 'On to Richmond,' ending in Bull Run, and one of the fiercest and bloodiest of stay-at-home warriors. Writing in November, 1860, Mr. Greeley said:

'If the cotton states unitedly and earnestly with to withdraw peacefully from the Union, we think they should and would be allowed to do so. Any attempt to compel them by force to remain would be contrary to the principles enunciated in the immortal declaration of independence—contrary to the fundamental ideas on which human liberty is based.'

In this expression Greeley did no more than give voice to the natural meaning of the Constitution, and the words of the earlier declaration, which denied the lawfulness of any Government unfounded on the just 'consent of the governed.' Greeley's reading, moreover, as we have remarked, was sustained for some months by the common sentiment of the North.

The secession of the South was, however, a sore trial to the North. For years the popular imagination had been inflamed with the splendid vision of United States stretching from the Pole to Panama, and then on to Patagonia, and the dissolution of this dream in the light of ordinary day was intolerable. Law, good faith, common-sense, all counselled the quiet acceptance of the painful reality:—the South has gone, submit with grace to the inevitable, learn wisdom for the future—so Principle advised; but Feeling was hurt, and the lust of empire was mortified. At the fall of Sumter Principle was cast to the winds, and Passion had its fierce unholy will. There were not wanting warning voices in the North to testify for Principle against Passion; but, as of old, the prophets were persecuted, imprisoned, silenced. Amongst these voices, clear and decided, was Dr. Nichols's. In his newspaper, *The New York Age*, only one number of which, dated April 2, 1861, was suffered to appear, he described the situation and predicted the course of events with great foresight.

Whilst we cannot but bemoan the bloodshed and the devastation of the past terrible years, yet even in the midst of sorrow we may speak of hope. No doubt the South is undergoing that cruel discipline which Carlyle considers essential to the highest national life. Writing of Prussia under Frederick the Great, he says:—'Deeply unconscious of it, they were passing their "trials," his nation and he, in the great Civil-Service Examination Hall of this Universe: "Are you able to defend yourselves, then; and to hang together coherent, against the whole world and its incoherencies and rages?" A question which has to be asked of nations, before they can be recognised as such, and be baptised into the general commonwealth; they are mere hordes or accidental aggregates, till that question come. Question which this nation had long been getting ready for; which now, under this king it answered to the satisfaction of gods and men: "Yes, Heaven assisting, we can stand on our defence; and in the long run (as with air when you try to annihilate it, or crush it to *nothing*), there is even an infinite force in us; and the whole world does not succeed in annihilating us!" Upon which has followed what we term national baptism; or rather, this *was* the national baptism, this furious one in torrent whirlwinds of fire; done three times over, till in gods or men there was no doubt left.' —Vol. iv. p. 237–8.

Firm is our assurance that out of her fiery baptism the South will emerge radiant with the purest heroism, and take her place in peerage with the noblest Nations.

The pleasantness of Dr. Nichols as a painter of American life and scenery has caused many of his readers and reviewers to overlook his graver merits as a politician, which in this article we have endeavoured to set forth; and so much so, that even the *Daily News*, the *Morning Star*, and the *Spectator*, have praised and been gracious to him. Indeed, we can scarcely recal a case since Washington Irving, in which an American author has received a warmer or more unanimous welcome in England. The *Quarterly Review* says of his work: 'We have rarely read a book of its class which will better repay perusal. There have been English caricatures of America more racy and humorous, but none which disclose so deep an insight into the Americans.' The *Examiner* repeats this verdict in confessing, 'A better or more entertaining account of social life in America has not come before us for many a day;' and the *Saturday Review* is equally complimentary in asserting, 'No book we have every read gave us anything like so clear and vivid an idea of America and American life. As a description of American homes, and of Americans at home, it is the best we have seen.' When an author has thus satisfied the *Quarterly*, the *Examiner*, and the *Saturday Review*, he may well be content. The other critics have all sung in chorus, with the exception of the *Athenæum*, which grunted a churlish half and half approval. In winning this English welcome, Dr. Nichols has yielded nothing to English prejudice. He is an American to the backbone, and, though an exile, has contracted nothing of an exile's bitterness. He blames, but blames with pride and tenderness; and through all we discern that mournful patriotism which in Atterbury's phrase might be summed up, 'America, with all thy faults, I love thee still.'

SIXTH CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF LEWES.—The 600th anniversary of the battle of Lewes was celebrated on Monday by the residents in that neighbourhood. This battle was fought on May 14, 1264, on that portion of the Southdowns in the vicinity of Lewes now known as the Race-hill, between Henry III. and the barons.

THE SPIRIT OF THE WAR.

THE *New York Daily News* continues its vigorous protests against the war upon the Confederate States and the spirit in which it is conducted, a spirit of rapine and revenge, of spoliation and plunder, which has been advocated and defended by the Northern press. It writes:—'Have not these men called for the sacking of Charleston? Have they not declared their intention to lay "the accursed nest of rebellion in ashes"? and has not the best engineering skill in the country been engaged for months to burn a city, which our troops have failed to take? Why should they then not plan the sacking of Richmond? Have not a number of Southern towns been burned with the approval of the Administration and amid the plaudits of the Radicals? Have not the capitols of Louisiana and Mississippi, at Baton Rouge and Jackson, been burned? Have not public and private libraries been destroyed? Have not elegant statuary and paintings, silver plate, costly furniture, &c., &c., been stolen and sent North? Have not all these things been done, and not one word of condemnation has been heard from the fanatical press of the North? Have not army chaplains chronicled with approval the burning of dwellings over the heads of helpless women and children, while their feather beds were ripped open and the contents scattered to the winds? We might go on and add almost indefinitely to this list. Look at Butler's proceedings in New Orleans. Look at his recent acts in Norfolk, in sentencing ministers to sweep the streets, and sending non-combatants to Hatteras to work on the fortifications in chains, feeding them on bread and water because they refused to divulge the affairs of a private savings bank. Look how democratic newspapers at the North have been destroyed and the private residences of citizens have been sacked under the teachings of the insane fanatics, and then ask, why should it be thought in the least degree improbable that such an order was issued?

'Have the public forgotten the letters published in the *New York Times* during 1863, detailing the acts of vandalism perpetrated in Virginia? Acts so abhorrent to the sense of a civilised and Christian people, that even the *Times* felt called upon to condemn them? The people have still in their memory the declaration of a distinguished United States Senator, that the people of the North were determined to drive the ploughshare of war so deep into the heart of the South that its desolating effects should be felt for a hundred years, and he would rejoice to see lamentation and woe carried to every Southern home.

'It is a notorious fact that a large class at the North have been earnestly endeavouring to excite a servile insurrection among the Southern negroes; thus giving up old men, women, and children to the base passions of the negro, and devoting the whole South to destruction. It was only last week that a correspondent of one of the war journals declared that one object of Sherman's raid.

'The truth is, that the *animus* of this whole war, as it is now waged by the fanatics who control the Administration, is one of bitter, relentless revenge! The cry of a war for the Union and Constitution is an unmitigated humbug! It is a war to crush out the State governments of the South, and to destroy the Democratic party at the North. And the "powers that be" will scruple at no acts which will gratify the vindictive passions of the fanatics, and perpetuate the power of those who are now exercising such despotic sway over the people of the North.

'The war is making us a very unchristian people. It is blunting all the finer sensibilities of our nature, and turning us into a nation of semi-savages. We see no hope for the country but in an immediate cessation of hostilities. If the war progresses, it must bring financial ruin and the destruction of every principle of constitutional liberty.'

THE DAHLGREN PAPERS.—The *Autographic Mirror* (No. 7) publishes facsimiles of the papers found on the body of Colonel Dahlgren, and which appeared in our issue of April 7. We do not wonder, despite their callous inhumanity, that the Federal authorities made an effort to discredit these documents, which are evidence of the most wicked and ferocious designs ever conceived; but the attempt has failed, and the authenticity of the Dahlgren papers is unquestionable and unquestioned. We advise our readers to procure a copy of the current number of the *Autographic Mirror*.

SCENES IN WALL STREET.—The financial farce of the Secretary of the Treasury is over; or, in the expressive parlance of the day, 'played out.' The sale of the gold certificates is closed, and the experiment of Mr. Chase to bear the gold market has proved one grand 'fizzle.' Gold last week touched 185, while gold certificates, for which there was a huge demand, reaching six or eight millions in fifteen days, were kept at 165. Immense throngs of men and boys filed into line at sunrise daily in Wall Street, heading towards the door of the Sub Treasury, and for eight weary hours per day this line was seen increasing in length, surging, and heaving, and sweating, and breaking up at three o'clock P.M. to form again the next morning at daybreak—all for the purpose of procuring *something* at $1 65, which would be received at the Custom House for duties in the place of gold. Merchants were insane. The difference between the price of gold and the paper which could be made to take the place of gold in the payment of duties was so great that clerks, on the closing days of last week, were ordered to go into Wall Street at midnight and take their position near the entrance of the Sub Treasury, that they might be sure of reaching the interior and procuring their certificates at the earliest moment after the opening of business in the morning. The excitement was intense. Speculators took their places in the line, having no business at the Sub Treasury, but solely for the purpose of selling out when that portion of the column which embraced them neared the door of the office. Huge prices were paid for places. Men and even boys joined the long line toward the temple of Midas, only to pocket their five, ten, or twenty dollars offered by some anxious importer for a place who could not afford to wait his turn, and to whom the price was no object.—*New York Day Book.*

OUTRAGE UPON AN EMBASSADOR.—On Christmas-eve Dr. Henry Segur, Minister Plenipotentiary of San Salvador to the United States, was arrested by order of the Administration and confined in Fort Lafayette, whence he was released after an examination which proved his entire innocence of the charge preferred. He was accused of shipping arms for the Confederacy. It was amply proved that the arms were intended for the use of his own Government, but the arbitrary action of the Administration subjected him to the inconvenience and suffering of three months' incarceration. San Salvador is a weak Power, but every Government in the world should all the more resent this insult to her representative.

A PICTURE OF LINCOLNISM.

'The Situation' to which the Federal Government has arrived under the domination of 'Honest Abe' is thus pourtrayed by the *New York World*, of April 8:—'England is at peace to-day. Yet we hear of her ministry in almost daily consultation. The ordinary concerns of the nation are sufficiently important to assemble the Queen's advisers in frequent and protracted sessions. We Americans are waging war over the surface of a continent, and our armed ships are in every sea. The nation is rocking in the throes of its mortal struggle; its commerce is slaughtered on the seas; its homes are emptied of the young men who go away by the hundreds of thousands to fight our battles; we count by thousands of millions the heaped-up debt which is to burden the industry of this and future generations; fresh millions are daily added to this mountain of debt which it has taken us fewer months to create than it took groaning debt-ridden England years to accumulate; the very trade and industries upon which we must rely to carry the load are being steadily paralysed by the headlong financiering of the head of the treasury, and the watered currency with which he is gorging all the distended arteries and veins of trade; a new monarchy is rising into power on our southern border, born out of our weakness, hostile to us in its inception, our foreordained antagonist in the future; our enemies abroad are only biding their time; yet at this very crisis, when every hour is big with the fate of thirty millions of people, the Congress elected and charged to care for these supreme interests can hardly get together a quorum to do its daily dawdling, and the chief magistrate thinks it wise to discontinue the assembling of his selected advisers, to stroll from the Navy Department across to the War Office, and from the War Office to the Treasury Department, and "run the machine myself," as he terms it, lubricating its huge wheels with stories picked up in "Sangamon county, Illinois;" and for the remainder of the day, to spin plots and contrive schemes, as the secretaries, too, are spinning and contriving to secure the spoils and plunder of the next presidency.'

LETTER FROM GENERAL BEAUREGARD.—The *Richmond Examiner* of the 15th ult. contains the following letter, dated Charleston, March 28, 1864:—'Gentlemen: Accept for yourselves, and for the other officers and soldiers from Louisiana, who met with you at Mobile on the 19th instant, my heartfelt thanks for the lofty and touching sentiments expressed in the resolutions you were pleased to pass on the occasion of the sad event which has torn from me a most dear and beloved wife, and from the State to which she belonged, one of its brightest jewels and ornaments. Mrs. Beauregard died a martyr to our cause. Her continued and long separation from the chosen one of her heart, under the trying circumstances she had to pass through, was more than her careworn and enfeebled condition could endure. Yet she departed not from life without giving utterance to her undiminished devotion to that noble cause, and to her unshaken faith in its ultimate triumph. She was a true and fervent patriot. The foul breath of even the most vile among the vilest of our enemies never could taint the pure atmosphere that surrounded her. How bright, how glorious I would deem the day on which it were given to me, at the head of my brave and so hard-tried compatriots, to rescue, with her hallowed grave, the noble State that bestowed such honours upon her remains, from the footsteps of the foe who pollutes them by his presence! With sincere esteem and sincere acknowledgments, I remain, yours very truly, G. T. BEAUREGARD.—Major Hy. St. Paul, Capt. J. T. Purves, Lieut. Charles Arroyo, Committee, Mobile, Ala.'

HARD SWEARING.—A Northern paper gives the following classification of the various oaths imposed upon the people of various conquered provinces by their military rulers. These were:—In Louisiana, under the Butler satrapy, the Butler oath of allegiance—the Butler wagon oath—the Butler permit oath—the sugar oath—the medicine oath—the contraband oath—the whisky oath, and the cotton and molasses oath. In the same State followed, soon after, the Banks oaths of like variety, but less searching and stringent. In Missouri the variety, from the Halleck oath to the Schofield and Rosecrans oath, were equally extensive, in sorts, kinds, and degrees of intensity. In Indiana and Ohio the Hascall and Burnside oaths prevailed. In Kentucky all varieties were fashionable, and are still so; there they had the Jeremiah Boyle oath, the General Buell oath, and several varieties in the upper or blue-grass regions, the coffee oath, the mule oath, and the cattle oath. In Tennessee the variety of oaths exceeded that of any other State in intensity of loyal obligations, and Andrew Johnson has capped the climax in the oath line. The belief has obtained that he preached State rights and the resolutions of '98 so long, while pretending to be a Democrat, that he himself had to prescribe a special oath to make them disbelieve his former doctrines, and that he himself swears over and over again, every day or so, lest he may be suspected of any adherence to his old faith. Of the Butler Norfolk oaths, the South Carolina, the Florida, the Illinois, the Camp Chase, the Fort Lafayette, the Fort Warren, the Jim Lane oaths, we need not speak.

INDEPENDENCE.—We still talk of this as something yet to be won. Have we not already measurably grasped the prize? Some few years ago, almost everything we saw—everything we wore, and much we consumed, was manufactured and imported from the North. *Now*, home-spun fabrics clothe our people, and almost everything we require for use is made at home. Let the blockade continue, and we ask no help from the outside barbarians. Our country is rich in resources, and blest beyond almost every other land. All we have ever required as a people to make us independent, has been the stern and inexorable pressure of necessity—and that pressure is now upon us. We feel its growing influence and recognise its beneficial results every day. And ere long, over all the vast extent of this sunny land, the songs of the husbandman will commingle on every hand with the music of the wheel, the loom, and the anvil. We never expected to become a manufacturing people; but the same law which made Robinson Crusoe, on the lonely isle, combine all trades in himself, will work wonders with us. It is doing this every day.—*Sumter* (South Carolina) *Watchman.*

MR. LINCOLN'S ELOQUENCE.—'Honest old Abe' came to be President partly by splitting rails, partly by making stump speeches. Of his talent in the latter function we have a specimen in an address made last month at the Sanitary Fair at Baltimore, from the report of which we give a brief extract:—'When this war began, scarcely one individual supposed it would have lasted till now. All thought it would have ended in some way in a much shorter time. Very few at that time thought the institution of slavery would be very much affected by it; but these expectations were not realised, and here we are (laughter), and slavery has been somewhat affected. (Great laughter.)'

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

The Index was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, The Index has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. The Index does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, The Index is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of The Index, 13 Bouverie Street, E.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. Hopkins, Index Office.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1864.

The Federal Disaster in Louisiana.

The Confederate victory in Louisiana has scarcely received the attention that it deserves in this country. If there was any State in which the Federals boasted of the complete subordination of Secession, it was Louisiana. The scene of their earliest triumph, the theatre of Butler's tyranny and Banks's 'nigger' enlistments, after three years of war, Louisiana might have been fairly expected to be thoroughly Yankeeised, and, in fact, the Federal press has for months treated the State as belonging to the Union Hitherto the efforts of a helpless population have failed to refute the Northern claim. The crescent city made no sign; and New Orleans was quoted as a model of civil administration for the benefit of Lincoln's lieutenants. Now the tide has turned, and the results of a long and grievous tyranny are showing themselves; the men of Louisiana have turned upon their ruthless oppressors; and the result is a victory which, if it had fallen to Northern arms, would have been celebrated with *Te Deums* and thanksgiving-days in every State in the Union. In point of fact, it may be doubted whether the South has won such a victory since the first fight at Bull Run. Banks's army marched as if to assured victory. The Northern press predicted, with a certainty that surpassed belief, the precipitate flight of the 'rebels' into Texas, and the sweeping of some hundreds of thousands of bales of cotton into the Federal net. The trans-Mississippi States of the Confederacy were to be Yankeeised, and a simultaneous advance by Banks's and Steele's forces from Louisiana and Arkansas, was to effect in Texas what had been accomplished in the Red River. The earlier operations favour the dream of the Federals. Fort de Russy is captured; there are strange surprises of Confederate horsemen; the Federal gunboats steam up the Red River and find no obstacles. At once the news is telegraphed to Washington that the fighting in Louisiana is over, and great consignments of cotton are promised. Banks, desirous of glory and of cotton, places himself at the head of his conquering army. A tremendous flotilla of iron-clad gunboats and transports accompanies him. It never occurs to him to enquire whether the Confederates have an army in the State. He is led away by his unopposed progress to Alexandria. In an evil hour he leaves the kindly shelter of his gunboats and strikes boldly by a short inland cut for Shreveport. A slight skirmish ensues, in which, of course, he 'drives' the Confederates. Then pushing on his cavalry, he finds himself in front of a considerable Confederate army. His cavalry is driven back with loss; a regiment or two of infantry is ordered up; they equally fail to make an impression; ultimately the Confederates assume the offensive; Banks's advance is overthrown, cut to pieces, and routed; it falls back upon the main body, only to involve it in its own confusion; and the *pêle-mêle*, cavalry, infantry, and artillerymen without their guns, seek safety behind the bayonets of the reserve. After three days' panic, the flight is stayed, but when the Confederates move up their forces for another general action, Banks adopts the more prudent course and retreats some five and thirty miles. There never was such a victory gained in any previous action of the war. It is said that the Confederates captured two millions of dollars in gold and one million of greenbacks, all the guns, and nearly the whole train of Banks's army, and 4,000 prisoners. Then they destroyed the best ironclad of the flotilla, and effectively disposed of several transports, and not only drove back Banks to his entrenchments at Alexandria, but actually fought the gunboats down the river with the light artillery, and fought a successful duel from the banks with the Federal ironclads. There has been no more overwhelming or unexpected disaster during the war. The readers of The Index will have been somewhat prepared for the superiority of soldiers like Kirby Smith and Taylor over the lawyer Banks, but it could hardly have been anticipated even by the most disparaging critic of Banks's strategy that he would have shown himself so utterly unfit to command an army; still less could it have been hoped that the Confederacy, with all its successes in Florida, in Mississippi, in Tennessee, Kentucky, and North Carolina, should have mustered men enough to defeat the joint expedition of Banks and Porter. We regret to see that for a time the army of the South is deprived of the services of a chivalrous Frenchman, the Prince de Polignac, whose name has figured already in so many battle-fields of the Confederacy. But it must be some consolation to him to have seen the Yankees flying a second time in hopeless panic from Kirby Smith, and to have repeated the lesson of Bull Run on the plains of Louisiana. On the effect of this victory we forbear to expatiate. It may not improbably throw the whole State of Louisiana into the hands of the Confederates, and rescue Arkansas from the Federal clutches. It must give an immense impulse to the Confederacy all through the more Southern States, and add a hundredfold to Mr. Lincoln's difficulties. Banks cannot be reinforced. All that General Steele can hope is to be allowed to retire. The probability is that he will be overwhelmed and beaten. Vicksburg and Port Hudson cannot afford men. The utmost Banks can effect is the safe retreat of his army, under the fire of his gunboats, to the mouth of the Red River, and thence to New Orleans. It will be well for him if his retreat is not attended with disasters as serious as those which marked his blundering and calamitous advance.

In Virginia the two armies are still expectant. The commanders on both sides are aware of the tremendous stake at issue, and careful to avoid a risk. We need hardly say that every day improves Lee's position, and increases the confidence of the South in the issue of the looked-for engagement. Without pretending to a knowledge of the exact numbers of the Confederate army in Virginia, we may unhesitatingly assert that the numerical difference between the two armies is less than it has ever been before; that everything which could be devised to strengthen the Confederate position has ever been done; and that to Grant's unwieldy and comparatively raw force Lee opposes an army of veterans. The delay of Grant's advance shows that he does not underrate the powers of his opponent; and he may well be distrustful. He has nothing like the force M'Clellan thought indispensable for an advance upon Richmond when Lee had a much smaller force, and when Richmond was unfortified. His best friends allow that he is no strategist, though they rely much upon his bulldog tenacity. He is bewildered with the sudden display of vigour exhibited by the Confederacy in Kentucky, in Tennessee, and in North Carolina. It is no wonder that on the eve of this tremendous conflict he shrinks from striking the blow which may very possibly crush out the last hopes of the North, on the success of which the stability of the Union depends, and which, at whatever peril, and at whatever cost, must be struck at once. A few days—a few hours—may bring us the news that the battle has been fought. On the other hand, there are many well-informed persons who say that no great movement will take place until the end of May or the beginning of June. Come when it will, it promises to be the crowning struggle of the war; and it is not easy to recal a conflict on the issue of which the destinies of so many millions of civilised men have depended.

Mr. Seward and the French Government.

If, as the Latin poet tells us, it is delightful to stand on the safe shore, and watch the labour of another amid winds and waves, it is also a certain consolation, when ourselves in misery, to see others suffering in like manner. And if our fellow-sufferer be the man who has brought us into trouble, we shall lose much of our own pain in the gratification of seeing our persecutor in difficulties. Such is the best consolation which we can offer to the English Government after the long course of humiliation which they have endured at the hands of the Federal officials. Mr. Seward may have snubbed us, abused us, hectored over us, crammed the washings of New York printing-offices down our throats in the guise of Confederate correspondence; he may have arrogated the right of changing our laws to suit his convenience; he may have insulted our Sovereign in the person of her Ministers, her officers, and her subjects; but he cannot deprive us of the small gratification of seeing him prostrate in his turn before a Power whose menace would be speedily followed by action, and licking the dust before his feet, in behalf of the President and the people whom he represents. In another column will be found a translation of M. Drouyn de Lhuys' despatch to the French agents abroad, explaining to them how abjectly the American Secretary of State had hastened 'to anticipate and obviate any unfavourable impressions which may have arisen in consequence of the Congressional vote asserting the Monroe doctrine in respect of Mexico.' It appears that the Imperial Government would have passed in contemptuous silence over a vote which might either be an expression of impotent spite, or a cunning electioneering intrigue; but the servility of Mr. Seward was rightly judged to be worthy of record, and his readiness to grovel at the feet of a European Power is therefore preserved imperishably in the diplomatic history of the year.

'The Cabinet of Washington repudiates all responsibility in the matter.' Does it indeed? Then, as the same Cabinet did not repudiate all responsibility in the vote of thanks passed by Congress to Admiral Wilkes after the *Trent* affair, we in England are delighted to learn that we have received one more insult than we had yet counted. All responsibility, forsooth! Why, the terms themselves convey their own refutation; for the responsibility must once have existed, if it can now be so energetically disclaimed. And even where there is no legal responsibility, the Government cannot repudiate the moral responsibility of having cherished the doctrine, and fostered the spirit which brought about the obnoxious vote. However, as Mr. Seward has proved that he can, when occasion requires it, offer apologies such as no liberal-minded Government would think of exacting from another, we may fairly ask the cause of so exceptional a civility. We may demand how it comes about that while we in England were not suffered by the American Minister to receive Mr. Mason with common civility, Mr. Slidell was allowed to present himself unofficially to the French Government, and state his case without interruption or annoyance. Or again, while the strictest blockade has been enforced over the Carolinian coast—while an attempt to pass out of a Southern State the interest of money borrowed before the war was made the pretext for a furious assault on our probity—how was it that permission was given to ship the stores of tobacco, of which the French Government stood in need, through the blockade in French bottoms? If the English Government might not send an envoy to Richmond to remonstrate on a supposed offence imputed to the Confederates by Northern forgeries, why was M. Mercier to make a tour in the Southern States, with the full permission of Mr. Seward, on a merely general mission of inspection? We can find no answer to such questions as these, save in the oft-repeated remark that it is not safe to refuse the common courtesies of society to a man who can and will enforce the observance of them. It is a principle that we encounter everywhere; we meet it round every corner in this city: a bully will be coarsely insolent to a woman, who will be civil and compliant to a resolute man. The conduct of the present Government with respect to the two belligerents of North America has been a subject of such repeated and acrimonious discussion, that it is as useless as painful to harp upon it; but if argument and evidence will not carry conviction into the minds of pro-Northerners in England, we trust that the sight of M. Drouyn de Lhuys' despatch may have more effect. Has our devotion to the cause of neutrality been less than that of France? Has our patience in listening to complaints been less constant? Nay, more, has not our substantial assistance to the North, in defiance of real neutrality, and with a greater regard for the letter than for the spirit of its laws, been far greater? Can we accuse ourselves of having adopted a line of conduct so different from that of the French Government that we may naturally expect a difference in the courtesy we receive? We feel that we can answer all these questions satisfactorily; and yet, in spite of our strict neutrality, and even of our undue favour towards the Federals, we must put up with angry insolence in every epistle addressed to us by the

Federal SECRETARY OF STATE. We repeat, if nothing else will convince our Northern sympathisers, the contents of M. DROUYN DE LHUYS' despatch at least should teach them that they are mistaken in the object of their sympathies.

We must congratulate the Federal Congress upon the dignified position which Mr. SEWARD has made them assume in the sight of Europe. That their faults and petty malices should be pilloried before us is fair enough, though even then they might grumble that their own Secretary of State assumes the office of common hangman; but that they should be represented as a debating society whose views on foreign affairs are deserving of no attention, that they should be degraded to the position of any trumpery vestry meeting which chooses to pass impotent resolutions upon the conduct of the Foreign Secretary, is a depth of ignominy which they owe entirely to Mr. SEWARD'S officious servility. *Il faut laver son linge sale en famille*, said NAPOLEON I.; you must first hang it up on high for Europe to laugh at and blush over, says the Federal Cabinet.

The principle which Mr. SEWARD asserts has existed for centuries in Europe; in many countries it is still in full force. The law of England acknowledges it, inasmuch as the Sovereign is sole arbiter of peace or war. But we can recollect no instance in which a European statesman has thus gone out of his way to pass an insult upon an assembly supposed to be constituted of the united wisdom of his country. The people of the United States have stomached so many affronts and passed over so many arbitrary and high-handed acts affecting their own personal liberty, that they will probably not be much disturbed at this verdict of imbecility passed upon their representatives. Yet it must be, we think, somewhat galling to the dignity of any community that it should be sacrificed on the shrine of Mr. SEWARD'S foreign policy.

The 'Georgia' in Parliament.

ON Friday, on the formal motion that the House at its rising do adjourn till Thursday—i. e. over the Whitsuntide holidays, the partisans of the Federal government made an angry demonstration against the purchase of ships from British builders by the Confederate government. The commencement of the attack was aptly entrusted to the gentleman who, of all English merchants, has made the largest profit by contraband trade during the continuance of this war. Mr. BARING has extensive connections in the Northern States; his firm is one of the most influential in England; and his position in both countries enabled him to become the largest dealer in arms and munitions of war between this country and New York. He has supplied to the Federal Government the means of killing some tens of thousands of Confederate soldiers; and it was therefore properly left to him to complain that some other merchants had supplied to the Confederates the means of destroying a few score of Federal merchantmen. He asked whether the Ministry were aware that the *Georgia*—a vessel equipped and manned in British waters, had lately entered the port of Liverpool; and if so, whether her admission there were thought consistent with the honour and the neutrality of England. And he did his best to prove that the *Georgia* ought to have been excluded from our ports, avowedly in the interest and as the representative of a considerable number of British shipowners, who are afraid that when next Great Britain shall be engaged in war, her enemy will be furnished with cruisers from American ports, by the very same means which have enabled the Confederates to obtain cruisers in England, and who imagine that, by putting a stop to such practices now, they may establish a precedent to which, in future times, the Americans will perforce adhere. The debate which followed was remarkable for the clearness and ability with which the various arguments bearing on the case of the *Alabama* and her consorts were set forth; it may be considered the most complete and most interesting discussion of the questions involved in that case that has yet taken place.

The reasonings of Mr. BARING, and of Mr. FORSTER, and of Mr. COBDEN, by whom he was supported, were, perhaps purposelessly, somewhat confused. They mixed up together questions of interest, of law, and of international justice, in a manner which no doubt gave additional weight to their oratory, but which deprived it of logical coherence and conclusive force. Nor did the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, in his very lucid and forcible reply, sufficiently disentangle the various threads of argument which were mixed up and confused in Mr. BARING'S speech. With the question of British interests he did not deal at all; and he did not separate as distinctly as he might have done the question of legal right from that of international justice. In our analysis of the discussion we shall endeavour to separate these questions so as to make apparent to our readers the arguments addressed to each point, and their bearing on the general issue.

It is affirmed, in the first place, that it is the interest of Great Britain, as the chief of the maritime Powers, to exclude the interference of neutrals in maritime warfare. We are, it is said, the strongest of all naval Powers: it is, therefore, our peculiar interest to take care that other and weaker Powers shall not be able, in time of war, to supplement their weakness at sea by obtaining from neutral nations the means of maritime hostility. We have, moreover, the largest mercantile marine in the world; we are, therefore, interested above all other Powers in lessening the ability of maritime belligerents, and especially of the weaker maritime belligerent, to harass the enemy's commerce on the high seas. In case of war, we shall be in the position now occupied by the United States; if we allow the doctrine to prevail that neutrals may supply belligerent Powers with cruisers armed and manned, that doctrine will, when we in our turn become belligerents, be eminently disastrous to our commerce. In all this, no doubt, there is a spice of truth. But it may well be doubted whether our interest in this matter be not exceedingly exaggerated. For if we be at war with any Power of the first rank, it is probable, and indeed certain, that we should in any case be exposed to a risk of attacks on our commerce sufficient to raise the rate of insurance to a point which will make it impossible for our shipowners to keep the sea. Do what we may, war will cripple our mercantile marine; and it is not worth while to make any sacrifice of our advantage as neutrals in order to make this disastrous result of war a little less complete and speedy in its operation. Again, as the *Economist* justly observed, we have another interest to consider. At present we are the great shipbuilding nation of the world. We can supply war ships much faster and more cheaply than any other country. This superiority will be of immense value to us in time of war. But if, in time of peace, we persecute and punish the building of ships of war for those who want them, we shall drive the trade into other hands; and when we come ourselves to be belligerents, we shall sorely feel the loss. The case of the shipowners, therefore, on the point of national interest, is by no means so clear and overwhelming as they seem to suppose. And whatever our interest may be, this much is certain, that we ought neither to break the law for the sake of our interest, nor to introduce a new rule of international law, *pendente lite*, adverse to one belligerent and favourable to the other, unless such rule be clearly demanded by neutral duty and public morality.

It behoves us, therefore, to consider in the next place, what is the legal position of the *Alabama*, *Florida*, and *Georgia*; and whether it be such as would justify us in excluding them from our ports, It is admitted on the one hand that a regular ship of war has a right to such admission; and on the other hand, that a privateer which has been illegally fitted up within the jurisdiction of the neutral may fairly be excluded. Now, in the first place, the *Georgia* and her consorts are in no sense privateers. A privateer is a vessel of war belonging to a private owner, and fitted out by him to make war merely for the sake of gain. These vessels belong to the Confederate Government; they are regularly commissioned by that Government; and their officers all bear regularly signed commissions in the Confederate service. To endeavour to confound them with privateers, as Mr. COBDEN did, is the very extravagance of prejudice and unscrupulousness. Secondly, not one of these vessels was fitted out as a vessel of war within British jurisdiction. They quitted our ports as merchantmen, and received their equipment as cruisers elsewhere. They fall, therefore, under the denomination of regular ships of war. And the fact that they have never entered a Confederate port—which, as regards the *Florida*, is not the case—does not affect the legal status. On this point the ATTORNEY-GENERAL was exceedingly distinct and emphatic. Now there is no precedent for forbidding public *ships of war* from entering neutral ports, unless this prohibition be extended to all the ships of both belligerents. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL indeed affirms that Her MAJESTY has the right to refuse hospitality to particular ships on special grounds. But it is quite clear that this refusal cannot be claimed as of right by the opposite party; and that on merely legal grounds neither the North nor its partisans have any right to complain of the admission of the *Georgia*. If we excluded her on the ground that her original purchase in our ports was wrongful, if not illegal, we should be establishing a new rule of international law, to the advantage of the North, and to the injury of the South.

Worsted on the ground of law, Mr. BARING and his supporters laid great stress upon what they affirmed to be the obligations of international morality. Their doctrine is, that we have no right to furnish ships of war to the South; that those who have done so have set at nought the law of the land and Her MAJESTY'S proclamation of neutrality; and that it is our duty to punish the violation of our laws by the Confederates, and to render redress to the Federals by refusing hospitality to ships fitted out in evasion of our law. Now, in the first place, it is false, as a matter of international obligation, that we have no right to sell ships to the South. At international law, ships and arms stand on the same footing; the subjects of a neutral power may sell either, subject only to the ordinary penalties of a contraband trade. The difference, such as it is, depends entirely on a municipal statute; and the violation of that statute by the Confederates is an exceedingly doubtful one. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, who declares that it has been violated, admits that the Confederates may well have supposed that they were keeping within it; and we may add that they certainly did believe this, and took the utmost pains to avoid anything like illegality. If it be asked, as Sir R. PALMER asks, why so much care was taken to conceal a purpose believed to be lawful, we must remind the questioner that there were two dangers to be avoided—a violation of the law by Her MAJESTY'S Government, such as occurred in the case of the *El Toussoun*, and the vigilance of the enemy's spies and the enemy's cruisers. It appears, then, that as a matter of fact the Confederates have not intended to violate our laws, and that, if Mr. LAIRD have disobeyed the QUEEN'S proclamation, Mr. BARING has been equally disobedient. It does not seem that, under such circumstances, it behoves the partisans of the North to talk very loudly about the disloyalty of Mr. LAIRD, or that we should be justified in taking hostile measures against the *Georgia*, the *Florida*, or the *Alabama*.

Again, when we depart from questions of law, and come to questions of international morality, when we depart from the rules of legal evidence, and talk of acting on moral certainties, it behoves us to consider what we know of the conduct of the North. If we are to enforce moral claims against one party, we must enforce them against the other; if we are to act on moral certainty against Southern cruisers, why not against Federal recruiting agents? If we are to exclude Confederate ships because the Confederate Government perhaps violated an uncertain law, how can we admit the ships of the Federal Government, which systematically violates our positive laws against the enlistment of British subjects? If we are to send away the *Georgia* because she was manned by Englishmen, how can we admit Federal men-of-war, knowing, as we do, that one-half of their crews are English? These points were strongly and justly put by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, and neither Mr. FORSTER nor Mr. COBDEN ventured to grapple with them.

We might turn Sir ROUNDELL PALMER'S argument against himself. We might use his language in the case of the *Georgia* the more emphatically to contradict his defence of the seizure of the *Tuscaloosa*. But we forbear to do so. We are content to call attention to the debate of Friday evening as containing a full statement of all that is to be said about the treatment of Confederate ships in British waters, the argument of the North being completely set forth by Messrs. BARING, FORSTER, and COBDEN, and thoroughly refuted by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL and Lord R. CECIL.

FEDERAL PHILANTHROPY AND JUSTICE.—Such is the picture of Louisiana under the degenerating influence of the Government which would have us believe that it is carrying on a bloody and destructive war mainly for the sake of the negro race and the doctrines of a sensitive philanthropy. The Southern planters may be excused if they feel rather indignant when they find themselves expelled from their estates, and turned adrift upon the world, avowedly in the interest of those slaves for whom the sympathies of the North are so tenderly interested. It must be with singular feelings that they behold the re-establishment on the ruins of their former prosperity, not only of a system of slavery retaining all the harsher features of that odious institution, but unredeemed by maintenance in sickness and old age, on which alone the mind of any man of benevolence could rest with the slightest satisfaction. Singularly, too, must they be affected on beholding the revival of the slave trade in the shape of a traffic carried on by the Government in their own fugitive negroes. We also cannot feel wholly unmoved when we turn from the description which we have given above of the manner in which the Confederates are supplied with the necessaries of life in exchange for cotton, which is furnished to the exigencies of the Northern Government, and compare this relaxation of their own rules in their own favour, and the circumstances of pecuniary corruption with which it is attended, with the rigid exclusion of this same article from the markets of Western Europe. While the American Government is denouncing us as little better than pirates and outlaws for the attempts of individual merchants to run the blockade, we have the satisfaction of seeing that they have no objection to run the blockade on their own account, and to turn an honest penny by selling to their own citizens exemption from the prohibition which they have created. They have brought to perfection the art of tempering justice with mercy. Justice requires that the Confederates should be absolutely excluded from intercourse with the rest of the world; but mercy steps in and qualifies the Draconian severity of the rule by an exemption in favour of those who are willing to pay handsomely for it. Virtue is said to be the mainstay of republics. If this be so, we may easily calculate the probable duration of Republican institutions in the State of Louisiana.—*Times*, May 17.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York: May 4, 1864.

THE IMPENDING CONFLICT IN VIRGINIA—THE PREPARATIONS ON EITHER SIDE—MR. LINCOLN'S DILEMMA—WHAT RESULTS WILL FOLLOW FROM A NORTHERN OR A SOUTHERN VICTORY—THE WANTON DESTRUCTION OF A TOWN—BANKS'S DEFEAT—A CORRESPONDENT OF A NEW YORK PAPER SENT AWAY FROM NEW ORLEANS—WHY THE LINCOLNITES ADMIT THE RED RIVER DISASTER—BANKS EXTINGUISHED AS A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE—THE INCREASED DUTY LEVIED ON GOODS IN BOND CONSIDERED UNJUST AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL—THE INTERNAL TAX BILL—WHAT IT IS LIKELY TO PRODUCE—RESULTS OF THE TAX ON CARRIAGES—THE 'NO TAX' PARTY—REPUDIATION BY THE STATE OF NEW YORK—THE EFFORT TO MAINTAIN CREDIT ABROAD—THE CHARGES AGAINST MR. CHASE—WHY THEY ARE PREFERRED—THE BARGAIN BETWEEN MR. LINCOLN AND MR. CHASE'S ACCUSER—AN EXAMPLE OF THE SENSE OF HONOUR OF THE LINCOLN GOVERNMENT.

The impending conflict in Virginia is to be a mighty one. It is the evident plan of the Federals, under the inspiration of the new Lieutenant-General, to make an overwhelming and crushing effort to destroy Lee's army and capture Richmond. It has entered into their imaginations that this will be the end of the war, and their Financial Minister has advised them that without military success the Government credit will perish. All available troops are drawn to that point. Distant places, won at great cost of life, have been evacuated in order to strengthen this army; and for the numerous disasters which have recently overtaken the Federal arms, the ready excuse has been made, that it is the policy to risk losses elsewhere in order to make the forces in Virginia irresistible. In addition to the enlisted armies, eighty-five thousand militia have been called out in the Western border States to do home and garrison duty, that all regular troops may be hurried to the front. The time of service is for a hundred days, which shows the limit of time within which a decisive result is expected. It is difficult to form any estimate of the amount of the force which will be thus accumulated against the defenders of the Southern capital. Reports carry it up to three hundred and fifty thousand and four hundred thousand fighting men, but they are conjectures and probable exaggerations. The numbers are, however, very large, and the force formidable. The veteran troops are said to be very good, but there is an element of weakness in the quality of the new levies, from whom not very good or hearty fighting is expected. On the Southern side there is a corresponding activity and concentration. There is a systematic suppression by this Government of all Southern newspapers and news, but we hear through various sources, more to be credited than the reports sent forth from Washington, that General Lee has been strongly reinforced, that the defences of Richmond have been enlarged and made very strong, and that the troops under General Lee are, though inferior in numbers, perfect in discipline, and believed to be able to meet successfully the coming shock. There is unlimited faith in the genius of Lee and the heroic qualities and discipline of his veteran army. There is no such faith on this side in General Grant, partly because he has no antecedents which give any assurance of his competency to cope with such a master in the art of war as General Lee has proved himself to be, and partly because his name has been mixed up, by parties hostile to the Administration, in schemes for overthrowing its ascendency at the next election; and by a large class the President and his advisers are actually thought to be base enough to fear that General Grant might become too great by victory, and to be willing to protract the struggle, so that at least it may be indecisive, until the nominations in June have secured the President the control of the party. Mr. Lincoln's dilemma is indeed an unhappy one for his political prospects. If Grant should be victorious, signally, it might make him President by acclamation; if he should be defeated, the reaction of the disaster might overthrow Mr. Lincoln in favour of some opposition candidate. So completely has Mr. Lincoln exposed himself of late as having administered his office and directed the war policy with the view of securing his own re-election, that men of his own party do not hesitate to say that he will not, if he can help it, let Grant fight a decisive battle until the June nomination is made. I say if Mr. Lincoln can help it, for General Grant has acquired such a hold on the public mind, from the hope that he will do something to bring this weary war to a close, that he can afford to quarrel with the President more than the President can afford to thwart him. And I ought to add, if General Lee will let him; for there is a very current belief that the battle which is looked for with so much intense expectation may be brought on by Lee.

Agitating rumours get abroad almost every day which give out that the actual collision of arms has begun somewhere along the line. I do not believe it can long be deferred, even if Lee should, for reasons of strategy, alter the plan of defence which is attributed to him, and choose to meet the invader nearer to Richmond; but the present indications are that the shock of arms will commence on the Rapidan. Of the issue I shall make no vainglorious prophecy. If the Confederate general gains a victory, it will be the forerunner of peace. This country cannot carry on war through another campaign under the financial strain to which the Government is subjected, and with the distresses and convulsions following the collapse of the huge paper system which a severe reverse in Virginia would precipitate, and which, let me add, a victory there would only defer. There is visible everywhere a growing restiveness under the burdens of the war, and of hostility to the authors of the war, which would break out irrepressibly under the exasperations of a great defeat; and a success, which will not lighten these burdens, nor give assurance of peace, nor bring back a sound currency and low prices, nor give contentment to the lower classes—as assuredly the result of the campaign in Virginia will not—will be only the postponement of the evil day. This battle in Virginia may therefore be reckoned as the sure beginning of the end of the war should Lee triumph; otherwise, the conflict will be more protracted, and the bloodshed, the horrors, and the cost, be frightfully increased.

One of the first incidents of the campaign shows the temper in which it is to be waged on that line. It is a repetition, under higher auspices, of Kilpatrick's raid towards Richmond, in the spirit of Dahlgren's famous instructions. An expedition was sent on a reconnaissance to Madison Court House, the county town of Madison county. It was a place of no military importance; but some Confederates, who were met on the way of the Union troops, took refuge there, and the attempt was made to dislodge them. They made good their defences, and although the Federals had no use for the town, and did not want to occupy it, they decided to 'smoke out' the party by firing the town. They did so, and reduced it to ashes; after which they rode off in triumph, and the feat is chronicled as a legitimate operation of war. The town was a pleasant one, containing about 800 inhabitants, some churches, and other public buildings, and some fine mansions belonging to planters in the vicinity. It had shops, and warehouses, and mills, all of which were wantonly destroyed; although the Federal report of the transaction says it was of 'little value in a strategical point of view.' It was burned in the mere lust for devastation.

It seems almost impossible to gather the full results of the Red River battles, in which the Federal army under General Banks is admitted to have sustained a great defeat. The New Orleans journals are all silent, or, under military pressure, are employed in disguising the losses and dressing up prospective victories. The best source of information we had here was in the correspondent of the *New York World* from New Orleans, who wrote very independently of the state of things in that department, and described events exactly as they appeared to his own judgment, without official dictation. But this writer has been sent away by the military authorities, as too free-spoken; not because he was dangerous within the department—for he could only utter his thoughts a thousand miles off, and they could not be reprinted there—but because he disclosed transactions which dangerous and corrupt men desire that nobody should know beyond the circles where they occurred. But for a partisan interest among his own political associates, it would not be conceded that there was anything serious in the losses of Banks on the Red River, or anything which is discouraging to the Union cause. The friends of General Banks have engaged for some time in a scheme for making him a candidate for the Presidential nomination at the June Convention. A contingency is anticipated, in which, from the dissensions in that body among the partisans of Lincoln, Fremont, and Chase, it might be agreed upon to abandon all of them and unite on a new man. General Banks has had a good reputation for administrative ability, and though leagued, by the necessities of his position at New Orleans, with a throng of corrupt officials, is free from the taint of personal corruption. He is very ambitious, and is not unwilling to use the vices of others to strengthen his political prospects, but does not soil his own fingers with touching the plunder. Hence he has been privately urged as a very proper man to be brought forward in the Convention as a compromise candidate on whom the whole party could unite. It has become the policy of the President's friends to check this movement, and they have done so effectually by admitting the Red River defeat as a damaging reverse to the Union cause, and charging it to the military incompetency and gross mismanagement of General Banks. His removal is talked of, and there are reports from Washington that it is already decided on, and his successor is designated in General A. J. Smith, who commanded the corps which saved the remnants of the army after the rout under Banks. Whether this be so or not, Banks is effectually extinguished as a possible competitor for the Presidency. This party intrigue has, however, led to explicit avowals that the Federal defeat on the Red River was a very disastrous one, and the loss in men and munitions of war immense. They confess to a loss of five thousand men, but the figures are kept back. The Confederate accounts are that the loss was double that amount at the least.

The capture of Plymouth by the Confederates, and their re-occupation of Washington, give a very favourable aspect to the condition of affairs there, and release a considerable body of troops for the aid of General Lee's operations in Virginia.

The warning of Secretary Chase—that, without immediate taxation to the amount of fully one-half of the current expenditures of the Government, the finances of the Government must break down—has moved Congress into a spasmodic effort to lay taxes. Mr. Chase's idea, translated into figures, is that with $500,000,000 of secured revenues, the Government can continue its annual expenditure of $1,000,000,000 a year, or such amount as it may be reduced to by the conclusion of the war, or added to in prosecuting it. The surplus of expenditure over income he supposes he can add safely to the debt annually. The two measures Congress proposes to give him for these objects are an increased revenue from the Customs and an increase of internal taxes.

The new Tariff Bill has not been brought forward, but a short provisional Bill has been passed, by which the rates of the existing tariff are raised fifty per cent. for the period of sixty days, to take effect immediately. Within that period it is thought that a new tariff, to take the place of the present, can be agreed upon and passed. These new rates are construed to apply to goods in bond as well as goods to be brought in, and there is loud complaint by the merchants that it is a breach of good faith. They maintain that only such duties can be levied as were legally chargeable at the date of importation, and that the warehousing is only an arrangement for the mutual convenience of the parties, to secure their duties. There is a precedent in the action of Congress in a similar case for this construction, and there seems to be no doubt that the Judiciary will pronounce this new exaction unconstitutional. On the general propriety of levying new taxes suddenly, of its fairness to individuals, and its effect upon importations and revenue, Congress does not appear to have bestowed a thought.

An internal Tax Bill has been introduced, and has passed the House of Representatives, after so much controversy over the details, and so much alteration from what it was when reported, that the chairman of the committee which framed it told the House, with a groan, that he wished he was a *loco foco* that he might vote against it. He placed his assent to it, on the simple ground that his party obligations constrained him, against his judgment. It has gone to the Senate, to pass through the same torturing process there; and no one can form a conjecture in what shape it will reappear, or what will be its final character. Remonstrances are going up in great numbers against its partial character in many respects, and the oppressions which particular interests complain of in its bearings upon them. No reliable estimate has been published to show the amount of revenue it is expected to produce in the shape in which it passed—some calculators place it as high as $300,000,000, others rate it below $200,000,000, and not a few question whether any considerable portion can be collected at all. The taxes are so minute and so numerous, and the processes for reaching them so inquisitorial, and so much scope is left to the conscience of the tax-payer, and for favouritism and corruption in officials who will be the tools of party, that the opportunities for evasion will be infinite. The chances of a faithful execution of a tax law may be estimated from the facts developed in the official returns of the proceeds of the existing tax on carriages. The internal tax law of 1861–2 placed a tax of $10 each on pleasure-carriages valued at over $600. The amount returned as collected in the United States for the year ending June 30, 1863, was only $2,460, representing 246 carriages, when in this city of New York alone, there are many more than a thousand men who would be affronted at the intimation that they ride in anything of smaller value. Besides, there is the shadow projected of a coming party which will go before the people with the issue that no taxes ought to be paid at all, to meet principal or interest of a debt contracted, as they will say, wickedly and unlawfully, to make the poor man and his posterity slaves of the fundholder. There is no public virtue in this country which will stand up against such an appeal to interest and passion. It may be predicted with certainty that no system of taxes adequate to sustain this mountain of debt will stand long enough to give confidence to the public creditor; and that if the debt be not extinguished *de facto* by the dissolution of the Government, it will be repudiated by direct vote, or by the refusal of the Legislature to vote means, acting under the compulsion of the omnipotent majority of numbers.

No more ominous sign need be cited of the rapidity with which the public mind gets to be demoralised on this topic, than the course of the New York Legislature in the matter of paying the interest on the State debt. The first year after the suspension of specie payments, the State Comptroller assumed it to be his duty, without instructions, to pay the public creditor in coin, and the next Legislature sanctioned the responsibility he took, and refunded the money he had borrowed for that purpose. But they took one step downward, and provided, for the ensuing year, only for the payment of the foreign creditor in coin. They broke faith with their own citizens. This year they have passed concurrent resolutions declaring that no discrimination shall be made between foreign and domestic holders of State stocks, and made these directory, by appropriating for the payment of interest only the amount in legal tender notes. The repudiation is therefore general, as against all their stock creditors, of the difference in value between the currency in which the contract was made and that in which it is paid. For every $100 she agreed to pay, the State pays only at present rates, about $55. It is only a question of degree, but not of principle or morals, between this confiscation of a part and a repudiation of the whole.

If the Legislature of the most populous, wealthy, and powerful of the American States can thus violate contracts, and rob creditors in an amount so absolutely insignificant compared with the resources of the State, what may not be looked for from an excited people, complaining of intolerable burdens, and chafing under what they will be taught to think grievous oppressions and cruel wrongs?

Governor Seymour saw the fatal tendency of this action, and sent in a message of remonstrance against it as unjust, impolitic, and mischievous. It was not in his power to interpose a veto, for the resolutions were concurrent, and his signature was not needed. Besides, they were merely declaratory of the duty of making no discrimination. The evil application was in the omission to make provision in the Appropriation Bill for the purchase of coin. The Governor could not send back the whole Bill for the lack of an appropriation which he thought ought to be in it. They treated his expostulations with contempt, and adhered to their purpose. The legislative decision, for repudiation in that degree, was therefore complete.

The Governor and leading bankers are now labouring together to weaken the effect abroad of this shameful proceeding, by raising the means by voluntary advance for making good the deficiency to the foreign holder, and risking the chance of being repaid by a future Legislature. They may succeed in getting the money, and perhaps it may be refunded to them; but how far will this half-faced honesty, this keeping of faith with foreigners only—by capitalists from motives of policy, that they may borrow again when they need it—go among discreet money-lenders abroad to give confidence that this immorality will not be repeated when the greater pressure comes on; that this high example of repudiation will not be seized and improved upon by the voting masses, who will have no personal credit to make sacrifices for, but will seek to find in it relief from suffering and oppression, 'taxation and tyranny'?

I have scarcely left myself room to speak of the disgraceful disclosures in Congress, involving the character of Secretary Chase in his administration of the Treasury. The charges against him are of the most serious kind, including corruption, and conniving at corruption, in the most scandalous degree, for the enriching of favourites, and the strengthening of his own position, as a candidate for the Presidency, to the prejudice of Mr. Lincoln. Herein lies the secret of the outbreak and cause of the disclosures. The assault is made upon Mr. Chase by a member of the House of Representatives, who is in the interest of Mr. Lincoln, under circumstances which leave no doubt that he is specially patronised in the assault by Mr. Lincoln himself. If it had not been for a competition between Mr. Lincoln and his Secretary about the Presidential succession, such utterances as have been made against the Secretary would have been suppressed as 'disloyal,' perhaps punished as giving aid and comfort to the rebels.

You will see in the public journals the details of the scene in the House—the fierce attack, the attempt to stifle investigation, the charges, criminations, and recriminations, and the proofs extorted from the President of his intimate relations and associations with the Secretary's enemy. But it may interest your readers to know something of the personal history of the affair, and the chief actors in it.

Frank P. Blair, who leads the onslaught, was elected to the present House of Representatives from the St. Louis district of the State of Missouri, after a bitter contest in which he was violently opposed by the German Radicals because of his active hostility to their favourite, General Fremont. Fremont had had command of that department—and Blair, whose influence with the Administration was strong through his brother, the Postmaster-General, had aided materially in getting the General removed. Blair is a man of character and talents, and of very resolute temper. When elected the vote was so close between him and the next candidate that his seat was contested, and that question is not yet decided. He had, at the time of the meeting of Congress, a commission as Major-General of Volunteers, which it was necessary for him to resign if he accepted the seat. His vote there was thought to be important in organising the house so as to suit the friends of Mr. Lincoln, and a correspondence ensued between these two, which has since been made public. It was arranged that Mr. Lincoln should accept the resignation of General Blair, so that the latter might act for his party and friends in the House so long as his services were useful to them and agreeable to himself; but that the Commission should be returned to him whenever he might ask for it. The published letters establish this convenient arrangement, which was in effect that the President should hold the commission in reserve as long as Mr. Blair might desire, in order that he might enjoy the repute of acting in Congress as an independent member, and should give it back without the troublesome necessity of submitting the nomination again to the Senate which might be in a humour to reject it. It was clearly a private traffic with the office for the

benefit of a party and the personal interest of Mr. Lincoln. The bargain was fulfilled, the resignation was formally tendered and formally accepted, but to have its full effect it must be officially recorded in the War Office, which was done. Mr. Blair appeared in Congress, as an independent civilian, but really the retained supporter of Mr. Lincoln, with a bond in his pocket for the price. As soon as Mr. Chase showed signs of opposition to Mr. Lincoln's presidential aspirations, Mr. Blair put himself forward in the House as his assailant, and made again and again positive and grave charges of official delinquency, personal corruption, and political treachery. A fierce war of crimination and recrimination ensued, in which Blair was assailed with counter-charges by the friends of Mr. Chase, but he courted investigation, and cleared himself successfully. The House has been at last driven or shamed into an enquiry into the charges against the Secretary, and the various imputed mismanagements, abuses and frauds in his department. When the controversy reached that point, Mr. Blair claims of President Lincoln the fulfilment of his compact, and the President promptly complies. He permits Mr. Blair to withdraw the resignation of his commission; the member, no longer a member, reappears as a major-general; and the President makes some extensive changes in the commands of the army, in order to bestow on the public accuser of his Secretary of the Treasury a conspicuous position at the head of a favourite army corps.

It is hardly conceivable how the President and Secretary can remain together after these exposures, or that they did not separate at once by mutual repulsion—how the President can retain in high office a person against whom such charges of corruption and maladministration are pending, after giving countenance to the charge by sustaining and rewarding the accuser—or how any man of honourable sensibilities can cling to an office, after receiving such indignities from the President, by whose toleration he holds it. You may take these facts as examples of the sense of official and personal honour prevailing among the highest personages of Government in this model republic, which every now and then votes itself to be the most enlightened on the face of the earth.

COMPLETE DEFEAT OF BANKS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New Orleans, Louisiana: April 25, 1864.

THE COMPLETE DEFEAT OF BANKS—A SUBSTANTIAL VICTORY FOR THE CONFEDERATES—THE FEDERAL LOSSES—LETTER FROM A CONFEDERATE OFFICER — BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, THE BASE OF OPERATIONS AGAINST MEXICO—THE FEDERAL ENMITY TO THE FRENCH.

The battles in West Louisiana, on the 7th, 8th, and 9th instant, are still the theme of comment with the public of this city. And well they may be: such decisive victories and such terrible, irreparable disasters had not hitherto been experienced in this war. The enemy was not merely defeated, but utterly routed, pursued, harassed, and pressed up to the latest hour of our advices. The campaign is at an end, and the army of Banks, which expected to go through Texas from the mouth of the Red River to the Rio Grande, is now a demoralised and dispirited herd, cowering under protection of their inevitable gunboats. No Federal army has ever started on an expedition with finer equipments, with more abundant supplies, or with more confident hopes. According to the advices received a few hours ago, and they are entirely trustworthy, it is now endeavouring to make its way back along the river to Alexandria, with the design of getting to the transports below the falls, whence they expect to be brought to this city. This is not merely a brilliant victory for the Confederate arms, but a triumph fraught with solid and enduring results. In fact, we may justly call it the first decisive victory of the war. General Taylor did not rest content with the defeat of Banks on the field of battle, but followed him up and forced him to an engagement of more or less consequence every day, till Banks must have cursed the hour of his birth as he looked upon his beaten and decimated army, *sans* supplies, *sans* trains, *sans* artillery, *sans* hope or spirit, or any thought or feeling but how to escape the vengeance of the men they had come to enslave, whose homes and broad abounding fields they had made the abomination of desolation. No doubt it was the thought of these desolated homes that nerved the arms of the Confederates to their desperate gallantry. In this brief campaign, Banks has had from twelve to fifteen thousand men put *hors de combat*, nearly eight thousand of whom are said to have been captured. He has but a moiety of his trains left, and they were on the most extensive scale, as is usual in the Federal armies. He lost thirty pieces of artillery, including the famous Nim's battery and a couple of batteries manned by regulars, and the horses and caissons of the other batteries were more or less injured. He had 6,000 cavalry, but it is a thing of the past. On the 7th inst., the Texan horse swept down upon it, and it became an undistinguishable wrack. What remained of it was charged upon by Mouton's Louisianians and Polignac's Texans, in the battle of the 8th, and was literally cut to pieces, as I am informed by members of the 1st Louisiana Cavalry (Federal), who were in the fight, and were fearfully hacked by the long knives of the Texans. Generals Lee and Dudley, who commanded the cavalry, are now here, having been sent to the city under charges of incompetency. They return their superior's compliments with interest, charging upon his incompetency all the disasters that have befallen the army from the opening to the close of the campaign. I think myself that Banks would better have confined himself to the *promenade concerts* and *bals masqués*. As it is, he has ruined his prospects for the Presidency as well as the army of the 'Department of the Gulf.' He is now bringing the troops from Texas to assist him in fighting his way down Red River to the Mississippi. I could fill a dozen of the broad columns of The Index with incidents of the battles in West Louisiana, but must content myself with the following extracts from a letter written by a Confederate officer, who was in a position to be well informed. These extracts are copied from the original, which was kindly lent me. The names I withhold for obvious reasons:—

'United States transport *Polar Star*,
'near Baton Rouge, La., April 16, 1864.

'Dear Cousin,—As we feared, we are again on our way to New Orleans to await exchange, as at this time General Taylor is too much engaged in running about *after* Banks to enter into negotiations for us. As we passed Baton Rouge this morning, we picked up several New Orleans papers, in which some one has given a very one-sided account of the battles of the 8th and 9th at Pleasant Hill, which account winds up, *as usual*, with *great victory to the Union forces*. Not only for your benefit, but for the benefit of our friends and sympathisers generally, who seldom have an opportunity of hearing more than one side of the story, I will state what has come within our knowledge of the affair. Although we are prisoners paroled to the extent of this transport, we nevertheless have had many facilities for being informed on the subject, as we have either been with the fleet or in close proximity to Banks's army for the past ten days. A few more such victories as this they speak of, and there will not be such a thing as an organised body of Union forces in West Louisiana, which God grant may soon come to pass. On the 11th inst. Captain Airy, General Liddell's Adjutant-General, boarded this steamer with a flag of truce, while we were falling back from the fleet towards Grand Ecore. He said General Liddell had received two despatches from General Taylor to this effect. On the 8th inst. he had attacked the enemy, four miles south-east of Mansfield (De Soto parish), with his own army proper, viz. Walker's and Mouton's divisions of infantry and Green's division of cavalry. The infantry numbered 8,000 and the cavalry 4,000 men, in all 12,000. The result of that day's fight was a complete victory to our arms, the enemy being driven back to Pleasant Hill, a distance of sixteen miles. On the morning of the 9th inst. Taylor was reinforced by a division of Price's army. He pursued and attacked the enemy vigorously, and completely routed him. The enemy was cut off from direct communication with his gunboats at Grand Bayou, on Red River, a distance of 15 miles, and was compelled to fall back in confusion and panic on Grand Ecore, a distance of 50 miles from Mansfield, closely pursued by Taylor. The fruits of the victory were 21 pieces of artillery, 1,500 prisoners—many more being continually brought in—200 wagons, 3,000 horses and mules, an immense quantity of commissary and ordnance stores, and a large number of the enemy killed and wounded the latter left in Taylor's hands. Taylor's loss in killed and wounded heavy, but had not been fully ascertained. Among the killed are General Mouton, Colonel Beard, Major Canfield, and some other officers of note. Banks's entire force engaged on the 8th and 9th were about 30,000 infantry and 10,000 cavalry. From the most reliable information received, Banks's loss in killed, wounded, and missing is about 14,000 men. This transport was with the enemy's fleet when information was received of Banks's disaster. The fleet was then at Loggy Bayou, 60 miles from Shreveport by water and 40 by land. The order was immediately to return, and keep a sharp lookout for sharpshooters. This boat, with its flag of truce, took the lead in descending the river, and was allowed by General Liddell to pass on; but the gunboats and balance of the transports were fired on by musketry and field artillery, and, at the time of our leaving Grand Ecore for New Orleans—the 14th—it was believed from the signs that but a small portion of the fleet had returned. The enemy acknowledge that three transports are still up the river in danger, and that many men had been killed and wounded on board. Just previous to our leaving Grand Ecore, information had been received that, on the 12th and 13th, Green's cavalry had engaged Banks's troops a short distance from that place. Considerable uneasiness prevailed. The enemy at Grand Ecore were drawn up in line of battle, and the gunboats prepared for action. Some 800 wounded from the cavalry fight and the fleet above had been brought in up to the date of our departure.

'The enemy regard the condition of their gunboats as precarious, there being but five feet water on the falls at Alexandria, and the river falling slowly. Thus Banks's hope of getting to Shreveport in the year '64 is at an end, it being impossible for him to reach that point without the aid of his gunboats. The fighting is considered to have been desperate; Federal officers and men, who have fought against Lee, Jackson, Bragg, and Pemberton, freely saying they never encountered such fighting men as fought them on April 8 and 9. For instance, a Federal officer states that Polignac's brigade charged the 19th Army Corps eight times, and was repulsed every time; but forming his battle line for the 9th onset, they attacked the enemy so furiously that they were beaten back in disorder. History records no parallel; and well may Polignac be proud of his wild Texans, and they of the general whom they say they have *made*. At first they were disgusted that a French foreigner should command them, and called him *Polecat*. Now they believe him to be akin to the great Buonaparte, and call him *Napoleonac*. With the same desperation that Polignac fought, so did Walker's and Green's Texans, Mouton's Louisianians, and Price's Missourians. They all deserve equal praise. It is enough to say that the Confederate cause in the Trans-Mississippi department is in the hands of brave men and able leaders. I heard it spoken of by our Federal guard that the 13th Army Corps did not bring more than 1,000 muskets out of the fight. I give it for what it is worth. As we stopped at Alexandria yesterday morning, we learned that the force left to garrison the place, together with all the citizens, were greatly alarmed for fear of an attack from Magruder. Some of the boys gave three cheers for General Banks as we backed out, as he was the best commissary and ordnance officer the Confederate army ever had. The cheers were loud and long, by all rebs in sight.

'Capt. Co. —, 19th Tex. Vol. Inf., Scurry's Brigade.'

It is given out that Texas is to be wholly abandoned, but this I do not credit. Brownsville, at least, will be held as a base of operations against the new Empire, which is sooner or later to be invaded by a Yankee army. Of this you may feel assured, as I am in a position to know that which I assert. The officials on both sides of the river at Brownsville are constantly interchanging the most extravagant courtesies, banqueting, fandangoing, &c., and drinking destruction to the rebellion and the French army.

I have come into possession of official information regarding the leased plantations and the labour system thereon, which is of an exceedingly interesting character, but must be deferred to another occasion. If it be spread before the English public, it cannot fail to confirm their doubts of Yankee philanthropy. I think it will go far towards showing that it lacks common honesty and common humanity.

Mob Law in Ohio.—We learn from the *Columbus* (Ohio) *Statesman*, that a perfect reigning terror has ruled for several days past in Greenville, Darke County, carried on by members of the Loyal League, aided by a squad of some forty returned soldiers, belonging to the 40th, 69th, and one other Ohio regiment. The Loyal Leaguers first got the soldiers drunk, and then instigated them to 'clean out' the Democrats of the town. They commenced an indiscriminate assault upon all citizens who were designated as 'copperheads,' committing numerous outrages with stones, clubs, knives, and all other sorts of weapons and missiles. The terrified citizens closed their shops and houses, and gave the town up to the furious and frenzied mob, in whose possession it still was when the *Statesman's* informant left. Greenville is the same place where a Democratic newspaper was sacked by the 'Union Leaguers' a few weeks ago.

PARIS TOPICS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Paris: May 17.

The session of the Corps Législatif, three times prolonged, is going out in such a blaze of eloquence that the Emperor may well thank his stars that he had the prudence to put some check upon the inquisitive discursiveness of the representatives of his people. The mania for asking questions is at least as strong here as in our English House of Commons—that for meddling in everybody's affairs fully stronger. It may therefore be thought fortunate that its indulgence is restricted to two occasions, the vote on the Address, and that of the Budget. I have already had occasion to show you that the general discussion on the gross expenditure of the country was not a triumph for the Opposition; and it has not been much more fortunate on the particular chapters. There have been, however, some fine displays of eloquence on both sides, and three or four grand field-days. The Budget of Foreign Affairs gave the opportunity for a review of the entire foreign policy of the Empire. M. Jules Favre led the attack, and spared his strictures neither on the conduct of the Government in Poland, Italy, nor Denmark. After insinuating his doubts of the success of the 'Lieutenant of France,' the Emperor Maximilian, and reading despatches from Mr. Seward condemnatory of French conquests on American soil, he passed to the subject of war between the United and Confederate States. The answer of M. Rouher, the Minister of State, is amply sufficient to satisfy the Opposition. With regard to Mexico the Minister proves from Mr. Seward's despatches that there is a perfect understanding with the United States Government, and he then goes on to show the cordiality of this understanding, and its effect on the declaration of neutrality. This, at least, is gained from his speech that he lays down authoritatively the policy of the Government. The Minister states that on May 4 orders were given that some vessels now being built or lying at Bordeaux and Nantes, supposed to belong to the Confederate Government, should not be allowed to sail till satisfactory evidence of their destination was furnished; and this declaration was accompanied by the statement that in coming to this decision the Minister of Foreign Affairs had abstained from enquiring into the authenticity of the documents propounded by Mr. Dayton, the United States Minister, on which he nevertheless acted. It is like a banker who pays a cheque which he well knows to be either forged or stolen. Fortunately, the Confederate States ask for no favour at any hands.

Besides this important exposition of French foreign policy, there have been long discussions on other questions—one on the game laws, a subject more adapted to the atmosphere of our House of Lords than to our common idea of the French Chambers, but which proves how necessary laws for the preservation of game are felt to be. The exceptional law passed after the Orsini plot was attacked by M. Pelletan, who on this occasion might have flattered himself that he had the country and a very large minority of the deputies with him. Exceptional laws are always odious, nowhere more so than in France, which has had such sad experience of them. But this law expires in the course of things next year, and it does not seem to have occurred to the orator to express the wish that it may then be suffered to die out, as is understood to be the intention of the Government. This was probably too self-evident a point to be thought worthy of his ingenuity. The Minister, in answer, showed how seldom the law has been applied, but also what grounds there were for passing it; and M. de Morny, with that *à propos* which distinguishes him, remarked that the best laws are those which deter, as this seems to have done, not those which punish. A little incident occurred in the course of this debate. M. Pelletan reproached the Government of shamming fear, and there arose a little cross-fire of repartee on this word 'fear.' M. Thiers entered the Chamber at this moment, and, catching at the word exclaimed: 'When the interests of the country are at stake, no one, not even the Government, shall frighten us.'

The last press grievance, the creation of the *Evening Moniteur* at one sou, came next, and M. Guéroult, one of the sufferers, endeavoured to interest the Chamber in his wrongs. This gentleman dresses so admirably the character which he affects, that when he drew out a dirty coloured pocket-handkerchief preparatory to beginning his speech, one who knew him neither by sight nor by name exclaimed, that this must be the representative of unwashed equality. The right of the Government to publish official newspapers free of stamp-duty was so clearly established that the objector took nothing by his strictures, which had not even the advantage of being urged with the easy elocution which is so seldom wanting in French public speakers. Never was the distinction between fist and tongue so strongly marked. The glib pen is not necessarily the instrument of a fluent tongue. Yesterday almost the entire sitting was devoted to the claims of the family of Lesurque, who, the victim of a judicial mistake, was executed some seventy years ago for the murder of the Lyons courier, in which he had no hand, and his family was made to pay the sum which was taken from the murdered man. His innocence has been long established, but it was only yesterday that a majority of one took into consideration the proposal to repay the money without interest.

The *Constitutionnal* of this morning has a long article, in leaded type, by M. Limayrac, on the United States and Mexico, a supplementary answer to M. Jules Favre's speech. It is written with that consummate art for which its author is famous. In four columns he contrives to puzzle his reader as to the conclusions he means him to arrive at. There is no fear of the United States interfering in Mexico, because there is a perfect understanding between Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet and that of the Tuileries, and even if they wished it they could not. Either the South will be recognised as an independent State, and then the North will be too far off to be feared; or the North will subjugate the South, and will have for many years to hold military possession of it; or, finally, the Union will be reconstructed with an enormous preponderance of the North, whose interest it will then be to prevent the Southern element extending itself.

There are again rumours of a general congress to take up the business of the Conference and all other pending questions, but this is probably rather the expression of the general wish of France than grounded on any certain information. It is said that there will be, soon after the closing of the session, a change in the Ministry. M. de Persigny is understood to be one of the Ministers Designate, but not at the Home Office. Your readers probably know that M. de Beust has not been here, and has not, therefore, had any recent interview with the Emperor. I find in one of this evening's papers, the *France*, a statement that the Confederate Government has accredited Bishop Lynach of Charleston as its Minister to the Pope, and that he is now at Cork.

THE FRENCH POLICY IN AMERICA.

Extract from the Speech of M. Rouher, Minister of State, in the Corps Législatif, Thursday, May 12, on the United States and Mexico.

'Taking the objections made by the Hon. M. Jules Favre in the inverse order to that in which he presented them, I shall begin with the alleged violation of the rules of neutrality committed by France against the States of the North in America.

'These questions of neutrality and the duties of neutrals have at all times given rise to difficulties and to conflicts of opinion. I shall not go into the history of the modifications which the rights of neutrals have undergone in the law of nations; but I can say to the honour of French policy, that all the ideas of a liberal and generous nature introduced into the public law have been due to the initiative of the French Government. On the declaration of war between the States of the North and of the South, we were not indifferent to these precedents, and from the very first we established the principles of neutrality which were to guide our conduct. The declaration published in the *Moniteur* of June 10, 1861, says:—"It is forbidden to any Frenchman to receive a commission from either of the two parties to fit out vessels of war, or to receive letters of marque, or to aid in any manner in the equipment or armament of a ship of war or privateer for either of the belligerents." In the month of June, 1863, two French shipbuilders applied for authorisation to construct two steamers, intended, as was stated, for the Chinese seas. In the month of December, 1863, the Minister of the United States produced letters and documents, into the character of which we did not closely examine. Mr. Dayton maintained that these vessels were intended for the Confederates. An enquiry was at once ordered. The builders were examined, their explanations were considered, and Government withdrew the authorisation it had at one time given. Later, some doubts were raised. These steamers, which are not yet ready, were said to be intended for Sweden. A further examination took place, but it was not more satisfactory than the former one, and on May 1, 1864, ten days ago, the Minister of the Marine wrote to the Foreign Office:—"The ships of war to which you called my attention shall not leave the French ports until it is clearly demonstrated that their destination does not affect the principles of neutrality which the French Government desires to observe strictly in regard to the belligerents."

'This is the line of conduct which has been followed by the Emperor's Government, without equivocation and in the clearest and most precise manner.

'And now let me call upon M. Jules Favre to use his talent and eloquence in introducing into the United States equally precise and clear principles in questions of neutrality. At the very time that he is reproaching us with disregard of the principles laid down in the declaration of June 11, 1861, the French Government is in correspondence with that of the United States to have it declared that coal is not contraband of war, and can be delivered to those of our ships which are going to Mexico. I hope that the brilliant considerations presented by M. Jules Favre in the interest of the Government of the United States will determine that Government to take into its most serious consideration the claims I refer to. (Laughter.)

'Let us dismiss this unfounded accusation. It is utterly without grounds. The French Government has never departed in the least from the fairest neutrality.

'I have next to notice M. Favre's remarks on the Secession, on the impossibility of providing European industry with the quantities of cotton which America used to furnish, and of the effect these difficulties have on the stock of bullion in the Bank of France.

'Truly, gentlemen, it requires a determination to find fault, to make these things a subject of attack on the Government; and I ask why we are reproached with the cruel fratricidal war carried on in the United States, and in which we endeavoured to intervene, not as arbitrators, but for purposes of conciliation.

'It is now my duty to return once more to the question of Mexico, and to weigh the arguments we have just heard brought forward.

'Is it true that the treaty which has been concluded is a violation of the words, the declarations, and promises which the Government had offered you? Is it true that like the sword of Damocles the menace of American intervention is suspended over the future of Mexico?'

The Minister then entered into explanations regarding the increased tranquillity of the country and the renewal of commercial activity.

'Let us now take the two fundamental objections urged against us—the Treaty, and America.

'It is said that we have contracted an indefinite engagement to keep our troops in Mexico, that we have guaranteed the loan issued by the Emperor of Mexico, and that we have thus violated the assurances given to the committee.'

'I really ask myself by what strange abuse of language it can be said that the loan has been guaranteed by France, because France has accepted sixty-six millions of francs' worth of bonds as a payment, and is obliged to negotiate them, not on the faith of the country, but on that of the Emperor of Mexico, who alone guarantees the payment of the interest. It is he who issues the Mexican Loan: it has been voluntarily taken by those who consider that Mexico presents sufficient guarantees. And, in truth, what you would do is not of a nature to reassure the French capital which has been invested in it. This is an act of opposition, not of patriotism; and the example of Fox, which he cites from English history, does not bear out what he says. . . .

'You say that the treaty contains engagements different from those we made to you? What, then, does it contain? In the latter months of this year, the French troops will be reduced to 25,000 men: the expedition is at an end, as the letter I have just read from Count Montholon proves. The work of pacification goes on everywhere, and 10,000 of our soldiers will be again in France in January 1865. As for the 25,000 men whose stay is stipulated in the treaty, what is the agreement regarding them? We declare that we shall remain a certain time longer in Mexico for the protection of our interests—of those very interests which occasioned our intervention.

'We must examine the American question at some length. It is not well to place thus between two great countries like France and America a fanciful germ of discord—a sort of deferred menace against France or against Mexico, when in fact there is only a passing excitement which has taken possession of the Congress, not unlike that which was produced by the arrest of Messrs. Slidell and Mason on board the *Trent*, and which did not prevent the Government from giving up the two prisoners agreeably to the law of nations.

'What can be the *arrière pensée* of America? Would she seize Mexico? incorporate it in her States? But if she had wished to do so she could have done it. The American army was in Mexico in 1847 and 1848. The Government of that date was at its mercy. I think it was the Government of Santa Anna. Being able to remain masters of the country, they did not even attempt it. America came to a settlement; fixed the indemnities she was entitled to; obtained, if I mistake not, a better frontier in Texas, the cession of New California or New Mexico; and, after making these territorial arrangements, withdrew quietly without pretending to any annexation.

'Yet the opportunity was tempting. America was victorious, and mistress not only of the capital, but of the whole territory. Her army had been divided into two bodies. The one, starting from Matamoros, had seized the provinces up to Mexico; the other, starting from Vera Cruz, had taken possession of Puebla before reaching the capital.

'Do you suppose that America meditates a declaration of war against Mexico with the sole object of upsetting a throne? But at this moment that great country is torn by civil war. Who can tell when this struggle will end? Who can foresee the time when the two parties so violently separated can again unite? (A Member: It is probable that it will be never!) During all the time that must elapse before peace can be re-established in the United States, are there not good grounds to hope that the new Mexican Empire will be consolidated? When at length the present agitations are appeased in America, commercial interests will resume their sway, and will paralyse the inclination for war with Mexico, and give rise to friendly international relations between the two countries. Believe me, I refer to these temporary causes of weakness in America only with regret. What I desire for the honour of civilisation, what I desire for the sympathies with which I am animated towards that nation to which France stood sponsor in the cradle, is that this war which has too long wasted the American continent, may end as speedily as possible. But it will be on the day when it shall have ended, that my security will become greater, and that I shall be more profoundly convinced that a war between Mexico and America is impossible.

'Yes! the war is impossible, impossible by reason of the sympathies of France for America, of America for France, of the declaration of the United States Government, and of the principles and interests which will prevent it.

'To begin with, I set aside M. Favre's proposition, that so soon as the war ends it will be not the armies of the United States, but bands of adventurers who will invade Mexico. At the beginning of the war when enthusiasm ran high, before the population had been decimated, if a happy reconciliation had been effected between North and South and the war had suddenly stopped, it is possible that the adventurers whose occupation was gone, might have imprudently betaken themselves to Mexico, and carried war with them. This might have been. But of that sort, those are no more. The war has mowed their ranks. Those who are now fighting the battles of both countries are unhappy workmen, wretched hinds torn by the conscription from their homes, and forced to daily fights under the conduct of chiefs inflamed with ardent passions.

'Those unfortunate soldiers the day that peace is proclaimed between North and South, will return to their deserted workshops, to their abandoned ploughs; they will run after no Mexican adventures. Believe me, the day that peace is restored their only thought will be to seek in honest labour ample and remunerative wages; for America, exhausted with long wars, must henceforward seek in industry and commerce the elements of regeneration—and it is with my whole heart that I wish it—which may restore her to the rank of a great nation (prolonged applause).

'And now, gentlemen, let us see on what principles the American Government acts. M. Favre has quoted certain despatches in which he fancies he finds proof of the agreement of the Government with the declarations made by the Congress of the United States. I have those despatches in my hand, and here is what I read in that of October 23, 1863:—

'"The United States, according to their principles, can only leave the destinies of Mexico in the care of its inhabitants, and recognise their sovereignty and their independence under whatever form it pleases them to recognise this sovereignty and independence."

'This is the language held by Mr. Seward to Mr. Dayton, and communicated to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Since this a spontaneous declaration has been made to us on the resolutions of Congress. The Minister of Foreign Affairs has addressed to all his agents a despatch dated May 4, 1864, in which these explanations are set forth. It is enough that I read it.

[From the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the French Agents in Foreign Parts, May 4, 1864.]

'"Gentlemen,—The recent vote of the House of Representatives at Washington on the subject of Mexico has given rise to certain interpretations which it will be as well to rectify. The idea has arisen that this vote might induce the United States to adopt towards us a new attitude, of such a nature as to affect the cordial feelings existing between the two countries, or at any rate to complicate the Mexican question by embarrassments arising from without. We need only, however, observe the circumstances under which the manifestation alluded to took place, to understand that the vote is very far from possessing the importance imputed to it. It is doubtless the reflection of the feeling so carefully fostered by the American press in the United States, which leads that people to consider as an indirect attack upon their rights the most legitimate intervention of a European Power on any point of the American continent. But we must consider that in the United States, above all others, the legislative assembly may indulge in demonstrations of this character without pledging the Government in any way or forcing it to regulate its conduct accordingly. The Imperial Government had, therefore, no reason to conceive any apprehension on this subject, even if the incident had elicited no explanation from the Federal Government; but the Cabinet at Washington has made it a duty spontaneously to anticipate and obviate any unfavourable impressions that we might have formed from it. Mr. Dayton called upon me to read a despatch addressed to him by the Secretary of State for the Union, repudiating all responsibility on the part of the Cabinet of Washington in this matter, and establishing the principle that a vote of the House of Representatives or of the Senate, or even of both Houses, while it would naturally be a subject for the serious attention of the Cabinet, could not possibly oblige it to modify its policy or deprive it of its liberty of action. Mr. Seward sees no reason for adopting in the Mexican question any line of conduct other than that which he has followed up to the present time.

'"I answered Mr. Dayton that nothing, according to our ideas, could justify a change—that our confidence in the wisdom and prudence of the American Cabinet was too great for us to suspect it of any thoughts of compromising by hasty acts the true interests of the United States. In expressing to Mr. Dayton how much satisfaction the assurances he was commissioned to give me caused to the Government of the Emperor, I added, that I thought in fact that, even seen from the point of view of the United States themselves, the choice could not be doubtful between the establishment of a stable and regular Government in Mexico and the perpetuation of an anarchy and its attendant evils, which they themselves had first felt the effects of and called attention to. The reorganisation of a great country, which the return of order and security will enable to play an important economical part in the world, should be, for the United States especially, a real source of advantages, because it opens for them a new market, and one which they more than any one will profit by on account of their proximity. The prosperity of Mexico corresponds with their truest interests, and I could not but believe that the Cabinet of Washington would recognise this truth. This answer to Mr. Dayton's communication, and the fact of this communication itself, must show you sufficiently in what light the incident on which I now write to you must be regarded."

'You have here, gentlemen, the declaration made by the American Government on the morrow of that of the House of Representatives. And what has become of that declaration itself? The Senate has adjourned its examination indefinitely. Whoever has studied American affairs understands the home reasons which produced this move. A Presidential election agitates America at this moment, and all, democratic and republican alike, are running after popularity. Some think to find it in opposing the newly-established Government of Mexico. But, in fact, the danger of a struggle directed against Mexico is impossible, and irreconcileable with the principles on which the United States repose. What! Here is a country choosing by universal suffrage a form of government monarchical or republican, and it is in the name of national sovereignty that the American army would interfere in the States of Mexico to impose what? A form different to that which they had adopted and proclaimed

'Truly, America would thus violate the very essence of her government—liberty and national sovereignty. She could not even support herself on the Monroe doctrine, which has been so wrongly invoked: for those who have read the theories of President Monroe know that they have evidently but one meaning, and it is this: that the United States would not voluntarily agree to colonisation by Europe in America—Europe holding colonial possessions, possessing by right of conquest such or such territories, and for instance converting Mexico into an Algeria under the sceptre of the Emperor. The Monroe doctrine pronounces itself very strongly against such pretensions; it establishes the principle, *every one for himself, every one in his own home* ("*chacun chez soi, chacun pour soi*").

'Are the Mexicans not in their own home? Does not Mexico exercise a legitimate right of sovereignty when she chooses a prince for her Emperor? Are there any conditions which render the Emperor of Mexico the lieutenant of the Emperor of the French?

'Away then with these insulting and irritating expressions. The Emperor of Mexico is sovereign by the will of the Mexican people, and America will respect this will. Why should she not respect it? America will profit more than any other nation by the order, regularity, and commercial prosperity of Mexico. It is she who will with greatest profit cultivate those industrial and commercial relations; it is she who will be able to send to the rich plains of Sonora and Sinaloa her exuberant population, carrying with them labour and wealth. What might preoccupy us if such preoccupations could arise in serious and elevated minds are the conditions which a cordial intimacy between Mexico and the United States may make necessary in the future. America does not then menace the Emperor of Mexico, and this sovereign may pursue his way, may continue his efforts to prepare the prosperity, and to mark the not distant day of that property by separating himself from the French flag to let it return with glory into our midst.'

New York and the Manchester Trade.—An influencial member of the Manchester Exchange, who is also a representative of one of the chief mercantile houses in New York, has favoured us with a few political extracts from the most recent advices received by him from the Empire City. The same gentleman adds as a significant fact, that, prior to present date, any allusion to political feeling with regard to the war had never formed part of the correspondence between himself and the house he represents in Manchester. 'Last week Congress passed a resolution advancing the tariff upon all dutiable imports *fifty per cent.* for sixty days, *not excepting* any such goods as are now in bond, or on shipboard on the way hither; and this has been put in effect without any notice to importers—a course which I need not say is considered as involving an unjust enaction. All such goods have necessarily advanced to meet the extra cost of importation, and for a time business will be much restricted. In short it amounts almost to a total prohibition of some goods.—Gold still keeps up, fluctuating between 77 and 80 per cent. premium: and until there is a considerable decline to reduce the duties, the trade will be merely nominal; and we can only expect that decline after some decisive victories shall have been gained by the North.—North and South are putting forth all their strength for the coming struggle in Virginia, and everybody is waiting to see the result, which will no doubt be very decisive.—We note well your remarks about cotton orders. The bulk of the cotton received is very irregular, and the classification is no doubt below what it was before the war, and considerably below that of Liverpool. The market here has been strong and advancing the last fortnight, and the future of prices will depend in a great measure upon the receipts from the West. Prices in New Orleans are above ours, and our Mr. — — writes that none of the 30,000 bales which were expected to be obtained from the Red River expedition will arrive in New Orleans. It is all burnt as the army advances, on account of the action of our Government in seizing all they could get without giving a receipt.'

Northern Debt and Taxation.—Ten years ago, $60,000 paid the yearly tax of New Hampshire. In 1863 it reached $270,000. This year it will reach $500,000, and supposing the great national debt to be but $3,000,000,000, and it bids fair to be double that, New Hampshire will have to foot up $2,990,000 per year taxes. Does Mr. S. P. Chase suppose that New Hampshire will carry this load many years? If he does, he is demented. Even at a national debt of $3,000,000,000, New Hampshire will come in for $57,000,000, a debt nearly equal to the whole value of the personal property of the State, and even one-third of the whole property, real and personal, as given by the Census of 1860. This is the condition of one of the Northern States, and a fair illustration of the condition of one-half of the States called 'loyal.'—*New York Day-Book.*

TRICKSY PATRIOTISM.

[From the *Times*, May 18.]

A great movement, designed by its promoters to produce nothing less than 'a social revolution,' has just been inaugurated in the Federal States. The financial condition of the country has at last begun to cause alarm among all classes. Gold stands at least at 80 premium, and even Mr. Chase is at his wits' end for any promising means of reducing its price. But a sudden resources has opportunely come to light. The panic has at length reached the ladies, and they have extemporised a plan for at once putting a stop to the evil. Our readers have been made familiar with the profuse and extravagant expenditure which the war has encouraged among all the prosperous classes of the New England States. There never had been such a demand for jewelry, diamonds, silks, laces, pictures, and every article of luxury. American expenditure was always reckless, and American ladies had a reputation even before the war for indulging and pampering every passion of taste, touch, sight, smell, or hearing, but since the war they have spent at a pace which has taken away the breath of even native-born Americans, and Broadway has stood in amazement at itself. But it has suddenly, as it seems, been brought home to the mind and conscience of American ladies that this extravagant luxury is not only highly unbecoming, but that it is an obvious source of the extraordinary and ruinous demand for gold. These laces, silks, pictures, and jewels are for the most part foreign and imported articles, which must be paid for in specie. This being once realised, can American ladies hesitate as to the course they ought to pursue? Can they shrink for a moment from 'the self-sacrifice' of restricting the exercise of their vanity, and 'yielding up' their unbecoming luxuries? Of course, their resolution has at once been taken, and it has even surpassed the abnegation which could have been expected of them. They have not only determined to diminish their imported luxuries, but to abandon them altogether. Their patriotism has shot up into one irresistible blaze, which consumes every shred of foreign luxury and self-indulgence. We must leave the *New York World* itself to describe this rush of feminine patriotism in the following sensation headings, which do no more than justice to the enthusiastic language of the ladies:—'No more Foreign Goods. Formation of a Ladies' Covenant. Flora M'Flimsey to be put in Coventry. Hon. Mrs. Shoddy in a new Dress. No Imported Jewelry, Diamonds, Silks, Opera Cloaks, Laces, or Loves of Bonnets. What is asked of the Men? The Ladies demand that they shall give up Imported Wines, Liquors, and Cigars. The Social Revolution. Ladies to drink Catnip Tea and the Men Jersey Lightning. French Boots and Paris Lapdogs to be kicked out together.'

Our readers, however, must beware of falling into one mistake. 'It does not seem to be the intention of the ladies to prohibit at all the wearing of elegant dress goods.' On the contrary, it is urged in support of the movement that all these things can be obtained at home. In fact, half the goods sold as imported are already, it is said, home-made, and with the success of the movement it is even 'expected that the humbug will change, and imported goods be hereafter sold as domestic manufacture.' In short, 'the result will doubtless be to give a great impetus to manufactures in the Eastern and Middle States, and thereby help to enrich the country at the expense of the great manufactures of Europe.' So that the repentance, after all, is not in sackcloth and ashes, but in purple and fine linen; only a different sort of purple and fine linen from what was indulged in before, and such a sort as will enable the fair customers to kill two birds—nay, three birds—with one stone—to satisfy their own requirements, to enrich instead of impoverishing their country, and to starve the foreigner. Our readers must by no means imagine that New York and Washington will immediately wear a gloomy and sombre aspect, or that the New England States will relapse into Puritan sobriety of apparel. The taste and the quality will alone be diminished; not even will the expense and extravagance be the less, for it is obvious that the prices of foreign articles will not diminish when it becomes a risk to import them, and the home manufacturers, under the increased demand, will be able to keep up the prices of their home goods almost to the highest prices of the foreign articles. In point of fact, any absolute abandonment of articles of luxury, taste, and finery would itself be treason to the welfare of the Union; for the very wealth of these ladies' husbands and fathers depends upon the demand for articles of luxury, either imported or home-manufactured, and to annihilate the custom in these productions would be to create a panic in trade, to ruin themselves, and to raise the price of gold still further. The whole life of society now exists by one magnificent race of neck or nothing. Let only one interest stand still for a moment, and all must come down with a crash. Indeed, it may be doubted whether the step already taken may not, if it be carried out, produce some of the very disasters it seeks to avoid. Congress has just raised the duty on all imported articles 50 per cent. for three months, not only with the same object of protecting native manufactures as seems to be primarily pursued by this ladies' association, but also with a view of raising a larger revenue. The immediate effect of the ladies' resolution would be to annihilate this revenue completely, and, as last year the receipt from Customs was two-thirds of the United States income, the result would probably be somewhat disastrous to Mr. Chase's Budget.

Addison gives a humorous account of a Tory squire whom he met by chance in a country ride, and who maintained, over a bowl of punch, to which he was evidently addicted, that England would do very well if it would content itself with its own productions and not depend upon foreigners. Addison reminded him, to his great discomfiture, that of the favourite drink he was enjoying the water was the only constituent part of English production, and that the brandy, the lemon, the spice, and the sugar were all foreigners. The American ladies, and still more the American gentlemen, will, we imagine, be in very much the same predicament as the squire. We shall wait with some anxiety to see the sequel of this heroic resolution, or whether it has any at all. As far as the men are concerned, we are quite certain that merchants may continue to import cigars, liquors, and wines without the slightest alteration. An American without his cigar is about as possible a metamorphosis as an Ethiopian with a white skin; and the probability of an abandonment of imported wines may be judged of from the fact that in his late defeat General Banks 'lost his baggage and champagne.' When Generals in a difficult march over a hostile country find champagne a necessary addition to their baggage, the chance of a New York merchant abandoning imported wines must be infinitesimal. It is to be feared the habits of the ladies will in the same way prove too strong for them. American taste will be to that of Paris as 'Jersey lightning' to Cognac, and will stand the same chance against it. If it were possible, though, one would be glad to see the experiment well tried for the sake of its very absurdity. There is something like a burlesque in the notion of the principal ladies of the smartest nation under the sun carrying out in broad daylight the muddle-headed fancy of a country squire of George I.'s time. What can be said of a people where the wives of ex-Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Senators, and Representatives can seriously hold a large meeting in the capital city, in the very crisis of the war, and set out the extravagant piece of half-mad, half-smart banal set? What can we expect from the men whose wives, daughters, and sisters can lend no other public exercise of feminine qualities than [illegible] and tricksy patriotism? If it were possible to forget the terrible sacrifice of human life that is involved in the struggle and the great issues to history which hang upon its result, one would be disposed to treat the whole scene as one grand pandemonium where the only object is to outrage absurdity with disorderly, and we should await with the easy excitement of spectators the anticipated and intended crash.

THE CONFEDERATE CAPITAL AND ITS DEFENCES.

(Correspondent of the *New York Daily News*, April 30.)

The defences of Richmond were never so strong and extensive as at present, both on the land (on both sides of the James River) and on that stream itself. No work of any consequence, however, has been done on the fortifications since last December. They were then considered complete, and have only since been strengthened by a few additional outworks and covered way. During the year 1863 the number of forts around Richmond and Manchester (for the latter place is now included in the defences) has been increased from thirty-two to forty-eight, and this includes only the larger and principal forts, and not the smaller batteries. It is not generally known that General Beauregard was in Richmond for several weeks during the spring of 1863, during which time his views in regard to the defences of the city were adopted; and they have since been carried out. The key to this system of fortification, which has proved so successful at Charleston, is briefly this: that, if properly built and mounted with the proper armament, none of these forts can be taken without a terrible sacrifice of life on the part of the assailants; because an attacking column, in attacking one fort, is exposed to the fire, not only of that fort alone, but also to the concentrated, crossing, and enfilading fire of several other forts. Shelling has very little effect on works constructed in this manner, as the gunners—and the whole garrison, indeed—are sheltered by wooden bomb-proofs, covered with earth. To an observer who could ascend over Richmond and look down from an altitude of about a thousand feet, the city would appear to be surrounded by three distinct lines of forts, constructed in this manner. The work of taking the rebel capital by siege, therefore, will certainly not be an easy task, or one that can soon be accomplished.

If gunboats and iron-clad vessels could take part in the siege (if there is to be a siege), there might be some hope of reducing the city. But Richmond is inaccessible by water. If Fort Darling and the other forts which line both sides of the stream between that work and the rebel capital did not exist at all, still no hostile vessel could pass Drury's Bluff. The obstructions that begin at that point, and continue up to the city itself, are far more complicated and difficult of removal than those of Charleston harbour, and the channel, besides, is planted thick with torpedoes. The latter are not mere experiments. They are the results of actual experiments, and a vessel, no matter how strong she is, in passing over one of them would be blown in atoms through the air.

It is true that, except the artillerists in the forts, there are very few troops at Richmond, not over 10,000 men; but troops are continually passing through, *en route* for the armies where active operations are expected. A siege of Richmond is not looked for just now by the Confederate authorities. They depend upon the combinations that are being made by General Lee to prevent that. They really expect that the Federal hosts that are now advancing towards *their* capital will soon be compelled to fall back for the defence of their own. But should it be otherwise—should the legions of General Grant push their victorious advance across both the North and South Anna, while a co-operative column marches up the Peninsula, still no alarm will be felt at Richmond for the ultimate safety of that city.

To be taken by siege the rebel capital must, first of all, be completely invested on all sides. The measures taken by General Lee are believed to be such as will prevent this from being done, and will insure the defeat of each separate column of Union forces before it can effect a junction with the others. Even if invested, the main body of General Lee's army will not fall back for the defence of Richmond. *That* task is assigned to another body of troops not now in that city, but who will be there in time. To General Lee's army is assigned a far different rôle, one which, if successful, will wither all the laurels which we won at Gettysburgh and Antietam, and place *us* instead of the South on the defensive.

How the South is Plundered.—The infamous examples of Butler and Turchin appear to have been followed by officers of every grade, as well as privates, of the Northern invading armies. The New Orleans correspondent of the *New York World* says:—'It is perfectly notorious, both here and at Hilton Head, at Pensacola, and elsewhere, that whole cargoes of "confiscated property" have been boxed up and sent away by men connected with the army to their Northern homes: that houses have been completely stripped, and their contents shipped to Boston and New York. Did not a chaplain from Hilton Head tell coolly how he had been presented by some captain or colonel with a piano taken from a planter's house? Is not General Neal Dow held for exchange for the thirteen pianos he captured at Pensacola?' The editor of the *World* remarks that—'It will be seen from this statement that the United States rule in Louisiana is little better than an organised system of plundering, which is demoralising our officers and soldiers, and alienating and disgusting the masses of the people of that State.'

'Southern Independence' at Oldham.—On Tuesday evening a large and influential gathering of friends of the South took place at Oldham, under the auspices of the local branch of the Southern Independence Association, our report of which, however, we are compelled to hold over until next week. The chair was taken by E. Harrop, Esq., of the Oldham Town Council, and the vice-chair, by J. Whittaker, Esq., cotton spinner. The toast of the evening, 'The Independence of the South,' was received with the greatest enthusiasm. The more prominent speakers were Messrs. T. B. Kershaw, Dr. Leech, W. Steeple, Halliwell, and Harrop. The various speeches, which were continued to a late hour, betokened the most cordial sympathy with the Confederacy, and the fullest confidence in the speedy triumph of its cause.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Ships Arrived.

At Liverpool.—May 10: The Midas, from Matamoras. May 11: The Peace, from Pernambuco. The Metairie, from Nassau. May 14: The Cadmus, from St. Lucia. May 15: The Elias, from Matamoras. May 16: The Packet, from Demerara. May 17: The A. D. Vance, from Havana. The Golden Eagle, from St. Johns. The Anne Eliza, from Trinidad.

At Greenock.—May 10: The Iona, from Cuba. The Hinda Lass, from Demerara. The Caroline. The Vere, from Jamaica. The Lassie, from Demerara. The Jessie, from Mauritius. The Free Mason, from St. Kitts. The Carolina, from Teneriffe. May 11: The St. Andrew, from Matamoras. The Darkfield, from Havana. May 14: The Carolina, from Havana. The Kelpie, from St. Lucia. The Clarence, from Demerara. The Agnes, from St. Johns. May 15: The Mary, from Trinidad. The Margaretta, from West Indies. May 16: The Rio Grande, from Jamaica. The Lara, from Monte Video. The Queen of Sheba, from Tobago. The Englund, from Havana. The Clarence, from St. Vincent. May 17: The Tonkin, from St. Lucia. The Zephyr Zee. The Eagle, from Havana. The Sylph. The Mary, from Barbadoes. May 18: The Cleopatra. The Dorothea, from Demerara. The Majestic, from Jamaica.

At Fleetwood.—The Maitland, from Bahia. The Jacien. The Zephyr. The Paquet de la Havana, from Havana. The Palma, from Matanzas.

At Bristol.—The Argo, from Trinidad. The Venus from Demerara. The Ottawa, from Havana.

At Plymouth.—The Alcaide, from Demerara. The Scotsman, The Salford, from Cuba.

At Queenstown.—The Harmony, The James Crow, from Demerara.

At Kinsale.—The Ada, from Liverpool, for Bermuda.

At Penzance.—The Storm Nymph, from Jamaica.

At Weymouth.—The Florist, from Liverpool for Nassau, is gradually sinking into the sand.

At Greenock.—The Redbreast, from Trinidad.

At the Clyde.—The Algeria, from Trinidad. The Renown. The Widgeon, the Raven, from Matamoras, The Norden, from Cuba.

At St. John's.—The Star of Hope, from Liverpool. The Eliza Caroline.

At Bermuda.—The Tweed, from Cardiff. The Minnie (steamer), from Wilmington.

At Wilmington. The Will-o'-the-Wisp (steamer).

At Madeira.—The Dumbarton (steamer), The Macgregor Laird (steamer), for Confederate Ports. The Jupiter (steamer), for Nassau. The Lynx (steamer), for Bermuda.

At Havana.—The Tyrkus, The Pepita, The Julia, The Hesse, The Magdalena, The Ville de Dunkirque, from Cardiff. The Tasmania, The Jane Netherton, The Portia, The Numero Cuatro, The Agilis, The Arbitrator, The Leguro, from Liverpool. The H. Woodley, from Newcastle.

At St. Thomas.—The Sher, The Condor, from Liverpool. The Cunondall, The Amelia, from Swansea. The Plantagenet (steamer), The Thor, The Bolivar, from Liverpool. The Robin Gray, from Troon. The Trois Sœurs, The Rollin, The Riddesdale, The Arbitress, The Lily, The Ann Catherine, The Hero, The Harriett Dobing, The John Parkinson, from Cardiff. The Dido, The Concord, from the Clyde. The Eden, from London.

At Antigua.—The Susan, The Canada, from London. The Frederika, from Cardiff. The Galatea, from Liverpool.

The Indian schooner of Nassau, from Matamoras, with cotton, put into Belize Harbour, Honduras, March 25.

The Lily, British schooner, from Brazos River, with an assorted cargo, was captured off Velasco, Texas, by the Federal gunboat Oronoco, and sent to New Orleans. The latter vessel captured two days afterwards the Fanny, British schooner, also with an assorted cargo from the same place.

Ships Sailed.

Liverpool.—May 10: The Ann Villary, for Bermuda. The Sunrise, for Havana. The James, for St. John's.—May 11: The Indian Queen, for Halifax. The Mischief, for Barbadoes. The Lampedo, for St. John's.—May 14: The Albion, for Halifax. The Zeal, for Matamoras. The Credenda, for Havana.—May 15: The Alexandria, for Cuba.—May 16: The Flora, for Nassau.

London.—May 11: The Crouch Brothers, The Ceylon, for Demerara. The Wanderer, for Jamaica.—May 12: The Gem of the Ocean, for St. John's. The Anne Eleanor, for Havana.—May 13: The Jessie, for Nassau. The Clarendon, for Barbadoes. The Cambrian, for Jamaica.

Greenock.—The Ivanhoe (steamer), for Nassau. The Helena, for Cuba.

Custom House.—The Esperanza, for Havana. The Estephania, for Bermuda. The Dundee, for Jamaica. The Lady Eyre, for Bermuda. The Flora, for Nassau. The Scotsman, from Cuba. The Maria, from Havana.

Ships Loading.

At Liverpool.—The St. Thomas (steamer), for West Indies. The Young Marquis, The Atmosphere, The Flora, The Aid, for Nassau. The Oleander, The J. W., The Caroline Goodyear, for Bermuda. The Zeal, The Keldhead, for Matamoras.

At London.—The Louisiana (steamer), for West Indies. The Lightning, for Nassau.

Federal Prisoners in Virginia.—The Right Rev. Bishop Johns, Episcopal Bishop of Virginia, some time since procured the release of a Federal surgeon, who was a prisoner of war in Richmond, and who repaid his kindness by making the grossest misrepresentations respecting the treatment of prisoners by the Confederates. The Bishop wrote to the Federal Secretary of War an exposure of this base ingratitude, in which he says:—'During my visit to Libby Prison to minister to its inmates as need might require, I have often appealed to them, individually and in groups, to know if they had any cause to complain of the treatment which they experienced, assuring them of my readiness to secure the redress of any real grievance. The uniform reply has been that they had no inhumanity to complain of, and that, except the want of out-door exercise, they want nothing but to go home. The spacious rooms of the building, which was originally an extensive tobacco warehouse, I always found sufficiently warmed and ventilated, and the appearance of the inmates that of persons in good health. In penning this statement I do but comply with the demands of conscience and humanity, and shall be most happy if it serves to prevent all unnecessary suffering on the part of those whom the fortune of war has subjected to imprisonment. With due consideration, yours, J. Johns, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Virginia.'

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL & COMMERCIAL.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKETS.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

THE money and discount markets remain in a quiet position, and the transactions are all in favour of a reduction of rates. The increase of bullion at the Bank has, of course, had a favourable effect upon the terms out of doors; and to augment the supply of available capital, deposits have been received by the London agents of the country bankers. The encouraging state of the weather, with the satisfactory adjustment of outstanding differences at the Stock Exchange, has tided over the difficulty so far as that is concerned; but the drawback continues to be the uncertainty of political affairs in connection with the Conference. If that question could be well adjusted, and the condition of peace in continental Europe be assured, there would be little to fear in the future. Till, however, Denmark is relieved from Austrian and Prussian oppression, little chance will exist of the state of business either commercially or financially attaining its proper position. Everybody seems convinced that the Bank directors must reduce the rate of discount to-morrow to 8 per cent., and it is further said by sanguine parties that a retrogression to 7 per cent. will shortly be accomplished. The expectation of a reduction of terms has been foreshadowed by the desire of Bankers and bill brokers to take six months' acceptances at $7\frac{1}{4}$ and $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and a few parcels of very fine three months' paper have been negotiated at $8\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. The arrivals of gold from America and Australia indicate that the resources of the money market will be gradually swelled; but if this should be the case, we shall at the same time be glad to see the public adopt the warning afforded by the late shock, and stand aloof from any fresh speculative movement.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The specie and bullion movements continued very favourable, there having been no less than 537,000*l.* in gold sent into the Bank during the week, whilst there have been no withdrawals whatever on foreign account. The arrivals of specie have not been large, the chief item being 224,000*l.* by the West India Mail, with some trifling amounts from New York and Melbourne. The silver market has not shown much activity: but that just arrived by *La Plata* from the West Indies has been sold to-day, the bar at $60\frac{7}{8}$*d.* per oz., which is a fractional decline on previous rates, and the Mexican dollars at $61\frac{3}{4}$*d.* per oz., which shows no alteration. The advices from Port Phillip announced the following gold vessels to have sailed since the previous mail, viz., the *Glendower*, with 2,641 oz.; the *Wave of Life*, with 5,222 oz.; the *Kent*, with 3,622 oz.; the *Royal Standard*, with 19,521 oz.; the *Lady Ann*, with 4,062 oz.; and the *Anglesea*, with 12,094 oz.; making a total of 47.162 oz., valued at 188,648*l.*

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The better feeling which has pervaded the tone of the Money Market has had a corresponding influence upon nearly all English and Foreign Securities. The exceedingly fine weather has likewise had a beneficial effect, and the dealers have been operating with far greater freedom. Still the dealings have been somewhat restricted, in consequence of the uncertainty which prevails relative to the proceedings of the Bank directors to-morrow. Should the rate be lowered, as is generally anticipated, a fresh stimulus will be given to business generally. Consols closed this evening at $91\frac{5}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ for money, and $90\frac{1}{4}$ to $90\frac{5}{8}$ ex div. for the account, which, as compared with this day week, is an improvement of about $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. Exchequer bills are rather better, the June issue being up to 8*s.* to 3*s.* dis. A rather more extensive business has been transacted in Foreign Securities, and for most descriptions an advance has taken place. The rise in Greek has been $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent., the closing quotation being $23\frac{1}{4}$ to $23\frac{3}{4}$. Mexicans are now marked $44\frac{1}{4}$ to $44\frac{3}{4}$, being an advance of 1 per cent. Spanish are comparatively steady, the Passives being $31\frac{1}{2}$ to $31\frac{3}{4}$, and the Certificates $11\frac{5}{8}$ to $11\frac{7}{8}$. Turkish Six per Cents. (1854) are unaltered at 88 to 89; but those of 1862 have improved 1 per cent., being at 71 to 72.

THE CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The stock of the Confederate Cotton Loan is steadily rising into estimation. Purchases have taken place to some extent, but the principal operators are the Liverpool people. Although there continue to be buyers in London, it is quite certain that the principal movement comes from Liverpool: and whenever purchases are made in behalf of houses, then a response always occurs in quotations. The tendency has latterly been good, and prices would have been established at a greater advance but for the pressure existing in the general money market. The highest price recently attained has been 67 to 68, but to-night the closing quotation was $66\frac{1}{4}$ to $67\frac{1}{2}$. The operators are waiting for intelligence from America before they attempt to carry out more extended transactions.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The business in American Government and Railway Securities still continues on a very limited scale, and there does not appear much probability of any material improvement so long as the accounts from the other side continue so favourable to the Confederate cause. The dealers appear to have entirely neglected this department, and operate only on positive commissions. The dealings comprise: Virginia State Six per Cents, at $32\frac{1}{4}$ and 34; Atlantic and Great Western Railway (New York section), 78; Erie, $100, all paid at 55, 56 and 55; Illinois Central, $100 shares, $90 paid 28, 30 and 29 dis.; Ditto ditto, all paid 65, $64\frac{3}{4}$, $65\frac{1}{4}$ $64\frac{1}{2}$ and 65.

BANK MEETINGS.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China, the report which was unanimously adopted stated that, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts and defraying expenses of management, the net profit amounted to 196,562*l.*, to which was to be added a sum of 4,269*l.*, undivided profit brought forward from the preceding year, making a total of 200,831*l.* Out of this sum 50,000*l.* had been paid in two half-yearly dividends, and 25,000*l.* as a bonus, making together fifteen per cent. on the paid-up capital of the bank. A further sum of 50,000*l.* had been added to the reserve fund. The unappropriated balance of 75,831*l.* was carried forward to the profit and loss account of the current year.—At the meeting of the Bank of Wales, a report was read showing that the gross profits of the bank had been 5,330*l.*, and after deducting salaries, rent and current expenses, there remained a balance of 1,115*l.*, which amount the directors recommended should be carried forward to profit and loss new account. It was stated that arrangements had been concluded with the old-established bank of Messrs. Lock, Hulm & Co. of Pembroke and Tenby, for the transfer of their business, which will materially increase the connection of the bank in that part of the principality. The report was adopted.—At a meeting of the proprietors of the Standard Bank of British South Africa, resolutions were passed confirming the previous resolutions for increasing the capital by the issue of 10,000 more shares of 100*l.* each.—At the thirty-first annual meeting of the National Provincial Bank of England, Mr. J. M. Laurie in the chair, a report was read which stated that the rest or undivided profit, on December 31, 1862, was 181,764*l.* and the balance of premium account 68,296*l.*, making a total of 250,060*l.* The bonus declared and paid in 1863 amounted to 46,748*l.*, leaving a balance of 203,311*l.* The net profits of 1863, after paying a bonus of 10 per cent. to officers, were 192,397*l.*, and these sums, added to the undivided profits carried forward from 1862, made a total of 400,680*l.* Deducting from this amount the dividend and bonus paid in 1863 and the undivided profits carried to the next half-year 129,931*l.*, a sum of 270,748*l.* was left. Out of this the directors recommended a further bonus of 7 per cent. making a division of profits in 1863 in all 21 per cent. free of income tax, amounting to 63,000*l.*, leaving as reserve 207,748*l.*, which, with the addition of 1.704*l.* premium realised from 426 new shares voted last year, increased the reserve fund to 209,452*l.* The report was unanimously adopted.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

A fair business has been transacted in the British Railway Share Market, and prices in almost all cases have advanced, though the entire rise of the week has not been fully maintained. There is no doubt that a much larger business would have been transacted, but that for two or three days the brokers have been chiefly engaged with the half-monthly settlement, which, however, has passed over most satisfactorily. There has been more animation exhibited to-day, and the market closed with a tendency to increased firmness. As compared with this day week, there has been a rise of 2 per cent. each in London and Blackwall, London and Brighton, Metropolitan, and Vale of Neath; of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Great Northern and North Eastern (Leeds); of 1 per cent. each in Caledonian, Lancashire and Yorkshire, London and North-Western, Midland, and South-Eastern; of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. in North-Eastern (Berwick); and of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. each in Great Eastern, London and South-Western, and North-Eastern (York). On the other hand, there has been a decline of 1 per cent. each in North London and South Yorkshire. The dealings in foreign railway securities have not been quite so extensive, but prices remain firm. In shares connected with undertakings in the British Possessions a good business has been transacted at, in most instances, an improvement in values.

TENDERS FOR BILLS ON INDIA.

The biddings for 30,00,000 rupees in bills on India took place to-day at the Bank of England. The proportions allotted were, to Calcutta, 15,30,000 rupees; to Bombay, 12,00,000 rupees; and to Madras, 2,70,000 rupees. The minimum price was as before, 1*s.* $11\frac{1}{2}$*d.* on Calcutta and Madras, and 1*s.* $11\frac{3}{4}$*d.* on Bombay. The applications within the limits amounted to 124 lacs. Tenders on Calcutta and Madras at 1*s.* $11\frac{5}{8}$*d.* will receive about 5 per cent., on Bombay at 2*s.* about 12 per cent., and all above these prices in full.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

Amongst the new companies brought forward during the week is that of the Clyde Steam Ship Company, the object being to run a line of steamers from the Clyde to foreign ports; but trade will only be conducted with those places when it is ascertained that it will be remunerative. It is asserted that steamers can work far more economically out of the Clyde than from London or Liverpool, and it is thought that with prudent management large profits must be realised. The proposed capital is 200,000*l.* in 8,000 shares of 25*l.* each.—Another undertaking is the Freehold and General Investment Company (limited). The objects of the Company are to purchase from time to time such freehold or leasehold property in London and its neighbourhood, as may offer facilities for adaptation to first-class houses, offices and chambers, or which may otherwise present special capabilities for improvement. The proposed capital is 250,000*l.* in 10,000 shares of 25*l.* each, with power to increase to 1,000,000*l.* The first issue is 5,000 shares, but it is not intended to call up more than 10*l.* per share; but as more capital can be advantageously employed, further issues of shares will be made.—The prospectus has also been issued of the Hydraulic Tube Drawing and Steel Ordnance Company (limited). The object is the purchase and development of certain new and valuable patents for improvements in the drawing and shaping of metals and for the machinery employed therein. By this process metal tubes can be produced from the fineness of a needle to the size required for the largest ordnance. The capital proposed to be raised is 150,000*l.*, in 15,000 shares of 10*l.* each, with a first issue of 7,500 shares. Deposit 1*l.* per share on application and 1*l.* on allotment.—The Scottish Fire Insurance Company is another undertaking just started, with a proposed capital of 1,000,000*l.*, to be raised in 50,000 shares of 20*l.* each. The first issue is to be 25,000 shares, with a deposit of 10*s.* per share on application and 1*l.* 10*s.* on allotment. It is intended that the principal business shall be transacted in Scotland; and boards will be established in London, Edinburgh and Glasgow, and in other towns of the United Kingdom, as the progress of the institution may require.—The prospectus has been issued this afternoon of the Floating Telegraph Station and Light Ship Company (limited), with a capital of 250,000*l.*, in 25,000 shares of 10*l.* each, with power to increase. 10*s.* to be paid on application and 1*l.* on allotment. The objects of the Company are to provide and anchor ships near the ordinary track of vessels, such ships to serve as Electric Telegraph and Signal Stations, in connection with existing systems in Europe and America, and also as safety beacons for navigation. The Company's ships will be fitted up complete as telegraph stations. It is also intended to provide them with steam power and lanterns for displaying a powerful light. Day and night signals, steam whistles, guns, lifeboats, &c., will also form part of their equipments. Stores, water, and provisions will be kept on board for the immediate requirement of vessels in distress.—The National Financial Company have this evening issued a notice inviting subscriptions for shares in the Tyne Iron Ship Building Company (limited). The capital is to be 400,000*l.* in 8,000 shares of 50*l.* each. Deposit on application 1*l.* per share, and on allotment 4*l.* The Company has acquired the ship-building establishment and dockyard of Messrs. T. and W. Smith, at St. Peter's, Newcastle-on-Tyne; and to these extensive premises will be added those of Messrs. Rogerson and Co., thus giving an unbroken frontage on the Tyne of more than a third of a mile. The premises, machinery, and contracts have been transferred to the Company, on terms which are deemed equitable and moderate, and good dividends are anticipated.—The Torbay Hotel and Winter Garden Company, is another undertaking brought out this evening. The capital asked for is only 50,000*l.*, in shares of 10*l.* each and 1*l.* per share to be paid on allotment. The Company is established for the purpose of conducting at Torquay an hotel in accordance with the requirements of the present day.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

The produce markets have been generally firm since our previous report, with a fair amount of business passing. The deliveries from warehouses are for the most part satisfactory, but do not come up to the average of last year in all cases; and as imports have somewhat increased, no further diminution of stocks has taken place. With the continuance of extremely fine weather for the crops, and the promise of both an abundant and early harvest, the grain trade is extremely dull, and to make sales of any extent, much lower prices would have to be taken. Oilcake is steady in value although inactive, as seed is firm in price. The provision markets have not varied materially. American butters meet only a slow demand. Bacon commands a moderate sale at about last week's rates. Cheese brings 50*s.* to 60*s.* per cwt., according to quality. But little is passing in any kind of lard, and rates are nominal. Petroleum has been purchased to some extent, and the price has risen to 2*s.* 4*d.* per gallon for refined, the market being influenced by diminishing stocks and advices of short shipments from New York. Crude is worth 19*l.* per tun. Linseed oil maintains the advanced price of 39*s.* 9*d.*, although there is not so much doing at the moment. Other seed oils are steady. Cocoa-nut meets an increased demand, and has risen to 42*s.* 6*d.* for Cochin. For Ceylon the price is 39*s.* 9*d.* per cwt. Sperm oil remains stationary at 73*l.* to 75*l.* Rosin sells steadily at 31*s.* to 42*s.* for American. The Tallow Market is dull and prices rather lower, owing partly to political matters and partly to the heat of the weather, which prevents chandlers from working. The Hemp and Jute Markets are inactive, but Manilla hemp is firm, with some inquiry for good roping qualities. A very important movement has been made in the sugar market, considerable purchases of both raw and refined sugars having taken place, at prices fully 6*d.* to 1*s.* above late rates. A greater rise would, it is thought, accrue, were it not that the 50 per cent. import duty adopted by the United States Government has materially checked the American demand. Coffee is dull, the sales of Java and Holland having gone at half a cent. under the valuations. The tea market has been firmer since the overland advices reporting a further falling off in shipments from the ports of China. The metal trade has not varied except as regards the article spelter, for which there is an increased demand, and prices have risen 10*s.* per ton, closing at 22*l.* 5*s.* on the spot, and 22*l.* 10*s.* for July and August delivery. In turpentine, considerable fluctuations are reported to-day, and rates are uncertain. French being quoted 70*s.* buyers and 78*s.* sellers.

LIVERPOOL, WEDNESDAY, MAY 18.—Although there has been rather more animation in our Cotton Market during the past week, business has not been so active as might have been anticipated, after the dulness caused by the advance in the value of money had passed away. The temporary armistice agreed to with reference to the Germano-Danish war, for a time created increased confidence, and large transactions were entered into, particularly for American descriptions, at enhanced rates; but the full advance has not since been maintained. The sales this week have been only to a moderate extent, comprising 45,000 bales, of which 15,000 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year, so far, have been 993,800 bales, whilst to the corresponding period last year they were only 803,570 bales. The imports this year have been 819,436 bales, whilst in 1863 they were 508,271 bales. There have been exported this year 149,117 bales; last year to the same time the exports were 148,788 bales. The quantity taken for consumption this year has been 629,300 bales, and to the same period in 1863 416,000 bales. There have been taken on speculation during the present year 181,600 bales, at the same period in last year 207,620 bales. The computed stocks at the present time are 322,260 bales, whilst at the corresponding time in 1863 they were 335,900 bales. The closing quotations this evening were, American descriptions, 28*d.* to 29*d.*; Pernambuco, 29*d.* to $29\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; Maranham, 29*d.* to $29\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; Egyptian, $28\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to $29\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Surat, $13\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to $23\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; Madras, 18*d.*; Bengal, Scinde, &c. 12*d.*; China, $19\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; and Peruvian, 29*d.*

The Whitsun holidays have, during the week, materially interfered with business in the Manchester markets; but although the transactions have been comparatively limited, the market for yarns remains exceedingly firm, and home-trade descriptions are generally dearer. In shipping yarns the market also remains very firm; most of the spinners are deeply engaged with contracts, and they show but little disposition, under the present aspect of affairs to enter into further engagements. The cloth market remains comparatively quiet. The recent telegrams from Bombay and Calcutta, although regarded as favourable, have had but little effect on prices here. Although there is a fair sprinkling of buyers in the market, they are quite indisposed to do business except at a reduction on previous rates; but with the present firmness in yarns, ship prices, it is difficult to get manufacturers to listen to lower rates. Some large offers have been made for cloths, and with any moderate amount of reduction a large business could have been effected. The dealings that have taken place have been entirely of a limited character.

DAHLGREN'S TORPEDOES. — The Richmond correspondent of the *Knoxville Register* says:—'I have seen one of the torpedoes Dahlgren brought with him on his tour of assassination and arson. It is an iron cylinder, six inches long, two inches in diameter, with a fuse attached. A paper of printed instructions is pasted on the outside, like the label of a phial of physic. On this paper is a diagram of the "Howe Truss Bridge," the common railroad bridge of the South, with places marked where the torpedo is to be inserted in auger holes bored for the purpose.'

Among the Contents of THE INDEX *of May* 12 *are*:—

THE STORY OF FORT SUMTER.
NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK AT HOME AND ABROAD.
PARLIAMENTARY NOTES. PARIS TOPICS.
A SOUTHERN VIEW OF MISCEGENATION.
THE SOUTHERN PRESS ON THE MONROE DOCTRINE.
THE RECENT VICTORIES.
GOLD AND GREENBACKS. THE CONFEDERATE NAVY.
MONARCHY IN THE NEW WORLD.
CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN MR. MALLORY AND THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.
THE QUARTERLIES.
MARYLAND. LETTER FROM NEW YORK.
A LANCASHIRE MAN IN RICHMOND.
SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.
AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

BY AUTHORITY.

ACTS OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIRST CONGRESS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, 1863–1864.

AN ACT TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS UPON THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENCE.

WHEREAS, the Confederate States are engaged in a war, upon the successful issue of which depend the integrity of their social system, the form of their civilisation, the security of life and property within their limits, as well as their existence as sovereign and independent States; And whereas, the condition of the contest demands that they should call into requisition whatever resources of men and money they have for the support of their cause, to faithfully administer the same: Therefore, as a part of the system of the public defence:—

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the exportation of cotton, tobacco, military and naval stores, sugar, molasses, and rice, from the Confederate States, and from all places in the occupation of their troops, is prohibited, except under such uniform regulations as shall be made by the President of the Confederate States.

SEC. 2. That if any person, or persons, shall put, place, or load on board any ship, steamboat, or vessel, or any other water craft, or into any wagon, cart, carriage, or other vehicle, for conveyance or transportation beyond the Confederate States, or into any portion of said States occupied by the enemy, any of the articles mentioned in the first section of this act, or shall collect the same for the purpose of being conveyed or transported, contrary to the prohibition aforesaid, within the Confederate States, or beyond them, the said articles, and the ship, boat, or other water craft, wagon, carriage, or other vehicle, with the slaves and animals that may be employed or collected for the purpose of aiding therein, shall be forfeited, and all persons, their aiders and abettors, on conviction of being interested or concerned in the enterprise, shall be deemed to be guilty of a high misdemeanor, and punishable by such fine or imprisonment, or both, as the court may impose.

SEC. 3. That it shall not be lawful to put on board any ship, boat, vessel, or other water craft, or upon any wagon, cart, carriage, or other vehicle, for transportation or conveyance as aforesaid, any of the articles aforesaid, unless a permit be previously obtained from some officer of the Confederate States specially authorised to grant the same, particularly describing the articles thus to be laden, and the ship, boat, vessel, water craft, wagon, carriage, cart, or other vehicle, on which the same is to be transported, and until bond shall be given that the same shall be conveyed and transported to the place of destination under such conditions and regulations, and for such objects, as shall be prescribed by the President under the first section of this act.

SEC. 4. That the collectors of all the districts of the Confederate States, and such other officers as may be designated by the President of the Confederate States, shall have power and authority to take into their custody any of the articles before mentioned found on any ship boat, or other water craft, when there is reason to believe that they are intended for exportation, or when in vessels, carts, or wagons, or any other carriage or vehicle whatsoever, or in any manner, apparently on their way towards the territories of a foreign nation, or towards the territory of the Confederate States in the occupation of the United States, or the vicinity thereof, or towards a place whence such articles are intended to be exported, and not to permit the same to be removed until bond shall be given, with satisfactory sureties, that no violation of this act, and the regulations under the same, is intended.

SEC. 5. That the powers granted by this act to the revenue and other officers of the Confederate States under this act to allow or refuse exportation of the articles before mentioned, or for the seizure or detention of any of the said articles, shall be exercised in conformity with such instructions as the President may give through the Departments of War and of the Treasury, which instructions may impose conditions as to the destination and sale of the same, and the investment of the proceeds of the same, or a portion thereof, in military or other supplies for the public service, which instructions such officers shall be bound to obey; and if any action or suit shall be brought against any such officer or officers, or their agents, he or they may plead the general issue, and upon proof of a compliance with the provisions of this act, or with the regulations and instructions of the President, he or they shall be absolved from all responsibility therefor; and any person aggrieved by any of the acts of any of the officers or agents aforesaid, may file his petition before the district court of the district in which such officer or agent resides, and after due notice to him, and to the district attorney, the said court may proceed summarily to hear and determine thereupon as law and justice may require, and the judgment of the said court and the reasons therefor shall be filed among the records of the court, and in case any release shall be granted, the judge may impose such conditions as to giving bond and security as may, in his opinion, be necessary to secure this act from violation, and, in case of refusal, may impose double or treble costs upon the petitioner if circumstances warrant: Provided, That nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the Confederate States, or any of them, from exporting any of the articles herein enumerated on their own account.

SEC. 6 That exclusive jurisdiction is conferred upon the district courts of the Confederate States of all suits or actions that may arise under this act in behalf of the Confederate States, its officers and agents, for the recovery of all fines, penalties, and forfeitures imposed in the same, by indictment, information, or action, according to the practice of the court, and the distribution of the penalties and fines shall be made under and according to the laws now in force for violation of the revenue acts, and all laws for the mitigation and remittance of penalties and forfeitures shall be applied in similar cases.

SEC. 7. That it shall be lawful for the President, or such officers as he may designate, to employ any portion of the military or naval force of the Confederacy or of the militia, to prevent the illegal departure of any ship, vessel, or other water craft, for detaining, taking possession of, and keeping in custody the same, or any wagon, cart, or other vehicle heretofore mentioned, their teams and drivers, and their products aforesaid, and to suppress and disperse any assembly of persons who may resist the execution of this act, or oppose the fulfilment, by the officers, of the duties imposed by the same.

SEC. 8. That this act shall expire on the day of the ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States.

APPROVED, February 6, 1864.

REGULATIONS TO CARRY INTO EFFECT THE ACT 'TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS UPON THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENCE,' APPROVED, FEBRUARY 6, 1864.

I. AS TO THE SEA.

1. The owners of any vessel intending to sail from a Confederate port with a cargo consisting in whole or part of cotton, tobacco, military and naval stores, sugar, molasses or rice, shall, before the landing on board of any such articles, file with the collector of the port from which the vessel is to sail, a copy of her register, with a declaration of the names of the owners and officers thereof, the place of their birth and of their residence for the preceding year, together with the port or place to which the said vessel proposes to sail. The said declaration shall also set forth the quantity and value, in Confederate currency, of the cargo proposed to be taken out, as also the consent of the said owners, that one-half of the tonnage of the said vessel may be employed by the Confederate Government for its own use, both on the outward and homeward voyage, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned. The collector shall submit a statement as to the owners and officers to the military commandant of the port, and if he shall not object to their loyalty, or to the sailing of the vessel, for reasons of military necessity, the collector shall grant a permit for the lading of the said vessel, one-half for account of the owners and one-half for account of the Confederate States.

2. Before the said lading shall be completed, the owners of the vessel shall execute to the Confederate States a bond in double the value of the vessel, with security deemed adequate by the collector, conditioned that she will pursue the voyage designated, and that she will return with reasonable dispatch to a Confederate port, after her outward cargo shall be discharged with a cargo, consisting one half of articles not prohibited by the laws of the Confederate Government, and the other half of such articles as the Government shall offer for shipment from such port, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned.

3. Each shipper of any portion of the cargo proposed to be laden on board the said vessel, shall, before the lading thereof, make application to the collector for a permit to lade the same, which application shall declare the articles to be shipped, and the quantity and value thereof in Confederate currency, the port of destination, and the name of the consignee. A permit shall then be granted by the collector if the application is deemed satisfactory. The lading shall be had under the inspection of a revenue officer, who shall be charged with the duty of seeing that the goods laden conform to the permit.

4. Before the completion of the lading on board or the granting a clearance, each shipper of any portion of the cargo shall execute and deliver to the collector a bond to the Confederate States, in double the value of his shipment in Confederate money, with security deemed adequate by the collector, with condition that at least one half the net proceeds of said shipment shall be invested in goods or articles not prohibited by law, and said goods or articles shall be shipped by the same or some other vessel to the Confederate States within sixty days from the unlading of said cargo; or that the said half of the net proceeds shall be paid in coin or sterling exchange to the proper agent of the Confederate States, to be reimbursed to the shipper by the delivery to him of cotton at the port of departure in the Confederate States, at the rate of ten pence sterling per pound for middling uplands.

5. The freight to be paid by the Confederate States on all cotton and tobacco shipped from a Confederate port shall be five pence sterling per pound, payable on delivery at the port of destination, in coin or sterling exchange. Return freight shall be at the rate of 25*l.* per ton, payable on its delivery in a Confederate port, in cotton at ten pence sterling per pound for middling uplands, and at a proportionate price for cotton of other qualities. In calculating the ton of freight by weight, 2,240 pounds shall be allowed; by measure, forty cubic feet shall be allowed.

6. If the outward bound vessel shall consent, at the request of the Government, to take two-thirds of her cargo for account of the Confederate States, the outward freight shall be six pence sterling per pound, and whenever the Government is not prepared to fill up any portion of the tonnage reserved for its use at the time at which any vessel may be made ready to sail, her owners may fill up the same on their own account: but no vessel shall, without consent of the Government, sail on her outward voyage until one-third of her cargo shall be laden for the use of the Government.

7. The rates of freight for articles other than cotton and tobacco shall be adjusted at the same relative rate and payable in the same way.

8. The Government reserves the right to limit or prohibit the shipment of rosin, turpentine, or any manufacture thereof, whenever deemed dangerous to its own shipment.

9. Upon the completion of the lading of the vessel, and before receiving her clearance, there shall be delivered to the collector, in addition to the usual manifest, another setting forth the names, ages, and description of her officers and crew, and of every passenger intending to sail in her. The said last-mentioned manifest shall be delivered to the commandant of the port, who shall thereupon cause the entire vessel to be searched, and if satisfied that the parties on board are persons who may safely be permitted to leave the Confederacy, and that the passengers have the proper passports, he shall certify the same on the manifest and return the same to the collector, whereupon, and not before, a clearance shall be granted to the vessel, and he shall be permitted to sail.

10. The owners of each vessel, and of each portion of a cargo sailing from a Confederate port, shall be allowed to take up their respective bonds, by producing to the collector the certificate of the proper agent of the Confederate Government at the port of delivery, setting forth the particulars, showing that the said party has complied with the obligations of the said bond so far as the same was practicable, and the collector, upon being duly satisfied, shall be authorised to surrender the said bonds.

11. Nothing in these regulations shall be so construed as to conflict with the proviso of the law, which declares 'that nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the Confederate States, or any of them, from exporting any of the articles herein enumerated on their own account;' nor shall a bond be required of a State in any case.

12. The penalties of all bonds executed in conformity with these regulations, shall be recoverable in full on proof of breach of the conditions of the bond, and without proof of any damage suffered by the Confederate States in consequence of such breach, and all bonds shall be executed in such form as to give effect to this regulation.

13. Vessels sent into the Confederacy for the purpose of exporting cotton received in payment of any Confederate bond or obligation shall be subject to these regulations only so far as relates to such portion of the tonnage, if any, as may remain vacant after the lading of the cotton received in payment as aforesaid.

14. The regulations for overland commerce with neutral countries will be issued separately, within a few days.

Approved.

(Signed) C. C. MEMMINGER, Secretary of Treasury.
(Signed) JAMES A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.

Approved, March 5, 1864.
(Signed) JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Treasury Department, C. S. A.
RICHMOND, March 16, 1864.

THE following additional regulations are established to carry out the act to impose regulations upon the foreign commerce of the Confederate States, and to provide for the public defence, approved February 6, 1864:

The bond required by the second article of the regulations shall be in one half the value of the vessel; and that required by the fourth article shall be in the single value of the shipment; and the security which the Collector may accept may be either personal security, or a mortgage of the vessel, or a transfer of the Bills of Lading, or of cotton, tobacco, or Confederate securities.

2. Whenever any vessel shall bring into the Confederate States an entire cargo for account of the Confederate States, the owners of the said vessel, and the shippers of her cargo, shall be relieved from the bonds previously given to invest and bring in one-half the net proceeds of her outward cargo, and the certificate of the agent of the Treasury Department at the port of lading, that such cargo was duly shipped in pursuance of the regulations, shall authorise the collector to cancel and surrender the said bonds.

Approved, March 16, 1864.
(Signed) C. G. MEMMINGER, Secretary of Treasury.
(Signed) JAMES A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.
Approved, March 17, 1864.
JEFFERSON DAVIS.

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE IMPORTATION OF LUXURIES, OR OF ARTICLES NOT NECESSARIES OR OF COMMON USE.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That from and after the first day of March next it shall not be lawful to import into the Confederate States any brandy, wines, or other spirits; or any other article specified in schedule A of an act entitled 'An act to provide revenue from commodities imported from foreign countries,' approved May 21, 1861, or any goods, wares, or merchandise, enumerated in schedule B of said act, except the following articles:—All things for medical purposes, camphor refined, pickles, molasses, pepper, pimento, cloves, nutmegs, cinnamon, and all other spices; soap, Castille, Windsor, and all other toilet soaps; sugar of all kinds; syrup of sugar; galloons, laces, knots, stars, tassels, tresses and wings of gold and silver, or imitations thereof, intended for uniforms of officers in the military and naval service.

SEC. 2. And it shall not be lawful to import the following articles enumerated in schedule C of said act: Beer, ale, and porter; muffs and tippets, and all other manufactures of fur, of which fur shall be a component part, except caps and hats; carpets, carpetings, hearth rugs, bedsides, and other portions of carpeting, of any kind or description; carriages and parts of carriages; cider and other beverages not containing alcohol; clocks and parts of clocks; cotton laces, cotton insertings, cotton trimmings, or laces of thread and other material; coral, manufactured; dolls and toys of all kinds; fire crackers, sky rockets, Roman candles and all other similar articles used in pyrotechnics; furniture, cabinet and household; glass, coloured, stained, or painted; India matting of all sorts; jet and manufactures of jet, and imitations thereof; jewellery, or imitations thereof; manufactures and articles of marble, marble paving tiles, slabs, or blocks, and all other marble; matting, China or other floor matting and mats made of flags, jute, or grass; paper hangings, paper for walls, and paper for screens or fire boards; paving and roofing tiles and bricks, and roofing slates and fire bricks; thread lacings and insertings; velvets of all kinds.

SEC. 3. And it shall not be lawful to import the following articles, enumerated in schedule D of said act: Angola, Thibet, and other goats' hair, or mohair, unmanufactured; bananas, cocoa nuts, plantains, and oranges; cabinets of coins, medals, gems, and collections of antiquities; diamonds, mosaics, gems, pearls, rubies, and other precious stones and imitations thereof, set in gold or silver or other metals; engravings, bound or unbound; rattans and reeds; paintings and stationery; leaf and unmanufactured tobacco and cigars; or the following articles enumerated in schedule E. Diamonds, cameos, mosaics, pearls, gems, rubies, and other precious stones and imitations thereof, when not set.

SEC. 4. None of the manufactures of metal, designed as either household or personal ornaments, shall be admitted; and in order to confine importations to articles of necessity and of common use, the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe the maximum foreign prices at which and within which importations of goods manufactured wholly or partly of cotton, flax, wool, or of silk, and designed for wearing apparel, and not herein prohibited, may be made, and beyond which importations thereof shall not be made: Provided, That articles herein allowed to be imported shall not be impressed by the Government or its agents after they have reached the Confederate States: Provided further, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit any importation for the use or account of the Confederate States, or either of them: Provided further, That this act shall not apply to any articles which have been or shall be shipped, without knowledge of the passage of this act, before the first day of March next, but which shall arrive in a Confederate port after that day.

SEC. 5. That whenever any article or articles, the importation of which is prohibited by this act, shall, after the first day of March next, be imported into the Confederate States, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, or shall, after said first day of March next, be put on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, with the intention of importing the same into the Confederate States, all such articles, as well as all other articles on board the same ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, belonging to the owner of such prohibited articles, shall be forfeited, and the owner thereof shall, moreover, forfeit and pay double the value of such articles.

SEC. 6. If any article or articles, the importation of which is prohibited by this act, shall, nevertheless, be on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, arriving after said first day of March next in the Confederate States, and shall be omitted in the manifest, report, or entry of the master, or the person having the charge or command of such ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, or shall be omitted in the entry of the goods owned by the owner, or consigned to the consignee of such articles, or shall be imported or landed, or attempted to be imported or landed, without a permit, the same penalties, fines, and forfeitures shall be incurred, and may be recovered, as in the case of similar omission or omissions, landing, importation, or attempt to land or import, in relation to articles liable to duties on their importation into the Confederate States.

SEC. 7. Every collector, naval officer, surveyor, or other officer of the customs, shall have the like power and authority to seize goods, wares, and merchandise imported contrary to the intent and meaning of this act, to keep the same in custody until it shall have been ascertained whether the same have been forfeited or not, and to enter any ship or vessel, dwelling-house, store, building, or other place, for the purpose of searching for and seizing any such goods, wares, and merchandise subject to duty; and if any person or persons shall conceal or buy any goods, wares, or merchandise, knowing them to be liable to seizure by this act, such person or persons shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a sum double the amount or value of the goods, wares, and merchandise so concealed or purchased.

SEC. 8. The following additional oath or affirmation shall be taken by masters or persons having charge or command of any ship or vessel arriving at any port of the Confederate States after said first day of March next, viz.: 'I further swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, on board [insert the denomination and the name of the vessel] any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover or know of any such goods, wares, or merchandise on board of the said vessel, or which shall have been imported in the same, I will immediately, and without delay, make due report thereof to the collector of the port of this district.'

SEC. 9. After said first day of March next, importers, consignors, or agents, at the time of entering goods into the Confederate States, shall take the following additional oath, viz.: 'I also swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, amongst the said goods, wares, or merchandise, imported or consigned as aforesaid, any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover any such goods, wares, or merchandise among the said goods, wares, and merchandise so imported or consigned as aforesaid, I will immediately and without delay report the same to the collector of this district.'

SEC. 10. All penalties and forfeitures arising under this act may be sued for and recovered, and shall be distributed and accounted for, in the manner prescribed by the act entitled 'An act to regulate the collection of the duties on imports and tonnage;' and such penalties and forfeitures, mitigated or remitted, in like manner and under the like conditions, regulations, and restrictions as are prescribed, authorised, and directed by the act entitled 'An act to provide for mitigating or remitting the forfeitures, penalties, and disabilities accruing in certain cases therein mentioned.'

SEC. 11. That this act shall expire on the day of the ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States.

Approved, February 6, 1864.

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MARY (barque), 211 tons register, A 1 9 years: built 1862. PEVERLEY, Master.
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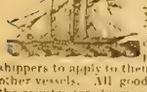

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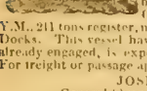

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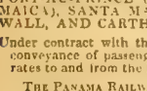

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A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

VOL. IV.—No. 109.] LONDON: THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 26, 1864. [PRICE 6D.

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AMERICA.

ON May 4, General Grant opened the present campaign in Virginia by crossing the Rapidan with the army of the Potomac, numbering about 120,000 men, in four divisions, commanded by Generals Sedgwick, Hancock, Warren, and Burnside, the whole army under the command of General Meade, acting under the orders of Lieutenant-General Grant, who has planned and directs all military operations. General Lee did not dispute the passage of the Rapidan, as expected, but took a position in 'the Wilderness,' near the battle-ground of Chancellorsville, where he was attacked on the 5th by three divisions of the Federal army, Sedgwick on the right, Hancock on the left, and Warren in the centre, the division of Burnside forming the reserve. To these were opposed the Confederate divisions of Generals Hill, Longstreet, and Ewell. From the nature of the ground, neither side could use artillery, and a fierce fight was kept up till night, with rifle and bayonet, in which the Confederates repelled every assault, and captured nearly the whole of two Federal brigades, with their commanders, Seymour and Shaler.

The engagement was renewed on the morning of the 6th. Hancock was driven back; Sedgwick on the right was thrown into confusion, but was saved from entire rout by the reserve under Burnside. Later in the day, the Confederates pierced the Federal centre, and gained decided advantages, but General Grant was able to reform and consolidate his lines, while General Lee, satisfied with the result, withdrew to his intrenchments.

The Federal losses on these two days are estimated by themselves at 8,000 to 12,000. Among the killed was General Wadsworth of New York. Prisoners were taken by the Confederates by regiments. The Federal medical director telegraphed that he should send 6,000 to 8,000 wounded to Washington. General Lee reports: 'Our loss in killed is not large, but we have many wounded. General Longstreet is severely wounded, Pegram badly wounded, and Jenkins killed.' He thanks God that every advance of Grant had been repulsed.

A Richmond despatch states that on Friday the Federals were repulsed in every attack, forced to give way, and pushed back to Chancellorsville, by General Longstreet, who was wounded in the shoulder. It closes with—'Everything looks well.'

A correspondent of the *New York Daily News* sums up the three days' operations, from May 4 to 7, as follows:—'For three days past Grant has pushed a series of reconnaissances on General Lee's front. The latter met the Federal troops and repulsed them with great loss on both sides. General Lee then learning that Grant's demonstration was for the purpose of gaining time while General Butler marched to get in his rear, fell back to a point selected by his engineers, with his army in position to meet any or all of Grant's cooperating forces, from whichever point they may attack. The above statement is the gist of another made by one of the rebel officers captured in Friday's skirmish. He further stated that the rebel army, from General Lee to the humblest private, felt never so sure of victory as they do at this time. On the other side, the Federal officers say the same thing of our army. The partial result of the present movements will be that the very best General Grant can do is not more than to drive General Lee into his defences; when the digging operations of a long siege will commence. Our own officers who have been prisoners, and rebel officers now in prison in this city, state it as their emphatic conviction that Richmond cannot be turned, and that its fortifications cannot be carried by storm.'

Having given this heavy blow to the invader, General Lee, in accordance with his plans, fell back to his second position on the river Po, near Spottsylvania. There was some hard fighting on the 8th, in which the Federal General, Sedgwick, was killed, and Generals Getty, Talbot, Morris, Robinson, and Baxter wounded. On the 9th, Grant was engaged in replenishing his stores. His losses were then estimated at 27,000.

On the 10th, another sanguinary battle was fought, which commenced in the afternoon and lasted until dark. The attack was commenced by the artillery of General Grant. We have but meagre particulars of this day's fight. The Confederates advanced round the right flank of the Federals, and captured their supply trains, and the Federals claim to have taken 2,000 prisoners. General Grant appears to have recovered from the confusion caused by the flank movement. General Warren was reported to be killed. The losses of the Federals up to this time were estimated at 40,000, while General Lee, on the 11th, was said to be in a strong position, behind earthworks and woods. Fredericksburg was full, even the streets, of the wounded Federals, 12,000 having arrived there on the 10th, and a large number in Washington. The rear of the Federal army was filled with parties of guerillas, destroying bridges and endangering communications.

The contest was renewed on the 12th by a vigorous and partially successful attack on the Confederate position at Spottsylvania, in which he is reported by the New York telegrams to have taken some Confederate rifle-pits, 30 guns, 4,000 prisoners, and two Confederate generals; but other reports diminish these successes, and we are informed that during the whole day, with frequent assaults and terrible slaughter, General Grant was not able to make the least impression upon the Confederate position. On the night of the 12th, General Lee, leaving a thin line of skirmishers in front of General Grant, crossed the Po, to take up, it was supposed, a stronger position on the North or South Anna. No estimate is given of the Federal losses on the 12th; but it is said that reinforcements were being hurried forward to General Grant, who was making a reconnaissance with two divisions to ascertain General Lee's position.

It is reported that a detachment of Federal cavalry had destroyed a portion of railway in the rear of General Lee, and also that General Sigel, who was moving up the Shenandoah Valley, had cut the Charlottsville and Lynchburg Railway, and another report states that he had been defeated by General Breckenridge.

The Federal losses in General Grant's operations, from May 4 to May 12, are estimated at 50,000.

SIMULTANEOUSLY with the advance of General Grant across the Rapidan, General Butler has advanced up the James River with a flotilla of 25 ironclads, 10 gunboats, 97 steam transports, 41 schooners, and 60 canal boats and barges, carrying an army of 15,000 to 20,000 men, and landed without opposition at Bermuda Hundreds, a short distance above City Point. A detachment of cavalry from Suffolk is reported to have burned an important railway bridge below Petersburg, and a portion of the track was also destroyed between Petersburg and Richmond. General Butler boasts that he has cut General Lee off from being reinforced by General Beauregard, but at latest dates the redoubtable general had had a narrow escape from capture, and his Northern friends were not free from apprehensions for his safety.

WHILE General Grant was fighting his way towards Richmond with immense losses, inflicted by the Confederates from behind earthworks, and in chosen positions, General Sherman attempted an advance from Chattanooga towards Atlanta, but found General Johnston's position at Risaca too strong to be attacked with any hope of success. General Forrest is reported to have destroyed General Sherman's communications, and taken or sunk several Federal transports on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers; and there is a doubtful report that the Confederates had evacuated Dalton.

THE news from Louisiana grows worse for the Federals at every arrival. Ironclads, gunboats, and a large number of transports have been blown up to prevent their falling into the hands of the Confederates. General Banks has been superseded by General Canby, but it is doubted if he can save the remnant of the Federal army, which was said to be surrounded at Alexandria by the Confederates under Kirby Smith, Magruder, and Taylor, and had been summoned to surrender. The Confederates had taken or captured four steam transports sent to his relief; all the gunboats were destroyed or taken, and an effort was to be made to retreat to Brashear City.

GENERAL STEELE, who marched from Little Rock to unite with General Banks in his attack on Shreveport, is said to have effected his escape from Generals Price and Marmaduke, with the loss of five thousand men, all his trains, and a portion of his artillery. He was obliged to burn all the bridges behind him to delay the pursuing Confederates. It is not certain that the remains of his army are safe in Little Rock, which was expecting an attack from the victorious Confederates.

MR. SEWARD, as usual, is playing a subtle game with the Mexican question and the Monroe doctrine. In Washington he permits the House of Representatives to pass resolutions, affirming that 'the whole boundless continent is ours.' In Paris, Mr. Dayton is instructed to explain that such resolutions are not binding upon the Government, and of no consequence. But what was Mr. Corwin, the Federal Minister at Mexico, to say to the new Emperor? He must recognise or not recognise. That difficulty has been disposed of by Mr. Corwin getting leave of absence, and returning home for a visit.

THE Federal gunboat *Commodore Jones*, sent with several small craft to clear away obstructions below Fort Darling, has been blown out of water and totally destroyed by a torpedo. The explosion literally tore her in pieces. About fifty of the crew were killed and wounded. The *Shawsheen*, another gunboat, had her boiler exploded by a bolt from Confederate artillery.

THE population of Richmond in 1860 was a little less than 38,000. General Grant, according to Federal accounts, in moving the first twenty miles towards the Confederate capital, and over what he will probably find the least difficult portion of his route, lost in five days 40,000, more than its entire population before the war began.

THE shelling of Charleston still continues, and the thirty-pounder Parrott gun, which exploded at the four-thousand-six-hundred-and-fifteenth round, has been replaced by one still more effective, by which shells are tossed into the city in places heretofore considered safe. The siege is abandoned; Fort Sumter is stronger than ever; but the Federals, holding a point of sandbank, in pure malice continue to shell the city, one day breaking a woman's leg, another maiming a poor negro.

SEVERAL persons have been hanged at Memphis, Tennessee, for smuggling contraband goods through the lines to the Confederates. As it is notorious that a large trade of this kind has been carried on with the connivance of the military authorities, and under permits from the Treasury Department, it may be presumed that these men are hanged, not for trading with the Confederates, but for neglecting to pay for the privilege.

WHILE news of the battles of the 6th and 7th was coming in, Mr. Stanton, Secretary of War, was engaged in sending pompous and absurd despatches to General Dix at New York, claiming victories, and ending with 'General Grant is on to Richmond.'

THE Federal Senate has passed a resolution, fixing the number which shall constitute a quorum at twenty-five instead of thirty-five, thereby recognising the fact that the seceded States are no longer a portion of the Union.

IN the midst of the terrific battles and losses attending the advance of General Grant, in which every mile of advance weakens his force, increases his difficulties, and lessens his chance of success, President Lincoln calls upon the Northern people to join in thanksgiving—for the loss of 40,000 men, including several of his best generals!

COMMANDERS Pegram, Root, and Paulding have been appointed to the Confederate ironclads in the James River.

WE are sorry to find in the New York papers a report of the sudden death, by an accident, of the second son of President Davis, aged four years.

GENERAL M'DOWELL has been appointed to the command of the military department of California, in anticipation, it was supposed, of the possibility of a rupture with France and Mexico.

GOLD, fluctuating with the news from Virginia from 69 to 74, closed on the 14th at 72¼.

ENGLAND.

The case of 'Ternan and others, prisoners in the gaol of Liverpool,' came before the Court of Queen's Bench on Tuesday and Wednesday last. It is the case of the *habeas corpus* obtained on behalf of the men arrested and detained at Liverpool as pirates on the warrant of the Home Secretary, in consequence of a demand made by the United States minister under the Extradition treaty. The prisoners, with others, got on board the barque Gerity at Matamoras; when about 70 miles from that port, they rose upon the master and crew by night, turned the master adrift, seized the ship, and took it to Belize, a port in British Honduras, and there abandoned it. In February last they were found in Liverpool. Requisition was then made by the master, who also happened to be in that city, to Sir George Grey, under the Extradition Act of 1843, by which the respective countries were mutually bound to deliver up to justice parties who, being charged with piracy, robbery, and murder, &c., committed within the jurisdiction of one state, escape into the country of the other. Upon the mere requisition, unsupported at the time by any sworn evidence, a warrant was issued first from the Home Secretary, and then from the Liverpool magistrates, directing that the prisoners should be confined with the view to their extradition. On the hearing of the case before the magistrates it appeared that the man had acted under the orders of Major Hogg of the Confederate service, and it was insisted therefore that their act could not be piracy. The magistrates remanded the men; a *habeas corpus* had been obtained from this Court, with a view to their discharge, on the ground that no evidence had appeared which brought the case within the Act. Mr. James, for the prisoners, was instructed, as he stated, on behalf of the Confederate Government, which takes upon itself the whole responsibility of the affair. The case was very fully argued. Their Lordships were divided in opinion; Lord Chief Justice Cockburn thinking that the evidence given to the magistrates was sufficient for the purposes of extradition, Justices Crompton, Blackburn, and Shee considering that the prisoners ought to be discharged. The men were therefore released.

The Gordian knot, which the law has vainly essayed to untie, has been cut by the coarser machinery of money. It is credibly affirmed that Her Majesty's Government has purchased the steam rams *El Toussin* and *El Monassir* of Messrs. Bravay the owners. The price agreed on is stated to be 225,000*l*. The British navy will, by the transaction, receive a formidable addition to its strength, inasmuch as competent judges are of opinion that there are no finer vessels afloat.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales presided last week at the banquet at St. James's Hall, commemorative of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Royal Literary Fund. The occasion was one of great interest. The Prince had never before undertaken the duties of chairman at a public dinner; and in presiding at the festival of this Society, he was following the example of the Prince Consort. The Duke of Cambridge sat on the right and Earl Stanhope on the left of the chair. Many peers, bishops, members of the House of Commons, literary men, and publishers of distinction were present. With the simple object of explaining the nature of the Association, a short extract from the speech of His Royal Highness may be read with interest. In proposing 'Prosperity to the Royal Literary Fund,' the Prince said: 'One of its principal features is, that it is not limited to our countrymen, but is often extended to literary men of all nations. In this way many eminent men, who would otherwise be incapacitated from carrying on their labours and from making their talents known to the world, are enabled to do so. The second important feature is, the secresy with which this timely aid is given, a secresy so sacredly observed, that in the whole number of cases, which amount to 1,645, since the foundation of this corporation in 1790, there is not a single instance of any indiscretion having been committed.' Earl Stanhope, as President of the Institution, returned thanks; and afterwards, Earl Russell proposed 'Prosperity to English Literature,' to which toast Mr. Anthony Trollope responded.

An animated correspondence has taken place between Mr. Thomas Baring, M.P., and Lord Robert Cecil, M.P., in reference to the debate which took place in the House of Commons concerning the Confederate steam-ship *Georgia*. First, Mr. Baring writes to call the attention of the noble lord to a passage in the speech of the latter, which was as follows: 'I want you to consider the feelings with which the Confederates regard these enormous reinforcements which have been conveyed by the English people through the hands of Messrs. Baring & Co., in violation of Her Majesty's proclamation of neutrality.' Mr. Baring desires to know to what proclamation Lord Robert referred, and what were the terms of the proclamation, which he considered substantiated the charge. Lord Robert, in answer, refers Mr. Baring to the Queen's proclamation of May 13, 1861, and especially to the words therein contained prohibitory of *carrying* officers, soldiers, despatches, *arms, military stores* or *materials*, or any article or articles considered and deemed to be contraband of war, for the use or service of either of the contending parties. Lord Robert also refers to a speech of Mr. Laird of March 27, 1863, containing these words: 'I (Mr. Laird) have referred to the bills of entry in the custom-houses of London and Liverpool, and I find that there have been vast shipments of implements of war to the Northern States. I find, among those who have been engaged in these transactions, the celebrated house of Baring and Co.' Lord Robert then says that all he claims is, that the proclamation shall not be held to prohibit one kind of contraband of war, viz., ships to one belligerent, while it is held to permit the export of another kind, viz., arms to the other belligerent, but that it shall be interpreted impartially.

In answer to Mr. Baring's accusation that Lord Robert had given a *personal* character to the discussion, his Lordship remarks that Mr. Baring had twice applied the term 'fraudulently' to the proceedings of the Liverpool firm that sent out the *Georgia*. To this letter Mr. Baring makes reply, and after contending that persons who have been instrumental in forwarding munitions of war either to the Federal or Confederate States have not thereby violated Her Majesty's proclamation, proceeds to state that his firm has not in fact been even so engaged; that they had acted merely as bankers, representing large banking establishments in the United States, which had opened credits with his firm in favour of parties to whom orders were given, but not through his firm for the purchase and transmission of warlike stores for the use of the Federal Government. The firm took no part in giving or executing the orders; all it did was to give effect to the credit lodged in favour of the parties furnishing the supplies, and to see that they were properly forwarded to their destination. By the use of the term 'fraudulent,' Mr. Baring explains that he alluded to the concealment practised by Messrs. Laird in order to cover their real intentions. Lord Robert rejoins to Mr. Baring's replication. He contends that the transactions of Mr. Baring's firm as described by himself fall within the letter of the prohibition quoted in Lord Robert's first letter. 'You tell me,' says Lord Robert, 'that warlike supplies have been ordered for the use of the Federal Government, and that your firm has been engaged in "seeing that they were properly forwarded to their destination." In other words, you have been superintending the carrying, which is pointedly forbidden by the proclamation.' However, Lord Robert quite admits that the transactions in question are not censurable nor improper, 'a matter,' says he, 'fully proved by the fact that operations of that nature have been countenanced by such a house as that of Messrs. Baring.' All that Lord Robert contends is, that any distinction between exporters of arms and exporters of ships is groundless and unjust. Lord Robert reminds Mr. Baring that he introduced the personal element into the discussion by the mode in which he spoke of Messrs. Laird's firm. As to the concealment on the part of Messrs. Laird, it was fully justified. They had to guard against the Government which harassed their particular trade by every means legal and illegal within its reach. They had also to avoid the vigilance of the Federal spies.

On Trinity Sunday, the Pastoral by Cardinal Wiseman was read in all the Roman Catholic places of worship within the 'archdiocess of Westminster.' We are enabled to give but one extract from the document.

'We cannot shut our eyes to the aim or tendency of modern science, which is to demand, not equality, but supremacy; not a fair balance, but a loaded scale, whenever it seems to come into competition with the claims of revelation. The moment the two seem to contend, in disagreement, for the belief of man, science at once exacts that all else should give way; and, unfortunately, too many yield at once and surrender at discretion.

'The stump of a fossil tree, the bones of an extinct animal, a broken skull found in some inexplicable place, but requiring a solution equally from our assailants, nay, a potsherd, a seashell, the piles of a lake village, the rudiments of stone instruments, all things—anything is heavy enough to turn the scale in favour of what is called reason.

'And we are ridiculed as fearing or opposed to science, as narrow-minded and hoodwinked bigots, for not at once adopting this confused mass of immature *conjecture*, and sacrificing, in honour of our acceptance, whatsoever has been to us venerable, whatsoever holy, whatsoever lovely, whatsoever of good fame, whatsoever true and just, whatsoever has been hitherto to us the light of our eyes or the joy of our hearts, what has made us and kept us virtuous, hopeful, consoled, happy through our dark or rugged way on earth, and has sustained our heads above the billows, and our souls above the troubles, the anxieties, and the anguishes of life.

'We pause in vain. We are calmly and composedly placing in the opposite scale many and dear considerations. We have before us a prescriptive authority in records of several thousand years ago, discussed, disputed, and always victorious, running down a channel that seems scooped out for it through primeval rivers, lined with monuments, beyond which man has left no articulate memorial—cuneiform or hieroglyphic; all marvellously attesting, by consenting and concurrent testimony, the accuracy of those sacred volumes: then interwoven with what the West considered ancient and the East modern, the annals of the Ptolemies and the Seleucidæ, till the stream of primitive history, with its evidence of prophecy, still in course of verification, drops silently into that deeper, nobler, and more magnificent reservoir, where it mingles with the pure and living waters of a new dispensation, whence it issues with all the new qualities—evidences, proofs, and applications which are concentrated here.

'Here we meet with such a strange superhuman overweight of proof as seems to master every possible objection, and to leave no alternative for a second solution. For, in addition to all that miraculous works and prophetic sayings, and new moral precepts, a fresh philosophy, theology, and social code issuing from illiterate men, in the midst of a most brilliant age,—and accepted; we have to throw into the balance the vastest empire ever known, subdued when at its greatest height; the entire world reformed, transformed into a new condition by a new legislature, promulgated by ignorant men, propagated by poor men; proved and pressed on acceptance by men in prison and in the stocks, under the scourge and the knife, on the rack and the gridiron: till the whole empire and the entire globe rolled spontaneously to the feet of a Galilean crucified on the Janiculum.

'Have we not a right to put all these grave and solemn considerations against a solitary cranium, an antiquated fish-bone, or a fragment of pottery? Yet while we are doing so, comes in the sarcasm and the jeer that we are unscientific, anti-progressist, superstitious, and behind the age, and sharper than a two-edged sword, and heavy like that of Camillus, it is thrown into the opposite scale, as sufficient to make ours kick the beam. But no: eternal truth will still prevail, when temporal science shall have revised its wisdom, and brought it into harmony with the moral evidences which surround and support revelation.'

A testimonial has been presented to Mr. Stansfeld, M.P. by his constituents in the borough of Halifax. The gift is of the value of 300 guineas. It consists of a magnificent candelabrum, on the base of which are the arms of the borough of Halifax, and the arms of the Stansfeld family. The presentation took place on the Tuesday in Whitsun week, at the Town Hall of Halifax, in the presence of 10,000 inhabitants. Mr. Stansfeld addressed the assembly in an eloquent speech, dwelt minutely on the circumstances attending his retirement from the ministry, and spoke in terms of the highest eulogy of Joseph Mazzini. The honourable gentleman was applauded throughout his speech in a most enthusiastic manner.

The anniversary meeting of the Royal Geographical Society was held on Monday, at Burlington House, Sir Roderick Murchison in the chair. After the report had been read, the President proceeded to present the Founders' and Patrons' gold medals. The former medal had been awarded to Baron C. von der Decken of Hanover, in honour of the two journeys performed by him from the east coast of Africa to the great mountain of Kilimandjaro. The first journey was accomplished in company with Mr. Richard Thornton, and the second with Dr. Karsten. It was mentioned at the presentation that the Baron was fitting out an expedition with intent to ascend one of the rivers flowing from Mount Keniæ, and thence to explore unknown regions of inner Africa, and follow one of the main eastern affluents of the Nile. The Patron's or Queen's medal was presented to Captain Grant in honour of his successful expedition in company with Captain Speke. Sir Roderick Murchison was re-elected President for the ensuing year.

The steamship *Delhi*, which arrived last week in Southampton from Sydney, brought the beautiful gift of the ladies of New South Wales to Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales. The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury gave an order for the admission of the gift free from duty. It consisted of a magnificent gold casket measuring 8 inches in width by 4 inches in depth, and lined with rich velvet. The casket is ornamented with wreaths of flowers, and the key represents an opossum on a tree, the whole being of solid gold. It is valued at 700*l*., and consequently the duty on it would have amounted to about 100*l*.

The Stuart portraits which formerly adorned the galleries of the palace at Hampton Court, have been removed thence, and forwarded to Edinburgh, to be placed in Holyrood Palace. A memorial signed by several Scottish gentlemen of influence has induced Her Majesty to consent to this arrangement. The portraits sent extend over the period from the middle of the 16th to the end of the 17th century. Probably the finest picture is that of Anne of Denmark, consort of James I., by Van Somer. There are pictures by the same artist of James I. and his son Henry, prince of Wales. The portrait of Margaret, countess of Lennox, the mother of Darnley, by Holbein, is a remarkable work. Portraits of the Admirable Crichton, of the Count Palatine and Princess Elizabeth (king and queen of Bohemia), by Janssen, and copies from Vandyck of the children of Charles I., of Charles II. from Kneller, and James II. after Lely, have also been sent down. These last-named works have been hung in Lord Darnley's audience chamber.

The city of Edinburgh is rejoicing in the annual excitement caused by the General Assemblies of the Kirk of Scotland and the Free Kirk, and the Synod of the United Presbyterian Kirk. Lord Belhaven, as Lord High Commissioner, held a levée in the picture-gallery of Holyrood Palace on the morning of the 19th inst. He was attended by his purse-bearer and chaplain, by the Lord Provost of the city, pages, lacqueys, and beefeaters. After the levée the Commissioner, preceded by the Town Council, went in procession to St. Giles's Church. The Albany Herald appeared in the procession in the costume of the early Stuarts. After a sermon by Dr. Craik, the Commissioner drove to the Assembly Hall on Castle Hill. Dr. Pirie of Aberdeen, the Moderator, was introduced in the full Geneva ecclesiastical costume of the last century. Her Majesty's commission and letter were then read, and the general business commenced.

The five ships of the Channel Squadron which arrived in Plymouth Sound on the 13th inst., had undergone in dock the necessary cleansing, coating, and small repairs, and were afloat by the end of last week, ready again for work. They are the *Edgar* 71, the *Black Prince* 41, the *Warrior* 40, the *Defence* 16, the *Prince Consort* 35. The rapidity with which these operations have been conducted reflects great credit on the officials, and affords a striking evidence of the resources of the Government establishment.

On Monday last, Messrs. Samuda launched the fine iron-clad ship *Prince Albert*. This vessel is not only iron-cased, but also carries her batteries in cupolas. She is 240 feet in length, and 40 feet in breadth; her depth is 28 feet, and she is of 2,529 tons burden. Her plating is of 4½-inch iron and 18-inch teak, and is carried from end to end. Her upper deck is of pine, with a ¾-inch iron deck. Her engines are 500-horse power nominal. She carries four turrets, and an iron-plated pilot-house. Two of these turrets will carry two guns each, and the remaining two will carry one gun each. The equipment will be finished at Woolwich, and she will not be fit for sea for twelve months.

Messrs. Curry, Kellock & Co., shipbrokers of Liverpool, have been instructed to offer for sale by private treaty the Confederate screw-steamship *Georgia*. Her crew has been paid off, and her stores were sold by auction on Tuesday last at Birkenhead

AFRICA.

To the intense astonishment of the House of Commons and the country generally, it has been discovered that England is at war with the King of Ashantee. Some time last year an Ashantee chief robbed the king of a large amount of gold, and escaped with his booty to a neighbouring tribe. The King, on the refusal of his demand for the extradition of the fugitive, made war on the tribe which had harboured the robber. This tribe, for some reason or other, is deemed worthy of our protection. Consequently, Mr Richard Pine, the Governor of Cape Coast, has proclaimed war against the King of Ashantee, and, after demanding and receiving a reinforcement of 400 black troops from the West Indies, has proceeded to invade the territory of the King with the ultimate view of capturing his capital, the city of Coomassie. This place lies about 150 miles inland, and in order to get there a station has been occupied and a camp formed about 80 miles inland. The camp is said to be a collection of mud huts situated in a forest, the soil of which was under water at the very commencement of the rainy season. A detachment is to remain there till the dry season returns, and then, if any of the garrison are left, they will advance on Coomassie. Up to the last account it seemed that 200 of the rank and file out of 400 had succumbed to the climate, while 15 officers out of 19 had died or been sent home invalided.

The affair is said to cost about 1,000*l*. a day. Not a single Ashantee warrior has been seen since the expedition started, the King having evidently adopted the tactics of the old Scythian generals, and placed complete reliance on the climate and geographical difficulties of Ashantee. It is satisfactory to find that the Home Government has despatched orders to the settlement for the withdrawal of the troops from the interior, leaving the hostile tribes to their own resources.

TUNIS.

The disturbances in Tunis continue to excite great uneasiness among the Powers lining the Mediterranean. The insurgents have elected a new chief of the name of Mendouh, locally known as the 'Bey of the Mountain.' This potentate has now from 14,000 to 15,000 men at his disposal, who are more than enough to enable him to take possession of the capital, weakly defended by 700 or 800 badly equipped regulars; but he seems to have a prudent dread of the European intervention which must follow on the use of the strong hand, and is satisfied to starve out his foes. He is not, however, unwilling to treat with the Regent, as appears from the following *ultimatum*, which he has addressed to him:—1. The Kasnadar (prime minister) to be dismissed. 2. The Koran only to be for the future the law and constitution of the country. 3. No taxes to be collected save the tithe allowed by the Koran. 4. The financial affairs of the country to be subjected to a rigid scrutiny, and no further additions to be made to the public debt. The Bey was allowed from the 15th to the 22nd instant to return an answer to these requisitions.

The French Government have thought it necessary to despatch a squadron of six vessels under Admiral Count Bouet Willaumez, commander-in-chief of the active squadron in the Mediterranean, to protect their countrymen in Tunis. There are already assembled in that port 5 French vessels, 4 English, one of which is ironclad, 6 Italian, 3 Turkish, and 1 Portuguese. The Italians are also about to add an ironclad frigate to their squadron. The Tunisian ships, two frigates and a yacht, are of no service, as no workmen can be induced, in the present impoverishment of the exchequer, to put them in decent repair. The Ottoman, French, and English representatives have orders to act in the strictest concert in all measures which may be required for safety. We understand that the first demand of the insurgents has been complied with, and the resignation of the Khasnadar accepted.

ALGERIA.

The revolt of the inland tribes of Algeria gives ample occupation to the French forces in that country; not that they are in any way unequal to the task, but that defections and insurrections continue to occur at unexpected times and places. An important success was achieved by General Deligny on the 13th and 14th inst.: on the first-mentioned day he repulsed with perfect ease a formidable attack of Si-Mohammed-ben Hamza with 3,000 cavalry and 600 infantry; the number of the slain alone on the side of the natives was 200; on the second day he attacked and destroyed the important position of Stitten. Colonel La Passet on or about the same date was attacked by a strong party of the tribe of the Flittas; the fight lasted two hours, and was generally favourable to the French arms. It is probable that the insurrection has arisen on religious grounds; the priestly family of Si-Hamza was its immediate fountain-head, but abortive movements have already taken place; one of the orders of Sidi-Abderrhaman, a name recalling to us the vanished glories of Granada, lately took upon himself the office of an apostle of war; at present the Marabouts of the Flittas are calling for a holy war. All these circumstances, taken in conjunction with the return of the pilgrims from Mecca, leave no doubt that the khouans, or religious sects of the Mahommedans, have given rise to the present troubles. It is well known that the Arabs are perfectly well acquainted with the affairs of Europe: an Arabic journal published at Constantinople gives them every information, even to the debates in the English and French Parliaments; and it was confidently expected that France would at this time be engaged in a European war. It is curious to observe in this the unreasoning fanaticism of the Oriental joined to the cool calculation of the European; we may compare with it the conduct of our Indian mutineers, who had certainly been led to believe that England was not able to endure the blow they had so long meditated.

INDIA.

The Hon. Ashley Eden has returned to Darjeeling from a mission to Bhootan, where he was grossly insulted in public durbar, and dismissed with gross indignity, after having been compelled to sign a treaty ceding [illegible] the Assam frontier.

It is reported that Sir Charles Trevelyan, the Minister of Finance, will return to England at the close of the year, and that Mr [illegible] Her Majesty's Finance Commissioner, will succeed him.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

The House of Commons met on Thursday and adjourned to Monday till to-day. Lord Palmerston appeared in the House on Friday, for the first time since his attack of gout.

OUR TROOPS IN CANADA.

In answer to Major Knox, the Marquis of Hartington said it has been decided that two battalions of Guards and one battalion of Military Train [illegible] from Canada, and that no other troops will take their place.

CHINA AND THE RIGHT OF INTERVENTION.

On Friday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Baxter called attention to our policy in China. He approves of non-intervention in America and Europe, and he objects to the policy of interference in Asia. As a merchant owning goods in the treaty ports of China, he did not hesitate to confess that he naturally wished the goods to be protected; but even if that was a proper object, it was not right to vote away the money of the taxpayers to support the Imperial dynasty, which he believed was tottering to its fall. Therefore the question which he had to ask Lord Palmerston was whether the Government meant in future to abstain strictly and honourably to the defence of British property in the treaty ports, refusing every kind of aid, direct or indirect, to the Imperialists, and abandoning altogether the attempt to bolster up and support the Government of Pekin.

Lord Palmerston objected to the general application of the principle of non-intervention. He said: 'My honourable friend said that the principle upon which the British Government ought to act is that of non-intervention in the affairs of other States—a very plausible principle, and one which in many cases ought to be strictly adhered to; but my honourable friend forgets that there are cases in which we have treaty rights—that there are cases in which we have national interests; and if his doctrine were to be applied rigidly and in every case, our treaty rights would be violated, and our national interests would be sacrificed. This has been the principle invariably acted on by the British Government. We have interfered with great success in the affairs of other countries, and with great benefit to the countries concerned. We so interfered, for instance, in the affairs of Greece, and we established the independence of that State. We interfered in the affairs of Belgium, and we established the independence of Belgium as a separate State. We interfered in the affairs of Portugal, and enabled Portugal to obtain a free and Parliamentary constitution. We interfered in the affairs of Spain with like success and with a similar result. We interfered in the affairs of Turkey, of Syria, and of Egypt, and we maintained the integrity of the Turkish Empire. These were all events preceding the Crimean war, and I do not think any man in this House will say that in that struggle we were unsuccessful. We have interfered in the affairs of China. Why? Because our treaty rights were endangered and our national interests were at stake.' Lord Palmerston said it was the object of the Government to defend our treaty rights, and to protect our commerce. No assistance would be rendered to the Imperialists, but he was of opinion that the overthrow of the Tartar dynasty would lead to anarchy, and that the suppression of the rebellion would benefit our commerce.

THE ASHANTEE WAR.

On Friday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Cardwell stated that the war against the King of Ashantee was to be abandoned, and that the force on the Gold Coast was to be greatly reduced.

DEFENCES OF SHREVEPORT.—A Confederate paper says the fortifications of this important port are complete and very extensive, the natural advantages of the place, which are considerable, having been improved on by much engineering skill and labour. The river at Shreveport is about three hundred yards wide. The opposite banks are low, and the soil so boggy as to prevent an advance from that side. Our batteries are sufficiently elevated to secure plunging shots against the ironclads, and the guns are of heavy calibre and well-mounted. In addition to these defences the river is obstructed to such an extent that the fleet cannot advance on the town without much difficulty and delay, as well as danger. The garrison is provisioned for a siege of six months; the troops are in the best of spirits, and repose unlimited confidence in General Smith. The Trans-Mississippi army was never in better condition. Many desertions have taken place within the last year, it is true, but the practice has ceased, and the army, now thoroughly weeded, tested, and harmonious, and under a favourite leader, is prepared for victory.

EFFECTS OF WAR.—Five years ago, if a pirate, with a dozen murders on his crown, was in danger of being hanged, the whole Commonwealth was stirred and roused, and public meetings were held by the score, to protest, entreat, and denounce. Now, the life of a man is of no more account than the life of a dog or a rat. You might hang a dozen men, before breakfast, on Boston Common, and nobody would care about it. Such is war: and such is the result of a war which men opposed to capital punishment have done so much to bring on. And another consequence of war is that it leads to intemperance. Intemperance is the vice of all Northern armies, and it has done great harm in our army. No man can doubt that this war has increased drunkenness to a frightful extent, and put back the temperance reformation for years; and yet no men have done more to stir up this war than the zealous apostles of temperance.—*Boston Courier*.

WIVES AND NO WIVES.—The *Boston Courier* of May 10 says: 'It is noticed as a curious circumstance that on the Committee of the Ladies' National League, as published, are names of wives of two U. S. Senators who were never married.'

THE CONTINENT.

[illegible]

THE next sitting of the Conference is fixed for Saturday, May 28; it is hoped, but scarcely expected, that some basis will then be discovered on which the conditions of peace may be discussed. It is understood that matters at present stand on this wise: Austria and Prussia have declared that they are no longer bound by the treaty of 1852; Denmark on the contrary will only negotiate on the basis of that treaty; the neutral powers would prefer to accept it as valid, unless forced to take another view. A despatch sent to Vienna states that the two great German powers have presented a scheme to the Conference, by which the complete legislative independence of the duchies would be secured, and a personal union with Denmark allowed, with the strongest possible guarantees for its preservation: the whole proposition, however, is to be subject to the reserve made by the Diet on the question of the succession. The scheme, having been accepted by the Representative of the Diet, Herr von Beust, with the last-mentioned reserve, has been forwarded by the Danish Commissioners to Copenhagen for examination. There can be no doubt on the question whether Prussia now repudiates the treaty of 1852: Herr von Bismarck has addressed a despatch to Herr von Bernstorff, dated May 15, in which this point is strongly insisted on. Allusion is made in it to a mysterious statement in a previous despatch that Prussia might be forced to make such sacrifices as would materially alter her views; and this, Herr von Bismarck contends, ought to have been sufficient notice to diplomatists of the possibility of the step now taken by Prussia. A solution of present difficulties can be the only object of the present Conference. Prussia does not appear before that body in the light of a violator of obligations. The obligations were not taken to include England, France, Russia, and Denmark, but simply between the Cabinets of Copenhagen and Berlin; consequently the relations between the present neutral Powers

and Denmark on one part, between Denmark and Prussia on another, and, lastly, between Prussia and the neutral Powers, have nothing in common: 'Denmark is a common, not a mutual, friend to both parties,' says the *Times* in explanation—a statement which is possibly true, but certainly not English. We must not omit to mention that several well-informed persons utterly deny the truth of the statement that the Austro-Prussian proposals have been referred to Copenhagen for examination; they say, on the contrary, that the propositions made were such that the Danish plenipotentiaries utterly declined to consider them.

A story is rife in Brussels that the Russian Government has signified to the Austro-Prussians its readiness to allow the annexation of the Duchies to Germany, so long as the two Powers agreed to combat to the utmost the formation of a Scandinavian Union.

The *Oesterreichische Zeitung* re-echoes the complaints made by the Prussian press on the unpleasant position held by the German plenipotentiaries in London. That journal asks how long this is to continue, and why the seat of the Conference should not be removed to another city, as, for instance, Brussels. Did not Balak say to Balaam, 'Come now, I pray thee, I will bring thee unto another place; peradventure it will please God that thou mayest curse me them from thence'?

A painful occurrence has taken place with regard to the secret despatches sent by Herr von Manderström to Herr von Wachtmeister, Swedish plenipotentiary in London. On their arrival at their destination, it was discovered that they had been tampered with during their transit through German territory; inquiries were immediately instituted, and an explanation has been given: how far it is satisfactory we have not heard; one idea is, that the despatches were meddled with before they left Stockholm. The moral of the story is, that there is more use in the hard-worked though envied Queen's messenger than has as yet been allowed by some of our ultra-ardent reformers.

A series of events of some importance have occurred in Germany in respect of the re-constitution of the Zollverein. The treaty of commerce between France and Prussia concluded on August 2, 1862, having materially affected the relative positions of the smaller members of the Zollverein, it was thought advisable to attempt a re-construction of that assocation on other and broader principles. The attempt, however, was abortive; the Governments of Bavaria, Wurtemburg, Hanover, Grand-Ducal Hesse, and Nassau refused to assist at the reopening of the Conference on the subject, and in fact led Prussia to understand that they were desirous of separating from the association. Negotiations were therefore entered into with other German Governments, the result of which has been that the Grand-Duchy of Baden, the kingdom of Saxony, and the duchy of Brunswick have given in their adhesion; and a favourable answer is hoped for from the Elector of Hesse. The effect of this will be to create a new league, which will thoroughly isolate Hanover from the other receding States, and which will extend continuously from the Rhine to the confines of Russia. Under such circumstances the States of Central Germany would be unable to maintain their position of exclusiveness.

The Norwegian forces are to be put into a state of activity; they consist of 6,000 men, with 400 horses and 4 batteries of rifled guns, and will be divided into 4 camps to be made at Trondjhem, Bergen, Christiansand and Christiania respectively. If we add to the number mentioned a body of Norwegian Guards about 200 strong, and a squadron of *guides*, we find that the whole military force of Norway cannot exceed 6,500 men.

The Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs has made a remarkable speech in the Cortes on the Italian question. He asserted very positively the necessity of an independent Pontificate, fettered by no foreign engagements of any description. The declaration was received with cordial and unanimous applause.

It is stated in the *Epoca* that Spain will make choice of a representative in Mexico, as soon as the Emperor Maximilian has notified to the Court at Madrid his accession to the Mexican throne.

The difficulties between Spain and Peru are assuming a very grave character. The Peruvian Government has refused to give an official reception to the envoy of Her Catholic Majesty, Señor Salazar y Mazarredo. This gentleman thereupon addressed an *ultimatum* to the Peruvian authorities, which was returned to him with the seal unbroken. He immediately took his departure.

The Progressista party in Spain, which is identical with that which in Italy is called the party of action, has held a banquet, remarkable, even in these days of tercentenaries, for the enormous number of guests (3,000) who were accommodated. This party has, for some time, been in a disorganised state; and court, church, and army have alike run riot, while their natural moderators, the Opposition, were powerless to restrain their vagaries. The Progressisti have now, however, apparently united under one head, Señor Olozaga: and it was to inaugurate this event that the late banquet was held. A procession was first formed, and a piece of plate presented to the new chief; whether as a token of future admiration, or a retaining fee for probable services, we know not. Señor Olozaga returned thanks in a well-toned and moderate speech, in which he expressed aspirations which, if acted on, will insure him the respect and sympathy of all Englishmen. The banquet followed, and went off amid the hearty enthusiasm and cordiality which the mere contact of a large and unanimous body of men always produces.

The final evacuation of the Ionian Islands will soon take place. The steamers *Tamar* and *Himalaya* will embark the small remnant of English troops; on the same day M. Laimis will receive his authority as Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands on behalf of King George I. of Greece.

The Duchess of Brabant gave birth to a daughter on the morning of the 21st inst. Both mother and child are in good health. The Duke of Brabant, as is well known, is heir-apparent of King Leopold of the Belgians.

By letters from Rome we are informed that the health of the Pope is improving; he has been able to leave his room, and hopes to assist in the procession of the *Corpus Domini* on the 26th inst.

The Chamber of Deputies at Turin discussed, on the 18th inst., a proposition made by Signor Guerrieri to forbid the collection of Peter's Pence. The honourable member asserted that it was by the money thus obtained that brigandage was supported, and the security of the kingdom of Italy endangered. Signor Cantu, on behalf of the Government, thought that the strong measures proposed were unadvisable; the Pope was poor, and was quite justified in appealing to the charity of Italians. The House supported the Ministry in their views, and negatived the proposition of Signor Guerrieri.

Garibaldi has landed at Caprera from the Duke of Sutherland's yacht: he is said to return to his own simple habits with an evident relief. It is now well-known that he has courteously but positively declined the gift of an estate which some of his enthusiastic admirers in England were disposed to present to him. The Duke of Sutherland has been the object of many flattering compliments from Italian corporations; a serenade was given to him by a crowd of 2,000 persons on the presentation of an address from Santa Maria (Capua Vetere), which is to be forwarded through his Grace to the Lord Mayor of London.

The Duc de Persigny presided at a great agricultural meeting held last week at Roanne. The speech which he addressed to the assembled crowds has been reported at full length by the French journals, an honour of which it was eminently worthy. We regret that we must here content ourselves with a very short summary of his observations. The orator called special attention to the constant influence of the rural constituencies on those of the towns. Beginning with the Roman Constitution, he observed that the two bodies were constantly in opposition, and that it was not until the agricultural element had been completely absorbed that the deterioration of Rome commenced. Then, turning to modern times, he said: 'It is a grand constitution which, in England, within the space of two centuries, has made out of an island containing 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 inhabitants a Power which to-day rules over more than 150,000,000 souls, and possesses a tenth part of the habitable globe. Well, in the course of so prodigious a development, the English Government has constantly found itself opposed by the ardent and passionate hostility of the representatives of the great industrial cities, who owed to that Government alone their astonishing prosperity. Like Rome, it outlived and triumphed over all obstacles only through the support which it received from the agricultural constituencies; and it may now ask itself, what would have become of the fortune of England if the indifference of the rural districts had left the field open to the passions of the great cities?' Following up the same thought, he considered what had been the influence of the agricultural constituencies on the fortune of France, and drew the conclusion that the Government and the rural population were mutually bound by the closest ties of interest and gratitude. Had the speaker enlarged further in his view of the English Constitution, and observed on the increasing disinclination to burden the House of Commons with more metropolitan or *quasi*-metropolitan members, he would have found a fresh confirmation of his principle, and a closer application of the maxim, all the more striking that it is in a great measure involuntary.

On the 17th inst. an unusual occurrence disturbed the serenity of French debate, which resembles nothing so much as a bright May-day: the few clouds of discussion which occasionally obscure for an instant the central sun only tending to enhance the regular and somewhat monotonous brilliance of Government success. On this occasion, however, the cloud was actually followed by a shower—the debate by a defeat. The question was one which has already occupied the attention of various Governments, but yet awaits solution. Joseph Lesurques was tried, convicted, and executed in 1794 on a charge of having robbed the Lyons mail and murdered the courier. The chief witness against him swore positively to his identity; but shortly after the execution another man was found bearing the most wonderful and minute resemblance to Lesurques, and who eventually turned out to be the real murderer. What was to be done? Lesurques was innocent; but unfortunately he was dead, and his property confiscated and sold to indemnify the Treasury for the 54,000 and odd francs of which the mail had been robbed. For sixty years the question has been discussed, and a few payments made to the family; but no thorough 'rehabilitation' of his character or restoration of his property has taken place. His wife went mad and destroyed herself; his son joined the army in the Russian campaign, and perished in the snow; his eldest daughter drowned herself; the second died in a madhouse. One grandchild only now remains to demand justice of Government. The story was pathetically told by the Baron de Janze, and the application supported by M. Clary and M. Jules Favre. The Government, while acknowledging the hardship of the case, objected to making a precedent whereby legal decisions might be overthrown by the House of Representatives. The House, however, decided against Government by a majority of one, the division giving 113 to 112. They were decidedly rather scared by their success, and probably would not have repeated their boldness had a second vote been called for; but the deed was done, and the amendment sent back to the Finance Committee for consideration. The question has again been discussed within four days of the original vote. On the second occasion 47 members only thought fit to support their former decision. It was stated, however, by M. Rouher that Government had been struck with the vote of the Chamber, and were desirous of reexamining the question. A debate of some interest arose on the vote for breeding establishments for horses: the *pros* and *cons* of the question were elaborately discussed. It appears that the Government are anxious to give full play to private enterprise, and are therefore determined to withdraw gradually from the *quasi* monopoly which they have held of the business. One deputy observed that the breed of horses was generally deteriorating, and instanced Ireland, which was once supposed to hold an inexhaustible stock of cavalry horses; but this breed is now exhausted, and country gentlemen have petitioned the Lord Lieutenant on the subject. The honourable gentleman might have remembered that Ireland was once considered an inexhaustible mine of another fighting material—namely, men—and that the breed is being exhausted, and that country gentlemen are holding meetings to ask the reason why. We take it, it is the same in both cases: the fine breed of cavalry horses has either emigrated or improved into hunters; the fine breed of infantrymen is either emigrating or improving itself into a form too valuable to form food for powder and shot.

The Parisian world has been delighted at the serious denial which M. Mocquard has thought fit to give to a pretended despatch published in the *Owl*, and purporting to be instructions sent to the Prince de la Tour d'Auvergne, French representative at the Conference. It must be confessed that the wit of the composition was at times so delicately veiled as to be almost imperceptible; but we should have thought that M. Mocquard would scarcely have troubled himself to deny the genuineness of a document not absolutely free from grammatical errors.

De la Pommerais exhibited marked signs of anxiety and emotion during the time that intervened between the charge given to the jury and the pronunciation of the verdict. After that time, however, he rallied, as if knowing and prepared for the worst; he asked for his dinner, and ate it quietly; before that time appetite had completely failed him. He was placed in a strait waistcoat, as is usually done where there is the remotest chance that a prisoner may put an end to himself. On the first evening after his condemnation he declared his intention of not appealing to the Cour de Cassation, being anxious, he said, to have done with it as quickly as possible. In this intention he persisted during the first part of the next day; but he finally yielded to the persuasion of his counsel, M. Lachaud, and agreed to make use of this his last resource. An officer of the Cour Impériale attended to receive his appeal, after which he was removed to the prison La Roquette, where the condemned are kept until the day of execution.

We read in the *Constitutionnel* of two accidents by fire, both of which contain a practical warning. The first, which was fortunately attended by no serious results, occurred at Antwerp. A lighted cigar was dropped upon a lady's dress as she was seated in a carriage; the muslin caught fire, and terrified her to such an extent that she jumped out of the carriage and bruised herself considerably. Luckily the bystanders were able to extinguish the flames speedily. In these careless days, when lighted tobacco is as common an object on the pavement as even the muslin dresses, such a warning should be seriously regarded.

The other accident was not less the consequence of carelessness, but its results were most appalling. A flame was allowed to approach too near to a large bottle of benzine, the spirit distilled from petroleum; the spirit caught fire, burst the bottle, and covered the two persons nearest to it with flames. The father of one of them, named Couchot, ran forward to save his son, but was only involved in the same fate. Streaming with fire he rushed to the door; the lock was hampered, and resisted all his efforts; he then leaped out of window, and was caught by some neighbours, who with difficulty succeeded in extinguishing the flames. In the meantime the room had caught fire; it contained, besides the victims already mentioned, a woman and three children, the wife and family of one of them. All the furniture was now blazing; their only hope was that the door might give way; all attempts from within were useless; at last it yielded to the vigorous blows of a neighbour from without, and the wretched family were rescued from the fiery furnace. All the sufferers were immediately taken to the hospital, but small hopes are entertained of their recovery.

The splendour of the day of the *Prix de Diane* at Chantilly was eclipsed by the magnificence of the French Derby day. Never on that beautiful course were seen larger multitudes, more lovely toilets, or a stronger desire for speculation. Four races besides the great event were decided, but none of them require peculiar comment. The Prix du Jockey Club, which is on the whole not unworthy to be called by the *sobriquet* of its great English prototype, offered this year a reward of 51,100 francs to the fortunate winner, and such a prize deserved to be regarded with considerable attention. The entrance-money for the stake is 1,000 francs, with forfeits varying from 600 francs to 500 francs, according to the date of declaration. Fifty-five horses were nominated, and thirteen came to the post. The distance is precisely the same as the course at Epsom, namely, one mile and a half. M. H. Delamarre's Bois Roussel, by the Nabob, out of Agar, was made first favourite, M. de Morny's Ninon de l'Enclos being next in popular estimation; and Commeça, by Collingwood, out of Coqueluche, the property of

Count de Lagrange, was also backed heavily. Bayard, the stable companion of Nimon de Flandre, at out the running at a good pace, attended by Rose-nut and Scævola, the favourite and Nimon de Flandre heading the ruck. Civility, the property of M. T. Carter, a filly by the Flying Dutchman, out of Honesty, being several lengths in the rear. At the distance Fervente and M. H. Lamel's Affidavit singled themselves out, the former having slightly the advantage, which he retained to the end, finally winning by half a length. Civility was third, two lengths from Affidavit, and Pondrette, the property of M. Shickler, was fourth. The winner was ridden by Flatman. The horses were below the average in point of quality.

The War Hopeless.—We are convinced that neither Mr Lincoln nor any man of his Cabinet believes that, under the exasperating policy now pursued, the Federal arms will accomplish even a military triumph of a decisive nature. The war is now being prosecuted for partisan purposes, and every death-blow that is struck is murder. There is not in Washington a single representative of a foreign power that does not consider the war virtually hopeless to the object that its authors cannot be opposed. We are reckoning that a political reaction may have the deplorable effect of concealing this truth, but how is it that the people have lost the manhood to endure it? There is no shame in having failed to subdue our own countrymen, fighting as we have done with the whole of their resources against our arms. Our soldiers have earned the record of their valour in their best blood upon many battle-fields. It is no disgrace to them that the intrigues of political aspirants and the mean jealousy of tyrants in power have paralysed the military arm. But it will be a lasting disgrace to the people if they permit these intrigues and faults to prolong the war for their own purposes with financial ruin and political confusion as its merciful consequence and no single hope by its agency of restoring the severed Union. It is enough of shame that a general of the North should carry the torch in the van of his army, and leave ashes and desolation in its rear, practising Attila and preaching Tamerlane.—*New York Daily News*, April 28.

A Yankee Speculation.—It is stated in the *Boston Journal* that the subscription books of the American Artificial Limb Company are open at the First National Bank, 11 State Street. Several of our wealthy citizens and capitalists have subscribed largely for stock in this enterprise, one individual taking $30,000, another gentleman, who has worn an artificial leg for nearly fifteen years, subscribed for $10,000, and other similar amounts have been subscribed for. It will be remembered that this enterprise possesses features seldom or never seen in any stock company, viz. a guaranteed eight per cent. stock on a deposit of United States securities. This, together with a prospect that the dividends will more than double this amount, renders the investment a very desirable one. The immense Government patronage secured, and the broad field of civil practice so long and so successfully covered, with a patronage increasing by the inevitable casualties of war, must give an amount of business that will be measured only by the ability of the manufacturers to supply. Special permission has been granted by the War Department to manufacture limbs for the rebels. The arm business has already assumed large proportions, and orders are now so numerous that it will require at least two months to meet the present demand. The facts thus given will enable all interested in so rich a field of investment and enterprise to understand the basis upon which the business is to be conducted.'

An Exhausted People.—We are playing a terrible game. Half of the people of the North are 'stock mad,' and bubble companies are increasing daily. We are preparing for a crash which will startle Europe: for, when it does come, it is not the people merely that will break, but it is the Government also. Greenbacks are sinking in value daily, and the cost of the necessaries of life is increasing fearfully. The huge tax-bill now being prepared in Congress will grind out of labour 'four hundred millions per year.' I should say it will attempt this feat, but labour cannot respond, and this huge tax-bill will fail in its operations. The rich State of Ohio has already commenced to grieve over her prospects. Wait; if you groan now, what will you do when peace is declared, and the whole domain, from the Atlantic to the Mississippi, from the great lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, prostrate from exhaustion, is as silent as the grave? A leading Ohio journal says:—'How *can* we raise the enormous taxes? A family of six persons will pay $72 per year. The average earnings of the people are not over $75 per year each, and one-sixth, therefore, of all we create, must go to support the damnable Lincoln war dynasty.' To pay her share to-day of this war debt, Ohio would have to part with one-third of her property. Every individual in that State would have to give up one-third of his possessions. Carry on the war four years longer, and it would eat up every dollar.—*New York Day Book.*

The Irish in the United States.—There is something very significant in the cessation of abuse on the part of New York Know-nothings towards foreigners. The latter are welcomed when they arrive, not as competitors for high wages, but as food for Confederate powder. 'The German and Irish millions,' says Emerson, 'have a great deal of guano in their destiny. They are ferried over the Atlantic and carted over America, to ditch and to drudge, to make corn cheap, and then to lie down prematurely to make a spot of green grass on the prairie.' Just now there is more terrible truth in that hard saying than when it was written. The Irishman is the negro of the North, but he is not so well taken care of because he does not cost so much. It cannot surely be long before our emigrants discover the nature of the bourne which they seek.—*The Realm.*

Miscegenation.—A new edition of the pamphlet on miscegenation, advocating the amalgamation of the white and black races in America, and the prosecution of the war for that purpose, is advertised, with the following extract from a letter of Parker Pillsbury, a New England preacher and Abolition lecturer, to the author:—'Your work has cheered and gladdened a winter morning. You are on the right track. Pursue it, and the good God speed you! All the mysteries of the wondrous apocalypse now unfolding in our country are not even dreamed of yet, and I hail your work as a true prophecy.'

The Late Hostilities in Virginia.—The *Boston Courier*, commenting on the news to the 10th, says: 'The summary of the news from the army of the Potomac appears to be, that it received a very heavy blow from Lee's army, as shown by our losses and the absence of any details of substantial advantages gained by us.' The same journal considers it significant that Grant's cypher despatch to the War Department could not be clearly translated.

PARIS TOPICS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Paris, May 21.

In the hall at Longchamps yesterday [illegible] the last day of the Lent season, [illegible] the end of the last week [illegible] the course of events in America. [illegible] Before the latter is long and we [illegible] the preponderance of the military [illegible] Mr Lincoln's Government. [illegible] the dead by the impartial [illegible] change and [illegible] France began to appreciate the [illegible] and South than the war [illegible] Every day did not wait for further details to [illegible] the victory which [illegible] Mr Lincoln [illegible] God for a [illegible] the tenth of [illegible] made no [illegible] of the war. The *Patrie* declares that [illegible] the accident, and as both [illegible] friends need be [illegible] by the most extensively circulated of the evening papers, I send you some extracts on this [illegible]

'The news from America received to-day is of the highest importance. Every one knows the [illegible] the last despatches from New York led us to expect. The advance of the Federal troops has been rapid, and [illegible] the greater resistance of the Southern armies. It is true that the despatches, which will be found in another part of our paper, are worded so as to make it seem that the victory was divided between the North and South, between the Federal General Grant and the Confederate General Lee. But it is precisely because these accounts (of Northern origin, be it observed) do not attribute a complete victory to the Northern Generals, that we are authorised by numerous precedents to believe that the cause of the Union has met with a terrible reverse which it will hardly get over.

'It is well known that the situation at Washington is such that it was not a half-success, but rather two victories, which General Grant required. These two victories he has not gained, though on the days of the 5th and 6th he bore the shock of battle valiantly . . . After the numerous successes obtained of late by the Confederates, the events from the 5th to the 10th of May are very serious for the North, and must have a decided influence on the result of the American war. The Federal Government had collected, under General Grant's orders, its finest army and its best generals. This army is vanquished, its generals utterly defeated, and the North has nothing left but the frightful obstinacy which has induced it to pursue an unjust struggle, but it is probable that this obstinacy itself must soon give way.'

The *Evening Moniteur*, which, as an official paper, gives expression to no opinion, indicates sufficiently the importance which Government attaches to these events, by printing *in extenso* the last telegrams, and accompanying them by a map of the theatre of war. This morning's edition contents itself with a colourless *résumé* of the telegrams. The atrabilious *Débats* blames alike the Te Deums sung by either side, suggesting that it would be better to address themselves rather to the Prince of Peace than to the Lord of Hosts, and oddly explaining the meaning of the counsel by saying that the Confederates should beg for the spirit which would prevent their persisting in a false career, but the Federals for the order and discipline which alone secure victory. Even this one-sided view serves to show that while they deny they believe in the Confederate success. The *Constitutionnel* expresses its fears that the new Federal defeat is only a fresh effusion of blood not calculated to lead to any results.

Herr von Beust has made his long-expected visit, and after being immediately received by M. Drouyn de Lhuys, and by the Emperor on the day after his arrival, was invited to dine at the Tuileries. The Danish representative at the Conference, M. Krieger, arrived last night, and leaves again to-morrow. It is very generally believed here that the Emperor has arranged terms which will be accepted by all parties independently of the labours of the Conference, but there is for this no evidence at present before the public. The rumour is grounded on the frequent communications which have lately passed between this Court and those of Vienna and Berlin, and on the visits of the two diplomatists. In the general belief that the Conference must prove abortive, and the unwillingness to think that the war can be renewed, people have imagined this *Deus ex machâ* sort of solution as offering a forlorn hope.

The Court is preparing to leave this for Fontainebleau so soon as the Chamber is closed, and the last few days in Paris have been eventless, except for lovers of sport; and with the Derby and Oaks in prospect, even for them the Chantilly Derby ran last Sunday, and the cricket-match played at the end of the week between the Paris and Nottingham elevens, present nothing very exciting.

I cannot conclude this short note without again quoting from the *Patrie*. In this evening's leader it returns to the American news and says: 'English papers whose Northern sympathies are known pretended that neither party gained an advantage, but the impression caused by the private letters brought by the *Europa* is the same in London as in Paris. Public opinion acknowledges that Grant has suffered the most terrible defeat which has yet marked the American struggle.' The *Patrie* also of this date reminds its readers that the Federals were at least three to two.

News has arrived this evening of the death of Marshal Pelissier, Governor-General of Algeria and Duke of Malakoff.

Federal Taxation.—The whole taxing scheme of the present Congress is one that will destroy the credit of the Government. The Congress dare not impose taxes upon those who are possessed of the property to pay them, but they invent a long and complicated list of indirect taxes which consumers may or may not pay. In ordinary times, when the enterprises of peace are in full play, such enormous indirect taxes as are imposed cannot be collected at all. They are only bounties to smugglers, and with a frontier line such as that of the United States, is smuggling to be stopped when such enormous premiums are given to carry it on, and in face of the experience of England, which could not prevent smuggling even in her sea-girt and iron-bound coast, no larger than New York? The experience of foreign statesmen is such that the pranks of Congress will only inspire contempt and utterly destroy the national credit.—*New York News.*

NOT A CASE FOR MR. BRIGHT.

To the Editor of The Index.

Sir,—I happened to be at the offices of the Southern Independence Association this morning when a gentleman well known in the Manchester trade called in to see whether any answer to the following communication

Has come to a subscriber, had of late years an extensive connexion with Boston, New York, and other cities in that country, but who was by the war entirely deprived of his business, and who came to this country to find himself a prisoner in the army of the Potomac, and take up his abode in the city of Washington, and comfortable position of prisoner of war at Richmond. During the unbounded services of Mr Bright for the last [illegible] and constantly as neither a secret Federalist nor a political opportunist, but one [illegible] of peace through the [illegible] of the South, [illegible] to the [illegible] to [illegible] to [illegible] Mr Lincoln [illegible] and [illegible] Richmond.

As I had to leave during the conversation, I do not know what advice he received from the officials of the Independence Association, and am I correct in what any those gentlemen could be of service to him; but it occurred to me that possibly a few lines briefly stating the case to the Editor of the Index might, in some chance way, do a little good, and hence this note.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Well-Wisher.

Manchester, May 24.

GLEANINGS FROM CONFEDERATE NEWSPAPERS.

The Condition of General Johnston's Army.—A correspondent of the *Mobile Advertiser* who is with the army of Tennessee writes: 'The condition of our army is splendid in every respect. It is well fed, well clad, in excellent health, and in high and hopeful spirits. For the first time in its history it has no barefoot soldiers. I have a firm faith in the future of the army of Tennessee and its great captain. Let him but be unfettered, and furnished with adequate means and all will be well. He is very fortunate in having such thorough soldiers as Hood and Hardee, and Stewart and Cleburne to direct his columns and execute his orders.'

An Incident of the Florida Campaign.—The *Savannah News* relates an instance of negro loyalty to their masters and their country. Before the defeat at Olustee a body of Federals, in passing through the village of Stark, were cheered by a negro boy named Calvin, who was known as a fond belonging to his master, Mr W. C. Temple. Calvin, knowing them to be enemies, continued industriously to ply his hoe until the troops had passed, when he enquired of some negroes in the rear: 'Is there any more of them coming?' The negroes replied, 'Oh, yes, plenty of them.' When they had gone some distance Calvin dropped his hoe, and, taking to his heels, leaped the fence and was soon out of sight. But the object of the faithful fellow was not only to secure his own safety. He ran immediately to the house of Mr. John M'Kinty, and notified a picket of eight soldiers and two deserters of the approach of the Yankees just in time for them to make their escape. It was long after twelve o'clock at night, he walked six miles to Mr. Dupree's, the Railroad Master, and informed him of the approach of the enemy in time to enable him to send to Gainesville thirty-two miles before daylight, and have the rolling stock of the road removed out of their reach.'

Capture of a Federal Gunboat by Land Forces.—The following official despatch was received at the Confederate War Department:—

'To General S. Cooper.

'Demopolis, Alabama, April 28.

'Brigadier-General Wirt Adams, commanding cavalry on the Yazoo River, telegraphs me from Yazoo City, on 22nd inst., to this effect: "I have the honour to report the capture of a gunboat (the *Petrel*) to-day, near the city, while lying near the shore. She was attacked by a section of artillery and a detachment of sharpshooters, under Colonel Griffin, who drove the men from two guns, and finally the crew from the boat. I removed her fine armament of eight 24-pounder guns and the most valuable stores, and had her burned to the water's edge. The captain and pilot are prisoners in my hands, and a number of the crew. My casualties are small.

'L. Polk, Lieutenant-General.'

General Wirt Adams has, with the permission of President Davis, presented the armament taken from the *Petrel* to the Confederate Navy. The gallant General writes: 'It will be my cordial satisfaction to arm this small, but possibly useful, contribution to an arm of the service which, with means and appropriations, has achieved results so important and beneficial to our country and cause.'

General W. E. Jones's Brigade.—The *Lynchburg Republican* thus summarises the result of the recent four campaign of this corps: 'The fruits of these engagements have been 1,767 prisoners, between 400 and 500 of the enemy killed and wounded, 152 wagons, 7 pieces of artillery, and about 2,000 horses and mules. All this has been done during an unusually severe winter, without tents, without comfortable clothing, almost shoeless, and with horses worn down by constant use and scarcity of forage.'

The *Richmond Enquirer* announces the arrival in the Confederate States of Commander W. L. Maury, of the Confederate steamer *Georgia*.

The Hon. R. F. W. Alston, ex-Governor of South Carolina, died on April 19, at his plantation on the Pee Dee River.

Fort Sumter.—An Augusta paper says that Captain J. C. Mitchell, a son of the Irish exile Mr. John Mitchell, is in command of Sumter during the temporary absence of Lieutenant-Colonel Elliott.

Preaching in Theatres.—The *Richmond Sentinel* says that on Friday, April 8, the Richmond Theatre was crowded to excess to hear a sermon from the Rev. Dr. J. L. Burrows, of the First Baptist Church.

De Bow's Review will reappear next July. It is to be published by Messrs. Evans & Cogswell, of Columbia, South Carolina.

THE CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.
MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT DAVIS.

(From the *Richmond Whig*, May 4.)

The message of President Davis, as was to be supposed, considering the short time which has elapsed since the adjournment of the last Congress, is not a very long document; yet, short as it is, it will be found, we think, to embrace all the important topics which it was to be presumed would be presented for the consideration of Congress. It is, likewise, marked by that purity as well as energy of diction which characterise all the productions of the Executive pen.

The President, speaking *ex cathedra*, tells us that he sees no prospect of an early change in the course heretofore pursued by those (the European) Governments. In his words, which are true enough and forcible enough to commend themselves to every citizen of the Confederacy—'It is enough for us to know that every avenue of negotiation is closed against us; that our enemy is making renewed and strenuous efforts for our destruction; and that the sole resource for us, as a people secure in the justice of our cause, and holding our liberties to be more precious than all other earthly possessions, is to combine and apply every available element of power for their defence and preservation.'

On the subject of the currency the President refers to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury. We infer that that officer will ask Congress to relieve him of the power which he supposes to be conferred by the existing law, of issuing currency to the full amount of all received into the Treasury, either by funding or exchange. It is very justly said that the currency in circulation, say $230,000,000 on July 1, is ample for the business requirements of the country, and that the addition of $200,000,000 would be attended by disastrous effects, and would produce the speedy recurrence of the evils from which the funding law has rescued the country. We are glad to know that the Secretary takes this view of the subject; and we hope Congress will do something to relieve the unfortunate gentleman of the weight of power which so sorely oppresses him.

We are likewise glad to learn that the efficiency of our armies in the field is all that can be desired; and that 'the scipline and instruction of the troops have kept pace with their improvement in material and equipment.'

Various recommendations, contained in the report of the Secretary of War, are recapitulated by the President. Among the subjects referred to are an amendment of the law depriving officers in the field of the privilege of purchasing rations; an increase in the allowance of officers travelling under orders; provision for invalid officers resigned in consequence of wounds or sickness; the tenure of office of general officers of the provisional army; the organisation of the general staff of the army, &c.

The recapitulation of the recent successes of our army is sufficiently encouraging, and we cannot, perhaps, do better than to quote the paragraph in which it is contained:—

'The recent events of the war are highly creditable to our troops, exhibiting energy and vigilance combined with the habitual gallantry which they have taught us to expect on all occasions. We have been cheered by important and valuable successes in Florida, Northern Mississippi, Western Tennessee and Kentucky, Western Louisiana and Eastern North Carolina, reflecting the highest honour on the skill and conduct of our commanders, and on the incomparable soldiers whom it is their privilege to lead. A naval attack on Mobile was so successfully repulsed at the outer works that the attempt was abandoned; and the nine months' siege of Charleston has been practically suspended, leaving the noble city and its fortress imperishable monuments to the skill and fortitude of its defenders. The armies in Northern Georgia and Northern Virginia still oppose, with unshaken front, a formidable barrier to the progress of the invader; and our generals, armies, and people are animated by cheerful confidence.'

There is a passage in the message which deserves more than casual notice. He calls attention to the fact that the Congress under the provisional Government held four sessions, and the first Congress of the permanent Government also held four sessions, and now the second Congress under the permanent Government is assembled at the time and place appointed by law:—

'All these events have passed into history, notwithstanding the threat of our prompt subjugation made three years ago by a people that presume to assert a title to govern States whose separate and independent sovereignty was recognised by treaty with France and Great Britain in the last century, and remained unquestioned for nearly three generations. Yet these very Governments, in disregard of duty and treaty obligations which bind them to recognise as independent Virginia and other Confederate States, persist in countenancing by moral influence, if not in aiding by unfair and partial action, the claim set up by the executive of a foreign Government to exercise despotic sway over the States thus recognised, and treat the invasion of them by their former [illegible] as though it were the attempt of a sovereign to suppress a rebellion against lawful authority.'

Letter from Wendell Phillips.—Judge Stallo: Dear Sir,—Since you asked my judgment as to the course to be taken in nominating a candidate for the Presidency, I have been requested to sign a call for a convention for that purpose, to meet at Cleveland in May next. Let me tell you the national policy I advocate. Subdue the South as rapidly as possible. The moment territory comes under our flag, reconstruct States thus: Confiscate and divide the lands of rebels; extend the right of suffrage broadly as possible to whites and blacks; let the Federal Constitution prohibit slavery throughout the Union, and forbid the States to make any distinction among their citizens on account of colour or race. I shall make every effort to have this policy pursued. Believing that the present Administration repudiates it, and is carrying us to a point where we shall be obliged either to acknowledge the Southern Confederacy or to reconstruct the Union on terms grossly unjust, intolerable to the masses, and sure soon to result in another war, I earnestly advise an unpledged and independent convention, like that proposed, to consider public affairs and nominate for the Presidency a statesman and a patriot. Yours faithfully, Wendell Phillips.—Boston, April 21.

The Treasury Investigation.—Colonel Baker, who investigated Mr. Clark's department in the Treasury, has laid before the committee a mass of information of the most astounding character in regard to Mr. Clark's operations. The depositions of some ten women were read—some of them are now employed in the department—which are wholly unfit for publication. It was also shown that the entire responsibility of the issue of greenbacks and currency of the country rests with this man, and there is not now, nor has there ever been, any check upon him.—Correspondent of the *New York World*.

CONFEDERATE TREASURY NOTES.

(From the *Richmond Sentinel*, April 22.)

The following figures and statements, for which we are indebted to the politeness of the Register of the Treasury, will be of interest to our readers:—

Statement of the Issue of Non-interest-bearing Treasury Notes since the organisation of the Confederate Government.

Fifty cents	$911,258 50
Ones	4,882,000 00
Twos	6,036,320 00
Fives	79,090,315 00
Tens	157,982,750 00
Twenties	217,425,120 00
Fifties	188,861,400 00
Hundreds	318,038,200 00
Total	$973,277,363 50

Statement showing the amount of Non-interest-bearing Treasury Notes outstanding on March 31, 1864.

Act May 16, 1861—Two-year notes	$7,201,375 00
Act Aug. 19, 1861—General currency	154,356.631 00
Act April 19, 1862—Ones and twos	4,516,509 00
Act Oct. 13, 1862—General currency	118,997,321 50
Act March 23, 1863—General currency	511,182,566 50
Total	$796,254,403 00

From these two statements it appears that $177,022.960 50 of the non-interest-bearing issues have been redeemed and cancelled. This amount includes only such notes as have been regularly cancelled and destroyed in pursuance of warrants from the Treasury. There are always in the hands of the depositaries notes not yet reported for destruction. We have heard the amount thus held at present, apart from the four per cent. funding, estimated at ten millions.

There is but little doubt that the funding, east and west of the Mississippi, will amount to three hundred millions. The total issue outstanding March 31 is thereby reduced say to $485,000,000. Of this, a considerable portion, probably a hundred millions, is in hundred dollar notes. Excluding these, we have $385,000,000 left; of which, the issues of five dollars and under amount to $90.969.893 50. Suppose $85,000,000 of these are now in circulation, and we have for all others $300,000,000, which the tax of one-third has reduced to $200,000,000. The total circulation at the present time, irrespective of the new issue, is, therefore, largely less than three hundred millions, and of this a considerable amount is always to be found in the hands of the disbursing officers and depositaries.

Fading Hopes.—The *Boston Courier* (April 23) takes the following gloomy view of Federal prospects:—'The day is past in which even the most sanguine can see in every victory of our arms "the backbone of the rebellion" broken. Our armies have won many great victories, "decisive victories," as they were styled at the time; we have occupied a large but scattered extent of Confederate territory, and have even instituted military or decimal governments over such portions as lie within our lines; but all with no other result, as now publicly confessed by the more sagacious supporters of the Administration, than the extension of our own lines, and the shortening of those of the enemy. No one with any real knowledge pretends to say that the relative military strength of the South, as compared with our own, has been materially lessened by all our superhuman exertions, lavish expenditures, and seeming victories. There is evidence that the South is to-day actually stronger than at any previous time, more united, and more firmly resolved to maintain its independence. We believe that such is the fact. We see no evidences of despair, no marks of waning resolution or exhausted resources in all that comes to us from the belaguered States. Nothing but a firmness and calmness that border on contempt meets all our preparations and the threatening position of our armies. Meantime, reckless expenditure, profligacy in every department of the Government, dishonesty and incompetency everywhere, in civil and military administration alike, are working the certain ruin of the nation, and hurrying on the day when the scaffolding of Government credit which alone supports the war, long overburdened, will topple and fall. How long will it take for Lee and Johnston, then, to recover, from armies unsupplied and unsupported, the territories which, with such expenditure of strength and money, they now hold only with the utmost difficulty? The war as conducted is too great for us, and not for us only, but for any people upon earth. Failure is the necessary element of its very conditions, and no victories are sufficient to alter those, and turn the scale in our favour.'

Is the War Popular in the United States?—This question is answered in a logical and forcible article in the *New York Daily News*, a portion of which we copy:—'We have only to contemplate the simple and naked facts, that with a population three times that of the States at war with us, and a fighting population proportionately much larger—with bounties proffered, such as never tempted cupidity in any war before—we are compelled to seduce foreigners from their homes to fight our battles for pay, and are driven to the still more degrading necessity of committing the honour of our flag and the vindication of our manhood to the hands of negroes, bond and free. Not the relentless grasp of a most merciless and unconstitutional conscription, nor the seduction of bounties large enough to make a poor man's fortune, can now drag or entice American citizens, except in numbers absolutely insignificant, to fight the battles of this war. It is insolent, as well as idle and absurd, to talk of the "popularity" of any war which can command no warmer support than this from a brave and impulsive people. If the hearts of the people were in the war, they themselves would be in the field to fight to the death. If they sincerely believed it to be a war in which they ought to offer themselves as a sacrifice, they would crowd to the very horns of the altar, with threat or bribe. That they shrink from the contest—that they will devote all the little earnings of their lives to purchase exemption—that they cannot be tempted or forced into the ranks while there is any escape—all these things tell the story. The people do not feel any longer that the war is their war. They may support it for a little while because the Government is waging it and the flag is waved over it. Some of them may be willing it should continue, because it pays themselves or their friends large profits, or keeps up their influence, or advances their party, or flatters their vanity, or gratifies their rancour. But the great current of public feeling and opinion runs in its favour no longer. It has now no hold on public enthusiasm. Its popularity is dead!'

MEXICO, AND EUROPEAN RECOGNITION.

(From the *Richmond Sentinel*, April 26.)

The action of the Powers of Europe in reference to the two newly installed Governments in America has been grossly inconsistent and contradictory. The Confederate States have made comparatively but little change in their political organism. They have retained their State Governments in all their integrity, and they have made but few alterations in the articles and conditions of State confederation. They have merely reduced the number of those with whom they met in general council. They have but lessened the scope of their late alliance, and retired from those with whom they could no longer act in concert or live in peace. Their separate existence has been assailed by force of arms for three years; and for three years the nations of Europe have sat by, refusing to recognise us, refusing to hold intercourse with us: and this, not because they deny the justice of our action, or withhold from us their sympathies, but because they plead that international honour and duty require them to remain aloof until the war against us shall be abandoned by the enemy. Their own rulers do not hesitate to declare that Lincoln has no prospect of subduing us; that he has entered upon an impossible undertaking; but they hold it a point of international principle not to act upon their own judgment, but upon his; and to withhold their recognition of us, and treat the result of the war as in doubt, until Lincoln himself shall lose all hope, and his passions become exhausted.

But how do these same Powers act in regard to the new Empire of Mexico? It has been but a few months, comparatively, since the French arms invaded that country. Their banners have been successful, but the war is by no means ended, and the subjugation is far from complete. Determined chieftains, with numerous followers, still keep the field. Maximilian has not so much as taken his seat on his throne, or set his foot upon Napoleon's gift. He has yet to see for the first time the shores of the country upon which he has been imposed. He will find his authority disputed and defied from the very first. He will have no season of jubilation, no honeymoon, on his accession. He will have to address himself to war to get possession of his kingdom, and even to retain his seat. The people whom he is to call his subjects have notoriously a weak stomach for rulers of any kind. They are exceedingly addicted to revolutionary pronunciamentos at all times, and rarely endure the same chief for two harvests. Maximilian is going to take his seat upon a volcano. Yet this going-to-be king, over a country which he has never seen, and which is at war against him, is *recognised*, without a day's delay, by the Powers of Europe—by the same Governments that hold recognition in our case as inadmissible and improper!

It is impossible to reconcile such contrary proceedings, or to excuse the injustice which the nations of Europe have displayed towards the Confederate States. It will stand as a reproach to them upon the page of history; and whether instigated by the fell desire to see the American Confederacies destroy each other, or inspired by the bullyism of Seward, himself a craven, their conduct is alike without any feature calculated to propitiate respect, or reconcile us to its injustice. The action in the case of Mexico dishonours and refutes the pretext advanced as to the Confederate States; and forces us to look to the natural effect of their treatment to us, or to a cowering under the threats from Washington, for the motive which prompts it. Shame itself must force these Powers to take a more creditable attitude.

A House Divided against Itself.—Mr. Phillips says only five United States Senators are in favour of Mr. Lincoln's re-election, and among those are not Sumner and Wilson. Mr. Blair accuses the Secretary of the Treasury of gross misdeeds; says the department is rotten with corruption, and that this is so palpable that the friends of Mr. Chase dare not call for investigation. Fremont declares that he has been badly treated by the Administration, and pouts. The Gratz Brown Radicals smite the President as Samson did the Philistines, hip and thigh. General Banks is derided by the Republicans in Massachusetts. The Springfield *Republican* asks, 'Is lying a vice inherent in republican institutions, or merely incidental to Mr. Lincoln's administration?' Thaddeus Stevens says, if the Government go on expending money at the present rate, the people will be involved in one general bankruptcy and ruin. Thurlow Weed writes to the Albany *Evening Journal*, 'Until the Administration thoroughly sifts and probes the iniquities of the New York Custom House, the people will be justified in enquiring whether their treasure and blood shall continue to flow, by millions and in rivers, while its own officials are playing into the hands of the enemy.' Senator Pomeroy says, that should Mr. Lincoln be reelected, the affairs of the country will go on from bad to worse in his hands, and the war will languish until our public debt will overwhelm us. Mr. Boutwell denounces the President's plan of reconstruction; Winter Davis charges the President with acting without law, and Miss Dickenson boxes the ears of Mr. Seward. The persons here named are all Republicans, if not all 'honourable men.'—*Boston Post*.

'Peace Devils.'—A Republican paper having applied this epithet to those who do not believe in the doctrine of *Fraternité ou la mort*, the *New York Daily News* says:—'If peace men are devils, it follows that war men are saints, and we may soon expect to hear the President styled "his holiness," and his Secretaries "right reverends." General Butler will be addressed as Saint Benjamin, and McNeil and Turchin hereafter known as holy fathers. If peace men are to be turned over to his satanic majesty, it would seem that a better destiny awaits the advocates of war; and it may be that this new doctrine is to be preached this summer to reconcile the people to the war, and keep the war party in power. Who knows? We shall soon, at this rate, hear of thievish integrity, truthful lying, affectionate murder, pious wickedness, and honest stealing; or, what is very likely, of white-black men and black-white men. Such is the evident tendency of Black Federalism.'

Bull and Bullion.—A writer in the *Boston Courier* makes the following suggestion:—'It is very strange that Congress and Mr. Chase have never discovered the main cause why it now takes $175 in greenbacks to buy $100 in gold. It is plainly owing to the obstinacy of that old copperhead, John Bull, who persists, in this enlightened age, when we are fighting for freedom and the cause of mankind, in refusing to consider them a 'legal tender,' and as good as his Bank of England whitebacks, and will not buy our ten-forty loan at about 50 cents on the dollar. This is insulting, and Congress ought to take the matter up, and let Father Abraham at once issue a proclamation against Mr. Bull, confiscating all his property for his disloyalty, and send General Butler over there to execute it and hang a few Bulls and Roebucks.'

THE DERBY.

The eighty-fifth anniversary of this far-famed race was celebrated yesterday with the splendour, tumult, and wild joviality inseparable from the greatest of all festivities. Assuredly within the recollection of men who have not passed the middle age, no Derby had offered so wide a field of speculation, had so racked and wearied the feverish brains of the searchers into futurity, or had given such promise of competitors worthy of the prize. Men who had gazed on the forms and watched the action of their own idols, had spread abroad the sound of their unrivalled virtues, had extolled victories and extenuated defeats, until the imagination pictured a squadron of horses all capable of achieving the great task. Even the calm sagacity of bookmakers seemed for once at fault, and took refuge in the expedient of estimating the quality of the animals by the most gradual of sliding scales. Indeed, of the dozen horses that commanded attention, two had proved their excellence a few weeks since at Newmarket. The remainder boasted of laurels won many months ago, or built up their fame on the rumour of private success.

It is impossible here to tell again the thrice-told story of the adventures of the road, to repeat for the hundredth time the futile struggles of the overloaded jades, the ugly pranks of the untamed brutes condemned to the hated yoke by the exigencies of the hour, to applaud the white dresses, the pink and blue bonnets of the thousand *belles*, or to laugh at the extravagancies of the 'thorough-bred' cockney on his own high and holy day. It is enough to say that the throng of visitors was great beyond precedent, that the trains were crowded beyond imagination with passengers, and that the road was so blocked with carriages and horses that it seemed rather a device for checking progress than a means for facilitating locomotion.

Our business is rather with the true object of the day, the race itself, and to that and its concomitant circumstances we yield devotion. From the earliest arrivals on the scene of action, the wagering commenced with activity; and inasmuch as no mishaps were reported, the state of the market did not greatly vary from the condition of the past week. The odds at starting were 9 to 2 against General Peel, 5 to 1 against Scottish Chief, 13 to 2 against Birch Broom, 7 to 1 against Cambuscan, 100 to 8 against Paris, 100 to 7 against Blair Athol, 20 to 1 against Coast Guard and Ely, and 30 to 1 against Baragah. Of the weather and the scene it is enough to say that the sun shone with splendour on the immense mass of human beings which bounded the length of the course from the Corner to the Stand as with a living wall, and occupied the hill and every point of observation.

For the sake of those to whose fortune it has not fallen to visit Epsom—for 'non cuivis homini contingit adire Corinthum'—it may be right to describe in a brief sentence the form of the Epsom race-course. The running-ground there may be best compared in shape to a siphon; and if it be imagined that the horses start at the end of the shorter leg, and that the winning post is situated at the end of the longer leg, a just idea will be obtained. The character of the ground is most trying to the limbs and the endurance of the horse. For the first six furlongs a stout hill must be climbed; then ensues a rather ugly turn and a descent of considerable steepness; and from the hollow the ground again rises in a gradual but decided incline to the end of the course. The ugly turn is known to all the world as Tattenham Corner, and it is exactly at that point that the horses gain the straight, and burst upon the view of the spectators in the stands. The length of the course is one mile and a half.

Some fifteen minutes before three o'clock the course was cleared, and the noble troop of horses paraded in front of the Grand Stand. As they walked and cantered, the stately step and sweeping stride of each was eagerly scanned, and men came to the conclusion that seldom has Epsom seen so magnificent a company of Derby candidates. If nimble movement and the most perfect elegance of form was to prevail, then there was hope that Mr. R. Ten Broeck would triumph, to the glory of Tennessee, with the beautiful Paris, the son of Mildew and Daisy. But the wise men said that Paris could not endure beyond the distance of one mile, and that when he nearly reached the great General Peel at Newmarket, he had performed the highest feat of his life. Birchbroom looked a fine slashing fellow, and Ely reproduced to the eye the form of his true-shaped sire, the illustrious Kingston. The vaunted Baragah, the pet of the Wizard of the North, the son of Stockwell and Mowerina, and therefore uterine brother to the invincible West Australian, seemed to justify rather the event of the race than the flourish of trumpets with which it had been announced that the prize would go to John Scott of Whitewall, just as it did of old with Daniel O'Rourke. For Baragah, to our eye, was but a moderate animal when stationary, and an indifferent galloper when in action. So, too, Mr. Nayler had threatened to repeat the success of 1863, and to reproduce Maccaroni in the form of Coastguard. The latter certainly had size enough, and indeed bore a resemblance to a walking castle or an ironclad under steam. But when he galloped his knees threatened to strike his nose, and plainly declared that he would not win the Derby. The Scottish Chief pleased his backers in every respect, and animated them with the hope of a second Thormanby. The favourite General Peel was received with a hum of admiration, and he alone, of all the horses, seemed irritated at the noise around him. He fumed and fretted, and swung himself about in a manner quite unbefitting his position as the Derby 'crack,' but his action was admirable, and his grand appearance inspired the utmost confidence. Cambuscan, the son of Newminster and the Arrow, whose value last winter was tested by auction to be more than 5,000*l.*, looked the embodiment of perfection. He was so trim, so cleanly made, he had no superfluity, he skimmed the ground so like a swallow in his flight, there was in him so much of the active and so little of the obstructive, that it seemed that after all the great General Peel would succumb to his more elegant rival. These horses, with others on whom it is unnecessary to dwell, passed up the course, and then by himself came one whom many persons, whose eyes only follow the glitter of the metal coin and never look beyond the favourite, disdained to notice. This horse cantered steadily about two hundred yards, and was slowly led back to the winning-post by a careful attendant. He had not been saddled in the paddock—he had appeared but for a moment and departed again so quickly, there was such an air of mystery about him, that the very secresy drew attention. The horse was Blair Athol. He had never been on a public racecourse before. Rumour had been busy with him, but his character and pretensions were as mysterious as those of the ruler of Thibet. At least his blood was the best in the world. His sire was Stockwell, the noblest horse ever seen since the days of Bellerophon, and so he was the son of a winner of the Two Thousand and St. Leger on that side. Through Stockwell also his pedigree ascended to the Baron, the Birdcatcher, Waxy, Whalebone, and Eclipse. Moreover, his dam was Blink Bonny, the winner of the Derby and the Oaks, the daughter of great Melbourne. If pedigree could win, Blair Athol could not lose. His appearance, too, was magnificent. He stood 16 hands high; he moved gloriously; he had great length; his colour was a beautiful chestnut, and his face was marked with a large white blaze. He turned one foot out just like the good Sir Tatton Sykes, and recalled the famous saying of the Yorkshire Baronet.

The race, however, was now to begin. The starter marshalled the thirty horses to the post. Thousands still enjoyed their picnic, their chicken and champagne, unmoved by the event of the hour. But with thousands whose fate trembled in the balance at that moment, the delirium of hopes and fears through which the mind suffers a delightful torture grew in intensity, and all the forces of desire, confidence, and despair tossed the imagination in wild commotion. Their agony was prolonged by false starts, but at length the word was given. The Warrior, who, if he was to make a show, was put to doing it at the start, jumped off with the lead, with General Peel, Birch Broom, Scottish Chief, and Baragah close to him. At the end of a mile, Ely went to the front, and Coastguard, Cambuscan, Knight of Snowdon, and Blair Athol joined the leading division. In a mass the gallant horses hurled themselves with unrestrained fury round Tattenham Corner, Ely alone yielding to the frightful speed. In a cluster the rest crossed the road at the foot of Tattenham Hill, and General Peel rushed immediately to the front, while shouts of 'Lord Glasgow wins' rent the air. In truth the Scottish Chief, though leading the ruck, was evidently unable to grapple with the General, and at every stride the Two Thousand winner was distancing the field. But his jockey, the admirable Aldcroft, looked over his shoulder with nervous anxiety, for there was still one horse obstinately clinging to the General. It was the mysterious Blair Athol. Three hundred yards from home, his jockey gave him rein. With one grand effort the son of Blink Bonny passed the General gamely struggling to do the terrific pace, and, galloping on with a stoutness nearly miraculous, defeated the favourite with consummate ease by two lengths. Scottish Chief was three lengths from General Peel, and the Knight of Snowdon one length from Scottish Chief. Then followed in order Cambuscan, Birch Broom, Ely, and Historian. The pace was terrific, the time occupied being only 2 min. 44 sec. This speed has been only once exceeded, and that in the year 1861 by Kettledrum, who ran the course in 2 m. 43 sec., when Diophantus and Dundee raced from end to end. It was moreover one second faster than the race won in 1857 by Blink Bonny. Blair Athol is the property of Mr. W. I'Anson, the owner of Blink Bonny, Caller-ou, and Borealis, and was trained at Malton in Yorkshire. He is entered for the Grand Prix at Paris, and the Great Doncaster St. Leger.

Fort Pillow.—The truth is, that there was no other massacre at Fort Pillow than the killing of some fifty or a hundred Yankees during the assault; and a Yankee naval officer, in a published letter giving an account of the capture of the fort, of which he was an eye-witness, speaks of the rebels as having displayed great moderation on the occasion. This officer, whose name is N. B. Wetmore, wrote to the *Memphis Argus* that 'the garrison was so small and the rebel force so overwhelming, that the enemy carried our works about 3·30 P.M., and the gallant few who were left alive, were taken prisoners.' Again he says: 'Major Bradford, commanding the post, was taken prisoner, and is reported by the rebels as having been paroled, with the liberty of their camps, and violated his parole by escaping last night, but I was told that he was taken out and shot.' This is a mere light hearsay that the man was put to death, whilst it is far more probable that he was paroled, and, Yankee-like, broke his pledge and rejoined his countrymen. And again he says: 'Captain Young, Provost Marshal, was taken prisoner, slightly wounded, and paroled, with the liberty of their camps, and allowed to see his wife.' And still again he says: 'We threw shells, &c., for thirty minutes at detached squads. A flag of truce appearing, we ceased firing and sent a boat ashore. It presently returned with a communication from General Forrest, saying that a large number of our wounded were suffering for want of proper care, and that he would allow us to bury our dead and remove our wounded under a flag of truce, but that we should not remove anything from the battle-field. Captain Fergus, on knowing that our shells would explode among our wounded, causing greater loss of life, agreed to the proposal. Major Anderson, Aid to General Forrest, drew up the agreement, giving us possession of the fortifications and landings till 5 P.M., the flag of truce to end at that hour. The rebels were efficient and aided as much as possible our work. The wounded who were able to walk generally came down the bluff-road supported on either side by a rebel soldier.' This is the positive statement of an eye-witness of and participator in the affair, and he a true blue Yankee officer. There is not a word in his letter that charges a massacre of the prisoners, but on the contrary, he represents the conduct of Forrest and his men as having been remarkably kind towards them. And yet all Yankee-doodledom is in a storm of wrath about the matter, and are threatening, with their usual stage vehemence, unutterable things in the way of vengeance. They had as well keep cool and wait until they ascertain the facts in the case, before indulging in such ridiculous rhodomontade. They can act, however, just as they please, and the Confederates will pursue just such a course as will serve to meet, check, and punish any cold-blooded atrocity like that which Lincoln threatens, supposing him to be in earnest.—*Petersburg* (Virginia) *Express*, April 28.

The Jackson Statue Movement in England.—A letter received by Governor Smith from Hon. James M. Mason announces that the requisite funds have been raised by the gentlemen of England, who have proposed to present a statue of the lamented Jackson to his fellow-citizens in this country; and enquires whether their solicitude for a becoming disposition of the statue when sent here will be gratified. We doubt not that the choicest spot in Virginia or the Confederacy can be commanded for so interesting a purpose as the erection of a statue worthy of our great man. The Governor will make a suitable response to this tribute to Virginia's famous son from strangers across the water, who ask to join their affectionate admiration to ours.—*The Sentinel*, April 22.

The Press in New Orleans.—The following significant paragraph from the *New Orleans Picayune* tells a hard story, and will bear twice reading:—'We are in receipt of several anonymous communications, which, because anonymous, can find no place in our columns. This we rather regret; for some of our volunteer contributors write well—both in a literary and a chirographic point of view—and the subjects they discuss are either purely literary, or such questions of material or social interest as are entirely proper for newspaper discussion. Why, then, the writers withhold their names we cannot imagine.'

GENERAL SHERMAN ON THE RIGHTS OF WAR.

The commander of the Mississippi raid, and of the Federal army in Tennessee, has written a letter to one of his subordinates, from which we copy the following passages. They show the spirit in which the war is conducted by its military leaders.

'The United States, as a belligerent party claiming right in the soil as the ultimate sovereign, have a right to change the population, and it may be and is both politic and just we should do so in certain districts. When the inhabitants persist too long in hostilities, it may be both politic and right we should banish them and appropriate their lands to a more loyal and useful population. No man will deny that the United States would be benefitted by dispossessing a single, prejudiced, hard-headed and disloyal planter, and substitute in his place a dozen or more patient, industrious, good families, even if they be of foreign birth.

'For my own part, I believe that this war is the result of false political doctrine, for which we are all as a people responsible, viz., that any and every people have a right to self-government: and I would give all a chance to reflect, and, when in error, to recant.

'Whilst I assert for our Government the highest military prerogatives, I am willing to bear in patience that political nonsense of slave rights, State rights, freedom of conscience, freedom of press, and such other trash, as have deluded the Southern people into war, anarchy, bloodshed, and the foulest crimes that have disgraced any time or any people.

'The Government of the United States has in North Alabama any and all rights which they choose to enforce in war, to take their lives, their homes, their lands, their everything, because they cannot deny that war does exist there, and war is simply power unrestrained by Constitution or compact. If they want eternal war, well and good—we will accept the issue and dispossess them, and put our friends in possession. I know thousands and millions of good people who, at simple notice, would come to North Alabama and accept the elegant houses and plantations now there. If the people of Huntsville think different, let them persist in war three years longer, and then they will not be consulted. Three years ago, by a little reflection and patience, they could have had a hundred years of peace and prosperity, but they preferred war; very well, last year they could have saved their slaves, but now it is too late—all the powers of earth cannot restore to them their slaves any more than their dead grandfathers. Next year their lands will be taken, for in war we can take them, and *rightfully*, too, and in another year they may beg in vain for their lives. A people who will persevere in war beyond a certain limit, ought to know the consequences. Many, many people, with less pertinacity than the South, have been wiped out of national existence.

To those who submit to the rightful law and authority, all gentleness and forbearance, but to the petulant and persistent Secessionists, why, death is mercy; and the quicker he or she is disposed of, the better. Satan, and the rebellious saints of heaven, were allowed a continuance of existence in hell merely to swell their just punishment. To such as would rebel against a Government so mild and just as ours was in peace, a punishment equal would not be unjust.

We are progressing well in this quarter. Though I have not changed my opinion, that we may soon assume the existence of our National Government, yet years will pass before ruffianism, murder, and robbery will cease to afflict this region of our country. Truly your friend,

(Signed) W. T. SHERMAN,
Maj.-Gen. Commanding.

Emigration to the United States.—The following letter has been published in the Northern papers:—'United States Consulate, Liverpool, April 22, 1864.—Sir,—I perceive a notice in the papers of a recommendation for an act to encourage emigration from Europe to the United States. This probably will be considered a sufficient excuse for my venturing to call your attention to the matter so far as this port is concerned. Emigration may be said never to have been so active as it is now. It is quite unprecedented. For the past two months all the emigrant vessels from Liverpool to the State, both with steam and sails, have taken emigrants to their utmost capacity. At the present time there are not half enough ships to carry those who want to go. I called this morning on two or three of the leading shipping-houses to ascertain the true state of the business, and will briefly detail what I learned. Inman's steamers—the Liverpool, New York, and Philadelphia line—told me that every passage on all their steamers up to May 18 next is now engaged; and one-half of those of the steamers to sail after this period up to June 1. Guion & Co. and C. Grimshaw & Co., two other large houses, told me that all the passages on their respective vessels to sail between now and June 1 next are already taken, and that they are turning off people every day for want of accommodation; that they are so pressed that they do not know what to do. They have not half vessels enough, and cannot procure them to carry the passengers who want to go. What they say will apply with equal force to all the other shippers at this port. A large proportion of the emigrants have had their passage paid in the States. These have a preference. They have raised the price of their tickets for passage within the last few weeks at least a third higher than they were. All the vessels sailing are filled with passengers, and the only way emigration can now be increased, so far as England and Ireland are concerned, is to increase the means of transportation. One of the houses told me this morning that they could send out fifty thousand emigrants to the States in two months, if they had the ships to carry them. I do not write this with the view of interfering with the passage of the proposed bill to facilitate emigration—it may be quite necessary for the Continent—but merely to put you in possession of the facts as they exist at this place. And I am quite sure that you will rejoice with myself to learn that it is not required for England and Ireland, at least for the present, to encourage emigration.—I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant, Thomas H. Dudley.—Hon. William H. Seward, Secretary of State.'

Washington Scandals.—Washington is full of stories of startling developments, certain to be made before the special committee authorised to-day on Treasury Department. Affidavits and witnesses are ready to testify that, in addition to gross frauds, a regular system of prostitution is carried on in the female bureau of the Treasury, with the connivance of its band of officials, and that a code of morals exists, degrading to women as it is repugnant to decency, and calling for the brand of infamy on those at the bottom of it. Many of the female clerks have been secured as witnesses.—*New York World*

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

The Index was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, The Index has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. The Index does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, The Index is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of The Index, 13 Bouverie Street, E.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. Hopkins, Index Office.

Mr. J. H. Ashbridge, *Treasurer of the Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund, begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following additional Contributions:* —

Marquis of Lothian	£20	0	0
Mr. Wm. Brown, Jun., per Mr. Tennent .	5	0	0
Messrs. Frisch & Schiewater . . .	5	0	0
	£30	0	0

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1864.

The Fighting in Virginia.

The North has had one great advantage throughout this war. It has told its own story first. Whenever the news of great battles has reached us, it has come to us filtered through Northern sources: we have to wait days, and sometimes weeks, before we can hear the other side; and as the first impression is the strongest it is easy to conceive how much the Federal cause has profited by writing its own history of the war. It is necessary to point this out in commenting upon the recent intelligence from Virginia. Accounts have been received of seven days' awful fighting, of a struggle more desperate than that which drove M'Clellan from the Chickahominy to the James River, of a carnage more awful than the present generation of men ever witnessed, of battle after battle waged from sunrise to sunset; and for the results we are entirely dependent upon Federal correspondence, upon official statements put forward by the Washington authorities, upon unreliable rumours, magnified into positive facts by needy politicians and unscrupulous newsmongers. From the South we have one or two sentences almost barren of interest so far as the result is concerned—a word or two of encouragement from General Lee, a regret for some brave leaders fallen, and that is all. News from the South is withheld, and so is adverse news of any kind. Our readers may imagine how difficult it is to form a just estimate of the movements of the two armies, their objects, and their results, when the one side only narrates what is favourable to its hopes, and the other is altogether silent.

Grant's long-expected advance took place in the early days of the month. On the 4th instant, his army crossed the Rapidan in great force. It combined the three *corps d'armée* of Generals Hancock, Sedgwick, and Warren; the reserve, consisting nominally of 40,000 men under Burnside, remaining on the north bank. On the 5th, the Confederate army was found in front, and some heavy skirmishing ensued in which two Federal divisions suffered considerably. The morning of the 6th found the two armies in a position covering the direct road from the fords of the Rapidan to Spottsylvania Court House, and at daybreak Grant gave the order for an attack along the whole line. The country in which the battle was fought is most favourable for the army acting on the defensive. Thickly wooded and undulating, it affords little scope for the play of artillery or the cavalry charge, and presents enormous difficulties to the manœuvring of a large force. We may rely upon it that General Lee had made the most of these advantages; that his ground was well chosen for a stand; that his line of retreat was secured; and that an assault successful or unsuccessful cost the enemy dearly. The scene of the engagement was the Wilderness, and there must have been many amongst the veterans on both sides whose lot it had been to contend twelve months before on almost the same ground. Grant's dispositions were simple enough. He disposed his three divisions in a line of some five miles in extent, with Sedgwick on the right, Warren in the centre, Hancock on the left. Burnside had during the night crossed the Rapidan, and his force was held in the reserve on the right, to support Sedgwick. The Federal army attacked at all points and was everywhere repulsed. Two desperate efforts were made to penetrate Lee's lines, but in vain. The Federals were mowed down in their ranks by invisible enemies, and at noon the first fury of the attack had subsided. It was now the turn of the Confederates. Massing his troops in front of the most advanced division of the Federal army, General Hancock's, Lee hurled a powerful force upon his assailants, drove back Hancock's division in disorder, capturing many prisoners, and was only brought up by the Federal entrenchments far in the rear. The first portion of the Confederate army actually penetrated the Federal breastworks and captured one or two whole regiments. The defeat of Hancock on the left involved the left centre in his retrograde movement. Heavily pressed by the Confederates, it also gave ground, and, but for the support of the reserves, would have been routed. Aided by the reserve, the Federals re-formed and eventually drove back their assailants, but the retirement of the left and centre divisions gave Lee an opportunity, of which he was not slow to avail himself. Late in the evening Sedgwick's division was, in its turn, the object of attack. A powerful column advancing on its right flank, bore down upon it, enveloped and overwhelmed it. Brigade after brigade was swept away, two whole brigades were captured, the line was broken, and for an hour or more Grant's whole army was in imminent peril. A panic prevails; there is a rush through the woods for a mile and a half, but the nature of the ground and the closing in of night prevent Lee reaping the whole advantage of his successful charge, and Sedgwick's corps is saved. The losses of the Federals are admitted to be enormous. Three or four generals killed and two captured, 12,000 rank and file killed and wounded—such is the most moderate estimate of a New York correspondent. Nevertheless, President Lincoln glories that Grant's army has not been driven back, and, when the news arrives that Lee has not attacked on the following day, recommends a public thanksgiving. In the mean time, Lee, who in victory or defeat is reliable, thanks God that every advance of Grant's army has been repulsed, but regrets the loss of Longstreet and Pegram severely wounded, and of Jenkins killed.

On the 7th there was no serious fighting. The Federals remained on the defensive. Lee, after awaiting attack for some hours, and shelling the enemy, retired behind a cloud of skirmishers along the Spottsylvania Court House Road. Grant followed cautiously, and on the 8th the two armies came again into collision. The 5th corps of the Federal army was attacked by a portion of Longstreet's and Ewell's divisions, who seem to have taken the Federals by surprise, the latter suffering 'heavily in killed and wounded.' General Sedgwick, one of the ablest commanders on the Federal side, fell in this encounter. On the 9th there was no fighting, both sides busied in bringing up supplies. On the 10th the two armies were confronting each other at Spottsylvania Court House, the Federal line six miles in extent, Lee still occupying a formidable intrenched position. The battle is said to have commenced at daybreak with an artillery fight. Assault after assault was made on the Confederate lines, but each time the Federal columns surged back, bloodily repulsed. Towards evening, Burnside's reserves were brought into play, and an assault in heavy force was ordered upon the Confederate right wing. But the attack did not take place. Unperceived, Lee had made one of his famous flank marches, had got in Grant's rear, and captured his supply trains on the Fredericksburg road. Grant immediately changed front, to protect his artillery and supplies; and, although a momentary success was obtained at a weak point of the Confederate line, the battle of the 10th was substantially a Confederate victory. Lee had out-fought and out-manœuvred his opponent. On the night of the 10th the Federal losses were estimated at 40,000 killed, wounded, and prisoners, and General Warren, another distinguished Federal commander, was amongst the first. On the 11th nothing was done. The two armies continued to occupy the positions they held on the morning of the 10th. But on the 12th at dawn, the fight was renewed, and according to Federal accounts Hancock's division achieved a brilliant success, capturing 3,000 prisoners, 25 pieces of cannon, and 3 general officers. The account is an obvious exaggeration, and will be doubtless reduced to its proper proportions in a day or two. The battle lasted throughout the day; the carnage is described as exceeding that of the 6th and 10th, but the Confederates everywhere held their own, and all Grant's attacks were repulsed with terrible slaughter. On the night of the 12th, Lee held the position he had taken up on the 8th. But on a reconnaissance being made on the 13th, the Confederate leader was found to have withdrawn his army across the Po, in all probability to take up another strong position behind the North or South Anna River. Grant was awaiting reinforcements and supplies previously to recommencing the pursuit.

At this point the history of this fearful struggle breaks off. Grant's advance up to the night of the 10th, had cost him 40,000 killed and wounded, and he had advanced 20 miles. To that horrible list of casualties is now to be added the death-roll of the 12th, which has won him another 10 miles. He will have to fight again in all probability on the North and South Anna rivers, and halt a dozen other intrenched positions, before Lee retires behind the defences of Richmond. What will be his hope of reducing the Southern capital this year? Lee's programme is sufficiently plain. It is to compel his enemy to become the assailant under the most disadvantageous conditions, to fight him where his superiority of numbers will help him the least; to drag him, through an unfamiliar country, away from his supplies and his base of operations, to husband his own strength for the day of final struggle, and then, if strong enough, to close upon the enemy, exhausted and bleeding from his frequent wounds. From the first it will be seen that Lee has adopted very different tactics from those which he has ordinarily pursued. His is an obstinate defence. It is like the retreat of Wellington before Massena, and will end with another Torres Vedras. Grant's hardest fighting has to come; and it has yet to be decided whether the Federal army or the city of Richmond is in the more imminent danger.

Of the cooperating forces we know very little. Butler is magniloquent about his coloured cavalry, and was, at the latest date, advancing upon Drury's Bluff, where, if it be true that Beauregard is in his neighbourhood, things are likely to go very hard with him. Sigel is busy destroying railroads, and is reported to have been beaten by Breckenridge. The flotilla on the James River has already suffered severely from the torpedoes, and seems in no hurry to test the metal of Fort Darling; but north and east of Richmond the war is at its height, and a week cannot elapse before we are relieved from the terrible suspense which now hangs like a thundercloud over the capital of the Confederacy.

Outside Virginia, fortune smiles on the South. Louisiana and Arkansas bid fair for entire restoration to the Confederacy. Sherman makes no progress in North Georgia, and is himself threatened by Forrest's cavalry, which will probably compel him quickly to retrace his steps for East Tennessee. If, as we believe, General Lee has been husbanding his resources for a final struggle before the walls of Richmond, saving the lives of his men, and hoarding his supplies, so as to be enabled at a given moment to resume the offensive, the next few weeks may witness such a series of blows to the Northern armies as will well-nigh shatter the Union to pieces.

Is the Carnage in Vain?

It is not disputed that the late battles in Virginia were as bloody as any of the war. On this point the Federal accounts are emphatic and reliable. We do not as yet know the exact losses on either side, but it is past doubt that they are very heavy. It is, however, without profit to dwell upon the horrible slaughter. Neither sorrow nor remorse can restore the dead to life, or give health to the wounded, or make the crippled whole. But it may be profitable, as it surely is seemly, to consider whether the carnage that we deplore is in vain. May we hope that at length the demon of war is gorged, and that the sword will be sheathed? Whilst as yet the issue of the conflict is concealed from us—though, judging from what has transpired, we have little doubt about it—we propose to glance at the results to be expected from a Southern victory or from a Northern victory; and we think we shall convince the unbiassed judgment that a Confederate triumph alone gives a prospect of peace, and that a Federal success can have no other effect than prolonging the war.

When a nation engages in an aggressive war, it does so under the conviction that its strength and resources are so superior to those of the adversary as to ensure a speedy triumph. This was the case with the North. Whether Mr. Lincoln believed that he could restore the Union with the aid of 75,000 troops—whether he ever believed that the

South would be subdued in sixty or ninety days—is very doubtful; but it is quite certain that, had he not promised that the war should be soon over, he would not have persuaded the people to have entered into the contest. If the Federals had deemed it even possible that the conflict would last for four years—that it would impose upon them a crushing national debt—that Mr. Lincoln would call for more than 2,000,000 of men to fight his battles—nothing would have induced them to commence hostilities. Nor, having commenced, could Mr. Lincoln have gone on so long with the strife as he has done, if he had not declared each campaign to be the last, and announced time after time the immediate subjugation of the South. The most striking illustration of this is the proceedings of the Federal Government during the past winter. No one knew better than Mr. Lincoln that his amnesty was a grim joke—that it was proffered to an enemy not thinking of submission, but flushed with past victories, and making ready for the next campaign. No one knew better than the Federal authorities that the reports of Southern despondency, and of famine and disunion in the South, were sheer falsehoods. When it was reported from Washington that certain States had returned to the Union, the authorities were well aware that the story was utterly untrue, and that the Federal generals were urgently demanding reinforcements to enable them to hold the positions they occupied in the enemy's country. And what was the object of all these misrepresentations? In the South we find a diametrically opposite policy pursued. There the difficulties and dangers of the war, so far from being softened, were positively exaggerated. The Confederate Government called upon the people to fly to arms and to expect a long and trying war. And is not this the right spirit? Does not our common sense tell us that if a people is to come forward and offer up its blood and treasure, the only feasible reason that can be set forth is the dire necessity for the sacrifice? But Mr. Lincoln could not follow the example of the Confederate Government. The people of the United States, the loyal contractors excepted, were sick of the war. They began to perceive the hopelessness of the struggle. Their faith in Mr. Seward's prophecies and in Mr. Lincoln's promises was rudely shaken. The prodigal splendour of New York no longer blinded them to the impending financial collapse. They would not be taxed. They would not fill up the ranks of the depleted army. Recruits could not be obtained by extravagant bounties. The Government feared to enforce the draft. The situation of the war party was desperate; and it was only saved by marvellously energetic lying. Still, despite the amnesty proclamation, despite the hourly asseverations that the rebellion was just over, the Northern public was not nearly so confident as formerly. Do what he would, Mr. Lincoln could not cajole, and was afraid any longer to gag, the peace party. Mr. Vallandigham had been banished in the autumn for expressing a hope that peace might restore the Union, but in the winter the bolder utterances of Mr. Vorhees, and a few weeks later the suggestion in Congress of peace and recognition, were feebly denounced by the Government, and only serve to show how the peace party had increased in numbers and courage. In the West, the country from whence Mr. Lincoln obtains his best soldiers, there were riots premonitory of civil war. Slowly, very slowly, under such circumstances came in recruits. In spite of the strenuous exertions of Mr. Chase, gold would go up and greenbacks would go down. Then came the disaster in Florida, the disasters on the Mississippi, Banks's tremendous disaster in Louisiana, and the disasters in North Carolina. There was an outcry then against Mr. Lincoln and his party, before which braver men than they might have quailed. They had only one word to say for themselves, and that word was—Grant. General Grant was to make all right. He was to redeem the fortunes of the Federal armies. He was to demonstrate to the world that when the Lincoln Government, by solemn acts and solemn words, declared that the South was broken up and about to yield, they were not infamously beguiling the people. By this means they obtained a respite.

There was no disguise about Grant's 'On to Richmond' being the supreme effort of the North. The partisans of the war would not hear of the possibility of failure, because they felt they were playing their last card. The friends of peace were obliged to acquiesce in the venture, though they knew that even if it succeeded it could not restore the Union. But if it has failed—if once more the grand army of the Potomac has been defeated and forced to return to Washington—then, indeed, there is a hope that the days of strife are numbered. There will be a cry for peace which we do not think the Administration can stifle. The people will be assured that the subjugation of the South is impossible, and they will not be driven any more into Mr. Lincoln's slaughter-pens. They will see then the pressing need of an immediate peace. And if this happens, at no distant period the whole North will confess that the defeat of Grant was the salvation of the Republic.

And now let us take the other supposition. Let us assume, for the sake of argument, that the great Captain of the South is defeated by overwhelming numbers, and the bulldog pertinacity of the Northern commander. Let us further assume that Grant not only defeats Lee, but takes Richmond, though the one does not in the least involve the other, for under M'Clellan an army of greater numbers, and certainly of equal discipline, was driven from a strongly fortified position so near to Richmond that the outposts could hear the chimes of the city bells. What follows? Would the Confederates lay down their arms? No, for they are not engaged in a war of aggression. Like the Netherlanders, like the revolted colonists of Great Britain, they are fighting for their homes, for liberty and independence. They know what submission means; they know how diabolically cruel are the tender mercies of New England; they know that the vile miscreant who insulted the women of New Orleans is the favourite officer of their enemy; they know what M'Neil, Turchin, and many such have done; they know what Dahlgren tried to do. Their burnt towns, their desolated villages, the inhuman treatment of those who have fallen into Federal hands, forewarn them of the indescribable horrors of submission. The pulpit and the press of the North have clamoured for their spoliation and extermination. In the halls of the Federal Congress resolutions to deprive them of their property and to reduce them to political serfdom have been received with acclamation. Therefore, if their case were ever so desperate, they would fight on to the bitter end. No Northern victory can subjugate the South. Before that can be accomplished the whole male population must be killed or captured.

The capture of Richmond would indeed be a triumph to the Northern arms, and a painful catastrophe to the South, but it would not help the North materially in its work of conquest. New Orleans has long been under the Federal yoke, yet Louisiana is not conquered, and though Richmond fell, the war in Virginia would not be over. In a military point of view, Nashville, the arsenal of the South, was a greater loss than Richmond would be, but the South was not crippled by the taking of that town. The fall of Vicksburg was regarded as a great misfortune, but the South was not discouraged, and took measures to deprive the North of all the fruits of that victory, and until this day prevents the Mississippi river from being an outlet for the commerce of the West. After every misfortune the Confederates have come forth in greater strength. At the outset of every campaign they have manifested an increased power of resistance, and at the commencement of the fourth year of the war have proved themselves stronger than ever by recovering much of the territory that the North had taken at a tremendous cost of life and treasure. The truth is, so far as resources are concerned, the Confederates cannot be exhausted. The blockade that was to be the means of their subjugation has made them supremely independent. Luxuries they have abandoned without a sigh, and they grow and raise food to supply the army and people abundantly. Shut out from the markets of Europe, they manufacture their own clothes. They make their own guns and gunpowder, and the siege of Charleston is evidence that Confederate artillery is a match for any artillery that can be purchased for Federal gold through the agency of Messrs. Baring & Co. But the most noted instance of their ingenuity and resources is the construction of an ironclad fleet. We say nothing of the brilliant success of their ironclads, but refer only to their skill in obtaining and fashioning the materials. When the war broke out there was not a foundry or a rolling mill in the country; but now full supplies of the precious ore are taken from the earth, and there is an abundance of machinery and skilled labour to prepare it for plating ships and repairing railroads. The only doubt about the resources of the South was in reference to men, and we submit that there is not the slightest reason for anxiety on that score. The Southern army is now larger than ever. The population of the North is greater, but its losses are also greater; and, not having negroes to till the fields, a great part of the men capable of bearing arms cannot be enlisted in the army. Every year adds 60,000 men to the fighting population of the South, and we need hardly observe that the deaths are not nearly so numerous. And let it not be forgotten that, as an ultimate resource, the negroes can be turned into soldiers, and would, at the bidding of their masters, fight with enthusiasm against the Federals; but there is not the most distant prospect of the military service of the negroes being required. Well, then, we say that there is no chance of the Confederates being subjugated. And, as it is certain they will not submit, it is clear that a Federal victory will not bring about peace. Such an event may prolong the war by giving a temporary *éclat* to the war party, but it cannot give peace. Only the success of the South will give a hope of the termination of the bloody strife.

We offer these suggestions at a moment when we think the South has achieved a great and momentous victory. Still, we know the proverbial uncertainty of the fortune of war, and far be it from us to imitate the jester of the White House, and triumph before we know the final result of the battle. We have merely endeavoured to point out the consequences of victory or defeat. We trust the South has been victorious, and that she will reap the fruits of victory. After Bull Run it was admitted that an attack on Washington would have ended the war. The North has admitted that after many triumphs of the South peace was near. But it has never been alleged that a Northern victory has made peace more apparent. It has been admitted, officially, that Gettysburg was, in one sense, a decisive battle; and that if the Confederates had gained a complete victory there would have been peace; or, to use Mr. Lincoln's expression the 'Union was saved,' by Gettysburg being a drawn battle. God grant that we have had to record the last great battle! We desire it for the sake of the gallant Confederates who have endured such an ordeal as no nation has passed through before. We desire it, too, for the sake of the North. We are not 'war Christians.' We cannot read of the slaughter of thousands of Germans and Irishmen without regret; for the Northern mercenaries are men, not vermin. So, whilst we know that the Confederates can bear defeat with heroism, and that it will not affect the final result, we earnestly desire they may be victorious, not only because their cause is just and their gallantry deserves to triumph, but because their triumph is likely to lead to peace. There are thousands at the North, not corrupted with greenbacks or blinded with fanaticism, who for their country's sake heartily sympathise with our hopes, well knowing that if Grant is victorious it will not bring peace, but, by continuing the war, consummate the ruin of the United States.

Sham Diplomatic Correspondence.

The first of April, the world over, is 'All Fools' day.' Some *mauvais farceur* in Mobile, Alabama, probably incited by the success of the Mallory forgery, conceived the idea of ridiculing the position of the English Government on the question of the steam-rams, and at the same time to satirise what he conceived the undue moderation of President Davis in his intercourse with foreign nations. Inspired by this brilliant idea, he indited a correspondence, the first piece in which was dated 'All Fools' day,' and the whole of which is in intent and execution an excellent companion piece to 'Mr. Mocquard's letter' and 'Lord Clarence Paget's Instructions to the Commander of the Channel Fleet' which have given a sudden celebrity to our witty and erratic contemporary, the *Owl*. The proprietors of the journal in which this diplomatic revelation was brought to light, with a considerate regard for the credulity of human nature, took care to announce the production as coming, not from any official quarter, but from 'a vigilant and energetic *collaborator*.' The 'collaborator' certainly did not dream of the European success he was about to achieve. He doubtless chuckled when he found that the Confederate Government deemed his joke of sufficient importance, after it had received publicity through a Richmond paper, to contradict it authoritatively, as was done in the *Richmond Sentinel* of April 23. Little did he think that this would be the smallest of his laurels. Through the medium of the New York press the 'correspondence' found its way to London. Yesterday morning the *Morning Post* reproduced it without comment; yesterday evening the *Globe* accompanied it with denunciations which, however severe, would not have been undeserved had Mr. Davis been the author of the pretended 'reply.' We have no desire to laugh at our two respected contemporaries, but we can only account for the extraordinary blunder into which they have been betrayed, on the supposition that the imitation of Lord Russell's style is so clever as to deceive two leading newspapers high in the confidence of Her Majesty's Ministers. That they should not be equally well acquainted with Mr. Davis's style—which, by the way, there was no attempt to parody—is perhaps pardonable.

We have only to add that we sincerely regret the occurrence. There can be no two opinions about the bad taste of selecting such a subject for a joke, but in this respect the author may plead a multitude of recent precedents. Of any malicious intention we readily acquit him, as he has shown his impartiality by handling Mr. Davis fully as roughly as the British Government. But it is to be feared that the Federal partisans will cite this harmless *jeu d'esprit* as an offset to the deliberate official

forgeries which the Washington Government has imposed on British credulity; and it is for this reason that we concur in the serious tone in which the *Richmond Sentinel* condemns practical jokes of this character. We quote from that journal of the 23rd ult.:—

FABRICATED LETTERS.

A pretended correspondence is being published in some of our newspapers, professing to be an exchange of notes between Lord Russell and President Davis, the latter through Colonel Burton N. Harrison, his Private Secretary. The least consideration would, we supposed, satisfy any one of the spurious character of this alleged correspondence; and for ourselves, we did not judge it worthy of an allusion. But others have received it differently, and have given it additional publicity, as if to veritable papers. Among those journals that have republished it, is our neighbour, the *Whig*; accompanied with more than a column of editorial comment, in which, though 'seriously questioning' the truth of the correspondence, it decides to treat it 'as genuine.' Our cotemporary's office is scarce a hundred yards from that of the President's Private Secretary, making the fact of the case readily ascertainable if it had been esteemed of any consequence to be assured of it.

As these repeated publications have given more or less of credibility to the alleged letters, however improbable upon their face, it is proper to pronounce them, as we now do, after inquiry and by authority, as sheer fabrications. There has been no such correspondence. The whole story is a hoax and forgery, utterly without foundation.

We are sorry that any of our papers should have been found to give currency or countenance to these spurious letters. We can scarcely any longer criticise Lord Russell for being so easily deceived with the pretended report from Mr. Mallory; nor can we, without to some extent condemning ourselves, denounce Mr. Seward as he deserves for his connection with that abominable forgery. We had hoped all such exploits would have been left to the enemy.

Implicit Recognition.

It has been the practice of certain writers to argue that secession cannot possibly have been lawful, because the Constitution of the United States makes no provision for it; and those who argue thus imagine that they strengthen their case by dwelling on the absurdity that would be involved if a convention purporting to be the basis of a perpetual union should contain provisions for the dissolution of that union. Of course this would have been an absurdity. Any provisions of that kind would have been not merely a permission but a direct invitation to secession. They would have done away with that very sentiment of nationality which the framers of the Constitution were most anxious to cultivate; and would have rendered the idea of disunion so familiar to all minds that it would have been the ready resort whenever a State was discontented with the policy, or offended by the legislation, of the Federal Government. But to prove secession unlawful, it would be necessary to prove a great deal more than this. The presumption, it must be remembered, is in every case in favour of the States. The Union has no common law; the Federal Government has no powers or rights that are not nominated in the bond; and those who argue that a Government must as a matter of course have the right and power to preserve its own existence by force are misled by the analogy of European States falsely applied to the case of a Power which has no exact parallel in Europe. If secession be not forbidden by the terms of the Constitution, it is included as a matter of course among those rights and privileges which are reserved to the States. If it be forbidden, then the Constitution must contain some directions, express or implied, for its prevention; for it is a maxim of all law that there is no wrong where there is no remedy; and that it is not a law whose infringement brings with it no legal penalty or power of redress. Now it is beyond all question that the Constitution of the United States affords no means of coercing a refractory State. There are powers to assist in putting down rebellion against State authorities; but none can be found to put down the resistance of those authorities to the will of the Union. Even if this were the result of mere oversight, it would still be conclusive upon the right of secession. The Federal Government has no powers but those which are in express terms conferred upon it by the Constitution: and the power of putting down the secession of a State, and retaining it by force in the Union, not being so conferred, the Federal Government cannot possess it, and, in attempting to exercise it, must be guilty of a violation of law exposing the actors therein to condign punishment when their conduct shall become the subject of investigation in a Court of Law. But it was not by any oversight that the framers of the Constitution omitted to give to the Federal Government the right to coerce a refractory State. The question was carefully considered in the Convention, and deliberately resolved in the negative. It was thought that any such power would be inconsistent with the nature of the Union, and fatal to its duration; it was understood that the employment of violence against a State would inevitably assume the form, not of political coercion, but of civil war; and it was resolved that such violence should not be employed. That is to say, the Convention deliberately discussed and decided the very point at issue; for, in declaring that force should not be used to prevent secession, it declared that secession, however undesirable, should not be unlawful. And if the Convention had decided otherwise, there can be little doubt but that the Constitution would have been rejected by the States, none of which was disposed to give away its sovereignty so completely and irretrievably as it would have done had it admitted a right of coercion in its Confederates. Those therefore, who argue that secession was unlawful, and that Mr. Lincoln was justified in resisting it by force, virtually affirm either that they have never read the account of the framing of the Constitution, or that they are prepared to assert the possession by the Federal Government of an authority which its framers expressly withheld.

Perhaps a still more convincing argument in favour of the legality of secession is to be found in the helpless floundering of the Federal legislature and executive in their attempt to treat it as illegal The dilemma in which they find themselves may be very succinctly stated. Either the seceding States had the power they assumed, or they had it not. If they had it, then they are at present *de jure* and *de facto* an independent and separate Confederacy; and though the war upon them may be legal, the pretension to treat them as rebels is clearly absurd, and the refusal to recognise their Government indefensible. If they had it not, then they are still within the Union; secession is a nullity; and as the Constitution provides no means by which a State may forfeit or be deprived of any of its rights, they are now legally in full possession of their privileges; they may send members to Congress whenever they please: and, what is still more vexatious and inconvenient, many most important acts of Federal legislation and administration cannot be lawfully performed without their concurrence. Either the seceders are lawfully a distinct Power—the Confederate States of North America; or they are an integral part of the Union. And so completely is this question interwoven with all the future plans and politics of the North, that we find it tripping up President and politicians, ministers and members of Congress at every step, and plunging them either into the mire of illegality on the one side, or into the thorny hedge of recognition on the other. If the North would but remember the advice of the old proverb, and forbear to sell the bear's skin before he is killed, they might escape all trouble concerning the method in which the Union is finally to be 'reconstructed.' But as it is one of their favourite amusements to speculate on this subject, they are continually entangling themselves in the meshes of the law; and while some of them are committed to the grossest acts of lawlessness on the supposition that the Southern States are still a part, though a recusant and absentee part, of the Union; others, and these for the most part Republicans, are betrayed by the vehemence of their anti-Southern zeal into propositions which clearly involve a recognition of the independence and separate status of the Confederacy.

One of these too zealous gentlemen is Mr. Stevens, who, on April 29 last, moved some notable resolutions in the House of Representatives. We need not comment on the merely ferocious part of his resolutions concerning the confiscation of all rebel property and the severities to be inflicted upon the conquered. The South has long been aware that, if conquered, she has no mercy to expect—that she must make up her mind to undergo the fate of Poland, and to see her best and noblest murdered or driven into exile, while those who remain at home, enslaved and despoiled, will drag out a miserable existence under the rule of military tyrants. The points in these resolutions to which we wish to call the attention of our readers are of a different character. Mr. Stevens declared that the seceded States are waging an unjust war, inasmuch as it is wicked and iniquitous for any people to defend their homes and property, the honour of their fatherland and of their women, against the troops of the great and glorious Union; that they ought to suffer as a penalty for their iniquity the extreme rigours of war—and what this phrase means in America, the burning of defenceless towns, the slaughter of prisoners in cold blood, and the amenities of General Butler's rule, sufficiently inform us; and that when they are conquered they shall be governed as territories by rulers appointed from Washington, and shall have no further participation as States in the privileges they have despised and forsworn. *When they are conquered*, Mr. Stevens, or any one else appointed by Mr. Lincoln to the duty of hanging and robbing, illusing women, exterminating white men by the sword, and negroes by disease and hunger, may do his pleasure upon them; in the mean time it is worth while to notice that, in the opinion of this zealous Republican, this violent champion of Federal authority, secession is no longer the legal nullity it was at first pronounced. It has placed the Southern States, not as people or as individuals, but in their quality of States, in relations of war with the Union, which is entitled to deal with them 'according to the extreme rigours and rights of war' as an enemy's country. But if the States as States are at war with the Union, they cannot be members of it; if they are not members of it, their legal status is clearly one of independence, and they are, on Mr. Stevens's showing, what they profess themselves, no longer the Southern States of the Union, but *de jure* and *de facto* the Confederate States of America.

Mr. Stevens is still more explicit in another portion of these resolutions. He pronounces that none of the States which have seceded *with the consent of a majority of their citizens* can be tolerated and considered as within the Union; and, to make the meaning of this exclusion more plain, he not only denies to them the right of representation in Congress and of participation in political government, but he also declares that they shall not count as among the States of the Union, for the purpose of determining the number necessary to an actual or proportionate majority; and that three-fourths of the non-seceding States—thereby considered as forming the whole Union—shall have power to make amendments to the Constitution. It is worth while to observe that we have here at last a distinct confession of that which Mr. Seward so long and so impudently denied, viz., that secession was the act of a majority of the citizens of the seceding States. The intention is evidently to except only Kentucky and Missouri, in which, from the presence of superior Federal forces, it was impossible to gather the opinions of the people at large; and it must be held as admitted that the secession of the remaining eleven States was the act of a majority of the people. The oft-repeated falsehood about a Union majority held down by Secessionist terrorism, long since discredited, is thus finally disavowed. But the main purport of these resolutions is obviously to declare the seceded States outside the pale of the Union; and it is to this that we invite attention. There could not be a more complete recognition, by implication, of the Confederate States. If the seceded States are outside the Union, they are legally independent of it. If they are legally independent of it, they were fully entitled to set up a Government of their own, and that Government ought to be recognised as an independent Power. If Mr. Stevens's resolutions should pass, America herself will be unanimous in repudiating the pretensions to which Lord Russell yielded when he refused to receive the Envoys of the Confederate States; namely, that the States so styled still form part of the Union. They themselves denied it long ago; Mr. Stevens now denies it on the part of the North. If that denial be endorsed by Congress, what further excuse can the British Government prefer for refusing to recognise a Power which has proved its independence at the point of the sword, and which its would-be conqueror, no matter how sulkily and reluctantly, is forced to pronounce independent, even while he vaunts his purpose of conquest?

The Irish Exodus.

M. Michelet, in his 'History of France,' speaks of the first-born sister of the Celtic race as 'all-fruitful Ireland, where men sprout up like grass to the dismay of England, on whose ears the cry jars every day, they are a million more.' It is lamentable to think that from those who have bewailed the wrongs of Ireland the last drop of consolation has been rudely snatched. The race has not lost its sap; it still increases and multiplies in disobedience of the laws of Malthus; but it no longer frightens England by its fecundity. Like a vast volume of water which has threatened to burst every barrier and spread destruction, it has found a channel down which it may discharge itself with tranquillity, until it has ceased to trouble the anxious neighbours.

The emigration of the Irish race to the American continent is one of the most striking features in that vast political and social revolution which now shakes the Western world to its foundation. It will form for ever a theme on which the political economist may wrangle, on which the historian and poet may dwell with not unreasonable sorrow. The tide has set in now for more than two years, and gives no sign that it is on the turn. While thousands find places on board the heavily laden steamers, more are week by week left to chafe in impatience at the delay, and to long for the hour of their departure. The masters of the soil vie with the occupiers, and pay the cost of deportation of their own tenants; all are

seized with an insatiable desire to plant the Irish people, whole and entire, on the American shore.

It may be possible to deduce from the examples of the past and the exigencies of the present the result to Ireland of this emigration. The bone and sinew of the country must go. The tenant, squatter, peasant, or by whatever name the occupier of from fifty to five acres of land be designated, will disappear, and his place will be taken by bullocks, by sheep, and by horses. It will not be as it was with *happy* Campania, where in the fifth century half a million of acres of land lay fallow, but rather as it is with the Highlands of Scotland, where estates extend ninety-six square miles, and the solitary shepherd with his numerous flocks roams over lands where once whole regiments were raised. *Latifundia perdidere Italiam.* Just as AUGUSTUS was unable to replace the legions of VARUS, so will it be impossible to recruit the British army from the great nursery of soldiers. Yet this is matter of necessity even for England. Breadstuffs here are a mere drug in the market; the great western farms of North America, the shores of the Baltic and Black Seas pour into London and Liverpool shiploads of wheat, barley, and Indian corn; but we look in vain for bullocks and for sheep. Beef is at 10*d.* the pound, and mutton scarcely cheaper, while wool is enormously dear. We ask supplies from Europe; the answer is, that the requirements of ordinary consumption, and the extraordinary ravages of disease, forbid any exportation. Yet the demand must be supplied, and Ireland, beyond all doubt, with its grass that never lacks rain, will satisfy the most extravagant wants. Her climate has again and again ruined the corn-grower; it has never disappointed the grazier.

But consequences are not causes, and Ireland is not deserted because its pastures are required for the London market. For what reason, then, do the Irish go? Are they so sick and wearied with vainly hoping for better times, for harvests free from blight and mildew, for rent-days on which they will boldly meet the agent with money in their hand and no entreaty in their mouth, that they are ready to falsify their reputation of love for their country, of unconquerable adhesion to the land of their fathers—in one word, to give the lie to the saying,

> It is better to bear the ills we have
> Than fly to others that we know not of?

Is it that the old ways and old places are so full of sorrow, want, misery, and oppression, that any wild scheme of emancipation is clutched at? It is idle to talk of the efforts of Federal agents, to attribute a mighty river to the outpouring of a puny stream; for all the gold and the greenbacks of Washington would not tear the Irishman from his home if he were not driven rather than enticed. He has been told of kidnapping; he knows of the privation endured by his countrymen in New York; but he is willing to bear and endure, for he has heard of the farms of the West and longs for them—

> Beata
> Petamus arva, divites et insulas,
> Reddit ubi Cererem tellus inarata quotannis.

There are no facts in history, the grandeur of which so strikes the imagination, or the effects of which are so visible on the destinies of the human race, as the movements of large masses of population. Yet there are none the causes of which are involved in so complete obscurity. The writers of history have wearied themselves to discover why Kymry and Teutons, Goths and Vandals, Huns and Tartars precipitated themselves on the fair plains of Western Europe. Lost in a maze of helpless conjectures, they venture to attribute one invasion to an inundation of the Baltic—to explain that the Goths crossed the Danube because the Hunnish cavalry pressed upon their rear—to assert that ATTILA came to Gaul because GENSERIC invited him.

It is in truth not to be doubted that whole tribes and nations are affected with sudden and universal emotions, just as masses of men are influenced at the critical moment of battle or in the quiet hours of night. Some mighty impulse of courage urges them with reckless daring against the enemy, or some strange and irresistible panic turns them from soldiers into a shameless and disorganised mob.

'There are things in the world,' Mr. KINGLAKE says, 'which, eluding the resources of the dry narrator, can still be faintly imaged by that subtle power which sometimes enables mankind to picture dim truths by fancy.' Under the figures of the Angel of Light and the Angel of Darkness, the historian has portrayed the valour and light which lighten the path to victory, and the fear, horror, and despair, the error and vain fancies, which seize the minds of the doomed soldiery; and he has told how over the souls of the men in the great Russian columns who fought at the Alma were spread first the gloom, then the swarm of vain delusions, and, at last, the sheer horror, which might be the work of the Angel of Darkness. The cloud of emotions fell upon all hearts at the same moment, and all were troubled as one man. Just in the same way a race of men breaks up from its encampment of three thousand years, and hurries across the wide ocean to a new resting-place, heedless alike of peril and of warning, obedient to an unknown, impalpable, but imperious force.

The effect of this migration upon America is a thing not easily foreseen. Up to the present time the Irish have performed on that continent the thankless offices of 'hewers of wood and drawers of water.' If any work involving more than ordinary peril or degradation was to be accomplished, the Irishman did it. He has built the railways and the bridges of both Northern and Southern States; he has so bowed his back to the burden as even to earn the contempt of the negro; and, finally, he has poured out his blood with unrequited prodigality in a struggle, success in which would have been, to him at least, unproductive of the smallest advantage. In his own island discord has been his ruin, and he has not yet, in the home of his choice, shown a capacity for united effort.

How far the Irish will neutralise by devotion to their faith the bigotry of the German Protestant, we cannot stay to discuss. But one side of the religious question is of striking import. It is affirmed that the Irish in Ireland, as well as in America, have made enormous progress in the distinction between the spiritual and temporal power. On the Transatlantic continent, Bishop DUGGAN, with violent menaces of the severest censures of the Church, forbade his flock to attend the Fenian fair at Chicago. The people for eight days and nights thronged the scene of festivity by thousands and tens of thousands. The Catholic Archbishop of Cashel has taken from his clergy 'the faculties,' so far as the absolution of Fenians is concerned. A Fenian organ declares that 'the people will not again be put down by ecclesiastical interference, nor cower before the authority which paralysed them in 1848. Men think for themselves now-a-days, and with reflection this truth comes—that the priesthood have no right to impose obedience on their flocks except so far as spiritual matters are concerned.'

There is reason, then, for supposing that the people of Ireland are undergoing a great change, a marked revolution, not merely in place of habitation, in material circumstances, in social and political condition, but even in religious sentiment. Strange indeed will that movement be if it shake off Ultramontanism from the necks of the most willing worshippers. But if the symptoms have been rightly judged, will it not result that to the Irish there will not be the expected heritage of liberty, but rather a wild and unrestrained love of license, neither limited by reverence for constituted order nor moderated by self-imposed control? The Irish have long laughed to scorn the rules of civil authority. They will complete the destruction of law when they have learned to defy the injunctions of religious restraint.

FEDERAL FINANCIAL LEGISLATION.—The *New York Times* says of the recent acts of Congress:—'If anything could lead us to fear a financial crash, it would be such bits of legislation as the resolutions adding fifty per cent. to the import duties for sixty days, without even two days' notice to the public. There is hardly a single rule of taxation which this does not violate. There is a suddenness and capriciousness about it, which entitles it rather to be classed amongst the means of raising revenue resorted to by Turkish Pachas than those of an enlightened constitutional Government. It deranges the whole course of foreign trade, without the slightest warning; destroys the calculations of all those who have already sent their orders abroad, as well as of those who have cargoes on the way home; fills the minds of home dealers with confusion and uncertainty as to the stock they have on hand; leaves them totally unable to decide what they had better ask for it, or when or on what terms they can renew it; and what is worse than all this, it fills the whole community with apprehension and doubt about the future. Moreover, the Government not only reaps no advantage from it, but loses heavily. Fifty per cent added to the existing tariff is a prohibitory tax, and will stop importation, thus causing the loss of some millions of duties. And it will certainly, along with such acts as the payment of the New York State interest in greenbacks, help to damage the national credit in the eyes of foreign capitalists; for who can trust a nation whose finances are in the hands of men who double taxation without notice for a term of sixty days? In what civilised country was such a thing ever heard of?'

THE FEDERAL STATES AND MEXICO.—The *New York Daily News*, April 30, urging the establishment of the Mexican Empire as a motive to peace, says: 'We must have peace with the South or war with France. The dilemma cannot be avoided by an ignoble acquiescence in the imperial plan; for though the Administration may acquiesce, the people will not, and Napoleon knows that they will not. The alliance that he contemplates is one that will be initiated by brotherhood in arms, and strengthened by community of interests. The tacit and unwilling compliance of the North will not serve his purpose; he will turn from it to the eager and dependent friendship of the South. That league between the two newborn nations, he proposes, shall be sealed with blood; it then attains a kind of sanctity that will make it lasting. A people will endure great provocation and make great sacrifice before they will turn upon the Power that has confirmed their independence. It is such a people that Napoleon would have along the frontier of Mexico. He wants the barrier of broad acres and grateful hearts between the Mexican confines and the limits of the Federal Government.'

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH AND THE QUESTION OF SLAVERY.

This remains the question of slavery. Mr. Smith owns that the Federals deserved no sympathy so long as they aborted this particular institution. But is it not true that Mr. Lincoln's proclamation was expressly a war measure intended to damage the Confederates, to incite their slaves to rise upon the women and children under whose charge they were left? Negro regiments have been formed, and some of them have fought well. That proves only that in the dearth of soldiers the Federals have allowed negroes to fight their battles as they have allowed Irishmen and Germans to fight them. On the other hand, has not Mr. Lincoln told the deputation of coloured men that the same continent cannot contain them and the whites? Have not negroes, the property of loyal subjects, been treated as slaves? have not thousands of those who have escaped into the Federal lines been suffered to die of starvation? It could be made clear to us that the success of the North would effect the freedom of the slave, confer upon him full rights of citizenship, and put an end to the system of slavery, for that great good we might be tempted to regard the subjugation of the South as the lesser of two evils. But before we can indulge such a hope we must have some assurance that the negro in the free North is already a free man; not a member of a despised race. We confess that for the sake of the slave himself we desire the triumph of the Confederacy. His condition under his owner, even as a slave, is preferable to what it is under President Lincoln. But the war has no such aim as his liberation. It exists neither in the policy of the North nor in the possibility of things. If our own nation, to take the brightest sample of a free community, has had to pass through centuries of training before it became capable of using the measure of liberty it enjoys, no one but an enthusiast would dream of suddenly enfranchising four millions of people but one degree removed from the condition of savage life. Mr. Lincoln has made the experiment on a small scale, and we are aware with what result. The negroes whom his proclamation made free have exchanged slavery for famine and death. Not less than Mr. Goldwin Smith do we pray that the time will come when America will rid herself of the stain of slavery; but the process must be cautious and gradual, and must have as its fundamental condition the independence of the Confederate States. —*London Review.*

GENERAL MEADE'S ORDER IN REFERENCE TO MUTINY.—Head-quarters of the Army of the Potomac, May 2.—General Order No. 23.—The Commanding General has learned that, notwithstanding the caution contained in General Order No. 22, of April 25, 1864, from these head-quarters, there are men in the army who refuse to do duty on the ground that their term of service has expired. It will be made known to such men that, their conduct being open mutiny, they will be punished with death without trial, unless they return to duty; and hereafter any soldier who refuses to do duty on a similar plea will instantly be shot, without any form of trial whatever. The honour of the service and the necessities of the hour admit of no other disposition of such cases. The Commanding General again expresses the hope that the soldiers of this army will respectfully ask for and cheerfully abide by the decision of the War Department with respect to their term of service; but he has no further word or warning for those who, at a time like the present, choose to defy authority. Corps and other independent commanders are charged with the execution of this order.—By command of Major-General Meade.—S. WILLIAMS, Assistant Adjutant-General.

A SUPPRESSED SPEECH.—The military authority has interposed to prevent the constituents of Mr. Harris from reading the speech of their representative in Congress, for delivering which he was censured by that august body. The newspaper published in his district gives the following explanation:—'Our readers, being the immediate constituents of Mr. Harris, will doubtless expect to read his speech in this issue of our paper; but the annexed communication, we presume, will satisfactorily account for our failure to publish it:—"Head-quarters, Cavalry Detachment, District of St. Mary's, Leonardtown, Md., April 12, 1864.—Sir,—The commanding officer of this detachment desires that you will not publish or make any allusion in the St. Mary's *Gazette* to the treasonable and disgraceful speech of the member of Congress from this district, delivered in the House of Representatives on the 9th instant.—I am, Sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant, F. W. DICKISON, First Lieutenant Fifth Cavalry, Acting Adjutant.—To the Publisher and Proprietor of the St. Mary's *Gazette*, Leonardtown, Maryland."'

BANKS'S DEFEAT IN LOUISIANA.—A Washington correspondent of the *New York Daily News* writes, April 28: 'The people have not yet been allowed to see a true statement of the recent disaster on the Red River. But I have the facts, and the War Department has them; and, when they are published, they will show that our losses have been frightfully severe—that some of the divisions engaged were literally cut to pieces. The Administration may bluster about another advance towards Shreveport; but be assured that such an advance is an utter impossibility. The army is utterly demoralised and disorganised. The loss in officers has been heavy, and the loss of guns and small arms is so considerable as to render effective operations out of the question. The whole Red River expedition will have to be abandoned until the army can be reorganised and recruited, and, as there are no troops available for the latter purpose, the expedition is at an end. The Confederate forces which defeated Banks so signally are known to number 28,000 men.'

FORT PILLOW.—Lincoln is breathing daggers about the affair at Fort Pillow, and threatens retaliation, if, and if, and if. We have too many of his men in our hands to fear that. Where a small body of men are invested by a large one, and have no hope of escape or successful resistance, it is their duty, according to military rules, to surrender without the effusion of blood. If they refuse to do this, and resolve to kill as many as possible, they can do so, but they forfeit their right to quarter. A man, or a squad, challenged by a regiment, have no right to empty their guns, and then throw up their hands. From the enemy's own accounts, a handful of men in Fort Pillow several times rejected General Forrest's flag of truce, and wantonly forced him to sacrifice the lives of many of his men in storming the works. They should not complain, even of such consequences as they allege.—*Richmond Sentinel*, April 26.

A METHODIST PREACHER'S POLICY.—At a Methodist General Convention, held in Philadelphia in April, the negro question, as usual, was uppermost. A report says: 'Rev. Dr. Moody said he thought that God Almighty was going to give us an exodus of the whole coloured concern to South America. After we get this little family difficulty settled and the funeral over, we will then push on to the isthmus of South America, clear out Mexico, and give the people of colour pre-emption right to that territory.'

LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New Orleans, Louisiana: April 29, 1864.

THE RESULT OF THE FEDERAL DISASTER IN LOUISIANA—THE DESTRUCTION OF FEDERAL STORES AND BOATS AT GRAND ECORE—BANKS IN ALEXANDRIA—THE FEDERAL LOSSES—THE YANKEE 'VICTORY' ON APRIL 9—THE AFFAIR AT CAMP MOORE.

Here in New Orleans I find it difficult to write at present upon any other subject than the progress of the war in the valley of the Mississippi, and particularly of General Banks's disastrous campaign in West Louisiana. And indeed all other questions hinge upon this one. With a decided disaster to the Federal arms in this valley, 'Free State Governors,' 'Free State Conventions,' 'free navigation of the Mississippi,' restoration farces, the working of plantations by penniless Northern speculators, and the innumerable other shams and schemes of Yankee oppression or plunder receive a blow from which they can never recover. And this decided disaster has overtaken the Federal arms, and we are beginning to see the fruits of it not only in the brilliant and decisive victory on Red River, but here in this very city, and along the river from New Orleans to Cairo. Guerillas, as they are called, but in reality Confederate cavalry or mounted infantry, are visiting all the so-called Government plantations, and carrying off all the stock, negroes, overseers, and lessees, the would-be Southern planters and loud-mouthed revilers of 'Southern aristocrats.' The particulars of these 'guerilla raids' are given in the St. Louis newspapers; here such intelligence is contraband, but for all that the public are fully aware that Government plantations are being abandoned by the lessees. Many of this gentry are returning to their native North.

A steamboat arrived last night from Alexandria, where General Banks's army, or rather the remnant of it, had arrived from Grand Ecore, after fighting its way with unchecked ill-fortune. Before leaving Grand Ecore all the army stores—over a million dollars' worth—collected there were destroyed, also the village itself. Nine mortar-boats are reported to have been blown up, the river being too shallow to float them over the falls. Some few gunboats are also said to have been destroyed for the same reason, and the Confederates have burnt a few transports. In the retreat from Grand Ecore the Confederates pressed the enemy severely, driving them in disorder into Alexandria.

Our latest accounts state that the Confederates appeared in force about six miles outside of Alexandria, when they again engaged the Federal army and drove it into the town, where it lies cowering under protection of the gunboats. This last defeat is said to have been very disastrous for the enemy, and some reports have it that the Confederates have demanded the surrender of Banks and his forces. But, aside from reports, we have the admissions of Federal officers that Banks is now sorely pressed at Alexandria, and that there is but faint chance of his saving the remnant of those forty thousand troops with which he started out on what he expected would be nothing more than a *promenade militaire*.* A copy of the *Louisiana Democrat*, a paper published at Shreveport, has been received here, containing a semi-official report of the battles on the 8th and 9th. It reports the captures by the Confederates as follows: 35 pieces of artillery, 4,000 prisoners, 10,000 stand of small arms; 2,500 horses and mules; 250 wagons, and 2,000,000 dollars in 'greenbacks'—funds of the paymasters and cotton speculators. These were the spoils of the immediate field of battle, and do not include the captures since made, of which we have no authentic account.

The Yankee bulletins, as usual when a battle is renewed on the succeeding day, claim a victory for Banks on the 9th. Here we know that this is false. Officers arrived in this city from the scene of operations claim no such victory, and the subsequent movements of the hostile armies give the lie to any such claim. A Federal officer was asked by a friend about this victory on the 9th. 'What victory?' enquired the disingenuous soldier. 'Why, the victory on Saturday, the second day's fight, the one at Pleasant Hill, when the rebels were repulsed with such slaughter and pursued six miles.' 'Hanged if I heard of any victory!' said the honest fellow; 'all I do know is, that I was d—— tired from running.'

There are rumours that the Confederates are massing at several points on the east bank of the river, between here and the mouth of the Yazoo. An attack upon Port Hudson, Baton Rouge, or Natchez, is thought to be at hand. These and the other fortified positions on the river might easily be seized now, as they are held only by the negro troops, all the white regiments having been sent to reinforce Banks. Skirmishing is constantly taking place outside the above-mentioned ports. Within the last ten days, a body of Confederates have made their appearance at Tangipaho, a station on the New Orleans and Jackson (Mississippi) Railroad, about sixty miles from this city. The place is known in our military nomenclature as 'Camp Moore,' so called after Governor Allen's immediate predecessor. It was known that the Federals had started out to give battle to the force at Camp Moore, but of the result of the expedition we were left in ignorance, so far as the authorities could compass the same. I subjoin a copy of a letter which gives the result of the affair:—

'Clinton, Louisiana, April 24, 1864.

'My dear Son,—I write you a few lines in haste. Your brother was killed in the battle of Camp Moore. I was in the fight. We whipped them badly. Your wife is very sick: all others well. 'Your Father.'

I have given the letter entire, as I think it is unique. The brave old man no doubt feels the loss of his son as keenly as would most fathers. But it is evident his private grief is swallowed up in his love of country. It is the sacred cause in which he is engaged that nerves his heart for such sacrificial offerings on the altar of his country. And this is the spirit of all the 'rebels.' Were it otherwise, the gallant little nation would long ago have been overwhelmed by the multitudinous hosts of the enemy.

The son to whom the letter is addressed is a prisoner in this city. There was a fearful light in his fine dark eyes as he read it, and the brief words he muttered assured me that the blood of a brother will not be unavenged.

I find in the *Mobile Tribune* of April 17 what professes to be a copy of a correspondence between Lord Lyons and the private secretary of President Davis. It is a *jeu d'esprit*, intended as a satire on the foreign policy of the President, or a hint to the Government regarding the wishes and feelings of the people on the questions between them and the Cabinet of St. James's.

* On the eve of his departure for Red River, one of his officers wished him a successful campaign, and expressed the belief that there would be some hard fighting. Banks replied, 'Not at all, sir, not at all; merely a military parade.'

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Ships Arrived.

At Liverpool.—May 17: The D. Martin, from Charleston. The Flora, from Baltimore.—May 18: The Charles Martin, from Charleston. The Louisa, The Leonide, from Porta Plata.—May 19: The William Turner, from Valparaiso. The Rimswell, from Demerara. The Magnet, from Porta Plata.—May 20: The F. U., from Havana. The Mary Jane, from Montevideo. May 21: The Carmen, from Havana. The Damascus, from Portland.—May 22: The Harry, The Florence, from Pernambuco.—May 23: The John Clarke, from New Orleans. The Joaquima, Thé Jususa, The Nueva Engracia, The Salve Virgen, The Marie, from Havana. The Jamaica, from Jamaica. The Jaube, from Matamoras.—May 24: The Margaretha, The Zegri, The Marco Polo (steamer), from Havana. The Jaube, The Phœbe, from Matamoras. The Egerateia, from Nassau.—May 25: The James Crow, from Demerara. The Quebec, from Matamoras. The Levant, from Barbadoes. The Zegri, The Maria, from Nassau. The Traviata, from St. John's.

At Gravesend.—May 19: The Amine, from Berbice. The Ladoga (steamer), The Fancy, The Margaret, from Dominica. The Harriet, from St. Vincent. The Edith, from Terceira. The Maria, The Societat, from Porto Rico.—May 20: The Sparta, The Choice, The Leander, The Jubilee, The Boyne, from Demerara.—May 22: The Elizabeth Jane, from St. Kitt's. The Castor, from Havanna. The Favour, The Williamina, from Porto Rico. The Cambyses, from Matamoras.—May 23: The Leo, from Havana. The England's Rose, from Berbice. The Flora, from Mauritius. The Storm Nymph, from Jamaica. The Leon Raymond, from Madeira.—May 24: The Nautilus, from St. Kitt's. The Malcolm Brown, from Trinidad. The Wanderer, from Demerara. The Golden City, from Trinidad.—May 25: The Jarlew, from Havana. The Pilgrim, from Demerara.

At Deal.—May 22: The Lightning, for Nassau. The Ithuriel, for Berbice. The Brooking, for Bermuda. The Jane Brown, for Halifax. The Sylph, for Barbadoes. The Aurora, for Demerara. The Corinthian, the Ladoga, the Dundee, for Jamaica.—May 23: The Estephaina, for Bermuda. The Simon Hardy, for Barbadoes. The Glenrock, for Jamaica. The Emma Wilson, the Ermine, for Montevideo.—May 24: the Glenbrook, for Jamaica.

At Falmouth.—May 21: The Wolf, from Cuba.—May 23: The Elizabeth Henderson, from Cuba. The Barros Secondo, the Ulidia, the Paragon, from Matamoras. The Patria, from Matanzas. The Larissa, the Adolph, from Rio Grande.—May 24: The Bahia, from Matanzas. The Cupido, the Storm, the Marcelline, from Havana. The Josefina, from Cuba. The Kalwa, from Havana.

At Bristol.—May 19: The Western Star, from Havana.—May 21: The Pallas, from Matanzas.—May 22: The Agnes, the Joaquima, the Victoria, the Juventa, from Havana. The Patton, the Vineland, from Matamoras.

At Plymouth.—May 22: The Don, from Pernambuco. The Blossom, from Matanzas. The Cambria, from Jamaica.—May 23: The Blink Bonny, from Porto Rico. The Gambia from Kingston, Jamaica, reports the deaths from fever, of her owner, Captain Keen, and of her second mate. The Gambia was formerly an American Confederate vessel, sailing from Charleston, Carolina. Since the outbreak of the American war she lay for several weeks at Plymouth, and was ultimately registered as a British vessel, and left for the West Indies under the command of her present captain, Morris, with her owner on board. On her homeward passage she left Kingston, March 27. Her second mate died on April 3, and Captain Keen on the following Sunday, April 10. The second mate was buried at sea, and Captain Keen at Fortune Island, in the Crooked Island Passage. Captain Keen leaves a wife and two children at Charleston.

At Queenstown.—May 21: The Rob Roy, The Remedios, The Rockers, from Trinidad. The Margareta, from Matanhas. The Isabella, from Cardenas. The Angia, from Bahia. The Nina, from Porto Rico. The Emanuel, from St. Domingo.

At Waterford.—May 18: The Hesper (barque), from Cuba.

At St. Michael's.—The M. Celeste (steamer), from Liverpool, for Nassau.

At Lisbon.—The Dane, from Newport, for Bermuda, has put in here leaky.

At Matamoras.—The Glenrosa, from Sunderland.

At Havana.—May 2: The Denbigh (steamer), from Mobile, with a large cargo of cotton. The Darien (steamer), from Colon. The Queen of the Exe, from New York. The Corsica (steamer), from Liverpool. The Campsias, from Troon. The Josefina, The Morga, The Runner, from Liverpool.

At Wilmington.—The Byron (steamer), The Will-o'-the-Wisp (steamer), from Nassau. The Alliance (steamer), has been taken to Boston, a prize.

Ships Sailed.

Liverpool.—May 17: The Coldstream, The Terpsichore, for Valparaiso. The St. Peter, for Cape Verd.—May 18: The Brierley, for Demerara. The Lady Eyre, for Bermuda. The Hebe of the Exe, for Pernambuco. The Clarence, for Halifax.—May 19: The John Henry, for Bermuda.—May 20: The Admiral Prince Adelbert, for Halifax. The John Ferguson, for Havana. The Queen of the South, for Lima. The Artistic, for Montevideo. The Renaldina, for Buenos Ayres.—May 21: The Let Her Rip, for Nassau. The Florist, The Diana, for Pernambuco. The Nivaria, for Havana. The Cupid, for Paraguay.—May 23: The Westwood, for Barbadoes. The Annapolis, for Baltimore.—May 24: The Town of Liverpool, for Pernambuco. The Eva, for Lisbon. The Mary Ellen, for Jamaica. The Nadejda, for Bermuda.

London.—May 17: The Heroine, for Jamaica.

Bristol.—May 22: The Gertrude (steamer), for Buenos Ayres. The City of Petersburg, for Cuba.

Newport.—May 23: The Sarah Ann Stapelton, for Buenos Ayres.

Plymouth.—May 23: The Minnie, for Cuba.

Falmouth.—May 22: The Ivanhoe (steamer), for Bermuda.

Ships Loading.

At Liverpool.—The J. W., for Bermuda; Peniston & Co. The Oleander, for Bermuda; Peniston & Co. The Linwood, for Matamoras. The Young Marquis, for Nassau. The Aid, for Nassau. The Ariosto, for Nassau. The Grenadian (steamer), for West Indies; Leech, Harrison, and Forwood.

At London.—The Crocodile, for Nassau; J. Worley. The Albion, for Bermuda. The Trio, for Bermuda. The Hawk (steamer), for Bermuda. The Sir G. F. Seymour, for Bermuda. The Floride (steamer), for Cuba and Vera Cruz; Stringer, Pembroke & Co.

The Hydraulic Tube Drawing and Steel Ordnance Company.—We are enabled to introduce to the notice of our military readers a desideratum which all the recent gunnery improvements have hitherto been wanting—a steel tube or barrel, without join, solder, or weld, and therefore of perfect construction. The well-known 'ringed' construction of ordnance presents certain advantages of which Sir W. Armstrong and others have availed themselves. The machinery recently patented by Messrs. Hawksworth and Harding presents advantages which we consider very important, and may be shortly described, thus: a piece of granular steel or other metal of any required number of inches in diameter is drilled through; a mandrel with a bulb head, of the internal size of the required tube, is introduced; and the piece of metal is by the action of a very powerful hydraulic machine, of remarkably ingenious construction, drawn through a draw plate of the form required. The metal has now become a tube of most perfect finish, and the metal, before of granular structure, transformed to fibrous structure, and of course by this process of *cold* drawing is admirably adapted for all purposes requiring the utmost strength. This is proved by the well-known fact that the ultimate longitudinal strength of a piece of piano wire reaches often as much as 120 tons per square inch, when that of the original billet from which it was drawn was probably not more than 35 tons per sectional inch. The patentees claim the great advantages of facility and economy of construction. The applicability of this machinery to the ready formation of tubes of all kinds in any description of metal, especially iron and steel barrels for arms, tubes for ordnance, boilers, &c., is claimed with great justness by the patentees. The machinery having been experimentally worked in Paris for gun and rifle barrels, the ordnance department of France have examined and reported upon it in the highest terms. Large guns welded together cold and rifled by pressure, the skin of the metal is preserved intact, and the ordnance will possess all the elements of strength hitherto unattainable, and which artillerists have vainly desired. A company has been formed to work this invention, or application of the well-known method of wire drawing, and with every probability of success.

The Contrabands.—The following extracts from an army order issued in Natchez, Mississippi, shows how Federal officers treat the 'free' negroes: 'It is to be apprehended that serious danger to the health of this city will result from the congregation within its limits of the large numbers of idle negroes which now throng the streets, lanes, and alleys, and over-crowd every hovel. Lazy and profligate, unused to caring for themselves; thriftless for the present, and recklessly improvident of the future, the most of them loaf idly about the streets and alleys, prowling in secret places, and lounge lazily in crowded hovels, which soon become dens of noisome filth, the hot-beds fit to engender and rapidly disseminate the most loathsome and malignant diseases. To prevent these evil effects, it is hereby ordered that after April 1, 1864, no contraband shall be allowed to remain in the city of Natchez, who is not employed by some responsible white person in some legitimate business, and who does not reside at the domicile of his or her employer; and no contraband will be allowed to hire any premises in the city for any purpose whatever, and no other person will be allowed to hire such premises for the purpose of evading this order, nor allowed to hire or harbour any contraband who cannot satisfy the health officer that he or she needs the services of said contraband in some legitimate employment. All contrabands remaining in the city in contravention of this order after April 1 will be removed to the contraband encampment. The word contraband is here defined to mean all persons formerly slaves who are not now in the employ of their former owners.'

Pious Vandals.—The New York *Christian Enquirer* has the following rebuke of some of its less scrupulous brethren:—'In several libraries of New England clergymen, we have seen choice volumes of great cost, bearing the names of Southern ministers to whom they still belong, although they have been sent North as gifts from Yankee soldiers who had appropriated them. Some Massachusetts parlours are said to be carpeted with spoils of another kind. Now, if any one asks what has become of the Union party, once so strong at the South, we answer that, in part, they have been alienated from the government by the unjustifiable outrages committed by wicked or thoughtless Federal soldiers. At Beaufort, South Carolina, tombs were violated. At Holly Springs, Mississippi, a communion table was used in behalf of "euchre" and "old sledge." Such tales of wrong have infuriated many who were disposed to be friends of the Union, and their righteous indignation has had something to do with reverses that have overtaken our arms.' The *Enquirer* also quotes with indignation a letter from an officer, written at Camp Saxton, Beaufort, South Carolina, in which he says:—'The splendid mansion once occupied by that arch-rebel, T. Butler King, is on a Georgia island, and we stripped it of everything. I write this letter on his writing-desk, which, with his piano, was presented to me, on my return.'

Defences of Wilmington.—The defences of Wilmington have been greatly increased and strengthened since the spring of 1863. Fort Fisher, at the mouth of Cape Fear river, is ten miles below Wilmington. There are five large and strong forts along this space. One of them is built on a hill about one hundred feet high, nearly opposite the Quarantine Fort, and may prove a second Fort Darling if our vessels attempt to pass it, as it can throw a plunging fire upon vessels in the river below. The armament of this fort is sixteen guns; that of Fort Fisher fourteen guns, and that of the Quarantine Fort, ten guns, is the most formidable of any on the river. The forts around Wilmington on the north and east sides were not commenced until last summer, and are scarcely completed now. The guns for them all are ready, however, and some of them were being mounted in the early part of March of this year.—Correspondence of *New York World*, April 3.

Death of the Duke de Malakoff.—A telegram from Algiers, dated May 22, announces the death of the Duke of Malakoff, or Marshal Pelissier, to call him by his earlier and better known title. The deceased was born at Maromme, in the department of the Lower Seine, on November 6, 1794, and consequently at the time of his death was 70 years of age.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

Wednesday Evening.

Within the last few days the Money Market has become very much easier, and the applications for discount both at the Bank and in the open market have greatly subsided. Amongst the brokers to-day good bills have been done rather freely at 7 per cent., and in some exceptional cases as low as $6\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. There is abundance of capital in all directions, and the Joint-stock Banks find considerable difficulty in disposing of their ample resources at remunerative rates. As was fully anticipated, the Bank directors found it expedient, at their weekly meeting on Thursday last, to reduce the *minimum* rate from 9 to 8 per cent.; and there appears very little reason to doubt that, under the improved aspect of affairs, a further reduction to 7 per cent. will have to be made to-morrow. Should this prove to be the case, a fresh stimulus will be given to business, and now that the holidays may be said to have terminated, a further improvement in all monetary circles may be anticipated. On the Stock Exchange there is plenty of money for disposal, and loans from day to day are negotiated at from 4 to 5 per cent.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The market for bullion and specie continues to be in a very satisfactory position. The gold sent into the bank during the week has been 461,000*l.*, against which there have not been any withdrawals for exportation. The arrivals of specie have also been large, amounting to 637,610*l.*, of which no less than 565,880*l.* is from New York, and the remainder from Port Phillip.—The Ceylon steamer has taken out to India and China 68,670*l.*, of which 65,025*l.* was in silver and 3,645*l.* gold. To India the amount was 15,615*l.*; China and the Straits, 41,975*l.*; Yokohama, 8,050*l.*; and Alexandria, 3,000*l.* The demand for silver is extremely quiet. For bar the nominal quotation is $60\frac{7}{8}$*d.* and for Mexican dollars, $61\frac{1}{2}$*d.* The gold ships at present known to be on their way from the Australian Colonies, are the *Glendower*, with 10,500*l.*; the *Kent*, with 14,500*l.*; the *Wave of Life*, with 21,000*l.*; the *Royal Standard*, with 78,000*l.*; the *Lady Anne*, with 16,000*l.*; the *Anglesea*, with 48,500*l.*; and the *Chili* and *St. Dunstan* from New Zealand, with 192,500*l.*; making a total of 381,000*l.*

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

Business in the English Stock Market has not been particularly active this week, owing to the intervention of holidays of one description or another. During the greater portion of the week a large number of the dealers have altogether been absent from business, which has assisted materially to curtail operations. Nevertheless, prices are satisfactorily supported, and if there has not been any advance on the quotations of last week, there has not been any falling off. Consols closed firm this evening at $91\frac{3}{4}$ for money, and $90\frac{5}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ ex div. for the account. Exchequer Bills are steady, the March issue being 13*s.* to 8*s.* dis., and those of June 8*s.* to 3*s.* dis. Under all the circumstances a fair business has been transacted in Foreign Stocks, though the dealings have not been up to the usual average. Greek has advanced, $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. being up to $24\frac{1}{8}$ to $24\frac{3}{8}$. Mexican are $44\frac{5}{8}$ to $44\frac{7}{8}$, an improvement of $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. Spanish are not quite so good, the Passives having declined $\frac{1}{2}$ and the Certificates $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., the former being marked $33\frac{3}{4}$ to $34\frac{1}{4}$, and the latter $11\frac{3}{8}$ to $11\frac{5}{8}$. Turkish six-per-cents. (1854) have advanced 1 per cent., being now at 89 to 90, but those of 1862 have declined $\frac{1}{2}$, closing at $70\frac{1}{2}$ to $71\frac{1}{2}$.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market for this security has fluctuated considerably during the past week; the first un-authentic news of the opening battle in Virginia depressed the price to 61 per cent.: the authentic news of the 5th to the 10th brought up the value rapidly to 66–68. To-day's statement that Lee's right wing sustained defeat on the 12th caused a momentary drop to 60–62, a recovery quickly ensued, and the price is quoted at the close, 63–64.

THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

Our files of Southern papers of recent date record a great improvement in the currency. The *Richmond Sentinel* of April 27 observes:—'In six weeks we have exchanged a circulation of nine hundred millions for one of three hundred millions—one-third of the former sum. This reduction has been effected by the funding of nearly four hundred millions (interest-bearing notes and four per cents.), and by taxation to the amount of more than two hundred millions (tax of 1863 and tax on currency).' The money article of the *Richmond Whig* of April 25 reports: 'The bond and stock market is still inactive, but sales were made last week of small amounts of Confederate eight per cent. bonds, due 1875, at \$108 and interest, ditto, due 1881, at \$110 and interest, and Virginia registered sixes at \$155 and interest. The bonds were sold for new currency. The last previous sales (before April 1) of Confederate bonds, of the same dates of maturity, were \$120 to \$124 and interest; and of Virginia sixes \$190 and interest.' The prices of provisions are rapidly declining. We learn from the *Mobile Tribune* that in the Mobile market butter fell in three weeks from \$10 to \$5 per pound. In fresh meats there has been a decline of from 30 to 50 per cent. The Lynchburg papers contain advertisements from storekeepers announcing a reduction of 33 per cent. on their goods.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

Business in American Government and Railway Securities continues to decline, and the recent accounts of the progress of the war in America have tended to a further depression in prices, and there does not at present appear much likelihood of an improvement. The only transactions recorded during the week have been in United States Five per Cents. at 56; Atlantic and Great Western Railway Pennsylvanian Section, $72\frac{1}{4}$, 72, $72\frac{1}{4}$, and $72\frac{1}{2}$, Erie, \$100 all paid, 55 and $54\frac{1}{2}$; Illinois Central, \$100 shares \$90 paid, 29; ditto ditto, all paid, 63, 64, and $63\frac{3}{4}$.

BANK MEETINGS.

At the second general meeting of the English and Irish bank proprietors, held for the purpose of authorising the amalgamation with the European Bank, resolutions to carry the amalgamation into effect were unanimously agreed to.—At the thirty-ninth annual meeting of the proprietors of the Provincial Bank of Ireland, Mr. J. M. Montefiore in the chair, the report and statement of accounts, which were adopted, showed a small addition to the rent, and a dividend was continued at the same rate as for some years past, namely, 20 per cent. per annum, the bank paying in July an extraordinary dividend of 30*s.* on each 100*l.* share, and 12*s.* on each 10*l.* share of the capital stock of the bank in addition to the ordinary dividend of 4 per cent. At an extraordinary general meeting of the New Zealand Banking Company, which was purely of a formal character, resolutions passed at a former meeting were confirmed, increasing the capital by 600,000*l.* by 60,000 shares of 10*l.* each, and for altering certain regulations in Table A. in the first schedule of the Companies Act, 1862.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

The market for British railway shares has not presented much activity, business having, in the early part of the week, been greatly interfered with by the Whitsun holidays, and, within the last day or two, by the Queen's Birthday and 'The Derby.' The dealers are also restrained from operating with freedom in the present unsettled state of the money market; but should the Bank Directors reduce the rate to-morrow, as is generally anticipated, a fresh stimulus to business may be anticipated. Prices have not varied to any considerable extent, but the balance, if anything, is on the favourable side. The variations, as compared with this day week, are a rise of 2 per cent. in Taff Vale; of 1 per cent. each in West Midland (Oxford) and North Staffordshire; of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in North Eastern (Berwick), and of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. in Great Western. On the other hand, there has been a decline of 1 per cent. in Metropolitan and Scottish North Eastern, and of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. each in Great Eastern, London and South Western, and South Yorkshire. In Foreign railway shares, business has not been so brisk, but on the whole prices are fairly sustained. The shares in British Possessions continue to be well supported, and quotations show a slight improvement.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

The prospectus has been issued of the London and Venezuela Bank, with a proposed capital of 500,000*l.* in 10,000 shares of 50*l.* each; first issue to be 5,000 only; 1*l.* per share to be paid on application, and 4*l.* on allotment. The object of the undertaking is to open banking operations in Venezuela, a ground at present unoccupied, and where banking facilities are infinitely required. The directors of the Bank of Caraccas have already engaged to transfer their business to the bank, and as they have on limited means earned 30 per cent. per annum, the prospects of the new Company are considered favourable.—The Maritime Credit Company has just been brought forward, with a proposed capital of 1,000,000*l.* (with power to increase), in 20,000 shares of 50*l.* each; first issue, 10,000 shares. The undertaking is established for the purpose of making advances on shipping, wharves, and other dock property, and, in fact, every description of maritime security. The increase of this sort of property has within the last few years been very rapid, and it is urged that there has been no property upon which leading capitalists have been able to charge so high a rate of interest.—The English, Swedish, and Continental Financial Company (limited) has been introduced for the purpose of promoting the development of the resources of Sweden and Norway, by facilitating the application of capital to safe and profitable enterprise. Arrangements are in progress for the management of the company's business in Sweden by a committee of gentlemen of position and connections resident in Stockholm. The capital asked for is 1,000,000*l.* in 20,000 shares of 50*l.* each, with power to increase. The first issue is to be 10,000 shares, of which 2,500 are reserved for Sweden, and it is not intended to call up more than 15*l.* per share.—The prospectus has been issued of the Wilnecote Collieries and Blue or Iron Brick Company, the capital of which is to be 100,000*l.*, in 10,000 shares of 10*l.* each. Deposit, 1*l.* per share on application, and 2*l.* on allotment. The company, through the possession of the Wilnecote estate in Warwickshire, can produce the blue or iron brick, which is held in high esteem; and being enabled to offer it at a great reduction, it is thought it will be extensively used. Another new company is that of the General Contract Company (Limited), with a capital of 1,000,000*l.*, in 40,000 shares of 25*l.* each. The first issue is to be 20,000, with a deposit on application of 1*l.* per share, and an allotment of 4*l.* per share. The company have arranged on very favourable terms with Mr. Rowland Brotherhood, a large contractor, for the transfer of his business including his freehold works at the Great Western Railway Station, Chippenham, with all its machinery, stock, &c., as well as the plant and material in railway and other contracts now on hand. The prospectus has been issued this evening of the Reading Iron Works (Limited), with a capital of 200,000*l.*, in 10,000 shares of 20*l.* each, 1*l.* to be paid on application an 3*l.* on allotment. The company has been formed for the purpose of purchasing and carrying on the extensive and well-known business of Messrs. Barrett, Exall, and Andrews, engineers, ironfounders, and manufacturers of agricultural machinery and implements, Reading, and which has been established nearly half a century. The vendors have agreed to become large shareholders in the undertaking, and Mr. Exall and Mr. Andrews will take seats at the board.

Liverpool, Wednesday, May 25.—Business in the Cotton Market has not been so active this week, operators seeming disposed to wait the events of any further changes in the value of money. The falling off in speculative dealings has caused the market to be better supplied, buyers for the most part obtaining a slight advantage as regards prices. The sales this week have been only to the extent of 38,000 bales, of which 10,500 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year to the present time have been 1,040,910 bales; whilst to the corresponding period in 1863 they were only 831,780 bales. There have been imported this year 891,886 bales, against 550,042 bales last year. The exports this year have reached 168,744 bales; at the same period in 1863 they were 166,399 bales. There have been taken for consumption this year 653,200 bales, and to the corresponding date last year 435,900 bales. This year there have been taken on speculation 188,520 bales; to the same in 1863, 209,500 bales. The computed stocks at the present time are 351,170 bales; at the like period last year they were 340,240 bales. The closing quotations this afternoon were: American descriptions, $27\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to $29\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; Pernambuco, 29*d.*; Maranham, 29*d.*; Maceio, $27\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to 28*d.*; Bahia. $27\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to 28*d.*; Egyptian, $28\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to $30\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Surats, $14\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to $23\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Madras, $21\frac{3}{4}$*d.*; China, $19\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to $19\frac{3}{4}$*d.*; and Japan, $20\frac{1}{2}$.

There has been comparatively little doing in the Manchester markets during the last few days in all descriptions of goods. For home trade yarns the dealings have been particularly quiet, but prices though nominally the same as last week, are in reality a shade weaker, particularly for the lower numbers; for 50's and upwards, however, sellers are demanding very full rates. For shipping yarns the market is somewhat firmer, and rather more business has been transacted in them, but chiefly for Germany and the Mediterranean. For the orders given out the prices obtained have been fully equal to those of the last few weeks. Long stapled yarns have been more sought after, and for these also spinners are asking stiff prices. This branch of the market closes strong, and an impression prevails that quotations will shortly further improve. With regard to cloths there is very little alteration to notice. There is a tolerably fair inquiry, but buyers seem quite indisposed to operate to any extent, and the purchases that have been made have been only in retail quantities, and the shortness of stocks enables manufacturers to stand out for full prices.

Advertisements.

SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE ASSOCIATION.

President.—Right Hon. Lord Wharncliffe.

Chairman of Executive Committee.—Thomas Hornby Birley, Esq.

Vice-Chairman.—W. Romaine Callender, jun., Esq.

Treasurer.—Thomas Briggs, Esq.

Honorary Secretaries.—James Nield and T. M. Walker.

Members enrolled personally or by letter. Subscriptions received at the offices, 26 Market Street, Manchester.

THOS. STALEY, Secretary.

THE PATENT FILE MACHINE, AND FILE MANUFACTURING COMPANY (Limited). Makers of every description of Steel and Files suitable for Engineers, Machinists, Agricultural Implement Makers, and for the general and export trade. Works, Ashton Old Road, Manchester.

PRIZE MEDALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS, LONDON, 1851 and 1862.

EVANS & STEVENS, Manufacturers of Surgical Instruments to the English Army and the Hon. Council of India, Patentees of the Rotary Trephine and Propelling Vaccinator, and Sole Makers of Evans's celebrated London-made Crown Lancets.

No. 12 Old Fish Street, St. Paul's, London.

Surgical equipments, containing every requisite for field service, prepared under the personal supervision of a member of the Firm, who, from his own experience with the English army during the whole of the Crimean campaign, can guarantee their completeness.

A large assortment of surgical instruments and appliances always in Stock, and can be supplied at the lowest prices compatible with excellence of material and workmanship, in which particulars they cannot be surpassed.

THE NATIONAL FINANCIAL COMPANY (LIMITED)

Invite Subscriptions for Shares in

THE TYNE IRON SHIP-BUILDING COMPANY (LIMITED).

Incorporated under 'The Companies Act, 1862,' by which the Liability of each Member is Limited to the Amount of his Shares.

CAPITAL £400,000,

In 8000 Shares of £50 each.

Deposit on Application, £1 per Share; on Allotment, £4.

It is not contemplated to call up more than £25 per Share, and no Call will be made at less intervals than Three Months.

Directors.

Admiral Burney, Director of the European Bank.

William Hunter, Esq., Sheriff of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Captain T. N. Langford, R.N., 12 Queen's Gate Terrace, W.

W. J. Hutchinson, Esq., Colliery Owner, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Thomas Harrison Ridley, Esq. (Messrs. Ridley, Son & Co.), Liverpool.

James Spence, Esq. (Messrs. Spence Brothers), Liverpool.

T. B. Yull, Esq. (Leith), Director of Oriental and General Marine Insurance Company, London.

John Rogerson, Esq., Shipbuilder, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

R. R. Glover, Esq. (Messrs. Glover Brothers), Ship and Insurance Brokers, 34 Great St. Helen's.

Agents.

The National Financial Company (Limited).

Bankers.

Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, Tritton & Co., Lombard Street, London.

The European Bank, King William Street, London, and Continent.

Messrs. Lambtons & Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The North-Western Bank, Liverpool.

Solicitors.

Messrs. Mercer & Mercer, Mincing Lane, London.

Messrs. Littledale, Ridley & Bardswell, Liverpool.

Auditors.

Messrs. Johnstone, Cooper, Wintle & Co., Lothbury.

Messrs. Gillespie & Swithenbank, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Brokers.

James Shepherd, Esq., 3 Auction Mart, London.

J. S. Challoner, Esq., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Messrs. Taunton & Co., Liverpool.

Secretary (pro tem.).

Archibald Craig, Esq.

Temporary Offices.

12 King's Arms Yard, Moorgate Street.

PROSPECTUS.

EXPERIENCE has proved the superiority of Iron as a material for Ship-building. Its substitution for wood, together with the general activity of commerce, has produced a demand for Iron Ships and Steamers beyond the present means of supply.

Hence the present demand for Iron Ships and Steamers is likely to continue undiminished. As wooden vessels are lost they are replaced with Iron Ships. New lines of steamers are constantly being formed, to connect with this country ports hitherto frequented by wooden sailing ships alone. And whilst other countries excel us in the materials for building a wooden ship, we command a virtual monopoly of the construction of Iron Vessels. The present activity of the trade is not, therefore, to be regarded as temporary in its nature, but as likely to continue for a long series of years.

The River Tyne possesses special advantages in the construction of Iron Ships or Steamers—in the low cost of coal, the supply of experienced labour, and the abundance of iron produced on the spot. Plates for Ship-building are sent from the district to the Clyde, the Humber, and the Thames. The economy of cost, as compared with several other Ship building districts, amounts to a remunerative profit. In consequence the trade has made rapid strides on this river, and has known no interruption to its progress or prosperity. In addition, also, to cheapness of construction, there is a local advantage in the constant demand for screw colliers, which can always be built when other orders are not abundant, thus securing the benefit of continuous full work.

This Company has acquired the Ship-building Premises and Dockyard, formerly in the occupation of Messrs. T. and W. Smith, at St. Peter's, Newcastle-on-Tyne. To these extensive premises will be added those of Messrs. Rogerson & Co., thus giving an unbroken frontage on the Tyne of more than a third of a mile. At Messrs. Smith's yard was built the well-known line of East Indiamen now trading from London, and including the 'Marlborough,' 'Blenheim,' and other noted ships. The 50-gun frigate, 'Carlo Alberto,' was built here, as also many gun-boats for Her Majesty's service, and more than 100 ships and steamers of wood or iron.

The works are now in operation, there being seven vessels on the stocks, and others contracted for. Their capacity is sufficient for the construction of 30,000 tons of shipping per annum. The premises comprise the only building sheds on the Tyne; a Graving Dock of sufficient width to admit two vessels; and ground laid out for a patent slip. The yard room is spacious, and the buildings and machinery are adapted for business on a scale of the first magnitude. The united works, adding the premises which at present intervene, will afford the means of executing all descriptions of work from the boiler or the tug-boat to the armour-plated ship of war.

The premises, machinery, and contracts have been transferred to this Company on terms which are deemed equitable and moderate. Calculations have been made with care, on the basis of actual results, and they permit, no doubt, of a large return on the capital required, not merely in times of brisk demand, but on an average of years. At present the trade is well known to be lucrative in all quarters. The advantage believed to exist in this case is that of being able to work at a profit during periods unprofitable to those who are less favourably situated.

One half of the capital of the Company has been already subscribed.

Applications for Shares to be made to the respective Brokers, or at the Temporary Offices, 12 King's Arms-yard, Moorgate Street, London.

BY AUTHORITY.

ACTS OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIRST CONGRESS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, 1863–1864.

AN ACT TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS UPON THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENCE.

WHEREAS, the Confederate States are engaged in a war, upon the successful issue of which depend the integrity of their social system, the form of their civilisation, the security of life and property within their limits, as well as their existence as sovereign and independent States; And whereas, the condition of the contest demands that they should call into requisition whatever resources of men and money they have for the support of their cause, to faithfully administer the same: Therefore, as a part of the system of the public defence:—

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the exportation of cotton, tobacco, military and naval stores, sugar, molasses, and rice, from the Confederate States, and from all places in the occupation of their troops, is prohibited, except under such uniform regulations as shall be made by the President of the Confederate States.

SEC. 2. That if any person, or persons, shall put, place, or load on board any ship, steamboat, or vessel, or any other water craft, or into any wagon, cart, carriage, or other vehicle, for conveyance or transportation beyond the Confederate States, or into any portion of said States occupied by the enemy, any of the articles mentioned in the first section of this act, or shall collect the same for the purpose of being conveyed or transported, contrary to the prohibition aforesaid, within the Confederate States, or beyond them, the said articles, and the ship, boat, or other water craft, wagon, carriage, or other vehicle, with the slaves and animals that may be employed or collected for the purpose of aiding therein, shall be forfeited, and all persons, their aiders and abettors, on conviction of being interested or concerned in the enterprise, shall be deemed to be guilty of a high misdemeanor, and punishable by such fine or imprisonment, or both, as the court may impose.

SEC. 3. That it shall not be lawful to put on board any ship, boat, vessel, or other water craft, or upon any wagon, cart, carriage, or other vehicle, for transportation or conveyance as aforesaid, any of the articles aforesaid, unless a permit be previously obtained from some officer of the Confederate States specially authorised to grant the same, particularly describing the articles thus to be laden, and the ship, boat, vessel, water craft, wagon, carriage, cart, or other vehicle, on which the same is to be transported, and until bond shall be given that the same shall be conveyed and transported to the place of destination under such conditions and regulations, and for such objects, as shall be prescribed by the President under the first section of this act.

SEC. 4. That the collectors of all the districts of the Confederate States, and such other officers as may be designated by the President of the Confederate States, shall have power and authority to take into their custody any of the articles before mentioned found on any ship, boat, or other water craft, when there is reason to believe that they are intended for exportation, or when in vessels, carts, or wagons, or any other carriage or vehicle whatsoever, or in any manner, apparently on their way towards the territories of a foreign nation, or towards the territory of the Confederate States in the occupation of the United States, or the vicinity thereof, or towards a place whence such articles are intended to be exported, and not to permit the same to be removed until bond shall be given, with satisfactory sureties, that no violation of this act, and the regulations under the same, is intended.

SEC. 5. That the powers granted by this act to the revenue and other officers of the Confederate States under this act to allow or refuse exportation of the articles before mentioned, or for the seizure or detention of any of the said articles, shall be exercised in conformity with such instructions as the President may give through the Departments of War and of the Treasury, which instructions may impose conditions as to the destination and sale of the same, and the investment of the proceeds of the same, or a portion thereof, in military or other supplies for the public service, which instructions such officers shall be bound to obey; and if any action or suit shall be brought against any such officer or officers, or their agents, he or they may plead the general issue, and upon proof of a compliance with the provisions of this act, or with the regulations and instructions of the President, he or they shall be absolved from all responsibility therefor; and any person aggrieved by any of the acts of any of the officers or agents aforesaid, may file his petition before the district court of the district in which such officer or agent resides, and after due notice to him, and to the district attorney, the said court may proceed summarily to hear and determine thereupon as law and justice may require, and the judgment of the said court and the reasons therefor shall be filed among the records of the court, and in case any release shall be granted, the judge may impose such conditions as to giving bond and security as may, in his opinion, be necessary to secure this act from violation, and, in case of refusal, may impose double or treble costs upon the petitioner if circumstances warrant: Provided, That nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the Confederate States, or any of them, from exporting any of the articles herein enumerated on their own account.

SEC. 6. That exclusive jurisdiction is conferred upon the district courts of the Confederate States of all suits or actions that may arise under this act in behalf of the Confederate States, its officers and agents, for the recovery of all fines, penalties, and forfeitures imposed in the same, by indictment, information, or action, according to the practice of the court, and the distribution of the penalties and fines shall be made under and according to the laws now in force for violation of the revenue acts, and all laws for the mitigation and remittance of penalties and forfeitures shall be applied in similar cases.

SEC. 7. That it shall be lawful for the President, or such officers as he may designate, to employ any portion of the military or naval force of the Confederacy or of the militia, to prevent the illegal departure of any ship, vessel, or other water craft, for detaining, taking possession of, and keeping in custody the same, or any wagon, cart, or other vehicle heretofore mentioned, their teams and drivers, and their products aforesaid, and to suppress and disperse any assembly of persons who may resist the execution of this act, or oppose the fulfilment, by the officers, of the duties imposed by the same.

SEC. 8. That this act shall expire on the day of the ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States.

APPROVED, February 6, 1864.

REGULATIONS TO CARRY INTO EFFECT THE ACT "TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS UPON THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENCE," APPROVED, FEBRUARY 6, 1864.

I. AS TO THE SEA.

1. The owners of any vessel intending to sail from a Confederate port with a cargo consisting in whole or part of cotton, tobacco, military and naval stores, sugar, molasses or rice, shall, before the landing on board of any such articles, file with the collector of the port from which the vessel is to sail, a copy of her register, with a declaration of the names of the owners and officers thereof, the place of their birth and of their residence for the preceding year, together with the port or place to which the said vessel proposes to sail. The said declaration shall also set forth the quantity and value, in Confederate currency, of the cargo proposed to be taken out, as also the consent of the said owners, that one-half of the tonnage of the said vessel may be employed by the Confederate Government for its own use, both on the outward and homeward voyage, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned. The collector shall submit a statement as to the owners and officers to the military command ant of the port, and if he shall not object to their loyalty, or to the sailing of the vessel, for reasons of military necessity, the collector shall grant a permit for the lading of the said vessel, one-half for account of the owners and one-half for account of the Confederate States.

2. Before the said lading shall be completed, the owners of the vessel shall execute to the Confederate States a bond in double the value of the vessel, with security deemed adequate by the collector, conditioned that she will pursue the voyage designated, and that she will return with reasonable dispatch to a Confederate port, after her outward cargo shall be discharged with a cargo, consisting one half of articles not prohibited by the laws of the Confederate Government, and the other half of such articles as the Government shall offer for shipment from such port, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned.

3. Each shipper of any portion of the cargo proposed to be laden on board the said vessel, shall, before the lading thereof, make application to the collector for a permit to lade the same, which application shall declare the articles to be shipped, and the quantity and value thereof in Confederate currency, the port of destination, and the name of the consignee. A permit shall then be granted by the collector if the application is deemed satisfactory. The lading shall be had under the inspection of a revenue officer, who shall be charged with the duty of seeing that the goods laden conform to the permit.

4. Before the completion of the lading on board or the granting a clearance, each shipper of any portion of the cargo shall execute and deliver to the collector a bond to the Confederate States, in double the value of his shipment in Confederate money, with security deemed adequate by the collector, with condition that at least one half the net proceeds of said shipment shall be invested in goods or articles not prohibited by law, and said goods or articles shall be shipped by the same or some other vessel to the Confederate States within sixty days from the unlading of said cargo; or that the said half of the net proceeds shall be paid in coin or sterling exchange to the proper agent of the Confederate States, to be reimbursed to the shipper by the delivery to him of cotton at the port of departure in the Confederate States, at the rate of ten pence sterling per pound for middling uplands.

5. The freight to be paid by the Confederate States on all cotton and tobacco shipped from a Confederate port shall be five pence sterling per pound, payable on delivery at the port of destination, in coin or sterling exchange. Return freight shall be at the rate of 25*l.* per ton, payable on its delivery in a Confederate port, in cotton at ten pence sterling per pound for middling uplands, and at a proportionate price for cotton of other qualities. In calculating the ton of freight by weight, 2,240 pounds shall be allowed; by measure, forty cubic feet shall be allowed.

6. If the outward bound vessel shall consent, at the request of the Government, to take two-thirds of her cargo for account of the States, the outward freight shall be six pence sterling per pound, and whenever the Government is not prepared to fill up any portion of the tonnage reserved for its use at the time at which any vessel may be made ready to sail, her owners may fill up the same on their own account: but no vessel shall, without consent of the Government, sail on her outward voyage until one-third of her cargo shall be laden for the use of the Government.

7. The rates of freight for articles other than cotton and tobacco shall be adjusted at the same relative rate and payable in the same way.

8. The Government reserves the right to limit or prohibit the shipment of rosin, turpentine, or any manufacture thereof, whenever deemed dangerous to its own shipment.

9. Upon the completion of the lading of the vessel, and before receiving her clearance, there shall be delivered to the collector, in addition to the usual manifest, another setting forth the names, ages, and description of her officers and crew, and of every passenger intending to sail in her. The said last-mentioned manifest shall be delivered to the commandant of the port, who shall thereupon cause the entire vessel to be searched, and if satisfied that the parties on board are persons who may safely be permitted to leave the Confederacy, and that the passengers have the proper passports, he shall certify the same on the manifest and return the same to the collector, whereupon, and not before, a clearance shall be granted to the vessel, and he shall be permitted to sail.

10. The owners of each vessel, and of each portion of a cargo sailing from a Confederate port, shall be allowed to take up their respective bonds, by producing to the collector the certificate of the proper agent of the Confederate Government at the port of delivery, setting forth the particulars, showing that the said party has complied with the obligations of the said bond so far as the same was practicable, and the collector, upon being duly satisfied, shall be authorised to surrender the said bonds.

11. Nothing in these regulations shall be so construed as to conflict with the proviso of the law, which declares "that nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the Confederate States, or any of them, from exporting any of the articles herein enumerated on their own account;" nor shall a bond be required of a State in any case.

12. The penalties of all bonds executed in conformity with these regulations, shall be recoverable in full on proof of breach of the conditions of the bond, and without proof of any damage suffered by the Confederate States in consequence of such breach, and all bonds shall be executed in such form as to give effect to this regulation.

13 Vessels sent into the Confederacy for the purpose of exporting cotton received in payment of any Confederate bond or obligation shall be subject to these regulations only so far as relates to such portion of the tonnage, if any, as may remain vacant after the lading of the cotton received in payment as aforesaid.

14. The regulations for overland commerce with neutral countries will be issued separately, within a few days.

Approved.

(Signed) C. G. MEMMINGER, Secretary of Treasury.
(Signed) JAMES A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.

Approved, March 5, 1864.
(Signed) JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Treasury Department, C. S. A.
RICHMOND, March 16, 1864.

THE following additional regulations are established to carry out the act to impose regulations upon the foreign commerce of the Confederate States, and to provide for the public defence, approved February 6, 1864:

The bond required by the second article of the regulations shall be in one half the value of the vessel, and that required by the fourth article shall be in the single value of the shipment; and the security which the Collector may accept may be either personal security, or a mortgage of the vessel, or a transfer of the Bills of Lading, or of cotton, tobacco, or Confederate securities.

2 Whenever any vessel shall bring into the Confederate States an entire cargo for account of the Confederate States, the owners of the said vessel, and the shippers of her cargo, shall be relieved from the bonds previously given to invest and bring in one-half the net proceeds of her outward cargo, and the certificate of the agent of the Treasury Department at the port of lading, that such cargo was duly shipped in pursuance of the regulations, shall authorise the collector to cancel and surrender the said bonds.

Approved, March 16, 1864.
(Signed) C. G. MEMMINGER, Secretary of Treasury.
(Signed) JAMES A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.

Approved, March 17, 1864.
JEFFERSON DAVIS.

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE IMPORTATION OF LUXURIES, OR OF ARTICLES NOT NECESSARIES OR OF COMMON USE.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That from and after the first day of March next it shall not be lawful to import into the Confederate States any brandy, wines, or other spirits, or any other article specified in schedule A of an act entitled "An act to provide revenue from commodities imported from foreign countries," approved May 16, 1861, or any goods, wares, or merchandise, enumerated in schedule B of said act, except the following articles:—All things for medicinal purposes, camphor refined, pickles, molasses, pepper, pimento, cloves, nutmegs, cinnamon, and all other spices; soap, Castille, Windsor, and all other toilet soaps; sugar of all kinds; syrup of sugar; galloons, laces, knots, stars, tassels, tresses and wings of gold and silver, or imitations thereof, intended for uniforms of officers in the military and naval service.

SEC. 2. And it shall not be lawful to import the following articles enumerated in schedule C of said act: Beer, ale, and porter; muffs and tippets, and all other manufactures of fur, or of which fur shall be a component part, except caps and hats; carpets, carpetings, hearth rugs, bedsides, and other portions of carpeting, of any kind or description; carriages and parts of carriages; cider and other beverages not containing alcohol; clocks and parts of clocks; cotton laces, cotton insertings, cotton trimmings, or laces of thread and other material; coral, manufactured; dolls and toys of all kinds; fire crackers, sky rockets, Roman candles and all other similar articles used in pyrotechnics; furniture, cabinet and household; glass, coloured, stained, or painted; India matting of all sorts; jet and manufactures of jet, and imitations thereof; jewellery, or imitations thereof; manufactures and articles of marble, marble paving tiles, slabs, or blocks, and all other marble; matting, China or other floor matting and mats made of flags, jute, or grass; paper hangings, paper for walls, and paper for screens or fire boards; paving and roofing tiles and bricks, and roofing slates and fire bricks; thread lacings and inserting; velvets of all kinds.

SEC. 3. And it shall not be lawful to import the following articles, enumerated in schedule D of said act: Angola, Thibet, and other goats' hair, or mohair, unmanufactured; bananas, cocoa nuts, plantains, and oranges; cabinets of coins, medals, gems, and collections of antiquities; diamonds, mosaics, gems, pearls, rubies, and other precious stones and imitations thereof, set in gold or silver or other metals; engravings, bound or unbound; rattans and reeds; paintings and stationery; leaf and unmanufactured tobacco and cigars; or the following articles enumerated in schedule E. Diamonds, cameos, mosaics, pearls, gems, rubies, and other precious stones and imitations thereof, when not set.

SEC. 4. None of the manufactures of metal, designed as either household or personal ornaments, shall be admitted; and in order to confine importations to articles of necessity and of common use, the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe the maximum foreign prices at which and within which importations of goods manufactured wholly or partly of cotton, flax, wool, or of silk, and designed for wearing apparel, and not herein prohibited, may be made, and beyond which importations thereof shall not be made: Provided, That articles herein allowed to be imported shall not be impressed by the Government or its agents after they have reached the Confederate States: Provided further, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit any importation for the use or account of the Confederate States, or either of them: Provided further, That this act shall not apply to any articles which have been or shall be shipped, without knowledge of the passage of this act, before the first day of March next, but which shall arrive in a Confederate port after that day.

SEC. 5. That whenever any article or articles, the importation of which is prohibited by this act, shall, after the first day of March next, be imported into the Confederate States, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, or shall, after said first day of March next, be put on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, with the intention of importing the same into the Confederate States, all such articles, as well as all other articles on board the same ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, belonging to the owner of such prohibited articles, shall be forfeited, and the owner thereof shall, moreover, forfeit and pay double the value of such articles.

SEC. 6. If any article or articles, the importation of which is prohibited by this act, shall, nevertheless, be on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, arriving after said first day of March next in the Confederate States, and shall be omitted in the manifest, report, or entry of the master, or the person having the charge or command of such ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, or shall be omitted in the entry of the goods owned by the owner, or consigned to the consignee of such articles, or shall be imported or landed, or attempted to be imported or landed, without a permit, the same penalties, fines, and forfeitures shall be incurred, and may be recovered, as in the case of similar omission or omissions, landing importation, or attempt to land or import, in relation to articles liable to duties on their importation into the Confederate States.

SEC. 7. Every collector, naval officer, surveyor, or other officer of the customs, shall have the like power and authority to seize goods, wares, and merchandise imported contrary to the intent and meaning of this act, to keep the same in custody until it shall have been ascertained whether the same have been forfeited or not, and to enter any ship or vessel, dwelling-house, store, building, or other place, for the purpose of searching for and seizing any such goods, wares, and merchandise subject to duty; and if any person or persons shall conceal or buy any goods, wares, or merchandise, knowing them to be liable to seizure by this act, such person or persons shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a sum double the amount or value of the goods, wares, and merchandise so concealed or purchased.

SEC. 8. The following additional oath or affirmation shall be taken by masters or persons having charge or command of any ship or vessel arriving at any port of the Confederate states after said first day of March next, viz.: "I further swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, on board [insert the denomination and name of the vessel] any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, on board [insert the denomination and the name of the vessel] any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover or know of any such goods, wares, or merchandise on board of the said vessel, or of which shall have been imported in the same, I will immediately, and without delay, make due report thereof to the collector of the port of this district."

SEC. 9. After said first day of March next, importers, consignors, or agents, at the time of entering goods into the Confederate States, shall take the following additional oath, viz.: "I also swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, amongst the said goods, wares, or merchandise, imported or consigned as aforesaid, any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover any such goods, wares, or merchandise among the said goods, wares, and merchandise so imported or consigned as aforesaid, I will immediately and without delay report the same to the collector of this district."

SEC. 10. All penalties and forfeitures arising under this act may be sued for and recovered, and shall be distributed and accounted for, in the manner prescribed by the act entitled "An act to regulate the collection of the duties on imports and tonnage;" and such penalties and forfeitures, mitigated or remitted, in like manner and under the like conditions, regulations, and restrictions as are prescribed, authorised, and directed by the act entitled "An act to provide for mitigating or remitting the forfeitures, penalties, and disabilities accruing in certain cases therein mentioned."

SEC. 11. That this act shall expire on the day of the ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States.

Approved, February 6, 1864.

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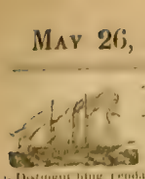

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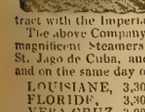

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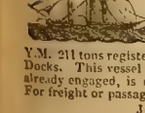

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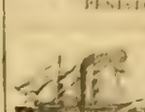

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The Patentees, in order to afford those interested a means of testing the commercial value of their mode of manufacture, have erected a powerful hydraulic draw bench, of 600 tons pressure, at temporary works in London, 67 Willow Walk, Bermondsey, where it has been seen in operation, in consequence of which applications have been received for licenses and machinery, and from these sources alone a large annual income cannot fail to be derived.

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Further particulars are given in the detailed Prospectus.

Applications for Shares must be made either to the Secretary or the Brokers of the Company.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

DRAWN STEEL TUBES.

From *The Times*, February 25, 1864.

The whole process is neither an invention nor a discovery, but simply a most valuable development of our present means of manufacture, and one which we think will prove as lucrative to its patentees as it will undoubtedly be most useful to our steel-producing districts. Just now, however, when our improvements in artillery have taken us to a point at which wrought iron can help us no further, and when all inventors are looking for a steel lining to their guns, this new process is likely to be regarded with unusual interest. If, as the patentees claim, their process can draw homogeneous steel tubes of 8 in. and 10 in. diameter, the long-vexed question of trying to make wrought-iron guns to stand their rifling would appear to be near its settlement. The perfect ease and immense strength with which the common rifles and fowling-pieces can be lined with steel tubing is shown at the Works at Bermondsey. The patentees of the machine intend putting up at once a press and dies by which taper steel barrels for the Enfield rifle can be drawn in one piece. More, however, is to be gained by drawing steel tubes for the artillery, though neither guns nor rifles open up such a field of profit as is likely to be found in the everyday mercantile wants of Sheffield and Birmingham. Steel tubes, badly and expensively as they are now made, are still an everyday want in the hardware districts, and it is only their cost, and the uncertainty of their production, which puts a tolerable limit to their use. If by this process they can be produced of more than double the strength of the present steel tubes, and at the same price as gas piping, their uses in manufacture would seem to be almost endless. For tubing to boilers alone there is enough work to be done to keep all the hydraulic machinery in England, if fitted up to draw steel tubes, going for the next twelve months.

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AMERICA.

THE smoke clears away from the great battle-field of Virginia, and we see how little cause there was for the Yankee shouts of victory. On May 14, at Washington, General Lee's army was represented as disorganised and flying, with the legions of Grant in rapid pursuit. Lee was wounded, and Longstreet dead. 'Our cavalry and infantry,' said the Federal despatch from which we copy, 'are capturing hundreds and thousands of prisoners. The rebel killed and wounded have all fallen into our hands.' The rear of Lee's column was seen leaving Spottsylvania Court House, and it was believed that it would not stop short of Richmond. The *New York Herald* of May 14 said: 'The end approaches. A few days more of success, and the once formidable army of General Lee in Virginia must submit to the inevitable fate which overwhelming numbers, splendid generalship, indomitable valour, and an almost unprecedented combination of disasters have cut out for it. The official despatches of Mr. Stanton convey intelligence so positive and reliable that we can come only to the one conclusion—namely, that the rebel army of Virginia, being driven at all points, whole divisions, brigades, and batteries captured, its communications cut off in every direction, and every chance of reinforcements or supplies reaching it being utterly gone, must surrender to the conquering forces of General Grant.' This was the news the Washington Government sent to Europe. The arrival of the *Scotia* has changed the scene. General Lee, unwounded, had not retreated, but was in his strong entrenchments at Spottsylvania Court House. Grant was waiting for reinforcements, hastily forwarded from every quarter, to secure his own position or enable him to renew the conflict. Butler was driven back from Drury's Bluff to the cover of his gunboats. Sigel had been defeated by Breckenridge, and driven across the Shenandoah. Beauregard had passed through Richmond, and was supposed to have joined his forces to those of General Lee. Gold, in New York, went up to 182, and a panic succeeded the elation based on falsehood.

THE battle of May 6, if not a complete Confederate success, was very near, and bore many of the fruits of, a victory. The Federal right wing was first assailed, then the left, then the centre. For a whole day, General Lee hurled his legions against the Federal lines, and not always in vain. At the close of the day he shattered the Federal right, broke through Seymour's brigade, outflanked and drove it back upon Shaler's, broke that too, and captured both officers with a great portion of their commands. The *Tribune's* account says: 'Firing of musketry broke forth in heavy and repeated volleys, mingled with the sound of which came that familiar yell which indicates a rebel charge, and as the sounds grew rapidly nearer it was evident that General Sedgwick had experienced the misfortune which had been anticipated the entire day. Soon the 6th corps came rushing in a disorderly mass out of the woods, some weaponless, some hatless, all panic-stricken and pale, with extended neck and arms, with drooping heads, some indignantly or angrily shouting to their comrades, charging them with cowardice and dishonour. The crowds rushed through the valley and up the opposite hill, a part only gathering resolution enough to make a stand upon the summit.'

Another despatch says: 'The charge of Longstreet was completely overwhelming and crushing. Solid masses of infantry were hurled upon General Hancock's line with an impetuosity which nothing could withstand. Night closed the conflict: and because Grant was not utterly routed, the Washington authorities telegraphed victory.'

THE position taken by General Lee after the battles of the Wilderness, in which, from chosen and sheltered positions, he inflicted such terrible losses upon the Federal army and twice very nearly defeated them, is so strong in itself and has been so well fortified, that General Grant had not up to the 18th ventured to renew the attack. The reinforcements sent him were believed to equal his losses, and sixty tons of field ammunition were sent from Washington. A siege train of 200 guns had also been demanded, and a strong force of engineer officers. Instead of immediate victory, six weeks are now required to take Richmond, which General Grant hopes to have by July 4. Of the supposed retreat of General Lee, a New York journal says: 'His retreat involves recuperation; Grant's advance involves exhaustion. Richmond is not yet captured even in the loose theories of our over-sanguine contemporaries; but if it is written that it shall be captured, its doom is traced upon the book of fate in letters of blood, and the wail of bereavement all over the North will mingle with the cry of rejoicing. And beyond its capture the terrors of war loom far away into the shadowy future.' A well-informed Washington correspondent says: 'At the close of the tenth day's battle the Confederates held their own, and Grant's army was so exhausted, he determined to rest and strengthen his depleted corps. I am sure that Lee was also in need of rest; but we all know if Grant had offered battle on Friday, Lee would have accepted. It is doubtful if the present lull is not as advantageous to Lee as it is to Grant, as it gives him an opportunity to repair the railroads said to have been broken by Sheridan. He can also bring up supplies, of which he must stand in need, and reinforcements, if there are any to spare from other points.'

THE comparative losses of the two armies are not easy to estimate. Those of General Grant are admitted to be immense—from 40,000 to 80,000. In his official despatches General Lee returns grateful thanks to a merciful Providence that his losses were small. Fighting on his own chosen ground, every foot of which was well known, behind formidable entrenchments concealed in dense woods, the Confederates were generally protected, while the Federals, attempting to carry breastworks and rifle pits, exposed to enfilading fires, were mown down by thousands. When Burnside attempted to carry the Confederate works on Thursday, his men were exposed to this most destructive of all fires, until, as at Fredericksburg, they reeled, staggered, and fell in heaps. The Federals make only wild guesses of their aggregate losses, but we can form some idea of them from separate items. Three hundred buildings in Washington were filled with 20,000 wounded. There were 15,000 at Fredericksburg, filling houses and churches, and even encumbering the streets; and many at Alexandria and other places. The 140th New York regiment lost 300 men and 10 line officers. The 9th Massachusetts went into the fight with 600 muskets and came out with 93. The 62nd Vermont had 131 left of 530. The 4th Michigan, of 277, saved but 17. And so of many others. Among the Federal killed were Generals Sedgwick, Wadsworth, Price, Hays, and Webb. Of killed there were 5 generals and 16 colonels and lieutenant-colonels. Of wounded, 11 generals and 51 colonels and lieutenant-colonels. The names of killed and wounded inferior officers fill whole columns.

We have no indication of Southern losses, except the declaration of General Lee that they were small. General Jenkins was killed, and General Longstreet severely but not dangerously wounded by their own men in mistake. General Sam Jones is also among the killed, and the cavalry General J. E. B. Stuart was killed in a fight with Sheridan's cavalry expedition, and buried in Richmond on the 13th. General E. Johnson and Brigadier-General Stuart are prisoners.

NEW YORK and the whole North were thrown into consternation on the 18th by the appearance of a proclamation of President Lincoln, declaring the campaign in Virginia ended, appointing a day of fasting and prayer, and ordering a draft of 400,000 men. The document was denounced a forgery, but it turns out to have been very close upon, and, for the Government, an annoying anticipation of, the truth: for Secretary Stanton announces that a draft *will* be necessary on the 1st of July to replace the 100-days' volunteers, and make good other losses.

GENERAL MEADE, as the result of Federal operations to May 13, claims to have taken 18 guns, 22 colours, and 8,000 prisoners, including two general officers. The Confederates had taken several guns, about half this number of prisoners, including two or three generals, and inflicted losses on the enemy out of all proportion to their own, and maintained their position, which in itself was a substantial victory. For an invading army not to beat, is to be beaten.

THE death of General J. E. B. Stuart, killed in an encounter with the Federal cavalry May 11, is thus described by a correspondent of the *Richmond Enquirer*: 'Generals Stuart and Fitz Lee came up with the enemy at Yellow Tavern, but, being terribly outnumbered, they managed to maintain their ground and inflict heavy loss upon the enemy. Here, in one of those desperate charges, at the head of a charging column, the gallant and chivalrous Stuart fell, mortally wounded—an irreparable loss to our cause. His many gallant and daring deeds and glorious exploits will challenge the admiration of the world. He was best known and loved by his troopers. His frank and agreeable face always cheered them in the camp, the march, and the bivouac. His bright flashing eye, and clear ringing voice, inspired and nerved them in the hour of battle.

A noble soul to liberty born—
A noble soul for liberty died!'

THE Confederate ram *Albemarle*, with her tender, the *Cotton Plant*, and her prize the *Bombshell*, were attacked near the mouth of the Roanoke on May 5, by a fleet of seven Federal gunboats. One of them, the *Sassacus*, attempted to run down the ram, but was riddled by the steel-shotted 100-pounders of the Confederate, had one of her boilers penetrated, and many of her crew killed or scalded. *Per contra*, the *Bombshell*, taken at Plymouth, was recaptured.

GENERAL SHERMAN in Georgia, after trying in vain to take Dalton and Resaca by direct attack, succeeded, May 12, in flanking General Johnston, and compelling their evacuation, with a loss of 3,000. This is the Federal account. A Confederate despatch says: 'The affair at Resaca was a plan of General Johnston to catch the enemy. Snead Gap was left open, troops sent to the rear of it, and everything prepared to meet him in front. It is not yet known whether the enemy is bagged.' General Johnston's army is believed to be 60,000 strong, including 15,000 militia. General John Morgan, the celebrated raider, is in command of a brigade of infantry. The Confederate troops are in fine spirits, and no fears are felt for the result.

THE report that General Sigel had destroyed a portion of the West Virginia Railway turns out as false as most reports of Federal victories. He was defeated on the 15th with the loss of 600 killed and wounded and 5 pieces of artillery, at Newmarket, by the forces of Echols and Imboden, under General Breckenridge. He effected a 'retrograde movement to Strasbourg.'

ADMIRAL DAHLGREN took advantage of the absence of General Beauregard and a large portion of the South Carolina troops in Virginia, to make a furious attack on the defences of Charleston, on the 14th, with a large fleet of monitors, with what result has not been heard.

THE news from the Trans-Mississippi department continues highly favourable to the Confederates. General Banks was reported to be retreating to Brashear City: a regiment sent to his aid had been captured with its transport; and General Smith, at last dates, was expected to make a desperate attempt to fight his way to the Mississippi. General Magruder was expected with a considerable force from Texas, to assist in that department.

THE communications of General Lee, reported to be partially interrupted by a strong force of Federal cavalry under General Sheridan, had been quite restored at the last dates, and the raiders driven with severe loss to the shelter of General Butler's gunboats on the James River. The raiders, as usual, lived on the country they traversed, and, when not engaged in a running fight with or rapid retreat from the Confederates, were a terror to the women and destructive to hencoops and smokehouses. They even left their mortally wounded to be nursed by those they came to plunder and destroy.

THE Confederate Congress has passed resolutions thanking General Forrest and the officers and men of his command, for their important services in West Tennessee and Kentucky. At last accounts this able commander, with General Roddy and a force of 10,000, was threatening Huntsville and Decatur in General Sherman's rear in Northern Alabama.

WHILE the *New York Herald*, like other Northern papers, was filled with shouts of victory, its own correspondents with General Grant's army, were sending despatches like the following of 'Monday, May 9, 1864: We have now been out six days, and have been fighting continuously. We have succeeded in penetrating some fifteen miles into the rebel territory, and have fifty miles further to go to get to Richmond. We have eaten and used up a very large proportion of the supplies which we took with us. If the rebels give us as much trouble on the rest of the route as they have thus far our chances for success are slim indeed.

'Our losses have been terrible. I hardly dare to give my own opinion as to the numbers; but I think I am within bounds when I give the estimates of those who are supposed to know, as follows:—Killed, 3,000; wounded, 18,000; missing, 6,000. Total, 27,000.'

THE Federal armed transport *Harriet A. Weed* was destroyed by two torpedoes, twelve miles below Jacksonville, Florida, May 9. She was instantly and totally destroyed, and most of those on board killed or wounded.

GENERAL M'CLELLAN and General Fremont have both been dismissed from the Federal service, by a resolution of Congress, to the great anger of their respective partisans, who are more than ever determined to give them Presidential nominations.

COMMANDER JOHN K. MITCHELL has just been assigned to the command of the Confederate naval forces in the James River; Commander Pegram to the ironclad *Virginia*; Commander Rootes to the ironclad *Fredericksburg*; Lieutenant-Commander W. H. Paulding to the ironclad sloop *Richmond*.

ENGLAND.

WE have already stated that Her Majesty's Government has put an end to the expected litigation in the case of the Attorney-General *v.* Laird, by purchasing the steam rams *El Toussin* and *El Monassir*. Last Thursday the Solicitor-General came into the Court of Exchequer at Westminster and said, 'I have to inform the Court that the case of the Attorney-General *v.* Laird and others, in respect of which your lordships were pleased to order a trial at bar at the instance of the Attorney-General, will not now be tried.' The Lord Chief Baron said, 'Not at all? neither in *banco* nor at *nisi prius*?' The Solicitor-General replied 'No. In pursuance of an arrangement come to between the Crown and the claimants, the case has been withdrawn, and the judgment of the Court will pass for the Crown. It is right I should state that the object of Her Majesty's Government is not to punish individuals by fine or forfeiture, but to prevent vessels issuing from our ports to make war on nations with which we are at peace. That object has been obtained in this instance, and, therefore, the case is at an end.' We have quoted the exact words used by the Solicitor-General, in order that the sequel of the story may be fully appreciated. The law officer of the Crown is presumed to be capable of expressing in intelligible language that meaning which he desires to convey. That the Solicitor-General from some cause failed to do so may be collected from what follows. On Friday, the Attorney-General with Sir Hugh Cairns, Q.C., came into Court and desired to make a statement with reference to what had fallen from his colleague on the previous day. He said that the Solicitor-General did not mean to convey the impression that the formal steps of entering judgment for the Crown had either been actually taken at the time or that the form had been finally resolved on. He would state in a few words the true state of the affair. The Crown had asserted that there was a valid seizure for a valid cause of forfeiture. The claimants had to the last asserted, and still asserted, that there was no such valid cause of forfeiture: but the matter had been by arrangement withdrawn from the cognisance of the Court, so that no determination of it would be necessary, and that had been done upon the footing that the Crown had agreed to pay to the claimants the value which the Crown themselves had placed upon the property, and that, too, entirely without prejudice to the position of the Crown or the claimants with regard to that question that would have required to be tried, if the arrangement had not been made. The mode of doing it and giving effect to that arrangement had not been finally arrived at, but no mode would be adopted that would in any degree whatever authorise any one to say that there was any admission by the claimants that it was a valid forfeiture. The Lord Chief Baron observed, 'that the explanation was necessary after what was stated by the Solicitor-General, for undoubtedly his statement was, that the claim on the part of the claimants was withdrawn, and therefore the seizure stood as an uncontested seizure of the vessels: the Solicitor-General had unquestionably used the words "the claim had been withdrawn," there was no doubt about that.' Baron Martin also said, that 'he could perfectly well understand how the misapprehension did arise, from the last two or three words used by the Solicitor-General.'

The learned Attorney-General seems to be as unfortunate in being dragged into difficulties by his colleagues as he is skilful in rescuing them from their difficulties.

THE members of the Conference on the Danish question met on Saturday last at the official residence of the first Lord of the Treasury, at one o'clock, and sat till half-past three. All the plenipotentiaries were present. The Conference was to meet again to-day.

M. BILLE, the Envoy of His Danish Majesty, has, by a letter dated May 23, notified to Earl Russell that the blockade of the ports of Cammin, Swinemunde, Wolgast, Griefswalde, Stral-und, Barth, Dantzig, and Pillau in the Baltic, as well as the blockade of the ports and inlets in the Duchies of Slesvig and Holstein, which were raised on the 12th of the month in conformity with the stipulations of the suspension of hostilities, will immediately be reestablished on June 12 next, unless the negotiations carried on at the Conference of London should before that time have led to at least some preliminary agreement.

ON Saturday last the Volunteers were reviewed in Hyde Park by the Commander-in-Chief. The number of troops on the ground reached the extraordinary figure of 25,000 men. The London regiments paraded at their mustering places at 3.30, and marched to the various squares allotted for the formation of brigades. These brigades entered Hyde Park by the different gates situated on the north-east and south sides. In one hour from the appearance of the head of the first division the whole force had taken up position. The divisions were all drawn up in order by 5·30 P.M. Precisely at six o'clock the signal guns were fired, and at the same moment the Prince of Wales, the Commander-in-Chief, and Prince Louis of Hesse, surrounded by a brilliant staff, and followed by the Princess of Wales, the Princess Louis of Hesse, and the Princess Mary of Cambridge, appeared on the ground. General Sir Richard Airey, General Sir George Wetherall, and Generals Knollys, Pennefather, and Rumley were present. After the force had presented arms, the Commander-in-chief rode along the line and inspected the different regiments. After the inspection the troops marched past in quick time in open column. The Honourable Artillery Company took the lead with six light guns, and were followed by the Oxford and Cambridge University corps. The Prince of Wales marched past at the head of the brigade in the uniform of the Honourable Artillery Company. The Civil Service regiment came next with Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Berry at the head of it. Then came a force of light cavalry 100 strong from Surrey, Hertford, and Middlesex. The Middlesex Artillery Volunteers then paraded in charge of twenty guns of heavy calibre, and were followed by a brigade of artillery volunteers 2,000 strong, armed with carbines. After these came the various volunteer regiments of the metropolis, and last came the provincial corps, consisting of the 6th Lancashire (1st Manchester), 2nd battalion 1st Nottingham (Robin Hood), 3rd battalion 1st Warwick (Birmingham), 1st Derbyshire, and 5th battalion 33rd Lancashire (2nd Manchester). There were also regiments from Herefordshire, Somersetshire, Berkshire, and Essex. The steadiness and admirable bearing of the provincial regiments gained the most hearty applause from the spectators. The progress made in drill and appointments, as well as in numbers, since the day when Her Majesty reviewed 14,000 volunteers in Hyde Park, now four years since, was such as to astonish and delight those who place faith in the citizen soldiery. The ground was kept by the Royal Horse Guards (Blue), some companies of foot guards, and a detachment of lancers. The first division was commanded by Major-General Eyre; the second division, by Major-General Lord F. Paulet, C.B., who commanded the British troops in Canada in 1862; and the third division, by Major-General Rumley. The whole force was under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir J. L. Pennefather, K.C.B. After the review the troops left the park with rapidity and without confusion. No better proof could be given of the skill of the officers or the discipline of the men; and it was difficult to doubt but that the army of 25,000 volunteers would be capable of taking the field with credit to themselves and the country.

ON Monday, May 30, Louis Philippe Albert d'Orleans, Comte de Paris, the eldest son of the late Duc d'Orleans, and therefore grandson of Louis Philippe and heir of the house of Orleans, was married to his first cousin, the Princess Isabelle of Spain. The marriage was celebrated in the Roman Catholic Chapel at Kingston. The Queen Marie Amélie was present at the ceremony, which was also attended by Marie Louise Fernande, Duchesse de Montpensier, the sister of the Queen of Spain and mother of the bride; by the Prince and Princess de Joinville, the Duc de Nemours, and the Duc d'Aumale. The Spanish, Belgian, Italian, Austrian, Prussian, Bavarian, Portuguese, and Saxon Ministers were present. Several members of the French and Spanish aristocracy also attended. The Marquis of Clanricarde, Earl Russell, Lord Stanley of Alderley, General Peel, and Earl St. Germains were the principal Englishmen at the ceremony.

AN error of a somewhat peculiar nature has been committed by a cotemporary which aspires to infallibility. Cardinal Wiseman, in his Pastoral, had quoted a passage from a letter of Garibaldi to the English nation, in which a comparison was drawn by the writer between the 'Papacy' and the 'goddess and temple of reason' of a kind by no means advantageous to the 'Papacy.' The *Times*, commenting on the Pastoral, was clearly at a loss how to turn the position of the Cardinal or to explain away the damning evidence of Garibaldi's folly; so it resorted to the simple method of denying the genuineness of the letter, and thereby charging the Cardinal with aiding his argument by a false quotation. 'Magna est veritas et prævalebit.' An apology to the Cardinal followed, and the journal condescended to explain how the mistake arose. It appears, marvellous though the statement may be, that the *Times* copied its own version of the address of Garibaldi from the *Morning Post*, and that this version contained 'the strange rhapsody;' while the individual who reviewed the Cardinal's denunciation relied on the version of another cotemporary, which for some reason or other omitted the expressions in question. When the accuracy of Cardinal Wiseman is impeached on such a ground as that, one does not wonder that even the *Times* should much regret the mistake made.

THE same auspicious weather which rendered the Derby Day in the highest degree enjoyable, gave pleasure to the large crowd of persons who assembled on May 27 to witness the race for the 'Oaks.' The first race of the day was set for half-past one o'clock, and just before that time the agent of the International Telegraph Company posted up, in the full view of the assembled multitude, the following announcement: 'America—New York, May 18.—Lee remains at Spottsylvania. Confederates attacked Butler, inflicting considerable loss, compelling him to retire to his lines. Sigel has also been defeated by the Confederates. Gold 82.' Immediately a buzz of excitement ran through the people as they read the words of the message, and at length the ring broke out into a tremendous cheer; and the news, spreading among the crowd, seemed to cause as much joy as ever did the victory of a popular favourite. The race for the 'Oaks' was set for three o'clock, and up to that time the betting proceeded with vigour, Fille de l'Air being made the favourite at 6 to 4, while 5 to 1 was taken about Teneriffe, 100 to 15 each about Saragossa and Tomato, and 10 to 1 about Breeze. It may be mentioned that for the Stakes there were 188 subscriptions; of these 19 were represented at the post, the remainder becoming forfeits at 25*l.* each. The total value of the Stakes was 5,175*l.* The length of the course was one mile and a half. On the lowering of the flag, Mr. W. Day's Teneriffe, by Marsyas, went away with the lead, followed by Fille de l'Air and Baron Rothschild's two fillies, Tomato and Breeze. At the end of half a mile Fille de l'Air took up the running, and Lady de Trafford, a daughter of Longbow, with Lord Zetland's pretty filly Saragossa, by Newminster, joined the leading division. However, Fille de l'Air, without much apparent difficulty, maintained her lead, and finally won by half a length, Breeze, who came with a rush in the last few strides, getting the second place, Tomato being third, and the elegant Molly Carew, a daughter of Wild Dayrell, being fourth. Then followed Lady de Trafford, Merry Wife, Tooi Tooi, and La Gazza Ladra. Poor Saragossa received a fearful wound on the fetlock at Tattenham Corner, and brought her career to an end. It is not necessary to make more than one observation on the fillies Breeze and Tomato. They were first and second in the One Thousand Guineas Stakes at Newmarket, but in that race Tomato beat her stable companion. Both are daughters of King Tom, the brother of Stockwell and Rataplan, and though Breeze presents points worthy of admiration, neither of the fillies comes up to the standard expected in the case of the best English mare of the year. Fille de l'Air is by Faugh a Ballagh out of Pauline, and is perhaps one of the most exquisite mares ever bred. She has size, symmetry, and strength, and her action is magnificent. Her career on the turf has been somewhat peculiar. Last year she began by winning the Woodcote Stakes at Epsom, beating Molly Carew. Next she was beaten for the Two-year-old Stakes at Epsom by Midnight Mass and Tomato. Then at Goodwood she won the Molecomb Stakes, and defeated the Scottish Chief. At Doncaster, she was beaten by Ely for the Champagne Stakes, and by Coast Guard for the Two-year-old Stakes. Then at Newmarket, carrying 9st., she beat Prince Arthur 8st. 10lbs., Ely 8st. 13lbs., Coast Guard 8st. 10lbs., and several other horses, proving herself to be the best two-year-old that had appeared in public. Her next appearance was at the Two Thousand Guineas at Newmarket, for which race she was made first favourite, but was defeated ignominiously, never having in fact galloped with her horses for more than a few hundred yards. Her performance on that occasion seemed altogether inexplicable, and the multitude imagined that the vaunted Fille de l'Air was a grand failure. Then at Paris Spring Meeting she ran nowhere in the Prix de la Grotte, won by Cascarilla. Her next appearance was in the French Oaks at Chantilly, a few weeks since, when she managed to win in a canter by four lengths. Now she has succeeded in defeating with ease all the English fillies for the great prize of the year. In the public mind this extraordinary alternation of victory and defeat generated grave suspicions, and from the result it seemed that Count F. de Lagrange, the owner of the mare, had foreseen the probability of danger. Immediately on the winning number being hoisted a fearful noise of mingled shouts, hisses, and groans arose, and a portion of the mob made a furious rush at the mare: with the speed of thought, however, a body-guard of pugilists, who had been provided for the purpose, surrounded the mare, and with sticks kept off the crowd, while foot and mounted police escorted rider and horse to the neighbouring enclosure. Count F. de Lagrange was prudent enough to leave the course immediately after the race, and thus avoided the risk of the treatment which would most certainly have been awarded to him by those individuals who regarded themselves as 'victims.' Fille de l'Air is engaged in the Grand Prix de Paris.

INDIA.

THE Viceroy, accompanied by the principal members of the Government, left Calcutta about the middle of April for Simla. During the preceding three months a most searching supervision had been exercised in all the departments, and many reforms inaugurated. There had been an absence of events in the political world. Public attention was arrested by the ravages of a frightful epidemic, which has been raging over a great part of Lower Bengal for some years. Its violence has increased year by year, till 36 per cent. of the population have fallen victims to it. The fever comes on suddenly, and the patient succumbs in from two to five days. Should he survive the attack, the disease returns at new and full moon. It is styled by the faculty 'a congestive remittent fever,' and by the natives *mutan jwar*. The fever has been generated by that most prolific cause of disease, namely, the total neglect of all sanitary rules. An able writer, in a letter to a cotemporary, in describing the carelessness of the native, says—'Close to the mud hut of the ryot is a hole where he places all filth and refuse. The hut itself is surrounded with jungle or bamboo, through which scarcely a breath of fresh air can ever penetrate. There is perhaps a tank here, covered with slime and vegetation, in which the people bathe and wash their clothes, and the water of which they daily drink. In the Mahometan

quarters, the dead are buried on the borders of these tanks, and the graves are seldom made sufficiently deep to insure the people against poisonous exhalations from the interred bodies. The bodies lie so near the surface, that sometimes, as is well known, they are disinterred by jackals and dogs.' By this fever, whole villages are depopulated. Neither age nor youth can withstand the attack, and even unborn children fall victims to it. The commissioners are unable to persuade the people, and unwilling to compel them, to abandon their manner of life.

From advices just received we learn that 170 miles of the Indian telegraphic line from Bussorah to Bagdad still remain incomplete, and cannot be constructed, on account of the disturbed state of the intervening country, the Arabs having revolted against their Turkish masters. The Porte undertook the task of constructing the line through the Pashalic of Bagdad; but the Turks dare not venture into the country except in military force. There is also a break in the line at the first stage from Bagdad, between that place and Constantinople, owing to the extreme negligence of the Turks in executing the necessary repairs. It is said that the Arabs would not molest the English if they undertook the work themselves.

CHINA.

DETAILS have been received of the defeat of Major Gordon in his attack on Kintang. The garrison had sent in their submission, and Gordon had set out with a force of 800 men and two 32-pounders to take possession. However, reinforcements had been sent from Nankin to the town, and when Gordon arrived he was received with musketry shots instead of with open arms. Thereupon Gordon opened fire from his guns, and, after two hours, ordered his men to the assault. Three attacks were delivered, but in each case the troops were driven back in disorder. Ultimately, Gordon retired, with the loss of 14 officers and 115 men, to Leyang and thence to Fooshan. Gordon was wounded in the leg, and Colonels Kirkham, Tambelty, and Williams were also hit. Major Toute was killed. A report was current that Gordon had sustained a further serious reverse near Chiangzu. Hangchow had been evacuated by the rebels, who for a whole day had successfully withstood the assaults of the Franco-Chinese force. The Chekeang province was cleared of rebels.

FROM Japan we learn that a good understanding exists between the Tycoon and the Mikado. A council of six Daimios had assembled to report to the Government the wish of the nation in regard to the admission of foreigners.

AFRICA.

ACCOUNTS from Egypt represent, in the most glowing colours, all the improvements and advances made under the late and present Viceroy. A slow but practical revolution has been going on in that country during the whole of the last half century; and the mighty resources of the land have been skilfully applied by two generations of princes to the advancement of Egypt on the path of progress and civilisation. Most of the machinery used in the Western World for the better management and administration of the country, and for the economisation of labour, have been adopted by the present ruler. Not only the necessities, but even the luxuries of civilisation, have been taken up and constituted as a part of their social system; so that we may ere long expect to see Egypt step forth and demand a place among the European, or, to speak more accurately, the Mediterranean Powers.

Advices from Tunis dated the 23rd ult. state that the town is in a state of tranquillity, but that the Bey still persisted in his refusal to dismiss the remainder of his ministers. The Europeans residing near the coast are still obliged to take up their abode on board ship; the admirals of the various naval forces have decided to land troops, in order to protect their countrymen against pillage and anarchy. If this intention is carried out, the Italians will be requested to occupy the ports belonging to the Bey of Tunis.

We hear from Morocco that a despatch has been addressed to the Government of that country from the French Government, demanding satisfaction for the assassination of a Frenchman not far from Tetuan, and for the asylum afforded to an Arab chief, who took a leading part in the Algerian insurrection. France demands, 1st, Either the extradition of the assassins, or an indemnity of 500,000 francs; 2nd, The dismissal of the governor of Tetuan; 3rd, The surrender of the Arab chief. It is said that a French squadron will blockade the ports of Morocco if the satisfaction asked for is not given within forty days; but it is generally supposed that the Sultan will concede all that is demanded of him.

The English and the Emperor of Abyssinia have been fast friends for upwards of ten years, and the latter has, by the force of this friendship, found himself raised from the rank of a provincial governor to that of supreme ruler over the whole of Abyssinia. Indeed, he had shown his appreciation of our courtesy by rescuing our late consul, Plewden, from the hands of the rebels in Tigré, who had wounded and seized him. This occurred in 1860. From some unexplained reason the Emperor has completely changed his policy, and has commenced a general persecution of all British subjects within his territories, including our consul, Captain Cameron. He has ordered the Rev. Mr. Stern, a missionary from the Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews, to be publicly whipped. Captain Cameron had succeeded in getting a message conveyed to Massowah from Gondar, dated Feb. 14, stating that he was, with several other gentlemen, confined in chains, but that all were well.

ENGLISH SYMPATHY FOR THE SOUTH.—Go where you will, either to the clubhouses of Pall Mall, or to any knot of artisans conversing over their Sunday newspaper, you will find that the weight of sympathy rests with the South. 'Secesh' carries the day.—*The Realm.*

THE CONTINENT.

NEVER might mankind with so much justice as at present have cursed the hour when the various appliances of modern science were invented. Had it not been for the invention of steam power, the war in America could not have occurred in its present hideous proportions; if 'villanous saltpetre' had not been fashioned into gunpowder, the awful slaughter of the last few days could not have taken place; if printing-presses, penny posts, and telegraphs did not exist, we should not have to wade through the daily quagmire of untruths and absurd conjectures with which the home and foreign press teem. Let any man read carefully the pretentious statements made in the Vienna and Berlin journals with regard to the Conference of London, and then examine the authority on which these statements are made; he will stand aghast at the appalling difference between the insignificant foundations and the imposing superstructure. To take an instance, the German correspondents have chosen to assert that the personal union between the Duchies and the Kingdom of Denmark has been discussed and negatived, and that a second proposition has been made for dividing the Duchy of Slesvig into two parts by the river Schlei and the Dannewirke, whereof the northern part shall belong to the Danish monarchy, and the southern to Holstein; forming an independent State, which is to choose its own form of government by universal suffrage. Against this proposal the Austro-Prussian journals are extremely virulent; they will never willingly suffer a yard of land on which a German population exists to be under a foreign ruler; it would be, they say, to give up the whole principle for which so much blood has been shed. We recommend these ardent patriots to look for a moment to the other side of the Atlantic, where they will find territories which would endow two or three German kingdoms inhabited entirely by their beloved nation, but under the domination of Yankeedom. Why do they not take up the banner, and, crossing the ocean in their magnificent navy, demand a footing for the German Confederation in the centre of North America? The Monroe doctrine would for once at least find supporters and friends among men of common sense.

Again, we learn that the English Government has objected strongly to any scheme by which Kiel should become a Federal port, or a canal be cut through the south of the Peninsula between the Baltic and the North Sea. This objection has also been met by yells of indignation from the irate journalists, who see in it a new proof of the determination of England to put every obstacle in the way of a German navy.

A question of more immediate importance is that of the prolongation of the truce. It is stated, we know not on how good authority, that the Danish Government have declared their intention of resuming the blockade on the 12th instant, and of returning generally to a state of hostilities. Whether they think that the chances of war are likely to be more favourable to them than the methodical progress of a Conference, or whether any secret diplomacy has shown them a way out of their difficulties by this course, we cannot guess. Of one thing there is no doubt: the burden of war is, if anything, less onerous than the pettifogging tyranny of a truce to the inhabitants of the continental provinces of Denmark. Our private advices from Aarhuus state positively that the odious and unnecessary rigour with which the suspension of hostilities was inaugurated, is in no way lessened; and that, in spite of official Prussian denials, the military authorities have enforced, and still continue to enforce, the barbarous exactions which have made their name a byword in Europe. The denial referred to is in the following terms:—'Berlin, May 27.—The official enquiry instituted upon the statements of the French and English press—statements wittingly or unwittingly false—has proved that the Allies have executed every stipulation in the suspension of arms to the letter. Commerce, business, and government have been in no way impeded; no contributions have been levied since the date of the suspension; provisions and goods confiscated before that date have been kept, but not sold. The troops have been supplied by Prussian contractors; and a line of demarcation, in the fixing of which all interests were consulted, has been agreed upon between ourselves and the Danish General von Gerlach. The Commander-in-Chief of the Allied armies has of course put a stop to everything by which our military interests might have been prejudiced. The Danish authorities have made several attempts either to raise recruits or to levy customs' duties, but these abuses have been stopped. The Allies have always firmly opposed all Danish encroachment, but have rigorously acted up to all the stipulations of the arrangement of May 12.' That the Allies have put every impediment in the way of Danish action we can readily believe: a despatch from Copenhagen, dated May 24, illustrates the manner in which 'Danish encroachment is opposed;' from it we learn that, immediately on the arrival of the Danish commissioner for arranging the suspension of arms at Horsens, the Prussian head-quarters took their departure, without leaving any person with whom the commissioner could negotiate. This step was followed by the arrest of several Danish municipal officials.

OUR more distant readers, to whom the whole territorial question involved in the Dano-German war must appear absolutely contemptible, will very probably have lost sight of the magnificent Duchy of Lauenburg, another of the German principalities tied round the neck of the Kingdom of Denmark. The succession to this duchy has never been disputed, and it was once even a question whether the King of Denmark, though not recognised as Duke of Slesvig-Holstein, might not be represented in the German Diet as Duke of Lauenburg. Certain German agents, however, have, since that time, been at work in that petty duchy, and the effect of their intrigues is seen in a declaration transmitted through them from the 'Lauenburg Association' to the Federal Diet and to Herr von Beust, stating that they also are desirous of separation from Denmark. They affirm that the treaties which fixed the law of succession in Denmark had taken no notice of the laws of Lauenburg, and consequently that the Lauenburgers were not bound to recognise the present King of Denmark as their sovereign. Herr von Beust in his answer assured the Association that the result of the Conference would be eminently satisfactory to their wishes.

THERE is no diminution in the stubborn obstinacy of the Danes. On the 23rd ult., a deputation from Kolding arrived at Copenhagen for the purpose of imploring the King to defend the rights of Denmark when the question of peace supervenes, and protesting against the continuance of the truce. Similar addresses are expected from other towns of Jutland. We must bear in mind that these deputations come from the very country now occupied by the Germans, and we may judge what is the natural determination of the Danish spirit, and how violent the aversion to their foreign invaders.

IT is said that the Austrian Government are prepared to take the first lawful opportunity of reinforcing their fleet in the Baltic. Three new frigates are now almost ready to take the sea.

THE Grand-Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin has, it is said, expressed great disgust at the new law passed in his territory to enlarge the power of his nobility to inflict corporal punishment. The affair was, he says, quite unknown to him, and he was not made aware of it until after his return from Darmstadt. Some statistics have been given of the use of the rod in that duchy, from which it appears that in eight years about 2,000 persons were chastised for infraction of game laws only. These 2,000 persons divided amongst them some 30,000 blows, giving an average punishment of fifteen per man. A woman was lately beaten with rods for the offence of having a second illegitimate child. It is curious that there are more natural children born in Mecklenburg than in any other country proportionally to its population.

THE Russian Budget for the year 1864 has been lately published; the ordinary expenses are calculated at 364,000,000 roubles; the extraordinary military expenses at 37,000,000. To balance this we have 355,000,000 roubles of receipts, 18,000,000 of treasury bonds, and 28,000,000 loan; total 401,000,000 roubles, or about 40,000,000*l.*

The Russian Government appear to view with the utmost satisfaction the emigration of the Circassian people; the Grand-Duke Michael has visited Anapa in order to concert measures to bring about a second emigration to comprise 100,000 souls.

IT is expected that the policy of General Berg with regard to the treatment of the Poles will again come into favour, and that MM. Milutine and Tscherkaskoï will resign their offices of Civil Governor and Minister of the Interior for the kingdom of Poland. The chief objection to these gentlemen at first was that they knew nothing of Poland and the Polish language: the wretched people will now object that they know already only too much of General Berg and his policy.

WE have already stated that the Emperor of Russia is about to visit Kissingen in company with the Empress; we now hear that Prince Gortschakoff, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, will be in Germany at the same time, with his private secretary M. Hamburger.

PRINCE COUZA of the United Principalities, having dissolved his House of Representatives, applied to the people for a general vote on the new electoral law. The result of the suffrages is that 713,283 have voted in favour of the Prince's proposal, and 57 against it, while 53,563 have abstained from giving an opinion.

TURIN, May 25.—On this day the Minister of War, in answer to a question addressed to him by Signor Mordini, stated that the military force now under arms numbered 380,000 infantry, 80 batteries of artillery, and 19 regiments of cavalry. He added that this force was competent to defend the kingdom against any attack; but he was not sure that it was capable of taking the offensive without a foreign alliance. The state of the fortifications he declared to be excellent; the national guard was almost entirely placed on an active service footing. An official statement has been made of the position of the Treasury in December 1863. The receipts amounted to 2,433,000,000 francs, the expenditure to 2,668,000,000 francs, deficit 235,000,000 francs or 9,400,000*l.* We may add that 200,000,000 francs of the last loan authorised have not yet been issued on the Stock Exchange; the present stock stands at 69.10.

'PETER'S PENCE' have produced to the Pope since the year 1859 the sum of 37,630,000 francs, or rather more than 1,500,000*l.* Cardinal Antonelli has gone more at length into a defence of the Pope's language with regard to Poland, repeating in greater detail the observations of which he had already made use in reply to the Russian Ambassador.

THE second Conference held at Constantinople on the matter of the Principalities was opened by a speech from Ali Pacha; he declared that it was necessary to arrest in a summary manner the encroachments of Prince Couza, and to maintain the suzerainty of the Sultan and the rights of the guaranteeing Powers either by military occupation or by the agency of diplomacy. His sentiments were echoed by Sir Henry Bulwer, the English representative. The Marquis de Moustier, on the other hand, replied that allowances must be made in consideration of the existing circumstances, which perhaps compelled the

Prince to take decisive action against a factious opposition. Ali Pacha responded by stating that the Porte was most anxious to adopt conciliatory measures. Shortly after this conversation the news arrived of the *coup d'état* executed by the Prince in dissolving his Chamber.

THE Queen's birthday was celebrated at the English Embassy in Paris by a grand dinner, at which most of the Ministers were present. The health of Her Majesty was proposed by M. Drouyn de Lhuys, and Lord Cowley reciprocated by a toast to the Emperor.

AN important decision was given by the Cour Impériale de Paris on the 14th ult., on a matter affecting sensibly the operations of speculators in the Bourse. The facts were shortly thus:—M. Anthier-Bellerose had effected purchases 'for the account' in French and Spanish Crédit Mobilier to the amount of 8,408,070 fr., through the agency of a M. Desmaze. When settling-day came, serious disagreements arose between the principal and his agent as to the amount to be paid by the former, and the matter was referred to arbitration. The decision was unfavourable to M. Bellerose, who appealed first to the Tribunal Civil de la Seine, and again to the Cour Impériale. In this court judgment was given for M. Bellerose, and the decision of the arbitrators and of the court below reversed. It was held that transactions 'for the account' were by the Code Pénal considered only as wagers, which will sustain no action at law, but are, on the contrary, punishable by fine or otherwise; that the very largeness of the sum in question was sufficient to prove the fictitious and illegal nature of the transactions; and, consequently, that the arbitrators were wrong in giving a decision by which the said transactions were recognised as legal. This decision has somewhat startled the denizens of the Stock Exchange, who find that in affairs of this questionable nature the court is determined to give full play to the injunctions of the Code Pénal.

The Corps Législatif has closed its session for 1864; it was dismissed by a speech from the Duc de Morny, its President, in which he enlarged on the necessity for kindliness and forbearance between members of that House, and descanted on the impartiality required from every person holding his own position. He knew, however, that 'party' meant 'partiality;' hence, both for president and members, it was necessary to temper the heat of party warfare by the courtesies of society.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA.

ON May 14 a Spanish squadron took possession of the Chincha Islands, which belong to Peru, in consequence of the final disagreement between the Spanish and Peruvian diplomatists. An attempt was also made, but ineffectually, to surprise the Peruvian fleet at Callao. The Spanish commander has issued a proclamation, stating that the seizure of the islands has been effected in satisfaction of injuries suffered by his country at the hands of the Peruvian Government, but desires it to be understood that no obstacle will be placed in the way of trade. The Peruvian Congress has authorised the Government to raise a loan of $50,000,000, to augment the army to the number of 30,000, and the navy to 20 ships. It is hoped that an European Government will intervene to adjust the difficulties between the parties.

ADVICES from San Domingo inform us that the Spaniards are unsuccessful in their attempt to quell the insurrection. 9,030 of their sick and wounded have arrived at Havannah, and 2,000 at Porto Rico.

THE FEDERAL LOSSES.—The New York Correspondent of the *Times*, writing on May 13, observes: 'Hitherto the march of Grant though, if it be ultimately successful, it will be considered heroic—is the advance of a piece of mechanism. He sees no obstacles, and goes blindly and ruthlessly on. He trusts to nothing but superior numbers and hard fighting. The lives of his men are of no value. He throws them away by thousands, to gain half a mile of jungle. He has pushed on for five leagues, and paid about 9,000 lives for each. At every step he fights at a disadvantage, on ground of the enemy's choosing. But he fights on. His men are picked off by unerring sharpshooters from behind every tree, but his order is still to push forward. His Generals fall as if they were of no more account than private soldiers. Up to Tuesday evening—the seventh day of the conflict—he had lost 13 of them in killed, wounded, and prisoners, and at least 45,000 men. This loss is admitted by friends and admirers, while those who are neither incline to add 15,000 to that enormous estimate. But still he holds his way undaunted, seeing nothing, caring for nothing, but Richmond, which if he ever reach upon the terms of these seven days, he will reach without so much as a bodyguard—a solitary prisoner. The havoc committed in his ranks it is sickening to reflect upon. One New York regiment, the pride of the city, which not long since marched down Broadway amid flaunting banners, waving kerchiefs, loud huzzas, and the music of drum and fife, suffered so terribly that out of its full complement but four officers and fifteen men were left after half a day's fighting. Whole brigades have lost their officers and two-thirds of their rank and file, and, having none to lead them, have been incorporated with other brigades, only less cruelly decimated than themselves in having a brigadier left to reorganise their shattered remnants. . . . But the voice of wailing and lamentation is heard in too many thousands of households in this and all the cities of the North to permit unqualified approbation of a system of war so costly as this, or to silence the buzz of adverse criticism. If Grant's army, instead of a throbbing, thinking mass of human beings, were but an agglomeration of steel and iron—a monster steam-engine cunningly put together for purposes of destruction—its driver could not more deliberately urge it forward in its pitiless career.'

THE LARGEST-CIRCULATED AND CHEAPEST PAPER IN THE WORLD.—The paper having the largest circulation in the world is now said to be that issued by Secretary Chase. It is an extremely loyal publication, too. It supports both the Administration and the Union. And it is also the cheapest paper ever issued: it now costs only half as much as it did at first, and in a little while can be had for nothing.—*Chicago Times.*

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

THE MERSEY STEAM-RAMS.

On Monday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Hodgkinson, in reference to the Solicitor-General's statement in the Court of Exchequer on Thursday last, that the case of the Attorney-General *v.* Laird and others, relating to the seizure of the Confederate rams, had been arranged, asked the Attorney-General whether the arrangement alluded to involved the purchase of those vessels, and, if so, whether only at their fair value, or at some higher price; whether the inducement to the Crown to make such arrangement was a doubt as to the construction and application of the provisions of the Foreign Enlistment Act with regard to equipping and arming vessels; whether it was part of the terms of arrangement that the alleged misdemeanour under the 7th section of the Foreign Enlistment Act should be condoned by the Crown, and that no claim for compensation for the seizure should be made by the defendants; and whether any legislation would be proposed in order to obviate in future the doubts and difficulties attending the construction and enforcing of the Foreign Enlistment Act, and thus prevent the arrangement of the recent case operating as a premium to shipbuilders to speculate on building vessels of war for belligerents.

The Attorney-General replied: In answer to the question of the hon. gentleman, it will be necessary for me to make a short statement to the House. The House is probably aware that in the month of September—some time before the seizure of these vessels—the Government applied to the persons representing themselves to be the owners of these ships, expressing their willingness, if they were really in the hands of *bonâ fide* owners, to treat for the purchase of them. At that time the overture so made by the Government was entirely ineffectual, and the seizure afterwards took place. No overture was subsequently made by the Government, but, on the other hand, an offer was made to the Government some time ago, offering the ships in question to the Government at a price named, which in the opinion of the Government did not represent their fair value, but was, in fact, a much higher price. That overture was simply and absolutely declined, and no further communications were made having any tendency to lead to an arrangement. The same party, and I may mention his name—M. Bravay—afterwards renewed the application in another form. He stated that he was desirous of knowing whether there were any pecuniary terms which the Government, on their part, would be willing to offer, by means of which the matter might be brought to an end, it being understood that no admission was to be asked from the one party to the effect that a violation of the law had been committed, or from the other in the contrary sense. Upon that the Admiralty, by the assistance they were able to command, ascertained what in their opinion would be the fair value of the vessels. They named that value, stating that they were prepared, for the reasons assigned, to put an end to the matter on the terms of paying the fair value of the vessels, but not on the terms of paying any other or greater price. That value was very much less than the sum named, and very much less than the parties stated they would be able to obtain from any other purchasers they could command. They accordingly closed with the offer made by the Government. The hon. gentleman further asks whether the inducement to the Crown to make such arrangement was a doubt as to the construction and application of the provisions of the Foreign Enlistment Act with regard to the equipping and arming of vessels. In answer to that question I may say that the House is perfectly well able to judge what the doubts are which appertain to the subject, but I may, in reference to this particular case, add that doubts as to the construction of the Act in regard to it had no considerable place in the motives which influenced the Crown to enter into the arrangement to which I have referred. The motives of the Crown were rather these,—when the question before the Courts was one of fact as well as of law, it would not have been in accordance with the experience of those acquainted with the uncertainty attending the administration of justice to assume with a too absolute confidence that the verdict, however strong the Crown might feel in the goodness of its case, would necessarily be in its favour, more particularly in a matter in which, to say the least of it, political feeling might exercise an influence on the result. The Crown could not, therefore, take it for granted that they would, as a matter of course, be successful, but I am, at the same time, bound to say that it was not any doubt in the mind of the law officers of the Crown that they had a good case in which they might hope to succeed that induced them on their side to enter into this arrangement. Besides the advantage to the public of securing those public objects for which, and not for the sake of inflicting any loss or forfeiture upon individuals, the seizures had been made, these considerations operated on the mind of the Crown. In the first place, there certainly had been prevailing great and considerable uncertainty in the public mind as to the extent to which a subject might go in the way of building or equipping ships for belligerents without infringing the law. It was well known that before these seizures took place opinions had been given by which individuals might have been encouraged to believe that they were safe in acting on a view of the law contrary to that on which the Government might be advised to act. Consequently, there were grounds for believing that British subjects in this country had offended against the law under a *bona-fide* impression that they were not doing so. Then the Crown had the case of the *Pampero* in Scotland in view, in which they had recently made arrangements upon the same as I venture to think them—liberal principles. It had allowed the ship to remain in the hands of the owners, not insisting upon the forfeiture, but upon the terms that security should be given against its belligerent employment. In this particular case the ships are good ships, which it is worth the while of the nation to possess at their fair and legitimate value. At the same time, it was felt that the possession of the ships by the nation would be more complete and satisfactory security against their employment for belligerent purposes than any other engagement into which it was possible to enter. Under these circumstances, the Crown not caring to make money out of the transaction, or to inflict pecuniary loss on the individuals concerned, its law advisers thought they were at liberty to deal with the defendants in this as they had done in another case. Of course, these defendants throughout insisted, and still insist, that they were guilty of no violation of the law, and no arrangement was made with them which entitles any one to say that they were guilty of any such violation. With regard to the next question, my answer is that no such condonation as that which it indicates was part of the terms of the arrangement. The Crown was not prosecuting for a misdemeanour; it was only proceeding against the ships. As regards the question of the claim for compensation for the seizure, I can only say that it is quite impossible that any such claim can be made on the footing on which the arrangement proceeded. I may add, in reply to the last question, that I hope it will not be found necessary to propose any new legislation on the subject. The Government confidently trust that all parties will profit by what has taken place, and that there may be no occasion for further legislation or prosecutions; but, undoubtedly, the Government are as much prepared and determined as ever to maintain the law as they understand and still understand it to be, if any future infraction of it should be attempted. They do not, I may further observe, think that this arrangement will operate as a premium to shipbuilders to speculate in building vessels of war for belligerents, because the parties to the arrangement have represented, and the Government have no reason to doubt the *bona fides* of the representation, that if the ships were entirely under their own control they would be able to bring them to a more profitable market, and to obtain for them a larger price than the Government consented to give. The price demanded by the owner was 300,000*l.* The price, as they stand, was fixed by the valuer for the Admiralty at 195,000*l.*, and for their completion in all respects a further sum of 25,000*l.* will be required.

[Perhaps the Solicitor-General thinks that anything is fair 'in love and law,' and that he was doing no more than his duty to his clients (the Government) in making such a statement in the Court of Exchequer as left the impression that the owner of the rams admitted he was in the wrong, and allowed a verdict to be taken for the Crown, and which is utterly false. Such a view, however, will not be endorsed by an honourable profession, and we doubt not the Solicitor-General is convinced by this time that his zeal has led him into error. We hope that the assertion of the Attorney-General that if the case had gone on to trial, 'to say the least of it, political feeling might exercise an influence on the result,' is altogether unwarranted. We cannot forbear to call attention to another point. The Attorney-General said 'there was no reason to doubt that if the ships had been free they could have been taken to a more profitable market.' What does this mean? That the Government took advantage of their power as prosecutors to get the ships for less than their market value, under threats of a long and ruinous litigation? If the Government deemed the vessels forfeited, they ought not to have abandoned the prosecution. If they felt their case too weak to go to trial, they ought to have paid a full price for the vessels.]

On Tuesday, Lord C. Paget said a supplementary estimate would be brought forward for the purchase-money of the steam-rams.

On Wednesday Mr. J. Tollemache asked the Attorney-General whether the offer to sell the Birkenhead ironclads at the price of 300,000*l.* was made to the Government by the owners, Messrs. Bravay, or by the builders, Messrs. Laird. He had referred to the report of what took place in the House on Monday evening, and he wished to have it clearly understood by all parties that the 300,000*l.* was not asked by the Messrs. Laird, and that they had no control whatever over the actions of the Messrs. Bravay.

The Attorney-General said the offer was made by the gentlemen who represented themselves to be the owners of the ironclads—the Messrs. Bravay. No such proposal emanated from the Messrs. Laird.

RECOGNITION OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

On Tuesday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Lindsey said he should postpone his motion until the 17th inst.

DENMARK AND GERMANY.

On Thursday there was a short but interesting discussion. The Earl of Ellenborough, after complaining of the exactions of the Prussians in Jutland, remarked that it was the impression in Germany that we should under no circumstances go to war; and also that 'on all public questions relating to Germany, Her Majesty's Ministers have as much difficulty in carrying out a purely English policy as was experienced in former times, as history teaches, by the Ministers of our first two sovereigns of the House of Hanover.' He hoped that the Government would remove that impression, and prove that they were influenced by the same English feelings that animated George III.

Earl Russell did not defend the conduct of the Prussians in Jutland, but thought it better to wait until the Government of Denmark had furnished a statement. If Prussia set at defiance the suspension of arms, it was not only an insult to Great Britain, but to all the Powers represented at the Conference. His Lordship then defended his policy with regard to Poland, and took credit for not engaging in hostilities, for in his opinion, 'of all the wild, imprudent, and extravagant wars that were ever made, a war for Poland would have been the most so.' He had declared that this country would not go to war for Poland, so that the Poles might not be deceived by vain hopes. He did not deny the patriotism of George III., but to him and his Ministers we owe 'two of the most unjustifiable wars in which a nation ever engaged'—the war against the North American Colonies, and the war against France for the restoration of the Bourbons. His Lordship then said: 'All I can say is this, and I say it with perfect truth, that however much Her Majesty may have, as other Princes have their private affections—connected as she may be by marriage with Princes who derived their birth from Germany—much as she is connected with German families, Her Majesty's great object has been to maintain intact the honour, to maintain high the reputation, to maintain the interests of this country. And however much Her Majesty may desire that every step, whether relating to Germany, or Denmark, or any other subject, should be carefully weighed by her advisers, there has been no occasion on which, when those advisers have deliberated and have given the result of that deliberation to Her Majesty, Her Majesty has not wholly followed their counsels, and adopted the resolutions to which they had come. Therefore, my Lords, having stated this, I need hardly state that which follows, that if the interests of the country have been deserted if there is any stain on its honour—if there has been any abandonment of those great interests which we are bound to preserve if there has been any abandonment of the interests of Europe which we with others are bound to look to, it is upon the heads of Her Majesty's advisers that the responsibility must rest.'

THE WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM CANADA.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, the Marquis of Hartington said that our force in Canada was to be decreased in order to diminish the heavy expenditure for providing accommodation for the troops, and because it was desired to concentrate troops now scattered about.

[A press of matter compels us to omit any notes upon the debates that have taken place upon our policy in China and other subjects. But as the motions and resolutions submitted were withdrawn or postponed, the exigencies of space will not make our record of actual Parliamentary business incomplete.]

PRESIDENT DAVIS'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS.

THE following is the President's Message to the Confederate States Congress which met on May 2:—

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

You are assembled under circumstances of deep interest to your country; and it is fortunate that, coming as you do, newly elected by the people and familiar with the condition of the various localities, you will be the better able to devise measures adapted to meet the wants of the public service without imposing unnecessary burdens on the citizen. The brief period which has elapsed since the last adjournment of Congress has not afforded sufficient opportunity to test the efficacy of the most important laws then enacted, nor have the events occurring in the interval been such as materially to change the state of the country.

The unjust war commenced against us, in violation of the rights of the States, and in usurpation of power not delegated to the Government of the United States, is still characterised by the barbarism with which it has heretofore been conducted by the enemy.

Aged men, helpless women and children, appeal in vain to the humanity which should be inspired by their condition for immunity from arrest, incarceration, or banishment from their homes. Plunder and devastation of the property of non-combatants, destruction of private dwellings, and even of edifices devoted to the worship of God; expeditions organised for the sole purpose of sacking cities, consigning them to the flames, killing the unarmed inhabitants, and inflicting horrible outrages on women and children, are some of the constantly recurring atrocities of the invader. It cannot reasonably be pretended that such acts conduce to any end which their authors dare avow before the civilised world, and sooner or later Christendom must mete out to them the condemnation which such brutality deserves. The sufferings thus ruthlessly inflicted upon the invaded districts have served but to illustrate their patriotism.

Entire unanimity and zeal for their country's cause have been pre-eminently conspicuous among those whose sacrifices have been greatest. So the army which has borne the trials and dangers of the war, which has been subjected to privations and disappointments (tests of manly fortitude far more severe than the brief fatigues and perils of actual combat), has been the centre of cheerfulness and hope. From the camp comes the voice of the soldier patriot invoking each who is at home, in the sphere he best may fill, to devote his whole energies to the support of a cause in the success of which their confidence has never faltered. They, the veterans of many a hard-fought field, tender to their country, without limit of time, a service of priceless value to us, one which posterity will hold in grateful remembrance.

In considering the state of the country, the reflection is naturally suggested that this is the Third Congress of the Confederate States of America. The Provisional Government was formed, its Congress held four sessions, lived its appointed term, and passed away. The permanent Government was then organised, its different departments established, a Congress elected, which also held four sessions, served its full constitutional term, and expired. You, the Second Congress under the permanent Government, are now assembled at the time and place appointed by law for commencing your session. All these events have passed into history, notwithstanding the threat of our prompt subjugation, made three years ago, by a people that presume to assert a title to govern States whose separate and independent sovereignty was recognised by treaty with France and Great Britain in the last century, and remained unquestioned for nearly three generations.

Yet these very Governments, in disregard of duty and treaty obligations, which bind them to recognise as independent Virginia and other Confederate States, persist in countenancing by moral influence, if not in aiding by unfair and partial action, the claim set up by the Executive of a foreign Government to exercise despotic sway over the States thus recognised, and treat the invasion of them by their former limited and special agent as though it were the attempt of a sovereign to suppress a rebellion against lawful authority. Ungenerous advantage has been taken of our present condition, and our rights have been violated, our vessels of war detained in ports to which they had been invited by proclamations of neutrality, and in one instance our flag also insulted where the sacred right of asylum was supposed to be secure, while one of these Governments has contented itself with simply deprecating by deferential representations the conduct of our enemy in the constantly recurring instances of his contemptuous disregard of neutral rights and flagrant violations of public law.

It may be that foreign Governments, like our enemies, have mistaken our desire for peace, unreservedly expressed, for evidence of exhaustion, and have thence inferred the probability of success in the efforts to subjugate or exterminate the millions of human beings who, in these States, prefer any fate to submission to their savage assailants. I see no prospect of an early change in the course heretofore pursued by these Governments; but when this delusion shall have been dispelled, and when our independence, by the valour and fortitude of our people, shall have been won against all the hostile influences combined against us, and can no longer be ignored by open foes or professed neutrals, this war will have left, with its proud memories, a record of many wrongs which it may not misbecome us to forgive—some for which we may not properly forbear from demanding redress. In the meantime, it is enough for us to know that every avenue of negotiation is closed against us; that our enemy is making renewed and strenuous efforts for our destruction; and that the sole resource for us, as a people secure in the justice of our cause and holding our liberties to be more precious than all other earthly possessions, is to combine and apply every available element of power for their defence and preservation.

On the subject of the exchange of prisoners I greatly regret to be unable to give you satisfactory information. The Government of the United States, while persisting in failure to execute the terms of the cartel, make occasional deliveries of prisoners, and then suspend action without apparent cause. I confess my inability to comprehend their policy or purpose. The prisoners held by us, in spite of human care, are perishing from the inevitable effects of imprisonment and the home sickness produced by the hopelessness of release from confinement. The spectacle of their suffering augments our longing desire to relieve from similar trials our own brave men, who have spent so many weary months in a cruel and useless imprisonment, endured with heroic constancy. The delivery, after a suspension of some weeks, has just been resumed by the enemy; but as they give no assurance of intent to carry out the cartel, an interruption of the exchange may recur at any moment.

The reports of the departments, herewith submitted, are referred to for full information in relation to the matters appertaining to each. There are two of them on which I deem it necessary to make special remark.

The Report of the Secretary of the Treasury states facts justifying the conclusion that the law passed at the last session for the purpose of withdrawing from circulation the large excess of Treasury notes heretofore issued, has had the desired effect, and that by the 1st of July the amount in circulation will have been reduced to a sum not exceeding $230,000,000. It is believed to be of primary importance that no further issue of notes should take place, and that the use of the credit of the Government should be restricted to the two other modes provided by Congress, viz. the sale of bonds and the issue of certificates bearing interest, for the price of supplies purchased within our limits. The law, as it now stands, authorises the issue by the Treasury of new notes to the extent of two-thirds of the amount received under its provisions.

The estimate of the amount funded under this law is shown to be $300,000,000, and if two-thirds of this sum be reissued, we shall have an addition of $200,000,000 to our circulation, believed to be already ample for the business of the country. The addition of this large sum to the volume of the currency would be attended with disastrous effects, and would produce the speedy recurrence of the evils from which the funding law has rescued the country. If our arms are crowned with the success which we have so much reason to hope, we may well expect that this war cannot be prolonged beyond the current year, and nothing would so much retard the beneficent influence of peace on all the interests of our country, as the existence of a great mass of currency not redeemable in coin.

With our vast resources, the circulation, if restricted to its present volume, would be easily manageable, and by gradual absorption in payment of public dues would give place to the precious metals, the only basis of a currency adapted to commerce with foreign countries. In our present circumstances I know of no mode of providing for the public wants which would entail sacrifices so great as a fresh issue of Treasury notes, and I trust that you will concur in the propriety of absolutely forbidding any increase of those now in circulation.

Officers have been appointed and despatched to the Trans-Mississippi States, and the necessary measures taken for the execution of the laws enacted to obviate delays in administering the Treasury and other Executive Departments in those States; but sufficient time has not elapsed to ascertain the result.

In relation to the most important of all subjects at the present time—the efficiency of our armies in the field—it is gratifying to assure you that the discipline and instruction of the troops have kept pace with the improvement in material and equipment. We have reason to congratulate ourselves on the results of the legislation on this subject and on the increased administrative energy in the different bureaux of the War Department, and may not unreasonably indulge anticipations of commensurate success in the ensuing campaign.

The organisation of reserves is in progress, and it is hoped they will be valuable in affording local protection without requiring details and detachments from active force.

Among the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary of War, your attention is specially invited to those in which legislation is suggested on the following subjects, viz.:—

The tenure of office of the general officers in the provisional army, and a proper discrimination in the compensation of the different grades.

The provision required in aid of invalid officers who have resigned in consequence of wounds or sickness contracted while in the service.

The amendment of the law which deprives officers in the field of the privilege of purchasing rations, and thus adds to their embarrassment, instead of conferring the benefit intended.

The organisation of the general staff of the army, in relation to which a special message will shortly be addressed to you, containing the reasons which compelled me to withhold my approval of a bill passed by your predecessors at too late a period of the session to allow time for returning it for their reconsideration.

The necessity for an increase in the allowance now made for the transportation of officers travelling under orders.

The mode of providing officers for the execution of the conscript laws.

The means of securing greater despatch and more regular administration of justice in examining and disposing of the records of cases reported from the martial and military courts in the army.

The recent events of the war are highly creditable to our troops, exhibiting energy and vigilance combined with the habitual gallantry which they have taught us to expect on all occasions. We have been cheered by the important and valuable successes in Florida, Northern Mississippi, Western Tennessee, and Kentucky, Western Louisiana and Eastern North Carolina, reflecting the highest honour on the skill and conduct of our commanders, and on the incomparable soldiers whom it is their privilege to lead. A naval attack on Mobile was so successfully repulsed at the outer works that the attempt was abandoned, and the nine-months' siege of Charleston has been practically suspended, leaving that noble city and its fortresses imperishable monuments to the skill and fortitude of its defenders.

The armies in Northern Georgia and in Northern Virginia still oppose, with unshaken front, a formidable barrier to the progress of the invader; and our generals, armies, and people are animated by cheerful confidence. Let us, then, while resolute in devoting our energies to securing the realisation of the brilliant auspices which encourage us, not forget that our humble and most grateful thanks are due to Him without whose guidance and protecting care all human efforts are of no avail, and to whose interposition are due the manifold successes with which we have been cheered.

Richmond, May 2, 1864. JEFFERSON DAVIS.

THE EXODUS FROM LIVERPOOL.—The emigration from the port of Liverpool continues without any sensible abatement, and, as heretofore, the majority of those leaving the Mersey are natives of the sister isle, and their destination the United States. During the past month there sailed to the United States, 'under the Act,' 29 ships, with 13,991 steerage and 348 cabin passengers; to Canada, 4 ships, with 930 steerage and 117 cabin passengers; to Queensland, 1 ship, with 319 steerage and 4 cabin passengers; to New South Wales, 1 ship, with 405 passengers; and to Victoria, 3 ships, with 1,159 steerage and 15 cabin passengers—making a grand total of 16,794 steerage and 544 cabin passengers.

THE SEIZURE OF THE *TUSCALOOSA*: PROTEST OF CAPTAIN SEMMES.

WE are requested to publish the following letter from Captain Semmes to Admiral Walker:—

Confederate States steamer *Alabama*:
Table Bay, March 22, 1864.

SIR,—I was surprised to learn upon my arrival at this port of the detention by your order of the Confederate States barque *Tuscaloosa*, a tender to this ship. I take it for granted that you detained her by order of the Home Government, as no other supposition is consistent with my knowledge of the candour of your character. The *Tuscaloosa* having been formerly received by you as a regularly commissioned tender, and no new facts appearing in the case to change your decision. Under these circumstances I shall not demand of you the restoration of that vessel, with which demand you would not have the power to comply, but will content myself with putting this my protest against this detention on the record of the case, for the future consideration of our respective Governments.

Earl Russell, in reaching the decision which he has communicated to you, must surely have misapprehended the facts, otherwise I cannot conceive him capable of so misapplying the law. The facts are briefly these: 1st, The *Tuscaloosa* was formerly the enemy's ship *Conrad*, lawfully captured by me on the high seas, as a recognised belligerent; 2ndly, She was duly commissioned by me as a tender to the Confederate States steamer *Alabama*, then as now under my command; and 3rdly, She entered English waters not only without intention of violating Her Britannic Majesty's orders of neutrality, but was received with hospitality, and no question was raised as to her right to enter under the circumstances. These were the facts up to the time of Earl Russell's issuing to you his order in the premises. Let us consider then a moment, and see if we can derive from them, or any of them, just ground for the extraordinary decision to which Earl Russell has come.

My right to capture and the legality of the capture will not be denied. Nor will you deny, in your experience as a naval officer, my right to commission this, or any other ship lawfully in my possession, as a tender to my principal ship. Your Admirals do this every day, on distant stations; and the tender from the time of her being put in commission wears a pennant, and is entitled to the immunities and privileges of a ship of war, the right of capture inclusive.

Numerous decisions are to be found in your own prize law to this effect. In other words, this is one of the recognised modes of commissioning a ship of war, which has grown out of the convenience of the thing, and become a sort of naval common law, as indisputable as the written law itself. The only difference between the commission of such a ship and that of a ship commissioned by the sovereign authority at home is that the word 'tender' appears in the former commission, and not in the latter. The *Tuscaloosa* having then been commissioned by me in accordance with the recognised practice of all civilised nations that have a marine, can any other Government than my own look into her antecedents? Clearly not. The only thing which can be looked at upon her entering a foreign port is her commission. If this be issued by competent authority, you cannot proceed a step further. The ship then becomes a part of the territory of the country to which she belongs, and you can exercise no more jurisdiction over her than over that territory. The self-respect and the independence of nations require this; for it would be a monstrous doctrine to admit that one nation may enquire into the title by which another nation holds her ships of war. And there can be no difference in this respect between tenders and ships originally commissioned. The flag and the pennant fly over them both, and they are both withdrawn from the local jurisdiction by competent commissions. On principle, you might as well have enquired into the antecedents of the *Alabama*, as of the *Tuscaloosa*. Indeed, you had a better reason for enquiring into the antecedents of the former than of the latter, it having been alleged that the former escaped from England in violation of your Foreign Enlistment Act. Mr. Adams, the United States Minister, did in fact demand that the *Alabama* should be seized, but Earl Russell, in flat and most pointed contradiction of his late conduct in the case of the *Tuscaloosa*, gave him the proper legal reply, to wit, that the *Alabama* being now a ship of war he was estopped from looking into her antecedents. One illustration will suffice to show you how untenable your position is in this matter. If the *Tuscaloosa's* commission be admitted to have been issued by competent authority, and in due form (and I do not understand this to be contested except on the ground of her antecedents), she is as much a ship of war as the *Narcissus*, your flag-ship. Suppose you should visit a French port, and the port admiral should request you to haul down your flag on the ground that you had had no sufficient title to the ship before she was commissioned, or that she was a contract ship and you had not paid for her, and the builder had a lien on her, or that you had captured her from the Russians, and had not had her condemned by a prize court, what would you think of the proceeding? And how does the case supposed differ from the one in hand? In both it is a pretension on the part of a foreign Power to look into the antecedents of a ship of war—neither more nor less in the one case than in the other. I will even put the case stronger. If it be admitted that I had the right to commission a tender, and the fact had been that I had seized a French ship and put her in commission, you could not enquire into the fact. You would have no right to know but that I had the orders of my Government for this seizure. In short, you would have no right to enquire into the matter at all. My ship being regularly commissioned, I am responsible to my Government for my acts, and my Government in the case supposed would be responsible to France, and not to you. If this reasoning be correct—and, with all due submission to his Lordship, I think it is sustained by the plainest principles of the international code—it follows that the condemnation of a prize in a prize court is not the only mode of changing the character of a captured ship. When the sovereign of the captor puts his own commission on board such a ship, this is a condemnation in its most solemn form, and is notice to all the world. On principle, if a ship thus commissioned were recaptured, the belligerent prize court could not restore her to her original owner, but must condemn her as a prize ship of war of the enemy to the captors; for prize courts are international courts, and cannot go behind the pennant and commission of the cruiser.

Further, as to this question of adjudication, your letter to Lieutenant Low, the late commander of the *Tuscaloosa*, assumes that, as the *Tuscaloosa* was not condemned, she was therefore the property of the enemy from whom she had been taken. Condemnation is intended for the benefit of neutrals, and to quiet the titles of purchasers, but is never necessary as against the enemy. His right is taken away by force, and not

by any legal process, and the possession of his property *manu forte* is all that is required against him.

Earl Russell having decided to disregard these plain principles of the laws of nations, and to go behind my commission, let us see what he next decides.

His decision is this, that the *Tuscaloosa* being a prize, and having come into British waters in violation of the Queen's orders of neutrality, she must be restored to her original owner. The ship is not seized and condemned for the violation of any municipal law, such as fraud upon the revenue, &c.—as, indeed, she could not be so seized and condemned without the intervention of a court of law—but by the strong arm of executive power he wrests my prize from me, and very coolly hands her over to the enemy. It is admitted that all prizes, like other merchant ships, are liable to seizure and condemnation for a palpable violation of the municipal law; but that is not this case. The whole thing is done under the international law. Now, there is no principle better established than that neutrals have no right to interfere in any manner between the captor and his prize, except in one particular instance, and that is where the prize has been captured in neutral waters and afterwards comes of her own accord within the neutral jurisdiction. In that case, and in that case alone, the neutral prize court may adjudicate the case, and if they find the allegation of *infra terminos* proved, they may restore the property to the original owner.

If a lawful prize, contrary to prohibition, come within neutral waters, the most the neutral can do is to order her to depart without interfering in any manner with the captor's possession.

It is admitted that if she obstinately refuses to depart, or conducts herself otherwise in an improper manner, she may be compelled to depart, or may, indeed, be seized and confiscated as a penalty for her offence. But there is no plea of that kind set up here. To show how sacred is the title of mere possession on the part of a captor, permit me to quote from one of your own authorities. On page 42 of the 1st vol. of Phillimore on International Law you will find the following passage:—'In 1654 a treaty was entered into between England and Portugal, by which, among other things, both countries mutually bound themselves not to suffer the ships and goods of the other taken by enemies and carried into the ports of the other to be conveyed away from the original owners or proprietors.'

'Now, I have no scruple in saying observes Lord Stowell in 1798) that this is an article incapable of being carried into literal execution according to the modern understanding of the law of nations; for no neutral country can intervene to wrest from a belligerent prizes lawfully taken. This is perhaps the strongest instance that could be cited of what civilians call the *consuetudo abrogatoria*.'

This being the nature of my title, the reasons should be very urgent which should justify my being forcibly dispossessed of it. But there are no such reasons apparent. It is not contended that there was any misconduct on the part of the *Tuscaloosa*, unless her entry into a British port as a Confederate cruiser be deemed misconduct. As stated in the beginning of this letter, she had no intention of violating any order of the Queen. Her error, therefore, if it were an error, is entitled to be considered with gentleness and not with hardship. Her error was the error of yourself and His Excellency the Governor, as well as myself. We all agreed, I believe, that she was a lawfully commissioned ship, and that her commission estopped all further enquiry. In the meantime, she proceeds to sea thus endorsed, as it were, by the Colonial authorities, your Home Government overrules your decision: the *Tuscaloosa* returns in good faith to your port to seek renewed hospitality under your orders of neutrality. And what happens? An English officer, armed with your order, proceeds on board of her, turns her commander and officers out of her, and assumes possession on the ground that she has violated the Queen's orders; and this without any warning to depart or any other notice whatever. In the name of all open and fair dealing—in the name of frankness, candour, and good faith, I most respectfully enter my protest against such an extreme, uncalled-for, and apparently unfriendly course.

But the most extraordinary part of the proceeding has yet to be stated. You not only divest me of my title to my prize, but you tell me that you are about to hand her over to the enemy! On what principle this can be done I am utterly at a loss to conceive. Although it may be competent to a Government, in an extreme case, to *restore to the Exchequer* a prize, there is but one possible contingency in which the prize can be restored to the opposite belligerent, and that is the one already mentioned of a capture within neutral jurisdiction. And this is done on the ground of the nullity of the original capture. The prize is pronounced not to have been lawfully made, and this being the case, and the vessel being within the jurisdiction of the neutral whose waters have been violated, there is but one course to pursue. The vessel does not belong to the captor, and as she does not belong to the neutral, as a matter of course she belongs to the opposite belligerent, and must be delivered up to him. But there is no analogy between that case and the one we are considering. My capture cannot be declared a nullity. My title is as good against the enemy as though condemnation had passed. The vessel either belongs to me or to the British Government. If she belongs to me, justice requires that she should be delivered up to me. If she belongs (by way of confiscation) to the British Government, why should that Government make a gratuitous present of her to one of the belligerents rather than the other?

My Government cannot fail, I think, to view this matter in the light in which I have placed it; and it is deeply to be regretted that a weaker people struggling against a stronger for very existence should have so much cause to complain of the unfriendly disposition of a Government from which, if it represents truly the instincts of Englishmen, it had the right to expect at least sympathy and kindness in the place of rigour and harshness.

I have, &c.,

R. SEMMES, Captain.

Rear-Admiral Sir Baldwin Walker, Simon's Town, Cape of Good Hope.

PLANS OF MR. SEWARD.—The Secretary of State is, in in all matters relating to the management of political conventions, a skillful and unscrupulous pilot; he sees the coming danger and looks for a back door, to get out of it. He has done so, I am told, for the last three months, since the Olustee disaster and the failure of Sherman and Thomas. He then laid down his pipes for deserting Mr. Lincoln at the first approach of the storm. 'If bayonets betray us,' said he to one of his friends, 'we must try to mend our position by looking for another leader.' This remark excited a great deal of attention at the time, but like other remarks of the same character, it was lost in the midst of the clang of arms and the clamours of the war party.—*New York World.*

CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

MANCHESTER: June 1, 1864.

A BRIEF account of the progress of the Southern Independence Association since my last half-yearly report will testify, I think, sufficiently to the progress of the Confederate cause. To speak generally, there is scarcely a town or populous village, whether in Lancashire or throughout the manufacturing districts of Cheshire, Yorkshire, and Derbyshire, where the American question has not been fully and warmly discussed. The proceedings at many of the meetings were continued in some instances until nearly midnight, the resolutions being carried favourably—in most cases by overwhelming majorities, in many unanimously, and in none (not even at Rochdale) adversely. Nor does this description, large as it is, quite cover the matter, for on many occasions, before the Union and Emancipation Society was entirely beaten from the field, the Southern Independence Association carried the war into the Northern camp, as at Levenshulme, Droylsden, and elsewhere, where a majority of the people voted the Northern chairman out of the chair, and passed Southern resolutions under the presidency of a chairman of their own choosing.

At Oldham, with its 60,000 inhabitants, Southern meetings have been held almost beyond number. This was, I believe, the first town in Lancashire to recognise the importance of the American question, and to stand up for the justice of the Confederate cause. It was here also that the *George Griswold* contribution was first denounced, in the language of the placards, as not a gift to alleviate the sufferings of the distressed, but a bribe to purchase the sympathies of the mercenary. Here, too, the first Southern Club was formed. At two public meetings of the burgesses and operatives, convened upon requisition to the Mayor, and also at one of the largest open-air demonstrations ever held in the town, resolutions were passed in favour of recognition; and petitions in the same behalf, signed by the Chairman, have been forwarded for presentation to both Houses of Parliament. Any time during the two years this agitation has been in progress, the Union and Emancipation Society sent its lecturers in vain. 'Agents,' recognised or unrecognised, fugitive presidential black Jehus, Chartist barristers, and all the tribe of oratorical hacks, found no occupation in Oldham. Local amateurs, who were moved to eloquence on the attractive subject of 'slavery,' found their talents unappreciated. All they had to say had been said before by abler men, and yet to no purpose. The local journals, the *Chronicle* and the *Standard*, are equally Southern, and have done good service in the cause. The *Oldham Times*, since defunct, had the courage to advocate the Northern party, but could not live in so Southern an atmosphere: and the *Oldham Observer*, started in the same interest, also perished—a literary exotic.

Public meetings, technically known in the north as 'towns' meetings,' through being convened by public requisition to the respective mayors, and presided over by those functionaries, have also been held at Ashton, with its 65,000 inhabitants; at Burnley, including Habergham, with its 36,000; at Stockport, with a population more than twice as large; at Preston, almost as notably Southern as Oldham; and, I believe, in some other towns. In the populous district of Darwen, the Confederates had a little difficulty at first in resisting and overthrowing the Federal opposition led by a Mr. Eccles Shorrocks, a cotton-spinner of some influence in that locality; and the victory, I remember, was won on a somewhat remarkable occasion, when a Unitarian minister stood up to champion the South, at the cost of every pane of glass, in the local Mechanics' Institution. The windows, however, were easily mended, though the Federal cause has never since been heard of at Darwen. At Blackburn, with a population of some 70,000, and supporting two Southern newspapers, [illegible] petitions have been adopted by large majorities, and are now, I believe, in the hands of Mr. W. H. Brandly, the Conservative M.P. for that borough. Here, too, as at Darwen, the glass was brittle in the windows of the Town-hall, but that was a year ago, before the Union and Emancipation Society had learned to yield with grace. Meetings have also been held and petitions adopted at Bolton, 88,000 inhabitants; at Bury, 80,000; at Wigan, 64,000; at Macclesfield, 50,000; at Bacup, 13,000; and at Hyde, Leigh, Rawtenstall, Warrington, Ratcliffe, Failsworth, Swinton Todmorden, Ramsbottom, Tintwistle, and many other outlying villages and towns more or less densely populated.

At Glossop, Derbyshire, a town of more than 30,000 inhabitants, Southern meetings have been held in great numbers, and Southern resolutions have been carried with the utmost enthusiasm. The following is a copy of the petition to the House of Commons, signed by the Mayor on behalf of the inhabitants in public meeting assembled.

'To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

'The humble petition of the inhabitants of Glossop, in the county of Derby, in public meeting assembled.

'*Sheweth*, That the independence of the several States of North America was acknowledged by treaty with this country in 1783, not with reference to any Federal relations subsisting between them, but as they were free, sovereign, and independent States.

'That the recent change of Federal relations by the Southern States has not altered their treaty rights with this country; therefore, they have a just claim that their Confederacy should be recognised equally with the Union of the North American States.

'That the present war in America is an outrage upon State independence as recognised by this country in 1783, and events having shown that the aggressive Power is unable to subjugate the Southern States, the continuance of the contest would be as vain as it is wicked.

'Your petitioners, therefore, pray your honourable House to take such steps as are necessary to procure the recognition by this country of the Southern Confederacy, and to use such other means of peaceful mediation as in your judgment may best tend to a speedy termination of the war.

'FREDERICK BUCKLEY, Mayor, *Chairman*.'

At Preston, also, is another Confederate stronghold, and the Southern cause in that borough is, I believe, very considerably indebted, as at Darwen, to the popular advocacy of a minister of the Unitarian Church. The following is a copy of the petition, signed by the Mayor of the town, and forwarded to Sir T. G. Hesketh, Bart., for presentation to Parliament:—

'The humble petition of the gentry, merchants, manufacturers, and other inhabitants of Preston, in public meeting convened by the Mayor at the written request of 279 of said inhabitants,

'*Humbly sheweth*, That your petitioners are of opinion that the war in America is an injury to the world, and that the present aspects of the conflict afford no hope of its early termination, except by means of the moral influence of Europe.

'They therefore pray your honourable House to use all just and honourable means to procure a cessation of hostilities, with a view to afford an opportunity for the peaceful separation of the States.

'Signed on behalf of the meeting,

'LAWRENCE SPENCER, Mayor.'

At Halifax also, and Bradford, and other towns in Yorkshire, a strong Confederate feeling exists, and has been elicited on more occasions than one—in the former town by Mr. Spence, and in the latter by members of the local branch of the Southern Independence Association, an institution that, by its weight, character, and numbers, ought to convince a man of Mr. Forster's turn for thought that his theory of Parliamentary representation is scarcely exemplified in his own person.

On referring to my notes I find I have mentioned in the foregoing report the names of nearly thirty towns in the manufacturing districts, representing an aggregate of nearly 1,000,000 inhabitants.

PARIS TOPICS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS: May 31.

THE successes of the Confederate armies, as reported by the last news, have met with a very fair appreciation in the Paris press. I cannot better explain to your readers the general feeling in France than by translating a few passages from an article on the last seven days' fight from the *Patrie* of Sunday. It contains some remarks on a fact which, though not new to English readers, is still little understood in France.

'No doubt some unforeseen accident may give a victory to the Federals, and confirm the sanguine expectations of the European advocates of the North who saw in rose-red, not blood-red, the horrible butchery of the first days of the great battle. But this is scarcely probable. It should be remarked, in the first instance, that the despatches for Europe are fabricated in the War Office at Washington, and that, if they do not announce a complete victory of the Federals, it is certain that they have not only gained no success, but that they have been at least very near a defeat. . . . Of all that the Federals claimed what remains? A loss of 40,000 men acknowledged even in their first despatches. . . . The last despatches *from Union sources* show that Lee holds his ground; that Sigel, instead of cutting off the Confederate retreat, is himself hunted through the valley of Shenandoah; and that Butler acknowledges the "considerable losses" which have forced him back within his lines. Gold is up to an unheard-of price; reinforcements of raw troops are, or are said to be, hurried forward; every regiment of reserve, even the negroes (on the last day), have been sent into action; and after all, a week of fighting and the loss of 40,000 or 50,000 men have resulted in the advance of the Federal army some fifteen or twenty miles, while the Confederates have almost voluntarily abandoned their first line of defence to take up a still more formidable one.'

I do not know that the attention of your readers has been called to an admirable institution which owes its origin to Switzerland: it is that of common hospitals for the battle-field. It was projected eight months ago in a conference held at Geneva, and already fourteen or fifteen European Governments have given their adhesion to the proposals which the conference put forward. These may be summed up in a very few words, but of vast import—the neutralisation of all hospitals, whether field hospitals or others; the neutrality of all who are attached to them, as well as of the wounded; and an identical hospital flag adopted by all countries. It seems that in Denmark this plan has already been put in practice by delegates of the Geneva committee with the happiest result. As war cannot be prevented, the next best thing is to diminish, so far as man's care can, its worst evils, and we may hope that before long the white flag with red cross will wave on both sides of every battle-field. The country which has originated so generous an idea may well claim the right to see her flag consecrated by it.

The most amiable trait I have yet heard cited of the late Duke of Malakhoff, of whom few such are told, was his forgiving a disobedience or misunderstanding of orders in an inferior officer at the siege of Sebastopol, who had allowed the Russians to seek for and bury their dead, because among them was found one man still living. General Grant seems not yet to have heard this anecdote.

The Legislative Assembly was prorogued on the 29th, when M. de Morny made one of those cleverly adroit speeches for which he is celebrated. This session, though a very long one, has been very favourable to the Government, which has made in practice some concessions to the wishes of the minority that tend to strengthen the Government by attracting public sympathy. M. de Morny's tact and urbanity have done still more to moderate the attacks of the opposition.

From yesterday's *Moniteur* we learn with what impatience the Mexicans await the arrival of their new sovereigns. Preparations on more than a European scale of magnificence are being made for their reception.

Letters from Richmond, dated the 6th, have been received in Paris. From these it appears that Grant's plan of campaign was perfectly known a month before, as stated in the *Times* correspondence, and ample preparations were made to meet it. The army is stated to have never been better equipped and provisioned than now, and both the authorities and the people of Richmond were sanguine of success. Events have proved that their confidence was well grounded. The writer is attached to the battalion for the defence of Richmond, and he states that the defences of the city are perfect. Though thus well prepared, no one anticipated there that Grant would fare better than his predecessors. 'A louder wail will probably go up from the Yankees after this attempt than the old or new world has ever heard.' President Davis's message was enclosed in this letter, and it will probably appear in to-morrow's *Galignani*.

YANKEE PRISONERS.—The records at Castle Thunder give strange evidence concerning the remarkably fine spirit of the Yankee army in Virginia. Within the last few weeks nearly a hundred deserters from Grant have passed over the line and come asking asylum in the bosom of the rebellion. For the last few days they have been particularly persevering in getting to Richmond ahead of time, unwilling to wait for Grant and stand the chances of being put to a great deal of unnecessary trouble and in no little danger. It is becoming a customary sight to see squads of five, six, eight, or ten per day, marching up to General Winder's office under guard, but seeming as gay and glad as if they were in the best luck and with the best prospects in the world.—*Richmond Enquirer.*

CONFEDERATE AFFAIRS.

WE are permitted to publish the following extracts from a letter written by a highly influential resident in Mobile to a friend in Europe:—

Mobile, April 15, 1864.

The *Dublagh* is in port on her third trip, and sails again to-morrow. I trust to her luck to get a few lines to you. . . . I think the chances are that Mobile will escape to the end of the war. At all events the enemy has delayed so long that the town has been fortified in a manner to defy them. You will see reports of the sinking of our great ironclad ram the *Tennessee*. Not true. She is ready for action, and you may at any time hear of her giving a good account of herself. Admiral Buchanan pronounces her far more formidable than the *Merrimac*, and our naval men think the Yankees have nothing equal to her.

Since I last wrote you, indeed since the opening of 1864, Confederate affairs have wonderfully improved. We have had an uninterrupted series of successes. The latest are from the Trans-Mississippi department, where Banks's whole force, with a part of Sherman's army, has been badly beaten by Kirby Smith, Dick Taylor, and 'Old Dad' (Price); and Forrest is now up in Kentucky playing the deuce with the Yankees, and fairly scaring them to death along the Mississippi river.

But it is not of these military affairs that I speak when I notice the favourable change in our affairs. It is in the firm tone of the Government and the people, the courage and energy of Congress in its financial and military legislation, the cheerful acquiescence of the people in the enormous taxes, and in other measures, that I see the sure road out of our troubles. Within six months $700,000,000 of the $900,000,000 issued to carry on the war will be withdrawn from circulation. Is not this a financial feat? A reduction in the price of commodities and of the expenses of Government will be the consequence. It has besides lifted from the minds of the people an incubus which all dreaded would crush us at last. You cannot imagine how buoyant the country feels after making this enormous sacrifice, and with what cheerful alacrity they are hastening to fund in 'four per cents.,' or to exchange old notes for new at the rate of three for two. This is one of the greatest victories of the war. It is a civil victory, and it has saved us. A second is in the glorious voluntary re-enlistment of our veterans in the field. It began in Johnston's army of Tennessee, was caught up like the contagion of a religious revival, and went on until it included every company and every regiment in the armies. This was another civic and great moral victory won by our brave men over themselves, over their longing desires for rest and for home, for escape from the terrible hardships of soldiers' life like theirs. Is it not grand in men who have slept winter and summer for three years without house or tent to cover them, whose rations are scant and hard, their feet often without shoes, and their backs without blankets?

You will be glad to know that after all the frightful havoc of war in the ranks of our young men, the Confederate armies are stronger to-day in numbers than at any former period of the war. As *matériel* they are veterans, and as for their *morale* I have given you proof that the loftiest patriotism animates them. They are, too, I am happy to say, better clothed and provided. For the first time, you will not find a shoeless soldier in the army of Tennessee.

I may safely say to you that Government, army, and people have deliberately made up their minds to accept war as 'a permanent institution,' in preference to yielding under all and any circumstances. The enemy, by his own deeds, has taught us this determination and this deep and bitter hatred which words cannot express. We are a hundred times better prepared for war than three years ago. You might not send us another pinch of powder from Europe, and we should not miss it. We have Nitre Bureaux, nitre beds, and powder mills—in Augusta, Georgia, the largest powder mill in America. You in Europe can form no conception of the progress we have been driven by necessity to make in the arts. We weave our soldier's cloth, make the leather for his shoes, our own artillery, wagons and caissons, our own harness and saddle and other equipments. We cast our big guns and the most beautiful brass field-pieces you ever laid your eyes on. I can take you to Columbus, Georgia, and show you a Colt's pistol factory, for which every machine for every part was designed and fashioned on the spot. In the same building is a bayonet factory. Swords, spurs, military bridle bits, and the like are made in every town and village. We have besides our foundries, military arsenals, and navy yards, in which you would be surprised to see what 'the mother of invention' has done for us. Our ordnance yards and depôts contain all that is required for modern warfare. Formerly, you know, we had to depend upon Yankees for so simple a thing as a lucifer match—the Confederate article supplies its place now. In the printing business Southern mills furnish our printing paper, and ink is made at home. There is in a newspaper office in this town a machine invented by one of the foremen for making letter envelopes; it turns out several thousands a day, and of course pays very handsomely. Soon after the blockade many thought that we should 'go up' on the salt question—couldn't salt our meat, and should be starved into subjection: it has turned out like the panic about powder. The salt mines of Virginia, the saline springs of Alabama, and the exhaustless ocean and gulf washing our coast have invited labour and ingenuity, and there is no longer scarcity of salt. I am going with my wife in the shooting season to a friend in Montgomery: one of his inducements to the visit is an ice-house which he built and filled the past winter, and a mint bed close to it. You thought the ice an impossible production in this latitude, no doubt. Indeed we do not brag of our ingenuity in this respect, but Providence has seen fit to send us a very cold winter, and my friend, being a Virginian and used to icehouses, took advantage of it.

THE VIRGINIAN BIBLE SOCIETY.—The annual meeting was lately held in Richmond. The Rev. Mr. Woodbridge was in the chair. The annual report was read by Dr. Doggett, the Secretary of the Society. The report gave well the details of the operations of the Society during the past year. Among other items they have given out 9,000 Bibles, 10,000 Testaments, and 50,000 Gospels to the soldiers east of the Mississippi. In addition to what has been distributed, they have sold 20,000 copies of the Scriptures. These form only a portion of the books purchased in England by Dr. Hoge. The remainder are on the way, and some of them will be on hand very shortly. After the reading of the report, interesting addresses were delivered by the Rev. Drs. Edwards, Hoge, and Granberry. The old officers were then unanimously re-elected for the ensuing year. Eighty-eight thousand copies of the different books have been received from the British and Foreign Bible Society, and of that number 87,000 have been distributed.

THE ENGLISH MEMORIAL TO 'STONEWALL JACKSON.'

THE subjoined letter from Governor Smith of Virginia has been forwarded to us for publication:

State of Virginia, Executive Department:
Richmond, April 25, 1864.

To the Honourable James M. Mason:

I was most agreeably surprised a few days ago by the receipt of yours of the 17th ultimo, informing me that a number of distinguished gentlemen of England had undertaken to have executed a marble statue of General Thomas J. ('Stonewall') Jackson; and requesting that you may be authorised to say that, 'so far as it may rest with Virginia, the statue shall occupy a position worthy of it and the occasion.' In reply, it gives me pleasure to assure you that the most appropriate spot in our beautiful grounds shall be selected for the proposed token of a great nation's appreciation of our illustrious son.

This expression of sympathy, while we yet mourn over our great loss, touches me deeply, and will, I know, reach the heart of every true Virginian. And as Governor of Virginia, and speaking for her and in her name, I ask you to tender our sincere acknowledgments to the distinguished gentlemen who have so kindly and happily conceived this handsome and grateful tribute to the memory of one of our best and bravest, and at the same time one of the truest and greatest of his race. Noble must have been the man who could have so suddenly impressed himself upon the sentiments of mankind, and generous the people whose sensibilities have prompted them to commemorate his name.

I am, Sir, most respectfully and truly yours,
WILLIAM SMITH.

THE 'SCOTIA' AND THE FEDERAL POLICE.—We have already stated that the Cunard steamer *Scotia*, while lying in the stream at New York, about to sail for Liverpool, was boarded by Federal police, searched throughout, and the passengers and owners plundered of copies of two New York journals which had fallen under the ban of the Washington executive. It was soon known in the city that this outrage had been committed, and intense excitement prevailed. The fact that a British mail steamer had been searched for political documents was a subject of considerable anxiety amongst the more discreet New Yorkers; but to the thoughtless part of the community it was regarded as a piece of daring braggadocio. Everybody knew of the occurrence, and the general knowledge was of course communicated to the men-of-war in the harbour. The French admiral immediately went on board the *Scotia*, and enquired the full particulars of the police visitation. They were of course explained by Captain Judkins, the commander of the vessel, and were embodied by the admiral in a despatch to his Government. This despatch was brought by the *Scotia*, and by this time has, no doubt, been discussed by the Emperor Napoleon and his Cabinet. The French admiral was prompt and attentive to his duties, although the vessel did not belong to his country. But where were the British officers? They made no enquiries as to the insult offered to the British flag, and British interests were left to the protection of merchant seamen and the French admiral. The English Government, we all know, can now do nothing without the countenance and co-operation of Louis Napoleon; but things have come to a pretty pass when our flag in foreign waters must rely for protection upon French men-of-war.—*Liverpool Courier*.

LIBERTY IN THE SOUTH.—The *Richmond Examiner*, a journal which cannot be charged with any undue leaning to the Confederate Government, observes:—'One point of contrast between these Confederate States and the invading Power has been highly gratifying to ourselves, and has given us as favourable a reputation with the rest of the world as the gallantry of our soldiers in the field—it is the contrast between the slavish abandonment by our enemies of their rights as citizens in the insane crusade against another people, and the jealous assertion by Confederates of those same rights, even in the agonies of a struggle for the very existence of their States. We have, as all nations, many weak-minded and conceited persons in public office, who would probably assume arbitrary powers if they dared; but they have been made to know with certainty, that the least step beyond the clear limit of law would be promptly and sternly checked by the public will; and, if persisted in, would be punished by the nation at all risk, even that of its own ruin. So well aware have been such persons of this jealous vigilance in the Confederacy, that, amid all the just indignation which some of these functionaries have excited by their folly and meanness within the circle of their lawful discretion, it has been impossible to catch them beyond it. In despite of the careful and constant falsifications of the enemy about the "iron rule" and "despotic tyranny" of the Confederate authorities (all contradiction of which statements they hoped was blockaded in), foreign nations are informed of that remarkable contrast. What is more important, we know it ourselves; and it forms one of the many good reasons why we are daily thankful to be delivered from association with such a people. Here no public meeting has been controlled or "adjourned" by military officers; here no citizen has been handed his voting-paper by a sergeant of dragoons, and has voted at the point of the bayonet; here no newspaper has been suppressed by a provost-marshal, nor denied circulation through the public post-office; neither has any editor been thrown in chains, nor clergyman set to sweeping the streets. But all those proceedings have been of ordinary occurrence in the country of our enemies, and that within their military lines.'

KIDNAPPING BRITISH SUBJECTS.—*The Quebec Daily News* of May 12 says:—'We learn that an official communication has reached the Government adverting to a scheme concocted to entice Canadians to the United States. It is believed that there are agents in this Province endeavouring to hire men to work at a patent brick factory, but the real design is to entrap Canadians over the line, and then force them to enlist in the Federal army. Hundreds are wanted, and if these are secured, thousands more will be required for some other bogus speculations. We assume the Government will take prompt action, as far as possible, to checkmate these speculators in humanity. The pretence of wanting only 300 men is too flimsy not to be penetrated. If there were a score of agents in the Province, each would require that number. We caution the credulous against any who come here offering high wages for labourers or artisans in the United States. . . . . There is no want of labour in Canada for those who are disposed to work. Indeed there is some apprehension among the agriculturists, that farm servants will be hard to procure. We strongly caution the public against those agents of President Lincoln, whether they offer high wages to engage for a patent brick factory, for a railroad, or any other bogus enterprise. Canadians are wanted to fight, bleed, die; that is the object for which they procure men.

THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE money article of the *Deutsche Monden* of Frankfort gives the following sensible and comprehensive summary of the financial condition of the United States:—

We are to-day in a position to make a general and explanatory statement with regard to the Federal finances—statements for which many people are interested to exchange the best American or South German stock.

The expenses paid by the Federal Government from the beginning of the war up to March 1, 1864, are stated to $2,128,309,200; to these we must add the expenses from the latter date to the end of the financial year, ending 30 June, estimated by the Secretary of the Treasury at $1,000,000,000 total for the three years of war, $3,128,941,100. The expenditure of 1861 is calculated at $474,815,000, making up a grand total of $4,479,500,100 on the debit side of the Union account. On the credit side we may place the sum of $519,613,155 for the receipts of the years 1862-3-4-5, balance against the Union, $3,960,213,05?

We must further remember that the States have advanced large sums since the commencement of the war, and that there are outstanding claims for compensation to a enormous amount, the two together cannot be stated at less than $150,000,000. Add this to the debit as above calculated, and we find that the grand total of debt is *more than four thousand million dollars*.

Now what is the value of the property within the Union which is to be charged with this debt? By the assessment of 1860 the value of the whole real and personal property in the United States was fixed at $12,084,000,000; but from this we must deduct at least one-third for the value of that within the Confederate States, so that the actual security for the Federal debt is in round numbers $8,000,000,000—or, in other words, *the capital of the Union amounts to only double its debt*.

We will now examine what are the resources for the payment of the interest on this debt, and for the supply of the ordinary annual expenditure. The former, at 6 per cent., will be about $240,600,000; the latter, after the termination of the war, may be moderately estimated at $201,000,000: total annual expenses, $441,600,000. The average receipts, on the other hand, of the nineteen States which compose the present Union (omitting from the account the two small border States of Maryland and Delaware), are only $264,431,862, according to the calculation made in the well-known work of Mr. Hunt published at New York, and based on the statistics of the years 1850 and 1860. It follows that the annual interest on the public debt of the United States far exceeds one-half their whole revenue, and that the whole annual expenses of the Government will exceed the aggregate receipts by well-nigh one million dollars. If there is any eloquence in figures, any impressiveness in a bare recital of facts, we may hope that this statement will open the eyes of those who still blindly trust in the power of the United States to liquidate this tremendous debt. Yet our calculation is only correct on the supposition that the present campaign will bring about a termination of the war: should hostilities be continued, we may form but a faint conception of the figure to which the debt will attain through the shameful, reckless, ruinous expenditure. Let no one accuse us of exaggeration: it is an established fact that the whole expenditure from the year 1789 to 1861, including the cost of the wars with England and Mexico, amounted to $1,403,790,786, so that the sum spent between 1861 and 1865 will surpass the expenses of the 70 years preceding by $2,976,065,408.

We have invented nothing: we have simply placed ourselves and our readers face to face with the facts and figures as stated by Mr. Voorhees, member of Congress for the State of Indiana, in the House of Representatives, on the 5th of March last—facts which are undisputed, figures which yet await contradiction.

MURDER AND INCENDIARISM.—The New Orleans *True Delta*, a 'loyal Union' paper, published the following narrative on April 29:—'Mr. D. Murphy, who arrived here last night on the steamer *General Banks*, furnishes us the particulars of a most brutal murder that was committed early on Sunday morning, 24th inst., about seven miles below Donaldsonville, by four negroes, on the persons of Mr. John McCormick and his brother-in-law Patrick Kelly, a boy fifteen years of age, all employed on the plantation of Mr. de Visser. Our informant states that the negroes broke into the house of Mr. McCormick about one o'clock, while all the inmates were asleep, and before they could arouse themselves to a full realisation of the presence of the murderers, they were overpowered and killed in their beds, as above stated. The murderers then attacked Mrs. McCormick (who, during the killing of her husband and young Kelly, had had time to partly dress herself) and cut and stabbed her until they supposed life extinct, when the fiends fastened all the doors, and while one of the number dressed himself in Mr. McCormick's clothes, the others made a brief search for such articles as they could conveniently carry off, and then fired the premises and left. Fortunately, before the fire had gained much headway, Mrs. McCormick recovered sufficient strength to reach a bed in which two children, aged six and four years, were asleep, and managed to put them out of a window, and then made her own escape. The three took shelter in an adjacent corn-crib, where they remained until about eight o'clock that morning, when they were found, taken to the residence of the owner of an adjoining plantation, medical aid immediately procured, Mrs. McCormick's wounds dressed, and everything done to relieve her sufferings. Mr. Murphy states that Mrs. McCormick's wounds are of a serious nature—two fearful gashes in the head, inflicted by an axe, exposing the brain, also three stabs in the left side, supposed to have been inflicted by a cane-knife. After having her wounds dressed and partaking of some little nourishment, Mrs. McCormick related the particulars of the horrible tragedy that had been enacted, when a number of men residing in the neighbourhood started in pursuit of the murderers. One (he who had donned Mr. McCormick's clothes) they found an attentive listener in church, and secured him; another was caught on Monday, and the other two on Tuesday morning.'

GENERAL WADSWORTH, who was killed in the battle of the 5th, was the Republican candidate for Governor of New York in opposition to Governor Seymour.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES left London this morning for Cambridge. His Royal Highness will this day take the degree of Doctor of Laws. Splendid festivities have been prepared for the reception of the illustrious guests.

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 13 Bouverie Street, E.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

Mr. J. H. ASHBRIDGE, *Treasurer of the Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund, begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following additional Contribution*:—

The Dowager Marchioness of Bath (through THE INDEX) £20 0 0

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1864.

The Foreign Office and the Richmond Government.

WE have to chronicle a second abortive attempt on the part of the Foreign Office to communicate with the Confederate Government. It will be remembered that the *Petrel*, having on board the despatch with which Mr. CRAWFORD, HER MAJESTY'S Consul-General in Havanah, was charged, was peremptorily refused admission into the port of Charleston by the commander of the Federal Blockading Squadron. She thereupon returned to Bermuda, and reported her failure to the Admiral of the station, who immediately transmitted the despatches to Lord LYONS. The latter made a formal request for permission to forward them through the lines, which was refused; and Lord LYONS was moreover informed by Mr. SEWARD that '*it would not be agreeable* to the Government of the United States' for HER MAJESTY'S Government 'to hold any intercourse whatever' with the Confederates. After this rebuff, which Lord LYONS appears to have received with his usual meekness, there remained nothing for him to do but to return the despatches to the Foreign Office, where they will henceforth remain as the record of the most ridiculous diplomatic failure of even Earl RUSSELL'S Administration. So little, however, did the FOREIGN SECRETARY anticipate such a result, that, as late as the 2nd of April, additional instructions were sent out to Mr. CRAWFORD relative to his mission to Richmond. These additional instructions, it may be supposed, were rendered necessary by the discovery that the 'Mallory Report' was a forgery. We are now impatiently waiting to see whether the farce is to have a *third* act.

The Eight Days' Fighting in Virginia.

THE various accounts received during the last seven days throw very little additional light on the general result of the recent engagements in the Wilderness and Spottsylvania, but they furnish us with very comprehensive details of the movements of the two armies, and enable us to form a tolerably clear conception of the attack and defence of Generals GRANT and LEE. In the main we have very little to correct in our last week's review of the military situation, but there are some points on which explanation is necessary. In the first place it seems to be beyond a doubt that on the 5th and 6th ult. the Confederate army was the assailing force, and that on both days it achieved considerable if not decisive successes. The general notion of GRANT'S plan of campaign, and probably the correct one, is that its object was to bring LEE out of his impregnable entrenchments on Mine End Creek, and compel him to fight in the open. With this view the advance of the Federal army was made rather in a south-easterly direction, the intention being to secure Fredericksburg and push along the direct road to Richmond, and at the same time to threaten LEE with the interposition of a powerful Federal force between his army and Richmond. LEE'S headquarters were at Orange Court House. If he struck a blow at all, it was clear that it would fall upon the Federal right. Accordingly, the right wing was very strongly supported, and every arrangement was made with a view to a possible attack from the Confederates in the direction of Orange Court House. LEE'S position on the 4th seems to have been at Mine End River. It had considerable advantages. It stopped an advance upon Richmond at its weakest point, the western defences, by the entrenchments at Mine River; it drove the Federals along the direct road, where a series of fortified lines awaited them; it gave LEE a most favourable point from whence to turn the enemy's right wing, and get between it and the Rapidan. On the 4th, LEE had made up his mind to strike a blow to arrest the Federal advance, and on the 5th the two armies were simultaneously put in motion. Their advanced columns came into collision about noon. The general results of the engagement of the 5th were decidedly favourable to the Confederate army, which captured, by the admission of the Federals, upwards of 1,000 prisoners and two guns, and at every point of attack drove back the enemy a considerable distance. The next morning the attack was renewed on both sides; but in the meantime the Federals had been strengthened by BURNSIDE'S corps of 30,000 men, which was brought up to the support of the Federal right, and had thrown up strong earthworks along the whole line, which, at more than one period during the fight of the 6th, saved their army. SEDGWICK'S corps, the right wing, was the first to be attacked, though his men were under orders for attack a quarter of an hour later than the commencement of the action. The battle raged furiously on the right from five till ten, but without decided advantage on either side. About the same time, according to the Federal accounts, HANCOCK, on the left, moved out of his entrenchment and drove the Confederates two miles, taking a few prisoners. Reinforced by LONGSTREET, the Confederate right, in its turn, charged upon the Federals and drove them back with heavy loss upon their breastworks. Again and again the line of battle ebbed and flowed through the tangled brakes, until about noon, when the Confederates massed a heavy force upon the Federal left, and, with a furious onslaught, rolled it back in confusion some two or three miles. It was here that General WADSWORTH fell, vainly striving to rally his division. The Federal left disposed of, the centre, under General WARREN, became the chief object of attack, and here again the Federals were compelled to give ground in confusion, the corps being only saved from utter rout by a brilliant movement of Colonel CARROLL'S brigade, which checked the Confederate advance. Finally, towards dark a desperate onslaught was directed against the right under SEDGWICK. So impetuous was the charge that two brigades, with their generals, were at once taken prisoners. The whole division was swept away, and a terrible disaster seemed imminent; but the abattis and entrenchments constructed on the Thursday night saved the army, and the Confederates withdrew. They had 'driven' the enemy at every point, but not defeated him. On the other hand, GRANT'S advance was checked, and the only real movement of his army had been a retrograde one. Thus closed the battles of the 5th and 6th, fought out almost entirely with musketry, and with terrible losses to both armies, the North, however, suffering by far the more severely.

On the 7th and 8th General GRANT seems to have been puzzled. To assault the Confederate entrenchments was madness. He was not the man to retreat, even if he could have done so. He seems to have determined to move rapidly on in a south-easterly direction, making Fredericksburg his base and Spottsylvania Court House his aim. The day was passed by both armies in marching for this point, and during the day they came frequently into collision, the Confederates throughout having the best of it. The end of it was that the latter were found to be occupying in force a tremendously strong position at Spottsylvania Court House. The early part of Monday was spent in bringing up artillery and placing it. In the afternoon a general advance was made at all points, and everywhere the Federals were repulsed with heavy loss. On Tuesday the Confederate lines had assumed somewhat the shape of a horseshoe, and the Federal army was entrenched in front of them from right to left. The Confederate position, naturally a strong one, had been very extensively fortified; and LEE confidently awaited attack behind his intrenchments. The attack was made and sustained with great gallantry, but it failed at all points; charge after charge was made, but in vain; the assaulting columns melted away beneath the withering fire long before they reached the intrenchments, and now and then the Confederates assumed the offensive, and inflicted terrible losses on the assailants. At the close of the engagement an energetic advance of HANCOCK'S corps captured the Confederate rifle pits in front, some guns, and 1,000 prisoners, but they were immediately recaptured, and the Federals driven back with loss. Night fell upon another field of horrors, and left the Confederates everywhere successful. The 9th was a day of comparative rest for both sides. GRANT and LEE were busy in bringing up supplies, and it is said that LEE requested a brief truce for the burial of the dead, and that GRANT refused. An artillery duel and heavy skirmishing took place towards the evening. By this time the Federal losses, moderately estimated, had amounted to 35,000 men—many placed them as high as 45,000 to 50,000. But the carnage of the preceding days was to be outdone on the 12th. Early in the morning of that day, favoured by a dense fog, HANCOCK precipitated his division upon the Confederate line, and, taking two brigades by surprise, carried the rifle pits, and captured the brigades, with their commanders and cannon, almost without firing a shot. Three thousand men and eighteen cannon were the trophies of the fight. Encouraged by this success, the Federals pressed boldly on along the whole line, but were fearfully punished; and when night came the Federals had not advanced a quarter of a mile, yet the losses on the 12th far exceeded those of the 10th. On the 13th there was no battle. It was reported that LEE had retreated, and great was the rejoicing in New York and Washington; but the report proved untrue. Skirmishers sent forward found out that LEE was on his old ground, and, most fortunately for GRANT'S reputation, heavy rains came on, which satisfactorily accounted for his inaction. The very latest news from the North leaves the two armies in the same position; GRANT cannot turn the Confederate position; he is not strong enough to force it. But it is said by Mr. STANTON that he will try, and the more essays he makes the more effectively will he serve the Confederate cause.

It is, therefore, a great error to describe LEE'S march upon Spottsylvania as a retreat. In one respect it is an advance, because it brings LEE across the direct road to Richmond, instead of leaving him in search of an enemy never likely to come at Mine End Run. And at Spottsylvania, the only dangers to LEE were, that his communications might be cut, as they were, temporarily, by General SHERIDAN, and that the two expeditions of SIGEL and BUTLER would compel him to fall back upon Richmond. SHERIDAN'S cavalry force, traversing the country between his camp and Richmond, effected some damage, but it was speedily repaired, and SHERIDAN driven into BUTLER'S lines on the James River. SIGEL and BUTLER have been badly defeated. Nothing but hard fighting then will force LEE from his present position. It is rumoured and credited, that he has been joined by BEAUREGARD with a very considerable force, and reports of severe reverses have already reached Washington. But the *mot d'ordre* is success immediate and overwhelming, and GRANT'S triumph is treated as a certainty by the supporters of the Administration. Under any circumstances another severe battle must soon be fought, and any day may bring us intelligence of it. We can hardly conceive it possible that after seven days of fighting, after their unsuccessful assaults, and after the grave losses of trusted leaders, the Northern army can have sufficiently recovered from its depression to be ready to resume the attack. But if General GRANT again assaults the Confederate lines, he will undoubtedly be beaten again, as he was on the 10th and 12th of last month.

J. E. B. Stuart.

SINCE the death of STONEWALL JACKSON, the Confederacy has sustained no heavier loss than has befallen her in the untimely close of the brilliant career of Major-General JAMES E. B. STUART. No two men could have been more opposite types of the soldier—JACKSON, the earnest, devoted patriot, taking up arms as a last resort, clinging, even on the eve of the most terrible battles, to the hope of peace, struggling between the dictates of duty towards the land of his birth and the impulses of a nature averse to strife, but terrible in the field, and leading on his troops with that fiery zeal which made the soldiers of the Commonwealth invincible; STUART, the gallant cavalier, a warrior by instinct, of that fine metal of which were made Prince

RUPERT'S horsemen, who in their pride of loyalty made even CROMWELL'S Ironsides recoil from their furious onslaught. Both born leaders of men, and inspiring their followers with the same confidence and devotion, they trod the same path, fought the same fight, and have shared the same fate, struck down in the front of the battle at the moment of victory, with the cheers of triumph ringing in their ears a fitting requiem. This terrible war demands cruel sacrifices. The noblest and the best freely offer up their lives to it. Let us hope that as STONEWALL JACKSON'S memory is illustrated for ever by the glorious victory of Chancellorsville, so the death of this young Virginian hero will hereafter record another and even a more decisive triumph, and that the final despair of the North will date from the fierce struggle now disfiguring the valleys and the woodlands of Spottsylvania.

We have said that JAMES E. B. STUART was a warrior by instinct, and his whole life shows it. He was born a soldier. From his youth he was noted for a daring enthusiasm which gave promise of what the man would be; and his genius soon showed itself, even in the limited sphere afforded by the wilds of New Mexico. It was in 1854 that young STUART received his commission in the United States' army as second lieutenant in a mounted rifle corps. A year later he was transferred to the 1st Regular Cavalry, with General JOHNSTON, now commanding the Confederate army in Georgia, as his Lieutenant-Colonel, and SUMNER, who died lately in the Federal service, as Colonel. Under him, now fighting with tribes of hostile Indians, now beating up groups of marauding banditti, STUART laid the foundation of that reputation as a dashing cavalry officer which he has since established on the plains of his native State. And amongst the officers of that famous regiment there is many a tradition of STUART'S bold riding and dashing charges. When the present war broke out, he ceased to hold a commission in the United States' army, notwithstanding the offer of a captaincy by Mr. LINCOLN'S Cabinet, and was one of the first officers appointed to the command of a Virginian cavalry regiment. At the battle of Bull Run he was placed at the head of the small cavalry force cooperating with JOHNSTON; and in the desultory fighting which took place in Virginia after that battle he at once established that superiority of the Confederate cavalry over their opponents, which, despite heavy odds and many obvious disadvantages, has never been doubtful in Virginia. His first great exploit, however, and the one which brought him at once into note as one of the best cavalry leaders of the day, was his famous ride round M'CLELLAN'S army in the Peninsula in the month of June 1862. With a force of about 600 sabres and two pieces of flying artillery, he sallied out from the Confederate lines at Richmond, reached the Pamunky, destroying supplies, making captures, and creating consternation wherever he went; clearing all obstacles, charging wherever an enemy presented himself, and finally crossing the Chickahominy at Bottom's Bridge, after having fairly ridden round M'CLELLAN'S enormous army, and ascertained all that was necessary for the execution of that brilliant movement which resulted in the defeat of M'CLELLAN and his ultimate withdrawal from the Peninsula. Once again STUART was the herald of disaster to the army of the Potomac, in the month of August 1862, when General POPE was in command. With a comparatively small force he made a dash upon the right flank of the enemy, penetrating to the headquarters of General POPE, capturing all his papers, his dress uniform, several of the officers of his staff, and destroying a vast amount of military stores. On this occasion, as in the Peninsula, his bold raid was but the precursor of STONEWALL JACKSON'S attack. In both cases it was STUART who led the way and JACKSON who struck the blow, and it may be doubted whether the dashing cavalry raid or the brilliant infantry attack had more to do with the successful result. Later in the same year STUART performed a still greater feat. Whilst M'CLELLAN was pursuing LEE southward after the battle of Antietam Creek, STUART, with 2,000 picked troopers and half a dozen light guns, stole round the right wing of the Federals, crossed the Potomac a little north of Williamsport, entered Maryland, passed rapidly through Mercersburg and Chambersburg, and finally recrossed the Potomac about 15 miles from Washington, far to the left of M'CLELLAN'S army, with the loss of one killed and seven wounded. The results of his raid were the capture of a number of prisoners, the destruction of vast stores of supplies and arms, and the transfer to Virginia of two or three thousand valuable horses. By this time, however, the Yankees had taken a lesson from STUART'S successes, and had raised a considerable cavalry force. Well mounted and equipped, the Federal troops made up in numbers what they wanted in the qualities of good cavalry soldiers; and henceforth the work of STUART was more confined to the ordinary duties of cavalry in European wars—to the protection of the flanks of the main army. In the years 1863 and 1864, he had plenty to do. By degrees the Federals had got together a considerable force, and BUFORD, KILPATRICK, and PLEASANTON were commanders not to be despised. Still, on all occasions, STUART, with inferior forces, held his own, and often inflicted considerable damage on the invaders. During the winter of 1863 and the early months of the present year, he had been engaged in organising his force for the campaign of 1864, and it is understood that it had attained a remarkable degree of efficiency. In the few cavalry encounters that have taken place between LEE'S and GRANT'S armies, the Confederate cavalry, always inferior in numbers, has invariably come off triumphant, and it is to General STUART it owes its superiority. A skirmish near Richmond with General SHERIDAN'S raiding column has unfortunately cost STUART his life, and the Confederacy her best cavalry officer. But it is satisfactory to know that on this last occasion, as before, STUART'S horse was victorious, and that though a stray shot struck their young leader to the ground, it was amid the cheers which told of the enemy's repulse and flight.

He is dead at the early age of thirty-three, perhaps the first cavalry officer of his day; but he has lived long enough to have given a marked character to Confederate strategy, and to have organised a cavalry service which has over and over again been the bulwark of the Confederacy. FORREST, MORGAN, VAN DORN, older men, were pupils in his school; and amongst the heroes of the war his name will worthily take its place beside those of LEE and STONEWALL JACKSON. Personally J. E. B. STUART will be perhaps more widely lamented than any Confederate general who has fallen. His noble features and manly figure, his easy carriage and fine seat, his never-failing spirits, his personal gallantry, his daring enthusiasm, his unfailing devotion, endeared him to his men and all who knew him. They will hear no more the ringing 'Charge' that made every man of them grip his saddle more closely, and clench his hand more firmly on his swordhilt. They will never see again the gleaming blade that so often led them safely through the thickest of the fight. But his memory will be one more prize to the chivalry of the South, and his loss will be avenged. But somewhere in Virginia there is a home that will know this fearless soldier no more, and there will be sorrow that cannot be comforted. GOD grant that the days of peace be not far distant, and that the blood of this Virginian hero, sprung from a race of kings, and in his death worthily redeeming the splendid memories of an ancient dynasty, has not been poured out in vain!

The Presidential Message.

IN another column our readers will find the Message by which President DAVIS inaugurates the first sitting of the third Congress of the Confederate States. There is some significance in this mere formula; suggestive, as it is, of regular government and unbroken constitutional procedure in the midst of a gigantic war, and in a country which is not recognised as independent. In no country in the world, during the last four years, has the machinery of government worked with more perfect regularity, with less interruption, disorder, or confusion, than in the Confederate States of America. While we refuse to recognise the existence of any government in that country; while Lord RUSSELL treats it diplomatically as subject to the authority of Mr. LINCOLN and Mr. SEWARD, and speaks of it in Parliament with a phrase of deprecation, as 'so-styled;' it has a Parliament of its own, which has held its sessions, been prorogued and dissolved at regular intervals, and been regularly re-elected, as if in the midst of profound peace. Everything wears the air of complete organisation and accomplished national independence. In February, 1861, the constituent Congress of the Confederate States met at Montgomery. In February, 1862, the permanent Government of the Confederacy was installed, and the first regular Congress assembled. This Congress has passed through its term of two years, and its successor has now assembled, to receive in its turn from the chief of the Executive Government an account of the position and prospects of the country. And that account is offered by the PRESIDENT in few words, but in language worthy of the occasion, breathing that calm and inflexible resolution which has characterised all the State-papers of the South, free alike from exultation and from despondency, from repining under misfortune and from angry resentment of injuries; a Message worthy in every sentence of a great statesman, conscious that he addresses on a great occasion the representatives of a proud, high-spirited, and unflinching people. Every utterance of the man who at so solemn a crisis has been charged with the destinies of a gallant nation is of interest to all the world; and every Message of the Southern President is received in Europe with an attentive scrutiny, which sufficiently proves how deeply concerned the Old World feels itself to be in the issues of the struggle which now convulses the New.

The subject which occupies the thoughts of all the South is, of course, the first to which Mr. DAVIS addresses himself. Of the glorious success with which Providence had crowned the Confederate arms he speaks with gratitude, but with that quietness which is natural while as yet a mightier struggle impends. Of the savage cruelties inflicted by the enemy on helpless non-combatant, he speaks, as it becomes him to speak, with bitter indignation, but at the same time with a calmness and self-command which only truly great men can assume when speaking of subjects which stir them to the quick. The mere recapitulation of the crimes committed carries with it the condemnation of the offenders in the face of mankind. 'Plunder and devastation of the property of non-combatants, destruction of private dwellings, and even of edifices consecrated to the worship of God, expeditions organised for the sole purpose of sacking cities, consigning them to the flames, killing the unarmed inhabitants, and inflicting horrible outrages on women and children'—these are acts which the Yankees cannot deny or palliate, and which require no terms of moral condemnation from him who describes them. It is not needful to waste words of scorn and execration on those who are guilty of such outrages as these—outrages which, as the PRESIDENT justly remarks, can contribute to no object which their perpetrators would dare to avow, and have not the least effect upon the ultimate issue of the war. In perfect consistency with the spirit which prompts such atrocities as these has been the conduct of the Federals in regard to the exchange of prisoners. They will not observe the terms of the cartel; from time to time they send in prisoners for exchange, when it suits them to do so, but they will make no regular exchanges, and leave thousands of prisoners languishing in Richmond, for the sake of keeping thousands of Confederates to perish of cold and home-sickness in Fort Johnson and other dungeons during the desolate and trying winters of the North. The Federal Government understands its interest too well to give man for man—Confederate Volunteers for Yankee mercenaries; and, moreover, while it cares little for the sufferings of its own hired soldiers, it is fully aware of the advantage of holding in durance thousands of the flower of the Southern people, whose absence is felt and mourned throughout their country. This is but one of the disadvantages under which a nation labours which has to spend the blood of its best and noblest in resisting the mercenary hordes of a foreign despotism. As in exchanges, so in the field; no advantage but is dearly purchased, so long as the gentlemen of the South are matched against German and Irish immigrants, purchased at so many dollars a-head for the slaughter, whose lives are of no account in the eyes of their government or their generals beyond the cost of replacing them.

The treatment of the Confederacy by foreign Powers is a topic on which the PRESIDENT may justly speak with bitterness. Never, certainly, was recognition refused to a government which had proved its ability regularly to administer the affairs of a great country, to keep more than a quarter of a million of men in the field, to beat its enemies in a dozen pitched battles, and to preserve both order and liberty throughout a territory as large as half Europe in the midst of a war for national existence. And this moral claim is not the only one which the Confederacy can prefer. It includes four States which the European powers have distinctly recognised as sovereign and independent, and which have never abdicated those titles, and several other States which have for years held an equal rank and position as their Confederates. The refusal of recognition, therefore, is a double slight. Not only does it wilfully ignore the *de facto* independence of the Confederacy, but it sets aside the status of the States as originally independent Powers, and endorses the claim of the Federal Government to deal with sovereign communities as with subject provinces. It is natural that such a slight should be described by the PRESIDENT as an exertion of moral influence by the European Powers on behalf of Northern aggression. So long as we refuse to recognise the South, the law of nations being what it is, we virtually say to the North: 'We recognise first the possibility of your conquering the Southern States; and secondly, the fact that these States are your revolted subjects.' For, if the Southern States were not revolted subjects, the fact that the North was attempting to reduce them to

submission would be no reason for non-recognition. As there is not the slightest excuse for regarding the Southern States as being, or as ever having been, subject to the North, a course of conduct which implies that we do so regard them fully justifies both the dignified remonstrance of their chief magistrate and the louder resentment of the people.

However keenly he may feel the sufferings inflicted on the South by the lawless barbarism of the enemy, and the injustice done her by the timidity or partiality of Europe, there is nothing despondent or querulous in the tone of President DAVIS's message. A tone of undoubting self-reliance and unflinching resolution runs through the whole of it. It is not the message of a statesman who feels himself face to face with terrible and overwhelming peril, and who, if his spirit rise to meet the danger, speaks in a tone indicative of excited feelings and high-wrought anxieties. There is in it no trace either of exaltation or of despondency. The PRESIDENT speaks as anticipating a long and severe trial, a protracted and a great war; but he speaks as if there were no need of reassurance as to its final issue. He addresses the representatives of the people in full confidence that no words of encouragement or exhortation are necessary to keep up their spirits; with an implicit trust in the courage and resolution of the nation too complete to find its way into words. The absence of all exultation over the recent successes in Louisiana, Tennessee, North Carolina, and at Charleston, and of all anticipations of triumph in Virginia and Georgia, evinces not the lack but the abundance of confidence. Boastful relations of the past, boastful predictions of the future, are signs of misgiving in him who utters them or in those whom he addresses; the quiet and dignified reserve of the Presidential message is the natural tone of a courage which assumes final success as a matter of certainty, but, at the same time, so far from underrating the foe, is prepared for a long and trying conflict.

IN DUCEM ILLUSTRISSIMUM
J. E. B. STUART,

EQUESTRI PRŒLIO INTERFECTUM.

Prodiga quæ quondam dederant Heroa, rapaci
Jam libuit Fatis præripuisse manu;
Ergo Virginiæ saltus silet illa per altos
Non iterum hostilem vox agitura fugam.
Ardentes animi—toties in bella juventus
Plorate occiduum præcipitata ducem.
Talibus exoptanda viris quæ plurima virgo
Prædicet ut nequeat carius ense caput.
Nec pudor—adstat enim Patriæ Pater ipse sepulchro.
Nec timet insolito spargere rore genas!
Quod non emerita est illa indignata minori
Sanguine difficiles flectere Terra Deos?

J. G. W.

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE:
June 1, 1864.

A HEARTRENDING INCIDENT.—Miss Anna Pickens, the daughter of Governor Pickens, while ministering to the wounded in the hospitals of Charleston, came in contact with a wounded officer, Lieutenant Andrew De Rochelle. The young people fell in love, and after a short courtship it was arranged that they should be married on the 22nd of last month. 'Lieutenant De Rochelle was on duty at Fort Sumter in the morning, and it was determined that the ceremony should take place at the residence of General Bonham in the evening. At the moment the episcopal clergyman was asking the bride if she was ready, a shell fell upon the roof of the building, penetrated to the room where the company assembled, burst, and wounded nine persons, and among the rest Miss Pickens. We cannot describe the scene that followed. Order was reestablished, and the wounded were removed, all except the bride, who lay motionless upon the carpet. Her betrothed, kneeling and bending over her, was weeping bitterly, and trying to staunch the blood that welled from a terrible wound under her left breast. A surgeon declared that Miss Pickens had not longer than two hours to live. When the wounded girl recovered her consciousness, she asked to know her fate, and when they hesitated to tell her—"Andrew," she said, "I beg you to tell me the truth. If I must die, I can die worthy of you." The young soldier's tears were his answer, and Miss Anne, summoning all her strength, attempted to smile. Governor Pickens was almost without consciousness, and Mrs. Pickens looked upon her child with the dry and haggard eye of one whose reason totters. Lieutenant De Rochelle was the first to speak, "Anna," he cried, "I will die soon, too; but I would have you die my wife; there is yet time to unite us.' The young girl did not reply, she was too weak. A slight flush rose for an instant to her pale cheek; it could be seen that joy and pain were struggling in her spirit for the mastery Lying upon a sofa, her bridal dress all stained with blood, her hair dishevelled, she had never been more beautiful. Helpless as she was, Lieutenant De Rochelle took her hand, and requested the Rev. Mr. Dickenson to proceed with the ceremony. When it was time for the dying girl to say yes, her lips parted several times, but she could not articulate. At last the word was spoken, and a slight foam rested upon her lips. The dying agony was near. The minister sobbed as he proceeded with the ceremony. An hour afterwards all was over, and the bridal chamber was the chamber of death. Lieutenant De Rochelle has sworn to perish in battle against the Yankees, and we are sure he will keep his oath.'—*The Charleston Mercury.*

LETTERS FROM RICHMOND.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

RICHMOND: April 25, 1864.

THE TOWN OF PLYMOUTH, NORTH CAROLINA—AN ACCOUNT OF ITS CAPTURE THE LOSSES BY LAND AND BY WATER—THE BOOTY—PROMOTION OF GENERAL HOKE—THE ADVANTAGES TO THE SOUTH FROM THE CAPTURE OF PLYMOUTH—THE EARLY REPORTS ABOUT THE DEFEAT OF BANKS—THE YANKEE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST RICHMOND—THE FRENCH TOBACCO AND B. BUTLER—REMOVAL OF THE TREASURY CLERKS TO COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA.

THE brilliant success of our arms, both on land and water, in the capture of Plymouth in North Carolina, furnishes another sad proof to the enemy that the subjugation of the South is a never-ending task. The Yankee foothold, wherever obtained in the Confederate States, is planted upon a surface under which the hidden fires of the 'rebellion' are ever glowing with intensest heat. The enemy have had some melancholy experience very recently of the *suppositos cineri doloso* in the south and west, and now they find that North Carolina is too hot to hold them. Plymouth, the scene of their latest disaster, is a small town situated on the southern bank of the Roanoke River, eight miles from its entrance into Albemarle Sound. It was an unimportant village before the war, the county seat of Washington County, driving a small trade in shingles and herrings, and having a population of about one thousand souls. The Yankees made it a *point d'appui* for their operations in North Carolina waters, which they commanded with their gunboats, and concentrated there large amounts of quartermaster's and commissary's stores and munitions of war. They were safe from all danger, as they supposed, on the water, and they had thrown up the most formidable fortifications, mounted with the heaviest ordnance, by which all assault on the land side was rendered impracticable for harm. And so the Yankees slept securely at Plymouth, and fished, and miscegenated, whites and blacks, without a thought of 'rebel' interference. Anything more slumberous than the stillness of the Carolina pine-forests or the quietude of the land-locked Sound could scarcely be imagined. Day followed day, and only the echoes of target practice came back from the depths of the surrounding woods, only the paddles of their transport steamers disturbed the ripples of the bay. At length, one Sunday afternoon, suddenly there emerged from the belt of pines to the south of the town a band of Confederates, easily distinguishable in their brickdust uniforms as 'rebels,' evidently bent on possessing themselves of Plymouth. This Sunday was the 17th of April, and the Confederate force thus suddenly appearing, and capturing or driving in the Federal pickets, was made up of Hoke's old brigade, commanded by Colonel Mercer of the 21st Georgia regiment; Ransom's brigade, commanded by General Ransom in person; and Kemper's brigade, well-known for its splendid conduct at Gettysburg, commanded by Colonel Terry. The whole expedition was under command of Brigadier-General Hoke, a native North Carolinian. The Yankees at Plymouth, commanded by General Wessels, gave themselves small concern at this hostile manifestation. They were behind strong earthworks, they had ponderous artillery and abundant ammunition, and lying off the town were two gunboats whose guns swept the approaches from the land. Our troops arrived before Plymouth about four o'clock in the afternoon, but, as they were greatly fatigued by a long march overland from Tarboro', they did little more that day than feel the works of the enemy preparatory to the attack on the morrow. During the whole of Monday, the 18th, our artillery and sharpshooters were engaged with the Yankee gunboats and forts, and towards dusk of the evening Fort Sanderson, an important detached fieldwork, was assaulted and carried at the point of the bayonet after an obstinate resistance, the losses being considerable on both sides. The taking of this fort enabled our troops to advance close up to the works on the west side of the town, where they remained Monday night. At daybreak of Tuesday the Confederate ironclad steamer *Albemarle*, Commander Cook, came down the Roanoke River, and attacked the enemy's gunboats and batteries in front of Plymouth with immense effect. An attempt was made to board her with Federal launches, and these were handsomely driven off. The Yankees also tried to lure on the *Albemarle* to dash herself against a sunken chain stretched across the space that divided their two vessels. Eluding this trap, Commander Cook steamed directly at the larger of the two, struck her amidships, and sank her in a few minutes. The other gunboat he battered with his Brooke gun so seriously that she ran down the river, and, it is believed, sank upon reaching the open waters of the Sound. Meanwhile, General Hoke had demanded the surrender of Plymouth, and received from General Wessels a prompt refusal.

Some skirmishing took place, and a heavy cannonade was kept up on Tuesday, and during the night General Hoke withdrew the larger part of his force by a circuitous and difficult route to the eastern or opposite side of the town. At dawn on Wednesday, all the Yankee defences in this quarter were carried by storm; and the Confederates, entering the streets of Plymouth, drove the Yankees before them to the point they had themselves quitted a few hours before, and where some of their comrades still remained to make the fugitives prisoners. The *Albemarle* was now pouring a tremendous fire into the fortifications, taking them in reverse and disabling the guns; and there was but one work—what might be called the citadel of the town—which still held out against the assailants. Before moving upon it, General Hoke made a demand for its surrender, which being refused, in like manner with the previous demand for the capitulation of the post, he ordered a charge; whereupon the Yankees, in parties of eight or ten, ran out from the fort into our lines, throwing down their arms, and in a few minutes' time the Federal flag was hauled down, and General Wessels surrendered the entire garrison, consisting of four regiments of infantry, one squadron of cavalry, a battalion of artillery, and two or three companies of disloyal or deserting North Carolinians. Our loss in killed and wounded in the fights before the town was much greater than that of the enemy, in the proportion of three to one, the casualties in General Hoke's command having been 300, whereas not more than 100 of the garrison were shot down. On the water the accounts were reversed. Commander Wood suffered a very trifling loss in disabled men (none are reported as killed), while it is said that out of 140 men on the Yankee gunboat which went down, only 28 reached the shore. The disparity of killed and wounded in the land attack is due to the fact that the Yankees fought behind thick walls of earth, and also to the alarming disadvantage the Confederates had to undergo in moving over an open space that had been marked and staked off for practising at targets, where the exact range for each gun was known beforehand. Among the killed on our side there was but one field officer, the gallant Colonel Mercer, of the 21st Georgia Regiment, who fell while leading a charge on one of the most obstinate of the fortifications.

The fruits of the capture of Plymouth were immense. Twenty-five hundred white and three hundred negro prisoners fell into our hands. We took a Brigadier-General and many officers of lower grade. Twenty-five pieces of ordnance were surrendered with the works. Among the stores taken were more than one thousand barrels of flour, one million pounds of bacon, and one thousand tons of anthracite coal. A fine side-wheel transport river steamer, uninjured by the cannonade, was made a prize. So highly did President Davis esteem the services of General Hoke, in his successful conduct of the expedition, that he made him a Major-General upon the receipt of the welcome intelligence that Plymouth was ours. The fact of the promotion was transmitted by telegraph to General Hoke by order of the President.

The advantages that we may reasonably expect to flow from the fall of Plymouth are very great. The whole coast of North Carolina is so interconnected, within the reefs that edge the Atlantic, that, unless the enemy can hold every point on the sounds and rivers, their security at any one is greatly diminished, and it is quite possible that they may be forced to evacuate Washington, if not Newbern, in a few days. It is understood that an expedition for the reduction of the latter place has been undertaken, and the public is on the *qui vive* as I write to hear of its results. Possibly the news may reach you before this letter arrives in London.

Our information from the Trans-Mississippi department is most unsatisfactory, and any *résumé* I might attempt of it would necessarily be made up of wild telegrams from the demented correspondents of Mr. Thrasher's association, and of Yankee rumours and statements, translated from the Chicago to the Dalton dialect, or coming by flag of truce from New York, a source of intelligence *splendide mendax*; so that, perhaps, I might profitably leave it to your own correspondents in New Orleans and New York to supply your readers with the news from that active and interesting quarter. It would seem, however, that Banks was undeniably whipped on the 8th instant at Mansfield with immense loss—eight thousand men, it is said (including two thousand prisoners), thirty-five guns, and two hundred wagons. In this engagement the Confederates were commanded by Generals Magruder, Holmes, and Dick Taylor; all under General Kirby Smith. The telegram informed us that, after this defeat, Banks retreated towards Natchez (meaning Nagitoches) and was closely pursued by Dick Taylor; and the Chicago authority, taking up the history of the campaign just at this point, stated that on the 9th a battle was fought at Pleasant Hill, where the Confederates were repulsed with a loss of two thousand men. We must wait for official despatches to get at the truth, but looking at these statements from a geographical point of view, the defeat of the Confederates would appear to have been a repulse not of the main body, but of their pursuing cavalry. Pleasant Hill is hardly less than twenty-five miles this side of Mansfield (which is situated about midway between Shreveport and Nagitoches); and though Banks may have accomplished this distance *in flight* within twenty-four hours, supposing him to move as rapidly as he used to move when Stonewall Jackson was after him, it is hardly probable that the whole force of Kirby Smith could have overtaken him and given battle at that point, compelled, as they must have been, to march along bad roads, encumbered with broken wagons, disabled gun-carriages, dead horses and mules, and all the rubbish that a routed army would leave behind them in disorderly retreat. It seems far more likely that the cavalry under Dick Taylor, coming up with the flying columns at Pleasant Hill, were driven back, and that Banks thus made good his escape to Nagitoches. We shall know all about it after a while. Time will also confirm or contradict the assertion (telegraphic through Thrasher—good name for a chronicler of victories) that we have captured fourteen Yankee gunboats aground above Red River Falls.

The purposes of the enemy against Richmond appear to be developing themselves. A large force is landing at Yorktown, and it is no longer doubtful that a column will be brought up the Peninsula. Grant is reported as having gone to Chattanooga, leaving Meade to engage General Lee, to hold him in check, or to meet his attack, as the case may be. No considerable body of Meade's army has yet attempted the passage of the Rapidan, but several brigades have been moved nearer Fredericksburg, and the entire command has been brought together within narrower limits—a fact which has given rise to the rumour that heavy reinforcements from the west had appeared in our front. The *Examiner* makes the statement with confidence that all the Yankee regiments brought from the west have been sent to Burnside at Annapolis. The roads are drying rapidly, the forests are putting forth their bravery of green, the birds pipe upon the swaying branches. All these sights and sounds of spring, which in other lands recall only the most delightsome associations, remind us that the time comes for carnage, and only a few weeks can pass before the great conflict will be joined.

About the French tobacco—seven thousand hogsheads of it. I mentioned in my last letter that French steamers and merchantmen were lying at City Point, which had come to carry off this tobacco to Havre, Bordeaux, Marseilles, or wherever else the Emperor should determine. The flotilla has gone without the tobacco, or, to speak more accurately, with just 120 hogsheads of it. Yesterday there came to City Point, by flag-of-truce-boat from Butler at Fortress Monroe, a messenger to say that, the time agreed upon for the departure of the vessels having passed, they could no longer be permitted to remain in the river. What this means, or to what complications, if any, it will lead, we know not. As for the tobacco, it is clear that M. Drouyn de Lhuys may *not* put it into his pipe and smoke it.

A ridiculous hoax, originating with the *Mobile Tribune*, is published in all our journals, purporting to be a correspondence between Lord Lyons, representing the British Government, and Mr. Burton N. Harrison, Private Secretary to the President, speaking for His Excellency, in which British neutrality in general and the rams in particular are discussed at some length. The whole affair was an absurd 'April fool,' unworthy of the *Mobile Tribune* 'or any other man.'

The female employées of the Treasury Department, whose business it is to sign Mr. Memminger's notes, are to leave Richmond to-morrow by a special train of cars for Columbia, South Carolina. Much comment has been submitted upon this removal, which, in many instances, must occasion great hardship to the clerks (who are ladies of refinement and culture, fugitives from their homes, or the wives and daughters of soldiers slain in battle), and which a pleasant leader in the *Examiner* declares to be in happy accord with Mr. Memminger's finance or General Bragg's strategy. The reasons that dictated it were most probably the question of food in the

apital, and the convenience of having the notes signed in the me town in which they are engraved.

The weather is very beautiful at last. There was a pretty remony of a flag presentation this afternoon in the Capitol rounds. The flag was the offering of the ladies of the Treaary Department, on the eve of their departure, to the Battalion f Clerks under command of Colonel M'Anerny. Mr. Meminger presented it in a speech exceedingly graceful and ppropriate.

Enclosed I send you the reply of Governor Smith to the etter of Hon. James M. Mason communicating the fact of the English testimonial to Stonewall Jackson.*

April 18, 1864.

ICHMOND AND NEW YORK - THE CONDITION OF THE LATTER CITY—THE CAPTURE OF FORT PILLOW—SUCH A PROCEEDING NOT IN THE YANKEE 'PROGRAMME OF SUBJUGATION'—THE FEDERAL STEAMER 'MINNESOTA' CRIPPLED BY THE TORPEDO - A YANKEE PLUNDERING EXPEDITION—THE CAPTURE OF A SPY—LOCAL ITEMS—A BATTLE EXPECTED WITH MEADE'S ARMY.

N that very striking letter of the Southern correspondent of he London *Times*, in which he placed in effective contrast the arnestness and shabbiness of Richmond with the splendour nd frivolity of New York, the English reader must have been mpressed with the indications, so clearly perceived and so orcibly presented, of an approaching collapse in the affairs of ur fast and furious enemies. New York is, doubtless, at this noment the most glittering and godless city on earth. Never as money been so abundant there, never has money been avished in such reckless profusion for all that ministers to the gratification of the senses. Two or three gentlemen, the consular representatives of continental Governments, who came to his city directly from New York by the last flag-of-truce boat, gave us very lively descriptions of the folly and extravagance hat rule the hour. As the movement down the facile descent of Avernus is an ever-accelerated velocity, the prodigality and ostentation must be even greater than when Mr. Lawley rubbed his lazed eyes on Broadway three months ago. In the intervening hree months many hundreds of men have probably grown rich by frauds upon the Government, and their wives and daughters nake just so many additions to the superbly dressed women every day buying silks, diamonds, buhl, statuettes, &c., in the fashionable thoroughfares. The *nouveaux riches* are making the most of their ill-gotten gains. As Dr. Johnson said of the nabobs of his day, 'Their equipages shine like meteors, and their palaces rise like exhalations.' From magnificence to magnificence the shoddy contractor goes with a rapid pace, even as society hurries from worldliness to vice, and from vice to crime. New ideas have been uttered within these three months, have found wide acceptance, and been seized upon as the basis of a novel philosophy as abhorrent as it is licentious. For any correct picture of the depravity which pervades the whole social fabric of New York, we must turn to the sixteenth chapter of Ezekiel or the sixth satire of Juvenal. The 'personal' column of the *Herald*, and the exposition in pamphlet form of MISCEGENESIS, as commended and practised by the Yankees, are only hints of the universal corruption. As the end draweth nigh, the multitude seems to become more and more demented. Play runs higher, the orgies are carried further into the night, the delirium rages among a greater number, the *segreto ad esser felice* is caught at with a wilder rapture, as the hour of doom is just about to sound. It was always so. You have seen that famous picture of Couture's in the Luxembourg, of course—I mean the *Décadence de Rome*. Well, it was while these very rites of Venus and Bacchus were being celebrated that the Roman highway shook beneath the tread of Alaric's advancing armies. So the feast of Belshazzar went on while Cyrus was thundering at the gates of Babylon, and so the Carnival was established *en permanence* on the Boulevards, in the *salon*, and in the theatre, when the Reign of Terror was about to drench Paris with blood. History is ever repeating itself. The Romans ran to consult the entrails of birds as to the future of the empire, the Yankees ask their spiritual mediums when the 'rebellion' is to be 'crushed out;' the worst licentiousness of Babylon was not more disgusting than the embraces of the Yankee and the negro; the Parisians set up a *lorette* in Notre Dame as the Goddess of Reason, and New England elevates to the pulpit of the new philosophy Miss Anna Dickinson. Meanwhile gold has gone up to 179 on Wall Street, and yet the Yankees will not believe in a Nemesis.

What has caused the sudden rise in gold in New York in spite of all the tricks of Chase to keep it down? The disaster at Shreveport had much to do with it, and following closely upon the unwelcome details of Banks's discomfiture came the intelligence of the capture and destruction of Fort Pillow, which General Forrest carried by direct assault on the 11th instant. This fortification was thirty-five miles above Memphis on the Mississippi River, and had been erected by the Confederates to command the navigation of the stream. It was originally a strong work, but had been greatly enlarged and made almost impregnable by the Yankees. It was garrisoned by 300 whites and 400 negroes, most of whom were slain in the fight which ended in its capture. One hundred prisoners only were brought away. Many of the garrison threw themselves into the Mississippi and perished in its waters. Naturally enough the Yankees are disturbed at these vigorous and unlooked-for measures of General Forrest. It is not at all in their programme of subjugation that after a vast extent of territory shall have been 'reclaimed to the Union,' and the Confederate armies shall have withdrawn their lines far to the southward, suddenly a small body of Confederate cavalry shall sweep through that territory, and smite the invaders hip and thigh. After all, it does not seem that the territory has been conquered as completely as it might have been. Time was that when the brains were out the man would die, and when a country had been subjugated, it would be quiet. To what purpose shall the Yankees 'reclaim' acre by acre the soil of the 'rebellion,' if it will not stay reclaimed, and 'rebel' leaders shall be on the rampage, in this absurd way, in the very regions of redemption? So gold goes up, first five per cent. and then three more, at the news; and although Chase opportunely appears with a story, true or false, of an English loan to the alarming extent of 300,000*l.* (about enough to pay half the expenses of the Yankee Government for a single day), and thus brings it down four per cent., it rallies, and closes at our last dates at 77.

You will have seen in the Yankee papers some notice of a slight injury to the United States steamer *Minnesota* by a 'rebel' torpedo. The vessel was jarred a little, that was all. There is a pretty fairy tale of the Germans, in which Thor is represented as coming down with his terrible hammer in a tremendous blow upon the forehead of the giant Earth, who lay sleeping one day, and the giant only waked from his slumbers, and asked, 'Was it a leaf that stirred?' The Yankees would have you believe that the *Minnesota* was no more injured by the explosion of sixty pounds of powder under her bows than the integrity of the earth was destroyed by Thor's hammer. The injury, however, was so severe that the *Minnesota* will never be worth anything again. All her machinery was blown into fragments, and it required two steamers to tow her into Norfolk. What annoys the Yankees more than all else in this bold attempt at the destruction of one of their finest steam frigates is that they are utterly at a loss to conjecture where the rebel torpedo came from. Whether it fell down from the great *Artis-avis* (or Bird of Art, a new Confederate *projet* for navigating the air, the invention of a certain visionary Davidson), or was brought in from sea past Fortress Monroe, or was sent out from either of those thoroughly subjugated cities, Norfolk and Portsmouth, or, yet again, had performed that very long voyage from Drewry's Bluff, they cannot well make out. All they positively know is that the torpedo was somehow or other exploded close to the steamer, and that the steamer was lifted by it inconveniently out of water.

* This reply is published in another column.

Information was received yesterday of the landing of a considerable force of the enemy on Thursday last, the 14th instant, upon the south side of James River, at several points in the county of Isle of Wight, and it was supposed to be the first of Burnside's expedition, which has been fitting out for some weeks at Annapolis. Further intelligence assures us that this force was not connected at all with Burnside, and that its object was nothing more than pillage and destruction. After marauding for two or three days through the section of country lying between Suffolk and the Blackwater, the Yankees took to their boats and went back to Fortress Monroe. This party of plunderers was made up of the 23rd and 24th Massachusetts regiments (the latter recently from the Yankee army before Charleston), a Michigan regiment, a Wisconsin regiment, and a New Jersey battery. The 23rd Massachusetts met with a spirited resistance in Wren's Field, near Smithfield, at the hands of a handful of Confederates, not above 35 in number, under command of Captain Causey. Five or six of the Yankees were killed, and eighteen wounded; and they were so decidedly checked in their purpose that they turned aside from a mill which it had evidently been their intention to burn, and went howling into Smithfield, where they broke into private dwellings and robbed unprotected families after their wonted manner.

An arrest was made on Saturday morning last near Tappahannock, in Essex County, of a certain Signor Lugo, who for many weeks past has been sojourning at the Ballard House in this city. On his person were found carefully drawn maps and charts of Charleston harbour and its fortifications, and of the James River with the exact positions of the submerged torpedoes laid down. Lugo was a Venetian, but spoke tolerable English; his appearance was that of a quiet, amiable, well-bred man, and he had imposed on many persons in high official position here. He bore with him passes from the Secretary of War and the City Provost-Marshal, and he had also a document with 'Confederate States of America, War Department,' at the top, and the genuine signature of Mr. Seddon at the bottom, all the intermediate writing having been erased by some chemical process. This he doubtless intended to use hereafter as occasion should arise. He has a competent acquaintance with the physical sciences, and spent much of his time of mornings in the State Library, pretending to investigate questions of natural philosophy. He also claimed to have invented some highly improved explosive in the nature of a torpedo which he desired the Government to purchase, and it was through conversations on this subject with Government officers that he was enabled to find out where the torpedoes had been placed in James River. Lugo was doubtless in the pay of Seward, and had been sent to Richmond by him to make the drawings which were found upon him. He is much the most dangerous spy that has been arrested in our lines since the beginning of the war, and will most probably be hanged.

Three men of the highest character and of various accomplishments have died in the Confederacy since the date of my last letter—Messrs. Wm. M. Blackford and Richard K. Crallé of Virginia, and Ex-Governor R. F. W. Alston of South Carolina. Mr. Blackford was at one time United States Minister Resident at Bogota in South America. Mr. Crallé was the private secretary and literary executor of John C. Calhoun, whose published works he edited. Mr. Alston had filled many offices of honour and trust in his native State, Governor, Representative, Senator, and reflected credit on all. The three men were equally devoted to the cause of the Confederacy, and had hoped to see its independence finally established.

No prisoners have been returned to us from the North within the week, but several hundreds have been sent off from this city, and a flag-of-truce boat has arrived at City Point, where also are French steamers and merchantmen that have come to take off the tobacco belonging to the French Government. One of these vessels brought a large quantity of furniture and supplies for M. Paul, the French Consul residing in Richmond, who has just returned after several months' absence. From the Northern papers brought by the flag-of-truce boat, we derive some startling foreign intelligence. Among other things the London Correspondent of the *New York Tribune* is good enough to inform us that the Royal Family of England is angrily divided against itself on the Danish question; that the Queen and Prince of Wales are constantly wrangling; and that, 'not to put too fine a point on it' (I quote the correspondent's own elegant language), 'it is said that they quarrel like cat and dog.'

We have a rumour to-day that Meade is falling back on the Rapidan. The indications are that a battle will be fought in that quarter before May 10. I should be disposed to think it would occur even sooner, but for the desperate condition of the roads. The weather is yet cold for the season; yesterday there was a white frost, but the rains have ceased.

April 11, 1864.

HEAVY RAINS IN THE BEGINNING OF APRIL—THE FAST-DAY IN RICHMOND—THE CONFEDERATE STATES AND MEXICO—THE REAFFIRMATION OF THE MONROE DOCTRINE BY THE FEDERAL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—HENRY WINTER DAVIS—MR. SEWARD DARE NOT DISREGARD THE VOTE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE opening of the Spring campaign seems likely to be indefinitely postponed 'on account of the inclemency of the weather.' In my last letter, I spoke of the rainy season through which we had been passing, but the previous floods were as nothing compared with what we have since experienced. The night before last the water tumbled down out of the black sky by the hogsheadful. Probably the quantity that fell, estimated by the rain-gauge, has never been exceeded in the same space of time even in the tropics. Yesterday morning there was a sprinkle of blue overhead and a sprinkle of sunshine on the wet earth, but in the afternoon the heavens were again darkened, and the rain came down without intermission from 1 P.M. until midnight. To-day huge masses of vapour hang above us, and threaten a continuance of the deluge. All the streams that flow from the Alleghanies are in angry freshet. The James River is higher than it has been for fifty years. The flat lands of Chesterfield County opposite the City are entirely submerged, and present the appearance of a vast lake. The water is so deep in several streets in the lower part of Richmond, that locomotion is only practicable in boats. Of course immense damage has been done to the crops, mills, bridges, dams, throughout Virginia. Fortunately, the three bridges which connect Richmond with the south side are all so high above the usual bed of the river as to be out of danger. One of these, the bridge of the Petersburg Railway, more than three thousand feet in length, which is thrown across the rapids or falls of the river one mile above navigation, and full eighty feet above the raging waters, but the county bridge, affording the highway for pedestrians and vehicles, would be reached and inevitably carried off if the inundation should rise twenty inches higher. Such a further rise is not considered a possible event, and, therefore, no apprehension is felt on the subject. On Belle Isle, the level plain recently occupied by the tents of the Yankee prisoners is flooded, and great inconvenience might have been occasioned had not the last thousand of these guests of the Government been sent to Georgia more than a fortnight ago. Perhaps the most serious immediate injury wrought by the freshet will be the destruction in many places of the James River Canal, extending from Richmond, *via* Lynchburg, to Buchanan, in the County of Botetourt, a distance of two hundred miles—a line of inland water communication which is of the greatest importance to us at this moment for the transportation of produce and supplies from the interior counties to the capital. This canal runs along the margin of the James River throughout its entire extent, and it is hardly possible but that its embankments have been washed away at various points of the line. At this critical juncture of the war, when labourers, white and black, are so few, and so much work is to be done on the public defences and in the Government shops, it will be exceedingly difficult to procure the hands for the necessary repairs, and the scarcity of forage, fuel, and provisions will be greater in this city than ever. When to this destruction of the canal we add the drowning out of corn and wheat crops on many hundreds of thousands of acres overflowed, as the work of the inundation, and consider the unavoidable delay that will occur to farming operations as the result of the sodden condition of the earth, we cannot but regard the last four weeks of rain as the most disastrous season that has been known in Virginia in the quarter of a century. We can only hope that with the subsidence of the floods there will be a cessation of the rains, but the new moon which peeped out for a few minutes three nights ago, a fair shining silver crescent, had both its horns up, and this is held to indicate wet weather till it begins to wane. May the sign be falsified in the present instance, is the prayer of all.

The Presidential Fast-day of Friday last, the 8th instant, was most becomingly and devoutly observed throughout the Confederacy. In this city there prevailed an impressive Sabbath stillness. It was like a Sunday in Edinburgh. A brief interlude of sunny weather which permitted of dry pavements favoured the assembling of the population at the different houses of worship, where sermons appropriate to the occasion were delivered to large and reverent congregations. In the episcopal churches the psalms and collects for Good Friday were read. One striking departure from ordinary usage marked the Fast-day in Richmond. In the evening, the New Richmond Theatre was opened for religious exercises, and from the boards where low comedy nightly addresses itself to the not over-refined tastes of our play-going public, the Rev. Dr. Burrows, of the Baptist Church, preached an earnest practical discourse on the lessons of the war. In lieu of the accustomed playbill, with which the occupants of the galleries were used to wipe their faces in the passion and perspiration of the hour, printed slips of the hymns to be sung were distributed among the audience. The novelty of a sermon from the stage, and curiosity to see the interior of the building, attracted an immense multitude, and hundreds went away who were unable to obtain admission.

The recent news from Europe, of the entire absorption of the public mind in the affairs of Denmark, of Maximilian's intended departure (day after to-morrow) for Mexico, and of the utter indifference manifested everywhere as to the issue of the American war, has created no sort of sensation among our people. We read the editorial of the *Times*, recording the decree of fate that the American war will be indefinitely protracted, with neither surprise nor vexation. We learn that Seward pledges M. Drouyn de Lhuys, through Mr. Dayton, that the United States will recognise the Empire of Maximilian (with the probable understanding that Maximilian shall not recognise the Confederate States), without the least discomposure. It does, indeed, strike us as *un peu fort* that a Government yet in embryo should undertake to ignore by special agreement a Government which has maintained itself through three years of war conducted on a scale of magnitude for mischief without a precedent in modern times. We may think that Maximilian in his Imperial capacity is just a little bit of an upstart, and that our recognition of him is of more importance, perhaps, to the future of Mexico than his recognition of us to the future of the Confederate States. But we smile at all this. Our fortunes are not to be decided by diplomacy on the banks of the Seine.

It is somewhat worthy of note, however, and M. Drouyn de Lhuys may put the same in his pipe and smoke it, that at the very moment Mr. Dayton has been amusing himself and the French people with a promise for the recognition of Maximilian's Empire by the United States, the House of Representatives has been reaffirming the Monroe doctrine by a unanimous vote. Nay, the House declared, *nemine contradicente*, that the United States would not acknowledge a monarchical government on the American continent. The resolution was reported from the Committee on Foreign Affairs by a man whose words and actions always mean something—Henry Winter Davis of Maryland. When Seward comes into antagonism with this man, he will find he has met his master. Full of all the learning of the schools, possessed of a wonderful sway over masses of men through a magnetic eloquence which attracts to him even those who reject his opinions, young, ardent, handsome, with an imperial will, a towering ambition, a keen insight into character, and few scruples as to the means he employs to accomplish his purposes, Henry Winter Davis is at this moment one of the most dangerous men in America. To him is largely due the folly of the Northern people in inaugurating this infamous war. Marylander by birth, Virginian by education, he went all over, the North, during the Presidential campaign of 1860, telling the excited

thousands who listened with delight to his splendid declamation, that the menace of the South with regard to secession was nothing more than gasconade. In the 35th Congress, he had more entirely the attention of the Lower House, floor and galleries, than any other member of it, Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia alone perhaps excepted. In Baltimore, though all the better elements of the population combined against him, he was all-powerful as the Wilkes of the mob, Prince Prettyman of the Plug Uglies, 'bully boy with the glass eye' of the political clubs and secret societies of that lawless city. But he had manifested his power not only among his rowdy constituents or on the floor of the Representatives. He had taken a high position in the Church in Maryland, in that religious organisation which conforms most nearly to the Church of England—the Protestant Episcopal—and had thus become prominent in the general conventions of this body of Christians under the old Union. Pamphlets of his on polemics had excited much discussion, and he had prosecuted Bishop Doane, of New Jersey, when that prelate was tried by the House of Bishops for certain unbishoplike conduct. In the Supreme Court of the United States he had also acquired some reputation as a lawyer. But law and theology were subordinated by him to the noble game of politics, and it so happens that his favourite political tenet has been from the beginning this very Monroe doctrine of non-interference by foreign Powers with American affairs. Twelve years ago he wrote a remarkable book with the rather startling title of 'The War of Ormuzd and Ahriman,' which undertook to show that there was an inevitable and irreconcilable antagonism between Russia and the United States (these peoples have since been fraternising, you know, in the most delightful manner) —Russia being represented as the Principle of Darkness, and the United States as the Principle (angels and ministers of grace!) of Light! The argument was of the most violent *rouge* in its treatment of European topics, and the rhetoric was somewhat screechy, if I may be allowed the expression, but the Monroe doctrine came out strongly in the end as the cardinal dogma of Young America. Now it also so happens, in the present confusion of parties in the United States, when Republicans and Democrats are so divided among themselves and so intermingled with each other, that Henry Winter Davis is the warm partisan of Chase for the next Presidency, proposing to be Chase's Secretary of State, and to surround himself with the glory of terminating the 'rebellion.' The recent resolution introduced by him in the House of Representatives may therefore be regarded as a trump card for securing Chase the Black Republican nomination. He will probably not surrender his long-cherished idea at the moment that he can make use of it for his own political advancement. And while the treaty-making power, by which Seward must recognise, if at all, the Empire of Maximilian, is in the hands of the President and Senate, they will hardly dare to exercise it in opposition to the views of a large majority of the people, indeed of the whole people, as expressed on the floor of the Lower House of Congress.

There is but little war news. Two thin army corps have been sent to the army of Meade—the same that were taken from him some months ago to reinforce Rosecrans, then sorely in want of men—and Burnside is busily organising his piebald forces at Annapolis. The Yankees have been fighting sham battles at Culpepper Court House, and in front of Joe Johnston in Northern Georgia, by way of accustoming horses and men to the sound of the guns and the smoke of conflict, being not very confident of their new recruits. Negro regiments have been committing great outrages in the valley of Virginia, and some prominent citizens of Winchester have been carried off prisoners to Washington. General Maury telegraphs from Mobile that Farragut is preparing to make another attack upon the fortifications of that place, and sends a copy of an official report from the Surgeon-General of the army of Banks admitting a Confederate victory at Shreveport. The Confederates had captured a transport, and with torpedoes destroyed a steamer (the *Essex*) in Red River. After several days of inactivity, the Yankee batteries have opened again on Fort Sumter, knocking up the brickdust, and sometimes cutting off the flagstaff—*voilà tout*.

Hon. David M. Currin, M.C., from Memphis, Tennessee, has recently died in this State. In him the councils of the Confederacy lose a valuable man.

April 4, 1864.

THE SPIRIT OF THE CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS—VISIT OF GOVERNOR VANCE TO GENERAL LEE'S ARMY—NOBLE BENEVOLENCE OF THE 12TH MISSISSIPPI REGIMENT—RELIGION IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY—THE DAHLGREN MEMORANDUM-BOOK CONFEDERATE FINANCES, ETC., ETC.

NEVER did spring open more unpropitiously. Indeed the spring can hardly be said to have opened at all. A fortnight ago the silly apricots burst into bloom prematurely upon very slight provocation, and were untimely nipped. Some venturous violets and hasty hyacinths have appeared in our gardens only to be covered up with snow, or blown from their stalks by the rude north wind. For a week past we have not seen the sun. Day after day deluge has succeeded drizzle, until the day before yesterday the clouds poured out upon us for five hours such a fall of snow as has not been seen during many winters. Two or three flakes were enough to whiten the top of a hat, and those flakes were so multitudinous that one could not see an object fifty yards distant. When the earth had been covered to the depth of three or four inches, there came a rapid thaw, and this again was followed by a flood of rain, as if the full urns of all the pluvian deities had been emptied of their water. The James River has been ten or twelve feet above its banks, has subsided, and is again in inundation. Much damage has been done to the growing crops of wheat and corn upon the low grounds which were overflowed. You may well suppose that this excess of moisture has brought the roads to their worst possible condition. It is said by officers from General Lee's lines that active hostilities could not be resumed by either army in less than three weeks from the present moment, even if the sun should come out in all his glory, and a dry season follow directly upon our stormy Easter. But the weather signs are adverse still. To-day the wind is north-east, the sky again threatens snow, and we are most of us in the temper of Mr. Jarndyce in his lowest depression of meteorological moodiness. It is in the army alone that one may see a gaiety which no inclemency of the weather can affect—a buoyancy of spirits above the barometer.

As the army is the hope, so it is the pride of our people. And most justly indeed. Half-fed, ragged, without adequate shelter from the wintry blast, drawing pay in a wretchedly depreciated currency, the greater part of them far from their homes, our brave troops have never murmured at the hardness of their lot, never known an hour of despondence as to the ultimate triumph of our cause. A visit to the front never fails to encourage the civilian. In going from camp to camp he must run the gauntlet of their chaff, and he will be derided for every garment he wears, very possibly for his horsemanship, and for his general appearance of non-combatant: for the boys are merciless in their personal criticisms, but there is no malice in their mirth, and if they are particularly severe on 'a biled shirt,' as they invariably call tidy linen from the hands of the laundress, and insist vociferously that the stranger must 'come out of that stove-pipe' (meaning his hat), it is because they associate these articles of dress, rightfully or wrongfully, with a disposition to shirk the military service in remaining in civil employment at home. Their enthusiasm is excited to the highest pitch at the sight of any eminent man who has shared the perils of their previous campaigns, and done good service against the Yankees, even though he may have left the army for other honourable positions: and the colonel or general who has come down to the ranks (by reason of non-election or want of a command), and with good grace accepted the post of 'high private,' with all its privations and hardships, cannot move about among them without being cheered. Unselfish themselves, they have a generous admiration for unselfishness, and they respond with ready and active sympathy to any appeal of charity or of patriotism. Governor Vance, of North Carolina, has recently made a visit to the army of General Lee, and addressed the regiments of his State upon the condition of the country and the prospects of the campaign. As a general proposition, the army is not fond of stump-oratory. Action and not words is best suited to their temper. But the North Carolinians received Governor Vance with pride and pleasure. All along the extended line of the Rapidan, he spoke to eager and animated, though very tattered and hungry audiences, who manifested their satisfaction in such shouts of applause as one can only hear in the army.

An incident related to me by the Rev. Beverly T. Lacy, who was the chaplain of our lamented hero Stonewall Jackson, will suffice to show how tender are the hearts that beat under the beggarly brown jackets of the rank and file. Two weeks ago he was preaching at the camp of the 12th Mississippi regiment. It had somehow reached the ears of this corps that the poor of Richmond were suffering sorely for the necessaries of life. After sermon in the morning, there having been a large and most respectable congregation, a meeting was held to consider in what manner the regiment could contribute to relieve the distress among the poor of Richmond. It was a puzzling question enough. Silver and gold had they none; Confederate money was scanty with them; food and raiment might not be provided by men who lived on half-rations and walked barefoot, many of them, over the snow. The Mississippians were in worse plight, perhaps, than any other boys in General Lee's army. The troops from States not so remote had received from home boxes of provisions and clothing to eke out the inadequate Commissary and Quartermaster's stores supplied them by the Government. But the Mississippians were twelve hundred miles from home, and home with the larger portion of them had either been devastated by the enemy or yet remained in the enemy's hands. In their impecunious and utterly resourceless condition, their undertaking to help the poor of Richmond seemed very much as if the editors of the Yankee journals and the members of the Lincoln Cabinet should convene to concert measures for the suppression of lying, or the young ladies and gentlemen of the Argyll Rooms should resolve themselves into a meeting in furtherance of the objects of the Evangelical Society. There was but one mode in which the Mississippians could make a contribution, and to this they resorted. *They determined to commute their rations one day in every week, and apply the proceeds to the relief of the destitute in the capital!* Noble fellows! When we think of this weekly fast, thus voluntarily imposed, in the cause of humanity, we recall that widow's mite which was more acceptable in the eye of the Eternal Pity than all the gifts that were cast by the rich men into the treasury. The 12th Mississippi has signalised itself on many a hard-fought field of battle, from the day of the first struggle at Manassas to the night which closed in blood over Cemetery Hill at Gettysburg, but all its glory is mean in comparison with that reflected from this act of Christian benevolence.

It gives me pleasure to say that, upon further enquiry into the facts, it was found that this weekly abstinence was altogether unnecessary, and the 12th Mississippi will draw its rations (half-rations, and meagre enough at best) regularly as heretofore.

From the same gentleman to whom I am indebted for this interesting incident, I learn some facts which show with what energy and success missionary labours have been prosecuted in the army of General Lee. There are in that army eighty-five regular chaplains of various denominations, and, scattered through the various corps, there are not less than thirty-seven comfortable chapels, of logs or pine boarding, in which religious services are conducted every Sunday. The general commanding never fails to attend public worship, accompanied by his staff, upon the Lord's day, at the chapel nearest his headquarters. During the winter, while the army was inactive in encampment, not a day passed of good weather on which some religious exercises were not held in these chapels. Mr. Lacy went with the army into Pennsylvania, and he says that the most careless person could not but be affected by the circumstance that, whenever a bivouac was ordered for the night, little groups of soldiers would collect together for prayer. Of such men was composed the host that marched to invade the enemy's country. It was remarked, also, that the praying soldier was always the fighting soldier. They had, many of them, been taught tactics by Jackson, and if they had not been drilled into devotion by him, the silent influence of his example had wrought the one great change in their lives. The large circulation of religious literature among the Confederate troops has been productive of the happiest results. The congregation of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in this city has alone sent ten thousand copies of an abridgement of the Book of Common Prayer to the tents on the Rapidan. If this letter should fall under the notice of the Earl of Shaftesbury, it will gratify him to know that the Bibles and Testaments voted to the Rev. M. D. Hoge for the 'rebel' soldiery have been so usefully bestowed. Bread cast upon the waters sometimes returns before many days.

General Fitzhugh Lee has recently deposited in the War Department the private memorandum-book of Ulric Dahlgren, taken from his person by Lieutenant Pollard at the same time with the memorable and infamous 'orders' which have been so widely published. If any doubt whatever existed as to the genuineness of these 'orders,' the memorandum-book would remove it for ever. This precious *vade mecum* of the Yankee colonel is specially explicit and satisfactory upon those very points as to which the Yankee journals affect to entertain great suspicion in considering the former documents. The sacking and burning of Richmond is more fully set forth, as a work to be done thoroughly. Not the public buildings only were to be fired: every house was to be set a-blazing. 'You must encourage the prisoners,' he says, in a little private mem. for the eye, doubtless, of his next in command—'you must encourage the prisoners' (those liberated from Belle Isle) 'to destroy the city; *make one vast flame of it!*' The prisoners might be tempted to defer their work of conflagration for such plunder as they might find in the dwellings of rich citizens, silver-plate, diamonds, gold watches, old cobwebby bottles of inestimable Madeira formerly in the cellar of Chief Justice Marshall, and any other little valuables that were worthy of their attention—they might linger too long, perhaps, in glutting their bestial desires, so it were wise to enjoin a proper degree of expedition in making 'one vast flame' of the city. As to the assassination of the President and Cabinet, Ulric is perfectly intelligible in his memorandum-book. He says: 'Jeff. Davis and Cabinet must be killed on the spot.' There was to be no delay at all. Wherever one of Dahlgren's troopers overtook a fugitive Secretary, within doors or without, he was to put the 'rebel' counsellor to death. If the President could but be seen, he was to be shot at, and the Yankees were not to desist until there was an end of 'Jeff. Davis.' We have not heard as yet what impression the news of the Kilpatrick raid, and the exposure of the purposes with which it was undertaken, has made upon the English mind; but I venture to commend the Dahlgren memorandum-book to the thoughtful reading and meditation of that meek member of the fraternity of peace-lovers (not peace-makers—they are a very different set), Mr. John Bright, and would like very much to ask him what he thinks of his Yankee brethren now.

You will perceive from the monetary articles of the daily press that the funding of Treasury notes under the Currency Bill of the late Congress was closed on April 1, in accordance with law, with results somewhat exceeding the expectations of the Secretary of the Treasury himself. From returns already received, we are justified in computing the total amount funded at $230,000,000. When we reckon the immediate conversion of the interest-bearing $100 notes from currency into bonds of the Confederate States, the deduction of 33 per cent. from the value of all notes above the denomination of five dollars which were not funded, the lost and expatriated notes, and the enormous amount in tens, twenties, and fifties which must be soon paid into the Treasury in taxes, we cannot but conclude that the circulation of the country will have been brought down in a few weeks from nine hundred to two hundred millions of dollars. The salutary effect of this enormous reduction cannot be doubted.

Commissioner Ould has just returned from Fortress Monroe, whither he went upon business connected with the exchange of prisoners. He gives us the gratifying assurance that the exchange will be shortly resumed, though we are not informed which Government has yielded the point of Butler's reception as Commissioner.

We have General Forrest's official report of the occupation of Paducah in Kentucky. The movement was entirely successful. General Forrest drove the enemy to their forts and gunboats, held the town for ten hours, captured many stores, and lost only twenty-five men in killed and wounded. The Yankees lost fifty in killed and wounded, and five hundred prisoners. This account differs very materially from that given in the Northern papers.

General Patton Anderson telegraphs from Florida that a Yankee steamer has been destroyed by a torpedo, fifteen miles above Jacksonville, opposite the mouth of Doctor's Lake. This took place on the evening of April 1.

Honourable William W. Crump, of this city, has been appointed Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and has entered upon the discharge of his duties of his office.

Commander William L. Maury, late of the steamer *Georgia*, C.S.N., surprised his friends yesterday morning by suddenly 'turning up' at home. He arrived in Wilmington in the *Vance* last Friday from Bermuda.

LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA: May 7, 1864.

BANKS'S CONVENTION IN NEW ORLEANS—THE QUESTION OF SLAVERY—MILITARY AFFAIRS—CRITICAL POSITION OF BANKS'S ARMY—CONFEDERATE MOVEMENTS.

THE so-called Free State Convention, of the assembling of which you have been advised, has now been in session in this city twenty-five days. It derived its being from the military power, and, being intended to aid in the work of 'restoration,' is of course composed exclusively of loyal-unconditional-Union men, as the extreme Federal or Radical party style themselves. A large proportion—perhaps a majority—of the members are Northern men who have settled here since the occupation of the city by the Union forces. The main business of the Convention is officially declared to be 'the revision and amendment of the Constitution of Louisiana.' Such is the official declaration, which means that the Convention shall so revise the State Constitution as to strike therefrom every section and clause recognising and guaranteeing the system of African slavery, and shall attach to the said Constitution an amendment prohibiting the 'peculiar institution' in Louisiana for ever, and with this understanding each member was elected. And yet this Convention makes but slow progress in the work of revising and amending. The speeches of some of the members show an unlooked-for hesitation about grappling with the main question. A majority of them confess that the question is more difficult of solution than they had dreamed of in their philanthropic zeal, and a few are bold enough to declare that there are too many material and social interests involved in the system of slavery for it to be swept away radically and immediately by a mere scratch of the pen. And the fact that the Convention has been in session twenty-five days without reaching any definite result, shows the perplexity in which members find themselves. They have had under debate for some three weeks the reports of the Committee on Education—a majority and minority report: the first proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to make it obligatory upon the State Legislature to provide for the education of the emancipated negroes; the second, or minority report, leaving the matter optional with the Legislature. The debate upon these reports brought up the question of slavery in all its relations; and, as the views of the member may possess some interest for the honest and thoroughgoing Abolitionists of England, I have secured for publication the speech of one of the ablest speakers as taken down by an authorised reporter. Mr. Abell said: With the lights of history before him, he had to confess that if slavery be an evil, which he would not stay to discuss now, it had become not only a necessary evil, but a blessing to both races. The system had been sanctioned

in all ages, had been guaranteed and protected by the framers of the Constitution, and approved by some of the wisest statesmen the world had ever known. For these reasons, whatever may be his sentimental feelings upon the abstract question of slavery, he felt called upon to combat the assumption that slavery is abolished in Louisiana. The assumption of the majority that slavery is abolished in the State had no foundation in fact. He might admit that under martial law slavery is inoperative, but the rights of slaveowners still existed, and when peace was declared, and the civil law resumed its sway, these rights must and will be recognised. Every lawyer knows that while a right may be in abeyance the title is nevertheless good, and this he held to be the case with regard to slavery in this State. It would be absurd to legislate upon slavery outside the Union lines. Mr. Abell contended that the negroes were by instinct vicious and lazy, and if immediately emancipated and turned loose would crowd into the cities like the locusts of Egypt, fill prisons and dens of crime, and die of want and disease. Taken from their kind and thoughtful owners, a prey to the rapacity of speculators, instead of the sleek, contented, and happy slaves, we would encounter (as we are now doing in this city) hungry, ragged, miserable wretches, burdens upon society, and victims of an ignorant, false, sentimental philanthropy. Freedom and inequality are incompatible. He would ask, was there a member of the Convention willing to admit the negro as his equal? Not one. Even the negro worshippers of the North were unwilling to concede social or political equality to the negro. General Banks himself, with wise foresight, had decreed a system of forced labour for the negro, fixed the rate of wages which he should receive, and officers were now busily engaged in forcing the negroes to work on plantations. Much sentimental sympathy has been wasted upon the slave, and a great cry has been raised against his cruel master. He was free to admit there were cruel masters. But there were also cruel husbands and cruel parents. If slaves have been whipped to death, wives have often been choked to death by their husbands, and children murdered by unnatural parents, but these abuses did not justify the abolition of marital or parental relations. In their sympathy for the African, gentlemen had forgotten the sufferings of the whites. He asserted what he knew to be the case when he declared that of all labouring classes the slave was the best fed, the best clothed, the most cared for, and the most contented of any on the face of God's earth. Go to New York or to any of the large cities of the free States, and witness the misery, suffering, and want of the labouring classes, and compare their condition with that of the fat and contented negro slave of past years. Since the temporary suspension of slavery in Louisiana every one was familiar with the miserable and degraded condition of the negroes. He was told that recently white families had begged of a member of the Convention the crumbs that fell from his table. Who ever saw or heard of such a thing in the sunny South before the temporary prostration of slavery? His sympathies were first for those of his own race and colour. And, for the reasons he had now given, he would to-day raise his voice against the outrage now attempted to be perpetrated upon the white people of Louisiana.

I am told that the speech of Mr. Abell, of which I have given but the substance, made a deep impression upon the Convention, and converted a number of the members to his views.

General Banks's army is still in jeopardy in Western Louisiana. The Confederates, who are now said to be fully equal to the Federal strength, are very boldly aggressive. They have all but shut up the Union forces within Alexandria, and their cavalry, mounted infantry, and flying artillery are operating along Red River from its mouth up to Alexandria. Within the week they have captured and destroyed five transports laden with troops and stores, as we learn through Federal sources. Eight gunboats and a number of transports remain above the falls, the river being too low for them to get over, and it is generally thought that they will also be destroyed or captured. All the forces that could be spared from other points in the Department have been despatched to Alexandria, but still General Banks finds it extremely difficult to extricate himself from his *cul de sac*. It is reported (in fact the official organ here acknowledges there was some fighting) that since Sunday last the Union forces twice attacked the Confederates outside of Alexandria, and were each time severely repulsed. In the second fight the Federals are said to have lost 6,000 men and a number of guns. The Mobile ram, *Tennessee*, is reported over Dog River Bar, and ready for a dash upon Farragut's squadron. Another engagement was fought between Clinton and Baton Rouge on the 3rd instant, in which the Federals were badly defeated. No particulars are given save the death of a few officers. There are rumours of an impending attack upon this city by the fleet at Mobile under Admiral Buchanan and the army of General Polk, the main body of which is said to be at Ponchatoula on the New Orleans and Jackson railroad. Confederate forces are also in front of Port Hudson, with the supposed design of seizing that stronghold, and thus closing the river to all navigation, especially to the return of Banks's army from Red River, if indeed it should be so fortunate as to escape capture. Letters have been received here, stating that General Fremont has been appointed to this department.

LETTER FROM NASSAU.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NASSAU: May 9, 1864.

REVIVAL OF BUSINESS—UNUSUAL ACTIVITY DURING THE 'DARK MOON'—NEW BLOCKADE-RUNNERS—ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES—ONLY ONE EXPEDITION OUT OF TWENTY-TWO UNSUCCESSFUL—THE REMOVAL OF GOVERNOR BAYLEY—AN ATTEMPT TO LEVY A DUTY ON COTTON—AN IMPORT DUTY IMPOSED ON MERCHANDISE—THE FEDERAL GUNBOAT 'GALENA'—NEWS FROM THE SOUTH—THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CAMPAIGN IN VIRGINIA.

SINCE my last of the 9th ult. the business revival therein foreshadowed has become a reality. Although the restrictive laws recently enacted by the Confederate Congress remain in force, it is now understood that they will not be so construed as to prevent the smaller class of steamships continuing in the trade on a profitable footing. Accordingly, the present 'dark moon' has witnessed an unusual activity among both merchants and shippers, and business is apparently in a more flourishing condition than ever heretofore.

Since forwarding the last table of blockade statistics (March 11) the following additions have been made to the phantom commerce: S.s. *Young Republic* and *General Whiting* (from Havana), *Greyhound* (Liverpool), *Tristram Shandy* (Glasgow); and the *Letter B.* (England) is expected to-morrow, being already reported. Against these additions there is but one loss to record—the *Alliance*, captured off Savanah, an event that surprised no one, she being almost worthless, and having changed hands three times before finding an owner sufficiently venturesome to risk her in the trade. The arrivals and departures from the Confederacy since March 11 are as follows:—

ARRIVALS.—March 15, s.s. *Alice*, Wilmington; 16, *Hansa*, Wilmington; 21, schr. *Petrel*, Charleston; April 5, s.s. *Coquette*, Wilmington; *Syren*, Wilmington; 16, *A. D. Vance*, Wilmington; 18, *Lucy*, Wilmington; *Annie*, Wilmington; 28, *Will o' the Wisp*, Wilmington; 30, *Edith*, Wilmington; *Syren*, Wilmington. May 7, *Lucy*, Wilmington.

DEPARTURES.—April 6, s.s. *Alliance*, Savanah; *Mars*, Charleston; 9, *Syren*, Wilmington; *Will o' the Wisp*, Wilmington; *Greyhound*, Wilmington; 21, *A. D. Vance*, Wilmington; 25, *Young Republic*, Wilmington; 25, *Lucy*, Wilmington; May 2, *Will o' the Wisp*, Wilmington; *Annie*, Wilmington; 5, *Syren*, Wilmington; 6, *Tristram Shandy*, Wilmington; 7, *Fannie*, Wilmington; *Alice*, Wilmington.

All of the above sailing previous to 5th instant have safely arrived, with the solitary exception of the *Alliance* (captured), thus showing in two months twenty-one successful evasions of the blockade to one unsuccessful. We have remaining twelve screw-steamers in port, the majority of which leave this week.

The principal topic of local interest is the recent removal of Governor Bayley from office, it is supposed on account of his views upon the American question conflicting so strongly with those of His Grace of Newcastle, as evidenced in the correspondence lately forwarded you. Be this as it may, the letter of dismissal was couched in the same spiteful and pointed terms that characterised the correspondence alluded to; and, as if to make it more marked, it lacked the poor courtesy of even naming his successor, a matter of which we are all in doubt at present. An attempt was made in the House of Assembly last month to tax all cotton received here 75 cents per bale, a tax which, in view of the present heavy receipts, would have proved very onerous. The measure was sturdily opposed by the mercantile influence in that body, and its absurdity in view of the pressing necessities of English manufactures so plainly demonstrated as to defeat it on the third reading. A duty has, however, been levied upon all descriptions of merchandise landed in bond of ½ per cent. *ad valorem*. Did these legislators consult their true interests, they would lose no time in declaring the ports of this colony free, similar to that of St. Thomas, now the most flourishing of all the West India Islands.

Our harbour was honoured about twelve days ago with the presence of the Federal gunboat *Galena*. Having entered in distress, she was allowed to remain for three days, during which time the officers were entertained by the Governor and the Staff of the 1st W. I. Regiment; despite these courtesies they complained bitterly at the ridicule and jeers their appearance in the streets evoked from the populace.

By the screw-steamer *Lucy*, we yesterday received news from the Confederacy to the evening of the 4th inst., by which all the late reported Southern successes are confirmed. The news from the Trans-Mississippi department is somewhat confused, but still sufficiently plain for us to glean the fact that Kirby Smith has had two engagements with the enemy since that of Pleasant Hill, in both of which he has met with splendid success. In the last he is said to have driven Banks's army across Red River towards Natchez, the only available point left to them for transportation back to New Orleans—their Red River flotilla (forty in all), in which the advance was made, having been locked in above the flats by the sudden fall of water, and where their destruction is being rapidly accomplished by the Confederates, thirteen having been destroyed up to last accounts.

General Price is also stated to have gained a victory in Arkansas over Steele, capturing four thousand men, but the report lacks confirmation. It is very evident, however, that Generals Smith, Magruder, Taylor, and Price are rapidly concentrating their forces, making in the aggregate a very large army, and intend opening an aggressive campaign against the Federals in that section, destined to distract more of their attention from operations in Virginia and Georgia than they have latterly dreamed of. Wirt Adams has succeeded in cooping them up in Vicksburg, that country being now clear of the Vandals. From General Johnston's army we hear only of the 'busy note of preparation.' Some skirmishing is reported in his front, but this he understands as only a feint to cover Grant's grand movement on Richmond. He will most probably remain quiescent until the door is opened for him by General Lee, the entire prospective campaign now hinging upon his operations. I learn from Captain Duguide, s.s. *Lucy*, that, late on the day of her leaving Wilmington, a telegram was received from Richmond stating that the grand contest in Virginia had already opened, Grant attacking Lee's right and left simultaneously at Fredericksburg and Raccoon Ford. Military critics regard it, however, as a feint, it being generally understood that Grant's real plan of campaign is almost identical with that followed by McClellan in his failure, and of which General Scott is the originator and unswerving supporter. It is whispered that Richmond is equally well posted with Washington with regard to all matters connected with the Federal campaign and the Government, and the utmost confidence pervades all classes.

Much has been written and said about the new concentrative policy with which the Federals are inaugurating the campaign. So far it has been productive to them of reverses only, by withdrawing their troops from the points on the seaboard where they had secured a foothold when pursuing the 'Anaconda policy.' The Confederates have been enabled to achieve many important successes, and it yet remains to be seen whether they are to be the gainers elsewhere. As it is, it seems as though the Southern leader had borrowed a leaf from their book, and had so far profited by it that the monster army Grant leads onward to Richmond is destined to meet a monster to cope with. Private information assures me that the troops in Lower Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina have all moved forward under the gallant Beauregard to the defence of Richmond, he himself remaining with a few brigades in siege of Newbern to cover the movements of the main army. General Johnston has already spared a *corps d'armée*, and it is said that even the Palladin Polk will appear in the fifth act with his veterans. In view of these immense preparations you will at once comprehend the magnitude and importance of the Virginia battle, now, perhaps, progressing. It is destined, in the writer's humble opinion, to be not only the most important in our history, but almost the decisive action in event of Southern success, of which none here doubt. One fact is plain, that the Federals will never be able again to marshal such a formidable force upon Southern territory as is now converging against that most coveted and most heroic city of Richmond. This they themselves freely acknowledge. If victory does perch upon the 'star-emblazoned cross,' the fallacy of subjugation must be once and for ever exploded.

BERMUDA.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

HAMILTON, BERMUDA: April 27, 1864.

ALL'S well with us here at present. I hope to have some Southern news for you to-day from St. George's, but with the exception of the loss of one of our traders, the *Chapman*, that was wrecked off St. George's, there is nothing fresh. Two of the coloured men kidnapped from our vessel in New York have returned; the first coloured man and the white man cannot be found. Newly-arrived emigrants daily meet the same fate, and it is impossible to trace them, as the authorities are as unscrupulous as the kidnappers they employ. The double screw-steamer *Atalanta* came into St. George's from England in eleven days—these are the sort of craft for blockade-running!

May 3.—The blockade-runner *Index* arrived yesterday with news from Wilmington, and 770 bales cotton and 340 boxes tobacco; she reports the *Siren* as arrived, and the *A. D. Vance* and *Edith* about to leave for Nassau. Plymouth, N. C., has been taken by General Hoke and Commander Cook, with 2,500 prisoners, including 400 negroes and a brigadier, 30 pieces of artillery, 100,000 lbs. meat, 1,000 barrels flour, full garrison outfit, two gunboats sunk, another disabled, and a steamer taken, with a loss of only 300 Confederates, but General Miller is amongst the killed. This news is confirmed by the Yankee papers. The Federal loss is very great on Red River, and that good little river has suddenly fallen, leaving 10 Federal gunboats and transports, to be taken by the Confederates at their leisure.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

QUARANTINE NOTICE.

LISBON, May 20.

By an order of the Board of Health, of May 16, the ports of the province of Ceara are declared suspected of yellow fever.

SHIPS ARRIVED.

AT LIVERPOOL.—May 26: The Inkerman, from Bahia. The Margaretta, from Havana. The Indefatigable, from Bermuda. The Hesper, from Mauritius. The Imogen, from Pernambuco.—May 27: The Trim, from Nassau.—May 28: The Jamaica, from Chili.—May 29: The Matilda, from Matanzas.—May 30: The Protejido, from Havana. The Crescent, from Cuba. The Mantura, The Opal, from Malaga. The Castilian (steamer), from Lisbon.—May 31: The Wavertree, from Pomeron. The Harriett M'Beath, from St. John's.

AT GRAVESEND.—May 26: The Nautilus, from St. Kitt's. The Equity, from Porto Rico. The Jane, from Tobago. The Bel Brig, from Jamaica. The Terpsichore, from St. Thomas. The England's Rose, from Berbice. The Golden City, from Trinidad. The Perseverance, from St. Lucia.—May 27: The Pilgrim, from Demerara. The Salvadore, from Terceira. The Jarlen, from Havana.—May 28: The Amici, from Lagos. The Boatswain, from Porto Rico.—May 29: The Equity, from Barbadoes.—May 30: The Blonde, from Lagos. The Ruckers, from Trinidad. The Maria Pia (steamer), from Lisbon. The Josefita, from Porto Rico. The Agnes Fraser, from Havana. The Hercules, from Cuba. The Clotilde, from Lisbon.—May 31: The Blink Bonny, from Porto Rico. The Batila la Habana, from Havana. The Victor (steamer), from Brussels.

AT DEAL.—May 26: The Sidney Hall (steamer), from Canaries. The Geraldine, from Buenos Ayres.—May 28: The Osberto, from Trinidad.—May 29: The Bilboa, from Bilboa. The Cadiz (steamer), from Cadiz.—May 30: The Port Royal, from Jamaica. The Koh-i-noor, from St. Lucia.

AT FALMOUTH.—May 31: The Rossini, from Buenos Ayres. The Kaliva, from Havana. The Hydra, from Santos. The Annie Kay, from Bahia. The Elizabeth, from Matanzas. The Johan Frederick, from Porto Rico.

AT BRISTOL.—May 31: The Queen of the Dart, from Pernambuco.

AT DUNDEE.—May 30: The Paragon, from Matanzas.

AT CROOKHAVEN.—May 30: The Ceder Rohlfs, from Cuba.

AT THE CLYDE.—May 30: The Inglewood, from Bahia. The Isis, The Barhadran, from Trinidad. The Tantama, from Cardenas. The Evening Star, from Matanzas.

BERMUDA.—May 14: The Village Girl, The Eagle, The Lillian (steamer), The Bessie Young, The Tweed, The Bonny Belle, The Princess Royal, The Nutfield, The Argo, The Marion, The Pleiades, The Ranney's, The Empire, The Devonshire, The E. W. Evans, The Index (steamer), with 770 bales of cotton and 340 boxes of tobacco: The Minnie (steamer), The Helen (steamer), The Constance (steamer), The Atalanta (steamer), The Monarch, The Leonard Berry, The Naiad, The Cupid, The Magnet, The Eliza Bares.

NASSAU.—May 14: The Celia, The Majestic, The Mary, The Garland, from Liverpool. The Tristram Shandy (steamer), The Lucy (steamer), The Annie (steamer), The Will-o'-the-Wisp (steamer), The Edith (steamer), The Syren (steamer), all with large cargoes from Wilmington. The Young Republic (steamer), The Rothesay Castle (steamer), The Alice (steamer), The Fannie (steamer), all for St. John's. The Grant (steamer), for Liverpool. The Merida, from Cardiff, leaky. The Teqri. The Maria Brooke, The Despatch, The Prym, for Liverpool. The Beehive (!) from Cardiff here, in attempting to enter port without pilot, struck upon Silver Cay bar, bilged, and filled with water; surveys have been held, and declared the impossibility of getting her off.

ST. THOMAS.—The Askalon (steamer), The Marienlyst, The Morris, from Liverpool. The Jessie Banfield, from Cardiff. The Warbler, from Newport.

DEMERARA.—May 7: The Emperor, The Appoline, from Liverpool. The Margaret Kerr, from the Clyde. The Oceander, from London. Freights: For sugar for London and Liverpool, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d. Rum, for London and Liverpool, 2½d. to 3d. Timber, 1s. 6½d. per cubic foot (string).

BARBADOES.—May 10: The George Reynolds, from Liverpool. The Cicerone, from Cardiff. The Flying Fish, from London. 'The Favourite, here from New York, reports the Manual lost twenty-five miles off Sandy Hook, crew saved, letter-bag lost.'

HALIFAX.—Princess Royal, from Bermuda. The City of Petersburgh (steamer) and The Florie, repairing.

TRINIDAD.—The Plantagenet (steamer), from Liverpool.

VERA CRUZ.—The Eliza O'Keefe, The Emma, from Liverpool.

CUBA.—The Valencia, from Liverpool. The Mangesten, from Swansea.

CALLAO.—The Hugh Block, The Arequipe, from Liverpool. The Laughing Water, for Antwerp. The Tiptree, The William Carey, for Martinique.

At Cardiff.—May 31: The Thomas, for Rio Janeiro. The Catharine, for Bermuda. The Maria, for Bermuda.

Havana.—May 9: The Lancaster (steamer), The J. G. Owen, The Badger (steamer), The Lavinia (steamer, late The Harriett Lane), with 1,050 bales of cotton, The Matagorda (steamer), with 950 bales of cotton, The Isabel (steamer), with 980 bales of cotton, The Alice (steamer), with 750 bales of cotton, The Denbigh (steamer), The Susana (steamer), all from Confederate States' ports. The Nadales, The Fiel, The Josefina, The Morga, The Runer, all from Liverpool. The Corsica (steamer), The Campsies, from Troon. The Isis, from Cardiff.

Matanzas.—April 27: The Eleanor, The Snowdrop, from Liverpool. Freights have continued dull at very low rates for the several British bottoms in port. We only notice the charter of ship Mattie Banks, 3,600 boxes, Falmouth, at 47*s.* 6*d.*

Belize.—The Eliza Ann, from London.

Curacoa.—The Aretas, The Pieterdina Marchiena, from Liverpool. Valparaiso.—The Capricorn, The Penguin, The Potosi, The Duke of Beaufort, from Swansea. The Arauco, The Glencoyne, from Liverpool. The Glencaple, from London. The Jessie Stowe, from Sunderland.

Pernambuco.—May 14: The Medea, The Margaretha, The Jouge, from Liverpool. The Mount Vernon, condemned at this port, has been sold for 900,000 rs. The Corocoro, from Liverpool to Valparaiso, put in here in charge of a Portuguese mate. First officer dead, and the master deranged and since dead. The mate of the Mount Vernon has been appointed master, and the vessel proceeds.

Martinique.—May 11: The war steamer Florida, coaled, and left on the 7th.

Jamaica.—May 9: The Mexican (steamer), for Colon. The Venezuelan (steamer), for Mexico. The Regia, for London. The Talisman (steamer), The Young Nova-Scotian, The Antigua, from Liverpool. The Eliza Jenkins, from Cardiff.—Freights: Shipping is plentiful, but few charters have been effected on account of the backwardness and shortness of the crops.

Ships Sailed.

Liverpool.—May 25: The Talia, for New Orleans. The Resolution, for Bahia. The Glen Messen, for Havana.—May 26: The Jeff. Davis, The Veteran, for Bahia. The Emperor, for Matamoras. The Griefswald, for Halifax. The Donna Maria, The Lucia, The Caroline, for Puerto Cabello. The Nautilus, for Trinidad. The Caroline Goodyear, for Bermuda. The Margaretha, The Alida, for Pernambuco.—May 29: The Protijedo, for Havana. The Matura, The Opal, for Malaga. The Crescent, for Cuba. The John Bunyan, for Rio Janeiro.—May 30: The Cordova, for Valparaiso. The Provdentia, for Havana. The J. W., for Bermuda. The Uvidia, for Matamoras. The Aid, for Nassau. The Dolphin, for St. Michael's. The Guiding Star, for Demerara. The Carioca, for Rio Janeiro. May 31: The Wressel Castle, for Buenos Ayres. The British Ensign, for Trinidad. The Lancashire Witch, for Rio Janeiro. The Grecian, for Newfoundland. The Cambria, for Malaga. The Enterprise, for St. John's. The Richmond, for Havana. The Plantagenet (steamer), from Kingston. The Asia (steamer), from Cadiz.

Deal.—May 26: The Mary Spicer, for Tobago. The Elizabeth, for Trinidad. The Wilhelmina Magdalena, for Montevideo. The Indian Chief, for Demerara.—May 27: The Tribune, for Callao. The Melancthon, for Jamaica. May 28: The Rio Grande, for Jamaica. The Albion, for Bermuda.—May 29: The Mellire, for Halifax.—May 30: The Bimeliai, for Valparaiso. The Britain's Pride, for Halifax. The Adelaide, The Belsize (steamer), for Mauritius.

Swansea.—May 31: The Emblem, for Nassau. The Sarinam, for Rio Janeiro.

Newport.—May 31: The Stella, for St. Thomas's.

Shields.—May 31: The Melancthon, for Jamaica.

Dublin.—May 31: The Vortex (steamer), for St. John's.

West Hartlepool.—May 28: The St. Barnock, for Bilboa.

Clyde.—May 28: The Vesunda, for Cuba. Resolution (steamer), for Nassau.

Queenstown.—May 31: The Ailsa Craig (steamer), for Lisbon.

Ships Loading.

At Liverpool.—The Agnes Louisa (steamer), The Mary James, The Young Marquis, The Ariosto, for Nassau. The Oleander, for Bermuda. The Grenadian (steamer), for West Indies; Leech, Harrison & Forwood.

At London.—The Crocodile, The Elinor, for Nassau; J. Worley. The Trio, for Bermuda. The Floride (steamer), for Cuba and Vera Cruz; Stringer, Pembroke & Co.

A steel paddle-wheel steamer, built for Messrs. Fraser, Trenholm & Co., intended for the American and Nassau trade, was launched from the yard of Messrs. Jones, Quiggin & Co. at Liverpool. She is the largest steel merchant ship yet built, being 1,800 tons burthen. She is 281 feet long, 36 feet broad, and 16 feet depth of hold. Mrs. Lockwood, wife of Captain Lockwood, the intended commander, christened the vessel the Colonel Lamb. This is the name of a Confederate officer, and President Davis's health was afterwards drunk at the luncheon.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

Wednesday Evening.

As was fully anticipated, the Bank of England Directors, at their weekly meeting on Thursday last, reduced the rate of discount from 8 to 7 per cent. Since then, money in all commercial circles has been much easier; the demand for discount both at the Bank and in the open market has not been at all pressing, and as there is now an almost entire subsidence of speculation, with nothing pressing to keep up rates, an impression prevails in many quarters that the Bank may possibly make a further reduction to-morrow, particularly as the brokers are freely discounting good paper at from 6¼ to 6½ per cent. and have plenty of capital in hand. The Joint Stock Banks also continue well supplied, and are working their resources at 6¼ to 6½ per cent. On the Stock Exchange money during the week has not been in great demand, and the terms for loans from day to day have varied from 4½ to 5 per cent. To-day, however, there has been rather more enquiry for accommodation, and the terms have temporarily advanced to 6 per cent.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The generally improved aspect of the money market has given a stimulus to business in almost every department of the Stock Exchange. In the English funded securities a rather extensive business has been transacted: but although there is not any quotable alteration in prices as compared with last week, still quotations remain remarkably firm, with a tendency to further improvement. The closing price of Consols this evening was 91⅝ to 91¾ for money, and 90¼ to 90⅜ ex. div. for the account. Exchequer bills have slightly improved, the March issue being 12*s.* to 7*s.* discount, and the June do. 6*s.* to 1*s.* discount. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has notified that the bills falling due on the 11th inst., which have hitherto borne interest at 3 per cent., will be renewed at 3½ per cent. There has been a good business transacted in the foreign stock market, but the dealings have to some extent been curtailed by the usual half-monthly settlement. Peruvian Stock has shown some fluctuations, in consequence of the announcement of the differences between Spain and Peru. At one time the stock fell between 2 and 3 per cent., but it has now mostly recovered, and closes firm at the advance. Greek has also been largely dealt in, and leaves off at 25¼ to 25¾, being an improvement of 1½ per cent. Mexican is not quite so firm, the present quotation being 44⅛ to 44⅜. Spanish are firm, the Passives at 31⅞ to 31⅜, and the Certificates at 11⅛ to 11¼. Turkish Six per Cents. of 1854 have improved ½ per cent., the last quotation being 89½ to 90½, but those of 1862 are unaltered, closing at 70½ to 71½.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market has been inactive this week, but the stock is well sustained in value. The still indecisive situation of the contending armies in Virginia deters operators. The next news is looked for with intense interest. The closing quotation to-day is 64 to 66.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

Business in American Government and Railway Securities has during the greater part of the week been entirely neglected. On one or two days a few transactions took place, but they were entirely of an unimportant character, and prices, though not presenting any material alteration, exhibit a downward tendency. The continued favourable advices with regard to the Confederate successes in Virginia have for a time put almost an entire stop to the operations of the dealers, and nothing whatever is done of a speculative character. The only dealings recorded have been in Virginia State Six per Cents., at 33½. Atlantic and Great Western Railway (Pennsylvania section), 72½; Erie Shares, $100, all paid, 56, 57 and 56; ditto ditto Seven per Cent. Preference, 51½; Illinois Central, $100 shares, $90 paid, 28, 27 and 27½.

NASSAU.

Our Nassau correspondent, under date May 9, says freights were at 30*l.* per tonnage measurement, and prices in the Confederacy offer a good margin. He also sends the following prices current:—Acids, nitric, $23 to $25. Alcohol, $1.00. Beef, mess, $14.00. Bi-carb. soda, 4*c.* to 4½*c.* Bale rope, Manilla, 12*c.* to 13*c.*; ditto, Kentucky, 12*c.* Borax, 23*c.* to 25*c.* Coffee, Rio Jan. and Java, 18*c.* to 20*c.* Cotton cards, Whittemore, No. 10, $13 to $14; English, No. 10, $11 to $12; Card clothing, 4 36, $2.50 per square foot. Calf skins, French, $30 to $35. Candles, stearine, 23*c.* to 24*c.*; adamantine, 22*c.* to 23*c.* Copperas, 2½*c.* to 3½*c.* Cotton, 42*c.* to 43*c.* Gunny cloth, 13*c.* Flour, superfine, $8.50. Hams, sugar-cured, 15*c.* to 20*c.* Liquorice, paste, 18*c.* to 20*c.*; ditto, sticks, 25*c.* Logwood, extract of, 15*c.* Lard, leaf, 15*c.* to 16*c.* Molasses, per gal., 22*c.* to 24*c.* Nails, cut, $5 to $5.50. Oils, olive, Marseilles, and Nice, $4.50 to $5.00; lard, per gal., $1.50; sperm, $2.50 to $2.75; Kerosene, 60*c.* to 65*c.* Pepper, black, 14*c.* to 15*c.* Potatoes, per barrel, $3 to $3.50. Percussion caps, musket, per thousand, $1 to $1.25; pistol, per thousand, 28*c.* to 45*c.* Quinine, sulph., $2.25. Sardines, half tins, $2.75 to $3; ditto, quarter tins, $2 to $2.10. Sugar, crushed, 14*c.* to 15*c.*; ditto, Havana brown, 8*c.* to 8½*c.* Turpentine, $1.75 to $2. Tobacco, 25*c.* to 35*c.* Whiskey Bourbon, $1.00 to $1.50.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

The prospectus has been issued of the Italian Land Company, the capital of which is to be 1,500,000*l.* in 30,000 shares of 50*l.* each, 1*l.* to be paid on application, and 4*l.* on allotment. In the opinion of the directors, a large field is presented for the investment of capital, and large returns are anticipated. The rate of interest which such advances will afford in Italy is so much greater than in this country that loans repayable by annual instalments spread over twenty or twenty-five years, will prove exceedingly lucrative. The directors propose to make purchases from the various large tracts of Crown land, to be be selected from the domains of the Government. The land will be selected in the localities most favourable for rapid improvement, or in contiguity with the new lines of railway, and on or near to the sea coast where agricultural and other operations are carried on. The project is brought out under the auspices of the International Financial Society and the Anglo-Italian Bank, both of which institutions can give it a large amount of support.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

Business in the British Railway Share Market has not been particularly brisk during the week, the dealers having for two or three days been chiefly occupied with the half-monthly settlement; nevertheless the transactions have been to a fair extent, and the general tenor of prices is towards a further improvement, but the fluctuations have been inconsiderable. To-day the market has had a better appearance, with more buoyancy in prices. The only variations as compared with last week are an advance of 1 per cent. in West Cornwall; of ½ to ¾ per cent. in Great Western, Lancashire and Yorkshire, North Eastern (York), and of ½ per cent. in London and North Western. On the other hand there has been a fall of about 2 per cent. in North London. In Foreign Railway Shares there has not been so much doing, but prices remain steady. Shares in undertakings connected with the British possessions have been more extensively dealt in, at generally improved quotations, particularly for Indian descriptions.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The transactions in specie and bullion continue of a very favourable character, and add materially to the improved aspect of monetary affairs. The amount of gold sent into the Bank during the week has been 272,000*l.*, whilst there has been nothing withdrawn to send out of the country. The arrivals of specie have again been large, amounting to 620,920*l.*, of which 422,800*l.* was from the West Indies and the Pacific, and 198,120*l.* from New York. The *Oneida*, from the Brazils, is announced on its way from Lisbon, but has only on board 5,583*l.* The specie taken out by the *Ettrick* on the 27th ult., was 59,490*l.*, of which 37,040*l.* was in gold for Bombay, and 22,450*l.* in silver. The market for silver remains very quiet. The small quantity by the last West India steamer has been sold at 61*d.* per oz. Mexican dollars are very quiet at previous quotations. The gold ships known to be on their way from the Australian colonies will bring gold to the value of 381,000*l.*

Liverpool, Wednesday, June 1.—Business in our cotton market during the week has been rather limited, and without any material alteration in values. American cotton has been more in demand, and the late slight reduction in quotations has been entirely recovered. The sales this week have amounted to only 38,000 bales, of which 12,000 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year down to the present period have been 1,081,900 bales, and to the same period in 1863 they were only 885,450 bales. There have been imported this year 931,752 bales against 567,314 bales in the corresponding period of last year. The exports during the present year have been 191,856 bales, and in 1863 they were 177,923 bales. The quantity taken for consumption this year has been 679,800 bales, and to the same period last year 466,000 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 293,310 bales, whilst in 1863 the quantity was 119,710 bales. The present computed stocks are 341,330 bales; last year they were 315,850 bales. The quotations this afternoon were, for American descriptions, 25½*d.* to 28½*d.*; Pernambuco, &c., 29*d.*; Egyptian, 28¼*d.* to 36*d.*; Surats, 12*d.* to 23½*d.*; and China, 19¼*d.*

The markets at Manchester continue very inanimate, and there seems but little disposition on the part of purchasers to transact business, in the present very unsettled and indecisive state of affairs in America. The question is causing immense excitement just now, and every succeeding mail is looked for with the greatest anxiety. Very little indeed continues to be done in shipping yarns, and to effect sales spinners would have to accept lower terms, which they are not at all disposed to do, as the majority of them are well supplied with contracts. For home-trade yarns the market is equally quiet, and prices are nominally unchanged. There is very little change to notice in the state of the cloth market; business remains exceedingly flat, but manufacturers are standing out for previous prices, and, in some instances, refusing to make any abatement, though it is quite certain that, in most cases where bargains have been effected, they have been on easier terms than would have been accepted last week. For India there does not appear to be any business offering. The markets close very flat for both cloths and yarns.

Among the Contents of The Index *of May* 26 *are*:

Notes on Events of the Week at Home and Abroad.
Parliamentary Notes. Paris Topics.
General Sherman on the Rights of War.
Not a Case for Mr. Bright.
The Derby.
The Fighting in Virginia.
Is the Carnage in Vain?
Sham Diplomatic Correspondence.
Implicit Recognition.
The Irish Exodus.
Letter from New Orleans.
Shipping Intelligence.
Affairs Financial and Commercial.

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SOUTHERN PRISONERS' RELIEF FUND.

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THERE are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellow-men.

Contributions will be received by J. H. Ashbridge, Treasurer, Walmer Buildings, Water Street, Liverpool; or in London, by Henry Hotze, Esq., 17 Savile Row, W.; in Paris, by H. O. Brewer, Esq., 6 Rue Circulaire; and Daniel Hubbard, Esq., 24 Rue Lord Byron.

BY AUTHORITY.

ACTS OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIRST CONGRESS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, 1863–1864.

AN ACT TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS UPON THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENCE.

WHEREAS, the Confederate States are engaged in a war, upon the successful issue of which depend the integrity of their social system, the form of their civilisation, the security of life and property within their limits, as well as their existence as sovereign and independent States: And whereas, the condition of the contest demands that they should call into requisition whatever resources of men and money they have for the support of their cause, to faithfully administer the same: Therefore, as a part of the system of the public defence:—

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the exportation of cotton, tobacco, military and naval stores, sugar, molasses, and rice, from the Confederate States, and from all places in the occupation of their troops, is prohibited, except under such uniform regulations as shall be made by the President of the Confederate States.

SEC. 2. That if any person, or persons, shall put, place, or load on board any ship, steamboat, or vessel, or any other water craft, or into any wagon, cart, carriage, or other vehicle, for conveyance or transportation beyond the Confederate States, or into any portion of said States occupied by the enemy, any of the articles mentioned in the first section of this act, or shall collect the same for the purpose of being conveyed or transported, contrary to the prohibition aforesaid, within the Confederate States, or beyond them, the said articles, and the ship, boat, or other water craft, wagon, carriage, or other vehicle, with the slaves and animals that may be employed or collected for the purpose of aiding therein, shall be forfeited, and all persons, their aiders and abettors, on conviction of being interested or concerned in the enterprise, shall be deemed to be guilty of a high misdemeanor, and punishable by such fine or imprisonment, or both, as the court may impose.

SEC. 3. That it shall not be lawful to put on board any ship, boat, vessel, or other water craft, or upon any wagon, cart, carriage, or other vehicle, for transportation or conveyance as aforesaid, any of the articles aforesaid, unless a permit be previously obtained from some officer of the Confederate States specially authorised to grant the same, particularly describing the articles thus to be laden, and the ship, boat, vessel, water craft, wagon, carriage, cart, or other vehicle, on which the same is to be transported, and until bond shall be given that the same shall be conveyed and transported to the place of destination under such conditions and regulations, and for such objects, as shall be prescribed by the President under the first section of this act.

SEC. 4. That the collectors of all the districts of the Confederate States, and such other officers as may be designated by the President of the Confederate States, shall have power and authority to take into their custody any of the articles before mentioned found on any ship, boat, or other water craft, when there is reason to believe that they are intended for exportation, or when in vessels, carts, or wagons, or any other carriage or vehicle whatsoever, or in any manner, apparently on their way towards the territories of a foreign nation, or towards the territory of the Confederate States in the occupation of the United States, or the vicinity thereof, or towards a place whence such articles are intended to be exported, and not to permit the same to be removed until bond shall be given, with satisfactory sureties, that no violation of this act, and the regulations under the same, is intended.

SEC. 5. That the powers granted by this act to the revenue and other officers of the Confederate States under this act to allow or refuse exportation of the articles before mentioned, or for the seizure or detention of any of the said articles, shall be exercised in conformity with such instructions as the President may give through the Departments of War and of the Treasury, which instructions may impose conditions as to the destination and sale of the same, and the investment of the proceeds of the same, or a portion thereof, in military or other supplies for the public service, which instructions such officers shall be bound to obey; and if any action or suit shall be brought against any such officer or officers, or their agents, he or they may plead the general issue, and upon proof of a compliance with the provisions of this act, or with the regulations and instructions of the President, he or they shall be absolved from all responsibility therefor; and any person aggrieved by any of the acts of any of the officers or agents aforesaid, may file his petition before the district court of the district in which such officer or agent resides, and after due notice to him, and to the district attorney, the said court may proceed summarily to hear and determine thereupon as law and justice may require; and the judgment of the said court and the reasons therefor shall be filed among the records of the court, and in case any release shall be granted, the judge may impose such conditions as to giving bond and security as may, in his opinion, be necessary to secure this act from violation, and, in case of refusal, may impose double or treble costs upon the petitioner if circumstances warrant: Provided, That nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the Confederate States, or any of them, from exporting any of the articles herein enumerated on their own account.

SEC. 6. That exclusive jurisdiction is conferred upon the district courts of the Confederate States of all suits or actions that may arise under this act in behalf of the Confederate States, its officers and agents, for the recovery of all fines, penalties, and forfeitures imposed in the same, by indictment, information, or action, according to the practice of the court, and the distribution of the penalties and fines shall be made under and according to the laws now in force for violation of the revenue acts, and all laws for the mitigation and remittance of penalties and forfeitures shall be applied in similar cases.

SEC. 7. That it shall be lawful for the President, or such officers as he may designate, to employ any portion of the military or naval force of the Confederacy or of the militia, to prevent the illegal departure of any ship, vessel, or other water craft, for detaining, taking possession of, and keeping in custody the same, or any wagon, cart, or other vehicle heretofore mentioned, their teams and drivers, and their products aforesaid, and to suppress and disperse any assembly of persons who may resist the execution of this act, or oppose the fulfilment, by the officers, of the duties imposed by the same.

SEC. 8. That this act shall expire on the day of the ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States.

APPROVED, February 6, 1864.

REGULATIONS TO CARRY INTO EFFECT THE ACT 'TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS UPON THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENCE,' APPROVED, FEBRUARY 6, 1864.

I. AS TO THE SEA.

1. The owners of any vessel intending to sail from a Confederate port with a cargo consisting in whole or part of cotton, tobacco, military and naval stores, sugar, molasses or rice, shall, before the landing on board of any such articles, file with the collector of the port from which the vessel is to sail, a copy of her register, with a declaration of the names of the owners and officers thereof, the place of their birth and of their reside ce for the preceding year, together with the port or place to which the said vessel proposes to sail. The said declaration shall also set forth the quantity and value, in Confederate currency, of the cargo proposed to be taken out, as also the consent of the said owners, that one-half of the tonnage of the said vessel may be employed by the Confederate Government for its own use, both on the outward and homeward voyage, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned. The collector shall submit a statement as to the owners and officers to the military commandant of the port, and if he shall not object to their loyalty, or to the sailing of the vessel, for reasons of military necessity, the collector shall grant a permit for the lading of the said vessel, one-half for account of the owners and one-half for account of the Confederate States.

2. Before the said lading shall be completed, the owners of the vessel shall execute to the Confederate States a bond in double the value of the vessel, with security deemed adequate by the collector, conditioned that she will pursue the voyage designated, and that she will return with reasonable dispatch to a Confederate port, after her outward cargo shall be discharged with a cargo, consisting one half of articles not prohibited by the laws of the Confederate Government, and the other half of such articles as the Government shall offer for shipment from such port, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned.

3. Each shipper of any portion of the cargo proposed to be laden on board the said vessel, shall, before the lading thereof, make application to the collector for a permit to lade the same, which application shall declare the articles to be shipped, and the quantity and value thereof in Confederate currency, the port of destination, and the name of the consignee. A permit shall then be granted by the collector if the application is deemed satisfactory. The lading shall be had under the inspection of a revenue officer, who shall be charged with the duty of seeing that the goods laden conform to the permit.

4. Before the completion of the lading on board or the granting a clearance, each shipper of any portion of the cargo shall execute and deliver to the collector a bond to the Confederate States, in double the value of his shipment in Confederate money, with security deemed adequate by the collector, with condition that at least one half the net proceeds of said shipment shall be invested in goods or articles not prohibited by law, and said goods or articles shall be shipped by the same or some other vessel to the Confederate States within sixty days from the unlading of said cargo; or that the said half of the net proceeds shall be paid in coin or sterling exchange to the proper agent of the Confederate States, to be reimbursed to the shipper by the delivery to him of cotton at the port of departure in the Confederate States, at the rate of ten pence sterling per pound for middling uplands.

5. The freight to be paid by the Confederate States on all cotton and tobacco shipped from a Confederate port shall be five pence sterling per pound, payable on delivery at the port of destination, in coin or sterling exchange. Return freight shall be at the rate of 25*l.* per ton, payable on its delivery in a Confederate port, in cotton at ten pence sterling per pound for middling uplands, and at a proportionate price for cotton of other qualities. In calculating the ton of freight by weight, 2,240 pounds shall be allowed; by measure, forty cubic feet shall be allowed.

6. If the outward bound vessel shall consent, at the request of the Government, to take two-thirds of her cargo for account of the Confederate States, the outward freight shall be six pence sterling per pound, and whenever the Government is not prepared to fill up any portion of the tonnage reserved for its use at the time at which any vessel may be made ready to sail, her owners may fill up the same on their own account: but no vessel shall, without consent of the Government, sail on her outward voyage until one-third of her cargo shall be laden for the use of the Government.

7. The rates of freight for articles other than cotton and tobacco shall be adjusted at the same relative rate and payable in the same way.

8. The Government reserves the right to limit or prohibit the shipment of rosin, turpentine, or any manufacture thereof, whenever deemed dangerous to its own shipment.

9. Upon the completion of the lading of the vessel, and before receiving her clearance, there shall be delivered to the collector, in addition to the usual manifest, another setting forth the names, ages, and description of her officers and crew, and of every passenger intending to sail in her. The said last-mentioned manifest shall be delivered to the commandant of the port, who shall thereupon cause the entire vessel to be searched, and if satisfied that the parties on board are persons who may safely be permitted to leave the Confederacy, and that the passengers have the proper passports, he shall certify the same on the manifest and return the same to the collector, whereupon, and not before, a clearance shall be granted to the vessel, and he shall be permitted to sail.

10. The owners of each vessel, and of each portion of a cargo sailing from a Confederate port, shall be allowed to take up their respective bonds, by producing to the collector the certificate of the proper agent of the Confederate Government at the port of delivery, setting forth the particulars, showing that the said party has complied with the obligations of the said bond so far as the same was practicable, and the collector, upon being duly satisfied, shall be authorised to surrender the said bonds.

11. Nothing in these regulations shall be so construed as to conflict with the proviso of the law, which declares 'that nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the Confederate States, or any of them, from exporting any of the articles herein enumerated on their own account;' nor shall a bond be required of a State in any case.

12. The penalties of all bonds executed in conformity with these regulations, shall be recoverable in full on proof of breach of the conditions of the bond, and without proof of any damage suffered by the Confederate States in consequence of such breach, and all bonds shall be executed in such form as to give effect to this regulation.

13. Vessels sent into the Confederacy for the purpose of exporting cotton received in payment of any Confederate bond or obligation shall be subject to these regulations only so far as relates to such portion of the tonnage, if any, as may remain vacant after the lading of the cotton received in payment as aforesaid.

14. The regulations for overland commerce with neutral countries will be issued separately, within a few days.

Approved.

(Signed) C. G. MEMMINGER, Secretary of Treasury.
(Signed) JAMES A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.

Approved, March 5, 1864.
(Signed) JEFFERSON DAVIS.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, C. S. A.
RICHMOND, March 16, 1864.

THE following additional regulations are established to carry out the act to impose regulations upon the foreign commerce of the Confederate States, and to provide for the public defence, approved February 6, 1864:

The bond required by the second article of the regulations shall be in one half the value of the vessel; and that required by the fourth article shall be in the single value of the shipment; and the security which the Collector may accept may be either personal security, or a mortgage of the vessel, or a transfer of the Bills of Lading, or of cotton, tobacco, or Confederate securities.

2. Whenever any vessel shall bring into the Confederate States an entire cargo for account of the Confederate States, the owners of the said vessel, and the shippers of her cargo, shall be relieved from the bonds previously given to invest and bring in one-half the net proceeds of her outward cargo, and the certificate of the agent of the Treasury Department at the port of lading, that such cargo was duly shipped in pursuance of the regulations, shall authorise the collector to cancel and surrender the said bonds.

Approved, March 16, 1864.
(Signed) C. G. MEMMINGER, Secretary of Treasury.
(Signed) JAMES A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.
Approved, March 17, 1864.
JEFFERSON DAVIS.

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE IMPORTATION OF LUXURIES, OR OF ARTICLES NOT NECESSARIES OR OF COMMON USE.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That from and after the first day of March next it shall not be lawful to import into the Confederate States any brandy, wines, or other spirits, or any other article specified in schedule A of an act entitled 'An act to provide revenue from commodities imported from foreign countries,' approved May 21, 1861, or any goods, wares, or merchandise, enumerated in schedule B of said act, except the following articles:—All things for medical purposes, camphor refined, pickles, molasses, pepper, pimento, cloves, nutmegs, cinnamon, and all other spices; soap, Castille, Windsor, and all other toilet soaps; sugar of all kinds; syrup of sugar; galloons, laces, knots, stars, tassels, tresses and wings of gold and silver, or imitations thereof, intended for uniforms of officers in the military and naval service.

SEC. 2. And it shall not be lawful to import the following articles enumerated in schedule C of said act: Beer, ale, and porter; muffs and tippets, and all other manufactures of fur, or of which fur shall be a component part, except caps and hats; carpets, carpetings, hearth rugs, bedsides, and other portions of carpetage, of any kind or description; carriages and parts of carriages; cider and other beverages not containing alcohol; clocks and parts of clocks; cotton laces, cotton insertings, cotton trimmings, or laces of thread and other material; coral, manufactured; dolls and toys of all kinds; fire crackers, sky rockets, Roman candles and all other similar articles used in pyrotechnics; furniture, cabinet and household; glass, coloured, stained, or painted; India matting of all sorts; jet and manufactures of jet, and imitations thereof; jewellery, or imitations thereof; manufactures and articles of marble, marble paving tiles, slabs, or blocks, and all other marble; matting, China or other floor matting and mats made of flags, jute, or grass; paper hangings, paper for walls, and paper for screens or fire boards; paving and roofing tiles and bricks, and roofing slates and fire bricks; thread lacings and insertings; velvets of all kinds.

SEC. 3. And it shall not be lawful to import the following articles, enumerated in schedule D of said act: Angola, Thibet, and other goats' hair, or mohair, unmanufactured; bananas, cocoa nuts, plantains, and oranges; cabinets of coins, medals, gems, and collections of antiquities; diamonds, mosaics, gems, pearls, rubies, and other precious stones and imitations thereof, set in gold or silver or other metals; engravings, bound or unbound; rattans and reeds; paintings and stationery; leaf and unmanufactured tobacco and cigars; or the following articles enumerated in schedule E. Diamonds, cameos, mosaics, pearls, gems, rubies, and other precious stones and imitations thereof, when not set.

SEC. 4. None of the manufactures of metal, designed as either household or personal ornaments, shall be admitted; and in order to confine importations to the rules of necessity and of common use, the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe the maximum foreign prices at which and within which importations of goods manufactured wholly or partly of cotton, flax, wool, or of silk, and designed for wearing apparel, and not herein prohibited, may be made, and beyond which importations thereof shall not be made: Provided, That articles herein allowed to be imported shall not be impressed by the Government or its agents after they have reached the Confederate States: Provided further, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit any importation for the use or account of the Confederate States, or either of them: Provided further, That this act shall not apply to any articles which have been or shall be shipped, without knowledge of the passage of this act, before the first day of March next, but which shall arrive in a Confederate port after that day.

SEC. 5. That whenever any article or articles, the importation of which is prohibited by this act, shall, after the first day of March next, be imported into the Confederate States, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, or shall, after said first day of March next, be put on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, with the intention of importing the same into the Confederate States, all such articles, as well as all other articles on board the same ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, belonging to the owner of such prohibited articles, shall be forfeited, and the owner thereof shall, moreover, forfeit and pay double the value of such articles.

SEC. 6. If any article or articles, the importation of which is prohibited by this act, shall, nevertheless, be on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, arriving after said first day of March next in the Confederate States, and shall be omitted in the manifest, report, or entry of the master, or the person having the charge or command of such ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, or shall be omitted in the entry of the goods owned by the owner, or consigned to the consignee of such articles, or shall be imported or landed, or attempted to be imported or landed, without a permit, the same penalties, fines, and forfeitures shall be incurred, and may be recovered, as in the case of similar omission or omissions, landing, importation, or attempt to land or import, in relation to articles liable to duties on their importation into the Confederate States.

SEC. 7. Every collector, naval officer, surveyor, or other officer of the customs, shall have the like power and authority to seize goods, wares, and merchandise imported contrary to the intent and meaning of this act, to keep the same in custody until it shall have been ascertained whether the same have been forfeited or not, and to enter any ship or vessel, dwelling-house, store, building, or other place, for the purpose of searching for and seizing any such goods, wares, and merchandise subject to duty; and if any person or persons shall conceal or buy any goods, wares, or merchandise, knowing them to be liable to seizure by this act, such person or persons shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a sum double the amount or value of the goods, wares, and merchandise so concealed or purchased.

SEC. 8. The following additional oath or affirmation shall be taken by masters or persons having charge or command of any ship or vessel arriving at any port of the Confederate States after said first day of March next, viz.: 'I further swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, on board [insert the denomination and name of the vessel] any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover or know of any such goods, wares, or merchandise on board of the said vessel, or which shall have been imported in the same, I will immediately, and without delay, make due report thereof to the collector of the port of this district.'

SEC. 9. After said first day of March next, importers, consignors, or agents, at the time of entering goods into the Confederate States, shall take the following additional oath, viz.: 'I also swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, amongst the said goods, wares, or merchandise, imported or consigned as aforesaid, any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover any such goods, wares, or merchandise among the said goods, wares, and merchandise so imported or consigned as aforesaid, I will immediately and without delay report the same to the collector of this district.'

SEC. 10. All penalties and forfeitures arising under this act may be sued for and recovered, and shall be distributed and accounted for, in the manner prescribed by the act entitled 'An act to regulate the collection of the duties on imports and tonnage;' and such penalties and forfeitures, mitigated or remitted, in like manner and under the like conditions, regulations, and restrictions as are prescribed, authorised, and directed by the act entitled 'An act to provide for mitigating or remitting the forfeitures, penalties, and disabilities accruing in certain cases therein mentioned.'

SEC. 11. That this act shall expire on the day of the ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States.

Approved, February 6, 1864.

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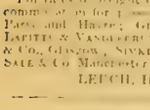

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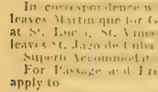

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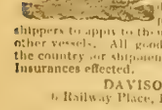

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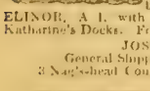

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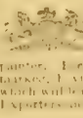

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VOL. IV.—No. 111.] LONDON: THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 9, 1864. [PRICE 6D.

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AMERICA.

UP to May 28 even Mr. Stanton's reports of the situation in Virginia did not inspire the sanguine New Yorkers with confidence of an approaching Federal triumph, for gold has been going up and greenbacks have been going down. On the 18th Grant made an unsuccessful attack on the Confederate lines at Spottsylvania, at a cost of eighteen hundred killed and wounded. On the evening of the 19th General Ewell was in Grant's rear, and, before he could be driven off, killed and wounded 700 Federals, and, says Mr. Stanton, took 300 prisoners. We must wait patiently for Southern accounts before we can learn what was the actual loss Ewell inflicted on the enemy, and what damage he did to the Federal supply trains. At all events, the repulse on the 18th, and the rear attack on the 19th, seem to have convinced Grant that he could not get to Richmond *viâ* Spottsylvania, and so on the 20th he made a change, which was described as a flanking movement. Strange to say, the 'outflanked' army was reported, five days later, to be confronting the invader behind some strong fortifications, south of the North Anna River. Supposing Mr. Stanton's narrative to be correct, Grant was, on the 26th, a few miles nearer Richmond, but he was no nearer to defeating Lee's army. Wall Street did not appreciate the great 'flanking movement,' and gold rose from 82 to 85 per cent. premium. On the 27th, Mr. Stanton greatly alarmed the speculators who had been discounting a victory. He notified that important operations had taken place on the 26th, that the movement was progressing, and that it would be developed in twenty-four hours; but in the meantime the news could not be made public. Gold advanced to 86¼ premium. The 28th dawned, and still there was no news from Grant. Rumour, the inevitable substitute for news, reported, amongst other things, that Grant was going to try quite another road to Richmond, and had gone to the Peninsula. At the close of the day gold was quoted at 88 per cent. premium.

About Butler there is rather more definite information. Whenever he has come out of his entrenchments he has learned how much more difficult it is to make war on men than on women and children, and that it is easier to steal spoons and trinkets than to make any impression on Confederate works. On the 16th, 'under cover of a fog,' Butler was surprised, and had a general and regiment captured, and lost in killed and wounded some 2,500. Mr. Stanton says he is safe; but the people of the North are rather uneasy, and lend a ready ear to reports of a disaster to Butler, and think it ominous that the Confederates are firing on his supply boats.

Another item from Virginia is the destruction of the bridges and blockhouses from Union Mills to the Rapidan, by General Mosby, which, so says the telegram, he was enabled to do by the withdrawal of the Federal outposts around Washington. It is also announced that the Federals have abandoned their depôt at Fredericksburg and Acquia Creek.

Altogether, we are not surprised that gold has gone up. The New York money market is not, or certainly has not always been, a reliable gauge of the progress of the war. Mr. Chase being prodigal of his means, and not caring a cent. for the day of reckoning, has often managed to keep gold down, when in a fair market it would have advanced, but we may be quite sure that when in spite of Mr. Chase's dodges gold goes up and greenbacks go down, the public opinion is that Mr. Stanton's dignified assurances of 'Union victories' and of a reinforcement for Grant of '25,000 veterans,' are not reliable, and are utterly worthless even for stock-jobbing purposes.

WE have Confederate accounts and Confederate newspapers to the date of the opening of the present campaign in Virginia. Grant did not surprise his enemy. He kept his plans concealed from the Northern press, but they were as well known in Richmond as they were to Mr. Lincoln. The only discrepancy is that the Confederates appear to exaggerate the force that Grant could bring against them; but they have a persistent habit of overrating the strength of their opponents, and of always preparing for an arduous encounter instead of revelling in anticipated victories. The Confederates were confident, but not in the Yankee fashion. Instead of the invading army being decried, it is, so far as its numbers and equipments are concerned, lavishly extolled, and the Government is implored—angrily implored—to do its duty and to make ready for a conflict with the mighty army of the enemy. To the middle of the month we know from Lee's despatches and orders that the Confederates had been successful, and we presume that ten days later they had equal cause for hope and thankfulness. If Lee's army was not at first sufficient to cope with Grant's army—an assumption not warranted by the results of the six days' battles—the Northern commander, whilst waiting eight days for reinforcements, gave the Confederates ample time to reinforce their army, if they deemed such an increase of strength necessary. It is said that Hoke's brigade has joined Lee, and Hoke's brigade is but a small part of the troops that in eight days could be brought up to reinforce the army confronting Grant. The final result of the present struggle in Virginia we shall not presume to indicate; but we are justified in saying that until the present moment all the news that has reached Europe must satisfy the most ardent and sanguine Confederate.

THE Richmond papers describe the defeat of Sigel as very complete. The *Sentinel* says: 'General Breckenridge's victory at Newmarket was even greater and more complete than at first announced. He captured six pieces of artillery and nearly 1,000 stand of small arms. The loss of the enemy in killed, wounded, and prisoners, is heavy. General Sigel ran thirty miles without stopping, abandoning his hospitals and destroying a portion of his train.'

GENERAL SHERMAN has been 'pursuing' General Johnston, and the Federal authorities announced that a great battle was to be fought at Atlanta, but the affair did not come off. According to Southern accounts, which we elsewhere publish, the Federals were worsted in the skirmishing that preceded the 'pursuit.' The last we hear is that Sherman is 'outflanking' Johnston, but that the Confederate commander will not fight, and will send his troops to Virginia. Why does not Sherman compel a 'fleeing and outflanked' enemy to capitulate or fight?

GENERAL BANKS has returned to New Orleans, and it is *hoped* that the remnant of the army he led forth on a grand cotton expedition will likewise effect its escape. Admiral Porter is enabled to inform the Navy Department, under date Mouth of Red River, May 16, that he has floated, or hopes to float, his *remaining* gunboats over the falls.

IT is stated that the Federals are evacuating Texas; and, if so, they will not give up much territory, for Texas has proved a very tough morsel, and the Federals have never been able to hold much ground in that State.

THE *World* and the *Journal of Commerce*, influential and respectable newspapers published in New York—both advocates of the war, and both opposed to the re-election of Mr. Lincoln—were, on May 18, suppressed by military force, and without warning, by the Federal Government. The following is an outline of an affair which for a time diverted public attention from the campaign in Virginia.

Between three and four o'clock in the morning of May 18, when the editors had left their offices, and the daily newspapers were making ready for press, a document purporting to be a proclamation by Mr. Lincoln, calling out 400,000 additional troops, was delivered at all the newspaper offices except that of the *Tribune*. The *World* and the *Journal of Commerce* published it—it is understood that the *Herald* had printed it in part of its edition—and as soon as it was ascertained to be a forgery, the proprietors of these journals made every effort to prevent any ill effects, and to discover the author of the hoax. They published an 'extra,' issued bulletins, offered a reward for finding the offender, and sent telegrams throughout the Union, so that in many cases the contradiction was the first that was known about the bogus proclamation. They also waited upon General Dix, who appeared satisfied with what had been done. In the evening, under orders from Washington, parties of soldiers occupied the offices of the two papers, and forthwith stopped the business. Orders had also been given for the arrest of the editors, but they were revoked. The *World* gives anything but a flattering account of the conduct of the soldiery. When the night-clerk, unaware of what had taken place, came to the office, a pistol was held to his head by one of the soldiers. The same rough treatment was applied to the carriers who came in the morning for their parcels of papers. 'As the first one'—we are quoting from the *World*—'walked sleepily along, he did not notice anything strange till actually at the door of the office. Coming suddenly upon a soldier he asked, "What is the matter?" "That's what's the matter," replied one, drawing his revolver; "what do you want?" "I want my ticket," replied the carrier. "I'll give you a ticket out of this," said the soldier, aiming his revolver at the carrier's head. The other carriers and news-agents were similarly turned away, and nobody was allowed to enter the building.' The soldiers also made free with the editorial property. In the editorial rooms of the *World*, 'two overcoats, with the varied contents of their pockets, were missing, together with some small articles of office furniture.'

The editors of the suppressed journals immediately published a protest against these proceedings, explaining the circumstances under which the forged document appeared in their columns, and detailing the efforts they had made to trace its author. In conclusion they observed: 'We protest against the suppression of our journals for the misfortune of being deceived by a forgery not less ingenious nor plausible than the forged report of the Confederate Secretary of War, which Secretary Seward made the basis of diplomatic action.' Certainly the activity of the Federal Government in this case is in marked contrast to their conduct respecting the Mallory Report forgery and the 'gentleman of New York' who confessed to its perpetration. After three days the guards were withdrawn from the offices, and the *World* and the *Journal of Commerce* were at liberty to resume publication. We ought also to remark that the operatives, of the Independent Telegraph Line were arrested and subsequently released; but the Government still controls the working of the wires.

Mr. Joseph Howard, who confesses to the forgery, and has been sent to Fort Lafayette, is the son of a deacon of the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher's church, and himself a conspicuous member thereof, and was at one time private secretary to Mr. Beecher. We cannot better describe this person than by quoting the following from a letter addressed by the editor of the *World* to Mr. Lincoln:—

> Joseph Howard, Junior, who has confessed his crime, was a Republican politician and Loyal Leaguer, of Brooklyn. Consider, sir, at whose feet he was taught his political education, and in whose cause he spent his political breath. Mr. Howard has been from his very childhood an intimate friend of the Republican clergyman, Henry Ward Beecher, and a member of his church. He has listened year in and year out to the droppings of the Plymouth sanctuary. The stump speeches which there follow prayer and precede the benediction he for years reported in the journal which is your devoted organ in this city. For years he was the city editor of that journal, the *New York Times*; for a long time he was the Washington correspondent of the chief Abolition newspaper of the country, the *New York Tribune*; he has been a frequent contributor to the columns of the *Independent*; he journeyed with you from Springfield to Washington; he represents himself a favoured visitor at the White House since your residence there. By a curious felicity the stylus with which his amanuensis copied on tissue paper the proclamation and signed your name was abstracted from the editorial rooms of the *Tribune*. The party principles upon which you were pledged to administer the government have been the daily meat and drink of this forger. He has denounced as faithfully as you the party by whose defeat you rose to power. He has been the noisy champion of an exclusive loyalty; he has preached in club-houses and at street corners those politics which stigmatise constitutional opposition to the Administration as disloyalty to the Government.

For a while the boldness of Mr. Lincoln's act seems to have subdued all opposition. The Governor of the State did nothing, and the protests of the newspapers, with one exception, were rather feeble. The *Daily News* declared that 'denunciation, bold, emphatic, and to the point, is the treatment that that sort of despotism deserves,' and next day proclaimed it the duty of the people, if expostulation was disregarded, to use 'what other means the God of Freedom has left men to vindicate their liberties,' and also called upon Governor Seymour to 'summon the military

power of the State to meet unjustifiable force by legislative force.' Nor does it appear that these appeals were altogether in vain. Moved by them and by the popular excitement, Governor Seymour has taken action and ordered the indictment of every person concerned in the illegal proceedings. Our New York correspondent notices this affair and its political effects.

IT must not be supposed that the suppression of the *World* and the *Journal of Commerce* was an exceptional act, and that otherwise the press of the United States is free from the attacks of military despotism. For example, the *Baltimore Transcript* has just been suspended by the Government for stating that 70,000 men had been rendered incapable of military service by the campaign in Virginia. Ex-Governor Medary, the editor of the *Crisis*, published in Columbus, Ohio, has been arrested, but the authorities decline to say on what charge.

THE Federal House of Representatives has, as might have been expected, sided with Mr. Lincoln rather than with the cause of freedom. On May 23, Mr. Pruyn, of New York, asked, but did not obtain, leave to introduce a resolution denouncing the act of the Government in relation to such suppression, as unwarranted in itself, dangerous to the cause of the Union, in violation of the Constitution, subversive of the principles of civil liberty, and as such deserving of censure by the House. Subsequently, even permission to print his remarks in connection with the subject was refused; and the Committee on Judiciary was instructed to enquire what legislation is necessary to punish the forgery and publication of official documents, and also what action is necessary to punish those who, through the press or otherwise, give information, aid, and comfort to the rebels. These Congressional proceedings are very significant.

IT appears that the forged proclamation merely anticipated the intention of the Government, for on May 18 Mr. Stanton wrote to General Dix, that 'in order to provide against any inopportune reduction, when the service of the hundred-days men goes out, a draft to fill up their place and all other reductions will be ordered to take place on July 1.'

DON JOSE ARGUELLES, a Spaniard, and sometime Lieutenant-Governor of a district in Cuba, has added to the complications between New York and the Federal Government. It appears that Arguelles, in his official capacity, had something to do with seizing an expedition of African negroes, and received a large sum of money for so doing from his Government. Not content with his reward, he sold 141 of the negroes into slavery, pocketed the money, and went to New York. Such, at least, is the charge preferred against him. What could the Spanish authorities do to bring the offender to justice? There is no extradition treaty between the United States and Spain under which Arguelles could be claimed; and it is a fixed principle of international law, and, we may add, a vaunted principle of the United States, that the right of asylum is sacred and conclusive against any demand, unless there is an express treaty stipulation. Being in this fix, the Spanish authorities applied to Mr. Seward, and Mr. Seward, who does not care for law, informed the Spanish Minister that if an officer were sent to New York proper steps should be taken to deliver up Arguelles, and he was handcuffed and shipped off. After being arrested by Mr. Seward's order, such a stir was made that Mr. Seward consented for the present not to deliver him up to the Spanish authorities. Meantime the Grand Jury of New York has indicted the officer who arrested Arguelles for kidnapping. Our New York correspondent gives an account of this affair.

GENERAL WASHBURNE, commanding the Federal forces at Memphis, issued an order on May 14, in which he complains of trade being carried on with the 'rebels.' He says: 'The abuses existing on the Mississippi River render the interference of the military power imperative. Boats are cleared almost daily from Memphis with clearances for any landing-place they may choose, and that without any further restriction than a clause in their clearance that they will not violate the law of the United States. Boats thus cleared, loaded heavily with a variety of merchandise, proceed down the river, sometimes landing on the shore, sometimes rounding to and anchoring out, and communicating with the shore with small boats. They open trade with all classes of people except loyal ones. Some boats, I am assured, have been out forty or fifty days from their clearances from Memphis, replenishing their supplies from time to time from other boats proceeding up or down the river, running into every creek, bayou, and lagoon where Confederate trade can be carried on.' If this statement is true, we can readily explain why trade is carried on 'with all classes of people except *loyal* ones.' There are no 'loyal' people to trade with. He directs that henceforth 'no boat shall land between Cairo and the mouth of White River, except where there is a garrison of United States troops.' This is a striking comment on the Yankee assurance that the Mississippi is open to trade.

A CASE which occupied the United States Criminal Court for five days, enlightened the public as to the way in which the public Treasury is plundered. A person named Kohnstamm was charged with and found guilty of presenting false claims to a disbursing officer for the enlistment of recruits. In the course of the trial, the following instances of fraud were made out:—

	Amount due from the Government.	Amount obtained from the Government.
Kohnstamm's bill	$90	$1,366
Schober's ,,	203	1,666
Killim's ,,	300	2,288
Hertzel's ,,	300	1,516

In the course of the summing up, Judge Nelson said to the jury: 'You have seen—we all have seen in this case frauds that were appalling. Indeed, if we were to judge from the evidence in this case, we should come to the conclusion—we must come to it—that this disbursing office of the Government was kept here, not for the purpose of receiving and paying honest and genuine claims, but for the purpose of paying false and fraudulent ones.'

MR. SEWARD, in answer to a requisition, has notified the Federal House of Representatives that he has informed the French Government that the Monroe doctrine resolution truly represented the sentiments of the American people, but that *at present* the President did not contemplate any change from the policy hitherto pursued. Meantime the Lincoln Government is indefatigable, through its organs in the press and other agencies, in preparing the public mind for a war with Mexico at the first opportunity. Frequent collisions at Matamoras between the French inhabitants and the Mexicans, and a Frenchman being hanged by Cortinas, are some of the fruits of the *present* policy of the Lincoln Government.

ENGLAND.

THE HON. W. STUART, Secretary to the English Legation at Washington, has been appointed Secretary of Embassy at Constantinople; and Mr. Adams, Second Secretary to the Embassy at Paris, is appointed Secretary of Legation at Washington, in the room of Mr. Stuart.

THE iron screw steam-brig *Harriet Pinckney* arrived at Plymouth on Monday from Bermuda. She brought 70,000*l.* in specie, and a large cargo of cotton and tobacco.

THE University of Cambridge has covered itself with glory. It was impossible for human energy and loyal liberality to welcome with a more splendid reception the illustrious guests who last week honoured the ancient corporations of Cambridge by their presence. The occasion or the pretext for the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales was, that His Royal Highness should take his degree of Doctor of Laws, to which he seemed entitled not merely by rank, but also by residence as a student of Trinity College. On Thursday last, then, the Prince and Princess of Wales arrived at Cambridge from London, accompanied by the Duke of Cambridge, Earl Spencer, Lord Alfred Hervey, Lord Harris, the Countess of Morton, and General Knollys. At the station they were received by the Earl of Hardwicke, the Lord-Lieutenant of the county. The University Volunteer Corps formed the guard of honour, and the Duke of Manchester's Volunteer Horse, a superb regiment, superbly mounted, escorted the royal party to the lodge in Trinity College. At the College all the members of that noble society had assembled, and the royal carriage passed under the great gateway of Henry VIII., through which none but crowned heads had ever before passed in state. Immediately afterwards the Princess distributed the prizes won in the shooting competition, to the successful members of the University Corps. At three o'clock the royal party went to the Senate House, already crowded to excess with ladies and members of the Senate on the floor, and the uproarious undergraduate in the galleries. These last had already cheered and groaned, according to their taste, at the mention of every man of mark in the political or religious world. They had applauded the Queen with terrific vehemence, cheered for Lord Palmerston, the King of Denmark, 'the South,' the Prince of Wales, the Princess and the baby, and had lustily groaned at the name of Earl Russell and 'Gladstone and Democracy.' The ovation awaited to their Royal Highnesses on their arrival was most enthusiastic. The Prince of Wales, after an introductory speech in the most elegant Latin and most complimentary terms from the Public Orator, took his degree of Doctor of Laws. In the evening the Vice-Chancellor entertained the royal party in the Hall of St. Peter's College. After dinner the Amateur Dramatic Society performed at their *hijau* theatre the most ludicrous of farces and the most extravagant of burlesques—not the least wonderful feature in the performance being the success with which the female characters were sustained by male actors. From the theatre their Royal Highnesses went to the Fitzwilliam Museum to a ball. Here upwards of 1,200 ladies and gentlemen were present, and the dancing in the magnificent rooms at the Museum was kept up till far into the morning—the Princess herself staying till two o'clock. On Friday the first part of the programme was a service in the splendid Chapel of King's College; next a congregation in the Senate House, where were more political cries and a still more enthusiastic reception of their Royal Highnesses. At this congregation, also, honorary degrees were conferred on Earl Granville, Earl Carnarvon, Lord Eversley, Lord Palmerston, Lord Leigh, Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, Sir W. Page Wood, Sir Charles Eastlake, the Dean of Westminster, Mr. Beresford Hope, Dr. Watson, Professor Hollman, and Professor Wheatstone. After the congregation the royal party proceeded to King's College, where a splendid *déjeuner* was served in the hall for 250 persons. Then there was a boat procession, then a flower show, next a dinner in Trinity Lodge, then another performance at the Amateur Dramatic Club, and lastly a ball of the utmost magnificence at Trinity College. Their Royal Highnesses left on Saturday after having visited Madingley Hall, where the Prince resided during his studentship. In addition to the visitors already mentioned, we may give the names of the following noblemen and gentlemen who visited the University during the festivities:—The Duke of Devonshire, Chancellor of the University; the Duke of Manchester, the Marquis of Carmarthen, the Marquis Camden, Earl Powis, Lord Hartington, the Bishops of Lichfield and Ely, Lord Rollo, Mr. Walpole, M.P., Mr. Selwyn, M.P., Mr. Macaulay, M.P., Mr. G. Eustis, C.S.A., Colonel Macdonald, and the Provost of Eton.

THE noble school of Eton kept high holiday on Saturda last according to custom. After four years of bad luck i point of weather, the festival once more, under a brigh sun and genial atmosphere, seemed to win the smiles o fortune. At noon the recitations of select passages fro authors ancient and modern were delivered in the Upp School before a numerous assembly. At three o'cloc the Rifle Volunteer Corps of the school paraded in th beautiful playing fields before the delighted eyes of som hundreds of ladies. An hour later the College entertaine a distinguished party in the Grand Hall, while unbounde hospitality was displayed in the private houses of the Master Later in the day the whole company proceeded to th banks of the Thames, and either embarked on board boa or lined the meadows bordering the stream. At seve o'clock the fleet passed in grand procession—the Monarch ten-oar boat, the Victory, Prince of Wales, Britannia Dreadnought, Thetis, St. George, and Defiance, all eight oar boats, together with the eight-oar boat of the College admirably manned, forming an attractive spectacle. Th crews wore the smartest uniforms, while the coxswains according to their grade, affected the attire of admirals captains, lieutenants, and midshipmen. Arrived at Ol Surley Hall, three miles up the river, the crews enjoye their customary *al fresco* supper, and then rowed bac to Windsor Bridge. An excellent display of firework induced the visitors to linger till ten o'clock at night and made them forget their journey of twenty miles t London. Indeed, a more beautiful sight cannot easily b imagined. Dense masses of people lined the banks of th river on foot and in carriages. The rafts of the boat houses, Windsor bridge, and the neighbouring housetop were crowded. Hundreds of boats lay moored in th stream. The fleet, while the fireworks lit up the dark ness, passed again and again in procession, the crew hoisting their oars and cheering, while the bells of Wind sor Castle rang out boldly, and the band of the Scot Fusilier Guards performed with more than its ordinar skill. Among the more distinguished visitors were th Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, th Duke of Beaufort, the Duke of Buckingham, the Duke o Marlborough, the Marquis of Bristol, Lord Burleigh, Si S. Northcote, Mr. Vansittart, Mr. Borrett, the Duchess o Beaufort, the Duchess of Marlborough, Lady Northcote Mrs. Tait, Mrs. Montagu Butler, Miss Scappa, and Mrs Cracrofts-Amcotts.

THE thoroughbred yearlings reared at Her Majesty's pad docks at Hampton Court, were sold by auction on Satur day last. The animals offered for competition were of the stock of the three brothers, Stockwell, Rataplan, and King Tom, the wonderful trio destined to perpetuate the memory of the Irish Birdcatcher and Pocahontas, and also of the stock of St. Albans and of Orlando. St. Albans is himself the son of Stockwell, and was the winner of the Chester Cup and the St. Leger. Orlando, the son of Touchstone, won the Derby in 1844. There were in all twenty-four yearlings, and they were sold for the sum of 6,525*l.* The highest price was obtained for a filly by Stockwell, out of Bravery, who was knocked down for 1,250*l.* A colt by Orlando, out of Distaffina, was sold for 830*l.* It may be remarked that Bravery is a daughter of Queen Mary, the dam of Blink Bonny, and grandam of Blair Athol.

THE romantic and notorious case of Yelverton and Longworth (or Yelverton) came on for hearing before the House of Lords on Friday last on appeal from the Court of Sessions of Scotland. The learned Lords present were the Lord Chancellor, Lords Brougham, Wensleydale, Chelmsford, and Kingsdown. Mr. Rolt, Q.C., with whom were Sir Hugh Cairns and Mr. Anderson, appeared for the appellant; and the Attorney-General, the Lord Advocate, the Queen's Advocate, Mr. Whiteside, and Mr. Pope Hennessy for the respondent. In 1852 Miss Maria Theresa Longworth, while making the passage from Boulogne to London, made the acquaintance of the Hon. Major William Charles Yelverton, the youngest son of Viscount Avonmore. Both parties were then about twenty-seven years of age. On their arrival in London that day, Major Yelverton, by invitation, passed some hours at the lodgings of Miss Longworth. Shortly afterwards Major Yelverton went to Malta. Ten months elapsed, and then, in the spring of 1853, Miss Longworth wrote the appellant a letter requesting him to forward a communication to her brother. Upon this a correspondence ensued between the parties, which lasted until the autumn of 1855. At that date Major Yelverton was in the Crimea, and in the same year Miss Longworth went to Galata, and became an inmate of the French hospital as a sister of mercy. The appellant there called on her. Soon afterwards Miss Longworth visited Lady Straubenzee, and again met the appellant. In 1857 the parties met at Edinburgh, and at that time it is alleged that a ceremony sufficient, according to the law of Scotland, to constitute marriage took place. They again parted, but met subsequently at Waterford, and at a place called Rostrevor they were married according to the forms of the Roman Catholic Church—the religion of the lady. After this the parties lived together as man and wife until, in 1858, the appellant married a Mrs. Forbes. It was decided in the Irish courts that the Irish marriage was valid. It was further decided in the Court of Sessions in Scotland that the Scotch marriage was valid. The present appeal was brought to reverse the latter decision. The argument is not yet concluded.

A TERRIFIC accident occurred on the South-Western Railway on Tuesday evening. An enormous crowd of people, at the close of the day's racing on Ascot Heath, had filled the succession of trains which were despatched with all possible speed on the return journey to London. The trains were of course long, and therefore unmanageable. At Egham a train arrived at a quarter to eight o'clock in the evening, and the officials proceeded to collect the tickets. The delay was somewhat greater than usual. The train following next in succession, from some unexplained reason, ran into that which was stationary,

and crushed the guard's break and two second-class carriages. Five passengers were killed and about twenty-two injured. The second train was entirely uninjured.

A BILL for enabling companies to issue mortgage debentures is now before Parliament. The measure is to be available to all companies established under 'The Companies Act, 1862,' with 10,000*l.* paid up, the shares being not less than 50*l.* each, with not less than 10 per cent. or more than 50 per cent. paid upon them, where the object of the company is to make advances on real estate or upon statutable charges secured by real estate. The claim of each debenture is to be without priority of date. The principal is to be payable at a fixed date, not exceeding ten years. The debentures issued are to be registered in the office of land registry. Quarterly returns are to be furnished to the Registrar, who is in turn to grant a quarterly certificate. No company is to issue mortgage debentures to an extent exceeding the amount of its securities, or more than ten times the amount of its uncalled share capital.

THE REV. WILLIAM ADOLPHUS CARTER, M.A., Lower Master of Eton College, has been appointed a Fellow of that society, in the room of the late Rev. J. F. Plumptre, M.A. The Rev. Francis E. Durnford has been appointed Lower Master. Mr. Carter was formerly a Fellow of King's College, and had held the position of Lower Master for seven years. He had previously been an Assistant Master at Eton for eighteen years.

SIR JOHN WATSON GORDON, President of the Royal Scottish Academy and Member of the Royal Academy, died last week. He succeeded Sir W. Allan as President in 1850. In that year he was appointed Limner to Her Majesty for Scotland, and was knighted.

THE RIGHT HON. ROBERT LOWE, M.P., has been elected a Trustee of the British Museum, in the room of the late Sir G. Cornewall Lewis.

NEW ZEALAND.

The news from the seat of war in New Zealand is not favourable to our arms. It appears that, according to the latest advices, two engagements had occurred at Maungatawhiri and Tarachi. At the former place the natives were defeated, but at the latter the English troops suffered a reverse. Our loss amounted to 80 killed and wounded. At an earlier date, March 31, Brigadier-General Carey attacked the native position at Arahan, seven miles from le Aramuse. For two days the enemy held out, and then retreated. Their loss was 101 killed and 33 prisoners; our loss was 58 killed and wounded. Colonel Warre had driven the natives from a strong position at Kai Lake, near New Plymouth, without loss. A native force was entrenched at Mangatantan, on the Upper Waikatoo, and General Cameron was about to make an attack.

CHINA.

From Shanghai it is reported that Major Gordon has defeated the rebels at Waisoo, and expected that Nankin and Soochusuf would surrender shortly.

AFRICA.

We learn that Dr. Livingstone arrived safely at Mozambique in February last in his steamer the *Lady Nyassa*, which was towed from the Congoni River by Her Majesty's ship *Ariel*. The *Pioneer*, with Bishop Tozer on board, was towed from the same river by the *Orestes*. Dr. Livingstone was to sail for Johanna about March 16. He intended to go on to Zanzibar and Bombay. He had not reached Zanzibar on April 21.

EGYPT.

The Vicomte E. de Rougé has addressed a letter to M. le Duc de Morny, in which he gives, compressed into a few columns, the summary of his six months' labours in Egyptian archæology. Were we to attempt to analyse a summary already so condensed, we should fail to give our readers an idea of the talent that has been exerted, the enormous field that has been subjected to search, or the grandeur of the results which have been obtained. The commission consisted of M. E. de Rougé and his son; of M. Wescher, with a *spécialité* for Greek inscriptions; of M. de Bauville, the photographer; finally, of the well-known M. Mariette, as archæologist and *savant*. In the course of their six months' work they traversed Africa from Tunis to the Little Cataract of the Nile, visiting, exhuming, deciphering, conjecturing, we might almost say creating a new history, on their way. They have verified historical facts belonging to the age of the fourth dynasty of Egypt, 600 years or so before the time of Abraham; they have thrown new light on the history of the shepherd kings, who constitute the point of contact between sacred and secular literature at that period. Going on through the succession of dynasties, the commission reached the Greek age, and studied the influence of European art on the African mysteries; and even from the times when Egypt was thoroughly Romanised they have gathered fresh matter for observation, and have traced the existence of the primitive religion under the spurious mysticism of the Roman-Egyptian religion. Some of their observations will, it is hoped, clear up to a considerable extent the difficulties which beset our knowledge of the aboriginal races of the Mediterranean shore, to whom tradition teaches us to ascribe the origin of the Greek and Latin peoples. Altogether, we may shortly expect a work to be produced unequalled as yet in that line of archæology—a work which will lead us through the 'dewy dawn' of history among the strange and awful figures of those early Egyptian kings who must have been contemporaries of Shem, Ham, and Japhet.

TUNIS.

The accounts of the Tunisian insurrection are still most unfavourable to the cause of order and peace. The Bey has as yet declined to dismiss his ministry *en masse*, the only step by which he can hope to recover the confidence of his subjects. The insurgents have advanced to the gates of Tunis, increasing in their demands as they obtain more ground. The anti-bey, if we may so call him, who has been elected by the rebellious Arabs, has tried and put to death the head of the tribe Medjeer, with sixty of his relatives, on a charge of conspiracy. The Governor of Kerouan has also been murdered. The European residents in Tunis are extremely anxious to embark on board the fleet lying off Tunis for their protection, which now amounts to eighteen vessels.

ALGIERS.

THE details of the rebellion in Algiers are neither more intelligible nor more interesting to us than are the petty wars which we continue to wage with Hindoo potentates to French readers. The successes of the French generals Yusuf and Deligny have been constant and brilliant. The rebels have been always vastly superior in numbers, yet the advantages gained over them have been solid. The plan pursued by the French commanders appears to be to drive the inhabitants of the insurgent towns, as well as the nomad tribes in rebellion, into the rocky and barren valleys which lie between the northern buttresses of the Atlas range. Once there, the mere want of water will be enough to bring them to reason. If women and children perish by hundreds in this style of warfare, *tant pis pour eux*; they should have stayed at home and implored the clemency of the French soldier, which they say is never wanting.

MOROCCO.

IT is stated that, in consequence of the energetic attitude taken up by M. de Tallenay, the French *chargé d'affaires* in Morocco, with regard to the assassination of a French subject at Tetuan, the four principals in the affair have been arrested. Achach, the governor of Tetuan, has been dismissed for concealing the fugitives, and been summoned by an armed force to appear before the Sultan at Morocco. The French Minister has also rescued from the Moorish authorities a French subject, a native of Algiers, who has been detained in Morocco for upwards of six months. The old formula, *Civis Romanus sum*, is thus reappearing in France, now that in letter and spirit it has been declared no longer applicable to British subjects. We should be curious now to see the results of the impressment of a Frenchman into the Federal army, if the Yankee recruiters ever find one wandering so far from home.

THE CONTINENT.

ANOTHER meeting of the London Conference took place on Monday, June 6, exactly six days before the conclusion of the suspension of arms so hardly extorted by the prayers of United Europe from the infuriated belligerents. Under these circumstances, what may we suppose that the Plenipotentiaries discussed? An abstract question of nationality, or the intermediate and pressing question of an armistice? the advantages of the Schlei as a boundary between Germany and Denmark, or the resumption of hostilities at the close of the truce? We suppose that all must understand that the question of the prolongation of the armistice must have preceded every other; and this it was which was discussed, if we mistake not, on Thursday and Monday last. Now, if there is one point more clear than another in the perplexed diplomacy of modern Europe, it is this—that the Danish people have taken the bit between their teeth, and are leading their affrighted Ministry whithersoever they choose. What they now choose is a decided and open resistance to German encroachments, and a demonstration of their opinion in the strongest possible manner. Hence it is that the Danish Cabinet has been led to give as its ultimatum that the blockade of the German ports shall be renewed, at the close of a fortnight from the expiration of the present truce, unless the German powers agree upon some basis of negotiation before that period has elapsed. Whether we may believe the story now afloat that the English Government has at last declared itself ready to act in favour of Denmark, in case the condition is not complied with by the German Powers, is a point on which we may have some doubts, when we consider the peculiar character of Lord Russell's diplomacy; but the report is at least a fair specimen of the state of English opinion at the present time. The fact is, that the Austro-Prussian coalition has at last pushed the neutral Powers into a corner, and that, unless they recede from their present demands, war is the only alternative left to us. The *Dagbladet* of Copenhagen has stated positively, in the name of the Danish people, that should the London treaty be annulled, the kingdom of Denmark would be also destroyed, and the people must be left to choose whether they shall become an integral portion of the German or Scandinavian Confederation. But should any such eventuality be brought about, another claimant steps in in the shape of Russia, who demands that her rights to the succession shall be considered paramount, if the present line of succession either to Denmark or the Duchies is no longer recognised. We have therefore to decide whether we will support the integrity of Denmark or allow the Russian empire to have a footing on the North Sea.

The presentation of addresses to the King of Denmark from various townships of Jutland, in favour of a vigorous prosecution of the war, still continues. The Danes took the opportunity of the constitutional fête celebrated on the 5th inst. to form a grand procession to the King, the purport of which is easily discernible. It is, moreover, expected that the Rigsraad for Denmark and Slesvig will be speedily summoned, in consequence of the probability of a resumption of hostilities.

It is expected that General Count Gablenz has given orders to the Austrian forces to retire to their present positions. It seems that this movement is only the consequence of a former understanding between the Allies, which has never yet been completed. It is said that the name of the Austrian naval commander-in-chief has not yet been received by the Prussians with great and unmingled satisfaction.

The loss of the Prussians during the late campaign has been officially calculated at 941 men, 116 of whom are officers, 46 have died, and 1,092 persons were killed and wounded, besides 9 officers and 117 of lower ranks taken prisoners. The latter have been mainly owing, in consequence of the successful surprises effected by the Danes over that arm of the service.

Field Marshal Count von Wrangel has received permission from the supreme authority to retire, and in consequence of his advanced age, the supreme command will be taken, temporarily, at least, by Prince Frederick Charles, the senior officer after Count von Wrangel.

Duke Frederick of Augustenburg has paid a visit to the kings of Prussia and Saxony. It was understood that the visit could not take place so long as they formally recognised the treaty of London: we may therefore understand it now to mean an open repudiation of every engagement entered into according to that treaty. It is reported that the Duke will proceed to Vienna to pay a similar visit to the Emperor of Austria.

In the Hanoverian Parliament, the Minister of Justice, in a speech upon the Slesvig-Holstein question, said that Austria, Prussia, and the Federal Diet were combining to procure a complete separation of the Duchies from the Danish crown, and their formation into an independent German State under the rule of the present Duke of Augustenburg; and that Hanover concurred entirely in these projects, which it was hoped might be peacefully accomplished under conditions agreeable to the German nation.

The effect of the blockade is already evidenced in a scheme lately proposed by which the coal raised in the neighbourhood of Dusseldorf will be sent from that quarter into the East of Prussia. This country has until lately been supplied with coal from England, but it is now discovered that the native product is as good as that of hateful Albion, and it is expected that a large trade will arise from this article.

THE people of the United Principalities received with rapture the intelligence of the vote passed in favour of Prince Couza: *Te Deum* has been chanted, illuminations and reviews held, and addresses presented. The Prince has paid a visit to Constantinople to inform his Imperial suzerain of the change which he has effected: it is hoped that the visit will produce good results. The Sultan has made brilliant preparations for the reception of the Prince, and has sent a frigate to Kustendjee with his special aide-de-camp on board to receive him.

The conference on the subject of the difficulties in the Principalities still continues. At the instance of the English envoy, Sir Henry Bulwer, and with the assent of the French Minister, a commission is to be formed to act as receivers-general for the conventual property lately confiscated, until it shall have been decided to whom it now belongs. It is not intended that any notice should be taken of the late events at Bucharest, as tending only to complicate the questions under consideration.

The Turkish Budget is now in the course of preparation by Fuad Pacha, and will, it is hoped, be a good specimen of Turkish skill in finance.

THE 4th inst. was the anniversary of the battle of Magenta; we hear (from Italian sources) that the Austrians commemorated the day as a victory by a review of the troops at Verona under General Benedek. A review was also held on that day at Turin to celebrate the establishment of the Constitution, an anniversary which was celebrated with equal enthusiasm throughout the whole length of Italy. L. Minghetti has had the satisfaction of informing the Italian Parliament that he has succeeded in giving out the 200,000,000 francs of the old loan, which then remained unissued, on the most advantageous terms. A bill has been brought forward in the Senate to enforce the punishment of duels, which bid fair to be a curse to the Italian army.

As a contemporary has rightly said, there is no point in the present history of Europe on which reports vary so much as the health of the Pope. He is always said to be on the verge of death, or, as now, to be 'perfectly recovered from his late illness.' Considering how much depends on his life, it is not surprising that misstatements should often be made with regard to it; but it is truly a marvel that we should hear so little of authentic news from a city whereof half the inhabitants for one-half the year are English or foreigners. It is now stated that His Holiness has been able to resume his audiences, and has had an interview with M. de Sartigues, in the course of which he thanked the French Government for the protection which they had afforded to the Roman Catholics of the East.

IF ever evil omen attended the accession of a sovereign to a new province, it has occurred lately in the cession of the Ionian Islands from the protectorate of Great Britain to the Kingdom of Greece. On the 1st inst. the Greek troops were landed, and the Greek flag hoisted; the Lord High Commissioner had shortly before that published an announcement that the protocol whereby the cession had been finally concluded was signed on the 28th ult., and had received a vote of thanks from the Senate. On the 5th inst., whether by treachery or the natural carelessness of inexperienced soldiers, an explosion took place in the forts, whereby fifty houses, the hospital, a fort, the custom-house, and the neighbouring factories were destroyed, 90 soldiers and 47 civilians killed, and 58 soldiers and 200 civilians wounded or missing. It was at first feared in England that some of our own troops might have been the

victims in this awful catastrophe; but such does not appear to have been the case. Never probably has a new government been inaugurated under more lugubrious circumstances. It may be remembered that the Albanians of the coast immediately opposite the late Septinsular Republic had stated pretty freely their intention of taking advantage of the cessation of the English protectorate to renew their raids upon the newly-liberated islands. The British consulates have now been informed that at the request of Greece England will continue her protection over the Ionian inhabitants in their relations with the Turkish authorities for another year; but it is not likely that this protection will extend to the prohibition of such raids as were hinted at by the Albanians, as they would be affairs of local police, and would require, if anything, the presence of the military force which we have already withdrawn. It has perhaps never been sufficiently noticed that the island of Vido, which commands the harbour of Corfu, was a British possession before the making of the treaty by which the Ionian Islands were confided to the protection of England, and that we have therefore spontaneously given up a security to which we were as much entitled as we are now to Malta and Gibraltar. It is not impossible that this fact may be found to have important bearings hereafter.

IF anything could be unexpected in this age of sensations alike in the political as in the dramatic and romantic world, it would be a civil disturbance in the quiet and well-ordered Republic of Switzerland. Such, however, has occurred in the rural canton of Bâle, where the authorities of the canton decided to carry out an election in spite of the positive prohibition of the Federal Council. So great were the fears of a collision between the Federal and State authorities, that Herr Schenk, the Vice-President of the Council, repaired to the spot, as commissioner to enquire into the cause of the disorders. By the laws of the Federation, the Supreme Council is allowed to confide to its commissioner extended powers enabling him to call out what force he may consider necessary for the preservation of order. We are happy to be able to state that the conflict between Federal and State rights is not to have a humiliating parody in the noble little Republic, and that Herr Schenk has considered his mission accomplished without the necessity for strong measures.

CONSIDERING how broad have been the allusions made of late in England to the expression of opinion by Royalty in matters of supreme policy, we think that a short statement of the late Ministerial crisis in Belgium will not be uninteresting. On the 31st ult. M. Rogier, Cabinet Minister, gave to the House a detailed account of the whole affair. It appears that an attempt had been made to form a Cabinet of the 'extreme right,' or Conservative party, but that the attempt had failed, in consequence of the impossibility of arriving at an understanding with the King on the programme to be adopted. The Liberal Ministry has therefore been recalled to power, and will, if still objected to by the House, call for a dissolution. It is fair to state that the leader of the Conservative party charged the Liberal Cabinet with the intrigues by which it had returned to office, and so relieved the Crown from a certain amount of responsibility; but the facts as we read them are not devoid of a lesson with regard to constitutional monarchy.

THE visit of the Emperor and Empress of Russia to the baths of Kissingen will lead them naturally first to Potsdam, and then to Darmstadt: it is especially stated of the latter place that it will be honoured by a short visit only.

NEW deputations of peasants, elected from the inhabitants of the Polish provinces of Augustowo, Ploek, and Lublin, have been received at St. Petersburg by his Imperial Majesty. The peasant Diet of Finland has formed a committee for the presentation of a petition to the Emperor, praying that the Government would appoint as officials in that country such persons only as could speak the Finnish language; they are also to solicit leave to use that tongue as the vehicle of instruction in physical and other sciences, and suggest that in default of that it will be necessary to use the Swedish language.

THE appeal of La Pommerais to the supreme tribunal of Paris has been unsuccessful, in spite of the talent and ingenuity displayed by his advocate. M. Dupin, the Procureur-Général, in the course of his reply glanced at all the great cases of poisoning which have happened in France, to show how needful it is to treat this species of crime with the greatest severity. No hope now remains for the man except in the Emperor's prerogative of mercy. Exertions have been made by the party objecting to capital punishment, to save him from the legal consequences of his crime; but it appears to be understood that mercy extended to him will be tantamount to an abolition of capital punishment, as the lower classes will never hereafter suffer one of their number to be executed after a 'gentleman' has been let off.

THE remains of the Duc de Malakoff, after having lain in state in Algeria, have been transported to the Church of the Invalides in Paris, where they now rest in a temporary tomb, until the more magnificent resting-place shall be completed.

The *Progrès* of Lyons has been suspended for two months for an article upon the deceased Marshal, which, according to the notice of the Minister of the Interior, 'insulted the French army in one of its most illustrious chiefs, by giving a false account of a military event.'

M. RENAN, the famous free-thinker of France, has for two years held the title of Professor of the Hebrew and Syriac languages in the College of France, without being allowed to give the lectures which are the duty of the office. In order to put an end to this anomaly, without depriving M. Renan of a livelihood, M. Duruy, Minister of Public Instruction, has proposed that M. Renan should give up the professorial chair, and receive in exchange the post of Assistant-Curator of the Imperial Library. To this course, however, the learned Professor entirely demurs; he declines to give up a title which he holds on the presentation of the College of France and as a Member of the Institute. He is willing to continue without the salary the duties of the Professorship by lectures at his own house; he, therefore, declines to accept the post offered to him. It appears, however, that the Government choose to consider that M. Renan has been dismissed from his office. What course will now be taken by the two parties at variance remains to be seen. M. Renan has published another and cheaper edition of the 'Vie de Jésus, which will be within the reach of the lowest classes; his work has lately been translated into Italian, and has already caused some trouble with regard to the international copyright.

ON April 30, at 5 A.M., a body was found by the platelayers on the line between Lyons and Marseilles, about two miles from the station of Villefranche. The corpse was that of a young man of twenty-five or thirty years of age; no signs were found by which he could be recognised; in his pockets were found a 'Bradshaw's Foreign Guide' and sixteen francs. It was decided that the deceased was an Englishman, and had committed suicide by throwing himself out of the train; the body was then rather hurriedly buried. Strange rumours, however, had arisen on the subject, and an exhumation was ordered; the features were photographed, and a post-mortem examination made. It appeared, from certain signs on the neck and wrists, that the man had been violently treated, if not strangled, before he was thrown out of the carriage. The conclusion was easy to the intuitive glance of a Frenchman: a rich Englishman had been robbed and murdered in a railway carriage; the miserable sum of sixteen francs had been left on his person to lull suspicion. Alas for the lively imagination of our neighbours! The true story differed from the romance in every particular. A waiter at the Hôtel de l'Univers at Lyons recognised the photograph of the corpse as that of a young American who had run from his hotel in a complete state of destitution, leaving a debt of 30 francs as a memento. Whatever the cause of the marks on his neck and wrists may have been, there is every reason to suppose that the deceased had contemplated suicide.

A REMARKABLE epidemic has prevailed for some years in the township of Morzine, on the French slopes of the Alps. It has hitherto baffled all the attempts of science either to classify its symptoms or prevail over its attacks: it produces all the effects of raving mania without its other characteristics, and appears to be principally confined to the female sex. Under these circumstances, Mgr. Maguin, Bishop of Annecy, paid a visit to the township, with the charitable wish to alleviate as far as possible the sufferings of his flock. He was in the act of administering confirmation to some of the parishioners, when a number of those assisting at the ceremony were suddenly seized with the awful malady. A horrible scene then took place, the details of which were too scandalous to be repeated. Such was the excitement caused that the authorities were forced to send for the military to keep order. A special staff of physicians has also been summoned to examine more closely into the disease, and has been provided by the departmental authorities.

AFTER giving some account of the Conference now sitting at London, a French journal goes on rather wickedly to state that *another* great engine for the destruction of human life has been invented by the skill of M. Gevelot, of Paris: it consists of a rifle and bayonet, both of which may be used in the ordinary fashion. About half-way up the barrel of the rifle, just at the point where the left hand would grasp it in the charging position, a 'six-shooter' is attached, the trigger of which may be pulled by the left hand without removing it from its position. This arm is expected by its inventor to revolutionise modern warfare. We may here also mention that an Austrian officer has invented a double-barrelled rifled cannon, which will fire sixteen balls per minute. How grateful we ought to be to the charitable ingenuity of modern artificers!

A REPORT has been issued of the exports and imports during the first quarter of the year 1864. It appears that the amount of the exports was 322,639,000 francs, or an increase of 50 per cent. on those of the year 1861, the first of commercial liberty in France. The amount levied by duties on imports has also risen, during the same time, from 35,560,000 francs, to 52,742,000 francs, which again shows a rise of exactly 50 per cent.

THE Emperor and Empress have favoured the Agricultural Show at Evreux with their presence. They were received in the most enthusiastic manner, and expressed the liveliest interest in the nature and quality of the natural productions exhibited: they were especially pleased with the fine show of half-bred horses, several individuals of which they examined with the utmost curiosity.

THE race for the Grand Prix de Paris was run at the beautiful course at Longchamp on Sunday last. The prize was an *objet d'art* given by His Majesty the Emperor, and 4,000*l.* given half by the city of Paris and half by the five great railway companies of France. The subscription was 40*l.*, with forfeits of 24*l.* and 20*l.*, according to the date of declaration. The race was open to colts and fillies of all countries of the age of three years. The colts carried 8st. 9lb. and the fillies 8st. 6lb. This year there were 126 subscribers. The length of the course was one mile and seven furlongs. The weather was superb, and the company numerous and gay. The Emperor and Empress were present to witness the sport. Only five horses came to the post to contest the rich prize. These were Blair Athol, the winner of the Epsom Derby, Fille de l'Air, the winner of the French and English Oaks, Bois-Roussel, the winner of the French Derby, Vermouth, by Nabob out of Vermille, and Baronello, by the Baron out of Annette. The betting was 2 to 1 on Blair Athol. Bois-Roussel went away with the lead, the running being made at an indifferent pace; at the end of a mile the leader dropped back and Fille de l'Air looked formidable; she was, however, instantly disposed of, and the race was left with Vermouth and Blair Athol. At the end of one mile and a half, Blair Athol looked all over the winner, but at that point the distance, the journey from London to Paris, and the effects of his terrific race at Epsom, told on him, and, though he struggled on gamely enough, he was beaten by Vermouth in good style by two lengths. Fille de l'Air was third, and Baronello fourth; but as the jockey of the former either declined or forgot to weigh after the race, she was disqualified for the five thousand francs with which the third horse is consoled. The victory of the French horse seemed to cause immense delight to the Parisians. Vermouth is the property of M. H. Delamarre, the owner of Bois-Roussel. The Emperor and Empress received quite an ovation from the English visitors.

OF all the improvements which have taken place in Paris under the present dynasty, none have been hailed by the English world with greater pleasure and interest than the restoration of Notre Dame de Paris. There is an instinctive tendency in the English mind, which we may notice without attempting to explain, leading it to take the greatest possible interest in matters of church architecture, to examine every restoration with a critical eye, and to join most heartily in the enthusiasm created by every successful attempt to reproduce the ancient glories of our cathedrals. No wonder, then, that every one of us has peeped longingly through the hoarding which for some time has hidden the restored chancel of Notre Dame from the vulgar view, and has asked with anxiety as to the probable time when the whole edifice would be completed. We have now to announce that on May 31 the solemn reconsecration of the Cathedral was celebrated by the Archbishop of Paris, assisted by a large number of his suffragan bishops. The improvements effected in the edifice comprise well-nigh a new creation; the northern and southern transepts have been rebuilt, the chancel entirely altered, and a complete set of new stalls, &c., added. The objectionable paint, which had been stencilled on the walls and pillars on the occasion of the Emperor's marriage, has been removed. Only the west front, with its two well-known towers, still remain as they were left, even by the sacrilegious hands of the patriots of 1791. The whole of the present week will be occupied by sermons preached in honour of the event by most of the ecclesiastical celebrities of France, amongst whom we see the name of Mgr. Dupanloup, the famous Bishop of Orleans.

SOUTH AMERICA.

The Emperor of Brazil has opened his Cortes by a speech, of which the portion most important to us was that in which he informed the House that the English and Brazilian Governments had accepted the mediation of Portugal for the settlement of their differences.

The seizure of the Chincha Islands by a Spanish squadron, as a guarantee for the performance of certain reparations demanded of the Peruvian Government, has not met with unqualified approbation at Madrid. The *Epoca* asks that the world will suspend its judgment until the Spanish commanders have shown or failed to show that they had strong reasons for the somewhat violent course pursued by them. It was said that the Peruvian Consul at Madrid has announced that he is empowered to settle all the differences existing between the two Governments; but the Consul at Bordeaux has denounced the statement as a forgery, and the principle of it as totally erroneous.

FUTILITY OF FEDERAL CONQUESTS.—The *Milwaukie News* thus illustrates an article, the object of which is to show that a people cannot be conquered by mere force:—'Two years ago we drove the rebels out of the entire country surrounding Paducah. That section is now all occupied by the rebel General Forrest. Immediately after General Grant advanced into West Tennessee, and during the summer of 1862, conquered the whole of that region; it is now almost entirely in rebel hands. The same summer desperate battles were fought at Corinth, Iuka, and Hatchie, and in every struggle victory crowned our arms; but every one of these points is in undisputed possession of the enemy. In the fall of that year, General Grant occupied La Grange in Tennessee, Holly Springs and Oxford in Mississippi, and the crossings of the Yockney river, some twelve miles south of Oxford, while his cavalry were thrown forward nearly to Granada; the whole of this territory is now abandoned. At the same time our forces held possession of all the country eastward of the line of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, which is also, of course, in undisputed possession of the enemy. A year ago this winter and spring our army took possession of the country back of Lake Providence, also of nearly all the region between the Mississippi and Yazoo rivers; afterwards occupied Jackson and Canton, in Mississippi; in the summer we arranged for the permanent occupation of the territory east of Vicksburg, and between the Big Black and Yazoo rivers; about the same time our troops were pushed westward from Vicksburg into Louisiana, routing the enemy from the entire vicinity, a distance of from seventy to one hundred miles. Every square foot of the territory described is now surrendered. In short, from Cairo to New Orleans, in the Mississippi Valley proper, the Federal flag, as we are informed, does not float over a single inch of territory out of the range of gunboats on the river, and no loyal man is known to live in any portion of the territory mentioned as conquered but now surrendered. No Union man, it adds, can ride five miles out of Memphis without being killed or captured, and the same is true of most stations on the Mississippi. That even as far up as Shawneetown, it says, one hundred and fifty shots were fired from the Kentucky shore, into one of our steamers on Sunday last.'

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

PARLIAMENT has not recovered from its fit of dulness, and therefore a very brief summary of its proceedings during the past week will be sufficient.

On Friday, in the House of Lords, a Bill for regulating chimney-sweeping was read a second time. The Earl of Shaftesbury gave a horrible account of the disgusting and revolting cruelties to which young children are subjected who are in training as climbing boys: he quoted from the evidence taken before the Commissioners a statement made by Mr. Ruff, who says: 'No one knows the cruelty which a boy has to undergo in learning. The flesh must be hardened. This is done by rubbing it, chiefly on the elbows and knees, with the strongest brine, close by a hot fire. You must stand over them with a cane, or coax them by a promise of a halfpenny, &c., if they will stand a few more rubs. At first they will come back from their work with their arms and knees streaming with blood, and the knees looking as if the caps had been pulled off; then they must be rubbed with brine again.' The noble Earl also cited a case in which a boy had been torn to pieces in dragging him out of a chimney. Many children are maimed and killed in climbing. In 1840 an Act was passed prohibiting the employment of boys for sweeping chimneys, but the law has been set at defiance both by master-sweeps and by householders. The object of the Bill now introduced is to make the law of 1840 effective.

On Monday, in the House of Lords, a message was read from the Queen recommending a grant to Sir Rowland Hill of 20,000*l.*, and a grant of 1,000*l.* a year to the Countess of Elgin. A motion for the production of the correspondence relative to the arrest of the Rev. Fortescue Anderson by the Russian authorities at Grodno during the Polish insurrection, was carried. The Public Schools Bill, the main object of which is to provide that any person accepting an office in a public school shall do so subject to any future legislation by Parliament, was read a second time. Several peers concurred in praising the report of the Commissioners, and agreed that our public school system was susceptible of considerable improvements.

On Monday, in the House of Commons, there was rather a lively discussion upon the Danish question. In reply to Mr. Osborne and other members, Lord Palmerston said he was bound not to disclose what had taken place at the Conference, that no arrangement had yet been made for a continuation of the suspension of arms, and that if the Conference did not meet again before the 12th the war would be resumed; but that there was no doubt the Conference would meet before that date. Later in the evening the subject was again brought forward by Lord H. Lennox, who said the House ought to be informed if the Government still considered themselves bound by their former declarations that the treaty of 1852 was to be maintained. Mr. Osborne made a short and telling speech, complaining of the House being kept in ignorance of what was being done, seeing that the proceedings of the Conference were published on the Continent. The House was being tricked into silence. Then Mr. Disraeli rose, and reviewed the way the House had been treated in reference to the Conference. The month of the armistice was nearly up, and it was the duty of the Government to state what had been done, or at least to assure the country that their views were unchanged. If the wild hypothesis were true that the policy of the Government was changed, and they were consenting to the partition of Denmark which five months ago they were stirring up a war to prevent, then it was a mockery for the Premier to keep silent. Lord Palmerston, in reply, taunted Mr. Disraeli with finding fault with the Government conduct and not suggesting any other policy. When the negotiations arrived at the proper stage, the Government would be able to convince the country they had done their duty. Mr. Fitzgerald and Lord R. Cecil followed, the latter insisting that it was not constitutional for Ministers, under pretence of friendship for Denmark, to stifle discussion whilst the negotiations were going on.

The same evening the Government was defeated by a majority of 52 on a vote for 10,000*l.* for the new National Gallery at Burlington House. In 1860 the House voted 17,000*l.* on the understanding that the National Gallery was not to be removed from Trafalgar Square.

On Tuesday, in the House of Commons, Mr. H. Berkeley asked the Secretary of the Admiralty if he had any objection to lay upon the table of the House a return of the number of men absent from the United Kingdom belonging to the Royal Naval Reserve, specifying how many were gone foreign, and of those how many were gone to the Federal and Confederate States of America. Lord C. Paget said he had no objection to lay on the table a return of the Royal Naval Reserve, specifying how many were going foreign. With regard to those men who might have joined the Federal or Confederate States services, the Admiralty were only aware that a few had done so, who, the moment the fact was ascertained, were discharged from the force. He should be happy to furnish the hon. gentleman with a return of the numbers of those men.

MURDER.—Commenting on the melancholy death of the daughter of Ex-Governor Pickens from the bursting of a shell thrown into Charleston by the Federals, of which we gave an account in our last number, the *New York Daily News* of May 20 says: 'The death of that sweet girl was *murder*. Why are those guns fired on Charleston? Not to weaken its defences. Not with any ordinary purposes of war. Not in fair fight with armed men. Not to aid the siege or lessen the improbability of its success. Why then? To murder innocent non-combatants like this fair victim to a thirst for blood. What wonder is there that her broken-hearted husband should have sworn "to die in battle with the Yankees?" Thousands of rebel hands will clutch the sword with a yet fiercer grip when they shall hear this woful tale; and once again, what wonder? If we must fight, and wound, and slay, in God's name let us fight with *men*, not women and their children. Let it be in the fierce heat of battle, not to glut a devilish as well as useless thirst for blood. Meanwhile, that girl's death was *murder*.'

GENERAL LEE'S ADDRESS TO HIS ARMY.

THE following has appeared in the New York papers, credited to the *Richmond Enquirer*:—

GENERAL ORDERS —No. 41.
Head-quarters, Army of Northern Virginia,
May 14, 1864.

1. The General commanding takes great pleasure in announcing to the army the series of successes that, by the favour of God, have recently been achieved by our arms.

2. A part of the enemy's force threatening the valley of Virginia has been routed by General Imoden, and driven back to the Potomac, with the loss of their train and a number of prisoners.

3. Another body of the enemy, under General Averill, penetrated to the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad at Dublin depot. A portion of his force has been dispersed by Generals Morgan and W. E. Jones, who are in pursuit of the remainder.

4. The army of General Banks sustained a severe defeat in Western Louisiana by the forces of General Kirby Smith, and retreated to Alexandria, losing several thousand prisoners, thirty-five pieces of artillery, and a large number of wagons. Some of the most formidable gunboats that accompanied the expedition were destroyed to save them from capture.

5. The expedition of General Steele into Western Arkansas has ended in a complete disaster. Northern journals of the 10th instant announce his surrender, with an army of nine thousand men, to General Price.

6. The cavalry force sent by General Grant to attack Richmond has been repulsed, and retired towards the Peninsula. Every demonstration of the enemy south of James River has, up to this time, been successfully repelled.

7. The heroic valour of this army, with the blessing of Almighty God, has thus far checked the principal army of the enemy, and inflicted upon it heavy losses. The eyes and hearts of your countrymen are turned to you with confidence, and their prayers attend you in your gallant struggle. Encouraged by the success that has been vouchsafed to us, and stimulated by the great interests that depend upon the issue, let every man resolve to endure all and brave all, until, by the assistance of a just and merciful God, the enemy shall be driven back, and peace secured to our country. Continue to emulate the valour of your comrades who have fallen, and remember that it depends upon you whether they shall have died in vain. It is in your power, under God, to defeat the last great effort of the enemy, establish the independence of your native land, and earn the lasting love and gratitude of your countrymen and the admiration of mankind.

R. E. LEE, General.

THE BATTLES IN VIRGINIA.—The following are General Lee's official reports:—

'Head-quarters, Army of Northern Virginia, May 5, 1864.—'Hon. Secretary of War,—The enemy crossed the Rapidan at Ely's and Germanna Fords. Two corps of this army moved to oppose him—Ewell by the old turnpike and Hill by the plank road. They arrived this morning in close proximity to the enemy's line of march. A strong attack was made upon Ewell, who repulsed it, capturing many prisoners and four pieces of artillery. The enemy subsequently concentrated upon General Hill, who, with Heth's and Wilcox's division, successfully resisted repeated and desperate assaults. A large force of cavalry and artillery on our right was driven back by Rosser's brigade. By the blessing of God we maintained our position against every effort until night, when the contest closed. We have to mourn the loss of many brave officers and men. The gallant Brigadier-General J. M. Jones was killed, and Brigadier-General Stafford, I fear, mortally wounded, while leading his command with conspicuous valour.—R. E. LEE.'

'Near Spottsylvania Court House, Virginia, May 8.—To the Honourable J. A. Seddon,—After a sharp encounter with the Fifth Army Corps, we were attacked by Warren's and Torbett's divisions of cavalry. General R. H. Anderson, with the advance of our cavalry, repulsed the enemy with heavy slaughter, and we took possession of the Court House. I am the more grateful to the Giver of all victories that our loss is small.—R. E. LEE.'

'Spottsylvania Court House, viâ Guiney's, May 11, 1864.—The Honourable Secretary of War,—General Grant's army is intrenched near this place, on both sides of the Brook Road. Frequent skirmishing occurred yesterday and to-day, each army endeavouring to discover the position of the other. To-day the enemy shelled our lines and made several assaults with infantry against different points, particularly on our left, held by General R. H. Anderson. The last, which occurred after sunset, was the most obstinate; some of the enemy leaping over the breastworks. They were easily repulsed, except in front of General Doles's brigade, where they drove our men from their position, and from a four-gun battery there posted. The men were soon rallied, and by dark our line was re-established and the battery recovered. A large body of the enemy moved around our left on the evening of the 9th, and took possession of the road about midway between Shady Grove Church and the Court House. General Early, with a part of Hill's corps, drove them back this evening, taking one gun and a few prisoners. Thanks to a merciful Providence, our casualties have been small. Among the wounded are Brigadier-Generals Hayes and H. H. Walker.—R. E. LEE.'

LETTER FROM GENERAL LEE.—It was proposed by the City Council of Richmond to purchase a house for General Lee in that city. The grateful offering was declined in the following terms:—'Head-quarters Army, Northern Virginia, November 12, 1863.—To the President of the City Council, Richmond, Virginia.—Sir,—My attention has been directed to a resolution reported in the newspapers as having been introduced in the body over which you preside, having for its object the purchase by the City of Richmond of a house for the use of my family. I assure you, sir, that no want of appreciation of the honour conferred upon me by this resolution, or insensibility to the kind feeling which prompted it, induces me to ask, as I most respectfully do, that no further proceedings be taken with reference to the subject. The house is not necessary for the use of my family, and my own duties will prevent my residence in Richmond. I should therefore be compelled to decline the generous offer, and I trust that whatever means the City Council may have to spare for this purpose may be devoted to the relief of the families of our soldiers in the field who are more in need of assistance and more deserving of it than myself.—I have the honour to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant, R. E. LEE, General.'

Nearly one hundred thousand dollars has been subscribed in Montgomery, Alabama, to provide education for the children of soldiers killed in the war.

GENERAL KIRBY SMITH'S ARMY.

GENERAL KIRBY SMITH has issued the following congratulatory orders to his troops, officially announcing the death of several officers, and the late successes in Louisiana and Arkansas:

Headquarters, Trans-Mississippi Department,
Camden, Ark., May 3, 1864.

Soldiers of the Trans-Mississippi Department, —

Once more, in the hour of victory, we are called upon to mourn the heroic dead.

Generals W. R. Scurry and Horace Randal have fallen upon the field of honour. At Jenkins' ferry they offered themselves up, precious victims on the altar of liberty.

Mouton and Green are gone; Scurry and Randal have followed on the same glorious path. Be it ours to emulate their virtues and valour, and to act as men not unworthy to associate with such heroes.

The colours of their respective brigades will be draped in mourning for thirty days.

E. KIRBY SMITH, General Commanding.

May 4, 1864.

Soldiers of the Trans-Mississippi Department,—

The campaign inaugurated at Mansfield on the day of national fast and supplication has, under Providence, been crowned with most glorious and brilliant success. You have defeated a foe three times your own numbers. The fields of Mansfield, Pleasant Hill, Cloutierville, Poison Spring, Marks' Mills, and Jenkins' ferry attest your devotion. Eight thousand killed and wounded, six thousand prisoners, thirty-four pieces of artillery, twelve hundred wagons, one gunboat and three transports are already the fruits of your victories. The path of glory is still open to you—permanent security to your homes before you. Call together your comrades, and, shoulder to shoulder, we will yet free the soil of our beloved country from the invader's footsteps. Soldiers of Arkansas, Missouri, Texas, and Louisiana, you have the thanks of a grateful people. Your living will be respected —your dead honoured and revered.

E. KIRBY SMITH, General Commanding.

A SOUTHERN ACCOUNT OF THE AFFAIR AT RESACA.

(From the *Atlanta Register*, May 11.)

A GREAT deal has been said here by Madame Rumour about the affair at Resaca last Monday, but it is very difficult to get at the truth of it. From a gentleman who was there at the time we obtain the following particulars:—

Monday morning the enemy, in what force our informant could not learn, approached Resaca through Snake Creek Gap, and about noon came within three-quarters of a mile of the village, where they were attacked by the Thirty-seventh Mississippi infantry, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Weir. This regiment was flanked right and left, and lost in killed, wounded, and missing, seventy-one men.

A small force of cavalry was sent to the rear of the enemy and captured sixteen of them.

The Seventeenth and Twenty-ninth Alabama regiments engaged the enemy about six o'clock in the afternoon, and repulsed them.

The enemy fell back on Monday night, and on Tuesday morning were pursued by several regiments and driven from the Gap, where they had commenced fortifying. A few prisoners were brought in on Tuesday.

Lieutenant-General Hood, Major-General Cleburne, and Brigadier-General Reynolds were at Resaca on Tuesday. General Cauty commanded the troops engaged in the fight on Monday.

The forces that were in pursuit of the enemy on Tuesday were under the command of General Cleburne, whose presence called forth a great deal of enthusiasm among the troops.

The correspondent of the *Register* sends the following:—

Mill Creek Gap, May 10—4 P.M.

Our army has been in line of battle for three days. On Sunday evening the enemy endeavoured to pass through Dug Gap, but were gallantly repulsed by General McNair's brigade and General Grigsby's dismounted cavalry. Our casualties were very small. The enemy left fifty dead on the field, and had about two hundred wounded. We captured about fifty prisoners. If they had succeeded in driving us from the Gap, it would have been an important point gained, as they would then have been able to turn our left. During yesterday the enemy were massing heavy forces in our front, trying to develope the position of our lines. A heavy artillery duel was going on the greater portion of the day. About four o'clock yesterday evening the enemy made three efforts to storm our rifle-pits on the brow of the ridges facing Mill Creek Gap. The enemy advanced in heavy columns around the points of the hills. Our officers ordered their men to reserve their fire until the enemy should get within short range. When they got within seventy-five yards the order to fire was given, when volley after volley was poured into their ranks. They broke in confusion and fell back beyond the hill and reformed their lines, and again advanced to the charge, but the same bloody welcome was tendered them, and again they sought safety in flight. A third time they endeavoured to turn our left in order to enfilade our works, but the movement was promptly met by the officers in command, and the enemy were driven in great confusion from the field. Many of the enemy were seen to fall as each volley was fired into them.

Our casualties are very small, perhaps not more than a dozen in killed and wounded. Our rifle-pits were held by the Fifty-fourth and Thirty-eighth Alabama and Thirty-eighth Tennessee regiments. Our artillery was handled with consummate skill, throwing shells frequently into the very lines of the enemy. There was considerable skirmishing yesterday in front of General Stevenson's lines, but no advantage was gained by the enemy. General Maney's brigade, posted on the top of Rocky Face Ridge, had several men wounded by the enemy's sharpshooters.

General Wheeler had a heavy skirmish with the enemy yesterday, on the Cleveland road, repulsing them with considerable loss in killed and wounded. He captured one hundred prisoners, among them a colonel commanding a brigade. From the enemy's demonstration yesterday evening, we expected the great battle to come off this morning, but the quiet that reigns along the lines this morning is only broken by the noise of the sharpshooter's rifle or the thunder of artillery far off to the right.

The indications are that the enemy are endeavouring to get possession of the railroad in our rear, in order to burn the bridge at Resaca, and thus cut off our communication with Atlanta. General Johnston is aware of their intentions, and has made such a disposition of his forces as to insure their defeat. Never have I seen such confidence and self-possession by troops just on the eve of battle.

THE FOURTH YEAR OF THE WAR.

(From the *Richmond Whig*, April 12.)

TO-DAY we enter upon the fourth year of the war—dating from the bombardment of Fort Sumter. We have withstood three years the onsets of a foe mighty in number, boundless in resources, desperately pertinacious, and remorselessly cruel. More than two millions of men on land and a navy equal to half a million more, with the most approved machinery of war, and at an outlay of several thousand millions of dollars, have furiously striven to overwhelm and 'crush' us. At the outset, so ignorant were our foes of the spirit and strength of our people, that they confidently expected to consummate in three months, and with a force less than the numbers they have actually had slain in battle, what the frantic efforts of three years have only served to, show they can never accomplish, in any number of years and with any hosts they can muster. That, mainly from their uncontested command of the water, they have won important advantages, in this long period, is not to be denied; but that they have fallen infinitely short of their confident expectations and swaggering promises, that they have disappointed egregiously the lookers-on in other countries, that they have gained greatly less than we ourselves apprehended, are facts equally undeniable.

They might have overrun us as the British did, and then have conquered us no more than they did. But, to the surprise of European spectators, they have come so far short of this as to have made advances only where the strength of the Confederacy was not put forth in resistance. It was impossible to defend all our wide borders, and invasion was easy. Many places intended originally to be defended, but really of minor importance, had to be abandoned to them, because their superior equipments and their navy enabled them to attack before we were ready for them. Such were Hateras, Roanoke Island, Newbern, Port Royal, Fort Donelson, and other incomplete and inadequately manned defences. New Orleans fell because its defences were not completed, and Vicksburg because it was intrusted to incompetent hands. These successes gave them the Mississippi River, and cut the Confederacy in two. But to what practical advantage? They cannot use the Mississippi for commercial purposes, and the two divisions of the Confederacy fight as well as they did when one. Their successes, indeed, have demonstrated even more forcibly than their failures the impossibility of accomplishing what they have undertaken; for they have shown that nothing seriously hurts us. So vast is our area, and so numerous the strategic and defensive points it furnishes, that the loss of any only necessitates a change of position on our part, and leaves the enemy to contemplate the failure of all the calculations based upon the prospect of winning it. The expected results of success have always eluded them, and the fruits of victory have turned to ashes on their lips. They have nowhere touched the vitals of the Confederacy, and never can; for the Confederacy has no one point in which its life is lodged. Every portion of it is instinct with existence—every mountain and valley and plain throbs with inextinguishable vitality. As long as ground enough is left to plant a battery or set a squadron in the field, *the* vital point of the Confederacy is not touched.

The question of most interest with us now is not whether the enemy can succeed in their undertaking - if, indeed, that ever was a question—but how much longer they will persist in the mad attempt. The impression generally prevails that the campaign on which we are now entering is the last—that the death-grapple has come, and the struggle must soon be over. The army makes no calculations. With grim humour and gay defiance worthy of the cavalier stock from which they come, our soldiers volunteer for 'forty years or the war.' But civilians indulge themselves in speculations, the failure of which cannot affect men who make none. Whether the fourth year of the war will be the final one depends mainly upon the incidents of the campaign. We leave out of view the possibility of other things always possible such, for instance, as the long-delayed but inevitable financial crash at the North, of which the upward tendency of gold there, in spite of all Chase's thimble-rigging, affords improving prospect -the counter-revolution that has been hoped for, and of which the late outbreak in Illinois is prophetic—foreign intervention, rendered more likely of late by the hostile demonstration in Washington towards the European arrangements for Mexico—we leave these out of the calculation, and speak only of military contingencies. Our opinion is, that if the campaign is a successful one to us, it will end the war, though it may not bring immediate peace. peace settled by treaty and declared by proclamation. We do not see how it is possible for the enemy, if at the end of four years of such gigantic combat as we have had they find themselves no further advanced towards their object than they now are, to stand up before the world and insist upon continuing the contest. We do not see how the world, without shaming the civilisation and common sense of the age, could permit it. Christian nations would be bound by the faith they hold and the humanity they profess to protest against it, and, if that did not avail, then to interpose to prevent it. Yankee humbug could not longer deceive mankind as to the possibility of our subjugation, nor Yankee audacity persist in what would be so obviously absurd.

What is most to be feared, all in fact that is to be feared, is that advantages of such apparent importance may be gained by the enemy as will afford them a pretext for continuing the strife, and will enable them yet a while longer to practise upon the credulity of other countries. This would give them a little longer respite from the humiliation of admitted defeat, and the more terrible consequences they will have to face among themselves, when the appalling fact strikes the mind of the masses that all this bloody and wasting war, this frightful sacrifice of human life, the blood and tears and anguish of a whole people, the nightmare of national debt, the prostration of national name and rank, the corruption of public morals, the subversion of the general industry and the ruin of private fortunes, have been in vain, have been wasted and lost -and all through the contrivance of a set of knavish politicians. Lincoln and his men will postpone their day of reckoning as late as possible, and to that end will protract the war as long as any pretext that will delude their people can be found. If by force of numbers they can gain anything amounting to an advantage this year, or by the art of lying can make it appear they have, they will probably be able to carry their armies over into still another campaign. It becomes therefore our chief duty as well as our highest policy to strain every nerve to defeat them in all their attempts, and to see that at the end of the campaign now opening they are less favourably circumstanced than they now are. Let this result appear, and we may confidently count on the practical ending of the war with the expiration of the fighting months of this year. Our noble armies, we are sure, will do their duty; the people must do theirs, by taking care that their armies lack nothing that can contribute to their efficiency.

MR. WENDELL PHILLIPS ON THE WAR.

AT a meeting of the 'American Anti-Slavery Society,' held at New York on May 10, Mr. Wendell Phillips made a speech, from which we make the following extracts:—

I recollect, Mr. President, and will endeavour to bear steadily in mind, that we come here this morning as Abolitionists, that this platform is sacred to the consideration of the claims of the negro, that as far as possible we shut out of consideration here all those general interests which concern us only as citizens, and that as far as may be we confine our view to those things which interest us as pledged to secure the abolition of chattel slavery. The inevitable despotism of war accustoms the public mind to the liberal exercise of despotic power, until at last vigilance is blunted, and the keen sense of individual right and the sacredness of the bulwarks of personal liberty is lost in the din of battle. All these considerations, even as Abolitionists, we have the right secondarily to bear in mind. Now, therefore, standing as we do this hour, with the news, if it can be credited, of the greatest success of the whole three years, before which, as our President has well said, the rebellion reels, it is still to be borne in mind that we have already incurred a debt; that we have already sacrificed an amount of life, that we have already blunted the old vigilance of individual liberty to an extent that bids us as American citizens beware that any such second trial shall ever be needed by the Republic. This war, if the intelligence and virtue of the people can secure it, is to be the last between the sections of the American Union. It is very problematical whether another could be borne and such free institutions survive it in this belt of the continent. When I look, therefore, at the abolition of slavery, I connect with it meritably the maintenance of republican institutions. Now into the dark and fearful storm in which the vessel of state is plunging, no man has foresight enough to see when she will reach still water. The youngest of us are never again to see that republic into which we were born. In our day, at least, it is to be largely biassed by the inevitable results of such a civil war as this. When the war is ended, there will be thrown upon us seven or eight hundred thousand men unfitted by the experience of war for the daily avocations of business, and five or ten thousand idolised officers, the only available candidates for office for a quarter of a century to come. Two thousand millions of dollars is the debt of the Government to-day. three thousand millions of dollars the ultimate debt of State, county, and town, of war damages, the annual expense of three thousand millions of dollars beyond our debt interest to keep the standing army which will be inevitably necessary on any plan of reconstruction. Under that mortgage rests the labour of the next half-century. Every living right hand is mortgaged, and every one to be born for the next twenty years, for this atonement which God has demanded for the sin of our fathers. Hitherto the charm of American labour has been the surplusage of its means. When the American artisan reached Saturday night, after he had paid for his rent, his clothing, his food, he had a half or a third of his wages left—ample material for books, for lectures, for amusements, for newspaper, for travel, for the education of his children. The Austrian prays to-day in the streets of Vienna, 'God grant I may be as well off to-morrow as I was yesterday!' No Yankee ever breathed such a prayer. Every Monday morning he commences life better than he started a week before. This has been the fulcrum and spring-board which lifted the labour of the North into intellectual and moral life. The English artisan mostly, when he reaches Saturday night, has spent his last penny for food, rent, and clothing, and he begins his Monday morning almost as hopeless as the one previous. Now, so long as the results of this war last, so long as the inevitable necessities of the Government for twenty years to come, they are to ask at least one-third, if not one-half, of the average income of the capital of the country to defray its expenses; so long the labouring masses of the Northern States are robbed of just that surplus which constituted its nucleus to intellectual and moral progress. I look out upon our future, therefore, as one vastly momentous in the history of republican government. A comparatively ignorant labouring class in the history of all free States, the resource of corruption and the grave of independence—these are the dead weight—these are the lee-shore of the Maelstrom behind which the old frigate struggles for her harbour.

What I ask of American citizens interested alike in twenty millions of white men and four millions of black, in the providence of God on one bottom, sinking or swimming together, is- remembering the danger on the right hand and on the left—Clear the decks, sweep every possible obstacle or danger from our pathway, if in the providence of God we may by any possibility save the liberty of the whole and the free institutions bequeathed to us. Now over all the picture looms the cloud of a Government habituated to the exercise of despotic power. Well did Mr. Seward say to Lord Lyons, 'I but ring a bell on this side, and unchallenged I put in prison a New Englander; I ring one on that, and with equal responsibility consign a citizen of Ohio to a dungeon.' There is no other such despotism on this side the wall of China. Necessary, inevitable, not to be found fault with, in this death-grapple with the rebellion, but all the more earnestly does it become us to remember that such powers and such an example, if, perchance, trusted to less worthy hands, may result in the speedy dismemberment of the Republic, and the quick advance of despotism. In looking, therefore, at our question, let us remember that it is on a platform girdled by these dangers that we discuss the abolition of slavery to-day. I recognise as gladly as any man, as proudly as any man, the valour and skill of the army of the Potomac and its matchless chief. I believe that Grant will go to the gulf when he pleases to, and plant the stars and stripes again triumphant over the waters of the Gulf of Mexico; but I believe it will be done over battle-fields as bloody as that which he treads to-day. For though the rebellion reels in Virginia, it is by no means broken when it quits the Old Dominion. The sections have learned at least to respect each other. We know the South, its willingness to die for its ideas. We know its readiness for every sacrifice, its indomitable pride. Those elements are not subdued by a single battle, no, nor by three such. I believe, therefore, although we beat the rebellion out of Virginia, that it will still live, and the war is to last many, many months longer.

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Now I should not say this if I thought this was a common war, to be decided by battle. If our conflict of arms was with the French, Grant is as good as anybody, and a little better. But in this struggle, if our success carries our banner down to the Gulf, you cannot stop the war of ideas; you have not completed the struggle betwixt Northern and Southern colonisation. The Hon. L. W. Spratt said at the Montgomery Convention: 'This is no geographical quarrel; there can be no geographical quarrel betwixt the men of the North and the men of the South. They are cordial enough. It is a war between the civil institutions of one section and the civil institutions of the other.' It is the eagle and the fish tied together. The eagle cannot live in the fluid suited to the fish, and the fish cannot live in the air with the eagle. One must perish, that the other may survive.

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If I were a negro slave I should pray God that this war might last twenty years. If I were a negro and a slave I should dread every victory on the part of the North. For I believe that this war, while it lasts, is performing exactly the work which war did in South America—it is taking the rivets out of society; it is crumbling up the whole civil and social life into its original elements, and when that work is completely done, no matter what be the form of government that comes on, the negro is always free. Witness Mexico and South America. As an American white citizen I deprecate one month of war. I see in the seeds of debt, military ambition and despotism, against which God will demand a virtue and intelligence in the masses, such as history nowhere shows. The settlement of this war is not to be by battle, but by statesmanship.

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You can never make this Union one by force. At the commencement of the war there were a large body of Union men at the South. The Crittenden resolution was passed on this theory. The Crittenden compromise was proposed on the theory that it would bring this class to assert themselves and overcome the secessionists. Possibly it might have been so; we cannot know it now. But the war has built up a unanimous Confederate sentiment. Jeff. Davis made a rebellion—it was all he could make; Abraham Lincoln made the Confederacy—he was the only one who could make it. Three years of rebellion has made the South unanimous. You cannot reconstruct the Union on the loyalty of the white men; there is no loyalty there. You must reconstruct the States on somebody's loyalty, or keep them as territories for twenty years. In the latter event, you keep the Government intrusted with despotic power, and I tremble for the experiment. The blacks are the only basis of loyalty in the South. Give them a vote, link them to the fortunes of the Union, acknowledge the manhood of the black man till the white man is converted.

A MANCHESTER 'SOUTHERNER' AT FORT SUMTER.

ONE of the members of the Executive Committee of the Southern Independence Association, who is now on a visit to the Confederate States, has addressed to his colleagues and fellow-workers in Manchester a long and interesting account of what he had recently seen and done. The following are a few extracts from his letter:—

Charleston will henceforth rank in history as one of the finest military cities in the world, and will furnish a lesson of defence hitherto unknown. On the morning of my arrival I went promenading at leisure over that portion of the town which was the scene of the late fire, but the bursting of a 100 lb. shell in the market soon served to hasten my pace. The boys are always on the look-out for these unceremonious visitors, which they sell for old iron. When Sir Christopher Wren designed St. Michael's Church, he little thought it would play so conspicuous a part in the war. The steeple is 176½ feet high, and from its height can be seen the country far and wide, including all the Yankee operations on Morris Island, even to the reading of the buttons on the officers' uniforms. I waited upon General Beauregard the other day, and was received with the greatest courtesy, and procured his order to pass anywhere within the fortifications. Being anxious to see the great monument of sieges, Fort Sumter, I made preparations for a night visit. We went in boats, the night being too bright for steamers, and carried 1,000 bags of sand with us, each weighing some 50 lbs. When within 1,200 yards of Sumter the Yankees opened fire at the fort, and, sure enough, I thought we were discovered, and expected every moment our boat would be the mark for the next shot. Everything was still as death between the intervals of firing. Every man of us seemed to hold his breath, and all eyes were bent upon the Yankee batteries, which could just be seen above the surface of the water. Our oarsmen were, of course, rowing with all possible speed. I felt as I never felt before, if not in the jaws of death, at least face to face with that enemy. I placed my hand to my neck, and buttoned my coat close to the collar, determining, if our boat sank and my head kept its place, I would swim to the fort. However, quick as lightning, the officer in command cried 'Fort! Land!' and in a few minutes we were within the fort; and once there, you are safe.

I was introduced to Captain Mitchell, commanding in the absence of Major Elliott, and found him a fine young gentlemanly fellow; and for zeal, bravery, sound judgment, and artillery practice, he is considered not to be surpassed. The captain, accompanied by the chief engineer, took me through the fort. I admired the various chambers and rabbit runs, and was particularly struck with the order and regularity of the place. The soldiers' berths were neat and clean, the walls whitewashed, and the whole well ventilated; and the arrangements are so complete that all the men can be concentrated on any given point in a moment. The fort is well supplied with provisions, piles upon piles of them in case of accident; obstructions on every hand, and instruments that will distribute any amount of grape and canister when required. The captain informed me he was quite ready for whatever might happen; the fort, he said, was garrisoned by men from South Carolina, and a braver set of fellows never stood to their guns. While we were walking on the ramparts, I asked the not unreasonable question, 'Are the Yankees good shots?' and was informed they unquestionably were, but nobody need get hit unless he liked. Some few days ago a young fellow, 'larking' with the Yankees, exposed himself unnecessarily, when a ball came and took his head clean off. Another unlucky fellow—a negro—would sleep on the parade-ground, and, to make all secure, he got under cover of an iron cistern; but a shell came and killed him.

On bidding the Captain good-bye, I told him we English were very fond of relics, and if only a small portion of Sumter could be got to Europe, it would be treasured with much care. He then handed me the piece enclosed in memory of my visit.

The Yankee shipping has suffered greatly from torpedoes. So long as six months ago, the *Ironside* was shaken to that degree that she still lies seemingly helpless near Battery Wagner. The torpedo boats are very destructive and quick in their operations, and you will hear a great deal more of their performances before long.

CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

MANCHESTER, JUNE 8, 1864.

One of those small and obscure [illegible] which are very [illegible] the democratic [illegible] in my belief [illegible] the Confederate States of North [illegible] the enemy will [illegible] the Northern [illegible] voted out of the [illegible] under the presidency of [illegible] Emancipation Society [illegible] approach to that [illegible] were a very good [illegible] which the Federals [illegible] date of the North.

A public meeting was held on Tuesday evening in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, to [illegible] It was called by requisition, and was convened by the Union and Emancipation Society, on the Civil War of the Southern Rebellion.' The meeting, which was a very large one, was composed pretty equally, I should say, of those attending it to be, if possible, a counter-demonstration to the many Southern meetings recently held in the same town, long before the Union Hall, the seats in the body of the meeting being the platform were occupied by the Confederates of the place and some few others of the like kind; and by the time the chairman had taken his seat, the hall was crowded. Though, as this was a Northern meeting, it would be hardly possible to suppose that Confederate element ought to predominate. The Federals, it appears, strongly fortified themselves in the centre of the meeting, while the Confederates flanked their opponents right and left, and also occupied a strong position in the rear.

Mr. Heywood occupied the chair, and was supported by Mr. J. B. Estcourt, chairman of the committee of the Union and Emancipation Society, and by Mr. J. R. Cooper, also a prominent member of that body.

The Chairman said, as several public meetings had been held in that town in the Southern interest, the present meeting had been called to enable the people to hear the other side of the question. It had been suggested that this meeting should partake of the character of a debate, and that Mr. Kershaw ought to have been invited to represent the Confederate side of the question; but the committee had decided not to accede to that suggestion until a meeting had been called in the name of the North, as similar meetings had already been held in the name of the South. No doubt the Southern party in this country had secured an amount of success, so much, so that he believed it was the intention of a member of Parliament to have moved a resolution in the House of Commons this week for a recognition of the Confederacy (loud cheers and uproar), but that honourable gentleman had wisely postponed that step till June 17. He dared say, if General Grant proved unsuccessful, strong efforts would be put forth to obtain the recognition of the Southern States by the English Parliament. (Renewed cheering and counter-cheering.) The inhabitants of that town would in all probability be called upon to exercise their privilege of petitioning Parliament for or against that resolution. It therefore became them to enquire fully into the causes that induced the Confederate States to rebel against their legitimate Government ('oh! oh!' and great uproar), and also to consider solemnly what would be the effect—the European effect of recognising those States as an independent Power. It was in order that they might be instructed on those points that a deputation from the Union and Emancipation Society had visited their town; and he claimed on their behalf a fair and patient hearing. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. J. R. Cooper then attempted to address the meeting, but great interruption was caused at the outset by a request that the chairman would state beforehand whether discussion would be allowed, and what length of time would be permitted to each speaker. These queries, however, were not answered, and the speaker, amid much uproar, went on to say that he had left his daily business to come to their town to speak about a matter which concerned his welfare as much as that of any working man in that room. (A voice: 'Keep to the question.') Let them not quarrel as to which party is wrong, but by reason and sound argument try to discover which is right. (Cheers and uproar.)

Mr. Kenyon, of the Southern Independence Association, here asked permission to put a question.

The Chairman. I decline to hear you, and request you will sit down. (Renewed uproar.)

A Southerner. Are we to sit here all night and listen to one side, and not say a word for ourselves?

The Chairman. I have already stated that the Southerners have held two or three meetings here, and this one is for the Northerners. (Cheers and laughter.)

Mr. Bridge, of the Southern Independence Association. Is this a public meeting or not?

The Chairman. Certainly it is a public meeting—called for the purpose of hearing these two gentlemen speak.

Mr. Cooper, renewing his attempts to get a hearing, said he regretted the interruption. If they were to arrive at the truth, they must get at it in a spirit very different from that which had been shown that evening. He was amazed there should be such strong objections to hear what was to be said on one side, after two or three meetings had been held on the other. That, indeed, was 'Southern,' and worthy of the men who supported it. (The speaker, after this taunt, was allowed very little quarter, and continued his address amid incessant and determined signs of opposition.)

Mr. Estcourt also addressed the meeting under similar difficulties.

Upon a vote of thanks being proposed to the chairman, a most tumultuous scene took place, a large proportion of the assembly considering that motion as winding up the business of the meeting rather prematurely. Shouts were accordingly raised that the 'deputation' were afraid to debate the question—that 'the meeting was unfairly conducted'—that a 'new chairman ought to be appointed'—that 'the opinion of the people should not be misrepresented for Northern purposes,' &c., &c.

The Chairman called the meeting many times to order, but in vain.

Mr. Bridge. This meeting, if it is a public meeting, has a right to have questions put and answered.

Mr. Estcourt called upon the Southerners to give the Northerners fair play. ('They don't deserve it.') He would answer any question, but would decline to reply to a speech.

Mr. Bridge said the chairman distinctly promised him that he would be allowed to make a speech, as the meeting was a public meeting.

Mr. [illegible] West. [illegible]

[illegible]

Mr. [illegible]

Mr. West. [illegible]

Mr. [illegible] West. [illegible]

Mr. West. [illegible]

Mr. West. Is it not a fact that, when [illegible] place, the North was quite willing to [illegible] power in the second Session [illegible] Great confusion.) The fact [illegible]

[illegible] from the moment it became evident [illegible] carry out the meeting, as a Northern meeting [illegible] conclusion, would be entirely vain. [illegible] was on his legs, nearly [illegible] abolitionists [illegible] lating violently until they became [illegible] At length [illegible] turn was given to the cheers by Mr. Bazley [illegible] chairman's good offices in procuring the [illegible] and a good-sized volume, which it appeared some [illegible] had thrown at the head of either one [illegible] own head—one that of an unconverted Northerner, and [illegible] much laughter, a copy of 'Bacon's Guide to American Politics' was handed back to the owner.

In this spirit the proceedings were continued until nearly eleven o'clock, when the meeting broke up with three cheers for the South.

PARIS TOPICS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS: June 7.

The event of this week has been the races in the Bois de Boulogne, which took place on Saturday and Sunday. The weather was most favourable, the turf in capital order, and on the second day, when the great 1,000*l.* stake was run for, not only all Paris, but a large deputation from England, was present. The winners of the Derby, the Oaks, and the French Derby were to run. The victory of Vermouth, a French horse, was hailed with the most enthusiastic cheers as a national triumph by the enormous crowd which was assembled. The Emperor, who had sat listless and looking sadly careworn, brightened up as this race began; and when the result was known, he was not the least demonstrative of the spectators. The enthusiasm became so thoroughly national that its first object, the victor of the day, was soon forgotten in deafening cheers for the Emperor, before whose stand the crowd defiled, waving hats and handkerchiefs, with loud cries of 'Vive l'Empereur!' Independently of the running, which was capital, the whole scene was one of the gayest that could be imagined, and the crowd, as usual here, as good-tempered as orderly.

The too well-known M. Renan has been dismissed from the chair of Hebrew and Syriac which he had filled for two years, in which time he only delivered one lecture, after which his course was suspended. There was in a certain portion of the press an apparent wish to make him out a martyr, but the general common sense, which does not understand why the teacher of a language should become a dogmatizer in theology, has stilled the attempt. M. Renan will continue to attack Christianity in his writings, but no longer as an authorised public teacher.

There is no other local news. The Court left yesterday evening for Fontainebleau, where it will stay the month, after which its movements are not known, as it is uncertain whether the Emperor will go this year to Vichy or not. The final decision regarding La Pommerais, which can hardly be doubtful, is not announced. The agitation for suppressing the punishment of death has been resumed, somewhat *mal-à-propos*, for it is seldom that a criminal has aroused so little sympathy. A banquet which had been organised for last Saturday, with the object of promoting this doctrine, was stopped by the police, but a petition with thirty thousand signatures is stated to have been forwarded to the Emperor.

In the anxiety with which the next news is looked for from America, the French press is sparing of its remarks. The *Pays* has a very long and interesting letter dated from Washington, May 15, in which the operations of the present campaign are most ably described. The writer is evidently well qualified both by his professional acquirements and his personal knowledge of the ground to form an opinion. He sums up in the following words, which probably represent fairly the state of opinion among military men in the Federal capital:

'What will Grant do now?

'He will probably retire behind the Rappahannock to wait for a more favourable opportunity, and will occupy once more round Washington the circular line which, in point of fact, the Federals have not been able to leave since the beginning of the war, and which is the first line of defence of their capital on the two banks of the Potomac. No attack had ever been attempted against Richmond with such ample means of action, but none has had so swiftly tragical a result. In the first advances against the capital of Virginia, Richmond was only protected by a few feeble works which might easily have been taken, especially after the second day of the battle of Fair Oaks, June 1, 1862. Now, in addition to numerous lines of defence which protect it in all directions at considerable distances, the Confederate capital is itself surrounded by a network of formidable works, which would require, supposing the enemy ever reached them, the operations of a regular siege.'

It is evident that at that date the writer was little sanguine of success.

The *Presse* of this evening, in a very able article, calls attention to the forged proclamation of Mr. Lincoln. That it was a forgery is certain; but it is remarkable that the difference between the forged document and the real demands of Mr. Lincoln on the country was only one-fourth. The forgery calls

THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF SUBJUGATION.

[illegible]

Richmond is now the [illegible] armies under Lieutenant-General Grant are converging. It may be confidently asserted, by the Confederates, that even if Richmond is no longer tenable, they can turn the moral triumph which the city would be to the Federals into the Confederates will really have [illegible] They will have abandoned that part of Virginia which three years of war has exhausted, and made almost a waste and desert. A new line of defence will be chosen south of the James River, and in the interior of Virginia, and the war will interminably go on.

Richmond has no strategic importance, and without an army is captured with it, a victory would prove barren and fruitless. And these acquisitions once made, they can no more be securely held than those which have been won and lost in the West and South. The war has been an abortion and failure heretofore, and will be none the less so hereafter. Shall it terminate, or is it to be recorded on the pages of history, that the people of the North lost their own liberties in the wicked attempt to subjugate their brethren in the South?

THE CONFEDERATE STATES AND ENGLISH SYMPATHY.—The *Richmond Dispatch* of a recent date thus comments on the public sympathy manifested in this country for the South:—'Colonel Lamar, of Georgia, than whom there could be no more competent witness, confirms in his late speeches the fact unanimously asserted by all visitors to England, that the public sentiment of the cultivated classes in that country is entirely with the Confederacy. This does not influence the action of the British Government, nor is it any indication that the policy of that Government towards our country will ever be changed. We do not entertain the least hope of such a result. Nor does Colonel Lamar. No power on earth ever pursued a more selfish and inhuman policy than that of Great Britain to the Southern Confederacy. Next to the Yankees, the present Administration of England is our worst enemy on earth. We make no exception of Russia: for Russia, while she holds to the same principle of neutrality as England, and candidly confesses that she would like to see the old Union restored, renders no material aid and comfort to the Yankees. If she had given them seventy thousand Cossacks, as the British Government has seventy thousand Irishmen, she might then rival England in her practical hostility to the Southern Confederacy. All this, however, should not make us indifferent to the friendship of the best part of the English people. We would rather have their friendship than their enmity. We ought not to return sympathy with contempt. We should show them that we know how to discriminate between them and their Government. They are not responsible for the course of their Ministry towards the Confederate States any more than for their course towards Poland and Italy. Let us prove that the moral sentiment of all civilised mankind is in our favour.'

SKEDADDLERS FROM THE BATTLE-FIELD.—The *Philadelphia Age* says: 'Within the last few days the number of able-bodied citizens from the army of the Potomac has greatly increased in this city. The side-walks along Chestnut Street are thronged with them. The Provost Guard, instead of hunting up poor and innocent conscripts, would do well to look after these sneaks, whose shoulders are adorned with the straps which they by no means deserve. If the emigration of skedaddlers from the field of battle continues to increase as it has during the last few days, our city will in a very short time again present quite a warlike appearance.'

PATRIOTIC MUNIFICENCE.—The Hon. E. M. Bruce of Kentucky has offered to pay for the tuition of Kentucky soldiers who have lost a leg or an arm, or been otherwise disabled during the war, so that they may be prepared for commercial pursuits on the restoration of peace.

A SCENE IN THE FEDERAL CONGRESS.—In the Federal House of Representatives on May 19, Mr. Mallory (Kentucky) charged Mr. Julian (Indiana) with inserting in the Congressional reports a statement that he had not made; a charge which was not sustained on a reference to the reporter's notes. The members charged each other with lying, and a very riotous scene ensued. In the course of the discussion Mr. Julian called his opponent 'a blackguard, a ruffian, and a coward.'

DR. LE VERT has lately died in Mobile. His father accompanied General Lafayette to America as an army surgeon.

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 13 Bouverie Street, E.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1864.

Grant's Strategy.

IT is curious to note the persistency with which the Federal organs in this country cling to their belief in General GRANT. 'Wanted, a General' has been a cry in the North since the war began, and nothing has more clearly proved the utter want of generalship amongst the Federals than the absurd panegyrics they have heaped upon every leader of their armies from M'CLELLAN to POPE, and BURNSIDE to GRANT. At the latest date, all New York was in a state of triumphant anticipation, because the last-named General had found out, after fourteen days more or less of fighting and the loss of 30,000 men, that LEE'S position at Spottsylvania Court House was impregnable. The most brilliant movement of the war had begun, and GRANT with masterly strategy had 'flanked' the Confederate army, and nullified all LEE'S dispositions. It never occurred to the unsophisticated Yankees that GRANT'S flank movement was a fortnight too late for his reputation; and that, if it was expedient at the end of the month of May, it would have been ten times more advisable at the beginning. Nor does it seem to have detracted from their notions of generalship, that day after day GRANT sent up his troops to be slaughtered by an invisible enemy, when any leader with the slightest pretension to military knowledge would have recognised the impossibility of carrying the Confederate entrenchments, and would at least have made his flank movement with his whole force, instead of sacrificing a division to what the Yankees call his 'bull-dog tenacity.'

It is impossible to write with any certainty on the recent operations of the two armies. Southern reports are rigorously excluded from the Northern press. The correspondents of New York papers are constrained to write either what is flattering to the pride of the mob, or convenient for the interests of the LINCOLN Administration. But, without any great accuracy of detail, and drawing our conclusions solely from the Federal press, we do not hesitate to say that the latest intelligence proves very clearly that GRANT'S original plan of campaign has utterly failed; that he has been outfought and outmanœuvred in his direct advance upon Richmond; and that he has substituted for the bold programme which, a week or two ago, elicited such extraordinary praise, a line of operations savouring far more of the prudence of M'CLELLAN. We do not blame General GRANT for this change. He has made it not a moment too soon. He might have hammered away at the entrenchments of Spottsylvania Court House all the summer. We had almost hoped, from his confident declaration of adhesion to that particular line, that he was really intent upon the destruction of the last brigade of the Federal army. It says something for him that at the eleventh hour he is not ashamed to acknowledge his mistake.

But all that is known up to the present moment is that GRANT has changed his programme. He has retired from the front of the Confederate position at Spottsylvania Court House. What his further movements have been, the New York press does not inform us. Mr. STANTON is silent. We hear from unofficial sources of an advance to Guiney's station on the Fredericksburg and Richmond Railroad, and thence to Bowling Green. Then it would appear that GRANT, having made this eastward détour, has suddenly struck the railroad again, and is advancing along the line upon Saxton's Junction. One correspondent describes LEE in a strong position in front of GRANT, defending the junction; another announces that the Confederate General is in full retreat upon Richmond; a third states positively that GRANT is ahead in the race to the Confederate capital, and LEE in pursuit. But there are one or two suspicious circumstances connected with the flank movement of General GRANT, which it is worth while to notice. In the first place it is highly significant that GRANT has changed his base and depôt of supplies. Fredericksburg and Acquia Creek are abandoned, and some new point on the Rappahannock has been selected. Now if GRANT were moving directly along the Fredericksburg railroad, obviously the shortest and most convenient line for the transport of supplies would be the railroad. An army that could not keep twenty-five miles of railroad communication open is scarcely the army to undertake a very formidable movement into an enemy's country. Yet the abandonment of Fredericksburg is a confession of this weakness. GRANT is compelled to forego the direct line and to trust to cross-country roads for his supplies in order to insure their safety from Confederate cavalry. In the second place, we have up to this day received no definite accounts of EWELL'S flank attack on GRANT'S train. Had this anything to do with GRANT'S sudden determination of changing his base? and were his supplies already intercepted when he began his march eastward? In short, is GRANT'S altered programme designed with a view to capture Richmond or to save the Federal army? A few days will relieve us of the uncertainty. But for the present we are inclined to believe that GRANT is in far more jeopardy than LEE.

There are already rumours that the Federal commander is making for the Peninsula; that is to say, after losing 70,000 men, he means to begin with a crippled army the campaign which M'CLELLAN commenced two years ago and brought to a disastrous conclusion on the James river. A change of base is a favourite metaphor in the North for actual defeat, and possibly GRANT may have decided to keep the hopes of the North alive by retiring to some point where he may be able to talk of a further advance upon Richmond, and to feel safe under the protection of his gunboats. But we fancy that even the North will hardly be taken in by this pretence. There are, however, only two alternatives. GRANT must either fight LEE on ground of the Confederate General's choice, and repeat the bloody repulses of Spottsylvania Court House, or continue his flank movements day after day, and so find himself eventually somewhere about the line which M'CLELLAN took up in 1862. We venture upon no predictions, although events thus far have not disappointed our anticipations; but no one can watch the terrible suspense of the North, and its sensitiveness to every rumour, without coming to the conclusion that its every hope is set upon GRANT'S advance, and that it fears the worst. And even if there were no rumours of disasters to the army of the Potomac and of the destruction of BUTLER'S forces, there would be ample justification in the latest intelligence from Virginia for the agony of fear which dictates Mr. STANTON'S official despatches, and which marks the receipt of every fresh item of intelligence from Virginia with an increased premium on gold.

The Censorship in New York.

IMITATION is the sincerest flattery; but it would seem to be flattery of too delicate a character for the appreciation of Mr. LINCOLN'S Secretary of State. An unfortunate gentleman of New Jersey, a sincere Republican and a profound admirer of Mr. SEWARD, has just learned to his cost that the First Minister of the United States is not gifted with that subtlety of taste and apprehension which would enable him to discern the compliment veiled in a close copy of his own most remarkable achievements, and that those who pay him the delicate attention of taking him for their example and pattern in matters of morality and their master in the arts of diplomatic and speculative manœuvring, may, instead of earning his gratitude, fall under his severest displeasure. The unlucky offender had concerned himself in gold speculations. He is, as we have said, a loyal Republican, and no doubt believes in his inmost heart that greenbacks are quite as valuable as gold, and that nothing but the reconstruction of the Union is needed to bring them back to their nominal price, or even to raise them to a premium. But, aware that there are in New York many persons of a less confiding temper, who believe in gold more earnestly than in the Union, and have more regard to profit than to patriotism, he could not resist the temptation to make money at their expense. He took to buying gold when it was cheap and selling it when it was dear, knowing, of course, that if he could get two greenback dollars for one silver, the time would come when the rebellion would be crushed, and his two bits of paper would be worth as much as two metallic dollars. In this conviction he 'speculated for the rise;' and, emboldened by the manœuvres which he had seen practised by the chiefs of his party, not merely with impunity but with advantage, he laid a little plot whereby he might at once enrich himself and inflict a deserved punishment on the wretches whose disloyal distrust of the best and most enlightened Government on earth caused gold to rise on the receipt of any news that seemed to augur temporary misfortune to the Federal cause. He wrote, in the name of Mr. LINCOLN, a short proclamation announcing what, if not exactly true, was nevertheless not very far from the truth—that the campaign in Virginia was virtually closed, and that, to continue the war and crush out the rebellion, a new draft of 400,000 men would be required. This he wrote on the 'manifold' paper employed by the office of the 'Associated Press' in its despatches to the various newspapers, and sent it round to them. He skilfully chose his time, and forwarded the fictitious document at an hour when the editors were gone home to bed, and the papers were on the point of going to press. The scheme was admirably devised: it failed, as we shall see, only by an accident which could hardly have been anticipated; and the plotter, if he did not make as much by the trick as he had hoped, expected, doubtless, to receive credit for his smartness, and felicitated himself on the gratification which Mr. SEWARD would feel at finding that a devoted partisan had made so ingenious a use of the art in which the State Department at Washington has achieved so many masterpieces.

The unhappy artist was unaware that the process was copyright. To his utter consternation, he learned that orders had been straightway despatched from Washington for his arrest, and that his innocent stratagem was to be punished by the Government of the free and enlightened North almost as severely as it would have been punished in enslaved and benighted England. Dismayed, confused, thunderstruck by this wholly unexpected blow, he was easily discovered, arrested, and carried off to Fort Lafayette, there to meditate at leisure on the perils that environ those who ape the arts of despotic Ministers, and take in vain the august name of ABRAHAM LINCOLN. We pity the poor fellow's perplexity, as he ponders in his prison over the error into which he has unwittingly fallen. What has he done? Why has he been punished for doing that which the Federal Government has done on former occasions, and which has brought credit and distinction to more than one ingenious imitator of other men's caligraphy? Is forgery protected by a Federal patent which he has unwittingly infringed? Is it lawful to forge the name of a Confederate Minister, and only unlawful to take a similar liberty with the name of a Yankee President? Or is the use of such arts confined of right to diplomacy, and forbidden to the Stock Exchange? It is not so long since, as Mr. SEWARD informed the British Government, a gentleman of Republican principles forged an important document, which took in not only a few Wall Street speculators, but two Governments and their respective ambassadors. The forgery was quoted in diplomatic despatches, and made the theme of solemn remonstrances, and its detection had the effect of placing the Federal Government in an exceedingly humiliating position, and subjecting it to very serious and disgraceful suspicions. And yet no step was ever taken to punish the author of that fraud; nay, more, rumour confidently asserted that he had been only the tool and instrument of the great man who holds the keys of Fort Lafayette, and sends citizens to prison, at a distance of a thousand miles, by touching a bell in his cabinet. It was the recollection of this successful, useful, and honoured fraud that prompted the humble imitation of Mr. HOWARD; and certainly it seems hard that the imitator should be arrested as a traitor, while the original enjoys the reward of his smartness in peace and liberty.

But others have been still more harshly treated than Mr. HOWARD. Among the journals to which the forged proclamation was sent were two of the most respectable journals in New York—the *World* and the *Journal of Commerce*. They happened, unluckily for themselves, to be the only journals which contained the proclamation. But this was the merest accident. By some chance the document did not reach the office of the *Tribune*. Perhaps the forger thought it safest not to send it; perhaps, as the *Tribune* itself suggests, the editorial office being shut, the messenger did not know his way to the printing-room. Some of the other papers, re-

cciving the proclamation, had in their employ printers of an enquiring turn of mind, who recognised in the style of the proclamation another hand than Mr. LINCOLN's. The forger had done his best; but it is so difficult for an educated man to imitate the slovenly phraseology and slipshod grammar of Mr. LINCOLN, that his speech betrayed him. The grammar was too accurate, the language too correct, to have come from the Chief Magistrate of the United States. Mr. HOWARD wrote in English; Mr. LINCOLN is not acquainted with that language, but employs, both in conversation and in writing, the dialect of American current in the North-Western States. Suspicion thus awakened, reference was made to other offices; the absence of the document from the *Tribune* office was discovered, and the forgery was suppressed. But this suppression cost one paper the destruction of more than half its daily edition, and was barely accomplished in time to save other newspapers from sharing the error of the two we have mentioned. By the time the editors made their appearance in the morning, the blunder was known, and it was immediately corrected. The forgery was acknowledged, and a reward advertised for the detection of the offender. Meantime the telegraph had been busy. It took up to Washington the news of the appearance of a strange proclamation bearing Mr. LINCOLN's signature; and it brought down orders to arrest the editors, send them to Fort Lafayette, and suppress their papers. The first order was suspended; the second was put into immediate execution; and for the future Opposition journals in New York must keep a responsible editor to sit up all night, and take care that no doubtful matter finds its way into the paper in the hurry of the last moments, if they would be secure against forfeiture.

It is true that, after a few days, the soldiery who had been put in possession of the offices were withdrawn, and the publication of the papers once more permitted. But, for all this, the injury inflicted on the proprietors has been very serious. Those who know anything of journalism know that a newspaper proprietor would rather pay a fine of several thousand pounds than suspend the issue of his paper for a single day; and, had the journals seized been less powerful and popular than they are, such a suspension might have entailed their absolute destruction.

We need hardly waste words upon the moral and political character of this exertion of arbitrary power. It is plain that there was not the slightest pretence for the persecution of the two journals. They are among the most respectable members of the American press. In this particular instance their fault was altogether involuntary; and it is quite plain that the publication of the spurious proclamation was only the pretext for their seizure. At the same time, or nearly so, another journal was seized at Baltimore for an article in which it ventured to estimate the losses of GRANT in Virginia at 70,000 men—an exaggeration, no doubt, but a fair deduction from the comparison of his avowed losses with those confessed on previous occasions, when subsequent investigations have doubled the number originally acknowledged. It is evident that the Federal Government intended to rid itself of two dangerous opponents in the press—the more dangerous from their high character and moderation—that it seized what seemed a favourable opportunity of crushing them without provoking an outbreak of public indignation, and has retracted its edict on finding that public sympathy with the victims was too strong to be safely disregarded. Mr. SEWARD is recovering courage, and returning to the arbitrary practices which were suspended when the result of the elections in 1863 manifested a feeling decidedly adverse to the LINCOLN Administration; seizures of newspapers will be followed as before by the imprisonment of writers, orators, and politicians, and Federal bastiles will soon be as full as ever of the leading men of the Democratic party, unless the indignation expressed at this initial outrage should be sufficiently vigorous and well sustained to teach the Government that the experiment might cost it too dear. The utter contempt of law, the insolent and open disregard of even the shadow of legal forms and pretences, the naked and violent exercise of military force, which have marked the proceedings of the Administration, are highly significant symptoms of the temper in which Mr. LINCOLN and his advisers, even while the Presidential contest is approaching, are disposed to deal with the rights and liberties of the States. Before an energetic and well-marked expression of popular displeasure, no doubt, they would quail and retrace their steps; but if they find the road of tyranny a tolerably safe one, it is evident that their progress will be rapid and unhesitating.

Roused at last to a sense of public duty, Governor SEYMOUR has instructed the District Attorney to prosecute the agents of the Federal Government in this outrage on the laws and liberties of New York; and no doubt, if the Federal Government do not think it expedient to interfere by force, a verdict of guilty may be returned, and judgment passed upon them. But there is little likelihood that Governor SEYMOUR will carry his assertion of the rights and dignity of the State so far as to arrest and punish, in execution of a judicial sentence, men protected by the commission and by the military forces of President LINCOLN. If he should attempt to do so, matters will be brought to an issue between the law and the Government, between the inherent authority of the States and the usurped ascendency of the Federal power; and the crisis at which they have now arrived will be more evident than it has hitherto been to the people of the North. But, even in that case, we have little hope that they will be induced to hesitate in the course which they have hitherto pursued so eagerly. They will, as others have done before them, rather sacrifice their own liberty than abandon their hope of crushing out the liberty of their neighbours; and if they are to be converted from that determination, it must be by the sword of Southern chivalry, and not by the scourge of Executive tyranny—a scourge which falls only on those who have learned to value freedom, and which, while it punishes the resistance of the minority, gratifies the vindictive passions of the many. Acts of oppression and injustice perpetrated on the Democrats are acts of indulgence to the fanatical Republicans; and so far from repenting the enterprise which brings such outrages in its train, they regard it as one of the chief advantages of the war, that, while wreaking their hatred on their enemies abroad, it affords them excuse and opportunity for persecuting their adversaries at home. This is the spirit that ever precedes the enslavement of free nations; and no power runs so fast and so surely to tyranny as that which owes its origin to the vindictiveness of a faction, and its consolidation to the crimes and the passions of civil war.

Counting the Cost.

THE terrible results of the war have enforced reflection even upon those who were at first its most ardent and hopeful advocates. Men who entered upon it in the hope of speedy and complete conquest, in the belief that the Southerners would be brought to submission by a few disasters, or that, at worst, the superior numbers of the North would speedily overpower the defenders of Virginia, and that the fall of the Confederate capital would close the struggle, and who have gone on from step to step, from levy to levy, from campaign to campaign, in the expectation of a decisive blow, are beginning to understand that no blow could possibly be decisive; that every inch of ground that is to be won must be wrested from the South at the bayonet's point; that States may be overrun and towns captured without affecting in the least the coherence or the resolution of the Confederacy; that each captured town must be held by a Federal garrison, and that each conquered State, the instant that the invading army is withdrawn, resumes its allegiance to the Confederacy; that so long as one State is left uncrushed that State will resist, and that while one city remains in the possession of the South that city will be the rallying point of Southern nationality. The North expected to engage in a war of peculiarly easy accomplishment; imagining that the looseness of a newly-formed confederate tie would enable them to break up with ease the union of the South, and that all that was required to crush the 'rebellion' was such a disaster as might convince the 'rebels' of their inferiority in power. These expectations have been entirely reversed by the event; the Confederacy has held together with truly national cohesion, while the nature of the country, political as well as geographical, deprives the enemy of that advantage which an invader enjoys in older and consolidated States, where there is a vulnerable centre, a vital point, which once pierced the power of resistance is paralysed. At first no one dreamed that *the North* could have anything to apprehend or to suffer by the war; now, men are beginning to look round them, and to reckon the sacrifices they have made and compute the costs they have incurred, and the results of the calculation appear not a little alarming. Even now the majority have not begun to appreciate their position, its actual evils, or its imminent dangers; and the cry for a vigorous prosecution of the war is almost as popular and as reckless as ever. But there are signs that those who are capable of reflection are beginning to ask themselves how far and to what end they are prepared to go; and even the fanatics who will not hear of any relaxation of the struggle, or any modification of Northern pretensions, are, if they retain the faculty of reason, somewhat appalled by their own answers to these questions. They feel that they have already paid a terrible price for the indulgence of unreasoning passion and insensate animosity, and that, if they are still to pursue any end which even to them can seem commensurate with the magnitude of the losses they have suffered and the risks they incur, they must be prepared to sacrifice all that remains to them of liberty, prosperity, or national greatness. Fanatics, of course, are willing to sacrifice anything to their idol; but when once they venture fairly to announce to a nation the extent of their demands upon its endurance, they generally find common sense too strong for them. And the Yankees must be the wildest and most irrational of all nations if they are not somewhat staggered by the frankness with which the great leader of the Abolitionists announces the price to be paid for the emancipation of the negroes, and calls upon them to pay it.

As an Abolitionist, Mr. WENDELL PHILLIPS rejoices not merely in the war, but in its protraction and its disasters. He does not anticipate the emancipation of the negro as a result of Northern victories: in the negro's interest he regards those victories as misfortunes. So far, and through a considerable portion of his speech, we are in accord with the orator. The negro has nothing to expect from Northern conquerors but a slavery infinitely harder than anything that exists in Cuba or did exist in Jamaica. Wherever the Yankee has come, the negro has perished. He has been torn from the home where he was well clothed and well lodged, abundantly fed and carefully provided. He has been sold at a few dollars a head to Yankee speculators, who have worked him to death in a few weeks; he has been doomed to prowl about the purlieus of the camp, living on foul offal and dying of strange diseases; and, in his helpless misery, he has vainly implored his captors to rid him of this liberty—liberty to starve and suffer—and restore him to the master whom he loved, and who cared and provided for him. Since this war broke out the Yankees may have captured some 200,000 negroes. We have reason to believe that one-half of these are dead. In the worst days of Rome, in the palmiest days of the slave-trade, slaves were never treated so ill and never died half so fast as under the protection of Northern Abolitionists. Well may Mr. PHILLIPS say that if he were a negro 'he would dread every victory on the part of the North.' It is not by Northern victories that, in his opinion, the slaves are to be delivered. The war is to set them free by a slower, surer, and more terrible process. 'It is performing exactly the work which war did in South America; it is taking the rivets out of society; it is crumbling up the whole social and civil life into its original elements, and when that work is completely done, no matter what the form of government be that comes on, the negro is always free.' It is to the dissolution of society, not to the reconstruction of the Union, that Abolitionists are bidden to look for the accomplishment of their darling object. The States are to sink into the condition of Mexico or Nicaragua, to be the prey of continual anarchy and chronic civil war, to be without order, without government, without security for life and property, in order that out of this chaos may arise the independence of the negro. Such is the prospect to which Mr. WENDELL PHILLIPS deliberately directs the hopes of his friends: he deprecates peace, he even deprecates victory, lest they should avert that total, all-subverting ruin by which the slave is to be set free. Perish the Union, so that the negro be emancipated: exterminate the Southern people, level their cities to the ground, ravage their lands, close up their ports, make of their rich country a howling wilderness, in order to provide a fit home for four millions of freedmen. What matter if for this end we sacrifice everything that has made Americans proud of their country and has attracted to her shores the poor and the discontented from all quarters of the world—liberty, wealth, security for life and property, everything that makes a nation great and happy? All this is a lesser evil than to acknowledge the independence of the South—a trifling price to pay for the final abolition of negro slavery.

So speaks Mr. WENDELL PHILLIPS in his character of uncompromising Abolitionist. There are few of his countrymen to whom the picture which he draws will be agreeable, or who will derive much consolation from the beatific vision of starving but liberated negroes dancing around the ruins of American prosperity. And, indeed, when Mr. PHILLIPS himself lays aside the garb of the enthusiast, and descends to the level of statesmen and men of the world, it is evident that he himself has terrible misgivings. He cannot be always an Abolitionist orator; he must now and then remember that he is a man and a citizen; and neither his personal nor his patriotic feelings are altogether gratified by the prophetic vision that seemed so charming to his imagination while rapt in the trance of fanaticism. When he descends to speak of facts and figures, and to deal rather with present realities than with future glories, his tone becomes despondent in the extreme. Though speaking in the belief, or pretended belief, of a victory which had no existence but in the fertile

imagination of Mr. STANTON, his is the language of anxiety and of warning, not of exultation. The emancipation of the negro fades into distance and uncertainty; the ruin and calamity out of which it is to arise are near and real. The liberties, the prosperity, the happiness of the American people are in danger; the very foundations of society are threatened, and the fate which has befallen Mexico and the South American Republics appears to threaten the United States. Mr. PHILLIPS speaks out as frankly as Mr. WOOD or Mr. VALLANDIGHAM, though in a different spirit. He regards the war as a just one, and accepts all the evils that have followed in its train as necessary and inevitable. But he confirms every protest that the Democratic party has uttered against Republican tyranny and 'revolutionary energy;' and he sees, in the necessities of a war waged for conquest and protracted for years at enormous cost and with varying fortunes, perils which threaten to overwhelm the freedom and well-being of the North under the combined weight of debt and despotism. When the war is over, seven or eight hundred thousand men (an exaggerated estimate, but the truth is formidable enough), unfitted for civil life by long service in the field, will be thrown loose upon society, ready for mischief, hard to be restrained by law, ready tools of criminal ambition, and the perpetual nucleus of anarchy, disturbance, or civil war. The element that has contributed so largely to the ruin of the Spanish colonies – a lawless disbanded soldiery—will be present in full force in the United States; and what security can there be that it will not be used there as it has been used elsewhere? The Government has been habituated to exercise despotic power, and, which is much worse, the people have learned to endure it. Is there any certainty that either will be able or willing to resume at once the habits and principles which are the life of republican institutions, and to pass at once from martial despotism to peace and civil freedom? And if these perils should be safely overcome, there are dangers behind from which Mr. PHILLIPS at least can see no escape. Hitherto an immunity from taxation, which has fostered the growth of capital and the prosperity of labour, has been one of the chief blessings of America. But she will no longer be a lightly-taxed country. If this year should end the war, how would her national accounts stand? She would owe more than half as much as England, and she would have to pay nearly twice as high an interest upon it. She would have to keep a standing army of considerable force in order to maintain her authority in the disaffected States. These two demands, springing out of this struggle—the legacies of this great war—will form a mortgage on the capital and labour of the future, reducing the profits of both, and curtailing that rapid increase of wealth which has provided constantly enhanced comforts for a population augmented at an incredible rate; and generations yet unborn will have to defray the cost and endure the consequences of a war begun in the greed of conquest and prolonged by the lust of revenge.

Even so bitter an enemy as Mr. PHILLIPS has learned at last to do reluctant justice to the courage and resolution of the South. He recognises the determination of the Confederates to defend with the last drop of their blood the sanctity of their homes and the honour of their country, and he understands that the defeat of General LEE, and even the capture of Richmond, would utterly fail to bring the victors any nearer to the accomplishment of their hopes. He is prepared for many battles and a long-protracted conflict—prepared, nay resolute, to carry the war from post to post, and from State to State, till the last army of the Confederacy is destroyed on the last league of territory that the South shall retain. In order to carry on such a struggle, he is ready to accumulate a debt which, as he himself declares, will fetter the industry and mortgage the income of unborn generations—ready to endure a despotism which, as he says, has not its parallel on this side of the wall of China. We recommend his speech to the notice of his countrymen, who, while they can hardly reject his testimony to the character and costliness of the struggle they are maintaining, may probably differ with him in regard to the adequacy of the object. To forego the Union for ever—to let the South go in peace with the honours of victory after so long and desperate a contest—would doubtless be a sore trial for the vanity of the Northern people. They would spend much blood and much treasure rather than make so painful a sacrifice. But there is a limit to the endurance of which a people fighting, not for existence, but for conquest, is capable; and we presume that the North would be unwilling, for the sake of extending the Union to its former limits, to risk the inauguration of a universal despotism, and the reduction of the whole country to a condition of almost Mexican wretchedness and anarchy. In frankly telling them what the prosecution of the war involves, and what may be expected from it, Mr. PHILLIPS has rendered a service to his compatriots; but we scarcely think that he has, as he intended, furthered the cause of his party. Those who read his speech will take it as a warning, not an encouragement, and his exhortation to unlimited sacrifices will rather serve to cool their frenzy than to fan their fervour. Instead of agreeing with him that two partners who cannot live together must fight till one or both be destroyed, his hearers are likely to ask themselves whether the objections to an amicable separation are altogether insuperable; and whether, if the eagle and the fish cannot inhabit the same element, the simplest and safest plan would not be to sever the bonds that enforce so unnatural a union. Intended as an exhortation to implacable war, the speech will be read as an argument for the necessity of peace; and, instead of accepting its conclusion that the white race must be sacrificed to the emancipation of the black, those who remember the recent revelations from the Mississippi valley will draw the inference that nothing but a frank and immediate abandonment of that chimera can save either race from destruction.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND THE WAR IN AMERICA.—The Paris correspondent of *The Times* wrote on Friday last: 'I hear that two delegates—one civil, the other military—have been sent by the French Government to America, for the purpose of ascertaining by personal inspection the real state and prospects of the belligerents, and to report thereon to the Emperor. It is also stated that overtures have been again made on the part of France to the English Government with a view to devise some means of putting a stop to the frightful and useless carnage between Federals and Confederates. I do not say that these overtures have been made through the usual official channels, but I have some reason to believe that the main fact is correct. What reception they have met with, I cannot say.'

THE CROP PROSPECTS IN THE UNITED STATES.—The *New York Daily Bank* of May 21 observes: 'We notice, from our Western exchanges, that the prospects of this year's crops are very discouraging. The severity of the winter has killed a great portion of the winter wheat. Fields, it is said, that ought to produce fifteen bushels to the acre, will not produce two bushels. The spring, too, has been very backward. The want of labour is another serious drawback. Thousands and thousands of men have been withdrawn from the productive forces of the country, and the inevitable result must be a scarcity.'

THE CROPS IN THE CONFEDERATE STATES.—The *Richmond Whig* of May 5 says: 'The country is full of wheat, while we think the product in Georgia is likely to be double what it was in 1863. We can already see the signs of an accumulating surplus of old wheat.'

THE FORGED PROCLAMATION.

As the proceedings of the Lincoln Government have made the forged proclamation so notorious, we deem the document sufficiently curious to merit publication in our columns:—

Executive Mansion, May 17, 1864.

Fellow Citizens of the United States:

In all seasons of extraordinary dangers a nation carefully to scrutinise its line of conduct, humbly to approach the Throne of Grace, and meekly to implore forgiveness, wisdom and guidance.

For years as known only to Him, it has been decreed that this country should be the scene of unparalleled carnage, and this nation the monumental sufferer of the 19th century. With a heavy heart, but an undiminished confidence in our cause, I approach the performance of a duty rendered imperative by my constant weakness before the Almighty, and of justice to the people.

It is not necessary that I should tell you that the first campaign under Lieutenant-General Grant, in whom I have every confidence, and whose courage and fidelity the people do well to honour, is virtually closed. He has conducted his great enterprise with discreet ability. He has inflicted great loss upon the enemy. He has crippled their strength, and defeated their plans.

In view, however, of the situation in Virginia, the disaster at Red River, the delay at Charleston, and the general state of the country, I, Abraham Lincoln, do hereby recommend that Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of May, A.D. 1864, be solemnly set apart throughout these United States as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer. Deeming, furthermore, that the present condition of public affairs presents an extraordinary occasion, and in view of the pending expiration of the service of (100,000) one hundred thousand of our troops, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power vested in me by the constitution and the laws, have thought fit to call forth, and hereby do call forth, the citizens of the United States, between the ages of (18) eighteen and (45) forty-five years, to the aggregate number of (400,000) four hundred thousand, in order to suppress the existing rebellious combinations, and to cause the due execution of the laws.

And furthermore, in case any State or number of States shall fail to furnish by the 15th day of June next their assigned quotas, it is hereby ordered that the same be raised by an immediate and peremptory draft.

The details for this object will be communicated to the State authorities through the War Department.

I appeal to all loyal citizens to favour, facilitate, and aid this effort to maintain the honour, the integrity, and the existence of our national Union, and the perpetuity of popular government.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this seventeenth day of May, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, and of the independence of the States the eighty-eighth.

(Signed) ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President:
William H. Seward.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK: May 24, 1864.

THE SITUATION IN VIRGINIA—GENERAL SHERMAN'S EXPEDITION—DEFEAT OF SIGEL—A SKETCH OF SIGEL'S MILITARY CAREER—THE POSITION OF BUTLER—THE 'GOOD NEWS' FROM LOUISIANA—THE SHELLING OF CHARLESTON AND YANKEE MALICE—LESS CONFIDENCE FELT IN GRANT—THE SUPPRESSION OF THE 'WORLD' AND 'JOURNAL OF COMMERCE'—THE CASE OF COLONEL ARQUELLES—OPPOSITION TO THE DESPOTIC ACTS OF THE LINCOLN GOVERNMENT.

ANOTHER week has passed, and Grant is as far as ever from taking Richmond. From some reported changes in the lines of General Lee, it is possible that the Federal army may be topographically nearer—as the crow flies—to the Confederate capital: but the prospect for capturing it has receded indefinitely, even to the vision of sanguine army correspondents and vaunting Cabinet Ministers. The letters from Washington and from the battle-field begin to talk ominously of the unexpected largeness of the Confederate army, their discipline, and desperate bravery, and the immense strength of the fortified lines of defences which lie between the invading armies and Richmond. Of course the doomed city is to be taken, if it has to be reached over the innumerable corpses which the prodigal North can afford to expend in order to accomplish its object; but the coveted prize is still afar off, and the way to it confessed to be a hard and heavy one. Even the bulletins of Secretary Stanton are getting to be quite tame; and President Lincoln would, without doubt, be right glad if somebody could succeed in persuading the public that his jubilant recommendation of a national *Te Deum* for the victories of Grant was a forgery. Gold, which stood at about 172-3 when Grant crossed the Rapidan, has been at 182-3, and is this day, at noon, at 185. The national credit has been sinking at that rate since the campaign commenced on the success of which the Secretary of the Treasury publicly based his only hope for the repairing of the finances.

The only apparent success which has attended the operations of any of the various columns of the Federals advanced simultaneously, in all quarters, against the strong points of the Confederacy is that of General Sherman's army from Chattanooga into Northern Georgia. There has been a good deal of fighting there, and the army of General Joe Johnston has given up, or been driven from, positions which were supposed to be very strong, and has fallen back towards Atlanta. I should be more uneasy on this score—because the possession of Atlanta is of vast importance to the Confederacy, and to lose it would be a very great disaster—if I did not know that Johnston has a very fine army, and his capacity and his caution are so relied upon, that the advance of Sherman does not appear to give any alarm at Richmond. They believe that he will in good time be driven back, or held there until he is powerless. The other two branches of Grant's combinations have come to trouble. Sigel, who was to descend the valley of the Shenandoah, has been encountered, and defeated ignominiously and disastrously. Franz Sigel is the favourite general of the German soldiers, and the Administration has done a good many not very creditable things for him in order to conciliate them. Among other stories is one for which I am indebted to a Union officer, who spoke as if of his own knowledge of the truth; and the transaction is so illustrative of the military and political management of 'honest' Mr. Lincoln, that I will repeat it here as an episode. In one of the early battles of the war in Missouri, where Sigel held a command, the Federals suffered a defeat, and the officers under Sigel attributed it to his incompetency and, they do say, his positive cowardice. When the troops were rallied, they refused to be commanded by Sigel, and selected for their leader an experienced army officer, who conducted their retreat successfully. There were of course charges and counter-charges. The officers arraigned General Sigel for imbecility and misconduct, and Sigel arraigned his successor for insubordination. Both parties hurried to Washington. What transpired between Sigel and the President I never heard, but what occurred between the President and the insubordinate, whom I shall call Major S—, has been told and retold, and is universally believed. Major S— waited upon the President, and, on being announced, was astonished by being greeted thus:—'I am very glad to see you, *General S—*.' 'Thank you, Mr. President, but you are mistaken—only *Major S—*, not *General S—*, at your service.' 'Not at all,' replied the smiling chief; 'I mean *General S—*; you are General from this day, but this matter must be dropped between you and our friend Sigel. We can't afford to offend the German interest!' Accordingly the Major became a General, and a valuable officer he is, and Sigel went back to another command. He proved unfortunate again, and was out of employ, to the great indignation of the 'German element;' and it became quite threatening when the joint resolution was brought into Congress for dropping unemployed general officers from the army. Yielding to the political necessity, the Administration restored him to active command, and thus he came to lead down the Shenandoah Valley a large army, to execute a duty so simple, and with such a supposed preponderance of force, that it was not imagined that he could commit any great blunder. But he allowed himself to be surprised, suffered a disastrous defeat, and met with such heavy losses as to relieve General Lee from all apprehensions of further trouble from that quarter. The Confederate accounts say that his rout was complete, and Sigel himself among the foremost of the fugitives, but the 'German element' is too strong to allow such a thing to be said with the assent of the Government at the North. It was obliged to remove him from the command, and General Hunter, who did nothing with so much vigour in South Carolina, has been appointed to succeed him. But this unavoidable necessity has occasioned Mr. Lincoln a good deal of trouble, and threatens him with further damage among the German Radicals, who are going into the campaign to defeat his re-election to the Presidency with another grievance in his treatment of Sigel. The removal is to lay to the repairing of the loss to Grant's operations of this co-operating movement. Butler, on the south side of the James River, is a little better off than Sigel, but not much. He has been badly beaten by Beauregard, and holds himself within his entrenchments, with now and then an exulting bulletin that he is safe. There are gunboats near, upon which he can take refuge in the last extremity, if it be necessary to secure his person from capture by Beauregard, but he issues no more flaming announcements that he can enter Richmond when he pleases. If he ever gets there, it will probably be because he can't help it, being carried there against his will. The disappointment at the flatness of his failure, after his magnificent manifestos of last week, has set even some of the most rabid of the Radicals to grumbling against Butler's military inefficiency; and the men who really think military capacity to be a necessary quality in a general, for which ferocious cruelty and

insatiable rapacity are not adequate substitutes, are talking about the duty of the Administration to remove him.

Secretary Stanton has telegraphed what is called good news from the Red River in Louisiana. It is to the effect that, by damming up the river below the falls of Alexandria, General Banks has succeeded in floating his gunboats over, and that he has thus been enabled to make his escape, with the remnants of his army, to the Mississippi River, and get back to New Orleans. It is also said to be 'good news' that General Steele did not surrender his army in Arkansas when repulsed, and that he is likely to be able to make his way also to the Mississippi River. It is really great news for the Confederates that this magnificent expedition, which was heralded as marching onward in two irresistible columns to overrun Western Louisiana, occupy Texas, and frown down the Mexican Empire from the American borders of the Rio Grande, should be hunted back to the Mississippi, in straggling bands, by the triumphant Confederates, and the hope of their safety be welcomed with thanksgiving.

It ought to be noted, as another in the series of devastations which mark the track of Federal armies and light up their retreats, that the Federal accounts of the retreat of General Banks from Alexandria record that he left the city in flames.

The only other records of Northern achievements of late are the notices, every few days, of the throwing of shells, in mere wantonness, into the city of Charleston. This is not in the progress of an assault, or with any view of improving the chance of capturing the city. It is mere malicious warfare on the non-combatant inhabitants, the women and children, such as the moral sentiment of the times pronounces to be mere barbarity, but which seems to delight the Northern reader as the proper way of dealing with rebels. There have been some like vauntings of similar raids into Florida and along the southern coasts, in which mills on which the inhabitants depended for food have been burnt, and large quantities of cattle killed or driven off. An object to which particular attention has lately been directed, and in which there is said to have been great success, as there was no armed Confederate force to obstruct the marauders, is the destruction of the private salt works, on which so much of the means of living among the people depends in the South. One of the Federal plans, much relied on to extort the submission of the South, is the starving of their families by the destruction of their crops, the burning of their mills, the killing or stealing of their cattle, and the terrible distress arising from the utter privation of salt.

There has been no time in which the Southern people have felt a more thorough confidence in the success of their arms, or a more abiding faith in the achievement of their independence, than at this time. The omens of the battle-field are propitious. The failure of the first great onset of the immense force which the Federals, after so many months of preparation, hurled upon them, has disappointed and disheartened the North. It has exhilarated and inspirited the South. The confidence in General Lee is unbounded, and the South looks to him as the chief whose sword will marshal the way to certain victory. On the other hand, it is not to be denied that the Federal opinion of the generalship of Grant has been undergoing serious changes. The sanguine multitude expected from him speedy and crushing victories, the immediate occupation of Richmond, and the end of the weary war. He has lost the best part of the finest of their armies, and, piling his dead and wounded in tens of thousands before the impenetrable wall of the Southern army, is still confronted by the same fierce array, and counts on an ultimate success only after a renewal again and again of the same desperate conflicts and the same horrible carnage. Indeed, it is muttered about among the fickle crowd, and quoted as the words of distinguished military men from the battle-fields, that Grant has none of the elements of a great commander, and that his whole theory for reaching Richmond is by pushing superior numbers on the enemy's works, and conquering at last by the mere momentum of the greater mass of the dead he can afford to lose. The utter recklessness with which, in the late series of battles, he sent mass after mass of his soldiers to certain destruction, repeating, on a grander scale, the madness of Burnside at Fredericksburg, broke the confidence of many of his best officers in him, and at the same time shattered his best troops. It will tell hereafter in the lessened efficiency of what remains of his disciplined troops, who alone could have gone up steadily upon such murderous work, and on the newer troops with whom he has been so largely reinforced, who may not be so ready for rushing upon certain destruction. It is very evident that there is a loss of the popular trust in the leadership of Grant, and that experienced military men look with misgivings on the result of the forward movement to which he may be impelled by the same headlong impetuosity of reliance on the brute power of numbers. They know that he has against him the most skilful strategist and ablest soldier of the times, at the head of a splendid army welded together by an enthusiastic devotion to the common cause, and owning the directing soul in the genius of their leader. This is one case at least in which it is found that 'battalions' do not surely win.

The President and Secretary of State have, during these exciting military events, found time to involve themselves in new difficulties, from one of which I see no way for them to escape without political ruin, except in the utter debasement of the people, or by the pusillanimity of their adversaries. They have ventured, with a recklessness which is almost amazing, upon acts of illegal and arbitrary violence which have armed their adversaries with potent weapons of attack, and shocked even their own partisans beyond the capacity of defence.

I do not suppose anybody in England was deceived by the fabrication which two of the city papers unwittingly sent out in the *Scotia*,* purporting to be a proclamation of the President of the United States appointing a fast-day, and calling for a new levy of a few hundred thousand men to redeem the failure of General Grant's campaign. It had currency here for several hours in the morning, just as *canards* equally absurd do, any day in the week, to put up the gold market. You are not so impressible abroad as the gold speculators are here. The moment the paper was examined with care, its spuriousness was apparent. However much of truth might be suspected to lie in the estimate placed on the aspect of military affairs, it was clearly impossible that the President had publicly made such despairing confessions. The style of composition was not that of President or Secretary, being a little better than that of either. Its form was that rather of a political address than of an executive document, beginning with 'Fellow-citizens, &c.' In a few hours it was disproved here by the testimony of the regular telegraphic operators that it had not come over the lines, by the United States Provost-Marshal, and by a very emphatic despatch from Mr. Seward pronouncing it a forgery.

* The usual supplies of the *World* did not come out by the *Scotia*, the proprietors taking back their bags. The only copies that reached Europe came through private hands.

It was a paltry trick, for which the perpetrators deserved severe punishment for trifling with the public impatience, in serious matters, by misusing the names of persons highest in authority. It might have passed away with the other bubbles of the class to which it belongs, but for the extraordinary folly of the Administration. The Secretary of State immediately magnified it into a presumption of organised plotting against the Government, and used it to excuse an astounding *coup d'état* against the political enemies of the Administration.

It chanced—some say it was brought about by contrivance—that the spurious proclamation appeared in the columns of only two papers, the *World* and the *Journal of Commerce*, both of which, while in no sense recognised as friends or abettors of the South, but rather disliked as among the more really dangerous of its enemies, are outspoken in their condemnation of the policy, principles, and management of the Administration.

The manner in which they were tricked into the publication of the counterfeit proclamation is this:—

There is a common agency of the leading daily papers of New York for the receiving news, by which telegraphic despatches are prepared at an office of the Association, and copies furnished simultaneously to all the morning journals. A person is left in each office to receive and send to the compositors such despatches as may come in after the hour of closing and the retirement of the editors and proprietors for the night. Confiding in their agency, no extraordinary precautions have been thought necessary for the particular scrutinising of despatches coming through the regular channel. In this case, the forger was familiar with the routine of the offices and the business of telegraphing. He had been employed on the daily papers of the city, and was employed at the time on a daily paper in Brooklyn. He was thus able to imitate the exact appearance of the regular despatches in form, and on the peculiar paper used, and, having thus made a facsimile, cause them to be left in the usual way and at the customary hour at all the offices, with the singular and, some think, the suspicious omission of the *Tribune*. The imposition was, in fact, so perfectly got up in all its external appointments, that, considering no responsible person was appointed to examine the text with an eye of critical suspicion, the wonder is—and ill-natured persons have not done speculating about it—not that it was published by two, but how it came to be omitted by any. The *Daily News*, the only other morning paper in the city hostile to the Administration, was perhaps more cautious because it knew itself to be closely watched for an opportunity of pouncing down upon it, and therefore made enquiries at the telegraph office, and so escaped the snare. The *Herald* was nearly caught, and had printed off thousands of copies when the paper was suspected, the press stopped, and that edition suppressed. The *World* and the *Journal of Commerce* were not so fortunate, or not so generously warned, and the unconscious proprietors sent out their morning editions with the spurious document. The first feeling in the city was one of consternation; the next would have been that of contemptuous indifference, but for the party malignity which immediately attempted to foment enmity against the two papers which had themselves been most hoaxed, and were really injured in their reputation as reliable journals. These, immediately on discovering the trick, made haste to warn the public as widely as possible, and to make personal exertions and offer large rewards in order to detect the author. They did this before the Government had time to complain, or to put its own stamp on the fraud. The atonement was made, and the clearest proof afforded that whatever of transgression there might be was in perfect good faith, when the Administration ordered the seizure of the offices, the imprisonment of the editors and proprietors, and the suppression of the journals. The order for personal confinement was soon revoked, after remonstrance by some of the partisan friends of the Administration. but files of soldiers took possession of the two establishments, and suppressed the issue of the journals from Wednesday until Monday. In aggravation of the wantonness of these proceedings, the property was refused to be released after the perpetrator of the forgery was detected, and the manner by which he succeeded in making these papers his victims was fully ascertained, and discreet friends of the Administration, including General Dix, who had executed the military part of the affair under orders from Washington, and alarmed politicians who saw in it only a huge political blunder, had urged on the Administration the policy of retracing its steps. The only conceivable motive for persevering in the wrong-doing, against which every political press ventured to utter some degree of remonstrance, must have been the foolish thought of terrifying the opposition press during the coming canvass for the Presidency, on success in which, by the reelection of Mr. Lincoln, the President himself and his Secretary of State are staking all the issues of the day, and straining all the machinery of Government.

It was a mistaken calculation, and for once the Administration overestimated the servility of its supporters, and counted too largely on the tameness of its adversaries. These outrages were too gross and monstrous not to alarm the most subservient for their consequences. The most timid have been goaded into remonstrance, and opposition rears its front once more with a flush of courage in the defence of rights which no person is base enough to confess himself to be willing to resign.

Files of soldiers were marched through the streets of a peaceful city, in contempt of the civil power of a great State, to arrest its citizens on a mere military order, to seize their persons, and sequester their property, and suppress their business. Two public journals were forcibly stopped; an entire telegraphic establishment was taken, on a vague suspicion that it might have been used to circulate the obnoxious paper, and the operators sent to the Government forts. Although subsequently released, by the act of the same capricious power, as innocent of what was imputed to them, the Government retains the surveillance of the wires, and thus secures a system of espionage over all the telegraphic correspondence of the country. The same arbitrary course was extended to the outgoing mails. The mail steamer *Scotia* was detained several hours in the harbour, while Government detectives overhauled the mails, to take out of them copies of the newspapers which were carrying the spurious proclamation to Europe. It is a grotesque proof of the reality of some part of the panic experienced by the Government, that it should have taken such silly steps to keep from the knowledge of the British people a paper which went out accompanied by such absolute proofs of its spuriousness. In all these violent acts against the rights of property, the sacredness of mails, the freedom of the press, and the liberty of the citizen, the Constitution of the United States, and of the State of New York, were flagrantly outraged, and mere military caprice made paramount over both.

The alarm and resentment which have followed these manifestations of Federal insolence have roused the opposition into something like vigour of tone against the usurpations which have reached to this height of despotic lawlessness. Even Governor Seymour—whose shrinking from conflict with the Federal authorities on every issue of right which has been heretofore presented to him has made him a by-word, as responsible more than any other man for the unchecked career of the authorities at Washington is now said to have been roused into the resolve to vindicate the sovereignty of law within the State of New York. It begins to be said that he will take measures to have these transactions and their authors brought into review before the Courts of the State of New York, as trespasses against individuals and unconstitutional invasions of State authority, and that he will support the Courts with the whole physical power of the State. Possibly he may attempt it, but there are so many ways by which he can be baffled, that I have no idea that such a conflict will ever be brought to any practical issue. The principal use of the contest, as of almost every question that is raised anywhere on public matters, will be to affect the nomination and election of President; and it cannot be disputed that, if there is to be an election not positively controlled by the direct use of the army votes, Mr. Lincoln has put into the hands of his adversaries a powerful weapon with which to compass his own overthrow.

Another offence of his Administration, of the same kind, against favourite American theories and sympathies, is the recent denial of the right of asylum to a Spanish officer, pursued for punishment by the authorities of Cuba, and the secret violence with which he caused the victim to be seized and delivered to his pursuers. The case is that of Señor J. A. Arguelles, a Spaniard late in high office as Governor of a province in Cuba, who, having a controversy with the Captain-General, General Dulce, resigned his appointment, and came with a proper passport to the United States. The Spanish authorities afterwards sought to proceed against him as a slave-dealer. It is in substance the same charge which Señor Arguelles publicly made against General Dulce himself, and repeated in the public journals after his arrival here, before the proceedings against him were commenced here. About ten days ago, he was suddenly arrested at his hotel in this city, by deputies of the United States Marshal (Murray), and secreted from the reach of friends and counsel. During the excitement caused by his disappearance, it was discovered that he had been shipped off clandestinely to Havana, to be delivered to the Spanish authorities; and it is now officially avowed that this was done by order of the Secretary of State, with the approval of the President, in pursuance of an agreement with the Spanish Minister.

There is no extradition treaty between Spain and the United States. The transaction is defended on the naked ground that Governments, by the law of nations, have the inherent right of deciding whom they will protect, and to whom they will refuse protection; and that the surrender of Arquelles was within the discretion of this Government in the exercise of that right. To this a volume of indignant protest rises on all sides. If the law be as stated, the worst of criminals has the right to demand that he may test the facts which bring him under the operation of this severe rule in the open day. It is a Neapolitan or Austrian crime to kidnap men in the dark and hurry them secretly to strange and distant prisons. If the law be as stated, it is a law of despotic Governments only, where the sovereignty is an autocracy, and binds itself in all things by its own expressed will. It is not law for a Government where the sovereignty acts by delegated powers, and only through the means which itself provides—certainly not in a republic, where the Administration has no powers except those granted by constitutions and regulated by law. Mr. Seward and Mr. Lincoln assume too much when they claim that, in respect to the inherent powers of sovereignty, they are on an equal footing with monarchs. And if the power could be found, the American feeling and practice has been so uniformly and indignantly against even the willing surrender of fugitives under the solemn obligations of treaties, that it is a shock to all their sensibilities, for which no political frenzy can find an excuse, to note the precipitancy with which the President violates the sacred right of asylum, and, without treaty obligations or law, at his own arbitrary will, delivers up to his enemies the stranger who sought the protection of their flag. The same despotic authority which thus gives up a supposed criminal is equally competent to deliver at its caprice any offender for any possible offence for which another Government might wish to reclaim him for punishment or vengeance. It is a damaging coincidence for the Administration that this assumption of a power so utterly odious, and universally unpopular, should be contemporaneous with the exercise of the despotic power to suppress public journals, and override, by a mere military order, the constitutional safeguards for liberty and property within the States. The wildest war republican begins to shrink from the practical application of the doctrine of passive obedience to arbitrary power, which he has been teaching so long and so clamorously.

Congress, too, is adding to Mr. Seward's troubles by unanimously asking him to furnish the grounds upon which he is reported in the French official journals to have explained away the meaning of their former unanimous vote in favour of applying the Monroe doctrine to the French occupation of Mexico. There is trouble all about. It will be instructive to watch how he escapes, if he escape at all, from the meshes in which he has been so long and so industriously entangling himself.

LATE CONFEDERATE SUCCESSES.—There is not a State in the Confederacy, with the exception of Missouri, where we have no force, in which, within about two months past, the Confederate arms have not achieved some success or the Yankees met with a failure. Thus we have: In Texas, Benavide's affair at Laredo. In Louisiana, Banks's defeat at Mansfield. In Arkansas, the capture of Jacksonport, and possibly by this time the discomfiture of Steele. In Kentucky, the capture of Paducah. In Tennessee, the capture of Fort Pillow. In Mississippi, the defeat of Grierson. In Alabama, the Yankee failure at Fort Powell. In Florida, the victory of Olustee. In Georgia, the repulse of Crow's Valley. In South Carolina, the confessed failure of the siege of Charleston. In North Carolina, the capture of Plymouth. In Virginia, the defeat of Dahlgren's raid. There are others besides, but we have confined ourselves to a single affair in each State.—*Richmond Despatch*, May 3.

THE Northern papers publish a list of Federal Generals who have died during the war. This list comprises thirty-six killed in battle, and fifteen who have died of diseases contracted in the service.

NEVADA.—On May 19, the Federal House of Representatives passed the Senate Bill authorising Nevada to form a State Government.

LITERARY NOTES.

MR. NASSAU W. SENIOR is dead, at the age of seventy-three. Known to the general public chiefly through one or two works of considerable but not striking merit, his position in political society was an exceedingly eminent one, and he made a peculiar but very serviceable use of it. Holding confidential conversations with men of all parties and countries, he was wont to record in MS. journals the opinions he elicited from them, and the views they expressed upon men and circumstances. These journals were at the service of his friends, of course in honourable confidence that the information they disclosed should never be misused; and they contributed in no small degree to enlighten and direct the judgment of writers and politicians in regard to the character and prospects of persons and parties abroad, to whom few men had such ready and universal access as the diarist. His Turkish and Egyptian journals have been published. They are the least interesting of his collections, but they give a fair idea of the nature of the volumes necessarily withheld. The public has little notion how much it owes to Mr. Senior—how much his journals contributed to inform and correct the opinions of those from whom the readers of newspapers and reviews learn the sense and bearing of what is passing in foreign countries. Full and frank as his records of conversation were, Mr. Senior never abused the confidence of private intercourse; and we believe that no case ever occurred in which the disclosure of a state secret or the publication of a personal scandal was traced to him. In future years, his manuscripts will serve to cast light on the private characters of many of the greatest of public men, and on the private history of many of the most important public events, and will afford to the historian of our generation precisely those materials which historians in general most covet and most rarely find.

Among the works recently published, none is more worthy of note than the collected edition of Mr. H. Taylor's poems.* The author of the 'Statesman' is much less known to his contemporaries than a multitude of writers of greatly inferior merit; and it is to posterity that he must look for that full appreciation which is always eventually rendered to genius, intellect, and taste. The vast majority of successful writers succeed because they hit the passing fancy of their age, and for the same reason—because the fancy of the age is but passing, and each generation has its own—an after-time consigns them to oblivion. They have had their reward; they have charmed those contemporaries with whom they sympathised, and whose admiration they desired; they have received profit and honour from those whose intellectual palate they have striven to gratify; and they have no claim to anything more. The favour of posterity is reserved for those who have consulted, not the fleeting taste of the multitude, but the fixed taste of the intellectual few—who have appealed, not to the accidental humours of their contemporaries, but to the deeper feelings of human nature which do not change with changing generations. These in their own day win only the approval of scholars; but that approval introduces them to succeeding generations, and, being confirmed by the judgment of posterity, ranks them with those authors whose works are among the permanent possessions of mankind. Mr. Taylor belongs to this class of writers. He is in no sense peculiarly a writer of this self-conceited nineteenth century; his works are not distinguished either by its special affectations, or by its particular cast of thought; their excellence belongs to no single school, nor are their merits of that type which finds most favour with readers of poetry in the present day. Both his prose and his verse are admirably simple in style and severe in tone, totally free from the slovenliness which disgraces so many contemporary authors, as well as from that affectation of mystery which disfigures so much of our poetry. Perfectly clear and straightforward in expression, even his loftiest thoughts are spoken in language whose sense it requires no second perusal to discover, his diction is classically correct and pure, his verse singularly accurate, and his prose unrivalled alike in terseness and in simplicity. His life has been spent in the transaction of public business; and the atmosphere of politics pervades the whole of his writings. His greater poems—and his minor ones are of comparatively little value—turn, except in one instance, entirely on political themes; and as his one prose work is intended to describe the life and direct the apprenticeship of a professional statesman, so the heroes of his great dramas are always statesmen—historical personages, whose interests in life and whose action in history are of the political type. In the 'Statesman' we find counsels which cannot but be useful to all those who are placed in positions of extensive authority, and on whose wisdom and knowledge of the world, on whose health and temper, on whose life and conduct the welfare of others is likely to depend; in the poems we find the political character developed in action, and recognise in the principal actors the political cast of mind. The most generous and high-minded of Mr. Taylor's heroes are still men of the world, practical, stern, and somewhat hard in disposition; with the prompt peremptory manner and decided temper which mark the man accustomed to the transaction of momentous business, and wont to make up his mind and act on his own resolves therein. 'Philip van Artevelde' is, in our opinion, the only poem of this age which, in point of poetic excellence, of intellectual splendour, and of moral grandeur, can be placed on a level with the 'Idylls of the King.' And in the contrast between these two poems the tone of Mr. Taylor's mind, and the bent of his imagination, appear most vividly. Dealing with a chivalric age, Mr. Taylor's poem is anything but chivalrous. His hero avowedly wages war with the chivalry of Christendom; and his ideal of excellence is not the knight-errant of romance, but the ruler and reformer of history—not the man

> Who would against his own eye-witness fain
> Have all men true and leal, and all woman pure;

but he who sees mankind as they are, and is perhaps disposed even to judge them more harshly than they deserve; who, recognising distinctly the work to be done in life and the means of doing it, is not too squeamish to undertake his part therein, but in all emergencies 'can do what is needful.' 'The blameless king' is the ideal of youth, 'selfless man and stainless gentleman;' one who never could have soiled his hands by mingling in the strife of modern politics, or in the coarse work of daily life in any sphere and any age—such a man as is only to be imitated by those whose good fortune exempts them from that coarse work, and allows them to emulate the chivalric virtues without bringing them too closely and constantly to the test of practical needs. Philip van Artevelde's is a character which we learn to appreciate only after we have reached manhood—a character far from perfect, but in which the good predominates, and which the alloy of evil but serves to harden into practical usefulness—the character of a man who has *not* passed through the world's trials and temptations unscathed, but whose heart is nevertheless sound, and whose steps are bent in the right direction—the great man of real life, the ideal of those whose very imaginations are bound down, more or less closely, within the scope of realities. 'Philip van Artevelde' is hardly the poem to be very popular with the young; and as the young are the chief readers of poetry, it has failed as yet to achieve the reputation it deserves. But to scholars, writers, and thinkers, Mr. Taylor's poems are well known; and by these they are so frequently quoted, that many lines have reached the familiarity of household words among people who would be sorely puzzled to assign their authorship.

> The world knows nothing of its greatest men.
>
> I will not wait upon necessity,
> And leave myself no choice of vantage-ground;
> But rather meet the times where best I may,
> And mould and fashion them as best I can.
>
> An unthrift was a liar from all time:
> Never was debtor that was not deceiver.

These are among the many passages which by frequent citation the few who know their author have made familiar to the multitude who never heard of him.

M. Guizot's 'Memoirs of a Minister of State'* will not, we think, tend to raise the estimation in which the Minister of the late King of the French is held in England. Among those who did not know him, M. Guizot enjoyed the reputation of a loyal and high-minded man; those who did know him had in the lapse of time forgotten some of his worst sins, and remembered him chiefly as the earnest upholder of constitutional government in France, and the energetic supporter of the English alliance. The veteran politician is not well-advised in reminding us how insincere was his constitutionalism, and how selfish his diplomacy; in holding himself up to public admiration as he was, an obstinate intriguer, capable of deceiving his friends and violating his word whenever he saw the opportunity of achieving a personal vengeance or a diplomatic victory—a Minister more bent on the success of his own policy than on the preservation of the constitutional liberties which it cost France so much to win, and which she found it so difficult to retain. These memoirs reach from 1840 to 1842. If M. Guizot be wise, he will stop here; he will refrain from telling us how he dishonoured France in the eyes of Europe, and Louis Philippe in the eyes of France, by the infamous treachery which brought about the Spanish marriage—how he sacrificed to the greed of a crowned scoundrel the happiness and the virtue of a maiden Queen, and his own character as a gentleman and man of honour—how his obstinate adherence to a system of corruption in the Chambers and repression against the press finally forced his political adversaries into insurrection against the dynasty, and sacrificed alike the constitution and the monarchy. There is enough in this volume to damage M. Guizot's character with English readers. It is impossible to read the chapter which treats of the Eastern negotiations—the affairs of Egypt—without being struck with the contrast presented by the policies of France and England; the one bent only on stealing diplomatic advantages and gratifying the national vanity, the other keeping steadily in view the matter actually in hand, the calls of duty and the interests of Europe, and willing to yield any and every minor point in order to carry the one object truly and unselfishly pursued throughout—the consolidation of the Turkish Empire and the subjection of the Pasha of Egypt to the paramount authority of the Sublime Porte. Beside the frank straightforwardness of Lord Palmerston, there is something truly pitiable in the petty malice and personal vanity of the French Minister, anxious only to extort gratifications to the wounded susceptibility of France and acknowledgments of her consequence and dignity, and willing, for this purpose, to trouble and delay the final settlement of a question which had at one time threatened a European war. These memoirs certainly suggest two opposite reflections, which, we believe, accord pretty closely with the opinion of most English statesmen. First, what a comfort it must be in negotiation with France to have to deal with Napoleon III. and M. Drouyn de Lhuys rather than with Louis Philippe and M. Guizot! Secondly, if M. Guizot is to be taken—and he may very fairly be taken—as one of the best of the statesmen of the constitutional *régime*, how little has France lost by that exclusion from office of these statesmen which is charged as one of the worst sins of the Empire!

As a political writer, Sir G. C. Lewis is perhaps a little heavy and dry. He never cultivated the graces of composition, and always gave much more attention to the matter than to the manner of anything he had to say. But his 'Essays on the Administrations of Great Britain from 1783 to 1830'† are in his best style, and are certainly much more readable than the majority of his books. That they are tinged with party spirit it would be absurd to deny; that they should not be so coloured would have been too much to expect from the most honest man that ever professed Whig principles and married into a Whig family—

> Justis-limus unus
> Qui fuit in Teucris et servantissimus æqui.

But this party spirit is not unpleasantly or venomously manifested; it is the natural bias of a fair and generous-minded man; and it is certain that any one who wishes to form a just estimate of the merits of Pitt and Fox, the Grenvilles, their contemporaries and successors, ought to read and take into account this as well as other estimates of their quality. The preface to this collection, written by Sir F. W. Head, contains some quotations from Sir George's letters on the aspect of affairs in America, which are very characteristic of the writer's coolness, shrewdness, and insight:—

'Dana's lecture on Sumner is very interesting. It illustrates the relations of the South and North, and their feelings to one another. People here speak of the outrage on Sumner as a proof of the brutal manners of the Americans, and their low morality. To me it seems the first blow in a civil war. It betokens the advent of a state of things in which political differences cannot be settled by argument, and can only be settled by force. If half England was in favour of a measure which involved the confiscation of the property of the other half, my belief is that an English Brooks would be equally applauded.'

Again, on the election of 1856:—

'I take for granted that Buchanan will win. The Southern States are thoroughly in earnest. They are fighting for their property. The Northern States have only a principle at stake; they will be less united and less eager. At the same time, it is not at all clear that they can continue to form one State, or rather one political body; and they may reach a point when, like a married couple who cannot agree, they may part by common consent. Each may find his account in a separation.'

Again in 1861:—

'The Northern States have drifted, or rather plunged, into war without having any intelligible aim or policy. The South fight for independence; but what do the North fight for, except to gratify passion and pride? —— in his curious letter talks of averting anarchy; but if the North had remained quiet, they had nothing to fear from anarchy.'

Mr. Long's 'History of the Decline of the Roman Republic' promises to be one of the most interesting works that the classical scholarship of the present generation has produced. It is thoughtful in tone and clear in style; its narration of events is exceedingly full, careful, and intelligible; and the book is remarkable for its fairness and freedom from prejudice and partisanship. Perhaps Mr. Long is a little disposed to judge too harshly both the Roman nation in its dealings with barbarians—for his history starts from the time when Rome had only barbarian enemies—and the Roman aristocracy in their conservative opposition to popular demands. But he never uses words of condemnation half as strong as his facts would bear out; and if he be to blame, it is only for not having sought, in the analogies of history and the experience of our own political contest, mitigating and explanatory circumstances or conjectures which the records before him certainly neither suggest nor supply. The work deserves, and will receive from others, much fuller consideration than it can receive in our columns; we can only say that it will certainly take its place in the cycle of histories of Rome as one, if not of the most agreeable, of the most reliable. The difficulty of the task was enormous, the period dull, its records meagre and contradictory, the perplexities involved many and great; and the success which Mr. Long has achieved is all the more honourable at a time of which we have as yet no good English history. His History is readable and instructive, neither too profound for the general reader nor too loose and vague for the student, and will probably achieve and long enjoy an honourable and well-deserved popularity.

'Dwellers on the Threshold,' by Mr. W. D. Adams,† is a rather dull account of a certain number of magicians and alchemists, neither complete enough to be useful, nor detailed enough to be amusing. The writer never appears to have made up his mind whether to give us a dry history of the real lives of these personages, or a chronicle of the feats ascribed to them; and the result is that he has done neither the one thing nor the other. The book reads like a series of carelessly compiled magazine articles, of which the matter has been got together at the British Museum, and the composition left very much to chance.

'The Life of Major-General Wolfe'‡ is exceedingly interesting. The writer is enthusiastic in his admiration for the hero of the biography, and most painstaking in his labours to collect all information which may cast light on his character or his career. Several sketches of military life in the last century, which are introduced rather accidentally than of malice aforethought, add life and interest to a book which will, we suspect, be among the most popular works of the season, at least with that public to which military biographers chiefly appeal—the reading portion of the youth of England.

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* 'Henry Taylor's Poems.' London: Chapman & Hall. 1864.

* 'Memoirs of a Minister of State from the Year 1840.' By F. Guizot author of the 'Life of Oliver Cromwell.' London: Bentley. 1864.

† 'Essays on the Administrations of Great Britain from 1783 to 1830.' Contributed to the *Edinburgh Review*, by Sir G. C. Lewis, Bart. London: Longmans. 1864.

* 'The Decline of the Roman Republic.' By George Long. Vol. I. London: Bell & Daldy. 1864.

† 'Dwellers on the Threshold.' By W. Davenport Adams. London: John Maxwell & Co. 1864.

‡ 'Life of Major-General James Wolfe.' By Robert Wright. London: Chapman & Hall. 1864.

THE PUBLIC DEBT OF VIRGINIA.

ON November 19, 1863, the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund presented their Annual Report to the General Assembly of Virginia, in which they show that the total public debt of the State was $35,145,798; of which $1,805,000 (365,000*l.*) is payable in London. The Commissioners then detail what efforts they have made to meet their foreign engagements, and show clearly that the British Government has prevented the British bondholders from regularly receiving their interest. We subjoin this part of the report:—

Since the commencement of the present war it has become a matter of importance to know where the interest of the State debt is payable, and what steps have been taken to redeem the faith of the State by providing for the punctual payment of the interest. And it is proper that the amount due should be stated, and the reason why a portion of it has been in arrear should be assigned particularly as the Treasury has been at all times ready to meet all the liabilities of the State.

The interest on the whole of the registered debt is payable at the State Treasury in the city of Richmond—that on the Coupon Debt is payable partly in New York and partly in London. The amount so payable on January 1, 1864, is as follows:—

In Richmond . . .	$1,327,667 90
In New York . . .	602,700 00
In London	93,250 00
	$2,089,017 90

Of the amount payable in Richmond for the preceding years, it is proper to remark that the sum necessary for its payment has been promptly provided, and that it has always been ready for those who are entitled to receive it. But a large portion has not been collected, and we would suggest the propriety of providing by law some limit to the time for collecting the interest due in Richmond, after it becomes due, allowing a reasonable time for persons labouring under disabilities; otherwise, a large amount of money must be kept idle in the Treasury to satisfy creditors who are unwilling to receive it, or will not apply for it when due.

The amount payable in New York has not been paid, because it could not be paid during a state of war with the Government of the United States, without subjecting the whole to the risk of confiscation, and without giving aid and comfort to the public enemy. The Convention of the State, by its ordinance passed on June 26, 1861, prohibited the payment of this interest during the war.

Of the amount payable in London, the Commissioners have been exceedingly anxious to make punctual payment. The interest was paid regularly as long as it was practicable so to do. The semi-annual interest for July 1861 and January 1862 (being for the first year of the war) was promptly met. In the month of April 1862 the Commissioners endeavoured to make arrangements for remitting the interest due on the succeeding 1st of July. In a conference with the British consul located here, an agreement was attempted to be entered into, by which proper provision would have been made for the future payment of interest as it became due, and the consul himself would have

been made the medium by which the subjects of his own Government would have received the amount of a debt justly due them. It was proposed that the Commissioners should purchase an amount of cotton or tobacco sufficient to pay the sum due, and place it in the hands of the consul, subject to our risk, and he was asked to remit certificates showing the purchase and deposit of the cotton or tobacco in his hands, allowing him a suitable commission for his trouble; and with these certificates it was well understood that a proper arrangement could have been made to provide for the payment of the interest. This was declined, upon the ground that any arrangement upon the subject with the agents of the State was considered by the British Minister in the city of Washington as a violation of the neutrality assumed by Great Britain between the United States and the Confederate States Government—thus in effect declaring that the sovereign State of Virginia, whose independence had been recognised by the Government of Great Britain during the revolution of 1776, and which recognition had never been withdrawn by that Government, had not the power to make provision for the payment of a just debt, acknowledged to be due to the subjects of Great Britain herself, without first asking permission of the Government of the United States. The idea that a sovereign State cannot make provision for the payment of a debt to a neutral Power, through the agents of that Power, without a violation of neutrality by those agents, when that State is at war with another Power, is simply preposterous. If the debt were due to the Government of the neutral Power, it would have a right to demand its payment, and it has the same right, without violation of neutrality, to attend to the interests of its subjects. But this is the doctrine, and it has been acted upon by other consuls of the same Government in other States. And yet an outcry is made against the States by the people of Great Britain, because the State of Virginia and other States have been in arrear in the payment of interest, under circumstances like these.

But the Commissioners were not satisfied with this unsuccessful effort. A proposition was then made to the Consul of the Austrian Government to undertake the transmission of the interest by means of a similar arrangement. On April 30, 1862, the Commissioners adopted the following preamble and resolutions:—

'In consideration of the impossibility of forwarding the interest that will be due in Europe on July 1 next, by the purchase of exchange, and it being possible to meet the payment by the purchase of tobacco, and by authorising an agent to be employed therefor, to negotiate with the firm of Barings and Brother for the payment of the interest, upon the faith of the tobacco so purchased:

'Resolved, that the auditor of public accounts and the second auditor be authorised to make such contract as they may deem expedient with the Consul of the Austrian Government, to become the agent of the State for purchasing the amount of tobacco necessary for the purpose contemplated, allowing such commission and remuneration for the service rendered as they deem right.

'Resolved further, that the said auditors be authorised to make such arrangements with the authorities of the Confederate Government as will protect the tobacco so purchased from destruction by the military, and facilitate the arrangement hereby contemplated.'

In a short time, however, it was ascertained that this proposition was declined upon the same ground.

An effort was then made to purchase the necessary exchange, but it was found impossible at that time to procure it. Under these circumstances, the interest has remained unpaid. The amount now due for the half-years ending July 1, 1862, January 1, 1863, July 1, 1863, and January 1, 1864—being for each of said periods the sum of £41,444 44—making an aggregate, on January 1, 1864, of £165,777 76.

We entertain a hope, notwithstanding all these disappointments, to be able in a short time to make a satisfactory arrangement, by which the interest now in arrear may be provided for. Every effort consistent with the proper and legal management of the duty intrusted to us, will be made to preserve the faith and credit of the State.

All which is respectfully submitted.

J. M. BENNETT, Auditor of Public Accounts.
GEORGE W. MUNFORD, Secretary of the Commonwealth.
S. H. PARKER, Register.

A CATHOLIC CHURCH SACKED BY THE FEDERALS.—A correspondent of a Houston (Texas) paper gives a long account of the outrages of the Federal troops in Louisiana, and says: 'I had formerly believed that many of the stories of the burning of dwellings, robberies of churches, &c., were exaggerated; but after seeing these things with my own eyes, I am satisfied they are true. A Catholic church in the Spanish settlement, near Double Bayou Bridge, was sacked, and the church ornaments carried away; even the window curtains were taken.'

SUDDEN DEATH OF MR. HAWTHORNE, THE AUTHOR.—On May 19, Mr. Nathaniel Hawthorne was found dead in his bed at Plymouth, New Hampshire, by Ex-President Pierce, with whom he was travelling. The deceased gentleman, who was in his 60th year, was suffering from general debility; but there was nothing in the symptoms to prepare his friends for the melancholy event. 'Our Old Home' was Mr. Hawthorne's last published work.

THE ARKANSAS ASSEMBLY.—A Cincinnati paper states that the Hon. H. B. Allis, Speaker of the Arkansas House of Assembly, has been expelled, by a vote of 32 to 13, for refusing to sign the certificate of Mr. Fishbank as United States Senator.

SIEGE OF CHARLESTON: THREE HUNDRED AND FIRST DAY.—The *Charleston Mercury* of May 5 says: 'Ninety-two shells were fired at Fort Sumter during Tuesday and Tuesday night. Of these thirty-five struck.'

LOSSES OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY IN 1863.—The Register of the United States Navy, just published, contains a list of thirty-eight vessels captured and destroyed during the past year.

THE ROLL OF HONOUR.—The Governor of Virginia, in accordance with acts passed by the General Assembly in February last, is preparing a record of all the Virginian troops that have been engaged in the present war of independence.

THE New York papers report that Mr. E. A. Pollard, of the *Richmond Examiner*, and the author of 'A History of the War' published at Richmond, was on board the *Greyhound* when that steamer was captured by the Federals.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SHIPS ARRIVED.

AT LIVERPOOL.—June 2: The Speedy, from Pomeroon. The Fastango, from Bilboa. The Enterprise, from St. John's.—June 3: The Duero, from Barcelona. The Orient, from Rio Beuto. The Julien Marie, from Bilboa. The Pastora, from Porto Rico. The Beta, from Halifax.—June 4: The Braganza (steamer), from Oporto. The De Waarden, from Buenos Ayres.—June 5: The Silver Stream, from Pernambuco.—June 6: The Pepita, from Rivideo.—June 7: The Retriever, from Cuba. The Florist, from Pernambuco. The Aquila, from Montevideo. The Eliza Jackson, from Pomeroon.

AT GRAVESEND.—June 1: The Bonita, from Lisbon. The Miramare, from Bahia.—June 2: The Paquete de la Habana, from Havana. The Trevanion, from Buenos Ayres.—June 3: The Mary, The Eliza, from Pomeroon.—June 5: The Alma, from Porto Rico. The Duesto, from Trinidad.

AT DEAL.—June 3: The Nebula, from Barbadoes.—June 4: The Peninsula (steamer), from Cadiz.

AT FALMOUTH.—June 2: The Elizabeth, from Matanzas.—June 3: The Anne Kay, from Bahia. The Hydra, from Santos.—June 4: The Avon, from Santos.—June 5: The Thora, from Porto Rico. The Roska, from Rio Juniero.—June 6: The Francesca, from Rio Janeiro.

AT BRISTOL.—June 2: The Mercutio, from Trinidad. The Orchid, from Barbadoes.—June 4: The Zenobia, from Havana. The Britannia, The Queen, from Havana.

AT CARDIFF.—June 3: The C. V. Vink, from Cuba. The Athenais, from Rio Janeiro.—June 4: The Catherine, from Bermuda. The East Lomond, from Bahia. The Ocean Wave, from Rio Janeiro.—June 5: The Adelina Marianne, from Bahia. The Helena, from Malaga.

AT SWANSEA.—June 5: The Bonne Amelia, from Bilboa.

AT QUEENSTOWN.—June 4: The Queen of Peace, from Demerara.—June 6: The Caprice, from Rio Janeiro. The Annie M. Young, from Demerara.—June 7: The Star of India, from Callao. The Zitto, from Buenos Ayres. The Ulysses, from Rio Grande. The Eothen and the Clipper, from Bahia. The William, from Pernambuco. The Hermann and the Charles Bal, from Maroim. The McConnell, from Demerara. The Norton, from Cardenas. The Carlton, from Cienfuegos. The Radama, from Cuba. The Hannah Fowes, from Callao. The Falmouth, from Manilla. The Wagrien, from Malaga. The Bolette Pugaard, from Rio Janeiro. The Frederick Wilhelm, from Terceira.

AT CORK.—June 6: The Ailsa Craig (steamer), from Lisbon.

AT SLIGO.—June 4: The Arethusa, from St. John's.

AT BERWICK.—June 3: The Neckrosen, from Rio Grande.

AT GLASGOW.—June 3: The Ulidia, from Matanzas.

AT GREENOCK.—June 5: The Larrissa, The Saforia, The Leander, from Cuba. The Sunnyside, from Matanzas. The Hope, from Trinidad.

AT HULL.—June 6: The Syrian, from Jamaica. The David, from St. John's.

AT SCARBOROUGH.—June 6: The Princess Victoria, from Jamaica.

AT SUNDERLAND.—June 7: The Wanderer, The Harmonic, from Demerara.

AT WEST HARTLEPOOL.—June 7: The Ava, from Bilboa.

AT PLYMOUTH.—June 5: The iron steam brig Harriet Pinckney, bound for Liverpool, put into Millbay for coal. She left Bermuda May 18, and brings 100 tons of tobacco, 703 bales of cotton, and also 70,000*l.* in gold, chiefly on account of the Confederate Government. Among her 14 cabin passengers are Mr. and Mrs. Musson, Mr. H. Tapp, Mr. F. Skinner, Miss Desterre, the Rev. T. Frith, and Lieutenant Brawley, who belongs to the 6th South Carolina Regiment, and lost his arm May 31, 1862, at the battle of Seven Pines, Chickahominy. He left Wilmington May 10, in the steamer Thistle, which followed the Confederate ram Lawley, where she dispersed the Federal blockade ships. At the mouth of the river ten of these were outside, and one made an effort to overtake the Thistle. Ex-senator C. C. Clay, of Alabama, and Mr. Jacob Thomson, of Mississippi, left Wilmington in the Thistle, and after arrival at Bermuda started for Halifax. The Harriet Pinckney experienced head gales from NE. by E. all the passage home, and spoke, May 24, in lat. 34 29 N., lon. 45 10 W., the schooner Catherine M'Keever, of Inverness, from Kingston for London; and June 3, in lat. 49 32 N., lon. 15 5 W., the French brig Ariel, 94 days from Brazil for Havre.

AT BERMUDA.—May 16: The Ashford, The Georgina M'Caw (steamer), The Lynx (steamer), The Rouen (steamer), The Harkaway, from Liverpool. The Mary, The Congress, The Lady of the Lake, The Martha, The Echo, The Rubemon, The Pallas, from Cardiff. The John Romilly, from London. The Fox (steamer), from Cork. The Devonshire, from Porto Rico. The Henrietta, The Jabez, The Romp, from Newfoundland. The Mathilde, The City of Petersburgh (steamer), from Halifax. The C. D. Horton, from Demerara. The Sunny South, The H. G. Berry, from Cuba. The Atalanta (steamer), The Thistle (steamer), with 927 bales of cotton from Wilmington.

AT NASSAU.—The Stanley, The W. Anning, The Realm, The Maria, The Battus, The Mercurius, The Glimpse, The Sylph, The Carique, The Ernestine, The Rebecca, The Amy, The Rhoda, The Torbay Lass, The Merida, The Columbine, The Driving Mist, The Esmeralda, The Orion, The Minda (leaky), from Cardiff. The Helen, The Rover's Bride, The Thomas Edwards, The Prospero, The Lone Star, The Majestas, The Diana, The H. Adderley, The Caldera, The Kitty Jones, The Clyde, The Electra, The Monmouth, The Surprise, The Helene, from Liverpool. The Pride of the South, The Orizava, The Huntress, The Sam Slick, The Pink, The Elizabeth Tatham, The Queen of the Clippers, The Clarissa, The Queen of Clippers, from London. The Aglea, from Swansea. The Valetta, for Havana (leaky). The Gleaner, for Matamoras (leaky). The Zambesi, for Havana, was totally lost on Bemini. The Arlington, for Havana, totally lost on Bemini. The Tahiti, for Havana, totally lost on Harbour Island; but little saved. The Tweed, from Havana, was assisted off Long Bank; damage trifling. The barque Benledi, from Glasgow; totally lost off Nassau, April 23.

AT LISBON.—June 1: The Arthur, from Sunderland, empty, capsized this morning during a heavy gale. Attempts making to raise her. Crew safe.—June 2: The William and Jane, Swansea to Gibraltar, put in last evening very leaky, and must lighten.

AT MADEIRA.—The Rothay, from Liverpool. The Lelean (steamer), from Cardiff for Bermuda. The Lillian (steamer), coaled at Blandy's store and left for Nassau.

AT TENERIFFE.—May: The Hamon drifted on the Salvages in a calm, and lost master and crew; brought to Santa Cruz by a Spanish vessel.

AT ST. VINCENT—CAPE DE VERDES.—May: The Lanarkshire, Hopgood, of Bristol, from Swansea, in coming into harbour, took ground, but got off without apparent damage.

AT MONTEVIDEO.—The Princess Royal, from Troon. The Girder, from Uruguay. The Fairy (steamer), from Glasgow. The Corsair, The Lady Head, from Cardiff.

AT RIO JANEIRO.—The Venus, The Zitella, The Mary Lord, The Eclipse, The Sublime, The Juventa, The Kepler (steamer), from Liverpool. The Onward, from Glasgow. The Markwell, from Jersey. The Marigo, The Fear Not, from Montevideo.

At HAVANA.—The Alexander, The Simmonds, The Vergen de Bogona, The Limerick Lass, The Joseph Taylor, and The Jean, from Liverpool. The Ines, The Suoni, The St. Paul, The Kawe, The Cabinet, The Ange Gardien, The Lemuella, and the Alder, from Cardiff. The Artemisia, from Cork. The Zircon, The Adina, and The Muleteer, from London.

AT PERNAMBUCO.—The Zampa, The Zone, from Liverpool. The Dante, The Titania, The Othello, from St. John's. The Kate Hollins, The Gaspar, The Voyager, The Corner, The Satellite, The Imperador, from Rio Janeiro.

AT BAHIA.—The Clara, from Liverpool. The Hebe, from Jersey. The Adelaide, from Glasgow. The Wild Wave, from Rio Janeiro. The Portia, from Pernambuco.

AT YARMOUTH, N.S.—May: The Lillian Kimball, from St. John, N.B., for Great Britain, has been ashore on Cape Sable, and returned to St. John.

AT BUENOS AYRES.—The Una (steamer), The Elfin, The America, The James Carthy, The Johannes, from Liverpool.

AT MATAMORAS.—The Susanna, from Havana, run foul of The Lucy Caroline, and sunk.

AT BILBOA.—The Anne and Elizabeth, from Lerwick. The John, The Mary, from Liverpool. The Brodrenes, The Centimla, from Newcastle.

AT ST. VINCENT.—The Lanarkshire, from Swansea.

SHIPS SAILED.

LIVERPOOL.—June 1: The Electric, for Buenos Ayres. The Minnehaha, for Callao. The Eagle, for Rio Grande. The Uruguay (steamer), for Montevideo. The Christina Jaqueline, for Bermuda. The Weser, for Matamoras. The Vencedor, for Porto Rico. The Nièta (steamer), for Corunna. The Graziosa Mary, for Genoa.—June 2: The Castilian (steamer), for Lisbon. The Jamaica, for Jamaica. The Scottish Maid, for Valparaiso. The Pastora, for Porto Rico. The Nieta (steamer), for Corunna. The Marsala, for Marsala.—June 3: The Lily, for Bilboa. The Frankfort (steamer), for Oporto.—June 4: The Agnes Louisa (steamer), for Nassau. The Castries, for St. Lucia. The Esperanza, for Havana. The Paraguay, for Buenos Ayres. The Matilda, for Matanzas. The Louisa, for Malaga. The Constancia, for Bermuda.—June 5: The Crescent, for Cuba. The Brothers, for Demerara. The Jesusa, for Havana. The Nina, for Antigua. The Elena, for Bilboa.—June 6: The Darien (steamer), for St. Thomas. The Westwood, for Antigua.—June 7: The Gazellen, for Rio Janeiro. The Don Francisco, for Cuba. The Golden Light, for St. John. The Mindello, for Rio Janeiro.

GRAVESEND.—June 7: The Claudia, for Demerara.

SHIPS LOADING.

AT LIVERPOOL.—The Oleander, The Laura; Peniston & Co. The Uranes, The Alexander, for Bermuda. The Mary James, The Ariosto, for Nassau. The Grenadian (steamer), for West Indies; Leech, Harrison & Forwood.

AT LONDON.—The Crocodile, The Elinor, for Nassau; J. Worley. The Floride (steamer), for Cuba; Stringer, Pembroke & Co.

SHIP LAUNCHES.

The following vessels have been recently launched:—A 265 tons barque, from the yard of Mr, G. Gardiner, North Sand, named the Herald of Light; the Glenesptong, a 10 years' barque, of 296 tons register, from the yard of Mr. J. Blumer; The Beautiful Star, a 10 years' vessel of 455 tons, from the yard of Mr. J. Barkes; a 9 years' barque of 352 tons O.M., from the yard of Mr. Herrington, Hylton—all on the Wear. On the 23rd ult. there was launched, from the building yard of Mr. Edward James, at Aberystwith, a clipper schooner, 83 tons register, classed A 1 ten years: she is named the Mary Ellen. There was also launched from the yard of the Portland Shipbuilding Company, at Troon, a clipper ship of about 1,200 tons burthen, to class 13 years, named Free Queen: she was named by Miss Smith, one of the daughters of John Smith, Esq., of Irvine.

On Saturday afternoon Messrs. Henderson, Coulborn, & Co., launched from their yard at Renfrew a paddle-steamer named The Alexander, the principal dimensions of which are as follows, viz.:—Length, 160 feet; breadth, 23 feet; depth, 8 feet. The steamer will be fitted with a pair of the builders' diagonal oscillating engines of 60-horse power nominal. A duplicate of this vessel, to be named The Michel, will be launched by the same builders in a few days.

Last week Messrs. Scott & Co., Cartsdyke, launched a handsome screw steamer of about 600 tons, which was named The Leone, consort to The Milano built by Messrs. Scott, is of the following dimensions:—Length, 210 feet; breadth, 26½ feet; depth 16½ feet. She will be propelled by engines of 150-horse power nominal, to be supplied by the Greenock Foundry Company.

Last week an iron paddle steamer was launched from the shipbulding yard of Messrs. Randolph, Elder, & Co., at Fairfield. She is intended to be lugger or polacca rigged, and supplied with oscillating engines and feathering paddle-wheels. She is to be furnished with three boilers and three furnaces.

On Tuesday, Messrs. Wm. Denny & Brothers, Dumbarton, launched from their upper building yard a paddle-steamer of 868 tons b.m., and which is to be supplied with engines of 200-horse power (nominal), by Messrs. R. Napier & Sons, Lancefield Foundry, Glasgow. She was named The Ella, by Miss Robson, daughter of John Robson, Esq., banker, Dumbarton.

GREENOCK, JUNE 5.—On Thursday afternoon, a magnificent iron paddle-steamer was launched from the shipbuilding-yard of Messrs. Randolph, Elder, & Co., at Fairfield; she is intended for the blockade, and is similar in all respects to The Falcon, launched during the last month.

THE STEAMER GEORGIA.—We understand that this vessel, so well known as belonging to the Confederate States, and which for a considerable period has been employed in the destruction of Federal shipping, in which capacity she has been very successful, has passed into the hands of one of the most extensive merchants and shipowners of

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FEDERAL MILITARY REPORTS.—The *New York World* of May 27 says, 'The news we get from the armies is so coloured and distorted as to have become almost worthless. The country is constantly being deceived by accounts of victories which never occurred, and of captures which were never made.'

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

THE state of the discount market is for the moment rather exceptional. There is a good supply of money, and the principal bankers and brokers are working a half per cent. below the official *minimum*, but from the general position of affairs it is hardly supposed the rate will be reduced. The average quotation may be considered 6½ per cent. for first-class bankers' bills, and the *minimum* in Threadneedle Street is 7 per cent. In consequence, however, of some arrangements between leading capitalists and Madrid bankers, money has to be sent out there, and fresh advances are granted to that Government, though they neglect the adjustment of the Passive and the claims of the Certificate holders. For the moment the rates are consequently supported. If the Bank directors should reduce the rate it will be because they desire to transact business to provide for the dividend; for the last few days they have been scarcely transacting anything in the discount department. The favourable state of the weather and the supply of money should give confidence to the operators in stocks and shares; a great want of business will now be experienced through the retirement of many persons for holiday recreation.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The aspect of affairs with regard to the movements in bullion and specie has materially altered since last week; the amount of gold sent into the Bank has been only 12,000*l*., against which there have been withdrawals for transmission abroad to the extent of 83,000*l*. The arrivals of specie, however, have been to a fair extent, comprising altogether 305,484*l*., of which 70,000*l*. is from Bermuda and the Confederate States, 194,659*l*. from New York, 5,493*l*. from the Brazils, 11,532*l*. from Melbourne, 20,800*l*. from Port Phillip. The *Delta* steamer, which left this week for the East, took out 85,319*l*., of which 82,470*l*. was in silver, and 2,849*l*. gold. The proportions were, for India, 10,849*l*.; China, Straits, and Japan, 72,470*l*.; and Alexandria, 2,000*l*. There has been rather more demand for silver within the last two or three days, and prices have improved. About 30,000*l*. of Mexican dollars (chiefly out of the last West Indian packet) have been sold for China at 62¼*d*. per oz., being an advance of ½*d*. on previous sales; and to-day about 200,000 oz. of bar silver have been disposed of at 61¼*d*. and 61⅜*d*., being a slight rise. The telegrams from Melbourne, dated April 25, state that the shipments of gold since the departure of the last mail amount to 22,000 oz., valued at 88,000*l*.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The market for the English funded securities has been far from active during the week, the dealers being restrained in their operations through the uncertain state of the money market and the unsatisfactory position of continental affairs, particularly as regards the Germano-Danish question and the ultimate result of the Conference. Prices generally have shown weakness, but there has been a slight rally, and Consols close this evening at 90⅛ to 90¼ ex. div. for money, and 90¼ to 90⅜ ex. div. for the account, which is as nearly as possible the same as on this day week. Exchequer bills are rather firmer, the March issue being at 11*s*. to 6*s*. dis., and those of June at 5*s*. dis. to par. In foreign stocks a fair business has been transacted, but the most excitement has been in Spanish, which have declined considerably in consequence of the unfavourable nature of the news with regard to the intentions of the Minister of Finance of Spain as to her foreign creditors. The Passives have in consequence declined about 2 per cent., and the Certificates 1½ per cent. There has also been a drop of 1 per cent. in Greek. Mexican, however, have slightly improved, and Turkish are likewise better. The closing quotations this evening were:—Greek, at 24¼ to 24¾; Mexican, 44¾ to 45; Spanish Passives, 32¼ to 32½; Spanish Certificates, 9⅞ to 10⅛; Turkish six per cents. of 1854, 90 to 91, and those of 1862, 71¼ to 71¾.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market has been steady this week, with a moderate amount of business, improving fractionally upon purchases, of which several have been again made for conversion into cotton. We close 65 to 66, without much doing.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The progress of the war in Virginia, regarded as it is generally so favourable to the Confederate cause, is exercising a most depressing influence upon all descriptions of American Securities. The dealers have almost entirely ceased to operate, preferring to wait from day to day for some decisive news from the other side. Not a single transaction was recorded yesterday, and it has been the same to-day. The only dealings that have taken place during the week have been in Virginia Six per Cents, at 33; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York Section, at 75; do. Pennsylvania do., at 73 and 72½; Erie, $100 shares, all paid, at 56, 55½, and 56; Illinois Central, $100 shares, $90 paid, at 28¼, 30, and 28½ dis.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

Business in the Railway Share Market has not been particularly brisk this week, the same causes tending to restrict transactions as have prevailed in the other departments; but, notwithstanding the general depression, prices on the whole present a favourable appearance. To-day there has been rather more animation, with a firmer tendency in quotations. As compared with last week, there has been a rise in Vale of Neath shares of 4 per cent.; of 2 per cent. in Edinburgh and Glasgow and Great Northern; of 1½ per cent. in North British; of 1 per cent. in Great Southern and Western, London, Chatham, and Dover, and North-Eastern (York); and of ½ per cent. in Lancashire and Yorkshire, London and North-Western, Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, North-Eastern (Berwick), and Staines and Wokingham. On the other hand, there has been a decline of 4 per cent. in Taff Vale; of 1 per cent. in West Midland (Hereford); of ½ per cent. in Great Eastern; and of ¼ per cent. in South-Eastern. In foreign and colonial railway shares a moderate business has been transacted, but without any material alteration in values.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

At the twenty-eighth annual general meeting of the Bank of British North America, the report, which was unanimously adopted, stated that the net profits for the year 1863, after deducting charges and income-tax, amounted to 61,413*l*. Out of this amount the directors have declared a half-yearly dividend payable on July 5 next, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax. The sum of 1,413*l*. will then be left to be added to the rest, which, including that addition, and after providing for the dividend paid in January last, and for a deduction of 10,000*l*. to cover the depressed value of securities, amounted on December 31 last to 120,024*l*. The Chairman (Mr. A. N. Jaffray) explained that the 10,000*l*. had been taken from the rest to meet losses occasioned by the depreciation of American Securities owing to the war. The directors had not contemplated so large a depreciation at the commencement of the war, or they would have previously provided for it.—At the meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, the report read stated that reference was made in the two previous reports to a tender submitted by the Company, at the request of the Government, for the establishment of a second line of steamers to Australia, and expectations were held out that an arrangement for the double service, *via* Galle, would shortly be concluded. The directors were, however, informed, by a letter from the Postmaster-General, dated the 15th January last, eight months after their offer had been made, that the 'Lords of the Treasury were not prepared, at least for the present, to entertain the proposal.' It has appeared subsequently that the Company's tender was not officially communicated to the Governments of the colonies, and the matter consequently remains in abeyance. Notwithstanding a considerable falling off in the silk shipments from China during the spring months, the result of the Company's operations for the half-year allows of a payment of 1½ per cent., in addition to the usual half-yearly dividend of 3½ per cent. The accounts for the half-year ending March 31 last will accordingly be calculated at 5 per cent. on the paid-up capital, and will be paid free of income-tax. The report was adopted *nem. con.* Special meetings of the Mercantile Credit Association and the Imperial Financial Company have been held, to confirm the resolutions for amalgamating the two undertakings, and authorising the issue of fresh shares at par instead of 1*l*. prem.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

In the produce markets a steady business is doing, and but few alterations have occurred in prices since our last. Arrivals have been of fair extent, and have furnished good supplies of the principal articles, for which there has been sufficient demand to clear the greater portion off at full rates. The deliveries from warehouse go on very satisfactorily, and evidence a healthy state of trade in these departments generally. With the continuation of fine weather, the wheat crops progress very favourably, and purchases are made with the caution and reserve usually witnessed under the circumstances. American provisions meet a fair enquiry in connection with other kinds of foreign. Good American cheese, at 50*s*. to 58*s*., sells steadily. Bacon sides, at 38*s*. to 42*s*., are dull of sale, attention being directed chiefly to the better qualities of Irish and Hamburg. American lard is neglected. In cotton a moderate business is passing, and rates are steady, a demand for export lending support to the market. Manilla hemp is firm, and good roping can hardly be quoted under 35*l*. 10*s*. to 36*l*. per ton. Jute has again sold rather largely at an average of 16*l*. 10*s*. to 29*l*. 10*s*. for common to fine. The sales of coloured wool closed this evening, 102,235 lbs. having sold during the progress of the series at fully the rates of the last quarter, to 1*d*., and in some instances 1½*d*., per lb. advance. The assortment on this occasion has been unusually good. Continental buyers have taken a fair proportion, but on American account the purchases have been small. Silk is dearer in consequence of the unfavourable aspect of the continental crop. Beyond some occasional sales of spelter at 23*l*. 5*s*. to 23*l*. 10*s*. on the spot, there has been very little doing in metals, quotations of which are nominally unaltered. The principal feature in the oil trade is the firmness of refined foreign rape, which is now held at 46*s*. to 46*s*. 6*d*. per cwt. Fish oils attract very little attention. The tallow market remains without any special feature. After being quiet for several days the demand for sugar is reviving, and rates are again very firm. Large supplies of Ceylon coffee have been cleared off, at about previous quotations for plantation, but slightly lower terms for native kinds. The tea market is altogether firmer, with more disposition to buy, owing to the continuously good deliveries here and the diminished shipments from China. In spices the only change is a small advance in white pepper, which has been sold at 6*d*. per lb. New Honduras black cochineal has realised high prices, but silver grain is 1*d*. per lb. lower.

LIVERPOOL, Wednesday, June 8.—Our cotton market during the week has not been particularly active; the demand throughout has been of a moderate character, but the holders of American cotton have been very firm as regards prices, but the quotations of last week are unaltered. Fine Sea Islands have advanced, but in nearly all other descriptions there has been a decline. The sales this week have amounted to 39,000 bales, of which 14,000 have been taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year to the present date have been 1,127,070 bales; and, to the same period in 1863, 919,440 bales. There have been imported so far this year 961,209 bales, against 648,083 bales last year. The exports this year have been 208,138 bales; in 1863 they were 185,885 bales. There have been taken for consumption during the present year 708,600 bales, and to the same period last year 483,100 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 193,310 bales, and in 1863, 230,050 bales. The computed stocks at the present time are 325,680 bales, and at the corresponding period last year they were 371,530 bales. The closing quotations were, for American descriptions, 26*d*. to 29½*d*.; Pernambuco, 28¾*d*.; Maranham, 28¾*d*.; Egyptian, 26½*d*. to 32*d*.; Smyrna, 23½*d*.; Surats, 13*d*. to 25*d*.; Bengal, 17*d*. to 17¼*d*.; Scinde, 17¼*d*.; and China, 18½*d*. to 20½*d*.

The markets at Manchester have, during the week, been exceedingly quiet, and to some extent depressed, the only exception being for shipping yarns, for which there has been rather more enquiry for all the leading markets except those of India, for which there is nothing doing. For China, Russia, and the Mediterranean markets, there has been a strong enquiry, and some considerable sales have taken place at full prices. There has been a very quiet market for home-trade yarns. Nominally there is no change to notice in prices, but in some cases where spinners are not fully supplied with orders, there is a disposition to accept rather lower terms. The business actually transacted has been very small, and, as a general rule, prices are declining. In the cloth market there is no improvement whatever upon last week—in fact, there is, if anything, increased depression, which is in a great degree to be attributed to the unfavourable advices from India, the excitement caused by the nature of the American news, and the great uncertainty in which the Germano-Danish question is involved. There is no disposition on the part of buyers to transact business except at a reduction in prices, but manufacturers in general stand out for late quotations; but, to complete bargains, much lower prices would have to be accepted. In fact, for exportation little or no business has been done. In the home-trade houses, stocks are greatly reduced, but buyers will not replenish at present prices. The chief business doing, however, is in the home trade, but orders are exceedingly limited.

Among the Contents of THE INDEX *of June* 2 *are*:—

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CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.
PARIS TOPICS.
FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE UNITED STATES.
THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND THE RICHMOND GOVERNMENT.
THE EIGHT DAYS' FIGHTING IN VIRGINIA.
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THE PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE.
LETTERS FROM RICHMOND.
LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.
LETTER FROM NASSAU. BERMUDA.
SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.
AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

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ACTS OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIRST CONGRESS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, 1863–1864.

AN ACT TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS UPON THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENCE.

WHEREAS, the Confederate States are engaged in a war, upon the successful issue of which depend the integrity of their social system, the form of their civilisation, the security of life and property within their limits, as well as their existence as sovereign and independent States; And whereas, the conduct in all the contest demands that they should call into requisition whatever resources of men and money they have for the support of their cause, to faithfully administer the same: Therefore, as a part of the system of the public defence:—

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the exportation of cotton, tobacco, military and naval stores, sugar, molasses, and rice, from the Confederate States, and from all places in the occupation of their troops, is prohibited, except under such uniform regulations as shall be made by the President of the Confederate States.

SEC. 2. That if any person, or persons, shall put, place, or load on board any ship, steamboat, or vessel, or any other water craft, or into any wagon, cart, carriage, or other vehicle, for conveyance or transportation beyond the Confederate States, or into any portion of said States occupied by the enemy, any of the articles mentioned in the first section of this act, or shall collect the same for the purpose of being conveyed or transported, contrary to the prohibition aforesaid, within the Confederate States, or beyond them, the said articles, and the ship, boat, or other water craft, wagon, carriage, or other vehicle, with the slaves and animals that may be employed or collected for the purpose of aiding therein, shall be forfeited, and all persons, their aiders and abettors, on conviction of being interested or concerned in the enterprise, shall be deemed to be guilty of a high misdemeanor, and punishable by such fine or imprisonment or both, as the court may impose.

SEC. 3. That it shall not be lawful to put on board any ship, boat, vessel, or other water craft, or upon any wagon, cart, carriage, or other vehicle, for transportation or conveyance aforesaid, any of the articles afores id, unless a permit be previously obtained from some officer of the Confederate States specially authorised to grant the same, particularly describing the articles thus to be laden, and the ship, boat, vessel, water craft, wagon, carriage, cart, or other vehicle, on which the same is to be transported, and until bond shall be given that the same shall be conveyed and transported to the place of destination under such conditions and regulations, and for such objects, as shall be prescribed by the President under the first section of this act.

SEC. 4. That the collectors of all the districts of the Confederate States, and such other officers as may be designated by the President of the Confederate States, shall have power and authority to take into their custody any of the articles before mentioned found on any ship boat, or other water craft, when there is reason to believe that they are intended for exportation, or when in vessels, carts, or wagons, or any other carriage or vehicle whatsoever, or in any manner, apparently on their way towards the territories of a foreign nation, or towards the territory of the Confederate States in the occupation of the United States, or the vicinity thereof, or towards a place whence such articles are intended to be exported, and not to permit the same to be removed until bond shall be given, with satisfactory sureties, that no violation of this act, and the regulations under the same, is intended.

SEC. 5. That the powers granted by this act to the revenue and other officers of the Confederate States under this act to allow or refuse exportation of the articles before mentioned, or for the seizure or detention of any of the said articles, shall be exercised in conformity with such instructions as the President may give through the Departments of War and of the Treasury, which instructions may impose conditions as to the destination and sale of the same, and the investment of the proceeds of the same, or a portion thereof, in military or other supplies for the public service, which instructions such officers shall be bound to obey; and if any action or suit shall be brought against any such officer or officers, or their agents, he or they may plead the general issue, and upon proof of a compliance with the provisions of this act, or with the regulations and instructions of the President, he or they shall be absolved from all responsibility therefor; and any person aggrieved by any of the acts of any of the officers or agents aforesaid, may file his petition before the district court of the district in which such officer or agent resides, and after due notice to him, and to the district attorney, the said court may proceed summarily to hear and determine thereupon as law and justice may require, and the judgment of the said court and the reasons therefor shall be filed among the records of the court, and in case any release shall be granted, the judge may impose such conditions as to giving bond and security as may, in his opinion, be necessary to secure this act from violation, and, in case of refusal, may impose double or treble costs upon the petitioner if circumstances warrant: Provided, That nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the Confederate States, or any of them, from exporting any of the articles herein enumerated on their own account.

SEC. 6. That exclusive jurisdiction is conferred upon the district courts of the Confederate States of all suits or actions that may arise under this act in behalf of the Confederate States, its officers and agents, for the recovery of all fines, penalties, and forfeitures imposed in the same, by indictment, information, or action, according to the practice of the court, and the distribution of the penalties and fines shall be made under and according to the laws now in force for violation of the revenue acts, and all laws for the mitigation and remittance of penalties and forfeitures shall be applied in similar cases.

SEC. 7. That it shall be lawful for the President, or such officers as he may designate, to employ any portion of the military or naval force of the Confederacy or of the militia, to prevent the illegal departure of any ship, vessel, or other water craft, for detaining, taking possession of, and keeping in custody the same, or any wagon, cart, or other vehicle heretofore mentioned, their teams and drivers, and their products aforesaid, and to suppress and disperse any assembly of persons who may resist the execution of this act, or oppose the fulfilment, by the officers, of the duties imposed by the same.

SEC. 8. That this act shall expire on the day of the ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States.

APPROVED, February 6, 1864.

REGULATIONS TO CARRY INTO EFFECT THE ACT 'TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS UPON THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENCE,' APPROVED, FEBRUARY 6, 1864.

I. AS TO THE SEA.

1. The owners of any vessel intending to sail from a Confederate port with a cargo consisting in whole or part of cotton, tobacco, military and naval stores, sugar, molasses or rice, shall, before the landing on board of any such articles, file with the collector of the port from which the vessel is to sail, a copy of her register, with a declaration of the names of the owners and officers thereof, the place of their birth and of their residence for the preceding year, together with the port or place to which the said vessel proposes to sail. The said declaration shall also set forth the quantity and value, in Confederate currency, of the cargo proposed to be taken out, as also the consent of the said owners, that one-half of the tonnage of the said vessel may be employed by the Confederate Government for its own use, both on the outward and homeward voyage, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned. The collector shall submit a statement as to the owners and officers to the military commandant of the port, and if he shall not object to their loyalty, or to the sailing of the vessel, for reasons of military necessity, the collector shall grant a permit for the lading of the said vessel, one-half for account of the owners and one-half for account of the Confederate States.

2. Before the said lading shall be completed, the owners of the vessel shall execute to the Confederate States a bond in double the value of the vessel, with security deemed adequate by the collector, conditioned that she will pursue the voyage designated, and that she will return with reasonable dispatch to a Confederate port, after her outward cargo shall be discharged with a cargo, consisting one half of articles not prohibited by the laws of the Confederate Government, and the other half of such articles as the Government shall offer for shipment from such port, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned.

3. Each shipper of any portion of the cargo proposed to be laden on board the said vessel, shall, before the lading thereof, make application to the collector for a permit to lade the same, which application shall declare the articles to be shipped, and the quantity and value thereof in Confederate currency, the port of destination, and the name of the consignee. A permit shall then be granted by the collector if the application is deemed satisfactory. The lading shall be had under the inspection of a revenue officer, who shall be charged with the duty of seeing that the goods laden conform to the permit.

4. Before the completion of the lading on board or the granting a clearance, each shipper of any portion of the cargo shall execute and deliver to the collector a bond to the Confederate States, in double the value of his shipment in Confederate money, with security deemed adequate by the collector, with condition that at least one half the net proceeds of said shipment shall be invested in goods or articles not prohibited by law, and said goods or articles shall be shipped by the same or some other vessel to the Confederate States within sixty days from the unlading of said cargo; or that the said half of the net proceeds shall be paid in coin or sterling exchange to the proper agent of the Confederate States, to be reimbursed to the shipper by the delivery to him of cotton at the port of departure in the Confederate States, at the rate of ten pence sterling per pound for middling uplands.

5. The freight to be paid by the Confederate States on all cotton and tobacco shipped from a Confederate port shall be five pence sterling per pound, payable on delivery at the port of destination, in coin or sterling exchange. Return freight shall be at the rate of 25*l.* per ton, payable on its delivery in a Confederate port, in cotton at ten pence sterling per pound for middling uplands, and at a proportionate price for cotton of other qualities. In calculating the ton of freight by weight, 2,240 pounds shall be allowed; by measure, forty cubic feet shall be a lowed.

6. If the outward bound vessel shall consent, at the request of the Government, to take two-thirds of her cargo for account of the Confederate States, the outward freight shall be six pence sterling per pound, and whenever the Government is not prepared to fill up any portion of the tonnage reserved for its use at the time at which any vessel may be made ready to sail, her owners may fill up the same on their own account: but no vessel shall, without consent of the Government, sail on her outward voyage until one third of her cargo shall be laden for the use of the Government.

7. The rates of freight for articles other than cotton and tobacco shall be adjusted at the same relative rate and payable in the same way.

8. The Government reserves the right to limit or prohibit the shipment of rosin, turpentine, or any manufacture thereof, whenever deemed dangerous to its own shipment.

9. Upon the completion of the lading of the vessel, and before receiving her clearance, there shall be delivered to the collector, in addition to the usual manifest, another setting forth the names, ages, and description of her officers and crew, and of every passenger intending to sail in her. The said last-mentioned manifest shall be delivered to the commandant of the port, who shall thereupon cause the entire vessel to be searched, and if satisfied that the parties on board are persons who may safely be permitted to leave the Confederacy, and that the passengers have the proper passports, he shall certify the same on the manifest and return the same to the collector, whereupon, and not before, a clearance shall be granted to the vessel, and he shall be permitted to sail.

10. The owners of each vessel, and of each portion of a cargo sailing from a Confederate port, shall be allowed to take up their respective bonds, by producing to the collector the certificate of the proper agent of the Confederate Government at the port of delivery, setting forth the particulars, showing that the said party has complied with the obligations of the said bond so far as the same was practicable, and the collector, upon being duly satisfied, shall be authorised to surrender the said bonds.

11. Nothing in these regulations shall be so construed as to conflict with the proviso of the law, which declares 'that nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the Confederate States, or any of them, from exporting any of the articles herein enumerated on their own account;' nor shall a bond be required of a State in any case.

12. The penalties of all bonds executed in conformity with these regulations, shall be recoverable in full on proof of breach of the conditions of the bond, and without proof of any damage suffered by the Confederate States in consequence of such breach, and all bonds shall be executed in such form as to give effect to this regulation.

13 Vessels sent into the Confederacy for the purpose of exporting cotton received in payment of any Confederate bond or obligation shall be subject to these regulations only so far as relates to such portion of the tonnage, if any, as may remain vacant after the lading of the cotton received in payment as aforesaid.

14. The regulations for overland commerce with neutral countries will be issued separately, within a few days.

Approved.

(Signed) C. G. MEMMINGER, Secretary of Treasury.
(Signed) JAMES A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.

Approved, March 5, 1864.
(Signed) JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Treasury Department, C. S. A.
RICHMOND, March 16, 1864.

THE following additional regulations are established to carry out the act to impose regulations upon the foreign commerce of the Confederate States, and to provide for the public defence, approved February 6, 1864:

The bond required by the second article of the regulations shall be in one half the value of the vessel; and that required by the fourth article shall be in the single value of the shipment; and the security which the Collector may accept may be either personal security, or a mortgage of the vessel, or a transfer of the Bills of Lading, or of cotton, tobacco, or Confederate securities.

2. Whenever any vessel shall bring into the Confederate States an entire cargo for account of the Confederate States, the owners of the said vessel, and the shippers of her cargo, shall be relieved from the bonds previously given to invest and bring in one-half the net proceeds of her outward cargo, and the certificate of the agent of the Treasury Department at the port of lading, that such cargo was duly shipped in pursuance of the regulations, shall authorise the collector to cancel and surrender the said bonds.

Approved, March 16, 1864.
(Signed) C. G. MEMMINGER, Secretary of Treasury.
(Signed) JAMES A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.

Approved, March 17, 1864.
JEFFERSON DAVIS.

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE IMPORTATION OF LUXURIES, OR OF ARTICLES NOT NECESSARIES OR OF COMMON USE.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That from and after the first day of March next it shall not be lawful to import into the Confederate States any brandy, wines, or other spirits, or any other article specified in schedule A of an act entitled 'An act to provide revenue from commodities imported from foreign countries,' approved May 21, 1861, or any goods, wares, or merchandise, enumerated in schedule B of said act, except the following articles:—All things for medical purposes, camphor refined, pickles, molasses, pepper, pimento, cloves, nutmegs, cinnamon, and all other spices; soap, Castille, Windsor, and all other toilet soaps; sugar of all kinds; syrup of sugar; galloons, laces, knots, stars, tassels, tresses and wings of gold and silver, or imitations thereof, intended for uniforms of officers in the military and naval service.

SEC. 2. And it shall not be lawful to import the following articles enumerated in schedule C of said act: Beer, ale, and porter; muffs and tippets, and all other manufactures of fur, or of which fur shall be a component part, except caps and hats; carpets, carpetings, hearth rugs, bedsides, and other portions of carpeting, of any kind or description; carriages and parts of carriages; cider and other beverages not containing alcohol; clocks and parts of clocks; cotton laces, cotton insertings, cotton trimmings, or laces of thread and other material; coral, manufactured; dolls and toys of all kinds; fire crackers, sky rockets, Roman candles and all other similar articles used in pyrotechnics; furniture, cabinet and household; glass, coloured, stained, or painted; India matting of all sorts; jet and manufactures of jet, and imitations thereof; jewellery, or imitations thereof; manufactures and articles of marble, marble paving tiles, slabs, or blocks, and all other marble; matting, China or other floor matting and mats made of flags, jute, or grass; paper hangings, paper for walls, and paper for screens or fire boards; paving and roofing tiles and bricks, and roofing slates and fire bricks; thread laciugs and insertings; velvets of all kinds

SEC. 3. And it shall not be lawful to import the following articles, enumerated in schedule D of said act: Angola, Thibet, and other goats' hair, or mohair, unmanufactured; bananas, cocoa nuts, plantains, and oranges; cabinets of coins, medals, gems, and collections of antiquities; diamonds, mosaics, gems, pearls, rubies, and other precious stones and imitations thereof, set in gold or silver or other metals; engravings, bound or unbound; rattans and reeds; paintings and stationery; leaf and unmanufactured tobacco and cigars; or the following articles enumerated in schedule E. Diamonds, cameos, mosaics, pearls, gems, rubies, and other precious stones and imitations thereof, when not set.

SEC. 4. None of the manufactures of metal, designed as either household or personal ornaments, shall be admitted; and in order to confine importations to articles of necessity and of common use, the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe the maximum foreign prices at which and within which importations of goods manufactured wholly or partly of cotton, flax, wool, or of silk, and designed for wearing apparel, and not herein prohibited, may be made, and beyond which importations thereof shall not be made: Provided, That articles herein allowed to be imported shall not be impressed by the Government or its agents after they have reached the Confederate States: Provided further, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit any importation for the use or account of the Confederate States, or either of them: Provided further, That this act shall not apply to any articles which have been or shall be shipped, without knowledge of the passage of this act, before the first day of March next, but which shall arrive in a Confederate port after that day.

SEC. 5. That whenever any article or articles, the importation of which is prohibited by this act, shall, after the first day of March next, be imported into the Confederate States, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, or shall, after said first day of March next, be put on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, with the intention of importing the same into the Confederate States, all such articles, as well as all other articles on board the same ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, belonging to the owner of such prohibited articles, shall be forfeited, and the owner thereof shall, moreover, forfeit and pay double the value of such articles.

SEC. 6. If any article or articles the importation of which is prohibited by this act, shall, nevertheless, be on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, arriving after said first day of March next in the Confederate States, and shall be omitted in the manifest, report, or entry of the master, or the person having the charge or command of such ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, or shall be omitted in the entry of the goods owned by the owner, or consigned to the consignee of such articles, or shall be imported or landed, or attempted to be imported or landed, without a permit, the same penalties, fines, and forfeitures shall be incurred, and may be recovered, as in the case of similar omission or omissions, landing, importation, or attempt to land or import, in relation to articles liable to duties on their importation into the Confederate States.

SEC. 7. Every collector, naval officer, surveyor, or other officer of the customs, shall have the like power and authority to seize goods, wares, and merchandise imported contrary to the intent and meaning of this act, to keep the same in custody until it shall have been ascertained whether the same have been forfeited or not, and to enter any ship or vessel, dwelling-house, store, building, or other place, for the purpose of searching for and seizing any such goods, wares, and merchandise subject to duty; and if any person or persons shall conceal or buy any goods, wares, or merchandise, knowing them to be liable to forfeiture by this act, such person or persons shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a sum double the amount or value of the goods, wares, and merchandise so concealed or purchased.

SEC. 8. The following additional oath or affirmation shall be taken by masters or persons having charge or command of any ship or vessel arriving at any port of the Confederate States after said first day of March next, viz.: 'I further swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, on board [insert the denomination and name of the vessel] any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover or know of any such goods, wares, or merchandise on board of the said vessel, or which shall have been imported in the same, I will immediately, and without delay, make due report thereof to the collector of the port of this district.'

SEC. 9. After said first day of March next, importers, consignors, or agents, at the time of entering goods into the Confederate States, shall take the following additional oath, viz.: 'I also swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, amongst the said goods, wares, or merchandise, imported or consigned as aforesaid, any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover any such goods, wares, or merchandise among the said goods, wares, and merchandise so imported or consigned as aforesaid, I will immediately and without delay report the same to the collector of this district.'

SEC. 10. All penalties and forfeitures arising under this act may be sued for and recovered, and shall be distributed and accounted for, in the manner prescribed by the act entitled 'An act to regulate the collection of the duties on imports and tonnage;' and such penalties and forfeitures, mitigated or remitted, in like manner and under the like conditions, regulations, and restrictions as are prescribed, authorised, and directed by the act entitled 'An act to provide for mitigating or remitting the forfeitures, penalties, and disabilities accruing in certain cases therein mentioned.'

SEC. 11. That this act shall expire on the day of the ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States.

Approved, February 6, 1864.

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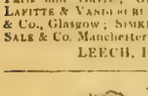

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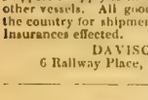

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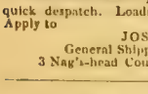

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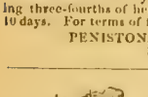

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THE INDEX

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AMERICA.

THAT which was dimly foreshadowed last week is now a matter of history. General Grant's original plan of campaign has failed. After having not less than 70,000 of his men killed and wounded, he has had to abandon the direct road to Richmond. The Confederate positions at Spottsylvania and on the South Anna were too strong for him, and therefore he made a change of base and moved to Hanover Town, a place about twelve miles from Richmond. General Lee made the necessary counter-movements, and the Federal commander found, on arriving at his new position, the Confederate army formidably entrenched and confronting him. Several days were spent in preparation, and on June 1 the Confederate right wing was unsuccessfully assaulted. It appears, from the very meagre account of this affair, that it was intended as the prelude to a general attack, but the design was foiled. Again there was a pause until the morning of the 3rd, when there was another assault. From the official reports, which admit that the Federals gained no decisive advantage, and that they lost 3,000 in killed and wounded, we learn that Grant's attempt was a failure, and that he could make no impression on the Confederate lines. Such is the substance of the intelligence that the Federal Government has published. The principal points of the recent news are these:—

1. Grant has failed in his original plan of campaign.

2. He is now in a place about twelve miles from Richmond, which he might have reached weeks ago without any loss. Two years ago M'Clellan led his army as near to Richmond with little fighting and trifling losses. Therefore Grant's change of base is a confession of failure, and that the 70,000 killed and wounded were vainly sacrificed.

3. Grant found the Confederate position on the South Anna too formidable for assault, and he now has to deal with the Confederate army in a position not less but even more strongly fortified.

4. Two assaults on the present Confederate lines have been repulsed.

These are nearly all the important and reliable facts to be gleaned from the Federal reports, and they are sufficient, we think, to explain why, in spite of the most vigorous efforts on the part of Mr. Chase, the price of gold in New York has further advanced, and on June 4 was quoted at 92 per cent. premium.

A PART of Butler's forces have been sent to reinforce Grant. This will not alter the odds, for a further portion of Beauregard's forces have joined Lee. Butler, not being able to keep his promise of getting into Richmond, and instead of being the assailant having to act on the defensive, has been trying to help the Administration by sending a sensational despatch to Mr. Stanton, in which he announced that 'Grant was driving Lee,' and that a female deserter—we presume one of the reliable contrabands—had informed him that a meeting had been held in Richmond to consider whether the city should be burnt or surrendered, and that the mayor was put in Castle Thunder for proposing surrender!

A CORRESPONDENT of the *New York Herald* with Butler's army writes that the Confederates 'are erecting some new batteries on the south side of the James River, which, it is thought, the Monitors will not be able to reach. It is believed these batteries will reach our right, and be able to operate on our works.'

THE term of service of a regiment under Butler, at Bermuda Hundred, expired on May 22. Butler urged the men to re-enlist for three months, offering them a bounty of $10 per month for that time. The men refused to accede to his terms, and insisted upon being sent home.

ON June 1, a Confederate ironclad attacked the Federal Monitors at Bermuda Hundred, and after a two hours' fight returned to Richmond. No details are given: hence we may conclude that the Federals did not get the best of the encounter.

ALTHOUGH at this distance it is difficult to anticipate the movements in Virginia, those on the spot are able to do so with great accuracy. Grant's change of base was anticipated for days before it took place. The Baltimore correspondent of the *New York World* wrote as follows on May 27: 'But it is said that General Lee does not believe that Grant will attack him on the South Anna, but will, instead, move his army to Hanover Court House, south of the Pamunkey, and so, by flanking him, approach Richmond from the North. General Lee believes that the Union commander will be forced to do this from the question of supplies alone. Even in its present position, say at Chesterfield, north of the North Anna river, the mode of supplying the army with food, &c., is attended with great difficulty and danger. The distance from that point to Belle Plain, or even to Fredericksburg, is thirty miles. If our army follows Lee to his line on the South Anna, it will be infinitely worse. The distance from our base of supplies will then be forty miles, entirely through a hostile country, affording every possible opportunity for the interception and capture of our supply trains. General Lee believes that these considerations will lead General Grant to seek at Hanover, or at some point a few miles below that, on the Pamunkey, a water base for his supplies.'

THE movements of General Sherman are causing an uneasy feeling in the North, and this feeling was intensified by a report in Richmond papers that on May 28 the contending armies fought, and that the Federals were defeated with a loss of from 5,000 to 7,000 men. According to the *Richmond Examiner*, it was Howard's division which suffered on this occasion.

Two Federal gunboats, the *Granite City* and the *Wave*, were sent to Sabine Pass, in order to capture some schooners supposed to be laden with cotton. The Confederates, under cover of darkness, brought up two pieces of artillery, and notified their presence to the enemy by opening a fire which in a short time so crippled the *Granite City* and the *Wave*, that both vessels surrendered with their crews.—Our Texas correspondent refers to this affair.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *New York Herald* gives a graphic account of the way in which the *Harriet Lane*, accompanied by three other vessels loaded with cotton, eluded the Yankee blockade off Galveston, on April 30. He writes: 'It is with regret that I have to announce the escape of the late United States revenue cutter, *Harriet Lane*, in company with three other notorious blockade-running steamers — viz. *Matagorda*, alias *Alice*, *Isabel*, and one whose name is unknown—from the harbour of Galveston. After being so closely watched for the past fifteen months, her escape, in company with the other steamers, was effected on the night of the 30th ult., during a squall, in this wise:—During the day the weather was dull and cloudy throughout, and the night set in dark and squally, with occasional quick flashes of lightning, at which time it was difficult to see anything, even at a short distance. The *Harriet Lane*, with a schooner in tow, followed by the *Matagorda* and *Isabel*, at intervals of fifteen minutes, left her moorings off Pelican Spit Fort—behind which the *Lane* and all blockade-runners to Galveston are protected, and laden with cotton—about half-past eight o'clock in the evening, and steamed slowly along the land to the southward and westward in the south-west channel, keeping close in to the island, to elude detection by our blockading vessels. To deceive our forces, the rebels, a few days previously, had planted buoys in the north-east or Bolivar channel, to give us the impression they were to run out that passage. Therefore, on the night in question, apprehending their attempt to escape, additional blockading vessels were placed in that channel, and only one in the south-west channel, which was deemed too shallow for the *Lane* to run through, as by the chart not more than eight feet of water can be obtained therein. By information received from deserters, the *Lane*, when loaded, drew ten or eleven feet.' But despite the information of 'deserters,' the *Harriet Lane* and her companions went out by the south-west channel, and, though chased by the Federal gunboat *Katahdin*, got safely off.

THE Federals have had two other naval disasters. Some of their torpedoes exploded accidentally at Bachelor's Creek, North Carolina, and killed and wounded 70 soldiers. The Federal transport *Pocahontas* was sunk on the 1st inst. by coming into collision off Cape May with another transport. Her passengers and crew were lost.

WE stated some time past that the Confederate Government had sent a commissioner to Halifax for the purpose of investigating the facts in the case of the seizure of the United States merchant steamer *Chesapeake*, and we gave at some length the principles of international law upon which the Government was prepared to assume the responsibility of the act and base a claim for the restitution of the vessel. We are now able to add that, upon the report of its commissioner, the Confederate Government, placed in full possession of the facts, has decided that these principles are not applicable to the *Chesapeake*, and, so far from forming the basis of a future demand against the British Government, the act of the captors is distinctly and formally disavowed. The judicial authorities of the colony have, we believe, been unofficially informed of this conclusion. The position assumed by the Confederate Government we understand to be this. While it maintains, and will continue to maintain, the right and the duty of every citizen of the Confederate States, and every foreigner enlisted in their service, to wage warfare openly or by stratagem upon the vessels of their enemy on the high seas, whether armed or not, it will afford no countenance or encouragement, whether direct or indirect, to any attempts on the part of neutral subjects, or within neutral jurisdictions, to organise expeditions for the purpose of carrying on hostilities against the United States.

WE publish a correspondence between Mr. Seward and Mr. Dayton, respecting the Monroe resolution in the Federal House of Representatives. Some Northern papers intimate that Mr. Seward has suppressed an important despatch. The Federal House of Representatives is not satisfied, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs declare that Congress alone has power to dictate the policy to be pursued in such cases, and have instructed the chairman, Mr. Winter Davis, to prepare a report to that effect, to be accompanied by a resolution reiterating the previously expressed determination in regard to a monarchy in Mexico.

WE elsewhere publish a communication addressed to the Confederate Senate by the Secretary of the Treasury. In order to avoid an inflation of the currency, Mr. Memminger proposes that the purchases of the Government shall be paid for by certificates of indebtedness, payable two years after peace in specie, and interest in the meantime to be paid semi-annually in specie or its market value in Confederate notes. He also proposes that the articles purchased by the Government shall be rated at the prices of 1860, when the currency was at a specie standard. He also recommends that the Treasury should be authorised to purchase and ship as much cotton as will realise sufficient coin to pay the interest on the certificates.

ON May 30, in the Federal House of Representatives, Mr. Lazear, of Pennsylvania, offered a resolution:—'That the President be required to adopt measures for the suspension of hostilities between the North and South, and an armistice, in order that in the meantime a convention may be called of all the States, with a view to the restoration of the Union, with their constitutional rights.' The resolution was objected to as being out of order. Whilst Mr. Lazear was moving a suspension of the rules, the House adjourned without coming to a vote.

A CONVENTION for the nomination of a President and Vice-President of the United States was opened at Cleveland, Ohio, on May 31. The object of this gathering was to forestall the Baltimore Convention, at which Mr. Lincoln was to be nominated. General Cochrane of New York was chosen to preside over the Convention, and in the course of his inaugural address protested against the violation of the rights and liberties of the citizens, declared that the right of asylum ignored in the case of Colonel Arguelles must be maintained, and concluded by defending the Monroe doctrine, and said: 'When we have got through with the rebellion, as we shall soon do, we will prove to the world that we have still left to us will and vigour enough to preserve the American continent

free from the polluting tread of the myrmidons of foreign Powers.' This part of General Cochrane's speech was vehemently cheered. A platform of thirteen resolutions was agreed upon. It advocates the preservation of the Federal Union and confiscation of the lands of the South, and it desires that the Constitution of the United States shall be observed, and yet that the Constitution shall be amended. It declares slavery to be destroyed; proposes to amend the Constitution, so that the President and Vice-President shall be elected by the direct vote of the people, and that a President should be ineligible for reelection. We subjoin the eighth, third, and thirteenth resolutions:—

Eighth. That the national policy known as the 'Monroe doctrine' has become a recognised principle, and that the establishment of anti-republican government on this continent by any foreign Power cannot be tolerated.

Third. That the rebellion must be suppressed by force of arms, and without compromise.

Thirteenth. That the confiscation of the lands of the rebels, and their distribution among the soldiers and actual settlers, is a measure of justice.

General Fremont was nominated for the Presidency by acclamation. For Vice-President Generals Butler and Cochrane were proposed, and the latter was nominated.

Mr. Wendell Phillips addressed a letter to the Convention, in which he protested against the re-election of Mr. Lincoln, for in that case, 'unless the South is recognised, the war will continue.' Mr. Phillips was for Fremont or Butler. He wrote: 'Fremont is my first choice, but I can support either of them.'

The Cleveland platform and nomination is supported by the Germans, who held a meeting on May 29, at which they passed the following resolution:—

Upholding the Monroe doctrine at all hazards is a vital question for the Republic. The most effective remedy to prevent monarchical invasions consists in promoting the efforts of European nations for liberty, who have the same interest in America securing the institution and the palladium of liberty as America has in liberating Europe.

MR. CHASE'S operations are peculiar. Being pressed for money, he announces a loan for $75,000,000, 6 per cent. interest payable in coin, and the principal redeemable on June 30, 1881. He has also raised the rate on temporary deposits to 6 per cent. On the other hand, to keep down the price of gold, he announces that he is ready to pay at once the interest due on July 1, and sells half a million sterling of the *surplus* Treasury gold. But though Mr. Chase has no doubt kept gold lower than it would have been if he had not operated on the market, he could not prevent a steady rise, and on June 4 it was quoted in New York at 92 per cent. premium.

GENERALS Banks, Rosecrans, and Steele are placed under the orders of General Canby as division commanders. Commenting on this, the New Orleans papers assure their readers that 'there is nothing humiliating in the present position of General Banks.'

THE Captain-General of Cuba announces the arrival of Colonel Arguelles at Havana, in the custody of Spanish officials.

WE publish this week the first letter from our Texas correspondent. It gives a lucid and interesting account of Banks's late campaign.

ENGLAND.

WE publish elsewhere a copy of instructions furnished to Colonial Governors on the subject of belligerent cruisers by the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, the new Secretary of State for the Colonies. They are worthy of a careful perusal, appear to be founded on principles of reason and justice, and indicate a policy entirely opposed to that of the rules issued by the former Secretary of State, the Duke of Newcastle.

THE Channel Fleet arrived on Tuesday last at Spithead from Plymouth Sound. It now lies anchored in two lines, the weather-line being composed of the *Edgar* 71, *Warrior* 40, and *Black Prince* 40. The lee-line is composed of the *Hector* 34, *Defence* 16, and *Prince Consort* 35. The *Trinculo* gunboat is anchored inshore of the fleet. All these vessels, except the *Edgar* and *Trinculo*, are iron-cased frigates. The fleet possesses a collective force of 237 guns, a tonnage of 26,985, and engine horse-power of 5,500 nominal. It is under the command of Rear-Admiral of the Red Sydney Colpoys Dacres, C.B. A few weeks or even days will decide the question whether the fleet will proceed to the Baltic.

THE Conference on the Danish question was to have sat yesterday, but the meeting was adjourned to this day.

A REVIEW, equally worthy to be studied by military critics and to be admired by the sight-seeing public, was held at Chatham on Saturday last. The review took the character of a great siege assault delivered both by land and water. For months past on the flank of the works on St. Mary's Creek, the first, second, and third parallels had been constructed with all the care and precision which would have been employed had the attack been of a real character. Of course the besieged on their side had driven their mines under the enemy's advanced works, had sunk torpedoes worthy of Charleston and Beauregard in St. Mary's Creek, and had constructed a boom across it. The garrison consisted of men of the marine artillery; the besiegers were marines and royal engineers. The assault commenced at three o'clock. At that hour the boom was blown up by way of signal, and at once from all the works the firing of the guns mingled with the rattling of the musketry was heard. The garrison replied with vigour, the men standing well to their guns, and the riflemen firing with great rapidity from the line of the parapet. Soon the boats from the huge men-of-war took up positions in the creek so as to enfilade the defences, and kept up a furious discharge of shells. Next the besieged sprang their two mines, and, having thereby dislodged the enemy by land, proceeded to fire their torpedoes. These instruments, six in number, had been sunk for a week in thirty feet of water, but all exploded with success, throwing great columns of water high into the air. The charges in them varied from 100 to 160 lbs. At length the artillery of the besiegers ceased firing, and on the left and centre the assaulting columns hurried across the open with their scaling ladders. The parapet was carried with a rush, and then the men found themselves in front of a brick fosse, thirty feet deep and fifty feet wide. Thereupon a party of sappers covered by an active discharge of musketry crept round the edge of the ditch with guy ropes and hauled a single-legged 'turtle' into the centre of the fosse, using which as their centre pin, they constructed with great speed a Birogah bridge. Across this the columns dashed and were followed by some guns. The besieged retired behind a strong palisade, where they maintained themselves until driven out by the guns. They then fell back closely pursued into Prince Edward's Bastion, where they surrendered. On the centre a gallant attempt was made to prevent the besiegers from landing, and when these last had got a footing in the works, the great mine was sprung, and a rush made through the breach; after which, the garrison was driven in a running fight into the Cumberland Bastion and surrendered. At the close of the fight the troops marched past.

ACCORDING to a Parliamentary return it appears that the receipts of the Patriotic Fund, collected for the widows and orphans of the men who fell in the Crimea, have reached the sum of 1,459,697*l.* Up to the end of 1862, 551,091*l.* had been expended in relief. The number of widows of non-commissioned officers and men placed on the list was 3,508, and of children 4,581; there were also 135 officers' widows and 230 officers' children in receipt of allowances. The Commissioners have authorised an addition to the allowances to widows with children, and the erection of a chapel for the Royal Victoria Patriotic Asylum. The liabilities for the continuance of relief are exceeded by the assets. Last year the Commissioners received 1,766*l.* on account, from the trustee of the will of F. Rodriguez, a Philippine Spaniard, who, dying without kindred, has left his property for the succour of families of English subjects killed in war.

LORD ADOLPHUS VANE-TEMPEST, M.P. for the Northern Division of the county of Durham, died on Sunday last. He was the second son of the late Marquis of Londonderry, by his second wife, Frances Anne, the only daughter and heiress of Sir H. Vane-Tempest. He entered the Scots Fusilier Guards in 1843, and was present at the siege of Sebastopol. He married, in 1860, Lady Susan Pelham Clinton, only daughter of the Duke of Newcastle.

LADY GRENVILLE, the only daughter of the First Lord Camelford, died on Monday last, in London. She was born in 1772, and in 1792 married Lord Grenville. She was the sister of that son of Lord Camelford who figures in the memoirs of Lady Hester Stanhope, and was shot by Captain Best. The large estates enjoyed by Her Ladyship go to the Hon. George Fortescue, uncle of the present Earl.

THE University of Oxford, although not honoured by the presence of Royalty, celebrated its commemoration last week with accustomed gaiety and splendour. Balls, boat processions, and flower shows charmed the visitors. No men of mark received honorary degrees, with the exception of M. Thierry and Sir Rowland Hill, but the doings in the famous Sheldonian Theatre were by no means devoid of life and interest. The political cries were more vehement, the personal attacks more fierce, and the spirit of applause or reprobation more strongly developed, if possible, than is usually the case. One of the Proctors was evidently the object of intense animosity, and the uproar at his appearance was terrific. Professor Jowett was lustily cheered, so also was Lord Derby. Mr. Bright's name was the signal for groans and hisses; Mr. Gladstone divided the multitude into foes and friends. Denmark was cheered, and groans were called for Prussia and Austria. 'The South' received most flattering applause, and a Confederate officer in uniform was discovered on the floor of the theatre, and enjoyed a perfect ovation.

THE annual cricket match between the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge was played at Lord's Ground on Monday and Tuesday. Oxford proved victorious by four wickets. Cambridge obtained 75 runs in the first innings, and 136 runs in the second innings. Oxford obtained 87 runs in the first innings. In the second innings of Oxford, Mr. Mitchell, formerly of Eton celebrity, scored 55 runs. The play on both sides was admirable.

THE yearling thoroughbred colts and fillies reared by Mr. Blenkiron at his stud farm, Middle Park, in Kent, were sold by auction on Saturday last. Forty-three animals were offered for competition. The most renowned of the sires were Dundee, Fandango, Windhound, Wild Dayrell, the Flying Dutchman, Idle Boy, Marsyas, and Lord of the Isles. The highest price was obtained for a colt by the Flying Dutchman out of Magic by Melbourne, who was knocked down for 810 guineas. A filly by Dundee out of the Belle by Birdcatcher, fetched 800 guineas, and a colt by Dundee out of Defenceless, the dam of the great Caractacus, fetched 700 guineas. The whole forty-three animals produced the gross sum of 11,855 guineas, or an average of about 276 guineas each.

THE summer meeting at Ascot, in the beauty of the weather, the number and fashion of the company, and the excellence of the sport, fully sustained its *prestige*. On Tuesday, June 7, the Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince Alfred, Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse, were present. The first race of importance was that for the Gold Vase given by Her Majesty, which was won by Young Rapid, a rank outsider of mere plating pretensions, who managed to defeat with ease good horses, such as Fairwater, Wingrave, The Little Stag, Johnny Armstrong, and Caller Ou, who finished in the order named. The Little Stag had been made the favourite at the odds of 7 to 4, and the utmost confidence in him was entertained by Lord St. Vincent; but the horse made all the running, and galloped himself to a standstill. Young Rapid is the property of the Hon. G. Craven. The Prince of Wales Stake (value 1,960*l.*) was won by Mr. Cartwright's Ely, a son of Kingston; Count de Lagrange being second with Fille de l'Air, and the Knight of Snowdon finishing third. Fille de l'Air had been raced on the Sunday previously at Paris for the Grand Prix. Consequently only about 48 hours had elapsed, in which period of time she was expected not only to recover her powers after a most severe struggle, but also to sustain the fatigues of a journey by sea and land of about 400 miles. Under these circumstances, it was almost a pleasure to the general public to see her owner disappointed in his expectation of victory, the only regret being that so good a mare should be subjected to such treatment. On Wednesday, the Royal Hunt Cup, with its 92 subscribers of 10*l.* each, brought 33 horses to the post; the winner turning up in Mr. Longfield's Gem of the Sea, by Gemma di Vergy—Mr. Merry's Crisis being second, and Baron Rothschild's Evelina third. Mr. Longfield hails from the sister island, and is the owner of the famous horses Union Jack, Blarney, and Caroline. Thursday was chiefly remarkable for the extraordinary achievements of Mr. Merry's stable. Out of the eight races contested, that distinguished sportsman won no less than four. The First New Biennial Stakes were won by his horse Scottish Chief, defeating Knight of Snowdon, Blue Mantle, Master Richard, and Young Rapid. Scottish Chief, it will be recollected, ran third for the Derby. He is by Lord of the Isles out of Miss Ann, and he won this same race last year. Next Mr. Merry won the Second Biennial Stakes with a two-year old colt called Zambesi, by Saunterer out of Margaret of Anjou, who deserves a passing notice. He was purchased as a yearling for 930 guineas. His colour is black; he is very compact, and has a beautiful forehand. He would, indeed, be perfect if he had a little more length. At Ascot he was quite fat, and yet defeated in gallant style a field of twelve horses of some pretensions. Mr. Merry also won the New Stakes with Liddington, a two-year old colt by Orlando out of Lady Roden by West Australian, a fine well-grown animal in perfect condition; but with a plain head and not the best of legs. This colt also won a race on the preceding Tuesday, and by these two performances he has been elevated to the position of first favourite for the Derby of 1865 at the very short price of 6 to 1. That he is a good horse cannot be doubted; but that, with such legs and with Orlando for his sire, he should be backed now at the price which, if he remains well and free from accident, will probably be his price in the month of May 1865, on Epsom Downs, seems to prove that the gentlemen of the turf are gifted with very sanguine temperaments. His stable companion, Zambesi, is a sounder and in our opinion at least as fast a horse, and yet he finds favour only at the odds of 25 to 1. To complete her work, Fortune also presented Mr. Merry with the Ascot Gold Cup, which was won with much ease by Scottish Chief, the Little Stag being second, and the Duke of Beaufort's Lord Zetland being third. The renowned Lord Clifden also started, but his condition was such as to shut out all hopes of victory for the horse whom Lord St. Vincent perhaps correctly holds to be the best animal of the day. On Friday, Blair Athol, the winner of the Derby, and the unsuccessful competitor of Vermuth in the *Grand Prix* at Paris, appeared at Ascot, and galloped away with the Eleventh Triennial Stakes, defeating Ely by a length and a half. The running of Ely at Ascot goes indeed to show that he did not do himself justice at Epsom. It will be recollected that he was nowhere in the Derby. At Ascot, however, he gave Knight of Snowdon in the Prince of Wales Stakes 12 lbs., and beat him in a canter by four lengths. Scottish Chief gave this same Knight of Snowdon 14 lbs., and beat him only by a neck. Therefore, Ely at Ascot would have beaten Scottish Chief at even weights. Similarly Blair Athol at Ascot defeated Ely by a length and a half, but at Epsom he defeated Scottish Chief by at least four lengths. In the four days at Ascot thirty-five races in all were decided, and in many of the contests large fields came to the post.

IRELAND.

THE agent of Colonel Fulke Greville, of the county of Westmeath, issued some few weeks since an order to the tenants on Colonel Greville's estates against cutting turf or peat in Caddagh Bog. Mr. Morris, the agent, immediately received a threatening letter signed 'Your Coffin,' and intimating that, if the order was not withdrawn, a dose of lead would settle the matter. Colonel Greville at once published an address, stating that he could not parley with assassins, nor suffer the life of one who had served him faithfully to be placed in jeopardy without taking the strongest measures to afford him that protection which unfortunately the laws of the land were inadequate to give. He therefore gave notice that if a hair of the head of Mr. Morris was touched he was resolved to evict every family on the townland of Caddagh, and to level their houses with the ground. This address of Colonel Greville, a firm supporter of tenant-right, has caused great excitement in a section of the Irish press.

A CORRESPONDENCE of an interesting character has passed between the chief secretary for Ireland and Admiral the Hon. H. Rous, on the subject of the deterioration in the

breed of horses in the modern Epirus. Sir Robert Peel points to the carelessness alleged to exist with regard to the preservation of brood mares, to the dearth of good stallions, to the complaint that the Queen's Plates are all won by English horses, and to the mischiefs arising from the system of handicaps; and alludes to the arguments urged in favour of the restoration of four-mile heats, with weights of 140 lbs., as an inducement to rear horses of size and substance. He records how, in the time of Sir William Temple, the Lord-Lieutenant attended at the races to decide all controversies, and how the jockeys rode from the field with the Viceroy, and dined with him on that day. Sir Robert then states that the Government has the power to dispose of 1,600*l.* in Queen's Plates in Ireland, according to regulations which it may see fit to impose; and he asks whether the Admiral would wish to limit the entries to Irish horses. The answer of Admiral Rous is in every way just and decisive. As to the alleged deterioration, he says that if the Irish gentlemen sell every first-class stallion, every superior mare, and every promising young horse, it is not surprising that they are unable to compete with the English owners. No country, says the Admiral, can compete with the limestone pasturage of Ireland for breeding horses. Thence come the best heavy-weight hunters, bought up at two or three years old by the English and foreign dealers. At the last national steeple-chase in England, five out of the first seven horses were Irish. Last year Union Jack and Blarney, the two best two-year-olds, hailed from the sister island. As to Government encouragement, the Irish paid no racehorse tax and received 1681*l.* per annum in Plates. In England the Government gave 3465*l.* for Plates, and exacted 7126*l.* by way of tax on racehorses, the national encouragement being, therefore, 3661*l.* to the bad. The Admiral would keep the Irish Plates open to the world, but observes that no man would send a horse worth 600*l.* across the water for those paltry prizes. As to the weights and heats proposed, no sane man would run a horse worth 3,000*l.* four miles for 100*l.* Indeed, it is clear that a racehorse who can run three miles is worth 3,000*l.*, and the value of a half-mile horse is 100*l.* Handicapping may be an inducement to fraud and gambling, but it is incorporated into the racing system, it keeps numerous horses in training, it gives wages and employment to thousands, and amusements to the million, while it augments the value of horses. The Admiral finally asks for a national prize of 5,000*l.* to be run for by four-year-olds and upwards, three miles. Interference and restrictions he condemns as ungenerous to the turf, to trade, and to commerce.

AUSTRALIA.

The 'Dick Turpin' of Australia has been captured. Francis Gardiner had long been the terror of a wide district in the State of New South Wales, but his name was associated with stories of romantic courtesy, scarcely excelled by the deeds of Claude Duval, the *ci-devant* valet, who in one of his wild adventures plundered the coach of a fair lady of rank, and compelled the haughty dame to dance a *coranto* with him on the heath. Gardiner even mixed in good society, had an exquisite ear for music, and would sing the most pathetic songs while plotting the pillage of the mansion. For horses he had a fondness that would not be denied, and his stud was continually replenished with the choicest animals drawn from the stables of great landed proprietors. At last a reward of 1,000*l.* was put upon his head, and his capture was effected by a surprise admirably conceived and boldly executed. The captor was formerly an officer in the Light Division, one who had fought in the storming of the Redan, and who, in the absence of the '*gaudia certaminis*, had sought excitement as the hunter of the modern 'Moss-troopers.'

The Destruction of Washington, North Carolina.—The Federal General Palmer, commanding at Newbern, North Carolina, published an order to his troops on May 3, in which he severely rebukes them for their Vandalism during the late evacuation of Washington, North Carolina. He says, 'That town was fired and nearly, if not entirely, consumed, thus wantonly rendering houseless and homeless hundreds of poor women and children. . . . . It is also well known that the army Vandals did not even respect the charitable institutions, but, breaking open the doors of the Masonic and Odd-Fellows' Lodges, pillaged them both, and hawked about the streets the regalia and jewels. And this, too, by United States troops. It is well known, too, that both public and private stores were entered and plundered, and that devastation and destruction ruled the hour.' General Palmer orders this to be read to every regiment, and implies the guilt of the Seventeenth Massachusetts Volunteers and the Fifteenth Connecticut Volunteers by ordering it to be read to their regiments for ten consecutive days.

Advice to Liverpool Shipowners.—The *New York Herald* of May 31 thus concludes an article on the petition lately presented to Parliament by some shipowners of Liverpool:—'If the persons whose names are signed to this memorial—and they are very influential—would avert the consequences of the acts which inspire them with such well-founded apprehension, they should call upon Parliament to vote compensation to our shipowners for the losses inflicted upon them, amounting now to upwards of $30,000,000. It will have to do it sooner or later, and it may as well do it spontaneously and at once. That is the only way in which the memories of past injuries can be blotted out and immunity from retaliation be secured. Of its effect upon British interests, should we be forced to resort to it, we will say nothing at present. The Liverpool shipowners have so lively an appreciation of it that it is unnecessary for us to intensify their fears.'

The Northern Policy.—The *Chicago Journal* reports a conversation between a Ju'ge of Tennessee and a Federal officer. The former asked if it would not be better to put a stop to pillage, some saying that some Union men suffered from it. The officer replied, 'No, sir; no, sir; the policy is to leave the country a desert, and then, if the rebels want it, let them have it'

Federal Marine Losses.—We learn from the *New York World* that from January 1 of the present year to May 31, two hundred and three Yankee merchant vessels were captured, lost, and missing, and that the value of the vessels and their cargoes is estimated at $9,311,850.

THE CONTINENT.

THE CONFERENCE.

A meeting of the Conference for the settlement of the Danish difficulty took place on Thursday, the 9th instant, and a further suspension of hostilities was agreed upon, to last for a fortnight from the expiration of the former truce on the 12th. Considering the various solutions which have been proposed for the difficulties before the Conference, and the perplexing manner in which the arguments in favour of each solution are interwoven, it may be as well to methodise, as far as possible, the present position of affairs in our minds. The question to which an answer is sought is simply this: What is to be the ultimate fate of the Duchies now occupied by the Austro-Prussian arms?

The idea that they should be restored to Denmark *in statu quo ante bellum*, would not be worth any consideration, or even mention, were it not that within the last few days a story has obtained at Copenhagen that the Danish Minister at St. Petersburg is on his way to his own country, bearing a Russian proposition by which this solution of the difficulty may be arrived at, the Duchies restored to Denmark in their entirety, and the integrity of the Danish monarchy preserved. Without making any observations on this story, of which we do not know enough to authorise any conjecture, we may turn to the next proposal, by which it was once hoped that concord might be reestablished; it is that known as the 'personal union,' according to which the present King of Denmark should be accepted as Duke of Slesvig-Holstein and Lauenburg, but should keep that character perfectly distinct from his possession of the crown of Denmark. This proposition was at first favoured by the neutral Powers as one which might combine a respect for the wishes of the Germans with a maintenance of the treaties of 1851-2; it also found favour in the Cabinet of Vienna, whose interest it must always be to maintain, as far as possible, a respect for European treaties, and who had no wish to throw more power than necessary into the hands of their Prussian rivals. Now, however, the Austrian Government has positively declared itself disengaged from the Treaty of London, and has required a more sweeping change. Nevertheless, the party for personal union still exists in Vienna, and may be brought again into prominence by the varying fortunes of the Conference.

If, however, all idea of the maintenance of the ancient order of things is to be thrown overboard, two alternatives present themselves: the Duchies may either be reannexed to a German neighbour, as Prussia, or formed into a new and independent State. To the former of these alternatives a host of objections arise from all quarters. It was first formally mooted by the Feudalist party in Prussia, under the guidance of Count von Arnim-Boytzenburg. It is natural, therefore, that it should be viewed with peculiar dislike by the Democratic party as the offspring of their bitterest internal enemies. Nor does it find much favour with the Feudalists in general, or the King of Prussia himself, since, if it is to be formally effected, an appeal must be made to the suffrages of the people of the Duchies—an appeal totally contrary to the principles of Feudalism or the maxims of Prussian despotism. By Austria it is disliked as tending to aggrandise Prussia; by the Roman Catholics as an addition to the power of Protestantism in North Germany; finally, by the general Democratic party throughout Germany as giving fresh power to the King of Prussia, the representative of military despotism in that country. In spite of these manifold objections, we suspect that this is the conclusion which would be found for the present difficulties were no foreign neutral influence brought to bear upon the question. The other alternative which presents itself, should this not find favour with Europe in general, is the formation of the Duchies into an independent State. It is here only that the claims of the Duke of Augustenburg can be admitted, by all who do not consider family interests paramount to the welfare of nations or the maintenance of treaties; only if it be found necessary to constitute a totally new State, need we consider whether the Duke has any priority of claim to its sovereignty. It is understood that this was the proposal last made to the Conference of London by Austria, Prussia, and the Federal Diet: whether it was made *bonâ fide*, or only on the principle of a German huckster who asks a price of which he only expects to obtain half, yet remains to be seen. The Germans are extremely anxious to set up Federal maritime fortresses in the Baltic as a support of their nascent navy; and it was once thought that it would be more easy to obtain Kiel and Rendsburg for this purpose from the small Duchy of Slesvig-Holstein than from the great Kingdom of Prussia. The Duke of Augustenburg, however, has been perversely unfavourable to any idea of giving up these fortresses should he ever become their master, and has in consequence heard from the German press some very bitter sermons on the text—'Beggars should not be choosers.'

We need not say that where two solutions of a question are given differing so widely as those before us, a compromise or middle course has been suggested, the fruit of the earnest endeavours of England for pacification. According to this it is proposed that a line should be drawn through Slesvig, separating the two nationalities as nearly as possible; that all to the north of that line should be incorporated with Denmark, and all to the south be considered part of the German Confederation. The difficulties presenting themselves on every attempt to define such a line as proposed are most varied—partly from the peculiar configuration of the country, in which Danes and Germans are inextricably confused, several wholly German districts lying north of others entirely Danish; partly from the exorbitant demands of the Germans, who, as we see, at present claim the whole of the Duchy; partly again from the vociferous complaints of certain German sympathisers in the district which it is proposed should be incorporated with Denmark. The Germans have condescended to accept the compromise, if the line be drawn through Apenrade, about twenty-five miles south of the present frontier of Jutland: the Danes, on the other hand, supported very strongly, it is said, by England, demand that the boundary should be the river Schlei and the Dannewerke, which is again about twenty-five miles south of the line proposed by the Germans. *Adhuc sub judice lis est*; but the Danes have positively declared that should their concessions not be accepted, they will return to their former political position, and stand or fall by the Treaty of London of 1851. The amount of country under dispute is barely 625 square miles, and might be purchased over and over again, as has been very pertinently remarked, by the sum required for the expenses of further warfare. Still the principle of which Denmark is the champion, and, alas! the victim, is one of the greatest importance: her conduct has throughout been a protest against the superiority of armed force over the stipulations of treaties; and she may rest satisfied that her gallant conduct will obtain for her a European position far superior to that of some countries equal to, nay even larger than herself, should the proposed dismemberment of her territory take place.

DENMARK.

The idea of a personal union of the Kingdom with the Duchies has not been favourably viewed in Denmark. The *Dagbladet* says that 'any king of Denmark who could accept a proposal for the constitution of Slesvig-Holstein into a separate State within the Danish monarchy would learn that the people decline to sacrifice their national independence at any price.' The notables of Copenhagen have presented an address to the King embodying similar sentiments.

On the 8th inst., the King opened the new railway between Copenhagen and Elsinore. The line is of some importance, as it crosses the Sound by means of a ferry on the American plan, and thus is a means of direct communication between continental Europe and the Scandinavian peninsula. A most enthusiastic account is given of the reception of the King and royal family at the various stations, and of the dinner which crowned the festival. All the loyal toasts were drunk with enthusiasm; the King returned thanks for himself, the Princess of Wales his daughter, and the rest of the royal family; he expressed with great earnestness the profound sympathy which all of them, both present and absent, felt for the sufferings of his people, and their aspirations for the future success and happiness of Denmark.

FRANCE.

The funeral of Marshal Pelissier, Duc de Malakoff, took place on the 9th inst., with the highest military honours which France could bestow. The body had been transported to Paris under the charge of the Abbé Suchet, vicar-general of Algiers; he delivered it over formally to the ecclesiastical authorities of the Hôtel des Invalides with a few words expressive of the loss which Algiers had suffered in the death of the Marshal; he added that the sword which the deceased had left to the Chapel of Notre Dame d'Afrique would be preserved as a glorious memorial of a mighty warrior. The actual ceremony was solemnised in the chapel of the Invalides; it began at midday, but before that time all the available space within the building had been filled by those who had received tickets of invitation. On the esplanade in front was drawn up a large mass of troops, about 20,000 in number, of all branches of the service, clad in the insignia of military mourning; in the interior of the building the Invalides or pensioners formed ranks between which the procession was to pass to the chapel. The walls of the sacred edifice were hung with black, and adorned with the names of the places made famous by the Marshal's exploits, the Morea, Algiers, Isly, Malakoff, Sebastopol, and others; also with the armorial bearings of the deceased, with the triple flags of France, England, and Sardinia in the crest, and a Zouave and a Highlander for supporters. The pall was carried by Marshal Vaillant, representing the army, Count Walewski, representing the privy council, and the Marquis de Hautpoul, for the Senate; the chief mourners were General Pelissier, of the Marine Artillery, brother to the Marshal; the Marquis Valeria Constant, inspector of hospitals, his brother-in-law, and two of his nephews. The Emperor, the Prince Napoleon, and the Princess Mathilde, were represented at the ceremony; there were also deputations from the clergy, the province of Algiers, and the different diplomatic bodies resident in the capital. A salute of thirteen guns announced the commencement of the service; the absolution was pronounced by the archbishop of Paris, after which the car on which the body lay was drawn to the great gates of the chapel, and the whole body of troops marched past their great commander for the last time; another salvo of artillery was then fired, the car was taken back to the centre of the chapel, and the body removed to a niche in the vault especially destined to the Governors of the House, in which it is hereafter to remain. Below it are the niches occupied by the Marshals d'Ornano and St. Arnaud, and on its left that in which rests Admiral Hamelin, the Commander of the French fleet in the Black Sea in 1855. Holy water was then sprinkled over it, the last prayers of the office were said, and the great soldier was left to his eternal repose.

The appeal of La Pommerais to the supreme tribunal was, as we stated last week, unsuccessful; equally so the petition to the Emperor for mercy, although supported by the agonised prayers of his father and his wife. The Empress herself had an interview with Madame La Pommerais, and was moved even to tears by the entreaties of the poor woman; but the crime was too flagrant to admit of condonation, even had not the peculiar circumstances of the case, in which an educated man was convicted of the most heinous crime known to the law, been sufficient to dictate a prudent severity. The crowd collected on the evening of the 8th on the Place de la Roquette, at the first sound of the preparations for the erection of the fatal instrument; the people were with difficulty restrained by a detachment of cavalry from pressing too closely upon the workmen

At 5 A.M. on the 9th inst., the condemned man was informed that his last hour was come; he passed a few moments in the company of the priest, who administered to him spiritual consolation, and then never again opened his lips; he underwent with firmness the awful 'toilette' which the guillotine requires of its victims; his hair was cut short from the back of his neck, and a cloak thrown loosely over his shoulders. He then walked to meet his doom with as firm a step as his shackles would allow, showing no sign of feebleness save a mortal paleness and a slight drooping of the head. He embraced his confessor, and ascended the steps of the scaffold, supported by the executioner; in three seconds more, the justice of man was accomplished, and the body had disappeared from the eyes of the spectators.

A remarkable application of mechanical electricity will probably soon be adopted by the French Senate, as a means of recording the votes of its members on any subject. In a trial of the instrument lately made in the Chamber, certain boxes were produced, one of which will be placed on the desk of each senator, each fitted with a black and a white knob; these are connected by telegraphic wires with an indicator lying on the table of the President, and containing the names of the voters; at the base of the indicator are two larger plates, on which the sum total of the black and of the white votes will be given. The machinery is put in motion by the President, who by touching a knob on his right hand establishes communication between the voters and the indicator; the voter then presses either the white or the black button on his private box, and the indicator immediately shows either a black or a white disc opposite to his name; the President then closes the controversy by cutting off the communication, and sets in motion the mechanism by which the black and white votes are added up separately. Where secrecy is required, the object is attained by a very ingenious machine transferring the action of the electric spark to any other disc than that opposite the voter's name. This remarkable invention, the precursor and herald of those happy times, which will doubtless one day arrive, when all our debates, including the arguments *pro* and *contra*, the explanations, and even the personal abuse, will be done by machinery, is due to M. Ch. Gallaud, a civil engineer.

The season is now at an end in Paris; the labours of the legislature have ceased, the absorbing pleasures of the turf are over, the Court has retired to Fontainebleau, even the Japanese Ambassadors are meditating a trip into the country. Paris is left a prey to the fierce sun of June and July, and to the untiring exertions of English visitors.

A STORY has gone the round of the journals stating that an untoward accident had happened to the Emperor in the course of a boating excursion; it was said that he had by some means fallen from the boat into the water, and while struggling in it had received a wound in the head through the awkwardness of an official, who attempted to hand him an oar. It is now stated that the story has no other foundation than the fact that the boat into which the Emperor was stepping had given a violent lurch, and taken in a large amount of water; but His Majesty had sprung out on land with agility, and without suffering accident or other inconvenience.

THE end of the controversy between M. Renan and the Minister of Public Instruction, may be told in a few words; it will be remembered that M. Renan had declined to recognise any authority on the part of the Minister to remove him from his professorial chair, and had consequently declined the office of sub-librarian offered to him in substitution. The Emperor has now, by a special decree, declared M. Renan to be removed from the Chair of Syriac and Hebrew Literature, and accepted his refusal of the post of sub-librarian.

AN appropriate present has been made to M. Berryer by the printers of Paris in recompense for his successful defence of them on a charge of conspiracy or illegal coalition in 1862, for which service he had absolutely declined all pecuniary fee. The present consists of a copy of Bossuet's 'Oraisons Funèbres,' magnificently bound. The printing and binding will be perfectly unique, as the only copy of the work struck off is that presented to this eminent advocate.

PRUSSIA.

THE Emperor and Empress of Russia arrived at Potsdam on the 9th inst.; they were received at the station by the King of Prussia. The party assembled to meet them at the palace consisted of the members of the royal family and the Grand-Duke and Duchess of Mecklenberg. On the 10th inst. a grand review of the Prussian troops was held, at which the King took his position as commander-in-chief of his army, and saluted the Emperor in that character; it was followed by a lunch at the famous Orangery, and in the evening a supper was given by their Imperial Majesties. In the midst of the festivities business was not altogether forgotten; Prince Gortschakoff had a long interview with Herr von Bismark in the presence of the Russian ambassador, and again another with the King himself. It is now officially stated that the Emperor of Russia cedes any rights he may have to the succession of the Duchies to the Grand Duke of Oldenburg. It is supposed that the latter may be induced to transfer his present territories to the King of Prussia as the price of his support in the claim which he of Oldenburg makes to the Duchy of Slesvig-Holstein. Prussia would thus become possessed of a valuable strip of seashore commanding the base of the Bay of Kiel.

AUSTRIA.

A CURIOUS law of force might be deduced from the movements of the crowned heads of Europe during the last few years, corresponding somewhat to Newton's famous law of attraction. As long as each sovereign keeps within his own dominions, the law appears to be in abeyance, or rather to neutralise itself by counter-attractions. But no sooner does one royal personage pay a visit to another, than the combined influence of the two acts upon the neighbouring emperors and kings, and draws them to the same point: put three crowned heads together in any part of Europe, and their neighbours hurry to meet them, as the drops of dew on a leaf run into and coalesce with one another by the physical law of attraction. We need not be surprised, therefore, to hear that the Emperor Francis Joseph is on the point of visiting Kissingen, to pay his respects to his Imperial cousin of Russia. We must consider it not as an action of political significance, but merely as the exemplification of a natural law, consequent on the meeting of the King and the Emperor at Potsdam. It is true that Herr von Rechberg accompanies him, and doubtless that distinguished diplomat will furnish some interesting topics of conversation. There is an idea about that a treaty is to be really concluded between Russia, Austria, and Prussia, for the mutual guarantee of their Polish possessions.

RUSSIA.

THE Emperor of Russia has commissioned the Grand-Duke Michael to enquire into the sufferings alleged to have occurred in the Circassian exodus. The Grand-Duke has made a personal inspection, and has reported that they have been much overrated; the people are provided with rations by the Government, and no epidemic exists among them. The sufferings have nearly all occurred during the voyage to Trebizonde and after the arrival of the emigrants, in consequence of the neglect of the Turkish officials. In another despatch he informs the Emperor that the war in the Caucasus is at an end; no tribes remain in a state of rebellion. The last statement is somewhat ambiguous, and is not exactly a denial of the statement made in Western Europe, that no tribes remain in that country at all.

A RAILWAY is about to be formed from Moscow to Sebastopol; it has been undertaken by the International Company of London, and the works will be commenced in the course of the present year.

THE *Journal de St. Pétersbourg* states that the mission of M. de Kisseleff as ambassador to Rome has come to an end, and that in consequence M. de Meyendorff, the *chargé d'affaires*, has received orders to present to Cardinal Antonelli M. de Kisseleff's letters of recall. This is apparently the consequence of the Pope's anathema against the Polish atrocities.

ITALY.

WE published last week, with some reservation, a statement that the Austrians had celebrated the battle of Magenta as a victory, and that General Benedek had held a review at Verona in honour of the anniversary. The story appeared very improbable, and turns out to have been a mere fiction of the Italian journals. The only grain of truth in it was that the Austrians had celebrated the day by a mass for the repose of the souls of their comrades who fell in that battle. The story of the review had absolutely no foundation, and General Benedek was on the day in question many miles from Verona.

GREECE.

THE Maltese telegraph had last week, by some odd mistake, of which no account is given, declared that a terrible explosion had lately taken place at Corfu. It was, *primâ facie*, not impossible that such should occur in the bustle of a new arrival. It appears, however, that the scene of the disaster was Tripoli, due south instead of due north of Malta; in other respects, the account was correct.

The King of the Greeks has been received in his new province of Ionia amidst the greatest enthusiasm. A decent farewell was taken of the English, whose value was fairly recognised when they left the place. Unfortunately, Sir Henry Storks, late Commissioner, took the opportunity of his last official act formally to declare the country in a state of bankruptcy. The fact is, that the bankruptcy had long existed, but had been put out of sight by the liberal remittances from England. Now, however, that they are to be thrown entirely on their own resources, there is no use in shutting their eyes any longer to the uncomfortable fact.

PERU.

IT appears that the Government of Peru has solicited the mediation of the United States for the arrangement of their differences with Spain. The Madrid journals, however, state that the Government of Spain has decided to come to an understanding on the disputed points only by direct communication with Peru. The Peruvian consul has addressed a letter on the subject to the *Epoca* of Madrid, in which he states that he has documentary evidence to prove that Señor Salazar y Mazarredo sent no ultimatum to the Peruvian Government before proceeding to the violent measure of seizing upon the Chincha Islands. Señor Mazarredo arrived in Europe by the steamer *Seine*; he reports that the Peruvian authorities decline to enter upon any negotiations until the Spanish forces have evacuated all the territory seized. Several attempts were made upon the life and liberty of Señor Mazarredo by the Peruvians during his homeward voyage. A conspiracy had been formed to seize him when on board the steamer *Talca*, proceeding from Peru to Panama: it was frustrated by the captain of H.M.S. *Leander*, who informed the Peruvian admiral that, should any such event occur, he should feel it his duty to seize all the Peruvian men-of-war lying in the port. Four emissaries were then engaged to murder Señor Mazarredo on his arrival at Panama; these worthies deputed their office to a body of negroes who very nearly succeeded in effecting their object; Señor Mazarredo was obliged to take refuge in the house of Mr. Nelson, while the negroes attacked and almost destroyed the French Consulate, in which they believed him to be hidden. Even after his departure from Panama, he was followed by a band of assassins as far as Aspinwall, and only owed his safety to the energy and courage of the officers of the English mail-steamer.

MEXICO.

ACCOUNTS from Mexico are of the most favourable description for the new order of things as inaugurated by French intervention. Not only are most enthusiastic preparations being made for the reception of the Emperor Maximilian in the city of Mexico, not only have fresh victories been won, and whole squadrons of Juarists brought over to submission to the Empire, but the very reverses, such as they are, which the cause of order has suffered, promise for it the greater permanency. Juarez still asserts his power in Nueva Leon, from which province he has been able to drive Vidaurri, the governor of it; Vidaurri has taken refuge among the Confederates; his more credulous secretary trusted to the tender mercies of the Federal authorities, and was consequently delivered up to a barbarous death at the hands of the Juarist officer Cortinas. A French general, on his return from the country infested by the principal Juarist bands, gives an account of their proceedings, proving them to be more incredibly barbarous, more monstrously savage and inhuman than any that were ever contemplated in the mind of the most bloodthirsty cannibal. 'Yet these,' says a French correspondent, 'these are the men who possess the sympathies of the Federal American press; these are they to whom the Federals have given up refugees claiming the right of hospitality and asylum.' So incontestable has been the evidence of the barbarities practised by these wretches, that General Bazaine, commanding the French troops, has issued a circular ordering that all persons known to belong to these bands shall be shot as soon as captured; and that all against whom there may be suspicion shall be tried by drum-head court-martial, when taken; and if convicted, executed within twenty-four hours.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

FEDERAL RECRUITING.

ON Thursday, in the House of Lords, the Marquis of Clanricarde rose, pursuant to notice, to move for papers in reference to the enlistment of British subjects by the Federals. He said that, besides our duty to our fellow-subjects, it was a moral duty to put a stop to this recruiting. If proper measures of prevention had been taken long ago, the war in America would have ended before now; and if the recruiting was stopped now, he believed it would bring the war to a comparatively early termination. The Federal Government, being unable to recruit its armies with its own subjects, had for two years been intent on filling its armies with foreigners, and more especially with British subjects. The attempts of our Government to preserve a strict neutrality had not procured us much credit. One of the belligerents had been plentifully supplied with arms and ammunitions of war from this country, yet no sooner was it proposed to supply the other belligerent with ships, a course which would practically place the resources of this country impartially within the reach of both parties, than the Government felt itself compelled to assert its *neutrality*. It was notorious that the Federal Government had approved agents in England and Ireland for the purpose of enlisting recruits. Nor was the intention disguised, for the Federal Secretary of State had proposed a Bill to Congress, which, though nominally a measure for encouraging immigration, was in fact a scheme for recruiting the army with foreigners. The Bill did not pass, because it was thought that such a manifestation might arouse the opposition of our Government. It was openly stated that a regiment of 1,500 men had been raised in Germany, and the men were to sail as soon as ships could be provided for them. Now, this was a case that the Foreign Enlistment Act was intended to prevent. The noble Lord, after pointing out how ridiculous was the pretext that these men were wanted for industrial purposes, and that it was our duty to prevent our fellow-subjects from becoming victims of the sanguinary struggle, dwelt upon the manner in which unfortunate emigrants were kidnapped on their arrival in America, and in some cases, where such men attempted to desert, they were shot at once without trial. Were we to continue on terms of amity with a nation that treated us in this manner? If remonstrances could not maintain the honour of the country and protect our fellow-subjects, we ought to go to war, or otherwise what was the use of spending 30,000,000*l.* a year for our army and navy? We had supplied the Federals not only with arms, but with men. He thought the nations of Europe were to blame for the continuance of this war. It was not, perhaps, just now, when two great armies were confronting each other, a time for interference; but there had been times when he thought interference would have been effectual. He hoped in a very few weeks there would be an opportunity for the nations of Europe to take those steps by which alone he believed the horrible and utterly fruitless carnage could be terminated.

Lord Brougham, in seconding the motion, said he deeply lamented the cruel war in America, and he highly disapproved the conduct of the Federal Government for taking British subjects into their armies, even supposing they did not trick them into enlisting. Formerly, the people of the United States complained bitterly of our employing foreign troops to subdue them. Yet now they were attempting to conquer the Confederates by foreign troops. In 1812, he (Lord Brougham) had been called the attorney-general of Mr. Madison and the tool of Mr. Jefferson. He wished his former clients would listen to him, and at last restore peace to their country. Europe reprobated the continuance of the war. He did not feel the time had arrived for intervention; but he hoped before

long in occasion would arise when, in conjunction with France, we should interfere with effect to restore peace.

Earl Russell said that Lord Lyons had continually remonstrated with Mr. Seward, and that he had been vexed and distressed by the proceedings at Boston. Respecting the sale of ships of war to a belligerent, his Lordship observed: 'If the ship went, as some of the American judges have in certain cases found was the fact, merely with a crew sufficient to take the vessel into the port of a belligerent, that might be a case somewhat analogous to the carrying of cannon and muskets. But when the vessel and crew go forth already equipped from the coast of the neutral, and commit hostilities directly they get to sea against a State in amity with Her Majesty, it is evident that that is quite a different proceeding from carrying muskets over from your own coast to a belligeren's coast.' Her Majesty's Government had not allowed ships to go from this country armed and ready to commence hostilities if they could prevent it. [We are not aware that any attempt has been made to send out ships armed and ready for hostilities from this country.] Earl Russell said he condemned the Federal Government for their want of attention to the remonstrances of Lord Lyons, because such acts of injustice were calculated, if not redressed, to lead to war. It must be remembered, however, that 'the Confederate States are in the constant habit of ordering conscriptions and forcing British subjects to serve under their standard. When our consuls have remonstrated, they have been told, in the first place, that the men might apply to the courts of justice, and then, when they have repeated their remonstrances, they have been sent away altogether. If, therefore, we have to complain of great injuries on the part of the Federal States, we have no less reason to complain of the conduct of the Confederate States; and if war is our only remedy, we must go to war with both belligerents.' [We have referred to this observation in our leading columns.] The remonstrances should be continued; and Her Majesty's subjects should be warned that when they were asked to emigrate for labour with high wages, they were being entrapped to recruit the Federal armies. He agreed with Lord Brougham that it was a horrible war, but though it was to be hoped that it would soon cease, he feared that any interference of ours would be useless. 'Still,' said his Lordship, 'it is dreadful to think that thousands of men are being slaughtered for the purpose of preventing the Southern States from acting on those very principles of independence which in 1776 were asserted by the whole of America against this country. Only a few years ago the Americans were in the habit, on the 4th of July, of celebrating the promulgation of the Declaration of Independence, and some eminent friends of mine never failed to make eloquent and stirring orations on those occasions. I wish, while they kept up a useless ceremony—for the present generation of Englishmen are not responsible for the War of Independence—that they had inculcated upon their own minds that they should not go to war with 4,000,000, 5,000,000, or 6,000,000 of their fellow-countrymen who want to put the principles of 1776 into operation as regards themselves.' He should have no objection to produce the papers; and if the Marquis of Clanricarde would furnish him with reliable evidence of illegal transactions at Cork or elsewhere, he would at once order the parties to be prosecuted.

DENMARK: THE EXTENSION OF THE ARMISTICE.

On Friday, in the House of Commons, Lord Palmerston, in answer to Mr. Disraeli, said: 'I cannot at the present moment say why the suspension of hostilities was limited to a fortnight. That particular duration was not dependent on any conditions, but was the limit of suspension to which the Danish Government agreed. The other parties wished for a longer suspension, but only a fortnight's suspension was agreed to.' [Denmark objected to an extension of the suspension of the blockade unless Jutland were evacuated, and reluctantly consented to the fortnight at the earnest solicitations of the neutral Powers.]

THE COLONY OF LAGOS.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Cardwell, in reply to Mr. A. Mills, said that the Governor of Lagos was about to proceed to Abbeokuta to endeavour to restore peace between the people of the district and the King of Dahomey, but the Governor had been instructed to confine himself to pacific measures in the prosecution of his mission.

GOVERNMENT DEFEAT IN THE LORDS.

On Monday, Lord Wharncliffe moved an address to the Queen, praying that the decision of the Privy Council for removing the West Riding Assizes from York to Leeds be reconsidered. His Lordship said 'that Wakefield was universally acknowledged as the proper assize town if there was any change, and he could not conceive what had induced the Government to fix upon Leeds.' After considerable discussion, their Lordships divided, and the motion was carried against the Government by a majority of 26.

THE FACTORIES ACTS EXTENSION BILL.

On Tuesday, in the House of Commons, this Bill was read a second time. Its object is to protect about 18,000 children employed in trades not included in the present Factory Acts. At present these children suffer greatly from working in badly ventilated places, and for an excessive number of hours.

SIR ROWLAND HILL.

In accordance with Her Majesty's message the sum of 20,000*l.* has been voted to Sir Rowland Hill as a reward for his public services.

LADY ELGIN.

An annuity of 1,000*l.* has been voted to Lady Elgin in consideration of the eminent services of her late husband. The Indian Government has also bestowed upon her a like pension.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE:
THE SEWARD-DAYTON CORRESPONDENCE.

THE following correspondence has been submitted to the Federal House of Representatives:—

Mr. Seward to Mr. Dayton. (Extract.)

Department of State, Washington, April 7.

Sir,—I send you a copy of a resolution which passed the House of Representatives on the 4th inst. by a unanimous vote, and which declares the opposition of that body to a recognition of a monarchy in Mexico. M. Geofrey has lost no time in asking an explanation of this proceeding. It is hardly necessary, after what I have heretofore written with perfect candour for the information of France, to say that this resolution truly interprets the unanimous sentiment of the people of the United States in regard to Mexico. It is, however, another and a distinct question whether the United States would think it necessary or proper to express themselves in the form adopted by the House of Representatives at this time. This is a practical and merely executive question, and the decision of it constitutionally belongs, not to the House of Representatives nor even to Congress, but to the President of the United States. You will, of course, take notice that the declaration made by the House of Representatives is in the form of a joint resolution, which, before it can acquire the character of a legislative act, must receive first the concurrence of the Senate, and secondly the approval of the President of the United States, or, in case of his dissent, the renewed assent of both Houses of Congress, to be expressed by a majority of two-thirds of each body. While the President receives the declaration of the House of Representatives with the profound respect to which it is entitled as an exposition of its views upon a grave and important subject, he directs that you inform the Government of France that he does not at present contemplate any departure from the policy which this Government has hitherto pursued in regard to the war which exists between France and Mexico. It is hardly necessary to say that the proceeding of the House of Representatives was adopted upon suggestions arising within itself, and not upon any communication of the executive department; and that the French would be seasonably apprised of any change upon this subject which the President might at any future time think it proper to adopt.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Mr. Dayton to Mr. Seward. (No. 254—Extract.)

Paris, April 22.

Sir,—I visited M. Drouyn de Lhuys yesterday at the Department of Foreign Affairs. The first words he addressed to me on entering the room were: 'Do you bring us peace or bring us war?' I asked him to what he referred, and he said he referred more immediately to those resolutions recently passed by Congress in reference to the invasion of Mexico by the French, and the establishment of Maximilian upon the throne of that country. I said to him, in reply, that I did not think France had a right to infer that we were about to make war against her on account of anything contained in those resolutions; that they embodied nothing more than had been constantly held out to the French Government from the beginning; that I had always represented to the Government here that any action upon their part interfering with the form of government in Mexico would be looked upon with dissatisfaction in our country, and they could not expect us to be in haste to acknowledge a monarchical government built upon the foundation of a republic which was our next neighbour; that I had reason to believe you had held the same language to the French Minister in the United States. This allegation he did not deny, but obviously reviewed the resolutions in question as a serious step on our part; and I am told that the leading secessionists have built largely upon these resolutions as a means of fomenting ill-feeling between this country and some others and ourselves. Mr. Mason and his Secretary have gone to Brussels to confer with Mr. Dudley Mann, who is their Commissioner at that place. Mr. Slidell, it is said, was to have gone to Austria, although he has not yet got off.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM L. DAYTON.

Hon. William H. Seward, Secretary of State, &c.

Mr. Dayton to Mr. Seward. (Extract—No. 461.)

Paris, May 2, 1864.

Sir,—Immediately upon the receipt of your despatch, No. 525, I applied to M. Drouyn de Lhuys for a special interview, which was granted for Saturday last. I then said that I knew that the French Government had felt some anxiety in respect to the resolution which had recently been passed by the House of Representatives in reference to Mexico, and inasmuch as I had just received a copy of that resolution, together with the views of the President of the United States, I begged, if agreeable, to read to him your despatch in reference to the latter. To this he assented, and as the shortest and most satisfactory mode, following out my instructions, I read to him that entire portion of your despatch which applies to this subject, stating at the same time that I thought it was a remarkable illustration of the frankness and straightforwardness of the President. When the reading was closed, M. Drouyn de Lhuys expressed his gratification; and after asking some questions in regard to the effect of laying a resolution upon the table in the Senate, the conversation terminated. The extreme sensitiveness which was manifested by this Government when the resolution of the House of Representatives was first brought to its knowledge, has, to a considerable extent at least, subsided.

I am sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM L. DAYTON.

Hon. William H. Seward, Secretary of State.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Dayton. (Extract—No. 542.)

Department of State, Washington, May 9.

Sir,—Your despatch of April 22, No. 454, has been received. What you have said to M. Drouyn de Lhuys on the subject of the resolution of the House of Representatives concerning Mexico, as you have repeated it, is entirely approved. The resolution yet remains unacted upon in the Senate. Mr. Corwin was to leave Vera Cruz on the 3rd inst., under the leave of absence granted to him by this department on the 8th of August last.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

William L. Dayton, Esq., &c. WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Dayton. (Extract—No. 561.)

Department of State, Washington, May 21.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of May 2, No. 461, and to approve of your proceedings therein mentioned.

We learn that Mr. Corwin, our minister plenipotentiary to Mexico, is at Havana, on his return to the United States, under leave of absence.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

William L. Dayton, Esq., &c. WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

CONFEDERATE FINANCES.

THE following was communicated to the Confederate Senate on May 23, and was referred to the Committee on Finance:—

Treasury Department, Confederate States of America,
Richmond: May 20, 1864.

Hon. R. M. T. Hunter, President, *pro tem.*, Senate.

Sir,—Since the date of my report of the 2nd inst., nearly three weeks have elapsed. During that period it was intended to make sale, at public auction, at the capital, of part of the six per cent. untaxable bonds, with a view to establish the rate at which sales could be made at every commercial point within the Confederacy. Military necessities have prevented this sale and still require its postponement. The aid which it was expected the Treasury would derive from that source is, therefore, delayed for at least a month, and for the expenditures of that period Treasury notes or some other substitute become necessary. The means provided by Congress for supplying the wants of the Government at this time consist of, first, the limited new issue of Treasury notes; second, of the sales of the said six per cent. bonds; and third, of certificates of indebtedness. In my report of the 2nd instant, I have shown that the whole amount derived from taxes during the present year will afford no aid in paying the current expenditure of the Government. This I regard as an imperfect feature of the Tax Bill, and have recommended that it be remedied by additional taxes. The collection of these taxes cannot take place in time to meet the emergency, and resort must be had to one of the other resources.

In the same report I have set forth the reason why an increased issue of Treasury notes would be injudicious, and if these reasons are deemed adequate to justify the conclusion, it follows that resort must be had to the third means of supply—namely, certificates of indebtedness.

The great leading wants of the Government to be supplied at home are clothing, subsistence, and transportation. If measures can be adopted which will enable these wants to be supplied wholly or in part through certificates of indebtedness, great relief will at once be obtained. The railroad companies have generally exhibited so much patriotism, that it is highly probable they will readily accept certificates in part payment of transportation.

The other great wants are supplied by the manufacturers, farmers, and planters, who manufacture the clothing and produce the subsistence stores of the country. If these parties could be induced to accept the certificates for such articles as are the subjects of purchase or impressment, the scheme would be complete. It seems to me that by resorting to a specie basis for all purchases and impressments they could be made more acceptable both to the Government and the owner.

If all articles, when impressed, were valued at the prices of 1860 (when the currency was at a specie standard), or at their present value in coin, and certificates were issued for such value, payable two years after peace in specie, the interest in the meantime to be paid semi-annually in coin or its market value in Confederate notes, a substantial security of the highest value would be obtained. The party giving up his commodities would be better satisfied with the price and mode of payment. During the continuance of the war he would receive the same rate of interest as though his property had been valued in Confederate notes, and after the war he would receive its full value in coin. The Government would be better satisfied, because while it paid no higher interest during the war than it would do under the existing law, it would, after the war, save the loss to which the present exaggerated prices have exposed it. As no material abatement in prices has occurred since the meeting of Congress, it is obvious that the supplies voted by the last Congress must be largely increased unless some such measure of relief should be adopted in the present session. I respectfully recommend, therefore, that the impressment law be amended in conformity with the above suggestions, and that it be extended to all supplies which may be necessary for the support of the army and navy.

I also recommend that a reasonable proportion of the railroad transportation, based upon the charges of 1860, shall be paid in the same way. As the cash expenses of railroads are very large, and require supplies of money for daily use, it is probable that one-third of such charges would be as much as they could afford to take.

To enable the Treasury to meet the payment of the interest on these certificates, it would be advisable to furnish it with the means of procuring coin. A double advantage would thus be gained. The Government would be enabled to pay its interest at a lower rate, and the paying out of so much coin would reduce the difference between the market rate of coin and Confederate securities. I would, therefore, respectfully recommend that an additional appropriation be made to enable the Treasury to purchase and ship as much cotton as may be made available for this purpose. Ten millions of dollars would probably be sufficient at the present session. Respectfully submitted,

C. C. MEMMINGER, *Secretary of the Treasury.*

'WEST VIRGINIA.'—A Northern paper publishes the following, dated Nashville, May 5:—'A little excitement was created in legal circles in this city yesterday, by Judge Catron, of the United States Supreme Court, who is holding Circuit Court in the United States court-room. An attorney was reading a declaration, setting forth that "One John Doe, a citizen of West Virginia." "Stop!" said Judge Catron. The attorney halted. "Read that again," continued the Judge. "John Doe, a citizen of West Virginia—" "I know of no such State as that," again interrupted the Judge; "strike out that word West, before Virginia." The pleading was amended accordingly and duly filed.'

FRANCE, MEXICO, AND THE UNITED STATES.—On June 1 the *New York Times* had a leader on the 'Stoppage of the Rebel Rams in France,' in which it observes:—'France is at war with Mexico, or with that Mexican Administration which we still recognise to be the Government of Mexico. We thereby should have it in our power to retaliate at once any damage to our commerce through Confederate vessels built and armed in France, by equipping in our ports vessels of similar character to cruise against French commerce under the Mexican flag.'

BUTLER'S MILITARY DISCIPLINE.—After his late defeat General Butler issued an order reducing Lieutenant Shaw to the ranks for having, 'while in command of the outposts, picketed further back the men under his charge some six hundred yards, thereby losing the position.' The *New York World* asks what ought to be the punishment of General Butler, who 'was driven back by the enemy under circumstances showing marked incompetence?'

UNITED STATES SHIPS SOLD AND TRANSFERRED TO BRITISH SUBJECTS

IN THE YEAR 1863.

WE subjoin a List of those United States Vessels which have been sold and transferred to British subjects in the year 1863, and which have been mortgaged by the registered owners to persons residing in the United States, with the names of the sellers, purchasers, and mortgagees.

Name of Ship	Tonnage	Name and Address of Owner	Particulars of Mortgage
Cosmopolite (and her foreign name is 'Harrasecket')	1,069	Edmund William Best, of Alma Street, New North Road, county of Middlesex, shipowner	Mortgage, dated December 9, 1863, for 7,000*l.*, and interest at 30 per cent., to Clement Henchman Soale, of Freeport, Maine, in the United States of America.
Kenotha (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	262	Donald Milloy, of Magam, province of Canada, gentleman, 32 shares; Nichol Milloy, of the City of Toronto, gentleman, 32 shares	Mortgage, dated June 24, 1863, for $7,000 and interest at 6 per cent., to Bohen S. Sheppard, of Chicago, shipowner.
Welfoot (and her foreign name is 'Sumter)	384	John Johnston Reford, of Boston, in the United States of America, clerk	Mortgage, dated October 12, 1863, for $12,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to Micah Humphrey, Lewis P. Bruce, Bell A. Humphrey, George Kingman, and Elisha H. Ryder, all of Boston, in the United States of America. merchants, joint mortgagees.
Lightfoot (and her foreign name is 'Revolution')	472	John Johnston Reford, of Boston, in the United States of America, clerk	Mortgage, dated October 12, 1863, for $20,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to Daniel Draper, William P. Draper, George Draper, F. Cochran, joint mortgagees.
Jewess (no foreign name given)	476	John A. Willard, of Newcastle, New Brunswick, merchant's clerk	Mortgage, dated October 29, 1863, for $30,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to Samuel E. Sawyer, of Boston, United States of America, merchant.
			Mortgage, dated October 29, 1863, for $10,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to Charles Watson, of Boston, United States of America.
Sydenham (and her foreign name is 'Windermere')	1,236	George F. Lovitt, of St. John's, New Brunswick, merchant	Mortgage, dated November 21, 1863, for $40,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to Hartley Lord, of Boston, in the United States of America, merchant.
Cathedral (and her foreign name is 'Gulf Stream')	1,046	George F. Lovitt, of St. John's, New Brunswick, merchant	Mortgage, dated November 21, 1863, for $38,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to Hartley Lord, of Boston, in the United States of America, merchant.
Montebello (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	1,089	Raymond Leeman Gilchrist, of Liverpool, county of Lancaster, shipowner	Mortgage, dated September 8, 1863, for an account and interest at 5 per cent., to Dunbar Henderson, of Thomaston, Maine, United States of America, merchant.
W. E. Alexander (no foreign name given)	190	Edward Lyster, of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, now of New York, United States of America, stevedore	Mortgage, dated June 10, 1863, for $7,000, and interest at 5 per cent., to Nathaniel Gott Tucker, of Harrington, Maine, United States of America, master mariner.
Kenilworth (and her foreign name is 'Volant')	987	William Miller M'Lean, of St. John, New Brunswick, merchant	Mortgage, dated August 11, 1863, for $35,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to Francis Curtis, and Samuel Endicott Peabody, of Boston, United States of America, merchants, joint mortgagees.
St. Alban's (and her foreign name is 'Henrietta Marcy')	1,266	William Miller M'Lean, of St. John, New Brunswick, merchant	Mortgage, dated August 28, 1863, for $55,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to Francis Curtis and Samuel Endicott Peabody, both of Boston, United States of America, merchants, joint mortgagees.
Avon (and her foreign name is 'Cyclone')	1,000	William Miller M'Lean, of St. John, New Brunswick, merchant	Mortgage, dated September 2, 1863, for $35,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to Francis Curtis and Samuel Endicott Peabody, both of Boston, United States of America, merchants, joint mortgagees.
C. H. Soule (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	1,043	William Thomson, of St. John, New Brunswick, merchant	Mortgage, dated October 13, 1863, for $70,000, to C. H. Soule, Enos Soule, Enos C. Soule, of Freeport; Charles Soule, of Yarmouth, shipbuilders; William Sinnett, of Cape Elizabeth, master mariner; all in the State of Maine, United States of America, joint mortgagees.
Longwood (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	1,260	William Miller M'Lean, of St. John, New Brunswick, merchant	Mortgage, dated November 5, for 13,000*l.*, to Gilbert C. Trufant, of Boston, United States of America, merchant.
Frances A. Palmer (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	1,627	James Nixon Duck, of the City of New York, in the United States of America, merchant	Mortgage, dated July 2, 1863, for 9,600*l.*, and interest at 5 per cent., to Ezra Denison Post, of Essex, Connecticut, in the United States of America.
Oleander (and her foreign name is not given)	230	William Hubbard Peniston, of Hamilton, Bermudas, master mariner	Mortgage, dated March 3, 1863, for $12,000, with interest at 5 per cent., to John Nathaniel Butterfield Middleton, and Thomas Dickenson Middleton, both of New York, United States of America, merchants, joint mortgagees.
Penniman (no foreign name given)	188	Edward Lyster, of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, now of New York, United States of America	Mortgage, dated April 11, 1863, for $12,000, and interest at 5 per cent., to William M. Peck and Francis Church, of New York, United States of America, merchants, joint mortgagees.
Matamoras (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	232	William Stewart, of Liverpool, England, resident now at New York, United States of America, merchant	Mortgage, dated December 31, 1862, for $12,000, and interest at 5 per cent., to Oliver K. King, of New York, United States of America, merchant.
Sybil (and her foreign name is 'Eagle')	210	William Stewart, of Liverpool, county of Lancaster, England	Mortgage, dated November 11, 1862, for $10,000, and interest at 5 per cent., to Oliver K. King, of New York, merchant.
Ocean Eagle (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	264	Charles Robert Foster, of Picton, Nova Scotia	Mortgage, dated February 19, 1863, for 2,900*l.*, and interest at 6 per cent., to William Henry Luce, Robert S. Luce, Mary F. Luce, Eliza E. Luce, and Charles E. Luce, of Rockland, Maine, United States of America, joint mortgagees.
Acme (no foreign name given)	267	John Paterson, of Inverness, Scotland, resident at New York, United States of America, merchant	Mortgate, dated July 7, 1863, for 3,125*l.*, and interest at 5 per cent., to Louis E. Hargous, Louis le Contents, both of New York, United States of America, merchants, joint mortgagees.
Antelope (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	1,139	John Garven Dale, of Cape Town, merchant	Mortgage, dated June 27, 1863, for $32,000 dollars, and interest at 5 per cent., to John Henry Harbeck and William Henry Harbeck, of New York, United States of America, joint mortgagees.
Morning Star (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	433	John Garven Dale, of New York, United States of America, merchant	Mortgage, dated June 27, 1863, for $24,000, with interest at 2½ per cent., to John Henry Harbeck and William Henry Harbeck, of New York, United States of America, joint mortgagees.
Italian (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	52	Gillman F. Chaffey, of Indian Island, New Brunswick, mariner	Mortgage, dated June 10, 1863, for $900, and interest at 6 per cent., to George Peabody and Howard Cummings, both of Eastport, Maine, United States of America, merchants, joint mortgagees.
			Mortgage, dated June 30, 1863, for $300, and interest at 6 per cent., to Gideon Stickney, of Eastport, as aforesaid.
Czarina (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	538	Annie M. Kidley, of Bristol, England, at present residing at St. Andrew's, New Brunswick, spinster	Mortgage, dated July 28, 1863, for $38,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to James Treal, of Frankfort, State of Maine, United States of America, merchant.
Alpine (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	516	Annie M. Kidley, as aforesaid	Mortgage, dated July 28, 1863, for $40,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to James Treal, of Frankfort, as aforesaid.
M. A. Herrera (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	396	Annie M. Kidley, as aforesaid	Mortgage, dated July 28, 1863, for $20,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to James Treal, of Frankfort, as aforesaid.
Robin (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	309	Annie M. Kidley, as aforesaid	Mortgage, dated July 28, 1860, for $15,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to James Treal, as aforesaid.
Alice (and her foreign name is 'Fischer')	99	Annie M. Kidley, as aforesaid	Mortgage, dated September 4, 1863, for $7,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to James Treal, of Frankfort, State of Maine, United States of America, merchant.
James M. Churchill (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	417	Annie M. Kidley, as aforesaid	Mortgage, dated September 8, 1863, for $20,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to James Treal, of Frankfort, State of Maine, as aforesaid.
Flor del Mar (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	557	William Whitlock, of St. Andrew's, New Brunswick	Mortgage, dated September 25, 1863, for $45,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to Webster Treal, of Frankfort, State of Maine, merchant.
			Mortgage subsequently transferred to Lyman Wisrrell, of Frankfort, as aforesaid, master mariner.
Sparkling Sea (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	416	William Whitlock, as aforesaid	Mortgage, dated October 15, 1863, for $25,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to Webster Treal, of Frankfort, State of Maine, United States of America, merchant.
Son (and her foreign name is 'Palanquin')	41	George E. Fountain, of Deer Island, New Brunswick, fisherman	Mortgage, dated October 22, 1863, for $300, and interest at 6 per cent., to Samuel Stoddart, of Pembroke, State of Maine, as aforesaid.
Wild Pigeon (foreign name not given)	769	William Morrice, of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, merchant— Who transfers his interest to Graham Anderson, of Hong Kong	Mortgage, dated December 8, 1863, for $40,000, with interest at 12 per cent., to Epsto P. Fabbie, and Frederick Chauncey, of New York, United States of America, merchants.
Music (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	444	George Blakeway, of Victoria, Hong Kong, merchant	Mortgage, dated December 2, 1863, for 6,000*l.*, and interest, to D. E. Murray, Secretary of the Atlantic Navigation Company, New York, of Faybrook, Connecticut, and James Khir, master mariners, joint mortgagees.

Name of Ship	Tonnage	Name and Address of Owner	Particulars of Mortgage
Velocity (and her foreign name is 'Lizzie Iveat')	249	Walter Daniel, of the Island of Bermuda, master mariner, who transfers his interest to William Edward Darrell, of Bermuna and New York, United States of America, merchant	Mortgage, dated July 21, 1863, for $6,500, and interest at 5 per cent., to Eliza Pack Morris, of Brooklyn, New York, United States of America.
Holland (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	357	William Morrice, of Bedfordshire, England	Mortgage, dated March 10, 1863, for £25,000, with interest at 5 per cent., to Jonathan Thompson, of New York, United States of America.
Paragon (and her foreign name is 'Andrew Peters')	242	William Morrice, as aforesaid	Mortgage, dated March 28, 1863, for $8,000, and interest at 5 per cent., to Charles Peters and Andrew James Peters, both of New York, United States of America, merchants.
Pedro (and her foreign name is 'Pedro Sanchez Coly')	174	Henry James Creighton, of Halifax, Nova Scotia	Mortgage, dated April 24, 1863, for $12,000, and interest at 5 per cent., to William M. Peek and Francis Church, both of New York, United States of America, merchants.
Crusoe (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	382	Jacob Embleton, of Sunderland, England, master mariner	Mortgage, dated March 12, 1863, for $12,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to George L. Luce, of Maine, United States of America, master mariner.
Chanticleer (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	301	Henry Thackray, of Leeds, Yorkshire, England	Mortgage, dated February 20, 1863, for £16,000, equal to 3,125*l.* sterling, and interest at 5 per cent., to Henry Becker, of New York, United States of America, merchant.
Sarah Ann (and her foreign name is 'Lallah')	74	Peter F. Kennedy, of St. Andrew's, New Brunswick, master mariner	Mortgage, dated June 11, 1863, for 583*l.*, and interest at 6 per cent., to Lloyd Slemmer, of New York, as aforesaid.
Wilhelmine (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	339	Henry Thackray, of Leeds, Yorkshire, England	Mortgage, dated March 13, 1863, for $18,000, and interest at 5 per cent., to Henry Becker, of New York, United States of America, merchant.
Alice Maud (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	234	William H. Chaffey, of West Isles, New Brunswick	Mortgage, dated March 25, 1863, for $10,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to John H. M'Larren, of Eastport, State of Maine, United States of America.
Osprey (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	383	Edward Lyster, of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia	Mortgage, dated April 4, 1863, for $18,000, and interest at 5 per cent., to William M. Peck and Francis Church, both of New York, United States of America, merchants.
Onachita (and her foreign name is 'Sequine')	156	Edward Alexander Brazill, of Tipperary, Ireland	Mortgage, dated March 27, 1863, for $8,000, with interest at 5 per cent., to Horace Elliot Brown and Charles Cook Morrell, both of New York, United States of America, merchants.
Angler (and her foreign name is 'Bridges')	74	Thomas Cotton, jun., of Liverpool, England, trader	Mortgage, dated July 2. 1863, for $3,500, and interest at 6 per cent., to William N. Nelson, of Plymouth, Massachusetts, United States of America.
George Crump (and her foreign name is 'Ben Dunning')	268	George T. Abbot, of Philadelphia, United States of America	Mortgage, dated June 1, 1863, for $6,000, with legal interest, to Stephen F. Soder, of Philadelphia, United States of America. Mortgage, dated June 1, 1863, for $3,750, with legal interest, to James H. Winchester, of Brooklyn, New York, United States of America. Mortgage, dated June 1, 1863, for $750, with legal interest, to Messrs. Bridge & Lord, of Boston, United States of America.
Planet (and her foreign name is 'Ocean Bird')	100	Thomas Cotton, the younger, of Liverpool, England	Mortgage, dated August 4, 1863, for $3,500, and interest at 6 per cent., to Ebenezer Wheelwright, of Boston, United States of America, merchant.
Undine (and her foreign name is 'Lysander')	182	John Johnston Reford, of Belfast, Ireland, merchant	Mortgage, dated November 30, 1863, for $10,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to Benjamin F. Burgess and Nathan B. Gibbs, both of Boston, United States of America, merchants.
Scio (foreign name not given)	181	Zorenzo Wilson, of Charlotte County, New Brunswick, merchant	Mortgage, to secure $10,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to John H. M'Zeawen, of Eastport, Maine, United States of America, merchant.
Scotland (no foreign name given)	139	William Parker Zevenck, of Bridgetown, Barbadoes, merchant	Mortgage, dated July 1, 1863, for $8,000, and interest, to Elisha J. Smith, of Hartford, Connecticut, United States of America. Mortgage, dated July 13, 1863, for $6,000, to Thomas B. Watteon and Edward L. Clark, both of Philadelphia, United States of America, merchants.
Victoria (and her foreign name is 'America')	205	Robert George Barrow, of Bridgetown, Barbadoes	Mortgage, dated November 12, 1863, for $6,000, and legal interest, to Henry C. Lancaster, of Philadelphia, United States of America, merchant.
Sarah Larsen (and her foreign name is 'Commerce')	118	John Flynn, of Tralee, Ireland, now of Philadelphia, United States of America, gentleman	Mortgage, dated April 6, 1863, for $3,000, with interest at 5 per cent., to William Poppe, of New York, United States of America, merchant; subsequently discharged.
Concordia (and her foreign name is 'Sambel Hall')	63	James Nixon Duck, of Taunton, England, merchant	Mortgage, dated September 1, 1863, for 14,000*l.*, and interest, to Harvey Mills, of Thomaston, Maine, United States of America, master mariner.
Colonel Adams (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	1,516	George Waterbury, of Liverpool, in the county of Lancaster, merchant— Who transfers his interest to Raymond Leeman Gilchrist, of Liverpool, in the county Lancaster, shipowner	Mortgage, dated August 19, 1863, for 12,000*l.*, and interest at 5 per cent., to William Henry Harbeck and John Henry Harbeck, both of the city of New York, United States of America, merchants, joint mortgagees.
Armada (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	1,858	John Graven Dale, of Liverpool, in the county of Lancaster, merchant, at present residing in the city of New York, in the United States of America	Mortgage, dated June 25, 1863, for $20,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to Franklin Snow, of Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America.
Berkley (and her foreign name is 'John M. Mayo')	612	James F. Phelaw, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, merchant	Mortgage, dated September 10, 1863, for $17,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to James Upton, of Salem, Massachusetts, United States of America, merchant.
St. Andrew (and her foreign name is 'Andrew Carney')	299	Charles Hall, of Sheffield, Yorkshire, England, merchant	Mortgage, dated April 11, 1863, for $19,000, and interest at 5 per cent., to William M. Peek and Francis Church, both of the city of New York, merchants, joint mortgagees.
Winona (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	389	Edward Lyster, of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, at present residing in New York, United States of America, contractor	Mortgage, dated July 21, 1863, for $13,000, with interest at 5 per cent., to Augustus H. Badger and James W. Badger, both of New York, United States of America, merchants, joint mortgagees.
Fannie Hamilton (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	379	Edward Lyster, the aforesaid	Mortgage, dated May 15, 1863, for $12,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to Ebenezer Wheelwright, of Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America, merchant.
S. H. Waterman (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	445	Charles Hall, of Sheffield, England, at present residing in Dorchester, Massachusetts, United States of America, merchant	Mortgage, dated March 23, 1863, for $10,000, and interest at 5 per cent., to Zenas D. Bassett, of Brooklyn, New York, and Samuel C. Howes, of Middleborough, Massachusetts, United States of America, joint mortgagees.
Celestia (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	315	David Bartlett Lemon, of Belfast, Ireland, now resident at New York, United States of America, merchant	Mortgage, dated July 10, 1863, for 8,000*l.*, and an account current, with interest at 5 per cent., to Arthur Child, of the city of New York, United States of America.
Advance (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	1,388	Edmund Best, of 30 Singleton Street, Hoxton, county of Middlesex, shipowner	Mortgage, dated July 28, 1863, for $24,000, with interest at 5 per cent., to John Henry Harbeck and William Henry Harbeck, both of New York, United States of America, merchants.
Morning Light (no foreign name given)	525	John Garven Dale, of Liverpool, England, now residing at New York, United States of America, merchant	Mortgage, dated September 2, 1863, for $16,000, and interest at 5 per cent., to John Henry Harbeck, of New York city, as aforesaid, merchant.
Angostura (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	376	John Garven Dale, the aforesaid	Mortgage, dated June 22, 1863, for $12,000, and interest at 6 per cent., to John H. M'Larren, of Eastport, Maine, United States of America.
Tahita (and her foreign name is the same as she now bears)	332	William H. Chaffey, of West Isles, New Brunswick, merchant	Mortgage, dated October 10, 1863, for $12.000. and interest at 5 per cent., to Henry W. Peabody, of Salem, Massachusetts, United States of America.
Russell (and her foreign name is 'Narragansett')	360	William Morrice, of Heath House, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, England, now of the city of New York, merchant	

GENERAL LEE'S ORDER ON THE DEATH OF GENERAL STUART.—'General Orders, No. 41.—Headquarters, Army of Northern Virginia, May 20, 1864.—The Commanding General announces to the army, with heartfelt sorrow, the death of Major-General J. E. B. Stuart, late commander of the cavalry corps of the army of Northern Virginia. Among the gallant soldiers who have fallen in this war, General Stuart was second to none in valour, in zeal, in unflinching devotion to his country. His achievements form a conspicuous part of the history of this army, with which his name and services will be for ever associated. To military capacity of a high order and all the noble virtues of the soldier he added the brighter graces of a pure life, guided and sustained by the Christian's faith and hope. The mysterious hand of an all-wise God has removed him from the scene of his usefulness and fame. His grateful countrymen will mourn his loss and cherish his memory. To his comrades in arms he has left the proud recollection of his deeds and the inspiring influence of his example.—R. E. LEE, General.'

A DELICATE COMPLIMENT.—The Northern journals publish the 'thrilling adventures' of a Miss Pauline Cushman, who was formerly an actress and lately occupied as a Federal spy in Tennessee. She was captured, imprisoned, and 'rescued.' In reward for her services, she is honoured with a commission as major in the United States army, and her full title is Miss Major Pauline Cushman. This event must be very gratifying to the strong-minded members of the 'Woman's Rights Association.'

GRANT AND M'CLELLAN.—The *Boston Courier* of May 30 says: 'Having thus entirely abandoned his original plan of operations, which was the direct route to Richmond, General Grant finds himself, after a circuitous march, dreadful battles, and an enormous loss of men, near the position of M'Clellan, upon his advance up the Peninsula with comparatively slight engagements and trifling loss.'

GENERAL LEE'S REPORT.—The following has been published:—'Taylorsville, May 24, 9.30 P.M.—Hon. James A. Seddon,—The enemy has been making feeble attacks upon our lines to-day, probably with a view of ascertaining our position. They were easily repulsed. General Mahon drove three regiments across the river, capturing a stand of colours and some prisoners, among them an aide-de-camp of General Ledlie. R. E. LEE.'

THE RAILROADS FROM RICHMOND. — The Baltimore correspondent of the *New York World* observes: 'The railroads in the South must be very "peculiar institutions." We have circumstantial accounts of their destruction, but in a few days afterwards I hear of trains of cars running over these very roads. It was asserted positively that some of Butler's troops had destroyed a portion of the Danville road, yet I hear to-day of trains, with troops on board, arriving at Richmond from Lynchburg and Burkesville. So Butler was said to have destroyed the railroad between Richmond and Petersburg. But I am sure the rebel trains are now running between those two places, carrying troops to Richmond.'

THE QUESTION OF SLAVERY IN THE FEDERAL CONGRESS.—On May 31, 124 members of the House of Representatives voted on the Pacific Railroad Bill. After this came on the discussion on the amendment of the Constitution abolishing slavery in the United States. This immediately thinned the House, and when the adjournment took place there were only 12 members present. The *New York Herald* considers this a 'virtual defeat' of the 'Constitutional Amendment.'

NEW YORK AND BOSTON.—The New Yorkers are greatly annoyed because the cargoes captured by the Federal cruisers are generally taken to Boston for condemnation and sale. The *Daily News* of May 30, says: 'New York is studiously avoided by naval officers charged with captured vessels, and if they put in here, they stop merely to obtain supplies, and push on to Massachusetts Bay.' The reason assigned is that the charges are 15 per cent. in New York, whilst they are only 5 per cent. in Boston.

THE LINCOLN 'INDEX EXPURGATORIUS.'—Mr. S. D. Carpenter, of Wisconsin, thought it worth while to make a collection of the principal sayings and doings of the Lincoln Administration and its supporters. A hundred copies being despatched for New York and Washington, General Dix ordered the box containing the books to be detained at Jersey City. Four days later Mr. Carpenter obtained an order for their release, but at the same time Captain Rives told him 'that he had better see General Dix before going in to publish and distribute his book.'

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 13 Bouverie Street, E.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1864.

On the Chickahominy.

'I PROPOSE to fight it out on this line if it takes all the summer!' Such were the emphatic words telegraphed to Mr. STANTON from General GRANT on the eve of his second unsuccessful assault on the Confederate lines at Spottsylvania Court House. There are critics who persist that GRANT is fighting it out on this line, though he has almost unaccountably found himself on M'CLELLAN's old ground, with M'CLELLAN's base. We need not argue this question with the Federal organs in this country. If they are satisfied with the strategy of General GRANT, so are we; and as any line must be the best which gets the Federal commander into Richmond, we will at once freely admit that GRANT has done much more for Mr. CHASE and Mr. LINCOLN by transferring his army to the north of the Chickahominy, than he could have accomplished by marching it against the impregnable lines of Spottsylvania or Saxton's Junction. But it must strike the merest tyro in military matters that, if GRANT has a chance of taking Richmond from the east or north-east, it would have been considerably improved had he made York Town, West Point, and City Point his bases of operations, and landed at those points with his whole strength unimpaired, by the losses of half-a-dozen defeats, and the demoralisation they would inevitably produce. It may, of course, be answered that LEE would, in that case, have had the road to Washington open. But nobody can seriously believe that, with GRANT's force of 120,000 men within fifteen miles of Richmond, and 50,000 more to man the defences of Washington, LEE would have ventured to march northward. And there can be no doubt in the mind of any reasonable person, unblinded by prejudice, that GRANT's present lines are not of his own choosing; that he has been driven to the Chickahominy by the superior strategy of LEE; and that his original programme has proved a complete and disastrous failure. Now, what was GRANT's plan? Much has been said about the originality of its conception; and we have been told that the great mind which accomplished the capture of Vicksburg, with a force about five times as strong as the garrison, designed the *coup* which was to have been the *coup de grâce* against Richmond. We are sorry to destroy the Northern idol; but the fact is, that GRANT's plan is in reality very little more than a *rechauffé* of General SCOTT's Anaconda scheme. There was to be the same direct advance of a crushing force from the North, the same auxiliary expeditions from Western Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley, and from Fortress Monroe. General SCOTT soon learned the difficulties of his scheme, and M'CLELLAN at once repudiated it. He foresaw the slaughter that would ensue from an attack upon the Confederate army in carefully selected and entrenched positions, in a densely-wooded, broken country, intersected at every ten miles by rivers that a moderate fall of rain rendered impassable to an army. He chose the level country of the Peninsula, where at least he had an unassailable base of operations, and could always rely on the protection of his gunboats. GRANT ignored difficulties. His presumption has cost him 70,000 men, the flower of the Northern army, and, we repeat, his plan has utterly and ignominously failed. Of the three armies set in motion, SIGEL's has been routed; BUTLER's has been reduced to the defensive; and GRANT's army, having as yet not beaten the Confederates in a single engagement, has been compelled to seek a position which certainly savours more of a prudent regard for the safety of the Federal army, than a bold determination to assault Richmond. And what is the result? That LEE has got GRANT 'where he wanted him'—in front of a series of intrenchments, which can only be taken by vigorous and repeated assaults—in short, at precisely the strongest point in the defences of Richmond. What is more, the Capital of the Confederacy is open to reinforcements and supplies from the whole of the Southern States; all the communications are safe, and LEE's army can be more quickly provisioned and reinforced than GRANT's. It is possible at this moment that the latter General outnumbers LEE, but we are confident that before another month is over, if LEE requires the additional strength, he will be able to give battle with numbers more approaching equality than any he has yet taken into the field, and that there is not a military man in the country or out of it who is in the least doubt about the ultimate failure of GRANT's enterprise.

In our last week's issue we intimated our belief that GRANT would eventually find himself on the Chickahominy, and the latest news proves our impression to have been correct. GRANT found the position taken up by LEE in the angle at the confluence of the North and South Anna rivers too strong after an assault which, by the admission of the Federals, cost him the annihilation of one brigade, and turned eastward again. This time there was no thought of 'flanking.' It was a complete change of base, like M'CLELLAN's famous move from the Chickahominy to the James River. General GRANT deliberately abandoned his whole plan of campaign, and set himself down to the siege of Richmond from the very ground which M'CLELLAN tried in vain, and subsequently declared an unfortunate selection. Moving rapidly day and night along the left bank of the Pamunkey River in a south-easterly direction, GRANT suddenly faced about, crossed that river at Hanover Town, and made again for Richmond, with the White House as his depôt of supplies. His hope seems to have been to occupy M'CLELLAN's old line, and secure a communication with BUTLER's force on the James River. This he was unable to effect. LEE, apprised of this new movement, swung his army round, and, marching in almost a parallel line by the right, was once more found confronting the Federals in force on the north bank of the Chickahominy, at once covering Richmond, and threatening GRANT's communication with his new base on the Pamunkey. General BRECKENRIDGE was on the extreme left of the Confederate line, a portion of General BEAUREGARD's forces was stated to have effected a junction with the right. The latest accounts report General GRANT's line to be about seven miles in length, his right fronting Mechanicsville, his left resting on Cold Harbour. If this be the case, LEE's army must be stronger than is generally supposed. For GRANT is reported in constant fear of being outflanked on his left, and so losing his communication with the White House. The few details that have reached us are, as might be expected, more meagre, more confused, more one-sided than ever. At every step a Federal advance is recorded, thousands of Confederates are killed, and hundreds taken prisoners. For all that, at the very latest dates it appears to have been expected that LEE was on the point of attacking. The most ominous rumours were in circulation in New York and Washington; and reinforcements were said to be eagerly hunted for from every Federal garrison on the Mississippi and from the shattered remnants of the Louisiana and Arkansas armies. On the whole, we think the last news from Virginia is the most favourable yet received since GRANT began his advance. There has been severe fighting, the Federals have suffered very heavily and have made no impression on the Confederate lines. In one assault alone they confess to the loss of 3,000 killed and wounded—more than the whole list of casualties of the allies at the battle of the Alma. Perhaps the best commentary on the campaign is the price of gold. It has steadily risen, in spite of Mr. STANTON's sanguine despatches and Mr. CHASE's desperate remedies, about 22 per cent. since GRANT began his advance—standing at the latest date at the unprecedented rate of 92 per cent. premium.

Yankee Ships under British Colours.

THAT the flag of the Federal merchantmen has been driven from the ocean is a notion that has found ready credence both among the friends and the foes of the Confederate States. The former class of persons are imbued with a just admiration of the skill by which a navy has been obtained small in point of numbers, immensely great in point of efficiency. The idea of defying some hundreds of ships, of all sizes and descriptions, by the employment of two or three vessels combining in the highest degree power and celerity, has appeared to be in happy accordance with that policy which, by a careful adaptation of the means to the end, has accomplished unrivalled achievements with unprecedentedly narrow resources. There is, too, an air of romantic daring about the enterprises of such ships as the *Alabama* and *Florida* which strikes forcibly on the imagination, and tempts to exaggeration. Indeed, if calculation be made of the enormous impediments which the lack of home ports and the inhospitable restrictions of foreign ports create, it is matter of amazement to learn that every sea has been illumined with the burning merchantmen of New York and Boston. On the other hand, the enemies of the independence of the Confederate States, together with all those individuals who have made up their minds on the meaning of the Foreign Enlistment Act without the needless intervention of judges to explain its terms, have never ceased to enlarge on the terrible losses inflicted on the Northern States by what they call the Confederate privateers. Mr. BARING rises in the House of Commons, and spreads a panic among the shipowners of London and Liverpool while he predicts the awful retribution which will fall on the English merchantmen so soon as we go to war with a European Power. Similarly Mr. BRIGHT unfolds Mr. SEWARD's tremendous bill of costs, and, though the Foreign Office repudiates the debt, the Federal sympathisers shudder at the calamities that have befallen the pockets of their friends. Moreover, the mischief is not limited to the burned ships. That is a mere trifle. The terrible thing is, that insurance against war risks does not answer, and that neutral bottoms are in good demand.

Now, it lies in our power, by the aid of some statistics but lately published, to estimate these assertions at their true value, and the process of examination will not be devoid of instruction. First, then, it may be well to discover what has become of all these Federal merchantmen which we are told have been driven from the ocean. Are they rotting in the Northern harbours, while their owners in mute despair await the charterer who prefers the safety of the neutral ship? Or has Mr. GIDEON WELLES bought them all on Government account, and sent them out on futile hunts after speedy blockade-runners and Confederate rams? Nothing of the sort. The Yankee is the smartest fellow on earth, especially when a little knavery is in the wind; and his love for the stars and stripes is not proof against the prospect of a good venture. Figures, however, are the best rhetoricians, and by tables of returns mysteries are often solved. Let us look, then, at an account of the 'United States' vessels registered as British ships within the last few years. The account embraces the vessels so registered not only in the ports of Great Britain and Ireland, but also in British North America. The number of ships then transferred to British subjects in the year 1858 was 33, and the tonnage 12,684; in the year 1859 the number of ships 49, tonnage 21,308; in 1860 the number 41, the tonnage 13,683. So much for the period preceding the disruption of the Union. In the year 1861 the number of ships transferred rose to 126, and the tonnage to 71,673; in 1862 the number was 135, and the tonnage 64,578; while in the year 1863 the number of ships transferred actually rose to 348, and the tonnage to 252,579. Consequently 609 merchantmen, which before the war gloried in hoisting the stars and stripes, now sail under the protection of the British flag.

Before, however, the effect of these transactions on the commerce of the United States is considered, it may be well to look for a moment at the Merchant Shipping Act, and discover by what means a vessel may gain the right to hoist the British ensign. The 38th section of that Act tells us that the person who desires to be registered as the owner of a British ship must go before the proper functionary and subscribe a declaration. Thereby he asserts that he himself is duly qualified to be the owner. Now, the owner of a British ship must either be a born British subject who has never sworn to a foreign allegiance, or he must be a denizen or naturalised; and in either of these last-named cases he must reside in the QUEEN's dominions during ownership, and must have taken the oath of allegiance. The declarant must further state the time when, and the place where, the ship was built, the name of the master, and the number of shares of which he is entitled to be registered as owner. But, above all this, he must swear that to the best of his knowledge no *unqualified* person is entitled as owner to any legal or *beneficial* interest in the ship, or to any share in her. That the sanctity of this declaration should not be lightly treated, the law inflicts on the crime of perjury the

penalty of fine and imprisonment, and confiscates the vessel to the use of the Crown.

Such, then, being the method of registration, it naturally follows that the shipowners of England and her dependencies have bought whole navies of merchantmen in three years, and the economist fairly stands aghast at the purchasing power of the merchant princes. For it seems clear that unless men have been found sufficiently audacious and unscrupulous to record a solemn lie and run the risk of a heavy punishment, the whole interest of the vendors in each case must have passed absolutely from them.

But there is another document, which throws a little more light on this portion of the subject. In a return to the order of the House of Commons of United States ships transferred to British subjects in the year 1863, not only the name of each vessel, with the name and address of the owner, is furnished, but also particulars of the mortgages with the names of the mortgagees, and the amounts for which the ships are hypothecated. Unfortunately the Registry books contain no record of the names of the sellers, and in ascertaining the nationality of the mortgagees, the reader can only rely on their place of residence and reputation. Now this return, differing from the one already cited, puts the number of transferred ships for the year 1863 at 608, with a tonnage of 328,665, and of course is the more correct of the two. Of these 608 vessels about 490 are free of mortgages, and perhaps it may be conceded that in all these cases the sale of the ship was absolute, and no interest remained in the vendor. Of the remaining 118 about 50 ships are mortgaged to persons not resident in the United States, and so these also may pass muster, though it is clearly a matter of some difficulty to arrive at the nationality of the individuals in question. The rest of the mortgaged vessels are set down to large firms in New York, Boston, and other seaports in the United States. In many cases the sums loaned on the security of the vessels seem to fall but little short of their total value. The vessels, moreover, thus mortgaged are by no means the smallest in the list of the transferred. It will at least be conceded that the suspicion that the mortgagees and vendors are in some instances identical arises naturally on the facts.

But the law itself demands and justifies such surmises. Indeed the courts look with great jealousy on transactions involving the sale of ships by the subjects of a belligerent to the subjects of a neutral power. As a matter of evidence, when once the former possession of the belligerent has been shown, the *onus* of proving that the sale was in every way absolute and free from fraud is cast on the neutral claimant. If, moreover, the belligerent was proved to be the mortgagee at or immediately after the registration, the task of the *neutral* would be increased indefinitely. Indeed, if one of such ships was captured by the Confederates and destroyed, it would require a man of considerable intrepidity to proclaim his interest to the British Government and demand reparation.

To a solemn picture, however, there is often a ludicrous side, and to this rule the present case is not an exception. The Merchant Shipping Act prohibits any person from acting as master of a British ship who has not passed an examination in the science of navigation. The Local Marine Boards, together with the appointees of the Board of Trade and of the Shipowners, conduct the ordeal which the candidate must undergo. Rumour asserts that during the past year the examiners have been overwhelmed with work, and that the Yankee nation has furnished the candidates. It is difficult to conceive a more amusing spectacle than an ancient Yankee skipper puzzling his acute brains over the searching questions of the detested British examiner.

Putting together, then, these items of information, we may infer that a very considerable injury has been dealt to the commerce of the North by the enterprise of the Confederate ships. We must suppose that the effect of throwing upon the market many hundred ships in search of purchasers has caused a glut, and compelled the vendors to sell at a heavy loss. But with regard to those ships which, at or after the time of transference, have been mortgaged to firms carrying on business in the United States, it must be admitted that, if not in the eye of the law, at least in all reason and conscience, the interest in them has not entirely been lost to the great mercantile houses of the Yankee nation.

Federal Recruiting and English Neutrality.

Lord Clanricarde did good service on Thursday night by calling the attention of the public, and compelling the reluctant ear of the Government, to a tale of wrong, outrage, and disgrace seldom paralleled in the history of international dealings. It has become the regular, systematic, organised practice of the Federal Government to recruit its armies in Europe, especially in Ireland. When the war broke out, the Northern States had a surplus population which they could spare to the recruiting officer. We do not mean to say that in the North as a whole there was a redundancy of labour. We do not mean that there was in any State more than the State itself could have employed productively. But there was, in the first place, in all the large cities an element positively noxious; a mass of men who had nothing particular to do, and spent their time in doing mischief. A very large proportion of this class, in the hope of plunder and under the temptation of high bounties, was allured to the camp, and impressed on the Federal army that character of license, brutality, destructiveness, and love of booty which has distinguished it ever since. This resource is now exhausted. Tens of thousands of rowdies have been killed, and those who are left set too high a value on their lives to throw them away by exposing themselves to the deadly aim of Southern rifles. Again, there was everywhere a loose, roving, adventurous element in the composition of Northern society, which bore no regular and necessary part in the labour of the country, and could be spared without disorganising that labour. All of this class who had any taste for soldiering, and were willing to face the dangers and hardships of a campaign for the chance of profit or the mere love of adventure, have already been made available as food for powder. Even on the labouring strength of the country a call was made, and men quitted their homes, their business, their farms, their families, to engage in a war which was to be short, glorious, and prolific of reward. The country can spare no more, and no more will go. The terrific slaughter which has distinguished this conflict—due partly to the altered character of modern warfare, partly to the incapacity of Northern generals, partly to the bad discipline of their troops, partly to that wicked and cruel, but undoubtedly politic, recklessness of life which prompted such attacks as that of Burnside on the heights above Fredericksburg and that of Grant on Spottsylvania, and in no small measure to the coolness and accuracy of the Confederate fire—has had a double effect. It has terribly wasted the army in the field, and at the same time it has almost put a stop to recruiting. Men who would perhaps have faced the ordinary risks of a European campaign shrink from the horrors of battles in which ten or twenty thousand men are killed and wounded on one side without any decisive result. The native American, though not a cowardly, is a cautious and calculating animal; he reads the returns of killed and wounded, he sees battalions reduced to companies, and divisions to brigades, by a single battle; and he shrinks from the campaign in which every battle seems to present the perils of a forlorn hope. The chances are too much against him. He will not volunteer, and to press him is a very dangerous undertaking. Thus recruiting is practically at a standstill, and drafting is too hazardous an experiment to be lightly ventured, and too unpopular for a President aiming at re-election. The Federal Government is thrown on Europe for its supplies of men. It gathers Germans by hundreds and Irishmen by thousands: how rapidly, openly, and shamelessly, Lord Clanricarde explained. Recruits are carried away from Cork at the rate of 5,000 a week, on the pretence that they are required as labourers; their passage paid for them, or provided in American ships, and their ambition excited by the enormous promises of the Federal agents who are scattered over Ireland. Many are avowedly enlisted as soldiers—of course not publicly; others go in the *bonâ fide* belief that they are wanted to work and not to fight, and how these are treated we know on the authority of Federal officials. They are landed, and then they are told there is no work for them. Some enlist in despair; others are treated to drugged drink, and enlisted while in a state of insensibility, the Federal officers proving their complicity in the crime by handing over the bounty money due to the victims to their infamous betrayers. The kidnapping of foreigners is a regular trade in New York and Boston. Hocussed with poisoned liquor, enrolled without their own knowledge, they find themselves, on returning to their senses, hopelessly entrapped. If they protest, they are shot at once, without form of trial, by the Federals; if they submit, they are sent on to the front to be shot as unceremoniously by the Confederates. Such are the means by which the Federal army is recruited; such is the regard paid to our neutrality, to the Queen's proclamation, and to the Foreign Enlistment Act, by those who have constantly invoked our laws against the Confederates—who have rebuked us for selling arms and ammunition as freely to their foes as to themselves, and threatened us with war for furnishing unarmed ships to Southern purchasers.

Lord Russell's reply was in all respects eminently unsatisfactory. He had remonstrated, and would continue to remonstrate; but his remonstrances had hitherto been treated with contempt, and he had every reason to suppose that they would be so treated for the future. If Mr. Seward chose to entrap British subjects in Her Majesty's dominions, the proceeding was a violation of our territorial sovereignty and an outrage on our neutrality, and he was very sorry that Mr. Seward should be guilty of such unworthy conduct. If British subjects are hocussed and entrapped in America, and murdered on attempting to escape from their kidnappers, such a proceeding is a gross offence against the rights of England, and Lord Lyons will tell Mr. Seward that we so regard it. What more could he do? We would ask the noble Lord if he remembers what the Americans did in 1855, and why we could not now repeat that mode of argument. Is Mr. Adams's society so necessary to him that he cannot dismiss the chief agent of this nefarious system from the United Kingdom, and, if necessary, break off diplomatic relations with the Government that sent him here? Are there no other means of coercion if this should not suffice? Might we not threaten, if the North will not respect the Foreign Enlistment Act, to suspend it altogether? and would Mr. Seward regard that menace with indifference? If he did, for what do we spend 30,000,000*l.* a year on our fleet and armies, if not that they may protect the sanctity of Her Majesty's dominions, and the lives and liberty of her subjects in all parts of the world? But, Lord Russell says, if we are to go to war with the North for entrapping recruits from Ireland and kidnapping British subjects in New York, we must also go to war with the Confederates; for they have forced British subjects into the ranks of their army. It is hardly worthy of a Minister of State to draw a comparison between these two cases. The Northerners have swept our subjects into their army by thousands, to save their own blood and enable them to carry on a war of conquest; and for this purpose they have drawn on the peasantry of Ireland and kidnapped chance sojourners in America. The Southerners, in a war of self-defence, have established a universal conscription, touching all residents of the South; and no British subject is called upon to take up arms under that conscription, unless he have been for years a Southern resident, and to all intents other than political a Southern citizen. What hardship or moral wrong is there, if, in the third year of such a war, all residents of whatever nationality are called on to fight in defence of their home, their property, and their adopted country? If they did not wish to share the fortunes of the South, it was open to them, during two years, to depart; as they have chosen to remain and share her fortunes, let them also share the risks of her defence. But the South dismissed our Consuls for remonstrating. No such thing. She first desired that the complaint should be referred to her tribunals; the Consuls refused to refer it; and it was not until they proceeded to bid the enlisted soldiers of the South throw down their arms in presence of the enemy that they were dismissed—that is to say, those were dismissed who had not already been withdrawn by the British Government. Lord Russell himself admitted that their dismissal was just; and in now bringing it up as a grievance he acted disingenuously and dishonestly. The South has done us no wrong: the North is doing us systematic and persistent wrong, which we cannot honourably forbear to resent and punish.

Be it remembered that not only our national honour and dignity, but also our neutrality and fair dealing, are at stake in this matter. The North has complained angrily that we have permitted the South to purchase ships in our dockyards; and we, yielding to that complaint, have seized ships supposed to be intended for the South, and refused them permission to leave our harbours. Yet the two cases are strictly parallel. Every argument formerly used by the advocates of the North and the apologists of the Government to prove that the case of ships and that of arms were not the same, went to prove that the case of a ship was analogous to that of a regiment. 'You have no more right,' it was said, 'to furnish ships to a belligerent navy than regiments to a belligerent army.' Well, we do furnish regiments to a belligerent army, against the will of the Government as we are ready to believe, but we furnish them notwithstanding. Are we to do this, and not to furnish the ships? Are we to put the law in force against the Confederates, and not against the Federals? It is said that the regiments leave our shores unarmed, and are armed and enrolled elsewhere; but this was precisely the case with the ships. At international law we are free to permit or to forbid either, but if we are to maintain an honest and impartial neutrality, we must not refuse to strengthen the Confederates in their weak arm—the navy—while we strengthen the Federals in their weak arm—the army. We must stop the soldiers, or we must not stop the ships. It is not to be endured that we should be told of the irritation pro-

duced in the North when their ships are burnt by British-built cruisers, and think nothing of the deep and bitter indignation of the South when her sons are slaughtered by British-born soldiers. We remember how great was the indignation expressed when this country sent German soldiers to put down the American rebellion; are we to forget that the same or greater anger must be excited when the North sends Irish mercenaries to plunder and ravage the seceding States of the South?

Lord RUSSELL, and the *Times* in his support, argue that our law reaches the ships, but does not reach the men; and therefore we must stop the one, and let the other go. This does not follow. The law was intended to reach both; if we find that it fails in one point, what are we to do? To amend it, if we will; to ignore it, if we please; certainly not to enforce it against one party while allowing the other to evade it with impunity. It should be remembered that the statute is an enabling, not an enforcing one; it gives powers to the Government, but it imposes no obligation. They are at liberty, if they will, to let pass both ships and troops, as they did when GARIBALDI was prosecuting his enterprise in Southern Italy. And if they find that they cannot enforce it impartially, it clearly becomes their duty not to enforce it at all. If they choose to seize Confederate ships under the Act, they are bound to find some way, under or apart from the Act, of putting down Federal recruiting. While they do not this, it is impossible to call them neutral or to believe them impartial. They are committing a great and manifest wrong, which no legal technicalities can palliate, and no difficulties or embarrassments can excuse; and so long as they continue to allow the Federal armies to be recruited in HER MAJESTY'S dominions, so long they are virtually accomplices in a wicked, unjust, and most murderous war, waged for the enslavement or extermination of a gallant and a kindred people.

We cannot but note the manner in which that war is spoken of both by Lord RUSSELL—the friend of Mr. ADAMS and favourer of Federalism—and Lord BROUGHAM, the *quondam* champion of Abolition. The former pronounces it to be a war in violation of the maxims of 1776—a war against the principles to which the Union owes its being; and it is the more unjust that it is a war, not against revolted subjects, but against sovereign and equal communities, which have voluntarily and peaceably withdrawn from a voluntary and equal Confederation. Lord BROUGHAM pleads earnestly for peace. He dwells on the fearful cost and the sanguinary horrors of the war, and prays only that it may have an immediate end. Nominally, he addresses himself to both parties; really, his words can have no meaning save for the North: for with the North alone it rests to terminate the struggle. The South, fighting only in self-defence, must fight on as long as she is attacked. The North may make peace whenever it will forego the dream of conquest and the lust of dominion; and to that sacrifice it is counselled by so old and ardent a friend as Lord BROUGHAM. We do not suppose that the words of that venerable orator will have any weight with the maddened spirit of a people drunk with vanity and thirsting for blood. But for those who are still capable of reflection they have a significance which cannot be wholly overlooked. How is it, if there be anything honourable or noble, good or wise, in the enterprise in which the North is engaged, that that enterprise is condemned by Englishmen of all parties and every shade of opinion, with the sole exception of a school of politicians who never enjoyed authority or credit with their countrymen, and whose very limited influence the lessons of this war have entirely and for ever dissipated? Surely that quarrel must be a very bad and hopeless one in which Lord BROUGHAM pronounces against the North, and in which a BUXTON gives his voice against the partisans of Abolition!

VOLUNTEERING IN NEW YORK.—The Committee on Volunteering has lately presented a report to the Board of Supervision, in which they say:—'Already the city and surrounding country seem to have been actually drained of their surplus population, until labourers and mechanics can hardly be obtained at rates of wages which even one year ago would have been deemed fabulous, and every day lessens the inducements for men willing to enter the army. We have, therefore, no right to expect that a new call would increase enlistments, and should the enlisting of naval recruits be discontinued, as we deem likely to be the case soon, the filling the quota by enlistments would seem almost impossible. Let us consider the figures a little closer one moment. Estimate the quota under the call for 300,000 men at 11,000, and deduct 1,000 men now raised in excess of the quota, leaving 10,000. Allow the number of recruits to average 30 men a day—which we think a very large number—it would take considerably more than one year to fill the quota by recruiting. If the Government needs men at all, they need them long before that time. In fact, we sincerely believe that no considerable number of men for the army can now be obtained by volunteering. Your committee deeply regret that they are compelled to such a conclusion, and to give expression to it, but the honest discharge of their duty to the board and to their constituents requires that all the facts should be laid before your honourable body and the people of this country.'

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK: May 31, 1864.

THE SITUATION IN VIRGINIA — WHAT WALL STREET THINKS OF IT—SOUTHERN CONFIDENCE—THE BALTIMORE CONVENTION—THE ORGANISATION OF A CONVENTION—MR. LINCOLN TO BE NOMINATED—THE SPLIT IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY—THE CLEVELAND CONVENTION—THE CHARGES AGAINST MR. LINCOLN—FREMONT'S POSITION—THE CHANCES OF GRANT—DISORGANISATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY—THE CONFESSED OBJECT OF THE WAR—MEXICO AND CONGRESS.

THE war situation continues to be intensely interesting. It is impossible, and would be futile to attempt, within the compass of a letter, to keep track of the movements of armies which are so constantly mystified and misrepresented in the bulletins and by journals, which are the chief and almost the only sources of intelligence. There has been, within a few days, an important change in the position of the two armies in Virginia, and Grant is, as the crow flies, much nearer to Richmond than he was a week ago. There has been, consequently, a great deal of newspaper jubilation in the North over Grant's triumph in having 'outflanked' Lee, and compelled him to retreat. The closet strategists, who win great battles on paper, have a great deal to say now about flanking and outflanking, and have exalted Grant into a wonderful genius for having outwitted Lee, and won some of the most important positions from him. There are two curious circumstances which deprive this laudation of a good deal of its value to General Grant's reputation. One is, that these movements of General Lee, which are described as having been forced upon him by the combinations of General Grant, are such as were exactly pointed out in the journals of Richmond as spontaneous movements to be made by General Lee, with the direct purpose of making his positions stronger than they were before, and of bringing the Federal army into one where it could be most successfully met and baffled. Some of the most decided among the journals attached to the Administration have very plainly expressed their apprehensions that this is the true state of the case. The second and significant circumstance which shows that there is no real faith in the Administrative glorifications over the reported successes of the manœuvres of Grant, is that gold continues to advance. On Monday, in the face of a shower of bulletins posted up in Wall Street, gold went up from 188 to 194¾, and, after fluctuating to and fro, closed at 191¾, or more than three per cent. above the point at which it opened. There was no outgoing steamer, and no extraordinary demand, to account for these fluctuations. It was simply a speculation on the condition of affairs in Virginia, and shows the preponderance of an opinion among the capitalists that all is not going so well with the Union armies there.

With the Confederates confidence in the successful defence of Richmond is apparently unbounded. They claim that in the series of battles thus far the army of Grant has been terribly punished, far beyond the capacity of all the reinforcements he has received to restore it to its original efficiency. They boast that Lee, fighting warily and behind entrenchments, lost comparatively little, and that he has received large accessions from veteran troops, and is now as strong as ever, if not positively stronger, and is master of the positions for the defence of the capital. Butler has been reduced to inaction, Sigel's column defeated and routed, and Averill beaten in South-western Virginia; so that the real points of conflict are in Georgia for Atlanta and in Virginia for Richmond. The bulletins at the North, which give General Sherman credit for a series of victories in Georgia, are not altogether credited here, and are treated as vainglorious exaggerations in Richmond. The duty assigned to General Johnston in Georgia is to protect Atlanta while the great problem is worked out by General Lee in Virginia, and he will certainly do it. The Confederates have no alarms about events on Johnston's line, and they are high in the hope that they will defeat Grant, even if, as is the last report here, the bulk of Butler's forces shall have been transferred to that line. It seems to be the general opinion that a great battle cannot be deferred many days. You will probably get exciting news by the next steamer.

Another great campaign is going on during this week and the next, of which the excited leaders make the grand conflict of battles only an incident. It is the week for settling, or perhaps hopelessly unsettling, the arrangements of the Republican party for the Presidential election in November.

The regular Republican Convention for the nomination of candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency will be held in Baltimore on Tuesday next, June 7. English readers may not understand all that is meant here by a 'regular' Convention. In this country all political parties create a machinery for preserving a permanent organisation. They have their 'regular' committees in each State, through whom alone 'regular' conventions of the party are made in the various districts through whom alone the authorised expositions of party policy are announced and outside of whom is party heterodoxy. The party is not supposed to speak or act except by these organs. It is one of those republican inventions by which a few political managers contrive to govern a party while it seems to govern itself, and through it to govern a country. These State organisations rule the politics of the States, and a central organisation preserves unity in all general matters, so as to blend the whole, under the influence of a National Convention which assembles once in four years to fix a general creed and nominate candidates for Presidency and Vice-Presidency. Every National Convention, before adjourning, appoints a general or national committee of men from each State, with power to call meetings for future Conventions, fix the day and place of meeting, and determine in advance the order of proceeding for the preliminary organisation of the party conventions they summon. The Republican Convention of 1860, which nominated Mr. Lincoln, created the customary national committee, and that committee some time ago appointed Baltimore as the place, and June 7 as the time, for the holding of the nominating Convention for the election of 1864. There is no power to change the time except by the committee: and although there have been very strenuous efforts by a large part of the Republicans, adverse to the renomination of Mr. Lincoln, to obtain a postponement of the nomination, in view of the critical events transpiring, the results of which may seriously affect the opinion of the public on the Presidential question, they have been unsuccessful: the Convention will meet on the 7th, and will be, without doubt, the 'regular' Convention of the Republican party; all other Republican nominations will be held to be heretical.

A device has been suggested as finding favour with some of Mr. Lincoln's more timid partisans, and some who are suspected of being insincere in their professions of adhesion to him—that the Convention of the 7th should meet and adjourn over for a month or two without making nominations, to see whether harmony cannot be restored among the Republicans, who a now at sword's point with each other on the apprehend nomination of Mr. Lincoln for reelection by the Convention Baltimore. But this scheme is not at all likely to succee The Convention will meet, and without a sudden and sweepi change in public affairs, amounting almost to a little revolutio Mr. Lincoln will receive the nomination by a very large vote, it be not made unanimous by the suppression of all e pression of opposition. The party machinery in the States h been so successfully wielded by his friends and dependents, an the power of patronage and the control which the unscrupulou use of military irresponsibility has given him over the person opinions, and fortunes of the leading manipulators of th public opinion, which is made to the order of party leaders, i so immense, that all regular voices of the party are in chorus fo the renomination of Mr. Lincoln.

But there is an intense feeling of hostility to Mr. Lincol within the bosom of his own party, and even in his ow Cabinet and the political household about himself, which, i advance of the nomination at least, threatens to break from th party organisation for the single purpose of defeating him Even the Secretary of the Treasury is accused of being in th intrigue to defeat the party chief with another candidate, afte having been foiled in the effort to supplant him by obtainin the nomination for himself. The elements of this opposition are various and incongruous, but it is fierce, and, in its line a least, uncompromising in the determination that, whatever th consequences, Mr. Lincoln shall not be reelected. To-da there is to be a grand gathering of these malcontents at Cleve land, in Ohio, in mass convention, held under short notice, wit separate calls from different classes of opponents, for the pur pose of consulting on the means of preventing the election o Mr. Lincoln, even after the Baltimore Convention shall hav nominated him.

The original leaders in this movement are the ultra-Radicals of the west, and the extreme Abolitionists of the east, wh arraign Mr. Lincoln for irresolution and insincerity in th management of the slavery question, which they make the sol justification of the war: for administrative imbecility in con ducting it; and for the sordid and personal uses to which he has put the vast means which the people placed in his hands. The charges they make against him for the corruptions he has fostered, and the crimes against the liberty of the citizens he has perpetrated, his open breaches of the Constitution, and the flagrant employment of the army in order to accomplish his personal objects, are made as vehemently as those for which many an unlucky Democrat has been persecuted, plundered, and imprisoned, without the chance of redress, or a word of sympathy from these same railers. The motives for this Radical outbreak were at the outset personal and vindictive. Mr. Lincoln, too feeble to have a policy of his own, vacillated between the factions which beset him, and offended most that one which had the best right to control him, because it had made the emergency which brought him unexpectedly into power, and which, being at the same time fanatical and sincere, would not be contented with equivocal positions, which suited those who were only fanatical for a purpose, and wanted to play at moderation for a purpose also. Fremont is the favourite of these Radicals, and Mr. Lincoln's early discarding of Fremont from his confidence—which, had it been from discernment, would have been a credit to him in many minds, but being a piece of selfish caprice, the renouncing of a policy without convictions, and the sacrifice of a friend without compunction because he might be a rival, was simply a baseness—engendered a resentment which nothing can appease. Fremont himself might possibly be conciliated by a price, if it were high enough and secure to be paid; but the Radicals, whom the disgracing of Fremont alienated, and furnished with the opportunity to clamour for free speech, to denounce the invasions of public liberty, and to pronounce for the non-eligibility of any President, as a cardinal principle for the preservation of free government and the securing of honest administrations, have taken so determined an attitude, and ranged themselves so universally both against Mr. Lincoln himself and the agencies by which his nomination is effected, that I cannot see how it is possible to appease the feud so as to bring to Mr. Lincoln the whole support of the Republican party. The policy of the Administration is to break the force of the Cleveland gathering by intrigue among the members, producing such discords in the definition of objects, that union among them cannot be effected; or, if a nomination can be made, to have it turned upon some person who can be persuaded to withdraw, or, in the course of revolving circumstances, be unavailable. There is a growing party in favour of nominating General Grant; but it seems to be made up by the outside influences of a class of political leaders of various factions, who are thronging to Cleveland to try and make an amalgamation of parties there on a single candidate in opposition to Mr. Lincoln; and the military popularity which Grant has suddenly acquired is needed in order to counteract the official influence of the President over the army, by whose votes the Presidency will in all present probability be disposed of. But the popularity of Grant is something which may be ephemeral, and may perish in the ditches before Richmond. It is moreover suspected that the Administration possesses the assurances of General Grant that he will not be used as a candidate; and therefore they are not afraid of him. Moreover, there is scarcely a possibility, in the demoralised state of the public mind, that an effectual rally can be made against the enormous fusion of influence and corruption with which the President has been able to secure for himself the full endorsement for his whole administration of the regular organisation of the party which elected him, and which will be as unscrupulously used after the nomination has been made, and the question of reelection becomes one of party ascendency. I cannot anticipate such a revolt as will do more than disturb the internal action of the Republicans upon the question which faction among them shall control the Government. It is, I think, past a doubt, that the Democratic party is so utterly extinct as a national organisation, that the Republicans can afford to split and quarrel, and perhaps run two candidates without the fear that any democrat can be elected in consequence of their divisions. It is pretty well settled, by the tone of the democracy in the west, that they hold out there that the success of what is called a war democrat is not worth contending for, and the times are not yet ripening for the success of a peace democrat, although the growth of an outspoken party, which is for stopping the war at once, at all costs, and in every contingency, has of late been singularly rapid. Another year would make it a formidable if not a triumphant party. As it is, the war democrat is only a variety of the same party with Mr. Lincoln and his Republican adversaries, and will be felt in the coming elections only as a make-weight in the turning of the balance of power among factions all equally selfish. Only the shock of a great calamity, the defeat of General Grant, and a failure of this last grand campaign, or a financial convulsion,

which will break down the spirit of the country, can shake off from the people the yoke they voluntarily put on, and drive out of office the present incumbents, or their successors of the same creed. So long as the Northern passion for conquest over the South is fed by the hope of success, and war under any pretence is supported by the votes of a controlling majority in the Northern States, will the rule of corruption and violence and lawlessness prevail, no matter in what hands the executive power may be vested. It is the law of this warfare, the very condition of its existence, and never will there be a plausible hope for the restoration of constitutional government and civil liberty, order and freedom, until this atrocious assault upon the rights and independence of the Southern people is abandoned and repented of, and even then after the purification of a generation of struggling and suffering. Presidential elections which do not have this distinct end in view are mockeries, in which the man of earnest faith and conscience sees nothing to encourage him to look hopefully into the future. It is as sad as it is true, that many of the best and purest men in the North believe in their inmost hearts that the happiest thing for the future of the Northern States would be such a crowning disaster as would put an immediate end to the war.

The disposition of the present Congress towards peace, or any attempts to have peace on other terms than the unconditional surrender by the South, not only to the ascendency of the Federal authority, but all the penalties of confiscation, devastation, and punishment as rebels, which conquest by force of arms brings upon the vanquished, has been tested several times lately, with the same uniform result. On the assumption that the arms of the Union are on the point of prevailing, twice within a fortnight have propositions been brought forward by the minority, declaratory of the purpose of the war, that it is for the restoration of the Union under the old Constitution, and proffering to submitting States a full enjoyment of the rights which they enjoyed as members of the old Union, reserving only a 'sound and patriotic discretion' in excluding from the amnesty the chief leaders of rebellion, and twice the propositions have been rejected by lurge majorities. It is a vainglorious assumption that the privilege of returning to the Union will ever be asked for, but the reiterated declaration that the war is to be continued without intent to reestablish the Constitution, and avowedly to employ cruel, bloody, and exterminating means to make a new government, establishes a confessed dissolution of the old government, and vindicates, in the eyes of every candid partisan of the original cause of the North, the righteousness of the eternal resistance to which the universal South pledges itself in every form of heroic resolve.

The Internal Tax Bill is still an unfinished business between the two Houses of Congress, and the New Tariff Bill has just been reported in the Senate. The House of Representatives has passed a resolution to close its sitting on Monday next, June 6; but the Senate has not yet acceded, and the probabilities are that the session will be protracted, in consequence of the great quantity of unfinished business and the idleness of this and the next week, which will be devoted to the business of electioneering, on the Presidential canvas for the nominations.

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs is very much exercised about the Monroe doctrine, and the way in which the Administration is dealing on that subject with the French Government and with Congress. The President's message, communicating the correspondence of Mr. Seward and Mr. Dayton with each other, and with M. Drouyn de Lhuys, has raised a great deal of feeling. American vanity is deeply wounded at the haste with which deprecatory messages were sent off to France, to break the force of a unanimous vote passed by the representatives of the American people, by assurances that the vote really means nothing, and will come to nothing, because the House has no power to give any practical force to its opinions, and the President does not intend to let it influence his own course in any way which will give offence to the French Emperor. The perplexity of the House is extreme. There is no idea of renouncing the policy announced in this declaration against Imperialism and French intervention in Mexico; but the Administration is using the absorbing war question so as to break their unanimity on the expediency of repeating it, so as to make it a practical question, till the war is over. Under such persuasives they may hold back, and avoid any further proceedings which might embarrass the Government with the necessity of answering the sharp demand of the French Minister whether it meant war, with another apologetic explanation of the insignificance of the House of Representatives. The diplomatic situation will continue officially 'satisfactory.' The French Emperor will have no right to utter complaint while this Government publicly undertakes to use all its own functions to repress the national sentiment of hostility to his policy in Mexico; but he is not so wise a monarch as he is esteemed to be, if this undertaking be accepted as the guarantee for a peaceful acquiescence in the Mexican Empire. Congress chafes under these restraints on its free action; and already the conduct of the Administration in this propitiation of France at the cost of renouncing a favourite American idea, and discrediting before Europe the unanimous act of an American House of Representatives, is already taken into the political arena. The Cleveland Convention makes it the topic of biting attack on the Administration, and every party at the coming election will make haste to pledge itself to the revival and enforcement of the Monroe doctrine. It will be very absurd and very impracticable, but that will not prevent it from being very mischievous; and all experience ought to warn all foreign governments that there is no limit to the extent to which a popular passion in this country will hurry the Government and people.

A Fight between two Federal Senators.—Washington has been entertained with a fight between Senator Voorhees (Democrat) and Senator Chandler (Republican). It appears that they met in the evening at the National Hotel. Mr. Chandler took a seat near to Mr. Voorhees, and, says the *Washington Star*, 'he was in conversation with a lady, and was denouncing copperheads and peace men in pretty sharp terms; and in order to show her how much he abhorred the latter, he stated something to the effect that if he were standing between heaven and hell and saw a copperhead in heaven he would plunge into hell; furthermore, that he would not help a copperhead out of hell if he could, for he believed they were made up of all that was villanous and hellish.' Mr. Voorhees came up and struck him roughly in the face, and a fight ensued. After a while friends interposed and separated the senators.

The Will of Butler's Brother.—Andrew J. Butler's will has been offered for probate in the Surrogate's office in New York. His estate is valued at two millions of dollars, the half of which he bequeaths to his brother. The *New York Express* says, 'It is understood that there are several New Orleans claimants who intend to file petitions as creditors.'

LETTER FROM TEXAS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Houston, Texas: May 12, 1864.

THE 'UNKNOWN' COUNTRY—THE CAPTURE OF FEDERAL GUNBOATS AT CALCASSIEU PASS—ACCOUNT OF BANKS'S LATE CAMPAIGN—THE NUMBERS ENGAGED—THE LOSSES OF THE FEDERALS.

A Correspondent of the *New York Times*, writing from Banks's army on its late advance up Red River, makes mention among other things of inhabitants vanishing before that army towards Shreveport and the 'Unknown.' Texas has indeed been an unknown country to the Federals since this war began, and, to most who have attempted to penetrate it, 'that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveller ever returns.' I need not refer you to the battle of Galveston, in which General Magruder, with a handful of horse-marines, captured one gunboat, caused the destruction of another, and sent the balance of the fleet ignominiously to sea under the white flag—an exhibition of the white feather, I venture to say, unsurpassed in this or any other war. Nor need I mention the heroic capture, a few days after, of the *Morning Light* and *Velocity*, two armed vessels twenty miles at sea, by Major Watkins, on a river steamboat that required more bravery to go to sea in than is demanded to storm a fortress. These you have heard of. You have also heard of the famous capture of Brownsville and Arkansas by General Banks last winter, as well as several miles of islands along our coast, which were abandoned by General Magruder because not worth the trouble of holding. The friends of General Banks attempted to make some capital for him out of these conquests, but, for the most part, his praises fell upon the ear of a public not now to be 'pleased with a rattle and tickled with a straw,' as earlier in the war.

You have doubtless, too, heard some accounts of the defence of Sabine Pass by Lieutenant Dowling and his forty Irishmen on the 8th of last September, when attacked by gunboats with a view of making a safe landing for 15,000 Yankees under Franklin, who were at hand on transports, and how Dowling, with his six smooth-bore guns on an open breastwork, captured the gunboats *Sachem* 5 and *Clifton* 6, together with their crews, 385 men, and drove the balance of the fleet to sea, he himself not daring to show his disarmed prisoners how small his force was, lest they might turn upon him and overpower him. But you have not heard of the last event that has occurred in the neighbourhood of this famous Pass.

There is, a few miles east of Sabine, on the Louisiana coast, a pass or entrance, called Calcassieu Pass, leading into Lake Calcassieu, a noted entrance for small-fry blockade-runners. A few days since word reached here that there were two light-draught gunboats at the pass endeavouring to work their way in, in order to pick up what might be found in the lake. Orders were at once despatched to Colonel Griffin, commanding at Sabine Pass, to go and attack them. He did so at once, with a light force and two pieces of artillery. The next morning a despatch was received from him that he had captured two gunboats and sixteen guns, and 126 prisoners. That part of the country, accordingly, remains unknown to the Yankees. Their future charts should have the word '*dangerous*' printed on that part of the coast from Sabine Pass to Calcassieu. It certainly has proved more dangerous to them than Scylla and Charybdis. In fact, there is no middle passage of safety there. They will probably give it a wide berth for the future.

Let me now give you as succinctly as I can a detail of the late events in Lousiana.

General Banks, commander of the Federal department of the Gulf, on finding that his autumn and winter campaign on our coast was likely to be barren of any useful results, withdrew and inaugurated a heavy campaign on our north-eastern frontier. He however kept a large force in our front, with which by various movements, threatenings, &c., he thought to keep General Magruder so interested as to prevent his sending any forces to Louisiana. He as quietly as he could withdrew some 10,000 men from his various camps on the Texas coast to New Orleans. These, with some 5,000 more in that city and at Port Hudson, constituted his army. General Sherman's force had just returned from his successful raid on Meridian to Vicksburg. And of these 10,000 men under General A. J. Smith were secured to aid in the onslaught on Shreveport. Commodore Porter's fleet, embracing several ironclads and wooden gunboats, upwards of twenty in all, was engaged to cooperate. But besides this, General Steele's army of 10,000 men at Little Rock (Arkansas) was to march southward by a simultaneous movement, to be joined *en route* by Blount's army at Fort Smith (Arkansas) under General Thayer. This junction was actually effected, giving Steele some 15,000 men. The plan was for all these forces to move swiftly upon Shreveport and capture it before the Confederates could concentrate, and then with a united army of 40,000 men—my estimates are fully 15,000 below those of General Kirby Smith—to proceed to Northern Texas, fight the Confederate army and scatter it. Having thus subjected the Trans-Mississippi Department, Banks was to go to the aid of Grant east of the river, and close up the rebellion with a grand flourish. This was the programme without doubt. It was a fascinating plan. To all appearance, in Banks's carpeted head-quarters at New Orleans there was no chance of failure. Already he felt the chaplet of victory upon his brow and saw himself a conqueror.

But Kirby Smith was all this time watching him; so was Magruder, one of the greatest generals *me judice* of this war; so was Dick Taylor, a real chip of the old block (Zachary); so was Green, famous for his feeling the enemy by fighting them. Whilst Banks's vanity imagined he was amusing Magruder on the coast of Texas, Magruder saw all his motions, and had his army placed in light marching order. Whilst it was presumed that Kirby Smith was administering public affairs as was his wont, he was quietly gathering his scattered forces and maturing his plan to resist the invasion.

The Federal General A. J. Smith, with his ten thousand, left Vicksburg on March 12. Banks, with his fifteen (perhaps twenty) thousand, left New Orleans about the same time. Steele began his advance from Little Rock, and Thayer his from Fort Smith. Fort De Russy and Alexandria fell an easy prey to A. J. Smith. Banks joined Smith at Alexandria. They marched on to Natchitoches, the Confederates offering no resistance.

Meanwhile Magruder's army was tramping on over the wide expanse of territory to meet them. The scattered regiments in Louisiana were also gathering in. It was the plan, as I believe, of General Kirby Smith to draw both Banks and Steele to points within ten miles of Shreveport, and then, joining his entire forces—those under Price in Arkansas, those in Louisiana, and those from Texas—fall upon Banks first and whip him, and then, turning immediately upon Steele, put him to rout before he could do any mischief. He presumed that Banks was enough of a general to keep his army together. But he was mistaken. Advancing from Natchitoches, Banks, with the 13th Army Corps under General T. E. G. Ransom, was leading the way; the cavalry of Lee, some five thousand strong, being along with Ransom, while the 19th Corps was some ten miles in the rear, and the 16th and 17th (General A. J. Smith) some fifteen miles further off at Pleasant Hill. General Dick Taylor, who was at Mansfield in command of the Confederate forces, saw the opportunity, and on the morning of the 8th despatched to General Kirby Smith an account of the position, with the information that he should attack the enemy at once. Skirmishing began that morning, and by 4 P.M. the battle had become general, which in an hour's time was practically won by the enemy retreating. By 9 P.M. the retreat became a rout, and whilst our army was resting for the night, the enemy kept up its flight, falling back successively on the 19th, the 16th, and the 17th Corps at Pleasant Hill. Here they made a stand. But the battle of the 8th had cowed them. On the 9th our forces came up with them and fought again, the enemy then outnumbering them two to one. The battle was fiercely contested, and was not decisive. The next morning, however, found the enemy retreating and our cavalry pursuing with all speed. The pursuit continued day by day, first to Grand Ecore, near Natchitoches and then to Alexandria, where Banks now is, with the following net loss:—Killed, 1,500; wounded, 7,500; prisoners, over 4,000; cannon, 33; small arms, over 10,000; wagons, 500; gunboats, 4; transports, 5.

It may be asked why was he allowed to escape? First, because he had more men than the Confederates, and we could not surround him; and secondly, because General Steele with his army required attention.

Steele had meanwhile advanced to the Little Missouri River, a branch of the Washita, about fifty miles from Shreveport. Here he was kept in check by Price until after the battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, when Price was reinforced by about six thousand infantry from the army below. Steele, learning how matters had turned out with Banks, sheered off in an easterly direction to Camden. His army was without food, and it was necessary to forage. He sent out 300 wagons for this purpose, guarded by six pieces of artillery and a force of 1,500 infantry. This force was captured almost entire by the Confederates. Reaching Camden he sent 400 more of his wagons, under guard of 1,000 men, to Pine Bluff. Price learning this sent Fagan, who made a detour around Steele's army, fell upon the train, and captured it.

Steele now attempted to retreat. He fell back on Princeton, and thence on the Sabine River. Here a desperate battle was fought on the 30th of April, which was a success on both sides, since Steele got across the swollen river and destroyed his pontoons, leaving it impossible for us to follow him, while we held the battle-ground, having captured some of his artillery, 2,000 small arms, and 200 wagons. Steele's net loss in his advance to Shreveport has been as follows:—Killed, 1,700; wounded, 5,500; prisoners, 1,800; cannon, 10; small arms, 4,000; wagons, 1,000.

Thus has ended this much-talked-of campaign. The entire force of Confederates actually engaged against the Federals has been under 25,000. These 25,000 have put to rout double their number, killing, wounding, and capturing considerably more than their own numbers. I remarked above that General Kirby Smith believed the enemy's force to be much larger than I have given it. It was so reported, and quite likely with truth. General Smith's sources of information are better than those of any one else. The basis of my estimates are mainly the statements of Federal correspondents to the Northern press, with the exception of the Arkansas army, which was given by them at 30,000. I cannot believe that, however.

The results of these victories cannot yet be told. Speculation upon them would be vain. I think, however, that they have been the most decisive of the war, and look to see the whole Federal campaign for 1864 materially affected by them. Their effect upon our own armies is striking. We had less than 25,000 muskets to meet this invasion. Our army in this department is now larger than it was before these battles began. We have lost, undoubtedly, many men, not less probably in all than 5,000 in killed and wounded. But we have gained in prestige and in conquest vastly. We have saved Texas from invasion, and saved the armies of Lee and Johnston from having those of Banks, A. J. Smith, and Steele to fight this year.

Were my letter not already too long, I would say something of the condition of Texas and its future prospects, but I am admonished to reserve that for another time.

NAVAL PRIZES IN BRITISH WATERS.

The following instructions have been sent by the British Government to Governors of colonies:—

Downing Street, June 2.

Sir,—I think it well to communicate to you the decisions at which Her Majesty's Government have arrived on certain questions which have arisen respecting the treatment of prizes captured by Federal or Confederate cruisers if brought into British waters.

1. If any prize captured by a ship-of-war of either of the belligerent Powers shall be brought by the captors within Her Majesty's jurisdiction, notice shall be given by the governor to the captors immediately to depart and remove such prize.

2. A vessel which shall have been actually and bonâ fide converted into, and used as, a public vessel of war, shall not be deemed to be a prize, within the meaning of these rules.

3. If any prize shall be brought within Her Majesty's jurisdiction through mere stress of weather, or other extreme and unavoidable necessity, the governor may allow for her removal such time as he may consider to be necessary.

4. If any prize shall not be removed at the time prescribed to the captors by the governor, the governor may detain such prize until Her Majesty's pleasure shall be made known.

5. If any prize shall have been captured by any violation of the territory or territorial waters of Her Majesty, the governor may detain such prize until her Majesty's pleasure shall be made known.

Her Majesty's Government have not thought it necessary to make any addition to the instructions already given with respect to cargoes, viz., that Her Majesty's orders apply as much to prize cargoes of every kind which may be brought by any armed ships or privateers of either belligerent into British waters as to the captured vessels themselves. They do not, however, apply to any articles which may have formed part of any such cargoes if brought within British jurisdiction, not by armed ships or privateers of either belligerent, but by other persons who may have acquired or may claim property in them by reason of any dealings with the captors.

These rules are for the guidance of the executive authority, and are not intended to interfere in any way with the process of any court of justice.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) Edward Cardwell.

CONFEDERATE CRUISERS AND THEIR PRIZES.

CAPTAIN SEMMES has addressed the following to the *Times* as a reply 'to numerous assaults upon him by the English Press, on the subject of his destroying prizes at sea without adjudication by a Prize Court':—

THE REASONS WHY CONFEDERATE CRUISERS BURN THEIR PRIZES, AND THE REMEDY.

Confederate States' Steamer Alabama, on the High Seas, April, 1864.

I had the honour to command the first vessel of war (the steamer *Sumter*) commissioned by the Confederate States in the present war, and, having successfully run the blockade of New Orleans and got to sea, it early became necessary for me to adopt some mode of disposing of my prizes. A blockade of the entire coasts of the Confederate States had already been declared, and the enemy was busy in collecting and arming ships to enforce it; and I presumed that in the course of a few months the blockade would be at least sufficient to keep out sail vessels, and of this class, with rare exceptions, it was probable my prizes would be. It was clear, therefore, that I should be effectually prevented from sending my prizes into the Confederate ports. Up to the time of my running the blockade (June 30, 1861) I had not seen Her Britannic Majesty's Orders in Council prohibiting the belligerents from bringing their prizes into British ports; and looking to the unequal operation of such orders I had strong hopes that none such would be issued. I made my first prizes on the coast of Cuba, and with a view to test the disposition of Spain in this matter I sent them—seven in number—into the port of Cienfuegos. Their arrival was telegraphed to the Captain-General at Havannah. The Captain-General was without instructions, the orders of neutrality of the Queen of Spain not yet having been received. The prizes were permitted to remain until these orders should arrive. The orders came, and the prizes were afterwards illegally handed over to the enemy, instead of being warned to depart. Spain, as well as France, had followed the lead of Great Britain, and in due time all the smaller commercial nations did the same. To show the objects I had in view in sending in these prizes, I quote below an extract from my letter to the Governor of Cienfuegos:—

'The cargoes of several of these vessels are claimed, as appears by certificates found among the papers, as Spanish property. This fact cannot, of course, be verified except by a judicial proceeding in the Prize Courts of the Confederate States. But while this fact is being determined, what is to be done with the property? I have the right to destroy the vessels, but not the cargoes, in case the latter should prove to be, as claimed, Spanish property; but how can I destroy the former and not the latter? I cannot before sentence unlade the cargoes and deliver them to the claimants, for I do not know that the claims will be sustained; and I cannot destroy the cargoes, for I do not know that the claims will not be sustained. Indeed, one of the motives which influenced me in seeking a Spanish port was the fact that these cargoes were claimed by Spanish subjects, whom I am desirous of putting to as little inconvenience as possible in the unlading and reception of their property after sentence, in case it should be restored to them.'

It will thus be seen that I was not only anxious to condemn my prizes, but to put neutrals to as little inconvenience as possible. If my prizes had been received into neutral ports, and permitted to remain there until they could be adjudicated by our Prize Courts, sitting in our own territory, no possible inconvenience that I can perceive could have resulted to neutral nations, and the rights of every one would have been secured—the right of the captor to the full benefit of his prize, and the right of the neutral claimant to adjudication. What inconvenience to Great Britain, for example, could possibly have grown out of the fact of a captured vessel lying quietly at her dock in the port of Liverpool in charge of a ship-keeper and prize agent until she could be adjudicated; and if she should be condemned, why could not she have been sold as quietly at public auction as if she had been seized and sold under an execution for debt? It was my intention to follow the precedent set in the *Cienfuegos* case—of sending all my prizes into the most convenient ports for the parties concerned; as, where there were English claimants, into English ports; French claimants, into French ports, &c.; but this intention was frustrated, as has been seen, by the orders of the Queen's Government—I say the Queen's Government, because that Government gave the cue which was followed by all the other nations. By these orders I was deprived at the same time of the right of asylum and sale of my prizes, and of the power of adjudication. What course was expected of me under these circumstances? Was it expected that I would abandon the right of capture altogether? or that I would be guilty of the child's play of capturing the enemy's ships with one hand and releasing them with the other? that, in short, I would retire from the high seas, and leave the enemy to pursue his commerce, his 'innocent and peaceable commerce,' as Mr. Adams plaintively and naïvely calls it, without molestation? If you did not suppose this—and I will not impute such folly to a people who not only know the value of commerce to a belligerent, but who have always annihilated the commerce of their enemies in their own wars—you must have known that I would destroy the enemy's ships in every case where it was possible. Why, then, do you complain of the course I pursued? Was it just to force that course upon me, and then exclaim against it in pious horror? Is this the kind of 'fair play' upon which Englishmen pride themselves?

But your neutrality, you say, compelled you to this course. Let us see how that is. What is neutrality? Impartiality. Impartiality in form or appearance merely, or impartiality in substance? When a nation is called upon in good faith to perform that most solemn act of declaring her impartiality between two belligerents, is a mere jugglery of words all that is necessary, or must she look at the practical consequences of the rule she adopts? To this query there would seem to be but one answer. The rule must not only speak in the language of justice, but it must work out the ends of justice. Otherwise it is a sham and a deceit. Let us test the orders of British neutrality by this canon. On their face nothing could be more fair. Whatever is ordained as to the one belligerent is ordained as to the other. The prizes of both belligerents are prohibited from entering British waters. But when these orders were penned what facts and what consequences were in the mind of the Minister? Did he or did he not know that he was dealing a staggering blow at the Confederate States at the same time that he was playing directly into the hand of the Federal States? Let us see. It will be admitted that the two belligerents had the right to use against each other all the modes of warfare recognised by the international code, and that no nation had the right to prohibit to either of them the use of any of those modes. Privateering was one of those modes, and the circumstances of the two parties to the war were such that this mode of offence was peculiarly valuable to the Confederate States. The Federal States had a large commerce and a very respectable navy, they having retained possession of all the ships of war of the old service, while the Confederate States had little or no commerce, and were just beginning to improvise a navy. (And here it may not be out of place to mention a fact highly creditable to the parties concerned:—Every ship of war in the command of a Southern naval officer at the date of the secession of his State was duly handed over to the Federal Government before the officer resigned his commission and returned to his State. A large proportion of the wealth of the Federal States consisted in their commerce, and if this could be destroyed an important blow would be struck in the war. The 'Volunteer Corps' of the sea—as legitimate as the 'Volunteer Corps' of the land—was the most effective weapon with which to strike this blow, and, accordingly, in the first days of the war several privateers were commissioned, and others were being rapidly fitted out when the Queen's orders appeared and knocked the whole scheme on the head. As if by magic, the privateers which had already been commissioned disappeared from the seas, and all work was suspended on those in course of preparation, and the little *Sumter*, afterwards assisted by two or three other small vessels, was obliged to undertake the Herculean task of destroying a commerce second only to that of Great Britain, and which covered every sea. The reason of the disappearance of these private armed ships is obvious. They are prepared at the cost of individuals, and depend wholly upon their captures for success. If these cannot be made available the enterprise becomes abortive, and the capital invested in it is sunk; and they could not be made available by reason of the Queen's orders referred to denying them the right of asylum in British ports, the British Foreign Secretary well knowing that they could not be made available in the Confederate ports because of the blockade, the blockade having been proclaimed on April 18, 1861, and the orders in Council not having been issued until June 1 following. So far as results were concerned the British Government might as well have said to the Confederate States, in the words of the 'Declaration' of Paris, 'Privateering is and remains abolished,' although the said States were not bound by the said declaration, the United States, then the Federal mouthpiece, having declined to accede thereto before the war.

There was no occasion for Mr. Seward to endeavour to 'sneak' into this 'declaration,' after the war, in the hope that by becoming a party to it Great Britain would illogically hold that the Confederate States, now acknowledged as belligerents, would be bound by the act of their enemy. The British Foreign Secretary knew his business better than this. With the most commendable sagacity he took care of his logic and of his friend Mr. Seward at the same time, and accomplished the object of the Federal Government by his orders in Council, without permitting its Minister to humiliate himself.

This was one result of the declaration of neutrality—*Anglicè* partiality—put forth by Great Britain. But the mischief did not end here. The Confederate States being compelled to restrict their operations upon the high seas to their ships of war, those ships were also seriously embarrassed by this declaration. Their inability to adjudicate their prizes has already been referred to. As a consequence of this inability they could make no beneficial use of them. Not only so, they were compelled in many instances to release them on ransom bond for the benefit of neutrals—that is to say, to give neutral claimants of cargoes an opportunity after the war, when the bonds should be sued upon, to vindicate their claims in a court of justice, which opportunity their own Governments had denied to them during the war by rendering it impossible for them to go before a Confederate Prize Court. The release of these vessels operated strongly, too, in favour of the enemy. For it amounted to a loan to him of so much property, of which he had been rightfully deprived, with which to carry on the war; his bonds, in the meantime, being of no use to the captors, as it was impossible to collect them until after the war. This double mischief, therefore, ensued in these bond cases—the enemy continued to carry on his commerce, and commerce to a belligerent is strength; while the captor's means, *quoad* the war, were not increased by his captures. The reader will now see why as few of these ships as possible were released on bond, the release being confined to those cases in which an apparent *bonâ fide* neutral claim was presented on the face of properly prepared papers. Nevertheless, to show the good faith with which the captor must have acted towards neutrals in this matter, every ship destroyed by him was so much property destroyed against his own interest; for the ship being destroyed, no prize-money could be realised, whereas the bond would be valuable to him at the end of the war. And although it was to be presumed that every officer would, from a sense of duty, destroy as many of his prizes as possible, yet we see that at least he had no private interest to urge him to destroy them when there was a question of neutral rights, his leaning being, in fact, the other way.

This, then, is the working of those British orders in Council which, on the face of them, appear to be entirely unexceptionable. Stripping off the diplomatic disguise of language—which is so thin and transparent that the wonder is that it should have been resorted to at all with the hope of concealment—more unjust, oppressive, and unneutral orders could not have been devised. If the practical effect of these orders is such as I have stated, what excuse can be offered for adopting them? Can it be said that no other course was open to the British Government under the laws of nations? If so, that would be a sufficient excuse; for where a Government has no alternative it would certainly be unjust to hold it responsible for all the consequential damages of its acts. It might be said with truth, in reply to our complaints, 'We were obliged, under the laws of nations, regulating and controlling our neutrality, to exclude your prizes from our ports; and if, by reason of your inferior naval force, and the consequent blockade of your ports, the rule operates more harshly upon you than upon the enemy, that is your misfortune, not our fault.' But the fact is, there is no such excuse to offer. It was, at least, equally as open to Great Britain to admit as to exclude our prizes, as I will now proceed to show. The practice of nations has been various on this point, and it rests in the discretion of each nation to admit prizes into its ports or to exclude them, as it may think fit. This seems to be the general understanding of the law on this question, although there is very respectable authority for the opinion that a nation cannot lawfully exclude the prizes of a belligerent without previous treaty stipulations to that effect. —*Loccenius de Jure Maritimo*, l. 2, c. 4, s. 7. As a general rule, belligerent nations have not favoured the carrying of their prizes into neutral ports, and the reasons are obvious. It is more convenient for the Prize Courts that they should have the actual custody of the prize to be adjudicated. And the bringing in of prizes to the home ports gives the subjects of the captor an opportunity of dealing in prize property, an object of no small importance in a maritime war where many valuable captures are made. It gives the Government, too, the advantage of buying in such ships as it may wish to equip for the purposes of war, an advantage of which the Federal States have frequently availed themselves during the present war. Hence, belligerent nations have generally required their cruisers to bring their prizes into the home ports. Still, in cases where the contrary practice was convenient, nations have freely availed themselves of it, without let or hindrance from neutrals, unless there was a treaty in the way. In former wars in which Great Britain has been concerned, Leghorn and Lisbon were frequently made use of for this purpose; the prizes being condemned and sold without ever reaching the home ports at all. But taking the modern practice to be for the neutral to admit or exclude prizes at pleasure, the presumption always is, previous to the issue by the neutral of any order on the subject, in favour of the admission—this having been the more common practice. On this point see *Wheaton's Elements* (Lawrence), p. 498; see also 3 *Phillimore's International Law*, p. 467, sec. 363. The treaties between nations on this subject have been as various as the practice. In 1778 a treaty was entered into between France and the United States, whereby no ship of the enemy of either party was allowed to sell her prize, or discharge her cargo, or buy more provisions than immediately indispensable, in the ports of the other.

In 1800 a similar treaty was entered into by the same parties.

In 1794 a treaty of exclusion was made between England and the United States.

In 1806 a treaty was made between the same parties, containing similar provisions.

In 1782 a treaty was entered into between the United States and Holland, then one of the principal maritime Powers, whereby the sale of prizes brought by either party into the ports of the other was legalised.

In 1742 a treaty was made between Spain and Denmark authorising the reception and sale of prizes reciprocally; and so late as 1829 a treaty was ratified between Holland and the Republic of Colombia authorising the reception of prizes into each other's ports.

Now, if the treaties between Great Britain and the United States were still in existence, there is no doubt that Great Britain would be obliged under those treaties to apply the rule of exclusion to the Confederate States; but it will be remembered that a war occurred between the two contracting parties in 1812, subsequently to the formation of those treaties, which abrogated them; and the subject has not since been renewed either in the Treaty of Ghent, which put an end to that war, or in any subsequent treaty. The ignoring of such a question, after it had once been made the subject of a treaty, places in a very strong light the intention of the parties to remain perfectly free to exercise their discretion for the future. Great Britain, then, has no excuse for the unjust and unneutral course she has pursued. She can neither affirm that she had no alternative under the laws of nations, nor that she was bound by any treaty obligation.

One more question, which has already been incidentally noticed, remains to be disposed of. If Great Britain had permitted the entry of prizes into her ports, would this have enabled the captors to condemn them so as to give an indefeasible title to the purchaser? Without doubt. Notwithstanding Lord Stowell, in the case of the *Flad Oyen* (1 Rob., pp. 139–142), declared the practice (he was commenting on the practice of the French courts, in the heat of a French war, and every lawyer knows the *vim* with which his Lordship assailed everything French) to be 'infrequent and irregular,' it is now well settled that a belligerent prize court, sitting in its own country, may adjudicate a prize lying in neutral waters, provided the possession of the captor remains. And this position seems to be as unanswerable in principle as it is well settled in practice. The proceeding in a prize case is *in rem*, and to give the court jurisdiction it is only necessary that it should have possession of the prize. But this need not be actual possession by the officers of the court, as by the marshal and his bailiffs. It is sufficient if the captor, or his duly appointed agent, has possession, because his possession is that of the Government under whose authority the court sits, as effectually as would be that of the marshal; and no principle is better settled than that a neutral Government has no right to interfere with the captor's possession of his prize—the only case excepted of the capture having been made within the waters of the neutral territory. So that if the prize be admitted into the neutral port at all—and the argument proceeds upon that hypothesis—the captor's possession remains as firmly established as if he and his prize were in his own country. In support of this jurisdiction of the Prize Court I quote the following authorities:—In 111 *Phillimore's International Law*, p. 482, it is said:—'An attentive review of all the cases decided in the Courts of England and the North American United States during the last war (1812) leads to the conclusion that the condemnation of a capture by a regular Prize Court, sitting in the country of the belligerent, of a prize lying at the time of the sentence in a neutral port is irregular, but clearly valid. In appears to be the inclination of the English Prize Court, during the present war (Russian) to limit to cases of necessity the condemnation of vessels lying in a neutral port. It is scarcely necessary to add, after what has been said as to the former French law on condemnations by judges of the belligerent in neutral ports (that is, the judge, and the prize both being in the neutral port) that such condemnations of vessels lying in neutral ports are holden valid by the French Prize Courts' Again, in the volume already quoted, p. 426, it is said, 'The courts of the North American United States allow that property may be condemned in the courts of the captor while lying in a neutral country, but still they rightly hold that it can only be so adjudicated upon while the possession of the captor remains; for if it be divested, either in fact or by operation of law, that possession is gone which can alone sustain the jurisdiction. And it is to be observed that, *à fortiori*, where the property is already in the custody of a neutral tribunal, and the title is there *sub judice*, no other foreign court can by any adjudication of its own rightfully take away, forestall, or defeat the jurisdiction of this neutral tribunal;' and the author quotes 7, *Wheaton's Reports*, 356. It thus appears that, unless the captor divests himself of the possession of the prize (as by sale, without waiting for condemnation), or his possession is divested by operation of law (as by his bringing a prize captured within neutral waters

within neutral jurisdiction), the belligerent Prize Court, sitting in its own country, has ample power to adjudicate.

There would seem, then, to be no difficulty in the way of Great Britain's revoking her unjust and unneutral orders in Council and returning to a sense of justice. If individuals are bound in conscience to retract their errors when once discovered, how much more are nations bound to do so, the consequences of whose errors are so much more widely spread? By doing justice to the Confederate States Great Britain will not be doing injustice to the Federal States. If she gives an asylum in her ports to the former, she will equally give it to the latter; and if this should work an incidental advantage to the Confederate States, why should this be objected to more than the opposite rule, which has worked them so many disadvantages? And will it be less graceful in Great Britain to perform this act of justice because one of the parties in the *forum* is struggling against odds, while the other has become overbearing, nay, truculent and defiant, from a fancied excess of brute strength? It is never safe for a nation, any more than an individual, to temporise, especially with a bully, and at the cost of injustice to a weaker party. Great Britain innocently fancies that she is 'laying up against a rainy day'—that is to say, that she is conciliating the 'universal Yankee nation' by her present one-sided course, and establishing wise and safe precedents to be followed by that people hereafter when she shall herself become a belligerent. But I warn her that it is all fancy, and that she will reap the reward of her timidity in the usual way—timidity on the part of nations always inviting further insult and outrage. A people who have become so lunatic as to destroy a constitutional Government and voluntarily submit their necks to the yoke of a coarse and illiterate tyrant for the sake of butchering, in gratification of their revenge, eight millions of their former fellow-citizens, will hardly permit themselves to be ruled by English precedents, to be calmly quoted to them by some future, peace-loving Earl Russell from ponderous blue books.

THE DEATH-BED OF GENERAL STUART.

(From the *Richmond Examiner*.)

No incident of mortality since the fall of the great Jackson has occasioned more painful regret than this. Major-General J. E. B. Stuart, the model of Virginian cavaliers and dashing chieftains, whose name was a terror to the enemy, and familiar as a household word in two continents, is dead, struck down by a bullet from the foe, and the whole Confederacy mourns him. He breathed out his gallant spirit resignedly, and in the full possession of all his remarkable faculties of mind and body, at twenty-two minutes to eight o'clock, Thursday night, at the residence of Dr. Brewer, a relative, in Green Street, in the presence of Drs. Brewer, Garnett, Gibson, and Fontaine, of the General's staff, Rev. Messrs. Peterkin and Kepler, and a circle of sorrow-stricken comrades and friends.

We learn from the physicians in attendance upon the General that his condition during the day was very changeable, with occasional delirium and other unmistakable symptoms of speedy dissolution. In the passing moments of delirium the gallant General reviewed in broken sentences all his glorious campaigns around M'Clellan's rear on the peninsula, beyond the Potomac, and upon the Rapidan, quoting from his orders, and issuing new ones to his couriers, with a last injunction to 'make haste.'

About noon, Thursday, President Davis visited his bedside, and spent some fifteen minutes in the dying chamber of his favourite chieftain. The President, taking his hand, said, 'General, how do you feel?' He replied, 'Easy, but willing to die, if God and my country think I have fulfilled my destiny and done my duty.' As evening approached, the General's delirium increased, and his mind again wandered to the battle-fields over which he had fought, then to wife and children, and again to the front. A telegraphic message had been sent for his wife, who was in the country, with the injunction to make all haste, as the General was dangerously wounded.

As evening wore on the paroxysms of pain increased, and mortification set in rapidly. Though suffering the greatest agony at times, the General was calm, and applied to the wound, with his own hand, the ice intended to relieve the pain. During the evening he asked Dr. Brewer how long he thought he could live, and whether it was possible for him to survive through the night. The doctor, knowing he did not desire to be buoyed by false hopes, told him frankly that death, the last enemy, was rapidly approaching. The General nodded, and said, 'I am resigned if it be God's will; but I would like to live to see my wife. But God's will be done.' Several times he roused up and asked if she had come.

To the doctor, who sat holding his wrist, and counting the fleeting, weakening pulse, he remarked, 'Doctor, I suppose I am going fast now. It will soon be over. But God's will be done. I hope I have fulfilled my destiny to my country and my duty to my God.'

At half-past seven o'clock it was evident to the physicians that death was setting its clammy seal upon the brave, open brow of the General, and they told him so—asking if he had any last message to give. The General, with a mind perfectly clear and possessed, then made disposition of his staff and personal effects. To Mrs. General R. E. Lee he directed that the golden spurs be given as a dying memento of his love and esteem for her husband. To his staff officers he gave his horses. So particular was he in small things, even in the dying hour, that he emphatically exhibited the ruling passion strong in death. To one of his staff, who was a heavy-built man, he said, 'You had better take the larger horse; he will carry you better.' Other mementoes he disposed of in a similar manner. To his young son he left his glorious sword.

His worldly matters closed, the eternal interests of his soul engaged his mind. Turning to the Rev. Mr. Peterkin, of the Episcopal Church, and of which he was an exemplary member, he asked him to sing the hymn commencing

> Rock of ages cleft for me,
> Let me hide myself in thee.

He joined in with all the voice his strength would permit. He then joined in prayer with the ministers. To the doctor he again said, 'I am going fast now. I am resigned. God's will be done.' Thus died General J. E. B. Stuart.

ANOTHER ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—Mr. F. C. Hall, the Arctic explorer who was among the Esquimaux in 1860, 1861, and 1862, purposes to start from the United States this month on a second expedition of discovery in the North Polar regions. Mr. Hall brought back with him, from his first voyage, two Esquimaux, a man and a woman, whom he has supported since, and taught something of civilised life. They, with other natives, will be his only companions.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SHIPS ARRIVED.

AT LIVERPOOL.—June 9: The Lord Elgin, from Demerara. The Camelford, from Havana. The Floating Cloud, from Bahia. The London, The Flash, The Kron Prinz Ernest August, The Lively, The Bayaled, The Caroline, from Pomeroon. The Porteria, from Montevideo. The Lottery, from Nassau. The Gertrude, from Barbadoes. The Asiana, from St. John's.—June 10: The Paragon, from Pernambuco. The Harlequin, from Belize. The Eagle-eyed, The Excel, The Hope, The Virginia, The Lina, The Agnetha, The Sylph, The Catharine, The Edmonds, from Pomeroon. The Montserrat, from Havana. The Calista Haws, from St. John's. The Convoy, from Nassau. The Arriero, from Vera Cruz. The Linda, from Matamoras. The Mount Pleasant, from St. John's. The Maggie, The J. Bell, from Pomeroon. The Donna Maria, from Bahia. The Ann Braginton, from Matamoras. The Blackfriar, from Matanzas. The Stirlingshire, from Trinidad. The Anastatio, from Rio Janeiro. The Maria, The Virginia, The Johanna, from Buenos Ayres. The Queen of the Plym, from Pernambuco.—June 11: The Memory, from Belize. The Harriet Pinkney (steamer), from Bermuda. The Montserrat, from Matamoras. The Thora, from Porto Rico. The Hanover, from Bermuda. The Ioao, from Rio. The Alpha, The Edward Stonard, The Morisas, The Pride of Anglesea, The Black Cat, The Miss Evans, The Anglesea Lass, The Pacific, The John Price, from Pomeroon. The Astarte, The Orpheus, from St. John's. The Anna, from Oporto. The Gorilla, The Caid, The Vasco di Gama, from St. John's.—June 12: The Eastfield, from Caldera. The Mary Johnson, from Uruguay. The Consul, from Havana. The Ella, from Bermuda. The Gesina, The Jansie, from Buenos Ayres. The Kelvin, from Bahia.—June 13: The Venezuelan (steamer), from Vera Cruz. The Tizine, from Bermuda. The Annie, The Putghet, from Matamoras. The Corinthian (steamer), from Oporto. The Almuth Catharina, from Bermuda. The Theria, from Cadiz. The Liverpool, from Nassau. The Gerjusters, from Montevideo.—June 14: The Sylph, from Nassau. The Clementina, from Havana. The Mary Curran, from Pomeroon. The Almedina, from Lisbon.—June 15: The American Union, The Eliza Caroline, from St. John's. The Leander, from Matamoras.

AT DEAL.—June 9: The Louisa, from Messina. The Sydenham, from Demerara. The Electric, from Grenada. The Brilliant, from Callao. June 11: The St. Croix, from Barbadoes. The Isabella, from Trinidad. The Swanley, from Jamaica. The Sea Breeze, from Mauritius. June 12: The Bermuda, from Porto Rico. The Christina, from Jamaica. June 13: The Carmen, from Porto Rico. The Enmore, from Barbadoes. The Flying Cloud, from Demerara.—June 14: The Teresa, from Porto Rico. The Canada West, from Callao. The Marietta, from Berbice. The Victoria, from St. Kitt's. The Maria Manuella, from Oporto. The Goward, from Barbadoes. The Hogarth, from St. Lucia. The Saxon, from Jamaica.

AT GRAVESEND.—June 10: The Jehu, from St. Vincent. The Marshal Pelissier, from Mauritius. The Savannah, from Porto Rico. The Arcadia, The Auto, The Melita, from Jamaica.—June 11: The Force, from St. Lucia. The James Holmes, from Barbadoes. The Ganges, from Demerara. The John Henry, from Tobago. June 12: The Jane Goodyear, from Porto Rico. The Windsbraut, from Jamaica. The Fetto, from Buenos Ayres. The Susan, from Antigua. The Emma, from Porto Rico.—June 13: The Dido, from Buenos Ayres. The Frances Drake, from St. Vincent. The Wagier, from Malaga.—June 14: The Alexis Bardolf, from Jamaica. The Lady Hilda, from Barbadoes. The Eliza Hunter, from Bahia. The Gambia, from Porto Rico. The Lucy Carron, from St. Lucia. The Ettica, from Buenos Ayres. The Montrose, from St. Vincent. The Emma, from Rio Janeiro. The Cambria, from St. Kitt's. The Andromache, from Belize. The Star of India, from Callao. The Britannia, from Mauritius.—June 15: The Havendale, from St. Lucia. The Princess of Wales, from Berbice. The Celia, from Nassau. The Agnes, from Belize. The Energie, from St. John's. The Elizabeth, from Barbadoes.

AT FALMOUTH.—June 9: The Giardiniera, The Paguito, The Princess Royal, from Cuba. The Novo Activo de Novo, from Bahia. The Bolette Pugaard, from Rio Janeiro. The Masonic, from Pernambuco. The Frederick William, from Terceira. The Bermuda, from Porto Rico. The Dinah, from Bahia.—June 10: The Melione, from Porto Rico. The Matfen, from Bahia. The Stientje Romeling, from Porto Rico.—June 11: The Moskiva, from Havana. The Woodlands, from Matamoras. The San Ferdinando, from Havana. The Sappho, from Rio Janeiro. The Belle Aventure. The Gambia, from Porto Rico.—June 12: The Alto, from Havana. The Whinna, The Catharine McIver, from Jamaica.—June 13: The City of Bangor, from Callao, The Golden Gleam, The Mary Macrae, from Rio Grande.—June 14: The Cornelia, from Rio Janeiro. The Llewellyn, from Havana. The Gondola, from Havana. The Cuba, from Trinidad. The Sophia, from Rio Janeiro. The Nora, from Cuba. The Baltic, The Dahlberg, from Havana. The George Anne, from Matanzas. The Wildewank, from Rio Grande.—June 15: The Cameo, The Koh-i-noor, The Indefatigable, The Coral Isle, from Havana. The Victoria, from St. Kitts. The Eluisa, The St. Olaf, The Mary Anne, from Havana. The Ocean, from St. John's. The Salve, from Havana.

AT BRISTOL.—June 13: The Caprice, from Callao. The Wellington, from Havana. The Pioneer, from Cadiz. The Lile, from Montevideo. The Negress, from Barbadoes. The Lotus, from Buenos Ayres. The Ulysses, from Rio Grande. The Carlton, from Havana. The Robert Leonard, from Bermuda.

AT PLYMOUTH.—June 14: The Brage, from Rio Janeiro. The Eagle, from Bahia. The Superior, from Cadiz. The Venus, from Porto Rico. The R. H. Tucker, from Callao.

AT SWANSEA.—June 13: The Slain's Castle, from Cuba. The Scout, from Caldera.

AT CARDIFF.—June 13: The Mercur, from Oporto. The Ellen, from Bilboa. The Stefano, from Lisbon. The Huit Frères, The Rose, from Bilboa.

AT DUNDEE.—June 13: The Peacock, from Pernambuco. The Gazelle, from Pernau.

AT CLYDE.—June 14: The Bella Donna, from Pomeroon. The Zacarah, from Havana. The Isabella, from Cardenas. The Elizabeth Henderson, from Cuba. The Arima, from Trinidad. The Express, from Pomeroon. The Demerara, from Trinidad. The William Howard, The Salisbury, from Pomeroon. The Espana Castille, from Lagua la Grande. The Laurenze Lempro (steamer), from Bilboa. The Anglesea, from Trinidad. The Fanny Fern, from St. John's. The Arabia, from Trinidad.

AT GREENOCK.—June 14: The Walter Scott, The Gauntlett, from Pomeroon. The C. Duckwitz, from Trinidad.

AT DUBLIN.—June 14: The Harriett, from Barbadoes. The Devonshire, from St. John's. The Meliora, from Porto Rico. The Princess Royal, from Cuba. The Mountain Lass, from Pomeroon. The Elizabeth Jenkins, from St. John's.

AT QUEENSTOWN.—June 14: The Mary Johnstone, from River Plate. The Eleanor, from Montevideo. The Goward, from Barbadoes. The Venus, from Jamaica. The Labuan (steamer), from Havana. The Amada, from Rio. The Clarisse, from Bahia. The Derwent, from Barbadoes. The Gleaner, from Montevideo. The Nuovo Bilbaino, from Trinidad. The Azorian Lass, from Barbadoes. The Christian, from Porto Rico. The Charles Palmer, from La Grande. The Jane, from Montevideo. The Normandy, from St. Croix. The Margaret Smith, The Anna, from Havana. The W. Humberstone, from Cuba. The Fria, The Tyne, from Havana.

AT LISBON.—The Segredo, The Macedon (steamer), The Ailsa Craig (steamer), The Tiber (steamer), The Pride, The James Brooks, The Alfred, The Tartar (steamer), The Castilian (steamer), The Eva, The Villa Nova, The Diligence, The William and Jane, The Mariana, The Resolvido, The Almedina, The Wild Wave, The Brandon, The Stefano, The Talarvor.

AT CADIZ.—The Miquelornais, The Palmyre.

AT MADEIRA.—The Let-her-Rip (steamer), The Calabar (steamer), The Erme, The Despatch (steamer), The Hattie Eaton, The New York, The Little Hattie (steamer), The Don Antonio, The Virgin (steamer).

AT TENERIFFE.—The Alexandra (steamer), The Principe Affonso (steamer), The Juanita, The Nouvel Albatross, The Jacoba, The Rosita, The Ivanhoe (steamer), The Amazon (steamer).

AT ST. THOMAS.—The Mercator, The Superb, The Hannah, The Caspian, from Cardiff. The Elizabeth Johanna, The Champion, The Enthusiast, The Isabel, The Jupiter (steamer), The H. D. Grindle.

AT DEMERARA.—The Fanny Palmer, The Sir Colin Campbell, The Isabella, The Era, The Lark, The Annie, The Quilha, The Mary Baker, The Eliza, The Norge, The Elliott, The Princess, The Ellen Sophia, The Clio, The William Joseph, The Erinagle.

AT HAVANA.—The Lavinia, The Matagorda (steamer), from Galveston, The Denbigh (steamer), The Cecilia (steamer), The Donegal (steamer), The Mary (steamer), from Mobile. The N. S. del Carmen, The Talisman (steamer), The Idousac, The Ines, The Simmonds, The Tircon, The Suomi, The St. Paul, The Kawe, The Emilliene, The Artemisia, The Virgen de Begona, The Cabinet, The Limerick Lass, The Ange Gardien, The Adina, The Joseph Taylor, The Herbet, the Lemuella, The Hilda, The Oder, The Jeon, The Minerva, The Avena, The Onkel, The Antonieta, The Santa Ana, The Sempa, The Tadousac, The Bolivar (steamer), The Albertina, The Vifredo, The Julie, The Constantine, The Neptunus, The Magdalena.

AT BARBADOES.—The Douglas, The Leina.

AT NEW ORLEANS.—May 11: Reports have arrived that The Wave and The Granite City, blockading vessels, were captured off Sabine Pass. Particulars are not yet stated.

AT BERMUDA.—The Pevensey (steamer), and The Index (steamer), have again sailed for Wilmington.

AT NASSAU.—The J. P. Burroughs, The N. S. del Carmen, The Heroine, from Liverpool.

AT BALTIMORE.—The steamer Dictator, from Newbern and Hatteras Inlet, reports that a bottle was picked up off Hatteras on the 20th, containing a record of the loss of the steamer Manhattan at sea, from Wilmington, North Carolina, bound to Bermuda. A large lot of cotton was picked up off Hatteras Inlet on the 20th and 21st.

AT CHERBOURG.—The Alabama (Confederate war steamer), Captain Semmes.

SHIPS LOADING.

AT LONDON.—The Vere Cruz (steamer), for West Indies; Stringer, Pembroke, & Co. The Elinor, for Nassau; J. Worley.

AT LIVERPOOL.—The Laura, for Bermuda; The Mary James, The Compage, for Nassau. The Linwood, The Florence, The Joachim Christiana, The Oleander, for Matamoras.

AT GREENOCK.—The Stag, for Nassau (passengers); McLeish and McNutt, Glasgow.

[We are compelled to leave over until next week our list of ships sailed.]

NEGRO EQUALITY.—A Sanitary Fair has lately been held at St. Louis. A negro minister, who is President of the Freedmen's Association in New York, and who had been actively engaged in collecting funds for the Fair, went to St. Louis, accompanied by another negro minister. After some difficulty they found some one—the Rev. Dr. Nelson—to take them to the festive scene, and he conducted his coloured friends to the refreshment saloon known as the *Café Laclede*, and ordered dinner. The *St. Louis Republican* of May 26 thus describes the scene that ensued:—'The Café Laclede, we may state, is a leading feature of the Fair, in which thirty or forty of our most respectable matrons and young ladies lend their services to wait upon all who enter and order refreshments. Many of them manifested their indignant and outraged sense by tears, and others by taking their departure on the instant from the place. Mr. Fogg, Mr. Blackman, and other Fair committeemen, remonstrated with Dr. Nelson, and the lady in charge of the refreshment department for the day, sent him a note requesting him to at once move himself and companions. Dr. Nelson at last yielded, and went away, though not until he had received sharp words from one or two of the committeemen, with injunctions to take the negroes to his own house and entertain them. He had some backers in the matter, one of whom was Mr. Truman Woodruff, the City Auditor; but nearly all those who witnessed the incident were ardent in denouncing it as a gross insult to the ladies whose gentle and graceful presence has so constantly adorned that and nearly all other departments of the Fair. The Executive Committee, and all those who compose the responsible directory, owe it to these ladies, to the public, and to themselves, to unite in a card denouncing this affair, and denying Dr. Nelson's officious act in unstinted terms. It is better to punish a few fanatics by making such a publication, than disgust a whole community by omitting to do so. The Fair has gone on well—it was proving an astonishing success. It can be made successful to the end if the Executive Committee will only be true to themselves, true to the holy cause in which they are engaged, by manfully rebuking an insult to the wives and daughters of St. Louis, the parallel of which cannot be found anywhere in this country.'

ALARMING.—The *New York Herald* of May 30 thus concludes an article on Reform in England: 'The visit of Garibaldi to London was the beacon light which signalised the coming struggle. . . . It requires no gift of prophecy to foretell that the influence of the overbearing aristocracy of England is drawing to a close. They must soon give way before the people they have so long and so arbitrarily ruled.'

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

Wednesday Evening.

The state of the Money Market has been extremely quiet throughout the week. The rate of discount has varied from $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., but there is a supply adequate enough to provide for all commercial requirements. The question is, Will the Bank, though it is transacting a limited business, reduce the official minimum now we are so near the end of the quarter? Many people think they will, others that they will not: and, we are bound to say, the majority incline to the latter view. The arrivals of specie from Australia and America have not been large; but at present they are sufficient to allow a balance to be sent into the Bank of England, and more, it is understood, is likely to follow. The operation of the 2,000,000*l.* assistance to Spain will, it is now asserted, assume the character of an exchange transaction; and therefore whatever is withdrawn will hereafter come back in the shape of remittances. A great deal of fuss has been made about this arrangement, and it is believed that it will create very little financial disturbance, especially in the hands of the individuals intrusted with the business. It is curious to notice the little influence a high rate of discount exercises, now it is generally understood trade is sound, and the consequence is no unnecessary apprehension is awakened, notwithstanding it is felt that the organisation of public companies has made, if anything, rather too rapid progress. The supply of capital among the bankers and brokers has the last day or two been increased by receipts of country deposits, but there is no disposition evinced to lower the general terms in the open market. At the Stock Exchange the half-monthly settlements have passed over without the least difficulty. The rates of continuation in foreign securities and miscellaneous shares have been very moderate, showing the cessation of active speculation. On Government stock and Exchequer bills, the terms for advances were lately as high as 6 per cent.; they are now about $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

There is no material change to report in the value of this security. Pending a definite result of Grant's campaign in Virginia, the dealings are very limited. We quote 64 to 66 as the closing quotation.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

There is not the slightest improvement in the market for American Government and railway securities. The dealings are even on a more restricted scale; but prices remain comparatively steady. The only dealings recorded are in Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York section, at $72\frac{1}{2}$; ditto, Pennsylvania section, at 73; Illinois Central six per cents., at 76; ditto ditto, \$100 shares, \$90 paid, at 33 and $34\frac{1}{2}$ dis.; ditto ditto, all paid, at 60; and Pennsylvania Railway Bonds, second mortgage, at 83, 84, and 85.

THE SPANISH PASSIVE DEBT.

There was a large meeting of the holders of the Spanish Passive debt, at the London Tavern, on Tuesday, in consequence of a request presented to the Committee by the Spanish Certificate holders, for the purpose of considering the measures necessary to be taken for the protection of their interests, in consequence of the recent extraordinary proceedings of the Spanish Minister of Finance.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

At the second general meeting of the Ceylon Company, Mr. Lawford Ackland in the chair, the report, which was adopted, showed that the net profit was 30,498*l.*, out of which a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., amounting together to 10*s.* 6*d.* per share, was recommended, which with the interim dividend would absorb 14,358*l.* A sum of 10,000*l.* was to be added to the reserve fund, and the balance, 6,303*l.*, would be carried forward. The chairman said the result of the Company's operations had been in every way satisfactory; for the first year the profits had been 9 per cent., and for the present year 22 per cent. All the preliminary expenses had been paid, and in order to extend the operations of the Company, it was proposed to issue the 6,200 unallotted shares at a premium of 2*l.* per share; the premiums would raise the reserve fund to 21,000*l.*—At an extraordinary general meeting of the Marine Investment Company the following resolutions were passed:—That the second issue of 10,000 shares in the capital of the Company be made when 6*l.* 5*s.* has been called on the first issue of 10,000 shares in lieu of 12*l.* 10*s.* per share, as stated in the prospectus of the Company, and that a sum at the rate of 5 per cent. on the capital paid up on April 26 last be paid to the members on account of the dividend, to be declared at the first ordinary general meeting.—At the annual meeting of the Assam (Tea) Company, the report, which was adopted, showed a net profit of 64,930*l.*, out of which a dividend of 25 per cent. free of income-tax was declared. The Upper Assam Tea Company has also held an extraordinary general meeting to confirm the increase of capital from 20,000*l.* to 60,000*l.*, and increasing the amount of calls, which are to be made at less intervals. The directors at the same time declared an *ad interim* dividend of 10 per cent. on the paid-up capital.—At the twelfth ordinary general meeting of the London Chartered Bank of Australia, the report, which was adopted, stated that after the usual deductions, and making allowance for bad and doubtful debts, there remained to the credit of profit and loss the sum of 52,849*l.*, out of which the directors recommended a dividend to be declared for the half-year of 4 per cent., free of income-tax, and that a sum of 5,000*l.* be placed to the reserve fund, leaving to be carried to the next account a balance of 7,849*l.*—At the half-yearly meeting of the Commercial Dock Company, a dividend was declared for the six months at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and at the same rate as the first, second, and third instalments of the new issue, both payable free of income-tax.—At the half-yearly meeting to-day, of the African Steamship Company, the report stated that after making the authorised reserve for depreciation, defraying all expenses of navigating and maintaining the ships, discharging the cost of the inter-colonial service, there remained a balance of 4,965*l.* to the credit of the revenue account, out of which the directors recommended the payment of a dividend of 8*s.* per share free of income-tax, for the half year ending April 30 last, being at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum. This payment will absorb 4,403*l.*, and leave 562*l.* to be carried to the next half-yearly account. The report was adopted, and the dividend declared.—At the first annual general meeting of the Imperial Ottoman Bank held to-day, the report of the directors stated that the first operation of magnitude in which the bank was called upon to take part, was the issue of the Turkish loan of 1863. The profits to December 31 include a considerable amount derived from this loan. The accounts to December 31 showed a net profit of 185,680*l.*, or nearly 19 per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital, from which had to be deducted, in accordance with the statutes, first the distribution paid on account in March last at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, amounting to 48,937*l.*; and, secondly, 10 per cent. for the reserve fund. Of the balance, 118,174*l.*, one-tenth was appropriated by the statutes to the founders and administrators of the bank, and the remainder was available on the present occasion. The directors proposed a payment of 15*s.* 9*d.* per share, making, with the interest already paid, a dividend of nearly 16 per cent. per annum. The report was unanimously adopted. The Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China have to-day declared a dividend of 10 per cent. free of income-tax for the current half-year. They have also made a call of 7*l.* 10*s.* per share on the new or increased capital of the bank.

Liverpool, Wednesday, June 15. There has been rather more animation in our cotton market during the last few days, the demand having increased, particularly for American of good sorts, and the supply of such being somewhat limited, extreme prices, and in some instances an advance, have been obtained. For other descriptions the enquiry has been rather more moderate, and sales have only been effected at, if anything, a fractional reduction in quotations. The sales this week have been 54,000 bales, of which 20,000 were on speculation and for export. The total sales this year so far have been 1,179,945 bales and to the same period in 1863 951,540 bales. There have been imported this year 982,860 bales, whilst last year the importations were 689,732 bales. The exports this year have amounted to 221,924 bales, and to the corresponding date in 1863, 192,948 bales. There have been taken for consumption this year 744,922 bales; last year the number was 504,103 bales. Taken on speculation this year, 199,058 bales; same in 1863, 225,176 bales. At the present time the computed stocks are 297,203 bales, whilst last year they were 385,192 bales. The closing quotations this evening were, for American descriptions, $24\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 30*d.*; Pernambuco, 29*d.* to $29\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Maranhams, $28\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to $29\frac{3}{4}$*d.*; Egyptian, $28\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to $32\frac{3}{4}$*d.*; Smyrna, $20\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to $24\frac{3}{4}$*d.*; Bengal and Scinde, $13\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to $13\frac{1}{2}$*d.*, China, $18\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to $19\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; and Surats, 10*d.* to $25\frac{1}{2}$*d.*

The markets at Manchester exhibit an improved condition generally, which is in some degree to be attributed to the firmer state of the Liverpool cotton market, and the necessity in most instances of replenishing reduced stocks. The demand for shipping yarns has been very strong, and a considerable business has taken place, particularly for the better descriptions; but at the same time the common sorts are also looking up, in consequence of the lowness of prices spinners have shown a disposition to accept. The Bolton class of yarns have also been more readily disposed of at improved quotations. There has also been increased enquiry for double yarns, but the prices obtained do not show any improvement. In home-trade yarns only a limited business has been transacted; prices remain very firm for the superior classes, but for the lower counts there is no material alteration. A generally better feeling prevails in the cloth markets; buyers have shown more anxiety to do business, which in some instances has induced offers which have led to transactions taking place; but for the most part manufacturers remain remarkably firm, and some of them have demanded increased prices, which has in some degree curtailed transactions. The Indian mail is said to have brought but few orders, and the more important buyers for that market are doing but very little. Prices are maintained more from the fact that stocks are yet very light, combined with the firmness of the Liverpool market, than from any business doing or any demand for cloths.

SOUTHERN PRISONERS' RELIEF FUND.

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THERE are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellow-men.

Contributions will be received by J. H. Ashbridge, Treasurer, Wavmer Buildings, Water Street, Liverpool; or in London, by Henry Hotze, Esq., 17 Savile Row, W.; in Paris, by H. O. Brewer, Esq., 6 Rue Circulaire; and Daniel Hubbard, Esq., 24 Rue Lord Byron.

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BY AUTHORITY.

ACTS OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIRST CONGRESS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, 1863–1864.

AN ACT TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS UPON THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENCE.

WHEREAS, the Confederate States are engaged in a war, upon the successful issue of which depend the integrity of their social system, the form of their civilisation, the security of life and property within their limits, as well as their existence as sovereign and independent States; and whereas, the condition of the contest demands that they should call into requisition whatever resources of men and money they have for the support of their cause, and faithfully administer the same: Therefore, as a part of the system of the public defence:—

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the exportation of cotton, tobacco, military and naval stores, sugar, molasses, and rice, from the Confederate States, and from all places in the occupation of their troops, is prohibited, except under such uniform regulations as shall be made by the President of the Confederate States.

SEC. 2. That if any person, or persons, shall put, place, or load on board any ship, steamboat, or vessel, or any other water craft, or into any wagon, cart, carriage, or other vehicle, for conveyance or transportation beyond the Confederate States, or into any portion of said States occupied by the enemy, any of the articles mentioned in the first section of this act, or shall collect the same for the purpose of being conveyed or transported, contrary to the prohibition aforesaid, within the Confederate States, or beyond them, the said articles, and the ship, boat, or other water craft, wagon, carriage, or other vehicle, with the slaves and animals that may be employed or collected for the purpose of aiding therein, shall be forfeited, and all persons, their aiders and abettors, on conviction of being interested or concerned in the enterprise, shall be deemed to be guilty of a high misdemeanor, and punishable by such fine or imprisonment, or both, as the court may impose.

SEC. 3. That it shall not be lawful to put on board any ship, boat, vessel, or other water craft, or upon any wagon, cart, carriage, or other vehicle, for transportation or conveyance as aforesaid, any of the articles aforesaid, unless a permit be previously obtained from a proper officer of the Confederate States specially authorised to grant the same, particularly describing the articles thus to be laden, and the ship, boat, vessel, water craft, wagon, carriage, cart, or other vehicle, on which the same is to be transported, and until bond shall be given that the same shall be conveyed and transported to the place of destination under such conditions and regulations, and for such objects, as shall be prescribed by the President under the first section of this act.

SEC. 4. That the collectors of all the districts of the Confederate States, and such other officers as may be designated by the President of the Confederate States, shall have power and authority to take into their custody any of the articles before mentioned found on any ship, boat, or other water craft, when there is reason to believe that they are intended for exportation, or when in vessels, carts, or wagons, or any other carriage or vehicle whatsoever, or in any manner, apparently on their way towards the territories of a foreign nation, or towards the territory of the Confederate States in the occupation of the United States, or the vicinity thereof, or towards a place whence such articles are intended to be exported, and not to permit the same to be removed until bond shall be given, with satisfactory sureties, that no violation of this act, and the regulations under the same, is intended.

SEC. 5. That the powers granted by this act to the revenue and other officers of the Confederate States under this act to allow or refuse exportation of the articles before mentioned, or for the seizure or detention of any of the said articles, shall be exercised in conformity with such instructions as the President may give through the Departments of War and of the Treasury, which instructions may impose conditions as to the destination and sale of the same, and the investment of the proceeds of the same, or a portion thereof, in military or other supplies for the public service, which instructions such officers shall be bound to obey; and if any action or suit shall be brought against any such officer or officers, or their agents, he or they may plead the general issue, and upon proof of a compliance with the provisions of this act, or with the regulations and instructions of the President, he or they shall be absolved from all responsibility therefor; and any person aggrieved by any of the acts of any of the officers or agents aforesaid, may file his petition before the district court of the district in which such officer or agent resides, and after due notice to him, and to the district attorney, the said court may proceed summarily to hear and determine thereupon as law and justice may require, and the judgment of the said court and the reasons therefor shall be filed among the records of the court, and in case any release shall be granted, the judge may impose such conditions as to giving bond and security as may, in his opinion, be necessary to secure this act from violation, and, in case of refusal, may impose double or treble costs upon the petitioner if circumstances warrant: Provided, That nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the Confederate States, or any of them, from exporting any of the articles herein enumerated on their own account.

SEC. 6 That exclusive jurisdiction is conferred upon the district courts of the Confederate States of all suits or actions that may arise under this act in behalf of the Confederate States, its officers and agents, for the recovery of all fines, penalties, and forfeitures imposed in the same, by indictment, information, or action, according to the practice of the court, and the distribution of the penalties and fines shall be made under and according to the laws now in force for violation of the revenue acts, and all laws for the mitigation and remittance of penalties and forfeitures shall be applied in similar cases.

SEC. 7. That it shall be lawful for the President, or such officers as he may designate, to employ any portion of the military or naval force of the Confederacy or of the militia, to prevent the illegal departure of any ship, vessel, or other water craft, for detaining, taking possession of, and keeping in custody the same, or any wagon, cart, or other vehicle heretofore mentioned, their teams and drivers, and their products aforesaid, and to suppress and disperse any assembly of persons who may resist the execution of this act, or oppose the fulfilment, by the officers, of the duties imposed by the same.

SEC. 8. That this act shall expire on the day of the ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States.

APPROVED, February 6, 1864.

REGULATIONS TO CARRY INTO EFFECT THE ACT TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS UPON THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENCE,' APPROVED, FEBRUARY 6, 1864.

I. AS TO THE SEA.

1. The owners of any vessel intending to sail from a Confederate port with a cargo consisting in whole or part of cotton, tobacco, military and naval stores, sugar, molasses or rice, shall, before the landing on board of any such articles, file with the collector of the port from which the vessel is to sail, a copy of her register, with a declaration of the names of the owners and officers thereof, the place of their birth and of their residence for the preding year, together with the port or place to which the said vessel proposes to sail. The said declaration shall also set forth the quantity and value, in Confederate currency, of the cargo proposed to be taken out, as also the consent of the said owners, that one-half of the tonnage of the said vessel may be employed by the Confederate Government for its own use, both on the outward and h meward voyage, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned. The collector shall submit a statement as to the owners and officers to the military commandant of the port, and if he shall not object to their loyalty, or to the sailing of the vessel, for reasons of military necessity, the collector shall grant a permit for the lading of the said vessel, one-half for account of the owners and one-half for account of the Confederate States.

2. Before the said lading shall be completed, the owners of the vessel shall execute to the Confederate States a bond in double the value of the vessel, with security deemed adequate by the collector, conditioned that she will pursue the voyage designated, and that she will return with reasonable dispatch to a Confederate port, after her outward cargo shall be discharged with a cargo, consisting one half of articles not prohibited by the laws of the Confederate Government, and the other half of such articles as the Government shall offer for shipment from such port, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned.

3. Each shipper of any portion of the cargo proposed to be laden on board the said vessel, shall, before the lading thereof, make application to the collector for a permit to lade the same, which application shall declare the articles to be shipped, and the quant ty and value thereof in Confederate currency, the port of destination, and the name of the consignee. A permit shall then be granted by the collector if the application is deemed satisfactory. The lading shall be had under the inspection of a revenue officer, who shall be charged with the duty of seeing that the goods laden conform to the permit.

4. Before the completion of the lading on board or the granting a clearance, each shipper of any portion of the cargo shall execute and deliver to the collector a bond to the Confederate States, in double the value of his shipment in Confederate money, with security deemed adequate by the collector, with condition that at least one half the net proceeds of said shipment shall be invested in goods or articles not prohibited by law, and said goods or articles shall be shipped by the same or some other vessel to the Confederate States within sixty days from the unlading of said cargo, or that the said half of the net proceeds shall be paid in coin or sterling exchange to the proper agent of the Confederate States, to be reimbursed to the shipper by the delivery to him of cotton at the port of departure in the Confederate States, at the rate of ten pence sterling per pound for middling uplands.

5. The freight to be paid by the Confederate States on all cotton and tobacco shipped from a Confederate port shall be five pence sterling per pound, payable on delivery at the port of destination, in coin or sterling exchange. Return freight shall be at the rate of 25*l.* per ton, payable on its delivery in a Confederate port, in cotton at ten pence sterling per pound for middling uplands, and at a proportionate price for cotton of other qualities. In calculating the ton of freight by weight, 2,240 pounds shall be allowed; by measure, forty cubic feet shall be allowed.

6. If the outward bound vessel shall consent, at the request of the Government, to take two-thirds of her cargo for account of the Confederate States, the outward freight shall be six pence sterling per pound, and whenever the Government is not prepared to fill up any portion of the tonnage reserved for its use at the time at which any vessel may be made ready to sail, her owners may fill up the same on their own account: but no vessel shall, without consent of the Government, sail on her outward voyage until one-third of her cargo shall be laden for the use of the Government.

7. The rates of freight for articles other than cotton and tobacco shall be adjusted at the same relative rate and payable in the same way.

8. The Government reserves the right to limit or prohibit the shipment of rosin, turpentine, or any manufacture thereof, whenever deemed dangerous to its own shipment.

9. Upon the completion of the lading of the vessel, and before receiving her clearance, there shall be delivered to the collector, in addition to the usual manifest, another setting forth the names, ages, and description of her officers and crew, and of every passenger intending to sail in her. The said last-mentioned manifest shall be delivered to the commandant of the port, who shall thereupon cause the entire vessel to be searched, and if satisfied that the parties on board are persons who may safely be permitted to leave the Confederacy, and that the passengers have the proper passports, he shall certify the same on the manifest and return the same to the collector, whereupon, and not before, a clearance shall be granted to the vessel, and he shall be permitted to sail.

10. The owners of each vessel, and of each portion of a cargo sailing from a Confederate port, shall be allowed to take up their respective bonds, by producing to the collector the certificate of the proper agent of the Confederate Government at the port of delivery, setting forth the particulars, showing that the said party has complied with the obligations of the said bond so far as the same was practicable, and the collector, upon being duly satisfied, shall be authorised to surrender the said bonds.

11. Nothing in these regulations shall be so construed as to conflict with the proviso of the law, which declares 'that nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the Confederate States, or any of them, from exporting any of the articles herein enumerated on their own account;' nor shall a bond be required of a State in any case.

12. The penalties of all bonds executed in conformity with these regulations, shall be recoverable in full on proof of breach of the conditions of the bond, and without proof of any damage suffered by the Confederate States in consequence of such breach, and all bonds shall be executed in such form as to give effect to this regulation.

13 Vessels sent into the Confederacy for the purpose of exporting cotton received in payment of any Confederate bond or obligation shall be subject to these regulations only so far as relates to such portion of the tonnage, if any, as may remain vacant after the lading of the cotton received in payment as aforesaid.

14. The regulations for overland commerce with neutral countries will be issued separately, within a few days.

Approved.

(Signed) C. G. MEMMINGER, Secretary of Treasury.
(Signed) JAMES A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.

Approved, March 5, 1864.
(Signed) JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Treasury Department, C. S. A.
RICHMOND, March 16, 1864.

THE following additional regulations are established to carry out the act to impose regulations upon the foreign commerce of the Confederate States, and to provide for the public defence, approved February 6, 1864:

The bond required by the second article of the regulations shall be in one half the value of the vessel; and that required by the fourth article shall be in the single value of the shipment; and the security which the Collector may accept may be either personal security, or a mortgage of the vessel, or a transfer of the Bills of Lading, or of cotton, tobacco, or Confederate securities.

2. Whenever any vessel shall bring into the Confederate States an entire cargo for account of the Confederate States, the owners of the said vessel, and the shippers of her cargo, shall be relieved from the bonds previously given to invest and bring in one-half the net proceeds of her outward cargo, and the certificate of the agent of the Treasury Department at the port of lading, that such cargo was duly shipped in pursuance of the regulations, shall authorise the collector to cancel and surrender the said bonds.

Approved, March 16, 1864.

(Signed) C. G. MEMMINGER, Secretary of Treasury.
(Signed) JAMES A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.

Approved, March 17, 1864.
JEFFERSON DAVIS.

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE IMPORTATION OF LUXURIES, OR OF ARTICLES NOT NECESSARIES OR OF COMMON USE.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That from and after the first day of March next it shall not be lawful to import into the Confederate States any brandy, wines, or other spirits, or any other article specified in schedule A of an act entitled 'An act to provide revenue from commodities imported from foreign countries,' approved May 21, 1861, or any goods, wares, or merchandise, enumerated in schedule B of said act, except the following articles:— All things for medical purposes, camphor refined, pickles, molasses, pepper, pimento, cloves, nutmegs, cinnamon, and all other spices; soap, Castille, Windsor, and all other toilet soaps; sugar of all kinds; syrup of sugar; galloons, laces, knots, stars, tassels, tresses and wings of gold and silver, or imitations thereof, intended for uniforms of officers in the military and naval services.

SEC. 2. And it shall not be lawful to import the following articles enumerated in schedule C of said act: Beer, ale, and porter; muffs and tippets, and all other manufactures of fur, or of which fur shall be a component part, except caps and hats; carpets, carpetings, hearth rugs, bedsides, and other portions of carpeting, of any kind or description; carriages and parts of carriages; cider and other beverages not containing alcohol; clocks and parts of clocks; cotton laces, cotton insertings, cotton trimmings, or laces of thread and other material; coral, manufactured; dolls and toys of all kinds; fire crackers, sky rockets, Roman candles and all other similar articles used in pyrotechnics; furniture, cabinet and household; glass, coloured, stained, or painted; India matting of all sorts; jet and manufactures of jet, and imitations thereof; jewellery, or imitations thereof; manufactures and articles of marble, marble paving tiles, slabs, or blocks, and all other marble; matting, China or other floor matting and mats made of flags, jute, or grass; paper hangings, paper for walls, and paper for screens or fire boards; paving and roofing tiles and bricks, and roofing slates and fire bricks; thread lacings and insertings; velvets of all kinds.

SEC. 3. And it shall not be lawful to import the following articles, enumerated in schedule D of said act: Angola, Thibet, and other goats' hair, or mohair, unmanufactured; bananas, cocoa nuts, plantains, and oranges; cabinets of coins, medals, gems, and collections of antiquities; diamonds, mosaics, gems, pearls, rubies, and other precious stones and imitations thereof, set in gold or silver or other metals; engravings, bound or unbound; rattans and reeds; paintings and stationery; leaf and unmanufactured tobacco and cigars; or the following articles enumerated in schedule E. Diamonds, cameos, mosaics, pearls, gems, rubies, and other precious stones and imitations thereof, when not set.

SEC. 4. None of the manufactures of metal, designed as either household or personal ornaments, shall be admitted; and in order to confine importations to articles of necessity and of common use, the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe the maximum foreign prices at which and within which importations of goods manufactured wholly or partly of cotton, flax, wool, or of silk, and designed for wearing apparel, and not herein prohibited, may be made, and beyond which importations thereof shall not be made: Provided, That articles herein allowed to be imported shall not be impressed by the Government or its agents after they have reached the Confederate States: Provided further, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit any importation for the use or account of the Confederate States, or either of them: Provided further, That this act shall not apply to any articles which have been or shall be shipped, without knowledge of the passage of this act, before the first day of March next, but which shall arrive in a Confederate port after that day.

SEC. 5. That whenever any article or articles, the importation of which is prohibited by this act, shall, after the first day of March next, be imported into the Confederate States, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, or shall, after said first day of March next, be put on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, with the intention of importing the same into the Confederate States, all such articles, as well as all other articles on board the same ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, belonging to the owner of such prohibited articles, shall be forfeited, and the owner thereof shall, moreover, forfeit and pay double the value of such articles.

SEC. 6. If any article or articles, the importation of which is prohibited by this act, shall, nevertheless, be on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, arriving after said first day of March next in the Confederate States, and shall be omitted in the manifest, report, or entry of the master, or the person having the charge or command of such ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, or shall be omitted in the entry of the goods owned by the owner, or consigned to the consignee of such articles, or shall be imported or landed, or attempted to be imported or landed, without a permit, the same penalties, fines, and forfeitures shall be incurred, and may be recovered, as in the case of similar omission or omissions, landing, importation, or attempt to land or import, in relation to articles liable to duties on their importation into the Confederate States.

SEC. 7. Every collector, naval officer, surveyor, or other officer of the customs, shall have the like power and authority to seize goods, wares, and merchandise imported contrary to the intent and meaning of this act, to keep the same in custody until it shall have been ascertained whether the same have been forfeited or not, and to enter any ship or vessel, dwelling-house, store, building, or other place, for the purpose of searching for and seizing any such goods, wares, and merchandise subject to duty; and if any person or persons shall conceal or buy any goods, wares, or merchandise, knowing them to be liable to seizure by this act, such person or persons shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a sum double the amount or value of the goods, wares, and merchandise so concealed or purchased.

SEC. 8. The following additional oath or affirmation shall be taken by masters or persons having charge or command of any ship or vessel arriving at any port of the Confederate States after said first day of March next, viz.: 'I further swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, on board [insert the denomination and name of the vessel] any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover or know of any such goods, wares, or merchandise on board of the said vessel, or which shall have been imported in the same, I will immediately, and without delay, make due report thereof to the collector of the port of this district.'

SEC. 9. After said first day of March next, importers, consignors, or agents, at the time of entering goods into the Confederate States, shall take the following additional oath, viz.: 'I also swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, amongst the said goods, wares, or merchandise, imported or consigned as aforesaid, any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover any such goods, wares, or merchandise among the said goods, wares, and merchandise so imported or consigned as aforesaid, I will immediately and without delay report the same to the collector of this district.'

SEC. 10. All penalties and forfeitures arising under this act may be sued for and recovered, and shall be distributed and accounted for, in the manner prescribed by the act entitled 'An act to regulate the collection of the duties on imports and tonnage;' and such penalties and forfeitures, mitigated or remitted, in like manner and under the like conditions, regulations, and restrict ons as are prescribed, authorised, and directed by the act entitled 'An act to provide for mitigating or remitting the forfeitures, penalties, and disabilities accruing in certain cases therein mentioned.'

SEC. 11. That this act shall expire on the day of the ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States.

Approved, February 6, 1864.

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AMERICA.

THE ALABAMA.

THE following official report of Captain Semmes of the naval engagement off Cherbourg between the *Alabama* and the *Kearsage* has been sent to us for publication:—

Southampton, June 21, 1864.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that, in accordance with my intention as previously announced to you, I steamed out of the harbour of Cherbourg between nine and ten o'clock on the morning of June 19, for the purpose of engaging the enemy's steamer *Kearsage*, which had been lying off and on the port for several days previously. After clearing the harbour we descried the enemy with his head off shore, at a distance of about nine miles. We were three-quarters of an hour in coming up with him. I had previously pivoted my guns to starboard, and made all my preparations for engaging the enemy on that side. When within about a mile and a quarter of the enemy, he suddenly wheeled, and, bringing his head in shore, presented his starboard battery to me. By this time we were distant about one mile from each other, when I opened on him with solid shot, to which he replied in a few minutes, and the engagement became active on both sides.

The enemy now pressed his ship under a full head of steam, and to prevent our passing each other too speedily, and to keep our respective broadsides bearing, it became necessary to fight in a circle; the two ships steaming around a common centre, and preserving a distance from each other of from a quarter to half a mile. When we got within good shell range, we opened upon him with shell. Some ten or fifteen minutes after the commencement of the action, our spanker gaff was shot away, and our ensign came down by the run. This was immediately replaced by another at the mizenmasthead. The firing now became very hot, and the enemy's shot and shell soon began to tell upon our hull—knocking down, killing, and disabling a number of men in different parts of the ship. Perceiving that our shell, though apparently exploding against the enemy's sides, were doing but little damage, I returned to solid shot firing, and from this time onward alternated with shot and shell.

After the lapse of about one hour and ten minutes, our ship was ascertained to be in a sinking condition, the enemy's shell having exploded in our sides and between decks, opening large apertures, through which the water rushed with great rapidity.

For some few minutes I had hopes of being able to reach the French coast, for which purpose I gave the ship all steam, and set such of the fore and aft sails as were available. The ship filled so rapidly, however, that before we had made much progress the fires were extinguished in the furnaces, and we were evidently on the point of sinking. I now hauled down my colours to prevent the further destruction of life, and despatched a boat to inform the enemy of our condition.

Although we were now but 400 yards from each other, the enemy fired upon me five times after my colours had been struck, dangerously wounding several of my men. It is charitable to suppose that a ship of war of a Christian nation could not have done this intentionally.

We now turned all our exertions towards the wounded, and such of the boys of the ship as were unable to swim. These were despatched in my quarter-boats, the only boats remaining to me; the waist-boats having been torn to pieces.

Some twenty minutes after my furnace fires had been extinguished, and the ship being on the point of settling, every man, in obedience to a previous order which had been given to the crew, jumped overboard and endeavoured to save himself.

There was no appearance of any boat coming to me from the enemy until after the ship went down. Fortunately, however, the steam yacht *Deerhound*, owned by a gentleman of Lancashire, England, Mr. John Lancaster, who was himself on board, steamed up in the midst of my drowning men, and rescued a number of both officers and men from the water. I was fortunate enough myself thus to escape to the shelter of the neutral flag, together with about forty others, all told.

About this time the *Kearsage* sent one, and then tardily another boat.

Accompanying you will find lists of the killed and wounded, and of those who were picked up by the *Deerhound*. The remainder, there is reason to hope, were picked up by the enemy and by a couple of French pilot boats, which were also fortunately near the scene of action.

At the end of the engagement it was discovered by those of our officers who went alongside the enemy's ship with the wounded that her midship section on both sides was thoroughly iron-coated; this having been done with chains constructed for the purpose, placed perpendicularly from the rail to the water's edge—the whole covered over by a thin outer planking, which gave no indication of the armour beneath.

This planking had been ripped off in every direction by our shot and shell, the chain broken and indented in many places, and forced partly into the ship's side. She was most effectually guarded, however, in this section from penetration. The enemy was much damaged in other parts, but to what extent it is now impossible to tell; it is believed he was badly crippled.

My officers and men behaved steadily and gallantly, and though they have lost their ship they have not lost honour.

Where all behaved so well, it would be invidious to particularise; but I cannot deny myself the pleasure of saying that Mr. Kell, my First Lieutenant, deserves great credit for the fine condition in which the ship went into action, with regard to her battery, magazine, and shell-rooms; also that he rendered me great assistance by his coolness and judgment as the fight proceeded.

The enemy was heavier than myself both in ship, battery, and crew, but I did not know, until the action was over, that she was also ironclad.

Our total loss in killed and wounded is thirty—to wit, nine killed and twenty-one wounded.

I have the honour to be, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) R. SEMMES, Captain.

The subjoined account will be read with interest:—

The Confederate ship of war *Alabama*, Captain Semmes, arrived at Cherbourg on June 11. She was greatly in need of repair after the prolonged series of cruises extending over a period of nearly two years, but no permission to repair in the French port was given her. Had such permission been granted, it is probable that we should not have to record the following events. Within two days after her arrival, the United States corvette *Kearsage*, Captain Winslow, appeared off the Breakwater, and continued to hover on and off the coast till Sunday, June 19. On Thursday, June 16, Captain Semmes entertained a large party on board the *Alabama*, and displayed to his visitors his boarding hatchets and sabres. He intrusted to the Brazilian Consul all his gold, his papers, his forty-five chronometers, the bonds executed by ransomed ships, and his will. He handed his journal into the keeping of an English gentleman. At eight o'clock on the morning of Sunday, June 19, Captain Semmes assembled his crew, and in a fervid oration announced that the time had arrived for them to conquer or die. His speech was received with rounds of cheers for the South, for Lee and his army, and for hospitable France. Captain Semmes then referred to his recent letter on naval belligerent rights, and concluded his speech by saying that 'that document had been drawn up in order that the truth might be known in case he should perish.' At 10.30 A.M. the *Alabama* steamed out of the harbour in view of a vast multitude of people who lined the piers and every spot whence a view could be obtained, and cheered the gallant ship with wild enthusiasm. Directly she had cleared the harbour she was joined by the English yacht *Deerhound*, the property of Mr. John Lancaster, of Hindley Hall, Wigan, Lancashire, and also by the French war frigate *Couronne*. The latter vessel followed her to the distance of one league from the shore, and there stopped. The *Alabama* then descried the *Kearsage* lying about ten miles N.E. by E. of the harbour, and bore down upon her. In about an hour she got within one mile of her adversary, and made an attempt to board her. The *Kearsage* was, however, too quick for her, and the *Alabama* then opened fire from her starboard battery. The *Kearsage* replied from her starboard guns, and a vigorous fire at once began, both vessels steaming in circles round a common centre and fighting their starboard batteries. The *Kearsage* threw shells from her 11-inch columbiads, and the *Alabama* threw shot and shell alternately. The shells from the *Kearsage* did terrific execution on the *Alabama*, rending her hull, and killing and wounding several of her crew. The practice of the *Alabama* was magnificent, and her firing more rapid than that of her adversary. But the *Kearsage* was protected by iron cables, skilfully arranged to hang from her deck between her fore and mainmast. Over the cables was an outer shield of timber, and though the shells tore open the timber and drove the iron into the sides of the ship, yet her hull was not penetrated. Captain Semmes made a second attempt to board, but a shell from the *Kearsage* smashed the boiler of the *Alabama* and paralysed her movements. Her colours were shot away from the mainmast and were then run up at the mizen. After her steam-power had been destroyed, she hoisted foretrysail and jib, and made for the shore. Immediately afterwards she began to heel over, and the water rushed furiously into the ship, the men fighting the guns till the waves dashed into the portholes. Finding all hope of saving the ship gone, Captain Semmes put the wounded into a boat, and sent them off to the *Kearsage* demanding help. Before any assistance could arrive the word was given for every man to save himself, and all jumped overboard as the gallant ship sank beneath the waves. The *Deerhound* came to the aid of these as they supported themselves on spars and buckets, and picked up Captain Semmes, thirteen officers, and twenty-seven men. With these she steamed away at full speed to Southampton. The boats of the *Kearsage* picked up 62 men, and some French pilot-boats picked up nine more. The young English surgeon who was below dressing the wounded went down with the ship. The *Deerhound* arrived at Southampton late on Sunday night. Captain Semmes, who was slightly wounded in the hand, at once landed, and went with Lieutenant Kell to Kelway's Hotel, while the sailors went to the Home in Canute Road. Not a single relic of the *Alabama* fell into the hands of her enemy. The *Kearsage* proceeded to Cherbourg immediately after the fight. She had suffered much, having twelve shots in her hull. The wounded sailors from the *Alabama* were taken to the Marine Hospital: but there was some risk of a renewal of the fight on shore, and the gendarmerie had to be summoned to keep the peace. Captain Winslow set the prisoners from the *Alabama* ashore, probably on their parole. Mr. Mason and Rev. Mr. Tremlett left London on Monday morning for Southampton. Captain Semmes was received by the people of the town with great enthusiasm, and was cheered lustily on appearing in the streets.

The yacht *Deerhound* is of 190 tons and 70 horse-power, and was built by Messrs. Laird of Birkenhead. Mr. Lancaster arrived at Cherbourg only on Saturday night, but at once put to sea with his wife and family, determined to witness the fight.

The *Kearsage* is described in the United States Navy List as 1,031 tons register, and as carrying eight guns, but her armament has been increased. The *Alabama* was of 1,040 tons register, and carried one 7-inch Blakeley rifled gun, one 8-inch smooth bore pivot gun, and six 32-pounders, smooth bore, in broadside. The result of the contest is to be attributed first to the deadly fire of the columbiads on board the *Kearsage*, second to the protection afforded to the *Kearsage* by the iron cables on her sides, and third to her superior condition compared with the bad state of repair of the *Alabama*.

ON the 3rd inst. General Grant assaulted the Confederate lines, and, after a combat lasting an hour and a half, had to retire with a loss of nearly 6,000 killed and wounded, besides several hundred prisoners. In the evening of the same day the Confederates assaulted the Federal left, and after half an hour's engagement returned to their entrenchments. On the next night the Confederates again attacked the enemy. The Federals admit that their losses during the week ending June 4 were 10,000 killed and wounded. On the 6th the Confederates made a reconnaissance of Burnside's position. From then to the 11th no important movements were announced. It was reported that Grant was about to commence siege operations, and, later, that he had moved his left from the Confederate front, and that a portion of his troops had crossed to the south bank

of the Chickahominy at Despatch Station. In short, Grant has been forced to adopt M'Clellan's plan of campaign, but under circumstances much less favourable.

On June 5, Mr. Stanton, in an official despatch to General Dix, says: 'Our entire loss in killed, wounded, and missing, during the three days' operations around Cold Harbour, will not exceed, according to the Adjutant-General's report, 7,500.'

Confederate official despatches contradict a rumour that the Federals, under General Hunter, had gained a victory on the 5th near Staunton, Virginia, and captured six guns and a quantity of stores.

It is reported that on the 6th General Johnston's headquarters were at Marietta, and that his left, centre, and right were respectively commanded by Generals Polk, Hood, and Hardee.

There are many reports about the movements of General Morgan in Kentucky. One is to the effect that he captured Mount Stirling and Paris, and occupied Georgetown, Falmouth, and Williamstown. The last is that a portion of his forces were defeated near Mount Stirling, and that he had entered Lexington, burnt the railway depôt, and moved towards Frankfort. General Morgan is not likely to divide his small command, and if there is a vestige of truth in the reported defeat at Mount Stirling, it probably only relates to a company surprised by the enemy.

The Confederates have blocked the Mississippi at Greensville, and captured or destroyed four gunboats and seven transports. The Federal war steamer, *Waterwitch*, was captured on the 3rd inst. at Ossabaw Sound, Georgia, by a boat expedition from Fort M'Alister.

We elsewhere give an account of the Presidential campaign in the United States. General Fremont has resigned his command in the army, and accepted the Cleveland nomination. In his letter to the Convention he objects to the confiscation resolution. Mr. Lincoln has been nominated by his Baltimore Convention, and of course has accepted the nomination.

A meeting was held on June 4, in Union Square, New York, to manifest 'the nation's gratitude to General Grant.' About 5,000 persons were present. The resolutions assumed the speedy end of the war, and also the necessity of reinforcing the armies. Mr. Lincoln wrote a letter, in which he says, 'I trust that at your meeting you will so shape your good words that they may turn into men and guns moving to his and their support,' from which it appears that he shares the general uneasiness about the situation in Virginia. Mr. Chase, having regard to the approaching Presidential election, came out strongly on the Abolition platform. He wrote: 'It will be the marvel of future historians that statesmen of this day were willing to risk the success of rebellion rather than intrust to black loyalists bullets and ballots.' This is not quite fair to Mr. Lincoln, who has never evinced any indisposition to drive 'black bullocks' into his slaughterpens, and who does not care whether votes are constitutionally given or not, if they are loyal to him. Copies of a poem in honour of Grant were distributed amongst the crowd. The following stanzas must convince the most exacting critic that the poem was worthy of the occasion:—

ARMA, VIRUMQUE CANO.

Columbia's Eagle! yield a plume;
Your muse would now indite
Some grateful words to Grant, for whom
The people meet to-night:
Our valiant Chief, who breasts the storm
And braves the rebel wrath,
Says, 'Throughout all the season warm
I'll battle on the path!'

. . . . . .

Hail! Columbia's realm—
Where milk and honey flow,
Delighting hearts of them
Who such blest comforts know;
And knowing, warmly love
Thee with their heart and soul—
Prizing our land above
All lands, from pole to pole.

. . . . . .

This Spangled Banner raise,
And let the music sound:
The name of Grant we'll praise
On Freedom's happy ground!
Land of our Washington
(Boasting heroes gallant),
Hence in thy History's spun
The splendid fame of Grant!

After the speeches, and passing a resolution appointing a committee to convene 'assemblages of the people' from time to time for the support of the Government, there was much cheering for Grant and M'Clellan, and the crowd was entertained with a 'magnificent pyrotechnic display.'

On the night of May 10, Mr. George Washington Sargent was murdered in his own house near Natchez, Mississippi, by three soldiers of the Federal army. It appears that late at night, he on hearing a noise had gone to the door of his house, when he was confronted by the three men, all of whom were in uniform, and one of whom demanded his money and at the same time discharged a pistol at him. The fellows were, however, prevented from plundering the house by the arrival on the scene of some of the servants, who had been alarmed by the sound of the shot. It was found, on a search being made, that the alarm bell had been muffled and the wire cut. Mr. Sargent lingered in great agony till the morning of May 14, when he expired. The assassins have not been discovered, though the hour was late and the Federal garrison small. That they could have been detected without difficulty can scarcely be doubted, and it is clear that the authorities were bound to protect, as far as possible, persons residing peaceably in a place occupied by their troops.

Mr. Sargent resided in early life in Mississippi. His father Winthrop Sargent, a distinguished officer of the war of the Revolution, was first Governor of Mississippi while it was yet a territory, having been appointed to that post by Washington. Mr. Sargent also resided for some years in Philadelphia, but for the fifteen years preceding his death he had lived near Natchez. He was possessed of a large fortune and lived in retirement, never mixing in political affairs. He was of the age of sixty-three at the time of his barbarous murder.

In our Parliamentary Notes, and in some extracts from Canadian papers, we give an account of the arrest of a British subject by the Federals. Mr. Levey was released on June 4, and telegraphed to his friends—'There was no charge against me.' The *Montreal Gazette* of June 11 remarks:—

Mr. Levey was imprisoned from Thursday, May 26, to Saturday, June 4, which is ten days, there being no charge against him, nor even the shadow of one. He is a British subject, and a British merchant, happening to touch the port of Boston in a British passenger steamship. We are assured on the authority of his friends who know him well that his opinions are not in favour of secession; but he is on the contrary a Northern sympathiser—i. e. if reflection in the leisure of a Federal cell has not altered his views. The conclusion of the whole is that he is a victim of a rank and noxious spy system which has grown up on the grave of liberty, and which must have branches or ramifications on British soil.

On June 11, in New York, gold was quoted at 97⅝ per cent. prem., being a rise in the week of 5⅝ per cent. On the 7th a bill was introduced into the House of Representatives authorising a new loan of $400,000,000 for the support of the Government during the next fiscal year.

ENGLAND.

The Channel Fleet is busily engaged at Spithead, filling up with coal, provisions, and stores in readiness to proceed, if required, to the Baltic. Every ship is in the most splendid order.

The iron-cased corvette *Wolverine*, and the *Resistance* and *Enterprise* rams, left Yarmouth Roads last week for the North. They will proceed as far as Leith.

The authorities at the War Office seem keenly alive to the importance of retaining in the ranks the ten-year men who were enlisted into the army of the Crimean war. A royal warrant ordains that all soldiers who may re-engage themselves on the completion of the first term of their limited engagement shall receive the value of a new kit, a bounty of 2*l.*, re-engagement money, 1*l.*, and gratuity 1*l.* with two months' furlough. Men who take their discharge and re-engage within twelve months will count all their former service, and will be allowed good-conduct pay in all cases where they were in receipt thereof before discharge. The troops serving in India, China, and New Zealand are to be allowed 5*l.* in lieu of furlough. Soldiers serving in the Mediterranean will be allowed 3*l.* gratuity; and if they desire a furlough, their passage to and from England will be defrayed by Government, and two clear months allowed them in this country.

Matters do not seem to run very smoothly in the cotton districts. The guardians and the men in receipt of relief are in open hostility. The former are determined that if the men work only five hours a day the pay shall be in proportion, while the men express an equally strong resolution not to work longer than five hours. Up to Tuesday all was quiet at Ashton, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield, and every preparation had been made to prevent a breach of the peace.

At the meeting of the Relief Committee on Monday it was proposed to ask the President of the Poor Law Board for further powers under the Public Works Act to obtain a loan of an additional half-million of money. Mr. Farnall said that there was yet 100,000*l.* unspent of the money applicable to the purpose. It was replied that the money was all apportioned, and, in the face of a probable increase of the distress in the winter, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

The Houses of Convocation met on Tuesday. In the Upper House the Bishop of Oxford brought up the report of the Committee on 'Essays and Reviews.' It pronounced that the book contained false and dangerous statements and reasonings at variance with the teaching of the Church of England, and deserving the condemnation of the Synod; that the third Essay denied the supernatural origin of Christianity, struck at the root of all revealed religion, and stated theories irreconcilable with the existence of the Church of Christ. 'Literal prognostication' or the direct prediction of future events was greatly disparaged, if not absolutely denied. In the book it was distinctly affirmed that the Evangelists and Apostles never intimated that a supernatural gift of inspiration was bestowed upon them, nor claimed for themselves an immunity from error in their writings. Even the highest doctrines of the faith were not exempt from erroneous treatment. Thus, in speaking of the Holy Trinity, Dr. Williams applied the term 'person' only to God the Father, to the exclusion of the Son and the Holy Ghost. The fourth Essay advanced the proposition that men might, as the condition of being invested with the office of teachers in the Church, subscribe to articles of religion without believing them to be true. On these grounds the book merited the condemnation of the Synod. The Bishop of Oxford moved that the report be adopted. In the event of that proposal being agreed to, he should move a resolution condemning the book. It would then be necessary to transmit the resolution to the Lower House, in order that Convocation might proceed to a synodical judgment. The object was to clear the Church from complicity with such false views. The Bishop of London spoke against the adoption of the report, which was, however, carried on a division—the Bishops of London, Lincoln, and Bangor voting in the minority.

A case (Weiss *v.* Lord A. Loftus) which afforded no small amusement to the hearers was tried last week before the Lord Chief Justice Cockburn and a special jury at Westminster. The plaintiff by his own statement was a privileged citizen of Berlin and a Doctor of Laws. He sought to recover from the defendant Lord A. Loftus, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin, the sum of five hundred Prussian dollars, as advanced rent for ten years in respect of the premises occupied by the British Embassy at Berlin. The plaintiff's case was, that he hired the premises of Baron Arnim at 6,050 dollars, and let them to Lord A. Loftus at 6,500 dollars, and therefore was entitled to be paid the difference. The case of the defendant was, that he employed the plaintiff simply as a house-agent, and had paid him for his service. The ridiculous part of the affair was that the plaintiff insisted on conducting his own case and making a long and unintelligible oration in execrable English. Next he examined Earl Russell, who had been summoned as a witness, and who produced a pile of papers from the Foreign Office, and then he put himself in the witness box. Afterwards the Counsel for the defendant read out the answers of Baron Arnim, who had been examined abroad, upon which the plaintiff quietly remarked that the statements were all lies, and was at once told by the Judge that if he repeated that observation he would be sent to prison. So also, when Mr. Bovill addressed the jury, the plaintiff interrupted him repeatedly, and was once more threatened with fine and imprisonment. Indeed, it was not until the threat had been many times expressed that the plaintiff subsided into a rational state. Eventually the jury found a verdict for the defendant.

Our contemporary, the *Illustrated London News*, published last Saturday an admirable portrait of Major-General J. E. B. Stuart. In the preceding week the same journal contained a portrait of Major-General Longstreet, and in the week before that a portrait of General Robert E. Lee, commander-in-chief of the army of the Confederate States.

SCOTLAND.

Mr. James Miller, Professor of Surgery in the University of Edinburgh, died on Friday last at the age of 52. Mr. Miller was Professor of Pictorial Anatomy to the Royal Academy, and Surgeon-in-Ordinary to the Queen for Scotland. He was the author of 'The Principles and Practice of Surgery,' which has passed in this country through four editions and has circulated largely in America. He wrote the article on 'Surgery' in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, the 'Surgical Experiences of Chloroform,' and other works. He was a great advocate of the 'temperance' doctrines, and took an active part in philanthropic and religious agitations. He was an elder in the Free Church, and was an extreme supporter of its theories and practice.

IRELAND.

William Smith O'Brien died on Saturday last at Bangor, North Wales. He was born on October 17, 1803, and was educated at Harrow School, and Trinity College, Cambridge. He entered Parliament as Member for Ennis in 1826, and he represented the county of Limerick from 1835 until 1849. At first O'Brien opposed Daniel O'Connell both in the county of Clare and in the House of Commons; but a change came over him, and in 1844 he became the ardent supporter of O'Connell, by whom he stood at the trial of the latter, and to act in subordination to or concert with whom seemed to be his great desire. O'Connell, however, shrank from the violent measures to which the Young Ireland party and their leader were anxious to resort. Moreover, he differed both in political and religious ideas from O'Brien, and, lastly, he entertained a deep jealousy of the rising popularity of the latter. Indeed, it was impossible for O'Connell, a good Catholic, a detester of Republican institutions, a sceptic in the matter of repeal, to act cordially, or even to sympathise, with a Protestant—a Republican replete with the excesses, the speculations, and even the terminology of the French Democracy, the bitter and implacable enemy of the Union. O'Connell, moreover, had risen on the shoulders of the priesthood: in all the churches of Ireland the zeal of him who laboured in the Catholic cause had been recognised. He could talk, perhaps, of the men who would rise at the stamp of his foot and strike a blow for Ireland, even as Pompeius did when Cæsar was at the Rubicon; but he was too prudent a man not to form an accurate measure of the weakness of Ireland and the enormous power of England. So there was a secession, and Young Ireland established itself in 1846 on a separate platform with O'Brien, Dillon, Doheny, O'Gorman, Mitchell, and others for the leaders. Shortly afterwards Mitchell again seceded, and in the columns of the United Irishmen taught the arts of barricades and street-fighting, and roused the Lord-Lieutenant to fortify the position of the Imperial Government in Dublin by the most active measures. Then, too, O'Brien, Gavan Duffy, and Meagher, having everywhere established societies for the due preparation of the people for revolution, republic, and the dynasty of O'Brien, finally set out for Paris, and solicited Lamartine to aid them. The French statesman was magnificent in his words, talked of 'destiny,' 'glorious isle,' and 'generous France,' but also mentioned 'diplomacy and treaties.' In April, the meeting at the city of Limerick took place, and O'Brien found how deeply the Old Ireland party had been wounded in the fall of its chief, while Mitchell beheld himself burnt in effigy, hardly escaping with his life. O'Brien, too, was struck by the furious mob. At last the

ıtience of Lord Clarendon was exhausted. He arrested itchell on May 13, had him tried, convicted, sentenced ten years' transportation, and conveyed to Bermuda. 'Brien and Meagher were liberated, the jury not ing able to agree. At the end of July, O'Brien left ublin, and harangued the people in Carlow and Kilenny, calling upon them to rise in arms. A reward of 00*l.* was put upon him. On July 29 he appeared with a nall force at Boulagh Common, Ballingarry, where rant, the sub-inspector of police, had fortified himlf in command of fifty men in the house of a widow ımed Cormac. A short fight ensued; but a second rty of police came up and charged the rebels, ho instantly broke and fled. O'Brien for a few ys concealed himself among the peasantry, and at ngth proceeded to the railway station at Thurles, inding to go to Limerick. He was recognised and rested. On September 21, he, with Meagher and 'Manus, was tried at Clonmel. All three were conicted of high treason, and sentenced to be hanged, drawn, nd quartered. The sentence was commuted to transrtation for life. However, at the end of eight years, 'Brien was pardoned, and permitted to return home.

His lineage is traced by Burke to Brien Boroihme, who egan to reign in 1002, and was killed at the battle of lontarf in 1014. In the reign of Henry VIII. Murrough 'Brien surrendered his royalty, and was created Earl of homond and Baron Inchiquin. The fifth earl was reated Marquis of Thomond in 1800, and a peer of the nited Kingdom as Baron Thomond. Sir Edward 'Brien of Dromoland was succeeded by his son Sir ucius in 1765, who was succeeded by his son Sir dward in 1795. Sir Edward married the daughter of r. William Smith, of Cahirmoyle, in the county of imerick. His eldest son, Sir Lucius, the fifth baronet, oved his right to the barony of Inchiquin before the ommittee of Privileges in April 1862. William Smith 'Brien was the younger brother of this Sir Lucius.

William Smith O'Brien was a man remarkable for umanity and honesty; his faults were not those of the eart. Politically speaking, he may be said to have been estitute of intelligence; for having an end in view, he either was able nor did he care to calculate the means. is dreams of wild ambition and mistaken patriotism rged him to acts little short of madness, but of all the gitators or leaders in civil commotion who have lived, he as the least obnoxious to suspicion or hatred.

INDIA.

It is rumoured in Calcutta that several new native regients are about to be raised. The men will be drawn om the Poorbheas or natives of Hindostan Proper, the d Pandy element, exclusively.

Lieutenant-Colonel Patrick Stewart, Director-General f the Government electric telegraph to India, accomanied by Sir Charles Bright the engineer of the expedion, and by the members of their staff, has returned to Bombay from Bushire *viâ* Kurrachee. The land line of he telegraph is completed from Bushire to Kayeroon, but me months must elapse before the whole line can be pened, difficulties almost insuperable being found to rise from the dilatoriness and apathy of the Turks.

In accordance with a rule laid down by Sir Charles Wood, the independent Rajahs of India are to retain nly a limited number of troops, and to be supplied with n amount of ammunition to be annually fixed by the British Government.

His Excellency the Viceroy was to return to Calcutta om Simlah in October, and would afterwards hold urbars at Meerut, Agra, Futtehgurh, and Cawnpore.

There was still an immense expansion observable in comercial operations at Bombay. In one week there were rought out the Bombay Joint-Stock Corporation, the Bombay Presidency Bank, the Indian Peninsular Bank, nd the Khandeish Farming Company, all on the limited ability principle.

CHINA.

A letter from the Hon. Frederick W. A. Bruce, Her Majesty's Minister in China, to Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon, with reference to the resumption of active operaions by that officer in concert with the Governor of Kiangsoo, has been published in England. Mr. Bruce ays that he acquiesced in the course taken by Gordon, because of the assurance received from the Chinese auhorities, that in future operations the rules of warfare as practised by foreign nations should be observed. He also thinks it due to Colonel Gordon to state that his conurrence in the step taken by Gordon was founded in a great measure on the knowledge of the high motives that ad guided the latter while in command of the Chinese force, of his disinterested conduct in money matters, and of the influence exercised by him in favour of humanity. Mr. Bruce further points out that it would be a serious calamity if Colonel Gordon was compelled to leave his work incomplete, and if a dispersion of the force were to bring about a recurrence of the danger from which Shanghai had suffered for two years.

The following news has been received of the French auxiliary force in China. M. d'Aiguebelle has been raised o the rank of Ti-tai (General of Division) for the capture of Hangchow. His Lieutenant, M. Schedelin, has commenced the siege of Hu-tchu-fu, the last town of Tchekiang remaining in the possession of the rebels. The transport *L'Orne* has arrived at Shanghai to embark one half of the French *Zéphyres*; the remainder are to follow shortly; it is believed that they will be next employed in Africa. Every one regrets the departure of the few troops which remained to remind the Chinese of the force which at once conquered them and restored order to the country. The murderer of the English officer, Mr. Dove, has been taken and hanged on the very spot where he committed the crime.

TUNIS.

The insurgent Bey of Tunis, Ali-ben-Rdam, has named a successor to his throne, officially known as 'Bey of the Camp,' and has sent this personage, with a body of 5,000 cavalry, to a position near Trestour, about 24 hours' march from Tunis. The Ministry have received information that the insurgents were about to attack the Bardo, the Bey's summer palace, distant some five miles from the city. It was for some time a question whether the palace should be defended or the Bey retire to the protection of the guns of the citadel. The former course was preferred, and the palace is now regularly armed and fortified, and garrisoned with the best troops available. It is hoped that the people will return to their allegiance, as the Bey is by no means disliked by them, although his late taxation has been oppressive. It is most unlikely that foreign Powers will interfere with his independence. France has enough to do with one military colony, and any further annexations on her part would create an inextinguishable jealousy in the minds of the Italian Government; not less improbable is it that Italy should attempt to create a colony on the African coast, considering the state of her finances, and the touchiness of her nearest neighbour. As for a restoration of the power of the Porte over his nominal province of Tunis, it cannot be seriously contemplated for a moment.

ALGIERS.

A smart action was fought by General Martineau, near Geryville, on April 26, the details of which have only lately appeared; the forces of the Arabs were 5,000 in number, 3,000 of whom were cavalry. The action consisted almost entirely of a succession of murderous charges executed by the Chasseurs d'Afrique, which were completely successful, though not without entailing severe loss on the victors; 68 officers and men were killed on the spot, and 33 wounded were left at the hospital at Geryville.

On June 5 the Marabout Si-el-Azereg made a smart attack upon the camp of General Rose at Dar-ben-Abdallah, but was repulsed with enormous loss and himself slain. Thus the insurrection has lost one of its most energetic and influential chiefs. The *Moniteur* tells us that the Kabyle and Taliarian labourers are coming down from the mountains for their annual employment as reapers in the plains above Constantine and Algiers. This may be considered as a guarantee of the tranquillity of the provinces whence they come, and an indication of the allegiance of the lower orders to the established Government. All leads to the hope that the insurrection is touching its conclusion.

JAPAN.

The mission of the Japanese Ambassadors in Paris has terminated. Satisfaction and apologies for the murder of Lieutenant Camus have been offered and accepted by the French Government. The treaty has been signed on both sides; the ambassadors are now on their way to their native country. By advices from Japan we learn that the Daimios have met in council, and that after great discussion the principle of concession to foreign Powers favoured by the Mikado was carried by a majority.

THE CONTINENT.

THE Conference of London met again after two postponements on Saturday last, the 18th inst. It is understood that the four hours during which the plenipotentiaries sat were mainly occupied by recriminations between Danes and Germans, in the course of which a threat of most significant character was used by one of the latter, to which we shall revert presently. The accusations levelled by Denmark against the exactions of the Germans during the time of truce drew from Herr von Bismarck a lengthy contradiction; it is contained in a despatch addressed by him to Count Bernstorff, dated June 10th. The chief point of it is that the so-called exactions were only a legitimate demand for the delivery of contributions due long before. One case is cited, in which the order was given on April 28, the return to which ought to have made within forty-eight hours. The Prussian Minister takes credit to himself that the Danish citizens were not called upon to pay until after May 12, and considers that the truce then existing could not possibly affect the rights of the Allied Powers to the payment of demands made previous to it. We need only observe on this that were Herr von Bismarck's view of the law to be accepted, every armistice might be made a dead letter; the belligerent need only make a requisition previous to the ratification of the armistice for contributions sufficient to cover his expenses during the course of it; he need only give orders for the execution of certain military movements sufficient to occupy his forces during the month or six weeks of the suspension of arms; and, as the truce is not to affect any action ordered before the commencement of it, he will be at liberty to exact his contributions and dispose his forces exactly as he chooses. 'But is this law? Ay, marry, is't; Prussian bully's law.' Herr Von Bismarck next observes upon the complaints made by the Danes against military action taken by the Prussian authorities: his answer simply is that the Danes have done the same; if the Prussians have destroyed the works at Düppel, the Danes have fortified Alsen and Fünen: he further complains of the presence of Danish ships in the debateable waters, and of the attempts at recruiting made within the territory now occupied by the Allies. Our readers will understand from this despatch of what nature were the recriminations of Saturday last. The threat used by the German plenipotentiaries was simply this, that should the blockade be resumed by Denmark, they should set the treaty of 1856 at defiance and employ privateers. This threat is of great significance, because it shows at last most indisputably the real spirit which actuates the German Powers in their repudiation of treaties. If there is any one in whom the idea still lingers that the treaty of 1852 has been repudiated by the Germans from a sincere though mistaken sense of patriotism, or from an excusable though extravagant weakness for 'Vaterland,' this threat ought entirely to dispel his illusions. The brutal insolence which has so recklessly plunged Europe into anxiety and spread mourning and indignation through the little kingdom of Denmark, has imbibed fresh strength from the impunity too long allowed it, and now impudently proclaims that it will violate the law of Europe—a law not traceable to obsolete feudal prerogatives, or rusty and unmanageable from long disuse, but one fresh from the council table of the united nations, the offspring of the wisdom, self-denial, and moderation of the countries which alone could ultimately profit by its abolition. 'Quem Deus vult perdere, prius dementat:' and nothing but sheer lunacy could have inspired the plenipotentiari · to use such a threat at a time when the indignation of England is ripening into an irrepressible demand for war. It remains to be seen what notice France and Russia will take, in company with ourselves, of a declaration alike so impudent and so insane.

With regard to the various projects for pacification which we enumerated last week, we have not much to chronicle. The proposal which receives the greatest attention is that made by England for drawing a line through the Duchy of Slesvig, along the banks of the Schlei, and the course of the Dannewirke; this has been accepted by Denmark though with reluctance in the ultimatum issued by Bishop Mourad; it is acceded to by France, Russia, and Sweden; the latter, indeed, if we are to believe an apocryphal statement in the *Moniteur du Soir*, intends to retire from the Conference, should the proposed line of division be abandoned. The German powers followed by the German Confederation have proposed another line known as the 'Apenrade-Tondern,' about twenty-five miles north of the Dannewirke; the efforts made to induce them to accept the compromise of England have as yet been unsuccessful; moreover, they demand most positively that, after the line is drawn, the population on either side of it should be allowed to decide on their own government by vote. We in England who believe little in the security of decisions so arrived at, however fairly the voting may be conducted, would prefer to see the affair settled either by conference or by arbitration. In the meantime the close of the prolonged suspension of hostilities approaches. The Danes display no inclination to renew it, unless some neutral power will agree to maintain the line of division proposed by England. By Sunday next we shall know whether we have asserted our place as a first-class nation, or have undergone a humiliation which will eventually cost us long years of war. The German powers continue to treat with contempt all ideas of war with England; they affect to rejoice over the new alliance which must spring up between France and Germany, and express their inability to see that we can do them any injury.

By the latest despatches we learn that Prussia has rejected the English proposals relative to the line of division in Slesvig. She also rejects the arbitration of any Power represented at the Conference. No prolongation of the suspension of hostilities will be accepted by her for a less period than two months. On the other hand, the semi-official Vienna journals are in favour of the arbitration of the Emperor Napoleon on the Dano-Germanic question.

THE united front which the Austro-Prussian alliance displays to the outer world by no means corresponds to a state of unity within. The Czar of Russia, by ceding his right to a part of Holstein to the Grand-Duke of Oldenburg, has thrown an apple of discord between the two brothers in arms. As we stated in our last number, the Duke of Augustenburg showed no inclination to accede to the wishes of Herr von Bismarck by giving up Kiel and Rendsburg to Federal occupation, should he be so fortunate as to have them to give. The Prussian is supposed thereupon to have transferred his affections to the nominee of Russia, whom he hopes to find made of more malleable stuff; moreover, there are dark hints at the possibility of a cession of the Oldenburg territory to Prussia, should the Grand-Duke become possessed of Slesvig-Holstein. The suspicion of a possibility by which Prussia might add to her present power has been enough to kindle a flame of indignation in Vienna; it is possible that the quarrel between the two countries, if adroitly handled, might contribute to the pacification of Europe; 'when thieves fall out, honest men get their own.'

THE DUCHIES.

Meetings have been held at Rendsburg, and deputations sent to the King of Prussia from patriotic committees in Slesvig, to protest against any division of that duchy; but it is impossible to say what value can be put upon these demonstrations: German propagandism has already effected more in the southern part of the Peninsula than had the natural influences of the last fifty years. The subscriptions towards the Slesvig-Holstein loan raised by the Duke of Augustenburg amount to 135,685*l.*, or 20,353*l.*; this gives an average of rather less than 10*d.* per head subscribed by the inhabitants of the Duchies. The civil authorities of Flensburg (Slesvig) have published an order to the effect that for the future German should be the language used for instruction in the schools of Hadersleben; the Danish language shall only be taught for six hours in the week. It will be observed that Hadersleben is some way north of the line of division proposed by the Prussians themselves for Slesvig.

DENMARK.

The Rigsraad, or House of Representatives for Denmark and Slesvig, has been convoked for the 25th instant. Baron von Scheel-Plessen, the Danish Ambassador at St. Petersburg, has arrived at Copenhagen with the proposal already referred to in our last number, by which Russia hopes to maintain the integrity of Denmark. What the proposal is has not yet transpired.—The Danish authorities have found it necessary to use strong precautionary measures against the German sympathisers in the island of Sylt, on the west coast of Slesvig. Troops have been

landed there, and a state of siege proclaimed. Seven ardent spirits were arrested and sent to Copenhagen, out of the way of the furnace of German patriotism, to cool.—The *Dagbladet*, in commenting on the absence of the promised support from England or Sweden, calls upon the Government, should this continue, to seek for aid from the revolutionary elements in Europe, and no longer from the regularly constituted governments. It proposes that a foreign legion should be enlisted, and the offers of Garibaldi (?) accepted.

GERMANY.

While Herr von Bismarck occupies himself on the one hand with the administration of severe reproofs to Denmark for erécting defensive fortifications on the island of Fünen, he is not slow on the other hand to take all measures that seem good to him for the strengthening of the offensive power of Prussia. Three corvettes have been sent to Dantzic to reprovision; the regiments now in Slesvig have been reinforced up to their full complement; and Prince Frederic Charles, the Commander-in-Chief, has returned to the scene of war.

The attention of Germany has been more particularly called to the movements of the sovereigns of Russia, Austria, and Prussia. The first of these has, as we related last week, passed through Berlin on his way to Kissingen; the Emperor and Empress of Austria left Vienna on the 14th inst., spent a few hours at Munich, and then passed on to the rendezvous at Kissingen. Their Majesties are accompanied by Herr von Rechberg, just as the Emperor of Russia is also accompanied by Prince Gortschakoff. On the 18th inst. the King of Prussia took his departure for the watering-place of Carlsbad in Bohemia; his Prussian Majesty also takes with him the President of his Council, Herr von Bismark, with a complete diplomatic staff. We notice the fact that each of these monarchs is accompanied by the Minister fulfilling the functions in each case of Foreign Secretary, only because certain journals have been most earnest in inculcating upon us that these visits are of no political significance whatever. Nothing can be plainer than that kings and emperors, like other mortals, require to wash and be clean; and that, like other men again, they must go to their baths, since the baths will not come even to them. The Foreign Secretaries are, of course, the best men to undertake the office of Lord High Courier to their Majesties, from their intimate acquaintance with the language and feelings of foreign countries: and thus it is that every monarch takes that important officer with him in his train. We only hope that these distinguished functionaries receive a handsome gratuity for the performance of a service which they might fairly plead they were not engaged for. The same journals declare positively that no treaty has been made between the three great Powers of Eastern Europe for the mutual guarantee of their Polish possessions.

A Berlin journal terminates an article on the politics of the House of Representatives in the following words, which we quote for the clue which they give to the causes which engaged Prussia in the present war:—'Let us hope that the feelings to which late events have given rise will assist in doing away with the unhappy differences of former years. Let us hope that this same Chamber of Deputies, which not long ago answered the appeal of the Government by a categorical refusal, will now aid the authorities to fulfil their important mission for the welfare of Slesvig-Holstein, of Prussia, and of Germany. But even were the position to become more critical, the Government would certainly not await the exhaustion of the whole of its reserve funds to apply with confidence to the national representatives for an active and patriotic assistance.'

A Conference is about to be held at Munich on the question of the amalgamation of the Customs' duties throughout Northern Germany. We have already made a few remarks on this subject, pointing out that the former Zollverein was in a moribund state, and that some difficulty was found in reconstituting it on a more solid basis. This Conference will be attended by the ministers of all the German States, except perhaps Electoral Hesse. The part that Austria will take in this Conference will simply be to maintain as far as possible the position in which it was placed by the Commercial Treaty of 1853. The partisans of the Franco-Prussian Treaty of Commerce have issued invitations for a general assembly, to be held at Stuttgardt on the 19th instant; the object of this meeting would also be the maintenance of the Zollverein, but the point of view from which its promoters look at the question differs from that taken at Munich.

A short, but to us English most interesting, experiment was lately made, by order of the King of Prussia, of the capabilities both of his guns and of his armour-plates. When we say his, we mean it in the grammatical sense of 'belonging to him;' for both guns and plates were of the best French manufacture. Fifteen shots only were fired, thirteen of which struck with effect, and two rebounded from the target. The guns used were 12-5 and 5-5-pounders; the distance for the former 1,000, for the latter 500 yards. The amount of powder is not stated; but probably a very full charge was used, as the object was to test the guns. None of the indentations in the plates were of a greater depth than 2½ inches. If we compare these results with those lately obtained in England in experiments of the same nature, we must come to the conclusion that the French 12-5-pounder has not yet approached its English rival in execution. That the resistance of the plates is not due to any superiority on their part over the English manufacture will readily be allowed when we observe that they were supplied by M. Petin Gaudet & Co., a firm which has obtained a respectable but not a distinguished reputation in England.

FRANCE.

The elections for the partial renewal of the *conseils généraux* and the *conseils d'arrondissement* are now taking place in Paris. The former bodies are renewed by the retirement of one-third of their number every three years; the latter by the retirement of one-half their number at the same time. The questions which come before them are not necessarily of a political character, but are often of sufficient importance to interest the Government considerably. It is, in our opinion, most unfortunate that domiciliary visits should have been made with respect to these elections similar to those which occurred in the elections for the Legislative Body, and a challenge thus issued by the Government to the Opposition to engage in a new contest of strength. The effect of these challenges has as yet been constantly the same—the people has taken the part of the weaker, and has thus given to the Opposition a support far greater than that party either deserves or has a right to expect. These visits were made by the police to the houses of certain gentlemen the majority of whom are members of the Paris bar; among them MM. Garnier-Pagès and Carnot, members of the Corps Législatif. The charge against them is that they belong to an illicit electoral association, the law against which is found in the 291st article of the Code Pénal. The greater part of the men who received these visits are members of a 'Consulting Committee of Advocates,' formed to give advice to all electors, no matter what might be their political creed, on any difficulties arising under the electoral law. This committee, however, received neither warning nor visit at the general elections of last year, when M. Garnier-Pagès' private committee was broken up by the police.

One of those great natural commotions has occurred in the Department of Doubs, on the western slopes of Jura, which tend to convince us of the possibility of some of the marvellous tales of geology. In consequence of the heavy rains which have lately fallen there, a great body of land slipped from the base of marl on which it rested, and overwhelmed the plain below it. The most frightful disorder was the natural consequence. Small landholders found a garden standing where ought to have been their little field of corn; another has found his meadow exchanged for a thick plantation. The whole place is full of enormous cracks and gullies; trees are lying about, crushed and distorted by the enormous weight; while the proprietors are wandering about scarcely alive to the fact that the small plot of land which they once called their own is lying covered by the properties of one or two others. Geologists and curiosity-seekers have assembled from all parts to examine into this remarkable effort of nature.

A story is related, which is perhaps unequalled for illustrating the manner in which a succession of murders and suicides may follow upon the most trivial act possible. A child was about to receive its first communion; but happening to see a plate of strawberries she inadvertently ate two of them, thus breaking the law of the Roman Church, which requires that all persons should receive the communion fasting. She confessed the fact to her pastor, who dismissed her with a few kind words till the morrow. The excitement of the child, however, was so great that she rose in the night, and fled to a house at some distance where she was taken in. Her mother rose early; finding that the child was gone, she was seized with an awful fear that she had drowned herself; she rushed to the river-side, and, thinking that she saw the corpse floating in the water, plunged in and was drowned. As if this were not enough, a brother-in-law of the unfortunate woman, being out of his mind, refused to believe in her death, and declared she was hidden in a neighbour's house. His wife attempted to calm him; whereupon he seized a double-barrelled gun, with one charge of which he killed his servant dead on the spot, and with the other blew out his own brains. Three deaths for eating two strawberries!

Who is anxious to cover the greatest possible amount of ground in the shortest time?—to visit Constantinople, passing through Vienna and the Principalities, to steam down the Danube and return in a fortnight? Such is the programme offered by the Eastern Railway of France. The traveller may go from Paris through Stuttgardt, Munich, Salzburg, and Vienna, descend the Danube from Bazias to the Black Sea, and thence by sea to Constantinople, all in the space of five days and a half. We recommend the attempt to those who, having scaled every Alp and traversed every desert, are now on the look-out for fresh worlds to conquer. They may be assured that nothing they have yet accomplished will equal this journey as a trial to their nervous and muscular system.

RUSSIA.

An elaborate defence of Russian conduct in Circassia and Georgia has been undertaken by certain foreign journals. It is to the effect that for many years Russia served as the bulwark of Europe against Asiatic barbarism; it has now accepted the mission of civilising Asia. In the last century Peter the Great founded St. Petersburg as a sort of skylight to admit the light and air of European civilisation into his empire. In our times Russia is annexing the Caucasus in order to open a window through which Asia may study the advance made by the western continent. 'All men,' says a correspondent of one of these journals, 'all serious men who look at facts from a humanitarian point of view, have gladly recognised the high and apostolic mission of Russia.' We confess that we admire the ease with which the writer of the above has transformed the semi-barbarous Tartar empire of Russia into a bulwark against Asiatic barbarism. Nor can we refuse a meed of respectful wonder to the theory that Asia will study the civilisation of the west through the window so kindly knocked out for it by Russia in the Caucasus. We never yet heard that the continent of Asia had suffered much from the 'proclivities' of Russia towards annexation; or, to continue the metaphor of the window so kindly supplied to us, that the dwellers in the house need complain of the ardent endeavours of their neighbour to procure for them light and ventilation. But what if the bricks object? What if they are not bricks, but men and women with souls and affections like our own? Have they no cause to cry out when they find themselves carted off to the dust-heap without ceremony? And is it any comfort to them to know that through the hole left by their displacement Asia may contemplate the singularly humane institutions and the admirably developed civilisation of modern Russia? Surely, this line of defence at least had better been left alone.

The news from Poland has for some time been singularly deficient. The most noteworthy fact is that the journal *Ojczyzna* has published the decree of the National Government of Poland, ordering that all purchases of lands sold by the Russian authorities shall be considered null and void, thus showing that the National Government is still in existence. The same journal announces that the village Pruszanska has been rased to the ground by the Russians, in revenge for a beating received there by one of their spies. All the inhabitants, men, women, and children, were seized and sent off straight to Siberia, many of them half-naked.

TURKEY.

The reception of Prince Couza at Constantinople has been of the most favourable character; the Sultan has expressed himself perfectly satisfied with the deference paid to his wishes by the Prince. All difficulties have been satisfactorily settled save that relating to the seizure of the conventual property, which is to be left to the decision of the Conference. A new order of chivalry is to be shortly instituted by the Prince under the name of the Order of the Star of Roumania.

It is said that the Sultan will visit France and England in the course of the current year.

ITALY.

The state of affairs at Tunis has elicited a statement of the intentions of the Government from the Minister for Foreign Affairs. He has stated in the Chamber of Representatives that it is necessary for the Italian policy that Tunis should remain independent, and that he had taken every possible measure for the protection of the large colony of Italians resident in that territory. General Longoni has received notice to hold his division in readiness to embark for Tunis on the receipt of orders to that effect.

Garibaldi left Caprera on the 7th inst. on board the yacht of the Duke of Sutherland; his purpose is to repair to Ischia for sea-bathing, a change of air having been considered expedient for the restoration of his health.

The 17th inst. was the anniversary of the accession of Pius IX. to the Papal throne. It was celebrated at Rome by a religious ceremony, at which His Holiness assisted; after which he gave an audience and received the homage and compliments of the College of Cardinals and the diplomatic body.

A statement has been published concerning the College of Cardinals, from which we learn that there are now nine cardinal's hats in the gift of the Pope; every vacancy must be constitutionally filled up as soon as created; but the Pope has the right to retain the name of the new cardinal *in petto*, as it is technically called—that is, in the recesses of his own breast—until such time as he chooses to declare it. Of the sixty-one cardinals now existing, forty-five are above the age of sixty years, so that the amount of patronage in the hands of the Holy Father is likely to be increased.

MEXICO.

THE Emperor of Mexico has by this time taken possession of the throne offered to him by the vote of the people and the magnanimity of the French conqueror. Immediately on his arrival at Vera Cruz, His Majesty issued a proclamation of which the following is a summary. He says that however sorrowful may have been his farewell to his native country, he comes with joy to consecrate all his forces to the welfare of a people who, after having gloriously asserted their independence, are now anxious to enjoy the fruit of civilisation and of true progress. The only true and durable principles on which a modern State can be founded are: inviolable justice; equality of all in the eye of the law; free competition for every social and political distinction; complete personal liberty; the development of national industry; the establishment of means of communication for an extended commerce; and lastly the free play of the intelligence in all its relations to the interests of the public. Such are the principles on which Mexico must be founded; the blessing of Heaven will not be wanting, if the people remain animated by the religious sentiments which have always distinguished the Mexicans. Such also are the principles represented by the civilizing banner of France, to whose Emperor they owe the establishment of order and peace. Every country that has determined to create a future for itself has done so by following this course. As for himself, His Majesty promises to remain faithful to his motto, 'Equity within justice.' His duty is to hold the sceptre with conscientiousness, and the sword of honour with firmness. To the Empress belongs the task of consecrating to the service of the country all the noble sentiments of Christian virtue, and all the kindness of a tender mother. This address, which appears to us more suited to the metaphysical and critical intellects of the Germans than to the Mexican people, has been forwarded to the various prefects, to be posted in the cities of the Empire.

PERU.

The Spanish squadron now in possession of the islands of Chincha has received orders to put no impediment or interruption in the way of commerce. The syndicate established on the islands by the various European companies who enjoy the benefit of international treaties is allowed to continue its administration. It is hoped that the consequence of the very decided action taken by the Spanish Government will be the recognition of the Republic of Peru by that Power. It may not be generally known that this recognition has never yet formally taken place, though so many years have elapsed since the emancipation of the colony.

In New Orleans the *Courrier Français*, as well as the *Picayune*, has been suppressed for publishing the forged proclamation.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

A FEDERAL OUTRAGE.

On Tuesday, in the House of Lords, the Earl of Derby id he was informed that a gentleman named Levey, a itish subject and a merchant of Montreal, had arrived a rt time since in a British packet—the *Asia*—at the rt of Boston, and that upon his arrival there he was ought before the United States authorities, who immeately took him into custody. That occurred on the 26th last month, and he was brought before the Commissary-eneral for the purpose of being examined, but without ing told what the charges were which were brought ainst him. His papers were taken from him, and he mained in prison for ten days, at the end of which time e papers were restored without explanation, and he was d that he might leave prison. Up to the present hour appeared he had no idea as to who his accusers were, what the offence was with which he was charged. So , he might add, from Mr. Levey being a suspicious aracter, he was informed that all his sympathies and dilections were in favour of the Federal Government; t whether the treatment which he had received had nde any alteration in those feelings he could not prend to say. The case had, he understood, been laid before r Majesty's representative at Washington, and he should le to know whether any reparation or apology had been ced for by him, or been spontaneously offered by the deral Government; because, although that Government, their prosecution of the unhappy and destructive war which they were engaged, might be willing to sacrifice liberties of their own countrymen and to subject them despotic rule, a friendly nation had a right to insist at its subjects engaged in peaceful and lawful occupaons in the United States should not be exposed to the traordinary and unconstitutional course of proceeding which he had called attention, which was not only the casion of humiliation, but also of the serious loss which detention for a period of ten days must involve in the e of a man engaged in business pursuits. He did not an to say that in the present instance any very serious s had been sustained, but the case was one, nevertheis, which in his opinion deserved the attention of the overnment, because if it were allowed to pass over noticed it was impossible to say to what extent the croachments of the Federal Government might be ried.

Earl Russell said that in the latest despatches from rd Lyons there was no reference to the case of Mr. vey. It was very probable that by the next despatches ne account of it might be received. When such cases the imprisonment of British subjects did occur, as they fortunately did very frequently, Lord Lyons always cled the attention of the American Government to them d required an explanation. In case it appeared that rd Lyons's attention had not been directed to the case, he uld write to him and bring it under his notice.

The Earl of Derby regretted to hear that these cases re of frequent occurrence, for they had certainly not en communicated to Parliament.

Earl Russell said that when he had described these es of imprisonment as being common he did not mean imprisonment without reason; for when explanations ne to be given, it generally appeared that the United tates Government had some reason to induce them to beve that the person imprisoned had been engaged in rding assistance to their enemies. [Which means that r. Seward can always invent an excuse to satisfy Earl ussell.]

THE EMIGRATION BOARD: FEDERAL RECRUITING.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, in the course the discussion on the vote for 10,720*l.* for the Emigran Board, Colonel Dunne asked what sort of supervision us exercised. After a reply from Mr. C. Fortescue, Capn Jervis remarked that Colonel Dunne's question had t been satisfactorily answered. He said that emigrants re being daily carried out to the United States to be ndered at the rate of so many dollars a head, and the estion was what means had the Commissioners taken to form those poor people of the fact, or to guide them in e choice of a fair field for their labour. Mr. C. Fortcue replied that it was not the duty of the Government the Commissioners to persuade emigrants to go to one untry rather than another. Mr. Monsell did not deny at, but there ought to be some British authority in New rk and Boston to see that the emigrants were not unrly dealt with. The number of men who enlisted in land for the United States army was very small comred with those who were laid hold of when they went road. In the present exigency it would be desirable at either the Foreign Office or the Emigration Comssioners should take some steps for the protection of ose poor people. Colonel Dunne said an immense mber of our unfortunate people go over to America thout the slightest intention of enlisting, and get enapped there. He knew an instance of a man who on riving at the other side of the water fell in with people ho gave him drink, and when he awoke he found himlf in the uniform of the United States army and was ld that he had enlisted, and if he refused to serve he ould be shot. He was sent to the scene of war, fought r six months, and, luckily for himself, got ague. They en sent him into hospital, and after a time he made s escape at the risk of being shot, and got home to eland. The same thing happened to several. Why ould not the Government call upon the Consular auorities in the United States to put a stop to doings of at kind? At this moment a great number of our ldiers were about to be discharged after their ten years' rvice, and there were people from the United States atching to pick them up and carry them away. After me observations from other speakers, Captain Jervis said was all very well to talk of the Government not interring with emigrants, but it was generally believed that ey had encouraged the emigration of Irishmen to North merica and allowed the North American authorities to enlist men in Ireland for the purpose of recruiting their armies while the same privilege was not given to the Southern States. The object of spending money on emigration was to open fresh labour markets; but the Government certainly ought to explain how it was that this emigration was made the means of enlistments which were not only contrary to our own laws but those of the United States. Mr. Cardwell denied that this was so. Mr. Hibbert said there were at this moment agents engaged in this country in tempting the Lancashire operatives to emigrate to work in mills in America, and, though he regretted that these people should go, it would be unfair to them if the Government were to interfere. [This is certainly an extreme view of the doctrine of non-intervention.]

IRISH EMIGRATION.

On Tuesday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Hennessy called attention to this subject. The number of persons who left Ireland in 1861 was 64,292; in 1862, 70,117; in 1863, 117,820: and the Emigration Commissioners stated in their report, published a few days ago, that if the emigration continued throughout the present year at the rate which it had gone on during the first three months the number this year would be 156,000; and this was taking place in a country in which the number of marriages was declining, the proportion of births to deaths was falling off, and the population was declining more rapidly than that of any country in Europe. The emigration was distributed generally over the country. In 1863 the number of persons who emigrated from Leinster was 15,000; Munster, 55,000; Ulster, 22,500; and Connaught, 18,000. From the year 1851 to December 1863, the total loss by emigration had amounted to 1,431,000 persons, of whom the province of Ulster had contributed no less than 400,000. Last year there were in Ireland 23,715 horses less than there were in 1862; the decline in the number of cattle amounted to 116,615; sheep, 152,201; pigs, 89,522. The total loss of live stock in the year 1863 amounted in value to 1,227,041*l.*; the loss in the previous year having been 1,500,000*l.* The cereal crops diminished in 1862 by 72,000 acres, and in 1863 by 144,000, and in both years the green crops also decreased. In 1863 their decrease amounted to 19,358 acres, and the total loss of cereal and green crops in 1863 was 164,077 acres. He thought the Government should legislate so that farmers might be induced to improve their holdings, instead of putting their money in their pockets and emigrating. He moved: 'That this House observes with regret that the agricultural population of Ireland are rapidly leaving the country; that this House trusts that Her Majesty's Government would direct their attention to the subject with a view of devising some means by which the Irish agricultural population may be induced to devote their capital and labour to reproductive employment at home.'

Sir R. Peel said Ireland had been passing through a trying crisis, but there was now a wonderful revival, and in the month of May there was a sensible diminution of the numbers emigrating. There has also been a diminution, as compared with last year, of 1,000 persons receiving indoor relief from the Unions in Ireland. Sir Robert said: 'No doubt the emigration from Ireland during the last twenty or thirty years has been enormous. I have here the exact figures. Between 1831 and 1841 no less than 400,000 persons left Ireland for the colonies or foreign countries. This was exclusive of a migration of 200,000 into England and Scotland. Between 1841 and 1851 the total number of emigrants from Ireland was 1,240,000. From 1851 to 1860 was a most important period, for not less than 1,190,865 persons left Ireland during that period. That is, no doubt, an enormous emigration within twenty years—an amount perhaps unknown in the annals of any country. I believe a great deal of the emigration that went on during the latter period may be traced to the famine that visited Ireland in 1845, 1846, and 1847, which rendered it absolutely impossible for the population of Ireland to live upon the potato root, and obliged them to seek the means of livelihood elsewhere. There was a progressive emigration during 1861 and two following years. In 1861 66,396 persons left Ireland; in 1862, 72,730; in 1863, 117,820. Mr. Hennessy has quoted some returns to show that a great number of these persons do not go to the United States of America. I think he is not quite accurate in those statements. A small portion, no doubt, go to Canada, but the vast majority go to the United States. I believe there is a return that about 23,000 able-bodied Irishmen entered the Federal service last year. The Registrar-General states that the emigration during the months of January, February, March, April, and May this year amounts to 63,833. The emigration during the corresponding five months of 1863 was 60,246, and during the same months in 1862 only 31,259. So that the increase during the first five months of this year over that of 1862 is nearly double, and is an increase of 3,000 over that of 1863. Since the month of May, however, there has been a sensible decrease of emigration from Ireland. In the month of May itself there was a decrease this year, compared with 1863, of 1,023 emigrants. The information I receive from Cork confirms this statement. There is evidently in the city, which is one of the most important ports of departure, a less desire to emigrate. "The vast tide of emigration," says one account, "has begun to decline in a very perceptible manner." It is too true, I fear, that there are thousands of poor deserted Irish girls who are gaining their lives by vice and other unhappy means in the United States. I have here a statement copied from the *Cork Daily Reporter*, and taken from the most authentic source, that there are no less than 30,000 Irish females who have left home and friends, and are now walking the streets of New York friendless and deserted.'

After a long discussion the House decided against dividing on Mr. Hennessy's motion, which was therefore lost.

CONSULAR RELATIONS WITH THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, in reply to Mr. Ayrton, Mr. Layard said that no arrangements had as yet been made for the reappointment of the Consuls in the Confederate States, but their salaries were paid, as it would be very ungenerous to stop them under such circumstances.

DENMARK AND GERMANY.

On Friday, in the House of Lords, in reply to the Earl of Ellenborough, Earl Russell said that the Treaty of 1852 bound the Powers to recognise King Christian IX. as King of Denmark, Duke of Slesvig, Duke of Holstein, and Duke of Lauenburg, but it was not a treaty of guarantee, and the Powers were not bound to enforce its execution. It was unfortunate for the Government that they could not give Parliament an explanation of their policy, and he should rejoice when the protocols of the Conference could be laid upon the table of the House. Without intending to utter a threat of any kind, he might state that 'Her Majesty's fleet is fully prepared for any service which it may be called upon to render.' The Earl of Derby said that, if the negotiations were not soon brought to a conclusion, it would be the duty of Parliament to demand from the Government an exposition of their policy.

On Monday, in the House of Commons, in reply to questions and observations made by Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Osborne, and others, Lord Palmerston said there was an agreement that what passed at the Conference should not be told, and therefore he could give no information about the proceedings. He was sorry to see that reports had got abroad of the proceedings, but that breach of confidence was a very different thing from a statement made by Ministers of the Crown to Parliament. When the negotiations were over, there would be no delay in presenting the proceedings to the House.

THE ASHANTEE WAR.

The sad story of the Ashantee war may be told in a few words. On the Gold Coast, about 1,100 miles from Sierra Leone, there is the British settlement of Cape Coast Castle, the Governor being Mr. Richard Pine. There is an arrangement that if any slaves escape from Ashantee to the British settlement they are not rendered up, and there is also an extradition treaty for the rendition of criminals. It appears that a slave committed a theft, and escaped to British territory. The King of Ashantee demanded the rendition of the fugitive slave because he was a thief; Governor Pine refused to give up the thief because he was a fugitive slave. In a kind of indirect way this matter drifted into war, and we prepared for hostilities against the King of Ashantee for the protection of a friendly tribe. Everything went wrong. The reinforcements did not arrive in time, and when they did reach the Coast the unhealthy season had set in. The resources of Cape Coast Castle were inadequate for the greatly increased garrison—about 1,400 men. When the English public first heard of the war, the news was accompanied by the melancholy intelligence that the officers and men were fast dying off from disease, and that those who survived were nearly all sick. Upon this the Government promised to abandon the expedition, and to reduce the garrison at Cape Coast Castle to its usual numbers.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, Lord C. Paget stated that on *that day* the *Gladiator* had been ordered to proceed to the Gold Coast to take off the sick. This statement was received with loud murmurs by the Opposition.

On Friday, Sir J. Hay, whose brother is one of the victims in this unhappy affair, moved a resolution to the effect that the want of foresight on the part of the Government had caused so large a loss of life. After an animated debate the House divided, and the numbers were:—

For the resolution	226
Against it	233
Majority for the Government .	7

The announcement of the numbers was received with cheers and counter-cheers.

CANADIAN INDIANS.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, on the vote for 1,000*l.* for the Indian Department, Canada, Mr. Hennessy called attention to the permission given by Governor Dallas to United States troops to cross the frontier and to attack the unfortunate Indians. Such permission was not in accordance with international law. Mr. Cardwell said the territory was not under the Canadian Government, but under the Hudson's Bay Company. It was true the permission had been given, but it had not been acted upon. Mr. Watkin said the Indians now at war with the United States believed themselves to be under the dominion of the British Crown. The chief of the tribe, attended by many of his people, came into the Hudson's Port, and demanded from the Governor of the Hudson's Bay Territory arms and food. Governor Dallas, while ready to give food, would not give arms, which, if used for warfare, might create difficulties with a friendly nation; but he undertook to use his friendly offices in order to procure a fair consideration of the claims of these unfortunate Indians. With this view he wrote a very excellent despatch to the Governor of Minnesota, and he received a suitable reply. Being in Canada in July last, he had gone with Governor Dallas to Lord March, when the circumstances of the case were fully before him. The reply given was that, when Lord Lyons came to Canada, the circumstances should be stated to him, but no further interference could take place. Governor Dallas had found himself in a most painful and difficult position when applied to to permit the forces of the United States to cross the frontier. Those Indians who came to him demanding arms and food were all decorated with the British medal, which they received in 1812 as allies of the British nation from 'their old father King George;' and when Minnesota was given up, they were told, if ever they required assistance, if they would only go to the north, they would always find the red flag flying. When they did apply for assistance, Governor Dallas had no military force to resist the military incursion of the United States troops, and he very unwisely, but under pressure, permitted Major Hatch

to cross the frontier. Mr. Cardwell had said the permission given had not been acted upon; but from the information he (Mr. Watkin) had received he believed it had been acted upon. He was sorry to think that these old relations with the Indian tribes, rude as they might be, were being broken up, and under circumstances which must damage the *prestige* of the country. Mr. Blackie thought that some of the Indians had been treated with great injustice by the Canadian Government. Mr. C. Fortescue explained that the vote of 1,000*l.* was entirely for pensions to old Indians; and it was agreed to.

THE BOARD OF CHARITY COMMISSIONERS.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Ferrand, in an extremely intemperate speech, moved for a select committee to enquire into the construction, expenses, and working of the Board of Charity Commissioners. He declared that that Board was a 'gross Whig job,' and in a coarse and ungentlemanly manner spoke of the antecedents of one of the inspectors, Mr. John Simons. He did not allege that Mr. Simons has not discharged his duties, but complained that he had been, in former times, a coal merchant. Mr. Bruce, on behalf of the Government, did not deny that the subject was a fitting one for enquiry, but opposed the motion on account of the tone and language of Mr. Ferrand. On a division Mr. Ferrand's motion was rejected by a majority of 76, the numbers being 40 to 116.

THE BALLOT.

On Tuesday, in the House of Commons, Mr. H. Berkeley brought forward a resolution in favour of a trial of voting by ballot. After a brief discussion, it was rejected by a majority of 89.

FAILURE OF DR. LIVINGSTONE'S MISSION.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, on a vote for 12,500*l.* for the Zambesi expedition, Mr. Walpole asked whether this expedition was to be continued, and, if not, what was to become of the persons composing it? Mr. Layard was sorry to say that the expedition had proved a failure, and Dr. Livingstone was now coming home by way of India. The expedition would be given up altogether, and this, therefore, would be the last vote asked for. Mr. F. Powell hoped that in a matter so deeply interesting to the religious and scientific world the hon. gentleman would not content himself with such a vague, jaunty answer. Mr. Layard said that until Dr. Livingstone returned to England it would be impossible to give a full explanation to the House. Dr. Livingstone would return to this country, and Government did not think it right to spend any further money for the prosecution of the expedition. Mr. Hadfield enquired whether the failure of the expedition was to be attributed to the unfriendly feeling of the Portuguese Government. Mr. Layard could not say that it was owing to unfriendly feeling on the part of the Portuguese Government, but he believed that the slave-trading operations carried on by Portuguese colonists in a great measure tended to produce the result.

THE LONDON NEEDLEWOMEN AND TAILORS.

On Thursday, in the House of Lords, Earl Granville said that the report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the sanitary condition of workrooms would be presented at the end of the session. The immediate cause of this Commission being appointed was the death of a woman employed in a West-end millinery establishment from overwork and the unhealthy arrangements of the room in which she worked. The Earl of Carnarvon said that tailors suffered from the same want of proper sanitary regulations, and that 'the waste of life which now occurred was such that, whether they looked to individuals or the community, the subject was of too much importance to be neglected.'

DAUNT'S ROCK.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Gibson said that Daunt's Rock is not to be blasted, but permission has been given to fix a bell buoy and to improve the light on Roche's Point.

LOUISIANA.—In the Confederate House of Representatives, the following resolutions of the Legislature of Louisiana were presented by Mr. Villere:—'Whereas, The United States continue to wage war against the Confederate States with ruthless barbarity and an utter disregard of the rules of civilised warfare; and Whereas, The despot who wields with absolute power the destinies of that Government has manifested in all his messages and proclamations a malignant hatred of the people of the South, and a disposition to heap insult upon injury and outrage; and Whereas, This course of conduct has strengthened us in our determination to maintain our separation from the Government and people of the North; therefore,—1st. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, in General Assembly convened, That the barbarous manner in which our enemies have waged war against us deserves the execrations of all men, and has confirmed and strengthened us in the determination to oppose to the last extremity a reunion with them, and that the spirit of our people is unabated in the resolution to resist every attempt at their subjugation.—2d. Be it further resolved, &c., That, relying upon the ability of our Chief Magistrate, the skill of our military leaders, the bravery of our soldiers, the heroic devotion of our women, the ardent patriotism of our men, and, above all, upon the justice of our cause, invoking the blessing of Almighty God upon our efforts, we confidently abide the result.—3d. Be it further resolved, &c., That in this hour of trial the State of Louisiana tenders to her Government and sister States her warmest sympathy and cordial cooperation; and she hereby declares her unfaltering determination to spare no expense of blood or treasure in defence of the Confederate States of America as a free and independent Republic. 4th. Be it further resolved, &c., That his Excellency the Governor be, and he is hereby requested to transmit copies of these resolutions to our senators and representatives in Congress, and to the Governors of our sister States.—J. B. ELAM, Speaker of the House of Representatives. A. H. ISAACSON, Clerk of the House of Representatives.—JOHN MOORE, President *pro tem.* of the Senate. Wm. F. Wagner, Secretary of the Senate.—Approved Feb. 8, 1864. HENRY W. ALLEN, Governor of the State of Louisiana.'

A MONTREAL MERCHANT IMPRISONED IN THE UNITED STATES.

(From the *Montreal Herald and Daily Commercial Gazette*, June 1.)

A CIRCUMSTANCE has recently transpired in the United States which involves the liberty, and seriously affects the interests, of a merchant of this city, and undoubtedly calls for prompt and decided action on the part of the British Minister at Washington. The facts relating to this matter, so far as we can learn them, will be briefly given below. On Thursday last, on the arrival of the *Asia* at Boston, a United States marshal came on board and arrested Mr. Samuel G. Levey, of Notre Dame Street, in this city, who was a passenger on the steamer, retaining him in his custody until the following morning, and then proceeding with him to New York. Mr. Levey telegraphed from Boston to New York to his uncle, Mr. Myers, informing him of his arrest. On his arrival there (still in custody of the United States officer), he was met by Mr. Myers, who was given to understand that on the following (Saturday) morning Mr. Levey would be brought before Major-General Dix, the Military Commander. On Saturday, instead of being brought before the General, he was placed in a cell, locked up, and no communication with his friends permitted. His papers, which had been seized also, and minutely examined, were restored to him, nothing having been discovered in them to criminate him in any manner. Mr. Myers laid the case before the British Consul in New York, who communicated with Lord Lyons on the subject; but up to the present no definite action has resulted from the communication. Mr. Levey is still imprisoned in New York. The subject is one of the most vital interest to merchants of this and other Canadian cities, who have frequent occasion to visit New York on business, and, in fact, to every British subject. If, on their arrival in New York or Boston, they can be seized and imprisoned, and held without a charge being preferred against them, their guilt or innocence becomes equally unimportant; for, if innocent, they cannot establish the fact, and the consequences of delay to a merchant will be equally disastrous whether he be innocent or guilty. Whatever may be the necessity imposed upon the United States Government by the war, to deal summarily and arbitrarily with those who owe it allegiance, the case is entirely different with regard to a British subject, who is supposed to be protected by his Government, unless he has forfeited that protection by a violation of the neutrality enjoined by his sovereign as the condition upon which it is extended over him; and to show that he has forfeited his claim to be protected by violating this neutrality a trial is necessary. That there should be no unnecessary delay in granting him a trial is his right, and a right which should be demanded by his Government; for he does not forfeit his claim to protection unless the violation of neutrality is established. We have no doubt that when the matter is fully laid before the British Minister at Washington, he will take high ground in relation to it, and will insist upon this undeniable right of a British subject to immediate trial in such a case; and that he will also extend to him that protection which every British subject has a right to claim until he is proved to have forfeited it. With reference to the case of Mr. Levey, his innocence of such crime as would be indicated by the mode of his arrest seems probable from the return of his papers, and, further, from his sentiments in relation to the struggle between the North and South. Those who should know his opinions on this subject say that his sympathies have always been with the cause of the Northern States. It will therefore be the natural conclusion of his friends here that he is the victim of ill-formed, suspicious, or perhaps malicious, agents of the Federal authorities; and it becomes a question of interest to what length the exercise of this secret agency may extend, and who may be the next victim of ignorance or malice.

(From the *Montreal Evening Telegraph and Daily Commercial Advertiser*, June 1, 1864.)

We give in another column the narrative of the arrest and imprisonment of Mr Samuel G. Levey, of this city, while on his return from Europe, by the Federal authorities at Boston, as furnished by that active Federal apostle and sympathiser the *Montreal Herald*. Our contemporary's indignant comments on this one of a hundred similar cases for which it had not a word of remonstrance, is not a little singular, and suggests the inquiry whether the investigation in this instance does not proceed less from the public wrong done, than private interest in the individual sufferer.

Mr. Levey has suffered from the vile spy system instituted and presided over here by 'that late eminent and respectable statesman' Mr. Giddings. He had not even been guilty of the crime of giving aid and comfort to the enemies of the United States by sympathising with the South. It is true he is a British subject, resident in a British province, but his sympathies have always been with the North; but, nevertheless, the Chief of the Federal spies set forth an edict for his punishment; and he has been punished, and will get no redress. Montreal, and every city and considerable town in Canada, swarms with Federal spies, who mark those supposed to be inimical to the Federal Government, or against whom they have any ill will, for similar treatment. These spies, many of whom claim the double privilege of being American citizens and British subjects, are well known as leading rouges, active Holton men, eminent supporters of the *Herald* and *Witness*, and they naturally feel very indignant at the *Herald* now turning upon them and decrying their respectable occupation, and their efforts in favour of the common cause.

GENERAL LEE'S ARMY.—A Confederate Correspondent sends to the *Times* an account of the opening battles of the present campaign. Under date of May 9 he writes: 'Thus General Lee has succeeded in throwing his entire army right across the path by which Grant must march if he would get "on to Richmond." He not only repulsed all his assaults at the Wilderness, but held him there until he could throw his own army in front of him. It was a masterly performance, and makes it necessary for Grant to deliver battle here, or make another effort to turn General Lee's position. The Confederates are in splendid condition, and full of spirit and cheerfulness. They all realise the importance of victory, and are ready to endure any privation necessary to its achievement. Several officers belonging to the Quartermaster's and Commissary Departments in the field, though against positive orders, procured muskets and went into the fight. They said it might possibly be the last great battle, and they desired to help to make it successful. Three of them were killed two at the Wilderness and one at this place. Is it probable that such an army can be overborne by the mercenaries who reluctantly follow at the heels of General Grant?'

THE SHAMBLES OF VIRGINIA.

(From the *New York Daily News*.)

NOT time to bury the dead! That, it is reported, was the answer of General Grant to the reported proposition of General Lee, that the work of destruction should cease a brief while till the dead were buried. The request and the answer are probably both fictitious. They are the substance of a mere sensation extra that was issued last evening. The despatch of Secretary Stanton amounts to a contradiction of the statement, and equally discredits the rumour of the capture of twenty thousand Confederates. But supposing the statement true, General Grant was right. There is no time to bury the dead, when day after day they are counted by thousands upon thousands. If the fiends of hell were commissioned by an angry God to wreak vengeance upon earth, they could not more terribly fulfil the mission of destruction than do the contending armies in Virginia. No marvel that the community thrills with excitement and quivers with an universal shudder. Every flash over the wires is laden with a tale of horror. The word 'victory' stares in mockery at the reader from the glaring headings of each despatch, but below there is but the record of slaughter—slaughter beyond all precedent of battle-fields, but winning nothing but the meed of heroism for those that fight this insensate quarrel.

We mark the absence of all enthusiasm at even the wildest rumours of triumph that come from the Virginian shambles; and it is no wonder, for along with them come such fearful accounts of butchery that the public heart has no room for exultation in the intensity of its agony and horror.

Could we but read the anguish and despair of the millions that have been bereaved within this week, side by side with the details that we read of the murderous strife, there would be few to clamour for a prolongation of the war. We count the mourners by millions, for the dead and wounded are being counted by the hundred thousands. The *Tribune* of yesterday estimated our loss thus far at forty thousand: with what has since occurred, it is a hopeful calculation that makes it seventy thousand. We claim a greater loss for the enemy; but call it equal, and there are one hundred and forty thousand victims immolated within seven days of indecisive battle.

Do you think of this, you men that worship the meek and love-ordaining Christ, and will you thirst for more blood, and have your pulpits again desecrated by furious invocations of the sword? Do you dream only of the military fruits of victory? Oh! look a little at its other hideous offspring. No need to search all over the wide North to be conscious of the desolation that the past accursed sennight has engendered. Hear at your own doors the wail of the stricken ones; count within this city's limits the innumerable mourners.

The streets were thronged, the kerchiefs waved, the shout of admiration was loud, when the Ninth Regiment of our city's best and bravest tramped gaily, boldly down Broadway, to fight the Abolition battle. In those full ranks were the youth, the manhood, the pride of New York city. Where are they now? *Of the Ninth Regiment remain four officers and fifteen men.*

The day will come when the authors of this war will realise their responsibility. The Abolitionist will be startled from his fanaticism by the cry of the millions who now mourn silently, but who will one day swell the inevitable chorus of broken hearts, appealing to God for vengeance upon those that wrought their sorrow.

Think not, you fanatics, and you who have filled your purses with pieces that are stained with the blood of your countrymen you who have driven your brethren like bullocks to the slaughter-pens, that you might build your fortunes and feed your ambition upon their corpses, think not that Nemesis will forget the day of reckoning. It is you, meddlers with the social system of your fellowmen; it is you, demagogues who have nursed convulsion that you might grasp power out of chaos; it is you, heartless mercenaries who are now feasting and luxuriating upon the wealth realised by your country's agony, it is you that the people will call to account in the hour of retribution.—*New York News.*

THE FIGHT IN CHESTERFIELD.—The following are General Beauregard's despatches: 'Headquarters, May 21 1864. To General S. Cooper:—All quiet last night. We remain in possession of the enemy's rifle pits and the ground gained by yesterday's fight, which was quite severe during part of the day, especially near Ware Bottom Church. I regret to say that General W. S. Walker is missing. It is feared he fell into the hands of the enemy while gallantly leading his troops into action.—G. T. BEAUREGARD.'—'Chester, May 22, 1864 General S. Cooper, It has just been ascertained by flag of truce that General Walker accidentally rode into the enemy's lines during the fight of the 20th instant, was requested to surrender, and was fired upon, when his horse was killed, and he was severely wounded in the foot, which required amputation. (Signed) G. T. BEAUREGARD.'—The *Richmond Enquirer* says: 'In relation to this fight we learn that it was one of the most brilliant affairs of the campaign. General Wise's brigade distinguished itself, together with Clingman's and others, in charging the enemy's outer line of fortifications, suffering heavily, but storming and taking the works in spite of all resistance. The enemy made two fierce assaults afterwards to regain their lost stronghold, but were repulsed each time with considerable loss. The fortifications captured by our forces comprised the strongest of the enemy's works, the line to which he retreated being weaker and less considerable. On Saturday morning our forces again commenced advancing, and steadily pressed the enemy back. He is supposed to be entirely under cover of his gunboats, now that he has been driven from his outer works, and it is supposed that his main force is embarking to go to the assistance of Grant.'

CAPTURED FEDERAL COLOURS.—The following has appeared in the Richmond papers: 'Headquarters Army Northern Virginia, on Battle-field, May 16, 1864.—Major-General C. M. Wilcox, commanding division.—General: General Lee directs me to acknowledge the receipt of the flag captured by Lane's brigade in its gallant charge of yesterday and to say that they will be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary of War, with the accompanying note, and the names of the brave captors. I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant (signed) C. S. VENABLE, A. D. C. The names of the captors are: First Lieutenant J. M. Grimsby, Company K, 37th N. C. T., who brought off the colours of the 17th Michigan; Second Lieutenant O. A. Wiggins, Company E, 37th N. C. T., who brought off those of the 51st Pennsylvania; Private J. Wheeler, Company E, 18th N. C. T., who brought off those of the battery of artillery.'

BATTLES OF MANSFIELD AND PLEASANT HILL.

A CONFEDERATE ACCOUNT.

THE *Houston Telegraph* gives the following account of the battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill:—

Mansfield, Louisiana, April 13, 1864.

Editor Telegraph.—The battle of Mansfield was fought two and a half miles from the little city of the same name. The battle had been preceded by some heavy skirmishing, but the general battle commenced on April 8, about 10 A.M., Major-General Taylor in command. Major-General Green commanded the left wing, Brigadier-General Mouton the right, General Walker's division on the right of Mouton, and two cavalry regiments on the extreme right of Walker. General Green commenced the attack with a portion of his dismounted cavalry. The enemy pressing the left wing heavily, General Green then ordered Mouton's division to advance, and the fighting was terrible along the lines of both combatants.

The battle raged fiercely for five hours, when the enemy broke and fled, having been forced back two miles, where commenced a general rout. General Churchill's division did not arrive in time to participate in this action, but was in the battle on the following day. General Mouton fell early in the action, while receiving the surrender of a large body of the enemy. He fell but a few feet from the muzzles of their guns. He is reported to have acted gallantly, and his noble division lost heavily in both officers and men, and covered themselves with glory. Colonel Phil. Hébert was here wounded, and Colonel Buchel mortally—since dead. It was here, too, that the lamented Chancy E. Sheppard, of General Green's staff, fell, and the gallant Major J. D. Sayres wounded. The fruits of the victory consisted in capturing 2,500 prisoners, 322 wagons loaded with stores, 1,400 mules, and 35 ambulances, with immense medical and other stores. In this battle the enemy fought three army corps, viz., the 13th, 19th, and famous 16th, formerly commanded by General Sherman, and which had so often boasted that it had never known defeat. The loss of the enemy in the two engagements will not be less than 6,000 killed, wounded, and prisoners. The enemy commenced their retreat as soon as routed in the direction of Pleasant Hill, some eighteen miles from the battle-field of Mansfield.

Our army having pursued, the line of battle was formed about 4 P.M. on April 9, and was more bloody than on the preceding day. General Green's division, under his command, was posted on the extreme left; Mouton's division, under command of Brigadier-General Polignac, on Green's right; General Walker on Polignac's right; General Churchill's division of Arkansians and Missourians having arrived on the extreme right; the Valverde battery opening the battle and losing the majority of their horses, but few men injured. General Churchill, with his division of infantry, then moved forward, and the battle commenced furiously along the whole line. The enemy pressing Churchill in overwhelming numbers, he was compelled to fall back. Generals Walker and Polignac then moved forward, and broke the entire lines of the enemy, and threw them into a general rout, and night put a stop to the carnage. They fell back to Rebellion Bayou, some twenty miles, Green's cavalry in hot pursuit, who followed them to the river. General Walker was slightly wounded. So was General Scurry. (General Polignac was not wounded, as first reported.)

General Waul was in command of a brigade, and every man, both officers and privates, served like heroes. Colonel De Bray (since promoted as Brigadier-General) is reported to have behaved very gallantly. He had his horse killed under him here. Our loss was very heavy. General Scurry took 1,200 men into the fight, and lost 400 killed and wounded. Our loss in the two battles is estimated to be 1,400 killed, wounded, and about 100 prisoners. We captured in the two battles 32 pieces of artillery, and small arms beyond computation, and about 4,000 prisoners, many officers among them. These are the greatest battles fought west of the Mississippi, and of all the victories the most fruitful. The invasion of Texas is no longer to be thought of, and probably the complete evacuation of Western Louisiana by the enemy, besides relieving the pressure on Arkansas, which General Price may be enabled to regain. I should here state that General Taylor fought these battles contrary to the opinion of others, and he has eclipsed the fame of his father, old 'Rough and Ready.' I yesterday visited the different hospitals in this vicinity, seeking some of our Texas boys. I found but a few. I found Major Sayers and Captain T. J. Hare, of Company K, De Bray's regiment; they are not dangerously wounded; also Dr. Fisher, of the same regiment, slightly wounded. I shall proceed to Pleasant Hill in a day or two, and seek others.

The streets of this city are daily thronged with the ladies carrying food and comfort to the sufferers. They watch over them with all the affection of mothers and sisters. Surrounded by all the horrors of war, the daughters of Louisiana prove ministering angels in the cause of suffering humanity, and, like the good Samaritan, they never tire in watching at the couch of suffering. God bless them! The majority of the wounded of the enemy are in our hands; they are attended by their own surgeons, and our authorities give them every facility to assist them, and they receive as kind treatment as those of our own army.

This is a sad night in the camp; a few rods from where I am writing, lies the corpse of Major-General Thomas Green, the Napoleon of the West. Many a heart in Texas will mourn the loss of our hero. Just promoted, having never known defeat when he commanded, enjoying the confidence of his troops to a degree unsurpassed, and very rarely equalled, with a constitution of iron, and a will like adamant, General Green leaves a void in the armies of the Confederacy which will remain unfilled, and future generations of Texans will tell of the heroic deeds, and the no less heroic death, of the man who first led cow-boys to board and capture vessels of war. Major-General Green was killed instantly, about three o'clock on the evening of the 12th inst., at Blair's Landing, on Red River, about twenty-five miles from this place, when directing an attack with 1,500 men on five gunboats and five transports, the latter loaded with troops, the former ironclads. He was standing near the edge of the bank, which at that place is about thirty feet high. While encouraging his men, under a terrific fire from the gunboats, he was struck over the right eye by a charge of grape shot—the whole top of his head was carried away, and death, of course, instantaneous. His body was brought to the camp the next day, and will be sent to Texas by J. H. Bosk, Quartermaster of the Cavalry Corps.

The tent is lighted up and guarded by a detachment of Texas cavalry. The sensation caused by his death it is impossible to describe. Generals Polignac, Waul and Scurry shed burning tears when they heard of it. Everyone seemed to have lost a near and dear relative and friend. General Taylor was overwhelmed with grief, for Green had always been his true and staunch friend. I am told that he said, when his officers remonstrated against his going into the fight himself, that he wouldn't if he had his old brigade, but some of the troops were new and he must go. The troops engaged were Wood's and Gould's regiments, and Parson's brigade. We lost 75 men killed and wounded. The slaughter of the enemy on board the transports was fearful, as our men were only thirty or forty yards from them, and one of the gunboats was completely silenced and about to surrender, when three others came to her assistance; none were captured. Had General Green lived, no one doubts but what he would have captured all the transports. The engagement lasted about half an hour after the General fell, when the officer who took command withdrew the troops. Such is the statement of officers who were there. Texas also mourns the loss of Chancy B. Sheppard. I knew him well. He was a true friend, and a braver man did not fall on those bloody fields. The hero of a dozen fights, he now sleeps with his old chief in a soldier's grave. Peace to his ashes, but his memory will for ever remain green in the heart of every Texan.

Near Grand Ecore, April 17.

Major-General Prince Polignac, second in command to General Taylor, is not injured in the least, and now commands in the field. Brigadier-General Bee, being second to him, is in command of all the cavalry in West Louisiana. As the fact of my being with a majority of the Texas troops at present will not be considered contraband to publish in your paper, it being so far distant, I will state that I have met with many of the heroes of the late battles, and never have I seen them in better spirits, despite their late hardships. The losses among the Texans are not so severe as at first reported. Our boys, when they went into the fight, did their work up quick. It was charge and sabre from first to last. The wounded are all doing well, and receive every attention from the ladies of the country. Skirmishing is going on daily, and a few prisoners brought in. They all admit that they were badly whipped the other day, and say that the 'Texas fellows' fought like tigers. We fought the flower of the United States army; and I must say that the Western men acted bravely, but they could not stand the Texan yell and fearful charge. The loss of the enemy in officers is very large, many being among the wounded.

The field of Mansfield was a plantation, skirted with woods, and composed of small hills and valleys. It contains some three or four hundred acres of open land, but much of the hardest fighting took place in the timber where the enemy were. The fences had been levelled by the enemy upon hearing of General Taylor's advance, expecting to take us by surprise and slaughter our troops on the open plain. The annals of history do not record a harder contested field. Thousands of dead horses are strewn all over the field, and the stench is horrible. I was forced to run my pony at the height of his speed over many portions. The majority of our troops who fell were buried in the city cemetery, while those of the enemy were buried upon the field. They were buried in trenches, side by side, as decently as possible.

When our cavalry pursued, after their rout, hundreds were cut down, and all along the road to Pleasant Hill, twenty miles, is strewn with the carcasses of dead horses, and occasionally a new-made grave is seen by the road-side. The battle-field of Pleasant Hill extends for the distance of a mile from the town. The enemy had made a stand on the top of a high hill, one mile from the town. Planting their batteries, they awaited the approach of our pursuing forces. As soon as their scouts gave warning that our cavalry were in range, they opened a brisk fire in every direction. Our batteries having got into position, the old Valverde opened and soon silenced their main battery, killing nearly all their horses, while De Bray, at the head of his regiment, charged up the hill, followed by Burchell, the enemy turning and retreating. The Arkansians and Missourians, under General Churchill, the Louisianians, under Polignac, and the cavalry of Green, threw them into a complete rout.

I was misinformed when I stated in my last letter that Colonel Burchell fell on the field of Mansfield; it was here that he fell. Many of our killed were buried on the field in separate graves. Our loss in killed was not near as large as that of the enemy. The enemy's line of battle extended several regiments deep along the whole line of battle, and when our batteries opened the slaughter was horrible. The battle was fought on ground much like that of Mansfield, but they had many advantages. Ditches had been cut by the owner of the plantation for the purpose of drainage, and the enemy used them as rifle pits, but they were soon driven from them by the separate assaults of the infantry. The last of the series of these hills and ditches extended up to and was a part of the town. But few horses, comparatively, were killed here, but the slaughter of the enemy was fearful. The dead are buried together in scores. I could trace with my eyes the spots where the most desperate carnage had taken place.

In the Saddle, near Grand Ecore, La., April 19, 1864.

All is still bustle and excitement at the front. Slight skirmishing going on daily. A flag of truce, borne by Colonel G. W. Chilton, and Major G. W. McNeel, of General Bee's staff, held communication with the enemy a short time ago. The Federals desired to send supplies and surgeons to their wounded, and we agreed to receive and receipt for the stores, but would not let their surgeons pass into our lines. The Federal truce officer, who was a Colonel, paid a high compliment to the bravery of our troops on the field, and acknowledged the defeat. He was courteous and gentlemanly towards our officers. A reconnoitering party, composed of two companies of De Bray's regiment, commanded by Lieutenants Story and Peck, of Companies B and F, made a daring dash into the city of Natchitoches on the evening of the 15th inst. They passed through a portion of the town, driving in the pickets of the enemy. The main body of the enemy are between the upper portion of the town and the town of Grand Ecore. This feat is considered a brilliant one. A portion of Colonel Madison's regiment, of General Major's brigade, have also made many daring reconnoissances of late.

Every man seemed to endeavour to outdo his comrades in deeds of valour. And while I give proper credit to our brave Texans, I must not overlook the gallant Louisianians under the intrepid Mouton, or the Arkansians and Missourians under Churchill. Side by side did they advance to the terrible charges, and now fill the same graves. The Louisianians under Mouton covered themselves with glory, the far-famed Crescent Regiment, of New Orleans, leading in the charges: this noble band of men have passed through many severe fights. I saw them on the field of Shiloh, and even there they held in check an entire brigade of the enemy on Monday morning after the enemy had been reinforced by General Buell. Their loss on the field of Mansfield was terrible; entire platoons fell at every discharge of the enemy's guns; they advanced across an open field without firing a gun, until they had reached within a few yards of the enemy, when they opened and soon drove the enemy in a perfect rout from their position. The division of General Churchill marched forty-five miles in fifteen hours to be in time for the fight at Pleasant Hill; nobly did they stand side by side with their comrades through that bloody struggle, and their graves on the battle-field tell plainly how they suffered.

I stated in my first letter that General Taylor made the attack without orders from General Smith, and contrary to the advice of many officers. But the General knew the spirit of his troops, and knowing the topography of the country as well, risked a battle, and has thereby saved Texas from the perils of an invasion. While we extol our own heroes of the battles, Texas must not forget Taylor, Mouton, Polignac, or Churchill. One of the greatest heroes of those fields was Brigadier-General Bee, commanding a brigade of cavalry on the extreme left, at Pleasant Hill. He had two horses shot under him, and himself slightly wounded. Major G. W. McNeel, Inspector-General on his staff, had two horses shot under him, and Orderly L. Schneider had two shot while carrying General Bee's orders on the field. Major W. T. Mechling, A. A. G., and Colonel G. W. Chilton, are reported to have acted nobly in the terrible charge where the gallant Colonel Buchel fell mortally wounded. Nor must I forget the intrepid Brigadier-General C. P. Majors; he was with the lamented Green throughout, and it would be useless for me to go into details of his acts. Suffice it to say that he won fresh laurels here. Loud are the praises I hear of the gallantry displayed by Captain McMahan's battery of light artillery. At Mansfield the battery was in position on the summit of a hill, and poured a deadly volley into the ranks of the enemy. General Taylor presented two rifled captured pieces to the battery on the field, they laying aside their smooth-bore guns. Lieutenant Sam. Houston, jun., commanded one section of the battery, and is reported to have acted the hero, directing the guns with his own hands.

The slaughter of the enemy at Pleasant Hill is described by old soldiers to have been the greatest they ever saw. Whole regiments fell like chaff before the wind, and the piles of buried dead on the field show plainly the extent of the carnage. I have noticed that those regiments which are well-drilled and disciplined do far better service in action. The road, after leaving Mansfield to this place, is strewn with dead horses which fell by the pursuit of our cavalry. Many of the stately residences along the route are blackened ruins, the fences destroyed by fire, and a scene of desolation and devastation is seen on every side. I had formerly believed that many of the stories of the burning of dwellings, robberies of churches, &c., were exaggerated. But after seeing these things with my own eyes, I am now satisfied they are true. A Catholic church in the Spanish settlement, near Double Bayou Bridge, was sacked, and the church ornaments carried away; even the window curtains were taken. This cannot be denied. In the knapsack of one of the 13th Army Corps was found the jewellery of a young lady. Earrings, breastpins, and even her under-clothing was there. I will do the enemy the justice to say that the orders of their Generals severely punish outrages of this kind, but many of the inferior officers encourage their men to these acts, and even share with them in the spoils.

I never saw so much sorrow as I see shown by the cavalry corps of the army of Louisiana for the loss of Major-General Green. The following General Order from General Bee expresses the general feeling of the corps:—

'General Orders, No. 1.

'Head-quarters Cavalry Corps,
Prother's Bridge, La., April 15, 1864.

'Around the bier of Major-General Tom Green, killed in action April 12, 1864, at Blair's Landing, Louisiana, this corps claims its place as chief mourner. It has shared with him his trials and sufferings, his glory and honour. It mourns him as its incomparable leader, one of the most effective Generals in the service of the Confederacy. A nation mourns. He has left the remembrance of his noble example for our guidance. It will not be forgotten.

'In compliance with orders from Major-General Taylor, I assume command of the cavalry of this army. Head-quarters are at present at Prother's Bridge.

'H. P. BEE,
'Brigadier-General Commanding.

'William P. Mechling, A.A.G.'

All keep their horses saddled night and day, ready to move at a moment's warning. The boys who have never been on a campaign find it anything but play, and far different from doing garrison duty. The weather is warm and pleasant.

A joint resolution has been introduced into the Confederate Congress, thanking Major-General Richard Taylor and his command 'for the brilliant successes obtained by them over the enemy in their campaigns in Louisiana during the past year, and particularly for the victory at Mansfield and Pleasant Hill.'

THE COTTON PURCHASED BY THE CONFEDERATE GOVERNMENT.—The *Mobile Register* of May 1 says: 'We are informed by the agent, J. D. B. De Bow, Esq., that up to the present time Government has lost by the acts of the enemy, by military burnings, accidents of various sorts, and unavoidable wear and tear, about one-fourth of its purchases in Mississippi. This will be regarded unimportant when it is considered that almost the only losses which have so far been met with are in Mississippi, growing out of the advance and proximity of the enemy. The cotton in this State cost on an average about $50 per bale, and could now be readily parted with for $250, payable in the new issue, which goes to show that the cotton remaining on hand will not only indemnify all the losses, but leave a margin of profit, if disposed of to-day, of about twenty-five millions of dollars. What is true of Mississippi, which has sustained such disasters, will be true in a compounded ratio for the other cotton States. This is the best vindication of the policy of cotton purchases by the Government, though that policy has been abundantly subserved in our foreign operations.'

DYING.—Mr. Doolittle lately said in the Federal Congress: 'Slavery, Mr. President, is dying all around us.' On this the *Dayton Empire* remarks: 'Yes! Our Constitutional Liberty is dying; morality, public and private, is dying; all that we have prized of peace, of social order, of neighbourly kindness, of friendly intercourse in society, is dying. And dying, too, by hundreds of thousands, are the brothers, fathers, sons, of this most frenzied, deluded, and miserable people. Why did not Mr. Doolittle tell it all, while he was about it?'

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 13 Bouverie Street, E.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

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THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1864.

Another Flank Movement.

THERE seems to be very little doubt that General GRANT has made up his mind to adopt another line of advance upon Richmond, and that the next mail will bring us the intelligence of a still closer imitation of M'CLELLAN's strategy, and another change of base. Defeated at Spottsylvania, foiled at Saxton's Junction, defeated again on the Chickahominy, the Federal commander has evidently resolved upon trying a new point in the Confederate armies; and everything tends to prove that his next move will be towards the James River. General M'CLELLAN perseveringly maintained that the James River route was the real road to Richmond, though it is only fair to say that he never proved its advantages, and only discovered them when every other route had failed, and when it was too late to try the new one. General GRANT has trodden so closely in his footsteps that it is perfectly natural he should try his predecessor's 'forlorn hope,' and to the last moment delude the North into the belief that he is bent upon marching into Richmond. At the same time, there is a suggestive weakness in this change of base which implies far more anxiety about a safe retreat than an easy advance, and we shall begin to think, when once GRANT's march across the Chickahominy to the James River is announced, that the end of the campaign is not very distant. We are, of course, very much in the dark as to the result of the recent operations on the north bank of the Chickahominy. All Southern reports are carefully excluded from Northern newspapers. The correspondence from the army is carefully edited by Mr. STANTON's subordinates. Federal victories are magnified, Federal reverses are dwarfed, and everything is narrated in the tone most calculated to help Mr. LINCOLN's chances for the Presidential election. Take the battle of the 3rd instant. It is now admitted that a general action was fought on that day—that the Federals attacked LEE's lines with their whole force, and were repulsed with frightful loss. It is even asserted that at one moment they held the key of the position, but that GRANT, unwilling to reap a victory which would cost him a great loss of life, withdrew after three hours' engagement and the loss of 7,000 men. Yet that action was described in a previous mail as a mere reconnaissance in force, which cost two or three colonels and 'loss not very severe,' although it really amounted to a defeated attempt to force LEE's lines and drive his whole army into Richmond. It is difficult, then, to guess what confidence is to be placed in the reports of the New York papers, or in Mr. STANTON's despatches; but if we take their own accounts, and draw our opinions from them, we shall probably not be far wrong in deciding that the battle of the 3rd was conclusive as to the campaign on the Chickahominy, and rendered GRANT's change of base an actual necessity.

The question arises for what point GRANT will make. He is, as usual, moving by his left, and is reported to have reached Despatch Station on the Chickahominy. This would seem to imply an intention of taking up a position somewhat nearer to Richmond than Harrison's Landing, and in advance of BUTLER's lines. But we are inclined to believe that if GRANT does make for the James River, his line of march will be nearly identical with the route adopted by M'CLELLAN. In that case he will have arrived on the north bank of the James River almost on the same day of the year as his predecessor, and his army will be subjected to precisely the same malarious influences which decimated M'CLELLAN's forces. Bad water, marsh miasmata, and a Virginian July sun would speedily dispose of his army without the necessity of a blow from LEE. But M'CLELLAN's army, even after the seven days' fighting, was formidable. LEE's forces, although victorious, had suffered heavily, and were not in a condition to follow up their victory. Things are different now. Every week adds to LEE's strength. Richmond is secured against a *coup de main*; and since the advance upon Richmond is restricted to a single route, LEE can afford to trust very much to the defences of the Southern capital, and make use of his available forces for a blow that would speedily compel LINCOLN to think more of defending Washington than of taking Richmond. As it is, there is nothing to prevent a Confederate force marching to the Potomac. Confederate guerillas are virtually in possession of the country from Arlington Heights to the northern line of Richmond. If LEE can spare the men, he has already an opportunity of dealing a blow which will be as useful for the defence of Richmond as another successful repulse of GRANT's army. But it is said to be the Federal General's plan to establish himself on both banks of the James River, to advance, *à la* HALLECK, a mile a week, by the aid of the spade; and by means of his superiority of cavalry to cut the communications of Richmond, and compel LEE to evacuate Richmond, without risking the failure of an assault. Really there is no end to the ingenuity of Federal strategists. The attack, which began on the north side of Richmond, is now to be transferred to the south side. The route which was so obviously the only safe advance to Richmond is to be abandoned, and a new line immeasurably superior is to be adopted; and all the time the Northern press is in ecstasies over the generalship of GRANT, and implicitly believes that Richmond will fall, like Jericho at the blast of a trumpet, so soon as GRANT arrives before its walls. For our own part, we are of opinion that the further GRANT moves to the south, the more feeble must be his hope of reaching Richmond; that every mile he places between his army and Washington is a gain to the Confederates; and that we shall soon hear of combinations of the Confederate troops, which will effectually relieve Richmond for many months to come.

SHERMAN's prospects are not more favourable than those of the army in Virginia. In Georgia, also, the Federal army has suffered defeat and loss. In two battles the Confederates have taken the initiative. In one the Federals claim a victory, in the other they acknowledge a defeat. A frightful list of killed and wounded and sick has been sent northwards. Southern reports already place at 45,000 the casualties in SHERMAN's army from one cause or another. And we learn from Northern sources that the advance has ceased; that JOHNSTON, reinforced by POLK and FINNEGAN, has turned to bay; that the news of the capture of Marietta is false; and that before SHERMAN can hope to settle down to the siege of Atlanta, he has to fight an army of 60,000 men, commanded by one of the best officers in the Confederate army occupying an immensely strong position. From Chattanooga to Ackworth the distance is 120 miles. A single line of railway is all SHERMAN has to depend on for his supplies; and FORREST, with a large cavalry force, is said to be making for his communications. It is contrary to all experience that SHERMAN's army should succeed, and we believe a very short time will elapse before SHERMAN repeats the retrograde movement he made in the spring in the State of Mississippi. In the meantime the Confederates are astir in Kentucky; they are threatening Cincinnati; they have destroyed four gunboats and several transports on the Mississippi: and they are gradually acquiring quite a respectable fleet by captures in Southern waters. The Federals have sacrificed everything for the capture of Richmond and Atlanta. At present they have achieved no success to compensate them for the territory they have abandoned and the losses they have endured.

The Alabama.

THE story of the *Alabama* is told, and the gallant little vessel, which has almost alone flaunted the Confederate flag in every ocean to the terror of Yankee skippers, now lies a wreck, some fathoms deep, midway between the coast of Brittany and the island of Alderney. Only a few days ago the *Alabama* put into Cherbourg to refit. She was terribly in need of repairs. Her boilers were worn out, her machinery faulty, her copper started, in some places a foot from her frame, her hull terribly foul with weeds. And, with his ship in this condition, her Captain came to the one neutral Power which had the courage to stand by its neutrality, and requested permission to thoroughly overhaul and refit her. The Federal cruisers were soon informed of her arrival, and the *Kearsage*, which had been fitting at Ostend, steamed off at once for Cherbourg. Arrived off the port, she found the *Alabama* still afloat. There are no private docks at Cherbourg. There was some delay in the compliance with Captain SEMMES's request on the part of the local authorities, and the commander of the *Kearsage*, it is said, at once sent in a challenge. Whether a verbal challenge passed or not we do not know. But the defiance to combat was not the less openly given. Steaming slowly outside the breakwater, hoisting his colours, firing guns to invite attention, Captain WINSLOW left no doubt about his wish for a fight, and Captain SEMMES was not the man to baulk him. It may be said, with some show of justice, that the latter was not bound to accept the challenge; that the *Alabama* had other services to render; and that to risk her in her then condition against an adversary so far superior in all the conditions of success was rashness in the extreme. But there were many reasons to make it almost imperative to fight. The Confederate cruisers had been represented by their enemies as bold only by evasion, and safe only by their steaming powers. It was denied that they were fighting ships, and insinuated that they would never risk a fair combat. What would have been said had the *Alabama* declined the challenge—had she remained securely at anchor between the breakwater, with the *Kearsage*, nominally her equal in strength, daring her to come out, and announcing to all the world that ship for ship the Confederate navy was afraid to face its adversaries? In this war, on sea or on land, the Confederates have never counted odds. It could hardly have been expected that Captain SEMMES would be the first to calculate them. Circumstances justified, nay required, his acceptance of the challenge; no naval officer in any service would have dared to refuse it. The sinking of the *Hatteras*, herself a larger ship than the *Alabama*, shows that there was reasonable ground for Captain SEMMES's confidence in his brave little craft and her gallant crew. Her loss is a misfortune; but better far that she has gone down with honour than that the Captain of the *Kearsage* should have had it in his power to boast that he had challenged the *Alabama*, and the *Alabama* prudently declined to fight.

It was on Sunday morning, the 19th inst., that the *Alabama* steamed slowly out to the encounter. It was known in Paris the day previously that SEMMES would go out, and men came from Paris by train to witness the sea fight between the famous rover of the seas and the *Kearsage*. As she passed the end of the mole, a great shout of 'God speed' rent the air, and as it died away, the drums were heard beating to quarters. The iron-plated frigate *La Couronne* accompanied her to the limit of the French waters, a small English steam yacht, the *Deerhound*, followed in her wake, and at about eight miles from Cherbourg the action began. The first shot was fired by the *Alabama*, at the distance of about a mile, and was immediately responded to by the *Kearsage*. And so for one hour in lessening circles the combat was sustained. It was the object of Captain SEMMES to board his adversary. His inferiority in the weight of metal made 'long bowls' a dangerous game for him to play, and he sought from the first to close. The Captain of the *Kearsage*, however, knew his advantage, and, relying on his longer range and larger calibre, avoided any attempt to grapple. And the disadvantage under which the *Alabama* laboured was soon apparent. The *Kearsage* beat her in speed, her rate of steaming during the action being estimated at three knots an hour above that of her opponent, so that Captain WINSLOW chose his own position and easily frustrated the *Alabama's* manœuvres. Throughout the action the starboard batteries were principally used. It was noticed on board the *Deerhound* that the *Alabama* fired far more rapidly, and with greater accuracy, but that the shells of the *Kearsage* did the more damage. And so for nearly one hour the two antagonists exchanged their deadly missiles, the *Alabama* to the last trying to close, and her opponent as constantly keeping her at her own distance and pouring in her 11-inch shell with fatal precision. Towards the end of the action SEMMES made a last effort to reach the *Kearsage*, but it failed; a shell carried away one of the fans of the screw and a part of the rudder, another went through her boilers and put out her fires. It was all over. Sail was hoisted, but to no purpose. Slowly the sea gained upon her, and still more fiercely the *Kearsage* concentrated her fire upon her. Finally, her flag was struck; the sea crept over her stern and up her deck. Her crew jumped into the sea, sup-

porting themselves by portions of the wreck, spars, &c.; and then came the end: her bows lifting from the waves, her bowsprit perpendicular, the *Alabama* went down to her last resting-place. The *Deerhound*, whose owner with great pluck had stood by throughout the action, at once bore rapidly down to pick up the crew, and succeeded in saving the Captain, 13 officers, and 27 seamen. Between 60 and 80 were subsequently rescued by the boats of *La Couronne*, the *Kearsage*, and some French pilot-boats, leaving a balance of some 25 or 30 to be accounted for by the known casualties of the action and the depths of the sea.

The *Kearsage* possessed every single advantage in this unequal fight—speed, strength, numbers, and weight of metal. Her boilers were in perfect order, her hull clean, and the most exposed portions of her frame had been strengthened by heavy chain cables, constituting a very efficient sort of armour plating. Her crew consisted of 200 men to 120 on board the *Alabama*; her armament, compared to that of her adversary, was as 204 to 84, or five to two; for she carried ten heavy 11-inch Dahlgren guns, whilst the *Alabama* had only one Blakeley 100-pounder, one smooth bore pivot gun, and six broadside ordinary 32-pounders. Under these circumstances, we are justified in calling the fight an unequal one, but as the combat might have been declined it is too late to urge this as an explanation of defeat. The Federals have gained no glory by their success. The Confederate flag has sustained no dishonour. It is at the worst ship for ship, the *Alabama* for the *Hatteras*. We could have wished to see her once more roving the seas, but it was not to be. As it was her fate to end her career so soon, it is well she met it so bravely, gaining, in that last hour of mortal conflict, just that element of fame which will make her memory imperishable, and lay a splendid foundation for the future glories of the Confederate navy. Peace to the gallant little *Alabama*! Peace to the brave who went down in her! Honour to the captain, and officers, and crew, who, undaunted by odds, careless of life, resolute in defence of the honour of the flag they had so long carried triumphantly over every sea, fought their vessel to the last, and have lived, we trust, to refight their battles under more favourable conditions, and with a very different result!

The Presidential Campaign in the United States.

IN the midst of what seems to Europe and America to be the crisis of the great war, when the armies of LEE and GRANT, and JOHNSTON and SHERMAN, confront each other, while the losses of battles are counted by tens of thousands, and gold rises to double the value of greenbacks, the Federal States are entering upon another conflict of scarcely less interest and importance than that of the armies in the field. The political parties and factions of the North are marshalling their hosts; shoddy has taken the field for LINCOLN, Red Republican Radicalism has chosen FREMONT for its standard-bearer, while war democrats and peace democrats are looking forward to the Chicago battle-field, and considering whether they will take M'CLELLAN with his balanced account of failure and success, or look for a hero of more recent date and brilliant achievements.

The presidential campaign cannot be considered as fairly open until all the candidates are in the field; but the movements already made are of the highest importance. Whatever may be done by the Democratic Convention yet to meet at Chicago, which will probably choose between M'CLELLAN and GRANT, if the latter is not defeated and thrown out of the field, we have the chief elements of the coming contest in the nomination of the candidates, and the adoption of the platforms of the two great factions of the dominant Republican party. The nomination of General FREMONT at Cleveland was a declaration of war against the LINCOLN Administration and policy, which, to all appearance, will be fought out to the bitter end. General FREMONT has accepted the nomination in a letter apparently written, and undoubtedly revised, in the editorial rooms of the *New York Tribune*. He made his acceptance conditional upon the nomination of Mr. LINCOLN, an event which has already transpired; and to show that he was in earnest, he resigned his commission in the army, that he might be free to fight the political battle with his opponent. Mr. FREMONT does not lack energy or ambition. He has education and talent. What is more, he has a grievance, and he is the chosen leader of a party which considers itself deeply aggrieved. This party plants itself upon the platform of 'free speech, a free press, and free men.' It denounces the unconstitutional usurpations and abuses of the LINCOLN Government; imprisonment in the North, and confiscation in the South; proposes the abolition of slavery by a Constitutional provision, and the maintenance of the MONROE doctrine with respect to Mexico, and the right of asylum so shamefully violated in the recent case of the Spaniard ARGUELLES. It goes further than this, in the intentions of leaders, if not in formal resolutions. The FREMONT party means to destroy the Federal Constitution and the sovereignty of the States, and create a nation by revolutionizing the North and conquering the South. This platform and its candidates, FREMONT and COCHRANE, have the support of the Radicals, the Abolitionists, and the great body of the Germans. The Cleveland Convention, and the candidacy of FREMONT are not protests against the war, but very energetic ones against the Government, and the manner in which the war has been conducted.

The renomination of Mr. LINCOLN at the Baltimore Convention was a 'cut and dried' proceeding. It was a convention of office holders and shoddy contractors, managed by the wire-pullers of the Government, and receiving its orders from Washington. It did what it was appointed to do—no more and no less. Its platform was no doubt modified by that of the Cleveland Convention. It was compelled to accept the MONROE doctrine as an awkward plank, which might prove troublesome to stand upon, but could not be dispensed with. The 'bogus' delegations of Federal office holders and negroes from Florida, South Carolina, and other Confederate States acted as supernumeraries in the great farce of LINCOLN'S nomination, which might have been just as well accomplished by proclamation.

The persons nominated as candidates for the office of vice-president may be worthy of a passing notice. Mr. COCHRANE, nominated as Vice-President on the FREMONT ticket, was, just before the outbreak of the war, a noisy state-rights democrat, who, while the question of secession was pending at Richmond, made a speech there asserting it as the right of Virginia to withdraw from the Federal Union, and pledging New York to raise 100,000 men to stand between the South and any attempt at coercion; yet the war of coercion had no sooner begun than he took a commission as Brigadier-General under Mr. LINCOLN. Mr. ANDREW JOHNSON, who is to run as candidate for the vice-presidency on the ticket with Mr. LINCOLN, was, at the age of twenty-one, a journeyman tailor, and unable to read. It is to his credit that he so far educated himself as to become a Member of Congress from Tennessee, Governor, and Senator; but his nomination is the reward of treason to the State that covered him with honours. He has been the military governor of so much of the State as has been held by the Federal forces, and the ready tool of Federal despotism, whose nomination would increase, if that were possible, Confederate resistance to a country governed by miscreants and traitors.

The democratic party has wisely postponed its nominating convention. Its choice would be General M'CLELLAN were there not the possibility, perhaps the faint hope, of a stronger availability in General GRANT, who is at this moment the rock ahead for LINCOLN and FREMONT, and all other candidates. If GRANT, at any time before the election in November, could succeed in taking Richmond, he would be nominated by acclamation and elected without opposition. If such a success came before the Chicago Convention, GRANT would be its nominee, as the only available candidate, and LINCOLN and FREMONT would be alike abandoned. GRANT plans and fights for more than Richmond; but LINCOLN knows well that GRANT'S success would be his ruin. It therefore seems to be well understood that no immediate success is to be expected. The Northern papers are talking of long sieges and a second Sebastopol. The veteran troops whose time expires march home from the camps of the Chickahominy, with the music of Confederate cannon in their rear; and there is no danger of any victories that can endanger the prospects of Mr. LINCOLN, or that need trouble the partisans of M'CLELLAN. Mr. LINCOLN has not taken the trouble to be renominated, with the risk of being thrown off the course by his Lieutenant-General, whose success is considered so doubtful in New York, that a meeting called to sustain him the other day was a decided failure.

The contest is, to present appearance, between LINCOLN and FREMONT, with the chance of the election of M'CLELLAN, unless the democrats shall also be divided. Mr. LINCOLN hopes, in case of a persistent opposition in his own party, to carry the election into the House of Representatives, where each of his 'bogus' States would have a vote, and his squad of contractors and negroes from a Florida sandbar would count the same as the great States of New York or Ohio with their millions of population. He has the army and the votes of the soldiers; and he can, probably, put as effectual an extinguisher on the hopes of General GRANT as he has upon the pretensions of BANKS and BUTLER. Mr. RAYMOND, of the *New York Times*, author of a life of Mr. LINCOLN and prominently named as a candidate for the Vice-Presidency, advocates the re-election of Mr. LINCOLN on the ground that it will require four years more for him to complete the 'big job' he has undertaken.

Meantime, whatever may be the result of the political campaign, it is a diversion in favour of the Confederacy. It is not only that no Federal general can be allowed to gain a brilliant success, even if he were able to do so, lest the populace should insist on making him President, but that for four months the whole North will be divided into hostile camps against itself, and its thoughts, feelings, and energies diverted from the war against the Confederate States. Passion and hatred will find scope at home. LINCOLN will think more of beating FREMONT than of taking Richmond. There will be war upon the Administration in thousands of presses and public meetings. The Government that wants votes will postpone conscriptions. As FREMONT has resigned, his partisans are not likely to volunteer. The Democrats will not fight for LINCOLN, when they hope in a few months to be under the leadership of M'CLELLAN.

The war upon LINCOLN in public speeches and by the press bids fair to exceed in virulence anything even in American political contests. The *New York World*, a leading Democratic paper, in its issue of June 7, gives an earnest of what is coming. It says of the PRESIDENT and COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:—

> As a *man*, his instincts are vulgar, his education narrow, his manners a cross between boor and buffoon. As a *statesman*, he is incapable, vacillating, a time-server, without either wise comprehension of the present or sagacious forecast of the future. As an *administrator*, he selects the unfittest instruments for the most important functions, and after the clearest demonstrations of their incapacity, he has not decision of character to replace them by men of energy and ability. . . . Besides the feebleness and incapacity which, in a great crisis, are as calamitous as crimes, Mr. Lincoln is obnoxious to public censure by his treachery to the most cherished principles of liberty.

These declarations will be repeated and intensified in a thousand newspapers, and in thousands of stump orations.

The war between LINCOLN and FREMONT is deeper and more genuine than many even in the Federal States imagine. Mr. GREELEY, probably the most influential politician in those States, has not given his public adhesion to FREMONT, but his partiality for him is as well known as his hatred to Mr. SEWARD and his dislike of LINCOLN. Mr. BEECHER, in the *Independent*, holds a similar non-committent position, but, in case of the failure of GRANT, is prepared to support FREMONT. Mr. WENDELL PHILLIPS has freely declared his preferences. Four years of high-handed abuse of irresponsible power, without the prestige of success, must have made enemies to the Administration, and there is not a man who has been injured or even neglected by the Government who will not at the first opportunity turn against it. There is a large army of office-holders to vote for LINCOLN, if they believe he can be reelected; but there is a vastly larger army of office-seekers sure to vote against him; and for four months the great body of Federal Americans of all parties will be more intent upon electing their candidates and beating their opponents than on wasting their lives in the swamps of the Chickahominy or on the plains of Georgia.

Warm and Friendly Neutrality.

THE very able paper in which the commander of the *Alabama* has explained his conduct and set forth his defence, must give rise to serious and not very pleasant reflections in the minds of those Englishmen who are more solicitous for the honour of their country than afraid of any consequences which the perseverance of an honest and impartial course might have entailed. It is impossible to read the statement of Captain SEMMES without perceiving that, in her anxiety to avoid a disagreeable controversy with the Federal Government, England has been led to adopt a policy which has inflicted grave inconvenience on the weaker and defensive belligerent, and rendered material assistance to the stronger and the aggressor.' And it can hardly be thought that the adoption of such a line of action is consistent with that sincere and impartial neutrality professed by HER MAJESTY'S Government, or that its motives are entirely creditable to those by whom it was determined on and enforced. Our duty was to render no assistance to either party, except in the ordinary way of trade, which our subjects—already sufficiently injured by the interruption of the cotton supply—could hardly be expected to forego, and to render this assistance impartially to both parties. If it can be shown that we have adopted a policy which has protected the vulnerable point of the North, while affording no countervailing advantage to the South, it is proved that we have departed

from our duty, and have not faithfully and loyally observed our original promise of an earnest and strict impartiality.

The North was not, like the South, vulnerable by land. It is true that raids have been made on Northern soil, and that, if such had been the pleasure of the Confederate Government and Generals, LEE in Pennsylvania and MORGAN in Ohio might have inflicted a considerable amount of local injury and suffering. But this could not be done on a sufficient scale to bring home to the feelings of the Northern people a sense of the sufferings and horrors of war. In the first place, the superior numbers of the Federal armies were from the first adequate to compel the enemy, at almost every point, to stand solely upon the defensive. In the second, the early successes obtained by the Federals, by treachery and not by arms, interposed between the Confederates and those on whom they might fairly have revenged their wrongs, a broad belt of territory inhabited by families of Confederate principles, though occupied and controlled by Yankee forces. Maryland and Kentucky might have been ravaged as Virginia and Tennessee have been; but the injury would have fallen on the friends, not on the enemies, of the South; and Ohio and Pennsylvania were protected from vengeance by the occupation of Maryland and Kentucky. Thus, while the Confederacy was vulnerable by land—while its towns could be burned and its homesteads destroyed in every direction, it could not retaliate in kind, and was thus precluded from one most important means of bringing the war to a conclusion, by making the aggressor smart under the miseries which war involves. On the other hand, the Confederates were invulnerable at sea, where they had no interests that could be reached by the enemy. Their ports might be blockaded, their supplies cut off or hindered, but they had no merchant navy to lose. The North, in its turn, was here peculiarly vulnerable. It had the largest mercantile marine in the world, except that of England; it had enormous wealth afloat; and all this wealth lay open to the attacks of the Confederates. By arming privateers, by fitting out cruisers, by building vessels abroad and availing themselves of those they could convert at home, they might hope to spoil the spoiler in his turn, and to retaliate at sea the destruction and spoliation they suffered on land. To this mode of warfare—this method of making the enemy feel that war cannot be waged with impunity, and that the attempt to conquer a gallant and independent nation involves loss and suffering which are not to be lightly encountered — the Confederates early turned their attention. They were at liberty to equip privateers; for the United States, of which they were then a part, had refused to accept that portion of the treaty of Paris which forbade privateering. They were at liberty—as by the law of nations every belligerent has always been—to purchase, build, and fit out cruisers wherever they could, with commissions to sink, take, or destroy every floating thing under the stars and stripes, wherever they might fall in with it. And these lawful means of hostility they prepared to employ with vigour and effect; believing, and not without reason, that the injury they would thus be able to inflict upon their enemy would have no small tendency to render the war unpopular with a large and powerful class in the North, and to remind its frantic advocates, however mildly, what war really means.

In such an enterprise the South had every right to expect the ready sympathy and good wishes of England, or rather—since England, as a Power, had pledged herself to impartiality in the quarrel—of the English people. For no nation has ever carried on this kind of warfare more energetically or more successfully than our own. In every war in which we have been engaged, it has been our peculiar boast and primary object to annihilate the commerce of the enemy, and, by the capture of his ships and cargoes, to make him suffer those inconveniences and injuries of war which we have rarely had the means, and never the desire, to inflict upon him by land. We have always forbidden our armies to adopt the mode of warfare practised by the Yankees and the Prussians; we have never yet permitted the burning of defenceless towns, or the devastation of an unprotected country, or—save where a town has been taken by assault—the maltreatment of non-combatants; but at sea we have stretched the rights of belligerents to the uttermost, and our principal means of offence has been that which the Confederates were preparing to use against the Yankees; that of chasing, capturing, and destroying, or appropriating the ships of hostile countries, and annihilating their commerce. This has been the chief use of our naval supremacy; it has been the principal employment of our seamen; it has been to obtain the power of destroying our enemy's commerce and protecting our own that we have fought and won great battles at sea; it has been in the execution of this purpose that we have employed that enormous number of minor vessels which could not take their place in the line of battle. The business of our frigates, brigs, and corvettes was always that which the *Alabama* and her consorts have so diligently pursued; and many of our most distinguished captains acquired fame and fortune by the diligence with which, like Captain SEMMES, they harassed and destroyed what MR. ADAMS plaintively and naïvely calls the 'peaceable and innocent' commerce of the enemy. In this manner we avenged upon France the plunder of Prussia and of Spain; and in this way we might well have rejoiced to see the cruisers of the South avenge the devastation of Virginia, the plunder of Louisiana, the inundation of Mississippi, and the conflagration of Jackson.

Our government, however, appears to have thought otherwise. The QUEEN'S proclamation excluded from our ports the prizes of both belligerents. The French Government followed, as by preconcerted arrangement it has done throughout, the policy of England; and the minor Powers, whether of Europe or America, had no choice but to acquiesce in that policy, and accept the example set for their guidance. At the same time, the Federal Government instituted a blockade of the Southern ports, which speedily became efficient enough to render it too hazardous to send in sailing prizes for adjudication. It became, therefore, impossible for the Confederates to sell any prizes they might take; and this at once dismissed to their ports all the privateers that had hoisted the Southern flag. These, depending upon the profits to be made by their cruisers, could no longer keep the sea when the power of turning their prizes to account was taken from them. The cruisers persevered in their duty; but they were deprived of their reward. 'A staggering blow was dealt to the Confederacy,' and a protection of infinite value given to the Federal commerce. This might be consistent with neutrality; for neutrality does not, as Captain SEMMES thinks, involve impartiality. But it is difficult to see how it can be considered consistent with that perfect impartiality which England had professed. We were under no obligation to exclude prizes from our ports. The natural course of neutrality would have been to take no action whatever; and in that case the ships and prizes of both parties would, with their prizes, enter our ports with pleasure. To take action of a kind so manifestly favourable to the Federals, without the excuse that in other respects we had given a countervailing advantage to their enemy—for our interpretation of neutrality, wherever an option was open to us, has been in each case favourable to the North—does not appear to be consistent with fairness or impartiality.

It may, perhaps, be admitted, that good-will towards the North was not the motive of this regulation. But it does not follow therefore that there was no conscious and intentional departure from impartiality involved. The avowed reason of the step, as alleged by the Government, is the interest of peace: that is, it was thought that the admission of the prizes of both parties to our ports would be likely to entangle us in a quarrel. But how? Clearly because it was believed that the Federal Government, being the stronger of the two belligerents, would consider that this admission—this simple abstinence from action on our part—did not tend to promote its interest, and would therefore bully us, and perhaps quarrel with us, if we adopted such a course. We took, therefore, the alternative favourable to the stronger Power, not because we wished well to that Power, but because we thought it expedient to favour it lest it should quarrel with us. A neutral who acts on this principle certainly cannot pretend to be impartial. It is true that he does not favour the stronger belligerent willingly; but he does so consciously and of malice aforethought, and therefore dishonestly. Whether we are guilty of injustice through fear or through favour matters little, except that the former motive is the meaner and more unworthy of the two. It is clear that, as a great Power, we are bound to disregard menaces; and that we are just as culpable in departing from the strict line of impartiality in obedience to threats, as if we did so voluntarily in the hope of advantage or under the influence of sympathy. It is but too evident that the whole of our neutrality during the war has been of this type. The South could not bully us, and the North could; therefore, to avoid being bullied, we have decided every open question—every case in which the law of nations would allow us without flagrant scandal to yield to pressure—in favour of the stronger Power. Our 'warm and friendly' neutrality has been the result of this, but it has not on that account been of the less benefit to the North, or given the South the less cause to complain of us.

As Captain SEMMES very justly remarks, it is this conduct of ours that compelled him to burn his prizes. He had no wish to do so. He would much rather have taken them into Confederate ports, if he could have done so without subjecting them to something very like a certainty of recapture. He would much rather have lodged them in neutral ports until their case could be adjudicated upon by a Confederate Prize Court, according to a well-known though exceptional rule of international law. It would have been much more in accordance with his interest to release them on ransom bond, as he did with all ships containing cargoes that seemed to belong to neutral owners. But his duty to his country required him to cripple and injure the enemy's commerce by every means — that is, by every lawful means — in his power. He could not take his prizes into port, excluded by the blockade from Southern ports and by our regulations from all others. To release them on ransom is to make a loan of valuable property to the enemy, and to diminish the terror which has done so much to paralyse his mercantile marine; and, therefore, though conducive to the captor's interest, it is inconsistent with his duty. To burn the enemy's vessel is confessedly lawful; we have often done it ourselves, and so have other nations; and, as it is the only effectual manner of destroying their utility to their owner, which is open to Captain SEMMES, he was bound by his professional duty to adopt it. Those who revile him for doing so show either that they are totally ignorant of international law or that they are totally indifferent to truth: and those who argue that, because he cannot bring the enemy's vessels into port, therefore he should permit the commerce of a hostile nation to go on unmolested, exact of him a forbearance which we never showed to an enemy, which no naval Power ever has shown or is likely to show; and which, according to every law of maritime warfare, and to the code of every navy in the world, would subject him to share the fate of Admiral BYNG. A naval officer who should omit, from scruples of conscience or humanity, to destroy the commerce of an enemy by taking where he can take, and sinking and destroying where he cannot, would be guilty of a neglect of duty for which every nation exacts the extreme penalty; and there is no service in which more surely than in that of England such an officer would be shot '*pour encourager les autres.*'

The Confederate Navy.

AT the present moment, when much attention is directed to the naval operations of the American belligerents, it may be interesting to glance at the work done by the Confederate Navy.

The Atlantic sea-coast of the Federal States of America, without measuring indentations, is about eight hundred miles in extent, with two or three navigable rivers. The coast line of the Confederate States on the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, from Chesapeake Bay to the Rio Grande, extends two thousand five hundred miles, receiving more than twenty navigable rivers, including the great father of waters, the Mississippi, which, with its branches within the boundaries of the Confederate States, has five or six thousand miles of river navigation. This vast extent of sea-coast is lined with great sheltered bays. There is no lack of noble harbours, and the deepening of a few inlets would open others which would shelter all the navies of the world.

In ship-building materials, no country is richer than the Confederate States. Forests of live oak in Florida and around the Gulf of Mexico furnish the best of timber; the piny regions of Carolina and Alabama abound in naval stores; hemp is a Southern staple; and the coal, iron, and copper mines of Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia, yield all other materials. Nine of the Confederate States border on the sea. Two of them have a sea-coast of more than a thousand miles in extent, and there is no one in which could not be built, launched, and sent to sea a line-of-battle ship. There was, a few years ago, a navy yard at Memphis, Tennessee, and large ships are built on the Ohio, and might be on the Missouri, more than a thousand miles from the Gulf of Mexico.

When the Confederate States separated from those which still adhere to the Washington Government, they necessarily carried with them the forts and arsenals within their territories, which their money had built, and which, in some instances, had belonged to the States before the Federal Union was formed. The Federal Government never had any power, under the Constitution, to occupy a single foot of land in any State for military purposes, unless expressly ceded by the legislature of the State for that purpose; and when the Union was dissolved, all military establishments of necessity reverted to the States in which they were situated, and for whose protection they were made. It happened, however, that most of the navy yards of the country were in the Northern States. The North had become the traders, the carriers, and the manufacturers of the South, while the South produced the cotton, sugar, hemp, rice, and tobacco, the great staples of commerce. There were navy yards at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, while the only considerable

one in the whole South was at Gosport, near Norfolk, in Virginia, which was destroyed by the Federal authorities, with several of the finest vessels in the navy, in the spring of 1861, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Confederates. Aside from these, the ships of the Federal navy, the property of all the States, were either in Northern harbours, or, if away on distant stations, were ordered to Northern ports. Naval officers of Southern birth, as a rule, and with very few exceptions, resigned their commissions, as did the Southern officers of the army, when the States of which they were citizens, and to which they owed allegiance, withdrew the powers they had conferred upon the Federal Government. But the officers of the army and navy were placed in very different positions. It was easy to raise armies. A whole nation rose to defend its rights, liberties, and invaded homes. There was already a small supply of arms: few men in the South were without rifles and shot-guns. It was not long before they took great quantities of rifles, artillery, and munitions from those who came to conquer them. The army officers, educated at the Westpoint Military Academy, to which every State sent its quota of cadets, found abundant employment for all their science, skill, and valour. They organised armies, established foundries, manufactories of arms, gunpowder, &c., on a scale of immense magnitude.

But it is not so easy to improvise a navy. The scuttled and half-burnt *Merrimac* was raised, converted into an ironclad ram, and carried terror and destruction into the Federal fleet in Hampton Roads. But when she had done her work, and was destroyed in doing it, it became necessary to build a navy. A few years ago this would have been comparatively easy work. Before the days of steam and ironclads, when wooden walls and hearts of oak were all that was needed, the keels of a hundred ships would have been laid on the banks of Southern rivers. But in this age of iron and steam everything had to be created by a nation struggling for its life and defending its territories against invading armies. Yet this work has been done. The iron and coal have been dug from the mines. Furnaces, foundries, rolling mills, machine-shops have been established; village blacksmiths, whose highest achievements had been to upset an axe or shoe a horse, have constructed steam-engines and the machinery necessary to produce them. Men who sharpened ploughs have built rams like the *Roanoke*. There are now powerful and efficient Confederate ironclads, built by Confederate artisans with Confederate materials, at Shreveport, Mobile, Savannah, Charleston, and on the rivers of North Carolina and Virginia, forming the nucleus of a compact and powerful navy.

Necessity, here as elsewhere, has been the mother of invention, and the exigencies of defensive warfare have led to the contrivance of submarine batteries of the most skilful construction and tremendous power. The harbour channels, inlets, and rivers of the Confederate States are planted with torpedoes, ready to hurl the strongest ironclad to instant destruction. They have blown up Federal gunboats on the Red River and the St. John's in Florida. They are ready for the monitors in Charleston harbour and in the James River below Richmond. The torpedo corps of the Confederate navy is doing active and excellent service in making its internal waters a terror to the invader. The construction of torpedo boats, or rams, has also passed beyond the range of mere experiment. Confederate officers have demonstrated that the smallest steamer that can keep the sea—and the smaller the better, perhaps, for this service—armed with a torpedo at the end of a long spear, like the nose of a swordfish, can instantly demolish, 'sink and destroy,' the most powerful ship that floats. A charge of gunpowder placed under a ship and exploded can produce but one effect, to make a hole in her bottom, whatsoever its thickness. The explosion was premature in the case of the *Minnesota*, but it is said to have rendered her useless. Better placed, it would have sunk her beyond all question.

The Federal union of the North and South had the effect to divorce the elements of wealth and power, especially upon the sea. Henceforth those who produce the wealth of the Confederate States will hold also the sword that guards it. The ports of the South will, no doubt, be free to the commerce of the world, but the Confederate States must have a navy in some proportion to its magnificent sweep of gulf and ocean coast. New England, New York, and New Jersey, of all the Northern States, are the only ones that border on the Atlantic. The natural outlets of the great west are the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi. A few miles of ship canal in Canada, connecting Lake Huron with Lake Ontario, will open the whole produce of the great region of the upper lakes to the commerce of Europe; and cargoes of wheat and maize will come from Chicago and Milwaukie to Liverpool and London without transhipment. How long the great west will pay tribute to New York and Boston, how long it will consent to be taxed to pay the interest of the debt now being piled up against it at Washington, when the true avenues of its commerce flow past Quebec and New Orleans, time will show; but if we know anything of American character, and especially of the character of the people of the North-western States, their term of submission to be plundered by the financiers, traders, manufacturers, and politicians of New York and New England will be short. The birth of an independent Confederation on the Pacific is, indeed, only a question of time. It will take place on the day when it is for the interest of the people of those distant States and territories to cut loose from the political mismanagement and overwhelming indebtedness of the Federal Government on the Potomac. San Francisco will be the New York of the Pacific, and will not long pay its golden tribute to the Atlantic States.

It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that the Confederate States should have a powerful navy; and that it will have one, we may conclude from what it has effected under the most trying and difficult circumstances.

'SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE' AT ASHTON.

A PUBLIC MEETING was held on Tuesday night at the Town Hall, Ashton-under-Lyne, to consider the propriety of memorialising the Government in favour of the recognition of the Southern Confederacy. Several of the leading constituents of the Right Honourable the President of the Board of Trade took a prominent part in the proceedings, and the body of the Hall was well filled by the operatives of the town.

Dr. Lees (the Mayor of the Manor), a gentleman well known as a warm and eloquent advocate of the Southern cause, was voted to the chair. In his opening observations, he paid a high tribute to the military and civil qualities displayed by the Confederacy in perhaps the hardest and certainly most patriotic struggles for national independence witnessed in modern times. The crisis, he said, at which American affairs had now arrived was such as to justify the people of this country in expressing a decided opinion upon the subject. The present attack upon Richmond by General Grant was the fourth or fifth that had been made during four years of desperate warfare, and if it should fail—and he believed it had utterly failed already—the time would then come when European Governments should mediate between the combatants.

Dr. Vernon then moved a formal resolution affirming the propriety of all important constituencies memorialising the Government to acknowledge the independence of the South.

Mr. C. Brooke seconded the resolution, which was carried almost unanimously, and with every mark of the warmest approval.

The following resolution was then moved by the Rev. F. H. Williams:—'That in the opinion of this meeting the Southern States have justly won their right to a Government of their own choice: and that the timely recognition of such right by the Government of England, followed as it probably would be by other European governments, would, under the present circumstances, tend to hasten the conclusion of the unjust and cruel warfare which is being waged by the Federal against the Confederate Government; and this meeting accordingly respectfully submits to Her Majesty's ministers the propriety of taking such steps to that end as they may think prudent in concert with other European Powers.'—He also moved that if the resolution was carried, it should be forwarded to Mr. Lindsay, M.P., in order to strengthen his position when he brought forward his promised resolution on this subject in the House of Commons.

The Rev. gentleman spoke very briefly, but with considerable effect, in admiration of the noble self-sacrifices endured by the heroic people of the South. After nearly four years of strife, during which the gallant exploits of the Confederates had won the respect and admiration of the civilised world, it was surely time to recognise so compact and powerful a government as that of the Southern States. Their cause, that of liberty and independence, was the noblest one in the maintenance of which any nation could throw away the scabbard; and moreover in this instance it was a cause that had been illustrated by leaders whose names would hereafter shine among the brightest in history. He had only to mention General Lee, Stonewall Jackson, General Stuart, Beauregard, the gallant and wounded Longstreet, and last, not least, Captain Semmes, the darling of their young navy. These were names that went to the hearts of Englishmen, and were associated with deeds that challenged the admiration of mankind. The professed neutrality which this country, has pursued was as Mr. Bright described, a 'friendly neutrality,' but unfortunately it was on one side; and it was but an illustration of that neutrality which this country witnessed the other day when the *Kearsage* sunk the *Alabama* with shells manufactured in Birmingham, and cannon forged in the arsenals of England. If the recognition was granted, it would be followed by a renewed prosperity to the people of Ashton, and by an extension of free trade principles to the Southern States.

Mr. E. Hemingway seconded the resolution, which was carried with enthusiastic cheers.

Upon the motion of Mr. G. Mellor, seconded by the Rev. R. V. M'Donogh, a vote of thanks was passed to the Mayor of the Manor, and the proceedings were brought to a close.

THERE will be jubilation in the North when the news arrives that Semmes's flag floats no longer. Impartial observers see no reason for such rejoicing. As on land, so on sea, the gallantry, the daring, of the weaker party—strengthened by the belief that right is on their side—suffice to keep their arrogant invaders at bay. We suspect that the Federals have not heard the last of Captain Semmes.—*The Realm.*

MUTINY AMONGST FEDERAL SAILORS.—The *New York Daily News* of June 6 says: 'A mutiny came near taking place among the 220 Federal sailors recently sent out for Government ships to Aspinwall. Three or four were killed before the disturbance could be ended.'

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York, June 7, 1864.

LIBERAL MISREPRESENTATIONS—THE SITUATION IN VIRGINIA—SUPERSEDING OF THE NEW ORLEANS TREATY—THE CONDITIONS ON WHICH GENERAL BANKS WILL SANCTION THE REISSUE OF THE PAPER—RESISTANCE TO MR. LINCOLN IN THE NORTH—THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN—MUTINIES IN THE NORTH—THE GRAND MELTING—AN ATTEMPT TO REVIVE THE WAR SPIRIT.

By the log bearings with which the news by the *China*, which has arrived at Halifax, was announced in the city papers this morning, one would have inferred that there was something like a panic in England among the friends of the South at the receipt of the first news of the battles in Virginia. But the text does not sustain the headings, although it is certain that more importance was attached to the boasting despatches of the Federals than they deserved. It is scarcely to be wondered at, when some of the staunchest friends of the South have been staggered for the moment by the universal strain of gloating despatches which was forced upon the public under the sanction of the Government, from its generals and through the War Department, that an impression should have been made at a distance, where readers are accustomed to give credit for truthfulness in the main, even after allowing for enthusiasm and excitement, to written statements of commanders in the field and ministers of state. Looking back here at the long series of misrepresentations and fabrications, suppressions and falsehoods, with which the earlier events of the war were coloured to the popular tastes by generals and secretaries, one is ashamed that the previous experiences of the utter disregard of truth which pervades the official documents of this Government had not been sufficient warning to discredit everything they say to their own advantage, until corroborated by other testimony. You have learned in England before this how little the costly and bloody struggles of General Grant have really advanced him towards the capture of Richmond. There is one test of the reality of the Federal confidence in the triumphs they boast of, which you may study in the state of the Federal currency, for the improvement of which the Secretary of the Treasury has officially announced that, above all things, military success is indispensable. When General Grant marched into Virginia, the price of gold in relation to currency was 172 to 100—that is, the Government dollar was worth 58 cents. Now that General Grant has got so far as to be, according to the Federal bulletins of victory, within sight of Richmond, and ready to enter, paper is to gold as 194 to 100: in other terms, the Government dollar is worth only 51½ cents. The whole of this depreciation may not be owing simply to military failure, but is due in part to the accelerating effects of the general disorder of the finances. Nevertheless, nothing has been done to check the fall, and the credit of the Treasury is such as it would have been in ordinary times after a severe defeat.

I shall not attempt to describe the military movements which have placed the two armies where they are. The situation is not an encouraging one to the Federal hopes of victory. It is not a creditable one to the military mind which has presided over the operations. The Federal army has now been a month in Virginia, and, after enormous losses, is brought to a position on the same line of advance which was pursued by M'Clellan two years ago, but not so far advanced. It has lost at least fifty thousand men. The frightful list is sometimes placed much higher—it cannot possibly be less—and after a month there is all the work which M'Clellan attempted to do to be again essayed; while the Confederates have strengthened themselves one hundred per cent. over the defences they had then, and M'Clellan had reached this point without the loss of a company. Grant has reached the confines of Richmond with his army, but the most hopeful of his admirers begin to caution the public not to expect its occupation except after months of siege: and those who are not very sanguine are doubting whether he will take it at all.

From Georgia we have only the repetition of bulletins declaring that all goes well with the Union army, who are going to occupy Atlanta very shortly. It was promised to be done last Sunday, but was not; and the confident assurances from the Confederate side show that they have no fears for the issue.

In the Department of the Gulf, General Banks, who, although superseded in military functions, retains a sort of sub-military governorship, has been playing some high pranks. You have read the account of the suppression of the *Journal of Commerce* and the *World* of this city by the military power, for the accidental and innocent publication of the spurious proclamation, of which the forgery was traced to a speculating partisan of the Administration. The same proclamation was sent in the way of news regularly to New Orleans, *viâ* Cairo, in an Administrative paper, and although notice was sent by the steamers as well as by the way of Cairo that it was spurious, it arrived before the contradiction, and was issued in an extra, in undoubted good faith, from the office of the *Picayune*. General Banks ordered the suppression of the paper at once, but, although convinced of the entire good faith of the publication, has refused to release the paper or allow it to be reissued, except upon conditions which have nothing to do with the imputed offence, from which the paper is cleared. He will allow it to be published on the condition that it becomes an unconditional Union paper, and supports the whole policy of the war as conducted by the President and administered in Louisiana, including abolition of slavery, arming of negroes, reconstruction on the President's plan, and all the other measures which are fiercely contested even in the loyal States as the unconstitutional expedients of a personal party of which Mr. Lincoln is the head. The condition has not been accepted. I do not believe it will be. This tyranny over men's consciences, and spoliation of men's property, by military dictation, at the mere will of an aspiring executive, is one of the traits of character which mark for avoidance the example of this republic, which is fighting for empire by trampling on liberty.

But while these things are going on, without remedy and almost without remark, in the satrapies of the occupied districts of the South, where military caprice reigns supreme, here in the 'loyal' States, where there are courts and State functionaries jealous of military usurpation by Federal authority over the civil rights of citizens, there is a spirit of resistance roused against these violent acts, which attacks the Administration by political means, in the presenting of these outrages on the rights of property, of individual liberty, and of the press, as grounds for asking the overthrow at the polls of the men who execute and the party which tolerates them, and by a direct appeal to the State tribunals to rectify the injury and punish the wrongdoers, by whomsoever authorised or patronised. The Cleveland Convention of Republicans have made opposition to these acts one of the grounds of the resistance to the reelection of Mr.

Lincoln; and all other parties and fragments of parties, except his more personal adherents, are preparing to make the same issue. In this State the courts will be appealed to at the coming term to sustain the State law and the rights and liberties of the citizen of the State, violated by the arbitrary acts of the President towards the *Journal of Commerce* and the *World* newspapers and their proprietors. Unhappily, the *New Orleans* journal, which has suffered equally innocently, precisely in the same way and for the same cause, is left without a resource for redress but the mercy of the commanding general, who only tenders it on dishonouring and impossible terms.

This is the day for the meeting of the Presidential Convention at Baltimore. The main business of the Convention is to nominate Mr. Lincoln for re-election. It has been so thoroughly prepared with that view, that it is not likely that the name of any other candidate will be presented. The official influence of the Administration in its power of patronage and its military control is so enormous, and has been so openly and unscrupulously used for securing the renomination of the President through the agency of party, that his opponents within the party have already abandoned the contest there, and are reduced to the dilemma of coming into his support or breaking off from the party. A large portion of them avowed their purpose long ago not to support Mr. Lincoln under any circumstances, and not to go into any party combination or arrangements which would create an obligation to support him. These men went to Cleveland in mass convention, and, one week ago, nominated General John C. Fremont for President, and John Cochrane for Vice-President, as candidates of a new party which they entitle the 'Radical Democracy.' Another portion of the Republican malcontents remained, and professedly adhere to the Convention, with the intent to defeat Mr. Lincoln there, if possible, and the hope that a new aspect of public affairs and the fresh complications brought about by new events, and a sudden popularity of new men, might break the Convention arrangements of Mr. Lincoln, and enable them to supplant him with another candidate.

A postponement of the nomination is still the object of desire among the adversaries of Mr. Lincoln who desire to maintain the party organisation and get rid of the man; and immense efforts have, within a few days, been directed to that end. A private consultation and a large preliminary convention—the last of the special friends of Secretary Chase—have been labouring night and day to combine influence enough in the Convention to obtain an adjournment for some months without making nominations. The terms of the acceptance by General Fremont of the nomination at Cleveland leave this question open to an arrangement by which only one Republican candidate will be presented; but the conditions are so hard as to be clearly inadmissible. The Convention make the non-eligibility of any President for reelection a cardinal item of their creed, and their candidate points it by declaring in their name that Mr. Lincoln must be set aside as the first condition for reunion. The second is still harder upon his Administration, for it demands that its management should be censured, its general principles denounced, and many of its chief measures arraigned as criminal infringements of the Constitution and the laws and dangerous to public liberty. In brief words, the Chicago Radicals under the lead of Fremont require, as the condition of their support to a Republican ticket, that it shall renounce and denounce Mr. Lincoln and his Administration; otherwise, as General Fremont announces, 'there will remain no alternative but to organise against him every element of conscientious opposition with a view to prevent the misfortune of his reelection.'

The key-word of the Fremont appeal to the popular passion against Lincoln is in this pointed sentence: 'While we are saturating Southern soil with the best blood of the country in the name of liberty, we have nearly parted with our own.'

There is a hearty ring in the demand of these Radicals for a protest against the arbitrary and usurping course of the President, whose election they refuse to support; but it is a sad example of human inconsistency, that with these lofty sounds there are mingled shrieks of rage against the Southern people for their national resistance against the same despotic rule concentrated in a selfish Northern majority; and that, while wrestling for their own freedom, they are clamouring against their own oppressors in that they are lax in the work of enslaving and despoiling the South.

It is not within the range of possibility that the President, with the power in his hands of obtaining from a national Convention an endorsement of his public acts and character, and a leadership which will demand for him the concentrated support of mighty party organisations in every State in the Union, will cower before this demonstration, and consent to be branded with disgrace and dismissed with contempt. Hence it is all but certain that the Convention called in Mr. Lincoln's interest will not consent to weaken his position by deferring action, or make any concessions to purchase such support which include the abandonment of Mr. Lincoln or any censure on his acts. They may court doubtful support by leaving open questions to be debated in the canvass as instructions for the future policy of Mr. Lincoln after he shall have been nominated and elected; but they must go forward with him, and I think they will do it stubbornly. We shall know the result before the next steamer reaches you, and be in a better position to form a judgment on the course which the canvass is likely to take in the contingency, which has not been heretofore considered as probable, of the having of two Republican war candidates.

Among the incidents showing the drift of the undercurrent of popular feeling in regard to the war, the late proceedings in this city, in anticipation of another draft for 300,000 men which is expected, ought not to be omitted. The city has just completed, after extraordinary effort and at great expense, its quota to the two recent calls of the President for 500,000 men and for 200,000 men. To avoid the necessity of drafting, the city expended, as reported by the committee on that subject to the City Councils, the sum of about £6,500,000. In another call for 300,000, the city's proportion would be 11,000 more, at a probable cost of £3,500,000 in bounties, to be furnished by the city. The committee says: 'It is very much to be doubted, judging by past experience, whether we could obtain that sum readily even on the credit of the county of New York, considering the very heavy debt already imposed upon us in the business of raising volunteers.' They therefore advise the abandonment of the attempt to fill the new quota by volunteering, 'both from the paucity of the men willing to enlist and the lack of money to pay those who are willing.'

If this rule be accepted, the only resource is in the extreme rigour of the draft when it comes, and there are official notifications that it may be expected by the 1st of July. To make it more absolute, the Provost-Marshal has given notice that the payment of the exemption fee, by which so many escaped service under the former drafts, and the Treasury got sundry millions of dollars instead of many thousands of men, only protects under the particular call for which the drafting is ordered. Under a new call for troops, the exemption must be renewed by the payment of another £300; and a project is before Congress to repeal even this privilege in the future, and compel every man who is drafted to serve in person, or furnish an approved substitute at his own cost—with this further liability, that if the substitute accepted should be himself drafted on a subsequent call, the person whose place he took must serve in his place or find another substitute; and so *toties quoties*. There is a dreary looking forward to this harsh process, and a fearful apprehension among the working men, who have been of late showing so much repugnance to fighting even under the stimulus of extravagant bounties by which the needy and the greedy have been tempted into the slaughter-pits of Virginia.

The same exhaustion of men is felt all over the West. So many of the active working population have been drawn off to the war, that there is a dearth of labour to do farm work, which will be felt in the large falling off of crops. In many places women and children have been sent into the fields to do imperfectly what men only have heretofore done. A new draft will give another wrenching turn to the screw by which the Northern people are learning very late what sort of a task it is to undertake to enslave a nation of eight millions armed in defence of their independence, their homes, and their lives.

You will see that this call for 300,000 more, for supplying which the Secretary of War has directed preparations to be made, is the third call since January 1, and the aggregate number of troops demanded is 1,000,000 men, in addition to the 85,000 men tendered by the western governors, and the State militia summoned in the middle States to garrison the border parts that the soldiers which held them might be sent forward into action. This huge demand for armies, such as have never been gathered together within such a space of time, in addition to the large forces already in service, came just after the universal felicitations between the Government, the generals, and the press, upon the utter collapse of the Confederacy and the demoralisation of its armies. But it still lives; and the mighty North groans audibly and savagely under the racking and exhausting struggles yet to be made before it hopes that this obstinate resistance will be beaten down, and begins fearfully to count how many weeks and months there are between itself and ruin if it do not in this last gigantic effort put a speedy end to the war.

There was held on Saturday evening in Union Square in this city what figures in the newspapers as a 'monster mass meeting' in honour of General Grant, but which, when the proceedings are carefully read, exhibits itself simply as a device to revive the flagging war spirit of the people, and help to make the coming draft more endurable. The resolutions are highly laudatory of General Grant and General Sherman; and, congratulating the country that it has got rid of civilian generals, from whom nothing but disaster has been reaped, and that its armies are now under the direction of men of military education, and hence inferring, with unusual modesty of expression, that 'at no period since the beginning of hostilities has the prospect been so favourable as at present for a speedy and successful close of the war,' conclude with the following appeal for more help:—

'But, to insure that end, it is necessary that our army should be efficiently and rapidly reinforced; that every effort should be made to stimulate enlistments, and that the young men of the country who have the requisite vigour and nerve should come forward and share in the honours which will follow them through life, of having fought in the ranks of that noble army by whose courage and patriotism the republic was saved.'

Thus, while the War Department is issuing boasting bulletins which lead the people to believe that Grant with his victorious army is thundering about Richmond, and ready to enter and disperse the Confederate Government, and annihilate its armies, and occupy the conquered country, it is sending forth imploring appeals to the reluctant populace for more men, and talks through its orators of what is to be accomplished when these new armies come.

Note, as you read this, that the twenty millions of the North have been, for now more than three years, pouring army after army, in hundreds of thousands and half millions of men, upon the territory of the South, until the whole stock of willing soldiers is exhausted, even when swelled by legions of mercenaries hired from abroad, and helped in the work of subjugation by a hundred thousand negroes whom they have enticed into revolt, and armed against their masters; and measure, if you can, the audacity with which these renewed bloody struggles to enslave a unanimous people are called for in the name of liberty and republicanism. And the nation which thus propagates empire with fire and sword incessantly vaunts itself, in the language of the resolutions in Union Square on Saturday evening, to be the 'freest and most liberal on earth.'

But with all these appeals, backed by letters from the President and Secretary of the Treasury urging the imminency of the crisis of the war, and aided by the popularity of General Grant, which for the moment is high, because the populace has been persuaded that he is at last the man who will put an end to the war, the meeting was a dull one. The numbers were small compared with the rousing meetings which were got up in the early stages of the war, and the speakers laboured heavily to get up a show of enthusiasm among the five or six thousand which came slowly together where fifty thousand used to come rushing and shouting to raise volunteers for the war. The name of Grant and the promise of victory can't get up a sincere, hearty war meeting in New York.

MARYLAND.—The Baltimore correspondent of the *Times*, under date of May 6, writes:—'Baltimore is as inimical to all that is Yankee as Richmond or Charleston, and were it not for the presence of a large military force, which is in possession of Fort M'Henry, and could reduce the city to ashes in an hour, if it threatened to revolt against the despotism which it abhors, it would hoist the Confederate flag, and invite the Southern army to enter and hold it. Maryland, of which it is the pride and the emporium, has at this moment no less than 20,000 of her sons in the Southern army, fighting, without the inducement of bounty money or any mercenary consideration whatever, for the cause of Southern independence; about double the number that she has raised for the Northern armies, notwithstanding all the bounties offered by the Federal Government and the municipalities, and the sums contributed by the rich to avoid the risks of a conscription. The 20,000 are for the most part natives of Maryland; the 8,000 or 10,000 in the Federal armies are mainly Irish or Germans, with whom the bounty is everything and the cause nothing; together with negroes and the freed slaves of "disloyal" owners.'

GRANT'S LOSSES.

(From the *Petersburg Express*, May 30.)

LATE and trustworthy information has reached Petersburg from the enemy's line. It is of the most encouraging character. Outside of Grant's official circle, and safely removed from the tyranny of Lincoln and Seward, the Northern people do not hesitate to admit terrible losses in Grant's army. None estimate it at less than 75,000, and many say that it will reach 90,000. This is from all causes—killed, wounded, prisoners, stragglers, and deserters.

The desertion and straggling is without precedent. A letter was received in this city on Saturday from Moseby's command, well and favourably known in Petersburg. This writer states that he and his command, with their daring chief, have been in the rear of Grant since he moved from Culpeper House. He states that from the Rapidan and the Rappahannock to the Potomac the country literally swarms with stragglers. These men do not hesitate to say that they are from the army of the Potomac, and under no circumstances will they be carried back alive. Each man is armed, and says he will sell his life as dearly as possible before he will be taken.

The Northern people say that Grant has lost four times as many men as any general who ever commanded the army of the Potomac. It has been ascertained by actual count that he lost more men on the 12th in the terrible contest of Spottsylvania Court House, than Napoleon Bonaparte lost on the memorable field of Waterloo. The people say that the worst feature of the present melancholy condition of affairs is that the places of the recently slain and maimed cannot be supplied. Every garrison and outpost has been swept clean to replenish Grant's decimated ranks; and it is asserted as an absolute fact that there were not men enough at Fortress Monroe last Friday to garrison the place.

It is also represented that Grant's present army is greatly demoralised. The three years' men are very much discontented at the bad faith in which the Lincoln Government has acted towards them; and the new-comers, or veteran reinforcements, as Stanton telegraphs to Dix, cannot be made to face General Lee's gallant grey-backs. Four times during the past eight days did Grant attempt to bring on another such fight as he engaged in at Spottsylvania Court House, but each time the men refused to be led to the slaughter.

LETTER FROM A FEDERAL GENERAL.—The Washington Correspondent of the *New York Daily News* on June 5 says he was permitted to read a private letter from a General of high rank in the Army of the Potomac, which contained the following passage:—'We have now been fighting three consecutive weeks—all the time looking to the objective point of Richmond. In all the battles and strategic movements I think the utmost military skill has been displayed by the Commanding General. One thing is certain beyond peradventure, that General Grant is a military genius. In all his movements thus far, he has used, punctually, his own ideas and plans in attacking or countering the blows of the enemy; and although he has been several miles from the scene of the great conflicts, he has so familiarised himself with the topography of the country, the strength and location of the enemy, and the probabilities of their point of attack, that he has never failed to meet them man for man, and generally with successful results. But I must confess, after all this fighting and loss of life, it is natural enough to enquire what have we gained? Without wishing to criticise my superiors or set my poor judgment against theirs, I can only say simply that we have gained nothing. After two and a half years of marching and countermarching with this army, I now find myself on the same ground that I was on with M'Clellan two years ago, with this exception, that the enemy have improved every point fifty per cent. These are plain facts, as time alone will tell. I am in for the war, however, and shall do my duty, God being my helper, to carry out every order of my superiors. If I fall, I could not wish to die in a nobler cause—that of my country.'

A NORTHERN VIEW OF THE SITUATION IN VIRGINIA.—The *New York World* on June 6 published a leader in which the following observations occur:—'General Grant states officially that in the last three days' fight our losses were seven thousand five hundred; but this number, in conjunction with the heavy losses incurred in all the encounters from the Rapidan to the Pamunkey, makes an enormous aggregate. And yet, with all the losses of life and disabling of valuable men, our army is still on the north bank of the Chickahominy, and the rebels are contesting, inch by inch, every spot of ground outside of the immediate fortifications of the rebel capital. If all that is before our army were simply a battle, we could feel tolerably assured of victory; but there is more than a battle. There is a series of bloody engagements, and then a siege under conditions extremely unfavourable to the Union arms. Richmond will not be invested as was Donelson and Vicksburg; it will be besieged from only one side, and what a siege is under those circumstances can be understood by referring to the history of Sevastopol. It would take an army of three hundred thousand men to encompass Richmond, and there is no probability that General Grant will have so large a force at his command. The prospect, therefore, is of a long siege—a siege not merely of months but of many months. A system of earth-work defences, like Todtleben's at Sevastopol, can be used against us, and may prolong this unhappy war indefinitely.'

EUROPEAN NEWS THROUGH YANKEE SPECTACLES.—The *New York Herald* of June 7 says the news of Grant's 'victories' produced such an effect in England, that 'the pirate *Georgia* was immediately advertised for private sale, her crew dismissed, and her stores sold at auction.' Also that it induced Earl Russell to purchase the Mersey steam-rams. 'But,' says the *Herald*, 'had the news been the other way—had Lee defeated Grant—undoubtedly the rams would have been released to prey upon our commerce.'

FRENCH SYMPATHY FOR THE LOSS OF THE ALABAMA.—The *Constitutionnel* states that the loss of the *Alabama* has caused great agitation. All the letters from Cherbourg testify to the profound regret prevailing in that town at the event. The *Constitutionnel* also adds that from one end of France to the other the same feeling obtains.

'It is now generally admitted that Grant's army has met its match, that the line of the Chickahominy cannot be forced, and that Richmond is consequently impregnable from the north side. Important news may even now be travelling towards us from Virginia; but of this we are sure, that the Southern soldier will feel his purpose rather strengthened than weakened when he hears of the fate of the *Alabama* and the conduct of her gallant crew.'—*The Guardian.*

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Quarantine Notice.

Lisbon, June 11.—By an order from the Board of Health of the 6th inst., Loando is declared free from yellow fever.

Ships Arrived.

At Gravesend. June 16: The Porcou de la Barbinais from Bahia. The Elizabeth from St Lucia. The Victoria from St. Kitt's. The Catharine McIver, The Northumberland, The Saxon, from Jamaica. The Vingolf from Sagua. La Grande, The Martha M'Connell, from Demerara. The Belle Aventure from Porto Rico. The Ailsa Craig (steamer) from Lisbon. The Ocean from St. John's. June 17: The Fortuna from Demerara. The Nuovo Bilbaino from Trinidad. The Tuscan from Dominica. The Jarelbo Balbains from Trinidad. The Mount Carmel from Demerara. The Minnet from Belize. The Martha and Clara from Jamaica. The Lochalva from St. John's. June 17: The Tigris from Barbadoes. The Helena, The Costa Rica, from Jamaica. June 18: The Christian from Porto Rico. The Mary Macrea from Rio Grande. June 19: The Sclavonia from Jamaica. The Italia (steamer) from Lisbon. The Albacore, The Niord, from Trinidad. The Tartar (steamer) from Lisbon. June 20: The Eliza Ann from Belize. The Agricola from Jamaica. The Psyche from Pomeroon. June 21: The Sista Florida from St. Kitt's. The Ruby from Barbadoes. The Antonia, The Cornelia Gertrude, from Cuba. The Amelia from Berbice. The Secret from Grenada. The Eluiza from Havana. The Arcadian from Miramichi.—June 22: The Koster from Lisbon. The Cid (steamer) from Cadiz.

At Liverpool.—June 16: The Orion, from Montevideo. The Fanny, from Matamoras. The Laura and Isabel, The Miss Evans, from Pomeroon. The Westborough, from Mauritius. The Johnstone, from Demerara. The Sisters, from Pomeroon. June 17: The Golden Gleam, from Rio Grande. The Jane, from Montevideo.—June 18: The Castilian (steamer), from Lisbon. The Majestas, The Pride of the South, from Nassau. The Emma Collay, from Tampico. The Acadia, from St. John's.—June 19: The Lady Havelock, from Buenos Ayres. The Fortuna, from Pernambuco. The Comet, from Jamaica.—June 20: The Proteus, from St. John's. The Frankfort (steamer), from Oporto.—June 21: The Stanley, from Nassau. The Mary Elizabeth, from Pomeroon. The Van Artevelde, from Havana. The Ellen (steamer) from Bilboa. The First of May, from Jamaica. The Village Girl, from Bermuda. The Thomas Edwards, from Nassau. The Sea Gem, from St. John's. The Nelson, from Miramichi. The Lion, from Porto Rico. The Ann Staniland, from Nassau. The Sarah, from Pomeroon.—June 22: The Christiana Carnall, from Havana.

At Hull.—June 16: The Masonic, from Pernambuco.

At Penzance.—June 19: The Arethusa, from Buenos Ayres.

At Clyde.—June 16: The Sivorno (steamer), from Malaga. The Norne, from Cuba. The Symmetry, from Havana. The Argo, from St. John's. The Kalava, The Amiral de Mackau, from Havana. The Cuba, from Cuba. The Dauntless, from Pomeroon. The Elizabeth, from Matanzas.—June 17: The Margaret Smith, The Trinidad, from Cuba. The Rokeby (steamer), from Oporto.—June 18: The Radama Sayne, from Rio Grande.—June 19: The Alecto, from St. John's.—June 20: The John Lawson, from Buenos Ayres. The S. J. Sanderson, from Buctouche, N. B.

At Waterford.—June 16: The Florence, from St. John's.

At Limerick.—June 16: The Flying Fish, from Barbadoes.

At Sunderland.—June 16: The Annie, from Demerara.

At Cardiff.—June 20: The Erme, from Madeira.

At Plymouth.—June 19: The Belle of Devon, from Buenos Ayres.

At Swansea.—June 18: The Oberon, The Caldera, from Caldera.—June 20: The Due Geschinster, from Porto Rico. The Cora Linn, from St. John's.—June 21: The Slain's Castle, from Cuba.

At Bristol.—June 18: The Storfurst, The Columbus, from Havana. The George and Ann, from Matanzas.—June 19: The Caprice, from Callao. The Llewellyn, from Havana. The C. C. Duncan, from St. John's. The Catharine, from Havana.—June 20: The Frank Lovett, from St. John's. The Storfurst Constantine, from Havana.—June 21: The Black Cat, from Demerara.

At Falmouth.—June 16: The Fortune, from Pernambuco. The Ellen Hood, from Callao.—June 18: The Sedulous, from Porto Rico. The Favourite, The Christine, from Havana.—June 19: The Viola, from Matanzas.—June 20: The Johanna, The Reutina, from Matanzas. The Agilis, from Havana. The Mattie Banks, from Matanzas.—June 21: The Ann Mitchell, from Porto Rico. The Queen of the Fleet, from Bahia. The Prudentia, from Havana.—June 22: The Only Son, The Sirva, from Porto Rico. The Lady Mulgrave, from Matanzas. The Fanny, The Constantia, from Havana.

At Greenock.—June 20: The Jessie, The Brenda, from Trinidad. June 21: The Water Hen, from Porto Rico. The Britania, from Matamoras. The Coral Isle, from Rio Grande. The Forrest Queen, from Pomeroon. The Alecott, The Advance, from St. John's. The Craigourie, from Cuba.

At Exmouth.—June 18: The Wildewank, from Rio Grande.

At Dublin.—June 19: The Hannah Fownes, from Callao.

At Queenstown.—June 16: The Indefatigable, from Havana.—June 17: The Sarah Newson, from Cardenas. The Mentor, from Havana. The Falcon (steamer), from Clyde for Bermuda, short of coals.—June 18: The Elise, from St. John's.—June 19: The Laura, from Porto Rico. The Douglas Castle, from Matanzas. The Eliza, from St. John's.—June 22: The Frank Flint, from Callao. The Skiddaw, from Valparaiso. The Carl Johann, from Buenos Ayres. The Vittoria Alfieri, from Monte Vidio.

At Belfast.—June 21: The Princess Royal, from St. John's.

At Havana.—May 30: The Stonewall Jackson, The Trinidad, The Madrona, The Esmeralda, The Aquilina, The Corsica (steamer), The Oriole (steamer), The Denbigh (steamer), The Heroine (steamer), The Lavinia (steamer), The Matagorda (steamer), The J. G. Owen, The Badger, The Free Trade, The Samuel, The Lady Hobart, The Rose, The A. Trenholm, The Leda, The Queen of the Exe, The Henry Woolley. The Clementina, The Due Fratelli, The Brazilina, The Argos, The Neptuno, The Ada.

At Bermuda.—May 31: The Thistle (steamer), from Wilmington, with 927 bales of cotton; The Atalanta (steamer), from Wilmington, with 540 bales of cotton, 92 tierces and 336 boxes of tobacco; The Helen (steamer), from Wilmington, with 965 bales of cotton; The City of Petersburgh (steamer), The Congress, The Mary, The Annabella, The Storm King, The Nutfield, The Harkaway, The Princess Royal, The Lady of the Lake, The North Heath (steamer), The Lynx (steamer), The Syren (steamer), The Lillian (steamer), The Florie (steamer), The Fox (steamer), The Bessie Young, The Sophia (schooner), of Nassau, N.P., which was abandoned April 8 in lat. 39 N., lon. 69 W., was picked up May 31, about 20 miles SSE of Block Island, and towed into Providence the same day by the Ocean Belle (fishing schooner), of Cohasset.

At Corunna. June 15: The Agnes Louisa (steamer), which put into Ferrol, June 10, is bound from Liverpool to Nassau; the damage to her machinery was more serious than was at first supposed, and the repairs will probably take about six weeks.

At Picton, N.S. June 8: The Catharine, from Liverpool. The Jennet, from Nassau. Captain George Beir, commander of The Greyhound (steamer), escaped from on board in Boston harbour, and has reached Canada in safety and good health.

At Miramichi.—June 4: The Burmah, from Wilmington, C.S.A. The Faside, from Liverpool.

At Halifax. The Beatrice, from St. Ubes. The George McKean, from Cuba. The Advalorem, from Matanzas.

Ships Sailed.

Liverpool.—The Parker, for Demerara. The Plantagenet (steamer), for Port au Prince. The Talisman, for Rio Janeiro. The Ross D. Mangles, for Bilboa. The Cintra (steamer), for Oporto. The Sarah Ellen, for Montevideo. The Maria, for Porto Rico. The Aurelia, for Matanzas. The Chance, for Pernambuco. The Montezuma, for Lima. The Soure (steamer), Pernambuco. The Ilos, for Demerara. The Ocean Belle, for Bermuda. The Manuela, for Havana. The Seth, for Porto Rico. The Sandade, for Bahia. The Zillah, for Malaga. The Minatillan, for Valparaiso. The Mary, for Bilboa. The Bellona, for Demerara. The Joacquina, for Havana. The Mary, for St. John's. The Eleanor, for St. John's. The Uranus, for Bermuda. The Alexander, for Bermuda. The Wisch, for Porto Rico. The James Crowe, for Halifax. The Eden, The Our Queen, for Valparaiso. The Emma, for Havana. The San Manoel, for Cardenas. The St. Clair, for Bahia. The Julia, for Rio Janeiro. The Catharine Williams, for Bilboa.

Deal.—The Asphodel, for Buenos Ayres. The Restless, for Cape de Verd. The Scawfell, for Valparaiso. The Melba, for Trinidad. The Mutlah, for Mauritius. The Josepha, for Buenos Ayres. The Elisa, for Manilla. The Marjory, for Malaga. The Georgetown, for Barbadoes. The Lighthouse, for Lisbon. The Dublin Lass, for Oporto. The Glenalvon, for Rio Janeiro. The Marie, for Lisbon. The Piedad, for Havana. The Ellen Morrow, for Buenos Ayres. The Carl, for St. Thomas. The Johann, for Santa Martha. The Sophie, for Rio Janeiro. The Montrose, for St. Vincent.

Gravesend.—The Sidney Hall (steamer), for Lisbon. The Santos, for Oporto. The Hawk (steamer), for Bermuda. The Lady Hilda, for Barbadoes. The Cleopatra, for Demerara. The Nautilus, for St. Kitt's. The Peninsula (steamer), for Cadiz.

Falmouth.—The Gertrude, for Buenos Ayres.

Newport.—The Daring, for Buenos Ayres. The Progress, for Madeira. The Frederick Stonard, for Lisbon. The Elizabeth, for Pomeroon.

Poole.—The Juno, for Newfoundland.

Cardiff.—The Massaliote, for Havana. The Mary, for Porto Rico. The Amelia, for Cape de Verd. The Reindeer, for Bilboa. The Alliance, The Merck, for St. Thomas. The Lucie, for Havana. The John Henry, for Bermuda. The Ariosto, for Nassau. The Joseph and Marie, for Bilboa. The Argo, for Trinidad. The May Queen, for Cape de Verd. The Henrietta and Elizabeth, for Jamaica. The Dakotah, The Eugene Adele, for Havana. The Belisama, for Cuba.

Torbay.—The Trial, The Mizpah, for St. John's.

Swansea.—The Robert Bright, The Llayumbana, for Valparaiso. The Jessie Jamieson, The Caroline, for Havana.

Bristol.—The Orchid, for Barbadoes.

Ilfracombe.—The Heloise, for Martinique.

Grangemouth.—The Caroline Henriette, for Malaga.

Sunderland.—The Jeune Marguerite, for Bilboa.

Shields.—The North Pole, for Santa Cruz. The Arrow, for Oporto.

Queenstown.—The Don Pedro (steamer), for Lisbon. The Falcon (steamer), for Bermuda.

Clyde.—The De Brus (steamer), for Oporto. The William Rennie, for St. Thomas. The Island Maid, for St. John's. The Barbata, for Matanzas. The Ulidia, for Havana.

Ships Loading.

At London.—For Nassau: The Star of the East, St. Katharine's Docks; Davison, Brothers & Co. The Elinor, The Flying Cloud.—For Bermuda: The Blink Bonny, The Sir George F. Seymour, The Trio.

At Greenock.—For Nassau: The Stag (for passengers); M'Leish & M'Nutt.

At Liverpool.—For Nassau: The Balkan, The Compage, The Harriett, The Mary James.—For Bermuda: The Convoy, The Laura, The Sunnyside.—For Matamoras: The Joachim Christian, The Kildhead, The Lancashire Lass, The Oleander.

Federal Soldiers Returning Home.—The Baltimore correspondent of the *Times* writes on May 6:—'Opening the window, and looking out upon Monument Square, I find the place full of soldiers. Thinking it was a reinforcement for General Grant, I descended into the square and mixed with the crowd of spectators. I soon learnt that these hardy, sunbrowned, and dirty-looking veterans were the Pennsylvania reserves, who were not rushing to the battle-field to crush the rebellion, but rushing from it because their time had expired. Their numbers were said to be upwards of 4,000, though it afterwards appeared that they were less than 2,000; that they formed the sole remnants of 12 regiments, originally of the full complement of 1,200 men each, or 14,400 in all; that they had enlisted for three years in the first flush of the excitement that followed the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter; that they had fought in all the battles of M'Dowell, M'Clellan, Pope, Burnside, and Hooker; that they had crossed the Rapidan with General Grant, fought under his orders at the Wilderness and Spottsylvania Court House, marched with him in his long and dangerous circuit from Spottsylvania to the Chickahominy, and that, their time having expired some days previously, they had left his army on June 1, and marched two days from the front to the White House, whence they were conveyed in steam-transports to Washington, and thence again by rail to this city, on their way home. Their battered banners, as well as their tattered clothes, bore witness to the work they had performed and the hard service they had undergone; and as they marched through the crowded streets it was impossible not to admit that 20,000 new recruits, even if not composed of Irish and German mercenaries, could not make amends to General Grant for the loss of 2,000 such fine fellows as these, seasoned to war, inured to hardships, and who had, moreover, the additional merit of having enlisted for pure love of the cause, at a time when bounty money was not considered a provocative of heroism.'

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

Wednesday Evening.

Although such a step was not generally anticipated, the Directors of the Bank of England at their weekly meeting on Thursday last reduced the rate of discount from 7 to 6 per cent. Since then the Money Market has been uniformly steady, but the change has had the effect of inducing withdrawals of specie, notwithstanding at present only to a limited extent, for transmission abroad, the Bank of France being in the market as a purchaser of about 500,000*l*. We shall have now the payments for the revenue in full force, and these, with other engagements, will assist to keep the rates for money up to an extreme point. It is, however, scarcely expected, that there will be a fresh advance in the official *minimum* on the eve of the distribution of the dividend. Cheap money must not be looked for during the remainder of the year—it may be dearer than at present after the September quarter—for it is usually in the autumn months that we find the great and important changes ensue. There has been a 'little pinch' at the Stock Exchange for accommodation, but it has now passed, and the terms for short loans have not exceeded during the last twenty-four hours 5 to 5½ per cent. The great moving power of depression in the markets for securities is the apprehension of a resumption of hostilities between Germany and Denmark. The Conference for the moment is adjourned, but it has not finally separated. Still the issue of negotiations would appear to be very doubtful.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

Since the reduction in the rate of discount on Thursday, there has been a material change in the aspect of the bullion market, gold being withdrawn to a considerable extent, the greater portion, it is believed, having been taken for the purpose of carrying out an engagement with the Bank of France, and more for the same destination, is still to be withdrawn. The only parcel sent in during the week amounted to 4,000*l*., whilst the sum taken out has been 181,000*l*. The arrivals of specie have again been considerable, amounting to 452,481*l*., of which 290,767*l*. is from New York, 4,690*l*. from Boston, 20,000*l*. from St. Petersburg, and 137,024*l*. from the Australian Colonies. The *Poonah* steamer has taken out for the East, 21,793*l*., of which 5,948*l*. was in gold, and the remainder in silver; and the *Atrato*, 30,300*l*., chiefly in gold for the West Indies. The silver market remains very quiet, and the transactions limited, there being just now but a very slight demand for the East, and quotations remain unchanged. There is likewise but little doing in Mexican dollars, and the nominal price is as previously announced. The gold ships at present known to be on their way from Australia will bring about 244,000*l*.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The market for the English Funded Securities has exhibited considerable depression throughout the week, and prices have shown a gradual decline. The unsatisfactory state of political affairs on the Continent, with the probable termination of the Conference without arriving at a favourable result, have been the chief causes of the depression. In the early part of to-day affairs looked exceedingly gloomy: but towards the close of business a rather better tone prevailed, on the report that the Conference to-day had not broken up finally as was anticipated, but had adjourned until Friday. Consols consequently left off a shade firmer, being at 89¾ to ⅞ ex div. for money, and 90 to ⅛ ex div. for the account, which is a decline, as compared with last Wednesday, of ¼ per cent. Exchequer bills are unchanged, the March issues being quoted at 8*s*. to 3*s*. dis., and those of June at 5*s*. dis. to par. There have been some extensive fluctuations in foreign stocks, and generally of an adverse character. Attention has been chiefly directed to Spanish, the passives having further declined 2⅝ per cent., in consequence of the pressure of sales induced chiefly by the continued unsatisfactory conduct of the Spanish Government with regard to their financial proceedings. The fall in the certificates has been only ¼ per cent. Mexican remain heavy at another decline of 1⅛ per cent., and Greek have fallen an additional 1 per cent. The closing prices this evening were: Greek, 23 to 23½; Mexican, 43⅜ to 43⅝; Spanish passives, 29 to 29¼; do. certificates, 9½ to 10; Turkish six per cents. of 1854, 90 to 91, and those of 1862 70¼ to 71.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market has been inactive all the week, pending any decisive news from America concerning the Virginian campaign; the price, however, in spite of general depression in speculative stock, remains steady, closing 63 to 65.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

There has been slightly more animation in the market for American Government and Railway securities; but still the business is far below the average extent. In the early period of the week prices exhibited rather more firmness, but subsequently the accounts from the North caused quotations to become weaker. The business transacted is thus officially reported:—Atlantic and Great Western Railway, Pennsylvanian section, at 73½; Erie, $100 shares, all paid 53, 53½, 55½, and 54; ditto., 7 per cent, 3rd mortgage, 59¼, and 59; Illinois Central, $100 shares, $90 paid, 34, 35¼, 34½, and 35 dis.; ditto ditto, $100 shares, all paid, 60½, 61, and 60; Philadelphia and Reading, $50 shares, 31.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

A rather larger business than usual has been transacted in British railway securities, and prices have fluctuated from day to day, but with the exception of some few instances to only a moderate extent. These variations have been chiefly in sympathy with the other markets, and caused by the changing aspects of foreign politics. The general tenor of the market has been unfavourable, the exceptions being in West Cornwall, which exhibit an improvement of 4 per cent. North-eastern (Berwick) have advanced 1½ per cent. North-eastern (Leeds), and do. (York), each 1 per cent., and Lancashire and Yorkshire ½ per cent. On the other hand, there has been a decline of 1 per cent. in Dublin and Belfast junction, London, Chatham and Dover, North British, and North London; and of ½ per cent. in Caledonian, Great Northern, Great Western, London and South-Western, Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire, Metropolitan and South-Eastern. In foreign and colonial undertakings there is also rather more doing, and prices are comparatively steady.

BANK AMALGAMATION.

It has been announced that the private banking firm of Messrs. Currie & Co. of Cornhill, and the private establishment of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, & Co. of Lombard Street have been amalgamated. The arrangement is to take effect from July 1. Mr. Raikes Currie and Mr. B. Currie join the firm of Messrs. Glyn & Co., and the business hitherto carried on in Cornhill will be transferred to Lombard Street.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSION.

The suspension was announced this evening of Messrs. Lawrence and Fry, of Old Broad Street, timber merchants, and who are also extensively engaged as railway contractors. The liabilities are estimated at 250,000*l.*

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

At a meeting of the North British Australian Company resolutions were passed confirming the proceedings of a previous meeting, for authorising the increase of the capital of the Company by the creation and issue of 32,565*l.* Six per cent. Guaranteed Stock.—At a meeting of the proprietors of the European Bank an interim dividend of 15*s.* per share, being at the rate of 14 per cent. upon the paid-up capital, was declared. It was stated by the chairman (Mr. C. Colchester), that a further dividend would be declared and a report presented on the 31st August next, and an amount carried to the reserve fund, more than sufficient for liquidation of the preliminary expenses of the company. The whole preliminary expenses of the English and Irish Bank would be liquidated, with which it was amalgamated on the 1st June by the allotment of 16,000 shares, to be paid for by the English Bank, in money, at 2*l.* per share premium. — The Queen's Hotel Company, Upper Norwood, at a general meeting, have declared a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. It was stated that the future prospects of the undertaking are most encouraging. —At an extraordinary meeting of the shareholders of the London and South Western Bank, the special resolution passed at the meeting on May 31, giving the directors power to increase the existing capital to any amount not exceeding 3,000,000*l.*, to increase the maximum number of directors from 14 to 18, and the qualification from 20 to 50 shares, was approved and confirmed. — At the annual general meeting of the South Australian Banking Company, the report of the directors was unanimously adopted, and a dividend of 10 per cent. payable half-yearly was agreed to. It was stated by Mr. Waterhouse, one of the directors in the Colonies, that there was a large and growing trade between South Australia and India, especially in the exportation of copper, of which 200,000*l.* worth were exported last year, and it was probable that in future India would obtain the whole or nearly all its copper from South Australia. The agricultural interest was also flourishing, and much land at present valueless would be eventually brought under cultivation.—At a meeting to-day of the proprietors of the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation, a dividend of 14 per cent. for the half-year was declared, making with the previous dividend 18 per cent. per annum.—The South Australian Company have also held their meeting to-day, and declared a dividend of 7 per cent. payable on July 15 and January 15 next.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

The prospectus has been been issued of the London and Southwark Insurance Corporation. The capital, proposed to be raised is 500,000*l.* (with power to increase) in 20,000 shares of 25*l.* each. The first issue is to be 10,000 shares only, upon which 50,000*l.* will be called up. The object of the Company is to afford additional facilities for fire and life insurance, of which there is said to be some want on the south side of the Thames. Marine insurance business will also be added at a future period, should the shareholders deem it prudent to take such a step.—A prospectus has been circulated by Messrs. Halcomb & Co., sack contractors (limited), who have formed a company for the purpose of purchasing their business of sack contractors (for supplying sacks on hire), who have for some years past enjoyed such advantages in the working of their trade, as to lead to a demand for hired sacks, amounting in value to a sum beyond ordinary individual means. Messrs. Halcomb & Co. have their principal depôts in London, and one each at Gloucester, Bristol, Worcester, Birmingham, Southampton, Exeter, and Plymouth, together with more than 400 minor depôts, working from these central points. Messrs. Halcomb feel such confidence in the success of the undertaking, that they have agreed to guarantee for five years a *minimum* dividend of 10 per cent. The proposed capital is 100,000*l.* in 10,000 shares of 10*l.* each.—The London Theatre Company (limited) is announced with a capital of 50,000*l.*, in 5,000 shares of 10*l.* each. The object is to erect, on an eligible site near King's Cross, a theatre capable of containing 2,500 people, with a concert-room or *bijou* theatre attached. It is proposed to construct the building on the most approved principles, and an estimate appended to the prospectus shows a net profit of 9,805*l.* per annum, being at the rate of nearly 20 per cent.—The Credit Foncier and the Credit Mobilier have issued a prospectus inviting subscriptions for 300,000 of mortgage debentures at par of the City Officers' Company, bearing interest at 5 per cent., secured as a first charge upon the freehold and leasehold property of the Company. The instalments are 20 per cent. on subscription, and a like amount on August 1, September 1, November 1, and January 1 next.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

Business in these departments has been checked by growing apprehensions in reference to continental politics, a meeting of the Conference to-day having been looked forward to with increasing distrust. Traders of all classes have in consequence reduced their operations to the narrowest limits possible, and the markets throughout have shown renewed dullness. The effect of the present political difficulty is the greater, as well as the more general, because it involves not only a danger of war, but also that of a ministerial crisis, at all times a check to activity in these departments of trade. Grain of all kinds is firmly held, but no general advance can be quoted, although the small parcels of English wheat at market have occasionally realised 1*s.* more than was obtainable a week ago. The oilcake trade continues dull owing to the abundance of good pasturage which the season offers. In the provision market foreign butters have sustained an important rise, Friesland advancing as much as 10*s.* per cwt. Of American there is none here. Bacon has realised rather higher prices for the best qualities, but inferior sorts have not sold so well. American short middles, rib in, are held for 40*s.* to 42*s.*, at which the demand is limited. The cheese trade is inactive, but in what is doing steady rates are paid. The sugar market has exhibited increased dullness; and although supplies are not pressed, as the statistical position of the market is considered very sound, yet prices, of the middling qualities at least, are 6*d.* lower on the spot, whilst two floating cargoes of Cuba (Muscovado) were today sold at 30*s.* 3*d.*, which is 1*s.* per cwt. decline. Coffee has not varied materially, but is purchased less freely, and, as usually is the case under the circumstances, prices have a drooping tendency. Tea is not quoted cheaper, but the public auctions have gone without animation, and at very irregular prices, in which buyers have been the principal gainers. The only feature in spices is the firmness in the common qualities of East India ginger, owing to the scarcity of African. Bengal is to-day held at 45*s.* per cwt.; wheat is not, however, very readily paid. Saltpetre keeps very dull from heavy stocks; the commoner kinds are cheaper. In drugs, gums, and drysaltery articles, the variations have been trifling, and the dealings have been upon a limited scale: oils of all kinds are a slow sale. Sperm has been forced off at 70*l.*, and 70*l.* 10*s.* for Colonial. French turpentine, after receding to 68*s.*, closes firmer at 69*s.* per cwt. Metals have participated in the general want of activity, and, except for spelter, which has realised 24*l.*, prices are easier; Scotch pig iron closed to-day at 56*s.* 6*d.* per ton; and a small sale of Straits tin was made at 104*l.* per ton, cash.

Liverpool, Wednesday, June 22.—Business in cotton has been rather more buoyant this week, particularly for American, but the supply has not proved equal to the demand, and prices for all useful descriptions have advanced from ⅛*d.* to ¼*d.* per lb. Egyptian has also been more enquired after at an improvement in value, whilst Surats have been more freely offered at a slight decline. The sales this week, however, have only reached 41,000 bales, of which 13,500 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year to the present time have been 1,179,956 bales, and to the same period in 1863 they were 999,230 bales. There have been imported so far this year 1,047,886 bales, and to the corresponding period last year 710,556 bales. The exports this year have been 234,698 bales, to the same time last year 210,216 bales. There have been taken for consumption this year 790,092 bales, against 532,827 bales in 1863. On speculation this year the quantity taken has been 208,071 bales; last year it was 240,740 bales. The computed stock at the present time is 304,462 bales, and at the same date last year 360,065 bales. The quotations at the close of the market this afternoon were: American descriptions, 28½*d.* to 29½*d.*; Pernambuco, 28¾*d.* to 29½*d.*; Macao, 28¾*d.* to 29*d.*; Bahia, 29*d.*; Egyptian, 28¼*d.* to 31*d.*; Smyrna, 22*d.* to 24*d.*; China, 18¼*d.* to 19¾*d.*; Peruvian, 29*d.* to 30*d.*; and Surats, 13*d.* to 23¾*d.*

Within the last day or two business in the Manchester markets has been greatly interfered with by the unsatisfactory position of the Germano-Danish question, and there is not much probability of any improvement taking place till it is decided whether the result is to be peace or war. In some departments increased depression is caused by the non-arrival of the usual telegraphic despatches from India, which are now some days overdue. For shipping yarns there is a considerable number of orders in the market, but they are held back pending the result of the Conference. There is scarcely anything doing in the way of exportation; prices, however, continue very firm, and very few, if any, of the specimens are inclined to accept any reduction upon last week's rates. There has also been a very quiet business in home yarns, and prices generally are unaltered. The market for cloths remains also in a very quiescent state, the demand being particularly limited, buyers still exhibiting no disposition to operate except for the purpose of filling up stocks. Under these circumstances, manufacturers refrain from pressing sales, they not being disposed to make any reduction in quotations, which, to effect bargains, must be submitted to. The latest prices were:—⅞ grey printers from 8*s.* 2*d.* to 11*s.*, according to weight and quality; ⁹⁄₈ grey Madapollams from 7*s.* 6*d.* to 10*s.*; ⁹⁄₈ grey printers from 11*s.* 4½*d.* to 17*s.* 6*d.*; and ⁵⁄₄ grey shirtings from 12*s.* 9*d.* to 26*s.* 9*d.* Water-twist, No. 20, from 2*s.* 2*d.* to 2*s.* 7½*d.*; No. 30 from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 10½*d.*; and No. 40 from 2*s.* 11*d.* to 3*s.* 3½*d.* Mule-twist, No. 20, from 1*s.* 10½*d.* to 2*s.* 6¾*d.*; No. 50 from 2*s.* 10*d.* to 3*s.* 2½*d.*; and No. 100 from 3*s.* 6½*d.* to 4*s.* 3½*d.*

SOUTHERN PRISONERS' RELIEF FUND.

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THERE are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellow-men.

Contributions will be received by J. H. Ashbridge, Treasurer, Walmer Buildings, Water Street, Liverpool; or in London, by Henry Hotze, Esq., 17 Savile Row, W.; in Paris, by H. O. Brewer, Esq., 6 Rue Circulaire; and Daniel Hubbard, Esq., 24 Rue Lord Byron.

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BY AUTHORITY.

ACTS OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIRST CONGRESS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, 1863–1864.

AN ACT TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS UPON THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENCE.

WHEREAS, the Confederate States are engaged in a war, upon the successful issue of which depend the integrity of their social system, the form of their civilization, the security of life and property within their limits, as well as their existence as sovereign and independent States; And whereas, the conditions of the conflict demands that they should call into requisition whatever resources of men and money they have for the support of their cause, to lawfully administer the same: Therefore, as a part of the system of the public defence . —

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the export duties of cotton, tobacco, military and naval stores, sugar, molasses, and rice, from the Confederate States, and from all places in the occupation of their troops, is prohibited, except under such uniform regulations as shall be made by the President of the Confederate States.

SEC. 2. That if any person, or persons, shall put, place, or load on board any ship, steamboat, or vessel, or any other water craft, or into any wagon, cart, carriage, or other vehicle, for conveyance or transportation beyond the Confederate States, or into any portion of said States occupied by the enemy, any of the articles mentioned in the first section of this act, or shall collect the same for the purpose of being conveyed or transported, contrary to the prohibition aforesaid, within the Confederate States, or beyond them, the said articles, and the ship, boat, or other water craft, wagon, carriage, or other vehicle, with the slaves and animals that may be employed or collected for the purpose of aiding therein, shall be forfeited, and all persons, their aiders and abettors, on conviction of being interested or concerned in the enterprise, shall be deemed to be guilty of a high misdemeanor, and punishable by such fine or imprisonment, or both, as the court may impose.

SEC. 3. That it shall not be lawful to put on board any ship, boat, vessel, or other water craft, or upon any wagon, cart, carriage, or other vehicle, for transportation or conveyance as aforesaid, any of the articles aforesaid, unless a permit be previously obtained from some officer of the Confederate States specially authorised to grant the same, particularly describing the articles thus to be laden, and the ship, boat, vessel, water craft, wagon, carriage, cart, or other vehicle, on which the same is to be transported, and until bond shall be given that the same shall be conveyed and transported to the place of destination under such conditions and regulations, and for such objects, as shall be prescribed by the President under the first section of this act.

SEC. 4. That the collectors of all the districts of the Confederate States, and such other officers as may be designated by the President of the Confederate States, shall have power and authority to take into their custody any of the articles before mentioned found on any ship, boat, or other water craft, when there is reason to believe that they are intended for exportation, or when in vessels, carts, or wagons, or any other carriage or vehicle whatsoever, or in any manner, apparently on their way towards the territories of a foreign nation, or towards the territory of the Confederate States in the occupation of the United States, or the vicinity thereof, or towards a place whence such articles are intended to be exported, and not to permit the same to be removed until bond shall be given, with satisfactory sureties, that no violation of this act, and the regulations under the same, is intended.

SEC. 5. That the powers granted by this act to the revenue and other officers of the Confederate States under this act to allow or refuse exportation of the articles before mentioned, or for the seizure or detention of any of the said articles, shall be exercised in conformity with such instructions as the President may give through the Departments of War and of the Treasury, which instructions may impose conditions as to the destination and sale of the same, and the investment of the proceeds of the same, or a portion thereof, in military or other supplies for the public service, which instructions such officers shall be bound to obey; and if any action or suit shall be brought against any such officer or officers, or their agents, he or they may plead the general issue, and upon proof of a compliance with the provisions of this act, or with the regulations and instructions of the President, he or they shall be absolved from all responsibility therefor; and any person aggrieved by any of the acts of any of the officers or agents aforesaid, may file his petition before the district court of the district in which such officer or agent resides, and after due notice to him, and to the district attorney, the said court may proceed summarily to hear and determine thereupon as law and justice may require, and the judgment of the said court and the reasons therefor shall be filed among the records of the court, and in case any release shall be granted, the judge may impose such conditions as to giving bond and security as may, in his opinion, be necessary to secure his act from violation, and, in case of refusal, may impose double or treble costs upon the petitioner if circumstances warrant: Provided, That nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the Confederate States, or any of them, from exporting any of the articles herein enumerated on their own account.

SEC. 6. That exclusive jurisdiction is conferred upon the district courts of the Confederate States of all suits or actions that may arise under this act in behalf of the Confederate States, its officers and agents, for the recovery of all fines, penalties, and forfeitures imposed in the same, by indictment, information, or action, according to the practice of the court, and the distribution of the penalties and fines shall be made under and according to the laws now in force for violation of the revenue acts, and all laws for the mitigation and remittance of penalties and forfeitures shall be applied in similar cases.

SEC. 7. That it shall be lawful for the President, or such officers as he may designate, to employ any portion of the military or naval force of the Confederacy or of the militia, to prevent the illegal departure of any ship, vessel, or other water craft, for detaining, taking possession of, and keeping in custody the same, or any wagon, cart, or other vehicle heretofore mentioned, their teams and drivers, and their products aforesaid, and to suppress and disperse any assembly of persons who may resist the execution of this act, or oppose the fulfilment, by the officers, of the duties imposed by the same.

SEC. 8. That this act shall expire on the day of the ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States.

APPROVED, February 6, 1864.

REGULATIONS TO CARRY INTO EFFECT THE ACT "TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS UPON THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENCE," APPROVED, FEBRUARY 6, 1864.

I. AS TO THE SEA.

1. The owners of any vessel intending to sail from a Confederate port with a cargo consisting in whole or part of cotton, tobacco, military and naval stores, sugar, molasses or rice, shall, before the landing on board of any such articles, file with the collector of the port from which the vessel is to sail, a copy of her register, with a declaration of the names of the owners and officers thereof, the place of their birth and of their residence for the preceding year, together with the port or place to which the said vessel proposes to sail. The said declaration shall also set forth the quantity and value, in Confederate currency, of the cargo proposed to be taken out, as also the consent of the said owners, that one-half of the tonnage of the said vessel may be employed by the Confederate Government for its own use, both on the outward and homeward voyage, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned. The collector shall submit a statement as to the owners and officers to the military commandant of the port, and if he shall not object to their loyalty, or to the sailing of the vessel, for reasons of military necessity, the collector shall grant a permit for the lading of the said vessel, one-half for account of the owners and one-half for account of the Confederate States.

2. Before the said lading shall be completed, the owners of the vessel shall execute to the Confederate States a bond in double the value of the vessel, with security deemed adequate by the collector, conditioned that she will pursue the voyage designated, and that she will return with reasonable dispatch to a Confederate port, after her outward cargo shall be discharged with a cargo, consisting one-half of articles not prohibited by the laws of the Confederate Government, and the other half of such articles as the Government shall offer for shipment from such port, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned.

3. Each shipper of any portion of the cargo proposed to be laden on board the said vessel, shall, before the lading thereof, make application to the collector for a permit to lade the same, which application shall declare the articles to be shipped, and the quantity and value thereof in Confederate currency, the port of destination, and the name of the consignee. A permit shall then be granted by the collector if the application is deemed satisfactory. The lading shall be had under the inspection of a revenue officer, who shall be charged with the duty of seeing that the goods laden conform to the permit.

4. Before the completion of the lading on board or the granting a clearance, each shipper of any portion of the cargo shall execute and deliver to the collector a bond to the Confederate States, in double the value of his shipment in Confederate money, with security deemed adequate by the collector, with condition that at least one-half the net proceeds of said shipment shall be invested in goods or articles not prohibited by law, and said goods or articles shall be shipped by the same or some other vessel to the Confederate States within sixty days from the unlading of said cargo; or that the said half of the net proceeds shall be paid in coin or sterling exchange to the proper agent of the Confederate States, to be reimbursed to the shipper by the delivery to him of cotton at the port of departure in the Confederate States, at the rate of ten pence sterling per pound for middling uplands.

5. The freight to be paid by the Confederate States on all cotton and tobacco shipped from a Confederate port shall be five pence sterling per pound, payable on delivery at the port of destination, in coin or sterling exchange. Return freight shall be at the rate of 25*l.* per ton, payable on its delivery in a Confederate port, in cotton at ten pence sterling per pound for middling uplands, and at a proportionate price for cotton of other qualities. In calculating the ton of freight by weight, 2,240 pounds shall be allowed; by measure, forty cubic feet shall be allowed.

6. If the outward bound vessel shall consent, at the request of the Government, to take two-thirds of her cargo for account of the Confederate States, the outward freight shall be six pence sterling per pound, and whenever the Government is not prepared to fill up any portion of the tonnage reserved for its use at the time at which any vessel may be made ready to sail, her owners may fill up the same on their own account: but no vessel shall, without consent of the Government, sail on her outward voyage until one-third of her cargo shall be laden for the use of the Government.

7. The rates of freight for articles other than cotton and tobacco shall be adjusted at the same relative rate and payable in the same way.

8. The Government reserves the right to limit or prohibit the shipment of rosin, turpentine, or any manufacture thereof, whenever deemed dangerous to its own shipment.

9. Upon the completion of the lading of the vessel, and before receiving her clearance, there shall be delivered to the collector, in addition to the usual manifest, another setting forth the names, ages, and description of her officers and crew, and of every passenger intending to sail in her. The said last-mentioned manifest shall be delivered to the commandant of the port, who shall thereupon cause the entire vessel to be searched, and if satisfied that the parties on board are persons who may safely be permitted to leave the Confederacy, and that the passengers have the proper passports, he shall certify the same on the manifest and return the same to the collector, whereupon, and not before, a clearance shall be granted to the vessel, and he shall be permitted to sail.

10. The owners of each vessel, and of each portion of a cargo sailing from a Confederate port, shall be allowed to take up their respective bonds, by producing to the collector the certificate of the proper agent of the Confederate Government at the port of delivery, setting forth the particulars, showing that the said party has complied with the obligations of the said bond so far as the same was practicable, and the collector, upon being duly satisfied, shall be authorised to surrender the said bonds.

11. Nothing in these regulations shall be so construed as to conflict with the proviso of the law, which declares 'that nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the Confederate States, or any of them, from exporting any of the articles herein enumerated on their own account;' nor shall a bond be required of a State in any case.

12. The penalties of all bonds executed in conformity with these regulations, shall be recoverable in full on proof of breach of the conditions of the bond, and without proof of any damage suffered by the Confederate States in consequence of such breach, and all bonds shall be executed in such form as to give effect to this regulation.

13. Vessels sent into the Confederacy for the purpose of exporting cotton received in payment of any Confederate bond or obligation shall be subject to these regulations only so far as relates to such portion of the tonnage, if any, as may remain vacant after the lading of the cotton received in payment as aforesaid.

14. The regulations for overland commerce with neutral countries will be issued separately, within a few days.

Approved.

(Signed) C. G. MEMMINGER, Secretary of Treasury.
(Signed) JAMES A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.

Approved, March 5, 1864.

(Signed) JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Treasury Department, C. S. A.
RICHMOND, March 16, 1864.

THE following additional regulations are established to carry out the act to impose regulations upon the foreign commerce of the Confederate States, and to provide for the public defence, approved February 6, 1864:

The bond required by the second article of the regulations shall be in one half the value of the vessel; and that required by the fourth article shall be in the single value of the shipment; and the security which the Collector may accept may be either personal security, or a mortgage of the vessel, or a transfer of the Bills of Lading, or of cotton, tobacco, or Confederate securities.

2. Whenever any vessel shall bring into the Confederate States an entire cargo for account of the Confederate States, the owners of the said vessel, and the shippers of her cargo, shall be relieved from the bonds previously given to invest and bring in one-half the net proceeds of her outward cargo, and the certificate of the agent of the Treasury Department at the port of lading, that such cargo was duly shipped in pursuance of the regulations, shall authorise the collector to cancel and surrender the said bonds.

Approved, March 16, 1864.

(Signed) C. G. MEMMINGER, Secretary of Treasury.
(Signed) JAMES A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.

Approved, March 17, 1864.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE IMPORTATION OF LUXURIES, OR OF ARTICLES NOT NECESSARIES OR OF COMMON USE.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That from and after the first day of March next it shall not be lawful to import into the Confederate States any brandy, wines, or other spirits, or any other article specified in schedule A of an act entitled 'An act to provide revenue from commodities imported from foreign countries,' approved May 21, 1861, or any goods, wares, or merchandise, enumerated in schedule B of said act, except the following articles:—All things for medical purposes, camphor refined, pickles, molasses, pepper, pimento, cloves, nutmegs, cinnamon, and all other spices; soap, Castile, Windsor, and all other toilet soaps; sugar of all kinds; syrup of sugar; galloons, laces, knots, stars, tassels, tresses and wings of gold and silver, or imitations thereof, intended for uniforms of officers in the military and naval service.

SEC. 2. And it shall not be lawful to import the following articles enumerated in schedule C of said act: Beer, ale, and porter; mofls and tippets, and all other manufactures of fur, or of which fur shall be a component part, except caps and hats; carpets, carpetings, hearth rugs, buildets, and other portions of carpetings, of any kind or description; carriages and parts of carriages; cordial and other beverages not containing alcohol; clocks and parts of clocks; cotton laces, cotton insertings, cotton trimmings, or laces of thread and other material; coral, manufactured; dolls and toys of all kinds; fire crackers, sky rockets, Roman candles and all other similar articles used in pyrotechnics; furniture, cabinet and household; glass, coloured, stained, or painted; India matting of all sorts; jet and manufactures of jet, and imitations thereof; jewellery, or imitations thereof; manufactures and articles of marble, marble paving tiles, slabs, or blocks, and all other marble; matting, China or other; mats, matting and mats made of flags, palm, or grass; paper hangings, paper for walls, and paper for screens or fire boards; paving and roofing tiles and bricks, and roofing slates and fire bricks; thread laclings and insertings; velvets of all kinds

SEC. 3. And it shall not be lawful to import the following articles, enumerated in schedule D of said act: Angola, Thibet, and other goats' hair, or mohair, unmanufactured; bananas, cocoa nuts, plantains, and oranges, cabinets of coins, medals, gems, and collections of antiquities; diamonds, rough, or uncut, gems, pearls, rubies, and other precious stones, and imitations thereof, set in gold or silver or other metals; engravings, bound or unbound; rattans and reeds; paintings and stationery; leaf and unmanufactured tobacco and cigars; or the following articles enumerated in schedule E: Diamonds, cameos, mosaics, pearls, gems, rubies, and other precious stones and imitations thereof, when not set.

SEC. 4. None of the manufactures of metal, designed as either household or personal ornaments, shall be admitted; and in order to confine importations to articles of necessity and of common use, the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe the maximum foreign prices at which and within which importations of goods manufactured wholly or partly of cotton, flax, wool, or of silk, and designed for wearing apparel, and not herein prohibited, may be made, and beyond which importations thereof shall not be made: Provided, That articles herein allowed to be imported shall not be impressed by the Government or its agents after they have reached the Confederate States: Provided further, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to prohibit any importation for the use or account of the Confederate States, or either of them: Provided further, That this act shall not apply to any articles which have been or shall be shipped, without knowledge of the passage of this act, before the first day of March next, but which shall arrive in a Confederate port after that day.

SEC. 5. That whenever any article or articles, the importation of which is prohibited by this act, shall, after the first day of March next, be imported into the Confederate States, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, or shall, after said first day of March next, be put on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, with the intention of importing the same into the Confederate States, all such articles, as well as all other articles on board the same ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, belonging to the owner of such prohibited articles, shall be forfeited, and the owner thereof shall, moreover, forfeit and pay double the value of such articles.

SEC. 6. If any article or articles the importation of which is prohibited by this act, shall, nevertheless, be on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, arriving after said first day of March next in the Confederate States, and shall be omitted in the manifest, report, or entry of the master, or the person having the charge or command of such ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, or shall be omitted in the entry of the goods owned by the owner, or consigned to the consignee of such articles, or shall be imported or landed, or attempted to be imported or landed, without a permit, the same penalties, fines, and forfeitures shall be incurred, and may be recovered, as in the case of similar omission or omissions, landing, importation, or attempt to land or import, in relation to articles liable to duties on their importation into the Confederate States.

SEC. 7. Every collector, naval officer, surveyor, or other officer of the customs, shall have the like power and authority to seize goods, wares, and merchandise imported contrary to the intent and meaning of this act, to keep the same in custody until it shall have been ascertained whether the same have been forfeited or not, and to enter any ship or vessel, dwelling-house, store, building, or other place, for the purpose of searching for and seizing any such goods, wares, and merchandise subject to duty; and if any person or persons shall conceal or buy any goods, wares, or merchandise, knowing them to be liable to seizure by this act, such person or persons shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit and pay a sum double the amount or value of the goods, wares, and merchandise so concealed or purchased.

SEC. 8. The following additional oath or affirmation shall be taken by masters or persons having charge or command of any ship or vessel arriving at any port of the Confederate States after said first day of March next, viz.: 'I further swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, on board [insert the denomination and the name of the vessel] any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, on board [insert the denomination and name of the vessel] any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover or know of any such goods, wares, or merchandise on board of the said vessel, or which shall have been imported in the same, I will immediately, and without delay, make due report thereof to the collector of the port of this district.'

SEC. 9. After said first day of March next, importers, consignors, or agents, at the time of entering goods into the Confederate States, shall take the following additional oath, viz.: 'I also swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, amongst the said goods, wares, or merchandise, imported or consigned as aforesaid, any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover any such goods, wares, or merchandise among the said goods, wares, and merchandise so imported or consigned as aforesaid, I will immediately and without delay report the same to the collector of this district.'

SEC. 10. All penalties and forfeitures arising under this act may be sued for and recovered, and shall be distributed and accounted for, in the manner prescribed by the act entitled 'An act to regulate the collection of the duties on imports and tonnage;' and such penalties and forfeitures, mitigated or remitted, in like manner and under the like conditions, regulations, and restrict ons as are prescribed, authorised, and directed by the act entitled 'An act to provide for mitigating or remitting the forfeitures, penalties, and disabilities accruing in certain cases therein mentioned.'

SEC. 11. That this act shall expire on the day of the ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States.

Approved, February 6, 1864.

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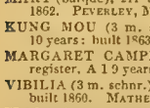

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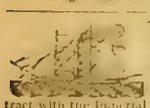

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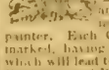

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LETTERS FROM RICHMOND.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Blockade-Running at Charleston and Wilmington.

VESSELS RUNNING THE BLOCKADE AT CHARLESTON AND WILMINGTON FROM JANUARY 1, 1863, TO THE MIDDLE OF APRIL 1864.

No.	Names.	Trips In.	Trips Out.	Remarks.
1	Annie Childs	2	1	Captured
2	Herald	17	17	Destroyed
3	Leopard	2	1	Destroyed
4	Beauregard	9	9	Destroyed
5	Margaret and Jessie	8	8	Captured
6	Giraffe (R. E. Lee)	9	9	Captured
7	Cornubia	9	9	Captured
8	Nicolai I.	0	0	Captured
9	Aries	1	1	Captured
10	Calypso	3	3	Captured
11	Ruby	4	4	Captured
12	Douro	1	0	Captured
13	Granite City	1	1	Captured
14	Eagle	3	3	Captured
15	Emma	4	3	Captured
16	Gertrude	1	1	Lost
17	Pearl	0	0	Captured
18	Thistle, No. 1	1	0	Captured
19	Kate, No. 1	14	14	Captured
20	Kate, No. 2	1	1	Captured
21	Georgianna	0	0	Captured
22	Princess Royal	0	0	Captured
23	Britannia	4	3	Captured
24	Norseman	1	0	Captured
25	Raccoon	1	1	Lost
26	Lizzie	2	2	Lost
27	Charleston	1	2	Lost
28	Hebe	1	1	Lost
29	Merrimac	1	0	Captured
30	Huntress	0	0	Lost
31	Ella and Annie	4	4	Captured
32	Pet	9	9	Captured
33	Alice	8	8	Now running
34	Fannie	8	8	Now running
35	Elizabeth	3	3	Lost
36	Moultrie	.	1	
37	Arabian	2	1	Lost
38	Banshee	8	8	Captured
39	Venus	3	3	Lost
40	Advance	9	9	Now running
41	Juno, No. 1	1	1	Lost
42	Phantom	3	3	Lost
43	Crusader	0	0	Lost
44	Cronstadt	1	0	Lost
45	Hansa	9	9	In England
46	Mary Anne	5	4	Captured
47	Flora	4	4	Lost
48	Flora (screw)	7	6	Used by Government in Cape Fear River
49	Juno, No. 2	1	0	Lost
50	Eugenie	4	4	In England
51	Gibraltar	1	1	In England
52	Don	5	5	Captured
53	Adela	0	0	Captured
54	Scotia	1	1	Captured
55	Anglia	0	0	Captured
56	Wave Wind	0	0	Lost
57	Memphis	1	0	Captured
58	Nashville	2	1	Burnt
59	Emily	0	0	Lost
60	Tubal Cain	0	0	Captured
61	Minho	3	3	Lost
62	Ladona	0	0	Captured
63	Columbia	0	1	Captured
64	Circassian	0	0	Captured
65	Peterhoff	0	0	Captured
66	Stettin	0	0	Captured
67	Bermuda	0	0	Captured
68	Wachita	0	0	Captured
69	Spunkie	3	3	Lost
70	Diamond	0	0	Captured
71	Spalding	1	1	Captured
72	Lamar	0	0	Captured
73	Jupiter	0	0	Captured
74	Dolphin	0	0	Captured
75	Mail	1	0	Burnt
76	Nina	0	1	Lost
77	St. John	0	1	Captured
78	Hero	1	1	In England
79	Ella	0	0	Captured
80	Boston	0	0	Lost
81	Douro, No. 2	1	0	Burnt
82	Lloyds	1	1	In England
83	Hero, No. 2	0	0	Captured
84	Gladiator	1	1	In England
85	Fannie and Jen	0	0	Burnt
86	Little Scotia	3	2	Captured
87	Bendigo	1	1	Burnt
88	Dee	3	3	Burnt
89	Syren	7	6	Now running
90	Gem	1	1	In Nassau
91	Minna	0	0	Captured
92	Dispatch	1	1	In Nassau
93	Alliance	0	0	Captured
94	Lucy	5	5	In Nassau
95	Ceres	0	0	Captured
96	City of Petersburg	4	4	In Bermuda
97	Coquette	1	1	In Nassau
98	Star	.	.	In Nassau
99	Rothsay Castle	1	1	In Nassau
100	Cecile	3	3	Lost
101	Wild Dayrell	2	2	Lost
102	Presto	1	1	Lost
103	Vesta	0	0	Lost
104	Nola	0	0	Lost
105	Ranger	0	0	Lost
106	Heroine	2	2	Worn out
107	Dare	0	0	Lost
108	Will o' the Wisp	1	1	Now running
109	Iona	0	0	Lost
110	Caledonia	1	1	Now running
111	Little Ada	1	.	Now running
112	Florie	.	.	In Bermuda
113	Annie	1	1	In Nassau
114	David	.	.	Not in yet
115	Modern Greece	0	0	Lost
116	Emily, No. 2	0	0	Lost
117	Index	3	3	Now running
118	Mars	1	.	In Charleston
119	Nutfield	0	0	Lost
120	Thistle, No. 2	1	.	Now running
121	Young Republic	.	.	Not in yet
122	General Whiting	.	.	Not in yet
123	Hope	.	.	Not in yet
124	Julia	.	.	Not in yet
125	Greyhound	.	.	Not in yet
126	Minnie	1	1	Now running
127	North Heath	.	.	Not in yet
128	Bonita	0	0	Lost
129	Iona, No. 2	0	0	Lost
130	Red Jacket	0	0	Lost
131	Edith	1	.	Now running
132	Constance	.	.	Not in yet
133	Lady of Lyons	.	.	Not in yet

SUMMARY.

50 vessels captured.
44 vessels lost or burnt.
1 now running in Cape Fear.
6 returned to England.
1 worn out.
31 running or expected in.
38 captured or lost before reaching Confederacy.
12 captured or lost before making one round trip.
16 captured or lost before making 2nd round trip.
3 captured or lost before making 3rd round trip.
11 captured or lost before making 4th round trip.

Out of 17 vessels owned in whole or in part by Government,
12 have been captured or lost.
1 is worn out.
1 gone to England for repairs.
3 still running.

Out of 116 private vessels,
82 have been captured or lost.
6 are out of the trade.
28 still running.

Exports of Cotton from Wilmington, from January 1, 1864, to April 1, 1864.—On Government account: War Department, 1,367 bales; Navy Department, 2,193 bales. War Department contracts, 2,670 bales=6,430. On private account, 14,398 bales. Total export, 20,828 bales. Value, 50*l.* to bale: Government, 321,500*l.*; private, 719,900*l.* Total, 1,041,400*l.*

The first glance at this statement, with its long column of captures and losses, will impress the foreign reader forcibly with the apparent efficiency of the Yankee blockade. Where steamer after steamer comes to grief—where *Leopard*, and *Giraffe*, and *Eagle*, and *Raccoon*, are all successively run down by the Yankees or fall a prey to their vigilance—where *Ruby* and *Pearl* and *Diamond* are seized by them as the conqueror seizes the jewels of an Indian monarch—where *Venus* perishes on the strand from which she is fabled to have risen, and *Vesta* is to be mourned like the lost Pleiad, it would seem, indeed, that Confederate commerce was virtually closed up, and all communication with the outer world, on the part of the Confederates, cut off in fact as in theory. But a careful examination of the tables will conclusively establish the exact converse of this hypothesis. While many steamers are beached, sunk, or captured upon their first trip, many others, and the large majority, make several trips before they go to the bad, and others run in and out with such frequency and ease that when at last they sink or burn or are taken by the blockaders, it is upon the principle that the pitcher that goes often to the well must some day or other be broken. It will be observed that, during fifteen and a half months, *out of five hundred and ninety attempted trips, four hundred and ninety-eight were successful*—in other words, as nearly as possible, of every six vessels that dared the blockade five went through, or that only one-sixth of the Confederate marine has been disturbed, speaking of cargoes and not of bottoms. Now it may be, in Earl Russell's opinion, an efficient blockade which lets five vessels go through and apprehends or destroys the sixth, but it hardly comes up to the requisitions of international law. Yet this blockade must be respected. It is maintained, you know, by the greatest people on earth against a handful of rebels.

Since the above tables were made out, seven steamers, the *Lucy*, *Young Republic*, *Mars*, *Minnie*, *Greyhound*, *Helen*, and *Atalanta*, have arrived in Wilmington, and one, the *Rothsay Castle*, has run into Charleston through the ironclad fleet off the harbour of that city.

May 23, 1864.

FACTS VERSUS YANKEE REPORTS—THE BATTLE OF MAY 12—WHY LEE FELL BACK—THE POSITION OF BUTLER—THE FIGHT ON MAY 21—PROMOTION OF GENERAL TAYLOR.

If you had reposed the least confidence in the statements of the *New York Herald* with regard to the successes of Grant and Butler, in their combined attack upon Richmond, up to the 14th of this month, I am sure you would not have expected to receive a letter from your correspondent dated at the Confederate capital as above. You would have thought that in much less than a week's time Jefferson Davis and his Cabinet would be behind the Pedee, the Confederate Congress dispersed if not hanged, and the cause of Southern independence abandoned. I have seen the *Herald* of the 14th, and after reading it I am almost tempted to doubt my own existence. The lie is told with such variety of expression, it is so ingeniously insinuated, so mixed up with all the current events of the day, so incorporated in the reflections of the editor, so boldly stated with circumstance in the news column, so iterated and reiterated, that it has quite the effect of truth. One begins to believe that Lee is in disorderly rout, that Beauregard is flying before Butler, that the President must really have run off, and that if you should walk into the Treasury or War Department you would find it empty, and its operations transferred to a more southern latitude. It requires a brigade marching with elastic step to the music of 'Wait for the Waggon'—such a sight I have just witnessed from the window—to dispel the delusion of the *Herald* from my mind. I do not know what effect the accounts of the Yankee press may have upon the English people, but I suppose that you are too familiar with its boundless mendacity to have accepted the announcements of victory as fact. By this time they have probably learned even in Boston that Butler is not yet in Richmond, that Grant did not win a series of victories eight days together, and that sixty thousand men, killed, wounded, and missing, as against twelve thousand on the Confederate side, which are as nearly as possible the accurate numbers, is a fearful loss wherewith to begin a campaign which is to be vigorously prosecuted all summer.

In the battle of Thursday, the 12th instant, in which the Yankees claim to have achieved so immense a success, on account whereof bells are ringing and guns firing all over the North and West, their loss in dead and disabled men exceeded ours by more than three to one. The attack made by Hancock's division upon Edward Johnson's division at daybreak was vigorous and well-directed, and for a time it seriously threatened to turn our position and carry the day. Some delay in getting artillery into place enabled the Yankees to get possession of our entrenchments, and a scene of great confusion ensued, which, with less disciplined troops than those of General Lee, might have ended in panic. As it was, the enemy captured four thousand prisoners, including Major-General Edward Johnson and Brigadier George H. Stewart, when a new line was formed, and for the rest of the day the Confederates resisted all attempts to break through it, piling the ground with the dead bodies of their assailants. Grant

hurled his masses against our centre with the most utter recklessness of human life, and the result was the loss of far the best part of his army. It is quite certain that had General Lee been as callous as Grant, he might have fallen upon the Yankee army and put it to rout, but the end could only have been gained by the destruction of half his forces, and the prudent Confederate leader must now economise his men. General Lee has preferred to wait for Grant's own attacks, and in order to shorten his line of communication with Richmond, always threatened by raiding parties of Federal cavalry, has fallen back as far as Hanover Junction, twenty-five miles from the city. This will of course be taken for a confession of weakness by the Yankees; they will cry out as usual in exultation over the 'last ditch;' they will calculate how much nearer Grant is to Richmond at Hanover Junction than he was at Germanna Mills, and exclaim—'This is the great Grant: tremble, ye rebels, in your capital!' You will remember that the Confederates fell back seventy miles from Yorktown to the Chickahominy, that M'Clellan was for weeks in sight of the steeples and domes of Richmond, and that up to the battle of Seven Pines—which the Yankees, in their ignorance of Southern forest trees, or else through a simple habit of lying, call Fair Oaks—he had suffered no diminution of his army at all comparable to what Grant has lost in a single day; and yet, with all this progress, his next step was to Harrison's Landing. So will it fare with Ulysses. At this moment, the two armies are in line of battle near Hanover Junction, and the conflict may be joined before to-morrow's set of sun. Ulysses, who is thoroughly of opinion that he has whipped General Lee, may commence it without loss of time, and has possibly already sent Stanton his bulletin of triumph. But we do not fear the issue of the struggle, and if he goes the way of M'Clellan, and Hooker, and Burnside, like these mighty leaders he must retire from the command of Lincoln's army, and give up his hopes for the Presidency.

General Butler has relapsed into comparative quietude, and is now shut up in a little neck of land, six miles square or thereabouts, between the James and Appomattox, behind abattis, wire fences, wide ditches, and earthworks, having Monitors and gunboats all around him. Night before last (Saturday, May 21), a moonlight attack was made upon our lines, held principally by the brigade of General Wise, in which the Yankees were easily repulsed with very great loss, our men reserving their fire until the attacking party came within twenty yards of them. The day before (Friday, May 20), a very obstinate engagement was fought at a point two miles east of the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad, the enemy resisting us in an attempt to erect an advance line of earthworks. The fight reached its utmost fury about noon, when the Confederates under the immediate command of General D. A. Hill, but inspired by the presence of General Beauregard, dashed into the Yankee entrenchments, driving the enemy out at the point of the bayonet. A desperate effort, twice repeated, was made by the Yankees to regain their works. But it was all in vain. Besides the fortifications we took a considerable quantity of small arms and several pieces of artillery. Our casualties amounted to five hundred. Among the missing is General W. S. Walker, who rode accidentally into the Yankee lines, and who is reported a prisoner in Butler's hands, having suffered amputation of the foot. Butler's *pied-à-terre* at Bermuda Hundreds is the most undesirable spot for his army that he could occupy in Virginia. He may remain there till the crack of doom without being able to accomplish anything of importance against Richmond or Petersburg. But if he remains there two months, the ague and fever, the ancient *suzerain* of the region, will dispute his possession in a manner yet more resistless than Beauregard. His troops will die off in greater numbers than the Earl of Chatham's in the marshes of Walcheren. M'Clellan found the north side of James River as pestilential as the Scheldt, but Harrison's Landing is a salubrious locality in comparison with Bermuda Hundreds.

The city is calm, a fervid sun shines down upon us, all hearts await with anxiety but composure the issue of the impending fight.

The cadets of the Virginian Military Institute have arrived in Richmond.

Dick Taylor has been created a Lieutenant-General. The vote in the Senate confirming the nomination was unanimous.

TUESDAY, May 24.—P.S. Since the foregoing was written a telegram from General Lee informs us that our pickets were driven back from the bridge by which the telegraph road crosses the North Anna, yesterday afternoon, at the same moment that Warren's division was pushed across at Jericho, some two or three miles further up. A. P. Hill's corps at once engaged them and checked their advance. The two armies are now in line of battle, and the great struggle may be fought to-day.

May 16, 1864.

THE ADVANCE OF GRANT—THE FIGHTING—TERRIFIC SLAUGHTER—THE RESULTS OF THE BATTLES—THE LOSSES—THE CASUALTIES AMONGST CONFEDERATE GENERALS—SHERIDAN'S RAID—STUART'S LAST SERVICE TO THE CONFEDERACY—HOW HE WAS WOUNDED—THE PUBLIC GRIEF—HIS CHARACTER—THE SOUTH SIDE—BUTLER'S FORCES—HIS DEFEAT—OTHER MILITARY MOVEMENTS—THE ASPECT OF RICHMOND—ANECDOTE OF PRESIDENT DAVIS AND GENERAL LEE.

Two weeks have passed since the date of my last letter, and these two weeks have been crowded with the most exciting and important events. The combined movement of the enemy upon the Confederate capital has been commenced with desperate energy and immense numbers, and the result is yet undetermined. What has been accomplished by them up to this moment is simply *nil*, as far as the capture of Richmond is concerned; and their progress, if such it may be called, has been attended with fearful losses, greater, perhaps, than any they have sustained hitherto in the conduct of the war. And the end is not yet.

The movement was made in two, not three columns, as had been foretold by the *New York Times*. While Grant advanced upon Lee, a great fleet of transports, with Monitors and gunboats, ascended the James River, and landed a force of thirty thousand men at Bermuda Hundreds, which they made a base of operations. The Yankees did not try the Peninsula. That road to Richmond was too thickly strewn with the mournful memories of M'Clellan's disasters in 1862.

The series of battles fought between Lee and Grant since the latter crossed the Rapidan, will demand a large chapter in the history of the war of the Revolution, and we know too little of them in detail to justify me in attempting to collate, from written and oral communications, a continuous narrative for your columns. You have, perhaps, already received the Yankee account of the conflict in the Wilderness on Thursday, the 5th instant, in which Grant obtained so brilliant and decisive a victory over Lee, driving him in confused retreat towards Richmond—a victory so decisive that Lee, who seems somehow to have taken the wrong road to Richmond, has been fighting him ever since, killing and wounding the victorious troops of the Union, and taking them prisoners in considerable numbers. Grant's advance, after the battle of the 5th, was in the direction of Fredericksburg—the route, as Lincoln tells us, he had determined to take from the beginning; and it did so happen that Lee fled, in the most blundering way, in the very footsteps of the conquering hero, so that to all mankind it would appear (to all mankind except the people of the United States) that the conquering hero was retreating, and poor, persecuted, unhappy Lee pursuing—which was, of course, manifestly impossible. Fighting between the two armies occurred every day while thus in motion. On Wednesday, the 11th instant, the enemy attacked our left, which was held by General R. H. Anderson, but were driven back with little difficulty, except in front of Dole's brigade, where they obtained a temporary advantage (the brigade in question having behaved badly), and took a battery of four guns. The assault was made with great spirit by the Yankees; and General Lee, in his official despatch, records that some of them leaped over our breastworks—a sort of exercise which they have not much delighted in hitherto, except in the columns of the *New York Herald*; but fresh troops coming quickly forward to repair the mischief occasioned by the misconduct of Dole's brigade, they were handsomely repelled, our broken lines were reestablished, and the battery recaptured. All this occurred between sunset and dark. The day following occurred a conflict the most sanguinary, perhaps, of all the terrible battles of this wasting and horrid struggle. The attack was made all along the lines with headlong impetuosity by the enemy, and maintained with peculiar stubbornness for some time in front of Ewell's corps and Johnson's division. The fight raged for ten hours, and with varying fortunes. Early in the day some impression was made upon Johnson's division; the enemy possessed himself of a part of our entrenchments, and captured two thousand prisoners and several pieces of artillery. But they were finally repulsed with tremendous loss. The Yankee dead in front of our lines lay piled one upon another for a long distance. Not at Gaines's Mill, not at Chickamauga, not even at Fredericksburg, around the slippery base of Mary's Heights, was there seen anything comparable to the fearful slaughter of Thursday near Spottsylvania Court House. The Yankees fought with a resolution they have never before exhibited, and the result was a sacrifice of life that will cause the day to be remembered in New England for many generations. On Saturday, the 14th, they made their latest assault, which was partial and comparatively feeble, and which General Wilcox, in the language of General Lee's official telegram, 'handsomely repulsed.' Since Saturday Grant has changed his position, his lines now extending along the north bank of the Ny River, his left wing resting upon Masaponax Church. It is probable that the next engagement between the two armies will be fought in the immediate neighbourhood of Guiney's Station.

So far as we have been enlightened by the Northern papers upon the results of these battles, it would seem that Grant has filled, nay, more than filled, the measure of Yankee expectation: Lee is rapidly retreating on Richmond. We don't see it. But there can be no doubt about the fact. On the 9th, Lincoln, in a gush of pious gratitude, wrote from the White House a letter 'to the friends of Union and Liberty' (whoever they may be), calling upon all patriots to give thanks to Almighty God for the 'army operations of the last five days.' Grant has achieved a signal victory. Let us admit the point. It has done what none of his predecessors were able to accomplish—*made his men fight as well in assault of breastworks as in the open field.* One writer, in the *Herald* of the 12th, is so sceptical as to discredit the great advantage gained by Grant since he crossed the Rapidan. He thinks the chance of taking Richmond by the United States rather slim. There is one method of solving the problem of advantage when it seems puzzling, which we have employed, and with results altogether satisfactory to ourselves. *The numerical strength of Lee's enemy is greater at this moment, as compared with Grant's, than it was before the fighting began.* Our losses have not exceeded fifteen thousand in killed, wounded, missing, and prisoners. Grant has lost certainly not less than fifty thousand. The writer in the *Herald*, already quoted, sums up Grant's losses, down to the morning of the 9th, at 27,000. Another letter-writer estimates them as high as 38,000. Since these calculations were made, the bloodiest of all his 'victories' have been obtained. More fortunate than Burnside and Hooker, he has not suffered to any great extent by straggling from his ranks, men recrossing the river and running off home. There was a certain amount of confidence felt in the hero of Vicksburg which 'Fighting Joe' was never able to inspire, and which Burnside could still less infuse into his troops. Grant's losses are all to be set down to the account of the 'rebels.' They cannot be less at this moment than 50,000, and they may reach 60,000.

Looking to the character of our loss, it has been severe. You will not have failed to remark the painful coincidence by which just one year after our mighty captain of war, Stonewall Jackson, was shot down in the Wilderness, Longstreet was shot upon the very same ground and under circumstances strikingly similar. Both had successfully executed a flank movement which was conclusive of the issue of the day's operations. Both bore to General Lee, as the Commander-in-Chief, the relation of right-arm in the death-grapple with the enemy. And both fell by the bullets of our own men. Here, let us hope, the sad parallel will cease. General Longstreet's wound was in the shoulder, and, though severe, is not thought dangerous. It will pretty surely incapacitate him, however, for further service in the field during the summer campaign, and the loss of his splendid qualities for the time being will be great indeed.

The same cruel volley by which Longstreet received his wound deprived the Confederate army of one of its most gallant young officers, in the person of Brigadier-General Jenkins of South Carolina, who fell quite dead to the earth. We have also to deplore the deaths of Brigadier-Generals J. M. Jones, Stafford, Perrin, and Daniel, all killed on the field or surviving their wounds but a few hours. Among our wounded were Brigadier-Generals Pegram, Benning, Ramseur, M'Gowan, R. D. Johnston, Jas. M. Walker, H. H. Walker, and Hayes. I may not go below the rank of general to mention many officers of the highest worth who fell at the head of their men cheering them to victory. Virginia, and I doubt not many a sister State, mourns the flower of her youth and chivalry cut down untimely. But to the casualties already mentioned I must add Major-General Edward Johnson, of Virginia, and Brigadier-General George H. Steuart, of Maryland, missing. I need not say that great solicitude is felt concerning these gallant officers.

The loss of the enemy in officers is but little known to us. Generals Hayes, Wadsworth, and Sedgwick have been killed, Generals Webb and Getty are mentioned in the Northern papers as wounded, and Generals Seymour and Shaler are prisoners in our hands. We shall probably hear of others commanding brigades who have been placed *hors de combat*.

While Grant's army was engaged with Lee's army in the Wilderness—a region in which, as its name would imply, there was but little opportunity afforded for the employment of cavalry—a large force under General Sheridan, belonging to this arm of the Federal service, was sent across the country to cut the railroads connecting General Lee with the capital. Nine thousand strong, they moved with compactness and rapidity to Beaver Dam on the Central Railroad, where they captured and destroyed three trains of cars laden with provisions. Thence they came to Ashland on the Fredericksburg Railroad, seventeen miles north of the city, where they were met and stoutly resisted at daybreak on the morning of the 11th by a portion of Fitz Lee's horse under command of Colonel Thomas T. Mumford; and continuing their course southward, they encountered, on the afternoon of the same day, at the Yellow Tavern, six miles from town, a body of Confederate cavalry under the personal lead of General J. E. B. Stuart, who had been pursuing them all the way from Spottsylvania. General Stuart's object was to hold one of the roads by which Sheridan hoped to make his escape after doing all the damage in his power to the railroads. In this object he was successful, and it was the last service that Stuart was permitted to render to the State and the Confederacy. A desperate fight ensued, hand to hand, in the high road, filled with frantic horses and cumbered with the dead and dying, Sheridan attempting to cut his way through, but being driven back with considerable loss. In this brilliant but unhappy combat, I grieve to write, General Stuart, the goodliest knight of all our band, fell mortally wounded. Before pausing to speak of an event so lamentable, let me say in brief that, after some skirmishing the next day with infantry sent out from this city to intercept them, Sheridan's force succeeded in crossing the Chickahominy upon a bridge which they constructed for themselves, and are now in the Peninsula.

General Stuart fell in gathering his men to resist a heavy onset of the enemy upon the left of his line. Before he had time for forming the column, the Yankees came with tremendous weight upon the small party of which he was the centre, and which could offer only a feeble opposition to their overwhelming numbers. It is quite certain that they recognised him, and the escape of his personal staff was probably due to the fact that their fire was concentrated upon his stalwart form alone. Twelve shots were fired at him at short range in rapid succession. The last shot struck him in the stomach on the left side. With his characteristic self-possession, he discharged every barrel of his revolver at his assailants, and then, feeling that his wound would soon cause him to fall from his seat and thus place him in the enemy's hands, he collected all his energies, and, turning his horse's head, galloped into our lines. Reeling from the saddle, he fell into the arms of one of his devoted troopers. He was brought into Richmond in an ambulance, and conveyed to the house of his brother-in-law, Dr. Brewer, where he died on Thursday, the 12th inst., at 5 P.M., the anniversary of the day on which the obsequies of Jackson had been celebrated in Richmond one year before. General Stuart retained his faculties until within a very short time of the last scene of all. He had a most affecting interview with the President. He disposed of many little objects as mementoes to his personal friends. His sword he gave to his son. He was calm and tranquil in his trust in Jesus Christ as his Redeemer. One disappointment only disturbed his last moments. He had hoped to see his wife and children. They did not reach Richmond until he had been dead four hours.

The grief of our citizens when it was known that Stuart was indeed no more, was deep and universal. The roar of the enemy's guns was sounding in their ears, and they might not pause to indulge in unavailing sentiment or the usual manifestations of public sorrow. Some poor funeral rights they might have rendered, with bells and wailing music, and military escort (the cannonade without the gates supplied the minute guns), but that the broken-hearted widow requested that all such honours might be withheld. The burial service was conducted at St. James's Church, according to the beautiful ritual of the Book of Common Prayer. The affection and sadness of the community found a sweet and grateful expression in flowers. Crowns and wreaths, and garlands of camellias, and roses, and lilies, covered the coffin. A floral cross instead of his cavalry sabre lay on the knight's breast. Knowing his passion for flowers, and how he loved to ride into battle with a bouquet at his saddle-bow, I could not repress the thought, frivolous as it may have been in the presence of death, that poor Stuart would have been gratified to see his own funeral. And so they carried him to Hollywood, many distinguished soldiers and civilians bearing the pall.

It is not for me to characterise the military genius or to record the great services of Jeb. Stuart. To him attaches as much of the romance of the struggle as to any other hero of the time. He was a *preux chevalier*. He delighted in the rolling of the bugles and the prancing of the steeds, and he had perhaps a weakness, such as Murat betrayed to a far greater extent, for the ostentation of the parade. But his wants were simple, and his habits conformed to the severest formula in the field. His vitality was wonderful, and his endurance almost superhuman. He was fond of a review, a tournament, or a *bal dansé*, but he never complained of long watches, or perilous rides, or short rations. The most acceptable present that could have been offered him at any time since he was made a Major-General, I think, would have been a sweeping black ostrich plume. Next to that, he would have probably preferred a pair of buckskin breeches. Always gay, if not his motto, was at least his life. He had men about him who contributed to the innocent hilarity of headquarters. He kept a baritone, if possible, on his staff. A master of the banjo was one of his military family. And yet he fell into no excesses. While his sword was stainless, his life was singularly pure. He always carried his Bible in his haversack, and he was 'constant in prayer.' Foreign gentlemen went to his camp, after visiting the headquarters of Lee and Jackson, and came back to Richmond saying that our generals were very extraordinary men, and Stuart the greatest puzzle of them all—that they didn't drink, they didn't game, they didn't smoke, and yet, without wine, cards, or tobacco, they were uniformly cheerful, and that Stuart was always as jolly as he could be.

And now, like the dead campeador astride of Bavieca, he rides out of the history of the war; and this careless correspondence, which has spoken of him so often, will record fresh exploits of his no more. *Finis coronat opus.*

I have stated that the boom of cannon was heard in Richmond while Stuart lay dying. I must now turn to the south side, and make mention of the efforts made by the enemy in that quarter, and of the preparations of the Confederate authorities to repel them. As I have said, the enemy landed a force

of 30,000 men at Bermuda Hundreds, on the right bank of the James River, one mile above the mouth of the Appomattox, and eleven miles overland from Petersburg, situated on the right bank of the latter stream. The troops were brought round in an immense fleet of transports under convoy of five Monitors and six gunboats, and the whole wide expanse of the James, at its confluence with the Appomattox, was thickly dotted with vessels of all sorts and sizes. Gilmore came from Charleston with a large part of the fleet so long engaged there, and the sappers and miners from Morris Island, and 'Baldy' Smith brought up his whole force, comprising several negro regiments, from Fortress Monroe. The entire expedition was under command of General Butler. As early as the 6th the gunboats ascended the river, cautiously looking for torpedoes, and on the afternoon of that day one of them was blown into fragments by a torpedo at a point eight miles below Drewry's Bluff. The next day a detachment of the Elliott Battalion, with two pieces of artillery, under command of Major Starke, captured and destroyed a second gunboat near Turkey Island. A third was sunk in the Appomattox on the afternoon of the 9th, in an attack on Fort Clifton, one of the defences of Petersburg. The disembarkation at Bermuda Hundreds having been effected, the Yankees moved forward to secure the line of the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad, and thus interrupt the communication between the two cities, and heavy skirmishing took place on the 6th and 7th at Port Walthall Junction, five miles from Petersburg; the Confederates under Colonel Bushrod W. Johnson obstinately contesting their advance. No serious attempt at the reduction of Richmond was made, however, until midnight of the 14th, when a storming party of Yankees assailed the works at Drewry's Bluff, and were repulsed without difficulty. Yesterday this was twice repeated—at 9 o'clock in the morning and at 2 in the afternoon—with the same result. In the meantime General Beauregard had arrived from North Carolina and taken command of our forces. To-day a combined attack was made upon the enemy's position by General Beauregard from the direction of Richmond, and General Whiting from the direction of Petersburg. Some delay on the part of General Whiting alone prevented the utter rout of all Butler's troops. General Robert Ransom, commanding on the left of Beauregard, by marching down the river bank turned the enemy's right and drove him in precipitation from the field. Fifteen hundred prisoners, including Brigadier-General Heckman of Massachusetts and staff, have arrived at the Libby. Butler has withdrawn into the narrow space between the James and Appomattox, where, under cover of his gunboats and behind entrenchments extending from river to river, he holds a very strong position, but can do no harm.

Our losses on the south side have been heavier comparatively than in Spottsylvania—one hundred and fifty killed and one thousand wounded, up to the present writing. Brigadier-General Mat. Ransom, a brother of the general, who commanded on Beauregard's left, received a painful but not serious wound in the wrist of the bridle hand, breaking one of the bones.

From the files of Richmond papers which I send herewith, you will gather what has been done by Spears and other raiding parties, in cutting the railroads. The injury they have wrought is inconsiderable and will prove temporary. Averell's forces, you will perceive, have been scattered in the south-western portion of Virginia, and General Breckenridge has obtained a brilliant victory over Sigel at Newmarket, in Shenandoah County. In this last engagement the cadets of the Virginian Military Institute, boys between fifteen and eighteen years of age, the pets of our Southern Polytechnic, took an active and distinguished part. Five of the little heroes were killed, and fifteen wounded. You will recollect that Stonewall Jackson was a professor in this Military Institute.

The aspect of Richmond during this troubled fortnight has been exceedingly impressive. The shops have been closed, and all sounds of business have ceased. The whole male population capable of bearing arms has again gone to the trenches. The lower part of the city is as deserted as the disinhumed streets of Pompeii. The hotels are silent and listless, and the theatres have suspended their entertainments. Throughout the town the clatter of the quartermaster's wagon, and the awful creak of the ambulance, bearing the wounded to the hospital, are the only noises that mingle with the boom of the cannonade. May, in all her beauty, has come, unknowing of human conflict, with her tender greenery of leaf and lawn, her glowing noons, and her pensive twilights; yet capricious withal, at times making the natural as dark as the political heavens, and mocking the artillery of the combatants with the tremendous peals of the elemental strife. There has been no exodus of the inhabitants of the city, and no panic among the women, who, with a devotion unalterable, and a Christian benevolence that never wavers, are ministering to the wounded soldiers night and day. Many sorrow over the dearly-loved dead, all sorrow at the country's agony; but a time cometh when their sorrow shall be turned into joy.

My letter has far exceeded the usual limits, and yet I must give an anecdote of General Lee and President Davis before I close it.

During Friday, the 6th instant, as Longstreet's corps was replacing A. P. Hill's in the line, and the divisions of Hart and Wilcox had been thrown into some confusion, General Lee rode forward and called upon a Texan brigade to follow him into the fight. The men cheered their noble leader; but cried out that they would only advance upon condition that he should retire, and then, as if to show their full appreciation of the great honour that had been paid them, rushed upon the enemy and fought splendidly. When President Davis heard of this, he sat down and wrote a very pretty letter of affectionate expostulation to General Lee, reminding him that he ought not lightly to expose a life of such incalculable value to his country, and the next day President Davis rode out from Drewry's Bluff into a very hot fire of Yankee artillery, and only withdrew upon a shell exploding within fifty yards of him!

Congress is still in session; but its proceedings have been of little interest since the great battle for Richmond has been in progress.

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA: May 2, 1864.

THE MEETING OF CONGRESS—MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT—THE NEW MEMBERS—MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES—MR. W. C. RIVES—CHANGES IN THE SENATE—THE WORK OF CONGRESS—THE CURRENCY—THE $5 NOTES—DEATH OF PRESIDENT DAVIS'S SON—FIRE AT WILMINGTON—GRANT'S ADVANCE ANTICIPATED.

THE Second Congress of the Confederate States was convened to-day in the Capitol of Virginia. Upon the first call of the roll a quorum was found to be in attendance in both Houses, and the work of organisation was very speedily accomplished by the reelection of all the old officers. The Hon. Thomas S. Bocock, as Speaker of the House of Representatives, on taking the chair, made his usual address, while the Hon. R. M. T. Hunter resumed his place as President of the Senate *pro tempore* (in the absence of the Vice-President, Mr. Stephens), without a speech, and shortly afterwards the message of the President was transmitted to Congress through his private secretary and read by the clerks, and then both Houses adjourned for the day. The message, a copy of which I send you with this letter, is remarkable for its brevity, its pure English, and its good temper. Beyond these excellences, the last two characteristics of the President's State papers, the message is of no great consequence. There was little for the President to say, and he has said it very well. His counsel with regard to the currency is wise; his tribute to the patriotism of the army and the people is fervid and well-deserved, his rebuke of foreign governments for their injustice, so studied and long maintained, to the Confederate States, is forcible without lack of dignity—let us hope that his prophecy (it is the first time that the President has indulged in prophecy) that the war will terminate with the current year may be verified. It will be observed that no assurance is given in the message that the exchange of prisoners will be carried on in future under the cartel; what has been done recently has been informal and irregular, and though prisoners continue to arrive and depart by the flag-of-truce boats from time to time, the exchanges are conducted on no satisfactory basis, and may be stopped by the enemy, without notice, at any moment. The humanity which is manifested in the passage where mention is made of the mortality among the Federal prisoners in our hands, cannot but impress the mind of the foreign reader with the Christian tenderness of heart of Jefferson Davis; nor will it escape observation that the recent successes of our arms are cited in no vain-glorious spirit as matter of national exultation, but as furnishing good cause for gratitude to Almighty God, and as inspiring troops and people with renewed energy for future achievements.

The complexion of the Congress is materially changed since the late session—a change which is the more readily observed on the floor of the Lower House, in the introduction to a larger degree of the military element, as shown in the new members of the body. Out of ninety-nine representatives entitled to seats (the Missouri Delegation has yet to be elected) forty-three are *novi homines*, and many, perhaps a majority of these, are captains, majors, colonels, and generals fresh from the camp. It should be stated, however, that few of them have relinquished the sword without honourable testimonials of service, which, in some instances, are marks of permanent disability. When the members elect from Georgia came to the Speaker's desk to take the oath of office, it was remarked, with evident and very natural sensibility on the part of all persons, that two of them (Messrs. Mark H. Blandford and George N. Lester) had lost an arm, and that one (Hon. James M. Smith) hobbled up the aisle on a wooden leg. Virginia has also her mutilated representative in the person of the Hon. F. W. M. Holliday, who wears an empty sleeve (the right one), and so there were one-armed spectators in the galleries, all companions in the glory of the battle. One of Virginia's new representatives (Hon. W. C. Wickham), elected from the Richmond district, is a cavalry general who has been an active participant, under Jeb. Stuart, in all the military operations on the Potomac, in the Peninsula, and along the Rapidan, since the beginning of the war; and he finds himself, according to the rule laid down by the last Congress, compelled to choose finally between his seat in the saddle at the head of his brigade, and his seat in the Lower House, just at the inopportune moment when the enemy is about making an advance in heavy force for the reduction of the Confederate capital. He is just now in attendance upon Congress, not having as yet been sworn in; but it is not unlikely that the trumpets sounding to horse may cause him to relinquish his legislative duties before the Speaker shall have appointed the regular Standing Committees.

It remains to be seen whether the House of Representatives has gained or lost in legislative ability by the change of members. No disparagement is made of the retired gentlemen of the Virginia Delegation of the last Congress when I say that the single accession of William C. Rives to the public councils will more than compensate for any talent withdrawn in their removal. [Mr. Foote of Tennessee, in offering a resolution this morning that the Speaker should proceed, with as little delay as possible, to the appointment of the Standing Committees, desired not to be considered as a candidate for the place of Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which he had filled during the last session, and alluded very gracefully to Mr. Rives, as everybody understood, as the proper person for that position.] *Au reste*, we shall miss the eloquence of Walter Preston of Virginia; and the elevated statesmanship of Mr. Curry of Alabama, than whom there is not a man of sounder practical sense or more systematic habits of thought and study in the Confederacy; and the varied learning of Mr. Holcombe, the predecessor of Mr. Rives; and the parliamentary experience of other gentlemen that might be named. But time will show whether the new-comers may not make the second Congress wiser and stronger than the first.

In the Senate there have been but few changes. Hon. Wm. L. Graham, of North Carolina, succeeds Hon. George Dair, recently appointed Attorney-General of the Confederate States; Hon. Richard W. Walker, of Alabama, succeeds Hon. C. C. Clay; and Hon. John W. C. Watson, of Mississippi, succeeds Hon. James Phelan. Mr. Graham had something like a national reputation under the old Government, and was the candidate for the Vice-Presidency on the ticket with Winfield Scott in the memorable Presidential campaign of 1852, in which old 'Fuss and Feathers,' as he was called, was beaten by Franklin Pierce. The retirement of Mr. Clay has excited much regret. He had been long in public life, had served in the Senate of the United States, and by literary culture and the amenity of his manners adorned the position in which his talents as a statesman were most usefully exerted. His successor, Mr. Walker, brings with him the prestige of scholarship and eminence at the bar, and much is confidently expected of him in the career of distinction which he is invited to pursue. Mr. Watson is quite unknown beyond the limits of his own State—Mississippi—and enters the national Legislature for the first time. We have the assurance of his worth, however, in the fact that the Legislature of Mississippi—the State of President Davis—would not send an ordinary man to the Senate in times like these.

The work which Congress has to do at its present session will depend in a great degree on the events of the next four or five weeks. It is altogether possible that such decisive results may be obtained in the field, within that time, that the enemy may be brought to make overtures for peace. It is also possible that such a change may take place in the attitude of foreign Powers towards the Confederacy, arising out of the affairs of Mexico, within that time, that legislation may become necessary in relation thereto which is not now contemplated. In either contingency, the session might be indefinitely prolonged. But neither contingency is likely to happen. The attention of Congress will therefore be directed to matters purely domestic, as is most probable, and of such matters the currency will receive the earliest notice. The financial bother has to do with the five-dollar notes of the old issue, which, under the Currency Bill, were not required to be withdrawn from circulation until July 1, 1864. The status of these notes is an anomaly in monetary affairs. As April 1 approached, when all notes of a higher denomination were required to be funded east of the Mississippi, the fives came to be in great request, and were readily sold by the brokers at from 15 to 20 per cent. premium. Since April 1 they have been steadily declining, as the new issue has come slowly into circulation, and now they are held by the brokers at 20 per cent. discount. This depreciation is felt to be a hardship by a very large class of the community who are holders of the notes—the larger class, as the small sum represented by the notes insures their distribution among the poor, the farmer with a ten-acre lot and one negro, the sempstress who has been singing that old plaintive 'Song of the Shirt' for the Government, the mechanic and the labourer. A remedy has been proposed for the evil—that Congress should place these degraded fives upon the same footing with the new currency. But the objections are serious. There are ninety millions of these degraded fives. To declare so immense an amount current funds, after provision had been made for retiring it, would be seriously to impair the beneficial working of the Currency Bill, the chief object of which was to reduce the bulk of Government issues. But more than this, while the fives are in the hands of the many—the labouring poor—in small quantities, they are in the hands of the few—namely, the rich brokers—in large quantities. The brokers have swindled the public by a twofold process in the management of the fives—first, by selling them at 20 per cent. premium, and, second, by buying them at 20 per cent. discount; and now that their vaults are as full of the notes as the last carpet-bag, that wouldn't lock on any terms and was almost bursting, of the miscellaneous addenda of Robinson's or Brown's wardrobe on their continental tour, now they, the patriotic brokers, would gladly have Congress restore the fives to such confidence as the public have in the rest of Mr. Memminger's issues. Congress will hardly do it. But a strong effort will be made in the matter; there will be much debate, and time and money will be consumed before the quietus is given to the proposition. It is likely enough that something will be done or said on the exchange of prisoners, and on Earl Russell's plan of having a *quasi* representative of England here to be the medium of communication with Jefferson Davis, the 'so-called' President of the 'so-called' Confederate States; but all this should not keep Congress together beyond June 15.

Our whole community has been deeply pained by a sad accident in the family of President Davis. His little son, Joseph, a bright-eyed boy, five years of age, fell, Saturday afternoon, from a portico of the President's house, a distance of eighteen feet, upon a brick pavement in the yard, sustaining injuries of which he died in twenty minutes thereafter. The public sympathy with the President and Mrs. Davis, in their grievous affliction, was becomingly manifested in the large attendance upon the funeral ceremonies, which were conducted yesterday afternoon at St. Paul's Church. The interment was made in Hollywood Cemetery.

You will herewith receive intelligence of the disastrous fire which occurred at Wilmington on the morning of the 29th ult., destroying property, principally cotton, to the amount of five millions. The Government is not the heaviest loser in this calamity, but it will be greatly embarrassed by the delay which will be occasioned in loading its ships now in port for Bermuda and Nassau.

The enemy has evacuated Washington, N. C., and our forces under General Hoke are in possession. The advance of Grant will be made in the course of a very few days. The telegraph to-day reports his army to be in motion upon both flanks of General Lee's position. A considerable force of Yankees has been landed at Gloucester Point and West Point at the mouth and head of York River, and the Peninsular movement will be made simultaneously with Grant's demonstration. May will not glide into June before momentous events shall have occurred.

CONFEDERATE AND FEDERAL LOSSES.—The *Richmond Examiner* of May 18, commenting on recent battles, says:—'In these two battles the army of Northern Virginia has enjoyed, for the first time, the advantages of firing into the enemy with grape and rifle balls from lines of substantial breastworks; and if one may judge from the high spirits and unbounded confidence of the wounded men who have come to this city from the battle, it has been highly gratified by the new position. "We just mowed them every time,"—such is the only account they give of the struggle. The Confederate loss, killed, wounded, and missing, in all these battles, beginning with the Wilderness and concluding with that of Thursday last (May 12), at Spottsylvania Court House, was under fifteen thousand. The Washington *Chronicle*, the organ of Lincoln, that sees all things in the rose's colour, announces the "depletion" of Grant's army by the battle of the Wilderness and "other causes," to have been, on Tuesday evening ascertained, thirty-five thousand. To this awful figure must now be added the two days of unsuccessful assault on the breastworks of Spottsylvania—assault without manœuvre, full in front, with deep columns, each forcing the other on the muzzles of the guns—wherein the carnage and loss must, in the necessity of things, have been many times greater than in the open battles of the Wilderness and succeeding days. Putting the two data together, it is impossible to doubt the deduction that Grant's "depletion" by killing, wounding, and "other causes"—that is to say, by straggling, desertion, &c.—has surpassed seventy thousand. The disproportion of numbers between the antagonists was very great when the Federal general crossed the Rapidan, and it is probable that he has since received the troops originally retained to defend Washington; but that disproportion was wonderfully reduced when the sun went down on Thursday afternoon.'

FEDERAL MENDACITY.—The *Mobile Register* of May 25 says: 'The mendacity of the Federal generals in their official bulletins and reports is something very remarkable. We do not remember one of them who has distinguished himself as an exception, by confining himself to the simple truth. We expected better things of General M'Clellan, but he was no exception. We have already exposed the enormous falsehood of Grant about Johnson's division. General Sherman has been taking his turn at this Yankee habit. He despatches to Washington that he whipped General Johnston at Resaca, and took the place after severe fighting, and with a loss of 3,000 on his side; also, that he captured 8 guns and 10,000 prisoners. The truth is, he was completely repulsed at Resaca, and took the place, not by fighting, but by a flank movement, which required General Johnston to abandon the town in his own change of front. The prisoners and guns are myths.'

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

GENERAL GRANT has moved his army to the south side of the James River. He is, after a month's carnage, situated as M'Clellan was two years ago, and he is in a position which he might have attained without the loss of a single brigade. So far the Northern commander has been utterly foiled. He cared not for the lives of his men; but after thousands had been killed and tens of thousands wounded, he learned that by no sacrifice of human life would it be possible to reach Richmond by the road he had selected. A glance at the history of the present campaign shows how reluctantly Grant was forced to adopt the plans of M'Clellan.

No one who has read the accounts of the battles on the 3rd and 12th inst. will be surprised that Grant found it necessary to make a change of base, or what some Northerners call a great strategic movement. On those two occasions the Confederates fought behind breastworks, and, to quote the words of one of their officers, 'they mowed down the enemy.' While 'the fields were blue with the Yankee slain,' the Confederates suffered very little. It is estimated that, on the 3rd, whilst the Federals lost 6,000 men, the Confederate loss was not more than 600 men. The *Richmond Examiner* says, in reference to this fight, 'The battle yesterday and the evening before was a desperate and bloody one for the enemy. They were mowed down like grass as they charged our fortifications. A gentleman who has been through the war tells us that he never saw a field so literally strewn with dead Yankees. We hear of several estimates of their loss; but the most reasonable one, and one made by a gentleman who was over the field, thinks that it could not have been less than six thousand in killed and wounded. Our loss was comparatively slight, most of the fighting having been done by us behind breastworks. It is thought that it will not exceed some five hundred in killed and wounded. A great portion of our wounded were but slightly injured.'

The rumour of the capture of Petersburg by Smith's corps, we are told in the New York telegram, 'requires confirmation,' and as we have no other than New York information we must wait for the next mail to know whether it is true. It is also said that Sheridan has been defeated. About this no doubt is expressed, but no details are given.

GENERAL HUNTER reports, or else Mr. Stanton reports for him, that he captured 1,500 prisoners, 3,000 small arms, and 3 cannons on the 5th. The Confederate authorities deny that the enemy made any such captures.

THE news from Sherman is significant. we have no longer glowing reports of his pursuing a demoralised army; but we are told that Sherman came up with the Confederate army, and instead of attacking it began entrenching his position.

General Sturgis, who left Memphis with 8,000 men to reinforce Sherman, has been completely defeated at Guntown, West Tennessee, by General Forrest. Sturgis was killed. All the Federal artillery train, ammunition, and many prisoners were captured, and the remnant of the expedition returned to Memphis.

IT is reported that General Morgan has been defeated at Cynthiana with a loss of 600 killed and wounded, and that he retreated in a demoralised condition. It is not likely that General Morgan has suffered any serious reverse, and this report probably refers in the usual exaggerated style to the surprise and defeat of a small division of his command.

IT has come out, from a recent debate in the Federal Congress, that General Grant has purposely abstained from using the negro troops of his command in action. The statement was made by Mr. Cox, of Ohio; and the only answer that could be offered to it was, that there were at the time 150 wounded coloured soldiers in the hospitals. A remarkably small proportion this, out of over 50,000 wounded in the battles since May 3, and one which confirms instead of refuting Mr. Cox's assertion, especially as it is known that in one corps alone of Grant's army (Burnside's) there are over 10,000 negro troops.

IN our last number we gave a Northern version of the capture of the *Water Witch*, in which it was stated that it was a surprise, and there was no fighting. It will be seen, from the official report to the Confederate Secretary of the Navy, that the prize was not secured without a fight.

ON June 7, the 'Republican Nominating Convention' met at Baltimore. The morning session was under the temporary presidency of Dr. Breckinridge. In the evening the permanent officers were appointed, Mr. W. Dennison, ex-Governor of Ohio, being chosen President. On this occasion, Parson Brownlow spoke for the purpose of recommending Andrew Johnson for the Vice-Presidency. He said: 'We have a man down there whom it has been my good luck and bad fortune to fight untiringly for the last twenty-five years—Andrew Johnson. For the first time, in the providence of God, three years ago, we got together on the same platform, and we are now fighting the devil, Tom Walker, and Jeff. Davis side by side. I never refuse to speak when I am able to speak, and my old friend Deacon Bross knows it well. I should like to help him canvass Illinois, and gouge for him among these copperheads. If I were able to speak, and could interest you, I would; but I am sick, and must be excused.' These observations were loudly applauded.

On the 8th, after some discussion and voting as to admitting delegates from Arkansas, Louisiana, and other States and territories, and which ended in the admission of some with, and others without, the right of voting, Mr. Raymond, of New York, read the resolution, or platform, which we elsewhere publish.

Mr. Lincoln was then nominated for President. The following was the result of the ballot:—

FOR MR. LINCOLN.

Maine	14	Indiana	26
New Hampshire	10	Illinois	32
Vermont	10	Michigan	16
Massachusetts	24	Wisconsin	16
Rhode Island	8	Iowa	16
Connecticut	12	Minnesota	8
New York	66	California	10
New Jersey	14	Oregon	6
Pennsylvania	52	West Virginia	10
Delaware	6	Kansas	6
Maryland	14	Nebraska	6
Louisiana	14	Colorado	6
Arkansas	10	Nevada	6
Tennessee	15		
Kentucky	22	Total	497
Ohio	42		

FOR GENERAL GRANT.

Missouri	22

For Vice-President there were four candidates, Messrs. Johnson, Hamlin, Rousseau, and Dickinson. Mr. Andrew Johnson was nominated. After electing a National Committee, the Convention—which is called at the North the Shoddy or Contractors' Convention—adjourned *sine die*. We need hardly add that Mr. Lincoln accepted the nomination of his own Convention.

GENERAL LONGSTREET was, at latest dates, nearly convalescent. On May 18 he wrote to Judge A. B. Longstreet: 'My wound is severe, but not dangerous. It is through the neck and shoulder. I am improving.'

IN another part of our impression will be found a lengthy correspondence between various persons on the subject of the contest between the *Alabama* and the *Kearsage*. The chief point which is brought under our notice is the conduct of Mr. Lancaster, of the yacht *Deerhound*, in saving the lives of Captain Semmes and others of the crew of the *Alabama*. On this point our readers will agree with us that Mr. Lancaster has amply proved the uprightness and honour of his proceedings. He claims for himself the credit of having saved human lives without reference to the nationality of the persons saved. Had the result of the combat been different, and the crew of the *Kearsage* been struggling in the waves, Mr. Lancaster would have felt it his duty to pursue a similar course; but we doubt if, among Southern sympathisers, he would have found persons ready to look upon an act of humanity in the light of a breach of international law.

THE Federal Provost-Marshal-General submitted a report to Mr. Stanton on June 6, which is a fair gauge of the war spirit of the North. He writes:—

In accordance with the amended Enrolment Act, approved February 24, 1864, and your orders on the subject, I am now conducting a draft in various sub-districts for their various deficiencies on quotas of troops heretofore assigned. The results of the draft, so far as shown by the reports to this date, are worthy of attention. They are briefly as follows:—

Number of drafted men examined	14,741
Number exempted for physical disability	4,374
Number exempted for other causes	2,632
Total number exempted	7,016
Number paid commutation money	5,050
Number who have furnished substitutes	1,416
Number held for personal service	1,259

This last includes some who may yet pay commutation money.

Total not exempted	7,725

These reports come from sub-districts in eight different States.

Thus, half the drafted men claim and are allowed exemption. Of the rest, five-sevenths pay the commutation money, and one-seventh find substitutes. Out of 14,741 drafted men, only 1,259 are held for personal service, and this includes 'some who may yet pay commutation money.' Mr. Stanton and Provost-Marshal Fry suggest the repeal of the $300 exemption clause, but we doubt if Mr. Lincoln will venture on the enforcement of a *bonâ fide* draft.

AN article in *Hunt's Merchants' Magazine* for June gives a lucid statement of the present financial condition of the United States. From February 2 to May 14 the increase in the debt was $257,645,212—that is, at the rate of $2,525,933 per day, or about $1,000,000,000 per annum. Out of the $257,645,212 increase of the debt in 102 days—that is, from February 2 to May 14—only $56,700,772 was from the sales of Government stocks, the remainder being from issues of paper currency. The increase of the currency from July 1863, to May 14, 1864, was at the rate of $1,000,000 per day, 'and this constitutes about one-half of the aggregate increase of the Government debt. The national banks have, in the same period, added about $16,000,000 to the currency, making the total increase about $316,000,000.' From this it may be seen that, though defeat may hasten, victory cannot avert, a financial crash.

OUR Richmond letters are full of interesting items. Our readers will sympathise with our correspondent's amusement and amazement at the unparalleled mendacity of Northern authorities in reference to Grant's campaign. Besides a notice of the new members of Congress, and other matters more or less important, our correspondent gives an account of Stuart's last fight and death, and in truly describing his character pays a fitting and touching tribute to the memory of the hero.

A CONVENTION of the American Medical Society has just been held in New York. In the course of the second day's proceedings (June 8) Professor Gardiner offered a series of resolutions asking—we will quote from the *New York Herald*—'the Government to permit a flag-of-truce boat to go South with medicines, to be applied for the benefit of wounded rebel and Union soldiers in rebel hospitals, who, from the exigencies of war, cannot be properly treated by the surgeons of the rebel army. In offering the resolutions, Dr. Gardiner said he was actuated by motives of common humanity, and for the advancement of medical science he hoped they would be adopted.' We will also give the result of this proposition in the words of the *Herald*: 'After a full consideration of the subject—many of the members expressing their disapprobation—on a vote being taken, the resolutions were tabled.'

ON the 18th inst. the price of gold was 95¾ premium; the House of Representatives, under the urgent representations of Mr. Chase, have passed a bill forbidding time bargains and their negotiation in public places. The New York papers of the 14th inst. say: 'The House to-day passed the Gold Bill, with Mr. Hooper's substitute for the first section, by a strictly party vote. Up to to-day there was evidently a majority against it, but under the urgent representations of Secretary Chase of the necessity of such action, and the advance of gold to nearly two hundred per cent. the administration members either voted for it or did not vote at all, willing that the experiment should be tried, though with but little faith in its efficacy as a check upon the advancing premium on gold.'

ENGLAND.

THE noble ship *Royal Sovereign*, the pride and glory of the Admiralty and Captain Coles, made her official trial on June 23. She is entered in the 'Navy List' as an iron-cased cupola ship of 3,963 tons, driven by engines of 800 horse-power (by Maudslay, Sons, & Field), driving a common two-bladed screw of 18 feet diameter, the length of the ship being 250 feet, and her extreme breadth 63 feet. Her armament consists of 5 12½-ton guns, or 300-pounders. The diameter of their bore is 10½ inches, and had they been rifled they would have been 300-pounders; but not being so, they throw 150 lb. spherical shot with a 40 lb. charge of powder. There are four turrets, the foremost of which contains two guns, and the other three one gun each. From the plane of the table on which the guns and their carriages rest, the turrets have a clear interior height of 9 feet, and plenty of space for the working of the guns. 13 men will be stationed in the foremost turret, and 9 men in each of the others. The contrivances for training and reloading, and for whipping up the shot from the deck below, are most ingenious. It is believed that the causes to which the Federal commanders attributed the failure of the cupola ships in the bombardment of Charleston do not exist in the *Royal Sovereign*. The Federal ships exposed 13 feet of turret to the enemy's fire, while the turrets of the English ship are only 5 feet and 4 feet 3 inches above the deck; for the base and working portion of her turrets rest upon the lower and not the upper deck. Moreover, the turrets of the Federal ships became fixed, and refused to turn after their delicate turning machinery had been injured by the shot of the enemy. It is believed that the revolution of the turrets of the *Royal Sovereign* could not be obstructed by any blows dealt at the turret. The weight of these is distributed over a large space, while the base is thoroughly protected. Indeed, the table on which the turret stands is pivoted in its centre upon a wrought-iron cylinder, sufficiently large for a man to pass through, while the weight is distributed on bevelled wheels over a metal roadway equalling the turret's circumference in a manner similar to a railway turntable. Her capacity for affording comfort to officers and men is far superior to that of any iron-cased ship afloat, and is to be attributed to the fact that she is a 'three-decker' cut down. This fact also has the disadvantage of increasing her draught of water. In this trial she drew 21 ft. 2 in. forward and 24 ft. 10 in. aft; her top-sides (that is, measuring from the top of her side armour to the water line) were 7 ft. 6 in. out of water amidships. At full steam her true mean speed in the face of a strong north-westerly breeze was 11·006 knots. The draught in the fires was somewhat defective; and it is thought that when that matter is remedied, she will attain half a knot more. The ship was very steady, the only movement being a slight lateral one in her turrets. The ship is placed under the command of Captain Sherard Osborne, C.B., and can be made ready for sea in twenty-four hours. It is no piece of presumption to assert that she is the most powerful vessel afloat.

The new screw steam frigate *Ocean* was tried off Plymouth last week. She was launched on March 9, 1863, and received her plates at Keyham. She will carry 34 guns, and is classed with the *Caledonia*, *Royal Alfred*, *Royal Oak*, and *Prince Consort*. She will be of about 4,000 tons. Under half-boiler power the mean of four runs was 10·691 knots. Under full-boiler power the mean of six runs gave 12·895 knots. Her machinery appeared to be in perfect order, and the results of the trial were considered satisfactory.

ON Wednesday and on Friday, the 22nd and 24th days of this month, in the Lower House of Convocation, an animated debate was held on the proposed synodical condemnation of the book called 'Essays and Reviews.' In the course thereof the Dean of Ely (Dr. Goodwin) expressed a hope that the House would accede to the petition of Dr. Rowland Williams, and hear the petitioner before condemnation. The Dean of Westminster (Dr. Stanley) addressed the House at very considerable length. He thought that this was an attempt to erect Convocation into a tribunal by which all controversial works might be subject to condemnation. He himself had published a book twenty years ago, which, if published in the present day, would no doubt have been thought a bad, foolish, and wicked book; for it contained passages agreeing in words and in principle with those extracts from 'Essays and Reviews' on which the judgment had been founded. The proposed synodical judgment was ambiguous. It

stated that the book contained doctrines opposed to those of the Church of England and of the Catholic Church; but such were mere conventional terms, having no meaning. The judgment failed to discriminate that which was heretical from that which was orthodox; it even omitted to distinguish the authors: all were treated alike, and lumped together in one uniform condemnation. Such a judgment would be only just in case there were an absolute uniform heterodoxy in the book. Even the work which had been written by the Bishops of Ely and Gloucester in reply to 'Essays and Reviews' contained sentiments precisely similar to those now selected for censure. The judgment, also, was nugatory; for its object was to condemn those whom the supreme court had acquitted. Two hundred years ago Convocation had censured Bishop Burnet's book on the Thirty-nine Articles. That book had since been recommended to be read by the students of theology; and he would venture to predict that the time would come when portions of these 'Essays' would also be recommended by theological professors to their pupils. Canon Wordsworth, after referring to the taunts and calumnies thrown at the Church of England by the Church of Rome for its inaction in the matter in question, said that their great difficulty arose from the anomaly that Convocation was at once a deliberative and a judicial body. This fact should induce them to aim at obtaining the great want in the Church of England—namely, a rightly constituted court of appeal. He should vote for the judgment on the ground that portions of the book deserved censure. He hoped, however, that the House would follow the precedent in the case of Whiston in 1711, and allow Dr. Williams to be heard after judgment. At the close of the debate the resolution was put in these words: 'That the House respectfully and heartily tenders its thanks to His Grace the President and to the Bishops of the Upper House for their care in the defence of the faith, and that this House also thankfully accepts and concurs in the condemnation of the book by the Upper House to which their concurrence has been invited.' On the division, the numbers were: for the resolution, 39; against it, 19; majority for the synodical judgment, 20. Canon Wordsworth then moved that the petition of Dr. Williams be sent to the Upper House, with a request that their Lordships would take it into consideration. This motion was negatived.

ADDRESSES of congratulation on the birth of the Prince Albert Victor of Wales from the two Houses of Convocation, the clergy of the cities of London and Westminster, and the three denominations of Protestant Dissenters, were last week received by Her Majesty the Queen in person. The Queen returned a gracious answer in each case, and the principal members of the several deputations had the honour of kissing Her Majesty's hand.

PRINCE ARTHUR, attended by his governor Major Elphinstone, left Woolwich last week on board the *Vivid* for Ostend. He will make a short visit at Brussels and at the palace of Lacken, and then proceed on a tour through Germany.

THE annual Royal Regatta came off at Henley-on-Thames last week with great *éclat*. The Grand Challenge Cup was won by the Kingston Rowing Club. In the trial heat this Club defeated Cambridge University by a length and a half, the London Rowing Club being third. In the final heat the Kingston Rowing Club defeated Oxford University, the holders of the Challenge Cup, by half a length after a most severe race. For the Ladies' Challenge Plate, the Eton College Boat Club, the Trinity Hall Boat Club, Cambridge, and the Club of St. Peter's College, Radley, contested the trial heat. The Eton boys, after a gallant race, defeated the Trinity Hall boat by a length, Radley being two lengths astern of Trinity Hall. In the final heat, which was to have been rowed between the University College, Oxford, and the Eton Boys, the Oxford men scratched, their race with the Kingston Club having been too much for them, and the Eton Boat merely rowed over the course. The event was a great disappointment, for there was much curiosity as to the prowess of the Eton boat. It was no small glory for the boys to defeat the Trinity Hall Boat, which this year was the champion boat in the University of Cambridge, and some confidence was felt in the ability of Eton even to defeat the great men of Oxford. The Silver Goblets (pair-oared race) were won by Messrs. Selwyn and Kinglake, of Cambridge University, defeating Messrs. Brickwood and Brickwood of London. For the Stewards' Challenge Cup the London Rowing Club defeated the Oxford crew.

AFTER a prolonged enquiry before the coroner for West Surrey and a jury, a verdict has been found in the case of the railway accident at Egham. It will be remembered that on Tuesday, June 7, Ascot races were held, that enormous crowds of people had to be conveyed home to the metropolis from the racecourse within the space of a few hours, and that, through some unfortunate mistake, one train heavily laden had come into collision with another train at Egham Station, killing five persons and wounding about twenty more. The excitement on the subject had been very great, and much anxiety was evinced to learn on whom the blame of the calamity rested. Indeed, it was not a matter of wonder that the public mind should have been affected by the occurrence, for those misfortunes that befall men in the midst of joyful festivities are rendered more painful by the contrast. The jury found the engine-driver and the fireman of the second train guilty of manslaughter in having caused the deaths of the five persons killed, and considered that these men laboured under great disadvantages, owing to the general mismanagement of the railway company, especially in the following particulars:—First, in having no turntable at Ascot, the trains being thereby compelled to return with the tender in front, to the prevention of any communication between the guard and the driver. Secondly, from not using telegraphic communication from station to station. Thirdly, in starting the two trains at only five minutes' interval, and in not instructing the drivers and guards that the first of the two trains would stop at Egham and the second at Staines. The men were admitted to bail.

ON Saturday last a case was called on before Mr. Justice Mellor and a special jury at Westminster, in which one Ruberg was the plaintiff, and Feeny, the publisher of the *Birmingham Daily Post*, was defendant. The action was for a libel contained in that journal. The defendant pleaded 'Not Guilty,' and the usual editorial plea of the absence of malice and tender of an apology, and also paid five guineas into court. Mr. Bovill for the plaintiff said that the jury would not be troubled with trying the case. The plaintiff three years since had gone to America to attend to the affairs of his brother, an umbrella manufacturer at Birmingham. He proceeded to California, and joined some parties in fitting out a privateer. The Federal Government seized the parties, who were tried, convicted and sentenced to a fine of 10,000 dollars and ten years' imprisonment. The plaintiff, however, at the intercession of Mr. Bright, M.P. for Birmingham, was pardoned. The defendant had published two statements—first, that the plaintiff had been guilty of privateering and ought to have been hanged; second, that he had appropriated money received for his brother. However, the action was only brought to vindicate the character of the plaintiff, and that gentleman would be satisfied with the disavowal of malice on the part of the defendant. It appeared from the statement of defendant's counsel that the plaintiff was still in America. A verdict for the plaintiff with 40*s.* damages was then taken by consent.

IN the case of Yelverton *v.* Longworth (or Yelverton) in the House of Lords, the arguments on the part of the respondent were concluded on Friday last. Mr. Rolt has the right to reply on behalf of the appellant, Major Yelverton, and in answer to their Lordships intimated that his speech would occupy a whole day. The Lord Chancellor said that the hearing must be adjourned *sine die*, as there was special business demanding his attention in the House of Lords; but if possible two days' notice should be given of the resumption of the hearing.

WE deeply regret to record that Mr. Washington Wilks, well-known as a prominent member of the Reform Party, and as being connected with our contemporary the *Morning Star*, was seized with illness whilst addressing a public meeting on Monday the 27th instant, and expired in a few minutes. The melancholy event caused a profound sensation at the meeting, which immediately dispersed. Those most opposed to Mr. Washington Wilks's political views must testify to his many private and public virtues.

THE CONTINENT.

THE CONFERENCE.

A SUMMARY of the deliberations of the Conference of London, from April 25 to June 22, has been drawn up by one of the Plenipotentiaries. The following is an analysis of the document:—

The military position of the respective belligerent powers immediately before the commencement of the Conference was as follows:—Holstein was occupied by the Federal troops, Slesvig and Jutland were in the possession of the Austro-Prussian forces, with the exception of the position of Düppel, the fortress of Fredericia, and the very northern extremity of the peninsula. Düppel, however, was carried, and Fredericia surrendered two days before the opening of the Conference. Conquered at land, Denmark maintained her superiority on the sea, and blockaded the ports and captured the vessels of the German Powers. In retaliation for this the Allies exacted a war contribution of 90,000*l.* from the Danish dominions in their occupation. The Powers represented at the Conference were Austria, Denmark, France, the Germanic Confederation, Prussia, Russia, and Sweden, in conjunction with Great Britain, the convening Power. The first care of the English Plenipotentiaries was to bring about a truce; this was effected, with the assistance of the other neutrals, on May 9, to commence on the 12th and to last for one month. The next step was to arrange a basis for pacification: the representatives of Austria and Prussia were requested to give an account of the conduct and intentions of their respective courts. It then appeared that a very great divergence of opinion existed among the members of the Conference as to the amount of respect to be paid to the Treaty of 1852: the neutral Powers, with Denmark, were content to acknowledge its validity, while the German Powers repudiated it. On May 17, Earl Russell called upon Count Bernstoff to announce his proposed bases of pacification. After some difficulty it was explained that the proposition of the German Powers simply involved the separation of Denmark and the Duchies, leaving the question of succession for future decision. Baron von Beust, however, stated that he was instructed to oppose any reunion of the two under any condition or form. These bases were rejected by Denmark. Thus closes the first chapter of the Conference. On May 28 another proposal was made by the Austro-Prussians, demanding the union of the Duchies in a single State under the Duke of Augustenburg. To this both Russia and Denmark objected, and the scheme was dismissed. Upon this second failure, Lord Russell felt himself justified in taking a more decided step. With the full consent of the neutral Powers, he proposed a compromise, whereby a line should be drawn through Slesvig along the Schlei and the Dannewirke, all to the north of which should be attached to Denmark, while the remainder of Slesvig and the other Duchies should be left to settle upon their own form of government. This proposition was accepted by the belligerents, with reservations on the questions of detail. On June 2, the Russian envoy read a declaration, whereby the Czar of Russia ceded his contingent rights of succession to the Grand-Duke of Oldenburg, with a view to facilitate a pacification between Denmark and Germany. It was now necessary to negotiate for a prolongation of the truce, which ended on June 12; with some difficulty Denmark and the Austro-Prussian allies were induced, the one to grant, and the other to accept, a further suspension of hostilities for a fortnight. The question of most vital interest now was that regarding the frontier line which should divide Slesvig, according to the compromise proposed by Earl Russell. The Danes had agreed to accept the line proposed by England; the Allied Powers settled definitely upon a line drawn from Apenrade to Tondern; between the two lines lay an intermediate territory, with regard to which the neutral Powers were totally unable to induce either the one or the other of the parties to concede a particle. Such was the situation on June 18; a fresh attempt was then made by Lord Russell, who proposed that the decision of the line of demarcation should be settled by the arbitration of a friendly Power. The proposal was referred by the respective envoys to their Governments, and was rejected both by the Allies and by Denmark in the meeting of June 22. The French envoy then made a proposition on behalf of his Government, that a vote of the communes in the northern districts of Slesvig should be taken on the question, free from all pressure from either belligerent. M. de Quaade replied that he must absolutely decline this proposition on behalf of the Danish Government, who could make no concessions beyond the acceptance of the Schlei and Dannewirke frontier line. This sitting practically concluded the Conference; the meeting of the 25th instant was chiefly occupied in the justificatory statements made by the Plenipotentiaries of the belligerent Powers. The Germans refer the failure of negotiations entirely to the obstinacy of Denmark; the Danes refer it to the arbitrary manner in which the Treaty of 1852 had been thrown over. The meeting concluded by a vote of thanks proposed by Baron Apponyi, and presented to Lord Russell, the President of the Conference.

THE WAR.

The conduct of the English Plenipotentiaries in the Conference of London ought materially to reduce the highway rates in a certain place which we know is paved with good intentions. However, the good intentions have been of no avail, and war has recommenced. The game began by a few shots fired upon the isle of Alsen on the morning of the 26th, rather as an inauguration of hostilities than with any definite object. The conditions of the struggle, however, are likely to be materially changed; Austria and Prussia will, it is said, invite the Germanic Confederation to declare war against Denmark. On the other hand, Russia will send a fleet of observation into the south of the Baltic; and even England has declared, if at least German newspapers are to be believed, that she will not suffer any occupation of the island possessions of Denmark. Fourteen Danish men-of-war are cruising round the scene of operations; while the Austro-Prussian squadron is increased by a Monitor armed with Armstrong guns, and two iron-cased corvettes. The city of Hamburg has also bought some ships, which she purposes to place at the disposal of Prussia; and the squadron under Admiral Wullerstorff is also to be increased. Orders have been sent to the Allied forces to continue their advance into Jutland, and transports have been sent in pieces overland to convey troops to Alsen. The Danish military force is calculated at about 35,000 men, that of the Allies at 60,000; but the latter number will, of course, be largely augmented should the army of occupation in Holstein take the aggressive, as is suggested by the invitation of the Allies to the Confederation.

By Reuter's telegrams of June 29, we learn that on that morning eleven battalions of the Prussian army crossed the Alsen Sound, north of Sönderborg, at daybreak. The Danish troops were beaten back with the loss of several guns, and embarked in great haste. The Prussian loss was moderate. The attack of the *Rolf Krake* was repulsed by the Prussian batteries. The number of Prussian battalions engaged was eleven, forming a force of about 10,000 men. The number of Danish troops on the island of Alsen is stated to have been about 8,000.

DENMARK.

The Rigsrad was opened at Copenhagen on Saturday, the 25th inst. A royal message was delivered to the Representatives by Bishop Monrad, explaining that the authority of that assembly was necessary to enable the Government to raise the requisite revenue. The message concluded with a prayer that the nation which so earnestly sympathises with the Danes, may be led to convert her sympathy into active assistance. We need not say that the nation so alluded to is England.

The Russian proposition brought by Baron von Plessen was rejected by the Danish Government after some lively discussion. The King was inclined to accept it, but appears to have been convinced by Bishop Monrad that his acceptance of it would probably cost him his crown. The proposal involved, it is supposed, a scheme for the personal union of Denmark and the Duchies, a scheme no less unpopular in Denmark than in Germany itself.

GERMANY.

The Prussians have made an unsuccessful attempt to found a military post at the mouth of the Jahde in the Duchy of Oldenburg, which would be a basis of operations in the North Sea. The works were in the process of construction, when an unusually high tide came up and swamped everything, works, docks, and Prussian aspirations.

We have to chronicle the death of William I., king of Wurtemburg, which took place at Stuttgardt on the morning of the 25th instant. The deceased monarch was the oldest of the sovereigns of Europe, having been born in 1781. His father was Duke of Wurtemburg, a near

relation of Frederick the Great, in whose court he was brought up; his mother was a Princess of Brunswick. The Duke of Wurtemburg was made an Elector of the Empire as reconstituted by Napoleon, and was afterwards raised by the same hand to the dignity of the kingly title. The late King, then Prince Royal of Wurtemburg, accompanied Napoleon on his Russian expedition, but was not so wedded to his cause as to forbear from entering France with the invading army of Germans and Russians in 1814. He was connected with Napoleon by marriage, his sister having married Jerome, King of Westphalia, father of the present Prince Jerome. In 1818 he succeeded to the throne of Wurtemburg on the death of his father, and reigned without interruption for the space of forty-six years. Born under the last rays of the great Imperial monarchy, which Napoleon was afterwards utterly to extinguish—brought up amid the wild tales of the French Revolution—matured in the wars of Napoleon—William I. of Wurtemburg had learned a lesson of which he readily availed himself on his accession to the throne. His rule was equitable and beneficial to his subjects; they enjoyed a good constitution and perfect religious liberty. Where it was so easy to have been very bad, we must give the deceased king all praise that he was reasonably good. He is succeeded by Prince Charles Frederick Alexander, his son, who was born in 1823, and married in 1846 the Grand Duchess Olga, daughter of the Czar Nicholas.

The meeting of the Emperor of Austria and the King of Prussia at Carlsbad was chiefly noticeable from the rumours of a renewal of understanding between the two German Powers, consequent on the meeting of the two Foreign Ministers, Herren von Rechberg and Bismarck. It was immediately after the conference between the two diplomats that it was announced that the Germanic Confederation was to be invited to declare war against Denmark. On the 23rd inst. the Emperor left Carlsbad for Prague, after having presented Herr von Bismarck with the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Stephen.

A quaint account is given of the imperial réunion at the baths of Kissingen. Emperors, kings, princes, grand dukes, and so on, are as plentiful as strawberries; the diplomatic circle is as distinguished as that which has just ceased to meet in London. Princes, counts, barons, generals, and presidents are to be counted by hundreds; the air is alive with titles. Luckily the etiquette is to appear only in plain clothes, and without any orders or decorations. The Emperor of Russia is supposed to be quite *incognito*, travelling under the style of Count Borodinski. Under these circumstances, it behoves the smaller world to walk circumspectly, as they may at any moment tread on the toes of a monarch or jostle a princess unwittingly.

THE DUCHIES.

The Duke of Augustenburg has paid a visit to the western side of the territories which he claims, and has been received with enthusiasm. The manners of the Duchies are sufficiently like the English to warrant them in giving him a dinner, and exacting from him a speech afterwards: in this speech he told them that he gloried in the title of first German Duke of Slesvig-Holstein—that he had no intention of bending himself to the service of any particular interests, and was ready to make all sacrifices necessary for the safety of Germany. The claims made by the Grand-Duke of Oldenburg, as nominee of Russia to the sovereignty of the Duchies, excite the liveliest and sometimes the most painful interest in Germany. There is no doubt that the feeling in the Duchies in favour of the Duke of Augustenburg is of a very personal nature, and that persons who once clamoured for him as the representative of a principle are now equally clamorous against another Prince who is as good and perhaps a better representative of the same principle. The two aspirants embody to a great extent the leanings of the two great German Powers; Prussia inclining to Oldenburg, partly from pique at the refusal of the Duke of Augustenburg to surrender Kiel as a Federal fortress, partly from a regard for the wishes of the Czar of Russia: Austria preferring Augustenburg, for the very simple reason that Prussia objects to him. The *Norddeutsche Zeitung* has a paragraph in a conspicuous place relating that the Duke of Augustenburg has declared, 'that it would have been better for himself and his cause if Prussia had never meddled at all in the affairs of Slesvig-Holstein.'

The central committee of the Duchies has informed Herr von Beust that 240 of their local committees have protested against the arbitrary division of Slesvig. The sentiment has been re-echoed in the Chamber of Deputies of Saxony, who go so far as to assert that the union of Slesvig and Holstein is unalterable—a sort of law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be broken. They certainly had the art of making their treaties like their cement in olden times of a much more durable nature than at present. Why is a treaty four hundred years old, uniting Slesvig and Holstein, so much more binding than one twelve years old uniting Slesvig-Holstein and Denmark?

FRANCE.

The *Magenta*, *Couronne*, and *Normandie*, ironclad frigates, are now being armed on a new system, combining great artillery power with exceeding solidity. They will carry a broadside of rifled 68-pounders, and four 110-pounders as bow and stern chasers, besides four mortars of the nominal calibre of 170 lbs. on their upper deck. These vessels will, when completely equipped, form a squadron commanded by a rear-admiral.

Divers gangs of swindlers have for a long time preyed on the credulity of the French public from the safe distance of the British Islands. Not long ago the departments were inundated with letters from a firm at Liverpool stating that they had received from America a packet of deeds and testamentary papers, addressed to their correspondent, which they would forward to him on receipt of stamps to the amount of 9 francs 80 cents. for expenses of carriage. Now a new 'dodge' has come into vogue, which displays consummate ability, knowledge of business, and of human nature. A Frenchman receives a letter from 'Z. Vermesch & Co., 4 Clement's Inn, Strand,' stating that an aunt or other relation lately deceased was insured in their office for a certain sum; but that a stipulation had been inserted in her policy that the annual premium should be paid within a fortnight of its becoming due. The company hearing of the lady's death now write to the next of kin, to acknowledge their liability, but to inform him also that the premium of, say, 100 fr., had fallen due immediately before her decease, and that if it were not paid within the fortnight according to the stipulations, the policy would be void. The delighted *bourgeois* is determined not to lose a probably large sum for the want of 100 fr., and despatches the money straight to England. Of course nothing more is heard of Z. Vermesch and Co., and enquiries at the address given only elicit the fact that a foreign gentleman had lately engaged a small room there, in which he conducted a large correspondence, but that nothing is now known of him.

A new sort of drill has been invented in the French army for drivers of wagons and artillery. They are taught to form their wagons into battalion order, to march in column, to wheel, &c., at the word of command. A narrow lane is also formed with caissons and other heavy objects, through which the drivers have to pass at a walk and at the trot, and also to back their horses along the whole length of it. At the general annual inspection, the lane is formed of two lines of skittle-pins, with only sufficient space between them for the passage of a carriage. The number of pins knocked down by each driver in the course of his evolutions is counted, and a prize given to the one who knocks down the fewest.

The little comedy of which we proceed to give an account was acted lately at Tours, and is of a nature to puzzle somewhat the international lawyers. A Mexican prisoner of war, residing in that town, named Manuel Reyero, succeeded in gaining the affections of the daughter of his host. He contemplated marriage, but before the ceremony could be performed two steps were required: he must produce his certificate of birth, and receive the authorisation of the Minister of War. The first requirement was, he contended, impossible, considering the state of affairs in Mexico and his own inability to state where the certificate could be found: the place of it was therefore supplied by a declaration made by seven of his fellow-prisoners who were acquainted with him. Nothing was then required but the leave of the Minister of War. To his repeated applications no immediate answer was given, and the bridegroom becoming impatient determined to do without it, and persuaded a too credulous mayor to perform the ceremony of marriage. But in the meantime the Minister of War had not been idle: only, instead of taking Señor Reyero's word, he had written to Mexico for the certificate of birth. Shortly after the marriage the certificate arrived, and with it, to the utter disgust of the unhappy Mexican, two other documents which he had not required. The first was a certificate of his marriage in 1832: the second a declaration that his first wife was still alive. An explanation was of course immediately called for. Reyero said in his defence that he had married at the age of seventeen on the compulsion of his father: that he had never allowed the validity of the act, although he had lived with the lady for eighteen years, and had three married daughters. He had never himself signed the marriage contract, and had separated from his wife in 1850 on the understanding that he was at liberty to form a fresh union. A court-martial is sitting to decide on the best course to be pursued. It is a question whether to judge of the validity of the marriage on general canon law, which military men can know little about, or to plunge into the mysteries of the Mexican marriage law to discover whether a union lasting for eighteen years was sufficient ratification of a marriage imperfectly performed.

SWEDEN.

Some excitement was caused at Stockholm by the publication of a letter from the King of Sweden to the King of Denmark, proposing a Scandinavian union and an eventual fusion of the two dynasties. A Cabinet Council was held on the subject: and finally the King ordered the publication of a Ministerial note, disavowing the letter to a certain extent, and saying that the Swedish Government will continue to act in the most disinterested manner with regard to the Dano-German conflict.

The Swedish fleet has separated. Part of it has gone to Stockholm, and part to Christiania in Norway.

ITALY.

The same subject has occupied the attention of the Chamber of Deputies at Turin, upon a question put by Signor Siccoli, whether the Italian Government had taken measures for the protection of a colony of 10,000 Italians who now inhabit Lima, and whether they would not favour the side of the American Republics rather than that of Spain. Signor Visconti Venosta, the Foreign Minister, in reply said: 'Spain is not our enemy; we are two nations, sons of the same mother, united and assimilated by innumerable points of affinity.' However, a squadron is to be sent to the Pacific, and the diplomatic staff of consular and other representatives in those countries will be filled up as speedily as possible.

The National Rifle Meeting of Italy, which last year held a very successful meeting at Turin, was opened this year at Milan, on the 19th inst., by Prince Humbert with great pomp. It was attended by a deputation of 400 Swiss riflemen, who were greeted most enthusiastically on their arrival by the authorities and people of Milan. Rifle-shooting is taking deep root in some parts of Italy. It is conducted on principles very different from ours, and they are not often careful to attain the length of range which is thought necessary by us. The butts at Florence are perfect marvels of luxury, every distance being provided with its own target, from the shortest pistol range to the half-mile of the Whitworth. In consequence of this luxuriance of targets, the various classes can stand next to one another and fire at the same moment. A large and airy building protects all alike either from the fierce rays of the sun or the no less unpleasant though less frequent drenching of an Italian storm.

GREECE.

A despatch from Corfu announces that the King of the Hellenes has left the Ionian Islands, accompanied by M. Amelot, Prince Gagarine, and Mr. Rumbold, the diplomatic agents for France, Russia, and England, who have not ceased to follow him since the beginning of his journey.

THE PRINCIPALITIES.

The meeting of the Sultan and Prince Alexander-John, better known to the world as Prince Couza, has been productive of the happiest results. The explanations and concessions made mutually have been satisfactory as well to the parties concerned as to the congress of plenipotentiaries at Constantinople. Some trifling difficulty occurred with regard to his intercourse with the diplomatic body, in consequence of an invitation addressed to him by M. de Moustier, the French ambassador; the rule apparently is that the first official recognition of his presence should have been made by the senior member of the diplomatic body, who happens to be the English Ambassador, Sir Henry Bulwer. However, the difficulty appears to have arisen rather on a matter of etiquette than of political significance, and was speedily solved by explanations. England and France appear to vie with one another in claiming the credit of a pacific solution of the Principality question; for aught we know, Austria may also have a claim to the honour.

SPAIN.

A statement has been made in the Spanish Cortes by the Foreign Minister, Señor Pacheco, with regard to the Peruvian difficulty, whereof we subjoin a summary. He said that in spite of the old family connection between Spain and Peru, the latter power had made a point of treating Spaniards with exceptional harshness. The present difficulties had first arisen in consequence of an attack made by banditti upon a Spanish colony at Talambo, in which some of the colonists were killed and wounded. A request was made that the laws should be enforced, but the local tribunals proceeded with so marked an apathy and unwillingness, that the Spanish Government sent Señor Salazar y Mazarredo, with the title of Special Commissioner Extraordinary, to urge the claims of justice. The Peruvian Ministry began by putting him off, on the pretext that no business could be done during Holy Week; they next objected to receive him under the title given him by his Government, and in short showed so plainly their determination to put every impediment in the way of negotiation, that Señor Salazar thought it inconsistent with his dignity to remain in the country. He then concerted measures for putting a pressure on Peru, with Señor Pinzon, the commandant of the Spanish squadron; the result of which was the occupation of the Chincha islands by the latter gentleman. This action the Home Government could not approve; still less could they approve the statement which accompanied the occupation of the islands, wherein a sort of claim was set up on behalf of Spain to the possession of them. However, the Spanish Government cannot now release the islands until negotiations with Peru are satisfactorily terminated; but they wish it to be well understood that they hold them not as claiming a right to them, but as part of a foreign territory held in guarantee. It was hoped that matters could be easily settled since both Spain and Peru were willing to make concessions; unfortunately, however, Señor Salazar during his journey home was the object of a series of attacks (of which we gave an account in our last number) which imperatively required an explanation from the Peruvian Government. The Spanish Ministry did not pretend to say that the attempts to assassinate their Commissioner were ordered or even connived at by the Peruvians, but they felt that it was necessary for that Government immediately and absolutely to repudiate all connection with them, before any further steps could be taken towards reconciliation. When that was once explained he had little doubt that the remaining difficulties might be easily arranged.

JAPAN.

The treaty between the Emperor of the French and the Tycoon of Japan lately concluded in Paris contains the following articles:—1. In reparation of the act of hostility committed by firing upon the French ship *Kien-Cheng*, an indemnity of 140,000 Mexican piastres shall be paid (about 30,000*l.*) 2. All impediments in the way of French commerce shall be removed in the straits of Fimonosaki. 3. The reduction of custom-dues lately granted to foreign shipping shall be accorded also to French merchants. All articles connected with the preparation and packing of teas shall be admitted duty-free; a duty of 5 per cent. only shall be charged on wines, spirits, sugar, pig or manufactured iron, cloths, watches, and medicines; a duty of 6 per cent. on mirrors, china, jewellery, arms, and paper. 4. This arrangement shall be considered as an integral part of the treaty of October 9, 1858. In addition to these articles, the Japanese authorities have paid an indemnity of 35,000 dollars to the family of Lieutenant Camus, and agree to use all steps to bring his murderers to justice. By despatches from Japan, dated April 25, we learn that an important revolution is being effected in that country. The Tycoon has made an arrangement with the spiritual sovereign, the Mikado, whereby the former will become real monarch of Japan, consolidating the executive power, and lessening the overweening authority of the Daimios. Many of the former ministers have been dismissed, and the chief of the late embassy to France has been named as first minister. The Tycoon intends to introduce gas

and the electric telegraph into Japan, to build a steam fleet, and to adopt a general system of Western improvements.

MEXICO.

The Emperor Maximilian of Mexico arrived at Vera Cruz on the morning of the 28th ult., after having touched at Madeira and Martinique. In the latter island he found certain Mexicans who had been condemned by Marshal Forey to penal servitude for various reasons. Four of these he brought with him to Mexico, eight were liberated, and among the rest 2,000 francs were distributed, and a promise given that they should not be forgotten. On the 29th, the Emperor and Empress landed amid the thunder of a salute of 101 guns from the *Novara*, responded to by the cannon of the forts. They went straight to the railway station, whence a special train bore them to Loma-Alto, the last station on the line; they then went on by carriage to Cordova, where they slept, and on the next day proceeded to Orizaba, where they publicly returned thanks in the parish church for the safe conclusion of their journey. The arrival of their majesties has been greeted by a series of victories gained by the Franco-Mexican forces. On May 17, Doblado was completely beaten by Mejia with the loss of 1,200 prisoners, and 17 guns, besides provision trains, arms and ammunition. On the 13th, General Douai encountered a Juarist band, and dispersed them after an hour's fighting; the enemy lost 200 killed, 100 prisoners, 150 horses, and 4 guns. General Douai lost 4 killed, and 20 wounded. At Valparaiso, another engagement took place between the French and the Juarists, in which the latter lost 420 killed and prisoners, 8 guns, 500 muskets, and 200 horses.

The French military authorities speak with great satisfaction of the capabilities of the Mexican horses for purposes of war. Those of the northern provinces, Guadalajara, Zacatecas, &c., are large and stout, and well adapted for general cavalry. Those of the provinces of Puebla and Orizaba are small and very active, and singularly suited for real light cavalry purposes. Both breeds are hardy, and require little attention.

The Mexicans are extremely well satisfied with the success of their attempts to create a cotton market in their country. A letter from Chihuahua states that the last crop was so good, and fetched so high a price, that all the land in that part of the country is now devoted to the growth of cotton. They hope soon to rival in that industry the richest provinces of Texas. The last crop realised 30 piastres (6*l.* 8*s.*) a quintal on the spot, and was bought up in advance by eager speculators from Matamoros. The Indians are being exterminated in that country, a circumstance which will conduce materially to its prosperity. For the edification of those of our readers who may not be conversant with the geography of Mexico, we may observe that Chihuahua is a province on the south-west of Texas, lying between the frontier Rio Grande del Norte and the Sierra Verde; it is watered by the Chonchos, a tributary of the Rio Grande, and thus is in easy communication with Matamoros and the Gulf of Mexico.

PERSIA.

Disturbances have arisen in the province of Asterabad on the Eastern coasts of the Caspian Sea, in consequence of the incursions of the Turcoman tribes. These tribes, in nominal dependence on the Shah of Persia, have been very irregular lately in the payment of their contributions, and have gone so far as to carry off certain subjects of Persia. Three regiments have already been sent to guard the frontier, and now a force of about 25,000 men has been despatched, with artillery and cavalry, to restore permanent order among these nomad tribes. The arrangements have been skilfully made to surround them before the close of their harvest, after which time they would retire into their inaccessible deserts; an electric telegraph is being laid from Teheran to Asterabad, and stores of provisions have been sent forward for the use of the troops.

THE LOSSES OF THE FEDERAL NAVY.—The *Constitutionnel*, in commenting upon the late action between the *Kearsage* and the *Alabama*, spoke with admiration of the noble career of the latter vessel during the past two years. Upon this the *Siècle* retorted that the career of the *Alabama* had consisted of the ensnaring of merchantmen, and the destruction of their cargoes whenever a safe market for the sale of them did not present itself; and 'what,' it asks, 'was there so very noble in this?' Upon this sarcasm the *Pays* replies that the *Siècle* was either wilfully mistaken, or singularly prejudiced. The *Alabama* has never avoided an engagement with a man-of-war on reasonable terms; on January 17, 1863, she attacked and sank the *Hatteras*, 11 guns, in the midst of the squadron blockading Galveston, after a fight of twenty minutes, and took her officers and crew prisoners. The charge made against the Confederate navy that they are mere corsairs preying on a helpless commerce is an imposition on the credulity of the public. In spite of the numerical weakness of the Confederate navy, it has, by dint of activity, energy, and patriotism, effected great things. No better proof can be given of the fact than the subjoined imperfect list of Federal *men-of-war* destroyed or captured by it in less than three years. *Cumberland*, frigate, 50; *Constitution*, frigate, 32; *Mercedita*, corvette, 12; *Keokuk*, iron monitor, 8; *Gilcs*, gunboat, 8; *Kinsman*, gunboat, 3; *Columbia*, corvette, 10; *Mississippi*, frigate, 30; *Annie Bonsall*, transport, 3; *Lancaster*, iron corvette, 12; *Diana*, iron corvette, 7; *Washington*, gunboat, 5; *Barrataria*, gunboat, 6; *Pribble*, corvette, 11; *Cincinnati*, corvette, 13; *Harriet Lane*, gunboat, 7; *Westfield*, gunboat, 10; *Hatteras*, corvette, 11; *Lidell*, gunboat, 9; *Winona*, gunboat, 10; *Queen of the West*, iron steamer, 10; *De Soto*, gunboat, 6; *Indianola*, iron steamer, 3; *J. P. Smith*, gunboat, 9; *Morning Light*, corvette, 10; *Velocity*, brig, 2; *H. A. Weed*, gunboat, 6; *Waterwitch*, steamer, 6; *Granite City*, steamer, 6; *Wave*, steamer, 5.

The theatres in Richmond have been closed, the public not choosing to frequent them, 'in view of the bloody drama now being played' so near the city. The *Richmond Examiner* announces that a majority of the male actors are in the ranks.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

THE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH SHIPPING.

On Monday, Mr. Cave called attention to a subject of considerable importance to a branch of colonial trade—that, namely, between New York and Jamaica. A New York firm, Messrs. Cordova & Co., had been in the habit for a considerable time of shipping provisions to Messrs. Levy & Co., a mercantile house in Jamaica, to the extent of 100,000*l.* a year. These provisions were disposed of by Messrs. Levy in the ordinary course of business in Jamaica. These gentlemen had informed him (Mr. Cave) that they had no trade whatever with the Southern States, and it was, of course, extremely unlikely that they would ship contraband of war from the port of New York. The trade, in fact, was of the most legitimate and ordinary character. However, a short time ago, Mr. Levy, the head of the Jamaica firm and a member of the House of Assembly in that island, now in England, received a letter from his New York correspondent, dated May 28, informing him that the ship *Leonard Berry*, consigned to his firm, together with the *Perilia*, another ship loaded for the same destination, and all other vessels clearing for Jamaica, had been stopped by the Collector of Customs under a regulation requiring captains and shippers to furnish bonds to the United States that the cargoes were intended for the consumption of Jamaica, and would never be used for the benefit of the Confederate States; that three bonds were required, with sureties qualifying in real estate to the amount of twice the value of the cargo, or in the case of the *Leonard Berry* to $100,000, or in round figures 20,000*l.*, and that there was no provision for cancelling these bonds, even upon the certificate of the United States Consul in Jamaica that the cargo had been landed, but the bonds were to insure to all time, subject to the production of some evidence which might lead to their forfeiture. The writer probably did not exaggerate when he called this an embargo on Jamaica ships; and it must be a prohibition to the trade, as no trade could exist under such restrictions. It seemed that a trade in bonds had, however, sprung up under this regulation, and that people were willing to run the risk of being sureties at a price of 2½ per cent on the value of the cargo. The same regulations applied to Nassau, Bermuda, and Matamoros with more reason, perhaps, because those places had notoriously imported far more than their population warranted, but still contrary to international law, or at any rate the comity of nations. Jamaica, however, had a population of 400,000 to be supplied, and had always carried on a considerable trade with New York. Similar restrictions had been placed on the trade to Halifax, and St. John, New Brunswick, but they had been removed, as contrary to the Reciprocity Treaty. They had also been applied to Havannah, but had likewise been withdrawn on the Captain-General of Cuba threatening that he would refuse clearances to American vessels in every port of Cuba. In this case the British Consul tried in vain to obtain a relaxation of the rule, and an appeal had been made to Lord Lyons. Since the letter of May 28 was written intelligence had arrived that in this special case the security of the shippers had been received, and so the 2½ per cent. payment had been saved, but the regulations remained unchanged. He (Mr. Cave) had no sympathy with those who, in defiance of the Queen's proclamation, supplied munitions of war to either belligerent. Those who carried contraband of war must also run their chance, but it seemed unjust that fair traders should be subject to these arbitrary restrictions, and certainly unworthy and impolitic in the British Government to submit to them. The letter to which he had referred stated that our quiet submission to such arbitrary conduct had excited anything but respect on the other side of the Atlantic. He therefore wished to know whether any information on this subject had been received from Lord Lyons, and whether instructions had been sent, or, if not, whether they would be sent to him to protest against a system so injurious to an important branch of our colonial commerce.

Mr. Layard said the subject had given considerable trouble to Her Majesty's Government and to Lord Lyons. He was not aware that the particular case described had been reported to the Government; but Lord Lyons had informed them that those restrictions had been imposed upon vessels going to Jamaica and the West Indies. The opinion of the law officers of the Crown had been taken on the subject, and it was to the effect that the restrictions were illegal and vexatious. As for requiring that goods which had been landed at a neutral port should never find their way to the Confederate States, there was no doubt that those terms were altogether beyond the competence of the United States Government to impose, and in consequence of the representations of Her Majesty's Government those restrictions had in many cases been removed. One or two of those cases were now under the consideration of the law officers of the Crown, and instructions would be sent to Lord Lyons to make strong representations to the United States Government on the subject.

THE KEARSAGE.

On Friday, in the House of Commons, Lord C. Paget said, in reply to Mr. Corry, that it was unnecessary to send to Cherbourg to learn how the sides of the *Kearsage* were strengthened against shot and shell as described by Captain Semmes, since the *Kearsage* had been in dock in this country, and the Government were already in possession of the required information.

THE CONFERENCE.

On Monday, both Houses of Parliament were crowded by eager and excited audiences anxious to hear the Ministerial announcements in reference to the Danish question. In the Lords the Prince of Wales took his seat on the cross benches, and the Princess of Wales was present as a spectator.

As we give in our notes on events of the week a summary of the proceedings of the Conference, a brief report of the Parliamentary proceedings of Monday will be sufficient, particularly in view of the debate that is to take place next week.

Earl Russell, in the Lords, after reviewing the proceedings of the Conference, argued that England had given no guarantee to Denmark, and that England was not bound alone to maintain inviolate the integrity of the Danish monarchy. The strength of England was necessary to preserve other interests than those of the balance of power in Europe, and we might be called upon to defend our rights in other quarters of the globe. His Lordship said: 'It is no longer a question with reference to the balance of power in Europe. There are other parts of the world in which our interests may be as deeply involved, and in which we may have, some day or other, to maintain the honour and interests of this country. The civil war now raging in America, ending how it may, whether by the establishment of an independent republic in the South, or whether it ends, most unexpectedly as it would be to me, I confess, by restoring the Union, still the United States of America, or the Northern States, or whatever they may be called, will then be in a totally different position to that which they were in a few years ago. A great army will then be maintained by the United States. A formidable navy will also be kept up. Our relations with that Power are liable at any moment to interruption. I hope and trust that our friendly relations may be maintained; still, those relations must be considered and kept in view as well as our interest in the maintenance of the balance of power in Europe.' If the war should assume a new character, if for example the Germans should attack Copenhagen, the Government might arrive at a different decision, and in that case Parliament would be consulted. The present policy was to maintain peace, and in striving to effect this object, the Government had preserved the honour of the country.

In the House of Commons, Lord Palmerston gave a *résumé* of the Danish question and a history of the Conference. His Lordship said the Government are of opinion that might had overridden right, and they should have been glad to have taken the part of Denmark if they could have done so justly; but the Danes had been originally in the wrong, the matter in dispute was small, and France and Russia had declined to take any part in giving material support to Denmark. Therefore the Government had not seen any reason to depart from their pacific policy. If, however, the character of the war changed, and the independence of Denmark was threatened, the position of this country would be reconsidered, and if there should be any change in the policy of the Government, it would be communicated to Parliament.

Mr. Disraeli gave notice on Tuesday that he would on Monday next move the following vote of censure: 'To move a humble address to Her Majesty, to thank Her Majesty for directing the correspondence on Denmark and Germany and the protocols of the Conference recently held in London to be laid before Parliament. To assure Her Majesty that we have heard with deep concern that the sittings of that Conference have been brought to a close without accomplishing the important purposes for which it was convened. To express to Her Majesty our great regret that, while the course pursued by Her Majesty's Government has failed to maintain their avowed policy of upholding the integrity and independence of Denmark, it has lowered the just influence of this country in the councils of Europe, and thereby diminished the securities for peace.'

Mr. Kinglake gave notice that he proposed to move an amendment to the motion of which notice had just been given. The words he should state to-morrow.

SHIP NEWS.

THE OWL OFFICE, June 29.

(*By Magnetic Telegraph from all parts of Europe, and Private Wire from Downing Street.*)

Downing Street, 1 P.M.—Heavy Gale from the East, but moderating; atmosphere very cloudy; very high water.

ARRIVED.

The Time for Action, from 20, Arlington Street—the Overture, from France—the Holy Alliance, from Kissingen—the Crisis, from Copenhagen—the Lie and Deceit, both from Russia.

SAILED.

The Plenipotentiary, for Home—the Armistice, for No Good—the Lord Russell, for His Country's Good—the House of Commons, for the Country—and the Treaty Right, for Utopia.

ANCHORED.

The Reform, from Agitation, for Universal Suffrage—the Administration, from Meddle, for Muddle.

VESSELS SPOKEN WITH.

The Germany, from Liberty, for Despotism.
The America, from Wealth, for Bankruptcy.
The Emperor Napoleon, from Whereheis, for the Rhine.
The Bismarck, from Bad, to Worse.
The Cabinet, from Hesitation, for *The Owl* Office.
The England, from Prestige, for Profit.
The Confederacy, from Fighting, for Recognition.
The Prince Couza, from Constantinople, for Independence.

PASSED.

The Tory, from St. Stephen's, for the Treasury, labouring heavily.

The ship Opposition, from Arlington Street, which has arrived at Decision, came in collision with the Government brig while going into the Debate Dock. The Opposition had jibboom, bobstay, and all her head-gear carried away. The Government received but trifling damage.—*The Owl.*

RELIGION IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY.—The *Charleston Courier* of May 14 says: 'Up to the beginning of the active movements, the results of which are now anxiously but hopefully expected, the reports of chaplains and missionaries and visitors showed a general and actively increasing interest in religion as prevailing in both of our main armies. The course of this war will show what has never been so fully exhibited in any army, that a soldier who fears and honours God, and is not ashamed to be ashamed or afraid of blasphemy, profanity, licentiousness, and pillage, is none the less terrible to the enemy.'

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the south, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 13 Bouverie Street, E.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1864.

Grant's New Plan of Campaign.

AT length we know something decisive of GRANT's movements. It is reported officially that his whole force had crossed the James River, and was moving along the south bank on Richmond. SMITH's corps of 15,000 men had already attacked and taken the outer defences of Petersburg, and a rumour was afloat that the town itself had fallen. This is far from improbable. The line of the Appomattox and the city of Petersburg were not tenable whilst the Federals possessed any considerable force at Bermuda Hundreds. So long as BUTLER could be kept within his intrenchments, the Confederates could make a show of resistance. But the arrival of GRANT's whole army on the south bank entirely changed the aspect of the affair. A column pushed forward from Bermuda Hundreds would take the force defending the line of the Appomattox in the rear, and compel it, if successfully attacked in front, to fall back westward, and make a long détour in order to regain Richmond. It is probable, therefore, that, as soon as the attack upon Petersburg was found to be serious, the whole Confederate garrison was withdrawn at once in the direction of Richmond, or only allowed to remain long enough to ensure the safe transport of such supplies as it was expedient to carry off to Richmond. The fighting is not likely to have been very obstinate. The town of Petersburg is about thirty miles from Richmond. Bermuda Hundreds is some ten miles nearer. Supposing it to be GRANT's intention to move directly upon Richmond, he will take the line of the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad; and he has at any rate secured this advantage, that he has interrupted one line of LEE's communications with the South. But here, as in the northern and eastern routes to Richmond, strong fortifications await him; and chief of these is Fort Darling, the works of which cover equally the James River and the line of railroad. To advance upon Richmond with any hope of success, he must first capture the Confederate position at Drury's Bluff; and, as the garrison of Fort Darling is in uninterrupted communication with Richmond, and supported by a very powerful ironclad flotilla, a *coup de main* is out of the question, and regular siege operations must be resorted to. It might, it is true, be possible for GRANT's army to march past these works, leaving a sufficient force to hold in check the Confederate garrison. But this would be a very hazardous operation, for Fort Darling could be reinforced at will by the Confederates, and a sortie in large numbers might imperil the very existence of GRANT's army. The position at Drury's Bluff, then, must be assaulted and taken before Richmond is in danger, and, from all we can hear, Drury's Bluff is likely to give GRANT as much trouble as Vicksburg. It remains to be seen, however, whether the Federals are strong enough to spread over the country south of Richmond, and destroy LEE's communications with the South. At Petersburg they are in dangerous proximity to the Danville line of railroad, and a dashing cavalry leader ought to render that line almost useless to the Confederates. In that case, the only road open would be the Virginia Central, which is alleged to be threatened by General HUNTER, and if GRANT should be able to maintain his position south of Richmond through the summer and autumn months, LEE would inevitably run short of supplies. But we can hardly suppose that GRANT contemplates such a lengthened stay before Richmond, or that, with Washington open to a Confederate incursion, he will move very far from his gunboats on the James. Nor is it likely that LEE will remain inactive. The force of ironclads at Richmond is known to be powerful, and if a naval battle should place the James River in the hands of the Confederates, GRANT's army would never get back to the North. The defences of the south of Richmond are immensely strong, and to capture the town he must once more cross the James in the teeth of an army nearly equal in numbers. LEE has the opportunity of striking a crushing blow at General HUNTER's force, or of pushing northward boldly into the enemy's territory. In either case, GRANT could not long maintain his position south of Richmond.

Beyond this new movement of the Army of the Potomac, there is nothing of great importance in the military news of the past week. SHERIDAN's cavalry force, on which great expectations were fixed, has been defeated, but we have only the bare announcement of the fact, and we are left in ignorance as to the locality of the defeat and the objects of the expedition. If he was really attempting to join HUNTER, the check is a very serious one to the Federals; but it would be premature for the present to speculate on its results. Of greater moment, perhaps, is the defeat of General STURGIS by FORREST's cavalry in Tennessee, with the loss of all his artillery trains, &c., and the destruction of his army. We are inclined to believe that STURGIS was not so much in pursuit of FORREST, as *en route* for SHERMAN's communications with reinforcements and supplies, and that FORREST's object was to intercept his march. FORREST is now supreme in that quarter; and as he is reported to be making for SHERMAN's rear, his movements may prove most calamitous for the Federal army in Georgia. By the latest accounts from this State, SHERMAN's lines were within 500 yards of the Confederate army under JOHNSTON, who had taken up a very strong position on the hills in front of Marietta, and the Federal army was intrenching itself. There were no further flank movements to be made. SHERMAN had either to fight, and assault a very strong position, or retreat. Any day may bring us the news that the decisive battle has been fought. But it must be remembered that JOHNSTON, if he loses, has Atlanta, a fortified town, to fall back upon; SHERMAN has 140 miles of an enemy's country to travel in order to reach Chattanooga; and if FORREST once reaches his communications, it is difficult to see how he can escape a great disaster. Both sides are bringing up reinforcements. General TAYLOR, with 16,000 men from Louisiana, was reported to be on his way to join JOHNSTON. When the day of battle comes, we expect it will be found that even the numerical superiority in which the Federals have so long trusted will have failed them.

For the moment, however, all the interest of the war is centred in the struggle for Richmond. The defeat of SHERMAN, involving, as it probably would, the loss of the whole of Tennessee, would be made light of in the North, if GRANT maintained his position before the Confederate capital; and it is to Virginia that all the energies and resources of the North will be directed. Hitherto all have failed. GRANT is now in a worse position than at any former period. It was always open to him to have occupied Petersburg. His flotilla and 50,000 men would have enabled him to seize it almost without a struggle. As it is, he has sacrificed 70,000 men, the flower of his army, in reaching a town which he might have occupied almost by a demonstration three months ago. What is more, he has given the Confederates what they most wanted—time. Reinforcements have now reached LEE, and are reaching him, from all parts of the Confederacy, whilst GRANT to his casualties in the field has now to add the losses by withdrawal of the three years' service men. By a legal quibble, and by threats of extermination, he was enabled to retain these men for two months beyond their time of service. But the bulk of them are now on the point of leaving the army of the Potomac, or have left it; and GRANT will not find efficient substitutes for them in the badly-equipped and undrilled recruits now hurried off by Mr. STANTON to fill up his ranks. The struggle may yet be long and bloody; the repulses of Spottsylvania and the Chickahominy may have to be repeated on the banks of the James River. But GRANT's campaign failed, when BUTLER was driven to his gunboats, SIGEL defeated, and his main army driven back with slaughter from Spottsylvania. We must leave to Federal sympathisers to estimate the remote chances of his success now that all his hopes rest on the possibility of a victorious advance along the south bank of the James River.

The Conference.

THE attention of Parliament for some weeks past has been directed with increasing earnestness and concentration upon one object—the Danish war and the London Conference. Question after question was put to the Ministry, during the sitting of the Conference, to elicit information in regard to its proceedings; and over and over again Lord PALMERSTON in one House, and Lord RUSSELL in the other, returned the same reply. The Plenipotentiaries assembled had agreed from the first that no intimation of what passed in their deliberations should be given to the public until the discussion was over and the Conference finally adjourned, and that pledge the Ministers of the QUEEN were not at liberty to break. To press questions, in the face of an answer of this kind, was of course impossible; but the frequency with which questions were asked, and the manifest discontent with which the barren reply was endured, evinced a very different spirit from that which Parliament usually displays when 'the interest of the public service' requires that the conduct of HER MAJESTY'S Government should be shrouded in mystery. The impatient feeling displayed may be readily explained. In the first place, one of the Governments represented at the Conference has from the first, in an underhand manner, disregarded its solemn engagements; and the German press has conveyed to this country intimations of what has been passing in London which were not a little alarming to the pride as well as to the prudence of England. It was very difficult for the House of Commons to recognise a reserve which was observed only against the British Parliament, or to admit that it must remain in official ignorance of matters which Prussian journals were allowed to publish to the world at large. When informed first that England had submitted to the repudiation of the treaty of 1852 and the spoliation of Denmark; then that the line of the Schlei had been proposed as her boundary; then that there was a question of giving up this, the northernmost line that would give her a single position in which a battle could be fought for the protection of Jutland; then that Denmark had sent in an ultimatum, so much distrusting her allies that she would rather risk the chances of war than those of further negotiation; then that Prussia had threatened to repudiate the treaty of Paris, and resort to privateering—it was not wonderful that the representatives of the English people grew impatient of a silence which partook rather of Japanese etiquette than of diplomatic prudence, and only affected to conceal matters which were already notorious everywhere, save within the walls of Parliament. It needed all Lord PALMERSTON'S tact and influence to curb that impatience, and persuade the House that it was one thing for the Prussian or the Federal representative to send secret telegrams to German editors, and quite another for a British Minister to give to those telegrams an authoritative affirmation from his place on the Treasury Bench. Nor did the questions finally cease till the First Minister announced, on Thursday last, that the Conference would probably meet for the last time on Saturday, and that on Monday the House should be fully informed of all that had passed.

Another feeling, no doubt, contributed to the tone of excitement and uneasiness that pervaded the House of Commons. There was a total uncertainty as to the policy of the Government, a want of confidence in their intentions, and a grave suspicion that they themselves were rather drifting in search of an anchorage than pursuing a consistent course towards any predetermined haven. And there can be little doubt that this suspicion was well founded. The conduct of the Ministry from first to last indicates that they were afflicted by that surest source of indecision and inconsistency—internal dissensions. Had they been all of one mind, they would not have halted so long between two opinions, and endeavoured not so much to achieve a settlement as to avoid the necessity of taking a decision. France and Russia, being singleminded, neither interfered nor fought: Sweden, equally singleminded, would, but for England, have both interfered and fought: England only took the course which indicates essentially a double mind—she interfered very vigorously, but showed an extreme reluctance to fight. It can scarcely be doubted that a division of opinion was the source of that fatal irresolution which kept us negotiating while Austria and Prussia were acting, and drove us on the hopeless resource of a Conference, *flagrante bello*. The Cabinet could not make up its mind on the one point which was essential to a decided and consistent policy—whether or not it would, in the last resort, rather fight for Denmark than allow her to be conquered; and, not having decided this question, it strove as long as possible to maintain a course admitting of either alternative, the result inevitably being a position in which neither alternative is

capable of leading us to a result either honourable or satisfactory. If the Ministry had resolved not to fight in any event, they would, at the moment that Austria and Prussia declared their intention of making war, have uttered an indignant protest and withdrawn from further discussion, as Lord Londonderry and Mr. Canning decided to do when the Holy Alliance spurred on France to put down the liberties of Spain. But, as there was a strong war party in the Cabinet, this course was not adopted. Effort after effort was made to prevent the invasion of Denmark, or to turn it into a mere occupation of Slesvig for purposes of coercion; negotiation continued even while the armies were fighting. Instead of wrapping herself in a distant and cold neutrality like that of Russia or France, England gave Denmark every support but that of force; she finally succeeded, by dint of entreaty, menace, and intrigue, in assembling a Conference, in which to plead the cause of the injured and weaker party, and constituted herself so avowedly and openly the protectress of Denmark, that she cannot now, without incurring the ridicule and contempt of Europe, abandon her to her fate. On the other hand, if the Cabinet could have made up its mind to fight rather than abandon the 'integrity and independence of the Danish monarchy,' it is absurd to suppose that Lord Palmerston, Lord Russell, and Mr. Gladstone would have been foolish enough to wait till Denmark had been overrun, and her defences torn from her. If it had been resolved to save Denmark at all hazards, Prussia and Austria would have been warned in December, that England would regard the passage of the Eider as a declaration of war. In all probability that threat would have arrested their career. All this must have been plain to the experienced eye of a Minister like Lord Palmerston; and it is impossible to suppose that had he been master in his Cabinet he would not have contrived either to keep the peace with honour, or to go to war with advantage. The fear that this vacillation would do precisely what it has done—the uneasy consciousness of a weak and unsteady hand on the reins of Government, fretted the temper of the House of Commons, and agitated the feelings of the country. And seldom has a more anxious audience crowded the benches and filled the galleries than that to which were addressed the explanations of Lord Palmerston on Monday night.

Those explanations fully confirmed the general opinion of the curious indecision and half-heartedness of the Ministerial policy. Of course, the Conference had been a dead failure. Prussia and Austria had with difficulty been got to state their demands, which had first amounted to nothing less than the separation of Holstein and Slesvig from Denmark: and throughout the negotiations they had behaved with great want of frankness and with grasping arrogance. Denmark was willing to cede Holstein and a morsel of Slesvig, but insisted on having a defensible frontier, which should not leave her at the mercy of Germany. The neutral Powers fixed on the line of the Schlei and the Dannewerke, to which Denmark acceded. Prussia and Austria would not accept this, and Denmark would not recede from it: and, after some further attempts of the neutrals to bring the belligerents to terms, the Conference broke up in despair. The natural conclusion of such a story would have been an announcement that Her Majesty had been advised to support Denmark in defending the line agreed on by the neutral Powers. But it seems that the peace party in the Cabinet had finally triumphed. Lord Palmerston announced that, considering the circumstances of the case, the neutrality of France and Russia, and the overwhelming military force which Austria and Prussia could throw into the Continental dominions of Denmark, the Cabinet thought it advisable not to fight; although, he added, if Copenhagen should be bombarded, its people slaughtered, and the King made prisoner, England might then find herself compelled to reconsider her policy.

These remarks provoked a severe rebuke from the leader of the Opposition, who denounced them as a continuation of those spiritless and senseless menaces which had done so much to lower the influence and authority of England. He gave notice of his intention to invite an expression of opinion upon the policy of the Government, and there can be no doubt that there will be an animated discussion. The feelings of the country are warmly with Denmark, and it is not particularly agreeable to the national vanity of England to be told that we are not strong enough for a single-handed encounter with Austria and Prussia.

We must not pass without notice a remarkable passage in the speech in which Lord Russell announced to the House of Lords the result of the Conference, and the determination of the Government. He had another plea for peace, besides the military strength of Austria and Prussia. Another element entered into his consideration.

The civil war now raging in America, ending how it may, whether by the establishment of an independent republic in the South, or whether it ends most unexpectedly, as it would be to me, I confess, by restoring the Union, still the United States of America or the Northern States, or whatever they may be called, will then be in a totally different position to that which they were in a few years ago. A great army will then be maintained by the United States. A formidable navy will also be kept up. Our relations with that Power are liable at any moment to interruption.

So that, after three years of coaxing and conciliation; after bearing endless wrongs from the North with patience, and inflicting systematic affronts upon the South without provocation, the friend of Mr. Adams and the ally of Mr. Seward is forced to reckon the probable hostility of the Federal Government among the sources from which England would have most to apprehend if she should once engage in a European war. This is a truly satisfactory result of a warm and friendly neutrality; of a policy which carried conciliation to the verge of cringing, and forbearance to the very brink of servility. We find that, even by Lord Russell's own confession, the United States are so bitterly and inveterately our enemies that we should be sure to have them on our backs if we were once engaged with any other foe; and this is all that we have obtained by sacrifices of pride and dignity which have keenly wounded our feelings at home and injured our prestige abroad. Could our position have been worse if we had pursued a line more consistent with the usual bearing of a great Power: if we had allowed no insult to pass unnoticed and no wrong to be inflicted on us with impunity; if we had held the balance even between North and South, and forborne to flout the latter or to flatter the former; if we had treated Yankee bluster with contempt and resented Yankee insolence with spirit, instead of indulging the vain hope of quieting arrogance by concession?

NAVAL PRECEDENTS.

To the Editor of The Index.

Sir,—As the rescue of Captain Semmes and a portion of his equipage, and the Federal pretension to consider them as prisoners, have given rise to various speculations in the press, it may not be inopportune to recall an incident in the present war which, it appears to me, completely estoppes Captain Winslow from the claim advanced by him, even if that claim was admissible on its own merits. On February 1, 1863, the Confederate steamers, *Palmetto State* (Captain Rutledge) and *Chicora* (Captain Tucker), made an attack upon the Federal blockading fleet off Charleston Harbour, completely disabling and dispersing the latter. In the course of the action, the United States sloop of war *Mercedita*, 11 guns, surrendered to the *Palmetto State*. Commander Abbot, of the *Mercedita*, came on board the latter vessel, and formally completed the surrender, at the same time asking for assistance for the crew, as his ship was in a sinking condition and her boats useless, having in the confusion been lowered without putting in the plugs. Upon Commander Abbot's pledge, he and the entire crew of the *Mercedita* were paroled, and he ordered back to his vessel. A short time afterwards, however, the *Mercedita*, favoured by a dense fog, managed to escape, and made for Hilton Head.

Here, then, there was not only bodily possession of the ship, but an express parole given, which nevertheless did not prevent the Federal craft from escaping.

In this connection, also, it is worth while to refer to a curious correspondence between Admiral Collingwood and the Spanish Vice-Admiral D'Alava. D'Alava had been permitted to remain on board his captured ship, on account of the dangerous state of his wound, but, the ship being afterwards forced by stress of weather on the Spanish coast, he considered himself released by an act of Providence. Admiral Collingwood took a different view, on the ground that D'Alava's sword, 'the emblem of his service,' had been formally surrendered; but the nice question involved in this case has always been considered a disputed point among naval men.

In the case of Captain Semmes, you will observe that there was neither possession of the vanquished ship, nor surrender of sword, nor pledge of parole. He had just as much right to escape from captivity by accepting the friendly rescue of the *Deerhound*, as to swim to either French or English shore, if this had been physically possible.—I remain, respectfully yours,

Neutral.

Torpedoes.—The *Charleston Courier* thus comments on the use of torpedoes:—'The first vessel of war destroyed by a torpedo was the United States ironclad boat *Cairo*, on the Yazoo river, in the fall of 1862, or winter of 1863. The *Cairo* was a formidable vessel, carrying thirteen guns and a crew of three hundred men. She was sunk by a torpedo—a simple contrivance, being nothing more than a demi-john filled with powder, and a friction primer inserted at the mouth. A wire was attached to this primer, by means of which the operator fired the powder as the vessel was passing over it. Since that time several new and valuable inventions of this character have been brought to the notice of the Confederate authorities, and the total damage inflicted is shown by the list of at least nine vessels which have been wholly or partially destroyed during the war, and, with the single exception of the *Cairo*, as stated above, all within the past year. Some vessels, in addition, not yet accounted for, may be charged to the torpedo account. In addition to this, three railroad trains in Tennessee, and one on the Ohio and Baltimore Railroad, have been destroyed by torpedoes within the last six months, and all this has been accomplished at a less cost in men and money than would be required to build, man, and equip the smallest gunboat in the Confederate navy.'

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York: June 15, 1864.

THE STRATEGY OF GRANT—HIS LOSSES—HIS REINFORCEMENTS—THE POSITION OF SHERMAN—THE CONFEDERATE DEFEAT AT STAUNTON—THE DRAFT IN THE NORTH—THE DILEMMA OF THE GOVERNMENT—THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION—THE BALTIMORE CONVENTION—MR. LINCOLN'S PROSPECTS—THE CLEVELAND CONVENTION—THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY—ANDREW JOHNSON.

The Southerners are in high spirits. Grant has 'changed his base.' That is the favourite Federal phrase for conveying the idea that he has changed his plans; finding the one in hand impracticable, he is going to try another. It is circumlocution for defeat; but the plain word is too ugly. Grant entered Virginia with a very large army, which he was willing to expend in order to reach Richmond, and proclaimed his intention 'to fight it out' *on that line* if it took 'all summer.' He found the Confederates barring his way at every point. He kept throwing huge masses upon formidable entrenchments and stubborn lines of Confederate soldiers, and was repulsed in every attempt to open the way. Every new movement to find a practicable way was heralded in the North as a brilliant strategic manœuvre to 'out-general' and 'out-flank' Lee. But somehow Lee was always before him, and the 'flanking' had to be repeated with enormous losses of men. At last in the leafy month of June, abandoning the 'line' to which he had vowed himself for a summer's work, he got within sight of Richmond, near the spot where he might have landed six weeks before with scarcely the loss of a man. But it was a place in which he could not stay. Lee was there covering the place with his powerful army carefully entrenched. One more effort was made to pierce these defences, and, after a bloody battle, the Union assault on the Confederate lines was repulsed with terrible slaughter at all points. It was the final effort to take Richmond from that quarter. Lincoln's plan and Grant's plan, with all its variations, including his constrained falling back on M'Clellan's repudiated plans as far as he could, have all failed. For more than a week the army has been quietly moving out of that spot—the saucy rebels call it retreating. There has been a loss of six weeks and fully 50,000 men, and now a new plan is to be tried. The whole original campaign of Grant is now a confessed failure. It is more—it is a frightful disaster. Grant's boasted generalship has been proved to be the obstinate piling of masses upon masses of his troops, in the determination to march, if need be, right over their dead bodies into the fortifications of Richmond. He repeated it again and again, until his bloody obstinacy has earned him, among his own officers, the muttered epithet of butcher, and the complaints among the men that they are used and wasted merely to fill up ditches, over which, nevertheless, the Union armies are never able to pass. I give the lowest possible computation when I say that 50,000 men have been sacrificed for nothing. That number is certainly put *hors de combat* for the war. Counting the actual loss to this army for the week in hand, there are well-informed men who say that in killed, wounded, prisoners, and missing—the last a huge number—the army of General Grant has lost at least eighty thousand of its original numbers. In the later battles it has been impossible to keep the new troops in the ranks when led up to the actual assault. The whole region about them swarms with stragglers, and the official reports, cautiously as they are drawn up, cannot conceal the fact that, on several occasions of impending battles, the veterans were called out to force the skulkers back to duty. The Government has been doing its best to fill up the depleted ranks by sending forward all the troops which it can call in from every quarter where they can be spared. Even hundred-day men, just called out in the West for the distinct purpose of garrisoning the frontier, in order that the enlisted men might be sent into the field, have been hurried on to strengthen Grant. There was almost a mutiny in the district when this order came. Large bodies of them threw down their arms and positively refused to go until the regulars were drawn up and compelled them to resume their muskets and march. They insisted that they were cheated into the service, having been called out for a distinct purpose, and being now used for a very different one; but they could not help themselves, and have gone down to the Virginian slaughter-pen. This is the sort of troops which go to replace the old soldiers who have been killed or disabled in Grant's marchings and countermarchings and useless attempts to force the Confederate lines in Southern Virginia. The actual numbers he has lost may be replaced, and probably he has now very nearly as many men as he had when he crossed the Rapidan. But he has lost largely of his best troops, and his reinforcements are mostly raw, and generally unwilling, recruits. It is with this force that he is seeking a new route by which he can transfer his attack to another point. His next demonstration will, it is thought, be on the south side of the James River, as soon as he can get the transportation and carry his army across, to form a junction with Butler.

The failure of Sherman in the campaign against Atlanta is not so fully developed; but there are growing apprehensions that his victories over Johnston are as unreal and infructuous as those of Grant over Lee. There has been for some time an ominous silence in the bulletins from the War Department about the operations in Georgia, other than the stereotyped announcement that everything is quiet or is doing well, and that Sherman is getting ready to do something brilliant very soon. The Confederates say that Sherman has got on so far from the base of his supplies, has so entangled himself in a difficult country, has so formidable an enemy in front, and such active assailants in his rear, that his position is one of peril. They say that he cannot go forward without fighting at a disadvantage, that he cannot retreat without ruin, that he must fight and win a series of battles before he has any chance of getting into Atlanta, and that the loss of any one of these would be fatal to his army. This view of the position of affairs there is strengthened by the complaints of officers on that line which find their way into the Northern papers. A correspondent of the *Tribune* of this city wrote for that paper in the following strain, at the very time that the public despatches were giving glowing accounts of the victorious progress of Sherman:—'The conformation of the country—its creeks, tortuous ravines, irregular hills, almost defying topographical delineation, and dense woods, obscuring all observation of the world beyond—resembling, in fact, the country about Dalton and Resaca—has very much the appearance of a huge trap purposely prepared for us. To the enemy every foot of the ground is familiar. To us it is a very *terra incognita*. Involved in these labyrinths, defended by sharp practice on the part of the rebel skirmishers, and by the masked batteries on which we were liable to stumble at every step of progress, for the first three days, the enemy had everything his

own way. Our huge army, like a strong man fighting blindfold, has been continually feeling for the enemy, getting into position, distributing the forces, and bringing up its interminable wagon trains under protection of its own lines. Meantime, skirmishing has been going on continually. Not an instant, day or night, has there been a cessation of the eternal pop-pop, bang-bang of guns, large and small, around the lines; first from right to left, and then back again in continuous roar and rattle, until the ear has become so accustomed to the sound it ceases to attract attention. By degrees the programme of the enemy seems to reveal itself. Posted in his chosen position behind works which he is daily making stronger, he stands chiefly on the defensive, awaiting our attack. Meantime he will give us no rest day or night. Every day he has shelled our batteries, our wagon-trains, our headquarters. Every night he has made two or three assaults or feints upon one part or all parts of our extended line, rousing the whole camp, calling the men to arms, and keeping them on the *qui vive*, until long watching, harassment, and its inevitable fatigues are doing the work of decimation in our ranks as effectually by piecemeal as the wholesale slaughter of a great battle.'

It is reported that General A. J. Smith's troops, which were lately in Louisiana, and were forced back into Arkansas by the Confederates under Kirby Smith and Taylor, are on their way to reinforce Sherman, and that the trans-Mississippi troops of the Confederates are hastening towards the east to strengthen the armies of Lee or Johnston at the central points, where the great interest of the struggle and the efforts of both parties are now concentrated. Texas and Western Louisiana are abandoned by the Federals, and their hold is loosened on Arkansas; and the Confederates are up again and extremely active in Missouri. The navigation of the Mississippi River is constantly obstructed by the activity of the Confederates, and has been lately closed entirely by batteries planted in Washington County, Mississippi. West Tennessee and Kentucky are swarming with Confederate cavalry, and large bodies of them are hanging about the rear of Sherman's forces and threatening his communications.

The one Confederate defeat to be recorded is the capture of Staunton, in Virginia, by the troops under General Hunter, with the loss of artillery and stores to a considerable amount. A great deal is made of it in the newspapers, by daily repetition and exaggeration, to set off the inaction which prevails in other quarters, and turn enquiry from the cause of the cessation of the daily shower of glorious bulletins from Virginia and Georgia.

There is no longer any uncertainty about the new levy for three hundred thousand men. Operations drag everywhere for the want of troops. The Union armies—with what remains to them of the 1,800,000 men heretofore called out under the several proclamations of the President—are held at bay everywhere by Southern armies. The spirit for volunteering is totally extinct. The largest bounties will not bring up recruits, and nothing remains but the rigid enforcement of a pitiless law of conscription. The draft will not be ordered until Congress has amended the law, so as to make it more sweeping in its scope and more effective in execution. The question which is most debated now is whether the commutation clause shall be continued or repealed. It has been found that while the privilege exists of purchasing exemption from service by the payment of $300, the Government gets 'money but few recruits. States, and counties, and cities have loaded themselves with heavy debts to provide commutation money and bounties, in order to avoid the social and political troubles of a compulsory drafting, and they can do little more. They despair of averting the great peril of a large draft, and, therefore, there is a sort of hopeless resignation to necessity, which counsels the abolishing of exemption fees and bounties, and the bold resort to naked and uncompensated compulsion.

The dilemma is a serious one. Not to repeal the commutation clause is to encounter the certainty of a draft for a large portion of the number required, and thus to lose the chief advantage proposed in the great outlay which was to save the unwilling poor from being taken forcibly away from their homes, and keep the popular expressions of discontent from taking a form dangerous to the peace and property of the community. To repeal it, leaving in the law the privilege to buy substitutes, gives an odious advantage to the man of wealth, and throws all the personal burdens of fighting battles on the poor. Both ways there are difficulties ahead, between which it is hard for Congress to make a selection. Either way the new draft will be extremely distressing upon the labouring classes, and it is greatly feared that it will dangerously increase the popular repugnance to the war and the popular reaction against its authors. The drain of the working men of the country, to renew the armies and die in the battle-fields and hospitals, is already severely felt in the dearth of labour; the drawing off of three hundred thousand more of the most active and vigorous of the male population is a subject for gloomy anticipation to those who must go and those that remain. The North is paying annual tithes of its best blood and muscle for the privilege of attempting to overrun and destroy the South; and its reward is coming in this rapid collapse of its own physical strength and the constant terror of revolutionary reaction.

Nevertheless, the necessities are great, and the drafting process must go on, or the war must be abandoned. There will be exciting, if not alarming times, when this draft comes to be enforced. After it gets through will come a resulting question, which is thought of with great fear by the politicians: What effect is the harsh measure, and all the antecedent and following circumstances, to have on the Presidential election next fall? It almost seems that, among politicians, in Congress and out of it, leaders of public opinion, and aspirants for public station, who have the direction of public affairs at Washington and of party movements elsewhere, this question of 'Who shall be the next President?' occupies more thought and creates more care than the fortunes of the war, except so far as military events advance or retard the prospects of candidates.

Two Conventions, within the past fortnight, have been engaged in President-making, and presented two sets of candidates for President and Vice-President. There are more yet to be held. The Democratic Convention is to assemble at Chicago on July 4; and it is by no means certain that there will not be a fourth, of Peace Democrats, who will not consent to endorse the war policy which the majority of the Democrats at Chicago appear now to be determined on adopting. There may be still a fifth, called later in the summer, to try and negotiate a combination among all the branches of the opposition to agree on a single ticket to be turned against Mr. Lincoln; and a sixth for the same narrow purpose of attempting to turn over the bulk of the Democratic votes to the support of General Fremont as the best chance for overthrowing the party in power. It will be observed from this that the political elements are very much disturbed, and that it is difficult to prognosticate, or even to conjecture, what form they may ultimately take, or to what final issue the possible combinations may lead. Some of the elements of the calculation are fixed; others, perhaps controlling ones, remain to be developed.

The Government ticket of Lincoln and Johnson, nominated at Baltimore, starts with immense advantages. It has the 'regular' nomination of a large party, lately a triumphant one in the elections, and apparently still the controlling party in the country. That fact brings to it the great force of party discipline. It is, too, the party of the Government when the Government is engaged in conducting a great war. It is a powerful plea against a change of Administration, that large operations are going on against the public enemy, which it is inexpedient to disclose. The overthrow of an executive in the midst of a war might seriously damage very important measures, and greatly encourage the enemy; so at least it may be plausibly urged, and the party in power make good use of the plea. A third element of strength is the possession of the enormous patronage of the Executive office, and the formidable control over the expression of adverse opinions which the concentration of military power has placed in the hands of the incumbent, and the patient submission of the people to the extreme and arbitrary use of it has enabled him to employ for his own purposes. The Convention which nominated him was the reflex of his own will through these agencies. It did not meet to deliberate, it was appointed to nominate him; and a large proportion of the members were directly his dependents, office-holders of his own appointment, contractors and jobbers, and speculators with the host of friends and followers whose means of living and hopes of fortune are derived from his favour, and depend on his continuance in power. The passion for war, artfully managed, has thrown into the hands of soldiers in the field a right of suffrage which is thought to be sufficient of itself to determine the issue in some of the largest of the States, and thus decide the result of the election; and the President, by his appointing power in the selection of officers and his political use of it, has manipulated the armies into great voting machines, to be managed by his partisans for his benefit. These are tremendous forces with which Mr. Lincoln enters the field for reelection. They were believed by his partisans to be irresistible. But there are some signs of a breaking up of the combinations which have hitherto sustained the President in every act, however lawless and tyrannical, and punished free speech against the Administration as disloyalty to the Government. The first demonstration was the defection of a considerable section of the party before the Baltimore Convention met. They denounced it, in advance, as a packed and corrupt assemblage, and went to Cleveland in mass convention, and there nominated candidates of their own in Fremont and Cochrane, on the express ground of opposition to the reelection of Mr. Lincoln. They denounced him personally for the imbecility of his administration, and his own want of capacity and principle:

For his violations of the Constitution and the principles of civil liberty, in the usurpation of military over civil power, in his arbitrary arrests, suppressions of free speech and a free press, and suspensions of the *habeas corpus*;

For his renunciation of the Monroe doctrine, and toleration of a Mexican empire erected by foreign force on the ruins of an American republic; and

For the servile sacrifice of the right of asylum in secretly seizing the Spaniard Arguelles and sending and delivering him to the Spanish authorities in Cuba, by executive order, without the authority of law or judicial enquiry.

In respect to the war, the Cleveland meeting was so ultra violent, in its declarations against the South, for warfare without pause or compromise, and there is unconditional submission, for the utter and immediate extinction of slavery and the universal confiscation of Southern States to the uses of the Northern soldiers who may go down and conquer them, that the Baltimore Convention, when it met afterwards, found it difficult to keep up with them. The points of difference between the two Conventions and the men they placed in nomination, are expressed in their opposite view of the means which can be legitimately employed for the complete subjugation and occupation of the Southern states. The Cleveland candidates hold, in the language of General Fremont, that resistance to the reelection of Mr. Lincoln, by organising against him 'every element of conservative opposition,' is indispensable in order to bring the people to realise that while we are saturating Southern soil with the best blood in the country in the name of liberty, we have really parted with it at home.'

The Convention at Baltimore, while it affected to despise the Fremont demonstration at Cleveland as utterly insignificant as a political movement, showed in its own proceedings how sensitive its managing leaders are to some of the gravest of these imputations on their candidate, and how anxious they are to avoid a direct issue upon them before the people. Their mission to Baltimore required them to nominate their patron for reelection. The forms of consistency exacted a vote in approval of his administration. But their political astuteness taught them that they must shun the giving of such definite pledges on particular acts as would require them to defend specifically measures against which such imposing remonstrances were made by members of their own political communion. As soon as the Convention had finished its work and adjourned, its orators and presses in numerous places began to construe away the resolution of general approval of Mr. Lincoln's administration. It is argued that they never meant to approve of these measures as constitutional in a normal state of the country, but as exceptional acts beyond the Constitution, justified by the necessity of preserving the national life, which might otherwise have perished. They excuse their President by inculpating themselves as having condoned the gravest of political crimes in approving of the deliberate violation of the fundamental law; and they think they atone for it for themselves and for him by the promise that the crime shall not be continued longer than the occasion, and will not be repeated until another occasion shall arise. The defence is not accepted by the followers of General Fremont. They are organising for a vigorous canvass, as though their separation on this point were final and irrevocable.

Not much can be said at this early day in favour of the chances of this looked-for positive success in the election of the candidates, but in the state of disintegration which threatens to overtake all parties, it is a formidable power to be taken into the account for any new combinations. A large portion of the Democratic party believe that it will very much damage the Baltimore ticket, and are disposed to improve it to their own advantage. Some crude propositions, which may perhaps come to something hereafter, have already been thrown out in the journals of the War Democracy, for a fusion with the Fremont men, by running unpledged tickets of electors for joint votes, and, if a sufficient number are chosen, to combine them afterwards on some single candidate, to defeat Mr. Lincoln. In that shape the coalition is clearly impracticable, and will have to be abandoned or so modified as to effect a combination of purpose, without a combination of votes, sufficiently positive to bring out the full strength of the opposition for favourite candidates. The Democrats begin to believe that, if they can agree among themselves on a single and powerful name, the supporters of Fremont can draw off such a number of votes from Mr. Lincoln in Republican States, that the Democrat will succeed. But for this purpose delay in the nomination is indispensable. The Fremont movement must be left to grow into a state of greater exasperation with the Administration party, and make its separate organisation complete. The Democrats, too, want time for the purpose of effecting a better understanding among themselves. The feud between the War Democrats and the Peace Democrats is increasing in bitterness, and there is an imminent danger that if a Convention were held now, they might fall into discords as violent as those which have broken out between Fremont and Lincoln. A very powerful effort is now going on among the leading men of the party to have the meeting of the Convention postponed to a later day than July 4, for which it has been convoked. There are plausible reasons assigned for this, in the state of public affairs, and the high probability that events will occur within a brief period which may change the aspects and objects of parties, and designate a line of policy and a candidate different from those which might be adopted early in July. It is considered wise to wait and watch without precipitating division among themselves, and to take advantage of the precipitancy of their adversaries. The Peace men among them are particularly anxious for this postponement; for the belief is fixed among them that they grow stronger every day that the war goes on, and its hopeless and horrible character and ruinous consequences develope themselves in the embarrassments and defeats of the Government and the sufferings of the people. There is a deep current of feeling running in that direction, and I am inclined to think that under no state of circumstances can the bulk of the Peace Democrats be brought to vote for any candidate whose election will be held to be a pledge for the continuance of the war.

The Vice-President of the United States has no place in the administration of the government. He has no other duties than to preside in the Senate. The office is only of contingent importance, as providing a successor in the event of a vacancy in the office of President, which has twice occurred in the history of the country, but is not taken into the account in the selection of a candidate. The Vice-Presidency is usually bestowed on some political friend of the party in power, who belongs to a section of the country different from that from which the President is selected. Lincoln and Hamlin were both from the North, where, in the furious party rage of 1860, the Presidency was to be won by concentrating Northern action against the South. In 1864, there is a semblance of returning to the old practice, and a Southern-born man is selected for the Vice-Presidency. They could not have found one more willing to be a servile tool of the North, or a blacker traitor to his own kindred and country, than Andrew Johnson of Tennessee.

The history of this man is a singular one. His early life was a struggle with extreme poverty. His origin was very humble, and he was brought up as a tailor. Whatever mental training he has was acquired by himself when working at his trade for a living. He rose to be Governor of the State, Senator in the United States Congress, to be named by a section of party friends in his State as their choice for the Presidency of the United States in 1860, and now to be nominated by a triumphant faction to be, as they think surely, Vice-President. In all this career, he has never shown administrative capacity or statesmanship or done any public service. He is the same audacious and unprincipled demagogue he commenced by being, and has the same Jacobin notions and grovelling tactics which made him the leader of the populace, and have given him a success which is a reproach to the party which he attached himself to and contrived to make the instrument of his advancement. He has an acute mind, great self-confidence, strong passions, and a great power of will, which, aided by a natural faculty for fluent speaking, gave him a paramount influence with the rude and illiterate population of East Tennessee. The favourite leader of an important section of the Democratic party, he had the force through the convention system to make himself the head of the party in the State, against the struggles of whatever was cultivated and conservative among them. His power was achieved by assiduous courting of the lowest instincts of the populace. There has been no Radical issue ever brought forward to catch the votes of the multitude that Johnson did not take it up immediately and go beyond the author in the race for favour among the have-nothings, except in respect to slavery. Living in a slave State, but not in the heavy slaveholding section, it was in his interest to support slavery, and he did it vehemently and as intolerantly against the North as a South Carolina or Georgian planter, until the conflict with the North came on, and numbers and power and force were thrown on the side against slavery. Then he suddenly went over to its adversaries, and became a furious partisan of extreme Northern ideas. He was among the first for that abomination, an elective judiciary; he was for choosing Senators for Congress by the direct vote of the people of the States instead of the Legislatures; he wanted postmasters chosen at elections; and he is the father of the project for dividing the public lands among the landless of all countries. He has become the very Beecher of Abolitionism, and acting under Lincoln's appointment as the military Governor of Tennessee, he has shown himself as remorseless, as vindictive and cruel as Butler.

A BURIAL AT SEA.—A Nassau paper of June 4 publishes the following:—'A melancholy incident occurred on Friday of last week upon the steamship *Fannie*, while being chased by a Yankee man-of-war. One of the passengers on board, Captain Frank Du Barry, late Chief of Ordnance on General Beauregard's Staff, C.S.A., died that morning. Preparations had to be completed for his burial, which took place amid all the excitement of the chase. A burial at sea is a ceremony at all times full of solemnity, but it is when coupled with such events as this, that war assumes its most repulsive aspect. In that frail little steamer quivering with her efforts to escape the relentless fate bearing down on her with frowning guns and the ferocity of the tiger, while every living heart on board was throbbing with anxiety for safety, they were suddenly called upon to render the last and most solemn rites known to our existence. No time then to stop in mid-ocean, while words that consigned "dust to dust," "ashes to ashes," went up in presence of the grim destroyer, but still dashing onwards through the waves, a short and hurried service—a heavy splash—and a body sank to its eternal resting-place in the broad ocean's bosom, while all that was dear to it in life sped from it on its way, like the arrow from the bow.'

LETTER FROM NASSAU.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NASSAU: June 6, 1864.

THE tone of the correspondence received from the Confederacy becomes more cheering every day, and as an evidence of increasing confidence it is worthy of note that gold exhibited a marked and steady decline in Wilmington and Charleston while the battles in front of Richmond were in actual progress. Speaking of Charleston, we would remark that it is now considered quite as eligible a port for blockade-running as Wilmington, and trade with it has been resumed. We are told that its people have become so habituated to the constant bombardment, that the negroes throng the dangerous portion of the city for the purpose of being the first upon the spot to secure such shells as do not explode, much in the same way as boys are wont to scramble for apples—the shells being all purchased at a fair price at the arsenal.

Since last writing the Yankee cruisers have made some valuable captures, among which are two boats from this port, both on the return of their first trip, viz. the *Young Republic* and *Greyhound*, against which we have received the following additions to our commerce:—*Letter B, Badger, Georgina M'Caw, Fox, Prince Albert*, and *Jupiter*—all, we believe, from Liverpool except one from London. The 'blockade statistics' for the past month exhibit as follows:—

ARRIVALS.—May 16, *Will o' the Wisp*, Wilmington; *Rothsay Castle*, Charleston; 26, *Lucy*, Wilmington; 30, *Fanny*, Wilmington; *Alice*, Wilmington; *Mars*, Charleston; *Annie*, Wilmington; 31, *Syren*, Wilmington; June 1, *Coquette*, Wilmington; 4, *Will o' the Wisp*, Wilmington.

DEPARTURES.—May 9, *Coquette*, Wilmington; *Lucy*, Wilmington; 23, *City Petersburg*, Wilmington; 25, *Badger*, Wilmington; 26, *Will o' the Wisp*, Wilmington; 27, *Georgina M'Caw*, Wilmington; *Rose*, Wilmington; 28, *Lucy*, Wilmington; June 3, *Annie*, destination not known; *Syren*, ditto; *Fox*, ditto; *Coquette*, ditto; *Alice*, ditto.

By the arrival of s. s. *Will o' the Wisp*, we are in receipt of dates to June 1, which report safe arrival of all to that time, thus showing in the past month twenty successful evasions of the efficient (?) blockade to two unsuccessful. The *Badger* was run aground inside the harbour, but will be got off, the cargo having already been safely landed.

Business is now very quiet with us; the stock of supplies in the Confederacy is fair, and the anxiety felt in regard to military operations militates against business; its activity will not be resumed until something more decisive takes place. In the meanwhile, stocks here are enlarging, and preparations being made for a heavier business, in view of the large number of additions to the commerce we anticipate in the next few months. Local affairs are dull. His Excellency Governor Bayley leaves for England by this mail, where, we trust, he will meet the reception to which his admirable and impartial administration of the government of this colony, under the most peculiar and difficult circumstances, richly entitles him. Prices show little change over quotations in my last. Saltpetre is in great demand, and will realise a fair profit. At present there is none in the market, and only thirty tons on the way, all of which has been sold to arrive at 55*s.* to 56*s.* per cwt.

'SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE' IN THE BOLTON DISTRICT.

A PUBLIC meeting was held on Friday evening at Farnworth (Bolton) to hear a lecture from the Secretary of the Southern Independence Association (Mr. T. B. Kershaw), and to consider the propriety of basing a resolution thereon, such resolution, if carried, to be forwarded, together with a petition to Parliament signed by the inhabitants of the town, to Mr. Lindsay, M.P., in anticipation of the motion about to be brought on by that hon. gentleman in the House of Commons.

Farnworth, it should be mentioned, is one of the most populous outlying towns in the Bolton district; and, as in all other places of greater or less importance, not only the wealthy and educated, but nearly the whole body of respectable people in humbler life have long since shown a determination to declare for themselves their own opinions upon American affairs. The strong Southern feeling now existing there, or rather the open and bold expression of it, is entirely due to the indignation caused by the shameless practices resorted to by the Union and Emancipation Society in its endeavours some two years ago to misrepresent, for political purposes, popular sympathy in the north of England. Thanks, however, to the counter-operations of the Southern Independence Association, not only has the wrong been made right, but a fit and proper measure of punishment has everywhere overtaken the offenders. For instance, in Farnworth the clergy of all denominations (except Mr. Ward Beecher's) are 'Southern,' and consider themselves fully justified in taking their places on the political platform to advocate other doctrines than those held and preached amongst us by that eminent war-christian. The magistrates, local gentry, and the great bulk of county voters are Southern to a man. All the considerable manufacturing firms but *one* (a representative of which was the sole Northern opponent, as a man of respectability, at the meeting on Friday night) are known to favour the Confederate cause, and have expressed their desire to sign a memorial to Her Majesty's Government for the recognition of the South. With respect to the tradesmen, artisans, and operatives of the town, their opinions were sufficiently attested by the overwhelming majority in which they mustered in the body of the New Hall on the occasion of Mr. Kershaw's lecture.

The subject of the lecture was 'The American Constitution and Southern Secession.' John Hall, Esq., borough solicitor for Bolton, was voted to the chair, and among his supporters on the platform were the Rev. W. Woodman, Captain Whittam, Lieutenant Whittam, Ensign Hardman, Simeon Dyson, Esq., W. H. Hayman, Esq., Robert Briercliffe, Esq., J. Greenhalgh, Esq., &c., &c. An emissary of the Union and Emancipation Society subsequently made his appearance in the body of the hall, and, assisted as he was by about a score of youths, created some disturbance, which, however, had only the effect of bringing out in fuller force the strong Southern feeling prevailing in the Bolton district.

The Chairman, in opening the business of the meeting, said he did not doubt that the subject of Mr. Kershaw's lecture, and, above all, Mr. Kershaw's ability in handling it, would prove distasteful to the few Northerners who were present; yet he trusted that even those who differed from Mr. Kershaw would give that gentleman a fair and thoughtful hearing. It was stated some time ago in the *Times* that a certain Federal general, who had failed in his generalship, took to trying his hand at definition. He defined the rights of the South. He said the Southerners had only two rights worth mentioning: one the right to be hanged, the other the right to be damned—one a constitutional, the other a divine right. The only favour he (the Chairman) had to ask was, that, instead of limiting their rights to two, they would grant the Southerners a third one—viz. the right to be heard.

Mr. Kershaw, upon the strength of this rather happy introduction, presented himself on the platform amid the most eager applause, and delivered his lecture amid repeated marks of the most cordial approval. He commenced by examining, after his own popular manner, the origin and history of the American Constitution—quoting, *memoriter*, but, as usual, with strict accuracy, various facts and arguments derived from reports of States conventions, many of the resolutions and amendments adopted or rejected from time to time; calling attention to the strongest points which bore most conclusively upon his subject, and furnishing date, place, and person for every authority he adduced. The people of the United States, he said, knew no more who made the Constitution than the audience he was addressing. It was made with closed doors, and newspaper reporters were shut out. The Constitution was, in fact, imposed upon the people. New York, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia, all refused to sign it, and yet it was said to have been done 'unanimously.' One of the powers delegated to the Lower House by the Constitution was the power of taxation; and in that branch of the Legislature, as was well known, the Northern States had always possessed a majority. And how did those States exercise that superiority? By instituting such enormously high tariffs that Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright, with all their Federal sympathies, must have gone into the other lobby. At the conclusion of his lecture, Mr. Kershaw, referring to the news of that morning, said the mail had brought the proud intelligence that the people of the South were more determined than ever, and more competent than ever, to hold out to the last; nor would they, under any circumstances, yield an inch to the power or to the numbers of their infuriated enemies. It was now computed that since Grant made his first move in the present campaign, his losses, all told, are nothing short of 100,000 men. God Grant so much bloodshed may so n cry for a righteous retribution upon those who caused it, and who yet thirst for more!

Samuel Gee, Esq. (the solitary 'Northerner' of his respectable position, above referred to), attempted to address the meeting on behalf of the North, and protested against the passing of a Southern resolution, of which due notice had not been previously given.

The Chairman ruled in favour of testing the meeting by a resolution; but Mr. Gee continued to protest. The result was that the meeting was thrown into disorder, although the applause with which the resolution was carried was more than sufficient to drown the feeble opposition of Mr. Gee and the young lads. It was proposed by Captain Whittam, and seconded by the Rev. W. Woodman, and ran in the following terms:—'That this meeting, seeing the hopelessness of the North in its attempts to restore the Union and subjugate the South, and feeling that the continuance of the war is merely a wanton waste of life, is of opinion that the time has arrived when Her Majesty's Ministers should advise Her Majesty, in conjunction with other European sovereigns, to interpose for the purpose of bringing about peace by the recognition of the Southern States.'

Upon that resolution being put to the meeting, a forest of hands was held up in approval of it, and that demonstration was followed by a waving of hats and caps and a hurricane of applause. The Chairman declared it to have been duly carried by an overwhelming majority.

THE LINCOLNITE PLATFORM.

THE following are the resolutions adopted at the Baltimore Convention:—

1. Resolved, That it is the highest duty of every American citizen to maintain against all their enemies the integrity of the Union and the paramount authority of the Constitution and laws of the United States, and that, laying aside all differences and political opinions, we pledge ourselves, as Union men, animated by a common sentiment and aiming at a common object, to do everything in our power to aid the Government in quelling by force of arms the rebellion now raging against its authority, and in bringing to the punishment due to their crimes the rebels and traitors arrayed against it.

2. Resolved, That we approve the determination of the Government of the United States not to compromise with rebels or to offer any terms of peace except such as may be based upon an 'unconditional surrender' of their hostility and a return to their just allegiance to the Constitution and laws of the United States; and that we call upon the Government to maintain this position and to prosecute the war with the utmost possible vigour to the complete suppression of the rebellion, in full reliance upon the self-sacrifice, the patriotism, the heroic valour, and the enduring devotion of the American people to their country and its free institutions.

3. Resolved, That as slavery was the cause and now constitutes the strength of this rebellion, and as it must be always and everywhere hostile to the principles of Republican government, justice and the national safety demand its utter and complete extirpation from the soil of the Republic; and that we uphold and maintain the acts and proclamations by which the Government, in its own defence, has aimed a death-blow at this gigantic evil. We are in favour, furthermore, of such an amendment to the Constitution, to be made by the people in conformity with its provisions, as shall terminate and for ever prohibit the existence of slavery within the limits or the jurisdiction of the United States.

4. Resolved, That the thanks of the American people are due to the soldiers and sailors of the army and the navy, who have perilled their lives in defence of their country and in vindication of the honour of the flag; that the nation owes to them some permanent recognition of their patriotism and their valour, and ample and permanent provision for those of their survivors who have received disabling and honourable wounds in the service of the country; and that the memories of those who have fallen in its defence shall be held in grateful and everlasting remembrance.

5. Resolved, That we approve and applaud the practical wisdom, the unselfish patriotism, and unswerving fidelity to the Constitution and the principles of American liberty, with which Abraham Lincoln has discharged, under circumstances of unparalleled difficulty, the great duties and responsibilities of the Presidential office; that we approve and endorse, as demanded by the emergency and essential to the preservation of the nation, and as within the Constitution, the measures and acts which he has adopted to defend the nation against its open and secret foes; that we approve especially the proclamation of emancipation and the employment as Union soldiers of men heretofore held in slavery; and that we have full confidence in his determination to carry these and all other constitutional measures essential to the salvation of the country into full and complete effect.

6. Resolved, That we deem it essential to the general welfare that harmony should prevail in the national councils, and we regard as worthy of public confidence and official trust those only who cordially endorse the principles proclaimed in these resolutions, and which should characterise the administration of the Government.

7. Resolved, That the Government owes to all men employed in the armies, without regard to distinction of colour, the full protection of the laws of war, and that any violation of these laws or of the usages of civilised nations in the time of war by the rebels now in arms should be made the subject of full and prompt redress.

8. Resolved, That the foreign immigration which in the past has added so much to the wealth and development of resources and increase of power to this nation—the asylum of the oppressed of all nations—should be fostered and encouraged by a liberal and just policy.

9. Resolved, That we are in favour of the speedy construction of the railroad to the Pacific.

10. Resolved, That the national faith pledged for the redemption of the public debt must be kept inviolate, and that for this purpose we recommend economy and rigid responsibility in the public expenditures, and a vigorous and just system of taxation; that it is the duty of every loyal State to sustain the credit and promote the use of the national currency.

11. Resolved, That we approve the position taken by the Government, that the people of the United States can never regard with indifference the attempt of any European Power to overthrow by force or to supplant by fraud the institutions of any republican government on the Western Continent; and that they will view with extreme jealousy, as menacing to the peace and independence of this our country, the effort of any such Power to obtain new footholds for monarchical governments sustained by a foreign military force in near proximity to the United States.

GENERAL JOHNSTON'S ARMY.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Mobile Register*, who writes under the signature of 'Shadow,' gives the following:—

In the Field, May 22, 1864.

Were I a bird now, I would be warbling upon one of the leafy boughs above me; or, stood I in the hunting jacket of rare old Christopher North, I'd be chanting you a prose poem to the glory of this gushing Sunday morning in May. But, alas!—worse luck to it—I am neither the one nor the other, albeit the birds are singing upon a thousand branches all around me as I write, and here's a volume of the veritable 'Noctes,' which I picked up in a deserted mansion near Cartersville. They remind me of days now gone for ever. Indeed, the day with its freshening verdure, its breezy skies, and its profound stillness—a stillness which drinks in the murmur of the streams, the carols of the birds, and the hum of the waving forests, and melts them into a balm to the travel-worn and march-laden—the day, I repeat, brings back to me the long ago. I cast my eye down the vista which sweeps away among the Etowah hills, and somehow a time when I passed my nights among the Bohemians of a distant land, and my mornings in joint communion with your readers, rises in the misty distance. I refer to a period when I was your '—— correspondent,' and chronicled in these columns how Kean acted and Bosio sang—how Flora M'Flimsey flirted and Baron Bobadil swindled—how the men of letters sneered at one another, and the opera folks squabbled outright—how the politician schemed, the diplomatist wove his silken web, and the charlatan flourished—and finally how the natural consequences of so much sulphur in the firmament caused one great combustion and war, whirling the two nations into arms and your poor friend from a mahogany stool into the saddle of a guerilla, *presto!* How the scene has changed its hue, and what strange adventures have the times begot! Why, it was only the other day I met my old friend Arno, the baritone, among a group of Yankee prisoners. He had absolutely come to be chief of a military band. 'I was ver poor,' said he, 'and opere no thrive for me.' And, as I rode over the field of Resaca, I passed by the dead body of Raymond the actor. He wore the straps of a captain, and a bullet had passed through his forehead; but I could recognise the old jovial face, and I muttered: 'Fool: thou wert happy, healthful, and at peace with all the world as Harlequin. Now art thou gaping in the moonlight with a spot of tragedy upon thee no bigger than a partridge egg, yet suffice for time everlasting! Go to, thou wretched fool, to perk thyself in the glittering splendours of the soldier, and swap thy hundred deaths in pantomime for this rude jest in earnest.' Let us pass on; let's dry our eyes and look out on the present.

There's Joe Johnston riding down the field. He's not a man in buckram, I promise you. If there be a hero in this Southern land, that broad-brimmed white felt hat covers him. No man sits his saddle more gracefully; no man wears a neater uniform or becomes it more handsomely. Look at those little grey eyes, how they 'twinkle, twinkle, twinkle, with a crystalline delight.' Is he asleep? Ask the weasels! He rides among the skirmishers, and the bullets whistle about his ears, but dare not strike. He passes along the battle line. The men cheer him from wing to wing. He stops upon the hill, and all are confident, for be it in advance or be it in retreat, the prevailing spirit is confidence. I feel it myself. The troops feel it. The General himself feels it, and is grateful and cherishes it in his heart like a brave and good man. Never do you fear him; but defend him and wait. The campaign has but just begun. It will be the most splendid of the war before it is finished.

We left Dalton. We fought at Resaca. We skirmished from here to Altoona. We will fall back to the Chattahoochee. We are a moving and movable body, hunting for a fight and resolved not to make it until we are ready and have the selection of the ground. Then we will fight, and valiantly; then we will fight and to some purpose.

Thus far we have done our work well. We have abandoned forty miles of territory which were useless for military purposes, but we have killed ten thousand of the enemy at Resaca, losing but half that number, and we have gained a line which is capable of defence. Among the Yankee dead are Hooker and Kilpatrick. We have lost no general officer yet.

You hear much of certain flank movements on the part of Sherman. These are owing to the nature of the country. Sooner or later they will come to grief.

A full review of the campaign, from the Dalton gaps to the Etowah hills, would disclose a series of cheerful prognostics, and the situation at present bodes a happy triumph before the close of the month. We are pausing now for a moment of rest. We will journey again in a day or two. When the line in front of Atlanta is fully established, the 'heavy business' will commence, and the boom of cannon thunder over the country far and near.

To-day, Sunday, May 22, all is very quiet in front. A stray shot now and then startles the air, but only for an instant, then trembles into echo and then into silence.

THE *ALABAMA* AND THE *KEARSAGE*.

THE following correspondence has been published in the course of the past week.

To the Editor of the Daily News.

Sir,—There have been so many nonsensical publications on the engagements which took place between the *Alabama* and *Kearsage*, that it is my wish that a correction should be made.

In the first place, no challenge was sent by Captain Winslow; to have done so would have been to have violated the order of the Navy Department. On the contrary, Captain Winslow received a request from Captain Semmes not to leave, as he would fight the *Kearsage*, and would only occupy a day or two in his preparations. Five days, however, elapsed before they were completed. The *Kearsage's* battery consists of seven guns, two 11-inch Dahlgrens, four 32-pounders, one light rifle 28-pounder. The battery of the *Alabama* consisted of one 100-pounder rifle, one heavy 68 ditto, six 32-pounders—that is, one more gun than the *Kearsage*. In the wake of the engines on the outside the *Kearsage* had stopped up and down her sheet chains. These were stopped by marline to eye-bolts, which extended some 20 feet, and was done by the hands of the *Kearsage*; the whole was covered by light plank to prevent dirt collecting. It was for the purpose of protecting the engines when there was no coal in the upper part of the bunkers, as was the case when the action took place. The *Alabama* had her bunkers full, and was equally protected. The *Kearsage* went into action with a crew of 162 officers and men. The *Alabama*, by report of the *Deerhound's* officers, had 150.

The *Kearsage* steamed to sea in order that no questions of neutrality jurisdiction should be raised; when far enough she turned short round and steered immediately for the *Alabama* for close action. The *Alabama* fired as she was coming down on her two broadsides and a part of another; no one shot came on board the *Kearsage*. The *Kearsage* then sheered and opened on the *Alabama*, trying to get nearer. The action lasted one hour and two minutes from the first to the last shot. The *Kearsage* received twenty-eight shots above and below, thirteen about her hull; the best shots were abaft the mainmast, two shots which cut the chain stops, the shell of which broke the casing of wood covering. They were too high to have damaged the boilers had they penetrated. The *Kearsage* was only slightly damaged, and I supposed the action for hot work had just commenced when it ended. Such stuff as the *Alabama* firing when she was going down, and all such talk, is twaddle. The *Alabama* towards the last hoisted sail to get away, when the *Kearsage* was laid across her bows, and would have raked her had she not surrendered, which she had done, and was trying to get her flags down, and showing a white flag over the stern. The officers of the *Alabama* on board the *Kearsage* say that she was a complete slaughter-house, and was completely torn to pieces. This is all I know of the *Alabama*.

Yours, &c.

JOHN A. WINSLOW, Captain.

To the Editor of the Daily News.

Sir,—As two correspondents of your journal, in giving their versions of the fight between the *Alabama* and the *Kearsage*, have designated my share in the escape of Captain Semmes and a portion of the crew of the sunken ship as 'dishonourable,' and have moreover affirmed that my yacht, the *Deerhound*, was in the harbour of Cherbourg before the engagement, and proceeded thence on the morning of the engagement in order to assist the *Alabama*, I presume I may trespass upon your kindness so far as to ask for an opportunity to repudiate the imputation and deny the assertion. They admit that when the *Alabama* went down, the yacht, being near the *Kearsage*, was hailed by Captain Winslow, and requested to aid in picking up the men who were in the water; but they intimate that my services were expected to be merely ministerial; or, in other words, that I was to put myself under the command of Captain Winslow, and place my yacht at his disposal for the capture of the poor fellows who were struggling in the water for their lives. The fact is, that when we passed the *Kearsage* the captain cried out, 'For God's sake, do what you can to save them,' and that was my warrant for interfering in any way for the aid and succour of his enemies. It may be a question with some whether, without that warrant, I should have been justified in endeavouring to rescue any of the crew of the *Alabama*; but my own opinion is, that a man drowning in the open sea cannot be regarded as an enemy at the time to anybody, and is therefore entitled to the assistance of any passer-by. Be this as it may, I had the earnest request of Captain Winslow to rescue as many of the men who were in the water as I could lay hold of; but that request was not coupled with any stipulation to the effect that I should deliver up the rescued men to him as his prisoners. If it had been, I should have declined the task, because I should have deemed it dishonourable that is, inconsistent with my notions of honour to lend my yacht and crew for the purpose of rescuing those brave men from drowning only to hand them over to their enemies for imprisonment, ill-treatment, and perhaps execution. One of your correspondents opens his letter by expressing a desire to bring to the notice of the yacht clubs of England the conduct of the commander of the *Deerhound* which followed the engagement of the *Alabama* and *Kearsage*. Now that my conduct has been impugned, I am equally wishful that it should come under the notice of the yacht clubs of England, and I am quite willing to leave the point of 'honour' to be decided by my brother yachtsmen, and, indeed, by any tribunal of gentlemen. As to my legal right to take away Captain Semmes and his friends, I have been educated in the belief that an English ship is English territory, and I am, therefore, unable even now to discover why I was more bound to surrender the people of the *Alabama*, whom I had on board my yacht, than the owner of a garden on the south coast of England would have been if they had swum to such a place and landed there, or than the Mayor of Southampton was when they were lodging in that city, or than the British Government is now that it is known that they are somewhere in England.

Your other correspondent says that Captain Winslow declares that 'the reason he did not pursue the *Deerhound* or fire into her was that he could not believe at the time that any one carrying the flag of the Royal Yacht Squadron could act so dishonourable a part as to carry off the prisoners whom he had requested him to save from feelings of humanity.' I was not aware then, and I am not aware now, that the men whom I saved were or ever had been his prisoners. Whether any of the circumstances which had preceded the sinking of the *Alabama* constituted them prisoners was a question that never came under my consideration, and one which I am not disposed to discuss even now. I can only say that it is new doctrine to me that, when one ship sinks another in warfare, the crew of the sunken ship are debarred from swimming for their lives and seeking refuge wherever they can find it, and it is a doctrine which I shall not accept unless backed by better authority than that of the master of the *Kearsage*. What Captain Winslow's notion of humanity may be is a point beyond my knowledge; but I have good reason for believing that not many members of the Royal Yacht Squadron would, from 'motives of humanity,' have taken Captain Semmes from the water in order to give him up to the tender mercies of Captain Winslow and his compatriots. Another reason than that assigned by your correspondent for that hero's forbearance may be imagined in the reflection that such a performance as that of Captain Wilkes, who dragged two 'enemies,' or 'rebels,' from an English ship, would not bear repetition. Your anonymous correspondent further says that 'Captain Winslow would now have all the officers and men of the *Alabama* as prisoners had he not placed too much confidence in the honour of an Englishman who carried the flag of the Royal Yacht Squadron.' This is a very questionable assertion; for why did Captain Winslow confide in that Englishman? Why did he implore his interference, calling out, 'For God's sake do what you can to save them'? I presume it was because he could not or would not save them himself. The fact is that, if the captain and crew of the *Alabama* had depended for safety altogether upon Captain Winslow, not one half of them would have been saved. He got quite as many of them as he could lay hold of time enough to deliver them from drowning.

I come now to the more definite charges advanced by your correspondents, and these I will soon dispose of. They maintain that my yacht was in the harbour of Cherbourg for the purpose of assisting the *Alabama*, and that her movements before the action prove that she attended her for the same object. My impression is that the yacht was in Cherbourg to suit my convenience and pleasure, and I am quite sure that when there I neither did, nor intended to do, anything to serve the *Alabama*. We steamed out on Sunday morning to see the engagement, and the resolution to do so was the result of a family council whereat the question 'to go out,' or 'not to go out,' was duly discussed, and the decision in the affirmative was carried by the juveniles rather against the wish of both myself and my wife. Had I contemplated taking any part in the movements of the *Alabama*, I do not think I should have been accompanied by my wife and several young children. One of your correspondents, however, says that he knows that the *Deerhound* did assist the *Alabama*, and if he does know this he knows more than I do. As to the movements of the *Deerhound* before the action, all the movements with which I was acquainted were for the objects of enjoying the summer morning, and getting a good and safe place from which to watch the engagement. Another of your correspondents declares that since the affair it has been discovered that the *Deerhound* was a consort of the *Alabama*, and on the night before had received many valuable articles for safe-keeping from that vessel. This is simply untrue. Before the engagement neither I nor any of my family had any knowledge of or communication with Captain Semmes, any of his officers, or any of his crew. Since the fight I have enquired from my captain whether he or any of my crew had had any communication with the captain or crew of the *Alabama* prior to meeting them on the *Deerhound* after the engagement, and his answer, given in the most emphatic manner, has been 'None whatever.' As to the deposit of chronometers and other valuable articles, the whole story is a myth. Nothing was brought from the *Alabama* to the *Deerhound*, and I never heard of the tale until I saw it in an extract from your own columns. After the fight was over, the drowning men picked up, and the *Deerhound* steaming away to Southampton, some of the officers who had been saved began to express their acknowledgments for my services, and my reply to them, which was addressed also to all who stood around, was:—'Gentlemen, you have no need to give me any special thanks. I should have done exactly the same for the other people if they had needed it.' This speech would have been a needless, and indeed an absurd piece of hypocrisy, if there had been any league or alliance between the *Alabama* and the *Deerhound*.

Both your correspondents agree in maintaining that Captain Semmes and such of his crew as were taken away by the *Deerhound* are bound in honour to consider themselves still as prisoners, and to render themselves to their lawful captors as soon as practicable. This is a point which I have nothing to do with, and therefore I shall not discuss it. My object in this letter is merely to vindicate my conduct from misrepresentation; and I trust that in aiming at this I have not transgressed any of your rules of correspondence, and shall therefore be entitled to a place in your columns.—I am, &c.,

JOHN LANCASTER.

Hindley Hall, Wigan, June 27.

24 Upper Seymour Street, Portman Square,
London, June 21.

'Dear Sir,—I received from Captain Semmes at Southampton, where I had the pleasure to see you yesterday, a full report of the efficient service rendered under your orders, by the officers and crew of your yacht, the *Deerhound*, in rescuing him, with thirteen of his officers and twenty-seven of his crew, from their impending fate, after the loss of his ship.

Captain Semmes reports that, finding the *Alabama* actually sinking, he had barely time to despatch his wounded in his own boats to the enemy's ship, when the *Alabama* went down, and that nothing was left to those who remained on board but to throw themselves into the sea. Their own boats absent, there seemed no prospect of relief, when your yacht arrived in their midst and your boats were launched; and he impressively told me that to this timely and generous succour he, with most of his officers and a portion of his crew, were indebted for their safety. He further told me that on their arrival on board the yacht every care and kindness were extended to them which their exhausted condition required, even to supplying all with dry clothing.

I am fully aware of the noble and disinterested spirit which prompted you to go to the rescue of the gallant crew of the *Alabama*, and that I can add nothing to the recompense already received by you and those acting under you in the consciousness of having done as you would be done by; yet you will permit me to thank you, the captain, officers, and crew of the *Deerhound*, for this signal service—and to say that, in doing so, I but anticipate the grateful sentiment of my country and of the Government of the Confederate States. I have the honour to be, dear Sir, most respectfully and truly your obedient servant,

J. M. MASON.

John Lancaster, Esq., Hindley Hall, Wigan.

Hindley Hall, near Wigan, June 24.

Dear Sir,—I am in due receipt of your esteemed favour of the 21st inst., and am gratified to find that the timely aid we rendered with the yacht *Deerhound* to the gallant captain and officers and crew of the *Alabama*, has met with your approval. I shall always look back to that event with satisfaction, however much we may regret the result which necessitated my interference.—Yours very respectfully,

JOHN LANCASTER.

The Hon. J. M. Mason.

To Monsieur Bonfils.

U.S.S.S. *Kearsage*, Cherbourg, June 21.

Sir,—Certain pilot boats which I, from feelings of humanity, allowed to save several prisoners when the *Alabama* had gone down, took them into Cherbourg. These officers and sailors are not the less subject to the laws of war; they are my prisoners, and I demand that they come on board the *Kearsage* to surrender as such. If they should endeavour to free themselves from this obligation under cover of the means which have been used for their escape, they must expect to meet with no mercy another time.

JOHN A. WINSLOW, Captain.

M. Bonfils replied as follows:—

To Captain John A. Winslow,

Sir,—I have received your letter of June 21. Your demand is one which I have no power whatever to entertain, and should have been addressed to the French Government with whom these unfortunates have found a refuge. I know of no law of war to prevent a soldier from escaping from a field of battle after a reverse, even although he had been made prisoner, and I do not see why a sailor who saves himself by swimming should be in a worse case. I must therefore refuse to act as your go-between towards certain individuals, whom you do not even name, but whom you claim as prisoners. I cannot, moreover, understand how the authorities of the United States can pretend to hold prisoners in the territory of the French empire.

I am, &c.,

BONFILS.

(M. Bonfils was the agent for the *Alabama* while that vessel was in the port of Cherbourg.)

Punch gives the following deserved tribute to the heroism of the surgeon of the *Alabama*:—

On the previous Sunday morning, the Federal frigate, the *Kearsage*, and the Confederate frigate, the *Alabama*, near Cherbourg, when one man covered himself with honour which no one will contest, the brave Llewellyn, the Surgeon of the vanquished ship.

'Down to the deeps, in doing well, he went.'

He might have been saved, but he refused to imperil his wounded by increasing the number in their boat. It is not to the Wiltshire clergyman, the father, who must be so proud amid his grief, that Englishmen should leave the duty of erecting a memorial to a true hero. His name should have been mentioned by a speaker who has himself done brave things, Sir John Hay, when asking Clarence Paget whether Government had noted the artillery lesson to be learned from the fight off Cherbourg. It should be mentioned whenever there is talk of braver death than that met in the heat of battle.

CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.—Earl Russell, as will be seen from our Parliamentary report, referred on Monday night to the contingency of war with the United States. On Wednesday, the *Times* referred to the same subject in *two* leading articles. We subjoin an extract from each:—'The Americans, whether united or divided, will represent a great warlike Power, and they make no secret of their intention to exert their strength beyond the limits of their own world. It is certainly not impossible that the Federals, who have more than once threatened us with war already, should take advantage of our occupation at home to carry this menace into execution. That they have no complaint against us and that they have more than enough upon their hands may be true, but they are angry nevertheless, and might possibly proceed to measures to which we could not submit. But in this case also the means of retaliation would be in our hands. We should only have to recognise the South, and the war, already as much as the Federals can sustain, would become far heavier for them. If we but raised the blockade and admitted the Confederates to commerce with the world, it would be equivalent to doubling their resources and their strength. This the Americans so well know, that the North lives in constant fear and the South in constant hope of such an event. The idea of European intervention has haunted the Federals from the beginning of the war to the present time, and they would lose far more than they could gain by making it a reality. . . . . Canada has been exceedingly fortunate in the course which the American war has taken. Had the North succeeded in immediately conquering and overrunning the South, the wave that flowed thither would infallibly have recoiled upon Canada, and she, unarmed and unready, would certainly have been overwhelmed by its violence. Instead of tamely submitting to an Austrian Emperor in the South, Republican pride would have spurned the idea of a British colony in the North. But the Confederation has stood between us and this great danger. General Lee has fought our battles as well as his own, and a hundred bloody fields have swallowed up that fierce and, as they believed, invincible host which was destined to eradicate the last trace of British supremacy from the American Continent. As the contest continued, the forces of the two parties became more equal, and we may now indulge a hope that the termination of the Civil War, when it comes, will leave the North, whether victorious or vanquished, in a disposition rather to seek repose after its almost superhuman efforts than to rush on fresh adventures. Still this conclusion is by no means certain. The conclusion of the war may leave the Northern States in the possession of an army which they dare not disband and cannot conveniently employ, and that army may demand to be led against the untouched and flourishing province of Canada. It is quite possible that the North may seek on the St. Lawrence an indemnity for what it has lost on the Potomac.'

SPOILS OF THE BATTLE-FIELD.—On May 24, Colonel Baldwin, chief of ordnance for the army of General Lee, informed the *Richmond Enquirer* that the Confederates have secured eighteen thousand Federal muskets on the battle-fields in Spottsylvania, and four thousand in Chesterfield, in addition to five pieces of artillery, including three twenty-pound Parrotts and two Napoleons.

THE FEDERAL LOSS AT RESACA.—A correspondent of the *Columbus Enquirer*, writing from Ackworth, Georgia, on May 21, says: 'A Yankee lieutenant, whom our cavalry captured near Cassville, informed me that their loss at Resaca in the fights of Saturday and Sunday was 2,310 killed and died on the field, and 5,300 wounded. The large number killed in proportion to their wounded, is accounted for from the fact of their repeatedly assaulting our lines.'

CONFEDERATE OFFICIAL REPORTS.

THE following official despatches have been published :—

Head-quarters, Army Northern Virginia,
June 3—8.35 P.M.

Hon. Secretary of War,—About half-past four A.M. to-day the enemy made an attack upon the right of our line. In front of General Hoke and part of General Breckenridge's line he was repulsed without difficulty. He succeeded in penetrating a salient in General Breckenridge's line, and captured a portion of the battalion there posted. General Finnegan's brigade of Mahone's division, and the Maryland battalion of Breckenridge's command, immediately drove the enemy out with severe loss. Repeated attacks were made upon General Anderson's position, chiefly against his right, under General Kershaw. They were met with great steadiness, and repulsed in every instance. The attack extended to our extreme left, under General Early, with like results. Later in the day it was twice renewed against General Heth, who occupied Early's left, but was repulsed with loss. General Hampton encountered the enemy's cavalry near Hawes' Shop, and a part of General William H. F. Lee's division drove them from their entrenchments. Our loss to-day has been small, and our success, under the blessing of God, all that we could expect.

Respectfully,
R. E. LEE, General.

It is said that seven hundred dead and badly-wounded Yankees were counted in front of Hoke's line after the fight, and, what is more surprising, Hoke only had two men killed. From all accounts, the loss of the enemy on Friday could not have been less than six thousand killed and severely wounded.

Head-quarters, Army Northern Virginia,
June 4—8.30 P.M.

Hon. Secretary of War,—Last night, after the date of my despatch, Generals Breckenridge and Finnegan were attacked by the enemy as they were preparing to reestablish their skirmish line. The enemy was soon repulsed. Immediately afterwards an attack was made upon General Hoke's front, with a like result. Up to this time of writing, nothing has occurred along the lines to-day except skirmishing at various points. The position of the army is substantially unchanged.

Respectfully,
R. E. LEE, General.

GENERAL JOHNSTON'S ARMY.—The following general order is published in Confederate papers :—'General Orders. Soldiers of the Army of Tennessee,—You have displayed the highest qualities of the soldier—firmness in combat, patience under toils. By your courage and skill you have repulsed every assault of the enemy. By marches, by day and by night, you have defeated every attempt upon your communications, which are now secure. You will now march upon the foe to meet his advancing columns. Truly confiding in the conduct of the officers and the courage of the soldiers, I lead you to battle. We may confidently trust that the Almighty Father will reward the patriot's toils, and bless the Confederate banners. Cheered by the success of our brothers in Virginia and beyond the Mississippi, our efforts will equal theirs. Strengthened by His support, those efforts will be crowned with like success.—Jos. E. JOHNSTON, General.'

THE CAPTURE OF THE WATER WITCH.—The following official despatch has been received by the Confederate Secretary of the Navy :—'Savannah, June 3, 1864. Hon. S. R. Mallory, Secretary of the Navy. Sir,—I have the honour to report that an expedition from my command, under Lieut. F. P. Pelot, Confederate States Navy, last night carried by boarding the United States steamer *Water Witch*, near Ossabaw Sound, after a hard fight. Our loss is the gallant Lieut. Pelot, Moses Dallas (coloured pilot), and three men killed; from ten to twelve wounded. I will telegraph you more in detail at the earliest moment.—I am, very respectfully, W. W. HUNTER, Flag Officer.'

THE DEFEAT OF GENERAL SIGEL.—The *Staunton Spectator* gives the following particulars :—'On Friday evening last the forces under command of General Imboden had a skirmish with the advance guard of Sigel's forces at Newmarket, in Shenandoah county, in which the enemy were driven back and a part of them captured, together with a number of horses. Ninety-five Yankees and two negroes (prisoners) arrived here on yesterday evening. At that time General Breckenridge was on the march from this place, on his way to reinforce General Imboden. He arrived in time on Saturday to form his line of battle about a mile south of Newmarket, and near the boundary line between the counties of Rockingham and Shenandoah, the position taken being in the county of Shenandoah. The enemy fell back, and the battle was fought on the north side of Newmarket. On Sunday the Dutch General, *mit all dat fites mit Sigel*, offered battle, and after a severe engagement was defeated, with the loss of a good many killed, wounded, and prisoners, and five pieces of artillery. They were pursued as far as the bridge across the North Shenandoah, near Mount Jackson, which the enemy partially destroyed, and thus stopped for the time the pursuit, as the river was too full to ford. The force of the enemy consisted of 5,000 infantry, 2,000 cavalry, and four batteries of artillery. The strength of our force it may not be prudent to state at this time, but it was sufficient to defeat and rout Sigel and all *dat fites mit him*.'

A WARNING TO FRANCE.—The *New York Herald* of June 12 writes : 'It must not be supposed that the people of this country will tamely submit to the violation of the Monroe doctrine, and that at the proper time they will not ignominiously expel the invaders of Mexico from this continent. The moment we have crushed the rebellion—and that is near at hand—we shall turn our attention to this matter, and shall be prepared to do so most effectively. With a powerful army and an immense fleet at our disposal, we shall not defer to France then, but most probably, with Grant at the head of affairs, move directly upon the enemy, and punish summarily their insolent intrusion upon this continent.'

KNAPSACKS DISCARDED.—Knapsacks have fallen into general disuse and discredit in the Confederate armies, and in derision of them the soldiers call them 'hand organs.' Whenever a company or regiment is seen marching with knapsacks slung, the taunt is sure to follow: 'I say, you've got your organs; where's your monkeys? You left them behind, expecting to find bigger and better monkeys down here.' A blanket and oil cloth twisted into the shape of a boa constrictor, and slung about the shoulders of the soldier, is the light equipment for heavy, rapid marching.—*Wilmington Journal*, June 1.

THE CONFEDERATE CURRENCY.

ON May 18 the Confederate Senate resumed consideration of a Bill to amend the Act of the last Session 'to reduce the currency, and to authorise the new issue of notes and bonds.'

After considerable discussion and some amendments, the Bill was passed in the following form :—

A Bill to amend an Act entitled, 'An Act to reduce the Currency and to authorise a new Issue of Notes and Bonds,' approved February 17, 1864.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact: That the amount of Treasury notes which shall be issued under the provisions of the Act of which this is an amendment shall not exceed one dollar of new issue for three dollars of the old issue, which may have been paid into the Treasury under the provisions of the said Act. Provided: That this limitation shall not be construed to restrict the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to issue new notes in exchange for old notes, held by individuals, at the rate of two dollars of the new issue for three dollars of the old issue, as provided for in the said Act. Provided further: That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby directed, on January 1, 1865, or as soon thereafter as practicable, to reduce the amount of Treasury notes in circulation to two hundred millions; and when the circulation of said notes shall be thus reduced, the faith of the Government is hereby pledged that the same shall not be increased.

Section 2. Instead of the six per cent. bonds, authorised to be issued to the States under the twelfth section of the said Act, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorised to issue to any State which may desire the same, one-half of such amount as the said State is entitled to claim in Treasury notes of the new issue, and the other half in said six per cent. bonds; or, at the option of the State, in coupon bonds, payable in twenty years, with interest at the rate of four per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly; the said four per cent. bonds not to be taxable either upon principal or interest, and this provision shall extend to any portion of the amount which such State may be entitled to claim.

Section 3. The Secretary of the Treasury is also authorised to issue to any person holding old issues of the Treasury notes, entitled to be exchanged for new issues, untaxable four per cent. bonds of the same character described in the section next preceding; and the exchange shall be made at the same rate at which the old notes may be exchanged for those of the new issue—that is to say, the holder of Treasury notes of the old issue shall be entitled to a four per cent. bond exempt from taxation, at a rate of two dollars of bonds for three dollars of notes. Provided: That on and after January 1, 1865, the authority to make the exchanges mentioned in this section shall cease and determine.

Section 4. Any holder of four per cent. bonds or certificates, issued under the first section of the Act of which this is an amendment, may exchange his bond or certificate for a four per cent. untaxable bond, such as is described in the section next preceding, at the same rate provided therein as to old issues, that is to say: at the rate of two dollars of untaxable bonds for three dollars of bonds or certificates issued under the said first section.

Section 5. The bonds and certificates mentioned in the second section of the Act to which this is an amendment, shall be receivable in payment of all Government dues which shall have accrued prior to January 1, 1865, except export and import duties; and transfer by delivery of said bonds and certificates shall be sufficient to enable the holder to use the same in payment of said Government dues.

Section 6. The bonds authorised by this Act shall be in such form, and shall have such authentication, as may be directed by regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury.

GOVERNOR BAYLEY.—If our readers will turn to our number of April 7 of this year, they will find a very interesting correspondence between Governor Bayley of the Bahama Islands, and the Duke of Newcastle, then Secretary for the Colonies. His Grace took occasion to express himself dissatisfied with certain statements made by Governor Bayley with regard to the blockade-running, and eventually informed him somewhat curtly that gentlemen in his position were not required to give their private opinions on political matters. Shortly after the exchange of this correspondence, Governor Bayley was relieved of his duties and recalled to England. His departure has called forth from the Legislative Assembly of the colony an address expressive of the high estimation in which His Excellency has been held during the seven years of his administration, a period which has been marked by many and great improvements in the commercial and political condition of the islands, at a time, too, when the civil war raging on the neighbouring continent was productive of the greatest excitement. 'They would fail in their duty were they not to express the opinion they entertain that His Excellency's prudence and great ability, combined with wise administrative tact, have tended materially to promote the order and prosperity which have characterised his administration.' The address concludes with a graceful compliment to Mrs. Bayley, who has won the affections of all classes. A similar address was presented by the House of Representatives, in which they express their cordial appreciation of His Excellency's devotedness to his duties, and his exemplary administrative talent. By his judicious policy as well as strenuous influence, many important measures have been consummated which have laid the foundation for the permanent prosperity of the Bahamas. Among these is mentioned the regular system of steam communication with the mother country, the United States, and the West Indies, whereby the islands have been brought into conspicuous notice, mercantile enterprise has been facilitated, and private as well as public prosperity promoted. In the course of his reply to this address, the Governor says: 'It is my firm conviction that, although the colony has considerably advanced of late years, it has not yet reached that point of eminence to which, by a judicious use of its natural resources, it may yet attain. It is, I think, a matter of mutual congratulation that measures concerted or completed since my accession to this Government have enabled the colony to profit largely by occurrences which no human sagacity could have foreseen, and no special legislation could have produced.' It is evident that in Governor Bayley the Bahama Islands have lost a sincere and valuable friend. We can easily sympathise with their regret, decorously veiled in acquiescence to the will of the Home Government, but none the less evidently existing; the late Colonial Secretary is open to the charge of having removed a valuable officer from a position which he had long and ably filled on the weakest possible grounds. Governor Bayley is another of the many diplomatic victims offered up by our Foreign and Colonial Offices to the Moloch of Northern irritability.

THE FIRST TWENTY DAYS OF GRANT'S CAMPAIGN.

A GENTLEMAN of high position in the Confederate Government thus describes, in a private letter to a friend in Europe, the operations of the armies in Virginia from the 4th to the 24th May :—

RICHMOND, May 25.—On the 4th of this month Grant's forces, then massed in Culpepper County, crossed the Rapidan on the right flank of General Lee, in the hope of reaching the road leading to Richmond in advance of Lee, and thus cutting off the latter from the capital. Lee, however, by a rapid march to his right, struck Grant's advance in flank, and forced him to stop his march, to change front, and to deliver battle in the district of country known as the Wilderness. Lee held his position against the repeated and desperate assaults of Grant's whole force, and inflicted such terrible losses on the latter, that he was compelled to withdraw his whole reserve corps (Burnside's) from the north side of the Rapidan, where it had remained to guard the enemy's depôt of supplies. This compelled a removal of the supplies in part and the destruction of the remainder. Grant, finding himself unable to force Lee's lines, then moved his army down the Rapidan in the direction of Fredericksburg and Spottsylvania Court House, changing his base to Fredericksburg, building bridges across the Rappahannock there, and rebuilding the railroad to Acquia Creek so as to establish a new communication for his supplies. The Rappahannock runs south-easterly, and the movement of Grant thus brought him to a point nearer to Richmond in the *number of miles*, but not an inch nearer than he could have got without fighting. This forced change of his base was claimed as a victory by the Yankees, although they admitted a loss of from 27,000 to 35,000 men in getting to a point which they could have reached unopposed.

As soon as Lee became satisfied of Grant's movement, he made a forced march to Spottsylvania Court House to place his army again between Grant and Richmond. This pursuit of Grant by Lee was claimed by Grant to be a *retreat*! because it brought Lee nearer to Richmond, owing to the course of the rivers as above explained. On arriving at Spottsylvania Court House, our advance found the enemy had arrived there just before them. An assault was immediately made on Hancock's corps, which occupied the Court House: it was supported by two divisions of cavalry. The enemy were driven out with great slaughter, and Lee established his lines again in front of Grant, who was thus defeated in his attempt to edge himself between Lee and Richmond. Grant then, finding that he could not get by Lee's army, commenced a series of tremendous assaults with his overwhelming masses, hurling them directly on Lee's lines and seeking to pierce them by mere weight of numbers and obstinate repetition of attack with progressive columns of fresh troops. His desperate assaults were met with the steady and cool resistance of veterans confident in themselves and their leader, and resulted in the slaughter of a number of the enemy unparalleled in this whole war: the least calculation gives the losses in these assaults at 30,000, while many believe them to have reached 45,000.

Again disappointed, beaten, and baffled, Grant renewed his former strategy of moving suddenly down the river, and made a fresh attempt to turn Lee's right; but the eye of our incomparable leader was upon him. A reconnaissance in force was made; it was found that Grant's lines were held by a mere fringe of skirmishers, and that he was moving to our right. Lee, thereupon, at once withdrew his army to Hanover Junction to confront Grant on any new line he may select, and it is probable we shall know to-day whether Grant will continue his former desperate attacks on Lee in front, or whether he will abandon his new base of Fredericksburg and seek a third one at West Point. The latter would be his best, but the objection is, that he would thus be forced to begin afresh at the very point from which M'Clellan began his advance in 1862, and would thus be driven to the acknowledgment that M'Clellan's was a superior and more sagacious campaign. Thus Grant, with an army beaten and reduced more than half, would have to start afresh from a position which he might have taken at the opening of his operations without the loss of a man.

Our losses have been so small comparatively as to be scarcely credible. But it must be remembered that for the first time the army of Northern Virginia has received assaults in entrenched lines. General Lee, with consummate judgment, knowing how enormously he was outnumbered, and appreciating the peculiar character of his foe, received him just as an adroit fencer receives the rush of a burly giant :—

Fierce Roderick felt the fatal drain,

and bled at every pore. Our total losses sum up about 12,000 men, against at least 70,000 put *hors de combat* in Grant's army.

On the south side, Beauregard has Butler penned up in a little peninsula, where he *lies* safe under cover of his gunboats. Everything looks as cheerful as possible.

THE YANKEE ARMY.—The *Richmond Sentinel* of May 23 says : 'The captives brought to Richmond present a miserable appearance, and are the representatives of nearly every nation on the face of the globe. Had not the Yankees procured recruits from Europe, the war would have been ended long ago. We have been fighting the people of the United States and all "the rest of mankind," and when this war is closed, and our independence achieved, we can truthfully declare that we have withstood the world in arms.'

AN IRONCLAD YANKEE.—One of the Yankee colonels, received at the Libby from the south side, had his front and rear protected by a patent breast and back-plate, manufactured out of steel, and reputed to be bullet-proof. The colonel confessed that he considered his rear in more danger than his front, especially when it came to running, and, expecting to have some of that to do, provided himself accordingly.—*Richmond Examiner*, May 20.

SKEDADDLING.—The *Journal*, a paper published in Alexandria, says that on the 19th fifteen officers and three hundred men, all of them skedaddlers from the army of General Grant, were forwarded to Belle Plain to be returned to their regiments. The officers were marched in the rear of their men, and a portion of them handcuffed together. The *Journal* adds: 'A sad but just example.'—*Richmond Enquirer*, May 30.

WORK DONE IN COLUMBUS.—The *Columbus Sun* states that in the Quartermaster's department in that city, under the control of Major F. W. Dillard, the following amount of work has been done since October 1861: shoes, 305,065; jackets, 263,922; pants, 290,092; shirts, 116,146; drawers, 82,948; caps, 122,441; also amount of leather received and disbursed, 632,577 pounds.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Ships Arrived.

At Gravesend.—June 23: The Albion from St. Kitt's. The Mansanito, The Flying Fish from Barbadoes. The Fredericka, The Jumna from Mauritius. The Ann Mitchell, The Laura, from Porto Rico. The Daring from Nassau.—June 24: The Resolution from Jamaica. The Montezuma (steamer) from Oporto.—June 25: The Mary Anne from Trinidad. The Bonny Belle from Tobago. The Point from Jamaica. The Aalto from Havana. The Neptune from Belize. The John and Elizabeth from Barbadoes. The Ionian Belle from St. Vincent. The Only Son from Porto Rico.—June 26: The Sybil from Tobago. The Eugenia from St. Lucia. The Brilliant from St. Kitt's. The Venus from Porto Rico. The Windermere (steamer) from Cadiz. The Edward and Mary from Cherbourg. The Neptune (steamer) from Havre.—June 27: The Castor from Tobago. The Falcon from Pomeroon. The Balcombe from Jamaica.—June 28: The Syria from Barbadoes. The Olaf Kyrre, The Jordenskjold from Havana, The Camoens from St. John's.

At Deal.—June 23: The Cameo, from Havana. The Mansanito, from Barbadoes. The Matteaman, from Callao.—June 24: The Resolution, from Jamaica. The Laura, from West Indies. The Firdar, from Miramichi.—June 26: The Jane, from Callao. The Syria, from Barbadoes.—June 27: The Preguma, from Monte Video. The George Reynolds, from Barbadoes.—June 28: The Friedrick, from Cuba. The Elliott, from Demerara. The Meteor, from Miramichi. The Anastasia, from Havana.—June 29: The Mary Baker, from Demerara. The Hannah, from Trinidad.

At Liverpool.—June 23: The Agrippina, The Thessalia, from Nassau. The Talawar, from Manilla. The Despatch (steamer), from Nassau, The Hedden, from Belize. The Fortuna, from Callao. The Imogene, The Ulswater, from Pernambuco. The Compage, from Nassau. The Zingara, from Buenos Ayres. The Barbadian (steamer), from St. Thomas.—June 24: The Rover's Bride, from Nassau. The Ravensworth, from Porto Cabello. The Niagara (steamer), from Havre.—June 25: The Seis Hermanos, from Havanah. The Vittoria Alfiero, from Monte Video. The Endymion, from Pernambuco. The Test, from St. John's. The Palmyra, from Porto Rico. June 27: The Queen Victoria, from Bermuda. The William Tucker, from Rio Janeiro. The Reserve, from Demerara. The Titania, from Pernambuco. The Crusader (steamer), from St. Thomas.—June 28: The T. A. U., from Manilla. The Zone, from Pernambuco.—June 29: The N. and E. Gardner, from St. John's. The Gracie, from Rio Janeiro.

At Queenstown.—June 23: The Lizzie, from Callao, The Manin, from Buenos Ayres.

At Cork.—June 25: The Lizzie Oakford, from Callao.

At West Hartlepool.—June 27: The Astley, from Lisbon.

At Plymouth.—June 23: The Solid, from Rio Janeiro.

At Cardiff.—June 23: The Alice Thompson, from Cuba, The Melody, from Havana.

At Hull.—June 23: The Flora, from Cadiz.

At Dumfries.—June 23: The John Wilson, from Miramichi.

At Aberdeen.—June 27: The Dannewerke, from Havana.

At Cowes.—June 27: The Chapin, from Callao, The Anne, from Bahia, The Titiana, from Miramichi.

At Torbay.—June 28, The Neptune, from Havana.

At Dublin.—June 24: The Annie, from Barbadoes.

At Belfast.—June 25: The Fauna, from Miramichi, The Susan, from Pernambuco.

At Scilly. June 25: The Ida, from West Indies.—June 26: The Mary Cabello, from Puerto Cabello. June 27: The Mary Banfield, from Porto Cabello.

At Salcombe. June 23: The Crocodile, The Daring, from Nassau. The Eugenie, from Lucia.

At Falmouth.—June 23: The Freden, The Julia, The Alphild, The Due Fratelli, from Havana. The Sophia Maria, The Minalto, from Rio Janeiro. The Mina, from Cuba. The Joaquim, from Porto Rico.—June 24: The Havana Packet, from Cuba. The Jeannette Marianne, from Buenos Ayres. June 25: The Latonera, from Cienfuegos.—June 26: The Cornelis Pieter, The Scandia, from Bahia. The Julia, The Eva, from Havana. June 27: The Lindisfarne, from Bahia. The Linda, from Puntas Arenas.

At Bristol.—June 23: The Fanny, from Barbadoes.—June 24: The King Bird, from St. George's. June 25: The Frank Flint, from Callao. June 28: The Jane, from Barbadoes.

At Cardiff. June 25: The Pride, from Lisbon.

At Swansea. June 23: The Deerslayer, from Caldera.—June 24: The Mangosteen, from Cuba.

At Gloucester.—June 26: The Robert Sims, from St. George's.

At Clyde. June 23: The Veritas, The Kotka, from Cardenas. The William Connel (steamer), The Blanch (steamer), from Havre. June 24: The Mary Hamilton, The La Plata, from Trinidad. The Norton, from Cardenas.—June 26: The A. W. Singleton, from Trinidad. The Antonia from Havana. June 27: The Thalestris, from Porto Rico.

At Nassau.—May 18 to June 4: The Georgiana McCaw (steamer), The General Whiting (steamer), The Will o' the Wisp (steamer), The Alice (steamer), The Fannie (steamer), The Syren (steamer), The Coquette (steamer), The Rothsay Castle (steamer), The City of Petersburgh (steamer), The Corsica (steamer), The Prince Albert (steamer), The Lucy (steamer), The Annie (steamer), The Rose (steamer), The Mars (steamer), The Jupiter (steamer), The Helen (steamer), The Badger (steamer), The Fox (steamer), The Witch of the Wave, The Palestine, The Dart, The T. T. Finlayson, The James Roddin, The Atlantic, The William Aaning, The Thomas Edwards, The Dreadnot, The Violin, The Quince, The Eliza Beckwith, The Ionia, The Majestas, The Torbay Lass, The Queen of the Clippers, The Rover's Bride, The Pride of the South, The Glimpse, The Rhoda, The Agrippina, The Flying Eagle, The Lily, The Amelia Ann, The Thessalia, The Stanley, The Columbine, The Commerce, The Flash, The Ratampage, The Achilles, The Mary Harris, The Blue Bell, The Julie, The Georgianna, The Joseph Reed, The Emma, The Echo, The Prince Consort, The Insulana, The Dart, The Essex, The Bezaleel, The Queen Victoria, The Alma, The Albert, The Cornucopia, The Riga, The Isaac Van Dyke, The Sisters, The Fox Hound, The Elizabeth Barter, The Bessie, The E. P. Sevett, The Galvanic, The Alert, The Magnet, The Topeka, The Apus, The Mary, The Battus, The Fashion, The Clyde, The Surprise, The Samuel T. Keese, The Ed. Adams, The Haward, The Ellen, The Honesta, The Dazzle, The William, The Harmony, The Kate, The Cacique, The Fortune, The Lion, The Merida, The Mary, The Brothers, The Mary Harris. The Emily Adderly was capsized in a squall, and two men drowned.

At Havana.—June 4: The Alice (steamer), The Matagona (steamer), The May Virginia (steamer), The Principe Alfonso (steamer), The Donegal (steamer), The Caroline (steamer), The Porto Rico (steamer), The Orissa, The Rosa, The Mauritius, The Leguro, The Mai, The Hilda, The Cecilia, The Antiqua, The Caledonia, The Satellite, The Admiral, The Hutha, The Cuba Packet, The Paulita, The John Edwards, The Coucha, The Valentina, The Montrose.

At Bermuda.—June 3: The Pevensey (steamer), from Wilmington.

At Madeira.—June 24: The Una (steamer), coaling.

At Santa Cruz.—June 14: The Calabar (steamer), The Infanta Isabel (steamer), The Ta-pang-nyo (steamer), The Red Gauntlet (steamer), The Priscella, The Teneriffe, The Triton, The Dauntless, The Azorian, The Palmas, The General Churruca, The Guiseppi, The Nueva Apolo, The Belle, The Ana.

At St. John's.—June 10: The Mary, from Bermuda, The New Lampedo, The Clima, from Liverpool.

At Quebec.—June 13: The Woodstock, from Nassau. The Chapultapec, from Rio Janeiro. The S. G. Troop, from Havre.

Ships Sailed.

Liverpool.—June 23: The Mary Spencer, for Rio Janeiro. The Carrig, for St. John's. The British Queen (steamer), for Havre. The C. Williams, for Bilboa. The Mexican (steamer), for Jamaica. The Bessie, for Rio Janeiro. The Braganza (steamer), for Oporto. The Ullawater, for Pernambuco. The Barbadian (steamer), for St. Thomas. The Mexican (steamer), for St. Thomas. The La Zingari, for Buenos Ayres. The M. Spencer, for Rio Janeiro. The Fortuna, for Lima. The Wave, for Porto Cabello. The Compagne, for Nassau. The Imogene, for Pernambuco. The Zephyr, for Rio Grande. The Crescent, for Cuba. The Laura, for Bermuda. The Two Brothers, for Bilboa. The Mary James, for Nassau. The Niagara (steamer), for Havre. The Virginia, for Buenos Ayres.

Deal.—June 24: The Revenue, for Mauritius. The Tartar (steamer), for Lisbon.—June 26: The Elinor, for Nassau. The Cid (steamer), for Bilboa. The Ilma, for Cadiz. The Sophia, for Lisbon.

Milford.—June 28: The Alliance, The Alina Jantina, for St. Thomas.

Pill.—June 27: The Eliza Olive, for Bermuda.

Holyhead.—June 25: The Manrico, for Lisbon.

Cork.—June 25: The Nova Felix, for Lisbon.

Yarmouth.—June 26: The Christina, for Bilboa. The John Picard, for Lisbon.

Scilly.—June 25: The Restless, for Cape de Verd.

Plymouth.—June 26: The Azelia, for Cadiz. The Van der Heydt, for Havana.

Middlesboro'.—June 24: The Mario, for St. Thomas.

Cardiff.—June 25: The Agnes, for Cuba. The Brigadier, for Cadiz. The Old Colony, The Morning Star, for Cape de Verd. The Helicon, for Cuba. The Eugenie, for Bilboa.

Newport.—June 25: The Tre Brodre, for Buenos Ayres. The A. W. M'Lennan, The King of the Forest, for Madeira.

Swansea. June 26: The Tricano, The Emelia, for Madeira. The Pategonia, for Caldera. The Sophia, for Bilboa.

Shields. June 24: The Bride of Hesse, The Squire, for Lisbon. June 25: The Volunteer, for Cadiz.

Queenstown. June 27: The Nova Felix, for Lisbon.

Sunderland. June 23: The Plantagenet, for Lisbon. June 24: The Frederick, for Cuba.

Galway. June 26: The Rover (steamer), for Lisbon.

Ardrossan. June 23: The Effort, for Lisbon.

Clyde.—June 23: The Glengarry, for Berbice. The Demerara, for Mauritius. The Jamaica, for Havana. The Margaret Smith, for Demerara. The Dauntless, The Renfrew, for St. John's. The Brenda, for Matanzas.

Jersey. June 23: The Guillelmo, for Oporto.

Belfast. June 21: The Princess Royal, for Miramichi.

Ships Loading.

At London.—For Nassau: The Flying Cloud, St. Katharine's Docks; J. Worley. The Star of the East, St. Katharine's Docks; Davison Brothers & Co. The Esperance, St. Katharine's Docks; Davison Brothers & Co. The Prince Albert, Victoria Docks; Bennett & Co. For Bermuda: The Jane Goodyear, The Mystery, The Francis Drake.

At Liverpool.—For Bermuda: The Convoy; Peniston, Westhead & Co. The Harvest.—For Nassau: The Balkan, The Harriett.—For Matamoras: The Florence, The Joachim Christian, The William Landreth, The Oleander.

The Fight at Dallas.—The *Memphis Appeal*, published at Atlanta, Georgia, published the following on May 27: 'The city yesterday was in commotion from the sound of cannon which echoed in the ears of the people, at every point in the suburbs, away from the noise of the busy centre. New Hope church, situated on the road from Powder Spring to Dallas, and about four miles from the latter place, was the point where the advancing army of Johnston came upon the enemy. Hood's corps on our right was the first that opened fire on Wednesday afternoon about two o'clock, and parts only of Stevenson's and Hindman's divisions were engaged. The whole of the army at this time were moving upon the enemy, and as our skirmishers advanced the Yankees threw out a large force in their front. The troops that were up formed in a single line of battle, behind which our skirmishers gradually receded. The enemy were distinctly observed to have four lines of battle, and between three and five o'clock in the afternoon, they made two distinct and heavy charges upon our line. They were repulsed with great slaughter on both occasions, and with small loss to our troops. Brigadier-General Cumming, we learn, was severely wounded by a ball which entered the breast and came out at the arm. Brigadier-General Reynolds was slightly wounded in the arm, and is now in this city. After the second charge of the enemy, the contest lulled for the night. A private note written at General Johnston's head-quarters, at sunrise yesterday morning, says, "The affair yesterday was a handsome little thing. This morning the enemy have just opened again."'

The Federal Losses on June 3.—The *Richmond Sentinel* of June 6 says: 'It is said that seven hundred dead and badly-wounded Yankees were counted in front of Hoke's line after the fight, and, what is more surprising, Hoke only had two men killed. From all accounts, the loss of the enemy on Friday could not have been less than six thousand killed and severely wounded.

Sinking a Federal Alabama.—A correspondent of the *Houston* (Texas) *Telegraph* writes from Matagorda that the Federal gunboats *Alabama* and *Estelle* attacked the Confederate States gunboat *J. F. Carr*, and, after a fight of two hours and a half, were signally repulsed. The *Alabama* was struck below the water line on the port side, and retired in a sinking condition.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

Wednesday Evening.

The Bank rate of discount remains at 6 per cent., and as there continue to be withdrawals of specie for transmission abroad, whilst there is not any going in to the establishment, and, moreover, as the last weekly returns proved unfavourable, there is no prospect of any further reduction at present. The enquiry for money both at the Bank and amongst the brokers is very full, but without any undue pressure. There is a good supply of capital in the market; but it is not parted with even for prime short-dated paper under the Bank *minimum*, and in some instances even higher terms are enforced. The Joint Stock Banks are also demanding high rates for advances; but under present circumstances they are doing very little indeed, and show no disposition to press business. On the Stock Exchange there is also a good supply of money, and short loans on Government Securities are negotiated at 5 to 5½ per cent. Within the last day or two the enquiry has been stimulated by the settlement of the accounts in Foreign Stocks, Railway and miscellaneous Shares, but the rates for continuation have been exceedingly light.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The market for American Government and Railway securities shows increased depression as regards both the business transacted, as well as prices. In fact, with one or two exceptions, there have not been dealings in any of the securities. The only official quotations have been in Erie, $100 shares at 51, 50, 52, and 50. Illinois Central, $100 shares, $90 paid, at 36½, 37½, 37¼, 37, 37¼, and 36 dis. and in ditto ditto, all paid, at 59.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

We have the pleasure of being able to state, with positive certainty, that the semi-annual interest and dividend of sinking fund due on September 1, and which by the terms of the contract with the Confederate Government, must be deposited with the contractors 60 days in advance, is ready for deposit. This fact, coupled with the continued absorption of large quantities of the bonds by conversion into cotton-certificates for blockade-running purposes will no doubt give a vigorous stimulus to transactions in this stock.

The dealings in this Stock have been limited this week—the price being steadily maintained at 63 to 65. This afternoon, the price declined slightly—we close 62 to 64.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

Although there has not been a extensive business transacted in the English stock market, the gloom which pervaded all departments till the actual result of the Conference on the Germano-Danish question, and which had tended to depress prices, was made known, was partially removed, when it was officially announced that this country was not to engage in the war. The operators once more became rather active and prices gradually improved, the market closing with a firm tendency. Consols being 90 to ⅛ ex div. for money, and 90⅛ to 90¼ for the account, which is an improvement on the week of ¼ per cent. Exchequer bills continued very steady at 8s. to 3s. dis. for the March issue, and for those of June 5s. dis. to par. The Foreign Stock Market has been subjected to precisely the same influences as the other departments; but as these stocks offer a better opportunity for speculation, the recovery in prices has been proportionately greater. The advance in Mexican has been 1¼ per cent., in Greek and Spanish Passives each ⅜ per cent., and in the Spanish Certificates about ⅛ per cent. Turkish descriptions have also been fairly dealt in, but without alteration in values. The closing quotations this evening were: Greek, at 24 to 24¼; Mexican, 44⅝ to 44⅞; Spanish Passives, 29⅝ to 30; and the Certificates 9⅞ to 10⅛; Turkish six per cents. of 1854, 90½ to 90¾; and those of 1862 at 70⅞ to 71.

Liverpool, Wednesday, June 29.—There has been much greater activity displayed in our cotton market during the last few days than for some time past. In the early part of the week there was not quite so much briskness, and prices showed a declining tendency. With the improvement in business, however, there has also been a corresponding advance in quotations. There is still an active demand for American cotton, the supplies of which are at present very fair. Egyptian, Brazil, and Surat have also been in good request, but there has not been so much enquiry for Sea Islands, and China and Japans. The sales this week have been 44,000 bales, of which 15,000 have been taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year have been 1,295,896 bales, and to the same period in 1863 they were 1,031,530 bales. There have been imported this year 1,096,862 bales, and to the corresponding date last year 713,416 bales. The exports this year have been 246,510 bales; to the same in 1863, 219,705 bales. There have been taken for consumption this year 820,394 bales; to the same period last year 552,873 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 211,256 bales; same in 1863, 212,536 bales. The computed stocks at the present time are 310,486 bales, and to the corresponding period last year 363,149 bales. The closing quotations this afternoon, were: American descriptions, 27½d to 29½d; Pernambuco, 29¼d. to 29¾d.; Maranham, 29¼d. to 29¾d., Macao, 28d.; Bahia, 28d. to 28¼d.; Egyptian, 28¼d. to 32½d.; Smyrna, 21⅛d. to 25½d.; Surat, 12¼d. to 23¾d.; Bengal, 17¼d. to 17½d.; Scinde, 17¼d. to 17½d.; China, 18¼d. to 20¼d.; Japan, 21d.; and Peruvian, 27¾d. to 30d.

The Manchester markets have been dull and heavy throughout the greater part of the week, in consequence of the uncertainty which prevailed with regard to the Germano-Danish question; but since the statements in Parliament on Monday, public feeling has been rather quieted, and, for the present, operators know what they have to depend upon. Nevertheless, although there is a little more cheerfulness exhibited, the actual resumption of hostilities prevents anything like a display of activity. In shipping yarns, within the last day or two, there has been rather more doing for the chief markets, and an advance has been established of about ¼d., and in some few instances ½d. per lb., compared with what spinners would have accepted a day or two ago. The market closed rather firm, and buyers seemed more disposed to enter into engagements than for some time past. In home trade yarns there has also been a better market, and for some of the better kinds a slight advance has also been obtained. There has been rather more enquiry as to the prices which manufacturers are prepared to accept, both for goods in stocks and as to orders for the future, but it has not led to much actual business. The only sales effected have been in retail quantities. Manufactures continue very firm, and there is no change to quote in prices from last week.

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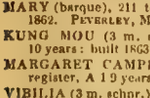

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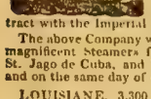

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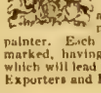

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FEDERAL FINANCES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK: June 21, 1864.

The military bills and the appropriation bills for the spending of money are pretty well through. The financial measures for supplying the means are still incomplete. Neither the Tariff Bill nor the Internal Tax Bill has yet become a law. They are still hanging between the two Houses, which have disagreed on very numerous amendments. The differences are not such, however, as to endanger the passage of either Bill. Both will become laws in a few days; the principal question is, whether either or both will answer the purposes of the Government in furnishing means for the Treasury and reinstating the public credit.

The Tariff Bill is born a failure. The wants of the Government from this source, principally for the payment of the interest on the public debt in gold, were set down at $120,000,000 a year. The manufacturing interests got control of the Committees, and the Bill came forth a full protective measure; and all the efforts of the Opposition in both Houses have failed to break down the combinations by which revenue has been sacrificed for the benefit of the iron, cotton, and woollen interests of the Eastern States and Pennsylvania. Duties have been imposed largely and principally in order to protect domestic manufactures, and have so impaired the revenue capacity of the Bill, that it is not expected by men familiar with the operations of commerce, that it will produce over sixty millions of dollars, one-half of the estimated necessities of the Government for gold. The Government itself must, in the course of the next session, call for a revision, and the controversy will be reopened much to the disadvantage of the manufacturers, who have made the country's distresses the opportunity of fastening again an odious and repudiated system on the commercial policy of the country. The complaints against New England management are deep if not loud. The debates and divisions show something of this, but it is not half expressed, for the Yankees have cunningly managed to make the support of their schemes a hateful necessity. Men dare not face the responsibility of throwing out a Bill without which the Government alleges that it will be bankrupt. But this greediness is unwise. It leaves a financial necessity for an early revision, and the reopening of the whole controversy when the restraints under which the agricultural interest now acts shall have been removed, and the Western men speak out all they think of New England and her politics, which, having by their intolerant fanaticism made the war, contrive by sordid legislation to get rich upon it, and to cast the weight of the burdens on the drained and impoverished West. There is a fierce quarrel brewing between the East and the West, not confined to political parties. A large portion of the Western population begin to hate the name of Yankee almost as bitterly as they do that of rebel, and, if the war were over in any way, would infinitely rather consort with a Southerner than a New Englander. The tariff wrong and imposition is another grievance garnered up; and in the chances of the early future you must not be surprised to find the exasperation breaking out in a more dangerous form than a vote in Congress, to cut down an odious law made to enrich New England capitalists.

The Internal Tax Bill is another experiment of which the financial failure is predicted. Its authors are afraid of it, and have prudently so arranged it that its operation will not be felt until after the Presidential election. It is a subject of anxious thought among the fundholders, and all who have anything to lend in the present rage of the Government to borrow from anybody and at almost any rate which can tempt men to part with their money, whether these taxes can be collected at all under the furious political excitements they will provoke, or whether the sum of what may be collected can in any event save the Government from bankruptcy. It is certain that neither of these Bills is of any present use, and yet the wants of the Treasury were never greater or more pressing.

Last month I gave you some statements of the financial condition of the United States, derived from the official publications of the Treasury up to the middle of May. The Secretary has been in trouble ever since, and is now engaged in attempting by a change of policy, or rather some ineffectual undertakings to change a policy that will prove to have become too strong for his control, to stave off impending bankruptcy. The expedients by which he has been carrying on the Government—borrowing by issuing and reissuing Government paper without limit—have made a Government dollar barely represent fifty cents. His proffered loans for absorbing the paper have been unable to keep up with increasing war expenditures, which make new issues constantly necessary; and the want of decided military successes disturbs men's minds with the fear that the Government may never be able to pay, and that a discontented and overburdened people may refuse to pay.

Official statements have lately appeared giving precise details of the revenues and expenditures of the Government for the first three quarters of the present fiscal year—that is, from July 1, 1863, to March 31, 1864, inclusive. These are the actual transactions at the Treasury, and do not take into the account unpaid liabilities, suspended accounts, or even audited claims and overdue requisitions.

By these tables the payments of the Treasury for those three quarters were . . .	$619,549,540
The whole receipts into the Treasury from all sources of revenue were . . .	161,691,931
Excess of payments	$457,857,609

These receipts were mainly from duties on imports ($73,413,193), and internal tax ($72,547,956); and $12,500,000 were received as commutation money for exemptions from the draft.

It must be noted that, besides the arrearages for unpaid requisitions and suspended accounts, and claims against the general Government for the regular war services, there is a huge mass of contingent individual and State claims requiring the action of the Departments and of Congress. Of these Mr. Whiting, the solicitor of the War Department, has lately written, in a published letter, that they amount already to 'hundreds of millions of dollars,' and that 'the army of claimants is really quite as formidable to the Government as the army of rebels.' Nevertheless, they are claims which are to be examined, and they are large enough to make it certain that they will be allowed, and if anything is paid they will be paid. Great claims in which so many are interested, and which can afford to bribe high, always succeed; it is only the small claimants, who depend on justice and good faith, that exhaust themselves in the effort and fail. These sums are to be counted in the ultimate amount of the debt. The figures I have quoted are sufficient to show to what straits the Government is reduced, exceeding its whole income, in the discharge of obligations that it could not postpone, by $457,857,000 in three quarters of a year, or at a rate exceeding $600,000,000 per annum.

Another table has been carefully prepared from the official publications of the Department, which shows the increase of the acknowledged public debt, and the paper issues which represent it, from June 1863 up to May 1864. I furnished you in a late letter with a full statement of the debt on May 14, and there has not been, and it is thought to be a little singular that there has not been, any authenticated report from the Department since of the actual amount of the debt. It is only reckoned by estimates and averages, which vary from $1,860,000,000 to $2,000,000,000. The latter is much the nearer to the fact, and itself represents only the liquidated and recognised debt, not all the actual liabilities which will go to make up the final sum. These figures, which serve to show the steady increase of the legal tender issues, are significant now, in view of the Secretary's confession of the desperate condition into which they have brought the Treasury.

The positive increase from June 10 to May 14 (11 months) was from $407,839,045 to $685,944,827 (about $278,000,000). The increase since the commencement of this Congress is this:—

The issues were,	May 14, 1864 . .	$685,944,827
"	" Dec. 1, 1863 . .	436,255,931
	Increase .	$249,688,896

or over $35,000,000 a month.

Gold has accordingly risen, as compared with paper, to nearly two for one, and to-day is over 200, a dollar in gold being worth nearly two in paper, and prices of all things rising with the inflation; the Government frightfully increasing its expenses, and straining itself to borrow everywhere in paper, to be repaid hereafter in gold at two for one.

The Congress has just given Mr. Chase one of his favourite measures for improving the value of this paper by beating down what he chooses to pronounce the 'speculative' price of gold. The Gold Bill becomes a law to-day, by which it is made penal—

To purchase or sell gold coin, bullion, or exchange, in any other place than at the office of business of one of the parties; to sell gold or silver, coin or bullion, except delivered at the time of sale, and paid for then by actual delivery of the lawful money; or to purchase or sell exchange for delivery within two days, or after ten days, from the date of contract. The penalty is fine and imprisonment, and the informer gets half the fine.

Gold rose one per cent. after the news yesterday of the passage of the Bill, but that might have been aided by the unfavourable war news. No man of observation or experience in business can fail to perceive that the effect of the Bill will be to embarrass free operations in gold and enhance the price, and that another effect will be to demonstrate the charlatanism of the department from which such egregious follies emanate.

The accumulation of distresses has driven Mr. Chase into the abandonment, in profession and promise at least, of his favourite theory of saving money to the Government by borrowing without interest—that is, by the unlimited issue of paper currency. He has been trying to borrow directly with his (5 per cent.) ten-forty loan, and it is a total failure. The subscriptions would not half pay the daily excess of his issues. His latest effort was to effect a loan of $75,000,000 at 6 per cent., payable in gold, the principal repayable after 1881 also in gold, and inviting proposals, for which he expected liberal bids, for money is very abundant, hunting for safe investments. The amount of offers was only $61,000,000, and the rates were such that he rejected all offers below 104 for 100 of stock. He has obtained $44,000,000 at an average of a fraction over 105. In other words, the capitalists of the United States have measured the credit of their own Government at about 53 cents for the dollar, and decline lending except at a rate which will pay more than 10 per cent. for their money, and return them, at the end of the loan, nearly two dollars for one.

The next expedient of the Secretary, as it is now given out in the money circles here, is to invite money from abroad by negotiating loans to be taken in Europe at the best rates to be had there. He is expected in New York to-day to engineer this through by the aid of foreign bankers here. It is a desperate thought, in which it may be doubted whether a little present success might not be a speedier way to ruin than absolute failure. They will be very bold men who trust their money to a Government of which its own most zealous supporters have shown such manifest distrust—which has already spent more than one-fourth of the estimated value of all the property of the country, real and personal, nearly $4,000,000,000 of the $1,350,000,000, which was the assessed value of all the property of the loyal States in 1863, in a war for destroying the productive capacity and wasting the resources on which its ability to pay depends—and which goes on blindly heaping up debts on a discontented people, without faith that they will certainly be able to pay, and with many misgivings that they may be more than willing to refuse to pay. The Englishman or the German who takes these risks, cannot be without warning of what he undertakes when he speculates at such enormous rates on the credit which the very terms of his loan show to be already shattered.

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

FOR nearly two days it was believed in New York that the Federals had captured Petersburg. The journals came out with congratulatory leaders, in which wonder was expressed that General Lee should permit his enemy to change his base without opposition, and should have allowed Petersburg to be taken by surprise. But, as is so frequently the case, the sanguine Northerners were discounting a forged victory. On June 17, Grant's whole army was before Petersburg, and he succeeded in capturing a portion of the outer defences, with 450 prisoners and four cannon. Next day, soon after sunrise, a general assault was delivered by the Federals against the inner line of defences, and this was repulsed, and, as is usual under such circumstances, with heavy loss. After an interval of a few hours, that is, at midday, the Federals made another assault and were again repulsed with heavy loss. Undaunted by the carnage, Grant at four o'clock ordered a third assault, and for the third time that day his soldiers were repulsed with heavy loss. It is admitted that the Federal loss was 8,000, and that Hancock's corps alone lost 4,200. It is supposed that this official statement is exceptionally false as to the actual extent of the casualties sustained in these assaults.

From the 18th to the 21st, the Federal commander was quiet, and on the latter day commenced what Mr. Stanton describes as an 'important movement, which cannot be made public.' Whatever may have been the object of this movement it was not made without fighting. Whilst on the march, Grant was so harassed by General Hill's corps, that he ordered forward his whole army to give battle. When he came up with the Confederates, he found them occupying a formidable and entrenched position. During that night (Tuesday, 21st), the Federals got no rest, no matter how sorely they needed it. The Federal left was engaged throughout the night, and lost heavily in killed and wounded, and four cannon.

Next day (Wednesday, 22nd), the Federals sustained a serious disaster. General Hill forced his way between the second and sixth corps of the Federal army, attacked the second in the rear and drove it from its entrenchments, with a loss of 3,000 killed, wounded, and captured. The Confederates then retired to a strong position.

ON the 21st an assault was made on the Federal position at the White House by General Fitzhugh Lee, and the Federals were only saved from defeat by the aid of their gunboats.

Sheridan, who set out to join Hunter, has returned without effecting his object. He admits that he was defeated at Gordonsville on June 12, though the Administration previously claimed that engagement as a Federal victory. All we know about General Hunter is that he appeared near Lynchburg on June 16 and 17; that he was repulsed on the 18th in an attack on that place, and that he lost a large number of prisoners in retreating from Lynchburg to Liberty.

From two facts we gather that the Northerners take a gloomy view of the situation in Virginia. Gold is quoted in New York at 120 per cent. premium; and a rumour is current that the Northern army is making a retrograde movement, or is retreating.

GENERAL GRANT has blockaded the James River below Fort Darling with sunken vessels. He has done this, it is said, lest Confederate rams should come out and damage his transports. We will not presume to question the prudence of the Northern commander, but it is a little curious for an invader to block up the road to the city which it is his object to capture.

UNDER date of June 22, it is reported from the 'Headquarters, Army of the Potomac,' that 'the 3rd Excelsior Regiment, Colonel Leonard commanding, leave here to-morrow for home, their term of service having expired. This regiment participated in all the battles of the Peninsula under General M'Clellan, and, with the exception of Antietam, in all those in which the army of the Potomac has been engaged.'

GENERAL SHERMAN reported that the Confederate army was retreating, and that he was marching on Marietta. Subsequently he notified to Mr. Stanton that his report was not true, and that his officers had made a mistake about the retreat of the Confederate army. At latest dates Sherman was still entrenched, and was confronted by General Johnston. The Federal rear was harassed, and an assault on a division of Johnston's army had been repulsed with great slaughter. The Federal authorities manifest considerable anxiety as to Sherman's position.

THE explanation of the somewhat mysterious announcement in the telegraphic news about five Confederate generals being placed under fire off Charleston harbour, as a measure of retaliation, is explained by the following letter of the Commander of the Confederate forces in that city to the Commander of the United States forces:—

Head-quarters, Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, Charleston, June 13, 1864.—General,—Five generals and forty-five field officers of the United States army, all of them prisoners of war, have been sent to this city for safe keeping. They have been turned over to Brigadier-General Ripley, commanding the First Military District of the Department, who will see that they are provided with commodious quarters in a part of the city occupied by non-combatants, the majority of whom are women and children. It is proper, however, that I should inform you that it is a part of the city which for many months has been exposed day and night to the fire of your guns.—Very respectfully, your obedient servant, SAM. JONES, Major-General Commanding.—Major-General J. G. Foster, commanding United States forces on coast of South Carolina, C. S.

To this General Foster replies by a laboured attempt to vindicate his firing upon an inhabited part of the city, where no military results could possibly be obtained, and concludes with the threat that he would keep 'in positions exposed to the fire' of the Confederate guns an equal number of prisoners of like grade.

MR. STANTON reports the death of General Polk, but later advices do not mention it; therefore, the report, as it stands, is not worth consideration.

A RESOLUTION has been introduced in the Federal House of Representatives recommending that the President be authorised to give notice to Great Britain of the termination of the treaty which was made in 1817, by which the naval forces of Great Britain and the United States on the Northern lakes were strictly limited.

MEETINGS have been held in Washington and New York to ratify the nomination of the Baltimore Convention. At these gatherings the speeches were of the usual character. At Washington the resolutions were moved by Judge Kelley, who said that Mr. Lincoln 'should carry on the war until the rebellion is closed and its leaders sleep the quiet sleep of death in felons' graves.' Senator Lane followed. He said: 'Patriotism has become religion. . . . . The eternity of God's truth rested in the principles enunciated in the Baltimore Convention. It was full of the grand utterances of the Sermon on the Mount, and of the grand utterances of the Declaration of Independence. He was glad to endorse these principles, and to preach righteousness to all nations, beginning here at Jerusalem. . . . . This nation, after devoting a short time to the suppression of the rebellion, would be in a condition to assert the Monroe doctrine, and to make those frog-eating Frenchmen leave Mexico on the double-quick.' These sentiments were loudly applauded.

The New York meeting began with a practical letter from Mr. Seward, who wrote, 'For the present let the people send men and supplies to the national armies in the field.' The conclusion of the meeting was, however, sensational. Mr. S. Mathews, the last speaker, said—we quote literally from the report in the *New York Herald* of June 16—'There were more rebels North than in the South, and more rebels in this city than in the army of Jeff. Davis. Draw the line between the men who sustain the flag and the mean lickspittles. If you knew what secession was, it would shock you. It was begot in a lie; a lie its dam; its whole career stinking with rottenness, meanness, corruption, with all the villanies of human society. It will be with its hand on the Bible, with its lips upon the cross, with the sepulchre of the Saviour beneath its gaze—it is the vilest of all crimes. But still, as God suffered Christ to die for the regeneration and disenthralment of the human race from sin, so in this latter time will he lift the land from national crime and make the people once more free, prosperous and happy. These Peace Democrats of your State are the vilest living race; and if God has a slumbering thunderbolt left, he will let it fall upon the heads of these scoundrels.'

THE proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the abolition of slavery failed in the House of Representatives, not receiving the requisite two-thirds of the votes. Commenting on this, the *New York World* of June 17 observes: 'Two years' more experience of our accumulating burdens may make the Northern people unanimous in a willingness that the South should come back by a simple resumption of allegiance. It would be inopportune and unfortunate if, just at that moment, we found ourselves bound, hand and foot, in the strong fetters of a newly-adopted constitutional prohibition, and compelled to refuse a submission which we would, if at liberty, gladly accept.' It is true that at any moment the South would have been gladly received back into the Union upon any terms she chose to impose. But the South is fighting for that which is incompatible with reunion on any terms—she is fighting for independence.

MR. LINCOLN visited the Sanitary Fair at Philadelphia on June 16, and made a speech, in which he said: 'I have never been in the habit of making predictions in regard to the war, but I am almost tempted to make one. If I were to hazard it, it is this: That Grant is this evening with General Meade and General Hancock, of Pennsylvania, and the brave officers and soldiers with him, in a position from whence he will never be dislodged until Richmond is taken, and I have but one single proposition to put now, and perhaps I can best put it in the form of an interrogative. If I shall discover that General Grant and the noble officers and men under him can be greatly facilitated in their work by a sudden pouring forward of men and assistance, will you give them to me? Then, I say, stand ready, for I am watching for the chance.' The world does not agree with Mr. Lincoln as to facts. The general impression is, that he has made very many, and utterly false, predictions.

MR. VALLANDIGHAM has returned to Ohio, and been elected a delegate to the Chicago Convention. The Federal Government is perplexed. If they permit a banished man to return with impunity, it will be a damaging confession of weakness and pusillanimity. To arrest Mr. Vallandigham would be a dangerous proceeding. In the last few months Ohio and other Western States have manifested considerable disloyalty to the Lincoln dynasty. Since Mr. Vallandigham's banishment, much more 'treasonable' utterances than his have been heard in Congress, and have gone unpunished. Even Republican papers are teeming with charges against the Administration vastly more 'treasonable' than anything Mr. Vallandigham uttered. Probably the Federal Government will do nothing, at least not until the Presidential election is over. When Mr. Lincoln has secured a new lease of power, he will not fail to punish his enemies.

ON June 8 there was a discussion in the Federal Senate on the repeal of the commutation clause by which persons drafted are, by the payment of $300, exempted from service. Mr. Wilson, in reply to an attack on the Government made by Mr. Conness, of California, said: 'Does the senator know that we have raised or reenlisted, since October 17 last, six hundred thousand men, not to count black men, and that within the last year we have put in the field seven hundred thousand men; that we have made an exertion such as few nations ever made and few nations can make; that we have spent $125,000,000 in bounties; that we have drafted; that we have used the whole power and influence of the Government to increase our military forces? Sir, we have put forth an effort that excites the astonishment and commands the admiration of the world; yet the senator from California, whose constituents are not drafted nor called upon, rises to-day and rebukes the Administration—rebukes us, and talks glibly of the timid counsels of men who are quite as hopeful, determined, and brave as himself. . . . We have sent forty-eight thousand men to reinforce General Grant since the commencement of the march towards the rebel capital. Within thirty days we have gathered up over the country these reinforcements, two thousand of whom are the one hundred days' men raised in the State of Ohio. . . . The Government is casting a drag-net over the country, gathering up all the soldiers it can, and hurrying them forward to the support of General Grant.' This statement shows what tremendous exertions the Federal Government has made to get recruits. The observation about California is not quite accurate. The only reason why the people of California have not been driven into Mr. Lincoln's slaughter-pens is, that they disregarded the calls and effectually resisted the draft. Indeed, California is practically independent. She neither contributes to Mr. Lincoln's armies, nor will she make use of Mr. Chase's greenbacks.

THE Chicago (Democratic) Convention has been put off until August 29. By so doing, the Democrats will be assisted by the events of the next two months to guide them in their choice of a President. They may not gain, but they cannot lose by postponement.

MR. ISAAC HENDERSON, who was publisher of the *New York Evening Post*, an ultra-republican journal, and also United States Navy Agent of the port of New York, has been dismissed from Government employment, and arrested by Marshal Murray on charges of fraud, bribery, falsification of vouchers, and other misdemeanours. This affair followed closely upon Mr. Thurlow Weed's letter on official corruption. We have commented on this exposure in our leading columns.

MR. LINCOLN'S officers have peculiar views about the use of voting. It will be remembered that in New Orleans it was decreed that those who did not vote at all were to be treated as enemies, and that those who did vote were to support the Government candidate under certain pains and penalties. General Washburne has just informed the citizens of Memphis that, 'in the event of the re-election of the present Mayor, it is the intention of the military authorities to take charge of the municipal department of Memphis;' but the General hopes 'the citizens of Memphis will elect a ticket friendly to the Government, so that he may be relieved from the duty of interfering.'

ON June 25 the price of gold in New York was quoted at 220.

ENGLAND.

IN another part of our columns some account of the debate still pending in the House of Commons will be found. It may, however, be of interest to glance at the preparations made by the Conservative party for the attack. On Tuesday, June 28, a meeting was held at the residence of the Marquis of Salisbury in Arlington Street. Only one peer was present, namely, the Earl of Derby. The meeting was attended by 231 members of the House of Commons. The Earl of Derby presided, being supported by Mr. Disraeli, General Peel, Lord John Manners, Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Estcourt, Sir Stafford Northcote, and other prominent members of the party. Lord Derby, in addressing the meeting, reminded his friends that the attacks which for the last three years had been directed against the Established Church, had now been abandoned, owing to the firm front displayed by the Conservative party. As to the Danish question Her Majesty's Government had at one time stated that in certain contingencies Denmark would not be allowed to enter upon the contest with Germany alone; as matters progressed the ground was shifted, and the contingency on which action was to be taken against Germany was successively changed—Federal execution, the invasion of Slesvig, the seizure of Fredericia, and the occupation of Jutland, each in turn being the interdicted act. He did not mean to say that England ought now to interfere, but he complained that Denmark had been deceived by this reiteration of unfulfilled threats. This policy had lowered the country, sunk its renown, and lessened its influence in the eyes of Europe. In reference to the resolution prepared by Mr. Disraeli, a copy of which has already been published in our columns, and on which the debate in the Commons elsewhere noticed is based, the noble Lord said that he could not be certain that a majority would be obtained in the House, but he solemnly and sincerely believed that the resolution would carry with it the approving voice of the country. The terms of the resolution were then read and received with loud cheering. On Monday last, July 4, another meeting was held at Lord Salisbury's, at which very many members of the Conservative party were present.

JOHN SEYMOUR, of 32 Wellclose Square, Whitechapel, appeared on July 1 before Mr. Henry, the magistrate at the Bow Street Police Court, on a summons issued under the Foreign Enlistment Act. He was charged with having unlawfully attempted to hire one Robert Sadd and others to serve by sea in the employment of certain persons assuming to exercise the power of government in a foreign country. The defendant was described as a 'boarding-house keeper' and a native of Cephalonia, in Greece. Mr. Giffard, instructed by Mr. Pollard of the Treasury, appeared for the Crown, and Mr. G. Lewis, of Ely Place, Holborn, the well-known attorney, appeared for the defence. At the suggestion of Mr. Giffard, the depositions of the witnesses were read. That of Robert Sadd proved that on the 7th and 8th of April last he was engaged by the defendant as a fireman to join a ship at Calais, that his wages were to be 4*s.* a day and his victuals while the ship lay in dock, and 5*l.* 16*s.* a month, with 10*l.* bounty, on sailing. He was to meet the defendant on April 9, to go with him to Calais. However, from something told him by a friend, he eventually declined to go. He had seen the three men Connell, Smith, and Grace, at the defendant's house. Edward Smith proved that on April 7 he was engaged by the defendant to go to Calais to work on board the *Rappahannock*, for 4*s.* a day and his victuals and lodging. Connell, Grace, and many others were engaged at the same time. Some few days after six of them sailed from London Bridge in the *Hanover* steamer, after having signed an agreement. On arriving at Calais they went on board the *Rappahannock*, and told an officer of the ship who had sent them and what were the terms of their engagement. The first lieutenant, however, would only offer them the terms that they should sign on board the ship for three years, at 5*l.* 16*s.* a month and 10*l.* bounty. They refused to join and returned to London. The witness had received 15*s.* from the defendant for his lost time. Grace and Connell gave similar testimony. Mr. Lewis said that there was a perfect answer to the charge, but he would reserve it for another tribunal. Mr. Henry committed the defendant for trial, but accepted bail.

EDWARD CAMPBELL, 'seaman's boarding-house keeper,' appeared at the Liverpool Police Court on June 30 to a summons issued under the Foreign Enlistment Act. The charge was that he did in the month of December, and also in the month of May last, hire, engage, retain, or procure Patrick Shanley, John Fleming, and others, to be

employed or engaged in the service of the Confederate States of America contrary to the statute of 59 George III. c. 69. The information was laid by Mr. W. G. Bateson, of the firm of Bateson and Robinson, on behalf of the solicitors to the Lords of the Treasury. It was proved on the evidence of Shanley, Fleming, and other witnesses, that the men named were hired as firemen by the defendant at 7*l.* per month to serve on board the *Georgia*, that defendant took them to Cherbourg and saw them on board, and that when the *Georgia* discharged her crew in the Mersey, the men were engaged to serve on board the *Rappahannock*. It was contended for the defendants that the statute only named officers, soldiers, sailors, and marines, and that a fireman would not be within the Act. The magistrate committed the defendant for trial.

LAST week died General Sir Robert Gardiner, K.C.B. He was born in 1781, and obtained his commission in the Royal Artillery in 1797. He first saw service under Sir Charles Stuart, and was present at the capture of Minorca. He returned to England at the peace of Amiens. He next went to Hanover, under Lieutenant-General Don, with the expedition which was destined to join the Russian army under Count Tolstoy, but returned home after Austerlitz, under the terms of the treaty of Presburg. He next proceeded to Sicily, and on his return home joined Sir Arthur Wellesley's force, and was present at the battles of Roleia and Vimiera, and the capture of Lisbon. He next served under Sir John Moore in the campaign which terminated with the battle of Corunna. Afterwards he served in the Walcheren expedition. Next he joined Sir Thomas Graham, and was present at the battle of Barossa. He distinguished himself at the siege of Badajoz, under Lord Wellington. He was subsequently present at Salamanca and the capture of Madrid. He served in the siege of Burgos, at Morales, in the battle of Vittoria, in the Pyrenees, at Orthes, Tarbes, and Toulouse. On the return of Napoleon he again joined the Duke of Wellington, and fought at Quatre Bras and Waterloo. After the establishment of peace he became principal equerry to Prince Leopold. Subsequently, he was military aide-de-camp to George IV., William IV., and to Her Majesty. He received at different times the order of the Guelph, the Russian order of St. Anne, the grand cross of Carlos III. He had the gold medal and clasps for Barossa, Salamanca, Vittoria, Orthes, and Toulouse, the silver war medals for Roleia, Vimiera, and Corunna, and the Waterloo medal and clasp.

THE REV. WILLIAM CURETON, D.D., Canon of Westminster and Rector of St. Margaret's, Westminster, died on June 17, in the 56th year of his age, having achieved, by his laborious researches in oriental manuscripts, a reputation that will survive for centuries. He was appointed assistant-keeper of the manuscripts in the British Museum in 1837, and undertook the preparation of a classed catalogue of the Arabic portion of the collection. The first part of this work was published in 1846. In 1841 the trustees acquired the collection of Syriac MSS. obtained through Dr. Tattam from the Monastery of St. Mary Deipara, in the desert of Nitria, near Cairo, and on these Dr. Cureton expended immense labour, classifying and arranging the disordered fragments. About 1845 arose the famous controversy concerning the Epistles of St. Ignatius, in which Samuel Lee, Bunsen, Baur, Helgenfeld, Jacobson, and others took part, and in the course of which the 'Vindiciæ Ignatianæ' was published. About the same time Dr. Cureton edited the text of a portion of the Syriac version of the 'Festal Letters of St. Athanasius,' the palimpsest fragments of the 'Iliad of Homer' contained in the Nitrian MS., and the third part of the 'Ecclesiastical History of John, Bishop of Ephesus.' Subsequently he published his 'Spicilegium Syriacum,' containing remains ascribed to Bardessanes, Melito of Sardes, Ambrose, &c., with an English translation and notes. In 1858 he published the remains of an ancient recension of the Syriac Gospels, and in the preface worked out his celebrated argument in favour of the Hebrew original of St. Matthew's Gospel. Three years later Dr. Cureton brought out the 'History of the Martyrs in Palestine' by Eusebius of Cæsarea. At the time of his death he was employed on a work destined to contain a portion of the original Aramaic document cited by Eusebius as preserved in the archives of Edessa, and also to show that the famous epistles attributed to our Lord and to Abgarus, king of Edessa, had strong claims to genuineness. Dr. Cureton aided largely in the labours of the Society for the Publication of Oriental Texts. In 1859 he was appointed Crown trustee of the British Museum, an office in which he has now been succeeded by the Dean of Windsor. In 1855 he was elected, on the death of Dr. Gaisford, as corresponding member of the Institute of France, and in 1860 he succeeded Professor Wilson as Foreign Associate of the Institute.

THE new Act, 26 & 27 Victoriæ, cap. 78, came into operation last week, and London found relief from one of its many nuisances. By it eighty-one turnpike gates and side bars situated in the roads lying north of the Thames, and running immediately from the principal streets, were swept away. A great reduction was also effected in the tolls payable at gates in the surrounding rural districts. Exertions are now being made to obtain the same relief on the Surrey side of the river.

ON the last day of June Harrow School was honoured by the presence of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales. Viscount Palmerston, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Lord Brougham also visited the school. The recitation of the speeches and the award of the prizes by the head master, the Rev. Montagu Butler, commenced at half-past one o'clock. Passages from Shakspeare, Molière, Schiller, Plautus, and Tacitus were given alternately with the prize poems and essays composed by the boys. The chief interest, however, was concentrated on an extract from a speech delivered many years ago by Lord Brougham against the Holy Alliance. The whole scope of the oration went to prove that, where the integrity of a small European State was menaced by the aggression of more powerful neighbours, it was the duty of England at all hazards to interpose by force of arms and to insure the salvation of the oppressed sovereignty. With a few corrections of names, the speech might have been delivered with effect during the past week in Parliament, and it may easily be imagined that no small impression on the audience was caused by it. The Princess of Wales appeared to be much moved, while the noble Premier seemed rather amused than otherwise by this unexpected condemnation of his policy.

THE annual cricket match between Eton and Winchester Schools was played last week at Winchester. The last-named school obtained 76 runs in the first and 210 runs in the second innings. Eton obtained 116 runs in the first innings, and scored the 171 runs necessary to secure the victory with the loss of only one wicket. In the second innings of Eton, the Hon. S. G. Lyttelton scored 96 runs, while Mr. Prideaux scored 54 runs. The play of these gentlemen excited great admiration.

A TROTTING match came off in the neighbourhood of Leeds last week between a noted horse called Jack Rossiter, now aged nineteen years, and a mare called Matchless, purchased for the sole purpose of defeating the invincible Jack. The match was for 50*l.* a side, and the distance to be run was 50 miles for the horse, and 49 miles and 1,260 yards for the mare. At the end of the 45th mile the mare fell down dead. Jack Rossiter did his 50 miles in three hours and thirty minutes, twenty-seven miles of the journey having been completed in one hour and forty minutes. The winner was in a most deplorable state at the finish. If this is to be taken as a specimen of the way in which trotting matches are conducted in England, it will be with much pleasure that we shall learn that 'the sport' has been abandoned.

LOVERS of horses have had a great opportunity during the last five days of indulging their powers of admiration for that noble animal. The Agricultural Hall at Islington has been converted into one vast stable, in which 310 horses and ponies have been exhibited. The arrangements for the comfort of the animals and the visitors were excellent, and the vast area in the centre of the building formed a magnificent promenade in which the capacities of the competitors could be displayed with advantage. There were thirteen classes, and for each class three prizes were given. The prizes consisted of pieces of plate varying in value from 5*l.* to 100*l.* The classes were:—First: Thoroughbred stallions best calculated to get horses for the turf, the chase, or the park. Second: Hacks, roadster stallions of any height or breed. Third: Hunters able to carry fourteen stone. Fourth: Hunters of five years and upwards, without restriction as to weight-carrying powers. Fifth, Hunters of any age. Sixth: Weight-carrying cobs under fifteen hands. Seventh: Heavy chargers. Eighth: Light chargers. Ninth: Carriage-horses in match pairs. Tenth: Arab barbs or other Oriental horses. The remaining classes were for ponies of various heights. Of the classes other than the first, we may observe that the Duchess of Beaufort showed a pair of black carriage-horses, both got by Jericho and bred in Cambridgeshire, which, for style and action, surpass any animals of the kind which it has been our fortune to see. Her Ladyship also won a prize with her barb Mazagan, a horse bred at Mazagan; the judges, however, deciding that a similar prize should be given to Opal, the property of Mrs. Turnbull, an Arab of the pure Nidjed breed, whose colour was a silver white. General Sir Henry Rawlinson exhibited an Arab, called the Caliph, bred by the Sheikh of the Wahabis, and boasting a registered pedigree of 400 years. In another class, a horse called the Cid was exhibited, who deserves remark as an excellent specimen of a cross between the English racehorse and the Arab. His sire was Claret, a high-caste Arab; his dam, Brenda, was by Speculator by Lottery, and the dam of Brenda was by Camel. As a rule, the Arab in England deserves to be considered a mere plaything, and though the theory of crossing is upheld by a section of grumblers at the English racehorse, yet the results cannot be considered as satisfactory. General Angerstein has given the theory every opportunity of proving its value, and the only rational conclusion is that, if action be obtained, a good park hack may be the result; while, on the other hand, an Arab with action is a rarity, and a produce of the cross capable of carrying eleven stone is seldom to be seen. In fact, such animals realise to the full the idea of splendid inutility. To the Cid, however, must be conceded an amount of praise which is seldom due. The hunters were most admirable as a class, and presented that marvellous combination of size, strength, and activity, which alone can carry the strong and heavy Englishman over the fences and broad fields of Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. The show of ponies was also highly attractive. Class 1, perhaps, however, excited the greatest interest. After all, no animal presents to the eye of an Englishman such charms as a thoroughbred stallion, and it is a real treat to him to see the horse, whom years before he has beheld on Epsom Downs in the activity of severe condition, now developed into that large and happy creature whom age and a luxurious existence so inevitably produce. Forty-two horses were shown in this class, and before saying a word on the English horses, it may be observed that America did not go unrepresented. A horse called Rubicon, by Lexington out of Bay Leaf by Yorkshire, displayed points which induce the thought that the American blood might in some cases be used with great advantage. He was a wiry and cleanly-built horse, with remarkable hips and great propelling power. There was also an appearance of hardy vigour about him, and a total absence of that soft look which often tells such tales in some of the English strains. Referring now to the racehorses, we are bound to say that in our opinion the judges have made a mistake almost ludicrous in awarding the first prize to Citadel, a horse by Stockwell out of Sortie by Melbourne, bred by the Earl of Derby, and purchased as a yearling by Lord Stamford. No one can deny that if weight was the criterion, then the judges were right. But the object was to select the horse most fit to beget sons for the turf, or the chase, or the park. Citadel could only beget a racehorse by accident; he is too lumbersome and too indifferent a galloper for the purpose. He might beget a hunter provided that the mare had the best of feet and transmitted them to her progeny, for the small feet of Citadel would absolutely preclude him from moving in a heavy ploughed field. The idea of his sons being park hacks is too ridiculous for consideration. Nutbourne, by the Nabob out of Princess by Merry Monarch, obtained the second prize. He is a beautiful horse, but he is too heavy in the carcase and too light in the leg. The third prize was given to Caractacus by Kingston out of Defenceless by Defence. This horse won the Epsom Derby in 1863, defeating the Marquis and Buckstone, and perhaps only missed the first prize on this occasion because judges always fear the accusation of being slaves to the *prestige* of turf victories. Caractacus has great power: his bone is good, and his head, neck, and shoulders recall his noble sire. If he had but a little more length and was not quite so coarse, he would indeed be a grand horse. Perhaps, however, of all those exhibited, Lord Stamford's Newcastle by Newminster by Touchstone out of Mary Aislabie by Malcolm, was the best. He is a little small in the bone, and was not as a racehorse quite so fast as his shape would indicate; but he is so truly made, has such good shoulders, back, and loin, and possesses such fine action, that a small fault may readily be forgiven. The Epsom and Doncaster Cup proved his stoutness, and verified his descent from the immortal Touchstone. Besides these we may mention the Great Eastern, an immense horse by Surplice out of Boarding-school Miss by Plenipotentiary; also the grand old steeple-chase horse, Sir Peter Laurie, now twenty years of age, and still fresh and sound, the son of the famous Saddler, and having Priam for his maternal grandsire. There was also Amsterdam, by the Flying Dutchman out of Urania by Idle Boy, an elegant son of an elegant sire—a horse, too, who, carrying the colours of Mr. Padwick, proved that, with the appearance, he inherited the speed of the Dutchman. The notorious Old Calabar; Lord Palmerston's Mainstone; the King of Diamonds; and Kentucky, by Mickey Free out of Indiana by Muley Moloch out of Pocahontas, were also shown. Good, however, as the class undoubtedly was, it was almost meagre compared with what an exhibition would be to which Stockwell, Rataplan, Newminster, Sweetmeat, and other great sires could be attracted. It must always, in fact, be remembered that no prize could well be offered sufficiently magnificent to entice owners to risk a journey and a show with horses that are nearly worth their weight in gold. The exhibition, however, was so excellent as to tempt the hope that it is but the first of a long series.

LORD HENRY BENTINCK'S magnificent stud has been sold by auction. Messrs. Tattersall put up to competition ninety-nine lots, comprising hunters, hacks, a few brood mares, and some young stock. Lord Henry reserved the right of bidding up to 350 guineas for twenty lots, the remainder being proposed for sale without reserve. The 75 hunters realised 12,461 guineas, being an average of something like 166 guineas each. One horse called Comet fetched 400 guineas, and another called Lightheart fetched 410 guineas. His Lordship's stables, erected at the cost of 5,000*l.*, were much admired by the visitors to the sale. His Lordship has hunted the Burton country (Lincolnshire) for twenty years, and has spent in horseflesh no less a sum than 139,000*l.*

VISCOUNT PALMERSTON, as Master of the Trinity House, entertained His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge, the Lord Chancellor, the Ministers of the Crown, and other persons of distinction, last week, in the Hall on Tower Hill. Two speeches were delivered by the Prince of Wales, in which His Royal Highness paid a high tribute of praise to the ancient corporation and to its noble Master. The Duke of Cambridge, the Duke of Somerset, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer also spoke, the two noblemen responding to the toast of the army and navy, and Mr. Gladstone proposing 'the maritime and commercial interests of the country.' It will be remembered that Lord Palmerston succeeded the late Prince Consort as Master of the Trinity House.

A CORONER'S jury, convened at an inquest held on the body of a waterman killed by a shell fired in Plymouth Sound, has returned a verdict of manslaughter against Major-General William Nelson Hutchinson. The General has been arrested and committed for trial at the assizes.

LORD BROUGHAM, as President of the Law Amendment Society, has expressed himself somewhat freely, at the dinner of that Society, on the Danish question. He said that the people of the country have resolved that there shall be no war with the German Powers, and that the people were right in that conclusion. We had no right, certainly no duty, singly and unsupported to make war in favour of those who were ill-used, in order to obtain for them redress for the grievances to which they were subjected. He thought it a step in social progress that, instead of having recourse to the arbitrament of the sword, we should have recourse only to serious complaint and reasoning with the wrong-doer — that we should have made protestations, have given our advice, and, having done this, should stop short of actual force and refuse to throw away our forces in an impossible expedition for the sake of revenging the injury that had been done to others. He was far, however, from insinuating that any menace or any threat, either directly uttered or in any language which could be construed into a threat

should ever be used. He hoped that nothing of the kind had been used. If such had been used, a very grave error had been committed. If we could not afford to be chivalrous, at any rate we were bound to be honest.

NEW ZEALAND.

Advices from New Zealand announce that the troops besieged Galepa on the 27th ult. An attempt was made to carry the position by storm, but was repulsed by the natives with severe loss to the British. Colonel Booth and five officers of the 43rd Regiment were killed. The Maori loss was 100. Their leader had since been defeated by friendly natives.

THE CONTINENT.

THE DANO-GERMAN WAR.

THE official statements of the respective losses in the capture of the Isle of Alsen are as follows:—The Danes lost 100 officers and 2,300 men captured, and 1,400 killed and wounded; they were further forced to blow up two ships, the crews of which, however, were fortunately saved; the *Rolf Krake* was hit in several places and set on fire. The Prussian loss consisted of 3 officers killed and 17 wounded, and 300 rank and file killed and wounded. The Prussian troops examined the battle-field attentively after the conflict, and found among the wounded a party of 400 Swedish volunteers; no quarter was given to them. Four hundred souls were sacrificed to that feeling of nationality which the Germans profess to look up to as the guide and object of their aspirations—unless, forsooth, nationality is a principle too sacred to be transplanted from German hearts into a Scandinavian bosom. The Danes retired southwards after the battle, and, on the 2nd inst., evacuated the whole island, leaving 11 spiked guns as trophies to the enemy. In the north of Jutland an attempt was made by a party of Danes to establish a footing on the south shore of the Limfjord, but they were driven back with the loss of 60 prisoners. The Danish ships *Fordenskiold*, 34, and *Slesvig*, 12, made a reconnaissance of the coast off Rugen, and were shelled by the Prussian batteries, but with what effect is not ascertained.

It is understood that the plan of operations for the ensuing campaign was definitely settled at the Royal meeting at Carlsbad. All the continent and as many as possible of the islands are to be occupied, and the sea forces of the Allies largely increased. We hear already of the arrival of an ironclad corvette sailing under Portuguese colours and answering to the name of *Pedro*, which has been recently purchased by the Prussian Government. To this may be added the *Victoria* and *Augusta*, two fine vessels, bought in the neutral territory of France for the service of the belligerent Prussians.

Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia has issued an address to his army informing them of his accession to their command, and congratulating them on the fresh glories reaped by them in Alsen.

There is a rumour of peace flitting about Europe. They say that the King of Denmark is anxious to come to an arrangement with the Germans. Probably the tone of the Parliamentary debates in England has had a great effect upon him.

THE DUCHIES.

The Austro-Prussians are anxious to systematise the administration *pro tempore* of the United Duchies of Slesvig-Holstein, and for that purpose have applied to the Federal Diet for leave to regulate their affairs. The Duke of Augustenburg is asserting with all his might that possession which is nine points of the law. He continues to make addresses to the deputations which wait upon him from various parts of the Duchies. He lately, in answer to a delegation from the priests, said that his mere right was as good for the north of Slesvig as for Holstein, but that he could contemplate the possibility of an adverse vote in that quarter; in that case he begged that the inhabitants of the south of Slesvig would not sacrifice to their personal loyalty for himself the advantage of a complete separation from Denmark—meaning apparently that the South Slesvigers ought not, by an attempt to coerce their northern brethren into allegiance, to imperil their own existence as a separate State.

The official gazette of Altona, of the date of the 5th inst., publishes the following:—'The local committee assembled at Kiel to examine the line proposed 1848-9 from Kiel harbour to Buttel has received permission from the Holstein (i.e. Federal) Government to undertake the necessary surveys.' A cursory examination of the map will, we think, lead our readers to the conclusion that the object desired by the German Governments is to give England the entire command of the Baltic commerce. The British island of Heligoland, lying about twenty miles N.W. of the western extremity of the proposed canal, will form a most convenient station for a squadron of observation, should such be necessary.

GERMANY.

In our last week's number we gave an analysis of the summary of the London Conference drawn up by one of the Plenipotentiaries. To this summary the belligerent Powers reserved the right of adding any corrections or making any protests which they might think fit. In accordance with this reservation, Baron von Beust has addressed to Lord Russell a note, dwelling upon certain contested points. Several of these are of little consequence. That which is most deserving of attention is his protest against the assumption that Slesvig continued to belong to the crown of Denmark after the death of Frederick VII.; and, as a corollary to the former, his assertion of the idea that in the proposed division of Slesvig it was not Denmark who abandoned part of her territory to Germany, but Germany who was willing to make large concessions to Denmark for the sake of peace.

The Duke of Oldenburg has addressed a letter to the King of Prussia, requesting his support in favour of his claims to the sovereignty of the Duchies. This step has caused some excitement at Berlin; but it is not expected that the King of Prussia will give him more than the promise of an impartial examination into the claims of the respective candidates. We have already pointed out on several occasions the reasons which would induce Prussia to take a favourable view of the Duke of Oldenburg's claims. But it must not be forgotten that his success would put an end to the hopes of territorial aggrandisement which, whether rightly or wrongly, have been often of late attributed to Prussia. Moreover, the nominee of Russia to the Duchies, although not less of a vassal to the Czar than is, or was, the King of Prussia himself, might find opportunities to assert his privileges as last favourite of the Imperial throne in a manner inexpressibly galling to the pride of Prussia.

If the strange wild story of our contemporary the *Morning Post* is to be believed, and the documentary evidence of notes and despatches which it publishes to be received as trustworthy, the relations between Prussia, Austria, and Russia are of the closest description. Such is the length of the correspondence published that it would be impossible even to give a summary of it. Suffice it to say that it tells us that the conduct of Russia throughout the whole Dano-German quarrel has been a hollow mockery; that the Czar was quite willing to sacrifice the integrity of that kingdom to the necessities of his allies; and that the ultimate result of the present disturbances would be the re-establishment of the Holy Alliance. The Prussian Cabinet has, with the loudest voice, denied the authenticity of the correspondence published; and they have so far a presumption in their favour, that the mania for the forgery of diplomatic papers has spread into Europe from Yankeeland like an epidemic, and threatens to destroy all our confidence in printed despatches. But, apart from this presumption, there is nothing to lead us to suppose that the documents are not genuine representations of the feelings and wishes of the three Powers of the East.

The Allied Governments have sent a circular to their foreign agents, declaring that they considered themselves to be no longer bound by any concessions which they might have made at the Conference of London in the interests of peace.

The treaties for the reestablishment of the Zollverein were signed on June 28 by the Ministers of Prussia, Saxony, Baden, Electoral Hesse, Thuringia, Brunswick, and Frankfort; the signature of Oldenburg is shortly expected: Hanover and Wurtemburg have not yet signified their assent.

No one who has ever stirred from his native country has not been thankful for one form at least of piracy, which, instead of robbing the needy of his last necessary, places within easy reach of him one of the great luxuries of the age. We allude to the piracy of foreign works which goes on at Leipsic on so large a scale, and which has made the name of Tauchnitz famous throughout all the world. We defy any one not to modify very considerably the severe condemnation which he has probably pronounced on these highwaymen of literature while seated easily at home, when, after sulking moodily in Constantinople, Cairo, Kamschatka—anywhere, in short, in this hemisphere—he lights upon a shopful of those unlawful pleasures, and revels in the possession of the last new novel or history, bought for the same sum which he might in England have paid for a week's loan of it. But unauthorised editions have been published, not only of English works, but of those of every other nation, notably the French; though, in consequence of the cheapness of light literature in France, the effect has never been so striking as is the case with the English books. Now, however, Saxony has given in its adhesion to an international copyright treaty with France, and the French Tauchnitz is a thing of the past. Can it be a prelude to a like step for the protection of English literature?

DENMARK.

On the 25th ult., a member of the Danish Rigsraad asked the Government what instructions the Danish Plenipotentiaries had received with regard to the division of Slesvig by the Schlei-Dannewirke line, or on the proposed prolongation of the armistice. Bishop Monrad replied that Lord Russell had promised neither to propose nor to support any scheme less favourable to Denmark than the division above mentioned. Lord Russell, however, had not been stopped by this circumstance from proposing a reference to arbitration in the meeting of the Conference on the 18th ult. Bishop Monrad was at a loss to explain how Lord Russell had been able to reconcile this course of action with his former promise.

In the sitting of the Landsthing of the 29th ult., the Minister of Finance brought forward a scheme for a loan of 800,000*l.* to meet the expenses of the war.

The conquered province of Jutland is to pay dearly for its patriotism and devotedness. The Allied Powers propose to establish a very strict administration on its territory, for the purpose of imposing taxes and contributions. Care will be taken that the rich revenues and resources of that country shall indemnify the Allies as far as possible for the continual sacrifices imposed upon them by the war. The fact is, that the Prussian Government have already carried out this scheme to the utmost, and are now very willing to shift on to other shoulders the burden of the responsibility. An impersonality like the Federal Diet can do and say much from which an individual government would shrink, as that august body has already sufficiently proved to us.

FRANCE.

The Emperor of the French is entertaining a select circle of guests at Fontainebleau, according to his annual custom. The first series of them took their departure on Saturday last, and were replaced by the second, among whom figure conspicuously the names of the Austrian and Prussian ambassadors. Among other visitors who have lately had the honour of Imperial hospitality, is Baron von Beust, the ubiquitous. Among the more distinguished but perhaps less important guests are the Prince of Orange, heir-apparent to the throne of Holland, and the Comte de Flandres, second son of the King of the Belgians.

The news from the wine districts is most welcome to all thirsty souls. From the Beaujolais district we hear that the partial disasters under which the hopes of the vineyards have lately sunk are rapidly being effaced, and every prospect of a magnificent vintage is visible. Not less favourable are the reports from the southern districts. The oïdium, that fatal disease which has made Madeira little more than a painful recollection to us, and which has so often dashed the hopes of Bordeaux and Burgundy to the ground, has been signally checked by the continued prevalence of the sirocco. It is certainly an ill wind that blows nobody good; but up to this time ramblers in the South of Europe had considered the sirocco as the very type and incarnation (so to speak) of an ill wind *par excellence*.

The free trade in theatres which has lately been inaugurated in Paris is likely to have some portentous results. First, in the number of theatres; it is expected that eighty at least will shortly be open to amuse the pleasure-seekers of Paris, of which some will accommodate 10,000 persons. The population of Paris at the present time may be roughly stated at 2,500,000; how that number will support an array of theatres large enough for a first-rate kingdom is a problem which awaits solution. A humorous contemporary reminds us that a similar liberty was given to the theatres in the time of the Directory, when the population was about 800,000. The number of theatres then rose to forty, of which about thirty-nine and a half were shortly ruined. In consequence of this rather staggering result, the number of theatres was restricted by Napoleon I. to eight. We wish the new experiment a better success. Then as to the nature of the performances in the various theatres. Up to this time each has had its peculiar line fixed for it; the Français supplied the classical pieces both in tragedy and comedy, the Opéra Comique supplied light music, the Odéon, Palais Royal, &c., had each its own *spécialité*. Now, however, all restrictions are removed: we may hear 'Norma' at the Ambigu-Comique, or 'Le Cid' at the Bouffes, if it so pleases the omnipotent lessees. As a sort of make-weight to the general removal of protections and restrictions, the police have devised an elaborate code of regulations to be enforced at all theatres, embracing nearly all the details of theatrical management and domestic arrangement.

Time was when it was a somewhat important event in a man's life to break his neck, both with regard to the violence required to perform that feat, and the consequences of its performance. The following story will show how rapidly we are advancing out of the mists of prejudice in both respects. A girl in Paris happened to have her attention called to some object behind her back, and naturally turned her head round to observe it. The vivacity of the action was so great that she dislocated the two first vertebræ of her spine; in plain English, she broke her neck by looking round too hard. A doctor was instantly summoned: he examined the body, and, struck with a sudden inspiration, determined to experiment on it. With the aid of an assistant, he gently twisted back the head to its original position; the vertebræ returned to their place; the girl was alive again. Eight days afterwards she was able to resume her occupations. The name of the surgeon who performed this wonderful operation was M. Maisonneuve, of the Hôtel Dieu. A few more of such experiences will oblige us to look out for a new system of capital punishment in England.

A decisive operation was performed by General de Martimprey, the temporary Governor-General of Algiers, against the revolted Arab tribes, on the 26th and 27th ult. The insurgent Flittas were driven by a well-devised combination to their last refuges, and forced to surrender at discretion. Four thousand prisoners were taken as hostages and pledges of submission. It is expected that this success will close the insurrection.

On April 15 last, the autograph letters of the Emperor of the French were presented to the two Kings of Siam, by the French Consul, with great solemnity. The constitution of Siam gives an independent and equal power to each sovereign, so that any compliment paid to the one must of necessity be repeated to the other. The reception given to the Consul by the first King was carried out according to the ancient etiquette of Siam; the Consul was accompanied by thirty-nine magnificent gondolas, by banners and palanquins, by Mandarins in the richest costumes, and a body of troops about 1,500 in number. The King received him seated on his throne of state, with his most splendid crown on his head, and decorated with the insignia of the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour. He stepped from his throne to take from the hands of the Consul the golden vase containing the Emperor's letter, which was, of course, in the French language, but accompanied by an English translation. The King said that the receipt of this letter reminded him of that addressed by Louis XIV. to his predecessor, Phra-Nazai, and proceeded to translate it into Siamese for the benefit of his Court. In the evening the Consul was invited to a private entertainment, at which he met the King surrounded by his young family, and conversed with him for a long time in the English language. The interview with the second King was equally brilliant, and had this peculiarity, that this sovereign, while remaining faithful to the traditions of Siam, has adopted customs and even Court ceremonies of an entirely European character.

ITALY.

Letters from Naples, dated June 20, inform us that the Garibaldi fever has to some extent abated. The General has been unable to receive any public hospitality on account of his delicate health, but it was proposed to give a dinner to his two sons. He is for the present occupied in a scheme for uniting the various rites of Freemasonry

into one. In connection with this subject it will be remembered that the political organisation of the Carbonari has been supposed to be a bastard form of the old craft. General Lamarmora has not yet considered himself justified in leaving Naples, and asserts that the manifestations in which the 'party of action' in Naples have lately been indulging are anything but reassuring for the public peace. Garibaldi proposes to move soon from the baths of Ischia to those of Torre Annunziata close to Naples.

The debate in the Italian Parliament on the financial policy of the Government has ended in the triumph of the Ministry. A vote of confidence in them was passed by a majority of 182 to 126.

On the Feast of St. Peter, June 29, the Pope went through the annual solemnity of receiving the oath of fidelity from the municipality of Rome. His Holiness expressed a hope that that body would remain faithful to its promise. He also expressed his intention of occupying himself more especially with the adornment of his capital.

RUSSIA.

The accounts from Trebizonde of the misery of the Circassian exiles in that city are of the most heart-rending description. Fancy a filthy Turkish town, without drainage for even ordinary purposes, with a population utterly careless of the mass of pestilent horrors commonly lying in every street; and into the midst of this cram a mass of half-naked refugees, without food or shelter, ravaged by typhus fever, dysentery, and even worse, dying at the rate of 300 daily, and leaving the unburied carcases further to pollute the already deadly air, and you will have some conception of the present state of Trebizonde. No less than 130,000 of these poor wretches were in the town on June 15. The mortality among them was frightful; the Turkish Government has done much to remedy it, by sending to their aid Dr. Barozzi, whose devotion and skill are worthy of the noblest recompense, and have been rewarded by the Emperor of the French with the Legion of Honour.

The ancient city of Nijni-Novgorod has been partially destroyed by an awful fire, which broke out just before the meeting of the world-famous fair. 437 private houses, 12 government buildings, 40 warehouses, 1,514 shops, and 148 miscellaneous buildings have been utterly destroyed, besides several large timber yards. Had the fair begun, the loss would have been simply incalculable; even as it is, it will amount to several millions of francs, of which only 800,000 were insured. The conflagration which effected this continued for ten hours only, whence we may gather the inflammable nature of those ancient cities.

There is a story circulated in Germany and some circles in Paris that, the match between the heir-apparent of the Imperial throne of Russia and the Princess Dagmar of Denmark having been definitively broken off, another is in the course of negotiation between His Imperial Highness and the Princess Helena of England.

PERU.

The Spanish Government has published a circular repeating the sentiments of Señor Pacheco, which we published last week. It is said that Señor Salazar y Mazarredo, the commissioner who gave rise to the main difficulties, has sent in his resignation, which has been accepted. The Peruvian people are by no means inclined to be browbeaten into silence, and are buying ships and artillery. It is not generally understood that the title borne by Señor Salazar was singularly insulting to the Peruvians, inasmuch as the delegate of the Spanish Government to the Viceroy of Peru, before the war of independence, was also called 'Commissioner Extraordinary.' This fact, coupled with the seizure of the Chincha Islands on the pretence that they were Spanish possessions, has led the Peruvians to believe that the Spaniards wish to reassert their dominion over their ancient colony.

MEXICO.

On the day after the arrival of the Emperor of Mexico at Vera Cruz, he was informed by the English commodore stationed there that he was ordered by the British Government to put at the disposition of his Imperial Majesty two steamers, either for the purpose of making an excursion should his Majesty so please, or of carrying despatches. The Emperor received the commodore with great cordiality, and begged him to express his thanks to his Government for their courteous offer.

GENERAL BANKS AND HIS SOLDIERS.—We quote the following from the *Courrier des États Unis*, which borrows it from the Lincolnite organ the *Republican* of St. Louis. On leaving Alexandria in his retreat from the Red River expedition, General Banks ordered the town to be fired. This was done, and an enormous mass of property, chiefly belonging to Unionist owners, was destroyed. The wives and children of these Unionists, most of whom were absent in the ranks of the Federal army, fled to Banks, to expostulate and demand assistance and means of transport. They were received literally with the point of the bayonet, and their entreaties flatly refused. 5,000 or 6,000 negroes had been taken from the neighbouring plantations; room was made for them on board the transports by throwing overboard some of their cargo of captured cotton, but for the wretched women and children no such sacrifice could be made. These occurrences created a profound impression in the Federal army. On its arrival at Semmesport the feelings of indignation against General Banks broke out with violence. He took refuge on board an ironclad gunboat, but the soldiery flocked to the shore of the stream, and called upon him with yells to come out and be shot. General Canby arrived, and implored them to be quiet, assuring them that no such expedition as the last should ever again be undertaken. They then demanded that General Banks should be subjected to trial for murder and hanged, and many of them declared their intention of quitting the service, if he was not tried by court-martial for his conduct. With the greatest difficulty Canby succeeded in restoring them to order and discipline. Such was the end of the Red River expedition, a worthy continuation of a plane nceived for a political object, and executed with iniquity.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

THE VOTE OF CENSURE.

The party battle commenced on Monday. The House of Commons presented an unusual spectacle. Every senatorial seat was engaged, and nearly 100 members had to content themselves with places in the gallery. From an early hour in the morning a number of persons were waiting for admission into the Strangers' and Speaker's Galleries. In the clock gallery, and in other parts of the House appropriated to them, were foreign Ministers, peers, and other distinguished persons. The gallery appropriated to ladies was of course full. Altogether the scene was unusually exciting. Lord Palmerston and Mr. Disraeli were cheered by the crowd collected in Palace Yard, and by their respective parties when they entered the House. Mr. Tennyson, the poet, was there, and it was a scene to inspire his muse. Sitting where he could see as well as hear the leader of the Opposition, was Earl Russell; and it was clear he required all the self-restraint he was master of to preserve the silence of a mere spectator. Often, it may be supposed, whilst Mr. Disraeli was speaking, the noble Earl must have regretted that he was entitled to sit in the painted chamber, and that he was not still a member of the Lower House. But though his Lordship did not speak, he did not in any way restrain the working of his countenance.

Mr. Disraeli spoke for upwards of three hours; and so far from attempting to give a summary of his oration, we must content ourselves with a bare outline of his principal arguments. He commenced by an exposition of the Danish question prior to the events which are now the subject of debate. The Powers of Europe, well knowing what long and disastrous wars had resulted from disputes as to succession, and being aware that the royal line of Denmark was likely to become extinct, framed the Treaty of 1852 for the purpose of averting any catastrophe on the death of the then King. Now that treaty was not binding on one Power more than upon another of those who signed it, and it was not a treaty of guarantee. The King of Denmark made such arrangements as he thought best in reference to the succession to his throne, and the Powers who signed the treaty merely pledged themselves to recognise the successor named in that instrument. There was, therefore, no legal obligation on England to go to war to defend or to maintain the title of King Christian to the Duchies of Slesvig and Holstein. Nor was the moral obligation, if there was any, so great as that which bound France to aid Denmark. In times past Denmark had been the tried and faithful ally of France and the brave and determined foe of England. But what has been the conduct of the Government? At first hopes had been held out to Denmark, and no doubt the promises made were sincere, for then the cooperation of France could be counted on. But the Polish insurrection completely altered the aspect of affairs. Earl Russell encouraged the Poles and then deserted them, and placed our ally, as well as this country, in a false position. Next came the proposition made by the Emperor of the French for a European Congress, and the refusal of the British Government to accede to this was curt and offensive. Now the proposal for the Congress was made on November 6, on the 16th the King of Denmark died, and on the 27th the British Government sent in their refusal to accept the Congress. Under such grave circumstances, the Government ought to have carefully considered their position; and, if they felt themselves compelled not to accede to the proposition made by the Emperor of the French, their refusal ought to have been couched in the most courteous and inoffensive terms. Her Majesty's Government continued to advise Denmark and to threaten Germany, by which Denmark was misled and Germany incensed. He did not mean that we ought to have gone to war for Denmark. Mr. Disraeli said: 'We were not bound by the Treaty of 1852 to go to the assistance of Denmark if she became involved in a war with Germany. No one pretends that we were. As a matter of high policy, much as we may regret any disturbance in the territorial limits of Europe—being a country the policy of which is a policy of tranquillity and peace—still there were no considerations which could have justified England in going to war, in entering into an expensive European war without the allies on whom we ought to have counted to prevent the consequence of a war between Denmark and Germany. There is another course equally intelligible and equally honourable, though I am bound to say that the course which I should have recommended the country to take would have been to occupy the same position as that of France.' The Conference had proved a failure, and altogether the policy of Her Majesty's Government had lowered the just influence of England and diminished the securities for peace. The Opposition had been taunted with not declaring a policy; but it was the duty of the responsible advisers of the Crown and not of Parliament to do that. How could the Opposition, not knowing what negotiations were being carried on, propose a policy? Mr. Disraeli concluded as follows:—

'The most we can do is to tell the noble Lord what is not our policy. We will not threaten and then refuse to act; we will not lure on our allies with expectations we do not fulfil; and, sir, if it ever be the lot of myself or any other public men with whom I act to carry on important negotiations in this country, as the noble Lord and his colleagues have done, I trust that we at least shall not carry them on in such a manner that it will be our duty to come to Parliament to announce to the country that we have no allies, and then declare that England can never act alone. Sir, those are words which ought never to have escaped the lips of a British Minister. They are sentiments which ought never to have occurred even to his heart. I repudiate—I reject them. I remember there was a time when England had not a tithe of her present resources, when, inspired by a patriotic cause, she triumphantly encountered a world in arms. And, sir, I believe now, if the occasion were fitting, if her independence or her honour were attacked and assailed, or her empire were endangered, I believe that England would arise in the magnificence of her might and struggle triumphantly for those objects for which men live and nations flourish. But I, for one, will never consent to go to war to extricate Ministers from the consequences of their own indiscretion. It is in this spirit that I have drawn up this Address to the Crown. I have drawn it up in the spirit in which the Royal Speech was delivered at the commencement of the Session. I am ready to vindicate the honour of the country whenever it is necessary, but I have drawn these resolutions up in the interests of peace. Sir, I beg leave to move—

'That an humble Address be presented to Her Majesty to thank Her Majesty for directing the correspondence on Denmark and Germany, and the protocols of the Conference recently held in London, to be laid before Parliament. To assure Her Majesty that we have heard with deep concern that the sittings of that Conference have been brought to a close without accomplishing the important purposes for which it was convened. To express to Her Majesty our great regret that, while the course pursued by Her Majesty's Government has failed to maintain their avowed policy of upholding the integrity and independence of Denmark, it has lowered the just influence of this country in the councils of Europe, and thereby diminished the securities for peace.'

Mr. Disraeli resumed his seat amidst loud and long-continued cheering.

Mr. Gladstone replied to Mr. Disraeli on behalf of the Government. He said that, although two amendments were to be submitted to the House, he deemed it right to answer Mr. Disraeli before those amendments were submitted, because the Government did not shirk responsibility, but were prepared to meet fully the charge brought against them. Mr. Gladstone then at some length contended that Mr. Disraeli had not fairly quoted from the Blue Book, that he had given garbled extracts, and that he had misrepresented the attitude of France on the Danish question. It had been said that the Danes had done all the British Government had wished them to do, and that, after so much compliance, they were deserted. That statement was not accurate. The Danes withdrew the patent and revoked the new Constitution at the joint request of friendly Powers; and, moreover, these concessions were made too late. It was on October 8 that England advised the withdrawal of the patent, but it was not until December 7 that it was withdrawn. So with regard to the new Constitution. The present King was unfortunately persuaded by his then Minister to dissolve his Parliament before revoking that Constitution, and consequently when the concession was made it was made too late. The advice tendered to Denmark by England was common advice assented to by other Powers. Her Majesty's Government had endeavoured in the interests of peace to bind together the Powers of Europe on this question. It was not for Her Majesty's Government to find fault with the course pursued by France or by Russia, but when it was found that these Powers would not unite with us, we were justified in proposing a compromise as we did in the Conference; for, except on rare occasions, England is not called upon to intervene single-handed in European questions. And supposing England had gone alone to the aid of Denmark, her energies would have been heavily taxed for an inadequate object, and she might have found that her judgment of the justice of the cause was not assented to by the people of the Duchies. After contending that the object of the vote of censure was a purely personal one, Mr. Gladstone declared Mr. Disraeli was afraid to announce a policy, or to propose a direct vote of censure, and said in conclusion: 'In vain is it for the right hon. gentleman to say, "Wait! Place me upon those benches, and then let me tell you what I mean to do." I do not think the country will consent to proposals based upon such conditions. Nay, more, I feel a most confident conviction that this House and the country will approve the course taken in these most difficult negotiations by the Government, and that they will reject a motion which both prudence and patriotism must alike emphatically condemn.'

Mr. Newdegate agreed with the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the resolutions submitted by Mr. Disraeli represented England as degraded before the nations of the world, and that was a proposition he (Mr. Newdegate) could not assent to. On the other hand, he could not deny that the influence of England had been lowered; and the only way to restore that influence was to take up a fixed position, and to show that we did not spend 30,000,000*l.* per annum over our armaments in vain, but that we were ready to uphold what we thought right by the sword. The proposition made by the neutral Powers in the Conference ought not to be departed from, and he therefore moved the substitution of the following words for the second paragraph of Mr. Disraeli's motion:—'To submit to Her Majesty the opinion of this House that the independence of Denmark and the possessions of that kingdom, on the terms proposed by the representatives of the neutral Powers in the recent Conference, ought to be guaranteed.'

Mr. Kinglake, who had an amendment on the paper, spoke in favour of the Government, and against Mr. Newdegate's amendment and the original resolution. General Peel supported the resolution, and the Lord Advocate defended the Government.

Lord Stanley said that the only real defence of the Ministerial policy was the speech that had been delivered by Mr. Gladstone; but it was always easy to criticise the terms of a vote of censure. No doubt the Government would have preferred a direct vote of want of confidence; for then, assailed on their foreign policy, they might have taken refuge in the success of the other departments of their administration; but if the Opposition had to find fault with the foreign policy of the Government, they had a right to do so in plain words. The resolution was not a war resolution, but it simply condemned that policy of threatening that had lowered the just influence of England. All the newspapers of the Continent were attacking England, and there never was a period when England was disliked as she is now. If Denmark had not been encouraged, she would not have manifested a spirit

which is as impolitic as it is heroic; and Germany would have been less bitter. Without wishing to do so, the Government had misled the Danes; and, whilst desiring to preserve peace, they have brought the country to the verge of war.

The debate on Tuesday was resumed by Mr. Cobden. He said he did not think our position satisfactory, but he did not believe that it endangered peace, for in his experience a breakdown in our diplomacy was the best guarantee of peace. What was this Treaty of 1852, of which so much was heard? A few gentlemen sat around a table and decreed the destinies of nations which were not consulted in the matter. After a short notice of the causes of the present war in Denmark, which he traced to the pressure put upon the Sovereigns of Austria and Prussia by the German population, he asked what we should have done when the two Powers invaded Slesvig-Holstein. We ought, he said, to have mediated. But what had we done? When we set up for the office of mediator, we could not draw the line between mediator and partisan. There was, he observed, a party of menace in this country. Our power, it was true, was almost omnipotent at home; but, great as it was, we had no means of bringing it effectually to bear upon Germany. It would be childish to conceal from ourselves this fact; yet our Government, within the last six months, had proposed to other Powers to go to war with Germany, and we were saved from war, not by the discretion of our own Government, but by the wisdom of the Emperor of the French. Could this be termed policy? He put it to both sides of the House whether it was not high time that the Government should know its wishes on these ambiguous questions.

Lord Robert Cecil addressed the House at considerable length. He condemned the policy pursued by Earl Russell, who, he insisted, had neglected means of healing the quarrel by arbitration or mediation before the death of the late King of Denmark, which took place before the Earl could make up his dilatory mind. He dwelt upon his menacing language, amounting in more than one instance, he said, to a distinct threat in the subsequent correspondence, and on the evidence it afforded that the Government meditated resisting the Germans by England alone. The language of Lord Palmerston in July last, he contended, must be understood as a threat. If the considerations were sufficient to prevent England from engaging in war, they should have prevented threats, the non-fulfilment of which produced a loss of actual power that could be recovered only by future bloodshed. As to the future, if they could not save Denmark, they could rescue England from the risk of suffering similar dishonour.

Mr. Forster, Lord H. Vane, and Mr. Whalley supported the Government; and Mr. B. Johnston, Mr. Liddell, and Lord R. Montagu spoke in favour of the motion.

Mr. Roebuck made a powerful and humorous speech. He found fault with the policy of the Government, and he denounced the Opposition for having no policy. With all their faults, however, he preferred the Government to the Opposition.

Mr. Horsman declared that the Opposition had, by their silence, acquiesced in the policy they now condemned. The Opposition knew that the Conference would be a failure, yet they would not condemn it until it was over. The vote of censure affirmed no principle and enunciated no policy. The Opposition, so far from doing anything to prevent the mistakes of the Government, endeavoured to use them as stepping-stones to power. He, therefore, did not think that public policy required that the present Ministers should give place to men who had shown more weakness and less courage.

Mr. S. Fitzgerald observed that this was a question of confidence in the foreign policy of the Government, and the independent members who had spoken had avowed a want of such confidence, and yet were going to give a vote against the motion and expressive of confidence. He defended the resolution against the charge of its being unpatriotic; those who opposed the resolution, he said, were more open to that charge. The motion separated the Parliament from the conduct of the Government. The objection that it did not point out a policy had been sufficiently answered. It was impossible for an Opposition to indicate a policy. He contended that they were justified in challenging the opinion of the House on the conduct of the Government.

The debate was then adjourned till to-day.

On Monday, in the House of Lords, the Earl of Malmesbury gave notice that to-morrow he would move the following resolution: 'That this House has heard with deep concern that the sittings of the Conference recently held in London have been brought to a close without accomplishing the important objects for which it was convened; and that it is the opinion of this House that, while the course pursued by Her Majesty's Government has failed to maintain their avowed policy of upholding the integrity and independence of Denmark, it has lowered the just influence of this country in the councils of Europe, and thereby diminished the securities for peace.'

THE NEW HOLY ALLIANCE.

The diplomatic correspondence published by the *Morning Post* has given rise to several questions in both Houses, but neither Earl Russell nor Lord Palmerston has given explicit answers. Lord Stratford de Redcliffe has given notice of a motion on the subject in the Lords for to-morrow week.

CHAIN-PLATING FOR SHIPS.

The Earl of Hardwicke, adverting to the details of the recent conflict between the *Alabama* and the *Kearsage*, asked the noble Duke at the head of the Admiralty whether his attention had been directed to the question of protecting ships of war by chain armour. The subject was not a new one, for it had been discussed in a letter written in 1862 to the noble Lord at the head of the Government by an iron-master resident at Belfast, in which he drew attention to the important results which might be gained by suspending chains over a ship's side to act as a foil against shot.

The Duke of Somerset said the defence afforded by the chain plating to the *Kearsage* must have been very small, for it only extended over a space about 36ft. in length, and the chain was of the kind known as 1¾-inch. The firing from the *Alabama* could not have been good, for this strip of plating was only struck twice during the engagement; one of the shots glanced off, and the other, which was the only one that hit the armour fairly, pierced it and lodged in the side of the vessel. At the same time, it was known that the *Alabama* entered upon the contest under great disadvantages, her powder being either damp or very bad, and the vessel herself in a very unfit state. Two or three years ago the Admiralty made some experiments with chain armour, and the result was that with a common 68-pounder and cast-iron shot it was knocked all to pieces, so that against steel projectiles it would afford no defence whatever. It did not at all follow that, as a makeshift, it would not be better than nothing, and at long distances, as in this case, it had some advantages. But what the Admiralty had to decide was—given a certain weight, how to apply it most effectively for the defence of a ship. Some time ago the noble Earl opposite expressed a doubt whether guns weighing 6½ tons each would not be found too heavy for broadside purposes. He had since ascertained that the two 11-inch guns on board the *Kearsage*, one before and the other abaft the mainmast, weighed each 7¾ tons. The real conclusions to be drawn from the conflict between the *Kearsage* and *Alabama* were, that very powerful guns and very speedy vessels were required. The speed of the *Kearsage* gave her great superiority over the *Alabama*, which, moreover, was not built for fighting purposes, but mainly with a view to cruising. Experiments had shown conclusively that the continuous surface of armour plate yielded great advantages over interrupted surfaces like bar-iron or chain covering.

FEDERAL ENLISTMENTS IN IRELAND.

(From the *Dublin Gazette*.)

BY THE LORD-LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND.

CARLISLE.—Whereas in and by her Majesty's Royal Proclamation, published in the *London Gazette* on the 14th day of May, 1861, her Majesty declared her Royal determination to maintain a strict and impartial neutrality in the contest between the Government of the United States of America and the States styling themselves the Confederate States of America, and her Majesty did thereby charge and command all her loving subjects to observe a strict neutrality in and during the hostilities between the said States, and to abstain from violating or contravening either the laws or statutes of the realm in that behalf, or the law of nations in relation thereto, as they would answer to the contrary at their peril: And her Majesty did also thereby warn all her loving subjects, and all persons whatever entitled to her protection, that if any of them should presume, in contempt of that her Royal proclamation, and of her high displeasure, to do any acts in derogation of their duty as subjects of a neutral sovereign in the said contest, or in violation or contravention of the law of nations in that behalf—as, for example, and more especially (amongst other things), by entering into the military service of either of the said contending parties as commissioned or non-commissioned officers or soldiers—all persons so offending would incur and be liable to the penalties and penal consequences by the statute of the fifty-ninth year of the reign of his late Majesty King George III., intituled 'An Act to prevent the enlisting or engagement of his Majesty's subjects to serve in foreign service, and the fitting out or equipping in his Majesty's dominions vessels for warlike purposes, without his Majesty's licence,' or by the law of nations on that behalf imposed or denounced: And whereas there is reason to believe that many of her Majesty's subjects have been induced to go and embark from various parts of the United Kingdom to the United States of America by false and delusive promises of employment upon railway and other public works in the said United States, and of high and greatly remunerative wages for their labour in such employment; and have, after their arrival in the said United States, been further induced to enter into the military service of the said States, and to serve therein as soldiers against the said Confederate States of America, contrary to their own original intention, and in contempt of her Majesty's said Royal proclamation: These are, therefore, to warn all such persons against the risk and danger which they may incur by accepting offers of employment as labourers in the said United States of America, whereby they may be entangled in military service in the said contest between the said United States and the said Confederate States of America, contrary to their own original intention, and in contempt of her Majesty's said Royal proclamation: And that all persons who may be entering, under the circumstances aforesaid, into the said military service, act in violation and contravention of their duty as subjects of her Majesty, and of the law of nations in relation thereto, and will incur and be liable to the several penalties and penal consequences by the said statute or by the law of nations in that behalf imposed or denounced, and will also, by such misconduct, incur her Majesty's high displeasure.

Dated at Dublin Castle, the 25th day of June, 1864.

By his Excellency's command,

THOMAS A. LARCOM.

TORPEDOES AS A LAND DEFENCE.—The *Richmond Sentinel* lately published a leader on the atrocities committed by the Federals. After contending that all remedies are lawful against robbers who come to steal property and destroy life, the article concludes by suggesting the use of torpedoes on land:—'We do not think we have made all the use we might of torpedoes as a defence against invasions and raids. Why confine their use to the water? Why not plant some of these in the highways by which Yankee cavalry approach our railroads, as well as in the channels by which their steamers ascend our rivers? It would be easy to set them so as to be exploded by the feet of the horses. A few of these properly planted around our bridges would greatly assist the guards, and would be as terrible as masked batteries once were. They might be planted in front of our lines wherever an attack is apprehended. In short, there is a wide field yet unexplored for their useful application, including the security against aggression which in many cases it might afford to private premises.'

THE CONFEDERATE STATES CONGRESS.

SENATORS.

Alabama.	
R. W. Walker.	Robert Jemison, Jun.
Arkansas.	
R. W. Johnson.	Charles B. Mitchel.
Florida.	
James M. Baker.	A. E. Maxwell.
Georgia.	
Benjamin H. Hill.	H. V. Johnson.
Kentucky.	
H. C. Burnett.	William E. Simms.
Louisiana.	
T. J. Semmes.	Edward Sparrow.
Mississippi.	
A. G. Brown.	J. W. C. Watson.
Missouri.	
Waldo P. Johnson.	One vacancy.
North Carolina.	
William T. Dortch.	William A. Graham.
South Carolina.	
Robert W. Barnwell.	James L. Orr.
Tennessee.	
Landon C. Haynes.	G. A. Henry.
Texas.	
W. S. Oldham.	Louis T. Wigfall.
Virginia.	
A. T. Caperton.	R. M. T. Hunter.

REPRESENTATIVES.

Alabama.

1 Thomas J. Foster.*	6 William P. Chilton.*
2 William R. Smith.*	7 David Clopton.*
3 William R. W. Cobb.	8 James L. Pugh.*
4 M. H. Cruikshank.	9 J. S. Dickinson.
5 Francis S. Lyon.*	

Arkansas.

1 Felix J. Batson.*	3 A. H. Garland.*
2 Rufus K. Garland.	4 Thomas B. Hanly.*

Florida.

1 St. George Rogers.	2 Robert B. Hilton.*

Georgia.

1 Julian Hartridge.*	6 J. H. Echols.
2 William E. Smith.	7 James M. Smith.
3 Mark H. Blanford.	8 George N. Lester.
4 Clifford Anderson.	9 H. P. Bell.
5 J. T. Shewmake.	10 Warren Aiken.

Kentucky.

1 Willis B. Machen.*	7 H. W. Bruce.*
2 George W. Triplett.	8 Humphrey Marshall.
3 Henry E. Read.*	9 Ely M. Bruce.*
4 George W. Ewing.*	10 James W Moore.*
5 James S. Chrisman.*	11 Benjamin F. Bradly.
6 T. L. Burnett.*	12 John M. Elliott.*

Louisiana.

1 C. J. Villere.*	4 Lucius J. Dupre.*
2 C. M. Conrad.*	5 B. L. Hodge.
3 Duncan F. Kenner.*	6 John Perkins, Jun.*

Mississippi.

1 John A. Orr.	5 O. R. Singleton.*
2 William D. Holder.*	6 E. Barksdale.*
3 Israel Welsh.*	7 J. T. Lampkin.
4 Henry C. Chambers.*	

Missouri.

(To be elected on the 2nd day of May—to-day.)

North Carolina.

1 W. N. H. Smith.*	6 John A. Gilmer.
2 Robert R. Bridgers.*	7 James M. Leach.
3 J. T. Leach.	8 J. G. Ramsey.
4 Thomas C. Fuller.	9 B. S. Gaither.*
5 Josiah Turner.	10 George W. Logan.

South Carolina.

1 J. M. Witherspoon.	4 William D Simpson.*
2 W. Porcher Miles.*	5 James Farrow.*
3 Lewis M. Ayer.*	6 William W. Boyce.*

Tennessee.

1 Joseph B. Heiskell.*	7 James McCollum.
2 William G. Swan.*	8 Thomas Menees.*
3 A. S. Colyar.	9 J. D. G. Atkins.*
4 John P. Murray.	10 John V. Wright.
5 Henry S. Foote.*	11 (Vacancy.)
6 E. A. Keeble.	

Texas.

1 (Vacancy.)	4 F. B. Sexton.*
2 C. C. Herbert.*	5 A. R Baylor.
3 A. M. Branch.	6 S. H. Morgan.

Virginia.

1 R. L. Montague.	9 David Funston.*
2 R. H. Whitfield.	10 F. W. M. Holliday.
3 W. C. Wickham.	11 Jno. B. Baldwin.*
4 T. S. Gholson.	12 W. R. Staples.*
5 Thomas S. Bocock.*	13 Fayette McMullen.
6 Jno. Goode, Jun.*	14 Samuel A. Miller.*
7 William C. Rives.	15 Robert Johnston.*
8 D. C. De Jarnette.*	16 C. W. Russell.*

DELEGATES.

Arizona.	*Cherokee Nation.*
M. H. McWillie.	E. C. Boudino.
Choctaw Nation.	
R. M. Jones.	

Those marked thus (*) were members of the last Congress.

THE PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES.

Foreign Affairs.—Messrs. Orr of S. C., Wigfall of Texas, Caperton, of Va., Johnson of Mo., Simms of Ky.

Finance. Messrs. Barnwell of S. C., Hunter of Va., Semmes of La., Graham of N. C., and Jemison of Ala.

Commerce. Messrs. Oldham of Texas, Dortch of N. C., Maxwell of Fla., Haynes of Tenn., Walker of Ala.

Military Affairs.—Messrs. Sparrow of La., Wigfall of Texas, Burnett of Ky., Henry of Tenn., Johnson of Ark.

Naval Affairs.—Messrs. Brown of Miss., Baker of Fla., Simms of Ky., Graham of N. C., Johnson of Ga.

Judiciary.—Mess. Hill of Ga., Haynes of Tenn., Walker of Ala., Watson of Miss., Semmes of La.

Indian Affairs.—Messrs. Johnson of Ark., Johnson of Mo., Oldham of Texas, Caperton of Va.

'SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE' IN THE OLDHAM DISTRICT.

MEETING OF WORKING MEN.

A LARGE public meeting of the operatives and artisans of the manufacturing town of Lees (Oldham) was held on Thursday evening in the People's Hall of that town, for the purpose of adopting a memorial to Her Majesty's Government, praying that Her Majesty might be advised to take counsel with other European Powers, with a view to mediating between the combatants in the American war.

When it is mentioned that Lees is situate within a mile or two of so intensely Southern a centre as Oldham—and that in no other borough in Lancashire have the friends of the Confederacy shown more zeal in giving their neighbours frequent opportunities of comparing notes upon American affairs—there is no room for wonder that the inhabitants of the outlying and densely populated villages in that locality should be as well informed, and consequently as decidedly 'Southern,' as the well-nigh unanimous population of Oldham itself. About 1,000 people, chiefly mill-hands and skilled labourers, were present, and the conduct of the whole proceedings appeared to be left with advantage very much in the hands of the working men themselves.

A working man named John Wardle, upon being voted to the chair, proceeded to inform the meeting that he, in common with other working men whom he knew, was of opinion that it was right that the people of Lancashire, considering that they had so long borne the brunt of the battle, should have a word to say as to the time when they thought their hardships might properly be brought to an end. No doubt those whom he was addressing had been watching the run of things in America; and it was their duty to form their own opinions upon that matter, and to decide as to what they ought to do to let the Government know what those opinions were. He was glad to say that the committee had been successful in securing the attendance of the Secretary of the Southern Independence Association, Mr. T. B. Kershaw, in whom they would no doubt recognise an old friend who had fought the battle of South *versus* North in Lees many a time before.

Mr. Kershaw, who, on presenting himself to the crowd of working men, was very warmly welcomed, then addressed the meeting. He commenced by giving a brief outline of some of the conditions of the American war, dwelling chiefly upon the enormous area it covers, and pointing out many instances of Federal failure directly attributable to that condition alone. From this he proceeded to refer to the indomitable spirit of the Southern people, which he contended would be a full guarantee of ultimate success, even though some of the most favourable conditions were withdrawn. The logic of facts had incontestably proved that the North was unable to subjugate the South. The North had yet to take Richmond; and before Richmond was even assaulted, or Petersburg occupied, events might occur that would startle Washington itself. It was true that Grant had now nearly completed a circle round the Confederate capital, but it was also true that the more he looked for a weak place, the stronger every place seemed to get. Supposing, however, that Northern generalship (which had yet to be shown) and Northern resources in men (who had been killed off at the rate of nearly 5 to 1) should have the empty good-luck of taking Richmond, did anybody in his senses believe that the fall of a city would induce the Southerners to lay down their arms? Their capital was not this town or that, but every spot in the Confederacy where a Southern army kept back the invader. The experience of the last three or four years had gone far to verify President Davis's prophecy at the beginning of the war, that, in Virginia alone, the South could maintain with advantage its battles with the North for twenty years to come. From this point the lecturer passed on to contemplate the horrors of the American strife, and contrasted the single-minded patriotism of the Southerners in taking the field with the flower of their youth, with the sordid smartness of the Yankees in making money out of their own Government, by supplying the armies with hocussed recruits, made up of needy Irishmen and mercenary Germans. And yet, such being the odds in their favour, so far as brute resources went, the North could gain nothing but defeats. Grant had hurled his tens of thousands against Beauregard's fortifications, but it had been all in vain. Richmond had cost a sea of blood, but it was as far from being taken as ever; and, though it fell to-morrow, its fall would not in the slightest degree affect the Southern people and Government in maintaining their independence. But, reviewing the course of events, and realising, if possible, the frightful slaughter and inconceivable desolation that would attend the continuance of this wicked and fruitless war, it became the people of the cotton districts, whose voice would be listened to in this matter, to ask the Government how long this horrible state of things was to continue, without a single effort being made to bring the combatants to entertain terms of peace. No one would think of asking the Government to take any step that would involve England in a war with the United States. On the contrary, a joint and well-intentioned intervention on the part of this country and other Powers would be the surest and speediest means of insuring peace. In reply to a question from the body of the hall, the lecturer gave a succinct statement of affairs as they existed prior to secession, and reproduced some of his well-known arguments in proof of the right to secede. Secession, he showed, was no new thing, but had been frequently threatened, desired, and almost consummated many times before it actually took place; and on more than half of those occasions it was the North that was about to dissolve partnership with the South, and not the South with the North. Mr. Kershaw concluded an able and comprehensive speech by pointing out some of the opposite characteristics of North and South—characteristics so essential that they lie at the bottom of all true union of Governments and peoples, and when opposed, as in the case of North and South, utterly destructive of all political well-being.

The following resolution was then proposed by a working man named Benjamin Jackson, and seconded by another working man named Russell Buckley, and carried with only one dissentient:—

'That in the opinion of this meeting the war in America is an injury to the world, and that the present aspects of the conflict afford no hope of its early termination unless by means of the moral influence of Europe. We, therefore, earnestly urge upon the Government of this country to enter into communication with the European Powers to concert with them as to the best means of bringing about peace.'

The meeting, which was very orderly though very enthusiastic, broke up in a friendly and peaceful manner a little before eleven o'clock.

FREMONT'S PROGRAMME.

WE subjoin General Fremont's letter to the committee, accepting the nomination of the Cleveland Convention:—

GENTLEMEN: In answer to the letter, which I have had the honour to receive from you, on the part of the representatives of the people assembled at Cleveland, May 31, I desire to express my thanks for the confidence which led them to offer me the honourable and difficult position of their candidate in the approaching presidential election.

Very honourable, because, in offering it to me, you act in the name of a great number of citizens, who seek above all things the good of their country, and who have no sort of selfish interest in view. Very difficult, because, in accepting the candidacy you propose to me, I am exposed to the reproach of creating a schism in the party with which I have been identified.

Had Mr. Lincoln remained faithful to the principles he was elected to defend, no schism could have been created and no contest would have been possible. This is not an ordinary election; it is a contest for the right even to have candidates, and not merely, as usual, for the choice among them. Now for the first time since 1776, the question of constitutional liberty has been brought directly before the people for their serious consideration and vote. The ordinary rights secured under the Constitution and the laws of the country have been violated, and extraordinary powers have been usurped, by the Executive. It is directly before the people now to say whether or not the principles established by the revolution are worth maintaining.

If, as we have been taught to believe, those guarantees for liberty which made the distinctive name and glory of our country are in truth inviolably sacred, then there must be a protest against the arbitrary violation which had not even the excuse of necessity. The schism is made by those who force the choice between a shameful silence or a protest against wrong. In such considerations originated the Cleveland Convention. It was among its objects to arouse the attention of the people to such facts, and to bring them to realise that, while we are saturating Southern soil with the best blood of the country in the name of liberty, we have really parted with it at home.

To-day we have in the country the abuses of a military dictation without its unity of action and vigour of execution. An administration marked at home by disregard of constitutional rights, by its violation of personal liberty and the liberty of the press, and, as a crowning shame, by its abandonment of the right of asylum, a right especially dear to all free nations abroad, its course has been characterised by a feebleness and want of principle which has misled European Powers, and driven them to a belief that only commercial interests and personal aims are concerned, and that no great principles are involved in the issue. The admirable conduct of the people, their readiness to make every sacrifice demanded of them, their forbearance and silence under the suspension of everything that could be suspended, their many acts of heroism and sacrifices, were all rendered fruitless by the incapacity, or, to speak more exactly, by the personal ends for which the war was managed. This incapacity and selfishness naturally produced such results as led the European powers, and logically enough, to the conviction that the North, with its great, superior population, its immense resources, and its credit, will never be able to coerce the South. Sympathies which should have been with us from the outset of this war were turned against us, and in this way the administration has done the country a double wrong abroad. It created hostility, or at best indifference, among those who would have been its friends if the real intentions of the people could have been better known, while at the same time it neglected no occasion for making the most humiliating concessions.

Against this disastrous condition of affairs the Cleveland Convention was a protest.

The principles which form the basis of its platform have my unqualified and cordial approbation, but I cannot so heartily concur in all the measures which you propose. I do not believe that confiscation, extended to the property of all rebels, is practicable; and if it were so, I do not think it a measure of sound policy. It is, in fact, a question belonging to the people themselves to decide, and is a proper occasion for the exercise of their original and sovereign authority. As a war measure, in the beginning of a revolt, which might be quelled by prompt severity, I understand the policy of confiscation; but not as a final measure of reconstruction after the suppression of an insurrection.

In the adjustments which are to follow peace, no consideration of vengeance can consistently be admitted.

The object of the war is to make permanently secure the peace and happiness of the whole country, and there was but a single element in the way of its attainment. This element of slavery may be considered practically destroyed in the country, and it needs only your proposed amendment of the Constitution, to make its extinction complete.

With this extinction of slavery the party divisions created by it have also disappeared. And if in the history of the country there has ever been a time when the American people, without regard to one or another of the political divisions, were called upon to give solemnly their voice in a matter which involved the safety of the United States, it is assuredly the present time.

If the Convention at Baltimore will nominate any man whose past life justifies a well-grounded confidence in his fidelity to our cardinal principles, there is no reason why there should be any division among the really patriotic men of the country. To any such I shall be most happy to give a cordial and active support.

My own decided preference is to aid in this way, and not to be myself a candidate. But if Mr. Lincoln should be nominated, as I believe it would be fatal to the country to indorse a policy and renew a power which has cost us the lives of thousands of men and needlessly put the country on the road to bankruptcy, there will remain no other alternative but to organise against him every element of conscientious opposition with the view to prevent the misfortune of his reelection.

In this contingency, I accept the nomination at Cleveland, and as a preliminary step, I have resigned my commission in the army. This was a sacrifice it gave me pain to make. But I had for a long time fruitlessly endeavoured to obtain service. I make the sacrifice now only to regain liberty of speech, and to leave nothing in the way of discharging to my utmost ability the task you have set for me.

With my earnest and sincere thanks for your expressions of confidence and regard, and for the many honourable terms in which you acquaint me with the actions of the committee,

I am, gentlemen,

Very respectfully and truly yours,

New York, June 4, 1864. J. C. FREMONT.

ORDNANCE STORES OF SOUTHERN MANUFACTURE.

(From the *Augusta Constitutionalist*, May 24.)

WE are kindly furnished by Colonel Rains with some facts in regard to Government operations at this place—which are not contraband, as the facts have mostly appeared in England. The works are under the immediate control of Major J. P. Girardey, the former popular commander of the Washington artillery of this city. The magnificent works at this place will long be a monument to the skill and enterprise of the Ordnance Department, and to the unwearied energy of Colonel Rains. Those who know the magnitude of the operations, the immense amount of material used and constructed, and the disadvantages under which Colonel Rains and Major Girardey have laboured, will think it difficult to overrate the zeal and enterprise of those officers. The following is a memorandum of war material supplied to our armies from the Government Works at Augusta, under the command of Colonel Rains, within the past two months, viz.:—

One million four hundred thousand small-arm cartridges.

Six thousand rounds fixed ammunition (shot and shell attached to cartridges for field batteries).

Two thousand five hundred Colonel Rains's percussion hand grenades.

One thousand five hundred rifle shells for field artillery.

Fifty-four tons eight and ten-inch shot and shell for columbiads.

One hundred tons of gunpowder.

Three complete batteries of brass 12-pounder Napoleon guns, with carriages, limbers, caissons, harness, equipments, ammunition, travelling forges, &c.

One battery of three-inch rifle and banded iron guns, and twelve-pound bronze howitzers.

One battery of four twelve-pound howitzers. The above two batteries being complete at all points, with carriages, limbers, caissons, harness, ammunition, equipments, &c.

All of the above guns, except the rifle battery (for General Morgan), were sent to General Johnston's army, which has altogether sixteen complete batteries of brass guns, which were mainly manufactured in every part at the Government Foundery and Machine Works and Gun-Carriage Department in this place.

The most of these batteries are composed of the new 12-pounder Napoleon guns, introduced in the service of the war by the present Emperor of the French; of these, over eighty-five, weighing in the aggregate more than fifty tons, have been cast at the Government Foundery in this city, mainly within the past year. In the same period, over five hundred tons of the first quality of gunpowder have been made at the Powder Works and distributed throughout the Confederacy.

In addition to the foregoing, there has been an immense number of small-arm cartridges, cartridge bags, fixed ammunition, canteens, haversacks, horse-shoes, time fuses, and percussion-caps made at the Arsenal, as well as large amounts of signal rockets, portfires, sets of artillery harness, infantry accoutrements, &c., manufactured within the past twelve months.

THE CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

(From the *Richmond Whig* of June 15.)

BOTH Houses of Congress adjourned *sine die* on Tuesday. They meet again in November next. In the proceedings of Tuesday the following is a portion of the most important enacted in the Senate:—

The Senate concurred in House amendment to the Bill requiring the Secretary of War to detail disabled officers and soldiers to fill the offices of marshals and clerks in the military courts. House amendment was to substitute for 'soldiers' the words 'non-commissioned officers and privates.'

The House joint resolution of thanks to Major-General Forrest and the officers and men under his command, for the recent victory at Tishomingo Creek, was, under the rule, referred to the Military Committee.

A message from the President announced that he had approved and signed the following Bills:—

An Act to authorise the formation of new commands, to be composed of supernumerary officers who may resign to join such commands, and to limit and restrict the appointment of officers in certain cases.

An Act to authorise the appointment of quartermasters and assistant-quartermasters, and of commissaries and assistant-commissaries in the provisional army in certain cases.

An Act to amend an Act entitled 'An Act to Prohibit the Importation of Luxuries,' &c., approved February 6, 1864.

An Act to provide and organise a general staff for armies in the field.

And three Acts emendatory of the Act to establish military courts for armies in the field, and to define their powers.

A message was received from the President vetoing the Bill allowing further time to persons within the enemy's lines to fund their Treasury notes.

PETERSBURG AND ITS DEFENCE.—The *Richmond Whig* of June 15 says: 'It will now be Grant's effort to precipitate a large body of his forces upon Petersburg, which he may fancy of as much importance to Richmond as Grand Gulf was to Vicksburg. Herein he again errs; but to what extent we shall not be in haste to inform him. There are contingencies which may serve ere long to enlighten him, and that very suddenly. Around Petersburg there are fortifications superior to those which held Ulysses in check for two months before Vicksburg. Behind these there is no incompetent leader, with an army disgusted and disheartened at his imbecility. The first engineer of the age, and a field captain equal to any in the world, are there; his troops have unbounded confidence in him; he has proved them and him on many fields; he awakens enthusiasm as none other can awaken it; and when Grant comes in contact with him, he will find another master—nay, two masters; for the day which sees the bulk of Grant's army on the south side will find the two best heads, and the two bravest, purest, and most magnanimous hearts on this continent opposed to him, and that will be a field day indeed.

BARBAROUS WARFARE OF THE FEDERALS.—The following resolution was passed by the Confederate Senate on June 3:—'Resolved: That the President be requested to make an exposition, through our Commissioners abroad, to the various European Powers to which they may be accredited, of the violations of the rules of civilised warfare and of the atrocities committed by the Government and armies of the United States in the prosecution of hostilities against the Confederate States of America.'

they were known to have made illegal profit out of their official position. Within the legislature itself, the tone is given by men who, if not dishonest, are under constant temptation to be so; who feel that the price of a vote is really a matter of great importance to them; and who, keenly alive to the temptation, are not disposed to pronounce a severe judgment on those who succumb to it. Thus, without asserting that Americans are less honest than Englishmen, it is easy to understand why in the Northern States, where to be a gentleman is to be disqualified for popular favour, and excluded from or heavily weighted in the race of political ambition, the standard of pecuniary integrity in the State Legislature, in Congress, and in the official departments both of the State and Federal Governments, is very much lower than it has ever been in England since the days of WALPOLE.

The natural tendency of democracies to corruption has been greatly aggravated in America by the infamous maxim introduced by President JACKSON: 'To the victors belong the spoils.' Since that unlucky sentence was uttered, each succeeding President has treated the offices in the public service, from the highest to the lowest, from the Secretaryship of State to the village postmastership, as rewards not of public but of party usefulness; not as positions in which a servant of the people was to render himself as valuable as possible to the country, but as places in which a man who had worked hard for the dominant faction might receive payment out of the public purse. The habit of looking forward to a vast multitude of such places demoralised, not a few trading politicians in each State, but tens of thousands of busy citizens, who worked each four years for their party, not in pure love of its principles, but in the hope of getting a place for themselves. The mass learned to look upon jobbery as a matter of course; a large percentage of the population became jobbers themselves. When places were not to be had, contracts might be given; and the practice of rewarding active partisans, whether in municipal, State, Congressional, or party elections, by giving them orders to furnish coal for the postal steamers or cordage for Government vessels, or to pave the streets, or to feed the paupers, grew and increased, until the business of contractor became identified with that of politician, and lucrative contracts were looked upon as the natural perquisites of diligent electioneerers. The extent to which malversation of this kind was carried can hardly be conceived in this country; and we were almost incredulous when, in 1859, some Congressional documents relating to a few jobs of rather more than usual effrontery were made the subject of comment in the newspapers, and Englishmen learned that the highest officers of the Union were capable of mixing themselves up in transactions with which, in England, no respectable attorney would choose to meddle. The Southern statesmen were, as a class, elevated, both by fortune and character, above this sort of dirty work. They were neither to be bribed by a railway bill, nor to be silenced by a coal contract. But they had to work with Northern tools, and to treat them much as the Duke of WELLINGTON, when Irish Secretary, dealt with the Hibernian supporters of Government. In the Federal Government, and in a great majority of the States, the Democratic party had enjoyed a long monopoly of power; and it is beyond question that the jobbery of which they were guilty had a share in diminishing their popularity, and driving a number of honest and respectable men into the arms of a party which, anxious to have its turn of plunder, denounced the actual plunderers in no measured terms, and which, having as yet had no opportunity of stealing, enjoyed the reputation of honesty.

The Republicans came into power hungry with a fast of many years. It was a bitter mortification to them that they were instantly deprived of a large slice of the plunder they had promised to their followers by the secession of the South. But they consoled themselves with the thought that war would afford a far richer harvest than could possibly have been reaped in peace; and they inaugurated their career by an inter-State job on a magnificent scale. While the fate of the Union trembled in the balance, they availed themselves of what they professed to consider the temporary absence of the Southern representatives and Senators, by enacting, in the MORRILL tariff, the most impudent job by which a wholesale bribe was ever offered to a numerous class. The merchants and manufacturers of Pennsylvania, New York, and New England accepted the gratification, and gave their support to the Government. War was resolved on and commenced. We know how many it has slain, starved, ruined; if we knew how many it had enriched, perhaps we should better understand how it is that this slaughter and devastation have found in certain quarters such loud and lavish commendation, support, and applause.

Mr. CAMERON managed the commissariat and supplies of the army, it must be confessed, better than our Government did at the outbreak of our last war—and he reaped a large and very substantial reward. The extravagance of his profit awakened the envy of his colleagues, and after he had realised a very ample fortune, he accepted the embassy to Russia, and left to Mr. STANTON the lucrative opportunities of the War Office. To improvise a navy and a transport service in a few months, economy must be thrown to the winds; and Mr. WELLES was too shrewd a man not to feel that, when all idea of economy is thus dismissed, the family of the Minister who conducts the extravagance may as well profit by it as any one else. How great the opportunities afforded to a speculative genius by the control of unlimited issues of paper, we need not suggest to those who have watched the fortunes of Mr. CHASE. The Ministers have been as indulgent to their friends and followers as they have been lenient to themselves. Ships have been chartered at rates of unprecedented liberality; orders have been given without limit as to price or stipulation as to quality; to haggle about dollars or scrutinise the value of the wares supplied would indicate an ungenerous caution, a suspicious stinginess very unbecoming in transactions between friends. Every one who could plead Republican principles has claimed a right to share the profits offered by the opening of so vast a field of peculation as is afforded by the demands of a great war and the needs of an army of 800,000 men; and the claims have been dealt with in so liberal a spirit, that Mr. LINCOLN—if, as it would appear, he has kept his own hands clean in these transactions—might almost say with NICHOLAS, 'I am the only honest man in my opinions.'

A quarrel among the plunderers of New York has revealed a choice little nest of scandals which is really worth observation, not as anything peculiarly or exceptionally shameful, but as a fair sample of the state of things throughout the North-eastern States. The *Evening Post* had fallen foul of Mr. THURLOW WEED, who was charged with having made some iniquitous profits out of the chartering of the *Cataline*. Mr. WEED is the editor of the *Albany Evening Journal*, and the manager of the Republican party. This position he has held for a quarter of a century, during which he has certainly avoided office, and is said to have refused other more lucrative if less reputable rewards. In fact, he enjoys the credit of having conducted elections, directed negotiations, carried on intrigues, kept a party together, done all its dirty work, gone through all the rascality, shame, and vulgarity, the vice, meanness, and filth, inseparable from the position of backstairs director of a party in a democratic country, from pure love of the trade. He is naturally very indignant at the insinuation that he has accepted fee or reward, that he has handled pitch from any other motive than pure love of defilement; and he falls upon his assailants tooth and nail. We need not trouble our readers with his personal vindication, or his vituperation of his allies; but we must not pass unnoticed the testimony of a Republican to Republican purity and principles—the character given by THURLOW WEED to Mayor OPDYKE, General FREMONT, and some of their friends and supporters.

One firm, we find, sold large quantities of goods to the Government, not on contract, but in the open market. It is curious to see what the profits in the open market are. One lot, bought for $18, is sold for $216. Another lot cost $50, and is sold to Government for $262. For less than $17 worth of brass pins, Government pays $189. On an outlay of $787, the dealers reap a net profit of $3,211; and $1,552 brings in $4,111. These are but specimens extracted from a long series of accounts of the same character. Such are the fruits of Republican 'loyalty.'

OPDYKE, late Mayor of New York, has rendered valuable assistance to the Federal power and spiteful opposition to the Democratic municipality of the city. He was appointed on a committee of enquiry into a claim for $190,000 preferred by his own son-in-law, after swearing that he had no sort of interest in the matter. The claim was paid. A subsequent dispute occurs between the parties interested, and OPDYKE comes forward to swear that he had a very large interest in the claim. If this be true, it is not difficult to believe that the ex-Mayor has 'made more money by secret partnerships' in contract rascalities 'than any fifty sharpers in New York.'

The story about General FREMONT is less intelligible. It appears that that gallant officer and Presidential candidate is in the habit of indebtedness, and that his pecuniary embarrassments injured his chance in 1856. To improve his position for the present contest, a peculiar scheme seems to have been devised. The General owns certain real or imaginary mines, and these were made the basis of a Mareposa joint-stock Company. By means of the shares of this Company—of which the $2,400,000 worth were handed over to Mayor OPDYKE and one or two other friends—the General's debts were paid; and, if the Mareposa mines should turn out no more real than the wealth of the South Sea Islands, the shareholders may at least, in return for their money, enjoy the satisfaction of having rescued a possible President from the humiliation of arrest for debt.

Such are the Republicans painted by themselves; not by a disappointed partisan or unprincipled renegade, but by the most active, devoted, and disinterested of their party. After a few more exposures of this sort, we shall probably hear no more of the theory that the election of Mr. LINCOLN was a protest against democratic corruption; and even those revelations of which we are already in possession may help to explain why the statesmen and gentlemen of the South abhor a connection with the North, not merely as a political danger and a national disgrace, but as partaking of the loathsomeness of personal contamination.

The Battle of Parties.

IT was scarcely to be expected that the present Session would close without at least one vigorous effort on the part of the Opposition to storm the strongholds of power. Skirmishes and partial assaults to reconnoitre the position had been frequent, and they demonstrated such weakness that it might not be unfairly concluded the Cabinet would be compelled to yield at the first serious summons to surrender. The failure of the Conference seemed an excellent opportunity, and accordingly on Monday last Mr. DISRAELI moved a vote of censure in the form of an address to HER MAJESTY regretting the failure of the Conference, and also that the Government had not succeeded in upholding the integrity and independence of Denmark, and that it had 'lowered the just influence of this country in the councils of Europe, and thereby diminished the securities for peace.' Two amendments were proposed, one by Mr. KINGLAKE, suggesting, in lieu of the last paragraph, a congratulation that HER MAJESTY has not been advised to commence hostilities; and the other, proposed by Mr. NEWDEGATE, was that England should adhere to the proposition made by the neutral Powers in the Conference as to the division of Slesvig. The first of these amendments might, in substance, be accepted by both sides, since neither party is desirous of war; and for the same reason the amendment of Mr. NEWDEGATE would be rejected both by the supporters of the Government and by the Opposition. Therefore, had the Government desired, they could not have shirked the responsibility of meeting Mr. DISRAELI's motion as a direct vote of censure.

The Opposition had many elements of success. Their assault was directed against the weak point of the Government. To have proposed simply a vote of want of confidence would have given the Government a better prospect of defence. The Ministers might have admitted that their foreign policy had been a failure; but, on the other hand, they might have pleaded that their financial legislation had been successful, and that the country, though not in good repute abroad, was eminently prosperous at home. But, as we have said, the Opposition wisely confined its attack to the weak point in the position of the Government. The failure of Earl RUSSELL's foreign policy is patent to all the world. There is no concealing or explaining away the taunts of a unanimous foreign press, which, however much Englishmen may affect indifference to such criticisms, tingle in their ears, and which are not supposed to be considered altogether undeserved even by some of Earl RUSSELL's colleagues. Whatever opinions may be held as to the merits or general demerits of the Government, no one could think that a change at the Foreign Office could be for the worse. It may be Earl RUSSELL's misfortune, or it may be his want of tact, but it is certain that no Minister could fail more completely than he has done. His policy is denounced in Denmark, is a by-word in Germany, and is treated with contempt by Russia. The Poles charge him with having betrayed them. We will not say that he has sensibly affected the alliance between this country and France; but it is undeniable that he has suspended that cordial amity which is the best security for the peace of Europe. Everywhere he has interfered, and everywhere his interference has bred ill-will to England. Unquestionably he was animated by generous and friendly sentiments towards Greece, yet the Greeks are not so kindly disposed towards us as formerly. No Englishman who values his good name will defend the way in which Earl RUSSELL treated the Government of Brazil. Even in America it must, we should think, be conceded that the diplomacy which has been unfriendly to the South without conciliating the North, is a failure. We may admit, for argument's sake, that Earl RUSSELL is the victim of circumstances; and that he was called upon to direct the foreign policy

of England at a period when no Minister, however farseeing and cautious, could help giving offence to almost every Government in Europe and America. But this does not affect the position that Earl RUSSELL's policy has been so complete a failure, that it is not conceivable that a change in the Foreign Office could be for the worse.

Thus the Opposition had the opportunity of placing the Government in a dilemma from which it would be difficult to escape. It was impossible to deny the non-success of Earl RUSSELL's foreign policy; and if the Government would not consent to throw Earl RUSSELL overboard, every member of it became responsible for his Lordship's failures, and yet parties are so evenly balanced that the FOREIGN SECRETARY could not be displaced without breaking up the Cabinet. It is not, therefore, surprising that the Conservatives should have anticipated, and the Liberals have feared, the success of the vote of censure. Now, whatever may be the result of the coming division, we think we shall not be contradicted in saying that the chances of the Government have improved since Monday. We do not question the great ability of Mr. DISRAELI; but it seems to us that on Monday night he did not make the best use of a golden opportunity. Mr. DISRAELI never had a more fitting occasion for using that terrible weapon of sarcasm, of which he is undoubtedly a master. We expected, and we venture to say our expectation was general, that on Monday night he would have exposed the blunders of Earl RUSSELL, and held him up to the ridicule of the House. Instead of so doing, Mr. DISRAELI discussed very ably the Danish question; but this was not the strong point for the Opposition. The fact is, that the Opposition, so far from being able to declare that they would have defended the integrity of Denmark or have upheld the treaty of 1852 by force of arms, admit that they would not have counselled war with Germany, and assert only that, by a more consistent policy, the danger, and even the need, of such a war would have been averted; but, taking the actual position, they are not prepared to do more for Denmark than is HER MAJESTY'S Government. When it comes to a question of policy on the Danish question, the difference is not so perceptible; and therefore we think Mr. DISRAELI would have damaged his opponents more by confining his attention to the manner in which Earl RUSSELL had endeavoured to carry out the policy of peace. Perhaps the right honourable gentleman will do so when he makes his reply.

We do not wish to lend ourselves to the cry that the Conservatives have no policy; for undoubtedly they have one that is essentially different from that of the Liberals; but we think they would have done better if they had exhibited greater boldness in announcing their policy. If they hold that under no circumstances was England justified in preventing the invasion and conquest of Slesvig, why not state it? There is, no doubt, a point at which they would deem it right for England to resist the aggression of Germany: well, then, why not state it? Why not tell the country, and tell Germany, what they conceive to be our duty and obligation to Denmark? To have a policy and not to proclaim it is, in its effect on public opinion, as bad as having no policy at all. We have seen this in the United States. The Democratic party has contented itself with attacking the Republican policy without avowing its own policy, and the result has been that the Democratic party has almost ceased to be a power in the Union. We should unfeignedly regret to see the great Conservative party in this country lose its just influence, for then party lines would be obliterated; and when party ceases to reign, faction takes its place. It is not, then, in an unfriendly spirit that we offer these comments on the great battle of parties that is now going on, and that we remind Conservatives that, in politics as well as in war, the most consummate generalship is not alone sufficient to ensure success, but that courage is as indispensable as conduct.

An article appears in the *Pays* of the 30th ult., examining the pretensions of Mr. Lincoln's Government to the title of philanthropists and emancipators. The writer examines at length the various statements made by Mr. Lincoln with regard to the constitutional question of slavery; his famous manifesto liberating all slaves with rebel owners; and, coupled with that, the proclamation giving the South a hundred days to return to their allegiance. 'Let us appreciate,' he says, 'the high morality of this policy. Slavery, *that odious institution*, was to be a means of national reward—a premium on loyalty. In Europe, good services and devoted conduct receive crosses and decorations for their recompense. Mr. Lincoln gave to his faithful subjects, as a sort of Legion of Honour, the right to hold slaves.' In the same journal of the 3rd inst. a very clever *exposé* is made of the rotten principles upon which Mr. Chase's last loan of $70,000,000 is founded. Subscribed for in greenbacks, and bearing 6 per cent. interest, payable in gold—that is, about 15 per cent. at the present rate of money—it only relieves the temporary pressure on the Treasury by imposing upon it a fresh ultimate burden. It pays for a temporary accommodation by changing $70,000,000 worth of non-interest-bearing loan into the same sum at an interest of 15 per cent.

LETTERS FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York: June 24, 1864.

NORTHERN EXULTATION AT THE REPORTED CAPTURE OF PETERSBURG—THE ACTUAL SITUATION—THE POSITION OF SHERMAN—THE FEDERAL LOSSES IN VIRGINIA—THE ANTICIPATED DRAFT—A RETURNED REGIMENT—THE RETURN OF MR. VALLANDIGHAM—HOW MR. LINCOLN SUPPORTS HIS FRIENDS.

SATURDAY was a jubilant day with the Federals at Washington, and the exultation ran all over the North. Grant had, according to the reports of that day, 'flanked' something at last to some purpose—had crossed the James River with his whole army, marched on Petersburg and taken it; and was only measuring the days which might intervene before he would march into Richmond. It was not Grant himself that said all this, but it was said for him, and, Saturday being a steamer day, the whole story with all its embellishments went out to Europe. Gold fell 3 or 4 per cent. on the strength of the news. But here is another steamer day, and the fever fit is over and the chill come back. The papers, even from this side, will tell you the story better than I can. For the fourth or fifth time—how many is it?—General Grant fell Lee's positions, attacked them, and, terribly repulsed and quitting one for another, was on the true road to success at last. He had broken up his campaign from the North, and found himself, with an admitted loss of 50,000 men and a real loss of many thousands more, south of James River, with Lee again before him, where there is no more 'flanking' to be done, unless he tries to go back the way he came. Now was to come the great triumph suddenly; but intelligence to-day is, that Petersburg, which was but two days ago positively captured, and yesterday announced to be at the mercy of the Federal army, is found to be thoroughly covered by the Confederate army under Beauregard, and so powerfully defended that it can only be taken by a direct assault with masses of men driven up against a series of entrenchments, with the prospect of a renewal of the murderous losses in which a similar desperate attempt resulted at Spottsylvania Court House, and with as little prospect of success.

Accompanying this news comes the official acknowledgment by General Sherman, that the report which he sent to Washington, and which the Secretary of War republished yesterday, of the precipitate retreat from before him of the forces of General Johnston, was a mistake—the blunder of his field officers, who seem to have told what they wished rather than what they saw.

The situation of Sherman is believed to be growing very critical. Instead of advancing triumphantly into Atlanta, the fear is expressed that Forrest—who lately won a brilliant victory over General Sturgis at Memphis, routing an army of eight thousand men and capturing many prisoners, trains of provisions, and a large number of guns—is closing on Sherman's rear, and giving uneasiness at Washington that he may be compelled to attempt retreating and fail to get off his army. It is difficult to get accurate accounts of what is going on in Georgia, but it is very certain that the Confederates are well pleased with the aspect of affairs in that quarter, and the Federals are very uneasy.

The value of the success of General Hunter at Staunton has been rapidly lost to the Federals. His forward movements have been checked by the miscarriage of General Sheridan's cavalry raid; and not only are the Confederate defences in that quarter thought to be secure, but General Hunter himself is in a critical position, and will be content to stay where he is if he can be permitted to do so. Butler too has come to grief, and gold to-day is over 200.

On all the great lines of attack converging towards Richmond the news to-day is auspicious to the arms of the Confederacy.

I have said above that there was an admitted loss to Grant's army of 50,000 men in getting overland to his present position. The Federal bulletins say it was only 20,000 in all. The Confederates insist it was nearly 100,000. Two pieces of evidence came out simultaneously the other day which show by comparison and the use of the rules of arithmetic that the Federal losses were at least 50,000 by their own account. The chairman of the military committee in the House stated that General Grant had received additional forces since he crossed the Rapidan, by which his army was brought up to nearly its original numbers. On the same day the chairman of the military committee in the Senate, replying to an intimation of the want of energy in supporting General Grant, stated specifically that up to that date forty-eight thousand additional men had been sent to him. It follows that forty-eight thousand men, if there were no more sent, scarcely repaired the losses.

There is certainly to be a draft on or soon after July 4. The terror of it is so great, that the Volunteer Committee of the city councils, after publicly stating the impossibility of raising the money on the credit of the city to secure volunteers, have reconsidered their recommendation to suspend the offer of bounties, and proposed the raising of another two millions, in addition to the six millions the city has already expended to purchase recruits and at least reduce the perils of drafting for the whole number required. Congress is to-day engaged in debating the point whether it will not be necessary, in order to keep up the army, to repeal the commutation clauses, and demand the peremptory service of every man drawn, or the furnishing by him, at his own cost, of an accepted substitute.

The return of the 9th regiment last week has a damping effect on the spirits of unwilling soldiers. This regiment has had, since it first went into the field, of original members and recruits, 2,700 men. Of these 81, being 70 privates and 11 non-commissioned officers, have come back. There are left in the field 124 officers and men. The war has therefore used up of this regiment about 2,400 men, and the same tale is told of other returning regiments. Nearly all the original soldiers are left on the battle-fields. The South is still unsubdued, and the Northern soldiers come back to find their own civil liberties overthrown. No wonder there is no more volunteering.

The Fremont men are organising clubs with great spirit, as though they meant to contest the election against Mr. Lincoln to the last.

The Administration has been puzzled by the sudden return of Mr. Vallandigham. You will remember that he was tried by a military commission last summer, by order of General Burnside, for a speech made at a Democratic meeting in Ohio, and, being found guilty of speaking against the Administration, was forcibly sent into the Confederacy by order of the President, whence he made his way into Canada, where he has since been residing in exile. One day last week, the order for his banishment remaining uncancelled, he appeared at a Democratic meeting in Staunton County, and made a strong speech against the policy of the Administration. He has since been chosen in his district a delegate to the National Democratic Convention at Chicago. His tone is that of utter defiance of the President, renewing his declaration that the act of the President in expelling him from the country was one of lawless tyranny, and giving notice that any attempt to rearrest him will be resisted by all lawful means, and the power of the President over the liberty of loyal citizens fully and thoroughly tested. In this he has the support of the whole Democratic party, and the President finds himself in a very awkward dilemma. He must submit to have his sentence annulled and his authority put to contempt, or he must cause Mr. Vallandigham to be apprehended to undergo the remainder of his sentence. But the case is different now from what it was when Mr. Lincoln was the chief of a united party wielding all the power of the Government to put down their adversaries. The dominant faction there is now divided between contending chiefs, and the most powerful of these justifies its revolt by arraigning Mr. Lincoln for the usurpation of despotic powers in acts against personal liberty and the freedom of speech, of which these proceedings against Mr. Vallandigham are an example. The Administration must accept humiliation or encounter a great danger. It will, I think, choose the safer course of letting Mr. Vallandigham alone, employing that policy as the strategy of party to throw confusion among its adversaries, as it is supposed that Mr. Vallandigham's influence at Chicago will be in favour of peace nominations, and discord there is Mr. Lincoln's game and gain. An attempt to arrest Mr. Vallandigham under the old sentence would create a terrible excitement, which would go far to bring together elements of opposition to Mr. Lincoln, which might otherwise find it difficult to unite with each other. Many of the best advisers of the President are urging him, very earnestly, to waive pride and temper, yield to necessity, and consult party prudence, by abandoning his case against Mr. Vallandigham as wholly and silently as his adversaries will permit.

Congress is hard at work in getting its indispensable business into shape, so as to adjourn within a few days. The Presidential canvass is beginning to be active, and every member is impatient to get home and attend to his own little interest in making a President who has so many good things to distribute among his friends, and has shown so amiable a disposition to help those who help him. The zeal of Mr. Lincoln's friends has been quickened of late by several significant intimations from Mr. Lincoln of what he expects from those who expect anything from him. One example will suffice. Not long ago members of Congress from Indiana waited upon him with a formal petition, asking him to remove Mr. Holloway, the Commissioner of Patents at Washington, who is a citizen of Indiana and votes there, for opposing the election of Mr. Julian to Congress, Mr. Julian being a regularly nominated candidate and an adherent of the President. The answer was, that Mr. Holloway must support Mr. Julian 'unconditionally,' or be turned out of office. The President added, in the way of an indirect application of this rule to a case most intimately interesting to himself, that nominations, in Indiana are just as binding as nominations 'at Baltimore.' Reciprocally, the nomination at Baltimore will be held to be entitled to 'unconditional' support like that in Indiana; and whoever holds back will be turned out of office. Members are, therefore, fairly warned that, to get or to keep anything in the gift of the Government, they must do something for Mr. Lincoln. It is time they were off and at work, for there is a dangerous revolt in the bosom of his own party against these practices, as well by those who hold them to be odious and dangerous, as by a much more numerous class, who see but a faint chance of getting into office, and of insuring the favour of the patron of officeholders, if servility and service buy security in place for the incumbents.

FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT.

[The following letter will be read with interest, as it shows what was thought of the situation even under the influence of 'reported' victories.]

June 18, 1864.

GRANT'S CHANGE OF BASE—RICHMOND TAKEN 'ON PAPER'—GRANT AND M'CLELLAN—THE DEFENCES OF RICHMOND—PETERSBURG—THE DEFEAT OF STURGIS—REPORTS FROM VIRGINIA.

ON the afternoon of Wednesday last Stanton condescended to let us know that Grant had changed his base to the south of the James; but this then was old news. One week ago we knew of the contemplated movement through the Richmond journals, and letters since received kept us well advised of what was going on. A portion of the army proceeded to its new destination on transports, while the balance proceeded to Charles City and vicinity, and crossed the river near that point. The 18th Corps struck for Bermuda Hundred, where it arrived on the afternoon of Tuesday. The latter went direct on transports. This was the advance of the army, and Grant honoured it with his presence. When the latter arrived at the Hundred he was met by General Butler, who showed him all through his entrenchments, and gave him his valuable ideas generally as to what ought to be done. Grant must have relished this exceedingly, especially when it is remembered that he hates Butler as badly as do some of his friends in New Orleans and Norfolk. We are told by Mr. Stanton that the crossing of the James was effected 'without loss or accident.' It is possible that for once the Secretary has told the truth; but if so, then Madame Rumour has fibbed most shamefully. Nor is it rumour alone that has told us differently, for it was reported on Wednesday, on the authority of a leading Black Republican M.C. from Pennsylvania, that the change of base cost Grant not less than 20,000 men. It is likely, however, that this number included the losses at Coal Harbour, the battle of which, it is now said, was fought to obtain possession of the Gains Mills and White Oak Swamp Roads, which were used by M'Clellan while crossing with his army in 1862. It is known, however, that Grant failed in this endeavour, and he was finally compelled to cross at a point still further from the coveted prize.

The fact that Lee permitted him to cross at all is commented on by the Abolition press as a sign of weakness in the Confederate commander. The flank and rear of Grant's army, it is argued, could have been fallen upon successfully by a large army; and because Lee did not do this, he is rated as greatly reduced in men, 'or else strangely lacking in enterprise.' The latter clause is excellent, considering how handsomely General Lee has baffled his antagonist at every step of the road since he crossed the Rapidan, and actually forced him to change his base across the waters of the James.

But it must be that Lee is 'weak.' This is the generally accepted theory of the editorial campaigners; and because he is weak he is a doomed man! Yes, 'there is now a reasonable prospect that Richmond may be captured.' Indeed, according to another authority, 'failure is impossible. Grant is now in very positive possession of the only line of supply that was left to keep Lee's army alive. Petersburg, of course, is his. Fort Darling can offer no effectual resistance, and with its fall Rich-

mond cannot stand twelve hours after the gunboats go up. . . . Lee dare not assume the offensive, and must retreat, though this, too, is dangerous.' You will see from this kind of talk that Richmond is 'as good as taken;' Lee's army is in danger of capture or annihilation; and, of course, the Confederacy is, for the hundredth time, 'on its last legs.' What says gold to this? Active, at 197½. What says cotton? Middling—146! Comment is unnecessary.

But the assured victors cannot even wait until the great victory is officially announced. One would suppose that, with the 'positive' certainty of immediate success in an effort that has been nearly three years in progress, the campaigners would be satisfied with crowing after the capital was assuredly won. But not so. They must have it 'taken' on paper, as it has been several times already; and accordingly we were told on Thursday that Fort Darling was captured, that the obstructions in the James had been removed, and that the fleet was ascending the river. On Friday the news was even more astounding. Grant's immense army on the south side had created a great panic in Richmond; the remainder of the prisoners and public archives had been removed further south. Congress had adjourned *sine die*, in great haste and confusion; and the capital was being evacuated by citizens and the army at the topmost rate of speed. Of course, Richmond was taken without an additional blow, but Lee and his army had escaped.

This is the kind of stuff we are fed upon, but only the fools swallow it. At the same time there is more warrant for the extravagant predictions and rumours that are put forth than at any other period of the 'On to Richmond' farce. The best military talent in the land has pronounced the James River route the route to Richmond, and if the city could not be taken by that route it could not be taken at all. The campaign of Grant, the most formidable expedition yet set on foot, has fully demonstrated that Richmond was *not* to be taken from the north, and an effort, backed by all the power of the Administration, will now be made to capture the city by the only route that remains. M'Clellan has been on the identical ground, it is true, and failed; he has been nearer to Richmond by five miles than Grant is at present, and failed, but he has always charged his failure to the rascally treatment of the War Department in not supporting him. Had it done so, the 'Young Napoleon' declares positively that he would have taken Richmond, but as it was he didn't.

Grant can make no such charge. The War Department is sending him every man at its command. He has already lost 90,000, but this number has been made up probably to the extent of 40,000, so that his present army on the James cannot be less than 140,000 men, including, of course, those that were already there.

It is not denied that M'Clellan two years ago had 130,000 men near the precise locality where Grant is operating, and the simple query at present is, can Grant with his 140,000 men do anything more than M'Clellan did? Is it not reasonable to suppose that he will not do as much? Two years have made important additions to the defences of Richmond, south as well as north; and, all the gasconade of the press aside, is it reasonable to suppose that Richmond will be captured, or that Lee will be 'compelled to retreat?'

So far as the defences of Richmond are concerned, they are a sure safeguard against either of these mishaps, and the only really serious thing in the way of Lee is his communications. If he can maintain even one of these intact—keep it open through every obstacle—he can defy Grant 'all summer,' and all the following winter too. But he will doubtless have his hands full. The cavalry with Grant is energetic, artful, and daring, large in number, and well officered, and already are they on their errand of seizing every line of communication south from the Confederate capital. What they can hold they will, what they cannot they will aim to destroy so thoroughly as to prevent its use or possible repair. In this respect Grant is far more highly favoured than M'Clellan was, while the former is also taking a broader scope generally for the enveloping of Richmond than ever M'Clellan did.

The Danville Road is decidedly the most important running out of Richmond. This road connects with the whole South and West, and should it be seized and destroyed, or permanently held by Grant, a siege of the city would commence in dead earnest, and with every probability of a favourable result. This is what Grant aims at—it is Vicksburg all over again; but it remains to be seen whether Lee will permit him to repeat successfully that operation with Richmond. For my own part, I have the most unwavering confidence in the commanding general of the Confederate army, and believe that he will prove more than a match for Grant.

Petersburg will, no doubt, this time fall, if it has not already fallen. It is essential to the invader's progress, and so is it also to Lee's safety; the latter can scarcely afford to see his antagonist in full possession of that important city, and, if occupied, it must be retaken let the sacrifice be what it may. This presupposes that Lee intends to defend Richmond to the last, and such is, no doubt, his intention.

Staunton has been abandoned by the Federals, and Hunter, reinforced by Crook and Pope, was pushing on for Lynchburg. The capture of the Danville Road has been intrusted to Averill. Hunter's forces are stated to amount to 16,000 men. Sheridan has not been heard from authentically for a week, but it is understood that his raid is confined to the line of the James River Canal. The chief portion of Grant's army is some sixteen miles from Richmond. Should he make Petersburg his head-quarters, he will be twenty-two miles distant.

Sherman is reported as moving on Kenesaw, but his prospects are nowhere considered very brilliant. Indeed, the farther he penetrates into Georgia, the worse he appears to be off, and in greater danger of never being able to return. Some of the veterans who defeated Banks are understood to be on their way to join Johnston, but the Federals, under A. J. Smith, are said to be moving to intercept and drive them back. This Smith is the general who came to time, and saved Banks's army from total annihilation. He has been appointed to supersede Sturgis. We learn since that his (Sturgis's) force consisted of 3,000 cavalry, including the famous Grierson, 5,000 infantry, and sixteen pieces of artillery. There was also a long wagon train, which was lost together with the artillery. The defeat was a total one, and the rout of the Federals complete. They fell back upon Memphis, which was also the point of their departure. The Confederate force which defeated these Vandals is understood or believed to have been the one now on the way from Red River to join Johnston. I apprehend Smith will be very shy of running foul of that party, and the fair inference is that it will reach Marietta (Georgia) in perfect safety.

Sturgis, the defeated and decapitated general, had a good squad of nigger troops with him, who, as usual, got in a mess, and thus, it is alleged, added to the severity of the disaster. The *Herald*, I see, asserts that the victory over Sturgis 'amounts to very little,' whereas it was one of the most brilliant and important in its results ever achieved in the West. It was one of those thorough victories which any general might be proud of, while it adds to the difficulties of Sherman immensely. The *Herald* is whistling to keep up the courage of its deluded readers.

I had written thus far when the Confederate accounts of the battle came to hand. These locate the engagement at Tischamingo Creek, and describe it as 'one of the most signal victories of the war for the forces engaged.' The Federal loss is put down at 2,000 in killed and wounded; also 1,000 prisoners, 20 pieces of artillery, and 250 wagons and ambulances. The victory is described in these despatches as the sole work of the forces under Forrest, who had since arrived at Selma for the purpose of taking a hand in the game with Sherman.

The capture of Petersburg is announced this morning. Such a result was inevitable unless Lee had seen fit to throw a heavy force into the town to man its defences, and this, for reasons best known to himself, he declined to do. Since the taking of the town, however, he has sent forces to the west bank of the Appotomax, and the inference is that this position will be held: indeed, it would not surprise me if we had news of a battle in that vicinity at any moment.

The Danville Road, at last advices, had not been interrupted, and it is now very doubtful whether it can be successfully held by the forces which seek to threaten it. If Lee gives up the loss of the direct road south from Petersburg, we may be sure that he will so effectually guard the interior (Danville) road, that its capture will be impossible. But I have no idea that he intends to submit to the quiet occupation of Petersburg by Grant, and we may therefore soon look for stirring intelligence from that quarter.

The Confederates have disappeared from before Butler's front, going probably to join the forces on the west of Petersburg.

The cavalry raids are not all working as smoothly as Grant would desire. Stanton has been very silent about Sheridan, but we now hear through Confederate sources that he has been met by the cavalry under Fitzhugh Lee and Hampton, who defeated him so severely that he was compelled to leave his dead and wounded on the field. Five hundred prisoners also were taken. Sheridan appears to have had any quantity of work cut out for him. He was to operate on the James River Canal, the Virginia Central Road, and also on the road between Lynchburg and Richmond. Where he was when he met with defeat is not stated in the brief despatch, but this is immaterial.

The *News* of to-day looks for disastrous news from Averill, Hunter, and Crook, who, at last accounts, appeared to be marching on Lynchburg. It regards the expedition as certainly approaching a trap, extrication from which will be difficult.

Gillmore has been relieved of his command. It was clear that he and Butler did not agree, but whether it was because of this, or the failure to take Petersburg when the movement was set on foot last week for this purpose, is not known. Poor Gillmore! He peppered the inhabitants of Charleston for months, and banged away generally among the forts which defend that city for a year, but only to meet with disgrace and a taunt from the Senate that he 'had done nothing.' Next we hear of him *under* Butler, doing nothing, it is alleged as usual, and now we hear that he is ordered to report at Fortress Monroe.

The death of Bishop Polk is announced in a Federal despatch from Sherman's army, but I can find no confirmation of it through Confederate channels. It is possible that it is an error. The *World* this morning is not so jubilant as it has been for a day or two past, and warns the country that it 'must prepare for possible disappointment.' I reckon so; for Grant is at this hour no nearer the capture of the Confederate capital than he was a month ago.

But why deceive the people at all? Why are the *Herald*, *Times*, and other lying sheets assuring their readers this morning that the game is up, and that the occupation of Richmond may be 'counted by days?' Is it to keep up the spirits of the people? If so, why does the $75,000,000 six per cent. gold loan go a-begging? The bids for this loan did not reach the amount asked for, despite the 'six per cent. in gold,' and this is pretty clear proof as to how the people feel upon the subject of Richmond's capture and the downfall of the rebellion. The bids made ranged from under par to 7 prem., but Chase has declined to accept any under 4 prem. This gives him about $10,000,000, or sufficient to last him, say, for ten days. It is now said that Chase will 'make proposals for a foreign loan,' from which it is supposed the rumours that arrangements were already or nearly concluded for one were unfounded.

Gold this (Saturday) morning has opened at 95¼; exchange on tenders, 216.

Middling cotton touched one dollar and a half a pound yesterday; but the market seemed a little giddy, and buyers withdrew.

THE HON. T. B. KING.—The *Savannah Republican* gives the following sketch of Mr. King, who lately died in Georgia:—'Mr. King was a native of Pennsylvania, but came to Georgia about forty years ago, when quite a young man. He married the daughter of the late Colonel William Page, of St. Simon's, and settled in Glynn county. He was a gentleman of liberal education and enlarged views, and about the year 1832 entered political life. In that or the succeeding year, we think, he represented the county of Glynn in the State Legislature; and, in 1834, and for several successive years, he was the State Senator from the same county. In politics he was of the Crawford and Troup school. When the nullification question arose, Mr. King allied himself to the State Rights party in Georgia; and in 1838 was elected, with the entire State Rights ticket, a member of Congress. He was in the House of Representatives for several consecutive terms, and was identified with the Whig party which elevated General Harrison to the Presidency. In Congress Mr. King was very useful, especially in connection with naval affairs and ocean steam navigation. It is admitted, on all hands, that he would have made an excellent Secretary of the Navy. On the accession of General Taylor to the Presidency, Mr. King was appointed Collector of the Port of San Francisco, in which office he continued about two years. During his whole career he was devoted to the cause of internal improvement, and he exercised much influence in the councils of the State, and also of the nation. On the secession of Georgia, he was sent by the State as Commissioner to Europe, and his correspondence in that capacity was marked by great ability and practical acquaintance with the laws of trade and the rules for international dealing. Ardently devoted to the cause and institutions of the South, he has passed away just as that cause seems on the verge of triumphant success, but leaving behind him the record of a useful man and a sagacious statesman.'

MONEY MARKET AND JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.

(From the *Owl*, July 6.)

THE crisis which the great development of the principle of joint-stock association has long threatened us with seems at last to have begun.

Political difficulties, and the troubled state of the Continent, have no doubt had some effect in bringing about this state of things; but the inherent rottenness of some of the schemes is in many cases quite sufficient to account for their collapse.

Among the most important of these undertakings which have just failed, under discreditable circumstances, is the 'Conference Corporation of London (Limited).' This company was formed for the supply of peace goods to the Continent, and started with an apparently respectable Board of Directors, while for a short time their shares were quoted at a premium. But it gradually oozed out that a gentleman of the name of Russell had been elected chairman, and the public began to lose confidence. The stock drooped, and, notwithstanding vigorous attempts to rig the market, at last fell to such a low point that transactions were impossible to arrange on any terms. Great dissensions arose at the Board, and finally, on last Saturday week, the concern was made bankrupt. The books have been placed in the hands of Messrs. Derby, Disraeli, and Co., the well-known accountants, but the assets are expected to be *nil*. . . . . .

We regret to hear unfavourable rumours respecting the position of that old-established concern, the Liberal Joint-Stock Government Corporation. It was established in the year 1859, and has given great satisfaction. But, latterly, we fear overtrading and an unfortunate connection with the Conference Corporation of London (Limited), by whose operations it has lost heavily, have materially endangered its position. The accounts are at present under examination, and will be reported on during this week. If the report be unfavourable, we understand that it is the intention of the Board to call a general meeting of the shareholders, and by their votes to stand or fall; and, if necessary, though we trust this may not be the case, to resign and allow the election of a new body of directors. We would suggest that if the gentleman whose name we have mentioned as having so deeply injured the credit of the insolvent Associated Conference Company were to resign, matters might, perhaps, be placed once more on a satisfactory footing.

THE ART OF BLOCKADE-RUNNING.—The Southern Correspondent of the *Times*, lately in Europe, has returned to the Confederate States, and written an excellent account of how he ran the blockade into Wilmington. His concluding observations are, we submit, worthy the attention of our Government. He says:—'I cannot leave the subject of the blockade without pointing the moral which is being taught by it, and which it is inconceivable why England does not take more pains to understand. There is no nation upon earth which has a tenth of the interest which England has in closely observing the working of the only blockade on a large and imperial scale which has been established since the introduction of steam navigation. It can scarcely be pretended that information in regard to the system of showing lights to guide incoming vessels, concerning the infinite intricacies of detail which experience has taught to the blockade-runners of Wilmington, Charleston, and Mobile, concerning the most favourable conditions of sea, sky, and tide for running out or coming in, can be obtained otherwise than upon Southern soil. Yet it is not deemed by the British Admiralty to be a matter of importance that they should be represented at Wilmington and elsewhere by one of our most accomplished naval officers. It is humiliating to be told, as I have been again and again, that no such emissary will be sent without the consent of Mr. Adams, and that this consent he will never give. But, great as is the concurrence of opinion among Englishmen in America upon the importance of this subject, there is but too much reason to fear that this blockade will be unheeded and its lessons unlearnt by competent English officials. It is idle for me to point out that not only is there opportunity for a naval officer to gain invaluable information, but that, in spite of the answer given three months ago by Lord de Grey to the effect that it was not important to send military officers to the South by reason of the inferiority of its resources, it is the opinion of every English officer who has been to the Southern States that there is infinitely more to be learnt here during a month than in the North during a year. It is, I think, pretty well admitted by this time that, as regards construction of guns or the architecture of ironclad Monitors, England has nothing to learn from the North. But in every other department of the vast science of war there is more to be gained as regards the present struggle by studying it from a Southern than from a Northern point of view. As an instance, it may be asked whether there is upon this continent anything to be compared in interest with an inside view of Charleston and Fort Sumter. It is the opinion of experienced judges that the earthworks around Richmond are the most formidable that modern experience has known. The novel system of defensive works around Mobile is described to me upon excellent testimony as the most instructive of studies for a military engineer. I know not whether there be truth in the assertion which has greeted me here that two French officers of ability are momentarily expected in the South, but it has always appeared to me incomprehensible that the French Emperor should have shown an apathy about this war which, mistaken as I hold it to be in England's case, admits, so far as England is concerned, of easy and plausible explanation.'

HOW MR. LINCOLN SHAKES HANDS.—The correspondent of the *New York World*, in his account of Mr. Lincoln's late visit to Philadelphia, writes: 'Mr. Lincoln passed some time in shaking hands. This salutation is with him a peculiarity. It is not the pump-handle "shake," nor a twist, nor a spasmodic motion from side to side, nor yet a reach towards the knee and a squeeze at arm's length. When Mr. Lincoln performs this rite, it becomes a solemnity. A ghastly smile overspreads his peculiar countenance; then, after an instant's pause, he suddenly thrusts his "flapper" at you as a sword is thrust in tierce; you feel your hand enveloped as in a fleshy vice, a cold clamminess overspreads your unfortunate digits; a corkscrew burrows its way from your finger nails to your shoulder, the smile disappears, and you know that you are unshackled. You carefully count your fingers to see that none of them are missing, or that they have not become assimilated in a common mass.'

MODEST.—The *New York Herald* thus commences a leader entitled 'The *Herald* and its Contemporaries:'—'It is very well known wherever newspapers are taken that the *Herald* is the best newspaper published in this country. It is also a better newspaper than any published in Europe.'

THE BATTLE OF MAY 12.

(From the Correspondent of the *Richmond Sentinel*.)

Hanover Junction, May 23, 1864,
Camp of Pegram's Brigade.

On yesterday I concluded my letter with some account of the heavy battle of Tuesday, the 10th, near Spottsylvania Court House.

The tremendous slaughter then inflicted on the enemy, and his total want of success, seemed to have greatly cooled his ardour, for on Wednesday all was quiet along the lines, except the habitual skirmishing, which, from its familiarity now, scarcely attracted attention. Towards evening, rumours of the retreat of the entire force of the enemy were freely circulated; and certainly from past experience, in our many conflicts with the 'Grand Army,' such a move seemed highly probable. Never before had the enemy been so universally repulsed with such tremendous slaughter, and so little impression made upon our lines. Up to this time the enemy's losses were estimated to be at least 35,000 men, while our own did not reach one-fourth that number.

Congratulations passed freely from mouths that on the morrow were to be sealed in death; and many a patriotic heart beat with joy in anticipation of the end of our great struggle, which, on the bloody 12th of May was frozen in the cold grasp of the unrelenting monster.

May 12, 1864, will be ever memorable and ever remembered, as the day of one of the most bloody and obstinate struggles which have ever marked the annals of war, or added fresh horrors to this most cruel contest.

Before daylight we were moved up to the support of Hayes' and Stafford's brigades in the works, and scarcely had the grey tinge of morning begun to dispel the darkness of a damp and drizzly night, when, after the three cheers which we knew to be the precursor of a charge, and a brief scattering fire on our right, we were astonished and mortified to see the troops in that direction pouring out of the works in the woods, showing that the enemy had there broken a passage. The enemy poured their concentrated masses through the gap, and, moving on the flank with great celerity, were swiftly driving all before them in panic and confusion.

Instantly Pegram's and Gordon's brigades were formed a few hundred yards to the rear of, and at right angles to, the line of works. All saw that a crisis was upon us. If we failed, the consequence would be disastrous in the extreme.

In this exigency General Lee rode forward in front of our line, his position being opposite at the time to the colours of the 49th regiment of Pegram's brigade, and only a few yards from where your correspondent stood. Not a word did he say, but simply took off his hat, and as he sat on his charger, I never saw a man look so noble, or a spectacle so impressive.

At this interesting moment our gallant Gordon, spurring his foaming charger to the front, seized the reins of General Lee's horse, and, turning him round, said, 'General, these are Virginians! These men have never failed! They never will! Will you, boys?' Loud cries of 'No! no! General Lee to the rear.' 'Go back! Go back!' 'General Lee to the rear!' burst from along the lines; and as one led the General's horse to the rear, General Gordon gave the command, 'Forward, charge!' And with a shout and yell the brigades dashed on, through bog and swamp, and briars and undergrowth, to the breastworks. The enemy, struck with dismay, start to flee; but we are upon them like a storm, and their first line of battle withers before our impetuous onset and the cool marksmanship of our men. 'Hurrah! the works are ours!' But we stop not. Some of the enemy, more obstinate than the rest, show fight with bayonets, but it is soon over; and dashing over the first line we pursue to the second. Here we encounter another Yankee line of battle, but our onset is not stayed. They stand their ground until our scattered but still advancing line gets within ten steps, and then, without having fired, turn to run. Few, however, escape; and ordering those who remain to surrender and go to the rear, a portion of the brigade, the 31st and 49th Virginia regiments, dash on, and form our line more than one hundred yards in advance of our outside entrenchments.

The fight there is hot, but we wish to give the rest of our men time to form in the works behind us, ere falling back. So we lie down, and for two hours repel every attempt to move us, although exposed to both front and flank fire. Seeing a strong line moving on our right flank, and our men having established themselves in the works, we fell back to the outside lines, and there remained until night, repulsing every attempt to charge us out. The works which the enemy had captured contained an angle in the form of an A, with the point towards the enemy; and in the charge our line was not sufficiently long to extend over the extreme points of the angle. Attempts were made by other portions of our troops to recover this point; but they failed to dislodge the enemy, who maintained possession of about three hundred yards of our works in that quarter. This angle was made in order to embrace a hill in our works. Many say this was bad engineering; but I am no judge of that.

During the night we fell back, under orders, and threw up a line of entrenchments across the base of the 'A,' thus throwing out the point held by the enemy.

Considering the length of time we were actively engaged—from daylight until dark—and the large force opposed to us, our loss was small, not exceeding 400 men in the brigade. I place the enemy's loss low when I estimate their killed in front of our brigade at 200.

We recaptured a number of pieces of artillery, but, for some reason unexplained, they were not brought off when we changed our line, and again fell into the hands of the enemy.

The loss in Johnston's division was probably between 3,000 and 3,500, including over 2,000 prisoners. I suppose our whole loss, during the day, amounted to between 6,000 and 7,000. The enemy state their loss at from 18,000 to 25,000. They captured 20 pieces of artillery. This is their 'great victory!'

A Wish.—The *Boston Commercial Bulletin*, after announcing the purchase of the Mersey rams by the British Government, adds: 'To our own Navy Department this will be a great relief, for they are as unprepared to meet the rams as they are to capture the *Alabama* and her consorts. We wish they would prevail upon the British Government to purchase the rebel ram *Albemarle* also, and the other rams in Charleston and Mobile.'

Federal Losses.—A despatch dated Mobile, May 29, and published in the *Wilmington Journal* on May 31, says: 'A Confederate major who crossed over yesterday reports as follows: Seven gunboats and seven transports were captured on Red River, and the whole number of prisoners in Arkansas and Louisiana was 16,000. On the 7th instant two gunboats and three transports were captured on the Colcirzo River.'

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Ships Arrived.

At Gravesend.—June 29: The Elliott, from Demerara. The George Reynolds, from Barbadoes. The Canada, from Antigua.—June 30: The John and Mary, from Montevideo. The Hannah, from Trinidad. The Jessie, The Witch of the Wave, from St. Vincent.—July 1: The D. B. R., from Trinidad. —July 3: The Esterias, from Porto Rico. The Frey, from Havana. The Falcon (steamer), from Cadiz. July 4: The Anonimo, from Cuba.—July 5: The Caroline, The Scotia, The San Fernando, from Havana. The Beta (steamer), from Oporto. The Christopher, from St. John's. The Eliza, from Demerara. The Rhoda, from Nassau. The William and Mary, from Oporto. —July 6: The Neptune (steamer), from Havre.

At Deal.—July 4: The San Fernando, from Havana. The Granite City, from Callao. The Caroni, from Havana. The Johnny, from Oporto. The Scotia, from St. John's.—July 6: The Clarissa, from Nassau. The Ada (steamer), from Lisbon.

At Liverpool.—June 30: The Salopian, from Trinidad. The British Queen (steamer), from Havre.—July 1: The Morton Castle, from Matamoras. The Simon, from Bilboa. The Annie and Ella, from Miramichi.—July 3: The Forester, from Trinidad. The Anne Sherwood, from Cuba. The Bella Donna, from Bermuda. The Wanderer, from St. John's. The Clio, from Prince Edward Island. The Zampa, from Pernambuco. The Fleetwing, from St. Andrew's, N.B.—July 4: The Zouave, from Jamaica. The Staffordshire, The Thetis, from St. John's. The Princess Royal, from Bermuda. The British Empire, from St. John's.—July 5: Nauphante, from Caldera. The Hamston, from Pernambuco. The Erromanga, from Matanzas. The Helena, from Demerara. The Messina, from St. Thomas. The Amadora, from Cadiz. The Dom Pedro (steamer), from Lisbon. —July 6: The Ann Logan, from Porto Cabello.

At Falmouth.—July 30: The Asterias, from Porto Rico. The Beausire, from Callao. The Eclair, from Valparaiso. The Frey, from Havana.—June 4: The Anne, from Porto Rico. The Fink, from Jamaica. The Republic, from Cadiz. The Theodosia, from Porto Rico. The Margaret, from Rio Janeiro. The Era, from Porto Rico. The Queen of the Exe, from Havana.—July 5: The Jessie Banfield, from Porto Cabello.—July 6: The Leda, from Havana.

At Bristol.—June 30: The Jane Symons, from Barbadoes. —July 1: The Williams, from Pernambuco.—July 2: The Koh-i-noor, from Matanzas, The Robert Sims, from St. John's.

At Plymouth.—July 5: The Cambria, from Matanzas.

At Cardiff.—July 2: The Ann Catherine, from Bilboa.—July 4: The St. Branock, The John and Mary, from Bilboa.

At Newport.—June 30: The Persia, for Cape de Verds.—July 2: The Nautilus, The Citadella, for St. Thomas.—July 4: The Virginia, for Buenos Ayres. The Eastern State, for Bermuda.

At Southampton.—July 2: The Touring (steamer), from Oporto. The Parana (steamer), from Rio Janeiro.

At Llanelly.—July 3:—The Star of Hope, from St. John's.

At Shields.—July 2: The Rouen (steamer), from Havre.—July 6: The Four Sisters, from Havre.

At Youghal.—July 3: The Nameless from Miramichi.

At Queenstown.—July 2: The Resurrezione from Buenos Ayres. The Ann Taylor from Barbadoes.—July 4: The Julius from Buenos Ayres. The Gesina Hillagonda from Rio Grande. The Duc Sorrelle from Montevideo. The Immanuel from Bahia. The Sarah Smith from Porto Rico. The Aheraman from Callao. The Island Light from St. Andrew's, N.B. The A. D. Vance (steamer) for Bermuda.—July 6: The Carl August from Buenos Ayres.

At Swansea.—July 2: The Galatea from Bilboa.—July 3: The Nummer Funf from Miramichi. The Mercury, Ebbw Vale, from Bilboa.

At Kingston.—July 1: The Lillian from St. John's.

At Waterford.—June 30: The Stag (steamer) for Nassau.

At Hull.—July 1: The Meteor, from Miramichi.—July 3: The Titiana, from Miramichi.

At Clyde.—July 1: The Jane, from Cuba.—July 4: The Erinagh, from Demerara.—July 5: The Sarah Paxton, from Cardenas, The William Connell (steamer), The Blanche (steamer), from Havre.—July 6: The Gondola, from Havana.

At Portsmouth.—July 2: H. M. S. Immortalité, from Bermuda.

At Cowes.—July 4: The Maldon, from Havre.

At Leith.—July 2: The Strand, from Havre.—July 3: The Skiddaw, from Valparaiso. The Agnes, from Pernambuco.

At Dublin.—July 2: The Wilhelmina, from St. John's.—July 3: The Sea Queen, from Barbadoes.

At Greenock.—July 28: The paddle-wheel steamer, Fanny (formerly the Sirius), built by Messrs. Caird and Co., arrived from Nassau to get her boilers put in order and receive other repairs. She has made ten successful trips from Nassau to Wilmington. The Fanny measures 803 tons.

At Bermuda.—May 20 to June 15: The Thistle (steamer), 927 bales of cotton. The Atalanta (steamer), 540 bales of cotton, 185 tierces, and 527 boxes of tobacco. The Pevensey (steamer), 1,003 bales of cotton and 407 boxes of tobacco. The Lynx (steamer), 621 bales of cotton, The City of Petersburgh (steamer), 810 bales of cotton and 32 boxes of tobacco, The Index (steamer), 803 bales of cotton and 208 boxes of tobacco, The Maria Celestia (steamer), 594 bales of cotton and 4 barrels of turpentine, from Wilmington. The Empire, The Isaac Vandyke, The Fox (steamer), The Agnes, The Rowen (steamer), The Harkaway, The Lillian (steamer), The Hound, The Brisk, The Susan, The Adeona, The Henrietta, The Sovereign, The Ella, The barque Lillian, The Alice Wilson, The Pallas, The Prima Donna, The Sally E. Dunlop, The Faith, The Magnet, The Nassau, The Florie (steamer), The Hamilton, The Vingolf, The Nancy Mills, The Maria Victoria, The Carl Emil, The Graham, The Mary. The Pleiades, The Caledonia (steamer), The Village Girl, The Helen (steamer), The Devonshire, The Penguin, The Excelsior, The Eliza Barss, The Tees, The Revere, The Pallas, The Rubemon, The Princess Royal, The North Heath (steamer), The Pevensey (steamer), The Saladin (steamer), disabled, The Catherine, The Jabez, The Mary Jane, The Little Hetty (steamer), The Ocean Sprite, The Sunny South, The Tweed, The St. Virgin, The Famine (steamer).

Ships Sailed.

Liverpool.—June 29: The Lady of the Lake, for Montevideo. The Glenhuntly, for Valparaiso. The Bessie, The Countess of Sefton, for Rio Janeiro. The Virginia, for Buenos Ayres. The Sunnyside, for Bermuda. The Arthur White, for Havana. The S. C. Grant, for Rio Janeiro. The Floating Cloud, for Bahia. The Mary Jones, for Nassau. The Advance, for Bermuda.—June 30: The Gwine, for Bilboa. Her Majesty, for St. Thomas. The Flying Foam, for Bahia. The Frankfort (steamer), for Oporto. The Rhine, for Havana. The Geelong, for Buenos Ayres.—July 1: The Cognac (steamer), for Cadiz. The Agatha, for St. Thomas.—July 2: The Muscogus, for Miramichi.—July 4: The Tempter, for Oporto. The British Queen (steamer), for Havre.—July 5: The Bolivar (steamer, for St. Thomas. The Linwood, for Matamoras.

Gravesend.—July 1: The Port Royal, for Jamaica.

Deal.—June 30: The Arcadian, for Miramichi. The Alfredo, for Porto Rico.—July 2: The Eumore, for Barbadoes. The Hasty, for Lisbon.—The Acaso, for Bahia. The Tuscan, for St. Kitt's. The Prince Albert, for Jamaica. The Haweudale, for Canaries.—July 6: The Matilda, for Trinidad. The Sir George F. Seymour, for Bermuda.

Southampton.—July 2: The Seine (steamer), for West Indies.

Pill.—July 4: The Fanny, for Barbadoes.

Sunderland.—June 27: The Hubertas, for Cadiz.

Clyde.—July 1: The De Brus (steamer), for Oporto.—July 2: The Henrietta, for Matanzas.—July 6: The Thalestris, for Demerara. The Levant, for Matanzas.

Salcombe.—July 4: The Elinor, for Nassau.

Cardiff.—June 28: The Mary Block, for Pernambuco. The Aline, for Nassau.—June 30: The Libertadas, for Rio Janeiro. The Adolphe, The Diosma, The Berbice, The Osprey, for Havana. The Resource, for Madeira. The Paragon, The Argo, for Bilboa.—July 1: The St. Pierre, for St. Thomas. The Margaretha, for Cuba. The Ida, for Cape de Verd. The Rose, for Lisbon. The Alexandrina, for Bilboa. The Jacintha, for St. Michael's.—July 2: The Savonnais, for Havana. The George, for Cuba.—July 4: The Constance, for Havana.

Milford.—June 30: The Dakotah, for Havana.

Troon.—July 4: The Isis, for Demerara.

Swansea.—June 28: The Onward, for St. John's. The Azorian Lass, for Cadiz.—July 1: The Ariel, for Cadiz.—July 2: The Augusta Schneider, for Cuba.—July 5: The Guayacan, for Caldera.

Newport.—June 29: The William for Bilboa.

Belfast.—June 6: The Fauna for Miramichi.

Holyhead.—June 29: The Ralston for Havana.

Shields.—July 2: The Alliance for Oporto.

Queenstown.—July 3: The A. D. Vance (steamer) for Bermuda. The Ailsa Craig (steamer) for Lisbon.

Hull.—July 1: The Laura Williams for Oporto.

West Hartlepool.—July 1: The Princess Royal for Lisbon.

Ships Loading.

At London.—For New York: The Washington (mail steamer) from Havre, July 27: Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For West Indies: The Louisiane (mail steamer) from St. Nazaire, July 16; Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For Nassau: The Star of the East, St. Katharine's Docks; Davison & Co. The Esperance, St. Katharine's Docks; Davison & Co. The Flying Cloud, St. Katharine's Docks; J. Worley. The Rhoda, St. Katherine's Docks; J. Worley. —For Bermuda: The Dieppe, West India Docks; Stringer & Co. The Jane Smith, The Mystery, The Francis Drake, The Jane Goodyear, The Trio.—For Lisbon: The Oporto, West India Docks, Stringer & Co.—For Lisbon and Madeira: The Lisboa (steamer).—For Havre: The Neptune (steamer), July 10, twelve at noon, from St. Katharine's Wharf; The Young May, The Mark That, The Alert, The Bounty of Providence, The Seagull.

At Liverpool.—For Bermuda: The Thomas Edwards, Peniston, Westhead, & Co.; The Convoy, Peniston, Westhead, & Co.; The Harvest, The Solway Queen.—For Nassau: The Balkan, The Harriett.—For Matamoras: The Florence, The Oleander, The William Landreth, The Christiana Carnall, The Ruth.—For Havre: The British Queen.

At St. Thomas.—The Juno, The Enthusiast, The A. Magdalena, The Emile, The Emilie.

At Charleston.—June 12: The Fox (steamer).

At St. Vincent.—June 15: The British American, The Arbutus, The Peter Symons, The Elizabeth, The Sparkling Dew, The Island Home, The Ceres, The St. Peter, The Cordialidade, The Ariadne, The Johore, The Cowlity, The Louisa, The Lanarkshire.

The Danish Blockade.

Kiel, July 2.

The blockade was reestablished on June 26; but the passage from here through the Canal, via Tonning, is open.

France, Mexico, and the United States.—The *New York Herald* says: 'The Mexicans are evidently averse to the ruler forced upon them by the bayonets of the French, and they will plot and rebel against him until the time shall have arrived when we shall come forward and rid Mexico of those filibusters who have so unceremoniously seized upon and overthrown her Government. This piece of work we have before us.'

Messrs. Lincoln and Johnson.—The age of statesmen is gone; the age of rail-splitters and tailors, of buffoons, boors, and fanatics, has succeeded. God forbid that we should reproach Mr. Lincoln or Mr. Johnson with the narrowness of their early circumstances, which precluded opportunities of culture. But when men are proposed for the highest and most responsible offices in the Republic, there necessarily arises the question of fitness—a complex question relating in part to training and antecedents, but turning, in the main, on the possession of present qualification. The problems presented for solution within the next four years are more complex and difficult, they require a larger grasp and deeper penetration than any which have ever been offered to the consideration of statesmen. But Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Johnson are both men of mediocre talents, neglected education, narrow views, deficient information, and coarse, vulgar manners. A statesman is presumed to be a man of some depth of thought and extent of knowledge; profoundly versed, if not in history, at least in the policy, resources, and aims of all the leading contemporary governments of the world; in the character, qualifications, and idiosyncrasies of their public men, and in the bearings of their most important measures and projects on the development of commerce, the growth of civilisation, and the progress or retardation of free principles of government. It is needless to say that neither in this sense nor in any high sense are the Republican nominees statesmen. Except a superficial knowledge of our domestic politics, such as may be picked up in the newspapers, and in intercourse with the vulgar herd of office-seekers, Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Johnson have no attainments to distinguish them from the mass of ordinary citizens. —*New York World*, June 9.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

THE money market has been in a very quiet state throughout the week. The debates in Parliament, and the tone of foreign political affairs, cause a partial pause in business, and consequently the transactions continue limited. We are now so closely approaching the payment of the dividends, that it is expected the rates of discount will be easier in the course of the next few days. The late high range of quotations at the Bank has had the effect of repressing speculation, and has brought things into a comparatively healthy situation. No doubt there will be a tone of quietude until after the holidays, which will commence immediately the issue of the present contest in the House of Commons shall have been ascertained. The terms for first-class bills are slightly touching downwards, and the quotation is about 5¾ per cent. From that point up to 6 per cent. is the fair average price in Lombard Street, and the supply of capital is if anything gradually increasing. The efflux of the dividends will, it is thought, have a favourable influence; and should the season for the harvest continue propitious, it is not improbable we shall see a further rise in all classes of securities. The profits of the Joint Stock Banks during the first half-year it is said will be enormous. They must certainly have concluded a good business, and having taken in money at 5 per cent., and charged 9 per cent. the margin of return has proved necessarily large. From 6 per cent., the highest quotation for short loans, at the Stock Exchange, the rates have dropped to 4 and 4½ per cent., and the quantity of capital seeking employment has become augmented.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The tone of the market for bullion and specie has rather improved during the week, and instead of withdrawals from, bullion is again finding its way into, the bank, though at present the amount sent in has not been large, about 160,000*l.*, whilst there has not been any taken out. The arrivals of specie have been very small, only 69,605*l.*, of which 25,000*l.* was from New Zealand; 2,813*l.* from the Brazils, and 41,792*l.* from New York. The *Baroda* steamer, which sailed for the east on the 4th, took out only 27,099*l.*, of which 20,992*l.* was in silver and 6,107*l.* was in gold. This amount was divided as follows: 607*l.* to India; 25,992*l.* to China, the Straits, and Japan; and 500*l.* to Galle. The silver market remains very quiet; the bar silver brought by the last West Indian mail has been sold at 61⅛*s.* per oz. being a decline of ⅛*d.* on previous sales. The few Mexican dollars brought by the same packet have been purchased for the China market at 64*d.* per oz., which is an advance of ¾*d.* on prior sales. Telegraphic advices from Melbourne announce that the shipments of gold during the month of May amounted to 24,750 oz., of the value of 99,000*l.*

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The English Stock market has not been particularly animated during the week, business being to a great extent impeded through the same causes that have influenced the market for some time past, viz., the unsettled state of political affairs both at home and abroad. The dealers show no disposition whatever to speculate, consequently the transactions were greatly restricted. Prices, however, have slightly improved, and the market closes remarkably firm, consols being at 90⅞ to ¼ ex div. for money, and the same for the account, which is an advance during the week of ⅛ per cent. Exchequer Bills keep steady, the March issue at 8*s.* to 3*s.* dis., and those of June at 5*s.* dis. to par. There has been rather more animation exhibited in the Foreign Stock market, and in most instances prices are better. There has been a rise in Greek stock of 1½ per cent., of ¼ to ½ per cent. in Spanish, and ¼ per cent. in Turkish, but Mexican are unchanged. Greek closed at 25¼ to 25¾; Mexican, 44⅞; Spanish Passives, 29¼ to 29½; ditto Certificates, 10¼ to 10¾; Turkish Six per Cents. of 1854, 90½ to 91½; and those of 1862, at 68 to 68½ ex div.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The evident indications of the failure of Grant's campaign in Virginia has given more life to the transactions in this security; the value has, moreover, advanced, and we close firm at 67 to 68.

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

SIR,—Some slight misapprehension having lately arisen about the position of holders of the Confederate 7 per cent. Loan, who wish to convert their bonds into cotton, permit me to reply through your columns to the inquiries which are addressed to me on this subject.

The Confederate Government is bound by the terms of the contract with Messrs. Erlanger & Co. to deliver the cotton in redemption of these bonds, after peace 'in the ports of Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, or New Orleans;' during the war 'at points in the interior of the country within ten miles of a railroad or stream navigable to the ocean.' In practice, the Confederate Government even exceeds its obligations under this contract; and to facilitate the conversion of the bonds, it has provided that certain duly authenticated certificates of deposit should have the same validity as the bonds themselves; and in exchange of these certificates it has in many cases delivered cotton, when it was practicable, at the ports of shipment, the bondholders defraying the additional expense of inland transportation. This has been extensively done at the port of Wilmington, although that port is not among those specified in the contract, until the stock of Government cotton there has become exhausted. The proximity of that port to the theatre of operations in Virginia and Georgia, and the consequent strain upon the means of transportation for military purposes, will render it difficult, for the present, to replenish the stock, and it is therefore probable that the Government will be temporarily unable to accommodate bondholders at that point. At other ports, notably Mobile, these reasons do not apply, and one vessel, exclusively engaged in exporting Loan Cotton, has just completed her fifth round trip between Mobile and Havana. Other vessels plying between neutral ports and Texas, have also been eminently successful.

I need scarcely repeat that the Government is anxious, not merely to comply with the strict letter of its contract, but to afford to the bondholders in addition every facility and convenience consistent with its military necessities. In consequence of this liberal policy, over 300,000*l.* have already been converted into cotton, or exchanged for certificates for that purpose. The semi-annual interest, and the dividend of the sinking-fund, due September 1, upon the amount of the loan remaining in circulation, is now in the hands of the agents of the contractors, Messrs. J. Henry Schröder & Co.—Yours respectfully,

C. J. MCRAE,
Agent for the Loan.

17 Savile Row, W. July 6, 1864.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

Although there have been a few more dealings this week in American Government and Railway Securities, they have been chiefly caused by a pressure of sales, holders appearing disposed to clear themselves of this description of property, in the present unsettled state of affairs in America, more particularly as all the recent accounts have proved so very unsatisfactory as to the progress of the Northern army. Prices have generally declined, and the tendency is towards further depression. The business transactions comprise Virginia State six per cent. Stock at 31. Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York section, at 76, 74, 73½, 73, and 73½. Do. do. Pennsylvania section, at 73½ and 73¼. Erie, $100 shares, all paid, at 50 and 51. Illinois Central seven per cent., at 55¾. Do. $100 shares, $90 paid, at 39 dis. Do. do., all paid, at 60, 58½, and 57; and Pennsylvania Railway, second mortgage, at 83.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

Within the last day or two business in the Railway Share Market has become exceedingly active. Dealings to a large extent have taken place, and prices have generally advanced, the market closing with a firm tendency. Since Wednesday last there has been an improvement in Great Eastern, Great North of Scotland, West Midland (Oxford), and West Cornwall, to the extent of 3 per cent.; of 2½ per cent. in Midland; of 2 per cent. in Great Western, Metropolitan, London and Blackwall, North Eastern (York), South Devon, and South Eastern; of 1½ per cent. in Lancashire and Yorkshire; of 1 per cent. in Bristol and Exeter, Edinburgh and Glasgow, Glasgow and South Western, Chatham and Dover, London and North Western, North Eastern (Leeds), Sheffield, North British, North Eastern (Berwick), and North London; and of ½ per cent. in East Anglican, Stockton and Darlington, and North Staffordshire. In foreign railway shares a good business has also been transacted at rather improved quotations, and for those connected with the British possessions, there have been increased inquiries, prices showing a general improvement, the market closing very firm.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

At a general meeting of the proprietors of the Land Mortgage Bank of India, Mr. Laing in the chair, the resolutions agreed to at the previous meeting on June 17, authorising the Directors to exercise the powers given by 'The Companies' Seal Act,' were adopted and confirmed. The Chairman briefly alluded to the great loss of time, expense, and inconvenience that would be incurred were the directors compelled to have every mortgage executed in the usual way, stating that, by the adoption of these resolutions, the Board of Directors would be empowered to stamp the mortgage with the official seal of the Company, at any of the branches, thereby making the document complete. Special seals, the Chairman added, would be prepared for each of the Presidencies—Bengal, Madras, and Bombay. At the half-yearly meeting of the shareholders in the London and Brazilian Bank, the accounts showed that the net profits for the half-year have been 15,531*l.*, after making due allowance for bad debts and contingencies. The chairman, Mr. Bischoffsheim, stated that out of the net profits it was proposed to pay a dividend of 1*l.* 1*s.* per share, being equal to 6 per cent. per annum. Some of the branches had only been open a very short time. In Brazil and Oporto, the business was steadily increasing. Some of the shareholders complained of the changes at the head office, but it was not to be expected that they could get good officers without paying them well. He could not promise them any reduction under that head, as when the business increased the charges would also increase. The report was then unanimously adopted.—At an extraordinary general meeting of the proprietors of the Silver Indiarubber Works and Telegraph Cable Company, Dr. Beattie in the chair, resolutions were unanimously passed authorising an increase of the capital of the company by 500,000*l.*, of which one half is to be immediately called up, making with the original capital issued 500,000*l.*, the nominal capital being 1,000,000*l.*, and changing the name of the company to 'The India Rubber and Gutta Percha and Telegraph Works Company (Limited)'—At an extraordinary meeting of the shareholders of the London Bank of Scotland, the agreement entered into by the directors for an amalgamation with the Mercantile and Exchange Bank was confirmed. It appears that 15,000 new shares out of the 18,000 will be issued to the shareholders of the amalgamated bank at 2*l.* premium. The half-yearly meeting of the Colonial Bank took place to-day, when the report presented showed that the net profits for the half-year, after making allowances for bad and doubtful debts, amounted to 36,217*l.*, out of which an ordinary dividend of 6 per cent. for the half-year ending December 31 last, being at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum; and a bonus of 1 per cent. was declared, leaving a balance to be carried forward of 1,217*l.*

TENDERS FOR BILLS ON INDIA.

The biddings for 3,000,000 rupees in bills on India took place to-day at the Bank of England. The proportions allotted were: To Calcutta, 1,632,000 rupees; to Bombay, 1,200,000 rupees; and to Madras, 168,000 rupees. The minimum price was, as before, 1*s.* 11½*d.* per rupee on Calcutta and Madras, and 1*s.* 11¾*d.* on Bombay. The applications within the limits amounted to 171 lacs. Tenders on Calcutta and Madras at 1*s.* 11¾*d.* will receive about 31 per cent.; on Bombay at 2*s.* about 21 per cent.; and all above those prices in full.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

The prospectus has been issued of the Opera Company (Limited), the proposed capital being limited in the first instance to 30,000*l.*, in 6,000 shares of 5*l.* each. The Company is formed for the purpose of carrying out with extended provisions the objects sought to be obtained by the English Opera Association, which is now in process of winding up. The first operations of the Company are to consist of the production and performance in this country of English operas, of adaptations from the foreign schools, and other musical purposes. The directors have entered into a contract with Mr. Gye for the use of Covent Garden Theatre for a term of years during the autumn and winter months.—The Residential Chambers Company is announced, with a capital of 70,000*l.*, in shares of 20*l.* each, for the purpose of erecting a building in Victoria Street, in which apartments are to be let, either furnished or unfurnished, in suites of two or three rooms. Public dining, smoking and reading rooms are also to be provided. The prospectus of the Société Générale de l'Empire Ottoman, an important institution for Turkey, has been issued under very influential auspices, with statistics especially approved by the Ottoman Government. The capital is to be 2,000,000*l.*, in 100,000 shares of 20*l.* each.—The Colonial and General Gas Company (Limited) are in the market for the purpose of raising a capital of 250,000*l.*, in 10,000 shares of 25*l.* each. Concessions have already been obtained for Murcia, Ajaccio, Bastia, Ferrol, and St. Espiritu, and negotiatiations for similar purposes in various other localities are being carried forward.—The prospectus has been issued of the Gas Products Utilising Company (Limited). It is proposed to raise a capital of 150,000*l.*, in 15,000 shares of 10*l.* each. The object is to purchase the freehold manufactory, plant, and business belonging to Mr. A. A. Croll, of the Metropolitan Alum Works, and to develop them on an extensive scale.—The St. Nazaire Company (Limited) has just been brought forward, the capital asked for being 600,000*l.*, with a first issue of 300,000*l.* in 15,000 shares of 20*l.* each. The objects of the undertaking are the purchase of land at St. Nazaire, a rising port on the French Atlantic coast, to carry out certain concessions granted by the municipality, and to make improvements in the town and port. It will also make advances on merchandise and other property.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

Business in these departments still drags on heavily, and but little improvement is expected until the debate at present occupying Parliament is disposed of. Meantime holders of produce in general show confidence in the market, and do not hurry forward supplies. Prices are, consequently, secured from any serious depression, although they are in some instances easier. Deliveries of most kinds of produce continue very good, but owing to recent liberal arrivals, stocks of some few articles have increased, and generally the quantities in store are quite up to the average of late years, although not in all cases equal to those of 1863. During the past few days the grain trade has manifested increased heaviness, and foreign wheats have given way fully 1*s.* per quarter, the trading of the market being still downwards to-day. The crop accounts do not return the estimates of the yield so high as recently, and those most general place it at not above an average, and therefore short of last year's. Oilcake has been in good demand, and has realised steady prices. In provisions a moderate business is passing. Foreign butters have risen in value 4*s.* per cwt. Of American there is none here. The cheese trade is quiet. The first arrivals of new grass from Holland have opened at 50*s.*, 54*s.* being an average price. The quality is reported as fair for first imports. The bacon market is dull, and Irish sides are offering at 70*s.* on board. The only American bacon here consists of short middles, rib in, for which 42*s.* per cwt. may be quoted. There is still an absence of demand for navy provisions. Petroleum has been sold to a fair extent, and there are still buyers of American refined at 2*s.* 2*d.* on the spot. For the last three months 2*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* 4½*d.* are present quotations. Crude remains at 19*l.* 10*s.* per tun. Linseed oil has further declined to 37*s.* 6*d.*; pale rape offers at 45*s.* 6*d.*, and brown at 42*s.* 6*d.*; olive oil meets only a retail demand at late rates; sperm is quoted 70*l.* per tun nominally. Gums of all kinds are firm, and Arabics realise very long prices. In drugs there is not much passing. Camphor is obtainable at 4*l.* 10*s.* per cwt. for best quality, and lower rates are expected. Chemicals are also dull. Chlorate of potash is scarce, and brings 13½*d.* to 14*d.* Sulphate of quinine, after declining to 5*s.* 8*d.*, has advanced to 6*s.* per oz. for French. The sugar market has further receded 6*d.* to 1*s.* per cwt., but there were indications of improvement in the demand to-day. Coffee maintains its value firmly. Tea sells heavily and at barely late rates. There have been several fluctuations in the metal trade. English tin has been reduced 4*l.* per ton, making common block 104*l.*, and bar 105*l.* Banca has been sold at 106*l.* down to 103*l.*, and closes with holders asking 104*l.* Scotch pig iron, after dropping to 57*s.* 6*d.*, has to-day recovered to 58*s.* 6*d.* per ton.

LIVERPOOL, Wednesday, July 6.—There has been rather an increased trade demand for cotton during nearly the whole of the week, and in the early part prices for all the best descriptions advanced from ⅛*d.* to ¼*d.* per lb.; but although there has not since been any further material rise, prices remain exceedingly firm. Business is to some extent impeded in consequence of the general anxiety with reference to the result of the pending debate in Parliament; and till it is decided whether the country is to be disturbed this year by a general election, it is not likely that there will be much doing. American cotton continues to be enquired for, but holders do not appear very anxious to part with their stocks under existing circumstances. The sales this week have amounted to 70,000 bales, of which 30,000 have been on speculation and for export. The total sales this year to the present time have been 1,469,210 bales, against 1,089,710 to the corresponding period of 1863. There have been imported this year, so far, 1,170,873 bales, against 793,666 bales to the like period last year. This year the exports have been 261,279 bales, whilst in 1863 they were 233,574 bales. The quantity taken for consumption this year has been 865,800 bales, against 532,837 bales last year. The quantity taken on speculation this year has been 216,110 bales, and in 1863 245,200 bales. The computed stocks at the present time are 321,524 bales; at the same period last year there were 367,972 bales. The latest quotations were, American descriptions, 29½*d.* to 30½*d.*; Peninsular, 28½*d.* to 30⅝*d.*; Maranhams, 30½*d.* to 32*d.*; Maceio, 28½*d.* to 28¾*d.*; Bahia, 28¼*d.* to 28½*d.*; Egyptian, 19*d.* to 36*d.*; Smyrna, 19*d.* to 21½*d.*; Surat, 10*d.* to 24*d.*; Bengal, 13¼*d.* to 17*d.*; Scinde, 13¼*d.* to 16¾*d.*; and Japan, 20½*d.*

The markets at Manchester have this week shown some improvement, in consequence of the better aspect of the Liverpool cotton market. Shipping yarns have been largely looked after, and some extensive orders have been placed, in most instances at an improvement of about ½*d.* per lb., and the market closes with considerable firmness. The chief orders have been for the India, China, and German markets. The market for Scotch yarns remains quiet; but for good qualities of yarn for the home trade the market is very strong, at a slight improvement in prices, and ordinary yarns have been a little more enquired after. The market for cloths has also assumed a more cheerful appearance; a greater disposition has been shown to transact business on a moderate scale, particularly for goods in stock, but at prices not beyond those current last week. The dealings, however, have been far more limited than would have been the case had not manufacturers, in almost all cases, demanded higher rates. Although the market has improved very much in its general aspect, the aggregate of business has been moderate, most of the transactions having been for small lots on hand. Among the purchasers have been some from the Brazils. It is stated that the production of goods is at the present time rather considerable, and there are 368,000 operatives at work, of whom 288,869 are on full time; but it is rumoured that some mills at Stalybridge and other places are likely soon to be stopped again. The closing quotations were—26⅞ in. grey printers, 8*s.* 5*d.* to 8*s.* 8*d.*; 27 in. ditto, 13*s.* 9*d.* to 14*s.* 10½*d.*; ⅞ grey madrapollams, 7*s.* 7½*d.* to 10*s.* 1½*d.*; ⅞ grey printers, 11*s.* 7½*d.* to 18*s.*; ⅝ grey shirtings, 12*s.* 9*d.* to 26*s.* 9*d.*; water twists, 2*s.* 5*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*, according to quality; and mule twists, from 1*s.* 10*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.*

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As I shall have no opportunity to thank Mr. Adams for his handsome present, I beg that you will do so for me, in my name, whenever it may be in your power.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

Colonel J. GORGAS, Chief of Ordnance, Richmond. (Signed) R. E. LEE, General.

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(Signed) J. GORGAS, Colonel, Chief of Ordnance.

London, Jan. 9, 1864.

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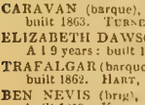

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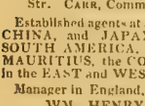

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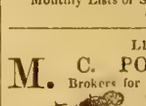

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A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

VOL. IV.—No. 116.] LONDON: THURSDAY EVENING, JULY 14, 1864. [PRICE 6D.

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MANIFESTO OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

JOINT RESOLUTIONS DECLARING THE DISPOSITION OF PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES IN RELATION TO THE EXISTING WAR WITH THE UNITED STATES.*

Whereas: It is due to the great cause of humanity and civilisation, and especially to the heroic sacrifices of their gallant army in the field, that no means, consistent with a proper self-respect and the approved usages of nations, should be omitted by the Confederate States to enlighten the public opinion of the world with regard to the true character of the struggle in which they are engaged, and the dispositions, principles, and purposes by which they are actuated; therefore,

Resolved by the Congress of the Confederate States of America: That the following manifesto be issued in their name, and by their authority, and that the President be requested to cause copies thereof to be transmitted to our commissioners abroad, to the end that the same may be laid before foreign governments.

Manifesto of the Congress of the Confederate States of America relative to the existing war with the United States.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America, acknowledging their responsibility to the opinion of the civilised world, to the great law of Christian philanthropy, and to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, for the part they have been compelled to bear in the sad spectacle of war and carnage which this continent has, for the last three years, exhibited to the eyes of afflicted humanity, deem the present a fitting occasion to declare the principles, the sentiments, and the purposes by which they have been, and are still, actuated.

They have ever deeply deplored the necessity which constrained them to take up arms in defence of their rights, and of the free institutions derived from their ancestors; and there is nothing they more ardently desire than peace, whensoever their enemy, by ceasing from the unhallowed war waged upon them, shall permit them to enjoy in peace the sheltering protection of those hereditary rights and those cherished institutions. The series of successes with which it has pleased Almighty God in so signal a manner to bless our arms on almost every point of our invaded border since the opening of the present campaign, enables us to profess this desire of peace in the interest of civilisation and humanity, without danger of having our motives misinterpreted, of the declaration being ascribed to any unmanly sentiment or any mistrust of our ability fully to maintain our cause. The repeated and disastrous checks, foreshadowing ultimate discomfiture, which their gigantic army, erected against the capital of the Confederacy, has already met with, are but a continuation of the same providential successes for us. We do not recur to these successes in any spirit of vain boasting, but in humble acknowledgment of that Almighty protection which has vouchsafed and granted them.

The world must now see that eight millions of people, inhabiting so extensive a territory, with such varied resources and such numerous facilities for defence as the benignant bounty of nature has bestowed upon us, and animated with one spirit to encounter every sacrifice of ease, of health, of property, of life itself, rather than be degraded from the condition of free and independent States, into which they were born, can never be conquered. Will not our adversaries themselves begin to feel that humanity has bled long enough; that tears and blood and treasure enough have been expended in a bootless undertaking, covering their own land, no less than ours, with a pall of mourning, and exposing them far more than ourselves to the catastrophe of financial exhaustion and bankruptcy, not to speak of the loss of their liberties by the despotism engendered in an aggressive warfare upon the liberties of another and kindred people? Will they be willing, by a longer perseverance in a wanton and hopeless contest, to make this continent, which they so long boasted to be the chosen abode of liberty and self-government, of peace and a higher civilisation, the theatre of the most causeless and prodigal effusion of blood which the world has ever seen, of a virtual relapse into the barbarism of the ruder ages, and of the destruction of constitutional freedom by the lawlessness of usurped power?

These are questions which our adversaries will decide for themselves. We desire to stand acquitted before the tribunal of the world, as well as in the eyes of omniscient justice, of any responsibility for the origin or prolongation of a war as contrary to the spirit of the age as to the traditions and acknowledged principles of the political system of America.

On this continent, whatever opinions may have prevailed elsewhere, it has ever been held and acknowledged by all parties, that government, to be lawful, must be founded on the consent of the governed. We were forced to dissolve our Federal connection with our former associates by their aggressions on the fundamental principles of our compact of union with them; and in doing so we exercised a right consecrated in the great charter of American liberty—the right of a free people, when a Government proves destructive of the ends for which it was established, to recur to the original principles, and to institute new guards for their security. The separate independence of the States, as the sovereign and coequal members of the Federal Union, had never been surrendered, and the pretensions of applying to independent communities, so constituted and organised, the ordinary rules for coercing and reducing rebellious subjects to obedience was a solecism in terms, as well as an outrage on the principles of public law.

The war made upon the Confederate States was, therefore, wholly one of aggression. On our side it has been strictly defensive. Born freemen and the descendants of a gallant ancestry, we had no option but to stand up in defence of our invaded firesides, of our desecrated altars, of our violated liberties and birthright, and of the prescriptive institutions which guard and protect them. We have not interfered, nor do we wish in any manner whatever, to interfere with the internal peace and prosperity of the States arrayed in hostility against us, or with the freest developement of their destinies in any form of action or line of policy they may think proper to adopt for themselves. All we ask is a like immunity for ourselves, and to be left to ourselves in the undisturbed enjoyment of those inalienable rights of 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,' which our common ancestors declared to be the equal heritage of all the parties to the social compact.

Let them forbear aggressions upon us, and the war is at an end. If there be questions which require adjustment by negotiations, we have ever been willing, and are still willing, to enter into communication with our adversaries in a spirit of peace, of equity, and of manly frankness. Strong in the persuasion of the justice of our cause, in the manly devotion of our citizen soldiers, and of the whole body of our people, and above all in the gracious protection of Heaven, we are not afraid to avow a sincere desire for peace on terms consistent with our honour and the permanent security of our rights, and an earnest aspiration to see the world once more restored to the beneficent pursuits of industry and of mutual intercourse and exchanges so essential to its well-being, and which have been so gravely interrupted by the existence of this unnatural war in America.

But if our adversaries, or those whom they have placed in power, deaf to the voice of reason and justice—steeled to the dictates of prudence and humanity by a presumptuous and delusive confidence in their own numbers, or those of their black and foreign mercenaries, shall determine upon an indefinite prolongation of the contest, upon them be the responsibility of a decision so ruinous to themselves and so injurious to the interest and repose of mankind.

For ourselves, we have no fear of the result. The wildest picture ever drawn by a disordered imagination comes short of the extravagance which would dream of the conquest of eight millions of people, resolved with one mind 'to die freemen rather than live slaves,' and forewarned by the savage and exterminating spirit in which this war has been waged upon them, and by the mad avowals of the supporters of the worse than Egyptian bondage that awaits them in the event of their subjugation. With these declarations of our dispositions, our principles and our purposes, we commit our cause to the enlightened judgment of the world, to the sober reflections of our adversaries themselves, and to the solemn and righteous arbitrament of heaven.

* The above Manifesto, in the form of joint resolutions by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Confederate States, was introduced by Mr. Hill of Georgia into the Senate, and passed the House of Representatives, after a secret debate of several hours, on June 10, with a few but unessential modifications. The official copy may, therefore, differ slightly from the Senate copy here given.

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

We have dates from New York to the 2nd of July, but there is a singular dearth of intelligence. Up to June 29 the military news referred rather to past than to passing events. It was ascertained that the reverse sustained by General Grant's army on June 22 was of so serious a character that it compelled the Federals to abandon the attempt to cut the line running south of Petersburg, and to fall back to their entrenchments before that place. The Confederates immediately assumed the offensive, and made several attacks on weaker portions of the Federal lines. On the 24th Sheridan commenced crossing the James River near City Point, and lost upwards of 1,000 men from an attack made by the Confederates, and on the 27th a portion of his command was still on the north of the river. General Hunter was retreating to Western Virginia, pursued by the Confederates, who had captured thirteen of his cannon, besides inflicting on him a heavy loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners. Mr. Stanton reported that the expedition had been successful in destroying railroads; but it was well known in New York that the damage was of small extent, and was repaired in a few hours by a corps specially organised for the purpose.

The news from Sherman was not more encouraging to the Federals. Sherman admits that he made an unsuccessful assault upon the Confederate position at the Kenesaw Mountain on the 27th, and that he lost 3,000 men, including General Harker and four colonels. The Confederates estimate Sherman's loss at 4,500; and it is supposed that Sherman's entire loss does not fall short of 20,000 men. General Pillow was operating on Sherman's rear. The effect of the intelligence from Virginia and the South-west was to send gold up to 250, and to induce the House of Representatives to consent to a compulsory draft, though a few days previously they had refused to repeal the $300 commutation clause by a large majority.

Since the 29th the only news that has transpired is that on the 27th there was a severe cavalry fight at Beam's Station, on the Weldon and Petersburg Railroad. The attempted advance of the Federals was checked, and the position of the expedition was so critical that General Meade sent the 6th corps, with a division of the 2nd corps, to its assistance.

Grant's army is suffering from the sickness incident to the locality in which it is now stationed. Federal despatches say that 5,000 sick and wounded are in hospital at City Point, and that they suffer much from the heat and the lack of good water.

The resignation of Mr. Chase is only important because it indicates that Mr. Lincoln and his immediate supporters are divided amongst themselves, and are conscious that a time of difficulty is at hand. When the ship refuses to obey her helm and is at the mercy of the wind and the waves, a child is as useful at the wheel as a man, and just now it matters not who is United States Secretary of the Treasury. Incapacity can hardly hasten the financial collapse, and the most consummate ability, even if it could for a little while postpone it, could not possibly avert the final crash. If Mr. Chase had retired several months ago, when the premium on gold had been considerably reduced, no one would have been surprised. He would have enjoyed the credit, at least amongst his own party, of successful financial management, and when affairs became desperate the catastrophe would have been charged to the loss of his services. But resignation now, whatever excuse may be put forward, is a confession of failure that will damage Mr. Chase's reputation even with his own political friends. It is not to be wondered at that Mr. Todd, of Ohio, should decline the

appointment, and that Senator Fessenden, of Maine, should plead ill health and hesitate a long time before he assented to the wish of the President. Mr. Chase bequeaths to his successor an expenditure wonderfully augmented, and the means of meeting it heavily mortgaged. Mr. Chase was perfectly aware that his game was up in Europe—that his dupes in Germany would soon discover their error, and refuse to part with any more of their hard-earned gold in exchange for greenbacks or for securities of no greater value. We should fancy that even the Republican party must think it a little shabby for Mr. Chase to retire under such circumstances, even though he had a dispute with the President about the patronage of the Treasury. Mr. Chase may be prudent in retiring, but such a proceeding smacks strongly of the instinct of the rat which forsakes the sinking ship.

Many are the signs that the Western States are not well pleased with the Government of Mr. Lincoln, and that they are tired of a war waged against their best customers to oblige the manufacturing New England States, whose interests are inimical to the interests of the agricultural West. The progress of Western discontent has been marked and rapid. Last autumn Mr. Vallandigham was banished for a mild protest against the policy of the Federal Government. He has now returned to Ohio, and dares the Government to arrest him. Mr. Lincoln is told that it will require 50,000 troops to preserve order in the State if Mr. Vallandigham is arrested; and so the Government has been obliged to confess its weakness by permitting a man banished as 'a traitor' to successfully defy its authority. Western representatives were the first to talk of peace and recognition in the Halls of Congress; and seeing that the Northern gaols are full of political offenders whose utterances were never a hundredth part so treasonable, we may be sure that Mr. Long and Mr. Voorhees would not have escaped the vengeance of the Administration and its Congressional supporters had it not been felt that the 'Great West' supported them. Throughout the spring, in spite of a most rigid censorship of the press, sufficient transpired to inform Europe that the West was divided into hostile camps, that in some quarters rioting was chronic, and that it would require the aid of a large army to enforce a Federal draft or to collect Federal taxes. Scarcely a week passes by without some fresh evidence of the growth of Western discontent. We have at this moment before us two noteworthy documents. The one is a letter from General G. W. Morgan, of Ohio, published in the *Mount Vernon* (Ohio) *Banner*, in which, as one of the delegates to the Chicago Convention, he explains his views respecting the war. No matter what the result of the campaign in Virginia, he advocates an immediate armistice of sixty days. Still more significant is a letter, the text of which we give elsewhere, written and published by Colonel Anderson, in which he refuses to act as delegate at the Chicago Convention, and not only protests against the continuance of the war, but denounces the selfishness of New England in unmeasured terms, and is bold enough to speak of a Western Confederacy. Thus, even if the North can carry on the present war, it cannot do so with impunity. For the sake of empire it has sacrificed property and liberty, and if it continue the vain attempt to conquer the South it will lose instead of gain territory. We do not say that the West is about to secede, but no one can imagine that the West is to be permanently joined to the East, and it is impossible to reject the mass of evidence which shows that every day of war with the South hastens the era of Western secession.

Mr. Lincoln has formally accepted the nomination of the Baltimore Convention. He writes: 'The nomination is gratefully accepted, as the resolutions of the Convention—called the Platform—are heartily approved.' Respecting the Monroe resolution, Mr. Lincoln writes as follows:—

> While the resolution in regard to the supplanting of republican government upon the Western Continent is fully concurred in, there might be misunderstanding were I not to say that the position of the Government in relation to the action of France in Mexico as assumed through the State Department and indorsed by the Convention among the measures and acts of the Executive, will be faithfully maintained so long as the state of facts shall leave that position pertinent and applicable.

By this Mr. Lincoln informs his supporters that he agrees with them in denouncing the establishment of the Empire of Mexico, and the inference is that he will at the opportune moment vindicate the Monroe doctrine. It is likely that the more ardent of his party will chafe at this delay, but they will probably feel some confidence in Mr. Lincoln's sincerity from the reflection that whilst doing what they could to conciliate the Government of France, Mr. Lincoln and his Cabinet and his officers have been indefatigable in their efforts to foment the ill-will of the people against the Empire of Mexico. Mr. Lincoln evidently thinks it is an easy task to hoodwink the Government of France.

The Governor of New York is now manifesting an intention of opposing the arbitrary proceedings of the Federal Government. He has addressed a letter to the District Attorney, in which he says that as the Grand Jury, in disregard of their oaths, have refused to examine into the circumstances connected with the suppression of the *World* and *Journal of Commerce*, the case must be brought before some proper magistrate, and that any requisite assistance will be given to the District Attorney in carrying on the prosecution. We elsewhere publish this letter.

In the case of an idiot boy named Garvin, who was sold into the military service by a bounty broker, Governor Seymour has instructed the District Attorney of the County to 'make a thorough investigation of the case of Cornelius Garvin, sold as a substitute into the Fifty-second New York Volunteers, and, if possible, bring the guilty parties to justice.'

The following is the resolution submitted to the Federal House of Representatives in regard to the right of Congress to have a voice in negotiations with Foreign Powers:—

Resolved: That Congress has the constitutional right to an authoritative voice in declaring and prescribing the foreign policy of the United States, as well in the recognition of new Powers as in other matters; and it is the constitutional duty of the President to respect that policy, not less in diplomatic negotiations than in the use of the national force, when authorised by law, and the propriety of any declaration of foreign policy by Congress is sufficiently proved by the vote which pronounces it; and such proposition, while pending and undetermined, is not a fit topic of diplomatic explanation with any foreign Power.

Mr. Fernando Wood lately delivered a speech in favour of peace in the Federal House of Representatives. On being charged with assisting in the organisation of the Mozart regiment in the beginning of the war, he replied that he did so for the defence of Washington and not for the purpose of waging war against the South; and, upon a member observing that the Mozart regiment was intended for service in the South, Mr. Wood said: 'If it is true that I raised so many men for such deeds of blood, may Almighty God forgive me for the sin and crime!' This remark was loudly hissed by the Republican members.

The commutation clause was repealed by the Federal House of Representatives on June 28. A few days before it had rejected the proposition by a majority of nearly two to one. The Government notified that the war could not be carried on without more men, that volunteering was exhausted, and that the draft was useless so long as exemption could be obtained by the payment of $300. On this the Republican members banded together and struck out the clause from the Conscription Act. It remains to be seen whether the Federal Government has the power to enforce an actual draft.

Mr. Thurlow Weed's charges against the Republican party have caused a profound sensation. We presume there is no good defence to be made to them, or it would have been offered instead of mere recrimination. Mr. Horace Greely writes a letter in which he says that he and Mr. Weed were formerly associates, and adds: 'We have since separated, simply and only because one of us has come to believe in and practise systematically using legislators and legislation to advance personal interests and promote private ends. Whatever may be asserted, there is not, there never was, another serious ground of difference between us. The City Railroad Bills of 1860, the Whisky legislation of the present session, illustrate the whole matter.' To this Mr. Weed rejoins in what the New York papers call a 'scorching letter,' in which he repudiates the charges brought against himself, and prefers further charges of Republican corruption. On the testimony of the Republican party, the Government which it creates and supports is utterly corrupt and demoralised.

On June 27, it was proposed to the Federal Senate by Mr. Trumbull to repeal the joint resolution of Congress restricting the forfeiture of Southern property to lifetime. In reply to Mr. McDougal, Mr. Trumbull said, 'his action was on the same principle on which he reconciled the killing of rebels. If we had a right to take their lives, we had a right to take their property. How could such a war as this be carried on by jury trials?' In reply to Mr. Cowan, he advocated perpetual confiscation, and said, 'The war meant destruction, desolation, and death, and, he would almost say, damnation.' The Senate adjourned without coming to any decision.

The Federal Senate has decided that Messrs. Fishback and Baxter, who were elected by Mr. Lincoln's agents as Senators for Arkansas, are not entitled to seats. The Committee reported that 'there was no evidence that the rebellion had been suppressed, a portion of Arkansas being still under the control of the insurgents.' This is antagonistic to Mr. Lincoln's reconstruction scheme for the manufacture of Presidential votes.

Though General John Pope could not make a military reputation in Virginia, it appears that he is making some money in Minnesota. A New York paper says: 'The Sioux massacres are beginning again in the north-west. General Pope is still in charge of that department, with his head-quarters at Milwaukie, where he concerns himself much more to improve his fortunes than to repair his tattered military reputation. The sort of horses which he has supplied some portions of his command with would disgrace the yard of condemned horses at Washington. They come about as near to the requirements of the service as his war-bulletins from the south-west, and from Virginia during his disastrous defeats there two summers ago, came to the truth.'

On June 27 the Federal Senate agreed to print 3,000 extra copies of the report of the commission to enquire into the condition of the freed negroes. In the course of the discussion Mr. Saulsbury said 'he once read a book written by Robert Dale Owen, the author of this document. Everybody who had bought the book had been cheated out of the purchase-money. Such a conglomeration of infidelity and nonsense was never before published. The man who would write such a book as that was not capable of writing anything worthy of being printed by the Senate.'

Two petitions have been presented to the Federal Senate for a change in the preamble of the Constitution. This is an indirect admission on the part of the 'loyal citizens' that the North has no constitutional right to coerce the seceding States. It never seems to occur to those who are so anxious to amend the Constitution, that a compact which can be so radically changed must necessarily, under certain conditions, leave the parties to it a legal right to declare it at an end.

The *New York Herald* has ceased to announce the immediate capture of Richmond, and intimates that that event is not likely to take place this season. It does not blame General Grant for the failure, but asserts that Mr. Lincoln is alone responsible for it. The *Herald* says that Grant has not been properly supported, and that Butler, Sigel, and Hunter were forced upon him as division generals against his better judgment. These charges against Mr. Lincoln are unfounded. Grant has been lavishly supplied with men, and had the supreme direction of the campaign and a free choice of officers.

On June 27 the Federal House of Representatives discussed a resolution proposed by Mr. Ingersoll, declaring 'as their opinion, that all permits heretofore issued by the Treasury Department, allowing persons to trade within the limits of any States heretofore or now in rebellion, should at once be revoked and no more be issued.' On the motion of Mr. Washburne, the consideration of it was postponed for ten days, which, the report of the Congressional proceedings says, was equivalent to postponing it beyond the present session of Congress. It will thus be seen that the Yankee love for the dollar is stronger than his hate for what he is pleased to call a rebellion.

The New York money market is very much agitated, and the fluctuations in the price of gold have been extraordinary. Towards the end of the month gold was quoted at about 240. On July 1 it opened at 250, and rose to 282. It declined to 260 on the news that Mr. Fessenden's appointment had been confirmed, and it fell to 230 on the repeal of the Gold Bill by the Senate. Next day it began creeping up, and in the evening was quoted at 234.

CANADA.

There seems to be some hope of Canada emerging from the normal state of Ministerial crises and Governmental dead-locks in which it has existed for the past three years. Our readers are aware that the representatives of Upper Canada are equal in number to those of Lower Canada; and that inasmuch as the races, languages, systems of religious belief, and sets of laws in the two divisions are different from and opposite to each other, the Legislative Assembly has been divided sectionally. Neither party can rule, though each can defeat the other. Now Mr. Brown, as leader of the Opposition, has come to a compromise with Messrs. Cartier, J. A. Macdonald, and Galt; and the basis thereof can best be given in the language in which it was announced to the Assembly:—'The Government are prepared to pledge themselves to bring in a measure next session for the purpose of removing existing difficulties by introducing the Federal principle into Canada, coupled with such provisions as will permit the maritime provinces and the north-west territory to be incorporated into the same system of government; and the Government will seek, by sending representatives to the lower provinces and to England, to secure the assent of those interests which are beyond the control of our own Legislature to such a measure as will enable all British North America to be united under a general Legislature based upon the Federal principle.'

We learn by a telegram from New York dated June 29, that a frightful accident had occurred on the Grand Trunk Railway. An emigrant train ran off the Beleeil Bridge, near St. Hilaire, Canada East. Thirty-four dead and 350 wounded had been taken from the wreck.

ENGLAND.

At a meeting held at the London Tavern to consider the measures necessary for the relief of the Circassian exiles, Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe, after a sketch of the events associated in the course of history with the land of the Caucasus, proceeded to consider the position of the unhappy people who inhabited those regions. He said that Russia had no ground of complaint against the Circassians, except that they occasionally crossed the border on predatory incursions: even this charge could not be laid to the mountaineers, for it was only the people of the plains bordering the river Khuban who were guilty of those acts. He was anxious to avoid mixing up the benevolent question before them with the political subject between Russia and Circassia: at the same time he thought that they would be traitors to the great cause of humanity if they did not avail themselves of all opportunities of that kind to mark their reprobation of the conduct of Russia, and to do their utmost to relieve those who were the victims of the tyranny and oppression of strong but unscrupulous neighbours. The Turkish Government had displayed the most laudable spirit of hospitality, and the Sultan himself had contributed a large sum for their relief, but the Turkish Treasury was insufficient to meet the demand made upon it. The number of emigrants was over 300,000, and to provide for them until their absorption into Turkish society or the Turkish army, would involve an outlay of some five millions sterling. The Marquis of Clanricarde, who was present, said that the British Government had sent from the public stores 600 tons of biscuit for their relief. Lord Shaftesbury, in the course of a speech, said that, in the darkest periods of the world's history, a time was never known when such scenes of atrocity and crime, such disregard of right and principle existed, as were now to be witnessed. The meeting finally agreed to resolutions embodying a general appeal to the generosity of the British public for aid in the relief of the exiles.

If a man fancies that the English soldier can do nothing but fight, he has only to go to Aldershot camp and see the Exhibition of Works of Industry. Every article displayed in the Club House is the handiwork of the officers and privates, and of the officers' and privates' wives and

children belonging to regiments in the camp. The work of the officers is good, but that that of the privates is miraculous. The former are successful, as might reasonably be expected, in water-colours, crayons, photographs, lace, and fine work, with the addition of some exquisite wood-carving and water-colours by Hon. H. H. Clifford, V.C., a collection of ivory-turnings by Lieutenant Wilkinson, and a model steam-engine by Captain Batt. But the privates astonish the eye of the visitor with quilts of cloth done in patchwork by their own hands, and with the woven and knitted wool counterpanes for which the English soldier has a traditionary taste. There also may be seen mahogany furniture, both plain and polished, the work of Dragoons; there, too, water-colours and photographs, the work of Hussars. Artillerymen take pride in model harness, model batteries, miniature Armstrong guns. Royal Engineers send drawings, models, and maps of surpassing accuracy, even baths and marble fonts. Other corps show stuffed birds, rest and stand for photographic camera, inlaid work, crayons, wood-carving; while one private turns out a complete set of drawing-room and bed-room furniture, with portable camp-bed and mattress; and a sergeant presents specimens of electro-plating. The War Office, too, gets many a practical hint, for a private teaches a method of making lint with miraculous rapidity, and a corporal improves immensely on the regulation cartridge-pouch. In addition to the efforts of handicraft, there is a show of beautiful articles lent by the officers and men. Among these are a few relics of the heights of the Alma and the plain of Inkerman; but the spoils of the East more plainly show that here in England we may say—

Captivum portatur ebur, captiva Corinthus.

Dresses that once adorned the proudest of Mandarins, vases, bronzes, tulwars, shields, and other trophies, give ocular demonstration that the English soldier has within the last few years stormed Lucknow and Delhi, sacked the summer palace of the Emperor of China, and spoiled the Daimios of Japan.

THE annual meeting of the National Rifle Association at Wimbledon commenced this week. Immense exertions have been made to meet the wants of the competitors and visitors, and to organise the shooting. No less than eighty-one targets have been erected, and so great is the space of ground occupied by the ranges that it has been found necessary to construct a tramway to carry the riflemen from point to point. The value of the prizes offered is 5,500*l.*, irrespective of such gifts as the Elcho Shield. About 1,000 men have gone under canvass for the fortnight. Additional rewards have been offered for proficiency in the use of the regulation Enfield. The review will take place on Saturday, July 23. We shall give hereafter some account of the principal matches, with their results.

THE Chapel Royal of the Savoy, situated on the south side of the Strand and west of Wellington-street, an object of study to the antiquary, of admiration to the lover of art, and of affection to the people of the parish, has been destroyed by fire. Nothing remains but the bare walls, and a small part of the monuments. It was the last remnant of the ancient Palace of the Savoy, within the precincts of which it stood. The chapel was built in the early part of the reign of Henry VIII. It was in the Gothic style and was ninety feet long by twenty-four wide. The ceiling was of oak and pear tree, divided into 138 quatrefoil panels, each adorned with carving. A portion of the panels represented the passion and death of the Saviour, and the remainder contained the emblems of the alliances of the House of Lancaster. Among the most striking of the monuments were those of Sir Robert Douglas and his lady, erected in the seventeenth century; of Jocosa, daughter of Sir Adam Apsley, and wife of the Earl of Dalhousie; and of Arabella, Countess of Nottingham. There was also a tablet to the memory of Ann Killigrew, the lady whom Dryden spoke of as 'a Grace for beauty and a Muse for wit.' There was a splendid altar-piece and a beautiful window bearing the inscription, 'This window was glazed at the cost of the congregation in honour of God and in gratitude to our Queen Victoria.' The window had been placed there in 1843, after the restoration of the interior of the chapel by Her Majesty. The benefice is in the gift of the Queen in right of the Duchy of Lancaster. In this chapel was held the conference between the Episcopalian and Presbyterian divines in 1661, and it is said that here first the Liturgy in the vernacular was heard after its restoration by Queen Elizabeth. The fabric was insured to the amount of four thousand pounds, and the Queen has intimated her intention of defraying the additional cost of the restoration.

THE Prince of Wales has been presented with the freedom of the ancient guild of clothworkers, and has taken the oath of the corporation. The honourable company entertained their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales at luncheon after the ceremony of admission.

MR. TENNYSON will shortly publish a new volume of poems, of about the same size as 'In Memoriam.' The Poet Laureate has chosen for this work the title of 'Enoch Arden.'

THE *Great Eastern* has left the port of Liverpool for Sheerness, where she will ship the Atlantic cable.

LORD'S cricket ground was thronged on Friday and Saturday last with thousands of people, assembled to witness the match between the rival schools of Eton and Harrow. It seemed as though Ascot had transplanted itself to the territory of the Marylebone Club, so great was the number of well-dressed ladies and fashionable men. The carriages, too, stood in ranks four deep round the ground. The ladies wore bonnets of that shade of blue which they favoured, or heralded their sympathy by the trimmings of their dresses and parasols. The heads of the horses and the whips of the drivers were adorned in like manner. The champions of Harrow having won the toss, went first to the wickets, and obtained the large score of 242 runs, Mr. Buller adding 61, and Mr Stow adding 54 runs to the score. The Eton boys, in their first innings, made only 63 runs, and consequently, according to a well known rule, followed their innings. In the second attempt the Eton boys made 113 runs, of which 50 were put to the credit of the Hon. S. G. Lyttelton. The result, therefore, was, that Harrow defeated Eton in one innings, with 66 runs to spare. At the conclusion of the game a match was commenced between an eleven of the Marylebone Club and the united forces of Eton and Harrow. The schoolboys obtained 152 runs in their first innings, while their opponents made only 87. The state of the score furnished a pleasing commentary on the uncertainty of the game. On behalf of the united schools five Eton and six Harrow boys went to the wickets. The five Eton boys got 91 runs—the six Harrow boys got 46 runs; thus entirely reversing the result of the match between the schools.

THE interest of the July Meeting at Newmarket was entirely confined to two races, and to two horses in those races. Nothing can be more beneficial to the wearied mind and the wearied body than a few days in the summer weather of July spent on Newmarket Heath, where the most bracing air may be inhaled and the sport witnessed without crowd, noise, or bustle. So even where the racing is deficient in quality and quantity, the time spent on the noble heath is not lost. The July Stakes and the Chesterfield Stakes were rendered highly attractive by the anticipated meeting of two colts of great reputation. The first of these was Liddington, by Orlando, out of Lady Roden, by West Australian, who won two important races at the Ascot meeting, and has never been defeated. The other was a colt called The Duke, by Stockwell, out of Bay Celia, who, on the strength of an excellent performance at Stockbridge some weeks before, was held to be good enough to dispute the palm of supremacy with Liddington. Three other horses came to the post for the July Stakes—namely, the Duc de Morny's Lelio; Mr. Naylor's Skirter, by Skirmisher, out out of Manganese; and the Duke of Beaufort's Todleben, by Muscovite, out of Palm. Lelio is a somewhat remarkable horse. He is a son of West Australian and Launcelot, and was bred in France. His shape and action do credit to his breed, and he only needs care and fortune to achieve success. He was sufficiently fat at Newmarket to justify the opinion that he was merely out on a visit of inspection. Those who are curious about such matters may be interested to learn that Lelio has never been shod, and that the practice of trusting to the natural hardness of the hoof has found favour with trainer of the Duc de Morny's stud. Lelio is only engaged in the Doncaster St. Leger of 1865, for which he may possibly become a formidable competitor. The July Stakes is by subscription of 50*l.* each, with 30*l.* forfeit, for two-year-old colts and fillies, at the respective weights of 122 lbs. and 119 lbs., the length of the course being about five and a half furlongs. The betting was even on Mr. Merry's 'crack,' Liddington, while 11 to 8 was laid against the Marquis of Hastings' The Duke, and 10 to 1 against Lelio. The race was a strange one, and has given rise to a thousand surmises and numerous controversies. At about three hundred yards from the winning post, Liddington and The Duke singled themselves out, and while The Duke seemed to be going entirely at his ease, the rider of Liddington was hard upon his horse with whip and spur. The Duke's jockey seemed to sit perfectly still, and Liddington, struggling gamely to the end, won, to the utter amazement of the spectators, by a neck. Loud were the complaints against Judd, the rider of The Duke. It was said that he mistook the winning post, or did not see it at all, and that another proof was afforded of the folly of allowing a mere stable lad to ride instead of an experienced jockey. The friends of Lord Hastings and the followers of the redoubtable John Day looked unutterable things at the defeat of the champion of Stockbridge. However, they consoled themselves with the certainty of a revenge on the ensuing Thursday, when the rival horses were once more to meet. Thursday came, and the two horses appeared at the post for the Chesterfield Stakes, a race somewhat similar in conditions to the July Stakes, except that the distance is only half a mile, and that Liddington and The Duke each carried 7 lb. extra as a penalty for ancient victories. The latter fact did not, however, deter the ring from placing every confidence in the two 'cracks,' and despising the seven other animals who started. Fordham, whose riding the multitude never tires of praising, but who, like other mortals, has been known to err magnificently, was put up on The Duke in the place of the much abused Judd, and once more the money of the Duke of Beaufort, the Marquis of Hastings, and the other patrons of Stockbridge, seemed to be heaped on The Duke; for now Fordham was up, and this time there could be no mistake. Directly that the flag of the starter fell, Liddington cut out the work with the terrific speed of a true son of Orlando, and quickly made the pace too hot for The Duke. At the distance The Duke was vainly struggling to get up to his opponent, who came away in the most gallant style and won in a canter by three lengths. We forbear to decide whether, after such a performance, the defeat of The Duke on the first day was the fault of his rider. We merely remark that Judd got within a neck of Liddington, and that Fordham was left hopelessly in the rear. After the race the gallant Liddington was backed for the Derby of 1865 at the short odds of 7 to 1. No one can doubt the speed of the horse, but stoutness is a matter of grave question when the sire Orlando.

IN the way of mobs there is perhaps nothing like those which England can produce. Let the common herd of a good size town be got together, and let some slight disappointment vex them, and their ferocity will prove that they are the direst acts of a violent and angry race, unrestrained by the teaching of modern civilisation. An ordinary visitor to Leicester would say, in its plain but well built houses and its laborious population, the signs of peace and industry. If he enquired he would learn that crime is rare, that wages are good and work plentiful, yet Leicester can do battle and disgrace itself as to which the brutal element of the Saxon race is evoked. The brave and successful aeronaut, Mr Henry Coxwell, had been engaged to make an ascent in his balloon at the fête of the Foresters. The race-course at Leicester was the spot where he was to ascend, and the hour fixed was 5.30 P.M. Many adventurous persons had taken tickets for seats in the car, and a multitude of 20,000 people had assembled to witness the start. It seems almost incredible, but yet it is a fact, that not more than half a dozen police were present, while no proper barriers had been erected or other means adopted to keep off the crowd. What protection was afforded to Mr Coxwell was done very early in the afternoon, and while the party which was about to ascend had to fight their way through the mob to the car, four or five policemen vainly struggled by force or entreaty to keep one space clear for the necessary arrangements. Not to make the story a long one, it is enough to say that reports were spread that Mr Coxwell had only brought an old and small ball on, that he did not intend to ascend, that the whole affair was a fraud. The mob charged, broke the netting, and damaged the car. At length Mr. Coxwell to avoid danger let go the guy. In a moment a rush was made to the ball on, and the beautiful fabric was demolished. The police rallied round Mr. Coxwell, who was carried off, and [illegible] shouts of murderous intent, with the loss of his coat and hat, and some personal injury. The balloon was set on fire, and that portion which the flames did not consume was carried in triumph through Leicester. Such was the conduct of a multitude of people on a fête-day, in a thriving town in the heart of England.

A RESPECTABLE woman of about twenty years of age got into a train at the Waterloo Station, of the South-Western Railway, in the afternoon of July 6. A man named Henry Nash, a yeoman of middle age, followed her into the carriage. Another woman travelled with them to Surbiton, and there alighted. Immediately afterwards Nash endeavourged to engage the young woman in conversation. Annoyed by his importunities she went to the window, and stood looking out of it. Nash followed her, and from words proceeded to acts, laying his hands on her, and otherwise insulting her. She opened the door of the carriage, got outside, and stood on the step holding by the handle of the door. The train was going at the rate of forty miles an hour: a man in the next carriage caught sight of her, and, leaning as far as possible out of the window, threw his arm round her waist. She at once swooned, and was held by the strength of the friendly arm for the distance of about five miles. The guard's attention was drawn by the gesticulations of the people in the fields, who saw the state of affairs, and the train was stopped. The woman was rescued from her perilous position, and the man Nash given into the custody of the police.

A GENTLEMAN named Briggs, chief clerk in the banking-house of Robarts & Co. of Lombard Street, a fine, tall, and powerful man, about sixty years of age, left the Bank at three o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday last, went to Peckham, dined there with his niece, remained till 8.30 p.m., thence proceeded in an omnibus to the city, reached the railway station in Fenchurch Street at twenty minutes to ten, and entered the train on the North London Railway, intending to go to Hackney Wick Station, near which he resided. He wore a gold watch, with albert chain, a gold eye-glass, and a diamond ring. He had with him a leather bag, such as is generally used by bankers' clerks in removing bullion, and a walking-stick, 4*l.* 10*s.* in his pocket, with a pocket-book and a silver snuff-box. The train stopped at Bow Station, and again at Hackney. At the latter station some person opened the door of one of the carriages, and found the cushions, the floor, sides, windows, and door handle smeared with blood. In the carriage were found a hat, a walking-stick, and a leathern bag. At the same time, some ladies in the adjoining compartment informed the guard that some blood had been spurted through the carriage window on to their dresses as the train came from Bow. This discovery was made about twenty minutes past ten. About the same time, the driver and stoker of another train working in the opposite direction from Hackney to Bow, saw something lying in the six-foot way. They stopped the train, and the stoker going back, found the body of a gentleman saturated with blood, and apparently dead. He went to a public-house hard by, got assistance, and had the body removed thither. Surgeons were sent for, and it was found that the injured man was not dead, though frightfully knocked about and quite insensible. On the arrival of the police the clothes were examined, and the letters in the pocket-book were found to be addressed to 'T. Briggs, Esq., Messrs. Robarts', Curtis, & Co.'s, Lombard Street.' A messenger was at once sent to the bank, and the news was thence forwarded to the family of Mr. Briggs at Hackney. His son came, with other members of the family; but the wounded man showed no sign of consciousness, and, having been removed in the morning to his own house, expired at a quarter before twelve on Sunday night. The money, 4*l.* 10*s.*, was found in his pocket, so also were the snuff-box, the ring, and the eye-glass: the watch and chain were gone. The bag was, as already mentioned, found in the carriage, but had been opened, though nothing was obtained from it. The walking-stick was also found in the carriage, and also a hat, which was found not to be the hat of the murdered man. It has in it, however, as far as is yet known, no mark except the maker's name, and inasmuch as the name is that of a firm doing a large business, and the hat an old one, but little assistance can be expected from it. The facts, as far as col-

lected, present a considerable difficulty. The body was clearly thrown out of the carriage between Bow and Hackney, and the place where it was found was somewhat nearer to Bow than to Hackney. The train would run between these stations in about two minutes and a half. Therefore, only about one minute elapsed after the train left Bow and before the body was thrown out. Again, the train stopped at Bow, and the murderer or murderers were, of course, aware of that. Is it conceivable, then, that they assailed their victim before their arrival at Bow and ran the risk of detection there; on the other hand, it was clear that there had been a struggle, and frightful violence used, and it is a question whether all this could have been effected in one minute. The motive for the crime is not clear. If plunder was the object, why was the watch taken and the money left? Or, again, was there a disappointed expectation of money in the leather bag? A preliminary examination has been held before the coroner, and large rewards have been offered for the detection of the guilty parties. Such crimes render a journey by railway a frightful ordeal for timid ladies and nervous gentlemen, and the horror culminates when a start is made with one man for a fellow passenger. The remedy is plain. In England travellers are packed in boxes which hold but six persons, and no communication with the outer world is possible: a million deaths stare the unhappy prisoner in the face while aid is vainly invoked. Other countries might teach us that such risks are unknown when carriages hold, not six, but twenty people, and even on some English railways the comfort and safety of saloon carriages may be experienced. At least there is no difficulty in providing communication between the guard and the passengers. Meanwhile the railway authorities are as guilty of the manslaughter of Mr. Briggs as if the mischief had been caused by a rickety bridge or a rotten axletree.

WE regret to have to announce the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Brewster, who has commanded the famous Volunteer Regiment, 'The Inns of Court Rifles' (familiarly known as 'The Devil's Own'), since the formation of that corps. There is not a man in the regiment who has not equally admired their gallant colonel as an accomplished soldier and a courteous gentleman, and to all it has been made clear that to the exertions of that officer the acknowledged proficiency of the regiment is due. Lieutenant-Colonel Brewster was formerly a Captain in the 60th Rifles, and greatly distinguished himself in the Kaffir war. Lieutenant-Colonel Brewster was buried yesterday with military honours, the regiment following his body to the grave. Many members of the legal profession came up to town from the assizes in order to be present at the ceremony.

INDIA.

The Government of Calcutta is taking measures to punish the Bhootiahs for the insults offered to the envoy, Mr. Ashley Eden.

The tract of land situated at the foot of the Bhootan Hills, called Ambarree Fallacootah, is to be immediately annexed to the British territories. The sum of 10,000 rupees, hitherto paid as a subsidy to the tribes on the frontier of Assam, is to be discontinued. The Bhootiahs are to be hemmed in by posts established along the frontier, and supplies will be stopped between British India and Bhootan.

Sir Hugh Rose will shortly be succeeded in the chief command of the army by Sir William Mansfield.

AFRICA.

News has been received from Khartûm of the safety of the explorer, Mr. Samuel Baker. After the departure of Speke and Grant, Baker had started for the south in search of the lake Luta Nzige. His party was met on its way back to Gendohoro. A swift vessel has been placed at his disposal by Mr. Petherick, and he will at once descend the Nile.

THE CONTINENT.

THE DANO-GERMAN WAR.

The military operations that have taken place during the past week have been of no significance. Events are occurring elsewhere which may do away with the necessity for further bloodshed, and the respective armies have wisely abstained from creating fresh complications. The Austrians have erected batteries on the coast of Jutland opposite to Middelfahrt, in the island of Fünen, with a view to a passage over the straits; the batteries are said to stand on the bare rock, completely exposed to an enemy's fire, thus showing the recklessness of the Germans, or the contempt in which they hold their opponents. On the night of the 5th inst. a party of Austrian Chasseurs took possession of the island of Fohr, on the west coast of Slesvig. General Gerlach, the Commander-in-Chief of the Danish forces, has resigned his office, principally in consequence of the way in which he received the very sound advice given to him by General Caroc. The latter pointed out that the position occupied by the Danish troops in North Jutland was not only untenable, but must inevitably lead to their total loss; he was snubbed for this by his commander, and thereupon resigned his commission. He proceeded to Copenhagen to give an account of the transaction, and the result of his visit was the retirement of General Gerlach, and the appointment of General Steinmann to the chief command. Steamers have been sent round in all haste to embark the Danish troops now in Jutland north of the Limfjord before the enemy succeeds in overpowering them. A sharp encounter took place between a small body of Danes under Colonel Beck and the Austrian troops in possession of Sunboge opposite Aalborg on the Limfjord; the Danes had been deceived as to the number of their enemies, and tried to carry the place with the bayonet, but were repulsed after a gallant attack. On the 10th inst. the Austrian troops commenced crossing the Limfjord in boats near the town of Aalborg; the advance into the north of Jutland began immediately afterwards. The shores of the Sound between Copenhagen and Elsinore are being hastily armed; Cronberg, the fortress immediately commanding the straits, has received a reinforcement and a fresh armament. The *Dagbladet* calls upon the Government to give up their attempt at a blockade, and to concentrate their navy for the defence of the capital.

The result of the attack made upon the *Fordenskiold* and the *Heckla*, mentioned last week, is officially declared by the Danes to be *nil*. The Prussians announce that five large ships of war appeared in the Aaroe Sund, between Alsen and Slesvig, on the night of the 5th inst., but retired on finding that the shores were strongly occupied.

DENMARK.

The addresses of the Landsthing and Volksthing of Denmark to the King express the satisfaction of the nation at the course which the Government is pursuing; it assures the King of the support of his people so long as they see that the main object of his negotiations is the freedom of the people and independence from Germany.

But the rumour of the day is that the King has in his own person expressed an ardent desire for peace, and taken some decided steps to attain his object. In the first place he has sent his youngest brother, Prince John of Glücksburg, on a mission to Prussia; he arrived at Berlin on the 6th inst., spent a few hours there in very strictest incognito, and then went on to Carlsbad. What the propositions may be of which the Prince is the bearer, whether they concern the grand question of peace, or are only on some matters of detail, is entirely a matter of conjecture; but the idea that the mission is of the gravest possible character is countenanced by the recent political crisis in Denmark. On the 8th inst., by the express desire of the King, all the Ministers sent in their resignations. The King then sent to Count von Moltke-Nutchau, who was formerly a member of the Bluhme Ministry, and requested him to form a new Administration. The Count has up to this time been considered as an ultra-reactionist, and a bitter enemy of the German party and of the independence of the Duchies; but, being less committed to a war policy than Bishop Monrad, it is supposed that he will be better able to make the concessions which the situation requires. Thus the attitude of Denmark has been completely reversed. Last week it declined all further negotiation; now it has sent an envoy to the enemy's capital. Last week it was attempting to wage war by land and sea with its opponents on equal terms; now it is collecting all its military and naval forces for the defence of its own metropolis. Not three weeks are past since it refused to purchase a permanent truce at the price of raising the blockade; now it is inclined to raise it of its own accord. Last week, 'war to the uttermost' was the cry; now, what wonder if men are beginning to murmur 'peace?'

The new Cabinet is—President of the Council and Foreign Secretary, Herr von Bluhme; Minister of the Interior, Herr Tilisch; Minister for War, Lieutenant-General Hansen; Minister for Marine, Councillor Lütken; Minister for Justice and Public Worship, Chamberlain Helzen; Minister of Finance, Councillor David; Minister for Slesvig, Chamberlain Johannsen. Count Moltke-Nutchau and Herr von Quaade are Ministers without portfolios.

GERMANY.

Herr von Beust is about to present to the Federal Diet a report of the Conference of London. It is officially stated that he will accompany his report by three recommendations: the first advocating a prompt solution of the question of succession in favour of the Duke of Augustenburg, the second advising a declaration of war against Denmark, and the third pointing out the necessity for a Federal reform. To English minds the first recommendation is of the most singular character, considering that the Diet are now engaged in the examination of the Duke of Augustenburg's claims; so that Herr von Beust is either insulting them by ordering them to perform an act of simple justice should the Duke's claims be proved to be good, or requesting them to violate their honour and word in favour of his *protégé* if it appears that the Duke has no right to the succession. The Diet has summoned the Grand-Duke of Oldenburg to substantiate his claims to the Duchy of Holstein, according to his promise. This action of the Diet has been received by many Germans with great bitterness of heart. It is said that the Oldenburg claims are nothing more than a *rechauffé* of those of Denmark and of Russia, which have already been rejected: and that a reexamination of them is only a cloak for treachery. The Slesvig-Holstein committee of Frankfort in particular has fulminated a proclamation against the Diet, in which it declares that the German nation demands that the German Governments, in accordance with their solemn engagements, should immediately pronounce in favour of the recognition of the Duke of Augustenburg, and put him in a position to assume the reins of Government according to the fundamental law of the Duchies. Oddly enough, it is generally understood that the claims of Oldenburg will find no support in the German cabinets, not because they fail in satisfying this fundamental law so pathetically cited, but because the Duke of Augustenburg is the favourite with the inhabitants of the Duchies.

The correspondence published by our contemporary, the *Morning Post*, could not fail to elicit some statements from the Governments most interested therein. A formal denial of their authenticity has been given by the Austrian embassy: that of the Prussians was mentioned in our last number. The German newspapers have been both very violent and very guarded on the subject. The *Nord-Deutsche Zeitung* represents the first feeling; the *Presse* of Vienna thinks Herr von Bismarck would scarcely have been so *'naif'* as to express himself openly on a matter of such delicacy; the *Kreuz-Zeitung* qualifies the despatches as 'authentic falsehoods,' whatever that may mean; the *Volks-Zeitung* hopes that the denial of the German cabinets will lay the ghost of a 'Holy Alliance,' with which England is terrified; the *Botschafter* considers that the despatches put the conduct and views of Austria in a favourable light before Europe, as showing that the project for a Holy Alliance broke down before the enlightened opposition of Austria.

The new Zollverein is now complete by the adhesion of Hanover and Oldenburg to the terms of the Franco-Prussian treaty. Hanover has only held out up to this time, in order to obtain the lion's share of the advantages; and she has been satisfied in her desire.

The trial of 150 Poles accused of various political offences is now proceeding. The scene of the trial is an enormous wooden shed erected for the express purpose in the penitentiary yard of the fortress of Moabit. Of the 150 accused, 23 had time to escape, but 11 of these have since returned into the hands of the police: among the prisoners are some very lofty names; Czartoryski, the son of Prince Adam, who was named for the revolutionary crown of Poland; and Radiswill, one of an eminently patriot family. The dimensions of the trial will be enormous; 400 witnesses will appear, and the whole bar of Berlin, Posen, and the neighbouring universities has been engaged for the defence; the indictments make up a folio volume containing hundreds of pages. The first day of the trial was occupied with the examination of certain requests made by the prisoners: one of them was for interpreters, on the ground that very few of the Poles understood German; this was overruled by the presiding judge, who said he had good reason to know the contrary: another request was that a crucifix might be placed on the table of the court, as a sign both for accused and judges, a fashion which is almost universal in foreign criminal courts. Their request was received, as diplomatists say now-a-days, *ad referendum*; the minister of justice was to give his opinion on the matter. It is hoped that the Government will be lenient with these unfortunate prisoners, and that they will be condemned to nothing worse than confinement within a fortress, a punishment in which they can always obtain a relaxation on parole during the day-time, so long as they return at night to their prison. The sympathy for the accused is increased in consequence of the number of persons who have already been delivered up by the authorities to the tender mercies of the Russians, as subjects of the Czar.

FRANCE.

The Emperor has left Fontainebleau, and has arrived at Vichy. We need not say that his reception was of the most enthusiastic description; triumphal arches, banners, and garlands decorated the road by which His Majesty entered the town. Idle gossip says that the visit to Vichy has been made earlier than was originally intended in consequence of some severe attacks which the Emperor has lately undergone, to which the waters of Vichy have before now given relief.

On the subject of the ships sold to the Prussian Government by the French, the *Opinion Nationale* says: 'It is with affliction we learn that France has herself undertaken to furnish Prussia with those engines of battle and destruction.' These ships were ironclad, built at Nantes and Bordeaux. The French Government forbade the builder in the most positive manner to deliver them to the parties for whom they were intended; one of the ships, the *Jeddo*, cleared out at Bordeaux for Amsterdam, and reached Bremerhaven, where she hoisted the Prussian flag; four others will soon follow the same destination. 'The peculiarity of the case is'—we quote from the *Times* of the 11th instant—'that the ships were built with the full knowledge and sanction, not to say encouragement, of the Government, which, though it may have subsequently changed its views, was under no necessity to have them sold to Prussia, a belligerent Power.' These observations come with great force from a journal which declares at the same time that the 'parties for whom the ships were originally intended' were the Confederate States.

Signor Verdi, the well-known composer and maestro, has been elected to the place of foreign associate of the Académie des Beaux Arts on the death of H. Meyerbeer.

RUSSIA.

A squadron of one ship of the line, three frigates, and two transports has been equipped at Cronstadt, where great naval preparations are being made. It is said that a Russian squadron of evolution will shortly touch at the Swedish and Danish ports in the Baltic.

On the 22nd ult., three hundred persons condemned to exile in Siberia set out for the scene of their punishment. The greater part of them belonged to the upper classes; but they were forced to walk like felons, chained together two and two, with their heads shaved. Several of them died of hunger and fatigue. There were some women among them; they tore the skin from their faces to destroy the beauty which was tempting their oppressors to a yet more infernal exhibition of their superiority. Every language but Russian has been forbidden in Poland, under pain of a fine of three hundred roubles (thirty pounds). The Governor of Warsaw has published a fresh edict with regard to the colour of the dresses worn by ladies: he informs them that black is seditious, black and white suspicious, that a border of coloured riband will not save a black silk robe from the crime of high treason; that black feathers in a bonnet are subject to the watchful vigilance of the Imperial Government. Having given these instructions, he requests that any lady who may find herself aggrieved by these regulations will call upon him in person to substantiate her grievance.

SWEDEN.

The Swedo-Norwegian squadron, the dispersal of which we lately announced, is to re-assemble off Gottenburg; it is to consist of two ships of the line, one frigate and one corvette (Swedish), two frigates and one corvette (Nor-

wegian), besides some other vessels which are not yet completely prepared for sea. The Swedish Government has decided that the Russian squadron of exercise now cruising in the Baltic and Cattegat cannot be allowed to enter any Swedish port *en masse*, although single vessels forming part of it may be admitted. We put these two facts in juxta-position, as illustrating to some extent the embarrassing position in which Sweden is placed. Standing between a nation at war whom she would fain assist, and a neutral Power watchful to take every advantage, she has been forced to take such active measures as may formally protest against any encroachments on the part of Russia, while they cannot materially fulfil the hopes of Denmark.

BELGIUM.

We had occasion lately to mention the Ministerial crisis which took place some weeks back at Brussels. The 'right' or Conservative party had attempted to form a Ministry, but failed to do so in consequence of the intrigues of Liberals, who thereupon returned to office. The Conservatives have since then threatened to impede the progress of Government by absenting themselves from the Chambers, a threat which they have now put into execution. On the 5th instant the sittings were adjourned, because there were not enough members present to form a quorum. On the 6th the Liberals made a great whip and collected fifty-eight members; one more would have made up the required number: the one was M. Tesch, minister of justice, who was absent from Brussels for reasons of health; he has been summoned in hot haste. The public saluted the members on their appearance after this second adjournment with great applause; M. de Brouckère, who was suffering at the time from a severe illness, received a perfect ovation. On the 8th instant occurred a third failure in forming a House, the numbers again amounting to 58 only. On this occasion M. Cumont was absent in consequence of severe illness. He was forbidden positively by his physicians to attempt to enter the House, and yielded with difficulty to their orders. The honourable member died on the 10th instant, after expressing the greatest regret that he could do nothing to prevent the obstructions in the way of the Government. This event has excited lively sympathy in Brussels. On the 8th instant the Senate passed a vote of confidence in the Government, after a lively discussion, by a majority of 29 to 22; in the course of the debate, M. Osy, Senator for Antwerp, accused the Ministry of having stretched the cord of union between the people of Belgium as severely as did the King of Holland in 1827, and he warned them that a catastrophe must be the result of their obstinacy. The result of the conduct of Holland in 1827 was the Revolution which separated the kingdom of Belgium from that of Holland.

SPAIN.

There are rumours of disturbances in the province of Andalusia, which have for some time troubled the public of Madrid, and in the capital itself 'measures of precaution' have been taken in fear of some insurrectionary movement; the *Epoca* now declares that order reigns in every part of the kingdom. To the general English public Andalusia is less known and an object of less interest than Ashantee; but it is remarkable how close the secret of these troubles has been kept at a time when Spain is waging war in Santo Domingo, and making demonstrations in the Pacific. The squadron off Peru is to be reinforced by the frigates *Numancia* (ironclad), *Berenguela*, *Blanca*, *Vencendora*, and *San Quintino*; of these, the first and last only are steamers. We might be led to infer that Spain has got up the Peruvian difficulty as a cheap way of getting rid of its useless ships.

ITALY.

The Austrian police have found reason for making fresh searches after the correspondents of the Venetian Committee in Venice. Five persons have been arrested, of whom one is a Government official. They will probably be tried by court-martial.

A trial which has made some noise in Italy is that brought about by the claim of the Prince de Crouy Chanel to the titles and possessions of the dukedom of Este against their present possessor, the ex-Duke of Modena. The civil tribunal of Modena has just published its judgment on the subject, and it is looked upon by Italians as a marvel of ingenuity, if not of justice. The first question raised was as to the jurisdiction of the Court. On this the Court said that it considered itself competent so far as concerned the subject-matter of the cause—i. e., the title and possessions—but incompetent as to the person complained of; the ex-duke being a stranger, having lost his rights of citizenship and his domicile by leaving the country without permission of the Government, and without expectation of returning. The Court, therefore, decline to examine further into the case. The Prince de Crouy Chanel has appealed against the decision.

CHINA.

The Franco-Chinese force under M. d'Aiguebelle have succeeded in taking by assault the town of Hang-chu, after a two months' siege and one unsuccessful attempt. The town was abandoned by the rebels on the night of March 30, who at the same time evacuated Hu-tang. The effect of the surrender of these queerly-named towns is that the Taepings have lost possession of all the country which they formerly commanded, save Nankin, the second capital of the Chinese Empire. The capture of this important city is now only a matter of time, and the ultimate defeat of the rebels is looked upon as certain.

MEXICO.

A series of interesting letters have been addressed to the *Constitutionnel* by a correspondent, entitled 'De Miramar à Mexico.' As the name imports, they give an account of the voyage of the Emperor and Empress of Mexico. We extract from one of the most recent letters some instructive observations on the aboriginal inhabitants of the new Empire. 'Among the authorities whom the Emperor received at Cordova were several deputations from the Indians. They were easily to be recognised by their physiognomy, their attitudes, and their costumes. The chiefs carried a long slender cane as an emblem of command. The greater part of them speak a pure Castilian. His Majesty has in his immediate attendance an Indian of the name of Faustino Chimal-Popoca, a descendant of the fourth Emperor of Mexico, who acts as interpreter. Chimal-Popoca has a thorough knowledge of the five most important of the Mexican dialects, of which it is said there are about sixty. It would be an error to suppose that the descendants of the Aztecs are an ignorant people. It has been officially stated that the greater number of them can read and write. The aboriginal race, as is well known, forms the broad and solid basis of the Mexican people. It has never been submitted to an exact census, but is generally numbered at between six and seven millions. It was oppressed by the Spanish viceroys, and only called into political existence by the revolutionary Governments in order to bear the burdens of the taxation. From first to last it has been treated as a strange people. What marvel then if it is of a timid nature? What marvel if the Indian loves to hide himself from the sight of man, and to build his hut under the protecting shade of the forest trees far from European paths? The arrival of the Emperor has filled them with exultation; they could scarcely believe it, but they waited with patience till better days should come. Now, by the help of that marvellous power, by which barbarous nations can send news by word of mouth from one end to the other of their country with lightning rapidity, the word has been said, the Emperor is actually in Mexico; within two days of his arrival the Indian deputations waited upon him to offer him their homage and their congratulations. It is on the Indian race that the future of Mexico depends; the Indian is intelligent, studious, laborious, sober, economical, and virtuous; he is, moreover, a lover of order and of progress, and most willing to submit himself to the laws.' This account may be somewhat tinged with that *couleur de rose* which colours every statement that we make concerning the first land we visit after a long sea-voyage; but, if we allow for a certain pardonable enthusiasm, we may learn a fact of the greatest importance, that the destiny of the Empire of Mexico is committed into the hands of the aboriginal Mexicans. We shall watch with the greatest sympathy and interest to see the results of this great experiment.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

THE VOTE OF CENSURE.

Both Houses of Parliament were on Friday night scenes of unusual excitement. We cannot say that in both Houses the Ministry was on its trial, because the decision of the House of Lords on a question of confidence can neither save nor destroy a Cabinet. If Ministers had been beaten in the Commons, a victory in the Lords would have done them no good, and as they were victorious in the Commons, the defeat in the Lords did them no harm—that is, it did not involve either a resignation of office or a dissolution of Parliament. But in both Houses the most important question of the Session was to be discussed, and the vote of the Commons was to decide whether Lord Palmerston would have to resign office or to appeal to the country.

The debates were very voluminous—those on Friday occupy no less than seven closely printed pages of the *Times*—and it is therefore impossible with our limited space to offer a summary of the speeches; so we must content ourselves with merely chronicling the results.

In the Lords a resolution was moved by Lord Malmesbury, which was nearly identical with the address moved in the Commons. After an animated debate, which, however, lost much of its brilliancy from the enforced absence of the Earl of Derby and the Earl of Ellenborough, their Lordships divided as follows:—

Contents—Present	119
Contents—Proxies	58
	177
Non-contents—Present	123
Non-contents—Proxies	45
	168
Majority against the Government	9

It will be seen that no fewer than 244 peers were present, and that of these a majority of 4 were in favour of the Government. There were 103 proxies, and of these a majority of 13 were in favour of the Opposition. The Conservatives, then, have a clear majority in the House of Lords, and a glance at the division list shows that that majority would have been much greater if it had not been for Lord Palmerston's numerous opportunities of nominating bishops of Liberal principles.

The House of Commons divided a few minutes before two o'clock on Saturday morning on Mr. Kinglake's amendment, which was carried by a majority of 18 for the Government, the numbers being 313 to 295.

Five Conservative members voted with the Government, and 18 Liberal Irish members voted for the Opposition. The following analysis of the division is useful as an indication of the strength of parties:—

ENGLAND.

Majority for Government			41
Voted for Government	254	Against	213
Pairs	6	Pairs	7
	260		220
Liberals absent	5	Conservatives absent	11
Speaker	1	Vacant	1
	266		232

SCOTLAND.

Majority for Government			23
Voted for Government	35	Against	12
Paired	2	Paired	2
Absent	1	Absent	1
	38		15

IRELAND.

Majority against Government			46
Voted for Government	26	Against	72
Absent	3	Absent	3
Paired	1	Paired	0
	30		75

Majority for Government in England	41
Majority for Government in Scotland	23
	64
Deduct majority against Government in Ireland	46
Majority for Government	18

During the debate in the Commons a great deal of excitement was manifested on both sides of the House, and this led to a 'scene' on Thursday evening. Mr. Layard charged the Opposition with falsifying—that is, garbling—their extracts from the blue-book; and Mr. Hardy said that Mr. Layard had made a calumnious statement. The Speaker was appealed to, and ruled that the term was justified by the provocation given. Lord Palmerston and the Chancellor of the Exchequer objected to the decision of the Speaker. At length Mr. Layard expressed his regret for using the term 'false,' and next night Mr. Gladstone expressed his sincere regret that he had used the term 'falsification,' which exceeded the due license of debate. Altogether, what occurred in the House of Commons last week must have greatly consoled those persons who have been mourning the decay of party spirit, in the existence of which they will not believe except upon the evidence of an angry and acrimonious debate.

On Monday, in the House of Commons, Lord Proby, who, as Comptroller of Her Majesty's Household, appeared at the bar with his wand of office, said, 'I am the bearer of an answer from Her Majesty to the Address of this House on the subject of Denmark.' The noble Lord then read as follows:—

'I have received your Address thanking me for directing the correspondence on Denmark and Germany and the Protocols of the Conference recently held in London to be laid before Parliament. I share your deep concern that the sittings of the Conference have been brought to a close without accomplishing the important purposes for which it was convened. I am happy to be assured of your satisfaction at the course I have felt it my duty to take in this conjuncture in not engaging in armed interference in the war now going on between Denmark and the German Powers.'

SIR F. B. HEAD.

On Monday, in the House of Commons, Sir W. Jolliffe called attention to the memorial of Sir F. Head to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, which was laid on the table on June 6, and to move 'That in the opinion of this House the great but hitherto unrequited services rendered by Sir F. B. Head, when Governor of Upper Canada, in the years 1837 and 1838, call for the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government.' By that memorial and the other document which accompanied it having been laid on its table, the House, he thought, was called upon to exercise its function on the matter to which they referred, and it ought to offer some expression of its sympathy with the very strong case which Sir F. Head had made out to the Colonial Office. He fully admitted that the services of that distinguished man were of a character which required that some time should elapse before they could be properly appreciated. He therefore found no fault with any Minister past or present. A great change was then inaugurated in our colonial policy, and it was a change, he believed, in the right direction. He thought it quite proper that they should endeavour to make the colonies self-supporting and self-dependent at the earliest period; and if ever there was a man who had successfully taught that policy to a colony, it was Sir Francis Head. He denuded his own Government of the troops and militia, and sent them to the assistance of Lord Colborne, and, notwithstanding the sacrifices he thus made, he put down rebellion in his own province by infusing into those whom he governed a spirit of loyalty and self-dependence which enabled him to accomplish the greatest results. In acknowledgment of his very meritorious services Sir Francis Head received various addresses on retiring from his Government from the British Minister at Washington, from the Upper and Lower Houses of the Canadian Parliament, from the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia, and from Sir George Arthur, who had succeeded him in his Government. Lord Glenelg, also, the Colonial Minister of that day, in giving instructions to Sir George Arthur, paid the highest compliments to the uncompromising firmness, energy, frank and open bearing of Sir Francis, whose conduct he held up as an example in all respects worthy of imitation. This was 26 years ago, and Sir Francis Head had up to the present time been unrewarded.

Mr. Cardwell did not deny the valuable services of Sir F. Head, and he intimated that a provision would be introduced into the Bill for granting pensions to Colonial Governors by which Sir F. Head's services would be rewarded. Sir J. Pakington hoped that Sir F. Head would get something better than fine words for the manifestation of courage and public spirit by which the province of Upper Canada had undoubtedly been saved. The case of Sir F. Head, however, did not stand on the same footing as that of other colonial governors. He was persuaded, against his own inclinations, to accept the Governorship of Canada, he giving up an appointment which he then held as Poor Law Inspector, with a salary of 1,000*l.* per annum. When he returned from his successful governorship Sir F. Head applied to be permitted to resume his old office, but his request was refused. The consequence was that he had been a poor man ever since, although

his claims in point of justice and good feeling were irresistible.

Sir F. Smith, Mr. Adderley, Mr. Angerstin, and Mr. Newdegate, bore strong testimony to the merits of Sir F. B. Head.

BRAZIL AND THE SLAVE TRADE.

On Tuesday, in the House of Commons, there was an animated and rather angry conversation about Brazil and the slave-trade. In reply to honourable members Lord Palmerston said the conduct of the Brazilian Government in regard to the slave-trade had been invariably marked by a flagrant violation of treaty engagements. If since 1852 Brazil had put down the slave-trade, it was by compulsion and not by conviction. Mr. Bright desired the repeal of the 'Aberdeen Act,' without which there could not be renewed friendly relations between the two countries. Lord Palmerston replied that the repeal of the 'Aberdeen Act' would revive the slave-trade. Lord J. Manners intimated that Lord Palmerston had been quoting from a newspaper, and not from a blue-book. According to the report of the *Times*, Lord Palmerston said, 'This is the blue-book from which I quote (tossing the paper across the table to the noble Lord).'

SYMPTOMS OF A NEW SECESSION.

THE following letter from Colonel Anderson, declining the nomination of State Elector on the Ohio Democratic State ticket, has appeared in the *Columbus Crisis*, and was published in the *Times* of Monday.

Seven Oaks, April 24, 1864.

Dear Colonel,—I ask permission through your columns to withdraw my name as a candidate for Presidential Elector in the Twelfth Congressional District of Ohio. There may be a seeming unfitness in selecting your paper as the medium of publication, but I hope by a few words to explain and justify my course. My acknowledgments are due, and they are hereby tendered, to the *Circleville Democrat* for the very complimentary, for the flattering notice it made of my nomination at the State Convention at Columbus. The announcement that my nomination 'meets the hearty approbation of every Democrat in the district,' and that 'a more worthy gentleman or better Democrat could not have been chosen,' is more than agreeable, it is highly gratifying. But, sir, though no man feels more sensibly the approbation of his fellow-men, though no one can prize more highly that harmonious combination of gentleman and Democrat, I prefer the sanction of my own conscience to the approval of men or multitudes, and my test of the 'gentleman and Democrat' shall be the truth, sincerely felt and fearlessly spoken.

I do not accept the nomination for one of two reasons—either I do not understand the opinions and convictions of my nominators, or they did not understand mine. It is not my wish or intention to deceive or be deceived. I want every voter to know that I am diametrically opposed to the continuance of this war. I will not and cannot consent to advocate and sustain any man, be he soldier or civilian, who is in favour of its prosecution. I now fully realise and comprehend the meaning of the term '*horrida bella*.' Now that 'rampant war has yoked her red dragons to her iron car'—now that all humanity, all magnanimity, is trampled under feet—I feel its full force. Our generals blush behind the buckler of Mars, while the she-devil Bellona, with blazing torch, lights on our arms to an ignominious victory over women and children.

Hannibal crossed the Alps and remained for thirty years in the heart of the Roman Empire, defeating their armies, defying their power. Does the example of that heathen leader teach us nothing? He passed through an enemy's country and left friends behind. Carthaginians and Romans met in battle, but neither waged a war of desolation on women and children. Kindness, consideration, and manly forbearance marked his course. Our warriors silence the cries of hunger with stones, and enlighten the darkness of distress with fiery faggots. In very truth, this war is carried on in such a brutal and barbarous manner—it is so disgraceful to the Government, so degrading to the soldiery—that it is surprising no new vocabulary has been invented to explain the terms of our advanced, much improved civilisation. It is easier to declare what we should do than to lay down an unchangeable law for our future conduct. To me it is very clear that Democrats should never sacrifice principle to popularity—better suffer defeat, contending for the right and principles of freemen, than obtain success by fraud and falsehood.

In one case, sustained by a vigorous vitality, we should rise fresh and strong; in the other, after tottering along with uncertain step, we would faint and fall from our own weariness and corruption. I am not for an available candidate—I am for a candidate who would lead us on under the banner of the Constitution—our motto, 'Union and Liberty, or no Union at all.' My hope, my prayer, is that when monarchical power 'is concentrated and centralised in Washington,' that one thousand daggers may pierce the heart of the first crowned villain! We should remember that 'eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.' I bid you, I beg you, watch! Seize your trumpet, and at the first alarming moment send forth the words of warning. What, sir, is the condition of our country? Over, above, and pressing down on our national burdens, we poor Western serfs are crushed to the earth by our factory masters, by Lowell lords and shoddy ladies. Peasants and heroes of the West, you are but tenant vassals for the nabobs of the East. Eat, sleep, and be happy! I say awake, arise, freemen of the West, arise! Spring up from your night of sloth, or your day of resurrection may never dawn!

Editor of the *Crisis*, 'agitate.' If we cannot have our glorious old Union let us have God and Nature's Union! Let us follow the bright sparkling waters of the Ohio, down to the Father of Waters—down to the ocean of peace. The greatest and grandest valley in the world claims us for her own; let us acknowledge her claim. If so, I will divide the honour with a member of the Cabinet. He said to Orestes A. Brownson, 'I am tired of fighting Southern slavery; I will have nothing more to do with slaveholders; I am in for a Northern Confederacy.' My parody on that is, I am tired of working for Yankee taskmasters; I hate their selfish meanness; and therefore I am in favour of a Western Confederacy. I have paid tribute long enough to the looms and spindles of the East; I wish no longer to be the political pack mule of New England. They have taught me that when the burden becomes intolerable I have a right to throw it off. They invented the word 'secede,' and they have inculcated the doctrine that an oppressed people are justified in separating from their oppressors, 'peaceably if they can, forcibly if they must.'

Of course, dear *Crisis*, my proposition is predicated on the fact that the original Union is dissolved. No man is fool or fanatic enough to doubt it. Not even the Arcadian Nightingale of the White House can any longer sing the song 'of the Union and the Constitution.' The master minds of this nation, who are determined to rule or ruin it, have presented the alternative to the South of 'subjugation or miscegenation!' What! a free-born American people become subjugated, or descend to the lowest depth of human degradation by mingling the blood of their daughters with that of their slaves?

The Union is dissolved. From the moment the confiscation laws, the proclamation laws were published, from that moment the Union ceased to exist.

With sadness and sorrow, but not entirely without hope, I am your fellow-sufferer,

W. MARSHALL ANDERSON.

The New York correspondent of the *Times* writes:—

'This is strong language. Will the Government allow Colonel Anderson to preach such doctrine unchallenged and unmolested? Time will show. Sufficient, however, is known of the state of popular feeling in Ohio and Indiana to warrant the belief that startling news may be expected from that quarter.'

THE REPORTED RESIGNATION OF MR. MEMMINGER.

THE following report of the proceedings in the Confederate House of Representatives on the eve of adjournment, shows the foundation of the report circulated by the *New York Herald*, that Mr. Memminger, the Confederate Secretary of the Treasury, had resigned:—

In the House of Representatives, June 14, Mr. Foote said that he would like to introduce a resolution enquiring of the Committee on the Judiciary what had become of his resolution concerning Mr. Memminger. He understood that the gentleman was authorised to make a statement in reference to Mr. Memminger, which would set the matter at rest and preclude the necessity of his pressing the matter further.

Mr. Conrad said that he did not think that, under the circumstances, he ought to answer the question of the gentleman from Tennessee. It would not be just to the Secretary of the Treasury to make a statement which might indicate a desire to avert a threatened motion directed against him, and, as the gentleman had intimated his intention to make such a motion, he must decline answering the question.

Mr. Foote said he withdrew his remark, and hoped the member from Louisiana would repeat the statement made some time ago as to the intentions of the Secretary.

Mr. Conrad said, after what had just fallen from the member from Tennessee, he had no objection to repeat the statement which he had made some time ago, which was that, some time previous, the Secretary of the Treasury had declared to him that it was his intention to resign his office at the end of the present session. It was proper to add, however, that this declaration was made some time before the motion of the gentleman from Tennessee, and had no reference to the action of this House in regard to him, but was a casual remark, dropped by him in a conversation which he (Mr. Conrad) had with him in reference to matters then pending before the committee.

Mr. Foote said that he was authorised to say that a member of the Senate had the solemn declaration of Mr. Memminger that he intended to resign his office; and that the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee had the same statement from the Secretary's own lips. This being the case, he did not press his resolution.

Mr. Russell, on the part of the committee appointed to act in conjunction with the Senate Committee, appointed to wait on the President, and inform him of the readiness of the House to adjourn, reported that the President stated that he had nothing further to communicate, save the approval of several Bills which he was now examining. The President desires to express his wish for the health and happiness of the members, and their safe return to their homes, and that he had hopes that before the meeting of the next Congress our country will have surmounted the difficulties and dangers which surround it, and Providence will have given us bright and happy prospects.

The hour of two o'clock having arrived, the Speaker announced the House of Representatives adjourned *sine die*.

PROMOTIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS.—The following promotions and assignments are announced in a special order from the head-quarters of the Confederate army:—

Major-General J. B. Kershaw, permanently to the command of M'Laws's Division.

Brigadier-General Bryan Grimes, permanently to the command of Daniels's (N. C.) Brigade.

Brigadier-General James Conner, temporarily to the command of M'Gowan's Brigade.

Brigadier-General Rufus Barringer, permanently to Gordon's Brigade of Cavalry.

Brigadier-General John M'Causland, permanently to Jenkins's Cavalry Brigade.

Brigadier-General William B. Cox, temporarily to Ramseur's Brigade.

Brigadier-General Thomas Toon, temporarily to Johnson's (N.C.) Brigade.

Brigadier-General William G. Lewis, temporarily to Hoke's Brigade.

Brigadier-General Lilly, temporarily to Pegram's Brigade.

Brigadier-General Zebulon York, temporarily to Hays's and Stafford's Brigade.

Major-General Ramseur, temporarily to Early's Division.

Major-General Mahone, temporarily to Anderson's Division.

Lieutenant-General R. H. Anderson, temporarily to Longstreet's Corps.

Lieutenant-General J. A. Early, temporarily to Ewell's Corps.

CONSOLATION FOR MR. LINCOLN.—The *New York World* writes:—'Some of the court journals are trying to disguise a compliment to Mr. Lincoln's courage by gently reprimanding him for exposing his person to the rebel sharpshooters while riding at the front with General Butler during his recent visit to General Grant's army. The President was perfectly safe. The rebel sharpshooter who had levelled his piece at him would have been court-martialled and shot by his own commanders. Nothing is of more importance to the rebel cause than that Mr. Lincoln shall live out his term, except, indeed, it be his re-election.'

'SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE' IN THE MACCLESFIELD DISTRICT.

A PUBLIC meeting was held on Tuesday evening, in the Church Institute, Tintwistle (Macclesfield), to adopt a resolution on behalf of the inhabitants of Mottram, Hollingworth, Hadfield, and the other populous towns and villages in that manufacturing district, urging upon Her Majesty's Government the propriety of offering friendly counsel to the belligerents in the American war, and, in the event of the failure of such a measure by reason of the obstinacy of the North, to enter into concert with other European Powers with a view to the recognition of the Southern Confederacy.

The meeting was very largely attended, and partook somewhat of the character of an assembly of delegates from the various townships in the hundred of Macclesfield. Representatives attended from Glossop (Derbyshire), Stockport (Cheshire), and other towns of importance.

James Sidebottam, Esq., one of the most influential men in the district, presided, and was supported by a large body of gentlemen, clerical and lay, who appeared to enjoy the confidence of the working men in that locality.

The Chairman, after a few introductory remarks upon the importance of the occasion upon which they had assembled, hoped that the voice of the people of the cotton districts would be intelligibly expressed, and he did not doubt that, judging from the crisis of affairs in America, the Government would think this a fitting season for paying attention to the expressed wishes of the people of this country. He concluded by introducing to the meeting W. E. Stutter, Esq., of the Southern Independence Association.

Mr. Stutter was received with loud applause. We had witnessed, he said, three years of desperate warfare in America, with no results pointing to the subjugation of the South by the North; three years of almost inconceivable carnage, with the indomitable pluck of the Southern people still in the ascendant; three years of commercial depression in Lancashire, and not a ray of hope for the return of our industrial prosperity. The latest accounts showed that the prospects of the Federal general grew darker every day. In his attempt to capture Richmond—a small spot in the Southern Confederacy—he had already lost 35 per cent. of his army. General Lee, as the *Times* confidently prophesied, would, at no distant date, effectually consign Grant's invasion of Virginia to the page of history, to rank with the failures of M'Clellan, Pope, Hooker, and Burnside. If that were a true picture of the relations between the actual combatants now on the scene, what was to be said of another feature in the struggle that was threatening to become one of perilous prominence? What was to be said of the growing disaffection in the West? The people of that vast agricultural district had begun to cry out against the oppression of Northern rule; and, singularly enough, Colonel Anderson, brother to General Robert Anderson of Fort Sumter notoriety, had come forward as the spokesman of the sentiments of the Western States. He is opposed, he says, to the continuance of the war. He is tired of working for Yankee taskmasters. He hates their selfish meanness. He will no longer be the political 'pack-mule' of New England. The Northerners invented the word 'secede,' and they have persistently preached the doctrine that an oppressed people are justified in separating from their oppressors, 'peaceably if they can, forcibly if they must.' Mr. Stutter then entered more at large upon the technical right of secession, the question of the tariff, the preponderance of the North in the representative councils of the Union, and he argued that for these reasons alone the Southern States had a right to avail themselves of the constitutional privilege of seceding from the Confederation. After giving an effective description of the progress of the Southern States in self-government, for which, he said, they had developed, under circumstances of tremendous difficulty, a genius which was little less than marvellous, he contended it was the duty of European Powers to save the North from the consequences of its own folly, for before long the Unionists would have to run the gauntlet of a Western as well as a Southern secession. In conclusion, he urged upon the working men of Lancashire to weigh well the consequences that would result to themselves from the continuance of this most unjust and most unnecessary of wars. If the Southern people had justice on their side, as he maintained they had, then the slaughter that had been forced upon them was a crime in the sight of God and man, and all who not only countenanced but magnified and perpetuated it were participators in that great sin. Three years of heroic struggle, three years of wonderful self-denial, three years of valorous chivalry, ought to entitle the brave Southern people to recognition by the Government of England. The prospects, too, of our own country, the condition of industrial pursuits in the great manufacturing districts of Lancashire, demanded that the raw material requisite for our prosperity should not be held back because a wicked and vindictive section of the American people desired to consolidate their power by crushing the political liberties and destroying the social happiness of an integral branch of the ancient Anglo-Saxon race.

At the conclusion of Mr. Stutter's address, which was frequently and enthusiastically applauded, several questions were asked by working men in the body of the hall, and answered apparently to their satisfaction; for when the resolution above referred to was put to the meeting, it was carried with acclamation and without a single dissentient voice.

The following petition to the House of Commons was also unanimously adopted, and a copy of it, signed by the Chairman on behalf of the meeting, will be forwarded for presentation to-morrow evening:—

'*To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom in Parliament assembled.*

'The humble Petition of the magistrates, councillors, tradesmen, manufacturers, shopkeepers, and other inhabitants of the townships of the hundred of Macclesfield, in public meeting assembled,

'Showeth: That your Petitioners, believing that the war in America is an injury to the world, that its events have fully demonstrated that the Federal Government cannot subjugate and hold in subjection the people of the Southern States, and that the present aspects of the conflict afford no hope of its early termination, are of opinion that to protract the contest can only result in a useless destruction of life and property on that continent, and in the infliction of serious injury on the cotton districts of our own country.

'Wherefore, your Petitioners humbly pray that your honourable House will be pleased to take such steps as may in your judgment most rapidly lead to the re-establishment of peace.

'And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(Signed) 'JAMES SIDEBOTTAM,
'Chairman of the Meeting.'

The assembly broke up with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and three cheers for the South.

CONFEDERATE AND FEDERAL FINANCES.

THE Confederate loan is at 69 to 71, so that notwithstanding the unexpected extent to which during the last three years the war for the subjugation of the South has been supported by Irish mercenaries and German and Dutch capital, these bonds are now at a price which, reckoning dividends, sinking fund, and allowances provided for meanwhile, would involve little more loss to the original subscribers than that of interest from the date of its introduction. *Times*, City Article, July 11.

The Secretary of the Treasury at Washington has obtained power to issue further 6 per cent. bonds to the amount of 80,000,000*l.*, the interest to be paid in coin. An annual addition of 4,800,000*l.* is therefore to be made to the demand for gold. With previously existing requirements, the sum to be raised yearly by the Government in specie will accordingly be brought up to about 20,000,000*l.* As a very large portion of the Federal debt is held in Germany and Holland, where agents have been employed at splendid rates of commission to tempt all the quiet saving classes to adopt these securities in preference to those of their own Governments, the periodical remittances for interest to Europe must be in proportion. Already the expenditure of the Federal Government and the general consumption of imported goods is on a scale the payment for which not only absorbs all the metallic supply from San Francisco, but leaves an enormous balance to be furnished from whatever hoards of gold may yet remain in the country. No one can decide how long these funds will be forthcoming, but all can understand that the question of stoppage must be simply one of time. Previously to the war the people, in consequence of abundant harvests, had become rich in gold, and the substitution of inconvertible paper for a metallic currency has since rendered a large additional amount available for exportation. But taking any preposterous estimate that the most sanguine Federal could suggest as the probable aggregate of specie thus disposable, the end can easily be calculated. For three or four years the drain has already been continuous, and as it may be assumed that before the country could be swept of all its cash a panic would set in that would lead to hoarding, it is impossible to doubt that the final hour is rapidly approaching. That it has been delayed so long is solely consequent on the fact that the sale of bonds in Germany and Holland has enabled specie for their amount to be obtained from those countries. In proportion as such drafts can continue to be made, so long will the break-up be partially retarded, but there is reason to apprehend that these investors will never get a dividend in coin, except so long as they continue to supply the coin themselves. It is not a question of honesty on the part of the United States. It is one of possibility. They may on the face of their bonds promise to pay in gold, and in their financial ignorance they may believe they will be able to do so. But will they explain where the gold is to come from? Up to a certain stage, even in this country, Mr. Chase found people who were astonished at his 'success,' and who talked of his financial ability. Some of these parties were also angry that any doubt should be thrown upon the financial sagacity of a people so remarkable for their devotion to trade and money-making. But they were warned that the success was simply that of a spendthrift, who will not pull up so long as he has a fragment of property or credit he can make away with, and that just according to the prolongation of the game would be the extent of ultimate ruin. At first the mere prediction that a suspension of specie payments would rapidly ensue was treated as an idle manifestation of ill-will, and subsequently the anticipations that gold would go to 50 per cent. premium, and from 50 per cent. to 100, were met with still stronger protestations. This determination to shut out all logical conclusions has, happily, not been sufficiently powerful to cause mischief in London, but on the Continent the delusion has been so extensive that there can be no doubt of most serious consequences whenever it shall be dispelled. At the present moment purchases are actively continued, each new fall in price merely inducing previous holders to buy more in order to make an average. At the beginning of this year the Washington Government despatched to Europe two persons of position and influence to ascertain what was the prospect for raising loans. One of these agents, the Hon. Robert J. Walker, published a pamphlet in London to show the finances and resources of America. Gold, after having some time previously touched 73 premium, had then receded to 27. This Mr. Walker pointed out to be a natural consequence of Mr. Chase's system—a system which in its completeness and brilliancy was 'without a precedent in history.' 'It is not doubted,' Mr. Walker continued, 'that before June 30 next this premium must disappear;' and he accordingly urged all possessors of gold to take advantage of it and invest in Federal Bonds while there was yet time at such favourable terms. We have yet to learn what was the actual quotation of gold at New York on Thursday last, the predicted June 30; but it happened that that which had then arrived in London was 145 premium. The moral is surely plain. Although there is no need to charge Mr. Walker with any want of sincerity, the fallibility of judgment he and his compatriots have shown should lead to the exercise of great caution in any future representations with the view of inducing the industrial populations of Europe to part with the hardly earned means which constitute in many cases their sole provision for old age.—*Times*, City Article, July 8.

A partial rally in United States Bonds occurred to-day, and some large amounts were again taken for the Continent. The recovery was consequent on the reported resignation of Mr. Chase, the Secretary of the Treasury. Looking at the point to which he has brought the Federal finances, it is only natural that a rumour of his retirement should create an improved feeling; but whoever may be his successor, only one course is open to arrest the present ruin, and there seems as little prospect as at any former time of its being adopted. A cessation of the war is the sole condition on which even the faintest hope of anything short of an utter financial breakdown can be based. If the war were to cease to-morrow, the Federal Government, upon all its affairs being wound up, would find itself with a debt the weight of which in the shape of interest would be about one-fourth greater than that of the United Kingdom, while the population to meet it would be about a third or a fourth less. Such is the view under the best circumstances, and even those who believe that a country where the rudiments of free trade have not yet been recognised can successfully struggle under these circumstances, and that the honesty of the American nation, with its weekly influx of thousands of German and Irish immigrants, will be proof against all temptations to throw off the burden, must admit that it is an anxious one. It allows nothing for the maintenance of an army to threaten the South for the future, and assumes a state of perfect and prolonged economy and peace, all such temptations as are offered by Canada and Mexico and San Domingo being for ever shut out. Instead, however, of any such promise, we have in all the latest letters and journals from New York nothing but the old confidence that the capture of Richmond and the submission of the Confederacy is simply a question of time. If the Finance Minister is not to be allowed to starve the war, he can have no choice but to issue more loans or additional paper currency. If he limits himself to loans there is a certainty that gold will fall until their value be once more restored, and the paper currency will of necessity receive a little from the depreciation. Should he choose the alternative of pouring out fresh notes, then the premium on gold will pursue its course, and the paper price of stocks will rise in proportion as the currency becomes more and more like the assignats of the French Revolution. Or he may mingle both courses, as has hitherto been the policy, and thus continue to bring upon the country the mixed evils of the two systems. As far as the welfare of the nation is concerned, it matters little which of the plans is selected. They lead alike to irretrievable anarchy. Hence, unless Mr Lincoln means peace, there is no use in his changing his Finance Minister. For providing the means for an expenditure of 200 millions sterling a year no one could excel Mr. Chase, who has adroitly contrived to get as large a proportion of it as possible from foreign admirers. *Times*, City Article, July 13.

SALOON CARRIAGES.

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

SIR,—The horrible crime which now occupies universal attention, and which recalls a similar tragedy a year or two ago in France, of which a distinguished member of the French bar was the victim, concerns the travelling public the world over. It is surprising to me that, among the numerous suggestions made through the press, not one touches seriously the only radical remedy applicable to an evil which we may expect to become epidemical. All the various modes of signalling the guard are clearly inefficient. Without referring to their obvious liability to abuse by timid old ladies or mischievous young collegians, a person in sudden danger, even if possessing the necessary presence of mind, would seldom be left by the assailant the opportunity of using this mode of escape. Steps by which the guards may pass from carriage to carriage while in motion, as is the case in French railways, are useful so far as they go, but the guards rarely perform this circuit more than once in a long journey, and it is in the remembrance of every one that this precaution did not avert a crime almost precisely similar in its details within the last two years. The only remedy is in the compulsory abandonment of the present absurd system of packing, or rather imprisoning, railway passengers. This system, accidentally adopted at first, has not a single merit to recommend, much less defend it. It neither secures privacy nor convenience, nor does it economise space. Every one of these requisites is better met in saloon carriages, divided, if it is desired, into classes, and into compartments of various sizes, but opening into each other, and the carriages themselves, which is easily done, communicating with each other. This is the one redeeming feature of the many abominations of American railway travelling; and every one who has made the continuous journey of four or five days and nights, say from New York to New Orleans, can bear testimony to the lessening of fatigue which results from the faculty of locomotion, of seeing friends on the same train, not to mention other still more important conveniences of saloon carriages. This system, without the American abuse of making everybody herd together, is adopted in the railways of Switzerland and many parts of the extreme north of Europe. Its merits are that, while the traveller can be as private and exclusive as he pleases, he can at any moment place himself in communication with his fellow-travellers and the guard. Even if the communicating doors are kept closed, there is an immense difference between a closed door and a thickly-stuffed division. To a certain extent, but in an uncomfortable fashion, the saloon carriage is adopted for the cheaper fares on the 'omnibus' trains of several French railways. A better proof of its advantages is that carriages built for royalty, or other distinguished persons, are always made after the saloon model. On the Great Western Railway and its branches there are one or two for first-class travellers, but not perfect ones. In practice there is no reason whatever why railway travelling should not be made as comfortable in every respect as ocean travel; and an Act of Parliament compelling railway companies to comply with the dictates of common sense in the building of new carriages would insure, in the course of a very few years, an entire replacement of that species of conveyance, without entailing loss on the companies. Permit me to subscribe myself

AN OLD TRAVELLER.

London, July, 1864.

MODUS OPERANDI OF FEDERAL RECRUITING.—The New York Correspondent of the *Daily News*, who must be considered excellent authority on everything that concerns the interests of his employers, makes the following curious revelations in an attempt to vindicate the Washington Government from the charge of recruiting:—'In the first place, fifteen dollars were offered in New York to "anybody bringing in a recruit." The object of this was to interest somebody in doing the indispensable work of canvassing, of hunting up those who were likely to join the army, and in persuading them to join. This work has to be done by somebody. In England it is done by officers and non-commissioned officers specially detailed for this service, and directed (see the late circular of the Duke of Cambridge) to frequent fairs, markets, and all other places resorted to by idle or adventurous or needy men; and in spite of their exertions, it is found no easy matter to keep the British army, small as it is, up to the required strength. Suppose it were suddenly raised to 600,000 men, and that gaps of tremendous size were being daily made in it by the casualties and disease of a bloody war, do you suppose the regular recruiting service would be the only agency to which the Government would resort to keep its ranks full? Do you imagine that it would be saved the necessity of canvassing altogether by the spontaneous rush into the service, as private soldiers, of the "genteel" people, who are now filled with such horror because the Americans make no scruple about employing mercenaries? The brokers here, however, not only pocket the "hand money" for bringing the recruit, but they in general manage to share the bounty also. That they should be able to [illegible] of the community of the most [illegible] that they [illegible] to such an extent [illegible] they have made large fortunes by the [illegible]. They [illegible] the trade all over the country, expense to them what may, and by employing offices [illegible] getting [illegible] to seek them. It is not [illegible] a chance that money is being made in the present [illegible] other than the proper office to apply to, and [illegible] aware of the thousand advantages which a shrewd city [illegible] possesses over country [illegible], and especially over [illegible] to enable them to get hold of a large share of the money. I have heard of cases in which out of fifteen dollars [illegible] and I think there were few men enlisted through the instrumentality of the brokers in the city at whom the [illegible] managed to retain over fifteen dollars. You will see from this that when men are called for by the 200,000 or 300,000 the profits of the business must be enormous. The slave trade can hardly compare with it. If a broker only [illegible] a week it was really paid. There were few of the [illegible] ones who did not bring in a dozen a week. Now, you will see that enough men, with [illegible] to such a trade within the [illegible], would [illegible] to any one State or district. They scoured all possible parts of the United States and Canada for recruits, and [illegible] I do not know of their having gone to Ireland. I should be greatly astonished to find they had not done so. In no place are recruits so easily procured, especially for America, and no men make better soldiers than Irishmen. It would therefore be the most natural thing in the world if every broker in New York had his agent in Cork and Limerick and Galway, picking up and despatching to him every able-bodied man he could lay hands on.'

CONFEDERATE SHIPS IN FRANCE.—The Paris correspondent of the *Times*, under date of July 8, makes the following curious revelations about the change of ownership of certain vessels in French dockyards, supposed to have been originally destined for the Confederate Government:—'It was at the season when the Government, or the Emperor, was amicably disposed towards the Southern Confederacy that leave was very readily and willingly given for the building at Nantes and Bordeaux of certain vessels nominally for commercial objects, but really for war. There were, I believe, two steam corvettes and two rams. "Leave," perhaps, is not the proper word, encouragement or even instigation, would be the suitable term. During the building, or just as it was nearly concluded, the change I allude to was visible in the Government, and to whatever cause it is to be attributed, the parties who had authorised, encouraged, or instigated it sent orders that the vessels should not be delivered over to the Confederates, but should either be disposed of to a third party not belligerent, or detained in port till the war in America was brought to a conclusion. Something was said about the Swedish Government being in treaty for the ships; but, if so, nothing came of it. A private letter from Bordeaux now mentions that, though the ground alleged for detaining these ships was that they were constructed for a belligerent, the corvettes and the ram have been just sold to the Prussian Government—though Prussia is a belligerent,—and that one of them, the *Yeddo*, cleared out of Bordeaux some few days ago, ostensibly for Amsterdam, and proceeded to Bremerhaven, where, probably, she has taken on board her war material and crew, and is now, or will soon be, anchored in a Prussian port, flying the Prussian flag, and ready to act against Denmark. It is further stated that this transfer to a belligerent was effected not merely with the sanction, but *by order of the Government*. It was stated in one of the Paris papers a day or two ago that the *Yeddo* had been sold since its its completion to the Confederate Government, to replace the *Alabama*, and when at sea was to take on board all that was necessary for her equipment. The statement was not true, and in all probability the Danes will hear something of her and her companions before long. This does not look like neutrality towards belligerents, and it looks still less like a friendly weakness on the part of the French Government towards its old ally, Denmark. There are other details in the letter I refer to which I omit, but the delivery to Prussia, under official sanction, of ships built, also under official sanction, for the Confederate Government, is, I am assured, a fact.' In a letter dated the 11th, the same correspondent renews and corroborates his statement:—'The fact I mentioned on Thursday about the ships built in the French ports for the service of the Confederates, and then sold to the Prussian Government, is alluded to in the *Opinion Nationale*. "It is with affliction we learn," it says, "that France has herself undertaken to furnish Prussia with these engines of battle and destruction." It corroborates my statement that several ships of war, "two of which are iron-clad," were built at Nantes and Bordeaux; that the French Government forbade the builder in the most positive manner to deliver them to the parties for whom they were intended; that several (the *Opinion* says five) have just been bought by the Prussians; and that one of them, the *Yeddo*, cleared out at Bordeaux for Amsterdam, and reached Bremerhaven, where she hoisted the Prussian flag. The four others will soon follow the same destination. The peculiarity of the case is that the ships were built with the full knowledge and sanction, not to say encouragement, of the Government, which, though it may have subsequently changed its views, was under no necessity to have them sold to Prussia, a belligerent Power.'

'GENERAL GRANT'S LINE.'—The *Richmond Enquirer* of June 15 says:—'"I propose to fight it out on *this* line if it takes all the summer." These were the words of General Grant when near Spottsylvania Court House. The *line* from Spottsylvania Court House to Richmond would pass through Spottsylvania, Hanover, and Henrico Counties; but the *line* he followed passed through Caroline, King William, Hanover, New Kent, and Charles City, to the deep waters of the James River, eighty miles by water and thirty by land from Richmond. His army is at Westover and Harrison's Landing. He tried Hooker's, Burnside's, and M'Clellan's lines, combining all three, and now rests on the James River, at the very spot to which M'Clellan was driven just two years ago. He might have reached his present position by water, without opposition.'

IMPORTS FROM FRANCE.—It appears from a Parliamentary return issued yesterday that the value of the linen manufactures, viz., cambrics and French lawns, damask and damask diaper, sails and sail cloth, &c., imported into the United Kingdom in the year ended May 31, 1863, was 55,934*l.* In the year ended May 31 this year, the total value of the imports was 211,949*l.* The great increase is in linen yarn.

COOKING THE GOOSE.—The Confederate army seems ahead of ours in military improvements, as it appears amply furnished with 'Grant's Cooking Apparatus.'—*The Owl.*

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 13 Bouverie Street, E.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 1864.

The War.

THE most significant item of intelligence from America during the past week has been Mr. STANTON'S silence. Gradually the despatches of the War Secretary have become briefer and more obscure, until at last even the farce of official publication is laid aside, and New York is given over entirely to the 'shaves' and camp rumours of the jobbers. Barely a month has elapsed since the Northern press was loud in its praises of Mr. STANTON'S candour and promptitude. Early publication of news, whether good or bad, was what was required by a high-spirited, confident, and intelligent community; and, up to a certain time, Mr. STANTON endeavoured to deserve the eulogium. But GRANT'S defeats at Petersburg on the 17th and 18th ult. convince the editor of the official despatches that enough had been sacrificed in the interests of truth, and that henceforth a 'golden silence' would be judicious. We are now left, therefore, to newspaper correspondence and camp gossip; and as there is nothing but the news of Federal defeat to recount, perhaps it is as well that we are allowed to glean it from such sources, instead of having it filtered through the bureaux at Washington. It cannot, however, we fancy, be maintained that, from a Northern point of view, no news is good news. The eagerness with which for many months past the Federal authorities have snatched at every little scrap of information which could possibly be put before the public in a favourable light, contrasts ominously with their present tardiness in relieving the suspense of the Northern citizens; and we may be quite certain that when the telegram announces, as the result of three days' later intelligence, that there is no news from GRANT'S or SHERMAN'S force, there is at least nothing of a satisfactory nature to disclose. The turning-point of the campaigns, both in Virginia and Georgia, is now come. It is no longer a question whether GRANT shall capture Richmond this summer and SHERMAN advance his outposts to Atlanta. But it is a question, and a very serious one, for the LINCOLN Administration, whether the Federal army in Virginia is not hopelessly crippled so far as any forward movement is concerned, and whether SHERMAN'S forces are not in imminent peril of destruction. And yet all Mr. STANTON can do at such a crisis is to preserve an 'eloquent' silence—a silence, the mute terror of which proclaims far and wide through the Northern and Western States the failure of their last hope of enslaving the Southern Confederacy.

In our last issue we ventured to anticipate that if GRANT attempted to extend his line by his left, with a view to the semi-investment of Petersburg, he would be severely handled, and the event has justified our remarks. It is now known that GRANT did advance upon the Petersburg and Weldon Railroad, and that the Confederates under General HILL, slipping in between the 2nd and 6th Corps, fell upon the rear of the former, and completely broke it up, capturing and putting *hors de combat* not less than 5,000 men. This check at once put a stop to any forward movement, and GRANT'S whole army fell back upon its entrenchments on the eastern side of Petersburg. Thus, its extreme left resting on the Petersburg and Norfolk line of railroad, and its right on the City Point line, GRANT'S army occupied the position rather of a besieged than a besieging force, and was obviously far more intent upon securing its own communications than assaulting Petersburg. Indeed, the whole efforts of the Federal General seem to have been directed less to the capture of Richmond than to cavalry raids in Southern Virginia, as if the destruction for 24 or 48 hours of a line of railroad would produce a panic in the Southern capital and compel LEE to retreat. In fact the *Daily News* is so delighted with GRANT'S 'masterly inactivity' as to found its only hope of ultimate victory on these cavalry raids, and to compare SHERMAN'S critical position in Georgia with that of LEE in Virginia. But the difference is obvious. LEE'S depôt of supplies is Richmond. The town has been supplied for a siege. It contains within its limits all the requirements of a powerful army; it is abundantly provided with water, it has immense ironworks and other manufactories; and if GRANT remained twelve months in his present position, unless he was able permanently to hold the lines of railroad, he might for all practical purposes be drilling his men at Bull Run. How slight the damage he can do to the railroad communications of Richmond must be, is shown by WILSON'S cavalry expedition to the Danville line. This force is reported to have destroyed twenty miles of the road, but on its return is attacked by the Confederates, finds the way back to the Federal camp barred by a strong Southern force, attacks and is beaten, and finally compels GRANT to despatch an army of 30,000 men to its relief. The engagement seems to have taken place at Beam's Station, on the Petersburg and Weldon line, and according to Federal accounts, General WILSON was unable to accomplish his purpose. But the despatch of the Sixth and a portion of the Second Corps will hardly improve the 'situation.' Already we hear that the Confederates are moving in the direction of the Federal rear; and it is quite possible that the attack of General HILL'S corps will be repeated, and that the 30,000 men sent on to extricate the cavalry may also find on their return a strong Confederate force barring the way. Certainly the Federals are very unfortunate in their cavalry expeditions. SHERIDAN failed to reach Gordonsville, or to reinforce HUNTER; and we now hear of his disastrous retreat from West Point to the James River with the admitted loss of upwards of 1,500 men. If WILSON'S cavalry corps meets with similar treatment, the raids of the Federal army in Virginia will speedily come to an end. But, for the moment, the most dangerous enemies of the Northern army in Virginia are the heat and the drought. Men and horses, it is said, are dying by hundreds of the fatigues of a campaign carried on in such weather. Water was not to be had; the ambulances were hard at work all day carrying the sick to the rear; and in the hospitals men were dying in crowds. An army of veterans would become demoralised by these privations, supervening on constant defeat in the field. What can be expected or hoped of the raw troops under GRANT'S command?

And if General GRANT has played or is on the point of playing his last card without the faintest prospect of success, we may say the same of his fellows. HUNTER is said to have escaped with the bulk of his force, but with the loss of thirteen pieces of artillery and large numbers of men. The Confederates are on his track, and it is as yet uncertain that he has been able to reach a place of safety. SHERMAN,' after advancing within twenty-two miles of Atlanta, has come to a halt in front of the Kenesaw Mountains, and after having lost a great battle and some 5,000 men, is reported to be retreating. Generals WHEELER and FORREST are said to be in his rear with powerful cavalry forces; and if the story is true that SHERMAN has already commenced his retreat, it is possible that within a week or two we may hear of the greatest disaster that has yet occurred to the Federal arms. In New York and Washington the 'situation' is beginning to be appreciated. Mr. CHASE'S resignation, when he has plunged the North into illimitable bankruptcy, is six months too late for his reputation and his country; while the fluctuations in the price of gold betoken a state of things that can only precede a grand crash. On the whole, we are inclined to think that within the next fortnight decisive and highly satisfactory news may be expected from both of the great Confederate armies.

Confederate and Federal Credit Abroad.

THE two most marked features in the quotations of foreign stocks for several weeks past have been the rapid yet steady rise in the Confederate Cotton Loan and the correspondingly rapid decline of the United States 'Five-Twenties.' At the same time that the former passed 70 with long strides upwards, the latter were on the descending scale within a step or two of 40. There is in this fact a suggestive contrast to which sufficient heed has not been given, simply because the Federal security, unlike its Confederate rival, does not figure daily in the reports of the Stock Exchange transactions. We here anticipate the plea with which the partisans of the North will doubtless console themselves. They will urge that for the purpose of a fair comparison we should take the domestic or internal debt of the two Governments, and that in such case the contrast would be as unfavourable to the Confederates as it now appears to the Federals. A better plea would be that the Confederate Foreign Loan rests upon a tangible solid basis in the shape of cotton, while the Federal bonds are based upon an unsupported national credit; but the partisans of the North are estopped from pleading this in extenuation of the disparity, since they have persistently and unanimously professed to consider the cotton basis of the Confederate Loan as utterly chimerical. The truth is that though nominally the two securities differ in character, they fulfil all the conditions for a fair and just comparison of the relative credit abroad of their respective issuers.

The United States 'Five-Twenties,' so called because redemption is optional after five years and compulsory in twenty years from date, bearing six per cent. interest, are expressly intended to subserve the purpose of an indirect foreign loan, the direct negotiation, several times attempted, having signally failed. There is a regular machinery for peddling and hawking them about, 'in quantities to suit purchasers,' not merely in the great money marts but among the rural and industrial populations of Europe. In Holland and especially in Germany, where the traditional belief in the fabulous wealth and prosperity of the United States still survives, and where the cause of the North is looked upon as that of a second 'Vaterland,' this machinery has worked most effectively, and the very cheapness of the ubiquitous bonds has tempted imprudent investments. It is believed that an amount vastly greater than that of the whole Confederate Foreign Loan has been thus placed in various Continental countries, and, to a more limited extent, also in Scotland and Ireland. The gold thus drawn, mainly from the hard-earned savings of the poor, has been Mr. CHASE'S chief reliance in his ruinous *coup d'état* in the New York specie market, and it has contributed to retard the inevitable and long-expected crash. We are fully warranted, therefore, in treating these bonds as to all intents and purposes an appeal to foreign credit, quite as much so as if the loan, instead of being indirectly obtained, had been formally negotiated. On the other hand, it would be most unfair to compare securities so placed with the funded domestic debt of a country where, owing to a blockade by sea and land, the precious metals have been withdrawn from the operation of the laws of supply and demand, and acquired an altogether arbitrary value, as speculative as that of certain bulbs in the famous tulip mania. The bonds of the Confederate funded debt represent a home currency more or less deranged, and measure its fluctuations for better or for worse, but they in nowise represent Confederate credit abroad, for which reason only a very insignificant portion has ever sought its way into the European market.

The Foreign Loan of the Confederate States derives undoubtedly an inestimable strength from its broad substratum of hypotheticated cotton. Thanks to this, it has an invariable standard of its own value, and is wholly independent of, and unaffected by, the capricious price of gold or the redundant issues of treasury notes in the Confederacy. However poor in the precious metals the Southern States may become, or however disordered their internal finances, they will always have, so long as they are their own masters, the means to pay from their accumulated store and their inexhaustible soil in a medium the specie-value of which can never be less than the stipulated minimum of sixpence per pound. But though this fortunate circumstance of a double standard of payment securely shields the foreign debt of the Confederacy from the dangers attaching to its domestic finances, the ability to pay, even when cotton is substituted for gold, depends upon the same condition, that the Confederates should be their own masters; in other words, upon the fortunes of a war of independence—upon the credit of their Government abroad. It is therefore exposed to the same fluctuations, according to the course and tenor of events, as any other national security unsustained by a similar substantial pledge. This becomes still more clear when we consider the history of the Loan from its inception. By far the greater portion was subscribed, and is still held, by persons in the classes removed from commercial or speculative pursuits. Partly perhaps from sympathy, partly from

abiding confidence in the ultimate safety of the investment, the most tenacious holders are to be found among the landed gentry of England—purchasers at the issue price, who are content to lock up their bonds and bide their time. It is for this reason that, despite the unusual inducements to speculation, the transactions in the Loan have at all times been confined to moderate limits. In fact, it required an extraordinary accidental depression in the merchantable value of the bonds to bring the 'cotton feature'—that is to say, the reserved strength of their capability of immediate conversion—at all into active play. The enterprise which has been prosecuted with such striking success at Mobile and the Texan ports, of exchanging the bonds for cotton and running the latter through the blockade, did not commence until the bonds, after the failure of General LEE's Pennsylvania campaign, had fallen to the low level now reached by the securities of the United States. Once commenced, success invited continuance, and the prohibitive restrictions of the Confederate Government on foreign commerce, by giving the bondholders a valuable monopoly, imparted a still stronger impulse to this lucrative business, so that now we behold the unprecedented spectacle of an unrecognised Government paying not only the interest but redeeming the capital of its foreign indebtedness while struggling against heavy odds. It would be unfair to ignore the healthy effect which this process is exercising upon the quotations of the bonds on the Stock Exchange; but the fact nevertheless remains that to the aggregate of the holders and the public at large these quotations represent, not the value of cotton nor the profits of blockade-running, but the measure of confidence in the triumph of Confederate arms, just as the merchantable value of United States Government securities in foreign markets represents the measure of still lingering hope, on the part of the adherents of the North, in the ultimate success of its scheme of subjugation and extermination. Both are promises to pay interest and capital in gold, and both are intended for placement abroad.

The only deduction we are called upon to make in contrasting Confederate bonds at 73 with Federals at 41, is that the former pay 7 per cent. interest, the latter promise only 6 per cent. The interest for the former is payable abroad, for the latter at home. These are the only real advantages which, judged from a purely financial point of view, the Confederate bond would intrinsically possess over the Federal bond, if the credit of the two Governments was equal. This will hardly be considered as compensating for the want of recognition, and the tacit encouragement thus given to the aggressor. Fairly tested, then, by the infallible barometer of the money markets of the world, the relative ability of making good a future promise to pay is, in the opinion of the most cautious and sagaciously sensitive class, decided between the two American belligerents to be as 73 is to 41, and this disproportion is still rapidly widening. And yet the statesmen of Europe affect to treat the Confederate States as a part of Mr. LINCOLN's dominions, and the Confederate Government as representing only 'a local insurrection chiefly adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico.'

If, when the loan was three times over subscribed for at 90, the Confederates might point with just pride to that 'financial recognition' which greeted them, in spite of the timidity of Cabinets, and which the ignorance and prejudice in high quarters was impotent to withhold, not less proudly may they indulge in the same reflection to-day, when, after many reverses and disappointments, the mightiest effort of the fury of their aggressors has spent itself in vain, and the financial public of Europe reindorses the verdict passed in the spring of last year. There is no judgment more respected for its usual accuracy and unvarying impartiality than that of the 'City Article' of the *Times*. Reviewing the transactions in foreign stocks on Saturday evening last, it said, 'The Confederate Loan is at 69 to 71, so that, notwithstanding the unexpected extent to which, during the last three years, the war for the subjugation of the South has been supported by Irish mercenaries and German and Dutch capital, these bonds are now at a price which, reckoning dividends, sinking fund, and allowances provided for meanwhile, would involve little more loss to the original subscribers than that of interest from the date of its introduction.' Of how different is the present and prospective fate of those who trusted—we are charitable enough to assume unwittingly—in the cause of oppression, the same column gives abundant evidence and warning.

The moral which we would draw from the foregoing is one of high encouragement to the South. It is proved that, though political recognition might at an earlier date have saved much blood, and would even now be gratefully accepted, the Confederate States can dispense with the official formula, and do not require the gracious permission of any Foreign Office to exist as a great and mighty Power. They have never abjectly sought that equal intercourse with other nations to which they are by right entitled; neither would they arrogantly repel it; but the time is near at hand when they will be able to select their own associates and on their own terms. With peace they will have little of favour to ask from the rest of the world, other nations much from them; and as there has been no ebullition of temper under bitter disappointment in the hour of adversity, so there will be no vindictiveness, but simple justice, in the hour of triumph. The fiat of the European Governments, ready at a signal from England, might at any time these two years, by the simple word of recognition, have given peace, and may do so now: but recognition will not give political independence, for that the Confederate States have uninterruptedly had since the 18th day of February, 1861; and from that day, when Mr. LINCOLN had not yet ascended the Presidential chair, to this, the Government of Washington has not ruled over a foot of their soil save under cover of a precarious military tenure. Financially, also, the Confederate States are truly independent. No foreign loan would have been incurred, and Congress would not have accepted even the three millions of the five that were offered, had it not been for the belief that the laws of European countries permitted many valuable and necessary purchases to be made, chiefly as regarded the strengthening of the Confederates in coping with their adversaries on the sea. Though no court of law has yet decided that in purchasing ships the Confederates had committed or attempted any infraction of law, the Governments have so shaped their practice, and altered precedents, as to virtually exclude them from these most needed supplies. Thrown in this as in other respects upon their own resources, they have found them sufficient. The bowels of the earth furnish iron; the mechanical skill and ingenuity of a population in which labour is said to be held in contempt have proved adequate; and the result is, that even ironclads may be improvised, the *Virginia* of Hampton Roads finds a successor in the *Albemarle*, defeating nine gunboats in the North Carolina waters, and GRANT's fleet is forced to obstruct the James River, in fear of a naval attack from Richmond. It is practicable, therefore, to abandon even the attempt to procure ships from Europe, and this the self-respect of the Confederate Government has already dictated to be definitively done. For whatever other purchases may properly be made in European markets, the funds in Europe are abundantly sufficient; and the meshes in the blockade are wide enough to allow an exportation so vigorous as not only to replace those funds, but also to pay off the debt already incurred. Even the domestic indebtedness need give no uneasiness. A single year's cotton crop will form the basis of a credit in the foreign specie market, comprehensive enough to reduce the Confederate finances into a sound and manageable shape. As for the annual burdens, it will depend upon the wisdom of Confederate statesmen, in the adjustment of export and import duties, to decide what portion Europe shall and can be made to bear.

The West and the War.

WHEN the election of a sectional President on a sectional platform — the successful attempt of a Northern party to establish a government purely Northern on a basis of hostility to the South, and to govern one-half the Union as the vassal of the other—compelled the Southern States to consult their safety and vindicate their independence by withdrawing from a bond whose chief conditions had been openly renounced, and whose essential spirit had been flagrantly outraged by the proceedings of the Republicans, considerable doubt existed as to the course which would probably be pursued by the States of the West. It rested with them to preserve peace, to attempt a compromise, or secure an amicable separation. Without them, war would have been impossible. They alone could give to the Federal Government either the moral strength or the physical force requisite to attempt the coercion of the South. New England, New York, and Pennsylvania, unsupported by the great power of the North-west, would not have dreamed of hostilities. Their population is unwarlike, and their physical force altogether disproportionate to the political influence secured to them by the forms of the Constitution. The issue of peace or war, therefore, depended on the West. And there were many reasons for hoping that the voice of the West would be for peace. It did not hate the South with that venomous animosity which stimulated the people of New England to desire the extermination of eight millions of freemen and the emancipation of four millions of slaves. Its pulpits did not resound with exhortations to perjury in the Senate and murder in the field; it had never embraced with any fervour the doctrines of Abolition, nor had it shared that frenzy of civil strife which, fanned by the sermons of BEECHER and the political harangues of SUMNER, sent a gang of midnight assassins to kindle the flames of servile war on the banks of the Potomac. It is true that there existed in certain parts of the West, and especially among the German settlers, a certain jealousy of the imagined luxury and indolence of 'a slave-holding aristocracy.' It is true that the ignorance of some classes in the West with regard to the real character and social condition of the people of the Cotton States was not much less profound than that of England, and that many of the errors and prejudices so rife in this country three or four years ago were as prevalent in Cincinnati and in Chicago as in London and Liverpool. But the West knew the negro too well to feel any eager zeal for his emancipation. Free negroes were too familiar to the daily experience of Western men to awaken in their bosoms any sentiment of romantic sympathy. In fact, there, as wherever else they abound, they were the objects of aversion and contempt. The citizen of Ohio or Illinois knew that, whatever might be the condition or character of the black man in his normal state of bondage, the day that set him free made him a nuisance and a burden to society; and laws that were the fruit not of prejudice, but of experience, excluded from several of the Western States the fugitives and the freed men of the South. Again, the ties of friendship and of kindred between the South and the West were many and intimate. The majority of the North-western States were formed out of Virginian territory (a fact which ought, by the way, to silence at once all the nonsense we hear about Southern territory won by Northern swords, or paid for by Northern gold. If all were counted, the South has given to the Union far more than she has received from it.) No small proportion of their original population came from the section to which their soil had formerly belonged. And of the 400,000 Southern-born men and women who, in 1860, were settled in the Free States, only a very small proportion were to be found in those of the Atlantic seaboard. It was in the West that Southern settlers were numerous. Again, there was no such antagonism between North-west and South-west as between North-east and South-east. The antipathy between Massachusetts and South Carolina was a strong one; for it was an antipathy of race and of history. The cavaliers of the South naturally despised the Puritans of New England, and were regarded in return with that cold, bitter, unsparing hatred which reminds us that the religion of the Puritan is that of the Jewish judges, not that of Christ and the Apostles. But there was no barrier of race or of feeling between Missouri and Indiana, or between Illinois and Kentucky. On the lakes the Western race might be strongly tinged with Northern blood and feeling; in Mississippi it was deeply mingled with Southern elements; but, except Louisiana, all the Valley of the Mississippi and all the States of the West were settled by a population of much the same character and composition, and claimed a far closer affinity to one another than to the North-east or South-east. There was less difference between Ohio and Kentucky than between Ohio and Pennsylvania, and Arkansas resembled Iowa more closely than Alabama. There was, therefore, no natural hatred between South and West; there were many bonds of mutual kindness; and it required the ingenious villany, by which Mr. LINCOLN and his advisers began the war at unawares, to kindle in the West that flame of unreasoning passion which has desolated a hundred thousand Western homes, and made a desert of the fairest regions of Tennessee and Mississippi.

Once engaged, it was not in the nature of Western men not to fight heartily and fiercely; and the quality of the troops on either side was so evenly matched, that while victory in the Virginian campaigns has always rested with those who had on their side the disadvantage of inferior numbers, but the advantage of courage and discipline, in the West the issue has been decided mainly by superiority of numbers. Southern strategy and the resolution of men fighting for their homes have done much to countervail this advantage; but the superior numbers of the Federal army, composed as it is of men individually equal to their adversaries, have gradually forced back the Confederates from the Cumberland to the borders of Alabama and Georgia. The shameful cowardice, the stupendous failures, the repeated disgraces that have heaped dishonour on the army of the Potomac, have found no parallel in the West, and the States that sent forth the army that carried the Federal flag to Chattanooga have no stain of disaster to cleanse from their escutcheons, no sense of dishonour to embitter their feelings towards the enemy who has

fought them with equal courage and with various fortune. And now that the first access of martial ardour is completely over, that the term for which their soldiers enlisted is expiring, that a new levy is demanded, and a Presidential election approaches, the North-western States begin to look more calmly on the past and more deliberately towards the future than is possible to those for whom the past is full of shame and the future of fear. And sounds that by no means soothe the anxieties of New England or rekindle the waning courage of New York begin now to be heard, as citizens of the West ask one another for what they have shed the blood of sons and brothers whom they loved, and laid waste the homes of kindred who, but four years ago, were their good friends and political allies.

When once the West begins to ask such questions of itself, its change of mood is likely to be rapid and complete. For such questions indicate a mood in which passion is giving way to reason, and in which, while men will still consent to fight for an interest or even for an idea, they are on the point of refusing to fight for a name. The honour of the West is not concerned in the prolongation of the war. It has no rout to retrieve; its defeats have been balanced by victories; the only shame with which it has to reproach itself is that its troops have been made the instruments of Yankee ferocity and Yankee greed—have been employed to steal cotton and confiscate plantations for the benefit of New York, and to inflict on defenceless women and children all the indignities and cruelties which could be devised by the cowardly malevolence of New England. To fight for the Union, as they are now learning to believe, is to fight for power to restore the dead to life. Even if the South could be subjugated, the Union could never be renewed; and the subjugation of the South can hardly seem a sure, certainly not an easy, task to the soldiers of Shiloh and Chattanooga. The interests of the West have never been involved in this war; on the contrary, they are, and always have been, substantially identical with those of the South. The West requires nothing but free trade and cheap communication with the outer world. The North has systematically taxed its produce and its consumption for the benefit of manufacturers in New England and merchants in New York. The same system of protection which for thirty years levied an enormous annual tribute on the wealth of the South, for no benefit to the Union at large, but simply for the profit of those Northern brokers who sold her cotton and tobacco, and those Northern manufacturers who excluded European goods that they might receive twice their value for the clothing, the instruments, and the luxuries supplied to her people, has pressed with even greater severity upon the West. Illinois and Indiana, Ohio and Michigan have paid enormous taxes to the corn-factors of the Eastern ports, to the Eastern railroads, to the Eastern manufacturers. Yankee intrigues, and legislation directed to merely Yankee interests, has kept them dependent, and, though failing to keep them poor, has levied blackmail on their wealth. They have no need of the Eastern States. If it should please Providence to turn the six States of New England into an impassable desert, neither the West nor the South—nor anybody else—would be the losers. These States export nothing, and do not even support their own population. Their merchants live on the trade of the South and West; their manufacturers by a tariff which prevents the importation of European goods. A ship canal, rendering the St. Lawrence available for the carriage of Western grain, a treaty with the Confederacy opening that river to Western produce, and a repeal of all customs duties whatsoever, would suffice to render the West perfectly independent of the Eastern States, to put it in direct relations with Europe, to give it fifty per cent. more than it now receives for its exports, and to give it its clothing, agricultural implements, and foreign luxuries at two-thirds of their present prices. Where now it gets $100 it would get $150; where now it spends $150 it would spend $100; and the labour which now brings the Western farmer 100 dollars' worth of clothes, or spades, or coffee and sugar, would then bring him $225. In a word, release from the yoke of New York and New England would more than double the wealth of the Western States. They need but to say the word, and the war must cease, and their trade with the South be renewed. The freedom of the Mississippi is a condition they would not even need to ask, so completely is it accordant with the principles and the interests of the Confederacy. They have but to insist on independence or on free trade, and cheap European goods will replace dear American goods in their markets, and they may have European instead of New York prices for their produce. Is it strange, then, that their wiser and more clear-sighted men should refuse to countenance any longer a policy which rivets on their own limbs the fetters of protection, and binds them to pay a double tribute to those from whom they receive nothing in return? Is it not rather strange that any Western man should be so blind or so bigoted as to wage war on the South for the sake of ruining his best customer and most natural ally; should consent to spend the treasure and the lives which his State can so ill spare, not to restore the Union—for the Union is gone beyond recall—but to restore and perpetuate the dominion of New England over both the South and West? At this hour the West, if her fighting has any intelligible object, is fighting to drive from land which she could not cultivate the men who did, and will hereafter, cultivate it as her political and commercial allies; and fighting for the blessed privilege of paying toll and tribute to support the manufacturers of Lowell and the shoddy dealers of the Empire City.

Two letters are before us in which two distinguished citizens of the West protest against the prolongation of this suicidal folly. Major-General MORGAN, of Ohio, earnestly pleads for an armistice, denouncing in eloquent terms the carnage of the war, and anticipating from negotiation permanent peace and possible reunion. Reunion, as we have said, is neither possible nor desirable: mutual wrongs and antagonistic institutions, honour and policy alike, forbid the South to dream of it; but for peace she has always been eager, and peace will give the West all that she could possibly desire from reunion. The other letter is from Mr. W. M. ANDERSON, a brother of the 'hero' of Fort Sumter. Invited to stand for Congress as a War Democrat, this gentleman indignantly declines the offered honour, and denounces the war in terms befitting a Christian and a patriot. He laments the misery and bloodshed it has caused, the lives sacrificed in a vain and unjust enterprise, and the cruelties which have brought shame upon his country without tending in the least to advance its cause or intimidate its enemies. But he goes further than this—further than any Northern politician has yet ventured to go in public declarations, however many may in their hearts have cherished similar convictions. The Union, he says, is at an end for ever. The Northern section is divided by an antagonism of interests as complete and irreconcilable as that which has parted the South from the North. The West should no longer be the 'political pack-mule' of New England, paying tribute for the support of 'Lowell lords and shoddy ladies,' but assert her right to the proceeds of her own industry, and liberate herself from the yoke of an oppressive tariff. The Western States should secede and form a Western Confederacy, 'peaceably if they may, forcibly if they must.' Such is the advice now openly given by a Western politician, and published in an Ohio journal. If it proves nothing more, it proves at least that the political feeling of the West is sufficiently decided to make it safe for men to say things that would cost them dear if uttered where the authority of Mr. LINCOLN is more obediently recognised; and taken in conjunction with the daring act of Mr. VALLANDIGHAM, in returning home from an exile imposed by sentence of court-martial, and defying the master of five hundred regiments to arrest him again, it argues a growing spirit of resistance which may prove very formidable to a tyranny hitherto relying chiefly on the absence of opposition, and disposed to push its encroachments no further than popular excitement would support or popular passiveness permit them. But it may be that these symptoms of the growth of a new opinion in the West mean more than this. It may be that we shall see that powerful section awaken to a recognition of its real interests, and the absurdity of the part it has hitherto played. If it should be so—if once the West shall be penetrated with a sense of the fact that it has no interest in subduing or in wasting the South, and a very strong interest in resisting and humbling the East—it is not likely that it will consent much longer to fight against its own obvious policy, whether for the name of the Union, the rectification of a frontier, or even from that law of political gravitation which makes nations continue to fight simply because they have begun and do not exactly know how or where to leave off.

Parliament.

BOTH Houses of Parliament were called upon, late on Friday night, to pronounce a verdict upon the conduct of the Administration. In either House a debate of unusual length and animation had called forth the utmost powers of contending statesmen, and the strength of parties was severely tried by the division. It is long since discussions of so much interest, or from which such useful lessons as to the position and prospects of political affairs could be derived, have taken place in Parliament. The orators on each side put forth their utmost powers; the excitement of the hearers lent additional interest and animation to the speeches; and the scene which we witnessed for four nights out of five from the gallery above the SPEAKER'S chair was one of the most deeply interesting that it has ever been our fate to behold.

Mr. DISRAELI'S opening oration had less than usual of the characteristic qualities of the speaker—a peculiarity which arose from the situation in which he was placed, and the necessities of the task he had undertaken. The case for the prosecution must always be opened not by a mere denunciation of the culprit's crime and an outburst of invective against the depth and infamy of his guilt, but by a careful examination of the evidence against him; and if that evidence be, as it was on this occasion, so voluminous as to oblige the orator to occupy a long time in the mere recitation of documentary testimony, and so intricate as to require patient and painstaking analysis, the task of unfolding it with effect is almost incompatible with any high or sustained efforts of eloquence. If Mr. DISRAELI had left to some of his lieutenants the task of opening the debate, and reserved himself for a subsequent period of the evening, when, the case having been fully stated, it would have sufficed for him to comment upon it in its entirety, and to draw a striking picture of the betrayal of Denmark and the humiliation of England, without descending to the details of page and date and the minute verbal criticism required in an opening address, his speech would no doubt have been a much more successful achievement, in a purely artistic sense, and would have been remembered as one of the most brilliant performances of the most effective of Parliamentary satirists. But the difficulties of the opening were such as the Conservative leader probably feared to trust to any less skilful and experienced hand. It was necessary to denounce a policy of cowardice without suggesting a policy of war; to condemn breaches of promise without too forcibly reminding the House that the promises, made on behalf of the nation, would have to be kept in its name; to censure the Administration for betraying Denmark without pledging himself to help her; and to catch at once the votes of those who thought that we never ought to have dreamed of war, and those who chafed impatiently under the burden of an ignominious peace. Mr. DISRAELI probably felt that no one except himself could be trusted to move safely, and yet quickly, among so many pitfalls—to lead a charge at full gallop over a pass where one false step, one swerve to the right or to the left, must be destruction. Mr. FITZGERALD has prudence, but hardly weight enough for the task—General PEEL would have made the motion breathe violently of war, while Lord STANLEY would have made it savour much too strongly of peace at any price. Lord ROBERT CECIL, who showed in a subsequent speech that he could sacrifice all personal crotchets, suppress his own strong individual sympathy for Denmark, and follow steadily the course traced out for him by his leader, might have found temptation too strong for him, if he had been left to give, instead of receiving, the tone of the discussion; and there may be other reasons why the ablest 'junior' among the leaders of Opposition should not be asked to open the case against the Government. It was inevitable, therefore, that Mr. DISRAELI should do this duty himself; and he probably regretted it the less that, as the mover of a substantive resolution, he would by the rules of the House enjoy the right of reply.

He spoke well, calmly, and very clearly—a statesmanlike and demonstrative speech, but not a great success. He sought to show that the desertion of Denmark arose from the helpless blundering of the Administration in the Polish negotiations; and his history of the transaction, which he supported by citing several striking passages from the blue-books, was briefly this: England encouraged France to take a very firm and peremptory line towards Russia, and the two Powers committed themselves very deeply on behalf of Poland. While they were in this cordial union, England took the lead in Danish matters, and promised substantial aid to Denmark, and threatened armed resistance to Germany, in the conviction that she would enjoy the support of France. Then came the Polish *fiasco*: the scornful defiance of Prince GORTSCHAKOFF revealed to astonished and indignant France the emptiness of Lord RUSSELL'S threats, and explained that all his bellicose despatches only covered a determination on no account to be drawn into so hazardous a thing as a quarrel. The EMPEROR was justly enraged; and the next application of England for aid in the Dano-German quarrel was met by the taunt that France had no mind to get herself kicked by Austria and Prussia, just after Russia had slapped her in the face. England might be used to those rebuffs, and regard them with patience; but France had a different creed, and could not expose herself to a repetition of the affront she had endured from Prince GORTSCHAKOFF. The peremptory and not too courteous refusal of England to support the EMPEROR'S proposition for a Congress

still further alienated the French Government, which now made plain, both to Denmark and to us, its resolution to give no assistance in the event of a war between Denmark and Germany. The Government of England, however, continued to threaten Germany and counsel Denmark as if it could still depend on the aid of France, until the moment for action arrived and found us unprepared. From that moment our influence had sunk in Europe, and the Conference and its failure had completed our humiliation.

Mr. Gladstone, who followed Mr. Disraeli, had a very difficult task to perform, and did not perform it well. He lost his temper, and accused Mr. Disraeli of falsifying certain despatches, from which he read only such parts as bore out his assertions. This imputation—for which Mr. Gladstone felt himself at length compelled to apologise — was simply absurd. First, of the supplementary passages added by Mr. Gladstone, only one seemed to modify in any degree the sense of what had been read by Mr. Disraeli. That gentleman had not read the portions of the despatches which softened the effect of what he did read; but the softening was a mere piece of diplomatic courtesy, and the passages quoted were those that gave the real and substantive meaning of the whole. Secondly, as Mr. Disraeli observed in his reply, it is childish to accuse an orator of garbling quotations from papers to which he refers by page and title, which are in the hands of several of his audience, and through which, while he speaks, he sees his adversary following him passage by passage. Then Mr. Gladstone addressed himself, with great ingenuity, to prove that threats were not threats, and that promises were not promises; to explain away this, and modify that; and finally rested in a vague cloud of phrases from which he had diligently discharged all meaning, natural or diplomatic, with the bold assertion that Lord Russell had never given any promise to Denmark—that, if he had, Denmark had forfeited the promise by her delay in fulfilling the conditions—and that England had used no threats to Germany which had not been equally used by France and Russia. In the confusion in which he left the facts, they remained for twenty-four hours, when Lord Robert Cecil took them in hand. The noble Lord spoke on this occasion in a style most unlike his own. He had an admirable theme for scathing sarcasm and indignant declamation, an audience prepared for it, an enemy on whom he delights to lavish it. But he restrained his fiery spirit, and turned his energies not to oratory but to proof. He took up Mr. Gladstone's assertions, and replied to them, blue-book in hand, with an overwhelming mass of documentary evidence. He showed distinct promises to Denmark; he showed that the delay of which Denmark was accused arose from those constitutional necessities to which England had agreed to defer, and for which she had demanded the deference of Germany; and finally he cited a number of very distinct threats addressed to Austria and Prussia—much more emphatic in their language than those which have generally preceded actual war—and challenged the Government to quote any parallel menaces from the despatches of France and Russia. This they totally failed to do; Mr. Layard, who on Thursday night delivered the defence of the Foreign Office, explaining in detail and denying at large in a wild imitation of Mr. Gladstone, but omitting to meet in any way the distinct and specific challenge of Lord Robert Cecil. Altogether, the noble Lord's was the most conclusive speech delivered during the debate, and completely established the important facts alleged against the Administration, viz., that England in a special manner constituted herself the protectress of Denmark; that in that capacity she implicitly promised material aid to her ally, and expressly threatened open hostility to Germany; and that neither threat nor promise was fulfilled.

The case, therefore, was proved; and Mr. Disraeli's vote of censure was justified by abundant evidence of the charge which it conveyed. Nearly every one who spoke on either side, except the Ministers themselves, admitted that the influence of England had been grievously lowered, and lowered by the misconduct of Ministers. If this had been the real issue, it would have been decided by a vote of 500 to 50. But the very form in which the vote was finally put, 'that the words proposed to be left out (the words of censure) stand part of the question,' in itself indicated what was really disputed. Should Parliament pronounce the censure admittedly deserved, and thereby discharge the Government from office? This issue was decided in the negative by the votes represented by Messrs. Cobden, Horsman, and Forster. All those gentlemen spoke in strong and bitter condemnation of what had been done. The two former, especially, were not less severe in their criticism of the Ministerial policy than the Opposition themselves. But they deprived their censure of its practical sting by a determination not to cashier Lord Palmerston in favour of Mr. Disraeli; and a matter in which the honour of the country was deeply involved was finally determined by purely personal considerations. The Radicals voted with Government because they hated the leader of Opposition.

Mr. Cobden's speech embodied very forcibly his peculiar creed. It was a naked avowal of blank political atheism—a denial that power and wealth impose on nations any such obligations as they are universally allowed to impose on individuals—a profession of public selfishness and cowardice, the more revolting to a thoughtful hearer that it was made by a man of undoubted sincerity, whose own political morality is at least as high as that of his neighbours, in a tone of exultant vaticination. Mr. Cobden assumes the tone of a prophet to preach that there is no God. It is not as a cynic, but as an enthusiast, that he proclaims the deification of commerce and teaches the gospel of gain; and while he inculcates upon his country the doctrine that her wealth and strength and authority in the world were given to her, not that she might help to succour the weak and curb the violence of the strong, but simply that she might trade and wax rich, his countenance glows with the ardour of a belief, evidently sincere, that he is doing homage to virtue and service to mankind. After listening to him, it is easy to understand how there come to be bigots in the darkest unbelief, and atheism itself can boast its martyrs.

Thursday evening witnessed a discreditable scene in the House of Commons. Mr. Layard charged the Opposition with 'falsification.' Mr. Gathorne Hardy retorted with the imputation of 'calumny.' The Speaker ruled that the retort was Parliamentary; and then sprang up Lord Palmerston and Mr. Gladstone, setting the Speaker at nought, and angrily hooted by the Opposition. Mr. Disraeli interposed, and pointed out that if gentlemen were to be accused of falsehood, they could hardly describe the accusation as anything but a calumny; and moreover reminded the House that the original offender had been Mr. Gladstone, whom Mr. Layard had merely quoted. Next evening Mr. Gladstone made a graceful and frank apology. Meantime Mr. Hennessy excited much mirth by producing a speech of 1855, in which Lord Palmerston had denounced as calumnies certain charges preferred by his present Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

The debate was concluded with three speeches, all noteworthy for different reasons. Mr. Walpole, who is no great orator, but speaks with the force of a high character and a sincerity superior to all purely party considerations, delivered an emphatic declaration of his sympathy with the resolution and his disapproval of the Ministry; and in so doing he showed that the Conservative party were fighting a battle in which their hearts were engaged. In a mere Parliamentary manœuvre, Mr. Walpole is never prominent. Lord Palmerston astounded the House by unusual feebleness. When he came to sum up, in his hesitating way, all the progress made by England under his Ministry—delivering, in fact, a very bad repetition of the least interesting part of the last Budget speech—it required all his popularity and all the dignity of his age and office to keep the impatience and astonishment of the House within bounds. Mr. Disraeli spoke with unusual calmness and good temper, civilly of Mr. Gladstone, and not unkindly even of Lord Russell.

The result was inevitable. The fatal weakness of the Conservative case had been evinced at an early period in the debate, and in two of the best speeches on their side. General Peel, in a speech of great energy, but somewhat wanting in discretion and statesmanship, had censured the Government because they had not kept their promise to fight for Denmark. Lord Stanley, more wise than chivalrous, declared that it would be insanity to go to war with Germany, and blamed the Government only for promising to do so. The Conservatives, therefore, had no affirmative to propose; they could say that the Government had done wrong, but they would not say what it would have been right to do; and a motion of this imperfect kind will never compel the adhesion of reluctant votes, though it may serve the purpose of a party which can command a majority of its own. The Liberals refused, for the sake of punishing Lord Russell, to put Mr. Disraeli in office; and, though the country would have compelled some of them to do this if Mr. Disraeli had shown it a way out of the scrape, it is very indifferent to the mere infliction of judgment for the past. Some Conservatives, too, as generally happens to all parties when making a rush for office, deserted their leader; some were ill, one or two were disloyal; and the result was a Government majority of 18 in a House of 608.

The House of Lords gave Lord Malmesbury, who moved a similar vote of censure, a majority of 9 in a House of about 350. In the absence of Lord Derby, the debate in the Upper House was less interesting than that in the Commons. It was marked, however, by a very statesmanlike speech from Lord Grey, who reviewed the policy of the Administration in Poland and in Denmark with the authority which belongs to one who, after enjoying the advantage of Ministerial experience, has for years been virtually independent of all party ties, and able to speak with the dignity and impartiality of a judge rather than with the vehemence and ingenuity of an advocate. He pointed out that it was in our power, before German troops crossed the Eider, to have made the invasion of Denmark impossible, and probably to have prevented the attempt. And he expressed his opinion distinctly in favour of that course; which, no doubt, would have saved our honour and the independence of our ally, and which probably would not have cost a war. It is satisfactory to obtain this one suggestion of positive statesmanship in the midst of scores of columns of merely negative criticism. Lord Carnarvon's speech was worthy of the rising reputation of a nobleman who may one day hold a leading position in the country; and Lord Clarendon's also was frank, lucid, and eloquent beyond what was expected from an orator who has long been silent in the House. Lord Russell did not vindicate himself much more successfully than did his colleagues in the other House, and neither Lord Malmesbury and Lord Chelmsford on the one hand, nor the Duke of Argyll and Earl Granville on the other, atoned for the absence of the one great orator of the House of Peers.

The defeat of the Conservatives, with so good a case in their hands, shows that Lord Palmerston is master of the situation in the present Parliament; that the Radical malcontents, keeping Italy and America in mind, had rather not overthrow him in favour of Lord Derby, and, while they bark from time to time, will take care never to bite too severely. On the other hand, the uncertainty which for some time prevailed, and the tone of the speeches, indicate that there is no pressure from without in favour of the Ministry; no such feeling on their behalf in the constituencies as would save them from the consequences of offending Parliament, or make them very secure of success if they should be hurried into an 'appeal to the country.' A serious failure, an unpopular error, an outrage patiently endured, might in the present even balance of parties cost the Liberals dear. The Tories are in better spirits and discipline than they have been since 1846; and a general election under circumstances unfavourable to the Whigs might put them into power, with a decent majority and the prospect of a long lease of office.

Governor Seymour's letter on the suppression of the *World* and *Journal of Commerce*:—'Executive Chamber, Albany, June 25, 1864. A. Oakey Hall, Esq., District Attorney of the City and County of New York.—Sir: In the matter of the seizure of the offices of the *World* and *Journal of Commerce*, the Grand Jury, in disregard of their oaths "to diligently inquire into and true presentment make of all such matters and things as should be given them in charge," have refused to make such enquiries, and declare that "it is inexpedient to examine into the subject referred to in the charges of the Court," with respect to such seizures. It becomes my duty, under the express requirements of the Constitution, "to take care that the laws of the State are faithfully executed." If the Grand Jury, in pursuance of the demands of the law and the obligation of their oaths, had inquired into the matter given them in charge by the Court and the public prosecutor, their decision, whatever it might have been, would have been entitled to respect. As they have refused to do their duty, the subject of the seizure of these journals should at once be brought before some proper magistrate. If you wish any assistance in the prosecution of these investigations it will be given to you. As it is a matter of public interest that violations of the laws of the State be punished, the views or wishes of the parties immediately affected must not be suffered to influence the action of public officers. If through fear or other motives they are unwilling to aid you in getting at facts, it will be your duty to compel their attendance as witnesses in behalf of the people. Respectfully yours, Horatio Seymour.'

A Northern View of European Mediation.—The *Boston Courier* of June 28 has an article on the recruiting of the Northern army with British subjects, which, it says, cannot be agreeable to England. The article concludes with the following passage, which, not a year ago, would have induced Mr. Seward to ring one of his bells and commit the editor to prison:—'Should the campaigns in progress result in no decisive advantage to the North, will our people be so unwilling as before to listen to the powerful arguments which England and France are able to put forward in favour of peace? We do not believe that they will. England having thus a stronger reason than ever for desiring peace, France joining her, and our own people brought at last to a frame of mind disposing them to listen to the mediation of those great Powers, may we not expect some such more speedy conclusion of the war than many have looked for?'

Is Mr. Lincoln a Buffoon?—The *New York World* of June 17 has a leader upon Mr. Lincoln's buffoonery. After numerous proofs of the truth of the charge, the article thus continues: 'We appeal to the staff-officers who galloped behind the President when he visited the battle-field of Antietam, and who increased their distance from him rather than listen longer to the low nigger song of "Picayune Butler," which Mr. Lincoln called on Marshal Lamon to sing, as he rode among the fresh graves and trenches where were buried the ten thousand dead soldiers of the Republic.'

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK: June 27, 1864.

A LINCOLNITE ORGAN ON THE WAR—THE OBJECT OF IT IS CONQUEST, AND IT CAN ONLY BE CONCLUDED BY EXHAUSTION—THE NORTHERN WANT OF MEN AND MONEY—THE SOUTH IS BETTER OFF—THE COMMUTATION CLAUSE—THE PLEA OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT—THE PEACE PARTY AND ITS PROSPECTS—THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE NORTH—THE PUBLIC DEBT—THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN A 'MUDDLE.'

THE *Times* of this city contained, on Saturday, a very remarkable article. It is entitled, 'Which shall give way first?' Its aim is to show that there is no possible end to this war but in the inability of one or the other of the belligerents to carry it on any longer. The reasoning is, that there is a positive limit beyond which it cannot go at the present rate of sacrifices, and that the only question is, which will be first exhausted? It is so just and so discerning as to say that, with the South, the only element to be considered is whether they can find men. The question of finance is secondary; they have thrown all their resources, public and private, into the cause, and so long as the supply of men lasts the South will find means to support them, and the war will last. With the North the elements are two. The North needs the men and the money to get the men. 'It is settled,' says the *Times*, 'that the South can and will get along without money, and that the North cannot and will not.' The testimony of the *Times* is, that the men of the South will fight without pay or reward or hope of profit, for the love of the cause. The war can only be ended by exhausting the Southern country of its defenders, overwhelming them by superior masses who fight for their wages. It is confessed to be a war of mercenaries, of whom the boast is made that enough can be had as long as the money lasts, against a unanimous people who are only to be subjugated by being exterminated. The *Times* is the only original supporter among the New York City journals of the renomination of Mr. Lincoln. Its editor, H. J. Raymond, is, more than any other journalist, the reflex of the views of the Administration party. He is the chairman of the National Executive Committee appointed by the Baltimore Convention for the Presidential campaign; his testimony, therefore, to the true character of the war, has the force of that of a trusted friend and organ of the party of the Administration. It contains the shocking confession that the North and the South have become so furiously and irreconcilably hostile to each other that they can never be brought together under one Government except as master and subject; and it makes the audacious avowal that the design to subjugate an unwilling people is to be persisted in until the capacity for resistance is destroyed by the exhausting of the arms-bearing population. The *Times* and its party think there will be no peace until the men of this generation of the South are slaughtered. The calculation does not go so far as to predict what sort of a peace it will be, or how it can be enforced against coming generations, who will grow up to remember who murdered their kindred and despoiled them of their inheritance.

But, happily for the cause of justice, and liberty, and humanity, the proposition of the *Times*, on which it counts for a final success, that there are sacrifices 'which no human power can stand indefinitely,' is as true of the North as of the South. The sacrifices a gallant people will make for the maintenance of independence—to save themselves from dishonour, their territory from devastation, and their homes from pollution—are of another class, and infinitely greater, than those which stimulate an invader to prosecute a costly and doubtful war for conquest and plunder. The *Times* unwittingly acknowledges the mighty moral powers of endurance which that position confers when it treats the want of men, in the exhaustion of a long war, as the only want which will be fatal to the South. The Southern soldiers do not fight for pay, and finance is but a secondary care of the Government. Their armies are content with bare and scanty subsistence. The whole people work for and share with each other, holding every sacrifice cheap which helps to win their liberty. But the North wants men, and money with which to get men; and, moreover, if they had the money, the time has come in which lavish pay and large bounties will not get men, and the Government avows that, without the power to employ force to fill up the armies, the war must stop for want of men.

There are many signs that the sacrifices of 'money and men' which the prosecution of this war has entailed upon the North already, with so little approach towards a victory that will bring peace, are wearying the people and alarming the Government. On the simple test which the Administration presents, that the North can hold out in money and men longer than the South can supply men for her armies, the omens are to-day largely against the North. The Southern armies are full. Since the beginning of the Grant campaign, in which the North relied on decisive victories, after enormous preparations and a mighty series of gigantic combinations which were expected suddenly to overwhelm and disperse the armies of Lee and Johnston and seize the Confederate capital, there has been an uninterrupted series of checks and repulses which have baffled all the hopes of the North for success without another campaign and large accession of forces; and disappointment in their military leaders is creating a wide-spread wish for another change of commanders, in the barren hope that the right man may be found at last. Six weeks' trial of General Grant has gone far to prove that he is a failure as completely as Pope, Burnside, or Hooker was—only that each side has had a political use for nursing his military reputation and sparing him the denunciations with which one part pursued M'Clellan and the other part assailed M'Clellan's successors for precisely the same acts, which now become strategy because their motive is concealed and their effects do not appear.

The debate on the new Conscription Bill which is before Congress shows the working of these discouraging enactments on the temper of Congress and the Administration. The question before both Houses is, whether the present law shall be so amended as to strike out the commutation clause. By that clause a drafted man liable to military duty might obtain exemption from service by paying $300, and the Government assumed the duty of providing a substitute if it were needed. Rich men bought themselves off; and States, cities, and counties raised enormous sums for the purpose of buying off the poor by paying the commutation fee, or averting the draft by hiring volunteers by large bounties. It is now stated, on behalf of the Administration, that another draft is necessary, and that neither volunteering, nor the system of hiring soldiers by large bounties, nor a conscription with the privilege of purchasing exemption, will supply men enough to fill up the army. The President and the Secretary of War have both urged upon Congress the repeal of the commutation clause, and the making of the draft compulsory on every drafted man. He must serve, or supply an accepted substitute who has escaped the drafting. The ground for this application is, that peremptory conscription only will obtain recruits. The confession is a humiliating one—but it is made under the urgent plea of an immediate necessity—that the wealthy North, with twice the population of the South, starting with resources believed to be boundless and credit absolutely unlimited, and with a fury for conquest which seemed irrepressible, is now, in the fourth year of the war, unable to find soldiers who will fight willingly for the sake of the cause, or to bid high enough to bribe even mercenaries enough to execute its will, and is hunting for power to drag reluctant conscripts pitilessly into the battle-field. The pressure of the necessity which extorts these avowals is found in the disheartening aspect of military affairs, notwithstanding the extraordinary exertions made in preparation for this campaign. Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts, chairman of the committee of military affairs in the Senate, said in the debate on this subject, 'Since October 17, we have put seven hundred thousand men into the field.' This is in addition to the numbers surviving of the million previously called for. For these men Government has paid $125,000,000 in bounties, besides the sums expended in aid of the recruiting, at the same time, by States and citizens. A new draft is now called for as urgent and unavoidable, and the President, and the War Department, and the friends of Government in both Houses, and its special military organ in the House, say that the men cannot be had unless the law is so amended to their purpose as to make it impossible for the conscripted to escape forced service. A vote was one day cast in the House adverse to this proposition, upon which one of the friends of the Administration in the military committee declared that it was substantially a vote to stop the war. The House was evidently alarmed at its own action, and shows signs of reversing its opinion and gratifying the Government. The Senate was at first of the adverse opinion, and voted down the repealing clause, but the importunities of the Government have prevailed there also, and their action is counted upon in favour of the repeal. The point is still unsettled. A considerable portion of the Republicans are afraid of the effect on the coming elections of the coercive measures which will be required to put a rigid drafting into operation against the popular repugnance to the service, aggravated by the party charges hurled against the Administration by its adversaries, that, by repealing commutation and permitting substitutes, the men of property can still buy themselves off, while the poor man is held beyond the chance of escape. The Republicans are therefore divided on the question, chiefly on political grounds. The Opposition are nearly unanimous against it on several grounds, among which the effect on elections is not the least important. A military necessity and Administration importunity may still carry the Bill, on the calculation that the military success which it may accomplish will enable the party to recover ground with the people. If it fail, the war may be forced to stop now, by the Northern exhaustion of men. Such is the despairing plea which the Government puts in to obtain its measure. But, whether it succeed or not, here is the record made for the instruction of the world by the Government of the North, that its supplies of voluntary soldiers are exhausted, that its means are inadequate to purchase mercenaries at home or abroad, and that force only can fill up its armies to the requirements of the war against the South.

I do not enlarge upon the considerations lately pressed upon the Government by considerate men in its own ranks, that the demands already made upon the vital resources of the North in the abstraction from its labouring force of two millions of men, of whom a million will never return to their work, have already reached the utmost point which the industry of the country can bear without danger of fatal collapse. Those considerations have their insensible effect on public opinion in other ways besides abating the willingness to take an active part in the war. They make, however, part of the case to show that on the part of the North there are great and growing signs of rapid exhaustion in the 'vital resource' of men—not merely of men, for they have none such, like the soldiers of the South, who give themselves up unreservedly in their lives and their fortunes, all they have and all they hope for, to the cause of their country, but even of men who do not make hard bargains for unwilling service, and who do not think it a sacrifice to serve at all, or do not serve against their will.

There is a more outspoken sign of the excessive growth of this anti-war feeling, telling in the repugnance to the army, in the rapid spread of a positive peace party, throughout the country. This feeling, long overawed by the arbitrary will of the Administration, the furious clamouring of its adherents, and the popular enthusiasm for a coming triumph which has never come, has taken of late, ever since the delivery of the great rallying speech of Mr. Long of Ohio, a form and consistency which is making for a peace party a position as a power in the State. The postponing of the Democratic Convention at Chicago from July 4 to August 27 is a victory of the peace elements of the Democratic party over the managing politicians who were in haste to make the nomination of a war Democrat, and had their candidate ready, and apparently sure of the nomination, in General M'Clellan. There is a hope now felt that the events which are transpiring will, by the end of that period, clear the way so that the Chicago Convention may be controlled by public opinion in the interests of peace, and that it will array the great Democratic organisation against the continuance of the war, and against every attempt to restore union except by peaceful negotiation and with the renewed assent of the States to a Government in which they are willing to live. It is but a hope, to which consistency is given by the gloomy condition of public affairs, which is beginning to disturb the public mind with the dread that continued war is financial and political ruin, and by the revolt among the partisans of the Administration in so many quarters, who are putting forth as the present paramount duty of the times the effort to restore civil liberty at home. I lay no present hope for the termination of the war on the direct influence of these movements upon the action of the party or its success, if so directed; but there is great force in their bearings on the question, how long the North will continue to supply men, and at what probable period the absolute dearth of men will constrain the North to surrender the hope of conquering the South. There is a great obstructive power in the Administration; but there is a danger ahead upon which the friends of peace make a strong calculation. They may not be willing to risk the revolutionary disorders which are so likely to follow a series of public calamities that are encountered and created by persistence in obstinate opposition to a decided public opinion. These are elements to be taken into the calculation when we apply the Administration rule as I have quoted it, that the party in this strife who holds out longest must win. In the qualities of steadfastness and endurance, the South has to-day largely the advantage.

The money aspect of the case is growing still more gloomy to the North. When I wrote you on Tuesday last, the official report of the state of the United States Treasury for June had not reached New York. It has since been published. The sum of the public debt on June 14 is reported to be $1,719,395,138 88, of which there are:—

	Principal.	Interest.
Bearing interest in coin	$837,941,091 80	$50,823,672 45
„ „ currency	379,700,802 58	20,876,657 70
	$1,217,641,894 38	$71,699,730 15
Debt, without interest .	501,753,364 50	
	1,719,395,158 88	

I do not intend to waste attention upon the manipulations by which this aggregate is made in the Administration journals to represent fairly the cost of conducting the war thus far, and to be the basis of an estimate of the cost of continuing it. The $1,700,000,000 represents ascertained and adjusted debt incurred in a different condition of currency, the greater part when prices ruled much lower than they have been under the inflations of the past year, and are likely to continue to be under the Secretary's necessities for continuing to pour out irredeemable paper. There are suspended accounts and claims, of which the payment cannot be resisted, which would swell this sum by hundreds of millions of dollars. But the present amount and ultimate aggregate to which this debt may reach are only elements in the present question of what is the financial credit of the Government, and how long it can continue to get money on the terms to which it is obliged in its present discredit to submit.

Gold has lately been buying the promissory notes of the United States two for one, or at less than 50 cents on the dollar—a little over 48 cents. The Government 5-20's, six per cent. bonds payable after three years and before twenty, are selling at about $105 in currency, which gives a present interest in fact of twelve per cent., with the principal repayable in gold, that is $100 in gold for $105 in paper—a part of the contract of which the exact value can only be known when the loan is repayable, and the Government is disposed and ready to settle.

A short time ago the Government, in its needs, attempted to borrow $75,000,000 at six per cent. interest, payable in gold in seventeen years. It could not obtain offers for the whole amount at any rates. It received such offers as were made at 104 and upwards, averaging 105, which was at about twelve per cent. for the current interest, with the expectation of getting coin at the end for paper, which may be double or treble the amount loaned in currency. A Government which invites loans, and submits to such usurious terms, is on the high road to financial ruin. No man can say, with any confidence in his own prophecy, what its promises to pay may be worth three months hence, and there are no signs of financial success in any measure for reducing the immense volume of the circulation which debases the currency, or providing adequate means for meeting the expenditures which expand with the currency, without repeating the very measures which have proved so destructive. The Secretary is in a muddle, Congress is in a muddle, and the inevitable tendency of all the measures the Secretary recommends, or is constrained to use, is to increase the disorders of which no end is possible but bankruptcy. The result of these things was expressed by a war journal in this city a couple of days ago, in which it was said that without immediate reform in the measures of the Secretary, and immediate improvement in the condition of the currency, one of two things must speedily happen—the repudiation of the public debt, or the abandonment of the war. I am not persuaded that the two things will not happen together, but I am sure that the disorders of the finances are irreparable, and that the second condition of the failure of the North—its exhaustion of money as well as men, and of men certainly when money fails—will come before the South shall have wearied of opposing unflinching resistance, or exhausted its capacity to find means enough to support its independence.

DEATH OF 'MANHATTAN.'

THE well-known New York correspondent of the *Herald* and *Standard*, whose letters have been read for nearly three years with unflagging interest, died suddenly on June 25, while President Lincoln was deliberating whether he should be imprisoned in Fort Lafayette or banished to the Confederate States. It is not improbable that the excitement caused by his arrest, and anxiety for the fate of his wife and only child, a daughter whom he tenderly loved, may have produced this fatal catastrophe.

JOSEPH A. SCOVILLE, known here as 'Manhattan,' and in America by the *nom de plume* of 'Walter Barrett, Clerk,' was born in Connecticut in 1811, and bred to commercial pursuits in one of the largest shipping houses of New York. At the close of his apprenticeship he formed a partnership with another young New Englander, under the title of Scoville & Britton, and embarked adventurously in foreign commerce. Their ships had made but few voyages when a commercial crisis, such as America has been periodically subjected to, caused the failure of the young firm, and Mr. Scoville resorted to literature and politics. He was connected with several papers as publisher or contributor, and, though wanting in education, his extensive acquaintance with men, travel, retentive memory, and impulsiveness of character, made him an interesting writer. Though dealing largely in broad humour, persiflage, and exaggeration, he was at times profound, eloquent, and even poetical, in feeling and expression. Mr. Scoville was a State Rights Democrat; for some years the amanuensis or private secretary of the greatest American statesman of his day, John C. Calhoun, of South Carolina. There could be no better testimony to the real worth of his character than the fact that he was trusted and loved by such a man. He wrote some of Mr. Calhoun's latest works at his dictation, and was with him until his death. He afterwards married a relative of the deceased statesman.

With such a political education and associations, he could not be otherwise than a friend of the South. He had no expression strong enough for the contempt he felt for the Republican party and its proper chief, Abraham Lincoln, and the corrupt crew gorged upon the spoils of war and the plunder of the Northern people. If he professed to be a Union man, he did not hesitate to say that he preferred Jefferson Davis to Abraham Lincoln as the President of the Union. If in his letters he reflected the hopes of the North and the feeling around him, it was never difficult to read his own feelings; and reckless as he has sometimes seemed in his statements, his letters have been on the whole more truthful than Federal despatches. Some allowance must be made for his position. He could not say what he wished, nor serve openly the cause he had at heart, but he managed while he lived, in spite of Federal tyranny, and with Fort Lafayette in sight, to do that cause good service.

Mr. Scoville was generous to a fault. No man ever asked his aid in vain if he had power to help him. He had known misfortune and poverty, and sympathised with the distressed. His good qualities had made him many friends. For two years before his death he held the honourable appointment of reader to the Common Council of New York; and it was a matter of considerable doubt whether President Lincoln, even at the instance of General Dix, and after a full examination of the reasonable correspondence of 'Manhattan,' would have cared to put that body to the trouble of selecting a new reader.

We have no disposition to ignore the literary faults of the letters of 'Manhattan' and the author of 'Marion;' but it is proper, when his energetic labours have been brought to a sudden close by the hand of death, that we should give him credit for his merits and virtues.

BRIGADIER-GEN. ALBERT G. JENKINS, OF THE CONFEDERATE ARMY.

When this man died on the field of his final battle, he did not require the hand of partial friendship to record his name in the annals of the war. Along the whole western frontier of his native State, Virginia, his name is a household word; and, like the dead body of the indomitable English monarch, still carried at the head of his columns against the enemy, the name of the young Virginian soldier, whom living they followed so often, has still a leadership for the men of the border against the invader. The incidents of his career, often approaching the romantic, will long be the theme of song and the material of story in the mountains of Virginia, where love for him is a passion; and in the simple traditions of the border, he will always be actor or hero.

For him there will be little conventional grief, stirred by art or oratory—the transient sympathy which men accord to leaders conspicuous in place or power—but in many a lonely home in the seclusion of the Virginian mountains there will be for him tears and grief, and afterwards perpetual preservation of his memory. To these men he was as a chieftain to his clan; and, without depreciation of the noble soldiers and patriots of that region, his loss is irreparable, and he leaves no successor.

When almost a boy, fresh from school and the study of his profession of the law, the threatened struggle of a people in South America against the despotism of their rulers attracted him from position and fortune at home to dare climate and danger in the aid of their cause; and although the occasion he coveted did not occur, yet the unselfish and enthusiastic espousal of the cause of the weak against the strong was early augury of the character and career of the man. Afterwards, when at the age of twenty-five he represented a district on the western border of Virginia in the Federal Congress, he was, with Mason and Hunter and other elder and more conspicuous leaders, the fearless champion of the equality of the Southern States in the territories and of their autonomy at home, then violently assailed by the more populous North. When the election of Mr. Lincoln gave to the aggressive faction at the North the power to achieve their designs, with a promptness almost like prematurity he organised, and armed, and led his neighbours in a resistance which has made a memorable and almost marvellous story for every river, and mountain, and valley of the border.

Early in the war he was made a brigadier-general of an independent brigade of cavalry which he had raised by his influence in that amphibious border-land where the power of the North had overcome the authority of Virginia. These men, controlled as much by his congenial influence as by discipline, he led, rather than commanded, on many a march and foray and raid and field—in many a surprise at midnight and escape by morning—always blinding the foe he struck, with success so invariable, that his enemy ascribed to infallible fortune what his friends knew was the fair result of his daring and inventive military genius. But, defying danger once too often, he died on his last field in a way as knightly as he lived, and wishing to defer death only to do more of his duty.

It seems almost inconsistent to say that a soldier of so intense a type was the gentlest and kindest of men; but it must be forgiven in one who loved him to think that these qualities in the composition of his character made its harmony and symmetry more complete. If in the fervent way he loved his friends, in his versatility and attraction of conversation and manner, there was something almost feminine, still the graces which beautified his character did not mar its strength. His character and deeds contradict the inference drawn from his refinement, just as the most brilliant flowers are borne on the sturdy stems of forest trees in the tropics, although such flowers are oftenest borne by the shrub or the vine. These generous qualities and this gentle refinement shed such lustre on his errors, as half to redeem them and half to blind one to their existence.

These desultory sentences, which must end before the subject is complete, may as well end here. Grief for his loss arrests the record. Hereafter he will be remembered as well as he was loved. H. F.

BRITISH ATROCITY.—If anything more than usually un-English in spirit, and more than usually damaging to English character, is found in our worst of Anglo-Federal contemporaries, we may be sure of the author. It was, therefore, scarcely worth Professor Goldwin Smith's while to append his name in full to the following, which we find in the *Daily News* of July 11th under the singular misnomer of 'Federal Cruelties':—'In our last war with America, only fifty years ago, Sir Charles Napier witnessed the sack of Little Hampton by the British, and he states that on that occasion "every horror was perpetrated with impunity—rape, murder, pillage—and not a man was punished." Further on, in his diary of the same war, he says:—"Strong is my dislike to what is perhaps a necessary part of our job—viz., plundering and ruining the peasantry. We drive all their cattle, and of course ruin them. My hands are clean; but it is hateful to see the poor Yankees robbed, and to be the robber."'

GENERAL GRANT IN BATTLE.—A correspondent of the *New York Times* writes:—'I was near General Grant during that terrible Friday (June 3) in the Wilderness. To all outward appearance he was cool, calm, and unoccupied. The skin is so drawn over his forehead that wrinkles there do not show when he is perplexed, and his beard so hides his mouth that no nervousness there betrays his thought. So he sat and whittled, cutting away at his stick with leisurely, measured, meditative strokes much of the time, but turning his knife and cutting at the end nearest himself with short, clipping strokes whenever word came of important changes in the chances of battle. Thus he fought the great contest with knife and stick, and,' adds the writer, giving the reins to his fancy, 'when the stick was gone the enemy was beaten.'

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SHIPS ARRIVED.

AT GRAVESEND.—July 7: The Costa Rica packet, from Punta Arenas. The Clarissa, from Nassau. The Justitia (steamer), from Lisbon.—July 8: The Anne, from Porto Rico. The Cadiz (steamer), from Cadiz.—July 10: The Tartar (steamer), from Lisbon.—July 11: The Minerva (steamer), from Havre. The City of Hamburgh (steamer), from Havre. The Murillo (steamer), from Cadiz. The Index (steamer), from Nassau.

AT DEAL.—July 7: The Acaso, from St. Michael's.

AT LIVERPOOL.—July 7: The Globe, from Pomeroon.—July 8: The Niagara (steamer), from Havre. The Bonne Mère, from Bilboa. The Tyne, from Buenos Ayres. The Era, The Sarah Smith, from Porto Rico.—July 12: The Julius, from Buenos Ayres. The Ellen Sophia, from Demerara. The Bella Donna, arrived at this port, July 3, from Bermuda, sailed June 16. She brought a very valuable cargo, consisting of 519 bales and 180 bags cotton, and 20 barrels manufactured tobacco. There were several vessels about to leave for this port with cargoes of cotton, including the Harkaway, Congress, and Annandale.

AT PLYMOUTH.—July 8: The Argo, from Miramichi.

AT NEWPORT.—July 5: The Sabina, The Anne Elizabeth, from Bilboa.—July 6: The Profit and Loss, from Bilboa.

AT FALMOUTH.—July 8: The Index (steamer), from Bermuda.—July 10: The Gardina, from Oporto. The Arcangelo, from Buenos Ayres.

AT YARMOUTH.—July 11: The Agile, from Havre.

AT CARDIFF.—July 5: The Queen of the Taff, from Madeira.—July 6: The Flora, from Bilboa.—July 9: The Ross D. Mangles (steamer), from Bilboa.

AT BRISTOL.—July 8: The Winsome, from Rio Grande.—July 10: The Prudencia, from Havana.

AT HURST CASTLE.—July 13: The Tasmanian (steamer), from West Indies.

AT AYR.—July 6: The Minerva, from St. John's.

AT BERWICK.—July 5: The Marine, from Buenos Ayres.

AT CLYDE.—July 6: The Sarah Peyton, from Cardenas.—July 8: The Dom Pedro (steamer), from Lisbon.

AT SALCOMBE.—July 11: The Columbine, from Nassau.

AT QUEENSTOWN.—July 7: The Lima, from Barbadoes. The Sultan, from Mauritius.—July 8: The Cagoletto, from Buenos Ayres. The Eleanor Woodburn, from Havre.

AT STOCKTON.—July 7: The Queen, from Miramichi.

AT DUBLIN.—July 12: The Theodore, from Porto Rico.

AT CORK.—July 7: The Lima, from Barbadoes.—July 8: The Eleanor, from Havre.

AT HAVANA.—June 18: The Earl Powis, The Greenock, The Haubet, The Lemuel, The Nodales, The Cabinet, The Constantia, The Avena, The Urgent, The Lempa, The Kawa, The Dos Hermanos, The Laura, The Ivanhoe (steamer), The Denbigh (steamer). *Freights*:—The market has shown considerable activity, and 16 ships have been chartered for European ports, taking altogether about 32,000 cases of sugar. Almost all vessels of suitable tonnage are engaged, and the only ones on hand are now discharging. The arrivals are not numerous, and a few suitable vessels are required for Channel orders. Quotations are: English Channel for orders, 50*s.* to 55*s.*; ditto, *vid* other ports, 52*s.* 6*d.* to 60*s.*; direct ports in north of Europe, 50*s.* to 55*s.*; France (Atlantic), $70; Mediterranean, $2¼ to $2½ per case; Spain, $2 to $2½ per case.

AT NEW ORLEANS.—June 16: The Chene, The Frileuse, from Bordeaux, The Dashing Wave, from Liverpool to Matamoras, captured by the Federals, and brought here on the 20th ult., has been released at this port. The Sir William Peel (steamer), and the Science, have also been released.

AT PANAMA.—June 2: The French fleet entered the harbour of Acapulco on the 2nd instant, and at once landed their forces, who drove the Mexicans from the town at the point of the bayonet. The blockade of Acapulco had been removed, so that the next steamer is expected to bring a large cargo of cotton from that port.

AT TENERIFFE.—June 30: The Guanche, The Paquet de Puerto Rico, The Iliade, The Maria Therese, The Marina, The Sylvius, The Rosita, The Ille da Cuba, The Placida, The Helene, The Cabero, The Sydney Hall (steamer), The Belle, The Marc Antoine.

AT MADEIRA.—July 2: The Gulia, The Leon Ramunda, The Funchal, The Stephenson, The Bonny Dundee, The Giacomo.—The *Journal do Comercio*, of June 21, says that the sanitary condition of the Cape de Verde Islands, especially that of San Theago and the town of La Prara, was most dangerous in consequence of dysentery (resulting from famine), which, if it became more serious, it was feared might be attended with typhus fever and cholera.

AT JAMAICA.—June 25: Her Majesty's ships Aboukir, 80; Liverpool, 37; Challenger, 21; Barracouta, 6; Plover, 5; Steady, 5. At Vera Cruz, the Shannon, 37; and Rinaldo, 17. Off Cuba, the Cygnet, 5; Royalist, 5; Nimble, 5; Styx, 6; Peterel, 11. At the Windward Islands, the Pylades, 21; Greyhound, 17. The Jason, 21, sailed from Port Royal on the 20th of June for Halifax. The Liverpool, Captain Rowley Lambert, had been aground off the coast of St. Domingo, and had sustained considerable injury to keel, &c., and was about to sail for England to be docked. The Charybdis arrived at Panama on June 18, with $750,000 from Mexico for Europe.

SHIPS SAILED.

LIVERPOOL.—July 5: The Bolivar (steamer) for St. Thomas.—July 6: The Carmen for Havana. The Harvest for Bermuda. The Philip Nelson for Valparaiso. The Florie for Buenos Ayres. The Joachim Christian for Matamoras. The Gazelle for Prince Edward's Island. The Castilian (steamer) for Oporto.—July 7: The Tigre for Pernambuco. The Askalon (steamer) for Jamaica. The Magaret for Lisbon. The Ingemann for St. Thomas. The Rebecca, The Blackfriar, for Havana. The Salve Virgen Marie for Matanzas. The Taube for Porto Cabello.—July 8: The Woolton for Rio Janeiro. The Memory for Belize. The Suffolk Hero for Fayel.—July 9: The Una (steamer) for Montevideo. The Jesusa for Havana, The Bramley Moore for Montevideo. The Arriero for Vera Cruz. The Ella, The Harriett, for Bermuda. The Theresa for Prince Edward's Island.—July 11: The Tyne for Buenos Ayres. The Era, The Sarah Smith for Porto Rico. The Chilian Packet for Buenos Ayres. The Island Queen for Bahia. The Egeateia for Barbadoes. The Convoy for Bermuda. The Princess Royal for St. John's.—July 12: The David Harrison for Rio Janeiro. The Gertrude for Halifax.

FALMOUTH.—July 6: The Sophie, for Rio Janeiro.—July 8: The Dieppe (steamer), for West Indies.—July 12: The Melody, for Havana.

GRAVESEND.—July 8: The Lisboa (steamer), for Lisbon.—July 9: The Favor, for Rio Janeiro. The Francis Drake, for Bermuda. The Ipswich Lass, for St. John's.—July 10: The Beta (steamer), The Edith, for Oporto.—July 12: The Sea Gull, for Havre.

DEAL.—July 6th: The Dorothy, for Demerara.—July 7: The Dieppe (steamer), for Bermuda.—July 9: The Tamage, for Oporto.—July 10: The Favor, for Rio Janeiro. The Ganges, for Demerara. The Fernandez, for Fayel.—July 11: The Mystery, for Bermuda.—July 12: The Flying Cloud, for Nassau.

PORTSMOUTH.—July 6: The Asia, for Lisbon.

RAMSGATE.—July 8: The Elba (steamer), for Havre.

YARMOUTH.—July 6: England's Rose, for Halifax.

COWES.—July 6: The Maldon, for Lisbon.

ILFRACOMBE.—July 6: A bottle was picked up at sea this morning, containing a paper on which the following was written in pencil:—'The Ocean Queen, G. Armstrong, master, has been sunk off Bermuda, Feb. 4, 1864. All hands, with the exception of two—James Dadds and John Williams, who were drowned—are in the boats. She sailed from Liverpool, December 11, 1863, and the owners are Messrs. Johnson & Lake, Liverpool.—G. ARMSTRONG, master.'

PLYMOUTH.—July 6: The Blink Bonny, for Bermuda.

ST. MAWE'S.—July 10: The Luna, for Montevideo.

SCILLY.—July 7: The Neptunus, from Havana.

NEWPORT.—July 5: The Epervier, for Bilboa. The Florence, for Matanzas. The Nelson, for St. Thomas.—July 6: The Normand, for St. Thomas. The Mary Jane, for Pomeroon. The Hilda, for Buenos Ayres.—July 11: The Gustave, for Havana. The Sampan, for Montevideo.

BEAUMARIS.—July 7: The Catherine Williams, for Bilboa.

SWANSEA.—July 6: The Cognac (steamer), for Cadiz. The Nina, for Brazil. The Delaware, for Caldera. The Walkyrien, for St. Thomas.—July 7: The Caroline, for Havana.—July 8: The Hecla, for Cuba.

SALCOMBE.—July 7: The Equity, for West Indies.

MILFORD.—July 6: The King of the Forest, The A. W. M'Lellan, for Madeira.—July 11: The Gambia, for Malaga.

LONDONDERRY.—July 6: The Doctor Kane, from St. John's.

QUEENSTOWN.—July 9: The Ulric (steamer), for Havana. The Flamingo (steamer), for Bermuda.

CARDIFF.—July 6: The Sostrene Clausen, for Rio Janeiro. The Mercur, for Lisbon.—July 8: The Favorite, for Pernambuco. The Leander, The Ottawa, for Cuba. The J. A. De Rudder, for Cape de Verds.—July 9: The Suzanne, for Rio Janeiro. The Llewellyn, for St. Thomas. The Belle of the Mersey, for Matanzas. The Sarah and Alida, for Cape de Verds.—July 10: The Siloam, for Cape de Verds.

DUMFRIES.—July 6: The John Wilson, for Miramichi.

STORNOWAY.—July 4: The total number of bales of cotton shipped in the Labuan (s-s), from Liverpool for Narva, wrecked near this place, was 1,800, of which about 1,100 have been landed in a sound state. The ship broke in two, and the after part sunk in deep water. The remaining 700 bales went down with part of the ship, and about 250 of them have been picked up and brought in here. It is probable that most of the 450 bales still missing will turn up when the vessel is completely broken up. It is understood that the value of the ship and cargo is little short of 80,000*l.*, and they are likely insured to the extent.

CLYDE.—July 7: The Flamingo (steamer), for Bermuda. The Ailsa (steamer), for Bermuda.—July 13: The Elizabeth, for Demerara. The Norton, for St. John's.

GREENOCK.—July 7: The Lafayette (steamer), built by Messrs. Scott & Co., and engined by the Greenock Foundry Company, for the General Transatlantic Company of France, left Victoria Harbour on Thursday for the purpose of adjusting compasses, and getting her machinery into working order previous to her official trial trip, which was to take place yesterday.

GOOLE.—July 7: The Masonic, for Havana.

SHIELDS.—July 7: The Vrede, for Lisbon.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—July 9: The Iphigenia, for Lisbon.

SHIPS LOADING.

AT LONDON.—For New York: The Washington (mail steamer) from Havre, July 27: Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For West Indies: The Louisiane (mail steamer) from St. Nazaire, July 16; Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For Nassau: The Star of the East, St. Katharine's Docks; Davison & Co. The Espérance, St. Katharine's Docks; Davison & Co. The Rhoda, St. Katherine's Docks; J. Worley.—For Bermuda: The Jane Goodman, The Bonny Belle, London Docks; Tatham & Co. The Jane Smith, The Ionian Belle, St. Katharine's Docks: Tatham & Co. The Only Son, The Trio.—For Havre: The Young May, The Bounty of Providence.

AT LIVERPOOL.—For Bermuda: The Thomas Edwards, King's Dock, Peniston, Westhead & Co.; The Sylph, King's Dock, Peniston, Westhead & Co.; The Powerful (steamer), The Solway Queen.—For Madeira: The Macgregor Laird (steamer).—For Matamoras: The Ruth.—For Nassau: The Hope (steamer), The Wilsons.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

The Bank rate of discount still remains at 6 per cent.; but notwithstanding that money is abundant and easy in all quantities, it is not anticipated that any further reduction will be made at present. The dividends are now in course of payment, but the reimbursements made to the Bank for advances have not been so large as usual. There is a good supply of paper in the market, particularly foreign bills; but at the same time the deposits for the country are large, which enables the brokers to meet all demands for discount, and for which they are now changing from 5½ to 5¾ per cent. The Joint Stock Banks are more freely disposing of their ample resources at 5½ per cent. On the Stock Exchange money is also very plentiful, and short loans are currently negotiated at 3 per cent. and although the half-monthly settlement in foreign stocks and railway and miscellaneous shares is in progress, the demand is not at all pressing, and there is no expectation that any material augmentation in the ordinary rates will take place.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The bullion market has been remarkably quiet during the week, but on the whole the operations have not been of such a favourable character as for the previous two or three weeks, inasmuch as there has not been any specie sent into the Bank, whilst there has been a withdrawal of 25,000*l.* for transmission to the Brazils. The arrivals of specie have been rather more limited than usual, amounting to only 249,688*l.*, of which 204,180*l.* was from New York, 33,600*l.* from Alexandria, and 11,908*l.* from the West Coast of Africa. The West India steamer took out for the Brazils 33,000*l.*, of which 25,000*l.* was in gold and 8,000*l.* silver. The silver market remains very

inactive. There are but few orders on hand; at the same time, there is very little silver to meet any demand that may arise from the letters just arrived from India. The quotations for bar silver, $61\frac{1}{8}$*d.* to $61\frac{1}{4}$*d.* per oz. There are very few Mexican dollars in the market at present, and the quotation for them must be called $64\frac{1}{2}$*d.* per oz. As the West India Mail is just telegraphed, there will in all probability be a better supply in a day or two.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

There has been uniform steadiness in the English stock market throughout the greater part of the week, and business has been tolerably active; but to-day, particularly in the later hours, a much better feeling has pervaded all the departments, on the general belief that the Germano-Danish war is about drawing to a close. And the English funds have advanced accordingly, consols closing at $90\frac{3}{8}$ to $90\frac{1}{2}$ ex. div. for money, and $90\frac{3}{4}$ to $90\frac{7}{8}$ ex. div. for the account in August, which shows an improvement of about $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. over the prices of this day week. Exchequer Bills do not exhibit any alteration, the March issue at 8*s.* to 3*s.* dis., and those of June at 5*s.* dis. to par. The Foreign stock market has not been so brisk, the dealers to some extent having still been restricted in their operations through the unsettled state of Continental politics, and prices in consequence have shown a tendency to further depression. Greek stock has receded 1 per cent., being now down to $24\frac{1}{4}$ to $24\frac{3}{4}$; Mexican is $28\frac{1}{2}$ to 29, being $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. declined. Spanish Passives are $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. lower, and the Certificates $\frac{1}{4}$, the former closing at $28\frac{3}{8}$ to $28\frac{3}{4}$, and the latter at $9\frac{7}{8}$ to $10\frac{1}{8}$; Turkish Six per Cents. of 1854 are steady at $90\frac{1}{2}$ to $91\frac{1}{2}$; but those of 1862 have fallen $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., the price being $68\frac{3}{4}$ to $69\frac{1}{4}$ ex. div.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

This security continues to rise in value upon large purchases effected during the week. The quotations to-day have reached 73 to 75, and stock for delivery appears to be very scarce.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The market for American Government and Railway securities continues exceedingly flat as regards business, and even more so with respect to prices. There was yesterday a slightly increased animation in one or two stocks, consequent upon the report of the resignation of Mr. Chase, but it had not the effect of improving quotations, and to-day only one transaction has been officially recorded. The dealings during the week comprised Atlantic and Great Western Railway, Pennsylvanian section. at $73\frac{1}{2}$ and 74. Erie $100 shares, all paid, 49. Illinois Central, Six per cents. at 74. Ditto, $100 shares, $90 paid, at $38\frac{1}{2}$, $42\frac{1}{2}$, 43, 42, $40\frac{1}{2}$, and $41\frac{1}{2}$ dis., and ditto, all paid, at 53, $53\frac{3}{4}$, and $52\frac{1}{2}$.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

The British Railway Share Market has been moderately active during the week, and for most descriptions prices have advanced from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 per cent. To-day business has not been quite so active, the dealers being principally occupied with the arrangement of the half-monthly account. Comparing prices with those that ruled this day week, there has been a rise of 2 per cent. in West Midland, Newport branch: London, Brighton, and South Coast, Sheffield and Metropolitan; of 1 per cent. in Great Northern, Great Western, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Midland; do. Birmingham and Derby and North Eastern (Leeds); and of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in London and North Western, North Eastern (Berwick; Do. (York) and North Staffordshire. On the other hand there has been a decline of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in South Eastern, and of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. in East Anglian. Foreign railway shares have been rather dull, but those connected with the British possessions have been more extensively dealt in, at rather improved quotations.

NEW ZEALAND DEBENTURES.

New Zealand Government Five per cent. debentures for 1,000,000*l.* were offered to public competition yesterday by the crown agents for the colonies, but only a very small portion of the amount was applied for. The minimum price was fixed at 90, which is equal to 5*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* per cent., and at that price the crown agents declared themselves willing for the present to receive tenders for the unallotted portion.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES, &c.

At the meeting of the Egyptian Commercial and Trading Company, Mr. J. Larking in the chair, the report was adopted, and a dividend of 5*s.* 3*d.* per share declared. The chairman stated that the business of the Company was being successfully conducted. With respect to the negotiations for an amalgamation with another Company, the result would be communicated to the shareholders at a meeting to be held in September. In reply to questions the chairman stated that, if the amalgamation takes place, the seat of business will be at Alexandria, but meetings would also be held occasionally in England; that, in addition to the sum already reported, 15,000*l.* of profit has been made by trading; that in future the dividends will be paid half-yearly, and that a dividend will be distributed in September on account of the profits up to June.—At a meeting of the directors of the European Bank, Mr. Colchester in the chair, it was resolved to increase the capital of the Company to 4,000,000*l.* by the creation of 40,000 new shares. It was, however, stated by the chairman that there was no immediate intention to issue the new shares, and that they were to be reserved for the purpose of extending the operations of the bank by the purchase of such connexions as are offered to them by established banking houses and companies. It was further stated that a branch would shortly be opened at Marseilles.—At the meeting to-day of the proprietors of the Union Bank of London, the report, which was unanimously adopted, stated that the net profits of the bank for the six months ending June 30, after payment of all charges, and making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, amounted to 154,370*l.*, which, with 992*l.* brought forward from the previous account, left for appropriation the sum of 155,363*l.*, out of which a dividend was declared for the half-year at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum free of income tax, and a bonus of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the paid-up capital, being at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, and leaving a balance of 77,363*l.* A special meeting of the proprietors was afterwards held for the purpose of submitting a recommendation that the subscribed capital of the bank be increased from 3,000,000*l.* to 4,000,000*l.*, by the creation of 20,000 new shares of 50*l.* each. Resolutions to the foregoing effect were proposed and agreed to. At the 26th annual general meeting of the proprietors of the Union Bank of Australia held to-day, a dividend of 2*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per share for the half-year was declared, and by way of interest 11*s.* 6*d.* per new share.—At a meeting to-day of the Humber Ironworks and Shipbuilding Company, a preliminary report of a very favourable character was read, in which it was stated that eighteen ships were in the course of construction in the company's yards.—The adjourned meeting of the Atlantic Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company, called for to-day, was further adjourned till the 18th inst., for the purpose of ascertaining the result of a definite proposal which had been submitted to the Postmaster General.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

Now that money has again become a little easier, new joint stock projects are again thrown upon the market in great abundance. Amongst the most important is the European and American Finance Corporation (Limited), which is established for the purpose of adopting the business of an existing Company which has been successfully conducted with private capital, and to extend for the first time the system of financial agency to British Columbia, Vancouver's Island, and California. In British Columbia and Vancouver's Island, the Company propose to act as agents in investment, banking and finance, or as immigration agents on behalf of the Government. It is also intended to make advances on buildings, land, agricultural produce, wool, and any property not perishable. The Company is also to receive money on deposit at fixed rates, and issue debentures for long or short periods. The first capital of the Company is to be 500,000*l.*, in 12,500 shares of 20*l.*, of which not more than 10*l.* is to be called up.—Challis's Banking Company (Limited) propose to increase their capital from 10,000*l.* to 50,000*l.* by the issue of additional shares. The bank is carrying on business, and the directors state that at the present time the profits are not less than 10 per cent. on the paid-up capital.—The prospectus has been issued of the Hudiksvale and Forssa Steam Sawing Mills Company (Limited). The capital is fixed at 160,000*l.*, in 3,200 shares of 50*l.* each. The object of the undertaking is to extend the operations of a Company with a similar title established in 1857. The business consists in selling timber from some extensive forests in Sweden, which have been obtained upon leases for 50 years. These forests are stated to cover between 300 and 400 English square miles, or 200,000 to 250,000 acres.—The Robertsfors Ironworks Company (Limited) propose to raise a capital of 300,000*l.*, in 15,000 shares of 20*l.* each, the object being to purchase the extensive estates of Robertsfors and Fredericksfors, in Sweden, comprising about 150,000 acres of freehold and crown lands, with large forests and agricultural districts, as also timber and iron works, ship-building yards, &c. It is also intended to extend the general manufacture of iron, and to introduce Bessemer's steel process. The prospectus has been issued of the Regent's Canal Iron Works Company (Limited). The capital sought to be raised is 250,000*l.* in 12,500 shares of 20*l.* each, with a first issue of 8,000 shares. The Company is formed for the purpose of purchasing the engineering works of Mr. Henry Grissell, in Eagle Wharf Road, Regent's Canal. The works cover a space of $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and possess a frontage of 700 feet, with nearly the same extent of water frontage. Being situated on the Regent's Canal, they are connected with the Thames and with all the railways which run into London.—The Trinidad Petroleum Company (Limited) are seeking to raise a capital of 150,000*l.* in 7,500 shares of 20*l.* each. It is intended to import petroleum from some lake and oil springs, which have the advantage of being situated near to the seacoast, in the island of Trinidad, and whose supply is said to be inexhaustible. It is estimated by the directors that 8,000 tuns of oil may be imported during the first year, at a cost of less than 7*l.* per tun. The vendors have agreed to accept three-fifths of the purchase money in paid-up shares.—The Patent Carriage Company is started, for which a capital of 100,000*l.* is sought to be raised in 10,000 shares of 10*l.* each; the issue to be 5,000 shares. It is the intention of the Company to introduce new and improved cabs and carriages of superior contruction, and the directors promise that these shall be 'easier, far more comfortable, considerably lighter, stronger, cheaper, and far more elegant, than any hitherto invented. The Company, it appears, do not intend to horse any of the cabs or carriages, but merely to build and let them to persons of good character duly licensed.—The prospectus of the Vancouver's Island and British-Columbia Fishing and Oil Company (Limited) has been issued. The capital is fixed at 250,000*l.* in 25,000 shares of 10*l.* each. The object of the directors is to establish on the coasts of the above-named colonies and elsewhere fisheries for herrings, salmon, cod, sturgeon, and other fish, for which there is a very considerable demand in the South American markets. The Company's programme includes the manufacturing of oils, isinglass, and caviare, curing the fish and converting the refuse into manure. Fishing stations are to be established at suitable places.—The Thames Plate Glass Company (Limited) is asking for a capital of 250,000*l.* in 10,000 shares of 25*l.* each. The Company was originally formed in 1834, with unlimited liability, and it is now considered advisable to re-organise it., The returns hitherto have been very profitable, and the present produce is about 10,000 square feet of polished glass per week, which can easily be increased to upwards of 20,000 feet per week.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

The produce markets do not exhibit any general extension of business, notwithstanding that money is easier, and politics are less uncertain than was the case a short time back. Purchases are still for the most part confined to the requirement of the present period: and where any increased desire to realise is shown, easier rates have to be taken. For the most part, however, importers are firm, and supply the markets sparingly, arrivals during the last few days having been upon a very moderate scale. Cotton has formed almost the only exception to the general quiet, transactions in this article having been extensive, whilst prices have risen fully $\frac{1}{2}$*d.* per lb. The provision trade progresses slowly but steadily. Navy provisions have sold rather freely, there being a demand for American. Cheese of good quality commands a ready sale, American realising 50*s.* to 58*s.* for good and fine. The grain trade has been inactive, but prices well maintained, the want of genial sunshine and a higher temperature having retarded the progress of the growing crops. Linseed is steady and rapeseed firm. Oilcake has realised a small advance, American barrels being quoted 9*l.* 10*s.* to 9*l.* 15*s.*, and bags 8*l.* 15*s.* per cwt. Seed oils have remained dull of sale, but rape is firmly held at 42*s.* 6*d.* for brown and 45*s.* 6*d.* to 46*s.* for pale. Cocoa-nut has sold rather freely to-day at 40*s.* 3*d.* cash for Cochin, and 38*s.* 9*d.* less rent and interest for Ceylon. Sperm oil remains out of demand at 70*l.* per tun. Petroleum meets a good enquiry at 2*s.* $2\frac{1}{2}$*d.* on the spot, and 2*s.* 4*d.* for the last three months' delivery. Crude is worth 18*l.* 10*s.* per tun. The tallow market has been and is now extremely dull, but without any material decline in prices. There have been some further variations in metals. English copper-smelters refuse to sell except at 3*l.* to 5*l.* over fixed rates, although they do not officially advise an advance. Spelter has again risen in value, and is now worth 25*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* to 25*l.* 5*s.* per ton. Scotch pig iron, after reaching 59*s.* 9*d.*, closes rather dull to-day at 58*s.* 6*d.* Lead firmly maintains its value. Common jute has again advanced 10*s.* per ton. Manilla hemp sells steadily at 34*l.* to 35*l.*, for fair to good roping. The quarterly sales of East Indian indigo have opened at an advance of 3*d.* to 6*d.* on last sale's rates, for good useful qualities of Bengal and Kurpah, but low qualities do not show improvement. The sugar market during the last day or two has been heavy at 6*d.* decline, importers having offered supplies in excess of demand. Coffee maintains its price, and the Netherlands Trading Company's sales of Java coffee in Holland are to-day reported to have gone off better than expected, prices ranging up to valuations.

LIVERPOOL, Wednesday, July 13.—There has been a very active demand for cotton throughout the week, and the market has shown more animation than for a long time past. The enquiries for American have been considerable, but the limited supplies have induced holders to demand increased rates, and the advance must be quoted from $\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to 1*d.* per lb. There has also been a large demand for nearly all other descriptions, and prices have improved, according to circumstances, from $\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to, in some few instances, 2*d.* per lb. The sales this week have reached 114,000 bales, of which 55,000 have been taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year so far have been 1,470,321 bales against 1,106,730 bales to the same period in 1863. There have been imported this year 1,189,102 bales, whilst last year the number was 775,162 bales. The exports this year have been 291,119 bales: same period in 1863, 262,104 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 251,300 bales, whilst last year the number was 250,310 bales. The estimated stocks at the present time are 284,362 bales, and at the corresponding period in 1863, they were 318,113 bales. The latest quotations this afternoon were, American descriptions, 30*d.* to $32\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; Pernambuco, 29*d.* to $31\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Maranhams, 32*d.*; Maccio, $29\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to $30\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; Bahia, $29\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 30*d.*; Egyptian, $29\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to $36\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; Smyrna, $28\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to $28\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Surat, $15\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to $25\frac{3}{4}$*d.*; Bengal, 15*d.* to $15\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Scinde, $15\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to $15\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; China, $19\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to $22\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; and Japan, $20\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to $21\frac{1}{2}$*d.*

There has been a stronger tendency to transact business in the Manchester markets during the last few days, but buyers have been completely paralysed in their operations through the increased pretensions of manufacturers. Shipping yarns have been largely inquired for, but the dealings have been very limited, in consequence of the high prices demanded. It is said that a great many second-hand lots bought last week, have been resold at prices considerably below what spinners are now willing to accept, nevertheless buyers are placed in a position of some difficulty—they want goods, and a feeling is prevalent that if they do not order at the terms now offered, they may be in a few days compelled to give them higher rates. In home-trade yarns a moderate business has been transacted generally at an advance of 1*d.* per lb., but spinners in some cases have demanded an advance of 2*d.* to 3*d.* per lb., while some spinners in the present state of affairs refuse to name any quotation whatever. In the cloth market the improvement of last week continues; a large business has been transacted, especially in shirtings suitable for India. Buyers at present prefer suiting themselves out of stocks in preference to giving orders; but when manufacturers take orders to make, they will not accept unless at a considerable advance, in consequence of the high price of the raw material. Buyers appear in a great measure taken by surprise at the rates demanded, and this has had the effect of checking business considerably. The closing quotations are for 25 to 27 in. $\frac{7}{8}$ for grey printers, 8*s.* 9*d.* to 16*s.* 9*d.*; $\frac{9}{8}$ grey madrapollams, 7*s.* $10\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 10*s.* $4\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; $\frac{9}{8}$ grey printers, 13*s.* $1\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 18*s.* 6*d.*; $\frac{5}{4}$ grey shirtings, 13*s.* 3*d.* to 27*s.* 6*d.*; water twist, No. 20, 2*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* $10\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; No. 30, 2*s.* 8*d.* to 3*s.* 2*d.*; and No. 40, 3*s.* 1*d.* to 3*s.* 7*d.*; mule twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 11*d.* to 2*s.* 9*d.*; No. 30, 2*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* 11*d.*; No. 50, 2*s.* 11*d.* to 3*s.* 5*d.*; No. 70, 3*s.* 1*d.* to 3*s.* 8*d.*; No. 90, 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 1*d.*; and No. 100, 3*s.* 9*d.* to 4*s.* 7*d.*

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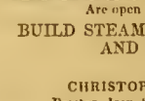

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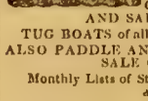

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LETTERS FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK: July 5, 1864.

THE FOURTH OF JULY—THE ADJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS—THE CHANGED ASPECT OF AFFAIRS—THE POSITION OF GRANT—MR. LINCOLN CALLS FOR TROOPS—THE NEW CONSCRIPTION ACT—THE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY—MR. CHASE'S LEGACY TO HIS SUCCESSOR.

YESTERDAY in this city was devoted to the celebration of the anniversary of Independence—the beginning of the revolutions which made the independence of the States who afterwards made the Union. Business was suspended; shops and stores were shut up; the Post-Office and the banks were closed; all the flags were out in a flaunting wind; and there were reviews of troops, and military and civic feasts, and the firing of guns and the popping of India crackers throughout the streets all day. Yet there was little real hilarity. The Fourth of July has been a day for the annual outbreak of national vanity, for boastful comparisons of American superiority in prowess, and freedom, and happiness, over the rest of mankind, and vain-glorious anticipations of the grandeur of American destiny, which, in these disjointed times, with a land torn asunder in civil strife and reeking with carnage, and given up on one part to senseless waste, and on the other to cruel devastation, it were a grotesque folly to repeat, and which it engenders rage or sadness to recall, as men are stung into passion or moved to regret when confronted with the knowledge of the ruin they have brought upon themselves.

The Declaration of Independence was made by political communities assuming each a separate independence and sovereignty for itself, and with no other ties among them than a voluntary association. The common principle of justification which they asserted for the act of separating from a Government which described itself, as this does now, as the freest and most beneficent in the world, was that Governments 'derive their just powers from the consent of the governed,' who have the right to alter and abolish forms, and 'to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organising its power in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.' There is a hideous incongruity in the public commemoration of such an event with bonfires and feastings and outcry and national triumphings, by a people which is at the same time sending forth millions of armed men to trample down in blood the right of eleven sovereign States and eight millions of people born free to choose their own government, and compel them to be vassals to one they are struggling with unanimity to throw off. The whole ceremonial of the Fourth of July has come to be an anachronism and a fraud in the North—a mere holiday of custom in which there is no longer the fervour of faith or the heartiness of hope.

Yesterday Congress adjourned after a session of six months, to meet again in December. In the interim there is to be a Presidential election under portentous circumstances and amidst such raging passions that it will be almost a miracle if there be not revolutionary disorders within the North added to the disasters of its accomplished disruption from the South.

When this Congress met, the President received them with his felicitations on the pleasing prospect of the early close of the war, and invited them to confer with him on the disposition to be made of the vanquished and their estates. Gold was at 150, but the Secretary of the Treasury promised that it would soon fall, and the Government currency be gradually and surely re-established by the measures which he had contrived. To make these things sure, Congress gave the Secretary everything he asked for, sometimes against its own recorded opinions that what he asked was useless or pernicious; and the Government, to give the final overwhelming *coup* to the expiring rebellion, organised, after eight months' preparation, a vast campaign, putting, according to the declaration of the Military Committee of the House, 700,000 new troops into the field, and placing at the head of hosts which can be reckoned up at more than a million of men the commander in whose genius it had the most unbounded confidence, and bestowing upon him unlimited means, and, as it now protests, unfettered discretion to carry out his own plans.

When the Congress adjourned gold was at 230. The Government currency, which in December was worth 66 cents in the dollar, had fallen to 43, a decline of 22 per cent. In one of the popular panics springing out of the Government measures and the national disasters, it had fallen to 280 for 100 in gold, or to less than 36 cents for the dollar. The Secretary, perplexed and enraged, accepted an affront as the excuse for escaping from office, and left it in helpless confusion, with a published record that the case is wellnigh desperate.

The fortunes of the grand army demonstration are told with unmistakable distinctness in two facts. Early in May, a few days after General Grant crossed the Rapidan and commenced that series of battles which the Secretary of War announced to the world as the beginning of the crowning triumph, President Lincoln solemnly invited the people to meet in their places of worship and offer thanksgiving to God for the victory. Nearly two months afterwards, and only three days before their adjournment, the two Houses of Congress united in a resolution addressed to the President, requesting him to appoint a day of 'humiliation and prayer,' to implore the aid of the Almighty for 'the suppression of the rebellion.' They had begun to doubt whether, without some new interposition of Providence, even the 'strongest battalions' can give them the victory.

Notwithstanding the occasional bulletins from Secretary Stanton which seem to assume that General Grant means to take Petersburg or Richmond, nothing is clearer than that all expectations of making any further attempt for that purpose are suspended. Grant is brought to a standstill in his operations, fortifying himself to remain where he is if General Lee does not find a way to compel him to get away, and waiting for new and heavy reinforcements before he can hope to make any progress forward. All the supporting columns with which he was making a converging approach against Richmond, so strong as to be irresistible, have failed, and military operations on his part are confined to mere raids for the interruption of communications, which are readily repaired, and therefore the raids are wasting away his best troops without adequate results for the loss. By the latest accounts Lee, instead of being cooped up about Richmond, feels so strong there, that he is alarming the people at Washington with demonstrations towards the capital, and, if not actually moving troops in that direction, can afford to disturb the nerves of Northern people with the apprehension of being invaded themselves.

The military measures with which Congress closed its work show the extent of their disappointment in the campaigning of Grant, and their sense of the necessity of new and extraordinary measures to maintain him where he is.

It was stated by Senator Wilson, the Chairman of the Military Committee, that calls for troops since the beginning of the war have been responded to to the number of 1,800,000 men. The numbers are literally over 2,300,000; but some of these were for short periods, and he averages them at 1,800,000 *three years'* men; for the two past years the demand has been so great that the supply is exhausted, and as a new levy is to be had, new laws have been passed to make conscription more rigid and the supply compulsory.

The new law authorises the President to call into the service any number of men at his discretion, for one, two, or three years, and allows, in addition to the pay, a bounty of $100 for one year's men, $200 for two years, and $300 for three years. Fifty days' notice is to be given for volunteers, at the expiration of which period a draft for the deficient number is to be made, and no payment of money will be accepted by the Government in commutation for the personal service of the drafted men.

But the white men of the North are to be relieved to some extent by the permission to the executive of any State to fill up his quota in the rebel States, with three enumerated exceptions—that is, they may collect negro soldiers from among the slaves, and take credit for them in the State quota.

The repeal of the commutation fee makes forced service from all who are unable to supply substitutes, of which the cost is likely to range very high from the scarcity of men and the almost universal disinclination to the service. It is an indirect coercion of the rich to come forward at once and secure themselves from the danger of being drafted hereafter by buying up substitutes in advance, for which the Provost-Marshal-General has supplied a form to entitle them to exemption. Upon this indirect pressure the Government counts, in order to help its recruiting by contributions exacted by terror from men who will pay largely rather than risk the chance of being compelled to fight. Congress further imposed a special tax of five per cent. on all incomes exceeding $600 per annum, in addition to the taxes laid for general revenue, for the purpose of paying the bounties to the men who may be drafted.

These very severe and exacting laws confirm the representations which come from Washington that General Grant has assured the President, and through him the committees of Congress have been instructed, that, without an addition of at least 300,000 men, the campaigns in the South have no reasonable prospect of success, and that expectations of a successful issue of the war, even during the next year, must wait on the supply of that number of recruits.

There was vigorous opposition to this Bill. The repeal of the commutation clause was strenuously resisted, and more than once defeated by the aid of votes usually friendly to the Administration. It was urged that it was harsh and unjust, would work odious discriminations against the poor, might be avoided by other measures, and would certainly be unpopular, and might lead to dangerous popular excitements, perhaps riot and resistance. It was finally declared by the representatives of the Administration that the measure is indispensable to fill up the army; otherwise the armies would be broken up, and the war must stop at once. These representations had no effect on the Opposition; none of them voted for the Bill. But the Republican members were nearly all brought back to the party—enough of them to carry the Bill by a vote of 65 to 53, in the absence of some seventy members afraid to vote.

The violence of these measures, the vacillations of Congress, and the forebodings of evil from them under which they were driven through on the Government appeal for help in a crisis of peril, are the infallible signs of sensibility which was really felt by the Administration and by Congress at the failure of all the hopes reposed on the gigantic campaign of Grant. A new and great army, such as it is confessed with inward trembling that it is doubtful whether any possible exertion can raise, and the attempt to raise which is looked for as the possible premonitor of insurrection and revolution, is the demand of the Government, in order to give renewed hope of the subjugation of the South in another campaign.

This is the unpromising state in which Congress leaves the military condition of the Union to the care of Mr. Lincoln. He wants at least three hundred thousand more men; and to obtain men and support armies he has need of money—immense sums—immediately. How did Congress leave him in these respects?

I will not go over the views I have so often expressed in your paper on the general condition of the Federal finances, and the rapid and irreversible steps it is making towards bankruptcy. It is briefly expressed in the fact that the credit of the Government has fallen as a normal condition to more than fifty per cent. discount with a fixed tendency downwards, and has sometimes ranged through nominal extremes of rise and fall fifty per cent. in a day on the paper denominations, under the effects of some Government measure or the tidings or apprehension of some disaster.

Secretary Chase may be taken as reliable authority for the best possible statement that can be made of the condition of the finances, and the value of the measures which Congress has furnished to give relief to the Treasury. Stating what Congress has done, we may judge of the effect by the estimate which the ex-Secretary of the Treasury placed upon it at the moment of quitting his office and making a record of the condition in which he left it.

The two revenue acts are the Internal Tax Act and the Tariff Act.

Both of these impose very high and exceedingly burdensome taxes. Besides their revenue character, they have a political character, which will be found to be of serious importance in affecting that struggle which is threatened between opposing parties for the overthrow of the whole system of which they are a part. There are loud complaints that both Bills were shaped in the interest of favoured classes and sections, and that their effect will be to distribute the burdens of government unequally, to mortgage the whole property and labour of the country for ever in favour of the capitalists, and make the interior and the West merely tributaries to New England. These consequences need not be dwelt on, except so far as that the anticipated agitation of these questions may affect, and possibly reduce, the amount of revenue which the new Bills are computed as likely to furnish.

Leaving the question of the currency untouched, and thus omitting the most essential point for the restoration of credit, Mr. Chase undertook, in letters addressed to the Committee of Ways and Means, to warn Congress that the provisions of these Bills are insufficient to enable the Treasury to meet its lowest wants for the coming year. He showed then that the deficit of the last year, being the excess of expenditure over revenue, was $640,000,000, which excludes two months' arrearages of pay due to the army, and every debt and claim except those which are actually audited and paid. Of these there are known to be hundreds of millions—but let that pass now.

The highest aggregate revenue which the Secretary anticipates under the new legislation is put at $318,000,000.

The estimated expenditures of the current year he states with remarkable caution, warned, as he confesses, by his disappointments in the estimates of last year, which were based on the expectation of military successes which never came. He says, with extreme caution, that they cannot fall below $750,000,000, but are more likely to reach to $800,000,000 or $850,000,000. Abating $50,000,000 from the sum which he thinks may be required, he makes the minimum deficit of the coming year $482,000,000 to be added to the debt, and to be supplied by loans.

Congress has authorised loans to the amount of $400,000,000.

Mr. Chase thereupon warned Congress that if all these loans could be negotiated, and the expenditures should be only at the reduced rate to which his estimate pares them down, there would be still a deficit of $82,000,000 on the year.

His estimate of what was likely, before being pared down, to show an average would make the deficit $135,000,000 beyond the revenues and the credit of the Government.

The estimate was sufficiently alarming in the naked force of the figures as admitted; but these figures evidently understate the expenditures, which continue to expand in actual amount with the progress of the war, and to swell the accelerating

decline of the currency and the consequent expansion of prices. If the loans should not all be taken, and the expenditures reach, as is most likely, to hundreds of millions beyond the estimate of Mr. Chase, the deficit beyond the capacity and authority of the Treasury will be enormous, and the Government must stop payments.

After laying this alarming exhibit before Congress, and proposing some amendments to the Internal Tax Bill, by which he computed that $85,000,000 might be raised, Mr. Chase suddenly quitted office—whether voluntarily or by constraint on his will which he could not overcome, or positive coercion which he could not resist, does not clearly appear. The President eagerly took him at his offer, and prevented its recall by instantly forwarding the name of a successor so utterly unacceptable that it was almost as abruptly withdrawn. A successor was then found in Mr. Fessenden, of Maine, a man of capacity and generally esteemed for fairness and integrity of character. But Congress nevertheless adjourned without making the provision which Mr. Chase had announced as indispensable to carry on the government. The supplemental tax of 5 per cent. on incomes is an extraordinary levy—for soldiers' bounties—not included in Mr. Chase's table of wants.

The new Secretary is a bold man to take a post abandoned to him, with such desparing warnings of evils to come, by a man who, until within a few weeks, was upheld by the Government and its friends as a sagacious and infallible guide.

All round the horizon the Northern aspects are cloudy, and contrast gloomily with the exhilarations of the last Fourth of July, when the capture of Vicksburg spread universal exultation, and the whole North was joyous with the expectation of a speedy and complete triumph, restored empire, and renewed prosperity.

July 3, 1864.

THE ARGUELLES CASE—PROSECUTION OF GENERAL DIX—THE REMOVAL OF COLONEL BOWMAN—THE SPLIT IN THE CABINET—THE FEUD BETWEEN CHASE AND SEWARD—THE CHASE PARTY AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION—THE PEACE PARTY AND ITS CHANCES—MR. VALLANDIGHAM—HARVEST PROSPECTS IN THE WEST.

The conflicts of jurisdiction between the authorities of the State of New York and the authorities of the general Government, although deferred, are not by any means adjusted.

In the case of the Spaniard Arguelles, taken by United States Marshal Murray under an order from the Secretary of State, and sent off in secret to Cuba, the prosecution of the Marshal and deputies, under the New York statute, for unlawfully taking a resident by force out of the jurisdiction of the State, is resisted under the plea that a statute of the United States removes such cases into the Federal courts. The rejoinder is, first, that this is not a case arising under the United States statute, and secondly, that the statute is unconstitutional, and these questions will have to go through the courts.

In the case of the seizure of the *Journal of Commerce* and the *World* by the United States military under orders from the Secretary of War, the first step taken for redress was under the directions of Governor Seymour, who instructed the Attorney-General to bring the case before the grand jury. Judge Russell, of the City Court, charged the grand jury especially to enquire into the cases as involving important questions of personal liberty and the rights of property. The grand jury took a political view of the question, and instead of enquiring, as they were sworn to do, 'into such matters and things as should be given them in charge,' voted that it was 'inexpedient' to examine into this matter—thus, by the refusal to act at all, defeating the effort of the Governor to vindicate the State jurisdiction and enforce State laws. The Governor was displeased with this decision of the grand jury, and directed the district attorney, A. Oakey Hall, to bring the case directly before a committing magistrate. Mr. Hall submitted the testimony to Judge Russell, who thereupon issued a warrant for the arrest of Major-General Dix, the United States commanding officer of the district, and the several officers under his command who were employed in suppressing these papers and keeping custody of the offices. They appeared before the Judge, and entered into recognisances to appear on a future day, when their council shall have examined the papers. General Dix, although obeying the orders from Washington, is understood to have disapproved of them, and to have exerted himself to have them rescinded. This case will doubtless take the same course as that of Arguelles, in being demanded to be transferred to the Federal courts under the same statute. There is not the same doubt, however, about the application of the statute. It was designed to include all cases of powers assumed by the President in the exercise of authority to suppress the rebellion. The point directly raised is, whether Congress was competent to divest the State of New York of its whole jurisdiction over persons and property within its limits, and to bestow it upon the courts of the United States under a plea of military necessity resting in the single discretion of the United States Executive, where there is no proclamation of martial law and no public enemy. The Governor of the State is resolute, at last, on one point, which is, to see whether there be not some way of reasserting and recovering by legal process the rights of the States over their own internal affairs, which have been so often and so arbitrarily usurped by the Federal authorities that it has begun to be doubted whether States are to be permitted to have any jurisdiction which it might be thought expedient by the President to take away from them. The Governor is very tardy in making this issue, after having permitted so many opportunities on provocations quite as serious to go by him without his being moved to resist. It comes on at a time, too, when it will have but an insignificant influence, if any, on the course of public affairs. The usurpations and encroachments of the Administration have been so many and so flagrant, and have been so condoned by popular frenzy, and so countenanced by the servility of courts sympathising with the savage passions of Government, that, in the revolutionary storms which now threaten to overthrow the whole political fabric, these attempts at civil remedies for the dangers that environ it will be as futile to arrest its doom as those of a despairing pilot in his frantic grasps, when the ship is driving helplessly upon the reef, at the wheel, a few turns of which by a strong hand an hour before would have placed her in the track of safety.

The Administration has been doing an insufferably mean and malignant act in the removal of Lieutenant-Colonel Bowman from command as Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point. The received cause of the removal is the refusal of Colonel Bowman to alter, at the dictation of the Government, the order of celebration at the recent dedication of the Battle Monument at that place, so as to exclude General M'Clellan, who had been selected as the orator of the day. It is certain that the President and Secretary of War sent to demand a change in that respect, and that they were not gratified. This interposition was an attempt at paltry tyranny, the baseness of which is merely aggravated if it be true, as charged and credited, that an honourable and useful officer was punished for not lending himself to aid in making it successful. In that strong reaction which is evidently going on in favour of General M'Clellan, he is essentially helped by these multiplying evidences that the Administration feels towards him an unrelenting, persecuting malignity, which is not only not lessened, but seems to grow more bitter as the progress of the military campaigns of the year have extorted from them the acknowledgment, in fact, of the great superiority of M'Clellan's judgment of the power and resources of the South, and of his plans for military success, over those of the Administration and of all the generals it has called into its councils since they displaced him. It is not my faith that M'Clellan would have succeeded on his own plans, but events have decided unanswerably that all the plans favoured above his have failed, with horrible loss and enormous cost, and that they who hated him would not give him a fair chance to try his own. He might not have been a successful man, but it is felt that he was deeply injured, and has been followed with unrelenting rancour. Politically, it is fortunate for him that he was saved from the defeats which might have followed him as they have followed successively all of those who have come after him, from Burnside to Grant, and that, in the rising indignation in the country against the military blunderings of the Administration, he can be presented by his admirers as the one leader, in the discarding of whom his enemies in the Government threw away their best chance for victory. It is doing a great deal for his personal fame, and will help to make him a prominent candidate for the nomination at Chicago for the Presidency.

The Cabinet explosions at Washington may alter the aspects of the Presidential campaign very materially.

While Mr. Chase was in the Cabinet there was a clear and well-recognised obligation on him and his personal adherents to support Mr. Lincoln for reelection. In fact, that section of the party and of the Cabinet with which Mr. Chase is identified as a leader and representative man, was understood to have achieved a victory in the Nominating Convention at Baltimore, and to have secured the control of the party to their own use. The Cabinet, like the party elsewhere, is known to have been divided internally into two factions, of which the prominent members of what is called the Radical division were Secretaries Chase, Welles, and Stanton, the Treasury, the Navy, and War; and on the other or Conservative side, Messrs. Seward and Blair, of the State Department and the Post Office. The feuds between these factions were patent to the public. The President's personal leanings were for the Seward side—his party needs drew him towards the other. Undoubtedly he trafficked with both; but the party which he least pleased was that of the Radicals, a portion of whom resented it by the nomination of Fremont at Cleveland. Mr. Chase being ruled off the track for the Republican nomination, remained sullenly in the Cabinet, even after the President's unfriendly demonstrations in rewarding, by an unconstitutional promotion, General Blair, the brother of Secretary Blair, immediately after the General had become the public accuser and assailant of the Secretary of the Treasury for maladministration and corruption in office. The Convention at Baltimore was looked to, to obtain the means of controlling the President by the voice of assembled partisans there, whose 'radical' propensities were not doubted, and at that Convention their triumph was thought to be secure. They obtained the passage of a resolution which, ambiguously drawn, and making simply a demand for 'harmony' in the public councils, was interpreted by themselves as a demand for the removal of Messrs Seward and Blair; and it was boldly averred that this was the intent of the resolution, with the previous understanding of the President. Henry Ward Beecher, who attended the Convention, proclaimed this in his paper as binding the President with an obligation 'to make changes in his Cabinet.' He wrote thus:—'That resolution was fired at two targets, Mr. Blair and Mr. Seward—those two St. Sebastians, pierced of many arrows, and slowly dying of their wounds. A member of the Committee on Resolutions told us that, though euphemisms were put before the public, there was no sparing of plain talk in the committee room—that mincemeat was made of those two Cabinet officers—as the song says, a pretty dish to set before the President.' I quote this to show you the confidence with which the Chase Radicals counted on having obtained the control of the party, and the mastery over his rivals in the Cabinet. In less than a month Mr. Chase is forced out of the Cabinet, and the *Albany Evening Journal*—the special organ of Mr. Seward—under the signature of his special friend, Thurlow Weed, hails it with a shout of exultation. It is a 'streak of daylight,' and the accepted sign that the reign of 'despotism' is 'at an end;' although it would be difficult to show where a more unscrupulous and unrelenting despot could be found than Mr. Seward has proved himself to be during the darkness of the last three years.

Mr. Chase is thus, instead of being master in the Cabinet, put out of it, and is hooted at as a vanquished enemy by the partisans of Mr. Seward. A feud thus commenced is not likely to be appeased. Mr. Chase, out of power, is certainly not the formidable personage he was when he held the keys of the Treasury—dispensed all the favours which grow out of the disposal of hundreds of offices which give infinite opportunities for making fortunes and helping friends—and in the handling of thousands of millions of dollars of the public money: and he must look for the falling off from him of the crowds of sycophants who lately followed him obsequiously, and watched his looks, and picked up his words, and clamoured everywhere in admiration of everything he said and did, just for the percentage they hoped to make by getting as close to his office secrets as possible. These men will flock after a new leader. But Mr. Chase is, out of office, still a powerful leader in a powerful party, without the favour of which the Administration would be speedily left in a hopeless minority. On the earnest and enthusiastic among them he will have the claim of having been a martyr, or having made a sacrifice in their cause, and, whatever course he may take, will give a strong direction to the action of a large portion of the Republicans during the coming canvass. His own predilections, on political grounds, would be, beyond doubt, towards General Fremont, as were those of many of his most prominent friends who have, since the Baltimore nomination, given in their adhesion to Mr. Lincoln, but will be guided in their future course by that of Mr. Chase. There is great interest, much beyond what is expressed by expectant parties who are looking to profit by this feud in their attempt to overthrow the Administration, in watching the developments of the course of Mr. Chase and his friends, some of whom have already given indications of hostility by resigning their appointments under Mr. Lincoln, and others are preparing for a threatened sweep out of office of all the adherents of Mr. Chase who may have the power of influencing a vote. The intensity of feeling which this spirit has already elicited between different branches of the Republicans, inspires hopes among the Opposition that they may yet succeed by a judicious coalition with the malcontents.

But the chief obstacle to such a coalition arises out of the wide-spread and growing determination among large masses of the Democrats to enter into no alliances and vote for no candidate who is a war candidate by his antecedents or by the pledges made for him in any nomination. The postponement of the Chicago Convention is in the interests of peace, and every day adds force to the under-current of a swelling public opinion that the war must be stopped, and that it is criminal to do anything which shall pledge the country or the Government to a continuance of it a day beyond that at which it can be stopped, leaving the adjustment of all other questions and relations to subsequent consideration in peace. It is now said that the nomination of M'Clellan, lately held to be absolutely certain if the Convention had been held on the 4th of July, is endangered, if not defeated, by the delay; and there are certainly very energetic and combined movements on foot to bring forward at Chicago, and with the hope of nominating him, a clear and undisguised peace candidate; and it is by no means sure, in the present aspect of the country, that public opinion and the course of public events may not, within the next two months, break up existing combinations, and force on, at the next Presidential election, the issue of war or peace, drawn distinctly between two candidates. It is rash to make any predictions or confident anticipations in a state of affairs so anomalous and exceptional as that on which we are entering. I can only say that there are men of standing and political sagacity who are sanguine enough to look for that way of exit out of the calamities of this hour, through the roused energies of the people, and by virtue of the chastening effect of public calamity on their passions.

Vallandigham is still at large, notwithstanding the original order for his arrest, in the following terms, stands unrevoked. It is dated May 19, 1863, and directed to General Burnside:—

'Sir,—The President directs that, without delay, you send C. L. Vallandigham, under secure guard, to the head-quarters of General Rosecrans, to be put by him beyond our military lines, and in case of his return within our lines, he be arrested and kept in close custody for the term specified in his sentence.'

Mr. Sarlsburg, Senator from Delaware, lately defied the President, in a public speech in the Senate, to execute that sentence, and warned him that any attempt to arrest Mr. Vallandigham again, except by due course of law, would be resisted, 'forcibly' if necessary; and Mr. Vallandigham goes at large, and will be a leading member in the Convention at Chicago. The President, it is said, had the nerve at one time to order the arrest, but his more prudent friends dissuaded him from pursuing the matter.

Among the other troubles with which this country is now threatened, is that of bad crops again. Enough is known to make it certain that in most of the Western States there will not be more than half a crop. The effect of this, directly, on the temper of the people, and, indirectly, on the finances and the politics of the country, you may estimate very highly. The deficiency of last year's harvests has been reckoned among the causes of the high price of gold, by an extraordinary demand for food. A repetition of the calamity is highly discouraging, and it will not be difficult to turn the local distresses and privations it must cause to the uses of party, and against the manufacturing and capitalist sections, which continue to thrive under Government bounties, while the farmers of the West are overtaxed and starving.

Thoroughly in Earnest.—The *Times* of Monday published a letter from its Richmond correspondent, from which we take the following:—'No people were ever more thoroughly in earnest than the people of these States. The schools have all been closed except for boys and girls of tender years; women who have been delicately reared willingly forego the luxuries and comforts to which they have been accustomed all their lives, and give up their linen and silks for the coarse fabrics produced by the looms of the country; they perform the postal service in many parts of the country, and may be found at the wayside "homes," the hospitals, the sewing establishments, and, indeed, wherever there is work to be done or suffering to be assuaged. Wealthy planters and thrifty merchants and bankers gladly take their places in the trenches, and bear all the fatigues of the campaign equally with the poorest; ministers vacate their pulpits to preach in the woods and fields, and greyhaired fathers send their sons to the camp and take their places at the handles of the plough. And now, when the army is engaged in a mortal struggle with a multitudinous foe, pious people everywhere, of every sex and condition, in public meeting and private devotions, offer prayers day and night without ceasing for the success of the cause and the safety of their loved ones. Can such a people be conquered? Ought such a people to be subjugated? Even boys of fourteen and fifteen years of age run away from their parents to join the army. And what are the horrors from which these people are striving to escape? The inhabitants residing on either bank of the lower waters of James River had already suffered all the evils which usually follow in the bloody track of civil war, but it has been reserved for General Butler to impose new burdens and practise additional barbarities. In some instances the men have been shot down by drunken black soldiers, or scourged to death, and then nailed to trees and gateposts; and their neighbours, for asking permission to inter their remains, have been forced from their homes and transported to distant prisons. Where the men have been made to suffer thus, the reader may imagine, though I shall not attempt to depict, the unmentionable horrors to which tender women have been subjected, and under which they have actually perished! Meanwhile, the world looks on with folded hands, and grave European statesmen even desire the success of the party, one of whose trusted officers is this wretch Butler!'

Casualties.—We are requested to publish the following list of casualties in Slocomb's Battery, 5th Company Washington Artillery, from New Orleans, on the 28th ult., in Georgia, near Dallas:—Killed: Corporal W. W. Sewell, W. M'Gregor, T. B. Winston. Wounded: Corporal J. T. Beggs, Charles Watson, T. J. White.—Fenner's Louisiana Battery: At Dalton, May 9:—Killed: Peter Graham. Wounded: J. L. Pierson.—Resaca, May 15:—Killed: Frank Muller. Wounded: W. Corprew, W. F. Hosmer, Charles V. Fisher.—New Hope Church, May 25: Killed: Corporal William Brunet, R. A. Brigdin. Wounded: Lieutenant Wat. T. Cluverius, Corporals M'Grath and M'Carthy, Geo. T. Dunbar, Joseph Murphy, Jo. Brigdin, Robert Ford, E. O. Eaton, Joshua Corprew, W. T. Vandry, Joseph Reeves, J. T. Pecot.

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

GENERAL GRANT at the latest dates was supposed to be preparing for another assault on the Confederate lines at Petersburg. On June 30, General W. F. Smith, with a portion of the 18th Army Corps, made an attack, which was intended for a surprise, against the position at the White House. Two circumstances rendered success impossible, and involved a serious disaster. The Confederates were aware of the intended movement, and a mistake was made in executing the orders, so that the troops advanced in solid column instead of by companies. The Confederates waited until the enemy was well in range, and then opened a terrific fire. General Smith had no other resource than to withdraw his troops as hastily as he could to the shelter of his breastworks. Meanwhile, the Confederates have advanced to the North, and there is great agitation in the border counties of Pennsylvania and in Washington. The accounts of this movement are unusually meagre and conflicting, so that, until we get intelligence from the South, we shall not know what Confederate force has entered Maryland, whether the expedition is a raid, or whether there is reason for the panic that has induced Mr. Lincoln to call upon the militia to defend Washington. It appears that General Sigel, who has now been superseded by General Lowe, was attacked at Bunker Hill on July 3; that he was defeated, compelled to evacuate Martinsburg and Harper's Ferry, and take up a position on Maryland Heights. General Hunter on the 3rd inst. was at Charleston, Virginia. His army was thoroughly exhausted, and his position was considered critical. In his retreat his losses in men, guns, ammunition, and stores were very heavy.

General Wilson has been completely defeated. On June 22 he started on an expedition for the purpose of destroying the track of the Danville railroad. Mr. Stanton endeavoured to make out that the expedition had been successful, although it had to retreat with the loss of 1,000 men. It subsequently transpired that the losses were nearly three times that number. It will be seen from an account dated Richmond, July 1, that General Wilson's command was so badly cut up that he only escaped with a remnant thereof, that the negroes that he had kidnapped were liberated, and that he lost all his artillery and baggage. It is not true, as stated by Mr. Stanton, that General Wilson had thoroughly destroyed sixty miles of railway; on the contrary, the superintendent of the line reports that the damage done can easily be repaired in two weeks.

Sigel, Hunter, and Wilson being thus disposed of, and Grant being held in check before Petersburg, the Confederate march into Maryland was unopposed, and Harper's Ferry, Sharpsburg, Hagerstown, Frederick City, and other places were occupied. To meet this fresh difficulty President Lincoln has called out 12,000 New York militia, the same from Pennsylvania, and 5,000 from Massachusetts. Governor Seymour has ordered that none of the militia under this call shall leave New York until further orders.

MR. STANTON reports that General Johnston has been compelled to evacuate his encampment at Kenesaw Mountain, and that Sherman occupied Marietta and Kenesaw on the 3rd instant. No details are given, and therefore Mr. Stanton's announcement did not reassure those who were anxious about Sherman's position.

THERE has been some fighting near St. Charles, Arkansas. On June 27 the Federals attacked General Selby, and claim a victory, but, however this may be, they retreated on the following day.

THE Federal ironclad *Ocean Queen* was taken by the Confederates on the White River on June 24. Her guns and stores were removed and the vessel burned, to prevent her recapture by Federal gunboats.

FOR a long time after the battle before Petersburg on June 22, the Federal dead were left unburied, and the Federal wounded were left uncared for on the field. General Grant endeavoured to enter into a compact with the Confederate commander, so that he might bury his dead and remove his wounded without making the formal request which is an admission of defeat. General Lee, however, was firm, and ultimately General Grant had to make the request in the usual manner.

ON June 28, an application, pursuant to the instructions of Governor Seymour, was made to Judge Russell of New York, for a warrant to arrest General Dix and others for their proceedings in connection with the seizure of the *World* and *Journal of Commerce*. After hearing very lengthy affidavits the application was granted, and the warrant was made returnable on July 1. On that day, Mr. E. D. Smith, the counsel for General Dix, said his client was perfectly willing to submit himself to the civil authorities, but wished that the case might be postponed for a week. This request was granted. The next time the matter came before the judge, General Dix and his counsel exhibited instructions from President Lincoln ordering General Dix not to submit to the civil process, and, if necessary, to resist it by force. It will be remembered that Governor Seymour, in his letter of instructions to the district attorney, expressly promised any assistance that might be necessary in carrying them out. As the case now stands, then, Governor Seymour has declared that he will vindicate the rights of the citizens of New York, by force if necessary; and, on the other hand, President Lincoln declares that he will resist the civil process by force.

The affidavits sworn before Judge Russell are very voluminous, and recapitulate the accounts that were given at the time of the suppression of the papers, and the affidavits are distinct as to the violence exhibited by the soldiers, and also as to the robberies committed in the editorial rooms of the *World*.

MARTIAL law has been proclaimed in Kentucky. The reason assigned for this by the Administration is the military movements of the Confederates. We think it very likely that there are other reasons. At the Democratic Convention held at Louisville, the following resolution was carried by acclamation:—

'That the coercion and subjugation of eleven or more sovereign States was never contemplated as possible, or authorised by the Constitution.'

The resolutions throughout are intensely peaceful in their tone. Mr. Davis, who sits in the Federal Congress as Senator for Kentucky, in the course of a discussion which took place on June 23 in the Senate, said: 'A change had come over the spirit of a majority of the loyal people of the United States, and they desired to bring the war to a close. They had seen the powers of the Government grossly perverted, threatening their liberties. This was the deepening conviction of the people, and it was not strange it should be so. At the commencement of the war he (Mr. Davis) was a coercionist, but he was not one now.'

THE soldiers under the command of General Dix are a portion of the Invalid Corps. These soldiers are in the prime of life, they exhibit no infirmity, and if they suffer from any disease it is not of a character to prevent them fulfilling their duties. The Invalid Corps is, according to the statement of the Democratic party, an instrument devised by Mr. Lincoln to act for him as a kind of bodyguard. The term 'Invalid Corps' is, of course, a mere disguise.

THE Fourth of July was not celebrated with much enthusiasm in the North. The *New York Times* says despondently that this year there are no remarkable series of victories to celebrate, and other papers took advantage of the anniversary to point out the danger to which the country is exposed by the despotism of the Lincoln Government. The *Boston Courier* writes:—'It is needless to recapitulate the insidious and flagitious approaches of a wide-grasping despotism which, under plausible names, would deceive a once free and great people, only the more closely to enfold them in its fatal embrace. Its designs are palpable to the meanest understanding which party sophistications have not bewildered. But it is weak if we resolve to be strong, and will flee like a monster to its cave if we will only act like men. If we have the spirit and courage to redeem ourselves, the day of our redemption draweth nigh. Let us then contemplate the price put into our hands to get wisdom. Let us buy and sell it not. Let us, at whatever hazard and sacrifice, recover the inestimable inheritance of former days. If we show ourselves worthy of the prize, the very genius of liberty, divinely armed, will lead and animate us to a glorious triumph. Upon us it depends, and now, whether we shall be slaves or freemen.'

GENERAL M'CLELLAN was present, and delivered a speech, on the occasion of laying the foundation-stone of a monument that is to be erected to the memory of the West Point graduates who have fallen or who may fall during the present war. Much to the surprise of the people of the North, Colonel Bowman has been dismissed from his position as superintendent of the Military Academy at West Point, because it was through his invitation that General M'Clellan took the above part. The journals opposed to the Government denounce the dismissal of Colonel Bowman as an act of personal malice. Our New York correspondent gives an account of this affair.

THE Democrats of Ohio have selected for delegates to the Chicago Convention, Mr. Vallandigham, Governor Medary, Dr. Olds, Mr. A. M. Jackson, and Mr. A. M'Gregor, all of whom have been arrested and imprisoned by the Federal Government.

ON July 1, when the Gold Bill was repealed, and Mr. Fessenden accepted the Secretaryship of the Treasury, gold declined to 230. On the 9th inst. it was quoted at 263½.

THE TENDER MERCIES OF THE YANKEES.—The *Richmond Despatch* directs attention to the results of one of Mr. Lincoln's colonisation schemes. Last summer he sent 566 negroes to Hayti as colonists. Of these there are now remaining 407 persons, who have returned and are now at a place which the Federals call 'Freeman's Village.' The *Despatch* says: 'All that was ever written or preached of the horrors of the "Middle Passage," falls short of conveying an idea of what these poor wretches suffered, under the auspices of the humane, philanthropic, negro-loving Yankees. The *New York Tribune* confesses as much. While they were on the passage from Fortress Monroe outward, the small-pox broke out in the vessel. The disease soon spread, and the wretched victims, when they arrived in the West Indies, were landed on the sandy beach of an island upon which there was not a house, and there left to help themselves or perish. That they did perish in immense numbers, may be known from the fact that only 407 out of 566 returned to tell the tale. One hundred and fifty-nine died upon that inhospitable island, and left their unburied bones bleaching in the sun; a striking yet faint testimonial of the value of Yankee philanthropy, and an everlasting record of Yankee humanity. The 407 who survived, after having undergone sufferings the bare narrative of which is sufficient to curdle the blood, contrived by some means to reach Virginia. And such a spectacle never was beheld in Virginia before. The very mothers who bore them would not have recognised them, so wan, so emaciated, so unlike anything human had they become, from disease, hunger, watching, excessive labour, and every evil that is incident to the condition of man where most deplorable. They were barefooted to a man, ragged to a degree of indecent exposure, and filthy to the utter nausea of everybody who came near them.'

ENGLAND.

THE Wimbledon meeting this year has hitherto proved an immense success. The arrangements reflect the highest credit on the administration, and there has been a wonderful freedom from accidents and obstructions. The difficulties to be encountered may easily be imagined when it is known that there are no less than 2,000 competitors for the Alexandra prize alone. The weather has been magnificent for pleasure-seekers; but the sun has glared somewhat too fiercely for the comfort of the marksmen or the accuracy of the shooting. The competition for the Queen's and Alexandra prizes extended over the days of last week and a portion of the present week. The Prince of Wales prize closed on Wednesday, July 13, in favour of a Herefordshire man, one Sergeant Dodd. On Thursday the Duke of Cambridge's prize for shooting with breech-loading rifles was awarded to Mr. Edward Ross, of the University of Cambridge; a member of the Victoria Rifles being second, and a Kentish man third. All these shot with Westley Richards' breech-loader. The first carbine prize at 200 yards went to Lieutenant Hughes of the 9th Kent Artillery; a gunner of the 12th Devon being second. On Saturday the first stage of the Queen's prizes was completed; the first thirty men receiving Whitworth rifles, the next thirty 5*l.* each and badges, and the remaining forty receiving 3*l.* each and badges. The silver medal was awarded to Private Haward of the 1st Suffolk. The top score in this stage fell below that of last year, but the shooting generally was superior. The *Saturday Review* and Count de Gendre prizes for volley firing at 400 yards (ten men each) were decided on Saturday, and were won by the 2nd Stafford, the 1st Surrey being second, and 19th Middlesex third: Staffordshire also won the County Match. On Saturday evening the competition for the prize offered by our mysterious contemporary *The Owl* was commenced. The terms were that the firing should take place in the dark at the 200 pool targets. Lights called owls' eyes were to be substituted for the plates used as bullseyes. The prize was 50*l.* The only mark presented to the eye of the marksmen was a light at 200 yards' distance. On Sunday service was held in the 'umbrella tent,' and a sermon was preached by His Grace the Archbishop of York to a very numerous congregation of volunteers. On Monday the match between the Houses of Lords and Commons took place: a most distinguished company, headed by their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, were present. The champions of the Lords were, the Marquis of Abercorn, the Earls of Aberdeen, Airlie, Ducie, and Elden, Earl Spencer, and Lords Bolton, Dufferin, Lismore, Suffield, and Vernon. Of these noblemen the Earl of Ducie made the highest score, namely 53 points. The champions of the Commons were Lords Bury, Grosvenor, and Elcho, Captain Wyndham, and Messrs. Talbot, Forster, Duncombe, Dillwyn, Vivian, Malcolm, and Humberston. For the Commons Lord Bury made the highest score, namely 52 points. The Lords in the result were declared the winners by 40 points. The international contest between England and Scotland, with Enfield rifles and twenty representatives of each nation, was won by England. The Duke of Devonshire and the Earl of Derby, as Chancellors of the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, gave a piece of plate of 100*l.* value to be contested by eight champions of each University. The prize was won with great ease by Cambridge. On the same day the Alexandra prizes, at 200 yards and 500 yards, were decided. The St. George's Challenge Vase went to Serjeant Penzer, of the 5th Stafford, a Derbyshire man being second, and a gentleman of Cambridge University third. On Tuesday the competition for the Queen's Prize was brought to a close, and the sum of 250*l.*, with the gold medal, went to Private Wyatt, 1st London, who defeated by one point Lieutenant-Colonel Halford, of Leicester. Much excitement was created by the Public Schools match. Eton, Harrow, Rugby, Winchester, Marlborough, and Cheltenham entered for the Ashburton Shield, won last year by Eton. Eleven champions appeared for each school. Harrow made 226 points and won, Cheltenham being next with 219, then Rugby with 205, Eton with 202, Marlborough with 185, and Winchester with 89. The Earl Spencer's Challenge Cup, offered to the best marksman in the schools, was won by Corporal Thornton, of Cheltenham College.

THE Royal Agricultural Society of England is holding its annual show at Newcastle-on-Tyne. There are to be seen those marvellous specimens of cattle, sheep, horses, and pigs to which no other country can furnish a parallel. The first prize for aged short-horned bulls was won by 'Forth,' the property of Mr. Cruickshank, of Sittytan, Aberdeenshire, but sprung of the breed which has immortalised the name of Colonel Townley. The show of short-horn cows, heifers, and calves was magnificent. The Herefords were good, but few in number. In Devons the well-known names of Mr. Farthing and Mr. Turner appear as prize-takers, while General Hoste is successful with stock from the royal farm at Windsor. In sheep, Lord Walsingham is as formidable as ever with his Southdowns, while Mr. Wallis of Farringdon wins all the prizes in Oxfordshire Downs. Leicester and Cotswolds are good and numerous, and look very tempting animals with the present rates for wool. In horses, there are ten thoroughbreds shown, but the display is far below that seen a fortnight since in London. The first prize is given to a five-year-old horse called Laughing-Stock, by Stockwell out of Gaiety. This horse ran for the Two Thousand Guineas when the victory fell to the Marquis. At that time Laughing-Stock was admired for bone and size, but success was scarcely to be expected for him on the race-course. The second prize was given to Cavendish. Buccaneer by Wild Dayrell, the property of Lord Portsmouth, a wonderful racehorse for the distance of one mile, Carbineer, and Gamester, the winner of the Doncaster St. Leger, were also shown. Clydesdales and Suffolks are excellent as ever. In all, there are 380 head of cattle, 160 horses, 400 pens of sheep, and 130 pens of swine. There are also 4,000 implements exhibited.

THE magnificent palace at Sydenham shone with more than ordinary splendour on Saturday and Monday last. The Dramatic College, the interests of which commend themselves to every man of a benignant heart, held its annual fête, and the host of accomplished actors and actresses of the metropolis lent their kind services in aid of the funds for the relief of their less fortunate brethren and sisters in the profession. Nowhere else could greater crowds, more beautiful dresses, or happier faces be seen, and fun, gaiety, and profuse expenditure held universal sway. The stalls for the sale of fancy articles, and all those curious and useless things which could never command a purchaser except at a fair of charity, were ranged in the transept, and the goods were temptingly offered in a manner that would not be denied by the fair ladies who presided over the high-priced treasures. 'Richardson's Show,' 'Wombwell's Menagerie,' and the 'Temple of Magic,' of which the wondrous Toole and Paul Bedford were the priests, attracted hundreds of visitors. Mr. Buckstone conducted an Aunt Sally with marvellous success. There was the same display on the following Monday, and a handsome sum was added to the funds of the college.

THE King of the Belgians has nominated Mr. Henry Thompson officer of the order of Leopold, and surgeon extraordinary to His Majesty. The King has also given him a fee of 4,000*l.* His Majesty has enjoyed thirteen months of uninterrupted ease and comfort since the operation performed by Mr. Thompson.

FOUR years ago a man named Thomas Hopley was tried and convicted for the manslaughter of a boy named Cancellor, whom Hopley, in the relation of master to pupil, castigated to such an extent as to cause his death. Hopley was sentenced to four years' penal servitude, but has been released under a ticket-of-leave. His wife, Fanny Hopley, last week petitioned the Divorce Court for a judicial separation on the ground of her husband's cruelty. From the evidence adduced, it appeared that the petitioner was married at the age of eighteen to Hopley, who was then thirty-six years of age. During the first four days of the marriage Hopley forbade her to share his bed, on the ground that she must go through a regular course of moral training before she could be fit to be the mother of his children. These last were to be model children—indeed, 'second Christs.' The 'happy pair' resided at Eastbourne, and Hopley drew up an elaborate code of laws, combining the penalties of Draco with the particularity of the Code Napoleon. These his wife was to read, learn, and observe, and default was punished by savage blows, the discharge of spittle in her face, and torrents of foul and abusive language. In her confinement no nurse or medical man was permitted to be present, for, as Hopley said, 'a nurse was unnecessary, and a doctor was decidedly indelicate.' However, an airing was another thing, and so the poor woman was taken out for a drive five days after the birth, while the infant was carried in a fish-basket. At the age of a fortnight the child was thought by Hopley a fit subject for chastisement, and its cries for food were answered by blows. It was placed in a hot bath, and cold water was poured on its head. The mother was prevented from suckling it. Indeed, she was unfit for everything but ill-usage; for, as Hopley says, 'she was not fit to say her prayers with him at night, for she every day flew in the face of Almighty God.' There were three children of the marriage. The treatment endured by the first child, which was an idiot, befell the second. The third escaped by the imprisonment of the unnatural father. Cruelty more resembling that of a demon or a maniac than of the vilest of reasonable men having been thus proved, it was shown on the other side that Hopley was a man of education, with majestic schemes for the improvement of the whole human race, beginning with his own people: that his pamphlets rang out a tone of sublime wisdom; that his religion was intense, his philanthropy grand. It was further proved that through all her misery that good woman had clung to him with tenacity; that after blows, abuse, hatred, malice, and neglect, she, and she alone, had stood by him, had written to him during his imprisonment in words of deep affection, had managed his affairs, had declared her love unchanged. To an ordinary mind all these facts would only go to enhance the cruelty of the man; in the eye of the law and the judge who administered the law, they constituted 'condonation;' and by his direction the jury found that the cruelty had been condoned. The petition was therefore rejected. The judge, in directing the jury, spoke of Hopley as 'a man of education and refinement, of great natural ability with a great many noble although visionary aspirations, not wanting in warm affection and in proper religious feelings, but a man whose opinions were not in harmony with the rest of the world.' To compare small things with great, we should fancy that we were reading the language of eulogy so often devoted to the champions of Abolitionism, together with the record of the method and results of their actions. Of the judge-ordinary every one must speak with deep respect, but when he told the jury that 'Fanny Hopley did not come there because she was afraid to return to her husband, but for other reasons,' he scarcely foresaw that the poor woman would, on hearing the adverse decision of the court, fly from England to avoid Hopley.

THE activity of the police, whose searches for the murderer of Mr. Briggs have been of the most sedulous description, seems likely to be rewarded. Their pursuit has been to some extent hindered by well-meant but useless information, by the vagaries of insane persons, and by the miserable and unfeeling hoaxes of practical jokers. Four days ago a little girl, the daughter of a cabman named Jonathan Matthews, found a card box, which she showed to her father. He at once recognised the name on the lid of the jeweller at whose shop the gold chain of Mr. Briggs had been exchanged, and put himself in communication with the police. On being examined before the magistrate, he deposed that he knew one Franz Müller, a native of Cologne, of the age of 25 years. Seven months ago Müller began to pay court to the deponent's sister. In October Müller admired a hat which the cabman had, and requested the latter to purchase one for him. The cabman did so. In that hat Müller often came to the cabman's house. There was a very peculiar thumb-mark on it, caused by lifting it constantly at the same place. The hat found in the railway carriage with the body of Mr. Briggs (for it is to be remembered that the murderer took the hat of his victim by mistake) was shown to the cabman, and at once identified by him as that worn by Müller. On Monday, July 11, two days after the murder, Müller visited this cabman, and displayed a watch and chain, giving the child the card box to play with. He also exhibited a ring similar to that described by the jeweller as purchased at his shop. Müller complained of having sprained his ankle in the City. He further told the cabman that he was off to Canada. The police also went to a house in Bow where Müller lodged, and found that he had returned home on the night of the murder about eleven P.M., and appeared much confused. One of the lodgers produced a pawn-ticket relating to the chain which Müller received from the jeweller and pledged in Bow. It was found on enquiry that Müller had sailed for New York in the sailing vessel *Victoria* on Thursday last. An inspector, accompanied by the cabman and the jeweller, and armed with a warrant and letters from Mr. Adams to the executive at New York left on Wednesday by the American Mail for New York.

INDIA.

The difficulties attending the relations between the indigo planters and the ryots are, if possible, greater than ever. The ryot can only be satisfied by concessions which would cause both the planter and the cultivation of indigo to disappear together. At the present moment fever is raging in the Jessore district, while the soil is so exhausted that no return is to be won for labour. The planter, at whose door all the misfortunes of the ryot are laid, is in no better plight. He is in debt, and sees no prospect of such prosperity as will relieve him from embarrassment. There had been expectation of an insurrection on the part of the ryots in May, but as yet the people had shown no signs of using force.

Great complaints are heard in Calcutta about the condition of the piece goods manufactured from Surat cotton. Those which have arrived overland are said to be black with mildew, while many others are absolutely rotten.

CHINA.

Details have been received of the capture of Changchow by Gordon. On May 11 he stormed the town, after a desperate fight, with the slaughter of 3,000 Taepings. A large body of Cantonese rebels was annihilated. Hoo-wang, one of the most noted leaders, was captured and beheaded. Gordon was about to return to Quinsan, whence, after closing his affairs, he will make his way home to England, in obedience to the Order in Council prohibiting British soldiers from further service in China. It was rumoured that Tanyang had fallen. Tsan-kwo-fan had resolved to reduce Nankin without the aid of Gordon. It was generally believed that no long time would elapse before the complete subjugation of the Taepings was effected.

JAPAN.

By intelligence from Japan, up to May 14, we learn that the Emperor was endeavouring, with the aid of several of the most powerful Daimios, to reduce Prince Choshiu to submission. Prince Satsuma was in command of the Imperial forces. Her Majesty's ships *Conqueror* and *Pelorus* were expected at Yokohama, to act in conjunction with two Dutch frigates, and effect the opening of the inland sea.

The Customs authorities continued to check exportation by petty and vexatious charges.

AUSTRALIA.

In the House of Assembly at Melbourne an address has been moved to his Excellency the Governor, praying him to place the sum of 5,000*l.* upon the supplementary estimates for the year, to defray the expense of retransporting to England 300 expirees. After an exciting debate the motion was withdrawn, on the assurance of the Government that all reasonable means should be employed to effect a discontinuance of transportation to Australia. A feeling of great indignation against the Home Government existed throughout the colony of Victoria, and bold men were even found ready to talk of independence in case the present policy of England remained unchanged.

The highwayman Gardener, of whose romantic acts of depredation an account was given some weeks ago in THE INDEX, was conveyed after his capture in Queensland to Sydney and tried. He was, however, acquitted, to the intense delight of the multitude assembled in the court.

NEW ZEALAND.

Details have been received of the disaster to the British arms at Tauranga. This place is the chief habitation of the Ngapuhi tribe, and to it the natives in arms had retired after their repulse at Orakau. General Cameron followed them with the 43rd and 68th and portions of the 14th and 70th regiments. The naval squadron, consisting of the *Curaçoa*, *Esk*, *Miranda*, *Harrier*, and *Eclipse*, accompanied the force. On the arrival of the troops at Tauranga, preparations were made for storming the Gate Pah, a fort consisting of two pahs 1,000 yards apart, but connected by a covered way, surrounded by rifle-pits and an inner line of fence masked by boughs. The 68th regiment was marched to the rear of the position during the night, and on the following day the bombardment of the place commenced with thirteen heavy guns. A breach was effected after nine hours' firing, and the storming party, consisting of equal numbers of the 43rd regiment and the naval brigade, advanced to the assault under Colonel Booth. The place was carried without opposition, and not a living soul was to be seen within. There were some things lying about, and the men fell to looting. Many threw down their arms, and all separated into groups in spite of the attempts of the officers. In a moment the natives rose as if from the bowels of the earth, and poured a deadly fire into the troops. The men of the 43rd fled in a panic, leaving behind them their officers. The sailors followed the fugitives. A second force, under Captain Hamilton of the *Esk*, advanced to the support, but their leader was shot dead on the parapet, and the men fell back. The 68th was also repulsed in an assault on the rear of the works. Our loss was frightful. Colonel Booth was killed, with four captains and two lieutenants of the 43rd. Only two officers were hit and not killed. Commander Hay of the *Harrier*, and Lieutenant Hill of the *Curaçoa*, were killed. In all our loss was 26 killed and 78 wounded, and the enormous proportion of officers to men killed proved how the former preferred to fall unsupported rather than retreat. The natives evacuated the pah during the night.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Much alarm has been created at the Cape by rumours of an outbreak among the Kaffir tribes. It was even said that the paramount chief, Kreli, had crossed the Bashee in force, and attacked the mounted police. The 2nd battalion of the 11th regiment and a detachment of artillery, with a battery of Armstrong guns, had started in the *Valorous* to East London. Rumour had, however, outstepped reality, and though Kreli had shown great irritation at the intended removal of the Tambookies from the Queenstown settlements into Transkei, he had not resorted to arms. The Governor in return desired to make a warlike demonstration. It was thought that the Tambookie question would be reconsidered.

THE CONTINENT.

THE DANO-GERMAN WAR.

THE military operations during the past week have not been of much importance. The occupation of Jutland was completed by General Falkenstein without any difficulty. As the flag of the Allies was being displayed at Skagen, the northern point of the peninsula, the Danes made an attempt to land on the coast at Aalbeck, a few miles south of the point, but were repulsed by a body of German hussars. On the 12th inst. a squadron of four German gunboats occupied the roadstead of Litz, south of the island of Sylt on the west coast of Slesvig; the Danish gunboats stationed there declined a battle. An engagement, however, took place on the 14th inst. between the two squadrons near the island of Fohr, after the refusal of Captain Hammer, Danish commandant of the latter island, to capitulate. On the night of the 17th inst. the island was captured, but Captain Hammer succeeded in escaping with a few ships.

The immediate consequence of the change of Ministry at Copenhagen has been, as was generally expected, that proposals for peace have been made. On the 11th inst. a Danish vessel came into Swinemunde under a flag of truce, bearing a request for a suspension of hostilities. At the same time Colonel Kaufmann, of the Danish army, visited the head-quarters of the Allied armies in Jutland for the same purpose. On the 14th inst. Baron Guldenkrone arrived at Berlin with a despatch from M. de Bluhme, also requesting a suspension of arms, for the purpose of treating for a longer armistice, and ultimately on the conditions of peace. This request was acceded to by the Allies, and a truce concluded which will last until the end of the present month. The negotiations for fixing a basis of peace and for the conclusion of the longer armistice will be opened immediately in Vienna between the Plenipotentiaries of Denmark, Austria, and Prussia. The visit of Prince John of Glücksburg, the brother of the King of Denmark, mentioned in our last number, has thus borne immediate fruits, although, according to strict etiquette, the mission must be said to have been unsuccessful: the King of Prussia refused to see the Prince, and Herr von Bismarck was consequently obliged to decline his official visit.

That the prospect of peace is most satisfactory in the eyes of Europe in general it would be absurd to deny. It is worth while, however, to enquire what are the conditions of the present situation, and how far they differ from the circumstances of last May. Then, a truce for a whole month was concluded between the belligerents; neutral nations were interposing their friendly offices; the Danes had still something to lose. Now a suspension of hostilities for ten days only is conceded; Europe looks on unmoved; the Danes have lost all that ever was theirs in Continental Europe, and might fairly trust to the jealousies of the great Powers for the preservation of their island independence. Yet at that time peace was not expected by any man, except perhaps Lord Russell. Now, it will indeed be a matter of surprise if the difficulties are not adjusted between the two combatants.

It is not hard to discover the reasons for this somewhat paradoxical result. Denmark was actuated at the Conference of London by an utter misappreciation of the circumstances. She thought that England, though nominally neutral, was at heart in favour of her near neighbour and kinsman; she hoped that France, though equally neutral, had a traditional affection for her, which might stand her in good stead. What was the real state of the case? England's conduct was deceptive, irritating, and pedantic; and she has finally retired sulkily behind a veil of the coldest neutrality. France began by saying and doing nothing, and has ended by selling ships to her adversaries. Thus two of the staves on which Denmark rested proved to be bruised reeds; Russia, for obvious reasons, could not move actively in the matter; Sweden was awed into quietness by the ominous stillness of the Western Powers. These considerations will show that the question now to be debated between

Denmark and the Allies has been much simplified; several factors have been eliminated from both sides of the equation; a result may be arrived at with less labour and in shorter time. The proposals of which Baron von Guldenkrone was the bearer are doubtless little different in their nature from those presented by Denmark in the Conference of London, and point to an administrative union of Slesvig-Holstein within the Danish monarchy. But it is understood that the real programme of Denmark is as follows:—1. Peace to be made by the three belligerent Powers, and by them alone. 2. The basis of peace to be the relinquishment of Slesvig and Holstein. 3. The cession to be made to Austria and Prussia. 4. Austria and Prussia to retain the Duchies until the succession question is settled. We observe in this programme the absence of the following perplexing ingredients:—The question of nationalities in the Duchies; the assent of the German Confederation; the consent of the neutral Powers; and, lastly, the succession difficulty, which is only noticed in the last article in order to fix a certain point of time.

We must not omit to mention the remarkable rumours which have been borne about of late, hinting at the possibility of the solution of present difficulties by the entrance of Denmark into the German Confederation. The fact of their having been so widely circulated is the only excuse that we can offer for their mention; for assuredly no scheme was ever devised so little calculated to produce peace as that therein contained. Observe that instead of putting out of the question the difficulties on the absence of which we have now to congratulate the Danish and German diplomatists, it introduces them all in a most aggravated form; the question of nationalities would be extended from the north of Slesvig to the whole kingdom of Denmark; the assent of the German Confederation would have to be asked to a proposal notoriously most repugnant to it; the consent of France and Russia, to omit all mention of England, must be obtained to a scheme disturbing the whole system of Northern Europe; and finally, the succession difficulty would be scotched, but by no means killed. The programme which we mentioned above as probable has at least the merit of representing fairly the result of the war, since it surrenders two provinces of Denmark to their conquerors; the proposed admission of Denmark into the Confederation would represent nothing but the hungry ingenuity of a few Danish politicians.

FRANCE.

A terrible accident has happened on the Saône at Lyons, which has occasioned the loss of some thirty-five persons. The river steamer *La Mouche No.* 4 had started on Sunday, the 10th inst., from Perrache, with a large load of holiday-makers; its course lay up stream under the several bridges which span the river; one of these bridges is partially blocked up by a sandbank, and it was necessary to make a sharp turn across the stream to reach an artificial channel which has been cut for the use of the steamers under the right bank. The boat, which was unsteady at all times, heeled over to the right, under the combined influence of the helm and of the moving crowds of humanity heaped upon its decks; the passengers were pressed in a compact mass against the right gunwale of the vessel. Suddenly a crack was heard; the gunwale, or rather the rail which supplies its place, gave way, and the crowd fell in one block into the river. The steamer did not stop its course, but hurried away from the awful scene. It appears that the captain was among those precipitated into the water. The steerer was about to give the engineman the word to 'stop her' when he was knocked down by a frenzied passenger, and the vessel steered by him to land. The scene in the water was most appalling—a mass of heads and arms struggling in desperate efforts for safety—strong swimmers trying in vain to keep up though encumbered with the weight of drowning women, who refused to let go their hold. The captain was taken up dead, though fully able to escape. Two women were taken up with him, one of whom had clasped him round the neck, and another round the middle of the body. It was then nearly 3 P.M., and the neighbouring quays were almost deserted. Moreover, the river is embanked on each side, and small boats can only be moored at certain places, none of which were near the scene of the disaster. The result was that but little assistance could be given. A few devoted men plunged into the water, and rescued as many as they could; but when the boats at length arrived with assistance, the river had closed over its victims, and flowed on sullen and quiet. About fifty persons had fallen into the water. Of these some ten had been able to escape by swimming; four or five were recovered from drowning; the remainder were either taken up dead or remain still unfound at the bottom of the stream. The scene on the bank when the corpses began to be brought in was, of course, most distressing; mothers looking for their children, children crying for their parents, when the recovery of a body was even a consolation, and its absence added a fresh grief instead of lighting up a glimmer of hope. The corpses have been collected in the Hôtel Dieu, where they await recognition. The steersman of the vessel has been arrested, and a strict enquiry will be made, not only into the causes of the accident, but into the subsequent conduct of the steamer.

On the 15th inst., at Toulouse, an accident happened to Marshal Niel, military commandant of that district, which might have been followed by very grave consequences. The Marshal was driving a mail phaeton, when one of the horses fell, dragged him off his seat on to the ground, and broke one of his ribs. It is hoped, however, that the accident will only require a few days' repose on the part of the Marshal.

On the 5th inst., at Reilhanette, in the department of the Drôme, a man committed suicide in a manner perhaps more horrible than any which the ingenuity of a maniac has yet discovered. He had lately lost his two daughters, and had given way to an inconsolable grief; his reason was affected, and he tried to put an end to his life, but his attempt had been frustrated by the watchfulness of his wife, who from that time never suffered her vigilance to relax. On this day, unfortunately, she left him for a moment: he disappeared, and all searches for him were of no avail. At last the poor woman went to open her oven, in which she was baking at the time: judge of her horror on finding in it the body of her husband, reduced, not to ashes, but a carbonised mass retaining the human form. The wretched man had taken advantage of her momentary absence to creep into the oven, and deliberately remained there until he lost all sensation.

An international exhibition was inaugurated at Bayonne on the 10th inst., which deserves particular mention. In the first place it calls our attention to a new railroad of the greatest importance which will shortly be opened between Paris and Madrid; it is therefore singularly appropriate that the two countries should have an opportunity of exhibiting side by side their various products and manufactures, that they may both of them see the mutual advantages which an enlarged communication between the two will afford. It also enables the inhabitants of Algiers to compare their productions with those of a country similar to their own in most respects, and inhabited entirely by Europeans. In the second place, this exhibition is remarkable as a successful effort of private enterprise; the Government has hitherto monopolised these great undertakings, with a success which in a great measure made up for the dearth of individual exertions in the same line. But the Emperor has always expressed his desire to see these movements taken up by private hands, a desire which has in this case been amply fulfilled. The distinguished personages who addressed the assembly at the inaugural festival, and in particular the Prefect of the Basses Pyrénées, laid great stress on this point. He said: 'Individual enterprise is unfortunately too rare in our country. We do not make sufficient use of the intelligence, the forces, and the resources which we have received from Providence. We are willing to abandon to the State the task of conceiving and acting for us; and in so doing we mistake the views and pervert the object of government, and impede the march of progress.'

We noticed some weeks back a case which was tried before the civil tribunal of the Seine, wherein the Duc de Grammont-Caderousse prayed to be relieved from the *conseil judiciaire*, or committee of guardianship, to which he had been subjected by a decree of the court in 1858, on account of the extravagant manner in which he was dissipating his fortune. The prayer of the petitioner was granted in spite of the opposition of his family and the adverse opinion of the Avocat-Général. The decision has been committed to reconsideration on the appeal of two members of the Duke's family, and has now been reversed by the full court on a rehearing of the whole case. It will be remembered that the Duke pleaded that he was now *rangé*, and that the little indiscretions of which he might now from time to time be guilty were of an insignificant character; the court appears to differ with him on the point. We cannot help thinking of a very parallel case which occurred not long ago in England, with regard to a gentleman who has, since the refusal of the court to interfere with his peculiarities, turned coach proprietor, and then bankrupt. 'They manage these things better in France.'

The Emperor lately bestowed the title of Duc de Montmorency upon the Comte de Talleyrand-Périgord. The representatives of the house of Montmorency are extremely indignant at this assumption of their name, and have addressed a memorial to the Emperor on the subject. It appears that there is no possessor of the ancient title now alive, the last duke having died without issue in 1862. The memorialists, among whom are found many of the great names of the *ancien régime*—the Prince de Montmorency-Laval, the Duchesse de Mirepoix, Comte de Brissac, Duc de Rohan, Comtesse de Goutant-Biron, Duc de Luynes, Marquis de Mortemart, Comte de Bethune-Sully, Viscomte de la Rochefoucauld, &c.—do not pretend to claim the title of Duke, but insist that the name is a patronymic of their family, not a mere territorial title. This is proved by the fact that it has been invariably borne by every member of the family, female as well as male, not by the chief of the house only. The constitutional right of the Sovereign to create 'duchy-peerages' is also called in question. This complaint may be illustrated thus: Jacques Bonhomme may be made a duke, and have the title Duc de Bonhomme; or he may be a soldier and win a great victory, and be called after it Duc de Malakoff or Magenta, as the case may be; but he cannot be invested with the Duchy of Brittany or Brest without violating the constitutional law. It appears that the French peerages lost all their feudal character during the first revolution, and were only restored in 1815 as titles; but it is contended that they cannot now be created afresh in another family without reverting to the obsolete principle of feudal investiture. In the words of the counsel who drew up the memorial, 'the civil law forbids the giving of the name, and the political law the creation of the duchy.' It is further contended that the Imperial decree constituting the title, not having been published in the *Moniteur* or approved by the Senate, is illegal.

The Duc d'Aumale has written a 'Histoire des Princes de Condé,' and sent it to Paris for publication. It was stopped and seized by the Prefect of Police before the printing of it was completed. For this seizure the Duke has brought an action against the Prefect, which came on on the 15th inst. The action was an appeal against a decision of the Civil Tribunal of the Seine, which had declared itself incompetent to hear a charge levelled against a Government official for the execution of a superior order without the permission of the Council of State. Judgment was delivered on the 16th inst. by the Cour Impériale, confirming the decision of the inferior court. M. de Marmas, the new Procureur-Général, said on behalf of Government that the work must be considered as a 'political manœuvre,' a defence which was received most unfavourably by the audience. It is difficult to conceive how the history of France in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries can reflect in any way on a 19th century Government.

Her Imperial Highness the Princess Marie-Clotilde, wife of Prince Napoleon Jerome, gave birth to a son at 11 P.M. on the 16th inst. The Empress paid the Princess a visit at 11 o'clock on the following morning. The mother and the baby are both doing well. The latter has been baptised (preliminarily) by the names of Napoleon-Louis-Joseph-Jerome. Prince Napoleon had paid a visit to Paris, but had returned to Havre on the 15th inst., when he had made an expedition to Cherbourg and Brest on board his yacht, and was consequently for some time unaware of his good fortune.

In England, as we well know, Mr. Bass has waged a crusade against the organs and bands of our streets. In Paris an analogous feeling appears to exist, but has displayed itself in a peculiar form. A travelling tinker came before the police and gave the following evidence:—'I was sitting at work before the door of a house, and accompanying my work with a song, when an individual comes up to me and says, "Excuse me, but you sing like a peacock; you will do me the pleasure of holding your tongue." I looked at the eccentric gentleman, and said, "Oblige me by going your own way and leaving me alone." "Oh, indeed," said he, "just begin your song again, and you'll see." Not caring to obey this individual, I turn my back on him, and take up again my work and my song. Immediately I receive a box on the ear which knocks me right over; I pick myself up black and blue, and all over bruises.' Another witness confirmed this statement, and the man of acute musical sensitiveness was condemned in default to a month's imprisonment.

Marguerite Faure, a beggar of the streets of Paris, was brought up by the police charged with inveterate mendicity. On being taken to the stationhouse she was searched, and the sum of 3,240 francs in notes and gold was found on her person, the produce of her skilful begging. It was proved that she was in the habit of asking for assistance from persons much poorer than herself, and she was condemned to six months' imprisonment.

The Tribunal of Commerce of the Seine has been engaged in hearing an action brought by M. Wemyssker, owner of the *Flowery Land*, against six insurance companies for the recovery of 37,950 francs, in which that vessel was insured with them. The *Flowery Land*, as will be remembered, was piratically taken by her crew, her officers were murdered, and the vessel eventually scuttled. Five of the pirates were tried and executed in England. The tribunal decided that the underwriters, having taken upon themselves all risks of piracy and barratry, were responsible for the destruction of the vessel by the mutinous crew, when there existed no fraudulent concert or connivance on the part of the captain with the owners of the vessel, and that the companies were therefore bound to pay the sums for which they had respectively made themselves liable by their policies.

The French colonial authorities at New Caledonia have been obliged to undertake a military expedition against the natives, in order to secure an adequate protection for the French colonists. The *Moniteur* of the colony gives the following curious details on the habits of the aborigines:—In September 1863, the chief of the tribe Moneo ordered one of his subjects to be killed and eaten as a punishment for adultery. At the same time the second chief of the tribe was executed for the offence of having eaten human flesh. In November, Oipe Kambo, chief of Nekoue, invited the neighbouring tribes to a great feast. In the midst of the entertainment two of the guests were seized, slain in the presence of the company, roasted, and eaten. The remainder left the feast enchanted with the politeness of their host, and in no way troubled either with remorse or indigestion. Later, however, the tribe of Moneo, to whom the two victims belonged, protested. Whether their objection lay against the violation of hospitality, or against an unfair division of the tempting repast, is not quite clear; at any rate they seized and killed fifteen persons of the Nekoue tribe, twelve of whom were women. With so large a bag they could afford to be fastidious; consequently they ate the ladies only.

BELGIUM.

In the sitting of the Senate of the 13th instant, a royal decree was read closing the legislative session of 1863-4. By another decree issued on the 17th instant, the Chamber of Deputies is dissolved, and the new elections are fixed for August 11. This may be regarded as the only practicable solution of the constitutional difficulty in which the Government was placed. The King of the Belgians has paid a visit to the Emperor of the French. He was to arrive in Paris on Monday, the 19th, and proceed to Vichy on the following day for a two days' visit.

ITALY.

A committee of the House of Representatives was lately appointed to enquire into the conduct of the railways in Southern Italy, more especially with regard to the connection existing between them and certain members of the House. The report of the committee exonerates all the deputies concerned in the administration of the railways from every suspicion of corruption. It further proposes to make it a standing order of the House that no deputy shall be a member of the administration of railways enjoying State guarantees. A Bill is to be brought in by the Ministry to effect this object. Previous to the sitting of the House in which this measure was discussed, the deputies Bastoggi, Susani, and four others who were concerned in the discussion, resigned their seats. The Chamber of Deputies held their last sitting of the session on the 17th inst.

General Stackelberg, Russian Ambassador at Turin, has been transferred to Vienna. His place at Turin is filled up by M. de Kisseleff, who was lately *chargé d'affaires* for Russia in Rome, but was withdrawn, with his whole legation, from that city in consequence of the strictures passed by the Pope upon the conduct of Russia in Poland.

Garibaldi is about to return to Caprera from Naples. His health has not been so much benefited by the baths of

Ischia as was hoped. He has difficulty in using his right arm and leg, and is generally in delicate health.

The Pope has retired to his summer villa of Castel Gondolfo. The marine canal, which has been projected to be made from Ostia to Rome, is to be executed by a Belgian company at the contract price of 32,000,000 francs.

SPAIN.

A visit is to be shortly paid by the King to the Emperor Napoleon; his Majesty is to start on August 15, as an inauguration of the New Northern Railway. This proposed visit has been commented upon very favourably by the Liberal journals, which are anxious to see the existence of a cordial alliance with France. The clerical party are equally strong in their censures upon it.

Another grievance has been added by the Spaniards to their already long list against the Peruvian Government. It appears that the despatches addressed by the Spanish Admiral Pinson to the home Government were stolen from the despatch boxes while on their way to Europe, and the Spaniards have accused the Peruvian authorities of the theft.

THE PRINCIPALITIES.

BELGRADE, June 28.—The tempestuous rains which have fallen during six consecutive days have caused the greatest devastation in Servia. All the rivers have overflowed their banks, whole villages have been destroyed, and the wheat harvest, which promised so well, has been seriously injured. The maize, which has only just begun to show above ground, has suffered less. The Government of Servia has appointed a commission of three members to report on the extent of the calamity, and on the best means for alleviating it. The consular body at Belgrade has opened a subscription in aid of the families who have suffered the heaviest losses from the disaster.

Prince Couza has issued an address to his subjects informing them of the consent of the suzerain Power of Turkey, and of the guaranteeing Powers, to the reforms of his Principality.

MEXICO.

The journey of the Emperor and Empress of Mexico to their capital has been one continuous ovation. The Indians—as they are vulgarly called in perpetuation of the ancient blunder of the first discoverers of the New World, or, to speak more accurately, the native Mexicans—have assembled from all quarters to erect triumphal arches over the high roads and to salute their new Sovereign with acclamations. Many of the older tribes have exhumed from the ground, in which they have long been buried, the crowns and trophies which once belonged to their native chiefs, and have deposited them at the feet of their new Sovereigns. The Emperor left Orizaba on May 3, after having visited all the public institutions of the city—the civil and military hospitals, the college, the schools, and the prison; his affability and his earnest demeanour made a deep impression on the citizens of Orizaba, and rapidly converted their somewhat cold acceptance of the new order into an enthusiastic admiration. From Orizaba to Puebla was a two days' journey, in the course of which the travellers might admire the wonderful fertility of the country; as they advanced the surrounding villages began to show signs of a higher civilisation; the roadside houses were less far apart, the roads a trifle better kept; vultures were less common, and the deputations from the native tribes had come from a greater distance. The nopal tree, the national emblem of Mexico, was luxuriant in yellow and red flowers, and continually brought into the mind of the party the thought of the legend on which the national reverence for that tree is based. It is said that in very ancient times, before the arrival of the Aztecs in the country, it had been predicted to that tribe that they should found a great empire on the spot where they met an eagle strangling a serpent on a rock under a nopal tree. The legend has been adopted into the arms of the country, and has been quaintly turned into a prediction of the present empire, in which a prince has come from the rock of Miramar to strangle the serpent of anarchy under the nopal trees of Mexico. Puebla was in gala dress to receive its Emperor; gold and silver, velvet and silk adorned the balconies of the houses by which the procession passed; flowers were hung everywhere—in festoons, in bouquets, and in triumphal arches. The corporation presented to the Emperor the keys of the city; he received them, saying, 'I accept these keys with joy as a sign of your loyalty and fidelity; but trusting to those feelings, I return them to you, as I aspire to the possession of your hearts only.' In answer to two addresses presented to him by public bodies, the Emperor further said that he hoped by the aid of free institutions, of strict justice, and of a strong protecting law, to put the country on the path of progress. While he was proud of the beauty and importance of the city of Puebla, he grieved over the political evils which had oppressed its inhabitants. He hoped that at no very distant date the city would be connected with the ocean by a railway, and would then expand into a new vigour and a higher splendour.

PERU.

The difficulties with Spain excite the most painful interest both in Peru and Chili. The Chilian Government proposes to erect formidable batteries at the entrance of the Valparaiso roadstead. Commissioners have been appointed in Peru for the purchase of war steamers in England. Subscriptions on a large scale have been set on foot for the completion of the maritime defences.

On June 3, a Spanish gunboat under flag of truce requested leave to give despatches to the Ministers of England, France, and Chili, at Callao; but the leave was refused. The Spanish commander then declared that he wished to negotiate for a suspension of hostilities; but this overture also was declined by the Peruvian Government.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

THE WAR IN AMERICA.

On Monday, in the House of Lords, in the course of the discussion on the Cuba slave trade, Lord Brougham said 'he believed that in the course of the next two months events at the other side of the Atlantic would render it expedient, and if expedient desirable, for England and France to use their good offices in endeavouring to put an end to that cruel war between the North and South which every friend of humanity must deplore.'

THE STEAM RAMS.

On Monday, in the House of Commons, a vote of 222,000*l.* for the purchase of the Mersey steam rams was agreed to.

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES ON RAILWAYS.

On Thursday, in the House of Lords, Lord Brougham called attention to the perils incurred by persons travelling on railways, and urged that the Government should take immediate steps for public security. There ought to be a communication between the passengers and the guard. This, which was the case on all foreign railways, could easily, and at very little cost, be done on railways in this country. It was accomplished by a board running by the side of the carriages, along which the guard could pass, and hold communication with the people inside. He hoped that some course would be taken, for the public were exceedingly alarmed at the state of insecurity in which they now were, particularly that very considerable portion who passed much of their time on railways.

Earl Granville said the matter should receive the most careful consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

In the House of Commons, on the same evening, Mr. Gibson, in reply to Mr. B. Cochrane, said no doubt means ought to be provided to enable the passengers to communicate with the guard, but he could not promise to introduce a Bill on the subject. He said he was aware that in some parts of the Continent there were such means of communication, but he was by no means sure that the construction of our railways and of our carriages was such as to admit of the same arrangement being made in this country.

THE WAR IN NEW ZEALAND.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Arthur Mills opposed the second reading of the Bill for guaranteeing a loan for 1,000,000*l.* sterling for New Zealand. If the present war lasted till April, it would cost the taxpayers of this country not less than a million and a half of money, and we ought not to take any further burden upon ourselves. The revenue of New Zealand is 700,000*l.* per year, and, therefore, the colony ought to go into the open market and not ask an Imperial guarantee.

Mr. Gladstone said that the colony was quite able to fulfil its engagements, that it contributed to the expenses of the war, which had been approved by the Imperial Government, and that 500,000*l.* would be paid into the Imperial exchequer. After a long discussion, Lord Palmerston said that the present war in New Zealand did not originate in the land question, and no land had been taken from the natives except with their consent and by purchase. The colony is solvent, and, with the Imperial guarantee, will be able to borrow money at a much lower rate than she could without it. The House divided, and the Bill was passed by a majority of 37.

THE 'ESSAYS AND REVIEWS.'

On Friday, in the House of Lords, Lord Houghton asked whether it was the intention of Her Majesty's Government to take the opinion of the law officers of the Crown as to the power of Convocation to pass judgment on books published by either clergymen or laymen. His Lordship dwelt upon the case of the 'Essays and Reviews,' and contended that Convocation had no legal right to censure such a work.

The Lord Chancellor made a speech which was humorous enough to call forth a great deal of laughter. He ridiculed the Episcopal Bench, and he described the judgment of Convocation as 'a sentence so oily and so supernaceous that no one could grasp it. Like an eel, it slips through your fingers—it is simply nothing;' and concluded by saying: 'I am happy to say that in all these proceedings there is more smoke than fire. The words of condemnation are innocent and innocuous, though they do not probably proceed from a spirit that is equally harmless. As to the question of the noble Lord, after what, I trust, may be this acceptable attempt on my part to expound the law, I have only to assure the noble Lord that it is not the intention of the Government to take any further steps in the matter.'

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London maintained that Convocation had the right to pronounce judgment on such works as the 'Essays and Reviews.' The Bishop of Oxford severely rebuked the banter of the Lord Chancellor. He said: 'I have good ground to complain of the tone of the noble and learned Lord on the woolsack. If a man has no respect for himself, he ought, at all events, to respect the tribunal before which he speaks; and when the highest representative of the law of England in your Lordships' Court, upon a matter involving the liberties of the subject and the religion of the realm, and all those high truths concerning which this discussion is, can think it fitting to descend to a ribaldry in which he knows that he can safely indulge, because those to whom he addresses it will have too much respect for their character to answer him in like sort—I say that this House has ground to complain of having its high character unnecessarily injured in the sight of the people of this land by one occupying so high a position within it.'

The Lord Chancellor complained that the Bishop of Oxford had been excited and used much license of language in preferring a charge of misrepresentation.

THE CUBA SLAVE TRADE.

On Monday, in the House of Lords, Lord Brougham presented a petition from Jamaica on the subject of the Cuba slave trade. He said that a few years ago only one-nineteenth of the island of Cuba was cultivated; but since then the cultivation had greatly increased, and there had been a great importation of slaves. From 1842 to 1860 the trade had increased from 13,000 to 40,000 slaves imported annually into Cuba. The Jamaica planters complained that they could not compete with slave-grown sugar. The slave trade to Brazil had altogether ceased. Earl Russell said the entire abolition of the slave trade had not been effected. The Spanish Government expressed willingness to carry out the treaty, but did not like to oppose the strong private interests in Cuba.

THE 'SCIENCE.'

On Monday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Layard, in reply to Mr. Blake, said that the barque *Science*, which had been seized by the Federals some months ago at Matamoras, had been released; but the Government had not been informed whether any compensation or any damages had been awarded.

OUR RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL.

On Monday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Osborne called attention to our relations with Brazil, and contended that all our difficulties arose from the Act of 1845 on the subject of the slave trade, and that Act ought to be repealed, for then Brazil would be happy to enter into a commercial treaty with us. Lord Palmerston said he should avoid the irritating topics suggested by Mr. Osborne, and that he hoped that the negotiations now being carried on through Portugal would bring about the resumption of friendly relations with Brazil.

CANADA.

On Tuesday, in the House of Commons, Sir J. Walsh asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he would have any objection to lay upon the table of the House the despatches recently received from the Governor-General of Canada and the other Governors of our North American colonies, relative to the recent Ministerial changes and the project of a Federal union of those colonies; and whether it was his intention before the close of the Session to make any statement, or to afford any information to the House on the important legislative crisis which appeared to be impending in the constitution of those colonies.

Mr. Cardwell said that it was understood that the new Government which had been formed in Canada by the union of the two political parties intend to prepare measures for the purpose of settling the constitutional difficulties which had prevailed between the Upper and Lower provinces, by what was called the Federative principle applied to Canada itself, with provision for the future reception of the maritime provinces of the north-west territory. When these measures were passed they would, he understood, be communicated to the Home Government, but as they had not yet passed he could not give any information respecting them.

THE END OF THE SESSION.

Parliament will be prorogued at the end of next week if the public business can be completed by that time.

MR. FESSENDEN AND THE ACTUAL DEBT OF THE UNITED STATES.—The *Times* City Article of Tuesday (the 19th) had the following on the new Federal Secretary of the Treasury, and on the Federal debt:—'Unhappily, the chief reason for doubting his (Mr. Fessenden's) capacity consists in the fact of his having consented at this junction to accept office in any shape. If he had joined the Administration on condition that peace should be immediately concluded, there would then have been an opportunity for the exercise of wisdom to mitigate, as far as possible, the break-up already inevitable, and to lay new foundations for the future. But to provide for the continuance of the war expenditure at an annual rate equal to six times the incoming revenue is a problem which must prove just as insoluble in his case as in that of Mr. Chase, and the fact that he is prepared to attempt it argues ill for his perceptions. Yet the New York public persevere in their credulity, and still think that there is ground, not merely for hope, but confidence, provided Mr. Fessenden be allowed to dictate his own policy. At the same time, they admit a fatal fact which has long been suspected on this side, but has not until now been acknowledged in New York—namely, that the tabular statements of the Federal debt which have been from time to time circulated from official sources will be found to fall short, by "many hundreds of dollars," of the figures of the genuine total. "It is due to Mr. Fessenden," says the *Journal of Commerce*, "that this should be appreciated, as it will add vastly to his responsibilities."'

SWAPPING HORSES CROSSING A RIVER.—The *Philadelphia Age* writes: 'This classic expression of Mr. Lincoln has been used by him on two remarkable occasions. At other times, he has brought it to his aid, as illustrating the policy of his Administration. It may safely be said to be an axiom by which he is governed in his official conduct. "It is dangerous," he says, "to swap horses crossing a river." One would believe that so plain a proposition as this figure of speech covers would be a guide to his feet in all he attempts to do for the benefit of his country. But this "God-given President" has not even the merit of consistency with his own jokes. Let us see if he has ever violated his chosen and charmed aphorism. Mr. Lincoln swapped M'Dowell for M'Clellan, crossing the Potomac. He swapped M'Clellan for Burnside, crossing the Rappahannock. He swapped Burnside for Hooker, crossing the same river. He swapped Hooker for Meade, crossing the Potomac. He swapped Meade for Grant, crossing the Rapidan. He swapped Butler for Banks, crossing the Mississippi. He swapped Banks for Canby, crossing the Red River. He swapped Hunter for Gillmore, crossing Charleston Bar. He swapped Dupont for Dahlgren, before Fort Sumter. These are only a few of his swaps, which show his appreciation of his own apophthegm. But let us look at his last and greatest swap—he swapped Hamlin for Johnson, crossing the Rubicon!'

The *Hartford Times*, remarking upon the arrival in that city of the 10th Massachusetts regiment, Colonel Parsons, which has been in the service for three years, says—'We learn from one of the captains that they left Springfield on June 21, 1861, with 1,040 men—that 300 extra recruits were sent to them after they had been in a number of battles, making 1,340 men; that they left the entrenchments in front of Petersburg on the 30th inst. with only 217 men, and at Washington found 13 sick and wounded, making 280 that they bring back!'

LATEST FROM RICHMOND.

An English gentleman who left Richmond on the 1st inst., having a few days previously visited Petersburg, and who, passing uninterruptedly into the Federal territory, accomplished the journey between Richmond and Queenstown in the remarkably short time of sixteen days, gives the following particulars of the military situation in and round the Confederate capital:—

'The troops detached by way of the Shenandoah Valley towards Maryland consisted of the whole of Ewell's corps (late Stonewall Jackson's), under the personal command of that General, and numbered 25,000 men.

'It was believed that another and smaller detachment with heavy artillery would be, or had already been, directed towards Acquia Creek, with a view of erecting powerful batteries on the Potomac, blockading that river, and interrupting the water communication with Washington at the same time that Ewell's corps would destroy the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and thus cut the main line of communication with the capital.

'Ewell's force was considered amply strong enough to cope with any troops which the North in its present denuded condition could oppose to it, and it was believed that as soon as the offensive movement of the Confederates became developed in its true proportions, the Federal Government would recall Grant's whole army. No corps of observation which Grant might leave behind on embarking could hold its ground against a combined land and naval attack from Richmond.

'Nearly 3,000 prisoners had been brought in from Wilson's corps, so that his entire loss could not be less than between 4,000 and 5,000. He had lost all his artillery trains and stores; in fact, only just escaped total destruction. About 20 miles of the track of the Danville Railroad was destroyed by him, but as there are no important bridges on that portion of the track, the "Corps of Constructions," a corps of railway engineers and labourers specially formed for such purposes, would be able to repair the damage in less than two weeks.

'The balance of prisoners in favour of the Confederates during the Virginia campaign alone was estimated at no less than 10,000. A great portion of the prisoners are stragglers who voluntarily came into the Confederate lines and surrendered themselves. They report that in Grant's army the practice of self-mutilation has become so frequent (generally by shooting or cutting off a finger), that an order has been issued to severely punish the men so soon as their self-made wounds are healed, and to send them as labourers under guard into the trenches. Besides malarious fevers, very malignant bowel complaints, caused by the bad water and the pulverised sand with which the atmosphere is surcharged, had appeared, and threatened to become epidemic in the Federal army.

'Grant was leisurely shelling Petersburg at a distance of about two miles, but doing little damage. Communications between that city and Richmond were perfect and not in the least disturbed. No scarcity of provisions was apprehended. The army was healthy and in excellent spirits. At no time had the Confederates been more sanguine. It was generally considered that General Lee was indisputably master of the situation, and that the war could not be prolonged much beyond the present campaign.

'Previous to its adjournment on the 14th ult., the Confederate Congress had, in view of the contemplated offensive movements, issued a manifesto, chiefly, though not in express terms, addressed to the people of the North. In this the earnest desire of the Confederate States for peace is set forth in eloquent language, the war is declared to be one only of self-preservation, and all intentions of conquest or of impeding the happiness and development of the Northern States is most distinctly disclaimed.

'There was no distress, but also no excitement, in Richmond. A solemn earnestness and calm confidence pervaded all classes. The theatres had been closed. The churches were constantly open for prayer, and thronged day and night with soldiers and civilians. The houses of the wealthier citizens were so many open private hospitals, and the ladies were unremitting in their care of the sick and wounded. Mr. Davis's health was good. Foreign exchange had fallen to 1,500, but was little in demand. The prices of most commodities had declined, owing to the gradual absorption of the redundant currency by taxes and the funding system.'—*Reuter's Express.*

Charleston under Fire.—We quote the following from an admirable article in the current number of the *Cornhill Magazine*:—'It was now that, foiled at all points and smarting under his many failures, the Federal General was guilty of that barbarity which has disgraced him as a soldier. Unable to capture the forts in his immediate front, he intimated that, unless they were surrendered, he would turn the most powerful of his guns upon the city. The threat was disregarded—disbelieved in, no doubt; but after four hours of unofficial notification, received at eleven o'clock at night, General Gilmore proceeded to put his threat into execution. Not a soul in the town at that late hour was aware of what impended, excepting General Beauregard and some members of the staff; and they, seeing the notification was unsigned, returned it immediately by flag of truce, trusting to the honour and humanity of the Northern general to give sufficient time for the removal of all non-combatants. On August 21, at half-past one, A.M., I was lying on my bed in the Charleston Hotel, unable to sleep from the excessive heat, and listening to the monotonous sound of the cannonade kept up on the enemy's position from the batteries on James Island. Restless and weary of the night, I had lighted a candle in defiance of mosquitos, and sought to pass away the time with a volume of 'Les Misérables.' It happened to be the one containing the account of the battle of Waterloo; and while deeply interested in the description of the rushing squadrons of cuirassiers, I was startled by a noise that, from connection with my reading, resembled the whirr of a phantom brigade of cavalry galloping in mid-air. My first feeling was that of utter astonishment; but a crash, succeeded by a deafening explosion in the very street on which my apartment was situate, brought me with a bound into the centre of the room. Looking from the window, I saw smoke and fire issuing from a house in which were stored the drugs of the medical purveyor. A watchman was running frantically down the street, and when he reached the corner just below me, commenced striking with his staff against the curb; a signal of alarm practised amongst the Charleston police. At first, I thought a meteor had fallen; but another awful rush and whirr right over the hotel, and another explosion beyond, settled any doubts I might have had: the city was being shelled. People are not generally given to laughing under such circumstances, but I will defy any one who witnessed what I witnessed on leaving my room, not to have given way to mirth in moderation. The hotel was crowded with speculators who had been attracted to the city by the sale of some blockade cargoes, and the corridors were filled with these terrified gentlemen rushing about in the scantiest of costumes and the wildest alarm. One perspiring individual of portly dimensions was trotting to and fro with one boot on and the other in his hand, and this was nearly all the dress he could boast of. In his excitement and terror he had forgotten the number of his room from which he had hastened at the first alarm, and his distress was ludicrous to behold. Another, in a state of semi-nudity, with a portion of his garments on his arm, barked the shins of every one in his way in his efforts to drag an enormous trunk to the staircase. On reaching the hall I found a motley crowd, some of whom with the biggest of words were cursing the Federal commanders. Whirr! came another shell over the roof, and down on their faces went every man of them into tobacco-juice and cigar-ends and clattering among the spittoons. I need not say that this is a class of men from whom the Confederacy hopes nothing; on the contrary, by their extortion, practised on a suffering people, they have made themselves execrated. If a shell could have fallen in their midst and exterminated the whole race of hucksters, it would have been of great benefit to the South.

The Object of the War.—As the war began, so it has continued. The North has fought to subjugate the South if she could, to devastate it if she could not. The South has fought solely in self-defence. There has never been a moment at which she would not gladly have accepted peace; there has never been a moment at which peace was in any sense within her reach. Three times the Confederate Government has attempted to negotiate, and three times its envoys have been insolently repulsed. It has never done any act calculated, by retaliating on Northern soil the crimes and cruelties perpetrated by Northern troops in the South, to make negotiation difficult or peace unpopular. The Southern people have shown the world that their subjugation is impossible. They have maintained their independence and protected their capital against enormously superior numbers; and without sustaining a single defeat approaching the character of a disaster, they have, on half a dozen distinct occasions, inflicted a total and crushing overthrow upon the main armies of the North. With every year of the war their strength has increased and their courage has risen; their determination grows daily more stubborn and their devotion more perfect and unanimous; and, in the words of the manifesto, the world must see that such a people cannot be conquered. The hopelessness of the Northern cause is recognised by all except its most devoted partisans. At the same time, all are aware that it rests with the North alone to terminate the struggle. Victory does not increase the demands of the South, any more than defeat could reduce them. She asks only to be let alone; she wishes for nothing except the withdrawal of Northern troops from her soil and Northern cruisers from her waters. Peace, therefore, requires only that the aggressors should abandon the hope of reducing free States, inhabited by an English population, to a hateful servitude; and it ill becomes the European Powers to encourage that hope, and prolong the war, by withholding a diplomatic acknowledgment of the universal conviction that the independence of the South is virtually an accomplished fact.—*The Standard*, July 21.

Another Newspaper Correspondent Banished.—A letter from New York contains the following:—'The banishment of Mr. Condon, the New Orleans correspondent of the *Index*, I gave you about a week since. It seems he was permitted to remain in the city, however, for several days after the time specified in the order, and even this has again been changed by allowing him to remove to any foreign country. The original order banished him to Pascagnola, along with Dr. Merritt and other citizens who were suspected of 'rebel' tendencies. Condon was to leave New Orleans positively on Monday last, 6th inst. The way he was trapped, I hear, was as follows. He had been charged with writing the New Orleans letters to the *Index*, and Banks was determined to find out whether the charge was true or false. Accordingly he set a watch upon the letters that came to him (Condon) through the post-office. One of these, as ill luck would have it, came from the *Index* office, with a draft enclosed for correspondence! The letter was resealed and allowed to be delivered to Condon. He endorsed the draft and sold it; the proof was positive, and the order for his banishment at once followed. Mr. Condon had charge of the *Picayune* at the time that journal was seized for publishing the bogus proclamation, which fact happened most unfortunately for the paper, as it has rendered the chance of its reappearance almost hopeless. Those who write from Banks's headquarters, or under his tuition, assert that 'it will not be allowed to appear again,' but this, I apprehend, depends upon how long the usurper holds sway in the city wherein it was published.

Mr. Slidell and the Alabama.—Some of the New York papers repeat the absurd story that Captain Semmes engaged the *Kearsage* by *direct order* of Mr. Slidell. The following, which appeared in the Paris *Constitutionnel* shortly after the fight, gives, we believe, a correct account of Mr. Slidell's participation in the affair:—'Several journals,' says the *Constitutionnel*, 'enter into details, more or less exact, on the participation which Mr. Slidell is said to have had in the incident which has just taken place off Cherbourg. We are requested to state that Mr. Slidell was not aware, until the evening before the engagement, that Captain Semmes's intention was to go out to meet the *Kearsage*. Mr. Slidell had besides neither the right nor the desire to give any orders to the commander of the *Alabama*. Had he been consulted he would have probably not hesitated to incur the responsibility of giving a counsel in conformity with the nature of the particulars which he had obtained as to the respective force and conditions of the two vessels. Captain Semmes did, however, refer to his superior, that is to say, to the naval officer of the Confederate navy on service in Europe, who gave an entire adhesion to his project. We believe also that we shall not be contradicted in adding that the line of conduct followed by Captain Semmes has unreservedly the approbation of Mr. Slidell.'

The *Morning Herald* of the 16th says: 'We understand that the Hon. J. M. Mason had an unofficial interview with Lord Palmerston on Thursday at Cambridge House, at the introduction of Mr. Lindsay, and that the meeting was satisfactory to all parties. The withdrawal of Mr. Lindsay's motion was, it is said, the result of that interview, the Premier having given a sort of implied promise to support it at a more opportune moment; that is to say, when Grant and Sherman have been defeated, and the Confederacy stand in no need of recognition.

The Captain of the *Kearsage* has been raised to the rank of commodore for sinking the *Alabama*. The telegram which announces this says, 'regrets are expressed that the *Deerhound* was not also sunk for rescuing Captain Semmes.'

How General Longstreet was Wounded.—The *Times* Richmond correspondent gives the following interesting account: 'Upon the same plank road which on May 2, 1863, witnessed the death-wound of Stonewall Jackson, General Longstreet, dangerously struck in the throat by a Southern bullet, escaped death upon May 6, 1864, although receiving, after three years of unparalleled exposure, his first hazardous wound. You will have learnt that upon the previous day two Confederate divisions—those of Heth and Wilcox—held their ground long and nobly against overwhelming numbers of their foe. They were to be relieved in the night; and the men, worn down by exertion, looked for a brief repose as they scanned their thin numbers, when, before the dawn of May 6, heavy lines of the enemy, massed in the night, and following each other in quick succession, dashed upon their enfeebled ranks. They stood gallantly for a while; but at last, shrinking before the compact masses hurled upon them, they commenced a retreat, which from a walk grew into a run, from a run into a demoralized rout. At this moment there was advancing along the plank road the hardy corps which Longstreet has so long led. Into their leading files dashed, at headlong speed and in wild disarray, the broken ranks of Heth and Wilcox, mingled with field-pieces, ambulances, caissons, runaway horses, and shouting officers striving to bear up against the rout, but whirled along in its resistless current. Beside the road was General Lee, irritated and excited beyond precedent, and eager to stem the torrent of fight by catching hold of any organised body of men and launching them in person against the head of the advancing stream. Upon this hurly-burly of confusion and alarm supervened at the most critical moment the unshrinking constancy of General Longstreet and his corps. Riding up to General Lee, he said, "General, my men have seen such scenes before, and will not be daunted; wait, and you shall see the enemy driven like chaff before the wind." Right nobly did his men, and especially Kershaw's division, verify their General's confident promise. The onward rush of Federals was stayed; at their head fell General Wadsworth, gallantly yielding his life for what he believed the holiest of causes; the Confederates swept forward irresistibly, and the ground on which Heth and Willcox had bivouacked passed again into their hands. At this moment, Longstreet, after brief consultation with General Lee, suggested a flank movement not dissimilar to that by which twelve months before the bloody day of Chancellorsville was decided by Jackson. It was commenced, the promise of the first movement was richly encouraging. Generals Longstreet and Jenkins rode in great glee with their Staff along the plank road, when one of those unforeseen accidents which are inseparable from war, and doubly hazardous with undisciplined troops, checked in an instant all laughter and merriment. A volley at short range, issuing from Mahone's brigade of Confederates as they poured obliquely through the tangled undergrowth of the Wilderness, struck Longstreet's little party like a white squall; General Jenkins sprang high from his saddle and fell dead with a bullet through his brain; Longstreet himself lay stretched in the road pulseless and inanimate, and, as all thought, with but few minutes of life left in him. Instantly the flank movement was arrested. About an hour later, Longstreet, awaking from his swoon, exclaimed to Dr. Cullen, "In another half hour, but for my wound, there would not have been a Yankee regiment standing and unbroken on the south of the Rapidan."

The Attack on the Lily.—The following extract from a letter, dated Havannah, June 24, gives an account of the attack made by a Federal vessel on Her Majesty's ship *Lily*, at Galveston. The writer was on board the English vessel at the time:—'We left Matamoras at 1 P.M., June 9, for Galveston, *en route* for Bermuda, to join the Commander-in-Chief, leaving the *Shannon* at Matamoras and the *Rinaldo* going to Tampico and Vera Cruz. Most glad we all were to leave the Gulf of Mexico for the North. On the morning of the 11th, running in for Galveston, we observed a steamer standing out from the land, but a squall coming on, we lost sight of her for half an hour. The weather clearing up, we saw three steamers steering for us under United States' colours. We had our English blue ensign and pendant flying, and as they neared us we eased our engines to communicate if they wished, as we did the last time we visited this place. Finding they took up positions on our bow, beam, and quarter (their men at quarters cleared for action, and guns bearing on our ship), and not appearing anxious to speak us, we proceeded under full speed together for Galveston bar, about eight miles distant. Shortly after the gun-vessel on our starboard quarter fired a shotted gun to leeward and then another across our bows. We eased engines to allow her to come on our beam, and, finding still they did not hail us, we said, 'This is Her Britannic Majesty's ship *Lily*, wishing to communicate with the senior officer of the United States blockading squadron off Galveston.' In reply to our hail she answered, 'This is the United States ship *Princess Royal*. I will show you the way in.' We then proceeded in company with the three-gun vessel for Galveston. After we anchored the captain communicated with the senior officer of the blockading squadron, demanding an explanation of his conduct in firing a shotted gun across the bows of a British ship-of-war, that nation being at peace with the United States. The captain of the United States' ship *Princess Royal* came on board, and remained an hour with our captain. In the afternoon he sent his reply, which I believe was very courteous, solemnly disavowing any and all intention of insulting the flag of Her Britannic Majesty. It all occurred through their fully believing us to be the Confederate vessel *Florida*, now cruising in the West Indies, and the commander of the *Princess Royal* not being aware we had the *Lily* class of vessel in our service. As the *Florida* had run through their blockading squadron at Mobile under the English flag and precisely similar circumstance, he hardly knew what to do, so he fired to bring us to; but he should have hailed us first, as he was not more than 150 yards distant. We are not surprised at it, as every vessel we have boarded has taken us for the *Florida*, and every person who has seen both ships says we are sister vessels in hull and appearance. I have no doubt that when this comes before their Lordships we shall be transferred to another station, to prevent these unpleasant mistakes occurring.'

An Unfortunate Actor.—The Northern papers say: 'An actor named Hamilton has been convicted at St. Louis of persistent avowals of rebel sympathy, and sent to Alton to remain five years, one year of which he is to wear a chain and ball. The court sentenced him to wear a chain and ball for five years, but General Rosecrans remitted that part of the sentence for four years.'

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

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THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1864.

The Invasion of the Northern States.

ONCE more Washington is threatened and Baltimore is in danger. The news from America might be summed up in these sentences. After three years of war, waged on an unprecedented scale of prodigality in regard to life and treasure, the Administration of Mr. LINCOLN, which has aspired to conquer and subjugate a nation of free men, is again compelled to summon the militia of the Northern States to defend their capital. It is a fact, which we recommend to the notice of the noisy advocates of 'oppressed nationalities' in this country, that the armed battalions of the Confederacy, which has so often been declared to be exhausted and broken up, were, a week ago, within four days' march of Washington, with nothing but raw Pennsylvanian reserves to resist the tide of invasion. The strength of the Confederate troops may reach 50,000 men, or even half that number; but the numbers will not alter the significance of the fact. General GRANT began his campaign with upwards of 150,000 soldiers. After his earliest reverses he filled up his ranks with 25,000 veterans; and to these were added a large proportion of the 100 days' men who volunteered for further service. He is now supposed to be besieging Petersburg, erecting heavy batteries, and preparing for a renewal of the assaults which have already cost him so dearly. The whole strength of his army is concentrated round the lines of this entrenched camp—for so it may be described—and should he take it the success could only be achieved at a cost of life utterly disproportionate to the result. The capture of Petersburg would still leave the heights on the north bank of the Appomattox to be stormed; and between that river and Richmond every half mile would present a fresh and more formidable obstacle to the advancing army. And while GRANT is amusing himself with the spade, and bringing up his siege artillery, LEE, confident in the strength of his position, has spared one whole *corps d'armée*, possibly two, for the invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania. General LEE throughout this terrible war has never been charged with rashness. We may rely upon it that, if he has despatched 30,000 or 50,000 men into Northern territory, he feels safe from GRANT'S army. What, then, are we to think of the chances of the latter when his skilful opponent deliberately leaves him to do his worst, and transfers the struggle from the wasted counties of Virginia to the rich plains of Maryland and Pennsylvania?

There is good reason to believe that General LEE has for some time past contemplated this movement. Weeks have elapsed since we heard that EWELL'S corps had suddenly disappeared from the front of GRANT'S lines on the Chickahominy. In all probability, the advance was decided upon so soon as GRANT'S direct line of communication with Washington was interrupted, and the pursuit of Hunter's corps was merely an accident. The intention, doubtless, was to sweep away every Federal soldier from the Shenandoah, and crush any army that ventured to oppose the march. HUNTER'S partial success may have impeded—it certainly did not hurry on—EWELL'S movement. But nobody could have played the Confederate game better than the General who, advancing with his base in the air down the Shenandoah valley upon Lynchburg, retreated when attacked in exactly the opposite direction to that in which alone his army might have been available for the defence of the Northern frontier. It is possible that HUNTER had no other alternative, and that only his rapid march to Gauley, Western Virginia, saved his force from destruction. But under any circumstances he has succeeded in neutralising an army of veterans which at the present time would be of immense service to the North, and but for his glaring bad generalship the invasion of the North would have been a far more critical undertaking. It would seem that the defence of Lynchburg was entirely the work of the small body of Confederates who fought at Stanton under General JONES; and that EWELL, leaving Lynchburg to its fate, marched directly upon the Shenandoah valley, with a view of cutting off HUNTER from his communications, and occupying the Baltimore and Ohio railroad. In both objects he has succeeded. HUNTER is isolated and powerless to strike a blow; and long before he can be in a position to make any serious demonstration in EWELL'S rear, the mischief will have been done. Moreover, there can be no reinforcements from the Western States, and Baltimore and Washington must depend for their safety on their undrilled militia. The question is, whether this movement is a mere raiding expedition, or a counterstroke against GRANT'S plan of campaign; although in neither case does it leave any doubt as to the issue of the struggle before Richmond. The gathering up of the rich harvest of the Shenandoah, of the great depôts along the Baltimore and Ohio railroad and of the large stores in Maryland, would be no slight gain to LEE; but we are inclined to think that something more than a mere raid is intended, and that the object is to compel GRANT'S withdrawal of his army for the protection of the menaced cities of Maryland and Pennsylvania. The moment is singularly propitious for such a *coup*. There are not now any real soldiers north of MASON'S and DIXON'S line. Every man fit to march with a regiment has long ago been drafted off to GRANT. There is nothing but a badly-trained, ill-armed, and badly-officered mob of militia regiments to arrest the progress of the Confederates; and if EWELL has 50,000 veterans under his command, then Baltimore and Washington are in danger. The accounts are of course conflicting. At one moment the Northern newspapers describe the invasion as a mere border foray; the next they are full of terror at the formidable muster of the invaders, and picture two or three whole corps marching upon the capital. A few days will remove all uncertainty. For the present it seems to us that General LEE is on the eve of a movement which will surpass in importance, and in its results, any previous operation of the war.

GRANT'S inactivity is, in itself, ominous. We hear of siege guns being mounted, and of preparations for a fresh assault; but the truth is that the Federal General is *nonplussed*. There are no more flank movements to be made. There is little prospect of a successful assault. The only thing left is to shell the town, and amuse the Northern people by a repetition of the siege of Charleston. This in all probability will be the end of the operations before Petersburg. How much longer the Federal army will remain in its present position depends much more on the issue of the expedition under EWELL than the plans of General GRANT. For the time the interest of the war centres in the movements of the Confederate troops north of the Potomac. The position of SHERMAN'S and even of GRANT'S army is a matter of secondary importance. If it shall turn out that the fears of the Northerners have not magnified the strength of the invading armies, President LINCOLN'S Adminstration may yet go out amidst the execrations of the Northern people. Already there are symptoms of defiance to the Central authority. Governor SEYMOUR'S refusal to permit the departure of the New York troops at the call of the PRESIDENT may be the first act in another independence drama. There is conspiracy in Kentucky and martial law. There is Mr. VALLANDIGHAM in Ohio. It is hardly possible not to connect some of these political facts with the strategy of General LEE, and to conclude that some other purpose besides that of obtaining supplies on Northern soil, has dictated the renewed invasion of the Northern States by the Confederate armies.

The 'Aberdeen Act.'

THE flagging interest of the expiring session has been rather unexpectedly enlivened by a sharp discussion not devoid of episodical piquancy and suggestive contrasts. Last Tuesday week, in reply to a question, which reads suspiciously like a prearranged affair, Lord PALMERSTON delivered himself of a brief but excessively bitter diatribe against Brazil. That country, he said, had acted with the greatest neglect and bad faith towards the negroes captured on slave-trading vessels, who, by express treaty stipulations, were entitled to their freedom. He sarcastically enumerated a list of twenty judicial and administrative forms, through which the unfortunate *emancipado*, after a so-called apprenticeship of fourteen years, must still run the gauntlet before becoming entitled to a very dubious and qualified 'freedom,' the chief feature of which appears to be banishment under police surveillance. The point of the noble Lord's sarcastic humour was, however, subsequently broken off by the discovery, that though he quoted the twenty-headed document from a despatch of HER MAJESTY'S diplomatic agent, and the despatch gave the authority of a Brazilian newspaper, the newspaper only meant a pleasant bit of satire on the delays of justice; the document was not more genuine than 'Mr. MALLORY'S Report' in the *New York Sun*, which likewise deceived HER MAJESTY'S diplomatists and Ministers, and 'of about as much authority,' it was stated in the course of the debate, 'as *Punch's* Essence of Parliament.'

However, this little vagary of the noble PREMIER'S served to set the ball in motion for a remarkably discursive and excursive conversation, which was resumed again last Monday in the House, taken up in the Lords, and which, upon the whole, is more delightfully spiced with personality than perhaps any of the session. The gist, or at least the pivot of the discussion, was the so-called ABERDEEN Act, passed in 1845, authorising British cruisers to seize suspected Brazilian vessels and try them in British prize-courts. This Act was denounced by the friends of Brazil and of fair dealing, upon high authority, including even that of its author, as an infraction of international law. It was proved that Lord ABERDEEN himself, after whom the Act is named, had officially pledged himself to its speedy repeal as soon as its object, the suppression of the African slave trade, was accomplished. It could not be denied by the other side, that Brazil had in good faith and for many years put an effectual stop to that traffic; while Spain, though constantly guilty of conniving at it, had never been insulted by the assumption of any such high-handed jurisdiction over her flag. Still Lord PALMERSTON vehemently declared, and in terms quite the reverse of courteous to the Brazilian Government and people, that the repeal of the Act would be tantamount to the reopening the slave trade. Indeed, so wrought were his feelings by the picture he conjured up before his own mind, that he seemed to suspect all the world of a gigantic conspiracy against England to revive the horrors of the middle passage, and even accused France of having quite recently carried it on under another name, and being bribed off from the enterprise only by the permission to export coolies from India. In fact, he entirely lost his temper, called Mr. SEYMOUR FITZGERALD ignorant, tossed (according to the *Times* report) a paper across the table at Lord J. MANNERS, and broadly hinted at Mr. BERNAL OSBORNE being in the pay of the Brazilian Government.

But the most curious feature of the debate—if debate can be called what ranged, without any particular reference to the subject-matter, over the sin of slavery, the Ashantee war, the horrors of the middle passage, the speed of English cruisers, the moral aptitudes of the negroes, the vital statistics of Brazil, and the duty on sugar—was the fact that Mr. JOHN BRIGHT stood forward as the friend of a 'Slave Power.' Notwithstanding the emphatic declaration of Lord PALMERSTON that it would be equivalent to the reopening of the slave trade, and retard the cause of emancipation, Mr. BRIGHT held out firmly for the repeal of the ABERDEEN Act, which he declared to be the main obstacle to renewing friendly relations with a country whose commerce was of such vast importance. Considering that Mr. BRIGHT bases his almost frantic hostility to the Southern States upon his abhorrence of slavery—that, if they must be condemned on that account, his present clients deserve the same condemnation with immensely increased severity—that the Southerners are Republicans, for which form of government Mr. BRIGHT professes a special preference, while the Brazilians are monarchists—that finally the commerce of the South is at the least four times as much worth as that of Brazil—we cannot but wonder at an inconsistency which is either in the one form heroically self-sacrificing, or in the other strangely suspicious. We must, however, in this instance, accord Mr. BRIGHT the credit of having been

for once right, and, if in other respects inconsistent, to have at least been consistent with the non-intervention philosophy of his school, almost the only time when it accords with the philosophy of common sense and common justice. Brazil has been outrageously ill-treated by Great Britain, a fact that can alone explain upon a well-known principle of human nature the spleen which is vented upon her by Her Majesty's Ministers. The repeal of an Act which has no longer even the poor plea of expediency, and which insults her dignity and self-respect as an independent Power, would be no more than a meet reparation for injuries done in the abuse of her weakness. Let British merchants beware. Heretofore they have had almost a monopoly of a valuable trade, strikingly so as against their most energetic competitors, the Yankees. When peace comes these will not be slow to profit by the *laches* of Great Britain to retrieve in Brazil their losses nearer home. Already France, by a vigorous prosecution of South Atlantic steam navigation enterprise, is casting covetous eyes in the same direction.

In the two chief points upon which this curious Parliamentary episode turns, we are perfectly disinterested judges. These two points are the empire of Brazil and the African slave trade, and we seldom trespass needlessly the bounds we have set ourselves pending the American war. As for Brazil, her conduct during that war has been marked by a subserviency to Yankee dictation, all the more ignoble because it seemed spontaneous and eager. Even weakness has its dignity when yielding to force; but weakness becomes contemptible when it fawns, and this has been the attitude of Brazil toward the United States. We have, therefore, for Brazil no other sympathies than those that are due to a feeble nation which is bullied by a strong one, for between her and Great Britain the balance of offences is decidedly on the side of the Power which could commit them with impunity. Another title to the respect of European Governments she has, notwithstanding many shortcomings, in being the most orderly, the best governed, and the most thriving country on the South American continent; and in the even tenor of her peaceful development she need not envy the Anglo-Saxon communities in the more temperate latitudes of the Western hemisphere. Every blow, therefore, struck at her, is aimed at civilisation in a quarter of the globe where civilising influences are much needed.

So much for one of the points which have tempted us beyond our usual sphere. As for the other, the African slave trade, we are, if possible, even more disinterested. No country with her face to the sea has her hands so clean of that traffic as the Confederate States of America. If we are to believe Lord Palmerston, France is more likely to be tempted by its profits than they are. Opposing it with all their might when colonies, anticipating by local legislation its prospective prohibition when States of a powerful Union, these great slave-holding communities have not for fifty years had 200 Africans landed on their coasts, and even this small number in a period of unparalleled political excitement, as a species of bravado (rigidly punished by local juries), and not for purposes of gain. We do not claim for the Southerners any special merit in this. It has so happened, from the peculiar circumstances in which they cultivate the soil and their exceptional social fabric, that among them, besides the sentiment of abhorrence for the traffic which they share with European communities, the interests of the whole class of landed proprietors are concerned in its prevention. There is interest, therefore, as well as feeling, in the bitter opposition with which the isolated suggestions of ultra minds have ever been met at the South.

Leaving aside, then, Brazil and the phantom of the African slave trade, there is still one point in the 'Aberdeen Act' discussions which should not be overlooked. The phrase dropped from Lord Palmerston's lips in these very words, 'that the end was so good as in this case to justify the means.' Here is the root and beginning of all the fanaticism which has entailed such untold miseries upon the world at all times, and which is the curse of America at present. The moment we adopt this maxim, either as individuals or as nations, we abandon the immutable principles of right and wrong which God has set for us as a compass, and we are tossed about in the vagaries of a 'higher law,' which is, in truth, only the treacherous voice of our own passions. So soon as we do wrong that good may come of it, we arrogate to ourselves the infallibility of Providence, and even our virtues turn to crimes. The error is all the more fatal, because great human societies are never led into conscious wrong by sordid or selfish impulses; and when they assume to slay with the sword of Gideon, it is always in the name of some sacred abstraction, such as religion, liberty, or human progress. Other ages have had their crusades against infidels and heretics, their *jacqueries*, and their French revolution. Our fanaticism is directed against the slaveholder. History alone should teach us a modest distrust in the infallibility of our judgment; but those who have had the practical experience, as we have had, of comparing the reality which is assailed with the delusion that assails, may well tremble at the frightful wrong that can be done in the belief of right, and under the perfidious excuse that 'the end is so good as to justify the means.'

But, it will be objected, ought nations then to follow the abject teachings of the Manchester school? Ought no generous impulse ever to move them to assist right against might? So much as has of late been said about England's duty as a great Power and her duty to herself, it is astonishing that the clear line of demarcation has so seldom been intelligibly drawn. The moral rules of a nation's conduct toward others are not unlike those which individuals recognise. To be just to others, at whatever cost and at whatever apparent loss of immediate interest; to keep faith to treaties, which are the promises of nations; in one word, to fulfil the obligations imposed by our position, is as much the duty of nations as of individuals, and these obligations are always proportionate to the power which the position gives. But it is not of the number of these obligations to run a muck against all ideas or institutions which are not our own, or which shock our moral convictions. Injustice is not the less unjust because practised on one we believe guilty; and the grossest injustice one nation can practise upon another is to interfere by force in its internal government, and the free development of its social and political institutions. No amount of philanthropy can justify an 'Aberdeen Act,' and cant only makes hideous what otherwise might be a pardonable error. It is in this respect again with nations as with individuals. The people which sets itself up as the appointed censor and legislator of all mankind is generally apt to neglect nearer and plainer dictates of duty, just as the tender-hearted lady, who weeps over the sufferings of the Hottentots and sends flannel-shirts to them, has generally no time for her own children, and is hard to the poor.

Confederate Views of Mediation.

Lord Palmerston received at Cambridge House, on Friday last, a number of noblemen, clergymen, members of Parliament, and other distinguished and influential gentlemen, forming a deputation of the Society for obtaining the cessation of hostilities in America. The deputation had no party complexion whatever, and may be taken as a not unfair representation of the classes which, in this country at least, give tone to public opinion. Its business was to urge upon the head of Her Majesty's Government the hopelessness and the wickedness of the Federal attempt to subjugate a free people of English tongue and lineage, and to appeal to him, in the name of Christianity and civilisation, to exert the moral influence of a great nation in the threatened interests of both. So earnest and spontaneous an expression of genuine English feeling is in itself a valuable fact, honourable to the authors, gratifying to the Confederates, and a well-meant, though we fear unheeded, warning to those whom passion hurries to inevitable ruin. Viewed in this light, the only object which the deputation could have had is accomplished; and it matters little that the Premier should give the vague and evasive reply usual on such occasions. Lord Palmerston's reply, however, was something more and something less than the stereotyped formula. It would have been easy for him to clothe official reticence in a few generous words of the old British ring, and, without committing the Minister, do himself justice as a man. He did not choose to do so; but he proved incontestably to his visitors that, though he has been charged with forgetting the vigour of his prime, he can in old age remember the lessons of his childhood, by telling them that

> They who in quarrels interpose
> Will often wipe a bloody nose—('laughter')—

a quotation which, in the mouth of the Prime Minister of the British empire, and on such an occasion, must be admitted as not altogether unworthy of Abraham Lincoln himself.

We will not, however, quarrel for a harmless joke with a man who, despite his affectation of levity in the conduct of grave affairs of state, has left a broad mark on the page of contemporaneous history; and besides, Viscount Palmerston is no enemy of the South, and certainly no admiring friend of the Yankees. Our topic is the offer of mediation—the suggestion of which has of late been renewed in many quarters—and the Confederate view of that suggestion.

The Society whose deputation was so jauntily dismissed at Cambridge House last Friday, does not, as we understand the objects of its formation, propose to advise the Government as to any form of action to be adopted in the American quarrel. This it is willing to leave to the wisdom and discretion of those in whose hands is placed the responsibility of wielding the moral and material power of a great empire. It contents itself in cultivating and giving voice to the sense of Christian duty which must be painfully felt in a humane and God-fearing community on beholding the sufferings and miseries of vast numbers of fellowmen. It professes no foregone partisanship between the North and the South, but treats both with the charity due to members of a common family. It is purely English, and has no affiliation or connection with the Confederate States as a political body. In this modest and yet noble sphere of action its labours have been of inestimable value. It has collected from every class and every part of the country precious testimonies that the English people are not the callous, selfish race which, through their Government, they so often appear to be in the eyes of the world. It has, we believe, enrolled in its numbers the greater part of the clergy of the Church of England. It has placed itself in communication with honest peace-loving men in the Northern States of America. In brief, it has sown seeds of brotherly feeling wherever the faintest hope existed of their taking root, and has fostered the growth with indefatigable care. Such a society may not produce what superficial men would call really practical results, but its work will nevertheless be widely and permanently felt. Even the apparent indefiniteness of its objects—that is to say, the fact that it does not assume to direct the action of statesmen, but simply to generate motive power—invites the support of a large body of persons, whose tastes or professions hold them aloof from practical politics. The Society, therefore, is prepared to welcome and gladly second any measures tending to peace; but, if its members have a preference, it appears decidedly to be in favour of mediation, which they deem—erroneously, as we think—at once milder and more efficacious.

The same idea is expressed in a more tangible form in the motion which Mr. Lindsay some time since placed on the notice paper of the House of Commons, and which the absorbing nature of European events has so often crowded aside, that its author will most probably think it best to abandon it for this session. To the terms of this motion, worded very much in the spirit of the Society of which we have spoken, no rational man could possibly object; and, individually polled, it seems beyond doubt that almost every member of the House would give his ready assent to it. Voting amid the responsibilities, the timidities, and the hesitations of public and party questions, immediately after a crisis which left Parliament prostrate, at the end of the session, and in an empty house, the same members may take a different view of Mr. Lindsay's motion, and thus cause its chances of success to depend neither on its own merits, nor on the abstract convictions of the legislature.

But as the idea of mediation has acquired a certain prominence in the minds of the most devoted English friends of the South, to the exclusion of the far more important idea of recognition, it may be well to restore each to its proper position by remarking that mediation is exclusively an English, and not at all a Confederate idea. In not one of the leading newspapers of the South, in not one of its State papers, can we trace its origin; and though it is respectfully accepted when the suggestion comes from abroad, it is rather in the hope that it might be the first of other more decisive steps, than from any sanguine faith in its inherent efficacy. The Confederate position we hold to be this. The Confederate States claim as a right, in virtue of having fulfilled the most onerous conditions which could be exacted even from rebels, the official recognition of that independent existence which they legally possessed before the war, and which they have practically vindicated during three years of invasion. They claim that, in withholding this recognition of what is true in theory and in fact, the Powers of Europe, with England at their head, do recognise what is true neither in theory nor in fact, but what is, on the contrary, a monstrous falsehood—namely, that the President and Congress at Washington are either *de facto* or *de jure* the Government of the Confederate States. They claim that, in thus substituting a fiction for a fact, and admitting the pretensions of the North, they justify its aggressions upon the prescriptive liberties of the South, they become a party to the quarrel by prejudging the cause of the latter in an adverse decision, and they are therefore guilty of a breach of neutrality, a grievous wrong, and virtual hostility. Unless it could be shown that these 'so-called' Confederate States had ever been, or ought to be, the subjects of the States now warring on them—or at least that they had ever formed provinces of a consolidated empire and are endeavouring as such to throw off

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

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THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1864.

The Invasion of the Northern States.

ONCE more Washington is threatened and Baltimore is in danger. The news from America might be summed up in these sentences. After three years of war, waged on an unprecedented scale of prodigality in regard to life and treasure, the Administration of Mr. LINCOLN, which has aspired to conquer and subjugate a nation of free men, is again compelled to summon the militia of the Northern States to defend their capital. It is a fact, which we recommend to the notice of the noisy advocates of 'oppressed nationalities' in this country, that the armed battalions of the Confederacy, which has so often been declared to be exhausted and broken up, were, a week ago, within four days' march of Washington, with nothing but raw Pennsylvanian reserves to resist the tide of invasion. The strength of the Confederate troops may reach 50,000 men, or even half that number; but the numbers will not alter the significance of the fact. General GRANT began his campaign with upwards of 150,000 soldiers. After his earliest reverses he filled up his ranks with 25,000 veterans; and to these were added a large proportion of the 100 days' men who volunteered for further service. He is now supposed to be besieging Petersburg, erecting heavy batteries, and preparing for a renewal of the assaults which have already cost him so dearly. The whole strength of his army is concentrated round the lines of this entrenched camp—for so it may be described—and should he take it the success could only be achieved at a cost of life utterly disproportionate to the result. The capture of Petersburg would still leave the heights on the north bank of the Appomattox to be stormed; and between that river and Richmond every half mile would present a fresh and more formidable obstacle to the advancing army. And while GRANT is amusing himself with the spade, and bringing up his siege artillery, LEE, confident in the strength of his position, has spared one whole *corps d'armée*, possibly two, for the invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania. General LEE throughout this terrible war has never been charged with rashness. We may rely upon it that, if he has despatched 30,000 or 50,000 men into Northern territory, he feels safe from GRANT's army. What, then, are we to think of the chances of the latter when his skilful opponent deliberately leaves him to do his worst, and transfers the struggle from the wasted counties of Virginia to the rich plains of Maryland and Pennsylvania?

There is good reason to believe that General LEE has for some time past contemplated this movement. Weeks have elapsed since we heard that EWELL's corps had suddenly disappeared from the front of GRANT's lines on the Chickahominy. In all probability, the advance was decided upon so soon as GRANT's direct line of communication with Washington was interrupted, and the pursuit of Hunter's corps was merely an accident. The intention, doubtless, was to sweep away every Federal soldier from the Shenandoah, and crush any army that ventured to oppose the march. HUNTER's partial success may have impeded—it certainly did not hurry on—EWELL's movement. But nobody could have played the Confederate game better than the General who, advancing with his base in the air down the Shenandoah valley upon Lynchburg, retreated when attacked in exactly the opposite direction to that in which alone his army might have been available for the defence of the Northern frontier. It is possible that HUNTER had no other alternative, and that only his rapid march to Gauley, Western Virginia, saved his force from destruction. But under any circumstances he has succeeded in neutralising an army of veterans which at the present time would be of immense service to the North, and but for his glaring bad generalship the invasion of the North would have been a far more critical undertaking. It would seem that the defence of Lynchburg was entirely the work of the small body of Confederates who fought at Stanton under General JONES; and that EWELL, leaving Lynchburg to its fate, marched directly upon the Shenandoah valley, with a view of cutting off HUNTER from his communications, and occupying the Baltimore and Ohio railroad. In both objects he has succeeded. HUNTER is isolated and powerless to strike a blow; and long before he can be in a position to make any serious demonstration in EWELL's rear, the mischief will have been done. Moreover, there can be no reinforcements from the Western States, and Baltimore and Washington must depend for their safety on their undrilled militia. The question is, whether this movement is a mere raiding expedition, or a counterstroke against GRANT's plan of campaign; although in neither case does it leave any doubt as to the issue of the struggle before Richmond. The gathering up of the rich harvest of the Shenandoah, of the great depôts along the Baltimore and Ohio railroad and of the large stores in Maryland, would be no slight gain to LEE; but we are inclined to think that something more than a mere raid is intended, and that the object is to compel GRANT's withdrawal of his army for the protection of the menaced cities of Maryland and Pennsylvania. The moment is singularly propitious for such a *coup*. There are not now any real soldiers north of MASON's and DIXON's line. Every man fit to march with a regiment has long ago been drafted off to GRANT. There is nothing but a badly-trained, ill-armed, and badly-officered mob of militia regiments to arrest the progress of the Confederates; and if EWELL has 50,000 veterans under his command, then Baltimore and Washington are in danger. The accounts are of course conflicting. At one moment the Northern newspapers describe the invasion as a mere border foray; the next they are full of terror at the formidable muster of the invaders, and picture two or three whole corps marching upon the capital. A few days will remove all uncertainty. For the present it seems to us that General LEE is on the eve of a movement which will surpass in importance, and in its results, any previous operation of the war.

GRANT's inactivity is, in itself, ominous. We hear of siege guns being mounted, and of preparations for a fresh assault; but the truth is that the Federal General is *nonplussed*. There are no more flank movements to be made. There is little prospect of a successful assault. The only thing left is to shell the town, and amuse the Northern people by a repetition of the siege of Charleston. This in all probability will be the end of the operations before Petersburg. How much longer the Federal army will remain in its present position depends much more on the issue of the expedition under EWELL than the plans of General GRANT. For the time the interest of the war centres in the movements of the Confederate troops north of the Potomac. The position of SHERMAN's and even of GRANT's army is a matter of secondary importance. If it shall turn out that the fears of the Northerners have not magnified the strength of the invading armies, President LINCOLN's Adminstration may yet go out amidst the execrations of the Northern people. Already there are symptoms of defiance to the Central authority. Governor SEYMOUR's refusal to permit the departure of the New York troops at the call of the PRESIDENT may be the first act in another independence drama. There is conspiracy in Kentucky and martial law. There is Mr. VALLANDIGHAM in Ohio. It is hardly possible not to connect some of these political facts with the strategy of General LEE, and to conclude that some other purpose besides that of obtaining supplies on Northern soil, has dictated the renewed invasion of the Northern States by the Confederate armies.

The 'Aberdeen Act.'

THE flagging interest of the expiring session has been rather unexpectedly enlivened by a sharp discussion not devoid of episodical piquancy and suggestive contrasts. Last Tuesday week, in reply to a question, which reads suspiciously like a pre-arranged affair, Lord PALMERSTON delivered himself of a brief but excessively bitter diatribe against Brazil. That country, he said, had acted with the greatest neglect and bad faith towards the negroes captured on slave-trading vessels, who, by express treaty stipulations, were entitled to their freedom. He sarcastically enumerated a list of twenty judicial and administrative forms, through which the unfortunate *emancipado*, after a so-called apprenticeship of fourteen years, must still run the gauntlet before becoming entitled to a very dubious and qualified 'freedom,' the chief feature of which appears to be banishment under police surveillance. The point of the noble Lord's sarcastic humour was, however, subsequently broken off by the discovery, though he quoted the twenty-headed document from a despatch of HER MAJESTY's diplomatic agent, and the despatch gave the authority of a Brazilian newspaper, the newspaper only meant a pleasant bit of satire on the delays of justice; the document was more genuine than 'Mr. MALLORY's Report' in the *New York Sun*, which likewise deceived HER MAJESTY's diplomatists and Ministers, and 'of as much authority,' it was stated in the course of debate, 'as *Punch's* Essence of Parliament.'

However, this little vagary of the noble PREMIER served to set the ball in motion for a remarkably discursive and excursive conversation, which was resumed again last Monday in the House, taken up in the Lords, and which, upon the whole, is more delightfully spiced with personality than perhaps any of the session. The gist, or at least the pivot of the discussion, was the so-called ABERDEEN Act, passed in 1845, authorising British cruisers to seize suspected Brazilian vessels and try them in British prize-courts. This Act was denounced by the friends of Brazil and of fair dealing, upon high authority, including even that of its author, as an infraction of international law. It was proved that Lord ABERDEEN himself, after whom the Act is named, had officially pledged himself to its speedy repeal as soon as its object, the suppression of the African slave trade, was accomplished. It could not be denied by the other side, that Brazil had in good faith and for many years put an effectual stop to the traffic; while Spain, though constantly guilty of conniving at it, had never been insulted by the assumption of any such high-handed jurisdiction over her flag. Still Lord PALMERSTON vehemently declaimed, and in terms quite the reverse of courteous to the Brazilian Government and people, that the repeal of the Act would be tantamount to the reopening of the slave trade. Indeed, so wrought were his feelings by the picture he conjured up before his own mind, that he seemed to suspect all the world of a gigantic conspiracy against England to revive the horrors of the middle passage, and even accused France of having quite recently carried it on under another name, and being bribed off from the enterprise only by the permission to export coolies from India. In fact, he entirely lost his temper, called Mr. SEYMOUR FITZGERALD ignorant, tossed (according to the *Times* report) a paper across the table at Lord J. MANNERS, and broadly hinted at Mr. BERNAL OSBORNE being in the pay of the Brazilian Government.

But the most curious feature of the debate—if debate can be called what ranged, without any particular reference to the subject-matter, over the evils of slavery, the Ashantee war, the horrors of the middle passage, the speed of English cruisers, the moral aptitudes of the negroes, the vital statistics of Brazil, and the duty on sugar—was the fact that Mr. JOHN BRIGHT stood forward as the friend of 'Slave Power.' Notwithstanding the emphatic declaration of Lord PALMERSTON that it would be equivalent to the reopening of the slave trade, and retard the cause of emancipation, Mr. BRIGHT held out firmly for the repeal of the ABERDEEN Act, which he declared to be the main obstacle to renewing friendly relations with a country whose commerce was of such vast importance. Considering that Mr. BRIGHT bases his almost frantic hostility to the Southern States upon his abhorrence of slavery—that if they must be condemned on that account, his present clients deserve the same condemnation with immensely increased severity—that the Southerners are Republicans, for which form of government Mr. BRIGHT professes a special preference, while the Brazilians are monarchists—that finally the commerce of the South is at the least four times as much worth as that of Brazil—we cannot but wonder at the inconsistency which is either in the one form heroically self-sacrificing, or in the other strangely suspicious. We must, however, in this instance accord Mr. BRIGHT the credit of having be

for once right, and, if in other respects inconsistent, to have at least been consistent with the non-intervention philosophy of his school, almost the only time when it accords with the philosophy of common sense and common justice. Brazil has been outrageously ill-treated by Great Britain, a fact that can alone explain upon a well-known principle of human nature the spleen which is vented upon her by Her Majesty's Ministers. The repeal of an Act which has no longer even the poor plea of expediency, and which insults her dignity and self-respect as an independent Power, would be no more than a meet reparation for injuries done in the abuse of her weakness. Let British merchants beware. Heretofore they have had almost a monopoly of a valuable trade, strikingly so as against their most energetic competitors, the Yankees. When peace comes these will not be slow to profit by the *laches* of Great Britain to retrieve in Brazil their losses nearer home. Already France, by a vigorous prosecution of South Atlantic steam navigation enterprise, is casting covetous eyes in the same direction.

In the two chief points upon which this curious Parliamentary episode turns, we are perfectly disinterested judges. These two points are the empire of Brazil and the African slave trade, and we seldom trespass needlessly the bounds we have set ourselves pending the American war. As for Brazil, her conduct during that war has been marked by a subserviency to Yankee dictation, all the more ignoble because it seemed spontaneous and eager. Even weakness has its dignity when yielding to force; but weakness becomes contemptible when it fawns, and this has been the attitude of Brazil toward the United States. We have, therefore, for Brazil no other sympathies than those that are due to a feeble nation which is bullied by a strong one, for between her and Great Britain the balance of offences is decidedly on the side of the Power which could commit them with impunity. Another title to the respect of European Governments she has, notwithstanding many shortcomings, in being the most orderly, the best governed, and the most thriving country on the South American continent; and in the even tenor of her peaceful development she need not envy the Anglo-Saxon communities in the more temperate latitudes of the Western hemisphere. Every blow, therefore, struck at her, is aimed at civilisation in a quarter of the globe where civilising influences are much needed.

So much for one of the points which have tempted us beyond our usual sphere. As for the other, the African slave trade, we are, if possible, even more disinterested. No country with her face to the sea has her hands so clean of that traffic as the Confederate States of America. If we are to believe Lord Palmerston, France is more likely to be tempted by its profits than they are. Opposing it with all their might when colonies, anticipating by local legislation its prospective prohibition when States of a powerful Union, these great slave-holding communities have not for fifty years had 200 Africans landed on their coasts, and even this small number in a period of unparalleled political excitement, as a species of bravado (rigidly punished by local juries), and not for purposes of gain. We do not claim for the Southerners any special merit in this. It has so happened, from the peculiar circumstances in which they cultivate the soil and their exceptional social fabric, that among them, besides the sentiment of abhorrence for the traffic which they share with European communities, the interests of the whole class of landed proprietors are concerned in its prevention. There is interest, therefore, as well as feeling, in the bitter opposition with which the isolated suggestions of ultra minds have ever been met at the South.

Leaving aside, then, Brazil and the phantom of the African slave trade, there is still one point in the 'Aberdeen Act' discussions which should not be overlooked. The phrase dropped from Lord Palmerston's lips in these very words, 'that the end was so good as in this case to justify the means.' Here is the root and beginning of all the fanaticism which has entailed such untold miseries upon the world at all times, and which is the curse of America at present. The moment we adopt this maxim, either as individuals or as nations, we abandon the immutable principles of right and wrong which God has set for us as a compass, and we are tossed about in the vagaries of a 'higher law,' which is, in truth, only the treacherous voice of our own passions. So soon as we do wrong that good may come of it, we arrogate to ourselves the infallibility of Providence, and even our virtues turn to crimes. The error is all the more fatal, because great human societies are never led into conscious wrong by sordid or selfish impulses; and when they assume to slay with the sword of Gideon, it is always in the name of some sacred abstraction, such as religion, liberty, or human progress. Other ages have had their crusades against infidels and heretics, their *jacqueries*, and their French revolution. Our fanaticism is directed against the slaveholder. History alone should teach us a modest distrust in the infallibility of our judgment; but those who have had the practical experience, as we have had, of comparing the reality which is sundered with the delusion that assails, may well tremble at the frightful wrong that can be done in the belief of right, and under the perfidious excuse that 'the end is so good as to justify the mean.'

But, it will be objected, ought nations then to follow the abject teachings of the Manchester school? Ought no generous impulse ever to move them to assist right against might? So much as has of late been said about England's duty as a great Power and her duty to herself, it is astonishing that the clear line of demarcation has so seldom been intelligibly drawn. The moral rule of a nation's conduct toward others are not unlike those which individuals recognise. To be just to others, at whatever cost and at whatever apparent loss of immediate interest; to keep faith to treaties, which are the promises of nations; in one word, to fulfil the obligations imposed by our position, is as much the duty of nations as of individuals, and these obligations are always proportionate to the power which the position gives. But it is not of the number of these obligations to run a muck against all ideas or institutions which are not our own, or which shock our moral convictions. Injustice is not the less unjust because practised on one we believe guilty; and the grossest injustice one nation can practise upon another is to interfere by force in its internal government, and the free development of its social and political institutions. No amount of philanthropy can justify an 'Aberdeen Act,' and cant only makes hideous what otherwise might be a pardonable error. It is in this respect again with nations as with individuals. The people which sets itself up as the appointed censor and legislator of all mankind is generally apt to neglect nearer and plainer dictates of duty, just as the tender-hearted lady, who weeps over the sufferings of the Hottentots and sends flannel-shirts to them, has generally no time for her own children, and is hard to the poor.

Confederate Views of Mediation.

Lord Palmerston received at Cambridge House, on Friday last, a number of noblemen, clergymen, members of Parliament, and other distinguished and influential gentlemen, forming a deputation of the Society for obtaining the cessation of hostilities in America. The deputation had no party complexion whatever, and may be taken as a not unfair representation of the classes which, in this country at least, give tone to public opinion. Its business was to urge upon the head of Her Majesty's Government the hopelessness and the wickedness of the Federal attempt to subjugate a free people of English tongue and lineage, and to appeal to him, in the name of Christianity and civilisation, to exert the moral influence of a great nation in the threatened interests of both. So earnest and spontaneous an expression of genuine English feeling is in itself a valuable fact, honourable to the authors, gratifying to the Confederates, and a well-meant, though we fear unheeded, warning to those whom passion hurries to inevitable ruin. Viewed in this light, the only object which the deputation could have had is accomplished; and it matters little that the Premier should give the vague and evasive reply usual on such occasions. Lord Palmerston's reply, however, was something more and something less than the stereotyped formula. It would have been easy for him to clothe official reticence in a few generous words of the old British ring, and, without committing the Minister, do himself justice as a man. He did not choose to do so; but he proved incontestably to his visitors that, though he has been charged with forgetting the vigour of his prime, he can in old age remember the lessons of his childhood, by telling them that

> They who in quarrels interpose
> Will often wipe a bloody nose—('laughter')—

a quotation which, in the mouth of the Prime Minister of the British empire, and on such an occasion, must be admitted as not altogether unworthy of Abraham Lincoln himself.

We will not, however, quarrel for a harmless joke with a man who, despite his affectation of levity in the conduct of grave affairs of state, has left a broad mark on the page of contemporaneous history; and besides, Viscount Palmerston is no enemy of the South, and certainly no admiring friend of the Yankees. Our topic is the offer of mediation—the suggestion of which has of late been renewed in many quarters—and the Confederate view of that suggestion.

The Society whose deputation was so jauntily dismissed at Cambridge House last Friday, does not, as we understand the object of its formation, propose to advise the Government as to any form of action to be adopted in the American quarrel. This it is willing to leave to the wisdom and discretion of those in whose hands it places the responsibility of wielding the moral and material power of a great empire. It contents itself with expressing and giving voice to the sense of Christian [illegible] which must be painfully felt in a humane and God-fearing community on beholding the [illegible] of vast numbers of [illegible]. It does not [illegible] gone partisan hip between the North and South, but treats both with the charity due to members of a common family. It is a purely [illegible], and has no affiliation or connection with the Confederate States as a political body. It [illegible] and yet noble sphere of [illegible] has been of inestimable value. It has received from every class and every part of the country precious testimonies that the [illegible] are not the callous, selfish race which [illegible] their Government, they so often appear to be in the eyes of the world. It has, we believe, [illegible] in its members the greater part of the clergy of the Church of England. It has placed itself in communion with honest peace-loving men in the Northern States of America. In brief, it has sown seeds of brotherly feeling wherever it found opportunity of their taking root, and has watched the growth with indefatigable care. Such a [illegible] may not produce what superficial [illegible] call [illegible] practical results, but its work will [illegible] be widely and permanently felt. Even the apparent indefiniteness of its object—that is to say, the fact that it does not assume to direct the [illegible] of statesmen, but simply to generate motive power—invites the support of a large body of persons, whose tastes or professions hold them aloof from practical politics. The Society, therefore, is prepared to welcome and gladly second any measure tending to peace; but, if its members have a preference, it appears decidedly to be in favour of mediation, which they deem—erroneously, as we think—at once milder and more efficacious.

The same idea is expressed in a more tangible form in the motion which Mr. Lindsay some time since placed on the notice paper of the House of Commons, and which the absorbing nature of European events has so often crowded aside, that its author will most probably think it best to abandon it for this session. To the terms of this motion, worded very much in the spirit of the Society of which we have spoken, no rational man could possibly object; and, individually polled, it seems beyond doubt that almost every member of the House would give his ready assent to it. Voting amid the responsibilities, the timidities, and the hesitations of public and party questions, immediately after a crisis which left Parliament prostrate, at the end of the session, and in an empty house, the same members may take a different view of Mr. Lindsay's motion, and thus cause its chances of success to depend neither on its own merits, nor on the abstract convictions of the legislature.

But as the idea of mediation has acquired a certain prominence in the minds of the most devoted English friends of the South, to the exclusion of the far more important idea of recognition, it may be well to restore each to its proper position by remarking that mediation is exclusively an English, and not at all a Confederate idea. In not one of the leading newspapers of the South, in not one of its State papers, can we trace its origin; and though it is respectfully accepted when the suggestion comes from abroad, it is rather in the hope that it might be the first of other more decisive steps, than from any sanguine faith in its inherent efficacy. The Confederate position we hold to be this. The Confederate States claim as a right, in virtue of having fulfilled the most onerous conditions which could be exacted even from rebels, the official recognition of that independent existence which they legally possessed before the war, and which they have practically vindicated during three years of invasion. They claim that, in withholding this recognition of what is true in theory and in fact, the Powers of Europe, with England at their head, do recognise what is true neither in theory nor in fact, but what is, on the contrary, a monstrous falsehood—namely, that the President and Congress at Washington are either *de facto* or *de jure* the Government of the Confederate States. They claim that, in thus substituting a fiction for a fact, and admitting the pretensions of the North, they justify its aggressions upon the prescriptive liberties of the South, they become a party to the quarrel by prejudging the cause of the latter in an adverse decision, and they are therefore guilty of a breach of neutrality, a grievous wrong, and virtual hostility. Unless it could be shown that these 'so-called' Confederate States had ever been, or ought to be, the subjects of the States now warring on them—or at least that they had ever formed provinces of a consolidated empire and are endeavouring as such to throw off

the rightful authority of the central Government—it is difficult to conceive how their claim can be contested, and how neutrals can withhold from them what is accorded to their opponents. Yet between two belligerents, one of whom seeks to establish over the other an authority he never had, whose acts are all from the first aggressive, while those of the other are exclusively defensive, neutral Powers recognise the one as a lawful Government pursuing lawful ends, and the other they recognise also, but as an insurgent and rebel with whom all intercourse, even the most necessary, is contamination. Whenever the Confederates have asked, not for assistance or favours,—for that they have never asked—but for equal consideration with the Federals upon proof of legal and practical equality, HER MAJESTY'S Ministers have hypocritically answered them and the conscience of England, that *the obligations of an impartial neutrality could not be departed from!*—this 'impartial neutrality' consisting in recognising the right of a Federal Republican Legislature to legislate over States which never for an hour since it assembled were represented in it; the right of a Federal Republican President to execute these laws in States in which never for an hour since he came into office he exercised any authority except at the point of the bayonet!—this 'impartial neutrality' consisting in according to the North rights which it never had, and denying to the South the rights which it always had!

For Great Britain to offer mediation before recognition is a contradiction of terms—an absurdity which is only excusable on the plea that the circuitous road may in some cases be the safest and shortest. If Great Britain had recognised the equality of the Confederate States, if not upon the demonstration of their legal status, at least as soon as their material ability to maintain that status was demonstrated, and had then declared herself perfectly neutral or even indifferent in the contest, neither party could justly have complained of her action, and no one could have claimed mediation as her duty. The recognition of an established fact involves no responsibility for the fact itself, nor any judgment about the causes that brought about the fact. Great Britain has recognised many Governments which, in their origin and principles, she thoroughly disapproved; she has recognised alternately, in the same country, republics and empires, hating cordially both alike. Recognition is a duty which nations and Governments owe to each other by the established usages of international association. Mediation may be a duty also in some cases; but it rests upon moral rather than political considerations, and its exercise therefore is more arbitrary and capricious. Recognition is justice; mediation may be generosity; but, above all, it is necessary to be just before affecting to be generous. Great Britain offering to mediate between Federals and Confederates would be like a judge promising to be impartial between two pleaders, one of whom he had in advance pronounced guilty and the other innocent.

Let us make haste to add that, in recurring to this topic of recognition, we do not wish to reopen an argument long since exhausted, but only to place the position of the Confederate States in its proper light, and to correct an error into which some of their best friends seem likely to fall. The Confederates themselves, without waiving their lawful claim, have long since learned to trust to a higher justice than that of Cabinets, and they expect recognition only when, as one of our morning contemporaries aptly put it, 'they shall no longer need it.' Self-reliance has begot a confidence which, coupled with stern resolution, has compelled success. It was only the day before the deputation waited on Lord PALMERSTON, that he met, for the first time, the representative of the Confederacy. We have no means of knowing what passed in an unofficial interview between the PREMIER and Mr. MASON, each of whom probably met the other only from a sense that they owed it to their respective positions, and both of whom probably parted with increased mutual respect. Such meetings, if they had occurred oftener, even though it were only as private gentlemen, between the authorised representatives of the two countries, might have prevented many misunderstandings, and been productive of good to both. Very possibly, too, Lord PALMERSTON on this occasion may not have hesitated to express the kindly feelings for the South which he never disguises in private, though repressing them behind unmeaning platitudes in public. But if the conversation turned upon American affairs, and Lord PALMERSTON had asked Mr. MASON his view of suggested mediation, we venture to say that Mr. MASON would have replied that the Confederate States would give a respectful consideration to any offer prompted by a friendly motive, but that their claims upon HER MAJESTY'S Government were confined to those of simple justice, and did not extend to favours.

The Canadian Confederacy.

REPRESENTATIVE government has not worked very successfully in Canada, though better there than in the majority of our colonies, inasmuch as Canada is an older, better peopled, and more civilised country than the rest of our self-governing dependencies. She has been free from the calamity of gold fields and the curse of transportation; she has neither attracted the rowdyism of the world, nor had the ruffianism of England violently thrust upon her. She has not been afflicted with the intrusion of philanthropical meddlers, eager to revolutionise her social, industrial, and political organisation by the supreme power of the Imperial Parliament; her climate, rendering her an unsuitable field for slave labour, has saved her from the government of emancipated slaves. She has never, therefore, brought representative institutions into contempt by reproducing the follies of Victoria or the scandals of Jamaica. Her Parliament has always been respectable; her statesmen have displayed a more than creditable capacity. In every respect her legislature and administration appear to shine in comparison with those of the Northern States or of her sister colonies. But she has been perplexed by one source of trouble which might well have given rise to very serious dangers—which had no small share in bringing about that discontent to which the intrusion of Yankee sympathisers gave the aspect of rebellion—and which has ever since perplexed her rulers and vexed the souls of her statesmen. The Canadian Legislature is divided into two parties, coincident with a division of the people not so much into two parties as into two nations. Upper and Lower Canada differ in every point upon which States have been wont to fight and politicians are accustomed to quarrel—in blood, in language, in religion, in social institutions. Upper Canada is peopled by Englishmen and Scotchmen, Lower Canada by Frenchmen. The former are Protestants, the latter Catholics; and, as the natural consequences of the juxtaposition, the Protestants are not only Protestants, but Orangemen. Lower Canada, a country settled by Frenchmen in the days of the old *régime*, has maintained to this day many of the peculiarities of a semi-feudal society—is strongly conservative, aristocratic, and addicted to large properties and primogeniture; Upper Canada is a country of small farms owned by the farmers, in which equality of fortunes has produced social equality and democratic tendencies in politics. And matters have been so arranged that the power of these two parties in the Legislature has been almost equally balanced. The introduction of the English doctrine of self-government—i. e. government by party—into the colony, required that the Ministry should be chosen from among the majority of the Chamber; and, accordingly, the French and English parties have alternately seized the reins of office, as one or the other was placed by accident in a position of momentary advantage. 'A working majority of two' satisfied the demands of Canadian policy; and as the votes of two or three evenly divided districts varied, so did one party or the other obtain a precarious lease of power. The inconvenience of this state of things was too great not to force upon the statesmen of both sides the consideration of a remedy; and on the last change of positions in the Legislature a fusion was arrived at, which brought the leaders of both extremes into office, with a programme calculated, if successful, to do much more than merely terminate the difficulties actually experienced. The present colonial Ministry proposes nothing less than the formation of a confederacy, into which, primarily, Upper and Lower Canada are to enter as two separate members, and which is ultimately to embrace the whole of British North America.

It has been our duty, on more than one occasion, to point out the peculiar disadvantages and dangers incident to a federal as compared with a consolidated Government. And we presume, after the very thorough discussion which the subject has of late years received, that no statesman would again be likely to commit the error of the Mexicans, and voluntarily to substitute a federation for a single State. Even, however, if Canada alone were concerned, it might be a question whether the substitution of federalism for union would be, on the whole, an advantageous exchange. The danger which is incurred by forcing into close contact, and therefore into constant collision, parties like those of Canada, separated not only by religious as well as political antipathies, but also by a line of territorial demarcation, appears to exceed any advantage which a consolidation of the two provinces can afford; and it is probable that the French and English communities will be on much better terms, and in fact, for all purposes of common action and mutual support, much more closely linked together, when they are released from the bond of an artificial union which made an incongruous whole by the juxtaposition of elements which were resolved not to combine. And for the whole of British America there can be no doubt that the scheme of a confederation is one which offers advantages of the highest value from every point of view. For the minor colonies, the question is not between consolidation and federalism, but between federalism and isolation. It is not possible that the local affairs of the colonies should be satisfactorily managed by a common Parliament. The attempt would not be tolerated. The tendency of our colonies has always been to separate distant settlements combined in one nominal province rather than to unite distinct provinces together. But it may be quite possible to unite them by a federal bond of a tolerably strict character, while leaving to each province the direction of its own local business and the administration of its own finances. It will be observed that this Federation will commence its career under peculiar conditions. In the first place, the colonies have been used to a common control in one important branch of political affairs. Their foreign relations have always been, and will continue to be, directed by Great Britain; and no internal squabbles on this subject can arise in the Federal Parliament. In the next place, the colonies have all very similar interests. They are all producers of raw material, not manufacturers; and therefore there is no reason why any local jealousies should arise out of the adjustment of the tariff. They have derived from the mother-country a common system of law and judicature; and there need be no difficulty in giving to the Federal Parliament and to the Federal Courts a much wider range of authority than is enjoyed by those of the United States. In fact, it would seem perfectly possible to make the Federal authority paramount, and restrict the local authorities to merely municipal business. And this will be the easier, that the devisers of the scheme are said to intend an important departure from any system of federal institutions hitherto existing. They propose that the Federal delegation of each province shall constitute its local legislature; that the same persons shall control the municipal business of the colony and represent it in the Parliament of the Confederate colonies.

This appears to us the best, as it is certainly the most original, feature of the scheme. It is calculated to remedy some of the worst faults both of theoretical Federalism and of the actual colonial system. One of the great weaknesses of the former arises out of the jealousy between the local and general government; this can hardly have much influence where those who control the former form an important portion of the legislature which directs the latter. There will be little jealousy between a single colony and the Federal power; there can be no jealousy between the colonies collectively and the Federal power, exercised as it will be by those who constitute the legislatures of the colonies. It may be observed that the colonies will escape one of the misfortunes of the States, which belongs rather to Republicanism than to Federalism. The Colonial Confederation will be a constitutional Government, not a Republic; its head will be a Viceroy reigning and not governing; and its Administration will be subject to the control of the Federal Parliament. There will not, therefore, be any possibility of that antagonism between the Executive and the Legislature which has more than once disturbed the political balance of the United States.

Again, it is one of the worst misfortunes of the colonies, especially of the minor colonies, that men of education and character are not ambitious of a seat in the legislature of a petty colony, and thus its government falls into the hands of persons wholly unqualified and unworthy. Now a place in the Parliament of the Colonial Confederation will be a worthy object of ambition to men of the highest standing, and thus the colonies will obtain the services of these men, not only for Federal, but for municipal business. And the ministers of the Viceroy, selected as they may be from among the *élite* of a great population, as numerous as that of the Union in the days of WASHINGTON, will undoubtedly be men for the most part qualified to treat on equal terms with the advisers of the British Crown. We may add that the collective wealth and strength of the Confederation will be able to support a burden which hitherto has seemed too much for the separate colonies, and maintain a military organisation capable of defending the country against any force that can be brought against it by land, leaving to the mother-country little more than the burden of its defence by sea.

In every respect, therefore, this federative scheme is likely to be of advantage to the colonies themselves. How will it affect the mother-country and their neighbours?

No doubt the Confederation would be a powerful State—so powerful that it would be a dependency only during its own pleasure. But this is the case

with all our colonies of pure European population. There is not one of them that England would retain by force. Nor do we think that the Confederate colonies would be less loyal than the separate colonies are now. No doubt they would feel less dependent upon our support; no doubt, if any collision occurred, the idea of breaking away from their allegiance would seem more feasible than at present. But collision between the Crown and the colonies is almost impossible. It could hardly take place on anything more important than the imposition of the royal veto on some colonial measure antagonistic to the general policy of the Empire; and it is not likely that even if this measure were one on which the colonists were strongly bent, they would for such a difference of opinion sacrifice the immense advantages which they derive from the protection of the first maritime Power in the world. On the other hand, the influence of the Confederation would serve to restrain the fractiousness of those colonies with which it is least unlikely that we should have a dispute. Newfoundland or New Brunswick might be disaffected; but the loyalty of the Confederation would be an effective check on its discontent, and the good sense of all the colonies would be our assurance against the momentary folly or perversity of any.

As an element in the future of North America, the creation of a British Confederacy is of the highest importance. The reign of manifest destiny is over, and the western continent must, like Europe, be protected against the criminal ambition of a single overgrown Power by the prudence and foresight of those who have the means to establish against it that much-abused and most necessary institution called a balance of power. The United States have played the part of PHILIP II., of LOUIS XIV., of NAPOLEON the GREAT; they have robbed and terrified their neighbours, they have overridden law and trampled liberty under foot, and openly aspired to a sort of universal monarchy of the Western world. The secession of the South was the first check to their schemes; the establishment of a Southern Confederacy effectually barred against them one, and the most promising, opening to conquest and aggrandisement. Still the South alone might not have been a sufficient barrier, and had she remained their only neighbour, they would have still been the terror and the tyrants of the New World. The erection of a stable Government by the armies of France created Mexico afresh, and placed a third Power on the northern continent of America, to assert there the existence of public law and national equality. The British Confederation will make a fourth, and close against the Yankees the way of encroachment to the northward. So hemmed in, it is not improbable that they may find destiny leading them in a direction exactly opposite to that in which they dreamt of going—that the West may break from the East, and California from both—and that room may be found on the continent of North America for at least six independent nations, all prosperous, peaceable, and content; all of them strong enough to hold their own, and none of them powerful enough to have any temptation to bully their neighbours. This may seem to Mr. BRIGHT a lamentable disappointment as compared with his own vision of one gigantic Federation, reaching from Hudson's Bay to the Isthmus of Darien; but we think that the statesmen of Europe, who know how dangerous the overgrown power of the Union had already become, and who may remember that North America contains other races besides the Anglo-Saxon, and millions of Anglo-Saxons who by no means desire to become Yankees, will be thankful to Providence for the gradual substitution of the balanced power of several independent nations in lieu of the gigantic tyranny of one overgrown empire, as the 'manifest destiny' of North America.

NEGRO TROOPS.—The *Chicago Times* exposes the partisan character of the attacks made upon General Sturgis by the organs of Mr. Lincoln. It remarks that Butler, Burnside, and Hooker are 'sound' upon the negro, confiscation, and other Administrative questions, and therefore lose battles with impunity; but Sturgis, being a Democrat, is removed at the first disaster. It adds:—'We can readily see good reasons for Sturgis's misfortune. He had an assorted force, made up of odds and ends of regiments, of provost guards, sections of batteries, skeleton infantry commands, and negroes. The prime cause of his failure is probably to be found in his negro troops. We have yet to learn of the first case in which an officer led negro troops and was not defeated. But twice during this war have assaults upon fortifications been successful—Fort Pillow and Plymouth—and in both cases a large portion of the garrison was made up of negroes. All negro troops have failed, and Sturgis could not make his case an exception to an inevitable rule.'

DEATH OF MR. QUINCY.—The New York papers announce the death of Mr. Josiah Quincy, in his 92nd year. The deceased was born in Boston, 1772, and graduated at Harvard in 1790. He was elected a State Senator in 1804, and was a Representative in Congress from 1805 to 1818. After filling the offices of Judge of the Municipal Court and Mayor of Boston, he became President of Harvard College in 1829, and retained that position for sixteen years. He was the author of a History of Boston, a History of Harvard College, and a Life of John Quincy Adams.

CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

MANCHESTER, July 20, 1864.

It scarcely needed [illegible] the Confederates, or [illegible] the resources of the North, [illegible] cotton districts to [illegible] much vehemence to [illegible] tinued inaction of Her Majesty's [illegible] the American war. The [illegible] length therefore, to make [illegible] steady growth, and it will [illegible] ance for its prolonged [illegible].

One of the most noteworthy and [illegible] evidences of influential public opinion [illegible] given in the House of Commons [illegible] petition was presented praying that Parliament [illegible] upon the Government to take [illegible] sponsibilities as regards one of the most important [illegible] of industry in this country, and [illegible] the time had not arrived when some friendly effort [illegible] to a war that was a scandal to the age [illegible] to the world. That petition was presented not, [illegible] lieve, out of mere compliment to the petitioners [illegible] of routine duty to his constituents, by James Aspinall Turner, Esq., M.P. for this city. It was signed by upwards of [illegible] persons, including, with rare exceptions, the whole list of mercantile and manufacturing firms that have done most towards making Manchester the commercial metropolis of the [illegible]. Whatever may be Mr. Turner's own wishes and [illegible] in relation to the American war, he could have no excuse, after glancing over that immense roll of familiar names, for doubting the remarkable unanimity existing among the whole body of his influential and liberal-minded constituents, and, judging from the tone in which the hon. gentleman accepted the office of being their spokesman in Parliament, it seemed he did not undervalue either the importance of his trust or the sufficiently distinct wishes of the people from whom he received it.

A few of the names attached to the petition may not be out of place here, the rather as many of them would probably be identified with considerable interest by commercial readers in the Northern as well as Southern States: The Whitworth Ordnance Company; John Butterworth & Co., Alexander Collie & Co.; B. Whitworth & Co.; Porteus & Paul; Birley & Co.; Callender & Sons; Clarke Brothers; Daniel Lee; Rylands & Co.; M'Intosh & Co.; Lomnitz & Co.; Charles Pooley; Carlton, Walker & Co.; Davis, M'Whinnie & Co.; Samuel Fletcher & Co.; Edward Hardcastle; Ralph Waller & Co.; Magnus & Co.; J. P. Ford & Co.; George Fraser, Sons & Co.; C. H. Rickards (Chairman of the Manchester Board of Guardians); W. Pearson, Esq. (Mayor of Salford); Fallows & Keymer; C. P. Henderson & Co.; Pope Brothers; Dewhirst & Sons; Alderman Willert; Davis, Roberts & Co.; Voss & Delius; Gustavus Findeisen & Co.; M'Niven & Stenhouse; Turner, Norris & Turner; Pennington & Co.; E. Townsend & Co.; Watkin & King; Crewdson & Worthington; Melchior & Co.; Hall & Udall; Jefferis & Hellyar; &c. &c.

The petition was also signed by nearly every respectable member of the liberal professions in Manchester. The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop, upon being invited to head the ecclesiastical list with his name, scarcely contented himself with hinting at the irregularity of a member of the Upper House joining in a petition to the Lower one. His Lordship regretted he could not, in that form, give expression to his admiration of the conduct of the Confederates, and his prayers for peace. The same objection which applied in his Lordship's case would not, however, apply in that of the Dean and Chapter. Nor were the clerical signatures by any means exclusively those of ministers of the Church of England. A very large number of the Nonconformist clergy were among the petitioners, and as for the priests of the Roman Catholic Church, they have never held aloof in Manchester when anything had to be done to show sympathy with the Confederate cause. And members of the civic as well as clerical body also signed in great force. The Mayor of Manchester (J. M. Bennett, Esq.), who is well known, however, as an ardent well-wisher of the Southerners, declined, on purely official grounds, to lend the weight of his name. His worship objected to lay himself open to the charge of doing an act that might be misrepresented as a counterpart to the notorious mistake committed at the Free-Trade Hall, on New Year's eve, 1863, by his partisan predecessor, Mr. Abel Heywood. Nevertheless, many of the aldermen and councillors of the corporation signed the petition, as also did his Worship the Mayor of Salford, in his official character, and supported by nearly all the members over whose councils he presides. Taken therefore upon the whole, the Manchester petition may be accepted, for once, as an honest and undoubted expression of the manly and intelligent feeling of this city; and it is to be hoped that, before disregarding it, the Government will take the precaution to ask what Mr. Bazley, Mr. Turner, and Mr. Massey have to say upon the matter.

A petition of a proportionably important character, and signed by the magistrates, gentry, merchants, manufacturers, and other inhabitants of Macclesfield, has been presented by Mr. E. C. Egerton; also a petition from Farnworth and Kersley, by the Hon. Algernon Egerton; from Bolton, by Captain W. Gray; from Glossop, by Lord Edward Howard; from Mossley, by J. Morgan Cobbett; from Burnley, by Colonel Wilson Patten; from Bury, by the Right Hon. F. Peel; from Stockport, by Mr. Watkin; from Preston, by Sir T. G. Hesketh, Bart. Petitions have also been forwarded from Ashton, Bollington, Oldham, Holmfirth, Dukinfield, Rawtenstall, Bacup, and—not unnecessarily to extend the list—from almost every other town and populous village in Lancashire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire.

But a more 'demonstrative' if not more important manifestation of Southern feeling in the cotton districts took place on Monday afternoon at the Foreign Office, and the significance of the mode in which it was displayed could hardly fail of being appreciated by the Foreign Minister. On that day a number of delegates representing the factory operatives of Manchester, Salford, Stockport, Oldham, Preston, Macclesfield, and other towns in the North, had an interview by appointment with Earl Russell, for the purpose of presenting to his Lordship a memorial signed by between 90,000 and 100,000 operatives, upon the continuance of the American war as bearing upon the present and future condition of the inhabitants of the cotton districts. The deputation was introduced by J. A. Turner, Esq., M.P. for Manchester, Sir Thomas G. Hesketh, Bart., M.P. for Preston, and W. H. Hornby, Esq., M.P. for Macclesfield. Upon a portion of the document being unrolled, his Lordship proceeded to read the terms of the memorial, and, after glancing at the list of signatures, was informed, apparently to his great surprise, that the roll was 100 yards in length, and that the whole of it was [illegible] with names (three columns [illegible]).

[illegible]

Lord Russell [illegible] powerful [illegible] precarious and [illegible] Foreign Secretary [illegible] the people of the cotton districts [illegible] capacity for self-government [illegible] tion as an independent Power.

After listening to the deputation with earnest interest, his Lordship expressed his [illegible] tives, his sympathy with them in their [illegible] sufferings, and his earnest desire that the time [illegible] the Government might, with good effect, offer to mediate between the contending parties.

The deputation then thanked his Lordship for his courteous reception, and withdrew.

FALSE PHILANTHROPY.—The *Times* of July 14, in the course of a leader on the Brazilian debate in the House of Commons on July 12, observes:—'We have learnt, though we admit we have been very slow in learning, that those whom we intrust with the management of our affairs have duties towards their fellow-citizens quite as obligatory as any that they can possibly have towards any race, nation, or colour. The statesmen who are so full of the wrongs of some foreign nation or some distant tribe seldom give themselves time to consider the miseries they are inflicting upon those nearer home in the name of and in the pursuit of justice. The wrongs of the negro or of the Pole are brought before our eyes with all the vividness that minute detail and rhetorical exaggeration can give them, while the misery that war inflicts upon the Englishman, the Scotchman, and the Irishman is lost in a cold abstraction. [illegible] much of the honour of the nation, of the character of the nation, of the prestige of the nation, but very little of the sufferings which the assertion of that honour will bring on the individuals of whom the nation is made up. We cannot have a better illustration of these remarks than is afforded by the slave trade and our measures to prevent it. The nation was moved to abolish this degrading traffic by the fearful pictures which were laid before it by Mr. Wilberforce and his friends of the horrible sufferings endured by the negro during the passage from Africa. Parliament determined—and it deserves the thanks of humanity during all ages for the determination—that England would at least free herself from this foul stain. But the sentiment once aroused, could not be content to remain within the limits which reason and justice naturally assigned to it, and, having put away the accursed thing from among ourselves, our next determination was to bring the general conscience of mankind up to the standard that we had just attained, after living for so many centuries so lamentably below it. We aspired after a different kind of conversion from that to which we ourselves had just submitted. The doctrine to which we subscribed from conviction we undertook to urge upon other nations by force. We made treaties, we armed cruisers, we took upon ourselves the police of the seas. Our motives have been excellent, but there is no doubt that we have received in return for all this trouble a great amount of unpopularity and dislike; that we have not put down the shameful traffic, nor succeeded in getting it declared to be piracy; that our failures have been numerous, and our successes partial. Could an account be taken of the waste of life, of the disease that has prevailed in our settlements on the Gold Coast, of the miseries endured by the crews of the squadron employed to blockade the coast of Africa, of the vast sum of money which the maintenance of our preventive squadron costs us; could we see in one column the money, and in another column the life which this protracted struggle has wasted, we might, perhaps, be inclined to think that misery for misery, considering the greater susceptibility of the white race to sufferings which are the daily lot of a poor savage, to whom they appear as the ordinary destiny of humanity, we have done very little by all our efforts to abate the amount of human distress. There is this further consideration that we are not answerable for the negro, while our Government is deeply responsible for the fate of every subject of the Queen intrusted to its charge. We commend this principle of non-intervention to the humane of all parties, and the wise of all opinions, with the hope that, while we are reviewing our old traditions and bringing them to the test, not of sympathies and antipathies, but of sound and dispassionate reason, the question of the prevention of slavery may not escape notice as a prominent part of the present system of intermeddling in the affairs of foreign nations.'

The *True Delta* of New Orleans contains some interesting revelations on the treatment of the emancipated negroes. It appears that the Federal authorities have revived the system of torture for their benefit. A negro of the name of Martin Johnson was compelled to avow himself guilty of a crime which he had not committed by the use of tortures borrowed from the Inquisition. After six months his innocence was established; but the unhappy victim has had occasion to make some curious reflections on the liberality and justice of emancipation.

DEPUTATION TO LORD PALMERSTON.

A DEPUTATION from the Society for Obtaining the Cessation of Hostilities in America waited on the Premier on Friday last for the purpose of urging Her Majesty's Government to take steps to bring about peace between the belligerents.

The deputation consisted of the following noblemen and gentlemen:—The Marquis of Clanricarde, the Bishop of Chichester, Lord Alfred Churchill, M.P., Mr. Yorke, M.P., Mr. Marsh, M.P., Mr. Repton, M.P., Colonel Grey, M.P., Mr. Danby Seymour, M.P., Mr. Spence, of Liverpool, Admiral Anson, Colonel Halpin, Rev. F. W. Tremlett, Mr. J. R. Fernyhough, Mr. C. Shand, Sir Henry de Hoghton, Bart., Mr. Bramley-Moore, M.P., Mr. T. D. Tremlett, Rev. W. W. Malet, Mr. T. Ray, and Dr. Skey, F.R.S., President of the Royal College of Surgeons.

The deputation having been introduced by the Marquis of Clanricarde, the Rev. F. W. Tremlett, hon. secretary, at the request of the chairman, Admiral Anson, submitted to the Premier that from a very large number of letters which the society had received—especially from the rectors of parishes and other persons—reflecting the state of feeling in the country districts; also from the presentation to Parliament of petitions from the clergy and laity of various parishes in the counties of Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Cumberland, Lancashire, Sussex, Somersetshire, Warwickshire, Norfolk, Berkshire, Shropshire, Nottinghamshire, Kent, Wiltshire, Lincolnshire, Cornwall, Devonshire, Oxfordshire, and Middlesex; from the counties of Meath, Cavan, Leitrim, Roscommon, Antrim, Longford, Sligo, Queen's County, Waterford, Galway, Tipperary, Cork, and Dublin; and further, from the general tone of feeling and conversation in all social circles, meetings, and the public press, there were good grounds for stating that a strong and increasing feeling exists in the country that Her Majesty's Government should, if possible, avail itself of its friendly relations with the Federal authorities to bring about a cessation of hostilities in America; that, looking upon the restoration of the Union as impossible, and the independence of the Southern Confederacy as virtually a *fait accompli*, any prolongation of the war could only result in mutual slaughter, and in debt and weakness to both belligerents; and that, bound as both are to us by ties of blood and interest, and impressed as they must be after three years' experience with the futility of any advantage from the continuance of so gigantic and sanguinary a contest, it was reasonable to hope that such a proposal, made *bonâ fide*, would not only stimulate and embolden the large peace party in existence in the North, but would be generally acceptable to the majority of the people of both sections. The deputation would further represent that, besides the saving of many thousands of valuable lives, the advantages of a peace to the people of this country would be great. While the direct sufferings of the operatives in the manufacturing districts for the last three years -though borne with heroic fortitude, and met with most Christian liberality—had been of a heartrending character, and, though mitigated in intensity, still continue to be deeply felt by this deserving and industrious class, the continuance of the war was practically levying a tax in all (in the increased price of cotton and woollen goods) equal in amount to the interest on the National Debt. This war tax was oppressive to all families of small means, and was especially hard upon the poor. While wages had not increased in the rural districts, the prices of the clothing of the poor had doubled and trebled, wool having risen from 1*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* 4*d.* per lb., and cotton from 6*d.* to 2*s.* and 2*s.* 6*d.* Moreover, if we turned to France, the war tax was equally oppressive there. From statements which had lately been obtained from that country, it was estimated that the people of France would have to pay this year for their cotton jackets, &c., something like 1,000,000,000 francs, or nearly treble the usual peace prices. Other countries, also, had an interest in the reestablishment of peace correspondent to the amount of cotton clothing consumed by their respective populations—which was in Belgium, as in France, 4 pounds per head, in Spain, 2½ pounds per head, while in Russia and Italy together the consumption scarcely exceeded 1 pound per head. In the United Kingdom the consumption was 9 pounds per head. The deputation would therefore submit that the Governments of France, Belgium, and Spain had a special interest in acceding to any proposals which Her Majesty's Government might in its wisdom and humanity be pleased to make tending to the reestablishment of peace between the belligerents in North America.

Mr. Spence, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society, said the deputation was devoid of any party character, and would chiefly urge the plea of humanity. At the present moment, if to the battle-fields in Virginia and Georgia were added all the other points at which blood was being shed throughout the vast area, we should probably find that the total destruction of human life was at the rate of 10,000 a week, or half a million a year. And if to this were added the amount of woe befalling orphans, parents, and wives, the sum total of human destruction and misery was such as impelled an effort to bring it to an end. There were also grave evils that would result from a protraction of the war. The shock to the cotton trade had been endured and surmounted, but that trade was left, and now stood, in a most dangerous position. We had present prosperity, but it was based on an artificial and inflated price, and the longer the war lasted, and the wider the ramifications of our trade on this treacherous basis, the more disastrous and dangerous would be the reaction when the day for it arrived. And assuming a separation to be inevitable, it was essentially in the interests of all that each Power should command the respect of the others, and be able to take its proper part in the affairs of the world. Future peace would greatly depend on some degree of equality in power. This could not be if the war must needs go on till it ended through the exhaustion of one of the belligerents. If that exhaustion befell the South, all the old evils of the Union would return, but aggravated a hundredfold by the military power and spirit now developed. If that exhaustion befell the North, it was probable that a disruption would occur among the Northern States, a source of future discord, as destroying those relative proportions which were essential to future peace. The present period was eminently favourable to such an effort as was suggested. In the present posture of affairs the voice of Europe, calmly expressed, could not fail to have its influence. We were urged to inaction by assurances that little time would be needed. Over and over again the period of 90 days was to be final. No less than four years had now been given for this terrible experiment, and it had been tried in vain. The question now before the North was whether or not to continue the disastrous effort. There was a peace party, and it was growing, but it had no rallying point. The action now urged would give them a pivot on which to form, not, indeed, the action of England alone, which was to be deprecated altogether, but that to be taken conjointly by several leading Powers. With such assistance the peace party would rapidly gather strength and numbers, and thus we might reach the issue all desired. And there was a contingency that could not be overlooked with safety. Whether right or wrong, there did exist in the South a feeling of exasperation on the subject of the policy adopted in this country, and if it should happen that terms of peace should be offered and accepted by the South while under this feeling, it might readily be imagined that such terms might be directly aimed, not only at our interests, but our peace and safety. After alluding to the nature of the struggle and the heroic defence of their soil by the people of the South, Mr. Spence said that the deputation felt it a Christian duty to urge that some effort should be made, whatever might be its form, to influence the termination of this deplorable strife.

Mr. Marsh, M.P., wished to call his Lordship's attention to the fact that the opinion that an attempt at mediation would be attended with good results was not confined to England, but was shared by the whole of the South, the peace party of the North, and by the nations of the European Continent.

Mr. Danby Seymour, M.P., said he joined the deputation entirely on principles of humanity, and without the slightest bias towards either of the belligerents; he was unwilling to see slavery flourish, but he was equally unwilling to see a nation forced to submit to a government which they detested.

The Rev. W. W. Malet said that his experience, gained from a visit both to the Federal and Confederate States during the war, and from intercourse with all classes of persons both in the North and the South, was that there was a general weariness of the war and a desire for peace.

Lord Palmerston, in reply, said that two facts were abundantly clear—viz., that the war was cruelly destructive to the Americans themselves, and the inconvenience caused by it to other nations was excessive. The question remained, whether the Government had any rational ground for supposing that the Federal Government would listen to any proposals of mediation at the present moment. There was an old couplet—

> They who in quarrels interpose
> Will often wipe a bloody nose.

He was not afraid of a bloody nose, but he feared that premature efforts would only have the effect of exasperating the North, and making it more difficult, when the passions were a little calmed, to effect the object all must have in view. The Government was led to think, from all accounts that reached them, that this was not the moment at which any mediatory proposals could be usefully made. Each party was equally confident of ultimate success, and the North especially jealous of interference. If, however, at any future time, reasonable ground could be shown for supposing that friendly suggestions would be listened to, Her Majesty's Government would be happy to use their efforts to arrive at such a desirable result as that of terminating this unhappy war.

Admiral Anson, the chairman of the society, having thanked his Lordship for his courtesy, the deputation withdrew.

The *Echo of Poland*, a journal which represents at New York the interests of that nationality, publishes the following document:—'An Address to the Senate of the United States and to the House of Representatives in Congress assembled: We, the undersigned citizens or inhabitants of the United States, think it our duty to bring the following facts under your notice. You cannot but know that for more than a year past the kingdom of Poland has been making war upon Russia for the purpose of regaining its independence. Before the explosion of this war, a large number of Poles had been compelled by violence to submit to the Russian recruiting laws and to serve as soldiers or sailors. Many of these Poles were serving on board the Russian ships which came into the ports of the United States during the last and the present year; they immediately left a service which was odious to them, and enlisted in the Federal army. They fought under the flag of the Union and shed their blood for America, as their countrymen, Kosciuszko and Pulawski, had done in times gone by. We now learn from an authentic source that many of these Poles were claimed by Russian agents as subjects of the Czar and deserters, and have been handed over by the officers under whom they served, taken across the territories of the Union, and put on board Russian vessels. If this proceeding were only a strict execution of an American law or of an international treaty, or even if it were in conformity with the general laws and usages of international right, we could only bow, and lament the lot of our unfortunate countrymen. But we are assured, and we firmly believe, that this conduct is not only not in conformity with any American law, but, further, that it is a violation both of the statutes of the country and of every international law and custom. For this reason we address ourselves to you. What is done cannot be undone. Milawski and other Poles who trusted in the protection of the American flag, and who have fought under the shadow of it, have been delivered, as we have already stated, and have already suffered the penalties of desertion. But there are other Poles in the service of the United States who have as yet escaped the eyes of the Russian agents. It is on their behalf that we now appeal to your sense of honour and justice.' The signatures of a large body of natives and foreigners are attached.

GENERAL LEE'S DESPATCHES.—The following official despatches have been published:- 'Headquarters, Army of Northern Virginia, June 25, 1864.—Honourable Secretary of War.—Sir: General W. H. F. Lee pursued the enemy's cavalry which advanced along the Southside Railroad. He had a skirmish on the 22nd, near Dinwiddie Court House, and the next day struck their column in flank, near Black's and White's, cutting it in two, and getting possession of the road by which they were moving towards Nottoway Court House. The road was held after an engagement which continued from 12 M. until dark, the enemy making repeated attempts to break through and rejoin his advance. He withdrew from General Lee's front at daylight on the 24th, leaving his dead and wounded on the field, taking the road to Hungarytown and Keysville. General Lee is still following them.—Very respectfully, R. E. LEE, General.'——'Headquarters, Army of Northern Virginia, June 25, 9.30 P.M.—General Hampton reports that the enemy's cavalry advanced yesterday to Nance's Shop, and entrenched themselves there. He attacked them and drove them from their works, pursuing them until 9 P.M. to within two miles of Charles City Court House. They left their dead and wounded on the field and along the route. Great credit is due to General Hampton and his command for their handsome success.—Very respectfully, R. E. LEE, General.'

Colonel Archer Ewing died in Atlanta on the 16th June.

The yellow fever has appeared at Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

THE FEDERAL DISASTER BEFORE PETERSBURG: A NORTHERN ACCOUNT.

(From the *Philadelphia Age.*)

WE are able to give our readers a correct history of the Federal disaster in front of Petersburg on Wednesday last. On Tuesday (June 21) Grant's line extended around Petersburg from the north-east to the south-east. Brooks' corps was on the northern flank, and with Smith's corps held the Federal line north of the Appomattox. Wright was on the south bank of the Appomattox. Hancock was south of Wright, Burnside south-east of Hancock, and Warren on the southern flank. Warren's line extended a short distance across the Petersburg and Norfolk railroad, south-east of the town. On Tuesday Grant began a complicated movement. Just above the neck on which Bermuda Hundred stands there is a second neck formed by the winding course of the James River. On the north side of the river, opposite the end of the neck, a small stream, called Four Mile Creek, empties. It is about three miles above Bermuda Hundred and Malvern Hill. On Monday night a pontoon bridge had been laid across the James to the mouth of the creek, and the ironclads were brought up above the bridge. The various movements then began. One division of Brooks' corps was detached, under command of General Foster. Foster marched from the works in front of Bermuda Hundred to the bridge, crossed it, and, accompanied by the ironclads, went about two miles up the north bank of the James. No enemy was seen, and he halted at the Kingsland road, a road which runs from the James above Four Mile Creek to the village of New Market, near Malvern Hill. The ironclads anchored in the river near him, and he began the construction of an earthwork. This work is on the north bank of the river, opposite the end of Butler's line of forts on the south bank. A fleet of sunken stone vessels connects the two. The work is twelve miles from Richmond, and was made necessary by the fear of the Confederates planting batteries on that side which could throw shells across the stream into Butler's camp. Foster was not molested whilst digging, though various reconnoitring parties of the enemy made their appearance. Whilst Foster was crossing the James, General Smith with his entire corps marched to the Appomattox and crossed to the south side, from which he had come only a day or two before. This left but two divisions at Bermuda Hundred, under Brooks, to defend Butler's long line. It was late on Tuesday afternoon when Smith reached Wright's and Hancock's camps, on the south side of the Appomattox. Wright and Hancock drew their troops out of the works, and Smith marched in. Wright and Hancock went to the rear, and early on Wednesday morning started westward towards the Weldon Railroad, running south from Petersburg, and the Danville Railroad, running south-west from Richmond. Warren marched after them. Burnside and Smith were left in front of Petersburg. Wright and Hancock were thus in a very dangerous position. They were stretched out in long columns, crossing the various roads running from Petersburg at right angles, with the flank exposed to Confederate attacks. General Lee at once took advantage of it. He sent a column down the Weldon Railroad, and another down the Jerusalem road, which is east of the railroad. The Confederates on the Weldon Railroad entrenched themselves in front of Wright, so that he could not reach the road. The Federal cavalry, however, by making a détour of about ten miles south of Wright, reached the railroad and tore up the track. Wright, finding the enemy in his front, halted the troops. At once, the other Confederate column crossing down the Jerusalem road, attacked Hancock's flank. Hancock's troops were surprised. They broke and in confusion retired southwards. The enemy penetrated between the divisions and even the brigades. Warren came up as hastily as possible, but found the enemy entrenched on ground taken from Hancock. In less than an hour 1,000 Federal prisoners and 4 guns were captured, and 1,500 were killed and wounded. Far in the rear General Birney, who had command of Hancock's troops, rallied them. Night came on and prevented any pursuit by the Confederates. Whilst Hancock was attacked, Wright, who was confronted by the enemy on the railroad, was also assaulted. He could not go to Hancock's assistance, for the enemy, in large numbers, came down upon his advance from the railroad embankment. The skirmishers retreated upon the main body. The enemy passed on, got into Wright's rear, and captured the greater part of two regiments. Wright at once ordered a retreat. Attacking the enemy with part of his force to cover the movement, his corps retired to the position taken by Hancock. Here both corps dug rifle-pits to protect themselves. The darkness, however, prevented any Confederate attacks. These disasters compelled the abandonment of the expedition.

We know not whether it was in pure fun, or with an *arrière-pensée* of malice, that *Punch*, in his number for this week, has published the following poetical comments on a reform lately made in the Navy List. If they were written in the latter spirit, we may say they are not less cutting than deserved. Our readers who are unacquainted with the technicalities of our Admiralty language, should know that the English navy was, up to a few weeks past, divided into the Red, White, and Blue Squadrons, which ranked in the order in which they are mentioned, red having the priority as the national and most noble colour. In the new arrangement, however, the order is almost inverted: our war navy is to show the *white* flag, while our merchants are to display the *red* banner of England, as the fittest representatives of the nation. Truly we *are* a nation of shopkeepers!—

THE NEW COLOURS.
A Nursery Sea-Song.

So we've done with the Red, White, and Blue,
And we've done with the Red, White, and Blue,
For we hear from Lord Clarence,
The nautical Barons
Have made an arrangement that 's new.

Her Majesty's ensign is White,
Yes, Her Majesty's ensign is White,
And ships of all nations,
Must make salutations,
Whenever that flag comes in sight.

But what have you done with the Blue?
And what have you done with the Blue?
That colour is handed
To vessels commanded
And manned by Reserve-Men so true.

Then who shall display the bold Red?
And who shall display the bold Red?
Bold Merchants, whose story
Is England's true glory,
Shall hoist the proud flag. Go to bed.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

The Foreign Office has officially notified Captain Halsted, R.N., Secretary, Lloyd's, that the blockade of the German ports is raised to the 31st inst.

SHIPS ARRIVED.

AT LIVERPOOL.—July 14: The Helen Sophia, from Demerara. The Halswell, The British Queen (steamer), from Havre. The Gezina, from Rio Grande. The Braganza (steamer), from Oporto. July 15: The Excelsior, from Havre. The Lady Douglas, from Pernambuco. July 16: The Kepler (steamer), from River Plate.—July 17: The Relampago, from Pernambuco. The Frankfort (steamer), from Lisbon. July 18: The Elizabeth Ray, from Rio Janeiro.—July 19: The Burdeos y Habana, from Manilla. The Ouda, from Buenos Ayres. The Amy, from Nassau. July 20: The Pink, from Nassau.—The steamer Tasmanian, from St. Thomas, brings intelligence of the loss of a well-known Liverpool trader, the ship Ann Best. She was reported by last mail as loading at Demerara for this port. By this arrival we learn that on beating out of the river Essequibo, on her homeward passage, she struck on a rock, and became so leaky that she immediately sank. No attempts had, up to the latest news, been made to lift her, and she lay in eighteen feet of water. She is a colonial-built vessel, having been constructed expressly for the West India trade, at Quebec, in 1841, and is the property of Mr. T. Carr, of this port.

AT GRAVESEND.—July 14: The Treasure, for Oporto. The Cadiz (steamer), from Cadiz. The Azorian, from Teneriffe. The Neptune (steamer), from Havre.—July 15: The Indefatigable, from Havana. The Gibraltar (steamer), from Cadiz. The Alphid, from Havana.—July 16: The Columbine, from Nassau. The Agatha, from Havre.—July 17: The Amazon (steamer), The Rover (steamer), from Lisbon. The Moskwa, from Havana.—July 18: The Volunteer (steamer), from Cadiz. The City of Hamburgh (steamer), from Havre.—July 19: The Sidney Hall (steamer), from Lisbon. The Torbay Lass, from Nassau. The Samson (steamer), from Oporto. The Peninsula (steamer), from Cadiz. The Turku, from Havana.

AT FALMOUTH.—July 15: The Aurora, from Porto Rico. The Santiago, from Mauritius, for Havre.—July 17: The Hebe, from Bahia.—July 18: The Clio, from Demerara. The Florence Nightingale, from Havana. The Crown, from Matanzas.—July 19: The Johann Gottfried, from Bahia. The Spitfire, from Trinidad. The Runner, from Havana. The Hetty Ellen, from Matanzas. The Astrea, from Bahia. The Iris, The Henry Woolley, from Havana. The Astrid, from Bahia. The Sea-Bird, The Catherine, from Rio Grande. The Asuncion, from Cuba. The Hesse Darmstadt, from Havana.—July 20: The Arab, from Cuba. The Due Sorelle, from Montevideo. The True Blue, from Porto Cabello.

AT KINGROAD.—July 14: The Julia, from Havana.—July 15: The Northern Light, from Havana.

AT PLYMOUTH.—July 19: The Esmeralda, from Bahamas.

AT BRISTOL.—July 14: The Isabella Ridley, from Trinidad. The Pioneer (steamer), from Cadiz.—July 18: The Elizabeth Yeo, from Quebec. The schooner Sally and Ann, arrived at this port, saw the masts of a sunken vessel apparently six or eight feet above the water, July 6, in the Bristol Channel (at low water), bearing from Hedwicks Light-vessel S.E. by E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. about one mile, and in the track of vessels bound either up or down.

AT QUEENSTOWN.—July 14: The Mary for Montevideo (leaky). July 17: The Whydah from Rio Grande. The Hope (steamer) for Nassau. July 18: The Southern Eagle, The Australia from Callao. July 19: The Gertrude from River Plate. The Giuseppe from Montevideo. The Hippolyte from Matanzas. The Mary Anne and Jane, The Jacoba from Demerara. The Ella (steamer) for Bermuda. July 20: The Marcello from Porto Rico. The Gertruida Jacoba from Parana.

AT BERWICK.—July 14: The San Jose from Bilboa.

AT TORBAY.—July 19: The Symmetry, The Star of Peace from Pomeroon.

AT SUNDERLAND.—July 14: The Surprise from Havre, July 15: The Jeune Adele, The Jane from Havre. July 16: The Eclipse from Havre.

AT BRIDLINGTON BAY.—July 14: The Deborah, from Havre.

AT NEWPORT.—July 14: The Mayfield, for Santos. The Chilian Packet, for Buenos Ayres. The James Holmes, for St. Thomas.—July 16: The Nathalie, for St. Thomas. The Lampeyrouse, for Buenos Ayres. The Storfurst, for Havana. July 18: The Etienne Marie, for Bilboa. The St. François, for St. Thomas.

AT CLYDE.—July 14.—The Mentor, from Havana. The Othello, from Pernambuco.—July 15: The Rokeby (steamer), from Oporto.—July 16: The Fanny, from Havana.—July 18: The Avalon, from Trinidad. The Dante, from Pernambuco.—July 19: The Harbinger, from Matanzas. The Blanch (steamer), from Havre.

AT SHIELDS.—July 14: The Hortense Sidonie, from Pomeroon.—July 15: The Effort, from Havre.

AT STOCKTON.—July 15: The Queen, from Quebec.

AT SALCOMBE.—July 16.—The Warbler, from Porto Rico.—July 19: The Queen of the West, from Pomeroon.

OFF SCILLY.—July 14: The Havre, from Trinidad. The Henry Woolley, from Havana (damaged). The Dundrennan, from Porto Rico. The Fortunato, The Coniston, from Oporto.

OFF SOUTH FORELAND.—July 15: The Prinses Amelie, for Montevideo.

OFF THE START.—July 15: The Hermann Izaak, for Curacao. The Antelope, for Matamoras. The Levant, for Pernambuco.

CHANNEL.—July 14: The Delta, The Lisette, from Buenos Ayres.

AT SWANSEA.—July 17: The Belle, from Teneriffe. The Lily, from Bilboa.

AT CARDIFF.—July 18: The Royal Tar, The Egeria, from Bilboa.

AT DUBLIN.—July 17: The W. Connal (steamer), from Havre.

AT WHITEHAVEN.—July 18: The Zante Packet, from Jamaica.

AT STRANGFORD.—July 16: The Alma, from Miramichi.

AT DUNDEE.—July 18: The Fairy from Havre.

AT HULL.—July 18: The Hawk (steamer) from Havre.

SHIPS SAILED.

GRAVESEND.—July 14: The Oporto for Lisbon. The Cadiz (steamer) for Cadiz.—July 15: The Tartar (steamer) for Lisbon.—July 16: The Anna for Buenos Ayres. The Bilboa (steamer) for Bilbao.—July 18: The Amelia for Berbice. The Memphis, The Sunbeam for Quebec. July 20, The Ruckers for Demerara. The Star of the East, for Nassau.

LIVERPOOL.—July 14: The Hope (steamer) for Nassau. The Allan, The Bona Ventura, The T. & J. Rees, The Belgian (steamer), The Great Britain for Quebec. The Athete for Valparaiso. The David Harrison for Rio Janeiro. The Adelaide for Cienfuegos. The Johnstone for Demerara. The Kelvin for Cuba. July 15: The Tres Hermanos for Cuba. The Pride of the South for St John's.—July 16: The Braganza (steamer) for Lisbon. The Thora for St Thomas. The Powerful (steamer) for Bermuda. July 18: The Linda for Bahia. The Empire for Havana. The Ernestine for Bermuda. The St. Patrick (steamer) for Montreal. The Ocean for Quebec. The Queen for Montevideo. The Aquila for Rio Grande. The Hermione for Pernambuco.—July 19: The Advice for Quebec.

The Alexandra left the Mersey on Sunday for Nassau with a general cargo. She is now called the Mary, and is to trade between the Mersey and Nassau.

AT DEAL.—July 14: The Maria y Juana, for Havana. July 15: The Oporto (steamer), for Lisbon.—July 16: The Seagull, for Havre. July 18: The Jane Goodyear, for Bermuda. The India, for Quebec. The Theodore, for Quebec.—July 19: The Sunbeam, for Quebec. The Amelia, for Quebec. The Useful, for Cuba. The Gethsemane, for Oporto.

SOUTHAMPTON.—July 18: The Shannon (steamer), for West Indies.

DOVER.—July 14: The Iphigenie, for Lisbon.

DARTMOUTH.—July 14: The Francesco, for Genoa.

NEWPORT.—July 14: The Conrad, for Pernambuco. The Ellen Morrow, for Buenos Ayres. The Lillian (steamer), for Madeira.—July 16: The Fortune, for Bilboa.

MARYPORT.—July 14: The Gertrude, for Quebec.

LIMERICK.—July 14: The Ward Chipman, for Quebec.

LOUGH FOYLE.—July 14: The North American (steamer), for Quebec.

SHIELDS.—July 14: The Omega, for Quebec.—July 15: The Camelia, for Quebec.—July 18: the Iron King, for Rio Plate. The Susquehanna, for Quebec. The Rosevean, for Pomeroon.

SUNDERLAND.—July 14: The Frederick Retzlaff, for St. John's.—July 15: The Trafalgar, for Quebec.—July 16: The Retriever, for Quebec.—July 17: The Ste. Fleur, for Bilboa.

DARTMOUTH.—July 15: The British Empire, for Quebec.

PADSTOW.—July 15: The Albert, for Quebec.

CARNARVON.—July 14: The Volent for Quebec.

TROON.—July 15: The Catharine Duckwitz, for Cuba.

CLYDE.—July 14: The Virginia, for Quebec.—July 15: The Wandsworth, The Onward, for Quebec.—July 16: The Bannockburn, The Britannia, The Glencairn, The Ailsa, for Quebec.

QUEENSTOWN.—July 15: The Colina, The Eliza Keith, for Quebec. The Elsie (steamer), for Bermuda.—July 19: The Active, for Lisbon.

GRANGEMOUTH.—July 15: The Mary Leonhard, for Quebec.

LEITH.—July 15: The Cornelia, for Quebec.

ABERDEEN.—July 15: The Jane Boyd, The Alexander Hall, for Quebec.

CARDIFF.—July 14: The Maid of Athens, for Pernambuco.—July 15: Joseph Brehier, for Cuba. The European, for Quebec. The Eliza, for Cadiz. The Panope, for Lisbon.—July 16: The Agnes C. James, for Bermuda.—July 17: The Attila, for Madeira.

AYR.—July 14: The Minerva, for St. John's.

WATERFORD.—July 15: The Dunbrody, for Quebec.—July 16: The Boreas, The Albinus, for Quebec.

PORTSMOUTH.—July 16: The Bankfisken, for Havana.

PLYMOUTH.—July 16: The Victoria, for St. John's.

YOUGHAL.—July 14: The Nameless, for Miramichi.—July 15: The George and Philip, for Quebec.

EXMOUTH.—July 15: The James Crosbie, for Quebec.

FOWEY.—July 18: The Gladstone, for Quebec.

JERSEY.—July 15: The Fox, for Cadiz.

SWANSEA.—July 17: The Deerslayer, for Valparaiso.—July 18: The Slains Castle, for Cuba.

GLASSON DOCK.—July 15: The Mayo, for Quebec.—July 16: The Mary Ann, for Quebec.

CORK.—July 16: The Active, for Lisbon.

TARBERT.—July 19: The Primrose, for Quebec.

SALCOMBE.—July 19: The Stork, for Madeira.

PILL.—July 18: The Queen, for Quebec.

SHIPS LOADING.

AT LONDON.—For New York: The Washington (mail steamer) from Havre, July 27: Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For West Indies: The Floride (mail steamer) from St. Nazaire, August 16; Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For Nassau: The Rhoda, St. Katharine's Docks; J. Worley.—For Montevideo and Buenos Ayres: The Jeannette Marianne; Davison Brothers & Co.—For Bermuda: The Bonny Belle, The Jane Smith, The Ionian Belle, The Only Son, The Trio.—For Havre: The Neptune (steamer), St. Katharine's Wharf, July 24, 12 noon. The Young May.

AT LIVERPOOL.—For Bermuda: The Mavrogadatos (steamer), August 6; H. Lafone.—For Madeira: The Macgregor Laird (steamer).—For Matamoras: The Ruth.—For Nassau: The Wilsons.

A new ironclad ram, in course of construction at Bordeaux, is just now exciting considerable attention. This vessel, named the Sphinx, is of the following dimensions:—Length, 52 metres; breadth, 10 metres; depth of hold, 5 metres 20 centimetres; height of batteries, 2 metres 30 centimetres; and draft of water 4 metres 40 centimetres. She is armour-plated from the deck to 1 metre 80 centimetres below the water-line, with iron plates 10, 11, and 12 centimetres thick, according to their position. Her prow is furnished with a formidable steel beak, placed several metres below the water-line. Her deck is coated with thin iron plating between the beams and planking, and is surmounted by two ironclad towers of great resisting power. The forward tower mounts a pivot gun of enormous calibre, capable of discharging a shot of 800 pounds weight, and the other two 70-pounder pivot guns of long range. She will be propelled by twin screws, worked by engines of 300-horse power.

'EXCEEDINGLY SATISFACTORY.'—Reporting on General Wilson's expedition, Mr. Stanton wrote:—'Wilson's loss of property is a small wagon train used to carry ammunition, his ambulance train, and twelve cannon.' Commenting on Mr. Stanton's report, the *New York Herald* says: 'The latest news from Wilson's cavalry expedition is exceedingly satisfactory.'

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

The money market during the past week has become firmer. The demand for accommodation at the Bank, as well as amongst the brokers, has been rather more urgent, but without anything like severe pressure. Out of doors the terms have advanced to 5⅞ and 6 per cent., the latter being still the Bank minimum. These high rates, with the continued withdrawal of gold for transmission abroad, and the absence of [illegible] which is now regarded with some [illegible] with respect to the issue of the approaching harvest, [illegible] will compel the Bank directors at no distant period to advance their terms for discount. [illegible] has been some little anxiety felt by the announcement of the stoppage of the Eastern Bank of England, whose chief office is at Norwich; but the affair is not likely to cause much injury, an arrangement having been announced only a few days ago for its amalgamation with one of the Joint-stock Banks. There is a good supply of money in all quarters, and the Joint-stock Banks are [illegible] with their resources at 5¼ and 5½ per cent. In the early part of the week money was very easy on the Stock Exchange, but to-day there has been more demand, and the rates are up to 5 and 5½ per cent.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The transactions in bullion and specie continue to be of an advanced character, and there appears some probability that it may continue so for some little time. There has not been any gold sent into the Bank this week, whilst the withdrawals have amounted to not less than 405,000*l.*, the greater portion of which has been taken for Spain. The arrivals of specie this week have been very trifling, and it is anticipated that what may reach this country will for a time be purchased for transhipment. The Ceylon steamer takes out 92,873*l.* for the East, of which 2,000*l.* in gold and 15,000*l.* in silver are for Madras, the remainder being chiefly in silver for China and the Straits. The demand for bar silver is not very active, and the price remains nominally at 61$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* per oz., the price obtained for the supplies by the *Tasmanian*. Mexican dollars are very scarce; the small quantity brought by the last mail have been sold at 64*d.* per oz., being at the same rate as those disposed of by the previous packet.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The English stock market has not exhibited any great degree of activity during the week; nevertheless, the transactions have been rather more numerous, but very little alteration has taken place in prices, but the tendency has been towards increased firmness. Business is still to a great extent limited by the unsettled state of affairs on the Continent, and will, in all probability, remain so till something definite is settled with regard to the Danish question. Consols closed this evening at 90$\frac{1}{2}$ to 90$\frac{5}{8}$ ex. div. for money, and 90$\frac{3}{4}$ to 90$\frac{7}{8}$ ex. div. for the account, which, as contrasted with last week, is an improvement of about $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Exchequer bills continue unchanged, the March issue at 8*s.* to 3*s.* dis., and those of June at 5*s.* dis. to par. The foreign stock market is fairly supported both as regards dealings and prices; the tendency generally is good, but the advance is only fractional, except in Turkish, which show an improvement of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 per cent. The market, however, closed rather flat this evening. Greek being at 24$\frac{3}{8}$ to 24$\frac{5}{8}$; Mexican, 29$\frac{1}{4}$ to 29$\frac{1}{2}$; Spanish passives, 28$\frac{3}{8}$ to 28$\frac{7}{8}$; ditto certificates, 10 to 10$\frac{1}{4}$; Turkish Six per cents. of 1854, 91 to 92; and those of 1862, at 69$\frac{1}{2}$ to 70$\frac{1}{4}$ ex. div.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market has been very firm this week, and a large business doing; the price at one moment touched 80; since there has been a slight reaction caused by realisations of profits after the late rapid advance. The closing quotation is 76 to 78.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

Business in American Government and Railway securities continues to be on a very restricted scale, the only exception being in Illinois Central $100 shares, which have been rather pressed upon the market, and which have found purchasers only at constantly receding rates. With this exception, scarcely half-a-dozen transactions have been recorded during the week. Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York section first mortgage have changed hands at 74; ditto, ditto, second mortgage, 70. Erie $100 shares, all paid, 50$\frac{1}{4}$ and 45. Illinois Central, $100 shares, $90 paid, 40$\frac{1}{4}$, 40$\frac{1}{4}$, 38$\frac{3}{4}$, 42, 42$\frac{1}{4}$, 44, 45, 44$\frac{1}{4}$, and 44$\frac{1}{2}$ dis.; ditto, ditto, all paid, 54, 55, and 54.

TENDERS FOR BILLS ON INDIA.

The biddings for 30,00,000 rupees in bills on India took place to-day at the Bank of England. The proportions allotted were, to Calcutta 17,10,000 rupees, to Bombay 12,00,000 rupees, and to Madras 90,000 rupees. The minimum price was as before 1*s.* 11$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* per rupee on Calcutta and Madras, and 1*s.* 11$\frac{3}{4}$*d.* on Bombay. The applications within the limits amounted to 180 lacs. Tenders on Calcutta and Madras at 1*s.* 11$\frac{3}{4}$*d.* will receive about 16 per cent., on Bombay at 2*s.*, about 65 per cent. and all above those prices in full.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

There has on the whole been a good business transacted in British Railway shares, and, with but very few exceptions, arising from special circumstances, prices show a considerable improvement. To-day the market has not been quite so brisk, and quotations are hardly so buoyant as they were. As compared with last week there has been a rise of 6 per cent. in Glasgow and South Western; of 4 per cent. in Chatham and Dover and North Staffordshire; of 2$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Caledonian; of 2 per cent. in Edinburgh and Glasgow, London and Blackwall, North-Eastern (Leeds), Scottish North-Eastern, and Shropshire Union; of 1$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in North-Eastern (Berwick), of 1 per cent. in North-Eastern (York), and North London; of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. in Great-Western, and of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in London and Brighton, London and North-Western, London and South-Western, Sheffield, Metropolitan, Midland and North British. On the other hand there has been a decline of 2$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Great-Eastern, and of 1 per cent. in Lancashire and Yorkshire, and West Cornwall. In Foreign shares a moderate business has been transacted, at slightly improved quotations, and in those of the British possessions rather more has been doing, and Canadian and Indian descriptions show more firmness.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES, ETC.

At the half-yearly meeting of the City Bank, the report, which was unanimously adopted, stated that the liabilities and assets, and the profit and loss account for the six months ending June 30, show a net profit of 57,960*l.*, and which enables the directors to declare the usual dividend of 6 per cent. per annum upon the paid-up capital, and a bonus of 3*l.* 10*s.*

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Lafayette (s.)	Wednesday, December 14

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LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK: July 13, 1864.

THE CONFEDERATES IN MARYLAND—INDISPOSITION OF THE MILITIA TO OBEY MR. LINCOLN'S CALL—THE 'ALABAMA'—MR. WELLES'S LETTER—THE DOME OF ST. PAUL'S THREATENED—THE DEMAND FOR THE SURRENDER OF CAPTAIN SEMMES—THE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES—KENTUCKY—THE RECONSTRUCTION ACT—MR. LINCOLN IGNORES THE ACTION OF CONGRESS—CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.

THERE is a marvellous change in the face of the war. Grant's campaign for the possession of Richmond has come to a dead stop; after losing the best part of his army, he is sitting, or supposed to be sitting, in trenches before Petersburg, while Lee is frightening the North with the approaches of a Confederate army upon Washington and Baltimore. You may learn from the papers as much as is really known here of the strength and the objects of this invasion, which is very little: neither the press nor the Government appears to have any accurate knowledge of what is going on, nor plans for defence. What is certain is that the Confederates, satisfied of the security of Richmond, have sent a considerable force across the Potomac at several points—rumour says at least forty thousand men, and more coming—and that they are doing very much as they please in Maryland. They have occupied Harper's Ferry, and Frederick, and Hagerstown, and Westminster, and Newmarket, and other small towns, without serious obstruction. One of their columns encountered a force of ten thousand Federal troops under General Wallace, at the Monocacy, and drove them back, capturing the Federal General Tyler. By yesterday parties of them had reached to within seven miles of Washington City and six miles of Baltimore, cutting the telegraph wires and destroying the railroads, so as to interrupt all communication between the North and the cities of Baltimore and Washington. On Monday they captured two passenger-trains between Baltimore and Philadelphia, and got among the prisoners Major-General Franklin. Having command, by gunboats, of the crossings of the Susquehannah River, communications are to be opened by water. This morning we do not know what is going on in Maryland; we only know that a great panic seems to prevail, and that if there be really a great force of veteran Confederates in Maryland, they will find few disciplined troops to resist them until a part of Grant's army is recalled for the defence of the capital. It has been surmised that it is part of the plan of General Lee to complete the defeat of General Grant by compelling the Government to withdraw his army back on the Potomac again.

The militia have been called out to repel this invasion; but they come so scantily in numbers, and with such reluctance, that it is perfectly evident that the people are thoroughly sick of the war. They will not come out, even in their own defence, at the imploring call of the authorities, and they can hardly be persuaded or forced to go to the defence of their neighbours. Governor Bradford, of Maryland, has issued a complaining address, in which he reproaches the people of Maryland for not responding freely to the call to arms, and with wasting time 'disgracefully' in trying to find 'an excuse for skulking.' Hard words these from the governor of an invaded State, invoking the inhabitants to take up arms in their own defence! Governor Curtin, of Pennsylvania, has issued proclamation after proclamation to hurry up the militia, which will not come as they are called, and a third time reliance is placed on New York—and mostly on the city of New York and the vicinity—to send its organised and volunteer militia to the defence of Pennsylvania and Maryland, Baltimore and Washington. This time the demand is met with murmurs and resistance. New York City considers herself grievously oppressed by these repeated demands for extraordinary service at distant places from which the interior counties are exempted. The soldiers have no taste for going to the wars at all for anybody, and they have a particular distaste to going to Pennsylvania, where they were so ungratefully treated on their last expedition to defend Harrisburg against Lee's former advance. Governor Seymour, of this State, has been very active in endeavouring to furnish the troops the general Government wants, and the regiments required to go have been designated. The instinct of discipline impels many of the officers to consent to go, although some of them demand conditions and explanations, and dispute the right of any authority, State or Federal, to compel the State militia to go beyond the bounds of the State. The repugnance of the men to go is openly declared, and no regiment can rely upon half its proper numbers to enable it to march. Volunteers must be got up; and, if this process is too slow, drafting is threatened in order to fill up the ranks. It is a significant indication of the under-current of popular feeling in regard to the war, that several of the officers, in presenting to the soldiers inducements to consent to go out on this call, took great pains to assure them that they are not wanted to make an attack on the Confederates, but to defend their own capital.

Mayor Gunther has interposed another powerful plea against the removal of the volunteer militia from the city of New York at this time. He advises Major-General Sanford (of the State troops) that it would be extremely unsafe, in the present condition of affairs, to leave New York without an ample domestic force to suppress riots. He distinctly avers that the effect of the measures of the general Government, and the consequences of war, have so inflamed the minds of the poorer classes, that riots may at any time be apprehended, and that in the absence of the military he cannot answer for the preservation of peace or the protection of property. Very little help, therefore, is Mr. Lincoln, or Governor Curtin, or Governor Bradford, likely to get from New York this time. If the Confederates be as strong in Maryland as the excitement in the public mind leads one to think not improbable, the safety of Washington and Baltimore can only be secured by the speedy return of Grant and his army.

The conduct of the Confederates in the captured places this time is variously represented. The press correspondents in general, of course, say that they are robbing and carrying off plunder indiscriminately; others speak of their general forbearance to touch private property, and abstinence from the destruction of towns or houses. There have been some exceptions to this, but the exception proves the rule. The house of Governor Bradford, of Maryland, about four miles from Baltimore, was destroyed by direct authority of the Confederate General (Bradley Johnson), as a specific retaliation for the burning of the house of Governor Letcher, of Virginia, by General Hunter, a short time ago. At Hagerstown, a contribution was levied on the town, as a ransom from fire; the Confederate General, McCausland, in making this exaction stated as its justification that General Hunter in his late raid into South-western Virginia had burned every house in his track for *three hundred* miles. A detachment was sent to destroy the house of General Cadwallader as a set-off, perhaps, for the wanton burning by Kilpatrick's orders, in his recent raid in Virginia, of the country house of Mr. Seddon, the Confederate Secretary of War. These are supposed to be exceptional acts, done under official direction, for a specific purpose, and with direct responsibility to the Government. They are no part of that system of universal and indiscriminate devastation and pillage which has marked the track of the invading armies of the North all over the South; and if men shrink from them as opposed to the more humane practices of modern warfare, they cannot fail to admire the forbearance which limits retaliation, by the way of warning, to the punishing of notable personages for notable acts of vandalism.

All Yankeedom has been in ecstasies of joy over the destruction of the *Alabama* by the *Kearsage*. It is a naval victory; they were badly in want of one, and they make the most of it. The Secretary of the Navy has publicly thanked Captain Winslow, and, with the Yankee habit of official boasting, exaggerates the force and misstates the condition of the *Alabama*. He tells that officer of the satisfaction of the Government at the victory 'over a vessel superior in tonnage, superior in number of guns, and superior in the number of her crew'—averments which might have been expected and left to be forgotten in some journal pandering to the greedy vanity of the populace; but in a written communication which is the act of a Government, they are shameful. Everybody in England and France knows that in armour and armament, condition, number of men, and weight of metal, the *Alabama* was overmatched. Captain Winslow is to be made Commodore—perhaps Admiral—for the feat, and Mr. Gideon Welles, the Naval Secretary, is so happy over it, that he holds it up to public admiration as his own vindication from all the charges made against the inefficiencies and mismanagements of his department. He claims, in his complimentary letter to Captain Winslow, that the Americans ought now to be satisfied that, 'in this, as in every naval action of this unhappy war, neither the ships, the guns, nor the crews have deteriorated, but that they maintain the ability and continue the renown which have ever adorned our naval annals.' This is assuredly making the most, for national glorification and the profit of an unpopular department, of a single naval success, wherein there was so little to boast of in superior skill or bravery. You will notice the small spite of the Secretary in writing to Captain Winslow of the *Alabama* as 'a piratical craft,' after the Captain had made a report to him of having paroled the crew as 'prisoners of war.' The occasion has given vent to the popular wrath against England. The presence of the English yacht, and her taking in Captain Semmes and other survivors of the sunken vessel and carrying them as guests into Southampton, is another English offence; and vociferous calls are made upon the Government to demand the delivering up of these men as prisoners of war unlawfully taken from the possession of the *Kearsage*. One enthusiastic journal requires the Government, if this demand should be refused, to send a fleet up the Thames, and 'shake the dome of St. Paul's with the thunder of American cannon.'

Without discussing the question of international law on this subject, which is too clear for question, the British Government may reasonably ask to start fair with the Government of the United States before entertaining this demand. There are a good many British subjects in the United States upon whom the British Government has a much better claim than the United States can have upon Captain Semmes, who was only prisoner constructively, and was never in the possession of the *Kearsage*, and, if left to her care, would probably have been drowned. There is one example, somewhat conspicuous in this city, in Thomas Francis Meagher, who was a prisoner of war—or, more literally, a captured rebel who broke his parole in Australia, and ran away to this country, where he has been made a brigadier-general in the army of the United States, and now supports this war an Irish training for the invasion of England. When the Government of the United States shows itself in earnest in its pretensions, and entitles itself to ask Great Britain to give up Confederates who are there in asylum—were never prisoners, in fact—by tendering to her the person of Brigadier-General Meagher, England may still defer an answer until satisfied on another question or two. For instance, two years ago the Federal blockading fleet before Charleston was attacked by Confederate rams. The United States steamer *Mercedita*, being attacked and beaten, professed to be in a sinking state, and surrendered. The Confederates thereupon paroled the officers. These made off with the vessel they had saved by pretending to be sinking, and when they were demanded by the Confederates to be delivered up as prisoners of war, the Government refused. There are a good many like cases of faithlessness on the part of the Government of the United States, which Great Britain would naturally require to be so explained that reliance may be placed on its future observance of its own rules, even should she consent to debate the point whether she would surrender these men under any circumstances. It is not likely, however, that this Government will listen to popular clamour so far as to make the demand. The *Times* of this city, which is the peculiar representative in the press of the Secretary of State, is almost alone among the New York journals in questioning the right to reclaim these men as prisoners. This may be taken as good indication that the Government does not mean to meddle with the matter in that way. It seems that Captain Winslow has been so indiscreet and so brutal as to require, with threats, the Confederate agent for the *Alabama* at Cherbourg to find out and return to him as prisoners the seamen from the *Alabama* who were saved from drowning, and carried ashore in France by the French pilot-boats. It was a piece of presumption for him to expect that neutral vessels of all nations should act as tenders under his authority, and might not pick up men swimming for their lives without accounting for them to their enemies, who wanted either the power or the inclination to save them. Mr. Dayton will probably think twice before he presents such a demand to the French Government. It is safe to bully a Confederate agent abroad from the deck of a man-of-war, and popular here to abuse the English; but these blustering gentry will let the French Emperor alone.

The retirement of Mr. Chase and the repeal of the Gold Bill were hailed as promising indications of improvement in the financial condition of the Government; but they have not yet given the Treasury any help. There was a vague hope of relief in some way by a change of secretaries and a change of policy, although nobody is able to speak with any degree of confidence of the manner in which the new man will be able to extract order out of the chaos which his predecessor left him. He begins with a title to public confidence in the disinterestedness of his public character, as a man without political aspirations, and entirely disconnected from the corrupt cliques which surrounded Mr. Chase. Mr. Fessenden is a capable and honest man, but what can Mr. Fessenden do? He finds an empty treasury and demands for hundreds of millions of dollars to meet pressing obligations, a current expenditure of not less than a thousand millions of dollars a year to provide for, and prospective revenues of not over three hundred millions; and he has no means for meeting the deficit but by adding new issues of Government paper to a mass already so redundant that it has fallen in value till it is worth less than forty cents in the dollar, gold ranging from 250 to 285; or by borrowing at frightful rates, if he can, under laws which his predecessor pronounced to be insufficient. What can Mr. Fessenden do?

Since Congress adjourned, the President has issued a proclamation putting the whole State of Kentucky under martial law. The grounds for this act of extreme military rigour towards that 'loyal' border State, are, that 'combinations have been formed in the said State of Kentucky for the purpose of inciting the rebel forces to renew the operations of civil war within the said State.' There is no more reason for this charge now than there has been for a long time, in which the State authorities, in concert with the Federal authorities, have been able to maintain government; nor is there any extraordinary condition of affairs there, except, as Mr. Lincoln's adversaries allege, in its political attitude towards his reelection. The opposition to Mr. Lincoln is very strong among the people of Kentucky, and the proclamation of martial law is said to be

the strategy of the candidate, in order to put the elections there under the control of his military dependants. It would have been, three years ago, impossible to credit such a charge against a chief magistrate in this Republic; but Mr. Lincoln has done so much to show that he manages this war, plans campaigns, directs the marching of armies, and orders battles in the interests of party, and for his own aggrandisement as the head of the party, that this subversion by the stroke of a pen of the sovereignty of the State of Kentucky is charged and credited as an electioneering device to enable him to seize the vote of Kentucky.

He has, since that, issued still another proclamation, which assumes to make law and dispense with law at his own discretion, and not to be afraid to proclaim it. Congress, at the recent session, passed an Act, and sent it to the President for his approval, regulating the form of proceeding in the reconstruction of government in rebel States which are subjugated or otherwise reclaimed. The Act contained a pointed and peremptory reversal of the proceedings of the President in Arkansas and Louisiana; and, if he had signed it, would have annulled the 'loyal' Governments he caused to be constructed under the direction of the generals he sent out there at the head of armies of occupation. The President did not sign the Bill, and instead of waiting to give his reasons in the usual form, declares them by proclamation. He therein gives notice that he is unwilling to consent to anything which Congress may do to annul what he has been doing in Louisiana and Arkansas, where he has instituted government on the presumed consent of *one-tenth* of the loyal inhabitants. These must stand, but as to other States, the Bill from Congress makes another system, which he is disposed to think well of in the main as 'a very proper plan,' although he is 'unprepared' to agree to some parts of it. Therefore he will not make it law by signing the Bill, for those parts revoking his acts would be in force, but selects such parts as do not contravene his own position, and tells the country he will put them in force by that executive power which Congress especially designed to shut out from control over the subject. More positive proclamation of executive-made law, or more thorough contempt of constitutional and legislative restrictions, could not be well imagined; yet it scarcely excites comment among the numerous acts of lawlessness with which the history of his administration abounds.

The Canadians have had a centralised government, with a single legislature, exercising authority over an immense territory, and people of various races and interests. The consequences have been sectional parties and bitter contentions and jealousies, which have at last brought government to a deadlock. Ministry after ministry is changed, and the feuds remain unappeased, because no general legislature could possibly satisfy, or do justice to, all the local interests which fall under the sway of that sort of government. The Canadians, therefore, have agreed upon a plan of de-centralisation, to divide Canada in several provinces, to each of which shall be referred all the functions of local self-government, while there is to be a parliament for the purposes of a general government in matters concerning them all. The precisely opposite course is going on in the United States. Here there were States possessed originally of separate powers of self-government over different forms of civilisation and various interests in a vast extent of territory, but committing their common relations among one another and towards foreigners to a general legislature, with few powers strictly defined. The general authority thus created is now engaged in a bloody and devastating war, for the purpose of extinguishing the liberty of self-government in thirteen of the States. To carry out that plan they are constrained to suppress the independent character of the States, and accumulate new and despotic powers for the central head. They are labouring to build up by the military power just that sort of centralisation which the Canadians have tried and are now endeavouring to escape from. The movement in Canada is exactly the reverse of what is going on in the United States, and is an emphatic remonstrance against all projects of annexation to the United States. It aims at division and distribution of power for the preservation of the rights of minorities, in order that diversities may be protected against each other, and brought to work harmoniously together for just government. Here a domineering majority is attempting to crush into impossible uniformity multitudinous interests, and various institutions, and differing forms of labour and types of civilisation extending over a country vastly greater and more populous than Canada.

9 A.M.

The city is full of incredible rumours. One side says Grant has taken Petersburg, and another that Washington has been taken. They are not credited. Richmond is paying off Washington for some of its raids. It is good fun hunting the tiger, but it ceases to be pleasant when the tiger hunts you.

FLOGGING GAROTTERS.—John Croudace and Thomas Allison, who were convicted at the assizes last week of garotte robberies at Sunderland, and sentenced, the former to five years and the latter to ten years' penal servitude, with twenty lashes each, underwent the punishment of flogging at the County Prison on Saturday. The instrument of punishment was manufactured by a sailor, who is undergoing imprisonment in the gaol, expressly for the purpose. The cat is ingeniously composed of nine thongs of stout leather, in each of which are nine knots, and these being connected to a flexible handle, the power, wielded by strong hands, is terrific. At every stroke the knots cut deeply, making flesh and blood fly in every direction. The prisoners were firmly tied up in a reclining position, the lower part of their shoulders exposed, the higher and lower part of their backs being protected by padding. The warders Hodgson and Allison executed their task with the skill of more practised hands. The officials of the gaol were present, but the prisoners were kept in their cells. Hodgson and Allison alternately inflicted ten lashes each on each of the prisoners. The first lash was received with comparative equanimity by each prisoner; but on the second, the yell of deep and excruciating agony which burst forth is represented as indescribable. Their cries continued during the whole of the punishment, and these, together with the sight of the flying flesh and blood, the mangled backs of the sufferers, and the clotted skeins of the cat, made up a spectacle of horror overpowering to those who witnessed it. When the punishment had been inflicted, the prisoners were taken down and removed to the prison infirmary in a state of complete prostration—indeed it is averred that neither of them could have received another lash without the greatest danger. Although the prisoners did not witness the punishment, they could hear the shrieks of the unhappy sufferers in their cells, and it is to be hoped the contemplation of the punishment may have a salutary effect on their minds.—*Durham Chronicle.*

BUSINESS AT NASSAU.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NASSAU, July 4, 1864.

IN a previous letter I spoke of the difficulty, despite the large population of this island, of obtaining the labour necessary to the proper conduct of its commerce, and demonstrated how it is seemingly the rule with the labouring classes to idle away three-fourths of their time, thus rendering the great advance in wages brought about by the war of but little avail in improving their condition. Before blockade times the wages of labour averaged about 10*d.* per diem, now it is 6*s.*, and the week before last a preconcerted strike took place to enforce the demand of 10*s.* Our quiet little community was somewhat livened up by this event, the more so because the most extravagant threats were indulged in, and some few outrages committed. The time, however, was not happily selected, being just at the close of a 'dark moon,' and when but few boats were in port; the movement, therefore, after a day or two died out, work being resumed at the old rates.

Some few cases of yellow fever having occurred here, the authorities at Wilmington are enforcing a rigid quarantine; the consequence is that most of the boats engaged in the Confederate trade have been transferred to Bermuda, where they will continue running during the summer months. This has, of course, had a depressing effect on business; still prices are pretty firmly maintained, a very heavy demand for goods being anticipated early in autumn.

The arrivals have been few since my last writing, nor do we anticipate but one more 'this moon.' One, however, is particularly noticeable—that of the *Little Ada*, a small nine-knot boat. She came out on a clear bright night, when the moon was at its full, and with only pine knots for fuel; she was nearly a week at sea, but brought her cargo in safely. We have had no such barefaced arrival as this since the Charleston dredging machine, the *Moultrie*, successfully ran the blockade with a valuable cargo a few months since—a boat that is now about being devoted to the same uses in our harbour.

The statistics of the 'phantom' commerce for the past month exhibit as follows:—

ARRIVALS.—June 7, *Lucy*, Wilmington: *Edith*, ditto; 14, *Letter B*, ditto; *Fox*, Charleston; 28, *Syren*, Wilmington; 30, *Annie*, ditto; July 2, *Will o' the Wisp*, ditto.

DEPARTURES.—June 8, *Helen*, Wilmington; *Will o' the Wisp*, ditto; 9, *Edith*, ditto; 23, *Fox*, Charleston; 24, *Jupiter*, destination not known; 25, *Lucy*, ditto; 28, *Druid*, ditto; 29, *Letter B*, Wilmington; *Letter Rip*, destination not known; July 2, *Syren*, ditto.

Of the above, all sailing up to the 22nd have arrived, showing sixteen successful runs since date of last table. Of disasters we have but two to record—the *Georgina McCaw* beached, but cargo entirely saved, and it is thought the ship will be also; and the steamer *Rose*. The latter, a very small vessel, was brought out as a despatch boat by Messrs. Alexander Collie & Co., was entirely unadapted to the business, and, after having been unsuccessfully offered for sale during four or five months past, was despatched seemingly in sheer desperation, and unfortunately captured.

While upon this topic, it would be well to state, for the information of builders and other parties interested, that the 'double screw' boats have all performed admirably, and are rapidly coming to be regarded as superior for the purpose required to all other descriptions.

By the arrival of the *Will o' the Wisp* we have received Wilmington dates to the 27th ult., but find them barren of news. It is supposed that Grant, after having done the only thing left him to do—i.e. crossing to the south side of James River—by reason of his numerical force has temporarily succeeded in interrupting communication with Richmond; but the confidence in 'Mars Robert' is so unbounded here, that but little anxiety is felt with regard to the result. Rumour (deemed reliable) has it that General Ewell, with his corps of 25,000 men, disappeared from Lee's army about the 22nd ult., conjecture being equally divided as to whether his destination is Washington or Atlanta. I am inclined to the former opinion. General Johnston seems to be yet following the tactics indicated in my letter of the mail before the last, of delaying a general engagement until something more decisive takes place at Richmond. So far, he has succeeded in inflicting upon the enemy terribly heavy losses, while his own have been very light; the death of General Polk, however, has cast a gloom over the entire community. One thing Johnston is successful in at least, and that is in keeping his own counsel, the press in that section of the country being apparently worse informed with regard to his movements than we are in Nassau. The news from the South-west, without being very definite, is still cheering. Hosts of smaller successes are reported, of which Forrest, West, Adams, Lee, and other gallant soldiers, are the heroes.

A WAR CHRISTIAN.—In a recent speech at New York, 'Parson' Brownlow, a representative 'war Christian,' gave utterance to the following horrible sentiments:—'If I had the power, sir, I would arm and uniform in the Federal habiliments every wolf and panther, and catamount and tiger and bear, on the mountains of America; every crocodile in the swamps of Florida and South Carolina, every negro in the Southern Confederacy, and every devil in hell and pandemonium. This war, I say to you, must be prosecuted with a vim and a vengeance until the rebellion is put down, if it exterminates from the face of God Almighty's green earth every man, woman, and child south of Mason and Dixon's line. (Cheers.) The only way to reach the tender sensibilities of a Southern woman is to get after one of her negroes. Kill her husband—she thanks God he died in a good cause; but steal one of her negroes, she will howl and whine as if the devil himself were after her. You have not felt the effects of the war in the loyal State that you are going to now. I know that little man Grant; he is the right man in the right place. I am willing to see Richmond captured by him; and if I had my choice, I should choose that Richmond and Charleston should be taken alone by negro troops, commanded by "Butler the Beast." Sherman has the finest army in the world—not less than 150,000 men all told. He is gradually advancing into the heart of the Southern States. He will take that country. Grant will take Richmond. And we will crowd the rebels, and will crowd them until, I trust in God, we shall rush them into the Gulf of Mexico, and drown the entire race, as the devil did the hogs in the Sea of Galilee. When we come out of the war we shall come out with 500,000 or 600,000 of the best soldiers, who have got their hand in, and would as soon have their hand in a little longer as not. Then I am in favour of giving old England a turn. (Cheers.) We can whip the Southern Confederacy, we can take in France and England—the whole civilised world; and I want to carry it on until we whip out all God's creation.'

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

ON July 9 the Confederates attacked General Wallace, who had taken up a position at Monocacy Bridge after evacuating Frederick. The Federals sustained a heavy loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners, and retreated to Baltimore in confusion. Mr. Stanton says: 'Our forces were overpowered by the superior numbers of the enemy, and were forced to retreat in disorder, after suffering severe loss.' The Baltimore Correspondent of the *New York World*, writing on July 10, says: 'Besides the troops originally under Sigel, Tyler, and Mulligan, and those that were at first sent from Baltimore, General Wallace was still further reinforced by large bodies of troops that arrived here on Wednesday and Wednesday night. I do not say what troops these were, or how they arrived here, whether by land or by water, or where they came from. But I do assert that, during the whole of Wednesday night, Thursday, and Thursday night, trains were constantly running from here to Frederick crammed full of troops. On the 8th and 9th, General Wallace must have had a force capable of holding in check forty thousand rebels.' General Tyler, several officers, and 1,000 men were captured.

The Confederates cut the telegraph wires, and for a time prevented telegraphic communication with Washington. They stopped railroad communication between Washington, Baltimore, and Philadelphia. They also destroyed nearly all the bridges on the North Central Railroad. The residences of Governor Bradford and General Cadwalader, near Baltimore, and of Mr. F. O. Blair, near Washington, were burnt.

On the 11th the Confederates were reported within six miles of Washington. On the 13th, after making a demonstration against Fort Stephens, which on the military maps is marked about four miles from the city, the Confederates retired from before Washington. An enormous booty had been sent across the Potomac, and was being conveyed to Richmond, not only by wagons, but by the railroads, which Mr. Stanton lately stated had been destroyed. It was reported, as is usual in such cases, that the Confederates were being pursued, but there had been no conflict, and they were carrying away their spoils unmolested. It was not even certain at the latest dates if all or even any considerable part of the Confederate forces had crossed the Potomac.

It is now admitted that Grant's army had been considerably weakened by the despatch of troops to defend Washington, and it was reported that the Confederates were threatening the Federal lines.

THE Confederates obtained a large booty at Martinsburg. The *Wheeling Register* of July 9 says: 'We have it from undoubted authority that there were over three million dollars' worth of stores at Martinsburg on Friday last. The telegraph this morning states that Sigel and Hunter were unable to destroy or carry off the stores, and that they fell into the hands of the enemy, and were being taken south by way of Staunton.'

MR. LINCOLN'S call for men to defend the national capital, so far from meeting with an enthusiastic response, has been received with cavilling and coldness. The Mayor of New York formally protests against the militia being withdrawn from the city at this juncture. He writes to General Sandford: 'I entertain grave apprehensions that their withdrawal from the city at a time when the depreciation of our currency is bearing heavily on the mass of our population, might tempt the lawless and evil-disposed to avail themselves of what would seem to them a favourable opportunity for arson and plunder. In such an event, which, in my judgment, I regret to say may not be considered improbable, I fear that our excellent and powerful police would prove inadequate to our protection in the absence of the military.' From Maryland no troops could be obtained. Pennsylvania, so far from showing any alacrity, incurs the angry censure of Governor Curtin. In a proclamation issued on July 10, he writes: 'You are not responding freely . . . it would be disgraceful in you to waste time in objecting to matters of form and detail, or to profess you would go if called in some different way. Those who want an excuse for skulking may do so.' But neither persuasion nor threats brought Mr. Lincoln the much-needed recruits.

MR. LINCOLN'S proclamation suspending the *habeas corpus*, and declaring martial law in Kentucky, says: 'And whereas, many citizens of the State of Kentucky have joined the forces of the insurgents, have on several occasions entered the said State of Kentucky in large force, and, not without aid and comfort furnished by disaffected and disloyal citizens of the United States residing therein, have not only greatly disturbed the public peace, but have overborne the civil authorities and made flagrant civil war, destroying property and life in various parts of that State. And whereas, it has been made known to the President of the United States, by the officers commanding the national armies, that combinations have been formed in the said State of Kentucky with a purpose of inciting the rebel forces to renew the said operations of civil war within the said State, and thereby to embarrass the United States armies now operating in the said States of Virginia and Georgia, and even to endanger their safety.' Thus Mr. Lincoln bears witness that Kentucky is true to the Confederacy.

MR. LINCOLN is determined that the people of the United States shall understand that his will is supreme in the government of the country. The Federal Congress passed a Bill for the reconstruction of States, the provisions of which were antagonistic to Mr. Lincoln's reconstruction scheme. The President refused to sign this Bill, and on the 8th inst. issued a proclamation on the subject. He

announces that he means to abide by the plan he promulgated in December last. At the same time, he will not object to any State trying the Congressional plan, though he declines to be committed 'to any single plan of restoration.' Thus contemptuously does Mr. Lincoln treat the acts of Congress.

A LITTLE before the time that it was reported that the *Florida* and the *Kearsage* had been fighting off the coast of Jersey, the former vessel was capturing Yankee ships off the American coast. The most important prize she took was the *Electric Spark*. This vessel, bound from New York for New Orleans, is of 800 tons burden, and is considered one of the fastest merchant steamers afloat. It was supposed that Captain Morris would commission her as a tender to his ship. On board the *Electric Spark* were three United States officers, who give a glowing account of the urbanity and courtesy of the Confederate captain. The crew of the *Electric Spark* was put on board the British schooner *Lane*, bound for New York, and the Confederate captain paid $720 in gold for their passage. We read in the New York papers that Captain Morris presented each of the United States officers with his *carte de visite* and a button of his coat.

MR. GIDEON WELLES, the Federal Secretary of the Navy, in thanking Captain Winslow for his services in the destruction of the *Alabama*, observes: 'The *Alabama* represented the best maritime effort of the most skilled English workshops. Her battery was composed of the well-tried 32-pounders of 57 cwt.; of the famous 68-pounder of the British navy, and of the only successful rifled 100-pounder yet produced in England.' Mr. Welles knows how to flatter the prejudices of his fellow-countrymen. Somehow or other the triumph of the *Kearsage* has not produced that jubilation in the North which one might have expected. The news arrived a day too late to add a little brightness to the sombre and depressing celebration of the glorious Fourth. Then there was an uneasy consciousness that the destruction of the *Alabama* would by no means enable the Federal commercial marine to resume its place on the ocean, an impression which was soon justified by the exploits of the *Florida*. But the occasion was seized to give expression to the Yankee ill-will against this country. Mr. Welles, in referring to the victory of the *Kearsage* as a triumph over the naval supremacy of Great Britain, only echoed the unanimous sentiment of the Republican press. The escape of Captain Semmes is very sincerely regretted, and the Federal Government is urged to demand that he should be given up. The *New York Daily News* and other Democratic papers denounce this folly. The *Boston Courier*, in an article which we elsewhere publish, satirises the absurd affectation of Mr. Welles in calling the *Alabama* a pirate, and asks how it happens, if that assumption is true, that Captain Winslow paroled his prisoners?

IN the 6th and the 9th inst. the case against General Dix and others for suppressing the *World* and *Journal of Commerce* newspapers, and for arresting the editors and other persons connected with those newspapers, was argued in the Court of General Sessions of New York before City Judge A. K. Russell. Ex-Judge Pierrepont and Mr. W. M. Evarts appeared for the defendants. Mr. Pierrepont argued that General Dix could not be held responsible for the acts charged against him even if they were unlawful, seeing that he had only obeyed the orders of the President. In proof of this he cited Mr. Lincoln's order, dated May 18, which says, 'There has been mischievously and traitorously printed and published this morning in the *New York World* and the *New York Journal of Commerce* a false and spurious publication,' and General Dix is commanded forthwith to arrest and imprison, in any fort or military prison in your command, the editors, proprietors, and publishers, . . , and you will hold the persons so arrested in close custody until they can be brought to trial before a military commission for their offence.' The order also directs the suppression of the *World* and *Journal of Commerce*. This order General Dix obeyed. On the 20th of the same month he received another order from the President, and in obedience to that he released the prisoners he had arrested and surrendered their offices to them. President Lincoln, as Commander-in-Chief, issued orders to General Dix, which General Dix was bound to obey. Mr. Pierrepont then remarked that, assuming the Governor had a right to question the legality of the proceedings, he had already done all that was necessary to vindicate the majesty of the law. A case had been submitted to the Grand Jury, and that body had refused to indict General Dix and the other defendants on the ground of inexpediency. These, then, were the main points of the defence: first, that General Dix, as a military officer of the Government, was not responsible for any act done by order of the Commander-in-Chief, the President; secondly, a civil tribunal had been appealed to, and had refused to sanction a prosecution. But Mr. Pierrepont remarked that the case had been somewhat changed in character by the action of Governor Seymour, and by the consequent action of President Lincoln. The Governor, after the Grand Jury refused to indict, ordered the District Attorney to prosecute before a magistrate, and the result of that order was that proceedings were taken, and a warrant was issued for the arrest of General Dix and his officers. Upon this the President sent an order to General Dix, telling him that he must not, whilst the war lasts, permit himself to be deprived of his liberty. 'Therefore,' said Mr. Pierrepont, 'it places General Dix in this position, that he has either got to violate the direct order of the President of the United States, as military commander in this department, or violate the order of the process of the courts of civil jurisdiction in this State. The issue is made. There is no escape from it, and it has got to be argued, and we have to see where the law is, and what are the rights under that state of things.' Arguing this point on the 9th instant, the learned ex-Judge contended that during the continuance of civil war the whole of the country was under martial law, although martial law was not proclaimed. He said: 'In consequence of some remarks of the learned Attorney-General the other day in relation to this subject, I call his attention to this fact, that actual war exists in this country; that it is not merely a war in fact, but war as judicially recognised by the Supreme Court of the United States in their recent decisions upon the prize cases. Secondly, the state of actual war in a civilised country is widely different from the state of peace, and the laws of war are widely different from the laws of peace. Many municipal laws which are heard and obeyed in time of peace are silent and voiceless in time of war. Thirdly, the war is not confined to the mere place where the rebel armies encamp, but it touches and affects the entire nation. The state and condition of the entire country is not that of peace, but of war. Fourthly, this is not a foreign war, but a great civil war. It was a state of war in Pennsylvania when Lee's army invaded it, and it was not a state of peace in Pennsylvania when the rebels were driven out. We are not foreign countries; we are one government; and the war is against this one government, and it embraces the entire country. War is our state, not peace. Now, if these States were absolute sovereignties like foreign States, it would be only war in the States. Such is not the fact. The war powers reside in the Federal Government: State Governments have no war powers. But the cry comes up, "Will you surrender all your liberties, and make the President of the United States a dictator? Have we no safeguard over our liberties?" That is somewhat fanciful. You have your remedy. The President may exercise his discretion and judgment in the emergency, and having exercised his powers, if he has transcended them and trampled upon our rights, impeach him, remove him, *assassinate him if you will*, if he turns usurper; but do not destroy our Government and paralyse it through an imaginary fear that if you do not do it the President will destroy it in some other way by usurpation.'

District-Attorney Hall replied, and after reciting the facts and showing that such acts as were committed by General Dix were not authorised by the Constitution of the United States, challenged the validity of the Indemnity Act passed by the Federal Congress in March 1863. That Act set forth that any order of the President, or any order issued by his authority, should be a sufficient defence for any suit or prosecution, civil or criminal. Congress had no authority to make such a law, and it certainly had no authority to bestow such unlimited power on the President, and to make the executive superior to the fundamental law. This Indemnity Act might be called, said Mr. Hall, 'An Act to authorise the Commission of Wrongs,' but it was unconstitutional and of no force. In 1862, President Lincoln said to the Chicago clergy, 'As Commander-in-Chief of the army and navy in time of war, I suppose I have a right to take any measure which may be best to subdue the enemy.' Mr. Hall dissented from such doctrine, and if it was to be pleaded in this case, the plea was only 'a bold defence of usurpation.'

The Hon. John Cochrane, who was with Mr. Hall, denied that in a state of civil war the whole country passed under martial law. In 1798, martial law was proclaimed in Ireland, because a rebellion was raging there, but England, Scotland, and Wales were not included under it. The Duke of Wellington rightly said that martial law is no law at all, and surely the United States was not reduced to that condition of military extremity and civil exhaustion when the law has no more authority and the will of the general was supreme.

Mr. Evarts for the defence contended that, though there had been no proclamation of martial law, the President had a right to act as though such proclamation had been made. He said:—

> If we were engaged in a foreign war, such proclamation might be required. There was nothing more true than the old maxim, *inter arma silent leges*. When war raged, all other law than that governing hostilities was necessarily quiescent, wherever the belligerency actually existed. We were not, however, in May last, when the acts for which this examination was brought were committed, under martial law, however, and he should therefore leave the discussion of the question as to whether such martial law was or was not constitutional, which had been so ably and learnedly discussed by the Attorney-General, without any further comment on that head. It would be evident to every mind, however, that a closer authority was necessitated over a country when civil war prevailed there, than was requisite in time of peace and quietude. This authority is necessary to prevent the extension of belligerency, and to close all the avenues of discontent and turbulence. The situation under such a state of things required a much greater restriction of individual action than is permitted in times of peace. But the prosecution had said that until an invasion of the rebels should have actually taken place here, or should be imminently threatened, we could have no state of things here different from that which prevailed in our days of order and peace. Logically speaking, war existed to-day throughout the whole expanse of our territory; and the question that the court is now called upon to decide is, whether the legislation provided for and incident to such a state of war, was constitutional and justifiable.

The Court, after hearing the arguments, fixed August 1 for giving judgment.

IT is reported, but not yet confirmed, that General Sherman has crossed the Chattahoochie and arrived before the defences of Atlanta.

THE New York papers publish extracts from the report of Provost-Marshal Baker upon the 'horrible immoralities of the Treasury harem.' It is an almost incredible record of gross licentiousness. Suffice it to say that the Federal Treasury was a vile den of prostitution. The *New York World* says: 'It is necessary to add that considerable portions of these same statements are omitted as being too grossly indecent for publication.' We can only add that the portions published are 'too grossly indecent' to be reproduced in any European journal.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN has appointed the first day of August as a day of humiliation and prayer, in compliance with the resolution of Congress. This resolution, which Mr. Lincoln quotes in his proclamation, is a curious document. It exhorts the people to pray that they may not 'be destroyed by the hostilities or connivances of other nations:' and then, so that the world might know that the triumph of the United States over the Confederate States is certain, whether God will it or not, the people are exhorted to pray that the Confederates 'may lay down their arms and speedily return to their allegiance to the United States, that they may not be utterly destroyed.' Such arrogant blasphemy as this is without parallel.

THE correspondent to a New York paper gives a graphic description of the capture by the Confederates of a Baltimore train, in which were General Franklin and his staff. The ladies gave a hearty welcome to their captors, many of whom were Marylanders. It needed not this Yankee testimony to prove the loyalty of Maryland to the Confederacy, and to show that her sons are fighting to defend Southern independence. It is stated that General Franklin has escaped.

THE authorities in Washington have been much scared by the approach of the Confederates. Mr. Lincoln sent for the light-draught monitor *Tunca* from Philadelphia, rather, it appears, to the disgust of the Philadelphians, who think more of Philadelphia than of Washington.

IT is reported by the United States Consul at St. John's that a band of Confederates have left that place for the State of Maine.

IN New York gold has fluctuated between 250 and 280. On the 16th it was quoted at 252. Mr. Fessenden has asked the bankers for a loan of $50,000,000 until September 1, but at the latest advices he had not succeeded in procuring it.

ENGLAND.

THE annual contest for prizes between the Rifle Volunteers at Wimbledon terminated on Friday last; and on Saturday, as is usual previously to the breaking up of the meeting, a grand Volunteer review was held by His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief. Hamlet, if the Prince of Denmark were unrepresented, would prove a singularly tame performance. A review from which gunpowder is banished is an affair almost equally unattractive. Still, if any one of the many thousands who had gathered together, whether as actors in the proceedings or merely as spectators, had felt disappointed by the substitution at the last moment of simple field evolutions for the expected sham fight, this feeling was dispelled as soon as the reason for the alteration of the programme became known. The meeting of 1864 had, like the meetings in previous years, proceeded through the greater part of its course without any accident occurring serious enough to interfere with the enjoyment of the busy holiday. On Thursday an event happened which cast a gloom over the camp. The markers at the pool targets did not retire to their huts after luncheon with the usual promptness upon receiving the signal to do so. To attract their attention or hasten their movements, one of the instructors of musketry, Sergeant Roberts, fired a shot in the direction of the butts. He aimed high, but the target at which he fired was unfortunately a pasteboard one, which concealed from view, but could not protect from injury, the marker private Cooper who was behind it. Fears were at first entertained that his case was a hopeless one, but assistance was promptly rendered, and on Saturday he still lived. He was not in a condition to be removed from Wimbledon, but remained till the end of the meeting in the hospital tent, to which he was at first conveyed. The Duke of Cambridge, when he arrived for the purpose of reviewing the troops, sent to enquire after the wounded man, who was reported to be in a precarious state, but it was stated that there were hopes of his recovery provided he could be kept quiet. The Duke, feeling that it was more important to save a life than to contribute to the amusement of the holiday-makers, countermanded the issue of blank cartridges, so that every chance of life might be given to the wounded man, and there was no one who did not approve of that order being given. It is satisfactory to know that this care was not bestowed in vain, and that Cooper is now believed to be in a fair way for recovery. About 10,000 troops of all arms passed in review before His Royal Highness; the number of cavalry was small, but they were handsomely mounted and equipped; the guns were, as usual, splendidly handled, and the infantry went through the movements required of them with an ease and precision scarcely inferior to that displayed by regular troops. In former years the ceremony of distributing the prizes has taken place at the Crystal Palace; but this year a better order of things was inaugurated, the prizes being presented on the ground where they were won. Previously to the review the successful competitors were assembled in front of the encampment, and received at the hands of Lady Elcho the fruit of their skill. Scotland may console herself for her defeat in the competition with Enfield rifles, by finding the Elcho shield (now for the first time making its appearance, though still unfinished) borne home to her. This is the first international contest in which the Scotch have been successful, and they appeared to be correspondingly elated. Sergeant M. Smith, of the 1st Middlesex, whose name has not appeared now for the first time in the list of winners, carried off the Wimbledon Cup, and would also have carried away the silver owl, but that mysterious bird, true to its colours to the last, refused to emerge from obscurity. For the rest the names of the winners present a formidable catalogue, and they, together with the marks which they made and the prizes which they won, are written in the books of the

Association. The Wimbledon meeting of 1864 has proved a complete success.

DR. LIVINGSTONE arrived in London on Saturday, having just returned from his African mission, which, notwithstanding his great experience, his courage and address, has proved a complete failure. He was present in the evening at Lady Palmerston's assembly, being introduced by Sir Roderick Murchison. He met with a hearty welcome, and was warmly congratulated on having returned in safety from so perilous an expedition. He has left behind him his little river steamer, the *Lady Nyassa*. He intends to go out again shortly, and to set forth on another pilgrimage in her.

SATURDAY last being Election Saturday at Eton, the procession of boats and other usual ceremonies took place. The Prince and Princess of Wales honoured the proceedings with their presence. Their Royal Highnesses were rowed up the river in a boat built by Messrs. Searle of Eton, from which they saw the regatta, and also the display of fireworks opposite the Brocas with which the day's amusement terminated about 9 o'clock.

STRANGE as it may appear, the reception accorded by the public to the Oxford declaration seems to have been of such a nature as to encourage other members of the community to follow the clerical example. Certain of our wise men having agreed together to express their belief that the Bible, if exposed to chemical tests and scientific scrutiny, would pass uninjured through the ordeal, drew up a declaration to that effect. This declaration, fortified by several names well known and respected in the scientific world, was forwarded to Dr. Daubeny, Professor of Botany in the University of Oxford. He, however, prudently refused to lend it the sanction of his name. He sympathised, as all Christians must, in the object for which it was drawn up, and the spirit that actuated its promoters; but he considered that, while no similar manifesto was issued by any other lay profession, it was casting a sort of stigma upon men of science, as maintaining that they were peculiarly liable to entertain infidel opinions, neither was he quite prepared to adopt in their entirety the terms of the declaration. Such attempts to control the opinion of others, however well intended, must prove ineffectual; they are also to be deplored as presupposing an amount of infidelity which does not, we believe, exist. However this may be, if the Bible is the word of God, it stands in no need of such support; if it is, as some would have us believe, the invention of men, the declarations of all the clergy and wise men to boot must fail to bolster up its weakness.

JUSTICE at last is being done to the river to which London owes so much of her prosperity. On the 20th of this month the foundation stone of the Thames embankment was laid by Mr. Thwaites, who was accompanied by Mr. Cowper, Lord J. Manners, and other gentlemen who either are promoters of, or take an interest in, the great undertaking. The condition of the Thames has too long been a disgrace to the British capital, and much inconvenience and injury to health have resulted as a consequence of the unclean condition to which it has been reduced. The task of cleansing its waters and rendering its banks not merely useful, but ornamental also, is now commenced in earnest, and when completed we may expect it to prove one of the grandest achievements of the present century. The traffic of the metropolis has for a long time, under the most favourable circumstances, proved too much for its thoroughfares, and whenever one of the main arteries of communication is rendered for a time impassable, the inconvenience and even danger occasioned are far from inconsiderable. To relieve the excessive pressure of the traffic in Fleet Street, and other crowded localities, it has been determined to open a new road running along the banks of the river from Blackfriars Bridge to Westminster. The idea is not a novel one, but the execution of it has only recently been determined upon. The work has been in progress for the last two years, but it is only within the last six months that [illegible] would have been likely to [illegible] convey an idea of the magnitude of the undertaking. It is on the north side of the Thames that the embankment is at present being constructed; whether the southern shore will receive an equal embellishment is a question for further consideration. The river bank is now thronged with workmen busily engaged in [illegible] otherwise preparing for the [illegible] space between the piles and the shore [illegible]. As many as 800 [illegible] through Temple Bar to the river's bank, and so great is the activity displayed, that the work [illegible] placed, and the void [illegible]. The rotten barges which have so long done duty as steamboat piers are to be removed, and will be replaced by handsome stonework [illegible]. From the rapidity with which the works are being carried forward, we may hope that a useless and unsightly mud bank will at no great distance of time be converted into a stately [illegible], and the waters, no longer defiled by the sewage of all the dwellings of a vast city, will once more flow sweetly. Blackfriars Bridge is at present the limit of the eastern end of the embankment. The course of the Thames being somewhat narrow between that point and London Bridge, and the wharves situate within that area being of considerable value, it is doubtful whether it will be expedient to carry it farther in that direction. This will be a question for consideration at a future time; the extent now at present determined upon will be sufficient to afford relief from the evils which we have so long endured. It is calculated that before three years have passed away the work will be completed.

THE inquest on the body of Mr Briggs, adjourned from the 9th instant, was resumed on Monday last. Nothing of any importance transpired. Mr. Lee, a personal friend of the murdered man, repeated the evidence he had previously given before Mr. Henry, to having seen him on the night in question in a railway carriage occupied by two other men, a fact which seems to point to the conclusion that more than one had a share in the murder. This subject still attracts the attention of the police, and constant efforts are being made to gain additional evidence against the supposed murderer, and to discover his accomplice in guilt. A life-preserver has been found concealed in the apartment of Muller, which was identified by a fellow-lodger as his property; it usually was suspended over his bed. It is supposed to have been the weapon used for the commission of the crime, and to have been appropriated for that purpose by Muller in the absence of the owner. As some apprehension exists that the depositions despatched with the officers in the first boat that started in pursuit of Francis Muller, owing to the necessary haste with which they were put together, might not be sufficiently explicit to meet the requirements of the Extradition Treaty with the American States, another officer was despatched armed with another warrant and more complete depositions on board the following mail-boat, one of the fastest steamers in the service, so as to cut off, if possible, all chances of escape from Francis Muller except that of establishing his innocence in a court of justice. A suggestion has been made which appears well worthy of attention, and which will, we hope, be carried out by the Legislature as speedily as possible; it is to establish means of communication between the guard of a train and the passengers. This would not be difficult to accomplish; and when we consider how short a time proved sufficient for the accomplishment of this crime, and the at least temporary escape of the perpetrators of it—when we remember how small the facilities afforded in comparison with those which may be expected in journeys where the different stations are separated by intervals, not of two or three minutes only, but of from ten to twenty, and even more—when we remember the other crimes which are committed, or alleged to be committed, we feel it is necessary that effectual measures should be adopted for preventing the isolation of passengers, and affording additional security to their lives, their persons, and their reputations.

The German arrested at Stafford on suspicion of being concerned in the murder has been discharged, there not being sufficient evidence to justify his detention.

THE valuable library collected by the late Mr. Daniel has been brought to the hammer during the last week. The sale has already occupied six days, and another three are expected to be taken up in disposing of the water colour drawings left by the deceased gentleman. The sale has attracted to a great extent the attention of the curious in old and rare books. Some of them fetched very high prices, especially the Shakspeares, one original edition of which, after some animated bidding, was purchased for Miss Burdett Coutts at upwards of 600*l*.

THE Ministerial whitebait dinner took place on Saturday at Greenwich. Parliament will be prorogued at the end of the week, so that Ministers will be able sooner than they have for many years to 'rest and be thankful.'

WHERE different laws exist for different sections of the same community, [illegible] and much injustice are the result, [illegible] especially when an institution so important as marriage is the subject of the difference. A [illegible] by the notorious Yelverton case, which having been [illegible] over a space of several years in Ireland, Scotland, and England, is at length to be decided this week. We observe that other law proceedings have been [illegible] during the past week by this discrepancy in the laws to which we have alluded. A Roman Catholic priest was indicted for the felonious offence of marrying a Papist and a Protestant. Surely it is high time for such a state of things to be put an end to.

MR. WILLIAM KEMMIS died at his house in Dublin on the 19th inst. The [illegible] gentleman had attained a very advanced age. He was the Crown solicitor, and was remarkable from having been engaged in all the prosecutions for treason which have taken place since the rebellion of 1798 down to the present time. Through him the Sheareses and Emmett were brought to the gallows. He conducted the [illegible] prosecution of Daniel O'Connell, who was sentenced [illegible] to be reversed on [illegible], [illegible] with all [illegible], amenable to the law, and in 1848 Mr. Kemmis conducted the prosecutions which ended the career of Smith O'Brien and his co-adjutors.

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No intelligence has as yet arrived of the outbreak of hostilities, and it is to be hoped they will be averted, but [illegible] the difficulties in the Transkei are far from allayed. The weather has been very favourable to the farmer, and colonial produce is [illegible].

[illegible]

The difficulty of procuring labour in Bombay is the [illegible] very [illegible], ships being detained [illegible] for want of labour. [illegible] Those great [illegible] are very high. [illegible] will be given by the [illegible]. The [illegible] of the Ameer of Cabul has [illegible] the commencement of the Ameer of Bokhara [illegible] the title of Ameer, a battle is reported to have taken place between the rival parties, in which the Ameer was victorious.

THE CONTINENT.

THE DANO-GERMAN WAR.

The terms of the suspension of hostilities between Denmark and the Allies are as follows:—1. Hostilities were to cease, and the blockade to be raised, at midday on the 20th inst.; any captures made after that date to be restored. 2. The suspension of arms to cease at midnight on the 31st inst., without further notice. 3. The forces of both parties to remain in possession of the military positions which they occupied on the 20th inst. The occupation to extend to the sea within cannon-shot of the shore. All communication between the territories occupied by the respective parties to be interrupted. This convention was signed on the 18th inst.; the German Commissioners declined to date the suspension from the day of signature on the pretext that it would not be possible to communicate with the military authorities in time to effect an immediate cessation of hostilities. The Danes, of course, could only submit; though they might have argued that it would be possible to remedy this inconvenience by applying the rule that all captures made after the signature of the convention should be restored. The effect of putting off the truce was that on the 19th inst. an engagement took place off the island of Sylt between the Danish Captain von Hammer and the allied forces, in which the former sank seven gunboats, but was eventually forced to surrender; with him were taken 8 officers, 214 men, 2 steamers, 2 coasting vessels, 10 revenue cutters, and 5 transports. The Germans continue to make preparations for the invasion of Fünen in spite of the armistice; their works can be easily discerned from the opposite shore, for they make no attempt to conceal the fact; but even were it not so, the Danes would not remain long in ignorance of it, so accurate is their information with regard to every movement in the hostile camp.

The Prussians have 'got their eyes in,' to borrow an expression from the cricket-field, to the game of tyranny and arrogance, to such an extent that, wanting a foreign enemy, they have turned round upon and attacked their own kindred. It appears from the Prussian accounts that the Federal garrison of Rendsburg had been guilty of several acts of violence on Prussian soldiers. On the 18th and 19th instant, the Hanoverian troops which form that garrison attacked the Prussian outposts and soldiers, many of whom were wounded in the streets. Tumultuous assemblages gathered even before the hospitals, where many of the wounded Prussians were lying. The Prussian troops were compelled to remain under arms during the night. 'The Commander-in-Chief had certainly taken measures for the prevention of a renewal of similar excesses, but,' says the *Norddeutsche Zeitung*, 'these fresh symptoms of serious animosity will engage the most earnest attention of the King's Government.' The first symptoms of animosity between the two parties had been shown at a soldiers' ball, in which a row had occurred between a few individuals of the two parties. Accordingly, on the 21st inst., Prince Frederick Charles informed the Federal General von Hake that he had received orders to make himself master of Rendsburg. General von Hake replied that, having only four companies at his disposal, he must yield to superior force, but that he declined all responsibility for the step. Thereupon the town was occupied by a force of 6,000 Prussian troops. General von Hake presented a formal report of the transaction to the Federal Diet, who telegraphed to him their approval of his conduct, and desired him to hand in a formal protest against the occupation. Nine German States have already protested in the Diet, and a commission has been appointed to enquire into the matter. On the receipt of the news in the Chamber of Deputies of Wurtemburg, a resolution was unanimously carried 'solemnly to protest against the forcible occupation, and to request the Government, in conjunction with other States, to oppose this violence, the necessary means for that purpose being granted by the Chamber.' The *Norddeutsche Zeitung*, as may be gathered from our quotation above, suggested and then defended the violence used. The manner of defence employed is somewhat remarkable. It will be observed that the Federal troops of occupation were Hanoverians, the *Norddeutsche Zeitung*, therefore, enumerates a long list of grievances which Prussia can bring against Hanover, including difficulties with regard to the Customs, to the railways, and to the telegraph, besides certain incidents in the present war and also in that of 1850. What these accusations, even if well founded, can avail in justifying the conduct of Prussia, it is very hard to see, as the Hanoverian troops were occupying Rendsburg, not in their national but in their Federal character. The fact is that the German nationalism is an utter delusion—a cloak which can be thrown on and off by an unscrupulous man to suit his present requirements. Herr von Bismarck appears to consider that it is at once strong enough to support a European war, and also too feeble to resist his seizure of a town in Federal occupation. It remains to be seen what part Austria will take in the matter. The Emperor is neither dishonest nor weak, but he may be too deeply involved in the guilt of Prussia to permit him to lift up his voice in remonstrance.

Symptoms of the pressure exerted upon the population of the Duchies may be seen by comparing the two following facts. At a meeting of Sleswig landowners which was held at Kiel on the 20th inst., an address was drawn up requesting that the Duchies should be placed *ad interim*, until the decision of the succession question, under the joint government of Austria and Prussia. On the other hand, the patriotic committees have declared one after the other that a prolongation of the Austro-Prussian provisional government is a direct attack upon the rights of the Duchies, which demand the immediate recognition of the Duke of Augustenburg. Which of these two facts represents to us the real state of the case? Is the Austro-Prussian force exercising an undue influence, or are Federal [illegible] coercing the people? Or, again, shall we rather believe that the people of the Duchies have no wish one way or the other, but are being rocked about from opposite sides by the two rival interests?

...e succession difficulty is at last to be discussed in the Fe...ral Diet. On the sitting of the 21st inst. the Austro-Pr...ian proposal that the Duke of Augustenburg should be ...lled upon to substantiate his claim to the dukedoms wa...carried by 11 votes to 5. The minority were those wh... like Saxony and Bavaria, consider that the claims ha... been already substantiated, and that any further dis-cu...on is superfluous. We hear very little more of the cla...s of the Grand Duke of Oldenburg; his candidature is ...ated with a quiet contempt, or met by a fierce pro-tes... against the attempts of Russia to intrude her no...nce upon Germany. One argument used against hi... worthy of record; a document has been published, wh... is the act of renunciation, executed by the father of the present Grand Duke, of all his contingent interest in the sovereignty of the Duchies in favour of the present Ki... of Denmark. It is dated 1852. How then, ask the Ge...an pamphleteers, can the present Grand Duke raise an... pretensions to the succession in the face of this docu-me...? The Grand Duke need only search in the German arc...ury, and he will find a defence ready fitted to his ha...—the same which the Duke of Augustenburg used wh... the English journals asked how he could be the rig...ful duke, when his father had sold the succession for a ...s of pottage.

...e Conference between Austria, Denmark, and Prus...a, which is to find the basis for a permanent pa...ification, has assembled at Vienna. Austria is repre...ented by Count Rechberg and Baron Brenner; Denmark by .... de Quaade and Colonel Kaufmann; Prussia by He... von Bismarck and Baron Werther. Herr von Bis-ma... arrived in Vienna on the 22nd instant, and had an int...view with the Emperor, who has apparently over-co... his former repugnance to that statesman. A pre-lim...ary meeting of the Plenipotentiaries took place on the ...5th, and the first regular meeting on the 26th inst...t, four days only before the resumption of hosti-liti... we shall see whether they will be less inclined to put impediments in the way of peace, now that they are, so ...speak, *en famille*, than when they wrangled over the cou...il-table of Europe. It is understood that the Au...o-Prussian diplomats have informed the Danes tha... negotiations would be useless, except on the bas... of the separation of the Duchies. The two Ge...an Powers are said to be in complete accord-anc... on the following important points. 1. That the Duchies of Slesvig, Holstein, and Lauenburg sha... be completely separated from Denmark, with the exc...tion of the few Danish settlements on the north of Sle...g. 2. That an independent State shall be formed of ...em, under the sovereignty of that prince whose clai... are acknowledged by the Federal Diet. 3. Prussia sha... reimburse Austria for the expenses of the war to the amo...t of from five to seven million thalers. The Duchy of ...esvig shall be occupied by Prussian troops, and the fina...es of the duchy managed by Prussian functionaries, unt... the surplus of the receipts shall amount to the sum clai...d by Prussia for defrayal of the war expenses, inclu...g the amount paid to Austria (which together will be ...out $27,000,000). 4. Rendsburg shall be a Federal fort...s, occupied by Prussian troops. 5. Kiel shall be a stat... for the Prussian fleet, which may establish docks, &c., ...t that port. The article by which Prussia is to re-imb...se Austria for her expenses is considered somewhat as ... insult to the latter Power, as implying that her fina...es are in too crippled a condition to allow of her wai...g any time for payment.

FRANCE.

...shal Randon, the Minister of War, has published his ...ort to the Emperor on the administration of Algeria. He ...tes that the insurrection was caused, not by fanati-cian...nly, but by a foolish hope that they could surprise the ...gilance of authorities whom they believed to be disu...n... because they were apparently divided in their acti... There exist in Algeria two authorities, the one civi... and the other military, totally independent of one ano...er. There are also two sets of nationalities, the Ara...and the French, who are each differently treated by the ...o authorities. Hence arises a most anomalous situ-atio... and unity of action is impossible. The Marshal pro...es to remedy this by increasing the powers of the mi...ry authorities and subordinating to them the civil pow... In consequence of this report, an Imperial decree has ...en drawn up, embodying the reforms proposed by Mar...al Randon, and giving to the military commander of ... division in each province the general administration of ... civil and military territory, with the title of General Co...anding the Province.

T... visit of the King of the Belgians to the Emperor of the ...ench could not fail to call forth a number of comments and ...pectations. Of course, the visit is supposed to be mad... for reasons of health only; but, as a contemporary says, it is ...t to be supposed that two such men will meet only to ... about the weather. Some have suggested that a mat...monial alliance is in view between a member of the roy... family of Belgium and the Princess Murat. However that ...ay be, it is certain that the future of Belgium depe...s very much on the final solution of the Slesvig-Hol...n question; both are small countries in the grasp of a ...reat Power, and protected by treaties only from ab-sorp...n into their neighbours' territories. We may rea-sona...y suppose that what is now sauce for the Slesvig-Hol...n goose will one day also be a condiment for the Belg...n gander.

T... French Government has addressed a circular to the vari...s Continental Powers, inviting them to join in an Inte...national Congress, to be held next autumn, for the purp...e of regulating telegraphic communications in Eur...e. All Continental telegraphs are in the hands of the ...overnment; in England they are all the offspring of priv... enterprise, and the property of private companies: no ...mmunication has yet been addressed to any of these com...nies, nor is it easy to say how they can be treated unde... the circumstances.

T... Academy of France has been engaged lately in awar...ng the Monthyon prizes for virtue. No country but France could support so peculiar an institution; for in no country but that can the peculiar character be found which unites a really exalted feeling with that 'desire to be seen of men' which elsewhere we call vanity. It is to be observed particularly in their military virtues; while we cannot say that a Frenchman will not be brave for his own sake only, it must be confessed that he will be much braver for the sake of the spectators who applaud the deed. The chief prize for virtue, of the value of 3,000 francs, was awarded to Jean Lallray in honour of his shining virtue of hospitality in the most Scriptural sense. He is ready at all times to take in every stranger who presents himself; and the more wretched the visitor is, the more gladly he is received. He sits down daily with some twenty guests, who have literally come in from the high-ways and hedges; he feeds them, and sends them on their way. The second prize of 2,000 francs was given to a female servant, for her devoted attention to the family of her former master, after they had fallen into indigence.

We give the following curious story from the account given by the French journal *L'Europe* of a meeting of the shareholders of the *Caisse des Chemins de Fer*. Sixteen hundred shareholders were present on the summons of the well-known M. Mirès. This gentleman ad-dressed them at great length, recounting the dis-asters which he had suffered, and the enormous exertions which he had made to retrieve his position and restore their losses to those who had trusted to him. He then went on to speak of his enemies, who never ceased to attack him, in the hope apparently that he would cease to resist when his financial resources were exhausted; 'but,' he exclaimed, 'they fight against sentiments which are too strong for them;' then, producing a letter from his daughter, the Princesse de Polignac, he read it to a sym-pathizing audience. It was to the effect that she was now in possession of the money settled on her at her marriage, in consequence of the death of her husband, and that she would consecrate it all to the cause of her father's defence, even if it must be swallowed up in the abyss which had already absorbed his whole fortune. M. Mirès, the journal tells us, was able to read this letter through with dry eyes, but his audience were not equally stoical, and many a tear of emotion fell over the expression of such devoted filial love. Mr. Mirès' powers of persuasiveness are well known; but it is hard to believe that even he could have imagined, much less carried out with success, so magnifi-cent and gigantic a humbug.

ITALY.

The history of the Committee of Enquiry into the con-nection of members of the Chamber of Deputies with the South Italian railroad contract is curious and not very creditable. The contract had been originally taken by the leading financier of Europe, who had submitted to the Chamber a memorandum embodying the contract in a set of clauses. It occurred, however, to Count Bastoggi, late Minister of Finance, that the contract was likely to be of the most profitable, and well worth the exertion of ob-taining. It was difficult to wrest it out of the hands of the great firm who then held it, or believed that they held it; a strong determination, however, and a liberal expen-diture conquered the difficulty. Signor Susani, the deputy who drew up the report of the Committee on the con-tract, became at the same time possessor of a very large interest in the contract, and an ardent supporter of Count Bastoggi's wishes; the various members of the Committee also suddenly discovered that they had the greatest possible reason for securing the success of Count Bastoggi. When the day came for the formal discussion of the contract as proposed by the leading firm above alluded to, it was put to the House clause by clause: as each clause came on, it was slightly modified, and a paper was handed up to the Speaker of the House containing Count Bastoggi's ac-ceptance of that clause of the contract as modified. The result was that the whole contract was thus transferred from the firm which originally proposed it to Count Bas-toggi, with a few insignificant alterations. Such very sharp practice could not but excite the gravest attention, and an enquiry was imperatively demanded into the means used by Count Bastoggi to secure the support of the House in a proceeding of such suspicion. The result of the enquiry has been to cast very grave doubts on the probity of many of the members; several of them re-signed before the report of the Committee of Enquiry was published, among others Count Bastoggi and Signor Susani. The report of the Committee was couched in very guarded language, so much so, in fact, as to mislead us in our statement of last week, that all the members of the House had been acquitted of every suspicion of corrup-tion. It appears that many gentlemen, some unfortunately in very high position, have been very largely benefited by the transfer of the contract. Signor Susani in particular appears to have made his fortune (speaking from an Italian point of view) by the affair. The Ministry have determined to bring in a Bill by which the possibility of a recurrence of such corrupt proceedings may be removed. The Chamber of Deputies was prorogued on the 22nd inst., and will very probably be dissolved before it again meets, that it may have an opportunity of 'turning over a new leaf.'

Garibaldi returned to Caprera on the 20th inst. in the steamer *Ztavo Palestro*; General della Marmora has consequently been released from his watch over the conduct of the great Italian patriot, and has started from Naples on his long-promised tour over the north of Europe. Prince Humbert is expected in Paris shortly.

GREECE.

The islands of Corfu and Zante have returned to the Greek National Assembly deputies belonging to the Con-servative party. They have stated that they will do all in their power to obtain the adoption by the Assembly of the principle that the King not only reigns but governs. It is evident that, now that the islanders have after so much delay obtained a King, they are desirous that he shall in very deed be King, and are not inclined to be governed by the Continental Assembly. The Minister of War has spent certain sums on objects which were not mentioned in the budget, and without demanding a sup-plementary credit. His conduct has been animadverted on by the National Assembly, and a ministerial crisis is imminent.

TURKEY.

By order of the Government, the Protestant missionary establishments have all been closed, and several of their converts arrested. The Bible and American Missionary Societies have, however, since been reopened. It is said that the Protestant movement is spreading very rapidly among the lower orders of the Mussulmans.

A Turkish squadron of one 90-gun liner and two 40-gun frigates have visited Spithead. They are to be con-verted in England into screw steamers.

TUNIS.

The advices from this country are rather contradictory. According to one statement the rebellion is declining. According to another probably more trustworthy report, affairs are still in a very unfavourable state. The Khas-nadar, or Prime Minister, persists in requiring the pay-ment of a tax of 36 piastres. The insurgents have, how-ever, broken up their camp, and the troops of the Bey are in the neighbourhood of Tunis.

MEXICO.

By advices from Mexico, we learn that the entry of the Emperor into his capital was not less satisfactory than the rest of his journey. The population met him with every demonstration of joy, such as would generally be consi-dered to be reserved for private and domestic good fortune. The city was brilliantly draped by day and illu-minated by night; the shops were all closed, and the inhabitants gave themselves up to a three days' festivity. A political amnesty has been proclaimed. On June 15, the Marquis de Montholon presented to the Emperor the letter accrediting him as French representative at the Mexican Court. The Emperor in his reply took occasion to point out that the name of the Emperor of the French was everywhere united with his own in the rejoicings of the Mexican people.

Juarez is losing his last foothold in Mexico: the pro-vinces of Nueva-Leon and Cohahuita, in which he had been enabled to establish a military terrorism, are rising against him. His general, Doblado, has been defeated, and the friends of the new Empire are organising them-selves. The Imperialists, Bruno Lezano and Ugartechea, succeeded in imposing conditions upon the Juarist Quesada; but General Negrete came to his assistance, and shot down the leaders of the movement at Monterey. Measures are now being taken in France for the immediate return of all the troops who are not to remain permanently in Mexico.

PERU.

The differences between Spain and Peru continue to create the greatest excitement in all the States of South America. At Buenos Ayres, especially, a popular assem-bly was held in front of the palace of the Government. The President Mitre presented himself on the balcony to the crowd, and declared that Peru had a just cause, and that he, as chief of the republic, was determined to defend the right—a sentiment which was received with the loudest applause.

The Brazilian Minister has addressed a letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in Peru, in which he says that Brazil, having been a victim of a similar act of violence (alluding to the seizure of Brazilian merchantmen by British men-of-war), was ready to join Peru in expressing their common indignation at this new infraction of inter-national rights and usages. We mentioned last week a story concerning the theft of Admiral Pinzon's despatches on their way to Europe. This is denied by the Spanish Government, who further state that they have received communications from Chili expressing a desire for friendly relations with Spain. It appears that there is a very good chance that the Spanish squadron now in possession of the Chincha islands will be starved out; the visit of the Spanish gunboat to the port of Callao, which we men-tioned in our last number, is supposed to have some reference to their want of food. It is said that at the last cabinet council at Madrid it was determined to act energetically to obtain complete satisfaction from Peru.

Appropriate.—That undaunted champion of the Federal cause, Professor Goldwin Smith, has at last found an appropriate, though scarcely a complimentary, analogy to the conduct of his clients. He virtually compares them to Sepoys, but he does so in the most amiable and well-intentioned way, consi-dering the Sepoys a much abused and badly calumniated people. In his last letter to the *Daily News*, of July 25, he says:—'We all remember the stories of English women mutilated by the Sepoy mutineers, which were so universally believed at the time, and which, it is to be feared, helped to stimulate our soldiers to acts of atrocious and cold-blooded vengeance, such as, when they are published to the world, will leave a dark stain upon our fame. In this case we seemed almost to have the testimony of eye-witnesses to the facts. We had everything, apparently, necessary to conviction but the names. Yet when the names were called for, the whole story proved to be a mere figment generated by the heated fancy of the panicstricken and infuriated population of Calcutta. I suspect the fancy of the people of Richmond is just as heated now as that of the people of Calcutta was then, and equally capable of generating hideous and delirious untruths.'

A Northern View of Federal Prospects.—The *Philadelphia Mercury* writes: 'It really seems to us that we have nearly reached the end of a career of wasteful expenditure and false financial policy—that the bottom has quite fallen out of the Federal Exchequer—and that the whole Government is doomed to go down to the ground in dishonoured and helpless prostration. Then must come repudiation of the national debt, loss of credit, inability to perform the functions of administra-tion, and a total paralysis of the central political organism.'

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

THE WAR IN AMERICA AND MEDIATION.

On Monday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Lindsay, before putting the question of which he had given notice, said he had desired to have made a statement, containing some important facts bearing upon the American war, and tending to show how futile was the attempt to restore the Union and to coerce the South; but as he had no opportunity now of doing so, he begged simply to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if, considering the great sacrifice of life and property occasioned by the war still raging between the United States of America and the Confederate States, and considering the loss the people of this country have suffered by the war, it was the intention of Her Majesty's Government, in concert with the other Powers of Europe, to use their endeavours to bring about a suspension of hostilities.

Lord Palmerston said: I can assure my hon. friend that Her Majesty's Government deeply lament the great sacrifice of life and property in America and the distress which that war has produced in this country. But we have not thought that in the present state of things there was any advantage to be gained by entering into concert with any other Powers for the purpose of proposing or offering mediation, or of negotiating with the Government of the United States or of the Confederate States to bring about a termination of this unhappy war.

DENMARK AND GERMANY.

On Monday, in the House of Lords, Lord Campbell asked whether the Treaties by which Slesvig was guaranteed to Denmark and the Treaty of 1852 were valid. He maintained that England was still bound by them, and if they were violated with impunity very grave evils would result. Earl Granville replied that the old Treaties were cancelled by the war between Denmark and England, and that the treaty of 1852 contained no guarantee.

On Tuesday the Earl of Ellenborough delivered a long and eloquent speech on the altered state of foreign affairs since the beginning of the session. That change, he observed, affected not only the dignity of the Danish monarchy, which all the Powers had years ago thought essential to the peace of Europe, but also the validity of treaties, the security of the weaker States, and, above all, the progress of constitutional principles on the Continent. He regretted the decision of the Government and Legislature not to grant active aid to Denmark; and, although he had no hopes of influencing that policy, he could not help saying that it was one which none of the more famous Ministers of this country would have adopted, and it would have been possible in no previous reign except that of James I. Such a policy ought not to be followed by any country that desired to be great. Next, reviewing the conduct of the German Powers, the noble Earl said that the real object of the Prussian Government was to arrest the growth of constitutional liberty in Denmark, and, finding that they could act with impunity, they had brought about the existing state of things. Referring next to the alleged revival of the Holy Alliance, he remarked that, although there might be no foundation for the assertion, still he believed there was a much worse understanding between the three despotic Powers. The first Holy Alliance was a combination of princes against democracy and revolution, and not a conspiracy against their weaker neighbours; but the object of these princes now went much further. It was unreasonable to expect that a British Minister would be always successful in his negotiations, but the country had a right to demand that his proceedings should not render success impossible. The Government had brought in peace estimates, and by their declaration had deprived their diplomacy of its only support. But, having done this, he had a right to complain that they had interfered everywhere and in the most unpleasant manner. He regarded the late Conference as little better than a farce. Its result in transferring Slesvig to Germany destroyed the balance of power, and if the proceedings of the German Powers were to be sanctioned, how was any arrangement hereafter to be effected? The precedent of to-day would be the rule of to-morrow, and there would be no security left except force for the possession of its dominions by any Power. Thus, if the Germans wrested Kiel from Denmark, what security was there that they would not proceed to treat Holland in the same manner? Beyond this, he saw in this matter a declaration of war on the part of the despotic Powers against the advance of constitutional principles in Germany. They saw there how the constitutional movement in Prussia was likely to terminate, and, although the policy was a wicked one, it was no doubt clever; but he trusted that its present success would not be permanent, for such things could not be done without retribution, terrible and overwhelming as an avalanche. Under these circumstances, all this country could do was to rely upon its own strength, and revive that ancient patriotic spirit which did not consider lucre the only pursuit worth following.

Earl Russell defended the policy of the Government, and expressed an opinion that, as soon as the affair with Slesvig was settled, the constitutional progress of Germany would be in no danger. If England had rushed into war on behalf of Denmark, and had arrayed the Great Powers against each other, a heavy blow would have been inflicted on the liberties of Europe.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe thought Earl Russell ought not to have censured Denmark so severely for not fulfilling every condition of her treaties with Germany, seeing the delicate and difficult position in which the Danish Government was placed.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

On Thursday, in the Commons, 'in Committee of the whole House'—there were about a dozen members present—Sir C. Wood made his annual statement of the revenue and expenditure of India. For the year ending April 1863, instead of a deficit as in years past, there was a surplus of 1,800,000*l.*, and for the year ending in April 1864, there was a surplus of 257,000*l.*, and for the current year it was expected that there would be a surplus of 823,000*l.* This result had been accomplished mainly by the reductions effected in Indian expenditure, and notwithstanding a considerable remission of the extra taxation imposed during the mutiny. In addition to this, a large amount of debt had been discharged, consisting of a temporary loan in this country of one million and a half; India bonds, a quarter of a million; and India debentures, five millions and a half; so that there had been paid off in this country in the course of the last year 7,313,000*l.*, and 1,000,000*l.* in India; or a total of 8,313,000*l.* Further, this had been produced without reducing the estimated balance in the Indian Treasury, which, including 4,500,000*l.* at home, now amounted to 19,000,000*l.* The various sources from which the revenue was derived—opium, salt, customs, and land—were all in a healthy and thriving condition during the year; and there had been an increased expenditure of one million for public works, half a million for the improved survey and assessment for the land revenue, with a view to facilitating the purchase and transfer of land, and a further half million for the administration of public justice. Respecting the cotton trade of India, Sir C. Wood spoke as follows:—

Rather exaggerated expectations were, at the outset, entertained as to what could be done at once in procuring cotton from India. In no country is it possible that the permanent supply shall very much exceed the permanent demand. If people cannot sell produce, they will not grow it. After the experiment tried some years ago of growing cotton for the English market in India, which was entirely superseded by the supply of superior quality from America, and the great loss thereby caused to the growers in India, it is not surprising that they were not ready to produce on demand a large quantity of cotton, which but for that sudden emergency would not have been required from them. The effect of the sudden demand was to bring out all the old stores of cotton, much of it of very inferior quality. It is said that even mattresses and beds were ripped open, and that the cotton inside of them was sent to this country. There was thus a considerable increase in the supply of cotton; but, in order to test the amount of production, we must compare the amount we got last year with the amount received in the year before, and not in the year after the increased demand. Even before the extraordinary demand there was a considerable growth in the amount of the supply. In 1858 the quantity of cotton imported from India was 1,185,000 cwt.; in 1859, 1,717,000 cwt.; in 1860, 1,822,000 cwt.; in 1861, 3,295,000 cwt.; in 1862, 3,505,000 cwt.; in 1863, 3,878,000 cwt. Last year I quoted one of the best publications I have seen on the production of cotton in India—letters addressed to a Bombay newspaper by a cotton broker, Mr. Smith, of Liverpool, who travelled over a considerable part of India, and made some very sensible observations. Mr. Smith stated very truly that it was absurd to expect a sudden rise in the supply; but if prices were kept up there would be ultimately a gradual increase in the production of cotton. Referring to the accounts of the importation of cotton into this country for the first five months, ending on May 31, the House will see that there has been a steady and remarkable increase in the following years. In the five months of 1858, 1859, and 1861 respectively, the cotton imported from India amounted to about 340,000 cwt. In the five months of 1861 it was 342,000 cwt.; 1862, 731,000 cwt.; 1863, 962,000 cwt.; 1864, 1,247,875 cwt. We are fairly entitled, therefore, to say that the production of cotton in India and its importation into this country have been pretty nearly quadrupled in these years. In Berar, Nagpore, and the other cotton districts of Central India, the number of acres under cultivation in 1861 was 380,000; in 1862, 427,000; and in 1863, 588,000. Similar progress, I have no doubt, is observable in other parts of India where cotton can be grown. On the score of quantity, therefore, we have every reason to be satisfied with what India has done for us in regard to cotton. I am afraid, however, I cannot say as much as to the improvement in the quality of the cotton. That is, of course, necessarily a much slower process. The grower who receives a high price by weight, has in many cases been tempted to enhance the weight and his profit by unfair means. So great did the evil become that the Bombay Government passed an Act for preventing the adulteration of cotton; and from the report of the inspector who was appointed to carry out the law, I understand he has been very successful in accomplishing that object. The main difficulty consists in preventing the mixing of different qualities of cotton. Superior and inferior kinds are grown in the same field, and great care is required, both in sowing the seed and in picking the pods, to prevent a mixture. I have no doubt that when the Indian growers find that they can get a higher price for a better quality they will be clever enough to produce a superior kind of cotton.

After an uninteresting discussion the resolution was agreed to. Mr. G. Duff made some insulting remarks as to the oratory of Sir C. Wood, describing him as 'a Minister to whom Heaven had denied not only the power of lucid statement, but almost the gift of articulate speech,' and he concluded by saying that 'he had listened year after year to the speeches of the right hon. Baronet, and he had never heard him make a speech which would be in any respect satisfactory if it appeared as an anonymous article in the pages of a quarterly review.' [We submit the same observation applies to nearly all the speeches delivered in Parliament, and most assuredly to the speeches of Mr. G. Duff.]

THE NEW HOLY ALLIANCE.

On Friday, in the House of Lords, Lord Stratford de Redcliffe called attention to the reported revival of the Holy Alliance, and reviewed the circumstances that made the report credible. He urged that this country should cultivate alliances that would enable us to frustrate the designs of despots.

Earl Russell did not deny the importance of the subject, but he did not think the correspondence in the *Morning Post* was genuine. He did not think that a Holy Alliance was a source of danger to England, or that the members of it had any other intention than to check the progress of democracy in their own dominions. No doubt it was our interest to be closely allied with France. It so happened that very lately there was a question of very great importance and delicacy under discussion, as to what was to be done with regard to the Danubian Principalities. Her Majesty's ambassador at Constantinople and the ambassador of the Emperor of the French entirely concurred in the settlement of that question. They, with the Grand Vizier and other ministers of the Porte, agreed upon a plan which was approved of by the conference, and though the question was one which threatened an immediate disturbance of the peace of Turkey, if not of the peace of Europe, it was amicably settled by means of wise and judicious proposals. He (Earl Russell) could not help remarking how much Her Majesty's Government, in co-operation with the French ambassador, had been able to do in obtaining the settlement of that question, and the answer to his despatch, read to him to-day, from M. Drouyn de Lhuys, expressed the hope that the accord between France and Great Britain on this important subject might be the harbinger of their agreement on such important subjects as might in future come before them. Her Majesty's Government heartily hoped it might be so; he was sure there was nothing more conducive to the benefit of Europe than good agreement between England and France, and while that agreement should subsist he did not himself feel the least apprehension of the revival of the Holy Alliance, even though the sovereigns who formerly constituted it should be so ill advised as, regarding the state of feeling in Europe, to enter into so inauspicious a combination.

GOVERNMENT MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS.

On Friday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Cobden moved—'That the recent great extension of Government manufacturing establishments calls for the attention of the Government. That it is expedient that steps be forthwith taken to place each separate establishment as nearly as possible on the footing of a private manufacturing company or a public company, by taking a valuation of the fixed and floating capital employed, including the value of the land, and that upon this basis there be an annual stock-taking; when, after making all the customary deductions for depreciation of buildings, machinery, and plant, interest of capital, rates and taxes, and other charges, such as should be charged to the Government departments for articles supplied as shall preserve the capital intact; and that these accounts, with a balance sheet, be laid annually on the table of this House.' Mr. Cobden made a long and able statement, and endeavoured to prove that the work turned out by private enterprise was cheaper and better. In the course of the discussion that ensued, the Marquis of Hartington remarked that in great emergencies when credit system failed, and Government manufactories were indispensable. The resolution was withdrawn; but the subject is to be brought forward early next session.

THE RESIGNATION OF MR. LOWE.

On Monday, in the House of Commons, Lord Palmerston moved that the resolution which was passed on April 12th, and in consequence of which Mr. Lowe resigned his office, should be rescinded. The resolution inferred that the reports of the School Inspectors had been unfairly mutilated. But the report of the committee appointed by that House to enquire into the matter stated that there was no partiality or unfairness manifested. The motion for rescinding the resolution was agreed to.

Northern Repudiation.—The New York Correspondent of the *Times*, under date of July 3, writes:—'An appeal by the Governor of New York to the merchants, bankers, and other wealthy citizens, to advance, by way of loan to the State, the sums necessary to pay in gold the interest upon the debt held by Englishmen and other foreigners, has had little effect. Not above a quarter of the necessary funds has been thus provided for, and the whole proposal has fallen to the ground and been abandoned by the Chamber of Commerce, the body which first took up the subject as a matter of public duty and promised to carry it to completion. It appears that some portion of the principal has already been paid off in greenbacks, and for that reason the Chamber has decided that it is of no use to pay the interest of the remainder in gold—i.e., the debtor having done partial injustice, it is better that he should continue to do injustice than that he should clear himself open to the accusation of inconsistency by suddenly becoming honest. Governor Seymour, however, may claim the merit of having seen the right course and dared to pursue it, and may leave to the Legislature the shame of a *quasi* repudiation, and to the mercantile community of this great city the portion of the disgrace as is implied in its tacit acquiescence in that which it knows to be dishonourable, and the stain of which it might have removed if it had been half as much in love with the public credit as with private money-making. The great State of Ohio has had even less shame than New York, and has repudiated the obligation of paying in gold a debt contracted in gold, without so much as a remonstrance from any constituted authority entitled to speak in its name. Yesterday week the auditor, Secretary of State, and Attorney-General of Ohio, constituting the Board of Fund Commissioners, arrived in this city to pay the semi-annual interest of the Ohio public debt, due on July 1, a debt amounting to about $13,000,000, the most part held in England and Germany. They paid in greenbacks, and thus tender to the foreign creditor a composition, at the then rate of gold, of 40 cents on the dollar or eight shillings on the pound sterling. This may no doubt be called either robbery or repudiation; but it is marvellously like the one, and is certainly a very considerable stride towards the other. At some future day, perhaps, New York and Ohio may be again in want of funds to carry out some project of internal improvement or public utility, and may issue proposals to the capitalists of Europe to advance them gold on as good security as New York or Ohio can offer. But if, under such circumstances, Englishmen and Germans do not button up their pockets, they will deserve to lose their money, and will merit as little sympathy as any bumpkin at a fair who permits himself to be swindled by a ring-dropper.'

The Strength of the Confederacy.—The *Times*, Monday, in a leading article, observes: 'We have never heard that Charleston or Richmond has been thrown into such alarm as Baltimore and Washington have felt for several days. The Confederacy is more formidable as an enemy than ever. The Government can engage Grant and his enormous army while it stretches its arm over him and deals a blow in the North itself that is felt in every section of society. In the lower classes of the community there appears to be beginning a dim consciousness of the real state of things. The mass of the people have filled the ranks of the army again and again; they have fought bravely, and given their lives freely; but they cannot endure a continual effort that has no result, or brings only calamity, and they now begin to shrink from the useless sacrifice.'

THE CONFEDERATE MANIFESTO.

(From the *Morning Post*, July 22.)

If the South have not yet defeated the North so finally and completely in the field as to have compelled them to make peace and desist from their hopeless enterprise, they have at all events so decisively and utterly defeated them in the logic of the controversy from the very commencement of the contest as to have left their unreasoning adversaries, as the lawyers say, not a leg to stand upon. What the North rely on is evidently mere brute force and superiority of numbers. This they appear to believe will overcome justice and reason in controversy, as well as strategic genius and all the resources of chivalrous bravery and military science in the field of battle. Still the impartial spectator can hardly bring himself to believe that the North do not know that they are beaten. On the contrary, it is difficult to resist the conclusion that those among them who are not totally incompetent to form any sort of rational opinion on the matter must be convinced that their project of subjugation has utterly failed. In the American news which we have recently published, allusion is made to a manifesto issued by the Congress of the Southern Confederacy. This document comes very opportunely at a highly critical juncture, and possesses considerable interest. It places secession in its true light, and accurately defines the case of the South as against the North. To the mind of the historical student it forcibly suggests the famous Declaration of Independence, the original publication of which some now living in the Southern as well as in the Northern States may be able to remember. That famous manifesto is not yet ninety years old, and we believe there are Americans who are a hundred years old and even more.

This new declaration of independence is not issued in a controversy with a king by revolted subjects who owed him their allegiance, but by eight millions of Republicans as a statement of their case against a number of their fellow-citizens and equals, who, without any claim or pretence to their allegiance, have assumed to treat them as rebels and traitors for withdrawing from a voluntary union or partnership at will, which from its very nature ceased to be binding the very moment there was a cessation of that 'consent' on the part of those who had entered into it, which was essential to its maintenance. The manifesto begins with acknowledging the responsibility of the South 'to the opinion of the civilised world'—which, we may remark in passing, the North have so ostentatiously disregarded—'to the great law of Christian philanthropy'—equally set at defiance by the North—and 'to the Supreme Ruler of the universe, for the part they have been compelled to bear in the sad spectacle of war and carnage which the American continent for the last three years has exhibited to the eyes of afflicted humanity.' The Confederates 'deem the present a fitting occasion to declare the principles, the sentiments, and the purposes by which they have been and are actuated.' They advert to the fact that this war is on their part a purely defensive war, forced upon them against their will. They want nothing but to be left free to govern themselves and manage their own affairs as they deem best. They do not wish to interfere with the Northerners or their affairs in any way whatever. Among the inherent inalienable rights of man are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and it is in defence of these rights, and for nothing else, that they are fighting. The North have only to cease attacking them, destroying their property, devastating their country, and slaying their citizens like sheep, and the war will be at an end at once. They allude to the many and brilliant victories they have gained, to the repeated and disastrous reverses of the North, not as such, not as glorious triumphs on the one side and humiliating defeats on the other, but simply as facts to show that eight milllions of people, united in the firm resolution to maintain their freedom and independence, can neither be reduced to slavery nor exterminated by the sword.

'We do not,' they say, 'recur to these successes in any spirit of vain boasting, but in humble acknowledgment of that Almighty protection which has vouchsafed and granted them. The world must now see that eight millions of people, inhabiting so extensive a territory, with such varied resources, and such numerous facilities for defence as the benignant bounty of nature has bestowed upon us, and animated with one spirit to encounter every sacrifice of ease, of health, of property, of life itself, rather than be degraded from the condition of free and independent States into which they were born, can never be conquered.' They then pass on to the statement of the great principle on which they take their stand. The revolted British colonist of 1776, who were the lawful subjects of England, owing allegiance to the British Government, had no such argument to urge. 'On this continent, whatever opinions may have prevailed elsewhere, it has ever been held and acknowledged by all parties that government, to be lawful, must be founded on the consent of the governed.' The manifesto shows how the Confederates were forced to dissolve their Federal connection with the North by the aggressions of the latter on the fundamental principles of the compact of partnership which subsisted between the States of the American Union. 'In doing so,' they state, 'we exercised a right consecrated in the great charter of American liberty—the right of a free people, when a Government proves destructive of the ends for which it was established, to recur to the original principles and to institute new guards for their security.' The independence of each of the States constituting the American Union, as an individual sovereign State, coequal with the rest, and joined with its fellows in a free and voluntary federation, is a fact which appears on the face of the American Constitution. Under these circumstances, with the independence and sovereignty of each State entire and unsurrendered, the idea of applying to communities so constituted and organised the ordinary rules for coercing and reducing rebellious subjects to obedience is accurately described as 'a solecism in terms, as well as an outrage on the principles of public law.'

There is no possible answer to this. It cannot even be evaded except by the silence of the advocates who should have undertaken to sustain the case of the North. The war, therefore, stands convicted of being on the part of the Federals purely a war of aggression, alike unreasonable, unjust, and unnecessary, as well as preeminently unsuccessful in its conduct and impracticable and hopeless in its aims. The Confederates have neither interfered, nor do they seek to interfere, directly or indirectly, with the Federals or their affairs. With the internal peace and prosperity of the States now seeking to enslave or massacre the Southern people, to burn their towns, and reduce their country to a wilderness, the Confederates do not want to meddle in any way whatever. They do not desire to do to the North as the North are doing to them. They have no revenge to gratify. They will be content with simply being let alone.

Assuredly this evinces unexampled moderation and self-command. All they ask is 'to be left to themselves in the enjoyment of those inalienable rights of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" which their common ancestors declared to be the equal heritage of all the parties to the social compact.' Only let the North cease from its war of extermination and destruction, and they will be satisfied. If there are any questions which require adjustment by negotiation, the South reiterate that they are now, as they always have been, ready to enter into arrangements with the North 'in a spirit of peace, of equity, and manly frankness.' They are not afraid to avow a strong desire for peace, conscious as they are of their ability to hold their own if the North persist in prosecuting this wicked war, and they 'commit their cause to the enlightened judgment of the world, to the sober reflections of their adversaries, and to the solemn and righteous arbitrament of Heaven.'

THE RESOURCES OF THE SOUTH.

(From the *Boston Courier*.)

Among the many errors into which our people have been led in regard to the power of the Southern States, there are none more fallacious or productive of more disappointments than the opinions which have been indulged in, that the South within a brief period must be exhausted, both of supplies and men for the army.

With such an immense territory, fertile fields and favourable climate, the South can sustain in the field at least as large a proportion of its population as any people upon the face of the globe. Taking the limit of one out of ten of the people for the army, there is no doubt but the remaining nine-tenths can sustain such an army for an indefinite period. Experience thus far tends to confirm this view. Our people each year of the war have discussed the probability of rebel destitution, and predicted that it was impossible for the South to provide for its armies another year. But the succeeding season has invariably shown the falsity of the previous prophecy, and by general consent the exhaustion has been postponed to another year. This year we have heard less of it than in any preceding one. Our people are learning their mistake, and acquiescing in the fact that the rebellion cannot be brought to a close through starvation.

The same opinion has been entertained in regard to men. The South was exhausted in 1861, in 1862, and completely so in 1863; yet 1864 witnesses the rebel army in as formidable numbers as ever, and in greater efficiency.

The fact is that the South has never approximately exhausted its fighting population. Supposing that this composed but one in ten of the whole number. The growth of the population will make up the losses in the war, so that if the South had to-day its entire efficient fighting force in the field, it would have an army of at least from 600,000 to 800,000 men. The highest estimate of the effective veteran force of the South is 300,000 soldiers—not one half of the effective men. If the statement of Henry Wilson is to be relied on, we must have entered upon the campaign of this year with nearly one million of men in our armies. This would make an army three times as large as that of the rebels, and a larger proportional draft on our population than they have made. With the vastly superior numbers required in invading a hostile territory, and in holding strategic points, and even whole States, notwithstanding the great numerical superiority of our army, we have rarely been able to meet the enemy with superior force. This difficulty increases, and will increase with our advance. These are facts that our people should look at and understand. It is in no way for the interest of the country that they should delude themselves or be deluded. If the war is to go into another year, which the Administration leaders seem to assume, we must expect to raise not only as large, but larger forces than we have done heretofore, to cope successfully with the enemy. The enemy will not be exhausted in their means of supporting an army, or in men, another season. Upon this our people may rely, and they should govern themselves accordingly.

A Federal Order.—The following special order was issued at Memphis on the date named:—'Headquarters, District West Tennessee, July 6.—Whereas railroad trains from Memphis to Saulsbury (on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, fifty-eight miles from Memphis) have been fired into frequently by Confederate soldiers and guerillas within the last few days; and whereas there are many persons along the line of the railroad and at Memphis, who approve and encourage such murderous proceedings: It is ordered that forty of the most prominent and bitter Secessionists in and between Memphis and Lagrange be arrested, and that twenty of them each day be placed on the cars, in the most conspicuous positions, one being placed each side of the engines; and no train will be allowed to leave Memphis without a Secesh guard until this murderous business is desisted from. It is known that several citizens of Memphis have publicly applauded this firing upon trains. They will be given prominent positions on the cars. Quarters will be fitted up for them at White Station, where they will be tenderly cared for when not on duty on trains. Brigadier-General Hatch, commanding the cavalry division, is intrusted with the execution of this order. By order of Major-General C. C. Washburne.' A Memphis despatch of the 7th states that the excitement produced by the order was intense. A number of leading citizens had been arrested and put under guard.

The Peace Resolution moved by Mr. Davis of Kentucky.—The following is a copy of the 'joint resolution to restore peace among the people of the United States,' which was recently offered in the Senate by Mr. Davis of Kentucky, but ruled out of order at that time, and was not entertained or considered:—'Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled: That three years of civil war, in which the enormous expenditure of blood and treasure has no parallel in the world's history, and whose wide-spreading rapine and diabolical cruelties have shocked Christendom, and which, from alternating success, has produced no essential results, prove that war was not the proper remedy for our national troubles. Resolved: That if the people of America would save and restore their shattered Constitution, and avert from themselves and their posterity the slavery of a military despotism and of a public debt, the interest upon which all the avails of their labour and economy will never meet, they must bring this war to a speedy close. Resolved: That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorised to propose a cessation of arms and an amnesty to the authorities of the Confederate States of America, with a view to a convention of the people of all the States to reconstruct the Union; and if that cannot be effected, then that said convention agree upon the terms of a separation of the States without the further effusion of blood, and of a lasting peace among them.'

DESTRUCTION OF THE *ALABAMA*.

A NORTHERN VIEW.

(From the *New York Daily News*, July 8.

The *Alabama* cannot be captured. No beam, or plank, or spar, or rope, or sail of the famed sea rover will ever be a trophy in the hands of her enemies. The ocean that has been the scene of her career protects her now for ever. She seemed fated to baffle and defy in disaster as well as in success. There is sometimes glory in misfortune and triumph in defeat. The words of the dying Lawrence, urging resistance against hope, are more memorable than the records of his victories. The fate of the *Alabama* will be a theme for admiration with friend and foe, and we venture to prophesy that many a pen that has been active in denouncing her career will acknowledge a certain sublimity in its close.

The commercial welfare and the naval reputation of the North are certainly most beholden to the commander of the *Kearsage* and his subordinates for their successful efforts to destroy this formidable enemy. But they 'have scotched the snake, not killed it.' All accounts state that the *Alabama* had suffered severely by the wear and tear of her active existence. She had lost much of her capacity for mischief, and her speed was reduced, and she was, in fact, worn out with hard service, and in absolute need of such repairs as no neutral port would furnish. It was the indomitable spirit, the untiring zeal, and the splendid management of Captain Semmes, that still rendered her formidable. That spirit, that zeal, and that capacity for management are yet in the service of the Confederacy. The happy star of Semmes watched over him after the last plank sank beneath him. He, too, escaped capture. The romantic attributes of the fight off Cherbourg Harbour, and its thrilling *dénouement*, will but serve to add to his renown, and popularity with friends of the South. There is more *éclat* attached to his name by the circumstances of his defeat than by the long list of his successes. A public dinner was tendered him immediately upon his arrival at Southampton after the engagement. The finale of the *Alabama's* remarkable career will attract public attention and enlist public sympathy in England. Captain Semmes will be lionised, fêted, and encouraged. We doubt not that before long a second *Alabama* will be at his command. Meanwhile her commander has lost no prestige. He has sacrificed, perhaps, a little of his reputation for sagacity in risking an encounter with an opponent far his superior in speed, armament, and strength of build; but human nature is more apt to sympathise with reckless daring than to condemn it. He has saved a handful of his men, who will serve as a nucleus for another crew; and there will be no lack of adventurous characters ready to serve the man who fought his ship till her guns were under water, and then committed her to old Neptune's eternal embrace, leaving no vestige behind but the record of her deeds.

Lincoln upon the Battle-Field.—We see that the papers are referring to the fact that Lincoln ordered a comic song to be sung upon a battle-field. We have known the facts about the transaction for some time, but have refrained from speaking them. As the newspapers are now stating some of the facts, we will give the whole. Soon after one of the most desperate and sanguinary battles, Mr. Lincoln visited the commanding General and the army. While on his visit, the commanding General with his staff took him over the field in a carriage, and explained to him the plan of the battle, and the particular places where the fight was most fierce. At one point the commanding General said, 'Here on this side of this road five hundred of our brave fellows were killed, and just on the other side of the road four hundred more were slain, and right on the other side of that wall five hundred rebels were destroyed. We have buried them where they fell.' 'I declare,' said the President, 'this is getting gloomy. Let us drive away.' After driving a few rods, the President said, 'This makes a feller feel gloomy. Jack' (speaking to a companion), 'can't you give us something to cheer us up? Give us a song, and give us a lively one.' Thereupon Jack struck up, as loud as he could bawl, a comic negro song, which he continued to sing while they were riding off from the battle-ground, and till they approached a regiment drawn up, when the commanding General said, 'Mr. President, wouldn't it be well for your friend to cease his song till we have passed this regiment? The poor fellows have lost more than half of their numbers. They are feeling very badly, and I should be afraid of the effect that it may have on them.' The President then asked his companion to stop his singing till they got by that regiment. We know that this story is incredible, that it is impossible that a man who could be elected President of the United States, could so conduct himself over the fresh-made graves of the heroic dead. When this story was told to us we said that it was *incredible—impossible*, but the story is told on such authority that we *know* it to be true. We tell the story that the people may have some idea of this man, Abraham Lincoln, who is a candidate for four years more of such rule. If any Republican holds up his hands in horror, and says this story *can't* be true, we say we sympathise with him from the bottom of our soul; the story *can't* be true of any man fit for any office of trust, or even for decent society; but the story is every whit true of Abraham Lincoln, *incredible* and *impossible* as it may seem.—*Essex Pennsylvania Statesman.*

Worth Remembering.—The following resolutions passed the United States House of Representatives, Feb. 11, 1861, by a nearly unanimous vote:—'Resolved: That neither the Federal Government nor the people or Governments of the nonslaveholding States have a purpose or a constitutional right to legislate upon or interfere with slavery in any of the States of the Union. Resolved: That those persons in the North who do not subscribe to the foregoing proposition are too insignificant in numbers and influence to excite the serious attention or alarm of any portion of the people of the Republic, and that the increase of their numbers and influence does not keep pace with the increase of the aggregate population of the Union.'

In a Chancery suit concluded last week, Messrs. Sampson, Low, & Co., purchasers of the copyright of 'Haunted Hearts,' a book written by Miss M. S. Cummins, an American authoress resident in Canada, sought to restrain Messrs. Routledge from publishing the same work. The latter contended that Miss Cummins, as an American citizen, had no claim to the benefit of the English law of copyright, though resident in a part of the British dominions. Vice-Chancellor Kindersley decided that, on principle, a foreigner publishing under the circumstances stated was entitled to the benefit of the Act; but in the particular case before the Court the assignment of the publishers was invalid from non-compliance with some technical points as to accuracy of registration.

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 13 Bouverie Street, E.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

The Honorary Treasurer of the Jackson Statue Fund acknowledges the receipt of the following additional subscription:—

Messrs. Levick £21 0 0

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1864.

The Invasion of the Northern States.

IF we can credit the Federal accounts General LEE has just brought the most brilliant operation of the war to a successful close. With an air of triumph the Northern press announces that 'the invasion is at an end.' Baltimore is still held in thrall; President LINCOLN is still safe in the White House; and the whole North breathes more freely, like a man suddenly relieved from the sense of imminent and deadly peril. We see no reason to doubt the general purport of the latest intelligence from New York; and we can even participate in the pleasurable excitement produced in Washington by the news that the Confederates were recrossing the Potomac. Throughout the war there has been no achievement more creditable to the Confederate commander than this daring raid. Nothing which could be so deservedly recorded as a complete success. Upon the master-mind which conceived it, and upon the daring and disciplined soldiers who executed it, this new invasion of the Northern States reflects the highest credit, even if its results be summed up in the vague telegraphic announcements of 'enormous plunder,' and 'panic in Washington.' But regarded as an operation projected to permanently affect the issue of the present campaign, we believe that this movement is likely to influence most decisively the future of the war, and that the North is as yet but very far from comprehending its ultimate importance.

It was bruited about in Richmond a month ago that HUNTER would pay dearly for his temporary success in Western Virginia, and the threat has been fulfilled. HUNTER, indeed, escaped with the loss of half his artillery and all his trains, and with an army famished, dispirited, and demoralised. But the safety of his isolated corps has been extravagantly purchased by the blow which has been struck in Maryland and Pennsylvania. It is now pretty certain—and the fact shows how confident LEE is in his power to repel any force under GRANT's command—that the recent dash into Maryland was planned while GRANT was butting against the earthworks north of the Chickahominy. LEE's quick resolve has often been conspicuous during the war, but in no instance has he displayed greater promptitude, or higher generalship, than in this movement. General EARLY's column was put in motion within an hour or two after the announcement of HUNTER's victory at Staunton. But it marched not so much with a view to oppose the progress of HUNTER's army as to intercept its retreat. Some surprise was expressed, at the time of GRANT's last change of base, that no attempt was made by the Confederate general to take advantage of the opportunity afforded by the fresh movement of his opponent. Now we know the reason why. GRANT was playing LEE's game in increasing the distance between his own lines and Washington. There was literally nothing to arrest the march of an army of 20,000 Confederates from the Chickahominy to the Potomac; and, accordingly, a force of about that number was quietly but rapidly transferred to the Shenandoah valley. HUNTER failed at Lynchburg, and retired, pursued by the Confederates; but the road to the Potomac was barred. There was nothing left to him but to retire across the mountains in Western Virginia, and leave the road to the North open to EARLY's column. Thus, whilst the Northern papers were loud in their exultation over HUNTER's safe retreat, and already anticipating a new advance, the Confederates, having made him safe, pushed swiftly on, took SIGEL by surprise at Martinsburg, captured Harper's Ferry, and were collecting stores in Maryland. So well kept was the secret, that SIGEL had no time to remove a wagon of HUNTER's train from Martinsburg, before the Confederates were upon him. Yet up to that moment it was believed in Washington that the whole of LEE's army was in the Petersburg lines. HUNTER being practically out of the fight, the Southern army pushed rapidly on by their old route; and, leaving SIGEL entrenched on Maryland heights, set to work to make Western Maryland and Pennsylvania pay their fair proportion of the war tribute. For a time the North affected to disregard the invasion. It was described as a mere cavalry raid, an incursion of guerillas. Nevertheless, the militia of the threatened States was immediately called out. What few veterans were still in the North were hastily assembled, and a small army, under General WALLACE, marched out of Baltimore to meet the invaders. The object was to defend the line of the Monocacy and the railway communication with Washington and Baltimore. But it was easily defeated. After a brief struggle, WALLACE's army was driven back in disorder upon Baltimore, with a loss of some 3,000 men in killed, wounded, and prisoners. The confidence which had hitherto reigned degenerated into a disgraceful panic. It was suddenly discovered that the North was in danger. It was no longer a raid, but an invasion on a grand scale, under LEE's direction. The flames which lit Governor BRADFORD's house four miles from Baltimore gave colour to the belief, and one end of the movement was gained. GRANT's army was seriously weakened by the despatch of one or two whole corps to the relief of Washington.

As a raid, this movement has been, we repeat, an entire success. It has given horses and supplies to an army that needed both. It has placed the rich harvests of the Shenandoah at the disposal of the Confederate general. But it seems something more than a raid. From a military as well as a political point of view, it has accomplished great things. The North flattered itself that LEE was short of troops, that every man was needed to hold the defences of Petersburg against General GRANT. It boasted that GRANT, in his southward progress, had destroyed every railroad; and derided the idea of any Confederate force ever attempting to reach the Potomac. Yet, in the very height of the struggle, LEE could spare a small army to march 100 miles from Richmond, and to make a demonstration against the Northern capital. What is more, a Confederate army actually marched to within four miles of Baltimore and seven of Washington, while GRANT's 100,000 men were keeping their lines at least twenty-five miles from Richmond. We will put aside the rich booty of the raid, HUNTER's wagon trains, the stores of Martinsburg and Harper's Ferry, and of Frederick the capital of Maryland, though even these would have been well worth the cost of the expedition. But what, we ask, must be the moral effect of this blow? A Confederate army invades Northern soil, and defeats the Federals in a pitched battle within thirty-five miles of Baltimore. There is panic in Pennsylvania, but no enthusiasm. New York arms sullenly in self-defence, but declines to send troops to the defence of the capital. The men of Maryland do not conceal their sympathy with the invasion. Is it any wonder that the most sanguine of Federals should prove despondent, and that even the New York press should almost for the first time confess the humiliation of the Northern army? As a raid for supplies, the invasion is a success; as one of the most telling blows struck against the North, it is equally so. It remains to be seen now whether it will decisively influence the issue of the campaign. The latest intelligence inclines us to believe that it will have very serious consequences. If it be true that GRANT has been compelled to divide his forces, and despatch one or two corps to the relief of Washington, we shall in all probability very shortly see the abandonment of the siege of Petersburg. The 18th corps, under General SMITH, is spoken of as having arrived at Baltimore; two divisions of the 6th corps are mentioned as manning a portion of the defences of Washington; another corps from New Orleans, which would have gone to swell GRANT's present force, is also reported to have reached Maryland. It is possible that the opportunity has arrived which LEE has been so long seeking, when he may assume the offensive with numbers more nearly equal than they have been since the war began, and drive GRANT to his gunboats.

Under any circumstances, GRANT's position is very seriously affected. It is tolerably clear that the Confederates have effectively repaired the damage done to the Virginian railroads. Heavy trains are running from Staunton to Richmond laden with the spoils of the raid; and the direct road between Richmond and Washington, *viâ* Manassas Junction, is again in working order. If 30,000 men can hold Petersburg, LEE may be tempted to make another diversion of a still more formidable character; and under no circumstances can Washington and Baltimore again be left to the protection of a handful of inexperienced soldiers. At the latest date LEE was said to be feeling the left flank of the army before Petersburg with a view to an attack; and if GRANT has 'depleted' his forces to the extent acknowledged by the Federals, it will go very hard with the latter. We are evidently nearing the crisis of the campaign in Virginia. Another week's news may tell us of its conclusion.

New York and the Federal Government.

EVEN in the midst of the excitement and panic that have lately prevailed in the North on account of the military situation and the financial difficulties, considerable attention has been directed to the disputes in New York between the State and Federal authorities. It is indeed difficult for the Northerners to exaggerate the importance of this contest. If Mr. LINCOLN succeeds in asserting his claims, then there is an end of State jurisdiction, and the despotism which now virtually exists will be formally proclaimed. There seems a disposition on the part of Governor SEYMOUR to defend the laws of the State and the rights of the citizens. No doubt he is encouraged to make a bold stand by the impunity with which Mr. VALLANDIGHAM and other Western leaders have defied the edicts of the Federal Government, and also by the rapid growth of the party opposed to the reelection of Mr. LINCOLN. Whether Governor SEYMOUR is firm or succumbs to the threats of the Federal Government, it is an important crisis, and we therefore give our readers a *résumé* of the cases now pending between the State and Federal authorities. They are:—

1. The case of the people against ROBERT MURRAY, commonly called the ARGUELLES case, in which the defendant, who is United States Marshal for New York, is indicted by the Grand Jury for violating the statute of New York against kidnapping, in having arrested the Spaniard ARGUELLES and sent him out of the country on the order of the SECRETARY of STATE.

2. The case against Major-General DIX, the United States commanding officer of the Department of New York, of which the position is this. After the Grand Jury determined not to enquire into the case which had been laid before them, the District Attorney for the State, by direction of the Governor, took testimony and filed a complaint before Judge RUSSELL, of the City Court, upon which General DIX and all his subordinates who took part in the arrest of the editors of the *Journal of Commerce* and the *World* newspapers, and the seizing of their offices, were brought up for examination, with a view to their being committed for trial.

The proceedings in the ARGUELLES case are before the General Court of Sessions, of which Recorder HOFFMAN and Judge RUSSELL are judges. Those in relation to General DIX are before Judge RUSSELL in chambers, as committing magistrate. It will serve to prevent confusion to note that there is a separate Recorder's Court, of which HOFFMAN is the judge, and a separate City Court, of which RUSSELL is judge. They hold trial terms of the Court of Sessions alternately.

In both these cases, the order of the PRESIDENT of the United States is interposed *in limine*, as a bar to any proceeding whatever against his subordinates for the executing of any command which he issues to them in his official capacity.

The counsel for Marshal MURRAY came into Court, and moved for the transfer of the cause into the United States Circuit Court, under the Act passed by the late Congress, which provides that, during the present rebellion, 'any order of the PRESIDENT, or under his authority, shall be a valid defence in all Courts' to any action or prosecution, civil or criminal, for anything done by virtue of such order; and authorises the defendant in all such cases to transfer the suit or prosecution against him from any State Court into the Federal Courts.

The argument on this head was long and searching. There were some very strong points made against the application, of which the most cogent adopted by the Court were these:—

1. If the indictment were transferred to the United States Circuit Court, the verdict there must be final, for there is no right of appeal from the Circuit to the Supreme Court in criminal cases. The State is thereby precluded from testing the constitutionality of these proceedings in the highest Court, and robbed of her jurisdiction without remedy.

2. If a conviction be had in the Circuit Court, there is no power to pass judgment. United States judges cannot pass sentence upon offenders against the criminal laws of a State. The State cannot pass sentence on criminals convicted in other than its own Courts.

3. If the transfer is valid, and a conviction could legally follow, the extreme political consequence follows also, that, as power of pardon must lie, by that construction, with the PRESIDENT, he may discharge from all legal punishment the perpetrators of any act he may direct to be done in any part of the country, no matter how flagrantly in violation of State jurisdiction and personal liberty.

The Court detailed these consequences of the interpretation of the Act asked by the Government, to strengthen the position they took on certain expressions of the Act, that it was designed to refer only to civil suits, and not to interfere with State jurisdiction in criminal matters; and, therefore, that the case before them did not come within the provisions of the Act. They waived the point whether it is a constitutional exercise of power in regard to civil suits, but plainly intimated their opinion that it is not. They accordingly refused the application to remove the suit, and held that for the lawful uses of the Government the power which already exists of appealing to the Courts of the United States whenever questions of law arise in the progress of a trial before State Courts, where constitutional questions are properly raised, is ample.

The counsel for the Marshal then moved to quash the indictment, thus bringing up the question directly before the Court whether it would put on trial as a criminal the Marshal of the United States for executing the orders of the PRESIDENT. But, after argument, the counsel withdrew this motion, and agreed to enter a plea of not guilty, or otherwise plead to the indictment within a fortnight. The case goes over to the September term; but these questions will doubtless be raised there again on some special plea, fortified by the proof, which was not before the Grand Jury when the indictment was found, that the act complained of was done under the orders of the Federal Executive, and that the responsibility is assumed there directly.

The current of feeling is stronger in this case than in that against General DIX, because there is no plea of military advantage or necessity to be urged in its defence. The Federal Government has seized on a law passed for the single purpose of giving extraordinary help to the suppression of 'rebellion,' and used it to claim for itself an indefinite authority and arbitrary powers in matters that have no relation whatever to military operations or the conduct and progress of the war.

The DIX case is, however, to be the chosen field of conflict on these topics. A great array of counsel appears in it on both sides. Ex-Judge PIERREPONT and W. M. EVARTS are, with the United States District Attorney, for General DIX; and, on the other hand, the prosecuting officer of the State, A. OAKEY HALL, is assisted by the Attorney-General, JOHN COCHRANE, who was elected to that place on the Republican ticket last autumn, and is the candidate for Vice-President on the ticket of General FREMONT, nominated at Cleveland. This political conjunction is significant. There are also consulting friends on both sides among the chief politicians and lawyers of the State.

The plea is made directly for the accused that the suppression of the two papers, and all the attending acts of which they are accused, were done in pursuance of the written orders of the PRESIDENT of the United States, which written orders are offered in evidence; and the further plea is made that a general commanding a department in time of war cannot be arrested or put on trial by any civil authority whatever for obeying such an order.

At the first hearing on the 6th inst. the state of facts as recited, and the nature of the defence set up, were agreed to by the counsel on both sides; and on the 9th inst. the argument came on upon the first and preliminary point whether the accused can be held for trial at all by the State of New York, or whether, on the contrary, the mere fact of the existence of civil war vests in the PRESIDENT of the United States as Commander-in-Chief, the power of placing the military over the civil authority, at his own discretion, in all parts of the United States, as well within the jurisdiction of States undisturbed by the presence of any enemy and remote from the field of hostilities, as within the military lines; and, as a resulting enquiry, whether there is any constitutional authority in the Federal Government to invest him with these tremendous powers. The enquiry applied to the facts is, whether the PRESIDENT has, or may be authorised to assume, the right to order the suppression, by his military officers, of such public journals as may offend him, to imprison their conductors, and waste their property; and whether the PRESIDENT'S military authority shall stand as his officers' immunity against all responsibility elsewhere, setting aside all the most cherished maxims of civil liberty, and overriding the constitutions and statutes of States, and suppressing the right of the citizens of questioning the manner in which they are thus despoiled.

During the pleadings it was announced by the counsel for the Government that General DIX has received another order from the PRESIDENT, by which he is directed, while the civil war lasts, not to relieve himself of his command, or suffer himself to be deprived of his liberty for obeying any military command of the PRESIDENT.

This order is not a direction to General DIX to refuse to plead, or otherwise in this stage of the case to deny the authority of the State Courts to proceed against him. Neither does it preclude the interposition of that denial, if the Courts should insist on retaining jurisdiction. It is a minatory injunction that no process or judgment of the Court shall be permitted to interfere with the personal capacity of General DIX to execute any military duties the PRESIDENT may impose upon him. Governor SEYMOUR has understood it in this light, and has instructed the District Attorney to proceed with the assurance that the processes of the Court, whatever they may be, shall be enforced without distinction of persons.

The argument before Judge RUSSELL was concluded on the 9th inst. The decision of the Judge was reserved, and will be given on August 1.

There is no reason to doubt that the decision will be given against the plea for the Government, and that General DIX will be held to answer to the State laws for the trespass against the property of the two journals and the personal liberty of the proprietors.

An adverse decision may not provoke an immediate collision. The State authorities, satisfied with a legal vindication of their rights, may permit the judgment they obtain to remain for a while a dead letter; and the Federal authorities, in view of the Presidential election, will be anxious to avoid a contest which cannot fail to damage them. But, sooner or later, and probably more quickly than either party expects, the question must be finally settled. A distinct issue has been raised, and compromise is impossible. If Mr. LINCOLN submits to a check in New York, his despotic rule will be at an end; and, therefore, there is little doubt that he will, if necessary, endeavour to assert his assumed authority by force. On the other hand, the State authorities are aware that if they shrink from the conflict, it will be an open submission to the despotic pretensions of Mr. LINCOLN.

Our Volunteers.

SATURDAY last brought to a close the fourth of the great British rifle-meetings, which bid fair to wrest from the Epsom races the much-vaunted title of 'our Isthmian games.' The gloomy prophets who croaked over the first enthusiastic flow of the long pent-up stream of English warlike ardour—the sapient philosophers who turned up a contemptuous nose at the youthful folly of shouldering a rifle, and playing, as they called it, at soldiers—must view with feelings very near akin to disgust the animated contests of Wimbledon and the stately reviews of Hyde Park. To them belongs a feeling of surprise mingled with mortification; and even those who were disposed to take a more healthy view of our aspirations cannot but admit a certain amount of astonishment at the marvellous success of the 'volunteer movement' in this island. It must be confessed, true-spirited volunteers have had a hard game to play, a laborious task to perform. No one ever doubted the readiness of every Briton to fight for his hearth and home, or supposed that a threat of foreign invasion would have any effect but that of nerving every man's spirit to defiance; but it was an unprecedented thing that the sudden flush of anger should give place to a calm resolution, or even that a false alarm should give rise to a course of action which would forbid another panic to arise. Such, however, has been the line of conduct which the English people have pursued. We can all remember the panic of 1859—the sudden rush of the people to arms on the slightest insinuation of a threat of invasion—the perplexity of the Government, who knew not how to deal with this new Frankenstein, which had risen into life and might under their almost unwilling hands. The change which since that time has been operated in the spirit of the nation is worthy of the most minute observation, and may form a most instructive lesson to all future statesmen. The coming historian of England will be bound to observe how the conviction gradually arose in the mind of England that a movement of this nature, to be really useful, must not be a spasmodic effort nor a periodically-recurring fit; that it must be continuous and enduring if it is to command confidence at home and respect abroad. He will next observe how judiciously private enterprise and state protection have united in fostering the newly-found spirit, so that it has been possible to raise the standard of excellence, both in the masses and in the individuals, to a point far above that which was originally contemplated, not only with the acquiescence but with the hearty support of the people. Who in the early days of volunteering would have dared to require of the detached companies which were then formed the elaborate drilling, or expect them to support the intricate organisation into administrative battalions, or demand the painful and laborious rifle-practice, which now so extensively prevail? Yet, thanks to the English nature and the English common sense, these are the results to which we may now point, and which have raised our citizen troops to a position which every European army must respect.

The impediments which harassed the birth of our present volunteer system, and the quicksands which have beset its path, have been numerous; some have been avoided by the excellence of our Constitution, others have been beaten down and extinguished by the inherent vitality of the movement. Among the latter we would notice one, which has already left its mark upon our character, and which promises to affect our future actions in the most serious manner.

> Nil admirari prope res est una, Numici,
> Solaque quæ possit facere et servare beatum.'

Such was, occasionally at least, the creed of the Roman poet, and rightly so, perhaps; absence of enthusiasm, when contrasted with gross superstition, is possibly the less of two great evils. But that it is a great evil we most unhesitatingly affirm, and one which is, and has been for some time past, exercising a most baneful influence over the people of this country. The stoical, or rather lazy, indifference which has let party spirit die away in our Legislature, until some fond Utopians have fancied that it is really extinct; the utter listlessness and *ennui* of a society, no member of which is allowed to feel admiration, disgust, or emotion of any sort—these are the poisons which have been eating into the vitals of England, and struggled hard to destroy the volunteer system before it was well born. It came upon us, however, with a sudden rush, too violent to be withstood by a mere moral vice; and it swept away before it a mass of unhealthy and coxcombical pedantry, the offspring of the *nil admirari* spirit. Then, for the first time, men looked around with new eyes, and saw with astonishment that it was not an offence either against civilised customs or good breeding to be truly and heartily enthusiastic in a good cause. Our ideas have been raised concerning ourselves and our fellow-creatures; we look with pleasure upon the man who earnestly and successfully devotes his attention to the promotion of volunteering, and we feel an involuntary thrill of delight and sympathy. Do we not feel happier for this? Are we not inwardly gratified to find that our education has not utterly deadened every nerve in our hearts which can respond to a noble, or a devoted, or an earnest action in our fellowman? The immense benefit which the volunteer movement has done to this country by raising a protest against the vicious philosophy which we have referred to, can only be guessed at present by those who have had to deal largely with our highly educated volunteers, among whom the feeling was most prevalent. But the general merits of the movement in raising the tone of the English mind to a more noble pitch, and the ceaseless battle which is waged by our new-born principle of enthusiasm against the philosophy of indifferentism, will hereafter be worthy subjects for the most careful observation and investigation.

Another obstacle, which it was expected would stand in the way of a proper development of our volunteer system, was the light esteem in which volunteer troops have been held. It was said to be absurd to expect citizen soldiers to have the steadiness, the discipline, or the endurance of those who have been trained to the use of arms as their profession. And the *à priori* argument was supposed to be confirmed by the experience that we have had in this country of our militia, and in foreign countries of the national guard. The supporters of this idea must have been agreeably disappointed in the course of the last three years: and a very little consideration will show that they had not taken into account several elements which distinguish our English volunteers from other untried troops. Let us take a battalion of recruits of the line and a battalion of the London

Rifle Brigade: the former is a rude mass of wholly uneducated bumpkins, with about as much idea of organisation as a flock of sheep, and an ambition limited to the receipt of 1*s.* 1*d.* a day with the smallest possible amount of stoppages; the latter is composed of individuals nearly every one of whom is aware that union without method is only a synonym for chaos, every one of whom has been educated in the yard, in the workshop, or in the office, into an unconscious habit of organisation. Their ambition has an exalted object—one of the noblest, in fact, which can exert an influence on the collective mind of humanity—the assertion of the manhood of the country in the face of the general world. Whether of these twain will fall more readily into habits of steadiness and discipline, or acquiesce more heartily in the restraints required for the proper inculcation of them? It is evident that the educated battalion starts with an immense superiority over the other—an advantage which it will continue to hold so long as that other remains uneducated. This position, strange as it may have once appeared to military ears, is fully confirmed by history. They were educated volunteers, inspired with a lofty feeling of patriotism, who beat off the Persian mercenary hordes at Marathon; they were volunteers who asserted the independence of Switzerland against the trained feudal armies of Austria and of Burgundy; they were volunteers who first formed the United States of America; they were signally volunteers who, with an unequalled singleness and ferocity of purpose, asserted the independence of revolutionary France in 1794; they are volunteers who are now defending the existence of the Confederate States of America with heroism and conduct that commands the admiration of Europe. These are five examples only; if need were, many more could be brought forward, but none stronger than these, in which the volunteer and the mercenary system were weighed against one another, and the volunteer prevailed. It is evident to any one considering the question in this light that the instances of failure which our militia and the foreign national guards are supposed to present are not fairly applicable to the case. Neither of these institutions conforms exactly to the requirements of a real volunteer force, which are, first and chiefly, an exalted object, and, secondly, a leaven of education. The militia are only intermittent troops of the line; they are taken from the same class, look to the same object, and only receive a less systematic training. The national guard is an enforced service, and therefore any patriotism displayed in the performance of it is accidental and *pardessus le marché*; moreover, the duties of it are more those of police than of soldiers; we need not be surprised, then, if, when called upon to do military service, it has usually failed.

We must anticipate the objections of those who will say, 'If you believe so thoroughly in the superiority of a volunteer force, why not propose the abolition of our standing army?' There are many duties which must be performed for which it would be cruel and impolitic to make use of volunteer troops. It is necessary occasionally to take active measures of aggression either in retaliation or in chastisement; it is necessary to garrison our fortresses both at home and abroad; it is even requisite on some occasions (not such as we have lately seen) to give material aid to our independent colonies. To allow volunteers to perform these functions would be not only impolitic, but impossible; they would lose their distinctive value, and become professional soldiers, exactly similar to our present standing army. It cannot be too often repeated that the essential virtue of the volunteer system lies in the fact that it is the natural defensive force of the country, and any attempt to divert it from its proper functions to any other objects, however laudable, must end in confusion and disaster.

We have observed that there were difficulties attending the birth of the volunteer system, which nothing but the excellence of our Constitution could have avoided. Chief among these is the objection which has been always entertained against a great increase of armed force in this country. The English nation has generally been averse to a standing army. The descendants of the mighty barons of the Middle Ages, who had waged war with one another and with the royal power itself, in lordly impunity, might acquiesce in the loss of their own military privileges, but could not brook to see the dominant power of the sovereign over them strengthened beyond measure. STRAFFORD'S attempt to carry out the doctrine of 'Thorough,' in the time of CHARLES I., by means of a standing army, was received with equal disfavour by the higher and the lower classes. The attempts of the early sovereigns of the House of BRUNSWICK to increase their permanent forces were looked upon with great suspicion by the Tories; even at the beginning of this century the feeling was not wholly extinct. On the other hand, the objection which the executive power must feel to the formation of an independent force belonging wholly to the people is evident; we have seen it manifested lately in a most striking manner, by the refusal of the Italian Government to permit the enrolment of Garibaldian volunteers: it was, they said, the creation of *imperium in imperio*, and incompatible with the prerogative of the sovereign. It has been the proud lot of England to show how the mutual confidence of the sovereign and the people can permit the existence of a large, well-armed, and carefully trained force, which neither circumscribes the privileges of the QUEEN, nor endangers the constitutional liberties of her subjects. We may congratulate ourselves that, in the midst of the gloomy clouds of vacillation, infirmity, and selfishness which have overhung England during the last two years, there is this one ray of enduring brilliance which we can look upon with an honourable pride.

BERTRAND DU GUESCLIN.*

THIS book, which is amongst the first literary productions of Southern independence, is creditable to the scholarship of Southern gentlemen and to the enterprise of Southern publishers. It is not by the ordinary public, the consumers of cheap novels and the frequenters of circulating libraries, that a work like the 'Life of Du Guesclin' will be bought and read. It is reading for men of leisure with a taste for study, not for men who read only in the intervals of exciting sport or absorbing business. It belongs to that class of works whose frequency in any country indicates the presence of a cultivated aristocracy; of men whose studies are not confined to the beaten track of ordinary education, but who have time to go astray in quest of something more than ordinary education can possibly embrace, and whose pursuits are not too energetic and exhausting to leave their intellectual digestion strong enough for other food than would tempt a dainty appetite. Men who are hard-worked as professional and business men for the most part are find time only for necessary or for amusing reading—for histories like Froude's and Macaulay's, or novels like Bulwer's and Miss Mulock's; when we find such books as that before us, we know that there must be a class of readers with ample leisure and a cultivated taste. It is only for men of considerable previous culture that this book would have any charms; it is only men of leisure who could afford to spend their time in such an out-of-the-way corner of history.

The author has taken conscientious pains with his work, and whatever its faults may be, none of them are to be attributed to that wanton neglect which is nothing less than an impertinence to the public, and which it is the bounden duty of reviewers to note and to punish. The style is correct and careful, if not agreeable; the only remarkable barbarism being the introduction of the American 'loaned' for 'lent' into an account of a transaction between the King of France and Bertrand du Guesclin, an anachronism which produces a somewhat ludicrous effect. Generally the style has been much affected by that of the old chronicles from which the principal portion of Mr. Jamison's material is derived. It has their dryness, without that quaint simplicity which always serves to render them agreeable reading; and consequently the effect of the book is a little too much that which would be produced by a literal rendering into modern prose of the old ballads of chivalric romance or fairy tradition. Chapter after chapter merely reproduces, in a modern dress, the histories of Froissart and his contemporaries, many of which would not be read in the original, and for whose preservation in this manner we ought to be grateful; but they are merely embodied, without being assimilated, in the narrative, and the effect is one of frequent dulness and occasional incongruity. There has been a want of thorough digestion of the materials, a want of system and predetermined purpose in their use, and the consequence is, that though the biographer of Bertrand du Guesclin tells us all that is known of the hero and a great deal of his 'times,' he fails to give us either a connected and readable life of the man or an intelligible picture of the scenes and social conditions among which he lived, and moved, and played an important and active part. A writer of genius would have either reproduced the life and spirit of the old chronicles along with their facts, or he would have thoroughly worked up their materials into a homogeneous and continuous narrative in modern style. He would have treated them either as Arnold has treated the early legends of Rome, or as Grote has dealt with the first historical period of Greece. But Mr. Jamison, being merely a careful and diligent scholar, has done neither of these things, and his book, therefore, makes no appeal to that great majority of the public which expects the writer to do all intellectual work for his readers, and leave them nothing but to enjoy the finished product of his art. A man of genius would have introduced his readers to Bertrand du Guesclin in his habit as he lived, and to the age which made him what he was—would have made plain to us his place in history, the circumstances in which he found his country, and the position in which he left it—would have drawn for us a clear portrait of the man and a vivid picture of the age. Mr. Jamison does none of these things; he only gives us the means of doing them for ourselves. He has cut out of the history of France and Spain that portion which embraces the life and death of his hero; he tells us all that happened between Du Guesclin's introduction into active life and his death, as it might have been told by a contemporary and intimate associate of Du Guesclin, and from much the same standpoint. In fact, the work resembles rather that of a contemporary than that of a writer living four hundred years after the event. It has the minuteness of detail, and the want of perspective, of a picture drawn from the midst of a plain on a level with surrounding circumstances; it lacks that generality and breadth, that completeness as a whole, that proportion of features and subordination of details, which should distinguish the work of one who stands on the heights of subsequent experience, and views the scene from the distance of centuries.

Bertrand du Guesclin was the hero on the French side of that act of the long drama of war between France and England which embraces the reign of Edward III. The two countries had no lasting peace from the time of Henry II. to that of the Stuarts; but there was a difference in the character of the quarrel, at successive epochs, which ought not to be overlooked. The wars of the early Plantagenets and Valois were of feudalism, arising out of the relations of the Dukes of Normandy with the Kings of France, and affected only portions of the kingdom. The next wars were wars of succession, ending in a sort of partition. Edward III. and Henry V. each asserted a claim to the French throne, and each seized a considerable portion of the soil of France, which was lost in the minority of their successors. The one war exactly reproduces the other in its origin and results; and Bertrand du Guesclin plays in the first the part which in the second is filled, with loftier aims and under holier auspices, by Joan of Arc. After the reign of Henry VI., the wars of France and England were wars of policy, in which England, whatever she might nominally claim, ceased to aspire to the actual possession of any considerable territory on the other side the Channel.

Thus Du Guesclin appears to fill the part of a patriot and a loyalist, maintaining the cause of the legitimate king and the independence of France against an English claimant and English domination. And here and there his career affords indications that he did regard himself in that light. His original character, however, appears to have been that of a soldier of fortune; and it probably was rather by accident than by principle that he was enlisted on the French rather than on the English side. Once enlisted, however, he was true to his colours, and the merciless vengeance which he was prone to take for the very common crime of desertion was in some degree justified by his own irreproachable loyalty. In a different age, this straightforward, single-minded soldier might have earned a high place among those heroes who belong, not to their own generation or country, bnt to all time; for it is impossible to read his history without perceiving that while his virtues were distinctively his own, his worst qualities were those of a time in which the most horrible outrages were matters of everyday occurrence, and crimes which would have shocked the humanity of heathens had become too common to provoke serious animadversion in a Christian country. He shed blood lavishly and recklessly, yet he was less cruel than almost any of his contemporaries, whether French or English; and the most admired of his rivals and antagonists, whose name is quoted by historians as one of the brightest and purest ornaments of chivalry, however he might surpass Du Guesclin in the graces of a highbred and courteous knight, was more barbarous in his vengeance, more unscrupulous in his ambition, and by no means superior in any solid merit, moral or intellectual, to the rude Breton soldier. He who in the fourteenth century was guilty of fewer acts of cruelty and needless bloodshed than can be laid to the charge of the Black Prince, might in a more enlightened ago have borne an honourable comparison with the most humane and heroic of patriots and soldiers.

Bertrand du Guesclin was the son of a knight of no distinguished family or fortune; and, according to the metrical chronicler whom Mr. Jamison follows perhaps with too implicit confidence, was in early life neglected and disliked by both his parents, as a rude, uncouth, boorish lad, whose appearance and manners were a disgrace to his family. His time was spent chiefly in the rough sports of the lower orders, which in those days were deemed discreditable to a gentleman; but by such pursuits he gained a degree of bodily vigour and muscular activity, which, joined to the original hardihood of his constitution, rendered him in after life insensible to fatigue, and indifferent alike to danger and to actual injury. The quintain—tilting at wooden shields hung on a movable signpost—was among the unknightly sports of which he was accused, but it must have been no bad preparation for the joust; and accordingly, on the first occasion on which young Du Guesclin obtained horse and arms from a friend, and entered the lists unknown, he so distinguished himself as to extort from his father expressions of admiration which atoned for all past injustice. Not long afterwards, the young squire took part in the feud between Charles de Blois and John de Montfort, rival claimants to the Duchy of Brittany. He attached himself to the former, who claimed through the female line, and was supported by Philip, King of France. Edward III., himself preferring a claim to the French throne strictly analogous to that of De Blois, lent his aid to De Montfort. In the war waged in Brittany itself, Bertrand gained no slight distinction; and his services speedily obtained for him the honour of knighthood, and the government of a castle which he had taken by storm. He was afterwards attached to an embassy sent over to England, where he gave great offence to Edward III. by replying to the King's expressions of distrust that the Bretons would observe the treaty 'as Edward himself should observe it'—a reply characteristic of the blunt straightforwardness that ever distinguished him. The disasters of Crécy and Poictiers, in which Du Guesclin bore no part, neutralised all successes achieved in Brittany; the capture of King John and the weakness of the Dauphin paralysed the power of France; and for a considerable time anarchy complete and hopeless reigned throughout the country. It is not till after the suppression of the Jacquerie that we again hear of Bertrand du Guesclin—first as bearing a part in a private combat, then as marrying a lady who appears to have been in every respect worthy of the bravest knight in France, and finally as a leader of distinction in the war between France and Navarre. The victory of Cocherel in this war was the turning-point of the fortunes of France, and established the reputation and influence of Du Guesclin as one of the most capable military chieftains in the royal service. So high was his fame at this epoch, that, when captured at the battle of Auray, his ransom was rated at 100,000 francs—a sum which was paid by the contributions of his friends, Charles V. of France contributing 40,000.

The next service rendered by Du Guesclin was the removal of the Free Companies into Spain. These were vast gangs of banditti, led by knights of military experience and repute, who, after the battle of Poictiers, had spread themselves over France, plundering the towns, ravaging the open country, seizing and occupying strong places, and everywhere pillaging, ravishing, and murdering without restraint of pity or of fear. These avowed 'enemies of mankind' had already defeated an army sent against them, and there seemed no hope of ridding the country of them by force. But Du Guesclin's high reputation and the prospect of booty tempted them to take service under his banner in the cause of Henry of Trastamara, pretender to the crown of Castile. Then followed a war in that country, in which Henry was placed on the throne by Du Guesclin, and ousted by the Black Prince, who overthrew the Castilian army and took Du Guesclin prisoner. This time the captive himself fixed his ransom at 100,000 crowns, and was released on payment of this sum, though not till after so long a detention as brought upon his captor the charge of being afraid to let him go. Pedro the Cruel, the client of the Black Prince, so disgusted his patron by his ingratitude, that the latter returned to Bourdeaux, and, on the release of Du Guesclin, another invasion restored Henry to the throne of Castile. After this exploit, Du Guesclin returned to France at the King's request, and was speedily employed against the English, whose ascendency, owing to the discontent of the

* *The Life and Times of Bertrand du Guesclin; a History of the Fourteenth Century.* By D. F. JAMISON, of South Carolina. In 2 vols. London: Trübner & Co. Charleston: John Russell. 1864.

Gascons and the illness of the Black Prince, was seriously imperilled. Once more triumph awaited the son of Edward III., but the sack of Limoges did more harm than good to his cause. The horrible cruelty practised excited universal execration even in that ferocious age, and his success here, and the ravages committed by the troops of Sir Robert Knolles in the neighbourhood of the capital, so alarmed Charles V as to lead to the appointment of Bertrand du Guesclin to the office of Constable of France—the highest position in the gift of the Crown, and one not often bestowed on a man of humble birth and insignificant fortune. But the fame of Du Guesclin silenced all objections, and his successes speedily proved the wisdom of the selection of Charles V., who generally contrived to be well served. In 1370 the soldier of fortune received the Constable's bâton, and at that time nearly one-half of France was overrun by the English; their prestige was still unbroken, and the resources at his command were so limited that he was perforce restricted to that warfare of caution, delay, and annoyance which the King considered best calculated to defeat and baffle an enemy for whom the French were no match, as yet, in the open field. In ten years, without a single battle of the first magnitude, the dominions of the English had been reduced to a mere *pied à terre* at Calais and at Bourdeaux, and Richard II. inherited nothing of the vast possessions that his father and grandfather had won. This was the work of Du Guesclin's life, and he died almost before it was ended. He was besieging one of the last fortresses in the South of France that adhered to the English cause; he had borne an active part in repeated assaults delivered in the heat of July; and the exertions he had made proved fatal to his health, worn with a life of constant exposure and fatigue, and enfeebled by advancing age. He died in his sixty-first year, on July 13, 1380, on which day the castle surrendered.

We have said that the style of this history is somewhat dry, and that its materials, though well arranged, are not digested—that the author has rather reproduced and modernised the history given us by the old chroniclers than written one of his own by the aid of their information. But this said, we have said all that can be said in dispraise of a work whose merits we by no means desire to underrate. If it be not exactly light reading, it is not made otherwise by any affectation of style or substance; it is perfectly free from pretension of every kind, and the story of a great man, better appreciated in his own time than by posterity, is told as his contemporaries told it, with few comments and no embellishment. This is all Mr. Jamison pretends to do; he has done it under considerable disadvantage, and he has done it well, and his work is likely to restore to its deserved place in the temple of fame a name which has been deprived of honours freely bestowed on much less deserving claimants.

THE 'PIRATE' ALABAMA.

(From the *Boston Courier*.)

JOHN PAUL, calling himself Jones, commanded, during the third year of the war of the American Revolution, an armed ship named the *Bonhomme Richard*, which ship was never in any port of the United States, and was manned (though her chief officers under her captain were Americans) by foreigners, for the most part Irish, Scotch, Portuguese, Norwegians, and others, with only a few Americans, and all picked up in Europe. The chief business of the *Bonhomme Richard* was to capture and destroy English merchantmen navigating the British Channel and German Ocean. The *Bonhomme Richard* was at length destroyed herself, after a desperate engagement on the part of herself and her consorts against the British man-of-war *Serapis*, commanded by Captain Pearson. John Paul Jones held a Captain's commission from a certain rebel Congress sitting at Philadelphia, or Lancaster, or somewhere else in the British Province of Pennsylvania.

Query—Was the *Bonhomme Richard* a 'piratical craft?' Was she a 'privateer?' Was John Paul Jones a 'pirate?'

These enquiries are made under the impression of the deluge of 'piratical' phrases which the newspapers of the day pour out on occasion of the late naval engagement between the *Kearsage*, Captain Winslow, and the *Alabama*, Captain Semmes.

By the way, it seems that Captain Winslow of the *Kearsage* has *paroled* the crew of the *Alabama*. How is that? Is it customary to *parole* pirates?

One thing more in the same connection. We read occasionally in the Republican journals some very hard things about Benedict Arnold, the traitor. Are we to understand that a desperate rebel, who repents of his rebellion and returns to his allegiance, is a traitor? What of General Gantt of Arkansas?

In truth, all this calling of foul names which pervades the Republican press is one of the evil signs of the times. It is quite natural, however, that men who have outgrown the Constitution of the United States should have forgotten the American Revolution and all its lessons.

Thus, and thus only, can we account for the fact that Mr. Bancroft and Mr. Motley, whose fame as historians and as men rests upon their respective histories of rebellion, and heroisation of rebels as such, and especially of the great representative persons of rebellion, William of Orange and George Washington, should have settled down into opinions of legitimacy and of loyalty and of the divine right of Government, which would have delighted the hearts of Philip II. of Spain and George III. of England, as they now fit well the political atmosphere of St. Petersburg and Vienna.

THE WHEAT CROP IN VIRGINIA AND PENNSYLVANIA.—The Baltimore correspondent of the *New York World*, writing on July 8, observes: 'The wheat fields in all the counties in Virginia west of the Blue Ridge, and in the Cumberland Valley, which, in Pennsylvania, is the continuation of the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, are of immense extent, and the crop of this year exceeded all expectation in the abundance and excellent quality of its yield. In Virginia the wheat harvest was for the most part over when this movement began. In Pennsylvania the wheat was just ready to be cut, and has been left standing in the fields by the frightened farmers, who have fled in terror across the Susquehanna River. The collection of this harvest and its transportation to Richmond, even by an army of thirty thousand men, will require much time. But it is now in full progress, and that it will be done successfully there is no reason to doubt. And if General Lee accomplishes by his northern movement nothing more than this, and the impressment of five thousand horses for his cavalry, the movement will pay him well.'

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

PARIS July 26.

But a few months ago the importance of the American war was more ignored by the French press than by the journals were aware of its extent or of its political and social significance; and not one, I may say, had anything like a just appreciation of the causes which had produced it, or of the principles involved in it. Certainly these principles are not yet all well understood, there are several sides to this American revolution, which future historians will call the most important of this century, which has not yet been even touched, or, worse still have been misunderstood and misrepresented. But, on the other hand, many of the fundamental questions raised by this revolution are now thoroughly well comprehended.

At the beginning of the war the French journals placed implicit confidence in the Northern newspapers. The falsehoods and the exaggerations of these journals were unknown to them; but little by little they learned to stand on their guard against the information which they supplied, the zeal of a few independent men who were friends of the truth and sympathisers with the South, finally succeeded in enlightening them thoroughly as to the value of the news which every steamer brought them. At the present time the French journals exercise a careful supervision over all information received. They are ready to consult the trustworthy correspondents of the English press, and decline to accept any statements coming from Yankee sources without large reservation. If, then, the majority of the French journalists have not yet embraced every point of view of the complex problem which is being worked out in America, many of the important elements of which it is composed are now at length well understood.

Thus the Federal character of the former United States, which the intelligence of Europe took so long to understand, has been explained in a very satisfactory manner by M. Dréolle, of the *Patrie*, in a controversy which was carried on by that journal about a month ago with the *Opinion Nationale*. In this controversy, out of which the *Patrie* came with flying colours, M. Dréolle not only proved to the *Opinion Nationale* that the several States of the Union were sovereign States, but also convicted the Yankee organ *par excellence* of having falsified the text of that American Constitution of which it spoke with such lofty decision. A success won from the *Opinion Nationale* by the *Patrie* on this subject is all the more remarkable that the former journal has taken upon itself to lecture the whole French press on American affairs. M. Malespine, the editor of the American part of the *Opinion Nationale*, has lived in the United States, and is fairly acquainted with the subject which he treats. For some reasons which are difficult to appreciate, he has become the warmest, and certainly the most skilful, champion of the cause of the North, when, according to his democratic convictions, he ought to be the defender of the South. Perhaps it is that he failed to understand the character of the war at its commencement and is now afraid to abandon his opinion, that he has allowed himself to be drawn into the path which he is now following, and is obliged to distort events and to mutilate news. This proceeding has for some little time been successful; strong in his acknowledged acquaintance with American affairs, he has been able to dress up facts at his leisure without fear of contradiction; now, thanks to the progress which French journalism has made in the study of American questions, he has lost his monopoly of knowledge in these matters, and he who put on the lofty airs of a professor has been forced in his turn to take his seat again on the school benches by those whom he used to treat as disciples.

Thus, the *Pays* during all the past week has been battering the *Opinion Nationale* without mercy, proving to it one day that it was in the habit of concealing things unfavourable to the North, another day that it had mistranslated the Confederate manifesto, and constraining it by repeated attacks to confess publicly the errors of which it had been guilty.

The *Pays* defends the Confederate cause with zeal and skill. The chief editor of that journal, M. Grenier, is a man of philosophic mind, who understands the importance of the problems which the American war must resolve. It is the only journal which has dared with regard to the question of slavery to say in print that if we ought not to have any diplomatic relations with the Confederate States because they are slaveholders, we ought equally to withhold them from Spain, from Turkey, from Russia, and from the United States themselves, who are also slaveholders. As for the absurd calumny that slavery is the cause of secession, the *Pays* exposes it with great vigour. It says: 'None so deaf as he who will not hear. The advocates of the North belong to the latter category, and they recall to our minds in every way the old proverb, "surdus, absurdus." They repeat—against all evidence they repeat, and will continue to repeat, the trivial calumny, that the Confederates are fighting for the maintenance of slavery. If the Confederates had wanted merely to maintain slavery, they had only to extend their hands to the North and submit. In 1861 a manifesto of Mr. Lincoln's offered to maintain slavery. In 1862 another manifesto of Mr. Lincoln's still offered to maintain slavery as a condition and a pledge of peace.'

The news of the invasion of Maryland by the Confederates has been received with ill-humour by the Yankee journals, who pretend to treat it with ridicule. The *Patrie* of the 24th instant, in an article by M. Aucaigne, which contains some very lucid explanations of the geographical and strategic features of this invasion, replies with great felicity to the precipitate judgment passed upon the movements of the Confederates by the *Journal des Débats*, before our latest intelligence had given us better information on the subject, which attributed them to the impulse of despair. The *Temps* declares that if the North could not succeed in putting a stop to the Confederate incursion, we must despair of her cause, which had only excited so great an interest in Europe because men counted on the unshaken energy of the North, and on the strength of those great and noble principles which it represented and is commissioned by Providence to uphold. The noble principles which the Yankees represent, forsooth! The readers of the *Temps* of to-day will learn—1st. That the panic felt by the Federals in the invaded districts was fomented by the Copperheads. 2nd. That the battle won over General Wallace was only an insignificant affair. 3rd. That the attitude of the people of the North has been that of a people devoted to a great cause. 4th. That the object of the Confederate expedition was to make a raid on an immense scale. And 5th. That the Government has had no sort of fears with regard to this invasion. This splendid piece of historical information is followed by the expression of a hope that the next mail will bring to the friends of the North the news of the capture of Petersburg and Atlanta. I do not think that the editor of the *Temps* who enjoys so well established and honorable a reputation, can be privy to the scandalous system of distorting the truth [illegible]. The *Patrie* of this evening contains an article by M. Vermorel, "Banques and War Loans." The last number of the *Monitor Financier* also contained an article upon the finances of the North. The *Pays* reports that there has been a conference between Lord Russell and Mr. Adams on the subject of the pretensions of the North to the extradition from England of the crew of the *Alabama* saved by the *Deerhound*. Mr. Lincoln says the *Pays*, who considers it a duty to deliver up to justice the Poles who are serving under the French banner, ought to be quite natural that England should open up to us as a matter of war, the ship-wrecked men who have been saved by an English ship from imminent death. [illegible] to be claimed by any civilised State or by any honorable Government.

CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

MANCHESTER July 27, 1864.

THE Executive Committee of the Southern Independence Association have published another [illegible] and the precedents and members of general [illegible]. The last similar publication took place at the opening of the present session of Parliament, and it may therefore be of some interest to note the progress, as well as influence, as to [illegible] which the Institution has received within that comparatively brief period.

Having been called into existence, primarily, to put a stop to the reign of political fraud and almost [illegible] with which the city was threatened by the [illegible] auspices of a small but noisy knot of Federal agitators and, in the second place, to educate the popular mind in these countries in the knowledge of the true bearings of the American war, it was scarcely to be avoided that the Association should at first be of almost as local a character with regard to its promoters and members, as with regard to the field of its immediate operations. But if, in some respects, this condition appeared in the first instance a drawback, it was not without some compensating advantages. It was only right and proper that where error and falsehood had been propagated, there also they should be refuted. It redounded, too, to the political credit of Manchester, that local gentlemen of high mercantile reputation should find in the establishment of the Southern Association an occasion and a spur for them to step out of their privacy and lend their influence in giving weight to the public protest against this city being quietly lectured by such war-Christians as Mr. Beecher and Mr. Noel. The doors of the Free-Trade Hall nerved shutting against the repetition of such an exhibition as a Manchester mayor shaking hands on a 'Bible platform' with President Davis's 'so-called' negro coachman; and it was good that a Manchester institution should close the building accordingly. But while such are some of the advantages of its local origin and activity, the Association made haste to extend itself far and wide throughout the whole of the manufacturing districts. By multiplying the scenes of its labours and enlisting the best sympathies of large masses of people everywhere in the cause it sought to promote, the Society began to attract considerable attention, until its operations have now come to be regarded with marked favour in every county in England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. A glance at the members' roll (the publication of which will probably occupy, one of these days, the larger half of a page of the *Times*) would be sufficient to convince the bitterest enemy of the South that, by how much he wishes ill to the Confederacy, by so much he differs from people in whose company as representing all ranks, professions, callings, and shades of religious and political belief—he might think it tolerably safe to err.

Aside, however, from considerations of this kind, my object in calling attention to the subject was to show the remarkably rapid progress the Association had made during the past six months, and to note the gratifying appreciation its labours had met with from persons of influence and distinction, who continue to swell the members' roll in great numbers.

The Institution is still fortunate in its noble President, the Right Honourable Lord Wharncliffe, to whose cordial co-operation it was chiefly due that the Society partakes of its present practical and influential character. Leading the list of vice-presidents are the Most Noble the Marquis of Bath, the Most Noble the Marquis of Lothian, the Right Hon. Lord Claud Hamilton, the Right Hon. Viscount Litford, the Right Hon. Lord Teynham, Viscount Gormanston, Lord Robert Cecil, Lord Henry F. Thynne, &c., &c. Among the members of the general council may be recognised the names of a large number of baronets and others of the landed gentry of the highest consideration in their respective counties. Among members of Parliament also on the list are the names of Judge Haliburton, W. H. Gregory, Esq., R. Bremridge, Esq., J. Hardy, Esq., J. T. Hopwood, Esq., W. S. Lindsay, Esq., Matthew Henry Marsh, Esq., J. A. Roebuck, Esq., W. Schofield, Esq., W. Vansittart, Esq., &c. The army and navy are represented by General Sir J. W. Guise, Bart, G.C.B.; Admiral the Right Hon. Lord Fitzhardinge, G.C.B., P.C.; Vice-Admiral Hon. Sir J. Keppel; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Coutts Lindsay, Bart.; Colonel the Right Hon. G. C. W. Forester; Major the Hon. W. E. Cochrane; Major the Hon. S. P. Vereker, &c. The list of deputy lieutenants and county magistrates is also of a most influential character, as is that of members of the learned professions, and of representatives of the trade and commerce of the United Kingdom.

Thus powerfully constituted, and acting under the direction of an Executive Committee composed of gentlemen of the highest position in Manchester, the Southern Independence Association has been found fully competent to get through the work it set itself to do. Its object being rather to enlighten than to agitate the minds of the masses, a great portion of its labours has consisted in the compilation and distribution of plain and well-reasoned papers upon American affairs, and therefore much of its work is to be judged by results rather than by the usual noisy evidences and accompaniments of a political agitation in course of progress. These papers have been quietly circulated in thousands and tens of thousands; and if the aggregate action of all the kindred and branch associations is taken into account, the total issue during the past six months may be reckoned at hundreds of thousands. Nor did it take long for the seed thus carefully sown to grow and bear fruit. Requisitions were poured in to mayors of electoral towns and to influential proprietors in non-electoral townships, calling

upon those persons to invite the people to assemble in public meetings, and consider what steps might properly be taken to make known the opinions of the majority as to the course Her Majesty's Government ought to adopt. The prevailing feeling exhibited at these meetings was amply testified by the many 'Southern' petitions, memorials, and resolutions that have been forwarded from time to time, now to the Prime Minister, now to the Foreign Secretary, now to both Houses of Parliament, and, in some instances, I believe, to Her Majesty herself. The temperate spirit in which for the most part the meetings were conducted, and, above all, the remarkable acquaintance the people possessed with the chief points and the true meaning of the civil war in America, bore witness to their own thoughtful good sense, and excited the admiration of all who took part in the proceedings. The hon. member for Bolton (Mr. T. Barnes) paid, perhaps unconsciously, the highest compliment to the Southern Independence Association, when at a public meeting of his constituents, he said he was almost afraid to touch upon the American question, for the people of Lancashire were so thoroughly 'up' in it, that even a member of Parliament might be caught tripping in a discussion of the subject in their hearing. As with Bolton, so with every other borough, township, and village throughout the whole of the manufacturing districts in the North.

But the crowning triumph of the Association, so far as 'results' go, was witnessed in London during the last fortnight, in the extraordinary number of petitions poured into the House of Commons, and in the even more significant deputation of factory operatives to the Foreign Minister. Such demonstrations as these it is impossible to misinterpret, nor ought they to be lightly dismissed as unimportant signs of the times.

A NORTHERN VIEW OF NORTHERN FINANCES.

WE transfer to our columns the following editorial from the *New York Commercial Advertiser*, upon the finances and the prospects for the New Secretary of the Treasury:—

The resignation of Mr. Chase has been followed by the general assent of the community. There seems to have been in no quarter any desire expressed to have him remain in office, and yet it is not to be disguised that a few months since his administration of the finances was very popular. The causes of the great change in public sentiment are easily recognised and readily comprehended. The same causes uniformly produce the same effects, and Mr. Chase is no exception to the common fate that has overtaken those who attempt to administer the finances of a nation during a crisis.

The fiscal year ended June 30, and it may be assumed that Mr. Chase has directed affairs through three entire fiscal years. The results are, then, as follows, as officially reported:—

	Customs	Taxes	Miscellaneous	Total receipts	Total expenses
	$	$	$	$	$
1862 .	49,056,397	1,795,332	1,083,991	51,935,720	474,744,778
1863 .	69,059,642	39,125,892	3,214,233	111,399,766	714,709,995
1864 .	103,213,193	109,000,000	36,421,752	247,858,184	880,000,000
Total .	221,329,232	149,921,224	40,719,976	411,193,670	2,069,454,773

The receipts, it appears, were drawn more than half from the customs by simply raising the rate of taxes, an operation which was highly gratifying to those manufacturing interests that have so long and so pertinaciously contended for Government protection, and which they have found extended to them in a manner altogether unhoped for previous to the war. That was a mode of taxation which met with very little opposition. That large section of the country which formerly was in bitter opposition to it was now in rebellion, and the friends of protection became the firm supporters of Mr. Chase. That gentleman opposed taxation in any other shape. The $20,000,000 tax upon property that was passed in July, 1861, never went into operation, and Mr. Chase uniformly replied to the most sagacious and far-seeing financiers that 'the people would not submit to taxation.' His theory seemed to be that the patriotism of the people would not suffice to sustain the war if it was accompanied by onerous burdens, but that if by paper-money issues a factitious and short-lived prosperity were created, the war would be popularised, and perhaps brought to an end before the collapse of the paper. This affords the only key to a system so monstrous as that disclosed in the above figures, which show that of the whole amount of money actually raised in three years, $221,000,000 was from customs, largely benefiting the interests of manufacturers, $41,000,000, about, from land and commutations of conscripts, and but $150,000,000 from taxes. This was all to meet an expenditure of, in round numbers, $2,100,000,000. The expenditure for the last year does not include sixty days' pay due the army July 1. The annual expenses, loans and debt, were as follows:—

	Expenses	Loans	Paper Money	Debt
	$	$	$	$
1862 . . .	474,744,778	154,887,418	269,331,954	424,211,772
1863 . . .	714,709,995	183,545,577	401,036,482	1,584,581,600
1864 . . .	880,000,000	451,401,367	243,053,863	694,455,230
Total . . .	2,069,454,773	789,836,162	913,412,299	1,703,248,314

The loans embrace all that portion on which special interest is paid. All the rest is floating paper, and has the effect of currency, since it is at the command of the owner and constitutes a purchasing power. Thus in the first year there were no new taxes. Of the war expenses, five-eighths were raised by paper money and three-eighths by loans. The effect of the paper money was to produce a rise in prices, speculation, and a semblance of great prosperity, during which no taxes were levied. Goods of all kinds, old stocks and new, brought high prices and sold readily, diffusing general satisfaction, and enabling the Secretary to contract loans, because the Federal bonds depreciated as compared with merchandise.

This depreciation became latterly so rapid as to create alarm, and the Secretary attempted violently to depress prices in April last—in other words, to unmake the prosperity that he had before stimulated into life. He had promised that 'war could not last until midsummer of 1864.' That time is now reached, and the war is still going on, without much sign of coming to an end, and without the revenues that he promised should be available at this time. In the midst of this disaffection, he inaugurates a decline of prices, a depreciation of values, a drying up of individual revenues, a stopping of production, loss of wages, diminution of the national wealth, simultaneous with heavier taxes. It is not surprising, therefore, that his popularity should wane. The radical mistake that he made is now very apparent. Had he not distrusted the patriotism of the people, but had boldly, in the first year of the war, levied $300,000,000 of taxes, partly on real estate, and the remainder by a tax on sales of commodities, one hundred millions of loan would have sufficed. The people would readily have paid these taxes. Prices would not have risen, and less than half the money actually expended in the second year of the war would have been necessary. The war could then have been continued ten years at least, before the present debt would have been reached.

The inflation has now reached its utmost tension, and the taxes imposed in the midst of a collapse will not be productive. This is a very unpromising state of affairs for the new Secretary to face.

A DOUBLE QUOTATION.—'It is well,' says the *Boston Courier*, 'to bring forward the similar sentiments of men holding influential positions, expressed under other circumstances. Mr. Davis was certainly prophetic. Mr. Lincoln reminds us of Hazael the Syrian, asking—"Is thy servant a dog, that he should do this great thing?" and went home and murdered his master. The following is an extract from the Inaugural Address of Abraham Lincoln, March 4, 1861:—"Suppose you go to war, you cannot fight always; and when, after much loss on both sides, and no gain on either, you cease fighting, the identical questions as to terms of intercourse are again upon you. This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending, or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it." The following is an extract from a speech of Jefferson Davis in the United States Senate, January 10, 1861:—"If you will not have it thus; if in the pride of power, if in contempt of reason and reliance upon force, you say we shall not go, but shall remain as subjects to you, then, gentlemen of the North, a war is to be inaugurated, the like of which men have not seen. Sufficiently numerous on both sides, in close contact with only imaginary lines of division, and with many means of approach, each sustained by productive sections, the people of which will give freely both of money and of store, the conflicts must be multiplied indefinitely; and masses of men, sacrificed to the demon of civil war, will furnish hecatombs such as the recent war in Italy did not offer. At the end of all this, what will you have effected? Destruction upon both sides; subjugation upon neither; a treaty of peace leaving both torn and bleeding; the wail of the widow and the cry of the orphan substituted for those peaceful notes of domestic happiness that now prevail throughout the land; and then you will agree that each is to pursue his separate course as best he may. This is to be the end of war. Through a long series of years you may waste your strength, distress your people, and get at last to the position which you might have had at first, had justice and reason, instead of selfishness and passion, folly and crime, dictated your course."'

THE FOURTH OF JULY.—Consider it an unfortunate thing that the Fourth of July does not occur in December. The thermometer ought to indicate the freezing point when a man reads the Declaration of Independence to a Northern audience at such a time as this. He must be a cool man naturally, and ought to have a refrigerator for a nostrum, who has the face to go through that document before a public assembly, from the clause which asserts that 'all governments derive their just power from the consent of the governed,' down to the final article in the long list of royal outrages—'he has excited domestic insurrection among us.' There is not a wrong alleged nor a grievance enumerated in that instrument which Lincoln has not perpetrated and surpassed. To denounce a defunct King of England for which an American President is eulogised for performing, is an enterprise which no ordinary mortal would undertake in this weather. These are the circumstances which must add to the difficulty of such a performance—such, for example, as the fact that 'the day they celebrate' dawned from the sky of that Virginia which they are now seeking to rend and devour; that it was Richard Henry Lee, delegate from Virginia, who, by instructions from his constituents, rose in that dreadful hour and moved the resolution of Independence; that it was Thomas Jefferson, of Virginia, who drafted the declaration whose anniversary they celebrate; that it was George Washington, of Virginia, whose mighty chieftainship made that declaration good. To add new glories to the Fourth of July by crushing Virginia for ever to the dust, is a conception which could enter none but the brains of a 'peculiar people.'—*Richmond Despatch*, July 2.

LUXURIANT CROPS IN VIRGINIA.—The Baltimore correspondent of the *New York World* writes under date of July 4: 'The whole of Virginia south of the James River and east of the Blue Ridge, and, indeed, for some distance north of the James River, may be truthfully described as a vast kitchen garden; for it is, this summer, literally overflowing with all sorts of abundance. In spite of what has been called the sweeping conscription at the South—in spite of the efforts that have been made to steal and to lure away the negroes this stubborn fact remains; the farms are there; the negroes and their masters are there, and the crops are there. The same may be said of the country through which the Danville Railroad runs, for a great distance on each side of its track, even down into North Carolina. The counties of Prince Edward, Notaway, Charlotte, Lunenberg, Halifax, Mecklenburg, Pittsylvania, and Henry, in Virginia, and the whole of the northern tier of counties in North Carolina, as described to me by a gentleman who recently passed through them, have been as complete strangers to the incidents of war as the State of New York. The fields are ploughed and sown as usual, and the abundant harvests, "some fifty and some an hundred fold," are gathered into barns and granaries, much the same as in the good old times when the Democratic party and Democratic principles bore sway. In all the counties that I have named, the crops of this year, of all kinds, are abundant, as well of fruits and vegetables as of grain. And all this plenty is being poured into the lap of Richmond day after day.'

THE GREAT SOUTHERN CENTIPEDE.—'The *Tribune* says: "The rebellion is visibly on its last legs, and tottering at that." It now becomes an interesting question, how many legs has the rebellion got? Years ago we were told it was on its "last legs," and still there appear to be a few more left. Can any entomologist inform us?' (*Journal of Commerce.*) Though not much of an entomologist, we venture to suggest that the rebellion, in extremities, resembles the lobster more than the centipede, inasmuch as when it loses its 'last legs' new ones grow.—*New York Paper.*

THE RICHMOND MARKETS.—The *Richmond Examiner* of June 30 has the following:—'The markets, notwithstanding the siege of Richmond, as announced by Grant, have been better supplied and easier the present week than for several months past. The substantials of life and the fruits of the season are cheaper, too, and people begin to wonder whether Grant had not better keep up his invisible siege, if these are the good results to flow from it.'

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SHIPS ARRIVED.

AT LIVERPOOL.—July 21: The Reuteria, from Matanzas. The Banda, from Buenos Ayres. The Summer, from St. John's. The Leopoldine Maude, from Havana. The St. Thomas (steamer), from Colon. The Boadicea, from Pernambuco. The Monica, from Quebec. The Sophia, from Pomeroon. The Victoria, from Buenos Ayres. The Sam Slick, from Nassau. The Bernier, from St. John's. The Gloire, from Quebec. The Dolphin, from St. Michael's. The Rolling Wave, from Buenos Ayres. The Phœnix, from Antigua. The Ellen, The Primrose, from Bahia. The Wilhelm, from Pernambuco. The Jane Duncan, from Nassau. The Catherine and Ann, from Matamoras. The Annandale, from Bermuda. The Burmah, from Miramichi.—July 22: The Rose, from Pernambuco. The Water Lily, from New Orleans. The Frank Boult, from St. John's. The Sophia Maria, from Rio Janeiro. The Ann Williams, from Cuba. The Indian Queen, from Belize. The Sandback, from Demerara. The Yuba, from Havana. The Elinor Chapman, from Matanzas. The Orizaba, from Nassau. The Orontes, from Pomeroon.—July 23: The Portia, from Bahia. The Netherton from Pernambuco. The Ann Grey, The Glensannox, from St. John's. The Electric, The Majestic, from Nassau. The Golden Pledge (s.), hence for Havana, belonging to Klingender & Co., Water Street, was sunk at 11 P.M., on 23rd inst., about a mile below the Rock Lighthouse, after being in collision with the Cognac, from Cadiz. Three lives were lost.—July 24: The St. Michael, from Demerara. The Elizabeth Tatham, from Nassau. The Bessie Young, from Bermuda. The Sophia, from Rio Janeiro. The Abeona, from Bahia. The Maria Stevens, The Driving Mist, from Nassau. The Rosalie, from Matamoras. The Congress, The Vingolf, from Bermuda.—July 25: The Balclutha, from Barbadoes. The Arbitrator, from Havana. The Electra, The Maria, from Nassau. July 26: The New Margaret, from Trinidad. The Albert, from Nassau. The Marian, from Matamoras. The Northampton, from St. John's.

AT GRAVESEND.—July 20: The Useful, from Cuba. The Agilis, from Havana.—July 21: The Minalto, from Rio Janeiro. The W. S. Flower, The Neptune (steamer), from Havana. The Queen of the Clippers, from Nassau.—July 22: The Glimpse, The Rebecca, from Nassau. The Thetis, from New York. The Lady Clarke, from Quebec. The Harrison Leib, from Trinidad. The Sharp, from Barbadoes. The G. Palmer, from Cuba. The Rifleman, from St. John's. The Early Bird, from St. Kitt's. The Banshee, The Aurora, from Porto Rico. The Cogoletto, from Buenos Ayres. The Mary Blake, from St. Lucia. The Daniel Webster, from New York. The Main, from Quebec.—July 23: The Dundrennan, from Porto Rico. The Artemisia, from Jamaica. The Cabot, from Picton. The Reform, from Quebec. The Ocean Queen, The Cossack, The Devonport, from Pomeroon. The Golden Rule, from Callao. The Camilla, for Quebec. The Emerald Isle, from Berbice. The Lady Milne, The Cereal, from Trinidad. The Constance, from Barbadoes. The Trade Wind, from St. Kitt's. The Warbler, The Bella Antoineta, from Porto Rico. The Calypso, from Jamaica. The Queen of Clippers, from Eleuthera. The Adler, the Astronome, The Patrick Henry, from New York. The Eleanor, from St. John's. The Ottawa, from Quebec.—July 24: The Onward, from Buenos Ayres. The Catherina Hermann, from Montevideo. The Nova Cintra, from Para. The Spheroid, from St. Vincent. The Cicerone, The Courier, The James Armstrong, from Barbadoes. The Paz, from Havana. The Eaglet, from Porto Rico. The Elizabeth, The Therese, from New York. The Chiara, The Rocco, from Boston.—July 25: The Early Morn, from Berbice. The Leon Raymundo, from Madeira. The Crixea, from Demerara. The Aurora, from Trinidad. The John Souchay. The Clarendon, from Barbadoes. The Metis, from Porto Rico. The Blue Bell, from Nassau. The Garibaldi, from Prince Edward Island. The Conway, from Quebec. The Douglas, from Barbadoes.—July 26; The Oriental, from Trinidad.

AT DEAL.—July 20: The Enterpe, from Callao.—July 21: The Harrison, from Trinidad. The Lady Bird, from St. Kitt's. The Albion, from Miramichi. The Artemisia, from Jamiaca. The Lady Clarke, The G. Palmer, from Quebec. The Aurora, from Porto Rico.—July 22: The Mary Blake, from St. Lucia. The Victoria, from Miramichi. The Constance, from Barbadoes. The Calypso, from Jamaica.—July 25: The Panduma, for Demerara. The Oaklands, from Callao. The Anna, from Jamaica.—July 26: The Star, from Callao. The Druid, from Jamaica. The Princess, from Demerara. The Medina, from Cadiz.

AT RAMSGATE.—July 25: The Nuevo Bilbaino, for Havana, assisted in; much damaged in a collision.

AT MOTHERBANK.—July 24: The Mazeppa, from Callao.

AT PORTLAND.—July 21: The Goddess, from Callao.

AT SALCOMBE.—July 22: The Cornucopia, from West Indies.

AT COWES.—July 20: The Elise Schmidt, from Callao.—July 21: The Kittie Floyd, from Callao.

AT PLYMOUTH.—July 21: The Cap Rouge, from Quebec.—July 22: The Delia, from Quebec.—July 23: The Hinda, from Montevideo, July 25: The Anna, from Buenos Ayres.

AT EXMOUTH.—July 23: The Catherine, from Rio.

AT FALMOUTH.—July 20: The Jonen Emilia, from Montevideo. The Somorrostro, from Havana.—July 21: The Premier, from Demerara. The Ysabel, from Porto Rico. The Charles Gumm, from Cuba. The Lucia Henderika, from Porto Cabello. The Dorothea, from Bahia. The Napoleon, from Havana. The Bella Surbur, from Matamoras. The Alchymist, from Quebec. The Hinda, from Montevideo. The Wild Wave, The Viagante, from Bahia. The Metis, from Porto Rico. The Cuba Packet, from Havana. The Casper, from Lisbon.—July 22: The Rowena, The Crested Wave, from Montevideo. The Eleanor, from Bahia. The Zircon, The Anna Maria, The Constantia, The 17te Mai, from Havana. The Julie-y-Pepita, from Porto Rico. The Itaparica (steamer), for Bahia.—July 23: The Gylfe, from Bahia. The Zeemeouw, from Porto Rico. The Hilda, from Havana.—July 23: The Courier, from Rio. The Sultana, The Helena, from Rio Grande. The Sultana, The Leon, from Bahia. The Alliance, from Pernambuco. The Amalthea, The Ukko, The Laura, from Havana.—July 24: The Jacobus, from Montevideo. The Inex, The Compenza, The Valentina, from Havana.—July 25: The Thora, from Pernambuco. The Lempa, The Kawe, The Hertha, from Havana. The Grace and Jane, from Cuba.

AT BRISTOL.—July 20: The Hebe, from Bahia. The Baltic, The Queen of the Exe, from Havana. The Heron, from Montreal. The Henry Brain, from Quebec.—July 21: The Spitfire, from Cuba. The Empire Queen, from, Quebec.—July 22: The Mattie Banks, from Matanzas.—The Alibi, from St. John's.

AT PILL.—July 21: The Arab, from Cuba.—July 22: The Hope, from Quebec.—July 23: The Dauntless, from Trinidad. The Fomjot, The Charles Sprague, from Callao.

AT KINGROAD.—July 30: The Aurora, from Quebec.—July 21: The Isabella Saunders, from Quebec.

OFF SCILLY.—July 20: The B. D. Metcalf, The Maria Greenleaf, from Callao.

AT CARDIFF.—July 20: The Harmony, from Quebec. The Templar, from Bilboa.

OFF THE START.—July 22: The Atalanta, from Quebec.

AT SWANSEA.—July 20: The Cornwall, from Cuba. The Argus, from Quebec. The Roe, from Bilboa.—July 22: The Earl Powis, from Cuba.—July 24: The Cuzco, The Emily Waters, from Valparaiso.

AT DARTMOUTH.—July 22: The Eaglet, from Porto Rico.

AT LIMERICK.—July 21: The Himalaya, from Quebec.

AT DUBLIN.—July 21: The Piquet, from St. John's.

AT WATERFORD.—July 21: The Nora Creina, from St. John's.

AT YOUGHAL.—July 21: The Mary and Ann, from St. John's.

AT DUNDEE.—July 20: The Retriever, from Quebec.

AT WEST HARTLEPOOL.—July 21: The Lily, from Miramichi. The Sylph, from Havre.

AT SUNDERLAND.—July 20: The Missionary, from Quebec.

AT HULL.—July 22: The Affiance, from Havre.

AT SHIELDS.—July 21: The Jarrow (steamer), from Pomeroon. The Lord Saumarez, The James Johnson, The Ariel, The Achilles, from Havre.—July 22: The Tuscan, from Havre.

AT STOCKTON.—July 22: The Billow, from Havre.

AT MILFORD.—July 20: The Puella, from Pomeroon.—July 21: The Fanny, for Lisbon.

AT BERWICK.—July 22: The Pomona, from Rio Grande.

AT HOLYHEAD.—July 21: The Margaret, from Pomeroon.

AT QUEENSTOWN.—July 20: The Charles Sprague, from Callao.—July 21: The Asia, The Merchant, The Bard of Avon, from Callao. The Prince of Wales, the Hermes, from Rio Grande. The Alma, from Buenos Ayres. The Lord Raglan, from Miramichi.—July 22: The Margaret Kinch, from Valparaiso.—July 23: The Chatsworth, The Brilliant, from Callao. The Ernst Moritz, The Juanite, from Buenos Ayres. The Mina y Luisa, from Montevideo. The Wilhelmina, The Rapida, The Janneta, from Rio Grande. The Duc Fratelli, from Montevideo. The Milly, from Bahia. The Nodales, from Havana.—July 24: The Bunard, The Kate Prince, from Callao. The Guiletta, from Buenos Ayres.—July 25: The Napoleon, from Callao. The Roseanna, from Demerara. The Rosetta, from Barbadoes. The Armstrong, from Baltimore.

AT CLYDE.—July 20: The Arbutus, from St. John's. The Champion, The Ronsehan, from Quebec. The Ida, from Havana.—July 21: The Tamana, The Witch of the Teign, The John Mattie, from Trinidad. The Flink, from Havana. The Rhoda, from Pernambuco. The Merrie England, The Roma, from Trinidad.—July 22: The Christine, from Havana.—July 23: The Glaucus, from Pernambuco.—July 25: The Urgent, The Greenock, from Havana. The Leppenstrath, from Trinidad. The Kurrachee, from Havana.

AT WHITEHAVEN.—July 21: The Mary Anne Jane, from Demerara.

AT LEITH.—July 21: The Resumzione, from Buenos Ayres.

AT AYR.—July 20: The Abbey Craig, from Miramichi.

AT ARDROSSAN.—July 20: The Ayrshire Lass, from Miramichi.

AT NASSAU.—June 6: The Corsica (steamer), from Havana. The Tignsay, from Liverpool. The Sparrow, from Cuba.—June 7: The Lucy (steamer), The Edith (steamer), from Wilmington. The Elite, from London. The Island Queen, The Cicerone, from Teneriffe.—June 9: The Eugenie, from London. The Caleb S. Wright (steamer), from New York.—June 10: The Violin, from Cuba. The Theresa, from Key West.—June 11: The Governor Bayley (steamer), from St. Thomas.—June 14: The Fox (steamer), from Charleston. The Let Her B (steamer), from Wilmington. The Captain Hathorn, The B. De Wolf, from Liverpool. The Teviot, from Cape Hayti.—June 15: The Dart, from Key West.—June 17: The Zygia, from Liverpool. The White Star, from Swansea.—June 18: The Annie, from New York. The Two Brothers, from Baltimore.—June 20: The Virgin (steamer), from Glasgow. The Let Her Rip (steamer), from Liverpool. The Pet, from London.—June 21: The Brothers, from Key West.—June 22: The Corsica (steamer), The Pamelia, The John G. Whipple, from New York. The E. P. Howard, from Boston. The Amelia, from Nuevitas. The Lavinia, from Grand Cayman. The Dreadnot, from Cuba.—June 23: The Eliza, from New York. The Flying Eagle, from Cuba.—June 24: The Little Ada (steamer), from Charleston; since reported to be captured. The Eleanor, from New York.—June 25: The Lady Banherman, from New York.—June 27: The I. O. U., from Turk's Islands. The Syren (steamer), from Wilmington.—June 28: The Architect, from Liverpool.—June 30: The Shannon, from Matanzas. The Violin, from Cuba. The Annie (steamer), from Wilmington.—July 2: The Will o' the Wisp, from Wilmington. Part of the cargo of 'The Salto' wrecked at Petit Cay, Berry Islands, has been saved. The Eliza Catharine, from Liverpool to St. Domingo, was stranded on the Man-of-war Cay; cargo saved in a damaged state.

AT BERMUDA.—June 24: The Fannie (steamer), loading for Liverpool.—June 27: The North Heath (steamer). The Lillian (steamer), from Wilmington.—June 28: The Florie (steamer). The Mary Celeste (steamer), from Wilmington.

AT SLIGO.—July 22: The Aberaman, from Callao.

AT LONDONDERRY.—July 22: The Stadaeona, from St. John's.

SHIPS SPOKEN WITH.

The Old Dominion (steamer), for Bermuda, June 13, 37° N., 45° W.

SHIPS SAILED.

LIVERPOOL.—July 21: The Sagitta, for Montevideo. The Solway Queen, for Bermuda. The Galileo (steamer), for Bahia. The Adam Sedgwick, for Valparaiso.

DEAL.—July 21: The Ruckers, for Demerara.—July 22: The Ionian Belle, for Bermuda.

TROON.—July 21: The Mary Elizabeth, for Malaga.

CLYDE.—July 20: The Erinagh, for Demerara.

BELFAST.—July 20: The Dolphin, The Eintracht, for St. John's.

GRAVESEND.—July 21: The Laura, for Demerara.

CARDIFF.—July 21: The Margaretha, for St. Thomas. The Cedar, for Cuba.—July 23: The Asia (steamer), for Bermuda.—July 25: The Secret, for Nassau.

QUEENSTOWN.—July 21: The Hope (steamer), for Nassau. The Ella (steamer), for Bermuda.

NEWPORT.—July 23: The Martha Lloyd, for Madeira.—July 24: The Nelson, for St. Thomas.

NASSAU.—June 6: The Corsica (steamer), The Lone Star, for New York. The Amelia Ann, for Nuevitas.—June 7: The Elizabeth Tatham, for Liverpool. The Actif, for Havre. The Bessie, The J. J. Finlayson, The Johanna Ward, The Cornucopia, The Georgiana, for New York.—June 8: The Fannie (steamer), for Greenock. The Will-o'-the-Wisp (steamer), The Helen (steamer), for St. John's. The Helen, for Bermuda. The Dreadnot, for Cuba.—June 9: The Edith (steamer), for St. John's. The Emma, for Halifax. The Don José, for Cape Hayti. The Caleb S. Wright (steamer), for Santo Marta. The Ransom, for Matanzas. The Lily, The Achilles, for Cuba.—June 10: The Jane Duncan, for Liverpool. The Clarissa, for London. The E. P. Swett, for Holmes's Hole.—June 11: The Enterprise, The Amy, The Pink, The Orizava, for Liverpool. The Queen of Clippers, for London. The Mary Ann, The Joseph Reid, for New York. The William Saunders, for Key West. The Tweed, for Havana. The Shannon, for Cuba.—June 14: The Electra, for Liverpool. The Howard, The Britannia, for New York. The Violin, for Nuevitas. The Annie (steamer), for Harbour Island.—June 15: The Sam Slick, for Liverpool. The Honesta, for Bermuda. The Azorian, The Sisters, for New York. The Rebecca, for London.—June 16: The Maria, for Liverpool. The Blue Bell, The Bezaleel, for London. The Mary Gorland, for Bermuda.—June 17: The Majestic, for Liverpool. The Realm, for Bermuda.—June 18: The Governor Bayley (steamer), for St. Thomas. The Elite, The Cicerone, for London, The Apus, for Bermuda. The Riga, for Laguna.—June 20: The Driving Mist, for Liverpool. The Foxhound, The Electric, for New York. The Samuel, for Port Royal.—June 22: The Corsica (steamer), for Havana. The Let Her B (steamer), for St. John's. The Mary, for Bermuda. The Isaac Van Dyke, for Halifax.—June 23: The Fox (steamer), for St. John's. The Pamelia, for Havana. The Two Brothers, for Baltimore.—June 24: The Fern, for Liverpool. The Zygia, for New York. The Edward, for Bermuda. The Jupiter (steamer), for St. John's.—June 25: The Lucy (steamer), for St. John's. The Virgin (steamer), for Havana. The E. P. Howard, for Philadelphia.—June 27: The Ernestine, for Liverpool. The Island Queen, for London. The Alert, for Halifax. The Annie, for New York.

[In consequence of want of space we are obliged to omit until next week the remainder of our Nassau intelligence.]

SHIPS LOADING.

AT LONDON.—For New York: The Lafayette (mail steamer) from Havre, August 24: Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For West Indies: The Floride (mail steamer) from St. Nazaire, August 16; Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For Nassau: The Rebecca, St. Katharine's Docks; J. Worley.—For Bermuda: The Queen of the Clippers, The Jane Smith, The Lady Milne, The Only Son, The Trio.—For Havre: The City of Hamburg (steamer), St. Katharine's Wharf, July 31, 8 morn. The Young Mary.

AT LIVERPOOL.—For Bermuda: The Melita (steamer), August 6; H. Lafone. The Sylph, The Onward.—For Madeira: The Macgregor Laird (steamer).—For Matamoras: The Ruth.—For Nassau: The Wilsons.

CAN THE WAR GO ON?—We quote the following from the *Morning Post* of to-day:—'On Monday night Mr. Lindsay enquired if it was the intention of the Government, in concert with the other Powers of Europe, to use their endeavours to bring about a suspension of hostilities in America, and Lord Palmerston replied that in the present state of things it was not thought there would be any advantage in such a step. This incident forces us to ask how long it is really probable that this impracticable, aimless, hopeless war will last. Is it at all likely that it will survive the present campaign? It cannot seriously be supposed that the Northerners will go on fighting for ever at the cost of national bankruptcy and universal ruin and the desolation of their homes, not only without any tangible profit or advantage at present, but even without any prospect of possible benefit in the future. We speak of the desolation of Northern homes, because as the loss in killed and wounded is at least thrice as great on their side as on that of the Confederates, there must soon be not a single family in the Federal States but what will have to mourn the death of one or more of its members, or to witness the sad spectacle of a husband, a brother, a son, painfully dragging himself about a cripple for life. Is it creditable, is it conceivable, is it even possible that the Federals should continue such a war much longer? Their doing so really seems to be inconsistent with the nature of man and of things. Man is not given to ruin himself systematically for nothing. War cannot be carried on upon national bankruptcy. The mountains of debt which the Federals are piling up, like Pelion upon Ossa, must ere long fall with a tremendous crash, and bury the Government under their ruins. From the number of regiments which are continually marching home on the expiry of their term of service, and leaving the armies in the very crisis of a battle, it is evident enough that those who have had one taste of the war will not enter the ranks a second time. Those who have not served may by the bribe of high bounties, by kidnapping, by enlisting them when drunk, and other notable American devices, be induced to go forth as food for powder. But at this rate all the male population having gone through the ordeal either as 'hundred days' men,' or for a longer term, there will be no inexperienced civilians left to bring within the net of the conscription. This leads to an important conclusion. Even the civilians themselves, who have had no taste of the realities of war, and have been accustomed to view it on its bright and romantic side, have resisted the draft by force in more than one locality. What, then, will be the effect when it is attempted to press trained soldiers who are thoroughly sick of campaigning? There will be another civil war in the North. It has been lightly said that immigrants from the Old World will fill the Northern armies, but this will not bear serious examination. If the North is to depend upon mere foreign mercenaries, the war will come to an end very speedily indeed; and if it could be carried on by such means, it would be far more formidable to the Government at Washington than to that at Richmond. But, at all events, mercenaries or patriots, foreigners or natives, there must be money to pay the troops; there must be money to satisfy the contractors, whose war this has now really become. That a financial collapse is imminent does not admit of the shadow of a doubt. No soldiers, American born or aliens, will fight, no soldiers can fight, without money for the necessaries of war. No contractor will supply these necessaries without money. When the crash comes, and come it must, and at no distant period, soldiers and contractors, American enthusiasts and foreign mercenaries, will leave the war to take care of itself.'

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

THE directors of the Bank of England at a special meeting on Monday raised the *minimum* rate of discount from 6 to 7 per cent. It was fully anticipated that such a course would be adopted during the week, in order to put a stop to the large withdrawal which had for some time been taking place with a view to supplying foreign establishments. To a certain extent this appears to have been effected; but still the heavy demand for accommodation which has since sprung up, chiefly in consequence of the rise in the value of money, tends to the belief that a further advance will be deemed necessary, and it is not at all improbable that it may take place to-morrow. Out of doors the applications for discount have been so numerous, that the brokers will not transact business under $7\frac{1}{4}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and in some instances as much as 8 per cent. is demanded. Of course, under these circumstances, money is not so very abundant, and the Joint Stock Banks are not making advances under 7 and $7\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. On the Stock Exchange some loans have also been in more request, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 per cent. have been the ruling quotations; but to-day the demand has not been so pressing, and the terms now are $6\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 per cent.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The movements in bullion and specie still continue of an advanced character. All the available gold that has arrived has been purchased for transmission abroad, and nothing whatever has been sent into the bank; at the same time the withdrawals have not been so large as of late, amounting only to 40,000*l*. The arrivals have also been small, 97,830*l*., of which 56,542*l*. is from New York and the remainder from Australia. The *Syria*, which sailed to-day for the East, has taken out 118,280*l*., of which 22,000*l*. is in gold and 96,280*l*. in silver. The silver market remains very quiet, the demand for shipment being very limited, and for bar there is no alteration in quotations. Mexican dollars are not quite so firm, a portion of the supply brought by the last packet having been sold at 5*s*. 4*d*. The gold ships at present advised as on their way from Australia are the *True Briton* with 102,000*l*. and the *Wellesley* with 95,000*l*.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The English Stock Market at one period showed some symptoms of improvement, but the rise in the value of money caused a complete revulsion in all the markets, and prices have since been steadily declining. The dealers, under the circumstances, refrain from pushing business, being also apprehensive that a further advance in the Bank rate will have to be resorted to at a very early period. Political affairs abroad are also continuing to exercise an adverse influence, and it does not seem probable that anything like confidence will be established till the result of the present Conference on the Danish question has been arrived at. As compared with last week, Consols exhibit a decline of $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent., the closing quotation this evening being $89\frac{7}{8}$ to 90 ex div. for money, and $90\frac{1}{8}$ to $90\frac{1}{4}$ ex div. for the account. Exchequer bills have also become weaker, the March issue being down to 9*s*. to 4*s*. dis., and those of June to 6*s*. to 1*s*. dis. The Foreign Stock Market also participates in the downward movement, but the decline comparatively has not been so great as in the English securities. Greek and Mexican show a fall of $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent.; Spanish Passives and Turkish about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; but the Spanish Certificates have only declined $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. The latest quotations were—Greek, $23\frac{1}{4}$ to 24; Mexican, $28\frac{5}{8}$ to $28\frac{7}{8}$; Spanish Passives, $28\frac{1}{8}$ to $28\frac{3}{8}$, and the Certificates, $9\frac{7}{8}$ to $10\frac{1}{8}$; Turkish Six per Cents. (1854), $90\frac{1}{2}$ to $91\frac{1}{2}$, and those of 1862, $69\frac{1}{2}$ to 70 ex div.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The tightness of the money market has affected the value of this security in common with other stocks. The closing price to-day is 75 to 77, with a steady market.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The transactions in American Government and Railway Securities continue extremely limited, the successive unfavourable accounts with regard to the progress of the Federal armies rendering the brokers more indisposed than ever to operate in this class of securities. The only dealings recorded during the week have been in Atlantic and Great Western Railway, Pennsylvanian section, at 73; ditto, ditto, second mortgage, at 69 and 68. Illinois Central, $100 shares, $90 paid, at $44\frac{1}{4}$, $44\frac{1}{2}$, 44, and 45 dis.; and ditto, ditto, $100 shares, all paid, at 51, $51\frac{1}{2}$, $51\frac{3}{4}$, and $51\frac{1}{4}$.

NEW YORK AND THE MANCHESTER TRADE.—The principal of a New York firm of the highest standing writes as follows by the latest advices to his representative in Manchester:—'The excitement during the past fortnight in all kinds of produce is unprecedented. The enormous fluctuations in the currency have created a great speculative feeling, and influenced the markets to such an extent that the execution of orders has become impossible, except at a very great risk, which purchasers on commission are not willing to incur. On the 1st inst., gold went up to 285, and declined the same day (when the Gold Bill was repealed) to 225. It has since fluctuated as much as 10 and 20 per cent. in a day, and at the present moment is quoted at 275. As long as this state of things lasts, we must be content to look on, and wait till affairs show a surer foundation to work upon. You will perhaps not be entirely unprepared to hear of this last invasion of the North, details of which go out by this mail.'

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

The market for the English railway securities was rather animated early in the week, and prices exhibited a rising tendency; but in sympathy with the other departments, there has since been much heaviness, and quotations have receded all round, the decline varying from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 3 per cent. To-day the market has not shown any improvement, and closes without much animation. The variations since this day week have been a decline of 3 per cent. in London, Chatham, and Dover, and Vale of Neath; of 2 per cent. in Great Northern A shares, London and Blackwall, and North Staffordshire; of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Great Western, West Midland (Oxford), Metropolitan, North Eastern (Leeds), and ditto (York); of 1 per cent. in Caledonian, Lancashire and Yorkshire, London and North Western, Birmingham and Derby, North Eastern (Berwick), Shropshire Union and South Yorkshire; and of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. in Midland and South Eastern. In Foreign and Colonial railway shares there is but little animation, and prices are declining.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES, ETC.

At the half-yearly meeting of the proprietors of the Alliance Bank, the report, which was adopted, stated that the net profits for the half-year ending June 30, amounted to 62,397*l*.; which, with 6,933*l*. available from the previous half-year, made a net

balance of 60,330*l.*, being upwards of 22 per cent. on the capital for the time it has been paid up. This balance the directors proposed to appropriate as follows:—viz. 31,250*l.* in payment of a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital; 1,500*l.* in reduction of preliminary expenses and building account; 30,000*l.* to the reserve fund, thereby raising that fund to 84,000*l.*; and 6,580*l.* to the profit and loss account of the present half-year. The directors recommend the immediate increase of the capital of the company to 4,000,000*l.*, by the issue of 10,000 additional shares.—At the meeting of the Union Bank of Ireland, Mr. Bruce in the chair, the report of the directors stated that the available profit for the half-year was 9,558*l.*, including a previous balance of 4,126*l.* Of this sum it was proposed to appropriate 5,000*l.* towards a dividend of 10*s.* per share, or at the rate of rather more than 4$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum; 1,500*l.* to be placed to the reserve fund; 1,000*l.* to preliminary expenses, which would leave a balance of 2,058*l.* to be carried to the current account. The report was agreed to.—At the meeting of the Midland Banking Co., Mr. H. Hankey in the chair, the report presented, and which was adopted, stated that the gross profits for the half-year, including 1,710*l.* brought forward from the previous account, were 11,704*l.*, and that, after deducting interest paid to customers, &c., rebate of interest on bills discounted and not yet due, there remained a balance of 3,543*l.*, out of which the Directors recommended that 370*l.* be written off preliminary expenses, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum—that 1,459*l.* be appropriated to the payment of a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax—that 1,000*l.* be placed to the credit of the reserve fund—and that 715*l.* be carried forward to profit and loss new account.—At the half-yearly meeting of the London Joint-Stock Bank the report, which was unanimously adopted, stated that the net profit for the past half-year had been 124,476*l.*, out of which the directors proposed the usual dividend at the rate of 12$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, with a bonus of 1*l.* per share, leaving a balance of 26,976*l.* to be carried to profit and loss new account.—At the fourth annual meeting of the Imperial Bank, the report presented showed that, after payment of the whole of the current, making allowance for bad and doubtful debts, &c., the profit and loss account exhibited a balance of 63,437*l.* including 48,288*l.*, the premium received on new shares, which the directors recommended should be appropriated as follows:—To dividends at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum free of income-tax, from the six months ending June 30 on paid up-capital of 12,000 shares, 1st issue, 9,600*l.*; to payment at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on paid-up capital of 10,500 shares of 2nd and 3rd issue in lieu of dividend, 849*l.* to reserve fund, premium on new shares 48,288*l.*: to balance to be carried forward to credit of profit and loss, new account, 4,700*l*—The Merchant Banking Company, at their half-yearly meeting, declared an interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum free of income-tax for the past six months. The past operations of the Company are said to have been very successful, and the future prospects are most encouraging.—At the first ordinary meeting of the Bank of Otago, the balance sheet exhibited the operations of the Company in London from the time of its formation to June 30, and in New Zealand from December 7 to March 31, a period of little more than three months. The Government of Southland have arranged to transfer its accounts to this Bank, and to entrust it with the disposal of a loan of 110,000*l.* on the Government debentures. A branch was opened at Invercargill, on February 2, from which the colonial manager expected satisfactory results.—At the meeting of the English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered Bank, a dividend was declared at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and added 8,000*l.* to the reserve fund.—The Australian Mining Company at the annual meeting have declared a dividend of 1*s.* per share.—The Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Company have also declared a dividend of 1*s.* per share.—At a meeting of the Land Securities Company, the report showed that the net profits to June 30, were 902*l.*, besides profits on advances, which were estimated at 4,985*l.*—The New Zealand Trust and Loan Company have declared a dividend of 2*s.* per share, free of income-tax, being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.—The directors of the Contract Corporation have declared a dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum.—At the meeting of the London and South Western Bank, the report stated that the available balance for the half-year was 6,079*l.*, including a previous amount of 1,910*l.*; and a dividend was declared at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, which will absorb 3,000*l.*, 537*l.* was written off preliminary expenses, and 2,542*l.* remained to be carried to the current half-year's account. At the same time 14,000*l.* derived from premiums on new and on unallotted shares, was placed to the reserve fund.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

The prospectus has been issued of the Industrial Company of Central Italy. The capital proposed to be raised is 250,000*l.* in 25,000 shares, of 10*l.* each. The first object of the Company is to purchase and work some extensive deposits of native sulphur in the Romagna, near the productive mines of the Bolognese Company, which for many years have realised as much as 33 per cent. per annum. Only about half the capital it is expected will be required. The vendors have consented to receive half the purchase-money in shares which are not to participate in the interest or dividend till the other shareholders shall have received 10 per cent. -The Metropolitan Ice Company is announced with a capital of 50,000*l.* in 10,000 shares, of 5*l.* each, and 6 per cent. interest is to be allowed until the first dividend meeting. Property for the erection of suitable premises, on the Grand Surrey Canal, Deptford, has been secured upon a fifty years' lease. A concession has also been obtained from the Canal Company, giving the directors the exclusive rights of collecting ice from the Black Horse Bridge to and including the Surrey Docks.—The Locomotive Cotton Press Company has also been announced. The required capital is 100,000*l.* in 10,000 shares of 10*l.* each, but the first issue will be 5,000 shares only. The object is to purchase the patent rights for pressing cotton and other articles by locomotive machinery, and to carry on operations in the East Indian cotton districts. As the railway authorities insist upon the cotton being pressed up country, the emissaries of the Company will proceed to the stations on the lines near the districts where the staple is grown, and thus greatly facilitate its conveyance to the port of shipment by the ordinary trains.—The Merchant Banking Company have issued a prospectus inviting subscriptions for the British and Netherlands India Bank. The capital to be raised is 2,000,000*l.*, in 40,000 shares of 50*l.* each, but in the first instance 20,000 shares only will be subscribed. It appears that, notwithstanding the increased security of banking facilities in the East, business in India, China, Japan, and Australia has greatly outrun existing banking accommodation, and there appears to exist a necessity for further banking facilities in those parts. It is contemplated in the first instance to commence business in the Madras Presidency, China, Japan, and Batavia.—A prospectus has also been issued of the Rinchintong Tea Company, with a capital of 60,000*l.*, half to be first subscribed in shares of 10*l.* each. The object of the undertaking is the cultivation of three freehold estates in the district of Darjeeling. The land comprises 2,000 acres, 206 of which are already cleared and planted with the best varieties, and the purchase money is to be 20,000*l.*, of which one-quarter or one-half, as may be desired, will be taken in shares.—This evening four additional prospectuses have been issued, viz. that of the Norwegian Charcoal Iron Company, with a capital of 150,000*l.* in 7,500 shares of 20*l.* each. Deposits 1*l.* per share on application, and 3*l.* on allotment. The object is the purchase of and working the Eidsfoss Iron Works at Kongsberg, in Norway, which have been obtained on very advantageous terms.—The National Boiler Insurance Company ask for a capital of 100,000*l.* in 10,000 shares of 10*l.* each. Deposits 1*l.* per share on application, and 1*l.* on allotment. The object of the undertaking is to provide against the risks of loss, both of property and life, from the explosion of steam boilers—risks which are at present confined to one or two local companies. The Guildhall Taverns Company propose raising a capital of 100,000*l.*, in 10,000 shares of 10*l.* each; deposit on application 1*l.* per share, and on allotment 2*l.*, with the view of purchasing, carrying on, and extending the businesses of the Guildhall Coffee House and the Castle Tavern, at the corner of Gresham Street and King Street, in the immediate vicinity of the Guildhall and the Courts of Law. The Directors have already purchased the leases, stocks in trade, goodwill, furniture, plate, wines, &c., of both establishments, on very advantageous terms. A minimum dividend of 10 per cent. per annum will be guaranteed for three years. The Washoe United Consolidated Gold and Silver Mining Company are asking for a capital of 100,000*l.* in 20,000 shares of 5*l.* each; deposit on application 10*s.* per share, and a further 10*s.* on allotment. The object is the working and development of a property situated amongst the richest and most extensive in the Nevada territory, and which has hitherto been held by private individuals.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

The quiet previously noticed in the produce markets has been increased by the enhanced value of money, and purchases are entered upon with greater reserve in every department. There have been somewhat numerous arrivals of produce during the last day or two, and they have also tended to check enquiry, as dealers are led to delay the execution of orders in the expectation, not only of a better choice of goods, but also some advantage in terms, when the fresh supplies become available. Meanwhile stocks in first hands are for the moment small, and as the markets are but scantily furnished, prices are tolerably well maintained; its good feature generally is the steadiness with which the deliveries progress. The provision markets, affected by the prospects of better supplies, as well as by dearer money, have been depressed, foreign butters declining 4*s.* per cwt. The demand that prevailed for the better qualities of bacon has subsided, and sales are difficult, except at 1*s.* and 2*s.* per cwt. decline. American provisions are at the moment neglected, the New York advices having unsettled quotations. Hops of all imports are firm, strengthened in some measure by the unfavourable crop reports from America and Belgium. The corn trade has shown renewed dulness, and sales of wheat to any extent could not be effected except at lower prices. Sales, however, are not pressed, and quotations, therefore, remain without material change. Linseed and rape seed tend to higher rates. Linseed cakes, owing to the recent protracted drought, are dearer, American barrels 10*l.* to 10*l.* 5*s.*; bags, 9*l.* 5*s.* to 9*l.* 15*s.* Petroleum is steady in value at 2*s.* 2$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 2*s.* 3*d.* per gallon for American refined on the spot, and 2*s.* 4*d.* for the last four months' delivery; but the demand during the last day or two has been dull. Linseed oil has declined to 38*s.* 3*d.* on the spot, the make having been increased by the enhanced price of cake. Seal oil maintains its value firmly, at 46*s.* to 46*s.* 6*d.* for pale, and 43*s.* to 43*s.* 6*d.* for brown, the market deriving support from the upward tendency in the price of seed. Tallow during the last few days has been more in demand at an advance of 3*d.* to 6*d.* per cwt. Dye goods of all kinds are firm, and the common qualities of saffron rather dearer. A moderate business is passing in indigo at fully the last sale's rates. The wool sales have been in progress since Thursday last, and have manifested a good home-trade demand, prices ruling fully up to those of the previous series for all but scoured Port Phillip and greasy wools, which are slightly easier. The sugar market continues extremely dull, and rates are again 6*d.* to 1*s.* per cwt. lower. Coffee is not offered largely for sale, but is barely so firm as it was a week ago. The only changes in spices are a slight advance in cassia lignea, first pile selling 92*s.* to 94*s.*, and an advance of 4*d.* to 5*d.* compared with the rates current last quarter in the price of cinnamon. The metal trade is much less active. Scotch pig iron has receded to 57*s.* 9*d.*, and spelter to 24*l.* 15*s.* Straits, however, remains at 106*l.* cash, and 108*l.* with full prompt.

Liverpool, Wednesday, July 27.—After the excitement of the last two or three weeks, our cotton market has once more assumed a quieter appearance, and there is a very slight tendency to a relaxation in prices; but, stocks having become exceedingly small, holders seem disinclined to make the reduction demanded, particularly for American and all long stapled descriptions. The sales this week have been 41,000 bales, of which 10,500 have been on speculation and for export. The total sales this year have been 1,629,230 bales, and to the same period in 1863, 1,184,720 bales. There have been imported this year 1,207,943 bales, against 1,067,741 bales last year. Taken by the trade this year, 1,001,202 bales; same in 1863, 654,470 bales. The exports this year have been 312,419 bales; to the same period last year they were 261,340 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 288,640 bales, against 262,970 in 1863. At the present time the estimated stocks are 184,720 bales, and at the corresponding period last year they were 262,637 bales. The closing quotations this afternoon were, American descriptions, 28$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 31$\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Pernambuco, 28$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 30$\frac{3}{4}$*d.*; Maceio, 29$\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to 30*d.*; Bahia, 29$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 30$\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; Egyptian, 29*d.* to 32$\frac{3}{4}$*d.*; Surat, 15$\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to 26$\frac{3}{4}$*d.*; and Peruvian, 28$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 32*d.*

Business in the Manchester markets was pretty firm and moderately active in the early part of the week, but the subsequent advance in the rate of discount, and the rather unfavourable tendency of the telegraphic advices from India and China, have had a depressing effect, and rendered business exceedingly quiet. There has been scarcely anything doing in shipping yarns; there are some buyers in the market, but their operations have been very limited. More business would have been transacted but spinners hold out for extreme prices, being heavily under contract, and they do not show the slightest disposition to press sales. Very little business has been transacted in home-trade yarns, and there is little variation in prices, but where any change has taken place it has been rather in favour of buyers, but the variation is quite fractional. The cloth market within the last day or two has also become extremely dull; buyers show no disposition to make advantageous offers, and manufacturers stand out for former rates. In fact, business is now said to be so limited, that it is difficult to test the variation in values. The Indian news is to the effect that the markets were quiet there, and without any material alteration in prices. The final quotations were $\frac{7}{8}$ grey printers from 8*s.* 9*d.* to 16*s.* 9*d.*, according to quality; $\frac{9}{8}$ grey madapollams from 7*s.* 10$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 10*s.* 4$\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; $\frac{9}{8}$ grey printers from 12*s.* 1$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 18*s.* 6*d.*; $\frac{5}{4}$ grey shirtings from 13*s.* 3*d.* to 27*s.* 6*d.*; water twist, No. 20, from 1*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* 10$\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; No. 30 from 2*s.* 8*d.* to 3*s.* 2*d.*; No. 40 from 3*s.* 1*d.* to 3*s.* 7*d.*; mule twist, No. 20, from 1*s.* 11*d.* to 2*s.* 9*d.*; No. 40 from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.*; No. 60 from 3*s.* 0*d.* to 3*s.* 7*d.*; No. 80 from 3*s.* 4*d.* to 3*s.* 11*d.*; and No. 100 from 3*s.* 9*d.* to 4*s.* 7*d.*

Now and Then.—When the war commenced it was to end in thirty days. In fourteen months it had so far progressed that a powerful army lay near Richmond in order to seize the Confederate capital, but was driven back. In two years and two months the North was invaded by the army of General Lee. In three years and three months the grand army of the Potomac is just where it was at the close of the first fourteen months, and with less prospect of taking Richmond now than it had then. In the meantime, over two millions and a half of men have been called into the field to do that which seventy-five thousand were expected to do in thirty days. A debt has been entailed on the country in three years counting by thousands of millions; the land is filled with lamentation and woe over the sons and fathers slain; the country filled with those shorn of limbs in this worse than useless war. All who wish to stop the further effusion of blood are denounced as enemies of the country. For over three years madness has ruled the hour; three months of sanity, with a cessation of hostilities, would result in peace.—*New York Daily News*, July 12.

An application has been made to the Dean of Westminster, and granted by him, for leave to erect a monument to Mr. Thackeray in Westminster Abbey.

Among the Contents of The Index *of July* 21 *are*:—

Letters from New York, July 3, 5.

Notes on Events of the Week at Home and Abroad.

Parliamentary Notes.

Latest from Richmond.

The Invasion of the Northern States.

The 'Aberdeen Act.'

Confederate Views of Mediation.

The Canadian Confederacy.

Confederate Cause in Lancashire:—Petition to Parliament—Deputation to Earl Russell.

Deputation to Lord Palmerston.

The Federal Disaster before Petersburg.

Shipping Intelligence.

Affairs Financial and Commercial.

Advertisements.

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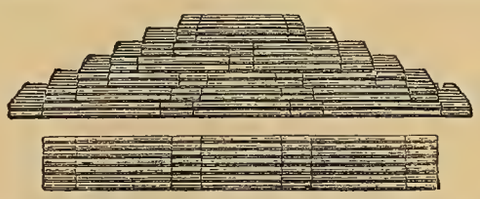

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THE INDEX

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THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION—CONSTITUTIONAL TROUBLES AND PARTISAN USE OF THEM.

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

NEW YORK: July 19, 1864.

SIR,—At the recent session of Congress a law was passed prescribing a rule for counting the votes to be cast at the election for President in November, which, in some not improbable contingencies, may have very disturbing consequences.

By this law every one of the States heretofore proclaimed by the President to be in insurrection is declared to be incapable of casting any vote for elections of President and Vice-President, or of electing senators or representatives in Congress, until it shall have returned to 'obedience' to the Federal Government, in manner and form to be determined by an Act of Congress to be 'hereafter' passed, and the return is duly promulgated by proclamation of the President. Congress adjourned, and no such enabling act was passed into a law.

A Reconstruction Act passed both Houses prescribing the forms by which subjugated or repentant States, when there should be any, could make new constitutions of the Congressional pattern, and be readmitted into fellowship with the 'loyal' North. But, through the obstinacy of the South, subjects for this process are lacking, and no claimants could possibly be looked for until after the Presidential election is over. The plan of Congress, if it had been permitted to become law, would have annulled the proceedings instituted by Mr. Lincoln, by which Louisiana and Arkansas have been 'reconstructed,' and were represented in the Baltimore Nominating Convention as States. Mr. Lincoln, therefore, did not sign the Bill as it passed, assigning, with an audacious frankness which in better times would have been resented as insolent dictation, his unwillingness to consent to the reversal of his own acts, as among his chief reasons for defeating the legislation of Congress. The rule established by the Act of exclusion, which he did sign, shuts out these States also, unless, as it is sometimes hinted that they may, they contend that they were restored States before the law passed, whom Congress has no power to eject, and proceed to hold elections, and the result of the elections elsewhere should make it the interest of any party to maintain their right to have their votes counted. The President, in suppressing that Bill, is accused of having meant to keep open that chance for helping himself to votes in case of need.

By the terms of the new law the eleven States which were proclaimed by the President to be in insurrection are declared to be incapable of casting a vote in November. The execution of the law makes such changes in the actual numbers and proportions of the electoral votes, and may lead to such disagreements and contentions, that it will be useful to furnish your readers with a statement of the numerical relations the States bear towards each other in the Presidential vote, and how they are affected by this rule.

The number of electoral votes to which each State is entitled constitutionally is compounded of the number of its members in the House of Representatives and the number of its senators, of which each State has the fixed number of two. The number of representatives is determined by its population, as defined in the Federal Constitution, and is ascertained by census taken every ten years. After every census a new apportionment is made. Formerly tedious legislative time was necessary to fix on a certain number as a ratio, part representation, and the aggregate number which should only a full house was consequently undetermined and fluctuating. The practice has now been adopted of fixing in advance a number of which the House shall consist, and a rule for the representation of fractions, devolving on the Department of the Interior the ministerial duty of distributing them when the census should be completed. The number of the present House was fixed, under the census of 1860, to be 233; but supplemental legislation increased it to 241, by the allowance of eight more representatives to various States upon whom the strict rule inflicted hardship. These computations were for the undivided Union. The whole number of States was then 34. The whole number of representatives was 241; the whole number of senators was 68; and consequently the whole number of electoral votes was 309, and the majority necessary to effect an election by the colleges was 155. On a failure of the election by a popular vote, the number of States necessary to effect an election by States in the House of Representatives was 18.

The figures in detail are as follows. I separate the adhering States from the eleven States since proclaimed and now excluded, after they had taken themselves off and elected a President for themselves in another Confederation.

ADHERING STATES.

California	5	Michigan	8
Connecticut	6	Minnesota	4
Delaware	3	New Hampshire	5
Illinois	16	New York	33
Indiana	13	New Jersey	7
Iowa	8	Ohio	21
Kansas	3	Oregon	3
Kentucky	11	Pennsylvania	26
Maine	7	Rhode Island	4
Maryland	7	Vermont	5
Massachusetts	12	Wisconsin	8
Missouri	11		226

SECEDING STATES.

Alabama	8	North Carolina	9
Arkansas	5	South Carolina	6
Florida	3	Tennessee	10
Georgia	9	Texas	6
Louisiana	7	Virginia	13
Mississippi	7		83

Total electoral votes by census of 1860 . . 309

In 1861, the eleven States enumerated in the last of the above tables withdrew from the Union, taking with them 61 members of the House of Representatives and 22 Senators, representing 83 votes in the electoral colleges. A subsequent proclamation of the President declared them to be in insurrection, and the Act of Congress just passed excludes them from the count in the choice of the next President. I do not imagine this vote troubles those who have gone out, but it is of some interest to those who remain. It is a legislative enaction that the Federal Congress consists of 180 members of the House of Representatives and 46 senators from 23 States, and that there shall be at the Presidential election in November only 226 electoral votes. It results that 114 votes in the electoral colleges (instead of 145), or 12 States in the House of Representatives (instead of 18), may choose a President.

It is true that Congress, and the Northern Government and people generally, have held that acts of secession are void, that no State can take itself out of the Union, and that the absence of their members in either House made only vacancies in representation. Nevertheless they have received, and continue to recognise, members of both Houses from the seceded States. Andrew Johnson, one of the senators in Congress from the State of Tennessee, refused to go with his State when they seceded, but remained, and was recognised, and acted as senator, after she was proclaimed to be in rebellion. A minority of the population of Virginia got up a legislature, which appointed two senators to Washington; and though Virginia is proclaimed to be in rebellion, these senators sat, and continue to sit, in the Federal Congress. A majority in a portion of Western Virginia adhered to the North, was excepted from the proclamation, and erected itself, in open violation of the Constitution, into a separate State, and was received by Congress; that portion has also two senators in Congress. Insurrectionary Virginia has, therefore, four senators at Washington. The new Act of Congress decrees, that the proclaimed part shall not vote; and if it comes to be a material point in the elections whether the loyalised fraction, which counts as the 35th State in fact, and the 24th in the roll of voting States, shall be permitted to vote, the question will be bitterly contested by the losing parties. The whole Opposition, and to-day many more than the Opposition, contend that there is, constitutionally, no such State as Western Virginia. Judge Catron, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, holding a circuit court in one of the States of his circuit, has lately held that he could not judicially recognise any State within the limits of Virginia other than that which covers the whole of the territory. Both in the present and the preceding Congress members have been received from portions of the seceded States—at one time two from Louisiana, and two or three from Tennessee, and three from Virginia—to nearly the last hour before this exclusion rule was passed. Now and hereafter, under the strict operation of the rule, the number of States would be, as I have said, 23; of senators, 46; representatives, 180; and electoral votes, 226. The party in power construe it so as to make, with West Virginia, 24 States, 48 senators, 183 representatives, and 231 electoral votes. This theory of the Union makes the whole number of States 35.

It must be observed that as Virginia, an 'insurrectionary' State, is fully represented in the Southern Congress, and has double sets of senators received in the Federal Congress, so Missouri and Kentucky, which never formally, by undisputed State action, separated themselves from the North, and therefore form two of the twenty-three adhering States, are also fully represented in the Confederate Congress. The action within those two States in favour of the Southern Confederacy has the additional character of being a protest against a domestic State Government maintaining itself against the popular will by the exterior force of the Federal Government. There are conflicting State organisations respectively acknowledged as legal by opposing Governments. Hence, though the number of States be but 34, the North with the two Virginias has 26 represented in the Senate, and 23 in the electoral colleges, and the South counts 13 in each.

It is not difficult to understand in how many ways a Presidential election, conducted on this novel rule, may in these tumultuous times be productive of violent contentions.

There is one very grave question connected with it, which is put out of sight by all parties who agree that the war must be prosecuted; but will be revived, and put prominently forward, whenever the peace party obtains a hearing above the din of arms. It will ask, and no sufficient answer will be given, upon what principle of law or of justice, in a constitutional Union of States, two-thirds of them may make a special rule among themselves by force of which they exercise exclusively the functions of a common Government, exactly as though the remaining States were never to be reckoned as members of the Government until subjugated by force of arms, and taken in anew, on submission to new terms, as foreign and alien States might be, and at the same time unrelenting war be waged against them as rebels to the altered Government from which they are peremptorily excluded by its own act.

Foreign governments which look into the organisation of governments *de facto*, claiming a title to recognition as independent, will find the plea for the recognition of the South vastly strengthened by this Northern proceeding. To impartial understanding it is the public admission that the eleven seceded States are independent of the authority of Congress, and beyond the jurisdiction within which the Constitution of the United States can act; that practically each of the States exercises the power of self-government, and their common government is so established as to be supreme over that of the United States within its territory. The position of the United States, therefore, is towards them the same as that of Spain towards her South American colonies, which had become States by the exercise of all the powers of internal self-government when England proposed to recognise their independence, and was haughtily told by the Spanish monarch that he would never surrender his right of dominion over his revolted subjects, nor relinquish his purpose to subdue them by arms. You have within your reach, while I have not at hand, the text of the reply which Mr. Canning, then Foreign Secretary, gave to this Spanish despatch. I remember the substance distinctly, and its appositeness to the present attitude of England towards the Southern Confederacy. Mr. Canning, with all the courteous phrases of diplomatic language, accepted this declaration as a discharge for Great Britain from all obligation to consider Spanish wishes thereafter in respect to her treatment of the South American question. He said that the position of Spain being that of asserting an absolute right for all time, without the chances of reconsideration in changing circumstances, or respect for rights acquired, or that might be acquired, by time and possession, and without consideration for the interests of the world in the commerce of vast territories which were shut up by this unreasoning will of Spain, there was nothing left upon which the two

Governments could deliberate together, and no motive for any further waiting by Great Britain in expectation of concert at any future time with Spain. He thereupon gave notice to the Spanish King that Great Britain would thenceforth act exclusively on her own views, without reference to his, of the rights acquired by the American States, and of her own interests and the general interests of nations, in acknowledging their independence. An English Minister of this day, like George Canning, or such as Lord Palmerston was before fatally trammelled by the party necessity of taming himself down to the Russell standard, might find a stronger case for a parallel document in the assertion by the North of a will as stubborn, unreasoning, and irrational, accompanied as it now is by the legislative record of a confession of defeat. He might with undeniable good faith assume the South to be independent when he finds the Northern States modifying the proportions of power among themselves in the organic matter of renewing the executive power on the basis of a separation accomplished *pro tanto*.

Some of the changes silently effected by this legislative act, work radical changes in the adjustments of power prescribed in the Constitution. Take the New England States for an example. In a constitutional union of 34 States the six States of New England are entitled to—

12 out of 68, the whole number of senators, or 17·65 per cent.

27 out of 241, the whole number of representatives, or 11·20 per cent.

39 out of 309, the whole number of electoral votes, or 12·62 per cent.

But in the new organisation by 23 States, New England has—

12 out of 46 senators, or 26 per cent. of the Senate.

27 out of 180 representatives, or 15 per cent. of the House.

39 out of 226 votes, or 17·25 of the electoral colleges.

The relative voting power of New England in the making of a President is greater by nearly five votes in a hundred than it would be under the distributions of the Constitution. Its rightful proportion is little less than one-eighth of the whole number. In the next election it will have one-sixth. There is ample ground upon which to excite against New England the passions of the great masses who are already filled with resentment against the author of the calamities which affect the country, and who will not conceal that she should make profit by her sons, and will make this legalised expunging of the Southern vote the occasion for demanding new adjustments, which, if they do not lessen the power of New England, that has been so potent for mischief, will at least restore the equilibrium among the adhering States, which the Constitution makes. A great many other combinations of the figures may be made to show that the balance of power among the States no longer exists under this rule as the Constitution placed it. There may be ground for contending, under the literal terms of the Constitution, that an election for President may be valid, if made by a majority of electors 'appointed,' even if a considerable number of States should fail to appoint. The language of the Constitution is that, on the counting of the votes legally cast in the electoral colleges, 'the person having the greatest number of votes for President shall be President, if such number be a majority of the whole number appointed.' But it is contended that this clause did not contemplate the case of a systematic abstention of one-third of the States from casting their votes, and the exclusion of their voting by the deliberate action of the other two-thirds. It is no accidental irregularity, but a permanent dislocation of the system; and, when this operates to keep in power an odious administration and to aggrandise a domineering section, forms of language will not be strictly construed against the plain intent of the Constitution and against the popular understanding of rights made keener by a popular sense of wrong. There is much food for discontent in the chances that ruinous measures and hateful men may be fastened on the country, by the straining of the powers of Congress, to re-distribute among twenty-three States the powers which were adjusted and distributed for thirty-four. To the plea that there are no forms provided by which there can be an election in any other way, the answer is brief and emphatic: the South, then, is dismembered, in fact, and it is time to have a new settlement—to meet the new position. And when this issue is made, amidst the trials which the coming election is sure to engender, a political crisis will have arisen which will test what may remain of the power of coherence among these States.

If there be room for dispute about the Constitutional majority required in the electoral colleges, there is none whatever in respect to the majority required to effect an election by States in the House of Representatives. If there be no election by a majority of electors 'appointed' and the case do not arise then, to be disputed whether 114 votes will elect, the House of Representatives must proceed to elect as follows, under the 12th Amendment of the Constitution:—

'If no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest number of votes, not exceeding three, on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the vote shall be taken by States, the representative from each State having one vote. A quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the States, and a majority of all the States shall be necessary to a choice.'

A quorum of 'two-thirds of the States' means two-thirds of the States of the Union, which means, unless the eleven seceding States are constitutionally out of the Union, a quorum of two-thirds of thirty-four, which is twenty-four. If the disputed State of West Virginia be counted, twenty-four would still be the number required. If a less number be received as a quorum, it must be because the number of the States is constitutionally less than thirty-four, and that the separation of the South is constitutionally effected and conceded.

It will be seen that without the State of West Virginia, of which the Constitutional existence is vehemently denied by a large party, no quorum can be made in the House. Without her there are but twenty-three States represented in the House, and without twenty-four it cannot act. These two questions, the right of less than a quorum of all the States to act, and of the right of West Virginia to make the quorum by voting at all, will meet the House of Representatives at the threshold of an election, and be contested with unyielding pertinacity by the opposition. They will never consent that an election shall be held on these terms, nor submit to an adverse result thus obtained.

Should this deadlock as to the quorum be overcome by the hasty admission of some one of those Northern territories which Congress authorised to make constitutions and become States without further action on its part, the contest will be continued on the point that no man can be constitutionally chosen President without having a majority of the votes of 'all the States,' that is, without receiving the votes of eighteen out of thirty-four, or thirty-five States, as the case may be. If less than a majority of 'all the States' be permitted to make the President, the election will be denounced as a fraud, and fierce revolutionary strife will break out.

The plain fact is, that the whole of the political system of the United States is disjointed, and if we say the coming Presidential contest is likely to make it fall violently asunder, we only recognise the power of centrifugal forces which, since the conservative influence of the South has been drawn off, has made its fall ultimately certain, and to which the fury of war passions, the resentment of political disappointments, and the shame of national humiliation, are giving fearful acceleration.

I remain, respectfully yours,

An Observer.

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

Whether Atlanta has been occupied by the Federals is doubtful, despite the positive assurances of Mr. Lincoln's organs. At first it was reported that the Confederates had evacuated Atlanta, and that the enemy had gained a bloodless triumph. Next it was stated that a severe battle had been fought, that the Federals had lost 1,500 men, the Confederates 4,000 prisoners, and had retreated to Macon. Upon this news the price of gold in New York declined, and was quoted at 251. Next day (July 23) there was no official confirmation of the fall of Atlanta, and gold was quoted at 254¾. That is, on the evening of the 23rd the people in New York rather doubted the report which they had credited on the morning of the 22nd. The next mail will tell us whether the scepticism of New York was or was not justified.

It is said that in the reported battle before Atlanta, fought on July 21, the Confederates were under the command of General Hood, and that General Hood has superseded General Johnston.

In Virginia there have been no movements of importance. Grant, having sent a large part of his forces to Washington and Baltimore, has had to contract his lines and to repose under the protection of his gunboats. The *Petersburg Express* of July 12 says: 'We have positive assurance that Grant has greatly contracted his lines. After repeated efforts to extend his left flank around to Reams's Station, he has now withdrawn it to the east of the plank road and several miles nearer to City Point.' The *Philadelphia Age* says that, in consequence of an urgent order from Washington, Grant had to despatch a part of his forces for the defence of the capital, and that this made the contraction of the Federal lines necessary. 'The various troops on the southern wing were moved northward to fill the gaps caused by the departing regiments. The southern flank was drawn in nearly a mile. The hills near the Weldon Railroad were abandoned, and at once occupied by the Confederates. Strong bodies of the enemy were moved down from Petersburg, and works were thrown up on the hills. The railroad was repaired, and trains began running. . . . Grant now has but four corps.' Grant's position appears to be strictly analogous to that occupied by M'Clellan after the seven days' battle. Like M'Clellan, Grant is forced to be inactive whilst his army is being depleted by sickness; and at the same time he reports, just as M'Clellan did, that he is preparing to resume active operations. Unless Grant does something quickly, he will very likely be set aside. He is no longer the idol of the people, and those who defend his failures only do so with the avowed object of damaging Mr. Lincoln. It is indeed highly probable that Grant would ere this have been denounced and superseded if his nonsuccess had not afforded political parties an opening for attacking Mr. Lincoln.

There were rumours in New York of 'a new Confederate invasion of Maryland.' A force, estimated at 5,000 men, was said to have recrossed the Potomac about fifteen miles above Harper's Ferry. These rumours may originate in the report that the Confederates told the people of Maryland that they would take their booty home and then return to fight; or perhaps there was some truth in this story. However that may be, the alarm and panic are genuine; and, no matter how badly Grant wants troops, we may be sure that henceforth the Federal authorities will retain an army in the neighbourhood and for the defence of Washington.

There has been some fighting before Charleston. The following is an official report of the earlier operations:—

Charleston: July 4, 1864.

General S. Cooper, Adjutant and Inspector-General:

On the morning of the 3rd instant the enemy landed several regiments on the south side of James Island, supported by two monitors and several gunboats in the Stono, and, after a sharp skirmish, captured two pieces of artillery and commenced entrenching.

At the same time several gunboats and transports with troops came up the North Edisto. At early dawn yesterday from seven hundred to a thousand men on barges attacked Fort Johnston, and were handsomely and thoroughly repulsed, with a loss to the enemy of one hundred and forty prisoners, with their arms and accoutrements, and five barges. Many were killed and wounded. Our loss very slight.

The enemy on the south end of James Island fell back hastily yesterday, before our men, leaving their dead unburied.

Our picket line is reestablished, but the monitors and gunboats are still in the Stono firing heavily on our lines, and another transport has just come in with troops.

The party from North Edisto landed at White Point, and advanced, but were soon met and driven back.

So far the enemy has been repulsed with the loss of about six hundred men.

Samuel Jones, Major-General.

On the 8th there was fighting on John's Island, and, according to Federal accounts, the Confederates were repulsed. On the 9th the Confederates renewed the attack, and surprised and defeated the 104th Pennsylvania Regiment. The Federals were reinforced and recovered their position. According to the latest advices, viâ New York, Confederate despatches assert that the Federals have been driven from John's and James Islands to Morris Island, that the gunboats in the Stono have been driven out of range, and that one monitor has been seriously damaged.

Amongst the war rumours of the week are the defeat and death of General Forrest; a drawn battle in Mississippi between the Federals under General A. J. Smith, and the Confederates under General S. D. Lee; that the Confederates are active in Kentucky; that the Confederates are operating in Missouri under General Thornton, where they have captured Marvin and threaten Plattsburg and Fort Scott; and that the Confederates are in considerable force on the Atchafalaya River, nine miles west of Morganzia, Louisiana, which General Candy is fortifying as a base of supplies. The rumour about General Forrest was generally discredited, and is not confirmed by later news.

President Lincoln, on July 18, called 'for 500,000 volunteers for the military service,' and if the volunteers will not come he orders a draft on September 5. According to the statement in the *New York World*, which we elsewhere republish, Mr. Lincoln has called out 2,408,846 men, and deducting the militia and three-months men, it leaves a balance of 1,910,961, 'exclusive of the temporarily serving militia, of the black soldiers, and of the hundred-day men who recently offered their services.'

There appears to be some difficulty in construing the proclamation. Mr. Lincoln writes: 'Provided, nevertheless, that all credits which may be established under section 8 of the aforesaid Act on account of persons who have entered the naval service during the present rebellion, and by credits for men furnished to the military service in excess of calls heretofore made for volunteers, will be accepted under this call for one, two, or three years, as they may elect, and will be entitled to the bounty provided by the law for the period of service for which they enlist.' New York has raised 3,000 three-years' men in anticipation of the next draft. Are these to stand for 9,000 men in the last call? Again, Mr. Lincoln has lately made a call for 12,000 troops from New York for 100 days' service. Are they to be counted? The *New York Journal of Commerce* remarks: 'Several regiments are nearly ready to leave, and (unless the present orders are countermanded) all will be in the field within a fortnight. Are these men not to be counted on the local quotas too? They should be counted at the rate of (nearly) three men for every one man of one year's class. We trust that the Governor will see that justice is done to the people of the State in this regard. "Business is business." Nothing can be more businesslike than the President's proclamation. There is no allusion to patriotism, not a word of friendly appeal, not an encouraging syllable about the future, from one end to the other of it.' The Northern journals express considerable doubt as to the 500,000 troops being obtained either by volunteering or by drafting.

On June 21, General Sherman, in an official letter to General Burbridge, gave orders in reference to what he is pleased to call guerilla warfare in Kentucky—the said guerillas being soldiers enlisted in the Confederate service, and serving under officers duly commissioned by the Confederate Government. The guerillas are to be treated as 'wild beasts,' and all men and women who encourage or harbour them are to be arrested and sent out of the country. General Sherman gives a curious definition of what constitutes a soldier. He says: 'To be recognised as soldiers, they must be enlisted, enrolled, officered, uniformed, armed, and equipped by a recognised belligerent power; and must, if detailed from a main army, be of sufficient strength, with written orders from some army commander to do some military thing.' Some Northern papers have remarked that, according to this rule, those who fought in the first war of independence were 'wild beasts,' and not soldiers, for they were not uniformed. Moreover, throughout the present war the Federals have been constantly sending out expeditions which did no more than destroy and steal property, and maltreat women and children, and, so far from being able to do any 'military thing,' have fled in hot haste at the approach of a hostile force. General Sherman adds: 'Of course we have recognised the Confederate Government as a belligerent power, but deny their right to our lands, territories, rivers, coasts, and nationality, admitting the right to rebel and move to some other country where laws and customs are more in accordance with their own ideas and prejudices.' Parson Brownlow desires the extermination, and, if possible, eternal damnation, of the Southerners. General Sherman is rather more generous. If the people of the Southern will be good enough to take themselves off, leaving their country and their

property behind them for the use of the Yankees, they are free to go.

Another remarkable paragraph in General Sherman's letter is this: 'The fact is, in our country personal liberty has been so well secured that public safety is lost sight of in our laws and institutions; and the fact is, we are thrown back one hundred years in civilisation, laws, and everything else, and will go right straight to anarchy and the devil if somebody don't arrest our downward progress.' Surely this grim joke is worthy of Mr. Lincoln. It is exquisitely comic to talk of personal liberty in the United States when the prisons are full of political offenders, and newspapers are suppressed at the will of the President. That the United States is *going* to anarchy and ruin will only be disputed by those who think that the country is already ruined.

The accounts from Missouri are not encouraging for the Federals. It was supposed that in some sections of the State the militia would go over to the Confederates, and Colonel Ford says that nine-tenths of the people of Platte county are 'disloyal.' We have no doubt that the Colonel is right. It is under these circumstances that General Rosecrans has appealed to the people of the State to help the Yankee troops against the Confederate force under General Thornton.

It is said that a conspiracy has been discovered for the formation of a North-western Confederacy, and that some citizens of St. Louis have been arrested.

We elsewhere copy from the *New York Daily News* an article on the mutilation and theft of the statue of Washington by General Hunter. The *Wheeling Register* commented severely on this act of vandalism, and therefore General Hunter suppressed the paper and imprisoned the editors and proprietors.

During the last few months there have been strikes in most of the trades in New York for an increase of wages, and in nearly every instance the operatives have been successful. There is now a combined movement in progress to compel the Legislature to pass a Bill making eight hours a legal day's work.

Mr. Fessenden has failed to procure a loan of $50,000,000 from the bankers, and intends to offer a popular loan. Meantime the Government is getting into debt at the rate of about $3,000,000 a day, and those who are usually well informed think that Mr. Fessenden will be compelled to resort to a further issue of greenbacks. On July 23, gold at New York was quoted at 254¾.

ENGLAND.

The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of London entertained Viscount Palmerston and Her Majesty's Ministers at dinner at the Mansion House on July 27. The Duke of Somerset returned thanks for the navy, and Earl de Grey and Ripon for the army. The Swedish and Norwegian Minister returned thanks in French for the *Corps Diplomatique*. The noble Premier responded to the toast of Her Majesty's Ministers; but his speech merely contemplated the prosperous condition of the nation, and was entirely free from political sentiments.

Her Majesty the Queen visited the gallant ship *Royal Sovereign* on Thursday last, and expressed to Captain Cowper Coles her admiration at the work accomplished by him. It is to be observed that the late Prince Consort first pressed the plan of this ship upon the Government; and that, had it not been for the energies of His Royal Highness, a long period might have elapsed before the country came into the possession of the great cupola ship.

Major-General Sir W. Brereton, K.C.B. and K.H., of the Royal Artillery, died last week in his 77th year. He served in Spain from December 1809, and was present at the defence of Cadiz and of Fort Matagada. He served at San Sebastian, Barossa, Vittoria, the Pyrenees, Orthes, and Toulouse; at Quatre Bras and Waterloo. He was present at the storming of the forts of the Bocca Tigris in the Canton River and at the capture of Canton. He was in the Crimea and was on board the *Britannia* at the bombardment of Sebastopol in 1854, when he directed the fire of the rockets.

The House of Lords has delivered judgment in the famous case of Yelverton *v.* Longworth (or Yelverton). We have already given an outline of the facts on which the case rested; but inasmuch as the judgment of the highest court has now been delivered, it may be well once more to recapitulate the story. In 1852 Maria Theresa Longworth met, on board the Boulogne boat, the Hon. Major William Charles Yelverton, the youngest son of Viscount Avonmore. Both parties were about twenty-seven years of age. A doubt exists as to the manner of the first introduction; but at least a conversation was sustained for some hours, and on their arrival in London the lady invited the officer to her lodgings, where some of her relatives were staying. He remained with her for some hours. Ten months elapsed, and at the end of that time—that is, in the spring of 1853—Miss Longworth wrote to Major Yelverton requesting him to forward a letter for her to a friend. A correspondence sprang up, and was continued till the autumn of 1855. In that year Miss Longworth went to Galata as a Sister of Mercy in the French hospital. There Major Yelverton called on her. The parties met again at the house of Lady Straubenzee, whose husband was in command of the Light Division. In February 1857 the parties again met at Edinburgh; on this occasion, as was alleged by Miss Longworth, a ceremony of marriage was gone through sufficient, as was contended, to constitute the parties man and wife according to the law of Scotland. They subsequently met at Waterford, in Ireland, and at Rostrevor were married according to the forms of the Roman Catholic Church. They travelled together after that time as man and wife, until in 1858 Major Yelverton married a Mrs. Forbes. In the Irish courts a decision was given in favour of the validity of the Irish marriage, and that decision remains unreversed. In the Scotch courts Major Yelverton brought an 'action of declaration of freedom and putting to silence,' and Miss Longworth brought 'an action of declaration of marriage' in the nature of a cross action. Lord Ardmillan decided in favour of Major Yelverton; but this decision was overruled by the full court. Major Yelverton appealed against this last decision to the House of Lords. Sir Hugh Cairns, Mr. Rolt, and Mr. Anderson were heard for the appellant, and the Attorney-General, the Lord Advocate, and the Queen's Advocate for the respondent. The respondent sought to show that in April 1857 she and the appellant read over by themselves the marriage service of the English Church, and thereby pledged themselves to one another as man and wife—that, therefore, there then was a contract *per verba de præsenti*, valid at law in Scotland. In case of failure in this proof, the respondent further contended that there was a promise *de futuro subsequente copula*, and that, as the *copula* followed in dependence on the promises, a contract of marriage was made valid by the Scotch law. The question, however, as to whether the *copula* must take place in Scotland necessarily arose; for, strangely enough, Major Yelverton denied the promise, but swore that the cohabitation first took place in Scotland. Miss Longworth alleged that no cohabitation took place till after the religious ceremony in Ireland. Thus it seems that, in obedience to a religious feeling, Miss Longworth was only too careful to allege that state of things which alone jeopardised her case. The Lord Chancellor delivered judgment at great length in favour of Miss Longworth, holding that the respondent, in consenting to cohabitation in Ireland, relied on what had passed in Scotland, although she desired it to be hallowed by a religious ceremony, and further holding that the mere fact that the *copula* in the first instance took place out of Scotland interposed no barrier between the promise and the subsequent cohabitation in Scotland. The Lord Chancellor then proceeded to read the judgment of Lord Brougham, which agreed with his own. He was, however, called to order by Lord Chelmsford, on the ground that the judgment of an absent Lord could only be read when it agreed with the opinion of the majority. Lord Wensleydale gave judgment for the appellant, holding that no promise to marry had been proved, nor any marriage *per verba de præsenti*. Lords Chelmsford and Kingsdown gave judgment to the like effect. The judgment, therefore, of the court below was reversed, but without costs.

It is said that when the decision of their Lordships was communicated to Miss Longworth she fell in a fainting-fit and did not rally for some time. She has addressed a letter to the morning journals, stating that a 'reference to oath of parties' is competent, and that therefore the matter is not finally settled. Moreover, she remarks that the Irish marriage is as yet unimpeached.

In the case of Chetwynd *v.* Chetwynd, now pending in the Divorce Court, a curious instance of contempt of court has arisen. A Mr. Muloch, impelled, as he says, by his duty as a Christian, has written a letter to the petitioner, Mrs. Chetwynd, threatening her with a publication respecting her if she did not withdraw from the suit. She applied to the court for protection, and Mr. Muloch appeared in person to show cause against the rule for attachment. The Judge-Ordinary told Mr. Muloch that a *locus pœnitentiæ* was still open to him, and that the proceeding would be stayed if he would undertake not to issue the publication. This Mr. Muloch declined to do. The Judge therefore inflicted a fine of 300*l.* on him. He further warned Mr. Muloch that, if he persisted in his design, imprisonment and a further fine would be the result. If, however, he chose to submit, the court might be induced, next term, to remit the penalty.

It will be remembered that Franz Müller, who is supposed to be the murderer of Mr. Briggs, and in quest of whom Inspector Tanner and Inspector Kerressey have sailed for New York by the mail steamer, took his passage on board the *Victoria* bound from London to New York. Every doubt as to the mail steamer's reaching America before the *Victoria* has now been set aside. On July 25 the *Moss Rose* spoke the *Victoria* in latitude 51° 16′ N., longitude 10° 15′ W., about 60 miles south of Cape Clear. The *Victoria*, therefore, having taken ten days to reach the south coast of Ireland, will not arrive at New York till long after the arrival of the mail steamers. News of the capture of Müller cannot be expected before the middle of September.

The last of the great annual public school contests came off on Thursday last. On that day Eton school broke up for the long vacation, and on that day also the race between the Eton eight and the Westminster eight was rowed. This interesting race was first established in 1829, and continued at intervals till 1848. It then ceased until the year 1860. In 1860-1-2 the Eton boys had been victorious. There was no race last year. The Eton eight came to the contest with a great reputation, having won the Ladies' Challenge Plate at Henley against Radley College and University College, Oxford, as was duly recorded some weeks since in The Index. Moreover, the style of rowing and the size of the men showed such a superiority to the skill and power of Westminster, that the Eton boat was decidedly the favourite. The course was on that part of the Thames which lies between Chiswick Eyot and the Star and Garter at Putney, a distance of rather more than two miles. The Eton boat, after the first hundred yards, drew ahead, and, gradually increasing the lead, eventually won easily by about eight lengths. The crew of Westminster rowed with great determination, but were surpassed in weight and power.

The two battalions of the Guards now in Canada—that is to say, the 1st battalion of the Grenadiers and the 2nd battalion of the Scots Fusilier Guards—are expected to arrive in England early in October. The officers now in England on leave, among whom we may mention Lord Abinger and Lord Dunmore, names not unknown to Southern ears, have received orders to await the arrival of their regiments.

Those whom severer toils did not detain in less joyful pursuits were enabled last week to drink to the full of the unparalleled delights of glorious Goodwood. An unclouded sky, the shades of large trees, gorgeous scenery, plenty of good horses and of good racing, a numerous and fashionable company, the presence of Royalty itself, combined to render the Goodwood of 1864 as illustrious as its predecessors. There were 32 races contested in the four days, and for these prizes about 270 horses came to the post. On the first day of the meeting the most noteworthy race was the Stewards' Cup, which commanded 89 subscribers and brought 40 horses to the post. The cup was a silver-gilt vase in the *renaissance* style, with groups and subjects illustrating the 'Tempest.' The race was won by Lord Westmorland's Marigold, a daughter of Teddington, who was backed heavily by her owner, and started first favourite at 6 to 1. Sir J. Hawley's Argonaut was second, and Mr. Merry's Crisis third. The Gratwicke Stakes followed, and for it three moderate animals, Peon, Miss Pickle, and Lightfinger, were brought out to fight the great Blair Athol. The Derby colt was backed as a matter of course, 100 to 15 being laid on him, and though he looked fat and jolly after the short rest given him since Paris and Ascot, yet he defeated his foes easily, Peon being second. However, the gallop gave the public an opportunity of seeing the great horse, and justified in their eyes the short odds of 2 to 1 laid against him for the St. Leger at Doncaster. On Wednesday, the Prince and Princess of Wales arrived at Goodwood on a visit to the Duke of Richmond, and were present at the races. The Goodwood Stakes were carried off by Blondin, a four-year-old horse by Voltigeur, and the property of Mr. T. Parr, who after a long interval appears in his old age to be once more able to win the smiles of fortune. Guillaume le Taciturne, the well-known horse belonging to M. Shickler, represented the French turf, but obtained only the fourth position. On Thursday, the Goodwood Cup formed the chief attraction, and for it ten horses came to the post. Lord St. Vincent's Little Stag was made the favourite at 3 to 1, and the odds of 5 to 1 were laid against the well-known Stradella, 6 to 1 against the Duke of Beaufort's Lord Zetland, 7 to 1 against Lord Falmouth's Queen Bertha, the winner of the Oaks in 1863, and 10 to 1 each against M. Lupin's Dollar, Mr. Savile's The Ranger, the winner of the *Grand Prix de Paris* in 1863, and Lord St. Vincent's East Lancashire. Mr. Perry's Hollyfox and the Duke of Beaufort's Esperance also started. The length of the course was two miles and a half, and the race was won in 4 min. 56 sec. Esperance made the running at her best pace, retiring at the end of a mile and a half, at which point Dollar took the lead, pursued by the Little Stag, The Ranger, and Lord Zetland. Nearer home East Lancashire closed with the leaders; but Dollar maintained his position, and won by half a length, East Lancashire, the winner of the Great Northern Handicap, being second, and the Ranger third. It is no small matter of pride to M. Lupin, who has not always the best of horses, to have won the race which bears on its list of winners such names as Priam, Harkaway, Charles XII., Alice Hawthorn, The Hero, Van Tromp, Canezou, Virago, and Tim Whiffler. This race has been twice previously won by a French horse, namely, by Jouvence in 1853, and by Monarque in 1857. It also won by the American horse Starke, the property of Mr. R. Ten Broeck of Tennessee, in 1861. The poet of our contemporary, *Bell's Life*, who rejoices in the *nom de plume* of 'Orange Blossom,' has celebrated the success of the 'almighty' Dollar in the following lines, which are not out of harmony with the present situation:—

> Wall Street swaggers and lies in vain,
> Ruin shall end the hunt for gain,
> —Gold at a hundred and fifty—
> Pause on the brink, unhappy race,
> Now Chase has resigned, resign the chase,
> Turn honest men and thrifty.
>
> Offspring worst of the devil's loin,
> That soul-subduing worship of coin
> Spreads like a plague around,
> And e'en as I write with giant stalk
> The curse, imported direct from New York,
> Is spreading o'er British ground.
>
> For on Goodwood sward, if I reason right,
> (Moment ecstatic to Yankee Bright,
> Lincoln's worthiest scholar),
> You shall mark the knee of laird and tyke,
> Peer and commoner, bowed alike
> Before 'the almighty Dollar.'

The Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland opened its annual country meeting last week at Warwick. The Marquis Camden, Lord Leigh, the Bishop of Oxford, Mr. Beresford Hope, Dr. Hook, and Dr. Whewell were among the most distinguished persons present. In the course of the meeting Mr. Bloxam gave a history of the county of Warwick, spoke of the crowned heads by whom it had been visited, and alluded to the poets whom it had produced, such as Shakspeare, Drayton, Somerville, and Walter Savage Landor. There also Shenstone had been educated, and Sir Simon Archer and Sir William Dugdale had flourished. On the second day Warwick Castle, Stoneleigh Abbey, and Kenilworth Castle were visited.

On Saturday there was an excursion to Charlecote and Stratford-on-Avon. Charlecote is the seat of the Lucy family, and all the world knows how the name of Sir Thomas Lucy is associated with the life of the poet. The church at Stratford was visited, and the registry of the birth and death of Shakspeare investigated.

IRELAND.

The fishermen of the town of Galway are revelling in Neapolitan sloth and Irish jealousy. The sea swarms with fish along their coast, yet they lie like a tribe of lotus-eaters stretched half asleep on the heaps of filthy offal at their doors, and refuse to embark. The guardians of the poor meet and pass a rate of 3*s.* 10*d.* in the pound for the support of these lazzaroni. Meanwhile the fishermen in the neighbouring villages dare not put to sea, because these men, too lazy to work, would be quick and hot to send to the bottom of the Atlantic the adventurous fishermen who should dare to infringe their monopoly. The authorities content themselves with doing nothing.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The High Commissioner, Sir Philip Wodehouse, has announced his intention of annexing the territories between the Kee and the Bashee to British Kaffraria, and of giving out the land to settlers on military tenure.

The Confederate steamship *Tuscaloosa* was at Simon's Bay in the second week of June.

INDIA.

The Durbar held at Simla by the Viceroy in the month of June was more largely attended by chieftains of rank than perhaps any previous Durbar held by a Governor-General of India. For days the roads were crowded with rajahs, splendid in their own appointments, and magnificent in the multitude and uniforms of their followers. It is even affirmed that the troops of one rajah were attired in the uniform of the far-famed 42nd Regiment of Highland Infantry. The chieftains brought their 'nuzzars,' tokens of submission, and laid them at the feet of the Viceroy. He in return received them with words of kindness, and even addressed the assembly in the language of his hearers. His words were as follows:—

'Rajahs, Ranas, and Thakoors of these hills, I meet you with great pleasure. From the days of Ochterlony you have been loyal. The Goorkhas conquered you and drove you from your States. The British Government conquered the Goorkhas, drove them out of your country, and reinstated you in your ancient lands. You could not have done this for yourselves. You know that you owe all you enjoy to the power and generosity of the British Government. And you have shown your sense of this by a long course of loyalty and peaceful rest. This is well. But I would bid you to go on, and give other proofs of gratitude. Do for your people and your clans what the British Government has done for you. Rule them for their good, not solely for your own. Be just; be liberal in your revenue administration. Spread education. Set the example in your own homes. Educate your sons, and your sons will educate the people. Believe me, there is no man, rich or poor, rajah or ryot, who is not the better for knowledge. Without knowledge in a people the very orders of rulers are misunderstood; and Government seeks to be understood in all its acts by you and those under your rule. Our times are times of progress; and you must not stand still, but advance with the rest of India. This is the best, nay, the only, return that you can make to the Government which has protected you so long; and I look to you to make it.'

With earnest attention the Rajahs listened to their ruler, and loud were their protestations of loyalty to the British power.

THE CONTINENT.

THE DANO-GERMAN WAR.

The Conference of Vienna has been so far successful that a satisfactory truce has been made—satisfactory at least for the Germans, who feel the Danish blockade, and agreeable to Europe, which is tired of petty bloodshed. Some difficulties appeared to be imminent with regard to the powers of M. de Quaade, which were not as full as the German representatives desired; consequently on the evening of the 30th ult. no conclusion had been arrived at. The armistice was, therefore, prolonged to midnight on the 2nd inst. On the 1st inst. the Conference again met, and the preliminaries of peace and an armistice for three months were signed at noon by the Austrian, Prussian, and Danish plenipotentaries. The bases of peace are stated to be—1. Lauenburg, Slesvig, and Holstein, to be ceded to Austria and Prussia. 2. Arroe to remain Danish, but Alsen and the islands in the North Sea to go with Slesvig. 3. The frontier of Jutland to be rectified in favour of the Danish inhabitants of North Slesvig.

The time is now at hand to which all men have looked forward, when Denmark, having been drained to the uttermost, is flung aside like the empty carpet-bag of the *dévalisé* traveller, and the plunderers squabble over the distribution of their booty. Austria, Prussia, and the Federal Diet formed the triumvirate which has crushed Denmark. It must now follow the fate of all triumvirates; the weakest must go first, then the next, until one despot reigns alone. This is one view of the arbitrary occupation of Rendsburg by the Prussian troops, and it is confirmed by the significant fact that, according to the bases of peace which have now been proposed in Vienna, the cession of the Duchies is to be made, not to the Diet, but to the two great Powers. Unfortunately for Prussia, there are other Powers in Europe besides the Diet to whom her policy is offensive; and while, on the one hand, all the smaller States of Germany have protested against the overbearing conduct of Herr von Bismarck or his agents in the seizure of the fortress, on the other hand, the political journalists of France have stated semi-officially that France cannot allow the existence of a principle by which the destiny of the Duchies would be at the mercy of Austria and Prussia. The arguments used are perfectly logical, and overwhelming against all Prussian sophistry. The two great Powers took out of the hands of the Diet the execution of her decree; they applied and were permitted to act as executioners of the German nationality, a part which they have performed to the very life. But they have no more claim now to the disposal of the Duchies than they had before this war began; any claim which the Diet had is still vested in it, and is in fact one of which it cannot divest itself. Or, again, if the right of the Diet to the decision on the future of the Duchies is not recognised, it is evident that the Austro-Prussian forces marched into the land as liberators and not as conquerors; the defeat of the Danes can confer on the German forces employed no right to the possession of Slesvig-Holstein, unless indeed they are now prepared to allow that the Duchies were at the commencement of the war an integral part of the Danish kingdom. Such are the arguments of the French journals; and in conclusion they state that France will countenance no peace to which the Federal Diet is not made a principal party. The effect of the combined protests of France and the smaller German States has been to elicit from the Prussian representative at the Diet the declaration that Prussia has no objection to the return of Federal troops to Rendsburg. This is not likely to mend matters, as of course nothing but the withdrawal of all non-Federal forces from Rendsburg will satisfy the Diet that its authority is respected. Hanover is the country which feels the insult most deeply, as they were Hanoverian troops who were forced to retire from Rendsburg. Herr Niesser, the Federal Civil Commissioner for Holstein, is also a Hanoverian; he has been summoned to his own capital by a telegram from the King.

The conduct of Austria has elicited a unanimous expression of disapproval. It is said of it as of the policy of Lord Russell, that there is no principle involved in it. France, Prussia, and even England have each, from their own point of view, defended their own interests. Bismarck is Prussian, and Palmerston is English; but M. de Rechberg is not Austrian; he has no policy, but occupies his time in putting spokes into the wheels of other diplomatists, and changes his conduct almost daily; his only idea would seem to be that of Mr. Micawber in 'David Copperfield,' a hope that something might 'turn up.' In confirmation of this an anecdote is quoted; it is said that the orders given to the Austrian officers at the beginning of the war were to maintain some reserve in their communication with the Prussian officers. The order was followed out. In one week's time came a counter-order desiring them to fraternise as much as possible; this again was done, and with much greater zeal, for the Austrian officer is a good-natured soul, when suddenly appears a third order prescribing a return to the former distance and reserve!

The same want of fixed principle it has probably been which has estranged the Hungarian and Croatian dependencies of Austria at a time when they were receiving substantial concessions from her hands. A most excellent reform has been attempted of late by the Chancellor of Hungary, in the shape of a transfer of the appointment of judges from the popular election to the Crown. We in England have seen enough of American administration to teach us that by this alone can justice be permanently secured. But the reform has been pronounced illegal, because it has been made without the assent of the Diet.

With regard to the candidature for the Ducal throne, a curious story is told, which illustrates well the present state of constitutional government in Prussia. The King wrote an autograph letter to the Grand Duke of Oldenburg, requesting him to give up his claims. The fact was generally talked about. Herr von Bismarck, to whom the candidature of the Grand Duke of Oldenburg may one of these days be a political necessity, denied the truth of the story in the *Kreuz-Zeitung*; but the letter exists, and has been read by many of the diplomatists who were assembled at Kissingen. This denial of Herr von Bismarck's proves conclusively that the Minister was kept in total ignorance of the action of his royal master.

A remarkable piece of information is given to us by a journal of Frankfort, on authority which is scarcely unimpeachable. It is to the effect that the young King of Bavaria intends to pass some years in visiting the different countries of Europe under the strictest incognito. He is during the whole of the term to remain a complete stranger to his own Government, which is to be confided to his uncle, Prince Luitpold, as Regent.

The prosecution of the Poles by the Prussian Government still drags its weary length along. It commenced on the 7th ult. before a special tribunal, the High Court of Justice, chosen by Government from among the judges of the inferior court. The indictment contains 506 folio pages, and divides the prisoners into three classes. The first contains 102 names of those who in 1862 and 1863 committed certain acts, both in Prussia and in other countries, tending to detach Prussian Poland from its present possessors. The second class includes 36 persons who aided and abetted the former. The third class of 11 individuals is accused of having commenced certain acts in preparation for the commission of high treason. The latter indictment may seem to be somewhat refined to those who do not understand the zeal of the present Prussian Government against all who do not thoroughly sympathise with them. The pleadings in this monster trial will be conducted both in the German and in the Polish language.

DENMARK.

Advices from Copenhagen inform us that, in the sitting of the Folksthing of the 25th ult., the President of the Council advised that the address to the throne then proposed to the House should not be accepted. M. Jagd then proposed the following resolution:—'The Folksthing passes to the order of the day in consequence of the declaration made by the President of the Council, as the House is desirous of not causing any embarrassment to the Government.' This proposition was rejected on the following day after a sharp debate, and the original address adopted by 60 votes to 21. Seven members, among whom was Bishop Monrad, declined to vote on the subject.

FRANCE.

On the 25th ult. was celebrated an anniversary service in the church of Napoleon Saint Leu, for the repose of the soul of King Louis, the august father of the present Emperor. It was attended by Marshal Vaillant and his aide-de-camp to represent the Emperor. With them, most of the municipal authorities of the neighbourhood were present, and added great impressiveness to the ceremony. They may be said to have represented the whole French people on an occasion when the dynastic and family connection between the first and the third Napoleon was particularly commemorated.

The Emperor has addressed a letter from Vichy to Marshal Vaillant with regard to the rebuilding of the Hôtel Dieu. He says: 'The Opera is already in an advanced state, but the first stone of the Hôtel Dieu has not yet been laid.' He instructs the Minister, therefore, to urge the Prefect of the Seine to commence shortly the works of the Hôtel Dieu, as His Majesty, on moral grounds, considers that it is in the highest degree important that a building devoted to pleasure should not be constructed before an asylum for the suffering.

Blondin of Paris, or Blondin of Vienna—which is the real Simon Pure? Some controversy took place a short time back between two Blondins who were lately exhibiting in Paris, the result of which was to place the Blondin of the Hippodrome on the throne of funambulism. Suddenly, however, appears a letter from Blondin in Vienna, in which he states that, whatever may be the acrobatic excellence of the gentleman who now usurps his name at the Hippodrome, it was the writer and he only who walked across Niagara and cooked an omelette in the middle, who exhibited in England before the Queen, &c. In the meantime the Blondin of the Hippodrome continues to draw the Parisian public, who are perfectly satisfied with his omelette cooking, walking blindfold in a sack, and other exciting performances. It is said that the name Blondin is merely a misapprehension of the term 'Le Blondin,' or, in Italian, 'Il Biondino'—the fair-haired one—by which the real possessor of the name, a Genoese, was distinguished.

The first blow at the supremacy of crinoline has been struck. The director of the Grand Opera has just prohibited all actresses, singers, ballet-dancers, &c., to wear crinoline under the penalty of a heavy fine. The '&c.' above is very ominous: who knows how far it might extend in the hands of a vigorous Minister?

The catacombs of Rome are historical; those of Paris are mysterious; their extent is unknown, their original use is more than a question, their present existence has almost faded out of recollection, so strictly does Government keep the keys which admit to their awful gloom. Nor is the care unnecessary, for, as is well known, the safety of a great part of Paris depends on the security of the pillars of rock by which the roofs of the catacombs are supported; if these are destroyed, the house which stands above falls into the gulf. A few days ago, five brewer's men were at work in one of their master's cellars, when they chanced to notice a sort of window in the wall, guarded by a few iron bars, now falling to pieces from decay. Beyond the bars, darkness and horror. They proposed to examine these recesses, and started on their travels armed with their lanterns only. They passed through the iron bars, and went down a few steps; here they found themselves in a lofty room with a passage leading out of the further end, branching out into numberless ramifications. They were curious to discover the extent of these excavations, which they believed to be all dependent on their master's cellar. They wandered on for a long time, and at last determined to turn back; but the clue was lost. For three hours they wandered about, seeking for the door which they had left, but fruitlessly. They were beginning to despair, when suddenly one of them saw a glimpse of light. They rushed forward and found themselves in front of a closed door, on the other side of which they could hear the sound of voices and the roll of carriages. They shouted and knocked, and at last succeeded in drawing the attention of the passers-by, who informed them that they were at the door of the catacombs near the old Gate Saint Jacques. The keys of the door were procured with some difficulty from a foreman of workmen of the catacombs, and they were released more dead than alive. They were taken before a *commissaire de police*, and after telling their story were set at liberty.

A disgraceful scene of violence occurred in a police court at Lyons lately. A man of the name of Bertholez was indicted for sending threatening letters; he answered his name and took his seat very quietly. The first witness against him was giving his evidence to an effect very damaging to the prisoner's character, when suddenly Bertholez flung himself upon him, threw him down, and began to tear his face with his nails. He was taken off him by main force, handcuffed, and taken away; his case was heard in his absence. As soon as order was reestablished, the court proceeded to pronounce on Bertholez a sentence of five years' imprisonment and five years' *surveillance* for his conduct in court. The case was then finished, and he was further condemned to one year's imprisonment and 100 francs fine.

On Sunday, July 31, a child was arrested in Paris, and the circumstances of the case brought to light one of those quaint though illegal pursuits which are carried on during the dark hours. The child was observed by a policeman carrying an iron cage, and stooping occasionally at the door of a stable or house. At last he saw the child stop and speak to a cat in endearing terms. He then tried to catch the cat, but the animal escaped. The man then questioned the child what it was doing. 'Cat hunting,' was the answer; 'but this is a very bad night: they won't take, and I have only got one.' 'But don't you know you are thieving?' 'Well, it was papa told me how. It is nearly a month since I have gone out cat hunting alone. All I catch papa sells next day at the eating-houses.' The child and his cage were then taken into custody. It appears that the stories of Mr. Weller are really founded on fact, and that the mutton and kidney

pins, or at least the *gibelottes de lapin*, of Parisian restaurants are really made of 'them noble animals.'

RUSSIA.

A terrible catastrophe has lately occurred in St. Petersburg. The Church of the Transfiguration was in the course of construction, and in fact well-nigh completed. It was to be an edifice of vast size, with a central dome supported by four granite pillars. One of these pillars had apparently a flaw in it; it cracked, and fell suddenly, bringing down with it the whole cupola in an awful crash, and breaking down the vaulting of the crypt in its fall. The accident occurred just at the hour when the workmen usually took their midday meal, and the number of victims ought consequently to have been small; but, unfortunately, an enormous crowd instantly collected, and with its usual reckless curiosity proceeded to examine the ruin. A second crash occurred, more terrible in its effects than that of the cupola. The crowd was then jammed in a compact mass within the falling walls; so dense was it that all means of communication between the building and the road soon became impossible. All the efforts of the police to reestablish a circulation in the crowd were unavailing, and soon the remainder of the edifice fell on the heads of the helpless multitude. It has not yet been possible to estimate the number of the victims; this only is known, that there are more dead than wounded, and that of the wounds nearly all are mortal. An accident of this terrible nature cannot but recall to our minds the awful catastrophe which occurred last year in the church of Santiago de Chili at Lima. True, the causes of the mischief were utterly different; and the accidental coincidence that both happened within the walls of a church is not to be noticed, but the utter helplessness of the crowd in both cases is remarkable, and the insane panic which appears to convert a mass of human beings into something less reasonable than a flock of sheep. In the Russian story this is brought out with the greater force, since evidently there was a way of escape for the crowd, had those on the outskirts refrained from pushing inwards—whereas in the South American tragedy the door by which the unfortunates might have escaped was actually shut.

ITALY.

The prorogation of Parliament has for the time put a stop to all political movement. The President of the Council has taken a week's leave of absence. Signor Minghetti is visiting the camp and the city of Milan, in the company of the King; for the present everything in Turin speaks of repose and calm. This period of rest is most necessary to give the Government time to put in force the various measures of taxation which have been so laboriously voted during the last session. At the same time the fears raised by the sojourn of Garibaldi in the neighbourhood of Naples have been allayed by the return of that formidable patriot to Caprera. His health is acknowledged to be much weaker than it was six months ago, and this is a further pledge that he will abstain from the headstrong course which before characterised him. The party of action which he represents is also in a very delicate state, in consequence of internal dissensions. The measures adopted by the Government to prevent any practical illustration of the principles of that party were most energetic. During the last days of Garibaldi's stay at Caprera, before his visit to Ischia, very positive orders were given to prevent the departure of any sort of expedition. Nay, it is even said that had Garibaldi attempted to land alone on any part of the Pontifical States, he would have found very rough measures put in force to prevent his landing. The certainty that the Government is not inclined to be led away by the vagaries of the party of action into a premature war with either Austria or France has tended to reassure men's minds, and to create a respect for the present Administration. It was feared that the movements of Garibaldi might have caused some commotion in the unquiet island of Sicily, but the Palermitans allowed the 19th ult., the birthday of the chief, to pass without further demonstration than a banquet to the principal Garibaldian heroes. The people of Palermo are somewhat sore at the yearly decreasing popularity of their patroness, Santa Rosalia, whose festival was once their greatest holiday; now that the procession is very much restricted by the orders of the police, it has lost much of its traditional splendour. Another monster trial is now in progress at the assize court of Trapani, in which a number of people are accused of having met in armed rebellion at Castellamare on January 1, 1862, nineteen months ago—rather a long time perhaps to keep men in suspense, but we must remember that Italian justice is a brau-new invention, the wheels of which do not as yet work very easily. 125 persons are implicated in the affair, of whom the ringleaders have not been brought to justice; six will be tried in default. Among those arrested there are ten landholders, a doctor, and an attorney. According to the custom of Sicily, every effort has been made either to corrupt or to intimidate the judges and the witnesses. Two of the latter had received anonymous letters, filled with the most awful menaces, but they had taken no notice of them, and gave their testimony in due course; as they were returning home they fell into an ambush which had been laid for them, and were killed. Another trial for riot has taken place lately at Girgenti, in which twenty-five persons have been condemned to penal servitude for life, and six to servitude for a long term of years. In the course of the riot for which they are now punished, eight of the principal inhabitants were massacred. In spite of all severities, the crime of assassination is still of almost daily occurrence in the country. A fresh attempt to stop it is now being made by a redistribution of troops in small detachments throughout the country.

Prince Humbert is about to visit that European seminary of military science, the camp at Châlons, before he makes his intended expedition to England.

SPAIN.

The *Gazette* of Madrid publishes a royal decree instituting a committee for the erection of a monument to Christopher Columbus. One of our contemporaries proposes that on the pedestal of it should be engraved the chains in which he was brought back from America by order of the Spanish monarch, and which he kept till his death as a memento of the gratitude of princes.

TURKEY.

The Sultan is anxious to learn all that is possible in Châlons, to which place he will shortly despatch a military commission, composed of three officers of high rank

The various foreign diplomatic agents of Turkey have informed the Governments to which they are accredited that the Turkish merchantmen will henceforth carry a green flag, in the centre of which will be a white crescent on a green disc. The old red flag charged with a white crescent is to be reserved for the Imperial navy.

MEXICO.

General Doblado has disbanded the remainder of his disaffected army. He is about either to submit to the Emperor or to take refuge in the United States. It is also said that General Uraga has submitted to the Imperial Government.

A sum of 5,000,000 piastres has been sent to France under escort. Part of this sum is to be devoted to the payment of the loan. There is every reason to believe that the exports of specie will for the future be on a much more extended scale.

TUNIS.

By letters from Tunis, of the 27th ult., we hear that the Arabs having completed their harvest have marched in a body upon Tunis, and advanced until they were within six miles of the capital. The army of the Bey surrendered without fighting. The chief of the insurrection declares that he is willing to remain subject to the Bey, and that he only demands the dismissal of the present Ministry and the abolition of an iniquitous tax.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES.

On Thursday, in the House of Commons, Lord E. Howard moved an address for papers in reference to emigration to the United States, and in doing so entered into an elaborate statement of the cruel manner in which emigrants were deceived and kidnapped into the Northern armies. His Lordship said that in the course of his duty as a member of the Distress Relief Committee at Glossop, one of the towns most affected by the cotton distress, it became necessary to have a census made of the population of the district, and one of the elements of that census was the character of the emigration which prevailed. There had been a very large emigration, and in the increase which supervened he found it was also large from the cotton districts in general. In 22 towns, taken promiscuously from the cotton districts, there had been within a few months, setting aside single men, no less than 1,460 married men who had left the country for the United States of America, of whom no fewer than 780 had deserted their wives and families, leaving 2,160 chargeable on the rates. He had also the names of 14 persons who had emigrated within three months from one spot near Manchester, and of these no fewer than 12 had deserted their wives and children. These men in all probability were young and strong men, not long married, and their emigration was attended with such calamitous results as must show that there were deep causes at work for the present state of things, which was to be lamented, not only for its anti-social results, but for the country generally. It would not do to say that these men had emigrated with a view afterwards to send for their families, because when Americans sent for manufacturing hands from England, and paid their passage, great caution was exercised by the agents employed, and written agreements were not given to the emigrants till they were on board ship. In order to present the case in the most condensed form, he should mainly confine himself to printed or written statements. Here was a well-authenticated case:—

'A young man in a company of Volunteers was decoyed over to New York as follows:—A companion of his had seen an advertisement in some newspaper requiring first-rate mechanics for a workshop in Canada. He searched out and found the advertiser, who assured him that work was plentiful in Canada, and that he would have permanent employment at 35*s.* a week. At the next interview with the advertiser (which took place on the steps of the Manchester Exchange) the man went with his friend, and they agreed to go. They were only told to provide for their voyage, because on their arrival in Canada they would obtain employment immediately, and could get cash on account of their wages. Six men were thus induced to go. When they arrived at Liverpool there was a conveyance waiting for them, and they were driven down to the pierhead. On getting on board the steamer (called the *Virginia*), however, they found she was bound for New York, and in reply to their enquiries were told that they would be reshipped at New York for Canada. However, when they arrived at New York, the advertiser sent them to a place to get some refreshment, paid for it, and also intimated that he had paid their passage to Long Island. He then disappeared, and they never saw him afterwards. The poor fellows knew nothing about Long Island, and went. They were penniless and friendless. Two enlisted at once. Four escaped to New York, and then enlisted. One man concealed himself in the hold of a Cunard steamer, and returned to England, sadly ashamed of himself, and a miserable victim of Yankee rascality.'

Long Island, mentioned in this letter, was a place where recruits bound themselves for service in the Federal army. It was not a solitary case. He held in his hand the statement of a man named Macartney, whose case was before the Foreign Office, who had been drugged, and while in a state of stupefaction enlisted in the Federal army. Another case had been told to him by an hon. and gallant member of that House. A man sailed from London in a ship for America. He did not like the provisions, but a very civil and kind person who was on board produced a quantity of potted meats, and induced the emigrant to partake of them. When about to land, this person asked the emigrant to come to his house in New York; the emigrant consented, was drugged with whisky, and found himself a Federal soldier. Here was another case. A letter had been received by Mr. Wheelhouse, of Hull, from his nephew who stated that he left Liverpool in an American ship. On the voyage he was very much ill-used by the captain and crew, and he stated that immediately on being landed he was seized by seamen and taken up town to an hotel, near New York, the name of which he did not give. Here he met with several other Englishmen, all of whom had been impressed into the Federal service. The latter writer also stated that the recruits were being treated in such a manner that they were almost hourly expected to receive orders to join the army. He complained loudly that the British Government did not interfere to protect these seamen as outrages upon Englishmen, apparently forgetting that by going to America and on board an American ship he forfeited all protection when upon the country he deserted. Similar cases were referred to by Justice Fitzgerald in Ireland. There was also a proclamation of the Lord Lieutenant on the subject, and the fact of notices being put up everywhere showed that they ought to be respected. He was aware that some recruits were of opinion that when their ranks were full many of the persons who had gone to America would return to this country. He could not indulge in such a hope. In the first place, [illegible] would never turn up again, being under the [illegible] from fear for payment. Others [illegible] being better wages than they received at home, [illegible] would have found new friends and connexions [illegible] from returning. He therefore thought it was a great mistake for the municipal [illegible] to [illegible] upon the large emigration, and he was informed that in some parts of the country farmers were getting [illegible] when happier times should arrive, and [illegible] played, the manufacturing interest would be [illegible] increased. He hoped that the municipal [illegible] to work if each only to a limited extent, as it would be [illegible] but an act of wisdom and prudence to do so. It was known that all the passages on board the steamers to America were engaged for months in advance and he learnt from the newspapers that there were 10,000 men from Switzerland waiting for passages to join the Federal army. What was the condition of emigrants when they got to America? He had a letter from a young man who wrote from Lawrence, Massachusetts, in which he said—

'I am very much surprised that people keep coming to this country, knowing that paper money is at such a discount and provisions so very high—clothing the same. Ted Cowen —— from me that 15*s.* per week in England is better than $5 per week, which is as much as he would get. For board he would have to pay $4 per week; that would leave $1, which would be of the value of 6*s.* in English money. I am getting $3½ per week, which is worth no more now than 16*s.* per week, so you see that I am doing worse than I was in England. The war is ruining the country: flour, that used to sell for $7, is now $15 per barrel. Sugar is 35*c.* that was 12*c.* per lb. Coals are $14 per ton that sold for $7. Wood is $11 per cord that was $6. Tea, that was 60*c.* per lb. when we were here before, is now $1 40*c.* per lb. Things are still advancing, and likely to do so. Prints and calicoes are selling at a monstrous price. Clothing of every description is enormous. We are trying to make the best of a bad job. Caution any one that thinks of taking on with ——. He is misleading scores, telling them what good wages they get here, but not telling them what they have got to pay for everything; 30*c.* in England will bring more than $1 here, take things altogether. Things are very uncertain here. I should not be very much surprised if all the places of business are stopped up in three months from now. My wages are not worth half as much as when we came here first.'

That was not a very encouraging prospect for those persons who left this country in the hope of improving their position in the United States. Within the last few days some papers had been presented to the other House, and had also been issued to the House of Commons, which were well worthy of the consideration of hon. members, and he thought that few would rise from their perusal without deep feelings of sorrow. The scene opened, as it were, upon a melodrama; only in this case, unhappily, the more jocose portions of a melodrama were wanting. The melodrama opened with two rascals—the one pretending to have the means of giving employment upon railways in America, and sending forth the other rascal—whom, he hoped, he was not uncharitable nor indecorous in styling an imp of the devil. The other man went to Ireland. There he plotted and made his bargain so well that, upon the plea of railway employment, he induced many persons—even some who were receiving good wages—to take up with him and to accompany him to America. He got 120 men to go with him in a steamer. It seemed as if one of these men was a match for him, for that man wearing his hat in a peculiar manner over his eyes, it was not until they arrived in the middle of the Atlantic that it was discovered that he had only one eye. The man was, therefore, not fit for a soldier, although he would have been qualified as a navigator or railway labourer. The agent Feeny, however, complained that he had been deceived, thus showing that he wanted the men for soldiers and not for railway works. He need not enter into the sad history of that transaction, which hon. members might have read in the newspapers. He would only briefly state that when they arrived in America these men were supplied with abundance of whisky even before landing. When they did land they were again dosed with whisky, made drunk, and got into the police cells, when, through the collusion, it was said, of the police with the recruiting agents, many of them were induced to become soldiers in the Federal army. It appeared that they did not like their position, for they applied to the British minister and consuls, the result of which was the correspondence which had been laid before Parliament, from which he would read one or two extracts. Consul Lousada, at Boston, on March 15, 1864, wrote:—

'The bounties both of the United States and of the several States, added to local premiums, amount to $700, and even $820, besides $15 to $25 to the bringer in of a recruit, and as the poor Irish are generally made drunk and given at the outside $25, the sharks who prey on them collect the balance, and thus a cargo of 120, as in this instance, would net a very large profit to the speculators. There are some features in these transactions which involuntarily recall to my mind my experiences in Cuba; I trust, however, that the publication of what those who hire themselves as labourers may expect on this side will check the traffic.'

It was also stated that the recruiting agents cleared $500 by each man. It must also be stated, in order to show how plausibly these things were carried on, that this man Feeny, who took out a cargo of what might be called slaves, had been arrested in Ireland upon a charge of inducing men to enlist in the United States army, but he was released because it was thought he showed sufficient proof that his enterprise was legitimate, and that his object was simply to obtain men to work

upon railways. With regard to many of the men who were thus taken out, they could not help enlisting. As soon as they arrived in America they were surrounded by enlistment brokers, were threatened with 60 days' imprisonment for being drunk and disorderly, and, by the collusion to which he had referred between the police and the recruiting agents, they finally became soldiers in the United States army. Consul Murray, in a letter to Lord Lyons, dated April 7, 1864, wrote:—

'There can be no doubt that there was a systematic attempt made to get these emigrants drunk for the purpose of enlistment. Policeman Berrick's evidence on this subject is most important. He states: "While in Mr. Bradley's (liquor store) there were two or three well-dressed men—I do not know their names, but have seen them in this city—who appeared to be liberal with their money. These men were not drinking themselves, but the emigrants were. I saw a man who said he was from Augusta, who appeared to be talking with the men out on the railroad track. This man said to me he was a recruiting officer, and wanted some of my help to get some of the men. I told him the police had nothing to do with business of that kind. He insinuated to me that if the men wanted liquor to aid them in getting it. I told him no, that I did not drink myself, and would not assist in procuring any for the men."'

Consul Murray further said:—

'The evidence given by the police officers and recruiting officers proves that there was a very good understanding between these functionaries, and that the latter were even called and admitted to the cells with the object of inducing the men to enlist.'

That showed that persons might, without secondary or improper views, be taken out to America, and there, finding themselves in difficulties, might be compelled to enlist. There was the case of a man named Ainsworth, who left Blackburn for Canada with the praiseworthy motive of finding the means of employment for his distressed fellow-townsmen. Two bodies of 30 each went out, but the enterprise appeared not to have been successful, and Ainsworth was last heard of at Portland, while it was unknown what had become of his companions. He did not desire to raise any charge against the American Government, but he only wished to warn his fellow-countrymen of the dangers they might incur. He had brought the case before the House of Commons because he believed that the circulation of these facts throughout the country might, at all events, enable some who might otherwise be deluded and inveigled to steer clear of the dangers which lay in their path. He would now read an extract from a despatch of Lord Lyons, dated Washington, May 3, 1864, and in doing so he would state that all his information had been obtained from this side of the water, and that he had had no correspondence at all upon the subject with any person in America. Lord Lyons, writing to Earl Russell, said:—

'Washington, May 3, 1864.

'My Lord,—The number of British subjects who are serving in the United States army and navy is very considerable; and complaints are constantly made to me of the practices by which the enlistment of many of them has been effected. I may say, indeed, that the most laborious and most painful and unsatisfactory part of the duties which have devolved upon this Legation since the breaking out of the civil war is connected with these complaints. No pains have been spared by Her Majesty's consuls and myself in investigating them, and every effort has been made by us to obtain redress for those which have appeared to be well founded. In few cases, however, have our efforts produced any satisfactory results.'

Lord Lyons then went on to give the following extracts from a report by Major-General Dix, the military commandant of New York, to the Secretary of War:—

'Almost every imaginable form of outrage and deception has been developed in the cases in which Mr. Clapp was agent for the payment of bounties. . . . In some cases boys have been seduced from their homes to secure their enlistment. In others men have been drugged, and enlisted while unconscious. . . . In short, there is no artifice or fraud which has not been resorted to in carrying out this system of pillage. . . . Old men and boys, and persons labouring under incurable diseases, were, in numerous instances, thrust into the service under this system of public plunder, alike fraudulent to the recruits and the Government. . . . The enormous sum of $100,000 has been plundered by the brokers. . . . The outrages practised on recruits are too unjust to be borne, and, in some cases, too loathsome to be detailed. Boys have been seduced from their families, drugged, and then enlisted. Two were so sadly drugged that they died—one on his arrival at Rikers Island, and the other on the following day.'

He would not attempt to deny that this system was discountenanced by many honourable men, not only in the United States, but also in the ranks of the army. General Dix, in writing to General Wistar, said:

'There seems to be little doubt that many—in fact, I think I am justified in saying the most—of these unfortunate men were either deceived or kidnapped, or both, in the most scandalous and inhuman manner in New York city, where they were drugged and carried off to New Hampshire and Connecticut, mustered in, and uniformed before their consciousness was fully restored. . . . Nearly all are foreigners, mostly sailors, both ignorant of and indifferent to the objects of the war in which they thus suddenly find themselves involved. . . . Two men were shot here this morning for desertion, and over thirty more are now awaiting trial or execution.'

He would particularly call the attention of intending emigrants to the concluding sentence of the extract which he had just read. He saw that General Dix had expressed his determination to do his best to prevent the recurrence of those outrages; but when they remembered the enormous profit which accrued to the kidnappers of those poor wretches, they would at once perceive the difficulty, if not the impossibility, of putting an end to the system. The system itself was contrary to the express regulations issued by the Government to recruiting officers:—

'They will not allow any man to be deceived or inveigled into the service by false representations, but will in person explain the nature of the service, the length of the term, the pay, clothing, rations, and other allowances to which a soldier is entitled by law, to every man before he signs the enlistment.' It was, however, evident that people, after being drugged, had been admitted into the army even before their return to consciousness. He did not wish to be unfair to the United States Government, but he must say that he feared that evasions were oftentimes practised, and justice impeded. Lord Lyons had asked the Government to keep seven or eight men from going into battle until their cases had been decided, but the result of his efforts was recorded in the following despatch:—

'Washington, May 23, 1864.

'My Lord,—Since I first became acquainted two months ago with the circumstances under which some of the Irish passengers on board the *Nova Scotian* had been enlisted in the United States army at Portland, I have never ceased to urge the United States Government to take measures to prevent their being brought into collision with the enemy pending the investigation of the lawfulness of their enlistment. The copies of notes to Mr. Seward which have been enclosed in my despatches to your Lordship will have shown your Lordship how often I have insisted upon this in writing. I have pressed it still oftener and still more urgently in verbal communications. My endeavours have, however, been of no avail. One of the men called at the Legation the day before yesterday. He had been badly wounded in the head, and sent back from the army to a hospital here. Another of the men had, he said, been wounded; a third was reported to be killed; three others, when he last saw them, were advancing against the enemy under a heavy musketry fire.'

From another statement elsewhere it appeared that two of these men were killed, and possibly the third might have met with the same fate. For his own part he must say that he deplored the fate of the poor wretches who met with such treatment. It appeared to him that a war of defence might be justly urged, and that in such a war it was the duty of men to join for the defence of their country. He believed also that a war of aggression was undoubtedly very wicked, but when persons who had nothing to do with the dispute took part in the warfare, such conduct was in reality nothing better than murder. It was true that there were a class of filibusters and buccaneers whose conduct was frequently viewed with a certain amount of approbation by some portions of mankind. They knew what an evil effect the adventurous deeds of such highwaymen as Dick Turpin and Claude Duval had had upon the minds of large numbers of youths, and even older people; and the same feeling of approbation would, to a certain extent, be accorded by many to those who distinguished themselves by bravery, although they might have been engaged in a quarrel in which internatıcnal law and justice were alike against them. He did not, however, believe that such a feeling would be entertained when hordes of people went from this country and mingled in the distressing conflict now going on in the United States; and when their participation in that warfare was the result of treachery and deceit everybody would exclaim against it, and demand that every exertion should be made to put an end to such a system. He had no desire to say anything against either the Government or the army of the United States. He cared not what form of government regulated the affairs of a country, so it protected industry and international right, so it took means fairly to administer justice and find employment for the energies of mankind, and so that it were a Government under which the people could live and enjoy a fair amount of happiness, and, as long as that was the case, he cared not whether the Government were monarchical, constitutional, or republican. Still less did he desire to say anything against the brave army of the United States, which, as well as its opponents, had exhibited powers of endurance and fighting rarely paralleled in history. The character of the United States army for bravery would never in future be disputed, but he thought it would be but justice to those brave soldiers that the slaughter, if it could not cease, should not at all events be upheld by supplies from other countries. Their bravery entitled them to something better than being reduced to dust and being made food for gunpowder, and it was high time that we should cease to contribute to such a result by sending forth such hosts of emigrants from this country. The widows, orphans, and mourning relatives of these brave men were entitled to some consideration. He believed that many on both sides were now praying most fervently, though, from motives of fear, the prayer might not be readily expressed, for the cessation of this conflict. It was due to them as well, that we should do all we could to prevent any fuel being supplied to this devouring flame. What was the opinion of the man in this country who, from his position, was most competent to decide upon this question, who held in his hand the various webs of negotiation within the last few years, and who, he hoped, when the proper time came, would have the discretion to exercise his power in the interests of peace? The wishes of the Government must, of course, be to give peace to an afflicted continent, and to take away so great a stain from the human race. Meanwhile, Earl Russell had expressed the following opinion in a despatch to Lord Lyons dated May 27, 1864:—

'Her Majesty's Government have considered, in communication with the law advisers of the Crown, your Lordship's despatches of March 14 and April 19, relative to the case of the Irishmen recently enlisted at Portland and Boston for service in the United States army; and I have to state to you that it appears to Her Majesty's Government to be clear from these papers, and from the reports on the same subject which have been received from Her Majesty's Consuls at those ports, that no doubt can be entertained that the enlistment of these Irishmen was the result of a fraudulent scheme, contrived and executed in disregard of the laws and neutral rights of Great Britain. Her Majesty's Government consider that the men enlisted at Portland were induced, in evident bad faith and under false pretences, to leave their own country for the purpose of obtaining employment, which was not really ready for them on their arrival in the United States; that on landing at Portland they were designedly plied with drink, and that they were then dealt with in a manner which (although it might be the legal consequence of their disordered condition) made it natural and almost inevitable that they should easily yield to the persuasions of the recruiting officers, who were on the look-out for them, and who obtained access to them while in confinement, by the aid of the police authorities.'

Two or three weeks ago, feeling it to be his duty to bring the case before the House, he had placed a notice on the paper upon this subject, in order to warn those who might otherwise be exposed to these calamities. He had communicated with the Secretary for the Colonies, thinking that he might, through the emigration agent at Liverpool, give to intending emigrants information which might have the same effect. The right hon. gentleman had since shown him a ticket which was delivered to emigrants, advising them to take care of persons whom they met, and giving them other suggestions which were, no doubt, of value. All he objected to in the ticket was this statement, 'Remember the American dollar is equal to 4*s.* 2*d.* English money, and the cent. is equal to a halfpenny.' Now the dollar was worth nothing like that, and he hoped that upon this point some further information would be supplied to emigrants. He had made this plain statement in the interests of humanity, and hoped that it might do some little good by keeping, if possible, some few of these poor wretches away from the war, and by thus contributing to put a stop to a struggle which was a disgrace to humanity. He did not wish to embarrass the Foreign Office or the Government, or to give rise to any bad feeling, but he appealed to Mr. Layard and the House of Commons for some expression of feeling on this subject, if it were possible. No doubt the Foreign Office would do all it could to get redress for these poor wretches, who, though they might be foolish and misguided enough to 'seek the bubble reputation in the cannon's mouth,' were still, so long as they remained British subjects, entitled to the protection of the British Government, and should be looked on as the erring children of this country. He wished to use no threats towards any other nation. But the House had lately been told that our ships of five guns were now as efficient as our ships of 130 guns used to be; our resources were ample; our wealth never was greater; we were in a position to be the arbiters of the world; and at all events our voice should have the weight which had always attached to the voice of England. He trusted that the Government, conscious of the national strength, conscious of the goodness of the cause, and conscious moreover of the truth of what he had stated—for he had not stated one-hundredth part of the evil—would lose no opportunity of remedying and relieving the sufferings of these poor people, and of distributing information so that other persons might not be led astray. He trusted also that they would take every means in their power, if the opportunity presented itself, by a kind and charitable mediation, of bringing to a close this disastrous internecine war, so that peace might once more resume her sway over the American continent. He begged to move an address for papers on the subject of emigration to the United States.

Mr. Layard said the speech of Lord E. Howard would do good service, for the only possible remedy for the deplorable evil was to warn people of the risk they incurred in crossing the Atlantic. It was not surprising that the promise of high wages should induce a large emigration to the United States, and though many were forced to become soldiers, a large number were not exposed to that risk. The persons who seduced emigrants to go to the United States for the purpose of enlisting them so carried on their business in this country that it was impossible for the Government to touch them. It was exceedingly difficult to bring home the offence to these persons, because they took care, while under the laws of this country, not to infringe them openly. The description which Lord E. Howard had given as to what awaited these unfortunate persons on the other side of the ocean was too true. Almost daily communications on the subject were received at the Foreign Office. In fact he was constantly receiving letters from hon. members on the subject. It was only the other day that an hon. and gallant friend gave him a letter which disclosed a most melancholy case. A man went to the States in search of employment, intending, as soon as he obtained it, to send for his wife and family. He fell in with an agent on board the ship who gained his confidence, and invited him to his house on their arrival at New York. There the poor man was made drunk, and found himself next day engaged, without his knowledge or consent, as a soldier in the Federal army. In a fit of desperation he deserted; and his wife had lately received from him the last letter probably he would ever write, announcing that he had been arrested, convicted by a court-martial, and sentenced to be shot. The Government had done all in their power to prevent these unhappy proceedings. Lord Lyons had been quite indefatigable in his efforts for the protection of British interests in the States. A return was moved for in the other House of the number of cases in which representations had been made as to the lives and property of British subjects in America. It took a gentleman in the Foreign Office three months to prepare that return, and in doing so he had to consult many thousand documents. He did not say that the United States Government had not, in most cases, expressed themselves willing to do justice; but the references from one office to another, and the evasions of officers in command of regiments, who were unwilling to surrender any of their men, defeated the ends of justice. It sometimes happened that when they had traced a man he was killed or removed out of reach before measures could be taken for his release. Every endeavour would be made to give protection to these unfortunate emigrants; but nothing would be of greater practical utility than the able speech of Lord Howard. He trusted that that speech would go throughout the country and serve as a warning to intending emigrants of the tricks and seductions to which they would be exposed on the other side of the Atlantic. It was the duty of all persons connected in any way with emigration, as, for instance, residing in districts from which emigration was taking place, to circulate the warning as much as possible. Lord Howard's remark as to the change in the value of the dollar and the cent. was perfectly true, and he would take care to bring the matter under the notice of the Colonial Office in order that the circular might be corrected. All the facts stated by Lord Howard were, he believed, strictly true, and had been brought forward, not in any spirit of hostility to the United States Government, which all must deprecate, but in a way that could give offence to none. He could not but hope that the United States Government would do what they could to prevent these great abuses from taking place in the seaport towns. If the authorities desired, they might do a good deal in that direction, and he hoped the speech of his noble friend would produce an impression on the other as well as on this side of the ocean. If such a state of things existed in this country, he was sure every honourable man would desire to put a stop to it, and no Government would hesitate to punish those who attempted to infringe the laws. The laws of the United States were opposed to any such proceedings. Of course nothing could be done to check emigration, but emigrants might be put on their guard as to the reception they had to expect in New York. A despatch had been received within a few days from Lord Lyons, stating that five or six men had recently been released from the army, and that Mr. Seward had promised to institute a stringent enquiry, and to set free any others who had been improperly enlisted. He would endeavour, during the recess, to collect the information which his noble friend desired.

Messrs. Ferrand, Lindsay, and Hennessy, and Sir Robert Peel, supported the motion. Mr. P. Taylor amused the House with an ultra *New York Herald* account of Northern 'triumphs.' After a brief reply from Lord E. Howard, the motion was agreed to.

THE EMPIRE OF MEXICO.

On Thursday, in answer to Mr. Kinglake, Mr. Layard said there was some difficulty in ascertaining exactly what portion of Mexico was actually in the hands of the new Mexican Government or of the French troops. Recent Presidents had rarely held more than the capital, Vera Cruz, and one or two of the ports of the country surrounding the capital. The rest of the republic had generally been in a state of insurrection. It had hitherto been the custom, from necessity, to recognise the Government that was in possession of the capital, and the Archduke Maximilian was now in possession not only of the capital, but of a considerable portion of the country. Her Majesty's Government had informed the Emperor of the French confidentially that when the Archduke Maximilian was actually in Mexico, and had notified to the European Powers that he

had taken possession of the government, it was their intention to advise Her Majesty to recognise the Archduke as Emperor of Mexico. He could give no assurance that before that acknowledgment of the Emperor *de facto* was made the Archduke would have to be able to show that the greater part of Mexico was in his hands. The peculiar state of the country was such that he did not believe it would be possible for the Archduke Maximilian to do that. There were always a number of chiefs in arms, who took possession of a district and held it against the Government, and a state of anarchy was the consequence. He hoped, however, that when the Government of the Archduke Maximilian was established in Mexico a better condition of things would ensue. At any rate, it was very desirable for the interests of British subjects that there should be at least some *de facto* Government in Mexico in possession of the capital and some of the ports of the country.

On Friday Mr. Kinglake again brought forward the subject, and spoke against the recognition of the Emperor Maximilian, since he only occupied about one-tenth of the territory of Mexico. The Government appeared to have promised to recognise the Archduke. There might, possibly, be some reason for such a course which the papers for which he asked would disclose, but he could not but regard the course which had been pursued as one which differed from the ordinary practice of English statesmen. Over and over again English statesmen had been asked to say what they would do in the case of some future contingency, and their answer had always been that it did not become them to say, because the Government of this country was a Parliamentary Government, and their duty, therefore, was to avoid as much as possible doing anything which would tend to fetter the hands of their successors. In promising the French Government that this recognition should take place, it appeared to him that the Government had departed from that wholesome principle.

Lord Palmerston said: 'The course which Her Majesty's Government intend to pursue in this case does not differ in principle from the course which the Government has invariably pursued in similar cases. It has been our practice to acknowledge established Governments. Without going into minute questions as to the origin of the Government—whether it be a republic or a monarchy—when we find a Government established, we enter into friendly relations with that Government. My hon. friend says with regard to Mexico that we proceeded prematurely to acknowledge the empire before it was practically and regularly established. I don't think our engagements went to that extent. We were applied to by the Archduke to acknowledge his future empire when he was in Europe. We were not inclined to do that, and we said it would be entirely at variance with our practice and our principles; but that if on his arrival in Mexico he was received by the people and his Government regularly established by the people, our wish was that Mexico should have a stable Government. My hon. friend says that the portion of Mexico occupied by French troops is limited. That may be so; but it does not follow that in other parts of the country not occupied by French troops the people may not be inclined to support the Government of the Emperor. And we have information—we may be misled, but our information is to the effect that the Indian population, who form a large portion of the total number of the people, are well disposed towards the Emperor. No doubt, there is still a number of troops commanded by native leaders in opposition to the French army, but we are told that the French Government are employing transports to bring back a number of their soldiers, which fact implies that the disposition on the part of the people of Mexico to acquiesce in the rule of the Emperor is considerably greater than my hon. friend has been informed it is. All I can say is that our course will depend on what we hear as to the manner in which the authority of the Emperor is established. If we find there is a prospect of a permanent Government being established, we shall be very glad to acknowledge it. Such a Government will be for the advantage of Mexico and of Europe. If, on the other hand, we find matters still uncertain, and a war still going on, which may result one way or the other, we shall say the Government is not of a kind that would justify us in acknowledging the Archduke as Emperor of Mexico.'

THE PROROGATION.

Parliament was prorogued on Friday by Commission. The Queen's speech was unusually uninteresting. To balance the failure in Europe and the nonsuccess of the Conference, Her Majesty announces that her 'relations with the Emperor of China continue to be friendly.' The following are the paragraphs that relate to America:—

'Her Majesty deeply laments that the civil war in North America has not been brought to a close. Her Majesty will continue to observe a strict neutrality between the belligerents, and would rejoice at a friendly reconciliation between the contending parties.

'Her Majesty has observed with satisfaction that the distress which the civil war in North America has created in some of the manufacturing districts has to a great extent abated, and Her Majesty trusts that increased supplies of the raw material of industry may be extracted from countries by which it has hitherto been scantily furnished.'

THE FEDERAL KILLED AND WOUNDED.—The New York Correspondent of the *Times*, under date July 19, writes: 'No one knows, or ever will know, the number of the slain; but when it is remembered how bloody were all the battles of M'Clellan and his successors down to General Grant, and that Grant himself has lost 100,000 men since he crossed the Rapidan more than nine weeks ago, one half of whom were killed, it can scarcely be considered an exaggerated computation to put down a quarter of a million among the dead, but perhaps unburied, victims of the war. The number of the maimed who have lost arms and legs in the pursuit of victory is as difficult to arrive at as that of the slain unless a special census were taken; but any one who walks the streets of New York may observe a sufficient number of these mutilated heroes to justify him in the belief that, if New York be in this respect a fair specimen of the other cities of the North and West, there is as large a number of wounded men as of dead ones to be placed to the debit side of the struggle. If Governor Seymour, for instance, would but undertake to bring these living 'braves' together, and pass their ghastly legions in view, there is no open space within the limits of the city which would contain them, and he would have to summon them to meet in the flats of New Jersey, if he would afford to his countrymen and to the world so new but so suggestive a spectacle of the horrors of war.'

The New York papers give an account of a fire that occurred in Brooklyn on the 15th instant. A bonded warehouse called Schenck's Stores, a brig, and other property were destroyed. The total loss is estimated at one million dollars.

THE PEACE PROPOSALS 'MARE'S NEST.'

THE following is the corrected text of the so-called Peace Proposals Correspondence, interchanged between Mr. Horace Greeley, Editor of the *New York Tribune*, and Major Hay, President Lincoln's private secretary, on the one side, and Messrs. Clay, Holcombe, and Thompson, distinguished citizens of the Confederate States, on the other side, Messrs. G. N. Saunders, of 'Dixie,' and W. C. Jewitt, of Boston and of Colorado Territory, acting apparently as intermediaries and prompters to 'the party of the first part.'

1.

Clifton House, July 12.

Dear Sir,—I am authorised to say that the Hon. Clement Clay, of Alabama, Professor J. B. Holcombe, of Virginia, and G. N. Sanders, of 'Dixie,' are ready and willing to go at once to Washington upon complete and unqualified protection being given by the President or Secretary of War. Let the permission include the three names and one other.—Yours respectfully, (Signed) GEO. N. SANDERS.

To Hon. H. Greeley.

2.

Niagara Falls, July 17.

Gentlemen,—I am informed that you are duly accredited from Richmond as the bearers of propositions looking to the establishment of peace; that you desire to visit Washington in fulfilment of your mission, and that you further desire that G. N. Sanders shall accompany you. If my information be thus far substantially correct, I am authorised by the President of the United States to tender you his safe conduct on the journey proposed, and to accompany you at the earliest time that will be agreeable to you.—I have the honour to be, gentlemen, yours truly, (Signed) H. GREELEY.

To Messrs. C. C. Clay, Jacob Thompson, and J. B. Holcombe.

3.

Niagara Falls, July 18.

Gentlemen,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of yours of this date by the hand of W. C. Jewitt, the statement of facts therein presented being materially different from that which was understood to exist by the President when he intrusted me with the safe conduct required. It seems to me on every account advisable that I should communicate with him by telegraph, and solicit fresh instructions, which I shall at once proceed to do. I hope to be able to transmit the result this p. m.; at all events I shall do so at the earliest moment.

(Signed) H. GREELEY.

To C. C. Clay and J. B. Holcombe.

4.

Niagara Falls, July 18.

Sir,—We have the honour to acknowledge your favour of the 17th inst., which would have been answered yesterday but for the absence of Mr. Clay. The safe conduct of the President of the United States has been tendered, as we regret to state, under some misapprehension of facts. We have not been accredited to him from Richmond as the bearers of propositions looking to the establishment of peace. We are, however, in confidential employment of our Government, and entirely familiar with its wishes and opinions on that subject; and we feel authorised to declare that, if the circumstance disclosed in this correspondence were communicated to Richmond, we would be at once invested with the authority to which your letter refers; or other gentlemen, clothed with full powers, would be immediately sent to Washington, with the view of hastening a consummation so much to be desired, and terminating, at the earliest possible moment, the calamities of war. We respectfully solicit through your intervention a safe conduct to Washington, and thence, by any route which may be designated, through your lines to Richmond. We would be gratified if Mr. Sanders was embraced in this privilege. Permit us, in conclusion, to acknowledge our obligations to you for the interest you have manifested in the furtherance of our wishes, and to express the hope that in any event you will afford us the opportunity of tendering them in person before you leave the falls. C. C. CLAY and J. B. HOLCOMBE.

5.

Niagara Falls, July 19.

Gentlemen,—At a late hour last evening, and too late for communication with you, I received a despatch informing me that the instructions left Washington last evening, which must reach me, if there be no interruption, at noon to-morrow. Should you decide to await the arrival, I feel confident that they will enable me to answer definitely your note of yesterday. Regretting a delay which I am sure you will regard unavoidable on my part, (Signed) H. GREELEY.

To C. C. Clay and J. B. Holcombe.

6.

Clifton House, July 21.

Sir,—The paper handed to Mr. Holcombe yesterday, in your presence, by Major Hay, as to the application in our note of the 18th inst., is couched in the following terms:—

'Executive Mansion, Washington, July 18.

'To whom it may concern: Any proposition which embraces the restoration of peace, the integrity of the whole Union, and the abandonment of slavery, and which could be made by and with an authority that can control the armies now at war against the United States, will be received and considered by the Executive Government of the United States, and will be met by liberal terms on substantial and collateral points, and the bearer or bearers thereof shall have safe conduct both ways.

(Signed) 'ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
'President of the United States.'

The application to which we refer was decided by your letter of the 17th inst., in which you inform Mr. Thompson and ourselves that you were authorised by the President of the United States to give us safe conduct, on the hypothesis that we are duly accredited from Richmond as bearers of propositions looking to the establishment of peace, and desired to visit Washington in the fulfilment of this mission. This assertion, to which we gave, and still do, entire credence, was accepted by us as the evidence of an unexpected but most gratifying change in the policy of the President, a change which we felt authorised to hope might terminate in the conclusion of a peace mutually just, honourable, and advantageous to the North and to the South, exacting no condition but that we should be accredited from Richmond as bearers of propositions looking to the establishment of peace, thus proffering a basis for a conference as comprehensive as we could desire. It seemed to us that the President opened a door which had previously been closed against the Confederate States for full interchange of sentiments, free discussion of conflicting opinions, and untrammelled efforts to remove all causes of controversy by liberal negotiations. We, indeed, could not claim the benefit of a safe conduct which had been extended to us in a character we had no right to assume and had never affected to possess, but the uniform declaration of our executive and Congress, and their thrice-repeated, and as often repulsed, attempts to open negotiations, furnished a sufficient pledge that this considerate manifestation on the part of the President of the United States would be met by them in temper of equal magnanimity. We had therefore no hesitation in declaring that if this correspondence was communicated to the President of the Confederate States, he would probably embrace the opportunity presented for seeking a peaceful solution of this unhappy strife. We feel confident you must share our profound regret that the spirit which dictated the first step towards peace had not continued to animate the councils of your President.

Had the representatives of the two Governments met to consider this question, the most momentous ever submitted to human statesmanship, in temper of becoming moderation and equity, followed as their deliberations would have been by the prayers and benedictions of every patriot and Christian on the habitable globe, who is there so bold as to pronounce that the frightful waste of individual happiness and public prosperity which is daily saddening the universal heart might not have been terminated, or, if the depletion and carnage of war must still be endured through weary years of blood and suffering, that there might not at least have been infused into its conduct something of the spirit which softens and partially redeems its brutalities? Instead of the safe conduct which we solicited, and which your first letter gave us every reason to suppose would be extended for the purpose of initiating a negotiation in which neither Government would compromise its right or dignity, a document has been presented which was not originally offered, and is unlike any paper which ever before emanated from the constitutional executive of a free people. Addressed to whom it may concern, it precludes negotiations, and prescribes, in advance, the terms and conditions of peace, the return to the original policy of 'no bargaining, no parleying, no truce with the enemy, except to bury their dead, until every man should have laid down his arms, submitted to the Government, and sued for mercy.' What may be the explanation of this sudden and entire change in the views of the President, of this rude withdrawal of a courteous overture for negotiations, at the moment it was likely to be accepted? Whether this emphatic recall of words of peace just uttered and these fresh blasts of war be the better, we leave for the speculation of those who have means or inclination to penetrate the mysteries of his Cabinet or fathom the caprice of his imperial will. It is enough for us to say that we have no use whatever for the paper which has been placed in our hands. We could not transmit it to the President of the Confederate States without offering him indignity, dishonouring ourselves, and incurring the well-merited scorn of our countrymen. Whilst an ardent desire for peace prevails, the people of the Confederate States are rejoiced to believe that there are few, if any, amongst them who could purchase it at the expense of liberty, honour, and self-respect. If it can be secured only by their submission to terms of conquest, the generation is yet unborn which will witness its restoration. If there be any military authority in the North who is entitled to proffer the conditions of this manifesto, there is none in the South authorised to entertain them. Those who control our armies are the servants of the people, not their masters, and they have no more inclination than they have right to subvert the social institutions of sovereign States or to overthrow their priceless heritage of self-government. This correspondence will not, however, we trust, prove wholly barren of good results. If there is any citizen of the Confederate States who has clung to the hope that peace was possible with this Administration of the Federal Government, it will strip from his eye the last film of such delusion. If there be any whose hearts have grown faint under the suffering and agony of this bloody struggle, it will inspire them with fresh energy to endure and brave whatever may yet be requisite to preserve to themselves and their children all that gives dignity and value to life, or hope and consolation to death. If there be any patriots and Christians in your land who shrink appalled from the lengthened vista of private misery and public calamity which stretches before them, we pray that in their bosoms a resolution may be quickened to reclaim the abused authority and vindicate the outraged civilisation of their country. For the solicitude you have manifested to inaugurate a movement which contemplates results the most noble and humane, we return our sincere thanks, and are most respectfully and truly your obedient servants,

(Signed) C. CLAY, J. B. HOLCOMBE, } Commissioners.

To the Hon. H. Greeley.

WHERE THE CONFEDERATES GET THEIR COAL.—The *American Coal Trade Review* published in New York says: 'There are extensive coal mines lying on both sides of the James River, a few miles above Richmond. The area of this coal field is about twenty miles from north to south, with an average breadth of five miles. The coal is bituminous, and it has been largely used for steam purposes and for the production of gas. These mines were probably the earliest worked of any in the United States, mention being made of them in the *American Journal of Science* of 1818 as having been in operation for thirty years previously. The works, as now carried on, are at a greater depth than have ever been reached at any other mines in this country—the deepest shaft sunk being about eight hundred feet. Anthracite coal mines have been opened within a few years in Montgomery, Pulaski, and Wythe counties, and also along the range of mountains in the western part of Augusta county. In Brush Mountain, along the northwestern line of Montgomery county, and in Price's Mountain, six or seven miles south-east of this, some very good coal is mined — that from the former locality being free-burning, semi-bituminous; and that of the latter a very pure anthracite. These mines are in close proximity to the Virginia and Tennessee railroad, which is only a mile and a half distant. The amount of coal mined in the State of Virginia during the year 1860 was 382,000 tons, valued at about $700,000 at the mines. There are extensive beds of bituminous and semi-bituminous coal in North Carolina, in Chatham and Moore counties on Deep River. There are also extensive beds of semi-bituminous in Rockingham and Stokes counties, on the Dan River; but previous to the rebellion there had been no great amount mined there. The only mines of importance in Southern Tennessee are on the Sewanee River, at the north end of a branch railroad sixteen miles long, which leaves the Nashville and Chattanooga railroad at the tunnel where it crosses the mountains.'

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 13 Bouverie Street, E.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

The Honorary Treasurer of the Jackson Statue Fund acknowledges the receipt of the following additional subscriptions:—

John Johnson, Esq., Bank House, Runcorn, Cheshire	£1	1	0
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THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 1864.

The Peace Comedy at Niagara Falls.

THE Falls of Niagara are one of the world's great sights, visited yearly, during the summer season, by tens of thousands of pleasure-seekers. For the shelter and comfort of these there stands, within view of the mighty cataract, on the Canadian side of the river, and at a few rods' distance from the beautiful suspension-bridge which connects British America with Federal Republican America, a spacious and commodious hotel, the fame of whose *table d'hôte* has spread over two continents. So constant and close is the communication between the two shores that to stay at the 'Clifton House' is almost equivalent to residing within Mr. LINCOLN'S dominions, bating the disagreeable incidents connected with such residence. No wonder, therefore, that this advantage, added to the natural beauties of the spot, should have attracted many and various persons to this far-famed inn. Americans of the North and Americans of the South, and Americans who are neither of the North nor of the South—men of influence at Washington and men of influence at Richmond, and men without influence anywhere—distinguished statesmen and ubiquitous political adventurers—might there meet on neutral ground, and discuss over sherry-cobblers and mint-juleps the great question of the day. It was scarcely probable, but certainly not impossible, that from such promiscuous gatherings should grow serious proposals of peace. Wild projects and vague speculations were sure to spring up in profusion.

It so happened, as it appears, that towards the end of July there were among the guests at the Clifton House three Confederate gentlemen of note and position—the Hon. C. C. CLAY, ex-senator from Alabama in the Federal and afterwards in the Confederate Congress; the Hon. JACOB THOMPSON, ex-member of the Federal House of Representatives from Mississippi, and Secretary of the Interior in President BUCHANAN'S Cabinet; and the Hon. J. B. HOLCOMBE, a distinguished jurist and publicist from Virginia. It was understood that Messrs. CLAY and THOMPSON had been intrusted by their Government with a delicate confidential mission, though by no means that of proposing terms of peace to President LINCOLN. To Mr. HOLCOMBE'S mission as the legal representative of the interests of the Confederate Government in the adjudication of the *Chesapeake* case before the colonial tribunals of Nova Scotia, we alluded in these columns at the time. The presence of these three gentlemen so near the frontiers of the United States might well excite curiosity, and Dame Rumour, who nowhere more than in Yankeedom uses her mythological attributes, did the rest. At all events, this auspicious coincidence was made the occasion for amusing the Yankee nation with a little amateur diplomatic burlesque, in which Mr. HORACE GREELEY was selected to play the heavy comic part, assisted by Major HAY, the private secretary of President LINCOLN, with Mr. GEORGE N. SANDERS as prompter and stage-manager, and Mr. W. C. JEWITT as 'generally useful' supernumerary.

These *dramatis personæ* deserve each a brief biographical sketch. Mr. HORACE GREELEY, editor and proprietor of the *New York Tribune*, has long been known by the affectionate *soubriquet* of the 'white-hatted philosopher;' but his eccentricities of dress, gait, and manner are as nothing to the eccentricities of his editorial and political career. He has in turn, and sometimes all together, advocated disunion, free love, spirit-rapping, communism, women's rights, abolitionism, and 'miscegenation,' besides many other 'isms' which we do not at the moment recall. He was the first man who denounced the 'star-spangled banner' as a 'flaunting lie,' and his journal once published some very spirited poetry on this patriotic theme. He is the author of the thrilling axiom, 'Let the Union *slide*,' which in the earlier stages of secession was the standing motto at the head of the columns of the *New York Tribune*, but which, when taken down in April 1861, was succeeded by daily frantic appeals for the 'extermination of the rebels.' Mr. HORACE GREELEY, despite his ill-balanced mind, his innumerable crotchets and tergiversations, his utter lack of judgment, and childish credulity, is at heart an amiable and benevolent man, with overflowing affections for all human kind, and the most honest, perhaps the only honest, man in the Administration party. We can well believe that his better nature revolts at the atrocities which he had no small share in bringing about, and that his eager belief in overtures of peace did only respond to an anxious wish long and devoutly cherished.

Of Major HAY, who holds the proud position of confidential secretary to ABE LINCOLN, little is known, except that he was the *hero* of the ill-starred Federal expedition into Florida, undertaken to procure three electoral votes for his patron at the ensuing Presidential election, on which occasion Mr. LINCOLN wrote from the Executive Mansion at Washington, under date of January 5, to General GILMORE: 'I have given Mr. HAY a commission as major, and sent him to you with some blank books and other blanks to aid in the reconstruction.' This letter, in which the President-candidate avows in terms his purpose and desires 'the thing to be done in the most speedy way possible,' was brought to light by a Congressional Investigation Committee, and will be found on page 300 in our number of May 12. It is all we know of 'Major' HAY.

Mr. GEORGE N. SANDERS is the king of 'wags.' No man living enjoys a joke better than he, and no one knows better how to give it universal publicity. He can perform miracles on the telegraphic wire which would put BLONDIN utterly to shame. He has, moreover, the faculty of always lighting upon his legs, no matter how desperate may be his politico-acrobatic feats, and dexterous indeed must be the man who can ever prove him in the wrong. Withal Mr. SANDERS is a man of singularly original and inventive mind, and has held, under the old Government, several honourable and important positions—no less a one for a short time than that of Consul of the United States to London. Since the disruption he has figured before the European public as a contractor in various gigantic enterprises for supplying the military necessities of the Confederates, among other things for a great steamship blockade-running line, which was never built, but which in some unaccountable manner became confused, in the over-acute perceptions of 'Historicus,' with the Mersey rams. Over two years ago, when on the very scene of his recent exploit, the Canadian press pompously announced him as the bearer of proposals not unlike those with which he appears to have 'inspired' the New York press, judging from the *New York Herald* of July 15, which says: 'GEORGE SANDERS telegraphs to us from Canada that he is in favour of peace. . . . His next communication to us, to secure any attention, must embrace the announcement that he has forsworn JEFF. DAVIS, and taken the oath of allegiance to the United States.' There is little prospect of 'GEORGE SANDERS' doing this, for neither friends nor foes—and the former are more numerous than the latter—would suspect him of disloyalty to the South, or doubt his zeal to serve her, in his own peculiar way. We must not conclude this imperfect sketch of the central figure in the late 'negotiations' without mentioning the cleverest joke in a long catalogue, and one which shows that Mr. SANDERS may sometimes mingle with his facetia the sagacity of a prophet, and be more discern ing than men of more serious turn. Amids the turmoil of that forerunner of secession, th Charleston Democratic Nominating Convention, i which Mr. SANDERS was a prominent actor, he tele graphed to President BUCHANAN that unless h forgot his private feud against Mr. DOUGLAS, an withdrew his opposition to his nomination as th Democratic candidate, the party and the countr would split in twain, and he, Mr. BUCHANAN, woul be the last President of the whole United States. I has never been ascertained which disgusted more th 'bachelor of Wheatland,' then in the Presidentia chair—the astounding assurance of the suggestion, o the fact that the telegram, costing some twenty-on dollars and odd cents, was *not* prepaid.

Mr. W. C. JEWITT was unknown to fame until h appeared in the columns of several London news papers in the character of a CURTIUS ready t plunge into the abyss that separated the belligeren American Federations, and in that volunteer capa city had an interview with the King of the BEL GIANS, who must have been even more profound i statecraft than the modern NESTOR is believed to be if he could understand what Mr. JEWITT wante what he proposed, or by whose authority, expresse or implied, he acted. Mr. JEWITT is supposed to b a native of New England; but in his communica tions to the London press he assumed a local habita tion more neutral, and more befitting a cosmopolita philanthropist and amateur peacemaker-general, b hailing from 'Colorado Territory,' a region very fa in the 'Far West.' His functions on the occasio in question seem to have been confined to the carry ing of notes between the parties.

Such, then, was the scene, and such the *personne* of this comedy of errors which for a moment reall electrified the public of two hemispheres with a hop in which all good men of all nations and all partie sincerely unite. The action of the piece begins ap propriately with a note from Mr. SANDERS, i which he says rather vaguely that he is 'authorised &c. &c. Had Mr. GREELEY, to whom this note wa addressed, not been blinded by a pardonable and, t him, honourable eagerness, he would have detected the 'quiz' in the transparent fact that Mr. SANDER included himself in the proposed commission Washington, and styled himself 'from *Dixie*.' Bu even the use of the familiar nickname lovingly give by the negroes to the only home of their race, an immortalised in the well-known quick step which supposed to be the national tune of the Southe Confederacy, and which, under various names, an with widely varying words, is dear to the very Arab of the London streets—even this suggestive word 'Dixie' did not warn Mr. HORACE GREELEY. H forthwith addresses to the unconscious Southe representatives a proposal which must have no litt astonished and delighted them, as coming from such quarter. An invitation to Washington, with a sa conduct, given by a trusted friend of the PRESIDE of the United States, for the express purpose treating of the anxiously longed-for peace, was t happy an omen to be disregarded; and while the courteously explain to Mr. GREELEY the error in which he had been led by the vivacious Mr. SA DERS, they felt in duty bound to accept the offer the conditions under which it was possible for the to accept it, and pledged their best endeavours, men enjoying the complete confidence of the Co federate Government, to obtain its subsequent san tion of what they might do in absence of speci authorisation. But so soon as it penetrated the di understanding of the ex-grogshop keeper and e village attorney of Illinois that the three guests the Clifton House at Niagara Falls had not come suppliants from Richmond to sue for mercy—ha in fact, not come at all with any mission to him but that the first overture had been made through false impression on the excitable imagination of h honest friend GREELEY, the natural ferocit sharpened by imbecile disappointment, returned the man who has publicly boasted that, when nav gating a raft or 'flat-boat' on the Mississippi Riv in his younger days, he used to amuse himself wi sewing together the eyes of the hogs that form part of his cargo. The hero of the Florida Pre dent-making expedition, Mr. 'Major' HAY, is se with a message to 'all whom it may concern,' pro fering terms of unconditional surrender as haugh as if the incumbent of the White House were a co queror instead of a vulgar buffoon permitted by just Providence to be the unwitting instrument punishing a nation's sins, and maintained in pow by party-machinery, effrontery of lying, and t inertia of a demoralised public opinion.

Impartial observers will admit that the reply the Southerners, who were for a moment betray into believing that a gleam of reason might illumine the mind of the PRESIDENT of the United States, that of patriots and of gentlemen, and that even t disgust which they could not but feel does not cau them to forget what is due to their country and

themselves. They have vindicated the earnest, but not craven, desire for peace unanimously entertained among their countrymen, and they have administered a rebuke which, though lost upon Mr. Lincoln, may not be wholly unfelt by the better classes among the Northern people. We give the correspondence in full, correcting some of the obvious typographical errors which have crept into the text as published by the Northern newspapers. From this our readers may draw the moral for themselves. If this correspondence effects no other good, it will at least have shed a flood of light upon the feelings of the honest men of the North, typified in Horace Greeley; it will have demonstrated that the main obstacle to peace is a corrupt shoddy Administration, having Mr. Lincoln for its mouthpiece; and it will have added another to the many proofs that the war is not of the South's seeking, and that every sincere overture of peace is always sure of being received by it in a spirit of courtesy and moderation.

The only fault we can find with the gentlemen who represented the South at Niagara Falls, is that, in their premature gratitude to Mr. Sanders, they incautiously included his name in the acceptance of Mr. Greeley's offer, since in so doing they appear to sanction the 'authorised' deception under which the offer had been made, and to which it is impossible that they could knowingly have been parties; and furthermore that they allowed Mr. Jewitt to carry their notes, thus gratifying the harmless vanity of that gentleman by affording him the opportunity to connect his name with theirs in print. The easy, we might say reckless, good-nature which commits faults of this character, is habitual to Southern statesmanship, even of the highest order, and in America excites little attention, but in Europe, where these things are differently understood, and where a excess of formality is a more venial fault than its utter disregard, such trifles sometimes produce disagreeable impressions and receive unfair interpretations.

The Fate of Atlanta.

The North is quick in jumping at conclusions. When General Early's column crossed the Potomac, it was at once announced that Baltimore and Washington were the objects of the invasion. When the raid was over, New York and Philadelphia agreed to consider the incursion a 'scare,' and nothing more; President Lincoln mustered the militia out of service; and the Northern Administration went on dreaming about the conquest of the Southern States as confidently as if Grant's whole army were within Richmond and the Potomac. In the same way they have settled the fate of Atlanta. Because Sherman's army had crossed the Chattahoochie, it was inferred, without further news, that Atlanta had fallen, and for days, from every possible quarter, rumours poured into Washington that Atlanta was invested; that a great battle had taken place outside its fortifications, and a great victory had been won by Sherman; that the Confederate force had fallen back upon Macon, and that Atlanta was held by Federal troops. There is not an item of authentic intelligence to justify one of these reports. Mr. Stanton is not ordinarily slow in giving out good news to the Northern people. He is occasionally apt to anticipate. He is never behind the press. We may be quite sure that, if he had any good news to communicate, it would long ago have reached M. Adams. We have very little hesitation, therefore, in describing the information respecting the capture of Atlanta as premature and untrustworthy; and we quite expect to receive news by the next mail which will put a very different complexion on the state of affairs. That the 'situation' is critical there is no doubt, but we can discover no proof of its being hopeless in the correspondence or in the telegrams of the New York papers. All the reliable information we possess from Southern sources is to the effect that Atlanta was likely to be held. At the latest date the Governor of Georgia had ordered all the militia of the State to report at Atlanta. The Southern army, though not nearly equal in numbers to the invaders, was strong, in good spirits, and well officered. The town itself, with strong natural defences, had been furnished with works which, defended by good troops, would at any rate render a protracted siege necessary. From its position as the central terminus of three very important lines of railroad, and its importance as a great manufacturing depôt for the army of the more southern portion of the Confederacy, it could hardly be abandoned without serious loss. We entirely disbelieve, therefore, the reported capture of Atlanta, and we still cling to the hope that it may be, if not successfully defended, at any rate held for so long a time as greatly to embarass the Federal War Administration.

It is doubtless a misfortune to the South that at so critical a moment a change of generals should prove necessary, and the retirement of Johnston is to some extent a confession of failure. But it is impossible to say what effect the appointment of a young and vigorous commander may have upon the fortunes of the campaign. The army of the South-west has been proverbially unlucky, though its ranks are recruited from as good fighting material as is to be found in the Confederacy; and General Johnston's reputation for skill and daring has, we regret to say, failed to impart any new spirit to its soldiers, or to achieve any new successes to its arms. In the hundred miles of his retreat he has been compelled to abandon some half a dozen magnificent defensive positions by the manœuvring of the Northern army, though he has never failed to repulse any direct attack; and the result is, that Sherman was, at the latest date, close up to the outer defences of Atlanta. We shall not at this distance, and in comparative ignorance of the relative strength of the two armies, undertake to criticise General Johnston's movements. But the surest test of military talent is success. General Johnston has been tried in independent command twice—in the attempted relief of Vicksburg, and in the defence of Georgia; he has succeeded in neither. It is not unnatural that he should in his turn have to give place, if not to a better, to a new man. In General Hood the Confederate army in Georgia has at any rate one of the most dashing leaders the South can boast of. A great favourite with his troops, a leader in every sense of the word, brought up in Lee's school of warfare, and possessing, it is said, an instinctive military judgment, he is just the man for the crisis; and we may be quite sure that if Atlanta is to be held, he will hold it to the last extremity. General Hood, it may be recollected, was dangerously wounded and lost a leg at the battle of Chicamauga Creek; but his wound did not prevent his joining his command in Georgia when danger threatened; and where he is, if there be fewer skilful retreats, it is quite certain there will be desperate fighting. The rumours of a pitched battle and a defeat of the Confederates before Atlanta we do not credit. Supposing the Federal army, notwithstanding its heavy losses, to outnumber the Confederates as largely as is said, it is not at all likely that Hood would force on a general action by attacking the Federals in their entrenchments. The engagement, if any has taken place, has probably been unimportant, or has, at any rate, been the result of a Federal attack. We have yet to hear the Confederate account, and are quite prepared for a very different version from that which has at present reached us from 'unofficial' sources only. The announcement that General Bragg has returned to the army in Georgia, we regard with great satisfaction. Bragg also has been an unlucky general; but several of his movements displayed a masterly ability, and his strategy, combined with General Hood's dash, may yet produce the most brilliant results. Under any circumstances we warn our readers against concluding that the campaign in Georgia is over. Atlanta at the latest date was neither occupied nor invested. The railroad to Macon was still open; trains of supplies and reinforcements could reach Atlanta by this line without molestation. It is far more probable that the town should be held, even at a risk of loss to the army, than that so important a base for further operations in Georgia should be surrendered to the enemy, and everything inclines us to believe that Sherman will be reduced to the tedious process of regular siege operations. This delay may be fatal to him. Forrest, with a force of 10,000 or 12,000 cavalry and mounted infantry, was, according to the latest accounts, already at Huntsville, making for the Federal communications. It is not possible that Sherman's army can subsist wholly in front of Atlanta in a country which has been drained for the last six months by the troops of the Confederacy. If Forrest can permanently interrupt the communication between Chattanooga and General Sherman's army, it is difficult to see how Sherman will feed his men, or what is left to him but to dash at all hazards upon the fortifications of the town. The weakness of his long line of communication is so obvious and so dangerous, that at any moment he may lose all the advantages he has gained, and be compelled to seek the safety of his army in Chattanooga or Nashville.

From Virginia there is no news of importance. Notwithstanding a few skirmishes and one or two sharp engagements, the raiders have got clean off with the bulk of their prodigious spoils. There are already rumours of a return of a portion of the invading force to Maryland, and it yet remains to be seen whether the raid was a mere raid or a *reconnaissance* in force. Time will show. In the meantime in other quarters the Confederates are rapidly regaining lost ground. Kentucky is again threatened, Missouri is overrun with guerillas and traversed by a Confederate army; Arkansas is, with the exception of one or two strong military positions, given up to the Confederates. The Federals are evacuating Brownsville, their last stronghold in Texas, and are suffering defeat after defeat in Mississippi. Lee holds Petersburg, while Grant is contracting his lines, and slowly sapping his way towards the Confederate earthworks, not without many an uneasy suggestion from the President as to the possibility of a real invasion of Maryland, and ominous news from the James River in the shape of heavy batteries mounted to impede the regular passage of the Federal transports. On the whole, we may safely come to two conclusions: first, that if Atlanta is doomed to fall, and Hood contrives to draw his army off intact, Sherman will have accomplished very little beyond the destruction of valuable property and the securing of a new *point du départ*; secondly, that we may soon expect to hear of another movement on the part of General Lee, either southward towards Tennessee, or once more across the northern frontier. In neither case will General Grant be able to interfere.

'Strict Neutrality.'

Any Englishman who was not unfeignedly glad at the prorogation of Parliament on Friday last must be singularly devoid of patriotic feeling. It is a relief to know that the session of 1864 is at an end — a session which showed how powerless sometimes Parliament is to prevent or even to censure a policy which has unquestionably lowered the just influence of England. It was admitted by Liberals, by Conservatives, and by Radicals, that the conduct of foreign affairs by Earl Russell has been a signal failure, and yet it escaped condemnation by adroit party manœuvres. We write this in no party spirit, for whilst we cannot but condemn the vacillation of the Government by which Denmark was sacrificed and the country nearly plunged into a war, the danger of which might have been averted by proper firmness, it is impossible to defend the course of the Opposition, which was marked throughout by a want of decision and frankness. The Queen's Speech, though *per se* exceptionally weak, was a very suitable conclusion to the session. Regret is expressed that the Conference failed to bring about peace between Germany and Denmark, and a hope that the belligerents will be able to come to terms; but there is not one word of regret that the kingdom of Denmark is dismembered. However, let us be consoled, for Her Majesty was enabled to assure us that her 'relations with the Emperor of China continue to be friendly.' Nor, indeed, has the session been quite barren. Mr. Bass's Bill has put down, or it is hoped will put down, the nuisance of organ-grinding in London. Public-houses, by another Act passed during the late session, are closed from one to four o'clock in the morning. Moreover, an Act has been passed for inflicting the punishment of whipping on garotters, and already the press has given an account of how two men were beaten, and how they screamed with agony as the 'cat' made little pieces of their flesh fly about, and covered their bodies with blood. Well, let us be thankful for small mercies, and rejoice that the Parliament of England has done something during a six months' session.

In February the speech from the throne did not mention America, but a brief paragraph was devoted to the subject on Friday last. Her Majesty regrets the war is not brought to a close, 'and would rejoice at a friendly reconciliation between the contending parties.' It is much to be regretted that good wishes are so powerless, but, nevertheless, we suppose that Americans ought to be obliged that Her Majesty's Government have, at the end of the session, thought it worth their while to make some reference to the terrible conflict that is desolating a continent, that arrests the attention of the world, that is being waged by men of our own lineage, and that so nearly touches the welfare of a large portion of the labouring population of this country. But Her Majesty is made, besides uttering these benevolent sentiments, to promise that she 'will continue to observe a strict neutrality between the belligerents.' We will not discuss whether or not a strict neutrality comprises the sole duty of England, or whether policy and humanity do not demand that the influence of a powerful and kindred nation should be exerted to do all that is possible to put a stop to the awful and vain carnage. Let us say that non-intervention is the sole duty of England, and that the mother-country is not called upon to play any other part than that of a mere spectator. But we may fairly enquire if the British Government has been strictly neutral, and what that policy is which is to guide it in the future. And we will confine this enquiry to the narrowest possible limits. We think it would not be difficult to prove to any unprejudiced reader that

the refusal to recognise the Confederate States is quite at variance with neutrality. When we consider that Mr. Lincoln has brought a million and a half of men into the field—that he has been so lavish of blood as to cripple the resources of the United States, and so lavish of his expenditure of money as to bring the country into a state of bankruptcy, and to pile up a debt in three years as large as that which England accumulated in a century—and that, so far from being subjugated, the South is as strong to-day as she was at the end of the first year of war—that the Confederate capital still defies the armies of the North—that Charleston has successfully resisted the mighty armaments sent against her—and that the Southern cruisers, though few in number, have ruined the Federal marine—it seems ridiculous to say that the Confederates have not vindicated their title to recognition. But we will let that pass, and see whether in other respects the British Government has been strictly neutral.

Most assuredly the Federal Government has no cause of complaint. At the bidding of Mr. Seward Earl Russell has done what he could to protect the North, and to give evidence of what an Anglo-Federal described as warm neutrality. When the flag of England has been deliberately insulted—when English seamen have been grossly ill-treated, and in one case foully murdered—Earl Russell has contented himself with mild and courteous remonstrance. To oblige Mr. Seward, the *Tuscaloosa* was seized, in palpable violation of the law of nations. But the most conspicuous instances of warm neutrality are the seizures of the *Alexandra* and the Mersey steam-rams. It was asserted that these vessels were being fitted out as ships of war for the Confederate Government, and in order to stop them Earl Russell did not hesitate to go a little beyond the law of England; and in his memorable Blairgowrie speech he promised, if necessary, to change the law, so that the Confederates should not buy ships in England. In the case of the *Alexandra*, it was proved that Earl Russell had acted on unfounded suspicion; and in the case of the steam-rams, the Government deemed that they were in the wrong, or they would not have purchased the vessels. And it must be borne in mind that even if the *Alexandra* and the steam-rams were intended for the Confederate Government, they could only be stopped on a technical point. Everybody, perhaps we may except those who are thoroughly devoted to Mr. Lincoln, was convinced of the utter injustice of permitting the Federals to buy enormous quantities of warlike stores and ammunition in this country, and to permit Messrs. Baring & Co. to ship whole field batteries of guns to New York on English mail steamers, and yet to refuse permission to the Confederates to buy ships, to take them out of English jurisdiction, and in foreign waters to arm them and convert them into ships of war. We do not wish to enter into the legal question, but no one knows better than Earl Russell that it is exceedingly doubtful whether the sale of such vessels is unlawful, else he would not at Blairgowrie have proposed a change in the law. However, let us say there was a doubt, and that he was justified in giving the Federals the benefit of that doubt, but having admitted this it cannot be denied that Earl Russell was ready not only to strain the law, but to change the law, in order to prevent the Confederacy from getting any assistance in carrying on the war. So much for the one side. Not that we have exhausted the subject. We might extend this article to an unprecedented length, and yet there would not be sufficient space to give a dry catalogue of all the favours shown to the Federal Government, or, if the term is preferred, all the evidences of a warm neutrality, by Earl Russell. Let us glance at the other side of the picture, and in doing so we must confine our attention to one case only. We must pass by the prompt action that was taken on the faith of the forged report attributed to the Confederate Secretary of the Navy, and many other instances of what, for want of a better expression, we will call cold neutrality.

In another part of our impression we give a report of a debate in the House of Commons upon the way in which the Federal armies are recruited with British subjects. We commend the speeches of Lord E. Howard and Mr. Layard, the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, to the attention of our readers. It is impossible to summarise those speeches. It is impossible in a single paragraph to give any idea of the brutality with which British emigrants have been treated in the United States. It is past dispute that agents have been busy in Ireland and in England recruiting for the Federal army. The unfortunate emigrants have been drugged and forcibly enlisted—no, not enlisted, but enrolled in the Federal army. To prevent all clue to them, they have been entered under false names, and then driven into Mr. Lincoln's slaughter-pens. Lord E. Howard's speech bristled with incontrovertible facts, and Mr. Layard endorsed his Lordship's statements. Well, what of that? It is very heartrending, to be sure, that Her Majesty's subjects should be so shamefully beguiled and so infamously maltreated. It is, to be sure, very heartrending indeed that husbands, fathers, and sons should be kidnapped into the Federal army and be no more heard of; but what can be done? Lord Lyons remonstrates. Mr. Layard admits 'that the evasions of officers in command of regiments who were unwilling to surrender any of their men, defeated the ends of justice. It sometimes happened that when they had traced a man he was killed or removed out of reach before measures could be taken for his release.' But no effectual measures can be taken by Her Majesty's Government to protect the unfortunate emigrants. To prevent the Confederates getting ships of war Earl Russell acted on suspicion and was ready to strain the law or to change the law, but he is powerless to do anything to prevent British subjects from swelling the ranks of the Federal army. And this is strict neutrality.

We elsewhere reprint from the *New York World* an article on the military strength of the United States, and that article proves conclusively that, without the enlistment of foreigners, the Northern Government could not continue the war. It proves, we say, that if Her Majesty's Government had been strictly neutral—and, still more, if they had treated the North as they have the South—the war which is deplored would not have been so bloody, and would not have lasted so long. We lament, then, that Her Majesty's Government intend to adhere to their past policy, for it has not been a policy of strict neutrality, but of disfavour to the South and of favouritism to the North. Whilst it may or may not have prevented the Confederates from getting ships of war, it has undoubtedly enabled the Federals to recruit their ranks, and to supply the gaps made by the reckless indifference of Federal commanders in sacrificing the lives of their soldiers.

THE STATUE OF WASHINGTON.

(From the *New York Daily News*, July 7.)

During the late raid of General Hunter in the Virginia Valley, the bronze statue of Washington, erected in 1788, the first ever cast of the Father of his Country, was stolen from Lexington, and in a broken form was transported to Wheeling. The tablet was broken in three pieces. It bore the inscription:

'The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia have caused this statue to be erected as a monument of affection and gratitude to George Washington, who, uniting to the endowments of the hero the virtues of the patriot, and exerting both in establishing the liberties of his country, has endeared his name to his fellow-citizens, and given to the world an immortal example of true glory. Done in the year of Christ 1788, and in the year of the Commonwealth the 12th.'

The Emperor Napoleon, in his wars against a foreign enemy, received the censure of all historians for enriching France with works of art taken from the palaces and the cities he had conquered; but Napoleon never removed a statue erected by a grateful people to any of their illustrious dead. That act of utter infamy is reserved for an American general in this the noon time of the nineteenth century. The State of Virginia had erected this statue to her own son, whom she gave to the Revolution which gave birth to the Republic. She had selected the spot for its erection where her State Military Academy was placed, to the end that her sons might draw inspiration from his wisdom and patriotism from his virtues. The Military Academy was given to the incendiary torch and was burned to the ground—the statue of Washington was taken from its pedestal and feloniously carried away, as no doubt would have been his bones had they been buried there. This was done by the command of an officer bearing a commission in the service of the Republic Washington had formed. Although the statue was erected by the commonwealth that gave Washington birth, and which he so loved, to perpetuate her pride in her noblest son, in whose bosom his ashes slept, yet she gladly hailed him as the Father of his Country, and the people of every State in the Confederacy called him by that proud title. The stealing of the statue was an act of vandalism without earthly excuse—it is a theft that nothing can palliate—disgraceful to the age, and doubly so to the country that will suffer such a sacrilege to go unwhipped of justice. It will give the author of the theft a name, and it will, in history, associate it with that of Washington, but like that of the youth who, for the sake of an infamous immortality, fired the Ephesian temple, it is such a fame that good men would shrink from enjoying. In the world's history it is without a parallel, and our hope is that it may remain so.

The Federal Soldiers and their Pay.—The *Times* New York Correspondent writes on July 19: 'General Sherman's troops, whether their numbers be 60,000 or 100,000, have not received a cent of pay since December 31, 1863. The Government is in arrear to them for upwards of six months and a half. Mr. Fessenden has been unable to borrow 50,000,000 of greenbacks from the banks of New York mainly because the banks do not possess 20,000,000 among them of that particular variety of the currency, and he is not authorised by law to accept or put into circulation 50,000,000 of the notes of the State banks. Without further loans and further issues of legal tender notes, already so depreciated that the paper dollar is worth but 35c. in coin, the Federal Government cannot provide the means for the payment of its existing armies. It is under such circumstances that Mr. Lincoln demands more men. If he raises them, he must also raise money to pay them, and, in default of taxes and of loans, nothing is left for him but a paper currency very likely in view of events, as well as of its own independence, to fall in value until it becomes about as worthless as the Continental money of the American revolution, or the French *assignats*, about 500 of which were necessary to purchase a cup of coffee.'

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York: July 19, 1864.

THE INCURSION INTO MARYLAND—THE PANIC IN THE NORTH—THE APATHY OF THE PEOPLE—THE WEAKENING OF GRANT'S ARMY—MR. LINCOLN'S CALL FOR 500,000 MEN—CAN THE NEW LEVY BE SUPPLIED?—THE FINANCIAL CRISIS.

There is no denying it: the Northerners were badly scared last week, and are this week heartily ashamed of it. They have a great deal to be ashamed of, including the incompetency of the Administration, the panic among the officials, military and civil, and the pusillanimity of the people. A few thousands of Confederates—we do not know how many—threw themselves across the Potomac at various fords, and did, for nearly a week, what they pleased in Maryland. They divided themselves fearlessly into small parties, traversed the country to and fro without obstruction, seized railroads, cut down telegraphic lines, and for a while severed the communications between Washington and the North, and alarmed the Northern people into the apprehension that the capital was about to be taken. The Administration, which had made no preparations to obstruct the routes by which they came, was in a pitiable state of terror. It is in testimony, on the Federal authority, that five hundred 'greybacks' kept Washington itself in a state of siege for two days, with twenty thousand men behind impregnable defences. Only one severe battle was fought in which considerable numbers were engaged, and the Federals were beaten. The Confederates stayed as long as suited their purposes. It is yet doubtful what these were—whether a foray for regaining some of the losses inflicted by the Federal raids in Virginia, or as a preparatory reconnaissance for a more extended expedition hereafter. They retired at their leisure, carrying off large stocks of cattle and other provisions, and particularly of horses, of which they had much need. The Administration in its panic called for aid from the militia of Pennsylvania and New York in addition to those of Maryland; but before the Governors of these States could get any men together for the purpose, the Confederate troops, which terror had magnified into a vast army deploying in columns for a great invasion, had gathered what they could and gone quietly away.

Journals of all parties assail the military mismanagement by which this national disgrace was permitted to occur. The Administration journals can't help joining from very shame, but they deal very gingerly with the question of responsibility. They dare not assail Grant, nor Lincoln, no Stanton—although the fault certainly lies somewhere amon the three—nor Governor Bradford of Maryland, nor Goveror Curtin of Pennsylvania, both of whom were sadly lacking in foresight and energy; so they content themselves with douncing the general apathy of the people, and hunting for something upon which to base an assault upon Governor Seymouof New York. He is of the other side in politics, and it is safeto abuse him. The Conservatives and Democrats denounce the whole Administration as disgracefully imbecile and cowardly, bt try to spare Grant, for whom they expect to have some olitical uses, alleging that he had foresight of this 'invasio,' and warned the President, and was unheeded.

The charge of popular apathy is a true one. The people of Maryland and Pennsylvania showed no alacriy to rally in defence of their soil or its flag from the invade; on the contrary, they abandoned their homes, running way in crowds before the Confederates came near them. The Maryland Governor implored his people in vain to come out and fight. The Pennsylvania Governor taunted his people with their want of patriotism; and when Governor Seymour attmpted to get volunteers from the militia of New York to comply with the President's call for thirty-days' men, they hug back, and interposed enquiries for delay, and constitutiona scruples, and some of them flat refusals to go; so that it wasdemonstrated that no help could have been had from this quarter if the emergency had been what was announced in sch imploring terms from Washington—an instant necessity fothe salvation of the capital.

The Confederates came without opposition andwent without obstruction. Their coming and going as they id developed the utter and now confessed failure of Grant's xpedition for the capture of Richmond this summer. His amy is so fixed in the trenches that Lee can afford to send o' considerable bodies of troops on distant expeditions, which py well in the supplies they gather, and perform the more imprtant function of compelling Grant to weaken his army furher in sending away large bodies of them to protect Washingto and cover the assailable points. If these were omitted to be ared for in his original plans, or he was overruled by his superiors at Washington, he has been taught caution by severe lessons. The Southern railroads by Weldon and Danville, which were cut by his raiders, are again in the possession of the Confederates, repaired, and in running order again. The expditions which accomplished his transitory successes there cost him thousands of men. His lines are now contracted, and is evidently aiming to find rest within fortified entrenchmers amidst the malaria of the James River, which will be mor fatal to his soldiers than a lost battle would be, and to waitfor reinforcements under the new draft, with which to reorganie for another campaign in the fall.

The news from Atlanta is not so favourable to the Confederates as formerly. For the first time there is an pprehension developed that General Sherman may take that city. The tone of the Confederates is less confident, but by no means despairing. It would be a serious loss to lose Atlanta.

But the national cry of despair at the failure ofGrant comes out in the President's proclamation making a call for 500,000 more troops, and directing a draft for such part of them as shall not voluntarily enlist before September 5.

In May last a spurious proclamation got abroad, a which, in the name of the President, it was stated that the campaign of General Grant had not answered the hopes of the Government, and that 400,000 men were required to fill up the armies. The publishers and the author were arrested and dungeond for disloyalty in circulating a false account of the state of military affairs and of the views of the Government so discouraging to the people. But the writer of that proclamation was surely prophetic. To-day the Administration tell the people hat the 'treasonable' proclamation was all true, and that 500,00 men instead of 400,000 men are needed in order to enable General Grant to recover himself and make a new trial. Eigh weeks ago it was sedition to say that the grand campaign inaugurated after eight months of preparation was anything short of perfect success. The 'magnificent' army has been dashed to pieces against the Confederate defences, and half a million f men are demanded again to begin the gigantic effort once moe.

This drain of men upon the North is getting to be appalling. I have heretofore given you tables showing the sucessive numbers called into the field by the President since te be-

ng of the war. The aggregate up to and excluding this and including temporary calls for service in short terms, *is two million four hundred thousand men.* The militia three months men' have amounted in numbers to upwards 07,000 men. The round number up to July 18 amounts fore to 1,910,000 men, to which the addition of the numbers called for will restore the number of enlisted men to ,000. They had the temporary aid of the 500,000 militia short-time men, of the enlisted men in the Southern States, e black soldiers, and of the hundred-day men recently d out and set to garrison the forts and harbours.

in this immense new levy be supplied? Is there no to the submission of the people to this horrible waste of physical power of the country, for objects which most of begin to see to be unattainable, and very many of them ve to be in the highest degree criminal? The impatience he people under these continued and tightening strains is ng to be irrepressible in many places, and there may be attempt too many for the public endurance. There is a t fright among the politicians of both sides for the conseuences of a draft under these circumstances, and the most uous efforts will be made to find volunteer recruits by rmous bounties; and the luckless working men, whose verty will constrain them to serve, while the more wealthy ape by buying substitutes, are soothed by vague promises the coming Presidential election will, with their help, put of power the authors of these cruel proceedings, and give some prospect of permanent relief. The effect of these measures and these palliating efforts can only be seen when the final test comes, in the enforcing of the draft. But one thing is very certain: the call for such a large army on a people already nearly exhausted and altogether discouraged, places a very powerful weapon in the hands of the peace party, which will not fail to use it with effect during the canvass for the nomination at Chicago. It brightens the hopes of those who count on obtaining the nomination of an unconditional peace man and effecting a concentration on him of the votes of all the opposition to Mr. Lincoln.

The effects of such a call on the national finances will be another potent argument against war. The Treasury is now literally bankrupt. The new Secretary of the Treasury finds everything in arrear, except the payments on public debt and interest, which with extraordinary efforts have still been met. For overdue claims and requisitions laid over, and contractors stved off, and the pay of the army in arrears, he needs a hundred millions beyond his available means, present or prospective, and has no resource but in the issue of more legal-tender paper, and a further debasement of the public credit. He has failed to obtain any aid from the banks, simply because they cannot, without ruining themselves, furnish him anything which he can accept. He is drifting along helplessly in the rapids of which his predecessor warned him on quitting the helm in despair. And now, in the very crisis of his financial failure and distresses, when he is casting about helplessly for the means of going on from day to day, the President's call for new troops lops up hundreds of millions of dollars more on the current expenditure of the year, upon which he had already estimated for him a deficit of five hundred millions, to be provided for in some way for which nobody has been able to supply him a hint of a really practicable plan.

All this is working together for that chaos of military and financial failure out of which only thoughtful minds see any hope of the rising of a returning sanity which will stop this dreadful carnage, and seek to reinstate peace and recover liberty.

To-day a very long and extremely able address, signed by about forty Democratic members of the late Congress, is issued by the *New York World*. It restates with great force the constitutional principles upon which the Union might have been maintained for ever over an expanding country and an harmonious people. It would have been an admirable document for those times, but is now simply an anachronism. It is worth your particular notice that the *World*, the organ of the war Democracy of New York, while publishing and commending this address, is careful to disclaim it as constituting the platform of the Democratic party until authoritatively confirmed at Chicago, and that no name of any New York Democrat is appended to the paper. This may be accidental, but it looks like design.

The Exhaustion of the North.—The New York correspondent of the *Daily News*, who cannot be accused of any want of zeal or of ingenuity in making the Northern appear the better as well as the stronger cause, gives, in his letter of July 19, the following graphic description of the state to which the repeated calls for men have reduced the agricultural districts of the Federal States:—'It may give you an idea of the tremendous efforts made by the North to say that it appears, from the returns of the Provost-Marshal-General's office, that the State of New York, with a population of 2,500,000, has sent 30,000 men to the field in the last three years; but Illinois has sent nearly the same number from a population of little over one-half, and Iowa has actually at this moment one-seventh of her entire population in the army. This great drain is already felt very severely in the agricultural districts. In the west women are now seen, for the first time in America, working in the fields. Cultivation has in many States been this year very largely curtailed, owing to the scarcity of labour, and the land devoted to hay, the crop of which has never, I believe, been so large as this year. But even the hay has had generally to be made by machinery and horse labour. It is cut down by the mowing machine, and gathered up with long horse rakes drawn by horses. A farm labourer, even in the New England States, occupies this summer a position such as, I suppose, farm labourers never occupied before in any country. He is flattered, caressed, and petted, and surrounded with all the arts of *petits soins* by the farmer and his family, and the slightest indication of dissatisfaction or ill-humour fills the household with dismay, for it may be the sign of his approaching departure, leaving the good man to cut his corn or make hay as best he can.'

The 'Alabama' Sword.—The manufacture of the sword which is to be presented to Captain Semmes for defending the honour of his flag so gloriously in the action off Cherbourg, has been intrusted to the well-known firm of Elkington & Co., of Regent Street. The design is a very superb one—the scabbard being gold, ornamented with the national emblems of England and the Confederacy in oxidised silver, enamelled and jewelled. Surmounting a shield are the flags of the two countries, with the words 'Peace and Friendship:' on the reverse side, 'Aide-toi, le ciel t'aidera.' We understand that the list of subscribers is a very long one, and includes peers, members of Parliament, officers of the army, navy, and volunteers, and civilians of every class.

THE MILITARY STRENGTH OF THE UNITED STATES.

(From the *New York World*, July 19.)

By the census of 1860, it appears that the total population of the United States at that time was 31,148,000, of which the white population numbered 26,957,000. Of this aggregate, the free States had within their boundaries 17,924,400—the slave States 9,036,000. But Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri, and that portion of Virginia now known as West Virginia, have been and are ranked with the non-slaveholding States in loyalty to the Federal Government. Their population was 2,539,380. Out of this number, however, a certain proportion are active sympathisers with the rebellion, and have furnished a large quota towards the support of the rebel armies. Probably the number may be stated at half a million—leaving, in round numbers, two millions who may be represented in the armies of the Union. This number, deducted from the population of the slave States, will give seven millions and thirty-six thousand as (practically) the total number from which the rebellion could recruit its armies; while a corresponding addition to the population of the free States swelled it to nearly twenty millions. But to this number must be added the free blacks of the North, the slaves who have come under the control of the United States Government, and the number of loyal Southerners who have established their adhesion to that Government since the war began—in all about 1,000,000—making the aggregate loyal population 21,000,000. According to the proportion shown in the census tables of 1860, of this population the number of males between the ages of eighteen and forty-five would be about 5,000,000. As the census returns of 1860 show that the total number of males in the United States at that time, between the above-mentioned ages, was 5,624,065, this estimate would give to the States in revolt between 600,000 and 700,000 males capable of bearing arms.

In a number of the *Federalist* Mr. Madison made the following statement:—

'The highest number to which, according to the best computation, a standing army can be carried in any country, does not exceed a hundredth part of the whole number of souls, or one twenty-fifth part of the number able to bear arms.'

Assuming that this estimate is correct, it follows that a country having a population of 21,000,000 souls could not safely furnish an army of more than 200,000 men. But the military machinery of the present day is such, and the relations of commerce to agriculture and manufactures so changed since the day at which Mr. Madison wrote, that there is no doubt that a much greater number of men than that given above could be safely withdrawn from the domestic pursuits of the country—a fact sufficiently proven in the course of the present war. We believe that at least half a million men can be drawn from such a population, under similar circumstances, without materially affecting the prosperity of those remaining at home, or altering the course of government. But let us see how many men have actually been called into service since the beginning of the war.

In his report made on December 1, 1861, Secretary Cameron stated that 77,875 men were raised during that year, under the first call of the President. These were 'three-months men.' The number of men, at the date of his report, enlisted for three years, was 660,971. So overwhelming was the response to the call for men at that time, that the Secretary stated that he had no doubt that the national forces could have been swollen to a million of men had not the department felt constrained to restrict volunteering.

July 1, 1862, immediately after the retreat from the peninsula, the President issued a call for three hundred thousand more volunteers. This force was chiefly of infantry, in pursuance of a recommendation of the President.

On August 4 of the same year, the President called to the field three hundred thousand militia, to serve for a term of nine months. This number was promptly furnished.

June 15, 1863, the President summoned, from certain States, militia to the number of 100,000. This number was afterwards increased to 120,000.

During the month of July 1863 a draft for 300,000 men was enforced. There is no public means of learning the number of men yielded by this conscription.

Since October 17 last (at which time a call for three hundred thousand men was made), under all the calls, about seven hundred thousand men, exclusive of negro soldiers and 'one hundred days' men,' have been put in the field. For the accuracy of this statement we have good Republican authority—the statement of Senator Wilson, of Massachusetts, chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, made in the course of a discussion in the Senate on June 9. Mr. Wilson said:

'The senator from California speaks of the spasmodic action of the administrators of the Government in raising men during the last few months. Does the senator know that we have raised or recruited since October 17 last 600,000 men, not to count black men, and that within the past year we have put in the field 700,000 men; that we have made an exertion such as few nations ever made and few nations can make; that we have spent $125,000,000 in bounties; that we have drafted; that we have used the whole power and influence of the Government to increase our military forces? Sir, we have put forth an effort that excites the astonishment and commands the admiration of the world; yet the senator from California, whose constituents are not drafted nor called upon, rises to-day and rebukes the Administration, rebukes us, and talks glibly of the timid counsels of men who are quite as hopeful, determined, and brave as himself.'

Thus it is easy to arrive at the total number of men called out since the outbreak of the rebellion. It is given concisely in the following table:—

NUMBER OF MEN SUMMONED TO THE FIELD.

Under President's first call, April 19, 1861	77,875
Volunteers for the war, 1861	660,971
Under President's call of July 1, 1862	300,000
Militia called out in August, 1862	300,000
Militia called out in June, 1863	120,000
By conscription, July, 1863, say	250,000
Since October 17, 1863	700,000
Total	2,408,846
Deduct militia and 'three months' men	497,875
Balance	1,910,961

Thus it is seen that the enormous number of one million nine hundred and ten thousand nine hundred and sixty-one men have been placed in the field, exclusive of the temporarily-serving militia, of the black soldiers, and of the hundred-days men who recently offered their services.

So, instead of Mr. Madison's 'hundredth part of the whole number of souls,' we have sent to the field an army composed in the ratio of about one in every eleven of the total population—estimating the latter at twenty-one millions—or about two-fifths of the male population between the ages of eighteen and forty-five.

But it must be remembered that the above statement includes men who have served one term and reenlisted; men who have been counted twice in the estimates of the War Department—as a large portion of the militia who served three months at the beginning of the war, and afterwards enlisted for three years—and a large number of 'three-months' and 'nine-months' men, exclusive of the above, who have also enlisted for the longer period. So, with the deduction of our losses and that of those who have been twice enumerated, it is not safe to state the strength of our army at more than from seven hundred and fifty to eight hundred thousand men, a force, one would think, even thus shorn, sufficiently astounding in numbers to satisfy the ideas of the most ambitious American, proud as he may be of the vastness of his country's territory and resources, and however much he may be determined to be governed by the peculiarly American characteristic of 'doing things on a big scale.'

[One or two observations on the above Northern statement of Northern resources may not be out of place. It is at once manifest that the division of population for military purposes is incorrect, and that the United States' 'twenty-one millions' is a myth. California, for example, neither takes Federal greenbacks nor responds to Mr. Lincoln's calls. The men of Maryland are in the Confederate armies, the women of Maryland welcome the 'invading' Confederates, and Mr. Lincoln is obliged to keep a force to keep Maryland in the Union. So far from Kentucky being 'loyal,' it has just been deprived of the *habeas corpus* and put under martial law on account of disloyalty. Missouri is so 'disloyal' that Colonel Ford, commanding at Liberty, declares that in Platte County nine out of ten of the inhabitants are in favour of the South; and General Rosecrans reproaches the Missourians that they use the weapons supplied to them by the United States Government to aid and abet the Confederate guerillas. Such States do not add to, but take from, the military strength of the North. Then, again, it must be remembered that though the negroes are not in the Southern armies, they are an element of strength to the South, for they do the work that in the North must be performed by white men; and consequently a larger proportion of the arms-bearing native population of the South can go into the field than can be taken in the North. The disproportion in regard to the *home* supplies of soldiers is not nearly so great as the above article represents, and this would have been too apparent for denial if the North had not recruited extensively in Europe.

Assuming that the above statement is correct as to the present strength of the Federal armies, we must recollect that it does not show the entire drain of the war. To the 750,000 in the field we must add the mighty host that has been 'used up' by commanders who in all time will be noted for their reckless prodigality in the expenditure of life. We shall certainly not be accused of exaggeration if we say that 250,000 men have been killed and disabled on the Federal side. This will give a million of men withdrawn from the male population available for conscription, and to these we must add those who have served their full time and will not re-enlist, the temporarily serving militiamen, the naval forces, and the numbers not actually enrolled, but who are engaged in arsenals and otherwise supplying the armies with war munitions. We shall, if we duly consider these things, not be surprised at the exhaustion of the North, despite the enormous emigration of recruits from Europe.]

A Dramatic View of the Confederate Incursion in Maryland.—The Washington Correspondent of the *New York World*, under date of July 14, writes as follows:—'Behold a spectacle humiliating beyond any of the sad military dramas which have been enacted to our disfavour since the war began: Scene 1: Maryland—the Potomac—invasion—an army of rebels crossing the river—three Union armies 'disappeared' and disappearing in the western and south-western distance. Scene 2: Advance of invaders—lively plunder by flankers and detachments—plunder disappearing to the rear. Scene 3: Battle of Monocacy—brave struggle of veterans against odds—skedaddle of hundred-days men—'disorderly' retreat—music and jubilee by the rebels—those other Union 'armies' still aloof. Scene 4: General devastation by the invaders—plunder everywhere—pandemonium in Baltimore—railroads and telegraph lines destroyed—Washington menaced—the troops of the Union behind mountains and fortifications on the edge of the arena, watching the show. Scene 5: Grand return march of the rebel army over the Potomac, through open doors, bearing the spoil of its conquest. Thus the drama closes.

A Federal Order.—We take the following from the *Boston Courier*:—'For want of a more expressive word we are forced to characterise the following order, issued by General Washburne at Memphis, as *infamous*:

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 48.

Before any one can engage in the trade or commerce of Western Kentucky, or sell the produce of their farms, or buy their necessary family supplies, they shall be required to take the following oath, with competent evidence, before the Provost-Marshal of Paducah, Kentucky, that they are unconditional Union men:

'I do solemnly swear that I have always been an early, constant, unswerving, and an unconditional loyal Union man.'

This simply dooms a great portion of the population which this military tyrant holds in his ruffianly grip to destitution, nakedness, and starvation. We say starvation, as well as destitution and nakedness, because a great many of the so-called farms along the Ohio, Cumberland, and Tennessee rivers are merely wood-yards for steamboats, the people living by the sale of wood and cultivating little or nothing.'

Lord Palmerston and his Colleagues.—On Wednesday Lord and Lady Palmerston were at Towcester, on the occasion of cutting the first sod of the East and West Junction Railway. Mr. Knightley, M.P., in returning thanks for 'the County Members,' said: 'The country seemed always to draw a distinction between the noble viscount at the head of the Government and the Government itself. When any measure of the Government was successful it was always put to the credit of the noble lord; when the Ministerial dish failed, and was not considered very palatable, the failure was always put down to the cookery of the subordinates. The noble lord and his Ministry seemed to be always engaged in the game of "chuck farthing," and it was invariably with him "heads I win, tails you lose." Whenever it came up "head," the noble viscount very properly had all the credit; when it came up "tails," the rest of the Ministers came in for the blame. He did not mean to say that the noble viscount was guilty of unfair play, but that the people, it was evident, were determined to give him all the halfpence, and the rest of the Ministry all the kicks.'

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Paris: August 2.

The controversy commenced between the *Pays* and the *Opinion Nationale* relative to the American question, and of which I have already spoken in my first letter, has not yet terminated. The *Opinion Nationale*, resuming the question under another form, with the view, probably, of overthrowing its opponent, undertakes to show, by the quotation of several luminous proverbs, such as, 'Every man's house is his castle,' &c., that a mediation in favour of the Confederates would be contrary to all the principles of public right, as also to the historical and liberal traditions of France. The Southerners, says this journal, are rebels, enslavers, and pirates; they are in rebellion against Lincoln, who has never exercised an hour's authority over the Southern States; against the Congress, where they are not represented; and against universal suffrage, which opposed the election of Mr. Lincoln. It is therefore necessary that the South should be conquered, crushed, annihilated; and since 'every man's house is his castle,' it is just that the Confederates should surrender their country to the Federals.

All this very sensible reasoning seems to be based on the gratuitous supposition previously put forth by the *Europe*, of Frankfort, that the journey of the King of the Belgians to Vichy had for its object the proposition of a project of Anglo-French mediation between the Federal and Confederate States. King Leopold, according to the Frankfort journal, was to be chosen as arbiter, and in case of the mediation being rejected by the Cabinet of Washington, the Southern States were to be immediately recognised. The *Opinion* added to these *exact* statements another statement not less *exact*, namely, that Mr. Slidell had set out for Vichy, and that his journey to that place was connected with the mediatorial projects just mentioned.

The *Pays*, after remarking that the statement on which the *Opinion* had based its declamations was false, that Mr. Slidell had not left Paris, and that he had no intention of doing so, makes the following reply to the Yankee organ:—

> The *Opinion Nationale* is fearful that England and France will concert together to offer a mediation to the Americans. What a scandal! cries the humanitarian journal. A war in which two millions of lives have not yet been sacrificed, and which, during four years, has consigned six millions of European artisans to misery! Truly, the solution of this conflict is not to be desired. It is to be wished that it may continue for the honour of philanthropy.
>
> But then it may happen that Mr. Lincoln will reject the counsels of France and England. He is of a somewhat obstinate disposition, this Mr. Lincoln. Would the European Powers then decide to recognise the Southern Confederation? Oh, abomination!
>
> After this follow the habitual epithets, deep-sounding words following hollow-sounding arguments—'enslavers!' 'rebels!'
>
> Mr Lincoln can have but one claim for entering Richmond, that which the Russians, of whom he is the faithful ally and friend, had in 1814 and 1815 for entering Paris. This is probably the sole claim to which the *Opinion Nationale* is disposed to yield.

As it happens in all discussions, however, when good reasons can be no longer given, insults are given instead, and this is what the *Opinion* has done; but this time it has found its match. The Yankee journal had stated that it would no longer reply to the contradictions of the *Pays*, and had, for some unknown reason, introduced Mr. Slidell's name in the debate. The *Pays* makes the following sharp rejoinder:—

> The *Opinion*, which, as it seems, has exhausted its sophisms and insults, informs us that for the future it will cease to reply to us. This silence, to which it is reduced, will not prevent us from interrogating it, will not prevent us from still asking it, from asking it daily, what it thinks of Mr. Lincoln having given up the Poles to Russia, from reminding it that it has falsified the text of the Confederate manifesto, and from again telling it that it has dressed up a vast and grave affair solely upon the fable of a journey made by Mr. Slidell to Vichy—a fable as indelicate as it is false.
>
> Its silence will not liberate it from our questions; it must endure the punishment attending the part which it has assigned to itself and which it plays. We will pursue it with truth in our hands; and, whether it replies or keeps silence, which is indifferent to us, we shall interpose in those false assertions which it is now spreading amongst the public, and in those anti-liberal illusions by which it abuses its over-credulous readers.
>
> One word more before concluding. Let the *Opinion* perfectly understand that we are scrupulous in matters of information, that our information is derived from trustworthy and pure sources, and that we judge of circumstances by our own free convictions; let it, therefore, cease to implicate, in its controversy with ourselves, proper names which have no right whatever to be thus exhibited.
>
> We have nothing to ask, and we ask nothing, of the honourable Mr. Slidell; we do not even know him, and never has an editor of the *Pays* placed his foot in the residence of the Confederate Legation.
>
> Is the *Opinion Nationale* quite certain that it has not its large and its small entrances to the residence of the Federal Legation?

This last point has so astounded the *Opinion* that it has become speechless. The article in the *Pays* has remained unanswered; this, however, has not prevented that journal from resuming the subject to-day, and again proposing to the *Opinion* the questions to which it has not replied.

In another article, the *Pays* makes some observations worthy of notice, respecting the blockade of the Southern ports. Taking as its starting-point the fact that 3,814 bales of cotton have recently been brought to Liverpool from the South, the *Pays* states that it is not to the blockade that the diminution in the supply of cotton is to be attributed, but to the fact that the Confederates, ceding their interests to the necessities of the war, have neglected the cultivation of cotton for that of cereals and forage, which are indispensable to their armies.

'It is there,' concludes the *Pays*, 'and not in the efficacy of the blockade, that we must look in order to understand the reason for the diminution in American supplies. King Cotton is dethroned. The Southern States had a valuable monopoly; they have sacrificed themselves, without hesitation, to the defence of the soil. Before becoming rich, they have wished to become free.'

The adventurous exploits of the *Alabama*, which have been with you the subject of many important publications, have also elicited the attention of a French writer of great authority in these matters. M. le Baron de Bazincourt, the official historiographer of the wars of the second empire, the author of those special works on the Crimean, Italian, and Chinese campaigns which are so universally read, has given in *La France* a substantial and dramatic summary of this formidable vessel. M. de Bazincourt commences the history of the *Alabama* from the time when she left the dockyard of Messrs. Laird, and follows her through all the startling and curious adventures of her intrepid cruises to the very moment when, having lived gloriously, she dies gloriously in an unequal combat with a Federal vessel effectually equipped for the occasion in chain-armour. He gives an animated account of the exploits of those resolute and daring men who never bargained with danger, whose self-denial was complete, who braved both storm and combat with a smile, who, at the voice of their captain, rushed to the boarding without a thought of death—of those men, in a word, who had sacrificed their lives to the grand cause they were serving, who are called *pirates* by the Federals, but whom the Baron de Bazincourt calls *heroes*.

The historian says, in conclusion:—

> The *Alabama* is now no more. Riddled by hostile cannon-balls, she has found beneath the waves a tomb of which she was worthy. But her memory will not die; and this mysterious vessel, playing every character, hoisting every flag, passing as a fugitive shadow through the midst of her enemies, or darting with a terrible haste to the boarding, will become the legendary vessel of the American war. Like the *Phantom Ship*, she will have her historian, and for a long time hence in America, at eventide, will be related the bold feats and fantastic adventures of the celebrated cruiser, the *Alabama*.

The *Siècle*, commenting on the news received from the North, dated the 16th, transmitted by the Special Correspondent of the *Times*, accuses the city journal of showing itself still more and more partial to the South, and of not knowing what it states relative to American affairs. It appears to me unnecessary to reproduce in this letter the arguments of the *Siècle*; but the idea of a French journal, whose editors probably do not understand a word of English, wishing to give a lesson on American affairs to the *Times*—the most vast and most complete vehicle of information in existence, which is printed in the language spoken by the Americans, and whose correspondent, a man of great notoriety, living at New York, and himself a witness of those things of which he writes—this idea, I say, is truly laughable.

The same number of the *Siècle* called attention to the misfortunes of a young mulatto of New Orleans, forsaken by his parents at Paris, and arrested as a vagabond. The court before which this mulatto was brought, in order to certify itself that he had no means of existence, that his quality of a Southern mulatto prevented his obtaining papers from the United States Consul, had postponed the case for a week, in the hope that some one would come forward to the help of this victim of the American war. This help was not long wanting. Several South Americans came to the court and left contributions for the young mulatto. If I am rightly informed, the bankers charged with the American loan, Messrs. Emile Erlanger and Co., have done still more; they have taken this unfortunate from Mazas, and have supplied all his wants. The *Siècle*, and all who imagine that the Southerners are negro-eaters, are astonished that they should have thus rescued the poor mulatto from his unfortunate position.

The *Constitutionnel* has published, under the signature of *M. Marie-Martin*, an excellent article on the invasion of the North by the Confederates. M. Martin thus enumerates the moral consequences of this invasion:—'It has spread a complete panic in the Northern States. It has disabused the firmest partisans of the war, who imagined the South to be at bay and all its forces paralysed by Grant at Petersburg and Richmond, and it has suddenly placed the Federal capital in greater danger than the Confederate.'

M. Martin then acknowledges with surprise the want of alacrity on the part of the military in going to the assistance of Washington; he asks whence this could have arisen, and sees in it a sign of real lassitude on the part of the North.

M. Dréolle, in the *Patrie*, has resumed the question of American mediation. Approving of the words used by Lord Palmerston in his reply to Mr. Lindsay, he says, 'it is evident that dispositions of a less egoistic character now manifest themselves in British statesmen, and that the military resistance of the South, its organisation and its government, its resources and its credit, all, in fact, begin to impress the public mind in England, and to demand a change in the attitude hitherto taken by the Queen's ministers.'

Then, comparing the moderate tone of the language used by the noble lord and that of the English journals, which advocate, with the *Patrie*, an intervention in America, with the imprecations of the Yankee preachers, he stigmatises, in terms full of indignation, the late sermon of Brownlow, and asks if it is thus that people at New York imagine they are serving the cause of civilisation and humanity.

In the *Patrie* of yesterday, M. Aucaigne has called attention to the reports relative to the negotiations of peace to be opened in America between men of eminence of the North and of the South, and remarks that Mr. Greeley, one of the intended negotiators, was formerly a partisan of the doctrine of secession. The *Moniteur* has also noticed the same reports, to which the French press does not seem to attach great importance.

The *Globe*, a new journal, conducted by M. Hyppolite Castille, has devoted to the American question, in its Sunday number, a long and serious article, in which it demonstrates the daily increasing indifference of the Northern population, and strongly appreciates the policy adopted by Mr. Lincoln.

CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Manchester: August 3, 1864.

So far as Lancashire and the adjoining counties are concerned, Lord Edward Howard spoke wondrously 'winged words' in the House of Commons on Thursday last, when he called the attention of Parliament to the great scandal known as 'emigration' to the United States. His Lordship's speech has found a prominent place in every respectable newspaper in these districts, while Unionist prints of the *Rochdale Observer* type have not dared to refer to it in terms other than those of reluctant praise. And it is gratifying to add, that probably the newspaper press will not have been without a powerful assistant in the good work of giving the utmost possible publicity to the noble Lord's timely and philanthropic warning. The Committee of the Southern Independence Association is considering the propriety of reproducing the speech in a more permanent form, with a view to issue copies of it, at intervals, by many thousands at a time, and with the certainty that they shall reach the households of the poor in every town and hamlet within the influence of that Institution. If, as no doubt will be the case, the Committee decides this question in the affirmative, Lord Edward Howard's speech will unquestionably have the richly-deserved benefit of a far wider, more sustained, and every way *thorough* publicity, than even the House of Commons, with all its manifest kindliness of feeling to the noble Lord, could have desired or anticipated for it.

It is to be hoped the Committee, with that discriminating zeal which has generally marked its operations, will be the more liberal of its attentions wherever there would appear to be grounds for suspecting the more serious need of them. Although there are scarcely half a dozen Unionist newspapers in the whole of the manufacturing districts, it is a deplorable fact that in their several localities they have achieved an amount of mischief out of all proportion to their number or their character. Those few journals have done their best (and happily, we may now say, their worst) to recruit the Northern armies by creating or increasing in our midst the very evil we all of us now seek to cure. Their columns were constantly open to any unscrupulous writer in Lancashire or New York, who, with or without a guilty complicity on the part of the journalists themselves, urged our able-bodied poor to seek a market for their labour in the United States. These letters, it is true, were noticeable for capricious orthography and grammar rather than for more certain symptoms of genuineness and truth. But they served their turn, nevertheless. Facts and figures were grossly misstated, wages were quoted at fictitious rates, and every low literary artifice of suggestion and suppression was resorted to, whereby our duped labourers might be lured to leave their homes and families and fight for Mr. Bright's idol. That the writers of these letters succeeded only too well in their infamous designs is testified by the sad array of facts set forth in Lord Edward Howard's speech, and by the obligation which all respectable newspapers and literary and political societies feel they ought to discharge by publishing and enforcing the warning of the noble Lord to the utmost of their ability.

The *Manchester Guardian*, in accepting its proportion of duty in this matter, has the following:—

> 'The obligation is especially incumbent on those who have facilities for addressing those sections of the population which are chiefly exposed by their necessities and temptations to the nefarious acts which entail such disappointment and misery on their victims. Our columns show frequently what bitter complaints come back from unfortunate men who have been decoyed from this neighbourhood. It was on the steps of the Manchester Exchange that the contract in one of the worst cases adduced by Lord Edward Howard was struck. We cannot hesitate to answer the appeal which these facts make upon ourselves. Let it be known, then, that able-bodied men who venture to cross the Atlantic just now in search of employment go to a land where all regard for law, right, and human freedom is temporarily suspended. It matters little whether they are tempted to quit their native country by a vague belief that work is abundant and wages high in America, or whether they form a contract before their departure for the performance of specified services at a certain rate of remuneration. They may not even intend to proceed to the United States at all, as in the case of the Manchester men above alluded to, who bargained to go to Canada, and were only told after the steamer sailed that New York was to be taken on the way. The probable fate of the immigrant as soon as he reaches American territory is the same. . . . It is, of course, impossible to establish any direct connection between these disgraceful outrages and the Government of Washington. It would argue a very improbable degree of indiscretion and clumsiness on the part of Mr. Stanton if he could be proved to have afforded any encouragement to the mercenary scoundrels who labour so assiduously in his service at New York. It is to be remarked, however, that while the Government are as profuse as can be desired in expressions of disapproval of these practices, they refuse to take the only course by which the nefarious system is likely to be impeded.'

The *Manchester Examiner*, the great Unionist organ in these districts, also does its duty by Lord Edward Howard's speech, but 'with a difference.' The officials at New York and Washington, according to that journal, are as sincere as we ourselves in sympathising with our unfortunate emigrants, and no less indignant than ourselves at the cajolery that has landed them in the United States. Referring to one of the most notorious cases of wholesale kidnapping, the *Examiner* not only acquits the United States Government even of connivance at the transaction, but adds, 'The speculators were publicly denounced, and a subscription was raised for the benefit of the victims. This is enough to show that the people of America have no sympathy with such doings. In many cases the police have not been free from blame, for it is pretty clear that they have connived at the tricks of the recruiting agents, but there can be no doubt that the Government has done, and is still doing, its best to check a scandal which it is impossible wholly to prevent.'

All who have been interesting themselves down here in advocating the Confederate cause have read with much amusement the curiously infelicitous statement of the hon. member for Leicester (Mr. P. Taylor), that, in his opinion, so far as public meetings were a guide, the majority of the people still sided with the North. Mr. Taylor is perhaps none the worse representative of Leicester for not being a Leicestershire man, but he was scarcely aware that a Leicestershire man was sitting opposite who could so happily and authoritatively refute him. But Lord John Manners, in setting the hon. gentleman right, might have gone much farther than by reminding him that one of the most enthusiastic Confederate demonstrations that ever took place occurred in the very city so funnily misrepresented by Mr. P. Taylor. He might have added that the bankers, merchants, magistrates, and others of the gentry, including some of the most influential of Mr. Taylor's constituents, took a leading part in the proceedings; and that resolutions were passed, and signed by the chairman, and forwarded to Parliament, affirming that the Confederacy had achieved its independence; and, in the opinion of the citizens of Leicester, Her Majesty's Government ought to recognise the fact.

A NORTHERN ACCOUNT OF THE LATE CONFEDERATE EXPEDITION.

(From the *Philadelphia Age*.)

The Confederate expedition into Maryland is over, and its history can now be written. The number of men engaged was about 15,000—no more. They were divided into two bodies. They came up the Shenandoah Valley, and one body attacked Martinsburg, whilst the other besieged Harper's Ferry. Martinsburg was captured, and stores amounting to three millions of dollars carried off. The column then crossed the Potomac at Williamsport, and by skilful manœuvring forced Sigel upon Maryland Heights. The Confederate column at Harper's Ferry besieged Sigel for four days, whilst the other column overran Western Maryland as far as the Monocacy. Hagerstown was captured and a contribution levied. Thousands from the Cumberland Valley in Pennsylvania, and many people in York and Adams counties, left their homes. The harvest was ungathered and spoiling. The authorities at Washington became frightened and sent to Grant for help. He detached Ricketts with a division of troops, who arrived in Baltimore, and were sent to the Monocacy to aid General Wallace. The arrival of Ricketts and Wallace changed the Confederate plans somewhat. Their troops abandoned Hagerstown and marched against Frederick. The siege of Maryland Heights was raised, and its assailants, marching down the south bank of the Potomac, sent a flanking party across the river at Point of Rocks. It marched up the Monocacy. Wallace was surprised and defeated. He lost six cannon and many prisoners. He ordered a hasty retreat towards Baltimore. The Administration became more frightened, and the North was in consternation. Sigel was relieved from command, and his troops, without a leader, could do nothing. The Confederates captured Frederick, and followed Wallace's retreat. From Martinsburg eastward they tore up the Baltimore and Ohio railroad. Wallace withdrew to Ellicott's Mills, but the Confederates, after tearing up the railroad, sent their main body south of it, and detached a cavalry force towards the Northern Central Railroad. Washington appeared to be in imminent peril, and the Administration hurried forward reinforcements. The 19th Army Corps, under General Reynolds, which had been sent for

is a reinforcement for Grant, was entering the mouth of the Chesapeake. It was at once ordered to Washington. One corps of Grant's army—the 6th, under Wright—was detached from the lines before Petersburg and sent to Washington. General Wallace, in Baltimore, was superseded by General Ord. The Confederate cavalry expedition overran all Eastern Maryland. Twenty-five miles of the Northern Central Railroad were destroyed, and the Philadelphia Railroad was severely injured. The cavalry, loaded with plunder, came within six miles of Baltimore, and returned to the Confederate main body. The main body was then busily engaged in coming to the south bank of the Potomac at and near Edwards Ferry. A strong force had been sent towards Washington to guard against surprise. Part of it halted in front of Fort Stevens, on Seventh Street. Part marched towards Bladensburg and cut the telegraph to Baltimore, but did not injure the railroad. The Confederate outposts made a great show, and frightened the people in Washington, but they made no attacks. There was heavy skirmishing, in which the Federal loss was about three hundred. Meantime, the Confederate main body was taking an immense amount of plunder to the south side of the Potomac. On Tuesday morning it got safely over. The outposts were called in. Bladensburg and Washington suddenly found themselves without an enemy. The Confederate rear crossed to the south bank of the Potomac and the expedition was over. It cost the North an immense sum, and caused one of the greatest panics ever witnessed. By the diversion of forty thousand men from General Grant, it may have saved Petersburg.

VELVET LAWN.*

We shall doubtless incur the pity and contempt of superfine readers by frankly avowing that we like a sensational novel. To be dull, or at least to seem dull, is necessary for any one who desires to be received into society that claims to be genteel. If a clergyman preaches extemporary sermons or reads sermons with sufficient elocutionary power to check the coughing of his congregation, he may have a full church, but in genteel circles he will be looked upon as a very inferior and vulgar sort of person. A genteel clergyman sends his congregation to sleep. In the House of Commons, if a young member ventures to express any sentiment of patriotism that assumes national honour to be a thing worth fighting for and sacrificing for—if he expresses a conviction that national might ought to be ready to defend right—he is laughed at as visionary, the members retire to dine or smoke, and the reporters take a rest whilst he is speaking. If a contributor, fresh from the University, prepares an article that contains some generous sentiments, he is admonished by the editor that that kind of thing will not go down with the public. In short, nothing is so vulgar as to be in any way sensational. Dramatic critics bemoan the decay of taste because people flock to see such a drama as the 'Colleen Bawn,' though we think it must be admitted, prejudice apart, that that drama is quite as good as the play of 'The Miller and his Men' which delighted our forefathers. And so it is with novels. If an author does not wish to be cut by the *élite* of Rotten Row, he must sedulously observe the dignity of dulness. He must eschew anything like an exciting plot. He must be careful that his work is not more impressive than the conversation with which a genteel couple while away the dreary time they are walking through, not dancing, a quadrille. It is true that these dull novels do not sell so well as sensational novels. Superfine gentility is not popular. Novels are read for amusement, and there is no amusement in wading through a three-volume sermon. We venture to say that 'Velvet Lawn' will, in spite of its being essentially a sensation novel, be read with interest even by those who are the professed worshippers of dulness.

The plot of 'Velvet Lawn' is exceedingly well conceived, and the interest never flags. Moreover, the events are so well linked together, that if any one impatient to know the fate of the heroine should skip from the first to the last chapters, it would be necessary to a proper understanding of the *dénouement* to turn back and read the tale through from the beginning. We do not intend to give a *résumé* of the plot, for that would neither be fair to author nor reader. We may, however, remark that whilst Lilian, the heroine, passes through a terrible ordeal, virtue is at last triumphant. Though the story turns upon a horrible murder, the deed of blood is not paraded needlessly, and the circumstantial evidence against the heroine seems formidable even to the reader who feels assured of her innocence. We ought also to observe that 'Velvet Lawn' does not entirely depend upon its startling incidents, and that the characters are very well defined, and are true to life. It would, of course, be easy to pick out some faults, for such a work can hardly escape blemishes; but we content ourselves with recommending 'Velvet Lawn' as a very good story very well told, and we are confident that those who read it on our recommendation will not be disappointed.

* *Velvet Lawn.* A Novel. By Charles Felix, Author of the 'Notting Hill Mystery.' In 3 vols. London: Saunders, Otley, & Co.

Federal Outrages.—The Richmond Correspondent of the *Times*, writing on July 5, says: 'In burning words of eloquent censure Mr. Motley has held up to our loathing the horrible cruelty of Alva and the bigoted tyranny of his master. Yet Mr. Motley is the complacent and contented servant of a Republic which, in the name of liberty, encourages enormities as repugnant to the civilised warfare of the 19th century as were Philip II.'s outrages, in the name of religion, to the moral sense of the 16th. I do not mean that throats are cut indiscriminately as they were by Alva, although many a dark tale of cupidity and assassination has issued from the forests and by-ways of Virginia. I could, were it not as distasteful to me to write as it is to your readers to learn such gloomy horrors, accumulate evidence substantiating the occurrence of many such murders of civilians in cold blood beyond refutation. Nor, again, do I assert that women are stripped and forced to run races in the presence of a licentious soldiery, as in the days of the brutal Duke of Cumberland. But I *do* mean to assert—and I challenge contradiction of this statement—that outrages such as my pen must seek a periphrasis to describe, and of which white women are the object, have repeatedly occurred; that in a special degree the country called the northern neck of Virginia (lying between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers) has witnessed them again and again; that the African savage, stimulated by those white agents who give effect to Mr. Sumner's and Mrs. Beecher Stowe's theories, is the perpetrator of them, that I am in a position to mention not less than ten horrors which, during the last three months, have occurred in the county of Westmoreland alone and which are unsurpassed in atrocity by the most loathsome records of modern or ancient warfare.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

Wednesday Evening.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

There has been rather [illegible] in the money market during the past week. The demand both at the Bank and in the open market is just now [illegible] the usual terms [illegible] by the brokers are from 7 to 7½ per cent. It is not expected, however, that the Bank rate will at present be further advanced. Nevertheless, it appears to be generally admitted that the harvest will be bad and the payments for cotton for Egypt heavy, and these, together with the [illegible] of the Indian exchanges, may at no distant period [illegible] influence the value of money. There have been rumours of the patching up of a peace in America, but they are [illegible]. If any sudden termination of the war [illegible] place, there would be a strong demand for accommodation in [illegible] of the reopening of trade. The Joint-Stock Banks are charging 7 per cent. for their advances, [illegible] the terms for short loans rule from 5½ to 6 per cent. after having been 7 to 8 per cent.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The market for bullion and specie has for the last week been very inanimate. The late rise in the value of money has for a time entirely stopped the withdrawals of gold from the Bank, but at the same time all the arrivals are immediately purchased for transhipment, so that nothing is sent into the establishment. There is not much gold expected to arrive at present; consequently the movements must continue restricted. The only arrivals this week 341,000*l.*, by the *Atrato*, from the West Indies, and 5,000*l.* from America. The specie to be taken out by the *Poonah* for the East is only 37,189*l.*, of which 4,500*l.* is in gold, and 32,650*l.*, in silver, which will be appropriated as follows—viz., 60*l.*, gold, and 100*l.*, silver, to Alexandria; 3,000*l.* to Galle, 1,479*l.*, gold and 20,000*l.*, silver, to Madras, 2,650*l.*, silver, to Penang, 9,250*l.*, silver, to Yokohama, and 650*l.*, silver, to Foo-chow-foo. The silver market has been rather more active, the fine bar brought by the West India packet, which was only a small quantity, has been sold at 61⅝*d.* per oz. Some other large sales have also been effected, at as nearly as possible the same quotation. There have been no transactions of consequence in Mexican dollars, and the price is nominally as before.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The English Stock Market has not been at all active during the week, the dealers showing but little disposition to do business. Nothing, however, of importance has occurred to cause depression in prices, but still the tendency is towards a further depression. Consols closed this evening at 89¾ to 89⅞ for money, and 89⅞ to 90 for the account, which is a decline, as compared with this day week, of about ½ per cent. Exchequer Bills have become very heavy, the present price for both the March and June issues being 20*s.* to 10*s.* dis. There has been more animation exhibited in the Foreign Stock Market, and prices generally have improved. To-day the great feature in this department has been some extensive operations, accompanied by a considerable rise, in Spanish stocks, in consequence of the rumour of a new loan for 12,000,000*l.* being about to be brought out forthwith. The rise in the Passives has been 2½ per cent., and in the Certificates of 1⅞ per cent. Mexican have also improved ½ per cent., and Turkish to about the same extent. The closing quotations this evening were, Greek at 23⅞ to 24⅛; Mexican, 29¼ to 29⅝; Spanish Passives, 30⅝ to 30⅞; ditto Certificates, 11¼ to 11½; Turkish Six per Cents. of 1854, 90 to 91; and those of 1862, 69¾ to 70¼.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market is not active, and prices are slightly lower. On rumour of the capture of Atlanta, coupled with realisation of profits by 'bulls,' we close 75 to 76.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

Business in American Government and Railway Securities appears for the time to be almost entirely neglected. The unsettled state of affairs across the Atlantic, and the unfavourable nature of the news with regard to the progress of the war on the part of the Federals, offering no inducement either to speculate or purchase for investments. Notwithstanding the absence of business, however, prices are very fairly supported. The only transactions recorded during the week have been in Virginia State 6 per Cent. Stock, at 30; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, Pennsylvania Section, at 74¼ and 74; Illinois Central, $100 shares, $90 paid, 45, 44½, 43½, 42¾, 42¼, and 43 dis.; and ditto ditto, all paid, 54, 51¾, 51, 53, and 53½.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

There has been a moderate business transacted in British Railway Shares, and in the great majority of cases prices have advanced, but this has been mainly caused by the rather favourable dividends announced by some of the leading lines to be declared at the approaching half-yearly meetings. The advance in North-Eastern has been 3 per cent., on the Berwick, Leeds, and York lines respectively. There has also been an improvement of 2 per cent. in Lancashire and Yorkshire and Vale of Neath; of 1¼ per cent. in London and North-Western; of 1 per cent. in Blackwall, London and Brighton, Midland; ditto Birmingham and Derby, North British and West Cornwall; and of ½ per cent. in Caledonian, Great Western, London and South-Western, and Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee. On the other hand, there has been a decline of 1½ per cent. in Great Northern. There has not been so much animation in the market for Foreign Railway Shares, but prices remain steady. Shares in British Possessions have been slightly more inquired after; prices, however, show but little variation.

TENDERS FOR BILLS ON INDIA.

The biddings for 30,00,000 rupees in bills on India, took place to-day at the Bank of England. The proportions allotted were, to Calcutta, 17,74,000 rupees; to Bombay, 12,00,000 rupees; and to Madras, 26,000 rupees. The minimum price was as before, 1*s.* 11½*d.* per rupee on Calcutta and Madras, and 1*s.* 11¾*d.* on Bombay. The applications within the limits amounted to 238 lacs. Tenders on Calcutta and Madras at 1*s.* 11⅞*d.*, will receive about 23 per cent.; on Bombay at 2*s.* 0½*d.*, about 85 per cent. These were the highest prices tendered.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSION.

The suspension has been announced of Messrs. Corpi, Braggiotti & Co., of Austin Friars, engaged in the Greek trade. The liabilities, it is believed, will not exceed 20,000*l.* The accounts are being prepared by Messrs. Hart Brothers, & Co., preparatory to a general meeting of the creditors.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES, ETC.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Bank of Wales the balance sheet presented showed that the gross profit for the three months, including [illegible] brought forward from the last account, was [illegible], and that after deducting salaries, &c., there remained a balance of [illegible], out of which it was recommended that a dividend should be declared at the rate of [illegible] per cent. per annum free of income tax, and that a balance of [illegible] should be carried forward to the current account. The report was adopted.—At the annual meeting of the London, Birmingham, and South Staffordshire Bank a dividend was declared at the rate of [illegible] per cent. per annum. [illegible] Hotel Company at their half-yearly meeting declared a dividend at the rate of [illegible] per cent. per annum.—The [illegible] Trust Company at their usual meeting have declared a dividend at the rate of [illegible] per cent. per annum.—The Commercial Bank Corporation held their annual ordinary meeting to-day, when it appeared that the net profit in June [illegible] was [illegible], and out of this sum the directors proposed a dividend of [illegible] on each original share, being at the rate of twelve per cent. per annum on the capital so [illegible]. They also recommended that [illegible] should be placed towards the reduction of preliminary expenses and [illegible] towards the formation of a reserve fund, leaving a balance to be carried forward of [illegible]. The report was unanimously adopted.—At the half-yearly meeting to-day of the City of London Brewery Company the report was adopted and an interim dividend of [illegible] per cent. for the half-year was declared.—The [illegible] Warehouse Company (late [illegible] and Co.) have held their first meeting to-day, when a dividend of [illegible] per share was declared.—The half-yearly meeting of the [illegible] and International Telegraph Company has also been held to-day, when it was shown that the gross revenue of the company for the half-year amounted to [illegible], and was in excess of that for the corresponding period of [illegible] by the sum of [illegible], and the net revenue after meeting all necessary provisions, was [illegible], out of which the directors recommended a dividend of [illegible] per cent. for the half-year. That appropriation would absorb [illegible], and leave a balance of [illegible] to be carried to the reserve fund, which would then stand at [illegible]. The report was unanimously agreed to.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

The prospectus has been issued of the Manchester Shipping Offices and Packing Company, with a capital of [illegible], in 10,000 shares of 10*l.* each. The object of the undertaking is the erection of shipping offices and warehouses of superior character for the rapid and prompt despatch of goods to foreign markets. A very eligible and extensive site for the erection of the buildings has been secured in the immediate neighbourhood of the Manchester Royal Exchange and Post Office, and within an easy distance of the goods stations of the London and North-Western and Lancashire and Yorkshire Railways. Arrangements have also been made for the purchase of the business of Mr. J. Y. Wilkinson, packer, who will also give his services to the Company.—The Cornish Tin Mining Company are seeking to raise a capital of 36,000*l.* in 12,000 shares of 3*l.* each, for the purpose of working a property in the St. Austell district, for which the official reports of engineers and others are regarded as very favourable.—The London Engineering and Iron Ship Building Company is another undertaking introduced by the Financial Corporation. The amount to be raised is [illegible] in shares of 50*l.* each. The object of the undertaking is the purchase of and carrying on the works of Messrs. Westwood, Baillie, & Co., shipbuilders and engineers, of London Yard, Millwall. The provisional agreement is to purchase the premises, plant, &c., partly in cash and partly in shares, but no dividend is to be paid on the latter till the shareholders shall have received a minimum dividend of 8 per cent. per annum. Both Mr. Westwood and Mr. Baillie join the board, and, if desired, will act as managers for some years at a moderate salary and commission, but for the first year their services will be gratuitous.—The prospectus of the London and General Water Purifying Company has been issued. The capital is to be 100,000*l.*, in 10,000 shares of 10*l.* each. The undertaking is started for the purpose of purchasing of Mr. F. H. [illegible] the patent of his filter and softening apparatus for purifying water direct from the cistern, to furnish houses in and about London and other populous places with the same on hire for a fixed rental, and to manufacture them or to grant licenses for their manufacture and sale.—The well-known and old-established Freemasons' Tavern, in Great Queen Street, is about to come into the hands of a Joint-Stock Company, for which it is proposed to raise a capital of 65,000*l.* in shares of 10*l.* each. The property and its connection with the great Masonic body is well known, but improvements are to be carried out which will make the establishment more available for general business purposes than it has hitherto been. The present lessee will take an active part in the management, and will retain a considerable interest in the company.—The New Laxey Mining Company is another new undertaking. The capital required, however, is small, only 18,000*l.*, in shares of 3*l.* each, and the object is to purchase and work the North Laxey Mine in the Isle of Man. The price to be paid for the property is 6,550*l.*, of which 5,900*l.* will be in shares with 2*l.* paid.—The Imperial Mercantile Credit Association and the Crédit Mobilier, invite subscriptions for the Merchant Shipping Company. The capital asked for is 1,000,000*l.*, in 20,000 shares of 50*l.* each; but the first issue is to be restricted to 10,000 shares. The object is to purchase the business founded by the late Mr. S. F. Somes and his brother, and continued by Messrs. Somes Brothers, the present vendors. These gentlemen take an interest of 100,000*l.* in the undertaking, and will also join the board of directors. The fleet consists of eighteen vessels, the whole of which are in active employment in the East India, China, and Australian trades. There are, in addition, large and commodious graving docks on the Thames at Poplar, with excellent working plant on the spot. The arrangements for the purchase are said to be exceedingly encouraging, and a moderate price has been fixed for the good-will, which will include all the accruing freights on the ships, work in the yard, &c. All the old officials will remain in the employ of the Company, so that that the business is not likely to suffer any delay whatever. The prospectus has likewise been issued of the Natal Investment Company with a capital of 500,000*l.*, in shares of 50*l.* each, of which one-half will be issued in the first instance. The objects of the undertaking are precisely the same as most of the existing trust and land companies.—The prospectus has been issued this evening of the Peninsular, West Indian, and Southern Bank (Limited), with a proposed capital of 2,000,000*l.*, in 20,000 shares of 100*l.* each, with power to increase. The trade between this country and the Northern States, and parts of South America, has, the directors state, been amply provided for, but there remains the trade of the West Indies still requiring accommodation, and the enormous trade of the Southern States is totally without provision. It is to supply this long-felt want that the present institution has been established, and it is proposed, therefore, to commence banking business immediately at St. Thomas, Ber-

muda, Nassau, and Liverpool, in which places a very large and profitable business may be effected, and in the articles of association power is given to open branches or agencies at Panama, Granada, Venezuela, Guayana, &c., should such appear to the directors to be desirable.—Another prospectus issued this evening is that of the Connecting Ship Owners (Limited), with a capital of 1,000,000*l*. in 50,000 shares of 20*l*. each. The Company is formed for the purpose of working steamships constructed on the connecting system patented by Mr. Thomas M'Sweney, and an exclusive license to use which for carriage of freight on the rivers Thames and Seine has been granted to the Company by special agreement.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

A want of animation still prevails in the markets for nearly every description of produce, the uncertainty that is felt in reference to the future course of monetary affairs inducing traders generally to conduct their operations upon the most cautious policy. Buyers enter upon engagements only as induced by actual and pressing orders, and although importers as a rule avoid overburdening the markets with supplies, still instances occur at which lower prices are accepted, especially where the transactions are for immediate cash. Arrivals have again been of some extent, and have checked the diminution that was going on in stocks, which are in most instances ample for general requirements, although not in all cases equal to those of last year at this time. Meanwhile the deliveries from warehouse progress satisfactorily, and evidence a healthy state of trade generally. The grain markets have been affected by the early announcement of the harvest; and although estimates of the ultimate crop are not increased, prices of both English and foreign wheats have receded 1*s*. to 2*s*. per quarter. The provision trades are quiet, but with steady prices for most articles. American cheese is relatively in good demand at 54*s*. to 56*s*., but inferior grades are neglected. Bacon of prime mild cure is firmly held; barrel middles are, however, a slow sale. American hams are difficult to quit. For petroleum the enquiry is less active and prices easier, 2*s*. 2*d*. per gallon having been accepted for American refined on the spot, and 2*s*. 3*d*. for the last three months' delivery. For crude the price remains at 19*l*. per tun. Linseed oil has receded to 37*s*. 6*d*., sellers' production having been much increased by the advance in the value of cake, which is now quoted 10*l*. to 10*l*. 10*s*. for American barrels, and 9*l*. 5*s*. to 9*l*. 15*s*. for bags. Rape oil maintains its value; sperm continues extremely dull of sale, and 68*l*. is the highest quotation. Cocoa-nut oil is more in demand for export, but not at higher prices. Tallow is firm at the advance established last week, the scarcity of cattle feed being against the ultimate supply of home make. Dye stuffs generally are very firm, but for cochineal prices have gone irregularly, without altering previous quotations. Russian hemp is easier to buy, and Manilla unsaleable except at lower rates. In spices but little is passing. Sugar has further declined 6*d*. to 1*s*. per cwt., and the market is still without any indication of improvement. Coffee is also the turn cheaper. In other artices transactions are of very limited extent, and without any variation in price worth naming.

Liverpool, Wednesday, August 3.—Although there has been a fair average demand for cotton during the greater part of the week, the market has shown less animation than of late, and the general tendency of prices is downwards. The arrivals on the whole have been tolerably fair, and a general expectation is entertained that for some little time the supplies will be rather better. The sales this week have been 33,000 bales, of which 9,000 have been taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year so far, have been 1,659,830 bales; and to the same period in 1863, 1,232,660 bales. There have been imported this year 1,299,460 bales, against 817,510 bales last year. The trade have taken this year 1,023,596 bales, whilst in 1863 the number was 687,290 bales. The exports this year have been 326,341 bales, and in 1863 they were 264,872 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 290,102 bales, last year the number was 274,930 bales. The estimated stocks at the present time are 238, 201 bales, whilst in 1863 they were 256,420 bales. The latest quotations this afternoon were for American descriptions, 29¾*d*. to 31*d*.; Pernambuco, 30¾*d*. to 32½*d*.; Maceio, 30*d*. to 30½*d*.; Bahia, 29¾*d*. to 30¼*d*.; Egyptian, 29½*d*. to 36½*d*.; Smyrna, 22¾*d*. to 25¾*d*.; Surats, 15½*d*. to 27¾*d*.; Bengal, 16¾*d*. to 17½*d*.; Scinde, 17*d*. to 17¼*d*.; China, 18¼*d*. to 21*d*.; Japan, 22*d*. to 23*d*.; and Peruvian, 31½*d*. to 32*d*. The advices just to hand from Hong Kong announce that the exports of cotton from China for the month of May were 57,819, and for the season, from June 1, 1863, 668,629 bales.

The markets at Manchester have been remarkably quiet within the last few days, and scarcely anything was doing, in consequence of the rumours that negotiations were in progress in America for the re-establishment of peace; but the accounts by the last mail, however, have completely dissipated any such idea, and seem again inclined to proceed with business as usual, and the market for shipping yarns has in consequence again become rather buoyant, some considerable orders having been given out in yarns for Russia and for the better class of yarns at very full prices. There is now also a fair business doing for Germany, and extreme rates are being paid for all the better classes of yarns. A few sales, however, have been made of some of the commoner qualities at a slight decline. In home trade yarns there is very little doing, but prices nevertheless remain firm. The cloth market has been and still continues very quiet, but there has been, if anything, a little more doing within the last day or two; manufacturers, however, declined to reduce their pretensions, in consequence of the lowness of stocks, and the belief that a greater demand must speedily spring up. The general quotations of last week are unaltered.

Passports Required for the Federal States.—The Federal vice-consul at Liverpool has given publicity to the following circular, received by him from the Department of State of the United States:—'United States' Consulate, Tower Buildings South, Water Street, Liverpool, August 2, 1864.—Consuls are required to apprise all persons hereafter embarking at their respective ports, excepting emigrants who propose to take up their abode in the country, that they must provide themselves with passports, if foreigners, from the proper foreign authority; or, if citizens of the United States, from a minister; or, if there is no minister of the United States in the country, from a consul of the United States abroad, or, from this department, to be endorsed by the United States minister, or by the consul at the port of embarkation. Persons arriving at a port of the United States without such passport and endorsement will be liable to be subjected to examination concerning their characters and their purposes in coming to the United States. This regulation will go into effect in regard to persons arriving from a foreign port after a reasonable time shall have elapsed for it to become known at such port.'

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Ships Arrived.

At Liverpool.—July 28: The St. George, from Matamoras. The Regina, The Amelia, from St. John's. The Manila, The Sandringham, from Miramichi. The Mary Ann, The Enterprise, from Nassau. The Belle Surbur, from Matamoras. The Alma y Luisa, from Rio Plate. The William Graham, from Miramichi. The Mary Russell, from St. John's. The Jeddo, from New River, N. B. The Morocco (steamer), from Havre. The Cherub, from Antigua. The Fern, The Harkaway, from Bermuda. The Sea Pink, The Eurydice, from St. John's.—July 29: The Thomas Daniel, from Buenos Ayres. The Forester, from St. Thomas. The San Jose, from Cuba. The Ann Stainland from Jamaica.—July 30: The Antigua, from Jamaica.—July 31: The Wild Wave, from Bahia. The Robert Bruce, from Matamoras. The Avon, The Edith, from St John's. —August 1: The Braganza (steamer), from Lisbon. The Josephine, from Havana.—August 2: The Montezuma, from Matamoras. The Choice Fruit, from Bermuda.—The Ronald, from Pernambuco. The Alliance, The Thora, from Pernambuco. The Fernandez, from Bahia. The Zygia, from Nassau.—August 3: The Pearl, The Alma, from Nassau.

At Gravesend.—July 28: The St. Vitus, from Montevideo. The Neva, from Demerara. The Helen, from Trinidad. The Dido, from Porto Rico. The Joan Taylor, from St. Vincent. The Champion, from Barbadoes. The St. Bede, from Jamaica. The William Gillis, from Matanzas. The Grace and Jane, from Cuba. The Otilia, from Quebec. The Neptune (steamer), from Havre. The Express, from Demerara. The Orlebar, from St. Vincent. The Offspring, from Jamaica. The Bard of Avon, from Callao.—July 29: The Prince Rupert, from Jamaica. The Lisbao (steamer), The Tartar (steamer), from Lisbon. The Giulietta, from Buenos Ayres. The Midlothian, from Tobago. The Zeemeeuw, from Porto Rico. The Cordelia, from Cuba. The Cicerone, from Nassau.—July 30: The Audax, from Trinidad. The Mary Fry, from Quebec.—The Margaret, from Trinidad. The Malta, from Quebec.—August 1: The Bezaleel, from Nassau. The Morris, from Porto Rico.—August 2: The Equivalent, from Miramichi. The Active, from Quebec. The Moor of Venice, from Montevideo. The Nicanor, from Belize. The Margaret Kerr, from Trinidad. The Star, from Montevideo. The Jolly, from Jamaica. The City of Hamburgh (steamer), from Havre. The Candidate, from Barbadoes. The Elite, from Nassau.—August 3: The Sophia, from Montevideo. The Prinz Hendrick, from Wallace, N. S.

At Falmouth.—July 28: The Alice, from Bahia. The Jabez, from Porto Rico. The Ava, from Havana. The J. Alers, from Cuba. The Suomi, from Havana. The Haabet, The Grefue Berg, from Havana.—July 29: The Firm, The Rio Grande, from Rio Grande. The Adonis, from Pernambuco. The Brazilina, The John Spear, from Havana.—July 30: The Elizabeth Jacomina, from Montevideo. The Fleur de Marie, from Rio Grande.—August 1: The Jane Lowden, from Quebec. The Adina, from Havana.—August 2: The Lady Newburgh, from Rio Grande. The Emilia, from Havre.

At Shields.—July 28: The Peri, The Eclipse, from Havre.—July 29: The Reaper, The Morning Star, from Havana.—August 2: The Blanche (steamer), from Havre.

At Sunderland.—July 28: The Clio, from Demerara. The Stolpemunde, from Havre.

Off Southwold.—July 28: The John Martin, from Demerara.

At Queenstown.—July 29: The Alpha, from Havana. The Avenue, from Rio Grande.—July 30: The Golden Rule, from St. George's. The Messenger, from Rio Grande.—August 1: The General Windham, from Callao.—August 2: The Amelia, from Cuba.—August 3: The Adelgunde, from Bahia.

Off the Lizard.—July 28: The Providence, from Buenos Ayres.

Off Portland.—The Jonann Wilhelmino, from Baltimore.

At Galway.—July 27: The Southern Flag, from Callao.

At Cromarty.—July 28: The Duo Sorelle, from Montevideo.

At Pill.—August 1: The Jabey, from Porto Rico. The St. John, from New Brunswick.

At Cork.—July 29: The Orkney, from St. John's.

At Belfast.—July 29: The Elise, from Miramichi.

At Strangford.—July 30: The Alma, from Miramichi.

At Grangemouth.—July 30: The Liverpool, from Quebec.

At Deal.—July 28: The Bard of Avon, from Callao.—July 31: The Princetown, from Callao.—August 1: The Brilliant, from Callao.—August 2: The Ben Lomond, The Fourth of November, from Quebec.

Off Beachy Head.—July 28: The Nora, from Miramichi.

Off the Foreland.—July 28: The Harriet, from Miramichi.

At Cowes.—July 28: The G. R. Mosley, from Callao.—July 30: The J. T. Southward, The Atalanta, from Callao.

Off Dover.—July 30: The Fredericke, from Cuba.

At Plymouth.—July 28: The Express, from Demerara. The Bahiana, from Bahia.—July 29: The Donna Maria, from Rio Janeiro. The Hertha, from Havana.—August 1: The Helen Burns, from Rio Grande. The Marshfield, from Callao. The Cornelia, from Buenos Ayres.

At Truro.—July 28: The Sir C. Napier, from Quebec.

At Torbay.—July 31: The Margaret, from Quebec.

At Bristol.—July 28: The Ukko, from Havana.—July 29: The Rannays, from Trinidad. The J. M. Morales, from Picton.

At Cardiff.—July 28: The Alabama, from New York. The Lancaster, from Quebec.—July 30: The Anna Maria, from Miramichi.

At Clyde.—July 27: The Nodalis, from Havana.—July 28: The Milly, from Bahia. The Mary Ann, from Havana.—July 29: The Cora, from Trinidad.—July 30: The S. L. Tilley, from Trinidad. The Oregon, from Quebec.—July 31: The Marchmont, from Quebec.

At Kingstown.—July 27: The Chatsworth, from Callao.

At Hull.—July 27: The Arendale, from Miramichi.—July 28: The Nora, from New Brunswick.—July 29: The Baticola, from Miramichi.

At Kingroad.—July 28: The Asia, The Kate Prince, from Callao.—July 29: The Mosquito, from Jamaica. The Arango, from Cuba. The Olive, from Quebec.

At Limerick.—July 28: The Libertas, from St. John's.

At Youghal.—August 1: The Mary Ann, from Miramichi.

At Nassau.—June 28: The Albert, The Mary Ann, for Liverpool. The Druid (steamer), for St. John's. The Magnet, for Cape Hayti.—June 29: The Diana, The B. de Wolf, for Liverpool. The Let Her Rip (steamer), for St. John's. The Montgomery, for Bermuda. The Alma, The Vigilant, for New York. The Albert, for Halifax.—June 30: The Sparrow, The Dreadnot, for Cuba. The Aglea for Havre. The Amelia Ann, for Nuevitas. The Dart, for Key West.—July 1: The Alma, for Havre. July 2: The Flying Eagle, for Cuba. The Ionia, The Quince, for London. The Orion, for Liverpool. The Syren (steamer), for St. John's. The John G. Whipple, for New York. The arrivals of produce from Confederate ports at Nassau between May 7 and 30 were as follows: viz., 8,755 bales of cotton, 1,233 packages of tobacco. The names of the vessels and dates of sailings and arrivals have already appeared in our Shipping Intelligence.

At Hamilton, Bermuda.—June 14: The Ocean Sprite, from London. The Sunny South, from Cuba. The St. Virgen, from Cardiff. The City of St. Petersburgh, from Wilmington, with 810 bales cotton and 32 packages of tobacco. The Fannie (steamer), from Nassau. The Harkaway.—June 15: The Devonshire.—June 16: The Excelsior, The Penguin, The Lynx (steamer), The Old Dominion (steamer), from Bristol, arrived at St. George's in 11 days and 23 hours. The Old Dominion is one of the finest merchant steam vessels that has yet arrived—has been built but a few months, is 518 tons burthen, and 130 feet long. She is a sister ship to the City of Petersburg. The Hound.—June 17: The Choice Fruit, The Alice.—June 20: The George M'Kean, the Edith.—June 21: The Kathlin, The Henrietta.—June 22: The Mary and Anne, from Liverpool.—June 24: The Eliza, from Newport.—June 28: The Estaphania, from London. The Aid, from Cardiff.—June 30: The Hawk (steamer), from London.—July 3: the Lynx (steamer), from Wilmington.—July 6: The Edith (steamer), The Helen (steamer), The Mary Celeste (steamer), from Wilmington.

At Wilmington.—July 2: The Helen (steamer), The Atalanta (steamer), The Coquette (steamer), The Alice (steamer), The Lucy (steamer), The Edith (steamer), The City of Petersburgh (steamer), The Old Dominion (steamer).

At Madeira.—July 12: The Emilia, from Swansea.—July 13: The Progress, The Tricano, from Newport.—July 14: The Dieppe (steamer), from London for Bermuda.—July 18: The Tres Amigos, from Demerara. The Emilia, from New York.

At St. Michael's.—July 9: The Theodorus, from St. John's.—July 11: The Salvador, from London.—July 14: The Maple Leaf, from Quebec. The Flamingo (steamer), from the Clyde for Bermuda. July 15: The Jacinta, from Cardiff.

Ships Sailed.

Liverpool.—July 28: The Hibernian (steamer), for Quebec. The San Jose, for Cuba. The Forester, for St. Thomas. The Anglo-Saxon, for Quebec. The Arica, for Buenos Ayres. The Fusilier, for Valparaiso.—July 29: The Christiana Carnall, for Matamoras. The Ann Stainland, for Jamaica.—July 30: The Frankfort (steamer), for Lisbon.

Gravesend.—July 28: The Johann and Frederick, for Pernambuco.—July 29: The Amazon (steamer), for Lisbon; July 30: The Thyra, for Buenos Ayres. The Trio, for Bermuda. The Lady Clarke, for Quebec.

Deal.—July 28: The Frances Milly, for Buenos Ayres. The Rhoda, for Nassau.—July 29: The Bonny Belle, for Bermuda.—August 2: The Flying Fish, for Barbadoes.

Clyde.—July 28: The Champion, for Quebec. The Macedon (steamer), for Lisbon. The Ailsa Craig (steamer), for Oporto. The Cuthberts, for Quebec.—July 30: The Norden, for Rio Janeiro.

Cardiff.—July 27: The Superior, for Cuba, The Admiral Kannaris (steamer), for Bermuda.—July 28: The Jane Symonds, for Cuba.—July 29: The Solide, for Havana. The Albacore, for Bermuda.

Lamlash.—July 27: The Singleton, for Halifax.

Newport.—July 29: The Lewes, for Buenos Ayres.—July 31: The James Holmes, for St. Thomas.

Falmouth.—July 28: The Radama, The Helen Richards, for Havre.

Belfast.—July 30: The Prince Edward, for Miramichi.—August 2: The Statesman, for Quebec.

Ardrossan.—July 28: The Water-lily, for St. John's.

Dublin.—July 29: The Volante, for Havre.

Queenstown.—July 30: The Mary, for Montevideo.

Bristol.—August 2: The Glengall, for Quebec.

Swansea.—August 2: The Minerva, The Satisfaction, for Quebec. The Theodosia, for Teneriffe.

Sunderland.—July 31: The Addison, for Rio Janeiro.

Ayr.—August 2: The Ailsa Craig, for St. John's.

Bermuda.—June 8: The Lynx (steamer), for Nassau, with 952 bales of cotton. The Martha, for Quebec.—June 11: The Delta (steamer), for Halifax. The Revere, for St. Thomas. The Princess Royal, for Liverpool, with 360 bales of cotton.—June 13: The Bella Donna, for Liverpool.—June 14: The Virgin, for Nassau.—June 15: The Fannie, for Greenock. The Belmont.—June 20: The Atalanta (steamer), The Mary Celestia (steamer), for Nassau. The Congress, for Liverpool.

Ships Loading.

At London.—For New York: The Lafayette (mail steamer) from Havre, from Havre, August 24: Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For West Indies: The Florida (mail steamer) from St. Nazaire, August 16: Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For Nassau: The Rebecca, St. Katharine's Docks: J. Worley. The Cicerone, St. Katharine's Docks, Davison Brothers & Co.—For Bermuda: The Queen of the Clippers, The Jane Smith, The Aurora, The Only Son.—For Havre: The Neptune (steamer), St. Katharine's Wharf, August 7: 6 afternoon. The Young Mary.

At Liverpool.—For Bermuda: The Melita (steamer), August 6: H. Latone. The Sylph, The Onward, The Catharine Ann.—For Madeira. The Macgregor Laird (steamer).—For Matamoras: The Oleander, The Gez Hillegonda, The Rimac, The Byron, The St. George, The Ruth.—For Nassau: The Wilsons, The Majestic.

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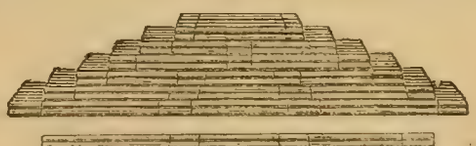
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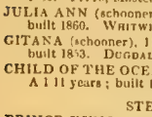

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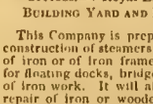

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CONFEDERATE ACCOUNTS FROM ATLANTA.

(From *The Richmond Enquirer*, July 25.)

OFFICIAL REPORT OF GENERAL HOOD.

The glorious news from northern Georgia absorbed public attention on Saturday and yesterday; the city was lively with delightful excitement; and even the grim savans, who affect to see an almost interminable war, grew buoyant with hope. The fate of Sherman, and its bearing upon the result of the general campaign and the war, was liberally discussed; and it was generally accepted that, should the effect of Hood's initiatory engagements be sustained and culminate in a decisive victory, no fears, not even doubts, need be entertained as to the result of the campaign in Virginia. Grant, having expended the force of numbers at his command in vain, strategic force may then be employed by him to about the same purpose. The following is the official dispatch of General Hood:—

Atlanta, July 22—10·30 P.M.

Hon. Secretary of War:

The army shifted its position fronting on Peachtree Creek last night, and Stewart's and Cheatham's Corps formed line of battle around the city. Hardee's Corps made a night march and attacked the enemy's extreme left to-day at one o'clock, and drove him from his works, capturing sixteen pieces of artillery and five stands of colours. Cheatham attacked the enemy at four o'clock, P.M. with a portion of his command, and drove the enemy, capturing six pieces of artillery. During the engagement we captured about 2,000 prisoners.

Wheeler's Cavalry routed the enemy in the neighbourhood of Decatur, capturing his camps. Our loss is not fully ascertained. Major-General Walker, killed; Brigadier-Generals Smith, Gist and Mercer, wounded. Prisoners report M'Pherson killed. Our troops fought with great gallantry.

J. B. HOOD, General.

THE PRESS DESPATCHES.

Atlanta, Ga., July 22, 1864.

About two o'clock this afternoon the enemy attacked our left, under General Stewart, with great vigour. They were received with a galling fire from both artillery and infantry, which caused them to falter, when the order was given to charge.

Among their killed was General Macpherson, who was shot through the heart; Brigadier-General Giles A. Smith, and (the Yankee) General Hood. General Gresham lost a leg.

Our troops left their breastworks and charged with great rapidity, driving the enemy from two lines of entrenchments and inflicting great slaughter, capturing a large number of prisoners and 22 pieces of artillery.

General Hardee, having passed round the enemy's flank, is now in their rear, doing great execution.

The fighting still continues.

SECOND DESPATCH.

Atlanta, July 23, 1864.

General Wheeler, last evening, attacked the enemy's left, in the neighbourhood of Decatur, and drove them back, capturing 500 wagons, with supplies, and a large number of prisoners. He is still pursuing.

There was very little firing after dark yesterday.

Two thousand prisoners, including 75 commissioned officers, 25 pieces of artillery, and 7 stands of colours, have been brought in.

The losses on either side are not yet known. Ours was severe in officers.

Comparative quiet reigns this morning. There is some little skirmishing on our left.

EXCITEMENT IN RICHMOND.

(From the *Richmond Enquirer*, July 25.)

The news of the victory at Atlanta, which the telegraph brought to Richmond on last Saturday, delighted the public as much as any that has been received during the war; it caused a general joy throughout the city, and will carry the same to all quarters of the country. General Hood has signalised his acceptance of the command of the army of Tennessee with a brilliant victory, and justified his selection by success, the highest evidence of its propriety. The tide has turned, the army has faced about, and the strategy of advance takes the place over that of retreat. The initiative of attack has at last been taken by our army, and its *prestige* and *morale* wrested from the enemy. General Hood has turned upon the enemy, and been successful. It is impossible to convey any idea of the gratification which the news of this victory caused. The press despatch was at first doubted. So often had the community been elated by first news from that army, only to be disappointed by subsequent intelligence, that men hesitated to believe what they read; but soon the official dispatch of General Hood dispelled all doubt, and the public felt that a change had not only taken place in commanders, but that a new policy had been successfully inaugurated, that may lead to recovery of all that has been lost, and eventually carry our victorious banners into the territories of our enemy.

General Hood was known to be a man ever ready to fight, and his appointment was regarded as practical orders to take no steps backward. It was felt that he might be defeated; but it was believed that he would not retreat without first trying the ordeal of battle. He has justified the confidence of the President. He has fought a battle within the first week of his command, and won an important victory. Of the completeness of this victory, at the time of writing, nothing is known; but the army is now, notwithstanding its losses, much stronger than before it measured strength with its adversary. The attack was made, not received; the enemy were driven, not repulsed. These terms are now to be applied to the battles of the army of Tennessee. General Hood, we believe, is not the man to rest satisfied with even attacking and driving the enemy. He will follow up his advantages, and now, that he has broken up the old policy of that army, he will, he must press on, and cease not to drive the enemy back and eventually out of Georgia.

Light breaks from the only dark point in our lines. Atlanta is now felt to be safe, and Georgia will soon be free from the foe. The central army of the Confederacy has recovered its prestige and defeated the exultant enemy.

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

RICHMOND: July 5, 1864.

THE 'HOPES' OF THE NORTH—GRANT'S INVESTMENT OF RICHMOND—THE YANKEE RAID ON THE SOUTHERN RAILROADS—HOW THE NEGROES ARE TREATED—THE PROSPECTS OF GRANT—HOW THE FEDERALS HAVE WAGED WAR—THE ALLEGED CONFEDERATE CRUELTY AT CHARLESTON—SOCIAL LIFE IN RICHMOND—THE COST OF A MINT JULEP.

I DARE say there are readers of THE INDEX in England who are apprehensive, from the accounts which have reached them in the Northern papers, that the capital of the Confederate States is at this moment in the possession of the enemy, and who have distressing doubts that the national anniversary yesterday—the good old Fourth of July, celebrated for more than eighty years with abundant fireworks and spread-eagle orations—was observed by Grant in Richmond with salvoes of artillery (blank cartridges) and every demonstration of noisy and hilarious patriotism. I read the other day with no little concern, in the *New York Herald*, that the Yankees were in Petersburg, and that they would come over by rail to Richmond in a very few days, whereupon gold had gone up most perversely ten per cent. in Wall Street, *malgré* the pleasant announcement that 'the beginning of the end' was at hand.

The investment of Richmond by Grant is one of the most remarkable military performances in the annals of warfare. If you will look upon one of the cheap maps of the seat of war in Virginia—which I think it likely are hanging up by dozens in the shop-windows of Piccadilly—and trace the circle of twenty-five miles' distance from the capital, you will find that Grant has established his lines along about a sextant of the same, and yet he claims to have completely invested us, which reminds one of the old story of the Irishman who took six prisoners at one time *by surrounding them*, with this notable difference, that Teddy actually accomplished *his* capture, whereas Grant is as far as ever from the realisation of the hopes of the Yankees. The baffled Ulysses may indeed say, in the language of his great namesake as rendered by Tennyson (with a slight variation)—

> I am a part of all that I have met,
> And all experience is an arch where thro'
> Gleams that *untaken town* whose margin fades
> For ever and for ever as I move.

Coming gravely to consider the chances of Grant's ultimate success, we cannot fail to believe that everything depends upon the ability of the Confederates to keep open the line of communication with the South. Not the most deluded of the Yankees entertains the idea that he will attempt to carry the inner line of entrenchments at Petersburg by storm. His plan is to starve out the supposed already famishing defenders of the two Virginian towns. With this view he sent a large cavalry force to cut the two railways which connect Richmond and Petersburg with North Carolina, and the South Side Road, which forms the connection of both places with Lynchburg. This force, amounting to five thousand men, under command of General Wilson, crossed the Weldon Road near Belfield, thirty miles south of Petersburg, tearing up the track and burning a bridge, whence they moved rapidly to Burkeville, the point of intersection of the Danville and Lynchburg Railways, arriving there at midnight of the 22nd ultimo. The damage they did to the Lynchburg line was inconsiderable, and can be repaired at slight expense; but the Danville line suffered much greater mischief. The purpose of General Wilson was to destroy the road utterly from Burkeville to its south-western terminus, an extent of more than ninety miles; but, after proceeding some distance in his work of demolition, he encountered a very serious and unexpected resistance at the Staunton (or Roanoke) River, the bridge across which stream was defended by a body of five or six hundred Confederates, who completely repulsed the raiders. Thenceforward their only object was to get back safely to the main body of the Federal army, with the *opima spolia* of their raid, the latter consisting of everything portable that they could find in the mansions that lay in their route, a miscellaneous heap of silk dresses and silver plate, pictures, porcelains, pigs, poultry, &c., &c., and a melancholy dark procession of negroes, who were driven off from their homes at the point of the bayonet and the end of the cowhide. Wilson successfully emulated his compatriot raiders of Mississippi in the wanton outrages he committed on non-combatant citizens, and the atrocious cruelty with which he treated the captured slaves. Sherman caused all the weak negroes who were unable to keep up with his retreating columns from Meridian to Vicksburg to be knocked in the head, and all the babies that proved troublesome to be thrown into the creeks and ponds in the track of his flight. In like manner Wilson dispatched his dusky captives, young and old, whenever they were discovered to be *impedimenta* on the march. It is stated upon competent authority that many dead bodies of negro infants were seen on the road by which the raiders retraced their steps to Grant's camp, the mothers having been compelled to throw the brats away as soon as the burden of carrying them caused lagging behind or straggling from the ranks. But Wilson's return to headquarters was embarrassed more seriously than by the difficulty of taking off his plunder. He was harassed for more than two days by Hampton's cavalry, fresh from successful combats with Sheridan on the north side of James River, and when he attempted to recross the Weldon railway by the only road left open to him, he was vigorously opposed by the infantry division of General Mahone, which has so often heretofore given a good account of itself, and which cut the raiding party to pieces, taking twelve hundred prisoners, a large wagon train, stores, ammunition, carbines, horses, thirteen pieces of artillery, and many negroes utterly broken down and rejoicing to escape from their newly-acquired liberty.

So much has Grant effected in the way of interrupting the communication between Richmond and the South. The injury done to the Danville railway is not slight, and will require a fortnight for repair. Ordinarily, in time of peace, two months would have been necessary. But General Lee has organised a large and effective force for relaying the track of railroads that have been destroyed. He might easily cause the Weldon Road to be put in working order in forty-eight hours, but this is not deemed desirable at the present juncture, because Grant's troops are so near to it in their entrenched position that it might be cut and torn up again at any moment.

It follows from what has been said of the two Southern lines, and what has been narrated of the mischief done to them by the enemy, that Grant has certainly not closed the avenues to Richmond from the south and west, and that he is likely to be not only 'all the summer,' but all the autumn and all the winter, in effecting the reduction of the capital—if, indeed, he is not compelled to abandon the attempt before the Presidential election. For the time of the Presidential election (the first week of November) coincides very nearly with the annual visitation of the frost at Bermuda Hundreds and the regions round about, and between this fifth day of July and that date there are to elapse just four months of malaria and disease for all who remain therein. Ague and fever, deadly allies, General Grant, to fight against you, and a most unequal contest in which the dead will be all on one side; call up your commissary to the assistance of your medical purveyor, load your caissons with calomel and your quartermaster's wagons with quinine, give out rations of febrifuge at *reveillée*, and administer pills upon the dress parade.

Ah me! I hear some excellent reader declare that this is very ghastly pleasantry, and marvel at the demoralisation of war which makes a naturally amiable man, as is your correspondent, contemplate with satisfaction the pestilence that walketh in darkness, as it comes to sweep off hundreds of his fellow-beings. Are they fellow-beings? Have they not placed themselves out of the pale of humanity? In the very inception of the struggle, they proposed to cut the levees of the Mississippi river, and drown out the inhabitants of the lower valley like rats; they made medicines contraband of war, and entertained with delight the prospect of thousands of 'rebels,' without regard to age or sex, dying yearly of typhus because of the impossibility of procuring the drugs for its successful treat-

ment. At a later period they strove to incite a servile insurrection to work out that destruction of the South which they could not accomplish by their arms; and they have ever since acted consistently with the purpose of extermination in the fell spirit of the savage. Why need I refer to the bombardment of Charleston, carried on for no military object, but in the gratification of malice *pur et simple*, during fourteen months, or to the more recent bombardment of Petersburg, commenced without warning, in violation of every rule of honourable warfare, the first victim of which was a young and lovely girl to whom, in common with many thousands of her sex, no opportunity of escape had been afforded? You have seen Sherman's letter; it has doubtless found its way into the journals of London, and caused honest Englishmen to blush that it was written in their language. *Cela suffit.*

And yet these ruffians raised a great clamour over Fort Pillow. A commission of Congress made official enquiry into the 'massacre,' and reported horrible things. If their report were true in its length and breadth, all that they charge upon General Forrest would be as nothing in comparison with the atrocities that have been committed by the white and black soldiery of the Federal army during the last fortnight in the northern neck of Virginia. Description is impossible. The only wonder is that the Confederates, in the knowledge of the commission of such hellish deeds, should spare one Federal prisoner that falls into their hands—that they do not carry the black flag in front of the fight, and wreak their vengeance upon all Yankees, whether white or black, officer or private, German Yankee or Irish Yankee, that the issue of the fight leaves at their mercy.

Altogether the most serene example of virtuous remonstrance on the part of the Yankees against Confederate cruelty that I have noted for many months is to be found in the recent correspondence between General Foster (Federal) and General Samuel E. Jones (Confederate) on the subject of the Federal officers ordered by our Government to be confined in Charleston within the range of the Federal batteries bombarding the city. The siege of Charleston having been virtually abandoned, there is no longer a pretence of an excuse for the incessant cannonade which is maintained from Morris's Island; and, theoretically, the step taken by the Confederate authorities to put a stop to the wanton destruction of life and property, by placing the Yankee officers in the line of fire of their own guns, was excellent policy, while the propriety of it will not be questioned by any intelligent foreigner. General Foster does not see it in that light at all. It is all right to shell Charleston, but it is monstrous to subject a Yankee officer to the chance of being struck by an exploding projectile. I have said that the policy was sound *theoretically*, because practically it amounts to nothing whatever. The Yankee officers are not distributed over the part of the city open to the enemy's fire. They are all confined in one house, and that house one of the largest and most luxurious private mansions in Charleston, where they dine on dainties sent them from the fleet, and have their little games of whist and billiards without the least apprehension of a misdeal from Greek fire, or of an unlucky carrom from the 'Swamp Angel.'

We are in expectation of stirring news from Maryland, whither General Early has gone with a considerable force with intentions which are little understood outside the War Department. The full intelligence of his operations will doubtless reach you from New York, and the expedition will have become an old story, before this letter can get to your sanctum. The latest intelligence we have from him is that three days ago he was in Winchester.

Richmond is quiet, in its usual midsummer slumberousness. The sound of the guns, to which we have been hearkening for four or five weeks, has become fainter and less frequent, and is confined chiefly to the river. But few citizens have left their homes. The evening stroller, as he passes up Franklin Street, will see the front porticoes occupied by social groups of ladies, with only here and there a gallant among them, and hear laughter and music from open windows—sights and sounds which are not associated with war. Mendelssohn's 'Songs without Words' do not remind one of the strife that is going on around us.

General Longstreet has gone to Georgia on a visit to his family, and hopes to be in the field again by August 1.

All the bars and drinking-houses in Richmond have been closed under the recent act of the Legislature, and a julep is supposed to be an impracticability; but I am informed that there exist 'caves' and 'cellars' where one can be obtained for the moderate sum of five dollars.

Printing in the Confederacy.—The *Columbia* (South Carolina) *Guardian*, noticing the extensive establishment of Messrs. Evans & Cogswell, says: 'The war found these gentlemen located in Charleston, where they had gradually built up the largest printing-office — except the Methodist Publishing House at Nashville—in the Southern States. Since then they have imported from Europe thirty-two printing-presses, with large quantities of printing and binding materials and eighty-four artists and printers, and now employ in the various branches of their extensive business seventy-six printing-presses, besides about twenty-five ruling and binding machines. They employ three hundred and forty-four hands, only eighteen of whom are from the army. They have recently removed from Charleston to a new brick building, a part of which is finished, and, when entirely complete, will form a hollow square, covering exactly two acres of ground, and making one room 40 × 900 feet. To give some idea of the extent of the work carried on by this firm, we would mention that in addition to the large quantity of printing being done for the army, and notes and bonds for the Treasury Department, they now have in course of printing some twenty books on various subjects, among which we noticed "A New Dictionary of Military Terms," prepared by General Thomas Jordan, and illustrated with a large number of fine engravings.'

The 'Florida.'—On Tuesday intelligence was received at Lloyd's by the *Ocean Gem*, just arrived at Liverpool from New York, that on July 17 she was spoken with by the Confederate cruiser *Florida*, Halifax, N.S., bearing NE. about 22 miles. The *Florida* had just captured a Federal barque, a brig, and a schooner. The Chamois steamer *Electric Spark*, captured from the Federals, was in company with the *Florida*. The *Prospero*, which arrived in the Mersey on Sunday morning from Nassau, exchanged signals with a vessel named the *W. H. Clarke*, whose master reported (by signal) that he had on board the crews of the American barque *Golconda*, of New Bedford, and a schooner, the number of whose name the captain of the *Prospero* could not make out distinctly, both vessels having been captured and destroyed by the Confederate steamer *Florida*. The *Golconda* was a whaling barque, and had been at sea a considerable time, so long that she must have been almost, if not altogether, 'full' of oil.

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

We were justified last week in discrediting the Federal report of the fall of Atlanta. The vaunted victory of July 22 was not even a drawn battle—it was a defeat. We elsewhere publish Southern and Northern accounts of the battle, and of the situation of the armies in Georgia. The losses of the Federals have been very heavy, both in men and matériel. The death of General Macpherson deprives them of one of their most promising officers.

In Virginia the Confederates have gained a decisive victory over a portion of General Hunter's troops. This force, under the command of Generals Crook and Averill, near Winchester, was attacked on the 23rd and 24th, was defeated with heavy loss, and forced to retreat to Harper's Ferry. Besides artillery, the Federals lost 1,200 men.

It is said that an attack on a portion of Grant's army, which had been withdrawn to the northern side of the James River, was repulsed, with the loss of 50 prisoners and 4 cannon. The only information that the Northern public gets as to the situation of Grant's army is that there is a new movement in progress which will have very grand results, but what the movement is is not suffered to transpire. It is supposed to be the abandonment of the siege of Petersburg. A generally well-informed correspondent of the *New York World*, who dates from Baltimore, says that Grant has not more than 90,000 troops at his disposal, and that 40,000 of these are new recruits.

The Confederates are again in Pennsylvania; they have advanced in three columns, and have occupied Chambersbury. The Governor of Pennsylvania has called upon the people to take up arms to repel the invasion. When the mail left, nothing authentic was known as to the number of the Confederate forces engaged in this movement. It was ascertained, however, that the Confederates had destroyed a portion of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad.

Amongst other items of war intelligence from New York, it is stated that General Smith, after defeating General Forrest no less than five times, has returned to Memphis for supplies. It seems that General Forrest can stand any number of defeats, and that Federal generals, after gaining a succession of victories, beat a retreat. Perhaps the five defeats of Forrest are only an addition to the innumerable victories which the Federals have gained on paper.

The Confederate cavalry are at work in Kentucky. We are told as usual that guerilla warfare continues in Missouri, which means that the people of that State will not submit to the Northern yoke.

The Richmond newspapers publish an official account of a victory gained by the Confederates in Virginia on July 18. It appears that on that day a large force of Federals crossed the Shenandoah at Snicker's Gap, and that they were driven back with heavy loss. The *Richmond Examiner* of July 21 says that the fight was brought on by an attempt of Hunter to prevent the Confederates returning with their booty from Maryland, and adds: 'Really Hunter's bewilderment must, by this time, be painful. A month ago he, with the utmost confidence, threw himself against Lynchburg, but, being hurled back by a strong hand, he fled in horror and amazement, not tarrying to learn who was his powerful antagonist. On Monday, having recruited and increased his forces, he attempts to crush a few thousand cavalry who are returning weary and heavy-laden from their rioting and raiding through the fertile fields of Maryland, even to the gates of the capital of his nation. Again he is dashed back by the still unknown iron hand, and his men put to the rout.'

On July 10 General Rosecrans issued an address to the citizens of North-west Missouri, in which he says: 'I have supplied you with ammunition, and left arms in your hands. You have given me fair promises, while you allowed rebels and guerillas to live and recruit among you. You have concealed from our authorities these men and their projects. You have seen robbers and murderers joined by the very men who swore to defend us against them. The arms and ammunition delivered to you for the defence of law and government have been used to destroy them. You are guilty of all the blood that will be shed by the use of these arms and the hands which have basely betrayed both you and the country. You have nothing left before you now but wholly to renounce and help to pursue and exterminate these common enemies of mankind, or your country will become a desolation.' We could not desire better testimony of the loyalty of Missouri to the cause of the Confederacy.

It was related that the Richmond and Danville Railroad was completely destroyed. How thoroughly unfounded was the report we may learn from the following advertisement which appeared in the *Richmond Enquirer* on July 21:—

'On and after Tuesday, July 21, the trains on this road will be run as follows:—Day mail train will leave Richmond daily at 6 o'clock A.M., and arrive at Burkeville at 10 o'clock A.M., connecting with the trains on the Southside Railroad for Lynchburg, and arrive in Danville at 6.30 P.M. Night mail train will leave Richmond daily at 4 o'clock P.M., arrive at Burkeville at 8.10 P.M., and arrive in Danville at 10 o'clock A.M. These trains both connect with the trains on the Piedmont Railroad for Greensboro and the South.

'John H. Lester, Ticket Agent.

General Hunter has published a letter respecting the suppression of two newspapers by his command. He says he was offended at his troops being described as being in an exhausted condition, and he adds: 'There are in every army grumblers, malcontents, and alarmists, not only in the ranks, but I regret to say amongst the officers, and some of rank that should make them more prudent.' Such is the condition of a Federal army according to the testimony of its commander.

The *Richmond Despatch* of July 19 says that in the victory gained on June 23 near Petersburg by General Mahone, the Confederate captures consisted of 1,660 prisoners, including 57 commissioned officers, 10 stand of colours, 4 pieces of artillery, and 1,571 stand of small arms.

The accounts of the crops in the South are encouraging. The *Richmond Enquirer* of July 20 says:—'Although some sections have suffered considerably from drought, the crop prospects are generally very fine. Our Southern exchanges give encouraging accounts of timely rains and luxuriant prospects. Southside Virginia, which it was thought would suffer much from want of rain, has, to some extent, been relieved by heavy and welcome rains, especially along the line of the Weldon Railroad.'

We find in the columns of New York journals estimates of the damage done to railroads in the recent incursion by the Confederates. The aggregate is set down at about $1,500,000. Amongst other supplies the Confederates obtained 5,000 horses.

A Kentucky paper, the *Evansville Journal*, says that the guerillas on Green River are so active that the traffic is entirely suspended.

We elsewhere publish a letter from Ex-Governor Letcher, of Virginia, giving an account of the way in which General Hunter's soldiers acted in Virginia. It will repay perusal.

The *Petersburg Express* of July 23 announces the death of Captain John Mitchell, a gallant and promising officer, who was killed on July 19 on the parapet of Fort Sumter.

General Sherman lately captured about 400 factory girls; and as they were engaged in manufacturing army canvas for the Confederates, he sentenced them to be sent out of their State, and despatched them to the north of the Ohio in army wagons. The *Cincinnati Commercial* says: 'Only think of it. Four hundred weeping and terrified Ellens, Susans, and Maggies transported in the springless and seatless army wagons, away from their lovers and brothers of the sunny South, and all for the offence of weaving tent cloth and spinning stocking yarn!' This may be harsh treatment, but it is merciful compared to the way in which captured women are generally treated by Federal commanders.

General Washburne has instituted a tribunal at Memphis to supersede the civil courts, which he thus describes: 'A military court for the trial of civil cases is hereby organised, to be known as the "Civil Commission of the District of Memphis," with power to hear and determine all suits which may be brought before such court, coming within the jurisdiction hereinafter defined. The officers of the said Civil Commission shall be a Judge, Recorder, and Marshal, to be appointed by the Commanding General of the district of West Tennessee. The said Civil Commission shall have jurisdiction to hear, decide, and grant relief upon the complaints and suits of loyal citizens of the United States and friendly aliens.'

The *New York World* complains that the quotas under the last call of Mr. Lincoln are very unfair to New York. It says: 'Fourteen thousand two hundred and eighty-four more soldiers are required from ten Democratic Congressional districts in New York than from a similar number of Republican districts in Massachusetts. This gross inequality must have been patent to the Provost-Marshal-General, who assigned the quotas, as his attention was directly drawn to it last year. Nay, in making out the figures he must have noted the discrepancy, and it really looks as though there was a deliberate intention to make the draft as easy as possible for Massachusetts, or grievously heavy on New York.'

The *New York World*, under the heading of 'Another National Humiliation,' gives a long account of the system of espionage at the post-offices carried on by the Federal Government; the letters of prominent Democrats are regularly opened, and even the official correspondence of Governor Seymour is subjected to this treatment.

It is said, on the authority of the *New York Herald*, that a board of naval officers has decided that the persons rescued from the *Alabama* by the *Deerhound* were prisoners of war, and that the Federal Government has approved this decision. It is hardly possible that Mr. Seward will take any action, even if this report is true.

Mr. Fessenden has advertised for a popular loan of $200,000,000 in seven three-tenths Treasury notes, redeemable in three years, the interest to be paid in greenbacks. At maturity the notes are to be converted into bonds, the interest to be payable in gold. This attempt to borrow without a specie basis marks an important era in the history of Federal finance. It is very easy to pay interest with paper, but Mr. Fessenden will find it extremely difficult to borrow on such terms, and this no doubt he is conscious of, from the appeal he has made to the patriotism of the people. In this appeal he admits that affairs are very much changed from what

ley were three years ago, and that the people are now ardened with an enormous debt, but he contends that the rospect is equally encouraging, because the struggle has hibited the greatness of the national resources. He rites:—'This is not the time for any lover of his country enquire into the state of the money market, or ask hether he can so invest his surplus capital as to yield m a larger return. No return and no profit can be deirable if followed by national dissolution or national disrace. Present profit thus acquired is but the precursor future and speedy destruction. . . . He who selfhly withholds his aid in the hope of turning his availble means to greater immediate profit is speculating upon is country's misfortunes, and may find what seems to be esent gain leads to future loss.' This is a curious gument on the part of a Minister of Finance, and one not ery likely to do him much good. It is a confession that ne financial condition of the country is so desperate that ans can only be obtained by patriots lending their money ithout enquiring into the security.

On July 30, in New York, gold was quoted at 256.

ENGLAND.

HE steam-rams *El Tousson* and *El Monassir*, purchased M. Bravay by the English Government, have at last en handed over to Messrs. Laird, of Birkenhead, for mpletion. The vessels will be named respectively the *corpion* and the *Wyvern*. Each vessel will be armed ith four 300-pounders, throwing a broadside of 1,200 lbs.

HE *Georgia*, late Confederate ship of war, now belongs Mr. Edward Bates, who has chartered her to the ortuguese Government to carry the mails between Porgal and the Azores.

HE Liverpool magistrates have committed Joseph Buanan, of Skirving Street, Kirkdale, Liverpool, for trial the charge of enlisting men to serve on board the Conderate steamer *Rappahannock*.

HE council of the National Rifle Association has awarded he Marquis of Tweeddale's prize of 50*l.* for breech-loading fles to Mr. Henry, of Edinburgh. The council, however, corded their opinion that none of the breech-loading fles submitted for trial could be recommended as suitable r military arms. They have offered a prize of 100*l.* for o best military breech-loading rifle that can be produced.

URING the past three or four weeks the seaport towns f England have disported themselves with yacht regattas. onspicuous above all has been the regatta of the Royal acht Squadron, held off the coast of the Isle of Wight, nd perhaps the most interesting race was the handicap ace for Her Majesty's cup by schooners and yawls of the oyal Yacht Squadron. The prize was won by the *Albertine*, 156 tons, belonging to Lord Londesborough, he *Viking*, 142 tons, being defeated by one minute and a alf. The *Aline*, 216 tons, belonging to Mr. Thellusson, as third. Count de Lonceaux, the Earl of Rosse, and ir B. Chichester were represented respectively by the essels *Intrepid*, 75 tons; *Titania*, 184 tons; and *Vestal*, 4 tons. The prize vase was magnificent. On the one anel was a representation of the poem by Longfellow:—

And Alfred, King of the Saxons,
Had a book upon his knees,
And he wrote down the wond'rous tale
Of him who was the first to sail
Into the Arctic seas.
And to the King of the Saxons,
In witness of the truth,
Raising his noble head
He stretch'd his brown hand and said,
'Behold this walrus tooth.'

The other was composed of a group of sea nymphs. On the following day the Cowes Town Regatta was held in the Roads, and the royal yacht *Fairy* arrived with the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse, to witness the sport. In the evening there was a magnificent display of fireworks, at the conclusion of which the entire fleet of yachts, steamers, and other vessels, with the ship of war *Irresistible* and the royal yacht *Victoria and Albert*, were illuminated. The annual regatta dinner was held on an evening of the same week, Commodore the Earl of Wilton presiding. The Marquis of Conyngham, as Vice-Commodore, was in the vice-chair. Prince Leiningen, Lords Rosse, Grey de Wilton, Durham, Vane, Ponsonby, Londesborough, Henry Lennox, Otho Fitzgerald, Mr. H. Lowther, of racing, Mr. H. Villebois, of hunting fame, and many other noblemen and gentlemen of yachting celebrity were present. From the statement of the Commodore it appeared that the Club had in their possession at the present time 61 schooners, 11 screw steamers, 26 cutters, 12 yawls, and 2 luggers—112 vessels in all.

THE agriculturists are busily engaged with the harvest. The most striking feature in the state of the crops in England is the variation in excellence even in places contiguous to each other. The late frosts of April and May were succeeded by hot weather, but without much rain. The hot weather was again succeeded in July by cold north-east winds with frosty mornings, and then followed great heat, the wind blowing for alternate periods of fourteen days from the east and from the west, yet without rain. Indeed, a more severe drought has not often been experienced. In many parts of England the crop of hay was very light, but the quality was generally fair. The dry weather has, of course, entirely spoiled the aftergrass, and farmers have been compelled to give their hay to the stock, and even to cut green oats for their horses. The turnips have failed to a disastrous extent, and it is feared that, under the most favourable circumstances, sheep feed will be scarce in the ensuing winter. The wheat crop is generally fair, though, beyond all doubt, much inferior to the crop of 1863 in quantity. On thin and poor lands there is no prospect of a satisfactory yield. On the other hand, the accounts from the heavy lands of Essex and Lincolnshire are good. On those lands which cannot be classed under either of the above heads, but may be denominated as sound light lands, the crop is uncertain in quantity. It is feared that the long drought has destroyed all hope of good quality in the barley. Such, at any rate, is the case on all chalk soils. In some parts of Norfolk and Suffolk, the mischief has not been great. The prices of wheat and barley are, moreover, by no means such as to encourage the British agriculturist. The finest new wheat is not worth more than 46*s.* the quarter, and the trade shows a downward tendency. With regard to the other sources of agricultural profit, it may be observed that sheep and horned cattle are dear almost beyond example. Horses, however, are decidedly cheap.

IN the 22,757 coroner's inquests held during the year 1863 in England and Wales, there were recorded 207 verdicts of murder, and 203 verdicts of manslaughter. There were 1,385 of suicide, 1,048 of these being on men, and the residue on women. Also 323 verdicts of death from excessive drinking, and 140 of death from privation. Of the whole 22,757 inquests, 6,506 were held on children under seven years of age; of these children one-fifth were illegitimate. Moreover, there were 3,664 inquests on infants under the age of twelve months, and more than one-fourth of these children were illegitimate. In Middlesex alone 79 verdicts of murder were returned in inquests on infants under twelve months. The seats of manufacture in the counties of Lancaster, Chester, Warwick, and Gloucester supplied with Middlesex more than half the inquests on dead infants.

THE Archæological Institute of Great Britain closed their meetings at Warwick in the early part of last week. The members had visited Stoneleigh Abbey, Kenilworth Castle, Warwick Castle, Coventry, Lichfield, Stratford-on-Avon, Manstoke Castle, and many other places of interest. On Monday last the members arrived in great numbers at Ipswich, taking up their headquarters at the ancient hotel 'The White Horse,' immortalised in the Pickwick Papers. The Congress was received by the corporation, and in the evening a dinner was held, which was numerously attended by the members of the Institute and the principal inhabitants of the town.

LORD COURTENAY, the eldest son of the Earl of Devon, has been elected M.P. for Exeter, by a majority of 26 over Mr. Coleridge, the eminent Queen's Counsel. Lord Courtenay represented the Conservative, and Mr. Coleridge the Liberal interest.

PRINCE JEROME NAPOLEON, accompanied by the Princess Murat, Count Ferra Persani, and a numerous suite, landed at Greenock on Saturday last on his way to Bowling, Lochlomond, the Trossachs, Oban, and Inverness. The Prince is travelling under the name of Count de Mendon.

ONCE more the nerves of quiet men and timid women have been shaken by the history of a journey by railway, and the murder of Mr. Briggs with the outrage on a female so lately recorded in our columns are succeeded in a dramatic sequence by a fearful struggle between a mad sailor and some panic-stricken passengers. The express train between London and Edinburgh leaves King's Cross at 9·15 A.M. and runs to Peterborough, a distance of seventy miles, without stopping. One day last week four gentlemen had taken their seats in a second-class carriage, and just before the starting of the train, a fifth passenger, in the form of a sailor, apparently intoxicated, was thrust into the carriage by the guard, against the will of those already in possession. The train had but just left the station when the sailor became very excited, shouted that he had lost his money and was ruined, and, leaping from his seat, rushed wildly about the carriage uttering dire yells and imprecations. Pacific means were thrown away on a man who was hitting out right and left, and raving in the agonies of *delirium tremens*. The four passengers threw themselves upon him, and a tremendous struggle arose. At one moment the sailor nearly succeeded in precipitating himself from one window; at another a like fate seemed to impend over one of the passengers. At last the fellow was overpowered, his hands bound, and his knife taken from him. Endeavours were then made to arouse the guard to action and to stop the train. An official at one of the small stations signalled the driver to stop, and for a moment there seemed a probability of release. Once more, however, the steam was put on, and for one hour and a half the train sped on as if in derision of the fruitless efforts of the unhappy passengers. Peterborough was at last reached, and then only by the most strong remonstrances were the authorities prevented from permitting the sailor to resume his journey.

GRANT'S WASTE OF MEN.—The *Boston Courier* writes: 'There cannot be a fairer illustration of the havoc of war, when carried on under wilful guidance, than the condition of the First Massachusetts heavy artillery. It was for over two years stationed in the defences of Washington, doing most useful and valuable, but not exposed or "active" service, when, after the depleting battles of the Wilderness, it was ordered to the front as an infantry organisation. It marched out 1,670 strong and 30 officers, and was in the brunt of the battle of Spottsylvania Court House. It now returns with about 270 men, leaving at Petersburg about as many reenlisted men and recruits whose time is not out, and there are only 13 officers left. Thus, within sixty days, over 1,100 men of 1,700 have melted away in what is called "glory," certainly bravely, with no desertion, no straggling, no slow disease, no Chickahominy swamp, to detract from their laurels or from the record of as fine a regiment physically as Massachusetts could boast. Yet this is no isolated case, but only a fair sample of all, and an irrefragable proof that Grant's waste of men has not been exaggerated.'

THE CONTINENT.

THE DANO-GERMAN WAR.

The Conference of Vienna will resume its sittings as soon as the Danish plenipotentiaries have received an official ratification of the preliminaries and instructions for their future conduct. The difference between the policy of Austria and Prussia is becoming daily more marked, and is the subject of much acute observation both in the German and the French press. It is remarked that the *Gazette* of Vienna and the *Moniteur* of Prussia, the official journals of the two States, contradict one another on a very important point. The Austrian paper says that the Duchies have been ceded to the two great Powers conditionally, all the rights of the German Confederation being reserved; the Prussian organ, on the other hand, speaks of the cession as absolute and unconditional. It is impossible to conjecture whether this contradiction is a sign of a divergence of policy, or part of a calculated scheme to secure for Prussia the lion's share of the booty. The latter theory is in complete harmony with another remarkable fact—the cession, namely, of the Duchy of Lauenburg. It must not be forgotten that the Duke of Augustenburg has no sort of pretensions to this Duchy, which was given to Denmark by the Congress of Vienna; failing the rights of Denmark, there are several princely houses of Germany who have a claim to Lauenburg prior to that of the Duke of Augustenburg. Can it be possible, then, that Prussia means to acknowledge that she has received Slesvig-Holstein in trust for the Diet, but will revindicate her claim to Lauenburg as a conquered country? The situation of that Duchy is one that would be eminently favourable to Prussia, being a fertile and well-watered plain containing about 50,000 inhabitants, and contributing about 60,000*l.* to the yearly revenue; it is moreover wedged in between Mecklenburg, Hanover, Hamburg, Lubeck, and Holstein, in a manner which would be highly advantageous to an ambitious master. These considerations are calculated to increase the suspicions concerning the conduct of Prussia. But, after all, 'sufficient for the day is the evil thereof;' and until we have arrived at a clearer notion of the manner in which Prussia means to wring out of the Duchies the payment of the expenses of the war, we need scarcely trouble ourselves about their ultimate destiny. It is understood that Denmark is to be relieved of the cost of the war at the expense of the now independent Duchies, which will remain in the power of Prussia until she shall have declared herself repaid. How far off that time may be no man has yet ventured to guess. While on the subject of Lauenburg we may observe that the representative of Hesse has presented a memorial to the Federal Diet on behalf of the Prince Frederick William of Hesse, wherein that prince states his claims to the Duchies, and more especially to Lauenburg.

The suspension of hostilities between the belligerent Powers began on the 2nd inst., and is to continue in force until September 13, after which date it may be terminated by either party on six weeks' notice. The conditions of this truce are due principally to Herr von Rechberg. The Prussian Minister expressed a very strong objection to the lengthening of the armistice beyond six weeks absolutely. The presence of that worthy at Vienna has given rise to a bitter *mot* in the Austrian capital: 'We have long wished that Germany should be governed from Vienna, and now we have our desire; for Herr von Bismarck is here.' The terms of the preliminaries of peace between Denmark and the Germans contain an article securing a certain rectification of the frontier of Jutland so as to give to Denmark certain purely Danish territories. This rectification will be of great value to Denmark if carried out as proposed. That kingdom will then retain the district at the north-western corner of Slesvig, containing about 26 square miles. It is situated at the mouths of the chief waterways on the coast of the North Sea, Smaltief and Listertief; the latter being the only naval station in that part suitable for large ships of war.

DENMARK.

A more detailed account of the proceedings at the Landsthing of Copenhagen of the 3rd inst. has arrived. The draft of an address to the throne was brought forward for final consideration, when a resolution was brought forward by Professor Madvig, declining to put the address to the vote on the ground that the Ministry had made communications upon the political situation to the members of the House at a private sitting, and in a form not admitting of any debate. This motion was carried, and it was at the same time resolved that the address to the King formerly adopted should not be presented. Pastor Birkedal of the Volksthing has given notice of the following questions—Whether the Government intend to negotiate a peace upon the basis of an entire cession of Slesvig; whether they consider it constitutional to negotiate such a peace without first consulting the House of Representatives; and whether they are convinced that such an arrangement does not endanger the stability of the throne. The Volksthing is at present withholding all financial grants until it is furnished with a more complete statement of the political position of the country than that laid before it in the private sitting of the 1st instant.

The Rigsraad (assembly for Denmark proper) was opened by the King on the 6th inst. The royal speech contained these words:—'Having been abandoned by all Europe, we are obliged to seek for peace with our overwhelming enemy. It is hard to have to make such sacrifices, but still harder to prosecute the war. Union between King and people may bring about a happier future.'

The immediate effect of the armistice in Denmark has been that a furlough has been granted to all recruits recently enlisted, and that the troops are returning from the garrisons of Fünen to the metropolis.

It is reported that M. de Bille, Danish Minister at the Court of St. James's, has been recalled by his Government, and is to leave England about the end of the month. The conduct of M. de Bille in the course of the late negotiations in London has commanded the warmest approba-

tion of his Government. It appears that his place will not be filled up in London, at least for some time. The Danish legation in this city will be done away with, and the Danish Minister in Paris will transact any affairs for which the consul may be incompetent.

FRANCE.

The Minister of Marine has given the gold medal of the 2nd class to the pilot Mauger, and silver medals to the assistant pilots Gosselin and Doucet, for the meritorious way in which they assisted in saving the crew of the *Alabama* from drowning.

The Emperor has given his decision, as arbitrator, upon the question of the Suez Canal. It will be remembered that the company had received certain large privileges from the late Viceroy, which the present ruler of Egypt considered decidedly exorbitant, and which had been objected to by the Porte, the suzerain power, as tending to diminish her sovereignty. The Company demurred naturally to the loss of the privileges, and the question, after much discussion, was referred to the arbitration of the Emperor. He has decided that the Egyptian Government shall pay to the company the sum of 54,000,000 francs (2,160,000*l.*) as a compensation for the loss of the privileges and territorial concessions once granted to it.

Marshal M'Mahon, Duc de Magenta, was appointed Governor-General of Algeria on the death of Marshal Pelissier, Duc de Malakhoff.

A Parisian journalist was lately tried and condemned for publishing political news without the proper authorisation. It appeared that this gentleman was the correspondent of various provincial papers, and was in the habit of composing one letter on the various political topics of the day, identical copies of which he sent to the different journals with which he was connected. This was held by the inferior court to amount to the publication of the letter, and he was accordingly condemned. On appeal, however, to the Cour de Cassation, the judgment has been reversed, the court above taking a more liberal, not to say more rational, view of the proceeding.

The great legal business of the week has been the trial of the thirteen gentlemen accused of forming a political association composed of more than twenty persons, contrary to the article in the Code Pénal. We have already, in a former number, mentioned the seizure of the papers of M. Garnier-Pagès, and the nature of the association in question. It was a committee composed chiefly of lawyers formed for the purpose of giving advice to electors who might ask for it as to their right to vote and the legal manner of exercising the right. The committee was one day broken up by the entrance of the *commissaires de police*, and a seizure effected of all the papers, private and otherwise, belonging to the owner of the house. The case came before the 6th Chamber of the Correctional Tribunal of the Seine on the 5th and 6th inst. In consideration of the number of advocates in the list of the accused, M. Dufaure, the *batonnier* or leader of the bar, applied to the authorities for places for himself and the Council of the Faculty of Advocates at the trial; but the application was refused, on the ground that the persons referred to were accused as private individuals, not in their capacity as advocates. Among the names of the accused are some well known in the French Opposition, MM. Garnier-Pagès, Carnot, and Ferry; they were defended by MM. Jules Favre, Marie, and Berryer, respectively. The proceedings were opened by a protest lodged by MM. Garnier-Pagès and Carnot, as members of the Legislative Chamber, against the unconstitutional manner in which their papers had been ransacked, and the votes of several individuals discovered, in violation of the law which ordained that all voting should be secret. The President declared that the court could not consider that point. The Avocat Impérial then opened the prosecution in a speech which lasted four hours; the whole drift of his speech made it unfortunately only more and more evident that all the forensic talent of France had taken refuge on the side of the Opposition. In the course of it he took occasion to refer to some previous conduct of certain of the accused in confirmation of his view; M. Jules Favre demanded his authority; he gave an article in the *Siècle*; the prisoners' counsel immediately objected to the introduction of such evidence, and a scene ensued which reflected little honour on the court. M. Jules Favre, in his speech for the defence, spoke with some bitterness of the mockery of progress which France had made, a progress which he considered little better than a cruel illusion, so long as such prosecutions could be instituted: the *causa mali* was, he appeared to think, the system of official candidature, which certainly tends to exasperate the minds of government authorities into most violent action against the Opposition; he quoted a passage from a work of the present Emperor, in which he observes that in England authority is so well managed that domiciliary visits are unknown. The speech of the hon. counsel for the defence was of so telling a character that MM. Berryer and Marie declined to add anything to it. The court retired for judgment, and, after a deliberation of five hours, gave its decision against the accused, condemning them to a fine of 500 francs apiece and the costs.

POLAND.

The mystery which hung over the constitution of that 'national Government,' which for so long baffled the searches of the Russian police, and exercised in Poland an authority superior to that of the Imperial troops, has been dispelled. The chiefs of the Government have been discovered, tried, and condemned. On the 5th inst. MM. Traugott (the chief), Krajewski, Tocyski, Zulinski, Jezioranski (heads of various departments), were hanged at Warsaw. Eleven others had also been condemned to death, but their punishment had been commuted to hard labour for life, or banishment to a Siberian fortress.

ITALY.

The readers of the *Times* will have observed a letter lately inserted in that journal with regard to an act of brigandage perpetrated in the immediate neighbourhood of Florence. It appears that an English lady of the name of Beste was driving in her carriage accompanied by her son, a youth of some seventeen years of age, when they were set upon by a pair of rascals, one of whom carried a gun; with this he shot one of the horses, and was then joined by four others; they stripped the carriage and its occupants of every valuable, and seized and carried off the boy, estimating his ransom at 3,000*l.*; the lady was told that unless the money was paid at a certain place on that night, her son would be killed. Two servants were sent with a cheque for the money, on which was also written an order not to pay the money, but to detain the bearer; however, by some mismanagement on the part of the thieves, the boy was allowed to go without any payment. It appeared from his description that they were thirteen in number, a very needy and starved set; as they were compromised both in the Papal States and in Tuscany, they were anxious to raise money enough to take them to Austria.

SPAIN.

The King of Spain will be accompanied in his visit to France by his brother, Don Enrique Maria Ferdinando, Duke of Seville. A little romance is said to be mixed up with this visit. It is said that when the Empress of the French paid her visit last year to the Queen of Spain, accompanied by Princess Anna Murat, that young lady was much admired by the Duke of Seville. He is now anxious to renew his acquaintance with her, and if possible to effect an alliance. The Emperor of the French is said not to be adverse to such a marriage, which would represent one of the most remarkable combinations in history, the union of the families of Bourbon and Murat.

GREECE.

On the 29th ult. the Ionian deputies arrived at Athens; an attempt was made to get up a demonstration to greet them, but the most noticeable part of the procession was that the banners of the provinces of Epirus, Thessaly, Macedonia, Thrace, Crete, Rhodes, Cyprus, Bulgaria, and Servia, were borne in it, as a token of the claim made by the Greek nationality upon those districts. This proceeding drew from the Turkish *chargé d'affaires*, Photiades Bey, an unofficial complaint, in an interview with M. Kalligas, the Foreign Minister, of the insult conveyed to the Sultan by the appearance of these banners in a public procession. The interview was perfectly private; neither of the two parties engaged in it were likely to have talked about it; yet next day appeared in the *Regeneration* a violently abusive article against Turkey and England. The article itself was of no great importance; but the treachery of the person who revealed the nature of the diplomatic communication has called forth remarks from representatives of the older Powers, who are not likely to allow the nascent kingdom of Greece to take such liberties with impunity.

As we mentioned last week, M. Balbes' Government has resigned upon the refusal of the House to vote the sum of 15,000 drachmas for six months' pay of Count Sponneck's *gendarmes*. The Danish counsellor of the young King was unfortunate or ill-advised enough to omit to bring this sum before the consideration of the House; the present repudiation of it has been viewed by the Ministry in the light of a vote of want of confidence, and they have accordingly resigned. A new Ministry has been formed under the presidency of Admiral Canaris.

The brigandage around Athens still continues under the chieftainship of Kitzos, Pylios, &c. To those who wish to read a lively description of the relations between the bandits and the army of Greece, such as it was when Otho was king, and (for all we know) as it is now, we would recommend the perusal of M. Edmond About's 'Roi des Montagnes.' They will discover how easily an apparently vigorous prosecution of brigandage can be combined with a fair participation in its profits.

TURKEY.

By the exertions of the British ambassador, Sir Henry Bulwer, the difficulties with regard to the missionary stations have been adjusted. The bookshops are to be reopened, and sales within their limits to be freely permitted; but books are not for the future to be hawked about the streets, nor is open-air preaching to be permitted. The converts already made are to be sent for a time to some Turkish city under the protection of the British consul.

An interesting discovery has been made in Constantinople in consequence of a fire which destroyed a vast number of Jewish hovels; the coronation-hall of the Greek Emperors from the time of Heraclius downwards has been brought to light. It was built against the walls of Theodosius, in a position very near the Imperial camp, in order that the new Emperor might, immediately after his coronation, receive the homage of his army; it is perhaps a relic of that ancient custom that the new Sultan repairs to this spot on the day after his accession, and is there girt with a sword. The Jewish hovels were built actually within and under the roof of the building; the fire by which they were destroyed has also annihilated the roof, but it has laid bare the long line of stately arches by which the entrance to this palace was graced.

EGYPT.

The stars and stripes have been getting into decided hot water in Egypt. A Yankee, of the name of Kindineco, was in the course of erecting an engine of some nature without the express authority of the Government, contrary to the law of Egypt: moreover he was greatly injuring a canal, and thus endangering the property of his neighbours; notice of the illegal nature of his action was given to the United States consul, who thereupon ordered his countryman to discontinue the works. Apparently, however, he had reasons for withdrawing his order, for shortly afterwards the workmen were again found engaged on the same task. The Government took the matter into their own hands, sent a few Kawasses to the spot, and ejected the workmen. This very natural proceeding drew from the United States consul a most violent letter, addressed to the Egyptian authorities, in which he demands redress, compensation, and apology, and threatens to haul down his flag if satisfaction is not given within twenty-four hours. His demand is, of course, not complied with, and at the end of twenty-four hours down goes the flag; nay more, a letter from Cherif Pacha arriving after the time appointed is returned unopened. There the matter stands at present—the flag down, and official communications interrupted.

It is somewhat remarkable that at the very time when Europe is very generally suffering from a long-continued drought, the inhabitants of the valley of the Nile are watching with anxiety the extraordinary rise of the river, consequent, of course, on the great rainfalls in the interior of Africa. No danger need at present be feared, as the river must rise 25 pics, or 50 feet, before it can do harm. The rise at present is only 12½ pics, or 25 feet; but this is 4 feet above the flood of 1863, and 2 feet above that of 1862. The effect of the irrigation upon the cotton plant is said to be very good, and the crop of Egyptian cotton of this year bids fair to continue the steady progress of former years.

The number of pilgrims at Mecca during this season has been unprecedentedly large, the influx being calculated at about 200,000. In consequence of this typhus fever has sprung up, and has already made many victims. The regular inhabitants of Mecca are deserting their houses fast.

His Highness the Maharajah Dhuleep Singh, whose long residence in England, the distinguished position occupied by him at the English Court, and his English manners, tastes, and habits have almost secured to him the title of an Englishman, was married on June 7, at the British Consulate, Alexandria. The lady who has now become the Maharanee is the daughter of a European merchant and an Abyssinian lady. She is a Christian, and was educated in the American Presbyterian Mission School at Cairo. She was engaged in her self-imposed duties as a teacher in that school when she was first seen by the prince. She is between fifteen and sixteen years of age, remarkable rather for an interesting manner than for distinguished beauty. The Maharajah wore at the ceremony the dress of an English gentleman, with the exception of a red tarboosh. After the conclusion of the civil ceremony at the consulate, a religious ceremony was performed at the house of the bride's father by an American Presbyterian minister. The Prince and his bride are expected shortly in England.

TUNIS.

There seems every reason to believe that quiet has at length been restored in this troubled country. The Khasnadar has been requested to reside abroad for a few months; the capitation tax has been reduced from 72 piastres to 18; an amnesty has been granted, and the submission of 14 tribes received by Government. Ben Ghadani, the leader of the revolt, has been allowed to go his way without molestation. The foreign consuls, who, with the exception of the representative of Great Britain, had all taken refuge on shipboard, have been officially informed of the restoration of peace, and the news has also been telegraphed to Cagliari; but the Europeans are still, it is said, uncertain how to act, as much of their property is even now at the mercy of the Arabs.

BRAZIL.

A marriage is projected between the Archduke Louis Victor, the younger brother of the Emperors of Austria and Mexico, and Isabella, the heiress of the throne of Brazil.

MEXICO.

We read in a French journal: 'The English have already begun to make the most of Mexico commercially. They are getting up large companies which compete with the French establishments and with the residents in the new empire in the most deplorable manner. They hope to be able to monopolise the riches of the country.'

Spanish advices from Mexico confirm in all respects the favourable reports made in the French journals. The Emperor has had an interview with the Archbishop Labastida and two of the leading bishops, and has given them to understand that he was come to Mexico not to countenance any reaction, but to represent the principles of liberty and progress. On a late occasion the Emperor and Empress went out on foot into the square in front of the palace. They were immediately surrounded by a dense crowd, which escorted them to the gate of the cathedral with shouts of enthusiasm. A zealous officer rushed out to ask the Emperor whether he would not have a guard, but his Majesty smiled, and, turning to the crowd, said, 'This is our best guard,' a sentiment which earned him redoubled applause. Their Majesties have left Mexico, and are living at Chapultepec in a villa built by the Viceroy Galvez; it is remarkable for the enormous cypresses with which it is surrounded, many of them measuring more than sixty feet in circumference. The Emperor visits Mexico every morning for the transaction of business, and returns at six in the evening.

General Grant's Campaign.—The *New York World* of July 20 says: 'No person can form a just estimate of the truly heroic campaign of General Grant from a perusal of the wilderness of confused and confusing despatches and letters which have been spread before the public from Washington and the seat of war. But there are three great cardinal facts, conspicuous and patent to all the world, which sum up, as it were, like the footings in a ledger, the multifarious circumstances scattered through the eventful two months since the army of the Potomac advanced from the Rapidan. These three cardinal considerations are—1. The change of base to the James River; 2. The rebel incursion into Maryland; and, 3. The new call of the President for half a million additional men.'

A NORTHERN SUMMARY OF WAR NEWS.

(From the *Philadelphia Age*, July 29.)

The Confederate movement northward, through the Shenandoah Valley, is over. A small body still remains at Winchester, but the object of the movement—to cripple Hunter and keep Wright from rejoining Grant seems to have been accomplished. We have little doubt that the larger part of the Confederates have returned to Richmond. They have begun a movement against Grant. An attack upon his northern flank is contemplated. For two or three days past the Confederates have been concentrating in front of the isolated earthwork built by Foster on the north bank of the James. On Friday they attacked it, and also made an artillery assault upon Birney's (late Brooks') and Martindale's (late Smith's) Corps, at Bermuda Hundred. The firing was very heavy, and the indications are that the Confederates intended to pass around Foster's flank, and capture Malvern Hill and Harrison's Landing, thus controlling the James below City Point. Grant, it is said, at once sent reinforcements to Foster. He could not do it unless he withdrew some of his troops from Petersburg. His army now is comparatively weak. Burnside's, Warren's, and Barlow's (late Hancock's) Corps are in front of Petersburg. One of them must have been withdrawn to help Foster. Wright is still at Washington, Our latest intelligence is to Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock. At that time a heavy battle was being fought. Nothing was known of its results. It began on Tuesday evening. This movement of the enemy has placed Grant on the defensive, and may compel him to take his troops away from Petersburg to fight an enemy at Malvern Hill and Bermuda Hundred. The expedition against Hunter has accomplished its object, and its history can now be written.

The Confederates after their recent expedition into Maryland, retreated from Rockville across the Potomac to Leesburg, and then through Snicker's Gap into the Shenandoah valley. They were followed by General Wright's troops. Wright led his own corps, a portion of the Nineteenth Corps, and Crook's cavalry. Snicker's Gap is a short distance west of Leesburg. Co-operating with Wright, Generals Hunter and Averell moved south-west from Harper's Ferry and Martinsburg along the valley. The Confederates withdrew rapidly and Wright followed as swiftly. At Snicker's Gap, Crook, who led the Federal advance, captured a Confederate wagon train. The Confederates turned upon their pursuers, drove them off, and recaptured all but two of the wagons. Wright followed them through the gap a short distance, to the Shenandoah River. The authorities at Washington, seeing the Federal pursuit so apparently successful, and being daily importuned to send Wright and his troops back to Grant's army, sent a courier to recall him. Before the courier arrived, Wright reached the Shenandoah, and found the enemy drawn up on the western bank. He tried to cross it, but was repulsed. He then endeavoured to outflank the Confederates, when they suddenly broke up their camp and marched southward along the valley to Manassas Gap.

As Wright was preparing to follow them, the courier reached him. The orders to return to Washington were peremptory. His corps and the 19th Corps were at once withdrawn through Snicker's Gap towards Leesburg. General Crook covered the rear. The march was not molested. Crook, as soon as Wright's troops had passed through Snicker's Gap, was ordered to go northward along the valley and join Hunter and Averell, who had halted at Winchester. At the same time the Confederates began a swift march northward. Wright was out of the way, and having been heavily reinforced, they anticipated an easy conquest of Hunter. They came up with Crook just south of Winchester, and on Saturday last drove him into the town. An attack was unexpected, and Hunter hastily abandoned Winchester, leaving the greater portion of his baggage in the enemy's hands. On Sunday morning he was again attacked, north of Winchester. He was almost surrounded. One regiment was cut off from another. There seemed to be no orders given except for retreat. The Confederates captured four cannon and eight hundred prisoners. They broke up Hunter's column, and his troops, completely disorganised, rushed into Martinsburg. Crook tried to protect the rear from the Confederate pursuit, but was unsuccessful. Averell did what he could, but the rout was complete. Hunter had lost the confidence of his men, and could no longer control them. No stand was made at Martinsburg. The road north-east to Williamsport was taken by the fugitive army, and a halt was not made until the Potomac was crossed.

The Confederates captured Martinsburg. The road taken by Hunter's men was covered with all sorts of abandoned *materiel*. The woods were filled with Federal stragglers. The enemy did not advance in force north of Martinsburg, though pickets were sent out. Hunter, when he reached Williamsville, found an order relieving him from command. Crook succeeded him. Wright, as soon as he reached Washington, was sent westward towards Harper's Ferry. The authorities saw their mistake in recalling him from the Shenandoah valley, and four days ago his troops began marching from Washington to garrison the various passes into Western Maryland. No Confederates have crossed the Potomac. The Federal force under Wright is about 30,000. Crook has scarcely a regiment able to fight. On Wednesday Wright's advance reoccupied Martinsburg. The Confederates have withdrawn their principal force, but have left a picket just south of the town.

General Sherman has been checked in his advance against Atlanta. His assaults have been unsuccessful. He has ceased them and begun a siege. The Chattahoochee runs a south-western course. Beach Tree Creek is a small stream falling into it near the Dalton and Atlanta Railroad Bridge. Atlanta is six miles south-west of this creek. Decatur is six miles east of Atlanta, and from Decatur the creek flows north-west. It passes about four miles north of Atlanta, and runs through a deep, wide ravine. General Sherman's army consists of seven corps. Sherman, after crossing the Chattahoochee, marched without opposition to Peach Tree Creek. He crossed it. His eastern flank advanced towards Decatur, and his western flank marched from the northward towards Atlanta. After crossing Peach Tree Creek Sherman attacked the enemy, posted along the ravine. He fought for three days, and every attack was repulsed. McPherson led the western half of his army, and Thomas led the eastern half. On Friday last Sherman ceased his direct attacks, and began a siege. Since then his troops have been hard at work digging intrenchments. The losses in the conflicts of last week were heavy, but there is no means of estimating them.

Our latest intelligence from Sherman's camp is to Wednesday. At that time the eastern Federal flank was at Decatur, six miles east of Atlanta. Blair's corps was on the extreme eastern flank. Logan's corps was north of Blair, and Dodge's Corps north-west of Logan. These three corps were commanded by Logan, who succeeds McPherson. West of Dodge was Schofield's corps, it being five miles north-east of Atlanta. Howard's corps was west of Schofield; Hooker's west of Howard, and Palmer's on the western flank, three miles north of Atlanta These four corps were commanded by Thomas. The Federal army is thus encamped in a semi-circle running from a point three miles north of Atlanta to another point six miles east of it. All the troops are in the ravine formed by Peach Tree Creek, and the Confederates are posted on the hills forming the southern slope. The capture of these hills, from which the Confederates could not be driven by assault, is the object of Sherman's siege. Hence the singular announcement that he has an object in view 'more important than the capture of Atlanta.'

The subject of the portion of the crew of the *Alabama* rescued by the English yacht *Deerhound* has been referred to a Naval Commission, presided over by Rear-Admiral Shubrick. The Commission has reported that they are prisoners of war, and the Government has endorsed the report. A demand for them will at once be made.

Kentucky is represented as being in a condition bordering on open revolt.

A NORTHERN DEMOCRATIC VIEW OF THE ABORTIVE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

To the Editor of The Index.

New York: July 27, 1864.

Sir,—The sensation for the past week has been the peace talk at Niagara. Rumours had been flying about for several weeks of gatherings of Southerners at the Clifton House on the Canada side of the Falls, and of conferences going on between agents of the two Governments, out of which something very important would grow, and latterly those rumours grew into the shape of an overture from the Confederate Government for peace and the initiation of positive negotiations. Mr. Greeley, of the *New York Tribune*, was named as the agent of Mr. Lincoln, and Mr. George N. Sanders—once, I believe, United States Consul to London—as the Confederate agent in bringing the principal parties together. Suddenly the story took consistency, and got such credit that one day Wall Street believed, without knowing why, in the good chance of immediate peace, and gold went down three or four per cent. in consequence. A journalist got possession of some of the facts, and made out such a circumstantial account for the newspapers, that Mr. Greeley furnished for publication the whole of the correspondence to which he was a party, with so much narrative as gives the exterior history of the affair. He was followed by Mr. Cornwall Jewitt, who has been well known in this country and in Europe as a somewhat officious and generally self-appointed intermediary in trying to effect compromises and produce mediations in order to bring the war to a close. Sanders, and Greeley, and Jewitt are secondary figures in the Niagara tableau; the chief personages are the President of the United States, and certain Southern gentlemen who have really made an earnest attempt to induce him to allow the two Governments to come into conference with each other, with the view of stopping this fratricidal strife if it be possible. They failed under circumstances which fix upon him a new stigma for personal bad faith and unrelenting obstinacy in wrong, and give such a definite and undisguised character to the war he is waging as to make it impossible for the country to hope for peace so long as his administration lasts.

Let me say a few words of the gentlemen who represent in these papers the Confederate side of the correspondence. They are men of such character and position as refute the supposition that they had any other than honourable purposes to be accomplished by honourable means. The probable consequence of these acts, which gives the colour to the charge, is that the Peace party in this country will gain prodigious strength from the development at Niagara of the irreconcilable character of this internecine war, and the malignant purposes and lawless means which have become the fixed and avowed policy of the Government. This is an incident with which the men of the South may be gratified, if it serves to build up a party within the United States which will wrest from the hands of the Administration the powers it has so frightfully misused. But they have no interest in the overthrow of any set of men, or the advancement of any other set in this country, beyond its bearing on the peace and independence of their own. It is nothing to them whether Lincoln, or Fremont, or M'Clellan, or Grant, or Turchin, or Butler be President of the United States. It seems to be impossible for Northern men to divest themselves of the habit of thinking the war to be only a huge and horrible episode in their own domestic politics; and they talk of Southern statesmen attempting to negotiate for peace between two nations as of Kansas or New York politicians squabbling for the control of a convention at Baltimore or Chicago. The Southern men at Niagara had different thoughts.

Clement C. Clay, jun., the first on the list, is a native of Alabama. He was born in Huntsville, where his venerable father, one of the oldest public men in the State, still resides, if not driven from his home by the Yankee army. The elder Clay was Governor of the State, and senator in the United States Congress, during the administration of General Jackson, of whom he was an ardent supporter. The son entered public life early as a thorough disciple of the States'-rights school of Democracy; and after having served in the State Legislature, and held the office of Judge of one of the State Circuits, was elected and reelected to the United States Senate, and was senator at the time the State seceded. He never held any Federal appointment, but has been distinguished by the ardour with which he has always supported the doctrine of State sovereignty and those theories of constitutional construction upon which the South relied for its safety within the Union. When Alabama joined the Southern Confederacy, Mr. Clay was elected the first senator in the Confederate Congress. He had been for some time in infirm health from weak lungs and impaired digestion, and for a year or two abstained from all public exertion. When his term expired he was succeeded in the Senate by Richard W. Walker, the present senator, also from Huntsville, brother of the first Secretary of War in the Confederate Government. Mr. Clay had reached Canada in pursuit of health, where he was trying the waters at St. Catharine's when he undertook this duty. An uncompromising Southern man under the old Union, he is, in training, capacity, and personal character, a representative of the South, of whose trustworthiness no question can be made.

The second on the list, although his name is appended to none of the letters, and he does not appear to have been an acting party in the negotiation, is Jacob Thompson, of Mississippi. Mr. Thompson was, for a long time, a favourite leader of the Democratic party of that State, and several times a representative in the Federal Congress. He was Secretary of the Interior in the Cabinet of Mr. Buchanan, and is ranked in the popular prejudice of the North with the pretended conspiracy among members of that Cabinet to bring on the rebellion. His administration of the department was undeniably odd, his support of Southern rights always decided, and his adherence to the Southern cause early and emphatic. There is a mystery about his connection with the Niagara negotiation, which evidently means something. The use of his name at the opening of the correspondence, and the careful exclusion of it afterwards, have a signification which may be interpreted so as to explain some omissions and apparent discrepancies elsewhere. It is very evident that he was originally assigned to take a part in the preliminary conference, and it was so understood at Washington. The first formal application to Mr. Greeley for the passes to Washington gave the names for which they were wanted as Clement C. Clay, of Alabama, James P. Holcombe, of Virginia, and George N. Sanders, of 'Dixie,' and 'one other.' The answer came back with passes for Clement C. Clay, *Jacob Thompson*, and James P. Holcombe. Mr. Thompson, though not named, must have been previously understood at Washington to be the 'one other.' The reply to this communication was signed only by Messrs. Clay and Holcombe, with this memorandum in a postscript: 'It is proper to add that Mr. Thompson is not here, and has not been staying with us since our sojourn in Canada.' In the body of that reply these gentlemen say for themselves that they have not been 'accredited' to the President of the United States as 'bearers of propositions looking to the establishment of peace;' and they add, that if the circumstances disclosed in the correspondence—meaning the willingness expressed in the offer of safe conduct to these parties to go to Washington were communicated to Richmond, they would probably be invested with that authority, or 'other gentlemen clothed with full powers' would be immediately sent to Washington. Does this reference to 'other gentlemen' with full powers point to Mr. Thompson as already in possession, to be produced and used when the contingency contemplated in them should arrive? and does it thus explain why Mr. Thompson, who is known to be at St. Catharine's within ten miles of the Clifton House, carefully abstained from taking any part in these preliminary overtures? This, of course, is merely a vague conjecture, of the probability of which you are better able to judge than I, who am not in the secret of Southern plans.

Mr. Holcombe, the third of the Southerners on the list, is a Virginian, whose previous life, pursuits, and personal and social character give assurance of earnestness in the faith which drew him from the seclusion of an unambitious private life, refined associations, and favourite studies, into the turbulent area of revolution. He was Professor of International Law at the University of Virginia, and, giving a powerful and acute intellect to the side of Southern argument, was elected to the first Confederate Congress.

These men constitute a commission, in fact, which in weight of personal character, public position, and trustworthiness, ought to command the respectful attention of any Government with which they might desire to confer, bringing credentials from a Government so undeniably a Government *de facto* as that at Richmond. When we search for the motives and expectations with which these abortive attempts at negotiation were entered upon by them, we may assume that they understood the wishes of their own Government, and would be supported by it. Their own character and history, and the fixed position taken by their Government since the commencement of the war, forbid us to believe that their efforts at Niagara contemplated the surrender of any substantial point for which the South is contending.

This mail will carry to you all the printed correspondence, with the glosses which have been put upon it by the intermediary agents of both sides—each having a purpose of self-exaltation or self-defence—and by the public journals of the North, which are handling it, with very few exceptions, as aliment for the Presidential excitement. The documents will find a place in The Index as an important part of the history of this war; the events they disclose mark an epoch from which it may be predicted that new political combinations in the North may be dated.

The facts not susceptible of dispute are these. By some intercommunications, which are intrinsically of no consequence to be traced out, Mr. Greeley, editor of the *New York Tribune*, was induced to believe that, if the Government of the United States would receive at Washington persons accredited from Richmond, a conference with them might lead to the re-establishment of peace. Mr. Greeley wisely left points of form undetermined, and communicated with the President on the subject. The terms of his communication have not been made public, but they were such as to induce the President to place in the custody of Mr. Greeley passports for three named gentlemen of the South for Washington city. But these passports included a designation of the bearers of the safe-conduct as 'accredited from Richmond with *propositions* looking to the establishment of peace.' They declared themselves not entitled to be received in that character. They had no such extended authority. What they desired was a free conference, untrammeled by specific propositions at the outset, with the hope that a mutual understanding might be effected, on which a negotiation for peace might be based with 'accredited' agents whom the Confederate Government was ready to appoint for that purpose. In reply to this representation, conveyed to him through Mr. Greeley, the President withdrew at once all recognition of parties at Niagara, and put an end to all attempts to bring the two Governments, or agents speaking for the two Governments, into correspondence or conference, by sending his private secretary, Major Hay, with a manifesto so discourteous and absurdly arrogant as to be felt as an insult and an outrage. It was not addressed by name to the gentlemen to whom he had been tendering passports, but was a sort of proclamation addressed, as to persons unknown, '*to whom it may concern*,' of which the declarations in substance are, that when the Southern States have returned to their obedience to the authority of the general Government, and have abandoned slavery, and proved the sincerity of their repentance by laying down their arms, whoever shall bring the proofs of this submission to Mr. Lincoln may come in perfect safety, and be assured that, on minor topics, the repentants shall be mercifully dealt with.

This paper was communicated, in the presence of Mr. Greeley, by Major Hay to Mr. Holcombe, and was received by him and his colleague, Mr. Clay, as an indignity. They had been surprised into expecting a response, at least civil in form, to a request they had been led to believe would be complied with without difficulty; they were dismissed with contemptuous slight, and their suggestions responded to indirectly by the public promulgation of conditions extremely offensive and utterly inadmissible, and which were known by Mr. Lincoln from the beginning to be so. They would not charge Major Hay even with an acknowledgment of the receipt of the extraordinary paper, but submitted their views of it to their original correspondent,

Mr. Greeley, wherein they spoke in befitting terms of the conclusions to be drawn from his President's act and the effect it is likely to have on the further prosecution of the war and the prospects of peace. They tell Mr. Greeley that they have no use for the paper sent to them through him. They could not transmit it to Richmond without offering an indignity to their President, dishonouring themselves, and incurring 'the well-merited scorn' of their countrymen. Their Government, they say, is without the inclination, as without the power, to comply with conditions unlike any which ever emanated from the constitutional executive of a free people, and which require of them 'to subvert the social institutions of sovereign States, to overthrow established Constitutions, and to barter away the priceless heritage of free government.' They say that, with an ardent desire of peace pervading the people of the Confederate States, there are few, if any, among them, who will purchase it at the expense of liberty, honour, and self-respect. 'If it can be secured only by their submission to terms of conquest, the generation is yet unborn which will witness its restitution.' They will be rather inspired with fresh energy 'to brave and endure whatever may be yet requisite to preserve to themselves and their children all that gives dignity and value to life, and hope and consolation in death.'

The letter is not long, but it is a powerful and solemn appeal to the judgment of mankind and the justice of Heaven against the bloodthirsty and remorseless despotism which sways the administration of this Republic.

The parties then separated at Niagara. Mr. Greeley withdrew, and gave notice that the President's authorisation would no longer cover United States citizens from the penalties for correspondence with the public enemy, and he and Jewitt returned to make public their several shares in the transaction, and to convert it to their several uses for the future. I have not learned yet what is the view taken of it in the South, nor indeed what is the version by the Southerners at Niagara of their own intentions and expectations. I attach little consequence to the versions in the newspapers and by the intermediary agents of the conversations said to have been held on these topics at Niagara. In the character of the men, the consistent position of their Government, and the guarded language of their correspondence, I think I can gather two conditions which would be included in the Southern ultimatum for any proposition for peace—(1) the sovereignty of the States, and (2) the independence of the Southern Confederacy.

What then are the grounds of expectation of any portion of the Southern people for peace by negotiation with the Government of the United States, of which the cement is a fanatic passion for the unity of territory and the concentration of continental dominions, which they exalt under the name of the Union? I do not imagine that there is any expectation of making a settlement of any kind while this Administration lasts, and can continue to levy armies and get the means for carrying on the war. I think the President was guided by mere political cunning in encouraging the coming of Southern messengers to Washington, in order to obtain from them a proposition which he might gain some political profit in his canvass for election by rejecting. Some of the political managers about him are visibly dissatisfied with him, considering, when his concession had gone so far, that it did not go further, and let in the Southern envoys after opening the door. But the indefinite form in which the possible proposal was left is used by Mr. Lincoln for the same purpose, as proof that the South is in a condition to be speedily constrained to submit if his policy be persevered in, and as a plea for his continuance in office as the public necessity to accomplish that work.

There is no reasonable expectation of making any impression on Mr. Lincoln which was not preceded by a thorough military humiliation and absolute exhaustion of the finances. But there have been growing hopes, North and South, that, with the displacement of Mr. Lincoln and his advisers and the accession of the Democratic party to power, the force of an accomplished fact would be recognised, and the statesmanship of both sections be attracted to some effort for securing, in some way, all the public advantages for which the lost Union was created, consistently with the rights of sovereignty and self-government in the States. I do not know whether these thoughts have matured into a design either North or South, but they prevail in a very extensive degree among reflecting men; and it is thought at the North to be not merely possible, but to be likely, that, for the consideration of early peace, and to secure the independence in fact of the States of the South and the common Government they have erected for themselves, failing all other attempts to stop the war, the South might as an ultimatum consent to a union of confederacies which should possess the powers legitimately belonging to the late Union in regard to all foreign relations, and which should include free internal navigation and commerce and external free trade, but at the same time leave the States paramount within their own jurisdiction against each other, and against the conterminous or rival confederacies. To agitate such a proposition assumes the suspension of hostilities—the admission of the integral character of the States as separate communities deliberating on the reconstruction of union on a new basis—and implies no other obligation than that of a new consent by each of the parties to a new Government.

There are a thousand clamorous outcries to be raised against the entertaining of any such plan of adjustment, and there are a great many reasons for supposing that the Southern States would come with infinite reluctance, if at all, into even so much political connection with the North-east, which has been so faithless to its old compacts, so greedy in its graspings after power, and so sordid and rapacious in using it. I do not imagine they could possibly be brought to consent to any union or league in which New England is not shorn of her capacity to do mischief; and it is not to be disguised that there is a widespread disposition in portions of the North to get rid of New England domination—the more readily if by so doing it would help to recover the South in a new distribution of power within a new Union or circle of confederacies. This is a vague description of vague expectations. But it is of such materials that new combinations are wrought out, which become powerful parties where great minds and great opportunities shape them into a fixed policy. The pending canvass for the Presidency of the North is the great opportunity. Mr. Lincoln has made the issue a plain one. With him the war is to be waged remorselessly and vindictively to eternal separation. His conditions of peace are such as he has no lawful power to impose, and there is no rightful authority anywhere to accept—which enrage, and intensify, and embitter the South and which he seeks to enforce by means inhuman in themselves, and destructive of the freedom of the North. To oppose him, and at the same time to support the war, with the hollow profession of the purpose to restore an impossible Union, is the hypocritical policy of the war Democrats, against which there is great protestation arising among the suffering people, who see in their triumph only the elevation of a new set of hungry politicians who promise what is beyond human power to perform, for the hope of office and with the intent to deceive. Whether the opportunity brings out the men is to be decided, first in the Chicago Convention, and then in the political canvass which follows; for assuredly only in the nomination and success of an unequivocal peace candidate is there any hope for peace, and in early peace only is there possibility of saving anything in the North for liberty—peace on the basis of the admitted sovereignty of the States, and their rights now at least if not in the earlier stages of the war, when the Constitution which made the Union subsisted and was respected, to exercise their own separate will in the formation of a new Government, and a new Union if they can, 'deriving its just powers from the consent of the governed.'

The repulsed negotiators in Canada announce with unmistakable distinctness the resolute purpose of the South to maintain their right of self-government and State independence to the last extremity, protracted if it must be from generation to generation. The Northern party which desires peace and hopes for a united America on any possible conditions, by voluntary accession to new combinations and distributions, alliances, or leagues, must unite on this basis of preliminary concession of entire State liberty of action, and trust to reasoning and enlightened self-interest for an adjustment which may come, but which they are over-sanguine, I believe, who look for in this generation. Time, and a long reign of congenial influences, will be required before the chasms which have separated the North and South can be so bridged over as to make any connection between them, other than that of armed and watchful enemies, practicable or safe. But the North must choose between peace with that filmy hope, and war for eternal hatreds and everlasting separation. He is a fool who does not perceive it, and a knave who, perceiving it, clamours for war, and pretends to hope for union or peace through war.

Yours respectfully,
A NORTHERN PEACE DEMOCRAT.

LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA: July 20, 1864.

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN SOLDIERS—A CONTRAST.

If you would properly judge between the peoples contending in this war, you must examine into the spirit with which they wage it. He is not a good man who brutally maltreats man's body; he is worse who brutalises and perverts his soul. Let the alleged ill-treatment of the negro by the Northerner and the Southerner be tried by this standard.

Europeans are prone to believe the Northern tale, that Southern slavery makes its governing population fierce, cruel, implacable, and to delight in human suffering. Such was the accusation against the Southerner before the war; but the war itself has dispelled this cloud upon his character. The invasion of Pennsylvania by Lee, and the very incursions of Stuart and Morgan in search of horses and supplies, during which the persons of non-combatants were scrupulously respected; their private effects, not taken for use, were left undisturbed; and for these pay was offered in the currency of the invader, or, if in hand, of the invaded—all prove it. This forbearance was shown by men whose own homes had been laid in ashes, their wives and children treated with brutality, and every effort made to bring them to death by starvation.

The Northern people claim that theirs is 'the best Government the sun ever shone upon'—that they brought to New England all the true religion which Old England possessed—and that from their metropolis must be sent out the only missionaries capable of instructing the world in morals, civilisation, good government, and religion. But truth dispels all illusions. By the light of these camp fires and of the battle, you may discern the true character of each. Has the war shown the slaveholding Southerner more cruel, more blood-thirsty, or less kindly disposed towards the weak and defenceless than other men? Has the Pharisaical Yankee, who tells the Southerner to 'stand aside, for I am holier than thou,' proved himself to be free from the traits of the savage, or peculiarly endowed with Christian virtues? By their fruits ye shall know them.

You have been told that at Fort Pillow the negro soldiers were killed after surrender without mercy, that some were burned, and others buried alive. Were this all true, these were men in arms, men of a servile race, bound for generations to the service of those against whom they were waging deadly war, in aid of an invasion by greatly superior forces ravaging and burning the homes of the invaded. But it was not true. The only notice which General Forrest has vouchsafed to this is contained in his address to his army, just published, in which he says, of the force which went out from Memphis under General Sturgis to attack him with 10,000 men, that 'they came forth with threats of vengeance towards you and your commander, for the bloody victory at Fort Pillow, made a massacre only by dastardly Yankee reporters.' The Sturgis expedition was intended as a revenge for Fort Pillow. Ten thousand men, 'complete in infantry, cavalry, and supply trains,' went out to seek Forrest, who had not, he says, over 3,000. Their cry was, 'No quarter to Forrest and his men' A very large proportion of Sturgis's force were negroes. In the presence of General Sturgis and the white officers and troops who accompanied them, and who must have aided and abetted their conduct, what did these negroes do? Let the following extract from a letter written at Okolona, Mississippi, June 14, and published in the *Mississippian* of the 21st, tell you:—

'You must know that most of Forrest's men are from Western Tennessee. Before the battle, fugitives from the counties through which Sturgis and his troops were advancing came into our camp, detailing incidents which made men who are accustomed to scenes of violence and bloodshed shudder. I cannot recite all the stories of these poor frightened people.

'Robbery, rapine, and the assassination of men and women, were the least of crimes committed; while the "Avengers of Fort Pillow" overran and desolated the country. Rude, unlettered men, who had fought at Shiloh and in many subsequent battles, wept like children when they heard of the enormities to which their mothers, sisters, and wives had been subjected by the negro mercenaries of Sturgis. The mildest, most placable of our soldiers became maddened when they heard how the persons of their kinswomen were violated. The negroes were regardless of the age, condition, sex, or entreaties of their victims. In one instance the grandmother, daughter, and granddaughter were each, in the same room, held by the drunken brutes and subjected to outrages by the bare recital of which humanity is appalled.

'A young wife, *enceinte*, taken to a negro encampment and tied to stakes driven in the ground, was made to minister to the hell-born passions of a dozen fiends. Death, in mercy, came to her relief. A little boy, who sought to protect his mother, was brutally bayonetted. When savage lusts were gratified, the victims, here and there, were burned in their dwellings. Insanity, in some instances, came to the relief of sufferings such as never before were inflicted upon human creatures by remorseless fiends in human shape. Terror and the agony of hopeless shame, and famine, fire, and bloodshed, and the assassination of the helpless and unoffending, marked the progress of the "avengers of Fort Pillow."'

To these outrages an end for the time was put by Forrest's victory at Tishemingo Creek, where he utterly defeated Sturgis with a loss to him of 17 guns, 250 wagons, 3,000 stand of arms, and 2,000 prisoners, besides 2,000 killed and wounded, an estimate under that given by the returning remnants of his force.

A Southern newspaper, the *Sunny South*, tells the same story. It says General Sturgis brought with him 2,500 negroes, who perpetrated the greatest outrages on their way out. Seven of them violated the person of one young lady, who, it is supposed, will die. They burnt houses and delighted in displaying acts of cruelty. It also tells how, elsewhere in Lower Mississippi, 'the Yankees captured in a late raid Mr. Nat Hest, one of General Wirt Adams' cavalry, turned him over to the negroes, who stripped him, gave him 500 lashes, and then shot him. The horrible scene was witnessed by three ladies, who were concealed. His body was horribly mangled.' I have no doubt of the truth of these relations, for I have heard the negroes here urged to similar conduct.

In contrast with this let me give you the following letter from some division commander, name to me unknown, in General Johnston's grand army, to a friend in Georgia. You will see, by the way, that he anticipated that Johnston would yet fall behind the Chattahoochie river, as he seems to have done. It was a private letter, but the recipient thought it too good to be kept from the public eye:

'Some four miles N.E. of Marietta,
'June 16, 1864.

'My dear Judge,—I could not now go much into detail as to the "situation." We are occupying a long and extended line of battle on a ridge which crosses the railroad, some four miles from Marietta. Our lines must be several, perhaps five, miles in length. The enemy are in front; both sides entrenched; Sherman afraid to make the attack, for which Johnston is quietly waiting. Yesterday, my division was under fire again, as it has often been since this campaign opened. We did not accomplish much, and lost some men.

'The army is in fine tone, and would make a splendid fight any day. General Johnston is pursuing a safe course, and doubtless a wise one. He is thought by some to be overcautious, and not sufficiently enterprising: and to have let slip, perhaps, one or two excellent opportunities to strike. Still, my own confidence, and that of the army, in his skill and ability, is great, and we are satisfied he will seize the first occasion that he regards as favourable to make a blow. We think that blow will be a stunning one. To get a chance to deliver it, it may be necessary to fall back across the Chattahoochie.

'But the greatest confidence is not so much in the skill of our generals. First and foremost it is in Providence. His hand is as plainly discernible in this struggle as in the history of His ancient people under Moses. When His time has arrived, He will give us the desired opportunity. Then my confidence is in the stout hearts, and strong arms, and heroic devotion of our men. The world has never produced a race equal to these Southern men, and more and more I admire the heroes of the ranks. Their uncomplaining, uncalculating fortitude and endurance, their unshaken and unselfish fidelity to the cause, their wonderful courage and irrepressible spirits, their religious enthusiasm, all excite admiration, and produce a conviction that a superhuman influence controls and directs them.

'Johnston is wary and watchful, and Sherman must be far more perfect than I take him to be if he does not soon commit the blunder that Johnston will turn to account.

'The saddest day we have had was the day General Polk fell, the 14th. Just a week before he spent two or three hours at my tent near Lost Mountain, and gave me, in his striking way, an account of his baptising Hood at Dalton and Johnston at Cassville since the campaign began. He was full of life and spirits, and buoyant with hope and confidence. A few days afterwards, when shifting towards the right, I passed his quarters, and, dismounting, had a few pleasant cheerful words with him. That was the last time I saw him. He was a good man, a true patriot, a brave soldier, and I felt that he was my friend. His fall cast a gloom over the entire army. Such victims enhance the sacredness of our cause, and give us an additional claim to independence.

'I am happy to say that I have a good command—that I am on the best possible terms with officers and men, who seem not only to give me their confidence, but also most affectionate regard. They have already done good service, and will do more. Your partiality alludes to my services to the country. I do not allow myself to think of promotion, but endeavour to keep steadily before me these sole aims—to do my whole duty, as well as possible, to God, my country, and my men; and to have a good report from the rank and file is far preferable to promotion.

'But I am spinning out this note to a tedious length. The great battle may come off any day, or may be deferred for some time yet. When it occurs we shall triumph.—Ever sincerely your friend, ——.'

Contrast the negro as led 'and educated] by a Butler and a Banks, a Sherman and a Burnside, with such warriors as Stonewall Jackson, Leonidas Polk, and such Christian Generals as Lee, Johnston, Hood, and the gallant writer of this letter.

SURGEONS IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY.—Our contemporary, the *Lancet*, in its replies to correspondents, refers to 'the Editor of THE INDEX' various enquirers desirous of obtaining surgeon's commissions in the Confederate army. In consequence, we have received so many applications as to call for a uniform reply through our columns. We beg, therefore, to inform the gentlemen who have written to us, that there is no agent of the Confederate States in Europe, authorised to issue or even to promise commissions of any kind in the Confederate army, or, indeed, to hold out any encouragements whatever. Competent practitioners would, doubtless, be well received, and find abundant scope for usefulness, but they must take the risk of obtaining commissions, and bear the expense, which is a far more formidable obstacle than the danger of a journey through the blockade.

'EDERAL BARBARITIES IN VIRGINIA.

IE following letter has been addressed by Ex-Governor ɔtcher, of Virginia, to the Mayor of Richmond. The iitted passage relates to personal matters :—

Lexington, Va.: July 5, 1864.

. . . . . .

Finding that the Yankees would take the town on Saturday .th), I left home near midnight, Friday night, and went to ; Island, in Bedford, where I remained till Wednesday ɔrning following, when, hearing the Vandals had left, I urned. I had previously heard that my house had been rned, with all its contents. The threats made by the inkees against me for the past two years satisfied me that ɔy would destroy my house when they came to Lexington; t I always supposed that they would allow the furniture and family's clothing to be removed. In this, however, I was appointed.

When the Yankees took possession of the town, Dr. Paton, dical Director for Hunter's army, and who hails from Marion unty, Virginia, went to my house, told my wife he was well, and said he must have a room in the house. He took room, supped and breakfasted, and, when breakfast was arly over, remarked in a manner half jocular, half earnest, to zzie, that it was the last meal she would take in the house. ortly after he left without taking leave of any of the family, r was he again seen by any of them.

The threats made by soldiers on Saturday evening induced y wife to fear the house would be burned, and she expressed r fears in the hearing of Dr. Paton and Captain Towns, of ew York. Captain Towns very promptly said that, I being private citizen, and the house being private property, burning would be an inexcusable outrage, and proposed at once to go Hunter's head-quarters and ascertain. He went, and was rected by Hunter to assure my wife that the house would not disturbed. The sequel shows that the sole object of this surance was to quiet her apprehensions, and thus prevent ything from being removed.

About half-past eight o'clock A.M. (Saturday) Captain Berry id his provost guard rode up, and the officer called for my life. She came to the door, when Berry informed her that he as ordered by Hunter to fire the house. She replied there ust be some mistake, and asked for the order. He said it was verbal order. She then said to him, 'Can it not be delayed ntil I can see General Hunter?' 'The order is peremptory,' replied, 'and you have five minutes to leave the house.' he then asked leave to remove her mother's, sister's, her own, id her children's clothing, which was insolently refused.

Immediately thereafter camphene was poured on the parlour oor, and ignited with a match. In the meantime my daughter had athered up an armful of clothing, and was going out when he iscovered her, ran forward, and fired the clothing in her arms. e then poured camphene in the wardrobes, bureau drawers, nd ignited the clothing—taking out my clothing, which he aid he intended to take North.

Every house on my lot was burned save a small granary ver my icehouse. Not a particle of flour, meat, or anything ible was left, all having been carried off on Saturday.

My mother, now in her seventy-eighth year, lives on the lot joining my own, having with her one of her grandchildren nd servant. After my property had been fired the fiends fired er stable, located about forty feet from the house, with no her view than to burn her out also. The house caught twice, nd would have been consumed but for the untiring efforts of aptain Towns, who made his men carry water and extinguish he flames. The captain behaved like a gentleman towards my wn and my mother's family.

Generals Averill, Crook, Sullivan, and Duffle denounced the hole proceedings as an outrage, in violation of all the princiles of civilised warfare, and stated that Hunter alone was esponsible for these atrocities.

I am truly, and in haste, your friend,

Jos. Mayo, Esq., Richmond, Va. JOHN LETCHER.

IRISH EMIGRATION.

IR. JUSTICE FITZGERALD, in opening the commission or the county of Cork, Ireland, addressed the grand ury, in reference to Irish emigration, in the following erms:—

Probably I shall not transgress the bounds of duty by calling our attention to a matter of more than ordinary interest, of which I have been reminded myself within the last two or three days by what I have seen—namely, the increasing tide of emigration. The subject to which I now propose to draw your attention is a proclamation issued in the course of the present month by direction of his Excellency Lord Carlisle. In that proclamation, which is issued under the Foreign Enlistment Act and in the enforcement of its provisions, I find a statement —'And whereas there is reason to believe that many of her Majesty's subjects have been induced to go and embark from various parts of the United Kingdom to the United States of America by false and delusive promises of employment on railways and other public works in the said United States, and of high and greatly remunerative wages for their labour in such employment, and have, after their arrival in the said United States, been further induced to enter the military service of the said States and serve therein as soldiers against the Confederate States of America, contrary to their own original intention and in contempt of Her Majesty's royal proclamation.' The proclamation then proceeds to call the attention of all to the consequences they may involve themselves in by being parties or privy to such transactions. Gentlemen, in adverting to the increasing tide of emigration, I am not about to enter with you on any debateable ground. I do not propose to consider whether the economic laws which perhaps guide the movement are capable of being controlled, or to consider whether emigration may or may not be carried beyond its legitimate limits, or whether an opinion broached by some may be well founded —that it is the mission, the destiny, of the people of this island to become the pioneers of civilisation in the Western world. But what I propose to call your attention to is a proof of the statement contained in the proclamation, and our duty as far as we can to enforce it. Any one who knows, and indeed we all know much of, the government of Lord Carlisle, feels quite assured that such a proclamation would never be issued by that sagacious and prudent nobleman without a foundation in fact and a necessity calling for its issue. But we have before us, and every day it comes under our own notice, the circumstances which have led to this. There is no doubt that crowds of our young men are leaving this country—that they are induced to leave it by the promise of employment in America—but that shortly after they arrive there, some voluntarily, some by fraud, and more by force, are induced to enrol themselves in the army of the Northern States; and, gentlemen, unfortunately the page of history tells us how, when they have adopted that course, they have been ruthlessly sacrificed. I might advert, for the truth of that allegation, to an answer given recently by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to a question propounded in reference to those very proceedings in the House of Commons. He stated that those misguided young persons who are tempted under various pretences to leave Ireland, on arriving in the United States were actually imprisoned for some time, and kept without sufficient food, and then plied with whisky, when, in a state of intoxication, they were prevailed upon to enter the army of the United States. If I had nothing more than that, it would justify my statement, that they were the victims of fraud and force, and find themselves against their will serving in the Northern army. It appears to me that in this great county, and addressing the grand jury of this county, representing one-sixth of the entire island both in territory and population, and through which or from which that great tide of emigration flows, it is legitimate for me now to call your attention to this act of the administration of Lord Carlisle, and to impress on you the necessity which rests on you all—I would say on us all—as far as we can, by warning, by precept, and by advice, to endeavour to deter or dissuade those who are leaving us from entering on this course. You may tell them, gentlemen, with truth, that in this gigantic and profligate quarrel, which has assumed a fiendish character in America, there is no glory to be gained—they have no interest in the question but the interest of peace—none beyond that, and the sooner for them peace is reestablished the better. But you may tell them that if they become enrolled in that army they will be exposed wherever danger is rife—they can earn neither honours nor rewards. If successful, the honours and rewards will be gathered by those who use and despise them, whilst on the other hand the chances are one hundredfold that few that enter that army will survive. If they escape plague and pestilence, they are almost certain to leave their bones on some of those battle-fields which have been well designated in a New York paper recently as having become slaughter-pens and nothing better. Our experience tells us, and we may inform them of the danger to which they will be exposed. The correspondent of the *Times*, in one of those letters which will afterwards form the history of this struggle, in a description of a Virginian battle and the gallantry of the Irish regiments there, states: 'The spectator can remember nothing but their desperate courage, and regret it was not exhibited in a holier cause.' I should rather have used the expression, 'in a cause less unholy,' for unholy indeed it is, especially for those who, first landing in that country, engage as mercenaries. In addition to pointing out the danger, you may well warn them of the consequences. Point out to them that if they should escape the carnage, if they should be among the survivors, they must carry this reflection with them, that they are engaged in a quarrel in which they have no business, and bear on them the brand of murderers in the eye of every Christian. You may also point out this, that no result can possibly be expected to arise for them but ruin, and possibly, or probably, death. All I can say is, that if by your exertions you can deter but a few from following the same course, or if your exertions should avail in the slightest degree in weighing down the scale for peace, great will be your reward. I hope you will not think that I have transgressed the bounds of duty in calling your attention to this proclamation; but you will agree with me it is incumbent on us all as far as we can, by advice and otherwise, to prevent those unfortunate young men who are in such crowds leaving our shores, from following a course which will be sure to end in their ruin.

THE MILITARY SITUATION OF THE NORTH.

(From the *New York Daily News.*)

THE circumstances surrounding Mr. Lincoln are critical. They present grave reasons why he may be supposed sincerely anxious for peace. The clap-trap and falsehood of military 'news' play no frauds upon him. He stands behind the scenes. The God of War, who struts so boastingly in the authorised bulletins, he knows to be but a braggart. General Grant, 'Unconditional Surrender,' the 'Hero of the Wilderness,' his cunning Excellency knows to have proved, in fact, a total failure. The 'siege of Richmond,' the 'investment of Petersburg,' the 'isolation of Lee's army,' and all the other glowing headings of the authorised versions of the campaign, Mr. Lincoln knows to be but grim jokes. He is more fully informed than perhaps any one else, that Grant's army, almost annihilated on its way, stands to-day, in spirit and in fact, a mere wreck of itself, cooped up within its intrenchments in a state of siege. He is doubtless convinced that, notwithstanding the accidental escape of that city during the late formidable raid into Maryland, Washington is perhaps this moment in much more imminent danger than Richmond of siege and sack. These considerations may well dispose the mind of our autocratic joker to measures of compromise.

The campaign in the West may be supposed, from the President's paid sources of knowledge, to point a homily in the interests of peace. The capture of Atlanta, if effected to-morrow, he is doubtless aware, would bear little or no weight in the final result of his bloody enterprise. A few more or less valuable workshops and factories represent all that is specially valuable at that point to the uses of the war, and constitute the sum total of the reasons why it is more important to the Confederates than any other position they have abandoned along the hundred and twenty miles of their stubborn retreat. A railroad crossing though it be, that city does not hold the key of all the railroad communications between the Confederate States of the Gulf and those of the Atlantic. Opeleika or Macon, towns about a hundred miles to the southward of that city, must be occupied before all those lines of carriage shall have been disturbed.

But railway communication between Alabama and South Carolina supposed to be cut off, what will be accomplished by that means towards the conquest of the South? Trains running to a point on one side of the interruption, and to another on the other side, the interval between those termini would, if necessary, be supplied with transportation by horse power. But there is really no military necessity for active intercourse between those Confederate States of the centre and that of the sea. Each of these groups is like the Southern States beyond the Mississippi, able to maintain its own defence unaided by the other. Central Alabama and South-western Georgia constitute Hood's sources of supply. The loss of Atlanta involves thus, as Mr. Lincoln is fully informed, neither more nor less than that of a few factories and workshops.

THE REMOVAL OF GENERAL JOHNSTON.

(From the *Richmond Sentinel*, July 22.)

THE very few instances in which the President has exercised the power of removal, and the known notorious incompetency of the officers heretofore removed by him, should go far to satisfy every one that nothing but the most urgent State necessity has compelled him to relieve General Johnston of his command. The fewness of removals, considered in connection with the success of our arms, shows that the President is a good judge of military merit and ability, makes good appointments, and has seldom reason to repent his selection.

We believe that where he has acted solely on the dictates of his own judgment he has made no mistakes; but much deference is due to the opinions and wishes of large bodies of the people, not because they are the best judges of military worth and efficiency, but because it is sometimes better to do wrong, and satisfy the people, than to do right and disoblige them. The President has had ample opportunity to test the military worth of Johnston; those who condemn the removal have had comparatively none, and no matter what had been their opportunities, they know nothing about military affairs or the qualifications of military men.

We all voted for the President as our ruler, because we thought him best fitted to command, and we to obey. We, who selected him to drive the car of state, should not now perplex and embarrass him by seizing hold of the reins ourselves. Nothing is more dangerous than for a nervous, scary rider to seize hold of the reins when the horse threatens to kick or run off.

Republican government is a monstrous and absurd failure if the people have no faith in the men they select for office, and find it necessary to dictate to and rule their rulers. All the attempts to dictate measures and make appointments for the President, proceed from an ignorant, reckless, and corrupt spirit of demagogism.

In the beginning of the war it was exhibited in a perfect tornado of anger with the President because he preferred making appointments of men as officers who had military knowledge and qualifications, rather than of those who knew nothing about military affairs, and who were too old to learn anything about them, for the favourites with the ignorant demagogues, who abused West Point and the President, were stump-orators over fifty. Time has since amply proved that West-Pointers—men who have learned the science of war at school and its practice in camp—are best fitted to command large armies. Old-stump orators may stumble into victories, but they will generally fail; and it is almost treasonable to place them in command when their failures may do serious harm.

The people have seen enough of Johnston's retreats to satisfy them that, if left alone by the Government, he had no idea of making a stand this side of the Gulf of Mexico. If he could not hold the strong position of Kenesaw Mountain, much less would he have held the weak one about Atlanta. The people do not generally know that all the while that Johnston has been retreating before Sherman he has had an army approaching nearer in numbers to that of his adversary than Lee ever had when he has won his great victories. Indeed, at Dalton, and ever since he left there, his army has been large enough to justify and render it his duty to deliver battle.

The *Whig* makes a new issue. The ground of its complaint is not the removal of Johnston, but the preference which it supposes was given to Hood over Hardee. Does the *Whig* know whether Hardee would have accepted the appointment? In fact, Hardee had been tendered, and had refused the command of the army of the Tennessee.

Be this as it may, the President, after anxious consultation with the best military authorities, concluded to appoint Hood. No man in the Confederacy was so much interested in retaining Johnston in command, if he were likely to win a victory, as the President. No man had so good an opportunity to form a correct opinion of his merits. He came, under these circumstances, to the deliberate conclusion that Johnston was unfit to command, and removed him.

If there be any error in the case, it is that the removal was not made long ago. Lincoln delights in taking off heads as much as the King of Dahomey or the Emperor of Hayti. President Davis has a nice sense of honour, sets a high value on reputation, and removes none but the notoriously incompetent.

It is because he is so reluctant to remove officers that he is so cautious and fastidious in selecting and appointing them. We believe the appointment of General Hood a good one, not only from what we know of his past history, but because he has been selected by the President, who seems to be an admirable judge of the relative merits of men, and finds no occasion to repent to-day for the appointments made yesterday.

THE LATE GENERAL POLK.—The following order has been issued respecting the death of General Polk:—

General Orders, No. 81.—It is with profound sorrow that the Major-General Commanding announces to the troops of this Department the death of their late commander, Lieutenant-General Leonidas Polk. On the 14th instant, in a skirmish near Marietta, Georgia, this gallant warrior and Christian gentleman yielded up his life a costly sacrifice to his country's liberties. It would be superfluous here to recount the services of this lamented patriot. They are already before the world, and will form one of the brightest pages in the history of this memorable struggle. His high administrative talents, his distinguished gallantry on many battle-fields, his eminent virtues, and kind and genial traits of character, have alike won the admiration and love of his countrymen. From the toils and cares of this fitful existence, from the blood-red fields of battle, the Christian soldier has passed to that eternal rest which it was ever the aim of his life to secure. Let his memory ever be fresh among us, and let each strive to imitate his example and emulate his virtues. As a mark of honour to the distinguished dead, the colours of the troops of this command will be draped in mourning for the period of thirty days from the receipt of this order. By command of Major-General S. D. LEE.

SIGNIFICANT EXTRACTS.—We have been kindly furnished with the subjoined extracts from private letters received by the last mail. The writers enjoy unsurpassed facilities for accurate observation, and have every interest to keep their correspondents on this side advised of the 'signs of the times':—'New York, July 30. The war is over. The draft must be either a failure or a revolution. In this city the working classes are organised for resistance.'—'Washington, July 29. Forney leaves for Europe next week. His friends have preceded him.'—'New York, July 30. The Government has tabooed the publication of any army news here by the papers, *and has forbidden them to publish this order.*'

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

The Index was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, The Index has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. The Index does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, The Index is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of The Index, 13 Bouverie Street, E.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. Hopkins, Index Office.

Mr. J. H. Ashbridge, *Treasurer of the Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund, begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following additional Contributions:* —

John Hudson, Esq., (per Henry Hotze, Esq.)	£1	1	0
Henry Noble, Esq.	2	0	0
Messrs. Thompson, Rich, & Co., Liverpool .	5	0	0
Messrs. George Chambers & Co., Nassau .	5	0	0
	£13	1	0

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1864.

Atlanta.

General Hood has inaugurated his command by a staggering, if not a decisive, blow at the Federal army in Georgia. The details of the engagement, or series of engagements, before Atlanta are still wanting; but sufficient is known to warrant the assertion that the claim of a Federal victory is without a shadow of foundation, and that Atlanta is likely to prove as troublesome to Sherman as Petersburg has been to Grant. We stated last week our utter disbelief in the alleged Confederate disaster and the reported occupation of Atlanta by the invaders, and events have justified the view we then expressed. There was something very ominous to the hopes of the Federals in the fact, that six days after the battle, in which General Macpherson fell, no official account of the engagement had made its appearance. The *Cincinnati Gazette* could publish a lengthened correspondence, full of extravagances, but still furnishing an apparently correct version of the movements which preceded the battle, of the attack and the defence, and even an estimate of the losses on either side. Yet, up to the 24th ult., the engagement having taken place on the 22nd, either General Sherman had failed to communicate with Mr. Stanton, or the latter dared not publish the intelligence; and the North, which had had its hopes raised to the highest pitch by reports of Hood's defeat and the capture of Atlanta, was ultimately compelled to console itself with the reflection that General Hood only claimed 17 colours, 13 guns, and 2,000 prisoners, and that Sherman's army was after all closing in upon the city. It might have been worse; for it is evident from the published accounts that no army ever had a narrower escape of complete disaster than the unwieldy masses shattered by the Confederate attack at Peachtree Creek.

For the moment the campaign in Georgia transcends in interest the other pending operations of the war. It may be as well, therefore, to follow somewhat closely the movements which led to the battle before the defences of Atlanta. Preceding accounts left the two armies face to face on the opposite sides of the Chattahoochie. The direct approach to Atlanta was covered by formidable works, such as not even Sherman, with his great superiority of force, dared encounter. But there are very few works which cannot be turned. Sherman marched the bulk of his army some fourteen miles along the north bank of the river, and effected his passage without opposition. He succeeded in turning the defences of the Chattahoochie, but he thereby lost the most available route for an army, and was compelled to advance by a line which exposed his various corps to constant danger of isolation and attack in detail by the Confederates. On the 18th the line of battle, some fourteen miles in length, was formed, and the whole army advanced by the left. Some three or four miles from Atlanta is a small stream, Peachtree Creek, covering the city north and east. The banks of this creek were held by Confederate skirmishers, and protected by earthworks; but again a direct attack was avoided by a movement threatening to take the defences in reverse, and the Federals effected the crossing with comparatively trifling loss. The army still pushed on with its dangerously-extended line, the left reaching Decatur on the Augusta and Atlanta Railroad, and tearing up the rails, the right resting on the Chattahoochie. So extended a front necessitated some gaps in the line, and of this the Confederate generals took advantage. An attack was made, on the morning of the 22nd, on the extreme left, by Hardee's corps, which was attended with complete success, and in which Macpherson fell. Later in the day, in consequence of Macpherson having taken ground so far to the left, there was an interval of some three miles between the centre and the right. Orders were given to close up from the right, and the whole right wing was put in motion. The country here is thickly wooded, intersected with deep ravines and small creeks, and quite unfitted for the combined movements of the corps of a large army. In the advance a few Confederate skirmishers were captured, whose object it was to deceive the enemy as to the strength and position of their army. Gradually the Federals closed up; an important ridge was occupied, muskets were laid aside, and whole divisions took to the inevitable spade, when from some woods immediately in front, with cheers that told what was coming, a dense column of Confederates poured out, charged along the open, and fell upon the startled Federals. The skirmishers were swept away at once, line after line of the Federals was broken, and for a time, notwithstanding their undoubted gallantry, the total defeat of the Federal army seemed imminent. The right wing was gradually forced back; the Confederates penetrated through the gaps almost to the bridges over Peachtree Creek; guards were stationed at each bridge to prevent a regular stampedo; and although the correspondents of the New York press talk about prodigies of valour, of one division taken by surprise beating back the whole Confederate army, and of another charging five times its number, there is plenty of internal evidence in these accounts to prove that at more than one spot there was a panic and a rout, and that it was only the numbers of the Federals that enabled them to stand up against the bold and skilful attack of General Hood, and the well-nigh fatal blunder of their own commander. Had the Confederates succeeded in driving back the Federal right on the Chattahoochie and holding the bridges of Peachtree Creek, Sherman's army could not have escaped a great disaster. Hood would have been on their line of communication, would have captured their trains, and compelled them to fight, not for the possession of Atlanta, but for a line of retreat. The numbers and the stubborn gallantry of the Federal troops saved the army. But the battle was not the less a Confederate victory, and General Hood has added the reputation of a skilful strategist to his fame as a dashing leader. The attack was made in heavy masses upon a weak point of the enemy's line, entirely unprepared for the onslaught. It would be ridiculous to suppose that the Federals, taken by surprise, could, for any length of time, have borne up against this onslaught by good troops daringly led without heavy reinforcements. An hour or two must have elapsed before the dispositions could be made to bring up effectual relief. There can be no doubt that within that time much mischief was done, and that General Hood's 13 cannon and 2,000 prisoners feebly represent the extent of the Federal disaster.

Another battle is reported as having taken place on the 23rd. On this we forbear to comment. Nothing whatever is known or stated as to its results. All that we know is, that at the latest date Sherman's army was still 'closing up;' that the fortifications of the town were intact; and that there was every evidence of a resolute intention to hold it to the last extremity. In fact, Sherman's position was, according to Southern accounts, extremely critical. His cavalry had been defeated at Decatur; Hardee was reported in his rear; his army resting on the direct road between Chattanooga and Atlanta, but considerably to the east of the latter town. He had failed to invest, or to cut the communications of the city. He had to look forward to regular siege operations during the months of August and September, to bring up his siege-train, to find forage, and to obtain supplies 130 miles from his base of operations. We believe it to be an impossibility for Sherman to maintain his position for any length of time before Atlanta, even if his communications could be kept open. But if Hood can afford to despatch Hardee to operate in his rear, and if Forest's cavalry press closely upon his only line of retreat, his stay before Atlanta must be brief, and his retrograde movement from Georgia as rapid as his escape from Mississippi in the spring of the year.

General Grant's protracted inactivity has at last come to an end, and another great movement is in progress from which the usual results are promised. The siege of Petersburg is said to be abandoned, and a 'demonstration' against Fort Darling substituted, together with a move upon Richmond along the north bank of the James River. Some fighting had taken place in this quarter, and the capture of four guns and fifty prisoners is announced as a set-off against disappointment in Georgia, disaster in the Shenandoah Valley, and panic in Pennsylvania. General Hunter's troops have suffered another defeat from the enemy they were to have annihilated; and pursuers and pursued appear to have recrossed the Northern frontier. A large force of Confederate cavalry has reached Chambersburg, Pennsylvania; another body is in Maryland; and there are rumours that this time something more than a raid is intended. If so, we may estimate with tolerable accuracy General Grant's chances of reaching Richmond this summer. Possibly the alarm at Washington may account for his renewed activity. If he has abandoned Petersburg, and transferred his whole army to the north bank of the James River, we shall be curious to hear what his encomiasts in this country will say about the new change of programme. It will be quite evident that he has abandoned all hope of starving out Lee's army, and that the 20,000 or 30,000 men he has lost south of the Appomattox have been recklessly driven to slaughter, only to illustrate in deeper tints the worst failure of the Federal war administration.

Mr. Fessenden's New Loan.

The new Secretary of the United States Treasury bids fair to emulate the sudden 'changes of base' of his military coadjutor in Virginia; and if he has not shown the same obstinate tenacity in his desperate task as General Grant, we may fairly allow him credit for at least equal vigour and inventiveness. Already, during his brief term of office, more than one policy has been initiated or abandoned. His first act, the repeal of the obnoxious penal legislation against the sale of gold, commended him to the New York financiers. It was further understood in his favour that he would not imitate the ruinous example of his predecessor in undertaking to rig the gold market with the coin belonging to the national creditors. But still the premium on gold would not decline, or rather the value of greenbacks would not improve, and the unplaced balance of Mr. Chase's loan remained unplaced. It was, therefore, promptly withdrawn, and another loan on more rational conditions was offered to the banks. This also proving a failure, even more completely than Mr. Chase's loan, Mr. Fessenden, nothing daunted, boldly appeals to the people to come to the rescue of the Government. The terms which he offers are certainly not inviting to investors with a view to profit, and are such as to absolutely exclude foreign capital. He asks for $200,000,000, giving no other security for the capital than the exchange of a promise to pay in three years for an unfulfilled promise to pay on demand, and meanwhile bearing interest in a currency which is making daily downward strides on the road to utter worthlessness. As a simple matter of speculation it is doubtless better for the holder of greenbacks to buy real estate or stocks with them, or even gold or foreign exchange at present prices, than to lend them to Mr. Fessenden at 7.30 per cent. interest payable in greenbacks. If the two hundred millions, when lent, could be withdrawn from circulation, the lenders might derive the indirect advantage of the consequent appreciation of the remainder; but the loan is confessedly made to meet, as far as it will go, the most urgent of the current liabilities of the Government, and therefore of necessity must be reabsorbed into circulation as rapidly as it is paid in by the patriotic public.

Still, Mr. Fessenden's scheme is not altogether a bad one. He tests, without incautiously trusting too far, the willingness of the mass of the population to continue the war with individual sacrifices of money, and if the response is at all encouraging his next demands will be more comprehensive. As a temporary expedient or 'makeshift,' also, this new loan should not be too hastily condemned. Mr. Fessenden must have money immediately, or the ordinary everyday machinery of the Government comes to a fatal stop. The audited and recognised portion of floating debt alone exceeds the $200,000,000 now asked for, and unless an instal-

ment at least is paid on these heavy arrears, the soldiers and sailors will mutiny, and the contractors must discharge their operatives. In this dire extremity Mr. Fessenden's choice lay between two forms of the same evil. Not being able, except in small driblets from Californin, to procure gold or the equivalent of gold, he must necessarily increase the volume of irremediable currency by at least $200,000,000, and thus still further accelerate at a most critical period its fearfully rapid downward tendency. This increase must either take place by the immediate issue of more greenbacks for the required amount, the worst form; or it might be made by persuading the people to accept it in a qualified form by the issue of Treasury notes of large denominations, bearing interest, and for this double reason slow to enter into the general circulation. Mr. Fessenden is now trying this latter form, and that the experiment is not unfavourably viewed in financial circles may be inferred from the fact that, despite the adverse news from Georgia, gold remained substantially at the same quotation at the latest advices from New York.

While we thus leave the new Secretary of the Federal Treasury to experiment upon the pecuniary value of the 'patriotic' ardour which a republican people may feel in the attempt to subjugate another republican people, it will not be unprofitable to reduce to a compendious and easily intelligible statement the confused figures of Federal indebtedness and the ascertainable means of the United States for paying the same. We shall confine ourselves in this statement to the acknowledged official statistics, although competent authorities, not unfriendly to the Northern cause, make the balance-sheet appear immensely more unfavourable to the United States. In the 'National Almanack' for 1864, an authorised publication based upon official data, we find the following as the various loans contracted by the United States since the period of secession, and outstanding on Sept. 30, 1863:—

Title of Loan	Time to mature	Outstanding, Sept. 30, 1863.
Loan of February, 1861 .	20 years	18,415,000
Treasury Notes, Mar. 2, 1861	2 ,,	512,900
Oregon War Loan . . (March 2, 1861)	20 ,,	1,016,000
Twenty-year Sixes, 1861 .	20 ,,	50,000,000
7.30 Notes, 1861 . .	3 ,,	139,679,000
Demand Notes, 1861 .	Demand	2,022,173
Twenty-year Sixes, 1861 .	20 years	320,000
Five-twenties, 1862 . .	5 to 20 years	278,511,500
Temporary Loan, 1862 .	30 days	104,934,103
Certificates of Indebtedness	1 year	156,918,437 (March1862)
		752,329,113

So that already, at that comparatively early period of the war, we find the United States burdened with a war debt, the annual interest on which, at the minimum of 6 per cent. only—and the average interest is much higher—would amount to upwards of $45,000,000.

The same publication gives the following as the amount of indirect loans raised to the same date, viz. September 30, 1863, in the shape of non-interest-bearing or paper currency then in circulation:—

United States Notes, 1862 . .	$147,767,114
,, ,, July 11, 1862 .	150,000,000
Postal Currency, July 17, 1862 .	17,766,057
United States Notes (new issue), March 3, 1863 . . .	104,969,937
	$420,503,108

Without, therefore, including the indebtedness prior to the outbreak of the war, and which, indeed, it is scarcely worth considering when dealing with such gigantic figures, we find that the United States exceeded their revenue from all sources, between February 8, 1861, and September 30, 1863, as follows:—

In Loans (interest payable in specie) .	$752,329,113
In Paper Currency, in circulation on September 30, 1863	420,503,108
	$1,172,832,221

This excess of expenditure over the revenue is unequally distributed over the period of two years and nearly eight months which it embraces, increasing in a geometrical ratio the further we remove from the starting-point. Thus it is an exceedingly moderate estimate that at least one-half, or in round numbers $600,000,000, of this debt was incurred during the twelve months ending September 30, 1863. An equally moderate estimate would add the same amount for the nine months of the last fiscal year ending June 30, 1864. But on September 30, 1863, the paper dollar, in which all the disbursements of the United States Government are made, was still worth within a fraction of 70 cents in gold, while on June 30, 1864, it was worth only 40 cents, so that its average value during the nine intervening months was only about 55 cents; or, in other words, its purchasing capacity was diminished nearly 22 per cent., and the expenditures of the Government must be increased by that percentage. We may thus add, without fear of error, between 700 and 800 millions to the admitted war debt on September 30, 1863, making the total on June 30 about *two thousand million dollars*.

We are, in fact, not left to *à priori* reasoning in this respect; for though we have not as yet so detailed an official statement for the later period, and some of the loans above enumerated have been converted into other forms, the grand totals are before the public. The following, then, are Mr. Chase's own figures for the three fiscal years respectively ending—

	Interest-bearing Loan	Paper money
June 30, 1862 .	$454,887,418 .	$269,331,954
June 30, 1863 .	183,545,377 .	401,036,482
June 30, 1864 .	451,401,307 .	243,053,863
	$789,834,162	$913,422,299

Interest-bearing Loan . .	$789,834,162
Paper money in circulation .	913,422,299
	$1,703,256,461

This, confessedly, does not include several months' arrears of pay due to an army which, on the pay-roll at least, musters nearly a million of men. Nor does it include the accounts of unpaid requisitions, and suspended accounts, and other claims against the Federal Government for regular war services, nor the huge mass of contingent individual and State claims requiring the action of the Departments or of Congress, and concerning which Mr. Whiting, the solicitor of the War Department, writes in a published letter that they amount to 'many hundreds of millions of dollars'

It is clear, therefore, that Mr. Fessenden entered on his duties with a war debt, in loans contracted, in legal tender notes issued, or in unsettled liabilities, of $2,000,000,000 at the most moderate calculation, and yet the conquest of the South is so far from being achieved that the President calls at this moment for 500,000 additional recruits. The national debt of England, accumulated during a century, with a population nearly one-third larger than that of the Federal American States, is not quite double this amount, at a rate of interest little more than half the minimum interest paid in America. In other words, supposing the war debt of the United States funded at this moment, the interest would already now fall heavier per head than that of the English national debt on the population of the United Kingdom. The national debt of France, with a population double that of the Federal States of America, had not in 1862 quite reached the magnificent figure of the American deficit for three years only of war; and though the French debt has largely increased since 1862, it is not even now more than two-thirds as much per head. Nor is this the worst aspect of Northern finances. Both in England and France the general Government commands the entire taxable resources of the country, and the local or municipal taxes or rates are restricted within very narrow local limits. In a federation of States, each of which is self-governing, the case is vastly different. The cream, so to speak, of the taxation is due to the authority which makes and administers the laws to which the citizen looks for protection of life and property, and this of course is the State Government. Prior to the war no other direct taxes were paid, and the revenues of the Federal Government consisted exclusively of duties on imports and sales of public lands. What the Federal Government can obtain is, therefore, only the surplus which the different States, after supplying their own necessities, can spare. Now, nearly all the States were, before the war, deeply indebted, and this indebtedness has swollen since then from the same causes, and nearly in the same proportions, as that of the Federal Government. An attempt has been made to add these two formidable amounts, and it has been found that in the case of Pennsylvania, one of the wealthiest of the States, her own debt and her share of the Federal debt amount together to one-half of the assessed property, real and personal, in the State. In the State of Iowa, the whole of the assessed property is just sufficient; so that, to pay the principal, each man in Pennsylvania must give half of what he is worth in the world, and in Iowa the whole.

With this millstone around his neck Mr. Fessenden inherits for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1865, the following budget, in which every item is as favourably stated as circumstances would possibly admit:—

Estimated revenue:	
From customs . . .	$103,213,000
From taxes . . .	109,000,000
From miscellaneous . .	36,421,000
	$248,634,000
Total estimated expenses .	880,000,000
Estimated deficit . . .	$631,366,000

Unsatisfactory as this prospect is, it is clear that every source of revenue has been drawn upon to the utmost. The tariff, the chief source, has, from being protective, become virtually prohibitive. The internal taxation, which, as we have remarked, must be superadded to that for ordinary purposes of government already levied by the several States, is onerous in the extreme, difficult and expensive of collection, and therefore comparatively unproductive. To illustrate this fact most forcibly, it is sufficient to say that before the war, when the great cotton and tobacco producing States still belonged to the Union, the revenues of the United States, in the acme of their prosperity, never exceeded $77,055,125. This was the actual revenue of the last fiscal year of the Union, ending June 30, 1860. In the year ending June 30, 1861, when the withdrawal of the Southern representatives permitted the famous Morill protective tariff to be passed, but when, in anticipation of the coming catastrophe, the Southern exports and imports had been exceptionally large, the revenue reached $85,387,313. Between these two may be found the maximum normal revenue of the Union as it was before the war. Is it possible for any country to suddenly double, quadruple, nay, increase tenfold, its normal revenue, and especially is this possible for a country which has lost one-third of its territory and population, and that the most productive third? It is no wonder, therefore, that the Federal Government, knowing itself hopelessly bankrupt, is lavish of promises, but does not trouble itself in any manner, either by a sinking fund or otherwise, to make even the pretence of providing for keeping them.

Virtual Recognition.

The Congress of the United States, before its late adjournment, has declared by a solemn legislative enactment that the Union presided over by Mr. Lincoln consists at present of twenty-four States. It has enacted that, in the approaching Presidential election, only twenty-four States shall vote. It is therefore admitted, inferentially but none the less clearly, that of the thirteen States represented in the rival Congress at Richmond, eleven have no longer any lot or part in the glorious model Republic of North America. The two not so cast out of the happy sisterhood are Missouri and Kentucky, whence we may deduce that the object of the war, in the opinion of the Federal Congress, is now limited to the possession of these two States, or, in other words, to a question of boundaries. The innocent reader will probably suppose that if eleven States are excluded from the number of thirty-four which constituted the Union in its entirety, there must be twenty-three left. But this is not the case, for the same Congress had some time since anticipated its present confession of the hopelessness of reconstruction by admitting, in direct violation of an express stipulation of the Constitution, certain insurgent counties of the State of Virginia as an independent and sovereign State. It is the organised recognition of this rebellion against the lawful State Government of Virginia which, under the name of Kanawha or Western Virginia, forms the twenty-fourth star of that galaxy to whom is given the blessed privilege of voting for Mr. Lincoln or his successor in November next.

That our readers may understand the full portent of this tacit confession of the finality of the Union, we transcribe from the Constitution of the United States the essential clauses regulating the election of a President. It must also be remembered that this election is the only act in which the people of all the States participate simultaneously, and which can in any manner be considered a national act. The individuality of the States is recognised to the fullest extent. Not only are they left free to decide in what manner they will consult the wishes and preference of their respective citizens—whether by the ballot-box and popular elections or by the action of the Legislative Assembly, as was done in South Carolina—but the separate State existence is further recognised by making the vote of the State only partially dependent upon its numerical strength of population. Each State casts two votes by right, to which are added as many votes as it has representatives in the popular branch of the Federal Congress. Thus, the smallest State in population would have at least three votes. In this way the Presidential election at once symbolises the whole theory of the Constitution, and in practice illustrates the proper working of each part of the machinery of State and popular action. The Constitution says:—

> Each State shall appoint, in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors equal to the whole number of senators and representatives to which the State may be entitled in Congress. . . . The person having the greatest number of votes shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed. . . . If no person have a majority,

then, from the five highest on the list, the said House (of Representatives) shall in like manner (by ballot) choose the President. But, in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by States, the representation from each State having one vote. A quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the States, and a majority of all the States shall be necessary to a choice.

In declaring that these clauses shall apply to only twenty-four States, the Government of the United States has at length formally recognised the dissolution of the Union. This formal recognition is the act of the highest legislative authority, and is as complete, explicit, and direct as words and forms can make it. It is remarkable, too, for having, unlike most other acts of the Lincoln Administration, assumed a form as nearly constitutional as could probably be devised for the registration of an act for which the Constitution itself makes no express provision. It is, in short, in substance if not in precise phraseology, just such an Act as should have been passed three years and a half ago had the North been animated by respect for the Constitution rather than lust of power, and, if passed, would have avoided all the bloodshed of the past, and possibly much of the now inevitable anarchy of the future. What may be its effect at this eleventh hour it is perhaps difficult to say. Its bearing upon the position in America, and still more upon the attitude of this country, is nevertheless a matter of some interest.

Happily for mankind, it is in the very nature of shams to be shortlived. So long as appearances only are in question, the most barefaced imposture may succeed, and its success may be not a little aided by a friendly willingness to be imposed upon. But it breaks down inevitably under the ordeal of actual work. No effort of credulity can make the wooden nutmeg of the Yankee impart a flavour, or the pasteboard steam-engine of the Chinaman perform its work. And so it has proved in the present instance. Perhaps the most impudent fiction ever palmed off upon a too easy faith was that which represented secession as the work of a few unscrupulous individuals, and claimed the seceding States themselves as still, in fact and in right, members of the Union. It served its turn, indeed, in inducing the Governments of Europe to stand aloof so long as their recognition could be of any value, and so far it is entitled to such praise as successful impositions may claim. But whenever it has been exposed to any practical test it has broken down. It broke down when the soldiers and sailors of the 'rebel' States had to be treated not as rebels, but as prisoners of war; when the portions of the States themselves occupied by Federal troops were placed perforce under a *régime* not of reconstruction but of conquest; when their ports were subjected to a blockade unknown to municipal law. These, however, were but partial failures, proportionate to the strain put upon it. Its final collapse, now formally proclaimed by its inventors themselves, is the immediate consequence of the first effort to bring it into general operation. There is but one absolute test of what States are and what States are not really members of the Union. That is to say, there is but one national act in which, as States, they bear a part, and participation in which is an essential element of membership. This act is the election of a President, and for the first time since 1860 the period has now come round when this practical test of membership must needs be applied. The result has been very simple. To the election of a President an absolute majority of all the votes cast in the electoral colleges is, by the Constitution of the United States, essential. On the theory that the Union is still unmutilated, these colleges cast in the aggregate 309 votes, thus requiring a majority of 155 votes to elect. But 83 of these votes are gone with the seceding States, and the majority of 155 has thus to be gained out of a total of 226—a majority, that is to say, not of more than one-half, but of more than two-thirds of the whole number cast. Such a majority could not be obtained, and it was necessary to provide some solution for the difficulty. Two courses were open. The majority required might be reduced, or the number of the missing votes fabricated. The latter expedient was first tried, and every engine of arbitrary power put in motion to secure some sort of return from the seceding States. The attempt failed. One alternative alone remained. This alternative has at length been adopted, and the last shred of the fiction which represented the seceding States as still members of the Union has been flung aside. In the forthcoming election they are to bear no part. They are declared formally out of the Union.

The effect of this tardy but complete recognition is, so far as the United States are concerned, tolerably clear. Let us examine for a moment, in conclusion, its bearing upon our own position. That position has been sufficiently anomalous from the first; it now becomes simply ridiculous. *Plus catholique que le pape*, we persist in attributing to the Government of the United States functions which that Government itself now expressly disclaims. We cannot receive Mr. Mason, for, say we, Mr. Adams is still the Minister of the seceded States. But Mr. Adams, unless he too is disposed to 'rebel' against the authorities at Washington, repudiates that unprofitable honour. We cannot recognise Mr. Davis, for, say we, Mr. Lincoln is President of the whole thirty-four States. But Mr. Lincoln's highest expectations, as a candidate for reelection to the Presidency, are at this moment legally limited to the suffrages of only twenty-four States. Shall we confess that we hardly appreciate the advantages of the situation? Mr. Lincoln, coiled comfortably in his manger and loudly proclaiming that though he cannot eat oats himself no one else shall, is perhaps well enough; but poor England, with one eye on the provender and one on the grinning teeth that guard it, does not present to our mind a very dignified figure.

The Dismemberment of Denmark.

The meanest of mankind are always generous enough to give advice and consolation. Unfortunately, advice gratis is rarely worth more than it costs, and the wordy consolation that the tribe of Job's comforters will intrude upon the afflicted is only an impertinence and an annoyance. We lately heard a story *apropos* to this observation. A bereaved parent being told that he ought not to grieve, seeing that his child was now safe from the temptations and dangers of the world, replied: 'I pray, then, that all your children may die young.' How awfully poor Denmark has been bored with advice, and how much she has suffered from heeding it! And now, in the hour of her great affliction—now, in the interval, as it were, between the death and the burial of her national independence—her friends are plaguing her with consolations. We beseech our contemporaries to cease offering them to Denmark, for they are especially ungracious as coming from English journals. To tell Denmark that she is better off for being despoiled of her dominions must seem to the Danes a bitter taunt. Suppose we lost Ireland, or that India no longer acknowledged our sway, it would be cold comfort to be told by foreign critics that we were improved by the loss of dominion. Still more objectionable is the suggestion that Germany will be punished for her evil deeds. Even if that happens it will not reconstitute the kingdom of Denmark. All this shows that we have an uneasy conscience for having permitted might to triumph over right, and it never seems to occur to those who are perpetually prating about retribution that the Powers which stood by and refused to help the weak against the strong are not free from moral responsibility. We have no consolation to offer Denmark, except the poor one that her loss is our shame, and that we have permitted her to be the victim of a grievous wrong which only has its parallel in the partition of Poland. We cannot disguise from ourselves that Denmark has been abandoned to her strong antagonist, that she has been despoiled of her dominions, and forced by her relentless foe to drink the cup of humiliation to the very dregs. It is impossible to read the terms of peace without a feeling of indignation. M. Bismarck, in order to show Europe, and particularly England, how little the German Powers care for popular sentiment, went out of his way to degrade the gallant little nation he holds in his pitiless grasp. M. Quaade, the Danish envoy, begged very hard indeed that his Government might have a voice in the ultimate disposal of the Duchies. He knew that he was asking for a concession of no practical value, and that the voice of Denmark would not be listened to by Prussia. Indeed, if we are correctly informed, he stated as much, and frankly admitted that he only desired the condition to make the treaty less galling to his countrymen. The Danish envoy pleaded in vain, and was obliged to submit. We repeat, then, that we have no consolation to offer Denmark; but such an event as the dismemberment of an ancient European kingdom ought not to be passed over in silence, and it will be well for us to consider the causes that have led to such a deplorable result. They are instructive and pregnant with warning.

No statesman has been so thoroughly misunderstood as M. Bismarck. By this time Europe knows that the power behind the throne of Prussia is by no means to be despised, and that M. Bismarck has vast ability, inflexible will, and great boldness; but even now his character and designs are not duly appreciated. M. Bismarck conceives that he has a mission to fulfil, and in all he does he thinks he is performing a work which entitles him to the gratitude of his own generation, and which insures him the applause of posterity. He sets himself up as the apostle of absolutism, and wages an uncompromising war against all forms of constitutional government both at home and abroad. It may be that he was ambitious of extending the domains of Prussia; but that was not the sole, nor even the principal motive, of his antagonism to Denmark. He was perfectly sincere in intimating to Lord Wodehouse that what he objected to in Denmark was her form of government, or, as he chose to call it, her democratic institutions. When King Christian made peaceful overtures at Berlin, he was told very plainly that peace was impossible until he had dismissed his then Ministers and replaced them by men who were in favour of the doctrines of royal prerogative and who did not believe in parliamentary government. And now that Denmark is subjugated, the Prussian Minister esteems the military triumph and the acquisition of territory as nothing compared to the important victory he has gained over constitutionalism. He boasts, and not without reason, that he has struck a heavy blow at constitutional government in Europe.

The Prussian Parliament has been defeated, for without seeking its aid or consent the King has carried on a war. Prussian liberals thought, perhaps, that they would be able to embarrass the Government by refusing to vote the sums requisite to pay for the expenses of the war. M. Bismarck does not intend to give the Parliament a chance of refusing. The Duchies are to reimburse Prussia for the cost of conquering them, and already a loan is talked of, or rather a mortgage of their revenues. So, also, the Federal Diet has been put *hors de combat*, not because M. Bismarck has any special dislike to the minor Governments of Germany, but because the Diet has become the exponent of a popular sentiment. M. Bismarck is not the man to hide his light under a bushel, and he loudly proclaims his wonderful success. He says he has made the King absolute in Prussia, and Prussia absolute in the Diet. But these are not his only achievements. He points to Denmark and tells us how he has struck down constitutionalism and established an absolute instead of a popular Government. Then still more grandly he talks of what he has done for England. All classes in this country were for Denmark and against Prussia. The conquest of the Duchies was denounced by the English press and in the English Parliament. Yet, says M. Bismarck, England did nothing to help her ally; and he adds, with that blind insolence which is too often the fruit of success, that he has taught the useful lesson of how this country may be governed without paying any regard to the wishes of the people as expressed in Parliament and by the press. This, we know, is a gross exaggeration, but truth compels us to confess that in other respects, barring a little poetical licence, M. Bismarck's song of triumph is founded on facts. He has governed Prussia independently of the Parliament, and he has treated with haughty contempt the will of the German people as manifested by the Diet. He has destroyed constitutional liberty in Denmark, and compelled King Christian to call to his councils men not unfitted to serve the King of Prussia himself. He has most unquestionably set at defiance the will of England, for we venture to say that on few questions has there been such perfect unanimity as there was in favour of helping Denmark. M. Bismarck went to war for the purpose of damaging constitutionalism, and he has succeeded beyond his most sanguine expectations.

So much for the motives of Prussia; but as M. Bismarck could not have succeeded if opposed by any of the great Powers, we must enquire how was it that England became such a pliant tool in the hands of the Prussian apostle of absolutism? To reply that the policy of the Government was vacillating, and that the policy of the Opposition was equally unstable, is rather to state an effect than a cause. We want to know why the Government and why the Opposition sanctioned a gross outrage on an ally who had every claim on our protection, and why they permitted the germ of constitutional liberty in the North of Europe to be nipped in the bud. The answer is plain. In the even division of parties, the extreme Radical faction which is led by Messrs. Cobden and Bright, though small in numbers, has considerable influence, and neither party likes to offend it. Messrs. Cobden and Bright and their small following have taken up with the doctrine of non-intervention, which is a kind of political application of the maxim of Cain that we are not our brother's keeper. The doctrine of non-intervention is, indeed, to a certain extent laudable. We have no right to interfere in quarrels that do not concern us; but it does concern us to see that the treaties to which we are parties are respected, and, in spite of the sneers of Messrs. Cobden and Bright, we will add that we are interested in the progress of liberal institutions. But from the first Messrs. Cobden and Bright avowed themselves opposed to any intervention on behalf of Denmark, and their organ, the *Morning Star*, was the only English newspaper—or rather the only paper published in England—that took the side of Germany.

M. Bismarck would not have attempted the dismemberment of Denmark but for the non-inter-

vention theory. Relying on that, he cared not for our protests or our threats. The ruin of Denmark has been effected by the action of Prussia and the inaction of England; and the first was impelled by hatred of constitutional liberty, and the latter is due to the efforts of those English politicians who talk so much about their love of liberty. It may be strange, but it certainly is true, that Messrs. COBDEN and BRIGHT are always on the side which strikes at the honour of England, and are always, consciously or unconsciously, helping on the cause of absolutism.

M. BISMARCK hopes that he may be able to make absolutism the only form of government known in Europe, and that the day may come when not a sovereign will owe his throne to the suffrages of the people, or find it necessary to bow to the decisions of a popular assembly. Already M. BISMARCK'S Holy Alliance is intriguing against the young King of GREECE, because he obtained his crown by a revolution and by the votes of the people. What is that to England? Shall we permit M. BISMARCK to do in the East as he has done in the North? Shall we permit him everywhere to triumph over constitutional liberty? If not, we must fight. Thanks to the non-intervention theory of Messrs. COBDEN and BRIGHT, our protest is valueless, and we have no moral influence. After what has happened to Denmark, no nation will believe in our remonstrances until we have actually engaged in war. We do not say that Messrs. COBDEN and BRIGHT have compelled us to go to war. We may, if we choose, sacrifice honour, right, and liberty to procure peace. But we say that, if it had not been for Messrs. COBDEN and BRIGHT'S non-intervention theory, we might have maintained the cause of constitutional liberty without an appeal to the sword.

THE *ALABAMA* AND THE *SUMTER*.*

An Irishman once remarked to a friend who was boasting of his pedigree that he did not care for an illustrious descent, but he certainly envied his posterity. Whether the world is progressing in civilisation and happiness is rather hard to determine, but beyond question those who live a hundred years hence will in some things be better off than we are. They will be able, for example, to study the records of the past under considerable advantages. We are not only making history, but in our newspapers, our biographies, and our autobiographies, we are supplying the historian of unborn generations with such abundant material, that he will be enabled to produce a picture of these times such as we in vain desire of the eighteenth century. The historian of the great conflict in America will be able to present his readers with such minute details as will make them thoroughly familiar with the contest which now engages the attention of the civilised world. He will be able to set forth with statistical accuracy the relative forces of the belligerents and the progress of events which have demonstrated the capacity of the South to maintain her independence against the numerical superiority of the North. And the story of the patriotism and devotion of the Confederates will assuredly command admiration. In 1861 far-seeing European statesmen, who were not beguiled by Federal reports of Union feeling in the South, were convinced that the conquest and subjugation of a warlike community inhabiting 800,000 square miles of territory was impossible; but no one on this side of the Atlantic, however sanguine of the ultimate success of the South, thought that she would make so successful a resistance as she has done. Taken unawares, without an army, without arms, without ammunition, without foundries, without skilled artificers, and cut off from communication with the markets of Europe, it was not unreasonably supposed that the Federals would be able to take all the chief towns of the Confederacy, and to penetrate into the very heart of the country. Very different has been the result of the conflict. Although the North has made sacrifices of men and treasure which even with the facts before us seem almost inconceivable, Richmond, the capital, still defies the foe; Charleston has not been captured; Mobile has not been attacked; Wilmington has not been touched by the invader; the Mississippi is still closed to the commerce of the West; Texas has repelled the Northern forces; and it may be fairly said that the only conspicuous trophy that the North has to show for a loss of men that has decimated her arms-bearing population and an expenditure that has plunged her into ruin, is the city of New Orleans. But still more remarkable is the triumphant success of the Confederates in making themselves independent of the markets of the world. We do not underrate the achievements of the Southern army in saying that the efforts of the South in other respects are not one whit less honourable or illustrious. Until this war broke out, the South was entirely dependent upon the North and upon European markets for all her manufactures. Now she makes her own clothing; she makes her own implements of husbandry; she takes iron from the bowels of the earth; she has foundries; she has workshops, where the metals, at present more precious to her than gold, are converted into weapons of [illegible]. We [illegible] to affirm that never before has a people [illegible] such wonderful ingenuity and such indomitable perseverance.

But, as is truly remarked in the volumes before us, it was easier for the Confederate Government to create an army than to create a navy. Indeed the difficulties seemed to be insuperable. How was the South, [illegible] ship-builders without skilled labour, [illegible] mill, and subjected to a blockade, [illegible] the vast naval power of the North? [illegible] fore, on the part of the [illegible] to consider the sea and the [illegible] federacy as being under the sway of the Federals so long as the war should last. Yet [illegible] of the war belong to the South. She was the first [illegible] memorable fight in the Hampton Roads, [illegible] of iron [illegible] wood. She has built [illegible] done splendid service, and which are a terror to the [illegible] navy of the foe. She has captured Federal gunboats by [illegible] which have proved that Southern rivers can in many cases be effectively defended by land forces. She has also solved other problems very important in the defence of rivers and harbours. With torpedoes she has kept the Federal ironclads at a respectful distance, and when, as in the case of Charleston, they have ventured to engage the land batteries, she has shown that the so-called invulnerable ironclads can be repulsed. And the Confederates have gained another triumph that exceedingly annoys the Northerners. Latterly the most sceptical have been convinced that the Federal blockade has been set at nought by Confederate enterprise, and at this moment the merchants of New York may learn from the Liverpool Customs' Bill of Entry that the effects of the war and the blockade have been to throw the American carrying trade into the hands of the British, and that the cotton trade is not stopped, but is merely continued without the intervention and the consequent commissions of New York merchants.

We have deemed it right to preface our notice of the volumes before us by these observations, because, whilst fairly enough the *Sumter* and the *Alabama* will occupy the foremost place in the history of the nascent navy of the South, and their gallant commander Captain Semmes has won for himself an imperishable name, it would be a false and injurious impression to suppose that the *Sumter* and the *Alabama* alone give the South a claim to be considered as a naval power. No, the career of these two vessels is only a splendid manifestation of that heroism, energy, and fertility of resource that will inevitably give the Confederates a naval power worthy of their territorial greatness. Still, if the Confederates had done nothing more than has been accomplished by the vessels under the command of Captain Semmes, the story of their naval enterprise would have been one of the most remarkable episodes of the war.

We do not propose to present our readers with an outline of the 'Cruise of the *Alabama* and the *Sumter*.' To do so with anything like fairness and accuracy, it would be necessary to write a review nearly as long as the volumes before us, for these volumes are entirely free from what is technically termed padding, and they narrate the incidents with a brevity which shows us how closely the editor has followed the journals and private papers of Captain Semmes, and how that gallant commander emulates the dignified terseness which characterises the despatches of that great soldier Robert E. Lee. Besides, we have already published in THE INDEX a history of the doings of the *Sumter*, written by one of her officers; and the present account, though more replete with details, is substantially the same. Yet we cannot forbear a passing comment on the first chapter of the history of the *Sumter*. A merchant steamer is hastily converted into a cruiser, and after long watching dashes through the blockading squadron of the Federals, gets to sea, and for the first time the flag of the Confederacy is displayed on the highway of nations. The little *Sumter* accomplished a remarkable work. She brought home to the merchants of New York and Boston the fact that they could not wage war with impunity. Captain Semmes at first endeavoured to save his prizes, and he applied at two ports for permission to leave them until they were adjudicated upon by a regular prize-court, but his fair intention was frustrated, and he had no resource except to burn the vessels that he could not ransom. Altogether the *Sumter* cost the Federal marine dearly—'eighteen vessels captured, seven burned with all their cargo on board, and two released on heavy ransom bonds, representing themselves no inconsiderable amount of damage.'

The *Sumter*, being used up and unfit for service, was sold, and Captain Semmes was preparing to return to the Confederacy when the launch of the *Alabama* gave him the command of a vessel which will always hold a conspicuous place in the annals of naval warfare. From September 5, 1862, when the *Alabama* made her first prize, till April 27, 1864, when she made her last, she captured, ransomed, or destroyed sixty-four vessels, including the United States gunboat the *Hatteras*, which was sunk off Galveston. The greater part of the captures were made during the first year, which is accounted for by the United States merchant navy being since transferred to neutral flags. Long before the close of her career, the *Alabama* had accomplished the work of ruining the Federal marine; and the present Confederate cruisers, and the additions that may be made to them, will make fewer captures, because there are fewer vessels to capture. So long as this war lasts the commerce of the North cannot recover from the blow received from the *Alabama*, for ordinary vigilance on the part of the Confederates will [illegible] flag [illegible]

[illegible] He had to decide questions of international law such as are usually referred to [illegible] It is very [illegible] that he fulfilled this duty in such a manner as to avoid any quarrel with neutral powers, and in a way that gained him the respect of those officials with whom he had [illegible]. When he had occasion to remonstrate against what he deemed unjust treatment, he did so, not in a [illegible] but with a dignity and spirit which usually procured what he required.

The fight off Cherbourg, which resulted in the destruction of the *Alabama*, is freshly remembered. There may be, perhaps, some difference of opinion as to the prudence displayed by Captain Semmes in risking his crippled ship against the *Kearsarge*. We trust that the day will never come when an English captain or a Confederate captain will be so prudent as to shirk every encounter [illegible] has the largest crew and the biggest guns. Our forefathers shot Admiral Byng for such a display of prudence, and our Nelsons, Collingwoods, and Blakes—the men who gave to Britain her supremacy on the sea—were never too prudent to fight against odds. However that may be, there is no difference of opinion that, in accepting the challenge of the *Kearsarge*, Captain Semmes acted like a gallant gentleman, and the way the battle was fought made defeat honourable. The captain and the crew who fight their ship to the last—who refuse to haul down their flag until she is sinking—cannot lose honour; and we venture to say that the gallant ending of the *Alabama* will not be the least of the services the noble vessel rendered to the Confederacy.

Here we might conclude, but we feel called upon to take some notice of a review of the 'Cruise of the *Alabama* and the *Sumter*,' which appears in the current number of the *Athenæum*. We trust that we need hardly say that we are not so forgetful of what is due to Captain Semmes as to suppose it requisite to defend him from one of the most virulent and vulgar attacks that ever disgraced the columns of a journal. In days gone by the *Athenæum* occupied a somewhat influential position, and therefore we being jealous for the honour of English journalism, beg to state for the information of distant readers, that now-a-days the censure or praise of the *Athenæum* does neither good nor harm, and it is a matter of supreme indifference that the *literary* journal should abuse all books on American topics that are not written to suit the taste of Parson Brownlow and Ben. Butler. As a literary curiosity, we would, if we had the space, reprint the article from the *Athenæum*, but, as we cannot do so, it will suffice to remark that Captain Semmes, the honoured guest of England, is, with [illegible] spite and worse than Billingsgate vulgarity, compared to Jack Sheppard, Jonathan Wild, and Don Juan. Very amusing, too, is the profound ignorance of the reviewer. Will no publisher take compassion on our contemporary, and present it with some popular history of England and of her relations with foreign countries? The reviewer writes: 'We can have no toleration of slavery in any shape or under any excuse. We can have no friendship with slaveholders. We can have no peace with a slave empire.' Really this is charming! The reviewer, we suppose, is not aware that Spain, Turkey, and Brazil are slaveholding countries, and that we really are at peace with them. We suppose he is not aware that at the present time there are slaves in the United States, and that we are at peace with the Government of Washington. We suppose this genius of the *Athenæum* never heard of a proclamation issued by Mr. Lincoln, in which all who would return to the Union were to retain their slaves under the guarantee of the Union. We suppose the reviewer has never heard of the equalisation of the sugar duties by which, for economical reasons, England admits slave-grown sugar on the same terms as free-grown sugar. The reviewer sneers at Captain Semmes for certain expressions of piety that occur in his journal, and declares that, Captain Semmes being a Marylander, the motive of his conduct 'cannot be patriotism, for his own State goes with the North.' We will not attempt to enlighten the reviewer as to the position of Maryland, but we are con-

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* *The Cruise of the Alabama and the Sumter*. From the private journals and other papers of Commander R. SEMMES, C.S.N., and other officers. In 2 vols. London: Saunders, Otley, & Co. 1864.

fident, if the *Athenæum* is circulated in the United States, that, with the exception of Parson Brownlow, Benjamin Butler, and men of that class, no one even there will read the attack on Captain Semmes without being amused at the ignorance displayed in it, and utterly disgusted with its injustice and ribaldry. It will not hurt either Captain Semmes or the book; and, for the matter of that, it will not hurt the *Athenæum*. Long before such an article as that we are referring to could be admitted, a journal must have arrived at that stage in its existence when an editorial blunder, no matter how gross, can do it no harm.

THE COTTON FAMINE.*

[FIRST NOTICE.]

Is it yet time to write the history of the cotton famine? Is that great national calamity, with the vast mass of commercial distress and domestic misery it entailed, sufficiently a thing of the past to have its record treated as complete? Are we justified in believing that, if not absolutely recovered, the trade of Lancashire has passed beyond the danger of relapse, and that, if not yet prosperous, it is still on the sure road to prosperity? We have great doubts on these points. First, so far as cotton itself is concerned, we do not feel certain that we have yet secured an adequate supply from non-American sources, and we do not know when the American cotton-fields may be again opened to us. Have we really so stimulated production in India, and Egypt, and Brazil, that we can depend on an adequate supply from these countries so long as the ports of the South remain shut? And if we can have enough cotton to keep our mills employed, can we have it at other than a famine price? While 'middling Orleans' and its substitutes range from 2*s.* to 3*s.* per lb., we hardly think that the cotton famine is ended. At that price the market must be narrow, and production limited. At that price multitudes who formerly bought ten yards of calico will now buy five; many who used to wear calico will now buy linen or flannel; and some who were our customers will rather go naked than pay the cost of a yard or two of coloured cloth. At that price it is impossible that the whole of our mills should be reopened, or the whole of our population employed. And there is one case which might easily plunge us into a state little better than that of December 1862. If, next spring, there should be strong expectations of a peace in America, half the land destined for cotton in other countries would be sown with some crop of less precarious value; if, by autumn, those expectations should not have been realised, there will be but half a crop to feed the mills of Lancashire in 1866. It is true, secondly, as regards the operatives, that the numbers now dependent on public or private charity are comparatively small; but this is not owing entirely to the amendment of trade. Some of those who were dependent on charity have left the cotton districts and found work elsewhere, at half or a third of the wages they earned in 1860, the last year in which Lancashire was prosperous. For them, the cotton famine is not over, any more than a famine of wheat is ended when a people has obtained a bare sufficiency of potatoes. Finally, as to the amount of looms and spindles at work, we spoke a day or two ago with an intelligent and well-informed manufacturer, whose opinion was that at no time during the famine had less than one-third of the whole amount been at work, and that now the number employed did not exceed two-thirds. We doubt, therefore, whether it be time to write the history of the cotton famine. The distress is less than it was—much less than it was; but it has not been lessened in full proportion to statistical appearances, still less in proportion to the diminished space which it occupies in the newspapers. The public has grown weary of the subject; the evil has been reduced within manageable limits; the means of Lancashire herself have been made available, and proved adequate for its relief, and we hear comparatively little about it. And no doubt, if things go on as they are, we shall one day see the end of it. It may be that cotton will never return to pristine prices, that calico will never recover its old advantage over linen and woollen cloth, and that her ancient importance will never return to Manchester. But still we are at present on the way to better things; the trade is convalescent; the operatives have ceased to be a starving body, though some of them are still in want, though many of them are paupers—while before 1861 there was no class in the country which did so little to burden the rates—and though none of them have regained the prosperity and comfort which marked their condition before the ambition of Abraham Lincoln, and the ferocity of the Puritan preachers of New England, blasted the industry of Lancashire and sealed the fate of America. We may stop short on our upward road; we may suffer a painful relapse; but at present it certainly seems that the tide has turned—that we have passed the worst of our sufferings—and that, if nothing happen to turn the current of improving fortune, each year will witness an increase in our supplies of cotton, an increase in the number of spindles and looms at work, an improvement in the condition of the operatives, and a reduction of the poor rates of Lancashire. Such is the view which has, apparently, induced the writer of the volume before us to issue at this time a history of the Lancashire Cotton Famine.

It is the necessary duty of a reviewer, in dealing with such a work as this, to give his attention chiefly to those portions of the author's views with which he is compelled to disagree—to spend his time and space rather in correcting errors and in supplementing deficiencies than in describing or recommending the work as a whole. It is only fair, therefore, to begin by saying that Mr. Arnold has done his business well and carefully. His actual narrative is clear and straightforward, though there are passages of description and flowery sentiment which the reader will do well to skip—attempts at fine writing which disfigure the earlier pages of the volume and discourage further attention. These are the errors of an inexperienced author, and do not detract from the solid merit of a work which is distinguished by lucidity of style and candour of spirit. Mr. Arnold means to be fair, and takes care to be intelligible. He has prejudices, and he does injustice; but not wilfully nor perversely. He is not a man of profound knowledge, nor of deep thought; his views are the superficial commonplace views of the majority of men who do not look deeply into the causes of any social phenomena, or consider thoroughly the mutual rights and obligations of any form of human relation; but he has no spite against any class of his countrymen, and is obviously actuated by an honest desire to give an impartial account of the facts before him. He appears to have a prejudice in favour of the Federal cause, but if this be so, he has kept his partialities in strict subjection, and it is only by the turn of a sentence here and there that we are led to suspect them. We are inclined to think him sometimes unjust to the manufacturers; but he does them more justice than do the great majority of people unacquainted with Lancashire life and Lancashire ideas, and the bulk of his readers will rather accuse him of indulgence than of bitterness.

He is not foolish enough to lay the blame of the cotton famine in any degree upon the manufacturers, save that he thinks they ought to have taken more pains to develope the culture of cotton and the opening of communications in India. Mr. Bright made some efforts in this direction, but his violence, his false accusations, his reputation, and his unpopularity neutralised the effect of his arguments. For the rest, the manufacturers trusted in the philosophy of free trade. During the corn-law contest, the Protectionists earnestly urged the folly of rendering England dependent for her supplies of food on sources which might be closed in time of war. It was answered that demand would insure supply, war or no war; that profit was too strong for powder, and that there was no blockade which could keep out articles that paid cent. per cent. This false and foolish doctrine—false and foolish in its generality of statement, and in its absolute and unlimited character—sank deep into the mind of Manchester; and the cotton manufacturers were perhaps the class of all others which considered the supply of cotton least precarious. But had they thought otherwise, they could not have helped themselves. They could not give 7½*d.* for colonial cotton while American could be had for 6*d.*; to have done so would have been to exclude themselves from the market; and, therefore, the Southern States gradually beat all other competitors out of the field, and Lancashire became absolutely dependent upon them. Even secession hardly alarmed the manufacturers. They did not believe in disunion; when disunion became a fact, they did not believe in war; when war began, they did not expect an effective blockade; and when the blockade cut off their supplies, they were slow to believe in its continuance. It is noteworthy that they and the buyers of cotton at large seem for a long time to have believed in the Federal arms. Cotton rose when the South was victorious, and fell when she was beaten, indicating clearly that it was to 'reconstruction,' not to independence, that the speculators looked for the opening of the Southern ports. The manufacturers misjudged their case and their prospects from first almost to last, and they lost much money by their errors. Any man who had confidence enough in the Confederates to buy and sell on the supposition that they must finally triumph, might have made an enormous fortune—some did make enormous fortunes—out of the contrary opinion of the market, before the world at large came round to his conviction. But it would not have made the distress one whit less severe if the manufacturers had taken a sound view from the first. They could have done nothing; the force of commercial necessity was utterly irresistible.

It is true that there had been overproduction in 1860, and that this would have created much trouble in 1861, even if there had been no American war, and that it did aggravate the distress of 1861–62. There were large stocks in India, and at home, and everywhere, which had been bought at the prices of 1860, and which had to be sold off before the price of calico could rise to the level of that of cotton. The consequence was that the diminution of production was much greater than it would have been had it depended only on the scarcity of cotton. Manufacturers dared not add to stock in expectation of adequate prices; for they knew not but that, before they could sell, the American war might be over, and cotton might fall from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* per lb. Merchants could not give them orders at adequate prices while there was yet on hand cloth bought at the prices of 1860, in sufficient quantity to supply the wants of the world till the middle of 1862. Thus the overproduction of 1860 aggravated the distress of 1861. But the manufacturers were in no sense answerable for that overproduction. During 1860 they had made only 'to order;' and they held in 1861 less cloth than at any other period. It was by speculators and exporters that the overproduction of 1860 was enforced. It was by them that the stocks were held in 1861. And when the price of calico rose with, though after and less than, the price of cotton, the large profits realised on these stocks fell entirely into the hands of merchants and speculators. Little or none of it went to repair the losses of the manufacturers. Those who made profit out of the cotton famine among the manufacturers, made it by not manufacturing. They sold their cotton, and they speculated in cotton, and by speculation they contrived to share the profits of Liverpool brokers and London capitalists; as manufacturers they could not make a penny. From want of special acquaintance with facts of this kind, Mr. Arnold goes frequently astray in estimating the waste of wealth and the impoverishment entailed by the cotton famine. Its losses fell upon the capital invested in the employment of labour; it wasted the means and sapped the strength of the manufacturers. Its compensatory profits went into pockets from which few or no wages are paid—to speculators and merchants. It was on these, therefore, rather than on the manufacturers, that the distressed operatives had a strong claim. Those whom the famine ruined had some moral title to assistance at the hands of those whom it enriched. For want of fairly understanding these circumstances, writers of all sorts, and Mr. Arnold among them, have given undue credit to Liverpool and laid undue blame on Preston and Manchester—have exalted the merchants at the expense of the manufacturers. The former made millions and gave thousands; the latter lost millions, and still they gave. But because the losers were in closer personal relations with the operatives, their liberality seemed but the fulfilment of an obligation; the winners, lending a small fraction of their winnings, gained the credit of large generosity. In occupations of which the conditions are better understood, similar injustice would hardly be done. If a bad harvest had impoverished the farmers and poured a flood of wealth into Mark Lane, we hardly think that any one would at once extol the corn-dealer for giving a small percentage of his profit to the poor, and abuse the half-ruined farmers for doing no more. It should be remembered, throughout all discussions on the Lancashire cotton famine, that the merchants and brokers of Liverpool were gainers; that the landlords, except the owners of cottage property, were little affected; while the millowners were fellow-sufferers with their workpeople. This borne in mind, we shall hardly be inclined to think so highly of the merchants who gave their one or two thousands as of the earl who put down six; while the highest honour of all seems due to those who kept their mills running at a dead loss, or fed their workpeople themselves, at a cost of perhaps 500*l.* a week (26,000*l.* a year). Of course there were very few who were in a position to do anything of this sort. A poor man could not do it; and hundreds of manufacturers, employing thousands of operatives, were almost as poor as their hands. A man whose whole wealth, except what was absolutely required to work his mill, was invested in bricks, and mortar, and machinery, which had ceased to be a source of profit and become a source of expense, could not be asked to bring himself to absolute ruin by generosity of this kind. If he had employed his hands in 1862, he must have deprived himself of the power of employing them for ever after. It was only by men of great surplus wealth that this magnificent generosity could be displayed. And by most of the few firms so situated their workpeople were so treated that no complaint was possible; here and there some men have behaved ill, and their selfishness or meanness was laid hold upon and exhibited to the world as characteristic of a class of men who, outside their own province, have always been regarded with the jealousy which waits on new-gotten wealth and the suspicion which springs of ignorance. Mr. Arnold is above injustice of this sort; but, in acknowledging that those who behaved well, and even nobly, were assuredly the many, he gives undue prominence to the shortcomings or the aberrations of the few. He speaks the truth; but the impression left is not quite the true one.

We must not forget that the theory and practice of the relations between employers and employed in Lancashire is less feudal and friendly than in the south of England. The squire conceives that there exists between him, his farmers, and his labourers, some other bond than those of wages and rent: he believes, if he do not act up to his belief, that his tenantry have a claim to help and kindness at his hands, and owe him respect, deference, and regard on their part; and the tenantry would not generally allow that the relation is purely commercial. With the manufacturer the case is very different. Unless his operatives happen to be his tenants, they have often no relation with him outside the walls of his factory; they pride themselves on their independence of him; and they, as much as he, would, in prosperous times at least, repudiate the idea of anything like dependence and protection subsisting between them. They owe him work; he owes them wages. If they can get better wages or easier work elsewhere, they would not dream of remaining with him. In such a state of things it is difficult to establish any peculiar claim of the operative on the capitalist, apart from that of Christian neighbourhood, arising from acquaintance and connection; and the claims which were in some cases put forth by the operatives were rather suggested by the sympathy of extraneous advisers than prompted by their own views of the relation between themselves and their masters. A slaveholder is bound to support his slaves in sickness and health, prosperity and adversity; a landlord, while he continues to expect the reverence and exercise the authority derived from the feudal tie, cannot shake off the claims of his tenantry to a modified form of assistance and protection: but if those who claim such absolute independence as does the factory operative when all goes well are to ask peculiar consideration and assistance from their employers in time of adversity, their demand must rest on the bonds of Christian brotherhood rather than on political or social connection. Mr. Arnold, in criticising the conduct of the two parties, is apt to lose sight of such points as these.

* *The History of the Cotton Famine, from the Fall of Sumter to the Passing of the Public Works Act.* By R. Arthur Arnold. London: Saunders, Otley, & Co. 1864.

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Paris: August 9.

During the past week the press has been completely absorbed in the consideration of the farce recently played by certain non-accredited diplomatists on the scene of Blondin's performances—the Falls of the Niagara. Generally speaking, the true character of this pretended negotiation has not been misunderstood; nevertheless, far greater importance has been attributed to it than it really deserves. The *Moniteur du Soir* is of opinion that 'there is no reason for considering this first interchange of ideas as definite.' The *Temps* affects to call Messrs. Clay and Holcombe (the latter name is written Halcomb) accredited negotiators, and asserts that the partisans of the South are mistaken in regarding the Niagara affair as an indication of the weariness prevalent in the North; it sees in it, on the contrary, a proof that the Government of Washington is fully assured of the energy and indomitable perseverance of the Unionist populations.

The *Memorial Diplomatique* and the *Patrie* have presented the question in its true form. The first of these journals, in a special article upon the subject, gives the following political and constitutional reasons in proof that such negotiations must be barren in their result, and that Messrs. Holcombe and Clay could have had no object but that of representing Mr. Lincoln's Government as indisposed towards peace:—

The object of the revolution which gave rise to the war between the Southern and the Northern States was the assertion, by the former, of their independence and sovereignty, from whence proceeds the double right of possessing certain institutions suitable to themselves and of separating from the Confederation into which they had entered.

The Government of Richmond is simply the agent of these sovereign States, which, far from vesting it with full powers, have explicitly specified that they reserved to themselves the exclusive right both of modifying their peculiar institutions, and also of withdrawing, when they pleased, from the new association which they had formed.

To ask the Government of Richmond, therefore, to consent to a reconstitution of the Union, and to the abolition of slavery, is to ask of it two things which it has not the power to perform—the disunion or union of the States, and an interference with one of their peculiar institutions.

These conditions, even if approved of by the people of the Confederate States, could only be accepted by the people itself exercising its authority in the terms prescribed by the Constitution, and in conformity with the American theory of the Republic; namely, either by each particular State in its quality of sovereign, or by a general convention of all the States, representing the entire people.

If the mechanism of the Government of the Confederate States be duly examined and understood, the key to many difficulties is immediately discovered, and many gross errors, into which those who discuss American matters too frequently fall, may be avoided.

If an objection be made to our assertion that the United States, possessing the same institutions as the Confederate States, denies the sovereignty of the States, in wishing to constrain some of them to remain in an association which is no longer suited to them, and to abolish the slavery now existing amongst them, we answer that the United States' Government violates the Constitution of the country, whilst by the Confederate States it is respected.

This difference in comprehending the principles of the Constitution is the sole cause of the war. As reason could gain no hearing in the solution of this difficulty, an appeal to arms was the result.

The *Mémorial* then states that the aim of Mr. Lincoln evidently was, not to treat for peace, but to make it appear that he was disposed to do so, and thus take advantage of the pacific movement in the North for the purposes of his election. It concludes as follows:—

It is, therefore, certain that the United States' Government is not desirous of peace; it is by war that that Government is maintained, and war it will continue to uphold so long as Mr. Lincoln remains at the White House.

The *Patrie*, in an article written by M. Aucaigne, has shown itself still more sarcastic; it jeers at George Sanders and laughs at *Colorado* Jewitt. Although M. Aucaigne is mistaken in citing Messrs. Clay and Holcombe as members of the Confederate Congress, he nevertheless fully appreciates the praiseworthy efforts made by these honourable Southerners, who in their private capacity of citizens have sought the pacification of their country.

With respect to Mr. Lincoln's *ultimatum*, the *Patrie* thus expresses itself:—

It must not be forgotten that, even supposing the South were to-day to re-enter the Confederation, with its slavery abolished, there would still remain slaves in the States of Kentucky, Tennessee, &c., which, faithful so far as appearance goes to Mr. Lincoln, have obtained from him the right of enjoying their *peculiar institution* free from his interference. Let the President, therefore, first of all proclaim abolition in those States in which his authority is acknowledged and obeyed; and we may add that we shall think all the more of him if, when propositions of peace are made to him, we hear him proudly reply, 'No truce, no reunion, so long as you wish to return to us bringing your slavery with you.'

The *Moniteur*, the *Constitutionnel*, the *Nation*, and the *France* have published, relative to these famous Niagara negotiations, an excellent communication from New York furnished through the agency of Havas.

The last-named of these journals, the *France*, informs us that on July 31, two screw-corvettes, carrying Confederate colours, were seen off the roadstead of Brest.

The *Presse*, which for some time past has not busied itself with American matters, gives a short article on the subject of the imprisonment of Mr. Howard, the author of the apocryphal proclamation of a draft of 400,000 men. M. de Girardin's journal says that all the statements put forth by this unfortunate journalist have been fully realised—that it was vain on the part of Grant to outflank Lee, he is now reduced to make an attack on Petersburg, and the President, instead of calling for a draft of 400,000, now calls for 500,000. The offence of the journalist therefore consisted in his being too reserved, and the President has punished an imaginary crime.

Although the *Opinion Nationale* has refused to make any further reply to the questions asked by the *Pays*, the latter journal, in conformity with its determination before stated, has not ceased to interrogate the *Opinion*. On Thursday last it proposed the following question to its opponent:—

Why should we pity the Poles who suffer beneath the implacable hand of Russia, when all pity, all respect, and all consideration are refused to those of their countrymen who suffer beneath the cruelly cunning hand of Mr. Lincoln—when we find their complaints unnoticed, a deaf ear turned to the despairing cries of these unfortunate victims of American barbarity, and all right and decency trampled under foot?

In a word, why should the Czar of St. Petersburg be censured by a courtier of the Czar of Washington?

Of course the *Opinion* offers no reply to this.

The same number of the *Pays* contains, under the form of a letter from a subscriber, a complete refutation of all the assertions put forth by the *Opinion* in its controversy with that journal. This refutation leaves nothing to be desired; its language is moderate, its style easy, and its arguments conclusive. It begins by refuting the term 'rebels' as applied to the Southerners, and remarks that there can be no rebels in a country where there are no subjects, the absence of the one necessarily implying the absence of the other. As to the second assertion made by the *Opinion*, that the South withdrew itself from the Union on account of fears entertained by the slaveholders, owing to the election of Mr. Lincoln, the *Pays* replies that the South withdrew itself only in face of the advances made by the Abolitionists and the Protectionists, whose aim was to form a geographical party, which would place the South under tutelage, and suppress its voice in Congress. The separation, continues the correspondent of the *Pays*, when it first originated was, in its character, simply a protestation against the humiliating position which the North was preparing for the South; slavery was not its motive, for slavery existed in the loyal States at the commencement of the contest, it exists there still, and constitutes, up to the present moment, part of the Constitutional institutions of the United States. The Government of Richmond has never proclaimed as a principle that emancipation was a thing impossible, it has declared slavery to be a domestic institution, subject exclusively to the action of the particular States, and over which the Federal Government had no jurisdiction. Was he right? The Constitution proves it. This remarkable letter terminates as follows:—

To the cries of 'Liberty' so often and so cruelly uttered by MM. Labbé, Bonneau, or Malespine, I answer, 'Humanity.' And—shall I say it?—I am proud to find that my compatriots have hitherto succeeded in thwarting the internal projects of the friends of the *Opinion Nationale*.

Allow me to say, in conclusion, that the ridiculous fury of the Northern organ is a source of no small amusement to the Confederates. They are also quite aware that the *Opinion Nationale*, notwithstanding its high-sounding title, is far, very far, from being the faithful expositor of the national opinion of France.

The *Siècle* still undertakes to lecture the American correspondent of the *Times*. A few days ago it considered it very wrong on the part of this correspondent to have stated as a fact that General Hood had decided to defend Atlanta until he should receive reinforcements from Lee, and that Forrest's corps had succeeded in cutting off the retreat of the Federals. The *Siècle* regards this as counting one's chickens before they are hatched, and adds in a sportive tone: 'The *Times*' correspondent in the United States has been carrying on this little business for a long time past.' The day following that on which it had thus bantered the unknown correspondent of the *Times*, the *Siècle* published the three pretended conditions on which, it had been said, Messrs. Clay and Holcombe would consent to discuss terms of peace with the Federal Government. Now it so happened that, at the very time when it published this statement, papers had been received forty-eight hours before in Paris, which implicitly stated that such stipulations had never existed, save in the imagination of certain American journalists, evidently as correctly informed as the editors of the *Siècle*.

This is the journal which undertakes to correct the *Times*' correspondent when he speaks of American affairs.

It seems to be quite the fashion just now, with the Northern organs in Paris, to attack the *Times*' correspondent. Here is a specimen of the unjustifiable manner in which the *Opinion Nationale* speaks of him:—

The Special Correspondent of the *Times* at New York, whose false statements as to the military position are complacently conveyed to us by the telegraph twice a week, had announced the arrival at Richmond of all the booty carried off by General Early in Maryland. This news, *like all else sent by the* Times' *Correspondent*, is contradicted. The retreat of the Confederates has not only been disturbed but prevented. The Unionist general, Crook, overtook them on July 18 at Snicker's Gap, and after a desperate engagement, in which he was victorious, captured 300 prisoners and 300 wagons laden with corn.

Well! these lines, so cutting, so peremptory, evince the most complete ignorance of the matter of which they speak, or the most arrant bad faith. The pretended victory of Crook, announced in the New York journals of the 21st, was, as you are aware, contradicted in those of the 23rd. Now, as the journals of the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, reached Paris by the same mail, the *Opinion* has either not taken the trouble to read them, or, as the *Pays* (which does not allow any of the errors of the Federal organ to pass unnoticed) has stated, the *Opinion* has extracted those statements only which flatter its political prejudices.

But is it not a thing unheard of that a journal, which, in less than a fortnight, has committed error upon error in speaking of American affairs—which has stated that it was informed, through private intelligence, that Mr. Slidell had set out for Vichy on a political mission, whilst at the same time he has not yet left Paris—which has mistranslated the Confederate manifesto—which has announced the capture of Atlanta as a *fait accompli*—which, in fine, relates to-day an imaginary Federal victory—is it not a thing unheard of, I repeat, that such a journal should take upon itself to treat the worthy correspondent of the *Times*, Dr. Mackay—a man of talent, of the highest respectability, and an eye-witness of what he communicates—as a child who chatters at random, not knowing what he says? It is, however, by such bombast as this, and by cramming his articles with proper names and geographical disssertations, never hesitating to place himself in every imaginable circumstance, and to assume that he alone is aware of what is passing in America, that M. Malespine has succeeded for now nearly two years in inducing a portion of the French public to believe that the Federals were most immaculate Republicans—the Confederates, negro-eaters.

Under the title of '*Le Commencement de la Fin*,' M. Aucaigne has contributed a very spirited article to the *Progrès de Paris*, an excellent journal which appears twice a week. He represents the North as exclaiming on every occasion, whether favourable or unfavourable, '*This is the commencement of the end of the rebellion!*' and is of opinion that, provided Europe will lend some slight assistance, we shall in reality soon witness the commencement of the end; but it will be the commencement of the end of the war of conquest now carried on by the North, and not the end of the 'rebellion.'

The *Florida*, the competitor of the *Alabama*, has also found her historian. The indefatigable M. Aucaigne has related in the *Patrie* the first exploits of this cruiser, whose name has already become a terror to the Yankees, and whose career is likely to be brilliant.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

Wednesday Evening.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

The state of the Money Market is not encouraging, but the rates indicate partial apprehension from the pressure at the Bank. This arises from the bankers and brokers not discounting freely; and since they only make loans at the official minimum, the weight is turned upon Threadneedle Street. The Bank directors are charging from 8 to 9 per cent., and the latter is the quotation for three months' sound trade paper. There is plenty of capital afloat; but through the operation of the Bank Act, the 'screw' works heavily upon those who require financial assistance. With the present state of things in existence, it is perfectly certain that speculation will for the moment be altogether arrested. This will prove so far encouraging, as it will allow matters to right themselves while the Money Market is resuming its original position. The late light rains have been exceedingly beneficial throughout the country, and the harvest is now more favourably spoken of than it was a fortnight ago. If the Bank directors shall further advance the rate, it will sooner bring affairs to a crisis; but it seems to be generally believed that no great strain will be allowed without the interference of Government, as a relaxation of the Act will be more than ever imperatively required should the terms go beyond 9 or 10 per cent. During the time money has been fetching full rates at the Bank and in Lombard Street, the quotations for short loans at the Stock Exchange have varied from 7 to 8 per cent., and back again to 5 and 6 per cent. No doubt can be entertained that if money were to ease in value there would be a general recovery in the Stock and Share Markets.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The market for bullion and specie still retains an unsatisfactory aspect. The withdrawals of gold from the Bank this week for transmission abroad have been to the extent of 138,000*l.*, whilst the amount sent in has been only 4,000*l.* The arrivals of specie, likewise, have not been large, reaching only to 101,006*l.*, of which 64,225*l.* was from New York, 33,181*l.* from the Brazils, and 3,600*l.* from the West Coast; but nearly the whole of these arrivals have been purchased for transhipment. The *Magdalena*, for the Brazils, takes out 8,500*l.* The silver market remains in a very quiet state, and the price for both bar and Mexican dollars remains without change. The nominal quotation for the former is 61$\frac{1}{4}$*d.* per oz., and for the latter 63*d.* The amount of gold at present advised from the Australian colonies is very small.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

All the Stock markets have been very much depressed during the week, but that for the English Securities particularly so in consequence of the rate of discount having been so unexpectedly advanced on Thursday last. As soon as the alteration in the Bank rate became known, the funds declined $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and there was a similar fall on the following day; and since that period there has been a further unfavourable movement to the extent of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., making the total decline since this day week of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Under the circumstances the brokers show but little desire to transact business, and until there is an improvement in the value of money, it is not likely that any material improvement will take place. Consols closed this evening at 89 to 89$\frac{1}{8}$ for money, and 89$\frac{1}{4}$ to 89$\frac{3}{8}$ for the September account. Exchequer bills have further declined, and are now down to 25*s.* to 15*s.* dis. In the Foreign Stock Market business has been slightly more active, and the decline in prices has not been so great comparatively as in the English Securities, and this evening there was a little more firmness exhibited. Greek closed at 23$\frac{3}{8}$ to 23$\frac{5}{8}$, being a fall of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as compared with this day week. Mexican, 28$\frac{1}{2}$ to 29, or a decline of $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent.; Spanish Passives have receded $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., being down to 29$\frac{5}{8}$ to 29$\frac{7}{8}$; but the Passives have advanced $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and are up to 11$\frac{3}{4}$ to 12; Turkish Six per Cents. of 1854, are 89$\frac{1}{2}$ to 90$\frac{1}{2}$; and those of 1862, 69 to 69$\frac{1}{2}$, being a fall of $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. respectively.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market has been remarkably steady this week in spite of general depression. On the Stock Exchange we close 75$\frac{1}{2}$ to 76$\frac{1}{2}$, firm. Four per cent has been given for the call of a large amount during the month of September, therefore ex dividend and drawing.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

Although there has been rather more doing this week in American Government and Railway Securities than for some time past, still business in this department continues very much depressed, and the dealers evince no desire to operate unless under special orders. Prices show no improvement whatever, but on the contrary are in most instances lower. The only dealings recorded are in Atlantic and Great Western Railway, Pennsylvania section, at ·73. Erie, $100 shares, all paid, at 41$\frac{1}{2}$, 41$\frac{1}{4}$, 41$\frac{1}{2}$, and 41. Illinois Central, $100; shares, $90 paid, at 42$\frac{1}{2}$, 43, and 44 dis. Do. do., all paid, at 53, 51$\frac{3}{4}$, 52$\frac{1}{2}$, 51$\frac{1}{2}$, and 52$\frac{1}{2}$.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

The market for British Railway Shares has again become exceedingly depressed, in sympathy with all the other departments, and prices for the most part have undergone a considerable relapse; but it may be observed that when the greatest falls have taken place they have occurred to some extent through depreciated dividends. In the present state of affairs there is little disposition shown to operate, consequently the transactions are more restricted than usual. As compared with last week there has been a decline of 3 per cent. in North Eastern (Leeds), and do. (York); of 2 per cent., in Lancashire and Yorkshire, Midland, and North Eastern (Berwick); of 1$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in London, Brighton, and South Coast, London and North Western, and Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire; of 1 per cent. in Edinburgh and Glasgow, West Midland (Oxford), London and Blackwall, Chatham and Dover, London and South Western, North Staffordshire, South Devon, South Eastern, Vale of Neath and West Cornwall: of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Metropolitan, and North Bristol: and of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. in East Anglican, and North and South Western Junction. There has also been less doing than usual in Foreign Railway Shares, and those connected with the British possessions, and prices generally are weaker.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The announcement has been made of the suspension of Mr. Ferdinand Frankenheim, merchant, but whose difficulties have arisen through losses on the Stock Exchange. The liabilities are estimated at 100,000*l.*, and the books have been placed in the hands of Messrs. Coleman, Turquand, Youngs, and Co.—The suspension is also announced of Messrs. Newby, Carson, and Co., in the India and China trade. The books have been placed in the hands of Messrs. Edwards and James, accountants.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES, &c.

At the half-yearly meeting of the East London Bank, the report, which was unanimously adopted, stated that the gross profits had been 10,576*l.*, against which had been charged the current expenses of the head-office and branches for the half-year, amounting to 3,941*l.*; interest on current and deposit accounts amounting to 2,037*l.*; rebate calculated at the bank rate at the date of making up the accounts, viz., 6 per cent., amounting to 1,640*l.*, leaving an available balance of 2,957*l.* to be appropriated to a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the first half-year, free of income tax. A resolution was also adopted for increasing the capital of the companies from 1,000,000*l.* to 2,000,000*l.*—At the half-yearly meeting of the London and County Bank it was shown that the net profit for the past six months, after deducting all charges, amounted to 109,501*l.*, which, added to 16,668*l.* brought forward from the last account, made a total of 126,169*l.* Out of this sum a dividend was declared of 6 per cent., and a bonus of 10 per cent. for the half-year, both free of income tax, amounting together to 104,443*l.*, and leaving a balance of 21,726*l.* to be carried forward to profit and loss new account. The report was unanimously adopted.—At an extraordinary meeting of the London Bank of Scotland, resolutions were passed authorising the voluntary

winding-up of the company, and appointing the directors as liquidators, with powers to transfer the assets to the Mercantile and Exchange Bank.—At a meeting of the Mediterranean Extension Telegraph Company the usual dividend of 8 per cent. per annum was declared on the preference shares, and of 4*s.* per share, equal to 4 per cent. per annum, on the original capital.—At the half-yearly meeting of the International Hotel Company, the report, which was adopted, showed that the gross receipts had been 10,025*l.*, and the expenditure 7,204*l.*, leaving a net profit of 2,820*l.*, which, with the amount of 974*l.* brought forward from the previous half-year, after paying the dividend and deducting the sum voted for the directors, gave a sum of 3,795*l.* From this a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum was declared for the half-year, leaving 814*l.* to be carried forward.—At the twenty-first half-yearly general meeting of the Lands Improvement Company a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year was declared.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

The present state of the money market being very unfavourable to the introduction of new joint-stock companies, only two or three have been brought forward this week, and it is probable this branch of enterprise will be very dull for some time, unless money should unexpectedly become cheaper.—The prospectus has been issued of the Crystal Sanitarium Company, the undertaking being promoted for the purpose of carrying out the recommendation of a large section of the medical profession, the special objects of which are implied by the name of the Company. A fine and eligible site has been selected for the required purposes, and operations will be commenced as soon as sufficient funds are raised. The capital asked for is 250,000*l.*, in 12,500 shares of 20*l.* each. A deposit of 1*l.* will be required on application, and 2*l.* on allotment.—The Mersey Steel and Iron Company is another undertaking just introduced, for which a capital of 800,000*l.*, with power to increase, is sought to be raised. The deposit on application is to be 1*l.* per share, and 1*l.* 10*s.* on allotment. The object is to purchase and extend the Mersey Steel and Iron Company, for which the following terms have been agreed upon:—The works and machinery, together with the stock-in-trade, are to be taken at a valuation as a working concern, and the goodwill and business, including large orders on hand, with all other rights and interests of the Company, are arranged to be valued on the basis of the average profits of the three years next preceding the transfer of the property. The present proprietors take 20,000 shares, being one-half of the capital of the Company, and the directors have secured the services of Mr. Clay as managing director.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

Dear money continues to impede the progress of trade in the produce markets, and transactions are upon the smallest possible scale, whilst prices are again in many cases lower. There is an increased disposition to realise, but this has become extremely difficult, as sales of any important amount could only be effected by reducing prices materially. Meantime, arrivals having for some time past been of fair extent, stocks are increasing. The progress that is being made with the harvest, and more favourable anticipations in reference to the crop, have caused renewed heaviness in the corn trade, and both English and foreign wheats have sold at a further decline in price. Oilcake of all kinds is still in demand, and has further advanced in value, 10*l.* 10*s.* to 11*l.* being now the quotation for New York barrels, and 10*l.* to 10*l.* 5*s.* for bags. Petroleum is depressed, and American refined difficult to sell at 2*s.* 1½*d.* per gallon on the spot, and 2*s.* 2*d.* for October to December. Crude is quoted 18*l.* 10*s.* to 19*l.* per tun. Linseed oil continues in good supply, owing to the demand for cake, and there are free sellers at 36*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. both here and in Hull. Rape oil is dull, but refined is still held for 46*s.* 6*d.*, and brown for 43*s.* per cwt. Palm is rather dearer, fine Lagos making 35*s.* 6*d.* to 36*s.* Cocoanut oil is very unsettled and rates uncertain. Sales of Ceylon are said to have been made at 38*s.*, but 38*s.* 6*d.* to 39*s.* are the prices generally quoted, and for Cochin 40*s.* to 40*s.* 6*d.* In fish oils there is not sufficient doing to stamp quotations. Business has to-day been done in French turpentine at 69*s.*, which is rather under late nominal rates. The tallow market, without being active, continues firm, the protracted droughts being against production; 41*s.* 9*d.* for Y.C. on the spot, and 43*s.* 9*d.* for the last three months, have been the current quotations since our last report. Hemp is still a very slow sale at 33*l.* to 35*l.* for inferior to fine clean St. Petersburg. Saltpetre has undergone a further decline in quotations. Dye goods are for the most part firm, although not active. Jamaica logwood sells at 4*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, and Jamaica fustic at 7*l.* to 7*l.* 5*s.* per ton.

LIVERPOOL, Wednesday, August 10.—Our cotton market during the past week has maintained a very steady appearance. Business has not been particularly active, and prices show less firmness. The advance in the value of money has had a great tendency to check speculation, and more disposition is now evinced by holders to press sales, but buyers do not seem inclined to become purchasers except at a further reduction. The arrivals have been moderate, but quite sufficient to meet all demands. The sales this week have been 30,000 bales, of which 5,900 have been taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year down to the present time have been 1,694,640 bales, and to the same period in 1863, 1,259,736 bales. The imports this year have been 1,363,461 bales against 892,746 bales last year. There have been taken by the trade this year 1,048,530 bales, against 706,749 bales in 1863. This year the exports have been 336,594 bales, whilst last year they were 269,314 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year, 293,340 bales, and in 1863, 278,313 bales. At the present time the estimated stocks are 266,114 bales, and last year at the corresponding period they were 307,210 bales. The closing quotations this afternoon were: American descriptions, 30*d.* to 32*d.*; Pernambuco, 31½*d.* to 32*d.*; Maranham, 31¾*d.* to 32*d.*; Maceio, 29¾*d.* to 30*d.*; Bahia, 30*d.*; Egyptian, 29¼*d.* to 30*d.*; Smyrna, 26¼*d.* to 26½*d.*; Surats, 14¼*d.* to 23¾*d.*; Bengal, 16¼*d.* to 16½*d.*; Scinde, 16¼*d.* to 16½*d.*; China, 18¼*d.* to 20½*d.*; and Japan, 21½*d.* to 22½*d.*

At Manchester business in all branches continues very dull; and is caused chiefly by the inanimate state of the market at Liverpool and the unsettled state of the money market. Buyers on the one hand refuse to operate at present, believing that prices must come down, and spinners and manufacturers showing an indisposition to accept the terms offered. For shipping yarns the market is exceedingly flat, and little or no business is doing. In home trade yarns business is also very quiet, the manufacturers purchasing only in retail. Where offers have been made, slightly lower rates have been accepted, but only for very small quantities. The latest advices from India announced that both mule twist and grey shirtings are slightly improving; but this has had but little or no effect on the home markets. In the cloth market there is literally nothing whatever doing; manufacturers are holding out for full prices, believing that there is no present prospect of the raw material becoming cheaper, though perhaps there is a little weakness on the part of holders of large stocks, though prices can hardly be tested in consequence of the apathy of purchasers. The quotation of all kinds of yarns and cloths is at the present time higher than at any period during the cotton famine, and merchants naturally hesitate about laying out their money in such high-priced goods under present unfavourable circumstances. Although all the markets are evidently weaker, there is no quotable change from the prices previously published.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SHIPS ARRIVED.

AT GRAVESEND.—August 3: The Duchess, from Jamaica. The Amalthea, from Havana. The Coronet. The Mariner, from Quebec.—August 4: The Neptune, (steamer), from Havre. The Kate, from Nassau.—August 5: The Athalia, from Nova Scotia.—August 6: The Ionia, from Nassau.—The Regia, from Jamaica.—August 7: The Olive Branch, from Havre.—August 8: The Compenzo, from Havana. The City of Hamburgh (steamer), from Havre.—August 9: The Anna Catherine, from St. Lucia. The Asuncion, from Cuba. The Agida, from Quebec. The General Windham, from Callao. The Era, The Oleander, from Demerara. The Constantia, from Havana.—August 10: The John Berden, from Trinidad.

AT DEAL.—August 2: The Margietha, from West Indies.—August 3: The Kate, from Nassau.—August 4: The Garherdine, from Rio Janeiro. The Charles Gumm, from Cuba.—August 5: The Anna, from Montevideo, The Rambler, from Demerara. The Adventure, from Demerara. The Prospero, from St. Vincent.—August 7:—The Devonshire, from St. Kitt's.—August 8: The Adamo, from Buenos Ayres. The Aquila, from Quebec. The Oleander, The Era, from Demerara. The John Barker, from Trinidad. The Island Queen, from Nassau. The Iser, from Cuba.

AT LIVERPOOL.—August 3: The Fayside, from Miramichi. The Fernanandez, from Bahia. The City of Manchester, The Woodstock, from Quebec.—August 4: The B. De Wolf, from Nassau.—The British Queen (steamer), from Havre.—August 5: The Seamew, from Miramichi.—August 6: The Adonis, from Pernambuco. The C. L., from Jamaica. The Jane, The Superior, from Quebec.—August 7: The Australasian (steamer), from New York. The Diana, from Nassau. The Talisman (steamer), from Vera Cruz.—August 8: The Maria-y-Vicenta, from Havana. The Tantivy, The Phœbe, from Pomeroon. The Alice, from Nassau. The Martha, from Bermuda. The Taragona, from Barbadoes. The Calabar (steamer), from Madeira.—August 9: The Hannah, from Prince Edward's Island. The Forest King, from Miramichi. The Lady Newborough, from Rio Grande. The Lampedo, from St. John's. The Hannah, from Gharlotte Town.

AT FALMOUTH.—August 4: The Joven Emilia, The William Henry, from Havana. The Marie, from Porto Rico. The Medium, The Louisa, from Cuba.—August 5: The Gebrueder, from Rio Grande.—August 6: The Luisa, from Bahia. The Julio, from Havana.—August 7. The A. V. Garcia, The Free Trade, from Havana.—August 8: The Justa, from Havana.—August 9: The Johanna Hendricks, from Porto Rico. The Esperanza, from Cuba.—August 10: The Santa Cruz, from Porto Rico. The Aletheia, The Adelaide, from Havana.

AT CLYDE.—August 4: The T. R. Patillo, from Trinidad. The Caledonian, from Havana. The William Connal (steamer), The Jules, from Havre. The Tommie, from New Brunswick.—August 5: The Savanetta, The John Richards, from Trinidad. The Pilita, from Havana.—August 7: The Lavinia, from Havana.—August 9: The Antigua, from Havana. The Manchester, from Quebec.—August 10: The Lord Hardinge, from Jamaica. The Napoleon, The Grenada, from Havana. The Kalos, from Matanzas. The Home from Quebec.

AT BRISTOL.—August 3: The Consul, from Quebec. The Ada, from St. John's.—August 5: The Elizabeth, from Montevideo. The Dora, from Barbadoes.—August 6: The Bosphorus, from Trinidad.—August 8: The Espia, from Montevideo. The Sooan, from Havana. The Merrington, from Quebec.

AT HULL.—August 3: The Auguste, from Quebec.—August 5: The Rivelen, The Sorridderen, from Miramichi.—August 6: The 4th November, from Quebec.—August 7: The Rapid, from Rio Janeiro.—August 8: The Hawk (steamer), from Havre.

AT QUEENSTOWN.—August 3: The Scorpion, from Barbadoes.—August 6: The Peter Kreaft, from Demerara.—August 7: The Simson Hardy, from Barbadoes.—August 9: The Mosquito, from Matamoras. The Italia, from St. John's. The Bridgetown, from Barbadoes.—August 10: The Catherine, from Havana. The Josephine, from St. John's.

OFF DOVER.—August 6: The Columbus, from Miramichi.

AT COWES.—August 9: The May Lord, from Bahia.

AT LEITH.—August 4: The Thames, from Quebec.

OFF THE START.—August 2: The Wacousta, from Quebec.

AT ABERDEEN.—August 5: The Prince of Wales, from Rio Grande. The Essex, from Quebec.—August 6: The Brilliant, from Callao.

AT PLYMOUTH.—August 2: The Regia, from Jamaica.

AT SWANSEA.—August 3: The Republic, from Quebec.—August 4: The Hampshire, from Cuba.

AT BARMOUTH.—August 3: The Number 2, from Quebec.

AT CARNARVON.—August 3: The Walton, from Quebec.

AT ARDROSSAN.—August 3: The Primrose, from Miramichi.

AT CORK.—August 3: The Osprey, from St. John's. The Urania, from Quebec.

AT DUBLIN.—August 5: The Pride, The Copernicus, from Barbadoes. The Chatsworth, from Callao.

AT ABERDEEN.—August 5: The Duc Fratelli, from Montevideo.

AT TROON.—August 3,: The Elizabeth from Miramichi.

AT FLEETWOOD.—August 7: The Golden Rule, from St. George's.

OFF DUNGENESS.—August 3: The Firm, from Rio Grande.

OFF THE WIGHT.—August 6: The Rubens, from Miramichi.

AT EXMOUTH.—August 5: The Helen Burns, from Rio Grande.

AT MUMBLES.—August 3: The Hampshire, from Cuba.

AT TRURO.—August 3: The Jane Lowden, from Quebec.

AT GRIMSBY.—August 4: The Kate Kearney, from Miramichi.

AT WEST HARTLEPOOL.—August 4: The Evangeline, from Nova Scotia. The Statira, from Havre.

AT SHIELDS.—August 4: The Tasso, from Miramichi. The Joseph Straker (steamer), from Havre.

AT BERMUDA.—July 26: The North Heath (steamer), The Lynx (steamer), The Mary Celestia (steamer), The Ada (steamer), The Atalanta (steamer), The Edith (steamer), The Black Hawk (steamer), The Alice (steamer), The Lilian (steamer), with 900 bales of cotton: all from Wilmington, with cotton and tobacco; previous to date, five steamers had arrived from Wilmington with 3,000 bales of cotton and a large quantity of tobacco. Loading for Liverpool, The Lady of the Lake, The Hamilton, The Orion, The Kitty Jones, The Ann Mary, The Ellen, The Ida, The Sovereign, The Nutfield. Sailed for Liverpool, July 14: The Caroline Goodyear, The Urania, The J. W. Davies, The Catharine, The Albion, The A. D. Vance (steamer), The Falcon (steamer), The Little Kattie (steamer), The Flamingo (steamer), The Hayti (steamer), The Mary Bowers, The Marie, The Christine Jacqueline, The Ocean Belle.

AT WILMINGTON.—July 24: The Falcon (steamer), from the Clyde. The Lilian (steamer), from Bermuda.

The Liverpool Customs' Bill of Entry for August 8 reports as follows:—The Diana, from Nassau, with 212½ bales of cotton and 21 boxes of tobacco. The Prospero, from Nassau, with 239 bales of cotton and 35 boxes of tobacco. The Alice, from Nassau, with 387½ bales of cotton. Total entry in one day, 839 bales of cotton and 56 boxes of tobacco, from Confederate ports.

BELFAST.—August 3: The Statesman, for Quebec. The Cleopatra, for Miramichi.

AT MADEIRA.—August 2: The Tres Amigos, The Emilia, The A. W. M'Clennan, The Resource, The Hope (steamer), coaling and sailed for Nassau, The King of the Forest, The Powerful (steamer), coaling and sailed for Bermuda, The Lilian, The M'Gregor Laird (steamer), The Iron King (steamer).

AT MIRAMICHI.—July 13: The Realm, from Nassau.

SHIPS SAILED.

LIVERPOOL.—August 3: The Guatemala Packet, for Jamaica. The Englishman, The Lota, for Rio Janeiro. The Hebden, for St. Thomas, The Jesus, for Havana. The Vision, for Pernambuco. The Balkan, for Vera Cruz. The Monica, for Quebec. The Leander, for Vera Cruz.—August 4: The Sylph, for Bermuda. The Annie, for Rio Janeiro.—August 5: The Clementina, for Havana. The Paquete de la Habana, for Porto Rico.—August 6: The Palmyre, for Havana.—August 9: The Orion, for Montevideo. The Isabella, for Bahia. The Alfredo, for Porto Rico. The Jane Duncan, for Havana. The Sea Gem, for St. John's.

GRAVESEND.—August 4: The Tartar (steamer), for Lisbon.—August 5: The Ann, for Montevideo. The Rambler, for Demerara. The International, for Canaries.—August 6: The St. Croix, for Demerara. The Arcadia, for Jamaica. The Star of the West, for Lisbon.

DEAL.—August 4: The Gerhardina, for Rio Janeiro.—August 6: The Latonero, for Porto Rico. The Balcombe, The Only Son, for Bermuda.—August 7: The Queen of the Clippers, for Bermuda.—August 8: The Leon Raymondo, for Madeira.

CARDIFF.—August 3: The William Wright, for Callao. The Leplace, The Malherbe, for St. Thomas. The Queen of the Taff, for Oporto. The Thetis, for Rio Grande. The Albion, for Jamaica. The Phœnix, for Cuba. The Thornhill, for Cape de Verd.—August 3: The J. G. Richardson, for Rio Janeiro.

SOUTHAMPTON.—August 9: The Parana (steamer), for West Indies.

MILFORD.—August 3: The Fanny, for Lisbon.

OFF THE START.—August 3: The Eidsvold, for Buenos Ayres.

PLYMOUTH.—August 4: The Iona, for Halifax.

TORBAY.—August 9: The Mary Blake, The Glimpse, for Madeira.

NEWPORT.—August 3: The Chilian Packet, The Eothen, for Buenos Ayres.—August 4: The Lapeyrouse, for Buenos Ayres. The Nathalie, for St. Thomas.

SHIELDS.—August 3: The Canada West, for Quebec.

YOUGHAL.—August 4: The Mary Hannah, for Miramichi.

QUEENSTOWN.—August 10: The Mosquito (steamer), for Matamoras.

CLYDE.—August 3: The Avalon, for St. John's.—August 10: The Dante, for St. John's.

ARDROSSAN.—August 3: The Elizabeth Cann, for New Providence.

SWANSEA.—August 5: The Juliet, for Cuba. The Governor, for Fayel. The Navigateur, for Lisbon.

SHIPS LOADING.

AT LONDON.—For New York: The Lafayette (mail steamer) from Havre, from Havre, August 24: Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For West Indies: The Florida (mail steamer) from St. Nazaire, August 16: Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For Nassau: The Rebecca, St. Katharine's Docks: J. Worley. The Cicerone, St. Katharine's Docks, Davison Brothers & Co.—For Bermuda: The Lady Milne; C. W. & W. Gray. The Jane Smith, The Aurora, The Kate.—For Havre: The City of Hamburg (steamer), St. Katharine's Wharf, August 14: at 7, and 18th at 10 A.M. The Your Name, The Young Mary.—For Madeira: The J. T. S.

AT LIVERPOOL.—For Bermuda: The Melita (steamer), August 6: H. Lafone. The Catharine Ann, August 14. The Eva, August 17. The Emily Agnes, August 20. The Harkaway, August 31. Peniston, Westhead, & Co. The Annandale, The Zygia, The Edwin and Lizzie.—For Madeira: The Macgregor Laird (steamer), The Garibaldi.—For Matamoras: The Oleander, The Gez Hillegonda, The Rimac, The Byron, The St. George, The Mary and Jessie.—For Nassau: The Wilsons, The Majestic.

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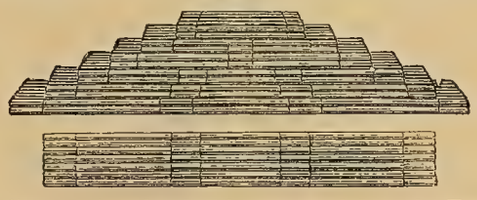
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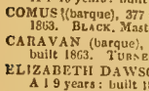

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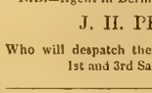

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VOL. IV.—No. 121.] LONDON: THURSDAY EVENING, AUGUST 18, 1864. [PRICE 6D.

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Report of the Confederate Secretary of War.

Confederate States of America, War Department,
Richmond, Virginia, April 28, 1864.

To His Excellency Jefferson Davis, President, &c.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit to you the following report of the operations of this department:—

In the brief period since my last report, the inclemency of the season has enforced comparative inaction on the armies in the field. Operations on our part have been mainly defensive, but have been varied by some brilliant affairs of an offensive character, executed generally by cavalry detachments. The enemy have essayed several serious invasions and various marauding incursions. The results have been almost invariably honourable to our arms.

The large force thrown into Mississippi, with the purpose of marching to the attack of Mobile, expended itself along less than a third of its contemplated course, in discreditable ravages against non-combatants, and hasty damages of the railroads, speedily repaired. A decisive repulse of the formidable cavalry column designed to cooperate with them from Tennessee, by not half its force of recently recruited men, under the bold leadership of General Forrest, followed; and then, at the first intimation of the assembling of a force adequate to encounter them, the main army, some twenty-five or thirty thousand strong, beat a hasty retreat. Their whole plan of campaign was effectually broken up; and, besides the losses sustained in men and material by straggling and capture, their troops returned exhausted and discouraged to their strongholds, whence they have not ventured since to emerge.

More signal disaster punished their invasion to subjugate Florida. They were met promptly and gallantly by General Finnegan, with a smaller number of hastily collected troops, and completely defeated, with heavy loss and utter rout, in the decisive battle of Olustee. Driven back to the protection of their ships of war, they received large reinforcements, and for a time threatened the renewal of their invasion, but their most bloody experience of the prowess of our forces, and the great consequent discouragement of their troops, doubtless induced despair of success. They have since withdrawn nearly their entire force, and relinquished as desperate the invasion of a State so courageously defended.

Various raids of the enemy have been made by cavalry, generally in indefensible portions of the Confederacy, and for the most part for purposes of mere rapine and destruction. They have been conducted with a precipitation most wasteful to their men and animals, and indicative of constant apprehension, but have been marked by a malignant spirit and practices of infamy and barbarity that would have disgraced brigands or savages. Their warfare has been almost exclusively on peaceful citizens, and their avowed object has been the destruction of private property; the taking off of the slaves, even by force; the waste of stores and means of subsistence; the destruction of animals and implements of husbandry, and the privation of all means of future production and support to the whole people.

The most important of their raids, undertaken with an unusual force and a special aim, surpassed even their many inhuman enterprises in the atrocity of its discovered designs. It was avowed as an effort, with five thousand picked horsemen, sustained by light artillery, to seize and hold temporarily the capital of the Confederacy, and to liberate the large number of their prisoners held in its vicinity. Our pickets had been thinned by the withdrawal of our cavalry for recruitment and supply, and the enemy succeeded in starting without observation on their enterprise, but it was conducted with a timidity and a feebleness that were in ludicrous contrast with the boldness of the conception and the extent of their means. Fifteen hundred of their number, detached to Charlottesville, for the double purpose of destroying our railroad communications and distracting attention by varied attacks, with the view of subsequently reuniting with the main column, were easily repulsed by a mere handful of half-armed artillerymen with a single gun, when in a few miles of their contemplated prize of Charlottesville, and compelled to fly affrighted back to their main army. Another detachment of some thousand men, under an officer, Colonel Dahlgren, deemed by them one of especial merit, was sent across the country to pass some distance above the city to the south of the James, and coming rapidly on that side, where there was least reason to expect a defensive force, and near which, on an island, were the greater portion of the prisoners, to aid in a combined attack to be made on the north side by the great body of the troops under General Kilpatrick, esteemed among their most enterprising generals. Dahlgren marked his course to the river, unimpeded by any hostile force, only by ravage and incendiarism, but failed wholly to effect a crossing, and sought to cover the timidity that shrank from trying a doubtful ford, by an act of savage vengeance on his negro guide, who indeed well merited his fate, but not at the hands of the enemy, for his treachery to an indulgent master, and his attempted services to a cruel foe. Baffled in this part of his plan, he hastened towards the city on the north side of the river, to unite with Kilpatrick in his proposed attack. Meantime, some hours before his arrival, that attack had been made by the great body of the forces under Kilpatrick, and repulsed by only a few hundred men on one of the outer lines of the city defences, with such ease as, but for the limited number engaged, would almost have deprived the victory of glory. Kilpatrick retired baffled, to find another opportunity, if not, to beat a retreat. Later, near night, Dahlgren approached on the road from the west, down the river, and encountered, a few miles from the city, the most advanced battalion of our forces, which happened to be of the local reserves, and to be composed of clerks recently organised and untried in war. This too was in the open field, without defences of any kind. Yet the charge of this select body of the enemy's cavalry, in superior numbers, was speedily repelled, and they driven off in ignominious flight. Their only purpose seemed escape, but as they hastily pursued after the retreating column of Kilpatrick, they learned that he too had been attacked in the night and his forces dispersed. This gallant deed had been done by General Hampton. He, approaching with about 400 cavalry, hastily summoned to the aid of the city, had been apprised of the locality of the enemy by Colonel Bradley Johnston, who, with a small party of horsemen, had been for many hours courageously scouting round and skirmishing with their forces. Despite his insignificant force General Hampton at once charged the enemy in his camp, and after a brief struggle, routed them, capturing many men and horses. Being too weak to pursue, he was compelled to allow them to escape with impunity, but their only thought afterwards seemed to be of rapid flight, and the next day they found a refuge in a supporting force of cavalry, that had been sent up the peninsula to their relief. Startled by the intelligence of this disaster, Dahlgren's men seem, many, to have scattered, finding their way to Kilpatrick's column, while their leader, with some hundreds of his choice men, crossed the Pamunkey, with the hope of evading Hampton, and escaping across the country to Gloucester Point. In King and Queen, they were encountered by some few furloughed cavalry and a local company, hurriedly summoned for pursuit. Ambuscaded by them, Colonel Dahlgren and a few of his men were killed, and the residue of the force under his command speedily surrendered as prisoners. Thus ingloriously and disastrously terminated an expedition, inaugurated with formidable forces, and with high anticipations of great results. But the disgrace of failure was exceeded by the infamy of the base designs of the expedition. On the body of Colonel Dahlgren, the chosen and specially trusted leader, were found copies of the plan and purposes of the expedition, and the original of his address to his soldiers on starting. These disclosed, unequivocally, the nefarious purpose, after liberating their prisoners, to turn them loose, armed and maddened by privation and every evil passion, and by them, with the aid and under the protection of the embodied forces, to sack, burn, and destroy the city, and to kill the President and leading authorities of the Confederate Government. The dullest sensibility will sicken and revolt at the horrible brutalities and atrocities that must have attended such a carnival of crime. The perpetration of such deeds by an infuriated soldiery, under all the fierce impulses of a sanguinary struggle, and in the flush of triumph, is by all nations felt to be a reproach on the character and humanity of man; but that such horrors should have been deliberately planned and ordered by the authorities of any people professing to be civilised and Christian, must inflict an indelible stigma of hypocrisy and infamy. Such fell designs might seem almost incredible of any other people, but they are supported by irrefragable evidence in the possession of the papers themselves, with conclusive indications, internal and external, of their authenticity. It is only the culmination of many inferior exhibitions of like malignity and atrocity. The captives taken in the abortive effort to perpetrate these or like atrocities, must be admitted to have forfeited all rights to the privileges of civilised warfare, and might well be punished by their intended victims, as the worst of criminals; but it has been thought to comport more with the dignity and self-command of an enlightened Government, as well as to be more consistent with the humanity, clemency and Christianity that has, throughout this war, characterised our people and authorities, not to mete out bloody retaliation on the subordinate instruments of an infamous Government, but to consign them for retribution to the reprobation of outraged Christendom and the lasting stigma of recording history.

Our armies in the field are believed to be in excellent condition and spirits. Inured to war, and practised in habits of endurance, they have passed through the exposure and privations of the winter and inclement spring with remarkable health and content. Animated by an invincible resolution not to be subdued, and a zeal of patriotic self-devotion beyond all praise, they have almost universally reenlisted for the war, and voluntarily renewed the pledge of their all—their property, their labour and themselves—to the sacred cause of the safety and independence of the country. They have reacted on the people everywhere, encouraging the bold and shaming the timid to more confident reliance on a future of success, and have effectually hushed the whisperings of despondency or disaffection. They were never more confident and reliant on themselves and their commanders, and relatively, as is believed, more nearly than heretofore approximating the number of their enemies, they await with assurance and ardour the shock of the coming campaign.

The measures of legislation to secure meritorious officers and repress irregularities and desertion, have operated beneficially on the discipline and morale of the army. Thorough organisation may not yet have been effected in forces which had to be suddenly and provisionally organised, but steady advance is being made to the attainment of the utmost discipline and efficiency. The recent assignment at the capital of a supervising commander of all the armies, besides promoting the harmony and consistency of military movements, has brought to aid in the work of organisation the experience, known administrative capacity, and acknowledged abilities of one of our leading generals, and may be expected to prove productive of salutary results.

Some deficiencies of organisation yet require emendatory legislation. The staff, affording to the quick intelligence of the general his perceptive and administrative faculties, should be constituted of the best material, have the highest attainable experience and qualifications, and be animated by strong incentives to activity and improvement. Unfortunately, in our army, it has not enjoyed the repute, nor, perhaps, in consequence, commanded the merits desirable for its efficiency. From unavoidable circumstances, probably, the staff has been too much the object of favouritism, through the recommendations on behalf of personal friends, or the refuge of supernumeraries and those by non-election or otherwise thrown out of the line of regular service. They have come to be considered in some measure as attachés to the persons and fortunes of their respective generals, rather than as officers selected for peculiar qualifications and assigned to special duties. In consequence of this kind of estimation, probably, they have not been allowed rank consistent with their importance, or regulated appropriately by the standard of merit. These evils it is most desirable to remove, and it is respectfully suggested that the remedy may be found in organising the respective departments of the staff into separate corps, with due gradations in rank, and in affording the incentive of advance on the exhibition of qualifications of superior merit. Some increase in the numbers to be attached to the larger commands of the army, as well as the proposed advance in rank, would also seem advisable. This is, indeed, almost a necessity in relation to the commissary and quartermaster branches of the staff service. The law has never made direct provision for the appointment of such officers to organisations larger than brigades. Experience has demonstrated them to be essential, not only to the army as a whole, to assure harmony and unity to its movements and due distribution of supplies, but likewise from similar reasons to corps and divisions, which not unfrequently have to act independently and at wide intervals of distance. In consequence, there has been no alternative but for the general in command, or the department, to withdraw and assign, by detail, from their proper brigades, the quartermasters and commissaries indispensable to the larger organisations of the army. Such assignments have rendered oftentimes imperative the appointment of other officers of the same branch of service to the destitute brigades; and thus indirectly, and with only the rank and legal assignment of brigade officers, have these essential officers of the staff been secured to the divisions, corps, and armies in the field. This has been so well understood, that in one of the acts of Congress there has been implied sanction by reference to such division and corps officers. Still, action in such cases, without more direct authorisation of law, is always embarrassing to the department, and not incapable of mischievous effects in the establishment of precedents, and it is earnestly recommended that such appointments be directly sanctioned by law.

In another particular, respecting the appointment of quartermasters and commissaries, it is desirable the law should be made more explicit. The only authority for the appointment of these officers, not for commands in the field, but for the general service of the bureaus, is conferred by the act of February 15, 1862, which provides:

'That in addition to the number of quartermasters, assistant quartermasters, commissaries, and assistant commissaries, now allowed by law, the President shall have authority to appoint as many of said officers as shall, in his discretion, be deemed necessary at permanent posts and depôts.'

This seems to contemplate that the officers of this class for the general service are only required at posts and depôts, and

are expected to be stationary there; but in reality there is an imperative necessity for a greater number to be distributed and actively engaged in all parts of the Confederacy, purchasing, accumulating, and moving supplies, and supervising the administration of the extended operations of the commissary and quartermaster's service. As such officers are all remotely connected with, and report to, the respective bureaus stationed at the capital, or more immediately to a superior officer at some post or depôt, the above act was, from an early period after its passage, construed to authorise the appointment of as many quartermasters and commissaries as the necessities of the general service demanded, and such has been the continued practice of the department. Doubt may, however, exist whether this be not a latitude of construction dictated rather by the necessity of the case than justified by the language and original conception of the act. The law should explicitly confer a power of appointment co-extensive with the needs of the service, for the exercise of a questionable right of appointment is always to be deprecated. In such matters encroachment is facile and precedents dangerous, and as little latitude to excess as practicable should be left by the law makers.

On another point, of more importance, ambiguity exists, which should be corrected by more explicit legislation. It is in relation to the appointment and tenure of office of the general officers of the provisional army. The system pervading the organisation of the provisional army does not allow the appointment of officers at large assignable to any command appropriate to their grade of rank, but only to the officers of each special organisation, on the legal continuance of which their commissions are dependent. This is clear as to the company and field officers, as may be illustrated by the fact that such officer of a company or regiment is not a captain or colonel at large of the provisional army, but only the captain or colonel of his particular company or regiment. The disbandment or termination of the service of such special organisation loses the officers their commissions. The same principle of organisation seems to have been originally contemplated in the provision by the act of the Provisional Congress of March 6, 1861, for the appointment of general officers to brigades and divisions, and by analogy, as is presumable, likewise to the commanders of corps when they were authorised. It would thus have resulted that appointments of general officers could only be made to special brigades, divisions, or corps, and that if any general officer was either wounded, incapacitated, temporarily, or otherwise withdrawn from his special command, no successor could be appointed; and that on any brigade, division, or corps being broken up or radically changed by the diversion or redistribution of its component parts, the general officer would go out of commission. The inconveniences and hardships hence resulting were so great and manifest, that although in the first instance a disposition was manifested by the Executive to maintain this scheme of appointment and tenure of office, almost of necessity it had to be practically overlooked in the many changes inevitable in the composition of such large organisations, and general officers came to be assignable from one brigade to another, or to secure an actual commander in the field in case of temporary disability of the general officer previously commanding, from capture, wounds, or other temporary cause, were appointed for the destitute organisations. This came to be recognised and acted on as a necessity by Congress, as well as the Executive, and to obviate the inconveniences or embarrassments which might result from a deficiency in the number of general officers, the Act of October 13, 1862, was adopted. This Act provides 'That the President be, and he is hereby authorised, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint twenty general officers in the provisional army, and to assign them to such appropriate duties as he may deem expedient.' Under this law there is no doubt that the Executive may appoint, to a number not exceeding twenty, general officers of the provisional army at large, who may be assignable to any command or duty appropriate to their rank, whose commissions are not contingent on their special commands. As thus a number of supernumerary officers, not exceeding twenty in number, were authorised, it was considered, by construction, to obviate, so long as that number was not exceeded, any obligation of discharging such general officers as were, from any changes of the service or otherwise, thrown out of their special commands, and to allow even those originally appointed to such special commands, by being considered as among this number of supernumeraries, to be assigned to any other appropriate duties or commands. On these points, however, well-founded doubts exist, since the original appointments may perhaps more justly determine whether the general officer be the officer of a special command, dependent on its continuance, or be one of the supernumerary class assignable at will. Such construction, however sustainable by the language and apparent contemplation of the law, would be both unjust and mischievous. Very many of the most capable general officers in the service, oftentimes because of their superior merits selected for other more important stations, under the changes of the service are no longer attached to the special commands for which they were appointed, and successors have replaced them, or in the distribution of forces their original organisations have been broken up. Shall they be thrown out of commission and deprived of commands? Nor would the injustice be more than partially remedied by placing them among the supernumerary class, since for that a new appointment would be necessary, which would deprive them of their original date, and postpone them to all juniors previously in commission. On the other hand, if those originally appointed as supernumeraries are always to be considered as of that class, and not on assignment to a particular command to hold the relation of a commander originally appointed for it, the number allowed by the law would be at once exceeded, without meeting the deficiencies of the service. An invidious distinction would be established between officers of the same grade in the provisional army, founded solely on the accident of appointment, which could not fail to be prolific of jealousies, rivalries, and discontents.

In view of the whole subject, it is recommended that all general officers of the provisional army, like the supernumeraries, be made independent of their commands, and assignable, according to rank, to any appropriate command or duty.

A slight extension of the power of appointing chaplains for the army is likewise desirable. There is, happily, a large religious element and much devotional feeling in our army, which every consideration of policy, no less than grateful duty, requires should be consulted and fostered. At present, chaplains can only be appointed to posts and regiments. Now, the men of one of the most important branches of service, the artillery, are not regimentally organised, but formed either in detached companies or arranged in battalions. Hence to them cannot be afforded the guidance or consolations of religious ministry. It is suggested that a chaplain should be allowed for every ten detached companies, or to two battalions, when so situated as to permit to them a common ministration.

The Act of the late Congress for retiring disabled officers and men has been put in execution, and is working beneficially for the army. Its provisions, however, do not seem to have been commensurate with the claims of equity and gratitude due to the gallant soldiers who have been shattered in health, or maimed by the exposures and wounds of service. It is confined in its operation only to such as are still on the rolls of the army, and has no respect to those who may have been, by resignation or otherwise, heretofore put out of service. No adequate cause, either in reason or justice, can be perceived for such limitation. Indeed, on the score of merit, the cases of those who had continued, while incapable of active duty in the field, on sick leave, or in positions of legal duty, rather cumbering than aiding the service, appear less entitled to consideration than those more disinterested officers who sacrificed their commissions, often their sole dependence, from honourable sensibility, lest they should block the promotion of the inferior officers on whom their duties had been cast. Not a few cases of this kind have been known to the Department, in which the acceptance of the resignation, while constrained by the interests of the service, has been done with pain and regret at the necessity of allowing the self-sacrifice which a sense of honour imposed on the gallant officer. The sole consideration which can exist to prevent the extension to all such resigned officers of the privileges accorded by the act to those still in service, is the ungracious one of economy, which, in a liberal view, would be as inapplicable from true policy as from a due regard to the sentiment of justice and gratitude involved. As very many of those disabled or scarred veterans are still capable of much service at posts or other light duties, their restoration to rank would probably prove much more a gain than a burden to the country, while it would manifest grateful appreciation and secure some partial provision for the honoured sufferers of our campaigns. It is, therefore, earnestly recommended that the privileges of the act be extended to embrace those who, from like causes of disability or wounds in service, have heretofore resigned or been discharged.

The corps of engineer troops authorised by the late Congress, after not a few impediments and delays resulting from the reluctance of commanders to part with, by details, their veterans from the line, have at last been organised, in the main of new material, and have been provided with the requisite trains and implements of service. They have been the object of special interest and care to the able head of the engineer bureau, and to his intelligent supervision and persistent efforts are mainly due their efficient organisation and complete provision. They are composed for the most part of picked men, and embody many valuable mechanics and skilled labourers, who, guided by the intelligence and experience of officers selected from their peculiar qualifications and training as engineers, cannot fail to prove eminently advantageous in facilitating the movements and providing the defences of our armies. Their merits and value are already warmly appreciated and acknowledged by the generals who have enjoyed the advantages of their services; and it is not doubted they will so advance, with increased experience and practice, in estimation and utility, as to fully vindicate the wisdom of their organisation.

The boards of examination, the military courts and the provisions of the late law allowing officers to be dropped on the recommendations of commanding generals, are operating favourably on the discipline and efficiency of the army. Grave doubts have, however, been expressed by one of our most distinguished generals, whether changes by a law of the late session in relation to the military courts have not so closely assimilated them, in the necessity of referring charges and having them reviewed in each case by the commanding general, to general courts martial, as to have diminished their efficiency in facilitating the dispatch of cases and promptitude of punishment. Modification of the law in these respects is therefore respectfully suggested. Indeed, the mass of business cast on the reviewing authorities—the commanding general, the department and the President—by these various modes of removing incompetency and punishing offences, cannot be dispatched without neglecting other duties of higher import. The responsibilities, however, entailed are of so grave and delicate a character, and involve so much of personal discretion, that they cannot be discarded or consigned to others. Remedial legislation in these particulars is urgently demanded. It is, with deference, suggested that an officer, to be connected with the Adjutant-General's bureau, and to be designated the Judge Advocate-General, with the rank at least of colonel, to be aided by assistants, one to be with the commanding general of each separate army in the field, with the rank at least of lieutenant-colonel, be authorised, whose duty it shall be to review in the first instance all sentences of the military courts, courts martial, and examining boards, with the right of appeal within a limited time, where the cases were tried in the field and the sentence deprived the accused of either commission or life. This appeal might be first to the general commanding, who might either decide it finally or suspend execution and refer it, through the Judge Advocate-General to the department, to be decided by it, or, at its discretion, submitted to the President. In all cases not arising and tried with an army in the field, the review might be, in the first instance, by the Judge Advocate-General, subject to the right of like appeal, when life or commission was the forfeiture of the sentence, to the department, which should either decide or submit to the President. Of course, the privilege of interposing by executive clemency, vested in the President, would remain unaffected, and application, in appropriate form, might be made to him in all cases. By the plan proposed, or some similar one, all venial cases and a large proportion of grave ones would be disposed of, without burdening the commanding general or the department. So only those of special gravity would come to the department, or claim the action of the President, while the gracious prerogative of mercy would in all be reserved to him. Promptitude and certainty in the disposition of all cases would be reconciled with due consideration and full revision.

More important advantage to the service, it is believed, would result from the extension of the power now entrusted to the Executive, of assigning to commands, with temporary rank, officers of the Confederate army, to officers likewise of the provisional army. The power has been both useful and convenient with respect to the former, and the considerations that recommend it apply with daily increasing force to officers of the provisional army. In the service, the power of promptly rewarding and advancing decided merit presents an invaluable incentive to improvement and the display of high qualities. The right, too, of selecting from all ranks or branches of the service, without being restricted by the gradations of permanent rank, the officers who may have shown qualities eminently adapting them for special commands, must conduce greatly to the development and command of the highest qualifications of leadership. Surprise has not unfrequently been felt and expressed that, though happily blessed with not a few generals distinguished alike by skill and success, yet with our armies, composed in large degree of such intelligent and cultivated men, and characterised by such high courage and proclivities for war, more of conspicuous ability and military genius have not been elicited and displayed. That these rare and inestimable gifts exist latent within our armies cannot be doubted, but our system, especially in the provisional army, has not been calculated to foster or discover them. Officers in that army made strictly dependent on and confined to limited organisations in special branches of the service, and, whatever their peculiar qualifications, cannot be permanently assigned nor be advanced, save by the accident of promotion by seniority, or even on the display of distinguished valour and skill, except in their limited organisations. As the officers of the provisional army improve in experience and military attainments, it becomes more and more important that they should not be confined to special branches of service, but have varied or enlarged spheres of action, so as to be prepared for more general commands, and that their special capacities should be utilised to the greatest advantage. Besides the benefits attained by temporary assignments, grave inconveniences would likewise be avoided. All advancements, when made, especially with officers not trained by military education or experience antecedent to the war, must necessarily be in large measure experimental and of doubtful results, and yet they are permanent, however unsuited or inefficient. Unless positively incompetent, the officers must remain in their new commands, scarce equal to their duties and incapable of inspiring confidence or enthusiasm, and yet often by their rank overshadowing or blocking the way to their superiors in all the endowments for command. It would have been far better to have tested, by temporary assignment, the qualities of the officer for the increased rank and command, before he was irretrievably fixed in it. It is often found that an admirable captain proves unequal to the command of a regiment, or an accomplished colonel fails in the wider command of a brigadier, and not unfrequently in even higher rank will the distinguished subordinate general prove inadequate to wider or independent command. The officer, especially in an army so improvised and hastily organised, should be tested and approved in each important advance, by command with temporary assignment, before being permanently established in his increased grade. In short, the practice of such assignments would afford the highest incentives; would give enlarged experience and opportunities of display; would foster and elicit special merits and military genius, and would assure, in permanent commands, approved capacities.

Serious inconvenience has been caused to officers in the field, and much suffering in some instances to officers at posts, by the late law giving, but restricting the former to, one ration, and allowing the latter the privilege of purchasing only one. It is respectfully recommended that the law be so amended as to give officers in the field one ration, and to allow to all the privilege of purchase, subject to such regulations as may be imposed by the department. This cannot possibly result in any injury to the public service, while the object of the late law will be attained, which was obviously to confer a benefit and not work a hardship.

In this connection, it is appropriate to advert to the peculiar and rather anomalous provision of the existing law regulating the pay and allowances of general officers. No difference in these respects is made among them, with the sole exception (under the present exceptional rates of prices) of trivial effect, that to the general actually commanding an army in the field there is the added allowance of a hundred dollars a month. No distinction otherwise in pay or allowances is made from a brigadier up to a general. As with increase of rank and command additional expenditures and charges are imposed, the simple consideration of justice would demand correspondingly increased pay and allowances. Equality in such cases is inequity, but, in addition, it is contrary to all experience and practice to have no consideration in compensation to increased dignity and more important service. A singular illustration of the present inequity of the law is presented by the fact that the veteran general recently assigned to the duty of directing, under the President, all our armies, and required to incur all the expenses of a residence at the capital, is deprived of the additional allowance he would have had as a general commanding an army in the field, and receives no more than the latest brigadier. It is surely only right that pay and allowances should have an appropriate relation to rank and extent of duties, entailing, as they must, larger expenditures, and it is confidently hoped that our general officers of the more advanced grades will no longer be enforced to the embarrassments, privations and destitution of attendants, by which, under the present compensation allowed and the restrictions on the subject of rations, in the midst of their anxieties and high responsibilities, they are now annoyed.

Attention is likewise called to the necessity for some adequate provision to defray the expenses of officers travelling under orders. The present allowances are insufficient to bear the charges, which no economy, or even parsimony, can avoid, and the inadequate pay of the officer little enables him to discharge such expenses. The simplest justice requires that, at least, the necessary expenses incurred in obedience to orders should be defrayed by the Government.

Some provision should likewise be made to compensate the commissioners directed to be appointed by the Act suspending, in certain cases, the writ of *habeas corpus*. The duties are of a delicate and responsible character, and the compensation should be liberal enough to engage the services of men of high character and intelligence.

The recent military bills, increasing the range of conscription, have engaged the constant attention and energetic efforts of the able head of the Conscript Bureau in their enforcement. His accompanying report, to which attention is invited, will exhibit results so far attained in recruiting the armies, and, at the same time, explain the embarrassments and impediments which have hindered more rapid execution. These have resulted very much from the necessity of examining the numerous claims presented for exemptions or details under the exceptions and avowed policy of the law, and from the difficulty of commanding the class and number of assistants and officers for the multifarious duties cast on the bureau. Owing to the decadence of the volunteering spirit, a large proportion of those liable to enrolment prefer claims of exemption or detail, which justice, and regard for the aims avowed in the law, require to be investigated and decided. At the same time the omission of Congress to authorise the appointment of officers for enrolling service, and the expectation that officers to be retired under the Invalid Bill would suffice by assignment for such duties, have placed the conscription service under something like a temporary privation. The period of such transition from old to new agencies, under the most favourable circumstances, would have been embarrassing and retarding, but the delays have been increased by the necessity of awaiting the process of retiring

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In natural connection with [illegible] the thought is attracted to the [illegible] gallant soldiers, now languishing [illegible]. The sympathies of a [illegible] the deepest interest, and the [illegible] responded to those feelings [illegible] with dignity and [illegible]. The protraction of their [illegible] has been due solely to the inhuman policy and perfidy of our enemy, which [illegible] has omitted and refused to [illegible] the cartel of exchange. With the terms of that [illegible] our Government has been [illegible], and in a variety of modes, even by an extraordinary [illegible] of the second officer of the Government, has sought to re-establish its operation or to arrange satisfactory measures of exchange. Its remonstrances and its overtures have alike proved futile, and the Government of the United States must stand responsible before the world, and in the sight of a just God, for all the privations, sufferings, and loss of life, by disease or otherwise, entailed by confinement on the prisoners held on either side, not less on their own than on ours. The latest among the shifts and subterfuges adopted by them to evade compliance with their plighted engagement, has been the selection, with the ostensible purpose of renewing exchanges, for the mission of treating on the subject with our authorities, of General Butler, the infamous author of so many atrocities in a former command as to have received the execration of the world, and to have been banned by the proclamation of the President with the name and character of an outlaw and a felon, to whom were to be extended none of the privileges of civilised warfare, but whose crimes, if he came into our power, were to be visited with the condign punishment of an infamous death. It may well excite surprise and indignation that the Government of the United States should select, for any position of dignity or command, a man so notoriously stigmatised by the common sentiment of enlightened nations, but it is not for us to deny their right to appreciate and select whom they may, not inappropriately perhaps, deem a fitting type and representative of their power and characteristics. While we maintain belligerent relations with them, we must, of course, recognise the official character of whatever officers they may empower to act within their own limits and within the sphere of their separate action. We must, therefore, recognise the fact of official position being held by such a character, and this was done contemporaneously and subsequently to the issue of the President's proclamation, by our generals in the field, when compelled to necessary official relations with the Federal commander at New Orleans; but when option can be exercised by ourselves, and within the limits of our own territory or within the control of our armies, it is neither to be expected, nor would it comport with the honour or dignity of the Confederacy, that an outlaw and a felon should be received and admitted to the courtesies or privileges of civilised warfare, or exempted from the liabilities of a criminal. It has held him up to the detestation of Christendom and obtained the answering award of moral condemnation from the tribunal of enlightened public sentiment everywhere. Within its limits, and wherever its power may enable it to execute justice, he has been and will be held an outlaw and a felon. To essay more would be a [illegible] *ful[illegible]* against the criminal, yet entail inconveniences to our own Government and injury to innocent victims of his malevolence. In this view, the Government has sought to regulate its action. It has not denied the power or position, however unworthily bestowed by his own Government on General Butler, within their limits, but has refused to receive or admit him within ours. If an honest purpose of effecting exchanges, in compliance with the cartel or on equitable terms, be really entertained by the enemy, all the arrangements essential thereto may be readily attained consistently with the position thus justly held by our Government, while, if the selection was intended merely as a pretext of avoidance, or for the purpose of gratuitous offence, the hypocrisy of the one design or the malignity of the other will be exposed. Since this relation has been held, some limited exchanges by indirect communication have been effected, and hopes are entertained, especially in view of the increased number of prisoners which recent successes have given us, that the inhuman policy and delusive pretences of the enemy will be abandoned, and the equitable stipulations of the cartel be again acknowledged and executed. Such consummation would thrill with emotions of gratification the whole population of the Confederacy, and bear relief and consolation to thousands of families throughout the land. For a fuller history and explanation of all the pro-

[illegible]

pensable. Some features of the late law [illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible] of [illegible] the Government and without [illegible]. The requirement [illegible] of local appraisements [illegible] to a general [illegible] a very defective mode of securing only just compensation, and is [illegible] calculated to [illegible] desires and to foment the discontents which always spring from inequality and diversity of prices. Such appraisements, it is submitted, do not afford a [illegible] criterion of just compensation and [illegible] circumstances of the Confederacy. A much juster rule would be the cost of production with a fair profit thereon, to be determined by [illegible] of undoubted probity and intelligence. [illegible] system of general regulation, rather than to the [illegible] estimates of local appraisers, is earnestly recommended. [illegible] positive provisions and [illegible] against [illegible], resisting or evading impressments, [illegible] the law [illegible] without the sanction of penalty or a mode of legal execution. [illegible] to be deprecated as a departure for the administration of law.

The expediency of the tithe tax has been fully vindicated, as it has proved a most valuable resource for the subsistence of the armies and the most acceptable form of imposition on the producers. It should certainly be continued, and, in my judgment, on some leading articles of subsistence, such as beef, wheat, rice, and products of the sugar cane, should be increased. Some delays have arisen in its collection from the lack of adequate transportation, and from the want of harmony between the assessors and collectors. As the supervision of both classes of officers is now reposed in the same department, more unity of action may hereafter be expected. In the amendments made to the law, however, at the last session, too limited a time has, according to the judgment and experience of the officers charged with its execution, been allowed for collection before the privilege of commutation. That period is limited to five months only, within which all collections must be completed. With the means of transport and storage possessed this is physically impracticable throughout the whole Confederacy. An extension of the period to at least eight months is therefore recommended.

[illegible] large sacrifices for [illegible]

[illegible] Saratoga and Yorktown: and the remembrance of these glo-

rious results should enable the people overrun to endure the many sacrifices such policy of withdrawal must entail.

In Texas and Louisiana, the invasions of the past winter have either accomplished ridiculously small results, in comparison with the formidable commands employed, or have been successfully repelled. In Western Louisiana especially, the various advances of the enemy into the interior have met from our forces, under the skilful leadership of General Taylor, repeated and signal discomfitures. Of the most formidable of their invasions, attempted apparently for the subjugation of the whole country by several converging columns of their land forces, aided by a formidable fleet of gunboats on the river, we are as yet imperfectly acquainted with results, as the wise policy of our able commander has withdrawn the scene of conflict to the far interior. We have only meagre and glozing accounts through the journals of the enemy, yet they suffice to show reiterated disasters sustained, and afford grounds for sanguine hope to us that they have met the retribution of fearful losses and may have been entirely captured or destroyed. Another San Jacinto may signalise the annals of the south-west, and illustrate the fearful risk to an invading army of pressing, with the purpose of subjugation, to the interior defences of a free and gallant people.

The abundant productions of this fertile region have fortunately precluded all deficiencies of supplies for subsistence to either the armies or the people. In this respect they are fully provided. Their needs are rather of munitions and manufactured stores. Even before the interruption of communications with the east, efficient means had been adopted for the establishment of foundries, arsenals, and manufacturing establishments of various kinds, and for the development of the mineral and other internal resources of the country. These efforts have been since pressed with increased vigour and with most creditable success. No long time will elapse before, in all material respects, the trans-Mississippi department will be made self-sustaining for war. Meantime, most liberal contracts and all other practicable measures have been adopted to afford them requisite supplies by importation of arms, munitions, and quartermaster's stores. These have been, at least, partially successful, and have met the most pressing wants. The deficiency most to be deplored is of a full supply of arms, and this has resulted from no want of foresight or exertion on the part of the Government, but from casual miscarriages and unexpected and most unjustifiable seizures of large cargoes by neutral powers. The subsequent rendition of them, with acknowledgment of error, at distant points, by no means remedied the mischiefs the injustice had inflicted. Notwithstanding the frustration in this way of well-concerted arrangements for supplies of arms and munitions, others have been rewarded with success, and measures, now in train of execution, it is confidently hoped, will soon remove existing deficiencies. It is not improbable this has been already more speedily and effectively accomplished by the triumph of our arms and the capture of the abundant stores of the enemy. It is certainly mortifying to think that brave men are kept from the field, when their all is staked, by the want of arms, yet if they can be supplied by the spoils of victory, they will find, in their equipment, at once encouragement and an inspiration of generous emulation to gallant achievements. They will know, too, the value of their arms, and how they should be both guarded and used.

The legislation of the late Congress for the trans-Mississippi department was both liberal and provident. Provision was made for the peculiar needs incident to its comparative isolation from the supervision of the central Government, and all the agencies of a partially independent Government were authorised. In the same spirit has been the action of the Executive. Added rank and dignity have been bestowed on the able commander and administrator at its head, and to him has been intrusted the full measure of executive powers which, under our constitutional system, could be exercised by other than the President. Thus, full confidence has been manifested by both branches of the Government in his fidelity, capacity, and judgment, and all the incentives to effort, and all the means of accomplishment which could be commanded, have been imparted. It is not doubted such unusual trusts are merited and will be justified in their exercise, and that continuing confidence and sanction to his administration of affairs will be assured by its happy results. Accounts concur in representing him as enjoying likewise the esteem and confidence of the people of the department. They, notwithstanding the sacrifices and losses to which they have necessarily been subjected, are believed to be resolute, hopeful, and reliant both on themselves and their leaders. Portions of their country may be overrun or temporarily occupied by the hosts of their unscrupulous foes, but they know that with the resources in men and means, and the advantages for defence of their extensive department, employed with energy and skill, the attempt to subdue a people as brave and determined as themselves is one of folly and madness. They endure with fortitude their temporary ills, await with patience the hour of approaching retribution, and anticipate with confidence the overthrow of their hateful enemies and their final disgraceful expulsion or destruction. In view of the means at command, of the invincible spirit of the people, the skill of their leaders, and the approved prowess of their soldiers, the trans-Mississippi department may be regarded as no less than the States of the Confederacy east, prepared, against the utmost efforts of their malignant enemies, for successful defence, and assured of ultimate triumph.

Attention is invited to the accompanying report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Credit is due to that officer for the dangers and privations he has endured in twice visiting the distant abodes of the Indian tribes. His presence and influence among them have proved salutary in affording encouragement and maintaining fidelity. It is important they should be dealt with in a spirit of consideration and liberality. They should not suffer from the changes which have been made in our financial system, the necessity and wisdom of which they cannot be expected to have foreseen or now to understand. The recommendation, therefore, by the Commissioner of timely legislation to authorise substitution of the new currency for the old, without loss to them, is approved and seconded. The great body of the Indians, notwithstanding their losses, are attached to the Confederacy and confident in its fortunes, and, with reasonable consideration for their peculiar wants and feelings, may easily be retained in amity and fidelity.

We have now entered on the fourth year of the war; and the end is not yet. Originating in the wrong and perfidy of our enemies, it is continued through their rage and hate. We have asked and seek only peace and separation from them. They profess to enforce a detested union, and wage really a war of conquest and extermination. Prostrating their own constitution and surrendering their liberties, they are intent only to crush ours. A campaign of momentous events is impending on us. For it our people stand prepared and resolute. Nor have their representatives proved unworthy exponents of their indomitable purpose and self-sacrificing patriotism. The measures of the late Congress, considered as a combined system, are characterised by high resolve and enlarged statesmanship. They concentrate the energies and resources and command the men and property of the Confederacy in larger measure than have ever been done by any Government. The whole male population capable of arms, from seventeen to fifty, are either marshalled to the field or organised in reserves, ready to be summoned. One-third of the currency of the Confederacy has been annulled, and taxation of unprecedented amount has been exacted from all values. One-tenth of productions in kind has been claimed without pay, and, besides, the residue and all property has been subjected to seizure and conversion for public use at moderate rates of just compensation. The railroads, the great means of internal trade and communication, are made primarily subservient to the necessities of Government. Even the great writ of personal liberty is suspended in cases requisite to preclude evasion of military service, or to repress uprisings of disaffection or disloyalty. In short, by their representatives, the people, not reluctantly, but eagerly and fearful rather of shortcoming than excess, have, through regular constitutional action, commanded for their country and its cause the labour, property, and lives of all. In the consciousness of such devotion and sacrifice to a righteous cause, they may well feel reliant and indomitable, and await with constancy and faith the shock of coming battle. They have, too, much to encourage and every incentive to nerve and animate. Our enemies exhibit unmistakable indications of despondency, of approaching bankruptcy, and internal convulsion. They will be, during the year, in the throes of intense political struggle, distracted beyond all precedent by the jars and strifes of acrimonious factions, contending for the prize of almost despotic power and madly extravagant expenditure. To a large proportion of their people, and among them the wisest and the best, the vile faction who are the authors and prosecutors of the war are scarce less odious than to ourselves, and with nearly as much reason, since its triumph is the practical subversion of their constitution and laws, and the precursor of speedy destruction to their, as surely to our, liberties. If any redemption remains to the people of the United States from the wickedness and madness that have urged them to this war, it can only be by recurrence to the principles of self-government in the people of the States and to the counsels of peace.

All the indications of the incipient campaign, too, are auspicious and inspiring. Cheering accounts of successes greet us from every quarter of the Confederacy. Since the penning of the first pages of this report, the notes of decisive victory, imperfectly heard from the remote confines of the trans-Mississippi, have been swollen by the acclaim from Paducah and Fort Pillow, and have culminated in the shouts of complete triumph at the brilliant achievements of a young and rising general of North Carolina on his native soil. Many minor successes contribute to justify grateful exultation, but all should fail to excite presumption, and only animate to greater effort and to humbler trust in the blessing of Heaven on our arms.

The greatest incentive yet remains. Our only outlet to existence and safety is through the portals of victory. *We have burned the ships behind us. It will not do to fail.* Subjected to the hate and brutality of our malignant foes, to what depths of penury, misery and baseness should we not be crushed? Our Confederacy would be extinct; our States broken up; our institutions, social and industrial, uprooted, and our people stripped of property, liberty and all rights, now and in coming generations, the thralls of Yankees and their allied hordes of miscreant foreigners, held to the tasks of drudgery and infamy by the insolent ministry of our slaves in arms. No conquered people would have ever writhed under such masters, nor have been steeped in such bitterness and infamy. For this end shall we have made such priceless sacrifices of blood and treasure, and done and dared as our army and people have in this war? Shall the hosts of our gallant dead *our noble army of martyrs*—in vain have attested with their lives the sacredness and truth of their country's cause? Are they to live in memory not enshrined amid the halo of fame for the inspiration and reverence of future generations, but branded for warning and execration, with the lasting stigma of a rebel's name and a traitor's fate? Are the thousands and tens of thousands of the invalided, the scarred and maimed heroes of this war, instead of being followed through life with the homage of honour and gratitude, to drag out a wretched existence, the conspicuous objects of detestation, obloquy, and contempt? Shall we and ours, from the honoured sire and beloved mother to the maiden in her purity or the prattling innocent, with all our homes and means, be the victims or prey of Yankee insolence, cupidity, and hate? We cannot, in sober verity, afford to be conquered. Such existence offers no boon to tempt nor consolation to reconcile. In contrast, on the other hand, through the vista of no distant time, see the Confederacy of our choice established in power and dignity; our States in the benignant exercise of acknowledged sovereignty; the courage and virtues of our people tested and approved; our institutions, social and industrial, vindicated and freed from malignant intermeddling of fanatic or insidious enemies, confirmed on the basis that so happily reconciles capital with labour and harmonises dependence with protection, and the desolated homes and ravaged fields of our favoured land restored and flourishing under the benignant smiles of peace and plenty. Let our people 'look on this picture, and then on that,' and choose. For it is a matter only of choice and the will to fulfil it. We have the numbers, the resources and the means adequate to our certain redemption and triumph, if only they be commanded, concentrated, and wielded with energy and unity by the will of a people unalterably fixed never to succumb, but to prefer release in the grave and refuge with God to the horrors and infamy of lasting slavery. We have only to act in this spirit, and humbly confiding in the favour of Heaven, we may be assured no distant day will witness the confusion and discomfiture of our enemies and the permanent attainment to us and our posterity, through the achievements of victory, of peace, freedom and independence.

Respectfully submitted.

JAMES A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.

A REMARKABLE ORDER.—The following, for the genuineness of which, however, we cannot undertake to vouch, is published in the *New York Daily News*, as copied from the *Mobile Register* of 30th May.—'Adjutant's and Inspector General's Office—Richmond, May 21, 1864.—Special Order No. 234.—Owing to the inestimable service rendered to the Confederate States by Major-General N. P. Banks, U. S. A., all officers and men in the service of the Confederate States are hereby prohibited from harming a hair of his head, and are especially ordered, under all circumstances, to allow him to escape. By order, S. Cooper, Adjutant and Inspector-General.'

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

THE following brief outline of the assault on Petersburg on July 30, which resulted in a complete and disastrous Federal defeat, is taken from the elaborate accounts that have appeared in the New York papers.

So long ago as June 20, General Grant conceived the idea of capturing Petersburg by mining, and on June 25 the work was commenced under the superintendence of Colonel Pleasants. The distance between the Federal front and the Confederate fort which was to be undermined, was not less than 400 yards. The ground was unfavourable and presented many serious engineering difficulties. With perseverance and ingenuity these difficulties were overcome, and on July 25, just one month after the commencement, Colonel Pleasants announced to General Grant that the mine was finished, and that under the fort of the enemy six or eight tons of gunpowder were deposited. No time was then lost in making final preparations for the attack, and we may add that nothing was neglected which promised to insure success. The rifle pits were pushed as near as possible to the Confederate lines, cannon were posted in every available niche, and an effort was made to mislead the Confederate commander as to the intended Federal movement. A force was sent across the river as if the siege of Petersburg was to be abandoned, and, if we may credit the reports of the Northern press, General Lee detached a large body of troops to oppose the new stratagem of the enemy. On Friday, July 29, this Federal force was secretly withdrawn from the north side of the river, and in the course of the night the army was placed in the concerted order of attack.

At twenty minutes before 5 o'clock on the morning of the 30th, after two abortive attempts, the mine was sprung. The earth quaked, there was a cloud of dust, there was a yawning gulf, three columns of red earth mingled with guns and men shot up into the air, and then descended a mangled and shapeless mass. It is said 250 Confederate soldiers of South Carolina were in the fort at the time of the explosion, and that they nearly all perished. Long before sunset their deaths were avenged.

Immediately after the mine was sprung the Federal artillery opened, and ninety-five guns kept up a continuous fire of shot and shell. Soon afterwards the assaulting column rushed forward, took without much opposition that portion of the outer line of defences that had been laid open by the blowing up of the fort, and made an attack upon the inner line of defences. This they were compelled to do, because the position they had acquired was covered by the Confederate guns, and altogether untenable. So far the plans of General Grant had succeeded. He had effected a surprise, and attained possession of a portion of the Confederate defences. But he had to deal with an army of veterans, who were unmoved by the catastrophe that had lately happened. On the Confederate side there was no panic, no evidence even of excitement. With marvellous coolness the fire of their guns was promptly directed on the breach through which the Federals were crowding. When the enemy charged, they were suffered to approach within complete range, when a deadly and destructive fire was opened upon them. The line swayed, was broken, and had to re-form. On this happening a division of negro troops was pressed forward. They were encountered by a deadly fire, became demoralised, and fled, or rather endeavoured to flee. They were mowed down by hundreds; 53 of their officers were put *hors de combat*; and a Northern writer says the black division of the army of the Potomac was wiped out. The Confederate reserves came up; the Federals were attacked and driven to their entrenchments. Before nightfall the ground they had taken in the morning was again in possession of the Confederates, and all their labours for a month past had been in vain.

The estimates of the Federal losses are, as usual, conflicting. Some put them down at 5,000, and others at 15,000. As the official estimate is between 5,000 and 6,000, the entire loss was probably between 11,000 and 12,000. General Bartlett, his officers, and about 1,000 men were captured; but we expect it will be found that the number of prisoners taken is small in proportion to the total losses, and that the slaughter was disproportionably large. On the day following the battle, Generals Grant and Butler sent flags of truce for the purpose of obtaining a short suspension of arms whilst the wounded were moved and the dead were buried. A truce was not agreed upon until Monday, August 1, and from our former experience of Grant's manœuvres the delay is easily explained. He tried, we presume, as he has done before, to avoid a confession of defeat, and the Confederate commander refused to be duped. Whilst the truce continued no intercourse was permitted by the Confederate officers between the soldiers and pickets of the respective armies.

IF anything could increase the panic in New York, it was that the news of defeat was heralded by a reported victory. On Sunday the 31st, it was announced that Grant had blown up a fort, and captured the outer line of defences at Petersburg, and thereupon the sanguine people rejoiced over the capture of Petersburg and the immediate taking of Richmond. Grant was once more the hero of the war, and he was lauded as the greatest general the world has ever seen. A few hours later it became known that Grant had utterly failed in his attempt on Petersburg, and had suffered a most disastrous defeat.

THE rumours of another Confederate invasion of Pennsylvania turn out to be true. What force the Confederates have on the north of the Potomac is not certain, but it is estimated at from 30,000 to 40,000 men. The town of Chambersburg has been partly burnt. According to the Federal account, this was done because a contribution of $100,000 in gold was not paid. It seems (we are still quoting from the Northern statement) that an order was given to fire the Court House, Town Hall, and Bank

[illegible] buildings, and that the [illegible] the surrounding [illegible], and that [illegible] private buildings [illegible].

Considerable alarm is felt on account of the [illegible] movement of the Confederates, and the Governor of Pennsylvania has called for 30,000 [illegible] for [illegible] service.

On July 31, Mr. Lincoln and General Grant met at Fortress Monroe, and [illegible] on board a steamer. [illegible] of the consultation [illegible] that the army of the Potomac [illegible] Washington.

A court of inquiry is to be [illegible] the cause of the late disaster at Petersburg. [illegible] usual plan adopted by Mr. Lincoln to allay popular excitement consequent on a defeat.

It is said that Admiral Farragut has attacked Mobile, and that the result was unknown. Nothing can be done against Mobile without the co-operation of a large land force, and that the Federals have not just now at their disposal.

The Federal Government is still rigidly suppressing all war news, and particularly any news from Georgia. It has, however, transpired that a division of Sherman's cavalry under General McCook was defeated by the Confederates on July 27, and that, out of 3,500 Federals, only 500 have returned to headquarters.

The Northern press is calling for an enquiry respecting the failure of the attempt made on July 3 to capture Fort Johnson on James Island. It is alleged that the boats got aground in consequence of a mistake in reference to the tide, that Colonel Gurney, the commanding officer, did not accompany the troops; that Colonel Hoyt, who was in immediate command, got separated from his troops and was taken prisoner, and that his successor in command, Colonel Conyngham, was also taken prisoner. Only one volley was fired, and then, says the correspondent of the *New York Herald*, 'Some officer gave the order to retreat, and a general skedaddle took place.'

Unless a man's heart is hardened by Abolitionism he cannot read the account of the late assault upon Petersburg without feeling the deepest commiseration for the unhappy negroes. Whenever a deadly fire has to be faced, when an unusually desperate forlorn hope has to rush on certain death and destruction, the Abolition officers order their negro soldiers into the post of danger. The miseries endured by the negroes under Yankee rule are truly horrible and heartrending.

The letter of our New York correspondent, dated August 1, gives an explanation of the plan adopted by New England to supply its quota of the conscription by negroes. As the Government wanted men and not money, and as New Englanders will not fight except by deputy, it was settled that negroes should be received as recruits. It has also been arranged that recruiting may go on in 'disloyal' States, which means that stolen negroes may be enlisted in place of the Yankees. As a negro recruit is entitled to bounty we may be sure the New Englanders will save their pockets as well as their skins.

Our correspondent also sets forth the programme of the M'Clellan or War Democrat party, and exposes the fallacies on which it is based. He also very briefly glances at the state of Federal finances, and notifies an important movement now being agitated by the merchants of New York. They propose that for the future all sales shall be made for gold, and that if greenbacks are used they shall only be taken at their specie value. This proposition is not openly avowed, although it is freely discussed in commercial circles. If carried into effect it would be a death-blow to the Federal credit.

There has been an election in North Carolina for Governor. The candidates were Governor Vance and Mr. Holden. The former, who supports the policy of the Confederate Government, was chosen by an overwhelming majority. Mr. Holden, who is in opposition to the Government, received but few votes.

On July 9, Governor Brown, of Georgia, published a proclamation calling upon all the able-bodied men in the State to take up arms in order to repel the invader.

The steamer *Clara Bell*, proceeding from Vicksburg for White River, was attacked on July 24 by a Confederate battery near Carolton Landing, and was entirely destroyed.

The *Chicago Tribune* publishes a long correspondence showing that the officers of the Federal Government have been trading with the South, and supplying, amongst other things, a large quantity of shoes for the use of Confederate soldiers.

We learn by the last advices from New York that Senators Wade, Henry, and Winter, and Mr. Davis have published a report, charging Mr. Lincoln with usurpation, and a design to secure his reelection by unfair means.

Judge Handlin, who was appointed by General Butler to the third district court at New Orleans, has been removed from his office by the bogus Governor Hahn, because in one of his decisions he recognised the existence of slavery in the State of Louisiana. The subject was discussed in Mr. Lincoln's New Orleans Convention, and a large minority of members were opposed to the proceeding. It was remarked that, even according to Mr. Lincoln's proclamation, slavery did exist in certain parts of the State.

We find in the *New York World* some [illegible] from Mr. Lincoln's [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] 'This war, [illegible] it, is carried on [illegible] ... that sentiment there, this war is not only an error, it is a crime.'

On August 1, the Mayor of New York issued a proclamation in reference to the 4th, set apart by the President as a day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer. He then recommends political [illegible] to pray for peace. [illegible] the ministers of the various churches [illegible] the duty of opening prayer [illegible] congregations, and especially those ministers who have inculcated the doctrines of war and blood, so much at variance with the teachings of their Divine Master, I would humbly recommend that they will on that solemn occasion invoke the mercy of Heaven to hasten the relief of our suffering people, by turning the hearts of those in authority to the blessed ways of peace.' This utterance of Mayor Gunther is a sign of the times.

The watering-places in the North are not well attended this season. The *New York Herald* says: 'It is evident that there is a very uneasy feeling among our wealthier classes, and the steady depreciation of the currency has compelled the well-to-do classes to economise in their expenditures. Even the shoddy people find that contracts upon which pay cannot be procured promptly are not always unmixed benefits, especially as the pay, when it does come, is in depreciated currency. The watering-place hotel-keepers had better make all the money they can this summer, for there is every prospect of a beggarly account of empty rooms next year. By that time all the burdens of this dreadful war will be felt in all their severity by all classes of people, and by none more than the very rich. This is sure to be the case whether the war continues or peace is restored.'

Mr. Voorhees, of Indiana, has been unanimously renominated for the Federal Congress.

On August 6 gold was quoted in New York at 250.

A Thoroughly Yankee Calculation.—A writer in the Jefferson County (New York) *[illegible]*, [illegible] relating to the number of men [illegible] this war, gives the following results: [illegible] It had in a wall twenty-five [illegible] would [illegible] If piled up in a ten acre lot, they would be nearly [illegible] feet high. And if laid upon the ground, they would cover every foot of soil in Jefferson County. Seventy-five thousand tuns of human blood have been spilled in [illegible] to turn every spindle in Lowell, and if the tears were added to the flood, it would turn the machinery of the continent, and the unavailing sighs would fill every ocean sail. The [illegible] has not yet been told. The millions of wounded [illegible] for he must be taken [illegible] total of evils incident to this bloody and [illegible] war.'

The following are the losses of the negro regiments in the assault on Petersburg:—23rd regiment, coloured—15 officers and 400 men killed, wounded, and missing. 28th regiment, coloured—11 officers and 150 men killed, wounded, and missing. 27th regiment, coloured—6 officers and [illegible] men killed, wounded, and missing. 29th regiment, coloured—[illegible] officers and 270 men killed, wounded, and missing. [illegible] regiment, coloured—7 officers and 200 men killed, wounded, and missing. 43rd regiment, coloured—6 officers and a large number of men killed, wounded, and missing. [illegible] regiment, coloured—Several officers and about 250 men killed, wounded, and missing.—*New York Paper*.

The Starving Process.—An officer of General Lee's army, writing to a friend in Baltimore, says the effect of Grant's 'starving process' has been to send down the price of provisions in Richmond. He writes: 'Corn meal, for instance, has gone down $20 a bushel. Grant had forgotten that the wheat crop had just been gathered in, also the hay crop, and the yield of both in this region has been most providential, so that we are for months to come independent of the South for food and forage. I do not exactly know why it should be so, but even meat has fallen $2 a pound during the past two days.'

ENGLAND.

[illegible]

[illegible] England in foreign countries has not been lowered. These results are the consequences of the combined efforts of an Administration of which I may be permitted to say that no other Administration that ever existed contained within itself a greater number of able, distinguished, and capable men. I venture without fear of contradiction to say that there never was a Government in which every department of state was better filled than it has been filled by the Government which is now in power, and therefore it would be unjust to attribute any peculiar merit to any one member of the Administration.'

Of all the sights which have been this summer provided for the amusement [illegible] of the public, few were better deserving of a visit than the Donkey Show at Islington. We have long been accustomed to horse shows and dog shows, to exhibitions of poultry, [illegible] and [illegible] but a donkey show is somewhat of a novelty. If the public [illegible] that the donkeys [illegible] which we in England have been too long accustomed to consider it, but that attention and kindness will make this despised animal docile, [illegible] show will not have been one of the least profitable uses to which the Agricultural Hall has been applied. Animals were exhibited by the Prince and several members of the aristocracy, but the interest of the show naturally centred in the donkeys accustomed to work, and exhibited by the costermongers. Many prizes were distributed among the exhibitors, and it is not too much to say that those prizes were well deserved. We were informed by the owner of one donkey that attracted considerable attention, that it ought to possess, for that which he himself occupied the drawing-room floor of his residence, the dining-room floor was placed at the service of the donkey. This was perhaps carrying kindness rather too far, but if all owners of donkeys were animated by a similar spirit, they would be amply rewarded by having in their possession a really valuable animal. Much amusement was created by the races, especially by the steeple chase, for which many of the exhibitors entered, and great skill and spirit were displayed by the characters. The show was not confined to donkeys, but extended to the kindred animal the mule, of which many fine specimens were exhibited. Two, which were exhibited by Tom Sayers, caused great amusement, from the vain efforts of the visitors to ride them; few could succeed in even mounting; none, even if they succeeded in this preliminary step, long retained their seats. It is not too much to say that many present would probably have been capable of riding Bucephalus, but we doubt if Alexander himself would have been equal to the task of riding the mules of Sayers. We are glad to find that the donkey is at length in a fair way to be appreciated. He has risen above the level of the mere social drudge, and is recog-

nised as an animal worthy of attention. We have seen too long to what a low condition ages of ill-treatment have reduced him; we now see that, if proper pains are bestowed upon him by his master, he can prove himself an animal of which that master may be justly proud.

On Monday evening last, Mr. Lindsay addressed his constituents at Sunderland. After touching briefly upon home politics, he dwelt at considerable length upon the condition of affairs in America. He reminded his hearers of the prediction made by him at the commencement of the troubles, that after the dissensions which had arisen the Union could never be restored. This was contrary to the opinion held by the Northerners and by many people in this country, who believed, for two reasons, that the 'rebellion' would soon be put down; firstly, that the slaves would rise; and, secondly, that the insurrection was not general. As to the rising of the slaves, the war has now lasted upwards of three years, and yet the slaves have not risen, from which he argued that the condition of the slaves could not be so bad as it had been represented to be. The hon. gentleman also showed that the Northerners are not so anxious as they affect to be for the abolition of slavery. 'It is not the abolition of slavery that the Northern people desire. It is empire and nothing but empire. The North asks our sympathy with them, but we say, "We know you too well. You cannot have our sympathy because you are not in earnest in the object you profess to have."' The subjugation of the South practically means the massacre of eight millions of white people to give liberty to three millions of blacks. As to the restoration of the Union, Mr. Lincoln first called for 70,000 men. Since then he has called altogether for 2,300,000, in addition to nearly half a million of militia. Yet the subjugation of the South is no nearer than it was before Bull's Run. Not merely were these enormous supplies of men obtained; the Northern Government had also contracted ruinous liabilities, and yet the restoration of the Union is farther off than ever. He showed the enormous amount of injury entailed, not merely upon America, but on the people of Europe, by the continuance of such a state of things, and argued that it was the duty of every man to protest against it. He called attention to the various meetings held in the North for the purpose of condemning the war, and quoted a resolution passed at a crowded meeting in Ohio, which was as follows: 'That in the further prosecution of the war, by whomsoever conducted, or from whatsoever object in view, we behold nothing but a fruitless waste of life and treasure, accumulated debt, overwhelming taxation, and national ruin to both sections.' He reminded his audience that the Emperor of the French had long held the opinion that the mediation of England and France and other European countries would have the effect of bringing about the cessation of hostilities; and while he approved of the course the Government of this country had adopted, of abstaining from taking any part in the war, he regretted that they had withheld those friendly offices which would, in his opinion, have strengthened the hands of the peace party in the North, and might, if now made, influence in a manner favourable to peace the Presidential election. The honourable gentleman showed that he was speaking, not merely in the interests of the South, but also of the North. He lamented the angry words used on the other side of the Atlantic towards this country, which he would return with words of sorrow for their calamities, and would say to the President of the Northern States, 'Remember the words of your namesake, old Abraham, to Lot: "Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between thee and me, and between thy herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? Separate thyself, I pray thee, from me. If thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou wilt depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left."'

The impossibility of producing any armour plating of sufficient strength to protect vessels against the assaults of heavy ordnance has at length been demonstrated beyond all possibility of doubt. On Tuesday, a floating Warrior battery was exposed at Shoeburyness to the fire of the 600-pounder 13½-inch Armstrong muzzle loader. The target formed the centre of a wooden framework, 30 feet by 20 feet, and had a backing of 18 inches of teak, protected by 4½-inch armour plates; it was moored 500 yards from the battery where the gun was mounted, the charge of powder being reduced from 70 lbs. to 51½ lbs., thus producing the same effect as if the gun had been fired at a distance of 2,000 yards with the full charge of 70 lbs. The first shell missed the target, the second grazed the armour plate, and the third striking the sea in front ricocheted and took effect upon the upper armour plate passing through both the plate and the teak backing, and in fact detroying the target. No ironclad so struck could have ventured to expose itself to a second shot. The fourth shot only took effect upon the wood-work; and the fifth, which concluded the experiments, was fired with no better result. The slight inaccuracy in the firing is to be attributed to the small charge of powder made use of. Had the shot struck the target fairly instead of merely ricochetting, it is impossible to estimate the damage that would have been done; as it is, sufficient was achieved to prove the hopelessness of attempting to resist the attack of such a gun by armour plates. We congratulate the Admiralty and the country on the possession of such a gun, and on having had in the attempts to solve this difficult problem so able a coadjutor as Sir William Armstrong.

We regret to announce the death of one of the most successful of our English actors. Mr. Robson died at his house in Ampthill Terrace last Thursday night. He has so long been an invalid that we could hardly hope to see him again adorn the stage from which sickness drove him in the zenith of his fame. His first efforts are said to have been unsuccessful, but he persevered. In a long engagement at the Grecian Theatre he endeared himself to his east-end audience, and after his migration to the Olympic his talents attracted to an obscure theatre in a dirty street the fashionable residents in the west, with whom he soon became a great favourite.

On August 8, the first stone of the monument to Daniel O'Connell was laid in Sackville Street, Dublin. As might have been expected, vast crowds witnessed the ceremony, and a monster procession such as used to follow the 'great liberator' himself on state occasions was arranged to celebrate the event. Like those, the banners of the various trades were its most conspicuous ornament; like those, it resolved itself again into its component atoms without any disorder or attempt at a breach of the peace taking place. A banquet was held in the evening at the Round room of the Rotunda, chiefly remarkable for the absence of all men of position and celebrity, and for the harmony and loyal feeling which seemed to animate the company. The meeting broke up about midnight. We regret that Belfast has for the last few days been thrown into a state of disorder. Fierce fights have taken place between the Catholics and the Orangemen, and considerable damage has been inflicted upon life and property. The police behaved during the riots with great address, forbearance, and courage, but their unaided efforts were not sufficient to control the excited crowds which patrolled the streets intent on inflicting mutual injuries; the presence of the military has been found necessary, and it is hoped that they will be able to repress any further attempt at an outbreak.

India.

'No news is good news.' We are happy to find that the troubles which are passing around us are not likely to be swelled by Indian difficulties, if we except the disposition manifested by the Bhooteas to be troublesome, and who seem disposed to insist upon the fulfilment of the treaty extorted by them from Mr. Ashley Eden, when on a friendly visit in their territory. Their demands cannot, of course, be complied with, but we may hope that the prudent firmness of Sir John Lawrence will enable him to avert a war. The revolt in Affghanistan appears to have received a check, although Azim Khan is still in our territories. Afzul Khan has again sought refuge in the territories of the Khan of Bokhara.

New Zealand.

The war appears to be at a standstill, but the settlement of the difficulty with the natives is feared to be no nearer than it was at the commencement of the disturbances. The colony is sick of the war, and the natives, at least for the present, do not seem inclined to carry it on. But few of the chiefs, however, have submitted, and numbers of the natives still remain under arms waiting for a favourable opportunity to occur for resuming hostilities.

THE CONTINENT.

The Danish difficulty.

The counterstroke to the seizure of Rendsburg by the Prussians has been the occupation of Lauenburg by the Federal troops of execution. This matter is likely to create some ill-blood yet among the majesties of Germany. The semi-official *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* contents itself with saying, 'Prussia has *for the present* considered it sufficient to demand explanations of the step from the Governments concerned,' that is, from Hanover. The Hanoverian Government, however, disclaims all knowledge of the occupation of Lauenburg, and say that they are even surprised at such a step. It appears that the occupation was ordered by General Hake, upon instructions from the Dresden cabinet. Herr von Beust, the present virtual ruler of Saxony, has shown himself fully equal to a contest with Herr von Bismarck in violence, stiff-neckedness, or insolence; the quarrel between the two is, therefore, likely to be edifying. Dresden will probably be again reminded that she lies within little more than a day's march of the Prussian frontier, and that Saxony only exists upon sufferance. The Saxon representative has given notice that he means to propose to the Diet that an explanation be demanded of Austria and Prussia in reference to those Powers having permitted the King of Denmark to cede rights to them to which he himself had no title. The result of these squabbles can only be to show that Austria and Prussia on the one hand have no right to keep the Duchies, and on the other hand, the Diet has no right to claim them; whence it will follow that they are still provinces of Denmark in a state of revolt fostered by the two great German Powers: the time is not far distant when Austria will have to look back upon this war as a precedent in the matter of a revolted Venice.

The Hanoverian representative at the Federal Diet has been instructed to declare that should the Diet be unable to obtain satisfaction for the events which have taken place at Rendsburg, and which directly affect the authority of the Diet, Hanover would withdraw her troops from Holstein to avoid a possibility of a second violation of Federal rights. This skirmish on an abstract point of authority will not be of great importance on the immediate issue of the late war; the withdrawal of the Federal troops from the soil of the Duchies will only facilitate the arrangements shortly to be made by Austria and Prussia for the government of those countries.

It appears that the rectification of the frontier of Jutland, by which the Germans pretend to set at rest for ever all quarrels which may arise in that quarter on the subject of nationalities, is to be all in favour of Germany. Instead of giving to Jutland a portion of North Slesvig, which is recognised to be Danish, that province is to be deprived of a portion of its territory which runs down into the Duchy of Slesvig, and contains several thousand purely Danish inhabitants. The Prussian notion of a rectification of frontier is said to be based on the dressing of a battalion of soldiers, and nationality is to be sacrificed to an exact squareness of outline.

The Duchies.

As we have said, Austria and Prussia will be in no way sorry to see the departure of all Federal troops from the soil of the Duchies. Negotiations have been going on between these two Powers, and are probably now terminated, respecting the establishment of a joint provisional government in the Duchies, to which the Diet is to be requested to give its sanction.

The clergy and gentry of the district of Kiel held a meeting in that town on the 9th inst.; twenty-three persons only were present. The draft of a petition to the Slesvig-Holstein Commissioners was submitted to the meeting for signature, explaining the necessity of a common government for the two Duchies under the protection of Prussia, and dwelling upon the importance of the closest possible union with that Power. An animated discussion ensued, after which five of the principal persons present declined to sign the document.

Germany.

The King of Prussia is yet on the move, and is not expected at Berlin before the beginning of next month. The Feudalist journals have been loud in their strictures on those who call upon him to take advantage of the momentary lull in the troubles of Europe to call together again his House of Representatives.

A letter from Dresden states that a general meeting of the European Academy of Fashion has just been held in that city. Nearly 200 members were present. The principal subject discussed was a project of erecting an edifice for a superior school to teach the arts relating to dress. The idea is, that the establishment shall comprise a museum of costumes of all epochs, and a benefit fund for the relief of journeymen tailors unable to work. It appears that we are living under the dominion of a *Vehmgericht*, a secret tribunal by which the cut of our coats and the amount of cloth in our nether garments is decided upon inexorably. Have so many millions lived and died, some in purple and fine linen, others in rags and foul linen, others again in rags simple, and so on down to the last grade adorned with the primitive figleaf, in ignorance of this mighty judgment-seat, on which is enthroned the European Academy of Fashion? How comes it, by the way, that the Germans, the nation of tailors, and the inventors of this noble Academy, are the worst dressed people in Europe?

Denmark.

The exchange of prisoners is going on between the two *quondam* belligerents. Austria has returned 1,500 to their country; the remaining 4,800 of whom she had charge have been transferred to Prussia, who seems not at all so well inclined to allow them to leave her fortresses. On the other side, the Danes have sent off 1,000 natives of Slesvig, who had been serving in the royal army, to their homes at Flensburg; some of those taken at the Island of Sylt have also been returned. Prussia gives notice that she intends to keep a certain number of officers of high rank as hostages for certain political prisoners whom she declares to be in the dungeons of Copenhagen.

The Prussian commander in Jutland has prohibited by a general order the exportation of horses, oxen, pigs, bacon, rye, and oats during the armistice. We thought he had provided for this danger by prudently taking into his own possession all such articles when he found them in Jutland.

France.

MM. Garnier-Pagès, Carnot, and the other eleven gentlemen who were fined 500 francs for illegal association have decided upon appealing against the decision, and challenging the opinion of the superior tribunal.

The Emperor left Vichy for St. Cloud on Sunday, the 7th inst., and remains there until the arrival of the King of Spain. Great fêtes are in contemplation to be given to his honour at Versailles, the Tuileries, and St. Cloud. We defer an account of the programme of these fêtes, which bid fair to rival even the splendour of the court of Louis XIV.

On the 8th inst. the great annual distribution of prizes at the Sorbonne to the pupils of the Colleges of Paris and Versailles took place. M. Duruy, Minister for Public Instruction, in presenting the prizes, delivered an address, in which was one passage which claims our attention. He pointed out the general results gathered from the various annual competitions at the Sorbonne since 1830. He said: 'The movement of our studies during the last 33 years has been as follows: from 1830 to 1840, oscillations without any determined character; from 1841 to 1851, ascensional progress; from 1852 to 1859, general decadence in science as well as in literature, except in one faculty—history. Since 1859 the curve which had descended turned upwards, and a portion of the ground which was lost began to be recovered.' The *Presse* took up the argument where M. Duruy left it, and pointed out that the progress of the studies in the University was seriously influenced, whether for good or evil, by the political atmosphere with which they are surrounded. Any one examining the four periods marked out as above by M. Duruy, will observe that the varieties in the development of study corresponded with the political changes of the time. From 1830 to 1840 there existed a continual state of party struggle against the system of government established in 1830. From 1841 to 1851, though parties still continued to oppose one another, the nation was rallying round one common idea, that of universal suffrage. The movement of ideas during the period was prodigious. From 1852 to 1859 there was again a decline; Government dealt out liberty with a very sparing hand; the press had lost independence; ideas were in a state of stagnation. At length,

in 1859 an upward current set in; the extension of the political relations of France by the Italian war and the treaty of commerce enlarged the mind of her people; a common sentiment again united all men, that France ought not to lag behind other countries in the race for liberty. Thus it appears that there is a close connection between the public liberties on the one hand and the development of public education on the other.

While on the subject of education, we may notice the revival of a scheme which has long been nursed in the minds of some ardent individuals. It purposes to promote the acquirement of modern languages on an extensive scale by a system of international education. Large institutions are to be founded in France, England, Germany, and Italy, at which the course of study is to be precisely identical; so that, a boy who has arrived at a certain point of study in one country will be able to remove to the kindred establishment in another, and resume his instruction exactly where he left off. Thus he would suffer no hindrance in pursuing his general or classical education, while he would have the advantage of studying the modern languages, each in its own native country. The scheme has been tried already in France to a certain extent, and with success. When tried internationally, it will hardly escape lamentable failure, so long as the habits of thought in the various countries remain as distinct as they now are. The devisers of this scheme appear to think that the education in England, France, and Germany differs only as to the method pursued, and not as to the end obtained. A very little consideration will lead us to conclude that the education differs mainly in the results which it produces; an educated Frenchman differs entirely from an equally educated Englishman, and he again from a German; and the difference arises from the fact that the leading idea in the mind of each is absolutely different. What should we think of the naturalist who proposed to educate a Polar bear, a Russian bear, and a 'grizzly' into three perfect bears by sending them for six months to Spitzbergen, six more to Warsaw, and six again to the Alleghanies? They would all be dead before the conclusion of the experiment; and little short of this would be the fate of the luckless little Frenchman, German, and Englishman, thus transferred from city to city, like a travelling carpet-bag, to be filled with an assorted collection of the knowledge of each country.

An attempt was made last year by the Imperial Government to remove the Post Office from its present position near the Halles Centrales to the Rue Rivoli. It was stopped by the determined opposition of the business-men, who declared that they could not afford to have their post-office so far off. The idea has now, however, been revived, and by an Imperial decree of the 9th inst. was pronounced an act of public utility. The Emperor aims at carrying Paris by main force westwards, and grouping it round the Place de la Concorde as a centre. If this is effected, the proposed new post-office will not be far out of the way. In the report presented to the Senate during the late session it was declared that there was no hope of a decided improvement in the present postal arrangements so long as the office remained on its present site, as it was impossible to enlarge it to the necessary size.

Frankowski, an agent of the Polish National Government, was tried on the 9th inst., at the Court of Assize for the Seine. He was charged with having altered the numbers of some bonds of the Crédit Foncier of Poland, stolen during the insurrection. The court sentenced him to two years' imprisonment, that being the lightest punishment that could be inflicted.

ITALY.

It is asserted that in consequence of renewed negotiations between the French and Papal Governments, the ex-King of Naples, Francis II., will leave Rome, and return to Munich in the course of this autumn. The Italian authorities are, of course, doing their utmost to aid in effecting this very desirable object.

Two new cases of religious abduction, one exactly similar and the other parallel to the famous Mortara case, have occurred. The first is that of a young Jewish boy, Joseph Coen by name (Cohen is an ancient and distinguished name among the English Jews), of the age of eleven years, who was apprenticed in Rome to a Christian shoemaker. He soon afterwards declared his intention of embracing the Christian religion. He was accordingly taken by his master and a Neapolitan priest, and accompanied by a relative of his own, to the asylum for new converts. The rector of this establishment declares that he examined the boy, and found him conscientiously determined to take the step; he therefore laid the facts before a cardinal superior of the asylum; another examination of the boy was then held before four persons, two of whom were barristers, and it was decided that his conviction was sincere, and uninfluenced by any low motives. The parents, however, protested, and the father of the boy was then requested to attend, in company with another of his own persuasion, a third examination, held to satisfy him. The father, however, declined to attend, and the matter is still pending. The other case of abduction occurred at Centallo, in the province of Cuneo, in the kingdom of Italy. The object of it was a girl who had been confided to a theatrical manager named Suzzi, to be educated for the stage. From him she was decoyed away by a priest for the purpose of taking monastic vows. On the application of Suzzi, however, the place was discovered in which the girl was confined, and the priests were made to surrender their prize.

A meeting to demand the dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies was to have been held at Florence; but information of the same having reached the authorities, they could not permit it to be held for such an object, and the meeting was consequently abandoned.

Preparations are being made at Florence to celebrate the 600th anniversary of the birth of Dante. The municipality of that city sent a request to the authorities of Ravenna praying that the ashes of the great poet might be restored to his native city. The answer was, that since Itality unity had been effected, Dante could no longer be considered as in exile at Ravenna, and that he was consequently as much there in his own country as if he were at Florence.

BELGIUM.

King Leopold left Paris for Brussels on the 9th inst., and proceeded straight from his capital to his private residence at Laecken.

The election of members of the Chamber of Representatives took place on the 11th inst., and resulted in a majority of twelve for the Liberal party over the whole of Belgium. The democratic journals of Paris are loud in their jubilee for the triumph of Liberalism over Ultramontanism; but to an impartial bystander the matter appears to have been one little connected with principle of any kind, except that of self-interest. The result of the elections depended on the choice of the citizens of Antwerp. These worthies care little about politics, but are extremely anxious to lose the privilege of fortifications, which straiten their movements, impede the expansion of their city, and can only be of use to the country by bringing destruction upon the city which they protect in the shape of a severe and unsuccessful bombardment. They once thought to force Government into the necessity of relieving them from the fortifications by joining the Ultramontanes; now it appears they consider that they were mistaken, and restore their allegiance to the Liberal party.

SWITZERLAND.

Some weeks ago the Federal Council of Switzerland made a demand on the Austrian Government for the person of the Polish ex-Dictator Langiewicz, on the ground that he was a Swiss citizen. Conditions were drawn up by the Court of Vienna on which liberty would be given to the ex-Dictator. They were accepted both by Langiewicz and the Federal Council. The appearance of the Emperor of Russia in Germany seems, however, to have raised fresh difficulties, and Herr von Rechberg, on his return from Kissengen, thought fit to withdraw his promise. The Federal Council has now made another formal claim for the extradition of Langiewicz.

On the other hand, as if to show the impartiality of their judgment, the Council has given notice to the Government of the Canton of Ticino that Mazzini is preparing to return thither. We know nothing further, except that the police have given orders in consequence to the local authorities of Lugano, where he will probably land.

POLAND.

The city of Warsaw has returned to its accustomed life and vivacity. The theatres, the bands, the parks, all attract their crowds. But there is one entertainment which is successful above all others in collecting a mob of sight-seers: it is the weekly transportation of political offenders from the railway station to St. Petersburg. From 4,000 to 8,000 persons assemble to pay their last adieux to their banished friends. This fashion has been but lately introduced by the agitators. An attempt was made to keep the day of departure a secret; but as surely as the day came, so surely was the station surrounded by a dense crowd. Only a few dozen persons are sent off at a time, yet thousands go to bid them farewell. The police do not appear to trouble themselves with the matter.

SPAIN.

We have already had occasion to notice the singular though little noticed disturbances which have lately been agitating Spain. It appears that these still continue with the same certainty and the same secrecy. A few scraps of intelligence leak out here and there, such as the statement in the *Noticias* of the 9th inst.: 'On account of the alarm existing at Madrid, the Government will take measures to maintain public order;' and again, in the *Diario Espanol* of the 11th, we read that the *Libertad* and the *Iberia* have been prosecuted for publishing seditious writings, and have been brought before the military tribunals. A Catalonian commission has arrived at Madrid to confer with the Government upon the means of terminating the industrial crisis. A conference has been held at the Ministry of War, in consequence of which General Prim has been requested to take up his residence at Oviedo, whither he accordingly proceeded on the evening of the 13th. He was accompanied to the railway station by a large crowd.

MEXICO.

The Emperor has published a highly important decree, appointing the Empress to the regency, in the case of death, or of any other accident which may render it impossible for him to continue to govern.

The Municipality of Mexico having resolved to raise a triumphal arch in honour of the Empress, the Emperor, in a letter addressed to his Minister of State, S. Velasquez de Leon, has directed that with the marble destined to construct this arch, a monument should be raised to the heroes of Mexican independence—Hidalgo, Morelos, Iturbide, &c.—the first stone of which he has expressed his intention of laying with his own hands.

PERU.

The utmost exertions are still being used by the Peruvian Government to have all the war vessels in readiness in anticipation of bad news from Spain. All the neighbouring States have expressed their sympathy with Peru, save the Republic of Ecuador, which takes advantage of the general distrust of Spain to drive a thriving trade with that country in contraband of war. The Spanish Government have sent yet another frigate, the *Carmen*, to reinforce the Pacific squadron.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

The war between the Imperialists and the rebels still 'drags its slow length along,' and seems as far as ever from the end, owing very much to the aversion which the Imperialist generals display for attempting active measures. Nankin and Woochow are held by the rebels, but the whole of the surrounding country is in the hands of the Imperialists. The Prince of Nagatoo is still pursuing his obstructive policy in Japan, and resists the reopening of the Inland Sea which Sir R. Alcock is determined to effect. What measure will be adopted is not yet known. The *Conqueror* with a battalion of Marines is at Yokohama, and the 20th regiment will shortly arrive in Japan.

THE NEGROES BEFORE PETERSBURG.

(*From the New York Daily News, Aug. 2.*)

The butchery of negroes before Petersburg is a mournful illustration of Abolition philanthropy. The soul sickens while conceiving the nature of the fearful errand upon which these poor victims of fanaticism were sent. A breastwork is to be stormed in the face of a murderous fire that a military eye must have foreseen could be withstood by none but those of the most approved and stubborn courage and perfect discipline. A negro division of comparatively untried troops was selected to attempt that terrible assault, impossible to any but chosen veterans. The result was that the doomed blacks, mowed down by the enfilading fire, became bewildered and utterly demoralised, scarce knowing which way to run to escape destruction. In the language of the despatch, 'They seemed to be without any one to manage them, and finally they fell back to the rear, out of the range of the volleys of canister and musketry that were ploughing through their ranks.' Why is it that *they* were made a forlorn hope, to storm a position that the Commanding General must have known to be inaccessible, except to the most unflinching valour and the most complete organisation? If it was because the chance of victory was so desperate that the employment of white troops would have been too costly a sacrifice, we, who do not profess to be negro worshippers, pity them nevertheless for the terrible uses to which they are put. Had it not been abundantly proven upon other fields that black troops are not to be trusted in a military crisis, it might be supposed that the post of danger was given them out of pure love to prove their title to consideration as the Bayards and Sydneys of the age. But in view of their military antecedents, we can only understand that they were pushed forward to be butchered that better soldiers might be spared. That may be good for the white soldiers, but alas! the poor negro.

Northern Repudiation.—We quote the following from the *Times* city article of Monday last:—'The accounts from Germany show that the demand for United States bonds has not experienced the slightest diminution. The parcels brought to London by the weekly steamers and transmitted to Frankfort are absorbed as fast as they arrive, at prices which yield a good profit to the importers. Each successive fall seems to be regarded by the existing holders almost with gratification, instead of dismay, since they apparently entertain no doubt of ultimate payment in full, and consequently consider that each decline simply enables them to increase their acquisition of securities forced off by the Americans at a tremendous sacrifice from the momentary pressure of circumstances. They rely that the bonds are inherently worth par, and he who invested at the price of 60 regards a decline to 40 but as an excellent opening to buy more, so as to make an average price of 50 for a holding which he feels convinced will in a moderate time bring him back 100. In the present mood, therefore, of these investors, a fall to 30 or 20 would only be an increase of golden opportunities. The fact that repudiation has already been revived in some of the wealthiest and most influential of the individual States of the North appears not to have reached them, or to have reached them only to be disregarded. The instance of the State of New York refusing to continue the payment of its dividends in specie was alarming; but as such payments at the time of the creation of the debt were not, perhaps, actually stipulated, but merely implied, the measure did not constitute an open violation of definite contracts. It is true that the New York State Constitution forbade the introduction of a currency like that of greenbacks, and foreign purchasers of New York bonds may complain that it has taken place; but if the New York holders cannot make anything of that point, it is of no use for others to argue it. In Indiana and Pennsylvania the proceedings have been distinct, and no sophistry is attempted. Indiana declines to offer anything but greenbacks for the dividends which she expressly bound herself to pay to her foreign creditors in sterling, and Pennsylvania has characteristically given the sanction of law for the even-handed confiscation of the rights alike of her home and foreign creditors. Her debt was contracted under a solemn enactment that the interest should be paid in specie or its equivalent. As it has always been her habit to do everything with the soberness and precision worthy of her origin, she now passes a law to declare that she will pay only in greenbacks. Of course she might with equal propriety, after having contracted her debt under a stipulation to pay 6 per cent. interest, pass a law to declare that she will pay no interest whatever. The latter, perhaps, will come in due time, especially as whenever it comes it cannot further compromise the honour of the State. Annexed is an abstract of this piece of legislation, which, although it may be regarded as irrelevant by German investors, may help to confirm the caution with which in this country the Federal obligations that depend upon the aggregate honour of all the individual States of the Union should be regarded. It may be admitted that on such points it would not be fair to the American people to cite Pennsylvania as an average example, and it may also be admitted that the great majority of Americans themselves manifest a sincere delusion that they will meet their national debt with honour and ease. But they have not yet felt its pressure. As fast as dividends become payable, Germany and Holland send the cash for the purpose. When this supply shall fail, it is to be feared that the proclivities of Pennsylvania and Indiana, which are now simply passed over without condemnation, may then be looked at with direct approval:—'Act appeared May 3, 1864.—State of Pennsylvania.—Be it enacted, &c., That so much of an Act appeared June 12, 1840, as requires the interest on the public debt of this commonwealth to be paid in specie or its equivalent be and the same is hereby repealed, and that the said interest shall be paid by the State Treasury as the same shall hereafter fall due in such notes as have been or shall be declared by any law of the United States to be lawful money and a legal tender in payment of debts, public and private, within the United States. 2nd section repeals the 3rd section of the Acts of April 11, 1862, requiring the resumption of specie payments.'

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 13 Bouverie Street, E.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

Mr. J. H. ASHBRIDGE, *Treasurer of the Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund, begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following additional Contributions:—*

A Friend of the South (through the Hon. J. M. Mason)	£200	0	0
From Southerners and British sympathisers in China, Shanghai June 20 (through THE INDEX)	19	0	0
Colin Mackenzie, Esq.	5	0	0
	£224	0	0

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 1864.

Confederate Official Documents.

NOTHING could possibly give an ordinary English reader so clear and comprehensive an insight, as the document we print to-day, into the internal working of that apparently mysterious organisation which the diplomatic world affects to treat as a rebellion, but which eight millions of a unanimous people, waging the most gigantic war in modern history, obey as their natural and lawful government with the enthusiasm of devotion. The document to which we refer is the Report of the Confederate SECRETARY of WAR, dated April 28 last, giving to the legislature of the Confederacy, through his official superior the PRESIDENT, an account of the work of his Department during the brief period intervening between his previous report and the last assembling of Congress. All the energies, all the moral and intellectual activity, all the objects of a brave and earnest nation, are concentrated upon successful resistance to an unprovoked assault upon their civil liberties and national independence. Commerce, industry, agriculture, are simply subordinate agencies in the accomplishment of this sublime task. The country is a vast camp, in which all the men are soldiers, whether armed with a musket, a hammer, or a plough; all the women are sempstresses or nurses to the army; and the children an annual harvest with which the enrolling officers fill up the gaps of the battle-field. With a nation in this glow of patriotic incandescence, the word 'war' comprises everything. The report before us, therefore, addressed as it is to the representatives of the people, neither intended nor prepared for cold neutral perusal, furnishes a complete picture, in which the lights and shades of the situation are faithfully reproduced. It has, moreover, the stoic characteristics of a Confederate official document, which exaggerates nothing except, perhaps, difficulties and dangers, and does this only in the stern purpose of more amply meeting them. Were the Confederacy a sham, instead of the stubborn fact which it is, we should hesitate, and we might properly be accused of indiscretion, in publishing textually, and without editorial precautions, a State paper so outspoken and so truthful as the one which it is now our privilege to lay before the intelligent student of cotemporaneous history.

With the report of the SECRETARY of WAR there come to us reports of other heads of Departments, and official copies of important documents and legislative acts. Few of these have the same general—we might almost say graphic—interest as the doings of the War Department while preparing for the supreme effort of the Virginia, and Georgia, and *Pennsylvania* campaign. We shall, therefore, in our next and succeeding numbers, confine ourselves to such extracts and summaries as will satisfy public curiosity about the internal economy of an infant State suddenly plunged into a war of unprecedented magnitude, and called upon, like HERCULES in his cradle, to crush at once two serpents threatening its young life—the formidable military aggression of a powerful enemy, and the deep-rooted prejudices of the civilised world.

In passing, we must pay a well-deserved tribute to the administrative ability and unshrinking frankness of Colonel JOHN S. PRESTON, the superintendent of the Conscript Bureau. From his admirably lucid statistics, it appears that within the three months which his report includes, without counting the States from which the accounts are missing or incomplete, 18,145 able-bodied men have been added to the Confederate army. Most of the complaints he urges do him credit as an executive officer, charged with delicate duties, and mindful that besides being a soldier he is also the citizen of a free country which sacrifices everything on the altar of patriotism save the rights of citizenship. The chief difficulties against which this officer has contended so successfully are summed up in the noble language of his superior in the Report we print: 'Some retardation,' he says, 'in the execution of the laws of conscription results necessarily from the persistent policy of the Department to rely for its regular administration on the prestige of law and the support of intelligent public opinion to established authority, rather than on military coercion by sustaining forces. Thus, instead of the forced gathering up, as with a drag-net, of all that come within the prescribed ages, there is the accorded privilege of volunteering, thereafter enrolment, with due respect to the limitation of the law and the claims for exemption and detail, and their appropriate assignment. As the regular administration of law is more tedious than the summary judgments of arbitrary authority, so this system sacrifices something of expedition to justice.' Compare this to the 'bullocks driven to the slaughter pen,' in Mr. LINCOLN's language, and the conscription riots in New York.

On the other documents before us we shall have more to say in our next impression. Suffice it for the present, that the Post Office Department, despite the enormously depreciated currency, reports, as usual, a large surplus of receipts over expenditures. The report of the COMMISSIONER on TAXATION is satisfactory. The SECRETARY of the TREASURY has the gratification to announce that the last appropriations considerably exceeded the needs of the different branches of the Government, and that there is in consequence a large credit to the account of the new appropriations. We are also furnished, for the first time, with a detailed statement of the funded and unfunded debt of the Confederate Government, and, comparing it with that of the North, and the normal resources of the two countries, the figures are not discouraging. The heroic remedy of compulsory funding and trenchant taxation, inaugurated in April, had already worked a great improvement in the state of the currency by the end of the month, though only a small portion of what is still expected from it. The policy of placing the whole foreign commerce, both as regards imports and exports, under Government control, and making it an arm of the national defence, had been perfected. Some additional regulations on this subject appear in our advertising columns to-day for the information of the commercial community. Thanks to this system, the foreign credit of the Government had steadily risen, the foreign debt was gradually being paid off even during the war, a surplus of funds was accumulating in Europe, and the resources of the country were husbanded for the importation of actual necessaries for the army and the non-military population. This success has even given rise to suggestions, such as that thrown out in the SECRETARY of WAR's Report, for extending the same principle to the redemption of the domestic debt, an idea with which the readers of the *Index* are not unfamiliar. Such are some of the leading features of the official documents, of which we propose to treat more at length on a future occasion.

Grant before Petersburg.

GENERAL GRANT has again unsuccessfully assaulted the defences of Petersburg. On July 30 the long matured plan, on which rested the last hopes of the Federal commanders, was put into execution, and the impossibility of the capture of the city by direct attack decided. For nearly six weeks GRANT's unwieldy legions had been huddled up within their intrenchments, almost motionless. The few cavalry raids sent out to cut off the communications of Richmond with the South were the only signs of active hostility. These were soon abandoned when it was ascertained that the temporary destruction of twenty miles of railway could only be achieved at the cost of the annihilation of the raiding column; and latterly GRANT's army was, to all appearance, besieged rather than besieging. There were no more flank movements to be made; any extension of his lines westward ensured defeat; assault of the intrenchments, which had two or three times foiled the best of his troops, was more than even GRANT dared venture upon. So, to use the language of the New York journals, he 'pressed the earthquake into his service'—in other words, fell to mining the Confederate position. By July 30 his preparations were completed; a mine had been sunk and a gallery carried under a prominent battery of six guns, the key to the outer line of intrenchments, and in this mine six tons of powder were deposited. It was known in the Federal camp, on the evening of the 29th, that the explosion and the assault were to take place; and the Confederate General, though he had no distinct knowledge of the locality of the mine, appears to have had some intimation of what was threatened, and to have made his preparations to meet any emergency.

Two days before GRANT tried a feint, which probably, if it had any effect at all, had precisely the reverse effect to that which it was intended to produce. He threw two whole corps across the James River, and made a great parade of despatching supplies in the same direction. But both corps recrossed on the following day to take part in the assault. It was hoped that by this clumsy attempt at a diversion, a portion of the garrison of Petersburg would be drawn off, or at any rate all expectation of an assault would be removed. But GRANT forgot that at Petersburg he had only to do with BEAUREGARD's corps, while LEE's principal force was in defence of Richmond; he forgot, too, that the wary general to whom he is opposed would at once perceive the nature of a movement, which so ostentatiously paraded a dangerous and useless division of his army. Long before dawn on the 30th the divisions selected for the assault were drawn up in columns behind the Federal entrenchments, and at 3 A.M. the signal was given for the explosion of the mine. The fuse failed more than once, and as the darkness rolled away the Confederates became dimly aware of the threatening assault. At length the fuse did its work. The formidable redoubt seemed for a moment uplifted from its foundations, and then sank, leaving a yawning crater in its place. There was no great explosion, only a dull roar, but three clouds of red dust rising high into the air, told that the work was done. The Federal troops were unable for some minutes to take the advantage of the surprise. The lines of the two armies were, in fact, so close, that they seem to have doubted whether the mine had not been sprung by the garrison. At length the truth came home to them, and with a cheer they charged for the shattered redoubt, covered by a terrible fire of artillery and musketry from the whole Federal line. But the delay had given the Confederates ample time to appreciate the position, and as the assaulting columns marched over the ruins of the redoubt they were met with a storm of grape and minié balls, which at once checked their advance. There was no shelter for them behind the Confederate works open in the rear, and fully commanded by the second line of earthworks. Swept down by hundreds they crowded into the chasms rent by the explosion, and then attempted to re-form for a charge upon the second line of intrenchments. To support them the coloured division was ordered up and launched against the works. But these, however, only elicited a more serious fire. After a few minutes the negroes broke and ran utterly demoralised; the panic communicated itself to the whole corps; a scene of disgraceful confusion arose, when the Confederates left their intrenchments and charged upon their beaten foe. There seems to have been no attempt at resistance. The Federal troops were entirely routed, officers and men; it was *sauve qui peut*; from 1,600 to 2,000 prisoners were taken, thousands were slaughtered; the general commanding the assault and his whole staff were captured; ultimately the remnant of the Federal columns fell back upon their own lines with the acknowledged loss of 5,600 men. Correspondents estimated the casualties at from 8,000 to 10,000 killed, wounded, and prisoners. Thus ended what will in all probability prove the last assault upon Petersburg, resulting in the most crushing disaster and disgraceful defeat that has yet befallen the great army under GRANT.

If any other general were in command, we should predict a speedy return of the Federal army to Washington. But GRANT's fortunes are so entirely bound up with those of the present Administration that he may yet linger on before the walls of Petersburg for some months with a view of saving Mr. LINCOLN. He cannot entertain any serious hope of

capturing the town which Beauregard, with his Carolinian troops, holds so easily against the whole Federal army. He has no prospect of a diversion. He must know that his stay south of Petersburg only gives the Confederate raiders licence to harass Maryland and Pennsylvania, and may seriously imperil the Northern capital. Practically his force of 100,000 men is nullified by Beauregard's division so long as he maintains his present lines, and we confess we are unable to understand the strategy which detains him there. Nevertheless, his admirers still believe in his resources and inventive powers, and we can only hope that they estimate his tenacity rightly, and that the end of September will still find him keeping up the semblance of a siege of Petersburg. In one respect, perhaps, Grant is right. He has slaughtered his veterans. The flower of his army is gone. Behind intrenchments he is still powerful, but we doubt very much whether his troops are fit for the movements which inaugurated this campaign, and whether the motley regiments of negroes, hundred-days men, and raw recruits which now compose a large proportion of his army, would face Lee's disciplined soldiers in the open. However, his last failure may open his eyes. The North is not only alarmed but angry. It might have put up with forced contributions, with flaming cities, and even with the national humiliation of having its own capital almost at the mercy of 7,000 or 6,000 'rebels,' if there were any successes to score on the other side. But Grant has not yet won a victory. His combinations have miscarried; his battles have been defeats; his assaults disasters. The North owes it to him that it has now no army to defend its honour, and that Lee is practically nearer to Washington than the Federal troops to Richmond. Grant's three months of unlimited confidence, of entire irresponsibility, of absolute control, have achieved these results with the loss of 100,000 men. The common sense and the fears of the North may at last prove too strong even for Grant's tenacity, and compel a retrograde movement which will proclaim to the world that the war policy of Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet has utterly and ignominiously failed. But Grant's position is full of difficulties. If he maintains his present lines he exposes his army to frightful losses from malaria, and to a demoralisation more serious than repeated defeats; moreover he leaves the North open to Lee's columns, and army after army of militia an easy prey to Southern veterans. If he retires he enables Lee to throw 40,000 or 50,000 men upon Sherman's communications, annihilate his army, and secure Tennessee and Kentucky to the Confederacy. It is an embarrassing dilemma, and we are curious to see how he will escape it. For the present he counts for very little in the struggle. The game is being played out at Atlanta and on the Potomac. Whether Lee decides to reinforce Hood, or convert the raid into an invasion, is the question of the moment. We look forward with confidence to the answer a mail or two will bring. In the meantime it is satisfactory to know that Hood holds out bravely at Atlanta, and that since he took command one defeat of the Federals has followed another in quick succession. Atlanta is fortified and well provisioned; and Hood must feel himself strong, or he would not dare to attack his powerful enemy. It remains to be seen whether Sherman will have the temerity to undertake the siege of a town 130 miles away from his base of operations, and held by an army that he has not yet defeated in the field.

The Prospect of Speedy Peace.

Our readers will acquit us of having ever been unduly sanguine in our appreciations of the events of the American War. While we have never for an instant doubted the ultimate triumph of Confederate independence, and while we have seldom been deceived, even transiently, by the boastful impostures of Federal newspapers and diplomatic documents, we may modestly claim the credit of having been substantially correct in the few predictions we have ventured, and of never having encouraged false hopes of peace based upon either the exhaustion of the North, its financial collapse, its return to reason, or even the successes of Southern arms. We have consistently held to the conviction that the war, left to its own course, whatever might be its vicissitudes, must be a long one; that no influence from within, at least during the term of Mr. Lincoln's administration, would be potent enough to end it; and that the only hope of shortening this fated period lay in the wisdom and justice of European Powers, if, by recognising an incontestable political fact, they had exchanged a false for a true neutrality. Within the last two years and a half, this only hope seemed several times on the point of realisation. To-day none but a visionary will deny that the idea of recognition is practically less present to men's minds than it was twelve months ago. Whether this arises from the frequent disappointment of well-founded expectations, or from a strengthening conviction that the South now stands in less need than formerly of even such moral aid from abroad, we need not here inquire. Certain it is that the South itself has long ceased to expect, scarcely to desire, recognition; and in inverse proportion has grown the proud confidence in its own Heaven-aided ability to accomplish the great work of national salvation. Yet at this very moment, when we once more acknowledge the fallacy of the only hope upon which we had heretofore dwelled seriously, we are able to say with all calmness and soberness that the prospects of speedy peace were never so promising, so almost absolutely certain. It is our sincere belief that, unless some great disaster befals the Confederate arms before the 29th of this month, the Democratic party then assembling in convention at Chicago will nominate a peace candidate for the Presidency, and within three months thereafter there will be an armistice.

It is not because the military situation presents unprecedented features, that we stake our judgment upon so bold a prediction. Another Confederate invasion might possibly end in another Sharpsburg or Gettysburg. Another period of reciprocal inactivity might ensue, affording time for recruiting another army in Ireland and Germany. Nor is it because the financial condition so unmistakably indicates that the bottom of the nation's pocket has been reached. Federal finances have so often defied rational calculations, so many grave crises have been passed—not safely, but still passed—so buoyant and sanguine is the American temperament, that we would hesitate to deny the possibility of another miracle, and, given a drawn battle or two, or some illusory success, we are not sure but even this last crisis might be tided over, and the inevitable ruin, carefully concealed by 'shoddy' flowers from public view, might be staved off for another season. These embarrassments have become periodical ever since the battle of Bull Run, aggravating with each year. To a cool observer at a distance they seemed fatal in 1861; they were worse in 1862; still worse in 1863. It is not because they are worst in 1864 that we look for peace, but because in 1864 they coincide with embarrassments of quite another kind, with a quadrennial civic revolution which even in ordinary times puzzled and perplexed the acutest understanding of European statesmanship. The curious feature of the American federative system is its affectation of mathematical mechanism. The Federal Government is wound up, warranted to run four years. It may run as wildly fast or as tamely slow as the materials of its clock-work will admit, but at the striking of a certain hour its motive power is exhausted. At one second after twelve o'clock on March 4, the four-years' king is dead—four years' life to the new king. Alas, however, for human ingenuity, there is an interval between the winding up again and the running down, and this interval is an interregnum. The new king is elected in November, the old one dies in March. In the four months intervening, unless he happens to be his own successor for another 'term,' the courtiers desert the setting sun to worship the rising one. The Federal Government has only a nominal head. At noon on March 4 of next year Mr. Lincoln, unless reelected, loses the last semblance of power; four months and four days earlier, on the first Tuesday of November next, the entire substance. In the meanwhile the semblance and the substance remain irremediably disunited, and therefore dormant.

How slim are Mr. Lincoln's chances of reelection may be seen by the indecent alacrity with which the rats are scampering away from his ship. Already he is opposed by a candidate of his own party, one who is not only the first love of that party—its candidate when Lincoln was not yet known outside his own village—but one who represents that very section of the party which, by its rabid radicalism, leavened the rest, and in the heat of the fermentation flung Mr. Lincoln into power. Even the Convention which lately renominated Mr. Lincoln, composed as it was of his own office-holders, deemed it necessary to save the appearance of self-respect by insulting him in his Mexican policy. The most important committee of his own Congress has denounced him for the attempted usurpation of arbitrary power for the purpose of manufacturing fictitious votes from the 'rebellious' States; and the two Houses of Congress, as one body, have given practical effect to this denunciation by a legislative enactment that the votes of the 'rebellious' States shall not count in the ensuing election. In open feud with his Congress, at variance with his party, deserted by his mercenary friends, ridiculed by the press, despised by the public, his favourite generals defeated in the field, his pet schemes ending in disaster, Mr. Lincoln is not a very formidable competitor for the Presidency. Add to this that the Democratic Opposition, keenly alive to the possible turns of fortune in their favour, have adjourned the nomination of their candidate to the decision of the issue of the summer's campaign, fixing it at a date barely eight weeks prior to the November election. At that election the successful candidate requires, since the votes of one-third of the States are counted out, a numerical majority of the actual votes cast, such as no President since Washington has ever obtained.

The personal triumph or humiliation of Mr. Abraham Lincoln is, however, merely an incident—and in no sense an element—in our calculations for peace. If the war against the South is to be prosecuted, we prefer him as President of the United States to any one of the four millions of adult males in the population of Federal America. Our prognostication rests upon the fact that a new idea has entered the Northern mind, and that this idea is the only practicable bridge from war to peace. This idea scores of newspapers, which before were eagerly clamouring for a more vigorous prosecution of the war, have within the last few weeks taken up with utterance more or less distinct. It is in the minds and mouths of men of all parties, defended or denounced, but familiar to all. It is reflected in the public correspondence of the European press from America; it is sharply mapped out in nine-tenths of the private letters which fill the American mail bags. It is like the confused sound of many voices; unless a providential event hushes it, it will have swollen, ere our printed pages reach the other side of the Atlantic, into the deafening chorus of millions of men. It is an idea all the more powerful because it flatters American vanity without being altogether chimerical and impracticable. It is an idea which implies solution, and not defeat. It is an idea which gratifies vague popular longings for revenge, and which yet promises solid material advantages.

This idea, in which we recognise the mustard seed of a lasting and prosperous peace, may, when stripped of its surplusage of words and extravagancies of drapery, be succinctly described somewhat as follows. The North says to itself: 'In the event of success (and no true Northerner permits himself to doubt of eventual success), what shall we gain? The experience of over three years of war has demonstrated that the chances of success upon which we most counted either never did or certainly do not now exist. Thanks to an Administration as imbecile as it has been ferocious, there is neither "latent Union feeling" nor "negro-rising," and there will be none. If, therefore, we succeed, after incalculable further expenditures of blood and treasure, in conquering the South, we shall find ourselves chained to a corpse. We are persuading ourselves that we are fighting for the Union—that is to say, for commercial prosperity at home and power and prestige abroad. If, after years of war, we subdue the South, our prosperity at home will consist in having the productive portion of our national territory laid waste, and the industrial portion of it burdened by a debt which it is equally ruinous to repudiate or to pay. Our prestige abroad will consist in having the flower of two-thirds of our manhood employed in keeping under subjection the mutinous remaining third. The price in our own liberties which we have already paid for the mere attempt, gives the standard of what success will cost us; and if we shall be further called to strike an average of the amount of liberty suitable equally to white American freemen and emancipated black slaves, the future is sickening to contemplate. Viewing all this, three years of war have greatly changed circumstances. If we were right then, we are not now. It is the part of wisdom to make the most of circumstances as they are. The nations of Europe, by their own shortsightedness and cowardice, have let a golden opportunity pass. It presents itself to us now; let us be wiser than Europe. The South is neither conqueror nor conquered; let us have the credit of doing generously what some day we may have to do by compulsion. North and South, since the formation of the Union, have ever been recognised entities. We nominally classed both under a varying number of States, and we lived prosperously when these States numbered thirty-four. Why should we not live prosperously if the Union meant two States, instead of thirty-four? In or out of the Union, as contiguous empires who have tested each other's strength, we must live together upon some sort of terms. The South has war debts as well as we. There will, therefore, with a little concession on both sides, be no insuperable obstacle to an identical commercial policy, much as Southerners talk about 'free trade.' The South owes no favours to Europe, neither do we. There is no obstacle, therefore, to a permanently identical foreign policy. Why should not the Union become a marriage between two great States, a marriage without possible divorce, admitting a distinct individuality and independent rights in both, but representing a unit to the outside world?'

Such is the substance of the argument which, at

the family fireside, in the club, at the domestic breakfast table, or at the public *table d'hôte*, now forms the staple of discussion—for and against—throughout the Northern States. We have transcribed it almost textually from the mass of Northern correspondence, unconnected and even antagonistic in its sources, which has reached us directly, or been submitted to us. We have awakened to its importance, through the coincidence in many essential points which forced itself on our attention in our Southern correspondence. It is not for us to pronounce on the merits of this argument. The North, being the aggressor, must initiate the terms of peace. But this much we are free to say. In the heart of the population of the Confederate States, wearied of war, though undaunted in the confidence of its issue, proposals of this sort must touch a responsive chord. The men of authority may see the inconveniences of so close an alliance with the North, but the people will see that they must choose their allies from between the Western European nations or their nearest neighbours, and neither England nor France, nor even Gallic Mexico, has done aught to interfere with the natural claims of that formidable nearest neighbour. In spite of their habitual self-restraint, Southerners are disgusted at the imbecility of the English Government of the day, and at the inconsistency, not to say treachery, of that of France. If they are forced to choose between Europe and America, they might very well choose their own hemisphere, provided the first word of every treaty of alliance was always unchallenged *Confederate independence.*

There is only one logical conclusion to these reflections: it is, that if any selfish hope of exhausting both American belligerents has animated the policy of Europe, that policy will have its just reward. Neither have lost the restorative energies of youth. Both have only just learned their own strength. Debt-burdened and bled as they may be, the day that they make an honourable peace, *with amity and an identical foreign policy*, the twin confederations will be physically and morally stronger than ever was or could have been the undivided Union, with its materialistic tendencies, and its external strength neutralised by an internal sectional balance of power.

THE BURNING OF CHAMBERSBURG.

(From the *Boston Courier*, August 2.)

Everybody will be struck with sorrow at the destruction of the pleasant and thriving town of Chambersburg. It enables us here in the North to appreciate better than before the realities of war, and to comprehend the devastation and suffering which it has spread over the once fair and prosperous country of the South. To read, ourselves sitting in safety, of the destruction of Southern cities, villages, and plantations; of the glorious success of the Federal armies in reducing half a State to the condition of a desert waste, was exhilarating, perhaps. 'Poor devils, why did they rebel? and what rights has a rebel, or his helpless family, which a loyal soldier is bound to respect?' But when the brand begins to reach our own towns, where reminders of fifty thousand ruined Virginia homes are left by rebel hands upon the ruins of mansions within a few miles of the national capital; when farms are laid waste, towns held to ransom, and whole counties overrun by men whose own homes have felt the torch of Northern raiders, and whose wives and little ones have been left shelterless and penniless by the hands of our own brothers and sons, we begin—at least we should begin—to reflect, and to ask ourselves 'Who is to blame for such savagery?' 'Who inaugurated these cruel methods of warfare?' 'Who first burned and sacked defenceless towns, and left their inhabitants destitute?'

These are sad, serious questions. We may think what we will of the Southern people, but there is not a man among us who can put his hand upon his heart and say he would not do, in this matter, just as they have done. We are all eager enough for retaliation when we hear of outrages by them upon prisoners, negroes, and Unionists. Are they of different flesh? 'Hath not a *rebel* hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions? fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer' as we are? 'If you prick him does he not bleed? if you poison him does he not die, and if you wrong him shall he not revenge?'

The Federal Government has many times sent out raiding parties for the express purpose of destruction, and we have all read the congratulations of the press over 'vast destruction of mills, houses, villages, railroads, wheat, corn, and all that goes to sustain life in man and beast.' It is not long since the once thriving town of Alexandria, upon the Red River, was left in flames, as Chambersburg was left, by a retreating army, but that army was a Federal one. Officers boasted publicly upon the steamboats of the Mississippi, that, in Sherman's Yazoo expedition

'For thirty miles in length and twelve in breadth, not a building of any kind but had been destroyed, and everything that would sustain life; and they grew exceedingly merry over the consternation of the women and children, when they woke up in the night and found their houses in flames. "It was such fun to see them running out to the woods in their night-clothes, frightened to death!"'

And what were the reasons given by glozing newspapers for such atrocities? Just such sentences as these—

'The stake is too mighty to admit of any remissness—to allow even the voice of suffering women and children to hold us back! Hot tears may scald the cheeks of mothers, and hunger pinch thousands of needy ones, and yet the success of the Union cause is worth all that sacrifice.'

Well, if these things are military necessities for us, are they less so for the rebels? Have they such advantages as to be able to forego means of war employed by their enemies?

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Paris: August 16.

The pretended successes achieved by the Federal arms before Atlanta have received full justice from the French press. The readers of the *Siècle* and the *Opinion Nationale* are the only persons sufficiently credulous to believe that Sherman has succeeded in breaking through the fortifications of Atlanta; those of the *Constitutionnel*, the *Patrie*, the *Moniteur*, *La France*, the *Pays*, the *Nation*, and the *Globe* are better informed in this matter; they know quite well that Sherman has neither occupied the centre, the circumference, nor, indeed, any part of the defences of Atlanta; and that he was completely defeated by General Hood on July 22.

The Confederates, says *La France*, have the advantage in Georgia. Not only have the Federals failed to make any impression upon Atlanta, but they are moreover not in a position to prolong the siege until the arrival of reinforcements. The *Patrie*, the *Constitutionnel*, and the *Pays* express themselves in nearly the same terms, and base their opinion upon extracts taken from New York journals, and upon the American correspondence of the *Times*.

The proceedings at Petersburg are not less correctly appreciated. The *Patrie* does not attach any importance to the deploy of the two main bodies sent by Grant from the other side of the Potomac, but at the same time considers that the agitation now prevalent in the West is serious; it sees in these secession projects a further proof of the discontent which pervades the Western States, and is of opinion that the partisans of the new Confederation will not meet with those obstacles which Aaron Burr encountered when, fifty years ago, he meditated the same scheme.

M. Aucaigne, the editor of the American portion of the *Patrie*, in a special article on the North-Western Confederation, without placing implicit faith in the statements put forth by the New York journals relative to this subject, shows that the formation of this Confederation may be regarded as probable. He writes as follows:—

After the many proofs of the discontent existing in the West which have been so frequently given during the past two years by the organs of the various parties in America—after the still more convincing proofs which the populations themselves have given in their connection with the administration of Mr. Lincoln the speedy realisation of these Confederation projects cannot be regarded as a Utopia: and even supposing that this realisation should, owing to events, be for a time delayed, the Confederation of the North-West will nevertheless one day exist. Its creation is in the nature of things; it is rendered necessary by the configuration of the soil, and especially by the prodigious development of these young States, so separated by distance from Washington, the despotic orders coming thence they would not at all times obey.

The *Patrie* thus calls attention to the progress of the peace party in the North, and to the strange pretensions which the *New York Herald* attributes to the Cabinet of Washington relative to the seamen belonging to the *Alabama* who were rescued by the *Deerhound*. It stigmatises these pretensions, and rejects altogether the idea that they would be listened to in England. Its language on this subject is very firm:—

The men belonging to the crew of the *Alabama*, now in England, are indebted to a fortunate circumstance, which prevented them from falling into the hands of their enemies. Whether the assistance rendered them by the *Deerhound* was fortuitous or contemplated, it is not the less true that in placing their feet upon the deck of a neutral vessel they have escaped from their pursuer, the *Kearsarge*. The English Government cannot, therefore, regard as prisoners the victims of a sea-fight who have solicited hospitality at its hands: and all the laws of humanity prevent the demand made by the Cabinet of Washington not only from being granted, but even listened to.

With respect to the movement which has taken place in the North in favour of peace, the *Patrie* thinks it may lead to the combination of two distinct and independent confederations, ruled, each of them, by a separate Government, but closely united in their foreign and commercial policy. In this manner, for the whole world, the American Union would remain firm and indivisible; its internal policy alone would be subject to change. Should this admirable plan be realised, I doubt if Europe and Mexico will find their interests promoted by it.

M. Eugène Chatard, who discusses American matters in the *Presse*, has devoted a long article to a general estimate of the present state of things in America. This estimate is not favourable to the Federals; he expresses himself severely towards the North, 'which has squandered its immense resources, both in men and in money,' for Grant, 'whose immobility before Petersburg displayed great weakness,' and for Mr. Lincoln also, whose reply to Messrs. Clay and Holcombe 'is very haughty for a Government chief who is threatened even at the very gates of his capital, and ready to embark in order to find a refuge under shelter of the invasion. If the South,' says M. Chatard, 'had been guilty of a quarter part of the faults committed by the North, its cause would have been lost long since.'

This article in the *Presse* is very impartial, although it contains some errors prejudicial to the South. But although M. Chatard may at times show himself somewhat unjust towards the Confederates, I am confident that he does not do so intentionally. His articles have throughout a loyal tone, and it is evident that he is neither himself deceived, nor seeks to deceive others. This good faith is all the more praiseworthy, as M. Chatard is the only writer of the liberal press who has given proof of it. I feel convinced that his opinions will gradually become rectified, and that, discovering his mistake, he will end by awarding justice to the South, which, however, has never found in him a severe judge.

Some time since the *Gazette de Cologne* exposed the seductive proceedings and manœuvres practised by the Federal recruiters to enlist poor Belgian and German artisans into the service of the Union. To-day a London correspondent relates to the *Pays* the manner in which this ignoble traffic in human flesh for cannon uses is carried on with the poor Irish, who are led to confide in the fine promises made to them by Federal sharpers. You are aware of these culpable manœuvres, you know how that these simple honest children of Erin are persuaded that they are being engaged as labourers, with the promise of excellent wages, and how when they land on the soil of the best of republics, they are at once seized and enrolled by force in the army of the glorious Union; it is therefore unnecessary to revert here to details which would not be credited were they not attested by official documents.

The *Pays* severely censures the proceedings of the Northerners towards Irish emigrants. 'Such,' it says, 'is this white-slave trade carried on by these false philanthropists, who make a great deal of noise about their pretended crusade against slavery.'

The *Globe* has published a long article, under the signature of Mr. W. Duckett, in reference to the operations of Grant before Petersburg. 'It is difficult,' says this journal, 'to understand the harmony of General Grant's plans; to-day he seems desirous to raise the siege of Petersburg—the next day he returns to it. At the commencement of the campaign he had 175,000 men. He ought to have performed wonders; but what has become of his army? It has succeeded neither in reaching Richmond, nor in taking Petersburg, nor in defending Maryland against the invasion by the Confederates. Weeks and months pass away without effecting any change for the Federals, who decree draft after draft of men, and loan upon loan. The possibility of the North succeeding in reducing the South diminishes daily, and public opinion is more than ever disposed to declare itself in favour of a compromise.'

This article by Mr. Duckett, who has already contributed several to the *Globe* on the American question, is written in a remarkable manner, and gives proof that its author is intimately acquainted with the subject on which he treats.

I find that I omitted, in my last review of the Parisian press, to acquaint you of an excellent article by M. H. Marie-Martin, which appeared in the *Constitutionnel* of Friday last. It is all the more important that this article should not be passed over in silence, as its author is one of those rare French journalists who have made American policy their special study, and who are consequently the best acquainted with the spirit of Federal institutions. M. Martin examines the situation of the North in a triple point of view—its military resources, its finances, and its moral condition. He shows that military enthusiasm has become extinguished, that the new secretary of finance finds a difficulty in effecting a loan, and that public opinion is evidently in favour of peace. This time M. Martin seems perfectly to understand on what conditions, logical and legitimate, peace may be proposed to the South. He does not hesitate to condemn severely the reply made by Mr. Lincoln to Messrs. Clay and Holcombe—a reply in which the President affects to regard the Southern States as conquered provinces.

The following are his words:—

Thus, with respect to slavery, Mr. Lincoln maintains the validity of his abolitionist decrees, whereas in all times, and by constitutional right, this question has been reserved to the sole jurisdiction of the States. To ask the Southern States to acknowledge this encroachment by the Federal Power is indeed to ask them to abdicate their political autonomy; it is also beyond the limits of the special question of slavery to make a pretension which would tend to nothing less than the substitution for the ancient Federal compact of the new system of a republic, one, indivisible, and centralising; it is, in a word, to aim at a veritable revolution. One may understand how it happened that when the people of the South were informed of these conditions of Mr. Lincoln, they replied that the generation which would accept them was not yet born.

I have directed your attention to this article not simply because it is favourable to the South, but because it shows how intimately the writer is acquainted with his subject. Besides, I may say that I have never yet met with any one well versed in the knowledge of American institutions that has ever shown himself hostile to the South.

The liberal journals have spared us a little this week. The *Opinion Nationale* has announced, as it is in the habit of doing, that it was all over with Atlanta, Richmond, and Lee's army; but it has made this announcement so often that it is no longer believed by any one.

The *Courrier du Dimanche*, an excellent journal, which we regret to count among our opponents, has commenced the publication of a series of letters from America, to which the editor directs attention. The first of these letters is well written, but displays great ignorance of American policy. For example, one reads in it, among other things, that the Democratic party is the Aristocratic party. You may judge from this substantial error how many others may be found in matters of detail. Moreover, the author of this letter seems to be opposed to everything American.

The *Journal Politique de la Semaine*, the last born of the three popular journals of M. Millaud, has availed itself of the assistance of M. Edouard Gaulhiac to treat the American question. M. Gaulhiac was formerly connected with the *Constitutionnel*, to which journal some excellent articles on America have been contributed by him. He is a partisan of the South, as devoted as he is intelligent. I am told, however, that the *Journal Politique* intends to defend the Federal cause, but of this I have great doubt; surely M. Gaulhiac would not undertake so ungrateful a task.

A surgeon belonging to the French navy, M. Dufour, has published, in the *Archives de Médecine Navale*, a curious memoir on the state of the wounded brought into the hospital at Cherbourg after the fight between the *Alabama* and the *Kearsarge*. They were fifteen in number; one only has died, and all the rest, with the exception of

two who are in a dangerous state, are in a fair way of recovery. M. Dufour informs us that their wounds were caused for the most part, not by the projectiles themselves, but by the fragments and splinters of wood carried away by them. He remarks on this subject that since solid shot has been abandoned in favour of shells, which break into fragments travelling at an amazing rapidity and spreading in their flight both wounds and death, naval engagements are assuming a more murderous character. It is a mistake, says M. Dufour, to think that the wooden armour of the keel can protect the crew from the fragments thrown from a battery; although the projectiles may not bruise the iron plates, still at the place which they touch they strike off splinters of this wooden wall, which are propelled to a long distance and with great force.

CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Manchester: August 17, 1864.

Last evening a large gathering of the gentry, merchants, manufacturers, public officials, and other inhabitants of Oldham was held in the principal hotel in that town, for the purpose of commemorating at a public dinner the 'glorious successes' achieved by the Confederates 'in the present most eventful and decisive campaign.' Covers were laid for 150. It is unnecessary to observe that on this, as on all similar occasions, the speeches were distinguished by all that warmth of feeling and undisguised admiration for which Oldham has long since been remarkable as the most 'Southern' town in Lancashire. The chair was taken by Robert Harrop, Esq. Among those present were Mr. Councillor Crompton, J. Whittaker, Esq., J. Holroyd, Esq., Lewis Harrop, Esq., J. Chadwick, Esq., H. Helliwell, Esq., &c., &c. Many influential gentlemen connected with the Central Association in Manchester were present by special invitation, as also were the zealous and able secretaries of that Institution, Mr. T. B. Kershaw and Mr. J. Parker.

The list of toasts was as follows:—

1. Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen.
2. The Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family.
3. The Army, Navy, and Volunteers.
4. The Borough Members, Messrs. Cobbett and Hibbert.
5. The Mayor and Corporation.
6. The Town and Trade of Oldham.
7. President Jefferson Davis and the Confederate Cabinet—may their efforts be as triumphant as we desire, and may the success that attends them be worthy of the noblest cause in which statesmen can be engaged.
8. To the memory of the lamented and immortal General 'Stonewall' Jackson—type and mirror of the patriot, the soldier and the Christian.
9. General Lee and his illustrious companions in arms.
10. The friends of Southern Independence in England and throughout the civilised world.

Mr. J. Whittaker, in proposing the toast of the Volunteers, elicited the most enthusiastic cheering when he hoped that, if need were, they would imitate the noble volunteers of the South, who were offering themselves as an example for all time, in the spirit in which men ought to fight for home, independence, and liberty. 'We too,' he added, 'are in our way good volunteers—volunteers in wishing to-night God speed to the Confederate cause.'

The toast of 'President Davis and the Confederate Cabinet' was given from the chair in a speech marked by good sense, good taste, and the profoundest admiration and respect. In the course of his remarks, the speaker brought forward an array of facts, from which he contended that, in all essentials of internal welfare and in all the requisites for carrying on the war, the South were stronger to-day than they were twelve months ago, while their spirit of resistance would only become more indomitable the longer the struggle was forced upon them. On the other hand, the North were reaching the last stage of weakness, and they would ultimately have to give up the contest, rent and torn in their reputation as well as in their material condition.

Mr. T. B. Kershaw was called upon to speak to the same toast, and his appearance was welcomed with great cheering. He delivered an eloquent speech upon the progress of the campaign, and saw a hopeful prospect for the South in the present condition of affairs. Adverting to the news brought by the *Europa*, he spoke in a feeling manner of the fearful loss of life attending Grant's last attack upon Petersburg, and asked how many more hecatombs of slaughtered husbands, fathers, and sons would be required before the Powers of Europe gave way to the dictates of humanity. He contrasted the Northern and Southern armies, and the mode in which they were severally handled. To General Lee the lives of his soldiers seemed as dear as they were inexpressibly precious to those beloved ones for whose sake they were risked; while to General Grant—emphatically 'the butcher'—his hordes of hirelings and negroes were objects neither of care nor pity, but were hurled by him in masses where nothing awaited them but sure destruction, without the possibility of their slaughter yielding the slightest military advantage. In illustration of this contrast, the speaker cited many conspicuous incidents during the progress of the campaign, concluding with a picture of the terrible havoc recently committed before Petersburg. He then passed on to consider the unfair 'neutrality' practised by our Government in its dealings with both belligerents, and congratulated the people of Oldham and the other manufacturing districts upon the wholesome check which had recently been put upon 'Federal emigration' from this country, chiefly through the instrumentality of Lord Edward Howard's speech in Parliament. Copies of that address, he said, were now being issued in vast numbers, and the circulation of them would be continued by the Southern Independence Association, until the warning of Lord Howard had made itself heard in every hamlet in the north of England.

Mr. Kershaw then referred at some length to the financial difficulties of the North, their protective policy, and the advantages the world would receive by a system of free trade with the South. The end, he hoped, was not far off, and when peace was restored the people of Oldham might look back with pleasure upon the many demonstrations they had made of their sympathy with a righteous and a winning cause.

Many other speeches were made, one by a Mr. William Noble, a warehouseman, which, on account of its natural eloquence and feeling, was received with more than usual enthusiasm.

The proceedings terminated with the customary compliments to the esteemed chairman, and three ringing cheers for the speedy recognition of the Confederate States.

An article startling for its impudence, but in some respects peculiarly interesting to us just now, has been reprinted from the *New York Times*, in which we are gravely informed that a more highly organised system of 'Federal emigration' than that which previously prevailed is about to be practised in Lancashire. The writer contends that the introduction of the system would be superfluous in Ireland—meaning, I suppose, that Irish recruits can be obtained without it—and adds:—

The place, we presume, where the Commissioner's agents would find their enterprise most workable—where, too, they would find a superabundant population—where they would encounter a tolerably industrious class whose pledge of labour might be reckoned on being redeemed with moderate certainty, is the great manufacturing districts of West York and Lancashire in England. Everything there, for the time at least, would in a measure conspire favourably for regular subvention agencies. And General Bowen, we believe, might wisely give his system its first trial there, and feel his way carefully towards its introduction elsewhere.

Recent events in Virginia have exercised a considerable influence upon our markets. In its City article of this morning the *Guardian* has the following:—

We learn from not a few sellers that the cautious feeling among the buying classes is manifestly growing stronger, and that without reference to the money market. There is among them a keener sense of danger from the high range of prices, heightened by a vague apprehension, which is again creeping over them, that the American civil war may soon be ended by signal failure on the side of the North.

AN ITALIAN WITNESS.

To the Editor of The Index.

Turin: August 13, 1864.

Sir,—One of the few Italians who, seduced by the rose-coloured visions of glory and gain, left their peaceful homes to offer their swords to the Federal Government, has recently written to his friends here; and the letter, coming as it does from an impartial source, and from a man of considerable military capacity, cannot, I think, fail to interest your readers. The writer, who is from a small provincial town of Piedmont, went to the Federal States about two years ago, and through his introductions and abilities speedily obtained the command of a cavalry regiment. He fought with M'Clellan in his Virginian campaign, and was made prisoner by the Confederates in one of the bloody battles round Richmond, in which condition, owing to the cruel obstinacy of the Federal Government, he remained eighteen months. When at length exchanged, he returned to his command, and has been through the whole of Grant's frightful campaign. The letter has been published in the *Vessillo Italiano* of Vevielli, and I send you a literal translation of the most interesting portion of it:—

Camp near Petersburg, July 14, 1864.

Our prospects before Petersburg are not promising, and I do not believe that General Grant is the man whose sword will cut the Gordian knot. We are as far from taking Richmond now, as M'Clellan was in 1861; nay, we are even farther, for in our present position south of the James River, it is necessary to capture Petersburg before we can even commence the siege of Richmond. I think M'Clellan must soon be recalled to the supreme command. He is the only general worthy of the name in the Federal armies. Since the opening of the present campaign Grant has lost above 143,000 men. I have myself lost 700 out of 5,000, and of course, as the principal work has been in storming entrenched camps, the cavalry has been comparatively little engaged. The Confederates have great advantages over us, and their losses are far below ours. The reason is obvious. They are acting on the defensive, and we on the offensive. They are everywhere protected by breastworks, and we have to storm them. Usually we lose 60 per cent. more than they in our efforts to dislodge them from their positions; and many a time we are compelled, as at Spottsylvania, to give up the idea of storming, and have recourse to flanking operations.

Meantime the American horizon becomes more threatening every day, and Lincoln has appointed August 8 as a day of general fasting and prayer throughout the Republic. I am not aware whether we shall fast here in camp, but I know there is not one good citizen who fails to send up a fervid prayer to God every day that this horrible scourge may cease at once. It appears to me that the most meritorious work that each of us foreigners could perform, and the most acceptable to the Almighty, would be to quit the army and return to his own country. Let all the foreign element now serving under the stars and stripes abandon the contest, and no one will remain to carry on Lincoln's 'pegging away' system but a few officers and Northern niggers. . . . . L. P.

The Italian press, with few exceptions, believes that the South cannot be conquered, and that she has earned her independence from Yankee thraldom as no other people on the face of the earth ever before earned its freedom. Yours, &c. F. M.

Suggestive.—Thirty-seven dollars in gold will buy a Federal bond of one hundred dollars on State Street. It takes seventy-five dollars in gold to buy a Confederate bond of the same amount in London.—*Boston Courier.*

LETTERS FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York: August 2, 1864.

THE ASSAULT ON PETERSBURG—THE NORTH REGARDS THE CAMPAIGN AS OVER—THE NEWS FROM SHERMAN'S ARMY—THE INVASION OF PENNSYLVANIA—THE BURNING OF CHAMBERSBURG.

This steamer will bring you glorious tidings for the Confederates. All around the horizon is bright for them, and the whole North is gloomy and despondent. Yesterday, when I was finishing another letter for you, the city journals were buoyant with glad tidings of a brilliant achievement by Grant before Petersburg. He had succeeded in deceiving General Lee by his strategy into drawing off a large part of his army from the front, had blown up a mine under the rebel works, and, pushing through the breach, was in possession of the outer lines, and sure of soon entering and seizing the conquered city. The number of days was counted with exultation, and it was fixed by infallible calculations that eight days was the extremest time to be allowed before Petersburg should be captured; and then—ho, hurrah! for Richmond. But a few hours told a different tale. The mine was sprung and the assault made, and has been repulsed—even according to Federal accounts—with terrible slaughter. The Confederates were found so strongly entrenched in inner lines, and they rained such a storm of shells on the assailing troops, that the whole ground was recovered again, and the lines are this day where they were before the grand explosion which was expected to blow Petersburg in the air. The hopes of making any impression on the Confederate defences in that quarter are given up, and Grant has gone to Fortress Monroe to hold a consultation with the President on the gloomy state of affairs.

The campaign against Richmond is now acknowledged to be a total failure. There is not the least idea that it can be renewed without a new army, and where is that to come from, and when can it possibly be ready? If Grant can maintain himself where he is, it is more than is expected by some of those who have been the most steadfast of the supporters of the Government and the most sanguine advocates of war. Indeed, under the new aspect of affairs, it is made highly probable that the army of the Potomac will be wanted for the defence of Washington City, and there is a call now among the timid in Maryland and Pennsylvania for so much protection as only this army can give. Secure in the admitted impregnability of Richmond, and knowing how terribly the army of Grant has been wasted away in his successive attempts to carry formidable entrenchments by the reckless and useless sacrifice of the lives of his soldiers, Lee is thought to be master of the position, and to be able with security to invade Pennsylvania and even attack Washington with a formidable army. The panic-struck Administration is as likely as not to order the remains of Grant's army back to the Potomac for the protection of the capital. The genius of Lee and Beauregard, and the heroism of their soldiery, have baffled finally the whole Virginian campaign of General Grant, and there is a despairing thought among the most stubborn war partisans to-day that it will be impossible to get together another army, to try another campaign, with any chance of victory over such men as guard the approaches to the Confederate capital.

The news from Atlanta is more vague, but is still cheering. All the tales of the capture of Atlanta, or any part of Atlanta, are exploded as mere inventions. Sherman received a severe check on the 22nd, and if Confederate accounts are true, and they mostly are, another on the 27th; and instead of a certain grasp on Atlanta, it is by no means clear that he is not in a position where, with the assistance Lee is able to send, and the long-expected cooperation in the rear, Hood may hold the army of Sherman at mercy before many days.

At these two great points of struggle all is well with the Confederates. Victory smiles on their banner, and along the border of Pennsylvania, and in Maryland, and about the very capital of the Federals, Confederate troops range with such audacity that the Federal authorities seem to be paralysed with the doubt whether they have only to deal with daring raiders, or must prepare for a formidable invasion in force, which the Confederate general is free to organise if it suits the policy of his Government. To-day confusion, doubt, and alarm reign all through the North. Opportunely for this state of mind, Thursday the 4th (day after to-morrow) was appointed by the President, some time ago, as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer. The humiliation has come already.

Your exchanges will give you all the details received of this great Petersburg disaster, with the Federal confession of losses. They are, of course, largely understated, but the record is a fearful one. We have yet to receive the Confederate accounts by which to compare and correct it. The *Daily News*, which is not disposed to underrate the losses of the Federal armies, being engaged daily in denouncing the useless slaughterings of this wicked war, forming its estimate of the whole loss from those which are partially reported, makes it not less than 12,000. It is certainly 10,000.

While the North is covered with shame and humiliation, the Confederates have a right to rejoice, for with these signal and fruitful victories the day of their final triumph may be counted as approaching and near. It has been openly or silently conceded among large classes in the Northern States that the campaign of Grant ought to be the closing struggle of the war. The length, and greatness, and costliness of the preparations could not well be repeated. Languor and disgust have succeeded to military zeal. The finances of the Government have been strained to the utmost capacity, and without military success bankruptcy was fearfully apprehended. Civil liberty at home was nearly destroyed in the arbitrary effort of a set of reckless and lawless functionaries to make personal and party profit out of the public calamity; and it was very widely reasoned that the war must not be permitted beyond this campaign to be the pretext for requiring unlimited submission to tyranny. The failure of the campaign brings these questions up directly to be tested in the conduct of men. A new army must be had, new campaigns organised, immense expenditures incurred, and huge debt piled up upon debt, with the doubt whether the total collapse of the national credit may not make the attempt a miserable failure. There is the beginning again of another series of the same huge warlike enterprises which have cost the nation the flower of its youth and bulk of its accumulated capital, and loaded it with burdens under which it is staggering like a blind man, and defeat and failure have quenched spirit and deadened hope. These are considerations which force themselves into every man's thoughts at this crisis, and they will strengthen immensely the peace party which is now growing up with such rapidity into power in the North.

The late Confederate raid into Pennsylvania has been marked by one novel incident. The town of Chambersburg, in Pennsylvania, was burnt by the Confederates; and a pitiful story is

told of the destitution of the inhabitants of 265 houses said to have been consumed. It is a sad event, and I wish it had not been done; and I wish more that it had not had so many provocations. The line of march of Federal armies throughout the South can be tracked by the ashes of burnt towns, and the woods and swamps have been the refuge of numberless families whose rooftrees have been given to the flames by Federal wantonness. We are not made aware yet whether the burning of Chambersburg was an individual act of the commander of the party, or done under instructions from his Government. It is yet an unsettled question of policy with the Richmond authorities whether the highest sense of duty and self-protection does not require them to institute a system of specific retaliation for the destruction with which the whole territory of the South has been visited by Federal armies under the comprehensive doctrine of military right to, destroy everything in an enemy's country which can directly or indirectly contribute to the sustenance of soldiers or soldiers' families, and in the South every family is the family of some soldier. In such a system of fixed policy the destruction of Chambersburg might be included, while it is deplored, as a retaliation in kind for some one of the multitudinous burnings of Southern cities and the universal devastation of Southern homesteads. It would be a sad necessity; but for the sufferings and the horrors which might follow they are responsible to God and humanity who commenced the practice, and who reward and honour the authors. It is pitiful whining to hear these same persons denouncing the barbarity which destroyed Chambersburg, and making heroes of the vulgar ruffians who but lately left scarcely a rooftree standing in the Sherman raid upon Mississippi and the Hunter raid into Virginia.

There is a pretended interest among the Republicans now to recall General M'Clellan to command, and charge him with the defence of some important position. It is not done in kindness, or in hope that he can do any good, but to embarrass him with the conduct of affairs that are becoming desperate. They hate him with an intensity which really does him good with a large part of the public, who are predisposed to think that what they hate is therefore to be loved.

The star of Grant has gone down. His failure is so complete, his military blunderings have been so huge and disastrous, and the consequences are so alarming, that either he or the President, whose subordinate he is, will be called to severe account for the enormous means they have wasted and the countless lives they have thrown away. A struggle begins to show itself between their several parties of supporters to throw off the blame upon each other.

New York: August 1, 1864.

NEGRO RECRUITS—THE CONSCRIPTION—DEMOCRATIC DELUSIONS—THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION—THE VIEWS OF THE WAR DEMOCRATS — THEIR FALLACY — THE SOUTH WILL NOT COMPROMISE HER INDEPENDENCE—THE VIEWS OF THE PEACE PARTY — THE ALLEGED NORTH-WESTERN CONSPIRACY — THE WEST AND THE EAST—THE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY.

About a year ago one of the political fanatics who preach the gospel of blood from the pulpits of this city, proclaimed that the 'despised negro' was to be, at last, the saviour of this Government. The war could be only carried on to victory by the armed help of the slave. He was answered with a howl of derision. Twenty millions of people—so they reckoned the numbers—could subdue five or six millions, disordered, divided, and destitute, without calling for aid on three or four millions of serviles. It was a libel on their manhood and patriotism to say that the spirit and intelligence of the country could not maintain the authority of a 'beneficent' Government without enlisting on their side the brute instincts of an inferior race, suddenly freed from restraint, and stimulated to think they had terrible wrongs to avenge by domestic treason. It was indignantly averred by the strongest friends of Government that the avowal of such a need was a libel on the national cause, and it was said by the Opposition party that whenever such a necessity should be admitted it would amount to a confession that the war ought to be stopped, for a cause which can only sustain itself by such agencies is treacherous to republican liberty and an outrage on humanity.

The preacher was a prophet. To-day it is the fixed policy of the Government to subdue the insurrectionary States by armies of slaves raised within their own borders, and the Northern people, without distinction of party, are bidding against each other in the competition to get these negro recruits, with which to fill up the respective State quotas in the new levy for troops, for which white men can no longer be obtained.

The conscription law passed by the late Congress repeals the commutation clause of the former Act, by which exemption from service under a draft could be purchased by paying the Government $300. The Secretary of War urged the repeal on the ground of the popular repugnance to the service. When men were allowed to escape by a payment of money, the rich bought themselves off, and communities bought off the poor, to that extent, that when the Government wanted men most it only got money. But Eastern States under the lead of Massachusetts, holding the balance in Congress between the Administration and the Opposition, would not permit the commutation to be repealed without an equivalent by which money could still buy release for their own people from bodily service, and demanded an amendment by which loyal States were permitted to raise recruits in the insurrectionary States, and have them credited by the United States to the State by whose agents they were raised. They were indulged, and the Bill was passed in that form against the votes of the Democrats. There is, therefore, authority by law for every Northern State, when called upon for troops, to relieve her own citizens by making a recruiting ground among the slaves of the South. When it was voted for, the friends of the Government called the Bill a mere precautionary measure which would never be needed, for there was Grant's magnificent army on its triumphant march to Richmond, and the rebellion was to be crushed out completely within sixty days.

Now comes a fresh call for 500,000 more men, and there is the despairing answer from the North that it is impossible to supply them. The military spirit is utterly extinct. There is not only no zeal, but there is repugnance and disgust. In the words of Governor Parker, of New Jersey, there is 'the running to and fro of nearly the whole population, to seize upon any expedient to avoid personal military service.' With all the redundancy of greenbacks there is not money enough in the country to induce one-third of the required number to go into the field. A conscription will carry off such a proportion of the surviving able-bodied men as to distress its productive capacity, break up workshops, and leave fields untilled, and produce such suffering and discontent as to alarm politicians for party ascendency, and create a terror of tumult and riot, perhaps revolution. All parties, therefore, turn to the Southern field of recruiting for relief. The negroes have become, as it was triumphantly declared by their pulpit patrons that they would be, the hope and refuge of the North. Massachusetts, which demanded the policy, was first in the field, and her agents are already in their assigned districts all over the South, buying negro substitutes for Massachusetts soldiers. The other States are following as fast as they can. The negroes are reckoned as volunteers, and get the United States bounties as such. States and districts which want to buy exemption for their own people subscribe additional sums, and Government helps the negro-trading business by appropriating $300 for each recruited slave of a 'loyal' master, of which there may be now and then found one 'loyal' enough to claim the money. Even New York and New Jersey have gone into the negro business, although Governor Seymour and Governor Parker are on record in vehement opposition to the measure, as degrading and pernicious in itself, and an outrage upon the Southern States. The terms of the law of Congress authorise the State governors to appoint these recruiting agents, but do not impose the duty. Both governors object to the exercising of such a power, but both avoid the question, and take the benefit of the measure by permitting sub-districts to appoint their own agents, and furnishing simply an executive voucher for their appointment. This is fine casuistry with which to satisfy a tender conscience. The party to which these men belong are protesting before the world that it is an infamy and an outrage to continue the war for the purpose of abolishing slavery, and that forcible interference in the domestic institutions of any State is a usurpation of constitutional powers which would justify revolution. At the same moment they lend their official aid, under feeble protest of sentimental dissent, to organise servile insurrection by arming the slaves against their masters.

I do not think so meanly of human nature as to believe that Governor Seymour and Governor Parker, and the men of their class, whose convictions are strong against the whole war policy of the Administration, do not feel profoundly humiliated at the bondage in which they find themselves in being constrained, or in supposing themselves to be constrained, to give their official and personal support to measures which they abhor. It is painful to read the extenuations with which they attempt to excuse themselves for their constrained connivance at the worst acts of Government as political necessity they could not control, and plead and promise that those are the very crimes for which they expect to drive the present Administration from power, and replace it with one which will undo them all, and reanimate the country with a war-policy of another sort. It is a pitiful delusion which scarcely imposes on themselves. There is an evident hurrying up of political events, and there are such plain developments of a deeply marked issue of opinion to be made at the coming election for President, that what is called the War Democracy will disappear from the canvass. Since the nominations at Baltimore and Cleveland, and more particularly since the late peace attempts at Niagara, it has become more and more evident, day by day, that popular disgust with the war is deepening at the North, and is so modifying the demands of leading men among the Radicals, that even they would seem to be content to compromise largely and promise largely to obtain a cessation of hostilities on any basis which secures a unity of government over the whole number of States, on terms which the South might be expected to be contented with politically.

The endorsement of the President's dogma, with which he closed the Niagara conference, by the declaration that the voluntary renunciation of slavery, with the guarantee of security from the armed authorities of the South, must precede his consent to debate any question of peace, has been but feebly supported by his own party. The peace men have profited immensely by the development of a purpose for the war which it is a usurpation of power in the President to entertain, and which makes success impossible and extinguishes the desire for success, because it would change the whole character of the Government into an intolerable despotism. The manifesto of the forty-odd members of the late Congress, which was so carefully guarded in its terms, to exclude the thought of consenting under any circumstances to a separation of the Union, is now accepted as a preliminary movement for the organising of an unconditional peace party and the demand for the nomination of a candidate for the Presidency at Chicago who will favour peace, and begins to be associated with the peremptory refusal in advance to support any candidate who by his record or his declarations is committed to the continuance of the war. Peace journals are speaking out strongly everywhere for peace candidates, and for separation in politics from all who advocate the continuance of war. Peace conventions having the same object in view are called in several States. That in New York is to be held on the 18th of this month, eleven days before the meeting of the Chicago Convention. The war Democrats will make a mighty struggle to circumvent these plans and get control of the Convention, and name candidates for a 'vigorous prosecution of the war' on constitutional principles, and their candidate is General M'Clellan.

His supporters believe, or affect to believe, and want others to believe, that with a new President who repudiates the constitutional heresies of Mr. Lincoln's party—who will recall emancipation proclamations, concede the indestructible existence of State sovereignties with full power over all their domestic institutions and concerns, slavery included—who will disband negro troops and rebuke and punish such lawless wretches as Butler, and Sherman, and Hunter—who will sternly discountenance the policy of proscription, confiscation, and vindictive punishment, and set the whole power of the Federal Government against eastern fanaticism and misrule—the Southern States would be contented to resume the same places in the Union which they have quitted, and trust themselves to the virtues of the Constitution and the magnanimity of the North, as they have known them before and have felt them since. If the South is impenetrable to these inducements, it is the M'Clellan theory that force must continue to be used, and will prove successful, for the South will be divided, and the North so strong and zealous that conscriptions will not be required to raise any amount of fighting men.

The basis of this M'Clellan theory is that the South is humbled to the point of seeking an excuse for submission, and will be glad to take shelter in his promises. The plea put forth to reconcile the North to the apparent surrender of its exactions is that with reunion the South is powerless for ever, except as an appendage to some Northern interest. The leading organ of M'Clellan in this city, the *World*, avows that the South has been so 'terribly chastised' for its attempt to get out of the Union, that if once got into the fold again it will never have the power to offer resistance to the will of the North. The South is approached with the seductive assurance that if these States will only come back they will be able to help the Democracy to a perpetual ascendency in the Government, and divide the gains of the dominion. It is not recalled that there used to be just such a combination; that when the time to test friendship came, the Northern poor Belgian and German artisan enough to go over to the enemy and [illegible]. To-day a London and that, in the final trial, the most fero[illegible] manner in which Northern party for subjugation and extermina[illegible]on uses is were but lately the chiefs of the Democracy, pledged as deeply as human honour could be pledged to the Southern views of constitutional rights under and before the Constitution.

These are the calculations of the War Democracy which offers M'Clellan to the Chicago Convention as the constitutional candidate for a restored Union, with a tender to the South, 'Take these terms, or expect war till you are thoroughly subjugated,' and the promise to the North, 'These will surely bring peace.' They are a series of fallacies or frauds, and will surely bring defeat and disappointment.

There is no evidence anywhere that the Southern States or any of them, or any body of Southern men, are willing to return to the Union, on any terms or under any circumstances. All the proof from their declarations and acts everywhere is the other way. The late attempts by Southern men at Niagara to open negotiations have been quoted by various factions to show that a desire for peace on terms of reunion emanated indirectly from the Confederate Government, and at least reflected its ideas; but there is nothing in the published correspondence, or the character of the men, or the ascertained inclinations of their Government, to support such a theory. It was the wild conjecture of Northern men, that, as their own Government has obstinately refused to listen to any peace overtures from the South except on terms of immediate submission to the authority of the Union, an offer of the South to debate terms must include the contemplation of such submission. But there are multitudes of reasons against that possibility—not the least of which, and quite sufficient, is the declaration of President Davis to a Federal agent but a few days previous, and by him repeated on his return north, that the South is not fighting for slavery, but for 'the right of self-government.' 'We are fighting for independence, and that or extermination we will have,' are the precise words which, I doubt not, represent the unanimous Southern resolve.

The Southern doctrine of self-government includes as the appointed means the positive sovereignty of the States antecedent to that of the United States and supreme in all powers not granted. When a Southern statesman talks of consenting to a conference for peace, on the basis of State sovereignty, in a possible convention of States, it must always be understood as referring to the original conditions of separate sovereignty among the deliberating States, with the independent right to accept or reject the final conclusions of the Convention as in the first Convention which made the present Constitution. This presumes, in fact, a dissolution of the present compact by consent, either as among all the States or as between the dissenting sections. This, too, is the virtual understanding of the genuine Peace men of the Northern States. When they propose an armistice and a Convention to deliberate on the terms of peace, they cannot mean that the Southern States are expected to disarm themselves in advance, and then go into a Convention where they are sure to be outvoted and held to submit to the hardest terms their enemies may impose.

The notion that the Southern people desire to take refuge in the Union under the Constitution again is simply preposterous. They had fixed ideas of the true construction of that Constitution, and were fatally overruled. They withdrew *en masse*, and expected to be permitted to go in peace, when they found the Constitution converted into an instrument for oppressing and degrading them, and put into the hands of faithless and rapacious men pledged to overthrow their most sacred rights. The war which followed exposed and expanded into gigantic proportions the lurking capacity for tyranny which they had discovered and sought to escape from; and nearly four years of cruel invasion has shown them, in the lurid glare of blazing cities and blasted fields, to what barbarous extremities of wrath and revenge the lust for dominion and plunder can carry the passions of an exasperated majority when they become mad enough to discard constitutional restraints. To consent to go back into political fraternity with the same generation of men, with no better security than the unauthorised undertakings of an accidental majority, which, by its surrender of its own civil liberties at the footstool of usurped power, has shown itself impotent for manly persistence in the right against the frowns of a tyrant or the acclamations of a mob, would be a baseness of cowardice of which such a people as they of the South have proved themselves to be ought to be taken, without protestation or enquiry, to be utterly incapable. The partisans of General M'Clellan weave a rope of sand when they count on the possible willingness of the Southern people to come back 'terribly chastised' to a contented dwelling under the black shadow of that triumphant despotism from which they sought to shelter themselves under State sovereignty, and against which they have been defending themselves amidst dreadful sufferings and with heroic endurance through so many glorious campaigns.

The great bulk of the Peace party in the North are not the dupes of such illusions, nor do I think they will consent to be made partners in the guilt of any connivance at the possible risk of carrying on this horrible war on such pretences, or on any pretences. The preponderating wish is for peace—peace without any condition—peace, if it be possible, with the new creation by consenting parties of States to a common government with the old Constitution if it can be purged of the heresies which, in the prosecution of this horrible war, have been fastened on it to destroy what was most valuable for the maintenance of a federal system of united republics; but peace, at all events, so that the great question may remain unprejudiced by further embittering conflicts, for other generations to reconstruct, with mighty throes, the fabric of Union which this has wantonly destroyed. I will not fill your columns with the ominous signs in public journals, the sayings of public men, and the spontaneous action of the people at public meetings, of the reaction which is going on against the war and of the struggles in the popular mind and will to break through all the trammels of party obligation and official dictation to get at the means for closing the war as soon as possible. They are many and convincing. How they will be worked up into combined and successful action is a problem which depends for solution upon events, some great event of the war, or some sudden collapse in the public finances, both of which are apparently very near. The overwhelming public disaster is the best hope for the breakdown of the men and the system which have, in the short space of three years, brought a great and prosperous nation to ruin.

The Administration has been trying to get up a diversion of public feeling in its favour by the pretended discovery of a great conspiracy in the North-west for breaking up the Union and erecting a North-western Confederacy on its ruins. The Provost-Marshal-General in Missouri is reported to have been engaged for months in search of the proofs of the plot, and, having suc-

two who are in a dangerous st[illegible] recovery. M. Dufour inform[illegible]mber of Western citizens of caused for the most [illegible] detailed description to be published selves, but by the [illegible]vered. It is charged that a combination away by [illegible] through the whole North and West, for the separation of the West from the East. The name of the association is 'Order of American Knights.' The number of sworn members, organised in sub-circles in various States, is put at 500,000 men, of whom 150,000 are organised and armed for military purposes. It is in concert with a similar Order in the South. General Sterling Price is the Grand Commander in the South, and C. C. Vallandigham of Ohio Grand Commander of the North. Vallandigham is a member of the Chicago Convention, and the grand *émeute* was to be organised there by declaring the existing Administration a usurpation to be overthrown by force. This 'tale of a tub' is carried out into the minute details of the organisation, with the names of the chief conspirators in various parts of the United States. It is, of course, a ridiculous exaggeration in all of it that is true, and a monstrous lie in every part which has the pretended consistency of a plot. It is shrewdly said by discreet friends of the Administration, that if there be any substance in the story if there be so many men, or half so many men, in the Northern States, affiliated together through so many States for the overthrow of the Union by violence from such a deep-seated enmity to the East on the part of the West it is time to give up the war on the South and prepare for civil war or further dissolution at the North. Disunion has become a chronic disease of the whole system, and it is better to give up the struggle now than to go on maintaining it hopelessly. There is, doubtless, thus much of truth in the story, that there is deep feeling throughout the North-west, deepening every day with the experience of the war and perception of its true character and consequences, against the sordid public men and selfish public policy of New England. This feeling takes the expression sometimes of a bitter determination to resist, at all costs, the domination which New England has contrived to establish over the general Government through the means of a war, which her aggressive intolerance created, and through which, while all the rest of the country languishes in pain and is impoverished, she grows rich. It is, doubtless, often said, that if the war closes with the loss of the Southern States, the natural customers and friends of the West, the people of the West may no longer feel themselves bound to a Union in which New England has a predominance so vastly greater than her territory or her population would entitle her to in a redistribution of power, and the West would find it expedient to cut loose from that connection. Possibly there may be societies organised, and perhaps affiliated with each other, of which the bond of union is a common repugnance to New England, and a concerted effort to cut down her power or throw her off altogether, if, in consequence of her machinations, the West loses its old support in the South. This feeling, this purpose, and these possible associations are among the elements which the adversaries of the Administration count upon for success in overthrowing the New England policy, which has dominated for three years over the country at such cost. They will operate through the legitimate channels of an election, if a lawful election is permitted by the men in power; if otherwise, the Western people will, in all probability, take another course by which to right themselves. If this makes the 'plot,' the Administration has good cause for alarm; but to repress it by such absurd canards about organised revolution is a piece of foolishness of which it will be ashamed as soon as it discovers how ridiculous they make it.

The new Secretary of the Treasury has done nothing to reinstate the public finances, and has abandoned the idea of having any fixed policy until military affairs look better. When he came to the city, shortly after his appointment, to raise a loan, he told the banks very frankly, at a conference that he had with the bank officers, 'that if Richmond were in our possession, and the military situation such that we could see our way clear, it would not be so difficult to provide for the future; but in view of the present condition of military affairs, it became necessary to depend greatly upon makeshifts and temporary expedients. He frankly admitted that he had at present no settled policy.' It is very seriously agitated among business men and dealers of all kinds whether the disorders of the currency do not require that contracts and sales should all be made in gold prices, and greenbacks be received in payment only at a price estimated in gold. This will be very difficult in the face of the legal tender law, but not so difficult that expedients cannot be devised to carry it into effect with great relief to trade. Conversations on the subject are frequent; but there is a hanging back from making a public agreement, from apprehensions of the fulminations of the political press against the 'disloyalty' of estimating the Government currency like that of broken banks.

EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES.—The following notice was lately issued by order of the Government Emigration Commissioners:—'Information for emigrants to the United States. . . . Do not trust to strangers, whose object in offering you assistance is probably either to entrap you into enlisting, or to gain your confidence for the purpose of defrauding you out of your money. Do not accept invitations from strangers to drink, and be especially careful not to get drunk, or in any way to lose the control over your own actions. Be very cautious as to the engagements you enter into for work. Remember that an American dollar is nominally equal to 4*s.* 2*d.* English money, and a cent is one halfpenny, but that under the present circumstances of the country they will not buy more than one-third as much of the necessaries of life as they would formerly buy.'

THE YANKEE SLAVE TRADE.—In almost every one of the recruiting and substitute brokers' offices, such conversation as the following is of daily occurrence:—'Gent.—What is the price of a likely young negro to-day? Broker.—From $550 to $600, according to the demand. Gent.—Could you furnish me with three or four sound negroes at any less price? Broker.—No, sir; there is a demand for all we have in Massachusetts, where we send those who can't pass examination, and where we get larger prices. Gent.—How soon could you fill an order for twenty or thirty negroes to fill the quota of our town at, say, $550 each? Broker.—We can't take orders ahead. The price is going up every day. We expect another carload to-morrow, or next day, and we will sell at the market price.' This talk savours of the slave mart; but it is repeated in Buffalo every day. White men bring, in some instances, from $50 to $100 more than negroes. One man paid $675 for a sound Canadian yesterday. The market is fluctuating, but the tendency is upwards.—*Buffalo Daily Courier.*

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

THE money market has gradually become easier the last two or three days. Instead of expecting a rise in the rate, the question now asked is, Will the directors of the Bank shortly lower their terms of accommodation? It is, however, scarcely believed that either event will for the present take place. No advance is just now probable, but at the same time it is not imagined that the weekly accounts have so improved as to stimulate the directors to return to 7 per cent. Large supplies of capital have recently found their way into the market, and have tended to cheapen the ordinary facilities; still we are not sufficiently strong in our bullion and note reserve to encourage a renewal of a drain. The Bank directors will act wisely if they keep the *minimum* at 8 per cent for the present, since they have a season of adversity to pass through, when the pressure will be greater than any yet experienced. New financial transactions are still talked of—one for Egypt and one for Spain, but the difficulty will be to get the money paid in any shape if they are deferred till a late period in the year. Next month and the month afterwards funds will have to be sent forward to Alexandria and India to pay for cotton and other produce. This will necessitate an abstraction of capital, but whether the arrivals from America and Australia will be adequate to supply the required amount cannot as yet be estimated. We are in the midst of critical times, but a little vigilance may enable us to pass through without any very extensive mischief. The discount establishments, if they are not hoarding, have so completely provided themselves that they are not likely to want resources, and they are also checking as much as they can any general extension of business. The lowest rates for first-class paper range from 7½ to 7¾, with a full supply. On the Stock Exchange the terms for short loans are 5 to 5½ per cent.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

There has been a considerable improvement in the state of the bullion market within the last few days. The late advance in the rate of discount has for the time completely put a stop to the drain of gold, and instead of there having been any withdrawals, specie is again finding its way into the Bank, the amount sent in during the week being 134,000*l.*; and it is anticipated that other large sums will follow, from the arrivals which may be shortly expected. The amount to hand this week has been 662,743*l.*, of which 42,635*l.* was from New York, 517,000*l.* from the West Indies, and 103,108*l.* from Australia. The bar silver brought by the last West Indian steamer has been sold at 61¼*d.* per oz., showing no alteration from previous rates. The market is, however, now slightly firmer. There is no change to notice in Mexican dollars, but the supply continues limited. The gold ships from Australia at present known to be on their way to this country are the *Wellesley*, with 23,734 oz., valued at 94,936*l.*; the *Norfolk*, with 7,825 oz., valued at 31,300*l.*; and the *Garrawalt*, with 28,153 oz., valued at 112,612*l.*—making a total of 238,848*l.*

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

A better tone has pervaded all the stock and share markets since it was announced on Thursday last, by the directors of the Bank of England, that there would not for the present be any further advance in the rate of discount. Although the improvement in prices in the English funds has not been to any great extent, the dealings have considerably increased, and the brokers are operating with much greater freedom than for some time past; but towards the close of business to-day there was a little weakness exhibited. Consols left off at 89¼ for money and 89⅝ for the account, which is an advance, as compared with last week, of ⅛ to ¼ per cent. Exchequer bills remain without alteration at 25*s.* to 15*s.* dis. There has been more buoyancy also in the Foreign Stock Market, but the dealers have been chiefly occupied with the arrangement of the account. Spanish stocks appear to have commanded most attention, and the advance has been about 1 per cent. Greek is up ⅜ per cent.; Turkish has also improved from ½ to ¾ per cent., but Mexican is unchanged. The closing quotations this evening were—Greek, 23½ to 24; Mexican, 28¾ to 29; Spanish Passives, 30½ to 30¾; ditto Certificates, 12¾ to 13; Turkish Six per Cents. of 1854, 90 to 91; and those of 1862, 69¾ to 70¼.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

Under continued good accounts from the States, the value of this security improves to-day. The nearest value is 78½ to 79. As will be seen from our advertising columns, the payment of the coupons, due September 1, and the half-yearly drawing of an amount equal to 2½ per cent. of the amount unredeemed by cotton, to be held on the same date, are announced by the agents to the contractors.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The market for American Government and railway securities continues not only very depressed, but almost entirely neglected, and the latest advices from America are little calculated either to stimulate business or enhance prices. The only transactions officially recorded during the week have been—Virginia State 6 per Cents. at 29; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, Pennsylvania section, 73; do. do., 2nd mortgage, 83; Erie, $100 shares, 40 and 39½; Illinois Central, $100 shares, $90 paid, 45, 44, and 45 dis.; and do. do., all paid, 52½.

LIVERPOOL, Wednesday, August 17.—In the early part of the week our cotton market was still unfavourably affected by the unsettled state of the money market; but subsequently a much quieter tone has prevailed, and a portion of the decline in prices has been regained. To-day there has again been a better business transacted, the advantage, if anything, being in favour of sellers. The sales this week have been 53,000 bales, of which 19,500 have been taken on speculation and for export. By the arrival of the China mail, we learn that a good demand for cotton had sprung up at Hong Kong, and a rise of $1·50 to $2 had been established. Japan staple was much enquired for, and the sales of the fortnight had been 10,000 bags China and 5,000 bags Japan. Four ships were loading, two for London and two for Liverpool. At Canton the sales for the fortnight had been 4,000 bags Shanghai, 2,500 Ningpo, and 1,500 Japan. At the same time the market was slightly advancing. At Shanghai some few transactions have taken place at slightly advanced rates. The total export from June 1, 1863, to May 31, 1864, was 88,595,480 lbs. At Yokohama the advices from England had caused a great demand, and rates tended upwards.

The Manchester markets within the last day or two have shown a slight improvement, in consequence of the easier state of the money market and the nature of the advices from India and China. For shipping yarns there has been more activity, and the buyers for all the markets have shown more disposition to operate, except those for India, and in some instances an advance of ½*d.* per lb. in prices has been established. In home-trade yarns there is also more doing, and prices have regained the position they held previous to the recent depression, the only signs of weakness being in yarns made from the commonest qualities of [illegible] cotton. The cloth market does not exhibit quite so much activity, and manufacturers show little disposition to anticipate their wants; nevertheless, there is a more cheerful feeling prevalent, and buyers are endeavouring more than of late to test prices, but manufacturers hold firmly to previous quotations. The only cases in which any weakness has been manifested is where stocks have begun to accumulate inconveniently. In such instances there have not been any transactions at actually lower prices, but if offers were made there is no doubt that rather lower rates would be accepted. The best prices are still obtained for shirtings and printers of good qualities, whilst long cloths, T cloths, and [illegible], not meeting with a demand at all proportionate to the present increased supply, are rather weaker. The last quotations were: 7/8 Grey Printers, from 8*s.* 9*d.* to 15*s.* 9*d.*, according to quality; 7/8 Grey Madapollams, 7*s.* 10½*d.* to 10*s.* 4½*d.*; 9/8 Grey Printers, 12*s.* 1½*d.* to 18*s.* 6*d.*; 9/8 Grey Shirtings, 15*s.* 3*d.* to 27*s.* 6*d.*; Water Twist, No. 20, 2*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* 10½*d.*; No. 30, 2*s.* 8*d.* to 3*s.* 2*d.*; No. 40, 3*s.* 1*d.* to 3*s.* 7*d.*; Mule Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 11*d.* to 2*s.* 9*d.*; No. 30, 2*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* 11*d.*; No. 40, 2*s.* 6½*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.*; No. 50, 2*s.* 11*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*; No. 60, 3*s.* to 3*s.* 8*d.*; No. 70, 3*s.* 2*d.* to 3*s.* 10*d.*; No. 80, 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.*; No. 90, 3*s.* 8*d.* to 4*s.* 2*d.*; and No. 100, 3*s.* 11*d.* to 4*s.* 9*d.*

A NOTE FOR PROFESSOR GOLDWIN SMITH'S SCRAP-BOOK.—We commend the subjoined to the zealous though not very discreet champion of the Federal cause who compares Yankee humanity and morals through the columns of the *Daily News*. The military assassination of ten men by order of the Federal General M'Neil, in retaliation for the supposed murder of a man who afterwards turned up alive, must be fresh in the recollection of our readers. The execution of the victims was intrusted to Colonel William S. Strachan, as Provost-Marshal-General of Missouri. Subsequent revelations disclosed a fact in this horrible tragedy, which heightened, if possible, its infamous character. The particulars were briefly stated in our columns on October 15, 186[illegible], page 385, upon Federal testimony. Quite recently this Strachan was tried before a court-martial, and among the many charges of which he was guilty is the following:—'Charge Tenth. Prostituting his official power and position to the accomplishment of base and grossly immoral ends.—Specification: In this, that he, William R. Strachan, while acting as Provost-Marshal-General of the Northern District of Missouri, at his office, in the city of Palmyra, Missouri, on or about October 20, A.D. 1862, did demand of Mary S. Humphrey, a resident of Lewis County, Mo., who was then and there present for the transaction of official business with him, the said Strachan, that she, the said Mary S. Humphrey, should have sexual intercourse with him, the said Strachan, and threatening and declaring, in the presence of her, the said Mary S. Humphrey, that in case she then and there refused to submit her chastity to his lust, that he, the said William R. Strachan, by virtue of his power and authority as Provost-Marshal, would cause her husband, William T. Humphrey, who was then a prisoner in the custody and control of said Strachan, at Palmyra, Missouri, to be killed and sent home to her a corpse, thereby and by reason of such threats, and by the scandalous, false, and wrongful use of his powers as Provost-Marshal, overcoming the will of the said Mary S. Humphrey, and then and there having adulterous and carnal knowledge of her, the said Mary S. Humphrey. This at Palmyra, Missouri, in the month of October, 1862.' The court-martial declared that he was guilty of this horrible crime, as well as others, yet General Rosecrans disapproved of the sentence, and ordered his release in these words:—'Proceedings, finding, and sentence disapproved. The Commission having acquitted the accused of the second charge, could not substitute another of a different class. The testimony in this case does not establish any malfeasance of the accused in the discharge of his official duties, or warrant any of the findings against him; it is in evidence, however, that he discharged with great energy and efficiency the duties of his office, at a time when those duties were laborious, difficult, and ill-defined. To the General commanding, the whole case presents rather the aspect of an attempt, on the part of personal and disloyal enemies, to crush an efficient officer, than of a desire to bring the guilty to punishment. The accused will be honourably released from arrest, under the direction of the Provost-Marshal-General.—By command of Major General Rosecrans.—O. D. Greene, Assistant Adjutant-General.'

A PRUDENT FORECAST.—If after this war there remain but two North American nations there will still be a danger of their consenting to bury their animosities in the prosecution of ambitious purposes, which may be highly inconvenient to us, and may involve the whole world in the wars of the American continent. That this apprehension is not altogether chimerical has been shown by what has transpired of certain negotiations a few weeks since, at Niagara. The self-constituted diplomatists, who would have arranged terms of peace and separation between the American nations, discussed a programme, which was put forward, we trust, without any authority from their respective Governments. A frontier line was to be drawn between North and South, but measures were to be at once taken with the view of swelling the territory of each section to dimensions equal to those of the old Union. The plan was simple. The armies of North and South being united, a million of men were to march northward and conquer Canada for the North. The victorious army would then move southward, and annex Mexico to the dominion of the cotton planters. The programme was unscrupulous and wicked, but who shall say that it was not feasible? If we have misrepresented the views of these precious negotiators, we shall be glad to be corrected. There is too much reason to believe that such propositions were seriously debated between Messrs. Clay and Greeley. As we are ill prepared to make head against a million of men on the American lakes; and as even the Emperor Napoleon will recoil from the thought of having to defend his newly-crowned brother against such a horde, the ventilation of this nefarious plot can have but one result in England and France. It makes us desire the utter ruin of the North. We rejoice to hear that Mr. Lincoln is becoming every day more unpopular; that a committee of Congress has denounced him; that governors of States and mayors of cities openly controvert his authority; that powerful secret societies are agitating against him; that discord is growing up between the States, New England being at variance with New York, New York with Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania with Illinois. We trust that the principle of secession, having taken root, will bear seed and multiply. With a dozen jealous principalities on the English frontier, the loyal Canadians will have no cause to fear American aggression. Mexico will be safe, and Europe will not be dragged into war.—*Morning Herald*, 17th inst.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SHIPS ARRIVED.

AT GRAVESEND.—August 12: The Teazer, from Jamaica. The Advance, from Havre. The Roug (steamer), from Havre.—August 13: The Montezuma (steamer), from Jamaica.—August 15: The City of Hamburgh (steamer), from Havre.

AT DEAL.—August 12: The Catharine Scott, for Rio Janeiro. The Sylph, from Barbadoes. The Sea Bride, from Cuba. The Rosara, from Barbadoes. The Appoline, from St. Thomas. The Pet, from Nassau. The Ostindia, for Rio Janeiro.—August 16: The Josephine, from Porto Rico.

AT PORTSMOUTH.—August 12: The Queen of the Clippers, from London, for Bermuda, to stop a leak.

AT LIVERPOOL.—August 12: The Little Dorrit, from Porto Rico. The Orion, from Nassau. The Nutfield, The Hayti (steamer), The Ann and Mary, from Bermuda, all with large cargoes of cotton, tobacco, &c. The Stromboli (steamer), from Havre.—August 15: The Simeon Hardy, from Barbadoes. The Lammergeir, from Miramichi. The Champion, from St. Lucia. The Clara Wheeler, from St. John's.—August 16: The Manuela, from Havana. The Devon, from St. John's.

AT CLYDE.—August 12: The Braziliera, from Havana. The Henry Woolley, from Cuba. The Mary Ann, from La Grande.—August 13: The Zircon, The Cardigan, from Havana.—August 16: The Florence Nightingale, from Havana.

OFF CALEDONIAN CANAL.—August 12: The Bernard, from Callao.

AT QUEENSTOWN.—August 12: The Mist, from St. John's. The Ceres, from Porto Rico.—August 13: The Clyde, from Montevideo. The Tiara, from Pernambuco.

AT CORK.—August 12: The Lizzie (steamer), from Glasgow, for Bermuda, has started a rivet below the water line, and has had to go into dock.

AT SHIELDS.—August 12: The Donna Maria, from Rio Janeiro.

AT KINGSTOWN.—August 12: The China, from St. John's.

AT INVERNESS.—August 12: The Due Sorelle, from Monte Video.

AT HULL.—August 11: The Preza, from Miramichi.

AT PLYMOUTH.—August 12: The Hiram, from Rio Janeiro.

AT PILL.—August 14: The Cuba Packet, from Cuba.

AT LIMERICK.—August 12: The Condor (steamer), from Clyde, and coaling for Bermuda.

AT PORTRUSH.—August 12: The Juno, from St. John's.

OFF SOUTH FORELAND.—August 13: The Poseidon, for Cuba.

AT WATERFORD.—August 12: The Cumberland, from Miramichi.

AT DARTMOUTH.—August 12: The Teaser, from West Indies.

AT NEWPORT.—August 12: The Panama, from Bristol, for St. Thomas. The Andromache, for Jamaica. The Trumbull, for Rio Janeiro. The Victorine, for Havana.—August 15: The Fort de France, for St. Thomas.

AT POOLE.—August 16: The Prince Eugene, from Newfoundland.

AT FALMOUTH.—August 12: The Hebe, from Callao. The British Tar, from Jamaica.—August 16: The Clara, from Bahia.—August 27: The Elizabeth, from Cuba.

AT BRISTOL.—August 12: The Maria, from Barbadoes.—August 13: The Cuba, from Havana.—August 16: The Italia, from St. John's.

AT SOUTHAMPTON.—August 12: The Seine (steamer), from St. Thomas.

OFF THE GREAT ORMS HEAD.—August 16: The Flora, from Liverpool, for Valparaiso.

AT NASSAU.—July 5: The Corsica (steamer), The Coquette (steamer), from Wilmington, with cotton, &c. The Jessie, The Lion, The Mary Harris, The Nancy, The Rebecca, The Sylvia.—July 8. The Lightning, The Marie Anne, The Emblim, The Esquimaux, The Flora.—July 11: The Nereid, The Resolution, The Sapphire, The Rosana.—July 12: The Governor Bayley (steamer).—July 14: The Twilight, The Eudolio, The Flying Eagle.—July 18: The Wild Pigeon, The Atlantic, The Olivia Frances, The Georgiana, The Kingston Packet.—July 20: The Ald, The Carbaritta, The Azenora, The Tweed, The Caroline Hagman, The Herald, The S. C. Parker.—July 21: The Corsica (steamer), The Lady Hobart.—July 22: The Stag (steamer), The G. T. Watson (steamer), The Explore.—July 23: The Amelia Ann.

AT BERMUDA.—July 28: The Dieppe (steamer).

AT WILMINGTON.—The Let Her Rip (steamer).

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, July 15.—The steamer Fox has succeeded in running into Charleston a second time, with a valuable assorted cargo. She is loaded with cotton, and has her steam up.

SHIPS SAILED.

LIVERPOOL.—August 12: The Ruth, for Matamoras. The William Graham, The Penelope, for Miramichi. The William Turner, for Valparaiso. The Queen of the Pirm, for Bermuda. The Jane Duncan, for Havana. The Balclutha, for Matanzas. The Anne Williams, for Cienfuegos. The Jessie Scott, the Isabella, for Bahia. The Parana (steamer), The Margaret, for Montevideo. The Onward, for Bermuda. The Berend, for Valparaiso. The Ann Gray, for Quebec.—August 13: The Portena, for Buenos Ayres. The Jane, for Quebec. The Ellen Sophia, for Demerara. The Nordsteirnin, for Rio Janeiro. The Elizabeth Martin, The Chimborazo, for Valparaiso. The Marcello, for St. Thomas. The Eastfield, for Lima.—August 14: The Ana, for Porto Rico. The Prairie Flower, for Halifax.—August 15: The Wellington, for Lima. The Balbec (steamer), for Havre.—August 16: The Manilla, for Miramichi. The Menzies, The Flora, The Elizabeth Hargrove, for Valparaiso. The Leopoldino Fraude, for Havana. The Falcon, for Ceara.—August 16: The Wilsons, for Nassau. The Lavinia, for St. John's.

DEAL.—August 11: The Elizabeth Brown, for Demerara.—August 13: The John Souchay, for Barbadoes.—August 16: The James Lamb, for Valparaiso.

GRAVESEND.—August 13: The Christopher, for St. John's.—August 16: The Stornoway, for Nova Scotia.

PORTSMOUTH.—August 15: The Queen of the Clippers, for Bermuda.

POOLE.—August 15: The Standley, for St. John's.

SALCOMBE.—August 14: The Rhoda, for Nassau.

PLYMOUTH.—August 12: The Delia, for Quebec.—August 16: The Belle of Devon, for Montevideo.

LIMERICK.—August 13: The Condor (steamer), for Bermuda.

FALMOUTH.—August 12: The Johann Frederick, for Pernambuco. The Amalia, for Rio Janeiro.

NEWPORT.—August 12: The Belles De Nuit, for St. Thomas.

CARDIFF.—August 12: The Peter and Lauritz, for St. Thomas. The Helena, for Matanzas. The Caroin, for Bermuda. The Snowdrop, for St. Michael's. The Caledonia, for Havana. The Arche d'Alliance, for St. Thomas. The Rendenlove, for Porto Rico.—August 13: The Henrick, for Teneriffe. The Arab, for Cuba.

TROON.—August 12: The Flying Fish, The Kotka, The Laura, for Demerara.

CLYDE.—August 11: The Conder (steamer), for Bermuda. The Adept, for Quebec. The Rio de la Plata (steamer), for River Plate.—August 15: The Cora, for Cuba. The St. Andrew (steamer), for St. John's.

PORTSMOUTH.—August 11: The Only Son, for Bermuda.

OFF THE START.—August 12: The Gambia, for St. Thomas.

RAMSGATE.—August 12: The Nuevo Bilbaino, for Havana.

NASSAU.—July 4: The Prince Albert (steamer), for St. John's. The Lygia, for Liverpool. The Bertha, for Bermuda. The Herald, for Cuba.—July 6: The Alice, with cotton, &c., for Liverpool. The Coquette (steamer), for Wilmington. The Little Ada (steamer), for St. John's.—July 8: The Jane Godfrey, for Havana. The Prospero, for Liverpool. The Monmouth, for Havana. The Violin, for Cuba. The Pet, with tobacco, &c., for London. The Nancy Mills, with cotton, &c., for New York.—July 12: The Annie (steamer), for St. John's.—July 13: The Eugenie, The Elizabeth, with cotton, &c., for Liverpool. The Esquimaux, for Halifax.—July 14: The Enos, with cotton, &c., for Liverpool.—July 16: The Flora, for St. John's.—July 21: The Lady Hobart, for Quebec. The Rebecca, for Havana.—July 22: The Captain Hathorn, for Liverpool. The Will-o'-the-Wisp, for St. John's. The Twilight, for St. Thomas.—July 23: The Governor Bayley (steamer), for New York. The G. T. Watson (steamer), for Havana. The Agnora, for Halifax.

BERMUDA.—July 28: The Helen (steamer), for Wilmington.

HALIFAX, N.S.—July 28: The Spanish Main, from Cuba. The Isaac Van Dyke, from Nassau.

MIRAMICHI.—July 25: The Superb, from West Indies.

SHIPS LOADING.

AT LONDON.—For New York: The Lafayette (mail steamer) from Havre, August 24; Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For West Indies: The Florida (mail steamer) from St. Nazaire, September 16: Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For Nassau: The Ionia, St. Katharine's Docks: J. Worley. The Cicerone, St. Katharine's Docks, Davison Brothers & Co.—For Bermuda: The Lady Milne, The Jane Smith, The Wanderer, The Kate.—For Havre: The Neptune (steamer), St. Katharine's Wharf, August 21: at 1 P.M., and 25th at 4 A.M. The Your Name, The Young Mary.

AT LIVERPOOL.—For Bermuda: The Mavrocordatos (steamer), August 20; H. Lafone. The Emily Agnes, August 20. The Harkaway, August 31: Peniston, Westhead, & Co. The Annandale, The Zygia, The Edwin and Lizzie.—For Madeira: The Macgregor Laird (steamer), The Garibaldi.—For Matamoras: The Oleander, The Gez Hillegonda, The Rimac, The Byron, The St. George, The Mary and Jessie.—For Nassau: The Majestic.

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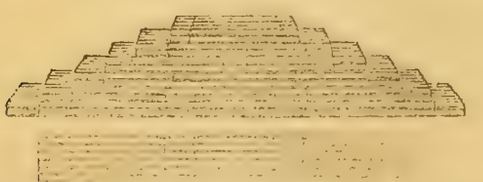

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THERE are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellow-men.

Contributions will be received by J. H. ASHBRIDGE, Treasurer, Walmer Buildings, Water Street, Liverpool; or in London, by HENRY HOLTZ, Esq., 17 Savile Row, W.; in Paris, by H. O. BREWER, Esq., 6 Rue Circulaire; and DANIEL HUBBARD, Esq., 24 Rue Lord Byron.

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BY AUTHORITY.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLECTORS OF CUSTOMS

Treasury Department, C.S.A.
Richmond, March 12, 1864.

The following regulations are prescribed for the government and directions of all officers of the revenue, to carry into effect the provisions of the Act to prohibit the importation of luxuries, or of articles not necessary or of common use, approved February 6, 1864.

1. The importation of articles set forth in the schedule accompanying these regulations is absolutely prohibited.

2. None of said prohibited articles shall be admitted for duty after the 1st of March, 1864, or shall receive a permit to be landed unless it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the collector that they were actually shipped on board of the vessel in which they have arrived before the 1st of March, 1864, without knowledge of the passage of the Act aforesaid.

3. In case any prohibited articles shall be on board any ship, vessel, boat, raft or carriage arriving in the Confederate States after said 1st of March, and shall be omitted in the manifest, report, or entry of the master or person having charge or command of such ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, or shall be omitted in the entry of the goods owned by the owner or consigned to the consignee of such articles, or shall be imported or landed without a permit, the said goods shall be seized and dealt with, and the vessel and parties shall be subjected to the same forfeitures, fines, and penalties as in cases of similar omissions, landing, importation, or attempt to land or import, in relation to articles liable to duties on their importation into the Confederate States.

4. In case any prohibited article shall, after the 1st of March, 1864, be imported into the Confederate States, or shall, after said date, be put on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, with the intention of importing the same into the Confederate States; all such articles shall be forfeited, and also all other articles on board the said ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, belonging to the owner of such prohibited articles; and, moreover, the owner thereof shall forfeit and pay double the value of the prohibited articles.

5. The following additional oath or affirmation shall be taken by each master or person having charge or command of any ship or vessel which shall arrive at any port of the Confederate States after the 1st of March, 1864, viz.: 'I further swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, on board (insert the denomination and name of the vessel) any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover or know of any such goods, wares, or merchandise, on board of the said vessel, or which shall have been imported in the same, I will immediately, and without delay, report the same to the collector of this district.'

6. Each importer, consignee, or agent shall at the time of entering any goods imported after the said 1st of March, 1864, take the follow additional oath, viz.: 'I also swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, amongst the said goods, wares, or merchandise, imported or consigned as aforesaid, any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover any such goods, wares, or merchandise, imported or consigned as aforesaid, I will immediately, and without delay, report the same to the collector of this district.

C. G. Memminger, Secretary of Treasury.

LIST OF ARTICLES, THE IMPORTATION OF WHICH IS PROHIBITED BY AN ACT OF CONGRESS, ENTITLED 'AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE IMPORTATION OF LUXURIES OR ARTICLES NOT NECESSARIES OR OF COMMON USE.' APPROVED FEBRUARY 6, 1864.

Absynthe.
Alabaster and spar ornaments.
Alabata.
Ale, beer, and porter.
Almonds, raisins, currants, dates, figs, and all other dried or preserved fruits.
Amber beads.
Anchovies, sardines, and all other fish preserved in oil.
Angora, Thibet, and other goats' hair, or mohair manufactured.
Argentine, alabata, or German silver manufactured or unmanufactured.
Arrack.
Articles embroidered with gold, silver, or other metal.
Balsams, cosmetics, essences, extracts, pastes, perfumes, and tinctures used for the toilet.
Bananas, cocoa-nuts, pine apples, plantains, and oranges.
Bay rum.
Beads of amber, composition, or wax, and all other beads.
Benzoates.
Billiard and bagatelle tables, and all other tables or boards on which games are played.
Bracelets, braids, chains, curls or ringlets composed of hair, or of which hair is a component part.
Brandy and other spirits distilled from grain or other materials.
Brooms and brushes of all kinds.
Cabinet and household furniture.
Cabinets of coins, medals, gems, and all collections of antiquities.
Canes and sticks for walking, finished and unfinished.
Capers and sauces of all kinds.
Card cases, pocket books, shell boxes, souvenirs, and all similar articles, of whatever material composed.
Carpets, carpeting, hearth rugs, bedsides, and other portions of tapestry of every kind and description.
Carriages and parts of carriages.
Cider and other beverages not containing alcohol.
Clocks and parts of clocks.
Comfits, confectionery, sweetmeats, or fruits preserved in sugar, molasses, brandy, or other liquors.
Composition tops for tables, or other articles of furniture.
Compositions of glass, set or unset.
Coral, cut or manufactured.
Cordials, absinthe, arrack, curaçoa, kirschen-wasser, liquors, maraschino, ratifia, and all other spirituous beverages of a similar character.
Cotton laces, cotton insertings, cotton trimmings, and laces of thread and other materials.
Diamonds, cameos, mosaics, gems, pearls, rubies, and other precious stones, and imitations thereof, when set in gold, silver, or other metal, and when not set.
Dolls and toys of all kinds.
Engravings, bound or unbound.
Epaulettes.
Fans and fire screens of every description, of whatever material composed.
Feathers and flowers, artificial or ornamental, and parts thereof, of whatever material composed.
Fire crackers, sky rockets, roman candles, and all similar articles used in pyrotechnics.
Galloons, laces, knots, stars, tassels, tresses, and wings of gold or silver, or imitations thereof, except when intended for uniforms of officers in the military and naval service.
Glass, cut.
Glass, coloured, stained or painted.
Grapes, plums, and prunes, and other fresh fruit when put up in bottles, cases, or cans.
Hair, human, cleansed or prepared for use.
India matting of all kinds.
Jet and manufactures of jet, and imitations thereof.
Jewelry, or imitations thereof.
Leaf and manufactured tobacco and cigars.
Manufactures of cedar wood, granadilla, ebony, mahogany, rose wood, and satin wood.
Manufactures of gold, platina, or silver.
Manufactures and articles of marble, marble paving tiles, slabs, or blocks, and all other marble.
Matting, China, or other floor matting, and mats made of flags, jute, or grass.
Muffs and tiffets, and all other manufactures of fur, or of which fur shall be a component part, except caps and hats.
Paintings and statuary.
Paintings on glass.
Paper hangings.
Paper for walls.
Paper for screens or fireboards.
Paving and roofing tiles and bricks, and roofing slates and fire bricks.
Perfumes and perfumery of all sorts.
Plated and gilt ware of all kinds.
Playing cards.
Prepared vegetables, fruits, meats, poultry, and game, sealed or enclosed in cans, or otherwise.
Rattans and reeds.
Scagliola table tops, or other articles of furniture.
Segars, snuff, paper segars, and all other manufactures of tobacco.
Silver-plated metal, in sheets or other form.
Thread laces and insertings.
Velvets of all kinds.
Wines, burgundy, champagne, claret, madeira, port, sherry, and all other wines and imitations of wines.

Note. None of the manufactures of metal designed as other household or personal ornaments shall be admitted.

Under the fourth section of the act, entitled 'An act to prohibit the importation of luxuries, or of articles not necessaries or of common use,' approved February 6, 1864, the following maximum foreign prices are established, at which, and within which, importations of goods manufactured wholly or partly of cotton, flax, wool, or of silk, and designed for wearing apparel, and not prohibited by said act, and beyond which importations thereof shall not be made.

The prices named in the following, for all articles, are the invoice prices in coin, at the place of exportation:

MANUFACTURES OF COTTON.

All articles wholly of cotton, whether coloured or white, not to exceed 25 cents per square yard, excepting cottonades, corduroys, fustians, and velveteens, which shall not exceed 50 cents per yard.
Drawers, ready made, knit or woven, not to exceed 1 dol. per pair.
Gloves, not to exceed 25 cents per pair.
Hosiery, men's, not to exceed 25 cents per pair.
Hosiery, women's, not to exceed 35 cents per pair.
Shirts, ready made, knit or woven, not to exceed 1 dol. each.
Spool cotton, not to exceed 5 cents per 100 yards.
Tapes, not to exceed 5 cents per bunch of 12 yards.

MANUFACTURES OF FLAX.

All articles manufactured wholly of flax, whether coloured or white, not to exceed 50 cents per square yard.
Drawers, ready made, not to exceed 1 dol. 50 cents. per pair.
Gloves, not to exceed 50 cents. per pair.
Handkerchiefs, not to exceed 25 cents. a piece.
Hosiery, not to exceed 50 cents per pair.
Shirts, ready made, not to exceed 1 dol. 50 cents. each.
Tapes, not to exceed 5 cents per bunch of 12 yards.
Thread, not to exceed 1 dol. per pound.

MANUFACTURES OF WOOL.

Alpacas, cashmeres, de laines, lastings, merinos, mohairs, and Persian cloth, not to exceed 50 cents. per yard.
Bombazines and French Merinos, not to exceed 75 cents. per yard.
Beaver cloth and broad cloth, not to exceed 3 dols. per yard.
Bindings, not to exceed 5 cents per yard.
Drawers, knit or woven, not to exceed 1 dol. per pair.
Flannels, not to exceed 50 cents. per yard.
Gloves, not to exceed 40 cents per pair.
Hats, men's, not to exceed 2 dols. each.
Hats, women's, not to exceed 4 dols. each.
Hosiery, men's and women's, not to exceed 40 cents per pair.
Kerseys, kerseymeres, lions' skins, melton cloths, pilot cloth, serges, tweeds and vestings, not to exceed 2 dols. per yard.
Shawls, not to exceed 7 dols. 50 cents each.
Shirts, not to exceed 1 dol. each.

MANUFACTURES OF SILK.

Dress silk, not to exceed 1 dol. per yard.
Handkerchiefs, neck-ties, &c., not to exceed 75 cents a piece.
Mantillas, shawls, and ladies' wrappings of any kind, not to exceed 5 dol. each.
Ribbons, not to exceed 1 dol. per piece of 12 yards.
Serge lining, not to exceed 1 dol. per square yard.
Sewing silk, not to exceed 5 dol. per pound.
Vestings, not to exceed 2 dol. per square yard.

Manufactures of wool and cotton, wool and silk, wool and flax, or any combination of these materials, not to exceed 1 dol. per square yard. Articles composed of cotton and flax only, not to exceed 37 cents per square yard.

C. G. Memminger, Secretary of Treasury.

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS TO CARRY INTO EFFECT THE ACT ENTITLED AN ACT TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS UPON THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENCE, APPROVED FEBRUARY 6, 1864.

II. Overland Commerce with Mexico.

1. The owner of any wagon, cart or vehicle, or of any boat or other vessel, and of any horses, mules, or other animals employed in transporting cotton, tobacco or naval stores from the Confederacy to Mexico, shall, before receiving any article for transportation, require of the owner thereof the collector's permit for its exportation, as hereinafter set forth; and shall, before loading any article for transportation, present to the military commander of the department, or officer assigned by him to that duty, a declaration setting forth a full description of all the vehicles, vessels, and animals to be used by him, and their value in Confederate currency, and the names and value of the slaves, if any, employed as teamsters, or otherwise, in his business of transportation; and the names and such other particulars as may be required, of the free persons so employed, and the point of departure, the route to be pursued, and the place of destination; and the commander or other officer as aforesaid shall, if satisfied of the loyalty and fidelity of the applicant, and that the application may be safely granted, endorse thereon his consent and approval, and grant a license to the applicant as a public carrier of exports to Mexico for the single trip, or for any length of time, not exceeding one year, that may be deemed proper.

2. Any person desiring to export to Mexico, overland, any cotton, tobacco, or naval stores, shall, before placing the same on any wagon, cart, or other vehicle, or pack mule, or other animal, or on board any boat or vessel, present to the military commander of the department whence the merchandise is to be exported, or to the officer assigned by him as aforesaid, a declaration stating the quantity, and value in Confederate currency, of the articles he proposes to export, the name of the licensed carrier to be employed by him, the point of departure, the route to be pursued, the name of the consignee and the place of destination in the neutral country; and if the officer to whom the application is made shall be satisfied of the loyalty and fidelity of the applicant, and that the permission may be safely granted, he shall endorse on the application his approval.

3. The applicant shall, before loading the merchandise which he intends to export, file with the collector of the district, whence the exportation is to be made, his application endorsed as aforesaid, and shall execute and deliver to him a bond to the Confederate States, with security deemed adequate by the collector, in an amount double the value in Confederate money, of the merchandise embraced in his application, with condition that at least one-half the net proceeds of said merchandise at the place of destination shall be invested in goods and merchandise not prohibited by law, and that said goods and merchandise shall be brought into the Confederate States within sixty days after the delivery of the exported articles at their place of destination in Mexico; and the collector shall thereupon deliver to the applicant a permit to lead the articles embraced in said application.

4. No licensed carrier shall depart on the trip for which permits have been granted, until he shall have delivered to the collector of the customs a manifest verified by his oath, setting forth the names of all owners of the cotton or other articles which he is about to carry, and the quantity received from each owner, and shall have obtained from the collector a clearance authorising his departure.

5. The military commander of any department from which exports are conveyed to Mexico, shall establish, by general orders to be published by him, as many convenient points as may be necessary for the assemblage and departure of all vehicles or means of transportation [illegible] and detail officers for the [illegible] [illegible] in the letter and the spirit of the law which they are intended to enforce.

6. All [illegible] animals, slaves or other means of transportation, and all cotton or other articles that may be [illegible] in violation of any [illegible] regulations [illegible] conveyed and delivered to the nearest marshal or deputy marshal of the Confederate States, and a detailed receipt taken from him, setting forth a description of the property [illegible] delivered to him for safe custody. And it shall be the duty of said marshal or deputy marshal to keep the property so surrendered in safe custody until the further order of the judge or a commissioner of a district court of the Confederate States [illegible] and the said marshal or deputy marshal [illegible] of the property seized, [illegible] to the district attorney, or to both, if [illegible] in relation to the seizure of the property, and its delivery to him for safe keeping.

7. No military authority [illegible], under any circumstances, to seize property [illegible] carried under the provisions of the law, and of these regulations, for any other cause than a violation of said provisions, but in case of seizure, to dispose of the property seized in any other manner than that prescribed in the foregoing regulations. But in every where there is great risk of the property falling into the hands of the enemy, it shall be competent for the proper military authorities to require the licensed carrier to suspend his trip till the danger be passed, or to pursue a different route from that originally designated, or even, in cases of imminent danger, to abandon the trip.

8. The bonds to be taken under these regulations shall be subject to the provisions of the twelfth regulation relative to exportations by sea, and the bonds may be taken up on the production to the collector of satisfactory evidence that the party has complied with the conditions of the bond as far as practicable.

Approved.

C. G. Memminger, Secretary of Treasury.
James A. Seddon, Secretary of War.

Approved, March 11, 1864.

Jefferson Davis.

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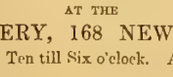
MILITARY  AND NAVAL

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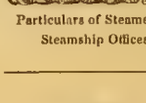

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Report of the Confederate Secretary of the Treasury.

Treasury Department, Confederate States of America,
Richmond, May 2, 1864.

Hon. Thomas S. Bocock, Speaker of House of Representatives:—

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the following report of the condition of this Department on April 1, 1864.

The receipts into the Treasury for the two quarters ending on that day are as follows:—

4 per cent. call certificates, act March 23, 1863	$1,343,000 00
4 per cent. coupon bonds, act March 23, 1863	40,473 90
4 per cent. registered stock, act February 17, 1864	250,000,000 00
5 per cent. call certificates, act March 23, 1863	38,812,500 00
6 per cent. bonds and stocks, act March 23, 1863	12,043,000 00
7 per cent. bonds and stocks, act February 20, 1863	2,361,300 00
8 per cent. registered stock, act May 16, 1861	190,100 00
8 per cent. bonds, act August 19, 1861	26,650 00
8 per cent. bonds and stocks, act February 20, 1863	2,194,600 00
6 per cent. cotton interest bonds, act April 30, 1863	6,160,000 00
Premium on same	2,815,000 00
War tax	59,406,724 01
Treasury notes	265,690,928 50
Sequestration	3,000,787 37
Repayments by disbursing officers	42,772,222 42
Customs	441,094 32
Overseers' exemption and tax on non-combatants	595,036 95
Export duty on cotton	14,322 50
Patent fund	26,957 00
Interest on loans	4,208 71
Deposited under twelfth section act February 17, 1864, by States	471,300 00
Deposited under eighteenth section act February 17, 1864	367,600 00
Miscellaneous	2,615.475 55
Total	$691,393,281 23

The expenditures during the same period are as follows:—

War Department	$238,572,374 25
Navy	10,853,723 27
Customs	26,325 93
Civil, miscellaneous, and foreign intercourse	5,611,299 00
Public debt	128,046,836 59
	$383,110,559 04
Balance in Treasury	$308,282,722 19

This balance is made up as follows:—

Notes funded and on hand for cancellation	$250,000,000 00
Notes returned by disbursing officers	42,000,000 00
Balance cash in hand, about	16,000,000 00

The public debt on April 1, 1864, was as follows:—

Funded.

Act February 28, 1861, 8 per cent.	$15,000,000 00
Act May 16, 1861, 8 per cent.	8,891,700 00
Act August 19, 1861, 8 per cent	100,000,000 00
Act April 12, 1862, 8 per cent.	3,182,850 00
Act February 20, 1863, 8 per cent.	95,763,700 00
Act February 20, 1863, 7 per cent.	66,318,550 00
Act March 23, 1863, 6 per cent.	11,646,200 00
Act April 30, 1863, 6 per cent.	$8,393,000 00
To which must be added the following call certificates outstanding, to wit:	
Act December 24, 1861, 6 per cent. $40,439,170 00	
Act March 23, 1863, 4 per cent. 1,825,000 00	
Act March 23, 1863, 5 per cent. 72,074,100 00—	114,338,270 00
7.30 interest-bearing Treasury notes	99,996,400 00
Total	$523,530,670 00

Unfunded.

Act March 9, 1861, interest notes $3·65	$534,500 00
Act May 16, 1861, two-year notes	8,204,575 00
Act August 19, 1861, general currency	154,366,631 00
Act April 17, 1862, denomination $1 and $2	4,516,509 00
Act October 13, 1862, general currency	118,997,321 50
Act March 23, 1863, general currency	511,182,566 50
Total	$797,792,103 00
From this is to be deducted the amount of repayments of old currency by disbursing officers, and also the amount of notes received for four per cent. certificates, which are in the Treasury awaiting cancellation	$292,000,000 00
	$505,792,103 00

The balances of appropriations not drawn on April 1, 1864, were:

War Department	$502,329,110 21
Navy Department	33,046,775 79
Civil and miscellaneous, including customs	72,865,683 39
Total	$608,241,569 39

The estimates submitted by the various Departments for the support of the Government to the end of the calendar year, say December 31, 1864, are as follows:

Legislative	$245,625 00
Executive, salary of President, &c.	37,350 00
Treasury Department	22,508,462 50
War Department	483,131,598 00
Navy Department	10,059,923 78
State Department	44,914 00
Department of Justice	347,991 58
Post Office Department	165,583 40
Total	$516.541,448 26

The foregoing statements show that the estimates in December last for the six months ending July 1, 1864, are greatly beyond the requirements of the Government. It appears from them that the whole expenditure for all branches of the Government for the six months ending April 1, 1864, amounted to $255,563,722, and that the unexpended balance then standing to the credit of appropriations was $608,241,569. The anticipated tax upon the currency, which was to accrue on April 1, doubtless kept back requisitions for debts accruing since February 17, when the Tax Act was passed. It would be proper, therefore, to add, for this item, about $75,000,000 to the expenditure. The total expenditure for the six months would then be about $330,000,000, and the balance to the credit of undrawn appropriations would be about $523,000,000.

These figures establish the conclusion that the money appropriated for the six months ending July 1, 1864, will not be required, and that the excess may be applied to diminish the appropriations required for the six months ensuing July 1, 1864. It appears that the monthly expenditures, at the outside, average about $54,000,000, and consequently for the three months to ensue from April 1 to July 1, 1864, the proper expenditure of those three months would be $162,000,000

But to this must be added the item already explained of amount of debts suspended on account of the anticipated tax on the currency, say	75,000,000
This aggregate	$237,000,000
Deducted from the total balance of undrawn appropriations	608.241,569
Leaves this balance	$371,241,569

available for expenditures for six months beyond July 1, 1864.

It should further be observed that the estimates submitted by the Departments are made with relation to the present rate of prices. If that rate can be reduced, a corresponding reduction could be made in themselves.

The first and most important enquiry, therefore, is as to the probability of a reduction of prices. All the financial measures proposed to and adopted by the last Congress looked to this result. The scheme offered by the Secretary of the Treasury and that adopted by Congress both sought by different means to effect the same object. Which of the two would have proved most successful, it would serve no useful purpose to consider. It is the plain duty of the Government to execute the scheme adopted by Congress, and every effort has been directed to its successful prosecution. It is yet too early to perceive all the results which it will effect; but it is quite clear already that the reduction of the currency which it will produce is great and decided.

On April 1, when the reduction was to commence, the whole issue of general currency (represented by the treasury notes bearing no interest) amounted to about $800,000,000. Of this amount, $50,000,000 were probably at the credit of the different disbursing officers throughout the Confederacy, leaving $750,000,000 as the actual circulation. Of this amount, about $250,000,000 have been funded east of the Mississippi; and it may fairly be presumed that $50,000,000 more will be funded west of the Mississippi; thus leaving in circulation $450,000,000. The depositaries were directed to discriminate in their reports between the notes of $100 and those under $100 which have been funded. Only a few of them have made reports in which this direction has been complied with, most probably from want of time to separate notes. But those few are in the cities where the $100 notes would be likely to accumulate. They disclose the remarkable fact that less than one-half, in some cases not more than one-third, of the notes funded are $100 notes. It may be assumed, therefore, that not more than one-half of the whole amount funded consists of $100 notes. By the terms of the Currency Act, these notes are thrown out of circulation after April 1, and are taxed ten per cent. per month until extinguished. It is important, therefore, to ascertain the amount of those now outstanding.

The whole amount of $100 notes, issued to April 1, 1864, was $318,000,000. It is probable that of the $50,000,000 remaining at that date to the credit of disbursing officers, a large proportion is represented by these notes, say $40,000,000, thus leaving $278,000,000 in circulation. Deduct from this sum one-half the total amount funded, which as already stated consists of $100 notes, to wit $150,000,000, and there are left unfunded $128,000,000 of these notes. This sum, therefore, constitutes that remainder whose amount we have been seeking, and is to be deducted from the $450,000,000 left as the entire circulation after the funding. The result is that the whole currency would then stand at $322,000,000. Deduct from this balance the tax of one-third which is imposed by the Currency Act, and the actual currency left in circulation is $214,000,000 and a fraction.

It is only necessary for the public mind to apprehend fully this state of things, and it would seem impossible to avoid a great and sudden fall of prices. This fall has been checked by the unfortunate feature of leaving the $5 notes current. Sellers, particularly of necessary articles, have had the excuse of demanding an indemnity for the future tax on these notes; but the time is at hand when they will share the fate of other notes, and the entire old currency must disappear. Another reason, which has checked the reduction of prices of articles of prime necessity, is the exoneration of the planting and farming classes from taxes. They have thereby been enabled to retain their products. But when the whole scheme of Congress shall go into full operation, say July 1, the reduction of currency will be so great that it is scarcely possible that prices can be maintained at existing rates.

The conclusion, then, seems fair, that if the currency can be restrained within the limits to which it has been reduced, the estimates called for by the Departments may be greatly reduced. This result will depend upon the extent to which the new issue of treasury notes is carried. The law directs the issue of $2 of new notes for every $3 held in private hands, with the exception of $100 notes and notes under $5. It also authorises the Secretary of the Treasury to issue in the same manner $2 for every $3 received at the Treasury under the provisions of the Currency Act. Assuming the figures above stated as probable estimates of the result of funding, the amount of new currency to be issued for exchanges with private parties will be $214,000,000; and the issues authorised to be made for the use of the Government would amount to two-thirds of $300,000,000, or $200,000,000. The aggregate of these two would carry up the currency again to $414,000,000. This amount is more than twice the sum which in previous reports I have shown to be requisite for the entire circulation. With such an expansion prices could not be expected to fall to the proper standard, and the conclusion seems inevitable, that one or other of these sources of expansion must be restrained. The Currency Act has distinctly guaranteed to the holders of currency the right to receive new issues upon the abatement of one-third from the old, and this right cannot justly be impaired. It should only be dealt with, therefore, by offering to the holders of these notes a security which they might prefer to the new issues. Possibly, this might be done by giving them an option to exchange their notes for four per cent. bonds free from taxation. This freedom from taxation would be an equivalent for the reduction of one-third, to which their notes had been subjected, and if this plan were accepted, equality between these holders and those who had already funded their notes in four per cents. might be restored, by granting them the privilege of exchanging their four per cent. taxable bonds for untaxable, at a reduction of one-third. The compensation to the Treasury would be found in the amount which would thereby be paid in money, instead of four per cent. bonds, for the taxes of the present year.

This arrangement, however, with individuals, if left as it should be, to their choice, would be beyond the control of the Government, The other source of issue, namely, that by the Government, is the one which is under its complete control. It is the restraint of this alone which will enable it to prevent a new redundancy of circulating medium. It therefore becomes

an enquiry of vital importance, to ascertain how far this restraint can be carried. Obviously, it depends upon the extent and availability of the other means furnished by Congress for supplying the demands of the Government.

The means which have been already provided by Congress (over and above the issue of new treasury notes) are three, namely, the sale of $500,000,000 of six per cent. bonds, certificates of indebtedness, and taxes.

1. The six per cent. bonds authorised by Congress offer so desirable a security, that it may reasonably be expected that they will be taken up to the full extent of the available capital of the country. The mechanical arrangements required for the issue of bonds with so many coupons will delay their issue until the month of May. In the meantime, to support the Government during the month of April, and to pay off the accumulation of public indebtedness, which arose from the indisposition to accept payments in old currency, since the passage of the Currency Act, it became necessary to exercise the authority to issue new treasury notes. At the date of this report, $38,000,000 have been issued, and $10,000,000 in $500 notes are prepared for issue, and this issue must be continued until the bonds can be sold. They have already been advertised, and will be offered for sale early in May, and it is hoped that the proceeds of their sale will supply means for supporting the Government, without resorting to the authority to issue treasury notes.

2. The next means of supply provided by Congress is through certificates of indebtedness. These certificates offer another desirable security, and would seem to be peculiarly available for making purchases. They are payable in specie two years after peace, and bear six per cent. interest. It is of the utmost importance that the various purchasing officers of the Government should use these certificates, instead of calling upon the Treasury for new issues of notes. It is so much easier, however, for both buyer and seller to deal in notes, that the temptation to call for them is invincible, and can only be restrained by an absolute refusal to furnish them. The experience of this Department has shown that an authority given to it to issue treasury notes as an alternative of bonds, results in compelling it to furnish the notes, whatever may be its own opinion as to the inexpediency of the issue. It is in this way that the late redundancy of the currency was produced. As far back as May, 1861, when the first issue of bonds and treasury notes jointly was authorised, the Secretary used every effort in his power to induce the various purchasing officers to make use of bonds instead of treasury notes. This effort was continued, under the Act of August 1861, and he even ventured upon the compulsory method of holding back his warrants on requisitions, unless bonds would be accepted instead of treasury notes. The pressure, however, for the notes became so great that he was unable to resist it. In these circumstances, he distinctly represented to Congress the evils which must follow the expansion thus produced, and, during the session of September 1862, urged upon them to take immediate measures to absorb the redundant currency. Embarrassed, as Congress then was, with supposed constitutional difficulties in the way of levying a tax, a large forced loan was the only alternative which could be offered. This alternative was rejected; and it was not until April 24, 1863, that a tax adequate to the wants of the country could be imposed, and this tax was so complex and intricate that its collection could not be fairly set in action until the following October. The only tax laid before this was the war tax of August 1861, of one-half of one per cent. on property; and small as this was, all the States except three intervened, and paid the amount due by their respective citizens by the issue of their own securities. Even under this pressure, the Government succeeded in effecting a foreign loan of $15,000,000, at a time when the Northern Government, with all its resources, and with a commerce open to the whole world, was unable to effect one. If the Treasury Department had been permitted to apply this money to the support of the currency, its excessive issue and consequent depreciation would have been postponed, if not prevented. But the pressing demands of the Government for munitions of war, and for expenditures abroad for the army and navy, consumed the entire proceeds of the loan. An effort was then made to combine the credit of the individual States with that of the Government, with a view to procure further means to call in the circulation. That effort failed to receive the support of some of the States, and before that support could be propitiated by further efforts, military reverses put an end to all hope of present relief from foreign loans. In the meantime, many of the States entered upon the same field of credit, issued large amounts of bonds and treasury notes, and the result was that expansion which has just been remedied, and which ought not to be permitted to recur.

The financial measures adopted at the last session of Congress have given the country a new starting-point. The currency is once more brought within bounds, and it is most earnestly urged upon Congress so to fence around those bounds that they cannot be passed. This can only be done by a careful revision of every appropriation, and by admitting only such as are absolutely necessary, by a steady refusal to increase the volume of the currency, and by providing sufficient other means to meet the appropriations which shall be made.

3. This brings us to the consideration of the remaining means of supply which have been provided by Congress, namely, taxes. This source of supply is, in fact, the foundation of all the others; without it they cannot be sustained. Two kinds of taxes have been provided, those in money and those in kind. The money taxes to be paid during the current year have been devoted by Congress almost entirely to the support of the currency. The tax-payers are allowed to pay their taxes with the four per cent. bonds and certificates, in which the currency has been funded. It is presumed that every taxable party has supplied himself with bonds to the estimated amount of his tax; and if there be cases of deficient provision, doubtless they will be supplied from surplus amounts funded by others, and offered for sale in the market. It is probable, therefore, that no material aid will be derived by the Treasury during the present year from any taxes but those in kind.

This seems to be an unfortunate feature in the Tax Act. Payment into the Treasury of treasury notes is a necessary instrument to their proper circulation. Without the aid of such an instrument, the currency of the notes depends entirely upon consent. They are deprived of one of the essential elements of value, namely: general demand. The new notes, not being required to pay taxes until next January, lose this valuable incident during all that interval, and must obtain currency entirely from the good will of the community. Another equally serious difficulty arises from the same cause. The planting interest, whenever it is beyond the reach of the enemy, is prosperous, and can contribute to the public wants as largely as any other. The tax law requires from it a tax in kind of 10 per cent. on its annual produce, and of 5 per cent. on capital; but it allows the tax on the produce to be set off against the tax in money, and it insures the extinguishment of the money tax by valuing the produce at its present price, while the capital is valued at prices of 1861. It follows that the planters are relieved from any necessity to provide themselves with treasury notes, and may withhold from the market their produce at pleasure. It follows also that the prosperous are favoured with a discount, while the unfortunate, whose farms have been desolated, are required to pay upon the value of their capital without any relief from crops. It would seem more just to reverse such a rule, and to require a larger contribution from those whose property has been protected at the expense of the others.

Proceeding on the same general grounds, the Tax Act further exonerates from the income tax of the present year all property upon which a capital tax shall be paid; but it makes no such discrimination in assessing the capital as is made in favour of agricultural property. All property and income, not agricultural, is assessed at present rates. In another connection, I will invite your attention to the injustice of these inequalities. My object now is to induce a reconsideration of this portion of the Tax Act.

It has already been shown [that, as the Act now stands, no pecuniary aid is afforded to the Treasury during the present year, and that, unless sufficient supplies shall be derived from sales of bonds and from certificates of indebtedness, there will be nothing left but a resort to new issues of treasury notes. It is therefore of the utmost importance to call into requisition every possible means of preventing such a calamity. The taxes offer the most appropriate and efficient means, and can be made to contribute largely by simply repealing so much of the Tax Act as allows income taxes, whether in kind or in money, to exonerate from the tax on capital. The tax of 10 per cent. on the planter's income leaves him an abundant surplus for his support, and, if justly considered, is greatly less than the tax which other interests are required to pay on capital. Let the two be compared, and this will at once be manifest. As a general rule, the interest of money represents the usual income of capital. A tax of 10 per cent., then, on the income of $100 would amount to 60 cents, while a tax of 5 per cent. on the capital would be $5. It will be said, however, that the tax in kind, being upon gross products, must be rated at more than the nett income or interest on other property. Let this be admitted, and assume that the tax on gross income is double the amount of a tax on nett, and we still have the inequality of $5 against $1 20 cents. But when to this inequality is added that produced by assessment, at the two rates already explained, the inequality amounts to injustice. The proper remedy for the whole is to be found in an equal tax upon all capital and upon all income at the same basis of assessment. The present system of taxation is so cumbrous and intricate, that delay and disappointment will be its inevitable results; and whenever another tax bill is framed, I would renew my former recommendation, and urge that it be a simple tax upon property and incomes. At present I will limit my recommendation to the repeal of the following provisions of the last Act:—

1. That which allows the value of the tax in kind to be deducted from the tax of 5 per cent. on agricultural property.

2. That which repeals the income tax for the present year on incomes derived from property taxed as capital.

3. That which discriminates as to the date to which assessments are to have reference.

The taxes in kind, levied by the last Tax Act, appeared to me to embrace (and with much propriety) another subject-matter, namely: gold and silver in the form of coin, gold dust, or bullion. Some embarrassment in reaching this conclusion was experienced from apparently conflicting provisions of the Tax and Assessment Acts. The latter directed coin to be assessed at its value in Confederate treasury notes, unless otherwise provided in the law imposing the tax. The former Act placed in one and the same class, coin, gold dust, and bullion, and imposed a tax of 5 per cent. upon the 'amount.' The word 'amount' as to coin was susceptible of two meanings, namely, the sum stamped thereon, and the actual quantity of metal. The other members of the class were free from this ambiguity and could only be rated by quantity. It seemed to follow that the same meaning must attach to all the members of the same class. This conclusion was strengthened by the direction to rate sterling exchange (which is usually treated as a correlative of coin) at its value in treasury notes, and by the further direction, already noticed in the Assessment Act, to assess coin in the same way. It was obvious that the holder of coin would suffer no injury by contributing such portion of his coin in kind, as under any circumstances he was bound to furnish sufficient treasury notes to purchase. It was thought probable that the tax in coin was intended by Congress to relieve the Government from the obnoxious duty of depreciating its own currency. The tax levied in this form is also more beneficial, as it will secure to the Government a portion of those large amounts of coin which have fled from the plundering hand of the enemy and have found its protection; and further as it will enable the Government to meet such demands for coin as occasionally arise.

There is another portion of the Tax Act to which I would respectfully direct the attention of Congress. A tax is imposed upon the capital stocks of all banks and other corporations, and another is laid upon all solvent credits.

The effect of these two enactments is to tax the capital of any corporation as stock, and then again to tax the securities in which the capital is invested. Banks of issue would be taxed even beyond this. Their issues, like their capital, are invested in securities. If these issues should be extended to twice the capital (as many of them are permitted by their charters to do), the bank would have to pay a tax of 5 per cent. on its capital, and then of 5 per cent. more on the total amount of credits in which its issues have been invested, amounting together to 15 per cent. on its capital. This result is so manifestly unjust that I concluded that Congress could not have intended it. It probably was supposed that banks came under the exception in favour of any registered business. But this exception does not include banks of issue. I have, therefore, directed the assessors to make assessments in such form as will enable Congress to remedy the difficulty before the tax becomes payable. Several of the banks have applied for relief, and I respectfully commend to your attention a memorial which they have presented to this department, a copy of which is herewith submitted.

Another embarrassment in administering the Tax Act has been encountered in that portion which directs the tax in kind of farmers to be deducted from the tax of 5 per cent. on their capital. If the deduction intended was of the tax in kind of last year, then the planting interest will be entirely relieved from the taxes of last year whilst all other interests have duly contributed. If the reference is to the tax in kind of the current year, then, as the money tax is payable in June, and the tax in kind cannot be realised until later in the year, it is impossible to deduct the latter from the former. Some explanatory Act is respectfully asked.

I cannot leave this subject without specially invoking your attention to the inequality made by the Tax Bill in the assessment of agricultural and other property. While the latter is assessed at its value in treasury notes, which are acknowledged to be depreciated at least to one-third their face, the former is assessed at values which prevailed when treasury notes were nearly at par with specie. This inequality creates discontent in the public mind, and cannot be maintained as just and equal. In all public as well as private transactions it is dangerous to depart from the great principles of justice with a view to effect present expediency. Doubtless it was supposed that legislation of this kind would reach the speculator and extortioner. But it will be found that most of these classes have escaped the tax by taking refuge in agricultural investments, while thousands of widows and orphans and loyal citizens, who have invested their all in stocks and securities, are deprived of their means of support. I would respectfully recommend a revision of this section, and the establishment of a uniform rate of assessment.

The report of the Commissioner of Taxes will present the results of the collection of taxes, as far as progress has been made. The amount collected is $82,262,349 83. The difficulties which are encountered in the collection can only be estimated by any one who will inspect the mass of papers which are required for each return, and the enquiries necessary to be made of each individual tax-payer. The results of the tax will probably confirm the recommendation already made of a resort to a more simple system of taxation. The frauds and evasions, which cannot be discovered under the present system, are a perpetual drain upon the tax, which is necessarily increased by the number of officers who must be employed in its collection. And after all is done by the Government which is possible, the result is, that the most cunning in devices will escape, whilst only the honest and conscientious pay the full and just demands of the law.

In the process of collection, various amendments to the law have been found necessary, which will be brought to your attention in the report of the Commissioner of Taxes, to which I respectfully invite your attention.

The Act imposing restrictions on the export of cotton, tobacco, and naval stores, and that prohibiting the importation of articles of luxury, have received the attention which they demanded. Under the first Act certain regulations, issued by the President, of which a copy is herewith submitted, will fully exhibit what has been done; and under the second this department has executed the duty imposed upon it as to the limitation within which importations shall be made of articles to be used for wearing apparel. A copy of the instructions issued to the collectors of customs on this subject is herewith submitted.

The customary estimates in detail are hereunto appended.

Respectfully submitted,

C. G. MEMMINGER,
Secretary of Treasury.

GRANT'S CAMPAIGN.—The New York correspondent of the *Morning Herald*, who is a very able and exceedingly well-informed writer, says:—'The campaign, since the crossing of the Rapidan by Grant in May, has been one pitiless slaughter. The Federal lieutenant-general has earned for himself the title of the Suwarrow of America. He has not managed to win the affections of his army, and has been so careless and lavish of the lives of his men that he is now distinguished, both in and out of the ranks of his soldiers, by the *sobriquet* of "the Illinois butcher." The number of men in the unfortunate army of the Potomac killed, wounded, and captured, since its crossing of the Rapidan, is not less than 125,000, of which nearly one-fourth have been killed outright. Grant's manner of conducting a campaign is, to use a mild term, very curious, and well worthy a description. Owing to the enormous size of the Northern army, and the frightful character, in a military point of view, of the country in which it has been compelled to operate, it has been impossible for the Federal commander-in-chief to know anything about the position of the enemy or the relation of our troops to his principal works. Hence that knowledge of a foe's strength, whereabouts, and fortifications which in more cultivated countries and by more able generals is obtained by the employment of strategy, was gained here only through a tremendous loss of life. As soon as Grant had executed one of his famous flank movements, ever to discover in his front somewhere that mysterious, inevitable, but indomitable enemy, he would send word to his corps commanders in front to "feel the enemy's works." This simple matter never cost less than 1,000 men. After the "feeling" operation had been concluded, the next order would be "Press the enemy's works." This movement would dispose of 3,000 or 4,000 more. Then came the last order, more terrible than all its predecessors, "Storm the enemy's works!" And the storming operation never came to an end without an additional Federal loss of 17,000 or 18,000 men. It was simple butchery. There was no attempt at a display of tactical science; indeed, such would be almost useless with that vast army and in the terrible woods and ravines in which it was always compelled to fight. This fearful mode of warfare was continued for more than a month, until the men under Grant became, as was inevitable, utterly disheartened and demoralised.'

THE YANKEE SLAVE TRADE.—The special commissioner of the *Daily Telegraph*, under date 'Niagara Falls, August 2,' writes:—'Of all the wicked and impudent delusions which the advocates of the North are trying to propagate in Europe, there is none more wicked and more insolent than the one by which it is sought to persuade the European public that this civil war is in any way carried on for the benefit or will result in the amelioration of the condition of the African. The radical abolitionists—the "soul saviours" of New England—are now buying up negroes right and left in the Southern States, and cramming them into the Federal armies. There was a Southern senator once from Georgia, called Toombs, who boasted that he would one day read the muster-roll of his slaves from the foot of Bunker-hill monument; but the Governor of Massachusetts will very soon be able to read a similar roll of the negroes his agents have bought in North Carolina, or "run off," *i.e.*, stolen, in Kentucky. There was picked up the other day at the Fifth-avenue Hotel, in New York, a telegram addressed to an influential gentleman in that city, in which the sender expressed his regret that he was run out of niggers, but wished to know if his correspondent would buy a few hundreds Indian half-breeds. Would Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe be good enough to add these little facts to her next edition of "Uncle Tom's Cabin?"'

THE EXHAUSTION OF THE WAR.—The *New York World* says:—'It is evident that if we continue the horrible work of self-destruction at the rate of the past three years, a very few months will suffice to exhaust our entire arms-bearing male population.'

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

On the 1st of August the Federal fleet off Mobile, under Admiral Farragut, commenced an attack on the Confederate defences, and succeeded in passing the outer forts, but not without resistance. The letter of our New Orleans Correspondent, dated the 2nd, gives some details that enable the reader to understand the subsequent movements as reported from Washington. On the 5th the Federal fleet passed the outer batteries. The *Tecumseh*, a monitor armed with two guns, was sunk by Fort Morgan. We have at present no report of the casualties suffered by the Federals, or of the damage done to other vessels; but as the engagement is described as desperate, we may conclude that the sinking of the *Tecumseh* was not the only loss sustained by them. The Confederate ram *Tennessee*, after a gallant contest, surrendered, and we regret to add that Admiral Buchanan lost a leg and was among the prisoners. The *Selma* was captured, and the *Gaines* was beached. General Maury reports that the *Morgan* is safe.

This naval success of the Federals does not endanger Mobile, which cannot be taken without the cooperation of a large land force. Nor is the position of Admiral Farragut very secure. The following, which has been already published, gives an accurate view of the situation:—

Forts Morgan and Gaines are situated about 33 miles from the city of Mobile, and command from opposite sides the entrance to the bay of the same name. This entrance is about 24 miles wide. Fort Powell commands another entrance, or rather narrow artificial pass—called Grant's Pass—into the same bay from the Mississippi Sound. The true harbour of Mobile—locally called the Anchorage—is a few miles above these forts, under the lee of Dauphin Island, and about 25 miles from Mobile. Only vessels of small draught can come to the wharves of the city, which is approached by a narrow and tortuous channel, averaging 9 feet of water, never exceeding 11. The most difficult portion of this channel is at a point called Choctau Pass, about 5 miles distant from the city. It is not believed that the city is in any danger of capture from a naval attack. A successful land attack would require at least 15,000 men, and the approaches in that case would not be from Dauphin Island but from Paseagoula. The object of Admiral Farragut's operations is therefore, probably, first to destroy the Confederate fleet in the bay; and, secondly, to more effectually close a port which, from its large cotton exportations, had recently become of considerable importance to blockade-runners. These objects attained, the situation will not be very dissimilar to that at Charleston, except that the distance between the outer and inner lines of harbour defences is greater.

The Correspondent of the *New York Herald* says the movement was not designed for the capture of the city, but to insure a more effectual blockade of the harbour.

After again terrifying the people of Pennsylvania the Confederates have retired from the North, though it is by no means certain that their entire force has recrossed the Potomac. It is hardly necessary for us to add that under these circumstances the Federal General Averill claims a victory. Having retreated with hot haste at the advance of the Confederates, and leaving the country entirely at their mercy, Averill mustered courage to follow the Confederates, but at a most respectful distance, when they retired laden with booty. But Averill says, or his friends say for him, that he came up with the Confederates and defeated them, capturing 500 prisoners and four guns. This is, of course, untrue, but it is probable that Averill's command encountered a small detachment of the enemy. The semi-official Washington account of the affair would do credit to the comic powers of Mr. Lincoln. We are told 'General Averill pursued the scattered remnant of the rebel force for twenty-four miles, capturing many of the fugitives. His entire loss in killed was seven men. The pursuit was only abandoned when General Averill's heroes were too exhausted to follow the rebels into the mountains.' We can only say General Averill's heroes are very easily exhausted.

On August 5 the Confederates had a skirmish with a part of the Federal line before Petersburg. It is said that a mine was sprung by the Confederates, and that the object of it was to damage a mine which they suspected was being dug in front of the 18th Federal Corps. The firing lasted for two hours. The imagination of the Northern correspondents magnifies this skirmish into 'an assault by the enemy, which was repulsed with great slaughter.'

The Federal associated press says that the regiment blown up by the explosion of the mine in front of Petersburg was the First North Carolina Regiment, formerly of Jenkins's brigade. At the time of the explosion 250 men were in the fort.

General Grant has visited Washington and Maryland. General Sheridan has superseded General Hunter, his command embracing the department of Washington, the Susquehanna, Maryland, and Western Virginia. General Hooker is said to have the immediate command of all the forces at Washington.

The following official despatches have been published respecting the recent operations before Atlanta and the defeat of General Stoneman:—

Atlanta, July 28, 1864.

Hon. J. A. Seddon.

The enemy commenced extending his right about eight o'clock this morning. Lieutenant-Generals Stewart and Lee were directed to hold the Lick Skillett road for the day with portions of their commands. About half-past 1 P.M. a sharp engagement ensued, with no decided advantage on either side. We still occupy the Lick Skillet road.

I regret to say that Lieutenant-General Stewart and Major-General Loring were wounded.

In my despatch of yesterday I should have mentioned that Brigadier-General Rector was wounded that day.

J. B. Hood, General.

Atlanta, August 1, 1864.

Hon. J. A. Seddon.

The following despatch is just received from Brigadier-General Iverson, through Major-General Cobb, at Macon, concerning the party of raiders who struck the Macon and Savannah road:—

'General Stoneman, after having his force routed yesterday, surrendered with 500 men. The rest of his command are scattered and flying towards Eatonton. Many have been already captured. I shall be in Macon to-night, and with rations for my men and prisoners. A. Iverson.

J. B. Hood, General.

Official despatch from General Howell Cobb.

Macon, Georgia, August 1, 1864.

S. Cooper, Adjutant and Inspector-General.

General Stoneman, with a cavalry force estimated at 2,800, with artillery, was met two miles from the city by our forces, composed of Georgia reserves—local companies—and the militia which Governor Brown is organising here. The enemy's assault was repulsed, and his force held in check along our entire line all day. Retiring towards Clinton, he was attacked the next morning by General Iverson, who, having routed the main body, captured General Stoneman and 500 of his command. General Iverson's men are still capturing stragglers.

Howell Cobb, Major-General.

A despatch, dated Macon, August 2, says:—'The militia who are pouring in, are being sent rapidly to Atlanta.'

The detailed accounts of the battle before Atlanta on July 28 describe the contest as very severe, and the losses as being very heavy on both sides. The Federals, though at first claiming a victory, now admit that it was a drawn battle. The correspondent of the *New York Times* with Sherman's army writes on August 1 that the Confederate fortifications are so extensive and strong that there is not the least chance of carrying them by assault.

The *New York Herald* and *Times* assert that Mr. Stanton has resigned, and that Mr. Lincoln has accepted his resignation.

August 13 was the 400th day of the siege of Charleston. On the 12th eleven shells were sent into the city, and a negro boy was wounded, this being the first casualty for several days. On the 13th there was a suspension of hostilities for the exchange of prisoners. We elsewhere give the names of the Confederate officers who were exchanged.

The Hon. George A. Trenholm has been appointed Confederate Secretary of the Treasury in the place of the Hon. C. G. Memminger, who has resigned. Mr. Trenholm is a native of Charleston, and the senior partner of the firm of John Fraser & Co. of that city. Messrs. Fraser & Co., in connection with the Liverpool branch (Messrs. Fraser, Trenholm, & Co.), have been extensively engaged in blockade-running since the beginning of the war. The *Montgomery Advertiser* says: 'Mr. Trenholm's firm has been, and is, engaged more largely than any other in blockade-running, and by a judicious selection of the cargoes, importing only such stores as would be useful to the Government, he has greatly aided us in carrying on the war, and especially has he contributed no little to the defence of Charleston.'

The *New York World* takes a gloomy view of the Federal military situation. Grant, it says, after his fearful losses, 'lies to-day foiled and panting before the unbroken front of Beauregard, at Petersburg.' In no other part of Virginia has the North made any progress for the last two years. 'The heart of the Old Dominion beats fierce and defiant beyond our reach, and armies such as no man three years ago believed the whole South could so much as equip with scythes and shot-guns, stand embattled from the James to the Blue Ridge, where, for three years, they have stood in all the panoply of modern and efficient war.' In North Carolina the foothold won in the first year of the war has been lost. The same thing has happened in Florida. 'In South Carolina and in Georgia, we hold a few paltry islands, won by a gallant naval *coup-de-main* three years ago; while our sailors and our soldiers are beating their proud hearts out in vain upon the impregnable bulwark of Charleston, after a year of steady and fruitless bombardment, and the loss of thousands of gallant lives.' The magnificent resources of Texas are wholly within the control of the Confederates. In the fourth year of the war the Confederates make Maryland their highway to insult Washington. New Orleans is only retained by the aid of the fleet. The blockade has not prevented Southern cotton reaching the European markets. The Mississippi is closed to commerce. In Missouri and Kentucky 'the very bonds of society are broken up.' The *World* adds: 'These are bitter facts; and the recital of them is a bitter duty to be forced upon us after all these years of patience and endurance and magnanimous effort. But facts they are, and this it is that Varus has done with the legions of the republic!'

General Buell, who succeeded Generals Grant and Sherman in the command of the Federal Army of the West, addressed a letter, dated July 10, to a friend, in which he sets forth the reasons for the resignation of his commission in the army. He recites the attempts made to degrade him by placing him under his juniors in the service, and adds: 'The impulses of most men would approve my course in this matter, if it even rested on no other ground than a determination not to acquiesce in any measure that would degrade me; but I had a higher motive than that. I believed that the policy and means with which the war was being prosecuted were discreditable to the nation, and a stain upon civilisation; and that they would not only fail to restore the Union, if, indeed, they had not already rendered its restoration impossible, but that their tendency was to subvert the institutions under which the country had realised unexampled prosperity and happiness; and to such a work I could not lend my hand.'

In the matter of General Dix and his officers, charged with violating the law in seizing the offices of the *World* and *Journal of Commerce* newspapers, Judge Russell has decided that the case is to go before the Grand Jury. Judge Russell thus commented on the Act of Indemnity passed by the Federal Congress on March 4, 1863, and which he regards as constitutional, and therefore not binding. He said: 'The defendants, through their counsel, placed themselves under the protection of section 4 of the Act of Congress March 4, 1863, entitled, "An Act relating to habeas corpus, and regulating judicial proceedings in certain cases." If that provision is constitutional, it assimilates the President of the United States, during the existence of the present rebellion, to an absolute monarch, clothes him with all the imaginary perfection of that monarch, and makes him incapable of doing any wrong. This is a very novel and startling doctrine to advance under a Republican form of Government. . . . . If the Act of Congress in question is constitutional in the particular contended for by the defence, it does look as though it imparted to the President powers raising him above the instrument which creates his office, and giving him the right, in his discretion, to obey that instrument or not. . . . . In this State the civil power is, and has always been, in the ascendant. Our citizens are supposed to enjoy the blessings of the Federal Constitution, and repose under the benign operations of their own immediate legislation. . . . . If the President can direct anything to be done in this State that he pleases, and his order is a perfect shield to those who obey his commands, he becomes a despot, and is no longer the chief magistrate of a free people.

The Yankees, not content with doing a brisk trade in negro slaves, are doing a little business in white slaves. We noticed last week that General Sherman sent 400 women out of Georgia, because they were engaged in a factory in which clothing was made for the Confederate army. The Louisville papers announce that 249 of these unfortunates had reached that city, and that at Nashville there were 1,500 banished women and children in a destitute condition. The same papers say that when the women arrived at Louisville they were advertised to be hired as servants, 'to take the place of the large number of negroes who have been liberated by the military authorities, and are now gathered in large camps throughout Kentucky, where they are fed and supported in idleness and viciousness at the expense of the loyal taxpayers.' The following notice was published by authority:—'Notice.—Families residing in the city or country, wishing seamstresses or servants, can be suited by applying at the refugee quarters, on Broadway, between Ninth and Tenth. This is sanctioned by Captain Jones, Provost-Marshal.' Commenting on these facts, the *Boston Courier* says: 'Thus, while the negro women are rioting and luxuriating in the Federal camps on the bounty of the Government, the white women and children of the South are arrested at their homes and sent off as prisoners to a distant country, to be sold in bondage.'

On July 18, General Hunter issued an order directing the Commanding Officer at Frederic, Maryland, 'to arrest at once all persons who are supposed to be "disloyal" and to send them, with their families, to Harper's Ferry, under suitable guard, that the males may be sent to the military prison at Wheeling, West Virginia, and their families beyond our lines, South. You will seize their houses, to be used for hospitals, Government offices, and storehouses, and for Government purposes generally. Their furniture you will have sold at public auction for the benefit of Union citizens of the town who are known to have suffered loss of property from information given by these persons.' This order was a little too outspoken, and it was revoked by Mr. Lincoln. It is, however, a fair indication of the spirit in which the Federal generals wage war not only in the South, but even in a State which they say is loyal.

Judge Duvall, of the Appellate Court, Kentucky, was recently a candidate for a State office in Kentucky. As he was a Democrat, the following order was issued by Mr. Lincoln's General:—

Headquarters District of Kentucky,
First Division, Twenty-seventh Army Corps,
Lexington, Kentucky, July 29, 1864.

To the Sheriff of Kenton County, Independence, Kentucky.—You will not allow the name of Alvin Duvall to appear upon the poll-books as a candidate for office at the coming election.

By order of Major-General Burbridge.
J. Bates Dickson, Captain and A. A. G.

This arbitrary proceeding did not completely succeed. Although the people could not vote for Mr. Duvall, they elected a Democrat in preference to Mr. Lincoln's candidate.

According to the report of the Federal Secretary of War, the number of negro troops in the United States service, on October 31, 1863, was 38,707. The *New York World* says that the number does not exceed 50,000 at the present time. As the demand is active for negro recruits, and as the negroes fetch a high price, we dare say the number will be speedily increased.

The Northern press discusses at length the reported movement of the 'Order of American Knights' to form a North-western Confederacy. The Democrats declare the conspiracy is a mare's nest, a kind of meal-tub plot invented by the Administration, in order to justify harsh proceedings against Democratic leaders. It is not, however, denied that there is widespread discontent in the West.

Governor Seymour wrote on August 3 to Mr. Stanton complaining of the excessive and injurious quotas assigned to New York under the late call. The average demand made upon the Congressional districts of New York

and Brooklyn is 3,867 men each, while in Massachusetts the average is 2,167 men. 'While in these cities (New York and Brooklyn) 26 per cent. of the population is enrolled, in Boston only 12½ per cent., or less than one-half that ratio, are made liable to be drafted. There is no difference in the character of the population of the States to account for these differences.'

The fast day on the 4th was, according to the reports of the Northern press, observed as a day of pleasure. The *New York World* remarks that the excursions were numerous, and that the churches were nearly empty, and thinks that the people are tired of hearing ministers preach war sermons. The *New York Herald* of the 5th says: 'Yesterday was a very fast day. The people celebrated it by excursions on fast steamers and drives behind fast horses. But there was very little fasting, except among those too poor to eat; and very little praying, except in the churches, where the parsons are paid so much a year for that business.'

A Peace Convention lately met at Peoria, Illinois, which, after passing resolutions against the continuance of the war, adjourned to meet at Springfield on the 18th inst. A letter was read from the Hon. T. H. Seymour, in which he says: 'An armistice would be worth more to the entire country than a thousand battle-fields. This I take to be the splendid mission of the Democracy at the present time, to secure an armistice and make peace! If this is not its mission, then I have mistaken the character of the Democracy, and you may strike my name from the roll. The first step, I repeat, of a triumph in the right direction should be to stop the war. Pardon me for saying, if we blink this question, everything else for which we are contending must come to the ground. Once ended, and peace may be secured on honourable terms. If prolonged, untold calamities must befall us.'

The *New York World* charged the Federal Government with a regular system of post-office espionage, and stated that the letters of prominent Democrats were regularly opened, and that even the official correspondence of Governor Seymour was tampered with. Mr. Blair has written to the New York Postmaster, and says: 'We do not, as you know, permit any tampering with the mails now more than at any period.' This is equivalent to an admission that there is some tampering with the mails. The *World*, in reply to this letter, reiterates its charges, and says that Postmaster Blair has, at all events, submitted to Mr. Seward and Mr. Stanton having letters opened at the post-office.

The *Springfield Republican* of August 9 reports: 'Mr. Fessenden says he does not intend to hold the Secretaryship of the Treasury as a permanency; but, as soon as he can do it with safety, he shall resign, as his health is not adequate to the engrossing duties of the office.'

On the 10th instant gold was quoted in New York at 254½.

ENGLAND.

One useful measure received the royal assent last session. The statute was entitled an 'Act to amend the Penal Servitude Acts.' In transmitting this statute to the judges Sir George Grey took occasion to explain the manner in which convicts under sentence of penal servitude will be treated for the future. The circular containing this information is well worthy the attention of the public. We hope that the line of conduct which it traces out will be steadily and firmly pursued. It was quite time that something should be done. Transportation, for many reasons an objectionable mode of punishment, has for some years past virtually ceased, there being no place to which convicts can now be sent to undergo their sentence. We are glad that Government seem to have yielded in this matter to the wishes of the Australian colonies. Western Australia could receive at the very most a fourth part only of the criminals annually sentenced in England, and she stipulated that the batches of transports should be made up only of the milder offenders. The other colonies object strongly to the continuance of this mode of punishment even in the mitigated form proposed, so far at least as any part of their continent is concerned. Such a system of transportation would afford but little relief to society in England, and even this would be merely temporary. It could only be her necessities that would induce Western Australia to receive our criminals; as soon as she found those necessities relieved by their labour, her willingness to receive them would pass away. There is no other colony to which they can be sent. The system of penal settlements is one that cannot be too strongly reprobated, and has been long since abandoned. Sooner or later, therefore, a question must have arisen as to the best method of punishing our convicts at home. It has, fortunately, received attention before the necessity for its settlement became too urgent to admit of time for consideration. As Sir George Grey points out, the principal change in the law effected by this statute is the abolition of sentences of three and four years' penal servitude; five years being now the shortest term for which such a sentence can be passed; while for persons previously convicted of felony the shortest term of punishment to be endured for the future is fixed at seven years. But the most important alterations contemplated in dealing with criminals are those which restrict the granting of tickets-of-leave. No ticket-of-leave will in future be given to any prisoner sentenced to penal servitude for life, while the amount of remission which may be obtained by those undergoing sentences for any shorter term has been considerably reduced. Tickets-of-leave, also, are to be obtained for the future only in consideration of a certain amount of labour actually performed, instead of by means of that negative sort of behaviour called good conduct; while the maximum amount of the gratuities to be obtained by prison labour has been greatly reduced, thus obviating the difficulty that existed under the former scale, that the most guilty offenders left prison with the largest amount of gratuities. The prison dietary, about which so great an outcry has been raised, was found on enquiry to be very little in excess of what is necessary, and therefore a slight reduction only has been made in it. The Government has acted wisely in abandoning, before it was too late to escape serious misunderstandings with our Australian colonies, an effete system of punishment, which, while it exposed the colonists to great social and moral hazards, pressed most unequally upon the convicts, meting out to some undue severity, while others enjoyed ill-merited leniency. Prison discipline at one time was threatened with destruction, and crime received an impetus through the sentimental doctrines of morbid philanthropists, who too often had the opportunity of reducing to practice their well-meant but mistaken theories. A more healthy tone now pervades the public mind, and the hands of those in authority are correspondingly strengthened. Penal servitude will now be a real punishment, calculated to inspire offenders with terror, as not even the small measure of remission now allowed can be gained without stern unflinching labour, steadily performed during a considerable period. It is not too much to hope that habits of industry will be thus acquired, which, aided by the terrible reminiscences of a long term of laborious imprisonment rigorously exacted, will not be laid aside as soon as the prison doors have been opened, and that increased severity of punishment will, while it affords protection to the public and satisfies the just vengeance of the law, work a real reform in those subjected to its influence.

Mr. Roebuck attended at the 'little feast' given by the retiring Master Cutler at Sheffield, which assumed this year the proportions of the great festival of September; it fell to the lot of the hon. gentleman to return thanks for the toast of the Borough Members. He observed that the present Parliament had been styled a do-nothing Parliament, and certainly the last session was, *par excellence*, a do-nothing session; it did not follow, however, that it had not performed well the work it had to do. Some thirty-two years ago Parliament had been reformed, and close upon that reformation followed the reforming of many abuses and the introduction of free-trade, the result of which was this: while thrones have been tumbled down and empires destroyed around us, and even the great Republic has been rent in twain, England stands serene in her greatness. When a painter commences a great picture, he advances rapidly with his work, all can perceive the progress made; but when the finishing of the picture arrives the process is slow, and the gradual advances towards completion cannot be detected by the uninitiated. That which takes place in the picture is strictly analogous to that which has taken place in Parliament. The picture commenced some thirty years ago is now being perfected, and no rash act should be committed which would tend to mar so grand a work. In three things the Government and Parliament of England acted in a manner which he disapproved, and yet he was about to defend them. When the great secession took place in America, he would at once have recognised the Confederate States with whom nineteen out of every twenty men he met were sympathisers, but the sympathy of England stopped short of risking war for the Confederate States. Lord Palmerston perceived, and acted in accordance with, the sentiment of the people; a bold politician would have acted differently, but Lord Palmerston's conduct was at all events prudent. When Denmark was oppressed by the bandit powers of Germany he would have sent the English fleet to her rescue; the English people sympathised with Denmark, but would not risk the dangers of war on her behalf. Lord Palmerston followed with true instinct the national wishes, and Denmark was deserted by England, and left a prey to the spoiler. Then as to reform, Parliament did not wish to reform itself, the people of England are not sufficiently interested in the matter to compel it to do so; Lord Palmerston, again sagaciously detecting the wishes of the people, refused to force into notice the unwelcome question. To determine not to go to war is as active a proceeding as determining to go to war; the people of England are as secure, as prosperous, and happy as they can possibly be made; his only fear was lest some misfortune should follow so much prosperity, as of old men imagined that uninterrupted happiness produced envy in the breast of the gods, and thus became the forerunner of unequalled misery. In the presence of prosperity so unbounded, and of happiness so unrivalled, it behoved the people of England to be very careful lest, by calling upon Parliament to act, that action should result in misfortune.

The disgraceful riots which during the last fortnight have been raging at Belfast, are, it is hoped, at an end. Since Friday last there has been no outbreak, the persuasions of the clergy and other influential persons in some measure allayed the fury of the populace; and the presence of the military, now that the riots have subsided, is likely to check all attempts, if any be made, at a fresh outburst. The town, however, is in a deplorable state in many parts, presenting the appearance of having undergone a siege. The prices of provisions are fearfully high, owing to the scarcity which has arisen in consequence of the fear entertained by farmers and others of sending in their goods, and of the standstill to which business was reduced in the town during the disturbances. Some apprehension was entertained lest the funerals of persons slain in the riots would be the signal for the outburst of fresh disorder; but, thanks to the wise precautions taken by the authorities, they were performed without any breach of the peace. Acts of violence are no longer perpetrated, but the hatred engendered by the last few days will not soon subside. It is to be hoped that Government have learnt the lesson to be deduced from the terrible experience of the last fortnight—that, in the midst of so excitable a population, and in the presence of two such fierce and vindictive factions, no processions or party demonstrations of any kind should on any pretext be permitted.

A lady, somewhat advanced in years, but possessed still, it would seem, of some remaining charms, has during her life had the mournful satisfaction of burying two husbands, from each of whom she received, as some slight compensation for their loss, substantial increase of her pecuniary means; her income is now estimated at about 700*l.* a year. The lady's name is Wray, and she dwells at Leeds; she has not attained, so far as can be ascertained, to a greater age than seventy, and under all the circumstances it is not surprising that suitors for her hand have till lately continued to address her. Mr. Lister, a retired corn-dealer, also of Leeds, who, on the admission of his own counsel, is now on the shady side of fifty, succeeded in possessing himself of her affections. Thus far at least, that a marriage contract was entered into between them, settlements drawn, the license obtained, the ring, trousseau, and breakfast provided, and a parson retained. All was in readiness to make Mr. Lister the happiest man in the world; but on the destined morning Mrs. Wray determined to convince the unhappy lover that among her other possessions she still retained that of woman's dearest privilege, the right to change her mind, which right she proceeded to exercise: she refused to meet him at the altar, and could not be induced to change her mind again. Under these distressing circumstances Mr. Lister had of course but one alternative, and brought his wrongs before a jury, who, however, notwithstanding the eloquence of his learned counsel, Mr. Digby Seymour, estimated the damage he had sustained at the hands of the venerable jilt at one farthing.

Inspector Tanner has safely arrived in New York, with Serjeant Clark and the two witnesses against Müller, and has received from the authorities every assistance they could render. Inspector Kerrissey has also arrived with the second warrant, and the most complete arrangements have been made to secure the capture of the supposed assassin, a special steamer being engaged and kept always ready to meet the *Victoria* when she appears in sight.

The inquest on Mr. Briggs was resumed on Monday last. Several witnesses were examined, but nothing of any importance transpired; and the inquest was adjourned till September 8, by which time it is expected that Müller will have returned to England.

Lord Palmerston, after an absence of several years from his constituents, has at last been able to pay them a visit. He was received in a most cordial manner and conducted to his hotel by an enthusiastic crowd. In the evening a banquet was given to the noble Lord, at which the Mayor of Tiverton presided. After the usual loyal toasts, the chairman proposed the health of Lord Palmerston. The noble Lord, in returning thanks, expressed the pleasure he felt in the apparent satisfaction of all parties at the ecclesiastical appointments made by him. He said that in selecting persons to fill places of authority in the church, two things had to be borne in mind, the promotion of the moral and religious training of the country, and the appointment of men who would endeavour to heal the acerbities occasioned by differences of opinion in religious matters, and who would set an example of charity to those under their care. The importance of the heads of the Church being actuated by that spirit was illustrated by the recent miserable exhibition of the results of yielding to religious rancour at Belfast, though there this evil was aggravated by the presence of old established political animosity in addition to the religious element. The noble Lord passed rapidly in review the attitude of England during the last five years. It had fallen to the lot of his Administration to preserve to this country the blessings of peace, although on several occasions the avoidance of war had been difficult. He did not belong to the peace-at-all-price party, if indeed such a party could be said to exist; differences of opinion might prevail as to what amounted to a sufficient provocation to justify war, but he believed there were no Englishmen who would shrink from war when necessary to maintain the honour and interests of the country. We might have embarked for war in aid of the Poles; we deplored their unfortunate lot. We endeavoured to enlist the sympathy and support of Europe on their behalf; the efforts we made were hearty but unsuccessful; to have made war would have been a great error. The advice of some would have involved us in war on the American continent, on behalf of one or other of the belligerents; we have wisely abstained from interfering. 'We may hope that time and reflection and recent advices from America, show some favourable symptoms—we may hope that time and reflection and the fact of the immense losses which have been sustained, and the slight hopes of success which appear on the part of the North may have their due weight—we may hope that many months will not elapse before some progress will be made towards healing that tremendous breach which now exists.' He was convinced that any effort at mediation on our part before matters had become ripe for adjustment would have been useless, and would have raised up a bitter spirit towards this country, and therefore that our neutrality was wise. As to the Danish question we all sympathised with the Danes, and condemned the injustice and lawless aggression of the German Powers, but the time of year was unfavourable for sending out a fleet, and our available land force was not sufficient in numbers to cope successfully with the multitudes of Germany. We are sufficiently strong to resist attack from whatever quarter it may come, having in round numbers 300,000 militia and volunteers, in addition to the regular army, but our policy is not an aggressive one. It is the duty of Government to preserve peace, it is the duty of the people to promote trade and increase the resources of the country, and both duties have, in the noble Lord's opinion, been most satisfactorily performed.

A great fire raged during the larger portion of last week in Woolmer Forest, which is believed to have been the work of incendiaries. A tract of land about 6 miles long by 3 broad has been ravaged by the flames. Great assistance was rendered by the troops at Aldershott in putting an end to the conflagration, more than 1,000 persons being incessantly occupied at the task for upwards of three days.

INDIA.

The report of the complete victory gained by the Ameer of Cabool over his brother Afyul Khan is confirmed. The Ameer is once more in Cabool busily engaged in strengthening his resources. The Bhooteas still threaten to give trouble, and all communication between the British authorities in Assam and Bhootan is interrupted. Rumours also are rife with regard to the hostile intentions of the King of Burmah. A minute has been recorded by the Governor-General restricting the financial member of his council (Sir Charles Trevelyan) from sanctioning the expenditure of any sum exceeding 60*l.* a month. Sir Hugh Rose is not expected to leave for England till the spring.

NEW ZEALAND.

A despatch from Sir Duncan Cameron, K.C.B., who is in command of Her Majesty's forces in New Zealand, has recently arrived; it contains advices up to June 7, and is dated from Auckland, to which place the General has transferred his headquarters from Tauranga, where Colonel Greer of the 68th was left in command. It also contains a report from Colonel Warre in command of the troops in Taranaki. The accounts are more satisfactory than those received for some time past. The Maories were utterly defeated at New Plymouth with only one casualty on our side. This is the only place at which there has been any collision since his last despatch. The health and spirits of the troops are excellent; but no further active operations can be undertaken for the next three months in any part of New Zealand, and the troops have, for the most part, hutted themselves for the winter.

THE CONTINENT.

THE DANISH QUESTION.

We have now wellnigh bid adieu to the Dano-German quarrel; all thought of further war has died out on both sides; the prisoners are being restored to their native countries; the Danes are reducing their forces; the Commissioners have met at Vienna to discuss the preliminaries of peace; the Danish representatives have at last received their final instructions on that subject. In every good old comedy there were two plots; one between the hero and heroine, the other between the hero's valet and the heroine's maid: the latter always made its appearance during a lull in the action of the principal personages, and created an agreeable variety in the performance. Somewhat on the analogy of this double plot is the present European difficulty framed. The principal performers are the two great Powers, Austria and Prussia, on the one hand, and Denmark on the other. The valet and lady's maid are represented by the same Austria and Prussia in their capacities as members of the German Bund for the one, and the Confederation for the other. There is a pause in the action between the principals; and the minor plot has come forward to the public view with some energy. The case is of the simplest description. The two belligerent powers assert their right to deal with the Duchies as conquerors, while the Diet claims to have the disposal of them as the only arbiter on matters of purely German policy. Russia thought fit to press her view of the question on her opponents by the seizure of Rendsburg. Baron von Beust retorted by ordering General Haake to move the Hanoverian troops into Lauenberg; and that there might be no possibility of mistaking his motives, he further gave notice that he intended to ask the representatives of Austria and Prussia in the Federal Diet to give assurances with respect to their intentions regarding the Duchies. A pledge of any such description would be most inconvenient to Prussia. She had, therefore, parried the attack by demanding of Hanover on what ground her troops were moved into Lauenburg. The answer was ready; the Hanoverian Government knew nothing about it, and were excessively annoyed with Herr von Beust for presuming to meddle with them. The consequence will probably be that Hanover will withdraw her contingent from the Federal army of execution. The demand for a pledge in the Federal Diet was disposed of in another manner. First Saxony was given to understand that the two great German Powers did not intend to allow her satellites to dictate to her; and that, therefore, the Saxon motion in the Diet would be negatived by a large majority. In the next place every Government organ in Prussia lifted up its voice in indignation at the conduct of a statesman, who, after refusing to fight, now came forward to divide the spoil; they exhausted the whole vocabulary of German expletives upon Saxony, and spoke with menace of the coming day when that kingdom shall become a province of Prussia. The effect of this outcry has been that the intended motion of Saxony in the Diet has been withdrawn, 'in consequence of urgent entreaties,' says the Saxon Government. The Austro-Prussian forces have now strengthened their hold on the disputed countries; orders have been received to advance the troops thither, and General Gablentz is already at Altona, making the requisite preparations; a Prussian fleet is cruising off the shores of Slesvig, and the harbour of Kiel is shortly to be occupied by two Prussian corvettes and a division of gunboats.

What the real intentions of Austria and Prussia are with regard to the future of the Duchies it is impossible to divine: we do not even know whether there is a perfect agreement between the two Powers on the provisional government to be established in the Duchies, much less on their ultimate destiny. It is scarcely to be believed that Austria will allow Prussia to make a territorial extension in that direction. Yet some affirm that even this has been contemplated; that the Prussian Government is desirous of placing the administration of the Duchies for the present in the hands of a Prussian prince; and only if this be found impracticable to divide the administration with Austria. The most moderate proposal which is expected to be made is that the territories should be governed by three commissioners, one of whom should represent the Diet.

The King of Prussia went to Vienna on the 20th inst., and remained there for perhaps a week; opinions are divided whether this portends an *entente cordiale* or the birth of fresh difficulties between the two countries; probably the former idea is correct. One fault in the present constitution of the Duchies is, according to Herr von Bismarck, that their constitution has been since 1848 so horribly republican: this blemish he promises through his official organs to remove as speedily as possible.

Only two fresh claims to the possession of these poor little Duchies this week! One is very moderate in its demands: it is only the little duchy of Lauenburg which is claimed by Hanover. The substance of the claim is that Lauenburg belonged to the Elector of Hanover from 1689 to 1815; that in 1815 it was ceded to Prussia, and exchanged by that country with Denmark for a portion of Pomerania and the island of Rügen: the rights of Denmark being now destroyed by the late war, the right of the original possessor revives. The King of Hanover has, therefore, applied to the Prussian Government to restore this sovereign duchy of 52,000 inhabitants to him, its lord and master. The other demand is as large as that of Hanover is moderate—nothing less than the crown of Denmark and Lauenburg will satisfy Prince Frederick William of Hesse. His memorial addressed to the Federal Diet states that it was with the greatest reluctance that in 1852 he allowed his mother, a princess of Denmark, to relinquish her reversion of the crown of Denmark to its present possessor in 1852; that even then he made the stipulations that the rights should be revived if the conditions of that treaty were not adhered to; that he has waited for the moment when these conditions should be officially declared null and void, as they now are by the negotiations between the two belligerent parties; that he now declares, according to the terms of his stipulations, that his rights are revived, and that the reversion of the crown of Denmark, with all its dependencies, is his upon the decease of the present King; and he prays finally that, Lauenburg being now separated from the kingdom of Denmark, he may at once be admitted into possession of that duchy, and his representative be received into the Federal Diet. This memorial has been referred, along with the multitude of others on the same subject, to that mysterious committee whose existence, to judge from the results which it produces, must be one of perpetual adjournment.

Of all the amusing and audacious demands which have been so profusely made by the German press during the past year, none has surpassed that of a journal of Saxe-Weimar, which we would gladly reproduce *in extenso*, so cogent are the arguments, and so miraculous the conclusion. 'Germany,' says this article, 'counts her flock, and lo! a valuable member responds not to the call. Heligoland is at this moment in the unnatural, illegitimate possession of a naval Power which persistently derides, abuses, and persecutes Germany. What guarantees have we against England at any moment blockading our principal rivers, the Weser and the Elbe, and prostrating our commerce? We repeat, no permanent peace can be thought of so long as Heligoland is not restored to its mother country, Slesvig-Holstein. Denmark must give up the whole of the North Sea Islands to Slesvig-Holstein; Heligoland belongs to the latter quite as much as Sylt and Fohr. If it suited Denmark in 1814 to put up Heligoland for sale in the English market, it is her business now to cancel that transaction if she wants peace with Germany. It must be borne in mind that the two great Powers are the conquerors, Denmark the conquered, and that Heligoland in the hands of a foreign Government is an insult and absurdity which Denmark must be compelled to remedy.'

It is reported that M. Drouyn de Lhuys has addressed a private circular to the French diplomatic agents in foreign countries, stating that France will take no more part in the proposed pacification than she took in the war preceding it. She will only stipulate with regard to the future government of the Duchies that it shall be acquiesced in by their inhabitants. The Slesvig-Holsteiners themselves, those at least of them who are neither in Prussian pay nor under Prussian influence, have made a new and energetic demand that the wishes of the people should be consulted with regard to the change of masters.

DENMARK.

As we have already stated, the Danish army is being rapidly reduced; it is supposed that it will for the future consist of only 15,000 men. This reduction unfortunately throws a great number of deserving officers out of employ, particularly in respect of those regiments which were mainly recruited from the Duchies. The Danish officers may be easily absorbed into the army even in its reduced state, as it has always been under-officered; but the natives of Slesvig-Holstein who have remained faithful to their colours will find themselves now in a cruel position—incapable of employment in Denmark as foreigners, and looked upon with suspicion by the new masters of their native country. The Danish fleet is also being laid up in ordinary; the *Rolf Krake*, in particular, is now lying dismantled in dock; how she has done her work we shall know when another Napier writes a history of the Dano-German war, and not till then.

We mentioned last week a report that the Danish Government were about to withdraw their representative from England; it is said that the same step will be taken with regard to Russia, for the same motives of economy.

The visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Copenhagen is expected to take place early in October.

The Crown Prince Humbert of Italy is now travelling *incognito*, but with a numerous suite, in the north of Europe. On Monday last he passed through Lubeck to Copenhagen. He is travelling under the name of Count Monza.

FRANCE.

August 15—the *Fête Napoléon* of the Frenchman, the Feast of the Assumption of the Roman Catholic—was celebrated with all human and divine honours in Paris. The usual magnificence of this holiday has been this year utterly surpassed and thrown into the shade by the splendour of the welcome given by the Emperor to the King of Spain. When the great day arrived, Paris was crowded with visitors; provincials and foreigners—English in particular—swarmed into the metropolis. The weather was as favourable to the holiday as could be desired—a clear sky, and a heat somewhat less intense than on the previous days. The rejoicings began with a salute of 101 guns from the esplanade at the Invalides. Next came the distribution of loaves to the poor; then an official *Te Deum* at Notre Dame, and a reception of the *Corps Diplomatique* at the Tuileries. All through the day went on the usual amusements in the square in front of the Invalides—the greasy pole, the tilting matches on the river, the balloon, and the inevitable open-air theatres, where French troops perform prodigies of valour against a vast force of Cochin Chinese, and fire away blank cartridges enough to take another Mexico. The illuminations of the evening were as brilliant as usual—the Tuileries, the Place de la Concorde, and the Champs Elysées were adorned with myriads of lamps, and the Champs Elysées was in a continued blaze of varying red, white, or blue lights. The Emperor and Empress walked up the avenue in the evening and mingled freely with the crowd. Hundreds of the visitors were unable to find beds, and bivouacked under the stars on the Boulevards or in the Champs Elysées. One remarkable feature of the fête was the starting of a new cry, '*As tu vu Lambert?*' supposed to have arisen from the anxious inquiries of some provincial spouse who had lost her better half in the crowd.

The King of Spain arrived in Paris on Monday evening, and was received with a magnificence such as has never yet been equalled. On Wednesday, the 17th, a grand dinner was given in his honour at St. Cloud; on the 18th he held a reception at the Spanish Embassy, at which the most noticeable circumstance was the absence of the Italian ambassador, whose Government has not yet been recognised by Spain; indeed, the Spanish Government have only lately sent a new minister to the court of Francis II. of Naples. On the evening of the 18th was given a state performance at the Opera. The public was rigidly excluded from this, and no one was admitted save by special invitation. The consequence was a sight such as has rarely been witnessed by mortal eyes: the gorgeous uniforms of the men, and the magnificent toilettes and jewellery of the ladies under the innumerable wax-lights with which the theatre was illuminated, combined to make up a most superb spectacle. On the 19th a review was held on the Champ de Mars, comprising troops to the number of about 70,000, of whom 10,000 were cavalry, with 20 batteries of artillery and 120 guns. This was unfortunately marred by a steady downfal of rain, which was decidedly damping to the enthusiasm of all but the English visitors, who were accustomed to it. On the evening of the 20th inst. Versailles revived the glories of the Grand Monarque, in a fête such as even he could vainly hope to equal. The Galerie des Glaces, that splendid but dreary room, which carries the visitor back irresistibly to the days of Madame de Pompadour and the Dubarry, was lighted up in full splendour. The theatre of the palace also was disinterred from the memories of the last century to see once more a performance of Molière's comedy of 'Psyche.' The grounds were all thrown open to the public, who assembled there in tens of thousands; never did the unscrupulous hotel-keepers of Versailles reap such a harvest. Unfortunately, the rain came on again in the evening, and put out the illumination at its birth. It ceased, however, in an hour, and the public were compensated for their disappointment by some splendid fireworks, and by the electric light playing upon the fountains of the Bassin de Neptune. On Sunday the King of Spain left Paris and returned to his own country. He was seen in Paris on several occasions, and is described as a pale gentlemanly-looking man.

One of the most disastrous fires that has yet occurred in France broke out on the evening of the 15th instant, at Limoges. The news was instantly telegraphed to the Emperor, and his first impulse was to proceed at once to the spot, but he was then awaiting the arrival of the King of Spain, and was consequently obliged to entrust the care of the business to his aide-de-camp, Count Reille. What was the origin of the fire has not been ascertained; probably it was connected with the preparation of fireworks for the evening fête. The dryness of the air and the scarcity of water were such that the fire soon gained the upper hand; it raged on without intermission into the next day; nothing but the strenuous exertions of a few individuals saved the town from utter destruction. The street in which it first broke out was old and narrow, as were also all those adjoining; the fire, therefore, spread on unheeded until it reached the Boulevards of the town; here it was at length arrested, but not before it had destroyed 108 houses, and 120,000*l.* worth of property. The Emperor and Empress immediately sent for the relief of the destitute the sum of 15,000 francs, to which the King of Spain added 5,000 more. Subscriptions have everywhere been opened for their help. We are told that at 9 P.M. on the 15th, when the fire was at its height, the Bishop of the diocese, followed by his clergy, carried in solemn procession round the burning houses the relics of St. Aurelian and St. Martial.

RUSSIA.

By letters from St. Petersburg we learn that the Czar has ordered a reduction of the army, granting an immediate and unlimited discharge to those soldiers of the

guards, artillery, engineers, and the interior guard whose service expires on January 1 next.

Fresh condemnations have taken place in Poland, in consequence of the discovery of an alleged conspiracy against the life of General Berg. One man, Krazinski by name, was condemned to death, two more were reprieved, when at the very foot of the gallows, and their sentence commuted to twenty years' imprisonment; several others have been condemned to fifteen and twelve years' hard labour in the mines.

ITALY.

The mania for duelling has risen to such a height in Italy, that S. Pisanelli, the Minister of Grace and Justice, has thought it his duty to send a circular to the various prefects and magistrates of the kingdom, inveighing against the practice, and complaining that the authorities are not sufficiently active in their exertions to prevent a breach of the peace. Had he been less delicate, and accused them openly of shutting their eyes to every flagrant instance of law-breaking which occurs in this shape, he would have done them no injustice; it is notorious that not the smallest endeavour is made to stop an affair even when notice is given of it. It is, perhaps, an open question how far the hot blood of Italy will stand these restraints which we of a colder climate can bear without complaint; but there can be no question that as long as the law exists, it is the duty of the magistrates to enforce it. Most unluckily it happened that shortly after the publication of this circular, a duel took place between two well-known men, one of them a subordinate member of the Government, on a quarrel which took its rise from politics. It was impossible for the Ministry to take notice of it without doing themselves injury; it was therefore allowed to pass by; and the duellists of Italy have plucked up fresh courage when they see the Government make a dead letter of their own circular.

The mysterious affair with brigands which occurred but a little way outside Florence has not yet been cleared up. Some sceptics declare that the whole story was the offspring of the imagination of Mr. Digby Beste, the gentleman whose son was carried off by the bandits. It is alleged that the country is so well populated that it would be impossible for a band of twenty men to live in it without the knowledge of any one. It is suggested that Mr. Beste has perhaps a reason for wishing to believe in the existence of banditti in other places besides the Papal States. However, this is only the defence, and at present requires more certain confirmation. If it be true that the attack took place, the outer world may well ask whether the King of Italy had not better set his house in order at home before he thinks of attacking Venice. The mere existence of crime does not necessarily condemn the police of a country as inefficient; but the presence of an armed band waging private war against travellers shows that the miscreants themselves have but little belief in the power of the police.

We mentioned last week a case of abduction at Rome, in which the authorities had taken a Jewish boy of the name of Cohen out of the hands of his parents for the purpose of proselytising him. The *Nazione* of Florence states from Rome that the mother of the boy Cohen, having a few days ago gone to the Asylum of the Catecumeni to claim her son, and having used some strong language on the occasion, was immediately arrested and sent to prison.

SPAIN.

It is confidently reported that even Spain is at last to taste of the blessings of free trade. A reform of the tariff is shortly expected, to be followed by a new commercial treaty with France. Not less than this was to be looked for from the new Northern Spanish railway, which the King of Spain inaugurated at San Sebastian on the 22nd inst. on his return from Paris.

Good accounts are received from Santo Domingo. It is said that the insurgents are desirous of capitulating.

MEXICO.

Official dispatches, received here from Mexico, announce that several unimportant engagements had taken place between some bands and the troops. The sanitary condition of the army was satisfactory.

The Emperor Maximilian has granted an amnesty for all political offences.

BELGIUM.

The Brussels journals state that some disturbance took place in that capital three days back as soon as the general results of the elections became known. A tumultuous crowd assembled in the Rue des Ursulines, in front of the Jesuits' establishment, and remained there, shouting 'Down with the Jesuits!' When the police attempted to disperse the assemblage, stones were thrown, one of which struck Police Commissary Daxbeck on the head, and inflicted a rather severe wound. Fifteen of the most turbulent rioters were arrested and lodged in prison.

GREECE.

Advices received from Athens announce that the Cephalonian members have brought forward a motion in the National Assembly proposing that the Government should declare it to be the wish of the nation that Candia, Thessaly, and Epirus should be peacefully annexed to Greece by means of treaties.

ALGERIA.

The vague rumours of fresh disturbances having taken place in the province of Oran are confirmed.

Si-Mohammed has raised the tribes of Larbas and several other districts of Boghar. They have committed acts of incendiarism and assassination, cut the telegraph wires, and pillaged several caravanseries. The other districts of Oran and the province of Constantine are tranquil.

The troops have established a military cordon, confining the insurrection, and preventing any reinforcements reaching it.

FEDERAL ATROCITIES.

Our files of Confederate papers are full of accounts of the atrocities committed by the Federals and by the negro soldiers under their command. We append a few extracts from the *Richmond Enquirer*.

'On July 10 Butler issued an order that a portion of the country should be devastated for the purpose of feeding the troops and prisoners at Point Lookout. In pursuance of this order 700 negro infantry, under the command of Colonel Draper, and 100 white cavalry, were started for the Northern Neck; and 400 negro infantry, accompanied by 50 white cavalry, were sent into Westmoreland County. The Correspondent of the *Enquirer* says: 'Mr. Ben. English, after having been robbed, was stripped, tied up, and given thirty-nine lashes with the cowhide. And more horrible, but only too true, twenty-five or thirty ladies were violated by this party of negroes. Neither age nor colour was spared by these demons, who were encouraged by their white officers.'

'The rest of the regiment, 300 strong, with 50 white cavalry, under the immediate command of Colonel Draper, marched to Richmond County. On the route six negroes violated the person of Mrs. G. eleven times, she being the wife of a brave soldier of the Ninth Virginia Cavalry, being also sick at the time, with an infant six months old at her breast. This is only one instance out of twenty others of a like outrage.'

Another correspondent writes:—'Without writing narratives of specific acts, it is sufficient to record that they forcibly carried off negroes who were strongly attached to their homes and their owners, and who declared their unwillingness to go and pleaded not to be taken. They carried off or destroyed horses, cattle, stock of every kind, grain and farm implements, declaring that the country should be wasted and desolated, that crops should not be made. They destroyed the libraries of professional men, the medicines in the offices of physicians, and the tools of mechanics in their shops. They carried off or destroyed household furniture and utensils, beds, bedding, and clothes, so that many families are left destitute, individuals with only a single suit—that worn at the time; in some instances clothing was torn from the person of the wearer. Men and women have been stripped, tied up, and whipped. Wives and daughters have been shamelessly and publicly violated.'

'The negroes of Mr. Clayton, of Charles City, were compelled to tie their master to a tree and lacerate his naked body.'

'A party of United States troops lately landed in the Northern Neck counties, committed ten rapes upon the persons of respectable women. From Hunter's column, in the Valley, outrage after outrage is being perpetrated; the burning of the Lexington Institute was least among their crimes. The private residence of ex-Governor Letcher, with all the clothing of his family, was burnt. There, again, the wailing cry of outraged women was heard, and the wretches who perpetrated these crimes may soon be 'prisoners of war.' It is sickening to record the catalogue of dishonour that has been heaped upon the women of Virginia.'

'Sheridan's thieves exceeded any that have visited this section. If as many of the inmates of perdition had been poured upon us, they could not have been more vile and merciless. What they could not carry off, they would destroy. They carried off corn, meat, horses, cattle, carriages, negroes, even forced negro children from their parents; broke up furniture, china; stole male, female, and infants' clothing; tore open beds, tore up bed clothing, in short destroyed as they went; drew pistols upon ladies and cursed them, publicly ravished the negro women and robbed the negroes of clothing and eatables. Many were left without a mouthful to feed their hungry crying children.'

We might multiply these extracts, but no further proof is needed of the abominable way in which Mr. Lincoln's officers wage war in the South.

CAPTURE OF THE 'GEORGIA.'

(From the *Morning Herald*, August 25.)

Yesterday there was posted at Lloyd's a copy of a letter which had been sent for the information of the under-writers by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, reporting the capture of the *Georgia* steamer, formerly a Confederate cruiser, but recently disposed of at Liverpool for 16,000*l.*, to Mr. Bates, the shipowner of that port.

'*Ellora*, screw-steamer, Gibraltar,
'August 16, 1864.

'Gentlemen,—I beg to report the arrival of this ship at the above port, all well, at nine P.M. this day. Fine weather has been experienced throughout the passage. On the 15th inst., at two P.M., Great Burlings bearing NE. eight to nine miles distant, we passed close to two screw steam vessels, both under steam, but hove to with their heads in shore. The larger of these was evidently an American-built frigate, and was flying the Federal flag. The smaller was an English-built vessel of about 700 to 800 tons, without any flag flying, and was deeply laden. On her stern was written in white letters (apparently quite recently done) 'Georgia, Liverpool.' She was brig-rigged, with bowsprit and jib-boom, and had a black funnel, placed rather farther forward than it is in the generality of merchant steamers. Heavily-laden boats were passing frequently from the smaller to the larger vessel; and I observed in one that was in transit at the time of our passing under the stern of the frigate a quantity of seamen's chests and bedding. The frigate had tackles at both of her lower yard-arms, and she hoisted her pinnace out soon after we passed her. Preparations also appeared to be going on for hoisting in heavy weights. On the poop of the smaller vessel were several officers in American naval uniform, and a number of men, evidently belonging to the frigate, all fully armed. The larger ship appeared to be upwards of 3,000 tons, full rigged, with two black funnels, with white band six feet from the top; she had a large gilded eagle on her stern; and altogether appeared very like the American screw steam frigate *Niagara*. Boats were passing between the ships as long as we could discern them. The sea was very smooth, and the weather very fine.

'I am, &c.,
'George C. Sparkes,
'Commander *Ellora*, screw steamer.'

Towards the afternoon a telegram was also posted from Liverpool that the Federal war steam frigate *Niagara* had arrived off Dover, and had landed the captain and 33 seamen, the crew of the *Georgia*. No mention is made as to what had become of the *Georgia*, but it was surmised a prize crew had been put on board of her, and she had been sent to New York.

LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New Orleans, Louisiana: August 2, 1864.

THE DEFENCES OF MOBILE—THE CONFEDERATE FLEET—THE FEDERAL FLEET—THE CONFEDERATE NAVAL OFFICERS—THE ENQUIRY INTO THE CORRUPTION OF BANKS'S ADMINISTRATION—THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS—THE FEDERALS NOT ANXIOUS TO EXCHANGE THOSE WHOSE TERM OF SERVICE HAS EXPIRED—HOW THE YANKEES TREAT THEIR PRISONERS—MR. LINCOLN'S 'STATE CONVENTION'—BANKS OVERRULED—MESSRS. WADE AND DAVIS ON MR. LINCOLN'S 'RECONSTITUTION'—GENERAL CANBY'S CALL FOR MILITIA—THE NEGROES BEING PRESSED—THEY SHRINK FROM MILITARY SERVICE.

We learn that Admiral Farragut began his attack upon the water defences of Mobile yesterday. What progress he has made, or how the engagement terminated, has not yet transpired. His fleet is a powerful one, mounting over two hundred guns, and fears are entertained by the Confederates of this city that the Admiral will force the passage of the forts (Gaines and Morgan) at the entrance of the bay. When he has done so, however, the same parties contend that he will have but just entered upon his task. Fort Morgan, a casemated work mounting some fifty guns, is situated upon the tongue of a peninsula called Mobile Point, on the east side of the entrance. On the opposite side stands Fort Gaines, upon Dauphine Island, the eastern extremity of which is about three miles from Mobile Point, their situation thus allowing the two forts to pour an enfilading fire upon an enemy's squadron attempting the entrance. The probability is that Farragut will attempt to repeat his trick of running past them during the night, as he did in the case of Forts Jackson and St. Philippe. From Dauphine Island to Grant's Pass, which connects the Mississippi Sound with the lower harbour of Mobile, are a series of works which command the channel for some five miles. The Pass is defended by Fort Powell, which Farragut attempted to reduce last February. It is a sand battery, similar in construction to Fort M'Allister on the Ogeechee River, and Fort Wagner on Morris Island. These successively resisted the attacks of the ironclads. The water defences of the city proper extend down both sides of the bay about five miles, and consist of formidable earthworks, redoubts, and, it is said, ironclad forts. A short distance from the city is the Marsh Battery, so called from being built upon a marshy tract which has been made solid by means of piles and earth. This battery mounts ten guns—three 100-pounder rifles, four 9-inch Dahlgren's, and three long 32-pounders. Most of these works command the land approaches as well as the bay. The several channels are obstructed, or can be obstructed at a moment's warning, and a line of intricate and formidable obstructions extends nearly across the bay about three miles from the city. From this it will be seen that though the Union squadron should run the gauntlet of Forts Morgan and Gaines, the fall of the city would not necessarily follow immediately if at all. The enemy's squadron once within the harbour, the surrender of Morgan and Gaines would, I suppose, be but a question of time; though I know that the Confederates, foreseeing the possibility of these strongholds being cut off from the city, garrisoned and provisioned them for a protracted siege.

The garrison of Fort Morgan might effect its escape round the peninsula, but the troops on Dauphine Island would have but little chance of escape. On the land side the city is enveloped with formidable earthworks, situated just within the entrenchments which extend a distance of about fifteen miles, covering it on the west, north, and east. Besides all these defensive works there is also a formidable little fleet under command of Admiral Buchanan. We may be sure that the hero of the *Merrimac* will give his late brother in arms a good fight. Admiral Buchanan's squadron is said to number in all twelve vessels, mounting fifty guns. They are the ironclads *Tennessee* (ram), *Nashville*, *Morgan*, and *Baltic*; the cottonclads *Selma*, *Gaines*, *Hornsent*, and five small gunboats. Against this mosquito fleet Admiral Farragut brings the most formidable naval force yet in action in this war. He has 9 screw sloops, mounting 133 guns; 8 monitors and ironclads, 22 guns; 4 double-enders, 37 guns; 6 gunboats, 29 guns; and 4 tugs, carrying 8 guns. The following is a list of the Confederate naval officers:—

Admiral Franklin Buchanan commanding.

Staff Officers and Officers of the Flagship 'Tennessee.'—Lieutenant: J. R. Eggleston. Surgeons: L. W. Miner, O. S. Englehart. Commander: E. Farrand. Lieutenant: Alphonso Barbolt. Paymasters: T. W. Ware, G. H. O'Neil. Master: John Pearson. Midshipman: W. S. Hogue. Engineer: W. Frick, Jr. Gunner: B. F. Hughes.

Officers of the 'Nashville.'—Lieutenants: C. Ap. R. Jones, George W. Gift. Surgeon: H. W. W. Washington. Assistant-Surgeon: M. R. Ford. Assistant-Paymaster: L. E. Brooks. Masters: H. H. Marmaduke, J. M'Baker. Passed Midshipman: Daniel Trigg. Midshipmen: W. J. Creigh, W. R. Mayhew, C. K. Mallory. Engineers: First Assistant, John W. Tynan; Second Assistant, Huey Fagan; Third Assistant, John Dent. Gunner: Jas. Lovett.

Officers of the 'Morgan.'—Commander: C. H. M'Blair. Lieutenants: C. J. Graves, T. L. Harrison. Assistant-Surgeon: E. G. Booth. Assistant-Paymaster: R. L. M'Kall. Midshipmen: H. H. Scott, T. G. Garret, W. F. Wilson, H. H. Tyson, J. R. Norris, F. Arthur. Engineer: H. B. Willy.

Officers of the 'Baltic.'—Lieutenants: James D. Johnston, Wm. P. A. Campbell, John Grunball. Second Lieutenants: Geo. A. Borchett, E. G. Read, A. G. Hudgins. Surgeons: J. T. Mason, W. F. Carrington. Assistant-Paymaster: M. M. Leay. Masters: Ivey Foreman, H. W. Perrin. Midshipmen: S. P. Blanc, F. B. Dornin, J. H. Hamilton, E. A. Swain. Engineers: W. M. Fauntleroy, F. G. Simpson. Gunners: W. H. Haynes, E. G. M'Coomb.

Officers of the 'Selma.'—Lieutenant: P. U. Murphy. Midshipman: J. B. Reteliffe.

Officers of the 'Gaines.'—Commander: T. T. Hunter. Lieutenants: J. W. Bennett, Hilary Cems. Assistant-Surgeon: T. B. Ford. Assistant-Paymaster: J. E. Armur. Master: E. C. Stockton. Midshipmen: J. A. Merriweather, J. M. Gardner, D. D. Colcock, W. D. Goode, W. H. Sterling, J. H. Dyke, W. F. Clayton.

It is somewhat of an official confession of malfeasance that General Canby has found it necessary to appoint an officer to examine into the manner in which General Banks's appointees have discharged their official duties. The public were fully aware of the corruption prevailing in all the departments of Banks's command. As the long-suffering victims of a legalised system of extortion and plunder, the unhappy people had in a measure got used to it, and began to accept the thing as a matter of course, to cease only with the expulsion of the enemy. The appointment of General Canby has, however, put

a period to this and many other abuses. An officer, styled Inspector, has recently been appointed by General Canby to ferret out all the abuses of office on the part of Banks's officers. In accordance with instructions from General Canby, he has through the public prints made the following requisition:—'All persons who have paid sums of money to any officer of the Government, or to any party purporting to represent the Government, for "Rent," "Fines," "Assessments," "Passports," "Privileges," "Black Mail, or release from any required duty," or any other, without consideration, will please hand to the undersigned, at his office, a concise statement of—"Date of Payment," "Property Represented," "Time for which Payment was made," "Amount," "To whom paid," and any other information necessary to establish the amounts collected in this city, and in the Department of the Gulf.' Even his enemies must pity General Banks in his fallen fortunes.

About one thousand Union prisoners, recently exchanged, arrived here some days ago from Tyler, Texas. Their uniforms were in a most dilapidated condition, but the wearers for the most part looked 'hearty and healthy,' as is confessed by one of the city press, though a contemporary makes the imprisonment of these men a theme for the old but exploded charge of 'rebel barbarity' to prisoners of war. None know better than the utterers of such calumnies that they are wholly groundless; still we expect to hear the changes rung upon this 'rebel barbarity' until the close of the war, for the Union press have an object in it. It tends to keep alive the war feeling, and is expected to make the men fight a little more obstinately rather than become the victims of 'rebel barbarity.' Not unfrequently, however, they run a little sooner to escape the same imaginary fate. But really if these men have languished and suffered in prison, they have only their own Government to blame. If many of the men died at the prison camp at Tyler simply for the want of medicines—as is alleged—who, pray, made medicine contraband of war? But all the alleged hardships could have been escaped by an exchange of prisoners; the Confederate authorities west, as well as east, of the Mississippi being ready at any time to renew the cartel. This the Federal Government declined doing, as the term of service of most of the prisoners had expired. One regiment, the 42nd Massachusetts—nine-months men—lay in captivity since January 1863, double the term of enlistment. These and all others whose term of service had expired, might have remained in prison till after the war, but for the great loss of the Federals in prisoners in the late Red River campaign. This compelled them to reopen negotiations, and General Canby sought to bring about a general exchange soon after his arrival. As the General is an educated soldier and strictly honourable, he will find no difficulty in treating with the Confederates. If General Canby is now ready for a general exchange, he can have it, but the Confederates will not consent to an exchange, of such bodies of Federal troops as may have a year or more yet to serve, while regiments whose terms have expired—like the 42nd Massachusetts—are left in their hands.

Apropos of cruelty to prisoners, let me quote you the subjoined extract from a letter written by a lady in Maryland to a friend in this city. The writer has peculiar facilities for becoming acquainted with the treatment of Confederate prisoners. 'Ah! it would make your heart bleed to know of the cruelties practised upon our poor soldiers in all the Yankee dungeons. On Johnson's Island, as well as in all the other prisons, a deposition has been drawn up secretly and signed by all the officers, making a simple statement of facts regarding the cruelties and indignities inflicted upon them. Think of our brave men at Fort Delaware being suspended by the thumbs to a beam for some fancied offence, and kept in that situation until their limbs were dislocated, and the victims were taken down only to die. I heard of an instance the other day, of one of the men being found hanging in this manner by a more humane Yankee surgeon, who ordered him to be taken down. The guard refused, as he was obeying the orders of the General, when the doctor himself cut him down, and, upon being asked by the General why he had done so, he replied that the man would have died in half an hour if he had not relieved him. Thereupon the General said it was 'a pity he did not leave him hang,' and forbade his interference in any other cases which might occur. To think of their committing these devilish atrocities so secretly, for they will not permit anything to pass out from the prisoners without inspection. We get our information contraband and from escaped captives. And to hear them howling over the misery of their Yankees in Dixie because they do not get all the delicacies of life, is too abominable.'

That creature of the military power, the State Convention, has adjourned. It may be regarded as extinct, though it adjourned subject to the call of the (its) President. The Constitution which it adopted is to be submitted to the 'qualified voters' (Northern residents, soldiers, and such like) for approval or rejection on the first Monday in September next, and the Federal Lieutenant-Governor has issued a proclamation ordering a ballot to be had on this question at the appointed time. The character of this body and the means to which it owes its being have been fully exposed in previous letters. Therefore I shall add here but little, if anything, further from myself regarding this Convention. Lest, however, some reader may suppose that 'rebel sympathies' had jaundiced my judgment, let me give the following, from undoubted 'loyal' sources, in support of what I have previously advanced. The *Times* of this city, owned and controlled by the United States Sub-Treasurer, and of course a 'loyal Union' paper, thus speaks of the proceedings on the day previous to the adjournment:—

> 'Yea, though I die, the scandal will survive,
> And be an eye-sore in my golden coat.

'It has been our fortune in our day to witness many an amusing scene, many a most ludicrous occurrence, but the events of yesterday in the Constitutional State Convention exceeded anything for downright legitimate fun we can remember. The President in the chair, in a reclining posture, evidently much overcome by the heat and an excessive degree of good spirits. Questions were put, motions were made, and decisions rendered. Some of these decisions appeared to most of the members as entirely unparliamentary—that is, without sense, reason, or precedent. Murmurs of discontent grew audible, increased, and finally got vent in boisterous and uncomplimentary expressions, such as "the like was never heard," "he is drunk," "he is a d——d fool," &c. Amid all this confusion some member made a motion to adjourn. The motion was put and declared carried, and the President gracefully (?) retired from the chair and the hall into a committee room. Members insisted the motion for adjournment was not carried. One of the members, a gentleman, was declared elected temporary President. He stepped forward to the chair and declared an adjournment in a sober manner. The uproar did not, however, subside. Indignation generally prevailed, for there were men in that Convention who looked upon the whole proceeding with unutterable disgust. During the excitement railings were leaped over, and the most ridiculous scenes enacted that it is possible to conceive of. One man struck another with a chair, still another received a black eye, and yet another had the toe of a boot applied to his posterior extremities. The Convention, we understand, is to adjourn to-morrow, and this would seem a fitting finale to a legislative body which has shown a total disregard for the State, the people, and the public Treasury. Up to last Saturday, we are assured, the warrants upon the Treasury for expenses of this Convention had amounted to over a quarter of a million of dollars, and will reach, it is said, fully three hundred thousand dollars. The contingent expenses alone, which enumerated whisky as the most important item by far, had swelled to the prodigious sum of over forty thousand dollars. These proceedings will "pass into history"—in French and English at $1 per square and $5 per page in book form! Reader, we pause. This detail, although in seeming levity made, sickens and disgusts us.'

The 'assembled wisdom,' deeming itself grossly vilified by the *Times*, ordered the arrest of Mr. May, or rather requested Banks to have it done, and also to suppress his paper. He readily complied. But the order had hardly been issued when Banks was summoned to General Canby's headquarters. On his entrance, as I am informed, General Canby said, 'General Banks, write an order for Mr. May's release. General Banks: 'Let us argue the question.' General Canby: 'No, sir, the order must be given.' Accordingly, the order was written on the spot, and Mr. May was instantly released. It is said that General Canby gave General Banks clearly to understand that his edicts were no longer absolute in the department. And yet General Banks ranks him—at least he is his senior by nearly three years, Canby not having been appointed to the rank of Major-General until his late assignment to this command. Still Banks clutches at the shadow of his former power, and will not resign though thus disgraced.

The one other testimony which I would quote regarding the Louisiana Convention is the following extract from the 'counter-blast' of Representative Davis, of Maryland, and Senator Wade, of Ohio, to the President's proclamation of July 8, 1864. These gentlemen were the chairmen of the 'Committees on the rebellious States,' in their respective Houses, from which emanated the Bill 'to guarantee to certain States whose Government has been usurped, a Republican form of Government,' and which Bill the President refused to sign, as set forth in the proclamation referred to above. Messrs. Wade and Davis declare that 'the President persists in recognising those shadows of Governments in Arkansas and Louisiana, which Congress formally declared should not be recognised—whose representatives and senators were repelled by formal votes of both Houses of Congress—which it was declared formally should have no electoral vote for President and Vice-President. They are the mere creatures of his will. They cannot live a day without his support. They are mere oligarchies, imposed on the people by military orders under the forms of election, at which generals, provost-marshals, soldiers, and camp-followers were the chief actors, assisted by a handful of resident citizens, and urged on to premature action by private letters from the President. In neither Louisiana nor Arkansas before Banks's defeat, did the United States control half the territory or half the population. In Louisiana, General Banks's proclamation candidly declared: "The fundamental law of the State is martial law." On that foundation of freedom he erected what the President calls "the free Constitution and Government of Louisiana." But of this State, whose fundamental law was martial law, only sixteen parishes out of forty-eight parishes were held by the United States, and in five of the sixteen we held only our camps. The eleven parishes we substantially held had 233,185 inhabitants; the residue of the State not held by us, 575,617. At the farce called an election, the officers of General Banks returned that 11,346 ballots were cast; but whether any, or by whom, the people of the United States have no legal assurance; but it is probable that 4,000 were cast by soldiers or *employés* of the United States military or municipal, but none according to any law, State or national, and 7,000 ballots represent the State of Louisiana. Such is the free Constitution and Government of Louisiana; and like it is that of Arkansas. Nothing but the failure of a military expedition deprived us of a like one in the swamps of Florida; and before the Presidential election, like ones may be organised in every rebel State where the United States have a camp.'

This Convention cost the people of Louisiana about half a million of dollars, nearly one-half this amount being appropriated to a corps of unscrupulous eulogists of the press.

General Canby has ordered that all able-bodied males between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, within the lines of occupation in the Departments of Arkansas and the Gulf, and the districts east of the Mississippi River, will immediately be enrolled for service in the militia. Neutral foreigners, not being subject to compulsory military service, will be enrolled as a separate class, to be employed whenever necessary, as a local police or constabulary force. Paragraph 2 declares that the plea of alienage will not be admitted, if the claimant has, at any time, exercised the rights of citizenship, under any general, State, or municipal law, or has, at any time, been in the service of the rebel Government, or in that of any one of the States in rebellion. When any person, enrolled in the militia, has established his alienage, his name will be transferred to the enrolment for police purposes. Any person who may be found physically disqualified for field service, but fit for garrison duty, will be transferred to the battalions to be organised for local service, and no exemptions will be made except in cases of absolute disability. 'Deserters from the enemy will not be enlisted or employed in the army'—they cannot be relied upon, I suppose—nor hereafter will any person 'who is subject to the rebel conscription laws be sent or allowed to go within the rebel lines.' If they make themselves obnoxious, 'they will be tried for their offences, held as prisoners of war, or sent beyond the limits of this command.' Families of persons in the Confederate service will no longer be permitted to return to the city, though their homes may be there. They must remain in Dixie, but 'refugees in good faith will be received and kindly treated.' This is a very important order, one that cannot fail to entail much hardship upon the several classes referred to. Whether the foreigners are obliged to submit to this arbitrary enactment of military law remains to be seen.

But the privilege of fighting for the stars and stripes is not to be left exclusively to the white man. The emancipated slave is also to have his share of the fighting and the glory, and if he do not fully appreciate the honour, it is no fault of his new masters. I suppose it is owing to the fact that he does not fully appreciate the privilege of 'dying for his country' that we are now having what is termed a raid upon the negro. General Canby has ordered that four regiments of the Corps d'Afrique 'be broken up and the enlisted men distributed among the remaining regiments of that organisation,' and that measures be taken immediately 'to fill up the retained regiments by coloured labourers from the plantations in this department.' And so military pressgangs are busy in the city, as well as in the plantations, hunting up the fugitive darkies, who are seeking like terror-stricken children to escape their persecutors. A similar raid was witnessed here last spring, and the incidents thereof were painful and ludicrous in the extreme. This time the incidents are nearly all of a distressing character. The negro seems to have acquired, more particularly of late, a perfect terror of the battle-field, even at the prospect of going into the army. It is said that they have been made aware of the great slaughter of negro troops wherever they were engaged. No doubt these stories of 'terrific slaughter' have had their influence upon these ignorant but imaginative children of nature. But other influences have also been at work. I shall not, however, pursue this subject any further until my next letter. The negro as a soldier under Federal rule is an interesting theme.

THE SOUTH CANNOT BE STARVED INTO SUBMISSION.

(From the *New York World*, August 9.)

The Southern States is the most unlikely territory in the world to perish by inanition. Everything grows prolific there, and, withal, the country is supplied with a system of labour, as yet substantially unbroken, which, had it not been engaged hitherto in producing commercial crops, such as cotton, rice, sugar, and tobacco, might have grown the food of the whole world. Of the great cereal of the continent, Indian corn, the latest returns show that of the 836,000,000 bushels raised in the United States, the slave States produced more than half, and the States now in active rebellion more than one-third. The rebel States harvested in 1859 about 40,000,000 bushels of wheat, nearly or quite sufficient to supply a population equal to that of those States. It was, in fact, more than sufficient, since Indian corn furnishes the greatest portion of the bread consumed in the South. Counting two bushels of Indian corn equal to one of wheat, and allowing a consumption of breadstuffs equal to ten bushels (of *wheat*) to each man, woman, and child, there would still remain of the yield of Indian corn, upon the figures of 1860, more than 200,000,000 bushels for animals. Of domestic animals, whether bred for work or food, the rebel States raised vast numbers. For instance, it appears by the returns of 1860 there were in the State of Texas, in addition to

Horses	320,621
Asses and mules	63,000
Milch cows	598,086
Working oxen	172,243
Sheep	783,618
Swine	1,368,378

—in addition to these, no less than 2,733,267 head of animals classed under the head of 'other cattle,' indicating in this case the vast herds of cattle which pasture at large in that fertile State, reclaimed by their owners at will, when needed for the yoke, the dairy, or the shambles. In the matter of swine, Texas was outnumbered by three Northern States only, to wit:—

Ohio, which had in 1859	2,175,623
Indiana	2,498,528
Illinois	2,279,722

The slave States were among the largest breeders of swine. Georgia had, by the returns of 1860, more than two million head; Alabama had 1,736,959; Arkansas, 1,155,379; Mississippi, 1,534,097; Tennessee, 2,343,948; North Carolina, 1,883,214; and Virginia, 1,589,519. Of the border States, Kentucky raised 2,330,595 head, and Missouri 2,354,425.

The swine held by the State in rebellion (with deductions for those portions occupied by our troops) amounted to over fourteen million head, enough to allow of an annual yield of pork equal to 156 pounds to each of the 9,000,000 of inhabitants of those States. It is true that in the years before the rebellion there was an increasing draft upon the West by the South for pork and Indian corn—as was evidenced by the course of trade in this market, when the proceeds of large amounts of bills drawn against Southern products exported were held to meet drafts drawn in favour of the West for these provisions sent South by the railroads and river for consumption in the cotton and sugar States. The total product of Southern cereals was also drawn upon by the considerable amount of Virginia flour exported. These currents of trade dried up at once, however, upon the breaking out of the war. In their place a largely-increased production of breadstuffs has ensued in the rebel States. Notwithstanding the occupation of considerable portions of its territory by the opposing forces, Virginia has nearly held its own in the production of wheat; while Texas, for instance, which, in 1860, raised 1,464,273 bushels of wheat, has raised, it is estimated, above sixteen million bushels in a single year since the outbreak of the rebellion. . . The general strategy which assails the Confederacy and its capital from the South-west is doubtless correct enough, but it can scarcely prevail to the extent of 'starving out' the South, its armies, or its capital. There must needs be, in the six hundred and seventy thousand square miles of Confederate territory, many patches and intervals between the spots of our occupation where corn and pork will grow, and all the industries which pertain to the sustenance of the population be carried on.

Southern-born Northerners.—It is a curious fact not generally known, that General Grant, like President Lincoln (who, however, emigrated to Illinois in early youth), is a native of Kentucky. This is not an isolated case, a majority of the officers who have gained distinction in the Northern army and navy being born in the slave-holding States. Thus, General Thomas, who saved the Federal army from utter destruction in the disaster of Chichamanga, is a Virginian by birth; Admiral Farragut, who has just won the victory off Mobile, is a native of New Orleans; Captain Winslow, of the *Kearsage*, a native of North Carolina, and his first lieutenant of Virginia. These instances could be considerably increased, and if collected together would give a curious total result. The only counterpart in the Southern armies is to be found in the cases of General Pemberton, a native of Pennsylvania, and General Lovel, appointed from New York (but born in Maryland), and by a strange fatality of coincidence these two names are identified with the two greatest reverses of the Confederate arms, the fall of Vicksburg and of New Orleans.

Aggravated Assaults on Women.—According to an official document lately printed, there were last year 13,147 assaults on women committed in England and Wales for which the parties were charged before the magistrates.

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 13 Bouverie Street, E.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 1864.

Mr. Memminger's Report.

THE important change just announced in President DAVIS's Cabinet, by which Mr. GEORGE A. TRENHOLM takes the place of Mr. C. G. MEMMINGER, as Secretary of the Confederate Treasury, gives additional interest to the document published elsewhere in our columns. The official report of the retiring Minister is the most complete statement of the condition of Confederate Finances yet laid before the public, and, though dated several months back, was evidently prepared with a view to his contemplated retirement. No exhibit so frank and comprehensive has ever been ventured upon by the late Federal Secretary of the Treasury, and in this, as in their past policy, and even in the manner of their almost simultaneous withdrawal from office, the contrast between Mr. MEMMINGER and Mr. CHASE is sufficiently characteristic of their respective countries. Mr. CHASE was a financier of wild schemes and desperate expedients; Mr. MEMMINGER was conscientious and prudent almost to a fault, laborious in detail, and—if we had to criticise his administration, we might add—almost too much wedded to the safe maxims and sober routine of peaceful and prosperous times for the financier of a great revolution. Had he had a little of Mr. CHASE's excessive recklessness, and had he initiated, at an earlier stage of the war, some such bold financial policy as that which the public emergency and popular pressure at last forced upon him, and which he has since loyally carried into execution, it is probable that even in failure he would have won worldwide reputation and prestige. As it is, he is held, rather unjustly, responsible for failures of which he ought not to bear the undivided blame, and his loss of popularity having extended to the Halls of Congress, his retirement, some time since decided on, takes place at the very moment when those failures bid fair to be retrieved, and a new era in Confederate finances has opened.

Mr. TRENHOLM's acceptance of the post vacated by Mr. MEMMINGER is, we believe, his first entrance into a political career, but it takes place under the most favourable auspices. His popularity far exceeds that ever enjoyed by his predecessor, and the people and press throughout the Confederacy accept him with an almost unbounded confidence in his ability and administrative talent. The head of one of the oldest and wealthiest merchant firms in Charleston, he is, so to speak, the embodiment of that magnificent idea of direct trade with Europe, which has been one of the chief causes of the war. His firm, in connection with its European branch, may fairly claim the credit of having been the first to organise on a grand scale that trade which now sets the utmost efforts of the Federal blockade at defiance, and by their enterprise, the bold and skilful use of vast resources, subservient to a lofty sense of patriotic duty, they have undoubtedly rendered invaluable services to the country at a time when it most needed them. Such success as theirs brings of course its pecuniary reward, and the firm has immensely added to its wealth as well as to its prestige. But Mr. TRENHOLM, with the impulse and nice perceptions of a large-minded man, has understood that wealth acquired, however honourably and patriotically, amidst and through the necessities of a suffering nation, is, even more than all other wealth, a trust-fund, and he has freely given his tithe, and perhaps more than his tithe, to the poor, the wounded, the soldiers, and the many unfortunate victims of the war. The popular disfavour with which fortunes accumulated during a national struggle are generally viewed, has therefore never attached to Mr. TRENHOLM, and his mercantile triumphs were invested with the dignity of public enterprises.

We have, on former occasions, entered so much at length into the investigation of the permanent productive resources of the South, that we need not here caution our readers against being unduly alarmed by the magnitude of Mr. MEMMINGER's figures. A country whose annual exports exceeded before the war 40,000,000*l.* sterling, and whose products are in such urgent request, that their chief staple sells readily since the war at five times its former price, is in no danger of being crushed by debt. It mortgages its future, it is true, but then the mortgage is upon untold wealth. The North has no such mortgage to offer. Its wealth in the past consisted in its profits on the trade of the South. Agricultural exports of its own it has none, except the precarious one of food in seasons of scarcity elsewhere. The public lands are valuable only to be given away—at a nominal price, just sufficient to defray the expense of surveying and the salary of the officer who sells it—as a bait with which to entice population into an untaxed wilderness. Intrinsic taxable or even saleable value these lands have not. The North counts upon a conquered South to pay the whole cost of this war. We have, therefore, an enemy's testimony that an independent South is amply able to pay its own share of that cost.

The Attack upon Mobile.

WITHIN the last week two startling Federal victories have been announced with all due parade and circumstance. General SHERIDAN claims for General AVERILL a decisive triumph over a portion of the Confederate forces who have lately been levying contributions in Maryland. Admiral FARRAGUT is reported to have done everything but take Mobile; the authority for the latter report being the commander at Mobile, General MAURY. Now, it is quite possible that both events have come off; but we find it difficult to believe that they have taken place exactly as they are described in the New York and Washington papers. Take the victory at Moorfield, Virginia, first. If we can credit the Federal account, this was one of the most brilliant exploits of the war. General AVERILL, at the head of a small body of cavalry, which has traversed an incredible number of miles within an extraordinarily brief space of time, attacks two Confederate columns under Generals BRADLEY JOHNSON and M'CAUSLAND, and not only defeats them, but kills a large number, captures 500 or 600 prisoners, and all their artillery and wagons. One general escapes; the other is taken, but subsequently gets off. The remnant of the beaten army has taken to the mountains. Never was defeat so decisive, and yet all was accomplished with the loss to the Federals of 7 killed and 27 wounded. We are consoled for the magnitude of the disaster by the fact that the whole story rests on the evidence of a Federal scout. Turning next to the alleged Confederate disaster at Mobile, we find that it rests on a dispatch from General MAURY of the 8th inst., which appeared in the *Richmond Sentinel* of the same date, and that this paper by some unusually rapid process reached General BUTLER at Bermuda Hundred also on the same day. The action is described as having taken place thirty miles from Mobile. It is telegraphed to Richmond. So eager are the authorities there to communicate bad news, that they hurry it off at once to the *Richmond Sentinel;* and so delighted is the editor of the *Sentinel*, that he despatches a paper to General BUTLER, who, not to be behind-hand, immediately telegraphs the good news to Washington. The action is fought at the entrance of Mobile Bay in the morning, and the result known in the Northern capital in the afternoon. The rapidity is mysterious; but the news may be true. It had been known in New Orleans for some weeks that FARRAGUT had orders to attack the defences of Mobile, and it was reported in that city on the 2nd inst. that operations had commenced. It is by no means impossible, nor even improbable, that by the 5th FARRAGUT's flotilla had succeeded in running the gauntlet of the guns of Forts Morgan and Gaines, and in engaging and defeating the far inferior naval force under Admiral BUCHANAN. But the city of Mobile itself is for the present in very little danger. All that FARRAGUT has done, supposing the account furnished by the *Richmond Sentinel* to be correct, is to have passed the outer defences. These consist of the two forts Morgan and Gaines, commanding the entrance into Mobile Bay. The sea at this point is three miles wide, and the ship channel is exposed to the fire of both forts. Higher up the bay was moored the Confederate flotilla, which appears to have taken quite its share in resisting the passage. After a severe action the Federals are said to have passed the forts with the loss of one monitor, and were immediately assailed by the Confederate ironclads. The two forces were greatly disproportioned, and it is not surprising that the small defensive squadron was overcome. But the real work of the Federal commander was to come. It is a tolerably easy thing to run past forts at 1,800 yards, where the channel is unobstructed, but higher up the defences of Mobile have been constructed on a most formidable scale. They line the shores of the bay at every available point, and they are described as being the most formidable series of defences in the Confederacy. In conjunction with them are natural obstacles, such as the bar at the mouth of the Dog River, where are only eight feet of water, and where FARRAGUT must leave all his vessels of moderate draught, as well as artificial obstacles caused by the sinking of ships, torpedoes, &c. Nothing but the presence of a large military force operating from Paseagoula could endanger the city itself, and as yet we have no indication of any considerable number of troops being engaged in the expedition. Indeed we venture to think, that although there has been an effort to create a diversion in the rear of Atlanta, there is no serious attempt to capture Mobile, and that the great object was to give relief to the blockading squadron constantly threatened by the Confederate ironclads, and if possible to obtain a base for future operations against the town by the reduction of Forts Morgan and Gaines. Whether the measures of FARRAGUT will have the desired effect we know not. Mobile is 300 miles from Atlanta, and has a garrison quite able to protect her against any force the Federals can for the present bring against her. It is difficult to see how the operations of the Federal fleet in Mobile harbour can affect HOOD's position at Atlanta, or any useful diversion can be made except by a powerful land force acting in cooperation with the navy. At this moment the Federals have too much work on hand with their main armies to be able to spare men for the attack on Mobile.

In Virginia and Georgia matters have altered but little within the last week or two. GRANT was at the latest dates still before Petersburg, although four army corps were reported to have reached Washington for the protection of the Northern frontier. Rumours were current of a new movement on his part, but we attach very little importance to them. All that is known is that GRANT is clinging to his enchantments with his usual tenacity, with every reasonable hope of triumph completely vanished. Whether his division of his forces will not give LEE the opportunity he has so long desired, of striking a blow with something like an equality of force, or whether LEE's spare divisions have been despatched to the relief of Atlanta, the next mail may inform us. In the meantime it is clear that SHERMAN's progress is stayed, if not permanently checked. After fighting three or four great battles he is unable to invest the city, or make any impression on the Confederate lines. His cavalry after suffering repeated disaster has been almost destroyed by the Confederates, and its leader, STONEMAN, a dashing and experienced officer, made prisoner. The communications of Atlanta with the South are still open, and there is a circuitous but perfectly safe route by which troops can be transported from Richmond to Atlanta. It is hinted in the columns of the Northern press that the ostensible gathering of Confederates on the borders of Maryland is to cover the march of large reinforcements to General HOOD, and we are inclined to believe in some such project. Twenty thousand of LEE's veterans despatched to reinforce HOOD would render SHERMAN's hold upon Georgia, Tennessee, and even Kentucky a matter of very great doubt. If LEE can hold Petersburg with BEAUREGARD's corps, and at the same time keep the whole North in alarm, he can surely spare a few regiments to save Atlanta. A decisive Confederate victory in Georgia would probably seal the fate of Mr. LINCOLN's Administration, and perhaps pave the way to substantial peace negotiations.

Confederate Financial Prospects and Plans.

IN the brilliant administration which we predict for the new Confederate Secretary of the Treasury, it is only justice to Mr. MEMMINGER to remember that the most dangerous crisis in the financial situation was actually passed when the reins of office were transferred, and that the measures to which the Confederacy looks hopefully for relief, were

already in successful operation. These measures, forming in the aggregate a system of unprecedented comprehensiveness, may be classed under two heads. Those by which, under the double action of compulsory funding and rigid taxation, the redundant currency is reduced within manageable dimensions, had already, at the date of the late Secretary's report, commenced to exert their salutary effect, as is proved by the enormous excess of the appropriations under previous estimates over the actual expenditures of the different departments of the Government. The other class of measures, by which the foreign commerce of the country is made an arm of the national defence, have worked with even more rapid efficacy, as is proved by the vigorous importation of Confederate cotton into Liverpool and the present quotations of the Confederate foreign loan, which even the news of a naval defeat off Mobile cannot depress below double the merchantable value of corresponding Federal securities. The principle which underlies these measures is that the precious stores of cotton which the world outside is eager to buy at even five times its price inside the blockade are so much sap and life-blood in the body politic, not only not to be squandered, but to be rendered most efficiently available for the public good. The Legislature reasoned that blockade-running was theoretically and practically a military operation, and should be subject to the same laws. No one dreams of supplying a camp or an army upon abstract theories of political economy, and the Confederate country is only a vast camp, and the Confederate people a vast army. It was a long time before the statesmen of the South, all educated in a sect militant of uncompromising free trade, could bring themselves to acknowledge that there might be exceptions to their favourite rule, and that while poison would always remain poison, it might at times be a necessary and even the only remedy of a morbid frame. The interval of hesitation did much mischief. It bled the Confederacy for the advantage of adventurers who, while pocketing their spoils, claimed to be public benefactors. It placed the credit of the Government into the hands of men without credit, and at the mercy of firms of straw. There is in the throes of every national crisis a brief period during which the contractor or *fournisseur* is a patriotic hero, quickly followed by a reaction which denounces him with equal vehemence as a robber. A people which entered upon a war of self-defence with the determination that every man's life and every woman's jewels should be the public property, if necessary, was not likely to labour long under such a fatal delusion. Where every one's devotion was exposed to so crucial a test, sham pretensions to patriotism and disinterestedness could not long endure. At the same time the genius of the Southern people is so little prone to centralisation that they were saved the error of falling into an opposite extreme, and despising the genuine aid which private enterprise, and skill, and experience could alone afford. A middle ground was therefore occupied and firmly held. The discovery had been made, and was acted upon, that if private enterprise could profitably run the blockade, a great Government with a Treasury Department to manage the financial transactions, with a War Department to superintend transportation and storage, with a Navy Department to select vessels and crews, with an astonishingly solid credit abroad, could at least do the same. But while this discovery was acted upon, private capital and private enterprise were not discouraged from the competition, provided only that a reasonable guarantee was given that for every bale of cotton privately exported there should be returned an equivalent of practical utility. The result has been that the Confederate armies were never better supplied, that the agents of the Government buy at the lowest cash prices in European markets what previously was paid at fabulous rates, that the small foreign loan has been largely diminished by redemption, and, it is no secret to add, that a considerable balance is actually accumulating abroad to the credit of the Confederate Treasury. Never has the financial condition of a belligerent country outside its own boundaries been so soundly prosperous; and to those who know this condition the rumours, periodically propagated by the enemy, of another Confederate foreign war-loan appears simply ridiculous. The only time that such a loan was even thought of, when actually offered, was that to which Mr. Memminger refers in his last report, when he says that military reverses had rendered it impracticable, for a reason he does not state, viz., that the three million loan was then at a quotation at which the Confederate Government was unwilling to discount its credit.

These principles of commercial legislation, under anomalous circumstances, supported as they are by complete success, are now, we believe, cordially approved by all classes and parties in the Confederacy. The only difference of opinion, still giving rise to disputes, is whether the State Government should or should not be placed on the same footing in regard to trade as the Confederate Government. There is much to be said on either side of this discussion. Against the proposed equality there occur to us two formidable objections. One, in theory, is that it would give to the States with seaports of their own and large stores of cotton, like Georgia, the two Carolinas, and Alabama, an advantage over others not so circumstanced, and especially over those which are wholly or in part overrun by the enemy, like Tennessee and Louisiana, and such an advantage is incompatible with that solidarity of interests which makes all the States a unit against the invader. The other objection is a practical one; and it is, that greedy adventurers and speculators upon the public necessity would have the chances in favour of a lax application of the law increased in proportion as they had to deal with eleven Governments instead of only one. Perhaps the best way to reconcile justice and expediency with the principles of the Confederate partnership of States, would consist in the Confederate Government becoming the factor and agent for the individual States in such importations and exportations as they might reasonably require on their separate accounts. This is what, we believe, is substantially the present practice.

The prohibition of luxuries is a necessary corollary of the system. Sumptuary laws, such as virtually are the regulations which we publish in our advertising columns, read oddly in this nineteenth century, and it will be said shock the liberal spirit of the age. But so it shocks, or ought to shock, the liberal spirit of the age, that a nation of professed Republicans vows to subjugate and exterminate, by fire and sword, another materially weaker nation of Republicans, in the name of constitutional liberty and self-government. These prohibitions, during the struggle, mean nothing more than that every bale of cotton which goes to pay for something the nation does not actually need, is wasted, and that every ton of ship-room filled with needless cargo excludes the same weight or size of articles which cannot be done without. The nation's needs are those of a workshop; when with peace the amenities of civilised life shall return, it will be time enough again to buy fine linen, and costly silks, and elegant furniture, and richly-flavoured wines. There is a moral justice, too, in this, that a few giddy and foolish persons should not, by an untimely ostentation, mock and insult the stoic temper of a whole people.

We must not conclude without briefly referring to a subject in connection with Southern finances, which cannot however be treated here as its importance deserves. A passage in the Report of the Secretary of War which we published last week, gives us hope that the Confederate Government has it now under deliberation to apply to its internal economy the same principle which has worked so well abroad. This principle is to substitute cotton, of which there is plenty, as a standard of values for gold, of which there is none. There is now in the Confederacy a stock of cotton of at least three million bales, of which probably not less than one-third is in a condition fit for immediate exportation. Of a large proportion of this the Government is the direct owner. If instead of this property the Government had the value, even at only sixpence a pound, in gold, who can doubt that the Confederate currency would never have lost a specie basis? Why should not a cotton basis, equally available for present purposes, be adopted? Grant that the precious metals are abstractly immeasurably superior to a perishable commodity as a standard of values. But if one cannot have what one wishes, why not make use of what one has? Suppose the Government, in its future disbursements at home as well as abroad, should give promises to *pay cotton*, instead of promises to pay gold? It is under any conceivable circumstances better able to keep the former than the latter. An order on the Government store-keeper for £100 of cotton at peace prices would therefore at worst be more intrinsically valuable than an order for gold on the Treasury to the same amount. If the experiment succeeded, the cotton promises might be gradually exchanged for the gold promises already issued. To give these cotton promises a saleable value abroad, it would only be necessary to exempt the holders from certain restrictions, whether present or prospective, on the exportation. Already the Government has undertaken to pay the interest on one description of its domestic funded debt in cotton; why not extend this expedient to the principal of its future unfunded debt? The plan would be condemned by a certain class of shallow political economists, who, when they have learned the formulas of the science by rote, fancy they know every possible application of its laws. But must it be necessarily condemned, because of being exceptional and anomalous, by the practical statesmen of a country in which everything is at present anomalous and exceptional?

A Merican Policy.

The daily fluctuations in the value of public securities, although they may not always be predicated upon a substantial foundation, are after all the most trustworthy indications of public sentiment. When stocks go up, it may be regarded as an indubitable fact that confidence is gaining ground, and, when they have a downward tendency or even are stationary, the reverse of this conclusion may be regarded as the deliberate decision of the public mind. Such display of confidence or the absence of it is all the more entitled to consideration from the fact, that it does not proceed from the heart, but from the brain; not from sentiment, or prejudice, or partiality, but from the simple consideration that money is to be lost or gained by the operation. Regarded from this point of view, the striking difference which is observable in the quotations of the respective public securities of the Confederate States and of Mexico, upon the receipt of favourable intelligence, are so marked that the mind naturally seeks for a solution by a comparison of the positions respectively occupied by these two embryo nations. The desperate tenacity of Grant is foiled by the masterly generalship of Lee at Petersburg, and forthwith the Confederate Loan advances 2 per cent. in the Stock Market of London. By the same mail we have intelligence that the Emperor Maximilian has been welcomed to his capital by the enthusiastic acclamations of his loyal subjects, but the securities of Mexico exhibit no symptom of improvement. We learn that Sherman is thundering at the outer defences of Atlanta, but that he is stoutly confronted and kept at bay by the unconquerable Southerners, and again the Confederate bonds, in response to the public opinion of the day, take another upward leap. We learn at the same time that the great chiefs of the party in Mexico opposed to the empire are giving in their adhesion by scores to the new monarch, and yet Mexican securities remain perversely stationary. In the midst of the undecided yet gigantic efforts to 'crush the great rebellion' which have of late signalised the Federal Government, confidence in Confederate securities has constantly increased, until now they stand at almost as high a point as they have ever stood since the commencement of the war. From Mexico the intelligence has been uniformly of a more favourable character than could have been expected by even the most sanguine friends of the Empire, and still the promissory obligations of Mexico to pay money at a future day fail to exhibit a corresponding improvement in the public confidence.

What is the origin of this marked distinction in the results which follow similar or corresponding causes? The answer is obvious. The public have confidence that the Confederate States are seeking to establish a Government independent of foreign control, while the Emperor of Mexico is regarded, whether correctly or not, as but a Proconsul of the Emperor of the French. He is not held by the public opinion of the world to be a monarch with a national policy apart, but simply an exponent or instrument of French policy upon the American continent. Does Napoleon III. desire to maintain friendly relations with the Federal Government, by abstaining from recognising the Government of the Confederacy; the Emperor of Mexico is required to adopt the same policy. This want of public confidence in the new Empire does not proceed wholly from the fact that the policy indicated is intrinsically bad, but that it is a policy imposed by an overruling Power without—a policy not dictated by the interests of the Empire over which Maximilian is the nominal monarch, but by an interest wholly foreign, and in some respects antagonistical. Mexico is thus regarded somewhat in the light of a province of France, without, however, being entitled to that protection which such a relation would enforce from the parent country. In short, it is neither an independent nation acting from its own volition, nor yet a dependency which may of right claim the protection of a master.

Whether or not this public opinion may be well or ill founded, its existence affords the true solution of the apparent enigma in the relative value of the public stocks of these two new American Governments in the money markets of Europe. If it be true, the sooner the Emperor of the French confers upon Maximilian the privilege of independent action, the more speedily will the nascent Empire which he has been the means of establishing in the New World attain to the rank and dignity of a nation. If upon this point public opinion is at fault, the error cannot be too soon eradicated. It may be said that the Emperor of the French can hardly be expected, under the existing state of facts, to surrender at once that supremacy, which he has acquired by the sword over the late Mexican Republic; but Maximilian may well be impressed with the grandeur of the mission he has undertaken. As the chief of an independent nation bordering upon the

two rival and warring States of the American continent, how magnificent is the part he might enact in the future of that aggregation of great and growing Powers! It requires no prophetic vision to see already in the near future four of these Powers, the two pacified sections of the late Union, with British America, now forming itself into a federal empire to the northward, and regenerated Mexico to the southward. Of these Mexico, though physically the weakest, would have the inestimable advantage, if her ruler do not let it escape, of entering unimpeded upon her career of self-development, with the best wishes of civilised Europe, while two of the others are still in the agony of a suicidal war, and the fourth in the throes of internal transformation. It is not, therefore, an altogether chimeral vision, that which assigns to Mexico, lately so despised, a leading part in the international drama now enacting on the North American continent. States are great, not so much in proportion to the armies and navies they possess as to the ideas which they represent. What Mexico now wants, to give her prestige abroad and tranquillity at home, is an object worthy of the national ambition, and therefore concentrating all energies and all desires, and conciliating all paltry domestic feuds. It is a policy that shall be truly American, and that shall be inspired by a wise prescience of the future balance of power in the western hemisphere. This policy should have for its central thought, first, the autonomy and internal consolidation of the four distinct nationalities into which North America geographically and historically divides; secondly, the closest ties of amity and absolute free trade among the nationalities thus established. Already the rumours of peace which come to us from across the Atlantic, indicate that North and South are beginning to read their true destinies by a clearer light. Ere long the cry may come: distinctive national existences, but no custom house from the Great Lakes to the Rio Grande. It would only require of the EMPEROR of MEXICO a timely perception of his own opportunity, to make that cry embrace three empires, with not a customs' barrier from the Great Lakes to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. The last remaining step would soon be taken by the British colonial federation, and North America would present to the world an unexampled spectacle of external grandeur and power, combined with internal peace secured by an even adjustment and equipoise of material force.

What the measures are by which the Emperor MAXIMILIAN may act this brilliant *rôle*, it is not for us to indicate. It is sufficient to say that, situated as he is, a bold policy is safer than a timid one or no policy at all. As regards France, she is equally in honour bound not to withdraw her support prematurely, whether he places himself in the attitude of a proconsular titular monarch or of an independent sovereign, and in the latter attitude he is less likely to need that support. As regards his neighbour, he cannot but know that, with the South for his friend, he may laugh at the enmity of the North, and with the South as an enemy—whatever be her relations to the North—the friendship of the latter, even if it could be depended upon, is of no avail.

THE NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT OF THE 'DAILY NEWS.'—The New York Correspondent of the *Daily News*, whom we have frequently paid the compliment of quoting, is so ungrateful as to complain of the spirit in which we have done so. In a late letter, published by our cotemporary on the 23rd inst., he actually gets into a passion, calls us with wrathful inverted commas 'an organ,' at which we are not greatly offended, and oddly enough adds to this that we are 'notoriously supported by Confederate speculators.' He then goes on to aver in the same connection that he has never dined with more than two of the members of Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet, on neither of which occasions his letters to the *News* were the subject of conversation, and that he has never received even so slight a favour as a pass from anybody connected with the Federal Government. All this seems to us much rather to prove Yankee ingratitude and bad manners than any fault of ours towards the aforesaid correspondent. We hasten, however, to sooth his wounded feelings by assuring him that we are among his most constant readers and most sincere admirers. We admire him for his ingenuity, which is never at fault, and still more for a quality which we 'Confederate speculators' cannot help admiring even in a foe—the pluck which enables him to write by every steamer letters which the same mail contradicts, to prop up a cause which ninety-nine out of every hundred Englishmen disapprove if not utterly detest. The perseverance and consistency with which he has accomplished this arduous task prove, what formerly we were inclined to doubt, that, though eccentric in his partialities, he is a true Briton. With this expression of admiration we should, however, like to couple a modest piece of advice. Inasmuch as there may be some readers of his who also read other papers, it would be as well not to count too much upon their credulity. When he estimates Grant's losses in the affair of the 30th at 240, we may charitably set it down as a slip of the pen or a blunder of the types, but we can scarcely do so when he calls Mr. Lincoln's ultimatum to the Niagara peace propositions a 'safe conduct' for the better opening of negotiations. We would rather recommend to him as his model the following passage which we quote approvingly from his own letter of August 10:—

Grant's campaign has, ever since the late *fiasco* at Petersburg, been undergoing vigorous discussion, both in the newspapers and in private circles. Those who hold that it has proved a failure have certainly, so far, the facts in their favour. The fighting from the Wilderness to Richmond consisted of a series of vigorous attempts to fling Lee to the westward of the railroad, and thus secure possession of the inner line, and of the approach to Richmond over the Chickahominy. These were all foiled by the end of the succession of elaborate fortifications which Lee had constructed the previous year, and which, with such troops as his, he had little difficulty in holding. The attempt to seize upon his communications with the South, by crossing the James River, cannot, also, be said to be a success. So far they are open, and have only been subjected to one temporary interruption. The damage inflicted on the Darville-road by Wilson's raid has been repaired, and the hold on the Weldon-road which Grant had at one time secured he has since been compelled to relax. Two desperate assaults on the works at Petersburg have been repulsed, and the Federal cavalry has been so exhausted by the tremendous labours it underwent during Grant's advance to his present position, that it will be unfit for some weeks to come for further exertion. It is now engaged in renovating and refitting.—*Daily News*, August 22.

THE NEGRO UNDER FEDERAL RULE.

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA: July 30, 1864.

SIR,—That a boon ill-bestowed may become a curse rather than a blessing to the receiver is a fact of common experience. The boon in itself may be one of unmixed good, but the good to be derived from it must depend upon the time, manner, and conditions of the bestowal, and the ability and desire of the recipient to make the most of his opportunity. It cannot be denied that in many philanthropic schemes zeal outruns discretion; and my own observation in Louisiana has taught me that there is a mad, fanatical, hate-engendered philanthropy which works its will regardless of consequences. I do not intend to discuss the question of slavery or the wisdom of emancipation—not even to express an opinion on these points—but simply to speak of things as they are, deriving my facts solely from official documents or from my own observation.

The boon of freedom to the slave has turned to ashes in the first year of his emancipation, if we may trust the declarations of Federal officials, those who lured him from his bondage with visions of liberty and social independence, and who now leave him to perish by the Dead Sea of disappointment, to eat of its ashy fruit, to drink deep of its bitter waters, and to die. I said my facts were derived from observation and official documents. I have, however, concluded to rely solely upon the latter in this letter. I have now before me a copy of an official report from a special agent of the 'Plantation Bureau' of the Treasury Department, who was directed to examine and report the condition of 'all abandoned plantations, or those worked by the Government in the parish of Iberville.' Let us hear what this Government agent has to say upon this subject, and then let the honest Abolitionists of England pronounce judgment upon the spurious philanthropy of their American brethren: 'On visiting these places I found them in the most deplorable condition. On every plantation worked by the Government, or represented to be in the possession of the Government, I found there had not been one day's work performed since the time of their occupation by Lieutenant Hanks's orders in June last to the day of my visit, with the single exception of the White Castle or Vaughan plantation. . . . . Not another will be able to turn out one hogshead of sugar or any other produce. In fact, I honestly declare that the management—if we can with propriety use that word—has been of the most reckless and abandoned character, with a perfect indifference to the interests of the unfortunate negro, as well as the interest of the general Government, which, we have been told, sought the amelioration of these people. In fact it does appear that the agents or overseers placed in charge by Hanks considered they had no other duty to perform than to draw the rations for the *dead* as well as the living negroes, and their own salaries, and leave everything to run to ruin.' The agent goes on to say that he returned sooner than he should have done, because he could not go on and complete his report with such desolation around me.' He found the sugar cane 'covered with the tie vine and other rank vegetation.' But let us hear what he says about the condition of the 'freed men.' 'The mortality that has taken place in these Government plantations is truly appalling. On the White Castle plantation, out of 300 placed there by Lieutenant Hanks or Captain Miller, there remained in January last but 47 souls to tell the tale of woe. On the Belle Grove plantation, there were placed by the same parties, 325 negroes in June last (1863); 202 of these have died. On the Magnolia plantation 250 negroes were placed; of these 117 have died up to this date.'

The date of this report is omitted in my copy, but I know the agent made his inspection of these plantations in the spring of this year.

'On the Richland plantation there were placed, as near as I can remember, 460. Of the number that died I could obtain no satisfactory information. I found only 192 in the place. On the Grove Place, Bayou Plaquemine, there were placed 300 negroes; the mortality was so great that they had to be buried in trenches, and without coffins. On the Manocaux plantation, 150 were placed; 100 have died. On the Old Hickory plantation there were placed, in June last, 413 negroes; of this number, up to the 11th inst., 243 have died; of the remaining number, 38 are lying sick in their quarters, and 23 are in the hospital, no care being taken of them. On entering the hospital I found the number stated. In their midst lay the corpse of a woman who had died at three o'clock p.m. the day before. There was no Government overseer there, and had not been for three weeks before. The man Ely, who had been placed in charge by Lieutenant Hanks, had left. He said he was going to New Orleans on business, and would be back in four days. He persuaded the negroes to let him have what little money they had to make purchases for them; he went off with three to four hundred dollars, and never returned.'

'The corpse of the woman lay on the bare floor, with a block of wood under her head, but no covering over her. The body had begun to decompose, as the weather was exceedingly hot. . . . . Humanity shudders when we think that in this room, and at the foot of the corpse, lay a woman who had been confined two days before. The child had died, and she herself was in the last stage of a fever of the most contagious character; two children with measles; a poor wretch breathing his last with typhoid fever, and in the next room a woman chained with an ox chain to the bars of the window, by her own son, to prevent her from killing others about the place. On entering the pesthouse the first salutation I heard was, 'Please, massa, for God's sake, give me a drop of water! Ah, massa, we're dying, and nobody to care for us.' I enquired if there had been no doctor to see them. The reply was that the doctor had been there two weeks before, and for the first time had left medicine, but as there was nobody there who could read (the prescription) it had not been given.'

There have been placed on the Miles Taylor plantation 1,100 negroes in all, of whom but 278 remain. The numerous graves here disclose the last resting-place of the poor negro. You will perceive by the annexed document that I have made out a list of articles stolen, as well as of those carried off by order of some one unknown. You will also perceive that I prefer charges against the agents for drawing rations, clothing, wages, &c., for negroes long since dead! The Ventriss plantation was the last visited. I found no overseer there. Of the 538 negroes placed there by Lieutenant Hanks, only 112 are living. This place is a perfect wreck. There has never been any one in charge of the negroes, who have died without the least care, and after death been taken to the fields and left there—food for buzzards. Their skeletons prove the fact.'

One of the stock phrases of the American press is, 'comment is unnecessary.' In this instance comment is certainly unnecessary, and I shall attempt none. But perhaps the reader would like to know whether this report has yet been made public on this side, and whether any action has been had upon it. This report yet sleeps in some pigeon-hole of the 'Plantation Bureau' of the Treasury Department, and the agent who made it has resigned his office in despair, as I understand, of any amelioration of the wretched condition of these 'freedmen and women,' and in disgust at the utter callousness of his superior officers.

A CITIZEN OF NEW ORLEANS.

NEGRO REBELS.—We quote the following from the *New York World* of August 16: —'If the negroes are as intelligent as the abolitionists say, then the proclamation of freedom which has been hung out to them ought to be hauled down and retracted. They are the most persistent of rebels, if intelligent enough to be freemen and citizens, as the Republicans desire. Their white masters we have not even offered to bribe. The policy of the Government has been to bully and drive them back to their allegiance. The policy of Mr. Lincoln has been to threaten confiscation, emancipation, subjugation, and every other horror, as a punishment for their rebellious contumacy. We have given the white men of the South no ground for hope, no object in life, except in the success of the rebellion. But to the negro—intelligent, equal, fit for freedom and citizenship, so say the miscegenators—we have proffered every boon, life, liberty, citizenship, and a share in his master's acres. Meanwhile they have gone on planting, sowing, and reaping the harvests which have sustained those who have kept them in bondage, which have invigorated the bodies and made possible the exertions of those whose rebellion has well-nigh ruined the republic. But for the negro producers the rebellion could never have survived six months. These negro rebels we still degrade ourselves by proffering freedom to as the price of their desertion of a cause which they chiefly sustain. They still laugh at our offer, and "hoe corn for massa."'

MR. LINCOLN'S PERSONAL SECURITY.—The President regards a steamboat lying ready in the Potomac, and a locomotive fired up on the Baltimore Railroad, and the Scotch plaid which has recently been sent him from Scotland, as an ample personal security against capture.—*New York Paper.*

FEDERAL ATROCITY.—The *Springfield Republican* says: —'General Hunter owe it to his own reputation to explain the destruction of Governor Letcher's house, or to deny that he ordered it, if such is the fact. Equally unjustifiable is the capture of three or four hundred factory girls, at Rossville, Georgia, and their transportation as prisoners northward, to be sent beyond the limits of the United States, it is reported. These girls are no more hostile to us than the rest of the women of the South, probably less so, and it is a great cruelty to take them from their homes and put them unprotected among strangers. The Indians make prisoners of women, but it is a new thing among white and civilised Americans. Against the introduction of all barbarities into the war the true friends of the country should protest. It is a horrible enough struggle at the best, and there is no need to add to its inevitable evils.'

THE FEDERAL WOUNDED.—A New York paper says: 'There are 15,000 sick and wounded soldiers in the Washington hospitals, and in other military hospitals throughout the States there are 90,000, and in camp hospitals 50,000, making a total of 155,000.

THE AMERICAN QUESTION IN GERMANY.

(FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.)

FRANKFORT-ON-MAINE: August 20, 1864.

THE sharp but wholesome warnings of the *Times*' 'City Article' during the past few months have at last begun to tell upon our money market, though I fear too late to prevent much individual ruin and misery. At all events the delusion is on the wane, and this fact is the more significant, as, like bubbles when once pricked, speculative epidemics subside with astonishing rapidity. The time is not far distant when the rage for United States 5.20 Bonds will be remembered with the same surprise and unavailing repentance as the Tulip Mania, or the Law Bubbles. The salutary change now manifest is, doubtless, aided by the melancholy unanimity of the accounts received by the great business houses through their commercial correspondence from the States, coupled with the significant fact of heavy orders for manufactured goods being countermanded by every mail. Primarily, however, I believe it mainly attributable to the cold logic of your stock exchange as translated into the columns of the *Times*. If the Germans had to depend upon their own press for the facts of the American war, and the financial prospects of the Federal States, they might, at least until quite recently, have still been discounting Mr. Seward's drafts on victory at 60 or 90 days. What scanty American news gets into the German papers is all *couleur de rose*. The correspondence appears almost all furnished by Federal recruiting crimps; and the meagre telegrams, omitting frequently the most important facts, have a suspicious resemblance to the tricks of 'bull' speculators. With a highly intelligent public like the German, such culpable neglect of the duties of the press, or such systematic deception, must sooner or later lead to a violent reaction, and it is the premonitory symptoms of this reaction, thoroughly genuine and spontaneous, which are discernible, and which I deem of sufficient importance to bring to the notice of your readers.

The *Frankfort Journal*, one of the oldest newspapers in Germany and probably in the world, being nearly coeval with the invention of printing, opens the ball in its impression of August 17. The article is marked by such admirable good sense and such unexpected emphasis that I translate it entire:—

The latest news from the theatre of the American war drives the official intelligence addressed to our bourse close to the wall. Its effect would, however, be more beneficial if it could once for all destroy the illusions which are fostered to a criminal degree from certain quarters, and if it could open the eyes of us Germans to our true interest. It is clear that heretofore we have but little understood this interest, when we allowed ourselves, by the continued predictions of prospective great achievements, to be deceived as to the real situation of the belligerents; or looked quietly on while our sons were enticed into an emigration which exhausts the country, or opened wide the savings of our people to be plundered by a speculation without prospect or foundation. It is surely not our German interest to aid in an inhuman butchery by contingents of men and money. Even the sentiment of common humanity revolts at the needless prolongation of a war of this character. But when we see Germany in particular impoverished by stock-jobbers, and through the misleading of insincere guides, directly and indirectly abetting a maniacal civil strife on another hemisphere, it is time that the voice of warning should be clearly heard, and that voice cannot be too loud. Let us not be accused of extreme opinions or expressions. For such squanderings of human life as in this American war, any phrase is too mild. The interests of mankind demand its cessation; the interests of Germany demand the restoration of that commercial intercourse with America, the interruption of which has caused such deep wounds everywhere among us. But if the Southern part of America is subjugated, devastated, and held under by military force, peace will be barren, independently of the fact that the North must permanently ruin itself before it achieves even this deplorable success. The exportations of the South are by far the more numerous and important; in the South, therefore, we find the champions of free trade. The tariffs which at any time hampered the trade with the Union, are naturally the inventions of the North. It is German interest, both that there should be peace, and that the South should be an independent State. Who tells us otherwise either deceives himself, or presumes upon our ignorance. This peace and Southern independence can scarcely now come too soon.

An equally outspoken and earnest article appeared in the *Cologne Gazette*, the *Times* of the German press, in its number of the 16th, and is reproduced in full in the *Frankfort Volksfreund* of 19th. I regret that the great length of this article forbids my giving you more than extracts.

It would almost appear as if Germany and Holland, intentionally or otherwise, were destined to pay a great part of the enormous reckoning which the war in North America is costing. This is not a question of sympathies or antipathies; it is simply a question whether our good countrypeople are wise in handing over their solid cash to the Finance Minister of the Union, and identifying their private fortunes with the event-laden, and at best changeful financial future of the United States. In South Germany as well as in Holland there is at present a rush for American Government securities which gives a vertigo to the reflecting and sober looker-on, and which inspires doubts of the politico-economical good sense of many of the great European capitalists. North America, in any event, cannot avoid considerable internal revolutions or transformations; these must render standing armies and large navies indispensable. Even in the event of peace, therefore, the present financial embarrassments will, in presence of such wants, be only slowly remedied; in the not improbable prospect of new wars—say with Mexico, France, or England—not at all. We may give our sympathies for the cause of the North, our admiration assuredly not to a hair-brained administration of the Federal Government!

Then comes a quotation from the *Aktionär* of Frankfort, a paper thoroughly in the Northern interest, but which in this instance also advises its readers to prudence. The *Aktionär*, as quoted by the *Cologne Gazette*, says:—

We remember quite well how persons who prided themselves on an accurate knowledge of American affairs used to say that the Americans, in their promises to pay, whether of corporations or of States, would always keep in mind their credit abroad. Yet it is notorious that that credit has never been held so light as by those very corporations and States, and even the State of New York has been the first to repudiate a plighted engagement. The German capitalist must therefore be careful to probe the security before he decides upon further investments in American stocks. Momentarily they are certainly 'fancy stocks' (*Spielpapieren*) of the first class, but no man can tell what fate they may have next year, and that these stocks are likely, at all events, to fall still lower is proved by past experience.

The *Cologne Gazette* follows this quotation by another from the *New York World*, reviewing the last financial statement of Mr. Chase, and editorially adopts the reasoning of the New York print in the following words:—

No sane man who knows Washington of to-day will consider our statement exaggerated—least of all the Secretary of the Treasury himself, who has long deplored, both privately and publicly, the extravagance of Congress and the different Departments—that without an immediate return to economy, and without decisive military successes, every measure for the support of the Federal credit must be abortive. There is on July 1 of this year a debt of $1,800,000,000, which grows at the ratio of $1,000,000,000 a year, though even the past may not be a fair standard for the military expenditures of the future. Supposing the war to last another year, and only on the same scale, we shall on July 1, 1865, be in presence of a debt of $3,000,000,000. But is it probable that the depreciation of the paper-money will, during that period, be kept within the same bounds? Nine months ago the paper-dollar was worth 84; to-day it is still 42, that is to say, exactly the one-half; and the downfall took place with constantly accelerating velocity! Under such conditions who will venture to estimate what the bt will actually be? Does not the mere probable estimate lead us directly to a statistic of despair?

Better evidence, however, than that which I have extracted from the leading organs of German public opinion, that the change of feeling is not merely superficial or temporary, may be afforded by the comparative quotations of Federal bonds since May last:

Maturing	1881	1882
May 1	64	61¾
June 1	61¾	59¾
July 1	54	52¼
August 1	43¼@44	42½
August 19	40¼@39⅝	39@37⅞

I have now before me two private letters, one from a Southerner travelling in Europe, the other from a German of high social standing, both writers men of quick intelligence, accurate observation, and unquestionably reliable. The Southerner writes from Hanover, a few days since:—

I think that public opinion in this part of the Vaterland becomes daily more and more in favour of the 'Rebel States.' In the different trips that I have taken through the neighbouring country, I have found a great many people kindly disposed towards our bleeding country, and always ready to admire the bravery and daring that have ever characterised the behaviour of the Southern troops in their dearly-bought victories. In fact, the public opinion of the whole kingdom, as far as I am able to judge, is more in favour of the Confederates than of the other party. The North is passing *un mauvais quart-d'heure* just now.

My German friend encloses several newspaper extracts, some of which I have already quoted, with the remark: 'It is easy to perceive that a great change in public opinion throughout Germany is actually taking place through the medium of the German press, as regards the civil war in America. Witness, for instance, the tone of several articles recently appearing in some of the most widely circulated political journals of the country.'

(POSTSCRIPT.)

FRANKFORT, August 22.

I have further to transmit slips of the *Journal* of this city, of yesterday's and to-day's dates, being the first two of a series of articles on the American question from the German point of view, under the title 'Germany and America.' They cannot fail to interest your readers. Also a significant extract from the *Frankfort Post Zeitung* of yesterday. I hope to have quite a batch of translations for your next week's number. The U.S. Bonds to-day, under the news from Mobile, have slightly recovered since my last quotation. At that time the market showed signs of panic.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL S. D. LEE.—The *Marion* (Mississippi) *Clarion* gives the following brief military biography of this officer, recently appointed Lieut.-General. He is a native of South Carolina and a graduate of West Point, where he was honoured with a diploma in 1854. He was a classmate of Generals J. E. B. Stuart, J. B. Villepigue, W. D. Pender, and Horace Randall. After leaving West Point, he entered the regular service as Second Lieutenant of the Fourth Artillery, and was subsequently promoted First Lieutenant of the First Regiment of Regulars. Shortly after his native State left the old Union, General Lee resigned his position in the service of the United States, and repaired to South Carolina, where he entered the army of that State as Captain, early in March 1861. He served with Beauregard in the taking of Fort Sumter, and after the strife was fully inaugurated and a hostile army on the soil of the Old Dominion, he repaired to Virginia with a battery of light artillery, and there, with the legion of Hampton, figured conspicuously and honourably in many of the sanguinary engagements. He was soon honoured with the rank of Major, next Lieutenant-Colonel, and then Colonel. He commanded a battery on the Potomac for some time; was in the battle of Seven Pines and the seven days' fight around Richmond; was next assigned to duty as Colonel of the Fourth Virginia Cavalry, and subsequently to a battery of artillery that gained distinction in the second battle of Manassas and at Sharpsburgh. When a commander was needed for the defences of Vicksburg in the fall of 1862, President Davis sent him to defend the stronghold of Mississippi, having conferred upon him the rank of Brigadier-General. He commanded at the battle of Chickasaw Bayou, above Vicksburg, where, in December 1862, he whipped Sherman and Morgan Smith, who brought a large force against his heroic little band. At the battle of Baker's Creek he commanded a brigade of Georgians, and, during the siege of Vicksburg, held that portion of Stevenson's line so furiously assaulted on May 19 and 22. Shortly after the surrender, General Lee was appointed to the rank of Major-General, and assigned to the command of all the cavalry in the Mississippi Department.

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS: August 23.

THE news of Grant's defeat before Petersburg has sadly discomposed those journals here which side with the North. The *Siècle* is shocked at the thought of iniquity triumphing, and finds fault with Providence for not ordering things better. The *Opinion* takes it somewhat more quietly, and asserts that notwithstanding this ephemeral advantage, 'the South is exhausted, and would unhesitatingly renounce all idea of independence if she could preserve slavery.'

Hence you perceive that the course adopted by the supporters of the North among the Parisian journals differs in no respect from that pursued by the whole Northern press. At Paris and at New York their tactics are the same, and these consist in representing the South as fighting preeminently for slavery. Scores of times have the *Pays*, the *Patrie*, and the *Constitutionnel* explained the real causes of the war; and week by week the excellent American correspondents of the *Moniteur* and the *Patrie* portray the various phases of this grand conflict, showing that, from whatever side it is regarded, it is exclusively a war of independence. But all to no purpose. The blind organs of Radicalism in Europe are stubbornly resolved to see in us nothing but aristocrats bent upon founding an empire on the oppression of an inferior race.

I say 'blind organs,' because I give them credit for honesty in their error, which I can easily account for their having fallen into. Before the war the American Union was looked upon in Europe as the prototype of free government. Democrats, Republicans, Liberals of all shades—in short, the whole body of champions of the rights of man and of nations—regarded that Government as the result of the most learned and profound political elaboration, and admiringly held it forth as the choicest of models. All at once the revolution overturned the idol at the feet of its worshippers. Hereupon the reactionists, the enemies of liberty—in fact, all the representatives of the past who tremble at the very sound of the word 'Republic'—raised an outcry of triumph, and tendered to the South, whose part they do not comprehend, the tribute of their dangerous sympathy.

Viewing events only on their surface, and failing to perceive that the South, by her very separation from the North, was saving the principle of Republicanism, which was undergoing a gradual but steady process of obliteration in the midst of Yankee corruptions, the Liberals in Europe made friends with the Federals, exhibiting the greater sympathy for them because the Conservatives favoured the South.

Passing by slavery, of which the real circumstances are so little known in Europe, there are other reasons besides the grievance they feel over the rupture of the Republic which alienate the French Democrats from the Confederates. The French Democrats and the American Democrats belong to two widely different schools of politics. The first espouse Jacobin traditions, and are centralisers; the second espouse Jeffersonian traditions, and are decentralisers. The one party are for establishing liberty by means of authority; the other, on the contrary, would establish it by the gradual extinction of authority. The Jacobin school are of opinion that a powerful government is necessary to the maintenance of liberty, while the Jefferson school look upon all governments as administrations which should be simplified as much as possible.

This difference of opinion on political matters sufficiently accounts for the partialities of the French Liberal press towards the Federals. They find among these latter all the traditions of their own Convention of 1791: namely, an enormous display of force, the centralisation of administrative functions, Republican institutions, and extreme levelling theories. To those who view things as they are, it seems strange that an enlightened and generous people, who have always a ready hand for the victims of great misfortunes—who answered as one man the Poles' cry of distress—and who are undoubted representatives of progress—should thus close their eyes to the true case of the Southern Confederacy, turn a deaf ear to her just claims, and open wide their hearts to the Yankees. But to those who share these prejudices against the South, there is no contradiction in this fact. I am convinced that the majority of unfriendly journalists sincerely believe that they are acting logically and faithfully to their Liberal traditions in giving their sympathies to the North.

By a strange phenomenon in moral optics, industry, commerce, national wealth, civilisation, enlightenment, justice, right, and liberty appear to many French Liberals to be exclusively on the side of the Federals. Truly, these are errors which must be dispelled at whatever cost—these are prejudices which must be uprooted. In my idea, it is a grievous mistake to imagine that, because the South has the sympathies of the French Government, she can dispense with the support of Liberal opinion. For the Liberals, however they may go astray in matters of general politics, derive from the idea of progress, of which they are the representatives, a force which carries all before it. Onward they march along the pathway of the future, and with them marches all that has youth, strength, or interest in life. I make bold to say, that if the South had the support of that small phalanx of Liberal Frenchmen which defends with so much courage and self-denial that liberty for which our brethren are pouring out their blood in America, the moral force thereby imparted to the Confederacy would far exceed any she might gain from her official recognition by more than one Government. The friends of the South have too much neglected Liberal opinion. I think they have done wrong, for if not recognised as the reigning influence, it is certainly that which controls the world, and those who appear to defy it the most are often the very persons who suffer most severely from its influence.

It is, I own, no easy task to open the eyes of these prejudiced people and convince them that slavery

will disappear gradually from the South in a manner which will obviate injury either to the black or to the white race—that the Confederate States are essentially Democratic States—and that the only genuine Republican doctrines which still exist in America are to be found among these Confederates—these Democrats who are so unjustly stigmatised as aristocrats. But even this task is possible. What the friends of the South have already accomplished in this direction is a sample of what may yet be done.

It must be admitted that at the present moment the more advanced organs of Liberal opinion here exhibit less vehemence in their attacks upon the South than they did a twelvemonth back. The *Siècle*, for example, which could not forego an opportunity that recently occurred of attacking the Confederates, manifests somewhat of coolness to-day. It is always very unjust to the Confederates; but this time it is not so violent. Truth has had fair-play. The *Journal des Débats*, whose zeal in behalf of the North has for the last few months been of so ardent a character, has also strangely cooled, and, although still continuing to uphold the North, has ceased its attacks upon the Confederacy. In fact, two Liberal writers (the only ones, it is true), M. Chatard, of the *Presse*, and M. Alfred Assolant, of the *Courrier du Dimanche*, have penned some notices which are not only very truthful, but highly flattering to the South. These are, then, so many signs that the Liberal opinion of France is not systematically hostile towards us, and that it is coming round to us in proportion as it becomes more enlightened.

Unfortunately the French journals lack those opportunities of enlightenment which the English press enjoys. First of all, they have to translate everything; moreover, the correspondence system is almost unknown to them. In America and in England every paper has two, three, or four special correspondents occupied in transmitting from different political centres authentic information on the progress of events. French journalism, in this point as in many others, is far behind English journalism. Whenever any great war breaks out, even the most important of the Parisian papers seldom count a single correspondent abroad. Now, however, since American affairs have assumed such immense importance, several of these journals have secured the services of American correspondents, who have largely helped in correcting the ideas of Frenchmen on the nature of our revolution. Among these correspondents must be mentioned those of the *Moniteur* and the *Patrie*. The first of these withholds his signature; but he is evidently a man who unites to a sound judgment a thorough knowledge of American affairs. The correspondent of the *Patrie* is M. Albert Fabre, late major in the 10th Louisiana Regiment, and one of the journalists most favourably known at New Orleans, where for some time past he has conducted the *Louisiana Courier*. The letters of these two gentlemen, as well as those transmitted by the *Correspondance Havas*, have contributed in no small degree to rectify the erroneous ideas which malevolence and ignorance had propagated in regard to Southern institutions and the causes of the war. On a future occasion I will furnish you with a few extracts from their communications, which will enable your readers to form a more exact estimate of the influence they have exercised over public opinion in France. For the present I content myself with directing attention to two excellent articles in *La France* and the *Globe* respectively.

The first of these papers, under the title of 'Les Evénements d'Amérique,' speaks out against the North in a tone of extreme severity.

The general opinion (it remarks) seemed to be that in this supreme struggle between might and heroism, conquest and independence, the victory would eventually rest on the side of grand battalions, and that the Southern cause was fated to succumb; but Atlanta and Petersburg, in the first place, and the invasion of Maryland in the next, have demonstrated the capabilities of the Confederate States for offensive operations.

The bravery of the South has everywhere been equal to her perils and her trials. Three years of a crisis unparalleled perhaps in history, have failed to wear her out; despite all her reverses, she remains precisely as she was at the moment when she unanimously seceded from from the North—a nation entire and distinct, enjoying her own government, supporting her own armies, living under her own laws, and resolved to die in behalf of her independence.

What invests this article with peculiar importance is the fact of its bearing the signature of M. Garcin; for the Parisian press are well aware that the money articles of *La France*, which bear this gentleman's signature, are written by M. de la Gueronnière, a member of the Senate, and chief editor of the journal, who only writes articles meant to engage public attention.

The other article, of which I would speak, is by Mr. Duckett, the writer in the *Globe* who handles the American question, and to some of whose writings I have already drawn your notice. This fresh article turns on the financial condition of the North. The writer details the squandering of the public wealth which has been going on since the war began, and conclusively shows that the continuance of the struggle will ruin the country without advancing in the least the cause of the Union.

In its *bulletin* the *Globe* thus discusses the American question. Quoting from the leading article in the last number of THE INDEX on the chances of peace, it endorses all its conclusions, backing itself by the following considerations:—

The failure of the campaign so boastingly undertaken by General Grant ought to open the eyes of the infatuated Northerners, and afford them a glimpse of the impossibility of reestablishing the Union by force. After two years of a sanguinary war, the two belligerent parties find themselves just as they were at the opening of hostilities.

Death has thinned the ranks of the combatants; pillage and incendiarism have devastated their cities and plains; commerce is annihilated; the treasury exhausted; hatred alone keeps up the spirit of the two parties; and Mr. Lincoln ought first to ask himself what would be the consequences of the forcible submission of the South should he even succeed in reconquering her. The idea of cementing the Union with blood is an absurdity.

CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER: August 24, 1864.

THE remarkable letter that has recently reached this country from the pen of the escaped slave, Frederick Douglass, has been accepted by the Southern Independence Association as a most suitable and telling travelling companion to Lord Edward Howard's speech, and, as such, will enjoy an amount of publicity hardly anticipated for it by the writer. 'We do not know,' says the *Guardian*, 'how Federal advocates in this country will deal with the statements in Mr. Douglass's letter. To us they seem to deprive them of the last rag of decent excuse for countenancing the aggressive spirit of Northern statesmen. Henceforth they must admit, on the testimony of the most ultra of Abolitionists, that the promise of freedom to the slave is a mockery, the hope of emancipation a delusion, the affectation of regard for the welfare of the negro a snare, the purpose of the North one of simply selfish aggrandisement, and its pretence to any high or honourable motive in commencing or continuing the war a wretched and miserable sham.'

Our ex-Manchester 'philanthropist, orator, and man of affairs,' George Thompson (in whose career we shall not cease to take some kind of interest), has received, it seems, from a New York College the degree of LL.D., and Yankee latinity appears to have been rather put about in the discharge of the ceremonious office. The doctor, according to the *New York Independent*, sat upon the platform, unconscious of the impending 'blow.' President Cummings, in conferring it, made, says the same journal, even an 'unknown tongue' eloquent with eulogy, and brought down the house in applause as he called him (*sic*)—'*Humanitatis et hominis amicus, apostolos libertatis eloquens, catenorum ruptor, oppressorum lætitia.*' No wonder if we are told in the next breath that, smitten by the sudden stroke, the object of the eulogy bowed his head and kept it covered till the ceremonies of the occasion were concluded.

We have heard nothing more at present of the notable scheme of 'Federal emigration,' as concocted by the United States Government, and considerately set forth for our instruction in a recent article in the *New York Times*. Neither Lancashire nor 'West York' has been favoured as yet with the promised (or threatened) visit of General Bowen, or any of his subordinates; and it is quite possible, if the 'General' could fully anticipate the kind of reception he is likely to be honoured with, he would advise himself better than to attempt to open any of his 'subvention' offices anywhere in these parts. The sturdy labourers of 'West York' will be apt to remember the case of the young Yorkshire lad, as told the other day by the Richmond correspondent of the *Times*. Nor will the operatives of Glossop, or any other manufacturing town in Derbyshire, Cheshire, or Lancashire, have forgotten the scandalous necessity that urged Lord Edward Howard to deliver that celebrated speech, which by this time has found its way into nearly every household where the warning was most needed. The game is up for 'subvention schemes,' and the time, I hope, is gone by for our toleration of the attempt to launch them.

Nothing coming from Mobile can be without interest just now, and I have therefore much pleasure in extracting a few sentences from a letter recently received by a gentleman of high standing in the Manchester trade from his correspondent at that port.

'It is a very great while since I last had this pleasure. The excitement of war has all along kept our minds and hearts on the stretch, and the usual matters of everyday life (as it used to be) have an exceedingly dull, flat, stale, and unprofitable flavour about them. The end of the war is at last promising to make its appearance. Our danger—thanks be to God!—has long since reached its culminating point. . . . The most astounding feature in this war is the unparalleled system of downright falsehood which the Yankees have pursued on every occasion. It is truly wonderful! They have lied to Europe, and in the most barefaced manner they have lied to their own people. However, some few of their public men from the West and one or two of their journals are beginning to be outspoken. The New York *Journal of Commerce*, one of the few respectable papers of that section, says:—'Ruin is before us as a people, a nation, an Union, if we go on under present guidances with the principles which now prevail in the Halls of Congress and in the President's house. All the promises and prophecies of the men who led the Radical party are but a repetition of what just such men promised and prophesied for other nations in other times, and the end always was as it will now be—destruction. It is useless to speculate on what a few weeks may decide, the results of the campaign in Virginia; but it may be doubted if any possible success of General Grant can save the North from repudiation, bankruptcy, and ruin.' Our final success is now only a mere question of a little while. There never were better armies than those of Lee, Johnston (on this side the Mississippi), and Kirby Smith (on the west side), food, clothing, discipline, and determined spirit, and a firm and deep abiding trust in God! How can such troops be whipped? Odds appear never to deter their leaders whenever an opportunity to strike occurs. . . Our harvest is very abundant—wheat particularly. Our people have pretty much made up their minds that recognition by European Powers will come just as soon as their interest moves them to it, and not any sooner. Certainly it is far better that the States should achieve their independence without help or the appearance of it; and that they can do so does not admit of a doubt. . . . My son, who was wounded two years ago, had a surgical operation performed lately, by which it is hoped he will save his leg, and be able to move about again after a while. My own health, I am happy to say, is good: am connected with the corps of engineers for this Department of the Gulf, for it is expected that every one should render some assistance to the country.'

THE BATTLE BEFORE PETERSBURG.

THE accounts that have appeared in the Northern newspapers of the battle of July 30, are unusually graphic and interesting. Differing in some details they all agree that it was one of the most terrible combats of the war, that the Confederates fought with a degree of coolness and resolution hitherto unsurpassed. No doubt the springing of the mine was a surprise, but it had none of the effects of a surprise except that the gallant men who held the fort were killed. On the side of the Confederates there was no hurrying, and no excitement, but a stern determination to avenge the deaths of their comrades. With a steadiness that only veteran soldiers are capable of, the fire of the musketry was reserved until the assaulting column was near enough for it to be delivered with deadly precision. Without loss of time the cannon poured shot and shell into the cavity formed by the explosion, and into this cavity the Federals had crowded for protection; but they found it a veritable slaughter-pen. The negro troops suffered terribly, and the civilised world must denounce the inhumanity of the Federal commander for sending the unfortunate creatures into the very jaws of death. How could it be expected that negro troops would succeed when white troops had been driven back in confusion? We subjoin the account published in the *New York Daily News*:—

'The troops were formed in assaulting bodies. Burnside's corps was to lead the charge. Ord's corps, formerly Smith's, was on Burnside's right. The second and the fifth corps were in reserve. They were to advance in support of Burnside and Ord. At forty minutes after four the earth began to tremble. Then a great mass of clay and *débris* was thrown about one hundred feet in the air. Then a heavy sound, deep and rumbling—differing from any ever before heard by the army of the Potomac—was borne five miles around the fated fort. For a few moments the air was thick with dust, and then the great yawning gap was visible. The mine had done its work. Then the artillery opened. Never on the American continent was heard such an awful roar. It commenced on the right, and extended to the left, gun after gun joining in mighty chorus. Gettysburg, Malvern, Spottsylvania, Coal Harbour—these were as nothing. It was dreadful and unparalleled.

'The storming column was already formed. It consisted of two brigades of the first division, ninth corps. The first was commanded by Colonel Marshall, fourteenth New York heavy artillery; the second by Brigadier-General Bartlett. The men moved forward when the command was given. Forward a few yards, and then wavered. They were appalled by the terrible fire that the enemy had opened on them. A few cheering words and they rallied. They proceeded on past the *débris* of the fallen fort. Bartlett quickly followed. Twenty minutes had elapsed and the enemy was well prepared. A hundred guns concentrated their fire on the spot. It was too much for human endurance; the line again wavered. Men fell rapidly; some ran back, and others huddled together wherever they could find shelter.

'The charge failed.

'The second and third divisions followed. One was on the right, the other on the left. All connected at the fort. This was the fatal spot. It was here the vengeance of the enemy fell in showers of death. Bravely but vainly the first division sought to breast the terrible wave that rolled down against it. The Confederates had breastworks in front and on either side. There stood the infantry, and from ten thousand muskets a concentric fire rained on the devoted spot. They had forts in front and on either side, and the cannon mounted therein were trained on the breach and poured thunderbolts of destruction into it. They had mortars, and from these shells flew screaming and bursting among the advance. And nearly all this fire came from a hill in front. Several times did the brigades of Marshall and Bartlett essay to reach this hill. Every attempt was met by that awful fire. Every attempt failed. Hundreds fell and fell in vain.

'Ferrero's division of negroes was in reserve. The first division fell back. Bravely they tried to maintain their ground, but could not. Ferrero was ordered to the front. His men advanced well. When they reached the breach they were met by the same fire that had driven back the others. At first they stood firm. The enemy saw that negro troops were sent against them. Their rage became concentrated with their fire. A terrible volley was poured into Ferrero's ranks. The negroes could not stand it. White veterans had succumbed to the same fire. The negroes were terror-stricken. Some of them rushed wildly to the rear. Every foot was swept by the enemy's cannon. One-third of the running mass fell on their wild retreat. Others rushed to the shelter of the great cavity made by the explosion. They thought they could find safety there, but they made a sad mistake. Let one sheep jump into the water and the flock will follow. So with these unfortunate fellows. Soon the pit was filled with a struggling, panic-stricken, maddened mass. Then the enemy's mortars opened on them. Right in their midst the shell fell thick and fast. The divisions on the wings gave way, and onward came the Confederates. The poor negroes heard their yells as they rushed down victoriously. To stay in the pit was certain death. Those who could extricate themselves did so, and clambered out. As they emerged and came back toward the line they were shot down. Two-thirds of them were killed or wounded in this way. Shells were still dropping and exploding in the pit—another slaughter-pen.

'Thus it went on till ten o'clock. Every attempt to charge, and three several attempts were made, was repulsed with fearful slaughter. Often have the Confederates won encomiums for valour, but never before did they fight with such uncontrollable desperation. It appeared as if our troops were at their mercy, standing helpless or running in terror, and shot down like dogs. No such scene has been witnessed in any battle of the war. On the right the eighteenth corps attempted to divert the enemy's fire. They advanced, but Lee massed his troops and hurled them against ours, driving them back in confusion. The charge of the enemy against the negro troops was terrific. With fearful yells they rushed down against them. The negroes at once ran back, breaking through the line of white troops in the rear. Again and again their officers tried to rally them. Words and blows were useless. They were victims of an uncontrollable terror, and human agency could not stop them. The Confederates followed in hot pursuit, battling fiercely against the supports and throwing them into temporary disorder. Then when all hope of success was gone, the order to fall back was issued. The men retired to their old position, leaving the dead and wounded and a large number of prisoners in the hands of the enemy.'

The *Richmond Examiner* gives the following summary from the Petersburg papers:—'The chasm caused by the enemy's explosion appears to be about forty feet in depth and some two hundred feet in circumference, and resembles more what

one would imagine to have been the effects of a terrible earthquake than anything else. Immense boulders of earth were piled up rudely one above the other, and great fragments of bombproofs, gun carriages, timbers, &c., were lying promiscuously in every direction. The sides and bottom of the chasm were literally lined with Yankee dead, and the bodies were in every conceivable position. Some had evidently been killed with the butts of muskets, as their crushed skulls and badly-smashed faces too plainly indicated, while the greater portion were shot, great pools of blood having flowed from their wounds and stained the ground. Between our breastworks and the enemy's large numbers of dead and wounded were still lying, the latter begging piteously for water and praying to be cared for. The length of the "sap" made by the enemy is supposed to have been about six hundred feet.'

A Petersburg paper, describing the struggle for the repossession of our works captured by the enemy in the confusion consequent to the explosion, says:—'Arriving upon the ground, General Mahone found twelve of the enemy's flags waving upon the ramparts of that portion of our line carried by the explosion, and the whole vicinity swarming with white and black Yankee troops. Getting his troops into position, General Mahone ordered his brigade to retake a portion of his works, and instructed Wright's brigade to come up in such a position as would insure the recapture of the remaining portion. Under command of Colonel Weisiger, acting brigadier, Mahone's brigade formed into line, and were about to move up, when the enemy rallied out and made a charge. The Confederates reserved their fire until they could see the whites of the enemy's eyes, when they poured into them such a storm of bullets that the enemy recoiled and fell back in confusion. A charge was now ordered, and Weisiger's men dashed forward with a yell, driving the enemy up to and over the breastworks. On the works our men halted and delivered a plunging fire, which proved so destructive that the enemy never rallied again on this portion of the line, but left our men in undisturbed possession.'

TERMS OF PEACE.

(From the *Richmond Sentinel.*)

WE find the following in the *Washington Chronicle*, an organ of Mr. Lincoln's Administration, of a late date:—'Throughout the entire North there is an undoubted sentiment in favour of peace, unopposed except by some mean army contractors or sordid army followers.' This is very well for a beginning. Indeed, we think it rather oversteps the modesty of nature. But yesterday this organ talked of nothing but fire, and sword, and subjugation, and all at once it begins cooing as soothingly as the turtle dove. Like all new converts, its new-born zeal hurries it too far. It denounces all who hold to-day what it held yesterday as mean and sordid men.

Nine-tenths of the people, North and South, are heartily tired and sick of the war. But the prospects are not quite so bright as Mr. Forney paints them; for, unfortunately, there are a great many people, North and South, besides army contractors and camp followers, interested in the continuance of the war. Yet we thank the *Chronicle* for its admission, and accept it in the kind spirit in which we hope and believe it was made. When both sides desire peace, peace cannot be very far off. 'Where there's a will there's a way.' In the meantime, we presume, neither side will remit its exertions, nor lessen its vigilance in prosecuting the war. We would respectfully suggest, however, that it is little out of the ordinary course of peace negotiations to begin with *ultimata*. They, as their name implies, come last, and shut the door on further negotiation.

Let Peace Commissioners be appointed by either section, and, invested with plenary powers of negotiation, meet on neutral territory, and discuss the terms of peace. Let all subjects be open to free discussion and negotiation. We of the South consider independence as the great and first object of the war, and that separation is essential to independence; yet we shall be willing to listen to what you have to say and propose on the other side. You may offer us something that will secure our equal rights within the Union; you may propose to give the slaveholding and free States equality of votes in Congress and in the election of President; and, partly to effect this, you may throw all New England into one State, or give her to England—or, if England won't have her, let her secede.

Now, this would be a tempting bait. We don't say it would satisfy us; but the subject is worthy of consideration. This war was brought about by New England and New Englanders, and who knows but that the balance of the States might live in peace and harmony if she were out of the way. But we do not mean to anticipate or prescribe the action of the Commissioners. Let them enter into the negotiations untrammeled by ultimata, other than that any terms of peace they may agree on shall be subject to be rejected or ratified by their respective Governments. As to the slavery question, we would leave that to be settled last. The question of independence concerns us all, the subject of slavery but part of us.

CONFEDERATE OFFICERS EXCHANGED AT CHARLESTON ON AUGUST 13.—Major-Generals Edward Johnson and Frank Gardner; Brigadier-Generals J. J. Archer, George W. Stewart, and M. Jeff Thompson; Colonels Wesley, R. Carter, M. Cobb, Basil Duke, M. J. Ferguson, J. M. Hanks, Richard C. Morgan, James Pell, W. H. Peebles, A. S. Vanderventer, Wm. W. Ward, Wm. M. Barber, J. N. Brown, J. N. Jacques, E. B. Candill, W. H. Forney; Lieutenant-Colonels James F. Brewer, P. E. Durant, J. P. Fitzgerald, O. L. Haines, O. A. Patten, W. M. Paisley, A. L. Swingley, Joseph T. Tucker, D. H. L. Martz, A. Dupree, Y. G. Jackson, M. J. Smith, W. L. Davidson; Major D. W. Anderson, J. H. Coldwell, J. T. Carson, W. T. Emmett, C. Groce, Horace A. Higley, Charles Henry, E. A. Nash, L. J. Perkins, George H. Smith, E. J. Sanders, T. Steele, Thomas B. Weber, J. M. Wilson, W. H. Manning, T. E. Upson, F. F. Warley.

'PUNCH' ON RECOGNITION.—Our comic contemporary publishes this week a very clever cartoon. Punch and Lord Palmerston are walking arm in arm, the former pointing to a placard on which is inscribed 'America: another Federal Defeat.' A little in the back ground is the figure of a Southern soldier; 'Punch remarks, 'That was Jeff Davis, Pam, don't you recognise him?' To this Pam replies, 'H'm! Well, not exactly—may have to do so some of these days.' The title of the cartoon is 'Very Probable.'

BANISHED.—A despatch to the Northern papers, dated Cairo, August 8, says:—'Several disloyal citizens of Columbus and Paducah, with their families, have arrived here *en route* to Canada, having been banished by General Payne. Among them are a number of merchants and leading men whose property had been seized by the Government.'

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

THE state of the money market is at this moment purely exceptional. With full supplies of capital seeking employment, abundance of money both in Lombard Street and at the Stock Exchange, no permanent prospects exist of a reduction in the rate of discount. Indeed, part of these large reserves are held to meet any sudden pressure that may occur in the autumn, and the abundance is the result of the bankers and brokers only lending from day to day, or discounting at short dates, so that they may have their resources within easy call. Notwithstanding the quotation in Lombard Street is about half per cent. below the official minimum of the Bank, there is little desire to enter into extended engagements, and it is quite clear the chief financial establishments are looking for enhanced terms in the autumn and winter, when an enormous amount of Indian transactions become due. The rumour of a probable peace between the North and South gains ground rapidly; but what the actual basis of the arrangement is to be appears not to have transpired. A variety of causes are, therefore, tending to induce bankers, financiers, and others to have a good look-out for the future. The present rate of the Bank continues 8 per cent.: the quotation in Lombard Street for prime paper is $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and short loans at the Stock Exchange rule 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$, while in some instances they have been completed at $3\frac{1}{2}$. The Bank directors will not, without they have full cause, move in the downward direction when they may, in three weeks or a month, have to carry their terms still higher than at present.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The operations in bullion and specie continued on a very limited scale, but on the whole the tendency of the markets is rather more favourable. The last rise in the Bank rate still continues to operate effectually in preventing the withdrawals of specie for transmission abroad. Still the amount of gold sent into the Bank has not been large this week, only 106,000*l*. The arrivals of specie have also been unusually light, the total being 31,782*l*., all of which was from New York. The *Delta* for the East takes out 60,668*l*., viz., 46,905*l*. gold and 13,763*l*. silver. Of the above sum there was for India, 11,905*l*.; China and the Straits, 3,563*l*.; Mauritius, 45,000*l*.; and St. George's Sound, 200*l*. The silver market has been rather active in consequence of a slight rise in the exchange for Bombay, but there has been no material alteration in the price, bar being still quoted at $61\frac{1}{4}$*d*. per ounce. A small order for Mexican dollars has been executed at 63*d*. per oz., that price having been obtained in consequence of the present scarcity of that coin in the market. The amount of gold mentioned last week as having arrived from Australia is still out, none of the vessels mentioned having yet arrived.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The English Stock Market has been entirely without animation throughout the week. At this season business is generally very flat, but at the present moment there is unusual dullness, owing, in some measure, to the state of the money market, and also, to some extent, to the spirit of political affairs abroad. Prices have been gradually declining, and from which there has been no reaction, though there was slightly more firmness exhibited this afternoon. Consols closed this evening at $88\frac{7}{8}$ to 89 for money, and $89\frac{1}{8}$ to $89\frac{1}{4}$ for the account, which is a decline of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ upon the quotations of this day week. Exchequer bills remain steady at 25*s*. to 15*s*. dis. Although there has not been a large business transacted in Foreign Securities, prices have generally been less affected than in the English market. The chief operations have been in Spanish, which show an improvement, the Passives of $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. and the Certificates of $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. Greek has declined $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and Mexican are $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. lower; but Turkish are without change. The final quotations this evening were—Greek, $23\frac{1}{4}$ to $23\frac{1}{2}$; Mexican, $28\frac{5}{8}$ to $28\frac{7}{8}$; Spanish Passives, $30\frac{5}{8}$ to $30\frac{7}{8}$; ditto Certificates, $12\frac{3}{8}$ to $13\frac{1}{8}$; Turkish Six per Cents. of 1854, 90 to 91; and those of 1862, $69\frac{3}{4}$ to $70\frac{1}{4}$.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The Cotton Loan was hardly affected by the news per last steamer; the payment of the dividend and the drawing being so near at hand, there are ready buyers. The closing quotation is 78 to 80. Rumours of a probability of peace negotiations are further likely to strengthen the market for this security.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

Week by week the operations in American Government and railway securities continue to decline, and under present circumstances there does not appear any prospect of improvement. Unless for special orders, where it is necessary to effect sales, the brokers will not look at this class of securities, and the few bargains that take place are generally at a decline. The only transactions recorded this week have been in Virginia State 6 per Cents. at 30; Erie, \$100 shares, 40 and $41\frac{1}{2}$; Illinois Central, \$100 shares, \$90 paid, $44\frac{1}{2}$ and 44 dis.; do. do., all paid, 52; and Pennsylvania, \$50 shares, 29.

LIVERPOOL, Wednesday, August 24.—There has again been a lull in our cotton market; the demand for most descriptions has generally subsided, except for American descriptions, which still continue to be more sought after. The present state of the money market and the prospect of the civil war in America being at no distant date brought to a conclusion, has for the present entirely put a stop to anything like active speculation. Prices, which last week showed an advancing tendency, are again declining. The sales this week have been only 29,500 bales, of which 9,000 were on speculation and for export. The total sales this year to the present time have been 1,793,310 bales, and to the same period in 1863, 1,397,892 bales. There have been imported this year 1,399,147 bales; last year the number was 960,254 bales. The trade have taken this year 1,107,626 bales, and to the same period in 1863, 786,532 bales. The exports this year have been 357,046 bales, whilst last year they were 280,436 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 309,271 bales, and in 1863, 304,782 bales. The estimated stocks at the present time are 221,920 bales; at the same period last year they were 283,194 bales. The advices from Bombay to the 23rd ult. state that the clearances of cotton to that date for the preceding fortnight amounted to 46,836 bales. The exports since January 1 had been 638,126 bales, against 583,941 bales in the corresponding period of 1863. In addition to the foregoing, the *Castilian* and the *Jamsetjee Cursetjee*, both ships of large tonnage, had sailed for Liverpool with full cargoes of cotton, but the amount could not be ascertained in time for the mail. The latest quotations were: for American descriptions, $29\frac{1}{2}$*d*. to 31*d*.; Pernambuco, $29\frac{3}{4}$*d*. to 32*d*.; Maranham, 31*d*. to $31\frac{1}{2}$*d*.; Egyptian, $27\frac{1}{4}$*d*. to $35\frac{3}{4}$*d*.; Surats, $13\frac{3}{4}$*d*. to $25\frac{1}{2}$*d*.; Bengal, 15*d*. to $17\frac{1}{2}$*d*.; Scinde, 15*d*. to $17\frac{1}{2}$*d*.; China, 18*d*. to 22*d*.; and Peru $32\frac{1}{4}$*d*. to $32\frac{1}{2}$*d*.

The markets at Manchester have been unfavourably influenced within the last day or two by the private letters from America intimating the probability of an early termination of the war. Although little confidence is placed by mercantile men in these rumours, nevertheless they are sufficient to create a very unsettled feeling, and it is not considered likely that the markets will assume a better tone till further advices have been received. The accounts from India received in the earlier part of the week were regarded as favourable, and it was considered likely that a satisfactory business would have ensued, but the American news has so far put a complete stop to transactions, both in cloths and yarns. In the cloth market buyers are quite out of the market and refuse to make any offers. There is a slight weakness in prices in some quarters, but on the whole manufacturers keep up their quotations, though in some instances, when stocks are heavy, there is some anxiety manifested to realise. There is nothing whatever doing in shipping yarns, and to effect sales spinners would have to submit to a decline of at least $\frac{1}{2}$*d*. per lb. on last week's prices. In home trade yarns there is likewise nothing doing, and prices generally show weakness. The closing quotations were:—$\frac{7}{8}$ Grey Printers, 8*s*. 9*d*. to 16*s*. 9*d*., according to quality; $\frac{9}{8}$ Grey Madapollams, 7*s*. $10\frac{1}{2}$*d*. to 10*s*. $4\frac{1}{2}$*d*.; $\frac{9}{8}$ Grey Printers, 12*s*. $1\frac{1}{2}$*d*. to 18*s*. 6*d*.; $\frac{5}{4}$ Grey Shirtings, 13*s*. 3*d*. to 27*s*. 6*d*.; Water Twist, No. 20, 2*s*. 3*d*. to 2*s*. $10\frac{1}{2}$*d*.; No. 30, 2*s*. 8*d*. to 3*s*. 2*d*.; No. 40, 3*s*. 1*d*. to 3*s*. 7*d*.; Mule Twist, No. 20, 1*s*. 11*d*. to 2*s*. 9*d*.; No. 30, 2*s*. 4*d*. to 2*s*. 11*d*.; No. 40, 2*s*. $6\frac{1}{2}$*d*. to 3*s*. 4*d*.; No. 50, 2*s*. 11*d*. to 3*s*. 6*d*.; No. 60, 3*s*. to 3*s*. 8*d*.; No. 70, 3*s*. 2*d*. to 3*s*. 10*d*.; No. 80, 3*s*. 6*d*. to 4*s*.; No. 90, 3*s*. 8*d*. to 4*s*. 2*d*.; and No. 100, 3*s*. 11*d*. to 4*s*. 9*d*.

VICKSBURG AND PETERSBURG.—The *New York World* thus replies to the suggestion of General Grant's friends that the positions at Vicksburg and Petersburg are analogous:—'Pemberton's retreat into Vicksburg drew our victorious army after him into such a position, that the rebel garrison found themselves shut in between our army by land and our fleet upon the Mississippi. After the battle of Champion Hill, Pemberton and Vicksburg had absolutely no chance of escape from surrender save in the reinforcement of Johnston to such a strength as would enable that commander to assume the offensive against our triumphant general. But no one of the conditions which involved the doom of Pemberton now weighs upon the spirits or can effect the plans of Lee at Petersburg. His troops have not been defeated in the open field; they are not invested in a city commanded by our gunboats; they are not isolated from their supplies and from their reinforcements. Were it not, indeed, for our control of the James river, the position of Pemberton would be much more nearly reproduced in the position of General Grant to-day than in that of Beauregard and of Lee.'

THE TACTICS OF JOHN PHŒNIX.—A correspondent of the *Boston Courier* writes the following. A neighbour told him 'that he had seen a man only the day before who was just from the "front," who assured him that Grant might have taken Richmond at any time within a month, and the only reason he had not done so was that he wished to hold Lee where he was to prevent his going to the relief of Atlanta. I asked him if he had ever read the works of John Phœnix. "No," he replied; "who was he?" "A distinguished writer on tactics," said I, "who once described a 'military position' somewhat similar to your conception of Grant's. He was engaged in a street fight, and says: 'when we fell, I came undermost, and held my antagonist down by my nose, which I inserted between his teeth for that purpose."'

TORPEDOES.—The repeated proofs given during the war in America of the immense destructive power of the 'torpedoes,' or submarine batteries employed by the Confederates, and which are attached by a peculiar apparatus to a number of their vessels, has induced the Federal Government to take a leaf out of the enemy's book in this respect, and a letter from the United States informs us on the best authority that this new and formidable engine of war has been extensively introduced in the Federal navy, and several ironclads are already fitted with the same apparatus as the Confederates employ, or one closely resembling it. The British Government seem to be on the same track, for a wonder, though of course they are pursuing it with their usual deliberation, and as yet have not proceeded farther than a few experiments at Chatham, and the Royal Dockyard at Pembroke, on the force of submarine explosions, which, however successful they may have proved, will not be followed in all probability by the adoption of torpedoes as a part of the regular armament of British ironclads, till France has, as we understand she is about doing, fitted them to half a dozen or so of her iron fleet, and a periodical fit of invasion panic seizes the authorities, and hurries them to a tardy exhibition of zeal.

A YOUTHFUL VICTIM OF THE SUBSTITUTE BROKERS.—The Petersburg correspondent of the *New York World*, writing on August 5, narrates the following case of forcible enlisting:—'Charles R. J. Jackson—is only about fifteen years of age. Having recently arrived from England, he fell into the hands of one of these sharpers, in your city, who first induced him to contract a debt of a few dollars, then persuaded him to enlist, and finally gave him fifty-five dollars of the bounty money, less the amount of the debt! To render the lad better satisfied with his situation, the broker told him to take his citizen clothes along with him, and, after getting here, he would find no difficulty in escaping, when he could again come to New York and repeat the operation. The lad was taken very sick shortly after his arrival, and narrowly escaped death, from cholera morbus.'

MORMONISM IN NEW ENGLAND.—The New York correspondent of the *Morning Herald* writes:—'Conversions to Mormonism in the New England States have become very numerous of late. The bright, keen, quick-witted, educated girls of the Eastern States have "no notion" of being old maids, if they can help it; and as the young men have either been killed already or are in a fair way to get killed before domestic pursuits can be resumed and social usages again taken up, and as the old men are already appropriated, they have apparently determined to do the next best thing—hold one husband in common among several. The recent call for troops had the effect of converting 100,000 American girls to a perception of the beauties of Mormonism and the desirability of polygamy. So Brigham Young may shortly expect a grand accession to his population in the shape of full-grown, buxom, and good-looking Yankee females.'

TWO ONE-LEGGED COMMANDERS.—It is observed by those curious in coincidences that both the commanders-in-chief of the confronting armies at Atlanta, Hood and Sherman, have left a leg on the battle-field. General Sherman has, however, physically an advantage over his opponent in the use of both arms, while General Hood has only a stump in the place of one of his. General Sherman lost his leg in the repulse from Port Hudson; General Hood, in the victory of Chickamauga.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Ships Arrived.

At Gravesend.—August 19: The British Tar, from Jamaica.—August 20: The Presto, from Miramichi.—August 21: The Bridgetown, from Barbadoes.—August 22: The City of Hamburgh (steamer), from Havre. The Grefen Berge, from Havana.—August 23: The Senorino, from Havana, put back, The Trinidad, for Trinidad.

At Deal.—August 20: The Bridgetown, from West Indies.—August 21: The Mischief, from St. Vincent.—August 23: The Laura, from Havana. The Esperance, from Havana.

At Liverpool.—August 19: The Heron, from St. John's. The Magnolia, from Miramichi. The Montezuma, from Matamoras. The Rowena, from Montevideo. The Margaret Dean, from Bahia.—August 20: The City of the Sultan, from Pernambuco.—August 22: The Julia, The Ter (steamer), from Havana. The Florence, from St. John's.

At Queenstown.—August 19: The Paul, The Belle Poule, from Montevideo. The Protussus, from Trinidad.—August 23: The Queen of Trumps, from Havana.—August 24: The Stonewall Jackson, from Barbadoes.

At Shields.—August 19: The Atkinson, from St. John's.

At Clyde.—August 19: The Glenrosa, from Matamoras.

At Whitehaven.—August 20: The Ann Falcon, from Demerara.

At Kinsale.—August 19: The City of the Sultan, from Pernambuco.

At Grimsby.—August 19: The Storm King, from Miramichi.

At Dover.—August 19: The Faugh a' Ballagh, from Charlestown.

At Hull.—August 20: The Rubens, from Miramichi.

At Plymouth.—August 19: The Eleanor, The Stonehouse, from Charlestown.

At Bristol.—August 19: The W. H. from Cuba.

At Cardiff.—August 19: The Alphonso, from Montevideo. The Pluto, from Cuba. The Amy, from Nassau.

At Swansea.—August 19: The Emilia, from Madeira.

At Dartmouth.—August 20: The William Wells, from Charlestown.

At Falmouth.—August 20: The Hooyland, from Havana.—August 21: The Celerity, from Pernambuco.

At Bermuda.—July 30: The City of Washington (steamer), with 843 bales of cotton. The Falcon (steamer), with 1,025 bales of cotton. The Mary Celestia (steamer), with 683 bales of cotton. The North Heath (steamer), with 890 bales of cotton. The Wando (steamer), with 629 bales of cotton. The Chicora (steamer), with 619 bales of cotton.

At Halifax, N. S.—August 8: The Falcon (steamer), The Heath (steamer), from Bermuda.

At Havana.—July 20: The Denbigh (steamer), from Mobile. The Susanna (steamer), and sailed for Nassau. The Red Gauntlet (steamer), and sailed for Mobile.

The Denbigh (steamer), arrived at Havana on July 30, from Mobile, having made the run in three days. Her cargo included 510 bales of cotton.

At Nassau.—July 5: The Coquette, from Wilmington.

Ships Sailed.

Liverpool.—August 17: The Star of Canada, for Baltimore. The Wilsons, for Nassau. The Kate, for Havana. The Sandback, for Demerara. The Zygia, for Bermuda.—August 18: The La Gloire, for Quebec. The Seraphina, The Lion, for Pernambuco.—August 19: The Mary Russell, for Rio Janeiro.—The Orizaza, for Rio Grande. The Yuba, for Quebec. The Anne Kay, for Havana. The Amadora, for Porto Rico. The Eva, for Bermuda.—August 20: The Netherton, the Elizabeth Mary Anne, The Alida, for St. John's. The Tobasco (steamer), for Vera Cruz.—August 22: The British Queen (steamer), for Havre. The J. A. U., for Havana.—August 23: The Dolphin, for St. Michael's. The Diana, for Bermuda. The Helena, for Berbice. The Mary Russell, for Rio Janeiro.

Gravesend.—August 19: The Martha Connel, for Buenos Ayres. The San Fernando, for Havana. The Rebecca, for Nassau. The Mary Ann, for Belize.—August 20: The Elizabeth, for Havre. The Georgiana, for Jamaica.

Deal.—August 20: The Morning Star, for Rio Janeiro.—August 21: The Spirit of the Ocean, for Halifax. The George Reynolds, for Berbice.—August 22: The Alarm, for Bahia. The Ettica, for Montevideo.—August 24: The Cornelia Henrietta, for Demerara. The Constance, for Barbadoes. The Point, for Jamaica.

Southampton.—August 17: The Atrato (steamer), for West Indies.

Scilly.—August 19: The May Banfield, for St. John's.

Clyde.—August 19: The Merrie England, for Demerara.—August 20: The Stormy Petrel (steamer), for Bermuda.

Queenstown.—August 19: The Elizabeth, for Valparaiso.—August 22: The Darien, for Havre.—August 23: The Lizzie, for Nassau.

Falmouth.—August 19: The Lady Stirling (steamer), for West Indies.

Cardiff.—August 19: The Trio, for St. Thomas. The Maximilian, for Bermuda.—August 21: The Monarch, for Nassau. The Jabez, for Jamaica.—August 22: The Robertson, for Bermuda.

Plymouth.—August 19: The Sprite of the Plym, for Valparaiso.

Pill.—August 20: The Ceres, for Cuba.

Troon.—August 20: The Eureka, for Halifax. The Leda, for Havana. The Elizabeth, for St. John's.—August 23: The Nyanza, for Montevideo.

Newport.—August 21: The Hannah, for Rio Janeiro. The D. B R., for Buenos Ayres. The Victoria, for Havana.—August 22: The Joseph Bushby, The San Jose, for Buenos Ayres.

Hull.—August 20: The Symmetry, for St. Michael's.

Swansea.—August 20: The John Bryant, for Madeira.—August 21: The Fanny Fern, for Matamoras. The Corredora, The Anne Gabrielle, for Cuba.

Ships Loading.

At London.—For New York: The Washington (mail steamer) from Havre, September 21: Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For West Indies: The Vera Cruz (mail steamer) from St. Nazaire, September 16: Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For Nassau: The Ionia, St. Katharine's Docks: J. Worley. The Cicerone, St. Katharine's Docks, Davison Brothers & Co.—For Bermuda: The Lady Milne, The Jane Smith, The Wanderer, The Kate, The Quiver, The Hansa, The Era.—For Havre: The City of Hamburgh (steamer), St. Katharine's Wharf, August 25: at 4 A.M., and 28th at 8 A.M. The Young Mary, The Silvas, The Exhibition.—For Montevideo: The Gustave and Marie, Davison Brothers & Co., St. Katharine's Docks.

At Liverpool.—For Bermuda: The Mavrocordatos (steamer), August 27: The Palikari, September 11: H Lafone, The Annandale, The Edwin and Lizzie, The B. de Wolf, The Nutfield, The Driving Mist.—For Madeira: The Macgregor Laird (steamer), The Garibaldi.—For Matamoras: The Oleander, The Gez Hillegonda, The Rimac, The Byron, The St. George, The Mary and Jessie.—For Nassau: The Majestic.—For Halifax: The Surprise.

At Cardiff.—For Bermuda: The Admiral Kanaris (steamer), C. Rapier, The Robertson, The Irene, The Bosphorus, The Levanter, The Pleiades.—For Nassau: The Monarch.

At Gloucester.—For Bermuda: The Lillian.

At Glasgow.—For Bermuda: The Banshee, The Stormy Petrel, The Armstrong.

Marriages.

Moore—Ludlam. On the 17th inst., at Baden-Baden, Grand Duchy of Baden, by the Rev. W. B. Flowers, British Chaplain, Lieutenant T. Longworth Moore, of the Confederate States Navy, to Rose Standish, second daughter of Henry Ludlam, Esq., formerly of Richmond, Virginia, C. S. A.

Hardinge—Boyd. This morning, at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, Samuel Wylde Hardinge, Esq., to Miss Belle Boyd, C. S. A.

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CONTRACTORS TO HER MAJESTY'S WAR DEPARTMENT AND THE HON. EAST INDIA COMPANY.

BAZAAR

IN AID OF THE SOUTHERN PRISONERS' RELIEF FUND.

LADY PATRONESSES:

H. I. H. THE PRINCESS MURAT.
THE MARCHIONESS OF LOTHIAN.
THE MARCHIONESS OF BATH.
MARIA MARCHIONESS OF AILESBURY.
LA MARQUISE DE MONTMORT.
THE COUNTESS OF CHESTERFIELD.
LADY MILDRED BERESFORD HOPE.
LADY ROSA GREVILLE.
THE COUNTESS BENTIVOGLIO.
LADY GEORGINA FANE.
LADY EUSTACE CECIL.
LADY WHARNCLIFFE.
LA VICOMTESSE DE DAMPIERRE.
LA BARONNE DE LONGUEUIL.
LADY DE HOGHTON.
LADY ANSON.
LADY EARDLEY.
Mrs. HORSFALL.
Mrs. LAIRD.
Mrs. AKROYD.
Mrs. J. R. CALLENDER.
Mrs. COLLIE.

It is intended to hold a Bazaar in St. George's Hall, early in October, in Aid of the Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund. Many Ladies, in addition to those named, have promised their active aid.

The suffering of the Southern Prisoners of War in sickness, wounds, and deprivation of every comfort of life; the multitudes of widows to whom nothing remains—and of orphans unable to help themselves—form an amount of woe, which some who are blessed here with abundance and peace have felt a desire to alleviate.

Efforts have already been made, and not without success, through reliable friends in the Northern States, but unhappily the field is so wide that aid is now required to replace the means already provided and exhausted.

It is hoped that you will not refuse your assistance in this work of humanity. The Committee will be glad to hear in what form you will aid them, if disposed to do so, and will attend at once to any suggestion with which you may oblige them.

COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Ashbridge, *Kentucky*
,, Byrne, *Louisiana*
,, T. Byrne, *Louisiana*
,, Bulloch, *Georgia*
,, James Calder, *South Carolina*
,, Cassin, *Florida*
,, Crowder, *Georgia*
,, Hamilton, *South Carolina*
,, Hoskier, *Louisiana*
Mrs. Holland, *Louisiana*
,, Lowe, *Georgia*
,, Malcomson, *Alabama*
,, Oliver, *Louisiana*
,, Patteson, *Virginia*
,, Prioleau, *South Carolina*
,, Quentell, *Louisiana*
,, Rodewald, *Louisiana*
,, Trapmann, *South Carolina*

Treasurer—CHARLES K. PRIOLEAU.
Hon. Sec.—JAMES SPENCE.

Please addr communications to Mr. Spence, Fenwick Street, Liverpool.

Liverpool, June 25, 1864.

CONFEDERATE STATE BONDS.

WE are prepared to buy (as they become due) the COUPONS of all the BONDS issued by the Confederate Government; or we will receive them for collection and return in Bonds in sums of not less than £500.

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BY AUTHORITY.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLECTORS OF CUSTOMS

Treasury Department, C.S.A.
Richmond, March 12, 1864.

The following regulations are prescribed for the government and directions of all officers of the revenue, to carry into effect the provisions of the Act to prohibit the importation of luxuries, or of articles not necessary or of common use, approved February 6, 1864:—

1. The importation of articles set forth in the schedule accompanying these regulations is absolutely prohibited.

2. None of said prohibited articles shall be admitted for duty after the 1st of March, 1864, or shall receive a permit to be landed unless it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the collector that they were actually shipped on board of the vessel in which they have arrived before the 1st of March, 1864, without knowledge of the passage of the Act aforesaid.

3. In case any prohibited articles shall be on board any ship, vessel, boat, raft or carriage arriving in the Confederate States after said 1st of March, and shall be omitted in the manifest, report, or entry of the master or person having charge or command of such ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, or shall be omitted in the entry of the goods owned by the owner or consigned to the consignee of such articles, or shall be imported or landed without a permit, the said goods shall be seized and dealt with, and the vessel and parties shall be subjected to the same forfeitures, fines, and penalties as in cases of similar omissions, landing, importation, or attempt to land or import, in relation to articles liable to duties on their importation into the Confederate States.

4. In case any prohibited article shall, after the 1st of March, 1864, be imported into the Confederate States, or shall, after said date, be put on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, with the intention of importing the same into the Confederate States; all such articles shall be forfeited, and also all other articles on board the said ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, belonging to the owner of such prohibited articles; and, moreover, the owner thereof shall forfeit and pay double the value of the prohibited articles.

5. The following additional oath or affirmation shall be taken by each master or person having charge or command of any ship or vessel which shall arrive at any port of the Confederate States after the 1st of March, 1864, viz.: 'I further swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, on board (insert the denomination and name of the vessel) any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover or know of any such goods, wares, or merchandise, on board of the said vessel, or which shall have been imported in the same, I will immediately, and without delay, report the same to the collector of this district.'

6. Each importer, consignee, or agent shall at the time of entering any goods imported after the said 1st of March, 1864, take the follow additional oath, viz.: 'I also swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, amongst the said goods, wares, or merchandise, imported or consigned as aforesaid, any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover any such goods, wares, or merchandise, imported or consigned as aforesaid, I will immediately, and without delay, report the same to the collector of this district.

C. G. Memminger, Secretary of Treasury.

LIST OF ARTICLES, THE IMPORTATION OF WHICH IS PROHIBITED BY AN ACT OF CONGRESS, ENTITLED 'AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE IMPORTATION OF LUXURIES OR ARTICLES NOT NECESSARIES OR OF COMMON USE.' APPROVED FEBRUARY 6, 1864.

Absynthe.
Alabaster and spar ornaments.
Alabata.
Ale, beer, and porter.
Almonds, raisins, currants, dates, figs, and all other dried or preserved fruits.
Amber beads.
Anchovies, sardines, and all other fish preserved in oil.
Angora, Thibet, and other goats' hair, or mohair manufactured.
Argentine, alabata, or German silver manufactured or unmanufactured.
Arrack.
Articles embroidered with gold, silver, or other metal.
Balsams, cosmetics, essences, extracts, pastes, perfumes, and tinctures used for the toilet.
Bananas, cocoa-nuts, pine apples, plantains, and oranges.
Bay rum.
Beads of amber, composition, or wax, and all other beads.
Benzoates.
Billiard and bagatelle tables, and all other tables or boards on which games are played.
Bracelets, braids, chains, curls or ringlets composed of hair, or of which hair is a component part.
Brandy and other spirits distilled from grain or other materials.
Brooms and brushes of all kinds.
Cabinet and household furniture.
Cabinets of coins, medals, gems, and all collections of antiquities.
Canes and sticks for walking, finished and unfinished.
Capers and sauces of all kinds.
Card cases, pocket books, shell boxes, souvenirs, and all similar articles, of whatever material composed.
Carpets, carpeting, hearth rugs, bedsides, and other portions of tapestry of every kind and description.
Carriages and parts of carriages.
Cider and other beverages not containing alcohol.
Clocks and parts of clocks.
Comfits, confectionery, sweetmeats, or fruits preserved in sugar, molasses, brandy, or other liquors.
Composition tops for tables, or other articles of furniture.
Compositions of glass, set or unset.
Coral, cut or manufactured.
Cordials, absinthe, arrack, curaçoa, kirschen-wasser, liquors, maraschino, ratifia, and all other spirituous beverages of a similar character.
Cotton laces, cotton insertings, cotton trimmings, and laces of thread and other materials.
Diamonds, cameos, mosaics, gems, pearls, rubies, and other precious stones, and imitations thereof, when set in gold, silver, or other metal, and when not set.
Dolls and toys of all kinds.
Engravings, bound or unbound.
Epaulettes.
Fans and fire screens of every description, of whatever material composed.
Feathers and flowers, artificial or ornamental, and parts thereof, of whatever material composed.
Fire crackers, sky rockets, roman candles, and all similar articles used in pyrotechnics.
Galloons, laces, knots, stars, tassels, tresses, and wings of gold or silver, or imitations thereof, except when intended for uniforms of officers in the military and naval service.
Glass, cut.
Glass, coloured, stained or painted.
Grapes, plums, and prunes, and other fresh fruit when put up in bottles, cases, or cans.
Hair, human, cleansed or prepared for use.
India mattings of all kinds.
Jet and manufactures of jet, and imitations thereof.
Jewelry, or imitations thereof.
Leaf and manufactured tobacco and cigars.
Manufactures of cedar wood, granadilla, ebony, mahogany, rose wood, and satin wood.
Manufactures of gold, platina, or silver.
Manufactures and articles of marble, marble paving tiles, slabs, or blocks, and all other marble.
Matting, China, or other floor matting, and mats made of flags, jute, or grass.
Muffs and tiffets, and all other manufactures of fur, or of which fur shall be a component part, except caps and hats.
Paintings and statuary.
Paintings on glass.
Paper hangings.
Paper for walls.
Paper for screens or fireboards.
Paving and roofing tiles and bricks, and roofing slates and firebricks.
Perfumes and perfumery of all sorts.
Plated and gilt ware of all kinds.
Playing cards.
Prepared vegetables, fruits, meats, poultry, and game, sealed or enclosed in cans, or otherwise.
Rattans and reeds.
Scagliola table tops, or other articles of furniture.
Segars, snuff, paper segars, and all other manufactures of tobacco.
Silver-plated metal, in sheets or other form.
Thread lacings and insertings.
Velvets of all kinds.
Wines, burgundy, champagne, claret, madeira, port, sherry, and all other wines and imitations of wines.

Note.—None of the manufactures of metal designed as other household or personal ornaments shall be admitted.

Under the fourth section of the act, entitled 'An act to prohibit the importation of luxuries, or of articles not necessaries, or of common use,' approved February 6, 1864, the following maximum foreign prices are established, at which, and within which, importations of goods manufactured wholly or partly of cotton, flax, wool, or of silk, and designed for wearing apparel, and not prohibited by said act, and beyond which importations thereof shall not be made.

The prices named in the following, for all articles, are the invoice prices in coin, at the place of exportation:

MANUFACTURES OF COTTON.

All articles wholly of cotton, whether coloured or white, not to exceed 25 cents per square yard, excepting cottonades, corduroys, fustians, and velvetcens, which shall not exceed 50 cents per yard.
Drawers, ready made, knit or woven, not to exceed 1 dol. per pair.
Gloves, not to exceed 25 cents per pair.
Hosiery, men's, not to exceed 25 cents per pair.
Hosiery, women's, not to exceed 35 cents per pair.
Shirts, ready made, knit or woven, not to exceed 1 dol. each.
Spool cotton, not to exceed 5 cents per 100 yards.
Tapes, not to exceed 5 cents per bunch of 12 yards.

MANUFACTURES OF FLAX.

All articles manufactured wholly of flax, whether coloured or white, not to exceed 50 cents per square yard.
Drawers, ready made, not to exceed 1 dol. 50 cents. per pair.
Gloves, not to exceed 50 cents. per pair.
Handkerchiefs, not to exceed 25 cents. a piece.
Hosiery, not to exceed 50 cents per pair.
Shirts, ready made, not to exceed 1 dol. 50 cents. each.
Tapes, not to exceed 5 cents per bunch of 12 yards.
Thread, not to exceed 1 dol. per pound.

MANUFACTURES OF WOOL.

Alpacas, cashmeres, de laines, lastings, merinos, mohairs, and Persian cloth, not to exceed 50 cents. per yard.
Bombazines and French Merinos, not to exceed 75 cents. per yard.
Beaver cloth and broad cloth, not to exceed 3 dols. per yard.
Bindings, not to exceed 5 cents per yard.
Drawers, knit or woven, not to exceed 1 dol. per pair.
Flannels, not to exceed 50 cents. per yard.
Gloves, not to exceed 40 cents per pair.
Hats, men's, not to exceed 2 dols. each.
Hats, women's, not to exceed 4 dols. each.
Hosiery, men's and women's, not to exceed 40 cents per pair.
Kerseys, kerseymeres, lions' skins, melton cloths, pilot cloth, serges, tweeds and vestings, not to exceed 2 dols. per yard.
Shawls, not to exceed 7 dols. 50 cents each.
Shirts, not to exceed 1 dol. each.

MANUFACTURES OF SILK.

Dress silk, not to exceed 1 dol. per yard.
Handkerchiefs, neck-ties, &c., not to exceed 75 cents a piece.
Mantillas, shawls, and ladies' wrappings of any kind, not to exceed 5 dol. each.
Ribbons, not to exceed 1 dol, per piece of 12 yards.
Serge lining, not to exceed 1 dol. per square yard.
Sewing silk, not to exceed 5 dol. per pound.
Vestings, not to exceed 2 dol. per square yard.
Manufactures of wool and cotton, wool and silk, wool and flax, or any combination of these materials, not to exceed 1 dol. per square yard. Articles composed of cotton and flax only, not to exceed 37 cents per square yard.

C. G Memminger, Secretary of Treasury.

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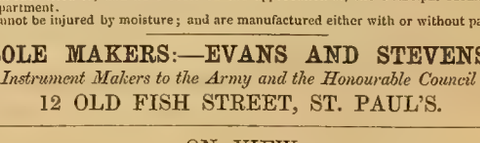

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London, August 16, 1864.

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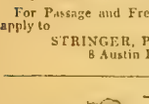

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The Superior Fast Screw-Steamship

MAVROCORDATOS,
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A. CRAIG, Secretary.

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THE INDEX

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THE PEACE MOVEMENT AT THE NORTH.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK: August 12, 1864.

POLITICS now rule the hour, and the big wars are of secondary consideration for the time being. Indeed, so far as the politicians can control the generals, military movements are made subsidiary to the schemes of party. Grant and Sherman are overshadowed by Lincoln and M'Clellan. The latter is not, like the former, as yet the regular nominee of a party, but he is looked upon as among the most prominent—perhaps the most prominent—of the aspirants for the Democratic nomination. However this may be, the fact is patent that the people of these Northern States—and doubtless the Western also—are more absorbed in speculations about the approaching Presidential election than in the progress or ultimate issue of the war. If Charleston were captured, or the 'grand army' were to enter in triumph the 'capital of the rebellion,' the masses might be aroused, but this I doubt, judging from what I have seen and heard here during the past two months. Possibly the realisation of these seemingly impossible achievements might revive the drooping spirit of the country. But it is evident that the days of those mighty popular uprisings, the 'war mass-meetings,' have gone by. For the heart of the people—rich and poor—is heavy because of its slaughtered sons, ruined industry, and dark future; and that faith in the perpetuity of the Union—faith in the 'manifest destiny' of the 'Model Republic' that made this people arrogant and rapacious, that made them proudly exult in their supposed destined career of triumph—like the feeling of immortality in youth, this national faith is dead. There is a universal conviction that the sacrifices of life and treasure that have been already made ought to have achieved the object of the war; and all these sacrifices having been in vain, there is a widespread and growing conviction that that object is beyond the reach of human power. This impossibility of a restoration of the Union—or rather of the subjugation of the South, for that is really the issue—is now become the rallying cry of a large and daily augmenting party. It is evident that the North and West not only weary of the war, but begin to show unmistakable signs of exhaustion. The rural districts are said to be still 'rampant for a vigorous prosecution of the war;' but, though ever so rampant, they are sending no volunteers to the army, nor is it expected that they will be able to fill up their quotas under the late call for 500,000 men. The cities, this one in particular, are crowded by the young men who have fled from the conscripting officers of these same rural districts. Even the large centres of population will find it difficult, if not impossible, to make up their quotas; and so universal is the feeling of opposition to another draft, that the Government authorises the States to make up their quotas with the 'freed men.' Opposition to the further prosecution of the war has much to do with this repugnance to conscription, but the moving cause springs from a general conviction that the productive industry of the country would suffer seriously from it. Emigration and the contraband camps are expected to furnish several thousands, but whence the five hundred thousand are to come by September 5 is a problem beyond my conjecture. To make up her quota before the 5th proximo, New York should be enlisting from 500 to 600 men a day; yet she does not enlist 200 a week. If such be the condition of this metropolitan city—with its large class of idle, thriftless, floating adventurers—we can easily conjecture the difficulty of procuring recruits in the others.

If the truth were told, it would be found that the inaction of the Federal armies was owing as much to their exhaustion as to the skill, vigilance, and enterprise of the Confederates. The losses in battle have been enormous, and the hardships of the campaign have told fearfully upon the survivors; so much so, that it is not believed that General Grant would care to risk a battle in the open field. The men are broken down mentally and physically. The bloody but fruitless struggle from the Rapidan to the Chickahominy, followed by the frequent and terrible repulses in front of Petersburg, might damp the ardour of the finest veteran troops. The men, we are told, show painful signs of mental and physical exhaustion. They are constantly speaking of their slaughtered comrades, or sadly dwelling upon their now thinned ranks, and this weariness of spirit leaves them assured victims of the malaria so deadly prevalent about the lowlands of the James River in the autumn, now at hand. Officers, we are told, felt the effects of the campaign as well as the men. The *Army and Navy Journal* of this city reckons the number of officers killed or wounded during the campaign by the thousand, and the consequence was that captains were commanding regiments, majors brigades, and colonels divisions. Such are the results of the late campaign under the leadership of a man who was held up to Europe as the greatest soldier of the age, and who was hailed here as the Moses of this people. Such is the *morale* of the largest, best appointed, best officered, and, considering the field of operations, the most important army of the Union. Sherman's situation in Georgia is thought not to be even so favourable as that of Grant. The latter is strongly entrenched, and his communications, being by water, can suffer but little interruption from the Confederates. Indeed, many think General Sherman's position one of extreme, though perhaps not of immediate, peril. General Hood, who has been heavily reinforced, occupies strong fortifications, and has frequently assumed the offensive of late. He is vigilant, prompt, skilful, and enterprising, as shown in his attacks and the counter movements against those of his antagonist. The raids of the Federal cavalry upon the railroads in his rear have, with one and an unimportant exception, proved disastrous in the extreme to the raiders. Over two thousand of them were captured, including Major-General Stoneman and a large number of other officers; about 800 were killed or wounded, and the remainder scattered in wild confusion, leaving arms, trains, &c., behind them. This victory was so complete that Sherman can now neither threaten Hood's communications, nor adequately protect his own, unless he receives large reinforcements of cavalry; but before they can arrive it is expected that the Confederate horse will have played havoc with the railroads between Atlanta and Chattanooga, and, mayhap, with the Chattanooga and Nashville road. The 'situation' has certainly changed in Georgia, and it is plain the Federal arms have not gained by it. As it now looks, taking for granted that the Confederate cavalry are, or will soon be, operating in Sherman's rear, it would seem that the Federal commander would find it difficult to extricate himself. He cannot take Atlanta by assault; he cannot invest it; and he dare not sit down before it for a regular siege. That would be a stroke of military insanity—a weakness, however, with which the General has been charged more than once during the war. To lay siege to the position without investing it, with his enemy's lines of communication intact, while his own would surely be severed, and he left without supplies in the heart of a hostile country—for General Sherman to attempt a siege under such conditions would be for him to imperil the safety of his whole army. It must be remembered, however, that Sherman is not easily appalled.

An expedition under command of General A. J. Smith left Memphis a few days ago, but its destination is as yet unknown. I have no doubt it is intended to create a diversion in favour of Sherman, or to co-operate with the force sent from New Orleans for the land attack upon Mobile. The long-expected attack upon this city was inaugurated on the 5th inst. Admiral Farragut has succeeded in running past Forts Morgan and Gaines, and the latter post is said to have been surrendered on the morning of the 8th. Fort Powell, which commanded Grant's Pass, a shallow channel leading in from the Mississippi Sound to Mobile Bay, some six miles above Fort Gaines, has been evacuated and blown up. Gaines and Morgan were the outer fortifications of the harbour, commanding the main entrance from the sea, and had both remained in the possession of the Confederates. It is thought that Farragut's squadron would be in by no means a desirable position, for he would then be between these two forts and the fortifications of the city. The surrender of Fort Gaines and the other batteries on Dauphine Island, and the destruction of Fort Powell, leave Fort Morgan to receive alone the fire of the whole fleet. It is a very strong work, and, as it has been garrisoned and provisioned for a siege, it may resist for months. Meanwhile, Farragut has his task yet before him, if he is aiming at the capture of Mobile. That city, as is acknowledged on all sides, is fortified very elaborately, and can defy the Federal squadron though Morgan should follow the fate of Gaines or Powell. Our news from Mobile comes through the press of Richmond, transmitted from the headquarters of General Butler. There seems to be something wrong about the surrender of Fort Gaines, and we must await details for a clear understanding of the matter. An immediate attack upon Mobile is not looked for, the general impression being that Farragut and the Government will rest content with what has been achieved, the main object having been to secure such a position on the land as would give them command of the main ship channel, so as to put a stop to blockade-running. This accomplished, the large squadron on blockade service off Mobile would be relieved for service elsewhere; and this is about all the advantage the Northern press expect or claim to have achieved in this latest exploit of Admiral Farragut. If we look to the south-west, we find that the 'rebels' have become formidable in Missouri and Kentucky—have wrested back the whole of West Tennessee—have reconquered Arkansas, except the posts of Helena and Little Rock, and these are now all but invested. In Mississippi the Federal lines do not extend beyond Vicksburg and Natchez, while in Louisiana they have been driven to the fortifications of Port Hudson and New Orleans.

The Federals also hold a short strip of the river bank on the west side, at Morganzia, but the garrisons of all these posts are so weak that, in case of attack, their defence must rest mainly upon the gunboats. Such is the situation after nearly three years and a half of war, and an unparalleled expenditure of life and treasure. Since affairs have reached this pass, it is no wonder the people cry for peace. Truly, the wonder would be if they did not. But the great question now is, how is the wish for peace to be gratified in opposition to the Radicals of the Administrative party, the place-hunters of the Democracy, and the rich, unscrupulous, and all-powerful army contractors, the army of 'shoddyites.' Long ago Sir James Mackintosh spoke of politics as that exploded villany. There is much of villany in it, surely, the world over, but more here, perhaps, than in any other country of the globe, and it is very far from being 'exploded.' The schemes of party now going on preparatory to the Presidential election are so utterly reckless of love of country or principle, that a patriot even of Mr. Seward's school of optimists might despair of the Republic. It is admitted that the masses of the Democratic party desire peace even at the expense of permanent disunion; and the problem which the leaders of that party are trying to solve is how to meet that desire, and yet commit neither the party nor its candidate to any clearly defined policy on the question of peace or war. We may be sure these astute leaders will solve the problem. The Democracy of the Northern States are for General M'Clellan; but the Western Democracy, being more fully committed to a peace policy, will not accept him as a candidate. He has repeatedly of late reiterated his opposition to 'any peace with traitors and rebels.' And yet he is probably the most available candidate the party could put up. The country at large respects and admires him, while the soldiers, particularly the army of the Potomac, almost idolise him; and this, it is contended, should be a ruling consideration. This idea was boldly announced at a great mass-meeting of the friends of General M'Clellan held in this city on Wednesday evening last. Among the resolutions adopted was one declaring 'that success in the election, in opposition to the powerful combinations of this Administration, depends upon the popularity of the candidate with the army, and the final selection must therefore fall on one of the great soldiers who has distinguished himself in defence of the principles upon which the Government was founded.' Dangerous doctrine this in a republic! If 'success in the election depends upon the popularity of the candidate with the army,' how long will it be before some ambitious military chieftain makes himself President by the aid of bayonets instead of ballots? When a great and popular party enunciates so slavish a doctrine as this, we may be sure the masses will soon be ready to hail the advent of 'the man on horseback.' None of the resolutions adopted at this meeting declared for a further prosecution of the war, neither was anything said either for or against a so-called disunion peace. I believe myself, from what I can gather of their intentions, that the Democratic leaders, if they get into power, will restore peace to the country. And their chances of success are growing better daily. Indeed, it is now thought, owing to the irreconcilable divisions in his party, that Mr. Lincoln cannot be reelected. On this subject I quote the following from the Washington correspondence of one of the most respectable of the city journals, with the remark that the jealousies and feuds of these 'managers' render the correspondent's statements highly probable:—

> The deliberations of the leading Republican managers in this city, New York, Boston, and elsewhere, have led to a most singular determination on their part. It is stated upon very good authority that they have determined to allow the election to go by default, and leave the Democratic party to elect their President and the House of Representatives. It is Secretary Chase who is said to be the author of this very curious political movement. The reasons for the adoption of this policy are as follows:—First, the Republican leaders are satisfied that the war is near its conclusion; that a disunion peace is inevitable; and they wish the Democratic party to suffer the ignominy in history of being the political organisation which consented to a separation of the North and South. Second, they argue that no more money is to be made out of the war; that the finances of the country are now in such a state that contractors will hereafter lose, but cannot make money; in short, that the public orange has been squeezed dry, and that the election of a Democratic President and House of Representatives would put the latter party in a position whereby they could not conduct the war nor make any money for their friends, and would be compelled to submit to a dishonourable peace. Third, they further argue that should Mr. Lincoln be elected, peace would likewise be inevitable, owing to his wretched management of the war; but that a peace under Republican auspices would for ever ruin the political fortunes of every public man connected with that party. Fourth, that as the Republicans would have a majority in the Senate during the entire term of a Democratic President, they could prevent any peace that would not bring with it the abolition of slavery in the Southern States. Now that they consider the war hopeless, the Republicans are willing enough that there should be peace, but it must be peace with disunion, so that they would not have the political power of the South to contend against in a reunited Union.

THE SYRACUSE CONVENTION.—The *New York Daily News* of August 20 says: 'The Syracuse Convention has taken time by the forelock in a determined protest against the interference of the Administration with the freedom of election. The people present pledged to the maintenance of that foundation of our liberty "their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honours." We hope most earnestly that every Democratic meeting throughout the land will reaffirm that pledge, in order to stand prepared for redeeming it, if necessary, by force of arms. Mr. Lincoln's Kentucky practices may be held to urge on us the necessity of preparation for maintenance of the sanctity of election, when his own personal ambition becomes subject to direct test.'

LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA: August 8, 1864.

THE NAVAL ENGAGEMENT AT MOBILE—FARRAGUT'S DARING AND SKILL — PASSING THE FORTS — THE GALLANT FIGHT OF THE CONFEDERATE FLEET—FORTS POWELL AND GAINES—THE FEDERAL LOSSES—THE CONFEDERATE CAVALRY AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PLANTATIONS — THE EVACUATION OF BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS—THE FEDERAL STORES SOLD TO CORTINA — CONDITION OF 'LOYAL TEXANS' — THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS, ETC. ETC.

ADMIRAL FARRAGUT has struck his blow at the outer defences of Mobile, and with that dash, daring, and skill characteristic of the man. Though the odds were tremendously in his favour, it must be admitted that he fought his way past the forts in a manner that challenges general admiration. Farragut has all the personal daring, skill, and enterprise of those great English sailors, the Nelsons, the Collingwoods, the Hardys, and others that made their country truly the mistress of the seas while they commanded her wooden walls. Pity it is that his most brilliant services and all his fiery zeal should be directed against his native South—against New Orleans, the home of his boyhood and the present abode of a large circle of his nearest relatives. The North, the seafaring North, has produced no such naval heroes as Farragut, Dupont, Buchanan, Tattnal, Hollins, Moffit, Semmes, and a host of less known names that have been distinguished in this war, fighting on the Federal or Confederate side. Farragut's position on board his flagship was a novel one in action, but was quite characteristic. He was up aloft, lashed to the mast, whence he could take in at a glance the movements of the entire squadron. He gave his orders to his fleet captain below through a speaking trumpet that reached to within a few feet of the deck. The action commenced about 5 o'clock A.M. on the 5th instant, the four ironclads taking the lead in passing the forts, the wooden vessels (16) of this powerful squadron following lashed two and two. Farragut's flagship, the *Hartford*, was immediately in rear of the ironclads. Fort Morgan opened fire as soon as the fleet came within range. The monitors replied, but the wooden vessels of the squadron reserved fire until abreast of the fort, when each one poured in broadside after broadside as long as the guns could be brought to bear upon it. The Federal accounts state that the Confederates were driven from their guns by the concentrated fire of the fleet; and this is very likely, since the fleet took the channel that runs close by the fort. Though nothing is said about it, we may suppose that the vessels on the port side gave their attentions to Fort Gaines. When the Federal squadron had passed the forts, it was instantly attacked by the four ironclads commanded by Admiral Buchanan. Four small and rudely constructed ironclads against a squadron of three monitors — two of them double-turreted — and fifteen wooden vessels, consisting of screw sloops of the first and second class and double-enders—thirty-two guns against two hundred and fifty! As might have been expected, the action was short, sharp, and decisive, but lasted long enough to inflict terrible injury upon the Federal squadron, and to shed a never-fading lustre upon the infant Confederate navy. The *Tennessee* was forced to surrender, surrounded by the greater part of the enemy's fleet, who were butting her and pouring broadsides from every quarter. The *Gaines* was beached, the *Morgan* escaped to the city, and the *Selma* was captured while attempting to get off, most of her officers being either killed or wounded. Admiral Buchanan lost a leg. All honour to the brave, to the maimed heroes who survive, and to the memory of the heroic dead who fell in defence of their homes, their altars, and their independence! Fort Powell, which commanded Grant's Pass, was blown up and evacuated on the night of the 7th. It had sustained a furious bombardment from several gunboats and a monitor for several days. Fort Gaines, on Dauphine Island, which, with Fort Morgan, command the entrance from the Gulf, was bombarded by the fleet on the 5th, 6th, and 7th, and by the land forces in the rear, who had effected a lodgment on the island. It was surrendered on the morning of the 7th, and the action is truly 'inexplicable and humiliating,' as General Maury says of it in his despatch to the War Office at Richmond. It looks so, at least, in its present light. It was garrisoned by 600 men, the 21st Alabama Regiment, Colonel Charles Anderson, and had supplies for six months. On the day before the surrender Colonel Anderson signalled Fort Morgan for permission to communicate with the enemy's fleet, but returned no reply to the enquiry as to the object of his visit. That same evening General Page, commanding at Fort Morgan, visited Fort Gaines and found Colonel Anderson absent aboard Farragut's flagship. General Page thereupon relieved him of his command, and left strict orders not to surrender the fort. But next morning the Yankee flag was flying from its ramparts. The Federals acknowledge a loss of 250 killed and wounded; but private accounts state a much heavier loss, and admit that the fleet sustained severe and extensive injury. The gunboat *Philippi* was fired and sunk. The monitor *Tecumseh* was blown up by a torpedo, and all her officers and 100 of her crew went down in their iron tomb. The sides of the flagship *Hartford* were badly stove in, and she will have to go north for repairs. The *Oneida* and others of the fleet are likewise badly injured: but, as usual, the public must wait for some time before the Federal authorities acknowledge the full extent of their losses. It is believed that Farragut is in no condition to attempt the reduction of the defences of the city, and we have it here that General Maury says, 'the people of Mobile are confident and eager for the fray.'

All the Confederate prisoners and the Federal wounded have been sent to the hospitals at Pensacola. The fleet keeps a respectful distance from Fort Morgan, which still holds out and has no idea of surrendering. Lieutenant-Commander Craven perished on board the *Tecumseh*. The vessel which conveyed the wounded of both sides to Pensacola was permitted to pass Fort Morgan unmolested, leave to do so having been asked by Admiral Farragut through a flag of truce. He also asked and was granted permission to bury his dead. General Richard L. Page, who commands at Fort Morgan, was a lieutenant in the United States navy up to the outbreak of hostilities. He is a Virginian, I think, and has the reputation of being a fine artillerist, and of being eminently fitted for the very responsible position he now holds. The *Gaines* lies under the guns of Fort Morgan. Her crew has arrived at the city.

The Confederate cavalry have begun their annual raids on the Government plantations east and west of the Mississippi. These raiding troopers are accompanied with wagon-trains, out of all proportion to their immediate wants, but the wagons are always well filled when returning from one of these expeditions. The cavalry confine their destructive visits to the so-called Government plantations, whether worked by Uncle Sam or by one of his needy sons from the North. 'Pirates in the Gulf' is the startling announcement of the local press. Some ten days ago a launch, containing twenty-two men, captured in Chandeleur Sound a schooner employed in the United States lighthouse service. After despoiling the schooner of her sails, rigging, and cargo, they disposed of her according to the practice of Captain Semmes's prize-court. These 'rebel pirates' must have come out from some one of the innumerable inlets in the Mississippi Sound. If they have such a leader as Captain Duke proved himself in similar enterprises in the same waters, they can interfere seriously with the coasting craft. Peace to the ashes of the bold 'pirate Duke!'

The Federal forces have evacuated Brownsville, Texas, the garrison retiring to Brayos Santiago, at the mouth of the Rio Grande. With the exception of this garrison all the Union troops have now been withdrawn. It is given out that the military stores were taken away at the time of the evacuation and sent to Brayos, or brought to this city. Not so. They were nearly all sold to Cortina, that Mexican highwayman, assassin, and horse-thief, who commands at Matamoros. Hundreds of Federal deserters are in the service of this same immaculate Juarist chief. Indeed, I am informed by a lady from Brownsville that the Federals supplied the Mexicans regularly with all the military stores they needed. The Confederates are reported to have reoccupied the town under command of Colonel Ford, a famous Texan ranger. 'Loyal Texans' made a dash recently upon Eagle Pass, a crossing of the Rio Grande some hundred miles above Brownsville. It is the point whence the Confederates have been sending their cotton to Monterey since the occupation of Brownsville by the Union forces. It is admitted that the 'loyal Texans' were easily beaten off, though the garrison at the Pass was quite small. The condition of these 'loyalists' is now very pitiable. The tender mercies of those who vauntingly came to aid them in throwing off the iron despotism of rebeldom—that is the Shibboleth, I believe—have proved more cruel than the war to the knife of the Confederates. The presence of the Union arms seduced these men to throw off the mask of fealty to the South, and now that the Union forces have withdrawn, nothing remains for them but exile, or a precarious and bandit-like life in the bush, where starvation or death at the hands of the Confederate cavalry awaits them. It should always be borne in mind that these loyalists are not Texans, but Yankee and foreign settlers. The cotton trade of Matamoros will now receive a new life. Indeed, it is said that one of the reasons for withdrawing the Federal troops was to allow the trade to be resumed. The North must have cotton. A general exchange of prisoners is expected to be agreed upon between General Canby and General Kirby Smith, the opposing commanders of the West Mississippi division. There are about four or five hundred naval prisoners in Texas, and these General Smith refuses to exchange so long as the Federal Government persists in regarding certain naval prisoners in their hands as 'rebel pirates.' This is the only obstacle to an exchange, and, as in all other cases touching the cartel, it is the Federal authorities who make the obstacle, and most unjustly.

We are as yet in doubt about Confederate forces having crossed to the east side of the Mississippi. The movements and intentions of the Confederates west of the river are wrapped in seemingly impenetrable concealment. They are still on this side of the Atchafalaya and demonstrating upon Morganzia, the Federal stronghold below the mouth of the Red River: they have been hovering around Donaldsonville and Plaquemine, throwing the Yankee planters, storekeepers, &c., at these points into wild alarm, a general packing up and clearing out being the order of the day. Then, again, they have been seen on the Opelousas Railroad, below Thibodeaux, with the supposed design of cutting off the garrison at Brashear City. Report has it that they came near enough to that post to capture a large wagon train, a hundred mules, and other spoil, besides some prisoners. Last week the Confederates surprised and captured almost the entire of two negro regiments near Morganzia. Thus it seems impossible to anticipate the movements of General Kirby Smith's army. He may have reinforced Price in Arkansas for the capture of Little Rock; he may have crossed over into Mississippi, to take the place of the troops sent to reinforce Hood; or he may be approaching Algiers, our *vis-à-vis* suburb, for a demonstration on this city. We can only wait and see, with the belief that Kirby Smith ought and will do something with the armies of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas, to divert the enemy from Mobile and other threatened points.

In compliance with orders, the registered enemies reported themselves as ready to be sent across the lines. The order was a 'Yankee trick,' so far, at least, as the able-bodied of the registered enemies were concerned, for they were thrown into prison, and there they now lie for an indefinite period, there being no intention of allowing them to cross the lines. Many of the sugar plantations have this season been devoted to cotton, and the production of this staple will be largely increased if the 'rebel guerillas' don't take off the crops, which they have a very summary mode of doing. A few lighted pine-knots thrown into a field soon reduce its fleecy whiteness to ashes. The sugar-cane suffered much during the winter. The steamer *Rob Roy* is reported to have been burned by Texan cavalry in the Ouachita River a few days ago: she had one thousand bales of cotton. The recent trade regulations issued by General Canby prohibit any trading boat from coming below Cairo, and all commercial intercourse between the Federal and Confederate lines. Trading stores, with produce, &c., for the non-combatants living within the Union lines, are restricted to permanent military posts. We have an apparently well-founded rumour that General Beauregard has gone to Atlanta with 20,000 men. Another rumour has it that he is at Mobile. More mystification for the Federal generals! Under the pretext that it was being sent within the 'rebel lines,' General Banks has prohibited 'traffic' in gold, except upon condition that the purchaser deposit the gold purchased in the United States Assistant-Treasurer's office, for which deposit the seller and purchaser will be held alike responsible, and which may be drawn by such depositor from the Treasury upon presentation to the Assistant-Treasurer or the Provost-Marshal-General of satisfactory explanations of the purposes to which it is to be applied. This is to bolster up the depreciated and depreciating Government currency. It would also be handy to have the gold in the hands of the officials in case of a forced loan. Northern Mexico is becoming the theatre of active operations between the Imperialists and Juarists. By late arrivals here we learn that Cortina is marching on Tampico, and has occupied the city of Victoria, the Imperialists evacuating it upon his approach. Juarez is at Monterey with about 2,500 infantry. A force of Imperialists are menacing the city, having already cut off its communications and supplies. A body of French troops have occupied the city of Durango, and an expedition is said to be in readiness for Matamoros.

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

GRANT has made another movement. Two corps have been transferred to the north of the James River. The first operations of the Federals were, according to Mr. Stanton, 'not successful.' Two days later there was fighting at Deep Bottom. Hancock's corps attacked the Confederates, and lost a considerable number of men. The Confederates retired to a strong position where they were again attacked, and repulsed the enemy. The Federal troops were withdrawn under cover of darkness, having wasted 1,000 men (this is the Northern admission) in the vain attempt to pierce the Confederate line.

The Federal cavalry brigade, under General Gregg, in an engagement on August 16, has suffered severely. Gregg was dangerously wounded, and his corps had to retreat precipitately.

The most important engagement, however, took place on the 19th. The 5th Corps took up a position on the Weldon Railroad, and were surprised by the Confederates, and driven back with the loss of 3,000 men. At the latest advices, it was reported that the fighting was going on.

On the 18th the Confederates shelled the Federal lines before Petersburg for three hours. The Federals were held in readiness to sustain an assault, but none was made. Some Northern correspondents assert that the object of Grant's last movement is to protect Butler, who is supposed to be opening a new channel for the James River, so as to enable the Federal gunboats to ascend the river obstruction below Drury's Bluff, and to attack that stronghold with the boats.

THE official report of Admiral Farragut gives a fair, modest, and succinct account of the late naval engagement. The contest with the *Tennessee* is thus described:—'All the vessels had passed the forts by half-past eight o'clock, but the rebel ram *Tennessee* was still apparently uninjured in our rear. A signal was at once made to all the fleet to turn again and attack the ram, not only with guns, but with orders to run her down at full speed. The *Monongahela* was the first that struck her, and, though she may have injured her badly, yet she did not succeed in disabling her. The *Lackawanna* also struck her, but ineffectually. The flagship gave her a severe shock with her bow, and, as she passed, poured into her a whole port broadside of solid nine-inch shot and thirteen pounds of powder, at a distance of not more than twelve feet. The ironclads were closing upon her, and the *Hartford* and the rest of the fleet were bearing down on her, when at 10 A.M. she surrendered.' Thus for one hour and a half did the Confederate ram fight the whole Federal fleet, although the enemy made most determined and gallant efforts to run her down and to riddle her. When the *Tennessee* surrendered, her crew were utterly exhausted, and the brave Admiral Buchanan was wounded with a compound fracture of the leg, having been shot through the leg a little below the knee. Admiral Farragut proposed to General Page that the wounded, both Federals and Confederates, should be taken to Pensacola, where they would be properly cared for. General Page consented to this arrangement.

The monitor *Tecumseh* was struck by a torpedo, and sank so rapidly that only ten of her crew escaped. The *Oneida* was so injured by the ram of the *Tennessee* that she was only kept from sinking by being run into shoal water. The *Hartford* also suffered severely, and is to be sent north for repairs.

Admiral Farragut displayed excellent judgment and seamanlike courage. It appears that, before going into action, he caused himself to be lashed to the rigging of the *Hartford*, and, by a speaking-trumpet running to the deck, communicated his orders to the fleet. He remained in this elevated position until the engagement was over. Admiral Farragut is a Southerner by birth, his native place being New Orleans.

The Confederates have abandoned Fort Powell, the garrison escaping. Fort Gaines was surrendered by its commander, Colonel Charles Anderson. According to the Federal official report, it surrendered 'with 56 officers, 818 men, 26 guns, and one year's provisions.' At present this affair is shrouded in mystery, and the Southern press charge Colonel Anderson with 'inexplicable and shameful conduct.' Fort Morgan refuses to surrender, and is supposed to be provisioned for six months. The fort was assailed on the 9th, but, according to latest advices, had successfully resisted the attack. Admiral Farragut has made a reconnaissance within two miles of the Confederate forts, and opened an ineffectual fire. The loss of Forts Gaines and Powell is deplored; but still Mobile is in no danger from a naval attack. Between the city and the hostile fleet are miles of fortifications and earthworks. Our New Orleans correspondent gives an account of these operations.

SHERIDAN is getting notorious for the celerity of his movements. In the morning it is reported that he is hotly pursuing the Confederates; in the evening it is reported that he is being pursued by the Confederates. On August 16, Sheridan reports that he defeated a body of Confederate cavalry with a loss of 300 men. On the 17th he was beaten with a loss of 300 men, and had to retreat to Harper's Ferry. On the 13th a train of 70 wagons and 300 mules for Sheridan was captured by General Mosby near Berryville. The Washington correspondent of the *New York Daily News* writes that Sheridan's campaign has been a complete failure, and says: 'There is too much reason to believe that the Confederates will now be able to hold the Shenandoah Valley until the campaign at Atlanta is decided, and then make it the base of extensive offensive operations against the North.'

THE news from Georgia is rather meagre, but it is on the whole favourable to the Confederates, and causes uneasi-

ness in Washington. Hood has kept Sherman in check, and all the attempts of the Federal commander to extend his lines have been repulsed with heavy losses. In the meantime Hood is being largely reinforced. The *Richmond Whig* says: 'The militia are responding to General Hood's call for reinforcements *en masse*, with an alacrity that shows they are really in earnest.' The correspondent of the *Augusta Sentinel* of the 9th says: 'Our army has been strengthened to a considerable extent of late. How many thousands of State troops have arrived I cannot mention, but this much I can say: General Smith is at the head of a large and splendid body of men, and they are daily increasing in numbers. And in addition to these reinforcements the fighting material has been increased by putting guns in the hands of the working details. Negroes are now performing service for the men in the trenches. An effort is being made to secure negro drivers, which, if it succeeds, will add three thousand more to the ranks. From all sources there has been an addition to the army that greatly increases general confidence in ultimate success.'

ON August 16, there was a fight at Graysville, about eighteen miles from Chattanooga. The Confederates were under the command of General Wheeler. The Federal accounts do not state the result of the action; but as they admit that the Federal commander, General Stoneman, was wounded, and Colonel Straight was killed, we may conclude that the result was not favourable to the Federals.

NEW YORK has been enlivened by the visit of a Confederate cruiser off Long Island. This vessel, the *Tallahassee*, captured about fifty vessels in a few days, amongst others the emigrant ship *Adriatic* from London. This must have annoyed Mr. Lincoln's recruiting agents. After this short and very successful cruise, the *Tallahassee* put into Halifax, but, after receiving three hundred tons of coals, was ordered off by Admiral Hope. She left immediately, steering eastward. After her departure a Federal gunboat steamed into the harbour to watch the 'pirate.'

The *Tallahassee* is a blockade-runner, and intended for commercial and not warlike purposes. The Federals may learn from this that the loss of the *Alabama* does not make their commerce safe on the ocean.

THE M'Clellan meeting in New York on August 10 was attended by an immense concourse of people, and there was throughout great enthusiasm. The *Herald* calls it an 'Anti-Lincoln' meeting, and certainly all the speakers took care to denounce the Administration, and were loudly applauded for so doing. But this great meeting was also an exposition of the peace sentiment of the North. The auditors only shouted for M'Clellan when the speakers pointed to him as the restorer of peace. It is apparent that, so far as the peace sentiment is concerned, the meeting was far in advance of its promoters, and there are some who think that M'Clellan's friends, taking the hint, will run their candidate on a thorough peace policy. We elsewhere publish the resolutions that were adopted at the meeting. We do not know if they are to be regarded as the M'Clellan platform; but if so, it is safe to predict that General M'Clellan will not be elected.

EVEN those who have been watching the growth of a peace sentiment in the North must be surprised at its recent rapid development. It is now impossible to describe the progress of the peace movement except in general terms. In all parts of the country there are peace meetings. All the papers teem with peace articles. Rumour says that Mr. Lincoln is about to place himself at the head of a movement he cannot control, and to propose an armistice. The following are a few specimens of the resolutions passed at the peace meetings.

At a meeting held in Pike County, Delaware, it was resolved:—

That we are in favour of an armistice and a cessation of hostilities in order to terminate the terrible slaughter of our men, and to avoid the utter bankruptcy of the nation, and to prevent the erection of a military despotism on the ruins of civil liberty.

That we are in favour of immediate peace and against the further prosecution of this war.

That the Government of the United States has no right to coerce a sovereign State.

That, if we cannot restore the Union by peaceable measures, we are in favour of an acknowledgment of the independence and sovereignty of the States composing the Southern Confederacy.

At a meeting held in Berks County, it was resolved:—

That we also agree with Mr. Lincoln, when in his inaugural he says: 'Suppose you go to war, you cannot fight always: and when, after much loss on both sides and no gain on either, you cease fighting, the identical questions as to terms of intercourse are again upon you.' That we believe the loss has been sufficient and fast becoming ruinous, and we therefore call upon Mr. Lincoln to 'cease fighting,' and do now what we must at some time do, agree upon 'terms of intercourse.'

At a meeting of the people of Crawford County, Ohio, it was resolved:—

The experience of the last three years proves most conclusively that war cannot restore the Union.

We consider that every life hereafter lost in this most atrocious war will be a deliberate murder, and every dollar wrung from the pocket of the tax-payer to further its prosecution a downright robbery.

In view of these facts we therefore resolve:

1. That justice and humanity demand the immediate cessation of hostilities, and the adoption of peace measures, as the only hope of the people.

2. That we remonstrate against any draft upon the able-bodied men of the country to assist in prolonging a war that we believe uncalled for and superlatively wicked.

At a meeting held at Peoria, Illinois, at which 40,000 people were present, it was resolved:

That we warn this Administration to desist from its encroachments upon the rights and liberties of the citizens of our State, and resolve that we will not tolerate the rule of martial law, of military interference with elections, or any more arbitrary arrests of our citizens, to the maintenance of which we pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honour.'

At a meeting held at Bucyrus, Ohio, it was resolved 'that justice and humanity demand the immediate cessation of hostilities, and the adoption of peace measures, as the only hope of the people.'

At a convention held at Syracuse, New York, resolutions were adopted in favour of an armistice.

Amongst other papers, the *Tribune* proposes peace negotiations. It says:—

We feel certain that two-thirds of the American people on either side of the dividing line anxiously, absorbingly, desire peace, and are ready to make all needful sacrifices to insure it. Then why shall it be long withheld? Let us know, as soon as may be, the most that the rebel chiefs will do to secure peace—let us know what *is* the 'ultimatum' on *our* side. We have no sympathy with the shuddering dread that our Government may, by listening to propositions from the rebels, virtually acknowledge their independence. Etiquette is the disease of little minds; great souls are never troubled by it.

But the course pursued by the *Herald* is the most noteworthy. When that paper comes out boldly for any policy, we may be sure it represents the popular sentiment. We append a few quotations from the *Herald* articles, which, together with various pro-peace paragraphs, appear in every issue:—

'The Administration can afford to try the magnanimous experiment of opening the door to negotiations for peace. Suppose, for example, President Lincoln were to appoint three commissioners to Richmond, with authority to conclude an armistice for six months, and to enter into arrangements, subject to the ratification of Congress, for a Peace and Union Convention of all the States, could the Administration or the great cause of the loyal States lose anything? President Lincoln, therefore, in our opinion, will establish a claim to sagacity and wisdom as a statesman and as a politician in taking the initiative in behalf of peace, by despatching three commissioners to Richmond with the overtures suggested.'

'One of the best features of the plan of restoring the Union by an armistice and convention of States is that it requires no more blood, no more fighting, no more treasure. It will end the war speedily and honourably. None but Radical ghouls and copperhead traitors can object to it.'

'The peace propositions we have suggested must emanate from headquarters at Washington. To this end we would call upon the citizens of this great metropolis, taking the lead in the war from the beginning, to take the lead now in behalf of an armistice as the first step towards peace. We call upon our merchant princes, manufacturers, financiers, tradesmen, working men—men of all professions and all pursuits—regardless of party notions and party leaders, to proceed at once to the work of bringing together a grand independent citizens' meeting in Union Square for the express object of appointing a committee of five hundred representative citizens to wait upon President Lincoln in behalf of an embassy to Richmond, with liberal overtures for an armistice and a convention of all the States, North and South, in order to see if this dreadful war cannot be ended in a mutually satisfactory treaty of peace.'

'If any bad blood remained on either side, it would soon disappear, or be purged by a foreign war. With a combined veteran army of over a million of men, and a fleet more powerful than that of any European Power, we could order France from Mexico, England from Canada, and Spain from Cuba, and enforce our orders if they were not obeyed. The American continent would then belong to Americans.'

This last paragraph is a proof that the *Herald* is in earnest about the armistice. It appeals to the hatred of England and France in order to make the proposition acceptable.

A CONVENTION in Maryland chosen under the auspices of Federal bayonets, lately recommended that harsh measures should be adopted against 'disloyal' citizens. No one was surprised that a body elected under such circumstances should echo the sentiments of Mr. Lincoln. But it appears that so strong is the patriotic feeling in Maryland that the military power of the Federal Government did not suffice to insure loyalty, and that a minority of thirty-five members presented a spirited protest against the action of the Convention.

THE mortality amongst the negro troops is appalling. The specification of an order issued at New Orleans to consolidate the negro regiments, shows that the reorganisation into ten regiments absorbs the shattered remnants of thirty-eight. The *New York Daily News* remarks: 'The Corps d'Afrique, then, may be supposed, notwithstanding all the recruiting of the unscrupulous energies of Abolitionism, to have been cut off by disease and battle to the extent of sixty-five per cent. of its original force. Alas, that a man's colour should make it benevolence to butcher him!'

AT the time when the North is bent upon recruiting with negroes, a letter written by General Sherman to an agent in the State of New York has created a disagreeable impression. He says: 'The negro is in a transition state, and is not the equal of the white man. . . . I prefer negroes for pioneers, teamsters, cooks, and servants.'

THE rumoured resignation of Mr. Stanton is contradicted. It is said in some quarters that he had resigned and withdrew his resignation at the earnest request of Mr. Lincoln.

GENERAL BURNSIDE is charged with the responsibility of the Federal failure at Petersburg. He has been relieved of his command, and is succeeded by General Wilcox.

MR. HALL, a member of Congress, has been arrested in Missouri by the Federals for saying, 'I hold Abraham Lincoln to be as much an enemy to this Government as Jefferson Davis.'

WILLIAMS COLLEGE, Massachusetts, has conferred upon B. F. Butler the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. It is not for us to question the fitness of this act. It is not for us to deny that the infamous Butler is a worthy member of a Massachusetts College.

ON August 20, gold was quoted in New York at 257.

ENGLAND.

WHEN it was discovered by the Common Council that on the average 706,621 persons entered the city of London daily, that of these 171,086 were in cabs and omnibuses, and that the number of vehicles entering daily was 57,765, it was but natural that the absurdity of about three-fourths of these numbers being crammed into one street, and that but a narrow one, should strike forcibly on the minds of the guardians of the city interests. On their promotion a Bill has been passed by the Legislature, conferring extensive powers for the regulation of the traffic on the civic authorities. Of course there is a slight flaw in the Act, and consequently, of the eighteen by-laws proposed by the Council to the Home Secretary, only about three are held to be legal. However, these have already shown results sufficient to reward all the exertions made. The regulations, indeed, are simple enough. All cabs and omnibuses going and returning between St. Paul's Cathedral and London Bridge are ordered to pass down Cannon Street instead of Cheapside. Merchandise exceeding certain dimensions can be carried only before 9 o'clock in the morning and after 6 o'clock in the evening; and a total prohibition is placed on scaffolding, heavy timber, and the like during the day. These simple regulations have been in operation about a fortnight, and the effect is simply magical. Indeed, it is now even possible to get along Cheapside at a fair rate of progression, and it is no longer a feat of high courage to cross the Poultry in front of the Mansion House. It is to be hoped that a successful commencement will urge the Council to yet more skilful devices for rendering the city a thoroughfare, and not an elaborate system of barricades.

THE Committee appointed in June by Lord De Grey and Ripon to examine the question of arming the British infantry with breech-loading rifles, has issued its report. The evidence of Major Young, who was present at the reviews of the Prussian army in 1861, was decidedly against the use of such weapons. On the other hand, Colonel Walker, who was in Slesvig in March, and Colonel Tower, who was present at the siege of Dybbol, declared that the success of the Prussian breech-loaders was acknowledged both by the Austrian and Prussian officers. Two officers who had been sent on a mission of enquiry to the United States stated that Mr. Stanton had refused to permit them to accompany the Federal army. They, however, said that an officer from the Confederate States had been arrested in New York while engaged in procuring machinery for the manufacture of such weapons for the Southern army. The Committee were unanimous in recommending the arming of the British troops with breech-loaders; and advertisements have been issued from the War Office for schemes for converting the Enfield rifles.

A SPECTACLE that could not fail to warm the heart of a friend of the people was witnessed in London on Friday last. Some weeks since a notice of the Queen's visit to the Royal Horticultural Gardens was given in these columns, and it was then recorded that, at the suggestion of Her Majesty, the Council of the Society had resolved to honour the memory of the Prince Consort by opening the gardens to the people on the anniversary of the birth of the Prince. At ten o'clock on the 26th ult., the gates, which already were besieged by large crowds, were thrown open, and remained so till seven o'clock in the evening. During the day about 120,000 persons, men, women, and children, visited the grounds. No charge was made, and no restrictions imposed on the people except a modest request that they would not eat their dinners in the flower-garden. Some few police were visible, their orders being to show enquirers the various modes of exit from the grounds. Several bands were in attendance, and not the least agreeable feature were the processions of many of the metropolitan schools. Late in the evening the visitors in position on the upper terraces sang the national anthem to the lead of trumpets, with fine effect. The weather was charming, and the crowds of people appeared to be much delighted with their holiday.

MR. J. TUCKER CRAWFORD, Consul-General at Havannah and also Commissary Judge, died on July 21 at Havannah. The deceased gentleman held the office of Acting Consul-General in Portugal from 1822 to 1827. He was appointed Consul-General at Havannah in 1842. He was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath in 1859.

THE Coroner for Middlesex has held an inquest on the body of Barbara Lee, formerly 'Queen of the Gipsies' in England. From the evidence of Keziah Lee, the daughter-in-law of the deceased, it appeared that Barbara Lee had died quite suddenly while lying on the ground asleep after supper. Neither the deceased woman, nor indeed any one of the tribe, ever had known a day's sickness or a doctor's care, and the witness in answer to the Coroner strongly protested that the workhouse would have killed the 'old lady' years before. She also further declared that the Gipsy Queen was no more than her subjects, and that the tribes recognised Her Majesty as their only Queen. The deceased was nearly one hundred years old. The corpse was buried in the Victoria Park Cemetery, and the funeral was attended by the gipsy tribe and a great concourse of spectators.

BELFAST is tranquil from sheer exhaustion, at least so far as open violence is concerned. The Peace Society has

exerted itself with considerable success in effecting the reconciliation of the belligerent parties, the protection of the inoffensive, and the suppression of the threatening notices. In many cases the prohibition to work in certain factories or to dwell in particular districts has been withdrawn by the respective factions, and Roman Catholics and Protestants have been induced once more to labour for the same master or to reside in the same quarter. Deputations from the Society are engaged in visiting all the mills and other establishments, and in appealing to the good feeling of the people to terminate their feuds. A reward of 100*l.* has been offered for the detection of any writer of a threatening letter or notice, and the proclamation has been signed by the principal firms in the town. An attempt at a fight in Longford was suppressed, chiefly by the Roman Catholic clergy. An effigy of King William had been prepared for the celebration of an Irish *auto da fe*, but the rioters finally yielded to persuasion and abandoned their design.

LORD PALMERSTON having enlightened his constituents at Tiverton on the political and social condition of the country with his usual alacrity, determined to exchange serious studies for gay delights, and to enjoy a day's racing with his friends. Tiverton races are but poor fun in themselves, and no one can doubt that the noble Premier was the most attractive object on the course. His Lordship led off with a cordial grasp of the hand with Mr. Rowcliffe, butcher and political antagonist in ordinary to the dominant party in Tiverton, an admirable foil for the Premier's wit, and well calculated to show the world how jovial Lord Palmerston can be with an acknowledged foe. After the conclusion of the sport the company adjourned to the Three Tuns Hotel, and proceeded to perform the ceremony of eating the Tiverton Race Dinner. At the termination of the repast, the chairman proposed in flattering terms the health of the members for Tiverton, namely, Lord Palmerston and the Hon. G. Denman. The speech of the Premier in reply was so characteristic of the man that we cannot forbear giving an extract from it. He observed that 'the House of Commons very much resembled a racecourse. First of all, parties went there and ran for the Queen's Plate. It was a general sweepstakes, and more than one shared the stakes. Then, again, there was the match, and he was a lucky man who did not meet his match. However, almost every man did meet his match, and was not contented with the encounter. Again, the rules were similar to those of the turf, for there was that good feeling in the House of Commons which gave weight for age. The young ones, indeed, were very apt to bolt out of the course. Moreover, it not unfrequently happened that a very good horse broke down. In fact, in things seemingly different there was a very great analogy.' If the comparison might be continued, it would be a fair subject for regret that the stars of the turf wane with lamentable rapidity, while no weight that the great handicapper, Time, can impose is sufficient to deprive the favourite in the House of Commons of success, even in the most desperate encounters.

ALL annual reports yield in interest to that of the Registrar-General of Births, Marriages, and Deaths in England. It is not necessary to submit the will to the doctrine laid down in the *Cornhill Magazine*, and consent to be born, marry, commit acts of benevolence or acts of felony, and finally to die at particular dates and under particular circumstances, in order to save an average from displacement. At the same time statistics are not contemptible. They teach something, seem to teach much more, and are certainly amusing. One fault, however, must be found with the Registrar of Marriages, Births, and Deaths, and that is, that he is very considerably behindhand. In these days of unparalleled speed news of the age of eighteen months is somewhat stale, and, unreasonable as the desire may be, it is but natural on September 1, 1864, to desire something more recent than the facts of the year 1862. In that year we find that in England and Wales 328,060 persons were married, 712,684 children were born, and 436,566 persons died. Of the marriages, 79 per cent. were solemnised according to the rites of the Established Church. A considerable increase is observed in Roman Catholic marriages. The Jews boasted but 300 nuptials, and that respectable section, the Quakers, only 59. No less than 22,457 widowers made a second venture, but of these only 7,891 contented themselves with widows for their wives; of the 14,737 widows who a second time entered the state of wedlock, 6,846 were espoused by bachelors. The educational test furnished by the ability to sign the marriage register shows a decided improvement. In 1862, only 28 per cent. were unable to write their names, while in 1847 these uneducated individuals reached the frightful percentage of 41. Westmoreland shows the most creditable and Monmouthshire the least creditable return. In births the proportion of males to females was 104 to 100, and of all the counties of England Durham was the most prolific. The number of illegitimate children was only 6 per cent. on all the births, but the counties of Westmoreland and Cumberland, probably from their proximity to Scotland, were conspicuous for the production of bastards at the rate of 11 per cent. The comparative numbers of births and deaths justly call for the remark in the Report, that were it not for emigration the excess of births over deaths would in three years have added a population equal to that of Liverpool and Birmingham united.

In the metropolis 34 children were born to every 1,000 persons, and the births in 1862 exceeded those in 1852 by 17,000. There is, indeed, reason to think that in the present year the births will not be less than 1,000,000.

It is somewhat remarkable that the terrible ravages of the cotton famine have not left their mark on the death registers—a result to be of course attributed to the immense provision for pauperism made at the commencement of the American blockade. Marriages, however, were less numerous, the dictates of common prudence forbidding the operatives to increase the demand on their resources at such a crisis.

THE quantity of unmanufactured tobacco imported into the United Kingdom in the six months ending June 30, 1864, was 15,358,105 lbs. The quantity imported during the same period in the year 1863 was 12,923,357 lbs., and during the same period in 1862 only 7,436,306 lbs. The quantity of manufactured tobacco imported is very greatly on the increase, owing to the reduction of the duty. During six months ending June 30, 1864, the supplies were 3,041,129 lbs., as compared with 1,222,493 lbs. in 1863, and 553,863 lbs. in 1862. It is scarcely necessary to point out that the small import of unmanufactured tobacco in 1862 was caused by the American war.

LAST week some hundreds of persons from Boulogne and other places on the north coast of France made an excursion to the Crystal Palace at Sydenham. On the same day some thousands of the Foresters also visited the Palace, and the London Gymnastic Society's *fête* took place. The directors had made ample provision for the entertainment of the excursionists. Mr. Coxwell made an ascent in his balloon, the great fountains played, and the bands of the Coldstream Guards and of the Sapeurs Pompiers de la Ville de St. Pierre performed during the day. The visitors from France appeared to derive very great pleasure from the proceedings. A new marvel has been now added to the numerous attractions of the Palace, in the shape of a railway in which the pneumatic principle is applied for passenger traffic. The line is 600 yards long, and runs throughout in a tunnel. The tunnel is 10 feet high and 9 feet wide. A framework attached to the carriage fits the form of the tunnel, the interval between the wood and the arch being filled with a mass of bristles. Two discs 22 feet in diameter, revolving in an iron case, constitute the motive power, and are turned by a small steam-engine.

HER Majesty the Queen has left Windsor for Scotland, with the intention of spending six weeks at Balmoral. The Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Coburg Gotha accompanied the Queen. Her Majesty was present at the uncovering of the statue erected at Perth to the late Prince Consort.

INDIA.

The internal state of Bhootan is said to be most deplorable, and a series of civil wars is expected. Several chiefs are striving to gain the chief power at the head of their respective factions. Ambaree and Fallacottah had been annexed to the British Empire, and the Bhootan Government had been informed that strong measures would be taken by the Governor-General unless speedy reparation was made for the capture of the Bengalees and the plunder committed.

From Cabul it was reported that Shere Ali had visited Afzul Khan under a flag of truce, and had been treacherously made a prisoner. The tidings, however, required confirmation.

THE CONTINENT.

FRANCE.

A horrible murder was committed a few weeks ago in the South of France. The victim was M. de Lassalle; he lived in a very penurious manner at a house of the high-sounding title of Château Baillard. One day he was found lying dead in his house, his desk broken in, and its contents stolen; and, to complete the horror, three of his servants also murdered. Two men, Latour and Audouy, were arrested on suspicion; their trial has been the chief object of public attention during the past week. To outsiders there is no point in it of remarkable interest; the speech of the Procureur-Général for the prosecution was, singularly enough, not only vindictive, but in bad taste; he loaded the wretched prisoners with accusations of blasphemy and hypocrisy, in a manner which certainly reflected the charges back upon himself. The prisoner Latour conducted his own defence; he said he had already been in trouble for other accusations, and had always been found guilty through the folly or knavery of his advocate. His own endeavours on this occasion were not more successful; he was condemned to death, and Audouy to penal servitude.

The French Administration have adopted the English custom of vacation speeches to an appalling extent. Besides several of smaller note, we find the Duc de Persigny, M. Rouher, M. Rouland, and M. Behic among the Ministers and other notables who have been starring it in the provinces of France during the last week. Strange to say, there was a marked disagreement between the statements of these distinguished men. M. Rouland in addressing the Council-General for the Lower Seine, and M. Rouher in opening that for the Puy de Dôme, informed their audiences that it was the wish of the Government to widen the programme of subjects for discussion at the Councils-General; they hoped that the decentralising tendency of the present Administration would increase the liberty of the nation, so that, while the State refrained from vexatious meddling, the free activity of every citizen would be promoted and encouraged. M. de Persigny, on the other hand, in addressing the Council-General of the Loire, informed his hearers that the liberty of France, a liberty worth all those of the rest of the world put together, was the consequence of the admirable administrative hierarchy with which that country was blessed. 'Take away in England,' said he, 'the whole of the electors of one county—that is, the whole of that class which administers and secures justice, collects the taxes, and secures public order—what have you left? Chaos and misery. But in France take away all the electors of a *commune*, you have left to you the Government officers, and the administration of the place may go on, scarcely feeling the loss of a hundred or two of citizens.' Such is M. de Persigny's knowledge of foreign countries; from it he deduces the fact that there is more liberty in France than in England. Such is his logic. So impressed was he, however, with the truth of his theory, that as a corollary to it he proposed the toast 'Napoleon III., the founder of liberty in France.' He is to a certain extent right; under no former rule has there prevailed so absolute a freedom from the laws which, since the time of Aristotle downwards, have restrained our right of forming a correct judgment, as that in which he rejoices. The French press has not been slow to take up the gauntlet, and has, in the first place, denied the accuracy of his statements, and, secondly, has refuted his theory of liberty. They point out that his idea of liberty resting on the basis of an administrative hierarchy is utterly inconsistent with the hopes expressed by MM. Rouland and Rouher, that the Councils-General would be allowed a wider scope for their discussions. He still clings to centralisation; the Ministers speak of decentralisation as an object to be aimed at, and point to the Councils-General as a means for effecting that object.

Prince Humbert, the Crown Prince of Italy, has arrived in Paris after his visit to Denmark. He has been received with due honour by the Emperor, and by his brother-in-law the Prince Napoleon. There are rumours of a projected marriage between him and the Princess Anna Murat. They would have greater weight were it not that the lady is about six years his senior, and has already been given by public report to well-nigh every available potentate who has yet visited France. The Prince is only twenty years of age. A soldier by birth and profession, he is likely to be popular among a military people. As described by a contemporary, he is of irregular features (to use the very mildest possible term), but of a frank, open, and manly countenance. It would be a most remarkable fusion of families were the heir to the crown of Italy to marry a descendant of the great cavalry officer to whom was given the kingdom of Naples as spoils of war.

The venerable *maestro* Rossini held a fête on the 27th ult. at his villa at Passy. Several of the greatest vocalists of France, England, and Italy assembled to do honour to the festival. Among them were Mrs. Lemmens-Sherrington, MM. Faure, Tamburini, and Vautterot.

It is estimated that the telegraphic lines in France (exclusive of those used by railways for their own purposes) stretch over 98,446 kilometres, or 61,528¾ miles; the average annual number of private telegrams is one million and a half, despatched from 1,301 stations.

The engagements for the Great Paris Prize at the French Derby for 1866 have just been made, and number 94 horses against 83 in 1863, 126 in 1864, and 112 in 1865. The winning of that event by a French horse this year appears to have stimulated the owners of racehorses in France; for of those now entered 53 are French and 41 only English, while in previous years the proportion of English to French was as two to one.

At the inauguration of the Northern Spanish Railway at San Sebastian on the 15th ult., M. Isaac Pereire read an address to the King of Spain after the benediction of the locomotives, in which, while commenting on the fulfilment of Louis XIV.'s exclamation, 'There are now no Pyrenees!' he used the following expressions:—'If we congratulate ourselves upon these pacific conquests, if we glorify ourselves, it is because they powerfully second the religious tendency of societies to unite their forces towards a common end. On all sides the way is opened by treaties, whose first result will be the free exchange of the various products with which nature has gifted each country; every day, in fact, prepares the new order of things clearly indicated by the Emperor Napoleon III. when he proposed to Europe to substitute the judgment of Congresses for the deeds of force and the consequences that only a blind impiety can term the judgments of God. The establishment of railways is the first step in this fruitful course of the future.'

THE DANISH QUESTION.

The peace negotiations have not yet commenced in Vienna. Everything indicates that they will be long and laborious. Besides the question of the debts, there is also the division of the common fortune to settle, and it appears that the pretensions of the defenders of the Duchies are exorbitant. On the other hand, the Danish plenipotentiaries intend to demand a change in the rectification of the frontiers as stipulated in the preliminaries. It is to be presumed that such proposals will meet with a warm opposition, as it is well understood that the German Powers only acceded to the conditions of the present armistice on the supposition of the loyalty and absence of reservation on the part of the Danish plenipotentiaries.

DENMARK.

At the sitting of the Rigsraad held on the 27th ult., the President of the Council, Herr von Bluhme, solemnly declared that at the peace negotiations the Government would endeavour to protect the interests of the Slesvigers, both as to their national and political rights. This declaration was received by the House with loud and general applause.

GERMANY.

The two German Powers, if the telegrams are to be believed, have come to a complete understanding on the subject of the conquered Duchies. Prussia is to receive territorial, political, and military compensation for the cession of Slesvig-Holstein. The claims of the Grand Duke of Oldenburg are consequently gaining ground; while the Duke of Augustenburg has had the opportunity at length of asserting his demands formally before the Diet in a memorial.

As to the Duchies themselves and their constitution, little clouds are already beginning to arise, which show that the snake of Prussian constitutionalism has been scotched, not killed, by the late war. We can scarcely now remember, so quickly have events succeeded one another, that, but a few weeks before the beginning of the Slesvig-Holstein quarrel, all Europe was looking with curious eyes upon the constitutional struggle in

Prussia. Would the King abdicate, or the people rise? The question hung trembling in the balance, when the war abruptly stepped in and pushed the scales aside. Now, however, that it is shrewdly suspected that Herr von Bismarck will deprive these territories of the constitution given to them in 1848, and give them one more nearly resembling that which he would, if possible, set on foot in Prussia, the Opposition journals of Berlin see the cloven hoof displayed under the robe of the liberator. They see the thin end of the wedge of despotism introduced into their system through these quasi-conquered provinces, and they are not slow to speak up in their behalf. 'They are expected,' says the *Volkszeitung*, 'to abandon, on the question of land, money, and men, a fearful share of their self-government. But supposing they were to ask us, "Do you, Prussian friends, propose to relinquish your right of self-government also?" We are to submit to the Prussian recruiting system; do you approve of this system? We are to adopt your organisation of the army; have you sanctioned this organisation? We are to bear a share of the military estimates; do you recognise a similar liability on your part? We are to cede territory for dockyards, ports, &c., we are to furnish money for the building of ships, fortresses; are you prepared to incur all the sacrifices which similar operations would necessitate with you? We are to enter into an alliance for war and peace; are you, we ask, disposed unhesitatingly to accept whatever your Government may choose to do?'

The King of Prussia is paying a series of visits to the minor potentates of Germany. Great expectations are entertained of the effect of his meeting with the young King of Bavaria; it is hoped that 'many a dark cloud which still overshadows the horizon of Germany may vanish before this royal meeting.' His Prussian Majesty also pays a passing visit to the King of Wurtemburg, on his way to Baden-Baden. He is everywhere preceded by Herr von Bismarck, who doubtless finds that the King stands in great need of the service of an *avant-courrier*.

At the closing of the Saxon Chambers the King addressed the deputies on the various subjects which have occupied their attention, and among other things expressed his regret that the Saxon troops were prohibited from actively taking part with the Allies in the late war, and said: 'The unshaken discipline and the strict fulfilment of their duty under difficult circumstances by the Saxon troops must, however, be acknowledged, and those are qualities as necessary to the soldier as valour on the field of battle. This testimony is due to those brave men.'

The Russian Legation at Frankfort has commenced proceedings against *L'Europe* for an article in which the Emperor of Russia was called a 'crowned executioner.' Another prosecution has been instituted by the Prussian Legation against the same paper for similar language respecting King William of Prussia.

It is officially stated that Wurtemburg intends to propose that the minor German States, with Bavaria at their head, should form a third Power in the German Confederation, the other two being Austria and Prussia.

SWITZERLAND.

The generally quiet city of Geneva has passed through a violent attack of fever, none the less critical that it was short. Election disturbances are apt to bring out the hidden devil in a people; but it will be a matter of surprise to Europe that a demon of such magnitude should so long have been concealed under the amiable exterior of the good burgesses of Geneva. It appears that in the election to the Council of State the Conservative candidate, M. Chenevière, beat his Radical opponent, M. Fazy, by 5,677 votes to 5,340. The bureau of election, consisting of 17 Radicals and 10 Conservatives, immediately annulled the election by a vote of 17 to 10. The Conservative anger was roused; a public meeting was held, delegates sent to the Council of State, and a promise of redress obtained. Overjoyed at this result, the crowd formed a procession through the streets; when suddenly it was fired upon by a body of armed men, stationed some in the streets, others in the surrounding houses. The crowd turned aside into the Place de l'Hôtel de Ville, occupied and barricaded it, forced open the Arsenal and secured muskets, and prepared to defend themselves. The Radicals then raised counter barricades and armed them with cannon taken from another arsenal. In this state the two parties remained, in defiance of the entreaties of the Administration. The Government of the canton being powerless, the Federal Council sent their commissioner, M. Fornerod, to quiet the disturbance with a battalion of troops, and power to levy others in the cantons of Vaud and Neufchatel. By this time the opposed mobs were beginning to return to their senses; the excitement gradually cooled down, though not without a few spasmodic returns of violence. The burial of the victims of the first day's attack was expected to create another outbreak, but, luckily, such fears proved to be unfounded. The question of the election of M. Chenevière has been discussed by the Grand Council of Geneva, and they have resolved to request the Federals to support that gentleman's claims.

ITALY.

The Austrians appear to have discovered the existence of a widespread conspiracy against them, both in Venetia and the South Tyrol; numerous arrests have already taken place at Venice, Trent, Roveredo, Riva, and other towns. Depôts of arms and tricoloured flags have been discovered.

A great fire has taken place in the Forest of Picuzza, a Crown domain near Palermo. The people assembled and hastened to the spot in order to arrest the progress of the conflagration.

CHINA.

The news from Pekin by the last mail is of a cheering character. Sir F. Bruce has arrived at Hong Kong on his way to England; and it is believed that his conduct at the court of the Emperor has left an impression highly favourable both to the English and other Western nations. Mr. T. F. Wade remains as acting Minister for England at Pekin.

The Portuguese plenipotentiary had failed to obtain a ratification of the treaty between Portugal and China.

MEXICO.

The important city of Acapulco, the key of the province of the same name, has been surrounded by Imperialist forces under Alvarez, and is expected shortly to surrender. Juarez is still occupying Monterey, but his difficulties daily increase, on account of the strictness of the blockade maintained by the French cruisers. Heretofore the Yankees have been his chief purveyors; but they have now discovered the meaning of a true blockade, which they may contrast, with instruction to themselves, with that which they keep up over the east coast of the American continent. It is expected that, in consequence of a fresh determination on the part of Juarez, he will move in such a manner as to afford the French troops an opportunity of inflicting upon him a signal defeat during this autumn.

TUNIS.

Advices from Tunis have been received to August 21. It is officially announced that fourteen of the tribes have made their submission. Private letters state, however, that forty tribes are still in insurrection, and that several chiefs who had manifested a wish for peace had been killed. A chief who signed conditions of peace was obliged to take refuge in Tunis.

Disturbances continued at Sfax and Sousse. Most of the tribes demanded the dismissal of the Khasnadar.

EGYPT.

The difference between the United States Consul at Alexandria and the Egyptian Government has been adjusted. It is said that the *chargé d'affaires* of the United States in Constantinople highly disapproved the conduct of the Consul. The new Consul-General had arrived on August 18, and had been visited by Chirif Pacha.

PERU.

The Republic has taken up so determined an attitude that it is hoped that the Spanish Government will see the necessity of apologising to it. Her nearest neighbour, the Argentine Republic, has spoken up loudly in disapprobation of the seizure of the Chincha Islands. Should the worst arrive, therefore, the Peruvian Government feel secure in the sympathy of their neighbours, and their own power to resist an insolent demand.

CHILI.

The National Assembly has voted $1,500,000 for the increase of the navy, and very scientific discussions daily take place in that body on naval matters. As for the deputies, ironclads, cupola ships by Ericson and Cowper Coles, steam-rams, Armstrong, Whitworth, and Parrot guns, and all the mysteries of rifled ordnance, 'are familiar in their mouths as household words.' They request the Minister of Marine to state his views on these subjects, which that unfortunate functionary is by no means prepared to do.

Some amusement was lately caused at Valparaiso on the arrival of the Russian corvette *Gaidamack* from Callao. The officer in command of her requested the honour of an interview with the President, which was granted. Opinions were exchanged in the course of it, and the Russian captain was much pleased with his reception, until unfortunately, at the end of it, the President asked him whether he belonged to the Russian or Prussian navy.

INCONSISTENCY OF ANGLO-FEDERALS.—Every day some of the journals which recommend an abjectly pacific policy to the people and statesmen of Great Britain urge extreme war measures upon our American neighbours. To the Southern States, struggling now at least to preserve their territory from fire and sword, themselves from conquest, and their homes and families from the most hideous outrage and ruin, the worst motives are attributed. The very same writers who recommend at home a policy pregnant, if adopted, with the early unresisted dissolution of the British Empire, who would cry out if strong measures were taken to preserve or restore the ascendency of the mother country in Australia or Canada, advise the Washington authorities not to yield an inch to the claims of independence urged by nearly a half of the old Union States. Those who rejoiced over the English exodus from Corfu, and hint at the inexpediency of retaining Malta and Gibraltar, and who would probably meet a Roman Catholic insurrection in Ireland by an offer of a more thorough repeal than ever Daniel O'Connell dared to ask or cared to advocate, are the foremost in inciting the Northern States Government in America to risk everything, to spend and anticipate the resources of the country, and to change the nature of their free institutions, and destroy the hopeful characteristics of their land, by the adoption of the most extreme views of the dominion of a Government once established. The English Government, they say, may and perhaps ought to give up everything rather than fire a rifle in anger, or cause the sacrifice of a single rebel's life to preserve the oldest monarchy in Europe. But the newest and least consolidated commonwealth on the territories of the New World must be upheld by ruinous extravagance of life and fortune.—The *Morning Advertiser*, August 31.

VALUABLE EGGS.—The Custom House authorities of San Francisco have discovered a very ingenious Chinese trick in smuggling. A regular magical trick it is. Among the cargo of the barque *Ceres* were 400 tubs, invoiced as eggs, value stated at $1 each. The eggs were coated with a particular kind of varnish, to preserve them. One of the officers, in examining the eggs, scraped off a little varnish, and disclosed a metallic case, egg-shaped, filled with opium. Each metallic egg is worth $300. So far as the examination has proceeded, 500 have been found.

PRIVATE LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

WE have been favoured with the subjoined private letter from a young Confederate gentleman, who recently left his family and friends in Europe to take his place in the army. The letter has a peculiar value from the freshness of the first impressions which it records, and the glimpses it gives us of camp life.

RICHMOND: June 28, 1864.

My dear Mother,—More than three weeks have elapsed since I first set foot on the shores of Dixie, and yet, notwithstanding the most diligent enquiries, I have not heard of the arrival of a missive from you or from any one of my other beloved correspondents. I do not, however, give myself up to despair, and I am buoyed up with the hope that when they do come they will come, 'not single spies, but in battalions.' I ought not, however, to be surprised at this *longum interallum* in our correspondence, for to the risks and uncertainties of the blockade must be superadded the dislocation of postal communications caused by the proximity of the enemy to Richmond. The 'Yanks' have taken a leaf out of Morgan's and poor Stuart's book, and are now displaying more dash than we gave them credit for in the shape of raid-making. They prowl about in the vicinity, tear up railroad tracks, and cut telegraph wires, to the intense disgust of the post-office officials. So you see that, even after arriving in the Confederacy, letters are a very long time in reaching their destination. As an instance of this postal irregularity, I wrote to Mr. —— and to Mr. —— immediately after landing, and yet I have not received any answer from either of those gentlemen. The only thing to be done is to 'peg away,' in the hope that out of a mass of missives one may perchance be received. This is what I am doing, but, alas! so far with little success. Sheridan and his vile gang of plunderers, after a succession of discomfitures, have at length been 'wiped out' of the peninsula, where they have perpetrated the most fiendish atrocities. Punishment has overtaken these abominable miscreants, and now, after a sound drubbing administered to them by Hampton, they are cowering demoralised and panic-stricken under the protection of their gunboats. When —— ran the gauntlet of the Federal pickets, as I related in my last letter to *il padre*, Caroline County was occupied by Grant's army, and the poor old family homestead was hemmed in on all sides by the Federals, who pillaged and destroyed all the private residences within their reach. Up to the time of his departure they had not molested any of the inmates of —— or stolen anything from the interior of the house, but, to my inexpressible sorrow, I have just heard that the comparative immunity of my poor uncle was of short duration, for, when Grant, after that 'overwhelming victory' at Cold Harbour, was obliged to resume his triumphant but crab-like march to Richmond, he was followed by Sheridan's shattered command, who revenged themselves on the defenceless women and children for the hard blows the Virginian cavalry dealt them. Maddened by repeated defeats, they entered and proceeded to steal all they could lay their hands on. They carried off or tore up most of the clothes that were to be found, and, not content with robbing my uncle, my aunt, and my cousin of all they had, the ruffians actually laid violent hands on the food and money belonging to the slaves. This is their new system of freeing the negroes; for, having found the poor creatures loth to leave their masters, they now destroy all their provisions in order that the fear of starvation should make them follow the invaders. Some of the servants were induced by the threats and the lying representations of the Yankees to run away, but the great majority of them stubbornly declined to abandon their homes. I am restrained by decency from attempting to narrate all the abominable outrages which many unfortunate women have been the victims of in this last campaign—outrages so horrible that we ought to blush now at the thought of having lived in amity and under the same Government with such fiends incarnate. Four of these Vandals entered the house of a gentleman in King William County. He was away at the time, but his wife and daughter had not had time to effect their escape. They were immediately seized upon, and every description of brutal indignity was offered them. Their shrieks were happily heard by some of the negroes, who rushed to the rescue just in time to save them from the hands of the detestable Northern savages. The two women were locked up in a safe place by the slaves, who, in order to mollify the incensed Yankees, laid before them all the edibles and drinkables that were in the house. In the meantime one of the 'darkies' ran to the headquarters of General Fitzhugh Lee, informed him of what had taken place, and the General sent a troop of cavalry under the guidance of the faithful slave to the house. It was surrounded, and the Yankee wretches were bagged whilst gorging: a rope was procured, and they were forthwith hanged on a neighbouring tree!

Things have come to such a pass now that forbearance ceases to be a virtue. The coarse and brutal natures of the Northern people are incapable of appreciating patience and moderation; in fact, impunity only renders them more ferocious and more malignant. Reprisals have therefore become absolutely necessary, and it is only by striking terror into their black souls that these enormities can be stopped. These excesses of the enemy have so exasperated the people of the South that old men and the gentlest women all clamour for retribution. The Government is very much blamed for its weakness in submitting to Yankee barbarities, and in not taking an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

I went yesterday to visit the battle-field of Cold Harbour, where the Yankees are said to have lost 12,000 men. The battle had raged there about a month ago, and yet the ground was strewn with the corpses of Yankee soldiers festering in the broiling sun. The carnage must have been awful, for, within the space of about ten square yards, I counted no less than thirty dead bodies clothed in the Federal uniform. In some cases the flesh had been gnawed away and the skeletons alone remained, covered by Lincoln's detestable livery. On some parts of the field the dead were literally heaped up like stones. Perched on these mounds of human putrefaction were the sleek and sluggish buzzards of Virginia engaged in hideous orgies. Like the 'shoddy contractors' of the North, they too have grown fat on the war. This last campaign of Grant's must have met with *their* approval, for never has the army of the Potomac supplied them with such copious meals. Accoutrements and muskets were lying about in all directions, mixed up with cooking utensils and every description of *débris*. Notwithstanding these indisputable signs of a precipitate retreat, Grant and his employers have the unblushing audacity to claim a victory at Cold Harbour. The scene of desolation was heartrending: fields which before this deadly struggle were covered with waving crops are now trampled under foot and devastated; the houses in the vicinity are battered down and abandoned; and the poor farmers will have nothing to gather

this year but Yankee carcases mowed down by Southern musketry.

My guide and companion on this sad expedition was a young Frenchman, who lost an arm in one of the fights in the West. As we were rambling over the battle-field, we fell in with two stragglers belonging to Grant's army. One of them had broken down, and was lying down almost dead with thirst and heat. Although tales of Northern ruthlessness were fresh upon my memory, I could not refrain from giving him some restoratives in the shape of a little whisky and water and a little liquid ginger, which is said to be an excellent thing for this climate. His comrade professed to be very contrite, and told me that he had been entrapped when drunk into the service, and that a few days after his impressment he had been sent down to fight the South. He appeared very anxious to be taken prisoner, and swore solemnly that he would never reenter the army. I had sallied out with the intention of joining the rear of Lee's army, but after hunting about for it all day we met a cavalryman, who told us that the whole of '*Massa Bob's*' force had crossed the James River in order to confront the 'invincible Ulysses,' who had again changed his base. So we determined to retrace our steps to Richmond, and the next morning I left in a sutler's wagon for Petersburg, where General Lee has established his headquarters. The railroad to that place had been cut by the enemy; therefore I had to choose this mode of locomotion, which was none of the pleasantest, seeing that the heat was intense and the dust exceeded anything of the kind I had ever suffered before. I reached Petersburg after a journey of ten hours, and made straight for the headquarters of the great commander; but aides-de-camp and orderlies were rushing in and out so frantically that I thought this was not a seasonable occasion for an humble individual like myself to ask for an interview. I had brought out a letter of introduction from Mr. W. C. Rives (whose kindness, let me tell you *en passant*, I shall never forget) to General Field, now commanding Hood's famous division of Texans and Georgians, and so I determined to shape my course towards his division. In order to do so I had to make many enquiries, but the civilians were too much flurried to give me much information, for the Yankees were shelling the city at the time, and the noisy projectiles were tumbling about in a very alarming manner. I saw one in particular fall through the roof of the Yankee hospital, and the shriek which followed the explosion was the most awful I have ever heard. I don't know how long I would have been obliged to 'loaf' about had I not met a civil young soldier, who kindly volunteered to show me the way to Field's division. As he belonged to a Georgian brigade in that command, I followed him, and he first took me to his own regiment, which, not having formed yet into line of battle, was taking it easy *pro tem.* in a cosy little valley well sheltered from the enemy's artillery. There I was asked by some of the privates to partake of their supper. The warm-hearted fellows pressed me so much that I consented to pitch into their grub—not, however, without some compunction, as I thought of the harrowing stories of starvation amongst the soldiers which have grieved us ever since this war commenced. But my scruples were soon quieted when I perceived that they had plenty of corn-meal out of which they made capital cakes, an abundance of bacon and vegetables, and very fair coffee. After supper my good-natured guide showed me the way to General Field's headquarters. I had a few moments of very interesting conversation with the General, who is a very gentlemanly and well-informed man. He gave me permission to visit his lines. When we started for our breastworks, night had come, and skirmishing was going on all along the front; consequently our progress thither was, to say the least, very exciting, for Minie balls whistled every now and then close to our ears, and shells burst, as I thought, very near to us. At last we reached the trenches. There I sat some time chatting with the Texans, who seem to be a jovial set of fellows and utterly unmindful of cannon-balls and rifle bullets. Crack-crack went the enemy's rifles, and yet my Texan friends laughed and talked as unconcernedly as if they were enjoying themselves in a *café*. The enemy made an attack upon our right that night, and were repulsed with great loss, losing 1,600 prisoners. It is evident that, after the frightful carnage of the past six weeks, they no longer charge our breastworks with any *élan*. The Southern troops are dead tired of burrowing like moles in holes and trenches. They want to meet the foe in the open, and to drive off Grant as they did M'Clellan. I am happy to say that so far my health is capital, although the heat is the most terrific I have ever experienced. It is in the room in which I am writing no less than 105 degrees, and yet it is supposed to be in the shade. *Mais hélas!* I have come to the end of my last sheet, and so I must say adieu to you, my dearest, dearest mother. With kind remembrances to you all, I fondly embrace you.

GENERAL S. D. LEE'S TROOPS.—The following is a congratulatory order from Lieutenant-General Lee to his troops:—'Headquarters, Department of Alabama, Mississippi and East Tennessee. Meridian, Mississippi, July 20, 1864.—General Orders, No. 96.—The Lieutenant-General expresses his thanks to the officers and soldiers engaged in the recent active operations in North Mississippi for their gallantry, endurance, and cheerfulness. All did their duty, and are entitled to praise. The result is, that a well-equipped army of 16,000 veteran troops, under the command of a general of experience, carefully organised to overwhelm the gallant Forrest, and desolate the State of Mississippi, has been discomfited and compelled to retreat before your impetuous attack, well knowing the futility of advance in the face of so gallant and determined a foe. Though all performed their duty well, the General, nevertheless, thinks special praise should be given to the Kentucky Brigade, and Bell's Tennessee Brigade, of Buford's Division; Rucker's Tennessee Brigade, of Chalmer's Division; Maury's Mississippi Brigade; and the artillery under Captain Mouton. To the desperate gallantry of these troops on the 14th, and their tenacity under a galling fire, is to be attributed the discomfiture of the enemy more than to any other cause. Many of your companions have sunk to honourable graves, sacrifices to our sacred cause. Peace be with them! To you, their former companions, they have left the legacy of their brave deeds, which must ever command your admiration and that of the army, and the gratitude of the country. Let us endeavour to emulate their valour. They have died the death of the soldier, the most honourable that falls to the lot of man.—S. D. LEE, Lieutenant-General.—P. ELLIS, Jr., A. A. G.

ONE VOLUNTEER.—The first and only volunteer recruited in Springfield, Massachusetts, to count upon the quota under the new call, appeared lately, in a stalwart Englishman, over six feet tall, and a man whom the examining surgeon declared perfectly free from blemish. He has been for several years in the British service.—*New York Paper.*

THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE following report, presenting a general view of the finances of the United States of America, as well as of the growth of the public debt, and the increased expenditure entailed by the war, has been made by Mr. Stuart, Her Majesty's Secretary of Legation, and is dated February 22, 1864. Mr. Stuart has drawn his statistics from the reports presented to Congress by Mr. Chase for 1861, 1862, and 1863, as well as the report for 1860 of Mr. Chase's predecessor, Mr. Cobb:—

The financial year in the United States begins on July 1, and ends on June 30, and it receives its numerical designation for the year in which it ends—the year 1864, for example, signifying the year ending on June 30, 1864. In converting American into English money, I have taken the usual par of exchange, namely, $4·87 to each *l.* sterling, and, to the best of my belief, the only inaccuracies will be found in the units of pounds sterling, owing to my not having converted the fractions of dollars or odd cents into shillings.

The following will show the amount of the public debt and of the interest paid thereupon at the end of each of the last four financial years:—In 1860, the public debt was 13,299,733*l.*, bearing an interest of 650,372*l.*; in 1861, debt 18,658,691*l.*, interest 821,390*l.*; in 1862, debt 105,587,509*l.*, interest 2,708,485*l.*; and in 1863, debt 225,624,383*l.*, interest 5,077,997*l.* The same statistics for the current year and for 1865, according to Mr. Chase's estimates for those years, will give the following results:—For 1864, public debt 346,397,667*l.*, interest payable 12,148,898*l.*; for 1865, debt 458,302,913*l.*, interest 17,533,403*l.*

The following shows the receipts from all sources, including loans, and the expenditure during each of the years, those for 1864 and 1865 being, of course, only estimated as the probable amounts by Mr. Secretary Chase:—In 1860 the receipts were 16,651,192*l.*, and the expenditure 15,905,975*l.*; in 1861, receipts 17,830,780*l.*, expenditure 17,367,317*l.*; in 1862, receipts 119,894,301*l.*, expenditure 117,215,954*l.*; in 1863, receipts 185,036,072*l.*, expenditure 183,941,813*l.*; for 1864 the estimated receipts are 155,147,536*l.*, the estimated expenditure 153,949,067*l.*; and for 1865, estimated receipts 42,471,568*l.*, estimated expenditure 154,376,814*l.* With regard to the returns for 1863, Mr. Chase explains that 37,183,087*l.*, included in both receipts and expenditure, were borrowed for the payment of the existing funded and temporary debt, and were spent accordingly. The estimated receipts for 1865 do not include those which will be acquired from loans. The next tables will show the different sources of the revenue, and the several purposes to which it has been applied, during each of the same years:—

1860.—Revenue: Balance on July 1, 1859, 891,021*l.*; customs, 10,921,460*l.*; public lands, 365,206*l.*; miscellaneous, 207,549*l.*; loans, 1,265,954*l.*; total means, 16,651,190*l.* Expenditure: Civil service and miscellaneous, 5,743,299*l.*; pensions and Indians, 812,255*l.*; war department, 3,369,562*l.*; navy department, 2,364,096*l.*; interest and redemption of public debt, 3,616,761*l.*; total expenditure, 15,905,973*l.*

1861.—Revenue: Balance on July 1, 1860, 745,216*l.*; customs, 8,127,746*l.*; public lands, 178,779*l.*; miscellaneous, 183,203*l.*; loans, 8,595,833*l.*; total means, 17,830,777*l.* Expenditure: Civil service and miscellaneous, 1,761,231*l.*; pensions and Indians, 772,078*l.*; war department, 4,718,921*l.*; navy department, 2,552,069*l.*; interest and redemption of public debt, 4,563,015*l.*; total expenditure, 17,367,314*l.*

1862.—Revenue: Balance on July 1, 1861, 463,460*l.*; customs, 10,073,182*l.*; lands, 31,253*l.*; miscellaneous, 191,332*l.*; direct tax, 368,651*l.*; loans, 108,766,118*l.*; total means, 119,894,296*l.* Expenditure: Civil service and miscellaneous, 4,395,994*l.*; pensions and Indians, 637,163*l.*; war department, 80,979,139*l.*; navy department, 8,762,745*l.*; interest and redemption of public debt, 22,440,912*l.*; total expenditure, 117,215,953*l.*

1863.—Revenue: Balance on July 1, 1862, 2,678,346*l.*; customs, 14,180,624*l.*; lands, 34,118*l.*, miscellaneous, 625,588*l.*; direct tax, 394,949*l.*; internal revenue, 7,729,114*l.*; loans, 159,183,031*l.*; total means, 185,036,070*l.* Expenditure: Civil service and miscellaneous, 4,774,932*l.*; pensions and Indians, 865,815*l.*; war department, 123,059,260*l.*; navy department, 12,979,693*l.*; interest and redemption of public debt, 42,262,111*l.*; total expenditure, 183,941,811*l.*

1864 (Estimated).—Revenue: Balance on July 1, 1863, 1,094,259*l.*; customs, 14,899,798*l.*; lands, 89,565*l.*; miscellaneous, 1,158,427*l.*; internal duties, 15,934,232*l.*; loans, 121,971,252*l.*; total means, 155,147,533*l.* Expenditure: Civil service and miscellaneous, 7,036,511*l.*; pensions and Indians, 1,609,920*l.*; war department, 181,823,308*l.*; navy department, 23,199,011*l.*; interest on public debt, 12,148,898*l.*; total expenditure, 225,817,648*l.*

These estimates are based on the actual receipts and disbursements for the first quarter, and on opinions formed upon probable events and conditions as to the other quarters. But as they include all unexpended balances of appropriations from former years, Mr. Chase is of opinion that there may safely be deducted from the aggregate of estimated expenditures, as likely to remain unexpended at the close of the fiscal year 1864, the sum of 71,868,583*l.*, leaving—total means, 155,147,533*l.*; total expenditure, 153,949,065*l.*

It should also be mentioned that the amount received from loans and transferred to the redemption of the public debt is not included in these figures, as was the case in the figures for 1863.

1865 (Estimated).—Revenue: Estimated balance on July 1, 1864, 1,198,468*l.*; customs, 14,373,716*l.*; lands, 205,338*l.*; miscellaneous, 1,026,694*l.*; internal duties, 25,667,351*l.*; total means, 42,471,567*l.* Expenditure: Balance of former unexpended appropriations, 71,868,583*l.*; civil service and miscellaneous, 5,713,982*l.*; pensions and Indians, 1,977,680*l.*; war department, 110,103,516*l.*; navy department, 29,285,171*l.*; interest on debt, 17,533,403*l.*; total expenditure, 236,512,335*l.*

But from these expenditures Mr. Chase calculates that there may be deducted, as likely to remain unexpended at the close of the fiscal year 1865, the sum of 82,135,523*l.*, which would leave:—Total means, 42,471,567*l.*; total expenditure, 154,376,812*l.*, or a deficit of 111,905,245*l.*, to be provided for by loans in the course of that year. The average annual expenditure at the present rate may be set down in round numbers at about 150,000,000*l.*; and of this sum about 133,000,000*l.* may be considered the annual cost of the war.

It will now be interesting to show the extent to which Congress has provided the means required for the prosecution of the war, and how far the Secretary of the Treasury has availed himself of the extraordinary powers which have been intrusted to him. The calculation has been made easy by a table which Mr. Chase has annexed to his last report, giving a synopsis of the various Acts of Congress by which loans have been authorised, and showing the amounts authorised as well as those respectively issued in virtue of such Acts. Taking these collectively since the commencement of the war, it appears that during the period between July 1861, and March 1863, Congress authorised loans to the amount of 268,993,839*l.*, exclusive of an unspecified amount of certificates of indebtedness, payable in one year from date, and bearing interest at the rate of 6 per cent. No less than 104,722,792*l.* of the above might be issued in United States legal tender notes bearing no interest, or in fractional currency; and the amount of such notes actually outstanding on June 30, 1863, appears to have been 84,433,278*l.*, and on September 30, 1863, 86,760,837*l.* Of the interest-bearing debt raised during the same period by Mr. Chase, and outstanding on June 30, 1863, were 122,532,912*l.*, and on September 30, 1863, 145,595,635*l.* These sums include respectively 32,193,889*l.*, and 32,221,445*l.* issued in certificates of indebtedness. The total amount of debt, therefore, actually raised from loans during the two years ending on June 30, 1863, and outstanding at that date, was 206,966,190*l.*, and the addition made to it up to September 30, 1863, raised it at the latter date to 232,356,472*l.*, and the entire outstanding debt at the same date to 250,947,342*l.*

It has been seen that Mr. Secretary Chase estimates that on June 30 next the total debt will amount to 346,397,667*l.*, an increase of 135,055,236*l.* during the current year; and that on June 30, 1865, it will amount to 458,302,913*l.*, a further increase of 111,905,246*l.* The total amount added to the public debt during the four years ending on June 30, 1865, will be no less than 439,644,222*l.*, according to Mr. Chase's present calculation. Mr. Chase does not appear to anticipate much difficulty in raising loans to the required amount for the services of the present and of next year. But as he admits that the issue of United States notes and fractional currency cannot be further materially augmented without evil consequences of the most serious character, almost the whole of the necessary loans must henceforth belong to the interest-bearing portion of the debt. And as Mr. Chase estimates the interest payable in 1865 at 17,533,403*l.*, upon the debt which would be only gradually approaching, and which would not reach its maximum until the end of that fiscal year, the future annual charge for interest upon the debt then contracted will perhaps scarcely fall far short of 20,000,000*l.* So far the measures adopted for raising the required loan have been certainly ingenious, and on the whole successful, if immediate wants and convenience are to be considered without reference to future liabilities. Nearly one-half of the loans already contracted may be said to have been raised by the issue of paper money, the extraordinary influx of which has to a great extent enabled the public to take the other half as preferable, from its bearing interest, to the retention of non-interest-bearing notes. The exchange of these notes for bonds is therefore very popular; and as the notes thus return into the hands of the Government, and thence again into circulation, their exchange may be several times repeated, although probably each time in a smaller proportion, or realising less from increasing depreciation. After various fluctuations, caused sometimes by extravagant speculations and their consequent panics, and at other times by the news of victories or disasters from the seat of war, the depreciation has latterly averaged about 50 per cent. as compared with the value of gold. (By the latest accounts the depreciation amounted to within a fraction of 60 per cent.*) In the meantime, and notwithstanding that such a depreciation represents a corresponding increase in the amount of duties charged upon imports, these duties being exclusively payable in specie, the increase of imports has latterly required a continuous export of specie, and the abundance of the harvests of last year in Europe renders it unlikely that the balance of trade can for some time to come be in favour of the United States. Specie must therefore become more and more scarce, and the United States Government will find increasing difficulty in continuing to pay the interest required for the debt in specie, as stipulated. The most popular loans have been those known as 'Seven-thirties' and 'Five-twenties;' the former so called from the rate of interest being at $7 30c. per cent., and the latter from being redeemable at any time after five or within twenty years from date. The interest upon these latter bonds is at the rate of 6 per cent., payable in specie (and therefore equal to above 9 per cent.† in the present depreciated currency); and so rapid has been their distribution, that although on June 30, 1863, only 34,677,669*l.* were outstanding, the secretary states that on December 1 81,917,947*l.* had been taken, or within 20,751,457*l.*, the total issue authorised by Congress. It is now stated that the whole amount has since been taken. The distribution was made as general and as widely extended as possible, by the employment of a general agent and subagencies in different parts of the country; and the bonds were in denominations of $50, $100, $500, and $1,000. Another measure employed was the receipt of temporary loans in the form of deposits, reimbursable after a few days' notice at an interest not exceeding 5 per cent. A reserve of 10,266,940*l.*, in United States notes was provided to meet extraordinary demands for reimbursement, and at a time of great stringency at New York the secretary was enabled to relieve the pressure by reimbursing more than that amount of deposits within a few weeks. The limit to these deposits had been fixed at double the amount of the reserved fund, but it had been somewhat exceeded at one time, before the flow could be effectually checked, and Mr. Chase is now of opinion that it may be usefully removed, provided that a reserve is always maintained equal in amount to half of the deposits. The principal measure suggested for raising further loans is that the secretary should be permitted in negotiating them to make them redeemable absolutely at pleasure, or at pleasure after a time fixed not more remote than 40 years.

It remains to notice the small proportion, as compared with the expenditure or with the sums raised from loans, of the revenue of the country derived from taxation or from sources other than loans. The actual revenue so derived, including the proceeds of customs duties, the sale of lands, internal duties, &c., amounted to only 10,664,418*l.* during the fiscal year 1862, or to about an eleventh part of the total expenditure, and during 1863 to 22,874,693*l.*, or to about one-eighth of the expenditure. The estimates for 1864 and 1865 respectively count upon receiving 32,082,022*l.*, or about one-fifth of the expenditure for the former, and 41,273,099*l.*, or somewhat less than one-fourth of the expenditure for the latter year, from ordinary revenue; but hitherto the actual receipts from taxation have fallen very far short of the estimates. For instance, in 1863, the internal revenue and the income tax together only produced 8,034,063*l.*, instead of the sum of 19,933,680*l.* expected by Mr. Chase. The estimates for 1865, both as to revenue and expenditure, are acknowledged to be necessarily general and uncertain. The amount which the Secretary originally desired to

* By the accounts received per *Africa* from New York, August 18, the depreciation is reported to amount to 157½ per cent.

† Now equal to nearly 15¼ per cent.

raise annually from the internal revenue during the war was 30,810,823*l.*, and he still presses for the enactment of laws which will secure an increase to that amount; and with this object he supports the recommendations of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue for increasing the tax on bank-note circulation, the duties on distilled spirits, on tobacco, on crude petroleum, and on cotton, and for repealing the drawbacks on tobacco and petroleum. These proposals, and others originated by individual members of Congress, are being taken into consideration during the present session.

RELIGION IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY.

At the annual meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, lately held in Richmond, the following report was read by the Rev. A. E. Dickinson, the General Superintendent of army colportage:—

'The year through which we have just passed has been replete with tokens of the Divine approval of our work. Many have become obedient in the faith, and are now looking forward to a blessed immortality, who, at your last annual meeting, were far from God by wicked works. It may be questioned whether the world has ever before witnessed a more genuine and thorough work of grace. From the reports which have thus far been received, we feel authorised to state that not less than fifteen hundred soldiers have been baptised by the brethren in the employ of this Board. Of course, many more converted through their instrumentality have united with other denominations. Surely the Baptists of Virginia may well thank God and take courage, as they review the history of this great movement, originating, as it did, at our annual meeting three years ago, and spreading far and wide, until now in almost every encampment and in every hospital are to be found those over whom "there is joy in the presence of the angels of God."

'We have thus far published over one hundred tracts, many of which have been so well received that they have been republished by other societies. Over nineteen millions of pages have been printed during the past year, while during the war we have published and distributed fifty millions and eight hundred and seventy thousand pages. Besides, we have published one hundred thousand copies of a little volume of "Hymns for the Camps." This selection is now very generally used by chaplains of all denominations throughout the army.

'We have been favoured with the cooperation of some of our most efficient pastors, who have laboured with remarkable success in protracted meetings and in supplying destitute regiments with the Word of Life. Very many of those who have learned to love the Saviour will, through eternity, hold in grateful remembrance the sermons and exhortations of these evangelists.

'In order to secure to the chaplaincy some of our most gifted ministers, whose pecuniary condition was such that the Government pay was not sufficient for their support, we have, in certain cases, supplemented the salaries of chaplains. Thus a number of excellent ministers have been induced to enter the field of usefulness, who, but for this arrangement, would have been denied the luxury of publishing the tidings of salvation to our gallant soldiers.

'At various points, contiguous to the several departments of our forces, we have kept up depositories, by means of which a vast amount of religious literature has been judiciously distributed.

'At Orange Court House, an establishment of this character, under the superintendence of Rev. C. F. Fry, has effected great good. Almost every hour, while the army was in Orange, a dozen or more soldiers would call at this little tract house to select for themselves and for their comrades suitable reading matter. In addition to this, by looking after all the boxes and packages sent from various parts of the country to the chaplains and missionaries, brother Fry has forwarded to their destination thousands of papers and pamphlets which otherwise would have been lost to the army. A Methodist chaplain indicates the appreciation in which this Tract Depository is held by the remark, that "it had grown to be an institution without which the chaplains could not get along in their work."

'In Atlanta we have a similar establishment, superintended by Rev. H. C. Hornady, by means of which many millions of life-giving pages have been sent into the Western army. During the past year we have had in our employ ninety missionaries. It has pleased the Lord of the harvest to give them many souls for their hire. But much remains to be done. Thousands of those who are defending our homes and altars rarely ever hear a sermon. Scores of regiments are without chaplains. The revival spirit so abounds in the army that souls are saved by almost every exhibition of the gospel. Veterans who have a hundred times stood firm in the mighty shock of battle, and who are sacrificing everything for their country, are trembling because of the wrath of God, and, with streaming eyes, they beg that the ministers of the Lord Jesus may come to their rescue. Shall that appeal be made in vain?'

VASTNESS OF TERRITORY A BAR TO CONQUEST.—Modern history furnishes no parallel in illustration of the work of conquering a great region like the South. The Russian campaign of Napoleon does not constitute any analogy in reference to the immensity of the Confederacy; but even that, all the world knows, resulted in disaster referable simply to distances. Under the light then of the only similar case on record, and that greatly inferior in all the geographical conditions of defeat, advance into a territory so extensive cannot be regarded as conquest. Has advance into the South proved practically to have promoted the work of subjugation? How often have we pressed forward into the Valley of Virginia to abandon it again, even to the line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad? How often have we gone forward in immense breadth from the Potomac, sweeping onward to Gordonsville, and yet is not our dominion in all Eastern Virginia confined, after all, to the circle of certain earthworks on the Lower James? Has advance from Vicksburg been conquest? What permanent result has been accomplished toward subjugation by advances from Memphis? The forward movements beyond the Mississippi have left the work of conquest in Louisiana undone beyond a narrow circle of posts around New Orleans! Our marches onward through Arkansas, sweeping everything before them, have resulted in placing the Confederate, to-day, absolute masters of the State. The lines that swept into Florida have accomplished nothing towards its conquest. Hunter's movements in South Carolina have left that State still free. Burnside's campaign in North Carolina has done very little in permanent result toward the accomplishment of the tremendous work of Southern subjugation.—*New York Paper.*

THE SEIZURE OF THE 'GEORGIA.'

(From the *Liverpool Daily Courier.*)

THE most erroneous statements have been circulated with regard to the seizure of the *Georgia* by the *Niagara*. These errors have been promulgated by Federal agents and sympathisers, evidently for the purpose of allaying the excitement which the outrage has occasioned, and, if possible, to prejudice in the public mind the position of her owner, Mr. Edward Bates. The perfect good faith and candour with which Mr. Bates has acted in reference to the *Georgia* is the best answer to these misstatements. The more fully the facts become known the more unwarrantable will appear the seizure of the vessel; and it is, no doubt, the knowledge of this circumstance that has prompted the circulation of the errors in question. It has been asserted in some quarters that the seizure was made with the cognisance and sanction of the British Government. This is simply untrue. The commander of the *Niagara* has acted solely on his own responsibility, and in accordance with the orders of his Government. It has also been alleged that Mr. Bates was not a *bonâ fide* purchaser, and that the vessel was still intended for the Confederate service. These statements, *cum multis aliis*, are likewise mere fiction.

But it is needless to go through all the specious misrepresentations. They will be best refuted by a simple ungarnished explanation of the facts. Mr. Bates has nothing to conceal as to his connection with the *Georgia*, because all his dealings with her have been characterised by the same rectitude and frankness which have raised him to the first rank among Liverpool shipowners. He is well known to have scrupulously avoided any partisanship in the American war, and has never had the slightest interest in the blockade business. To suggest that he intended to use the *Georgia* for the benefit of the Confederates is contrary both to fact and experience. When seized she was on a peaceful mission, fitted out as an ordinary merchantman. She bore the English flag and was registered at an English custom-house, and was therefore entitled to all the privileges of a neutral trader.

The history of the *Georgia* since she came into the Mersey may be told with the utmost candour, and is briefly this:—As she had ceased to be useful as a man-of-war, she was offered for sale by the Confederate Government, who had previously dismantled her and removed all warlike weapons and stores. Having entered into negotiations for her purchase, Mr. Bates communicated with the custom-house authorities as to the manner in which they would regard the vessel. Mr. Price Edwards, the collector, acting on instructions received from London, informed Mr. Bates that he would be able to obtain a register for the ship when he applied for it. Upon this assurance—and Mr. Bates would have had nothing to do with the vessel unless he was assured that she would be registered as a British ship—the purchase was completed on June 2nd last; the necessary formalities were gone through to the satisfaction of the collector of customs, and the *Georgia* was accordingly registered on June 30 as a British ship, in the name of Mr. Bates.

The new owner had therefore taken all proper precautions to see that his title was indisputable, and careful scrutiny left no ground to suppose that the slightest difficulty would occur. Negotiations were then entered into between Mr. Bates and the representatives in England of the Portuguese Government, who were desirous of engaging a steamer to proceed to Lisbon, and thence to the Portuguese settlements on the West Coast of Africa. These negotiations resulted in the engagement of the *Georgia* upon terms which are explained in the charter-party. We have seen the original charter-party, dated July 28, and may thus summarise its chief clauses:—

The agreement is between Edward Bates, owner of the good screw steamship called the *Georgia*, of 648 tons gross register and 200 horse-power; and Mr. F. J. Van Zeller, on behalf of the Portuguese Government. It provides that the said vessel or steamer, being tight, staunch, and strong, and in every way fitted for the voyage or service, with the full complement of officers, seamen, engineers, and firemen, adapted to a merchant steamer of her class and tonnage, shall be placed under the directions of the said charterer, or merchant, or his assigns, to be by him or them employed for the conveyance of lawful merchandise, except sugar, molasses, or any article injurious to an iron ship—of course twenty tons each of sugar and molasses or any quantity of copper the ship can carry is not objected to—as follows:—From Liverpool to Lisbon, and from thence to Cape de Verds, principe S. Thomé, Vanguella, Loando, Massamada, Ambriz, and return to Lisbon, calling at the above ports on the return to Lisbon. There are the usual stipulations as to hire and management, and the agreement proceeds:—'The vessel to be consigned to the Companhia Luzitana at Lisbon, and to their agents at all the ports of call, free of commission or charges of whatsoever kind, owners taking down bulk-heads in after-cabin, except last; making saloon an open one; berths 'tween decks aft to be taken down by owners, and the charterers allowed the use of material forming same to put up berths for twenty second-class passengers; after-cabins to be properly painted a light colour; vessel to be ready for delivery to charterers on or before August 1 next, or sooner if ready: the coal bunkers in the hold available for cargo if required.' The charter-party also sets forth that it is 'distinctly understood and agreed between the parties that the owner does not provide any servants, stewards, or any other party to wait upon the passengers or any one connected with the charterers,' and that the 'owner only provides provisions and water for his own crew; passengers or their servants or followers are to be found in everything eatable or drinkable, or in any other way (save as specified to the contrary), by the charterers.'

This document on the face of it indicates an ordinary mercantile transaction, and is the strongest refutation of the allegation that Mr. Bates was engaged in any doubtful enterprise, in which the Portuguese Government was made a decoy-duck. In fulfilment of the charter-party the vessel was got ready for sea, and took on board 434 tons of coal belonging to the Portuguese Government. This was the only cargo embarked, and Mr. Bates had nothing of his own on board except the usual ship stores and provisions for the crew. The *Georgia's* name was never changed, as there was not the least desire to conceal her original character, and she was registered as the British ship *Georgia*. She was placed under the command of Captain Widdycombe, and her crew were shipped for a commercial voyage in the usual course of business. It is said that Captain Widdycombe is an old blockade-runner. This is a gross misrepresentation. For the last sixteen years he has been in the uninterrupted employment of Mr. Bates, and exclusively engaged in trading between the Mersey and India and China.

The *Georgia* was ready to sail on the 5th, and the circumstances attending her detention are generally known. But the official correspondence between Mr. Bates and the Portuguese authorities throws considerable light on the manner in which the former regarded the threatening attitude of the *Niagara* on her visit to the Mersey. So convinced was he that the Federal frigate would not dare to seize a British merchantman that he characterised the report as 'old women's talk,' and professed his readiness to send the ship to sea notwithstanding the threats of the Federal cruiser. In accordance with this determination, Mr. Bates—who had full confidence in the power and will of Great Britain to support her authority over her own mercantile marine—did actually despatch the vessel as soon as he had the orders of the Portuguese Consul-General to that effect. The following communications speak for themselves, and may be relied upon as genuine, as we copy from the originals, which have been placed at our service without reserve:—

Mr. E. Bates, Liverpool.

Liverpool, Aug. 5, 1864.

Sir,—I have received instructions from my Minister in London to detain the *Georgia* (s.s.) until further orders.—I am, sir, yours respectfully,

ALVARO CARNEIRO GERALDES,
Acting Consul for Portugal.

(Telegram.)
From Van Zeller, Consul-General, London, to Edward Bates, Rumford Place, Liverpool.

6-8-'64.

I have just heard from Liverpool. *Niagara* waiting to capture *Georgia* outside English waters. If you are afraid I will cancel charter, you returning charter money, and pay for coals, &c. Otherwise, send her to sea at once.

(Telegram.) Aug. 6, 1864.
Edward Bates, Liverpool, to Van Zeller, Consul-General Portugal, London.

I am not afraid. Only old women's talk. Send orders from your Minister, and ship shall go to sea.

(Telegram.) Aug. 6, 1864.
From Van Zeller, London, to Edward Bates, Liverpool.

Send the *Georgia* to sea at once.

(Telegram.) Aug. 6, 1864.
Edward Bates, Liverpool, to Van Zeller, Consul-General, Portugal, London.

Your telegram to hand. Must have orders from Portuguese Minister through Liverpool Consulate, as the order for detention came through same channel. Get this done immediately, or *Georgia* will not sail.

Portuguese Consulate, 42 South John Street,
Liverpool, Aug. 8, 1864.

E. Bates, Esq., Liverpool.

Sir,—I have just received an official letter from my Minister in London, who orders me to tell you to send the *Georgia* as soon as you have orders from the Consul-General in London to do so.—I have the honour to be, sir, yours very respectfully,

ALVARO CARNEIRO GERALDES,
Acting Consul for Portugal.

(Telegram.) Portugal, Aug. 8, 1864.
Edward Bates, Liverpool, to Consul-General, London.

I have just received orders to let *Georgia* sail on receiving your orders. Please send them at once.

(Telegram.) Rumford Place, Aug. 8, 1864.
Van Zeller, London, to Edward Bates, Liverpool.

Send steamer to sea at once.

Portuguese Consulate, 42 South John Street,
Liverpool, Aug. 8, 1864.

E. Bates, Esq., Liverpool.

Sir,—As I have to inform my Minister of the precise time of the departure of the steamer *Georgia*, I request you to inform me by writing of same as soon as she sails.—I remain, sir, yours respectfully,

ALVARO CARNEIRO GERALDES,
Acting Consul for Portugal.

The subsequent history of the *Georgia* is soon told. She sailed from Liverpool on the 8th inst., and proceeded on her voyage under the British flag; but off Lisbon, on the 15th inst., she was seized by the *Niagara*, which was cruising about for the purpose of intercepting her. The *Georgia* is now on her passage to Boston, Massachusetts, in charge of a prize crew. It is a novel thing for a British ship, with a *bonâ fide* British register on board, and admittedly engaged in legitimate commerce, to be forcibly taken possession of, and sent into a prize court, upon the shallow pretext that at some former period, and while under different ownership, she was engaged in hostilities against the Federal States. Neither Mr. Bates nor the Portuguese Government can submit to this audacious appropriation of their property. It rests with the British Government to set Mr. Bates right; his property has been seized in violation of all lawful authority, and as his injury will be immediately laid before the Foreign Office, the Government must take prompt measures not only to recover the ship herself, but also to obtain suitable compensation for the injury.

THE M'CLELLAN RESOLUTIONS.

THE following resolutions were adopted at the meeting held in New York on August 10:—

Whereas, The line of policy adopted by the chief magistrate of the nation is in opposition to the plain injunctions of the Constitution and his own inaugural declaration, and, under the specious plea of military necessity, he has commenced a system of direct encroachment upon the rights of the States and the people in making arbitrary arrests—in striking down the freedom of speech and the press, and abolishing the right of *habeas corpus* where rebellion does not exist—in a fanatical attempt to force an equality social and political between races naturally different—in disfranchisement—in holding the electoral vote of States subject to his personal ambition, in defiance of the authority of Congress—and has created a general distrust of his ability to carry the nation safely through the arduous conflict in which it is now engaged; And

Whereas, What is now wanting to settle this war, is the election of a President who will administer the Government in the spirit of its founders, and afford an opportunity for the people of the South to return to the Union with rights under the Constitution; Therefore

Resolved, First. That the only hope for remedying existing evils is in a change in the Administration, and an abandonment of its policy.

Second. That the salvation of the country now depends on the determination of the people to elect the men of their choice, and it is incumbent upon and the paramount duty of members of party conventions to ignore all disputed questions of policy, and, in the selection of candidates, to regard the plainly-expressed wishes of the masses they are delegated to represent.

Third. That success in the election, in opposition to the powerful combinations of this administration, depends upon the popularity of the candidate with the army, and the final selection must, therefore, fall on one of the great soldiers who has distinguished himself in defence of the principles upon which the government was founded.

Resolved, That in Major-General George B. M'Clellan we recognise those sterling qualities which characterise the true patriot, soldier, statesman, and gentleman, and which will ensure an administration alike elevating to the nation and creditable to the civilisation of the age; and while we would not disparage the claims of his brother soldiers, we but reiterate the voice of the million which comes upon the wings of the wind from every part of the land, when we declare him the embodiment of the hopes, as he is the choice of the American people.

Resolved, That our sympathies are deeply enlisted for our brave soldiers in the field, and that we long for the return of the day when, by ballots instead of bullets, we can maintain the Constitution and the Union, and restore to our country the inestimable blessings of an honourable peace.

Resolved, That we earnestly recommend the friends of M'Clellan to hold immediate meetings in every city and county, and give expression to their views as to his nomination by the approaching convention, or by the people, and that they assemble in mass convention at Chicago on Saturday, 27th instant, at 12 o'clock, noon, to take such action as may best unite the conservative elements in the coming campaign.

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 13 Bouverie Street, E.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1864.

The War News.

THE worst is known about Mobile, and it was contained in the brief telegraphic announcement from General MAURY. In all probability FARRAGUT'S success will end with his first day's triumph; and the siege of Mobile, if the war lasts long enough, will become as famous in history as that of Charleston. But it must be allowed that the Federal commander did his work skilfully and gallantly. The navy of the North has had few opportunities of earning laurels; but we venture to say that its exploits, few as they are, far surpass the achievements of the land forces; and it has happened to Admiral FARRAGUT, a Southerner by birth, to have been its leader on both the occasions on which its services have been most valuable to the Federal Government—the capture of New Orleans and the passage of the sea-defences of Mobile. The entry into Mobile harbour was effected on the 5th ult. Almost at daybreak the Federal line was formed, the monitors leading, and the wooden vessels following in pairs. Every means that could be employed to strengthen them against the fire from the forts was adopted, and the experience gained at New Orleans was not thrown away. When nearly abreast of Fort Morgan, on the right of the harbour, the leading ships of the squadron slackened speed, the rearmost closed up, and then a concentrated fire from the whole squadron was poured upon the garrison of the fort. Covered by this tremendous fire, the squadron steamed past to engage the small Confederate flotilla, which bravely bore up to the encounter. One monitor, the *Tecumseh*, struck upon a torpedo, was lifted bodily out of the water, and sank with her crew. The rest pushed on to the attack. It was eight o'clock when the Federals passed Fort Morgan, and the fight lasted two hours. At the close the *Selma* had been captured, the *Morgan* and the *Gaines* had been driven under the guns of Fort Morgan, and the *Tennessee* still held out. At length the whole strength of the Federal fleet was turned against her; one vessel after another struck her at full speed, or, muzzle to muzzle, poured in her broadside, and she lowered her colours, but not until her brave commander and more than half her crew were struck down. The *Tennessee* was a river steamer hastily converted into an ironclad; yet, almost unaided, she kept a Federal fleet of some fifteen vessels at bay for two hours. When the fight was over, the *Hartford* and *Oneida* were beached to prevent their sinking; the *Chickasaw* was riddled and disabled; the *Philippe* was burnt; and the *Tecumseh* had gone to the bottom with her crew. There is no more gallant struggle on record than that of this brave little Confederate force confronting the immense superiority of the enemy, and daring a manifestly unequal fight for the honour of its flag. It would have been well if the commanders of the land defences had shown equal spirit. The entry was nothing. With the guns of Fort Gaines and Fort Morgan playing upon them, the Federal vessels would have found it as hard to get out of Mobile harbour as to enter it. But on the 8th the astounding news was telegraphed to Richmond, that Fort Gaines, with its tried garrison of 600 men and provisions for six months, had surrendered, and that Fort Powell had been blown up. We say nothing of the latter mischance. The direct passage having been effected, it mattered little whether Grant's Pass was left open or not, and probably the commander of Fort Powell acted wisely in withdrawing his troops. But for Colonel ANDERSON there is no excuse. We put out of the question the allegation of treachery; but we cannot acquit him of a want of judgment or of a pusillanimity almost amounting to treason. At the worst he might have hoped to hold out a fortnight or a month. He had the example of Fort Morgan and of Sumter before him. But from the moment that he found himself isolated, the Federal fleet in his rear and the Federal land forces on Dauphin Island threatening an assault, he seems to have decided that it was useless to fight, and he capitulated—not with the honours of war. For the honour of the Confederate army, an enquiry into this disgraceful surrender is imperatively demanded. But FARRAGUT'S work is not ended with the capture of Fort Gaines and the destruction of the Confederate flotilla. Fort Morgan still held out at the latest date; it was strongly garrisoned and provisioned for six months; it had successfully resisted a combined land and sea attack. FARRAGUT will be lucky if he can reduce it with his two remaining monitors. And when Fort Morgan is reduced, FARRAGUT will be still thirty miles from Mobile. Ten miles from the city is the bar of the Dog River, over which no vessels drawing more than eight feet of water can pass. From this point to the city his light-draught vessels would have to encounter heavy batteries at every half-mile, to raise obstructions, and to avoid torpedoes. The probability is that FARRAGUT will remain content with the reduction of the outer forts, and that he has no more notion of capturing Mobile than DAHLGREN has of occupying Charleston. In both cases 50,000 men would be needed. At the present rate of expenditure, the Federal Government can hardly afford a tithe of that number.

FARRAGUT'S success at Mobile, unproductive of results as it is, is yet the only advantage the Federals have had to boast of for months. We cannot recall a war in which the tide has flowed so evenly on one side for so long a period. The latest news at all points is unfavourable to the Northern armies. GRANT'S spasmodic diversion on the northern bank of the James River has resulted in defeat and retreat. A flourish of trumpets from Mr. STANTON for a day or two deceived the Northern public, but in forty-eight hours it was known that GRANT had only added another bloody list of casualties to the record which has already stamped him as the 'butcher of Illinois.' And now another disastrous repulse has to be recounted. GRANT is fertile in surprises, but they invariably fail. He despatches two *corps d'armée* with colours flying twenty miles down the James River, brings them back at night, and launches them against the Confederate entrenchments. Of course, they are repulsed with heavy loss. Beaten on the north of the James River, he tries the Weldon Railroad, but instead of surprising the Confederates, his army is itself surprised, attacked, and routed with a loss of 3,000 men. Meantime EARLY'S corps operates as freely as if there were no such person as GRANT in existence. The last account from the Shenandoah Valley is, that SHERIDAN, who was to carry everything before him, has been badly beaten by EARLY, and compelled to cross the Potomac, with heavy loss in men and *matériel*, and that the Confederate General with 50,000 men is once more upon the frontier of Maryland. And the North is thoroughly bewildered. LEE is ubiquitous; he despatches 20,000 men to EARLY; another 20,000 to Hood at Atlanta; he beats the Federals at Deep Bottom; he routs them on the Weldon Railroad; he draws a year's supplies from the Shenandoah, from Maryland, and Pennsylvania, and yet GRANT or President LINCOLN still hopes to capture Richmond. In the meantime matters are becoming as desperate at Atlanta as they are at Petersburg. SHERMAN makes no progress, and HOOD is reported to be assuming the offensive. On three occasions, in as many weeks, he has been the assailant; on each he has achieved the main object of his attack. He has been heavily reinforced, the Georgia militia have disposed of SHERMAN'S cavalry, and it may safely be affirmed that his operations are not now directed so much to the retention of Atlanta as to the destruction of SHERMAN'S force. We hear of General WHEELER successively at Dalton and eleven miles from Chattanooga; another Confederate force is spoken of at Cleveland. More than one cavalry fight has taken place on SHERMAN'S line of communications, terminating doubtfully for the Federals; and we confidently expect that this invasion of Georgia, conducted as it has been in the face of all military rules, will terminate in disaster.

The Tide Turning.

OUR New York correspondent gives a graphic and we feel convinced a strictly truthful account of the despondency which has seized upon the popular heart at the North, of the comparatively feeble interest which attaches even to such successes as the naval victory off Mobile, and of the hourly growing and strengthening desire for peace. We have always prophesied that if once the tide turned, it would set as rapidly and resistlessly in the opposite as in the former direction. This prophecy we based upon our knowledge of the Northern character. With a people so impressible and excitable as that of Federal America, where everybody takes an eager active part in politics, public opinion does not develop slowly as in older and more sedate communities, but in its action rather resembles the ignition of a powder magazine. On the other hand, we knew, as every one must know who has studied the physiology, so to speak, of the American war, that the tide would never turn until some event occurred outside and independent of the war, until the popular mind received some such shock as physicians in certain diseases administer with a view of producing a violent reaction. The recognition of the Confederate States by the Powers of Europe would have been such an event; and it is for this, apart from considerations of justice, that we so strongly recommended that measure while there existed a reasonable prospect of it. Fortunately, the machinery of the American Government, adapted to a quadrennial revolution, has provided another, and in many respects a more promising, chance. The approaching Presidential election is precisely such an event as may serve for the signal of a salutary reaction.

Thus far the symptoms are, upon the whole, hopeful. Newspapers of all parties, including those who have the credit of quickest intuition and most unscrupulous subservience to shifting public opinion, vie with each other in taking up the cry for peace. Public and private correspondence from every part of the Federal States reecho it. What is even more significant is, that Mr. LINCOLN himself and his advisers are charged by their opponents with manœuvring to steal for party purposes the political capital to be made out of the new cry. That such a suspicion is even possible, proves that there must be, and is known to be, a vast amount of political capital in it, and political capital, in the United States, means the favour of popular majorities.

To this extent, we repeat, the symptoms are encouraging. But unless there is that public virtue in the United States which can deal with so great a question as with something nobler and higher than mere political capital applied to party tactics, the precious opportunity may again be lost. If Democrats and Republicans fight, not for peace, but for office, and the better impulses of the people's heart are prostituted to those base uses, then the reaction which should lead to health will only have weakened still more the prostrate body politic, and the chances of recovery will be farther than ever. There are, we grieve to say, some indications of this in the recent mass-meeting at New York to nominate General M'CLELLAN. The speeches made and the resolutions passed on that occasion have an ill-omened resemblance to the make-shifts of electioneering devices. There is not in them the clear ring of genuine patriotism and lofty purpose. The man himself, in whose favour the meeting was held, is not such a one as personifies a national policy, or from whose mental and moral attributes we should expect the salvation of a suffering country. If the North means to end this war with dignity and honour, there should be no Democrats or Republicans, no talk about future party ascendency, no counting of future votes in the Senate; there should be no parties other than that for peace opposed to that for war, no issue other than that comprised in those words.

There need be no loss of self-respect in yielding to necessity and fate. There may even be grandeur in doing so. The United States have been engaged in an undertaking in which no nation ever did succeed unassisted, and in which no nation could have succeeded. The Northern people themselves, had they known the conditions of success as they now are, would never have attempted it. What is more, even success could not now give what the war was undertaken for. If that success were attainable, a wise man and a patriot would prefer to have as friends, instead of subjects, a people with such a history as the last three years have given to the South. Yet the effort, unsuccessful and criminal as it was, has been made on so magnificent a scale that it retrieves failure from any possible humiliation. In doing, therefore, what Great Britain under similar circumstances was forced to do before, the United States have the consolation that they have gained military prestige in the eyes of the world instead of having lost it. Nor will the war have been altogether fruitless. It will have taught two

people, who, under any circumstances, must live in close proximity, that mutual respect for each other's strength and power which they never could otherwise have had. It will, in fact, have rolled a score of petty wars, extending perhaps over several generations, into one, and thus secured the lasting peace of America, at least as between these two. True national dignity now commands to the United States an honourable peace: their true interests equally command it. The South has little to lose by continuance of the war: its worst trials and its greatest perils are over. It has so accustomed itself to a state of hostilities that that state has become its normal one, and it is no figure of speech that it could prolong the war for twenty years, each year with greater ease and at less cost and effort than the year preceding. Each year, also, the disproportion in numbers and resources between the combatants diminishes, for what is exhaustion to the North is self-development to the South. It is therefore not only consistent with national dignity, but imperatively demanded by the self-interest of the North, to make an honourable peace now. But to be honourable, this peace must rest on truth and good faith. They are deluded with paltry impostures, or in endeavouring to deceive others deceive themselves, who affect to believe that there can ever be any other peace between North and South than as between totally independent political sovereignties. If the North has not yet been taught sufficiently by experience to be willing for such a peace, then it had better postpone the thought of it till another Presidential election.

The Seizure of the 'Georgia.'

THE *Georgia*, formerly the *Japan*, was a merchantman converted into a cruiser. It was found that she was unfitted for belligerent purposes. In May last she came into the port of Liverpool, was dismantled, and offered for sale. Mr. BATES, a well-known Liverpool shipowner, offered to purchase her, but, before doing so, enquired of the Customs authorities whether they would grant a British register for the vessel. Upon receiving a satisfactory reply, Mr. BATES bought the *Georgia*, and, on June 30, she was registered as a British ship. Subsequently Mr. BATES entered into an agreement with the Portuguese Government, and the vessel was chartered to carry the Portuguese mails between Lisbon and the West Coast of Africa. At the end of July the *Georgia* was ready for sea, when Mr. BATES was informed by the Portuguese authorities in England that there was a report that the Federal cruiser *Niagara* intended to capture the vessel. Mr. BATES did not believe the report; and on August 5, pursuant to orders from the Portuguese Legation in London, the *Georgia* left the port of Liverpool for Lisbon, her only cargo being 434 tons of coal belonging to the Portuguese Government. When off Lisbon, on August 15, the *Georgia*, sailing under the British flag, having a British register, having all her papers in order, having left the British port with the knowledge and by the sanction of the British Customs, was seized by the United States ship *Niagara* and sent to Boston under charge of a prize crew.

Upon what grounds did the *Niagara* seize the *Georgia*? It will not be alleged that the sale to Mr. BATES was not *bonâ fide*. The charter-party with the Portuguese Government is evidence that the vessel was engaged in neutral and innocent business, and that there is no suspicion that the *Georgia* was intended either to make war on the Federal marine, or even to evade the Federal blockade. There are two reasons given to justify the seizure, and these we propose briefly to notice.

There is no rule in international law more clearly defined than that which declares that a ship engaged in an innocent voyage cannot be made responsible for any former delinquencies. A ship may be engaged in a contraband trade and violate a blockade twenty times, but if her twenty-first voyage is from a neutral port to a neutral port, the belligerent Power has no right to molest her. This principle has been repeatedly affirmed by American prize courts, and will not be called in question. Nor will it be disputed that in time of war, as well as in time of peace, ships may be transferred to a neutral flag, the only condition being that the transfer shall be *bonâ fide*—that is, that the ship shall pass absolutely into neutral ownership. But the Federals allege that this rule does not apply to the sale of ships of war in time of war, and they quote a decision of Lord STOWELL's as an authority. The case cited is that of the *Minerva*. This vessel was a ship of war belonging to the Dutch Government, and was chased by a British frigate into a neutral port. While in the neutral port the *Minerva* was sold to another neutral Power, came out under a neutral flag, and was captured by a British frigate. Lord STOWELL held that the vessel ought to be condemned; but it seems to us that the learned Judge, who insisted upon the right to transfer merchant ships under any circumstances, did not intend to limit the right of transfer to merchant vessels, but rather to deny the right of a vessel of war chased by a belligerent, and only escaping capture by taking refuge in a neutral port, making use of the asylum to evade the enemy. Now the *Georgia* was not chased or driven into the port of Liverpool, but she came there of her own free will. This, we think, is a very important distinction; and we do not suppose that a British prize court would deduce from Lord STOWELL's decision the principle that during a time of war a belligerent cannot transfer a ship of war to a neutral. Certainly the British Government has not so construed the law, or it would not have granted a register to the *Georgia*, or, to take another case, it would not have granted a register to the *Gibraltar*, lately the *Sumter*, a vessel which is at this time reported to have been chartered by the British Government.

The other reason assigned in justification of the seizure of the *Georgia* is that there is an Order in Council, published by the Customs authorities, forbidding such transfers. If we are rightly informed, this Order in Council was not published until after Mr. BATES had bought the *Georgia*, and it is evident that those who promulgated the order—the Customs authorities—did not think that it prevented the legal transfer of the ship, or they certainly would not have granted a British register; nor can we suppose that the United States Minister in London deemed the transfer a violation of that Order, for, if so, why did he not protest against the sale, which, so far from being concealed, was openly paraded? On other occasions Mr. ADAMS has been vigilant enough to protest, on suspicion almost unsupported by a show of evidence, against what he deemed an intention to violate the law of this country. We must not lightly assume that Mr. ADAMS lent himself to a disgraceful trick for the purpose of spiting a British shipowner, of insulting the British flag, of treating the British register with contempt, and of getting possession of a ship which had at one time been a source of terror and annoyance to the merchants of the United States. Mr. ADAMS did not doubt the validity of the sale, or he would have protested against it. But we need not enter into these details. Let us assume that the Order in Council forbids the sale of the *Georgia*, and that though the Customs gave Mr. BATES a British register, they did not thereby condone his offence. This Order in Council is a municipal law, and its violation is not a crime against any foreign Power, and does not give any foreign Power a right to exact reparation. It is for the British Government, and for the British Government only, to uphold and maintain its municipal laws. There is, for example, an Order in Council forbidding the sale of munitions of war to either belligerent, yet it is notorious that munitions of war are sold in immense quantities to the Federal Government, and are shipped from British to Federal ports. Does any one suppose that, under the authority of this Order in Council, a Confederate cruiser would be justified in seizing a British mail packet because part of her cargo consisted of a battery of guns belonging to the United States Government? It is not likely that the Federals will defend the seizure of the *Georgia* on the pretext that her sale was a violation of the municipal law of this country, but they will rest their case on the ground that the sale of a ship of war in time of war to a neutral is a breach of international law. Our impression is that Lord STOWELL's decision in the case of the *Minerva* does not support, and much less establish, such a doctrine.

Suppose, however, that the transfer of the *Georgia* was a breach of international law, it does not follow that the Federals have adopted the legal remedy. This, be it remembered, is not merely a question of a vessel sailing under the British flag, but it is the question of a vessel sailing with a British register. In the most formal manner possible the British Government has constituted the *Georgia* a British ship, and therefore, if any wrong has been done the United States, the remedy of the Government of the United States was not against the property of a British subject, but against the British Government. The proper course would have been, so it seems to us, for the United States Government to have demanded compensation from the British Government, and, if that had been refused, to have made reprisals. We know not how Mr. BATES may be advised, but we think that he ought not to appear as defendant before the United States prize court, but that he must look to his own Government for the restitution of his vessel or for compensation for her loss.

We confess that the seizure of the *Georgia* has surprised us. Assuredly it is the United States, and not the Confederate States, which have a vital interest in treating a neutral register as an instrument of unquestionable validity. Instead of regretting we should have cause, so far as the interests of the Confederates are concerned, to rejoice if the seizure of the *Georgia* is declared and accepted as a legal act. It would at once subject the transferred marine of the Federal States to the power of the Confederate cruisers. We lately published a list of vessels transferred from Federal to British owners, but which are heavily mortgaged to United States firms. No lawyer will deny that such transfers would be pronounced void by a British prize court. Why then have not the Confederates tried the question? Why have they submitted to these fraudulent transfers? The Confederate cruisers have been restrained by the consideration that these fraudulently transferred vessels have a British register, and have thought that instrument a sufficient protection. If the seizure of the *Georgia* is declared legal by the United States prize court, and is accepted as a legal act by the British Government, then the Confederate cruisers will have a precedent for seizing ships which they rightly or wrongly may deem not lawfully transferred despite their British register. They will have a right to judge and execute judgment regardless of the British register. Our opinion is that the seizure of the *Georgia* is an illegal act. We shall be glad, for the sake of the Confederates, to learn that we are wrong, and that the seizure of the *Georgia* is held to be legal by the United States prize court, and is accepted as a legal act by the British Government.

M'Clellan as a Candidate.

THE events of the American war have never been more exciting than they are at this moment. In Virginia, in Georgia, before Mobile, on the banks of the Mississippi, at the mouth of New York harbour, in the border States, throughout the vast theatre of the war, the strife is raging with unabated fury. Yet the spectators as well as the actors are weary of the drama, and long for the fall of the curtain. Indeed, there is a dreary sameness about the main events that is nearly intolerable. The 'Illinois Butcher' makes a new movement and sacrifices five or ten thousand men; the Federal Generals are bolting at the intimation of the northern advance of the Confederates; Federal soldiers are raiding, plundering, and committing atrocious cruelties; SHERMAN is sowing Yankee dead broadcast in Georgia; Charleston is being shelled as it has been for upwards of four hundred days; FARRAGUT is going to play 'The Siege of Charleston' at Mobile. And so the game goes on, with no other result than so many killed and wounded; and with the certainty that, though the war should last for twenty years, the North will not be able to conquer or subjugate the South. For a moment the battle of Petersburg, or a Confederate ram fighting a whole Federal fleet, engrosses attention, but only for a moment, and people turn to the signs of peace, and speculate upon the immediate termination of hostilities.

A fortnight ago we pointed out the indications of a speedy peace, and the latest advices from America, with one exception, tend to confirm our judgment. It is daily more apparent that the arms-bearing population of the North is too exhausted to carry on an aggressive war upon the scale of the last three years, and the call of Mr. LINCOLN for more troops is answered by increased briskness in the negro trade, and by the enhanced price of black food for powder. The most sanguine Northerner sees that the prolongation of the war involves national bankruptcy. The exploits of the *Tallahassee* show the Northern merchants that so long as the war goes on their ships can trade only at a risk that involves a positive loss. Peace meetings are held, but Mr. SEWARD's bells are silent, and so-called treason goes unpunished. The *New York Daily News* is no longer the solitary organ of peace. The *Herald* and the *Tribune* call for an immediate suspension of hostilities. What is then the cloud that somewhat darkens the fair prospect? It is not that the people will not accept peace on the only possible terms, but it is that their party leaders for party purposes are holding up a vision of a peace which will never be realised because based on impossible conditions.

In itself the great M'CLELLAN gathering in New York was a peace demonstration. The people met to protest against the unconstitutional acts of Mr. LINCOLN; but their chief charge against him was not that he had violated the law and trampled on the rights and liberties of American citizens, but they denounced him because, in spite of the enormous sacrifices of men and treasure, he has failed to conquer a peace. If Mr. LINCOLN had put an end to the war, he would have been supreme, and so notorious is this that it has been generally admitted that a single great triumph during the present campaign would have secured his reelection. On the other hand, General M'CLELLAN received the support of the meeting, not on account of anything that he has done to dazzle the populace, but from the repeated assurances of his supporters that if he is chosen President the war will be over.

It may be so, but it depends upon what platform he is elected; and if he is to carry out a war policy, so far as peace is concerned it matters not whether LINCOLN or whether M'CLELLAN is chosen for President.

The resolutions adopted at the M'CLELLAN meeting are as devoid of a policy as a royal speech can be. Mr. LINCOLN is denounced with sufficient bitterness, but a doctrine is introduced the most pernicious and fatal that can be offered to a free people. The third resolution declares that success in the election 'depends upon the popularity of the candidate with the army.' What is this but a declaration that the civil power exists no longer, and that the future President is to be a military dictator? The chief of a State, no matter by what name he is called, will rule by the army if to the army he owes his elevation. Probably, the promoters of the M'CLELLAN meeting inserted the third resolution without due consideration, but we can hardly frame such an excuse for the tone of the last resolution, in which all men are exhorted to agitate for the nomination of General M'CLELLAN 'by the approaching Convention or by the people'—which means, if it has any meaning at all, that should the Chicago Convention nominate some other candidate the friends of M'CLELLAN must still do what they can to secure his election. But these things only show the weakness, the vacillation, and let us add the cowardice, of the 'War' Democracy. They dare not go in for war—they are too timid to come out on a peace platform. It is possible, we might almost say probable, that this want of frankness will ruin the party and give the victory to the Black Republicans, who are few in number, but who are strong because they avow a policy and have to contend with a foe whose policy is a mere negation.

The supporters of General M'CLELLAN are seeking to persuade the people of the North that, if a constitutional President is chosen, the war will end by the restoration of the Union. Now it is incredible that these professions can be sincere. No man of ordinary intellect in America, who is at all acquainted with the political state of the country, can believe in the restoration of the Union. The Black Republicans indulge in no such dream. If it had been possible to restore the Union, we see no reason to doubt that New England would have spared no effort to accomplish it, for the New Englander is too keen-sighted not to perceive that it would be vastly better to govern flourishing States than conquered and desolated provinces. The policy of extermination was determined on because a reconstruction of the Union could not be brought about. Nor are the leaders of the Democratic party more sanguine than the Republican leaders, but they hope to obtain peace by a crooked and tortuous policy. Hitherto they have signally failed; but experience has not taught them wisdom. At the time of the election of Governor SEYMOUR, the war Democrats talked about peace and yet of fighting for the Union, and the party was completely broken up. It was urged on their behalf that they really wanted peace on the only terms peace could be had, but that their safety and their success necessitated a policy of deception, and that they should pretend to favour the restoration of the Union, if not by constitutional means, then by force of arms. The device was seen through, and the Democratic party lost its hold on the affections of the people. Again it has a chance of saving the country, and, so far as we can see, there is cause for anticipating that the same timid policy will be pursued, and if so, the triumph of the Republican party is a foregone conclusion. Just now there is an impression in the North that the task of conquering the South is hopeless, and that nothing remains except to negotiate a peace. At this imminent crisis the M'CLELLAN party comes forward and declares that the despair is uncalled for, and that what is wanted is not a change of purpose, but a change of men.

We do not say that the South is unwilling to accept an armistice and to negotiate terms of peace; but we do say that it is inconceivable that any sane man should believe for one instant that peace can be made on any other terms than those of separation. Independence has on the part of the South been the sole object of the war. For independence she has made efforts and sacrifices almost beyond credence or conception. What is there in her present position to induce the belief that she is about to acknowledge herself defeated and to submit to the Northern yoke?

But, this condition being fulfilled, we do not deny that there is much plausibility in the suggestion that a compact may be entered into that will secure to the North most of the substantial advantages of Union, and it is certain that, with or without such a treaty, immediate peace will secure to the North very excellent terms. It is very curious to observe that, although differing on almost every other point, the Northern and Southern presses are agreed as to the general principles of foreign policy. It was supposed that secession would have made the South the ally of Europe, but, strangely enough, European Powers have managed so to offend both sections, that, if peace is made now, neither North nor South will be pledged to any European Power. England and France are more than ever unpopular in the North, and Canada and Mexico are looked upon as countries to be one day subjugated by Northern armies. Well, has the South any particular cause to feel grateful to England or France? At all events, such is not the sentiment of the Southern people. Therefore, if peace is made now, the North may reasonably boast that the Monroe doctrine is not endangered by the formation of another Confederacy, and that because the South has left the Union she has not become the ally of Europe. But, as we said a fortnight since, peace cannot be made, however desirable and however desired, until the North recognises the fact of Confederate independence. There is an opportunity for putting an end to the strife under more propitious circumstances than could have been anticipated, but the golden opportunity will be lost if the Northern people are led to believe that the Union can be restored.

The Democratic party is now on its trial, for the second time, to prove whether or no it possesses the statesmanship, the moral courage, and the public virtue to save the country. The first time it failed ignominiously; there is, unfortunately, too much reason to fear that it will repeat its follies and its failure. Certainly it will be an ominous sign if the party which professes to denounce Mr. LINCOLN'S usurpation selects as the exponent of its principles the man who was Mr. LINCOLN'S chief and willing instrument for trampling out the constitutional existence of Maryland.

PEACE IN AMERICA.

THE following document is being extensively circulated:—

The People of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, to the People of the United States, Greeting:—

We are of the same race, and many of you are our brothers. Can we not, therefore, come to you as peace-makers, and address you as friends? We would ask you, Has there not been of strife and bloodshed, and misery and suffering, enough? and is it not time to cease the cruel war in which you are engaged? We believe there is not a Christian man or woman amongst us whose heart does not respond affirmatively to this question. With this conviction we wish to speak to you as plain men, using plain language. We have admired your free institutions, and have gladly witnessed your rise as a people to eminence in wealth and political power. You are of the Saxon blood, and we hoped that you would make the New World renowned for true greatness. You promised to become one mighty people and a great nation, famed for the liberties of its citizens, the triumphs of peace, and the conquests of its commerce. We felt that you were doing honour to the 'Mother Country.' When, therefore, this unfortunate war began, our hearts were more inclined towards you than towards your sister States, because we believed with you that the action of the South was but the work of a faction. The events of the struggle, however, have convinced us that a more united people than those of the Southern States never rose up in defence of their rights.

When you asserted that Secession was the work of disappointed ambition, and promised to quell it within sixty days, we accepted your assurances in good faith, and looked for the speedy restoration of peace. We did not wish to see the American Union broken up. But so far from this promise being fulfilled (and your efforts to accomplish it have been great), peace and the restoration of the Union are apparently more remote than ever. Surely there must be many now among you who share with us the conviction, that it is utterly impossible to subdue the South, or to restore the American Union as it was in the past days of the Republic. You have tried sufficiently, and found the gulf between you and the seceded States to widen with the effort that is made to subdue them. Is it not time then to pause, and after calmly reviewing all that you have accomplished, the distance which you have travelled from your well-known landmarks, and the difficulties and dangers that are yet before you—is it not time, we ask, that you should take counsel together as to the best means of restoring peace? We cannot forget that the question of peace or war was never submitted to you for your serious consideration before hostilities had actually commenced;—that they came upon you little by little;—and that both Government and people found themselves plunged into this fearful contest almost unawares; nor have you as yet had an opportunity of consulting together in general Convention, for the purpose of making known your opinions and wishes about the war or any of the vast issues growing out of it.

The war has changed (for the present, at least) the character of your Government. What has become of the freedom of speech, your free press, and the inestimable right of *habeas corpus*? What, permit us to ask, are the Southern people doing beyond following the precepts and example taught and practised by your fathers and theirs, when they withdrew their allegiance from the mother-country, and asserted their right to establish a Government of their own? The Declaration of Independence, which you hallow and celebrate every fourth day of July, asserts, as self-evident, the right of the Southern people to set up a Government of their own.

But we would ask, suppose you should, at the end of another three years and a half, succeed in subduing the South and restoring the Union by force of arms, might you not then find out, when it was too late, that those pillars upon which rests your form of government had been violently torn down, and that your own liberties had been buried in the ruins? If you will run the parallel between the South now and the colonies in 1776, and compare the course pursued by the North now and the mother-country then, we think you will discover some striking resemblances; and among them, that with you now, as with the crown then, rests the privilege of giving peace to the American continent. Why not then, without further delay, recognise the duty which attaches to your high privilege? We appeal to you in the name of religion, humanity, justice, and civilisation, and believe that we shall not appeal in vain.

Peace be unto you.

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.

FROM A CONFEDERATE CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS: August 30.

IN my last letter to you I expressed the opinion that the sympathies with which the clerical party have thought fit to honour us would tend greatly, in the eyes of the Liberal classes, to the injury of the Southern cause. The following fact will, I think, support this opinion.

The *Union* is here the organ of the clerical party; it is a well-edited journal, and its political influence is considerable. During thirty years past, under the various names of *Quotidienne*, *France*, *Echo Français*, and *Univers*, it has been the organ and the representative, in the French press, of the doctrines of the party which it serves. Unfortunately these doctrines are no longer favourably received; they proscribe liberty, and teach that the Government of Rome is the true type of really legitimate Governments. These ideas, the remnants of a past which the French and American revolutions have destroyed, are no longer adapted to our times, they are in direct contradiction to those professed by us in America, and are altogether repugnant to the liberal classes;—well-informed Conservatives themselves reject them.

Now this journal, the *Union*, in a series of articles on the subject of monarchy in Mexico, has recently expressed certain opinions which, although not unfavourable towards the South, are nevertheless radically false, and calculated to estrange all liberal minds from our cause. The writer of these articles imagines that an obstinate contest is being carried on in America between the monarchical and republican principles, between the policy of Christopher Columbus, 'who discovered a world for the faith,' and that of Monroe, 'whose desire is that America should be for the Americans.' The defenders of the republican principle are the Northerners—the Yankees; those of the monarchical principle are the Spanish Americans and the Southern Confederates, whose Congress 'declared, a few days since, that as soon as the war shall terminate, provided public opinion should show itself in favour of monarchy, it would see no hindrance to its establishment.'

After this strange exposition of facts the *Union* exclaims, 'From whence proceed these monarchical aspirations in the South and these Yankee Republican ambitions in the North?' They are the result, according to the *Union*, of America being peopled by two races, one devoted to Catholicism, the other to Protestantism. It is necessary, therefore, that Europe should choose between Catholicism and monarchy on the one part, and Protestantism and a levelling policy on the other. There are no medium conditions; choice must be made between the policy of Christopher Columbus and that of Monroe.

You may easily judge of the effect produced by such articles as these. I do not think I shall be far from the truth in saying that the Southern cause is greatly injured by them. A friend of mine, a journalist of Democratic principles, who played a political part in 1848, but who is nevertheless warmly attached to the interests of the South, said to me some time since: 'Have nothing to do with the clerical party, their sympathies are dangerous to you; if it were to become known that you had connected yourselves with those people, so far as public opinion goes you would be completely lost.' Without attaching implicit faith to these exaggerated remarks, I certainly think we should have everything to gain if the Liberals could be convinced that there is no desire for monarchy in the South, even if in this we should lose the support of the clerical party.

The *Finance*, a journal published at Brussels, and one of the most important of those French periodicals whose pages are devoted to the consideration of financial questions, devotes a long article in its last number to the subject of the Federal finances. According to this journal, the German bankers have been the largest subscribers to the loan of $200,000,000 opened by Mr. Fessenden. It also appears that a great mistake has been made in estimating the amount of the American funds invested in Holland and Germany at only thirty or forty millions sterling; according to the *Finance*, the amount of the investments is nearer 100,000,000 than 30,000,000 sterling.

'The Cabinets of Berlin and Vienna,' says this journal, 'did not anticipate this, and it has painfully surprised them. Not to speak of the very probable bankruptcy awaiting the United States Government, and the disturbance which will be caused in Germany by the cessation of the payment of interest representing such considerable sums, Prussian and Austrian statesmen see clearly that these investments are so many resources taken from their future and approaching loans.'

According to the *Patrie* and the *Pays*, the capture of the *Georgia* by the *Niagara* has touched on a point in law which cannot fail to produce diplomatic difficulties. The *Patrie* is of opinion that the somewhat hasty proceedings on the part of the Federal vessel are not sanctioned by the Law of Nations. The *Pays* goes still further, and remarks that English jurisprudence furnishes a precedent which condemns the capture of the *Georgia* as illegal. The precedent here referred to is that of the *Serpa*, a Brazilian ship sold in good faith by her owners, afterwards captured by the English navy, and finally given up by the British Government on her being claimed by Brazil.

The French journals have published the text of the address from the English people to those of the United States, and have expressed it as their wish that this ardent appeal for conciliation and peace should meet with a favourable consideration.

The principal editor of *La France*, M. Cohen, has written, on this occasion, one of the best articles hitherto published relative to the American question. The following are some of its leading passages:—

Can it be that light has not yet dawned on this great nation of America—a nation whose sound judgment and practical intelligence have been to us a source of admiration? Can it be that the last four years of contentions, of disasters, of powerless efforts,

of miseries and of tears, *have failed to convince her of the impossibility of the reestablishment of union between the North and the South?* Is it not evident that the Secessionists are resolved rather to bury themselves beneath their ruins than to submit, and that to the original and fundamental causes of separation which for so long beforehand announced an inevitable rupture, to the divergence in manners and institutions, the antagonism of interests, even to the opposition of the races, are now added feelings of hatred which the war has created between this hostile brotherhood?

Is it not therefore folly to imagine that, even supposing the armies of Lee and Beauregard were vanquished, implacable feelings of resentment such as these could likewise be subdued? And what blind infatuation could induce the Northern States to create, and maintain by force, subject to their rule, an American Poland, whose inevitable outbreaks would perpetuate the horrors of civil war?

No! *the illusion is no longer possible; the idea of reducing and governing the South must be at once abandoned.* In this war of extermination the Northern armies waste and perish, and the Government of Washington is compelled to acknowledge that their heroic opponents are not rebels, but a people, a nationality, boldly defending its independence, and prepared, at any cost, to protect its threatened autonomy.

M. Cohen then expresses his astonishment that the principle of modern right which admits the freedom of every nation to choose the form of government best adapted to itself, should be trampled under foot by society, whose duty, on the contrary, is to uphold and respect such a principle. The loss suffered by the United States in this war is not that of territory, neither is it simply the loss of millions of money or of thousands of citizens; it is far more than this—it is the principle of their moral and political greatness. He thus continues:

They have lost the notion of those great liberal truths by which their republic has been elevated to so high a degree of power; they have compromised for ever the liberties of which they were so justly proud. Once they were a free democracy, now they are a bloodthirsty dictatorship; once they were a nation, they are now an army; once they were a hive of remarkable industry, now they are a camp.

How long is this stubborn self-will to continue? How long will they persist in closing their eyes against the evidence of actual facts?

The editor of *La France* speaks approvingly of the address proposed by the English people, and is of opinion that if this eloquent manifestation of public opinion were supported by the efforts of one of the great European Powers, prompted to its assistance by feelings of laudable humanity, we might then hope to see those feelings of hatred which now fill the American breast removed, and succeeded by others of an altogether opposite and friendly character.

The *Temps* thinks otherwise; it notices certain rumours according to which the Emperor is about again to employ his influence in the promotion of peace in America, and states that if a proposition of the kind were made, it would have little chance of being accepted.

The *Presse* has devoted a long and interesting article, from the able pen of M. Chatard, to an account of the battle of Petersburg. This article contains the most complete and stirring recital of Grant's last defeat which has yet appeared in the Parisian press. M. Chatard describes this sanguinary battle with that strict impartiality which is always observed by him; and although he expresses himself somewhat severely against Grant, whom he represents as marching for four months from disaster to disaster, still I doubt if the most devoted partisan of the North could find any statement in this article to which objection could be made.

The excellent writer of articles on American politics in the *Constitutionnel*, M. H. Marie-Martin, has published the programme adopted by M'Clellan's partisans at New York. M. Martin is not deceived as to the value of this demonstration, and is careful to state that those who took part in it were but a fraction of the Democratic party, who are desirous of peace, and who will make known their programme to the Chicago Convention.

The *Patrie* publishes an article explanatory of the mechanism of Presidential elections, and a monograph on the city of Mobile.

The *Progrès de Paris* draws a sad picture of the moral condition of the United States, and shows how great has been their downfall owing to their ambition, which has caused them to forget those Democratic principles to which they owed their extraordinary prosperity.

The three articles above mentioned are from the pen of our active friend, M. Felix Aucaigne.

SENTENCE ON A BALTIMORE LADY.—A military commission held in Washington has sentenced Mrs. Mary E. Sawyer, of Baltimore, to imprisonment with labour until the termination of the war. Mrs. Sawyer was charged with 'corresponding with the enemy, and assisting parties within our lines to correspond with the enemy, and of furnishing letters of a contraband character from within our lines into those of the enemy.'

BITTER SARCASM.—The *Boston Courier* says: 'One of the most bitter sarcasms upon the Government that we have seen lately (none the worse if unintentional) is the opening sentence of a double-leaded editorial in Tuesday's *Tribune*: "We have most cheering news from Mobile, and, as it comes on *Rebel official authority*, it cannot be doubted." The rebel "official authorities" owe the *Tribune* a handsome acknowledgment for the compliment.'

GREENBACKS.—The *New York Daily News* on August 19, publishes the following paragraph in its commercial intelligence:—'The decision in the California Courts that all contracts must be settled in gold, deals a severe blow at the legal tender bubble, and greenbacks fell to 37½ cents per dollar. The uses that the Chase legal tender may be applied to are gradually declining. The debts due by the people when the war commenced have been largely reduced at the expense of the creditors, and the mass of paper may be before long repudiated by the Courts.'

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN IRELAND.

FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

DUBLIN: Aug. 29.

THE lovers of peace—to say nothing about fair-play—may at length congratulate themselves that the Federal recruiting-sergeant has begun to find his occupation gone in Ireland. This desirable consummation has been but slowly brought about, and many were the difficulties encountered by the way. These, however, have been happily surmounted; and it is most gratifying to add that Catholics and Protestants, the pulpit and the press, are now uniting their efforts in the cause of peace.

The letter of His Holiness Pius IX. to Archbishop Hughes of New York (the publication of which in the first instance inflicted the first serious check upon the exodus from Ireland) is now being reproduced by the committees of various political societies, and the most effective means are being used to give to it all the publicity it so entirely deserves. Copies of that remarkable document are to be found on the doors of Catholic places of worship, and not a Sunday passes but the epistle of His Holiness may number its readers by many, many thousands. In one conspicuous instance it forms a portion of the subject-matter of a large placard—the remainder of the 'publication' consisting (1st) of an argumentative paper called a 'Caution to Irish Emigrants;' (2nd) a letter contributed to the *Irishman* by the late W. S. O'Brien (being a powerfully written answer to the orations of 'General Meagher of the Sword'); and (3rd) an address from Mr. John Martin, stating and explaining to his countrymen the arguments that have convinced him that Ireland ought, by every means in her power, to endeavour to bring the war to an end by the recognition of the Confederate States as an independent nation. The tone and spirit of these various writings, and the beneficial effect they are calculated to produce upon the public mind, can be best judged of by the following introductory passage:—

TO EMIGRANTS FROM IRELAND.

The majority of you seek America with the hope of bettering your social condition. On your arrival in the port of New York you may expect to be immediately solicited to enlist in the Federal army for the restoration of the Union, and for the pretended liberation of the negro. What will the liberation of the negro benefit you or yours at home or abroad, that you should risk your lives for his so-called 'freedom?' What benefit or credit will redound to you from the reestablishment of the Union, that you should sell yourselves for a few pounds in hand to the men who would raise themselves to military rank, pay, and promotion, by making your dead bodies the stepping-stone of their ambition? Read; and from the letters of John Martin and W. Smith O'Brien learn that the war of the Northern Yankees against the Southern States is a most unjust, most bloody and inhuman war. Read; and learn from the letter of our Holy Father Pope Pius IX., that this war of the North against the South is the direst, most destructive, and most dismal of all the evils that could befall a people or a nation. Read attentively that epistle of His Holiness, in which he urges and commands Archbishop Hughes of New York to omit nothing 'he can undertake or accomplish' as a Bishop to stay the war and restore peace; and then ask yourselves if you can with a safe conscience despise this entreaty of the Holy Father, or lend yourselves to counteract his injunctions by enlisting in or aiding a war which the Pope has so unqualifiedly condemned.

But even a more remarkable proof of the unanimity with which persons of the highest influence and of opposite parties are working together in the cause of peace, is to be found in the efforts that are daily made to procure signatures to the 'Appeal,' recently put in circulation, from the 'People of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland to the People of the United States.' That appeal addresses itself to the ties of kindred, to the past history of the United States, to the long continuance of the civil war, to the empty character of the results, to the waste of human life, and to the amount of loss and misery caused by the conflict; and entreats the people of the North to consider their position, and to make peace with the Southern States.

In a leading article commending that address to the favourable consideration of its readers, the *Irish Times* says:—

Let all who read and approve of it affix their names to it: the signatures of two or three millions of men, far from the fury of the strife, cannot but have weight even with the fiercest. Means will be taken to secure for all an opportunity of signing the 'appeal' at the Rotunda, in the porticoes of houses of worship, and in the public streets. We have far greater reason to desire that peace should prevail in America than England has. If one of her branches of trade to the Southern States has suffered, a dozen others have prospered; but there are, *or were*, three millions of the Irish race settled in America. The soil of Virginia, and Mississippi, and Georgia, absolutely steams with Irish blood. . . . . When kings and cabinets stand aloof, perhaps the voice of the people from whom Northerners and Southerners have more or less purely sprung, may be listened to with respect and with effect. A people can best address a Republican Government and a Republican multitude. In such a case there can be no offence, no selfish motive. It is humanity appealing to humanity and entreating that the worst form of war should be closed in an honourable peace. This popular movement has been begun simultaneously in London, Liverpool, Manchester, and Glasgow; it begins to-day in Dublin, and will commence shortly in Cork, Queenstown, Belfast, and other Irish towns.

The *Cork Examiner* upon the same subject has the following:—

The honesty, the integrity, the ability of the Northern States are now being more and more largely enlisted in the cause of peace. Political reasons induce some to moderate the expression of their convictions on this head, but every indication points to the belief that it only needs a grand occasion—an encouraging crisis—to induce even the most powerful leaders of American parties to enrol themselves under the banner of peace. This, therefore, is a time when friendly voices from this side of the Atlantic may make themselves heard with effect. And if the voice of the people of England is likely to be heard with complacency, with how much more readiness ought not the friendly utterance of the Irish people to be listened to! We are not merely the mother-country addressing what was once our revolted colony. We are addressing our own nearest and dearest of kindred. We Irish have been among the saddest sufferers by this war, as many a desolate hearth-side, many a roof-tree deprived of its prop, can testify, both on this and the other side of the Atlantic. If there were virtue in this war, Irishmen were among those who made the most desperate sacrifices for it; if there were misery—as, alas! how much—Irishmen have borne more than their fair share. An address from the people of this country, couched in the language of friendship and brotherhood, ought to appeal with peculiar force to the people of the United States; and we trust that every man in Ireland will lend the weight of his name to the persuasion of that document.

The *Dublin Evening Mail*, with its strongly marked Confederate sympathies, has scarcely patience to treat the address in a spirit of conciliation to the North. It remarks:

We solicit the reader's attention for the interesting document in support of the peace movement which we publish to-day. As an address from the people of Great Britain and Ireland, it has been prepared with a regard to both classes of opinions represented among us, and professes, accordingly, an original sympathy for the North, and former confidence in its success, which we, for our own part, never entertained. We have consistently held opposite sentiments, and the event has warranted the judgment we formed. Whatever arrangements may be concluded between North and South, they will ever henceforth remain two nations, for many and obvious reasons stated by us and others three years ago. The peace now desired will be brought about only by the North admitting the complete independence of the South, and the arguments of this address in sustainment of that course are irrefragable.

The address is also given *in extenso*, with favourable comments in the editorial columns, in the following journals:—*Dublin Morning News* (leading Catholic organ), *Dublin Evening Post*, *Belfast Newsletter*, *Waterford Mail*, *Wicklow News*, *Drogheda Conservative*, *Limerick Chronicle*, &c. &c. It was read in the various churches in Queenstown on Sunday last, and the congregations were affectionately and solemnly invited to sign it. Sheets for signature have been placed in the Chamber of Commerce of this city, the Exhibition, the principal hotels, newspaper offices, shops, the offices of young men's societies, Trinity College, &c. Thus the anticipation of the *Irish Times*, that the document will be signed by 'two or three millions of men,' is in a fair way of being more than realised.

A PRECIOUS DOCUMENT.—Mr. Adams, the United States Minister in London, acknowledges the receipt of the following resolutions presented to President Lincoln:—'Resolutions unanimously adopted by the executive of the Union and Emancipation Society, July 4, 1864:—Moved by Mr. Thomas H. Barker; seconded by Mr. J. G. Edwards, and resolved—"1. That the executive of the Union and Emancipation Society, in meeting specially convened on this 4th day of July, 1864, desire to record their profound gratitude to Almighty God for the vast progress and signal success attending the great struggle for freedom and nationality by the loyal citizens of the Federal Republic of America. 2. That they heartily rejoice in the just Nemesis that has recently overtaken the piratical rebel steamer *Alabama*, built for gain by an English shipbuilder, in an English port, in evasion of statute law, in defiance of all the claims of political neutrality, international good faith, and commercial honour; that they also record their devout thankfulness that, through the persistent and successful interposition of the British Government, the rebel steam rams have been prevented from entering upon their intended career in aid of the slaveholders' confederacy. 3. That this executive are not unmindful of the horrors of warfare, even when conducted under those military rules and limitations adopted by civilised belligerents; but that they have been intensely shocked by the ruthless and barbarous massacres by the Confederates at Fort Pillow and elsewhere, when the chances of war gave them unchecked power over their captives; and especially do they execrate the systematic and cold-blooded cruelty towards the Federal prisoners at Richmond. 4. That we have received with profound satisfaction the glad tidings that the base and cruel Fugitive Slave Law has been repealed by Congress, believing that this just though somewhat tardy act marks another step in the progress of legislation on the subject of slavery; and that it but anticipates and assures the speedy passage of that crowning act of justice, by which slavery shall be made for ever impossible under the Federal Constitution. 5. That they rejoice exceedingly in the great and significant fact of the unanimous and enthusiastic renomination by the National Union Convention of Abraham Lincoln for the Presidency of the United States, and his acceptance of the said nomination with its noble platform of advanced anti-slavery principles, including the amendment of the Constitution, so as utterly and for ever to exclude and exterminate the system of human bondage from every foot of territory beneath the Federal flag. 6. That they earnestly believe that the great bulk of the people of the United Kingdom, so far as their knowledge of the facts of the case enable them to form an intelligent opinion in respect to the merits of the struggle now going on in the United States, deeply sympathise with the loyal citizens and soldiers in their patriotic efforts to suppress the most wicked and reckless rebellion of which history has any record. 7. That this executive pray for the speedy establishment of the great American republic, on the firm and lasting foundation of justice and freedom, union and peace."—(Signed) J. H. ESTCOURT, Chairman.'

CREDIT OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—The *New York Daily News* says: 'The forcible seizure by the Administration of six hundred tons of ice from the Knickerbocker Ice Company, in this city, is a significant act, and our citizens would do well to ponder its full meaning. It is common enough to impress horses, mules, corn and provender, near the scene of military operations; but when goods are seized by force of arms at a distance from the actual scene of hostilities, it is because the credit of the Government is at so low an ebb that its promises to pay will not be taken.'

LANCASHIRE OPERATIVES IN THE FEDERAL ARMY.—A gentleman of Manchester on a visit to the Confederate States writes: 'Numbers of Lancashire operatives are now to be found in the Southern hospitals and prisons, and also dead or dying upon the battle-field. It is customary for many of the Federal soldiers, before going into battle, to put their names and addresses in their pockets.'

THE COTTON FAMINE.*

[CONCLUDING NOTICE.]

THAT the manufacturers, and even the merchants and speculators of Lancashire, were long and obstinately incredulous regarding the imminence and the extent of the dread calamity which menaced them, is sufficiently apparent from the very slow rise of the price of cotton during the spring and summer of 1861. It was known to all that the industry of Lancashire depended on the supply of American cotton; that from any considerable reduction in the quantity obtainable from the Southern States of the Union must result a rapid enhancement of price, a great convulsion in the trade, and an ample field for lucrative speculation; and yet, at the close of a period of unexampled prosperity, when money was plentiful among the manufacturers, and when the probability of an interruption to regular trade from the immense stocks of goods in hand might seem to invite speculation, the price of cotton rose with remarkable slowness under circumstances which threatened a total suspension of communication with America. The ordinary price of middling Orleans had been 7*d*. After the fall of Fort Sumter, while the North was arming, and while the border States were seceding—when Mr. Lincoln had actually begun by an aggressive attempt a war of conquest, involving of necessity the most gigantic undertaking upon which a nation ever entered—when it was already apparent that war was to be, and that the North, if it could not vanquish the South, could certainly blockade its coasts so strictly as to make the export of cotton a costly and hazardous, if not a practically impossible, operation—even then middling Orleans was not worth 8*d*. in the Liverpool market. Manassas followed, and the war in Missouri and in Western Virginia; and M'Clellan prepared for a long war by collecting and drilling a great army at Washington; the Southern ports were blockaded; and the Southern factors wrote instructions to the planters not to send their cotton to these ports, where it would be in danger and a source of danger; still Manchester could scarcely believe that the Union was really dissolved, and that the two sections so long at feud were at last at war. Cotton had not reached much more than 1*s*. in December 1861, although by that time it had become plain that, till the South were either crushed or recognised, no more American cotton would reach the English market. The source of this perverse and unfortunate disbelief in obvious facts seems to have been that astonishing ignorance which, when this journal first came into being, withheld from Englishmen all means of estimating the character and conditions of the contest, and blinded them to the strength and resolution of the South, while it filled their minds now with visions of negro insurrection, and now with dreams of amicable reconstruction. We have observed that the course of the market showed that relief was for a long time expected only from Northern victory; that each Federal success, seeming to bring nearer the imagined goal of the war—Southern submission—reduced the price of cotton, while each Confederate advantage, as postponing the issue it could not avert, tended to raise the price. It was quite in keeping with such expectations that the price should rise with a slow deliberation that argued little belief in the duration of the war or the efficacy of the blockade, and that, in the winter of 1861-62, middling Orleans might still be bought for a shilling.

The operatives understood the position clearly—as well as any one understood it. They knew that the American war was the one great cause of their distress. They knew that, despite certain dishonest pretensions of the Federal agents in the press and in the House of Commons, it was to the ambition of the North alone they owed their wretchedness; that the South would willingly sell them cotton, if she were allowed in any form to receive the equivalent for it. They did not blame the manufacturers. They did not blame the Government, content to leave to professional statesmen such questions as the validity of blockades and the legality of captures. Nor did they, for a long time, severely blame their real enemies. At first their sympathies went with the North, as with a democracy of men untainted with the sin of slavery. It was only by degrees that they learned that the North was at least as guilty in that respect as the South—only by degrees that they learned to admire the gallantry with which the chivalry of the South defended their homes and altars against overwhelming odds, and to abhor the cowardly brutality of Pope, and Milroy, and Butler. The insolence of the Yankees towards England and their cruelty towards the negroes, the moderation of the Southerners in council and in war, and the loyalty which spoke volumes for the condition and past treatment of the slaves, completed their conversion. Even now there is a strong Abolitionist party in Lancashire, but at present the sympathies of the people are Southern. At no time, however, except immediately after the *Trent* outrage, would a forcible intervention have found favour among them. They had too strong an interest in it not to feel that their honour would be implicated—that they would be charged with having interfered not to do justice, but to get cotton. This generous pride alone prevented Lancashire from putting upon the Government a pressure which it could not have resisted, and forcing the warmest friends of the North into reluctant recognition of the South. At any time the people of Lancashire have had it in their power at once to get cotton and to gratify the sympathies of the Southern party among them; at no time have they lifted a finger for the purpose. Precisely because their interests were so deeply involved, they have in this case alone left the foreign policy of England to be shaped without action or interposition on their part.

On New Year's Day, 1862, when for a moment it seemed possible that the cotton famine might be averted by a just and necessary war, forced upon us, whose interest it was to fight, by those whose every hope hung on keeping the peace, the condition of the people was already one of depression and suffering. Half-time had been very general for several months, and many mills were actually closed. As yet there were no relief committees, and those of the operatives who had been longest out of work were falling upon the parish. The Lancashire operative has always something in the way of property; his humble home is often well and neatly furnished; his family are amply clad; he has not unfrequently money in the savings-bank or shares in a cooperative store; a well-paid mechanic or overlooker may own his own cottage and two or three others. All these fruits of industry and thrift were spent to keep their owner from the workhouse; his property was sold, his savings drawn out, his home stripped of its ornaments, his Sunday clothes pawned, and at last his children were 'clemming,' and with a cruel pang the honest man presented himself at the door of the workhouse and asked for food. This was a painful and a cruel thing. It demoralised the people, by bringing down the thriftiest to the level of the most improvident—the only difference being that the one became a pauper earlier than the other. It tortured the hearts of men who were guilty of nothing—not even of being too numerous. It threatened, by reducing the working class of Lancashire to the ordinary condition of working men, without savings or property of their own, to undo the work of fifty years, and interrupt the social progress of the county at the most hopeful point in its history. There were, moreover, cases of actual starvation. The people were very proud; pauperism was very humiliating; guardians, used to deal with hereditary and professional mendicants, were harsh and rough, and wounded the applicant's feelings to the quick; and men died of hunger rather than ask for food at their hands, or, asking it and being bidden to sweep the streets, went home hungry and locked themselves in to 'clem to death.' This could not be endured; and in the worst-afflicted district private charity began to organise means of relief. The Relief Committee of Wigan was formed on January 3, 1862. Similar organisations sprang up elsewhere, making it their object to supplement the working of the Poor Law and atone for its deficiencies. They kept many thousands 'off the parish;' they sought out those whom even starvation could not induce to ask for charity; they collected and distributed whatever funds could be obtained from the humanity and the wealth of the immediate neighbourhood. The Lord Mayor, supported by some of the most influential citizens of London, had set on foot a committee, through which enormous sums were collected from all parts of the empire, and transmitted to the local committees; a central body, established at Manchester, and comprising the principal merchants and manufacturers of Lancashire, attracted to itself the main stream of public bounty, and thus, by rendering itself the principal channel of distribution, became also the centre of direction and control. This committee was presently enlarged by the adhesion of the chief landowners of the county, who already, in a meeting held at the house of Lord Ellesmere, had contributed a very considerable sum for the relief of Lancashire.

Under the direction of the Manchester Committee the system of relief was reduced to regularity and order. In each town a committee comprising the principal citizens, clergymen, and landowners, distributed among the sufferers by the cotton famine the funds subscribed by a sympathising realm and a pitying empire. Not only from every part of England, but from every corner of those dominions on which the sun never sets, money flowed in to the relief of Lancashire distress, and was distributed, through the central agency at Manchester, in proportion to the necessities of the different towns. The leader of this benevolent movement, the chief director of the energetic labours of the Lancashire philanthropists, the mediator between the suffering operatives and their countrymen, was one whom the former had diligently been taught to regard as a political enemy, but who, in the hour of their need, remembered only that he was the greatest landowner, the oldest noble, and the natural chief of Lancashire. Not all his public services, great as they have been, have done half so much to fix his memory in the hearts of his countrymen as the part he played during the misery which the American war entailed upon his native county. While the cotton famine is remembered, and while the remembrance continues to bind together, as they never were bound before, the rich and the poor, the employers and the employed, the tenants and the proprietors of Lancashire, no name will hold so high a place in the grateful esteem and affection of all as that of the Earl of Derby.

It could not be supposed, however, that private charity could feed a starving county for any length of time, or that local resources could permanently sustain the burden of a national calamity. Throughout 1862, the subscriptions of the public and the poor-rates of the various unions bore the burden of supporting a people deprived of all employment by the sudden stroke of a public misfortune. There was more liberality and less waste than has ever before characterised charitable efforts on a gigantic scale; and for a considerable time the rates and the relief funds were sufficient to their burdens. But it was evident that this could not long be the case, and that eventually Parliament must make some provision adequate to the magnitude of the necessity. Accordingly, after considerable discussion among themselves, the representatives of Lancashire determined on the plan they would recommend to the Government. They asked no grant of public money; they asked no contribution from the Consolidated Fund to the treasury of the embarrassed unions. They asked and obtained two boons—a rate in aid and a power to borrow. Overburdened parishes were allowed to exact the assistance of the union; overburdened unions were empowered to lay a portion of their load upon the county to which they belonged. And unions were allowed to borrow from the public Treasury, on strict conditions as to interest and security for repayment, funds sufficient for public works, drainage, repairs of roads, and so forth—which were not only of use as means of employing the workpeople ejected from the factories. This was all the aid that Lancashire received from the Imperial Treasury, and all that Lancashire men condescended to ask.

The question of employment was the worst perplexity of those to whom the care of Lancashire was intrusted. Several considerations concurred to make this question both important and difficult. In the first place, it had given rise, at a very early stage, to a dispute between the distressed operatives and the Poor Law Boards. The guardians considered it their duty to exact labour from all able-bodied applicants for relief; and they had no labour to offer but such as, having usually been assigned to paupers, had come to be regarded as a badge of pauperism and degradation. The operatives revolted against street-sweeping and oakum-picking, as the usual occupation of a class upon which they looked down with honest and well-merited contempt. They had another objection to stone-breaking; it bruised their hands, and destroyed that softness and sensibility of the fingers which is necessary to cotton-spinning. The guardians had been obliged to yield, with the full consent of the Government, to these not unreasonable demands, and the operatives received support without doing work. Idleness demoralised them so terribly, that there were not a few who, when the tide began to turn, were found to prefer the dole of charity to the earnings of labour. The Relief Committees, from the first, were aware of this danger and did their best to counteract it. Secondly, serious alarm was felt for the consequences of allowing thousands of factory girls, accustomed to work in independence, to roam the streets in a state of idleness. This difficulty was met by the institution of sewing-schools, under the direction of benevolent ladies, which absorbed the whole of the unemployed female population which could not find suitable occupation at home. During winter a good many of the men were also collected in schools, the dole of the Relief Committee being made contingent on their attendance. In March 1863 a portion of the operatives of Staleybridge and Ashton rose in riot against an attempted exaction of greater diligence in their work and a threatened reduction of their charitable allowance, so completely had they learned to think themselves entitled to the support which at first they had received with gratitude as the free gift of the country. And the labour difficulty was not finally settled till the Public Works Act, passed in June 1863, supplied the local authorities with funds for the express purpose of employing the operatives; and the gradual diminution of the pressure, after that period, enabled some of the Relief Committees first to contract, and afterwards to suspend, their operations. The effect on the character of the people, of wages received for nearly two years unearned by real productive work, has not yet entirely passed away.

It ought to be borne in mind that, in the worst of their misery, the wretchedness of the operatives was never so great as that of many countries whose sufferings under famine, war, or pestilence, have made far less impression on the world at large. It was not the actual misery endured, but the contrast between past prosperity and present penury, which distinguished the Lancashire Cotton Famine. The allowance of the Relief Committee made the family of an operative as rich as that of a Dorsetshire peasant in full employment; but the former had been accustomed to a life which to the latter would have seemed luxurious. In all substantial matters he had fared almost as well as his employer; he had been fed, and lodged, and clothed, wholesomely, amply, and comfortably; he had been able to save without pinching, and to indulge in luxury without extravagance; and from that state of ample competence he descended to one of bare sufficiency of food and frequent insufficiency of fuel and raiment. In that transition he probably suffered more than the peasant, accustomed to privation, suffers from an increase of the penury which is his normal condition. It needs no exaggeration of their actual sufferings, no concealment of the amount of relief extended to them, to command our sympathies for the people of Lancashire in the severe trial whose history is here recorded, or our admiration for the heroic and Christian patience with which, for the most part, that trial has been endured.

MR. LINCOLN AND THE NEW YORK PRESS.—The *New York Daily News* of August 20 writes: 'Yesterday Mr. John Mullaly was arrested by a United States Marshal on the complaint of Mr. E. Delafield Smith, United States District-Attorney, for an alleged opposition to the draft through several articles published in the *Metropolitan Record and New York Vindicator*, of which Mr. Mullaly is editor and proprietor. We have read the articles referred to in the complaint, and find in them no evidence of an intention to excite the populace to resistance. They are confined to an assertion of the unconstitutionality of the conscription law, and an appeal to the Governor of this State to protect the rights of the people through the recognised tribunals and his legitimate executive action. The right to question the constitutionality of an Act of Congress cannot be denied to the citizen, and it is a part of the duty of a public journal to discuss without reserve the propriety and legality of measures that affect the public weal. It is too late in Mr. Lincoln's reign, and too near the period of his discharge from office, to attempt to intimidate the press of New York. If it could be done, it would of course give Mr. Lincoln a great advantage in the Presidential campaign, and we are not surprised that the experiment is about to be tried.'

THE WAR IN THE REAR.—Some of the irregular horse of the 'Military District of Southern Kentucky' range over a very wide extent of that region; and, in the fulness of their dominion there, sweep up with impunity to within a few miles of Louisville. The war in the rear is growing in Kentucky to very serious dimensions, and may be made, by a Confederate advance into that State from Pound Gap, to close in fatally on the rear of General Sherman. The concentration of all our strength at two principal points may give us, before long, a disastrous proof of the difficulty of conquering a country where our advance becomes exposed to a war in not only the front but also the rear.—*New York Paper.*

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* *The History of the Cotton Famine, from the Fall of Sumter to the Passing of the Public Works Act.* By R. ARTHUR ARNOLD. London: Saunders, Otley, & Co. 1864.

THE RESIGNATION OF THE HON. C. G. MEMMINGER.

THE following correspondence has passed between President Davis and Mr. Memminger in reference to the retirement of the latter from the Secretaryship of the Treasury:—

Treasury Department: Richmond, June 15, 1864.

His Excellency the President:

Sir,—You have been aware for several months past of my desire to withdraw from my present official position, and of the reasons which restrained me from so doing. With an earnest purpose to devote to the service of my country, during the perils which surround her, whatever faculties I may possess, I had nevertheless perceived that the enormous burdens imposed on the Treasury by a war on so vast a scale, and the difficulty of sustaining them, had given rise to discontent and distrust in the ability of the officer administering the financial department. To these elements of dissatisfaction was added another arising from essential differences in the plans submitted by the head of the department and those adopted by Congress.

In this condition of things it would seem to have been proper to have resigned my office as soon as Congress had passed its judgment against the plans which I had submitted.

Two considerations, however, prevented. The first was a repugnance to any act which could be misconstrued into an abandonment of a post of duty assigned to me during a struggle in which I felt that every citizen owed to his country whatever sacrifice or service was demanded of him. The financial plan which was finally adopted by the last Congress had been uncertain until the end of the session. It was not matured until the two Houses had referred the matter to committees of conference, and it became a law only on the last day of the session. The machinery which was required for its operation was complex and extensive, and, by the terms of the law, just forty days were allowed to carry it into complete effect. No new head of the department, however competent, would have been able to acquire sufficient knowledge of office details in time to have carried out the provisions of the Act. The public good, therefore, demanded that I should not leave my post during this period.

The second consideration which prevented was the unwillingness I felt to leave you in opposition to your desire, while you honoured me with such confidence as you have manifested, and while our whole energies were still taxed by the great and varied responsibilities attendant upon the office in which Providence has placed you.

These considerations now no longer govern. The first is at an end. The funding of the currency has been nearly completed, and the entire machinery required by the plans of Congress and finance is now in full operation. No interest will suffer by my now giving place to a successor. The second consideration is, that I yield to the conviction that justice to myself and the public requires me to insist on the acceptance of the resignation which I now tender, in the hope that you will be successful in choosing a successor whose views shall harmonise with those of Congress, and who may, on that account, be better able (none can be more earnestly desirous) than I have been to do valuable service to our country.

I confess, sir, that I cannot, without deep emotion, separate from you and my colleagues in the Cabinet. Neither can I do so without bearing my testimony that never, in the utmost freedom of confidential intercourse, have I heard one word or suggestion indicating aught but a conscientious and disinterested desire to do what was best for our country. It has been my hope that, ere our official connection terminated, our country would be in full fruition of the peace and independence for which she has paid so costly a price, and that you, sir, would have enjoyed, in the spectacle of her happiness and prosperity, the only reward you seek for the ceaseless cares and labours devoted to her service. Though this may not now be, I shall not cease in private life to give my warm cooperation in whatever may conduce to the consummation so ardently desired.

I need scarcely add, Mr. President, that, while desiring to be relieved at as early a period as may be practicable, my services remain freely at your disposal until you shall have selected my successor in office.

With heartfelt wishes for your health, happiness, and prosperity, I remain, with the highest respect and esteem, your obedient servant, C. G. MEMMINGER.

Richmond, Virginia: June 21, 1864.

Dear Sir,—I have received your letter of the 15th inst., stating the grounds on which you deem that justice to yourself and to the public requires you to urge my acceptance of your resignation.

Some months since you expressed a desire to retire, for the reason that, in your belief, the public service would be promoted by the appointment of a successor whose views of financial policy accorded better than your own with the legislation then lately adopted. I knew the extreme difficulty of conducting the Treasury Department during the pending struggle. I was aware that any officer, however competent, must probably fail to escape the animadversions of those who are ready to attribute to inefficient administration the embarrassments due to deficiency of resources and the want of legislation best adapted to the existing circumstances. The experience acquired by you in the organisation and management of the Department could not be immediately replaced, and for these reasons I was satisfied that the general welfare would be injuriously affected by your withdrawal at that time. You have now, at least, the consolation and satisfaction to know that your personal wishes were surrendered to a conviction of public duty.

Recent events do not warrant me in refusing your renewed request that I should accept your resignation. The regret you express at the prospect of our official separation is sincerely shared by me. From your entrance on the duties of your office I have observed and appreciated the cheerful and unremitting devotion of all your faculties to the public service, and do not fail to remember that it was at the sacrifice of private inclinations that you continued to fulfil the arduous duties of your post. The offer you make of your services until your successor can assume office, is in the same patriotic spirit, and is accepted as thankfully as it is generously tendered. At as early a period as practicable I will endeavour to comply with your request to be relieved.

With my grateful acknowledgments for your past assistance, and for your very kind expressions of personal regard, be assured of the cordial esteem with which I am, your friend,

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Hon. C. G. Memminger, Secretary of Confederate
States Treasury, Richmond, Virginia.

GRANT'S LAST MOVEMENT.

THE Washington correspondent of the *New York Daily News* writes as follows under date of August 18:—

'From the glowing and bombastic accounts put forth by the Administration in reference to Butler's canal on the James River, and the recent movement of Grant's army to the north side of that river, the public might be led to suppose that an attack was to be made upon Richmond from that direction. But I am assured, upon the very best authority, that nothing of the kind was or is contemplated. So far as Butler's canal is concerned, it is a humbug of the first water, and will amount to nothing at all, one way or the other. The rebels have command of the James River down to the upper end of the bend, and, indeed, they have some strong batteries planted below that end. But their command of that part of the river will enable them to concentrate upon the west end of Butler's canal, if it ever reaches that end, such a terrific fire as to prevent the completion of the work, if they desire to do so. It is believed, however, that the pretended digging of the canal is only a stratagem, and a very shallow one at that, to deceive the enemy.

'As regards the movements of the army to the north side of the James river, it is said to be done in order to draw the Confederate troops away from Petersburg, and to ascertain their real strength at Richmond. The reported capture of Drury's Bluff was a most cruel hoax. Nothing of the kind was either attempted, or even contemplated. The movements on the north side of the river have only demonstrated how strong the Confederate works defending Richmond from that direction really are; and how hopeless any real assault upon them would be. It is well known that they are weaker there than at any other point on the line. But weak as they are, they are a great deal stronger than the works at Petersburg, and a great deal more difficult to carry. That fact was abundantly demonstrated by the attack that has just been made. In this attack the whole of the Second Corps, the very *élite* of the army, and a large portion of the Tenth Corps, were actively engaged. Whatever was possible for any troops in the world to effect would have been accomplished by them. Yet all they did do was to ascertain that the Confederate position, against which they advanced, was entirely too strong to be taken. The knowledge thus gained, too, has been very costly to us. Our loss was heavy, amounting to over two thousand, and this of our very best troops. The movement was intended, too, to be a surprise, and in this it utterly failed. The expedient of sending the troops on board of transports down the river, instead of up, with the bands playing gaily, did not deceive the Confederates. When our troops were landed and advanced to the assault they found the Confederates in front of them, as usual, in full force. In a word, the whole movement has been a failure, and a most costly one. If our troops remain where they are they can effect nothing towards Richmond, as the defensive positions held by the Confederates will be defended by additional bodies of troops, which on Sunday and Monday were being withdrawn from Petersburg for that purpose.'

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

THE money market has not been in a very quiet state, and apprehension is expressed that the rate of discount may ultimately have to be advanced. For the moment, however, such a contingency is barely possible, and, with gold going into the Bank, some parties are sanguine enough to think a reduction may follow. If the quotation can be maintained with steadiness, without movement one way or the other, it will be so much the better for all parties. There are, nevertheless, symptoms of dear money looming in the future, when the Bank of Amsterdam finds it essential to carry the rate to 5 per cent. A few failures in the mercantile world also indicate that trade has experienced some strain through the late high rates, and, if this shall prove the case, the last two months of the year will be fraught with mischief. While the principal bankers and bill-brokers are working at nearly ½ per cent. below the official *minimum*, there must be a strong pull to carry the quotation beyond 8 per cent. A further rise may take place at the end of October if, as is supposed, the remittances eastward shall rapidly increase. But all this difficulty may be surmounted by an exhibition of confidence which has before been shown when a shock has been approaching. Full values for money must rule with calls payable on banks, finance and credit companies, and when these come actively into force, the beginning of the end will be apparent. On the Stock Exchange short loans, which recently only commanded 3 and 4 per cent., are not now obtainable under 7 and 8 per cent., capital having been taken thence by Messrs. Glyn, and other bankers, to pay the current railway dividends.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The bullion market maintains its improved character, and there is very little alteration to notice in the state of business. Again there have not been any withdrawals this week on foreign account, and the amount sent into the Bank is 276,000*l*. The arrivals of specie have been unusually large, a considerable portion of which, it is expected, will also find its way into Threadneedle Street. The amount received is 1,513,700*l*., of which 1,468,621*l*. is from the West Indies and the Pacific, and the remainder from New York. The *Delhi* steamer, which has just left for the East, takes out 441,550*l*., of which 27,900*l*. is gold and 413,950*l*. silver. The gold ships from Melbourne now at sea are the *Wellesley*, with 95,000*l*.; the *Norfolk*, with 31,500*l*.; and the *Garrawalt*, with 113,000*l*. The silver market has been moderately active, and prices are slightly advancing. The present quotation for bar is 61½*d*. per oz. There have been very few Mexican dollars in the market lately, and the nominal price is 62*d*. per oz.

THE CREDIT FONCIER AND THE CREDIT MOBILIER COMPANIES.

The reports of the Crédit Foncier Company and the Crédit Mobilier Company have just been conjointly issued, preparatory to the meetings to be held on September 5, and are of a most remarkable character. That of the Crédit Foncier states that the net profits for the five months and three-quarters since the commencement of operations (after paying off the whole of the preliminary expenses, amounting to 10,000*l*.), have been 42,219*l*., or at the rate of 180 per cent. on the paid-up capital. The profits of the Crédit Mobilier are stated to be 42,614*l*., or at the rate of 205 per cent. per annum. A fusion of the two companies is to be proposed, with an issue of new shares at a premium of 2*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*. per 20*l*. share, to double the present subscribed capital of the two concerns.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The Stock Markets throughout the week have shown increased depression, and prices for the English securities have steadily declined. For this there really does not appear any exciting cause, and it must be mainly attributed to the general stagnation in business. The dealers just now appear to be perfectly apathetic, and nothing of a speculative character is exhibited. The closing price of Consols this evening was 88½ to 88⅝ for money, and 88⅝ to 88¾ for the account, which, as compared with Wednesday last, is a fall of ⅜ per cent. Exchequer Bills remain without change at 25*s*. to 15*s*. dis. A rather better feeling, however, prevails in the Foreign Stock Market, and some of the securities which are more particularly affected through political influences show an improvement; but otherwise prices are comparatively steady. There has been an improvement of ¾ per cent. in Greek, of ⅛ per cent. in Spanish Passives, and of ⅛ per cent. in Mexican—the closing quotations being: Greek, 23¾ to 24¼; Mexican, 28½ to 28¾; Spanish Passives, 31⅛ to 31⅜; ditto Certificates, 13⅜ to 13⅝; Turkish Six per Cents. of 1854, 90 to 91; and those of 1862, 70¼ to 70½.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market has been uninfluenced this week by the several instalments of news received from the American continent—the transactions have been probably limited—the closing price 80 cash, in expectation of the drawing to take place on Thursday (this day). The quotation, ex. dividend drawing, is 75 to 76.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The stagnation in the market for American Government and railway securities appears to increase, and the occasional reported successes of the Federals fail to give the slightest strength to the market. The brokers will not look at these securities now, unless under positive instructions. The only dealings recorded this week have been in Virginia State 6 per Cents. at 28½; Erie, $100 shares, all paid, at 41; Illinois Central, $100 shares, $90 paid, at 44, 44¾, 45, and 46 dis.; do. do., all paid, 52, 51¼, 51, 50, and 49½.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The suspension is announced of Messrs. Gunther, Muller, & Co., of Mincing Lane, in the oil and seed trade, with liabilities estimated at between 40,000*l*. and 50,000*l*. The failure is said to have been caused by losses sustained through houses in Hamburg and Amsterdam.—The failure is also announced of Messrs. Born & Co., general merchants, of Mincing Lane, with liabilities estimated at about 60,000*l*.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES, ETC.

An extraordinary meeting of the Ottoman Financial Association has been held for the purpose of confirming the resolution passed at a previous meeting, to increase the capital to the extent of 1,000,000*l*. by the issue of 20,000 new shares of 50*l*. each; 10,000 to be at first issued to applicants in the Ottoman Empire, and the remaining 10,000 to be retained, to be issued at the option of the directors. The resolution was agreed to, and also another altering the articles of association.—At the half-yearly meeting of the proprietors of the General Steam Navigation Company the usual dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, was agreed to.—At a meeting of the Indian Tramway Company the report, which was adopted, stated that the late subscriptions for the issue of further capital not having reached the amount required, it is recommended that the same be returned.—The London Bank of Scotland has held a special meeting for the purpose of confirming the resolution for voluntarily winding up the company, appointing the directors as liquidators, with authority to transfer the assets of the company to the Mercantile and Exchange Bank, and to carry out the proposed amalgamation. The resolution was agreed to.—At the first ordinary general meeting to-day of the European Bank, a balance-sheet was presented, embracing the period from September 1, 1863, to May 31 last, from which it appears that the gross profits for the nine months of its existence were 32,411*l*., and that, after deducting the expenses of management, providing for bad and doubtful debts, and rebating undue bills, the net profits were 19,035*l*. The directors have already paid an interim dividend of 15*s*. per share, and they now propose an addition thereto of 2*s*. 6*d*. per share, free of income-tax, thus making together rather more than 16 per cent. per annum on the mean capital worked during the nine months. The report was unanimously adopted.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

The market for British railway securities still continues very dull. Business, which is otherwise exceedingly slack, has been materially interfered with this week, by the preparations for and settlement of the half-monthly account. There is but little desire manifested by the dealers to operate to any extent, and prices generally exhibit a further decline. As compared with last week there has been a fall of 1½ per cent. in Midland; of 1¼ per cent. in South Eastern; of 1 per cent. in Great Western, Lancashire and Yorkshire, London, Chatham, and Dover, London and North-Western, and Metropolitan; and of ½ per cent. in Caledonian, Great Eastern, and North Eastern (York). But on the other side there has been an improvement of 4 per cent. in West Midland (Oxford); of 1 per cent. in Great Northern; and of ½ per cent. in North and South Western Junction. There has not been much doing in foreign railway shares, or those connected with the British possessions, and prices remain heavy.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

The prospectus has been issued this evening of the Graham's Town Fire and Marine Insurance Company, with a capital of 250,000*l*. in 25,000 shares of 10*l*. each. At present it is not intended to call up more than 1*l*. per share, a deposit of 10*s*. per share being required on application, and 10*s*. on allotment. The company has been established to meet the growing local wants in these branches of assurance business. The companies already in existence at the Cape are doing large businesses, and paying dividends varying from 20 to 50 per cent.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

Dear money continues to check transactions in produce generally, and buyers show no disposition to depart from the cautious line of policy which they have pursued for some time past. Whilst inactive, however, the markets, as a rule, are free from any serious depression, as supplies, although freely offered, are not forced off. The deliveries from warehouse are still favourable, and prevent any undue accumulation of stocks, notwithstanding that imports for some time past have been upon a liberal scale. The grain trade throughout the country, as well as in Mark Lane, has become firmer, partly from the moderate supplies coming on offer at the moment, and partly from a disposition to view present rates as moderate, and consequently safe. These remarks apply more particularly to wheat. Oats and all feeding stuffs are especially firm, in consequence of the protracted drought. Oilcake is in steady demand and very firmly held. The best New York brands of linseed in barrels are quoted 11*l*. 5*s*. to 11*l*. 10*s*., and best bags 11*l*. Linseed is firm from the same cause, but at the moment transactions on

the spot are not extensive. The provision trade is moderately active with an upward tendency in prices. Irish bacon has risen 2*s.* per cwt., and American short middles, rib in, are more in request at 43*s.* to 44*s.* per cwt. Navy provisions are still neglected. Fine butters have advanced 2*s.* to 4*s.* per cwt., but are not active, whilst anything ranging from 100*s.* to 110*s.* commands a very ready sale. Lard of all imports sells steadily. Petroleum moves off in small quantities at 2*s.* 1*d.* per gallon for American on the spot, and 2*s.* 2*d.* for future delivery. For crude the price is 18*l.* per tun. Rosin maintains its value at 26*s.* to 34*s.* for French, and 31*s.* to 42*s.* for American. The oil markets in general keep dull. Linseed is further depressed, the demand for cake causing a large production. To-day 35*s.* 9*d.* was the closing quotation. Rape oil is also offered on easier terms, say 46*s.* for foreign pale and 43*s.* for brown. Palm oil has risen to 36*s.* 6*d.* to 37*s.* owing to the rapid enhancement in tallow, which, in consequence of the drought, has gone up to 42*s.* 9*d.* for old Y.C. and 44*s.* for new on the spot, 44*s.* 9*d.* for the last three months' delivery, and 45*s.* 6*d.* spring. The metal market has become rather dull. Scotch pig-iron has declined to 57*s.* 10½*d.*, and spelter to 24*l.* 15*s.* per ton on the spot. Copper, on the other hand, is firmer. With prompt, Straits tin is quoted 103*l.*, and Banca 104*l.*

LIVERPOOL, Wednesday, August 30.—Our cotton market remains very quiet, and business continues limited, the dealings being chiefly confined to the supply of immediate wants. Prices have not been particularly steady; but whilst, on the one hand, there is at present no desire to purchase except under necessity, still, on the other hand, there is little disposition to force sales. The sales this week have amounted to 31,000 bales, of which 8,500 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year to the present time have been 1,819,540 bales, and to the same time last year 1,512,014 bales. There have been imported this year 1,419,141 bales; last year the number was 990,131 bales. The trade have taken this year 1,126,212 bales, and in 1863, 842,658 bales. The exports this year have been 373,711 bales; last year they were 290,376 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 311,414 bales, and in 1863 344,272 bales. The estimated stocks at the present time are 206,663 bales, and at the same period last year they were 247,112 bales. The closing quotations this afternoon were: for American descriptions, 28½*d.* to 31¼*d.*; Pernambuco, 31½*d.* to 32*d.*; Maranham, 31½*d.* to 32*d.*; Maceio, 29½*d.* to 29½*d.*; Bahia, 29½*d.* to 29½*d.*; Egyptian, 30*d.* to 30*d.*; Smyrna, 23½*d.* to 23½*d.*: Surats, 15*d.* to 27½*d.*; Bengal, 15½*d.* to 17½*d.*; Scinde, 15½*d.* to 17½*d.*; China, 18*d.* to 20½*d.*

There has been some improvement during the week in the Manchester markets, both as regards business and prices, although, as regards the latter, the alteration has not been very material. In shipping yarns there has been rather more doing, but not to the extent that was anticipated after the favourable telegrams received yesterday from India. The enquiry for yarns has been good, but it has not resulted in extensive dealings. Still it cannot be said that business has not improved. For home-trade yarns the market is also steadier, but spinners are showing a disposition to operate at previous quotations. The cloth market also shows signs of improvement, but, as in the case of yarns, manufacturers are disappointed that the Indian advices have not led to more business. It was anticipated that buyers would have been very active, but they are evidently holding back in anticipation of lower prices, and they seem quite indisposed at present to make satisfactory offers. A few transactions have taken place in light T cloths, shirtings, and madapollams, to meet immediate requirements, but the offers for larger parcels have been made at too low rates to be likely to be accepted by holders. The closing quotations are as follows:—$\frac{7}{8}$ Grey Printers, according to quality, from 8*s.* 9*d.* to 16*s.* 9*d.*; $\frac{9}{8}$ Grey Madapollams, 7*s.* 10½*d.* to 10*s.* 4½*d.*; $\frac{3}{8}$ Grey Printers, 12*s.* 1½*d.* to 18*s.* 6*d.*; $\frac{5}{4}$ Grey Shirtings, 13*s.* 3*d.* to 27*s.* 6*d.*; Water Twist, No. 20, 2*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* 10½*d.*; No. 30, 2*s.* 8*d.* to 3*s.* 2*d.*; No. 40, 3*s.* 1*d.* to 3*s.* 7*d.*; Mule Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 11*d.* to 2*s.* 9*d.*; No. 30, 2*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* 11*d.*; No. 40, 2*s.* 6½*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.*; No. 50, 2*s.* 11*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*; No. 60, 3*s.* to 3*s.* 8*d.*; No. 70, 3*s.* 2*d.* to 3*s.* 10*d.*; No. 80, 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.*; No. 90, 3*s.* 8*d.* to 4*s.* 2*d.*; and No. 100, 3*s.* 11*d.* to 4*s.* 9*d.*

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SHIPS ARRIVED.

AT LIVERPOOL.—August 25: The Tecumseh, from St. Georges. The Ernestine, from Nassau.—August 27: The Traviata, from Bahia. The Excelsior, from St. John's.—August 28: The Paraguay (steamer), from Montevideo. The Pfeil, from Bahia. The Georgiana, from Demerara. The Augusta, from Jamaica. The Elizabeth Baxter, The Eugenia, from Nassau. The J. W., The Mary Garland, from Bermuda. The Undine, from Prince Edward Island. The Chatham, from Miramichi.—August 29: The Eos, from Nassau. The Schuringa, from Pernambuco. The Birdie, from Cuba. The Sovereign, from Bermuda.—August 30: The Adelgunde, from Bahia. The Hamilton, from Bermuda. The Pocahontas, The Sterling, from St. John's.—August 31: The Isabel, from Demerara. The Leguido Almoranie, from Cuba. The Ivanhoe, The Squando, from St. John's. The Giuseppina, from Montevideo. The Barbadian (steamer) from Trinidad.

AT GRAVESEND.—August 25: The Bess, from Jamaica. The Esperanza, from Cuba. The Neptune (steamer), from Havre. The Saginaw, from Callao. The Reulitura, from Antigua. The Delphin, from Cuba. The Lotus, from Prince Edward Island.—August 26: The Prothesa, from Trinidad. The John Spear, from Havana. The William Tell, from Belize.—August 27: The Hebe, from St. Kitts.—August 29: The Hero, from Jamaica. The Bessy Jane, from Demerara. The Julia Maxwell, The Stagshaw, from Jamaica. The Markland, from Jamaica.—August 30: The J. Ahlers, The Zetus, from Cuba.—August 31: The Princess Alexandra, from Jamaica.

AT HEAL.—August 25: The Valencia, from Cuba. The Astrea, from Prince Edward Island. The Ceres, from Porto Rico.—August 26: The Plover, from Barbadoes.—August 27: The Naparima, from Trinidad. The W. A. Roberts, from Porto Rico.—August 28: The Islander, from Demerara. The John Romilly, from Trinidad. The Sultan, from Barbadoes. The Hero, from Jamaica. The E. Cushing, from Callao.—August 29: The Malgenio, from Havana.—August 30: The Standerings, from Jamaica.—August 31: The Arbutus, from Barbadoes. The Matchless, from West Indies.

OFF DUNGENESS.—August 25: The Elizabeth, from Cuba.

OFF BEACHY HEAD.—August 25: The Nuestra Senora, from Havana.

AT FALMOUTH.—August 25: The Holland, from Turk's Island. The Gordon, from Rio Janeiro. The Sir Colin Campbell, from Demerara. The Malgenio. The Montrose, The Samuel, from Havana. The Hadding, from Cuba. The Barend, The Prairie Bird, from Bahia.—August 26: The Atalanta, from Rio. The Wreath, from Bahia.—August 27: The Edith Jane, from Barbadoes. The Johann II., from Bahia. The Emma, from Havana. The Tjadda Gezina, from Rio Janeiro.—August 28: The Galilei, from Cuba. The Couchita, The Dickey, from Porto Rico. The Richard Cobden, from Cuba. The Augusta Keily, from Matanzas. The Casualidad, from La Grande. The Kathleen, from Havana.—August 29: The Margareth, from Porto Cabello. The Sam, from Porto Rico. The Kate Holmes, The Caroline, the Martha, from Bahia. The Virgines, from Havana.—August 30: The Maggie, The Catarina, The Hind, from Rio Grande. The Urania, from Pernambuco. The Alice, from Jamaica.—August 31: The Free Trade, from Porto Rico.

AT WHITEHAVEN.—August 28: The Diana, from Miramichi.

AT KINGROAD.—August 25: The Solleftea, from Havana.—August 26: The Venus, from Barbadoes.—August 28: The Roswell Sprague, from St. John's.

AT CROOKHAVEN.—August 25: The Excelsior, from Callao, much damaged. The Ann, from Demerara.

AT CLYDE.—August 25: The Jane Spiers, from Trinidad. The Kathleen Mavourneen, from Miramichi.—August 26: The Sophia, from Matamoras.—August 29: The Marion, from Trinidad. The Claribel, from St. Kitts. The Trinidad, The Angus, The Haabet, from Havana. The Marmion, from Trinidad. The Luiza, from Bahia. The Juno, from St. John's.—August 30: The Alice (steamer), from Bermuda.

OFF SCILLY.—August 25: The Mathilde, from Bahia.

AT SWANSEA.—August 29: The Pedro Ferrer, from Cuba.—August 30: The Claudine, from Valparaiso.

AT BRISTOL.—August 25: The Solleften, from Havana.—August 29: The Clara, from Bahia.

AT QUEENSTOWN.—August 26: The National, from Callao. The Fanny Palmer, from Demerara.—August 29: The Tallousac, The Echo, from Havana. The Nordcap, from Belize. The Kingston, from St. John's.—August 31: The Sunrise, from Havana.

OFF THE START.—August 25: The Lessing, from Buenos Ayres.

AT NEWPORT.—August 29: The Courrier, from St. John's.

AT GLASSON DOCK.—August 27: The Albert, from St. John's.

AT MADEIRA.—August 20: The Attila, The Owl (steamer), and left for Bermuda. The Wild Rover (steamer), and left for Bermuda. The Martha Lloyd, The Empire, and left for Havana. The Flor de Porto, The Iron King (steamer). The Resource. The Lillian. The Mary (steamer), and left for Nassau. The Agnes Louisa (steamer), and left for Nassau.

AT BERMUDA.—August 5: The Elsie (steamer), from Clyde. The City of Petersburgh (steamer), from Wilmington. The Old Dominion (steamer), from Wilmington. The Dieppe (steamer), from London. The Ariosto, from Cardiff. The Alexander, from Liverpool. The Falcon (steamer), The Lynx (steamer), The Mary Celestia (steamer), The North Heath (steamer), The Wando (steamer), The Chicora (steamer), all from Wilmington. The Shamrock, from Cardiff. The Eroe, from Maranham. The Mary Boven (steamer), The Flamingo (steamer), The Edith (steamer), all sailed for Nassau.

AT HALIFAX.—August 18: The North Heath (steamer), The Alpha (steamer), The Little Hattie (steamer). The Falcon (steamer), all from Bermuda. The Kestrel (steamer), from Havana.

AT ST. THOMAS.—August 11: The Vengoeschia (steamer), from Wilmington. The Crusader (steamer), from Liverpool. The Tamar (steamer), from Colon.

AT LISBON.—August 31: The Lizzie (steamer), from Clyde for Bermuda, with damage.

AT ST. MICHAEL'S.—August 17: The Ptarmigan (steamer), for Bermuda.

SHIPS SAILED.

LIVERPOOL.—August 25: The Edwin and Lizzie, The B-de-Wolf, The Emily Agnes, for Bermuda. The Pole Star, The Florence Nightingale, for Valparaiso. The Nictau, for St. John's.—August 26: The Alina-y-Luis, for Buenos Ayres. The Nuevo Juliana, for Porto Rico. The Bellcarrigg, for Havana.—August 27: The Zampa, for Pernambuco. The Catharine Ann, The Night Hawk (steamer), for Bermuda. The Surprise, for Halifax.—August 30: The Ellen, for Havana.

DEAL.—August 25: The Kate, for Bermuda.—August 26: The James Armstrong, for Demerara.

NEWPORT.—August 25: The Trumbull, for Rio Janeiro.—August 27: The Melita, for Porto Rico.—August 30: The Commandeur, The Triton, for Rio Janeiro. The Andromache, for Jamaica.

CARDIFF.—August 25: The Bosphorus, for Bermuda. The Stormy Petrel (steamer), for Madeira.—August 27: The Concordia, for St. Thomas. The Levanter, The Mavrocordatos (steamer), for Bermuda.

SHIELDS.—August 25: The Don, for St. John's.

QUEENSTOWN.—August 26: The Banshee (steamer), for Bermuda.

PLYMOUTH.—August 27: The Venus, for Buenos Ayres.

CLYDE.—August 29: The Glaucus, for St. John's. The Lord Hardinge, for Jamaica.

GRIMSBY.—August 27: The Lightning, for Teneriffe.

DARTMOUTH.—August 26: The Symmetry, for St. Michael's.

LOWESTOFT.—August 26: The Superb, for Pernambuco.

ARDROSSAN.—August 30: The Sharon, for Demerara.

The Liverpool Customs' Bill of Entry of August 29 states that:—The Eugenie, from Nassau, brings 181 bales of cotton. The Eos, from Nassau, 613 bales of cotton. The Elizabeth Barter, from Nassau, 350 bales of cotton. The Mary Garland, from Bermuda, 468 bales of cotton. The J. W., from Bermuda, 392 bales of cotton and 400 boxes of tobacco. The Aid, from Bermuda, 402 bales of cotton and 400 boxes of tobacco. Total: 800 boxes of tobacco and 2,406 bales of cotton, in one day, from the Confederate States of America.

SHIPS LOADING.

AT LONDON.—For New York: The Washington (mail steamer) from Havre, September 21: Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For West Indies: The Vera Cruz (mail steamer) from St. Nazaire, September 16: Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For Nassau: The Iona, St. Katharine's Docks: J. Worley. For Bermuda: The Lady Milne, The Jane Smith, The Wanderer, The Quiver, The Hansa, The Era.—For Havre: The Neptune (steamer), St. Katharine's Wharf, September 4: 12 at noon, and September 8, at 1 morn. The Young Mary, The Felicity.—For Montevideo: The Gustave and Marie, Davison Brothers & Co., St. Katharine's Docks.—For Madeira: The Arabella.

AT LIVERPOOL.—For Bermuda: The Palikari, September 11: H. Lafone. The Nutfield, The Driving Mist, The Mary, The Ann and Mary, The Dumfries, The Prioress, The Albert, The Bat (steamer).—For Madeira: The Macgregor Laird (steamer), The Garibaldi.—For Matamoras: The Oleander, The Gez Hillegonda, The Rimac, The Byron. The St. George, The Mary and Jessie, The Julie.—For Nassau: The Majestic, The Prospero.—For Halifax: The Surprise.

AT CARDIFF.—For Bermuda: The Admiral Kanaris (steamer), The Eyrene, C. Rapier.—The Margaretta, The Minnet, The Eliza Nelson, The Cordelia, The Levanter, The Pleiades.—For Nassau: The Monarch.

AT GLOUCESTER.—For Bermuda: The Lillian.

AT GLASGOW.—For Bermuda: The Banshee, The Stormy Petrel, The Armstrong.

AT SWANSEA.—For Bermuda: The Audex.

Advertisements.

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CONFEDERATE STATE BONDS.

WE are prepared to buy (as they become due) the COUPONS of all the BONDS issued by the Confederate Government; or we will receive them for collection and return in Bonds in sums of not less than £500.

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MONONGAHELA, Bourbon, and Old Dominion Whiskies; Peach Brandy, Staughton, Sickles, and other Bitters, Fruit Spirits; Sparkling and dry Catawba; Californian Champagne; all kinds of Continental Wines, including the original importations from Hungary.
The Stock of Wines, Spirits, and Liqueurs are of the oldest, most extensive, and best selected in England.
TERMS, CASH!

SEVEN PER CENT. COTTON LOAN
OF
THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
FOR £3,000,000 STERLING.

SINKING FUND.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the SECOND HALF-YEARLY DRAWING for the REDEMPTION of this LOAN at PAR has taken place this day in the presence of the undersigned Agents to the Contractors of the Loan, and of Mr. Salem Constable Harris, Notary Public; and the following 174 Bonds, amounting to £66,500, which forms one-fortieth of £2,659,200, the amount of the Loan at this date unredeemed by Cotton, have been drawn by lot:—

SERIES A.—35 BONDS AT £1,000.

12	187	403	547	796	1021	1365	1499
28	245	408	642	818	1229	1398	1527
107	255	459	744	850	1294	1427	1529
110	263	515	773	989	1335	1461	1543
138	364	532					

SERIES B.—35 BONDS AT £500.

14	151	281	567	889	988	1136	1357
25	157	283	689	937	1002	1165	1405
103	172	445	728	939	1038	1282	1417
106	200	538	798	943	1084	1330	1454
115	204	550					

SERIES C.—36 BONDS AT £200.

44	148	355	560	773	981	1337	1455
79	228	445	514	799	1079	1314	1485
97	333	458	586	841	1237	1427	
103	334	470	616	878	1282	1446	
115	335	480	666	943	1301		

SERIES D.—68 BONDS AT £100.

4	209	436	954	1260	1601	2012	2425
69	223	529	1077	1267	1610	2077	2456
79	234	582	1089	1280	1773	2119	2524
80	245	594	1142	1465	1782	2169	2645
81	268	728	1152	1470	1805	2249	2650
89	357	753	1160	1545	1853	2276	2876
115	576	753	1163	1552	1931	2356	2910
153	385	905	1203	1594	1942	2359	2983
178	434	929	1242				

These Bonds must be forthwith sent in for payment at the counting-house of Messrs. J. HENRY SCHRÖDER & Co., between the hours of 11 and 2 o'clock, and all interest thereupon ceases from this date.
The Bonds, with lists arranged in numerical order, must be left two clear days for examination.
145 Leadenhall Street, London, September 1, 1864. J. HENRY SCHRODER & CO.

BY AUTHORITY.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLECTORS OF CUSTOMS.

Treasury Department, C.S.A.
Richmond, March 12, 1864.

THE following regulations are prescribed for the government and directions of all officers of the revenue, to carry into effect the provisions of the Act to prohibit the importation of luxuries, or of articles not necessary or of common use, approved February 6, 1864:—

1. The importation of articles set forth in the schedule accompanying these regulations is absolutely prohibited.

2. None of said prohibited articles shall be admitted for duty after the 1st of March, 1864, or shall receive a permit to be landed unless it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the collector that they were actually shipped on board of the vessel in which they have arrived before the 1st of March, 1864, without knowledge of the passage of the Act aforesaid.

3. In case any prohibited articles shall be on board any ship, vessel, boat, raft or carriage arriving in the Confederate States after said 1st of March, and shall be omitted in the manifest, report, or entry of the master or person having charge or command of such ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, or shall be omitted in the entry of the goods owned by the owner or consigned to the consignee of such articles, or shall be imported or landed without a permit, the said goods shall be seized and dealt with, and the vessel and parties shall be subjected to the same forfeitures, fines, and penalties as in cases of similar omissions, landing, importation, or attempt to land or import, in relation to articles liable to duties on their importation into the Confederate States.

4. In case any prohibited article shall, after the 1st of March, 1864, be imported into the Confederate States, or shall, after said date, be put on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, with the intention of importing the same into the Confederate States; all such articles shall be forfeited, and also all other articles on board the said ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, belonging to the owner of such prohibited articles; and, moreover, the owner thereof shall forfeit and pay double the value of the prohibited articles.

5. The following additional oath or affirmation shall be taken by each master or person having charge or command of any ship or vessel which shall arrive at any port of the Confederate States after the 1st of March, 1864, viz.: 'I further swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, on board (insert the denomination and name of the vessel) any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover or know of any such goods, wares, or merchandise, on board of the said vessel, or which shall have been imported in the same, I will immediately, and without delay, report the same to the collector of this district.'

6. Each importer consignee, or agent shall at the time of entering any goods imported after the said 1st of March, 1864, take the follow additional oath, viz.: 'I also swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, amongst the said goods, wares, or merchandise, imported or consigned as aforesaid, any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover any such goods, wares, or merchandise, imported or consigned as aforesaid, I will immediately, and without delay, report the same to the collector of this district.

C. G. MEMMINGER, Secretary of Treasury.

LIST OF ARTICLES, THE IMPORTATION OF WHICH IS PROHIBITED BY AN ACT OF CONGRESS, ENTITLED 'AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE IMPORTATION OF LUXURIES OR ARTICLES NOT NECESSARIES OR OF COMMON USE.' APPROVED FEBRUARY 6, 1864.

Absinthe.
Alabaster and spar ornaments.
Alabata.
Ale, beer, and porter.
Almonds, raisins, currants, dates, figs, and all other dried or preserved fruits.
Amber beads.
Anchovies, sardines, and all other fish preserved in oil.
Angora, Thibet, and other goats' hair, or mohair manufactured.
Argentine, alabata, or German silver manufactured or unmanufactured.
Arrack.
Articles embroidered with gold, silver, or other metal.
Balsams, cosmetics, essences, extracts, pastes, perfumes, and tinctures used for the toilet.
Bananas, cocoa-nuts, pine apples, plantains, and oranges.
Bay rum.
Beads of amber, composition, or wax, and all other beads.
Benzoates.
Billiard and bagatelle tables, and all other tables or boards on which games are played.
Bracelets, braids, chains, curls or ringlets composed of hair, or of which hair is a component part.
Brandy and other spirits distilled from grain or other materials.
Brooms and brushes of all kinds.
Cabinet and household furniture.
Cabinets of coins, medals, gems, and all collections of antiquities.
Canes and sticks for walking, finished and unfinished.
Capers and sauces of all kinds.
Card cases, pocket books, shell boxes, souvenirs, and all similar articles, of whatever material composed.
Carpets, carpeting, hearth rugs, bedsides, and other portions of tapestry of every kind and description.
Carriages and parts of carriages.
Cider and other beverages not containing alcohol.
Clocks and parts of clocks.
Comfits, confectionery, sweetmeats, or fruits preserved in sugar, molasses, brandy, or other liquors.
Composition tops for tables, or other articles of furniture.
Compositions of glass, set or unset.
Coral, cut or manufactured.
Cordials, absinthe, arrack, curaçoa, kirschen-wasser, liquors, maraschino, ratifia, and all other spirituous beverages of a similar character.
Cotton laces, cotton insertings, cotton trimmings, and laces of thread and other materials.
Diamonds, cameos, mosaics, gems, pearls, rubies, and other precious stones, and imitations thereof, when set in gold, silver, or other metal, and when not set.
Dolls and toys of all kinds.
Engravings, bound or unbound.
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Galloons, laces, knots, stars, tassels, tresses, and wings of gold or silver, or imitations thereof, except when intended for uniforms of officers in the military and naval service.
Glass, cut.
Glass, coloured, stained or painted.
Grapes, plums, and prunes, and other fresh fruit when put up in bottles, cases, or cans.
Hair, human, cleansed or prepared for use.
India matting of all kinds.
Jet and manufactures of jet, and imitations thereof.
Jewelry, or imitations thereof.
Leaf and manufactured tobacco and cigars.
Manufactures of cedar wood, granadilla, ebony, mahogany, rose wood, and satin wood.
Manufactures of gold, platina, or silver.
Manufactures and articles of marble, marble paving tiles, slabs, or blocks, and all other marble.
Matting, China, or other floor matting, and mats made of flags, jute, or grass.
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NOTE.—None of the manufactures of metal designed as either household or personal ornaments shall be admitted.

Under the fourth section of the act, entitled 'An act to prohibit the importation of luxuries, or of articles not necessaries, or of common use,' approved February 6, 1864, the following maximum foreign prices are established, at which, and within which, importations of goods manufactured wholly or partly of cotton, flax, wool, or of silk, and designed for wearing apparel, and not prohibited by said act, and beyond which importations thereof shall not be made.

The prices named in the following, for all articles, are the invoice prices in coin, at the place of exportation:

MANUFACTURES OF COTTON.

All articles wholly of cotton, whether coloured or white, not to exceed 25 cents per square yard, excepting cottonades, corduroys, fustians, and velveteens, which shall not exceed 50 cents per yard.
Drawers, ready made, knit or woven, not to exceed 1 dol. per pair.
Gloves, not to exceed 25 cents per pair.
Hosiery, men's, not to exceed 25 cents per pair.
Hosiery, women's, not to exceed 35 cents per pair.
Shirts, ready made, knit or woven, not to exceed 1 dol. each.
Spool cotton, not to exceed 5 cents per 100 yards.
Tapes, not to exceed 5 cents per bunch of 12 yards.

MANUFACTURES OF FLAX.

All articles manufactured wholly of flax, whether coloured or white, not to exceed 50 cents per square yard.
Drawers, ready made, not to exceed 1 dol. 50 cents. per pair.
Gloves, not to exceed 50 cents. per pair.
Handkerchiefs, not to exceed 25 cents. a piece.
Hosiery, not to exceed 50 cents per pair.
Shirts, ready made, not to exceed 1 dol. 50 cents. each.
Tapes, not to exceed 5 cents per bunch of 12 yards.
Thread, not to exceed 1 dol. per pound.

MANUFACTURES OF WOOL.

Alpacas, cashmeres, de laines, lastings, merinos, mohairs, and Persian cloth, not to exceed 50 cents. per yard.
Bombazines and French Merinos, not to exceed 75 cents. per yard.
Beaver cloth and broad cloth, not to exceed 3 dols. per yard.
Bindings, not to exceed 5 cents per yard.
Drawers, knit or woven, not to exceed 1 dol. per pair.
Flannels, not to exceed 50 cents. per yard.
Gloves, not to exceed 40 cents per pair.
Hats, men's, not to exceed 2 dols. each.
Hats, women's, not to exceed 4 dols. each.
Hosiery, men's and women's, not to exceed 40 cents per pair.
Kerseys, kerseymeres, lions' skins, melton cloths, pilot cloth, serges, tweeds and vestings, not to exceed 2 dols. per yard.
Shawls, not to exceed 7 dols. 50 cents each.
Shirts, not to exceed 1 dol. each.

MANUFACTURES OF SILK.

Dress silk, not to exceed 1 dol. per yard.
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Mantillas, shawls, and ladies' wrappings of any kind, not to exceed 5 dol. each.
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Serge lining, not to exceed 1 dol. per square yard.
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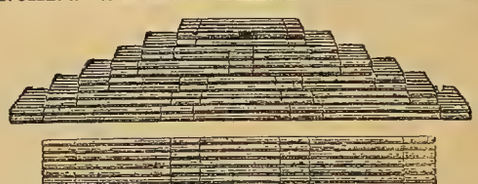

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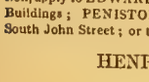

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MANUFACTURERS OF GAS TUBES AND FITTINGS.
LAP WELDED BOILER TUBES.

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THE INDEX

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Financial Aspect of the United States of America.

SOME few years ago it was the custom of certain English statesmen to make unpalatable fiscal comparisons between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Such comparisons tended not only to create dissatisfaction in the minds of a certain section of the tax-paying community, but also assisted to swell that mighty volume of American emigration which finally leavened the Northern States with no less than forty-eight per cent. of an alien population. Nor were the statements then made without apparent foundation. The United States were young, had a wide and prolific territory intersected by large rivers and watered by two oceans, and only wanted the industry of man to make them another Paradise. For seventy years they had continued to march in the van of progress, unencumbered with the taxation and state debts of the kingdoms of the Old World. On June 30, 1860, the public debt of the United States amounted only to $64,769,699, or about $2·16 per head of the entire population. When President Lincoln came into power, in March 1861, the public debt was $76,159,667, or about $2·42 per head of the entire population. His determination, however, to coerce the South and to maintain the Union by force of arms has added, within three years and a half, the enormous sum of $1,600,000,000. The increase of such debt has been officially stated as follows:—

Federal debt, July 1, 1862		$495,244,526
Ditto	December 1, 1862	727,512,755
Ditto	September 30, 1863	1,222,113,560
Ditto	July 1, 1864	1,686,956,638

Already has the debt attained the proportion of $84·35 per head of the present population of the North; and, if Mr. Chase's estimate of Federal debt for 1865 be realised, the burden on the head of each citizen will attain to $111; whilst, if the war should continue until 1866, nothing can prevent the war debt from rising to $140 per head. Supposing the efforts of the peace party of the North to be crowned with success, and the war to cease with the present campaign, it will not be an exaggeration to put down the Federal debt at $2,000,000,000. Such an amount of debt, if funded, to bear interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum, would make an annual charge on the Northern States of $100,000,000.

The interest of the war debt, however, will not be the only burden hereafter to be borne by the Northern people. It is hardly to be expected that the military and naval establishments of the country can safely be reduced at once, if indeed ever, to their normal footing before the war. Even without new wars, and even with the South as an ally instead of a rival, the future of America is so pregnant with big events that, under the most favourable circumstances of peace, a considerable standing army and an efficient naval force will probably be indispensable. Assuming, then, an army and navy to be retained which will secure the material interests of the Northern States, it will not be difficult to estimate the approximate fiscal burdens of the Federal Government. It will be no unreasonable estimate to place the future peace establishment of the Northern States at $300,000,000 a year, viz.:—

Civil List	$10,000,000
Foreign Intercourse	2,000,000
Miscellaneous	20,000,000
Interior Department—	
Indians, Military and Naval Pensions	20,000,000
War Department	100,000,000
Naval do.	48,000,000
Interest on Public Debt	100,000,000
	$300,000,000

To meet this expenditure the North will have four sources of income, viz. Customs, Internal Duties, Sales of Public Lands, and Miscellaneous Items, whose united yield will approach $160,000,000, viz.:—

Customs	$70,000,000
Internal Duties	80,000,000
Land Sales	1,000,000
Miscellaneous	9,000,000
	$160,000,000

The deficiency to be made up will be about $140,000,000, which can only be met by obtaining loans of money at home or abroad, or by doubling the taxation paid by the people. If recourse be had to the former method, it will only tend to depreciate existing stocks of American securities; whilst doubling the taxation of the people can only be enforced by a strong Government, to which the people as yet are unaccustomed. Well may the more thoughtful of American citizens shudder at a continuance of the war, whilst they almost equally dread a return of peace, because of the dangers which will then arise, and which may threaten with political and social convulsion the Northern States themselves. Possibly it may change the political destiny of the whole American continent. But that is in the future.

As yet we have but glanced at the debts and dangers which threaten the Federal Government. Let us turn for a moment to the States which form the Northern Republic. Europeans are apt to forget, even if many of them know, that there is a State as well as a Federal Government. Each State has a Legislature of its own, which makes laws and imposes taxation distinct from what is enacted by the Government at Washington. The State authorities can impose taxes for State government, justice, education, pauperism, &c., the total demands of which amount to a large yearly sum, hitherto cheerfully borne because of the lightness of the Federal burden. Whether the State taxes will be as easily raised in the future as in the past, time alone will determine. With the State Governments, as with the Federal Government, the war has materially increased both their taxation and debt. From the annexed statement the reader will readily infer the present financial condition of the Northern States.

Statement showing the Expenditure and Debts of the respective States forming the United States of America.

		State Expenditure	State Debt
Maine	1862	$633,893	$1,472,000
New Hampshire	1863	792,582	1,433,400
Vermont	,,	2,628,201	1,130,723
Massachusetts	,,	6,728,597	18,011,010
Rhode Island	,,	3,557,106	
Connecticut	,,	2,486,453	3,050,000
New York	,,	20,703,585	29,773,964
New Jersey	1862	1,325,658	886,100
Pennsylvania	1863	4,314,964	39,495,840
Ohio	1862	5,890,043	14,141,662
Michigan	1863	3,127,486	2,936,753
Indiana	1862	3,420,000	10,592,290
Illinois	,,	5,437,393	12,337,381
Iowa	,,	400,000	1,122,296
Wisconsin	1863	2,602,386	1,506,222
Minnesota	,,	576,539	350,000
Kansas	1862	79,236	229,509
California	,,	1,365,919	5,569,285
Oregon	1863	65,499	
		$66,135,540	$144,038,435

Annual amount of State expenditure $66,135,540
Approximate amount of State debt . $144,038,435

Assuming the population of the States named to amount to 20,000,000, the local burdens average $3·3 per head, and the debts $7·2; or, in other words, the Federal and State burdens amount together, at the present time, to more than $40 per head per year, and the debts of the two to $91½. History offers no parallel to the recklessness which the Northern States have exhibited during the past three years and a half, and all to compel the Southern people to submit to a union no longer in harmony with their interests or their wishes. In common with all other wars, that of the United States will cast an additional burden not only on the shoulders of the Northern people, but on every other country which hereafter may trade with them. As we have stated, the Northern States purpose to raise a considerable portion of their taxation on foreign imports. Foreigners, therefore, must pay their share of Federal taxation, if they hope to do any business with them. What that business will be we are really at a loss to conceive. Seventy millions of customs dues will represent over two hundred million dollars of foreign trade at the present rates imposed by the United States tariff.

Before the outbreak of the present war the total exports of the United States had attained to $373,189,274, of which, however, $56,946,851 were specie and bullion; thus leaving 316,242,423 dollars' worth of domestic produce to be apportioned betwixt North and South. Of the last-named amount the South exported 226,000,000 dollars' worth of domestic produce, thus leaving to the North only $90,000,000. It will thus be seen that the North must at once double its foreign trade of 1860 in order to raise the customs dues accredited to it in its future fiscal arrangements. If the North fails to prosecute a vigorous foreign trade, and contents herself with high tariffs and exclusive dealing, her own citizens must pay the difference through the medium of increased internal taxation. In such a case the North would be doomed to new political and social convulsion.

When, then, the present war is over, the North will feel more than ever the effects of her unfortunate war with the South, and her call will be for statesmen, and not for warriors, if she would avoid the Charybdis which lies before her. Her best friends will be those who counsel her to walk in the paths of peace, and who advise her to make her tariffs in harmony with those of other nations. If peace counsels should prevail—if her citizens resolve on developing the rich resources with which Heaven has blessed their land, already extensive enough for the wants and subsistence of a population as dense as that of China—if they do this, and renounce their ideas of manifest destiny and universal dominion—it is possible that the North may not only become a great nation, but bear its burdens easily and without fear.

LETTERS FROM NEW ORLEANS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA: August 16, 1864.

THE DEFENCE OF MOBILE—COLD RECEPTION OF THE FORT GAINES PRISONERS AT NEW ORLEANS—THE PELHAM CADETS—THE TERMS OF SURRENDER OF FORT GAINES—THE POSITION OF FORT MORGAN—CONFEDERATE MOVEMENTS WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI, ETC., ETC.

MAJOR-GENERAL FRANK GARDNER, who defended Port Hudson so long and so gallantly, has assumed the chief command of the district of the Gulf, headquarters at Mobile. Every 'rebel' of the Crescent City rejoices at his appointment, and the utmost confidence now prevails that Mobile will soon be, if she be not already, in a position to 'laugh a siege to scorn.' It can be more easily defended on the water front than can Charleston, and the defences on the land side are said to be capable of resisting the attack of an army of 50,000 men if the works be fully manned. A sufficient force is now concentrating from Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. There is little apprehension of the force from New Orleans attempting anything beyond the siege of Fort Morgan. It is too small to attempt a demonstration upon the city, though General Granger, who commands, may make feints towards the south-west side. At present his forces are occupied in garrisoning Forts Gaines and Powell, in guarding minor points, and in preparing for the siege of Fort Morgan, which they began to invest in the rear on the morning of the 9th inst. After General Granger had got into position, and the fleet had sent some half-dozen shells into the fort, the following joint demand for its surrender was made through a flag of truce:—

United States Flagship *Hartford*,
Mobile Bay, August 9, 1864.

Sir,—To prevent the sacrifice of human life, we demand the unconditional surrender of Fort Morgan.

D. G. FARRAGUT, Rear-Admiral.
GORDON GRANGER, Major-Gen. U. S. A.

To Brigadier-General Page, commanding Fort Morgan.

To which the following reply was returned:—

Headquarters, Fort Morgan,
August 9, 1864.

Rear-Admiral D. G. Farragut, U. S. N.:
Major-General Gordon Granger, U. S. A.:

Sirs,—I am prepared to sacrifice life, and will surrender only when I have no means of defence.

I do not understand that while being communicated with under flag of truce the *Tennessee* should be towed within range of my guns.—Respectfully, &c.,

R. L. PAGE,
Brigadier-General Commanding, C. S. A.

The reply has the ring of the true metal. 'That's so like Dick Page,' said a Federal naval officer to me upon reading the above, and so say all who know him. He certainly means fight, for he is 'prepared to sacrifice life,' as should be every commander similarly placed, unless he be a poltroon or worse, as was the commandant of Fort Gaines. The prisoners of that stronghold have been brought to this city. Their reception by the citizens must have smitten them to the soul, even if they be undeserving of the suspicions entertained of their fealty or courage. A scowl or a cold stare was their only greeting from the citizens; and the ladies, who have sought their highest pleasure in ministering to the wants of the prisoners hitherto brought to this city, feel mortified almost beyond control. They will do nothing for men whom they insist upon regarding as cowards or——well, I'll not repeat it; when ladies are excited, they are apt to be a little too voluble to be just. The following is a list of the officers who were surrendered with Fort Gaines:—

Colonel C. D. Anderson, 21st Alabama. Major C. B. Johnston, 21st Alabama. Major W. R. Brown, P. C. S. A., Texas. Assistant-Surgeon M. W. Du Bose, 21st Alabama, Mobile. Adjutant George Vedener, 21st Alabama, Mobile. Lieutenant R. E. Baker, P. A. C. S. Captain C. K. Sherman, P. A. C. S. Captain J. L. Culpepper, South Carolina. Captain F. W. Smith, 21st Alabama, Sumter county, Alabama. Captain Price Williams, Jr., Pelham cadets, Mobile. Captain M. Crenshaw, Pelham cadets, Mobile. Captain John F. O'Connor, Pelham cadets, Mobile. Captain J. Ernest Meicre, Confederate States marines. Captain A. S. Carrington, 21st Alabama, Mobile. Captain E. P. Spalding, 21st Alabama, Mobile. Lieutenant A. Northrop, 21st Alabama, Mobile. Lieutenant M. McInnis, 21st Alabama, Mobile. Lieutenant J. R. Y. Fendall, Confederate States marines. Lieutenant John F. Toulmin, 21st Alabama. Lieutenant J. L. Dove, Culpepper battery, South Carolina. Lieutenant R. E. Roper, Pelham cadets, Mobile. Lieutenant W. S. Badger, 21st Alabama. Lieutenant O. C. Derrahs, 21st Alabama, Mobile. Lieutenant E. A. Podmetz, 21st Alabama, Marengo county. Lieutenant J. Podmetz, 21st Alabama, Marengo county. Lieutenant M. E. Macartney, 21st Alabama, Mobile. Lieutenant T. N. Macartney, 21st Alabama, Mobile. Lieutenant John L. Rapier, Confederate States marines. Lieutenant T. J. Evans, 1st battery Alabama artillery, Marion. Lieutenant Warren J. Anderson, 1st battery Alabama artillery, Mobile. Lieutenant John M. Battle, 1st battery Alabama artillery, Mobile. Lieutenant Charles W. Sims, Lockhart's battery, New Orleans. Lieutenant G. B. Dantzler, 21st Alabama, Mobile. Lieutenant J. M. Mims, 21st Alabama, Montgomery. Lieutenant W. Demorey, 21st Alabama, Mobile. Lieutenant D. McCullough, 21st Alabama, Mobile. Lieutenant B. F. Allman, 21st Alabama, Mobile. Lieutenant David Woods, Lockhart's battery. Lieutenant M. Burke, 21st Alabama, Mobile. Lieutenant R. Baldwin, 21st Alabama, Mobile. Lieutenant W. H. Andrews, 21st Alabama, Mobile. Lieutenant John M. Danzey, 21st Alabama, Mobile. Lieutenant T. T. Herbert, 21st Alabama, Mobile.

The Pelham cadets compose a battalion of youths of 16 to 18 years of age. Private accounts state that it was the only force on the island (Dauphine) that made any resistance. They fought Granger's forces for three days, and were finally, by sheer dint of numbers alone, driven under the guns of Fort Gaines, outside of which they were forced to remain till the surrender. Colonel Anderson refused to receive them into the fort—why does not appear. So wags the popular tongue upon this unpleasant subject of Fort Gaines. Other stories even more damaging to the Colonel are afloat, but I have no desire to retail the gossip of the town. He may yet give satisfactory reasons for the surrender, but certain it is he made no fight so far as is known here, and this it is that the people cannot get over. According to the Federal accounts, the following were the terms of the surrender of Fort Gaines:—

On Sunday evening, August 7, General Granger had an interview with Admiral Farragut on the flagship *Hartford*, in relation to Colonel Anderson's proposition to surrender Fort Gaines. The result of the interview was the following reply to the rebel proposition:—

'Sir,—In accordance with the proposal made in your letter of this morning for the surrender of Fort Gaines, I have to say that after communicating with General Granger, in command of our forces on Dauphin Island, the only offers we can make are:—

'First.—The unconditional surrender of yourself and the garrison of Fort Gaines, with all of the public property within its limits.

'Second.—The treatment which is in conformity with the custom of the most civilised nations towards prisoners of war.

'Third.—Private property, with the exception of arms, will be respected.

'This communication will be handed to you by First Captain P. Drayton and Colonel Myer, of the United States Army, who fully understand the views of General Granger and myself.

'Very respectfully, your obedient servants,
'D. G. FARRAGUT, Rear-Admiral,
'GORDON GRANGER, Major-General, U.S.A.

'Colonel C. D. Anderson, commanding Fort Gaines.'

The above was sent off to the fort at a late hour in the evening. Soon afterwards the bearers returned to the flagship, bringing with them Colonel Anderson and a staff officer, when, after a protracted interview with the commanding officers, the terms were assented to in the following terms:—

'The above conditions and terms of surrender are agreed to by the undersigned, and the ceremony of turning over the prisoners of war, Fort Gaines, and all the public property appertaining thereto, intact, and in the same condition it is now, will take place at 8 o'clock A.M. to-morrow, August 8.

C. D. ANDERSON,
'Colonel, 21st Alabama Regiment, commanding Fort Gaines.

'Witnessed—P. Drayton, Fleet Captain; Albert J. Myer, Colonel and Signal Officer, United States Army.'

Doubtless, Fort Morgan is completely invested by this time. Besides the troops from General Granger's command which landed some five miles in the rear, a force of about 10,000 from Pensacola have also crossed towards Mobile Bay. Thus all communication will remain cut off unless General Gardner has a force to spare for the purpose of keeping open communications with the fort. General Page, however, is prepared to fight it out, and has cleared his decks for action by burning all the outbuildings and removing every obstruction behind which the enemy might find shelter in his approaches. The woods, for more than a mile from his outer lines, have also been cleared away. Commodore Farrand has assumed command of the remaining gunboats at Mobile. They consist of the *Morgan* (ironclad), 5 guns, which escaped; the *Baltic* (ironclad), 5 guns; the *Crescent* (cottonclad), 4 guns; and four small steamers carrying 10 guns. It is rumoured that there are four Clyde-built iron steamships, blockade-runners, now at Mobile. If so, they are effectually blockaded, and the best use they can now be put to is to arm and equip them for the Confederate navy. Lieutenant J. H. Comstock, of the *Selma*, was killed in the naval engagement; Lieutenant-Commander P. W. Murphy, Midshipman J. B. Ratcliffe, and the other officers are prisoners. The following is a list of the officers captured with the *Tennessee*:—

Admiral, Franklin Buchanan; Commander, James D. Johnson: Lieutenant, Wm. Bradford: Lieutenant, A. D. Wharton; Lieutenant, E. J. McDermot; Master, J. R. De Mahy; Master, H. W. Mervin; Fleet Surgeon, D. B. Conrad; Assistant-Surgeon, B. C. Bowles; First Assistant-Engineer, G. D. Lening; Second Assistant-Engineer, J. O'Connell; Second Assistant-Engineer, John Hayes; Third Assistant-Engineer, O. Benson; Third Assistant-Engineer, W. B. Patterson; Pay-Master's Clerk, J. H. Cohen; Master's Mate, W. A. Forrest: Master's Mate, Beebe; Master's Mate, R. M. Carter; Boatswain, John McCardle; Gunner, H. S. Smith.

All non-combatants are leaving Mobile for the interior, and all the arms-bearing population hitherto exempted from service have organised and armed for cooperation with the regular troops, so that now one of the city papers is able to announce that 'the entire line of works is manned, and even if we get none of the reinforcements that are on the way to the city, it can be held against all the available forces that the enemy can bring against it.' This was said more than a week ago, and since then reinforcements have arrived. Better still, General Gardner has taken command, and his defence of Port Hudson—which fell only because Vicksburg fell, and then was no longer of any use—proves him eminently the right man in the right place. He has remarkable ability for organising defence, has great energy, and the tact of winning the unquestioning and unquenchable devotion of his men. Besides, he is one of the best engineer officers in the Confederate service.

The movements of the Confederate forces west of the Mississippi and the boldness of the Confederates on this side are a puzzle, I have no doubt, to General Canby. West of the river they continue to threaten Morganzia, Louisiana, a fortified river post of great importance to the Federals in case of future operations up Red River. They are also in strong force in the Teche section; their pickets have approached within sight of the Federal garrisons at Vidalia, Donaldsonville, Plaquemine, Goodrich's Landing (all on the river), the posts on Berwick's Bay, and made feints of attacking each in turn. In East Louisiana the Confederate forces consist mostly of cavalry, from 3,000 to 4,000 strong, and they compel the garrisons of Port Hudson and Baton Rouge to hug their fortifications. Only a few days ago Colonel Jack Scott, who commands this force, visited and took off whatever he wanted from plantations within range of the enemy's guns; but he was scarcely interfered with. The garrisons are too weak, and are composed mostly of negroes. And this is General Canby's dilemma: the reinforcements which he has sent to Virginia and the force sent against Mobile have left him nearly destitute of the means of defence. Indeed, his chief reliance now must be upon the navy. Thus circumstanced, and anticipating a regular attack from the Confederates, but not knowing where it would be delivered, he resorted to the forced enrolment of all able-bodied residents, white and coloured; and such is the emergency that a failure to comply with the order promptly subjects the delinquent to forced labour on the fortifications. All here are looking for immediate offensive movements by General Kirby Smith's forces, but in what quarter none know. If it be feasible, he will doubtless cross the river to engage the column of General A. J. Smith, which is doubtless the one really intended for Mobile. General Forrest has thus far held this column in check, having beaten back its advance twice; and Governor Clark, of Mississippi, has issued his proclamation calling upon all capable of bearing arms to organise for immediate action. They are responding promptly, and going to the front to cooperate with the regular troops. General Smith has reorganised his forces, and made the following changes in the district commanders:—Major-General S. B. Buckner succeeds General Taylor in West Louisiana; Major-General J. B. Magruder takes command in Arkansas, and is succeeded in Texas by Major-General J. G. Walker. Generals Buckner and Walker, like Magruder and Smith, are graduates of West Point.

General Gardner has forbidden to all officers in his department the use of flags of truce except by permission from headquarters. Nor is any flag of truce from the enemy to be received without a like permission. The attack on Vidalia, Louisiana, west bank of the river, on the 22nd ultimo, was by General Polignac, who captured 900 negroes and killed 45 of the garrison. Several torpedoes have lately been found floating down stream in the bayous patrolled by the United States gunboats. The water on the bar is too shallow to allow of the gunboats coming within a mile or thereabouts of the obstructions in front of Mobile. John Robert Murray, Master's Mate of the Confederate States gunboat *Selma*, and son of Mr. Thomas Murray, a prominent citizen of New Orleans, was among the killed in the recent engagement. The father, who is one among the thousands of refugees from this city now in Mobile, is so devoted to the cause of the South, that, if he had a dozen sons, he would freely sacrifice them on the altar of their country.

Ringgold Barracks has, in addition to Laredo, Brownsville, and Eagle Pass, been designated as a point at which cotton may be exported across the Rio Grande into Mexico, under the regulations hitherto established. Cotton will not be allowed to be exported from any other ports than those designated above. A manufactory of artificial limbs has been opened at Houston, Texas—pretty good evidence of the enterprise of these 'barbarous slave-owners.' The Act of the Confederate States Congress, passed at the late session, 'to organise a corps of scouts and guards to facilitate communication with the Trans-Mississippi Department,' has been carried into effect with complete success. Only the aged and infirm of the registered enemies in this city are being sent across the lines. The first of the able-bodied 'enemies' who reported themselves ready to leave agreeably to orders, were put in prison. The others took the hint, and, without reporting, slipped across the lines between night and morning. Some 500 are estimated to have gone. General Canby's order for all able-bodied citizens to enrol under the stars and stripes will reinforce Mobile to the extent of 1,500 to 2,000.

The desecrated Catholic churches in Northern Virginia, at Jacksonville and St. Augustine (Florida), at Jackson (Mississippi), in Northern Alabama, Tennessee, and in numerous other parts of the South overrun by the enemy, afford melancholy proof of the intense bigotry and Vandal fanaticism of a majority of the Federal soldiery. The Catholics of the North have not been deceived in this matter. There 'Know-nothingism' took its rise, and it was owing to the generous sentiments of the Southern people and the enlightened policy of their statesmen that it did not become a settled and cardinal principle in the general policy of the Republic. Even while the Catholics, native and adopted, were rushing in thousands to the battle-field in 1861, a leading New York journal, the *Times*, declared that 'Popery, like slavery, was doomed.' And now since the 'fighting Irish' have nearly all been killed off, and the potent voice of the great Archbishop of New York is hushed in death, the mask is thrown off. The saintly Bishop Elder, of Natchez, Mississippi, has been arrested and placed in durance among the Federal negro garrison at Vidalia, Louisiana. He would not comply with the order of the commandant at Natchez to pray for the President of the United States, and this is his only offence. The prayer forms no part of the prescribed devotions of his church, and he was therefore fully justified in refusing compliance with an order interfering with the freedom of religious worship guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States. I beg pardon, for Mr. Thaddeus Stevens, of Pennsylvania, says it is treason to talk now of the Constitution. Natchez is in the archiepiscopal diocese of New Orleans, and perhaps our venerated Archbishop Odin may be the next victim.

FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

NEW ORLEANS: August 13, 1864.

For the past week the public pulse in this city has been much depressed by the late Federal successes at the entrance of Mobile Bay, but begins now to recover its tone after a careful view of the circumstances.

That the immense Federal fleet which made their entrance past Fort Morgan should have succeeded in passing in with the loss of only one vessel, and that from torpedoes only, is not remarkable. That their combined force should afterwards have captured the Confederate ironclad *Tennessee* and the little wooden gunboat *Selma*, should have caused the loss of the *Gaines* and have run off the *Morgan*, also small wooden craft, is not at all to be wondered at.

The Federal fleet was composed of four double-turreted ironclads of the largest monitor class, and fourteen of the largest wooden regular ships of war in the American navy. At the head of these were the *Hartford*, *Brooklyn*, *Richmond*, and *Monongahela*, carrying the heaviest metal in the Federal navy. The *Tennessee* alone could compete with any one of these, and yet she carried only 6 guns to the *Hartford's* 26 9-inch broadside and 200-pounder pivot-guns, the others being proportionately well armed. The other little Confederate vessels combined could not compete with the weakest of the Federal ships.

Nevertheless, Admiral Buchanan, with a chivalrous courage which must gain him immortal renown, sallied out from under the walls of Fort Morgan, where he was comparatively safe, and attacked the Federal fleet, which had passed beyond the reach of the guns of the fort. David with his sling attacked eighteen Goliahs, and being less favoured than him of old, he fell.

It is the opinion of the Federal officers engaged, and so expressed in the papers, that if the *Tennessee* had remained at the fort and awaited her opportunity to attack the Federal vessels at a disadvantage, they might have finally been entirely prevented from gaining any advantage by their entry into Mobile Bay. Yet, if Admiral Buchanan had effected his purpose, had destroyed the immense Federal fleet, how transcendent a victory would his have been! The valour and intrepidity which undertook such an enterprise outvies all comparison.

There is much conflicting opinion as to the necessity of the surrender of Fort Gaines. If the Federal story be true that there were provisions there to last a twelvemonth and an abundance of ordnance stores, the readiness with which 800 men surrendered after firing but two shots is by no means favourable to their constancy or courage; but the circumstances, when developed, may show a different state of things. The Federal account says that Colonel Anderson, commanding, declared that the moment the Federal fleet passed in he knew it was all up with him, as the fort had been constructed without defences on the inside towards the bay. If so, the mistake may have been with the engineers and the commanding generals, and not with the post commandant or his subordinates. The prisoners, at all events, are here, but as yet there has been no communication with them. It is satisfactory to know that the garrison of Fort Powell succeeded in getting away, though it is claimed that they left their guns, unhurt, in the hands of the enemy.

It is not believed that Fort Morgan will be so easily taken. Cut off as it is at the present moment from all succour and support, it may be finally starved out, but it will not be yielded up with its stores of ammunition and provision all intact. These will be expended ere it becomes the prey of the spoiler, if he do not, some of these fine days, find himself the unfortunate possessor of an empty nest, the birds flown and their eggs broken and addled. Nay, as impossible things are sometimes done now-a-days, maugre Admiral Buchanan's failure to effect them just now, it may be possible that the garrison of Fort Morgan may outlive all efforts to capture them or it.

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

ON August 18, the 5th Federal corps, under General Warren, took possession of a position on the Weldon Railroad, about three miles below Petersburg. In the skirmishing the Confederates lost about 350 killed, wounded, and missing, but captured about 200 prisoners. Next day the Federals were attacked and driven back with a heavy loss in killed and wounded, and the Confederates captured 'over two thousand prisoners, including Brigadier-General Hayes, and a number of stands of colours.' We have no later accounts from the South, but according to the Northern accounts Warren was reinforced, and regained the position on the Weldon Railroad, and up to the 25th resisted all the efforts of the Confederates to dislodge him. Grant's cavalry was said to be operating on the Danville Railroad.

There has also been severe fighting at Deep Bottom, and it is stated by the Northern correspondents that Grant's losses for the week on the Weldon Railroad and at Deep Bottom were 12,000.

On August 21, the Confederates defeated Sheridan near Charlestown, and drove him to Harper's Ferry, with the loss of 1,000 men. There are reports that General Lee has decided to make a northward movement, and that a part of Early's forces were across the Potomac.

THE Confederates were holding Sherman in check before Atlanta. Hood has been largely reinforced. The Confederates under General Wheeler cut the Chattanooga and Knoxville Railroad, near London, on the 21st.

THE official despatches of Admiral Farragut contain the correspondence in reference to the surrender of Fort Gaines. Colonel Anderson proposed the surrender. The steamer *Nashville* has been sunk across the channel of Mobile Harbour, so that the city cannot be approached. According to the *Richmond Despatch* a Federal force from Pensacola was advancing towards Mobile. This force consists of 10,000 men.

ON August 18 a body of Federal cavalry was defeated at Granville, Florida, by Colonel Dickson. The Confederates captured 150 prisoners and one cannon. They rescued 100 negroes kidnapped by the Federals.

General Forrest has made a raid into Memphis, and retired with some booty. The *Tallahassee* burned twenty-two fishing vessels off the North Cape of Prince Edward's Island on August 25. The *Empress*, from New Orleans, was fired into at Gaines' Landing, between Vicksburg and Memphis, by a Confederate battery, and it is reported that some of the passengers were killed and wounded.

THE Baltimore correspondent of the *New York World*, writing on August 19, says that the Southern people expect and are prepared for a long war. After making a large deduction for the losses of the present campaign, he estimates the total effective force of the Confederates at 275,000 men; and adds that, 'by carefully husbanding their strength, by keeping in the field armies of only moderate size, by depending upon discipline and good generalship, and not upon mere brute force, and by a proper system of recruiting, their armies have not only been kept full, but they have, and will have for years to come, a sufficient population to keep on foot a force equal to the above.' As to arms and ammunition, he says: 'There are now at Richmond, Charleston, Savannah, Wilmington, Atlanta, Macon, and at several other places, foundries, and gun manufactories, and arsenals, where cannon, muskets, swords, pistols, gunpowder, cannon-balls, shells, fixed ammunition, percussion caps, &c., are made, as good as any we use, and in quantities sufficient to supply the wants of the Southern armies for years to come. When the town of Rome, in Georgia, was captured by General Sherman some months ago, the evidences of this fact were found in profusion even in that little inland place, and pains were actually taken by the Administration to suppress the facts at the time, because they afforded such strong and incontestable evidence of Southern enterprise, ingenuity, and skill.' Respecting the production of coal and iron, he writes: 'There is scarcely a ridge of mountains in the South where the presence of iron-ore has not been discovered; while in Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina, and Alabama, there are inexhaustible beds of coal. The coal mines in the counties of Goochland, Fluvanna, Cumberland, Buckingham, and Campbell, and the iron mines in the counties of Nelson, Amherst, Bedford, Montgomery, and Franklin, in Virginia, are now being worked to an extent tenfold as great as ever before, and with most remunerative results.'

GENERAL FRANK GARDNER has been appointed to the chief command of the District of the Gulf, which command, a despatch from Mobile says, he assumed on August 17. After the surrender of Port Hudson, General Gardner remained a prisoner in the hands of the Federals until August 4, when he was exchanged. Our New Orleans letter gives full details of the defence of Mobile, and of the military situation in Louisiana.

THE success in running the blockade is not more conspicuous than the daring displayed by the captains of the blockade-runners. On the eve of the fight the *Denbigh* left Mobile with a cargo of cotton, steamed unmolested through and past the Federal fleet, and arrived safely at her destination. The Mobile papers announce that immediately before the commencement of the fight the *Red Gauntlet*, with a valuable cargo, ran the blockade and came safely into port.

THE *Hudson Gazette* gives an account of a private auction at New York on August 1, at which a young negro was sold as a substitute. The *Gazette* says: 'The lad, who was a good-looking, robust young darkey, was started at $600, and ran up to $1,000, at which sum he was knocked down to a lawyer.'

THERE has been some excitement in New Jersey on the discovery that the Federal army surgeons have been branding recruits. It appears 'that a young man, C. R. Beach, of Rockany, had been drafted and examined by Dr. Whittingham, who pronounced him fit for military duty, and held him to service—the usual time being given to procure a substitute or pay $300 commutation. His township, meanwhile, offered $400 bounty, and Beach concluded to pay his commutation fee and then volunteer for one year, thus making $100 by the operation. Upon being examined, however, by the same surgeon, he was rejected as a volunteer, and branded with a large cross upon his back, the longest mark being about four inches in length, the shortest over three inches, and each half an inch in breadth.' It came out that Dr. Bennett, an assistant of Dr. Whittingham, had branded Michael Lapsley, of Orange, under similar circumstances. The doctors were arrested by the authorities to save them from the personal violence threatened by the enraged citizens, and were afterwards released on parole.

SENATOR WILSON has written a letter to the Boston papers in which he says, 'No public man connected with the Administration is in favour of an armistice.' This denial does not produce any impression, as Republican papers still support the proposition of an armistice. The latest newspapers received from the North represent the peace sentiment as still rapidly developing. The nomination of the Chicago Convention was looked forward to with much anxiety. It is also said that it has been proposed to Mr. Lincoln and to General Fremont that they should withdraw from the Presidential contest, in order that a candidate may be chosen on whom the party can unite. General Fremont will do so if Mr. Lincoln will withdraw.

THE Northern papers report the discovery of a conspiracy in Indiana for taking that State out of the Union. It is said that the Secretary of State, the Attorney-General, and other State officers are concerned in it. If we can credit the reports of Mr. Lincoln's agents, we must conclude that the Union party in the West is a very small minority.

BISHOP M'CLOSKEY, of Albany, has succeeded to the Archiepiscopate of New York, vacated by the decease of Archbishop Hughes. He was installed on August 20 at St. Patrick's Cathedral. The ceremony is described as very grand and impressive. The Archbishop delivered an eloquent and feeling address, beginning and ending with the words, 'Peace be to you.'

WE copy the following from a recent number of the *Atlanta Appeal*. Comment is needless, but we may observe that Mr. Iverson is a well-known and much-respected citizen. 'A body of Yankees went to the residence of Mr. W. Iverson, who lives about sixteen miles north of Decatur, Georgia, on last Saturday, and, after destroying his effects to their hearts' content, laid hands on his daughter, about sixteen years of age, and, by force, one after another, satisfied their hellish lust. Her father attempted to take her from them. They then set on him with clubs, which soon disabled the old man, and he has not been able to turn himself since, and, in all probability, will die of his injuries. This beautiful and virtuous young lady expired before they left. The Yankees came back next morning and dug a hole near the well in the yard, and put the corpse in and covered it.'

A GENTLEMAN, named Frank W. Willis, was shot in Nashville by a negro soldier, because he was walking within four feet of some military stores. The correspondent of the *Chicago Times* thus describes the occurrence:—'Willis was at the time outside of the line, but he replied to the guard, "Excuse me, I wasn't aware that I was on your beat," and stepped still closer to the curb-stone. He passed by, and then the nigger deliberately raised his musket and fired. The ball entered the unfortunate man's side and came out in front near the navel. He fell immediately, and the nigger leaned his chin upon his gun and watched the man as coolly as if it were a dog that had been shot, for a few minutes, and then reloaded his gun. Some persons among the crowd that collected took Willis to Hospital No. 19, near by, and had the surgeon in charge examine him. He was then bleeding freely, and the surgeon said it was impossible to save his life. After lingering for two or three hours in great agony, Willis died, a victim to the infernal policy of arming niggers and placing them in positions of trust or importance.' The negro was placed under arrest for a few hours and then released, and resumed his duty as guard. The popular feeling, however, was so strong, that the Federal commander sent away the negro regiment.

THE *Atlantic Monthly* gives an account of a visit to Richmond of Colonel Jaques and Mr. Gilmore, written by the latter. We suppose the interview with President Davis is not an invention, but it is hardly necessary to remark that the report of a long conversation from memory by a partisan is utterly unreliable. Accuracy is impossible, and a one-sided view is unavoidable; though in this case Colonel Jaques and Mr. Gilmore represent themselves as getting much the worst of the argument. Being asked how peace could be brought about, the President is reported to have replied: 'In a very simple way. Withdraw your armies from our territory, and peace will come of itself. We do not seek to subjugate you. We are not waging an offensive war, except so far as it is offensive-defensive—that is, so far as we are forced to invade you to prevent your invading us. Let us alone and peace will come at once. . . . We are not fighting for slavery. We are fighting for independence, and that or extermination we will have.' Colonel Jaques, according to Mr. Gilmore's account, suggested peace 'with union, emancipation, no confiscation, and universal amnesty.' The Colonel also suggested that, if peace were not made now, the people of the North will insist upon hanging all the Confederate leaders. The President did not deny the bloodthirsty spirit of the genuine Yankees, but replied: 'Well, admitting all you say, I can't see how it affects our position. There are some things worse than hanging or extermination. We reckon giving up the right of self-government one of those things.' Colonel Jaques also said that the Northern people do not yet feel the war. We should not have judged so from the price of gold, the unpopularity of the draft, and the general desire for peace.

MR. STANTON has ordered the release of Mr. Howard, the author of the forged proclamation. Henceforth Mr. Howard will be careful not to anticipate Mr. Lincoln's calls.

ANOTHER difficulty has arisen in reference to Mr. Lincoln's draft. New York and Boston claim to be credited with the men they have contributed to the navy. If this claim were allowed, the former city would be free from the last call.

THE citizens of Kansas and Nebraska are obliged to organise for defence against the Indians, who continue their depredations. Business has been stopped in the principal towns.

A COURT-MARTIAL at Washington has found Ex-Surgeon-General Hammond guilty of peculation in the matter of supplies for the sick and wounded soldiers.

ON August 27, gold was quoted at 250⅝. The improvement in the money market was ascribed to the conviction that the war was nearly over. In anticipation of peace, neither victory nor defeat has much influence on the value of Government securities.

ENGLAND.

VISCOUNT PALMERSTON is as remarkable for his ubiquity as for the diversity of his intellectual and moral talents. His last appearance was as a representative before his constituents, as a jovial guest at a country race dinner in the West of England. Now he comes before the public as a Minister of State paying honour to the memory of a great colleague, and the *venue* of his performance is laid in the city of Hereford. Lastly he turns up as a tourist revelling in the scenery of North Wales, as a landed proprietor inspecting his slate-quarries and projecting new works and new railways. No one, however, of the incidents of the Premier's vacation so deserves a passing notice as the ceremony over which he presided in the capital of the cider county. Our readers will perhaps remember that the late Sir George Cornewall Lewis, who held successively under Lord Palmerston the offices of Chancellor of the Exchequer and of Secretary of State for the Home Department and for War, represented the county of Hereford in the House of Commons. The inhabitants of the city and county had determined to celebrate the memory of that estimable and patriotic statesman by the erection of a statue to his memory. Having carried out their resolution, they next invited the noble Premier to perform the office of unveiling the statue. Saturday, September 3, was the day fixed for the ceremony, and from all parts the gentry, farmers, and tradespeople gathered to witness the scene, to hear Lord Palmerston speak, and to pay a tribute of respect to the deceased statesman. His Lordship entered the city at noon and was carried in procession amidst the shouts of the people, the peals of bells, the sound of music, and the waving of banners. At St. Peter's Square an address was presented by the Corporation to his Lordship. After the reply, the Premier took up his position on the left of the statue, and the Chairman of the Committee briefly explained the reasons why the county of Hereford had thought fit to commemorate the career of Sir G. C. Lewis. At the close of the speech Lord Palmerston unveiled the statue. It is by Baron Marochetti, and represents Sir George in the act of addressing an assembly. The figure is in bronze, of the height of 7 feet 6 inches. On the pedestal is the following inscription:—'Sir George Cornewall Lewis, a wise and honest statesman, a profound scholar, a kind and warm friend; M.P. for the county of Hereford from 1847 to 1852; chief steward of the city; Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1855 to 1858; Home Secretary from 1859 to 1860; Secretary for War from 1860 to 1863. Born 1806; died 1863.' Lord Palmerston then stood forward to address the meeting. He first commented on the practice of celebrating by posthumous honours the memory of great men, and the principle on which the practice proceeded. It was an expression of admiration agreeable to its authors, and it was an incitement to the living to emulate the greatness of the dead. He then turned to the qualities of Sir G. Lewis as a statesman, a man of learning, and a friend. As a statesman he had discharged with unvaried success the highest duties. In finance he commanded the confidence of the whole mercantile community; as Secretary of State he earned the esteem of all concerned in the departments. In the House of Commons he was bold in the defence of his opinions and his measures, and yet he never converted a political antagonist into a personal enemy. Yet while engaged almost all the active part of his life in the performance of public duties of greater or less importance, and all requiring great devotion and time, he acquired more varied, more extensive, and deeper knowledge of all kinds than has often fallen to the lot even of those who have nothing else to do but apply their minds to its acquisition. Sir George Lewis was one of the most learned men in private life, as well as one of the most active in public duties. His great object was to ascertain truth. The love of truth was a quality possessed by him in a greater degree than by almost any one whom it had been

the fortune of the speaker to meet. His career was a career to be imitated by all, even by those who might not possess those qualities which enabled him to arrive at the summit attained by him. Imitation of great excellence, even not resulting in equal distinction, was the course to fit every man to be a useful member of the community, and to earn the goodwill of his companions in life. After the ceremony the noble Lord took luncheon at the palace of the Bishop of Hereford, and then drove to the station. There an immense concourse of people crowded to bid him good-bye, to shake his hand, and to cheer enthusiastically. At all the stations on the line where the train stopped, people had come together to receive him with congratulations.

THE Prince and Princess of Wales, on Thursday last, attended at the renowned Braemar gathering at the Castle of Mar. Crowds of spectators came from all parts of the country to witness the skill and power of the Highlanders at racing, putting the stone, throwing the hammer, tossing the caber, &c. Viscount Macduff commanded the men of Fife, and Captain Farquharson, of the 60th Rifles, was at the head of the Farquharson clan. The men presented a splendid appearance when drawn up in line to receive the royal visitors, the tartans and the long pikes calling up the recollection of a thousand romances of Highland warfare. The Earl of Fife and Colonel Farquharson received their Royal Highnesses, who, in spite of a pouring rain, remained as spectators to the close of the games. In the evening a grand ball was held at the castle, in which the visitors and men of the clans took part. The Prince and Princess of Wales left Abergeldie on Saturday for Dundee, where they embarked for Denmark.

THE house No. 17 in Barbican, in which the poet Milton resided just before his appointment as Latin secretary to Cromwell, is now being demolished to make way for the construction of the Metropolitan Railway from the Victoria Street Station to Finsbury Circus.

THE famous steam ram *Scorpion*, known to the legal and political world as *El Toussom*, has just achieved her trial trip. Her example will speedily be followed by the *Wyvern*, formerly *El Monassir*. With 200 tons of coal on board, the *Scorpion* drew 13 ft. forward and 14 ft. 9 in. aft. So excellent were her steering powers that she made a complete circle in five minutes. At full power, with all four boilers at work, the mean of her two runs was 10·490 knots, the engines making 70 revolutions, and the pressure being from 18 lbs. to 20 lbs. At half-power, with two boilers at work, the mean of two runs was 9·745 knots, with 60 revolutions of the engines, and a 15 lb. pressure.

The sister ships have a length on the water-line of 224 ft.; beam, 42 ft. 6 in.; depth, 20 ft.; measurement, about 1,890 tons. Their engines are 350 horse-power. The ordinary hull is of iron, and over this is a coating of 10 in. of teak and armour plates 4½ in. thick. Each vessel carries two turrets, plated with 5½ in. of iron. Each turret is to carry two guns of 12 tons weight. The vessels had suffered some injury from long exposure in the river, but the mischief was speedily repaired under the care and by the vast resources of Messrs. Laird's building-yards.

THE county and borough prisons of England and Wales show a return of 129,527 persons as their inmates at some period or other of the past year. In this calculation those who have been in prison more than once are counted as distinct individuals in each case. Of these 95,000 were males, and again of these male criminals 23,249 were classed as mechanics and skilled workmen, 4,598 as soldiers and sailors, 4,322 as factory workers, 2,538 shopkeepers and dealers, 1,532 shopmen and clerks, 251 in professional employments, and 1,164 domestic servants. The remainder were denominated 'labourers,' or as of no occupation. There were 34,487 females, of whom 16,800 were described as of no occupation. Ireland owned 15 per cent. of the criminals, and yet Ireland has but 3 per cent. of the population of England. Women are clearly less liable to fall into crime than men; but it seems that when once they have taken the fatal step they have less ability to recover their lost position. Indeed, 42 per cent. of the women had been previously convicted, while of the men only 32 per cent. had already suffered punishment. Again, 2,773 of the women had been in prison ten times before; but only 1,173 of the men. About 6 per cent. of the criminals were under sixteen years of age. Happily, however, the efforts at juvenile reformation have been so far successful that the decrease in this class of offenders is conspicuous. Only about 5 per cent. of the whole criminal mass showed any pretensions to skill in reading and writing, while 35 per cent. were utterly incapable of performing the mechanical efforts of knowledge. The case is widely different in convict prisons, the bolder offences against the law being executed by more skilled persons. It may be remarked that, of the 512 convicts in Pentonville Gaol, no fewer than 370 were single men—a fact which speaks volumes for the wholesome restraint of matrimonial responsibility. It is also a curious fact that one half of that body of criminals had been attendants at public worship.

THE operations of the harvest in England, and the demand for labour caused thereby, have detained the Irishmen on this side of the Atlantic, and saved many a stout arm from joining the ranks of the Federal army. The number of emigrants under the Act to the United States for the past month has been 7,188, of whom 6,765 were steerage passengers; while 463 persons sailed in ships not under the Act. 683 persons sailed for Canada, 294 to New South Wales, and 1,097 to Victoria.

THE total value of corn of all kinds imported during the first six months of this year into Great Britain is 6,866,674*l.*, of which 4,811,312*l.* represent the value of the wheat imported. In the first six months of 1863, the value of corn imported was 10,638,591*l.*; and in the first six months of 1862, 12,465,428*l.* For the former year the value of the wheat imported was 5,548,152*l.*, and for the latter year, 8,733,095*l.* Of the wheat imported during the six months of this year, that from the United States was of the value of 1,858,730*l.* The superiority of the harvest in England last year to those of the two preceding years was sufficiently great to check the importation to the extent demonstrated.

CEYLON sent us, in the first six months of this year, 31,123,703 lbs. of coffee; other British possessions, 3,264,180 lbs.; Brazil, 4,626,471 lbs.; Central America, 7,771 lbs.; other countries, 2,041,259 lbs.; making a total of 41,063,384 lbs., the whole quantity exceeding in value one million sterling. The supplies were somewhat less than those of the year 1863, but greater than those of the year 1862.

THE report of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue for the year ending the 31st of March last has been published. The excise duties amounted to 18,409,107*l.*, being an increase of 1,091,711*l.* on the returns of the year 1863. The increase on spirits was 292,808*l.*, and on malt 702,828*l.* In stamps the net receipts were 9,312,916*l.*, being an increase of 346,113*l.* on the receipts for the year 1863. The net returns of the land and assessed taxes were 3,230,054*l.*, being an increase of 86,093*l.* on those of the year 1863. The property and income tax fell from the amount of 10,482,588*l.* in 1863 to 9,101,994*l.*, but inasmuch as the tax was reduced from 9*d.* to 7*d.* in the pound sterling from April 1, 1863, the return is eminently satisfactory. Cotton mills closed during the present stagnation of the trade were exempt from the tax. The latest assessments are those for the year 1862. In the several districts of the metropolis the increase under Schedule D of the value of the profits of trades and professions was very great, exceeding, in fact, 2,200,000*l.* Liverpool, Bradford, Sunderland, and Newcastle shared in this prosperity, but there was a remarkable falling off in Bury to the amount of 156,000*l.*, in Rochdale 113,000*l.*, and in Manchester 80,000*l.*

THE race at Doncaster for the Great St. Leger Stakes founded in the year 1776, when Lord Rockingham led off with Allabaculid, four years before the institution of the Epsom Derby and three years before that of the Oaks, will be contested on Wednesday next, September 14. At the present moment the first favourite for the great event is General Peel, who has within the last week supplanted Blair Athol in popular favour. General Peel, by Young Melbourne, dam by Orlando, the property of Lord Glasgow, won the Two Thousand Guineas Stakes at Newmarket in the spring, defeating Mr. Ten Broeck's Paris in splendid style. This performance, coupled with the magnificent appearance of this truly noble specimen of a race-horse, promoted him to the position of first favourite for the Derby. In that race, however, he succumbed to the superior endurance of Blair Athol; but his brilliant struggle for victory afforded the hope that on the more level plain of Doncaster his grand sweeping stride might work revenge on the stout son of Stockwell and Blink Bonny. General Peel has not run since the Derby, and the desire of his owner for victory is such as would emanate from a true sportsman. The horse was trained during the spring and summer by Thomas Dawson; but after the Derby he was committed to the charge of John Scott, of Whitewall. The odds against the horse are 9 to 4. Blair Athol, against whom the odds are about 11 to 4, ran his maiden race at Epsom, when he secured the blue riband of the turf in a style worthy of the son of Stockwell, the noblest of his kind, and of Blink Bonny, the winner of both Derby and Oaks. His next appearance was at Paris, where he was defeated, to the inexpressible delight of every true Frenchman, by Vermouth. He returned to Ascot and defeated Ely. At York, however, on August 25, he was beaten for the Great Yorkshire Stakes by the Miner, a colt by Rataplan, out of the renowned Manganese, and the property of a 'country parson' and good sportsman. In that race Ely was third, running at even weights with the Miner. Ely, however, conceding 3 lbs., had defeated the Miner two days previously by a head. The odds against the Miner for the Great St. Leger are 9 to 1. Baragah is the next favourite at 11 to 1. He is by Stockwell out of Mowerina, the dam of West Australian, and, as the second string to John Scott's bow, is believed by some of the learned sportsmen to be capable of achieving one of those grand *coups* by which the Wizard of the North has become immortalised. The odds of 100 to 6 are laid against Ely, an admirable horse, by Kingston out of the Bloomer, and the winner of the Prince of Wales Stakes at Ascot. Of the rest, John Scott has another string in Claremont, by De Clare, the property of Mr. Bowes, the winner of the Great Northern St. Leger, but probably destined to be content with one such prize. The odds against this horse are 33 to 1. These are the horses in whom the prospect of victory may seem to reside. Prophecy is not our province. The stout heart of Blair Athol may prevail over the more speedy General Peel, and it is not without reason that the public is induced to think that the Miner must succumb to the valour of both. It is difficult to conceive that Baragah is able to overthrow his stable companion, and Ely may be supposed to have had enough racing already during the season. The men of Yorkshire would hail Lord Glasgow's triumph with much delight, but the state of the betting is enough to show that it is no easy matter to choose between the prowess of General Peel and the stoutness of Blair Athol.

MÜLLER, the alleged murderer of Mr. Briggs, was arrested at New York on August 24. He protests his innocence, and declares that he purchased the hat and watch found on him (said to be those taken from Mr. Briggs) in London. It was supposed that he would be immediately surrendered by the authorities, and that he would be brought over to this country by the steamer due the end of the week. It was possible, however, that formal difficulties might cause some delay.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The Dean of Cape Town, the Archdeacon of the Cape, the Archdeacon of George, the colonial Chaplain, the Principal of the Diocesan Collegiate School, and about sixty resident clergymen, missionaries, and principals of colleges, have addressed a protest in reference to Bishop Colenso to the Metropolitan and the Bishops of the Church in South Africa. The protest sets forth that 'the undersigned having understood that there was a probability that Bishop Colenso would return to Natal and attempt to resume the exercise of episcopal functions in that diocese, notwithstanding his deposition from his office by the Metropolitan, did thereby enter their protest against any such attempt on the part of Bishop Colenso, and did declare that they could not recognise him as a Bishop of that Church, or hold communion with him in case of his return.'

In an answer to this protest, Bishop Colenso derides his adversaries as styling themselves as 'of the Church in South Africa,' and not of 'the Church of England.' He points out that the influences usually brought to bear in the obtaining of signatures to such documents destroy their value; and he remarks that three of the clergy were but *catechists* a year ago, men of limited education, and merely ordained to meet the urgent necessities of a colonial diocese. The Bishop further affirms that one missionary was threatened with expulsion by the metropolitan in case of a refusal to read 'the so-called sentence of deposition.' The Bishop then subjoins a list of those clergymen who have not protested—who, no doubt, were unwilling to anticipate Her Majesty's decision on the case, or to renounce 'the Church of England' with its laws and liberties for 'the Church of South Africa.'

INDIA.

The *Official Gazette* contains Sir Charles Trevelyan's minute on the introduction of gold currency into India. The proposal to adopt the English sovereign as a legal tender for 10 rupees has been sanctioned by the Governor-General in Council, and awaits the approval of the Secretary of State.

The report that the Ameer had been treacherously captured by his brother Afzul Khan is unfounded. The combatants, in fact, have come to terms, and it was expected that Afzul Khan would accompany his brother to Cabul.

The telegraph line between Deesa and Erinpoora was completed, and that between Ajmeere and Sojut was in a forward condition.

The *Amber Witch* had been despatched from Bombay to pick up the broken cable of the Persian Gulf line.

The Governor-General will leave Simla for Lahore early in October, and will return to Calcutta in November.

A great impulse had been given to trade by the news of peace being probable between Denmark and the German Powers. Three fresh banks had been started in Bombay since the departure of the last mail.

THE CONTINENT.

FRANCE.

ONE of the most magnificent relics of the pious and liberal ages which we usually call 'dark' was the Abbey of Cluny, in Burgundy, belonging to the order of St. Benedict; it possessed a revenue of 120,000*l.* a year, and had 600 religious houses dependent on it. The abbot's residence in Paris was a palace, erected on the site of an old Roman villa, not far from the present Panthéon. Of all the splendours of this ancient house there remains now nothing but the name; the Musée Cluny, a collection of the most remarkable Gallic and early French relics, and of many interesting memorials of the age of Francis I., assembled within the walls of the quondam abbatial palace in the capital, is all that is now left to remind us of the proud abbey. The mother abbey was thoroughly rebuilt in 1750 on a magnificent scale; the parks and gardens belonging to it were worthy of a sovereign's residence; the church of the abbey might have been a cathedral. 1789 came, and with it the Revolution; the monks were expelled, the church almost entirely destroyed, the abbey itself completely gutted; the walls alone were left standing, being strong enough to defy the revolutionary hammer. It is now proposed to restore this building to life, by turning it to a use that shall be somewhat analogous to that to which it was once consecrated. It is to be the central establishment of the training colleges of France, the expenses of which will be defrayed by a fund now raised in each department for the same purpose, though on a more restricted scale. The agricultural pupils of the college will have the opportunity of putting their theories into practice on the large domains around the old abbey. The monks' dormitories will accommodate 300 pupils, even with the enlarged ideas of modern times on ventilation. Of the church, one transept is still left, which, with a little restoration, will form a worthy chapel for the institution. Thus an ancient and illustrious house, whose name belongs to the history of modern civilisation, will be restored to an intellectual life not unworthy of the intentions of its first founders.

M. and Mme. d'Erlanger, having been civilly divorced by the tribunal of Frankfort, required the sanction of the Church for their separation. An advocate was employed in Rome to plead before the cardinals, the judges of the congregation. The usage of this court is that the advocates for the parties shall plead before each of the twenty cardinals separately in the Latin language, after which the body of the tribunal assemble and exchange ideas on the subject. This laborious process usually occupies several years. In this instance it has been satisfactorily

concluded in only ten months, and the requisite bull of divorce has been granted. The French papers now announce that the divorced wife, Mlle. Lafitte, is about to be married to M. Cordier, Conseiller d'État.

The owners of balloons have not been very fortunate this year. The English aeronaut, Mr. Coxwell, saw his balloon destroyed by the bacchanals of Leicester. M. Nadar, of French renown, has been obliged to bring an action against MM. Godard, the constructors of his monster balloon, for 'cabbaging' some 800 or 900 square yards of silk. It appears from the statement of the prosecutor that he delivered to them 6,837 yards of silk for the formation of his balloon. When it was finished he had it measured by a skilful mathematician; and lo! nearly 1,000 yards of silk were unaccounted for. The two brothers Godard were condemned to six months' imprisonment and 100 francs' fine for the embezzlement, besides 8,425 francs damages for the loss of the property.

At the banquet given to the King of Spain at San Sebastian, specimens of all the best wines of France, Burgundy, Champagne, Médoc, and Sauterne, were produced, in order to give the royal guest an idea of the excellence of the French vine. The King, who, as it appears, sticks to his port, did not show himself very enthusiastic about any of them, until he tasted the Sauterne, of the growth of Pichard-Lafaurie, 1858. So struck was he with this, that he straightway desired to take a couple of pipes of it home with him. Unluckily there was only half a pipe left, for which he paid the neat sum of 240*l.*, being at the rate of about 1*l.* a bottle in the wood. The only French wine which has lately approached so high a price was the tun of Château d'Yquem, for which the Grand-Duke Constantine of Russia paid 800*l.* in 1859.

The Emperor, accompanied by Prince Napoleon, Prince Humbert of Italy, and the Prince Imperial, visited the camp at Chalons on the 30th ult. He was received with the usual illuminations, festivities, and grand reviews. The illuminations were especially good, as an allowance of money had been made to the camp to be devoted to this special purpose, and it was therefore a point of honour with each corps not to be surpassed in an effective disposition of their allotted sum. As described by the correspondent of a French journal, the display thereby occasioned put to shame even the splendours of Parisian illuminations. The evening was closed by the ever-interesting tattoo-beating by torchlight. At eight o'clock the bands, drums, and trumpets of every division in the camp assembled before the Emperor's tent. The evening gun was fired, and instantly they all burst forth into music; after remaining in their position for a few minutes, they defiled off, division separating from division, then brigade from brigade, and finally battalion from battalion, each with its own accompaniment of torch-bearers. The sight of the streams of fire continually splitting up into smaller rivulets, and the sound of the bugles dying away in the distance on every side, is described as something quite unique in military effect. On the following day a review was held, at which the Emperor with all his illustrious guests was present. In the evening they all appeared quite unexpectedly at the camp theatre, and enjoyed the rough military jokes to the full.

Few regulations are a cause of so much vexation to the community as the by-laws of the railway companies against smoking; they are often an insufficient protection to the non-smoker, and always a source of annoyance, if not of extortion, to the smoker. In France, by-laws of the same nature have long existed, but the general habit of the public and of the officials has been to ignore them; and smoking has been so generally connived at, that those who dislike the weed have a serious grievance. In consequence of the many complaints made to the Administration on the subject, a very sensible circular has been published by M. Béhic, Minister of Public Works, addressed to the various railway companies. He first observes on the existence of the by-law, then on the regular infraction of it; and he draws the conclusion that it would be absurd to insist on a law so entirely contrary to the wishes of the people. He therefore suggests that it should never be enforced except upon the actual complaint of a traveller annoyed by smoking, and then that it should be made to operate with the greatest stringency.

DENMARK.

At a recent sitting of the Landsthing, the President of the Council stated that the Government, while desirous of the negotiations being brought to a close as early as might be, would endeavour to save as much of Slesvig as possible, and at the same time to preserve the political and national independence of those parts of the country irretrievably lost. Herr von Bluhme added that success in this respect was uncertain, that he had little hope, and that all the means that could be made use of had already been employed.

The political committee of the Volksthing recommends the adoption of the following resolution:—'The Volksthing expresses its confidence that in concluding peace the Government will support the natural and sacred right of the populations to determine their own future by means of free voting by districts or by communes.'

The Conferences at Vienna are at a standstill. The delay is still attributed to the Danish representatives. A good deal of grumbling is heard, and broad hints have already been given that, unless some sort of basis for discussion is speedily found, the Germans will give notice of the resumption of hostilities on the 15th inst. According to the terms of the armistice, six weeks' notice must be given of a resumption of arms. The Prussian journals state very pointedly that no troops will be removed from Jutland until peace is actually concluded.

GERMANY.

It is not very easy to understand the present state of the Austro-Prussian alliance. That it stood firm so long as the armies were in the field opposed to an enemy is very intelligible; that the respective parties should have discovered that their interests must clash at certain points is also a matter which need create no surprise. But when we find general expressions of the warmest confidence qualified by the enumeration of a mass of details on which there is disagreement—when again we find in one official statement a declaration of perfect and unreserved unanimity, and in another a sentence of the haughtiest remonstrance addressed to the same Power—we may fairly be puzzled to find a clue to the imbroglio. The official journals continue to assert that the concord between Austria and Prussia with regard to the conduct of the war and the consequent negotiations is complete. Yet in the choice of a candidate for the sovereignty of the Duchies, in the management of the army of occupation, in the formation of the temporary Government, and in the settlement of the destinies of those territories, it appears that there is a most perfect disagreement. Again, while on this subject the understanding between the two parties is supposed to be perfect, Herr von Rechberg has not been slow, in addressing the Prussian Government on another matter, to speak in almost comminatory terms. The subject of the despatch is the entrance of Austria into the Zollverein on the terms of the new Franco-Prussian treaty. The Austrian Minister stipulates for certain conditions, and concludes by saying: 'If the Prussian Government refuses to accept our proffered negotiations, we shall most unwillingly be forced to see in such conduct a breach of their treaty obligations towards us; and we could not but see that such a proceeding would be utterly incompatible with the relations of federal amity which exist between the two Governments.'

The Baden races took place on the 1st instant. The weather was not very favourable; in fact, they were inaugurated by a pelting morning's rain. However, the company was both numerous and illustrious, including the King and Queen of Prussia, Prince Charles of Prussia, the Prince and Princess of Hesse, the Archduke Victor of Austria, the Crown Prince of Wurtemberg, the Duke of Hamilton, the Duc de Morny, &c. Five races were run on the first day, of which we need only particularise one as likely to interest English or foreign readers—that, namely, known as the 'Continental St. Leger' of 400*l.*, added to an entrance of 20*l.*, half forfeit, for three-year-old colts and fillies, the second to receive 60*l.* out of the stakes, weight 8 stone 2 lbs.; horses born and trained on any part of the Continent out of France allowed 6 lbs.; distance about 1 mile and 7 furlongs. Twenty-three horses were engaged for this event, but the appearance of the dreaded Fille de L'Air and Vermouth reduced the affair to a match between these two. On the fall of the flag, Vermouth went away with a slight lead, which he lost, however, by hugging the outside of the circular racecourse too closely. He regained his position when about a quarter of a mile from home, and the two then raced in. A fine struggle ensued, in which the mare was successful by a head, Vermouth's condition not being exactly suited for so hard a fight.

BELGIUM.

We have before spoken of the constitutional difficulty which lately occurred in Belgium in consequence of the refusal of the Conservatives to make up a quorum in the House of Representatives. This conduct on the part of the Opposition was caused by a motion brought forward by a Liberal, M. Orts, for the immediate augmentation of the members both of the Senate and of the Chamber, although the period fixed by the Constitution for the revision of their numbers had not then come round. The Liberals having now obtained a clear majority in the House by the late elections, M. Orts has again brought forward his motion; but the consideration of it has been adjourned, by the consent of both sides of the House, for an indefinite period. On the 3rd inst. M. Coomans, a Conservative, asked the Government a question on the subject of the foreign legion formed in Belgium to accompany the Empress of Mexico to her new dominions. He also proposed a resolution expressive of the regret of the House that the Belgian Government had authorised the formation of a corps destined for a foreign service. This question and the accompanying resolution were singularly embarrassing to the Government, who were very nearly forced to plead guilty to the charge. At last a sort of compromise was effected by the passing of an order of the day taking especial notice of the declaration of Government that it had neither taken part nor would hereafter take part in the formation of any such corps. In the course of the debate the Minister of War was obliged to confess that out of the 74,000 men of whom the Belgian army is composed there were over 16,000 deserters.

A Catholic Congress has been held at Malines, at which many of the chiefs of the Ultramontane party, both in France and Belgium, were present. The Bishop of Orleans, in his address to the Congress, stated that his visit was occasioned by the deplorable defeat of the clerical party in the elections in Belgium. 'The hour of adversity,' he said, 'is the hour for salutary counsels, generous resolutions, and faithful friendships.' His address was devoted to the subject of popular education. The sole idea which he enforced upon the audience was, that secular education was not only indissolubly connected with religious, but that it must always be communicated by the priesthood. One of the speakers at the Congress, who was received with very great enthusiasm, urged that a great nationality of faith ought to be organised in the world, of which Rome should be the centre, the heart, and the head. Differences of race, or the rights of kings, were of no importance: the sole sovereign should be, he said, the Pope.

In spite of the objection which the good burghers of Antwerp feel to fortifications, a vote of 5,000,000 francs towards completing a new line of defences around their city has been carried by 54 to 48 votes in the Chamber of Deputies.

SWITZERLAND.

The riots at Geneva have not yet settled down. Arrests continue to be made, and fresh troops have been despatched from Berne for the preservation of public order. Among the persons arrested are M. Fontanel, formerly State Councillor, and M. Fazy, the leader of the Radical party and the prime mover of the late violent scenes. The latter gentleman has, in consequence, thought it advisable to leave his country. He has addressed a letter to a local journal, saying that he has been forced to retire in consequence of threats of assassination, but that he will continue to observe the movements of the party of reaction.

The Federal Council of Switzerland have declared valid the election of M. Chenevière, the annulment of which by the Bureau of Election caused the late disturbances.

ITALY.

The envoy sent to the Italian Court by the Emperor Maximilian has presented his credentials, and was very favourably received by the King. This fact has caused some heartburnings among the thin-skinned journalists of Vienna, who are indignant that an Austrian Archduke should, in his capacity as Emperor of another country, acknowledge a kingdom which the Emperor of Austria still refuses to recognise. They also foresee grave difficulties in the adjustment of the religious question in Mexico, now that the Emperor has sent a Minister to the Power which has bereft the Holy See of its most valuable temporal possessions. There are other writers, however, who are fully aware of the absurdity of these views, and who have completely exposed them; showing that the late Archduke Maximilian can no longer be considered to have any identity of interest with the Empire of Austria, and that in any case the recognition of Italy by Mexico cannot be a matter of the smallest moment either one way or the other to the Austrians.

SPAIN.

The journals of Cadiz, Valencia, and Barcelona advise the Government to erect a fortress in the Chincha Islands, saying that they are the legitimate property of Spain.

We extract the following curious story, which tends to weaken our confidence in the perfection of that civilisation on which Spain has been lately complimented. An officer, rejoicing in the title of 'Inspector of Vigilance,' Pedro Plaza by name, received a visit from a gentleman who offered him the sum of 12,000 piastres to connive at the accomplishment of a certain act for which the assistance of some person in authority was required. The proposal was simply to murder a certain rich and childless old man, after first extracting from him a will in favour of the perpetrators of the crime. The Inspector of Vigilance determined to probe the affair to the bottom; he therefore agreed to the proposition, and had several interviews with one Ibarrola, the principal agent in the plot, in the course of which the names of all the persons concerned were revealed to him. When he had discovered everything, he ordered the whole party to be arrested; ten persons were captured, tried, and condemned to various terms of imprisonment.

RUSSIA.

Scarcely had the Russian fleet arrived in Cronstadt from its cruise in the Atlantic, before the officers belonging to it received orders from the Emperor to present themselves to General Cassius Clay, the American representative, and thank him for the brilliant reception given to the Russian squadron in the ports of the United States. Mr. Clay, in answer, said that he was proud to express the sentiments of esteem and admiration felt by the American people for the Emperor Alexander, 'the liberator of his people and the comforter of humanity.' Mr. Henry Burgh, Secretary of Legation, then explained what the sympathies are which unite so warmly the Federal States of America with Russia: 'they arise,' he said, 'from the fact that Russia and the United States are both walking in the same path, that of true civilisation.' On this extraordinary explanation we refrain from commenting: we are content to present it to our readers in its native brass.

THE PRINCIPALITIES.

The Prime Minister of Prince Couza has addressed a circular to the prefects, informing them that the amnesty lately granted to all political offenders must be so understood with regard to foreigners as to make them subject to immediate expulsion from the Principalities should they be found to be either interfering in internal politics or conspiring against foreign States. The chief cause for this modification of the amnesty is that emissaries of M. Mazzini and the revolutionary party in Europe have made Bucharest the headquarters for their projected invasion in favour of Poland. The people have presented an address to the Prince assuring him of their confidence and thanking him for his favours.

MADAGASCAR.

A fresh revolution has taken place in Madagascar; the Prime Minister Rainivounanihitriony has been displaced and, as some say, assassinated. This gentleman was the principal actor in the revolution which aided in the fall of King Radama II.; he has been succeeded in office by his brother Rainilairivouny. Raharla, the most enlightened man in Madagascar, has been installed at Tamatavi as governor; whereupon, say the French journals, the English Consul, Mr. Pakenham, immediately demanded the assistance of a man-of-war. It must be remembered that for some unknown reason the French nation has always chosen to impute to England every sinister motive and every unprincipled manœuvre in the extension of its influence in that island. They refuse to see that the cause of civilisation is absolutely ruined by the mistaken rivalry that they have chosen to create between the two countries.

FIGHTING ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE JAMES RIVER.

The *Richmond Examiner* of August 17 gives the following particulars of the operations on the north of the James until that date. It will be observed that the unfortunate negroes are still driven to the front, and that they have been fearfully cut up:—

Five miles west of Deep Bottom, and nearer the city, is Chaffin's Bluff. From Chaffin's Bluff we have a line of works and defences which runs almost due north to the Chickahominy, at New Bridge. After leaving Chaffin's this line of defences crosses first the Osborne Road, then the Central or Darbytown Road; then, five miles further north, the Charles City Road; then the Williamsburg Road; and, lastly, the New Bridge Road. The Osborne Road, which may be said to be a continuation of Main Street, runs south-east from Richmond, following the course of James River. The New Market Road branches off from the Osborne Road two miles below the city, and runs to New Market, a mile and a half north of Deep Bottom. The Williamsburg Road leaves the city at Fulton's Hill, a point about three hundred yards north of the exit of the Osborne Road, and runs due east from the city to Bottom's Bridge, over the Chickahominy, and thence to Williamsburg. Two miles from the city the Darbytown road strikes off to the right from the Williamsburg Road, and runs by a south-east direction into the New Market Road a mile below Deep Bottom. Two miles further down the Williamsburg Road the Charles City Road also branches off to the right, and, at a point fourteen miles east by south of the city, runs into a cross road known as the Quaker Road, which leads from Turkey Bend, on James River, northwardly across Malvern Hill and White Oak Swamp Bridge to Bottom's Bridge.

On the Charles City Road, six miles from the city, and just beyond our outer works, is a point known as the White Tavern. This point, on Sunday and Monday, was the extreme left of our line. The enemy's dismounted cavalry on Monday moved up this road in heavy force. Our cavalry met them below the White Tavern, and about 10 o'clock A.M. a fight began, which lasted until late in the evening. In the course of the day we drove the enemy back about two miles, in the direction of Deep Bottom and Charles's Neck. Late in the evening, as we were pressing the enemy's cavalry, we came upon his infantry, who in turn forced us back about half a mile, when night put an end to the fight.

Early yesterday morning the enemy again advanced up the New Market Road, this time with cavalry, artillery, and infantry. His cavalry force was heavier than on the previous day, and his infantry, so far as ascertained, consisted of the Second, Ninth, and Tenth Corps, numbering together not less than 40,000 men. About 7 o'clock A.M. this immense force struck our cavalry and drove them back into our earthworks. Here our cavalry and a small force of our infantry held them in check for a considerable length of time, during which the enemy made several fierce assaults in heavy columns, the devoted negro troops of Burnside leading in every charge. The slaughter of negroes in these assaults exceeded anything that occurred at Petersburg on the memorable July 30. This was an unequal contest. The enemy's line overlapped us on the left, while they still engaged all of our attention by hurling heavy masses on our front. We were at length flanked on our left, and the enemy drove us from our position, taking, it is said, about a mile of our works. The fight was, however, kept up by our retiring forces until the arrival of reinforcements, when, after a desperate and bloody battle, we drove the enemy from our entire line. The battle proper began about 8 o'clock A.M., and was waged with varying fury until 4 o'clock in the evening.

The enemy's loss in this battle was very great, as we learn from a number of sources. We have heard no estimate of our loss. Brigadier-General Chambliss is reported to have been wounded and taken prisoner in the first onslaught of the enemy.

[Richmond papers of later dates announce that General Chambliss was killed.]

A Roman Catholic Bishop banished.—The *Cincinnati Enquirer* furnishes the following extract from a private letter, dated July 27, received in that city, respecting the arrest and transportation of the Catholic Bishop at Natchez, Mississippi, because he would not pray for Mr. Lincoln:—'You are aware that some time ago there was an order issued here for all the clergy to read prayers for the President of the United States in their respective churches on every Sunday, under pain, if not complied with, that the offenders were to be sent out of their lines, and their churches closed and taken possession of by the military. This order caused some correspondence between the Bishop and the General. Of course the Bishop could not comply with the order; the result was an order issued, yesterday, banishing the Bishop from Natchez, and requiring him to report by twelve o'clock to the Provost Marshal at Videlia, where he is to remain until the matter is heard from Washington. That part of the order that closes the church is, by order of the General, suspended. The church is opened, as usual. I went to see the Bishop early in the morning. I never witnessed such a sight as when the orphans came to bid their father good-bye. About eleven o'clock, the Bishop, Father Gremie, and Father Charles, got into a carriage, and Mr. Quigles, Mr. Owen, and myself stepped into another, and drove down to the ferry. When we reached Mr. Grant's store, I was surprised to see all the ladies, old and young, waiting for the Bishop to take a last farewell. We got to the ferry, but the boat was not over; so the ladies had time to get to the landing. They all gathered around the Bishop, and when the boat came and rang her bell to leave, they all fell on their knees, and for the last time, the poor Bishop gave them his blessing. Oh, I wish you could have witnessed that scene. I cannot describe it. We then got on the boat, and the Bishop reported to the Provost-Marshal. He was assigned quarters at the hotel for the present, until other quarters can be provided. The Bishop is to have the full freedom of the city of Videlia, but not to go out of the lines. He is not to hold other than verbal intercourse with any one.'

Shipbuilding on the Clyde.—The shipbuilding trade of the Clyde continues to show considerable briskness. During the past month several orders have been received for large vessels, in addition to a number of small steamers. The number of blockade runners being built is almost incredible, no fewer than seven having been launched last month. The total number of vessels launched during August was 22 of 17,000 tons, against 16 vessels of 13,000 tons on the corresponding month of last year.—*Scotsman.*

M'CLELLAN AS A CANDIDATE.

To the Editor of The Index.

New York: August 20, 1864.

Sir,—The friends of General M'Clellan at New York made on Wednesday the 10th their long-prepared demonstration to promote his Presidential prospects. The condition of public affairs and the state of the public mind towards the Administration combine with the political distractions among its own partisans to give transcendent importance with the Opposition to the nomination to be made at Chicago on the 29th. The chances of overthrowing Mr. Lincoln and his party have recently improved so much, that the sanguine among his adversaries are declaring that it only needs the judicious selection as a candidate of one who can unite all the elements of opposition upon one ticket to insure success. This may be true, although I do not see it quite so clearly yet; but in that selection of a candidate lies a supreme difficulty which may disappoint all their hopes. The union of the Opposition may be defeated by the ambition of impracticable candidates or the attempt to purchase success by compromises, which would make it valueless, and therefore discourage efforts. The near approach of the time for the nomination gives great activity to the operations of those who are striving to get control of the Convention for a favourite candidate or theory, and among these the most busy are the partisans of General M'Clellan. The extent and costliness of the machinery they have put in motion to produce an outside pressure in his favour on the Convention is a very suggestive sign that they are assured of the result. No name but his has been pressed with any concert or industry. Indeed, with the exception of M'Clellan's, there has been no persistent agitation of the name of any man for the nomination. The Convention has been appointed without previous pledges, to any extent worth mentioning, or instructions in favour of any individual. M'Clellan has been thought, up to a recent period, to be so largely the favourite that his nomination was conceded to be all but certain. Of late, however, there has been so manifest a change in the aspects of the war and the war questions, and in the popular disposition towards peace, that the prospects of General M'Clellan have sensibly declined, and these extraordinary efforts have been made necessary to strengthen him by bringing to bear upon the Convention a great outside influence supposed to represent a great public opinion. The meeting in Union Square was one of these demonstrations. It has been in preparation a long time, and was got up under the auspices of party leaders, who understand well the methods for drawing together large public meetings; and this was certainly a great success in the numbers which it gathered, and the popular response which it elicited to the political addresses of the orators. Very few of the prominent public men whose names were announced as among the speakers for M'Clellan attended; but there was a great deal of oratory to a very large and well-satisfied multitude, who applauded with incessant and enthusiastic cheers every denunciation of the Administration and of the President.

The undeniable success of the whole movement was in the astounding proofs which it elicited of the popular detestation of Mr. Lincoln and his party. The friends of M'Clellan understood this well when they contrived to bring out his name before the people on an occasion when indignant masses would be sure to come up in thousands and tens of thousands to express their abhorrence of the misrule, and corruptions, and tyranny of the last three years. It was essentially an Opposition meeting, to which the praises and prospects of M'Clellan were with the great multitude secondary means for helping them to express their abhorrence of the ruling powers at Washington, and to find the means of deliverance. There was one part of the proceedings in which I am sure very few of those present concurred, if, indeed, they understood the covert meaning of the words employed. In one of their resolutions urging the friends of M'Clellan to hold meetings everywhere, with a view of urging his name upon the Chicago Convention, they are invited to be active in securing his nomination by the 'approaching Convention,' or 'by the people.' This has given offence, as containing a threat to the Convention of running M'Clellan as an independent candidate of the 'Conservative' Opposition, and not of the Democratic party, if he shall not be preferred at Chicago. It has a look of attempted dictation which is resented by that class among the opponents of Mr. Lincoln—very numerous, if not already a majority—which sees in the political position of General M'Clellan strong grounds for resisting his nomination as one unfit to be supported by men who are sincerely anxious for the restoration of peace. This feeling is not at all mollified by the expressions of several of the speakers, in which opposition to the nomination of General M'Clellan is treated as revolt against the decision of the people and criminal connivance at the reelection of Mr. Lincoln—as though the friends of M'Clellan expected an unlimited acquiescence in his nomination, which they are not prepared to give, on their own part, to any other candidate the Convention may select. At the same time, they manifest a great apprehension that the Convention will not nominate their favourite.

Much allowance is to be made for the heat of partisans, who, in the zeal for the advancement of favourites, utter many hasty words and use threatening and denunciatory phrases, which pass away when the necessity for unity in action arises; but there is an essential and radical ground of difference between the personal adherents of M'Clellan and his opponents which is not so easily to be passed over; for in the opinion of a very large portion of the Opposition party, for whose votes M'Clellan is a candidate, his success might not accomplish the principal object of their desire for which success would be valuable. He is by his record a War Democrat, not only as a general who has led the Federal armies in many bloody battles against the South, and in that capacity aided the Administration by his counsel and with his active cooperation in the yet unforgiven deed of despotism when the Legislature of Maryland was forcibly suppressed, and the members who were the objects of suspicion to the Lincoln Government were seized and put into military dungeons, but as a civilian who continues to insist on the return of the Southern States into the Union as the indispensable condition on which alone he would be willing to make peace. He represents the War Democracy, who oppose Lincoln's Administration at all points except that one, that the Southern States must be brought back into the Union at all costs. Unlike Mr. Lincoln, the War Democrats are very liberal in their promises to the South of what they intend to do if successful. They are willing to undertake what every rational man knows to be impossibilities, in return for which they ask what are equally impossibilities. They are ready to undertake a general restoration of all that has been destroyed since the advent of Lincoln into power—the old Union, the old Constitution, State sovereignty in its full vigour, the rights and liberties of the citizen, secure again as they were once thought to be under the old order of things—and propose to ask the Southern States to enter with them into this happy state on the faith of their promises, contented as though they had not quitted the Union, at that very point, as no longer endurable, and set up another government as necessary to their safety and happiness! If the Southern States refuse to accept these overtures and to return into the Union—whether from the fixed resolve to maintain their independence, the rooted distrust of the faith of the North, or the knowledge which they have of the utter incapacity of the Democrats to keep their promises, even if they were made with absolute sincerity of intention—it is the declared purpose of the War Democracy to compel them to return. It agrees, in this at least, with Mr. Lincoln, that the unity of government must be preserved. Peace without Union is pronounced to be a dishonourable peace, the idea of which is not to be tolerated. Interminable war, to the utter subjugation of the South, is accepted, with all its consequences upon the North itself, as preferable to any peace on the basis of separation.

These are well understood to be, and certainly they have been until recently, the views of General M'Clellan himself; and they are found to be expressed in substance in the speeches of nearly all his prominent supporters, and must be taken, until a distinct change of opinion and an emphatic pledge of some substantial change of purposes is authoritatively made known, to be the view he will carry into the administration of the Government if he should be elected President. If he cannot have a union of consenting States, he will enforce with the sword a unity of government over vassal States.

But there is a great growing and earnest peace party in the North which will accept no such dogma. They are not less Union men in wish than the War Democrats, if they are less hopeful in war as the means of reunion. But they do not desire a Union of blood, and they see nothing but protracted and unavailing agony for the people of both sections—nothing but the union of their own government and the destruction of their own liberties—in the prosecution of this fratricidal war on any pretence that Union, built up on such ghastly sacrifices of life, and treasure, and liberty, is attainable or desirable. They are unwilling, and most of them will refuse, to support at the polls any candidate who offers them the delusion of pretending to find peace by asking the return of the South, and continuing to make war upon them if they refuse. The peace men, who are now holding numerous meetings throughout the country, especially in the North-western States, and will hold a Peace State Convention at Syracuse in this State to-morrow, are preparing themselves to make a demand at Chicago that, in the nomination for President, the issue shall be presented directly to the people whether there shall be an immediate armistice proposed, with a view to the conclusion of peace as soon as possible, with no other condition or expectation than that the negotiating parties will be free thereafter to treat with each other on the same basis of equality and sovereignty in respect to each other as existed when the present Government was agreed upon in Convention. It may not be put exactly into that form, but the substantial demand will be for no more bloodshed, and for appeal, in the best and speediest manner which may be attainable among the belligerents, to the judgment of both sections, the people in each deciding for themselves on the terms in which they will live towards each other or with each other.

Reflecting men, who have surveyed the whole ground calmly, pronounce this to be dissolution in fact—the consummation, by consent, of the disruption of the Union, and the possible disintegration of the loyal States into still smaller confederacies. The terror of such consequences has been heretofore a powerful support of the war with many who, detesting the Lincoln policy, but not despairing of the ultimate recovery of the Southern States to be again a balance-wheel in the Union, have felt that they were under constraint to choose between despotism and chaos. But the events of the war, in the heroic defences and stubborn resolves of the South, have dissipated all rational hope that the Union can ever be restored by force. The lawless acts of the Administration have awakened a dread of the loss of civil liberty at home, without even the compensation of the re-establishing of the lost dominion over the South, and are stimulating to a combined effort for the overthrow of the tyranny at Washington; and the exhaustion of finances, the imminent bankruptcy of the Treasury, in spite of the enormous load of taxation under which the people are restive and groaning before its burdens begin to press as they must do hereafter the fearful drain upon the physical strength of the nation for armies, recruited every few months by half-millions of the flower of its youth, who never come back—and the universal symptoms of popular suffering and discontent—are teaching many of the most resolute war men of a year ago that there is more peril now in the continuance of war than in any peace, even at the cost of separation and of the acknowledgment of Southern Independence.

This issue will undoubtedly be made at the Chicago Convention. If a war policy be adopted, and M'Clellan nominated, it will be after a bold, zealous, and possibly uncompromising effort to present a distinctive peace platform, and a clear outspoken peace candidate such as Thomas H. Seymour of Connecticut, whose record on this subject is the brightest of any in the North—that of a bold, outspoken, unshrinking adversary of the war from the beginning, without phrase or equivocation or circumlocution about the different methods in which it might or should be prosecuted. It is not believed now that M'Clellan can be nominated at the Convention. The spasmodic efforts of his particular friends to get up these personal demonstrations to fortify his position there are pretty good proof that they are afraid of the result; and the abated tone in which they now talk of continuing the war against the persistent rejection by the South of all terms short of independence, gives a tacit confession of the power of the peace sentiment which they would like to propitiate. There is not a word in the resolutions adopted at Union Square in favour of continued hostilities. All of that is implied in the speeches of some of the less discreet of the orators. But I do not think that the earnest peace men will consent to be juggled into the support of a war candidate by any ambiguities or artifices, or that they will generally support M'Clellan if nominated, unless he puts himself squarely on their ground, that peace is above all things the first necessity of the country and the first duty of Government, and that Union, however desirable, must come from peaceful conferences between free and equal States, and rest on the consent of the governed.

If M'Clellan could see in the changed aspects of the times, in the convulsions and perils which threaten the North, and in the new titles which the South has written on so many battlefields to the rights of self-government, grounds with which to satisfy his own conscience and honour in surrendering as no longer practicable or desirable, if it ever were before, his theory of the constitutional subjection of States, and the propagation of Republicanism by the sword, a great deal would be forgiven to him for his eminent qualities, his soldierly demeanour, and the natural moderation and mag-

nanimity of his character. With his great popularity among the soldiers and the moral power which he derives from the malignity with which he was followed and hunted out for calumny and persecution by the Administration, he might, if he would carry the peace banner boldly and openly, be cordially accepted, and be more easily elected than any other man on that issue. The personal strength which he could bring to the cause would be the more readily accepted as an atonement for earlier errors and blunders, because the country was for three years in such a state of universal frenzy that the list of those upon whom the public eye would be turned as a fit candidate for the Presidency who can be pronounced to have been less tainted than McClellan is extremely small. With the exception of the Connecticut Seymour and Ex-President Franklin Pierce of New Hampshire, I know of none among men of political prominence. If he were now unequivocally for peace, he would be a very available candidate; but not being for peace, his nomination will be stubbornly resisted by those who are peace men in earnest, and will in all probability be defeated. If nominated, he will fail to carry that united support of the Opposition which is indispensable to success. Large masses of the Democrats in the North-west will tolerate no compromise on this question. The word passed round among them, in their presses and at their public meetings, is that they will support a peace candidate and no other.

AN OBSERVER.

THE CAPTAIN OF THE 'TALLAHASSEE.'

CAPTAIN JOHN TAYLOR WOOD, whose name has lately been brought before the public in connection with the exploits of the *Tallahassee*, has acquired for himself a conspicuous place in the annals of this war on account of the daring and successful enterprises in which he has been engaged. He is a grandson, on the maternal side, of the late General Taylor, President of the United States. Since the war broke out he has been naval *aide* to President Davis, but from time to time he has disappeared from Richmond, on services boldly conceived and brilliantly executed. With small boats, by surprises and by boarding, he has captured several Federal gunboats and transports, and, on one occasion, cut out a gunboat, the *Underwriter*, on the Neuse River, from under the guns of the enemy's works. For these distinguished services the Congress of the Confederate States passed the following unanimous vote of thanks:—

Joint Resolution of Thanks to Commander John Taylor Wood, and the officers and men under his command, for daring and brilliant conduct.

Resolved by the Congress of the Confederate States of America: That the thanks of the Congress of the Confederate States are due, and are hereby tendered, to Commander John Taylor Wood, Confederate States navy, and to the officers and men under his command, for the daring and brilliantly executed plans which resulted in the capture of the United States transport schooner *Elinore* on the Potomac River, of the ship *Alleghany*, and the United States gunboats *Satellite* and *Reliance*, and the United States transport schooners *Golden Rod*, *Coquette*, and *Two Brothers*, on the Chesapeake, and, more recently, in the capture from under the guns of the enemy's works of the United States gunboat *Underwriter* on the Neuse River near Newbern, North Carolina, with the officers and crews of the several vessels brought off as prisoners.

Approved February 15, 1864.

FEDERAL WARFARE.

(From the *New York Daily News*, August 27.)

THE 'surprise' said to have taken place in the attack of the Confederates a few days ago on Warren's Corps, turns out to have been one of the ingenious frauds of the censors. There was nothing of the sort at the time of that impetuous onslaught.

Warren had advanced to a position where he must have expected an attack. It came: and striking a weak part of his line, crushed onward in overwhelming weight. Passing through the gap thus made to his rear, the solid mass of the assault formed in two lines of battle back to back; and one moving to the right, the other to the left, at right angles to its original line of advance, took Warren's corps in flank. Crumpling them up as it pressed along, each body drove the Federal troops in a confused mass before it after the usual fashion of a flank attack, in an utter huddle.

One line of the Confederate movement is said to have come to a stand after having captured many prisoners. The other pressed file after file of our men before it, until its whole front became covered with a seething mass that, in terror and disorder, rushed wildly in every direction like a heaving sea. Driving on with that immense throng of our own men in its front, the movement was averted, it appears, by a terrible discharge of artillery, that spared neither foe nor *friend!*

War is at best a bloody business; but there are some instances in which it rises to the devilish. Pellesier suffocating a band of Arabs in Algeria, and Warren, in Virginia, hurling the deadly bolts of his artillery through a dense mass of his own men—sons and fathers, sent out to do battle from Northern households—are amongst its very worst atrocities. If that fire really forced back the Confederates, how fearfully destructive must it have been to the confused thousands that rolled and heaved helplessly between it and them! This infamous war has not presented to the fancy or the conscience of the people, in all its terrors, anything so utterly revolting as this.

The barbaric code of public bloodshed admits almost all forms of what, in civil life, would be regarded murders. Necessity, however, gilds all these with the sanction of what is called military *law*. We ask, therefore, whether this terrible act of General Warren may not have been avoidable — whether the necessity that may be held to sanctify it was one that existed beyond all reasonable doubt? The lives of hundreds, if not of thousands, of our soldiers—men of our own kith and kin—have been sacrificed by a judgment that may have been excited, that may not have shrunk with proper consciousness from an act so horrible; and we therefore think it due to the country, in consideration of the possibility of error in a decision leading to a result so calamitous, that this cannonade of General Warren be made a subject of military investigation.

BLOCKADE RUNNING.—On August 24 the blockade runner *Constance* sailed from Halifax for Wilmington. She was chased by a Federal gunboat, and ran into Ketch Harbour. She left next morning, hugging the coast. The *Falcon* has also left Halifax for Wilmington.

FEDERAL RECRUITING IN EUROPE.

(From the *Morning Post*, September 6.)

A BRITISH steamer, it appears, arrived at New York the other day with a cargo consisting only of a few bales of rags; but it was soon discovered that she had previously called at Deer Island, in Boston harbour, and there landed between 400 and 500 men brought out from Ireland to serve in the Federal army as substitutes for a corresponding number of Europeans who were not patriotic enough to comply with the President's requisition calling upon them to fight for the Union and the abolition of slavery. Another vessel, similarly freighted, came in shortly afterwards from Hamburg, and another was daily expected. The present headquarters of the Federal agency in Europe is, it would seem, at Antwerp, where a Mr. Julian Allen is 'doing what he can for American interests,' and men are said to be coming 'from all directions.' But we should observe at once, to relieve the Federal agents of the suspicion that unfortunately attaches to their operations in this line of business, and also to convey a hint, as Mr. Lincoln would say, 'to all whom it may concern,' that these men are stated to have emigrated expressly to enter the Northern army, and that their passage was paid upon that understanding. What, therefore, primarily invites attention is the part the Belgian authorities are alleged to have taken in the transaction. They would not, we are told, permit the embarkation of the 'emigrants' without examining them, 'and the signing of a contract by each person, which was to be a certificate that he went by his own desire.' This contract is, as the New York paper affirms, to the effect that the signers, when they arrive in the United States, will 'do whatever might be required of them;' and the customs officers, it is said, simply asked the men if they understood what it implied, and, when they could not write their own names, not only made the required signatures, but told them 'they were going to America, and must do their duty.' Now, that the men understood in some way what the contract implied we do not doubt, and, if the story be true, it is difficult to come to the conclusion that the Belgian officers were not at least equally aware of its meaning. At all events, such a statement plainly requires explanation. The Government of Belgium, we may assume, cannot be cognisant of the fact, if it be a fact; for while, as in this country, they may be unable to prevent practices that must be universally condemned, the account we have quoted would go to show a connivance which no neutral Government could justify.

But, apart from this particular allegation, which can doubtless be rectified, there remains the broad consideration the whole question exacts. These men are collected, carried away, and drilled during their passage to fight a battle which the Northern people, who have the means of purchasing exemption from service, will not fight themselves; and, moreover, the character of the war is established by the measures adopted to support it. Above all, the hypocrisy of the antislavery cry is abundantly demonstrated by acts which really amount to the practice of slavery in its very worst form. The 'emigrants' are bought to be shot in the room of those who buy them, and the abominable traffic goes on under the mask of religion and morality. It may be thought that the men who sell themselves do not regard the cause in which they are enlisted, and consequently that the cant of the War Christians is thrown away. This, however, is not quite the case. There are amateur recruiting agents who are influenced by the so-called religious feeling which is professed; and though the enthusiasm so excited may not produce a single volunteer in all Europe, it induces many persons to assist in driving substitutes to the market. When we hear emigration to America recommended and slavery denounced in the same breath, the design is obvious enough. So, too, if Lord Palmerston, for example, describes the awful slaughter in Virginia, and regrets that there appears to be no way of interfering to prevent the further outpouring of blood, the words of truth are instantly tortured into an expression of opinion adverse to the 'holy principles' the North, it is asserted, is in arms to maintain and extend. Hence it becomes necessary to reduce romance to the level of reason, and to strip fanaticism of its borrowed plumage.

At present, also, while in the interests of humanity and religion all ought to desire the termination of the war, any encouragement of this infamous scheme for recruiting the armies of the North in Europe, no matter on what plea, would obviously be a crime of the deepest enormity. The system is barbarous, view it how we will, but it is especially averse from every idea of justice and morality as employed by a great country to exterminate a comparatively small nation. For the success of the Federals means neither more nor less than extermination, and that is what is now preached from Northern pulpits. This, if this alone, should and does call forth the sympathy which is commonly felt for the Confederates, and, what is more, if the war continues, it will have its proper weight with the Powers of Europe. They may not be able to stop, or even to materially check, the tide of 'emigration.' The Federal agents may evade the municipal laws of foreign countries with impunity for a time; but that very offence will eventually lead to a change of policy which must, directly or indirectly, tend to strengthen the South. Neither in England nor in France will so flagrant an abuse of neutrality be tolerated; and the Federal Government will have to be informed, as regards the Belgian port its recruiting emissaries have appropriated, that the violation of the spirit of an obligation cannot be excused by any fraudulent conformity to its letter.

CONFEDERATE CRUISERS.—Yesterday intelligence was received at Lloyd's, under date New York, August 27, that two more Confederate cruisers had evaded the Federal steamers and successfully run out of the harbour of Wilmington, and since then had destroyed no less than thirty-three Federal merchantmen. The *Tallahassee* has eluded all the efforts of the Federal gunboats to overhaul her since she ran out of the harbour of Halifax, N.S., and on August 23rd destroyed no less than twenty-five coasting ships and vessels on their homeward voyage from Europe, many laden with valuable cargoes. All this destruction was effected off the coast of the State of Maine. The Federal mercantile marine, and the coasting trade especially, is completely paralysed by these daring exploits of the Confederate cruisers. The Federal gunboats have been foiled, as the commanders of the Confederate cruisers will not risk an engagement, their only object being the destruction of property, and not fighting.—*Morning Post*, Sept. 8.

Among the items of fashionable intelligence from Paris is the announcement of a marriage, which it is understood will shortly take place, between M. Emile d'Erlanger, of the distinguished Frankfort and Paris banking-house of the same name, and Mdlle. Mathilde Slidell, the eldest daughter of the Hon. John Slidell, the Special Envoy of the Confederate States of America.

THE MASSACHUSETTS SLAVE TRADE.

WE copy the following from the *Boston Courier* of August 19:—

'A satirical Kentuckian, writing over the signature of 'Legree' in the *New York Tribune*, urges the New England Governors to reopen the African slave trade as supplementary to the domestic branch of that traffic in which they are now engaged. Why not? As well send to Africa as to Guinea for food for powder and off rages upon the 'Altar of Liberty.' A negro and a *fortiori* an African a gro, is 'just as good to 'xpend rebel bullet as a white man.' 'Legree' endorses his advice.

'As Andrew, Buckingham, & Co. have confessedly entered into the dom stic slave trade, they cannot be slow to agree to the reopening of the African slave trade, as it is from here our future supply of laborers must come. Our present stock of negroes have become too much civilized and christianized to be longer 'hewers of wood and drawers of water' merely, and cannot compete with Guinea negroes as field hands; the latter being far more tractable and easily managed, besides having fewer wants, a clout and a corn cake being unaccustomed luxuries. Nor are arguments based on christianity and humanity wanting with which to reconcile your correspondents to this scheme. By statistical returns there are found to be two million members of evangelical churches among the slaves of the slave States, or more than are found among the equal white population of New England. This is the result of the training of masters and mistresses of the South. A far better showing this than all the missionary efforts of all Christendom, from the preaching of the Apostle Philip to the eunuch of Queen Candace, Queen of Ethiopia, down through the eighteen hundred years to the present time. The whole of Africa cannot show as many Christian converts as are to be found in this one county of Fayette among its negro population. Why, the Rev. Dr. Robert J. Breckinridge, the temporary chairman of the Baltimore Republican Convention, owns a negro man whom he hires to the African church at Lexington for $250 per annum, who preaches to more Christianised Africans every Sunday than all the preachers from the Cape of Good Hope to the Straits of Gibraltar. If such has been the result of former importations of Africans, in the name of God does not every consideration of humanity call for the reopening of a trade which has been such a boundless blessing to multitudes of the sable sons of Africa?'

With a sharp appreciation of certain New England peculiarities, Legree adds:—'Call it not a slave trade, but call it rather a missionary movement.'

PEACE IN AMERICA.—A great and important movement is now going on in Great Britain and Ireland in the shape of a peace address from the people of this country to the people of the United States. This address appeals to the ties of race and kindred, and asks if there has not been enough of strife and bloodshed, of misery and suffering; it goes on to say: 'We believe that it is now time for you to pause, and, after calmly reviewing all that you have accomplished, the distance which you have travelled from your well-known landmarks, and the difficulties and dangers that are certainly before you, to take counsel together as to the best means of restoring peace.

'It is in your hands to give peace to the American continent.

'We appeal to you to recognise the duty which attaches to your high privilege, and to make peace with the Southern States. And we make this appeal in the name of religion, humanity, civilisation, and common justice.'

In Ireland the address has met with hearty support from the people in general, Protestants and Catholics alike, the clergy taking a very active part in promoting the object. The people of Dublin, Cork, Belfast, Limerick, Drogheda, Queenstown, and the principal towns in Ireland, are signing the address in immense numbers, as also in Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Huddersfield York, Leicester, Preston, Stockport, Macclesfield, Congleton, Chester, Bury, Oldham, Bath, and most towns in England. It is also being extensively signed in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Peterhead, and Banff. The Address is now being actively signed in London.

As the time is near at hand when the *people* of the United States will decide the question of peace or war for another four years, the friends of peace and humanity are anxious that the counsels of the people of Great Britain and Ireland should be uttered in favour of peace, believing that a *people* can best address a Republican Government and a Republican multitude. In this case there can be no offence—no selfish motive. It is humanity appealing to humanity, and entreating that the worst form of war should be closed in an honourable peace.

The London Society for obtaining the cessation of hostilities in America has appointed Mr. Joseph Parker, Coleman Street Buildings, Coleman Street, as its special agent to cooperate in this movement; and we are informed that already this gentleman is receiving, by every post, numerous applications for blanks. Gentlemen of influence in Bath, Bristol, Gloucester, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Guernsey, and many other places, have volunteered their services, and the list of earnest labourers in this Christian work is daily increasing.

THE 'TIMES' ON THE COTTON TRADE.—The following is the paragraph in the *Times* of Tuesday to which we refer in our leading columns:—'A heavy fall in the price of cotton would be the result of peace, and every such fall will lessen the amount required for carrying on the trade, so that an increased business might be effected with the employment even of a diminished capital. Just in proportion, too, as the trade shall revert to America will be the saving of distance in the transmission alike of money on the one hand, and the return produce on the other. The fact, also, is to be considered that money flowing to America is not buried or converted into trinkets and withdrawn from circulation as in India, and to some extent likewise in Egypt. Moreover, a fall in the price of the staple would at once cause large foreign orders, which have been withheld under existing circumstances, for our manufactured goods to be executed by our merchants and drawn for so as to have an important effect upon the various exchanges. Finally, the most significant point is that, even if the Southern States could ship their cotton with the speed which persons ignorant of the difficulties of transport after the war fancy to be practicable, there would be no ground to suppose that we should have any heavy specie balance to remit to them. Although we are bare of American cotton, both Northern and Southern States are absolutely bare of supplies of nearly all other kinds of goods. It may be doubted if in that respect the aggregate value of their requirements would not be found to exceed that of all the cotton they could even under the most favourable circumstances at present send to us; and as our bonded warehouses are for the most part well stocked with the principal articles of produce, we are prepared at any moment to meet these wants.'

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 13 Bouverie Street, E.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1864.

The Chicago Convention.

THE steamer which left Boston on the 31st ultimo and Halifax on the 2nd instant will discharge the bulk of her freight of news upon the telegraphic wires, from off the coast of Ireland, on Sunday or Monday next at latest. She will bring us the result of four days' sitting of the Democratic Convention which assembled at Chicago on the 29th for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the Presidency of the United States, and enunciating the policy upon which that candidate is, a month later, to appeal to the suffrages of the three million voters of the Northern States. It is possible that the sittings of the Convention may have been stormy and its counsels divided—that, therefore, the suspense was not definitively ended when the steamer left the American shore. Military events also may have taken place, of which we are as yet unaware, to influence the action of the Convention. Still we shall learn enough to speculate with tolerable certainty upon the issue of the approaching crisis, and we know enough even now to make such speculations more than mere guesswork.

Present indications all point to the nomination of General M'CLELLAN. Present indications also permit little doubt that whoever may be the nominee of the Democratic Convention will be the next President of the United States. If there were no other reason for this, it would be found in the almost unanimous feeling among the masses, stronger even than their earnest longing for peace, that any change in the *personnel* of the Administration *must* be for the better. So utterly hopeless are Mr. LINCOLN'S chances for reelection, that his own supporters have set on foot a movement to unite the party upon one candidate by withdrawing both the competitors; and one of them, Mr. FREMONT, has publicly declared his acquiescence in the arrangement if Mr. LINCOLN will abide by it in good faith. The 'Jonah' of the sinking ship thus thrown overboard, the fortunes of the Republicans might possibly still be saved, but the manœuvre of withdrawing two candidates already in the field, and finding a third acceptable to the adherents of both the others, is too complicated to be feasible within the few weeks which now alone remain before the day of election. We look, therefore, upon the success of the Democratic nominee—always supposing the freedom of the polls from military interference, and barring the improbable contingency of serious Southern reverses—as being as nearly certain as human things, and especially American things, can ever be.

A month ago we should have treated this success as synonymous with peace: to-day we owe it to that candour from which we have never departed, whether the facts were agreeable to our wishes or the reverse, to say that the situation is, though not radically changed, yet essentially modified. Then the yearning for peace at the North might be translated into the language of reason whispering: 'Better be united with an independent South on terms of amity than in a conquered South be chained to a corpse.' To-day the yearning is as strong, perhaps stronger, but the evil one has found deluded ears to listen to the temptation: 'The Union may still be restored, if we give the South all else she asks, and we shall obtain by juggling what we failed to obtain by force.' The cause of this relapse is undoubtedly to be sought in the victory off Mobile, which, while to the South it is only a local reverse, may thus turn out to be to the North a great national misfortune. Compared with the madness which ruled until within the last few months, even the present delusion is relative sanity; but compared with the promising symptoms of recovery which we had the pleasure of chronicling a short time since, it is a return to madness.

As we were the first in the English press to shout the glad tidings of 'land, land,' it behoves us now, when every one descries the shore, to make certain that it is not merely a mirage, and to caution against the breakers which may still prevent the sadly travailed ship from safely reaching a harbour. Over-confidence on the part of spectators who are quietly in port can do but little harm; on the part of those whose lives and fortunes are embarked on the vessel, the slightest error may be ruin. Here an illusory view of the prospects of peace will at worst only hurt a few individuals engaged in speculations; on the other side of the Atlantic it will be the wreck of a nation's destinies. Our journal goes on the library tables of several hundreds of Northern politicians, both Republican and Democrat, and what we have to say on so momentous a question is narrowly scanned by probably more than ten times that number of Northern eyes. May it please the Allwise, who is the Ruler of North and South alike, that our warning come not too late!

The vision of peace is not a mirage. It is the real view of solid land, full of promises of future prosperity, and with ample space for Federals and Confederates. There are two approaches to it: one, marked out by foolish pride and counselled by political knavery, which leads to certain destruction; the other which it requires only common honesty and a patriotic purpose to find with ease and safety. In plain words, and dropping metaphors, the North, the aggressor in this war, and by whom, therefore, the first advance must be made, has two courses open. It may say to the South: 'We are still able to prolong this war; we do not even yet abandon all hope of eventual success; but the war was undertaken under a fatal misapprehension of its true conditions, and even success could not now give us what it was undertaken for. While, therefore, we have still the power to inflict further injury, we recognise our error, and offer you a fair and honourable peace.' To which the South would reply: 'The continent is large enough for us both. Since we must occupy it jointly, I for my part will not be a bad neighbour. All our former troubles arose from our being artificially linked together by a tie which chafed us both. This broken, there is no cause left why we should not live side by side in mutual peace and harmony. It is true I owe you no favours, but neither do I to the rest of the world; and if I have any favours to bestow, they will belong to that Power which first recognises my just rights, based upon the logic of historical facts and the principles of government for which your fathers and mine once fought the same battles.' There would be dignity and self-respect in such language from the North to the South, and there would be good faith and sincerity in such a reply from the South.

Or the North may address the South somewhat after the fashion that the plotter of a villany slyly pokes his expected accomplice in the ribs: 'We, the Democrats, are now in the ascendency. The Republicans, silly fanatics, were such imbeciles, and got so drunk with the unaccustomed nectar of patronage and office, that the country turned them out in a fit of disgust, and we, your old allies, *are now the North*. Come back to us, and give us votes in the Senate and in the House, for without it they may come in again when the people forget their nausea. There, now, we will hang a few of them, if that pleases you, or at least so frighten the whole lot that ABE shall cut his jokes in Exeter Hall, and BUTLER seek the tender mercies of London brewers, and every cheap hotel in all Europe be filled with New England orators and contractors. Have slavery, and any guarantees for it you may want. Have your own way in everything. Only do, do come back into the Union.' To which the South will reply: 'Democrats of the North, who hold this language, you are self-seekers and time-servers, and I know you of old. You possess not public virtue enough among you even to have a conviction, either right or wrong. It is such professions as those you now make which delayed separation for twenty years only to make it irremediable at last, and it is your lack of straightforwardness and moral courage which has caused the inevitable event to be accompied by this horrible effusion of blood. You have fitly selected as your representative a man who says one thing in private and another in public, and who neither in public nor in private dare speak his own mind, if he have one. You, who profess to ascribe the failures of LINCOLN, not to Southern valour, but to the incapacity of his chosen generals, proclaim the impersonation of failure, M'CLELLAN, who when at the head of armies wrote despatches only less lying and bombastic than POPE'S—who, with no better fortune than GRANT'S, cannot claim GRANT'S boldness nor his power of sustaining the spirits of his men—and who, worst of all, still draws his pay as a general in the army for Southern subjugation. You, who profess to uphold the Constitution and the rights of the States, select as your standard-bearer the man who first, at LINCOLN'S bidding, set the Constitution at defiance and trampled the rights of a sovereign State under foot—M'CLELLAN, the pliant tool for the arrest of the Maryland Legislature and the military occupation of that unfortunate State. You may deceive the people of the North, but you cannot deceive the people of the South. The best Southern blood was not shed to establish a party, but to vindicate a nation.'

When the nominee and the 'platform' of the Chicago Convention are known, our readers will be able to judge which of these two courses the North means to pursue. If the first, then in a few months there will be a lasting peace between North and South, such a one as will command the respect of European Powers and deride the cowardly and wicked policy which has obtained a secret hearing in Cabinets, though its advocates shrink from the infamy of its open avowal. If, on the other hand, the nominee of the Chicago Convention shall be M'CLELLAN—or, whoever may be the nominee, if its 'platform' be simply a string of patriotic commonplaces, borrowed from Fourth of July orations—then the last hope of salvation for the North as an Empire will have been sacrificed to the fetish worship of the Union, and there will be no peace. The South will not accept an armistice without its necessary concomitant, the raising of the blockade. It will not go into a Convention of the States with a lie on its lips. The war must go on, the South growing stronger, the North weaker. When peace at last shall come, it will no longer be a peace between equals, but a peace extorted at the point of the sword in smouldering Northern cities—a peace made with individual States or groups of States separated from the rest; and instead of two allied Powers taking the place of the extinct Union, there will be several, of which the South will be the most compact and the strongest.

The Crisis of the Campaign.

WHATEVER foundation there may be for the peace rumours which are circulating in the Northern States, no indication of an early cessation of hostilities is afforded by the operations of the armies in the field. Probably at no previous period of the war has the struggle assumed such grave dimensions, or been waged with so much stubbornness and energy; never were the immediate issues at stake, from a military point of view, of such critical importance to both North and South. It is true that the fall of Petersburg, the destruction of Mobile, and the surrender of Atlanta, if they could all be crowded into the space of the next three weeks, would only point to an indefinite prolongation of the contest. But the effect of failure at all these points, in the present state of public feeling in the North, could hardly fail to be decisive as to the fate of the party now in power in the United States; and therefore it is that every telegram from America is scanned with even more anxiety than awaited the despatches of three years ago. The interest of the war, and especially of the present campaign, has been prolonged beyond general expectation. A succession of daring enterprises and heroic repulses — a series of great battles, recalling the gigantic fights of the First Empire, and of minor engagements which may take their stand by the conflicts of Alma and Inkermann —never allow the attention to flag. As in a well-written volume, every fresh chapter in this war's history developes a new point, and leaves the reader in cruel expectation. Surprise follows surprise. The sensation headings of the New York press are vied with by the startling movements of *corps d'armée*, but the real decisive blow is never struck. It is always to come, and the opening and the close of a campaign tread closely upon one another, with nothing accomplished, and the end as distant as ever. The latest news from the seat of war is, as usual, indecisive and suggestive. Favourable on the whole to the Confederacy, it still reveals to us the struggle at its height. Three months ago it would have been thought impossible that GRANT'S and LEE'S armies could have so long confronted one another in Virginia, that SHERMAN could have reached Atlanta, and that, having reached Atlanta, he could have

been kept for weeks outside her defences, almost as much besieged as besieging. In GRANT's invasion of Virginia, from his scramble through the Wilderness to his first assaults upon the lines at Petersburg, he is supposed to have lost from 80,000 to 100,000 men, killed and wounded, prisoners, stragglers, and deserters. He sacrificed 8,000 to 10,000 men in his latest effort to carry the Petersburg lines. And now it is asserted that his losses at Deep Bottom and on the Weldon Railroad will not fall far short of another 12,000. It would seem impossible that an army could stand up against the demoralisation consequent on these repeated defeats; and occasionally we hear that the Federal troops are no more to be trusted for fighting in the open or attacking entrenchments. But facts do not bear out the assertion. Not only are GRANT's resources apparently inexhaustible, but his soldiers fight. Outmanœuvred they are invariably; but their stubborn courage, added to their superiority in numbers, saves them; and the battle has yet to be fought which shall free Virginia from the tramp of the invader. Yet, if prediction is ever justifiable in war, no very long time, we believe, will elapse before the crisis of the struggle is reached. The Federals have staked all on the success of GRANT and SHERMAN. Veterans, reserves, hundred-day men, have been used up indiscriminately, until at last the supply is at an end, with both Richmond and Atlanta untaken. GRANT's losses are known. We have never seen even an approximate estimate of SHERMAN's casualties. But his frequent assaults upon strong defences, his fatiguing marches, his battles before Atlanta, his unsuccessful raids must have made up a frightful list of vacancies to be supplied. It is evident that the Federal army before Richmond is no longer regarded as a dangerous assailant of the Southern capital. The troops which lined the defences of Petersburg, and which have lately on more than one occasion, under General MAHONE, inflicted such severe punishment upon the Federals, do not, in all probability, belong to the original army of Virginia. They are the reinforcements brought up by BEAUREGARD when GRANT first threatened the eastern defences of Richmond. The bulk of LEE's army, which fought behind earthworks at Spottsylvania Court House and on the western bank of the Chickahominy, is north of the James River, and disposable for offensive operations. And it would seem that LEE will now force GRANT to retire from his present position by a formidable diversion across the Potomac. SHERIDAN's army was stated to be 45,000 strong. It had been reinforced by portions of at least two corps from GRANT's main army; and it occupied a very strong position in advance of Harper's Ferry. Yet General EARLY found himself powerful enough to attack and drive back this large force, and even, it is said, to cross the Potomac in its face. Either SHERIDAN's army is composed of very bad materials, or EARLY has a very considerable force at his back; and in that case we may hear any day of a battle that will bring back all GRANT's soldiers in hot haste to the Potomac. For SHERIDAN is no match for EARLY. A good cavalry officer, he has in no single instance shown any strategic capacity, and the operations in Maryland, if the Confederates re-enter that State, are likely to tax to the utmost the skill and energy of the Federal generals. The question is whether LEE has advanced the bulk of his army. If so, we may rely upon it that he has made GRANT safe. And circumstances seem to favour the supposition that he is contemplating the offensive. The violent efforts of GRANT to absorb his attention by successive demonstrations on the north and south banks of the James, the fact that the Federal General holds a portion of the Weldon Railroad, which he could not have gained had the Confederates been in force to follow up their recent victory, all point to a concentration of strength in another locality. That locality, we are inclined to think, is the Shenandoah Valley. There or in Maryland may soon be fought the decisive battle of this campaign.

Nor is SHERMAN likely to stay long before Atlanta. He has, since HOOD took the command, been beaten in fair fighting, repulsed in his assaults, and utterly baffled in every attempt to outflank and surround the Confederate army. Correspondents from his camp avow that their prospects are gloomy. Every extension of his line developes a Confederate work in front of it that he is not strong enough to storm, and he has to settle down to the siege of an uninvested town defended by an army which he has never beaten in the field. The danger to SHERMAN is not, however, the presence of the Confederate army in front of him, so much as the length of his communications. We know now that the Confederate programme is to compel his retreat by intercepting his communications. WHEELER and RODDY are already at work upon these. We hear of Confederate cavalry at Dalton in Georgia, at London in Tennessee, and at Tunnel Hill; of a fierce encounter in which the Federal General STEADMAN is wounded, and Colonel STRAIGHT killed; of trains captured, cattle driven off, &c. SHERMAN's line is at least 250 miles long. Of this distance four-fifths requires to be constantly guarded against an enemy's attack; and, with the drain upon his resources entailed by this demand, it seems an impossibility that he should be able much longer to maintain himself within two miles of Atlanta. In the meantime, the Georgian militia has responded heartily to General HOOD's call, and even if no reinforcements have reached him from Virginia, he is probably stronger in point of numbers than when he gave battle at Peachtree Creek. What the militia are worth has been already proved by their brilliant defeat of General STONEMAN's and M'COOK's raiding parties.

In other quarters matters are still looking well for the Confederacy. In Florida another Federal reverse is chronicled; at Mobile, the operations of FARRAGUT, with the exception of the attack upon Fort Morgan, have been brought to a sudden termination; at Memphis, FORREST is paying the Yankees in their own coin. But it is to Georgia and Virginia that we must look for the events that will influence Northern opinion and decide this year's campaign, and they cannot be long delayed.

Will Peace immediately bring down the Price of Cotton?

A PARAGRAPH appeared in the *Times* city article on Tuesday which is calculated to excite uneasiness in Liverpool and Manchester. We cannot believe that the prospect of peace in America causes the present tightness in the money market, for it certainly will not cost more to buy American cotton than it does substitutes for American cotton. The *Times*, however, sufficiently qualifies its evil forebodings by referring to the difficulties in the way of bringing American cotton to market, and to the demand for cotton goods that will spring up on the announcement of peace. It is certainly true that peace will cause a heavy fall in the price of cotton; but, if the circumstances are rightly understood, it is not inevitable that this fall should be sudden or partake of the features of a panic. The subjoined article was already in type when the *Times* comments on the cotton trade appeared, and those comments render it more than ever necessary that the case should be fully and fairly set forth.

The American war has not as yet caused a panic in the cotton trade. Hitherto most of the speculators have drawn prizes. Not only the original owners, but half a dozen sets of consecutive operators, have made fortunes out of the stock of cotton in hand in 1861. It was not at a single bound, but by a series of jumps, that cotton reached its present market value. The explanation is obvious. Until Secession was an accomplished fact it was regarded as an idle threat, and until the war actually commenced few persons in this country believed that the North would attempt to restore the Union by force of arms. Nor was this incredulity unreasonable. It is plain enough that the South was so firmly persuaded of the continuance of peace that she made no preparation for war, for certainly the long interval between the election of Mr. LINCOLN and the first bombardment of Fort Sumter might have been employed in transferring Southern cotton to neutral ports, so that the Confederates would have escaped many of the financial difficulties which they have had to encounter. Even when the war broke out, there were two reasons which tended to keep down the price of cotton. It was not supposed that the maritime Powers, in the face of the treaty of Paris, would recognise the validity of a blockade which could only be an imperfect blockade. Two years ago there was an impression that solemn treaties entered into by great Powers were worth something; but we know now that, whether treaties are old or new, they are only to be observed when observance is deemed expedient. Lastly, it was thought that the war would be short, and that before the enormous stocks of raw cotton and cotton fabrics were exhausted, the war would end. So it was only by slow degrees that men believed in a cotton famine; and therefore it was by equally slow degrees that cotton reached to what are considered famine prices. Yet, knowing the extreme sensitiveness of market prices, and what slight events frequently induce a panic, it is remarkable that the American war has not caused greater convulsions in the cotton trade.

Now that there is, let us hope, a prospect of the termination of hostilities, it may be well to consider the probable effect of peace on the price of cotton. Judging from the agitation in Liverpool and Manchester manifested as each succeeding mail announces the rapid development of a peace sentiment, we might fear that peace will produce such a sudden fall in the value of cotton that the holders would be utterly ruined. If a panic ensues, this will be the case, but we think it is easy to show that such a panic would be groundless, and that the holders of cotton need not fear a heavy and sudden depreciation of the value of their property.

It is true that there is a large stock of cotton in the South. It would be ridiculous to attempt to give an estimate of the stock, for nothing is more dangerous than basing a calculation on merely problematical data; still, knowing the vast quantity of cotton held by the Confederate Government, and that the Government holding represents but a portion of the entire stock, the whole quantity must be considerable. But it must be remembered that the whole of this stock cannot be forthwith thrown upon the European market. The means of transit have been destroyed. The railroads have been cut up not so much by the enemy as by the Confederates, for the purpose of repairing the main lines used for military transport. The river steamers no longer exist, and therefore railways must be repaired and a new fleet of river steamers built before the bulk of the cotton can be brought to seaports, and these works cannot be soon completed. Moreover, we must note carefully that the supply of American cotton has not altogether ceased. We find by a reference to the Liverpool shipping list that many thousands of bales of Southern cotton have been received at Liverpool in the last few weeks, and very few ships come from ports contiguous to the Confederacy without being partly freighted with cotton. The enterprise of British merchants has in this respect rendered the blockade ineffective, but a supply of American cotton, in addition to the large supplies from India and elsewhere, has not sent down the price of cotton.

It may be asked if we mean to assert that, when peace is restored, the quantity of cotton shipped from the South will not be much larger than it is at present. Assuredly this is not our opinion. What we say is, that, no matter how great the demand, many months must elapse after the conclusion of peace before a great part of the stock of cotton in the South can be in the hands of the Liverpool brokers; and, further, we say that the effect of peace on the price of cotton will be considerably modified, since already in time of war we are in receipt of Southern cotton. Still, making these allowances, it is not to be denied that, so soon as the war is over, cotton in comparatively large quantities will come from the Confederacy, but those who infer that there must be a sudden drop in price do not sufficiently weigh all the circumstances. Since the commencement of the American war it has required perpetual effort to foster the growth of cotton in India and other places. Cotton-supply Associations have done what they could to induce a belief that the American war was to go on for many years, and at the end thereof the South was to be left so exhausted and disorganised that many more years must pass away before she again became the great cotton field of the world. No other kind of argument was tenable; for if the American war has proved anything, it certainly has proved that no cotton country can compete with America.

Now peace in America will produce a genuine and well-founded panic amongst non-American growers, and the supplies from India and the Mediterranean will be instantly checked, for those countries, allured by the high prices, are sending every bale to Liverpool that they can make ready for export. We shall get more cotton from America, but our supplies from India and other places will fall off. And suppose that peace should bring about a panic, and that the price of cotton should come down to what will probably be its normal price three years after the war is over—that is, a shilling per pound—the effect would not only be to check, but absolutely to stop any large supplies of non-American cotton; that is, we should receive from India very little if any more cotton than we did in former times.

Besides the foregoing, there is another reason, and a very important one, why we may expect that peace prices will not rule for some time after the termination of hostilities. When peace is proclaimed, there will be a large and even excessive demand for cotton fabrics—a demand which will show that those who have erected new mills were men of foresight, and that those who have looked with indifference on the emigration of Lancashire operatives have been lamentably shortsighted. Everywhere the stocks of fabrics are at a very low ebb; still buyers are very guarded in their purchases, from the prevalent idea that the war is nearly over, and that peace will cause a sudden and disastrous fall in the price of cotton. Should there be a momentary fall, the demand will restore high prices; or if high prices are maintained, buyers, seeing no prospect of immediate cheapness, will have to purchase at current rates. Besides, there will be an enormous demand for cotton goods in the Confederacy. When we consider how completely the South is denuded of cotton fabrics, it is not, we think, an exaggeration to say that her orders will amount to from ten to fifteen millions sterling, and that two-thirds of the cotton exported from the Confederate States during the first year of peace will be re-imported as cotton fabrics.

We submit, then, that there are no grounds for

supposing that a sudden and heavy fall in the price of cotton must result from peace, but, on the contrary, that the holders of stocks, unless they sacrifice their property in a moment of panic, will not lose by the termination of hostilities. We do not mean that if a man refuses to part with his cotton, and stores it up for a year or two, he will not lose. Our argument is, that the downfall of price will be gradual, that probably no very serious depreciation will follow peace, and that present stocks will pass into the hands of manufacturers at nearly present prices. Peace will ultimately give us cheap cotton, though the most sanguine person must not expect there will be a return of the prices of 1860 for many years. Meantime we rejoice unfeignedly that, though high prices will prevail for cotton fabrics, they will not, owing to the large demand, prevent those wondrous hives of industry, the cotton mills, from again being in full work, and that the Lancashire operatives—the only class in England that has suffered in consequence of the American war, and who have borne their suffering with a noble fortitude that is beyond all praise—will be amongst the first to reap the fruits of blessed peace.

SERIALS FOR SEPTEMBER.*

September magazines are proverbially dull. The current number of the *Cornhill* is a striking instance. The illustrations are heavy, the scraps of novels are heavy, and the articles are curious on account of their extreme poverty. They were written in the dog-days, when the exhausted contributors were longing for sea-breezes, and only thought of getting through enough copy to satisfy the importunate printer's devil. We are treated to a paper on partridge-shooting which is equally devoid of wit and information. In order to cover the requisite number of pages with type, we have a translation of General Todleben's account of the battle of the Alma. Fancy the *Cornhill* resorting to such padding! However, we have no wish to be unkind to a magazine which is usually altogether worthy of the high position it holds. The weather has been unusually enervating, and contributors are but men. No doubt a review of Todleben's book was suggested, but the exhausted contributor could not do more than pen a few words of introduction to the translation of a chapter.

Fraser is not by any means lively, but its articles are readable. A paper on diplomacy by M. H. Ottley is a pretty specimen of article-making under difficulties. A large portion of the twenty pages is taken up with historical details such as an industrious reader and copyist might glean in two hours in the reading-room of the British Museum. Mr. Ottley's opinions manifest the most thorough ignorance or the most thorough misconception of the existing condition of political affairs. He argues that the British Parliament ought to have some voice in foreign affairs, that the theory of Parliament not being able to set aside a treaty before it is formally ratified is an unconstitutional assumption, and that Parliament ought to be consulted before important treaties are concluded. He illustrates this by a reference to the late Danish negotiations. Now it must be manifest to the most casual observers of the working of our Constitution that the House of Commons does, or can, most effectively control the Foreign Department. Secret diplomacy has gone out of fashion, and no Ministry, if it wished it, could carry on an important negotiation in secret. If the House of Commons disapprove of a projected treaty, it can stop it by turning out the Government. Did the House of Commons disapprove of the Danish policy of the Government? In spite of the majority of eighteen we think that it did, and that, if the sense of the House had been taken pending the negotiations, and before censure was too late to be of practical use, the Government would have been forced to change its policy or to resign. It was the Opposition, by its timid tactics, by its connivance at the policy it condemned, which held the function of the House of Commons in abeyance and gave the Ministry an irresponsible jurisdiction. We do not defend the conduct of Earl Russell; we do not say that there is not much to excuse, or at least to plausibly account for, the vacillation of the Opposition; but it does not serve the Conservative cause, or the cause of Parliamentary Government, to conceal the actual state of the case.

The concluding paper in *Fraser*, which treats of the Poor Laws, is an article that we are sorry to say is too true. Our system tends to develope pauperism, and is cruel in its effects on the pauper. The workhouse is a den of misery. In places as dreary as prison-cells, on worse than prison fare, our paupers drag out a wretched existence. The young and the old, the sick and the healthy, are crowded in the same building. The sane are disturbed with the cries of the insane. No less than 30,000 incurables 'linger in pain, and agony, and hopelessness in the workhouse,' and without 'any mitigations which anodynes, or soothing drinks, or comfortable beds might afford to their long agonies.' The workhouse babies, deprived of fresh air and proper food, 'grow up the inevitable heritors of disease.' And what is the moral effect of workhouse training? 'Out of a single workhouse in London, enquiry was instituted two years ago concerning eighty girls who had left and gone into service. It was found that every one of them was on the streets.' We may lament, but we can hardly be surprised, that girls out of place prefer prostitution to a return to the workhouse. We regret, but we cannot wonder, that the poor die of sheer destitution rather than become inmates of the workhouse.

The first article in *Fraser* treats of a subject which is also discussed in *Blackwood* and the *North British Review*. We refer to the dispute between Professor Kingsley and Dr. Newman. *Fraser* gives a fair and tolerably intelligent account of Dr. Newman's theology; *Blackwood* cannot forget that Professor Kingsley is a Liberal, and indulges in virulence altogether unjustifiable; the *North British Review* gives a biography of Dr. Newman. Professor Kingsley, in reviewing the seventh and eighth volumes of Froude's History of England in *Macmillan's Magazine*, charged Dr. Newman with stating that truth need not and ought not to be a virtue for its own sake, and that cunning was a weapon given to the saints to withstand the brute main force of the wicked world. This was a very harsh, uncalled-for, and false accusation, and Dr. Newman asked for proof. The Professor referred him to a sermon preached in 1844, but ultimately admitted that he had not lately read that sermon, and that he was ready to believe Dr. Newman's denial of the charge. Dr. Newman published the correspondence with some remarks so bitter that they inevitably brought about a rejoinder, and the Professor wrote some very hard things about Roman Catholicism. Dr. Newman then published a very remarkable book. In language singularly chaste the story is told of the fierce struggles of a great mind in its efforts to discover religious truth. We see how scepticism and faith contended together, and how, to escape from the overwhelming feeling of uncertainty, Dr. Newman submitted to the authority of the Roman Catholic Church, and so put an end to all his doubts by putting an end to all enquiry.

The *North British Review* contains an able article on Todleben's 'History of the Crimean War.' It is written from a Russian point of view, but on the whole it is far more reliable than Mr. Kinglake's work. It seems clear enough that if the allies had pushed their advantage and marched on to Sebastopol immediately after the battle of the Alma, that stronghold would have fallen without a protracted siege. We must remember, however, that the allied commanders could not possibly know, and had no right to assume, that such an important place was so nearly defenceless, and that therefore they were justified in proceeding cautiously. If the allies had not met with a new system of defence—that of earthworks, as invented by General Todleben—Sebastopol could not have held out for many weeks. Just when modern artillery had reached that degree of perfection which rendered the strongest stone fortifications of no avail, Todleben hit upon an expedient which neutralises its most powerful efforts. It is curious to note what a marked effect the earthwork system of Todleben has had on the course of the American war. It has enabled the South to defy the superior artillery of their enemy. But earthworks are useful for defence, not for aggression, and therefore the Federals, though very ingenious in the use of the spade, have not made much progress towards the conquest of the South.

In the *North British Review* there is an article on Russia under Alexander II., which is a laboured attempt to show that Russia is a civilised and civilising power. We must confess that no amount of argument will make us believe in the civilisation of a country wherein order is maintained by the wholesale hanging and banishment of political opponents. An article on Wordsworth, the 'Man and Poet,' is exceedingly well written, and will do good if it induces the study of works which we think are too much neglected.

The Autographic Mirror, No. 14.—The current number of this excellent serial is unusually interesting. A letter by Macaulay is characteristic of the manly independence of the great historian. A short note by Mr. Disraeli, in which he refers to the portrait of his father, will be valued by the right hon. gentleman's friends. There are autographs of Catherine II. of Russia, of Sir E. B. Lytton, and many other eminent personages. A sketch of the battle of Aboukir, drawn by Nelson with his left hand, and a *facsimile* of a paper drawn up by the Duke of Wellington enumerating the cavalry under his command at the battle of Waterloo, are autographs that will be highly prized by Englishmen. We are glad to see that the Trustees of the British Museum are permitting their priceless collection of autographs to be copied, which will make them widely known. The *Mirror*, by reproducing the British Museum autographs, will render a national service.

The number before us contains a sketch of General R. E. Lee and the signature of that great commander. There is also a *facsimile* of Captain Semmes's last two entries in the log-book of the *Alabama*. One is dated June 16, the day of the fight.

SPECULATION.*

Some persons suppose that a commercial career is necessarily dull and uneventful, and that trade gives no adequate employment to great minds. These ideas are vulgar errors. The vast commerce of the world is the most striking evidence of man's intellectual capacity. The merchant who conducts an important business, or the merchant who is trying to build up an important business, must be clearsighted, courageous yet prudent, and a judge of human character. He must acquire and maintain a high moral character. He must resist the hourly besetting temptation to become rich suddenly by gambling. He must be endowed with the faculty of organisation. It is necessary that he should be well informed on political affairs. In the higher circles of commerce there are many men who have distinguished themselves at the university, and who would have started in a profession under brilliant auspices. They do not find that commerce involves mental rustiness, but, on the contrary, that commerce is a severe but healthy course of mental training. Not that mere education commands the grand prizes. As in literature many of the most renowned names are of men who pursued knowledge under difficulties, and who were not indebted to university culture, so in commerce there are merchant princes who are in all respects self-made men, and who, beginning at the lowest round of the ladder, have by boldness, judgment, and perseverance, reached the summit. Commerce affords full scope for genius as well as for high mental cultivation. Herein is the secret of the political calm that has for so long blessed England. The energies of the people find countless vents outside the domain of politics. So far from seeking, ambitious young men will not accept Government appointments, but prefer contending for one of the countless prizes offered by commerce. The British Constitution has always proved a miserable failure when tried by other countries. The explanation is that it will not work well unless yoked to British commerce. It is a powerful engine, but highly dangerous without that safety-valve.

But let not any one suppose that commerce is a sure road to wealth. The conditions of success are not problematical, but they are hard to observe, and multitudes are wrecked. Mr. Evans's book tells us how many who are apparently well to do end their days in poverty. Mr. Evans speaks with authority. He seems to have breathed a commercial atmosphere all the days of his life, but mainly, if not entirely, as an intelligent observer. He has been engaged in compiling the history of commerce from day to day for a London newspaper; and in this way was brought into contact with the magnates of the 'Change,' and has been freely admitted behind the scenes. He tells us some curious stories anent speculation—amongst others of a Count D—— who came from the Continent, made large sums of money on the Stock Exchange, got into difficulties, but who reappears when there is a new speculation mania. Another amusing chapter is an account of how Mr. Evans hunted down a gang of bill stealers. But to specify all the amusing chapters of the book we should have to copy the table of contents; for our author has the happy faculty of treating grave matters pleasantly as well as instructively. To those who are fond of dabbling in 'limited liability companies' we would especially recommend the remarks of our author on the way in which these schemes are 'promoted.' There is also some very sound advice about speculation in foreign stocks. Mr. Evans's book will please those who read it for pastime, and it will be useful to speculators who are not too infatuated to heed its warnings.

The Earl of Donoughmore on the American War.—At a meeting of Tipperary bowmen, held last week at Knocklofty, the seat of Lord Donoughmore, Mr. Mason, the Confederate Commissioner, was one of the party, and presented an additional prize, which was won by a Miss Sankey. The noble chairman, referring to this incident, said: 'No one with a spark of love for home and liberty animating his breast, no one who admires those great virtues which have ever secured the admiration of mankind, can look upon the contest now waging throughout the Confederate States without feeling anxious for the triumph of the Southern cause. True it is that we have not taken any part in that struggle. This some people may regret—others approve; but though we have not recognised their cause, our hearts have been with those gallant and noble men. (Cheers.) We have the happiness of having amongst us this night an honourable gentleman who fills a distinguished position as representative of the Southern States. He is far from his kindred and from his native land; but though separated as he is from his country, and though his mind is naturally filled with anxiety for the issue of those momentous events now happening there, still he has been kind enough to honour our festive sports with his presence, and to assist us in our pleasures by presenting this beautiful and valuable prize. (Hear, hear.) I am sure that there is no one here in this assemblage who does not hope for Mr. Mason's return to his native country under the brightest circumstances, and who is not ready to breathe a prayer that when he goes back to that country he may find it free, independent, and happy. Perhaps at some day not far distant he may have the pleasure of being present at an archery meeting in his own native land which will recall to his mind the present scene. He may, it is true, observe with sorrow the many blanks that war has caused in the circle of his friends, but, though great the sacrifice, the knowledge that they died fighting for liberty and home, and that through the terrible struggle in which they engaged their native land inherits freedom—this will remove the pain which such a saddening retrospect would otherwise bring to his mind. (Applause.)—*Daily News.*

The Defence of Mobile.—The citizens of Mobile have made preparations to defend the city to the last if it should be attacked. The following proclamation of the Mayor has been responded to with the utmost alacrity:—'The enemy's vessels, as you all know, have run past the forts and are now in the bay; so that the outer water defences are of no further present use for the security of our city and homes. What the purpose of the enemy is we have not yet discovered—whether to hold command of the bay, in order to dominate the forts, or by his shallowest vessels to attempt to draw near enough to open a bombardment on it, it is now impossible to say. We must act without this information. We must gather every man fit for defence into some organised body, and hold ourselves in readiness to repel attack, come from what quarter it may. This is the only way to make our efforts useful, and to stand strong against the progress of the foe, in case he should approach us within reach of the weapons we have at command. The advance on us has been unexpected, and our arms cannot impede or repel the enemy in his present position; but his ulterior intentions may soon be unmasked in such form as will bring our services into use, and then on your valour will depend the safety of the city. We must defend this city to the last point of resistance. Let it not be said that Mobile is craven, while we have the illustrious examples of Richmond, Petersburg, and Charleston looking us in the face. Let not the name of this city stand in the historical records of this unexampled war beneath, or in contrast with, these grand instances of heroic fortitude and endurance. Fellow-citizens, I can only counsel alacrity in this business, and a cheerful obedience to your commanders. They are striving with all their might, and they will not lead you to dishonour. My own services will be given to the cause with all the zeal I possess. And so, trusting to the benign influences of God and our own hands and hearts, I hope we shall escape all danger, or battle through it to a successful end.—R. H. Slough, Mayor.'

* *The North British Review—Fraser's Magazine—Blackwood's Magazine—The Cornhill Magazine—The Autographic Mirror.*

* *Speculative Notes and Notes on Speculation, Ideal and Real.* By D. Morier Evans, Author of 'Facts, Failures, and Frauds,' &c. London: Groombridge & Sons.

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.

FROM A CONFEDERATE CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS: September 6.

THE visit paid by the officers of the Russian navy to the United States envoy at St. Petersburg, in order to express their gratitude for the enthusiastic welcome and brilliant hospitality which the Atlantic squadron had received at the hands of the American people in all the United States ports which it had entered, and also for the reception with which their officers were honoured by Mr. Clay, has aroused the indignation of the French press. It expresses no astonishment at the somewhat strange sympathy existing between the degenerate republic of Washington and the most despotic monarchy of the Old World, for it reminds its readers that at the siege of Sebastopol the Yankees openly sympathised with the Russians; it *is* astonished, however, that in the face of such demonstrations as these, there should still be found journals who dare to defend the policy of the North.

We recommend (says the *Pays*) to the sympathies and to the logic of the *Siècle* and the *Opinion Nationale* this Holy Alliance of St. Petersburg and Washington, cemented as it is by the blood of the unhappy Poles given up by Mr. Lincoln to the vengeance of Russia.

Mr. Clay having stated in his speech to the Russian officers that Russia and the United States were each pursuing the same path, that of true civilisation, the *Pays* thus replies:—

Yes, it is true indeed that Russia and the United States are each following the same path; but when it is added that this path is that of true civilisation, it amounts to a pretension so absurd as to render any reply unnecessary. Such doctrines as these require neither refutation nor commentary.

The editor in chief of the *Patrie*, M. Ernest Dréolle, in a stirring article entitled 'Russo-American Civilisation,' directs serious attention to this speech of Mr. Clay. 'The profession of faith of an American minister fraternising with the Muscovite Government, deserves,' he says, 'to be made a note of.'

The Northern representative does not like ambiguity. With him there is no doubt, no hesitation! The statesmen of Washington, whose energies are directed towards the extermination of the South, make common cause with Russia who devastates Poland! The path which they each follow is that of true civilisation—*true* civilisation, mark you—there is none other. The civilisation represented by France, England, or Central Europe, is a false civilisation! The capital of the civilised world is to be found at New York, with a branch establishment at St. Petersburg.

The *Patrie* then thanks Mr. Clay for having given the cue to this American question, relative to which the French journals were disputing some days since. Henceforth, however, there need be no more discussions, and all doubts may cease. The substance of the question is well understood; it is as follows:—

The Government of Washington delivers the South; it does so in the same way as that in which Russia delivers Poland. The Government of Washington does better still—it consoles humanity by one of those pitiless wars which recall the fusillades of General De Berg in Poland, the gibbetings of Mouravieff in Lithuania, or the war in the Caucasus. This is the true civilisation—the *only* true civilisation—that which is offered as an example to barbarous and despotic old Europe!

Public opinion, which never forgives (concludes the *Patrie*), has now ceased to ask what may be expected from the Liberalism of a Government which unites its interests with those of Russia, and pretends to march with her to the deliverance of the world.

We can now fully comprehend the effect of this alliance—it is Russo-American civilisation.

This sarcastic article, replete with irony, has excited much notice, and deals a blow against the defenders of the Yankees from which they will not easily recover.

The Russian organ at Paris, *Le Nord*, is unwilling to allow the slightest opportunity to pass without having something to say upon the Russo-American question, and its remarks are not favourable to the Paris journals, who support the Federals and are at the same time the defenders of Poland. The *Siècle* and the *Opinion Nationale*, says *Le Nord*, incense in Europe that which they burn on the other side of the ocean. This is certainly an important admission and deserves notice.

Le Globe calls attention to the progress of the peace party in the North, and to the late movement made by Grant from the other side of the James River. This movement, in the opinion of the *Globe*, is far from being a glorious one for the Federal arms; it simply proves that Grant, after having lost two months before a small town whose defences had been hastily constructed, after having left there 25,000 men either killed or disabled, now disgracefully raises a siege which has not furthered his purposes in any way. The *France* attaches more importance to the pacific movement, the centre of which it finds in the Western States, who are weary of witnessing the sacrifice of lives valuable to the country in battles whose sole object is the maintenance in power of ambitious men who trifle with the fortunes and the destinies of the United States.

The *Patrie* has less confidence in these pacific manifestations; it regards them merely as a proof of want of energy on the part of the Northern populations, but does not think it possible to conclude even a simple armistice, since the Cabinet of Richmond would listen to no terms until the acknowledgment by the Unionists of the independence of the South.

In the *Presse* M. Chatard examines the political and military situation of the United States. I regret to find a large number of errors in this article; so numerous, indeed, are these errors, that it is difficult to believe M. Chatard to be its author. For example, we read in this article that Mr. Davis supports certain agents in the North with the view to favour the election of M'Clellan, that this general is the representative of the peace party, that Fremont is the candidate of the Copperheads, and similar statements of an equally strange character. It is easy to perceive that the talented writer in the *Presse*, who so fully appreciates the military side of the American question, has altogether overlooked its political side. This is an hiatus which this judicious writer will no doubt fill up.

M. Ancaigne discusses in the *Patrie* the recent military events which took place at Mobile, Atlanta, Petersburg, and in the Shenandoah Valley; he regards them as little favourable to the Federals. The sudden halt made by Early, Grant's check near Petersburg, and the manœuvres of Wheeler's cavalry on Grant's train, induce him to think that the prospects of the Confederates are daily becoming brighter. The advantages gained by the Federals before Mobile in no way disquiet him, and although he commits the error of mistaking General Maury, who commands this place, for the celebrated naval officer of that name, he appreciates with great exactness the difficulties which the Federals have yet to overcome before they can hope to occupy the capital of Alabama.

The same number of the *Patrie* contains a letter from its Richmond correspondent, M. Eugène Cavellier, formerly superintendent of public schools at New Orleans, in which communication the atrocities committed by the negro soldiers in the Federal armies are denounced to Europe in very energetic terms.

The *Opinion Nationale* has this week made a grand discovery, namely, that the South is desirous of entering the Union. Those who will read in *La France* the account there given of the interview of Messrs. Gilmore and Jaques with President Davis will ask themselves the question—Has not the *Opinion* taken leave of its senses?

CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

MANCHESTER: September 7, 1864.

THE cause of the Confederacy never wore so favourable an appearance as at the present time. Its friends are growing more zealous, its enemies fewer and more disheartened than ever, while the 'waverers'—who are prone to distribute their friendships and enmities according to their personal interests—are making haste to join the winning side. These three propositions are equally true of Lancashire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and the manufacturing portions of Cheshire. Even the *Leeds Mercury*, the influential organ of the Baineses, Forsters & Co., is no longer sanguine enough to foresee anything but military and political disaster as the termination of the present campaign. 'Since the grand assault on Petersburg, which,' says that journal, 'proved so great a failure, it has been impossible to discover any evidence of a regular plan in General Grant's movements, which have resembled nothing more than the uncertain efforts of a chess-player whose plan of attack has been utterly defeated, and who can only make haphazard moves, in the hope that something may turn up to enable him to strike an effective blow.' This is pretty plain speaking for a hitherto staunch Federal newspaper, which, next to the *Manchester Examiner*, has made the most persistent efforts in the northern counties to lacquer the Union arms with the show of success. As at Leeds, so at Bradford, Halifax, Sheffield, and other important Yorkshire towns. Apropos of Bradford, it cannot be too often reiterated that that borough is notoriously misrepresented on the American question by Mr. W. E. Forster, and, as an instance of this, it is within my knowledge that many of the honourable gentleman's leading constituents—'advanced' ones, too—are among the most active and liberal patrons of the Southern Independence Association. As for the people of Sheffield, they only repeated themselves the other evening when they received Sir Frank Crossley's defence of what he treated as an anti-slavery war, with loud expressions of abhorrence if not of insult. But, in point of fact, not only at Sheffield, but, so far as I can hear, everywhere else, 'anti-slavery' is, as the phrase goes, played out. Why, the Union and Emancipation Society has actually wearied of its own cuckoo-note, and the agitators who were paid to sound it have been compelled by necessity to return to their former habits or to wriggle themselves into some more remunerative intrigue. By the way, with regard to that curious society (which has really done excellent service to the cause it opposed), it would seem ungracious to ridicule it now it is in extremities. I will refrain, therefore, from adding more than that its executive committee in Manchester and its friends 'on the other side' appear to have equal cause for being discontented with each other—the committee on account of financial collapse, and the friends on account of the unpopularity and futility of the Society's operations.

The 'Peace Address' to the people of the United States, which has recently been put in circulation for signature in every town in Great Britain and Ireland, is meeting with a most favourable acceptance in these districts. Ministers of all respectable denominations have engaged to distribute copies among their congregations, and the returns of signed sheets are already very numerous. The only difficulty appears to be in the supply of the necessary forms. This difficulty got over, there can be no question that, within a month from this date, Mr. Adams will receive for transmission to his Government a document the importance of which he will know better than to doubt. The signatures will certainly be reckoned by hundreds of thousands obtained in the manufacturing districts alone, and probably the aggregate number obtained in the United Kingdom will be from eight to ten millions. The following note from a Unitarian minister is a fair testimony of the spirit with which the movement has been taken up:—

I want to do something in the matter of the address and sheets for signature. Though I am very busy here with a large congregation, I feel moved to offer what help I can give. I have prepared a lecture for delivery now, and am willing during the month of September to give two nights a week in Dukinfield, Mossley, Oldham, &c., and at the close of the lecture signatures might be obtained on sheets such as I have received, and others might be left with friends of the cause for filling up. You will probably remember my name as the mover of the resolution at Sheffield in favour of recognition of the South, when we carried our motion by a majority of 10,000 votes. My engagements are very numerous and heavy; but I feel so deep an interest in this matter that I am willing to make any sacrifice in my power to help, if only a little, in the effort to bring about peace on the basis of the independence of the South.

THE PEACE MOVEMENT.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

THE PEACE MOVEMENT. MR LINCOLN'S BLUNDER, AND HOW HE TRIES TO REPAIR IT. RESIGNATION IMPOSSIBLE. THE SOUTH AND MONROE. THE PEACE DEMOCRACY IN FAVOUR OF THE MONROE DOCTRINE. THE RE-CHANGE OF THE M'CLELLAN PARTY. THE PEACE PARTY IN FAVOUR OF UNCONDITIONAL PEACE. THE EFFECT OF THESE VARIOUS OPINIONS ABOUT THE CHICAGO CONVENTION. MR LINCOLN'S CHANCE OF RE-ELECTION. THE DEMONSTRATIONS TO RESIST MILITARY CONTROL IN THE ELECTIONS. THE SPIRIT IN THE LINCOLN PARTY.

NEW YORK: August 23, 1864.

THE past three weeks have been extraordinary developments of the craving for peace among the Northern people. The abortive effort at Niagara, originating nobody knows exactly how, conducted with no distinct object on either side which the public has yet been able to understand, and brought to a close with such offensive promptness by Mr. Lincoln, nevertheless let loose a flood of speculations which show that the drift of the popular desire is strongly for peace. The conduct of the President in repulsing so rudely an overture which had the appearance of an offer from which something might arise to lead to peace, has been used with damaging effect by his adversaries and considered by many of his own party. Even the most obsequious of his followers seek to break the force of the condemnation by denying the common interpretation of his words, and trying to make us believe that when he was asked for a passport to Washington for certain named persons, and he withheld it, answering by a circular notice 'to whom it may concern,' announcing that anybody might come to him who would bring the submission of the rebels to the terms therein prescribed, he did not mean to say that these are really his terms, or that he really intends to make them a *sine qua non* for entertaining projects of peace. The pressure must be heavy which extorts such quibblings in excuse for the policy of the President from partisans who have hitherto supported all his acts and sayings in their actual import, and assailed as traitorous sympathisers with the enemy all who tolerate the idea of treating with rebels until after unconditional surrender. It was, in fact, a political blunder, and the more sagacious among his advisers have discovered, and are seeking to repair it. If he had suffered these Southern agents to come to Washington, and had managed the affair with discreetness, the embarrassment would have been theirs and not his. They had no authority to engage for the Southern Government, and they had nothing to propose for themselves. They have been already reproached at Richmond for seeking to be placed in a situation where it would have been so easy for an acute enemy to subject them to humiliation—to turn them away as pretenders, or exact from them the proposal of terms which he would gain credit for refusing, and at the same time acquire thereby the political advantage of having manifested a willingness to yield something for an opportunity to make peace. If he ever contemplated the possibility of reaching peace through this road, or conceived the idea of foiling his opponents by seeming to do so, he was driven from it by the intolerance of the Radicals about him, and the consequence has been, that he and some of them are alarmed at the indications of popular disappointment, reaching deeply into the ranks of the Republicans themselves. Hence the strenuous efforts among a large class of them, led off by the personal friends of the Secretary of State, to soften away the meaning of the President's words, and to give the reassurance that the hard terms laid down in his Niagara letter are not *ultimata*, and not even necessary parts of a settlement which shall restore the Union. This view is industriously circulated in leading party journals, and clearly expounded, as though it were the interpretation of the Secretary of State, in the *Albany Evening Journal*, which is the mouthpiece of the Seward section of the Cabinet. According to this, an attempt is said, and currently believed, to be going on at Niagara, to engage the Southern gentlemen there in another correspondence, by which the ground lost in the former may be recovered. Judge Black, of Pennsylvania, and Major Hay, the President's private secretary, again are named as the new emissaries, dispensing with Greeley, Sanders, and Jewitt. The tale goes that these gentlemen have previously conferred with Messrs. Holcombe and Thompson at the Clifton House, Mr. Clay being sick at St. Catharine's, and Mr. Thompson for the first time appearing to take part in these conversations. A sensation paper in this city has it that these gentlemen have agreed, on the offer of Mr. Lincoln, to a joint commission to be appointed by the two belligerents, and to be held at Baltimore, for arranging the terms and period for an armistice, pending which negotiations for peace may be opened. It is a strange report to find believers, yet there are a great many men who, believing what they desire, however improbable, are willing to risk money on the chances that Mr. Lincoln has suddenly changed his whole policy, retracted his public declarations up to the very latest, of only three weeks old, and is ready to treat with the rebels as equals, without a condition as to slavery; and that the South, which is more successful in arms than ever before, is anxious to treat for a voluntary renewal of political associations, from which she has been fighting through three years of heroic constancy, under unspeakable sufferings, against barbarous and brutal invasion to secure her escape. Looked at in the light of serious overtures with the expectation of reaching peace, nothing could be more astounding than the offer, except perhaps the acceptance. For the President it may be a piece of political cunning to help himself out of the difficulty into which his precipitancy hurried him on the former occasion, and enable him to silence the murmurs rising against him in the country for having thrown away a chance of peace on an arrogant and untenable punctilio. He had lost the opportunity of putting the responsibility of continuing the war entirely on the South, and given the adversaries of his administration the chance of concluding that but for his stubbornness and intolerance the Union might be now peacefully restored. As a candidate for the Presidency he might well desire to regain that position, and as a public man foresee that it committed him to nothing hereafter. Now the Southern gentlemen who are addressed in Canada are well known to have no powers from their Government for the purposes of any such agreement, and I think they see the position of public affairs in a light which makes it extremely unlikely that they would give any encouragement to a plan of which the obvious purpose is to help forward the political prospects of Mr. Lincoln. Indeed, the rumours from Canada, and the doings themselves in Canada, so far as they have gone, have come to be looked upon as parts of an electioneering plan for influencing the nomination of candidates for the Presidency of the Northern United States, and affecting the votes to be cast for one or other of the contending parties, rather than as *bonâ fide* efforts of statesmanship for bringing the war to a definite and direct issue. I, for one, wish that the recognised agents of the Confederate Government, and all Southern

men who might be supposed to have its confidence, would prevent their names from being used in connection with schemes for electing this or that man President of the United States in such a manner as to do injury to the cause by allowing it to be supposed that they favour one man more than another among those who are for continuing the war in any manner for the compulsion of the South into the Union. I have good reason to know that neither Mr. Thompson, Mr. Holcombe, nor Mr. Clay entertains the idea that peace is possible by war or by consent while this Administration is in power, or possible under any Administration so long as Union is made the condition. Their ultimatum, which is unquestionably that of their Government and of the whole body of the Southern people, is peace with independence—absolute peace, with the full right to consider and decide for themselves what they will do afterwards. It is not required of them to discourage or repudiate the hopes of others, that peace with State sovereignty conceded may lead to negotiations for the construction of another Government by union of States or of Confederacies based on new consent, which, protecting the separate rights of each with fresh and sufficient guarantees, might preserve that which is still an object of desire to all, in a unity of national force towards all other Governments.

The depth of the Southern resentment against the North amounts to positive detestation, and their distrust of the pretended Conservatives, who have so long tolerated and connived at the atrocities of the war, and surrendered their own liberties at the footstool of a vulgar despot to enable him more effectively to crush out the liberties of the South—to give its sons to the sword and its roofs to the flames—is not to be so readily overcome by honeyed invitations to submit to the rule of another variety of the same race who may come into a passing majority. A common danger or a common passion directed against other enemies might draw them again after a while towards each other, although it is not to be doubted that at this moment the great masses of the Southern people would ally themselves with any foreign Power, in almost any quarrel, in order to defeat and humiliate the North and secure their own final separation. But it is nevertheless felt in the South that they have been unjustly and unkindly treated by both France and England in their long struggle for independence. When they accomplish separation, they will have no grateful thoughts towards the Government of either of those Powers, but rather a sentiment of proud resentment for a selfish neglect which, in sacrificing the weak to the needs or demands of the strong, becomes as mischievous to them as positive ill-will would have been. The time is passing rapidly by within which the magnanimity of Europe can impress itself so firmly on the hearts of the Southern people, by interposing the shield of public law between them and their oppressors, as to prevent the possible revival of that ancient feeling which used preeminently to distinguish the South in antagonism to the interference of foreign Powers in the affairs of any of the States on this Continent. If the Monroe doctrine ever rises again to be a bond of cohesion between the Northern and Southern States, recreating a common impulse for a powerful nationality supported by gigantic and invincible armies, it will owe its vitality to the selfish cowardice now of those whom it will then jostle without ceremony off of this continent—of which Earl Russell and M. de Lhuys, for their masters, had better take note. It will be found that, at the Chicago Convention next Monday, the Peace Democracy will declare for the Monroe doctrine with more energy than the Republicans dared do at Baltimore, trammelled as they were with the functions of a Government which cannot now execute all it is willing to threaten against foreign interventions in America; and that the popular passions which are thus invoked will be counted on as among the most powerful impulses which are to be relied upon for the reunion of the States hereafter. It would be well for those interested not to underrate the power of such impulses over the American mind.

All the advocates of peace and all the opponents of the Administration — peace men or not — are looking with intense interest for the proceedings of the Democratic Convention which meets next Monday at Chicago to nominate a candidate for the Presidency. This is the regular Convention of the party. There is another Convention—a sort of self-appointed mass meeting of Conservatives and other opponents of the Administration—which meets on Saturday, two days before the other Convention. The main object is to bring to bear upon the Democratic meeting a great outside influence in favour of the nomination of General M'Clellan, for which a large support is promised from independent members of other parties. Their position before the public is that of peace with reunion, on the basis and within the terms of the present Constitution — these terms to be offered to the South with the promise of redress for their grievances and security for their property under the guarantees of the successful party. The alternative is that, if the Southern States refuse to accept these terms and to lay down their arms, they are to be coerced into submission by war, to be prosecuted with all the strength and resources of the Government, but in a more lawful way, and with more civilised processes, until they are subdued. In my last I gave you an account of the great meeting in Union Square, at which these views were enforced by the speakers, and General M'Clellan commended as their representative. The leading advocates of the press embody the pacific overtures in two propositions as the fruit of success in the elections: 1. Immediate suspension of arms; 2. The call of a Convention of all the States, North and South, to deliberate, under the forms of the Constitution, on the amending the Constitution as therein provided for.

The peace men of the country declare their want of faith in this plan, and have been agitating against it with great activity ever since it was proposed as a solution of the war question. In the West dissent from the plan includes a harsh personal antagonism to the candidate named by it. A number of the leading Democratic papers there denounce General M'Clellan by name, and call upon the earnest peace men to resist his nomination, and to refuse to support him if nominated. Public meetings are more guarded; but the drift of the resolutions of nearly all the conventions and other gatherings of the Democratic party in the West is adverse to the support of any candidate who is not for peace without a condition—for an armistice at once, preliminary to the withdrawal of the Federal armies—and an application to the independent States of the South for a new convention of sovereigns, to recreate, if possible, a common government. The Convention at Syracuse on the 18th, to which I alluded in my last as likely to be the exponent of the line of policy of this portion of the Democratic party in the Chicago Convention, was duly held, and was largely attended, notwithstanding the studied misrepresentations of its proceedings by the partisans of M'Clellan, the War Democrats, or, as the voters call them, the Shoddy Democrats. It was an harmonious and effective one, and represented beyond a doubt the real feelings of the great body of Democratic electors embodied in the declaration in substance, that the nomination at Chicago, to be of any value to the country in its sore trials, and to be worth support by patriots, must be in favour of unconditional peace and the admission of unconditional sovereignty to the Southern States as the means for securing it, and the only hope of winning them back to union.

The struggle between these two Democratic factions out of the Convention has been very violent—much more violent, in fact, among the leaders of adverse opinions than they have allowed themselves to exhibit in their public conduct towards each other, although their language has been sometimes exceedingly bitter, each seeking to make capital by charging the other with designing to break up the unity of opposition to Mr. Lincoln, and thus increase the chances of the deplorable event of his reelection by their divisions. The War Democrats are most offensive in this quarter, because they are among the old party leaders, and are impatient at being thwarted in their plans by less conspicuous men; and having control of the principal journals, and unlimited scope in the attributing of unworthy motives to those who differ from them, have sometimes been very unsparing in their language. The contest will in a few days more be transferred to Chicago, to which both parties will send outside delegations of their most active men to advise with and manage the Convention. Each side is calling out lustily for harmony, and a unanimous and hearty effort together to defeat Mr. Lincoln; but the War Democrats assert that peace without reunion would be intolerable disgrace, and the Peace party affirms that war is in itself an unmitigated evil, and peace by itself the supreme political good—that disunion may be a calamity, but union maintained by bloodshed is a curse and a crime.

How these adverse opinions are to be reconciled on any one candidate by political manipulations at Chicago, I find it difficult to conceive. But there are very intelligent men of both classes, members of the Convention, who tell me it is sure to be done, and strangely enough both hold that its success will be the sure forerunner of peace, and substantially without conditions. They all reason on the overwhelming necessity which presses on every man's mind for getting rid of Mr. Lincoln's administration as the only chance of having, in war or in peace, a hope for the rescue of their own Government from degradation and impending ruin, and the reestablishment of the rule of civil order in the land will subordinate all other issues to that single one of paramount domestic importance, leaving that of war and peace as an issue of foreign politics to be decided by events over which candidates, and platforms, and elections will have but a secondary influence. The M'Clellanite will tell you that the choice of a candidate is merely the selection among chances and expedients for securing success in an election; and such is the fearful and rapid growth of national necessities, the failure of armies, the exhaustion of finances and decay of credit, the waste of muscle and productive power, that no President will be able, after the closing of this campaign, to carry on war, or get the public to consent to attempt to carry it on, for the purpose of restoring the Union by force against the continued refusal of the South to be appeased or reconciled by a change of men and measures. Under the force of these persuasions, fallacious as a great deal of the reasoning is, and delusive as the implicit engagements might prove to be, it is not to be denied that as the Convention approaches there are manifest signs of a greater willingness than was thought possible a month ago to unite on the candidate nominated, whoever it may be. This is construed by the friends of M'Clellan into an improvement of his prospects, as the strongest candidate among the delegates known to be appointed. But that mode of calculation does not hold good in party conventions, for it is the Democratic way of doing things in those bodies to make combinations of minorities in order to defeat the favourite, and in this way they have twice achieved success, with Polk in 1844, and Pierce in 1852. The nomination of M'Clellan is likely to be resisted with great pertinacity, and it is yet on the cards that he may be beaten by some candidate who may be relied upon to follow the developments of the public will as it exists when he comes into power, without the shame of an open renunciation of the policy which he proclaimed when aspiring to be a candidate.

The chances of the Democrats are largely increased by the irrepressible contentions and discords of the Republicans, and the folly and almost fatuity with which Mr. Lincoln carries on the political campaign for himself. The demonstration of Senator Wade and Representative Davis, War Republicans of the most violent cast, against the lawless audacity of his military dealings in the occupied portions of the Southern States, to manufacture spurious electoral votes for himself, is now held to be part of a concerted effort of Republicans to organise an opposition to his election and force a change of candidate. There is a call in circulation, originating in Ohio, and supposed to be an emanation from the friends of Mr. Ex-Secretary Chase, for a National Union Convention, to be held at Baltimore in September, for the nomination of a Republican Union candidate to supersede Mr. Lincoln by concert among leading men of the party, or to make combinations with other 'war' candidates to unite all sections of the Opposition against him. The movement may come to nought as a political organisation, but the attempt is a damaging proof of the internal discords which beset the President's party.

The military subversion of the civil power in Kentucky, and the arbitrary arrest and deportation of Kentuckians for declared or suspected opposition to the Administration—the tightening of a similar strain upon Missouri and Maryland—the renewal of military arrests of political opponents for over-freedom in commenting on the acts of the President, and late demonstrations in Indiana and Illinois, which create the apprehension that it is the President's purpose to find or make an occasion for the proclamation of martial law in these States, in order to bring their electors within the control of his military subordinates—are giving proof and aggravation to the political charge that he is resolved to employ the army directly in promoting his election by military usurpation at the polls, as well as by his control over the votes of the soldiers cast under his dictation within their several States. So deep is the suspicion and so wide the apprehension of these freaks of tyranny, that they form the topics of alarmed consultation among the leaders of the Opposition party upon the means of protecting the right of suffrage and resisting these violent efforts to perpetuate power by fraud and force. The secret associations in the West, which have lately been denounced as treasonable, and subjected to the military power of the President in the arrest and disarming of the members, are mostly political associations framed for mutual protection in their civil rights of personal liberty and free voting. There remains scarcely a doubt that if these last executive outrages should prove successful, and the election of a President should be effected by this means, there would be revolutionary resistance to his inauguration. The manifesto of the Winter-Davis Republicans contains an unmistakable warning of their consequences, amounting almost to a threat of sustaining them. The partisans of Fremont make them an open ground of unrelenting hostility to Mr. Lincoln, and the Democrats with unhesitating firmness resolve in their several Conventions, and intend to renew it at Chicago, that an election made by the force of votes cast under the compulsion of martial law, or in districts or States reorganised into voting constituencies by the military authority of the Executive for his own benefit, will not be submitted to, whatever the consequences of resistance may be.

Many who have consistently supported the war and upheld Mr. Lincoln's war policy throughout are falling away from him as a political leader whose stubborn selfishness is fast driving the country into revolt. The defection would be almost universal but for the mighty influence of patronage over a well-disciplined class of powerful retainers, who hold nearly every place of influence and control so many of the organs of public opinion, aided by the pervading force of party discipline over the habits of unthinking multitudes, and the indecision among the more intelligent which springs from dread of the consequences of breaking up an Administration in the midst of war and bringing public affairs into a state of double confusion. The chief of a triumphant party, who is master of a million of soldiers and the dispenser of a thousand millions in salaries and jobs, is not got rid of with the facility with which discontented parties in ordinary times get rid of unpopular candidates. These discontents will certainly weaken the President's party; it is scarcely hoped that they can compel a change of candidate. They add, however, infinitely to the motives for desiring the cessation of war, during which only such candidature could be tolerated, and will impel many Republicans, from considerations of public safety, to unite with any organisation which promises to get rid of these dangers and their author.

In the midst of these distractions, which are convulsing the whole fabric of Northern society, who can venture to predict the course or the issue of an election?

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

WE have been as near a state of panic as it was possible to be. Happily confidence has been once more restored, and there is now no apprehension of any very serious danger. It is quite clear to every one that the money market is in a very sensitive position, and that, if any unforeseen events were to occur, there would be a strong financial disturbance. The rates of discount have tightened here, and they are also advancing on the Continent—for instance, the terms at Amsterdam have gone up to 5 per cent., and at Frankfort to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. If any change were to ensue at Paris it would immediately produce an influence here, and then it would be scarcely possible to avoid running to 9 per cent. At present it is thought we shall escape that evil. One or two of the failures which have occurred show very discouraging results, and this does not assist to solve the general difficulty. The Indian exchanges are once more moving in the wrong direction, and if these rates are to advance, as also the terms of discount, the results would be alarming. The Bank *minimum* of 8 per cent. is now charged in most transactions, and, in some cases, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. higher. But the strain is not so great as to look for a further rapid rise. On the Stock Exchange the terms for short loans have been 5 to 6 per cent., but for lengthened periods it is a matter of negotiation to fix rates.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The bullion market so far continues in a satisfactory state. The amount of gold sent into the Bank this week has been 163,000*l.*, whilst there have again not been any withdrawals, and as long as money continues at the present high value, it is not probable that any large amounts will be taken for transmission abroad. The arrivals of gold this week have been only 164,961*l.*, of which 19,500*l.* is from New York, 9,225*l.* from the Brazils, and 126,236*l.* from Australia. The shipments of specie by the steamer for the East on the 4th inst. were only 176,389*l.*, of which 173,000*l.* was in gold, and 3,389*l.* silver. To Point de Galle and Madras the amount of gold was 3,389*l.* Of the remainder, 111,000*l.* silver was to Calcutta, 19,500*l.* to Singapore, 4,500*l.* to Hongkong, and 5,000*l.* to Shanghai. The silver market has again become very active. The bar silver brought by the last West India packet has been sold at $61\frac{5}{8}$*d.* per oz., which, as compared with the price obtained on the previous occasion, is an advance of $\frac{3}{8}$*d.* The greater portion of the Mexican dollars, by the same mail, have been sold for China at $68\frac{3}{4}$*d.* per oz., which is a decline of nearly $1\frac{1}{4}$*d.*

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

Great heaviness has been the chief characteristic of the English stock market throughout the week. In the present aspect of monetary affairs, the operators do not care about speculating to any extent; this, with the fact of Consols being pressed upon the market to a very considerable amount, has increased the prevailing heaviness. Consols, however, do not close at the lowest point touched, the present price being $87\frac{3}{8}$ to $87\frac{1}{2}$ for money and the present account, which, as compared with this day week, is a decline of $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. Exchequer bills have been weaker, but have recovered to 25*s.* to 15*s.* dis. The foreign stock market, although very flat, has not shown so much depression as the English department; still there is a general absence of speculation, and the slight alteration in prices has been in those stocks more particularly affected by political affairs. Greek and Spanish Certificates have each advanced $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., but the Passives have declined $\frac{1}{8}$, whilst Mexican have dropped about $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. The closing quotations this evening were: Greek, 24 to $24\frac{1}{2}$; Mexican, $27\frac{7}{8}$ to $28\frac{1}{8}$; Spanish Passives, 31 to $31\frac{1}{4}$; ditto Certificates, $13\frac{5}{8}$ to $13\frac{7}{8}$; Turkish Six per Cents. of 1854, 90 to 91; and those of 1862, 70 to $70\frac{1}{2}$.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The market for American Government and Railway securities has been more animated than for a long time past. The dealings have been comparatively numerous, and prices have slightly improved for most descriptions. This movement in the market has been chiefly caused by the peace rumours from the other side of the Atlantic, and if they continue, it is probable the market will further improve. The dealings, as officially quoted, have been: In United States, 1881, at $39\frac{1}{4}$ and $39\frac{1}{2}$; do. do. 1874, $41\frac{3}{8}$; Virginia State 6 per cents., at 29, $29\frac{3}{4}$, and 30; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, Pennsylvania section, 72 and 73; Erie, $100 shares, all paid, $41\frac{1}{2}$, $42\frac{1}{2}$, and 44; do. 4th mortgage, 51; Illinois Central, $100 shares, $90 paid, 46, 47, $48\frac{1}{2}$, and 43 dis.; and do. do., all paid, 50, $49\frac{1}{2}$, 50, $49\frac{1}{2}$, 49, 48, $48\frac{3}{4}$, $48\frac{1}{2}$, 50, and 52. On the Frankfort Bourse, the rate of United States 5-20 bonds since the 1st inst. has ruled about

the same, viz.:—Bonds of 1862, payable in 1881, 42½; do. 1864, payable in 1881, 40¾ and 40½; do. do. payable in 1882, 40¼ and 40¾.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market has been remarkably steady this week, in the face of a general flatness in the stock market, under the impression of approaching peace, coupled with the present strong position of the Southern Confederacy. The price has advanced from 74 to 75 per cent., to 79½, 80, ex dividend and drawing.

CONFEDERATE COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS.

The attention of those engaged in the blockade-running trade is invited to the revised regulations under the 'Act to impose restrictions,' &c., issued by the new Confederate Secretary of the Treasury, and which appear in our advertising columns. These regulations differ in only a few, but important, particulars from those previously published by the authority of Mr. Memminger. Among the points of difference are the reduction of the rate of freight to be paid by the Confederate Government, from 6*d.* to 5*d.* per pound on shipments, and from 25*l.* to 20*l.* per ton on importations; and the valuation of cotton delivered by the Confederate Government at 1*s.* instead of 10*d.* per pound. It is clear, therefore, that the new Secretary is determined to carry out the recent commercial policy of the Confederate Government with even greater stringency than his predecessor. This cannot fail to affect favourably the quotations of the Confederate Cotton Loan, already now with rapid and steady steps approaching its par value.

IMPORTS FROM THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

The following table, extracted from the Liverpool Customs Bill of Entry, is a statement of part of the imports of Southern cotton and tobacco into England during the months of July and August:—

Date	Name of ship	Port	Consignee	Bales of cotton	Boxes of tobacco
July 23	Ourava	Nassau	J. M. Calder	324	
"	"	"	S. R. Graves	59	
"	Annandale	Bermuda	To order	1,470	
"	"	"	Fraser, Trenholm, & Co.	1	
"	Majestic	Nassau	To order	228	
"	"	"	"	..	93
"	Yuba	Havana	Middleton & Co.	537	
"	"	"	To order	358	
July 25	Rosalie	Matamoras	Drorge & Co.	270	
"	Electra	Nassau	J. M. Calder	203	
"	Elizabeth Tatham	"	To order	418	
"	Driving Mist	"	Fraser, Trenholm, & Co.	218	
"	Maria	"	Somet & Co.	216	
"	Arbitrator	Havana	Mancha & Co.	12	
"	"	"	To order	634	
"	Bessie Young	Bermuda	"	664	
"	"	"	"	..	407
"	Vingolf	"	"	715	
"	"	"		..	208
"	"	"	To Captain	1	
July 26	Congress	"	To order	433	
"	"	"	W. A. Smith	1	
July 27	Marion	Matamoras	To order	943	
"	"	"	F. de Lizardi & Co.	100	
"	Albert	Nassau	Fraser, Trenholm, & Co.	573	
July 28	Enterprise	"	"	547	
"	"	"	Lawrance & Co.	5	
"	"	"	J. M. Calder	31	
"	"	"	J. M. Wood	228	
"	"	"	To order	15	
"	Mary Ann	"	Fraser, Trenholm, & Co.	202	
"	"	"	Lawrance & Co.	4	
"	Belle Subur	Matamoras	J. A. Z. Mila	93	
"	St. George	"	Leech, Harrison, & Co.	24	
"	"	"	Drake, Klienort, & Co.	127	
"	"	"	F. Sobrmog	25	
"	"	"	Uthoff & Co.	51	
"	"	"	To Captain	2	
"	"	"	Hutle & Co.	373	
"	"	"	J. Newall	1	
"	"	"	A. Leary	6	
"	"	"	Drorge & Co.	30	
"	"	"	Leech, Harrison, & Co.	..	50
Aug. 2	Choice Fruit	Bermuda	Joyce & Co.	239	
Aug. 19	Montezuma	Matamoras	To order	1086	
"	Pet	Havana	Prehn & Co.	26	
"	"	"	To order	19	
Aug. 25	Ernestine	Nassau	"	319	
"	"	"	"	..	110
Aug. 29	Eugénie	"	C. Hill	8	
"	"	"	H. Lafone	94	
"	"	"	Leech, Harrison, & Co.	79	
"	Mary Garland	Bermuda	To order	458	
"	"	"	J. Carlin	..	1
"	"	"	To Master	13	
"	J. W.	"	To order	392	
"	"	"	"	..	309
"	Aid	"	"	402	
"	"	"	"	..	400
"	Eos	Nassau	Collie & Co.	493	
"	"	"	Jefferson & Taylor	10	
"	"	"	E. Lawrance & Co.	100	
"	"	"	Claypole & Co.	10	
"	Eliz. Baxter	"	Fraser, Trenholm, & Co.	170	
"	"	"	E. Lawrance & Co.	18	
Aug. 30	Sovereign	Bermuda	Beech, Root, & Co.	276	
Aug. 31	Hamilton	"	"	423	
"	"	"	To order	40	
"	Ellen	"	"	168	
"	"	"	A. Collie & Co.	260	
"	"	"	S. R. Graves	10	
Sept. 1	Sophia	Matamoras	Leo Schüster & Co.	211	
			Total	15,466	1,578

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES, ETC.

At special meetings of the Credit Foncier and Credit Mobilier of England just held, it was unanimously agreed that the two companies should be amalgamated. The reports of these companies, which were read at the meetings, showed a clear profit of 190 per cent. per annum, in addition to carrying 40,000*l.* to the reserve funds; and it was stated by the chairman that the prospects for the future were quite as promising as the past. In order to enlarge the sphere of operations it was agreed to enlarge the capital to 2,000,000*l.*, divided into 100,000 shares of 20*l.* each. Of these shares, 80,000 will be issued to the present shareholders in the two companies, and the remaining 20,000 to the public at a premium of 2*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per share. It is contemplated that it will not be necessary to call up more than 5*l.* per share. It is stated that the amount of paid-up capital will then be 500,000*l.*, and that the total premiums, amounting to 160,000*l.*, will increase the reserve fund of the amalgamated company to 200,000*l.*—At an extraordinary general meeting of the proprietors of the Bank of British Columbia, the resolutions passed at a former meeting were confirmed: they were to the effect that the directors be authorised to establish such branches in the western parts of North America, as Her Majesty would be graciously pleased to allow; that the unpaid capital of the company should not be called up until, in the opinion of the directors, it was desirable that it should be so called; that it was desirable to issue notes and bills payable at the place of issue and at no other place; and that the directors be authorised to apply for a new charter, and that all the provisions of the supplemental charter should be the laws of the company as if the same had been the original charter.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

The prospectus has been issued of the Chilian Mining and Trading Company, with a proposed capital of 340,000*l.* in 17,000 shares of 20*l.* each. The Company is brought out for the purpose of purchasing and working two copper mines in Chili, called Descubridora and San Pedro, and of acquiring certain valuable freehold premises, plant, &c., with the existing trade therewith, at the ports of Chanaral and Pau D'Asucar. It is stated that arrangements have been made by the Company for the purchase of the first-named mine for 135,000*l.*, and of the latter property for 160,000*l.*, the vendors taking amongst themselves and friends capital to the amount of one-fourth of the purchase money.—The Scottish Indian Tea Company have just issued a prospectus asking for a capital of 100,000*l.* in 10,000 shares of 10*l.* each. The object of the undertaking is to encourage the special cultivation of tea; and should the provisional agreement be carried out, the Company will commence operations with at least 400 acres in plant, and will extend the planting and cultivation of tea over the portion of the estates yet uncleared.—The Wanzer Sewing Machine Company is another undertaking just brought out, the object being the purchase of the patent of a sewing machine, which, it is alleged, is capable of performing any sort of work. The patentees have agreed to receive in payment paid-up shares to the amount of 25,000*l.*, and will not take any dividends until the Company shall have repaid out of profits the whole amount of the capital advanced by the other shareholders. The capital required is 50,000*l.*, which, it is proposed, shall be raised in 500 shares of 100*l.* each.—The Merchandise Marks Association is a Company established for the purpose of giving a more practical effect to the Merchandise Marks Act, and to protect traders and others from the spurious imitations so frequently put forward. In addition to the shareholders, there is to be a list of subscribers, who are to possess the advantages of the Association on the payment of an annual subscription. The capital asked for is only 20,000*l.*, in shares of 10*l.* each.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

In the produce markets business continues for the most part very dull, with prices drooping but not seriously depressed. The protracted inactivity is attributable chiefly to the dearness of money and to the uncertainty that is felt as to whether it may not yet be dearer. There has, however, been in nearly every department an absence of speculation of any magnitude for so long a time that, as a rule, the markets are in a sound condition, and hence it is that prices remain free from any violent fluctuations. The general trade of the country also is sufficiently extensive to keep up a fair legitimate demand for most kinds of produce, and whilst purchases are are confined to the mere requirements of the immediate period, and business has consequently an inanimate appearance; there is sufficient doing to work off arrivals as they take place. No undue accumulation of stock is therefore going on to disturb the confidence of importers as to the future course of prices, as far as they may be regulated by the effect of supplies. Cotton has formed an exception to the generally steady character of the markets, prices having fallen fully 1*d.* per lb. under the combined influence of dear money and the more pacific aspect of affairs in America. The provision trade is dull, and butters of all kinds are rather cheaper, the weather recently having been more favourable for production. American sells at 90*s.* to 108*s.* for fair to fine qualities. In bacon there is very little change; but present high rates are not expected to be maintained as curing is more active. Cheese is rather more in demand and firm in price; good Americans, 50*s.* to 58*s.* per cwt. Lard is dearer, with a better enquiry. Petroleum continues dull of sale, and offers at 2*s.* 1*d.* per gallon on the spot for American refined, and at 2*s.* 2*d.* for the last three months' delivery. Rough is quoted 18*l.* per tun. In turpentine the dealings, which are restricted, are confined solely to French at 67*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. Rosin is firm at 31*s.* to 42*s.* for American and 26*s.* to 34*s.* for French. Seed oils of all kinds are depressed. Linseed oil offers at 35*s.* 6*d.*; pale rape, at 46*s.*, and brown at 42*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. Oilcake is not saleable in quantity, except on easier terms, but general quotations are as yet not materially altered.

LIVERPOOL, Wednesday, September 7.—The slight improvement manifested in our cotton market last week has not been maintained, either as regards business or prices. The dealings have again become very limited, but quotations, although only a fraction lower, close with less firmness. The sales this week have been only 23,000 bales, of which 8,000 were on speculation and for export. The sales this year, down to the present time, have been 1,858,910 bales, and to the corresponding period in 1863, 1,559,020 bales. There have been imported this year 1,501,063 bales, against 1,020,846 bales last year. The trade have taken this year 1,152,211 bales, and in 1863, 867,614 bales. The exports this year have amounted to 385,376 bales, and to the same time last year, 303,886 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year, 314,254 bales; same in 1863, 354,382 bales. The estimated stocks at the present time are 250,903 bales; at the corresponding period last year they were 239,341 bales. The closing quotations to-day were, American descriptions, 27¼*d.* to 29*d.*; Pernambuco, 29¼*d.* to 30*d.*; Maranham, 29¾*d.* to 30*d.*; Maceio, 28¾*d.* to 29*d.*; Bahia, 28¾*d.* to 29*d.*; Egyptian, 24*d.* to 31*d.*; Smyrna, 24¼*d.* to 24½*d.*; Surats, 14*d.* to 23½*d.*; Bengal, 14¼*d.* to 15*d.*; Scinde, 14½*d.* to 15*d.*; China, 17*d.* to 19½*d.*

The markets at Manchester have this week exhibited increased dulness in all departments, and in the present unsettled state of affairs there appears no disposition to press business in any department. In shipping yarns, there has been scarcely anything doing, particularly in the finer descriptions, and spinners under the circumstances have shown a disposition to press sales. The market for home trade yarns is also particularly dull, and manufacturers show no inclination to purchase; they regard with extreme anxiety the advices from America, and to the effect which they have already produced on the money market in this country. They are buying only in retail and for immediate requirements, and those who are not in urgent want for their mills refrain from purchasing at all. There seems to be an increasing inclination on the part both of spinners and manufacturers to lessen production, and to close their mills unless there is a better prospect of an improvement in trade. In the cloth market affairs appear to be in a worse predicament than in the other departments, and sellers are not receiving any offers, merchants appearing determined at present to refrain from purchasing. There is no doubt that cloths can now be purchased on easier terms than last week, though to what extent it is quite impossible to say. From nearly all the markets both at home and abroad as to the extent of stocks on hand the accounts are favourable, as being likely to have an effect on prices. The closing official quotations are as under:—⅞ Grey Printers, 8*s.* 6*d.* to 16*s.* 6*d.*, according to quality; ⅞ Grey Madapollams, 7*s.* 7½*d.* to 10*s.* 1½*d.*; ⅞ Grey Printers, 11*s.* 7½*d.* to 18*s.*; ¾ Grey Shirtings, 12*s.* 9*d.* to 27*s.*; Water Twist, No. 20, 2*s.* 2*d.* to 2*s.* 9½*d.*; No. 30, 2*s.* 7*d.* to 3*s.* 1*d.*; No. 40, 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*; Mule Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 10*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.*; No. 30, 2*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* 10*d.*; No. 40, 2*s.* 5½*d.* to 3*s.* 3*d.*; No. 50, 2*s.* 10*d.* to 3*s.* 5*d.*; No. 60, 2*s.* 11*d.* to 3*s.* 7*d.*; No. 70, 3*s.* 1*d.* to 3*s.* 9*d.*; No. 80, 3*s.* 5*d.* to 3*s.* 11*d.*; No. 90, 3*s.* 7*d.* to 4*s.* 1*d.*; and No. 100, 3*s.* 10*d.* to 4*s.* 8*d.*

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SHIPS ARRIVED.

AT GRAVESEND.—August 31: The Westmorland, The Standerings, The Matilda Atheling, The Young Nova Scotian, from Jamaica. The Arbutus, from Barbadoes.—September 1: The John Harley, from Barbadoes. The Prince Alfred, from Jamaica. The Libra, from Buenos Ayres. The Edith Jane, from Barbadoes. The Dickey Sam, from Porto Rico. The Antilla, from Cuba.—September 2: The Venus, from Antigua. The Antonia Henrietta Caroline, from St. Lucia. The Conchita, from Porto Rico. The Mary Evans, from Cuba.—September 3: The Alfred Vittery, from Porto Rico.—September 5: The City of Hamburgh (steamer), from Havre.—September 6: The Undine, from Jamaica. The Rockhampton, from Callao. The Ocean Sprite, The Montrose, from St. Vincent. The Mary, from Tobago. The Louisa, from Barbadoes. The Fling, from Montserrat. The Riancho, from Porto Rico. September 17: The Maria Josefa, from Porto Rico.

AT DEAL.—August 31: The Libra, from Buenos Ayres.—September 1: The Tito, from River Plate. The Henrik, from Rio Janeiro.—September 3: The Dauntless, from Callao.—September 4: The Aurora, from Trinidad. The Landswursten, from Cuba.—September 5: The Nicolo II., from Buenos Ayres. The Montrose, from St. Vincent.—September 6: The Chebucto, from Jamaica.

OFF THE WIGHT.—September 1: The Riga, from Havana.

AT LIVERPOOL.—August 31: The Stephenie, from Bahia. The Saleta, The A. N., from Havana. The Helen, from Bermuda. The Helvetia, from St. John's. The Fassifern, from Demerara.—September 1: The George Rainey, from Demerara. The Vasco da Gama, from Jamaica. The Sophia, from Matamoras. The Peppino, The Laurance, from Montevideo.—September 2: The Esmeralde, from Havana. The Captain Hathorn, from Nassau. The Valkyrien, from Montevideo. The John Scott, from Antigua.—September 3: The Emily Augusta, from St. John's, with loss of rudder, &c.—September 4: The Richard Thornton, from Montevideo. The Fleetwing, from Rio Grande. The Stebonheath, from Bahia. The Nautilas, The Martha, from Pernambuco.—September 5: The Zambesi, from Callao. The Marmion, from St. John's. The St. Lawrance, from Prince Edward's Island. The Gitana, The Walberg, from Rio Grande. The Breeze, from Rio Grande. The Susan Bayley, from Bahia.—September 6: The New Lampedo, from St. John's. The Helen, from Nassau.—September 7: The Wreath, from Bahia. The Catalina,

AT PLYMOUTH.—September 1: The Fanny Palmer, from Demerara. The Spera, from Porto Rico.

AT MILFORD.—September 2: The Adelphi, from Charleston, C.S.A.

AT FINDHORN.—August 30: The Jacoba, from Montevideo.

AT TENBY ROADS.—September 2: The Excel, from St. John's.

OFF COWES.—August 31: The Helvetia, from Callao.

OFF DUNGENESS.—September 1: The Cardenas Packet, from Havana.

OFF TEIGNMOUTH.—August 31: The Prince Albert, from Jamaica.—September 4: The Eugenie, from Montevideo.

AT BRISTOL.—September 2: The Presto, from Miramichi.—September 3: The Ibis, from Cuba.—September 4: The Adelaida, from Havana.

AT FALMOUTH.—August 31: The Free, from Porto Rico. The Manola, from Cuba.—September 1: The Parditau, The Patelia, from Havana. The Schon, from Bahia.—September 2: The Otto and Antonio, from Callao. The Destino, from Havana. The Laia, from Bahia. The William Tell, from Callao. The Osborne and Elizabeth, from Montevideo.—September 3: The Minerva, from Havana. The Rowden, The Volunteer, The Volace, from Rio Grande. The Kemi, The Santa Clara, from Bahia.—September 4: The Triton, from Cuba. The Echo, from Havana.—September 5: The Ocean Farer, from Cuba.—September 6: The Crescencia, from Havana. The Marie and Alfredo, The Jarlen, from Bahia.—September 7: The Mercator, from Porto Rico. The Look-out, from Bahia.

AT SCILLY.—August 31: The G. F. Lovett, from Havana. The Invincible, from Buenos Ayres.

AT GLOUCESTER.—August 31: The Lakamba, from Miramichi.

AT BRIDGEWATER.—September 2: The Georgiana, from St. George's.

AT NEWPORT.—August 31: The King of the Forest, from Madeira.

AT CLYDE.—August 31: The Meteor, from Havana.—September 3: The Minnet, from Pernambuco.—September 6: The Nautilas, from Trinidad. The Alexander, from Cuba.—September 7: The St. Mirreu, from Demerara.

AT SWANSEA.—September 5: The Hanendale, from Teneriffe.

AT WEXFORD.—August 31: The Java, from St. John's.

AT DUBLIN.—September 5: The Carrie Wright, from St. John's.

AT WATERFORD.—August 31: The Graf von Brandenburgh, from Miramichi.

OFF TUSKAR.—September 2: The Ben Nevis, from Callao.

AT QUEENSTOWN.—August 31: The Magda, from Montevideo.—September 1: The Bruto, from Montevideo. The Clara Hargrave, The James Redin, from Havana.—September 2: The Bonita, from Montevideo.—September 3: The Laura, from Buenos Ayres. The Rapid, from Rio Grande.—September 3: The Nora, from Callao.—September 5: The Admiral Blake, The Ho, from Rio Plate. The Mama Marie, The Regina, from Montevideo. The Conni, The Speculant, The Augusta, from Rio Grande. The Anne and Lizzie, The Leo, from Bahia.—The Alma, from Demerara. The Meta, from Barbadoes. The Allen Walton, from Callao. The Mavrocordatos (steamer), from Liverpool for Bermuda, to coal.—September 6: The Adelaide, from Montevideo. The Sarah Chase, from Rio Grande. The Joseph Cape, from Pernambuco.—September 7: The W. D. Sewell, from Callao. The Eve, from Montevideo. The Trident, from St.

AT CLYDE.—September 1: The Zambesi, from Callao. The Andrea Doria, from Buenos Ayres. The Breeze, The Princess Royal, from Montevideo.—September 2: The Honor, from Havana.—September 5: The David M'Nutt, from Halifax.

AT CORK.—September 3: The Kingston, from St. John's.

AT PORTRUSH.—August 31: The Triton, from St. John's.

AT WEST HARTLEPOOL.—September 2: The Hurrah, from Miramichi.

AT CROMARTY.—August 31: The Geertruida Jacoba, from Buenos Ayres.

AT SLIGO.—August 31: The Enchanter, The Excelsior, from Callao.

AT BANFF.—August 30: The Oliveira, from Buenos Ayres.

AT HULL.—September 2: The National, from Callao. The Columbus, from Miramichi.—September 3: The Ask, from Miramichi.

AT LONDONDERRY.—Sept. 3: The B. de Wolf, from Liverpool, for Bermuda, has put in here, damaged in collision with The George of Glasgow.

AT BERMUDA.—August 11: The Helen (steamer), from Wilmington. The Alina, from Cardiff.

AT LISBON.—August 30: The Kelpie (steamer), sailed for West Indies. The Lizzie (steamer), from Clyde for Bermuda, is so much damaged as to require a complete overhaul.

AT HAVANA.—August 17: The Susanna (steamer), from Galveston.

AT HALIFAX, N. S.—August 23: The Constance (steamer), The Helen (steamer), The Owl (steamer), The Falcon (steamer), The North Heath (steamer), The Little Hattie (steamer), all from Bermuda.

AT NEW ORLEANS.—August 2: The Dazzle (steamer), from Nassau.

SHIPS SAILED.

LIVERPOOL.—September 2: The Mezerium, for Montevideo. The Salween, for Rio Janeiro. The Mavrocordatos (steamer), for Bermuda.—September 3: The Bodrhyddan, The San Lorenzo, for Valparaiso. The Witch of the Wave, for Buenos Ayres. The Prairie Flower, for Rio Grande. The Golden Rule, for St. Thomas. The Manuela, for Havana. The Barbadian (steamer), for West Indies. The Roscoe, for Cape de Verds.—September 4: The Lady Douglas, The Peter Dickson, for Rio Janeiro. The St. Anne, for Havana. The Driving Mist, The Dumfries, for Bermuda. The Avon, for St. John's. The Julius, for Rio Grande.

GRAVESEND.—September 2: The Cicerone, for Bermuda.—September 3: The Joshua and Mary, for Rio Janeiro.

DEAL.—September 1: The Antonio, for Havana. The Fantasie, for Rio Janeiro.—September 2: The Eleanor, for St. John's.—September 4: The Eliza Hunter, for Cuba. The Neya, for Halifax.

NEWPORT.—August 31: The Teutonia, for Rio Janeiro. The Pasithea, for Buenos Ayres. The Fort de France, for St. Thomas.—September 1: The Crimea, for West Indies. The Camille, for Havana. The Andromache, for Jamaica.

CARDIFF.—August 31: The Cyrene, for Bermuda.—September 1: The W. G. Putnam, for Cape de Verds. The Sam Slick, for Teneriffe.—September 4: The Courier, for St. Thomas. The Mathilda, for Cuba.—September 5: The Cuba Packet, for Havana. The Diana, for Bermuda.

BRISTOL.—September 2: The Pet, for Madeira.

QUEENSTOWN.—September 7: The Mavrocordatos (steamer), for Bermuda. The Reays, for Callao.

SOUTHAMPTON.—September 2: The Seine (steamer), for West Indies.

CLYDE.—September 2: The Charlotte, for Bermuda.—September 4: The Cora, for Cuba.

HOLYHEAD.—September 4: The Hebe, for Vera Cruz.

SWANSEA.—September 3: The Limena, for Valparaiso.

LLANELLY.—September 3: The Volace, for Buenos Ayres.

LAMLASH.—September 2: The Humber, for Havana.—September 4: The Sharon, for Demerara.

SHIPS LOADING.

AT LONDON.—For New York: The Washington (mail steamer) from Havre, September 21: Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For West Indies:

The Vera Cruz (mail steamer) from St. Nazaire, September 16: Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For Nassau: The Ionia, St. Katharine's Docks: J. Worley. The Merchant, St. Katharine's Docks, Davison Brothers & Co. For Bermuda: The Lady Milne, The Jane Smith, The Wanderer, The Quiver, The Hansa, The Era.—For Havre: The City of Hamburg (steamer), St. Katharine's Wharf, September 11, at 4 P.M., September 15, at 9 A.M., and September 18, at 11 A.M. The Young Mary, The Felicity.—For Montevideo: The Gustave and Marie, Davison Brothers & Co., St. Katharine's Docks.—For Madeira: The Arabella.

AT LIVERPOOL.—For Bermuda: The Scotia, The Nutfield, The Mary. The Ann and Mary, The Prioress, The Albert, The Bat (steamer).—For Madeira: The Macgregor Laird (steamer), The Garibaldi.—For Matamoras: The Oleander, The Gez Hillegonda, The Rimac, The Byron, The Mary and Jessie, The Julie.—For Nassau: The Majestic, The Prospero.—For Halifax: The Surprise.

AT CARDIFF.—For Bermuda: The Admiral Kanaris (steamer), The Eyrene, C. Rapier.—The Margaretta, The Eliza Nelson, The Cordelia, The Levanter, The Pleiades.—For Nassau: The Monarch.

AT GLOUCESTER.—For Bermuda: The Lillian.

AT GLASGOW.—For Bermuda: The Banshee, The Stormy Petrel, The Armstrong.

AT SWANSEA.—For Bermudac The Audex.

Among the Contents of THE INDEX *of September* 1 *are*:—

THE PEACE MOVEMENT AT THE NORTH.
LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.
NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK AT HOME AND ABROAD.
PRIVATE LETTER FROM RICHMOND.
THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE UNITED STATES.
RELIGION IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY.
THE WAR NEWS.
THE TIDE TURNING.
THE SEIZURE OF THE 'GEORGIA.'
M'CLELLAN AS A CANDIDATE.
PEACE IN AMERICA.
THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.
THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN IRELAND.
THE COTTON FAMINE.
THE RESIGNATION OF THE HON. C. G. MEMMINGER.
AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.
SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Advertisements.

GRANGE MILLS, BERMONDSEY, LONDON.

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TANNERS & LEATHER MERCHANTS,

ACCOUTREMENT, ARTILLERY HARNESS,

CAVALRY APPOINTMENT,

HOSE PIPE, AND MILL BAND MANUFACTURERS.

CONTRACTORS TO HER MAJESTY'S WAR DEPARTMENT AND THE HON. EAST INDIA COMPANY.

CONFEDERATE STATES BONDS.

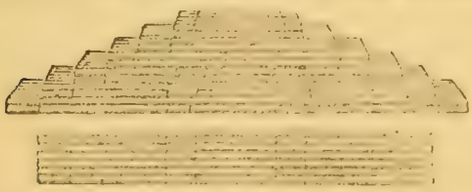
WE are prepared to buy (as they become due) the COUPONS of all the BONDS issued by the Confederate Government; or we will receive them for collection and return in Bonds in sums of not less than £500.

J. H. ASHBRIDGE & CO.,
17 Water Street, Liverpool.

ASHBRIDGE & CO.,
52 Gracechurch Street, London.

J. HOWELL ASHBRIDGE & CO.,
3 Rue Scribe, Paris.

DUNCAN'S PATENT RATAN CANE SPLINTS.



THESE Splints are introduced and recommended to the Faculty for the great advantages which they possess above others,—viz., their comfort, coolness, and durability, as well as the facility with which they may be applied to the fractured limb.

As cleanliness is an important consideration, these Splints possess that quality pre-eminently, as they may be readily washed without the slightest fear of injury.

They are especially adapted to the constant usage of the General Hospital, and the movements of an Army on Service, as they cannot easily be injured. For Colonial practice they are recommended for the same reason.

They have been submitted to, and have received the approbation of, the Principal Medical Officers of the Army Medical Department.

The Splints cannot be injured by moisture; and are manufactured either with or without pads.

SOLE MAKERS:—EVANS AND STEVENS,
Surgical Instrument Makers to the Army and the Honourable Council of India,
12 OLD FISH STREET, ST. PAUL'S.

AMERICAN WINES, SPIRITS, ETC.

W. R. S. MARKWELL,
WINE MERCHANT TO HER MAJESTY AND THE IMPERIAL COURTS,
35, 40, AND 45 ALBEMARLE STREET,
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4 STAFFORD STREET, PICCADILLY, LONDON, W.

MONONGAHELA, Bourbon, and Old Dominion Whiskies; Peach Brandy, Staughton, Sickles, and other Bitters, Fruit Spirits; Sparkling and dry Catawba; Californian Champagne; all kinds of Continental Wines, including the original importations from Hungary.

The Stock of Wines, Spirits, and Liqueurs are of the oldest, most extensive, and best selected in England.

TERMS, CASH!

ON VIEW,
THE PICTURE
OF THE
MARRIAGE OF H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES,
Painted from actual sittings by Mr. G. H. THOMAS, who was present at the ceremony, by gracious command of Her Majesty the Queen, at the
GERMAN GALLERY, 168 NEW BOND STREET,
Daily, from Ten till Six. Admission 1*s*.

SEVEN PER CENT. COTTON LOAN
OF
THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
FOR £3,000,000 STERLING.

SINKING FUND.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the SECOND HALF-YEARLY DRAWING for the REDEMPTION of this LOAN at PAR has taken place this day in the presence of the undersigned Agents to the Contractors of the Loan, and of Mr. Salem Constable Harris, Notary Public; and the following 174 Bonds, amounting to £86,500, which forms one-fortieth of £2,659,200, the amount of the Loan at this date unredeemed by Cotton, have been drawn by lot:—

SERIES A.—35 BONDS AT £1,000.

12	187	403	547	796	1021	1365	1499
28	245	408	652	818	1229	1398	1527
167	255	459	744	850	1294	1427	1529
110	263	515	773	989	1335	1161	1543
138	364	532					

SERIES B.—35 BONDS AT £500.

14	151	281	567	888	1136	1357
25	157	283	689	937	1002	1155	1405
103	172	445	728	939	1038	1282	1417
106	200	538	798	943	1084	1330	1454
115	204	550					

SERIES C.—36 BONDS AT £200.

44	148	335	500	773	981	1337	1455
79	298	445	514	799	1079	1344	1485
97	333	458	586	841	1237	1427
103	334	470	616	878	1242	1446
115	338	480	666	943	1301	

SERIES D.—68 BONDS AT £100.

40	209	436	954	1260	1601	2012	2425
69	223	529	1077	1267	1610	2077	2456
79	234	582	1089	1280	1773	2119	2524
80	245	594	1142	1165	1782	2162	2615
81	264	728	1152	1470	1805	2249	2650
89	357	733	1160	1545	1853	2276	2876
115	376	753	1163	1592	1931	2355	2910
153	385	905	1203	1594	1942	2359	2983
178	434	929	1242				

These Bonds must be forthwith sent in for payment at the counting-house of Messrs. J. HENRY SCHRÖDER & Co., between the hours of 11 and 2 o'clock, and all interest thereupon ceases from this date.

The Bonds, with lists arranged in numerical order, must be left two clear days for examination.

145 Leadenhall Street, London, September 1, 1864. J. HENRY SCHRODER & CO.

PEACE IN AMERICA.

PERSONS willing to co-operate in obtaining SIGNATURES to the PEACE ADDRESS to the PEOPLE of the UNITED STATES from the People of Great Britain and Ireland, may obtain the necessary forms on application to Mr. J. PARKER, Coleman Street Buildings, 72 Coleman Street, London, E.C. The hearty support of all who desire a termination of the horrible struggle in America is earnestly solicited.

THOMAS DE LA RUE & CO.
WHOLESALE STATIONERS,

MANUFACTURERS OF PATENT PLAYING CARDS, MESSAGE CARDS, DRAWING AND CARD BOARDS, MACHINE-FOLDED ENVELOPES, PORTRAIT AND OTHER ALBUMS, TOURIST CASES, DESPATCH BOXES, INDELIBLE RED LETTER DIARIES, &c. &c.

110 BUNHILL ROW, LONDON, E.C.

THOMAS DE LA RUE & CO.'S ILLUSTRATED TRADE CATALOGUE, PART I. 56 pp. Imperial 8vo. is now ready.

SHIRTS.—International Exhibition, Class 27 C, No. 4872. Prize Medal and Honourable Mentions, 1851 and 1862. Shirts, Collars, Flannels, and every description of underclothing manufactured on the premises.

J. BRIE & CO.
43 Conduit Street, Regent Street, W.
The only Shirtmakers admitted as Exhibitors at the International Exhibition of 1862.

TWO PRIZE MEDALS awarded 'For General Excellence' in DRESSING CASES, BAGS, DESPATCH BOXES, &c. Gentlemen's Travelling Bags, Useful Size, 15*s*. 6*d*.; Full Size, 18*s*. 6*d*.; Large Size, 21*s*. Courier Bags, with Shoulder Strap, from 10*s*. 6*d*. Morocco Ladies' Bags, 10*s*. 6*d*. 12*s*. 6*d*. 14*s*. 6*d*. 18*s*. 6*d*. and 21*s*. Tourists' Writing Cases, 8*s*. 6*d*. 10*s*. 6*d*. to 21*s*. Finest Cutlery in Razors, Scissors, Needles, &c.

JENNER & KNEWSTUB, Manufacturers to the Royal Family, 33 St. James's Street, and 66 Jermyn Street.

PRIZE MEDALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS, LONDON, 1851 and 1862.

EVANS & STEVENS, Manufacturers of Surgical Instruments to the English Army and the Hon. Council of India, Patentees of the Rotary Trephine and Propelling Vaccinator, and Sole Makers of Evans's celebrated London-made Crown Lancets.

No. 12 Old Fish Street, St. Paul's, London.

Surgical equipments, containing every requisite for field service, prepared under the personal supervision of a member of the Firm, who, from his own experience with the English army during the whole of the Crimean campaign, can guarantee their completeness.

A large assortment of surgical instruments and appliances always in Stock, and can be supplied at the lowest prices compatible with excellence of material and workmanship, in which particulars they cannot be surpassed.

BY AUTHORITY.

REGULATIONS TO CARRY INTO EFFECT THE ACT TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS UPON THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENCE, APPROVED FEBRUARY 6, 1864.

I.—As to the Sea.

1. The owners of any vessel intending to sail from a Confederate port with a cargo consisting in whole or in part of cotton, tobacco, military and naval stores, sugar, molasses, or rice, shall, before the lading on board of any such articles, file with the collector of the port from which the vessel is to sail a copy of her register, with a declaration of the names of the owners and officers thereof, the place of their birth, and of their residence for the preceding year, together with the port or place to which the said vessel proposes to sail. The said declaration shall also set forth the quantity and value, in Confederate currency, of the cargo proposed to be taken out, as also the consent of the said owners that one-half of the tonnage of the said vessel may be employed by the Confederate Government for its own use, both on the outward and homeward voyage, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned. The collector shall submit a statement as to the owners and officers to the military commandant of the port; and if he shall not object to their loyalty, or to the sailing vessel, for reasons of military necessity, the collector shall grant a permit for the lading of said vessel, one-half for account of the owners, and one-half for account of the Confederate States.

2. Before the said lading shall be completed, the owners of the vessel shall execute to the Confederate States a bond in one-half the value of the vessel, with security deemed adequate by the collector, conditioned that she will pursue the voyage designated, and that she will return with reasonable despatch to a Confederate port, after her outward cargo shall be discharged, with a cargo consisting one-half of articles not prohibited by the laws of the Confederate Government, and the other half of such articles as the Government shall offer for shipment from such port, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned.

3. Each shipper of any portion of the cargo proposed to be laden on board the said vessel shall, before the lading thereof, make application to the collector for a permit to lade the same; which application shall declare the articles to be shipped, and the quantity and value thereof in Confederate currency, the port of destination, and the name of the consignee. A permit shall then be granted by the collector, if the application is deemed satisfactory. The lading shall be had under the inspection of a revenue officer, who shall be charged with the duty of seeing that the goods laden conform to the permit.

4. Before the completion of the lading on board, or the granting a clearance, each shipper of any portion of the cargo shall execute and deliver to the collector a bond to the Confederate States, in one-half the value of his shipment in Confederate money, with security deemed adequate by the collector, with condition that at least one-half the net proceeds of said shipment shall be invested in goods or articles not prohibited by law; and said goods or articles shall be shipped by the same or some other vessel to the Confederate States within sixty days from the unlading of said cargo.

5. The freight to be paid by the Confederate States on all cotton and tobacco shipped from a Confederate port shall be fivepence sterling per pound, payable on delivery at the port of destination, in coin or sterling exchange. Return freight shall be at the rate of 20*l.* per ton, payable on its delivery in a Confederate port, in cotton, at twelvepence sterling per pound for middling uplands, and at a proportionate price for cotton of other qualities; or, at the option of the Government, in specie or sterling exchange. In calculating the ton of freight by weight, 2,240 pounds shall be allowed; by measure, forty cubic feet shall be allowed.

6. The rates of freight for articles other than cotton and tobacco shall be adjusted at the same relative rate, and payable in the same way.

7. The Government reserves the right to limit or prohibit the shipment of rosin, turpentine, or any manufacture thereof, whenever deemed dangerous to its own shipment.

8. Upon the completion of the lading of the vessel, and before receiving her clearance, there shall be delivered to the collector, in addition to the usual manifest, another, setting forth the names, ages, and description of the officers and crew, and of every passenger intending to sail in her. The said last-mentioned manifest shall be delivered to the commandant of the port, who shall thereupon cause the entire vessel to be searched; and if satisfied that the parties on board are persons who may safely be permitted to leave the Confederacy, and that the passengers have the proper passports, he shall certify the same on the manifest, and return the same to the collector; whereupon, and not before, a clearance shall be granted to the vessel, and she shall be permitted to sail.

9. The owners of each vessel, and of each portion of a cargo, sailing from a Confederate port, shall be allowed to take up their respective bonds by producing to the collector the certificate of the proper agent of the Confederate Government at the port of delivery, setting forth the particulars, showing that the said party has complied with the obligation of the said bonds so far as the same was practicable; and the collector, upon being duly satisfied, shall be authorised to surrender the said bonds.

10. Nothing in these regulations shall be so construed as to conflict with the proviso of the law which declares 'that nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit the Confederate States, or any of them, from exporting any of the articles herein enumerated on their own account,' nor shall a bond be required of a State in any case.

11. The penalties of all bonds executed in conformity with these regulations shall be recoverable in full, on proof of breach of the conditions of the bond, and without proof of any damage suffered by the Confederate States in consequence of such breach; and all bonds shall be executed in such form as to give effect to this regulation.

12. Vessels sent into the Confederacy for the purpose of exporting cotton received in payment of any Confederate bond or obligation, shall be subject to these regulations only so far as relates to such portion of the tonnage, if any, as may remain vacant after the lading of the cotton received in payment as aforesaid.

13. Whenever any vessel shall bring into the Confederate States an entire cargo for account of the Confederate States, the owners of the said vessel and the shippers of her cargo shall be relieved from the bonds previously given to invest and bring in one half of the net proceeds of her outward cargo; and the certificate of the agent of the Treasury Department, at the port of lading, that such cargo was duly shipped in pursuance of the regulations, shall authorise the collector to cancel and surrender the said bonds.

G. A. Trenholm, Secretary of the Treasury.
J. A. Seddon, Secretary of War.
Approved August 3, 1864,
Jefferson Davis.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLECTORS OF CUSTOMS.

Treasury Department, C.S.A.
Richmond, March 12, 1864.

The following regulations are prescribed for the government and directions of all officers of the revenue, to carry into effect the provisions of the Act to prohibit the importation of luxuries, or of articles not necessary or of common use, approved February 6, 1864:—

1. The importation of articles set forth in the schedule accompanying these regulations is absolutely prohibited.

2. None of said prohibited articles shall be admitted for duty after the 1st of March, 1864, or shall receive a permit to be landed unless it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the collector that they were actually shipped on board of the vessel in which they have arrived before the 1st of March, 1864, without knowledge of the passage of the Act aforesaid.

3. In case any prohibited articles shall be on board any ship, vessel, boat, raft or carriage arriving in the Confederate States after said 1st of March, and shall be omitted in the manifest, report, or entry of the master or person having charge or command of such ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, or shall be omitted in the entry of the goods owned by the owner or consigned to the consignee of such articles, or shall be imported or landed without a permit, the said goods shall be seized and dealt with, and the vessel and parties shall be subjected to the same forfeitures, fines, and penalties as in cases of similar omissions, landing, importation, or attempt to land or import, in relation to articles liable to duties on their importation into the Confederate States.

4. In case any prohibited article shall, after the 1st of March, 1864, be imported into the Confederate States, or shall, after said date, be put on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, with the intention of importing the same into the Confederate States; all such articles shall be forfeited, and also all other articles on board the said ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, belonging to the owner of such prohibited articles; and, moreover, the owner thereof shall forfeit and pay double the value of the prohibited articles.

5. The following additional oath or affirmation shall be taken by each master or person having charge or command of any ship or vessel which shall arrive at any port of the Confederate States after the 1st of March, 1864, viz.: 'I further swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, on board (insert the denomination and name of the vessel) any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover or know of any such goods, wares, or merchandise, on board of the said vessel, or which shall have been imported in the same, I will immediately, and without delay, report the same to the collector of this district.'

6. Each importer, consignee, or agent shall at the time of entering any goods imported after the said 1st of March, 1864, take the follow additional oath, viz.: 'I also swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, amongst the said goods, wares, or merchandise, imported or consigned as aforesaid, any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover any such goods, wares, or merchandise, imported or consigned as aforesaid, I will immediately, and without delay, report the same to the collector of this district.

C. G. Memminger, Secretary of Treasury.

LIST OF ARTICLES, THE IMPORTATION OF WHICH IS PROHIBITED BY AN ACT OF CONGRESS, ENTITLED 'AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE IMPORTATION OF LUXURIES OR ARTICLES NOT NECESSARIES OR OF COMMON USE.' APPROVED FEBRUARY 6, 1864.

Absinthe.
Alabaster and spar ornaments.
Alabata.
Ale, beer, and porter.
Almonds, raisins, currants, dates, figs, and all other dried or preserved fruits.
Amber beads.
Anchovies, sardines, and all other fish preserved in oil.
Angora, Thibet, and other goats' hair, or mohair manufactured.
Argentine, alabata, or German silver manufactured or unmanufactured.
Arrack.
Articles embroidered with gold, silver, or other metal.
Balsams, cosmetics, essences, extracts, pastes, perfumes, and tinctures used for the toilet.
Bananas, cocoa-nuts, pine apples, plantains, and oranges.
Bay rum.
Beads of amber, composition, or wax, and all other beads.
Benzoates.
Billiard and bagatelle tables, and all other tables or boards on which games are played.
Bracelets, braids, chains, curls or ringlets composed of hair, or of which hair is a component part.
Brandy and other spirits distilled from grain or other materials.
Brooms and brushes of all kinds.
Cabinet and household furniture.
Cabinets of coins, medals, gems, and all collections of antiquities.
Canes and sticks for walking, finished and unfinished.
Capers and sauces of all kinds.
Card cases, pocket books, shell boxes, souvenirs, and all similar articles, of whatever material composed.
Carpets, carpeting, hearth rugs, bedsides, and other portions of tapestry of every kind and description.
Carriages and parts of carriages.
Cider and other beverages not containing alcohol.
Clocks and parts of clocks.
Comfits, confectionery, sweetmeats, or fruits preserved in sugar, molasses, brandy, or other liquors.
Composition tops for tables, or other articles of furniture.
Compositions of glass, set or unset.
Coral, cut or manufactured.
Cordials, absinthe, arrack, curaçoa, kirschen-wasser, liquors, maraschino, ratifia, and all other spirituous beverages of a similar character.
Cotton laces, cotton insertings, cotton trimmings, and laces of thread and other materials.
Diamonds, cameos, mosaics, gems, pearls, rubies, and other precious stones, and imitations thereof, when set in gold, silver, or other metal, and when not set.
Dolls and toys of all kinds.
Engravings, bound or unbound.
Epaulettes.
Fans and fire screens of every description, of whatever material composed.
Feathers and flowers, artificial or ornamental, and parts thereof, of whatever material composed.
Fire crackers, sky rockets, roman candles, and all similar articles used in pyrotechnics.
Galloons, laces, knots, stars, tassels, tresses, and wings of gold or silver, or imitations thereof, except when intended for uniforms of officers in the military and naval service.
Glass, cut.
Glass, coloured, stained or painted.
Grapes, plums, and prunes, and other fresh fruit when put up in bottles, cases, or cans.
Hair, human, cleansed or prepared for use.
India matting of all kinds.
Jet and manufactures of jet, and imitations thereof.
Jewelry, or imitations thereof.
Leaf and manufactured tobacco and cigars.
Manufactures of cedar wood, granadilla, ebony, mahogany, rose wood, and satin wood.
Manufactures of gold, platina, or silver.
Manufactures and articles of marble, marble paving tiles, slabs, or blocks, and all other marble.
Matting, China, or other floor matting, and mats made of flags, jute, or grass.
Muffs and tiffets, and all other manufactures of fur, or of which fur shall be a component part, except caps and hats.
Paintings and statuary.
Paintings on glass.
Paper hangings.
Paper for walls.
Paper for screens or fireboards.
Paving and roofing tiles and bricks, and roofing slates and firebricks.
Perfumes and perfumery of all sorts.
Plated and gilt ware of all kinds.
Playing cards.
Prepared vegetables, fruits, meats, poultry, and game, sealed or enclosed in cans, or otherwise.
Ratans and reeds.
Scagliola table tops, or other articles of furniture.
Segars, snuff, paper segars, and all other manufactures of tobacco.
Silver-plated metal, in sheets or other form.
Thread lacings and insertings.
Velvets of all kinds.
Wines, burgundy, champagne, claret, madeira, port, sherry, and all other wines and imitations of wines.

NOTE.—None of the manufactures of metal designed as either household or personal ornaments shall be admitted.

Under the fourth section of the act, entitled 'An act to prohibit the importation of luxuries, or of articles not necessaries, or of common use,' approved February 6, 1864, the following maximum foreign prices are established, at which, and within which, importations of goods manufactured wholly or partly of cotton, flax, wool, or of silk, and designed for wearing apparel, and not prohibited by said act, and beyond which importations thereof shall not be made.

The prices named in the following, for all articles, are the invoice prices in coin, at the place of exportation:

MANUFACTURES OF COTTON.

All articles wholly of cotton, whether coloured or white, not to exceed 25 cents per square yard, excepting cottonades, corduroys, fustians, and velveteens, which shall not exceed 50 cents per yard.
Drawers, ready made, knit or woven, not to exceed 1 dol. per pair.
Gloves, not to exceed 25 cents per pair.
Hosiery, men's, not to exceed 25 cents per pair.
Hosiery, women's, not to exceed 35 cents per pair.
Shirts, ready made, knit or woven, not to exceed 1 dol. each.
Spool cotton, not to exceed 5 cents per 100 yards.
Tapes, not to exceed 5 cents per bunch of 12 yards.

MANUFACTURES OF FLAX.

All articles manufactured wholly of flax, whether coloured or white, not to exceed 50 cents per square yard.
Drawers, ready made, not to exceed 1 dol. 50 cents. per pair.
Gloves, not to exceed 50 cents. per pair.
Handkerchiefs, not to exceed 25 cents. a piece.
Hosiery, not to exceed 50 cents per pair.
Shirts, ready made, not to exceed 1 dol. 50 cents. each.
Tapes, not to exceed 5 cents per bunch of 12 yards.
Thread, not to exceed 1 dol. per pound.

MANUFACTURES OF WOOL.

Alpacas, cashmeres, de laines, lastings, merinos, mohairs, and Persian cloth, not to exceed 50 cents. per yard.
Bombazines and French Merinos, not to exceed 75 cents. per yard.
Beaver cloth and broad cloth, not to exceed 3 dols. per yard.
Bindings, not to exceed 5 cents per yard.
Drawers, knit or woven, not to exceed 1 dol. per pair.
Flannels, not to exceed 50 cents. per yard.
Gloves, not to exceed 40 cents per pair.
Hats, men's, not to exceed 2 dols. each.
Hats, women's, not to exceed 4 dols. each.
Hosiery, men's and women's, not to exceed 40 cents per pair.
Kerseys, kerseymeres, lions' skins, melton cloths, pilot cloth, serges, tweeds and vestings, not to exceed 2 dols. per yard.
Shawls, not to exceed 7 dols. 50 cents each.
Shirts, not to exceed 1 dol. each.

MANUFACTURES OF SILK.

Dress silk, not to exceed 1 dol. per yard.
Handkerchiefs, neck-ties, &c., not to exceed 75 cents a piece.
Mantillas, shawls, and ladies' wrappings of any kind, not to exceed 5 dol. each.
Ribbons, not to exceed 1 dol. per piece of 12 yards.
Serge lining, not to exceed 1 dol. per square yard.
Sewing silk, not to exceed 5 dol. per pound.
Vestings, not to exceed 2 dol. per square yard.

Manufactures of wool and cotton, wool and silk, wool and flax, or any combination of these materials, not to exceed 1 dol. per square yard. Articles composed of cotton and flax only, not to exceed 37 cents per square yard.

C. G. Memminger, Secretary of Treasury.

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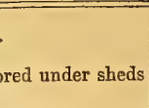

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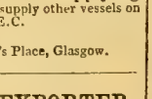

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THE INDEX

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THE NEGRO UNDER FEDERAL RULE.

THE CORPS D'AFRIQUE.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA: August 21, 1864.

THE extracts from an official report upon the condition of the 'free labourers' on the 'Government plantations,' which I communicated in a late letter, revealed in a most painful manner the evils incident to violent and sudden emancipation. The result would doubtless have been the same no matter what might have been the motives of the emancipators. A great social system like Southern slavery cannot be overturned in a day without seriously disturbing, if not actually destroying, every interest dependent upon it; and 'every interest' is but another term for the industrial resources and productive power of the country. Few pretend that the interests of the country, North or South, or the welfare of the black man were consulted in the war against slavery. If either were, 'I can't see it,' at least here in Louisiana; and I am sure that here the experiment of free labour has had a fairer trial, been more propped up, and indulged, and petted, and rewarded, and has had more and higher inducements held out to it for good behaviour, than in any other Southern Department. Indeed, the white labourers might well envy the black labourer of the 'Government plantations' the many privileges accorded him—on paper. The great difficulty is to secure to the 'free labourer' the realisation of these privileges. I must, however, reserve for a future occasion some general remarks upon the condition of the freed men and women upon Government plantations. At present I shall confine myself to the narration of a few facts regarding the negro as a 'soldier of freedom.' When the 'contrabands' in Louisiana began to be numbered by the thousands, the Federal authorities saw they had, in common parlance, drawn an elephant. Upwards of twenty thousand of these contrabands were being supported at the public expense. Such a practice continued for any time must prove fatal to even the best disposed and most intelligent of labouring classes. Judge then of its effects upon the fugitive slaves. Of course they were idle and vicious, vagabondising around the city and the camps, and generating a physical and a moral pestilence among the orderly, industrious, and contented negroes of the city. The most unreasoning of the worshippers of the 'ebony idol' saw and admitted the great and threatening evil of this emancipation by war. It would not pay, but they were determined to make it pay. The plans were to put the women, children, and old men on the plantations, and to put the able-bodied men in the army, with a distinct organisation, to be known as the Corps d'Afrique. The following history of this organisation is given on the authority of a letter from an officer of the Corps d'Afrique:—

'When the order of organisation was promulgated, it contemplated the organisation of eighteen regiments of five hundred men each, with the same number of officers as in the regiments of one thousand.' [Thus affording a multitude of commissions for young gentlemen of idle habits and faint hearts, who, being subject to conscription, might otherwise have been forced to serve in the ranks of the white troops.] 'There were already three full regiments organised several months previous, and General Ulman had already commenced recruiting for the five regiments known as "Ulman's Brigade." These eight regiments were made the nucleus of the new corps; and during the summer and autumn of 1863, through the channels opened by the progress of the campaign, there were men enough enlisted to swell the number of regiments to twenty-five. But, unfortunately, it was found that the physical qualifications of the negroes were not equal to the hardships of drill and fatigue duty, many of them having in them the seeds of old and surely fatal diseases brought on by the vicious habits of plantation life, and many others being as yet young and immature in body and marked by hereditary taints.'

Strange how prejudice will blind the judgment 'Vicious habits of plantation life,' 'seeds of old and surely fatal diseases,' and 'hereditary taints' are notoriously untrue. The conditions of slavery do not tolerate them; the planters' interests are against their prevalence; and the great increase of the blacks of the South—greater than that of the whites North or South—proves that the plantation life of the Southern slave enjoys a greater immunity from want and all the ills that flesh is heir to than is enjoyed by the freest labourers in the Old or New World. Numerous grandparents and mothers who can count their offspring by the score are to be seen on almost every plantation. However much we may differ about its morality, we cannot question the fact that this system of American slavery is highly favourable to the physical well-being of the African. The officer knows nothing about plantation life. His recruits acquired their 'seeds of diseases,' 'hereditary taints,' &c., while vagabondising around the camps and the city.

'It is surprising, to one unacquainted with the subject, to contemplate the terrible rate of mortality, and to learn how many have lung and heart diseases, or are broken down by rheumatic affections, overwork, and ill-usage. Thousands died, were discharged for disability, or deserted.'

The regiments dwindled down from five hundred to two or three hundred: recruiting was stopped by the order of General Banks, which contemplated the retention of as many able-bodied blacks as possible on the Government plantations; officers began to grow discouraged; resignations became the order of the day; disappointment on the pay question demoralised the men. When the campaign commenced this season, four regiments were ordered to the field. To fill them up to six hundred men each, it was necessary to transfer men from three or four other regiments, leaving to each company of the latter only its officers and ten men. Very little remains of the original corps, save in the regretful recollections of its officers.

. . . . . .

What the future of the corps will be depends now upon the question of expediency—Will the possible interests or necessities of our standing army warrant the enormous expense of organising and drilling coloured troops, and bringing them up to the standard of white troops? As the resources of the South, agriculturally, are called out, the demand for labour of acclimatised blacks will increase; if the available number is diminished by the requirements of a large army, there will be an increased opposition to maintaining black regiments. To fill up the black regiments in this department alone would require twenty thousand recruits, and the relative mortality of white and black troops seems to indicate that it would be better to let the present black organisation die out, and supply their places, if the necessity continued, from the army of foreigners now seeking our shores. Besides this reason, there is another entering into consideration—namely, the greater cost of maintaining coloured troops. They are undeniably idle, lazy, unproductive, and wasteful. The loss by wear and tear, such as the expense of keeping up their uniforms and equipments, of camp and garrison equipage, and all kinds of military stores and property, promises to exceed very greatly the corresponding expenditure for white troops, and it is scarcely a matter of doubt that their services are far less valuable, both in quality and quantity, to the Government.' There is one Northern man at least who has learned something since he came South, and who tells his experience very candidly too, bating a little prejudice, the result doubtless of a want of better acquaintance with his subject. This confirms what the South has been telling us for years, that the free blacks 'are undeniably idle, lazy, unproductive, and wasteful.' As 'Soldiers of the Army of Freedom,' 'thousands died, were discharged for disability, or deserted.' In other words, the Corps d'Afrique was soon an exploded humbug. The North thought the black man ought to fight for his freedom, and that he would gladly seize the chance to meet his former oppressors in the open field. But poor Sambo could not appreciate the privilege, and did not seem to have any oppressor's wrong to wipe out. Death relieved thousands of them from the cruel hardships and tyranny of military rule; as many more sought escape in desertion, till now 'twenty thousand new recruits are required to fill up the black regiments in this Department.'

General Banks saw all this as clearly and as soon as any other man, and his admission of the failure of the Corps d'Afrique is given to the world in his general orders of February 3, 1864, organising the 'free labour system,' which transferred the negro from the camp to the plantation—his only field of usefulness. Banks has been much censured for these orders, and doubtless they sound very inconsistent in the mouth of an American Abolitionist. They were, however, the conclusions of a ripe experience, derived from actual contact with the fugitive slaves; and though the orders give the endorsement of a lifelong Abolitionist to the dictum of the South that the black man will not voluntarily labour even for himself, still experience sanctioned them, the Adjutant-General of the United States approved and amplified them, and the 'free labour system' has proved a blessing to—no, not to the black man, but to many of the philanthropic but needy planters from the North. Now the policy of Banks is reversed by General Canby. In accordance with instructions from the latter, Banks orders that 'all able-bodied men of colour, between the ages of eighteen and forty years, be enlisted for the military service of the United States, under the direction of the Superintendent of Recruiting Service for United States Coloured Troops.' And the order is being carried out relentlessly. So sweeping has been the conscription among the plantation labourers that the crops are almost wholly neglected. There can hardly be a third of the ordinary yield. In the city the conscription has been equally sweeping, and attended with many painful and amusing scenes in the dodges and expedients of the poor hunted blacks to escape the 'tender mercies' of their self-elected and self-vaunted friends. Those philanthropic planters who came down here 'to labour in the interests of God and humanity,' and turn an honest or dishonest penny, are indignant with General Canby. They are about to memorialise President Lincoln, representing to him how the agricultural interests must suffer if the 'plantation hands' be conscripted. Every *novus homo* of them talks as glibly of his 'hands,' his plantation, and his crops, as though he were 'native here and to the manor born.' It would be idle for them to seek redress from General Canby or General Banks; the former makes the civil policy entirely subordinate to the military, and Banks, to whom they owe their present stations, is powerless to help them.

To escape conscription the negroes fled to the swamps, across the lines into Dixie, or to the city. They found but a temporary refuge here, for they were run to earth as remorselessly as was ever poor reynard. They could not stand such treatment from their friends, and a number of the creole negroes of the city sent Banks a letter of remonstrance. The remonstrants are the immediate representatives of a very peculiar class of the coloured population—for the most part free, possessing some little means, a very limited education, in complexion representing every shade known to the human family. Both the American and the French (creole) population of the city regard these hybrids as an unmitigated curse to the community. The women are the great 'social evil,' while the men are 'idle, lazy, wasteful, and unproductive,' and the morals of neither have improved by contact with the Northerner—military or civilian. In his reply to their remonstrance, General Banks 'has the honour' to speak of this class of the community as 'citizens,' which they are not, unless his *ipse dixit* makes them such. Judging from his intimate association with them—their frequent dinings and suppings at his house, and his well-known *penchant* for a quadroon *soirée dansante*—he would no doubt be glad to recognise them as the first citizens. I subjoin the General's reply:—

'Headquarters Department of the Gulf,
New Orleans, Aug. 17, 1864.

'Messrs. T. M. Poree, and others, New Orleans:

'Gentlemen,—In answer to your memorial, which I have this day received, I have the honour to say that the arrest of the persons you represent was not only without orders, but against order, and no intention has been entertained of disturbing the people of this city by any forcible enlistments.

'Some days since, prominent citizens of New Orleans represented that there were many hundred negroes without employment, and without visible means of support, in the swamps and woods about the city, escaping regular labour, and indulging in the propensities which vagrants are inclined to follow.

'Instructions were given to ascertain if this were a fact, and, if the statement was found to be true, to have such men enlisted in the army. Under a misapprehension of orders, the officers intrusted with the duty made arrests of citizens employed in regular business within the limits of the city. As soon as the fact was known, the order was given for their release without exception. All measures will be taken to prevent the recurrence of these arrests. I regret exceedingly that any well-disposed citizen should have been disturbed in his employment or in his family.

'I recognise the alacrity with which the people you represent organised the regiments in 1862, and also at the time when the safety of the city was threatened in 1863, during the siege of Port Hudson, and acknowledge with great pleasure the obligations which the Government of the United States owes to you and to them.

'With much respect, your obedient servant,

'N. P. BANKS,
Major-General Commanding.'

FEDERAL SUBSTITUTES.—A New York paper published the following extract from a letter written by a member of the 11th New Hampshire Regiment: 'Of the 300 that started for our regiment last winter only 175 ever reached it, and these were Italians, Spaniards, Irishmen, Dutchmen, Frenchmen, Englishmen, Australians, Portuguese, and Hungarians. Do not think this exaggerated, for there were men from all these nations, and probably some others were represented that I do not think of. On the way from Tennessee to Annapolis the majority of the 175 left us, and glad we were to get rid of them. It is the same all through the army. We have under guard now six Frenchmen, one Indian, one half breed, one Spaniard, five Irishmen, and the remainder I should judge were a conglomeration of all races under the sun. Last week we had one Turk and a couple of Australians. The next quota I expect we shall have a couple of hyenas and whole battalions of apes. If the people of the North are not willing to help us fight the rebellion, but to every call for more troops they send us nothing but these miserable *things*, we shall soon have scarcely any army left, and the war must cease for that very reason.'

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

VERY graphic accounts are given in the Northern papers of the gathering at Chicago. Not only crowds of Western men, but crowds from the far East, poured into the city in which was to be held the National Democratic Convention. On August 29 the streets were filled from early morning with people who were never tired of cheering the delegations as they appeared with party banners and with bands of music. The pressure was so great in the amphitheatre, where the Convention was held, that a part of the flooring gave way, but no one was hurt. At 12 o'clock the Convention was called to order by the Hon. A. Belmont, chairman of the National Democratic Committee. Governor Bigler of Pennsylvania was chosen for temporary President. He briefly addressed the Convention. He remarked that after three years 'of a war unparalleled in modern times for its magnitude and for its barbarous desolations,' the hopes of the Union 'are in no wise improved.' A different policy must be adopted, 'one which will bear no conditions precedent to the restoration of the Union, but which will diligently seek that result as the return of permanent peace amongst the people.' The resolutions offered by the various delegations were read and referred to the Committee of Resolutions. The Convention, after the transaction of formal business, adjourned to the next day, the Committees remaining in session and the several delegations meeting in Caucus. At night open-air mass meetings were held, one of which was attended by 60,000 people.

At the meeting of the Convention on the 30th, Mr. Harris of Maryland censured the course pursued by General M'Clellan in ordering the arrest of the members of the Maryland Legislature. General M'Clellan was warmly defended by Governor Morgan of Ohio, who said that M'Clellan had acted on testimony which he then regarded as credible. After this discussion, Governor Seymour, who had been chosen President, took the chair amidst great enthusiasm. He said the Democratic party would bring back union, peace, and liberty. He protested against the party in power because 'they will not let the shedding of blood cease even for a little time to see if Christian charity or the wisdom of statesmanship may not work out a method to save our country.' It was not from want of courage and devotion on the part of the troops that the Administration had failed. But it had failed, for 'even now the Government declare in the edict of a general that rebellious discontent has worked northward to the shores of the great lakes. The guaranteed right of the people to bear arms has been trampled under foot up to the very borders of Canada, so that American servitude is put in contrast with British liberty.' In conclusion he urged upon the Convention the importance of unanimity, saying, 'In all probability the future destiny of our country hangs upon our action.' Governor Seymour was loudly cheered.

In the afternoon session the following resolutions were presented and adopted with only four dissenting voices:—

Resolved: That in the future, as in the past, we will adhere with unswerving fidelity to the Union under the Constitution as the only solid foundation for our strength, security, and happiness as a people, and as a framework of government equally conducive to the welfare and prosperity of all the States, both Northern and Southern.

Resolved: That this Convention does explicitly declare as the sense of the American people, that after four years of failure to restore the Union by the experiment of war—during which, under the pretence of a military necessity, or war, the Constitution itself has been disregarded in every respect, and public liberty and private rights alike trodden down, and the material prosperity of the country essentially impaired—justice, humanity, liberty, and the public welfare demand that immediate efforts be made for a cessation of hostilities with a view to an ultimate Convention of all the States or other peaceable means, to the end that at the earliest practicable moment peace may be restored on the basis of the Federal Union of the States.

Resolved: That the direct interference of the military authority of the United States in the recent elections held in Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, and Delaware, was a shameful violation of the Constitution, and a repetition of such acts in the approaching election will be held as revolutionary, and resisted with all the means and power under our control.

Resolved: That the aim and object of the Democratic party is to preserve the Federal Union and the rights of the States unimpaired, and they hereby declare that they consider Administrative usurpation of extraordinary and dangerous powers not granted by the Constitution—the subversion of the civil power by military law in States not in insurrection—the arbitrary military arrest, imprisonment, trial, and sentence of American citizens in States where civil law exists in full force—the suppression of freedom of speech and of the press—the denial of the right of asylum—the open and avowed disregard of State rights—the employment of unusual test oaths—and the interference with, and denial of, the right of the people to bear arms—as calculated to prevent a restoration of the Union and the perpetuation of a government deriving its just powers from the consent of the governed.

Resolved: That the shameful disregard of the Administration of its duty in respect to our fellow-citizens who now and long have been prisoners of war in a suffering condition, deserves the severest reprobation on the score alike of public and common humanity.

On August 31 the Convention assembled at 10 o'clock. Mr. Wickliffe said the delegates of the West were of opinion that circumstances may occur before the 4th of next month which would render another meeting of the Democratic Convention necessary. He therefore moved the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved: That this Convention shall not be dissolved by the adjournment at the close of its business, but shall remain organised, subject to be called at any time and place that the executive national committee shall designate.

The Convention then proceeded to nominate a candidate for the Presidency. The vote was taken by States. The result of the first ballot was: M'Clellan, 162; other votes, 64. The result of the final ballot was: M'Clellan, 202½; Thomas H. Seymour, 23½. The announcement of the vote was, we are told, 'welcomed by the wildest enthusiastic cheers from the multitude.' Mr. Vallandigham moved that the nomination of General M'Clellan be the unanimous sense of the Convention. Mr. M'Kean, of New York, seconded the nomination, which was carried by acclamation.

Mr. George H. Pendleton, of Ohio, was unanimously chosen as candidate for Vice-President.

A communication was read from the chairman of the German People's Association of New York, claiming to represent 200,000 citizens, and accompanied by resolutions pledging the members of the Association to the support of the Chicago nominees. The communication was filed.

Mr. Wickliffe offered a resolution to the effect that Kentucky expects the first act of M'Clellan, when elected, will be to open Lincoln's prison doors and set the prisoners free. Carried unanimously.

After loud and long-continued cheering for the ticket, the Convention adjourned, subject to the call of the National Committee.

ON August 25 there was a battle near Reams Station, on the Weldon railroad, which the Federals describe as one of the most desperate fights of this war. The Federals under General Hancock were assaulted by the Confederates under General Hill. After two unsuccessful attacks the Confederates made a terrific onslaught, pierced the Federal line, drove the enemy back in confusion, and recovered four miles of the railroad. It is admitted that the Federal losses are very heavy, and that the 5th Corps alone lost 5,000 men. Mr. Stanton says that he thinks the Confederates lost 10,000 killed and wounded in the last two weeks, and adds, 'We have lost heavily, but ours has been mostly in captured.' Now, when many prisoners are taken, either the enemy is beaten or the men surrender rather than fight; but in either case it is not possible that the side which takes the prisoners should lose more in killed and wounded than the side which surrenders them.

IT was reported that General Early was retreating on Richmond, of course, 'hotly pursued' by Sheridan. At the latest dates, however, it was stated that 'General Early was still in Sheridan's front.'

MR. STANTON has announced the occupation of Atlanta by the Federals, but the report was not fully credited in New York. According to Mr. Stanton's information, the Confederates evacuated Atlanta, and a severe but indecisive fight took place at East Point. The Confederates are said to have retired to Macon. At all events, Hood held Atlanta long enough to remove all the valuable machinery from that city. It is reported that Generals Wheeler, Reddy, and Forrest have joined their forces, are operating in Sherman's rear, and destroying the railroad between Nashville and Murfreesboro'. Whether Sherman has or has not occupied Atlanta, this movement renders his position critical. Before him is Hood's army, and in his rear there is a powerful force threatening his communications.

FORT MORGAN has been surrendered, but not without a fight. After a heavy bombardment from sea and land, General Page gave up the contest. In his official despatch Admiral Farragut states that the guns were spiked, and adds: 'There was every reason to believe that this had been done after the white flag had been raised.' It would have been better to give some of the reasons for this suspicion. Admiral Farragut also says: 'Fort Morgan never fired a gun after the commencement of the bombardment.' Why the fort should be bombarded for twenty-four hours without making any reply is not easy to understand, unless we suppose there was no ammunition. If they did not intend to fight, we must admire the heroism which induced them to risk their lives whilst they were destroying the guns, &c. By surrendering with all the *matériel* in order, they could have avoided the danger.

THE Confederates under Colonel Shelby, on August 23, captured nearly a whole Federal regiment between Duval Bluff and Little Rock, Arkansas.

FRANZ MÜLLER, charged with the murder of Mr. Briggs, has been surrendered to the British authorities. Mr. Schaffer, who defended the prisoner, contended that, as there is war—*unsolemn* war—between England and the United States, the extradition treaty is not binding. Mr. Schaffer talked for a long time about the *Alabama*, the *Tallahassee*, and the 'Stars,' but he could not procure the release of his client.

THE *Tallahassee* was off New Inlet, North Carolina, on August 25, and was attacked by the United States gunboat *Monticello*. The *Tallahassee* returned the fire, and the next day was lying securely under the guns of Fort Fisher. We are told, 'she was saluted by the fort, and returned the compliment in sight of the Union fleet, which seemed to be incompetent to prevent her escape.' It is also said that another 'rebel privateer' has entered the port of Wilmington.

THE New York money market has been greatly excited. On August 30, under the influence of the platform of the ChicagoConvention which was regarded as promising peace, the price of gold fell to 231½. Next day there was a rally to 243½, and on September 2 it was quoted at 254½, being a rise of 23 per cent. in two days. To show how little the war news affects the market in the present anticipation of peace, we find that, on September 3, when it was doubted if Sherman had occupied Atlanta, gold fell 14 per cent., being quoted at 240½.

ENGLAND.

To sportsmen who above all things love to see the best horse win, the Great Doncaster St. Leger of 1864 must afford unbounded satisfaction. In our columns last week a slight *résumé* of the victories and defeats of the expected candidates for the prize of 'horse-breeding Yorkshire,' and of their pretensions to success, was given. It is not necessary, therefore, again to dwell on these points of interest. It will be sufficient to remind the reader that an opinion was clearly expressed that the race would be confined to Blair Athol and General Peel, before whose prowess all the champions of the 'outside' division would undoubtedly fail. The weather yesterday was most inauspicious, and the dense multitude who had assembled on the Town Moor, impelled not as at Epsom by a mere desire to make holiday, but by a deep-rooted and unconquerable devotion to horses and horse-racing, were compelled to endure throughout the afternoon a strong wind and a driving rain. Before the race Blair Athol had returned to the position of first favourite at the odds of 2 to 1, while 11 to 4 was laid against General Peel, 6 to 1 against the Miner, 7 to 1 against Baragah, 100 to 6 against Lord Stamford's Cambuscan, who was, however, heavily backed for a place, and 25 to 1 each against Ely and the Knight of Snowdon. Brindisi and Black Rock figured at 50 to 1. At a quarter to three o'clock the ten competitors appeared in front of the Stand, when General Peel and Blair Athol were received with most terrific cheering. Each horse was as perfect in condition as the skill of the veteran John Scott and the clever Mr. T'Anson could make them. Indeed, recollection fails to recall a grander animal than General Peel, or a more perfect racehorse than Blair Athol. After one attempt the field was despatched on good terms, the running being made successively by Ely, the Miner, and Baragah, the two first sweeping into the straight in the van. There Cambuscan, who till that time had brought up the rear, rushed to the front, passing Ely and the Miner on their right, while General Peel at the same moment appeared on their left. At the distance Ely and the Miner fell back, and the race for a moment seemed to lie between the General and Cambuscan, the riders of both pressing their horses with the utmost vigour. Suddenly, however, exactly as at Epsom, so here at Doncaster, the glorious son of Blink Bonny rushed to the front, and, seemingly without an effort, passed his opponents struggling in defeat, winning finally in a canter by two lengths. General Peel defeated Cambuscan by a head. The Miner was four lengths in the rear of Cambuscan. Then followed in order Ely, Claremont, Baragah, Brindisi, Knight of Snowdon, and Black Rock. Thus once more has the marvellous excellence of the Stockwell blood been demonstrated, for while beyond all doubt the speed of General Peel has proved equal, if not superior, to that of Blair Athol, yet at the critical moment the strain of Orlando (for Orlando is the maternal grandsire of General Peel) has been detected; and the invincible stoutness of the greatest of sires, the son of Pocahontas, has triumphed over the efforts of a more elegant, more swift, but less hardy stock.

A SOMEWHAT remarkable document has emanated from the four archbishops of the United Kingdom. It takes the form of an address from themselves and the Vice-Presidents of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to the clergy and laity of England. After stating the obligation of the English people to maintain Christian missions among our own subjects abroad and among the heathen generally, the address states that the present hindrance to the discharge of the work is the lack of funds. Then follow appeals from the Bishop of Calcutta, who aims at the evangelisation of the north-east and east parts of the diocese of Calcutta, of East Bengal, Assam, and Singapore, so that Hindoos, Buddhists, Malays, and Chinese would form objects of conversion—from the Bishop of Labuan, Bishop Twells of the Orange River, the Bishop of Honolulu, the Bishop of Ontario (Canada), and the Bishop of Columbia. All these earnestly demand funds for the extension of the work under their care. The most remarkable appeal, however, is from the Cape of Good Hope. First the Dean of Maritzburg, in the diocese of Natal, proclaims the need of 12 clergymen, with numerous subordinate agents, but declares that 'he is equally destitute of men and of resources.' Next the Bishop of Grahamstown states that, 'if the Society is unable to make an additional grant, he must at once consider which of the mission agents can be otherwise employed.' But the Bishop of Capetown plainly states that 'he trusts the Society may be able to do something more next year; if not, the work must be abandoned.' Under these circumstances the Archbishops ask whether these calls are to remain unanswered, for if so, then these rejected multitudes will cry unto the Lord against the English people, and the sin be laid to the charge of this Church and nation. The address concludes with an earnest appeal to the clergy to stir up the laity, and to the laity, by annual contributions in their parishes, by regular subscriptions to the societies, and by associations, to help the work.

EARL RUSSELL has informed Mr. Edward Bates, of Liverpool, that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the case of the *Georgia* must go before the Prize Court in the United States, and that Mr. Bates must be prepared to defend his interest therein.

THE great bed of Ware was sold by auction last week for 100*l.*, and it is stated that the purchaser was Mr. Charles Dickens.

THE strength of the British army stationed in the united kingdom in the year 1862 was 78,173 officers and men. For every 1,000 men there were 989 admissions into hospital and 53 constantly sick. About 500 out of every 1,000 cases came under the same head of disease. In the cavalry regiments 13 in every 1,000 cases were attributed to intemperance. It is very difficult to compare the rate

of mortality with that of the ordinary population, as the process of invaliding reduces the percentage considerably. It is, however, asserted that in the French army stationed in France, the rate of non-effectives from sickness in the same year was almost identical with that of the British army. Corporal punishment in the Military Train reached to about 3 men in every 1,000, to about 0·6 in every 1,000 in the Foot Guards, and to less than 2 in every 1,000 in other regiments.

In the year ending March 25, 1863, the amount expended for relief of the poor in England and Wales was 6,527,036*l.*, being more by nearly half a million sterling than was expended in the preceding year. If the cotton districts be excluded from calculation, it will be found that there was a general decrease in the relief required. The mean number of paupers of all classes was no less than 1,079,382 persons including 221,749 adult able-bodied paupers.

Mr. Burroughes, late M.P. for East Norfolk, has been convicted before a bench of county justices, under the 12th and 13th sections of the Nuisances Removal Act, for being the owner of certain cottages in the county of Norfolk destitute of the accommodations required by the Act. Three of the cottages situated in the parish of Hemblingham, contained two rooms each, and were inhabited by three families numbering in all twenty-one persons; while a fourth cottage at South Walsham, afforded shelter to a man and his wife, two grown-up sons, a grown-up daughter and her illegitimate child.

Prince Humbert arrived at Southampton on Sunday last from Havre in the yacht of Prince Napoleon. On Monday evening he dined with Lord and Lady Palmerston, and on Tuesday left for Doncaster to witness the races.

The number of race-horses charged with duty in Great Britain in 1863-64 was 1,893. Taxed dogs in 1862-63 were 347,389. No less than 50,255 persons paid for armorial bearings. The powdered heads show a lamentable decrease, being but 913, but taxed servants rose to the number of 248,222.

The magistrates of Lancashire have been sorely vexed in attempting a decision between the claims of extreme tolerance on the one hand and of conscientious convictions on the other. At a meeting with the Right Hon. Lord Stanley in the chair, the Recorder of the town of Preston, moved a vote of 40*l.* 'for the purchase of vestments, chalice, linen, crucifix, candlesticks, and other articles necessary to enable the Roman Catholic minister at the House of Correction in Preston to celebrate the service of his Church.' Some months ago we gave a summary of of the act enabling justices to appoint Roman Catholic chaplains in Houses of Correction. Under this act a chaplain had been appointed for Preston Gaol and the sum of 150*l.* had been granted for the fitting up a portion of the gaol as a chapel. That amount was not sufficient to purchase in addition the articles just enumerated, and, therefore, a further sum was now demanded. The resolution gave rise to a very animated debate, one gentleman, who spoke at considerable length on the 'crucifix,' which he held to be a graven image, was proceeding to discuss the meaning of the 'Second Commandment,' when he was called to order by the chairman. Another gentleman expressed deep regret that the required sum had not been voted in the first instance, instead of allowing the court to be placed in a most painful dilemma. A third gave it as his opinion that the vote would compel the county to pay as it were a church-rate to another church than that of England, a process, as he said, rather in the direction of than a departure from the annals of superstition. An amendment was handed in to the effect 'that no crucifix or graven image be introduced within the walls of the Preston gaol at the expense of the county,' but it failed for the want of being seconded. After a long debate the original motion was carried by 22 votes to 19. It may be mentioned that there are more than 100 Roman Catholic prisoners in Preston Gaol.

A circular has been issued, dated September 13, announcing a suspension of payment by the firm of Croskey & Co., of St. Michael's House, Cornhill. The circular holds out the prospect of a discharge of their liabilities in full. Messrs. Lewine and Morris have also suspended payment.

The corporal presence of Bishop Colenso seems to produce much the same effect on the Bishops of England as the sight of an Orange procession on a true son of the Church. It had been announced that the Bishop of Natal would preach for the village schools in the church of Claybrook in Leicestershire, on Sunday, September 11, at the request of the vicar, the Rev. R. H. Johnson, who also holds the living of Lutterworth, and has reached the venerable age of 83 years. On the Saturday, Dr. Colenso arrived at the vicarage. Immediately after him there followed a Mr. Gates, the agent of Dr. Jeune, Lord Bishop of Peterborough, bearing a missive from his Lordship to the vicar, inhibiting the latter from yielding the occupation of the Claybrook pulpit to Dr. Colenso. A similar document was served on the curate of the parish, the Rev. Lewis Wood. On Sunday morning, Bishop Colenso, a friend, and the vicar, proceeded to the church. In the churchyard a person bearing a document attempted to approach the Bishop, but was stopped. When the Bishop knelt at the altar the same person approached, and failing to arrest his attention threw the notice at him. It fell at the feet of the Bishop, and remained unheeded throughout the service. During the service the vicar announced the fact of the prohibition, but promised a publication of the intended sermon, and an address in the schoolroom. The Bishop was again present at the evening service. Before the sermon the curate, after stating that Bishop Colenso had on the first intimation of the wishes of the Bishop of the diocese written to his Lordship promising not to preach at Claybrook church, proceeded to deliver the opinion of himself and his vicar on the work of Colenso. The vicar, he said, was now an old man, one who for forty-eight years had laboured to declare the truth of God among the people, and to have his conscience clear of their blood. As an aged minister, who must before long be called from this world to give an account of his ministry, the vicar desired to testify that he heartily and entirely approved the work of Dr. Colenso, believing him to be a true and faithful servant of God, doing his utmost to advance the cause of true religion, and to promote the solid lasting welfare of the national church. The curate then referred to the examples of persecution endured by Reformers, by Wickcliffe, himself vicar of Lutterworth, by St. Paul, even by our Lord himself. He desired the people to read Colenso's books for themselves. He thanked God that he had lived to see this day of increased light and of straightforward utterance of the truth. The same evening, at six o'clock, the Bishop proceeded to address the people in the schoolroom, but so dense was the crowd that an adjournment was effected to the village green, where Bishop Colenso standing on a table spoke at length on the subject of Gospel missions, with special reference to his own diocese, a district 'which,' said he, emphatically, 'the Queen had placed under his charge as Bishop, with regard to the affairs of the Church of England.'

IRELAND.

In the Belfast riots 176 people were wounded and nine killed in the fourteen days. The force of military and constabulary was 4,000 men, the number of arrests made was exactly 50. The sum claimed as compensation for losses sustained amounts to about 10,000*l.* It is stated that the magistrates have gone to Dublin Castle to request that a new police system may be established in Belfast on the London plan, the force to be commanded by a commissioner responsible to the Government.

Hopes had been entertained by sanguine individuals that the enquiry instituted by the Fishery Commissioners would bring the Claddagh fishermen and the owners of the trawlers to terms of reconciliation. The conduct of the Claddagh men has rendered the efforts of Professor Huxley abortive. These worthy persons were not content to prove by evidence that 'in the good old times' when they monopolised the fishery, the Galway market was supplied, and the Claddagh men flourished. They had no notion of a fair fight and no favour, assured of the better cause they desired to render assurance doubly sure. Therefore, with characteristic audacity and folly they warned the witnesses for the trawlers not to appear on peril of being 'marked men.' The enquiry, of course, was abruptly terminated, and the feuds must continue unless other means are used to adjust the quarrel.

THE CONTINENT.

FRANCE.

Of all the legends of ancient Greece, none was so often made use of by the ancient tragedians to excite the awe and terror of the spectators, and to impress them with the relentless divine vengeance which follows upon crime, as the awful tragedy of the death of Agamemnon. The treacherous murder of the son of Atreus by his wife Clytemnestra and her paramour Ægistheus, the consequent vengeance of his son Orestes upon his adulterous mother and her associate, and the avenging Furies which then pursued the parricide, have been illustrated by the gloomy genius of Æschylus in language which remained unrivalled until Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, heard the like tragedy revealed to him by the spirit of his murdered father. The legends of Greece and of Denmark have found this week a worthy rival in the annals of the Assize Court of Tarn-et-Garonne. On the 2nd inst. appeared at the bar of that court Jean Bétolières, the father, with his two sons of the same name, to answer to the capital charge of the murder of Jean Vigié. Bétolières, the father, had long suspected Vigié of an adulterous intercourse with his wife; the suspicions were shared by his sons, and the three determined to put an end to the scandal. Another person was interested in the same object; Vigié the younger, the son of the adulterer, had seen the infidelity of his father with the greatest indignation, and had reason to believe that the sudden death of his own mother, which had then but lately occurred, was not unconnected with it. Whether he was more immediately concerned in the vengeance wreaked by the Bétolières family upon Vigié was not clearly made out. All we know is that a night came when Bétolières, the father, discovered that Vigié was on the premises, probably awaiting an opportunity of meeting his mistress. They went out, first the elder son, then the younger, then the father; Marcellin, the elder son, seized Vigié, and, after a hard fight, threw him down; then giving him over to his brother Second to hold him, he ran to inform the younger Vigié of the occurrence. Vigié the elder was a strong man; struggling under Second, he had nearly succeeded in overpowering him, when the father came to his son's assistance, and by a few kicks with a heavy wooden *sabot* silenced the adulterer for ever. Marcellin returned with the younger Vigié; they were shown the corpse; then, according to one report, the son Vigié said, 'You have done your work well; but had you killed him a fortnight ago, my mother would be still living.' Immediately after the deed, the three Bétolières gave themselves up to justice. The sympathy of the people was with them. The prisoners were defended at their trial by the great advocate, Jules Favre. Such was his eloquence, and such the natural leaning of a French jury in favour of a vengeance taken on these grounds, that the three prisoners, after a two days' trial, were acquitted.

The Empress of the French is paying a visit to the baths of Schwalbach, a little village of Nassau, about nine miles north-west of Mayence, under the name of the Comtesse de Pierrefonds. She is said to be suffering from a derangement of the digestive organs; for which it is hoped that she will find a cure in those healing waters.

The following important promotions and appointments have been made:—Marshal McMahon, Duc de Magenta, to the Governor-Generalship of Algeria; General Bazaine, who has commanded the French troops in Mexico with great success since the departure of Marshal Forey, to the rank of Marshal of France; and General de Martimprey, who has been temporary Governor-General of Algeria since the death of the Duc de Malakhoff, to the rank of Senator.

Every country has its favoured class and its pariahs, its licensed bullies and its legally recognised victims. The latter in one country may be the pauper, in another the apple-woman; on Prussian railroads the foreigner has filled this part; in France the unprotected class is the lodger, the licensed tormentor is the concierge or porter. A case occurred lately in the police-courts of Paris, in which these distinctions were brought out so strongly that the law was obliged for once to disown its pet. Adolphe Derouet, the concierge of a certain lodging-house, was a man of exquisite nerves; there were things which completely destroyed his moral equilibrium, and from which he felt constrained to free himself at any cost. Among these antipathies of his was one to white albino-coloured hair. As ill-luck would have it, one of the lodgers, Lockmann by name, was unprincipled enough to be the possessor of a *chevelure* of that colour. The duties of Derouet's office obliged him to see this daily. His indignation boiled within him, and he told Lockmann more than once that 'he would drag his white hairs in the dust.' The means he adopted to effect this object were, to say the least, peculiar. Meeting him casually one day, he gave him a violent kick in the stomach, and then beat him about the head with a glass tumbler. Lockmann thought the delicate nerves of his concierge might be lulled to a state of less painful sensibility by a few months in prison, and accordingly summoned him for assault. Derouet pleaded his excuse, but the obdurate magistrate agreed with Lockmann, and the astonished concierge was committed for three months.

The following fact (?) is chronicled in the French journals:—'A gentleman was shooting over his land on the first day of the season (the names and localities are of no importance), when he came upon a covey of fourteen partridges *feeding*; he fired at them on the ground, and killed thirteen out of the fourteen at one shot!' Truly, partridge shooting in France must be a noble sport. One may fairly ask whether the French partridges adopted their detestable habit of running instead of flying as a generous concession to the weakness of the sportsmen of their native country, who so much prefer a ground shot to one on the wing.

GERMANY.

It is now hoped that any difficulties which may have arisen in the Conference of Vienna will not be so great as to require the *penultima ratio* of a notice of resumption of hostilities on the 15th inst. A sub-commission has been sent into the Duchies to determine the new frontier, and its report is expected shortly to appear.

The new difficulty with regard to the commercial treaty with France is that which principally occupies the minds of the Berlin and Vienna diplomats. Austria has demanded a modification of one article in that treaty as the condition of her entrance into the Zollverein. The *Patrie*, on behalf of France, declares that 'France is determined to consent to no change whatever in that treaty, the ratifications of which will be exchanged between the two Governments on October 31.' The *Norddeutsche Zeitung*, however, thinks that the French Government has already proved that it can make allowance for circumstances, and will show itself ready to reconsider the treaty. Such are the first fruits of non-intervention. France allowed Germany to do what it pleased with Denmark, and now the Germans think they can do what they please with France. It appears that the tone assumed by Herr von Rechberg has somewhat surprised the Prussian Cabinet. They had expected him to demand, on behalf of Austria, some guarantees for her non-German possessions as the price of her adoption of the commercial treaty, whereas he has now forced them, by the dexterity of his management, to reopen entirely afresh the international conferences on the customs question. They are to meet at Berlin. The representative of Austria is to be Herr von Hock, a disciple of free trade, and therefore one who will entirely agree with the principles of the Franco-Prussian treaty, which must form the basis of any new customs union in Germany.

The Assembly of Darmstadt has called upon their Ministry to give their adhesion to the terms of the new Zollverein, under any circumstances, before October 1.

A report has been going the round of the papers that a Congress of Princes is to be held at Berlin, to which a Prussian proposition for federal reform will be submitted. This report is denied by the Austrian journals: *nous verrons.* The last Congress of Princes at Frankfort was very near being a great success for Austrian diplomacy, and Prussia may think it worth her while to repeat the experiment for her own advantage.

The question of the Austro-Prussian Alliance has been discussed very fully by the Vienna correspondent of the *Kölnische Zeitung.* He says that it is false that Austria does not oppose the wish of Prussia to make territorial acquisitions in North Germany. Such acquisitions are expressly forbidden by the terms of the treaty of alliance, which treaty has not yet been in any way modified. All that Austria will allow to Prussia is the occupation of a military and naval position in the Duchies, in conformity with the law of the German Confederation. If Prussia demands the smallest slice of territory—if it lays a hand even on the Duchy of Lauenberg—Austria will require the restitution of Silesia in exchange.

As to the Duchies their position is daily simplifying

itself. They were originally condemned to inaction when Austria and Prussia came forward to fight for their liberation; and in the same passive state they must be content to remain while their fate is decided in the council-room from which they are excluded. There will be a little bill to pay, and if they are told to pay it they will be forced to acquiesce, or, rather, their consent will not be asked to the arrangement. It is a very singular fact that the original grievance of the Duchies against Denmark was that very non-recognition of their existence which they now suffer from their own countrymen. The people of the Duchies are fully alive to this. A meeting of landed proprietors of the middle class, that is, not belonging to the Ritterschaft, was held at Kiel on the 3rd inst. They rejected the resolution passed by the meeting of nobles in favour of an interim Austro-Prussian Government, and endorsed that passed by the inhabitants of the towns in favour of the Duke of Augustenburg by 25 votes to 6. A meeting of peasants is shortly to take place, in which the same resolutions will be passed. At the same time deputations continue to flow to Copenhagen from North Slesvig, demanding protection for their nationalities.

It appears that Lord Russell has again tried his hand at the settlement of the Slesvig-Holstein difficulties, and with exactly the same success as before. In a despatch addressed to the Courts of Vienna and Berlin, he called upon them to submit the question of the final destiny of the Duchies to the universal suffrage of the inhabitants. The answer which he received was one that is probably kept in stereotype by those Courts for his Lordship's special use:—'You should have thought of that before.' They quietly inform him that it is too late to introduce a new alternative into the subject. Great surprise has been manifested by the appearance of this despatch from Lord Russell; the key to the enigma has been found in another despatch of his of about the same date, in which he made a fresh attempt to induce France to join England in a protest against the dismemberment of Denmark. It has been met with a more decided rebuff than any of his former missives. It becomes daily more and more evident that the English Cabinet have completely misapprehended the policy of the Emperor on the Danish question. When he suggested vigorous measures, they chose to confine themselves to mere words; now that they have changed 'what they please to call their mind,' they are surprised to find that he also has embarked in another course.

One of the difficulties raised by Prussia with regard to the Duchies is a claim on Denmark for a proportionate part of the sum paid to her in lieu of the Sound dues. The sum originally fixed for this was $30,476,325, of which Prussia was to pay $4,440,027. A considerable part of this remains unpaid, and Prussia now proposes to transfer her debt from Denmark to Slesvig-Holstein, as a fair proportion of the whole indemnity. What the Duchies may have to do with the Sound it is hard to see; we in England, at least, should think it a very cool request on the part of a seceding colony, Canada for instance, should it require from us a proportionate part of the profits arising from the trade of London; yet this would be very nearly parallel.

Politicians can scarcely be at fault in drawing an ominous conclusion from the coincidence of the visits of the Empress Eugenie and the King of Prussia to the waters of Schwalbach. The Empress being there, what more natural than that her Imperial spouse should pay her a visit? And if the visit took place during the stay of the King of Prussia, could the two monarchs avoid a meeting without marked rudeness? It is shrewdly suspected that something is on the *tapis* between France and Prussia: the Prussian Minister, Herr von Roon, was received at Châlons with peculiar cordiality; and there are not wanting signs of the wane of Denmark in Imperial favour. Whether any understanding between these two Powers would result in a new rectification of frontier, or in combinations of future importance, it would be idle to attempt to guess. Neither the one nor the other possibility is calculated to allay the present uneasiness of Europe.

The Duke of Augustenburg's memorial to the Diet has been printed and distributed to the members. The Grand Duke of Oldenburg, it is said, has found it impossible to frame a memorial in vindication of his own claims, so few and weak are the facts upon which they rest.

We last week noticed the result of the race for the continental St. Leger, contested on the first day of the Baden-Baden meeting. The second and third days furnished sport of considerable interest. The Prix des Produits brought four horses to the post, and was won by Vermout in the hollowest style by four lengths: oddly enough, the three first horses in the race were by the same sire, Nabob, their names being Vermout, Arcturus, and Poudrière. The Prix de l'Avenir, of 4,000fr., for two-year-olds bred on the Continent, was an interesting affair. The betting was even on Count de Lagrange's Le Bearnais, the brother of the speedy Cosmopolite, 2 to 1 against the Duc de Morny's Lelio, a colt by West Australian, who ran his maiden race last July at Newmarket, and was noticed in our columns as an illustration of the practice of running a racehorse unshod: and 4 to 1 against the Duc de Morny's Clermont, also by West Australian. The favourite in the event ran indifferently, and the race was left to the pair of the Duc de Morny, Clermont winning on sufferance. The Italian filly Vimeira, by Stradbally out of Flea, was third. The Duc de Morny not only placed confidence in his own horses to the advantage of his own pocket, but also that of his friend Prince Charles of Prussia. On the third day of the races the sport commenced with the Prix de Carlsruhe, which also fell to Clermont, Le Bearnais being second, and Vimeira third. The Prix d'Eberstein followed, and was won by M. H. Delamarre's Fidelité by Monarque, Arcturus being second. The interest of the public was, however, concentrated on the 'Grand Prix de Bade,' a race which, founded only in the year 1858, already bears on its roll of winners such names as Mon Etoile, Stradella, and La Toucques. Additional excitement was created by the fact that Vermout and Fille de l'Air were again to meet, while the excellent Dollar was also to imperil the chances of both the great continental three year olds. It will be remembered that in the continental St. Leger Fille de l'Air defeated Vermout by a neck at even weights. In the Grand Prix the mare had to concede 6 lbs. in the weights. This fact coupled with the consideration that Vermout was likely to be all the better for his gallop in the race run four days previously induced the public to prefer him to the mare, the betting being 5 to 4 against Vermout, 7 to 4 against Fille de l'Air, and 3 to 1 against Dollar. Vermout pursuing the tactics which gained the victory at Paris over the mighty Blair Athol, made all the running, and won easily by two lengths, Dollar being second, and Fille de l'Air third; Beatrix was fourth, Affidavit fifth, and the Italian Benvenuto last.

DENMARK.

The Prince and Princess of Wales left Scotland on the 5th inst. in Her Majesty's steam-yacht *Osborne*, to pay a visit to the native country of the Princess. They travel *incognito* under the title of Baron and Baroness Renfrew, not of course with any idea of secresy, but to save themselves from the tedium of royal receptions which otherwise would dog their every step. Their visit has not failed to attract great attention. The Danish journals have commented upon it with great freedom. The Opposition papers have taken the opportunity, with more acrimony than good taste, to vituperate the foreign policy of England, charging it with all the misfortunes which Denmark has undergone. 'Tis true, 'tis pity: pity 'tis, 'tis true;' and none have been more ready to confess it than the English nation itself; but to take the present occasion to repeat the miserable story is an ungracious and inhospitable act. Some journals have gone so far as to require the Danish people to receive the royal pair in perfect silence, or rather not to receive them at all, but to leave the routine work of compliment to those who are paid for doing it. Of course nothing could be more unjust than this. Whoever may be guilty of the late misdeeds, the Prince and Princess at least are innocent. It is said that an illustrious lady, one day finding the Princess in tears for the miseries of her native country, said to her: 'Go and cry in Rotten Row, and you will have every man in England in arms for you.' But neither in this way nor in any other have the Prince and Princess attempted to influence the politics of England. Nothing, then, could be so unjust as to wreak upon them the vengeance due to others' faults. Nor were the Danes at all disposed to take the advice. Slow though they may be in action, they are most remarkably fond of amusement: even in the depths of the war it was a cause of surprise to all strangers that they could continue to amuse themselves, to frequent Vauxhalls, concerts, and casinos with the most *insouciant* gaiety. Every preparation was therefore made to receive the guests suitably; garlands and flowers, arches, festoons, and the other paraphernalia of festivity decorated the old town of Elsinore, the appointed 'haven where they would be;' and good reason they had for wishing to be there, for the weather was undeniably 'ugly,' with a steady rainfall. The whole Danish fleet were assembled to do honour to the occasion, and to act as a sort of body-guard to the King, whose impatience to see his daughter again scarcely allowed him to remain on shore while she was at sea. The approach of the *Osborne* was heralded by the arrival of H.M.S. *Aurora*, Captain Sir Herbert M'Clintock, the famous Arctic navigator. But the long wished-for moment was for some time deferred. On the morning of the 6th the town of Elsinore was awakened by the booming of a gun, and all men rushed to see whether the *Osborne* had at last appeared. The sea was white with ships taking advantage of a long-delayed wind to pass through the Sound, but no *Osborne*. As the day wore on the town began to swarm with uniformed officials; then the different members of the Royal Family appeared; the King and Queen were received with loud huzzas, which may have convinced them that much of the seeming Danish disloyalty is only a transient fit of sulkiness. At last the ship appeared, but only to lie to for an hour or more at a provoking distance off. The fact was that the Princess had suffered severely on the voyage, and required a little rest to fit her to receive her relatives. At last the signal for disembarkation was given; the King and Queen came down to the landing jetty, and the *Osborne* steamed slowly up amid the thundering salutes of the fleet. Denmark was all on tiptoe to see the beloved Princess, and she, no less anxious to see her country and her family, stood with the Prince at the top of the paddle-box waving her handkerchief to those on shore; at last even the baby was brought up and held on high for the inspection of all who chose. The King and Queen felt then that they were also grandfather and grandmother; impatient of longer delay, they embarked in a ship's boat and rowed off to the royal yacht. They were received by the Prince at the gangway, but scarcely had they appeared on deck when the Princess rushed first into her father's arms, and then into those of her mother. The inspection of the baby came next, and it was evident that he met with complete approval. The ship had now touched the pier; the whole party landed, and listened patiently to the inevitable address from the burgomaster, after which they drove off to the royal castle of Fredensborg. The Czarewitch Nicholas, who has been spending some little time in Denmark, arrived at Elsinore but a few moments before the Prince and Princess; it is hoped that the two royal heirs-apparent will find an opportunity of meeting and fraternising, to the advantage of both of them. There are stories rife in the romantic world which would convert the happy home of the Danish King into the abode of one of those mediæval 'stern parents' who rejoiced in daughters beautiful as the day, whither the young princes were always flocking, and the rival suitors fought one another daily for the honour of her hand. It is said that not only the Czarewitch, but also Prince Humbert of Italy, has seen the fair sister of our Princess, and wished to share with her his future crown. If so—well, the house of Romanoff is proverbial for handsome men, while the house of Savoy is not.

The Czarewitch left Fredensborg on the 8th inst.; he proceeds through Oldenburg and Hanover to meet his Imperial father. The two Crown Princes are said to have been on the best of terms, and there is every prospect that the Prince and Princess of Wales will go to St. Petersburg after their projected visit to Stockholm.

An address bearing the signatures of several thousands of the inhabitants of Copenhagen has been presented to the King. It expresses the satisfaction felt by the people in the late change of Ministry, and their distrust of the 'Eider-Dane' party. It concludes with a promise that the undersigned will make every necessary sacrifice for the honour and prosperity of their country. The King was so much gratified with the address that he kept the deputation which presented it to dine with him.

The political committee of the Rigsraad has published a very lengthy report, from which we extract the most important points. Shortly after the resumption of hostilities, before the capture of Alsen, the then newly-appointed Bluhme Ministry made up their minds that further resistance was useless; there was no hope of foreign help; at home the Ministers for War, Marine, and Finance were agreed in declaring that the means at their disposal were inadequate; the only course open was to treat for peace upon such terms as could be obtained; these involved the cession of the whole territory south of the Jutland frontier. The committee leave it to the House to consider whether the conclusion arrived at by the Ministry was justified by facts, and whether the terms accepted were such as ought to have been allowed. The committee then takes notice of two petitions, one from 119 Slesvigers praying the House to reserve the right of the Slesvig population to a universal vote by districts; the other from 1,036 heads of families in the Jutland enclaves and the Duchy of Slesvig, praying that they may not be separated from Denmark. The committee then proceed to deny the right of any person or body to vote away the Duchy of Slesvig except the Rigsraad in which members for that Duchy sit. But since, in consequence of the war, there are scarcely any of the Slesvig members now sitting in the House, the committee proposes to elicit the opinion of the Slesvigers themselves by means of a universal vote by districts. They acknowledge the difficulty of obtaining a free vote from a country in military occupation, but they determine to run that risk rather than take upon themselves the responsibility of voting for the countries thus occupied.

SWITZERLAND.

Tranquillity has been restored at Geneva, and no further arrests have taken place. The envoy of the Emperor of Mexico, M. Baraudiaran, has presented his credentials to the Federal Council.

M. Chenevière, the gentleman on whose election the riots occurred, has been sworn in to his office by the Federal Council.

The International Congress, which has been sitting at Geneva with a view to regulate the position of hospitals and wounded in time of war, has terminated its labours, and the following ten resolutions have been adopted and signed, under reserve of ratification, by the representatives of Belgium, Baden, Denmark, Spain, France, Hesse, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Prussia, Switzerland, and Wurtemburg:—

Art. 1. Ambulances and military hospitals are regarded as neutral, and as such protected and respected by the belligerents (so long as they contain sick or wounded). The neutrality would cease should such hospitals have a military guard.

Art. 2. All *employés* of the hospital, including the almoners, carriers of the wounded, &c., will enjoy the benefits of this neutrality as long as there are wounded to be attended to.

Art. 3. The persons designated in the above article may, even after occupation by the enemy, continue to perform their duties in the hospital or ambulance to which they may be attached, or withdraw to join the division to which they may belong.

Under these circumstances, when their functions shall have ceased, they will be escorted to the enemy's outposts by the army in occupation.

Art. 4. As the *matériel* of military hospitals comes under martial law, the persons attached to those hospitals may not, on leaving, take away with them anything except what is their own personal property.

Under the same circumstances, however, an ambulance preserves its *matériel*.

Art. 5. Inhabitants of the country who give help to the wounded are respected and remain free. The generals of the belligerent Powers are called upon to forewarn the inhabitants of the call made upon their humanity, and of the neutrality consequent thereupon.

Any wounded man taken into a house will be its safeguard. Any inhabitant who has taken in the wounded will not be billeted upon or submitted to war contributions.

Art. 6. The wounded or sick are taken care of, no matter to what nation they belong.

Those will be sent back to their homes who, after being cured, are deemed incapable of further service.

The others may also be sent home, but on the condition of not resuming arms during the war.

The escorts on this service are to be respected as neutrals.

The commanders-in-chief have the power to hand over to the enemy's outposts the wounded during the combat when circumstances permit it, and with the consent of both parties.

Art. 7. A distinct flag and uniform is adopted for the hospitals, ambulances, and escorts. On all occasions the national flag must accompany it.

A badge may also be allowed to denote a neutral, to be granted only by the military authorities.

The flag and badge will bear a red cross on a white ground.

Art. 8. The general details of these regulations will be settled by the commanding officers of the belligerent Powers, according to the instructions from their Governments.

Article 9 calls the attention of other Governments to this convention, inviting them to join it. Article 10 states that the ratification of the convention is to take place at Berne within four months, or earlier if possible.

GREECE.

THE following letter, addressed to the King of the Greeks by a member of the National Assembly, has created a perfect storm in the country:—

Athens, August 26.

SIRE,—To expel Otho, a Sovereign whom as an individual we acknowledge to be a worthy man, we Hellenes did not hesitate to stake the fate of our country, because the royalty under Otho had become a centre of intrigue. Sire, the whole of the capital of the kingdom is convinced, and within two days all Greece will be so likewise, that your Court has descended in a mass into the political arena, and made use of your name in a scandalous manner on the occasion of the election for President of the National Assembly. Sire, the object of the contest for the Presidency was evidently the correction of your Court, which has for some time past been conspiring against the oath made by the constitutional King towards the nation—a Court which a great national majority is endeavouring by peaceful measures to replace in its proper sphere. Corruption has, however, gained the day, and the victory of the courtiers is both prejudicial to the King and a misfortune to the nation. Sire, the policy now pursued alienates the King from the love of the people—a love on which you have based your strength and your authority. Greece cannot possibly tolerate such a course, and myself, the most humble of your subjects, moved by the grief which I feel, from my attachment to my king and to my country, supplicate your Majesty to save from further embarrassment the land in which you have declared to wish to live and die as a Hellene.—Your Majesty's very sincere and very obedient subject, EUTHIMIO PLASTERAS,

Representative of Lepanto.

Immediately upon the reception of this, the Ministry proposed a vote of censure on the member who had been guilty of such an unconstitutional proceeding. After a debate, which finally culminated in a hand-to-hand fight, the vote was passed; but such were the fears of a popular movement, that all the houses in Athens remained closed during the whole day. Demonstrations against the Ministers have been made on the classical ground of Thebes and Chalcis. At Nauplia a scurrilous song attacking the King, Count Sponneck, and the Court, was in general circulation.

The King of Greece is officially reported to be betrothed to the Grand-Duchess Alexandrovna of Russia; the unity of faith between those two crowns makes such a connection desirable for both. By this marriage our own Royal Family will be very nearly connected with that of Russia.

Greek securities are on the rise; by a telegram from Athens we are informed that the debt of 1824-25 has been recognised—the original capital of 7,000,000*l.* having been consolidated at 2¼ millions bearing 5 per cent. interest.

SPAIN.

The Queen has given an audience to Señor Fasio, the envoy of the Emperor of Mexico, and received his credentials. Her Majesty, in reply to his address, expressed a hope that the relations between Spain and Mexico would ever be as amicable as their identity of origin, the similarity of their manners, and the evident accordance of all their interests demanded.

PERU.

It is feared that the Peruvian Government will not be disposed to accept the terms of accommodation proposed by Spain. Among these terms no mention is made of the restoration of the Chincha Islands, and the Peruvian Cabinet will decline to treat with Spain upon any basis but that.

CHINA.

Despatches have been received from the English Minister in China, Sir Frederick Bruce, containing most cheering reports on the state of our commerce with that country.

The import trade has increased from 41,000,000 taels (about 13,000,000*l.*) in 1860 (the last year before the opening of the Yangtze and the northern ports) to 81,000,000 taels (about 27,000,000*l.*) in 1863.

This increase is due, in a great measure, to the large and increasing trade, from the ports opened on the Yangtze, in Chinese produce of all descriptions. Owing to the violence of the winds and the rapidity of the currents in certain places, the application of steam to navigation was required before the Yangtze could be made available as a highway for transport. The decks of the steamers are now crowded with Chinese passengers, and their holds are filled with produce destined, not for foreign export, but for Chinese consumption.

The export trade has increased still more largely during the same time, one reason for which is found in the fact that Shanghai has now become an *entrepôt*, where goods are collected to be distributed to different ports of China, Japan, and the Western world.

The entries of foreign-owned tonnage employed in carrying this trade have increased, within the above-mentioned period, from 293,568 to 996,890.

The city of Nankin has capitulated, and the city of Cangsing has been captured. A camp of instruction has been formed under Colonel Gordon for the purpose of training the Chinese troops.

THE French are rapidly extending their influence in the East. A new Franco-Annamite treaty has been concluded, containing the following important articles:—

The establishment of a French protectorate in six provinces of Lower Cochin China.

The opening of three important ports on the Annam coast, with the concession of nine kilometres of ground in the vicinity of each port, where French merchants shall be at liberty to travel and trade.

Entire liberty is granted to French missionaries to propagate the Christian religion throughout the whole kingdom.

The establishment of consular agents at Hue and the ports opened to commerce.

Payment of an indemnity of 100,000,000 francs to the French Government.

JAPAN.

We have advices from Nagasaki to as late a date as the 15th of July. General Brown and Sir Rutherford Alcock were both at Nagasaki at that date, on their way to the Straits of Simonoseki. It is clear, therefore, that the resolution to open the passage of the Inland Sea to foreign vessels has been definitively taken. As we hear of no fleet or land force accompanying these high officials, it is very possible that whilst General Brown may embrace the opportunity of reconnoitring what may prove to be the scene of future hostile operations, Sir Rutherford will endeavour to settle whatever points are in dispute by direct negotiations with Tsiosiu, the powerful Daimio who at present stands opposed to the free navigation of the Inland Sea by foreign vessels, and whose fortresses have been the sole impediment to their making use of it.

THE LATE BISHOP POLK.

THE following account of the circumstances attending the acceptance of a military commission by the late Bishop Polk was addressed by the Rev. Dr. Goodrich, of the diocese of Louisiana, to a New York paper.

In the early stages of this unhappy war, Bishop Polk seemed to have the impression that the President of the Confederate States was not sufficiently alive to the importance, in a military point of view, of the Valley of the Mississippi. The Bishop's familiarity with that country, derived from a long residence in Tennessee and Louisiana, and his frequent visitations as Missionary Bishop on both sides of the Mississippi River, and his early education at West Point, qualified him to judge as wisely, perhaps, as any other man of certain places as defensive positions, in case of any invasion of that territory. In an interview with the President of the Confederate States, in Richmond, he gave his ideas freely to Mr. Davis, entering into detail of what he thought to be the wisest measures to be adopted for the military defence of the country. The President listened with interest to all the Bishop had to say, and, when he closed, remarked that he entirely concurred in the opinions which had been expressed: and 'you, Bishop, are the very man to undertake that defence.' Bishop Polk was taken very much by surprise, and declined the task, on the ground of its incompatibility with his ecclesiastical office.

The President urged, in reply, that such were the perilous conditions of the Southern States, that every lover of the country should feel himself bound to take part, as he was best qualified, in its defence; and that the Bishop's military education, and his intimate knowledge of the country west of the mountains, seemed to point him out as one well fitted for that department.

Bishop Polk was much impressed with the conversation of the President, but left him without any encouragement that he would accept the position. Bishop Meade was at that time in Richmond, and Bishop Polk, having repeated to him the particulars of the interview with President Davis, asked his opinion on the subject. Bishop Meade declined any advice, stating it was a very grave matter, one with respect to which Bishop Polk must determine for himself, in the light of his own conscience before God, but there was a man in Richmond in whose Christian judgment he had great confidence, and whose opinion on the subject he thought would be entitled to much consideration. That man was Colonel Lee, now the distinguished leader of the Confederate armies.

Before Bishop Polk had an opportunity of calling upon Colonel Lee, the Colonel called upon him, and introduced the subject by signifying to the Bishop that he ought to take command in the army for the defence of the South. 'Has Bishop Meade said anything to you on this subject, Colonel Lee?'

'No; I have spoken to no one; I have come of my own mind to converse with you on this matter.' 'And do you think, Colonel Lee, that I, a Bishop in the Church of God, am called in this crisis to take command in the army for the defence of the country?' 'I certainly think so.' The Bishop then repeated the conversation he had had with Bishop Meade.

The result was, Bishop Polk was nominated to command, and accepted at the hands of the President the office of major-general in the army of the Confederacy.

I give you the above as I received it nearly three years ago while residing in the city of New Orleans. I do not make myself responsible for its literal exactness, but I entertain no doubt of its substantial accuracy.

I may also add, that some time before I left the South, while General Polk was in command at Columbus, I had occasion to address him a letter of a private nature, in reply to which he alluded to the step he had taken in assuming military command. He expressed great regret at the necessity which had demanded it—his fervent desire and prayer soon to return to the sacred and far more congenial duties of his episcopal office—the satisfaction it afforded him to know that his course was approved by those whose opinions he had been accustomed to value, but that, however others may judge, he was perfectly clear in his own mind, having taken the step in full conviction of his duty to God and man. The letter in which these and like sentiments were expressed I have not with me. It was left with others in New Orleans, else it would afford me pleasure to send you a copy, that you might see in it the spirit with which the Bishop of Louisiana entered into the military service of the Confederacy.

STRAWS.—A correspondent from Manchester sends us the following:—"'Straws indicate the way the wind blows.' The following paragraph, taken from a letter of a little girl twelve or fourteen years of age in Ohio to her uncle in this city, shows the condition and feeling of the people in the agricultural districts of Ohio:—'Uncle has been drafted this week, leaving his farm, &c., with his wife and four little children. He says very truly his liberties with his fellow white men have been taken away. Compelled to go and fight for the liberty of the black man—the 'cussed nigger' whom God Almighty never meant to associate with white people! It has almost broken our hearts to see for a long time past our neighbours and their sons dragged away to this war, never to return, with very few exceptions, and those too frequently maimed for life." This letter was shown me by a gentleman who, twelve months since, was rather disposed to sympathise with the "freedom shriekers" of Yankeedom; but a change has "come o'er the spirit of his dream," and he now thinks that the truest and best friend of the black man is his Southern master.'

LETTER FROM NASSAU.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NASSAU: August 22, 1864.

STAGNATION OF TRADE—RAVAGES OF THE YELLOW FEVER—BLOCKADE-RUNNING—EMANCIPATION DAY.

SINCE my last, of July 4, the importance of our little island in a commercial point of view has been under a cloud. The 'phantom' commerce, which was wont to move the wheels of trade and infuse a life of pleasant excitement into the community, has deserted us for our sister ports of Bermuda, and in its wake has followed the swarm of speculators with their goods, who fatten upon its necessities. Our usually thronged harbour is therefore, comparatively speaking, bare of shipping, and our hotels and boarding-houses present 'a beggarly account of empty benches.' We cannot regret this, however, in view of the terrible epidemic with which we have been scourged, and which has only within the past few days evidenced signs of abatement. But few who were not already seasoned to a tropical climate escaped its attacks, and, I am sorry to say, they have proved unprecedentedly fatal. From the lack of system observable by the authorities, it is impossible at the present time to ascertain the exact number of deaths (although in my next I hope to furnish full statistics), but they are estimated by one of our prominent physicians to have been considerably over 200 in the short space of six weeks—a rate of mortality hitherto unknown upon the island. Its ravages among the shipping have been terrible in some cases, as in that of the *Kitty Jones*, the captain and three-fourths of the entire crew being swept off, and scarcely a vessel remains in the harbour that has not contributed three or four victims to the insatiate maw of the plague. Every day we hear of its having broken out upon vessels that left here when it first made its appearance. Even the *Medea*, the man-of-war upon the station, is reported to have put into New York with sixty cases on board. We can now, however, congratulate ourselves upon its approaching disappearance, a change in the weather, and the mitigated type assumed by the late new cases, all giving assurance to our expectations. As you may naturally suppose, the business of running the blockade has not been as lively as usual; still the average of its inefficiency has been maintained. Since the 4th ult. the following arrivals and departures have taken place:—

Arrivals: July 5, *Coquette*, Wilmington; July 26, *Fox*, Charleston; July 26, *Lucy*, Wilmington; July 30, *Prince Albert*, Charleston; July 30, *Syren*, Wilmington; August 1, *Druid*, Charleston.

Departures: July 4, *Prince Albert*, Charleston; July 6, *Little Ada*, Savannah; July 6, *Coquette*, Wilmington; July 12, *Annie*, Wilmington; July 22, *Will o' the Wisp*, Wilmington; August 5, *Prince Albert*, Charleston; August 5, *Druid*, Charleston; August 6, *Fox*, Charleston; August 9, *Syren*, Wilmington.

As we have no captures reported by the *Corsica*, it is fair to presume upon the safe arrival of all the last departures, in which case we have to record, since last table forwarded, nineteen successful evasions of the blockade to two unsuccessful, the latter being the *Little Ada* (described in my last), and the *Jupiter*, upon her first outward trip; in both instances the cargoes were thrown overboard. Against these losses, we have the arrivals of two splendid boats—the *Stag*, from Greenock, July 22, and the *Hope*, from Liverpool, August 10; the latter is now loading, and leaves on Tuesday, and we hope the coming 'dark moon' will witness the entire resumption of business.

On the first day of August (Emancipation Day), the coloured inhabitants celebrated its anniversary with a procession, religious services, tea-drinking, &c., but from personal observation neither the enthusiasm nor the participation was very general. The Rev. Mr. Swann, an Episcopal clergyman, was invited to deliver a sermon on the occasion, of which I send you the following report clipped from a local newspaper (i. e. the *Guardian*):—

The prayers being over, the Rev. Robert Swann addressed a few extempore words to the Friendly Societies from the 4th verse of the 100th Psalm. He told them that, as an Englishman, slavery of all kinds was hateful to him. He did not, however, think that those who had received the boon of freedom had availed themselves of its blessings as they ought to have done. He believed that there was more drunkenness, more immorality, more lying, far less honesty in business transactions, less fidelity in servants with respect to contracts, and less reverence in worship, than there was before the days of Abolition. When he first arrived in the colony, the sight of a drunken man in the streets was an exception to the general rule; but now no one can pass through our thoroughfares without meeting three or four persons in a state of intoxication! He hoped the members of the Friendly Societies would use their utmost influence to discountenance this state of things. The rev. gentleman also remarked that, as the present generation died off, he thought it would be as well to discontinue the demons ration of August 1 as Emancipation Day, but rather keep it up only as the Anniversary of the Friendly Societies.

When you take into consideration the fact that this gentleman has spent the last twenty years of his life upon this island in the close and intimate relations with its people the office of a good and conscientious clergyman necessarily enjoins, his views thus openly expressed must furnish an example worth more to the unprejudiced mind in considering the great social problem than all the theories propounded by Exeter Hall since its establishment.

The dearth of trade prevents my furnishing you price-currents as usual; the few goods sold within the past few months have been disposed of at a very small advance on the invoice prices, holders being anxious to realise in order to escape the sickly season. Prices are, however, well maintained, in anticipation of the autumn trade, and freights evidence a marked advance.

RECRUITS.—Returns just issued for 1862 show that half the persons who offered themselves at the head-quarters of the recruiting districts of the United Kingdom were labourers, husbandmen, and servants. Of this class 394 in 1,000 were rejected on inspection: of mechanics employed in occupations favourable to physical development, such as carpenters, smiths, masons, 396 in 1,000 were rejected: of manufacturing artisans, as clothworkers, weavers, lacemakers, 455; of shopmen and clerks, 445. These figures show the relative proportions, but the absolute number of rejections was larger, as more than a fourth of the men had been previously passed by army or civilian surgeons, and were therefore picked men before this inspection. There was also a further examination of the men on joining their corps, but only 3 per cent. were rejected at that later stage. Considerably more than half the recruits of the year were Englishmen, nearly a third Irish, about a seventh Scotch. The largest proportion of rejections was among the Irish, the least among the Scotch. The ratio of tall men presented for examination—six feet and upwards—was (in every 10,000) 104 in the English districts, 194 in the Scotch, 91 in the Irish.—*Times*.

LETTER FROM HALIFAX.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia: September 1, 1864.

CIRCULARS from the Committee of the Bazaar in aid of the Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund, were received here by the last mail steamer from England, and the warm-hearted enthusiastic lady to whom they were sent has lost no time, but gone energetically to work that Nova Scotia may be duly represented in this rightly-called 'work of humanity.' The following are the names of the Halifax committee:—Mrs. W. J. Almon, Mrs. W. J. Stairs, Mrs. H. C. D. Twining, Mrs. A. G. Jones, Mrs. R. Hugonoin, Miss Pitsburg. The press here, with but one exception (and that a very insignificant Yankee organ, called the *Sun and Advertiser*), have given all possible publicity to the appeal of the committee, and there are good reasons for believing that it will be liberally responded to. The captains, pilots, pursers, and other officers on board the blockade-runners in port are subscribing most generously, as well as such Southern gentlemen as are temporarily residing here.

Our latest advices from Bermuda are most deplorable. The yellow fever is making fearful ravages there. All who can leave have left, but the military are suffering fearfully, losing from twenty to twenty-five men a day. H.M.S. *Jason* has just returned from taking some ten or twelve additional surgeons down, who were sent on from Canada, and she leaves again to-morrow with others. Many of these go to almost certain death.

The prevalence of the yellow fever at Nassau and Bermuda has of course put a stop to the blockade business from those ports and directed it here. Of recent arrivals I may mention the *North Heath* (now upon the marine railway undergoing extensive repairs), the *Little Hattie* (also upon the railway replacing a portion of her stern which had been knocked away), the *Helen* from Bermuda, the *Owl* from Bermuda, and the *Falcon*. The latter vessel sailed from this port for Wilmington a few weeks ago, and had passed the outer blockading squadron, when she was chased and obliged to turn about and go to sea again. She returned to this port, and is now awaiting the proper time for another trial. The *Helen* and the *Owl* will also sail in a day or two. The *Constance* returned to port on Tuesday evening. She has been truly unfortunate. Some two or three months ago she came here for repairs, but could not get certain works satisfactorily executed, and at the time she expected to leave port the captain and engineer had to proceed to England to get the work done there. This caused a delay of some six weeks. She finally put to sea a week ago last Wednesday, and was met outside by a Yankee cruiser, chased, and had to put into a friendly harbour to escape. The next day she proceeded on her voyage, and had got some five hundred miles from port when she sprang a leak and put back.

Mrs. Grinnell, the Southern soldier's friend, is here at present, awaiting an opportunity for returning to her self-imposed duty as hospital matron and nurse in the Confederacy.

The Hon. J. P. Holcombe arrived here from Canada last evening.

Gold is advancing again in the North, and is quoted to-night at 244⅜. On the 30th ult. it was down to 232½, falling suddenly to that figure, it is thought, in view of the many rumours of peace. Northern men here say it will advance to 300 before many weeks.

A STATESMAN'S VIEW OF THE AMERICAN QUESTION.—The following extract from a private letter, from one of the most distinguished continental statesmen, has been communicated to us, and we can only regret that we are not at liberty to give the name of the writer:—'I have read a great number of publications brought out by the war in America, and among others Mr. Williams's "Rise and Fall of the Model Republic." I was favourably impressed with its profound exposition of causes of this disastrous struggle, the good sense, and especially the admirable moderation with which so sad and painful a subject is treated. It is assuredly impossible, after reading this book, to be deceived by the language of demagogues who conceal their subversive passions under the cover of an absurd and lying philanthropy. The chapters which treat of slavery are masterly, and crush that revolting modern hypocrisy which is unfortunately the result of the callous egotism of our age and civilisation. In my opinion, the struggle between South and North is the natural and inevitable consequence of an error in the Constitution—a noble error, but still an error. The author seems to suppose that the sovereignty of the individual States could maintain itself. But this supposition is disproved by the facts. It is not intelligence which guides the masses; it is passion which sways and directs them. Every federation tends to the centralisation of power, and the respect for the letter of a Constitution, whether a Washington be its author or not, will always succumb to the principle of unity in the State. Doubtless the war has for the North to-day no other object than that of reducing the South to the condition of a province. Every other motive or object is simply a pretext. That the presidential elections have been the great arena in which the Constitution was first undermined and then overthrown—that passions the most violent, the most infamous in the choice of means, and the most tenacious in their hold, have seized upon this arena—all this is clear, but at the bottom of all this is the lust of power, the desire of dominion, consequently the wish to subjugate those who are thought weaker, and the sole guarantee of whose independence is a paragraph in a treaty or a Constitution. See what is now taking place in Germany on an infinitely smaller theatre. The union between the sovereign States is incessantly attacked by public opinion, which wants the unity of Germany and not the federation. I therefore see for the South no other alternative than to bend its head to the central power of the United States, or to separate from them completely in forming a new federation. In the former case the South would share the fate of the Northern States; in the second, the same evil and the same tendency will torment both confederations until unity in the one or the other is formally established.'

AN ORDER BY GENERAL HILL.—The following order was issued by General Hill, concerning the gallantry of the troops commanded by Mahone in recent engagements: 'Head Quarters, Third Army Corps, Aug. 4, 1864. General Order No. 17. Anderson's division, commanded by Brigadier-General William Mahone, has so distinguished itself by its successes during the present campaign as to merit the especial attention of the Corps Commander, and he tenders to the division, its officers and men, his thanks for the gallantry displayed by them, whether attacking or attacked. Thirty-one stand of colours, fifteen pieces of artillery, and 4,000 prisoners are the proud mementoes which signalise its valour, and entitle it to the admiration and gratitude of our country. (Signed A. P. HILL, Lieutenant-General.)'

GENERAL EARLY ON RETALIATION.

GENERAL EARLY on August 6 arrested six citizens of Hagerstown. One of the number escaped. The remainder were brought into the presence of the General. The following address to the prisoners has been put into the mouth of the General by a correspondent of the *Philadelphia Age*:—

Gentlemen,—I have had you arrested merely as 'hostages' to secure the release of six gentlemen residing near Hedgesville, in Virginia, who are now imprisoned by the Federal Government in consequence of the burning of the house of a Mr. Cookus by Confederate troops.

I have examined the facts in the case, and am thoroughly satisfied that the burning was purely accidental—that, in burning some railroad property which they had been ordered to destroy, the fire, in spite of their efforts, was communicated to the house of Mr. Cookus, not far distant. And yet those six gentlemen, a Rev. Mr. Tongue, a Methodist preacher in that village, who was remarkable as a pious, good man, who did not interfere with politics, and five other gentlemen in the neighbourhood, who were just as ignorant of the approach or purpose of the troops as any of you, are now in prison in consequence of the burning of that house.

The families were stripped of all their personal property, and having no means of conveyance the daughter of the preacher and the niece of one of the others walked eight miles to my headquarters, and with streaming eyes and sad hearts implored my aid in some manner to afford relief. They first wished me to arrest some of their Union neighbours; but I did not feel it proper for the Southern Confederacy to retaliate upon its own citizens. Those men, however misguided they may be, are still citizens of the State of Virginia, and under the protection of her laws; and we hope and trust they will soon see their errors, and yield a cordial allegiance to her Government. But if they should not, it must devolve on the State of Virginia to deal with them according to her own laws. A mere difference of political opinion ought not and must not subject them to military rule. And therefore, inflexibly opposed as I always have been to the destruction of private property, or the molestation of non-combatant citizens, yet it is always in the power of one army to force the other into retaliation.

To illustrate my own views on that subject, permit me to say that, very recently, a short distance across the river, I approved a very severe sentence of two years in the penitentiary, passed upon a soldier for stealing the horse of a notoriously decided Union man. I will further remark that this is the fifth time I have been in Maryland at the head of an army; yet I believe not one private house has been injured nor one non-combatant molested. Once I marched almost to the banks of the Susquehanna at Harrisburg, and thence down to Wrightsville, when the Federal troops, to escape our pursuit, set fire to the bridge in the middle, whence the flames rapidly extended westward, and from its proximity placed the town of Wrightsville in very imminent peril. My troops had just heard of the burning of the town of Darien, in Georgia, by the Federal army; a large number of my men were from that region, and very naturally felt a strong impulse to retaliation; but at my very urgent appeal they all, with alacrity and energy, joined in a united effort, and actually extinguished the flames in time to save the town, and were richly rewarded by the grateful thanks of its citizens, who also bitterly denounced their own troops for exposing them to such danger.

In York, Pennsylvania, I found two large manufactories engaged in making railroad cars for the Government, which, of course, it was my duty to destroy; but a slight examination satisfied me that to burn these would seriously endanger a large portion of the town; and hence I spared them for a moderate ransom. On my return I partly retraced my advancing track, and was greatly surprised to find so little evidence or trace of the passage of so large an army. In fact, except in horses and forage for the army, very little damage had been sustained.

Recently, in Maryland, the house of Governor Bradford was burned without my orders. But I must add that I approved it: and had I been present would have ordered it in retaliation for the burning of the house of Governor Letcher, whom I know to be a very poor man, and whose family were not allowed five minutes to remove clothing or other valuables. Afterwards, when in front of Washington, some of my troops were very determined to destroy the house of Mr. Francis P. Blair, and had actually removed some of its furniture, probably supposing it to belong to his son, the member of the Federal Cabinet. As soon as I came up, I immediately stopped the proceedings, and I compelled the men to return every article so far as I knew, and placed a guard to protect it. The house of his son, Montgomery Blair, a member of the Cabinet, was subjected to a different rule, for obvious reasons.

General Hunter, in his recent raid to Lynchburg, caused wide-spread ruin wherever he passed. I followed him about sixty miles, and language would fail me to describe the terrible desolation which marked his path. Dwelling-houses and other buildings were almost universally burned; fences, implements of husbandry, and everything available for the sustenance of human life, so far as he could do so, were everywhere destroyed. We found many, very many, families of helpless women and children who had been suddenly turned out of doors, and their houses and contents condemned to the flames; and in some cases, where they had rescued some extra clothing, the soldiers had torn the garments into narrow strips, and strewn them upon the ground for us to witness when we arrived in pursuit.

General Hunter has been much censured by the voice of humanity everywhere, and he richly deserves it all; yet he has caused scarcely one tenth part of the devastation which has been committed immediately in sight of the headquarters of General Meade and General Grant in Eastern Virginia. For example, in Culpepper county, where General Meade held his headquarters, almost every house and building has been burned; very few have escaped the flames, and utter desolation is seen on every hand. Even a small tannery, in sight of General Meade's headquarters, where a poor man tanned a few hides for the neighbours on the shares, to furnish shoes for the poor women and children who were necessarily left there, was burned by the army, and the half-tanned skins drawn from the vats and cut into narrow strips to prevent the possibility of their being useful.

Recently they have burned the residence of Andrew Hunter, near Charlestown, with all its contents, requiring his family to stand by and witness the destruction of their home. They did the same with the house of Edmund J. Lee, near Shepherdstown, and repeated it on the buildings of the Hon. Alexander H. Botelor.

Such things, of course, cannot be long endured, and must provoke retaliation whenever it is possible. Accordingly I lately sent General M'Causland to Pennsylvania. I did not wish to retaliate in Maryland, because we all hope and believe that Maryland will eventually be a member of the Southern Confederacy. I therefore sent him to Pennsylvania, with written instructions to demand of the authorities of Chambersburg a sum which would be sufficient to indemnify those gentlemen, and also pay some other damages which I specified in the order; and on default in their compliance, he was instructed to burn the town, which I learn was done. I was very reluctant, and it was a most disagreeable duty, to inflict such damage upon those citizens; but I deemed it an imperative necessity to show the people of the Federal States that war has two sides. I hope and believe it has had, and will have, a good effect. I saw with much pleasure, since then, an able article in the *National Intelligencer*, which called upon the North to consider gravely whether such a mode of warfare as they had inaugurated is likely to yield a success commensurate to its cost.

And now, gentlemen, I will repeat my sincere regret that I am obliged to subject you to this inconvenience. I have no object but to procure the release of those six citizens of Virginia who are now wrongfully imprisoned, and, therefore, will make you as comfortable as possible. It is notorious, that many of our most respectable citizens, who have been imprisoned by your Government for similar or less serious causes, have been confined in the same room with condemned malefactors. Gentlemen, you need have no fears of such treatment whilst in my custody. I propose to retain four of you, and release the fifth on his parole that he will use his utmost endeavours to procure the release of those six gentlemen. If he succeeds, you will be discharged at once; but if he fails to accomplish this within two weeks, he must surrender himself again to my custody.

In conclusion, I will add that no citizen or resident of Maryland had any previous knowledge of my purpose to arrest you; that your names were furnished by one connected with my army, and without reference to the greater or less intensity of your feelings. The fact that you are reputed to be Union men causes no bitterness of feeling on my part, for I do not forget that I was a Union man myself so long as I deemed Union possible. I was an old-line Whig, and voted for Bell and Everett. I was a delegate from Franklin county in the Virginia Convention, and zealously opposed and voted against the ordinance of secession from the beginning to the end. But the course of events has since thoroughly satisfied me of my error. I now conscientiously believe that it was an absolute necessity; that the political salvation of Virginia depended upon it.

Question by one of the Prisoners: Is it true, as reported, that you have to-day also arrested Dr. Kerfoot and Dr. Cost, at the College of St. James, for the same cause?

General Early replies: I have arrested them, but for a different purpose. There is in Winchester a clergyman named Dr. Boyd, advanced in years, a venerable gentleman distinguished for his Christian piety, and greatly respected in the community. Many months ago he was arrested by the Federal Government as a hostage for two members of a bogus Legislature in Western Virginia, who had been arrested by the Confederacy. After a long imprisonment, the Confederate Government, considering his age, his family, and other circumstances, consented to an exchange, and Dr. Boyd was released. But, very soon after, he was again arrested as a hostage for a man taken within our lines, in citizen's dress, and whose papers found upon him furnished convincing evidence that he was there under a corrupt agreement with a Federal Provost-Marshal in Maryland to decoy negroes from Virginia, to be used as substitutes or soldiers in the Federal army, the heavy bounties or profits to be divided between them. The Government did not treat him as a spy as it might have done, but sent him to Richmond as a prisoner of war, and Dr. Boyd was arrested as a hostage. After a long and tedious imprisonment, the Confederate Government, anxious to relieve so good a man, again consented to an exchange; but its prisoner was by that time ill with typhoid fever, and finally died in prison, which should, of course, have released Dr. Boyd. But he is still held on the pretext of being a hostage for some other. To effect his release, I have to-day arrested Dr. Kerfoot and Dr. Cost, at the College, but paroled them both, on condition that they procure the release of Dr. Boyd, or, if they fail to do this within two weeks, that they return to my custody.

Question by a prisoner (Rev. Mr. Edwards): General, please allow me to enquire whether there may not some difficulty arise from the fact that you have only five of us prisoners, and yet require the release of six?

General Early: That is very true, sir, but I can hardly suppose the Government will raise such a question, seeing the only effect would be to compel me to pick up a few more, sufficient to equalise the numbers.

The prisoners feelingly urged him to release them all, offering their parole in the strongest possible language. The General hesitated a long while, and was slow to yield. Finally, after long discussion, and several personal friends of the prisoners having vouched for their good faith, they were all released on the same conditions as were prescribed on the release of Dr. Kerfoot and Dr. Cost.

For the substantial accuracy of the report of General Early's remarks as given by our correspondent, he refers to all those who were present, including the prisoners themselves.

In private conversation, and on many occasions in public, in the presence of citizens of all shades of opinion, General Early intimated that he would frequently visit Maryland and Pennsylvania, and that he would pursue the war of retaliation as long and as bitterly as circumstances might require.

CANADA, MEXICO, AND THE UNITED STATES.—The prospect of an armistice in the United States naturally draws attention to the condition of the countries which border on that great Federation. In the extreme uncertainty which overshadows the destiny of the American Continent, in the doubt as to what may be the effect upon the minds of a proud and now almost a military people of their admitted failure to coerce a smaller nation by force of arms, we ask ourselves whether the result will be to disgust the public mind with that vain appetite for military glory which has led the nation into such unexampled calamities, or whether they will seek to avenge the discredit of their arms and compensate themselves for their recent losses by the invasion of neighbouring States. The question is momentous for Mexico and for Canada, and we have endeavoured to discharge our duty by pointing out the necessity of defence, and endeavouring to arouse our own colony to a sense of its danger.—*The Times*, September 15.

PEACE IN AMERICA.

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

SIR,—Permit me to call your kind attention to the progress of the Peace Address to the people of the United States from the people of Great Britain and Ireland, mention of which was made in your paper last week. This movement may now very properly be termed, without exaggeration, a national movement. The sympathy the address is meeting with in every town and hamlet in the United Kingdom is most encouraging to its promoters, while at the same time it is an all-convincing proof that the war policy meets with no favour in the minds and hearts of the British public. Everywhere the sentiment is the same. Ireland, which has suffered so much in the loss of its brave and generous sons—convinced that the sword can never unite the two peoples—is uttering its counsels in favour of peace.

Having recently spent some time in that island, and having mixed with all classes of its people while there, I am convinced, from the support I met with from the press, and the sympathy everywhere expressed for the success of the movement, that Ireland is not last or least in its earnest desire to see peace again reign over that once prosperous and happy country. On this great question the Irish people are unanimous—here is a platform on which the various parties meet in concord. The Protestant and Catholic both zealously unite to promote its object.

The movement is no less popular in this country. By every mail I am receiving such numbers of applications for blank forms that it is difficult to supply the demand; and these come not from one class of persons, but from all classes. One working man, residing in a town in the south of England, writes and says: 'I shall be very happy to serve the movement in obtaining signatures to the address, as I have relatives suffering from this long, and unfortunate, and butchering war.' After being supplied with forms, he writes: 'The address is being signed at the chapels, the public institutions, and many of the shops in the town.' A leading gentleman in Guernsey writes: 'If you will have the goodness to forward me copies of the forms in favour of peace in America, I shall have much pleasure in obtaining all the signatures I can to so desirable a document.' From another town of some 90,000 inhabitants came the following:—'I beg you will send me the necessary forms, and I will get as many signatures as I can. Send enough to supply the different places of worship. Trusting every success will attend your efforts, I am, &c.—P.S. I think we shall obtain at least 20,000 signatures here.'

The applications for blank forms are not confined to private individuals only. The following is from the proprietors of a leading journal in the West of England:—'If you will forward us forms, we will take signatures at our office to the peace address. Our circulation is very large, and we will comment in our columns upon the subject.' London, determined not to remain a silent spectator of the horrible strife, is speaking in a very practical manner in favour of peace. During the first five days after opportunity was afforded to the people for signing there were a vast number of signatures, including the names of noble earls, baronets, members of Parliament, clergymen, merchants, as well as those of artisans.

Surely this unanimous appeal to the people of the United States from people of the same race, of the same religion—nay, more, from their own kindred—*must* be heard above the din and tumult of the struggle, and in their counsels when they are deliberating as to who shall be the supreme ruler of their country and their liberties for another four years, the counsel so kindly offered in favour of peace will not be without its due influence. Apologising for trespassing, so much upon your valuable space, I am yours obediently,

JOSEPH PARKER,
Agent to the Society for Promoting the Cessation of Hostilities in America.

ARREST OF THE BISHOP OF NATCHEZ.—The *New York Freeman's Journal and Catholic Register* publishes the special order for the arrest of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Natchez. His offence was refusing to pray for Mr. Lincoln. The order says:—'First—That the said William Henry Elder, Bishop of Natchez, be expelled from the lines of the army of the United States, not to return without permission, on pain of imprisonment during the continuance of the rebellion. Second—That the Provost-Marshal close and hold military possession of St. Mary's Cathedral, situated in the city of Natchez, and all other houses or places of worship within this command, and under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of said Bishop William H. Elder, in which the prayer for the President of the United States has heretofore been, but is not now, read. Inasmuch, however, as the said Bishop William H. Elder has requested, in a respectful manner, that any action under said Order No. 31 be suspended "until communication can be had with the authorities at Washington," it is further ordered—That action under said Order No. 31, and the paragraphs "First" and "Second" of this order, be accordingly suspended until further orders; and that, in the meantime, the Provost-Marshal of Natchez cause the said William H. Elder, Bishop of Natchez, to report in person, within twenty-four hours after receiving a copy of this order, to the officer commanding the United States forces at Vidalia, and remain within his military lines under penalty of the immediate execution of the before-named orders. The Provost-Marshals at Natchez and Vidalia respectively will see to the strict observance of this order.—By order of Brigadier-General M. BRAYMAN. J. H. ODLIN, Captain and Assistant Adjutant-General.' The same paper observes: 'Bishop Elder, the Catholic Bishop of the see of Natchez, comprising the whole State of Mississippi, is a prisoner in the hands of negro soldiers under the command of Abraham Lincoln! The crime charged against him is nothing he has done, but it is that he has not conformed the religious liturgy of the holy Roman Catholic and Apostolic Church to the ritual prescribed by the satrap of Abraham Lincoln who commands the negro troops at Natchez! Bishop Elder, for not interpolating that holy office, which is said alike throughout the world, "from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same," with a special prayer for that scourge of the country, Abe Lincoln, has been made a prisoner. No public prayer has ever been said in New York, in a Catholic church, for Abe Lincoln! The Catholic ritual is permitted here, so far, without any Puritan interpolation. Bishop Elder, for performing the Catholic ritual, and prescribing its performances, as it is performed here in New York, has been seized, interdicted, and held a prisoner in Mississippi!'

THE LAST FIGHT ON THE WELDON ROAD.

(From the *New York World*, August 29.)

THERE is a disposition in official circles to claim the fight of last Thursday on the Weldon Road as a decided Union victory. This claim, however, will hardly bear criticism. It is true the enemy failed in his endeavour to drive our forces entirely away from that road; but it is also true that up to the time the battle ceased the advantages were with the Confederates. It is not to be disguised that there is a very serious and uneasy feeling growing up in the country touching evidences of weakness and incompetency in more than one of the corps commanders and subordinate generals of the army of the Potomac. If one single instance of mismanagement was all that we had to deplore, it might be overlooked, and placed to the credit of accident; but when there is a manifest inefficiency and want o preparedness every time an engagement takes place, it looks as though the whole machinery of the army was out of repair. There was blundering on July 30, when the mine exploded; again more blundering on the north of the James, where after two lines of the enemy's works had been captured, they were lost, owing to supports not being in readiness to sustain the captors of the works. The capture of the twenty-seven hundred men in the Fifth corps, after it had got possession of the Weldon road, was another evidence of a singular want of judgment in the formation of the line; and now this last battle was clearly a surprise. Our men were leisurely destroying a portion of the road, when the rebels unexpectedly swooped upon them, broke through our lines, gobbled up batteries and prisoners, recaptured four miles of the road, and only fell back at night when reinforcements to the Union forces came up. No doubt the enemy lost heavily: attacking parties usually do, as we have found to our cost; but it does not look well that the enemy when they attack should do so with so much more judgment and damage to us than are the attacks of the Union army upon them. They are on the alert to take our corps commanders by surprise, and attack our forces before intrenchments are thrown up. It has been our misfortune never to have surprised the enemy except at Spottsylvania and in the instance of the capture of the Weldon road, and we have a fatal habit of waiting till they throw up impregnable intrenchments before getting ready to attack them.

It is quite time the country was undeceived respecting the superlative nonsense of the administration press in laying such stress upon the occupation of a part of the Weldon road. It is undoubtedly true that it would be a sore inconvenience to the Richmond rebels if the Weldon road, with all its connections down to Savannah, were in the possession of our armies; but it must be remembered that all we have secured is a few miles below Petersburg. The whole of that immense line is in running order except at that one point, and the supplies which would otherwise go right through Petersburg to Richmond have now to be wagoned from a point perhaps twenty miles below Petersburg. The rebel army finds no difficulty in supplying itself at the lower end of the Shenandoah valley, a hundred miles away from any railroad. Early to-day keeps up his supplies of military stores entirely by wagons, and there is no reason at all why Richmond cannot steadily obtain all its customary supplies by means of the Weldon road, only that they are put to the inconvenience of wagoning them from a point below Petersburg, instead of sending them through direct.

The administration press have no right to be fostering these absurd delusions in the public mind. We can never defeat Lee's army or capture Richmond by tapping one end of a line of railroad, or by raiding upon another. If Lee is to be defeated, it is by a general competent to manœuvre him out of his works, and who can beat him afterward, or by one whose engineering talents can make his formidable defences useless. Even if the Weldon road, from end to end, were in our possession, the enemy have still the Danville road; granting that that may pass into our possession, Richmond is still fed by the James River canal, by what remains of the Virginia and Tennessee Road, by the Gordonsville road, by the Central road, and by a district immediately around it of very fertile country. Richmond is a great manufacturing point of army stores of all kinds, and it is quite time that the country and our generals were cured of these fantasies which attribute all the strength of the rebels, not the ability of their generals or to the stamina of their soldiers, but to the chance possession of a few miles of railroad iron. Thousands and tens of thousands of cities have stood sieges before railroads were ever known, and they are capable still of standing sieges, were railroads entirely dispensed with.

GENERAL FORREST AND THE NEGROES.—The *Richmond Enquirer* says:—'It is known that the negroes of the Methodist congregation at Uniontown, Alabama, recently contributed $1,000 to the Association for the Relief of Maimed Soldiers, and being informed that this contribution was sufficient to constitute a life director, they selected General Forrest for that honour.' The *Selma Reporter* publishes the General's letter to Dr. Neely acknowledging the compliment, in which he says:—'I am not indifferent to the compliment paid me by the "Methodist Congregation of Negroes at Uniontown." I prize this manifestation on the part of the negro more than I fear the thousand calumnies with which a defeated foe are endeavouring to blacken my name. It has been my fortune to have much dealing with the negro since I arrived at manhood, and I have uniformly treated them with kindness and humanity. Those that have been forcibly taken from me I know are sighing for the happy home from which they have been seduced. Those that heeded not the ridiculous promises of the Yankees, and who still remain with me, fly from his approaching footsteps with the same instincts of fear and danger that they would fly from a leprosy. I predict that, after peace shall have been restored, most of the negroes who have been decoyed from their homes, will gladly and joyfully return, infinitely preferring slavery among the Southern people to freedom in the North. Instead of being guilty of the atrocities charged upon me, I have uniformly expressed my sympathies for the negro. He has been deluded by false promises, and I had much rather make war upon the white man who has deceived him.'

The *Weser Gazette* states that the ship lately announced in the English papers as having hoisted the Confederate flag at Bremerhaven, is the *Osacca*, sister ship of the *Jeddo* purchased by the Prussian Government at Bordeaux, and that there is no truth in her transfer under the Confederate flag. The *Weser Gazette* intimates that Lootsen, the pilot who took her into Bremerhaven, must have perpetrated a hoax upon Lloyd's at London.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RAM *TENNESSEE*.

(From the *New Orleans Times*.)

THE ram *Tennessee* has been some two years building at Mobile, under the immediate eye of the rebel Admiral Buchanan, assisted by the best shipwrights and engineers procurable inside the Confederacy. No expense or pains have been spared to render her armament the most complete of any war vessel afloat, and for the purpose of harbour defence she was, without doubt, the most dangerous to encounter and difficult to capture of any craft which has ever been put afloat. Her length was about 180 feet, and her hull, which was originally intended for a man-of-war, was put together as staunchly and strongly as it is practicable to build one. Her iron armoury consists of 2½ inch iron plates, in bars eight inches wide, which are crossed and bolted together so as to leave no seam. Inside this iron-plating is 24 inches of solid oak, making about 30 inches of solid work on every part exposed to shot. Forward of and including her forward casemates, which embraces perhaps 15 feet in length and takes in also her pilot-house, this thickness is increased to 6 inches of iron and 30 of wood-backing. It is a noticeable fact that this extraordinary strength of iron and wood enabled her to withstand all the steel shot from our rifled pieces, our 11-inch solid shot from our ships of war, and 15-inch shell from the monitors, not one of which penetrated her ribs of iron, while near fifty shots altogether struck her in the engagement. The nearest approach to penetration was from a 15-inch missile from the *Manhattan*, which made a deep indentation in her broadside, and, by impaction, stove through her 2 feet of oak backing, causing the splinters to fly promiscuously inside. Though under way when this struck her, she is said to have stopped as if a magic wand had touched her. She was armed with four 6-inch Brooks's rifled guns of English make on her broadsides, and two fore and aft, seven and eight inch of same pattern. These, by the completeness of their carriages, could be handled by a single gunner with the greatest ease. Her ports were closed with shutters made of iron plates similar to her external plating. These were attached at the centre of one of their sides by a pivot, on which they revolved by means of a cog-wheel inside, and turned out of the way outside when her ports were opened. This was, in reality, a defective arrangement, and, in the fight, proved an element of weakness to her. Two of these shutters had their system of ratchets and cogs deranged during the action, and could not be afterwards opened. A third (her after one) was shot away entirely—that is to say, the pivot on which it turned was shot off and the shutter fell to the deck, leaving that port open and exposed to our gunners. The precision with which our gunboats aimed can be appreciated by the fact that some ten shots struck her in the neighbourhood of this port, and it was here that Admiral Buchanan was wounded. One of our shells striking in the edge of this casemate splintered the woodwork badly, and the rebel admiral was directing a gunner about clearing this so as to use the after-gun, when a shot struck the casemate and exploded, literally tearing the gunner to atoms and wounding General Buchanan in the thigh. He fell covered with the blood and brains of the slaughtered gunner. The *Hartford* had undertaken previously to run her down, the *Lackawanna* had followed suit, as had also the *Monongahela* and the *Ossipee*, but without making the least effect upon her solid walls of iron and wood. The *Hartford* had poured in a broadside, but her 11-inch shells had bounded off from her side like peas. The whole fleet had rained an infernal hail of iron upon her, fore and aft, and on either hand. The *Manhattan* had sent the persuasion of her 15-inch shells to add to the din about her head, but she held out until her admiral fell, and then, seeing that nothing more remained, she ran up the white flag and surrendered. Captain Pierre Giraud, of the United States steamer *Tennessee*, who was at the time on the gunboat *Ossipee*, was requested by the captain of the latter to go on board, and did so, and received the rebel admiral's sword in behalf of Admiral Farragut. In form the *Tennessee* resembles the old *Merrimac*, is doubtless fashioned after that short-lived craft, and is without doubt much improved over her. Her sides are sloped like the *Merrimac*, while her top is flat, and is composed of a network or grating of iron bars, 2½ by 8 inches, placed so as to leave intersecting spaces about 3 inches broad, and affording a complete ventilation to her gun-room while in action. Her rudder chains were a most serious element of weakness with her, being carried along her deck, and covered only with a plate of half-inch iron. They were, consequently, broken early in the engagement, and her rudder was subsequently managed by means of ropes and blocks, which had been attached prior to the action, evidently with a full appreciation on the part of Admiral Buchanan of this defect. Some stress has been laid on the fact of her smoke-stack having been carried away early in the contest, and the impression has been given that this contributed to her surrender. Nothing could be more unwarranted by the facts in the case. This smoke-stack was set on, and shot away only to a level with the top of the gun-room, and the only effect which could come from its loss would be to perhaps lessen the draught of her furnaces. She was armed with a formidable iron prow, which was intended to do some heavy ramming when other offensive devices failed her, and with this she steered for the *Hartford* at the beginning of the engagement. The superior sailing qualities of the *Hartford*, together with the eagle eye of the bluff old admiral, enabled him to out-manœuvre the *Tennessee*, and instead of receiving her running, the *Hartford* poured into her a broadside. 'Give her one bell, give her two bells, give her eight bells,' said the impetuous Farragut, and they blazed away accordingly. The balls flew off like hail from her iron sides, but she was brought up standing by the concussion and afterwards grew more circumspect in her movements. Of her engines and machinery much has been said, but barely justice done. The engines originally intended for her were found inadequate, and others of greater capacity substituted. She is not swift as it is, however, though they claim seven knots for her, which is doubtless quite all she is capable of making and perhaps less. Some eighty muskets compose a part of her armament, and she has complete appointments of every kind, which it is surprising where the rebels succeeded in obtaining. Had this formidable craft remained under the guns of Morgan until dusk, and then with her wooden consorts come out to the attack, she might have sunk and destroyed half, if not our entire fleet, inside the bay; as, in the darkness and confusion which would have ensued, our own gunboats would have proved as formidable and mischievous to each other as the rebel boats themselves.

General 'Baldy' Smith has been relieved from the command of the 18th Army Corps, and ordered to proceed to New York with his staff and await orders.—*New York Daily News.*

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 13 Bouverie Street, E.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1864.

The Nomination and the Platform.

To our thinking, persuaded as we are that in presence of great questions of principles or of policy the direct road is always the shortest and the boldest course the safest, it would have been better if the Convention at Chicago had presented to the people of the United States the issue of peace or war more clearly, and without the evasions and ambiguities with which it was deemed necessary to screen it. The chances of success in the November election might perhaps have been dangerously diminished, though we doubt that; but even then the moral victory would have outweighed the political defeat, and the minority vote recorded distinctly in favour of 'letting the South go' would have been a far more conclusive demonstration than a majority obtained upon evasive generalities. Yet it should in justice be remembered that the Chicago Convention had to address itself, not to the responsible representatives of a nation or to its select wisdom and political sagacity, but directly to over three millions of voters—in other words, to the national sovereignty in its crudest form. The would-be leaders who seek a following among this capricious multitude, must adopt the arts of the courtier, and long habit has taught them to approach their many-headed sovereign with much the same euphemisms and soothing fictions which, we can imagine, would be employed by the chief Mandarins in urging some extremely unpalatable necessity upon the 'brother of the sun and the moon.' If, then, the Convention has not exhibited all the vigour and directness of purpose demanded by the crisis, it is rather the fault of undiscriminating universal suffrage than its own. Keeping this in view, we confess ourselves, upon the whole, as better satisfied with the results than a week ago we should have predicted.

General M'CLELLAN, for reasons which we have repeatedly expressed, is not a favourite with us, but, in the dearth of really great men at the North, we should have some difficulty in naming many others better fitted for the place. In the coupling of his nomination with that of Mr. PENDLETON, a native of the South, and an honest advocate of peace, for the second office in the nation's gift, we recognise the amicable junction, on fair and equal terms, of the two hitherto antagonistic wings of the Democratic party. The most formidable obstacle to success is thus happily removed, and the Democracy presents an undivided front to the two warring factions of the Republicans. It is, further, an auspicious sign that the deliberations of the Convention have been singularly undisturbed by dissensions, and, what has scarcely ever happened since party conventions came into use, the nominations were unanimous not only in form but in fact. If, then, these nominations are not all that we could have wished, we are nevertheless bound to admit that the cause of peace has already largely gained by them.

Even the 'platform' is entitled to the same qualified approval. Compared with similar documents issued in peaceful times, it is perhaps as outspoken and candid as could have been reasonably expected. In fact, if we judge it by the lenient rules applicable to such party committals, we shall find that it is by no means the worst specimen of its class. There are notable instances of Democratic 'platforms' in which the work of emasculation was done far more effectually than in this case, where a party out of office naturally seeks to make its drag-net catch every size of fish. Unlike many precedents which we might quote, the Democratic platform of 1864 has both assertions which mean something and omissions which mean more. There is one terrible threat in this *pronunciamento*, and it is not directed against the South, but against the Federal Government. It is the threat that any interference with the approaching election will be considered as revolutionary, and justifying forcible resistance. This is the most significant 'plank' of the platform, though the remarkable unanimity with which it was introduced proves that Democrats of every shade of opinion rely for success mainly upon the intense disgust of the masses with the misrule and imbecile tyranny of the present Administration. The urgency of immediate peace is fully recognised in the earnest recommendation of an armistice. How an armistice can be offered which shall be acceptable to the South, is indeed by no means clear, but if such a one can be devised it is certain that hostilities would not be resumed. The suggestion of a 'Convention of the States,' although of course made with the hope of arriving at reunion, has at least this merit, that it virtually sets the Federal Government aside and resolves the Union that was into its original elements. It is self-evident that many embarrassing technical difficulties in the way of arranging the terms either of a new Federal compact or of peaceable separation would thus be removed. The problem of peace is therefore simplified, and this is another step gained in the right direction. The Southern States could not consistently with self-respect enter such a Convention unless the legality of their several acts of secession, and other acts consequent thereon, were distinctly recognised. But the convocation of the States as such is in itself the most complete acknowledgment of their respective sovereignty and indefeasible political individuality. With this principle of State sovereignty and State independence clearly understood beforehand, the South, firm in its unity of purpose and patriotic devotion, might safely consider an invitation, made by the Northern States in good faith, to meet them on equal terms on the bloodless field of argument. There is not, then, necessarily, anything so hopelessly impracticable as many suppose in the suggestion, although, as in the case of the armistice, the difficulties are many and serious, and will require more moderation and political sagacity than the North has yet manifested during this struggle.

If we read these Chicago resolutions—framed and introduced, as is worthy of remark, by the representative, in the Federal Senate, of a slaveholding State and a native Southerner, although not a favourable type of the Southern statesman—by the light of the deliberations after which they were adopted, it becomes more than ever clear that the key-note of the Democratic policy is conciliation, and this fact is of vastly greater importance than the precise phraseology in which that policy is announced. There is in the various speeches and addresses a significant absence of a threatening alternative. The speakers all profess an implicit confidence that conciliation will result in reconciliation, and they are silent as to the means to be employed in event of failure. We had fully expected a certain amount of 'last man and last dollar'-oratory, and it is in this more than in anything else that the Convention has agreeably disappointed us. We venture to say that, for this reason alone, the Confederate Government and people feel more kindly at this moment towards the Northern Democracy than at any time since the war broke out, and will meet them with as hearty goodwill as it is possible to have for men who still hold the attitude of armed enemies.

In keeping with these gratifying indications, to which we direct attention, is the absence from the debates of the Convention and from its published resolutions of any allusion, even indirect, to slavery. It is not even casually referred to as a possible element of difficulty in the adjustment of the quarrel between North and South. Nothing could be more eloquent than this silence on a subject which the partisans of the North have so sedulously represented as the sole cause and object of the war. If the Democratic party should seize the reins of government, and afterwards unhappily a war fever should again seize upon the minds of the Northern people, they will stand denuded of the last rag of a pretext either to themselves or to the world. Here, then, is another, and perhaps the most hopeful, promise of peace.

Endeavouring to review the action of the Chicago Convention without partisan bitterness, and making allowance for its unavoidable shortcomings, we must give it the credit of having done probably the best that could be done under the circumstances. It has at least had the manliness to make an emphatic and solemn avowal of the hopeless failure of the attempt to restore the Union by any other than peaceful means. So wide an abyss as the unprecedented magnitude of this war has placed between the two peoples, cannot be jumped at a single bound; it must be bridged over, and the Convention might have selected a worse foundation and less available materials for the construction of the bridge. We look hopefully, therefore, to the probable success of the Chicago nominees as a heaven-sent opportunity for bringing about a peace honourable to both parties, and conducive to the safety and prosperity of both. At the same time it behoves the South to strive harder than ever, and not to allow herself to be beguiled into temporary security or remission of exertions. If it is wise, as WASHINGTON said, 'in time of peace to prepare for war,' it is assuredly not less necessary in this instance 'in time of war to prepare for peace.' And the true preparation for peace with the North is to enforce by deeds the truth which the North has been so slow to learn, that of the two the South is the better able to prolong the struggle, and that while the North consumes accumulated resources, the South developes exhaustless ones. If we had ambitious wishes of empire for the South, we should desire, great as the cost of life would be, another four years of war. As self-preservation is its only object, we hope for peace.

The War.

THERE is a suspicious coincidence between Mr. STANTON'S military intelligence and the assembling of the Chicago Convention. It is evident that if anything could weaken the ranks of the Democratic party and destroy the ascendency which the advocates of peace have gained, it would be the announcement of brilliant successes to the Federal arms by sea and land. If President LINCOLN could, in the teeth of the overwhelming majority which nominated M'CLELLAN, point to a series of Union victories calculated again to renovate the hopes of the war party, it is quite possible that a rapid reaction in favour of the Administration would ensue, and that LINCOLN'S chances of reelection would be enormously increased. Up to the present moment Mr. STANTON'S telegrams appear to have been passed by absolutely unheeded, and there is no symptom that the Democrats are wavering, or that the friends of peace are losing ground. Mr. STANTON has missed his mark. The Northern public have been too often deceived by the first accounts of brilliant Federal victories, and it is left to Mr. LINCOLN'S organs in this country to accept with absolute confidence all the spurious despatches published at Washington and turn them into history in England.

Undoubtedly the first impression conveyed by the latest intelligence from the seat of war is unfavourable to the Confederate arms, but much of it was expected and had been already discounted by the Northern press, much of it is false, and much of it has an exceedingly suspicious complexion. The surrender of Fort Morgan was a foregone conclusion. Invested on the land sides, completely cut off from all communication with Mobile, and at the mercy of the overpowering fire of FARRAGUT'S flotilla, its capture was obviously only a question of days or hours. General PAGE, the officer in command, knew that, so far as the defence of Mobile was concerned, all his efforts would be useless; and after a show of resistance sufficient for the honour of his flag and for the destruction of such stores as might be serviceable to the enemy, he hauled down his colours. But Fort Morgan is thirty miles from the city of Mobile; the approaches to the city are reported to be among the most strongly fortified in the Confederacy, and unless General GRAINGER'S force is largely augmented he is as far from the capture of Mobile as he was a month ago. The defence of the town is intrusted to the gallant GARDNER, whose protracted resistance at Fort Hudson cost the Federals so dearly; and in his hands there need be no fear of the result.

The next triumph to which Mr. STANTON lays claim, on the strength of alleged despatches from Generals GRANT, MEADE, and HANCOCK, is the battle of the 25th ult. near Ream's Station. So far as we can interpret the intelligence by the light of common sense, this battle appears to have been one of the most decisive successes of the Confederates. On the morning of the 25th two Federal *corps d'armée*, under Generals WARREN and HANCOCK, occupied about four miles north and south of Ream's Station on the Weldon Railroad, HANCOCK'S corps being posted to the south and strongly entrenched. Early in the morning a considerable body of Confederates, under the command of General HILL, showed itself in front of the Federal works. Two or three reconnaissances in force were made in order to discover the exact position and strength

of the Federal lines; and about five o'clock a furious assault under cover of a heavy cannonade was delivered along the whole line. The Federals, behind their entrenchments, poured a deadly fire on the advancing columns; but the Confederates were not to be denied. With mighty and continuous cheers they rushed upon the breastworks; the Federal centre gave way in confusion, the wings were driven back, and only the arrival of heavy reinforcements saved Hancock's corps from utter rout. As it was, 1,900 prisoners and two or three batteries were captured, and four miles of the Weldon Railroad were regained. It is admitted that Hancock's corps was utterly demoralised and would require total reorganisation, and yet Hancock has the modesty to assert that his losses would not exceed 1,400 or 1,500 men, and to compare the action to the battles at Spottsylvania Court House. There is one point of resemblance, it is true. In both cases the attacking force had to assault strong entrenchments, but the Federals were bloodily repulsed, and the dashing charge of the Confederates was crowned with success. It is hardly possible in the face of this disaster that Warren will be able to maintain his position at Ream's Station for many days.

From Georgia the news is singularly obscure. Two days before the departure of the steamer it was officially reported that Atlanta was occupied by a corps of Sherman's troops; that Sherman's main army had got on Hood's line of communication with the South, and that a great battle had been fought between the two armies, in which of course the Confederates were beaten. Now this may be true, but it is singularly inconsistent with other authoritative statements. In the first place, a considerable Confederate force—the united commands of Wheeler, Roddy, and Morgan—was known to be operating upon Sherman's lines in the neighbourhood of Murfreesborough; this force must have been in possession of Sherman's main line, and had of course cut the railroads. It is not easy to see, therefore, by what channel the despatch of General Slocum reached Mr. Stanton. In the second place, the news eagerly caught at by Mr. Lincoln's partisans was discredited at New York twenty-four hours after its publication; and we can scarcely believe, considering the necessities of the Lincoln Cabinet, that, if Atlanta had really fallen, Mr. Stanton would not have taken pains to authenticate the fact. But even if Atlanta be occupied by the Federals, the result is by no means so disastrous to the Confederates as it would have been six weeks ago. Hood has had ample time to remove the stores and the machinery which constituted the chief importance at Atlanta; he has had time to place in the field, equip, and drill the whole Georgian militia, and to establish another stronghold at Macon. If, therefore, Atlanta has fallen, it is a barren conquest to Sherman. Within eighty miles he has confronting him a large and increasing Confederate army; he is dependent on one line of communication upwards of 250 miles long, for the most part traversing hostile territory, and he has moreover a strong Confederate cavalry force in his rear which may at any moment permanently intercept his supplies and compel a disastrous retreat.

Anglo-Federal Journalism.

It is inevitable that the cause of the North should have some partisans in this country, and it is strong testimony to the justness of the cause of the South that the Federal partisans are so few in number. It has been said that the English aristocracy are the sole sympathisers with the Confederates, and that their sentiment is the result of animosity to the Republican institutions of the United States, it being forgotten that in the South Republican institutions are upheld. The truth is, however, that all sorts and conditions of men in England are pro-Southern; and not only in west-end clubs, but at meetings of working men, the cause of the South meets with almost unanimous support. Or take the case of the English press. We can count on the fingers of one hand the journals which are pro-Northern. Conservative papers, Liberal papers, and Radical papers, are on the side of the South. The *Times*, the *Morning Herald*, the *Morning Post*, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Morning Advertiser*, differing widely on many questions, are perfectly agreed on the American question, and recognise the hopelessness and the wickedness of the attempt of the United States to subjugate the South. Curiously enough the papers which are pro-Northern—the *Daily News*, the *Morning Star*, and the *Spectator*—are more bound, by the political principles which they profess, to support the cause of the South than almost any other English journals. They are for free trade, and free trade is the policy of the Confederate States. Yet we find them taking part with the North, which desires to impose a protective tariff on the South. These pro-Northern journals claim to be the representatives of advanced Liberalism, and the defenders of popular rights; yet we find them advocating a policy of military coercion, and assuming that they are sincere in professing to regard the war as a war of emancipation, we find them advocating the use of the sword for redressing what they call a moral grievance. These journals, especially the *Star* and *Daily News*, are vehemently opposed to the preservation of political connections by force; and are so sensitive in this particular, are so anxious that every community should be independent, are so opposed to centralisation, that they ask England to give up her empire in India, and to declare her colonies politically independent of the mother country. Yet these very journals defend a war waged by the United States to hold in enforced political union a territory vast enough to form more than one great empire. These journals are never tired of denouncing the conduct of our forefathers in striving to put down the rebellion of the American colonies by force of arms; yet they think it right that the North should wage a bloody and exhausting war, because Sovereign States choose to secede from a Federal union. It is hard to believe, but still we are bound to believe, that these journals are blind to the inconsistency of their policy in reference to the American question, and that they are sincere in their belief that the cause of the North is a righteous one. If, however, we reflect how these journals give credence to the most absurd statements put forth by the supporters of the Lincoln Administration—how they insist upon calling Federal failures triumphs and Confederate triumphs failures—we shall be able to understand that those who support the North may be deceived, though, happily, they cannot deceive others.

In the *Spectator* of Saturday last there is an article on President Davis cleverly written, and which would be powerful except that its statements are manifestly absurd. The article commences by pointing out the superior statesmanship of the South, and certainly no one can dispute that in this particular our contemporary does not err. The conduct of Confederate affairs has from the beginning been dignified and eminently successful, whilst the conduct of the Northern Government has been marked by an utter want of decency and the grossest imbecility. Perhaps no nation ever had worthier leaders than the South has; most assuredly no nation ever had more unworthy leaders than the North has. The *Spectator*, after this exordium, draws a sensational portrait of Mr. Davis. He is represented not only as the leader but the maker of a revolution. But for him there would have been no secession; but for him the North and the South would have had no dispute. It is Mr. Davis who broke up the Union. He plunged the country into war. He forced and still forces the Southerners against their will to fight for fancied rights and for an imaginary independence. He keeps 4,000,000 slaves in bondage. Nay, more, he literally enslaves 6,000,000 white men. But in the midst of all this he is unmoved, and his fell purpose is unchanged. His ambition is insatiable, and he cares not for the misery that has come upon a continent. But let us quote a single passage from the article to which we are referring. The *Spectator* says, Mr. Davis, who received Messrs. Jaques and Gilmore at Richmond, 'sat there quietly in the clear knowledge that through his initiative at least half a million of men have lost their lives; that that initiative was taken in the deliberate wish to mould a nation into institutions that are essentially incompatible with freedom and popular education; that for this purpose he has still to supply out of rapidly-failing resources the strength of two great armies, to keep up the heart of a weary and ignorant people, and to keep down the heart of one still more weary and ignorant which he retains in servitude; and that the great struggle, the tide of which for four years has gravitated steadily against him, may easily last at least as many more with constantly dwindling hope for this great project, which almost rests on his own life and that of his great military colleague, General Lee.'

The writer in the *Spectator* is terrified at the vision that he thus conjures up. He is shocked at the sight of such superhuman power conjoined to such a devilish purpose. He is about to succumb to the fascination of the Evil One, and to fall down and worship him. But he is saved by a curious reminiscence. He recollects—that is to say, he thinks he recollects—that in early life this arch-demon of the New World was guilty of a petty crime. Mr. Davis might have imposed his fetters on the editor of the *Spectator* as well as on the people of the South had it not been for 'the vulgar Mississippi fraud of Mr. Davis's early days.'

Now be it observed that our contemporary does not intend all this for a joke, but puts it forward seriously and solemnly. We will endeavour to treat the matter seriously, and to point out how unnecessary is the *Spectator's* alarm. And we do so especially because the Mississippi bond consolation is a mistake.

No doubt Mr. Davis occupies a most distinguished position, and he is worthy to be at the head of the Government which manages the affairs of the country at such a momentous crisis of its history. No doubt Mr. Davis has displayed consummate ability, and those high and noble qualities which have fairly made his name a household word in English homes. But it is not true that Mr. Davis made the revolution, and in carrying on the War of Independence he only conforms to the wishes of the Southern people. Does the *Spectator* never meet with a Southern newspaper? If so, it would see that the President of the Confederate States, though a devoted patriot, is not more devoted to the cause of independence than the people. In the South the prisons are not filled with political offenders, and the press is free. The acts of the Administration are sharply criticised and frequently censured, and the censures are generally directed against what some ardent spirits think is a want of vigour in carrying on hostilities against the North. Mr. Davis, and the eminent men who are joined with him in the conduct of the government, both civil and military, have often been charged with lukewarmness because they have not been swift to avenge the infamous atrocities perpetrated by Federal officers. So far from Mr. Davis being a despot, not even in England is the civil power more supreme or the liberty of the citizen more secure than in the Confederate States. Perhaps under like circumstances, in the midst of a great struggle for independence, and contending against a powerful invader, no country maintained its free institutions so inviolate and intact as the South has done. Mr. Davis is the elect of the Southern people, and his power and influence are due to the respect in which he holds the institutions of the country.

When we are told that Mr. Davis wishes to 'mould a nation into institutions,' we may well ask what institutions. We suppose the *Spectator* refers to the institution of slavery; but it is a little too bad to charge Mr. Davis with being responsible for that. Negro slavery in the South existed before this war began—nay, it existed before the First War of Independence. It was English Governments, it was the monarchs of England, that, against the will of the Southern people, moulded the South into the institution of slavery.

A few words will be sufficient about 'the vulgar Mississippi fraud of Mr. Davis's earlier days.' It happens that Mr. Davis was not in public life when the Mississippi bonds were issued and repudiated, and had no more to do with the affair than the editor of the *Spectator*. Long afterwards, when Mr. Davis was Senator for Mississippi, and the State he represented was assailed on account of these bonds, he defended his constituents; and those who know the history of the affair will admit that the validity of the obligations was impeachable, that, though it might have been politic for Mississippi to have paid the bonds, yet in doing so she would have rewarded those who had planned and executed an infamous fraud on the State.

We trust our readers will not suppose that we are so forgetful of what is due to the high character of the President of the Confederate States, as to think it necessary to defend him from such a grotesque attack as that which appears in the *Spectator*. Our only object is to point out an extraordinary instance of the blindness to the most palpable facts which afflicts the few English journalists who defend the conduct of the United States in their attempt to subjugate the South.

The Nominees of the Chicago Convention.—So great an interest attaches to the nominations for the offices of President and Vice-President of the United States made by the recent Democratic Convention at Chicago, that a word of the selected candidates personally will, we are sure, be acceptable to the general reader. George B. M'Clellan is, perhaps, as widely known in connection with the American war as any other personage, Federal or Confederate, soldier or civilian. His father was an eminent surgeon of Philadelphia, where about the year 1820 the 'Young Napoleon' was born. He was entered at the proper age as a cadet in the United States Military Academy at West Point, and maintained the first rank there for good conduct and proficiency in his studies. It is remarkable that he was a fellow-classmate of Stonewall Jackson, whom he distanced in the competition for graduation honours, coming out as No. 1 at the very head of the list, while Jackson stood No. 13. [Lee and Beauregard both, in their respective classes, came out No. 2.] It is further noteworthy that M'Clellan and Jackson were not known to each other at West Point, but became acquainted for the first time while serving two guns of Magruder's celebrated battery at the battle of Contieras in the war with Mexico. This war gave to both the earliest opportunity for a practical acquaintance with their profession. M'Clellan gained credit for 'gal-

lant and meritorious conduct' on several memorable fields. Subsequently he rose to the rank of major, and in the year 1854 was named, singularly enough, by Jefferson Davis—then Secretary of War of the United States—as first of a commission of three officers who were sent to study the operations of the contending armies in the Crimea. The report of the commission was written by M'Clellan, and was commended as a valuable document. Soon after his return from Sebastopol he resigned his commission in the army and became the president or superintendent of a Western railway—the Illinois Central, if we mistake not—in which office the war inaugurated by Abraham Lincoln found him. Of his active participation in that war, during the first two years of its progress, we need say nothing, as the reader must freshly remember it, from Rich Mountain to Antietam. In person General M'Clellan is about the middle height, his eyes and hair are dark, his expression is somewhat grave but pleasing, and his whole appearance, if not striking, is agreeable. Politically he is known as a War Democrat; that is, he is willing to carry on the war under the Constitution to restore the Union, but will be willing to make peace if thereby he can secure his election.

The candidate for the Vice-Presidency, George H. Pendleton of Ohio, is a Peace Democrat, avowedly and consistently, having deprecated the war from the beginning. He is a native of the State of Virginia, and several years the senior of M'Clellan. In the Federal House of Representatives, while yet the Union survived, he voted always with the Southern men; and, since the dissolution, he has shared the views and spoken freely the sentiments of Vallandigham. In the election of last year, when Vallandigham was defeated, Mr. Pendleton was returned as the representative of the 1st district by more than one thousand majority over his Republican competitor. In private life, we are assured by those who knew him in the old *régime*, he is an amiable and cultivated gentleman, and his character is therefore in striking contrast with that of many who have filled very prominent positions at Washington since the war began.

Torpedo Batteries.

The immense destructive power of the submarine mine is now one of the well-ascertained facts of military science, but its effectiveness as an engine of war has nowhere been demonstrated with more convincing evidence than in the Confederate States of America, where it was brought into use in the beginning of the war, and has latterly formed one of the principal means of attack and defence in the contest between those States and the Northern Government.

A most striking instance of its successful employment, and one from which we may date its adoption into general use, occurred on the Yazoo River, Mississippi, in 1863, where a Federal ironclad was totally destroyed with nearly the whole of her crew. In the same year in June it was also employed against an attacking squadron in the James River, Virginia. When one of the leading vessels, the steamer *Com. Barney* was disabled, a portion of her armour torn off, and the fleet compelled to retire down the river with this vessel in tow, in a sinking condition. And again, this year we have accounts of the total destruction of other Federal vessels with nearly the whole of their crews, by means of the submarine mine, viz. one of the vessels attached to the fleet now in the James River, Virginia. The transport steamer *Maplelaf*, in the St. John's River, Florida, and more recently still the new double-turreted monitor *Tecumseh*, before the port of Mobile, besides numerous other striking examples of its successful employment in waters tributary to the Mississippi river, Chesapeake, and other bays. Thus we are in possession of abundant proof of the importance of the torpedo as a stationary obstruction, while on the other hand its application and use, when attached to the bows of vessels, by the Confederates has presented to the world a perfectly new feature in naval warfare which promises at no distant day to create an entire revolution in the present system of naval architecture, as well as in the existing methods of coast defence.

This novel engine of war, having been attached to the bows of small wooden steamers, an attack was made by them against the Federal frigates *New Ironsides* and *Minnesota*, and so much damaged them by the explosion as to render them unfit for further effective service till docked for repairs.

It was also employed in like manner against the new sloop-of-war *Housatonic*, attached to the Federal blockading squadron off Charleston, which ship filled and went down in eight minutes after the explosion of the torpedo under her counter. Could the Confederates have valued and brought this system of defence into general use in the beginning of the war, it is much doubted whether they would have lost the rich and productive region of eastern North Carolina, and its valuable inland water communication, so desirable for the support of their armies, as well as some other points, the capture of which gained for the Federal navy its *prestige* at the commencement of hostilities.

These torpedoes have, without doubt, had a demoralising influence upon some of the crews of Federal vessels while operating near the Confederate lines of defence, from the knowledge, but too well impressed on them, of the fate that awaited those who ventured too near the unseen but terrible instrument of destruction. This terror inspired by the torpedo is not confined to those on board of ships that are liable to run over them, but is shared alike by those who cruise along the coast, or ride at anchor in the roadsteads; for we see by published statements of the 'war correspondents' of American journals, that the Federal 'ironclad vessels anchored before the harbour of Charleston are all surrounded or encased with frames of heavy timber, extending some distance from the vessels, to prevent the approach of the rebel torpedo boats.'

It is necessary to bear in mind that hitherto, in the application and use of the torpedo on board of vessels in the South, they have invariably been small craft, similar to the one described by the war 'correspondent' of the *New York Herald* of the August 23, as follows:

A TORPEDO CRAFT.

When the first *Monitor* appeared off the harbour the rebels essayed her immediate destruction, and brought down from Mobile a cigar-shaped torpedo boat that had been prepared in readiness for such a service. While mooring her in the lower bay her boiler exploded, killing one man, scalding another so badly that his life is despaired of, and taking off the leg of her captain. This was the entire crew. The craft is now sunk in Navy Cove, which is in our possession. When our fleet ran into the harbour efforts were being made to raise and repair the vessel, but they were frustrated by our advent. Farragut will doubtless look after the prize when he finds an opportunity.

It will be seen, however, from the following paragraph from THE INDEX, under date of 25th ultimo, that this new and formidable engine of war is being introduced into the Northern navy as a part of the regular armament of their ironclad ships:—

The repeated proofs given during the war in America of the immense destructive power of the torpedoes, or submarine batteries employed by the Confederates, and which are attached by a peculiar apparatus to a number of their vessels, has induced the Federal Government to take a leaf out of the enemy's book in this respect, and a letter from the United States informs us on the best authority that this new and formidable engine of war has been extensively introduced in the Federal navy, and several ironclads are already fitted with the same apparatus as the Confederates employ, or one closely resembling it.

It is unhesitatingly asserted by competent judges, that a vessel properly constructed for the application of the Torpedo battery, and possessing superiority of speed, would prove a formidable antagonist against a number of frigates, although armed with the heaviest metal, for it would present the least surface to their fire, and always under the most acute angles. One especial advantage which it possesses is, that it may be worked at all times: for instance, in a rough sea, when ordinary guns could not be used; while it may be employed with certain success under cover of darkness against an enemy's fleet, disabling, destroying, or driving them away from the coast altogether.

Great economy, simplicity, and safety are further and no less valuable and important qualities claimed for the submarine battery: neither the battery itself nor the men working it are in the least exposed, the apparatus being situated much below the line of flotation. As this destructive agent comes more generally into use, which it assuredly must after the experience of its terribly swift and sweeping effects furnished by the American war, a new field will be opened for the inventive genius of our naval constructors, to devise ways and means to ward off or escape so unpleasant a weapon of attack, more formidable than those possessed by *Warriors*, *Royal Sovereigns*, &c., for there is no ship now afloat of sufficient strength to resist its power, nor guns of heavy calibre enough to penetrate the armour of a vessel bearing it, when properly constructed for the purpose.

The Lords of the Admiralty have had this new engine of war under consideration, and referred it to a board of competent officers, who approved and recommended its adoption as an auxiliary for the defence of harbours and roadsteads. Though the authorities may not at present be impressed with the necessity of immediately taking up and applying this new and most important development of naval engineering, the changes which it is destined to bring about in the naval armaments of all countries alike, will assuredly ere long be forced upon them; and the requisite measures for keeping up in this respect with the march of events, must soon enter largely into the general estimates for war purposes.

FEDERAL RULE IN KENTUCKY.—A correspondent of the *New York Daily News* gives a long account of Federal outrages in Kentucky, from which we extract the following:—'The Hon. Joshua F. Bullitt, now Chief Justice of Kentucky, has been arrested, torn from his home and family, and is now in a Lincoln Bastile. No cause for this, except devotion to constitutional liberty and hatred of tyranny. The Hon. Wiley P. Fowler, a distinguished circuit judge in South Kentucky, has been arrested by negro soldiers and is also in prison. Cause—opposition to Lincoln. The Federal tyrants seem to dread judges and courts. Their policy is to drive all honest men from the bench, and place in their stead their Leavetts, Goodloes, Ballards, and other tools of power. It is currently reported here this morning, that the Hon. Garrett Davis, United States Senator, and Brutus J. Clay, Congressman, have been compelled to flee the State. Cause—opposition to Lincoln. In addition to this I might mention hundreds of other prominent citizens, who have been arrested or driven from the State. No reason whatever except opposition to Lincoln. In the county of Hancock, I am reliably informed that white men, respectable white men, have been stripped and their backs lacerated by their own servants under the order of Lincoln soldiers. From the county of M'Craken and the city of Paducah hundreds of citizens, with their wives and children, have been arrested by negro soldiers and marched out of the State to Canada and elsewhere. Banished without cause, except hostility to Lincoln. More than fifty of these Paducah citizens, I am told, were landed the other day and marched through the streets by negro soldiers, whose demeanour towards the females was of a most insulting character.'

THE LAUREATE'S LATEST VOLUME.*

Few poets have ever had a wider range of thought and sympathy, a more varied power of conception and comprehension, than Alfred Tennyson. And if it be true that the peculiar gift of the poet is to enter with heart and mind into the poetry of other souls and other lives—if men are right in placing in the lowliest rank the writer who can give expression only to the passions of his own nature and the inner experiences of his own being—then assuredly a place among the highest votaries of the divinest art belongs to our present Laureate, whose power to realise all ages, all minds, all creeds—to enter into the spirit of the most different phases of life and belief, and to utter with equal truth, pathos, and beauty, the thoughts that belong to phases of humanity and realms of fancy the most remote from one another—has rarely indeed been equalled, and never surpassed, by man or woman born. Even in his earliest volumes, this diversity of subject—this power of living alike in the most real and homely scenes of earthly existence, and in the airiest and most unreal realms of imagination—was already apparent. We could discern even then the wonderful intuition which made solid ground of the regions of classic mythology or elfin romance, and—a yet rarer endowment—could not so much throw a halo of romance over the most practical doings of daily life, but rather subtilise and beautify that life itself into romance of the purest and most charming kind. Tennyson's most ideal characters are perfectly human—are such that we realise them to ourselves as living creatures, not in their essential nature seeming to 'vary from the kindly race of men;' while the most real and ordinary beings in whom he seeks to interest us become in his hands full of a pathos and poetry which none other could have evolved out of them, and yet which never seems in the slightest degree—never in a single touch, a phrase, or a thought—incongruous or inconsistent. He can realise Œnone: he can spiritualise a miller's daughter; he can give us to comprehend Ulysses as a man, with a character thoroughly complete, individual, possible, and self-consistent; and he can draw poetry from the meditations of a Bohemian over his pint of port wine. Hitherto the staple of his volumes has been ideal in subject and real in treatment. He has given us the deep spiritual meditations that arise in the mind of a sensitive, highly-cultivated, refined scholar in sorrowing over the memory of a dear and valued friend lost in the warmth of youth, when friendship is deep enough for lifelong memory, and sorrow not too deep to be dwelt on and cherished. He has given us some exquisite pictures of the most beautiful or most heroic creations of the Hellenic muse, realised for us the restlessness of Ulysses and the anguish of the deserted Œnone, and, in a few lines, made Telemachus more intelligible than we found him in Homer, and cleared his memory from the associations of pedantic morality in which Fenelon had involved it. He created for the worshippers of female equality a fairyland wherein their doctrines have had fair play, and acquired a scope which it is not convenient to afford them on this workday earth. He gave us, in fragments of a great epic, such a picture of the court of King Arthur as has made the spirit of chivalry dear to many who were wont to scoff at it, and rendered it at once clearer and dearer to those whose dreams had always clothed the age of gold in the garb of knighthood, and sought in the ideal of chivalry the standard of manly perfection. So thoroughly has he understood that ideal, that henceforward it is *his* King Arthur that will replace in English minds the hero of British legend, and his conception of knighthood that will mould the chivalric dreams of youth for generations yet to come.

But from time to time the Laureate has given to the world poems which showed that his mind did not dwell only in the fairyland of mythology or romance—poems which proved him truly the poet of his own age, entering fully into its spirit, capable of admiring its virtues, and probing its foibles and scourging its vices with no sparing hand. In 'Maud'—sympathising with a reaction that was then carrying the country, awakened from a slothful dream of gold-getting, beyond the bounds of reason and sobriety—he wrote a hasty and overstrained satire on the worst features of this nineteenth century; the greed and selfishness that had grown over the heart of England during forty years of peace. The age read, failed to understand, and has consented to forget, a poem which added nothing to the fame of its one great poet. In his present volume, announced some time ago under the title of 'Idylls of the Hearth,' we have three long poems of domestic life replete with deep pathos, poetic beauty, and tragic earnestness—poems which will touch the hearts of many to whom the sorrows of Œnone are uninteresting and the wretched immortality of Tithonus too unreal to be affecting; which will be fully, deeply, and warmly appreciated by thousands to whom the Princess is a puzzle and Maud a wilderness of extravagances. Out of things that have happened in our own day, and might happen again to-morrow in the bosom of our own families—in one case out of an incident which cannot even be called uncommon—the poet has evolved idylls as touching, as beautiful, and as truly romantic as 'Elaine' itself. And though, belonging as these do to the age, and those to all time, it is possible that the Idylls of the King may perpetuate the name of Tennyson when these simpler lays shall be forgotten, it may well be that among thousands of living Englishmen to whom King Arthur is still unknown Enoch Arden will ere long be familiar as a household name.

The story of the first and principal of these poems—that which gives title to the volume—is very simple, but as intensely tragic as the saddest tale that ever thrilled the hearts and drew the tears of an audience. It is the tale of a sailor who left his home to earn an income which should secure an education for his children and enable them to rise in life; who was wrecked on a desert island; who lay there for years, having seen his two original companions die before his eyes; who was rescued,

* *Enoch Arden*, &c. By ALFRED TENNYSON, D.C.L., Poet Laureate. London: Moxon & Co., Dover Street. 1864.

and returned home to find his wife remarried and his children under the care of a stepfather who had done for them all that he had himself toiled so hard to gain the power to do; and who, after gazing unseen upon the family assembled in their new home, turned away, kept his secret from all, and went back to his lonely lodging to die. The life of all the parties, the wife and her two husbands, is traced from early childhood in lines of perfect simplicity, but of exquisite beauty and truth; the rough, hearty sailor-lad, the sweet-tempered little girl who was playmate and pet of both, and the miller's son, who, richer, more refined, but weaker, was pained by her preference of his young rival, but stung into no ungenerous thought or act. With excellent tact, the poet has taken care to attract our interest and compassion to all three; giving the erring wife and second husband every excuse and temptation that could lessen their error and forbid us to judge them harshly. It is the consciousness of their innocence and their excellence—of the cruel injustice which exposure would have inflicted on them—that reconciles the reader to the still more cruel wrong endured, the painful self-sacrifice so heroically made, by the returning Enoch, and the anguish endured

> when the dead man come to life beheld
> His wife, his wife no more, and saw the babe,
> Hers yet not his, upon the father's knee,
> And all the warmth, the peace, the happiness,
> And his own children tall and beautiful,
> And him, that other, reigning in his place,
> Lord of his rights and of his children's love.

So tragical is the story, that it might be thought almost too painful for poetry, had it been told with less of delicacy, tenderness, and calmness than pervade these pages. There is nothing of spasmodic vehemence, no violent outbreak of passion; the whole is toned down to the same spirit of grave, restrained, unutterable sadness in which the outcast father and husband turns from the sight of his lost home, and resolves that no word or sign from him shall break in upon the peace and innocence which he could never restore.

The second poem is of a more ordinary character—a tale of disappointed love and selfish pride, ending in the breaking of two young hearts and the utter desolation of two happy homes. Sir Aylmer Aylmer is the lord of an ancient domain, where his fathers have succeeded one another time out of mind, in

> A sleepy land where under the same wheel
> The same old rut would deepen year by year;
> Where almost all the village had one name;
> Where Aylmer followed Aylmer at the Hall
> And Averill Averill at the Rectory
> Thrice over.

The last rector, Averill, had a younger brother; the last Aylmer an only daughter; and these two had grown up from childhood in an intimacy which at last ripened into passionate love. Discovered at last by the purse-proud father, this love is rebuked and denounced in furious language; the daughter driven to her chamber and the lover from the hall; their correspondence detected and intercepted; suitors of wealth and fortune forced upon her only to be obstinately refused, while he is prosecuting his studies in town in the hope of making the means of maintaining his wife. At last the severities practised on the unhappy girl attain an unlooked-for result:—

> So that the gentle creature, shut from all
> Her charitable use, and face to face
> With twenty months of silence, slowly lost,
> Nor greatly cared to lose, her hold on life.
> Last, some low fever ranging round to spy
> The weakness of a people or a house,
> Like flies that haunt a wound, or deer, or men,
> Or almost all that is, hurting the hurt—
> Save Christ as we believe him—found the girl,
> And flung her down upon a couch of fire,
> Where, careless of the household faces near,
> And crying on the name of Leolin,
> She, and with her the race of Aylmer, passed.

Her lover, that same night, starts from his sleep with a sharp answer to her cry, and, when the tidings of her death are brought to him, is found dead, slain by his own hand. The Rector, his brother, asked by the Aylmers to make reference from the pulpit to their lost child, preaches a sermon on the text, 'Your house is left unto you desolate,' in which, amid the indignant sympathy of the congregation, he denounces the harshness that had bereft them all, and yet cannot but pity the parents whose sin has brought upon them so awful a retribution:—

> May not that earthly chastisement suffice?
> Have not our love and reverence left them bare?
> Will not another take their heritage?
> Will there be children's laughter in their hall
> For ever and for ever, or one stone
> Left on another? Or is it a light thing
> That I, their guest, their host, their ancient friend,
> I, made by these the last of all my race,
> Must cry to these the last of theirs, as cried
> Christ ere His agony to them that swore
> Not by the Temple but the gold, and made
> Their own traditions God, and slew the Lord,
> And left their memories a world's curse—'Behold!
> Your house is left unto you desolate'?

The unhappy and remorseful mother is crushed by his terrible appeal, and carried swooning from the church, followed by her husband—never to return to it till borne thither to find their last home beside their murdered child. The punishment is rarer in these days than the sin; but it may be that if we could learn the secrets of some august homes, we should find parents who have shared the Aylmers' sin living to suffer a retribution even more terrible.

'Sea Dreams' is a pretty domestic idyll; the subject being the visit of a clerk and his wife to the seaside, and her efforts to induce her husband to forgive the man who had induced him to invest his savings in a fraudulent company.

The next two poems have something of a different tone about them. 'The Grandmother,' a woman verging at least on her ninetieth year, having survived her contemporaries and her children, receives the news of the death of her first-born and last surviving son, and pours forth to her grandchild a flood of recollections and thoughts called forth by the event; thoughts of her wooing—

> Seventy years ago, my darling, seventy years ago—

of her children, in their childhood and in their manhood, who are all dead, and yet are so present to her fancy that she cannot always remember whether they are living or not; her pride in Willy, who is just gone 'from this room into the next,' and the bitter tears which she had wept over 'the babe that was dead before it was born.'

'The Northern Farmer' is full of humour, mingled with a strange pathos. The old man lies on his deathbed, scolding his attendant for her neglect—apparently a daughter or granddaughter—full of anxiety about the farm, and not merely reluctant to die, but most indignant with Providence—whom he strangely confuses with the parson—for the want of judgment displayed in removing so valuable a man from the world.

> A mowt 'a taäken Jones, as 'ant a aäpoth o' sense,
> Or a mowt 'a taäken Robins, a never mended a fence;
> But Godamoighty a must taäke meä, and taäke ma now
> Wi' 'auf the cows to cauve and Thormaby holms to plow.

Looking back on his life, the old man sees nothing to repent and much to be proud of. He has done his duty by Squoire, and he has done his duty by all; above all he has done his duty by 'the loud,' and he feels sure that Squoire will miss him terribly. He is ill-satisfied with 'parson,' who has brought up his sins to him in a manner that seems to him to savour of ingratitude:—

> Thof a knaws I hallus voäted wi' Squoire and Choorch and Staäte,
> An' i' the woost o' times I wur never agin the raäte.
> And I hallus comed to's choorch afore moy Sally wur deäd,
> An' heerd un a bummin' awaäy loike a buzzard clock ower my yeäd,
> An' I never knawd what a meand, but I thowt a'ad summut to saäy,
> An' I thowt a said what a owt to 'a said, and I comed awaäy.'

But the doctor, who is a ''tottler,' has incurred his extreme indignation by trying to stop his ale:—

> Doctors they knaws nowt, for a saays what's nawways true:
> Naw soort o' koind o' use to saay the things that a do.
> I've 'ed my point o' yaale ev'ry night sin' I bean 'ere,
> And I've 'ed my quart ev'ry market noight for forty year.

Who is to hold the land after him is a subject of great anxiety, for it is to the land that his attachment clings. He hopes it won't be Jones or Robins; or, worse than all,

> Summun ull come ater me mayhap wi' is kittle o' steam
> Huzzin and maäzen the blessed fealds wi' the devil's own team.
> Gin I mun doy I mun doy, and loife they says is sweet,
> But gin I mun doy I mun doy, for I couldn' abear to see it.

Of the 'Miscellaneous' poems the most notable is the exquisite 'Tithonus,' the lament of the aged favourite on whom Aurora had conferred the fatal and irrevocable gift of immortality, which was published some time ago in the *Cornhill Magazine*. Never was the spirit of a purely classical legend more exquisitely rendered into modern poesy. The volume concludes with some 'Experiments' in various kinds of verse. Two of these are notable—one a hendecasyllabic fragment, in which the tone and voice of Catullus, if we may so speak, is distinctly and perfectly audible—the other a fragment which proves that one living man, at least, is capable of translating Homer into blank verse. The passage is perfectly Homeric, and thoroughly well rendered; and its extreme brevity is its only fault. Of the hundred specimens of translation from the Iliad we have lately seen, none is in the most distant degree comparable to this, which as far surpasses Mr. Gladstone's attempt as that transcends the abominable jingle of Professor Francis Newman.

THE COST OF PEACE.

(From the *Richmond Enquirer*.)

THE fact that the people of the Confederate States are, and for three years have been, most anxious for peace, and prepared at any moment to make peace, has not been mistaken for a willingness to make peace upon any other terms than those they offered before the war began, namely: the recognition of the Confederate States. No man understands the meaning of the peace professions made by the press and people of these Confederate States better than Mr. Seward. He knows that no necessities have caused these professions, and that, though they may even sue for peace, they are prompted by no fears as to the result of the war. However great may appear the anxieties of these people for peace, Mr. Seward knows they feel no apprehension from continued war.

The people of the United States are beginning to understand these professions; they, too, can readily comprehend how a brave and determined people may most earnestly desire peace, and yet by no means be afraid of war. Our readiness to make peace upon the recognition of these States, together with the fact that Mr. Lincoln, after three years of wasting and ruinous war, has not been able to reduce the terms of peace in the least from what was offered in Washington before a gun had been fired, has aroused into action a large party in the United States for peace. In the words of Mr. Long, of Ohio: 'Peace upon the best terms it can be obtained, that would be satisfactory to honourable men, but, in any event, *peace*, even if it costs the recognition of the separate and sovereign independence of the Confederate States.' That is what peace will cost, and fortunately that is all it will cost, and cheap to the enemy, dirt cheap at that cost. An army of more than two millions of men, and a debt of two thousand millions of dollars, has been the cost of war; but the cost of peace is—the recognition of the Confederate States.

To the war party the cost of the recognition of the Confederate States is very great; it is the loss of power, the loss of money; it is ruin to many of that party. But to the people of the United States our recognition is merely to establish two republics where one once existed; it is to bring into the family of nations another member. There is nothing more dishonourable in our terms, now submitted, than there was in the terms demanded by our forefathers of Great Britain.

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.

FROM A CONFEDERATE CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS: September 13.

DURING the past week the entire Paris press has been absorbed in one general topic—that of the interview of Messrs. Gilmore and Jaques with President Davis. The object of Mr. Gilmore, in publishing in the *Atlantic Monthly* his somewhat romantic account of this interview, evidently was to prejudice the public mind against the peace movement, by representing Mr. Davis as inflexible on certain questions, and that there was consequently no reasonable hope whatever of coming to terms with the *Rebels*. With this aim he has interlarded the close arguments of the Confederate President with ideas of an ambiguous nature, and which are calculated greatly to mislead inattentive readers. He has, however, shown himself to be out in his reckoning, for the statements made by him have met with a very limited reception in the United States, and in France they have proved an utter failure. In according to this interview an exaggerated importance, and taking the language of Mr. Davis as it is related by Mr. Gilmore, the French journalists have deduced highly favourable results for the South. One of the Federal organs at Paris, the *Nord*, has so misapprehended this matter as to state that Mr. Gilmore's account was a Secessionist document in which the Federal representatives were made to play a foolish part in order to leave all the advantage of the discussion to Mr. Davis.

The *France*, which last week gave an extract from Mr. Gilmore's statement, continued the subject on Wednesday, and two days later devoted a leading article to its consideration. The *Pays* has published the document *in extenso*, and it has been subjected to a rigid analysis by the *Presse*.

The journal of M. de la Gueronnière has been the most correct in its judgment relative to the document in question, in reference to which it remarks as follows:—

> It furnishes additional evidence as to the true sentiments which actuate the Southern populations, the real motive of their resistance, and the ends which they are seeking to obtain through war, being unable to obtain them either by reason or equity from the Government of Washington. It does justice to the pretexts under which the Northerners still seek to justify this fratricidal contest, in placing it before the eyes of public opinion as an immense effort of civilisation and liberty.
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> . . . . . .
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> These truths are now as clear as the day. The conduct of the North towards the liberated slaves, torn from their agricultural employments to be sacrificed by thousands on battle-fields, or to perish of misery and of hunger, has exhibited the pretended philanthropy of the Abolitionists in its true colours. The determined resistance made by the South has proved it to be fighting for a far more important object—for its nationality, its country, its homes, for those generous sentiments which alone prompt to noble deeds of devotion and self-sacrifice.
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> . . . . . .
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> Reduce the South by force of arms? It is evident that such an idea must henceforth be regarded as a chimera, and that victories, be they ever so brilliant, must prove utterly futile in face of the heroic energy of the Confederates. As to these victories, they have been vainly pursued during four years past, and that at the cost of the most lamentable disasters. The Northern forces have exhausted themselves against the invincible courage of the South, against the skilful strategy of Lee, of Beauregard, and of those intrepid generals by whom the Confederate army is led.
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> . . . . . .
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> Peace is in every prayer, peace is in every mouth; and that which gives an important weight to these pacific tendencies is that weakness is seen everywhere: it is seen in the army, which counts its efforts only by its checks; it is seen in the Government, which is now reaching the term of its constitutional existence, and which the parties of the interior menace and discredit; it is seen in the public finances, and in the embarrassment of the Treasury, which lives from hand to mouth, which is not in the receipt of half its enormous daily expenditure, and which finds itself without any resources in the face of arrears which amount to upwards of 1,500 millions.
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> If such a situation as this fails to open the eyes of the Northerners, then truth and reason must be abandoned in despair.

The *Pays* endeavours to show that it is owing to the interview of President Davis with Colonel Jaques that the question of slavery has been altogether set aside from the American dispute, and observes:—

> It is for their independence, for self-government, for their nationality, that the Confederates are fighting, and for which they will cause themselves to be exterminated to the last man.

The Russian organ at Paris, the *Nord*, is of a different opinion. According to this journal, it is for the maintenance of slavery that the Confederates are fighting, and the overthrow of this institution can only be effected by the re-establishment of the Union. In this article, which betrays considerable ignorance of American affairs, the *Nord* seems disposed to quarrel with the whole world; it jeers at Colonel Jaques, raps the knuckles of Mr. Davis, and, in a sprightly manner, presumes to lecture the *Pays*, from which journal it receives a sharp rejoinder, which terminates as follows:—

> We maintain that if the North could succeed in reducing the South, and in making it an American Poland, to the great delight of the Russian journal, both the whites and the blacks, without distinction, would be subjected to a most horrible slavery—to those tortures of which unhappy Poland has, during the last century, furnished an example—to those sufferings which would no doubt greatly rejoice the journal *Le Nord*, but which would be the shame and the sorrow of humanity. In a word, we should take part in all those distractions which are the inevitable consequence of a nationality's oppression or overthrow.

You know the French proverb: 'None so deaf as those who will not hear'; and the *Siècle* has just made a happy application of this proverb with reference to this too-much-celebrated interview. Far behind its compeers, the *Siècle*, in its turn, takes note of Mr. Davis's remarks, and unable to withhold its anathema from the Confederates, it exclaims, in a tone most pathetic, 'After such remarks as these, how can a pacific solution be possibly hoped for?'

The *Pays*, which does not suffer itself to be embarrassed even by two opponents, and which on the preceding even-

ing had resumed its comments on the eccentricities of the *Nord*, immediately replies to the *Siècle* in the following terms:—

Mr. Davis and the four millions and a half of Confederates have no wish to become slaves. They are willing that the negroes should be free, but they also wish to be free themselves; and as they have not the same chance as these happy blacks, who do not fight themselves, but for whom others fight, they have resolved on their own defence, and to allow themselves to be killed, *so that they may at least feel themselves free at the hour of death.* These are the words of Mr. Davis.

Then says the *Siècle*: 'How can you hope to obtain anything from those people? Their aim is their national independence, their liberty; they would rather sacrifice their lives than bend their necks beneath a foreign yoke.' The liberal feelings of the *Siècle* cannot comprehend such ferocity.

In a description of travels in Africa, a brave Jesuit relates that he has seen gorillas, and, in his way, describes them:—

'These animals,' says he, 'are so ferocious, that if you attempt to kill them they immediately defend themselves.'

It is in the school of this good Jesuit that the *Siècle* has studied politics.

The *Presse* and the *Nation* have also had their word to say on this question. The *Presse* is of opinion that the two Presidents are too absolute, and that there is a just medium to be taken between the two extreme points at which they place themselves. This just medium, according to the *Presse*, would be union with the ancient Constitution. The *Nord* has stated that it considered Colonel Jaques had behaved as a schoolboy towards Mr. Davis; the *Presse*, on the contrary, is disposed to think that the Confederate President found a worthy interlocutor in the Colonel, 'whose language was that of reason, wisdom, and true patriotism.' In the article of M. Chatard several other opinions, equally ridiculous, are given, and which one is surprised to meet with from the pen of so judicious a writer.

The *Nation* contents itself with publishing the whole of Mr. Gilmore's statement, remarking that it is indebted for much of its importance to the state of feeling prevalent in the Northern States. But in another long and excellent article, bearing the signature of M. Esparbié, one of the new political editors of this journal, the *Nation* takes a philosophical glance at the situation of the United States, and describes it in the following terms:—

For our part, the result of the present political movement cannot admit of any doubt. Separation was fatally indicated at the very commencement of the war, and the question was thereupon too vigorously and too energetically debated to imagine for a moment that it would not be productive of heroic effort, and, on the part of the South, a resistance as desperate as the attack by the North was determined and resolute.

The *Nation* then asks on what conditions this great event is to be accomplished, and thinks that these conditions will be equally profitable to the North and to the South. This journal thus concludes:—

The cause of the Union has long since fallen in the estimation of public opinion in Europe, where there is not to be found a single political mind which has not admitted the right of the South to claim its national existence, its independence, and the benefits resulting from its industry.

The *Nation*, which was in jeopardy some time since, has assumed new life by dint of a combination which has brought it in three or four hundred thousand francs. M. Ernest Rasetti, the talented manager to whom the *Opinion Nationale* is indebted for a large portion of its success, has organised this combination. M. Léone Dupont still fills the office of editor-in-chief of this journal, MM. Auguste Callet and Esparbié are his coadjutors for the political portion, and MM. Edmond About and Amédée Rolland for that of literature.

The *Nation* appears to be the organ, or at least one of the organs, of the *Tiers Parti*, whose leader is M. Emile Ollivier. The *Europe* of Frankfort and the *Presse* have already pronounced themselves in favour of this party, towards which the *France* also seems favourably inclined.

A great change has likewise taken place in the *Journal des Débats*. This journal has passed into the hands of MM. Péreire and Michel Chevalier. M. Sylvestre de Sacy is still its editor-in-chief, but three of its principal editors, MM. Weiss, Prévost-Paradol, and Alloury have left it. I do not know what these changes are likely to effect in the policy of this journal; but as M. Chevalier is a member of the Senate, and as M. de Sacy will also soon fill the same office, as M. Péreire is deputy of the Right, and the editors hostile to the Empire have retired, it is more than probable that its policy will become more favourable to the Empire. The Orleanist and Liberal opposition in the *Débats* is still represented by M. de Saint-Marc-Girardin.

I would call the attention of your readers to one of the best articles hitherto written on the American question by M. Aucaigne. This young writer, who is well acquainted with the American character, and who knows the Americans to be the most practical people in the whole world, directs the serious attention of Europe, and especially of France, to the danger which exists of the North and South making the most perfect peace after having made the most determined war; that is to say 'uniting themselves in opposition to European policy.' He shows that if the South obtains the acknowledgment of its independence from the North, it has every interest in offering to the Yankees the hand so full of riches which it has so often, but in vain, offered to imprudent Europe.

M. Aucaigne refers, in support of his views, which he further strengthens with excellent reasons, to an article in THE INDEX, in which it is shown that neither France, nor England, nor Mexico has done anything to counterbalance the natural influence which gives to the North its quality of nearest neighbour. While altogether denying, for appearance sake, that France has anything to apprehend from the political alliance of the Federals and the Confederates, M. Aucaigne plainly manifests his fears in the next paragraph that concludes this excellent article, which would have attracted a much greater share of attention if, instead of appearing in the *Progrès*, it had been published in the *Patrie*.

CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

MANCHESTER: September 14, 1864.

AFTER evening mass last Sunday, a large and very impressive gathering of Roman Catholics in this city was held at St. Alban's Chapel, Ancoats, upon which occasion the Rev. Father Gornall introduced to his congregation Mr. T. B. Kershaw, and bespoke for him a patient and thoughtful hearing from all present. The building presented a somewhat novel appearance, and the crowded assembly of Irishmen, with their wives and families, displayed a most marked interest in what was about to take place. Copies of Lord Edward Howard's speech on 'Federal Emigration' were distributed among the congregation, and tables were set in convenient places for signing the 'Peace Address' to the people of the United States.

The Rev. Father Gornall, in opening the proceedings, said a pacific and benevolent movement was now on foot in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, having for its object the cessation of hostilities in America; and it was upon that subject that Mr. Kershaw would deliver an address that evening. The American question was one that undoubtedly concerned every person in that assembly. It was not his (the rev. Father's) intention, nor indeed was that the proper occasion, to state what were his predilections, whether for North or South; and still less would it be his business to set forth the reasons why he held such opinions as he did entertain as to the merits of the opposite parties in that unfortunate war. But what he might say, and what every one who heard him might join in saying, was this—'I wish they would give over fighting.' Whether the North was right in attempting to subdue the South, or whether the South was justified in fighting for independence, it was a hard matter that they could not come to some conclusion. The war had unquestionably been the cause of great suffering, and the longer it continued the worse would be the consequences. But the greatest suffering was not confined to those who had any interest in the quarrel.

We are the people (continued the rev. Father), we and our friends, at home and abroad, across the Channel and across the Atlantic, who have had to bear a sad portion of the consequences of this desolating war. There is nothing, therefore, for which we ought to be so anxious as for peace. With regard to slavery—whatever that may have to do with the war—I consider that those persons who talk upon that subject are merely throwing dust in your eyes. There is nothing in the question of slavery that should induce you to side with the North any more than with the South. One is as much for it as the other, and it was only when the North had a purpose to serve against the South that they pretended this was an anti-slavery war. But, however this may be, we cannot be wrong in wishing for peace, for it is time that we at least should be selfish in this matter. Those of us who may henceforth venture to go to America, let us be on our guard lest we are entrapped into this unfortunate struggle. And let us take thought not only for ourselves, but for our friends—for those who are here and those who are there. Letters, I know, are reaching some of you almost daily from near and dear relatives in that distracted country. Well, if all of you who have friends there were to write to them about peace—tell them as often as you write to leave off fighting, and until they do leave off you will attend to no family matters mentioned in their letters—and impress upon them in every way the desire of your hearts upon that fearful subject of strife—you have only, my friends, to make up your minds to do this, and urge upon all others to do the same, and I assure you a great deal will have been effected towards bringing about peace. Let us never forget that we have done a great deal towards keeping up the war, and therefore it becomes us now not to be silent. And while we cry out against the war, let us be careful we no longer do anything to keep it up.

The rev. gentleman concluded his observations amid tokens of the deepest attention and interest.

Mr. T. B. Kershaw then proceeded to address the congregation. After some introductory remarks upon the solemnity of the time, the place, and, he might add, the occasion, he drew a vivid and forcible contrast between the America of four years ago and the America of to-day—America smiling with peace and enriched above other lands with all the bounties of an indulgent Providence, and America scourged and made desolate by a pitiless and most unholy war. Not fewer than 2,000,000 men had either been killed outright within that brief but fearful period, or had been doomed to drag out a maimed and miserable existence, dependent upon others for their daily bread. Let them reflect for one moment who and what those unfortunate victims were. Many of them were born on this side of the Atlantic, were members of affectionate and warm-hearted households, worshipped at familiar altars, and were a constant joy and delight to the mothers who bore them; but they were led to the field of battle, there was a shock of arms, and they have passed away. He agreed with their reverend Father in thinking that this was no occasion for argument or discussion. Whatever were the differences between the parties to this terrible and unchristian strife, the solution of them should never have been referred to the arbitrament of the sword; but having been so referred, and hecatombs of slain having been offered up without avail, it became the duty of all Christian people to implore earnestly that the sword might be returned to the scabbard. The people of Ireland were interested above other people in praying that the carnage might cease. If they could only have looked at the faces of the slaughtered ones, whose features would they have seen in the greatest number? Of what country were those fathers, husbands, sons? Americans? No. It had been calculated on the best authority that not fewer than 300,000 Irishmen had been struck down in the battle-fields of America. Friends and relatives in the home country did not even yet know the extent of their cruel loss. It would only be when the smoke of battle had passed away and the din of the charge was hushed, and the sod was growing greener over the graves—it would be then that many an anxious mother would realise for the first time that her son had perished in a strange land, fighting in a cause from which the Church has withheld its blessing.

Mr. Kershaw's address, which occupied above an hour in the delivery, was listened to with profound attention, and at the conclusion the lecturer was rewarded with a cordial vote of thanks. The Rev. Father Gornall expressed his regret that the Catholics in Manchester had not enjoyed a previous opportunity of hearing Mr. Kershaw, as he believed many of them would, in that case, be now members of his flock instead of having perished on the field of battle. Considerable sensation was created by the reverend gentleman's remarks, and at the close of the proceedings the congregation thronged to the tables to sign the Peace Address.

In Ireland the Peace movement appears to be making wonderful progress. I have it from a trustworthy source that in Dublin alone the people are signing the Address at the rate of from 8,000 to 10,000 a day. In Wicklow also, and throughout the whole of the north and west of Ireland, signatures are pouring in in the same astonishing numbers.

The movement is also spreading throughout the agricultural districts in England. County gentlemen are bestirring themselves to assist the clergy in the circulation of the Address, and obtaining signatures. The head of the Wiltshire family of the Lees, in volunteering his best service in that county, writes as follows:—

I not only sympathise with the South, and think it a stigma on the Administration of this country that, amidst all the vapouring of Earl Russell and threats against weaker Powers, they should have evaded their duty to their country by abstaining from interference to a just and lawful extent: but I also feel for the South on higher grounds, those of justice and humanity; and indeed I am proud of the valour and determination, in spite of all sufferings, of my relative, General Lee, and his family, whose name may be found in my family pedigree (which is one of the most ancient in England), the descent being traced from father to son from almost the time of the Conquest, and showing the emigration of that branch of which the noble American general is the illustrious representative and head.

Local organisations in favour of the Confederate cause are still springing up in towns far and near. The following straightforward and pithy little 'manifesto' is one of the best I have recently seen:—

We, the undersigned inhabitants of Burslem, being of opinion that the period has now arrived when the independence of the Confederate States of America ought to be recognised, agree to form ourselves into an Association to promote such object.

We take this view from the fact of the Southern States having successfully combated the vastly superior wealth and forces of the Northern States for upwards of three years; from an able, popular, and vigorous Government having been established; and from the impossibility of a spirited Anglo-Saxon united race of people, numbering upwards of 4,000,000 souls, and possessing very many thousands square miles of territory, ever being permanently conquered and subdued.

I need scarcely observe that the recent news by the *Asia* and *Peruvian*, in so far as it reads unfavourably to the Confederates, is utterly discredited in Manchester. In the manipulation of dates and facts, and in what is stated and not stated—to say nothing of the colouring—we recognise the work of the familiar hand. We shall see in a day or two how it bears a touch from the disenchanting spear.

THE PROSPECTS OF PEACE.—One of the bloodiest battles of the Peninsular War was fought after peace had been concluded, and it seems as if the great American struggle would be crowned with a similar superfluity of carnage. While the most powerful party in the North was proclaiming aloud its abomination of the war and its resolute demand for peace, the Northern armies in Virginia and Georgia were engaged in the most obstinate and sanguinary conflicts. In Virginia the advantage remained with the Confederates, who had been the assailants; in Georgia the Federals, if the occupation of Atlanta is truly reported, may claim the credit of the day. But, though Atlanta may at last have been occupied, the covering army has not been routed, and a successful combination of Confederate forces threatens Sherman with serious embarrassment. At Mobile Admiral Farragut is displaying that tenacity of purpose which has characterised the Federal tactics throughout the present campaign, and, if his progress be slow, he exhibits at least no signs of discouragement. But in the meanwhile a voice has gone forth which may still the thunder of the cannon. The Chicago Convention has not only declared the principles on which the great Democratic party is prepared to act, but has demanded, in the name of the people, that negotiations shall be immediately instituted for the suspension of arms. An armistice at once, a conference as soon as possible—these are the cries now resounding through the States of the North; and unless they can be disregarded—which is not easy to suppose—we may relieve ourselves from the trouble of further speculations on the events of the war. We trust the public will admit that they have not been misguided by our comments on this obstinate contest. The great fact which we asserted from the first is now placed beyond reach of controversy. We said that the North could never subdue the South, and the North has now proclaimed the same conclusion. After three years of the most desperate efforts, in which no expenditure has been spared and no tactics have been left untried, a preponderating section of the Northern people have put on record before the world their deliberate conviction that the policy of war is mistaken and hopeless, and that it must be superseded by a policy of conciliation and compromise. This is the declaration made by a party presumed to be unquestionably the strongest in the State, and the expression of the principle has been entrusted, not to a successful or triumphant soldier, but to a General who was the first to discover the impracticability of the object on which his countrymen were bent. No one knows better than M'Clellan the barriers which separate Washington from Richmond, and the frightful losses which have been incurred without results by his successors in command have established beyond question the justice of his views. As if to stamp with still deeper censure the policy of the Government, Governor Seymour, of New York, the man of greatest mark among the opponents of Mr. Lincoln, was elected by acclamation to the presidency of the Convention by which these decisive steps were taken.—The *Times*, Sept. 14.

The whole of the Spanish Ministry resigned on Monday last. The Queen has accepted their resignation, and has deputed Senor Mon to reconstitute the Cabinet. Senor Pacheco will remain Minister of Foreign Affairs.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

THE state of the money market is, to say the least, very doubtful, in consequence of the fluctuating condition of the foreign exchanges and the prospect of the Indian rates being unfavourable. It was supposed that the late advance in the Bank rate would have stopped the evil effect of the drain, but it is now said the *minimum* may be at any moment increased to 10 per cent. The apprehension appears to be that the circulation of the bills drawn by the credit and finance companies may create mischief, and as these are very wide spread it is not improbable a severe reaction will take place before long. With the currency laws in their present position, the Bank is likely to lose command over bullion and reserve, and as this is the case, we must wait patiently for amendment. The state of the accounts will for the next few weeks be watched with great impatience, and should the symptoms be discouraging the directors, it is said, will not wait an instant, but forthwith pursue restrictive measures. The bankers and bill brokers have recently been working quite up to the official Bank *minimum* of 9 per cent., but yesterday prospects were so satisfactory that the terms for 6 months' remittance bills were quoted $8\frac{1}{2}$ to 9 per cent. showing the effect of the slightest symptom of ease. The rate for the very shortest choice paper is not lower than 9 per cent., and it would very soon further advance, if the foreign exchanges were to become adverse, or the money markets on the continent were to approach a general state of stringency. The large discount establishments being well supplied with capital, any balances they are glad to let out from day to day on the Stock Exchange, and, therefore the value of money on Government securities rules at moderate quotations. Though the settlements have latterly been in progress, they have made little difference.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

There is not any material change in the state of the bullion market, with the exception that the amount of gold sent into the Bank has fallen off this week, and there having been a withdrawal of 75,000 sovereigns for transmission to the Brazils. The amount taken by the Bank has been only 56,000*l*. The arrivals of specie, however, have been good, the total amounting to 644,829*l*., of which 436,535*l*. was from the West Indies and Pacific, 112,612*l*. from Melbourne, 88,600*l*. from New York, 2,704*l*. from the West Coast, and 88,600*l*. from Vera Cruz. The *Magdalena*, for the Brazils, has taken out specie to the value of 83,200*l*., of which 75,200*l*. was in gold and 8,000*l*. in silver. The shipments to the East by the *Ripon* steamer are about 297,850*l*., of which 36,650*l*. is in gold and 261,300*l*. in silver. The market for silver has become rather heavy, and the rates for bar are about $61\frac{3}{8}$*d*., and the tendency being towards a further decline. There has been very little done in Mexican dollars, and the price remains at about $60\frac{3}{4}$*d*. per oz.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

There has not been an extensive business transacted in the English stock market during the week, but prices have again fluctuated considerably, though there has been a rally from the lowest point touched. To-day there has been increased heaviness, caused by the promulgation of various rumours, and the belief entertained in some quarters that the bank will be under the necessity of again advancing the minimum rate of discount to-morrow. Consols closed at $87\frac{3}{4}$ to $87\frac{7}{8}$ for money, and $88\frac{1}{8}$ to $88\frac{1}{4}$ for the account, which is declined as compared with the quotations of this day week of $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. Exchange bills still continue heavy, the June issue being 25*s*. to 15*s*. dis., and those of June 15*s*. to 5*s*. dis. The business in the foreign stock market has been of about an average character, but with the exception of a few of the more speculative descriptions, prices have not greatly varied, though the tendency is towards a further decline. The chief alterations have been a fall of $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. in Mexican; a rise of $\frac{1}{4}$ in Spanish passives; and of $\frac{5}{8}$ in the certificates. The closing quotations this evening were, Greek, $24\frac{1}{4}$ to $24\frac{1}{2}$; Mexican, $27\frac{1}{2}$ to $27\frac{3}{4}$; Spanish passives, 32 to $32\frac{1}{2}$; ditto certificates, 14 to $14\frac{1}{2}$; Turkish Six per cents. of 1854, 90 to 91; and those of 1862, $70\frac{1}{4}$ to $70\frac{3}{4}$.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The market for American Government and Railway securities has again been more active this week, in consequence of the reported increased prospects of peace between the Northern and Southern States. In the early part of the week prices had an advancing tendency, but there has since been a decline in almost all descriptions. The dealings recorded have been in United States, of 1874, at $43\frac{1}{2}$; Virginian State 6 per cents., at 31, 32, $32\frac{1}{2}$, 33, and 32; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York section, 1st mortgage, at 72; do. do., 2nd mortgage, at 68; do. do., Pennsylvania section, at 73; Erie shares $100 all paid, at 45, $44\frac{1}{2}$, and 43; Illinois Central, $100 shares, $90 paid, at 42, $42\frac{3}{4}$, and 43 dis.; and do. do., all paid, at 53, $53\frac{1}{2}$, $52\frac{1}{2}$, 52, 53, $53\frac{3}{4}$, $53\frac{1}{2}$, 54, 53, $52\frac{1}{2}$, $53\frac{1}{4}$, $52\frac{1}{4}$, and $52\frac{3}{4}$.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

This stock has been remarkably firm during the past week, and, under the influence of continuous purchases, advanced on Saturday to 85. Subsequent accounts from the States reporting the capture of Atlanta caused a partial relapse, but the market closes firm at 83 to 84.

We are able to state positively that the project of a new loan, based on cotton, to be offered to the Confederate States, as suggested in certain advertisements which have recently appeared, is started without the knowledge or countenance of the Confederate Government. Several projects of new loans have at different times been submitted, and the Congress has invariably declined to entertain them. It is extremely improbable that this policy will be changed during the continuance of the war.

A correspondent of the *Daily News*, in a letter on the Confederate Cotton Bonds, which contains much furious invective and some absurdly erroneous statements—among others the exploded falsehood that Mr. Jefferson Davis is the author of the Mississippi Repudiation—refers to a supposed *secret* emission of such bonds. Our readers need scarcely be informed that there is not even the shadow of a foundation for this insinuation, and that it bears its own refutation on its face. The only cotton obligations, not comprised in the Erlanger Loan, which have been at any time afloat, were some to a very limited extent issued by purchasing agents of the Government in payment of goods. Most, if not all of these, have long since been redeemed or withdrawn. It was to them that Mr. McRae referred in the letter quoted by the *Daily News* correspondent.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

The market for the English railway securities has not been particularly active, and, within the last day or two, business has been materially curtailed in consequence of the preparations for the half-monthly settlement. Prices have been gradually declining, but they close to-day at a slight improvement from the lowest quotations of the week. With the exception of Scottish Central, which from special circumstances shows an advance of nearly 5 per cent., the decline is pretty general. There has been a fall of 2 per cent., in Glasgow and South-Western, and Great Northern; of $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. in Metropolitan and South-Eastern; of 1 per cent. in Caledonian, Dublin and Belfast Junction, Midland, London and South-Western, and North Bristol; of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in London and North-Western; and of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Great Eastern, Lancashire, and Yorkshire, Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, and North-Eastern (Berwick). In foreign and colonial railway shares, business has been dull; but prices, although very weak, do not present any material variation.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The suspension has been announced of Messrs. Croskey & Co., of St. Michael's House, Cornhill, railway contractors. Their liabilities are estimated at from 90,000*l*. to 100,000*l*. They have large works on hand connected with South America, and upon the satisfactory management of these, the prospects of assets are said to depend.—The failure of Messrs. Manual and Brillman, diamond merchants and jewellers, is announced. The liabilities are put down at 40,000*l*. to 50,000*l*., arising chiefly from bill transactions, they having been largely connected with Messrs. Croskey & Co.—The suspension is likewise announced of Messrs. Lewine and Morris, who are also said to have been engaged with Messrs. Croskey; they traded as American agents and shippers. The debts are reported to be about 40,000*l*. The books have been placed in the hands of Messrs. Harding, Pullin, & Co.—Mr. James Marks, of Birmingham, merchant, has also stopped payment. The liabilities are 22,271*l*., and the assets are estimated at 22,265*l*., being chiefly due for goods shipped to Melbourne. A meeting of the creditors has been held, and has been adjourned to enable Mr. Marks to obtain security for a composition of 10*s*. in the pound. In the event of his failing to do this, a deed of assignment is to be executed.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES, &c.

At a meeting of the shareholders of the Imperial Bank of China, India, and Japan, the resolutions passed at a previous meeting, accepting the terms proposed for amalgamating with the Bank of Hindustan, China, and Japan, were agreed to. The affairs of the Bank are to be wound up voluntarily.—At a meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Hindustan, China, and Japan, the resolutions passed at their previous meeting, authorising the amalgamation with the Imperial Bank of China, India, and Japan, were confirmed, and also another for increasing the capital of the bank to 2,000,000*l*. Four directors of the Imperial Bank of China, India, and Japan, are to be added to the direction of the Bank of Hindustan, China, and Japan.—At an extraordinary general meeting of the proprietors of the Alliance National Land, Building, and Investment Company, it was resolved that the resolutions of a previous meeting, altering the name to the Estates Bank, be confirmed, and that the qualification of each director be increased to 100 shares.—It has been announced by the directors of the Upper Assam Tea Company that a dividend of 20 per cent. has been declared payable on and after to-day, making, with the *ad interim* dividend of 10 per cent. paid in June last, a total of 30 per cent. on the year's operations ending September 30 last.—The report of the Bank of British Columbia has been issued preparatory to the meeting on the 26th inst. It appears that, after paying all current expenses, the amount of undivided profit at the end of the half-year on June 30 was 11,105*l*. Out of this sum the directors propose to appropriate 5,000*l*. to the payment of a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax; to add 4,000 to the reserve fund, which will thereby be increased to 6,000*l*.; and to carry forward 2,105*l*. The directors announce that the supplemental charter which they have obtained authorises them to establish branches at other places in the west of North America, besides British Columbia and Vancouver Island, and to defer calling up the remainder of the capital until such time as they may think it desirable to do so.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

The prospectus has just been issued of the United Kingdom Steam Boiler Insurance Company, the object being to provide against the risk and damage to property caused by the explosion of steam boilers. The capital sought to be raised is 100,000*l*., in 20,000 of 5*l*. each.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

Business in these departments continues dull in consequence of the high rates of discount; and although supplies, as a rule, are not brought heavily to sale, prices are generally weaker, when they are not absolutely depressed. The corn trade has manifested renewed heaviness, and at 1*s*. per quarter decline for wheat only limited parcels have been placed. New American red winter is quoted 40*s*. to 42*s*. The demand for oilcake is less active, the weather having been more favourable for vegetation; but in prices there is very little variation, American being still 10*l*. 5*s*. to 11*l*. 10*s*. per ton, according to quality. Rather a heavy fall has taken place in some kinds of provisions without leading to a clearance of stocks. Foreign butters are fully 4*s*. lower for best and 8*s*. for inferior. Americans are perhaps the steadiest at 90*s*. to 108*s*. per cwt. Irish bacon has declined 2*s*. and 3*s*., and Hamburg 4*s*. per cwt. For American there is a limited enquiry at 45*s*. to 50*s*. per cwt. Bacon middles are neglected. Lard is relatively firm in price, with a fair enquiry. Hams meet very little demand, there being but few fine offering. The sugar trade has been nearly at a stand-still, but to-day there was a movement in floating cargoes, several of which changed hands. The terms are kept secret, but are lower. Coffee meets a better market than most other articles, and at about 6*d*. to 1*s*. decline liberal supplies have again been cleared off. In China teas there is no material variation; but an indifferent assortment of India growth sold at 1*d*. to 2*d*. deduction from previous auctions. Rice, saltpetre, and spices have not engaged attention. New fruits are arriving more freely. Valencia raisins sell at 37*s*. per cwt. Petroleum has been sold to some extent at 2*s*. per gallon cash for American refined crude is quoted 17*l*. to 18*l*. per tun. Seed oils are mostly purchaseable on easier terms, linseed offering at 34*s*. 9*d*. per cwt., pale rape at 46*s*. and brown at 42*s*. per cwt. The prospects of diminished supplies of tallow from the late protracted drought continue to have effect in this market, which is increasingly firm, especially for distant periods of delivery. This evening 42*s*. was the price of Y.C. on the spot, 43*s*. last three months, 44*s*. 6*d*. spring, and 45*s*. March. In drugs and drysaltery articles there has been scarcely sufficient doing to establish quotations. Dyestuffs are dull of sale, in common with most other articles, and cochineal to-day gave way 1*d*. per lb. Hemp moves off slowly at about 31*l*. to 32*l*. for roping Manilla. Jute is further reduced 30*s*. per ton, bringing quotations for common to fine marks down to 11*l*. to 27*l*. 10*s*. per ton. The cotton markets continue depressed, from causes noticed in previous reports. The metal trade is inactive, and quotations are little better than nominal. Scotch pig iron, 58*s*. $4\frac{1}{2}$*d*.; spelter, 24*l*. 10*s*.; lead, 20*l*. to 22*l*. 10*s*.; Banca tin, 101*l*. cash; Straits, 100*l*.; best selected copper, 97*l*. to 100*l*. per ton.

LIVERPOOL, Wednesday, September 14.—Our cotton market has again become exceedingly inanimate, in consequence of the peace rumours from America, and which are now received with more credence. The transactions have, during the week, been unusually limited, and for most descriptions prices have receded about 1*d*. to 2*d*. per lb., and the market exhibits a further downward tendency. The sales this week have been only 22,000 bales, of which 9,500 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year have been 1,887,310 bales, against 1,691,904 bales to the corresponding period in 1863. There have been imported this year 1,617,238 bales, and to the same period last year 1,058,217 bales. The trade have taken this year 1,168,726 bales, and to the same time in 1863 923,318 bales. The exports this year have been 389,407 bales; last year they were 317,727 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 318,506 bales, and in 1863 412,484 bales. The estimated stocks at the present time are 346,812 bales, and at the same period last year they were 207,316 bales. The closing quotations this afternoon were, for American descriptions, 27*d*. to $27\frac{3}{4}$*d*.; Pernambuco, 27*d*. to $28\frac{3}{4}$*d*.; Maceio, $27\frac{1}{4}$*d*. to $27\frac{1}{2}$*d*.; Bahia, 27*d*. to $27\frac{1}{4}$*d*.; Egyptian, $16\frac{1}{2}$*d*. to 31*d*.; Smyrna, $17\frac{1}{2}$*d*. to $22\frac{3}{4}$*d*.; Surats, 12*d*. to $21\frac{1}{2}$*d*.; Madras, $13\frac{1}{4}$*d*.; Bengal, $14\frac{1}{4}$*d*. to $14\frac{1}{2}$*d*.; Scinde, 14*d*. to $14\frac{1}{4}$*d*.; China, 16*d*. to 17*d*.; and Japan, 19*d*. to $19\frac{1}{2}$*d*.

The markets at Manchester have exhibited even less animation than they did last week, and business has been more restricted than it probably otherwise would have been, in consequence of buyers offering such terms as were not likely to be accepted. Nearly all the purchasers are holding off in anticipation of a speedy drop in values. In shipping yarns there has been nothing whatever doing; some offers have been made which spinners refuse to accept. Home trade yarns are also quite as unsaleable and from the same causes, and in the present depression in the cloth market, manufacturers appear less and less disposed to buy yarns to go on making. Prices are now weaker than they were last week, and the great desire to close mills under the circumstances appears to be fast gaining ground. In the cloth market there is no improvement, and there appears a more determined feeling on the part of merchants to abstain from operations, the high price of money also acting as a powerful deterrent. The few offers that have been made have been at very low rates, and have only led to business in cases where stocks are heavy and sellers pressing to realise. As a rule, however, there is less pressure to sell than might have been anticipated, as manufacturers seem to entertain some hopes of the market partially, if not wholly, recovering firmness through the prospective decrease in production. Annexed are latest quotations:—$\frac{7}{8}$ Grey Printers, according to quality, 8*s*. 6*d*. to 16*s*. 6*d*.; $\frac{9}{8}$ Grey Madapollams, 7*s*. $7\frac{1}{2}$*d*. to 10*s*. $1\frac{1}{2}$*d*.; $\frac{9}{8}$ Grey Printers, 11*s*. $7\frac{1}{2}$*d*. to 18*s*.; $\frac{5}{4}$ Grey Shirtings, 12*s*. 9*d*. to 27*s*.; Water Twist, No. 20, 2*s*. 2*d*. to 2*s*. $9\frac{1}{2}$*d*.; No. 30, 2*s*. 7*d*. to 3*s*. 1*d*.; No. 40, 3*s*. to 3*s*. 6*d*.; Mule Twist, No. 20, 1*s*. 10*d*. to 2*s*. 8*d*.; No. 30. 2*s*. 3*d*. to 2*s*. 10*d*.; No. 40, 2*s*. $5\frac{1}{2}$*d*. to 3*s*. 3*d*.; No. 50, 2*s*. 10*d*. to 3*s*. 5*d*.; No. 60, 2*s*. 11*d*. to 3*s*. 7*d*.; No. 70, 3*s*. 1*d*. to 3*s*. 9*d*.; No. 80, 3*s*. 5*d*. to 3*s*. 11*d*.; No. 90, 3*s*. 7*d*. to 4*s*. 1*d*.; and No. 100, 3*s*. 10*d*. to 4*s*. 8*d*.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SHIPS ARRIVED.

AT GRAVESEND.—September 8: The Volunteer, from Trinidad. The Chebucto, The Speedwell, The Vere, from Jamaica. The Patriotess, from Buenos Ayres. The Ocean Child, from St. Lucia. The Mata, from Barbadoes.—September 9: The Free, from Porto Rico. The Western Star, from Porto Rico.—September 10: The Ocean, from Trinidad. The Marianne, from Cuba. The Alma, from Demerara. The James Reddin, from Havana.—September 11: The Mercator, from Porto Rico. The Galilei, from Trinidad. The Helen, from Jamaica.—September 13: The Hibernica, from Jamaica. The Letitia, from Cuba.—September 14: The Citizen, The Currie, M. Ford, from Prince Edward's Island.

AT DEAL.—September 8: The Trevelyan, The Cuyuni, from Demerara. The King Lear, from Quebec.—September 9: The Jane, from Trinidad. The Sarah A. West, from Quebec. The Koh-i-noor, from St. Lucia.—September 10: The Enthusiast, from Cuba.—September 12: The Pipe, from Porto Rico.—September 13: The Europa, from St. Kitt's.—September 14: The Midlothian, from Demerara. The Chanticleer, from Jamaica.

AT FALMOUTH.—September 8: The Letitia, from Cuba. The Sangor, The Joven Luis, from Havana.—September 9: The Annunciacion, from Porto Rico. The Marianne, from Havana.—September 10: The Isabel, from Rio Grande. The G. F. Hunt, from Havana.—September 11: The Bruno and Marie, from Bahia. The Marechal de Turenne, from Havana.—September 12: The Margaret Falconer, from Cuba.—September 13: The Magpie, The Adelaida, The San Jose, from Havana, The Mina, from Cuba.

AT SOUTHAMPTON.—September 13: The Tasmanian (steamer), from West Indies.

OFF SWANAGE.—September 12: The Cambrian, The Dundee, from Jamaica.

AT PENZANCE.—September 8: The Lord Riversdale, from Quebec.

AT DARTMOUTH.—September 13: The Adelaide, from Buenos Ayres.

OFF HASTINGS.—September 11: The Freedom, from St. John's.

AT TORBAY.—September 8: The Ennesdale, from London, for Demerara.

AT HOLYHEAD BAY.—September 12: The Orcadian, from Miramichi.

AT MILFORD.—September 9: The Kestral (steamer), from Havana.

OFF PLYMOUTH.—September 9: The Georgiana, from St. John's.

AT LIVERPOOL.—September 8: The Morning Star, from Matamoras. The Urania, from Bermuda. The Pachetto, from Bahia. The Bleng, from Pernambuco. The Plantagenet (steamer), from Vera Cruz. The Laura, The Giuseppe, from Montevideo. The Lancaster, The Mary Jane, from St. John's. The Henry Adderley, from Nassau. The Herbert, from Matamoras.—September 10: The Athenian (steamer), from Madeira. The Admiral Blake, from Buenos Ayres. The Jane Gray, from Montevideo. The St. Clara, from Bahia. The Beberibe, from Pernambuco. The Emperor, from Demerara. The Three Sisters, The Æolus, from Jamaica.—September 11: The Fatima, The Dependent, from Jamaica. The R. D. Shepherd, from New Orleans. The Albion, from Bermuda. The Lizzie Moses, from St. John's. The Mary Alice, from St. George's, N.B.—September 12: The Aranco, from Valparaiso. The Joseph Cape, from Pernambuco. The Jane Doull, from Bermuda. The Recovery, from St. John's. The Margaret, from Halifax. The Resolution, from Nassau.—September 13: The Mary, from St. John's.

AT DUBLIN.—September 9: The Excelsior, from St. John's.—September 10: the Orion, The Vortez, from St. John's.

AT BELFAST.—September 10: The Realm, from Miramichi.
AT WATERFORD.—September 8: The Julia (steamer), from Clyde, for Nassau.
AT SCILLY.—September 7: The Salmon, from Montevideo.
AT BRISTOL.—September 11: The Adler, from Rio Janeiro.—September 12: The Amy, from Miramichi. The Elizabeth, from St. John's.
AT CLYDE.—September 7: The John Ferguson, from Havana.—September 12: The Orange Grove, from Trinidad. The Thomas Hamlin, from Havana. The Marquite, from St. John's.
AT WARRENPOINT.—September 10: The Myrtle, from St. John's.
AT KINGSTOWN.—September 17: The H. J. Cook, from St. John's.
AT PILL.—September 12: The Constance, from Prince Edward Island.
AT QUEENSTOWN.—September 8: The Adler, from Rio Grande. The Caterina, from Bahia. The Tasmanian, from Cuba.—September 9: The Bat (steamer), from Liverpool for Bermuda. The Diligent, from Montevideo.—September 10: The Zephyr, from St. John's.—September 11: The Johann Hendrick, from Buenos Ayres. The Cubana, from Jamaica. The Eliza, from Havana. The Nonpareil, from St. John's. The John Hunter, The Texian, from Montevideo.—September 12: The Tyrol, from Havana. The Lalla Rookh, from St. John's.
AT CORK.—September 8: The Sarah Chase, from Cuba. The Trident, from St. John's.
AT SWANSEA.—September 12: The Theodosia, from Teneriffe.
AT LONDONDERRY.—September 8: The Mohongs, from St. John's.
AT SHIELDS.—September 8: The Lord Seaton, from Quebec.
AT HULL.—September 8: The Dauntless, from Callao. The Troas, from St. John's.
AT KINGROAD.—September 13: The Orchid, from Barbadoes.
AT MARYPORT.—September 8: The Horatio, from Quebec.
AT NASSAU.—August 1: The Druid (steamer), from Charleston. The Violin, The Achilles.—August 2: The Planet.—August 4: The Rosina Claypole, The Georgiana, The Annie.—August 8: The Elinor, The Compage, The Jane Gardner, The Mary James, The Ransom, The Don Jose.—August 9: The Autumn, The Lexington.—August 10: The Hope (steamer), The Susan, The Brothers, The Bertha, The R. S. Hood.—August 11: The Maracaibo, The Sylvia.—August 13: The Lily.—August 15: The Electric.—August 17: The Manuel Murillo (steamer), The Solferino, The May.—August 18: The Corsica (steamer), The Evelina, The Sunnyside.—August 19: The Reinhardt.—August 20: The Reorm, The Sun.—August 21: The Remidios.—August 25: The Fox (steamer), from Charleston. The Lucy (steamer), from Wilmington. The Crocodile, The J. J. Finlayson, The Britannia, The Aberdeen, The Panama, The Teviot, The Commerce, The Prince Albert (steamer), from Charleston. The Syren (steamer), from Wilmington. The Florida.

SHIPS SAILED.

GRAVESEND.—September 8: The Alwynton, for Barbadoes. The Damietta, for Rio Janeiro.—September 11: The Delphin, for St. Thomas. The Lady Milne, for Bermuda.—September 12: The John Barden, for Trinidad. The Bridgetown, for Barbadoes.—September 13: The William Le Lacheur, for Costa Rico. The Midlothian, for Demerara. The Ionia, for Nassau.—September 14: The Aurora, for St. Michael's.
DEAL.—September 8: The St. Bede, for Barbadoes.—September 11: The Vrede, for Rio Janeiro.
RAMSGATE.—September 8: The Wanderer, for Bermuda.
SHIELDS.—September 12: The Maria, for Rio Janeiro.
SWANSEA.—September 8: The Admiral Fitzroy, for Valparaiso. The Queen, for Madeira.—September 12: The Gleaner, The Pet, for Teneriffe.
LEITH.—September 8: The Bolette Poggaard, for Rio Janeiro.
CLYDE.—September 8: The Caledonia, for Demerara. The St. George (steamer), for St. John's. September 12: The Onda, for Buenos Ayres.
CARDIFF.—September 7: The Pleiades, for Bermuda. The Margaretta, for Halifax. The Lizzie Oakford, for Cape de Verds. September 9: The Alide, for Buenos Ayres. The Cordelia, for Bermuda. September 10: The Ann, for Pernambuco. The Roseanna, for Demerara. The Gustave, for St. Thomas. The Mary C. Purday, for Bermuda. The Choice Trout, for Teneriffe.—September 12: The Eliza Nelson, for Bermuda.
HULL.—September 12: The Alfredo, for Rio Janeiro.
MUMBLES.—September 12: The Admiral Fitzroy, for Valparaiso. The Queen, for Madeira.
PILL.—September 12: The Venus, for Demerara.
NEWPORT.—September 10: The Newsboy, for Rio Janeiro.
LIVERPOOL.—September 17: The Witch of the Wave, for Buenos Ayres. The Fortuna, for Santos. The Lady Douglas, for Rio Janeiro. The Prairie Flower, for Rio Grande. The Bat (steamer), for Halifax and Bermuda. The Harkaway, The Dumfries, for Bermuda.—September 8: The Paraguay (steamer), for Montevideo.—September 10: The Plantagenet (steamer), for St. Thomas. The Harmston, for Pernambuco.—September 12: The Sappermer, for St. Thomas.—September 13: The Freya, for Rio Janeiro. The Isabella Hucus, for Demerara. The Alida, for St. John's. The Commodore, The Ada, for Prince Edward Island. The Waydah, for Vera Cruz. The Guyana Hillegonda, for Matamoras. The Sutcliffe, The Isabella, for Demerara. The James Stuart, for Pernambuco. The Catharine L, for Bahia.
ST. JOHN'S.—August 12: The Margareta, from Havana. The Ricardo, from Cuba.
MADEIRA.—September 2: The Stormy Petrel (steamer), for Bermuda. The Mosquito (steamer), for Tampico. The Batrice (steamer), The Banshee (steamer).

BERMUDA.—August 23: The Let Her Be (steamer), The Let Her Rip (steamer), The Old Domin (steamer), with 843 bales of cotton, The Flamingo (steamer), The Helen (steamer), The May Bows (steamer), The Florie (steamer), The City of Petersburgh (steamer), with 1,025 bales of cotton, &c., The Harvest, The Lynx (steamer), The Alm (steamer), The Little Hattie (steamer), all from Wilmington. The Sea King is loading 3,000 bales of cotton for Liverpool. The Sir G. F. Seymour, The Melita (steamer).
YARMOUTH, N.S.—August 27: The Sophia, from Bermuda.
HALIFAX.—September 1: The Constance (steamer), for Nassau.
HAVANA.—August 20: The Denbigh (steamer), The Surana (steamer), still in port.
NASSAU.—August 2: The Remedios, for Matamoras. The Marie Anne, for Havre. The Druid (steamer), for St. John's. The Herald, The Flying Eagle, The Violin, for Cuba. The Prince Albert (steamer), for St. John's.—August 6: The Arrarian, The Henry Adderley, for Liverpool, The Fox (steamer), for St. John's. The Rosina, for Bermuda. The Annie for Matanzas.—August 8: The Atlantic, for Halifax. The Amelia Ann, for Bermuda. The Star of the East, for Jamaica. The Lion, for Cuba.—August 9: The Mercurius, for Liverpool. The Syren (steamer), for St. John's. The Spy, for Cardenas. The Galvanic, The Dreadnot, for Mauritius.—August 10: The Kitty Jones, The White Star, for Liverpool. The Architect, for Bermuda.—August 13: The Aid, The Resolution, for Liverpool.—August 18: The Compage, for Bermuda. The Betty Taylor, for Havana.—August 25: The Nereid, for Havana. The Lightning, for Bermuda.—August 27: The E. Beckwith, for Bermuda. The Explorer, for Key West. The S. C. Parker, for Run Cay.—August 28: The Wild Pigeon, for Havana.—August 30: The Helen, for Liverpool. The Tweed, for Bermuda.

SHIPS LOADING.

AT LONDON.—For New York: The Washington (mail steamer) from Havre, September 21: Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For West Indies: The Vera Cruz (mail steamer) from St. Nazaire, September 16: Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For Nassau: The Refuge, St. Katharine's Docks, J. Worley. The Merchant, St. Katharine's Docks, Davison Brothers & Co.—For Bermuda: The Jane Smith, The Wanderer, The Quiver, The Hansa, The Era.—For Havre: The Neptune (steamer), St. Katharine's Wharf, September 11, at 4 P.M., September 18, at 11 A.M., and September 22 at 2 A.M. The Young Mary, The Felicity.—For Montevideo: The Gustave and Marie, Davison Brothers & Co., St. Katharine's Docks.—For Madeira: The Arabella.
AT LIVERPOOL.—For Bermuda: The Nutfield, The Mary, The Ann and Mary, The Prioress.—For Madeira: The Macgregor Laird (steamer), The Garibaldi.—For Matamoras: The Oleander, The Rimac, The Byron, The St. George, The Wild Wave, The Mary and Jessie, The Julie.—For Nassau: The May Garland, The Prospero.—For Halifax: The Surprise.
AT CARDIFF.—For Bermuda: The Admiral Kanaris (steamer), C. Rapier. The Juno, The Venus.—For Nassau: The Royal Arch.
AT SWANSEA.—For Bermuda: The Audex.

Among the Contents of THE INDEX *of September 8 are:—*

FINANCIAL ASPECT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
LETTERS FROM NEW ORLEANS.
NOTES ON EVENTS OF THE WEEK AT HOME AND ABROAD.
M'CLELLAN AS A CANDIDATE.
THE CAPTAIN OF THE 'TALLAHASSEE.'
THE MASSACHUSETTS SLAVE TRADE.
M'CLELLAN AS PRESIDENT.
THE CRISIS OF THE CAMPAIGN.
WILL PEACE IMMEDIATELY BRING DOWN THE PRICE OF COTTON?
SERIALS FOR SEPTEMBER.
THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.
THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.
THE PEACE MOVEMENT.
AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.
SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

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HOSE PIPE, AND MILL BAND MANUFACTURERS.

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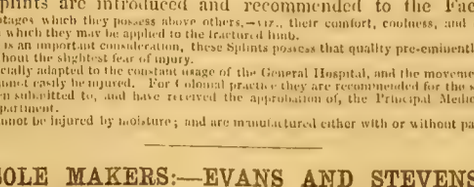

THESE Splints are introduced and recommended to the Faculty for the great advantages which they possess above others,—viz., their comfort, coolness, and durability, as well as the facility with which they may be applied to the fractured limb.
As cleanliness is an important consideration, these Splints possess that quality pre-eminently, as they may be readily washed without the slightest fear of injury.
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A large assortment of surgical instruments and appliances always in Stock, and can be supplied at the lowest prices compatible with excellence of material and workmanship, in which particulars they cannot be surpassed.

BY AUTHORITY.

REGULATIONS TO CARRY INTO EFFECT THE ACT TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS UPON THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENCE, APPROVED 1 FEBRUARY 6, 1864.

I.—AS TO THE SEA.

1. The owners of any vessel intending to sail from a Confederate port with a cargo consisting in whole or in part of cotton, tobacco, military and naval stores, sugar, molasses, or rice, shall, before the lading on board of any such articles, file with the collector of the port from which the vessel is to sail a copy of her register, with a declaration of the names of the owners and officers thereof, the place of their birth, and of their residence for the preceding year, together with the port or place to which the said vessel proposes to sail. The said declaration shall also set forth the quantity and value, in Confederate currency, of the cargo proposed to be taken out, as also the consent of the said owners that one-half of the tonnage of the said vessel may be employed by the Confederate Government for its own use, both on the outward and homeward voyage, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned. The collector shall submit a statement as to the owners and officers to the military commandant of the port; and if he shall not object to their loyalty, or to the sailing vessel, for reasons of military necessity, the collector shall grant a permit for the lading of said vessel, one-half for account of the owners, and one-half for account of the Confederate States.

2. Before the said lading shall be completed, the owners of the vessel shall execute to the Confederate States a bond in one-half the value of the vessel, with security deemed adequate by the collector, conditioned that she will pursue the voyage designated, and that she will return with reasonable despatch to a Confederate port, after her outward cargo shall be discharged, with a cargo consisting one-half of articles not prohibited by the laws of the Confederate Government, and the other half of such articles as the Government shall offer for shipment from such port, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned.

3. Each shipper of any portion of the cargo proposed to be laden on board the said vessel shall, before the lading thereof, make application to the collector for a permit to lade the same; which application shall declare the articles to be shipped, and the quantity and value thereof in Confederate currency, the port of destination, and the name of the consignee. A permit shall then be granted by the collector, if the application is deemed satisfactory. The lading shall be had under the inspection of a revenue officer, who shall be charged with the duty of seeing that the goods laden conform to the permit.

4. Before the completion of the lading on board, or the granting a clearance, each shipper of any portion of the cargo shall execute and deliver to the collector a bond to the Confederate States, in one-half the value of his shipment in Confederate money, with security deemed adequate by the collector, with condition that at least one-half the net proceeds of said shipment shall be invested in goods or articles not prohibited by law; and said goods or articles shall be shipped by the same or some other vessel to the Confederate States within sixty days from the unlading of said cargo.

5. The freight to be paid by the Confederate States on all cotton and tobacco shipped from a Confederate port shall be fivepence sterling per pound, payable on delivery at the port of destination, in coin or sterling exchange. Return freight shall be at the rate of 20*l.* per ton, payable on its delivery in a Confederate port, in cotton, at twelvepence sterling per pound for middling uplands, and at a proportionate price for cotton of other qualities; or, at the option of the Government, in specie or sterling exchange. In calculating the ton of freight by weight, 2,240 pounds shall be allowed; by measure, forty cubic feet shall be allowed.

6. The rates of freight for articles other than cotton and tobacco shall be adjusted at the same relative rate, and payable in the same way.

7. The Government reserves the right to limit or prohibit the shipment of rosin, turpentine, or any manufacture thereof, whenever deemed dangerous to its own shipment.

8. Upon the completion of the lading of the vessel, and before receiving her clearance, there shall be delivered to the collector, in addition to the usual manifest, another, setting forth the names, ages, and description of the officers and crew, and of every passenger intending to sail in her. The said last-mentioned manifest shall be delivered to the commandant of the port, who shall thereupon cause the entire vessel to be searched; and if satisfied that the parties on board are persons who may safely be permitted to leave the Confederacy, and that the passengers have the proper passports, he shall certify the same on the manifest, and return the same to the collector; whereupon, and not before, a clearance shall be granted to the vessel, and she shall be permitted to sail.

9. The owners of each vessel, and of each portion of a cargo, sailing from a Confederate port, shall be allowed to take up their respective bonds by producing to the collector the certificate of the proper agent of the Confederate Government at the port of delivery, setting forth the particulars, showing that the said party has complied with the obligation of the said bonds so far as the same was practicable; and the collector, upon being duly satisfied, shall be authorised to surrender the said bonds.

10. Nothing in these regulations shall be so construed as to conflict with the proviso of the law which declares 'that nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit the Confederate States, or any of them, from exporting any of the articles herein enumerated on their own account,' nor shall a bond be required of a State in any case.

11. The penalties of all bonds executed in conformity with these regulations shall be recoverable in full, on proof of breach of the conditions of the bond, and without proof of any damage suffered by the Confederate States in consequence of such breach; and all bonds shall be executed in such form as to give effect to this regulation.

12. Vessels sent into the Confederacy for the purpose of exporting cotton received in payment of any Confederate bond or obligation, shall be subject to these regulations only so far as relates to such portion of the tonnage, if any, as may remain vacant after the lading of the cotton received in payment as aforesaid.

13. Whenever any vessel shall bring into the Confederate States an entire cargo for account of the Confederate States, the owners of the said vessel and the shippers of her cargo shall be relieved from the bonds previously given to invest and bring in one half of the net proceeds of her outward cargo; and the certificate of the agent of the Treasury Department, at the port of lading, that such cargo was duly shipped in pursuance of the regulations, shall authorise the collector to cancel and surrender the said bonds.

G. A. TRENHOLM, Secretary of the Treasury.
J. A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.

Approved August 8, 1864,

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLECTORS OF CUSTOMS.

Treasury Department, C.S.A.
Richmond, March 12, 1864.

THE following regulations are prescribed for the government and directions of all officers of the revenue, to carry into effect the provisions of the Act to prohibit the importation of luxuries, or of articles not necessary or of common use, approved February 6, 1864:—

1. The importation of articles set forth in the schedule accompanying these regulations is absolutely prohibited.

2. None of said prohibited articles shall be admitted for duty after the 1st of March, 1864, or shall receive a permit to be landed unless it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the collector that they were actually shipped on board of the vessel in which they have arrived before the 1st of March, 1864, without knowledge of the passage of the Act aforesaid.

3. In case any prohibited articles shall be on board any ship, vessel, boat, raft or carriage arriving in the Confederate States after said 1st of March, and shall be omitted in the manifest, report, or entry of the master or person having charge or command of such ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, or shall be omitted in the entry of the goods owned by the owner or consigned to the consignee of such articles, or shall be imported or landed without a permit, the said goods shall be seized and dealt with, and the vessel and parties shall be subjected to the same forfeitures, fines, and penalties in case of similar omissions, landing, importation, or attempt to land or import, in relation to articles liable to duties on their importation into the Confederate States.

4. In case any prohibited article shall, after the 1st of March, 1864, be imported into the Confederate States, or shall, after said date, be put on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, with the intention of importing the same into the Confederate States; all such articles shall be forfeited, and also all other articles on board the said ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, belonging to the owner of such prohibited articles; and, moreover, the owner thereof shall forfeit and pay double the value of the prohibited articles.

5. The following additional oath or affirmation shall be taken by each master or person having charge or command of any ship or vessel which shall arrive at any port of the Confederate States after the 1st of March, 1864, viz.: 'I further swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, on board (insert the denomination and name of the vessel) any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover or know of any such goods, wares, or merchandise, on board of the said vessel, or which shall have been imported in the same, I will immediately, and without delay, report the same to the collector of this district.'

6. Each importer, consignee, or agent shall at the time of entering any goods imported after the said 1st of March, 1864, take the follow additional oath, viz.: 'I also swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, amongst the said goods, wares, or merchandise, imported or consigned as aforesaid, any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover any such goods, wares, or merchandise, imported or consigned as aforesaid, I will immediately, and without delay, report the same to the collector of this district.

C. G. MEMMINGER, Secretary of Treasury.

LIST OF ARTICLES, THE IMPORTATION OF WHICH IS PROHIBITED BY AN ACT OF CONGRESS, ENTITLED 'AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE IMPORTATION OF LUXURIES OR ARTICLES NOT NECESSARIES OR OF COMMON USE,' APPROVED FEBRUARY 6, 1864.

Absinthe.
Alabaster and spar ornaments.
Alabata.
Ale, beer, and porter.
Almonds, raisins, currants, dates, figs, and all other dried or preserved fruits.
Amber beads.
Anchovies, sardines, and all other fish preserved in oil.
Angora, Thibet, and other goats' hair, or mohair manufactured.
Argentine, alabata, or German silver manufactured or unmanufactured.
Arrack.
Articles embroidered with gold, silver, or other metal.
Balsams, cosmetics, essences, extracts, pastes, perfumes, and tinctures used for the toilet.
Bananas, cocoa-nuts, pine apples, plantains, and oranges.
Bay rum.
Beads of amber, composition, or wax, and all other beads.
Benzoates.
Billiard and bagatelle tables, and all other tables or boards on which games are played.
Bracelets, braids, chains, curls or ringlets composed of hair, or of which hair is a component part.
Brandy and other spirits distilled from grain or other materials.
Brooms and brushes of all kinds.
Cabinet and household furniture.
Cabinets of coins, medals, gems, and all collections of antiquities.
Canes and sticks for walking, finished and unfinished.
Capers and sauces of all kinds.
Card cases, pocket books, shell boxes, souvenirs, and all similar articles, of whatever material composed.
Carpets, carpeting, hearth rugs, bedsides, and other portions of tapestry of every kind and description.
Carriages and parts of carriages.
Cider and other beverages not containing alcohol.
Clocks and parts of clocks.
Comfits, confectionery, sweetmeats, or fruits preserved in sugar, molasses, brandy, or other liquors.
Composition tops for tables, or other articles of furniture.
Compositions of glass, set or unset.
Coral, cut or manufactured.
Cordials, absinthe, arrack, curaçoa, kirschen-wasser, liquors, maraschino, ratilia, and all other spirituous beverages of a similar character.
Cotton laces, cotton insertings, cotton trimmings, and laces of thread and other materials.
Diamonds, cameos, mosaics, gems, pearls, rubies, and other precious stones, and imitations thereof, when set in gold, silver, or other metal, and when not set.
Dolls and toys of all kinds.
Engravings, bound or unbound.
Epaulettes.
Fans and fire screens of every description, of whatever material composed.
Feathers and flowers, artificial or ornamental, and parts thereof, of whatever material composed.
Fire crackers, sky rockets, roman candles, and all similar articles used in pyrotechnics.
Galloons, laces, knots, stars, tassels, tresses, and wings of gold or silver, or imitations thereof, except when intended for uniforms of officers in the military and naval service.
Glass, cut.
Glass, coloured, stained or painted.
Grapes, plums, and prunes, and other fresh fruit when put up in bottles, cases, or cans.
Hair, human, cleansed or prepared for use.
India matting of all kinds.
Jet and manufactures of jet, and imitations thereof.
Jewelry, or imitations thereof.
Leaf and manufactured tobacco and cigars.
Manufactures of cedar wood, granadilla, ebony, mahogany, rose wood, and satin wood.
Manufactures of gold, platina, or silver.
Manufactures and articles of marble, marble paving tiles, slabs, or blocks, and all other marble.
Matting, China, or other floor matting, and mats made of flags, jute, or grass.
Muffs and tiffets, and all other manufactures of fur, or of which fur shall be a component part, except caps and hats.
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Ratans and reeds.
Scagliola table tops, or other articles of furniture.
Segars, snuff, paper segars, and all other manufactures of tobacco.
Silver-plated metal, in sheets or other form.
Thread lacings and insertings.
Velvets of all kinds.
Wines, burgundy, champagne, claret, madeira, port, sherry, and all other wines and imitations of wines.

NOTE.—None of the manufactures of metal designed as either household or personal ornaments shall be admitted.

Under the fourth section of the act, entitled 'An act to prohibit the importation of luxuries, or of articles not necessaries, or of common use,' approved February 6, 1864, the following maximum foreign prices are established, at which, and within which, importations of goods manufactured wholly or partly of cotton, flax, wool, or of silk, and designed for wearing apparel, and not prohibited by said act, and beyond which importations thereof shall not be made.

The prices named in the following, for all articles, are the invoice prices in coin, at the place of exportation:

MANUFACTURES OF COTTON.

All articles wholly of cotton, whether coloured or white, not to exceed 25 cents per square yard; excepting corduroys, velveteens, fustians, and velvets, which shall not exceed 30 cents per yard.
Drawers, ready made, knit or woven, not to exceed 1 dol. per pair.
Gloves, not to exceed 25 cents per pair.
Hosiery, women's, not to exceed 25 cents per pair.
Shirts, ready made, knit or woven, not to exceed 1 dol. each.
Spool cotton, not to exceed 5 cents per 100 yards.
Tapes, not to exceed 5 cents per bunch of 12 yards.

MANUFACTURES OF FLAX.

All articles manufactured wholly of flax, whether coloured or white, not to exceed 50 cents per square yard.
Drawers, ready made, not to exceed 1 dol. 50 cents. per pair.
Gloves, not to exceed 50 cents. per pair.
Handkerchiefs, not to exceed 25 cents. a piece.
Hosiery, not to exceed 50 cents per pair.
Shirts, ready made, not to exceed 1 dol. 50 cents. each.
Tapes, not to exceed 5 cents per bunch of 12 yards.
Thread, not to exceed 1 dol. per pound.

MANUFACTURES OF WOOL.

Alpacas, cashmeres, de lanes, lastings, merinos, mohairs, and Persian cloth, not to exceed 50 cents. per yard.
Bombazines and French Merinos, not to exceed 75 cents. per yard.
Beaver cloth and broad cloth, not to exceed 3 dols. per yard.
Bindings, not to exceed 5 cents per yard.
Drawers, knit or woven, not to exceed 1 dol. per pair.
Flannels, not to exceed 50 cents. per yard.
Gloves, not to exceed 40 cents per pair.
Hats, men's, not to exceed 2 dols. each.
Hats, women's, not to exceed 4 dols. each.
Hosiery, men's and women's, not to exceed 40 cents per pair.
Kerseys, kerseymeres, llona' skins, melton cloths, pilot cloth, serges, tweeds and vestings, not to exceed 2 dols. per yard.
Shawls, not to exceed 7 dols. 50 cents each.
Shirts, not to exceed 1 dol. each.

MANUFACTURES OF SILK.

Dress silk, not to exceed 1 dol. per yard.
Handkerchiefs, neck-ties, &c., not to exceed 75 cents a piece.
Mantillas, shawls, and ladies' wrappings of any kind, not to exceed 5 dol. each.
Ribbons, not to exceed 1 dol. per piece of 12 yards.
Serge lining, not to exceed 1 dol. per square yard.
Sewing silk, not to exceed 5 dol. per pound.
Vestings, not to exceed 2 dol. per square yard.

Manufactures of wool and cotton, wool and silk, wool and flax, or any combination of these materials, not to exceed 1 dol. per square yard. Articles composed of cotton and flax only, not to exceed 37 cents per square yard.

C. G. MEMMINGER, Secretary of Treasury.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Can England do without American Cotton?

WHILST different commercial men are discussing the probable effects on the cotton market, should the American war be brought to an early close, let us look at the cotton question from another point of view, and consider whether, in the event of the war being continued for another four years, England could do without a supply of American cotton.

We raise this question because we have heard it often said that, if the American war was to continue for a few years longer, England would become entirely independent of the Southern States for cotton.

This idea is founded on the progress made by certain countries in cotton cultivation, stimulated by the enormously high prices which have prevailed since 1861.

To look on the cotton question aright, it is necessary first to understand what is England's demand for cotton. We cannot do better than refer to the consumption of 1860, the last year of unbroken trade. The following figures will best illustrate our idea:—

		Bales.	
Estimated stock of cotton on January 1, 1860			469,520
Cotton imports in 1860.—American		2,438,236	
" "	Brazilian	99,067	
" "	West Indian	1,758	
" "	East "	550,663	
" "	Egyptian, &c.	113,963	3,203,687
			3,673,207
Cotton exports in 1860.—American		190,912	
" "	Brazilian	50	
" "	East Indian	289,238	
" "	Other kinds	803	481,003
			3,192,204
Estimated stock of cotton, December 29, 1860			594,510
Taken for home consumption			2,597,694
Average weight per bale			424
Pounds weight of cotton consumed			1,101,422,256

With these practical data before us, let us consider the question at issue.

The extraordinary prosperity of the cotton trade in 1860 induced a large extension of cotton machinery in 1860, amounting to no less than 10 per cent. during the past four years.

If, then, we take into consideration the new mills and machinery, which as yet have exercised no influence on the cotton market because of their inactivity through the limited supply of cotton, at 10 per cent., it is clear that Great Britain has a practical demand for no less than 1,200,000,000 lbs. of raw cotton, of a quality and fineness equal to American. As Great Britain in 1860 exactly possessed one-half the known cotton trade, and as the relationship has not been disturbed since, we may put down the wants of the mechanical cotton trade at 2,400,000,000 lbs. of cotton, namely:—

	lbs.
Great Britain	1,200,000,000
Continental Europe	780,000,000
United States	420,000,000
	2,400,000,000

Such is a fair estimate of the present demand for cotton. But to return to Great Britain. If we take up the Board of Trade Returns, and refer to the sources from which she derived her imports of cotton, we find them entered thus:—

	cwts.		lbs.
United States	9,903,309	or	1,115,890,608
Brazil	154,317	"	17,286,864
Egypt and Mediterranean	392,117	"	43,951,061
East Indies	1,822,689	"	201,111,168
West Indies	86,204	"	9,666,048
Sundries	9,382	"	1,050,781
	12,428,478	"	1,391,989,536
Exported	2,235,970	"	250,428,640
Home Use	10,182,508	"	1,141,560,896

The reader will at once perceive how closely the brokers' trade reports and Board of Trade Returns agree for 1860. Both make the consumption of cotton in Great Britain about 1,100,000,000 lbs. Now, if there be any use in discussing the cotton question at all, we conclude it must be on the presumption of not only a return to the condition of 1860, but also that its future progress shall correspond with the past. England has in the East a market of illimitable extent, whose customers may be estimated at 600,000,000, or half the entire population of the world, every one of whom is a consumer of cotton goods. The cotton trade with her, therefore, is but in its infancy. Either she must prosecute the cotton trade with vigour, or it will elude her grasp and pass into the hands of a rival, into whose lap will flow those untold treasures which heretofore have so materially contributed to the wealth and political position of Great Britain. Betwixt 1850 and 1860 England practically doubled her cotton trade, so that it would be no exaggeration to affirm that if in the future she does not progress at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, the cotton trade will pass into other hands. On this matter we would seriously warn all Englishmen who care to see their country and their commerce flourish. The American war will end some time, and industry and trade again be set free; and it is for peace and not for war that trade estimates should be laid. If, then, we assume the future progress of the English cotton trade to be at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, we may put her demands thus:—

		lbs.
1865.	English demand for cotton	1,200,000,000
1866.	Five per cent. increase	1,260,000,000
1867.	" "	1,323,000,000
1868.	" "	1,389,150,000
1869.	" "	1,458,607,500
1870.	" "	1,531,537,875

We have only looked forward a few years, and yet we can see a demand for cotton which at first sight seems incredible inasmuch as the quantity equals 3,828,844 bales of 400 lbs. each. The question which comes before us is, Can England obtain such a quantity of cotton without the assistance of the Southern States?

Three years of experience enable us to form an opinion. Under the stimulus of high prices, such as have not been seen for the last fifty years, extraordinary efforts have been made to raise cotton. We have now passed through two-thirds of the year, and the receipts of cotton have been betwixt January and September 17:

	Bales.		lbs.	lbs.
East India	937,962	at	380	356,325,560
Egyptian	209,735	"	400	83,794,000
China, &c.	313,632	"	120	37,635,840
Turkey	47,981	"	120	5,757,720
South America	197,104	"	180	35,478,720
United States	143,532	"	450	64,589,850
Italy	2,913	"	100	291,300
Other sources	33,286	"	200	6,657,200
	1,886,145			590,530,190

Taking away the imports from the United States, there have been from all other sources 525,940,340 lbs. of raw cotton imported into England during the past thirty-seven weeks, or in the ratio of 739,159,400 lbs. for the entire year. Taking the exports at 200,000,000 lbs., there will remain for home use 539,159,400 lbs., exclusive of American cotton. It is, therefore, clear that as yet the supply is not equal to one-half the demand. We have already seen that in 1860 the supply of cotton from all other sources, except the United States, amounted to 276,098,928 lbs., so that the increase has been equal to 263,060,472 lbs., or, in other words, the supply of cotton other than from the Southern States has been doubled since the commencement of the American war. We confess that we do not share the astonishment of those who regard the result as marvellous, for it must be remembered that India has been so denuded of cotton that the domestic manufacture of cotton cloths has been broken up, and the Hindoo spinners and weavers set to work upon the railways in order that the cotton might be forwarded to England. Even the beds, pillows, saddles, and other articles stuffed with cotton have been emptied, that the raw material might be forwarded, and thus large quantities were suddenly made available for exportation. But these shifts cannot be repeated. As India formerly exported cotton to China, it is difficult to conceive that our imports thence are tempted by anything else than high prices.

The same remarks apply to Turkey and Italy. How far they would continue to send us cotton if former prices prevailed, time alone can show; but as Levantine and West Indian cottons went down in the face of American cottons, this would happen again if there were a return to the prices of 1860 and such must be the case if an adequate supply of cotton be obtained. But as yet we have only obtained enough of cotton to keep half the cotton trade at work. The supply must therefore be doubled, and when doubled it will only suffice for existing machinery; the future will remain unconsidered.

It is computed that 2,500,000 bales will come forward in 1865. Accepting such statement to be true, and the exports to be 500,000, there will remain for home use 2,000,000 bales of about 300 lbs. each on the average, or say 600,000,000 lbs. of cotton, or exactly one-half the required amount. Not until the supply mounts up to 4,500,000 bales of the present size and quality of cotton will prices return to the figure of 1860, and our cotton machinery be fully employed.

Should the supply be extended at the rate of 500,000 bales per annum, it will take four years more to attain the necessary amount of cotton which the British cotton trade demands, should the exports rise no higher than at present. Whether a yearly increase of 500,000 bales can be maintained is a doubtful matter. But we will assume that it can be done, though at a rate of cost and suffering which only English pockets and feelings will tolerate.

It is quite reasonable to conclude that the American war will be over long before Great Britain has secured 4,500,000 bales of cotton from present sources. Should it, however, last four years longer, England may have enough of a certain kind of cotton; but as the Southern States will again cultivate cotton, and as their produce will be offered to the world for use, if England were to repudiate Southern cotton, it would pass at once into the hands of the Germans and the Americans of the Northern States. With machinery equal to that of Great Britain, and a superior raw material, time would soon show that fabrics made from American cotton could push out of the market those made from Indian cottons. The result would simply accord with the sound principles of political economy. When, therefore, English cotton-spinners talk of doing without American cotton, let them remember it can only be done when an article as good and as cheap can be obtained.

Whatever country uses American cotton will carry away the cotton trade, and open to its shores the rich treasures and commerce of the East. For this privilege the Northern States have sighed and striven, and their impression in 1860 was that, within twenty-five years, they would have so progressed in the cotton manufacture as to require the whole of the cotton grown by the Southern States, that the commerce of the world would centre in the waters of New York and Boston. Thus it was the intention of the North to carry away the cotton manufacture through the superiority of American cotton, the very commodity which England hopes and tries to do without. Whatever may be said of Indian cotton, one thing is remarkable, that the Hindoo merchant prefers the cotton cloth made from American cotton, and refuses that which is made from Surat. The inference, then, may be drawn that whenever American cotton is again in the market, the fabrics made therefrom will supersede all others, and that, if England should persist in the rejection of Southern cotton, and let it pass into the hands of a rival, her Eastern trade will begin to decline, and finally pass away from her, and become the possession of a more vigorous and farsighted people.

WHO IS PHILMORE?—Mr. Seward in his speech at Auburn said: 'It remains for me now only to give you the proof that although the way in which the Chicago democracy did what had been agreed upon in their behalf at Niagara was not altogether satisfactory, yet what they actually did was accepted as a full execution of the previous compact.—St. Catherine's, C.W., September 1, 1864.—To Hon. D. Wier, Halifax—Platform and Presidential nominee unsatisfactory. Vice-President and speeches satisfactory. Tell Philmore not to oppose.—Geo. N. Sanders.—D. Wier is a Richmond accomplice at Halifax, and Philmore is understood to be the conductor of the insurgent organ in London.' It is sufficient to state that we have never seen the despatch, and have never heard of Philmore.

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

NATURALLY Mr. Lincoln is in real or pretended ecstasies at the fall of Atlanta. Through the long and costly campaign of the summer not a triumph did his generals achieve, and it must be very pleasant to hear at last that a Federal commander has gained 'the object of his campaign.' It is natural too that Mr. Lincoln should, in the face of the coming election, magnify the victory as much as possible, and order the firing of salutes and proclaim a day of thanksgiving. On the other hand, it is not surprising that the Northern people should be less elated. Atlanta held out long enough to enable the Confederates to remove their stores and valuable machinery. Before its surrender the magazines were exploded, and it was evacuated without molestation. The Confederate army remains intact, and Sherman states that it is intrenched thirty miles from Atlanta, and that he does not think it prudent to attack. He says, 'we need rest.' Meantime his line of communication is constantly threatened; and even whilst he was occupying Atlanta, General Wheeler had cut the telegraph lines in his rear. The loss of Atlanta does not affect the military position of the South, nor does it improve the military position of the North. Mr. Lincoln has, we think, greater cause for anxiety than for rejoicing. Nevertheless, the fall of Atlanta will indeed be a serious incident if it should enable the Administration to revive the military ardour of the people, and so be the means of prolonging the war.

The official despatch of General Sherman is very meagre. In a few days we may be in possession of a full and trustworthy narrative. This being so, it is not worth while to criticise Mr. Stanton's edition of General Sherman's despatch. We elsewhere publish a Northern version of the movement.

GENERAL GRANT returned thanks for the success at Atlanta by ordering 'a salute to be fired with shotted guns from every battery bearing upon the enemy.'

SINCE his defeat at Reams' Station we have no news of importance from Grant. He has, however, written a brave letter, in which he declares the Confederates have their last men in the field. According to Federal testimony the Confederates have had their last men in the field ever since the beginning of the war. Grant further declares that to fill their armies 'the rebels have robbed the cradle and the grave.' Of the last-named crime Grant himself at any rate cannot be accused. Mr. Stanton is confident that 100,000 men promptly furnished will enable Grant to finish the rebellion. It is the old dodge. The Federal administration, when sorely pressed for recruits, always pretend that the rebellion is just over, and that the soldiers are merely wanted for a holiday parade. We commend to the attention of our readers an extract we elsewhere print from the *Richmond Examiner* on the Southern crops and armies.

IT was reported in New York just before the departure of the steamer that Mobile had been surrendered. All things are possible, but this report is too improbable to inspire anxiety.

WE elsewhere publish General A. P. Hill's official report of the fight at Reams' Station. It will be seen that the victory was complete, and that the Confederate loss, instead of being 5,000, as reported by the Federals, was 720, including the missing.

THE *Richmond Enquirer* of August 31 says that the total number of prisoners in the Libby was 6,576, of whom 280 were officers, and that they were nearly all brought in during the two preceding weeks. On Belle Isle there were 5,541 prisoners. In the hospitals there were 355 prisoners.

THE Northern papers report the death of General Hardee in the fight at Jonesborough. Considerable doubt is thrown on the statement by the despatch of General Hood dated September 3, in which the action at Jonesborough, resulting in the retreat of Hardee's corps, is announced. General Hood makes no mention whatever of the death of General Hardee.

IT is our duty to record the death of the renowned cavalry officer General Morgan, who was killed in an attack made on his command by the Federal General Gilmore.

John H. Morgan of Kentucky was a man unused to war in theory or practice, prior to the breaking out of hostilities. He was a daring rider, of fine physique, and every way fitted to lead men on to deeds of high emprise in irregular warfare; and having early espoused with heart and soul the cause of the Confederates, and gone into the volunteer army of the new republic, he soon found himself by the simple force of his genius at the head of a considerable body of horsemen, which became the terror of the Federal border States. He was thirty-eight years of age at the time of his death. He had been twice married, the last time to Miss Sally Ann Reedy, a young lady of beauty and talent, the daughter of a former member of Congress from Tennessee. In person General Morgan was tall and striking, his eyes were blue, his complexion fair, his hair and beard a light brown, and his horsemanship perfect.

The historian will have much to record of the dashing adventures of Morgan. His raids and escapes, imprisonments and disguises, will give to that portion of the Confederate annals some thing of the attraction and the air of romance. The chivalrous character of the Kentucky partisan, his tender consideration for the wounded prisoner, his forbearance towards the private citizen in the enemy's country, and his courtesy to women and children, make the more noteworthy the rude terms of General Gilmore's despatch in which he states 'I have surprised, defeated, *and killed* John Morgan,' withholding the title that belonged to the dead hero, and announcing his killing in terms so ambiguous that it leaves the matter at least open to doubt whether the act was done in accordance with the rules of legitimate warfare.

ON Saturday, September 3, President Lincoln signed a proclamation requesting that 'next Sunday' should be observed as a day of thanksgiving for recent victories over 'the insurgent rebels who have been waging a civil war against the Government of the United States.' The same day Mr. Lincoln issued two other proclamations: one to thank Admiral Farragut and Generals Canby and Granger, another to thank General Sherman for the capture of Atlanta. The President ordered salutes of one hundred guns to be fired in honour of these victories.

IT was announced as an item of news in the New York papers of three weeks ago, that Benjamin Howard, the perpetrator of the forgery whereby a bogus proclamation of Mr. Lincoln had been imposed upon the people of the United States, who was imprisoned for some months in Fort Lafayette as a punishment for such *lese majesté*, had been set at liberty. This Benjamin Howard is an old offender. He it was that, as correspondent of the *New York Times*, concocted the famous cock-and-bull story of the Prince of Wales having been insulted by a mob in Richmond, Virginia, in October, 1860; an utterly baseless fabrication which Howard was impelled to circulate in his wrath at having been ejected from one of the open carriages prepared for the reception of His Royal Highness's party. The story had a large currency in England at the time, and, though denied officially by the Richmond authorities, was never properly set at rest. Indeed it was referred to more than once in the columns of the *Times* (we mean, of course, the London and not the New York journal of that name) in disparaging comment upon public manners in the South. The inventive genius of Benjamin Howard has doubtless not slumbered amid the meditations of Fort Lafayette, and we shall probably soon hear of him again in the exercise of his peculiar talent, for which the chicaneries of the Presidential election will afford him facile and tempting opportunity.

MR. LINCOLN has postponed the draft. The reason assigned by the supporters of the Administration is that the quotas are being filled by volunteering. Mr. Seward says that no draft will be necessary. Until after November Mr. Lincoln will avoid any unpopular measure, no matter how much his generals clamour for reinforcements.

MR. R. OULD, the Confederate agent for the exchange of prisoners, has published a circular in which he exposes the bad faith of the enemy. The cartel of exchange was agreed upon on July 22, 1862. The object of it was to secure the return of prisoners of war, and the fourth article provides that all prisoners of war should be discharged on parole ten days after their capture. Until July, 1863, the Confederates held an excess of prisoners, and the cartel was observed. When the Federals held an excess of prisoners, they put aside the terms of the contract, and when they made a delivery demanded an equal number in return. On October 20, Mr. Ould wrote to General Meredith, the Federal agent of exchange, and said: 'More than a month ago I asked your acquiescence in a proposition that all officers and soldiers on both sides should be released in conformity with the provisions of the cartel. In order to obviate the difficulties between us, I suggested that all officers and men on both sides should be released, unless they were subject to charges, in which event the opposite Government should have the right of holding one or more hostages if the retention was not justified. You stated to me, in conversation, that this proposition was very fair, and that you would ask the consent of your Government to it.' On the 29th General Meredith wrote to decline complying with the terms of the cartel, and for an excuse said that if the excess of prisoners was delivered, they would be put into the field before being regularly exchanged. Mr. Ould condescends to declare this imputation groundless, and adds: 'It will be observed that the Confederate authorities only claimed that the provisions of the cartel should be fulfilled. They only asked the enemy to do what, without any hesitation, they had done during the first year of the operation of the cartel.' The Federal authorities would not do what was right, and at length, for the sake of the brave Southerners languishing in Northern prisons, the Confederates determined to abate their fair demands, and on August 10, 1864, Mr. Ould wrote as follows to Major Mulford, the Federal assistant-agent of exchange: 'You have several times proposed to me to exchange the prisoners respectively held by the two belligerents, officer for officer and man for man. The same offer has also been made by other officials having charge of matters connected with the exchange of prisoners. This proposal has heretofore been declined by the Confederate authorities, they insisting upon the terms of the cartel, which required the delivery of the excess on either side upon parole. In view, however, of the very large number of prisoners now held by each party, and the suffering consequent upon their continued confinement, I now consent to the above proposal, and agree to deliver to you the prisoners held in captivity by the Confederate authorities, provided you agree to deliver an equal number of Confederate officers and men. As equal numbers are delivered from time to time, they will be declared exchanged.' Mr. Ould adds: 'I accompanied the delivery of the letter with a statement of the mortality which was hurrying so many Federal prisoners at Andersonville to the grave.' No reply was returned to this or to two subsequent communications until August 31, when Major Mulford wrote, saying that he was not yet authorised to make an answer.

Mr. Lincoln and his Cabinet think it 'smart' to thus flagrantly violate a compact. They are right in assuming that the patriot prisoners of the South are a greater loss to their country than the mercenary Irish and German prisoners are to the United States. Still we think the policy is a mistake as well as an infamy. It is not well to force on a policy of retaliation; nor do we suppose that it will promote Federal recruiting if the Irish and Germans are told that if captured they will not be exchanged, but kept in Southern gaols, where, if they are sick, they must die for the want of those medicines which the Federal Government has declared contraband of war.

FEDERAL officers have queer notions of equity. On August 12 Admiral Dahlgren wrote to General Jones, saying that he was informed that sixteen naval officers were in prison at Charleston, and that they were destitute of many of the necessaries of life, and requesting that he might be permitted to furnish them with the required articles. He then made the following offer:—'I have to inform you that I now hold as prisoners twenty-five citizens of Georgia, captured August 3, at M'Intosh County Court House, Georgia. Their names, as reported by them, will be found in the annexed list. If you feel disposed to exchange any of these persons for any of the naval officers captured in September, 1863, at Fort Sumter, or elsewhere, at any time, within the limits of this command, and will inform me thereof, I will submit the question to the consideration of the Navy Department.' General Jones replied that the prisoners might receive clothing, because a like indulgence was allowed to Confederate officers who were prisoners of war; otherwise he would have refused the request, seeing that the Federal troops have 'stolen or wantonly destroyed all manner of clothing, even the apparel of women and children, and this in many cases by order of the general commanding.' With respect to food, he says the prisoners have the same kind and quantity as the Confederate officers, and he will not allow the blockade to be broken for the benefit of those who maintain it. In reply to the offer of exchange General Jones writes:—

> I know not on what principle you propose to exchange 'citizens,' whom you have caused to be kidnapped and forcibly carried away from their homes and imprisoned, for officers captured in battle, with arms in their hands. You might perhaps, without going as far as the coast of Georgia, have captured men whom you could with propriety have offered in exchange for your officers; but you would have found them armed, and would have been obliged to fight and overcome them before capturing them. You need not trouble the Navy Department with the question, as I do not 'feel disposed' to aid you to profit by your own wrong, by exchanging officers captured in battle for private 'citizens' captured so wantonly, and at so little risk to the captors. But I will exchange the officers you refer to for an equal number of Confederate State officers, prisoners of war, of like grades, rank for rank, or their equivalents, my Government designating its officers to be exchanged. If you think proper to accede to this proposition, you have only to notify me when you are prepared to make the exchange.

ALL parties in the North regard the Chicago Convention as a Peace Convention. Hence its nomination is cordially accepted by the peace party, and the Lincolnites, the shoddy men, bitterly oppose it. In the Western States the Convention is popular because of its peace platform; for it is declared that the verbal ambiguity does not deceive the party, and that the purpose is immediate peace. The *Cincinnati Gazette*, an Administration organ, says: 'It is essentially a peace Convention . . . It is impossible to overrate the intense hostility to the war. . . . The peace men practically have everything their own way. . . . The only resolutions that were applauded were the peace and armistice resolutions, and the cheers for them were prolonged in proportion as their treason was outspoken and defiant. It may be that when it comes to making a platform prudence may lead to a cautious concealment of these tendencies behind ambiguous phrases; but the temper of the Convention and the real meaning of the Democratic policy have been revealed in these demonstrations, and in a manner as unmistakable as it is alarming.'

THE New York papers publish a card from M. Romero, the Minister of Juarez, in which he thanks the United States press for its sympathy, denies that Juarez has left Mexico, and adds, 'He has no intention of leaving the Republic, and there is not, has not been, nor is there likely to be, any necessity for such a proceeding. Republican institutions are not yet destined to be overthrown either in Mexico or in the United States.'

The Northern press is delighted with a report that the French troops have sustained a reverse in Mexico. This report requires confirmation. We may be sure that the enmity of the North would exaggerate any check sustained by the Imperial forces.

THAT the Federal Administration has no confidence in the 'loyalty' of the West may be seen from the following order issued by General Heintzelman on August 27, two days before the meeting of the Chicago Convention:—

> Headquarters, Northern Department,
> Columbus, Ohio, August 27, 1864.
>
> General Order No. 53.—During the ensuing sixty days no firearms, powder, or ammunition of any kind will be received, transported, or delivered by any railroad, express, or other forwarding company within the States comprised within the limits of this Department, viz. Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan,

without a permit from these headquarters: from General A. P. Hovey, Indianapolis, Indiana; General H. E. Paine Springfield, Illinois; or Lieutenant-Colonel B. H. Hill, Detroit, Michigan, unless shipped by or delivered to an authorized officer of the United States Government.

ON September 10, the price of gold in New York was 219. The heavy fall had unsettled the markets and brought about a panic in Wall Street.

ENGLAND.

THE British Association for the Advancement of Science has laboured with considerable zeal and success in the various sections of scientific study during its sojourn at Bath. It is impossible in a small compass to convey even a general idea of the addresses delivered by the eminent lecturers. A passing notice of those discussions to which circumstances lend a peculiar interest must suffice. In the Section of Zoology, Dr. Gray spoke at length on acclimatisation. 'Certain French philosophers,' said he, 'had lately taken up a notion that it was desirable to pervert the true purpose of the horse by cultivating him for food instead of work, and a society of hippophagi had been instituted with this view. Whenever an attempt had been made to fatten horses for food, it had been found that the meat could not be produced at so low a rate as that for which far better mutton and beef could be bought. In attempting to introduce new domestic animals into some of our colonies, it would be desirable not to confine attention to European breeds, but to enquire whether the domestic races of Asia and Africa were not better adapted for the purpose. For instance, on the west coast of Africa, the horse, ass, ox, sheep, goat, and even dog had greatly degenerated. There the horse and ass were short-lived, the flesh of the ox and sheep was bad, and the goat tasteless and stringy. The pig alone bore the change with equanimity. It is, we believe, the remark of Gibbon that the pig and man are the only two animals capable equally of enduring the colds of the Arctic regions and the heats of the torrid zone. In the Statistical Department Professor Levi read a paper on foreigners in England and other countries. 'In 1861 there were in England 84,000 foreigners, or 0·41 per cent. on the whole population of 20,000,000. In France 506,000 foreigners, or 1·35 per cent. on the whole population of 37,000,000. In the States of North America, 4,000,000 foreigners, or about 15 per cent. on a population of 27,000,000.' This, however, is an estimate admitting of modification. There are but few foreigners in the Southern and Border States. Deducting, then, 7,000,000 from the aggregate of the population, we should find that nearly one-fifth of the population of the Northern States owes a foreign allegiance. 'In Spain there were,' said the Professor, '35,000 foreigners, or 0·22 per cent. on a population of 16,000,000. In New York the proportion of foreigners to natives was nearly 2 to 1.' It is difficult to believe that the Professor is correct in his estimate of the number of foreigners in England. There are, probably, at least 70,000 Germans in London alone. There is also a large foreign element in the seamen resident from time to time in our ports. We can only account for the state of the quoted return on the assumption that foreigners have such a love for their adopted country as to claim the title of native-born children of her. In Mechanical Science Mr. Fairbairn read a paper on the Atlantic cable, in which he gave a detail of the experiments made by the scientific committee appointed by the Atlantic Telegraph Company to test the mechanical qualities of the cable about to be laid between Ireland and Trinity Bay. The experiments showed that the more the fibres of wire were brought into a state of tension the greater became its strength; that gutta percha as an insulator was more durable than india-rubber; and that the new cable will, when laid, bear a strain of four times its own weight. In the same Section Admiral Sir E. Belcher explained and recommended the adoption of the torpedo as used in the navy of the Confederate States. On the following day Captain Burton read in the Geographical Section an able paper on the kingdom of Dahomey, and in great measure exonerated the King and his Ministers from the horrible charges of bloodshed brought against them. In three years only sixty-five persons were put to death. During Captain Burton's own visit, only forty men, and perhaps an equal number of women, were beheaded. The men were all criminals and war captives. No innocent man was ever killed. The King presided over the executions, and the Prime Minister officiated. Besides these violent deaths, it was usual to inform the late King of all important news by despatching a messenger to him. The King forgave some persons at Captain Burton's request, but the rescued individuals never had the grace to thank their liberator. He had never but once seen an unwilling victim. Duality was a ruling principle. There were two kings in one, two courts, masculine and feminine; of the Amazons two-thirds were maidens. They of course wore male attire. In the Economic Science Section there was an able discussion on the uniformity of weights and measures, in which Dr. Farr, the Astronomer-Royal, Mr. W. Ewart, M.P., the Master of the Mint, and Professor Miller took part. In the course of it Sir J. Bowring mentioned that 'at the recent Postal Congress at Paris, at which sixteen Governments were represented, it was resolved that the metric system should be universally adopted. In China the decimal system universally prevailed, and no boy of seven years ever made a mistake. He had heard savages say that the decimal and metric system must have come from God.' Captain Maury said that he was prepared to endorse the statement of an eminent American statesman who, in reporting to Congress on the subject, said that the adoption of such a system would confer as great a boon on mankind as the introduction of steam. The Confederate Government had appointed a commission to collect information on this question, and of that commission he had the honour to be a member.

On Monday evening Dr. Livingstone gave a most able narrative of his African expeditions, his plan, history, and failure of his own mission, and that of Bishop Mackenzie. Speaking of the west coast, he described a terrible pathos the sea, when by lawful commerce might be introduced to aid missionary effort, Dr. Livingstone observed the decided influence of that which was known as Lord Palmerston's policy. There he found piracy abolished, the slave trade gone, lawful commerce at two and three millions sterling in ivory and gold dust, twenty missions and schools for 12,000 pupils, life and property secure on the coast, and comparative peace in the interior. Then he went down the Zambesi to the east coast, but there neither traders nor missionaries were established; there was a small business in slaves, ivory, and gold dust, just as on the west coast before Lord Palmerston's policy was in operation. Dr. Livingstone's object was to supplement the action of our cruisers by opening up a trade. That was the object of the Zambesi expedition in which Dr. Kirk, Mr. Livingstone, and others joined. Dr. Livingstone then gave an admirable explanation of the geography of the country explored, describing the voyage up one hundred miles of the Zambesi to the affluent of the Zambesi called the Shire, running a valley 200 miles long and 20 broad and bounded by mountains. There elephants abounded, herds of 500 being visible at one time. The population was very large, and lined the banks armed with poisoned arrows. With them the steamer was left at Murchison's Cataract, and thence Dr. Kirk and Dr. Livingstone went on foot to Lake Shirwa in a NNE. direction, a lake teeming with fish, hippopotami, and leeches. There dwelt the Manganja, of the lowest class of humanity, cultivating, however, maize, beans, melons, cucumbers, cassava, castor oil, hemp, tobacco, and cotton. The wretches lived in constant dread of slave-hunters and witchcraft. The chiefs invariably declared that only criminals were sold for slaves, and Dr. Livingstone is clearly of opinion that the statement is true. After the goodwill of those people had been gained, Bishop Mackenzie arrived. His mission promised the highest success. He had the confidence of the natives, and he adopted the true method of educating a number of boys. In fact, he followed the plan of English ragged schools; for, as Dr. Livingstone most candidly confesses, 'the bodily wants of the people must be attended to as the basis of all efforts at their civilisation.' This mission was annihilated by the depredations of the Ajawa tribes instigated by the African Portuguese. The natives fled by whole villages in panic before the slave-hunters, and perished by starvation. Of the cotton Dr. Livingstone observed that it was short in the staple, strong, and like wool in the hand—as good as Upland American. There were other varieties, one of which was of the quality usually supposed to belong exclusively to South America. A tree of it was eight inches in diameter, or like an ordinary apple-tree. All these did not require replanting oftener than once in three years.

CAPTAIN SPEKE, the explorer of the Nile, has shot himself accidentally. From the evidence taken before the coroner, it appeared that Captain Speke was out shooting partridges in the neighbourhood of Box, in Wiltshire, in company with his cousin Mr. George Fuller. The latter gentleman, being at the time at a considerable distance from the deceased, heard the report of a gun, and at the same moment saw his friend fall to the ground. In about fifteen minutes Captain Speke died. The accident occurred while the deceased was climbing over a loose stone wall. The news arrived at Bath shortly before the meeting of Section E of the British Association. The general company of visitors had, however, assembled to hear a discussion between Captain Speke and Captain Burton on the sources of the Nile. Sir Roderick Murchison, on taking the chair, announced to the meeting the lamentable death of his friend, and, after some few words worthy of the occasion, moved the following resolution:—'That the geographers and ethnologists of the British Association having heard with profound regret of the fatal accident which has befallen Captain Speke, and by which they have suddenly lost so eminent an associate, resolve that their most heartfelt condolence be offered to his relatives on his being cut off in so awful a manner in the fulness of his strength and vigour.'

MR. W. E. BAXTER, M.P. for Montrose, in addressing his constituents a few days since on domestic and foreign affairs, spoke at some length on the American war. One quotation from the oration of this gentleman we cannot forbear making, because the utterance of the sentiments expressed therein coincides in point of time with the declaration of a greater Federal and Abolitionist than even Mr. Baxter. The latter politician says of the Northern States: 'Slavery had poisoned the vitals of the State, and now they are undergoing the chastening. But three years of hard fighting and adversity have raised the Northern people to the true source and origin of the evil; the anti-slavery party have been in the ascendant, and the feeling throughout the North has changed. Mr. Jefferson Davis and his friends went to war to perpetuate and extend the institution of negro slavery; but God makes the wrath of man to praise him, and every step is likely not only to prove the death-knell of the domestic institution, but to annihilate that plantation system, the cry of which I believe had gone up to heaven, and to destroy the influence of that slave-owing aristocracy who, to use the words of one of their own number, "hates everything free, from free schools upwards." Let us wait patiently and reverently, for a struggle so terrible cannot be without a use and a purpose, and by-and-by, perhaps, we shall hear "the still small voice."' Within forty-eight hours from the utterance of this tirade of Black-Republican abuse, the *China* arrived with the text of a speech delivered at Auburn by Mr. William Seward, Secretary of State to the Cabinet of Washington, the champion of Federal and Abolitionist policy. The words of a greater than even the Solomon of the borough of Montrose are these: 'When the insurgents shall have disbanded their armies, and laid down their arms, the war will instantly cease, and all the war measures then existing, *including those which regard slaves*, will cease also; and all the rights, constitutional, political, and social, *as well questions of property as persons*, which shall then be existing between individuals and States and the Federal Government, will be precisely as they were before the civil war began, or who they grew out of it, and, by force of the Constitution, pass over to the adjustment of courts of law, and to the ballot of the nation.' What is left for Mr. Baxter but to exclaim, 'Is Seward also among the Prophets?' We are content to ask whether this is not 'the still small voice' for which Mr. Baxter has waited so patiently and reverently.

The *London Gazette*, of September 15, announces that the Right Hon. Sir Andrew Buchanan, K.C.B., ambassador to the King of Prussia, has been appointed ambassador to the Emperor of Russia, and that the Right Hon. Lord Napier, K.T., ambassador to the Emperor of Russia, has been appointed ambassador to the King of Prussia.

THE foundation-stone of the New Liverpool Exchange was laid on Saturday last by Mr. C. S. Parker, the chairman of the New Exchange Company. Mr. T. H. Wyatt is the architect. The site has cost 200,000*l.*, and the building will cost 150,000*l.* When completed the edifice will be the finest of the kind in Europe.

THE results of the principal event of the race meeting at Doncaster were recorded in our columns last week. It only remains to glance at a few races of minor importance. On the first day of the meeting the celebrated Champagne Stakes, a sweepstake of 50*l.* each for two-year-olds, which has so often brought into notice a Derby winner, and vies in celebrity with the July Stakes at Newmarket, attracted ten animals to the post. Gardevisure, a filly of considerable pretension and of good antecedents, was made the favourite at 7 to 4. Sir Joseph Hawley's Bedminster, Count Batthyany's Puritan, and the French colt the Doge, all found supporters. The winner, however, turned up in Zambesi, a colt by Sauntcrer out of the dam of the speedy Living tone. Mr. Merry, the owner of Zambesi, had so poor an opinion of his chance as not to have backed him for a shilling. Yet it must be remembered that this colt ran admirably at Ascot in June last, and our columns bore special testimony to his excellence. On the final day of the meeting three races of interest were contested. The Town Plate, a handicap of trifling importance, was principally remarkable from being won by Sir J. Hawley's Washington, a colt by the American horse Charleston; a sire of peculiar style, and at least worthy of note as differing vastly in shape from English horses. Ely, by Kingston out of the Bloomer, added another leaf to his already abundant chaplet by winning in his own grand style the Doncaster Stakes, beating the vaunted but indifferent Coast Guard in a canter by eight lengths. The most pleasing race, however, was that for the Doncaster Cup, a prize that has probably been won by more really splendid horses than any other offered by the turf. It was in this race that Voltigeur overthrew the Flying Dutchman, a horse who, having won the July and Champagne Stakes, the Derby, and St. Leger, had never previously known defeat. For this race, too, in later times, Brown Duchess, the best of the progeny of the Flying Dutchman, ran a dead heat with the great Derby winner Kettledrum. The candidates this year for honours were Lord Glasgow's General Peel, Lord Glasgow's Rapid Rhone, Mr. Launde's Miner, and Baron Rothschild's Hippolyta. As may be supposed, the General, in the absence of Blair Athol, was made the favourite at the odds of 5 to 4. To the great delight of his noble owner the General won, Hippolyta being second, and the Miner third. The victory of General Peel was received by the Yorkshiremen with terrific applause.

FRANZ MÜLLER arrived in the *Etna* at Liverpool on Friday last, and in London on Saturday afternoon. He was at once conveyed to the Bow Street station, where the charge was entered. He appeared before the magistrate on Monday, and was remanded for a week. During the whole voyage Müller conducted himself with great propriety. His demeanour was singularly tranquil. He read the 'Pickwick Papers' and 'David Copperfield' with much zest. He appears to be much touched by the exertions of the German Protection Society in his defence.

CANADA.

A Convention to effect a union between the British provinces met at Charlottetown on September 1. All the members of the Canadian Government were authorised to attend the Convention. The delegates from Nova Scotia were the Hon. Messrs. Tupper, Henry, Archibald, and M'Cully; from New Brunswick, Messrs. Tilley, Johnson, Steeres, Gray, and Chandler; from Canada, Messrs. Cartier, Brown, Galt, M'Gee, Sangerin, Campbell, and M'Donald; from Prince Edward's Island, Messrs. Gray, Pope, Palmer, M'Donald, and Coles. The Convention was organised by the appointment of Colonel Gray, of Prince Edward's Island, chairman, and Messrs. Tupper and Tilley, secretaries. At noon on the first day of the Convention the Canadian Government steamer *Queen Victoria* arrived at Charlottetown, having on board the Hon. Messrs. Cartier, Brown, M'Donald, Galt, M'Dougall, Campbell, M'Gee, and Sangerin, their purpose being to invite the consideration of the Convention to the possibility of a more extensive union.

The Convention was summoned to consider a union of the three maritime provinces; but the proposal of the Canadian Government was that the whole of British North America, from Halifax to the Rocky Mountains, should be united in one Federal Government, and under one legislature. The Canadian deputation had no official standing in the Convention, Canada having no interest in the special

question for which the Convention was summoned. The Canadian deputies were, however, soon after their arrival, invited to meet the Convention and present their views. There have accordingly been several meetings, and it is understood that the whole subject of the larger confederation has been fully discussed. The meetings, however, have all been held with closed doors, and the proceedings have not transpired.

According to the latest advices from New York, it is reported that the Conference has decided that the union of the British North American provinces would be satisfactory, provided that the terms of alliance could be arranged.

NEW ZEALAND.

Another action has been fought in New Zealand. Encouraged by the victory at Gate Pah, the natives sent a challenge to Colonel Green, the officer in command of the forces at Tauranga. The language of the defiance was as follows:—'Now, hear what we have to say. We have been waiting for you to come and attack us for a whole month, but you have not come, and now we are coming to you; we give you warning, therefore, that you may expect to see us within the month, and not to let any of your soldiers out, for our young men will certainly shoot them. We give you warning, that you may not say it is murder, for it won't be murder. We shall treat your wounded and prisoners well, and shall expect you to do the same.' Apart from the proof already afforded by deeds of chivalrous courage and noble humanity, the language of this document stamps the native tribes as men to be honoured as friends rather than killed as foes. On receipt of the challenge Colonel Green assembled his forces, amounting to 1,500 men, and advanced to attack the native position. After a sharp skirmish, the 43rd and 68th Regiments with the Waikato militia carried the rifle-pits at the point of the bayonet. Over 200 Maories were killed, and a great number were wounded. The 43rd Regiment lost a corporal and five men killed, two captains, a sergeant, and 12 men wounded. The 68th lost 3 privates killed, 2 captains, 1 lieutenant, 1 ensign, 2 sergeants, 2 corporals, and 17 privates wounded. The prospect of a peace seems to be as distant as ever.

THE CONTINENT.

FRANCE.

The *France* announces in a pretentious manner that the Emperor is meditating important combinations connected with the practice of the Constitution. The principal subject of the Emperor's deliberations is said to be the management of the Chambers. Speaking Ministers have failed both to withstand the assaults of the Opposition or to satisfy the Ministers of State, whose acts of administration it was their duty to defend. The *France* is well pleased with the existing order of things, but is prepared to admire whatever the lofty wisdom and liberal mind of the Emperor may ordain.

It is affirmed that the Minister of Finance is contemplating certain reforms of a liberal tendency in the system of custom houses on the French and Spanish frontiers.

The Emperor received the Duke of Cambridge on Friday last at the Tuileries. The Empress is staying at Schwalbach.

Prince Napoleon and the Princess Marie Clotilde returned to Paris by Havre on Thursday, September 15. Their Highnesses have since left Paris for Switzerland.

Prince Lucien Murat was at Tunis on September 10, accompanied by the Princess Anna Murat. They intended to visit Carthage and to continue their journey along the coasts of the Mediterranean, with the final object of reaching Jerusalem.

By a decree of the Emperor, a chair of political economy has been established in the Faculty of Law at Paris.

Great activity is visible at Toulon in the embarcation of troops for Algeria. The steamships *Labrador*, *Gomer*, *Tarn*, and *Sèvre* are all fitted as transports, and are in readiness to convey the forces designed for service. Rear-Admiral Lacapelle has sailed for Algeria in command of the steam-corvette *Tanger*. Marshal MacMahon has also gone to assume the command.

M. Maréchal, holding the rank of Adjutant-Commandant in the French army, has been promoted to the grade of Commander of the Legion of Honour. The gallant officer is of the ripe age of 101 years. It must not, however, be supposed that even the venerable M. Maréchal is the father of the army of France. That honourable position is claimed by Colonel Dubois-Fresney, who attained the age of 106 years on the 2nd of August last.

The town of Autun has acquitted itself in a manner highly agreeable to the friends of progress and of the Imperial dynasty. There the several societies of agriculture, horticulture, and pisciculture have united with the ancient Eduen Society, which, to use the words of the orator of the occasion, traces up the greatness of the men of the past to stimulate the rising generation, in a grand commemorative banquet. The Prefect of the Saone-et-Loire was in the chair, supported by the Archbishop of Smyrna, the Bishop of La Rochelle, and the chief notabilities of the department. After dinner M. Schneider, the Vice-President of the Corps Législatif, proposed the health of the Emperor in a speech replete with eloquence. In his eyes that assembly was but a picture of the tranquillity and harmony that reigned throughout France. Religion, civil administration, labour, its conditions and rewards, commerce, arts, and sciences, all were represented even as in France herself. To the Emperor, the author of liberty and order, those results were due.

If all French sportsmen were content to follow the example of the individual who last week figured in our columns as the successful destroyer, by a skilful ground shot, of thirteen partridges out of a covey of fourteen, the reader might indulge in a smile at the quaint method of sport, but would at least have no cause to weep. Unfortunately September in France has been signalised by acts of awkward mischief accompanied by more terrible results than the murder of thirteen birds. Thus, a M. Ferment, imagining that he was cleverly arresting the flight of a roebuck, kills a poor woodcutter. Again, at Remilly, a gentleman receives the whole charge of his neighbour's gun full in the face. The accident is not fatal, but the victim only escapes with the loss of an eye and horrid injuries to the cheek and head. On the banks of the Moselle, father and son take shelter from the rain, and enter the kitchen of the family château. The gun held by the father explodes, and the son aged twenty-five years lies dead at the feet of a parent and of a sister. Indeed, a Parisian paper confesses that the provincial journals abound with stories of accidents caused by firearms.

Love plays sad havoc even with creatures in whom a romantic turn could scarcely be suspected. What trade can be less sentimental than that of a grocer, what place more prosaic than a by-street in a large town? Yet even over these obstacles imagination may triumph. A patrol was exploring on its rounds a lane in Paris about the hour of one in the morning, when the sounds of a guitar accompanied by an air of soft melancholy struck upon the wondering ears of the soldiery. Serenades were not familiar to the city guards, and a search was at once made in the direction of the musician of the night. Wonder grew into amazement when the spectacle of a young man, with no other garment than his guitar, presented itself. To arrest, clothe, and conduct the serenader to the guardhouse was the work of a few minutes. The poor devotee of music and cold nights proved to be a young grocer, with whose senses love, disappointment, and jealousy had played sad havoc. It is to be hoped that the care of the physicians to whose charge he was committed, will restore him to his right mind and his unromantic groceries.

DENMARK AND GERMANY.

The Peace Conference at Vienna has not made much progress towards a settlement, and the armistice is to be prolonged. Denmark does not interpose any obstacle, but the two German Powers are at variance. Prussia, having snubbed the Diet, wishes to snub Austria, but the latter has no idea of consigning the lead to her rival.

A correspondence has been published that shows that Earl Russell cannot patiently endure a flagrant insult added to a flagrant injustice. On August 9 M. Bismarck wrote a despatch, of which a copy was to be left with the British Foreign Secretary, in which he calls upon the noble Earl to give the German Powers credit for their 'moderation and placability.' M. Bismarck says they did not wish to dismember the Danish monarchy, but only to bring about a separation of parts of it; and he adds: 'The Danish monarchy is not imperilled in its existence: not a single condition of its existence is damaged; it has received no wounds which cannot be healed.' To this Earl Russell replies that Her Majesty's Government would have preferred not to discuss the terms of peace, but as M. Bismarck challenges it, Her Majesty's Government declares that the war was neither just nor necessary, and that they lament that the success of the German arms should be used to dismember the Danish monarchy. The Prussians are angry with Earl Russell for writing this despatch, yet surely they must know that the war against Denmark was neither just nor necessary, and that Denmark has been dismembered.

DENMARK.

Denmark has thrown off her mourning garments, and in festive mood has welcomed to the home of her girlhood the Princess of Wales. That the Prince and Princess of Wales and their baby would receive an ovation no one doubted, but there is a cordiality about the reception that is exceedingly touching. National affliction is forgotten for a moment, and the people do not visit the sins of Earl Russell on the innocent head of the Prince of Wales. Nor is this visit devoid of political significance. King Christian declared in the presence of the Prince of Wales that His Royal Highness had deeply sympathised with the sufferings of Denmark, and this declaration will not fail to produce an effect in England and on the Continent. It is refreshing, after the party equivocation of the past session, to hear upon authority that the Prince of Wales cordially sympathises with the popular sentiment in favour of Denmark.

PRUSSIA.

The Crown Princess gave birth to a son on the 15th inst. Her Royal Highness and the infant Prince are doing well.

RUSSIA.

The Grand Khan of Bokhara seems to entertain peculiar notions on the rights of hospitality. Four Italian gentlemen visited his dominions, for reasons best known to themselves. The Prime Minister of the Khan did the strangers the honour of asking them to dinner, and imprisoned his guests immediately on their appearance at the festive board. The wretched men were stripped of everything, and all their effects were sold, a sure sign of approaching decapitation. However, the Czar of Russia intervened, and at his request, after thirteen months of captivity, the Italians were set at liberty. These gentlemen finally made their way to St. Petersburg, and were received by a large concourse of people interested in their fate. Prince Gortschakoff even entertained them, more hospitably, it may be believed, than his compeer in the service of the Grand Khan. However, the Emir has written to the Czar to say that for the future he intends to decapitate all strangers who are caught in his dominions, without respect of persons. Poor Dr. Wolff must turn uneasily in his grave at such an announcement.

POLAND.

The Czar seems to some extent willing to make amends to unfortunate Poland for the sufferings endured by her. An Imperial rescript has been issued creating a university at Warsaw, and establishing schools of various grades and a free school for women. In these schools the Poles will preserve their own language, and for other nationalities special schools are to be organised, in which the idioms of the respective nationalities will be used. The penal code is modified, and corporal punishment abolished.

The Pope has addressed an encyclical letter to the Polish bishops. In it the conduct of the Russian Government in the persecution of the Poles and of the Catholic church is pronounced to be worthy of condemnation in the sight of heaven and earth; at the same time the revolution is made subject to censure on the ground that Catholics owe obedience to the civil authority. In conclusion His Holiness threatens the persecutors with Divine justice, 'which,' says he, 'will soon appear, for the time of mercy is short, and the powerful are powerfully chastised.'

The Emperor of Russia has arrived at Schwalbach, and has visited the Empress of the French.

ITALY.

Where there is much smoke there is generally some fire, and it cannot be without reason that the French and Italian newspapers teem with reports, more or less trustworthy, of the terms of the new Convention between the Governments of France and Italy, negotiated between the Marquis de Pepoli and M. Drouyn de Lhuys. The general agreement, if we except the silence of some journals and the ambiguous denial of others, points to the following stipulations. After the lapse of two years from the date of the treaty, the occupation of Rome by the French troops is to cease. In the meantime the Italian Government engages to watch the frontier which divides the kingdom of Italy from the Roman States, so that no army either of regular troops or of volunteers can enter the territory of the Holy See to disturb its tranquillity. The Italian Government is to take upon itself five-sixths of the Roman debt. There are also articles for the regulation of what concerns the necessities of Catholic worship, vacant bishoprics, &c. It is further affirmed that the Pontifical Government, to some extent, lends its sanction to the treaty. The report has set men speculating wildly on the question whether Italy is one whit nearer to the real possession of Rome than before. A more immediate discussion has however arisen on the probable change of the capital of Italy from Turin to Florence, and it is fully expected that the King will announce such a determination from the throne to the Chambers on their assembling on the 11th of October next. The session will probably be short, a dissolution will follow, and the new Parliament will meet in April, 1865.

SPAIN.

The following is the list of the new Spanish Ministry:—President of the Council without Portfolio, Marshal Narvaez; Minister of Foreign Affairs, Señor Llorente; Minister of War, Señor Cordova; Minister of Justice, Señor Lorenzo Arrazola; Minister of Marine, Señor Armera; Minister of Interior, Señor Gonzalez Bravo; Minister of Finance, Señor Manuel Barzanollana; Minister of Public Works, Señor Galiano; Minister of Public Worship, Señor Seijas Lozano.

A circular of the Minister of the Interior has been addressed to the Civil Governors recommending them to treat impartially all political parties, and at the same time to exercise severity in the maintenance of law and order.

COCHIN-CHINA.

Considerable uncertainty seems to exist with regard to the state of affairs in Cochin-China. That M. Aubaret has negotiated a treaty is certain. Whether the terms will be approved by the authorities at Paris, or the whole transaction be repudiated, is yet matter of speculation. The Government organs remark on the spirit of opposition which jumps at a conclusion condemnatory of the Administration before the possibility of enquiry. Their silence on the true state of things indicates considerable trouble in the official mind, and a difficulty in putting a good face on the unsatisfactory results of French policy.

THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The Argentine Republic appears to have taken a leaf out of the book of the executive at Washington. Letters from Buenos Ayres affirm that the *Terrible* had arrived from Marseilles with seventy Italians on board destined for the service of the Argentine Republic, and furnished with passports delivered by the consular authorities. These seventy were to be followed by 500 more recruits already enlisted by agents sent expressly to Europe. It is affirmed that these unfortunate men, enticed by vain promises and lying proclamations, were likely to find themselves in a deplorable situation. It was, however, believed that the Italian Government had taken steps in the matter.

MEXICO.

By the terms of the Convention made at Miramar between the Emperor of Mexico and the French Government, an annual sum of 25,000,000 francs was to be paid into the hands of the paymaster of the French army in Mexico, at the rate of 2,083,333 francs a month. The first instalment, due on July 31, has been paid in gold at Mexico. The pay of the Mexican army would also, from July 1, fall on the Mexican Government. An additional sum, amounting to 1,742,000 francs, had been paid into the French exchequer to reimburse certain advances made during the month of July.

PROSPECT OF MR. LINCOLN'S REELECTION. — The *New York Herald* says: 'The reelection of Lincoln is regarded as not impossible, and therefore the prospect is regarded as gloomy enough, and one promising only more long years of war, and we have tasted enough of that to know what it means.'

THE PEACE MISSION TO RICHMOND.

THE New York papers copy from the Richmond papers the following circular addressed by Secretary Benjamin to the foreign agents of the Confederate Government:—

Department of State: Richmond, August 25, 1864.

Sir,—Numerous publications which have recently appeared in the journals of the United States, on the subject of informal overtures for peace between the two federations of States now at war on this continent, render it desirable that you should be fully advised of the views and policy of this Government on a matter of such paramount importance. It is likewise proper that you should be accurately informed of what has occurred on the several occasions mentioned in the published statements.

You have heretofore been furnished with copies of the manifesto issued by the Congress of the Confederate States with the approval of the President, on the 14th of June last, and have doubtless acted in conformity with the resolution which requested that copies of this manifesto should be laid before foreign Governments. 'The principal sentiments and purposes by which these States have been and are still actuated,' are set forth in that paper with all the authority due to the solemn declaration of the Legislative and Executive Departments of this Government, and with a clearness which leaves no room for comment or explanation. In a few sentences it is pointed out that all we ask is immunity from interference with our internal peace and prosperity, 'and to be left in the undisturbed enjoyment of those inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, which our common ancestors declared to be the equal heritage of all parties to the social compact. Let them forbear aggressions upon us, and the war is at an end. If there be questions which require adjustment by negotiation, we have ever been willing, and are still willing, to enter into communication with our adversaries in a spirit of equity and manly frankness.' The manifesto closed with the declaration that 'we commit our cause to the enlightened judgment of the world, to the sober reflections of our adversaries themselves, and to the solemn and righteous arbitration of Heaven.'

Within a very few weeks after the publication of this manifesto, it seemed to have met with a response from President Lincoln. In the early part of last month a letter was received by General Lee from Lieutenant-General Grant, in the following words:—

'Headquarters, Armies of the United States,
City Point, Va., July 8, 1864.

'General R. E. Lee, commanding Confederate forces near Petersburg, Virginia.

'General,—I would request that Colonel James F. Jaques, 73rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and J. R. Gilmore, Esq., be allowed to meet Colonel Robert Ould, Commissioner for the Exchange of Prisoners, at such place between the lines of the two armies as you may designate. The object of the meeting is legitimate with the duties of Colonel Ould as Commissioner.

'If not consistent for you to grant the request here asked, I would beg that this be referred to President Davis for his action.

'Requesting as early an answer to this communication as you may find it convenient to make, I subscribe myself, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

'U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant-General U. S. A.'

On the reference of this letter to the President he authorised Colonel Ould to meet the persons named in General Grant's letter; and Colonel Ould, after seeing them, returned to Richmond and reported to the President, in the presence of the Secretary of War and myself, that Messrs. Jaques and Gilmore had not said anything to him about his duties as Commissioner for exchange of prisoners, but that they asked permission to come to Richmond to see the President; that they came with the knowledge and approval of President Lincoln, and under his pass; that they were informal messengers sent with a view of paving the way for a meeting of formal commissioners authorised to negotiate for peace, and desired to communicate to President Davis the views of Mr. Lincoln, and to obtain the President's views in return, so as to arrange for a meeting of commissioners. Colonel Ould stated that he had told them repeatedly that it was useless to come to Richmond to talk of peace on any terms other than the recognised independence of the Confederacy, to which they said they were aware of that, and that they were nevertheless confident that their interview would result in peace. The President, on this report of Colonel Ould, determined to permit them to come to Richmond under his charge.

On the evening of July 16, Colonel Ould conducted these gentlemen to an hotel in Richmond, where a room was provided for them, in which they were to remain under surveillance during their stay here, and the next morning I received the following letter:—

'Spottswood Hotel, Richmond, Va., July 17, 1864.

'Hon. J. P. Benjamin, Secretary of State, Confederate States of America.

'Dear Sir,—The undersigned, James F. Jaques, of Illinois, and James R. Gilmore, of Massachusetts, most respectfully solicit an interview with President Davis. They visit Richmond as private citizens, and have no official character or authority; but they are fully possessed of the views of the United States Government relative to an adjustment of the differences now existing between North and South, and have little doubt that a free interchange of views between President Davis and themselves would open the way to such official negotiations as would ultimate in restoring peace to the two sections of our distracted country.

'They therefore ask an interview with the President, and, awaiting your reply, are, most truly and respectfully, your obedient servants,

'JAS. F. JAQUES,
'JAS. R. GILMORE.'

The word 'official' is underscored, and the word 'peace' doubly underscored, in the original.

After perusing the letter, I invited Colonel Ould to conduct the writers to my office, and on their arrival stated to them that they must be conscious they could not be admitted to an interview with the President without informing me more fully of the object of their mission, and satisfying me that they came by request of Mr. Lincoln. Mr. Gilmore replied that they came unofficially, but with the knowledge and at the desire of Mr. Lincoln; that they thought the war had gone far enough; that it could never end except by some sort of agreement; that the agreement might as well be made now as after still further bloodshed; that they knew by the recent address of the Confederate Congress that we were willing to make peace; that they admitted that proposals ought to come from the North, and that they were prepared to make these proposals by Mr. Lincoln's authority; that it was necessary to have a sort of informal understanding in advance of regular negotiations, for if commissioners were appointed without some such understanding, they would meet, quarrel, and separate, leaving the parties more bitter against each other than before; that they knew Mr. Lincoln's views, and would state them if pressed by the President to do so, and desired to learn his in return.

I again insisted on some evidence that they came from Mr Lincoln, and in order to satisfy me Mr. Gilmore referred to the fact that permission for their coming through our lines had been asked officially by General Grant in a letter to General Lee, and that General Grant in that letter had asked that this request should be referred to President Davis. Mr. Gilmore then showed me a card, written and signed by Mr. Lincoln, requesting General Grant to aid Mr. Gilmore and friend in passing through his lines into the Confederacy. Colonel Jaques then said his name was not put on the card for the reason that it was earnestly desired that their visit should be kept secret, that he had come into the Confederacy a year ago, and had visited Petersburg on a similar errand; and that it was feared, if his name should become known, that some of those who had formerly met in Petersburg would conjecture the purpose for which he now came. He said that the terms of peace which they would offer to the President would be honourable to the Confederacy; that they did not desire that the Confederacy should accept any other terms, but would be glad to have my promise, as they gave theirs, that their visit should be kept a profound secret if it failed to result in peace; that it would not be just that either party should seek any advantage by divulging the fact of their overture for peace if unsuccessful. I assented to this request, and then rising said: 'Do I understand you to state distinctly that you came as messengers from Mr. Lincoln for the purpose of agreeing with the President as to the proper mode of inaugurating a formal negotiation for peace, charged by Mr. Lincoln with authority for stating his own views and receiving those of President Davis?' Both answered in the affirmative, and I then said that the President would see them at my office the same evening, at 9 P.M.; that at least I presumed he would, but if he objected after hearing my report they should be informed. They were then recommitted to the charge of Colonel Ould, with the understanding that they were to be conducted to my office at the appointed hour, unless otherwise ordered.

This interview, connected with the report previously made by Colonel Ould, left on my mind the decided impression that Mr. Lincoln was averse to sending formal commissioners to open negotiations, lest he might be thereby deemed to have recognised the independence of the Confederacy, and that he was anxious to learn whether the conditions on which alone he would be willing to take such a step would be yielded by the Confederacy; that with this view he had placed his messengers in a condition to satisfy us that they really came from him, without committing himself to anything in the event of a disagreement as to such conditions as he considered to be indispensable. On informing the President thereof of my conclusion he determined that no question or form of etiquette should be an obstacle of his receiving any overtures that promised, however remotely, to result in putting an end to the carnage which marked the continuance of hostilities.

The President came to my office at nine o'clock in the evening, and Colonel Ould came a few moments later, with Messrs. Jaques and Gilmore. The President said to them that he had heard from me that they came as messengers of peace from Mr. Lincoln; that as such they were welcome; that the Confederacy had never concealed its desire for peace; and that he was ready to hear what they had to offer on the subject.

Mr. Gilmore then addressed the President, and in a few minutes had conveyed the information that those two gentlemen had come to Richmond impressed with the idea that this Government would accept a peace on the basis of a reconstruction of the Union, the abolition of slavery, and the grant of an amnesty to the people of the State as repentant criminals. In order to accomplish the abolition of slavery, it was proposed that there should be a general vote of all the people of both confederations, and the majority of the vote thus taken was to determine that as all other disputed questions. These were stated to be Mr. Lincoln's views. The President answered that as these proposals had been prefaced by the remark that the people of the North were a majority, and that a majority ought to govern, the offer was in effect a proposal that the Confederate States should surrender at discretion, admit that they had been wrong from the beginning of the contest, submit to the mercy of their enemies, and avow themselves to be in need of pardon for crimes; that extermination was preferable to such dishonour.

He stated that if they were themselves so unacquainted with the form of their own government as to make such propositions, Mr. Lincoln ought to have known, when giving them his views, that it was out of the power of the Confederate Government to act on the subject of the domestic institutions of the several States, each State having exclusive jurisdiction on that point, still less to commit the decision of such a question to the vote of a foreign people; that the separation of the States was an accomplished fact; that he had no authority to receive proposals for negotiation except by virtue of his office as President of an independent Confederacy, and on this basis alone must proposals be made to him.

At one period of the conversation Mr. Gilmore made use of some language referring to these States as 'rebels' while rendering an account of Mr. Lincoln's views, and apologised for the word. The President desired him to proceed, that no offence was taken, and that he wished Mr. Lincoln's language to be repeated to him as exactly as possible. Some further conversation took place, substantially to the same effect as the foregoing, when the President rose to indicate that the interview was at an end. The two gentlemen were then recommitted to the charge of Colonel Ould, and left Richmond the next day.

The account of the visit of Messrs. Gilmore and Jaques to Richmond has been rendered necessary by publications made by one or both of them since their return to the United States, notwithstanding the agreement that their visit was to be kept secret. They have, perhaps, concluded that, as their promise of secrecy was made at their request, it was permissible to disregard it. We had no reason for desiring to conceal what occurred, and have, therefore, no complaint to make of the publicity given to the fact of the visit. The extreme inaccuracy of Mr. Gilmore's narrative will be apparent to you from the foregoing statement.

You have no doubt seen in the Northern papers an account of another conference on the subject of peace, which took place in Canada, at about the same date, between Messrs. C. C. Clay and S. P. Holcombe, Confederate citizens of the highest character and position, and Mr. Horace Greeley, of New York, acting with authority of President Lincoln. It is deemed not improper to inform you that Messrs. Clay and Holcombe, although engaging in an earnest degree the confidence and esteem of the President, were strictly accurate in their statement that they were without any authority from this Government to treat with that of the United States on any subject whatever. We had no knowledge of their conference with Mr. Greeley, nor of their proposed visit to Washington till we saw the newspaper publications. A significant confirmation of the truth of the statement of Messrs. Gilmore and Jaques that they came as messengers to us in Mr. Lincoln is to be found in the fact that the views of Mr. Lincoln, as stated by them to the President, are in exact conformity with the offensive paper addressed to 'whom it may concern,' which was sent by Mr. Lincoln to Messrs. Clay and Holcombe by the hands of his private secretary, Mr. Hay, and which was properly regarded by those gentlemen as an insult: that Mr. Lincoln was unwilling that this war should cease while in his power to continue hostilities.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. P. BENJAMIN, Secretary of State.

FEDERAL ATROCITIES.—The *Houston Daily Telegraph* reports a speech delivered by Governor Morehead of Kentucky, from which we take the following:—'It was impossible for him in this presence, surrounded as he was by the matrons and daughters of Texas, to enter into details. This monster, it is true, was cashiered by a court martial of Federal officers, but he was immediately promoted by Lincoln to a Brigadier-General. He would not stop to portray the wanton devastation and ruin which marked the footsteps of the Federal army wherever it had gone. The smoking ruins of cities, villages, and towns, the indiscriminate seizure of private property, the destruction of libraries, pictures, and furniture, the deprivation of food of innocent women and children and old men, have become so common as to cease to excite surprise. In the remarkable letter of General Sherman, published to the world, while admitting that these things are contrary to all the laws of civilised warfare in Europe, he avows that these laws are not applicable to such a war as this, and commends this vandalism to his subordinates. He said that he need scarcely refer to Butler; he had earned an immortality of infamy. Farragut, upon the surrender of the city of New Orleans, had promised that life, liberty, and property should be sacredly protected. How that was done he need not say. The cold-blooded murder of Mumford, the inhuman imprisonment of a lady who happened to smile while the funeral of a Federal officer was passing, the sending to prison the most respectable citizens, some of them to wear a ball and chain, and to be placed at hard work; the wholesale robbery of whatever he could, on any pretence, no matter how frivolous, lay his hands upon, and a thousand minor acts of surpassing meanness and turpitude which have been detailed in private letters, is the answer to the promise of Farragut, and the commentary upon Federal good faith. He asked where in the annals of human butchery such a scene has been represented as the bloody plain of Palmyra, Missouri. A man by the name of Allsman, a Union man, was missing, whereupon General M'Neill, pretending to believe that he had been abducted by Southern sympathisers and murdered, issued an order that unless he was returned within a designated period, ten men to be selected by him should be shot in retaliation. They did not know where he was, and could not return him. The ten men were shot, and Allsman afterwards returned, having voluntarily absented himself. On the morning appointed for the shooting of these ten men, the wife of one of them called upon Captain Strachan, one of M'Neill's officers, with six little children, and implored the inhuman wretch to release her husband from the sentence. He at first refused, but finally told her if she would give him $500 and submit to another condition which he imposed, he would release him. The money was raised and paid, a Mr. Revely, of Palmyra, paying $300 of it, and Strachan now stands indicted for the most horrid of crimes in connection with this affair; yet this man, by the destruction of the elective franchise, with this indictment pending, has been elected a member of Mr. Lincoln's Missouri legislature. Another woman applied for the pardon of her husband, and was told if she would find a substitute he should be released. She naturally supposed that the condition was an impossible one, but a young man stepped forward and said he had no ties of wife and children to bind him to the world, and offered to take his place—he was accepted and shot. Another case was that of a man with a wife and one child, a boy of 12 or 14 years of age—the mother was lying on a sick bed and unable to go and intercede for her doomed husband. The boy went to M'Neill and begged, entreated, and implored him to spare the life of his father, in the simplicity of his nature telling him what a kind and good father he was and how much he loved him—that it would kill his mother, and at this thought he burst into tears, and said "I know, General, when you think on these things you will not kill my father." The obdurate murderer refused to pardon him, but permitted the heart-broken boy to ride with his father to the place of execution; and through the streets of Palmyra that boy was seen on the cart, containing a coffin, clinging with convulsive agony to that father who was seated on it. At the place of execution he had to be torn by ruffian hands from his father's embrace. On the return of that cart with the dead body of the father, the boy was seated on the coffin, with his head hanging down, but with dry eyes—the agony was too great for tears. He bent his silent steps to the bedside of his sick mother to tell the dreadful tale.'

AN ENGLISH DESERTER.—A non-commissioned officer in the garrison of Kingston, Canada West, received last month a letter dated from the camp before Petersburg, written by a deserter who, signing himself anonymously 'A Gunner of the Royal Artillery,' is well known. The writer says: 'I am sorry that I was such a fool as to be persuaded to come over here, where you are driven about worse than niggers. Please to tell my comrades not to be guided by them crimps, for they tell you that you'll get $800, but it is no such thing: all you get is $100, and that they will rob you of if you don't look out. I will tell you who brought me over; . . . If you go and search their house you will find some of my clothes there. Them men ought to be severely punished for I tell you it is nothing better than trading with a lot of cattle. There are some more that are trying to get away, and they say they will get them away in spite of you. Please tell them if they know when they are well off they will stop where they are, unless they want to be treated worse than slaves. Please to put this in the papers, so as no other soldier shall be duped. Please tell them not to believe their —— lies, for it is all falsity; what they want is to sell them as slaves. They ought to be found out and punished. I would freely do four years to be back again. Please let my comrades see this.'—*The Times.*

SECRETARY SEWARD ON THE OBJECTS OF THE WAR.

MR. SEWARD delivered an address at Auburn on the occasion of rejoicings at the occupation of Atlanta by the Federals. Of course he took a sanguine view of the military situation, and abused the Democrats for their party spirit and disloyalty. Respecting the Presidential election and the objects of the war he spoke as follows:—

First, I beg you to remember that the present is not a common or customary Presidential election. It occurs in the midst of civil war, arising out of a disputed succession to the executive power. Disputed successions are the most frequent causes of civil wars, not only in republics, but even in monarchies. A dispute about the succession of the President periodically begets an abortive or a real revolution, in each of the Spanish and American Republics. So the disputed succession of the Spanish throne begot that memorable Thirty Years' War which convulsed all Europe. A dispute whether Juarez was the lawful President brought on the present civil war, with the consequence of French intervention, in Mexico. A dispute whether the present King of Denmark, who succeeded to the throne last winter, is lawful heir to the Duchies of Slesvig and Holstein, brought about the civil war in that country, which, through German intervention, has just now ended with the dismemberment of the Danish kingdom. It is remarkable also that civil wars produced by disputed successions invariably begin with resistance, by some one or more of the States or provinces which constitute the kingdom, empire, or republic, which is disturbed. It was so in the United States of Mexico; it was so in the United States of Colombia; and the case was the same in the United States of Venezuela. Now it is certain that in 1860 we elected Abraham Lincoln, lawfully and constitutionally, to be President of the whole United States of America. Seven of the States immediately thereon rushed into disunion, and summoning eight more to their alliance, they set up a revolutionary Government. They levied war against us to effect a separation and establish a distinct sovereignty and independence. We accepted the war in defence of the Union.

It is clear, therefore, that we are fighting to make Abraham Lincoln President of the whole United States, under the election of 1860, to continue until March 4, 1865. In voting for a President of the United States, can we wisely or safely vote out the identical person whom, with force and arms, we are fighting into the Presidency? (No, no.) You justly say no. It would be nothing less than to give up the very object of the war at the ballot-box. The moral strength which makes our loyal position impregnable would pass from us; and when that moral strength has passed away material forces are no longer effective, or even available. By such a proceeding we shall have agreed with the enemy, and shall have given him the victory. But in that agreement the Constitution and the Union will have perished, because when it shall have once been proved that a minority can, by force or circumvention, defeat the full accession of a constitutionally chosen President, no President thereafter, though elected by ever so large a majority, can hope to exercise the executive powers unopposed throughout the whole country. One of two things must follow that fatal error. Either a contest between your newly-elected compromise President and the same usurper, in which the usurper must prevail, or else a combination between them through which the usurper or his successor, subverting your Constitution and substituting his own, will become President, King, or Emperor of the United States, without foreign aid if he can, with foreign intervention if necessary.—(That's so.) To be sure it is so; nothing is more certain than that either the United States and their constitutional President, or the so-called Confederate States, and their usurping President, must rule within the limits of this Republic. I therefore regard the pending Presidential election as involving the question whether hereafter we shall have a Constitution and a country left us. How shall we vote then to save our country from this fearful danger? (Vote Lincoln in again.) You have hit it exactly, my friend. We must vote Lincoln in again, and fight him in at the same time. If we do this the rebellion will perish, and leave no root. If we do otherwise, we have only the alternative of acquiescence in a perpetual usurpation, or of entering on an endless succession of civil and social wars. Upon these grounds, entirely irrespective of platform and candidate, I consider the recommendations of the Constitution at Chicago as tending to subvert the Republic. (It's so, that's a fact.) It will seem a hard thing when I imply that a party like the Democratic party can either meditate or blindly adopt measures to overthrow the Republic. All experience, however, shows that it is by the malice or madness of great parties that free States have been brought down to destruction. You often hear alarms that a party in power is subverting the State, and it sometimes happens so. But nine times out of ten, it is a party out of power that in its impatience or ambition overthrows a republic. . . They say I am always too sanguine of the success of national candidates and of the national arms. But it seems to me that the veriest croaker in all our loyal camp will take new courage and become heroic when he sees that the last hope of the rebellion hangs upon the ratification of this abominable and detestable compact by the American people. . . And what a time is this to proclaim such a policy, conceived in treachery, and brought forth with shameless effrontery! A cessation of hostilities on the heel of decisive naval and land battles, at the very moment that the rebellion, without a single fort in its possession on the coast, or on either of the great rivers or lakes, is crumbling to the earth, and at the same time a dozen new ships of war are going to complete the investment by sea, and three hundred thousand volunteers are rushing to the lines, to complete the work of restoration and pacification.

The chief complaint against the President is that he will not accept peace on the basis of the integrity of the Union, without having also the abandonment of slavery. When and where have the insurgents offered him peace on the basis of the integrity of the Union? Nobody has offered it. The rebels never will offer it. They are determined and pledged to rule this Republic or ruin it. I told you here a year ago that practically slavery was no longer in question—that it was perishing under the operation of the war. That assertion has been confirmed. The Union men in all the slave States that we have delivered are even more anxious than we are to abolish slavery. Witness Western Virginia, Maryland, Missouri, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Arkansas. Jefferson Davis tells you, in effect, the same thing. He says that it is not slavery, but independence and sovereignty, for which he is contending. There is good reason for this. A hundred dollars in gold is only a year's purchase of the labour of the working man in every part of the United States. At less than half that price you could buy all the slaves in the country. Nevertheless, our opponents want a distinct exposition of the President's views on the ultimate solution of the slavery question. Why do they want it? For the same reason that the Pharisees and Sadducees wanted an authoritative resolution of the questions of casuistry which arose in their day. One of those sects believed in a kingdom to come, and the other denied the resurrection of the dead. Nevertheless, they walked together in loving accord in search of instruction concerning the spirit-world. 'Master,' said they, 'there was a man of our nation who married a wife and died, leaving six brothers. Those brothers successively married the widowed woman, and afterwards died. And last of all the woman died also. In the resurrection which of the seven shall have this woman to wife.' Now what was it to them whether one or all should have the woman to wife in heaven? It could be nothing to the Sadducees in any case. What was it to any human being on this side of the grave? What was it to any human being in heaven except the woman and her seven husbands? Absolutely nothing. Yet they would have an answer. And they received one. The answer was that while in this mortal state men and women shall never cease to marry and to die, there will be in the resurrection neither death nor marrying nor giving in marriage. Although altogether unauthorised to speak for the President upon hypothetical questions, I think I can give an answer upon the subject of slavery at the present day—an answer which will be explicit, and I hope not altogether unsatisfactory. While the rebels continue to wage war against the Government of the United States, the military measures affecting slavery, which have been adopted from necessity, to bring the war to a speedy and successful end, will be continued, except so far as practical experience shall show that they can be modified advantageously, with a view to the same end. When the insurgents shall have disbanded their armies, and laid down their arms, the war will instantly cease, and all the war measures then existing, including those which affect slavery, will cease also, and all the moral, economical, and political questions, as well questions affecting slavery as others, which shall then be existing between individuals and States and the Federal Government, whether they arose before the civil war began, or whether they grew out of it, will, by force of the Constitution, pass over to the arbitrament of courts of law, and to the councils of legislation.

THE SHERIDAN RAID.

A correspondent of the *New York Daily News* writes:—

'There is one feature in the recent retreat of Sheridan down the Valley of Virginia from Strasburg, which, though universally known in this section, has not yet been made public. I refer to the wanton destruction of all the wheat, hay, and forage, for many miles in the track of the retreating army. A few miles beyond Winchester the order was given to put the torch to all the combustible material of this character from mountain to mountain throughout the valley, and it was done. Large stocks of wheat, which had just been secured, after great toil and expense; barns filled with the same precious cereal; hay which the innocent husbandman had ricked to keep alive his stock this winter, all alike were given to the consuming flames. This cruel order affected thousands of women and children, old men and non-combatants, who have nothing else to depend upon for sustenance, for the fire embraced a greater portion of three counties—Frederick, Clarke, and Jefferson—a distance of thirty-five miles in length and fifteen or twenty in breadth. The destruction extended particularly around Winchester, Berryville, and Charlestown.'

The *New York Daily News* of September 2 thus comments on Sheridan's atrocities:—'The Blue Ridge on one side, and the range known as the North Mountain on the other, bound the Valley of Virginia. Twenty miles across the intervening country is a flat of land teeming with riches, and almost every foot divided into fields. Sheridan, in his late retreat from Strasburg, seeing its fields waving with corn, covered with hay-stacks, dotted with wheat ricks, set the whole on fire, until from the mountain on one side to that on the other, that lovely valley has been reduced to a grim and blackened desert! The granaries that had received some of the early harvest he committed to the flames; and now from Winchester to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad there does not remain of this year's crop a day's food for man or beast. Early's army of invasion has already marched from Strasburg to the Potomac. Timour the Tartar could not have presented his soldiers with a sight worse than that which shocked their senses and aroused their passions as they came along. Their burning homes along the Mississippi, in far-off Louisiana, and down where the ferocity of Black Republicanism was represented so well by General Hunter, had not made their advance one of desolation when they passed last year through the fairest valley of Pennsylvania. Their honourable forbearance then has, however, not stayed the hand of the destroyer of their homes and fields; and they now pass again northwardly, seeing for thirty miles on the ir way a hideous desolation that may well goad them at the very moment of their crossing of the Potomac into a spirit of wild revenge. Chambersburg has been offered up already as an expiation for some of the crimes of Hunter. Where shall the hand of the destroying angel fall in terrible punishment for that of Sheridan? On him be the responsibility of the cruel blow that is this moment suspended over the homesteads of a thousand men of Pennsylvania; and when that blow shall have been dealt by men outraged to madness, let the victims recollect who will have been the real author of their misfortunes. Curses loud, deep, and righteous, will, we fear, be heaped before long, by thousands of ruined families in the Valley of the Wyoming, on the head of General Sheridan.'

SOUTHERN TOWNS BURNT BY THE FEDERALS.—The *Richmond Enquirer* publishes the following list of the principal towns burnt by the Federals:—

Germantown	Virginia
Madison Court House	,,
Washington	North Carolina
Bluffton	South Carolina
Darien	Georgia
St. Mary's	,,
Jacksonville	Florida
Tampa Bay	,,
Jackson	Mississippi
Greenville	Arkansas
Alexandria	Louisiana
New Iberia	,,
Hickman	Mississippi River
Randolph	,,
Lake Providence	,,
Bayou Sara	,,
Plaquemine	,,
Donaldsonville	,,

CONFEDERATE OFFICIAL REPORTS.

THE following is General Hood's account of the surrender of Atlanta:—

Headquarters, September 3, 1864.

On the evening of August 30 the enemy made a lodgement across Flint River, near Jonesborough. We attacked them there on the evening of the 31st with two corps, but failed to dislodge them. This made it necessary to abandon Atlanta, which was done on the night of September 1. Our loss on the evening of the 31st was small. On the evening of September 1, General Hardee's Corps, in position at Jonesborough, was assaulted by a superior force of the enemy, and, being outflanked, was compelled to withdraw during the night, with the loss of eight guns. The enemy's prisoners report their loss very severe.

(Signed) J. P. HOOD, General.

The following are the official reports of the battle fought at Reams' Station, on the Weldon Railroad:—

Headquarters 3rd Corps, August 31, 1864.

Colonel,—I have the honour to report the correct list of results in the fight of the 25th at Reams' Station. We captured 12 stands of colours, 9 pieces of artillery, 10 caissons, 2,150 prisoners, 3,100 stand of small arms, and 32 horses. My own loss in cavalry, artillery, and infantry, is 720 men killed, wounded, and missing.

Very respectfully,
A. P. HILL, Lieutenant-General.

To Colonel W. H. Taylor, A.A.G.

Headquarters Army of Northern Virginia,
August 26, 1864.

Hon. J. A. Seddon, Secretary of War:

General A. P. Hill attacked the enemy in his entrenchments at Reams' Station yesterday evening, and at the second assault carried his entire line.

Cooke's and McRae's North Carolina brigades, under General Heth, and Lane's North Carolina brigade of Wilcox's division, under General Connor, with Pegram's artillery, composed the assaulting column.

One line of breastworks was carried by the cavalry under General Hampton with great gallantry, who contributed largely to the success of the day.

Seven stands of colours, 2,000 prisoners, and 9 pieces of artillery are in our possession.

The loss of the enemy in killed and wounded is reported to be heavy; ours relatively small.

Our profound gratitude is due to the Giver of all victory, and our thanks to the brave men and officers engaged.

R. E. LEE.

HOW SOUTHERN RAILROADS ARE REPAIRED.

(From the *Richmond Enquirer*.)

IN regard to the ability of our railroad authorities to repair the ravages of Yankee raiders, we have facts within our knowledge which prove that the most extensive injuries yet inflicted have been soon repaired, in some cases before the routed force of the raiders could have rested from their fatigue. The raid of Sheridan upon the Danville Road was—if we mistake not—repaired within four or five days. The repairs on the Central Road were completed with equal celerity.

The most extensive injuries and the most thorough repairs, however, upon any railroad in Virginia, have been those upon the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad. There have been several demonstrations for the destruction of this important thoroughfare. In the raid of May, 1864, twenty-three bridges were burned among them that across New River. It was 60 feet high and 800 feet long, and the water from 5 to 12 feet in depth over the foundations. There was not a stick of timber cut for this bridge at the time of its destruction, and yet the materials were provided and the work executed in nineteen days from the first blow struck. The raid of Hunter took place in the middle of June. The work of destruction was thoroughly organised. Brigades tore up the track; mechanics, detailed and provided with tools for the purpose, piled, burnt, and destroyed the cross-ties and rail with as much system as had been employed in the construction of the road. They destroyed every bridge from Lynchburg to Salem, a distance of sixty miles, and rendered it necessary to replace from 15,000 to 20,000 cross-ties. The rails had been heated, bent, and twisted, and were straightened and replaced. The timber for these bridges and cross-ties, as well as for woodsheds and water-tanks, and other necessary structures, were growing in the woods when the raid occurred. The enemy had destroyed about 4,000 lineal feet of bridging. One of these bridges was nearly 800 feet long and about 60 feet high. The whole of these repairs, except the principal bridge, were effected in nineteen days, and the road in running order from Lynchburg to Bristol within less than sixty days from the day of its destruction.

Thus was the sixth raid made upon the road within the year repaired before Hunter could fly, with his routed rogues, beyond the reach of our brave soldiers. The cost of the whole repairs to this road may have been half a million of Confederate money. What has been the cost of the raid which occasioned it? It cannot be computed in money; but we know that Hunter lost from four to six thousand men, from four to five thousand horses, with several pieces of artillery, a large number of small arms, and military stores of great value. Long before Hunter had recovered from the defeat and demoralisation of his army, the road was repaired and performing its great work of supplying the defenders of the country and conducting the intercourse of the country. This is a most important demonstration, both to the Yankees and ourselves. It teaches both that the resources and constructive ability of the Southern men have been underrated. It proves that we can build, repair, and run our railroads without the aid of Yankee enterprise.

THE FLORIDA.—A private letter to a New York firm, dated Pernambuco, July 29, says: 'The Confederate States steamer *Florida* has been off the port of Bahia for three days, and an officer was on shore in disguise purchasing provisions. She reports that off Maccio they captured and burned the large American ship *Nicholas Mills*, or some such name, with $72,000 in specie on board.' It is supposed in New York that the name of the captured ship is the *Nicholas Biddle*, instead of the *Nicholas Mills*. The *Biddle* was due in Brazilian waters about the time indicated.

A NORTHERN ACCOUNT OF SHERMAN'S MOVEMENT.

(From the *Philadelphia Age*, September 5.)

It has been about ten days since General Sherman began a movement, much of which is still involved in mystery. One corps of his army, under General Slocum, was left in the trenches in front of Atlanta. The remainder was gradually withdrawn, formed in a long column on the south bank of the Chattahoochee, and slowly marched down the river. Parallel to the river, and about eight miles south of it, is the Montgomery Railroad. East Point is eight miles south-west of Atlanta, Red Oak 20 miles, and Fairburn 25 miles south-west. At East Point the Macon Railroad begins. It runs south to Jonesborough, and then south-east. Jonesborough is 20 miles from Atlanta. But very little intelligence of Sherman's movement was transmitted north, for during almost all the time since it began Wheeler had the railroad and telegraph to Nashville cut, and there was no communication. Sherman marched his column down the river, until the rear reached Sandtown, ten miles west of Atlanta. He then swung the head of it round toward the east until it struck the Montgomery Railroad at Fairburn. From Fairburn a raiding party was sent across the country to Jonesborough, on the Macon Railroad. The road was cut, but no very large force of the enemy found. On August 28, General Hood telegraphed to Richmond that Sherman's line extended from Sandtown to Fairburn, thus being south-west of the city, and Hood at once began moving his army to meet the Federal advance. Sherman's southern flank marched unopposed up the Montgomery Railroad, from Fairburn toward Atlanta, until it reached Red Oak, 20 miles from the city. Here the Confederates met the troops, and they halted. Sherman's southern flank was then marched south-east from Sandtown toward East Point, eight miles from Atlanta. On Tuesday last, August 30, Sherman's line extended from Red Oak north-east along the railroad toward East Point, and his northern flank was pressing toward East Point from the direction of Sandtown. Hood, finding the enemy south-west of him, at once abandoned Atlanta, and gave Sherman battle. A contest began on Tuesday afternoon along the Montgomery Railroad, from Red Oak to East Point, a distance of 12 miles. Slocum, who had been left with one corps in front of Atlanta, began to feel the enemy in front of him. He found the city abandoned, and on Friday morning entered it. He at once announced the evacuation of the town, and by a strange coincidence Wheeler was off the railroad to Nashville just long enough to allow of the despatch being sent. Scarcely had it gone when Wheeler again cut the telegraph, and a veil once more hid Sherman's operations. Slocum, having the enemy between him and Sherman's main body, could not tell what was going on at East Point. He knew a battle was being fought, for he heard the cannon, but that was all. Up to Sunday morning this was all the intelligence sent us. This morning, however, we have later intelligence. Last evening the telegraph was reopened, and a despatch from Sherman himself received. The enemy on Tuesday had not fought him very desperately, but gradually retreated across the country towards Jonesborough. Sherman followed them. He brought his entire army south of the Montgomery Railroad, and by Thursday had arrived within a mile of Jonesborough. Here he found the enemy intrenched. They sent out a reconnaissance, which was soon repulsed, and Sherman made his arrangements for an attack. The Confederates by this time had retreated from Atlanta, and were drawn up in line on the Macon Railroad. Their southern flank was at Jonesborough; their northern flank at Rough and Ready, a village thirteen miles from Atlanta. In front of their position Flint River flowed, and the hills on its eastern side were intrenched. It was this position which Sherman attacked on Thursday afternoon. He carried the Confederate works at Jonesborough, capturing ten cannon and 1,000 prisoners. Hood blew up his works in evacuating Atlanta, and destroyed some trains loaded with ammunition. The spoils secured by Slocum were fourteen cannon and the ruins of the destroyed trains. When the works at Jonesborough were carried Hood abandoned his line on the Flint River, and by a hasty march to the south-west moved the portion of his army which had been north of Jonesborough to the east of the place. He then retreated with all his forces to Lovejoy's, six miles south-west of Jonesborough, on the railroad. Here he took a new position. Sherman writes to Stanton 'his army needs rest,' and does not seem to intend an attack upon the new Confederate position.

SHELLING ATLANTA AT NIGHT.—A correspondent of the *Columbus Times*, writing from Atlanta on August 26, says: 'On Wednesday night a large 42-pound shell entered the Presbyterian Church in Marietta Street, and, after passing through the pulpit, exploded in the basement, or Sunday-school room. Several families living in the vicinity having taken refuge there were more or less stunned and injured by the explosion, and one man had his right arm taken off. The scene in the room was frightful; it was after midnight, and all the inmates were sleeping peacefully, perfectly confident of security. Mothers caught up their children hurriedly and rushed frantically into the streets screaming, though without any definite purpose in view, save that of escaping for the time from the scene which had struck such terror into their souls; and there, out upon the open streets, they stood crouching, with their little families clinging around them, and knowing not where to fly for safety. Assistance came at last, however, and the panic-stricken women and children were huddled off into the bomb-proofs of kind neighbours in more secure localities, and the wounded properly cared for.'

DESERTIONS FROM THE FEDERAL ARMY.—A New York paper, the *New Nation*, says: 'There are now more than 200,000 deserters. You may listen to the conversation of the men in the New York and Pennsylvania regiments principally; you will hear the soldiers carry contempt of morality and law so far as to boast of having sold themselves from 15 to 18 times; of having deserted each time, and received a fresh bounty. We meet men every day in New York who, engaged for three years, have not been six months under the flag; out of 40 persons engaged in New York, in a certain circle of workmen, we heard a few days ago that from 30 to 37 had deserted, and from 3 to 10 only were under the flag. The same soldier is paid eight or ten times over, so that in paying 100,000 men we have really 10,000. If we add that, in many cases, each of these men figures under his different names of engagement in the effective, and receives his rations, &c., we shall see what disorder may exist.' The *Detroit Advertiser* says: 'One of the first questions asked of the substitute brokers by half the candidates for substitutes is, "Will you help me to get away?" Upon receiving a promise to aid him to desert, the man consents to be enlisted.'

FEDERAL RECRUITING IN EUROPE.

WHEN rogues fall out, honest men come by their own. Mr. Isidor Sigismund, who was formerly in the United States army, and who, after passing a year in Europe, has returned to the United States, has given a long account, published in the *Boston Courier*, of the way in which the Federal armies are recruited. Mr. Sigismund does not object to the enlistment of foreigners, but he is only annoyed, professedly at the recruits being cheated out of their bounty, but really because he did not get a fair share of the plunder. He says:—

When about to return to the States I formed the acquaintance of a Mr. Julian Allen, a Pole, from New York. He informed me that his mission to Europe was for the purpose of assisting emigrants to the United States, as he said labourers of all sorts were greatly wanted here, and he would assist those that wished to emigrate to do so. He then desired me to go with an expedition that was then fitting out at Antwerp, Belgium, and see those men to the port of Boston. A steamship (British) was ready to take 426 men, a great deal of which seemed mysterious to me - rather puzzled me. Making enquiries, Mr. Allen informed me that some of those men intended to enlist in the United States army on their arrival here, in consequence of which he wished the whole affair to be kept a secret, the steamer being chartered for the purpose, and would take no other passengers. Accordingly I was introduced to the men, and they were informed that I would be placed over them, to see them safely here. Another man, a Servian, by name of Radislavowitz, was to act as their 'lieutenant,' and I was requested by Mr. Allen, since many intended to enlist, to drill them on board the steamer on our passage, in order to teach them the command in the English language. They all signed a contract (which but few could read), purporting to be that they bind themselves to take employment on their arrival in the States. We then left Antwerp on July 6. Captain Farmer (an Englishman) commanded the ship *Bellona*. . . On July 20 we arrived opposite Deer Island. On the passage I drilled them regularly, most of them doing it for a pastime.

On our arrival opposite Fort Warren, several gentlemen came on board, the pilot being previously instructed under no consideration to permit any one to board the ship except the parties concerned, nor should the men have any communication with any one. A squad of police came also on board, and the men were all landed on Deer Island. The steamer immediately steamed off to New York. On our arrival at Deer Island the truth began to dawn upon us. The men were all placed under a strict vigilance of police, and were informed that they would be mustered into the United States army; that the contracts they had signed before their departure were to that effect, and on any one demurring, force would be used. An enticement of $100 on their being sworn in was also held out to them, and further promises when at Galloupe's Island. Some of the men desired to communicate with their friends in the city, but that they were not allowed to do (their friends being kept in ignorance of their arrival). Their 'lieutenant,' who knew the fact that the men not wishing to be mustered in could not be compelled to do so, and who might have communicated the same to them, was not allowed to stay with the men, but kept in the 'House of Correction' over night, and next day sent to the city and run off to New York. This man, who worked very hard in getting the men together and in bringing them here, was promised that he would be well rewarded. He received on stepping into the cars for New York the sum of $20. . . . . All the men (with the exception of 24, who were rejected by the surgeon) were then mustered in, $100 paid them, and sent to Galloupe's Island. Some of the men complained to me that furloughs were promised them to come to the city, but none of the promises were kept. No further bounty (but the $100 they received) was given them, and after a short time they were sent off to Fortress Monroe, and from there they will be sent to the 'front,' none of their friends knowing anything about it. . . . The facts I am now going to state I vouch the truth of, and am ready to prove them to any one desiring me to do so. The batch in the steamship *Bellona* was the second one brought to this city, and consisted of 426 men. The cost of bringing them from the places they started amounts to about $60,000 (in currency), not quite $150 per man. Add $100 paid to each man when mustered in, and which covers all bounty, &c., that makes $250 per man, or $100,000 for 400 men. I don't think that any of those men have been sold for less than $900 each; that leaves a balance of $650 per man net profit. I, who have worked harder than any of those interested here, in bringing the men here, and subsequently in seeing them off, received the magnificent sum of $100 to liquidate all claims; and had I not been compelled by the necessity of my expenses while working for those men, I would not have accepted the money. The net profits they have made are as follows:—The whole expense of these 400 men, pay included, amounted to (at $250 each) $100,000. The receipts for them, at $900 each, make $460,000; that leaves them $360,000.

I have, a few days since, seen a letter from one of the men, before leaving Galloupe's Island, which some one had published in the *New York Democrat* (a German paper), bitterly complaining of the treatment they received; that none of the promises made to them have been kept. Another batch arrived yesterday (Tuesday) morning, in the ship *Garland*, Captain Behrens, with 255 men. She left Antwerp July 18. The men were all landed before sunrise yesterday morning on Deer Island, where they are strongly guarded. The captain of the *Garland* informs me that the men, after having left Antwerp and learned the true object of their going to Boston, gave him a good deal of trouble, until he was compelled to offer to land them on the coast of England, but the men being unable to speak the English language, and perfectly destitute of all means, held a consultation, and at last decided to proceed with the ship and stand their lot. The vessel has not come into dock. Another ship is soon expected.

KIDNAPPED NEGROES.—The *New York World* of September 7 says: 'If the United States takes them (negroes) as property, by what law of war or of nations can it transmute them into men? Can it say, "I *take* this as property—I *hold* it as a human being"? If they are men, they come clearly within the condition of criminals when found in arms against their Government.'

THE LOSSES IN HANCOCK'S CORPS.—Hancock's corps has suffered terrible losses since the 20th. These losses, and those suffered at Deep Bottom before the 20th, have reduced Hancock's splendid corps to eight thousand men. This seems incredible, as the corps really was a *corps d'armée* once of forty thousand men; but it is literally true.—Baltimore Correspondent of the *New York World*, August 29.

REPUBLICAN PROPHECIES.

(From the *New York World*, Sept. 7.)

Let a man count up the false prophecies of the Republican leaders—false not from intention, but from ignorance—and see how many they are and to what they have led.

Nobody hurt: Three hundred thousand killed and wounded and sick.

Seventy-five thousand men: Over two millions.

Rebellion starved out in three months: Rampant in 1864.

Backbone broken at every success: Not yet.

Opening of Mississippi to commerce: Running a gauntlet of guerillas.

Every new levy sure to extinguish the rebellion: Draft ordered for 5th of September.

Paper as good as gold: Gold 240.

The people richer for the war: Prices advanced three hundred per cent.

Every campaign to be the last: But one.

Free soil: Four States making such election returns as bayonets dictate.

Free speech: The suppression of newspapers.

Freemen: Hundreds arrested without warrant, imprisoned without crime, and enlarged without trial.

National honour: The abandonment of the Monroe doctrine, and the kidnapping of Arguelles.

Respect for law: The breach of it in every State in the Union.

Belief in the Union as unbroken: The manufacture of bogus States.

Freedom of the slave: Apprenticing him through military orders, and crimping him for the ranks.

Love of the negro: Letting him rot in heaps.

Love of progress and humanity: Waging war against women and children, and houses and barns, and agricultural implements.

THE CROPS AND THE ARMIES OF THE SOUTH.—The *Richmond Examiner* of the 1st inst. says:—'The crops of 1864, which are to supply subsistence for the next twelve months, are unusually good. Certain localities have suffered from drought, but this evil has been partial only. As a general rule, the crops of 1864 are better than those of 1863, and promise abundant bread for another year. There has, in fact, never been any lack of quantity. The difficulty was in distribution. But our railroads have held out wonderfully well. Their own officers have been surprised at the facility with which they have been able to keep them up. We are better prepared to maintain our railroad system at this hour than we were eighteen months ago. Every month increases our capacity to improve and maintain these essential public works. Necessity has proved in this matter the mother of invention. The people have found that they could live luxuriously upon a quantity of supplies which they would have considered four years ago approximate to starvation; and great manufacturing enterprises have been improvised without trouble, which everybody in the South thought beyond our capacity to accomplish, even in the time of peace. Nor are our armies so nearly destroyed as the enemy persuades himself. That of Northern Virginia is stronger now than when Grant began the battles in the Wilderness. We have lost few in killed and the wounded are nearly all recovered and returned to their places. In general the army grows stronger rather than weaker; for the boys attaining to the military age outnumber the killed and the discharged old men. The progress of active operations thins our ranks, but a lull of the strife recuperates the disabled and restores the strength of the ranks. The Confederacy is immeasurably stronger on this 1st day of September, 1864, than it was on the 1st of May, 1862 or 1863. It can place as many men in the field, and each man is a veteran, when before he was a raw recruit. The Yankees may as well dismiss their pleasing visions of Southern exhaustion. It was this very mistake which lured them into the war; and the same delusion has been the cause of all their disappointments. If they determine to carry on the war they must brace themselves like men to the real fact that they will have to encounter great armies, well supplied, thoroughly armed, and brave as any that ever trod a field of battle. The cowardly idea that the rebellion is exhausted, and that their further operations will be feebly resisted, will bring them to grief. The South has fought Lincoln for one term successfully. If they can reelect him, she can fight him another term still more successfully. There is no thought of submission nor any fear of collapse here; and the North would meet in the fall of 1868 the same spirit which they encountered at the outset of the struggle at Bull Run.'

THE DRAFT IN NEW JERSEY.—The *Newark Advertiser* states that the time for men to report who were drafted in the Fifth District of New Jersey expired on August 24, at which date 1,087 had failed to make their appearance. Of the entire number only 15 entered the army as principals, 3 entered the navy, 412 paid commutation, and 512 furnished substitutes. The following is the official statement:—

Exempted for physical disability	412
Exempted for alienage	341
Exempted over 45 years of age	262
Exempted under 20 years of age	7
Exempted by reason of being in military service	42
Exempted by reason of having served two years	23
Exempted for non-residence	21
Exempted dead	5
Drafted men delivered at general rendezvous	15
Drafted men deserted before reaching rendezvous	1
Drafted men entered naval service	3
Drafted men deserted after reporting	94
Drafted men absent from the country	3
Skilled artisans in Government employ	4
Action suspended	2
Paid commutation	412
Substitutes accepted and delivered	512
Substitutes accepted and deserted	18
Naval substitutes—certificates accepted	316
Total	2,492
Number failed to report	1,087
Total number drafted	3,579

A HARD CONDITION.—General Banks has issued an order requiring the banks of Louisiana, as a condition to the further transaction of business, to receive the Treasury notes of the United States in exchange at par for their own issues.—*New York Paper.*

THE ELECTORAL VOTE.—The *New York World* says: 'Including the State of West Virginia, the number of votes to be cast in the Electoral college is two hundred and thirty-one, of which one hundred and sixteen are necessary for an election.'

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 13 Bouverie Street, E.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1864.

The Fall of Atlanta.

For the first time during the present campaign, it is our duty to chronicle a reverse—the fall of Atlanta. The truth of the report, which there was some reason to doubt last week, is now confirmed; and the Federal Government declares that the object of SHERMAN'S expedition has been attained. By the North, and the partisans of the North in this country, this triumph has been hailed with as much jubilation as if it were decisive of the issue of the war. In the South, the loss of Atlanta is regarded simply as one of the inevitable sacrifices of the struggle, and the tone of the press is: 'Nothing is changed; there is only one city the less to defend.' The truth is, the progress of the war had long ago made the possession of Atlanta by the Federals a matter of fictitious rather than of real value. The occupation of Atlanta by the Federals at the present moment signifies nothing beyond their success in reaching a point which was the alleged object of this campaign, and in penetrating another 120 miles into the Confederacy. If three months ago SHERMAN could have entered Atlanta, after destroying the south-western army of the Confederacy, and found there the abundant stores and the vast machinery which made it of importance, the gain would have been material to the North. As it is, he has entered a comparatively deserted town. He finds it, as BUTLER found Orleans, inhabited solely by old men, women, and children. He will be encamped there in a hostile community, and he will have to fight fresh battles for every twenty miles he may wish to travel, east, west, or south. What Resaca, and Marietta, and Atlanta have been, Macon and Augusta, and almost every town in the Cotton States, will prove. What SHERMAN'S position really is, is very clearly shown by the fact that, although flushed with victory at Jonesborough, he yet dared not assail the entrenchments at Lovejoy Station, thirty miles south of Atlanta, on the Macon line, and that at this moment HOOD is within that distance—striking distance—of Atlanta, with an army which is augmented daily by the Georgian population, whilst, by the confession of the Northern papers, railroad communication between Nashville, SHERMAN'S base of communication, and Atlanta is for the time completely intercepted. So far as the Federals are concerned, we take it that the campaign in Georgia is at an end. SHERMAN will have enough to do during the autumn months to maintain his position, to keep his communications open, and to insure the regularity of his supplies. Experience has shown him that no small force can operate successfully in Georgia twenty miles away from his main army. If he is enabled quietly to go into winter quarters at Atlanta, this is about as much as he can expect. Whether such a result is worth all the frenzy of Mr. LINCOLN'S Cabinet and the New York press, we very much doubt. At the same time, considerable credit is due to General SHERMAN and his army. Probably his army outnumbered by two to one the Southern force opposed to him. But the latter had a succession of strong positions to fall back upon. It was commanded by an officer of great repute, General JOSEPH JOHNSTON, and subsequently by one of the most dashing leaders of the Confederacy, General HOOD. It was composed of magnificent fighting material. It fought bravely, on more than one occasion defeating very heavy odds, and it has now evacuated Atlanta not beaten in the field, and daring the invader to attack. That, in the teeth of such an army so led, SHERMAN should have marched his troops, numerically superior as they were, some 150 miles, fighting every foot of the way, now attacking almost impregnable positions, now making the most fatiguing flank marches, is creditable both to the commander and to his soldiers, and says much for the tenacity and energy of the general, for the pluck and endurance of the ranks, and for the whole organisation of the expeditionary force.

Atlanta was won by a flank movement. SHERMAN found the defences of the town too strong for assault. He essayed an investment, but failed. He then adopted the tactics which had won him Dalton and Marietta. He moved the bulk of his army by a circuitous route upon HOOD'S communications. Leaving an entire corps north of Atlanta protecting the bridges of the Chattahoochie, he marched with the remaining corps some miles to the west; then suddenly turning east he struck at the Macon Railroad. HOOD was aware of his movement and took measures to frustrate it. But SHERMAN'S line was too long for him. Compelled to hold Atlanta with a respectable force, he could make no impression on the Federals in the open field, and he was gradually forced back on the Macon line. At Jonesborough Station HARDEE'S corps had thrown up earthworks, and a determined stand was made. But here again SHERMAN'S numbers prevailed. He outflanked his gallant adversary, and compelled him to retire from the field with the loss of eight guns. SHERMAN claims 1,000 prisoners, and admits the loss of 1,500 men. We have yet to receive the Confederate account. The loss of Jonesborough Station gave the Federals possession of the Macon Railroad; and HOOD, who had for weeks been dependent for supplies on that line, was compelled to evacuate Atlanta. This he did unmolested and in perfect order, the bulk of his stores having been already transferred to Macon. At first there was some doubt as to the direction in which he retired; but the retreat of SHERMAN from Lovejoy Station left the road to the south perfectly open, so that HOOD, with his entire army, has regained his communications with Macon, and the Federal army will have to fight for any further advance with at least as much pertinacity and vigour as it has displayed in its march from Chattanooga to Atlanta. As to the strategic advantages of Atlanta, they are admirable for an army acting on the defensive, but comparatively slight to the invader. There is but one line of communication between SHERMAN'S army and the North, whilst the Federal occupation of Atlanta does not in the least prevent communication between Richmond and Georgia. The fall of Atlanta, we repeat, is a misfortune for the South; but it is not an irretrievable disaster, and the best proof of this is, that General JOHNSTON was prepared to evacuate the city two months ago, and to throw it into the hands of the Federals as a matter of policy. SHERMAN, however, has gained his prize. It remains to be seen what he will do with it.

From other quarters the war news is meagre and not very reliable. There is an unmistakable electioneering twang about it. Even GRANT sinks for the nonce into the mere canvasser, and fights vigorously for LINCOLN with his pen. We warn our readers, therefore, to be on their guard against the war rumours that are sure to abound for the next month. Mobile may have fallen, but we cannot believe the report on the strength of a deserter's story published in the *New York World*. Mr. STANTON would never have allowed the *World* to anticipate him in the issue of such good news; nor is there the slightest foundation for the report in any antecedent news from Mobile. At the latest date a vigorous defence was expected. GRANGER'S force was a small one. Only a very small portion of FARRAGUT'S flotilla could come within shelling distance of the city. There had been time to reinforce the garrison, and there was any amount of labour for the construction of earthworks. Under these circumstances we attach very little importance to the rumoured fall of Mobile. In Virginia things are tolerably quiet, but a battle appears to be imminent. Whether SHERIDAN in the Shenandoah Valley, or WARREN on the Weldon Railroad, will be the first to feel the Confederate onslaught, is not clear.

Mr. Seward at Auburn.

THE cynic who would expose to pity or derision the follies of the human race would be unable to find a more apt theme than the motives which have induced nations to wage war. Men have fought for plunder, for what ATTILA called the 'gaudium pugnæ,' for the hegemony of a body of free States, for the lust of empire, whether raging in a warlike people or an ambitious monarch, for family advancement, even for the dower of a youthful princess or the inheritance of a child in its cradle. Within the last hundred years the advance of civilisation has been so great that nations have gone to war for an *idea*, to propagate a revolutionary code of ethics, or to promote the doctrine of 'nationalities.' So strange, indeed, have been the freaks of mankind as to compel adhesion to the teaching of Bishop BUTLER, that 'nothing but the principle that whole communities are liable to insanity equally at least with private persons can account for the major part of those transactions of which we read in history.'

But of all the difficult questions which have exercised the curious spirit of men on both sides of the Atlantic none is so insoluble as that of the cause of the American war. The *Tribune*, with the host of GREELEYS and BEECHERS, GOLDWIN SMITHS and BAXTERS, has summoned the North to material, and the nations of Europe to moral, aid in the sacred work of emancipation. Monstrous as are the calumnies heaped by this school on the Southern people, and outrageous as the means may be by which the desired end is sought, it is idle to deny that among a crowd of professional fanatics may be found men in whom there is a deep and honest conviction of the moral excellence of Black-Republicanism. In this country such sympathy as exists for the Northern Government professedly rests on this foundation; and though the removal of the prop would not change the sentiments, it would certainly annihilate the position, of the English Abolitionists.

The great bulk, however, of the Northern people who entered heart and soul into the war, were impelled by the cry or the *idea* of the Union. On these two forces the whole *momentum* of the war depended. There could be no other power sufficient to drive the masses into supreme efforts for the accomplishment of the proposed task. If men fought for neither of these causes, then they fought for sensation or pastime. It was emancipation, or the Union, or nothing at all.

Now what has Mr. SEWARD, who has done more than any man to fuse the Republican and Abolitionist factions, declared on this very point? He says in express words that on the conclusion of the war the questions affecting slavery will abide the terms of the Constitution. He holds out no hope of legislation on the subject, he desires no change. As it was before the war, so, according to Mr. SEWARD, it shall be after the war. The condition of the slave shall be as it stands defined by the laws of each State, and the Abolitionist may repent at leisure of his fond delusion. Nor, again, does Mr. SEWARD admit that the war is for the Union. On this point his statement is clear enough. 'Nothing,' says he, 'is more certain than that either the United States and their constitutional President, or the so-called Confederate States and their usurping President, must rule within the limits of this Republic.' No matter what may be the issue of the struggle in point of warlike success, there will be but one Government, and that Government will reign either at Richmond or Washington. The alternative is simple. The old Union is impossible, says Mr. SEWARD, for Union has become Empire, and to fight for impossibilities is absurd. The new Union—that is, one Government and one President—must be the result whichever side wins. It is DAVIS against LINCOLN, and Mr. SEWARD is, of course, for LINCOLN.

Now the issue has been narrowed to this point, not merely negatively, but in positive language. Mr SEWARD proclaims to the world that he is fighting a war of succession, and he even compares the situation to the war of the Spanish succession. Of all men, however, Americans have most readily endorsed the dictum of HALLAM. 'Sceptres,' says that high authority, 'were committed and governments were instituted for public protection and public happiness, not certainly for the benefit of rulers. No prejudice has less in its favour, and none has been more fatal to the peace of mankind, than that which regards a nation of subjects as a family's private inheritance.' Loyalty to a throne and its heir has ever been held as the most venial of human weaknesses. No other sentiment has been an equal incentive to virtue and devotion. It is the sublimity of audacity to invoke the spirit that fought and died for the STUARTS and the CAPETS to perform the like office for the succession of ABRAHAM LINCOLN. This is the platform on which Mr. SEWARD appeals to his country. He abandons at a

blow emancipation and union, and reverently yields to the dogma *l'état c'est moi.*

Consistency is, however, not to be despised, and long ago the peculiar doctrine of succession had been announced. On a former occasion Mr. SEWARD gravely argued, by a perverse process of political arithmetic, that LINCOLN had been elected to reign for four years over thirty-four States; and that, as he had but twenty-one States under his sceptre for the term, it followed that he must be re-elected President to enjoy a reign over the remaining number. By what skill he would get rid of the excess of eight States in the event of re-election, it is not necessary to enquire. The solution of that difficulty will not be insuperable, for excess of power is already sufficiently familiar to the potentate of Washington.

That the Government will not hesitate to use every means at its disposal to insure the election of Mr. LINCOLN in November is plainly confessed. 'In voting for a President,' says Mr. SEWARD, 'can we wisely or safely vote out the identical person whom with force and arms we are fighting into the Presidency? It would be nothing less than to give up the very object of the war at the ballot-box. By such a proceeding we shall have agreed with the enemy and given him the victory.' There is logic in this. If the war is for LINCOLN and for LINCOLN alone, it must of course cease when LINCOLN ceases to reign. But that is a contingency to be avoided at all hazards. By brute force has it been sought to fight LINCOLN into the Presidency, and by brute force will it be sought to keep him there. The war, on the confession of the Government, is not waged for any cause that can commend itself to Democrat, Republican, or Abolitionist. It is a mere personal question. Mr. SEWARD avows that the election is a sequel to the war to be fought on the same principles and by the same method. The object of the war will not be given up at the ballot-box, for the struggle at the one will be fought, if need be, with the weapon used for the other—namely, the power of the sword.

The Growing Power of the West.

IT cannot have escaped the notice of the least reflecting observer of American affairs that the ensuing Presidential election in the United States will indicate a very marked transfer of electoral power from the older States to those which have suddenly grown up in the West. The star of empire takes the same invariable direction which Bishop BERKELEY gave it, more than a century ago, in his oft-quoted lines. The scheming politicians and pestilent agitators of New York and New England have seen, with unspeakable annoyance, the control of public affairs passing from their hands. They will be able no longer to dictate to the rest of the Union in the arbitrary spirit of the numerical majority, for the numerical majority has changed its quarters from the banks of the Merrimac and the Hudson to those of the Wabash and the Mississippi. A very few figures from the record will serve to show how decidedly the West has grown in electoral power by the recent reapportionment of representation. Maine had eight votes in 1860, and in 1864 will have but 7. Massachusetts also loses one, falling from 13 to 12 votes; New York drops from 35 to 33; Pennsylvania loses one, Ohio loses two, and Kentucky loses one. Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Tennessee, and Virginia, will not be heard of in the Electoral College. The vote of California will be increased from 4 to 5 votes; Illinois will advance from 11 to 16 votes; Iowa, which had 4 votes in 1860, will now have 8; Wisconsin will have 8 votes instead of 5; Michigan increases 2 votes; and Kansas, with her 3 votes, will be added to the College.

Thus, it will be seen that the growth of political power in the West has been coincident with its decline in the North and East, and the movement has been against the supremacy of New England by the combination of forces. How potential she has been hitherto in the Federal Administration is seen in the protective tariffs she has forced upon the South, and in the triumph of the last Presidential election, when a sectional candidate was, for the first time, successful in obtaining the first executive office in the Union.

This inevitable shifting of power from one section of the Union to the other with the tides of population was one of the greatest dangers that threatened the peace of the Southern States under the old *régime*, and went very far to justify the act of secession in respect of the exact time taken for its accomplishment. The reapportionments of the several States to determine their respective representations in the Federal Congress, were decennial. The ten years had rolled round for another count, whereby the seceding States would certainly have lost in strength, immensely as compared with the rising West, considerably as compared with the North and East, while against all combined they would have been powerless indeed. And this, too, with a reckless Republican party in power, all the muniments of their constitutional liberties contemned, and the very pretence of equality of rights under the Federal compact abandoned! Well indeed might they have determined that the time for separation had arrived, and that to wait upon another decade would be the very height of madness.

What effect the altered relations of East and West, as regards electoral power, will have upon the contest now going on for the Presidency of the United States, time must determine. Two months more and we shall see. The remarkable spectacle is just now presented of New England supporting a Western man, and the great West supporting a citizen of New York, as their candidates respectively. But the candidates are of no importance in the working out of the difficult problem. We deem it as certain as any future political event can be, that ultimately, perhaps at no distant period, the decadence of New England and the aggrandisement of the West will divide these two sections of the already dismembered Union into States or federations hopelessly antagonistic, just as their material interests conflict with each other. It is only a question of time.

Lord Stanley upon Ireland.

LORD STANLEY'S character as a speaker is rather unique. He is popular, though he has fewer of the arts of the demagogue than almost any other English political orator. He is heard with great interest, and men go far to hear him, though he is by no means to be called eloquent. He is impressive, though he has a painful voice and a bad delivery. He is thoroughly well-informed, without any pretensions to profundity; he never says anything new, but he generally contrives to put a subject in the clearest point of view, and to leave his audience better acquainted even with their own affairs than they were before; and, without being original, without even propounding a new doctrine or finding a remedy hitherto unthought of for a perplexing evil, his speeches are generally, to thoughtful men especially, suggestive. At the Agricultural Festival of Tipperary, he was hardly in his place. He was not at liberty to be dry, and he was bound not to be censorious; while the subject on which he had to speak — the future of Ireland — required that some sharp censures should be addressed to those who are mainly answerable for the present, and his own style of oratory is certainly rather solid and didactic than lively or entertaining. But he managed to be true to his character. His speech does not tell us how the grievances of Ireland may be redressed, or her condition improved; but it affords matter for much comment bearing on that question, and, both in what is said and what is omitted, suggests considerations that throw some light on the worst perplexity of British politics.

Ireland is the trouble and the reproach of English government. She is the only disloyal and the only unhappy part of the Empire—that is to say, the only possession of the Imperial Crown in which the mass of the people are not enthusiastically attached to the Crown and the Constitution, and the only one in which prosperity is not great, general, and rapidly advancing. To find the cause of her exceptional condition, and to suggest a remedy, is the hardest problem offered to the consideration of British statesmen; but while this problem remains unsolved, British policy must be pronounced not wholly successful, and the fame of our much-vaunted constitutional system is stained by the disgrace of one lamentable failure.

Lord STANLEY does not solve the problem; he does not make the attempt. But his speech is pervaded by the recollection of it, and contains hints that show him to have given it much thoughtful and rational consideration. In the first place he dismisses without a word the favourite follies of Irish grievance-mongers. He does not deign to notice the absurd theory of those who would make the National Church responsible for the national troubles, for famine and depopulation, for landlord-murder and popular lawlessness. Poverty is the curse of Ireland, and the Church has nothing to do with poverty. Her revenues are extracted from the rents of the landlords, not from the profits of the farmer or the wages of the labourer. Economists, the most hostile to the system of tithes, have been forced to admit, and have most conclusively established, that tithes are a tax on rent. If the Church of Ireland were abolished to-morrow, or if she had never been, the rich would be somewhat richer, but the poor would not be one whit less poor. Nay, they would be poorer; for the income of the clergy, which is spent in Ireland, would be added to that of the landlords, which is chiefly spent abroad. Nor does Lord STANLEY waste a word on tenant-right—the proposal to give the tenant a vested interest in the land. He knows that one of the chief difficulties in the way of that agricultural reform of which Ireland is so sorely in need is the obstinacy of the tenantry, and the sort of Lynch-law tenant-right which has been enforced by organised assassination. The landlords desire to improve; the tenantry resist improvement, however manifest it be that they, as well as landlord and labourers, would profit thereby. To increase the power of these men over the soil would be to aggravate the existing evil, and enhance the distress of the agricultural population. It would render utterly impossible the abolition of the cottier system—the possession of the soil by labouring families without capital and without intelligence—in which abolition lies the best hope of Ireland. The two favourite propositions of the Irish agitator, therefore, are by the statesman, addressing an Irish audience, set aside with silent contempt.

Lord STANLEY speaks of one of the strongest symptoms of Irish distress—the constant flow of emigration, the human current that perpetually sets westward across the Atlantic—in a sober and statesmanlike tone. There are some who openly avow their belief that the expatriation of the Irish is not only a blessing to England, but the best chance of establishing in Ireland a prosperous, contented, and loyal community. Lord STANLEY is not one of these; he is far too practical and clearheaded a statesman. In the first place, the prosperity of Ireland, to the ears and conscience of this generation at least, must mean the prosperity of the Irish nation, not of a Scotch and English population imported to supply the place of the exiled Irish. In the second place, the Irish element in our population is one that we cannot spare. It is our best military element. We do not mean to say that the Irish fight better than the English; we do not think that they fight quite so well. We think that an English army would prove victorious in a campaign over an Irish army of equal force: in fact, it may almost be said that the experiment has been tried in America, so largely Irish in race is the Federal army, so purely English the Confederate. But the Irish love fighting, and the English do not. The military trade is uncongenial to the Saxon and delightful to the Celt; and in so far as our national strength depends on the maintenance of a standing army, it requires the presence of an abundant Irish population. The depopulation of Ireland cannot but weaken us in that point in which we are already weakest; and on that account it is to be regretted, even if it were not a proof of unhappiness at home, such as ought not to exist under a government sincerely seeking the nation's good and properly adapted to the national character.

Lord STANLEY considers the emigration, in its present phase and extent, temporary and artificial. It is the result of the American war, and with that war it will disappear. Besides the withdrawal of the demand for 'food for powder,' peace will send back half a million of men to their homes, and disclose a vast void caused by the frightful waste of the last four years in the national wages fund. The supply of labour will be increased, and the demand reduced. No doubt there is truth in this view. But it must be recollected that there are counteracting influences which peace will bring to bear. If peace should bring back good government in the Northern States, the natural resources of the country will speedily replace its wasted capital. There is the void in the population, caused by the unexampled slaughter of a gigantic conflict, to be filled; there are the vast lands of the Western States still craving for cultivation. Let the improvement of Ireland be as rapid and the recovery of America as slow as can rationally be conceived, still it will be fifty years before wages in money reach the same level in the two countries—longer still before those money wages will buy as ample food, as good clothing and shelter, in the Old World as in the New.

There will, therefore, for years to come be strong inducements to tempt the flower of the Irish peasantry across the Atlantic. And we must remember that there are influences at work in Ireland, to foster and encourage emigration to the United States, which are not equally operative anywhere else. The Irishman clings to the soil; he wishes to work on his own farm; he is delighted to own it. In America he can have, or speedily earn, a larger farm than he can cultivate, and build a better cabin than he has at home. He will marry early; natural temperament, habit, and religious teaching alike encourage this tendency—and America is the only country in which early marriages are not imprudent and children are a source of wealth. He shrinks less from change and from adventure than do the ignorant and poor of other races; and he has less change to encounter in emigration. It is almost to another Ireland that he goes; for one-third of the Irish race are said to be settled in America. Fi-

nally, the Irish already in America are zealous to bring their friends over, and contribute liberally to the expense of doing so; while those English, Scotch, and Germans who would willingly emigrate are often detained by want of funds. We regret to have to add that the sentimental checks which operate to discourage emigration elsewhere—the love of country, countrymen, and home, of the national religion, the national laws and government—fail to act upon the Irishman. His country is hardly his, towards its government he has no affection, towards half his countrymen he feels an angry ill-will, towards the national faith a bitter resentment. His home is too poor, too wretched, to have a hold on his heart. In every way emigration is made easy to him. Much will be needed to make it harder; and at present we are hardly even moving in the right direction.

Some emigration from Ireland, no doubt, there always must be. For the Irish, as Lord STANLEY said, are a prolific race; they multiply so fast that the laws of production will not allow the national wealth, in an old country, to keep pace with their increase. As their condition is improved and the death-rate lessened, their increase will be still greater, and emigration will probably be always required as an outlet. But it should be our care, if it be possible, that emigration shall not go beyond this—that America shall not be so attractive, and Ireland so repulsive, that all the best, most enterprising, most vigorous of our fellow-subjects, should choose the former. It is always the tendency of emigration to draft off the flower of the peasant youth; and this tendency can only be counteracted by such prosperity at home as affords these a fair choice, a prospect at home sufficient to compensate for the more brilliant hopes offered at the price of expatriation. Only if this can be achieved for Ireland can Irish emigration be reduced to the level at which it is no more than an outlet for the natural overflow of the population. We have this degree of prosperity in England; why not in Ireland?

It is not the climate, though that is wet. It is not the Church, though that is unpopular. It is not the absentee landlords, though their absence is a social and economical mischief of no common order. It is not the law of landed tenure; that is our own. It is not the Union; that is the one salvation of Ireland. It is not any of these things that stand in the way of Irish prosperity, and prevent the one thing necessary to that—the presence of a capital adequate to and increasing faster than the wants of the people.

Why is that capital wanting? Grant that Ireland has been too poor, too misgoverned, or too thriftless to create it for herself as England has done; why can she not borrow it? Close by her side, under the same government, lies the richest country on earth—a land overflowing with capital—a land which supplies half the world with means to employ labour and talent to direct it—a land which will furnish money to any amount on reasonable security and with adequate prospects of profit. Why does not English capital flow in to fertilise Ireland, to develope her resources, to utilise her labour, to bring her agriculture to the English level, to make a Lancashire of that county and a Kent of this? We have ample means to do all this; and, seeing how good is the soil of Ireland—how promising a field for agricultural improvement on a grand scale she affords—there can be little doubt that even agriculture in Ireland would yield an ample return to capital. Why, then, does English capital go to Peru, to Mexico, to Australia, to India, but not to Ireland? Lord STANLEY supplies the reason. 'When life and property shall be as safe in Tipperary as in Middlesex,' then English capital will be as largely employed in one country as in the other.

Irish lawlessness accounts for Irish poverty, and its concomitants of emigration, starvation, disaffection, and rioting. No doubt past misgovernment has something to do with this lawlessness, and something is attributable to the folly of bestowing a Saxon constitution on a Celtic race. But at present the fate of Ireland is clearly in Irish hands; and obedience to law is all that is needed to make Ireland rich. Why do not Englishmen set up manufactories in Ireland? Because when manufactures were attempted in Ireland, the labourers exacted terms so unfair, and enforced their demands by violence so outrageous, that they drove trade away to safer quarters, and because the same temper is still terribly apparent. Why do not English farmers settle in Tipperary, where landlords would rejoice to have them, and where their presence would greatly improve the condition of the people? Because if four or five half-starved cottiers were deprived of the land they misuse in order to make a farm fit for an English farmer, on which they would earn more as labourers than they do now as tenants, the landlord or agent would be shot from behind a hedge, the farmer and his family would probably be murdered, their ricks and buildings would be burnt, and there would be no possibility of bringing to justice assassins known to every Irish labourer in the parish. Capitalists will not venture upon risks like these. They prefer a safe 8 per cent. at home to 12 per cent. with a fair chance of being ruined by incendiaries or murdered by Ribbon men. Until Ireland has a government strong enough to put down things like these, and to make life and property safe, improvement is impossible. A land which lacks law must inevitably lack capital; a people who insist on murdering all improving landlords and farmers ought not to wonder if they come to want bread.

Lord STANLEY thinks that we are near the end of this condition of things. If so, Ireland is approaching the beginning of her redemption. Benefits are ready to pour in upon her as soon as she ceases to shoot her benefactors. Meanwhile we can hardly help asking whether, with Tipperary before our eyes, novelists need have gone to Ballarat and Bendigo to be scandalised by the spectacle of unpunished murder and dominant rowdyism; and whether the Lynch-law, which is the reaction of respectability against rowdyism, is very much worse than that undisputed reign of rowdyism over respectability which has so long prevailed throughout a large part of Ireland.

Counterfeit Confederates.

IT is a fact which all the world has remarked, that while the Governments of Europe have declined to recognise the political existence of the Confederate States, the sympathies of the people have been, almost from the beginning, with the compatriots of JEFFERSON DAVIS against the Northern mob which seeks to enslave them. Earl RUSSELL and Mr. BRIGHT have not been able to repress the generous admiration which has sprung up, with a sort of natural spontaneity, in the breasts of Englishmen, for the devotion, the courage, the endurance of eight millions of men and women, in the struggle for life, and, what they hold still dearer, liberty. Nor have the more intelligent classes of Continental Europe failed to show their appreciation of the heroic qualities and lofty virtues which have been displayed so brilliantly by the Confederates. Accordingly, when citizens of the South, either as exiles from their homes or in the special service of their country, have visited Great Britain or the Continent since the beginning of the war, they have been received with a consideration and friendly interest unprecedented in the annals of modern society. They have met the warm grasp of the hand; they have heard everywhere a hearty 'God bless you' from the lips of strangers; they have been cordially welcomed beneath hospitable roofs, and admitted to the inner circle of Christian families.

As a result of this personal good-will, it might naturally have been expected that impostors would rise up, seeking to profit by the favourable disposition of the English and Continental public; and so it has happened, until the abuse has become intolerable, and we can no longer remain silent upon a subject affecting so seriously the character of the Southern people before the world. The class of adventurers calling themselves Confederates, and endeavouring, in one way or another, to 'do' a confiding and sympathetic community, has grown so large that we might well believe a very populous and very shabby Bohemia to be one of the Confederate States, and these itinerants to have come abroad as its representatives. Male and female have they been created. They come with missions. Your 'special commissioner' is a favourite *rôle* with them. They impudently assert their right to speak for the Government, and not unfrequently refer to letters of the most satisfactory kind which have unfortunately been lost in running the blockade. They have fought in ever so many battles, and can tell you more moving stories of imminent dangers and hair-breadth 'scapes than the Moor beguiled the languid hours of the gentle Desdemona withal. Indeed, the number of officers of the original 'Stonewall Brigade' who have turned up in distress during the last three years in Great Britain and her colonies, would, if accurately ascertained, very far exceed the whole rank and file of that glorious command when JACKSON first led it into the field.

Now we are the more constrained to warn the European and colonial friends of the Confederate States against these impostors of both sexes, because in many cases they do not come from the Confederacy at all, and because there is really no reason why the most unsuspecting and liberal person should be imposed upon by them. No small proportion of them are Yankee spies, in the pay of the Washington Government, who adopt the uniform of the Confederate officer, not so much to procure money as to report unguarded conversations to headquarters—as men have been said to don the livery of heaven in the service of the devil. Others there may be who are, indeed, Southern by birth, but who 'left their country for their country's good' before the breaking out of hostilities, or have since run away from the duties and perils of the campaign. And then we have Jeremy Diddler, Esq., Cosmopolite, ready to assume any citizenship, and to practise his profession under any domino that will contribute to his chances of success.

It is true that these chances of success in the case of a clever impostor are greatly enhanced by the difficulties of communication with the Confederacy, and the small opportunity that is afforded for testing the truth of his representations. In other days, when a French barber from the Rue St. Honoré flourished in the United States as a descendant of the MONTMORENCIS, and wanted to marry some charming young heiress, the parents had at least the chance of sending to France for information anent the tonsorial pretender; whereas the Confederate cheat may tell any story he pleases without having before his eyes the fear of exposure. But just here we give a word of warning, in repeating what we have said above, that there is no reason why any one should be deceived. In respect of the special commissioners, confidential agents, and what not, of the Confederate Government in Europe, they are almost an imaginary class. The number of persons honoured by commissions is extremely limited—it will hardly reach a score—and the confidential agents, when any are sent, are perfectly well known to them, as they themselves are known to all the world. So much for the diplomatic pretender of either sex, who talks darkly and mysteriously of mighty interests intrusted to his (or her) keeping. As for the mendicity class, the wounded and destitute, there are regularly organised committees to whom the application of any deserving person for relief will not be made in vain.

In the remarks we have submitted upon this question of Confederate imposture, we have spoken with the greater plainness, because we are painfully sensible of the fact that the character of a noble people is at stake—a people whose interests and whose honour are very dear to us, and are in some measure in our keeping. We rejoice to know that hitherto the Confederate refugee in England has worthily sustained the moral and social elevation of the Southern States, and that the name of Confederate has been a passport to the confidence and respect of the best people of England and the Continent. History records that when the old French *noblesse* were driven from their homes by the Republican fury of the Revolution, they accepted their melancholy change of fortune with a most becoming philosophy, and, wanderers over the face of the earth as they were, that they did not disdain to teach and sew, to hear boys and girls misconstrue FENELON or bend over intricate embroidery by the dim light of a single candle, rather than degrade the high name and fame of their order by beggary. The old French *émigré*, proud, polite, penniless, living up three pair of stairs, and wearing a little bit of red riband, perhaps, upon the breast of a coat that would have been contemptuously rejected by the old-clo' man, has been the object of respectful sympathy in two hemispheres. On the other hand, the very name of Pole or even of Hungarian, despite the sorrowful traditions and long sufferings of their compatriots, has come to suggest a ragged lout of a fellow, quite able to work but much preferring by reason of laziness to beg, for whom, bearing though he may the wrongs of his country upon his dirty shoulders, one cannot have the least particle of respect—and this only because Poland and Hungary have been misrepresented by impostors in like manner as we fear the Confederate States may be. We would not have the character of the Confederate, which we know to be *sans reproche*, as all mankind knows it to be *sans peur*, degraded in the eyes of Europe, as it must be if these Confederate counterfeits, of whom we have felt it our duty to speak without reserve, are not stamped with reprobation, as a false coin is nailed to the counter. It will be only the legitimate result of circumstances, in obedience to well-ascertained social laws as certain in their operation as those which govern the physical or moral world, unless we can put these impostors under the ban, if the name of Confederate, instead of being the guarantee of gentle breeding and the passport to good society in foreign countries, shall become a hissing and a byword to all the nations of the earth.

THE TAXATION OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.—The following table shows the taxation of different countries, according to official reports:—

	Tax per head.
United States	$18 00
Great Britain	11 00
France	9 72
Austria	4 25
Prussia	5 50
Germany	4 86
Russia	3 61
Holland	12 10
Belgium	6 08

The Boston Courier.

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.

FROM A CONFEDERATE CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS: September 20.

FOR some time past the American question has occupied the same position in the French press which a year since was occupied by the Polish question, and a few months since by that of Denmark. During the past week the Liberal Opposition journals have, more than others, busied themselves with matters relative to the Confederacy, and it would seem that the whole four of them had resolved upon attacking it at one and the same moment. The shot directed against us by these journals has not proceeded from their small artillery, but from pieces of the heaviest calibre. Certainly they have each fired but one shot at us, but that has been a shot of no small weight. That fired by the *Siècle* has a diameter of two columns, that by the *Opinion Nationale* one of three columns, that by the *Temps* also one of three columns, and that by the *Journal des Débats* a diameter of no less than four columns.

Let us examine these four bulky articles; for each of them interprets in a faithful manner the reasoning by which each of the four shades of French Liberal Opposition justifies its estrangement from the Southern cause.

In the *Journal des Débats*, a literary journal of aristocratic principles, the political point of view predominates; the *Opinion Nationale*, a revolutionary journal, bases its reasons on liberal considerations; the *Temps*, a dogmatic and philosophical journal, advances moral argumentation; the *Siècle*, a short-sighted journal, whose sources of information are limited, by means of political doctrines which it states with sufficient clearness, is disposed to admit each of the reasons given above, apparently undecided to which of them it shall attach itself.

The *Siècle* resumes its consideration of the American question with remarks on the interview of Colonel Jaques with President Davis. Unable to contest the declaration made by the Confederate President that the question of slavery has nothing whatever to do with the present war, it nevertheless maintains that Mr. Davis has not rightly conveyed the sentiments of the Southern populations, and that he has merely expressed a personal opinion in the matter. According to the *Siècle*, the true solution of the American question would be effected by an appeal to the *two peoples* which compose the two sections, and Mr. Davis, in objecting to this mode of procedure, recommended to him by the Federal negotiators, has altogether relieved the North of its responsibility.

The *Opinion Nationale* is indignant at the proposition of an appeal to the people made by the *Siècle*; not that it is opposed to the exercise of popular sovereignty, but because it is unwilling to acknowledge any right on the part of the *Rebels* to express themselves in their own cause. It is particularly indignant at the term '*two peoples*' employed by the *Siècle*. The North and the South, it exclaims, do not consist of *two peoples*, they form but one people, and slavery alone divides them! Let us here chronicle a few of the arguments put forth by the *Opinion*; it is right that the Southerners, at this critical period of their history, should be informed of the treatment they receive at the hands of the French Liberal party.

Suppress slavery, and this grand phantom of independence disappears. Independence without slavery would simply be an effect without a cause; it would not meet any requirement, whether political, moral, industrial, or commercial. The secessionist leaders take good care not to abandon their 'domestic institution,' and the *Siècle* views in far too serious a light the statement made by a Northern romancer, who attributes such amazing generosity to Mr. Jefferson Davis.

The courage displayed by the slave-dealers, the talent possessed by some of their generals, the heaps of ruins which they have accumulated, the ocean of blood which they have caused to be spilt, the long duration of the war—these cannot justify their culpable rebellion, nor furnish in their favour circumstances of an extenuating character. To-day, as in 1861, they are in rebellion against their fellow-countrymen, against their legitimate Government, against humanity. To absolve them would be a bad example; to call them, in a brotherly manner, to vote (if voting were possible), to acknowledge their right to be their own judges, would be a bad precedent.

In what way, then, does the *Opinion* propose to terminate the war? By war, by brute force, by submission, by the crushing and annihilation of the *Rebels*!

The two articles above mentioned have not been allowed to remain without a reply. The *Pays* remarks that the *Siècle* and the *Opinion* are, in the main, of the same way of thinking, since if the North and the South voted on the question of the Union, the North having four votes against a single vote of the South, it would still be by force that the question must be solved. The *France* demands on what grounds the proceedings of Russia towards the Poles have been condemned by the Liberal journals, since the same treatment exercised towards the Confederates is approved of by these journals.

The article from the *Temps* is published in the form of a letter from New York, but there is reason to believe that the correspondent by whom it was written resides in Paris. It is so well known that the Paris journals have no correspondents residing abroad, that when, by chance, they happen to have one, he is careful not to omit his signature. This pretended letter from New York is nothing but a philosophical thesis, whose object is to show that slavery, whatever may be said concerning it, is the real ground of debate between the North and the South. One notices in this article the steady, argumentative paces of the *Temps*; no sweeping declarations like those made in the *Opinion*, every assertion has the pretension of being based on reason; and although this pretension is not well founded, still the moderate and plausible form of this article is calculated to lead many into error.

I now come to the most important of the four articles of which I have spoken, to that of the *Journal des Débats*. It appears that I was misinformed relative to the changes which have taken place in the staff of writers connected with this paper, for the article to which I refer bears the signature of M. Prévost-Paradol, whose retirement from that journal had been announced. The abilities of this writer are well known to you; he is one of the most brilliant and most trustworthy contributors to French journalism. The contests with the Imperial Government which have made him its unhappy and persecuted victim have tended greatly to the increase of his reputation, and to an overestimate of his talents, which possess greater brilliancy than depth. It may, however, be said that he is an elegant, clear, and methodical writer, although the bases of his arguments are at all times somewhat feeble. But however this may be, he is perhaps the most authoritative representative of the Liberal party in the French press. His opinion is therefore worthy of great consideration, since it shows with great exactness the policy of that party with regard to the South.

The grounds of M. Prévost-Paradol's argument for 'ardently desiring the submission of the South,' are, in the first place, that separation would not be productive of peace, but would rather tend to the prolongation of war; and secondly, that French interests demand the maintenance of the Union. Let us see how M. Prévost-Paradol establishes these two propositions.

Separation would tend to the prolongation of the war, first, because neither of the countries possesses natural frontiers. Second, because the New State, 'inevitably become the sport of foreign intrigues and the fulcrum of English influence in the New World, would be the more intolerable, the more jealous, and the more formidable of the neighbours.' Third, because 'the world has never yet furnished an example of a slave State enjoying security so long as it is exposed to injury from the rivalry of its neighbour.' Fourthly, because 'the principle of separation being once admitted, why should not the West separate itself from the North? Why should not California create another republic?' In short, 'there is no Utopia in the world which can be compared to the vision of the North and the South living together in peace.'

Now I would candidly ask all reflecting minds, Is there to be found in the whole world anything which can be compared to this vision of imaginary dangers which so greatly terrify the *Journal des Débats*? Has France or Belgium any natural frontiers? Nevertheless, do they not live in peace? The United States, a slave country, have they not lived on good terms hitherto with their neighbours Canada and Mexico, who have no slaves? Why should the Southern Confederation become the fulcrum of English influence? M. Prévost-Paradol does not say, and most assuredly no one will ever guess. Moreover, what danger is to be feared in the event of a future separation of California and of the West? M. Prévost-Paradol is silent on this point also. Why should not these States, which form an empire equal in extent to that of France, enjoy the right of governing themselves in their own way? How can it be shown that humanity, progress, and civilisation would profit by their perpetual union with the States of New England? This is what the brilliant but superficial writer omits to state—he does not even allow it to be suspected.

After having established the preceding arguments in the way you have seen, M. Prévost-Paradol undertakes to establish the second proposition in the same manner. The abdication of the North, says he, would be a misfortune for France. The English regard it with a satisfaction which one can easily understand, since the dissolution of the United States would be the completion of their own greatness; but that such a desire as this should be expressed by French lips is altogether inexplicable. Why so? Because it would be a discouraging sight for France, which is devoted to equality, and to the discovery of means for the conciliation of liberty with democracy, to witness the overthrow by civil wars of the greatest and hitherto most successful attempt by a Democratic community to enjoy freedom in conformity with the laws, and still more because, owing to the principle of the freedom of the waters and that of the balance of the maritime powers, the lowering of the Federal flag would be profitable to England and fatal to France.

Is it possible on any subject whatever to hold ideas more radically false than the foregoing? What! because the South and the North should form two republics in the place of one, 'the most successful attempt ever made in Democracy would be completely overthrown?'

What shall we say of M. Prévost-Paradol's views with regard to the interest which France has in witnessing the submission of the Southern Confederacy, when a political writer closes his eyes to the fact that the reconstruction of the Union would be the worst of all the dangers that threaten France and England? One must abandon all hope of changing his notions, and give up all endeavour to understand him.

General M'Clellan's candidature for the Presidency has been variously regarded by the Parisian press. The *France* maintains that it is to a coalition of all the parties hostile to the Government that he owes his election, which is the presage of an early peace. The *Temps* confesses that there is no room for misconception, and that, notwithstanding M'Clellan is a member of the war party, his election will let loose such a current of pacific ideas as will oblige the Government of the Union to make peace at any cost. This sound view is not shared by the *Patrie*. I am surprised at this, inasmuch as the article devoted by this journal to a discussion of the Chicago programme is remarkable in more than one respect. M. Aucaigne, the writer of this article, remarks that the question of slavery is an element of so small account in the war that the Democrats have not even mentioned it in their programme, and the Republicans, by the mouth of Mr. Seward, have just made an explicit declaration of the fact. M. Dréolle, the chief editor of the *Patrie*, had already, on the preceding day, directed attention to this important avowal of Mr. Seward. The *Opinion* maintains that General M'Clellan owes his nomination solely to the fact that he is a pro-slavery man. Mark the words—pro-slavery man! The *Opinion* sticks to its text!

CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

MANCHESTER: September 21, 1864.

IT was not the other day at Brighton that Professor Fawcett for the first time made what may be called a 'Federal' bid for exchanging his chair at the University for a Radical seat in Parliament. The learned gentleman performed the same interesting operation in our Free-Trade Hall upwards of a year ago, and it would appear that the interval had been insufficient to enable him to discover the logical vice that was fatal to his then offer of service. The *Manchester Guardian* has the following forcible and judicious remarks upon that portion of the Professor's recent speech in which he again refers to Lancashire:—

Another of the learned gentleman's illustrations is far better chosen, but so marred in the handling that its merits can only be recognised with difficulty. It is undoubtedly true that those who maintain that the franchise may be carried a good step lower with safety and advantage derive a powerful argument from the exemplary conduct of the operatives of Lancashire during the season of suffering from which they are emerging. But it is a pity that demeanour so sensible and upright should be made almost ridiculous by being imputed to feelings which have no place of any consequence in the minds of the working classes of this district, and which would do no credit to their intelligence. They preferred to perish rather than possibly put an obstacle in the way of the holy crusade in which the Northern States of America had their warmest sympathies! We invite Professor Fawcett to come down to Lancashire and study for himself the true nature of the popular opinion respecting which he evidently allows himself to be misled by interested persons. The fantastical course of reasoning which he ascribes to the cotton operatives does infinitely less credit than is due to their knowledge and shrewdness, and that in more ways than one. It conveys, in the first place, the implication that they have supposed that a war undertaken by England for the independence of the South would really expedite the supply of Southern cotton, or that it would in any way better their material lot on a balance of the relief and the pressure which it would bring in its train. It is, to a great extent, because they have not believed that this would be the case, that they have been so silent. But, in the next place, Professor Fawcett's theory of their motives does them the great injustice of supposing them so ignorant and gullible as to believe that the interests of humanity and freedom are involved in urging the horrible slaughter in America to the last extremity. Were he well informed upon the subject, he would know that nothing can be further from their thoughts than to console themselves for the failure of their occupation with sympathetic interest in the pretended motives of the maritime blockade by which they suffer; nor is more difficulty met with at any day in finding a public meeting to memorialise in favour of recognising the Southern Confederacy than in getting one, under the management of practised agitators, to pronounce for a diametrically opposite conclusion.

The Southern Independence Association has issued the following placard, copies of which have been put up in conspicuous places in this city, and in every town and village in the manufacturing districts:—

NORTHERN HYPOCRISY ON SLAVERY.

Fellow men! Read the following news brought over by the *China*:—

'On Saturday evening, September 3, 1864, Secretary Seward made a speech at Auburn, New York, in which he stated that "Slavery is no longer an issue of the war, and will not be interfered with after peace is restored."'

Can any of you any longer sympathise with such hypocrisy, or believe that the North is fighting to put down slavery? The mask is thrown off, and President Lincoln is prepared to sacrifice the negro for the sake of reelection. We only ask you to remember this if any more appeals are made to you to support the North.

THE EXECUTIVE of the Southern Independence Association.

26 Market Street, Manchester.

The *Guardian* thus exposes the political drift of Mr. Seward's more fully reported remarks upon the same sickening subject:—

The meaning of all this is perfectly clear. The best card which the Democratic party have to play in the coming election is the intense popularity of the idea that the war is undertaken for the fanciful, absurd, and revolting cause, as it is regarded, of the liberty of the negro. Apprehensive of the force of this weapon, and eager to bid against the nominees of the Chicago Convention for the pro-slavery sympathies existing in the Northern States, the Federal Secretary of State hastens to declare that the measures which have been adopted against slavery by the Lincoln Administration are resorted to merely for the purpose of the war, and will cease to have effect as soon as the Southerners can be induced to lay down their arms and return to the Union.

Of course. The *Guardian* may well add it never doubted that was the true state of the case. Such, in fact, has been the constant tenor of Federal manifestoes intended for use at home all the time that a very different policy has been professed for Europe. Who, therefore, but willing dupes, such as it is John Bright's mission to mislead, will continue to be deluded by the hypocritical pretext that the Federal Government has any the smallest interest in effecting, or even forwarding, by force of arms the 'emancipation'—heaven help him!—of the slave?

I have had occasion more than once to observe with much gratification the manly and high-toned part which the Unitarian clergy in Lancashire have taken in discussing the American war. Another minister of that Church, the Rev. John Page Hopps, has recently volunteered to give a course of lectures on Southern Independence. The reverend gentleman thus 'apologises' for the course he has been 'moved' to adopt:—

I have been one of those who thought the less English people said about the sad strife in America the better. I have never been able to see that we had much to do with discussing in public the right on the one hand to secede and the obligation on the other to coerce. It has all along been my opinion that we ought to wait for some sign of a change in the excited minds of the people of America before we undertook to discuss their affairs. But I think that time has now come; and, believing as I do that a real anxiety for the return of peace prevails in America, I think we should help to strengthen that desire till it is realised, by spreading abroad in this country such a know-

ledge of the whole question as shall lead the English people to sympathise with the movement to bring about peace in the only way now possible—I mean by the peaceable independence of the South.

It is my earnest belief that peace can be only indefinitely postponed—that the movement for peace can only be thwarted—by any flinching from this solution of the question. Sooner or later it must come; and it seems to me that the hour has arrived when every lover of freedom and friend of peace should give strength and clearness to the message we shall send from England.'

The reverend gentleman has already delivered a lecture in Oldham, and it will scarcely be news to say that he carried the meeting entirely with him. This evening he will address the constituents of the President of the Board of Trade, and no doubt will meet with the same success. He will also visit Rochdale, Stockport, Preston, and other towns, for the purpose of delivering lectures upon the same subject. Mr. T. B. Kershaw is also entering upon another series of lecturing engagements, and a requisition, I believe, is about to be presented to Mr. George Dawson, M.P., of Birmingham, soliciting him to deliver a lecture at our Free-Trade Hall upon the 'Life and Character of Stonewall Jackson.' Unless Mr. Dawson has grown greatly too materialistic for his subject, this ought to be *the* theme for him.

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

RICHMOND: August 18, 1864.

FIGHTING AT PETERSBURG — CONFEDERATE GENERALS — THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS — THE FIGHT IN MOBILE BAY — THE PEACE QUESTION.

THERE has been but little change in the military *status* since the date of my last letter. In front of Petersburg nothing whatever has occurred worthy of note. The skirmish lines of the respective armies have become quite pacific, and the Federal batteries have ceased, except at considerable intervals, to shell the town. But the same quiet has not prevailed on the north side of the James. On the 13th, a considerable cavalry force was embarked on transports at City Point, and started down the river, on their way, it was then supposed, to Washington; whereupon General Lee despatched Hampton by land in the direction of Culpepper. But the Federal cavalry did not proceed to Washington—they did not even go to Fortress Monroe; they landed on the north bank of the James, not far below City Point, moved cautiously up the river, and formed a junction with the infantry forces already there and others that were about that time pushed across the river under cover of darkness. The object of this combined movement was to take the Confederate left wing (the force on the north side of the James) by surprise, force it back within the fortifications, take the works at Chafin's Bluff in reverse, and advance their lines some miles nearer to Richmond. Accordingly reconnaissances were made on the 14th and 15th, and on the morning of the 16th a determined assault was made, the negroes being put in the forefront of the army. The assault was repulsed, and the enemy driven back with considerable loss.

General Lee had discovered the trick of his adversary, and recalled Hampton in time to be present at the affair here spoken of. Nevertheless, the Federal lines overlapped the Confederate some distance, owing to the superior numbers of the enemy, and this made it necessary for the Confederates to weaken their line by stretching it out to a corresponding length. The Federal commander took advantage of this necessity, and at noon on the 16th he massed his troops (the second and tenth corps) against a single point, made a resolute charge, and broke through Wright's brigade of Mahone's division. Lane's North Carolina brigade, which was on the left of Wright's, assisted by a part of Benning's and G. T. Anderson's Georgia brigades, were brought up at double quick and hurled with great violence against the enemy, who had poured through the gap like water rushing through a crevasse in the artificial banks of the Mississippi, and drove them back under cover of the captured breastworks. After a short pause, during which a rapid fire was kept up by both sides, the Confederates, raising their well-known war shout, renewed the charge, and in a few minutes succeeded in beating the foe from his covert and re-establishing their former line. They took between six and seven hundred prisoners, two stands of colours, and a considerable number of small arms.

On the 17th (yesterday) Gary's and Chambliss's cavalry brigades, supported by Gregg's Texans, assaulted the enemy's extreme right and drove it back through White Oak Swamp, capturing a considerable number of prisoners, horses, and other military property.

It may be claimed, therefore, that this last move by Grant upon the military chess-board—a move made, doubtless, with the hope of assisting Mr. Lincoln in his Presidential aspirations rather than with any expectation of success in a military point of view—has not only been unsuccessful, but, like his mining operations in front of Petersburg, disastrous. His losses have also been considerable, being three or four times as heavy as those of the Confederates. The latter have to mourn, however, the fall of Brigadier-General Chambliss, of Virginia, commanding a brigade of cavalry, and Brigadier-General Victor J. B. Girardy, of Georgia, temporarily commanding Wright's brigade of infantry. General Girardy was a very young man, of great promise, who, at the instance of General Lee, had just been promoted, for gallant conduct in the field, from the rank of captain in the Adjutant-General's department to that of brigadier-general of infantry. He is the second young officer of very rare merit from Georgia who has fallen in this bloody campaign; the other being Colonel Edwin Willis, who fell on the Pamunkey. Both of them were known throughout the army, and great confidence was felt that they would attain to high positions if their lives were spared. Two years ago Stonewall Jackson recommended Colonel (then Captain) Willis for a brigadier's commission, and he had just been placed in command of a brigade, though he had not received his commission, when he was killed by a grapeshot. Jackson formed his judgment of men more rapidly, if not more correctly, than General Lee does. He cared very little for the age of a man, so he had capacity, energy, and ambition. General Lee is more cautious in the selection of officers, preferring a man of some age and experience, and of approved conduct in the presence of the enemy. It was not until the battles of Spottsylvania that he gave his consent to promote Brigadier-General Gordon, also of Georgia, a young officer of large brain and of remarkable military aptitude. Mahone of Virginia, and Kershaw of South Carolina, both of whom have won their major-general's commissions this summer, are two other instances of cautious if not tardy promotion. General Lee's rule may be the safer of the two, and yet Jackson is not known to have ever erred in his estimate of officers who had served under him.

Among the Yankee killed is reported Brigadier-General Ferrero, formerly an Italian dancing-master in New York, and commander of the negro brigade. The negroes suffered much more heavily here, as they did at Petersburg on the 30th ult., than did their white associates. Of the 2,200 blacks who joined in the charge at Petersburg after the explosion of the mine, we are informed only 900 ever returned.

It may be stated in this connection that the hitch in the matter of the exchange of prisoners, consequent in part upon the preposterous claims set up for some of their negro troops by the Federal Government, has at last been removed, and it is believed that the exchange will be resumed in the course of a few weeks. It is thought that the Confederacy now has the advantage in the number of prisoners; and this fact, like the stone whose virtue the old man was disposed to try upon the boy in his apple tree, may have had some effect in bringing Mr. Lincoln down from his Abolition stilts. Should the exchange be resumed, it is understood that it will be conducted on the principle of man for man and officer for officer, and that any surplus which either side may have will not be paroled as heretofore, but held for future exchange. It is not probable that the Confederate authorities will make any objection to including in the exchange such free blacks, residents in the North anterior to the war, as may have fallen into their hands; but it is very certain that they will not give up those negroes now in their hands who were seduced or forced from their Southern homes by the emissaries or military power of the North and afterwards required to enter the ranks of the Federal army.

We have nothing of interest from the Valley of the Shenandoah. At our last advices, Early was at Strasburg, while Sheridan, who has succeeded to the command of the Federal forces in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Northern Virginia, was advancing slowly up the valley with a considerable force of veteran troops. It is not improbable that Early desires to draw him on up the valley as far as possible, when he will fall on and effectually dispose of him.

At Atlanta there has been but little change within the last week. Sherman sent out two small raiding parties a few days ago, one of which tore up a few yards of the track of the Atlanta and La Grange railway, but they were quickly and easily dispersed. He has shown some disposition to extend his right wing round to East Point, the place where the railway just named unites with the Macon and Western Railway, but thus far his success has not been of a character to encourage him. For the last few days he has been unusually quiet, owing perhaps to the operations of the Confederate cavalry against his communications. Wheeler, Hood's chief of cavalry, was sent to Sherman's rear some days ago, and we have a report that he struck the railway between Atlanta and Chattanooga at Ackworth, but with what result we are not informed. Wheeler is a capable and enterprising officer, and it is not probable that he will return without having done the enemy much mischief.

The unauthorised and unnecessary surrender of Fort Gaines, one of the outer works of Mobile Bay, still remains a mystery. The report that Colonel Anderson, the officer in command, married a Northern woman, and that he is a cousin to Major Anderson, the Federal commander of Fort Sumter at the opening of the war, does not furnish a satisfactory solution; for, if he had been so inclined, he has had it in his power any time these four years to go over to the enemy. And yet it must be said that his surrender of the fort and its garrison was wholly unnecessary, and was made in disregard of the most positive orders from his superior officer to 'hold on to your fort.' It is not improbable that the evacuation and destruction of Fort Powell, a far inferior work, though done in perfectly good faith, was not absolutely unavoidable. The conduct of the little Confederate flotilla, on the other hand, was exceedingly gallant. When his three cotton-clad companions had been taken, disabled, or driven off, the heroic Buchanan, standing outside the iron shield of the *Tennessee*, as in the fight of the *Merrimac*, continued single-handed the unequal contest. Like a lion at bay, he stood his ground, even compelling his enemies to fly when he made a dash at them. Gathering around him in a circle, they continued to draw closer and closer to him, first one pouring a broadside into him and then another, first one trying to run him down and then another, until at length the old lion of the sea, severely wounded and unable to stand himself, his men exhausted and smothering, was compelled to do what he had never done before, and what with anything like an equal chance he would not have done then—lower his flag to the enemies of his country. One can appreciate the feeling which prompted the remark, when he hauled down his flag, that he would have gone to the bottom of the gulf with pleasure if he could only have grappled the *Hartford*, Farragut's flagship, for ten minutes first.

The water does not seem to be auspicious to Confederate arms. In nearly all their engagements with the enemy upon the water, including the famous duel between the *Alabama* and the *Kearsage*, they have been compelled to yield to the North. In the great naval battle of Hampton Roads alone were they victorious. Even where they have occupied works near the water, they have frequently found it necessary to submit to a surrender—a treacherous surrender sometimes, it is true. The general explanation of these frequent disappointments is obvious enough. The people of the South are an agricultural and not a mechanical people. They have but few foundries, few ship-yards and ship-builders, and but few mines in successful operation from which to obtain suitable metal for heavy machinery. In this respect their enemies have an advantage over them quite equal to their superiority in numbers. Their ports, if not effectively blockaded in the sense of the Paris Convention, are sufficiently so to prevent, if such a thing were otherwise practicable, the importation of heavy machinery from foreign countries.

However, the Confederates will endeavour to take care of themselves. Fort Gaines has surrendered; Fort Powell has been evacuated and blown up; and Fort Morgan, which still remains, was designed to operate against an enemy approaching from the sea and not from the inner harbour. In addition to this, their little fleet has been destroyed; and, though they have the wood and the iron, they have not the machinery, nor the means of manufacturing it, for other vessels. These vessels and machinery cannot be procured elsewhere. Nevertheless, the Confederates have the bar in the bay, a number of shore batteries, and hundreds of stout hearts behind them, and others moving from the Trans-Mississippi Department—perhaps crossing the great river at this very hour—and with these they will, with the help of Heaven, try to make good their defence. Thus far, since their entrance into the bay, the enemy have made no fresh offensive movement. It may be that, having sealed up the port, they will be content with their success.

Your readers cannot have failed to observe the change which has occurred in the United States in favour of peace. Even the *New York Herald* recommends an armistice and the sending of commissioners to Richmond to arrange for a Convention of all the States. What if peace should come, and the North were the first to recognise the independence of the Confederate States? Might she not secure from the latter commercial advantages which the maritime Powers of Europe would regret for many years to come? Under the circumstances here supposed, the Confederates will do what any other people situated as they are, and snubbed as they have been by other Powers, would do; they will give the North better terms than they would have done if other Powers had moved earlier, or acted with more fairness and candour.

7 P.M.

There has been heavy cannonading down the river for the last hour. It still continues as I close.

LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA: August 27, 1864.

YOU cannot understand, perhaps, with how little emotion the news of the surrender of Fort Morgan was received by our people on Wednesday morning. Surrounded as it was by a fleet carrying 250 guns, five of them, including the captured *Tennessee*, ironclads, all the hostile guns heavier than those of the fort, this alone might have sufficed to tear the fort in pieces. In addition to this there was a force of 16,000 men on the land side of the long slender peninsula on which the fort stood, with 100 guns and mortars from between 150 and 400 yards of the base of the fort.

Before they attacked the fort the Yankees had learned that the garrison consisted of 800 men and possessed 136 guns of the heaviest calibre. On receiving its surrender they find that there were but 41 guns, mostly smooth-bore 32-pounders (there are no guns of so light calibre in their fleet), and that the garrison is not even 400 men, although they report it at 600.

In the meantime the garrison had destroyed the value of each gun, flooded the magazine, burned all the provisions and buildings in the fort, and ruined all the ammunition. At first the captors claimed all this as the effect of their destructive fire; but when they began to examine, and found nothing to reward their cupidity, they began to suspect the truth. Even the fort is hardly a stronghold any more. The 400 kept them at that point three weeks, and they got nothing but a few prisoners. Except in the capture of the two forts and of the *Tennessee*, the balance is against the Yankees in the account with Mobile. I have it from one of their own officers that they have lost largely, more than they have captured. Notwithstanding their newspapers count 870 at Fort Gaines and 600 at Fort Morgan, their entire lot of prisoners, naval and otherwise, is less than 900.

At noon on Wednesday the Yankees here fired a salute of, some say, a hundred guns, but I did not hear so many. One reason why our people did not seem much depressed by the fall of Fort Morgan was that on the same day they heard of the terrible defeat of their foes at the north side of the James River. According to their own account they lost 6,000 men there, and I hear it stated at a third more. We took the salute to our own account.

With this success at Fort Morgan come reports in the papers here that the people of Mobile are tired of secession, ready to revolt, one third is governing two thirds, and that the woods are full of runaways from Confederate conscription. Why do not these runaways find their way to the Union camp? There are no lions in their path. I once believed in these stories, but do so now no longer. The only refugees we see now-a-days are either people whom the Yankees have robbed until they are forced to come among them to get something to eat, or a gang of robbers who fight for plunder on whichever side yields the richest spoil. If the people of the South are tired of secession, why is it that neither New Orleans nor Memphis can be trusted to elect their own mayor?

The Confederacy is in danger.

I am very well satisfied that the Confederate States have arrived at the most critical period of their existence. They are menaced by a more formidable danger than ever before. That they have borne the bitter storm of persecution, of devastation, and war's direst and most destructive hail, is nothing to that insecurity into which they are likely now to be drawn by the kindness of friends, and by which they will be carried shortly over the Niagara of destruction.

There is actually danger of the election in the North of a President who will offer to restore the Constitution of the United States to its normal vigour: to recall, as void and mischievous, all proclamations against slavery, and even guarantee the safety of the institution in all States whence they have not already driven it—rather, so far as they have not already deported the slaves.

The Northern cause, as it is now presented to the South by Abraham Lincoln and his generals, has no friends among Southern people, unless it be a few who are spies or who hope for great profits to come from the sale of their country's interests. Even when the enemy occupies their towns, they submit only to orders and pray night and day for deliverance. They curse him bitterly in their hearts even when they smile in his presence.

There is reason to fear, however, that if there is an effort made to conciliate the wealthy classes, and especially the slaveholders, by promising them present and future security for their property, that there will be many, whose means give them influence, who will be ready to barter independence for an inglorious peace.

There are very few abroad who understand clearly that, though the menace against the institution of slavery was the immediate provocation of the revolution, it was not the object of it. That, with the great mass of the people, is independence, and that only. The slaveholders in the West, at least, and in the Border States hung out against the disruption, because they saw their property likely to be endangered. Property is always Conservative, and so it made them.

It is greatly to be regretted that the chief European Powers have not ere this settled the question as to whether there should be any reunion by acknowledging the independent existence of the Confederacy, and thus adding an additional reason for a resolute refusal, even under the most ample guarantees, for a return to the Union. Not that I believe this possible; for I believe that such Southern men as should, for the sake of slavery or any other mere property interest, take the yoke of

the invader upon their necks, would be indignantly thrust out of the Confederate borders; but all dissent is dangerous to final success.

What a pity it is that the world does not know and see that not one man in twenty now engaged in the Confederate service has any immediate or prospective interest in the question of slavery, but that one and all are fighting for the independence of all their interests from the control of the Northern States! These men are not the victims of despotism, nor are they 'rude, unlettered men,' unable to appreciate their rights or without clearly defined intentions. They are men of ripe judgment and bold and outspoken wills, who are, like Mr. Davis, 'fighting for independence, and that or extermination they will have.'

We have quite a number of startling reports around us, some of which may prove true: but they are so numerous and extraordinary that we do not place secure reliance in them, at least to the extent which they have reached. There is no doubt but that General Forrest has attempted to surprise Memphis, while the Federal General A. J. Smith was hunting him in Mississippi. The report is that Forrest has taken Memphis with its small garrison and its department commander Major-General Washburne and staff. General Washburne is the one who put old citizens on the trains of cars to protect his soldiers in passing through a hostile country. He will have an opportunity now of trying some similar experiments.

It is also reported that Forrest burned five steamboats at Memphis, and destroyed an immense quantity of stores. We do know that the attempt has been made; the bold rider who has undertaken it will succeed if any one can, and if he does so, no man can sport a loftier plume than he among the daring spirits of this war.

Perhaps from a desire to vie with this achievement, the story is now current that Price has traversed the country between him and St. Louis, entered that city and made prisoner of Rosecrans. Another story places him on the east side of the Mississippi, having crossed about Helena in Arkansas with his whole force. An attempt to do this is not improbable.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

FEDERAL FINANCES.

WE are credibly informed that the Government of the United States is about to negotiate a loan at the Hague on the terms of 40 cents in the dollar to the contractors; the issue price is to be 42 cents in the dollar. All profits over that to be divided between the contractors and the United States Government. Owing to the low rate at which this loan is contracted, the negotiation is, for the present, kept a profound secret. We are not positively informed of the amount, though rumour speaks of 100,000,000 dollars. The promised interest payable in gold is stated to be 7 per cent. At least one-half of the amount is to be paid by the contractors in greenbacks.

Supposing the loan to be effected on these terms, the United States Government will receive for $100,000,000 in stock at 7 per cent. specie interest only $$28\frac{1}{3}$ millions in specie. Consequently, the rate of interest paid on the amount actually received will be $24\frac{12}{17}$ per cent.

In this calculation we have supposed the premium on gold to be 140 per cent., and that one-half of the 40 per cent. is to be paid in greenbacks.

There are at present three Federal Government loans offering in the United States market. The 'ten-forty' is a 5 per cent. loan, interest payable in gold, and the principal redeemable in gold at any time after ten and within forty years. The '1881' is a 6 per cent. loan, the interest payable in gold, and redeemable in gold in 1881. The 'seven-thirty' loan bears interest payable in greenbacks for three years, and then it can be converted into '1881' stock or into currency at the option of the holders. The '1881' is the favourite stock.

Mr. Fessenden is hardly pressed for money. On September 5, there had been paid to two-thirds of Grant's army the pay due to them to June 30. Altogether there is about $100,000,000 due to the troops, and it is intimated that they will be paid before election time. Mr. Fessenden will doubtless be compelled to issue a large amount of paper money in the next six weeks.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

The state of the discount market is not discouraging; but with money at 9 per cent., a bank suspension, and minor mercantile difficulties, it cannot be said that prospects are cheering. It is hoped that no further serious disasters will take place, but some unsoundness in trade evidently exists which it is desirable to be prepared for. The maintenance of the present high terms, it is believed, will produce eventually a healthy reaction; and if this shall prove the case, we shall not regret the little struggle which has occurred to attain this end. The late fall in the cotton market, and the fright occasioned by the state of the exchange in India, have accomplished much good, and, with a restriction of business for a month or six weeks, affairs will in all probability right themselves. If the accounts of the Banks of England and France shall steadily improve, as it is expected they will, the tone of things will gradually become better. It is a very favourable symptom to see the career of speculation arrested at the Stock Exchange, and to find that fancy securities are now entirely neglected till a substantial change shall come 'o'er the spirit' of the money market. Bankers and brokers continue as usual to be well supplied with capital, but they will have their rates for the negotiation of even the best bills from which they can make their selection. About $8\frac{3}{4}$ to 9 per cent. are the terms; but six months Bank remittance bills have been done at $8\frac{1}{4}$ and $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The late settlements in foreign stocks and shares entailed for a moment an enhanced enquiry in those quarters, but it soon passed over, and now once more there is full abundance at comparatively low prices.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The bullion market has assumed a better appearance under the increased rate of discount. The amount of gold sent into the Bank during the week has been 352,000*l.*, and other parcels are expected to be sent in forthwith. At the same time the withdrawals have been only 45,000*l.*, of which 20,000*l.* was for Mauritius, and 25,000*l.* for the Brazils. The arrival of specie, however, has been exceedingly small, viz., 2,600*l.* for New York. The *Poonah* steamer for the East has taken out 147,984*l.*; of this amount 120,910*l.* was silver, and 24,074*l.* gold, destined as follows:—87,404*l.* to India, 37,430*l.* to China and the Straits, 20,000*l.* to Mauritius, and 3,550*l.* to Aden and Galle. The silver market has been very quiet, the dealers having been awaiting the result of the tenders for Indian bills to-day. The sales effected in the early part of the week, both for bar and Mexican dollars, showed no alteration whatever from previous rates. It is announced that the *Suffolk* sailed from Port Phillip on July 2 with 41,986 oz. gold, and the *S.E.H.* on the 16th of the same month with 18,925 oz., making together 52,911 oz. of the value of 211,641*l.*

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The English stock market has been rather more buoyant this week, and closes with a tendency to further improvement in prices. The brokers, however, are restrained from operating with that freedom which otherwise might be expected, in consequence of the uncertain state of monetary affairs generally. The probability of money becoming dearer stops speculation to a great extent, and much activity is not anticipated till affairs are in a more settled state. Consols closed this evening at $88\frac{1}{8}$ to $88\frac{1}{4}$ for money, and $88\frac{3}{8}$ to $88\frac{5}{8}$ for the account, which, as compared with this day week, is a rise of about $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. Exchequer bills are steady, those of March being 15*s.* to 5*s.* dis., and those of June 25*s.* to 15*s.* dis. The foreign stock market has not exhibited any particular activity, and prices for the most part remain very steady. In the chief stocks the only variations have been a decline of $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. in Greek, an advance of $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. in Mexican, and a fall of $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{8}$ respectively in Spanish Passives and the Certificates. The closing quotations this evening were, Greek, $23\frac{7}{8}$ to $24\frac{1}{8}$; Mexican, $27\frac{5}{8}$ to $27\frac{7}{8}$; Spanish Passives, 32 to $32\frac{1}{4}$; ditto Certificates, $14\frac{1}{8}$ to $14\frac{3}{8}$; Turkish Six per cents. of 1854, 90 to 91; and those of 1862, 70 to $70\frac{1}{2}$.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The market for American Government and Railway securities was not at all active in the early part of the week, and prices remained very steady, but within the last day or two there has been an improvement, and to-day there has been more doing than for some time past, at a further advance, chiefly on the rumour of the capture of Mobile by the Federals. The transactions comprise United States, at $42\frac{1}{2}$, $42\frac{3}{4}$, $44\frac{5}{8}$, $44\frac{7}{8}$, $44\frac{1}{2}$, and 45; Virginia State, $32\frac{1}{4}$, $32\frac{1}{2}$, $31\frac{3}{4}$, and $32\frac{1}{2}$; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York section, $74\frac{1}{2}$; do. do., Pennsylvania do., 75; Erie shares, $100 shares, 42, $42\frac{1}{2}$, 43 and $43\frac{1}{4}$; Illinois Central, all paid, $52\frac{1}{2}$, 52, 51, $53\frac{1}{2}$, $52\frac{3}{4}$.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

This stock has weakened sensibly this week under less favourable advices from the States, and upon rumours of the fall of Mobile, with continuous sellers. The price is now called 73 to 74.

THE COTTON TRADE AT BOMBAY.

According to advices to August 23, the market had been depressed, and the business done had been entirely on speculation. The total export for the fortnight had been 33,768 bales, and the total export from January 1, 726,097 bales.

TENDERS FOR BILLS ON INDIA.

The biddings for 30,00,000 rupees in bills on India took place to-day at the Bank of England. The proportions allotted were to Calcutta 17,77,000 rupees, to Bombay 12,00,000 rupees, and to Madras 23,000 rupees. The minimum price was as before, 1*s.* $11\frac{1}{2}$*d.* per rupee on Calcutta and Madras, and 1*s.* $11\frac{3}{4}$*d.* on Bombay. The applications within the limits amounted to 98 lacs. Tenders on Calcutta and Madras at 2*s.* will receive about 23 per cent., on Bombay at 2*s.* 8*d.* about 60 per cent., and all above these prices in full.

TREASURY BILLS FOR NEW SOUTH WALES.

It is notified that the Bank of New South Wales, as the agents of the New South Wales Government, are authorised to negotiate Treasury Bills to the amount of 100,000*l.*, due January 1, 1868, at 6 per cent. Tenders will be available to the 26th inst. The bills are to be receivable by the Government in payment of taxes, revenue, or purchase money for land, any time after April 1, 1866.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

The market for the English Railway securities has been fairly active throughout the week; in the early part prices were very heavy, and in some instances much lower. There has, however, since been a rally, and when any change is exhibited it is in most cases on the favourable side, but the variations are not of importance. The dealers appear more inclined just now to operate in this class of securities, induced in a great measure by the favourable nature of the traffic receipts. As compared with this day week, there has been an improvement of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Great Northern; of 1 per cent. in North Staffordshire; of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. in South Eastern; and of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in West Midland (Oxford), Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, Midland, North-Eastern (Berwick), and do. (Leeds). On the reverse side there has been a decline of 1 per cent. in London and South-Western, and of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Great Eastern. Foreign and colonial shares have been dealt in to a fair extent, particularly Indian and Canadian descriptions, which show a slight improvement in prices.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES, &C.

At a special meeting of the Unity Joint-Stock Mutual Banking Association (in liquidation), Dr. Cook, the chairman of the committee of liquidators, in the chair, a report was read showing that the cash received amounted to 10,521*l.*; cash expended, 1,117*l.*, leaving a balance in hand of 9,403*l.* The known and estimated outstanding liabilities amounted to 1,086*l.* The cash balance would allow of a distribution of 3*l.* per share to the proprietors, and leave a balance in hand of 763*l.* The liquidators recommended such a distribution, after the payment of which they believed they would be able to collect sufficient to make a further division of about 2*l.* per share. The report was adopted, and a resolution passed requesting the liquidators to call upon the directors to return the money which they had (as alleged) illegally received as directors' fees.—At an extraordinary general meeting of the London General Omnibus Company, it was shown that the net profits of the half year ending June 30 were 36,210*l.*, showing an increase of 10,907*l.* over the corresponding half year of 1863. Out of this sum 5,000*l.* had been paid of the bank loan; 7,000*l.* was proposed to be added to the reserve fund, making a total of 12,000*l.*, leaving a disposable balance of 24,210*l.* Out of this amount the directors recommended a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, adding a bonus of 6*d.* per share, making altogether 2*s.* 6*d.* per share or $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. free of income tax, after which a balance of 5,040*l.* would remain to be carried to the current half-year's account. The report was unanimously adopted.—At a meeting of the London Joint-Stock Bank, the resolution of a previous meeting increasing the capital to 1,000,000*l.* by the issue of new shares at a premium of 10*l.* per share at the price of 30*l.* was confirmed.—At an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the Crédit Foncier Company, the resolutions of the 5th inst., voluntarily winding up the company and appointing the directors as liquidators, were unanimously confirmed.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The drafts of the Leeds Banking Company having been returned on Saturday last by their London agents, Messrs. Smith, Payne, & Co., the Bank suspended payment on Monday. The liabilities are said to range between 700,000*l.* and 800,000*l.* It is understood that the difficulties have been occasioned through large advances made on mills, and the extension of its discount business. The paid-up capital is 110,100*l.*; there are 230 proprietors, most of whom are said to be wealthy, and as the establishment is not under the Limited Liability Act, it is thought that the liquidation may prove satisfactory. At a meeting of the shareholders held to-day a committee was appointed for the purpose of either disposing of the concern to another bank, or transferring it to a new company.—The suspension is announced of Messrs. Dawson, Graham, & Pugh, wholesale grocers. The liabilities are estimated at between 20,000*l.* and 25,000*l.*, with favourable assets.—A failure is also reported to have taken place of a large firm at Havre engaged in the cotton trade. The liabilities are reported to be large.—The failure was announced this afternoon of Messrs. Saalfeld Brothers, of Leeds, in the woollen trade. The liabilities are reported to range between 80,000*l.* and 100,000*l.*

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

The produce trades continue for the most part in the same dull state as noticed for some time past, owing chiefly to the high rate of money, and although importers avoid pressing supplies heavily on sale, prices are still declining. Arrivals are of fair extent, and deliveries, whilst not in all cases equal to those of last year, are satisfactory, so that there is no undue accumulation of stocks, which are, however, in most instances ample. With increased arrivals of wheat from the northern Continental ports, and good supplies of home-grown, prices are further depressed 1*s.* per qr. on both English and foreign. Maize is also cheaper from increased importations. Oilcake is inactive, owing to the improved state of the pastures from the recent fine weather. Prices are hardly so firm, although quotations are still retained at 10*l.* 5*s.* to 11*l.* for American. The provision trade is quiet, but for fine butters rates are pretty well maintained. 124*s.* is the present quotation for the best Friesland, and 90*s.* to 108*s.* for good to fine American. Bacon is declining in value, the weather being more favourable for curing. There is a good demand for cheese, and especially for American descriptions, which range from 48*s.* to 62*s.*, the better qualities being most in request. Lard maintains its value firmly. Navy provisions are dull of sale, and tending to lower prices. Petroleum sells steadily at 2*s.* 1*d.* per gallon for refined, and 16*l.* 10*s.* to 17*l.* per tun for crude. Rosin is not in demand, but rates are steady at 31*s.* to 42*s.* for American, and 25*s.* to 34*s.* for French. The business in turpentine is restricted to small retail lots at 63*s.* to 63*s.* 6*d.* for French. The nominal quotation of American is 90*s.* in casks. The seed-oil markets continue very dull, but without much depression in quotations. Linseed oil offers at 34*s.* on the spot, pale foreign rape at 46*s.*, and brown at 42*s.* Sperm oil is rather more saleable, but at easier rates, 64*l.* to 66*l.* being now the quotation. The tallow market has become very inactive, and prices are drooping, in consequence rather of the continued dearness of money than from any change of opinion respecting the future course of the trade. A further decline of 1*s.* per cwt. has taken place in sugar, and purchases on the spot are made very sparingly at the reduction, but there is some demand for floating cargoes for outports as well as the continent. The tea trade keeps very dull. In spices, pimento has advanced slightly; $2\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to $2\frac{5}{8}$*d.* per lb. were the last prices paid. Manilla hemp is cheaper, 24*l.* 10*s.* to 24*l.* 15*s.* being accepted to-day for barely fair roping. English tin has declined to 101*l.*, and Banca to 98*l.* cash.

LIVERPOOL, Wednesday, September 21.—Our cotton market has manifested some little improvement within the last few days, the ideas entertained with regard to a speedy suspension of hostilities in America being in some quarters now looked upon as hopeless, in consequence of the successes of Sherman in Georgia. Although the dealings have not been equal to the usual average, prices have slightly recovered from the late fall and still show a firmer tendency. The sales this week have been 30,000 bales, of which 14,000 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year have been 1,908,410 bales, against 1,802,526 bales to the corresponding period in 1863. There have been imported this year 1,697,402 bales, last year the number was 1,075,913 bales. The trade have taken this year 1,179,306 bales, and to the same period in 1863, 966,107 bales. The exports this year have been 411,496 bales, last year they were 328,111 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 321,414 bales, and in 1863, 469,318 bales. The estimated stocks at the present time are 393,436 bales, and at the corresponding period last year they were 171,727 bales. The closing quotations this afternoon were, for American descriptions, $26\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to $28\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Pernambuco, $25\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to $27\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; Egyptian, $24\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to $28\frac{3}{4}$*d.*; Surats, 12*d.* to $21\frac{3}{4}$*d.*; Bengal, $12\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 13*d.*; Scinde, $12\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to $13\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; China, $12\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to $19\frac{1}{2}$*d.*

Notwithstanding the improved aspect of the Liverpool cotton market, business at Manchester continues inactive and depressed. In shipping yarns, however, there has been a little more doing, though the transactions have not been to anything like an average extent, and those only in cases where spinners have been induced to accept lower rates. The average decline from the highest prices obtained is about 5*d.* per lb. In home-trade yarns business is also exceedingly depressed, and the market does not show the slightest improvement, but there is rather more anxiety manifested on the part of spinners to effect sales. The cloth market does not exhibit any symptoms of improvement; in fact prices continue to decline where sales are effected, but these continue very limited. Within the last day or two, buyers have shown more disposition to operate, but the prices offered have been very low; in some cases, however, these have been accepted by manufacturers, who appear to be less sanguine than many others as to the future. According to sellers' prices 7 lb. shirtings, which were up to 18*s.* 6*d.*, are now quoted 16*s.*, and for $8\frac{1}{2}$ lb. shirtings, which were 21*s.*, the price is 19*s.*; 6 lb. shirtings are quoted 14*s.*; 9 lb., 22*s.* 6*d.*; 5 lb. T cloths, 10*s.*; 6 lb., 12*s.*; and $8\frac{1}{4}$ lb. long cloths, 16*s.* 6*d.*; white 9 lb. do., 18*s.*; and 10 lb., 20*s.* 9 lb. printers are quoted 23*s.*, but sales in reality have been made at lower figures.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SHIPS ARRIVED.

AT GRAVESEND. September 15: The Cambrian, The Dundee, from Jamaica. The Neptune (steamer), from Havre. The Chanticleer, from Jamaica.—September 16: The Georgetown, from Barbadoes. The Alfred, from Jamaica. The Tadousac, from Havana. The Eyra, from Buenos Ayres. The Ivor, from Demerara. The Maid, from Jamaica.—September 17: The John Hunter, from Montevideo.—September 18: The Triunfo, from Porto Rico. The Robin Gray, from Cuba.—September 19: The Sgesjulite, The Zeolite, The Perilla, from Jamaica.—September 20: The Elizabeth, The Killa Lass, from Trinidad. The Wanderer, The Agnes, from Jamaica.—September 21: The Wilton, The Rio Grande, from Jamaica.

AT DEAL.—September 15: The Pallas, from Miramichi.—September 16: The Maid of Honour, The Oceale, from Jamaica. The Tasmanian, from Cuba.—September 17: The Glenbrook, from Jamaica. The Garibaldi, from Belize.—September 18: The Robin Gray, from Trinidad. The Caroline, from Jamaica.—September 19: The Agnes, The Wanderer, from Jamaica. The Lotus, from London, for Prince Edward Island. The Crouch Brothers, from Demerara. The Adventure, from London, for St. Kitts.—September 21: The Morning Star, from London, for Trinidad.

AT LIVERPOOL.—September 15: The Iris, The Ed, from Bermuda. The Magellan, The Lizzie, from St. John's. The Zeal, from Matamoras. The Johann Fredrick, from Buenos Ayres.—September 16: The Ocean Belle, from Bermuda. The Nunquam Dormio, from St. John's. The Emily, from Bahia. The Maranoa, from St. John's. The Crusader (steamer), from Trinidad.—September 17: The Mary Ellen, from Jamaica. The Honesta, from Bermuda. The Diligent, from Montevideo. The Aid, from Nassau. The Cubana, from Jamaica.—September 18: The Kalmia, from Demerara. The Westwood, from Antigua. The Askalon (steamer), The Sunrise, from Havana. The Liceta, from Prince Edward Island.—September 19: The America, from Buenos Ayres. The Nereid, from Cuba. The Muscongus, from Miramichi. The White Star, The Mercurius, from Nassau. The Tuya, The Eleanor, from Matamoras. The Leo, from Bahia. The Lucette, from Prince Edward Island. The Eroe, The Julie, from Bermuda. The Gleaner, from Matamoras.—September 20: The Martha, from Demerara. The Antonio, from Havana.—September 21: The I. O., from Montevideo. The Enos, from Bahia. The Magnet, from Halifax.

OFF MARGATE.—September 17: The Holbrook, from Jamaica.

AT PORTSMOUTH.—September 15: The Superb, for Pernambuco.

AT SCILLY.—September 17: The Julia (steamer), from Clyde, for Nassau. September 18: The Winteren, from Belize.

AT FALMOUTH.—September 15: The John, from Bahia. The William Rennie, from Porto Rico. The Louisa Wilhelmina, from Jamaica. The Verwisseling, from Buenos Ayres.—September 16: The Timandra, from Porto Rico.—September 16: The Hutoka, from Rio Grande. The Paradies, from Bahia. The Valetta, from Havana.—September 17: The Elizabeth, from Bahia. The Kjellestad, from Cuba.—September 18: The Jane Cargill, from Rio Janeiro. The Julia, from Havana.—September 19: The Barnard, from Porto Rico. The Virgen del Carmen, from Havana. The Oceano, from Cuba. The Formosa, from Havana.—September 20: The Hellechina Reina, from Rio Grande. The Herman, from Jamaica. The Chevalier, from Porto Rico. The George, from Cuba. The Anna Maria Henrietta, from Rio Janeiro. The Milton, from Rio Grande.—September 21: The Clasina, from Montevideo. The Armand Louisa, from Porto Rico.

OFF PLYMOUTH.—September 15: The Queen of the East, from Callao. The Joshua and Mary, from London, for Rio Janeiro.—September 16: The Bezateel, from Madeira. The Lady Milne, from London, for Bermuda.—September 19: The Elizabeth, from Porto Rico.—September 20: The Cicerone, from London, for Nassau.

AT APPLEDORE.—September 15: The Constant, from Prince Edward Island.

AT GLOUCESTER.—September 15: The Mavourneen, from Miramichi.—September 17: The Marchesino, from Buenos Ayres.

AT HOLYHEAD.—September 15: The Somovrostro, for Porto Rico, put back.

AT PORTLAND ROADS.—September 15: The St. Bede, from London, for Barbadoes.

AT GALWAY.—September 15: The W. D. Sewell, from Callao.

AT ABERDEEN.—September 15: The Alice Walton, from Callao.—September 17: The Rapide, from Rio Grande.

AT DARTMOUTH.—September 17: The Sarah Primsep, from Bahia.

AT BRIDGEWATER.—September 16: The Advance, from St. George, N. B.

AT CLYDE.—September 17: The Clara, from St. John's. The Trelawney, from Jamaica.—September 18: The Crescencia, from Havana.—September 19: The British Ensign, from Trinidad. The Eliza, from Havana.

AT DUBLIN.—September 18: The Kenilworth, from Callao.

AT BRISTOL.—September 15: The Orchid, from Barbadoes. The Texian, from Rio Grande.—September 16: The Margaret Falconer, from Cuba.—September 20: The Eliza Jenkins, from Jamaica.

AT WATERFORD.—September 14: The Julia (steamer), for Nassau, put back.

AT CARDIFF.—September 17: The Charles and Georgie, from St. Nazaire.

AT SWANSEA.—September 19: The Promise, from Teneriffe.—September 20: The Snowdrop, from St. Michael's.

AT MILFORD.—September 16: The Eliza Nelson, from Cardiff for Bermuda.

AT QUEENSTOWN.—September 15: The George Krell, from Montevideo. The Marchesina, from Rio Plate. The Spring, from Montevideo. The Kalmia, from Demerara.—September 17: The S. P. Smith, The Sydney, from Demerara. The Elizabeth, The Roseway, from Trinidad. The Maria Louisa, The Helena, from Jamaica. The Pilar, The Glenmessen, from Havana.—September 20: The Teresa, from Buenos Ayres. The Evergreen, from Trinidad.—September 21: The Teresa Madrie, from Buenos Ayres.

AT CORK.—September 15: The Zephyr, from St. John's.

OFF CROOKHAVEN.—September 15: The Darien (steamer), from West Indies.

AT BELFAST.—September 15: The Charlie Wood, from St. John's. The Edward Cardwell, The Arcadian, from Miramichi. The Spring, from Montevideo.—September 21: The Lalla Rookh, from St. John's.

AT WARRENPOINT.—September 15: The Superb, from Miramichi. The Henry Cook, from St. John's.

AT BERWICK.—September 19: The Eve, from Buenos Ayres.

AT HULL.—September 15: The Freedom, The Star of the East, from St. John's. The Maria Mathilda, from Miramichi.—September 16: The Adelaide, from Montevideo. The Pallas, from Miramichi.

AT NASSAU.—August 18: The Reinhardt, from Liverpool.

AT HALIFAX, N.S.—September 19: The Owl (steamer), The Flamingo (steamer), The Alexander, all from Bermuda.

AT ST. MICHAEL'S.—September 3: The Condor (steamer), from Clyde, and left August 19 for Bermuda. The Lady Stirling (steamer), from Falmouth, and left August 24 for Bermuda.

AT HAVANA.—August 24: The Susanna (steamer), from Confederate Port for Nassau.

SHIPS SAILED.

LIVERPOOL.—September 15: The Illimani, for Callao. The Rex, for Montevideo. The Freya, for Rio Janeiro. The Sutcliffe, for Demerara. The Whydah, for Vera Cruz. The Gezina Hillegonda, for Matamoras. The Harkaway, for Bermuda. The Alida, for Prince Edward Island. The Commodore, for St. John's. The Crescent City, for Valparaiso. The Rosalie, for Pernambuco. The Josefina, for Havana. The Adelaide, for St. Thomas. The Reuteria, for Porto Rico.—September 17: The Sea Chief, for Montevideo. The Burdeos-y-Habana No. 2, for Havana. The Star of the West, for Valparaiso.—September 20: The Majestic, The Zitella, for Nassau. The Annie Braginton, for Buenos Ayres. The Memnon (steamer), for Pernambuco. The Julie, for Matamoras. The Oceanica, for St. John's.

DEAL.—September 15: The Jane Barden, for Trinidad.—September 17: The Helen, for Demerara.

GRAVESEND.—September 16: The Arabella, for Madeira. The Lotus, for Prince Edward Island.—September 19: The Midlothian, for Demerara.—September 20: The British Tar, for Jamaica. The Sirius, for Buenos Ayres.—September 21: The Swan, for Halifax.

CARDIFF.—September 11: The Mattie Banks, for Bermuda.—September 15: The Espia, The Parga, for Montevideo. The Mary Russell, The Lidskjalf, for Rio Janeiro.—September 16: The P. Lacosta, for St. Thomas.—September 17: The Germania, for St. Thomas.—September 18: The Star of India, for Callao. The Ruth, for Rio Janeiro. The Morris, for St. Thomas.—September 19: The George Henry, for Buenos Ayres.

SWANSEA.—September 16: The Herradura, for Valparaiso. The Telegraph, for Cuba.—September 17: The Scotia, for Cuba. The Conqueror, for Cape de Verds.—September 19: The Emilie, for Madeira.—September 20: The Lotus, for Teneriffe. The Audax, for Madeira.

WATERFORD.—September 17: The Julia (steamer), for Nassau.

SOUTHAMPTON.—September 17: The Shannon (steamer), for West Indies.

PORTLAND.—September 19: The St. Bede, for Barbadoes.

PLYMOUTH.—September 17: The Lady Milne, for Bermuda.—September 19: The George Arkle, for Quebec.—September 20: The Kelpie, for Rio Grande. The Joshua, for Rio Janeiro.

SHIELDS.—September 16: The T. D. Marshall, for Rio Janeiro.

PORTSMOUTH.—September 19: The Isabella, for Havana.

NEWPORT.—September 15: The Margaret Kerr, for Havana.

MILFORD.—September 20: The Witch of the Wave, for Buenos Ayres.

CLYDE.—September 14: The Helena, for St. John's.—September 16: The Trinidad, for Havana.—September 19: The Bangalore, for Demerara.—September 21: The St. Mirreu, for Demerara.

QUEENSTOWN.—September 15: The Bat (steamer), for Bermuda.

SUNDERLAND.—September 14: The John George, for St. John's.

TROON.—September 20: The Java, for St. John's.

HULL.—September 17: The Julia, for Rio Janeiro.

GUERNSEY.—September 15: The Alarm, for Teneriffe.

SHIPS LOADING.

AT LONDON.—For New York: The Lafayette (mail steamer) from Havre, October 19: Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For West Indies: The Tampico (mail steamer) from St. Nazaire, October 16: Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For Nassau: The Refuge, St. Katharine's Docks, J. Worley. The Merchant, St. Katharine's Docks, Davison Brothers & Co.—For Bermuda: The Jane Smith, The Wanderer, The Quiver, The Hansa, The Era, The Ocean Spray. For Montevideo: The Gustave and Marie, Davison Brothers & Co., St. Katharine's Docks.

AT LIVERPOOL.—For Bermuda: The Nutfield, The Mary, The Ann and Mary, The Prioress.—For Madeira: The Macgregor Laird (steamer), The Garibaldi.—For Matamoras: The Oleander, The Rimac, The Byron, The St. George, The Wild Wave, The Mary and Jessie, The Julie.—For Nassau: The May Garland, The Prospero.—For Halifax: The Surprise.

AT CARDIFF.—For Bermuda: The Admiral Kanaris (steamer), C. Rapier. The Josephine, The Lillian, The Sakamba, The Juno, The Venus.—For Nassau: The Royal Arch.

AT SWANSEA.—For Madeira: The Stately.

AT NEWPORT.—For Madeira: The Rival.

AT GLOUCESTER.—For Bermuda: The Lillian.

Among the Contents of THE INDEX *of September 15 are:—*

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GENERAL EARLY ON RETALIATION.
PEACE IN AMERICA.
THE LAST FIGHT ON THE WELDON ROAD.
THE NOMINATION AND THE PLATFORM.
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THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.
THE LAUREATE'S LATEST VOLUME.
AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.
SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

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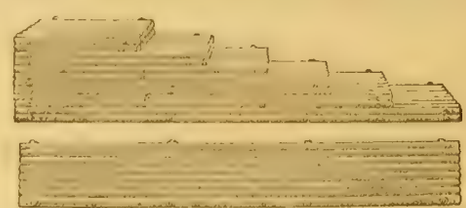

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BY AUTHORITY.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COLLECTORS OF CUSTOMS.

Treasury Department, C.S.A.
Richmond, March 12, 1864.

THE following regulations are prescribed for the government and directions of all officers of the revenue, to carry into effect the provisions of the Act to prohibit the importation of luxuries, or of articles not necessary or of common use, approved February 6, 1864:—

1. The importation of articles set forth in the schedule accompanying these regulations is absolutely prohibited.

2. None of said prohibited articles shall be admitted for duty after the 1st of March, 1864, or shall receive a permit to be landed unless it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the collector that they were actually shipped on board of the vessel in which they have arrived before the 1st of March, 1864, without knowledge of the passage of the Act aforesaid.

3. In case any prohibited articles shall be on board any ship, vessel, boat, raft or carriage arriving in the Confederate States after said 1st of March, and shall be omitted in the manifest, report, or entry of the master or person having charge or command of such ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, or shall be omitted in the entry of the goods owned by the owner or consigned to the consignee of such articles, or shall be imported or landed without a permit, the said goods shall be seized and dealt with, and the vessel and parties shall be subjected to the same forfeitures, fines, and penalties as in cases of similar omissions, landing, importation, or attempt to land or import, in relation to articles liable to duties on their importation into the Confederate States.

4. In case any prohibited article shall, after the 1st of March, 1864, be imported into the Confederate States, or shall, after said date, be put on board any ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, with the intention of importing the same into the Confederate States; all such articles shall be forfeited, and also all other articles on board the said ship or vessel, boat, raft, or carriage, belonging to the owner of such prohibited articles; and, moreover, the owner thereof shall forfeit and pay double the value of the prohibited articles.

5. The following additional oath or affirmation shall be taken by each master or person having charge or command of any ship or vessel which shall arrive at any port of the Confederate States after the 1st of March, 1864, viz.: 'I further swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, on board (insert the denomination and name of the vessel) any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover or know of any such goods, wares, or merchandise, on board of the said vessel, or which shall have been imported in the same, I will immediately, and without delay, report the same to the collector of this district'

6. Each importer, consignee, or agent shall at the time of entering any goods imported after the said 1st of March, 1864, take the follow additional oath, viz.: 'I also swear (or affirm) that there are not, to the best of my knowledge and belief, amongst the said goods, wares, or merchandise, imported or consigned as aforesaid, any goods, wares, or merchandise, the importation of which into the Confederate States is prohibited by law; and I do further swear (or affirm) that if I shall hereafter discover any such goods, wares, or merchandise, imported or consigned as aforesaid, I will immediately, and without delay, report the same to the collector of this district.

C. G. MEMMINGER, Secretary of Treasury.

LIST OF ARTICLES, THE IMPORTATION OF WHICH IS PROHIBITED BY AN ACT OF CONGRESS, ENTITLED 'AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE IMPORTATION OF LUXURIES OR ARTICLES NOT NECESSARIES OR OF COMMON USE.' APPROVED FEBRUARY 6, 1864.

Absinthe.
Alabaster and spar ornaments.
Alabata.
Ale, beer, and porter.
Almonds, raisins, currants, dates, figs, and all other dried or preserved fruits.
Amber beads.
Anchovies, sardines, and all other fish preserved in oil.
Angora, Thibet, and other goats' hair, or mohair manufactured.
Argentine, alabata, or German silver manufactured or unmanufactured.
Arrack.
Articles embroidered with gold, silver, or other metal.
Balsams, cosmetics, essences, extracts, pastes, perfumes, and tinctures used for the toilet.
Bananas, cocoa-nuts, pine apples, plantains, and oranges.
Bay rum.
Beads of amber, composition, or wax, and all other beads.
Benzoates.
Billiard and bagatelle tables, and all other tables or boards on which games are played.
Bracelets, braids, chains, curls or ringlets composed of hair, or of which hair is a component part.
Brandy and other spirits distilled from grain or other materials.
Brooms and brushes of all kinds.
Cabinet and household furniture.
Cabinets of coins, medals, gems, and all collections of antiquities.
Canes and sticks for walking, finished and unfinished.
Capers and sauces of all kinds.
Card cases, pocket books, shell boxes, souvenirs, and all similar articles, of whatever material composed.
Carpets, carpeting, hearth rugs, bedsides, and other portions of tapestry of every kind and description.
Carriages and parts of carriages.
Cider and other beverages not containing alcohol.
Clocks and parts of clocks.
Combs, confectionery, sweetmeats, or fruits preserved in sugar, molasses, brandy, or other liquors.
Composition tops for tables, or other articles of furniture.
Compositions of glass, set or unset.
Coral, cut or manufactured.
Cordials, absinthe, arrack, curaçoa, kirschen-wasser, liquors, maraschino, ratifia, and all other spirituous beverages of a similar character.
Cotton laces, cotton insertings, cotton trimmings, and laces of thread and other materials.
Diamonds, cameos, mosaics, gems, pearls, rubies, and other precious stones, and imitations thereof, when set in gold, silver, or other metal, and when not set.
Dolls and toys of all kinds.
Engravings, bound or unbound.
Epaulettes.
Fans and fire screens of every description, of whatever material composed.
Feathers and flowers, artificial or ornamental, and parts thereof, of whatever material composed.
Fire crackers, sky rockets, roman candles, and all similar articles used in pyrotechnics.
Galloons, laces, knots, stars, tassels, tresses, and wings of gold or silver, or imitations thereof, except when intended for uniforms of officers in the military and naval service.
Glass, cut.
Glass, coloured, stained or painted.
Grapes, plums, and prunes, and other fresh fruit when put up in bottles, cases, or cans.
Hair, human, cleansed or prepared for use.
India matting of all kinds.
Jet and manufactures of jet, and imitations thereof.
Jewelry, or imitations thereof.
Leaf and manufactured tobacco and cigars.
Manufactures of cedar wood, granadilla, ebony, mahogany, rose wood, and satin wood.
Manufactures of gold, platina, or silver.
Manufactures and articles of marble, marble paving tiles, slabs, or blocks, and all other marble.
Matting, China, or other floor matting, and mats made of flags, jute, or grass.
Muffs and tiffets, and all other manufactures of fur, or of which fur shall be a component part, except caps and hats.
Paintings and statuary.
Paintings on glass.
Paper hangings.
Paper for walls.
Paper for screens or fireboards.
Paving and roofing tiles and bricks, and roofing slates and fire bricks.
Perfumes, and perfumery of all sorts.
Plated and silt ware of all kinds.
Playing cards.
Prepared vegetables, fruits, meats, poultry, and game, sealed or enclosed in cans, or otherwise.
Ratans and reeds.
Scagliola table tops, or other articles of furniture.
Segars, snuff, paper segars, and all other manufactures of tobacco.
Silver-plated metal, in sheets or other form.
Thread lacings and insertings.
Velvets of all kinds.
Wines, burgundy, champagne, claret, madeira, port, sherry, and all other wines and imitations of wines.

NOTE.—None of the manufactures of metal designed as either household or personal ornaments shall be admitted.

Under the fourth section of the act, entitled 'An act to prohibit the importation of luxuries, or of articles not necessaries, or of common use,' approved February 6, 1864, the following maximum foreign prices are established, at which, and within which, importations of goods manufactured wholly or partly of cotton, flax, wool, or of silk, and designed for wearing apparel, and not prohibited by said act, and beyond which importations thereof shall not be made.

The prices named in the following, for all articles, are the invoice prices in coin, at the place of exportation:

MANUFACTURES OF COTTON.

All articles wholly of cotton, whether coloured or white, not to exceed 25 cents per square yard, excepting cottonades, corduroys, fustians, and velvetens, which shall not exceed 50 cents per yard.
Drawers, ready made, knit or woven, not to exceed 1 dol. per pair.
Gloves, not to exceed 25 cents per pair.
Hosiery, men's, not to exceed 25 cents per pair.
Hosiery, women's, not to exceed 35 cents per pair.
Shirts, ready made, knit or woven, not to exceed 1 dol. each.
Spool cotton, not to exceed 5 cents per 100 yards.
Tapes, not to exceed 5 cents per bunch of 12 yards.

MANUFACTURES OF FLAX.

All articles manufactured wholly of flax, whether coloured or white, not to exceed 50 cents per square yard.
Drawers, ready made, not to exceed 1 dol. 50 cents. per pair.
Gloves, not to exceed 50 cents. per pair.
Handkerchiefs, not to exceed 25 cents. a piece.
Hosiery, not to exceed 50 cents per pair.
Shirts, ready made, not to exceed 1 dol. 50 cents. each.
Tapes, not to exceed 5 cents per bunch of 12 yards.
Thread, not to exceed 1 dol. per pound.

MANUFACTURES OF WOOL.

Alpacas, cashmeres, de laines, lastings, merinos, mohairs, and Persian cloth, not to exceed 50 cents. per yard.
Bombazines and French Merinos, not to exceed 75 cents. per yard.
Beaver cloth and broad cloth, not to exceed 3 dols. per yard.
Bindings, not to exceed 5 cents per yard.
Drawers, knit or woven, not to exceed 1 dol. per pair.
Flannels, not to exceed 50 cents. per yard.
Gloves, not to exceed 40 cents per pair.
Hats, men's, not to exceed 2 dols. each.
Hats, women's, not to exceed 4 dols. each.
Hosiery, men's and women's, not to exceed 40 cents per pair.
Kerseys, kerseymeres, lions' skins, melton cloths, pilot cloth, serges, tweeds and vestings, not to exceed 2 dols. per yard.
Shawls, not to exceed 7 dols. 50 cents each.
Shirts, not to exceed 1 dol. each.

MANUFACTURES OF SILK.

Dress silk, not to exceed 1 dol. per yard.
Handkerchiefs, neck-ties, &c., not to exceed 75 cents a piece.
Mantillas, shawls, and ladies' wrappings of any kind, not to exceed 5 dol. each.
Ribbons, not to exceed 1 dol. per piece of 12 yards.
Serge lining, not to exceed 1 dol. per square yard.
Sewing silk, not to exceed 5 dol. per pound.
Vestings, not to exceed 2 dol. per square yard.
Manufactures of wool and cotton, wool and silk, wool and flax, or any combination of these materials, not to exceed 1 dol. per square yard. Articles composed of cotton and flax only, not to exceed 37 cents per square yard.

C. G. MEMMINGER, Secretary of Treasury.

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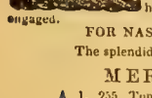

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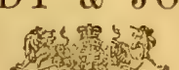
MILITARY  AND NAVAL

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The Northern Peace Party.

THE split in the Democratic party is not a subject for surprise or regret. The Chicago Convention was a hollow truce. Forbearance and compromise are indeed essential to the existence and usefulness of a party, but to compromise on the most important issue before the country is simply absurd. Now this was done at Chicago. The Peace Democrats and the War Democrats, after long negotiation, entered into a compact to join forces against the Republicans. It is fair to say, however, that the Peace men never consented to any sacrifice of principle. The arguments by which they were won over were very plausible, and the terms offered were perfectly fair, and such that as patriots they were bound to accept them. The War Democrats declared that they were determined to have peace; that they would strive to restore the Union by diplomacy; but if that failed, then they were prepared to recognise the independence of the South. These terms, we say, were proffered by the War Democrats to the Peace Democrats, and they were fully endorsed and pertinaciously urged by those who are known to enjoy the confidence of General M'CLELLAN. So at Chicago the War Democrats voted for a pacific platform, and the Peace Democrats voted for the favourite candidate of the War Democrats. The election being so near, it was expected that the alliance would last until the new President was chosen; but General M'CLELLAN has been driven by the moves of the Lincolnites to forthwith discover his game, and consequently the friends of peace will not have to endure the mortification of securing the return of a War President. Much to General M'CLELLAN's disgust, he found that Mr. LINCOLN was bidding heavily for the peace and non-abolition votes. Mr. SEWARD made a pro-slavery speech, and Mr. LINCOLN buzzed about that he was solicitous to put an end to hostilities. Alarmed at these commonplace manœuvres, and fancying that the fall of Atlanta would evoke some martial ardour, General M'CLELLAN promptly and rashly adopted the strategy of his opponent. Mr. LINCOLN was going in for peace, therefore General M'CLELLAN came out boldly for war. Grievously has the General blundered. He will not get any Republican votes. He has certainly lost the support of an influential section of the Democrats.

We need hardly observe that, so far as the South is concerned, it matters not whether a War-christian or a War-democrat is the next President of the United States. And we may add that it matters not to the North. If Rome is to be burnt, it is as well that the conflagration should be directed by a fiddling NERO as by a graver tyrant. If America is doomed to another four years of bloodshed and devastation, it matters not whether the master of the White House is a second-rate jester or a second-rate soldier. General M'CLELLAN says that he will abide by the Constitution. Mr. LINCOLN made the like promise before the war began. The truth is, to carry on war against the South necessitates the violation of the Constitution. It is vain to try to compass the evil end by righteous means. Whilst the North is seeking to trample on the liberty and rights of the South, she must needs forego her own rights and liberty. This General M'CLELLAN knows by experience. During the whole of Mr. LINCOLN's administration there has not been a more flagrantly illegal act than the arrest and imprisonment of the Maryland Legislature. Who suggested and effected this iniquitous business? Why, it was General M'CLELLAN who planned and carried out the most arbitrary proceeding of the present Federal Government. But General M'CLELLAN is not without an excuse. He pleads military necessity and incorrect information. But this is Mr. LINCOLN's—it is the universal—plea and excuse for tyranny. Whether a War-christian or a War-democrat, whether LINCOLN or M'CLELLAN, is President of the United States, so long as war is waged against the South, so long will acts of despotism be necessary. We are, therefore, neither glad nor sorry to hear that General M'CLELLAN has much less chance of winning than he had a month ago. We are, however, concerned to enquire how far the prospects of peace have been affected by the Democratic split.

There are now three parties in the United States. We do not count the FREMONT party, for that is virtually extinct. In many respects there are striking analogies between FREMONT and M'CLELLAN. Both want power. Both favour the prosecution of the war. Both assert that they can carry on the war without violating the Constitution, although each of them in his military capacity has grossly violated the Constitution. We are now informed that FREMONT is about to retire from the contest, and we dare say that he will not go unrewarded for the sacrifice.

The Republican party—or rather let us say the Lincolnite party—has thrown off all disguise as to the object it has in view. Does any one suppose that the Lincolnites wage the ferocious war out of love for the Union? Let such a one mark what has lately occurred. From the pulpits, platforms, and presses of New England it has been declared repeatedly and passionately that, if a Republican was not elected President, then the struggle for the Union was over. At one moment after Mr. LINCOLN's letter 'to whom it may concern,' it was suggested that a candidate more popular should be put forward. Now let us ask why the restoration of the Union would be in greater jeopardy if a War Democrat should be chosen for President. M'CLELLAN is as much for the Union as LINCOLN is. Yet the Republican leaders were sincere and candid in declaring that they should treat the election of a Democrat as the signal for giving up the contest. If a Democrat had to bestow the patronage of the Government, the war, instead of being a profit, would become a burden to Republican citizens. Hence, if some unforeseen accident should give M'CLELLAN a majority, and the master of legions should respect the decision of the ballot-box, the Republicans would at once advocate peace. Or is it suggested that the Lincolnites are fighting for emancipation? Why, Mr. LINCOLN has been most careful to avow that with him emancipation is merely a war measure, and this month his chief Minister Mr. SEWARD has stated that his party do not intend to interfere with the institution of slavery after the conclusion of peace. It is not for the restoration of the Union—it is not for emancipation—that the Lincolnites are working. Their object is the retention of power. The Republican party is for emancipation or for the perpetuation of slavery, it is for Union or disunion, it is for any principle or for any policy that will secure a renewed lease of power.

The War-Democrat or M'CLELLAN party is actuated by precisely the same motive. It deplores the war, and will carry on the war. It talks of peace, and rejects the only means by which peace can be obtained. It talks about the rights of sovereign States, and is prepared to fight against the sovereign rights of the Southern States. It changes and shifts with every gust of popular passion. Now the people are weary of the war, and the War Democrats are for peace. Anon Atlanta falls, FARRAGUT gains a naval victory at Mobile, the shoddy contractors get up a little show of martial ardour, and forthwith the War Democrat is for war. The M'CLELLAN party, like the LINCOLN party, has but one object, and that is at any cost to get power and patronage.

The third party is the Peace party. Now we do not say that this party, like its antagonists, does not covet power. All political parties aim, and rightly, to obtain office, for that is the very purpose of party organisation. But the Peace party has a distinct and definite policy. It stoutly maintains that whilst it hates the war it loves the Union, but it is prepared to recognise the separate government of the South, if the South declines to reenter the Union. The present strength of the Peace party is unknown. Probably it is in a minority, and the 4th of November is so near that it may be that there is no chance for the election of a Peace candidate. But nevertheless we are convinced that the Peace party by breaking from the War Democrats will gain enormously in influence. In the United States, especially on the border of the Western States, there are multitudes of men who are sick of the war, and who will gladly rally round a Peace party. Henceforth every military disaster, every fresh list of killed and wounded, every threat of a draft, every commercial difficulty, every act of despotism, will swell the ranks of the Peace party. If M'CLELLAN becomes President, New England will league herself with the Peace party. If Mr. LINCOLN is reelected, the leaders of the War Democrats will find themselves deserted, for their followers will join the Peace party. We therefore believe that the prospects of peace are brightened because the Chicago Convention is broken up, and because there is a party in the North which inscribes the word 'Peace' upon its banners.

It may be that the war is not so near an end as we think, and that our judgment is biassed by our earnest desire for peace. We do not conceal that we wish for peace, for if we did so we should grossly misrepresent what we know to be the sentiment of the Southern people. The South fights for peace, and for peace only. She asks nothing of her antagonist but to be let alone. We are aware how this peace sentiment of the South is used to keep up the war spirit in the North. The Confederate Government, under a dread sense of responsibility, whilst wielding the sword with one hand, holds the olive-branch in the other. Not one hour of unnecessary war will the Confederacy permit to be laid to her charge. But strange it is that this anxiety for peace should be regarded as a sign of the South being about to give in. Strange it is that it should be necessary to declare that the only terms on which peace can be made are the withdrawal of invading armies from Southern territory. Between the two peoples there is a great gulf, which war widens, but which a century of diplomacy cannot bridge. If any Northerner is under the impression that the South will consent to reunion on any terms, we would remind him that the South could at any time since the war broke out have returned to the Union on any terms she chose to propose. But she has endured the worst, for with her the worst is past, and in her greatest suffering she has never thought of reunion. The separation is final. The war may last ten years, but, unless the Southern population is exterminated, when peace is made there will be an acknowledgment of the separate government of the South. Therefore the North can gain nothing by not concluding immediate peace. Let the past four years teach her what she will lose by war. Well will it be for the Confederate States, but, above all, well for the United States, if the Northern Peace party becomes dominant.

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

The situation remains unchanged in front of Petersburg and on the line of the Weldon Railroad. General Grant had gone on a visit to Washington, from which place, it is stated, he went to Harper's Ferry. The cavalry of General Lee's army has captured 3,000 head of cattle, opposite Harrison's Landing, on James River.

A furious battle is reported as having been fought on the 18th in the Valley of the Shenandoah, between the Confederates under Early and the Federals under Sheridan. The latter is stated as having made the attack; and the issue of the battle, which lasted throughout the day, was the defeat of Early, with the loss of 2,500 prisoners, 5 pieces of artillery, and 5,000 in killed and wounded, among whom were Generals Gordon and Shaler. Sheridan afterwards occupied Winchester. There is good reason to distrust this report as it is here given. It came by telegram to Cape Race after the departure of the steamer from Boston.

Reports from Mobile, which are discredited even in Washington, state that four monitors of Admiral Farragut's fleet had ascended the bay within shelling distance of the city. No reliance whatever can be placed upon these 'sensational' despatches; but if it should indeed prove true that Farragut has got within range of Mobile, this is by no means conclusive of the capture of the city, as the bombardments of Charleston and Petersburg abundantly prove.

General Price is said to be preparing an invasion of Missouri.

Atlanta was still held by Sherman, who had ordered all the citizens to remove from the town. General Hood granted a truce of ten days for the purpose of effecting the removal, but entered his protest against the order as in violation of the usages of civilised warfare. General Hood was in position at Lovejoy's Station, and affairs were quiescent at the latest advices.

General M'Clellan's letter accepting the Chicago nomination, which we elsewhere publish, has divided the Democratic party. The Peace men have declared against M'Clellan. The *New York Daily News*, the able and spirited organ of the Peace party, proposes to call another meeting of the Convention. It is supposed that a Peace Democrat will be started. It is also asserted that Mr. Pendleton, who was nominated for the Vice-Presidency, will refuse to run with M'Clellan.

General Fremont, it is said, will retire from the contest.

One Nelson Burlingame has been arrested at Washington City for attempting to enlist lunatics in the Federal army, or as it is more plainly stated in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, for 'stealing lunatics' with the intention of putting them in the ranks as substitutes. It does not appear whether Nelson is of the same family with Anson Burlingame, the Black Republican diplomatist, who once declared that he wanted 'an anti-slavery Bible and an anti-slavery God,' nor do we learn the exact circumstances of his arrest, whether it was at the instance of the Directors of the Lunatic Asylum or of Mr. Stanton. Probably Nelson was raising considerable sums of money by providing substitutes for men of sound mind and body, and thus defrauding the Government of good soldiers by giving them crazy ones. Certainly, if his offence consisted only in endeavouring to get the poor lunatics to enlist, it might have been regarded by the Washington authorities as a venial if not a praiseworthy one. In the inception of the war Lincoln abetted the so-styled Governor Pierpoint, of the pretended State of 'Western Virginia,' in stealing $47,000 in gold belonging to the North-western Lunatic Asylum at Weston, in Lewis County, Virginia, so that the idea of humanity is out of the question, while the army is in such pressing want of troops that they might be glad to get any recruits, sane or insane. The Federals have emptied their prisons and hospitals to reinforce Grant; why should they not turn out the inmates of bedlam for this patriotic purpose? Indeed, there are many who regard the 'universal Yankee nation' as stark mad, and the difference between Mr. Burlingame's recruits and the rest of their soldiers would be a difference only in degree.

It would seem a difficult matter for any new Federal commander to emulate with success the infamy of Butler, Sherman, Turchin, and M'Neill, and yet General E. A. Paine, commanding in Western Kentucky, has fairly entitled himself to rank with these ruthless 'restorers of the Union.' General Paine was only assigned to duty in his new department on the 20th July last, but he has made the most of his opportunity. Upon his arrival he was waited upon by delegations of respectable citizens, representing the agricultural and commercial interests of the country, to whom he gave his views with great force and perspicuity. 'Gentlemen,' said he, 'the only question on trial here is, "Are you people of this district ready for the Federal salvation?" If so, well; if not, you must die.' Perfectly plain and comprehensible this; but the General proceeds to develope his plan for the cure of disloyalty and the Federal salvation. He says:—

It is substantially as follows: The first and great commandment is that all you disloyal, rebellious people shall not circulate one dollar of capital in all this land. Not a dollar, no debt or bill of exchange can be paid or made without my signature, and I pledge you I will not approve any money transactions of a disloyal man. All his capital, all his money, every cent of it, shall be placed at the disposal of the Government. I will teach you that, having encouraged this rebellion, having comforted and aided your country's enemies, you must, aye, shall, reap a traitor's reward.

Before going further General Paine seems to have thought it necessary to disabuse the minds of the disaffected Kentuckians of the false notion that they had any natural or political rights, as follows:—

Talk about your rights! Why, you have no rights to talk about. A loyal citizen is the only one left with any rights at this time. And yet you come to me, asking for a banking privilege. Great God! the devil might as well ask the Almighty for a front seat in heaven. No; if in your prosperity you have despised this great and good Government, you may soon have the privilege to love it in your adversity. Not only this, but you ought, aye you must fight for this Government.

Having thus prepared his hearers for receiving salutary admonition, he goes on to announce his 'second commandment:'—

The second commandment is, that all you notorious rebels get out of your houses and leave my district, so that Union men and women may come here to help me redeem this country. What do I care about your tobacco interest, the market value of your niggers or cotton?

Very little, we should suppose, except to 'realise' their value as Butler did in New Orleans, but there remains something yet for Paine to promise. Butler murdered Mumford, and, mindful of this, the General declares:—

I shall shoot every guerilla taken in my district, and if your Southern brethren retaliate by shooting a Federal soldier, I will walk out five of your rich bankers, brokers, and cotton men, and make you kneel down and shoot you. I will do it, so help me God! You men of such large influence will be held responsible for the peace of this district. If a Union man is murdered by these guerillas here, the same fate awaits five of you gentlemen. I have sworn it, and it shall be done.

I am going to manage this district so that when I am done with it the men and women who remain can come together in the name of the Lord, and say that 'we belong to the United States.'

One might well doubt the genuineness of this report of General Paine's remarks were it not given in the columns of a Federal journal by a correspondent who tells us, with refreshing satisfaction, that 'unlike commanders generally . . . he took a straightforward *high-minded course*, never forgetting that he was the representative of a mighty republic, struggling for victory over treason and rebellion.' But we have a gratifying confirmation of the accuracy of the report in two 'general orders' issued from headquarters, the one three, the other six days after his coming. We give these orders as historical documents, and forbear comment on their sweeping cruelty. They speak for themselves.

Headquarters District of Western Kentucky,
Paducah, Kentucky, July 23, 1864.
General Orders No. 6.

I. All persons occupying houses, and barns, and other buildings—all persons occupying lands as tenants or otherwise, are positively prohibited from paying rent for such use and occupation, except to landlords and owners who are unswerving, unconditional, and undeviating Union persons or corporations.

II. All persons so using and occupying such buildings will, on the first day of August, attorn to the Government of the United States and make their payment of rents to the Post Quartermaster, at the nearest post in this district.

III. No payment of rents between this day and August 1, 1864, will be valid.

By command of
Brigadier-General E. A. Paine.
Phelps Paine, Captain and A. A. General.

Headquarters District Western Kentucky,
Paducah, July 26, 1864.
General Orders No. 7.

I. All banks within the limits of this district, except the post of Cairo, are prohibited from paying out any money or making any transfer, except by special commission from these headquarters.

By command of
Brigadier-General E. A. Paine.
Phelps Payne, Captain and A. A. General.

Advices from Halifax represent no less than ten blockade-running steamers as lying at that port, the *Little Hattie*, *North Heath*, *Constance*, *Flamingo*, *Lady Shirley*, *Condor*, *Mary* (formerly the famous *Alexandra*), *Asia* (tender to the fleet), *Old Dominion*, and *City of Petersburg*. The last two left Wilmington on September 5, and arrived in Halifax, the first-named on the night of the 10th and the second on the morning of the 11th, bringing together 1,800 bales of cotton, said to be in payment of the interest for the Confederate loan. These vessels report the *Tallahassee* as ready to leave on another cruise on September 6, and a companion cruiser of similar construction and armament was to assist her in crippling still further the coasting trade of the United States.

In the event of hostilities between Spain and Peru, the United States of America may become involved, through the force of a treaty with New Grenada, by which the United States guaranteed to maintain, by strength of arms if necessary, the neutrality of the Isthmus of Panama. Peru has called upon the United States of Columbia, formerly New Grenada, to prevent the passage of Spanish troops across the Isthmus for purposes hostile to her. Columbia, not having the requisite power to oppose Spain in such a movement, has called upon the United States of America to carry out the guarantee of the treaty. The only question that arose upon this demand was whether a treaty made with New Grenada could be set up by the United States of Columbia. The Attorney-General at Washington having decided that New Grenada and Columbia are one and the same, it would seem that Mr. Lincoln may possibly be compelled to send ships and troops to preserve the neutrality of the Isthmus, though ships and men are just what at this moment he cannot well spare.

The State elections in Maine took place on the 12th inst. Sufficient returns had been received at Portland to show the triumph of the Republican ticket by a large majority.

ENGLAND.

Mr. Laing, the late Finance Minister in India, has delivered at Wick a lecture on 'the Trade and Finance of the British Empire,' from which, amidst a crowd of figures of great interest, marshalled with the skill and authority of an accomplished financier, the following statistics may be extracted:—The foreign trade of Great Britain and Ireland for the year 1863, according to Mr. Laing, amounted to 444,000,000*l.*, nearly double of the aggregate of imports and exports in 1854. Of the sum total, 248,000,000*l.* represent the imports, and 195,000,000*l.* the exports. Articles of consumption and raw materials imported were as follows: Corn, 28,000,000*l.*; live stock, 6,000,000*l.*; butter, eggs, and cheese, 6,000,000*l.*; tea, 10,500,000*l.*; coffee, 4,000,000*l.*; sugar, 12,000,000*l.*; dried fruits, 2,000,000*l.*; spirits, 1,800,000*l.*; wine, 4,500,000*l.*; tobacco, 3,300,000*l.*; cotton, 56,000,000*l.*; wool, 12,000,000*l.*; silk, 9,500,000*l.*; flax, hemp, and jute, 4,000,000*l.*; timber, 11,500,000*l.*; oils, 8,000,000*l.*; dyeing materials, 4,000,000*l.*; hides, 3,500,000*l.*; copper and other metals, 4,000,000*l.*; hemp and jute, 3,500,000*l.*; tallow, 2,500,000*l.*; guano, 2,560,000*l.*; leaving 25,000,000*l.* for miscellaneous articles. In exports, cottons figured at 47,500,000*l.*; woollens, 20,500,000*l.*; linens, 9,000,000*l.*; haberdashery, hats, shoes, &c., 9,000,000*l.*; silks, 1,500,000*l.*; metals, 28,000,000*l.*; earthenware and glass, 1,800,000*l.*; arms and ammunition, 1,500,000*l.*; beer, drugs, alkalis, butter, cheese, bacon, pickles, &c., 7,500,000*l.*; coals, 3,700,000*l.* British possessions were the best customers, furnishing very nearly one-third of the import and one-half of the export trade. So British India gave nearly 50,000,000*l.* of imports and took 20,000,000*l.* of exports. Australia, exclusively of the precious metals, sent 7,000,000*l.* and received 13,000,000*l.* The North American colonies gave 8,000,000*l.* imports and took 5,000,000*l.* exports. At the head of the foreign list stood France, showing an aggregate of imports and exports amounting to 42,000,000*l.*, an increase of about 18,000,000*l.* since the commercial treaty. The average imports and exports with the United States, which used to reach 60,000,000*l.*, have declined, owing to the war, to about 40,000,000*l.* The trade with Egypt amounted to 20,000,000*l.*, that with Russia to only 18,000,000*l.*, with Prussia and North Germany to 32,000,000*l.*, with Holland to 18,000,000*l.*, Belgium to 9,000,000*l.*, Spain to 6,500,000*l.*, Cuba 6,000,000*l.*, and Brazils 8,000,000*l.*

For more than three months a strike of considerable magnitude and of serious consequences has prevailed in the South Staffordshire district. About 30,000 colliers have thought fit to combine to raise the rate of wages, to deprive themselves of some thousand pounds of pay, and their masters of any possibility of a return for their capital or of the execution of pending contracts. The mischief has now assumed a more threatening aspect, and it is certain that, unless some solution of the matters in dispute be devised, the trade of Birmingham will come to a stand-still from want of coal. Indeed, if the strike continues for another fortnight, about 50,000 artisans in Birmingham will be thrown out of work, and the suffering from the coal famine will be as terrible as that from the cotton famine. A meeting has been held at Birmingham, with the Mayor in the chair, to consider the position of affairs. After some debate a resolution was carried requesting the parties to the dispute to accept the arbitration of Lord Lichfield and Lord Lyttelton, the Lord-Lieutenants of the counties of Stafford and Worcester, in conjunction with the Mayor of Birmingham. During the course of the strike there has been the usual amount of intimidation exercised against persons willing to work at the disputed rates, and some disturbances have ensued in consequence of the arrest and punishment of the ring-leaders in a case of prohibition. Indeed, the defendants were conducted to the police-court amid the applause of a mob of 2,000 persons and the sounds of bands of music. The punishment inflicted on them was six weeks' imprisonment with hard labour. Fears are entertained that the disaffection will spread into the Cleveland iron district, where the results would be most disastrous, from the present activity and the enormous contracts in hand. Large numbers of men continually arrive from Staffordshire fully prepared to inculcate the doctrine of 'higher wages or no work.' At the Tudhoe Ironworks, the men, according to notice, have already stopped work.

The National Association for the Promotion of Social Science commenced its eighth annual session, in the city of York, on Thursday last. The capital of the North was of course filled with a crowd of statesmen, economists, philosophers, judges, and physicians, with a few political and social quacks, and a goodly sprinkling of ladies eminent either for real or pretended talents. Papers were announced as in readiness at the hands of both male and female lecturers on every conceivable subject, from 'Crowded Lodging-houses' to 'Aboriginal Races in Australia.' Lord Brougham delivered, as President, the inaugural address; and his speech, wandering over a wide field, surveyed the theory and practice of education, the revised code, the Post Office, the improvement of lighthouses, the balance of power, the partition of Poland, the aggressive policy of Prussia and her outrageous conduct towards Denmark, the Aberdeen Act, colonial policy, private bills in Parliament, Mr. Gladstone's Annuities Bill, county courts, the treatment of convicts, permissive liquor laws, bribery and reform, the French army at Rome, the Belgian elections, the American war, and the decline of orthodoxy in the Church. One passage from his Lordship's speech perhaps deserves quotation *verbatim*. It will be observed that his Lordship, though particularly severe against the Federal Government and people, is by no means ready entirely to acquit the Southern States. In fact, Lord Brougham bears a slight resemblance to the *plagosus orbilius* of Eton School, who, to preserve decorum in the College chapel, was accustomed to condemn to the rod on each Monday in the year a section of ten boys, in

accordance with his idea of a rigid *in terrorem* impartiality. The words of his Lordship were these:—

Some good men have been deceived by the notion that slavery is the cause of the war—duped by the pretext that the North fights to free the slave, whereas their emancipation edict was a mere belligerent measure, and an after-thought; they (as Bishop Wilberforce said) caring no more for the freedom of the black than they do for that of the white. But it had been reserved for the later act of the tragedy to see that Government, when destitute of other troops, drive herds of the unhappy negroes to slaughter, with no more remorse than sportsmen feel in clearing a preserve. Yet certain though it be that the North did not make war to free the slave, and that this could not have entered into their consideration when they began the contest for preventing the secession, it is no less certain that the maintenance of slavery—their detestable institution—was partly the object of the South in fighting for their independence; and the friend of humanity, although feeling that we are not entitled to require a more sudden emancipation than we ourselves effected in our colonies, may yet earnestly hope that out of this cruel contest and its countless evils the mercy of an all-ruling Providence may draw the good, contemplated by neither party, of giving freedom to the slave. But whatever difference of opinion may prevail regarding the origin of this frightful civil war, there can be none as to the duty imposed on other nations of not taking part with either belligerent; and in this country persons were most properly warned by proclamation against enlisting in either army, the enforcement of the Foreign Enlistment Act being held out as certain. Every British subject is liable to its penalties who so enlists, and that which now is a misdemeanour was formerly a felony, at one time punishable with death. All who serve in the army of either party are guilty, and may be prosecuted in the Court of Queen's Bench as if their enlistments had been in an English county. Therefore, the North makes war upon the South by troops composed in part of persons liable to prosecution for the offence of enlisting, and it was one of the gravest charges upon George III. that he employed German mercenaries against the independence of America, though these Germans were guilty of no offence in hiring themselves to the service. The poor Irish, who thus sell themselves, break the law of their own country in order to perpetuate in America all the crimes of civil war.

Lord Brougham, unfortunately, is willing to add himself to the number of those who can congratulate themselves on the attainment of an end in spite of the atrocity of the means.

FRANZ MÜLLER, after a protracted examination, was on Monday committed for trial by Mr. Flowers, the magistrate at the Bow Street police-court. When asked whether he wished to say anything in answer to the charge, the prisoner replied, 'I have nothing to say now.' The proceedings at the coroner's inquest were also brought to a close on Monday, and the verdict of the jury was that 'the deceased died from the effects of foul violence inflicted on him in a first-class carriage of the North London Railway on the night of the 9th of July last, and that Franz Müller was the man by whom the violence was committed.' The foreman of the jury also said that 'the jury, while giving their verdict, took the opportunity of expressing their dissatisfaction with the present state of railway accommodation, as affording facilities for the perpetration of various crimes and offences, and earnestly desired to call the attention of the Home Government to the subject, and to the necessity of enforcing the adoption by railway companies of some more effectual system of protection to life, character, and property.' It is not necessary, in view of the coming trial of Müller at the Central Criminal Court, to give an abstract of the evidence adduced before the magistrate and the coroner. So far as space will admit, the principal points as exhibited at the trial before the Court will in due course be detailed.

AMONG forgeries worthy of record the acts of a delinquent named John Woodhead Marsden ought not to escape notice. The Leeds Banking Company suspended payment last week, and a committee is busily employed in the Augean task of unravelling the mysteries, detecting the frauds, and adjusting the figures involved in the accounts. Among other discoveries of a similar nature, it has been found that one of the customers has passed 1,000 forged bills of exchange, representing 68,000*l.*, through the bank, and that bills of a similar character are held to the amount of 10,000*l.* Marsden was indebted to the bank for several thousand pounds, and was summoned before the committee. He, however, believed that in flight there was safety, and at once disappeared. His manager, Thomas Scaife, attended, made a full confession, was arrested, and, after examination, committed for trial. It is stated that the banking company is under liabilities for bills to the value of about one million sterling, and that a large amount of the bills is fictitious paper. The total liabilities of the bank are about two millions sterling, and the assets about one million.

WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR died at Florence, on the 17th inst., at the ripe age of 79. The deceased was descended from an ancient family, and he inherited estates that had been in the family possession for nearly seven centuries. Though best known as an author, he led a somewhat eventful and active life. He took part in the Spanish war, and received the thanks of the Supreme Junta and the rank of colonel. But being indignant at the unconstitutional proceedings of Ferdinand, he resigned his commission and the record of thanks. He was a professor of Republicanism, but rather disgusted Republicans by devoting his energies to the preservation of game. His works were brilliant, and at one time popular; but they are no longer read. They lack purpose and consistency, and they lack ideas. The 'Imaginary Conversations' will perhaps prove the most enduring. His last days were clouded by an unfortunate affair at Bath, in which Mr. Landor was clearly in the wrong, and the only excuse that could be offered for his conduct was the infirmity of old age.

THE CONTINENT.

ITALY.

The effects of the new Franco-Italian Convention have been instantaneous, striking, and important. Nothing less was to be expected from the terms of it, of which we gave a *résumé* last week. The leading feature in it is that at the end of a definite time the Italians are to be allowed to arrange their affairs with the Pope and his subjects *en famille* without the officious interference of friends. Such at least is presumed to be the intention of the treaty; but the framers of it were evidently aware that the family arrangement which would take place upon the withdrawal of the French troops from Rome would be short and sweet; the French would go, and the Pope would follow in the next steamer. To prevent such a consummation, it is arranged that the Pope should keep up a certain force, presumably sufficient to keep his own subjects in order, till a more pacific settlement should be arrived at with the Italian Government. The outward and visible sign by which the position of affairs in this case can best be symbolised, is the establishment of the seat of the Italian Government at Florence, this being a step nearer Rome, and at the same time a pledge of moderation and caution in further advances; since a transfer of the Government from Turin to Florence, and thence immediately to Rome, would involve an expense from which even the prodigality of the Italian Government would shrink. Another reason is given, and one of the greatest weight, why Florence should be made the metropolis in the place of Turin. Great uneasiness continues to prevail on the score of the attitude of Austria towards Italy. Turin must always be exposed to a sudden march of Austrian troops out of the Quadrilateral; Florence, on the contrary, is protected by the Apennines and by the sea in a manner which must make a sudden surprise from any quarter almost impracticable. Under these circumstances we cannot wonder that it should be generally understood that the present will be the last session of Parliament held at Turin. The people of Turin are, of course, disgusted; they have enjoyed for some years the advantages of a great metropolis, and have given little in return. Their town has been year by year crowded by an influx of Italians from all parts of the kingdom; the accommodation which they could offer to them was insufficient, and no capitalists could be found bold enough to lay out money in the enlargement of the town, in the face of the probable removal of the seat of Government, which is now to take place. Prices at Turin were consequently exorbitant; and the inhabitants reaped a more than golden harvest out of the political difficulties of their country. Immediately, therefore, upon the publication of the new convention in Turin, rioters began to assemble. On the evening of the 20th inst. the concourse was induced to disperse after a few shouts of 'Down with the Ministry.' On the next evening they again assembled in front of the Royal Palace. This time the shouts were 'Turin for the capital.' The military were called out, and encircled the rioters; these tried to break through the iron ring and attack the houses of some of the Ministry; the carbineers on duty, exasperated by the resistance and suffering from the attacks of the crowd, fired upon the people—without orders, as the official gazette asserts, but the question is of no moment—several of the citizens were killed and others wounded. Of the carbineers some twenty were wounded, some of them seriously. Again, on the following evening the crowds collected, this time supplied with missiles and firearms. Fresh troops had been summoned into the city under the command of General della Rocca; the mob was firmly met. The advice of Napoleon was followed, never to fire over, but right into a crowd: twenty persons were killed and wounded; on the side of the military also some casualties took place. On the 22nd inst. another attack was made by the mob; the object of their violence on this occasion was the office of the *Gazette* of Turin; it was repulsed by the National Guard, but not without the infliction of wounds on both sides. The Syndic of Turin has published a proclamation calling upon the inhabitants of the city to leave the question in the hands of their deputies, who will see that their rights are fairly recognised in Parliament. The King has taken the energetic step of calling upon General La Marmora to form a ministry. The gravity of this proceeding must not be disregarded; La Marmora is a soldier, and little else but a soldier, and his appointment betokens either troublous times for the internal affairs of Italy, or a fatal preference on the part of the King for violent measures to the more regular course of an appeal to the Constitution. The Ministry have certainly shown themselves unequal to the occasion, and the King appears to have acted with great judgment in requesting them to send in their resignation. General La Marmora has taken into his Cabinet two Piedmontese deputies, S. Lanza and S. Pella, for the portfolios of the Interior and of Finance respectively. His Majesty has, of course, been extremely distressed at the late manifestations in Turin, and had formed the intention of riding through the streets to show himself to the people after having first issued a manifesto explaining to them the intentions of the Government. On attempting, however, to draw up the manifesto so many serious difficulties were encountered, that it was found necessary to abandon the whole plan. The arrangement, proposed in consequence of the Convention, has been received with entire satisfaction by the rest of Italy. Florence declares itself willing to accept the temporary diadem, only with a view to the passing of it on eventually to Rome. A few journals only have considered the act of emigration from Turin to Florence as a surrender of the principle on which Italy was founded, and a mere playing into the hands of the Pope.

Count de Sartiges has communicated to the Pope the terms of the Franco-Italian Convention. The Count gave renewed assurances of the goodwill of the Emperor towards His Holiness, with promises of advice and assistance to enable the Pope to carry out any measures which might be necessary in view of the proposed solution. The Pope and Cardinal Antonelli both declared that the announcement had not surprised them, that they were aware that the *status quo* could not be indefinitely prolonged, and acknowledged the loyalty and good faith of His Majesty. His Holiness demanded time for the careful consideration of the terms proposed, in order that he might at a future time deliver a well-weighed opinion on the effect of the new state of things on the interest of the Papacy.

FRANCE.

An expedition is in rapid course of preparation at Toulon for the ascent of the Niger River. The French Government has furnished guns, ammunition, and a military force. The general expenses, which are on the most extensive scale, are to be defrayed from private sources. Captain Magnan, a retired officer of the French navy, will take the command. His fleet will consist of a galliot, a merchant ship, and four gunboats of light draught. He will be accompanied by a select force of scientific men and artists, and will take out a rich cargo of miscellaneous goods.

If 'vice, by losing all its grossness, loses half its evil,' surely swindling may be redeemed by its own magnificence. It is difficult to imagine the President of the Tribunal of Correctional Police consigning to eighteen months' imprisonment an individual who bore the name and titles of Wladimir Milonitowich, Duke of Medunum, Duke of Grao, and who was, moreover, a near relative of the reigning Prince of Montenegro. Astonishment at the audacity of the magistrate is increased with the knowledge that the accused also claimed the immortal name of Miltiades of Greece. Pity for fallen greatness might have touched the heart even of a French judge on learning that so noble a man had accepted the shelter of the roof of an hotel-keeper in the Rue de l'Arbre Sec, being at the time destitute of food, of money, and of clothes; and that pity should have changed to admiration for the charity of the Countess Gaetano de Barrigha, a lady of great wealth, who paid a debt of 70 francs to the hotel-keeper, who supplied her *protégé* with cash, and even honoured his drafts to the amount of 25,000 francs. Then again there was the liberality of M. Wall, who thought the name of a relative of the Prince of Montenegro a sufficient remuneration for coats and pantaloons to the value of 3,068 francs. Certainly, M. Wall, as well as one M. Onpell, a *chemisier*, had the additional satisfaction of believing that their customer was betrothed to the sister of the King of Portugal, and held in his possession the crown diamonds of Montenegro. When Wladimir Milonitowich emerges from the dungeons of Paris, doubtless the tailor, the shirt-maker, and the countess will once more hasten to relieve the cousin of the ruler of Montenegro.

An amusing example has lately been presented in the Civil Court of the Seine of the extent to which a French restaurateur will charge, and a Russian spendthrift be expected to pay. A young Russian nobleman named Bazylewski was brought up before the court for the sum of 600*l.* or 700*l.*, borrowed of M. Vavasseur, the famous French cook of St. Petersburg, besides a trifling account due for dinners, suppers, &c. M. Bazylewski admitted having borrowed the money, but demurred somewhat to the amount claimed for 'goods supplied.' M. Vavasseur's books were therefore produced in court. Among the items were found 'supper and breakage, 470 francs 40 cents; ditto, 1,386 francs; ditto, 1,092 francs 80 cents; breakfast and breakage, 840 francs; supper again, 1,011 francs 20 cents.' What the whole amount claimed might have been is not known. The court declined to allow the plaintiff more than 17,140 francs, or about 1,000 francs more than was due to him for money lent. It is, of course, impossible to estimate the exact value of the item 'breakage'; but it may be suspected that M. Vavasseur, on finding that his guests were in the habit of breaking the crockery (and a very regular habit it was, if we may judge by the bill), would supply them with porcelain less valuable than Sèvres or Dresden for their little parties.

The joke of *Eh, Lambert! où est Lambert?* still flourishes on the genial soil of France. Edicts have interfered to stop its growth, *sergents de ville* have ruthlessly crushed it or cut it down. All is in vain. A fine or imprisonment may be the result of the shout of the name of the Parisian 'Walker,' but at least the provinces are not discouraged. Not many days ago at Chambéry, at midnight, a cry of 'fire' arose. Heads at once emerged from open casemates, and the demand was made, 'Where is the fire?' *Chez Lambert* was the prompt reply. An oath at the unseasonable wit of the spoiler of sleep, and a slamming of windows, immediately followed. Yet the answer was true. One Lambert, a tanner, was beholding the destruction of his shop and his effects, and no one would help him.

> Nil habuit Codrus; quis enim negat? et tamen illud
> Perdidit infelix totum nihil.

Indeed, every inhabitant of Chambéry was panic-stricken at the thought of being made, as our neighbours would say, 'the object of a mystification.'

Vermouth and Fille de l'Air have again joined issue on the turf, and this time victory crowned the efforts of the mare. Indeed, it seems that each successive struggle serves only to illustrate the utter impossibility of deciding which of these two excellent animals is worthy to be considered the chief of the French turf. It is pretty certain that Vermouth and Fille de l'Air will not again meet during the present season, and it may be worth while to glance back for a moment at the career of each. Fille de l'Air, the property of Count de Lagrange, ran more than once as a two-year-old, and not always with success. She, however, won the Criterion Stakes at Newmarket in splendid style, and at once, on the merit of that performance, rose to the position of first favourite for the Two Thousand Guineas Stakes at Newmarket. She maintained that position throughout the winter and spring, and on the morning of the race was backed at very short odds. In the race she never galloped a yard, was hopelessly beaten before the first 200 yards had been passed, and never con-

soled her numerous admirers by even a struggle for success. She next proceeded to France, and after carrying off some small race, together with the French Oaks, returned to England to contest the Oaks on Epsom Downs. On that occasion she won with some ease, and the famous scene was enacted which afforded food for French newspapers for several days, to the intense gratification of that portion of the French people which still believes in English jealousy and English perfidy. The rider and trainer of Fille de l'Air had foreseen the result of victory; and while Count de Lagrange made the best of his way to London, certain gentlemen of the prize ring escorted the mare and her rider to a place of safety amidst the shouts and execrations of the mob. Fille de l'Air then took another trip to Paris to contest unsuccessfully the race for the Grand Prix with Blair Athol and Vermouth. Next she appeared at Ascot and was beaten. Time went on, and the mare turned up at Baden, where on one day she managed to defeat Vermouth, and a few days afterwards to be defeated by Vermouth for the Grand Prix de Bade. Finally, on Sunday last she met and beat Vermouth at Longchamps in the race for the Grand Prix du Prince Impérial. Vermouth has enjoyed a less chequered career. His stable companion Bois-Roussel was good enough to win the French Derby, and he himself was able to overthrow the champion of the English turf, Blair Athol, perhaps next to his sire Stockwell the greatest racehorse in England, in the race for the Grand Prix de Paris. What Vermouth did at Baden has been told. On Sunday, September 18, he won at Chantilly, and on Sunday last he was beaten at Paris. A match between Blair Athol and Vermouth would surpass in interest even the great match between Voltigeur and the Dutchman. That Blair Athol meeting his former conqueror on equal terms in the matter of health would revenge himself, is the firm belief of the English turf. But it is probable that England seldom, and France never, has seen a better horse than the gallant Vermouth.

SPAIN.

Gonzalez Bravo has issued a circular to the governors of the provinces, couched in the most grandiloquent language, and abounding in exalted expressions of admiration for the Queen and of confidence in the virtues of the new Ministry. A more sterling composition is a series of decrees according an amnesty for all offences against the laws of the press to the day of the date of the decree, stopping all processes then pending, and remitting all fines inflicted on journals between January 1, 1857, and the present time. The Cortes is dissolved, and the elections are ordered to take place on November 22.

GERMANY.

We have no very certain news with regard to the proceedings of the Conference of Vienna. One of the subjects lately discussed has been the liability of Denmark for the public debts of the Duchies. According to the latest accounts, Denmark has consented to be responsible for a certain part of them. Lord Clarendon is to pay a visit to Vienna. His mission is said to refer to the general issue of war or peace, and to imply a hope on the part of the English Cabinet that something may yet be saved to Denmark out of the wreck. If such be really the object of his visit, it is feared that it will not be successful, so thoroughly are the victors determined to make Denmark understand the full meaning of the maxim, *Væ victis*. Another conjecture with regard to Lord Clarendon's mission is that it betokens a desire on the part of the English Cabinet to restore their former cordial relations with Austria. It is impossible to appreciate how far this may be true; but at least it is somewhat discordant with the tenor of Lord Russell's late despatch to Herr von Bismarck, which condemns Prussian and Austrian rapacity with equal severity.

The Conferences of Prague on the subject of the commercial relations between the German States, and principally Austria and Prussia, still continue; but the demands which Austria has made are not likely to be acceded to. The fact is that Austria, being a suppliant desirous to partake of the advantages of the Franco-Prussian treaty, has attempted to disguise that character under the mask of a bold and somewhat indifferent spectator, willing but not anxious to join in partnership with his friends. The mask, however, is stripped off by Prussia, who is only too ready to expose her rival's weakness; and it now remains to be seen whether she will press her advantage to the utmost.

DENMARK.

There are pessimists in Denmark no less than in London, and these gentry had more than hinted that the Prince and Princess of Wales had not dared to show themselves publicly in Copenhagen for fear of the comments of the people on English diplomacy. As if to put the real feelings of the Danes to the test, and to give them full opportunity to express themselves under the cloak of darkness, the royal party made their entry into the city at night. The reception which they received must have been as flattering to themselves as it was grateful to the English nation. Without either the stimulus or the restraint of soldiery, the reception given to them by the people was completely satisfactory. Not less so was the party which was afterwards held at the palace, where politicians of every class were assembled in compliment to the heir of the throne of England and the husband of a Danish princess. Among the gentlemen who were presented to the King of Denmark on the evening of the 16th, on which this reception was held, was Mr. O'Leary, the Irishman who offered an auxiliary squadron of 100 Irish foxhunters in aid of Denmark at the commencement of the war. On the next day a review was held, in which a number of the troops took part who had fought at Dybbol and in Alsen. The Prince was unable to be present at this review in consequence of a slight indisposition. The Prince and Princess of Wales left Copenhagen for Stockholm on the 24th inst. in the royal yacht *Osborne*. They are expected to return to Denmark in eight days. They were saluted on their departure by the ships and the shore batteries, and the vigorous cheering of the spectators.

It is said that, in compliance with a request from the Emperor of Russia, the Danish Government has declared itself ready to hand over to the Grand Duke of Oldenburg all the documents now in the archives of Copenhagen which may assist him in making out his claims to the throne of the Duchies.

The Prussian occupation of Jutland seems likely to be continued yet for some time. It is said that 30,000 men are to be put in winter quarters there. The commandant, Herr von Falkenstein, has published a statement declaring that he has received from the Danish Government certain instructions, enclosed under cover to him, to the Danish functionaries in that province. He declines, however, to recognise in any way the Danish authority so long as the occupation continues, and will consider any such attempts to be in contravention of the terms of the treaty.

HOLLAND.

The King of the Netherlands has opened the legislative session of the States-General with a speech, in which he is enabled to congratulate the country upon a steady intellectual and material progress. Railways are progressing in that country; education is increasing among the middle classes; ship-building is flourishing in consequence of the state of war in the neighbouring countries; there is money to pay for the public service, to relieve the people of some of their burdens, and to continue the redemption of the national debt. We may join the King of Holland in congratulating his subjects that they can make so satisfactory a sketch of their national position, such in fact as cannot be at this moment equalled in any country of the Old or the New World.

GREECE.

The Greeks have taken a very important step, the results of which will be worthy of our most careful observation. By one vote of the National Assembly, one branch of the Legislature—the Senate—has been completely abolished; for the future, therefore, there will be but two powers in Greece, the Crown and the Assembly of Deputies. The measure has met with general approval among the Greeks. *Reste à savoir* what will be the result of so radical a reform.

BELGIUM.

The thirty-fourth anniversary of the independence of this kingdom was celebrated on the 25th inst. throughout the country. In Brussels the usual processions of bowmen, crossbowmen, &c., took place, and were followed by horse-races and the inevitable balloon ascent. It appears, however, that the citizens of Belgium think that the commemoration of their independence has lasted long enough, and no longer flock to celebrate it with their ancient ardour.

The United States frigate *Niagara* has returned to Antwerp after her cruise in the Channel.

RUSSIA.

The Emperor is now at Potsdam, the centre of the usual amount of active diplomacy and intrigue. No immediate results have yet appeared from his late travels in Central Europe.

The railways of Russia are rapidly extending themselves; the line from Moscow to Rezan is now completed, and the works on the great southern line are begun. A concession has been made of this line to an English company, of which they may take advantage at any time before the month of November; but so anxious are the authorities to get these works on foot, that they have already, on their own responsibility, put 6,700 men to work on the line, subject to the objections which may be made to them by the English capitalists.

We recorded lately the burning of the fair-buildings at Nijni-Novgorod; another town has now been completely burnt to the ground, every house having been destroyed. Besides the plague of fire, the Russians have also been suffering from pestilence; the contagion, called the Siberian plague, arose first among the cattle, and thence spread—by means of milk, diseased meat, and actual contact—through both the rural and town populations, until St. Petersburg itself was attacked. Stringent measures of police and the return of the cold weather have been required to put a stop to the disorder.

A new law of patents has been introduced by which both natives and foreigners will be greatly benefited. The old forms of litigation have been simplified, and the expense attending it greatly lessened.

CHINA.

Nankin was stormed on July 19 by the Imperial forces. The outer line of defence was taken by assault on the 18th, a breach 120 feet in width having been effected by the explosion of a mine containing 60,000 lbs. of powder. The steamer *Confucius*, which was under charter to the Chantung guild of merchants at Shanghai, and which was commanded by an American, engaged two heavy batteries facing the river, which had defied the Imperial forces. On the next morning the inner line of defence was carried. Tien-Wang, the rebel Emperor, was found dead in his palace, having taken gold-leaf two days previously to avoid witnessing the disaster to his arms. Many of his wives were found hanging in the same chamber. Kanwang, the shield king, was captured, together with the Chung-wang and many of the Taeping leaders. The city presented a fearful scene of devastation, and the streets were filled with corpses of men who had died of starvation. Nankin is now open to foreign trade.

THE CIRCASSIANS.

A letter from Trebizond, in the *Moniteur*, says:—'The Circassian tribe, which has taken refuge in a high mountain, behind Gouaia, still holds out in its resistance against Russia. The number of families which have retreated there is estimated at 500. Encounters take place constantly, and, although the besiegers consist of 6,000 men, the Russians have so far always been defeated. A serious attack was made recently, when the Circassians resisted with such energy that 200 of the enemy, including a colonel, a major, and several other officers, were killed or wounded. To resist the besiegers, the Circassians erect with much skill immense piles of stones of a large size, and when the attack is made, by removing one of them, which forms a sort of keystone, the rest roll down into the ravine, crushing everything before them. The mountaineers will resist so long as their provisions hold out, unless the Russians succeed in turning their strong positions. The emigration continues, and the country is being continually traversed by the bands of people removing. About 15,000 persons of the Natoukhatch tribe are expected at Novrosisk shortly, where sixteen sailing vessels, under the Ottoman flag, are waiting to embark them on their arrival. The chief of that important tribe, a rich and important personage, who possesses considerable forests and immense flocks, has already left Novrosisk with 4,000 of his people. The Russian Government has placed the corvette *Wolga* at his disposal, and to him was paid the greatest attention. He has gone to reside at Kustendjie.'

MEXICO.

The statements from Federal sources of disasters to the Imperial arms in Mexico have proved to be utterly without foundation—as false as Hooker's victory or Milroy's courage. News by way of Havanah is to the effect that Juarez has been driven from Monterey into Chihuahua, and that the French have seized the port of Matamoras. Cortinas was retreating before Mejia, who was advancing on Matamoras.

Negotiations have been addressed to certain firms of shipowners at Trieste for the transport of a large body of emigrants from Venetia to Mexico. The artisans who contemplate trying their fortune in the dominions of the Emperor Maximilian, and who are said to number some hundreds, have formed themselves into an association for the accomplishment of their plan. Petitions have been addressed to the authorities seeking an approbation of the scheme.

PERU.

There seems to be a fair prospect of an honourable arrangement of the difficulties between Spain and Peru. The new Peruvian Ministry entertains views of a moderate character, and has frankly manifested to the Chambers its desire to preserve peace so long as it be without dishonour to the country. By the way in which the Congress has received the explanation of the Government, it shows a wish to avoid precipitation and passion in so important a situation. The press has followed in the path of moderation. Even the declarations of M. Pacheco display a readiness to effect a compromise without inflicting any humiliation, or impairing the dignity, the integrity, or the liberal institutions of Peru. Spain can show herself benevolent without the imputation of weakness, and will, it is hoped, seize the opportunity of forming relations on a solid base, not only with Peru, but with the other Governments of South America.

WHO TALKS OF SUBMISSION?—Let us, however, go so far as to suppose that the Northern general may outwit the most accomplished living master of the art of war—let us assume that Grant is justified when, with a 'buncombe' strangely out of place in the lips of so brave a soldier, he says that the South, in its sore need of recruits, 'has robbed the cradle and the grave'—let us, for argument's sake, take it for granted that the fifth year of the war will find the Federals in possession of Richmond and the Confederates without a regular army. Those noble ranks have, we know, been sadly thinned. Many a bold and gallant leader has been slain; the electric influence of Stonewall Jackson's fiery faith can never again inspire the 'greycoat' infantry to those magnificent charges which decide the fortune of a battle; the cheerful chivalry, the gay enthusiasm of Stuart have long been hushed in death. The land has given its best and bravest to the struggle, and there is a stern sad sorrow in the hearts of those who still prolong the contest. What would the war be like, when it should become no longer one of masses and of strategy? Would the conflict cease as soon as the possibility of retaliating an advance into Virginia by a raid into Maryland or Pennsylvania had passed away? There are two facts which forbid us to believe so; the one is the temper of the South, the other is the temper of the North. Maddened by the long misery of a strife in which their homes had been made desolate, their dearest comrades slain, their women outraged, the Confederates, if they could not defend their cities in line of battle, would die desperately fighting upon their hearthstones. Submission! Who talks of submission? Who believes that these men, than whom no patriots ever fought more superbly for the fatherland, would be, in the hour of supreme trial, inferior in courage to Spaniards or Poles? Who believes that they, with our own proud blood flowing in their veins, and with everything to urge them on to an indomitable, implacable resistance, would bend the knee before the revolutionary commissaries of Mr. Lincoln and their blacks? No; the people of the Confederacy may be exterminated, but they cannot be subdued. Look next at the North, and consider in what manner they would use their victory. With a bitter hatred still rankling in their hearts, half crazy with success so long deferred, they would show but little mercy to the vanquished. They would portion out the lands of their enemies amongst the mercenaries whom they have enlisted in their cause. Horrible enough, in all conscience, has been the history of the war already; but the earth has seen no such Pandemonium as would then ensue. In every house a brave man slain, with his little children lying around him; in every house a lady struggling in the bestial grasp of Africans half mad with carnage, half mad with lust; a red light throughout the land from homes and plantations on fire;—these are some of the pictures that would then revolt humanity. Contemplating these things—remembering that even the ostensible justification of the war has now been abandoned by the shifty and unscrupulous politicians of the North—we can but breathe the word so mournfully uttered by a great English worthy on the outbreak of a civil war infinitely less sanguinary—we can but echo Falkland's cry, 'Peace, peace!'—*Daily Telegraph.*

GENERAL M'CLELLAN.

THE following is General M'Clellan's letter of acceptance:—

Orange, New Jersey, Sept. 8, 1864.

Gentlemen,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, informing me of my nomination by the Democratic National Convention, recently assembled at Chicago, as their candidate at the next election for President of the United States.

It is unnecessary for me to say to you that this nomination comes to me unsought.

I am happy to know that when the nomination was made, the record of my public life was kept in view.

The effect of long and varied service in the army, during war and peace, has been to strengthen and make indelible in my mind and heart the love and reverence for the Union, Constitution, laws and flag of our country, impressed upon me in early youth.

These feelings have thus far guided the course of my life, and must continue to do so to its end.

The existence of more than one government over the region which once owned our flag is incompatible with the peace, the power, and the happiness of the people.

The preservation of our Union was the sole avowed object for which the war was commenced. It should have been conducted for that object only, and in accordance with those principles which I took occasion to declare when in active service.

Thus conducted, the work of reconciliation would have been easy, and we might have reaped the benefits of our many victories on land or sea.

The Union was originally formed by the exercise of a spirit of conciliation and compromise. To restore and preserve it, the same spirit must prevail in our councils and in the hearts of the people.

The reestablishment of the Union in all its integrity is, and must continue to be, the indispensable condition in any settlement. So soon as it is clear, or even probable, that our present adversaries are ready for peace upon the basis of the Union, we should exhaust all the resources of statesmanship practised by civilised nations, and taught by the traditions of the American people, consistent with the honour and interests of the country, to secure such peace, reestablish the Union, and guarantee for the future the constitutional rights of every State. The Union is the one condition of peace—we ask no more.

Let me add what I doubt not was, although unexpressed, the sentiment of the Convention, as it is of the people they represent, that when any one State is willing to return to the Union, it should be received at once with a full guarantee of all its constitutional rights.

If a frank, earnest, and persistent effort to obtain those objects should fail, the responsibility for ulterior consequences will fall upon those who remain in arms against the Union. But the Union must be preserved at all hazards.

I could not look in the face of my gallant comrades of the army and navy, who have survived so many bloody battles, and tell them that their labours and the sacrifice of so many of our slain and wounded brethren had been in vain; that we had abandoned that Union for which we have so often perilled our lives.

A vast majority of our people, whether in the army and navy or at home, would, as I would, hail with unbounded joy the permanent restoration of peace on the basis of the Union under the Constitution without the effusion of another drop of blood. But no peace can be permanent without Union.

As to the other subjects presented in the resolutions of the Convention, I need only say that I should seek in the Constitution of the United States, and the laws framed in accordance therewith, the rule of my duty and the limitations of Executive power; endeavour to restore economy in public expenditure, reestablish the supremacy of law, and, by the operation of a more vigorous nationality, resume our commanding position among the nations of the earth.

The condition of our finances, the depreciation of the paper money, and the burdens thereby imposed on labour and capital, show the necessity of a return to a sound financial system, while the rights of citizens and the rights of States, and the binding authority of law over President, army, and people, are subjects of not less vital importance in war than in peace.

Believing that the views here expressed are those of the Convention and the people you represent, I accept the nomination.

I realise the weight of the responsibility to be borne should the people ratify your choice.

Conscious of my own weakness, I can only seek fervently the guidance of the Ruler of the universe, and, relying on His all-powerful aid, do my best to restore union and peace to a suffering people, and to establish and guard their liberties and rights.

I am, gentlemen,
Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
GEORGE B. M'CLELLAN.

Hon. Horatio Seymour, and others, Committee.

A THOUSAND LIVES PER DAY.—The Richmond correspondent of the *Times* writes: 'It may be within the recollection of some of your readers that in a recent letter I estimated the mortality on both sides consequent upon this war as being at the rate of 1,000 lives every twenty-four hours. There are many to whom this estimate will appear extravagant. I regret to say that increased thought and enquiry have only served to convince me that it is not far from the mark. I need hardly say that by far the largest portion of those who perish fall victims to disease. Think of the immensity of this war; of the numberless bodies of men scattered in unhealthy garrisons over the vast area of Secessia, and some conception of the waste of human life (sacrificed to the Moloch of this war no less than if cut short by the bullet) may be formed. As an item I may mention that the deaths among the Yankee prisoners now held in the South average 150 per diem. The deaths of Confederates held captive in the North must be on something of the same scale, though possibly rather less numerous, as the Northern climate is healthier in summer. Here we have 300 deaths (or thereabouts) occurring every twenty-four hours among the prisoners alone. It is not much of a stretch to conceive that each day's fighting, when there are six large armies in the field (to wit, Lee's and Grant's, Hood's and Sherman's, Early's and Sheridan's), not to mention countless desultory bodies of combatants, adds 700 men to the list of perishing victims.'

The Northern papers state that Major Reid Sanders, of the Confederate army, a son of Mr. George N. Sanders, died in Fort Warren on the 3rd inst. Major Sanders was in his twenty-seventh year.

REJECTION OF GENERAL M'CLELLAN BY THE PEACE DEMOCRATS.

(From the *New York Daily News.*)

THE columns of this paper bear witness that we have laboured to harmonise the Democratic party. Whatever concession we could make that did not involve a sacrifice of the immutable principle to which this journal is dedicated, we have granted. Our most fervent desire was to see consummated the unity and concord of the Democracy in this Presidential campaign. Believing that the life of Republicanism depended upon this issue, we made every effort to conciliate the conflicting sentiments that were arrayed in opposition to the present Administration; for we believed that the defeat of Mr. Lincoln would remove the chief obstacle to peace.

But, above all the claims of expediency, the principle to which we are irrevocably bound sways absolutely, and demands our fidelity beyond all other considerations. We have matured and strengthened the peace sentiment from its germ. We have been faithful to it throughout the ordeal it has passed, an ordeal that it could not have survived if within its own essence it had not possessed the elements of eternal life, the truth that may be hidden but not destroyed. To that principle that is the guide of our political action throughout this crisis, and that commands the journal we have devoted to its interests, we are linked by a bond that cannot be loosened. As we stood by it steadfastly when to do so was to court persecution and to invite oppression, we shall surely not desert it now, in the day of its strength, when, in fact, it rules the political situation. The suffrages of the Peace men are essential to the triumph of the Democracy; but the Peace men cannot give their suffrages in violation of their principles. To be true, therefore, to the Democracy, we must insist that its principles be honestly represented in this canvass and fairly put at issue at the polls.

The *Daily News*, however great its influence among those that accept it as the organ of their political creed, could not render that influence available in support of the doctrine of armed coercion of the States, and if it could, it would not. We earnestly hope that the States may be redeemed from the great misfortune of sectional antagonism, and that good fellowship and concord may exist among them; but we protest against a work of reconstruction that leaves a stain of blood from foundation-stone to pinnacle, and that, if ever accomplished, would give us a fabric beneath whose roof discord, hatred, and bitter recollections would dwell for ever, controlled by the bayonet and governed by the sceptre.

It was therefore with a satisfaction that knew no bounds that we welcomed, in the platform presented by the Chicago Convention to the Democracy, the proposition for an immediate cessation of hostilities and a convention of all the States. To cease fighting and to appeal to reason and calm discussion of the questions in dispute—that is precisely the plan of action that we have advocated from the commencement of hostilities. It is fair to suppose that the Sovereign States, solemnly assembled in Convention, would exercise such judgment and conciliatory attributes as are due to the spirit of enlightenment and Christianity, and would use their best endeavours to free our political system from its imperfections, that it might accord, so far as possible, with the interests of all, and be offensive to none. The Chicago platform promises with its triumph an immediate cessation of hostilities, and advocates a plan of reconciliation that every Peace man can conscientiously indorse. We accepted it, and with it the candidates nominated upon the platform.

But the candidates and the platform cannot exist apart. The platform is the soul—the candidate is the body. The one may change, decay, perish, the other is immutable and eternal, for it is a principle. The two are, therefore, inseparable in their relative positions, for if the man renounce the principle, he ceases to be a candidate of the party that nominated him.

George B. M'Clellan was nominated upon a platform that promises an immediate cessation of hostilities and a convention of all the States. Does he stand upon that platform to-day? He does not. He has renounced the platform in his letter accepting the nomination. It is as if the bridegroom should accept the bride's property, but not her person. A bond like that is null and void. The Peace party will not consent to have their principle betrayed, and then do homage to the betrayer. They demand all that is nominated in the bond. General M'Clellan having rejected the proposition for a cessation of hostilities and a convention of all the States, declined the Chicago nomination, and stands before the people self-nominated on a platform of his own creation. The Democracy must seek a candidate who will stand upon the platform, for they cannot consistently support one who is in collision with the Convention that tendered him the nomination. If the platform accords not with the nominee's convictions of the right, a due respect for the opinions of the assemblage that unanimously adopted it requires that he should give back to the Convention the standard of the Democracy. The Democratic National Convention is not dissolved. It is ready to convene at the call of its executive committee, and, if General M'Clellan cannot abide by the resolutions through which the principles of the party have been enunciated, let the Convention reassemble, and either remodel their platform to suit their nominee, or nominate a candidate that will suit the platform.

MR. LINCOLN'S EMANCIPATION EDICT.—The New York correspondent of the *Daily News* writes: 'Lincoln has formally announced that he will entertain no proposition for a return to the Union on the part of the States in rebellion which does not include "the abandonment of slavery." This, I need hardly tell you, was a grave error, and has furnished the Opposition during the last month with two-thirds of their ammunition; for it is clear as noonday that the President has not the shadow of legal right to attach any condition whatever to the return of any State to its allegiance. He has no authority to abolish slavery, and therefore has no right to insist on its abolition; and I can only ascribe his unfortunate mention of it, in the letter "to whom it may concern," to his belief that the public sentiment had grown sufficiently "radical" to support him in an attempt to override the letter of the law. He was greatly mistaken. People acquiesced in the emancipation proclamation, because it had a fair show of constitutionality. But there is not in the Constitution the shadow of a justification for an attempt on the part of the executive branch of the Government to impose on any State, insurgent or not, the reorganisation of its social system as a condition either of coming back to the Union or of remaining in it.'

THE 'HOPE.'—The *Wilmington Journal* of September 3 says that the blockade-runner *Hope*, which ran ashore to escape the Federal blockaders, 'is safe and sound.'

SELLING WHITE MEN AT AUCTION.

(From the *New York Metropolitan Record.*)

WE have maintained in these columns, time and again, that there was one way, and only one way, of placing blacks and whites on a common level; and that was by degrading the white freeman of the North and bringing him down to the level of the negro. No other plan can bring the races one inch nearer than the Creator placed them at the first, and our rulers know it. Therefore, instead of wasting their time by trying to pull the negro up, they endeavour to drag the white man down, and verily they are succeeding. Equality is setting in with a vengeance, but to secure it we have bartered Liberty. But what of that? We got more than its full value.

Formerly the auction block was sacred to the race of Ham; now the white man competes with him even there, and we would fain hope for the credit of the race brings a higher penny. But of this we are not certain. We only know that in the town of West Chester, Chester County, in the Quaker State, a regular auction block has been erected, and on that block white men and negroes have alternately taken their stand and been knocked down to the highest bidder, black or white as the case may be, and not a freedom shrieker throughout the land has made a wry face or entered a protest; *not one.* Where is Mrs. Stowe? Where Beecher, Cheever, and the rest? Where Phillips and Garrison? Garrison who longed for the time when—

> Fetters shall fall
> From every limb—the strong
> No more the weak shall wrong,
> But Liberty's sweet song
> Be sung by all.

Where's Tilton and the smaller fry?

What, silent one and silent all?

Shall white men be bought and sold, branded and chaffered for, without exciting even comment, while even Abolitionists, skulking behind foreign substitutes, rave of negro freedom? Is this a white man's Republic, or was George Washington a nigger? We begin to get confused and to doubt our senses as we read the following from the *Lancaster (Pa) Intelligencer*:

'White men and negroes mixed up indiscriminately, in accordance with the most approved theories of abolitionism, are set up to be sold to the highest and best bidder. Those engaged in the traffic have taken out a regular license, under the internal revenue law, and pay an annual tax of ten dollars for the privilege of selling human flesh and blood at public outcry. The coming draft had filled the soul of many an abolition cry of the coward with intense horror. As they heard the gorilla at Washington demanding the blood of 500,000 new victims, the warm current froze in their veins, each particular hair of their heads stood on end with fright; and, much as they loved their money, they prepared to sacrifice their best-cherished idol rather than go in person to fight out the war which their infernal doctrines had inaugurated.

'Human bloodhounds were soon on the track of every white man whom the pressure of want had reduced to a state of desperation, or of any poor devil of a negro who might be bullied, bought, or cunningly inveigled into exchanging his filthy covering of rags for a suit of regulation 'blue,' and the emptiness of his pockets for a well-filled wallet of 'greenbacks.' Having hunted down such prey, the next thing was to dispose of it to the best advantage. The substitute dealers of that section being intimate with the description of slave auctions in the South, as pictured by Harriet Beecher Stowe and others of her stripe, and being alive to its benefits, determined to introduce its benefits into the free (?), intelligent (?), and most Christian (?) county of Chester.

'It was accordingly duly advertised from time to time that at such an hour a sale of men would be held. Now a white man was put up to be bid for by white men and negroes alike, and then a negro. The scramble among the purchasers is said to have been disgustingly exciting. We can imagine the scene, and hear the voice of the crier: "Oh, yes! This way! Draw this way, gentlemen, if you please! We now offer this man, John Jones, aged 46, just out of the draft, and therefore a valuable substitute. He has been stripped stark naked and carefully examined by the board. We warrant him all right, or the money refunded. He has a sickly wife and a large family of small children, but he is sound himself. How much do we hear for him?"

'"Three hundred dollars," cries Mr. Broadbrim, whose breast is torn with contending emotions of cowardice and cupidity.

'"Only three hundred dollars," echoes the crier, "why he is worth three times that money! Four hundred; thank you, sir. Five hundred! Six hundred! There, now, that's lively, gentlemen. Six! Six fifty! Seven! And a half—and a half! Mind your bids, gentlemen. Going! Once—twice—three times—gone!"

'So went the slave auction at the county seat of abolitionised, Quakerfied Chester county.

'This is not a mere fancy sketch. The sales were had at a public outcry, by men regularly licensed as auctioneers of human flesh.'

And yet no Abolitionist has denounced the degrading traffic. Abolition tongues are mute; abolition pews are still; the hands that grasped the thunderbolts of Heaven, and shook them above the land in vengeful threatenings, hang nerveless; and the prophets who formerly had 'all the contortions of the Sybil without her inspiration,' stand silent and motionless. Why is this? Have they no words in which to denounce this crime? Or does its blackness depend upon the complexion of the victim? White slaves! Aye, it has come to that—white slave in the land of Washington! Let the Old World turn her wondering eyes hitherward, and mark our 'alacrity in sinking.' Let her see how easily freemen can be metamorphosed into slaves, and take a lesson from America. She is too slow; we can do the work of centuries in a year.

THE FEDERAL DEBT.—The official statement of the public debt on August 30 shows the amount outstanding to be $1,878,565,234, and the interest, in both coin and lawful money, $77,447,122, or an increase of the public debt since August 2 of $53,073,000, and of interest $1,029,000. The debt bearing interest in coin is now $889,899,492; the debt bearing interest in lawful money, $469,197,000; the debt on which interest has ceased, $357,470; the debt bearing no interest, $519,111,267. The unpaid requisitions are $78,795,000, and the amount in the Treasury, $17,189,518.—*New York Shipping List*, September 3.

ADVICE TO CAPITALISTS.—No other security is so reliable as that of the United States Government, and no other pays as good interest to those who invest specie.—*New York Herald.*

OPERATIONS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK: September 17, 1864.

THE Democrats are making prodigious efforts to give *éclat* and enthusiasm to the nomination of M'Clellan. There are to be simultaneous meetings to-day everywhere in ratification of the nomination, and to organise for the active canvass. To-day has been selected because it is the anniversary of the adoption of the Federal Constitution, and it is the catchword of the party for the election canvass that it is struggling for the rescue of the Constitution from its enemies. The preparations in New York city for a mass meeting in Union Square are on the most magnificent scale. There is little doubt the exhibition will be as grand and enthusiastic as that held in the same place to oppose the election of Mr. Lincoln in 1860—most likely with about the same success.

Nevertheless, a few of the original Peace men are talking of a third candidate, and private meetings are held in the city to debate the expediency of doing so, in order to preserve the nucleus of an organisation. I doubt whether it will amount to much. The principal leaders of the Peace party are disheartened and silenced, or give in their adhesion to M'Clellan as a bitter necessity, a question of the life or death of civil liberty in the North, before which the contingent issues of the war question become of secondary importance. Neither M'Clellan nor M'Clellan's platform finds favour with these men, who, nevertheless, have prevailed upon themselves not to oppose him—perhaps to vote for him. One of them defends this course upon grounds which serve to explain for all. The following brief excerpts show the drift of the whole:—'We are in the midst of a revolution more deplorable and horrible than ever before afflicted human society, and unless we can overthrow its authors at the ballot-box, in the approacning election, we are absolutely certain to drift into civil war and social anarchy at the North.' 'If he (Mr. Lincoln) should be reelected this fall, civil war will doubtless break out everywhere at the North, for war cannot be carried on an hour against the Confederate States without dragging after it, as an inexorable "necessity," the destruction of liberty in the North, and the majority have at last reached that extreme point of endurance when they will not submit to slavery and absolute ruin of their families.'

What the Convention ought to have done, and General M'Clellan's unfitness to represent a truly constitutional party, are exposed at length with this conclusion.

'If the Convention had grappled with the great questions underlying the war, General M'Clellan's nomination would, of course, be absurd, but as it only sought to disarm the madmen at Washington and reestablish Northern freedom, it does not matter much who is the candidate. First of all, and over all, Abraham Liucoln must be defeated, for until that is done, not even preliminary steps towards peace and union of the States are possible.'

The anticipations of civil war from Lincoln's election spring from the prevalent Democratic opinion that Mr. Lincoln cannot be reelected at a free election, and that, besides the Executive use of the army vote, there are several States, without which he cannot get even an apparent majority of votes, which it is impossible he should carry but by the power of military dictation to the voters, or an absolute seizure of the polls. Such designs are imputed to him as parts of his deliberate purpose to secure his own reelection; and there are very conclusive proofs that he is capable of so acting, in the military means taken to carry the New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania elections last year; the open invasion of the ballot-box in Delaware, Kentucky, and Maryland this year; and the prohibition of the introduction of arms or ammunition into the West, after the 'loyal seizures;' partisans of the Administration have been organised and armed by the Government. The Chicago Convention declared in its third resolution, that 'a repetition of these acts in the approaching election will be held as revolutionary, and resisted with all the means and powers under our control.'

The Democratic addresses and resolutions everywhere re-echo the same resolve, and counsel a general organisation of the opponents of Mr. Lincoln to meet this issue of 'revolution' by armed resistance. The election of Mr. Lincoln, if clearly effected by such means, will be held to be void, and his inauguration resisted. Even the attempt will be the signal for popular commotion and violence, which only troops can suppress. The extent and gravity of these apprehensions were expressed in a letter from Ex-President Franklin Pierce, read in the Chicago Convention, in which, after speaking of 'military presence to overawe the unarmed citizen' in elections, he says:—

'If in any sovereign State, recognising the authority of the Federal Government, military usurpation shall come to suppress in the people the exercise of their rights under "the Constitution" and enacted laws, we will meet that military usurpation with all the power we can command.'

An ominous conflict of powers between the military and the State has just risen in Kentucky. General Ewing, the United States officer in command there, lately issued an order to the civil officers in his military district, directing them to make provision by tax for the raising and supporting of a military force in their respective counties. Governor Bramlette has issued his proclamation directing those officers to refuse obedience to General Ewing's orders.

The friends of Mr. Lincoln are working hard to consolidate their forces for an active canvass, which they say shall be 'short, sharp, and decisive.' They have wide breaches to heal, but they appear to be doing it effectively. Chase is propitiated very much as the Peace men are propitiated towards M'Clellan. He can see no other way of helping the cause. The reports about Fremont are various. A despatch from Washington, a few days ago, said that Fremont's letter of declension is written, and ready to be published, on a fitting opportunity, which would be found soon. To-day it is reported, from the Democratic side, that Fremont does not intend to decline, and will not, in any possible event, favour Mr. Lincoln.

There has been a curious development here within a few days, which strengthens the suspicion that General Fremont is bargaining for the disposal of what support he has to give. There has been published here a weekly paper, called the *New Nation*, devoted to his political interests. It has fallen into difficulties, there is a dispute about title among the proprietors and claimants. These have got into the newspapers with their various stories, and the exposures are very edifying. The writing editor was a certain General Cluseret, who commenced with a great fervour of admiration for his friend General Fremont. The General, as is now disclosed, furnished most of the money in the name of a supposed 'National Pathfinders' Association,' which was composed of only three persons, the General being himself the principal and most active, and chief, if not only, paying member. General Cluseret accounts for his being thrust out of the office by charges that General Fremont has 'a certain political bargain in view' which the more conscientious editor would have nothing to do with. The following, which is the concluding passage of the letter, in which Cluseret takes leave of his former patron, is tolerably significant:—

'Although Mr. Lincoln is far from being the candidate of my choice, between him and M'Clellan no loyal man can hesitate; the *New Nation* will not hesitate; it repudiates all sorts of bargains and will not aid them, if either afar off or near, directly or indirectly, but it will always be the vanguard of loyal patriots for liberty against slavery. We have often reproached Lincoln with the want of dignity as evinced in his jokes, but Fremont's jokes are worse, for they are played at the expense of honesty.' Put that with the Democratic news of Fremont's firmness in opposing Mr. Lincoln, and the enquiry naturally suggests itself, What is Fremont to get if he shall so help the Democrats that M'Clellan will be elected?

Two State elections have been held since the nomination of M'Clellan by the Chicago Convention. Both were in New England, in the States of Vermont and Maine. The general result shows the Administration as strong as ever. The Republican majorities are large, and they gain a member of Congress in Maine. The Democrats lose the only member they had in either of those States. This is a bad beginning for the redemption of the Democratic promises, to repeal in the next Congress the proscriptive Acts of this, which they say have strengthened and intensified, and, if what they say of them is true, justify the armed resistance of the South.

Secretary Seward has been taking part in the election by short speeches at Auburn, his New York residence; and at Washington on his return. They are both marked by the Secretary's astonishing aptitude for self-contradiction and blundering.

At Auburn, he proclaimed as the happy result of late Union victories and the popular zeal for volunteer enlistment for about a thousand dollars a head: '*We shall have no draft*, because the army is being reinforced at the rate of five to ten thousand men a day by volunteers.'

When he got back to Washington, and the Maine and Vermont elections were over, he found an order for drafting ready to be issued, and he accordingly explained this away by saying that he meant to be understood that there *should* be no draft if volunteers were numerous; but because volunteers do not come in, 'the draft will surely come, if we do not volunteer and prevent it.' And the order is out for a general drafting to begin on Monday, showing that the Secretary of State did not know what he was talking about at Auburn, or that he was designedly talking to deceive.

Another passage in that speech has produced a wide political sensation, and is the subject of keen and indignant scrutiny. Speculating on the chances of the election of General M'Clellan, Mr. Seward, Secretary of State in the subsisting Administration, which will be thereby overthrown, asks the following portentous question: 'Who can vouch for the safety of the country against the rebels during the interval which must elapse before the new Administration can constitutionally come into power? It seems to me that such an election would tend equally to demoralise the Union and to invite the insurgents to renew their efforts for its destruction.'

This is a most unfortunate question, and has given the Opposition plausible ground for interpreting it into a threat that if the President is condemned by the result of the election in November, he will feel himself discharged from the duty of conducting public affairs on a policy not his own until his successor is elected, whereby during the interval the Union would be demoralised and the rebellion encouraged. The assumption is not a violent one, and the Democrats are making much use of it in charging on the President the purpose to extort votes from the fear of the mischief he might do if defeated beyond the power of General M'Clellan to remedy.

After all the dallying on the subject, the draft is ordered to commence on Monday, the 19th, in all places in which the quota is not filled up by volunteers. The Secretary of War, in announcing it, fortifies the call by letters received from General Grant and General Sherman, urging the calling-out of the whole five hundred thousand men in the shortest possible time.'

This is a sudden change of position again, for it is scarcely a fortnight since the authorities advised the public that a hundred thousand new men would be more than sufficient to close the war. It is noted as a sign of the inspiration from Washington, under which General Grant's letter was written, that he assigns, as a motive why the draft ought to be enforced now, that the South would be thereby convinced that there is no Peace party in the North at the coming election. The correspondence was got up quite as much to help Administration politics as to strengthen the army.

GENERAL FORREST'S RAID INTO MEMPHIS.

(From the *Richmond Examiner*.)

The *Mississippian*, published at Jackson, Mississipi, gives some interesting particulars of the late raid of General Forrest upon Memphis. He dashed in upon the place like an eagle upon his prey. The Yankees were so completely surprised that nothing was known of the presence of our men until a portion of the Yankee General's staff was captured and he forced to skedaddle, his night-dress flying like a kite in the breeze.

General Forrest had no time to destroy property to any great extent, his small force of about 600 men, as soon as the Yankees recovered from their surprise, being surrounded by four or five times their number. He had to charge through them and make his escape, which he did in grand style, losing only about thirty men all told. Captain Bill Forrest, who led the advance with 100 picked men, only lost two, one killed and one wounded.

The Yankees lost about four hundred in killed, wounded, and prisoners. Our forces captured over five hundred splendid horses, clothing, fine small arms, &c. Although General Forrest did not release our prisoners or burn their Government stores or transports, he has shown what can be done by pluck and daring, and proven to the Yankee Generals that they are not safe even when guarded by thousands of bayonets in their 'pride of place,' when he is on the war path. His bold movement also had the effect of turning the Yankee column back that was moving down through North Mississippi. They were dumb-founded, on hearing that Forrest had made a dash into Memphis, and immediately evacuated Oxford and turned their faces northward.

The prisoners captured in Memphis, two hundred and thirty odd, were brought down on the cars to Canton, and were to reach Jackson on the next day.

LETTER FROM CANADA.

FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

September, 1864.

MONTREAL far surpasses all my preconceived ideas of Canada. As yet, of course, I have only seen the more civilised phases of Canadian life, and never expected to come across the rougher experiences of the Western forests in the streets of Montreal and Quebec; but I must fairly admit that I did not look for much that is grand, or costly, or imposing, or is associated with our ideas of wealth and luxury—I might almost say extravagance. Rapid development, brilliant progress, I knew I was sure to find, but not such a finished exterior. I anticipated a young colony with an old head, but not one with so old a face. Now, my first walk through the streets of this city quite upset all my ideas, and showed me that there was much more of the Old World's architectural magnificence here than I had been willing to believe. Whether it was that my long-acquired habit of associating all capitals of agricultural districts with Ipswich prevented me from anticipating in this country any higher style of architecture than is to be met with in that most respectable but seedy town, I know not; but I certainly never expected to find that Canada had a Paris. However, I have been undeceived, and, if you know anybody labouring under a like delusion, you may at once enlighten them, and tell them that the buildings of Montreal would surpass those of many a fine city on their side of the Atlantic.

The St. Lawrence Hall, the hotel in which I am staying—a well-known house amongst Canadians and Americans—is situated in the centre of the handsome edifices to which I have alluded. I won't trouble you with an enumeration of them, but merely say that these buildings are chiefly banks, insurance offices, and those of other public companies, fine churches and chapels, spacious colleges, and asylums, and hospitals, all well placed in broad streets or detached in commanding positions. Those which pleased me most were the French Cathedral, the Palais de Justice, and the Post Office, all perfect in their way. And then there are markets, three in number, and splendid stores after the style of Cannon Street, and handsome squares in the suburbs, and grand wharves along the river, and much more that is worth a visit of which I have not time to tell. The city is backed by a thickly-wooded mountain, round the summit of which I had a beautiful drive to get a view of the neighbourhood; and a grand one it is, with the city and its sparkling tin-roofs beneath you, and the mighty St. Lawrence, *two miles wide*, beyond and all around the island on which the city stands, and at the western end of the city the far-famed Victoria tubular bridge spanning the breadth of the great river, and in the distance across the stream the purple mountains of Vermont, from which the Yankee sentinel can daily feast his hungry appetite by gazing at the tempting bait below.

The *New York Herald* is still at the old game, thirsting for 'Canada's blood;' and, if I am to believe what I hear of the vast circulation and influence of that beautiful journal, there must be an enormous number across the frontier who are intent upon thus satiating their thirst. But Canada is quite deaf to all their threats, perfectly indifferent to their taunts and sneers; in fact, I almost begin to think that the *Times* was right in its charges against the colony, and that the Canadian self-confidence is very much like apathy. However, they tell me that the volunteer movement is progressing, but I cannot say that I have seen anything of it yet. I only know that the volunteer department is entrusted to the care of the Attorney-General, under whose tender guidance it is said to thrive; from which fact I am led to conclude that lawyers here eschew red tape, else I should hardly expect to find a precocious young colony, of very liberal views and independent principles, consigning its military organisation to such a wholesale dealer in that repulsive article.

. . . . . .

I am now in the future capital of the two provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. . . . At present you would find it difficult to recognise in Ottawa the future metropolis of Canada. The inhabitants talk of it as Ottawa *city*, but it is much more like an overgrown village perched upon the top of a steep cliff, and straggles along the bank of the river and out away into the country beyond, as if all the houses were afraid of touching each other, and objected to the formality of a continuous street. No one seems exactly to know why it has been selected as the seat of government. Some tell me to avoid throwing down an apple of discord between the rival candidates, Montreal, Quebec, and Toronto, by preferring any one of them; some say it was selected by mistake; some, I believe, think it was done by the Queen to spite the Canadians. But for whatever cause selected, it has every element necessary for the creation of a great city and the capital of the two provinces—a grand river, a lovely site, a considerable distance between its walls and the Yankee frontier, a very central position as regards the Eastern and Western provinces, and easy access from all sides. People are talking about the proposed coalition of all the provinces now under British rule, and saying that if this federation scheme comes off Ottawa will never be permitted to retain her recently-acquired privilege, and that the seat of government must in that case remain, as it now is, in Quebec. But I cannot believe that any one who has ever seen the new Parliament buildings in course of erection at Ottawa would be so barbarous as to demand the destruction of that beautiful edifice. The cost of the new Houses has been enormous, and I do not think the Canadians are likely to stand by and see their money thrown to the winds. If the new Parliament buildings are never to be used, I cannot imagine a more flagrant instance of reckless expenditure.

DEGENERACY OF NORTHERN MASONS.—The Masonic fraternity have hitherto been of the opinion that the acts of vandalism hitherto practised by the Federal soldiers in the various Masonic Lodges of Mississippi, were not the acts of Masons, but of hired soldiers, incited by a desire of booty; but we blush to record an instance which shows that they have been mistaken. During the last visit of the enemy to Port Gibson, they visited the lodge room, stole the regalia and jewels, and tore up and destroyed the records and papers of Washington Lodge No. 3, and Clinton Chapter No, 2. They also destroyed the charter of the said Chapter, issued by the Grand Chapter of the United States, September 18, 1826, and signed by De Witt Clinton. And, as if to add insult to injury, one of the party left on the altar a card, on which was inscribed, 'Thomas Price, W.M., of Peoria Lodge No. 15, Peoria, Illinois.' In the Revolutionary war, when the charter of a Lodge and its record had fallen into British hands, they were promptly returned by a flag of truce, under a guard of honour. How different the conduct of W. M. Price, who, by his action, seems to have gloried in destroying the records and papers of an institution devoted to benevolence.—*The Mobile News.*

THE DEATH OF GENERAL MORGAN.

(From the *Abingdon Virginian.*)

On Saturday, the 3rd instant, accompanied by the brigades of Giltner, Hodges, and Smith, and a detachment of Vaughan's, with four pieces of artillery, General Morgan and his staff approached the town of Greenville, Tennessee. Scouts had brought the information that the enemy were not nearer than Bull's Gap, sixteen miles distant, and, in addition, a guard had been sent into the village to reconnoitre. Upon the report of the entire absence of the enemy, Cassel's battalion, commanded by Captain I. M. Clarke, together with the four guns, were posted some three or four hundred yards from the court house, when General Morgan and his staff entered and established their headquarters at the residence of Mrs. Dr. Williams, near the centre of the town. Shortly after the advent of the guard in town, young Mrs. Williams, daughter-in-law of the lady at whose house General Morgan had his headquarters, disappeared; a scout was sent for, but could not find her, and as she returned with the enemy next morning, it appears she had ridden all the way to Bull's Gap, and had given information of Morgan's whereabouts and the strength of the guard

Precaution had been taken to prevent the egress of persons who might convey information to the enemy, and all the roads and avenues were picketed. After visiting the camps and seeing that pickets had been duly posted, General Morgan and his staff, at a late hour of the night, retired to rest. Being greatly fatigued, they slept very soundly, and were startled from their slumbers about six o'clock on Sunday morning by the elder Mrs. Williams, who informed them that the Yankees had surrounded the house. The General and his staff at once sprang from their beds, armed themselves, and rushed out at the opposite door to that at which the Yankees were thundering.

On the side of the house where they escaped there is a very large yard and garden, with a great deal of foliage and a vineyard. These, together with the basement of the old hotel at the south-western extremity of the grounds, enabled them to conceal themselves for a time; but the Yankees by this time began to appear so thick and fast around them that concealment became hopeless, and they rushed out to attempt to fight their way through, in the hope of succour and assistance from the battalion so near at hand. The officers with General Morgan were Major Gassett, and Captains Withers, Rogers, and Clay, and a young gentleman by the name of Johnson, a clerk in the office of the Adjutant-General. At this time they were all, except Withers and Clay, in the basement of the old hotel, occupied by Mrs. Fry (wife of the notorious bushwhacker and murderer, now in our possession), who was all the time calling to the Yankees, informing them of the hiding-place of the 'rebels.'

Seeing escape almost hopeless, General Morgan directed Major Gassett to examine and see if there was any chance of escape from the front of the basement into the street. Major Gassett looked, and replied that there was a chance, but it was a desperate one, which General Morgan did not hear, as at that instant the Yankees charged up to the fence separating the hotel from Mrs. Williams's grounds, when the General, with Major Gassett, Captain Rogers, and Mr. Johnson, sprang out in the direction of the vineyard, when the two latter were captured and the General killed. The latter had just fired his pistol, and was in the act of firing again when he fell. Captains Withers and Clay had not been able to get out of the house, and had concealed themselves in or near it. Major Gassett, in the meantime, sought shelter in the basement and vineyard alternately, but could not elude the vigilance of Mrs. Fry, who was all the time directing attention to his whereabouts. Being the only rebel left—Withers and Clay having been discovered and betrayed by a negro — Major Gassett's ingenuity was put to work to avoid capture. Mrs. Fry knew he was in the basement, and the Yankees were as thick around him as snakes in harvest. After passing to and fro several times between the basement and the garden, all the time under fire, he finally took shelter in the former, and at an auspicious moment sprang into the street, gave Mrs. Fry a parting blessing in his exit, mounted a horse hitched near by, and made his escape. A great many shots were fired by the Yankees, but the only one which took effect was that which killed General Morgan, piercing his right breast and ranging through diagonally. Withers, Rogers, Clay, and Johnson are now, we presume, in a Yankee prison, and Major Gassett is again on duty with his command.

The General was determined never to surrender, and told members of his staff they must not give up. He was heard to say, 'They have got me sure,' when he drew his pistol and commenced firing.

After General Morgan had been killed, the unfeeling brutes who murdered him threw his lifeless body across a horse and paraded it through the streets. His body was subsequently sent through the lines by flag of truce.

Tribute to North Carolina.—The *Sentinel* prints the following extract from a letter of General Lee to Governor Vance of North Carolina, complimenting the North Carolina troops for their conduct at Reams Station:—'Headquarters Army of Northern Virginia, 29th August, 1864. His Excellency C. B. Vance, Governor of North Carolina, Raleigh: . . I have been frequently called upon to mention the services of North Carolina soldiers in this army, but their gallantry and conduct were never more deserving of admiration than in the engagement at Reams Station, on the 25th instant. The brigades of Generals Cook, M'Rae, and Lane—the last under the temporary command of General Conner—advanced through a thick abatis of felled trees, under a heavy fire of musketry and artillery, and carried the enemy's works with a steady courage that elicited the warm commendation of their corps and division commanders and the admiration of the army. On the same occasion the brigade of General Barringer bore a conspicuous part in the operations of the cavalry, which were no less distinguished for boldness and efficiency than those of the infantry. If the men who remain in North Carolina share the spirit of those they have sent to the field, as I doubt not they do, her defence may be securely entrusted to their hands. —I am, with great respect, your obedient servant, R. E. Lee, General.'

A worthy Progenitor.—B. F. Butler's father was a privateer in the war of 1812; but subsequently turning his attention to more questionable operations, he was tried, convicted, and hanged at one of the Spanish West India Islands for piracy. Tradition adds that he was also quartered; but of this report the evidence is not satisfactory.—New York Correspondent of the *Morning Herald.*

SACKING OF THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE BY HUNTER'S FORCES.

(From the *Richmond Examiner.*)

The report of the superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute made to its Board of Visitors on the 15th of last month, has been transmitted to the office of the Adjutant General of Virginia. As the report gives an authentic and official narrative of the sacking and rifling by Hunter's forces, it is valuable and interesting as a part of the history of the times. We, therefore, make some extracts from its pages. Referring to the conduct of Hunter's marauders after their arrival at the institute, the report of the superintendent says:—

On the Sabbath morning of June 12, 1864, the beautiful buildings erected by the liberality of the State for her favoured military school were made a mass of ruins, by the order of Major-General D. Hunter, commanding the United States army of Western Virginia, after having been first sacked by his lawless and rapacious soldiery. The quarters and offices of the superintendent alone remain; and the order for the destruction of these was only suspended because the illness of two of my children, one with an infant forty-eight hours old, did not permit them to be removed without risk of life.

Every species of public property was removed or wantonly destroyed, and among the most serious losses are to be named our valuable library, the accumulated care of twenty-five years, and the philosophical apparatus, so long used by our late distinguished Professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy, Lieutenant-General Thomas J. ('Stonewall') Jackson. The apparatus and many of the valuable books had been removed to Washington College, under the presumption that this venerable institution might afford a shelter and protection to them. But the work of destruction went on. The college building was sacked—the libraries of both institutions were destroyed and every particle of philosophical apparatus broken to pieces. Shavings had been prepared to fire the college building also, and the design was only prevented by representations from some of the trustees setting forth the purely civil organisation of the college, and that it was the recipient of the bounty of Washington himself.

Our hospital was first rifled of all its most valuable medical stores, and was then burnt, although one very severely wounded cadet, and one sick cadet, dependent upon both for comfort and almost for life, had to be removed from the building, at great risk, in the midst of the shelling and the rifle balls of the sharpshooters.

The families of Colonels Williamson and Gilham were required by rude officials to vacate their quarters, and although they were nominally allowed the privilege of removing their furniture, in part, through the kindly interposition of Hon. S. Mc D. Moore, few facilities were afforded them to do so, and the torch was applied while helpless females were endeavouring to save their little stores, and their quarters and many of their personal effects were destroyed.

Every public document connected with the operations of the institute found in my office—and there were many copies of the various annual reports and registers—was destroyed or removed. My private library was rifled of many of its most valuable and portable volumes; and the portraits of Ex-Governors M'Dowell, Wise, and Letcher, which occupied prominent positions in it, were removed.

The houses of our poorest operatives, including seamstresses, laundresses, and labourers, were searched in common with those of the citizens generally, and some of these persons were left in a destitute and almost starving condition. The kindness of friends in Lexington had opened their houses to receive the trunks and effects of cadets; such houses were made the peculiar objects of vindictive spoliation.

Our shoe shop was despoiled of all its leather and unfinished work, and the shoe lasts, implements, and benches were then wantonly destroyed.

The bell attached to our public clock was taken down and removed, and the beautiful bronze copy of Houdon's Washington, by the gifted and lamented Hubard, after being mutilated in the effort to take it from its pedestal, was removed. Report has come in within the last few days that the enemy, being unable to transport his work of art through the mountain passes of Virginia, it was finally broken to pieces and destroyed.

F. P. BLAIR AND EDWARD EVERETT.

(From the *Richmond Whig.*)

Silver Spring, August 24, 1864.

Hon. Edward Everett.—My dear Sir,—I have troubled the President, I fear, too much, pressed as he is with many cares, to make an extraordinary effort towards thwarting the intrigues of England in seeking to engage the monarchies of Europe in her scheme of dividing the republic. They all have a common apprehension that our system of government, if progressively prosperous, may expand its influence and control their destinies; but England sees a pressing danger to her ascendency on the ocean in the growth of our maritime activity. It alarms her jealousy more immediately than the fear, which reaches her, with all the rest of the royalties, remotely, that our republican advances may gain too much among their people. Hence you see that the late debate in the House of Lords, when there was such a strong demonstration made of the wish to get Europe united to intervene to destroy our Union, shows yet more plainly that the Ministry only wait that event to make England the champion of the movement. When I received your letter, for which I give you my best thanks, I put it and the enclosure in the hands of the President, and urged upon him a second time the necessity of sending some more capable than any Minister that we have now in Europe to avert, if possible, the threatened coalition against our national life. I think we could offer to Louis Napoleon, in a treaty of commerce, advantages to the staple productions of France—in a treaty (secret if necessary)—new securities to his dynasty—in one offensive and defensive against our own and France's hereditary enemy and rival, an alliance more stable than English *entente cordiale*, which would keep him out of the plot against our Government. But if he is so bound up by new devotion to the old enemy of his house and his nation, then we ought to appeal to Russia, and endeavour to get up a Northern coalition which, made strong by our naval power, could cope with the ambition of England and France to give law to two continents. Russia, which has sought in vain to bring out her strength to play a part on the ocean, would gladly, I think, employ her diplomatic skill in concocting a plan to unite the Northern powers with the United States in the effort to deliver the land and sea from the domineering control of England and France.

It is clear that we should attempt in some way to defeat the scheme of England against us, which has for its immediate object the separation of the States and to place the States where Republican principles prevail between European dependencies North and South. The man who should back this project, now so manifestly indicated in the English Parliament, would deserve the gratitude of every lover of his race from age to age.

I had another conversation with the President on this subject but a day or two since, and I urged that you were the most accomplished man for this mission that our country furnished. I had broached the matter to Mr. Seward before going to the President for the third time, but he was fully impressed with the idea that for 'the present there was no danger of intervention; England was all right! Lord Lyons was our friend abroad! He thought of sending Mr. Weed to look into matters there, who had access to all the men in authority in England and France,' &c., &c. I told the President of this conversation, and observed that I thought you had more the ear of the sovereigns and people of Europe than Mr. Weed. Mr. Seward's suggestion, we were safe from intervention 'for the present,' makes the opportunity pertinent to intervene on our part to prevent it on that of our enemies in the future. The President concluded the interview by saying that he would give the matter his serious consideration, and I believe he will make the mission unless it be made a personal matter by Mr. Seward, who may insist on making our diplomacy a monopoly of his own to the exclusion of the President's interest in it, and set Mr. Weed, who is identified with himself, over it, as a general superintendent of our diplomacy in Europe. I wish it insisted on by persons of more power than your obedient servant, F. P. Blair.

THE DEPOPULATION OF ATLANTA.

We subjoin the letter of General Hood in reference to the depopulation of Atlanta:—

Headquarters, Army of the Tennessee, Office Chief of Staff, September 9, 1864.

Major-General Sherman, commanding United States Forces in Georgia.

General,—Your letter of yesterday's date, borne by James W. Ball and James R. Crew, citizens of Atlanta, is received. You say therein—'I deem it to be to the interest of the United States, that the citizens now residing in Atlanta should remove, &c.' I do not consider that I have any alternative in the matter. I, therefore, accept your proposition to declare a truce of ten days, or such time as may be necessary to accomplish the purpose mentioned, and shall render all the assistance in my power to expedite the transportation of citizens in this direction. I suggest that a staff officer be appointed by you to superintend the removal from the city to Rough and Ready, while I appoint a like officer to control their removal further south; that a guard of one hundred men be sent by either party, as you propose, to maintain order at that place; and that the removal begin on Monday next.

And now, sir, permit me to say that the unprecedented measure you propose transcends in studied and ingenious cruelty all acts ever before brought to my attention in the dark history of war.

In the name of God and humanity I protest, believing that you will find that you are expelling from their homes and firesides the wives and children of a brave people.

I am, General, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. B. Hood, General.

Official—McA. Hummett, Lieutenant, &c.

Accompanying the above was the following letter addressed to Colonel Calhoun, Mayor of Atlanta:—

Headquarters of the Army of the Tennessee, Sept. 9, 1864.

Hon. James M. Calhoun, Mayor.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter touching the removal of the citizens of Atlanta, as ordered by General Sherman. Please find enclosed my reply to General Sherman's letter. I shall do all in my power to mitigate the terrible hardship and misery that must be brought upon your people by this extraordinary order of the Federal commander. Transportation will be sent to Rough and Ready to carry the people and their effects further south.

You have my deepest sympathy in this unlooked-for and unprecedented affliction.—I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant, J. B. Hood, General.

On to Richmond.—'Concentration' of troops is now going on such as the war has not yet seen. From Georgia, from Louisiana, from Texas, from Arkansas, from Missouri, from South Carolina, from North Carolina, from all parts where the Federal army has hitherto been scattered, the troops of the United States are to assemble in three great bodies, each larger than the gallant Confederate army, to make a final end of the capital of the 'rebellion,' and with it the great 'rebellion' itself. A glance at the map will show any competent military mind that the permanent possession of Atlanta, or even of Chattanooga, by the Federals, is impossible unless the whole line of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, with its important points, including Lynchburg, Richmond, and Petersburg, shall be held by them also. Last April, when General Grant was beginning his grand campaign against what he deemed the head and heart of the Confederacy (that is to say Richmond and Atlanta), General M'Clellan wrote an article for a New York weekly paper, the *Round Table*, in which he showed the absolute necessity of the possession of Richmond and the line of railroad thence west to Knoxville before any permanent and satisfactory advance could be made by the United States forces south from Chattanooga. With Sherman advanced as far as he is at present in the very heart of Georgia, his left flank and long and attenuated line of communications are considerably exposed to irruptions and attacks from South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia. It will become, therefore, imperatively necessary, in order to secure the advance already gained, that the Confederate armies should be driven south of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, and east of the chain of mountains which jut into the western half of North Carolina. M'Clellan was right, and General Grant realised the necessity for the capture of Richmond quite as much as did the present Democratic candidate for the Presidency. Hence his repeated combined movements against the Southern capital, and the wild and savage desperation with which he has flung his swarming hosts upon the earthworks of Beauregard and the bayonets of Lee.—New York Correspondent of the *Morning Herald.*

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 13 Bouverie Street, E.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1864.

The War.

THE great feature in the military events since the fall of Atlanta is the latest strategic effort of General GRANT. For nearly four months he has been 'fighting it out on the line' to Richmond, and his dogged determination has ended in placing him at Washington. In front of Petersburg, with the exception of a trifling attack on a picket line at midnight of September 12, and a grand lift of 3,000 cattle effected by the Confederate cavalry opposite Harrison's Landing, fighting has quite gone out of fashion; and therefore, as there was nothing on earth for GRANT to do there, he was perhaps usefully employed in a consultation with President LINCOLN on the campaign of November. That for the promotion of Mr. LINCOLN'S interests the Federal army will maintain its lines in front of Petersburg as long as possible cannot be doubted, but circumstances seem to indicate that no active operations, except at the initiative of General LEE, will again be undertaken. However, there is reason to suppose that General GRANT remained but one day at Washington, and that he proceeded to SHERIDAN'S headquarters at Harper's Ferry on September 17. Doubtless, therefore, he was present at the action fought on the morning of September 18. Intelligence up to September 10 represented General EARLY as lying just beyond the Opequan, or rather perhaps at the sources of that river. His left seemed to extend almost up to Martinsburg, his main force to cover the advance upon Winchester and Berryville, holding the two pikes in strength, with his whole army facing towards the north-east. Now it is to be observed that it was reported on the 12th that EARLY was expected at Petersburg to reinforce the army of General LEE, and it is not improbable that the rumour rested on a good foundation. This we believe to be the true interpretation of the action fought on the 18th. If General EARLY was falling back, it was of course incumbent on General SHERIDAN to harass his rear guard. If the attack was made with vigour and in considerable force, EARLY would have been compelled to strengthen his rear, and that which at first was a mere skirmish would have grown into a battle. If EARLY were successful in repulsing the enemy, he would still continue his retreat in order to carry out the original object of his movement. Consequently whether victory crowned the Federal arms or not, it was clearly open to the Northern press to announce that EARLY had retreated up the Shenandoah Valley, and that SHERIDAN had occupied Winchester.

The Federal accounts claim not only a victory, but such a slaughter of their enemies as, if existing in reality and not in imagination, would have caused the force under EARLY to have disappeared entirely from the rolls of the Confederate army. Indeed, 5,000 killed and wounded, 2,500 prisoners, and five cannon, are the trophies on paper of SHERIDAN'S attack. Moreover, Generals GORDON and SHALER are reported killed. The Federal loss is also said to have been heavy. Experience, however, has taught us to receive with considerable reserve any intelligence which comes *viâ* Cape Race, and which cannot possibly be contradicted for the space of four or five days after its arrival in Europe. Indeed, the practice of finishing off the budget of news with some grand piece of fortune for the Federal arms has now become so habitual with the *employés* of Mr. STANTON, that the omission of that particular item would alarm us with the idea that the SECRETARY OF WAR had resigned office.

In the neighbourhood of Atlanta all is quiet, and it is even rumoured that SHERMAN has left with troops to reinforce GRANT. His army remains intrenching itself at Atlanta, and HOOD'S army rests at Lovejoy Station. How far General HOOD is to be blamed for the loss of Atlanta and the repulse at Jonesborough is not clear. SHERMAN is of course only too pleased to believe that generalship and not numbers won the day, to boast that HOOD thought the flank movement a mere feint, and that therefore HARDEE had but one *corps d'armée* to oppose, as it appears, the overwhelming attack of no less than six times their own number. That General HARDEE escaped utter annihilation is due to the amazing gallantry of his men and the skill and bravery of that excellent officer. It is probable, however, that the campaign on the part of the Federal army in Georgia is at an end, and, with the exception of the exertions of the Northern generals to preserve and improve their communications in the face of the activity of flying columns of Confederates, the south-west will offer but little to divert the attention of New York and Washington from the more engrossing topic of the Presidential election.

As was anticipated by those who had some acquaintance with the geographical position of Mobile, and the extensive works erected for the defence of the city, and who, knowing the devoted courage and fidelity of its inhabitants, recollected that 'a city is composed not of walls but of men,' failure has attended the efforts of FARRAGUT to capture or destroy the pride of Alabama. It is now discovered that the Federal fleet is not within shelling distance of the city, for, as is naïvely observed, the Government 'discredits the rumour.' It is even asserted that GRANGER has returned with 2,500 troops from Mobile to New Orleans, in order to undertake some new expedition. Perhaps, however, the results of isolated expeditions are too vividly impressed on the minds of Federal officers at New Orleans not yet oblivious of the disaster on the Red River, to leave much to be feared from this once favourite but now abandoned method of waging war. Eighteen months ago Federal garrisons abounded at every point within reach of Federal gunboats. Now there is one army at Atlanta, doomed probably to total inactivity; another at Petersburg, confronted by an equal force of Confederates; and another in the Shenandoah valley, engaged hitherto in a perpetual alternation of advance and retreat without any reasonable purpose except to defend Washington. The Federals are also in possession of New Orleans. These are the results of the mighty campaign of 1864. Texas is free from the foe. In Louisiana the Federals hug the Mississippi, and crouch under gunboats. The Confederates roam unmolested through Arkansas, and again threaten Missouri under the gallant General PRICE. The Northern Government is distracted with its electioneering operations, and fights only for victory in that campaign. Beyond all this, it is now certain that men are once more scarce, and that men must be had to maintain the positions held by the Federal armies. At Auburn Mr. SEWARD promised that there should be no draft. At Washington he declares that as 'grace can only show itself by works, so the draft will surely come if the people do not volunteer and prevent it.' The draft stood fixed for September 19, and urgent indeed must be the demand for troops when the Government ventures on so unpopular a step in prospect of the approaching election.

Washington Diplomatists.

INTERCEPTED letters resemble bursted guns—they do incalculable mischief to those who have discharged the missile. If some process of mental photography could present at certain moments a picture of the most secret operations of human thought, the effect would scarcely amaze the detected schemer more than does the publication to the world of plans and acts and ideas intended only for the perusal of a *confidant*. Indeed, so irreparable is the accident, so disastrous the effect of such disclosures, that the writer may even be tempted to wish that, like CHARLEMAGNE, 'he could not write, but had a mark to himself, like an honest plain-dealing man.'

In another place we print a letter which first saw the light in a Confederate newspaper, whose editor has the luck to be the possessor of the original. The manuscript, doubtless, was captured in the course of General EARLY'S advance through Maryland. The principal actors in the neat drama, the plot and action of which are disclosed in the letter, were FRANCIS P. BLAIR, THURLOW WEED, EDWARD EVERETT, and ABRAHAM LINCOLN. The PRESIDENT of the United States is a personage familiar, we fervently trust, to all students of American affairs, but a few words on the three remaining *dramatis personæ* may prove acceptable to readers on this side of the Atlantic.

FRANCIS P. BLAIR is a man far advanced in years, who, in former Administrations of the American Government, was a very prominent actor. He was Postmaster-General under President VAN BUREN, and when that 'old public functionary' was laid upon the shelf, he retired to his country seat of 'Silver Spring,' near Washington City, where he has ever since remained in seclusion if not obscurity. When the Black Republican party rose into importance, FRANCIS P. BLAIR became for the first time anti-slavery, and though too old to take an active part in public affairs himself, he yet exercised a considerable influence in Republican councils in the person of his sons FRANCIS P. BLAIR, jun., and MONTGOMERY BLAIR, the latter of whom is a member of the present Federal Cabinet.

THURLOW WEED was for many years an editor in Albany and a member of the famous 'Albany Junta,' which gave law to Democratic politics in the State of New York. He, too, went over to the Republicans in the hour of their strength, and his diplomatic mission to Europe, and his unsuccessful efforts to raise money here for Mr. CHASE, are well known.

EDWARD EVERETT, the Unitarian clergyman, the Harvard Professor, the Massachusetts Senator, the United States Minister to the Court of St. James's, the American Secretary of State, the candidate for the Vice-Presidency of the old line Whigs, the orator of the Mount Vernon fund, and writer for Bonner's Ledger, enjoys too wide a celebrity to make it necessary for us to do more than advert to his remarkable antecedents. He is a rhetorician of the first order, the delight of lecture-rooms, and the pride of Fourth of July celebrations. As a public man he has always been too timid to affect very decidedly the destinies of his country, and it was his timidity alone which brought him into the service of the war party of ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Now, the plot was simple enough. EDWARD EVERETT, like a great many other sensible people in America, wanted a place, and as there was no hole round enough for him, the only resource was to make one. Thereupon he applied to his excellent friend, F. P. BLAIR, who kindly undertook the office of placemonger to Mr. EVERETT. According to his own account, the zeal of F. P. BLAIR on the part of his dear friend was something amazing. He went three times to the PRESIDENT, and endeavoured to frighten out of his senses, by a terrific picture of the jealousy and hostility of England, that singularly imperturbable ruler of his people. He represented that England was busily employed in enlisting the monarchies of Europe in a scheme for dividing the great Republic—that she trembled at the ascendency of the maritime power of the United States, and at the favour which the Federal system of government enjoyed among the people of this country. The Peers were of course at the head of a movement which only awaited unity in Europe to adopt intervention. Then, having discovered the disease, he proceeded, like a quack doctor at a country fair, to advertise the remedy. He proposed, by a treaty of commerce offering great advantages to the staple productions of France, to tempt the sagacious ruler of that country into an alliance more stable than the English *entente cordiale*. Nay, he even went so far as to offer new securities for the Imperial dynasty as the price of an offensive and defensive alliance between Washington and the Tuileries. If NAPOLEON refused to listen to the voice of the charmer—for doubtless the silvery eloquence of EVERETT was praised as able to charm wisely—then an appeal was to be made to Russia, who only required the aid of GIDEON WELLES and the Federal navy to curb the ambition of the two great Powers of Western Europe. Under the inspiration of such an idea, well might F. P. BLAIR exclaim: 'The man who should thwart the scheme of England would deserve the gratitude of every lover of his race from age to age.'

Mr. EVERETT did not get the appointment. Of course not. F. P. BLAIR only laughed in his sleeve when he gravely informed that suppliant for place under WILLIAM SEWARD, that the PRESIDENT had actually condescended to consider the matter, but that probably the SECRETARY OF STATE would make a personal matter of it and appoint THURLOW WEED. However, this marvellous mission has not been established, and so Mr. EVERETT may yet hug himself with the notion that after all he was the man to curb the proud spirit of monarchical England.

The important feature, however, of this queer

revelation of the way in which trusty friends 'do' each other in true Yankeee fashion is a short reply of Mr. Lincoln to the elaborate argument of F. P. Blair. Whatever doubts might be entertained as to the goodwill of the Emperor Napoleon, the President knew well enough that in Russia he should find a genial friend, and perhaps a willing ally. The Czar had been exterminating the Poles for the terrible sin of loving liberty, and Mr. Lincoln had been fighting the Confederates because those 'misguided rebels' were determined to achieve their independence. Both had been perfectly unscrupulous in the agents and the means employed in their amiable undertakings. Both had marched towards the desired end through seas of blood and piles of burning houses. The single distinction that one had succeeded and the other had failed was a mere trifle. Consequently, if there had been any necessity for an alliance with Russia, the task of forming the friendship might have been accomplished by Thurlow Weed or even by Edward Everett. But, in the present state of the Federal Treasury, Mr. Lincoln was not so stupid as to waste £20,000 on an useless exploit. Mr. Lincoln has a diplomatist at his disposal more able and less costly than either Weed or Everett—more able because England meekly bows to his opinion, because France does not disregard it, because its own disinterestedness lends to it an overwhelming force. Mr. Lincoln's Talleyrand is no less a person than Lord Lyons, the Minister of England at the Court of Washington. 'There is no danger,' says the President, 'of intervention; England is all right; Lord Lyons is *our friend abroad*.' We from long experience have been well acquainted with the fact that Lord Lyons is the *friend abroad* of the Federal Government. It is a humiliating fact, derogatory at once to the honour and the honesty of Lord Russell. It is to Englishmen, if possible, a deeper degradation to learn that fact through the channel of a boast from the mouth of Abraham Lincoln.

The Modern Cremona.

The order of General Sherman making it compulsory on the inhabitants of Atlanta, loyal and disloyal, Unionists and Secessionists, to remove from their homes immediately, is a measure in perfect keeping with the truculent character of that man after Abraham Lincoln's heart, and will excite no surprise among any class of observers of the American war. General Sherman is undoubtedly the representative military leader of the belligerent North. He at least indulges in no weak humanitarian scruples as to the treatment of 'rebellion.' Whatever faults may have been committed by other commanders of the Federal armies in sparing the homes and lives of non-combatants (and but few have offended in this way), General Sherman has always acted fully up to the Republican programme. No temporising with treason, no rose-water for 'rebels'! *Væ victis!* handcuffs, halters, the fusillade, the conflagration—these are the means of this man's mercy, these the rules which guide him in his efforts at restoring the Union. It is a mode of procedure which can certainly be commended for its extreme simplicity, to exterminate the old occupants, or, failing that, to drive them out from the homes they once inhabited, but which never belonged to them, and parcel the lands and tenements among the rightful owners—the loyal people of the North. General Sherman has not the faintest misgiving either that this is not sound policy or that it is not enjoined upon him by considerations of the most elevated patriotism. The well-known resolutions of Faneuil Hall—1st. Resolved that the earth is the heritage of the saints; 2nd. Resolved that we are the saints—are kept by him steadily in view.

It has frequently been pointed out to the Federal leaders that to acquire a ravaged and desolated country, a wide waste of blighted fields marked here and there by the ruins of a once thriving town and the ashes of what was formerly a noble mansion, would hardly repay them for the trouble of the acquisition, supposing that it might surely be done. To make a solitude and call it a property would seem to be the consummation of folly, especially when we consider that the devastation can only be accomplished by the expenditure of untold millions, to say nothing of the prodigal sacrifice of human life. And so it has been urged, in proof of the insincerity of the Federals in their prosecution of the war, that they could really never hope to reestablish their authority over the South, or they would not endeavour to convert the South into a howling wilderness. When Mr. Jedediah Doolittle settles down on a rich thirty-acre lot in Iowa or Wisconsin, either as squatter or tenant, hoping ere long to be the recognised owner in fee-simple, he does not sow salt instead of grain over the land, nor indulge his natural propensity for whittling in the defacement of the 'shanty' with his jack-knife. Doolittle is wiser in his generation than to act thus; he is too 'smart' to do anything of the kind. And it would certainly appear that the Yankees of the present day are not so degenerate as to cheat themselves after this absurd fashion, by making utterly worthless and unprofitable the territory which they hope hereafter to enjoy. When the elder Mr. Weller reproached Samuel for allowing himself to be 'done' by the melancholy man in the mulberry suit, we all recollect the sorrowful terms of the rebuke, 'I wouldn't ha' thought you could ha' done it, Samivel, my boy;' and the Doolittles of a former day, who were gathered to their fathers after many years of successful traffic in 'tuppenny clocks and wooden nutmegs,' could they revisit the earth, might well shame their 'spooney' children for making so bad a speculation as this doubtful conquest of a ruined and worthless South.

General Sherman, perhaps, has learned wisdom, as his columns have been pushed further towards the Gulf, and as his confidence in the subjugation of the Confederates increases with his military success. Instead of burning Atlanta, he merely orders its inhabitants away. The military is to be succeeded by the domestic evacuation. The disloyal citizens are to follow General Hood. The loyal citizens, those who are willing to take the oath of allegiance to the Lincoln Administration, are to go North. General Sherman will be satisfied with nothing less than the possession of Atlanta, its dilapidated railway sheds, its crazy barbers' shops, its small drinking saloons and dingy billiard-rooms, with all and singular the appurtenances thereto belonging, free from native Georgians and adopted Atlantadæ, that he may divide the town among emigrants from New England and loyal supporters of the Union. Or he may be actuated by a benevolent desire to spare the inhabitants future discomfort when hereafter he shall burn down the whole, in the words of Dahlgren with reference to Richmond, '*make one vast flame of it*.'

Seriously, the forcible expulsion of the entire population of a captured city is an enormity so great that we should stand aghast at it if the melancholy experience of this dreadful war did not furnish us with daily outrages equal in guilt if not in proportions. The only wonder is that it passes with small comment from the press of Europe, and that the enlightened nations of the globe should have grown so callous to the sufferings of a brave people that they do not cry out against it, and protest against the conduct of a great war in a manner utterly repugnant to the moral sentiment of mankind.

New Prospects of the Roman Question.

French policy has entered a new phase. Through the usual unofficial channel of such announcements, Europe has been admonished that the army of occupation is at last to be withdrawn from Rome. The terms of the convention between France and Italy, as reported, are simple and straightforward enough.

Within two years a Papal army is to be formed, and as that army is formed the French troops are gradually to be removed. The evacuation is to be accomplished within the period named. The Italian Government is to protect the Papal States against attack from without; the Papal army is to be strong enough to maintain tranquillity at home. Finally, the Italian kingdom, having absorbed so large a part of the Papal territory, is to assume a proportionate part of the Roman debt. Such are the terms of this agreement. The removal of the Italian capital to Florence is clearly connected with it, either as a condition precedent, or by force of a secret article. Ever since the annexation of Naples to the kingdom, it has been evident that the capital could not be permanently fixed in the extreme north-western corner of the realm. The work in which Piedmont had avowed herself engaged since 1848 had not been the annexation of Italian States to the kingdom of Sardinia, nor even the expansion of Sardinia into Italy, but the fusion of all Italy, the Sardinian States included, into a common nationality, in which Piedmont claimed no other primacy than that of sacrifice, and to which she presented nothing but herself and her King. Turin, the capital of Piedmont, had no sort of title to be the capital of Italy. Military, geographical, and political considerations alike unfitted it for that rank. Yet it retained that position for the time; and this was a highly significant fact. It meant that the future capital of Italy was not yet available; that for the moment Italians could not transfer their Government to that city on which they had set their hearts. Had Florence or Naples been fixed upon, the seat of government would have been removed at once, without crowding into Turin all the new offices of the enlarged monarchy. The temporary residence of the Government in so unsuitable a spot was a practical reassertion of Count Cavour's declaration that Rome must be the capital of regenerate Italy—an intimation that it was not worth while to move until Rome was ready to receive her destined Court. The transfer of the Government to Florence is a tacit renunciation of this purpose—an avowal that, at least for the present, Rome is not likely to be the Italian capital. It may mean that the Italian Government despairs; it may mean simply that the statesmen in power have become convinced that, without giving up their hopes of uniting Rome to the kingdom, they had better abandon the idea of fixing their capital there. But, whatever the meaning of the act, it amounts to just such a retractation of the constant Italian demand for Rome as is necessary to enable Napoleon III. to withdraw his protection without betraying the Pope. And this he has done with a promptitude and in a method which seem to imply that he is glad to extricate himself from a difficult position.

No doubt he is glad. It must not be forgotten that while he is in an important sense the creator of Italian unity, he is in no respect the author of the French occupation of Rome. The kingdom of Italy is the work of the Empire; the restoration of the Pope was the act of the French Republic. It was determined before the President came into power; it was not in his power, if he desired it, to retract at that moment a measure so popular with the country, and especially with the peasantry, to whose votes he was so deeply indebted. Policy might force him to side absolutely with the Pope; but his personal sympathies must be with the Italians. After the restoration of the Papal authority and the establishment of the Empire, other circumstances conspired to make his position at Rome embarrassing. Napoleon desired the well-being, contentment, gratitude of Italy; to that end it was necessary that the chief of Italian cities should no longer be held against Italians by French troops. And yet the Catholic sovereign of Catholic France could be no party to the overthrow of Papal sovereignty. The present compromise is exactly suited to meet his conflicting purposes. He yields the guardianship of Rome to Italy, and yet takes security that Rome shall be guarded. He ceases to stand with a sword betwixt Italy and her hopes; and yet he places a sword between the Pope and his enemies which must keep them as effectually in check as his own. The device is ingenious; the arrangement is simple and equitable; the withdrawal of French interference is in itself a boon at once to the Pope and to Italy.

So long as Napoleon III. lives and wills it, we doubt not that, hard as the condition is, Victor Emmanuel and his Ministers will do their best to fulfil their share of the compact. The risk they incur is terrible. That the King of Italy should stand between Italy and Rome, that Italian bayonets should intercept the cherished purpose of the Italian nation, will awaken the indignation not only of enthusiasts like Garibaldi and republicans like Mazzini, and all over whom these have power, but also of all that numerous class of minds which are incapable of diplomatic foresight and of that inexhaustible patience which is necessary to those who wait on the slow steps of destiny. Every Italian who cannot understand the vast gain to the nation in having no foreign army quartered at Rome, and who cannot look forward to a time when France and Austria may be unable or unwilling to protect the Pope from afar, will say that if Rome is to be kept from Italy by force, it should be by foreign force—that it is better that France should execute her own decrees against Italian unity than that Italian soldiers should be the ministers of her will. There is danger of another Aspromonte—danger perhaps of worse, of risings in the cities which are the seats of patriotic enthusiasm, and of collisions in which Italian blood will be shed by Italian soldiers. But the statesmen who surround the King of Italy are farsighted and courageous; and they rely, with good reason, on the general calm sense and loyal patience of the nation. They may probably believe that the people will wait, in reliance on their King and their Government, for the realisation of their universal purpose in the way marked out by their constitutional leaders; and they know that the removal of the French army removes the chief barrier between Rome and Italy, never to be replaced. A change in the counsels of France, a European crisis, many accidents by no means improbable, may at any moment give Rome to Italy, when once no foreign army stands in the way. The Italian Government, therefore, can afford to accept the French offer, even if it mean exactly what it says and nothing more, and trust to the chapter of accidents or the natural tendency of events. The people, let us hope, will be persuaded to assist and obey their Government, instead of trying to drive it over the precipice which it discerns and they do not.

If Italy, then, can be induced to be patient—if time be given for the gradual development of the proposed arrangement and the natural ope-

ration of its provisions—it may possibly lead to a better solution of the Roman question than any contemplated by either of the extreme parties.

Hitherto there has been an insuperable obstacle to compromise in the direct personal hostility between the Papal and the Italian Courts. PIUS IX. distrusts his despoiler, and a proposal which would require that the POPE should repose confidence in the KING of ITALY is not free from difficulty. But, if the new scheme of NAPOLEON III. constitute VICTOR EMMANUEL guardian of the Papal States, and if that function be performed with fidelity and loyalty for several years, the feelings of the Head of the Church may be very different. He may see in the KING of ITALY a faithful son of the Church, and forgive the secularisation of the monasteries to Italy, as his predecessors have forgiven it to France. And when once such a good understanding is established, the main difficulties of the present situation will be smoothed down to tractable dimensions.

The sole remaining obstacle to the success of the Imperial scheme—and, in spite of experience, perhaps not an insurmountable one—is the formation of a force capable of keeping the peace in Rome itself. The withdrawal of the French troops is contingent on the organisation of a Papal army, and if the parties to the compact act loyally up to their engagements, the means may easily be discovered for executing what is but a matter of detail. If agitation from without were to cease once and for ever, the task of keeping the peace at Rome would not be too great for the skill of ANTONELLI. If the Italian Government honestly lent its aid to the suppression of factious intrigues, the populace of Rome would not resist the firm but conciliatory measures of the Papal Government. The EMPEROR has seen, and rightly, that Catholicism will not calmly contemplate the dishonour or plunder of the Head of the Church, and he has attempted to reconcile the march of Italian ideas with the preservation of what is dear to every adherent of the Church of Rome.

CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

MANCHESTER: September 28, 1864.

FOR an Abolitionist to champion the Confederacy is a phenomenon that has long since lost its quality of rarity. It has ceased to be a contradiction in terms and has grown to be a sign of the times. It is indeed possible the Confederates may not be charmed by the advocacy of their new allies, any more than their new allies can regard with entire complacency the embarrassing relationship they no longer find it honest to shrink from or disavow. In some essential respects, however, tribute from this peculiar quarter is the highest that could be paid; and perhaps before rejecting the curious offering the Southern people will remember with approval that the gift is handed to them with a reluctance that makes it costly—at least to the giver.

The most recent and apparently most unwilling convert from the Anglo-Federal ranks is the Rev. J. Page Hopps, a very broad-Churchman of the school of George Dawson, whose curate he formerly was, and of whose inimitable qualities as a lecturer he by no means shuns to remind one. The rev. gentleman, as I mentioned in a previous letter, felt himself moved to volunteer a series of lectures on 'Peace in America on the basis of Southern Independence.' He opened his campaign at Oldham, has followed it up at Ashton, and I understand is about to continue it at Stockport and other manufacturing towns that return members of Parliament. How he fared at Oldham we were all content to take upon trust. At Ashton (Mr. Milner Gibson's constituency) I made one of his hearers, and found the salient points of his lecture at least sufficiently clear and defined to be worthy of being reproduced in the report accompanying this letter. Of his audience the rev. gentleman had certainly no reason to complain, for the town hall was very much crowded, and everybody looked like the image of attention. After expressing his sense of the responsibility of addressing 'so magnificent a meeting' upon so serious a question, he felt it his first duty to disown the Southern Independence Association. He belonged to no party. He was one of those (how like the George Dawson of twelve years ago!) who deeply regretted that the questions of our time somehow got into the hands of 'parties'; and he was also one of those who wished to bring about a healthier state of things, when free men, unconnected with this party or that, would address themselves to the great questions of the day without the risk of being identified with some 'party' or other that had chosen to take the matter up. His next duty was to declare himself an abolitionist, an admirer of Republican institutions, and one who thought the secession of the South a hasty and ill-tempered act. But his third office was a more ticklish one—that of testing the meeting, and, if possible, carrying it by a sort of rhetorical *coup-de-main*. He was an abolitionist, but there was more than slavery in this war; he admired Republicanism so much that he would have two republics at peace with each other, instead of only one inherently at war with itself; and although the seceders were 'hasty and ill-tempered,' it was clear the task of bringing them back was at least a hopeless and impolitic one, and the Federal power would do wisely to confess as much, and take the consequences. At this point the rev. lecturer was greeted with rounds of general cheering, and it became manifest that, in so far as a large and authentic meeting could be held to represent public feeling in Ashton, the Confederate cause had thoroughly won the good will of the constituents of the President of the Board of Trade. Having argued forcibly and conclusively the *right* of secession (which he held was the sole proposition there was any logical necessity to prove), he went on to consider whether there was any *reason* for secession. That was a question, he confessed, which no outsiders had a right to ask. It was the business of the Confederacy to judge for itself on that matter. He did not say it was well for the Southern States to secede; nor did he say they had good and sufficient cause for what they did. But one thing he knew—he knew they had some cause for seceding; and another thing he had proved, viz. that the North had no right to coerce. As to at least one of the causes of secession, let it be remembered there was a general predominance of the North, tending to put the South in a helpless minority, at the mercy of Northern abolitionists and Northern manufacturers,—a condition of things in which the Southern producer was made to pay heavily for his compulsory partnership with the Northern merchant. Let them also bear in mind the significant fact that, immediately upon the secession of the South, the North (hoping to get the seceders back in a crippled state) passed a tariff more oppressive than ever, the effect of which would have been to shut out nearly every article of foreign manufacture; and coupled with that fact, let him remind them that the Southern States, immediately after seceding, proclaimed their intention of adopting free trade,—it would then be seen that it was in a great measure a question of taxation and commerce, a question of clashing interests that had grown irreconcilable, that really led, after forty years of conflict, to actual secession and to war, and only to war because, in exercising their right of quitting the partnership, the Southern States were met by an opposition that attempted to coerce them to remain. 'Let Englishmen,' said the rev. gentleman in conclusion, 'let Englishmen, in kind and earnest tones, send across the Atlantic the message, "Put up thy sword into thy sheath," and he believed that ten million hearts, both North and South, would grow glad at their voice and answer them with blessings. Let Englishmen speak the word "Peace," and once more their industry would flourish and the people would be fed.'

At the close of the lecture the whole assembly cheered the rev. gentleman again and again, and the proceedings were brought to a close by a vote of thanks to the Mayor of the Manor (S. D. Lees, Esq., M.D.), who presided on the occasion, and whose cordial cooperation has never been wanting to the Confederate Cause in Ashton.

The Lancashire quota of signatures to the great 'Peace Address to the People of the United States' is now completed and on the way to London. How the movement has sped in other parts of the United Kingdom I cannot of course pretend to say, but if anything like the same measure of success has attended it there as in the manufacturing districts, the aggregate result must be an 'instrument' as enormous as it is unparalleled. It would have been the work of but a little more time to have reckoned the signatures in the North of England alone by millions instead of hundreds of thousands.

The refusals to sign the document have been extremely few, and it somewhat oddly happens that it is with these—as showing the strong, nay jealous, sympathy that is felt for the Confederacy in some parts of the country—that it chiefly concerns me to deal. The following choice *morceaux* may be rather hard of digestion in certain quarters, but they are extracts from letters that have been placed at my disposal, and it would not be just to the Confederates or their friends if they were merely expediently suppressed:—

Carmarthenshire.

I regret being obliged to return the enclosed, which I cannot sign for the reason stated at the foot of this note, viz., that if by 'Sister States' be meant the South, it would be a misrepresentation to say that my sympathies ever were more in favour of the North; and I cannot refrain from adding that the cruel, unmanly, and brutal treatment of the Southern women by officers still in the service of the North, has filled me with disgust (and I believe the feeling is general in England) towards a people and Government who have tolerated such conduct.

Preston.

I return to you the copy of the 'Address,' and without my signature, as I cannot adopt the language of it. Yankee boastful vanity has disgusted me. Their undisguised hatred of England she can afford to accept, but I believe it is not the interest of this country to promote the reestablishment of the Union at the expense of the Confederacy.

Leicestershire.

Be so good as to send some more blank addresses for signature, and also send some to —— and ——. Do not infer from the signatures already forwarded to you that we all agree in the whole of the Address. I and others detest the Yankees. They without cause hated us with an agony of hatred, and for that and other causes I hate them.

Rectory, York.

I regret I cannot sign or circulate the Address you have sent me. I was never 'inclined' to the cause of the North against the South, and I do not believe that some of the sentiments of the Address are shared by any considerable portion of the English nation. I will gladly sign an address for peace pure and simple, and the shorter the better; but secession was always right, and the war on the part of the North was always infamous and tyrannical.

The Vicarage, Lincolnshire.

I cannot sign the Address for peace in America, because my sympathies have always been with the South, which the concluding sentence in the first paragraph denies. Otherwise I go entirely with all you say.

Milford Haven.

I cannot say that when the war began my 'heart was more inclined' to the North than to the South, nor from the first did I believe (and many think with me) that the 'action of the South was but the work of a faction.' Under these circumstances I deeply regret that I am unable to sign the Address for peace, and I write to say so, not that it is of any importance how this small section of the community might view the form of your efforts or the language you employ, but because I think it extremely probable that many will like to join in an appeal for peace, who will not do so only because they are unable to subscribe to the form in which the Address now being circulated is couched.

AN ABOLITIONIST CLERGYMAN ON SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE.

GREAT 'PEACE' DEMONSTRATION AT ASHTON.

FROM OUR OWN REPORTER.

ASHTON: Sept. 26.

LAST Wednesday evening the magistrates, clergy, leading local gentry, manufacturers, tradesmen, and cotton operatives, attended in overflowing numbers in the large Town Hall of this borough, to hear a lecture on 'Peace in America on the basis of Southern Independence,' from the Rev. J. Page Hopps, formerly of St. Saviour's, Birmingham.

S. D. Lees, Esq., M.D., Mayor of the Manor, occupied the chair. The meeting was said to be one of the most important, whether as regards its influential character or the numbers attending it, ever held in Ashton.

The Chairman said it was not his duty that night to make a speech, inasmuch as the reverend lecturer was prepared, he believed, to address the meeting at considerable length. He might, however, be permitted to repeat what he had often said before, that the American question was one in which the prosperity of Ashton was very deeply involved, and therefore it deserved the serious consideration of every one present. It was quite certain that a return of their prosperous condition could not be reasonably expected until there was a return of peace in America. Until that time they could not expect to receive an adequate supply of cotton fit for their machinery, and he was sorry to add that until then there would be no bread for the unfortunately famishing people who had so long been dependent upon public charity. The manufacturers were all agreed that the prospect during the coming winter was a gloomy one, that many large concerns were preparing to close, and that probably the distress would be felt by the operatives this season as severely as during the worst period of the cotton famine; and concurrently with this alarming view of the case, it was to be remembered that the funds in the hands of the Central Committee and the Mansion-house Committee were getting rapidly exhausted. It was but natural, therefore, if only on selfish grounds, to hope for the return of peace on some terms or other. Partisans of the North ought to join in that wish. For his own part he was, as they well knew, an advocate of the independence of the South, on the ground that the South deserved it and had won it; but whether the North could or could not conquer the South, it was quite certain that the two peoples could never again dwell together in the Union as it existed before the war, and therefore he desired to see a peaceful separation as the best for the Americans and for ourselves. There were some, he believed, in that hall who adopted Northern views, but he had no doubt they would listen patiently to the reverend lecturer on the Southern side of the question, and, in that case, his office as chairman would be, as he hoped, a sinecure.

The reverend lecturer, on presenting himself to the vast concourse of people, was received with loud applause. He assured them he felt the very great responsibility of addressing a magnificent meeting like the one then assembled upon the most serious question of their day. He could only promise them that he would give them the best he had on this matter; for it would be an insult to such an audience to come before it only with passionate declamation or with loosely-formed opinions, expressed as it were at random, or so as to feed the excitement of the hour. He wished it, however, to be clearly understood that he stood upon that platform on his own responsibility. He represented no society, nor was he a member of any 'party.' If any Tory, therefore, fancied he was going to claim him because he happened to partly agree with him on the American question, he might save his pains. He was there as a free man to speak: the audience were there as free men to hear. If any of them were anti-slavery, so was he. If any of them were for the great American Republic, so was he; and he loved the idea so well that he would have two republics instead of one. With all these concessions, he desired not to be led by fancies, but by facts. Before he had done they would see that fair play and peace were involved in the American question, and that peace in America meant the recognition of the fact that the present war was a hideous, cruel, and blind mistake. He would, however, confess that he too had his sins on this matter. At first he shared the then prevailing opinion, and he wrote and spoke in favour of the Northern Government, and he longed to see the Confederacy put down. But that was before he studied the question. He now felt bound to believe that the South had a right to secede, that the North had at all events no right to coerce, and that a certain portion of the English people were very far from having a true insight into the whole case. Let them all remember they had nothing to do with the objects of the Confederacy in the form of government they wished to adopt. For the purpose of his argument, it might be all true that was said about the slaveholding system. But this would not affect their right to govern themselves. What if the Northern States were really fighting against slavery? How could that affect the right of the South to secede? Supposing the South had this right—and that was the point he meant presently to dwell upon and prove—it was not for logical men to turn round and say, 'But you are going to govern yourselves on wrong principles.' That was purely their own business and none of ours. The question for our consideration was not how they proposed to govern themselves, but whether they had a right to govern themselves at all. (Here the reverend lecturer entered upon a lucid and cogent argument, in which he examined the origin of the American Union, citing many eminent authorities upon the subject, and proving with much clearness and force the indubitable right of the South to secede.) It appeared from what might be called the almost united testimony of every party and statesman previous to the war that, first, each State was distinct and separate, and independent, except for the transaction of certain affairs that the Union was formed to expedite; second, that the will of the people which took a State into the Union could take it out; and third, that the coercion of any State was unlawful and impolitic—a crime, in fact, against the Constitution and the people, and the liberty on which the very Republic was based. Now, here was a curious list of threats of secession, which ought to take a deal of dust out of English people's eyes. Threats against the integrity of the Union were uttered in the following order: By Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, in 1780; by the Northern States in 1784, again in 1786, and many times during the sitting of the Federal Convention at Philadelphia, under the Presidency of Washington himself, in 1787; by Massachusetts, in 1789; by the North, in 1790, 1791, and 1792; by Pennsylvania, on the reappointment of Washington as President, in 1794; by Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and other Southern States, in 1798; by the Northern States, in 1804; by the New England States (especially Massachusetts), in 1808; by the North, in 1818, 1819, and 1820; by the Southern States (on the

tariff system), in 1824, 1828, and 1830; by the Northern States, in 1838, 1840, and 1842; by the North, again, in 1846; again in 1850; and again in 1854; and, finally, by the Southern States, in 1860. Secession, therefore, was no new thing. Ever since the Union was established secession has been contemplated at frequent intervals, the legality of it had never been questioned, and the power of coercion had never been suggested. And now for a few words in reply to a question which some no doubt were impatient to ask: 'What about slavery?' He had already proved that they had no right to ask that question. Not even the Northern States had a right to ask it. But there was no need to dispose of the matter in that way. He would look the question fully in the face. Slavery, he owned, had something to do with secession. To say it had nothing to do with it was as great a mistake as to say it had everything to do with it. The fearful gulf now stretching between North and South was wider and deeper than the one question of slavery could have made it; but he believed the slavery question had helped to widen it. The fact of Lincoln's election being the signal for secession was a proof that slavery had something to do with it; but Lincoln's election was only the spark that set the gunpowder on fire. But was the Northern Government, therefore, fighting against slavery, and was that one of the issues of the war? He did not know whether to wonder more at the audacity or the simplicity of those who said so. The Fugitive Slave Law made slavery compulsory upon every State in the Union. Northern senators voted that bill, and Boston fired a hundred guns to commemorate its becoming law, and Boston's hundred ministers knelt over their scarlet cushions and blessed God for the enactment. President Lincoln, on his election, offered a guarantee that slavery should not be interfered with, and Congress passed a resolution that it was no part of the war to repress the institution. But when the Southern armies could not be subdued, Lincoln turned round and met the military necessity by issuing his proclamation. That instrument was at once a threat and a bribe. If you keep out of the Union, we will punish you by emancipation; if you keep in the Union, we will let you keep your slaves. The opinion of F. Douglass was of priceless value. Himself a fugitive slave, now a scholar, he at least ought to be listened to as the advocate of his race. Douglass at first rejoiced in this war. He was permitted by the Federal Government to go to the South to raise a regiment of emancipated slaves, but has returned a heartbroken man, declaring that the negro was being used by the North for its own cruel purposes; and that, between North and South, the slave, as between two millstones, was being ground to powder. In this matter of slavery, in so far as it was a cause of the war, he (the reverend lecturer) would say at once the North was to blame. The North broke the laws of the Union, violated the Constitution, and then sought to punish those with whom they had broken faith. He praised the North—he praised the Abolitionists—for defying the impious Slave Law Bill; but he thought it cowardly and mean not to take the consequences of their own actions—not to be virtuous up to the virtue they professed. The fact was, the wrong section of Americans had seceded. It was the North, and not the South, that ought to have gone out. (After referring at some length and with much force to the political preponderance of the North, and the irreconcilable commercial differences between North and South, the reverend gentleman concluded his address as follows.) The South does not want war. It never did want war. There is to me a pathos, as well as a solemn dignity, in the attitude of the Southern States appealing to the world to testify that all they seek is to be let alone. Why, then, is this war to be continued? The war is unjust, inasmuch as the aggressors had no right to invade their sister States, to confiscate, coerce, and destroy. The war is useless, inasmuch as it is impossible that six millions of people united by a common peril, a common hope, a common hate, will ever be subdued. The attempted coercion of the seceding States is every way impolitic and bad. Bad because they who attempt to coerce them have no right to do it—bad because to have attempted it was to insult the principles upon which the Republic was based—bad because to succeed would be to introduce the crimes and the cruelties of the worst of European despotisms—and bad because it is endangering the liberties of the very people who are engaged in it, since it is a law in government that they who consent to tyrannise over others must necessarily be training up in their midst tyrants who will in turn rule over them. But grant all that had been said against the Confederacy—grant they had no right to secede—grant their enemies are fighting for the freedom of the slave—and even then I will ask you whether freedom is to be served by years of such ghastly warfare as this. Freedom would then indeed be a more hideous idol than Moloch, at whose horrid shrine besotted parents compelled their children to pass through the fire. I ask you if it has not been sufficiently proved that this is a useless as well as unjust war. I ask you if the price already paid in blood, treasure, and liberties, is not more than enough; and if not, tell me, in the name of all that is horrible, how much farther in this fiendish carnival you would have your brethren go. As a lover of freedom and a friend of peace, I put it to you whether the time has not come for England to say, 'Put up thy sword into thy sheath.'

At the conclusion of the lecture, which occupied an hour and a half in the delivery, and was listened to throughout without a dissentient murmur, the reverend gentleman was honoured with an enthusiastic vote of thanks—in fact, the cheering appeared to be quite general, not only in ratifying the vote of thanks, but at frequent intervals in the lecture, and especially at those passages wherein the reverend gentleman's arguments told with most weight against the North.

A very large number of the population of Ashton have added their names to the Peace Address about to be forwarded to the 'People of the United States.'

FEDERAL ATROCITIES.—The Richmond correspondent of the *Times* writes: 'It is time that your readers should understand that this American struggle (apart from the great armies on either side) has long ago ceased to be conducted according to the nominal code of civilised warfare. I have again and again endeavoured to call attention to acts of special barbarity, and, little heed as England now gives to the details of this war, I am in hopes that the recent infamous atrocities committed in Westmorland County by Federal officers, who instigated the brutal African savages to enact deeds of lust and shame upon white women such as make the blood run cold with horror, will not have fallen upon entirely unheeding ears. But if it is imagined that Southern men, and especially Virginians, will look quietly on at burning farms, and merely capture the Yankee perpetrators of these atrocities when they catch them red-handed, your readers can know very little of Southerners, or, indeed, of human nature.'

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK: September 13, 1864.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION—THE FUTURE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY—THE POSITION OF M'CLELLAN—THE SPECULATION IN GOLD—WAR RUMOURS—FAILURE OF THE LOUISIANA COTTON CROP—HOW GENERAL MORGAN WAS BETRAYED.

THE indications would now appear to be unmistakable that a fierce war will rage from now to election day between what are known as the peace and war wings of the Democratic party. Prior to the meeting of the Chicago Convention, and after its adjournment, we were told that all was 'harmony' in the ranks of the Democracy, and that they would enter the Presidential contest—the most momentous and important in this country's annals—with an unbroken front. But there seems to have been a fatal error in all this; or rather, the harmony was only a *conditional* one, and hinged on the position the candidate of the Convention would assume in his letter accepting the honour.

The platform was adopted the day *preceding* the nomination for a candidate, and no one can read that without coming to the conclusion that the Convention, large and influential as it was, was almost unanimous for peace. Nor was this a peace in one hand, and a sword in the other. It was intended to mean the best possible peace that could be secured, and at any rate a discontinuance of further fighting. The platform was everywhere construed to embody these principles, and Peace men hailed it as a harbinger of joy and gladness. Next day came the nomination for President. There was some opposition shown to M'Clellan, and here was the first symptom of a disturbance of the previous harmony that appeared. A portion, a minority of the Convention, could not trust M'Clellan as a Peace man, and the majority, as is believed, only trusted him because of a conviction that he would repudiate his former declarations about a continuance of the war, and accept the platform already adopted. It is absurd to suppose the majority of that Convention held any other belief. They had declared the principles of the Democratic party to be Peace, and it was as essential for a Peace candidate to be nominated as for the arm to be attached to the body. None but a convention of idiots would pursue any other course. If the declaration of principles and sentiment was peace, then the standard-bearer of those principles must, of necessity, be in favour of their full and unequivocal enforcement. M'Clellan was nominated under what has turned out the terribly mistaken belief that he would wipe out his former record and square himself with the platform; but his letter shows that he will do nothing of the kind, and like a bombshell has it done its work. The party is torn asunder, and the golden opportunity for peace through a Democratic Administration is lost.

It is impossible to describe the depth of bitterness which the Peace men feel towards M'Clellan and the War portion of the Democracy who will adhere to him, nor do I think there is the remotest chance for this feeling to be allayed. The War Democracy will urge the Peace men to stand with them, if for no other purpose than to oust the present Administration from their places. This, they will contend, is the vital point; while the nominee of the party is merely a secondary consideration—not to be thought of, indeed, before so momentous a consideration as driving the present usurpers from power. But such coaxing and argument will fail in its purpose. The Peace party at the North is determined that a Peace candidate shall be presented for the suffrages of the people; if the people will not rally to his support, the fault will be their own, and it will, at any rate, be decided that the majority of the North is not ready for peace. We may reasonably look then, at no distant day, for the nomination of an out-and-out Peace candidate for the Presidency, who can be voted for not only by the Democracy, but by all other politicians and the public at large as well.

Just now the M'Clellan men are the most jubilant and boastful of all. They regard the question as already settled, and their organs are engaged in carving out the labours of their 'future President.' 'When General M'Clellan is elected,' &c., &c., &c. 'The new President's policy will be,' &c., &c., &c. Well, what will his policy be? Why, so far as fighting is concerned, it will far outstrip Mr. Lincoln for vigour; for the Union is to be 'preserved at all hazards.' Mr. Lincoln's war, it is alleged, is to destroy the Union—M'Clellan's will be to preserve it; and it will be war to the hilt if the South so wills it. The South can have peace 'now (when M'Clellan takes his seat) in the Union, but it can never have peace out of the Union.' Such is the programme of the M'Clellan organs, and the letter of that personage shows that the programme is correct; and M'Clellan will receive thousands of votes that would otherwise be cast for Lincoln, simply because he is a War candidate, but favours a different conduct of the war. The blind zeal of multitudes will cause them to vote for M'Clellan, because, as they believe, he really will be successful in bringing or whipping the South back; they do not believe the South will spurn the kind offer to return to the Union (?); and there are actually tens of thousands at the North who expect to see the South back again as soon as the offer is made! Once M'Clellan is elected, the war will be over!

You will see from this that the true position of the South is still totally misunderstood at the North. A minority, it is true, do understand it, and these are in favour of stopping the war at once and making the best bargain with the South they can. But the vast majority, still hugging the fatal delusion that the South can be whipped into 'obedience,' are for a continuance of the strife, and, therefore, either Lincoln or M'Clellan will be elected, though I think the former.

The rupture in the Democratic party is greatly relished by their opponents, as might well be expected. United, the Democracy would have been a terror to their enemies, and the field would have been swept with all ease; but as it is, the odds are decidedly with Lincoln. His reelection will be rendered doubly certain if, as is alleged, Fremont has written a letter withdrawing as a candidate, thus leaving the contest to Lincoln and M'Clellan, and a Peace candidate should one be run. This alleged letter of Fremont's is said to be in the hands of his friends, and will be made public at an early day. The report from the second gun of the fall campaign—the election in Maine—reached us last night, and if the returns at hand may be regarded as an index of the State, the Republican vote, like that of Vermont, is in excess of last year. The *World*, as the crackbrained champion of M'Clellan, does not regard these returns from Maine and Vermont as indicative of how these States will vote in November, but to my mind they point unerringly to the triumph of Lincoln.

The *News* to-day charges that the substance of the Chicago platform was drawn up two months since, and presented to M'Clellan, who 'approved it both in its letter and its spirit,' whereas now he ignores it *in toto*, and comes out with a platform of his own. It is charged by some that the fall of Atlanta and the victory in Mobile Bay was the reason for M'Clellan acting as he did. With such grand victories his friends argued, a Peace candidate would stand no chance of an election, and M'Clellan, to have any show at all, must reaffirm his former declarations that the war must go on. But let these victories the people would have been dragged with Lincoln and his efforts, would have acknowledged that the war was a failure, and would have been ready, for the best peace that was practicable; but 'Atlanta and Mobile,' as the song has it, changed all this, and in further victories is our only hope. It is the old delusion, as I have said above, that the South can really be conquered and brought back to the Union by force of arms.

As a friend of the South I hope Lincoln will be reelected. Were I compelled to vote, I should vote for him in preference to M'Clellan, and in doing so I should feel that I was casting a vote for the independence of the South; but as I am not compelled to vote, I shall stay at home and let the politicians fight it out.

There are some who assert that the M'Clellan letter is a mere blind; that he is not the Fighting War man that he pretends to be in that letter; that it has been forced from him as the only hope of success; but that, once elected, he will 'see the flag of the Union trailed in the dust,' and be the negotiator on one side of a 'dishonourable peace.' General Wood, in a published letter, charges this on him flatly, and the Abolition journals generally, to damage him as much as possible as a candidate, reiterate the charge—and all this, too, in face of the unmistakable letter that M'Clellan has written.

The violent reaction in gold is without any substantial basis whatever. Just at present there is no particular demand for the article, and the bears, taking advantage of this, have dealt it a series of sledge-hammer blows, bringing it yesterday as low as 214. From this there was a return to 221½; but as I write (Tuesday) it is not quotable over 219. The mischief caused by these freaks of the bears is most incalculable, and where parties are compelled to sell their goods, bought at much higher rates, or say when gold ranged from 250 to 280, the losses are severe indeed; and even where the goods are not sold, the heavy fall tends to impair the credit of every merchant who happens to have a large stock of goods, bought at inflated prices, on hand. Outside of the bull operators in gold I hear of only one failure, that of a German house, the liabilities of which are not known.

Of course, among men who know anything of the financial position of the United States, this 'fall in gold' passes them as the idle wind. They know there is no substantial basis for it—they know that our paper liabilities are increasing steadily at the rate of five millions per day—they know that the receipts are not one dollar to six as compared with the expenses—and they know that the Government is constantly pledging itself to additional gold interest upon bonds that must be met, or repudiation follow. The latter, they feel sure, is certain, and hence the antics of the bears in gold do not trouble them. Those who have stocks of goods that they can hold, *will hold them* through all the absurd attacks that may be made upon gold; while those who have not the means to hold must of necessity be heavy sufferers.

The money market is, of course, deranged by the gold flurry, and paper ranges from 8 to 16 per cent., with a decidedly close scrutiny of names.

Rumours were current yesterday that Grant had been driven from the Weldon Road with a serious loss in men and guns, but there is no confirmation of it to-day, or indeed of any fight whatever in that direction. At last reliable advices, Lee was still massing his troops in front of Grant, and reinforcements from some quarter were daily arriving, but beyond this nothing positive is known. It is not likely, however, that Grant will open an assault upon Lee, but will rather await an attack for which he is stripping everything within his reach. His lines were extended on Friday night by the capture of the Confederate picket line across the Plank Road in front of Petersburg, an attempt to retake which was unsuccessful. The Confederate pickets give as an excuse for the capture of their line that they were 'asleep,'—the charge having been made after midnight. The new position places Grant about half a mile in advance of that previously held.

There is considerable speculation as to where Lee is receiving his reinforcements from. Some writers assert that they are from Hood's army, others from the Shenandoah, and still others that they are new recruits. My own belief is that the latter form a portion of the reinforcements, and that the balance are withdrawn from the Shenandoah—Early, meanwhile, being left sufficiently strong to maintain his position at Winchester, which he has thus far done successfully.

I have before advised you of the failure of the cotton crop in Louisiana. Let me give you an extract of a letter just to hand, dated the 3rd inst. 'The cotton crop is utterly gone; the worms will not leave enough to pay the expense of assessing, let alone gathering it. This cultivation of Southern soil and crops on Northern principles is a magnificent failure,' and, I may add, it will be so as long as the invader remains.

We have nothing whatever from Mobile, save a rumour that Forrest and his men have arrived there to take part in the defence of the city.

Hood reports the driving of Sherman's forces from Jonesborough, and the recapture of the hospital at that point containing Confederate wounded. Sherman's army is probably now all at Atlanta, the works around which will be strengthened, and the army proper allowed to rest. It is doubtful whether he will essay the offensive again under four or six weeks. Reliable advices represent that Hood left his antagonist nothing that could be rendered of the slightest value. The communications of Sherman with Nashville are said to be in order again.

The Cairo despatches give a 'report' of the death of General Price, from dysentery, at Arkadelphia.

It is understood that the *Tallahassee* was to leave Wilmington to-day, and that the *Edith* would soon follow. The *A. D. Vance*, from Wilmington, with 410 bales of cotton, bound for Halifax, has been captured, as also the *Elsie*, with 400 bales, 150 of which were destroyed by a shell from the Federal cruiser exploding in her forehold. The two vessels with their cargoes are valued at $500,000. The *Georgia*, prize, and the *Niagara* arrived at Beaufort on the 9th, *en route* to Boston. As a partial set-off to the above captures, the Confederates on Saturday week captured the Federal steamer *Fawn*, and burned her to the water's edge. Her officers, crew, and passengers were taken prisoners.

Morgan was betrayed by a woman in whose house he was sleeping near Greenville. The woman, unknowingly to the General, was the wife of an officer on Burnside's staff. Finding who her guest was, she mounted a horse, rode fifteen miles, and returned with the party who took him prisoner. He attempted to escape and was shot dead.

Stanton, it is said, will oppose the project for a free trade in cotton, though Lincoln is believed to favour it.

The loss of Atlanta is now clearly traceable to the absence of Hood's cavalry, which was off raiding on Sherman's lines. Had it been with Hood, Sherman could hardly have swept round to Jonesborough without the fact being quickly known at Atlanta, whereas Hood was totally ignorant of the event until he heard of the defeat of Hardee's corps.

Richmond papers just to hand report Grant massing a large body of troops on the road two miles south of Petersburg, as if with the intention of reaching the South-side railroad at some point near the town.

It is said that six corps of Sherman's forces were pitted against the corps of Hardee in the battle of Thursday at Jonesborough—enough, certainly, 'to crush out' that part of the 'rebellion,' any how.

THE DISTURBANCES AT TURIN.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

TURIN: September 24, 1864.

WE have had two days of horrors. This city, hitherto the model of cities for the good behaviour of her population, and the quietest of all European capitals, has been the theatre of bloody scenes which have no parallel in the history of Piedmontese convulsions, even at the darkest epochs of priestly supremacy and military despotism.

As soon as the intelligence of a convention being stipulated between the Italian and French Governments, in virtue of which Florence was to become the capital of the kingdom, was divulged through the city, the greatest excitement prevailed, which with wonderful rapidity spread like wildfire among the masses. This was on the morning of the 21st. Conflicting rumours began to circulate in favour of and against the Ministers; but this very collision of opinions tended to increase rather than diminish the uproar. At last the single idea seemed all at once to take hold of the popular mind, namely, that the removal of the capital to Florence implied the abandonment of Rome. Who first uttered it, or whence it came, no one knows: the fact is that, by noon of the same day, all Turin thought so, and was impressed accordingly.

Now that I am enabled to reflect a little more coolly on the mysterious flash of that one common idea, I must confess that there was nothing wild in it. The Emperor of the French, by his actions and policy, had long ago forced upon the Italian people the opinion that he was personally opposed to Italian unity, and that all his endeavours had constantly pointed to his favourite scheme of an Italian Confederacy. Moreover, it had been almost universally believed that if the cause of unity had made so little progress in Italy, this had happened through the influence and opposition of the Emperor and his august wife, who were reported to have stated that France would never allow an Italian garrison to occupy the Eternal City.

Was it then strange that the population of Turin—this ever-vigilant sentinel of our liberties and our national honour—should unanimously be led to believe that the transfer of the capital to Florence meant neither more nor less than the official avowal of the Italian people's renunciation of all claims on Rome? Of course some sentiment of interest, gain, and selfish lucre must have had its share in the manifestation of the popular opinion. This is quite natural. But I do positively declare that this venal desire was restricted to a few individuals, and that the great majority of both Turinese and non-Turinese inhabitants of the city entertained no thought which was not disinterested and noble.

After 2 P.M. of the same day all the squares and principal streets were really full of people, partly going and coming and partly stopping in small squads to discuss the momentous question of the day. Up to that moment no display of force had yet been made by the authorities, and as Turin has always been looked upon as the most loyal and most orderly city in the kingdom, it was not even dreamed that any force would ever have been called out. But we had reckoned without our hosts.

Piazza S. Carlo is undoubtedly one of the most magnificent squares of Turin, and every English tourist must remember its splendid monument of Emmanuel-Philibert's equestrian statue. Well, it was there that most of the population had collected, not only on account of its delicious and sunny locality, but because it was expected that a demonstration of young wags would be made against the director of the *Gazetta di Torino* for having spoken in favour of the removal. As bad luck would have it, it happened that the office of the Questura (the chief department of police) is situated in Piazza S. Carlo, near the church of Sta. Cristina, almost opposite the office of the *Gazetta*.

A few minutes before three o'clock the procession entered Piazza S. Carlo from Via Nuova. It was composed of about thirty individuals belonging to that class known here under the name of *giovanni di banco*, or clerks. They had no arms whatever; were carrying an Italian tricolor; and were accompanied, very naturally, by a crowd of noisy boys, who yelled, hissed, and screeched like so many imps. Now mark what happened, and believe that what I am going to relate is as true as truth itself, inasmuch as I was an eyewitness myself of the first act of this bloody and awful drama.

No sooner had the procession stopped in front of the office of the *Gazetta* than out of the Questura rushed about fifty guards, who, sabre in hand, fell like demons on the inoffensive actors of the procession, cutting right and left without mercy. It was a speedy work, I assure you, which did not last so long as it takes me to relate it, and which cleared out the ground as if a whirlwind had passed over it. After this inhuman butchery came the chase, and after the chase the arrest of those of the processionists who had had the good luck of being spared by the sabre. The number of the wounded is not yet ascertained; some say they were above fifteen. The fact is that only ten were arrested and dragged to the Questura. It was when the last couple of the arrested were entering its door that all the people disseminated through the square collected in a solid mass, and rushed like an avalanche towards the Questura, whose doors were immediately shut. Then a wild scene ensued—one of the wildest I ever saw. Baffled at finding the solid door resist against their pressure, the people began to shout and throw stones against the windows. Not one single pane was spared; everything that could be broken was pulverised; but not even a penknife was brandished. The population was utterly unarmed. A little later a deputation came to the Questura from the City Hall asking for the immediate release of the arrested, which was at once granted. The crowd outside was frantic with joy when they beheld their fellow-citizens rescued from their iniquitous captivity, and as they continued to shout against and threaten the guards of the Questura, a battalion of Carabinieri (our local gendarmes) was summoned to the spot to keep the populace in check, who, having by this time (about 7 P.M.) been augmented with a large number of workmen just from their shops, had really assumed a terrible attitude.

Still not a solitary act of reprisal had yet been committed by the citizens, and it was hoped that nothing more serious would happen to sadden our hearts. It was really believed that the popular excitement, after having freely vented its fury in clamours and vociferations, would at last fall into its normal tranquillity and be hushed. But we were reserved to a bitter and melancholy disappointment. While the angry human sea was roaring in Piazza S. Carlo, a few hundreds of other citizens were walking up and down Piazza Castello, which is within gunshot of the other square. These were people even more peaceable than those collected in Piazza S. Carlo, and who had resorted there only attracted by curiosity. I happened to pass through Piazza Castello at about half-past 9, and saw a great many ladies with their male companions scattered in different directions, and seemingly indifferent to what was being enacted at three hundred paces from them. I saw also a platoon of Carabinieri, commanded by an officer, marching in a very composed and solemn way towards that corner of the piazza where the Via di Po begins.

Just at that very instant a score of rough-looking fellows, shouting 'Down with the Ministers!' 'Death to Minghetti!' and such sort of nonsense, entered the Piazza Castello from the Via Nuova, and met the platoon of Carabinieri face to face. What was the immediate result of the meeting I cannot tell you, but it must have been of no serious character on the part of the civilians, for I positively know their only weapons consisted of sticks, which they carried on their shoulders. Be it as it may, scarcely five minutes had elapsed when the platoon fired indiscriminately among the people, and, having reloaded their muskets, fired again. It is reported that Lord Granville, happening to be on the piazza, and seeing how infamously the inoffensive citizens had been fired upon, rushed to the spot and cried to the Carabinieri, *Qu'est-ce que vous faites, misérables? Vous tuez des gens sans armes!* Sixteen dead bodies were picked up, and a great many wounded—some say thirty, and even more. A gentleman who was sitting outside the Dilei coffee-house had a thigh shattered by a bullet, and another gentleman was killed near the Fivrio coffee-house. Now, when we consider that these two places of Turinese resort are in Via di Po, and far from the scene of action, we shall conceive how wild must have been the fire of the soldiery.

Immediately after the second report, a general cry of desperation was heard. Several groups of persons ran frantically up the streets crying for arms, and on arriving at the shops of the gunmakers battered down the doors to arm themselves, while others commenced unpaving the streets. From every nook and corner of the city strange and lugubrious yells arose; drums were beating, companies of Bersaglieri and squads of National Guards appeared, the uproar was intense, the danger of a general collision was imminent, but God be praised! the patience of this exemplary people triumphed over the bad instincts of human nature, and by midnight comparative order was restored.

Who gave the order of firing upon an unarmed population? Who ordered the soldiers to come out of their barracks with loaded muskets? If any real danger threatened the Carabinieri, why did they not use their bayonets and try to defend themselves with them from the attack of common sticks? This is what we do not know yet.

The next day (September 22) found Piazza S. Carlo and Piazza Castello occupied by infantry. Fifteen thousand troops of all arms are said to have arrived from the neighbouring camp of S. Maurizio during the night. Water in abundance had been poured on the spots where the citizens' blood was shed; this ablution had obliterated the red traces, but the city had not forgotten the horrid memory of the slaughter. Still the population, though gloomy and threatening, walked the streets unarmed. There were clamours the whole day, but no deeds of violence. The City Council issued a proclamation exhorting the citizens to be calm and generous, and promising them that justice should be done. This seemed to produce a salutary effect, and every one uttered a prayer to the merciful God for the safety of the city.

Towards night strange rumours were put in circulation. To the abandonment of Rome was now added the cession of the Valley of Aosta to France. This story, absurd as it was, was believed by the people, who, hydra-like, hissed, writhed, and threatened to be mischievous. Still no arms were to be seen, and this was already a blessing. The National Guards refused to come out. Every square and street was choked with a living mass. It was said that the provinces were moving towards the capital, and that the trains from Milan and Genoa had been stopped. By nine o'clock Piazza S. Carlo had the look of a pandemonium. Under the double wing of its majestic porticoes, two battalions of infantry were bivouacking, and its centre was crammed with people of all ages and both sexes. Opposite the office of the Questura the human surge was awfully threatening. Oh! such yells and oaths! Still, no arms. At this instant a company of Carabinieri was ordered out of the Questura to clear the entrance. On their appearing the crowd foamed with frenzy, and discharged a cloud of stones into them. Even two pistols were fired, and two Carabinieri fell to the ground mortally wounded. What ensued afterwards is indescribable. I borrow some particulars from the *Gazetta del Popolo*, which, though very faint and imperfect, may furnish an idea of the horrid tragedy that followed:—

'Then the whole company of Carabinieri rushed out of the Questura, and, hastily forming into line, without order or notice, fired into the compact mass. Of course every shot told; but the horror of the situation was increased by an unforeseen event. The Carabinieri had formed in such manner that some of them were obliquely facing the eastern, and some the western, wing of the porticoes under which the two battalions of infantry were encamped. Several bullets of the Carabinieri struck some soldiers, and among them the colonel of the 17th, who fell mortally wounded. The troops, believing themselves attacked by the people, rushed to arms, and in their turn poured their deadly missiles into the human mass, thus assailed on three sides. Nor did the series of fatal blunders end here; for the two battalions, being drawn up opposite each other, for some time also fired into each other's ranks with a terrible effect. A few minutes after, the unarmed crowd had vanished as if by magic, but about one hundred and fifty bodies lay stretched on the square.'

Let me close this horrible and bloody statement of a triple massacre.

The next morning (Friday, 23rd), no city on the earth presented a sadder look than Turin. I went to see some of the dead that had been carried to the hospital of S. Giovanni during the night, and there with my own eyes I saw and counted twenty corpses—eighteen men, including a boy of twelve and an old man of sixty, and two women, one of them *enceinte*. The *Official Gazette* of the same day gave the total amount of the victims of the 22nd as follows:—'Twenty-six dead, sixty-six wounded; among whom are fourteen soldiers of the latter, and two of the former;' but I positively know it is incorrect.

On the afternoon of the 23rd, a proclamation from the Crown announced to the city that the Ministers had resigned, and General della Marmora had been charged with the formation of a new cabinet. The city is quiet, but bears the traces of a city taken by storm. There are accusations in circulation which point very high, but I don't believe them. Some of our Ministers may perhaps have fancied, and even longed for, an Italian *Deux Décembre*; but I don't believe the Crown has anything to do with such criminal projects. Our Parliament, which is to meet on the 5th of October next, will undoubtedly unmask the traitors, if treason there was, and summon to the bar of public opinion the wretches who have caused the blood of the most exemplary population of Italy to be shed so wantonly and dastardly.

FEDERAL RULE IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

WE have been favoured with the following extract from a private letter, written by a resident of Memphis to a friend in London:—

You have asked me for facts in regard to the present condition of Memphis, as contrasted with its former condition. I wish I could picture the present as I see it. Trade, instead of being free as air, is now subjected to such restrictions as these. Every one doing business in Memphis must first apply for permission, setting forth his loyalty to the Federal Government. If the evidence is satisfactory, permission is granted, and the amount of goods he may purchase and bring to the city per month specified. He must give bonds and security for complying with the trade regulations and not exceeding the amount specified. He must then get a permit for the passage of his goods, which permit is lodged at Cairo, where the goods come with sworn invoices, and these are endorsed on the permit. A certain fee must be paid on every permit. He must pay three per cent. to the Government for the privilege of selling goods in a rebel State, and his loyalty must be unquestionably vouched for. You can easily imagine the amount of bribery that may be brought into requisition by such arrangements; and still there is much suffering from the want of what we used to consider the necessaries of life. A tariff of prices is laid upon all articles of daily consumption, as beef, pork, flour, vegetables, &c. In consequence our markets are supplied with very poor articles, and in small quantities. If I wish to visit a friend in the country, I must get permission of the authorities. Preachers in churches must pray for the President of the United States. No clergyman is allowed to officiate unless he takes the oath of loyalty; in fact, all classes are required to take the oath. The whole male population from eighteen to fifty are enrolled in the militia, and required to parade twice a week, when all the shops are closed. The greatest inconvenience we suffer is in the depredations of the soldiers upon our grounds, gardens, &c. Not one in a hundred distinguishes between *meum* and *tuum*. They take what they want wherever they can find it. They drain cisterns, destroy patches of vegetables, when the owners are dependent upon them for subsistence, force persons in the country to give up mules, horses, wagons, money, and often, if provoked by failing to find what they want, they kill by hanging or shooting without compunction. A friend of mine gave a party of soldiers all the provisions in his house for breakfast. While they were there another party came with a similar demand. He met them at the door, holding his little boy by the hand, and told them their comrades had eaten everything. One of the newly-arrived soldiers called him a liar, drew his pistol, and shot him. He fell dead at the feet of his little boy. I could not enumerate the cases of this nature that have occurred. The beauty of the suburbs, as you remember, was in the forest trees. These have been destroyed in all directions. The fort on the bluff commands the river, and could destroy the town, but could not defend it.

MURDER OF PRISONERS BY THE FEDERALS.—The *Louisville* (Kentucky) *Journal*, of August 26, says:—'Information was received in this city yesterday that Captain Garrett, in command of a detachment of Federal troops from Shepherdsville, recently made a foray into Hardin county, and on Otter Creek captured a guerilla named Miles, and arrested two citizens well-known in the neighbourhood—Mr. Robert Vanmeter and William Suttler. The captain charged the citizens with being rebel sympathisers, and said that he had orders to arrest them and conduct them under guard to headquarters at Shepherdsville. He started on the return with his prisoners, and, stopping at Pitt's Point, confiscated a lot of whisky, and report says that he and his command got gloriously drunk and insulted many of the citizens residing in the neighbourhood. The party arrived in Shepherdsville on the same afternoon, but reported no prisoners at headquarters. Late in the evening of the same day, the children of Mr. M'Douvall, the coroner of Bullitt county, living a short distance from the town, were sent out to look for the cows. They returned and stated to their parents that they had discovered lying in the woods the dead body of Mr. Vanmeter, covered with blood. Word was conveyed to Shepherdsville of the fact, and Captain Garrett, still under the influence of liquor, was heard to remark that, if search was made, three dead bodies would be found instead of one. The spot was visited, and the drunken remark of the captain was found to be fearfully true. The bodies were recognised as those of the three men made prisoners in Hardin county. All were shot through the body and were stretched upon the ground cold in death, and surrounded by their own gore. The facts are plain that the prisoners were deliberately murdered by the captain and his drunken men.'

PROFESSOR GOLDWIN SMITH ON THE ENGLISH ARISTOCRACY.—Among the 'distinguished' arrivals by a recent Cunard steamer was Mr. Goldwin Smith, the Professor of Modern History at Oxford. One of his first essays in public since his arrival has been reported for the public edification. At a public assembly at Brown University this Oxford Professor was present and asked to speak. The portion of his speech which is reported was that of a thorough-paced demagogue, though he craved pardon for himself on the ground that he was a student and not a politician. In it he railed at the British aristocracy as a friend of the slave-holding Confederacy and the enemy of the free North. But he was glad to know that the working men of England were with the North; and a knowledge of that fact had restrained the aristocracy and prevented the Government from recognising the Confederacy.—*The Montreal Gazette.*

FEDERAL WAR NEWS.

(From the *Hartford Times*, September 17.)

As it seems to be a settled thing that from this time forth until after the Presidential election the war telegrams are to be more untruthful than ever, and that one side alone of the reality is to be presented to the public, it may be well to remind those simple-minded souls, who still place reliance on Mr. Stanton and the 'special despatches of the newspapers,' of the fact that such announcements, take them week by week and month by month, are pretty sure to expose their own real character by their inconsistencies. The whole history of the war, from the first battle of Bull Run down to the present time, if it were made up only from the Government bulletins and the six-column accounts of newspaper correspondents which daily figure in the principal New York and other papers with flaring 'stud-horse headings,' *would present nothing but one unbroken series of brilliant successes*, darkened by no page of disaster, and scarcely varied by even slight temporary 'reverses,' as Bull Run was called. According to the official bulletins, and the letters that flame in the New York sensation newspapers, our armies have had one almost continuous and unbroken march of triumph, and we have conquered the rebellion over and over again. The whole gist of the matter was revealed by the remark of the *New York Herald's* correspondent, Mr. Thompson, who went with General Banks on his Red River expedition, and who, remonstrating with a gentleman for proposing to write to a friend the real truth about Banks's awful defeat, made in substance this declaration: 'Yes, I admit that what you have there written is true, only you have not told half of it; but it will never do to send it North. We newspaper correspondents are not sent here to give news of defeats; it is our business to send news of victories; and with us nothing but victories ever occur. We are employed to make victories out of all that happens, or, at any rate, never to recognise or admit a defeat.' That tells the whole story of the *Tribune*, *Herald*, and *Times* army letters; how it squares with the 'official bulletins' from Washington every reader can judge for himself.

It was not very many weeks ago that the best army correspondent of the whole lot—Mr. Swinton, of the *Times*—was expelled by Generals Grant and Meade. He had always done his duty faithfully by exalting the successes of our arms, and making the best (that is, the least) of reverses. His accounts were probably the most graphic and faithful of any. But the remarkable part of the matter is contained in the editorial comments of the *Times* itself on the expulsion of its favourite correspondent. This journal, growing indiscreet in its wrath, declared at the time, that Mr. Swinton was expelled from the lines because he had declined any longer to bepuff and glorify Grant and Meade, and the general officers under them! If, said the editor, our correspondent had consented to continue the puffing of the Generals under whose control he was, he would doubtless have been allowed to remain!

It is the accounts furnished by correspondents placed in these circumstances, which are heralded to the world still as the truthful news of the war. The system of 'glorification' (as the New York paper was compelled to call it) is to be intensified in practice now. Mr. Stanton and his 'censor' of war news clearly like it. The plan, it is evident, is not to be abandoned during this month or the next. How such 'official' conduct is regarded by intelligent and candid men at home or abroad, we need not say.

THE FEDERAL DEBT.

(From the *Richmond Whig*, Sept. 3.)

THE broken merchant dreads of all things an examination of his books. He knows he is ruined hopelessly, but his nerves are too weak to withstand the shock of seeing that ruin depicted in black and white—in figures that will not lie. Our enemy labours under precisely this cowardice. He will not open his books and face the music of its terrible column of figures. He prefers to shut his eyes and spend four millions a day; consoling himself the while with the reflection, *après nous le Déluge*.

Neither Chase nor Fessenden has had the courage to investigate fully the national accounts. Indeed, it may be doubted whether any investigation would reveal the whole truth. The Yankee Treasury, unlike our own, was thoroughly organised at the beginning of the war. Its system of checks and balances ought to have been perfect. But, as if by tacit agreement, the proclamation of war was hailed as the signal for universal peculation in all departments and among all grades of officials. Moreover, the reputation of Mr. Chase previous to the war was not the best in the world. We may be sure, therefore, that the actual expenditures of the United States have been largely in excess of its published budgets.

Republican papers estimate the public debt, in round numbers, at eighteen hundred millions. Democratic journals, more honest, state that on the 4th March next the debt will exceed twenty-six hundred millions. The *World* compares this debt with that of Great Britain, which is known to be the largest in the world. On the 31st of March last, the British national debt was 799,802,139 pounds sterling; or, reckoning five dollars to the pound, $3,999,010,695—the interest on which, at 3 per cent., is $119,970,320. The entire wealth of the English nation, according to the official returns in April, 1861, was $31,500,000,000. The yearly interest, therefore, is at the rate of one dollar for $262 59 of the valuation.

Including 4,000,000 slaves at Southern valuation, the entire wealth of all the United States and Territories in 1860 was $16,159,616,060. The public debt of the North, exclusive of State, municipal, and other liabilities, will be in March next $2,653,427,101, all of which is to be funded and draw six per cent. in gold, which is $159,205,626. Therefore, the yearly interest, payable in gold, is at the rate of one dollar for $101 50 of the valuation, which is more than two and a half times the debt of Great Britain.

But, with gold at 250, payable in United States currency, the rate of interest will make the Yankee debt more than six and a quarter times larger than that of Great Britain; and that, too, as compared with the resources and valuation of the whole United States in 1860. Deduct the wealth of the seceded States (slaves, land, property of all sorts), and add the outstanding and unacknowledged liabilities of the Government, and it will be seen that the actual debt of the United States at this moment is, relatively, not less than twenty times greater than that of Great Britain.

GENERAL MORGAN'S SUCCESSOR.—The *Richmond Examiner*, of September 12, says: 'Colonel Basil W. Duke, formerly of General John H. Morgan's staff, has been assigned to the command of the deceased chieftain's troops. Colonel Duke is a dashing officer, of daring courage and fine abilities.'

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

NOTWITHSTANDING the gloom and depression which prevail in all commercial circles, occasioned by the numerous failures that have taken place within the last week or two, and the apprehension entertained in most quarters of further serious disasters, arising from the heavy and sudden fall in cotton and over-speculation in various articles of produce, the money market has remained remarkably steady, and will, it is thought, experience improvement. The Bank accounts are getting stronger, more bullion is flowing into the vaults of Threadneedle Street, and there is less anxiety with respect to the future. The worst of the failure of the Leeds Banking Company has now been realised, it will wind up, and the business has been scattered in different channels. The failures that have occurred in London have been those of weak establishments, but no very large houses are expected to fall. After the end of the present week it is presumed affairs will right themselves, and if on the payment of the dividends the Bank should go back to 8 per cent., there would be a general rebound. The days of speculation are now over for the present, and it is as well that there should be no immediate revival. The rate of 9 per cent. is generally the current one for first-class paper; in special transactions a quarter lower may be accepted. The present temporary panic will no doubt be succeeded by a calm; but we may yet have further spasmodic changes in the course of the winter.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The market for bullion and specie has, upon the whole, assumed a rather better appearance. The amount of gold sent into the Bank during the week has been 259,000*l.*, but against this there have been withdrawals to the extent of 125,000*l.*, of which 30,000*l.* was for shipment to the Mauritius, and the remainder for Portugal. The arrivals of specie have likewise been large, viz. 456,000*l.* from the West Indies; 166,944*l.* from Australia; and 114,000*l.* from New York, making a total of 736,944*l.* In the early part of the week the silver market was rather active, but it has since become very quiet. The dore silver brought by the *Tasmanian* from the West Indies has been sold at 61$\frac{5}{8}$*d.* per oz. standard, and the fine silver at 61$\frac{3}{4}$*d.* per oz., being a decline of about $\frac{1}{4}$*d.* per oz. on previous rates. Some portion of the Mexican dollars by the same vessel have been sold at 60$\frac{3}{8}$*d.* per oz., showing a further fall of about $\frac{3}{8}$*d.* per oz.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The market for the English Funded Securities has been very heavy throughout the week; in fact, a panic feeling has occasionally prevailed, caused by the continued high price of money and the difficulties which are daily presenting themselves in various commercial circles. The great fall which has taken place in most descriptions of securities has brought forward sellers to a very large extent; but operators are very cautious in making purchases, the general belief being that prices have not yet touched their lowest. Consols closed this evening at 87$\frac{3}{4}$ to 87$\frac{7}{8}$ for money and 88 to 88$\frac{1}{8}$ for the account, which is a fall since this day week of about $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. Exchequer bills have rather improved, the March issue being up to 12*s.* to 4*s.* dis. In the Foreign Stock Market the dealings have been rather limited, and have been chiefly confined to those of a more speculative character; but in almost all cases prices have had a downward tendency. Greek stock closed at 23 to 23$\frac{1}{4}$, being a decline of $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. Mexican stand at 26$\frac{7}{8}$ to 27$\frac{1}{8}$, or a fall of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Spanish Passives have declined $\frac{7}{8}$ and the Certificates $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., closing respectively at 31$\frac{1}{2}$ to 31$\frac{3}{8}$ and 13$\frac{5}{8}$ to 13$\frac{7}{8}$. Turkish Six per cents. of 1854 are 90$\frac{1}{2}$ to 91$\frac{1}{4}$, being an advance of $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent.; but those of 1862 have declined $\frac{1}{4}$, being now 69$\frac{3}{4}$ to 70$\frac{1}{4}$.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The market for American Government and Railway securities has again been very fairly supported as regards business, but, nevertheless, prices continue to decline. The official dealings have been in United States six per cents., at 44, 44$\frac{1}{2}$, 43$\frac{3}{4}$, 44$\frac{1}{4}$, 33$\frac{7}{8}$, 44, 43, and 43$\frac{1}{4}$; Virginia State six per cents., 24, and 27$\frac{3}{4}$; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York section, second mortgage, 69$\frac{1}{2}$, and 68$\frac{1}{4}$; do. do., Pennsylvania section, first mortgage, 76, and 75$\frac{1}{4}$; do. do., second mortgage, 68. Erie shares, $100, all paid, 42$\frac{3}{4}$, and 42; and Illinois Central, 7 per cent., all paid, 52, 52$\frac{1}{2}$, 51$\frac{1}{4}$, 52$\frac{1}{2}$, 50, 50$\frac{1}{2}$, 50, and 49$\frac{3}{4}$.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market has been dull and inactive all the week, and this stock has participated in the general depression, still further increased by the unfavourable accounts from the Shenandoah Valley brought by the steamer yesterday. The closing price is down to 68 to 70, consequent upon the failure of a Liverpool speculation.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

There has been a fair amount of business transacted in British railway shares, but prices in all the leading descriptions have declined. At present business is to a certain extent curtailed, in consequence of the dealers being engaged with the half-monthly settlement. As compared with last week, there has been a fall of 2$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Great Northern, of 2 per cent. in London and North Western and Midland, of 1$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Lancashire and Yorkshire, of 1$\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. in South Eastern, of 1 per cent. in Caledonian, Edinburgh and Glasgow, Glasgow and South Western, Great Western, West Midland (Oxford), London and Blackwall, Chatham and Dover, South Western, Metropolitan, Birmingham and Derby, Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee, North London, South Devon, and Vale of Neath; and of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Great Eastern, East Anglian, Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, North Eastern (Berwick), do. do. (Leeds) and Shropshire Union. In foreign railway shares there has been very little doing at reduced rates, but for colonial descriptions there has been a better demand, at fairly sustained quotations.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES, &c.

At a general court of the Bank of England, the Governor K. D. Hodgson, Esq., in the chair, it was shown that the net profits of the half-year ending August 31 amounted to 850,813*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, making the amount of rest on that day 3,859,557*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*, and after paying a dividend of 5*l.* 15*s.* per cent., the amount of rest would be 3,022,760*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* The dividend was declared payable on October 10, free of income tax. Yesterday, another meeting took place, when a ballot was taken for the purpose of confirming the dividend.—At a meeting of the proprietors of the English and Irish Bank, a special resolution was passed for voluntarily winding up the concern and appointing liquidators.—At the ordinary general meeting of the Financial Discount Company, the report stated, that with a paid-up capital of only 30,000*l.* a gross profit of 8,005*l.* had been realised for the six months ending September 24, and after paying all expenses, &c., the net profit was 4,910*l.*, from which was declared an interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. for the half year, or 10 per cent. per annum, leaving a balance of 3,410*l.*, which with interest left 4,836*l.* to be carried forward as at the rate of 30 per cent. The report was adopted.—At the ordinary meeting of the Bank of British Columbia, the report, which was unanimously agreed to, stated that after paying all current expenses the amount of undivided profit at the end of the half year to the 30th of June last was 11,105*l.* Out of this sum the directors propose to appropriate 5,000*l.* to paying a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, free of income tax; to add 4,000*l.* to the reserve fund, which was thereby increased to 6,000*l.*, and to carry forward 2,105*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* to the current half year. At a meeting of the United Mexican Mining Company a dividend was declared of 5*s.* per share, payable on October 11.

THE FAILURE OF THE LEEDS BANKING COMPANY.

There was an adjourned meeting of the shareholders in the Leeds Banking Company held to-day at Leeds, when a statement of accounts was presented showing liabilities to the extent of 1,330,308*l.* against assets estimated at 826,695*l.* A long discussion took place, which terminated in a decision to wind up the concern, and three liquidators were named to carry out the objects in view.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The following mercantile firms have suspended payment during the week, viz.:—Messrs. Saulfeld Brothers, of Leeds, woollen cloth manufacturers.—Mr. John Abraham, of Aldermanbury, in the Leeds woollen trade.—Messrs. Oldrich & Co., of Mark Lane, in the cotton trade, with liabilities estimated at between 50,000*l.* and 60,000*l.*—Messrs. Turck, Barclay, & Co., of Gresham House, general merchants, with about 120,000*l.* liabilities.—Mr. F. Yagues, a commission agent, engaged in the Spanish trade; his liabilities, however, are understood not to be large.—Mr. J. W. Marsden, of Leeds and Lonnon, ironfounder. He has absconded, and it has since transpired that he has committed forgeries on the Leeds Banking Company to a very large extent.—Messrs. Alfred Teale & Co., of Leeds, with 100,000*l.* liabilities.—Mr. Charles Turner, of Holbeck, near Leeds, cloth manufacturer.—Messrs. William Turner and David Johnson, of Leeds, cloth manufacturers.—Mr. Francis Clough, of Gresham House, in the cotton trade, with liabilities extending to between 150,000*l.* and 200,000*l.*

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

The produce markets continue dull in most departments, both buyers and sellers acting with undiminished reserve. Generally the variation in prices is trifling, as supplies are not pressed heavily for sale; but where parcels are realised for immediate payments, lower rates are taken. The London cotton market continues heavy, the principal transactions being on reduced terms. At the close, however, the American advices have caused a slightly firmer tone to prevail. The provision trade progresses quietly but steadily; butters of all imports maintain the rates of last week, and cheese sells rather more freely at full prices, American brands 90*s.* to 112*s.* for good and fine. The demand for bacon is restricted, and confined chiefly to mild cured Irish sides. There are no indications of improvement in the grain trade, which remains extremely dull throughout the provinces as well as in Mark Lane, and fully another 1*s.* per quarter must be taken off the quotations of all kinds of wheat. For linseed-cake rates are still upheld, American barrels being quoted 11*l.* 5*s.* to 11*l.* 10*s.*, and bags 10*l.* per ton. Petroleum has been more in demand at 2*s.* 1*d.* to 2*s.* 1$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* per gallon for American refined on the spot, and also for the last three months' delivery. French refined turpentine is firmer at 64*s.* per cwt., but the nominal quotation of American is unaltered. The demand for oils of all kinds is very inactive, but supplies are not forced off upon lower terms. Linseed, at 34*s.* 6*d.*, is perhaps a shade firmer. Sperm is quoted 64*l.* to 64*l.* with a very slow sale, the stoppage of machinery in the cotton manufacturing districts being against consumption. Tallow meets some speculative enquiry for distant delivery, but the trade are doing very little, and quotations are rather lower on the spot. Jute has suffered a further depression of 20*s.* per ton, common to fine qualities selling at 11*l.* to 26*l.* 15*s.*, and cuttings at 6*l.* 10*s.* per ton. The sugar market is still depressed, and stocks have so accumulated as to exceed those of last year at this time. Considerable supplies of coffee have been cleared off, but at easier rates. The tea market is flat, with change in the value of China teas. Assams have made better prices. Spices generally meet a quiet demand without change in value. In drugs, gums, and drysaltery articles, transactions are of merely retail extent at moderate rates. Metals are neglected. Scotch pig iron has receded to 57*s.* 6*d.* Spelter offers at 24*l.* Straits and Banca tin at 98*l.* cash, and pig lead at 20*l.* to 20*l.* 5*s.* per ton.

LIVERPOOL, Wednesday, September 28.—Our cotton market still continues very much depressed, owing partly to the tightness of money, the unfavourable influence exercised by the recent failures in the cotton trade, and the apprehension that more serious disasters are likely to follow. The slight recovery in prices, which took place at the close of last week, from the recent heavy fall, has not been maintained, and the tendency of the market has been heavy, but closes rather firmer to-day. Business this week has been far from active, but there is rather more doing than there was last week. The sales during the week have been 30,000 bales, of which 14,000 were on speculation and for export. The total sales this year so far have been 1,945,417 bales, and to the same period in 1863 1,866,995 bales. There have been imported this year 1,720,459 bales; last year the number was 1,147,137 bales. The trade have taken this year to the present time 1,195,446 bales, and to the same in 1863, 996,574 bales. The exports this year have been 411,312 bales; last year they were 339,486 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 326,835 bales, and in 1863, 492,914 bales. The estimated stocks at the present time are 392,042 bales, and at the same period last year they were 201,115 bales. The closing quotations this afternoon were, for American descriptions, 24$\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to 27$\frac{3}{4}$*d.*; Pernambuco, 25$\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to 25$\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Maranham, 25*d.* to 25$\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Egyptian, 20$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 26*d.*; Smyrna, 11*d.* to 16$\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Surats, 10*d.* to 20*d.*; Bengal, 10$\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to 11$\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Scinde, 11$\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to 11$\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; China, 13$\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to 15*d.*; and Japan, 15$\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to 16*d.*

All the markets at Manchester continue very flat, but an opinion appears to be entertained in many quarters that prices have now touched the lowest point—that is, for the present—unless some unforeseen cause should arise to create some fresh disturbance of confidence. In shipping yarns there has been

slightly more business doing within the last day or two, and a few orders have been taken at about the nominal quotations of last week. In home-trade yarns there is also a little more steadiness, and for the finer descriptions there is now rather more doing. The cloth market shows but very little sign of improvement. Buyers still refrain from giving orders to any extent either on foreign account or for home stocks, whilst there is more disposition on the part of manufacturers to realise even at the present reduction. The offers made by buyers, however, are only at a further depreciation in prices, and this the manufacturers are quite indisposed to agree to. Would they consent to accept the terms offered, a good business might be done. In shirtings there has been rather more doing, in consequence of sellers having slightly lowered their pretensions, in order to meet the offers of buyers. The closing quotations were: 7/8 Grey Printers, according to quality, 7s. to 14s.; 3/8 Grey Madapollams, 6s. to 9s.; 3/8 Grey Printers, 9s. 6d. to 16s. 6d.; 5/4 Grey Shirtings, 11s. 3d. to 23s.; Water Twist, No. 20, 1s. 9½d. to 2s. 6d.; No. 30, 2s. 1½d. to 2s. 7d.; No. 40, 2s. 7½d. to 3s. 0½d.; Mule Twist, No. 20, 1s. 5½d. to 2s. 4½d.; No. 30, 1s. 8½d. to 2s. 6d.; No. 40, 1s. 11d. to 2s. 9d.; No. 50, 2s. 5d. to 3s.; No. 60, 2s. 6d. to 3s.; No. 70, 2s. 8d. to 3s. 2d.; No. 80, 2s. 11d. to 3s. 5d.; No. 90, 3s. to 3s. 7d.; and No. 100, 3s. 3d. to 4s. 1d.

The Campaign.—The *Richmond Examiner* of September 7 says:—'By dint of a heavy expenditure of means, energy, and men, the enemy have reached the centre of North Georgia; but if we compare the cost of this expedition with the results realised, we find nothing to warrant despondency. He has had to give up East Tennessee and leave nearly all of West Tennessee open to Confederate incursions. He has had almost to abandon Mississippi and Alabama. Even Kentucky has been left unprotected, and the north bank of the Ohio has been threatened. To maintain his long line of communications and make headway into Georgia, he has had to evacuate immense districts of country already overrun, which would have yielded him a thousand times more value than the region of Georgia which he has desolated. Like the dog crossing the stream, he has let go what was substantial to plunge after a shadow. It will cost him more men and money to maintain himself at Atlanta than it would to subjugate and possess any two States which he had occupied, and has now abandoned. If the Confederacy had the election of his policy, it would gladly choose that he should continue his campaign in Georgia rather than employ the same army in many enterprises which she would have infinitely more difficulty in thwarting. If we maintain our army intact, we have but to bide our time, and the result will take care of itself. If the season of winter and bad roads sets in, finding Sherman still in Georgia, and our own army confronting him in force, we should soon have no reason to regret the loss of Atlanta. On the far side of the Mississippi the situation is peculiarly favourable. Texas is free from Federal troops; the greater part of Louisiana is delivered of their presence; Arkansas is no longer in thraldom, and General Price is marching with a considerable force into Missouri. In virtue of the concentrated efforts of the enemy in Virginia and Georgia, we have gained much lost territory on this side of the great river; but we have won back much more territory on the other side by actual conquest. Except the channel of the Mississippi and the land bordering the rear communications of Grant and Sherman, the Confederacy now holds most of the ground it lost in 1862 and 1863.'

The Battle of Reams' Station.—General Hill, in his official report of the brilliant affair at Reams, which we quote below, says he captured 2,150 prisoners, 3,100 stand of small arms, 9 pieces of artillery, 12 stands of colours, 10 caissons, and 32 horses. Now, we saw at least two thousand of the prisoners ourself, and have seen perfectly reliable individuals who have seen the other trophies mentioned in the report. We make this statement with no intention of intimating that anything that General Hill sends to the War Department needs confirmation from any source as, with a modesty equal to his bravery, he is inclined always to underrate rather than overestimate the fruits of his victories. On the other hand Meade sends an official report of the same fight to his master Stanton, in which he displays the impudence of a confirmed 'moral agriculturist' in claiming a victory. He estimates our losses by thousands, when, all told, in killed, wounded, and missing, General Hill says, it was only seven hundred and twenty. He adds that we left our dead and wounded on the field, when it is a notorious fact that the Yankees ran in such pell-mell style that not one of them, except prisoners, saw the field or the dead after the fight.—*Richmond Paper.*

Black Republicanism.—The *Buffalo Express*, a Lincolnite paper, publishes the following:—'The propeller *Arctic* left last evening with a large load of delegates for the Chicago Convention. Admiral Richmond was on board with his political suite, consisting of party fry of all sorts, sizes, and complexions. Never did such a load of copper float upon the waters of Erie as the *Arctic* bore away last evening. We should regret, from personal, social, and pecuniary reasons, to record her loss with her entire freight; but it certainly would be no national calamity, or loss to the cause of loyalty, if she should touch bottom.' Commenting on this, the *Buffalo Courier* says:—'The above, from the *Express* of this morning, we put on record as about the most diabolical expression of party malignity run mad we have yet seen. Stripped of its verbiage, the paragraph is nothing less than the utterance of a wish for the death, by a catastrophe which would make the whole country shudder, of the hundred or so of men and women who left our city by the *Arctic* last evening. For "pecuniary" and other reasons, the *Express* would "regret" the occurrence; but, as the country would be the gainer by it, and as, of course, the patriotic are stronger than the "pecuniary" motives of the *Express*, it would be forced to rejoice over the perishing, by a miserable death, of these hundred souls.'

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Ships Arrived.

At Liverpool.—September 21: The Innisfail, The J. Balledo, from Matanzas. The Adam Carr, from Demerara. The Jamaica, from Jamaica. The Roseway, from Trinidad.—September 22: The George Krell, The Verwisseling, from Buenos Ayres. The Maria and Alfredo, from Bahia. The Smyrna, from Miramichi.—September 23: The Storm King, from Bermuda. The Protector, from Jamaica.—September 27: The James Edwards, The Sapphire, The Nile, from St. John's, N.B. The Queen, The Missouri, from Quebec.

At Gravesend.—September 21: The Augusta Kelly, from Matanzas.—September 22: The Saunterer, from Belize. The Mariquinha, from Porto Rico. The Montrose, from Havana.—September 23: The Regina, from Antigua. The Bernhard, from Porto Rico.—September 23.—The Guiding Star, from Demerara. The Lady Hilda, from Barbadoes. The Chieftain, from Belize.—September 24: The Saeta, from Havana.—September 26: The Favourite Lass, from St. John's.

At Plymouth.—September 26: The Princess Royal, for Quebec.

At Deal.—September 21: The Regina, from Antigua.—September 23: The Elizabeth, from West Indies.—September 25: The Celestial Empire, from Callao.

At Cardiff.—September 19: The Hereux St. Gildas, from St. Nazaire.—September 21: The Baron J. David, from St. Nazaire.—September 23: The Lucy A. Nickels, from Monte Video. The Amathea, from Bermuda.

At Holyhead.—September 22: The Majestic, from Liverpool, for Nassau, to stop a leak.

At Beaumaris.—September 19: The Nyanza, from Montevideo.

Mt Milford.—September 26: The Witch of the Wave, from Buenos Ayres. The Eliza Nelson, from Bermuda.

At Warrenpoint.—September 20: The Sarah King, from St. John's, N.B.

At Cork.—September 20: The Maria Louisa, from Jamaica.

At Swansea.—September 23: The Mary Blake, from Teneriffe.

At Falmouth.—The Maria Victorina, The Sequieto, from Matanzas. The Virgen del Carmel, from Havana.—September 22: The Oceanus, from Bahia.—September 23: The Joven Carlos, The Jacob and Titea, from Porto Rico.—September 26: The Esther and Sophie, from Bahia. The Annie, from Havana.

At Clyde.—September 21: The Maple Valley, from Trinidad.—September 22: The Concordia, The Glenmesson, The Tyrol, from Havana.

At Dundee.—The Swift, from St. John's.

At Hull.—The Atlanta, from Miramichi.

At Leith.—September 19: The Oceola, from Jamaica.

At Belfast.—September 22: The Princess Royal, from Miramichi.

At Queenstown.—September 26: The Sea, for Havana.—September 25: The Colonel Lamb (steamer), from Liverpool, and proceeded for Halifax.

At Bristol.—The Ubidea, from Matanzas.—September 23: The Marina, for Havana.

At Pentland Frith.—September 20: The Swift, from St. John's, N.B., for Dundee, with loss of bulwarks.

At Cuxhaven.—September 19: The Aurelia, from Matanzas.—September 21: The Kate Holmes, from Bahia.

At Santander.—September 16, 17: The Carmencita, from Matanzas.

At Holyhead.—September 25: The Queen of the Exe, from Bahia.

At Fleetwood.—September 21: The Nelson, from Miramichi.

At Limerick.—September 26: The Colonist, from St. John's, N.B.

At Shields.—September 25: The John Moore, from Quebec.

At Bermuda.—August 29: The Mary Celeste (steamer), from Wilmington.—August 30: The Asia (steamer), from Cardiff, and left for Halifax, Nova Scotia.

At Marigm.—August 15: The Adelheid, from Bahia.

At St. Nazaire.—September 25: The Jeune Hermine, from Cardiff. The Albert, from Swansea.

At Wilmington.—The Helen (steamer).

At Madeira.—September 2: The Night Hawk (steamer), from Liverpool, and left 4th for Bermuda.—September 3: The Luna (steamer), from London, and left 5th for Havana.

At Havana.—August 26: The Black Friar, from Liverpool.—August 29: The Rhine, from Liverpool. The Masonic, from Hull.

At Matanzas.—August 26: The Belle of the Mersey, from Cardiff. The Florence. The Walter Baines, from Clyde.

At Halifax, N.S.—September 4: The Askalon (steamer). The Condor (steamer). The Lady Stirling (steamer), from Bermuda.—September 11: The City of Petersburg (steamer), The Old Dominion (steamer), from Wilmington.—September 12: The Janet, from Demerara. The Annie (steamer), from Wilmington.

At Miramichi.—September 5: The William Graham, from Liverpool.

At St. John's.—September 5: The Lavinia, from Clyde.

At Yarmouth, N.S.—August 29: The Glen, from Bahama.—August 30: The Lichness, from Porto Rico.—August 31: The Dasher, from West Indies.

Ships Sailed.

Gravesend.—September 22: The Calypso, for Jamaica. The Emerald Isle, for Demerara.—September 25: The Salvadora, for Havana.

Liverpool.—September 22: The Princess, for Bermuda. The Tecumseh, for Halifax.—September 24: The Colonel Lamb (steamer), for Halifax.—September 24: The Diving Mist, for Bermuda. The Mary and Jessie, for Matamoras.—September 26: The Ann and Mary, for Bermuda. The Elinor Chapman, for Havana.—September 27: The Pepito, for Matanzas.

Deal.—September 21: The British Tar, for Jamaica.—September 22: The Susan, for Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Quiver, for Bermuda.—September 27: The Salvador, for Havana.

Clyde.—September 19: The Bangalore, for Bahia, not for Demerara, as before reported.—September 24: The Meteor, for St. John's, N.B.

Swansea.—September 23: The Theodosia, for Teneriffe.—September 26: The Blenheim (steamer), for Bermuda.

Plymouth.—September 24: The Cicerone, for Nassau.

Waterford.—September 20: The Carolina (steamer), for Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Cardiff.—September 23: The Amathea, for Bermuda.—September 21: The Suomi, for Jamaica. The Majestic, for Havana. The Pet, for Terceira.—September 24: The Lemuella, for St. Thomas. The Josephine, for Bermuda. The Fearless, for Halifax, Nova Scotia.—September 25: The John W. Lovett, for Bermuda. The Kingston, for Halifax, Nova Scotia.—September 26: The Lilian, for Bermuda.

Falmouth.—September 25: The Margaret, for Bahia.

Portsmouth.—September 26: The Superb, for Pernambuco.

Bermuda.—August 30: The Agnes [E. Fry (steamer), for Nassau. The Wando (steamer), for Nassau.

Matanzas.—August 27: The Mathilde, for Queenstown. September 1: The Henriette, for Clyde.—September 7: The Salve Virgin Mary, for Liverpool.

St. Nazaire.—September 25: The Marie Eulalie, for Liverpool.

Ships Loading.

At London.—For Nassau (N.P.): The Esperance, Davison Brothers & Co. The Merchant, Davison Brothers & Co. The Refuge, J. Worley.—For Bermuda: The Jane Smith, The Hansa, The Kohinoor, The Ocean Spray. For Bermuda and Turk's Island: The Era, C. W. & W. Gray. For New York: The Lafayette (mail steamer), from Havre, October 19: Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For West Indies: The Tampico (mail steamer) from St. Nazaire, October 16: Stringer, Pembroke & Co. For Montevideo: The Gustave and Marie, Davison Brothers & Co., St. Katharine's Docks.

At Liverpool.—For Bermuda: The Nutfield, The Madonna, The Mary Bond. The William Sinclair. For Bermuda and Jamaica: The Jane Doull. For Halifax, Nova Scotia: The Penelope, The Morning Star, The Rosemay.—For Matamoras: The Oleander, The Rimac, The St. George, The Wild Wave, The Geertina, The Albion, The Gleaner, The Herbert.—For Nassau (N.P.): The May Garland, The Ellen. For Miramichi: The Muscongua.

At Gloucester.—For Bermuda: The Mavonroen.

At Cardiff.—For Bermuda: The Admiral Kanaris C. Rapier, The Venus, Cory Brothers & Co. The Josephine, The Lakemba.—For Halifax: The L. W. Lovett, The Kingston.

At Newport.—For Madeira: The Rival.—For Jamaica: The Mercator.

At Swansea.—For Madeira: The Primrose.

At Glasgow.—For Halifax: The David M'Nutt. For Matanzas: The Griffon.

Among the Contents of The Index *of September 22 are:—*

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The Growing Power of the West.

Counterfeit Confederates.

Lord Stanley upon Ireland.

The Confederate Cause in France.

The Confederate Cause in Lancashire.

Letter from Richmond.

Letter from New Orleans.

Affairs Financial and Commercial.

Shipping Intelligence.

Advertisements.

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TERMS, CASH!

BY AUTHORITY.

REGULATIONS TO CARRY INTO EFFECT THE ACT TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS UPON THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENCE, APPROVED FEBRUARY 6, 1864.

I.—AS TO THE SEA.

1. The owners of any vessel intending to sail from a Confederate port with a cargo consisting in whole or in part of cotton, tobacco, military and naval stores, sugar, molasses, or rice, shall, before the lading on board of any such articles, file with the collector of the port from which the vessel is to sail a copy of her register, with a declaration of the names of the owners and officers thereof, the place of their birth, and of their residence for the preceding year, together with the port or place to which the said vessel proposes to sail. The said declaration shall also set forth the quantity and value, in Confederate currency, of the cargo proposed to be taken out, as also the consent of the said owners that one-half of the tonnage of the said vessel may be employed by the Confederate Government for its own use, both on the outward and homeward voyage, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned. The collector shall submit a statement as to the owners and officers to the military commandant of the port; and if he shall not object to their loyalty, or to the sailing vessel, for reasons of military necessity, the collector shall grant a permit for the lading of said vessel, one-half for account of the owners, and one-half for account of the Confederate States.

2. Before the said lading shall be completed, the owners of the vessel shall execute to the Confederate States a bond in one-half the value of the vessel, with security deemed adequate by the collector, conditioned that she will pursue the voyage designated, and that she will return with reasonable despatch to a Confederate port, after her outward cargo shall be discharged, with a cargo consisting one-half of articles not prohibited by the laws of the Confederate Government, and the other half of such articles as the Government shall offer for shipment from such port, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned.

3. Each shipper of any portion of the cargo proposed to be laden on board the said vessel shall, before the lading thereof, make application to the collector for a permit to lade the same; which application shall declare the articles to be shipped, and the quantity and value thereof in Confederate currency, the port of destination, and the name of the consignee. A permit shall then be granted by the collector, if the application is deemed satisfactory. The lading shall be had under the inspection of a revenue officer, who shall be charged with the duty of seeing that the goods laden conform to the permit.

4. Before the completion of the lading on board, or the granting a clearance, each shipper of any portion of the cargo shall execute and deliver to the collector a bond to the Confederate States, in one-half the value of his shipment in Confederate money, with security deemed adequate by the collector, with condition that at least one-half the net proceeds of said shipment shall be invested in goods or articles not prohibited by law; and said goods or articles shall be shipped by the same or some other vessel to the Confederate States within sixty days from the unlading of said cargo.

5. The freight to be paid by the Confederate States on all cotton and tobacco shipped from a Confederate port shall be fivepence sterling per pound, payable on delivery at the port of destination, in coin or sterling exchange. Return freight shall be at the rate of 20*l.* per ton, payable on its delivery in a Confederate port, in cotton, at twelvepence sterling per pound for middling uplands, and at a proportionate price for cotton of other qualities; or, at the option of the Government, in specie or sterling exchange. In calculating the ton of freight by weight, 2,240 pounds shall be allowed; by measure, forty cubic feet shall be allowed.

6. The rates of freight for articles other than cotton and tobacco shall be adjusted at the same relative rate, and payable in the same way.

7. The Government reserves the right to limit or prohibit the shipment of rosin, turpentine, or any manufacture thereof, whenever deemed dangerous to its own shipment.

8. Upon the completion of the lading of the vessel, and before receiving her clearance, there shall be delivered to the collector, in addition to the usual manifest, another, setting forth the names, ages, and description of the officers and crew, and of every passenger intending to sail in her. The said last-mentioned manifest shall be delivered to the commandant of the port, who shall thereupon cause the entire vessel to be searched; and if satisfied that the parties on board are persons who may safely be permitted to leave the Confederacy, and that the passengers have the proper passports, he shall certify the same on the manifest, and return the same to the collector; whereupon, and not before, a clearance shall be granted to the vessel, and she shall be permitted to sail.

9. The owners of each vessel, and of each portion of a cargo, sailing from a Confederate port, shall be allowed to take up their respective bonds by producing to the collector the certificate of the proper agent of the Confederate Government at the port of delivery, setting forth the particulars, showing that the said party has complied with the obligation of the said bonds so far as the same was practicable; and the collector, upon being duly satisfied, shall be authorised to surrender the said bonds.

10. Nothing in these regulations shall be so construed as to conflict with the proviso of the law which declares 'that nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit the Confederate States, or any of them, from exporting any of the articles herein enumerated on their own account,' nor shall a bond be required of a State in any case.

11. The penalties of all bonds executed in conformity with these regulations shall be recoverable in full, on proof of breach of the conditions of the bond, and without proof of any damage suffered by the Confederate States in consequence of such breach; and all bonds shall be executed in such form as to give effect to this regulation.

12. Vessels sent into the Confederacy for the purpose of exporting cotton received in payment of any Confederate bond or obligation, shall be subject to these regulations only so far as relates to such portion of the tonnage, if any, as may remain vacant after the lading of the cotton received in payment as aforesaid.

13. Whenever any vessel shall bring into the Confederate States an entire cargo for account of the Confederate States, the owners of the said vessel and the shippers of her cargo shall be relieved from the bonds previously given to invest and bring in one half of the net proceeds of her outward cargo; and the certificate of the agent of the Treasury Department, at the port of lading, that such cargo was duly shipped in pursuance of the regulations, shall authorise the collector to cancel and surrender the said bonds.

G. A. TRENHOLM, Secretary of the Treasury.
J. A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.

Approved August 3, 1864,
JEFFERSON DAVIS.

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THERE are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

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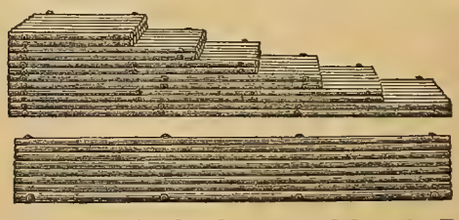

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THE INDEX

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

VOL. IV.—NO. 128.] LONDON: THURSDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 6, 1864. [PRICE 6D.

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AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.
SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

The 'New Regime.'

DOUBTLESS the English reader has never seen a copy of the *New Regime*. Nay, we dare assert that the English reader has not the faintest idea of what the *New Regime* may be, and now hears of its existence for the first time. The *New Regime* is occult to the Cisatlantic public, a flower not rubescent to European eyes, a gem shining in a cave comparatively unfathomed by HER MAJESTY'S subjects. That cave is Norfolk, Virginia, and the gem shines for the peculiar satisfaction of Major-General BENJAMIN F. BUTLER. Not to put too fine a point on it, the *New Regime* is the organ of B. F. B., registers his edicts, sounds his praise, and lays down the law of loyalty which he is called upon to enforce in his military department. Three or four issues of this interesting journal, and three or four only, have fallen under our notice, but their contents are of a nature to make us regret that we have not seen more. So much energy of expression, so much devotion to the cause it espouses (true as the dial to the sun, in utter indifference whether the sun shines upon it or not), so much point, piquancy, political wisdom, fun, feeling, and philosophy, are dog-cheap at 'five cents a copy,' were it the pure coin of the realm; and when we consider that all these excellences, literary and journalistic, are offered for a half-dime in greenbacks, we stand astonished at the prodigality of the publishers, and envy the good fortune of the good people of Norfolk.

Just as Mrs. JARLEY kept a poet, and in former days kings and rulers kept their fool (Mr. LINCOLN, we know, is his own jester), so General BUTLER keeps his organ. It is maintained, of course, at Government expense, and not out of the Beast's exchequer; but it is worthy of its master as he is worthy of his Government. Indeed, the very name of the paper has been most happily chosen to indicate the policy of BUTLER and LINCOLN in the conquered provinces of the South. 'The Union as it was' may be all very well for Buncombe; Mr. SEWARD, addressing the simple citizens of sweet Auburn under many inspirations, may proclaim that the restoration of the old Union is what they are fighting for; but BUTLER knows better than that. It is not the *ancien régime* at all that he seeks to restore; it is the NEW REGIME of LINCOLN, SHERMAN, PAINE, TURCHIN, and their *confrères*, who have associated themselves together in a Grand Society for the Plunder of the Confederate States and the Extermination of the Southern People (*Un*limited), and the object of this organisation is well signified in the title of BUTLER'S journal. SHERMAN will probably set up an organ in the town he has so recently captured, under the name of the *Georgia Greenback*, and PAINE may publish for the enlightenment of his unhappy subjects a daily, to be known as the *Kentucky Cutthroat*, whose aim it shall be to prepare the world for the sweeping changes in the moral, political, and social institutions of the States 'in rebellion' which are to be made when these States have been thoroughly subdued.

Certainly no one who was acquainted with Norfolk in the olden time can run his eye over the columns of the *New Regime* without being strongly impressed with the fact that a new order of things prevails in Lower Virginia. About nineteen-twentieths of its advertising space is devoted to the publication of 'General Orders' from the 'Headquarters of the 18th Army Corps, Department of Virginia and N. C., Fort Monroe,' and therein we see the paw of the Beast on all the interests of Norfolk, its trade, its social economy, its religion. It is set forth officially that 'any parties disfiguring, or in any wise molesting, any of the Government orders which may be posted within this district,' must be arrested on the spot by any person, citizen or soldier, who shall witness the act. It is also announced (in not the best English), in accordance with LINCOLN'S determination to 'run the churches,' that, 'owing to the vacancy of the pulpit of the Presbyterian church of this city, *caused by the deportation of its late pastor*, the Rev. J. D. ARMSTRONG, D.D., by the action of the Commanding-General, the Rev. C. L. WOODWORTH, Chaplain of the 27th Regiment Massachusett Volunteers, will officiate as pastor until further orders.' We are not surprised to see, as an item of local intelligence, that there was '*quite a* commotion at the corner of Commerce and Main Streets, which grew out of the refusal of a sailor (white man) *to obey the request of the coloured guard* who was taking him to the guardhouse,' for white men are to obey negroes under the new *régime*. Nor are we greatly startled by the sentence of a military commission which condemns Mrs. or Miss AMY FRANCES CORNICK to be imprisoned for six months at such place as BUTLER may select, and 'at the expiration of that time to be sent out of the Department,' upon the charge of carrying letters through the lines; for war upon women is the favourite means of BUTLER for bringing the South into subjection.

But the *New Regime* concerns itself with more important matters than the everyday affairs of municipal police and constructive treason. The advertising columns may be given up to general orders, but there is the 'leader' which discusses questions of the gravest purport, and which we may reasonably suppose to be informed by the genius and pervaded by the sentiments of BUTLER himself. And it does so happen that, in the last number of the *Regime* which we have been so fortunate as to receive, the leader is what, for want of a more appropriate adjective, we must call 'stunning.' It is not long, it is not argumentative nor rhetorical, but it is loud. Bishop BERKELEY once wrote an essay on the virtues of tar-water which concluded with an argument on the Trinity—a somewhat devious line of reflection, it must be admitted. BUTLER'S man, in a much shorter piece of composition, undertakes to record with rapture the capture of the blockade-running steamer *A. D. Vance*, and rushes into a headlong denunciation of England. To show what sort of feeling the Yankee leaders are endeavouring to excite among the masses of their people towards the people of England, we beg to quote the very brief but very strong paragraph of the *Regime*. So runs the leader:—

> The captured steamer bears the name of the present Governor of North Carolina. She has been a successful runner. She made nine attempts to get out of Wilmington on this occasion; but the *Cuba* cornered her, and brought her to. *The 'commercial honour' of the 'nation of thieves' will be hurt, upon hearing of the misfortune which has befallen the most successful of their numerous blockade-runners. But it is a little harsh to speak thus of Englishmen;* our ancestors; who worship at the same shrine, and own Shakespeare in common with us; and who, with us, on the Fourth of July, thank God that Chatham's language is our mother tongue. *If England has not gotten a black eye during the past few years, we do not know the badge of blackguard.*

This ebullition of impotent rage would be simply contemptible did it not indicate a hatred of Great Britain already prevalent among the great body of the Yankee people, and sedulously cultivated by designing and unprincipled men, such as are now at the head of affairs in the United States. While Englishmen cannot but regard with concern the manifestations of a feeling which must involve them, sooner or later, in a foreign war, we think they will learn with unmixed satisfaction that BENJAMIN F. BUTLER is their enemy, and detests them with all the malevolence of his bad heart and bestial nature; and they may well apply to him the epithets and the prayer with which Lord MACAULAY concludes his withering memoir of 'BARÈRE of the Carmagnoles:'—

> It was but little that he could do to promote the honour of our country, but that little he did strenuously and constantly. Renegade, traitor, slave, coward, liar, slanderer, murderer, hack writer, police-spy—the one small service which he could render to England was to hate her; and such as he was may all who hate her be!'

The Cotton Famine.

THE distress in the cotton districts is returning with redoubled severity. A generosity unparalleled and universal has mitigated the horrors of two winters. Nothing that money or organisation could do to relieve the suffering operatives was neglected. They, in their turn, believed, for they were assured thereof by their leaders, that the struggle would be short, and that cotton would again come abundantly from the South. The cotton did not come. Then they believed, for the same leaders once more assured them, that cotton would come from other regions of the globe, and that dependence on American supplies would cease. That last hope has been rudely torn away. Charity cannot endure for ever. Poor-rates do not furnish an inexhaustible treasure. The distress in Rochdale threatens to be more severe this winter *than at any time during the cotton famine.* In Stockport, Stalybridge, and Accrington, *the prospects for the coming winter are most gloomy.* 7,660 paupers have been added to the relief lists in the cotton districts since September 1, and of these 4,210 are due to the past week. The increase in the number of unemployed was upwards of 1,000 during one week.

Under such circumstances, what is the great representative man of the cotton districts doing? What ray of hope does Mr. COBDEN see in this dark cloud of misery? No one would deny him, even with the pauperism of Rochdale staring him in the face, the ordinary amenities of an affectionate correspondence with the men who are after his own soul. If it pleases him to interchange autographs and photographs with the LINCOLN family, no one can object to such harmless courtesies, especially as the gifts afford an admirable peg on which to hang Mr. COBDEN'S view of the American war. 'There seems,' says he, 'to be something in the modern development of armaments which favours the defence over attack. This must tend to prolong the war, and make the issue depend on the comparative strength of the resources of the contending parties. In this struggle against exhaustion and ruin, the North will be able to hold out the longer, and to this tedious and dreadful process we must resign ourselves.' The operatives of Rochdale know their fate from lips which it would be heretical to doubt. Starvation, idleness, hopeless interminable misery, in order, forsooth, that the problem may be solved of the power of the North to struggle against exhaustion and ruin for an indefinite period of years.

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

Very savage indeed are the Federals about the Confederate incursion into their lines on September 16. The correspondent of the *New York Herald* writes: 'The rebels can congratulate themselves upon having made the most brilliant and successful raid of the war.' It appears that a body of Confederate cavalry made such well-timed arrangements, that they captured the Federal guard, about 150 men of the 13th Pennsylvania cavalry, and drove away 3,000 head of cattle without molestation. But the loss of beef was not the only or most disagreeable incident of this affair. Several bodies of troops were sent in pursuit of what the angry Lincolnites call 'the cattle-stealers,' and these in some cases managed not to come up with the Confederates, and, when they were unfortunate enough to do so, were driven back with loss. Moreover, the Confederates captured a whole regiment of cavalry. The correspondent of the *New York Herald* says: 'The First District of Columbia Volunteers were encamped near Sycamore Church, on the road leading to Stony Creek Station, and were surprised in camp with their horses unsaddled, and nearly the whole regiment, including arms and horses, captured. The capture of these rifles will be a great acquisition to the enemy, as they are an effective weapon for skirmish duty, and one in which they are deficient. They will doubtless soon be able to manufacture ammunition suitable for their use.

Sheridan's 'victory' of September 19 appears, the more we hear about it, to be less like a real and more like a Stanton victory. At first it was reported that the Confederates under Early had been badly beaten, and that Sheridan was hotly pursuing the rebels. Next we hear that the Confederate loss was 5,000 killed and wounded, besides 2,500 prisoners—Mr. Stanton sticks to decimals, and always captures the enemy by hundreds and thousands, and never condescends to an odd man or two—and that the Federal loss was 2,000. A day later—that is, on September 21—it was stated that the Federal loss was 3,000 and the Confederate loss 4,500. Now when during this war did the Federals fail to understate their own loss or to overestimate the loss of the Confederates? Moreover it happened on the 21st that, instead of hotly pursuing Early, the Federal commander was binding up his wounds, and had not moved in the pursuit. In short, the 'glorious victory' was reduced to a drawn battle, and we should not be surprised if it turns out that the Federals were worsted. The Confederates were engaged in a movement when they were attacked; they sustained the attack for many hours, and moved away without molestation. Probably it was Early's rearguard that was engaged.

The Confederates have lately taken a considerable booty from the enemy. Besides the arms, horses, and cattle captured in Virginia, we learn that a supply train and two suttlers' trains, with 600 mules and 40 horses, which were going from Kansas to Fort Smith, Arkansas, for the use of the Federal garrison at that place, were captured by the Confederates at Calun Creek.

It is reported that two Federal steamers on Lake Erie have been captured by the Confederates; also that two armed Confederate steamers had appeared on the lake, which were fitted out in a Canadian port. The latter report was discredited in Washington.

It was reported, *vid* New Orleans, that, on September 6, 5,000 French trooops and some Confederates under Colonel Forde, attacked Cortinas at Matamoras, and that Cortinas was assisted by the Federals. After the engagement Cortinas crossed the river, occupied Brownsville, Texas, declared himself an American citizen, and offered the services of his troops to the Federal Government. Further, it is stated that the French have seized on the Rio Grande several vessels from New Orleans with supplies for Cortinas. This story is altogether improbable. It is true, however, that the Federals cordially sympathise with Cortinas, and have done all they could to aid and abet the enemies of the Mexican Empire.

We elsewhere reprint from the *Gallatin* (Illinois) *Democrat* an account of the arrest of the editor and printer of that paper, on August 19, by order of General Paine. After being grossly insulted and kept in filth and privation several days, these men, against whom no charge could be sustained, were taken into the presence of General Paine, who said to them, 'I am going to send you d—d sons of b—s home.' According to a letter in the *Daily News* signed 'Anti-slavery,' General Paine has been removed from his command. This writer says: 'If General Paine be a bad officer, he does not represent the spirit of the Federal Government, since he is dismissed by it.' Certainly 'Anti-slavery' is a fair representative of the Federal Government—of the Government that pets Butler, Milroy, Turchin, &c., &c.—or he would not think that such a vulgar foul-tongued ruffian as Paine could be aught else than a bad officer.

Scenes of violence have already occurred in the United States ominous of what may be apprehended before November 4. At Pottsville, in Pennsylvania, a Democratic meeting held on September 17, the anniversary of the adoption of the Federal Constitution, was interrupted by a sudden charge of Federal cavalry, the gallant troopers, who had never been in a battle, brandishing their sabres to the great alarm of women and children, many of whom were in attendance. Six citizens of Pottsville were wounded, some of them very badly. One was a returned soldier who had served three years in the Federal army. The Democrats held their ground, and a great riot might have taken place but that the cavalry vanished as suddenly as they had appeared. At St. Louis, Missouri, on September 15, a meeting of the friends of General M'Clellan was assailed by a shower of stones from Federal soldiers, who tore down the transparencies on the stand, and bore off two American flags. These outrages will doubtless be repeated hereafter, and they abundantly indicate the determination of the Lincoln party to carry matters with the strong hand.

There are other indications that the United States will not pass through the ordeal of revolution without the usual accompaniment of civil war. The Democrats are writhing under the yoke of Mr. Lincoln, and avow their intention of opposing force to force if there is any interference with the freedom of election. The *New York Daily News* of September 21, commenting on the interruption of Democratic meetings at St. Louis and Pottsville by the military, says: 'If the armed hand is to decide the issue, so be it; let the armed hand of the Democracy be prepared for the conflict. If Democratic votes are better than Black Republican, Democratic steel is just as good. God avert the necessity to decide the issue otherwise than fairly and quietly at the polls; but if Mr. Lincoln appeals to violence, meet him at the threshold with the weapons of his own choice. The Peace men, in that quarrel, will prove as ready war men as the readiest.' The *New York Herald* of September 20 charges the *Tribune* and the *World* with 'pursuing the very course to arouse the people to revolutionary proceedings and preparing the way for the scenes of the French Revolution to be enacted in this country.' The Federals may not fight against tyranny, but they are likely enough to fight for the spoils of power.

It is announced that General Fremont has withdrawn from the Presidential contest. Mr. Vallandigham has declared he will vote for General M'Clellan, and the Peace party will, it is expected, follow his example. The friends of Mr. Lincoln, though confident of success, expect a close contest.

The Resident Committee of the National Democratic Convention of the United States has put forth an address to the Conservatives throughout the country, dated at Washington, and signed by Charles Mason, chairman, Thomas B. Florence, Henry W. Harrington, Samuel J. Randall, Jonah D. Hoover, William Flinn, James G. Berrett, and Cornelius Wendell. The address refers to the great difficulty of contending with the overgrown power of the Federal Government, but calls upon all Conservatives to unite themselves together in clubs for effecting the deliverance of their country. It cites the formation of Loyal Leagues in the time of Mr. Pitt to counteract the intrigues of the Jacobins, and draws a hopeful augury of success from the overthrow of revolutionary ideas in Great Britain by the reaction of the public mind during that eventful period. The Committee arraigns the Administration for its well-known flagrant abuses, but is altogether silent on the subject of the future prosecution of the war.

At a meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners of Chicago, held a few days previous to the assembling of the Democratic Convention, some curious facts were elicited on the examination of a special policeman, a German, who had been enlisted by General Turchin in an organisation for the purpose of dispersing the Convention. The Mayor of Chicago, forewarned by these revelations, took efficient measures for the prevention of any disturbance, and the plans of Turchin were consequently not carried into effect. There seems to be no doubt, however, that these plans had been fully matured, and, but for the timely discovery of Turchin's design, might have so far succeeded as to have produced great bloodshed in Chicago, and thus inaugurated a civil war in the Federal States.

In the most recent of those playful and ingenious letters contributed to the *Daily Telegraph*, under the head of 'America in the Midst of War,' by Mr. Sala, we find the old story of the Prince of Wales having been insulted by the mob in Richmond again repeated. Mr. Sala adduces the story in proof of the statement that 'Southern mobs have always in coarseness and rowdyism far surpassed their Northern brethren.' This is *un peu fort*. The Prince of Wales never was insulted by a mob in Richmond, and Mr. Sala knows just as little as possible from actual observation of Southern mobs or anything else Southern, as he has never crossed the Potomac. In point of fact, very few mobs have ever occurred in the South at all. Such lawlessness is almost unknown to the Southern people, and that popular violence, such as manifests itself constantly at the North, rarely disturbs the peace of the community.

Mr. Lincoln's lieutenants are very prompt to suppress what they call Northern treason. The arrest of an editor and the suspension of the publication of a newspaper have become such commonplace occurrences that the New York papers give the facts as an item of news not calling for special comment. On September 9, General Lockwood issued an order to discontinue the publication of the *Cambridge Democrat*, Maryland, because Mr. Barrett, the editor, published an article calculated to encourage the 'rebels,' as well as 'those in our midst who are so far forgetful of their duty as to desire the overthrow of their Government.' According to the testimony of Mr. Lincoln's officers, there is a large disunion party in the North.

On September 21, gold was quoted in New York at 224.

ENGLAND.

An explosion exceeding in force all that experience or records have preserved to modern memory occurred on Saturday morning last, at a distance of about fifteen miles from the metropolis. On the southern bank of the Thames, between Woolwich and Erith, lie the Plumstead marshes. On a portion of this flat tract of land were situated two powder-magazines, one belonging to Messrs. John Hall & Sons, and another to Messrs. Daye & Barker. In the immediate vicinity of the depots stood a few cottages inhabited by the families of the men employed in the superintendence of the stores of gunpowder. The magazine belonging to Messrs. Hall was a new and strong building, about fifty feet square, with two floors, situated close to the river; a jetty projected into the river, and off the jetty lay two barges. In the magazine and the barges together there were at least 1,000 barrels, each containing 100 lbs. of gunpowder. It is not known exactly what quantity was stored in the smaller magazine of Messrs. Daye, but probably there were not less than 20,000 lbs. At about twenty minutes before seven o'clock, from some cause inexplicable, because no one survives who could have offered an explanation, the gunpowder stored in the magazines exploded. It is supposed that the gunpowder in the barges was first ignited, next that in the larger magazine, and lastly that in the depot of Messrs. Daye & Barker. So terrific was the concussion that at Woolwich, distant about four miles from the scene of disaster, it was believed that the Arsenal had been blown up, and there was a rush of panic-stricken people to the works. At Erith and Deptford considerable injury was done to houses and property, nearly every pane of glass being broken. At Chatham and Rochester, distant twenty-five miles from the magazines, the shock was very generally felt; and even at Uxbridge, Windsor, and Teddington, the inhabitants believed that a severe shock of earthquake had occurred. In the more elevated districts of the metropolis, such as Camden Town, Highgate, and Kingsland, the concussion was felt. The spectacle presented at the place itself was marvellous. The foundations of the magazines were torn up, huge fissures in the earth were visible, the cottages were annhilated and all their inhabitants killed or wounded. Fortunately the injury to life and limb was small in comparison with the tremendous nature of the accident. Indeed, as far as can be ascertained, the mischief was limited to the deaths of nine persons and the maiming of as many more. One of the most remarkable effects of the explosion was the rending of the embankment of the river Thames for the distance of 100 yards, and the risk incurred of an inundation of the low-lying districts adjoining the water. However, the tide was out at the time of the accident, and before high water the embankment had been restored to a strength sufficient to withstand the force of the waves. Within twenty minutes after the explosion, Mr. Houghton, a contractor under the Metropolitan Board of Works, hurried to the spot with a corps of 400 navvies. This body was reinforced by a detachment of Sappers and Miners to the number of about 1,500. These were followed by a regiment of infantry and a force of marines. Wheelbarrows were scarce, and the men were compelled to adopt the scheme of the engineers of the army of Xerxes, and, ranging themselves in line, passed lumps of clay from hand to hand. By great exertion a sufficient barrier was formed, and the district saved. On Sunday the Londoners went by thousands down to Plumstead, and the traffic was so great on the North Kent Railway that the last train did not return till after midnight. By road and river also immense numbers travelled down. Indeed, as the events of the last few years have plainly proved, the Londoners have become as greedy of 'sensations' as the citizens of New York, to the benefit of railway companies and penny newspapers, but to the loss of that character for dignified sobriety for which English people were once celebrated.

Londoners are peculiarly fortunate in the possession of a decided excitement at this dull period of the year. Professor Anderson, 'the Wizard of the North,' knows how to make an evening pass most agreeably, and even succeeds in amazing the visitors to St. James's Hall with one marvellous feat. If Miss Anderson relies entirely on her powers of memory for the accomplishment of her task, she certainly has cultivated that docile organ with great skill. To describe minutely, with an accuracy that is almost absurd, some twenty or thirty coins, rings, and similar articles, after one glance, is a considerable achievement; but to decipher inscriptions which are scarcely legible, to detect a flaw in the setting of a precious stone, and to do all this without any idea on the part of the audience that an opportunity of inspection has been afforded, produces in the mind of the spectator the satisfaction that he has been completely baffled. Her skill in spelling 'sesquipedalia verba' backwards is also amusing. But, whether justly or not, the Brothers Davenport insist on astonishing the British public more extensively than either Professor or Miss Anderson. The 'Professor' does not pretend to anything beyond what the known laws of nature permit. By what agency the Brothers Davenport accomplish their feats is not decided. Controversy is still active—

'adhuc sub judice lis est.'

The nature of the performance is, however, quickly told. A number of gentlemen of all shades and professions, men of letters, officers in the army, and artists, meet a quiet party consisting of the Brothers Davenport, Mr. Fay, and Mr. Ferguson. These four individuals are bound to their chairs by cords, the tightening of which is performed by a naval officer, the lights are extinguished, and thereupon from all parts of the room proceed the sounds of tambourine, guitar, trumpet, and bell, instruments which before had been placed on the table; the knees and heads of the audience are touched, a whisking of ropes is heard, and the cord which bound one of the Brothers Davenport is found on the return of light coiled round the neck of a spectator. Other feats are performed such as the disappearance of the coat of Mr. Davenport

om the back of its wearer and its reappearance in the p of a spectator. Of course, to give to such performances the title of 'spiritual manifestations,' and to talk ysteriously of agencies unknown to ordinary mortals, ids a charming sublimity to the affair. Unfortunately ie Brothers Davenport have performed in other parts of ie globe, and it is affirmed that in Canada gentlemen ave been found who, repudiating all supernatural agenes, have yet rivalled in success the Brothers Davenport.

THE Metropolitan Medical Schools were opened on Saturday last, and the usual introductory lectures were delivered. The Dean of St. Thomas's Hospital, Dr. Clapton, made some able and pertinent remarks on the treatment f the army surgeons by the authorities. He said that he terms were so unsatisfactory that good men will not ccept them, and the authorities were at their wits' end o devise some means by which to secure indifferent men. There were plenty of good medical men willing to enter he service if the terms were such as gentlemen could ccede to. The Medical Department was, as it were, etween two enemies. Each was willing to grant what he other refused to give. The Horse Guards had no bjection to the Department being paid, but was most ealous of granting any increased rank; the Treasury ould be willing to see every doctor with the rank of a eneral provided he got no increase of pay; and so the oor doctor fell to the ground. Among the older surgeons n the army a great grievance was that they could never eel settled anywhere, and were never consulted as to here they would like to be ordered. There were no ppointments in retirement for the surgeons as there were or the other departments of the army. Then again there as the glaring grievance of an almost total denial of eave of absence. Lastly, there was a positive breach of aith on the part of the authorities in reference to the warrant of 1858 upon the points of seniority, precedence, hoice of quarters, presidency of boards of enquiry, allowances in the way of forage, &c. These concessions, which ooked well enough on paper, were found not to work, and o the Horse Guards cancelled them in practice. The ew generation would not submit to the dangers and iscipline of the army, with many grievances and no onours. The War Office relied on the idea that the profession was overstocked; but, in point of fact, whereas in 1851 the number of medical men under forty years of age was 11,105, yet in 1861 there were only 9,910, and that notwithstanding the increase in the population. The Dean, in the course of his address, mentioned the conduct of Mr. Chaffers, a former student of St. Thomas's Hospital, who, actuated by laudable motives, proceeded to the Southern States of America, in reference to whom the Dean quoted the following extract from the *Memphis Appeal*:—

We have heard frequent mention of this young surgeon, who will carry back to England a scar in the face made by a Federal sabre at Shelbyville, and many are the gratefully eloquent eulogiums upon his skill from those whom the fortune of war submitted to his knife. He is now acting chief-surgeon of Hume's cavalry division. Since his assignment to duty he has devoted himself to its discharge with an assiduity and untiring faithfulness which reflect the highest credit on him as a man, and with a skill which does honour to the ancient foundation which gave him his degree.

ON Michaelmas Day the liverymen of the City of London were convened in Guildhall to elect from among the members of the Court of Aldermen a magistrate to fill the office of Lord Mayor for the ensuing year. At noon the Lord Mayor, the Aldermen and Sheriffs, the Chamberlain of London, the Recorder, and all the officers of the Corporation went in state to the church of St. Lawrence to attend Divine service. After service the procession walked to Guildhall, and Mr. Beddome, the common crier, made proclamation for all persons who were not liverymen to depart from the hall on pain of imprisonment. On the withdrawal of the magistrates, the Common Serjeant announced the names of the aldermen who had not passed the chair, and who, having served the office of Sheriff, were eligible for the office of Lord Mayor. On a show of hands the choice of the livery was declared to have fallen on Mr. Warren Stormes Hale, alderman and tallow-chandler, and Mr. Benjamin Samuel Phillips, alderman and spectacle-maker. The Aldermen chose Mr. Warren Stormes Hale to be the new Lord Mayor.

IRELAND.

The statistics furnished by the Registrar-General on the agricultural condition of Ireland possess some interest. In cattle there is an increase of 113,078 over the return of 1863, the total being 3,257,309. Sheep have increased by 54,864 head, and number 3,363,068. In horses, for the production of which Ireland has earned a reputation above all other countries, there is an unfortunate decrease to the number of 18,617, the total number now being 564,361. Perhaps a worse feature in the condition of Ireland could not be found. In that country not only the cavalry regiments and the batteries of artillery found animals at moderate rates of marvellous quality, speed, and strength, but any man who desired a horse of unrivalled excellence in the hunting-field looked to Ireland to supply his wants. In them, indeed, there seems to reside an innate love of jumping, a sagacity that never fails in the most awkward situations which the stiffest line of country can create, a pluck absolutely indomitable, a peculiar hardiness of limb and constitution. Then, again, like the fiery and impulsive men who rear him, he has a temper which rebels at the slightest injury, but which knows how to display itself in a noble ardour for victory on the turf, or fame in the chase. The marked decrease, however, shown by the return bears out the truth of the alarm expressed some months ago by Irish breeders; and the commentary on the present condition of horse-rearing which emanated from the sporting Chief Secretary and from Admiral Rous pointed to a gradual drafting of the finest sires, and, what is worse, of the best brood mares, into the *haras* of the Continent. In pigs, those wonderful animals, whom the Irishman honours as the Icelander does the reindeer, for indeed 'the pig pays the rent,' there is also a decrease of 11,209 since last year, the total number being 1,056,245. Within a period of five years there has been a falling off to the extent of 5,000,000*l.* in the total value of live stock. There is, further, a diminution in the quantity of land in cropping to the extent of 122,437 acres. There were 279,863 acres of wheat, and 1,869,918 acres of oats; of green crops there were 1,475,535 acres. In this connection mention may be made of a speech delivered at the dinner of the Portland Agricultural Society's Show held last week. After some remarks on the necessity of cultivating flax as the rent-paying crop of the country in the north of Ireland, a practical farmer proceeded thus:—'People cried out for "Justice to Ireland," but they should try for justice to themselves, and every Irishman should do something towards developing the industrial resources of the country. Emigration was a stern reality, and he regretted to see so many stalwart fellows passing away from the country. He maintained that the poor people of this country had quite as great trials to undergo as had been encounted by the coloured race of Africa in America What was to stem emigration? If emigration was to be restrained, it could only be by finding employment for all who could work. There was plenty of work to be done in the country; and, until tillage was properly carried out and set about, and the population became what it ought to be, the country would be looked down upon as the outcast of Europe, instead of being, as it ought to be, its garden, and second to none in the world.'

A barrister resident in the city of Dublin has distinguished himself by shooting a bailiff. The latter officer had served a distress on the barrister, whose name was O'Dell, and had also executed the warrant. O'Dell permitted him to perform his duty unmolested, and did not even show any vexation at the occurrence. As the bailiff was leaving the house at even-tide after finishing his task, O'Dell rushed out, and shot at him with a pistol. The ball instantly took effect, and the bailiff fell dead. The barrister thereupon walked to the station-house and gave himself up to the police. He has been committed for trial.

Lord Wodehouse has been appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland in the room of the Earl of Carlisle. In some quarters a wish had found expression that Dublin Castle should be occupied by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who was considered to be the fit representative of Her Majesty in the kingdom of Ireland. It is certain that, had the office been accepted by the Prince of Wales, the loyal feeling which his presence would have evoked from that noble and warm-hearted people would have amply recompensed the Prince for undertaking the duties of the viceroyalty. Lord Wodehouse was Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs under Lord Aberdeen and Lord Palmerston. He went as Ambassador to St. Petersburg in 1858. He also was Special Commissioner to Denmark. The appointment of his Lordship to the viceroyalty renders vacant the Under-Secretaryship of the Colonies. Inasmuch as there are already four under-secretaries in the House of Commons, that office must be conferred on a Peer.

The sporting community have met with a disappointment, and the respectable world with a signal piece of good fortune. The fight between Mace and Coburn has not come off. There seem to have been two obstacles—first, the activity of the police; second, the difficulty of choosing a referee. It is said that the chosen spot was to be between Goold's Cross Station and Cashel, and it is even affirmed that Coburn appeared in the ring to claim the stakes, Mace being there represented by a protesting agent. Coburn seems to have achieved this portion of his task under considerable difficulties, and to have eluded with some skill the vigilance of the police. Even if the authorities had not interfered, the inability of the parties to agree upon a referee would probably have prevented the fight. It is thought that the money will be returned.

THE CONTINENT.

FRANCE.

The marriage of M. Emile Erlanger, the eminent banker of Paris and Frankfort, with the daughter of the Hon. John Slidell, Commissioner accredited by the Confederate Government to the Court of the Tuileries, took place on the morning of the 5th inst. M. Mocquard, the Emperor's private secretary, acted as best man for the bridegroom; the Marquis de Beaumont and the Hon. James Mason acted as friends of the lady. A distinguished company were present at the ceremony, including some of the best known diplomatists in Paris, as well as a number of Confederate officers in full uniform.

The opinion of which we spoke on the first suggestion of the Empress's visit to the baths of Schwalbach, that it would eventually bring about a meeting between the sovereigns of France, Russia, and Prussia, has acquired fresh force during the past week. The Emperor, they say, is to run down to the country to bring back his Imperial spouse, and the long talked-of interview will take place. The Empress was to have paid a visit to Prince Metternich at his palace of Johannisberg, but for some reasons unknown it has not occurred. Her mode of life at Schwalbach seems to have been so planned as to be contrasted as strongly as possible with the rigid ceremonial of the Tuileries. She was enabled to receive private sociable visits from the Emperor of Russia, the Archduke Stephen of Austria, and the Duke of Nassau. It is related that in one of her walks she encountered Field-Marshal Count Wrangel, the late commander-in-chief in Denmark, and after a short conversation engaged him to dine with her at her villa. On his retiring, Her Majesty exchanged photographs with him. Her Majesty left Schwalbach unexpectedly on the morning of the 3rd inst., and went with her suite to Ludwigshafen; thence she proceeded on the 4th inst. to Baden, where she was received by the Grand Duke of Baden and the King of Prussia.

M. Rouland, lately Minister President of the Council of State, has been superseded in that office by M. Vuitry. He has received in exchange the dignity of senator and Governor of the Bank of France. This appointment has never before been filled by any but a distinguished financier. M. Rouland is sixty years of age, and has never been distinguished during the course of his life as a professional or even amateur man of business. Under these circumstances, we can only admire the benevolence of the Imperial hand, determined to requite the services of a willing if not very successful Minister, even at the expense of the interests of the country.

The *Société Hippophage* has held one of its peculiar dinners at a restaurant in Lyons. It was attended by a goodly number of professional men, lawyers, veterinary surgeons, and physicians; the latter class, however, fought rather shy of the banquet. The contents of the *carte* are dilated upon with much gusto by the journals; we need only commemorate the appearance of the following dishes. Clear soup (made of horse), piece of boiled horse, *cheval à la mode, beignets de cervelle de cheval*, horse-tongue, *foie de cheval à l'italienne*, horse-steaks, and horse-pie. All these dishes were declared to be excellent. In justice to the cook it is added that the sauces used therewith were of the most marvellous goodness. After dinner the president explained that the subject of their banquet had been a horse of five years old, killed in consequence of an accident which rendered him useless. He disposed of the often-repeated objection against the costliness of such meat for general purposes, by referring to certain statistics, which showed that there were yearly 600,000 horses between seven and eight years old, which might be given up to the cook without injury to the agricultural or military interest. Moreover, could anything be more humane and at the same time more elevating to the sentiments of mankind, than to put to an easy death, and then consecrate to our own nourishment, the bodies of our old and faithful servants? Had the worthy gentleman only been acquainted with that famous New Zealander who demonstrated his filial affection for his grandfather by refusing to enshrine him in any other tomb than his own stomach, his arguments would have been both amplified and savourily illustrated.

A court-martial was lately held at Paris upon one Eugène Housset, of the 30th regiment of the line, for a very remarkable series of offences. His life appears to have been a sort of grotesque parody on that of the *Misérable* so pathetically described by M. Victor Hugo, with the only exception that he has evidently only himself to thank for his continual falls. Up to his twentieth year he was generally in prison; at that age he enlisted, but before many months were out he contrived to be admitted into hospital; the authorities there were glad to get rid of him, and sent him home for six months to recover his health. The bosom of his family did not long present any attractions to him; he picked up a worthy colleague, got rid of his uniform, and 'loafed' away an easy life, subsisting chiefly upon the community. When he was tired of this, he again went into a hospital; but not finding it sufficiently comfortable, he changed his quarters to another similar establishment. From this, however, he was soon summarily ejected. The cruelty of the action was such as to sour Eugène's temper; he determined to take leave of the world and go into a cloister. He knocked at the door of the Capuchin Friars at Caen, was admitted, and soon donned the robe and cowl under the name of Brother Egidius. His piety was at first exemplary; but the good brothers were distressed to see his holy sentiments fade away like a dissolving view, and leave in their place nothing but a monstrous capacity for eating. The uncongeniality of his temperament doubtless became apparent to himself; for the next step which he takes is out of the monastery again into the wide, wide world, with his wallet filled with divers *souvenirs* of his late brethren; from one he had borrowed a razor, from another shoes, from a third socks; in short, he had spoiled the Egyptians, as they found out very soon after his departure. Their losses were too great to be borne with Christian patience; application was made to the authorities, and Brother Egidius was arrested. By this time his military and civil offences had accumulated to such an extent, that he was easily recognised as a deserter and thief, and thereupon handed over to the military authorities. When called upon for a defence, he did not attempt to make any; he accounted for his divers changes by saying that he was tired of his former life. The Capuchin brethren were very loth to accuse him, but they were obliged to confess that the disappearance of their property coincided exactly in point of time with the departure of Brother Egidius; he was accordingly condemned to three years' imprisonment. Where but in France could we expect to meet with a rogue so philosophical, or a philosopher of such easy morals?

ITALY.

The Franco-Italian Convention still continues to occupy the attention of the political world. As, according to Mr. Shandy, the history of a man begins some few months before his birth, so the history of a treaty should be commenced some little way before its completion. First it is asked who were the instigators of this sudden and well-concealed move? The *Union* answers that they were Prince Napoleon and M. Rouher. The Prince is of course deeply interested in Italian politics in right of his marriage; M. Rouher is his intimate friend. Next men enquire what notice the other Powers have taken of it. England, it is said, was cognisant of it; Prince Metternich, the Austrian Ambassador, knew nothing whatever about it, and has, they say, fallen under the displeasure of his Government for his carelessness. It was rumoured that the Austrian Government had formally protested against the Convention, as an infraction of the

treaty of Villafranca; and the rumour still obtains to a certain extent, in spite of official contradiction. Another statement is derived from German sources, that the Emperor of the French offered, before the close of the negotiations, to admit the Austrian Ambassador to a share in them, and that his offer was rejected. No doubt some explanations are due and will yet be given to Austria, as the terms of the Convention occupy the same political ground as the treaty of Zurich and Villafranca. The articles of the Convention have been the subject of most vigorous discussion in the European press; the best exposition which we have of them is probably that contained in the despatch of M. Drouyn de Lhuys to the Comte de Sartiges, French Ambassador at Rome. The sum of that despatch may be thus stated: 'Whereas the Italian Government appear at length to be capable of keeping the Mazzinist party in order; whereas they have given up their Quixotic cry of "Rome for our capital," as testified by their now transferring the seat of their Government from Turin to Florence; whereas, under these circumstances, the Pope, being untroubled from without, will be able to keep his own subjects quiet by the help of a moderate army: now, therefore, the troops of France may prepare to evacuate Rome.' Upon this some journals have argued that, if this be true, France has betrayed the Italians, and, under pretence of relieving them from her intervention, has exercised, by the terms of this very treaty, a most mischievous interference. Others consider the premises to be untrue; they do not believe that the Italians will give up the idea of Rome for a metropolis, or that the Pope will be able to keep his subjects in order, and consequently conclude that France has betrayed the temporal power of the Pope. Others again, seeing the dilemma in which the French Government appears to be placed, believe that the treaty means absolutely nothing, that the conditions of the evacuation cannot and will not be fulfilled, and, consequently, that the French troops will not leave Rome. Probably the latter opinion is so far right, that it is not intended to act immediately upon this Convention, but that it will prove a stepping-stone, by which concessions from one or the other party or both may the more easily be obtained, and so an advance may be made towards a practical solution of the difficulty.

There is every reason to believe that the Convention is not yet actually concluded. The Duc de Grammont, in communicating the general nature of it to Herr von Rechberg, excused himself from giving him a copy of the terms on the ground that it could not be considered to be completed until accepted by the Italian Chambers and by the Pope. It is said that there is a secret article attached to the Convention, declaring that the move from Florence to Turin had been contemplated by the Italian Government before any idea of this treaty was conceived, and totally independent of it; and that consequently, as above stated, no evacuation of Rome by the French troops could take place until the transfer of the seat of government had been effected.

After the first unfortunate outbreaks at Turin, quiet has been permanently restored in that city. The municipality and the United Committees of Turin have published addresses to the Government in which they point out that the citizens of Turin are willing to surrender the privileges of a metropolis to Rome, but to Rome only; and that they consider the transfer to Florence as an encroachment on their rights, and the surrender of a vital principle. The captain of the company of carbineers who fired upon the people on the 21st ult., has published a letter in which he positively declares that he never gave any order to fire, and that the explosion which was mistaken by his men for a signal was merely the result of accident. A subscription has been set on foot in aid of the sufferers in the outbreak. Meetings have been held at Naples and Milan, approving of the policy of the Franco-Italian Convention; in both cases the speakers insisted upon the fact that the new capital, wherever it should be, would only be provisional, and still looked upon Rome as their ultimate object. The king has sent an orderly officer to the prefect of Milan to congratulate that city on its dignified and expressive attitude, and to assure him that the Convention should be fully carried out; the latter assurance alludes to the recent assertion that the evacuation of Rome will be made to depend upon the transfer of the capital from Turin to Florence. The *Gazetta del Popolo* of Florence contains a queer letter addressed by the city of Florence to the city of Turin, in which the personification of the two cities into ladies is almost extravagantly carried out. It says: 'Turin, my dear sister, you perchance imagine that I cannot control my pleasure at being made the provisional capital. If this be a service which I ought to render to my country, why should I not be glad? I shall preserve the pledge with that faith and that love of which you, my courageous and noble sister, have given me an example for so many years.' It goes on to sympathise with Turin in her affliction, and to assure her that the royal family, which she had loved for so many centuries, shall be as well cared for by Florence. The Roman National Committee express unbounded satisfaction at the treaty, and remind their disciples that in two years' time they will be allowed to cast off the galling yoke of their present Government, to give the Church the liberty which she craves, and to annex themselves to Italy. Cardinal Antonelli appears to be quite at his ease on the subject, and declines at present to abate one jot of the Papal pretensions. A demonstration was made in Rome on the evening of the 29th ult., but it was speedily checked by the French police, who effected several arrests. One of the latest acts of the Pontifical Government, and one which is not likely to lessen in any way the bitterness of their opponents, has been the condemnation of six men to imprisonment for periods varying from the term of their lives to six years, on the charge of political conspiracy.

General della Marmora has succeeded in forming a Ministry, not without the powerful aid of Baron Ricasoli, who has given him all his support and influence. The following is a summary of the programme published by the Ministry:—

The new Ministry, in assuming the reins of government, finds it necessary to make known its intentions respecting the political question.

The Ministry accepts the Convention stipulated with France, and at the same time the condition of the transfer of the capital to another locality. It will submit a bill on this subject to Parliament, and will also propose gradual measures of a nature to lighten the loss which will be sustained by Turin without postponing the period fixed by the Convention for the evacuation of Pontifical territory by the French troops.

The Ministry further expresses confidence in the patriotic devotion of the city of Turin and the other Italian populations.

DENMARK.

The betrothal of the Grand-Duke Nicholas of Russia, the Czarewitch, to the Princess Dagmar of Denmark, took place on the 28th ult. His Imperial Highness will remain another week in Denmark to receive the congratulations of the Royal Family.

Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia, the commander-in-chief of the allied forces, will remain in Slesvig during the winter; his headquarters have accordingly been transferred to the Palace of Glücksburg. Two frigates and a squadron of gunboats will be stationed at Flensburg during the winter.

The *Gazette* of Aarhuus has a significant announcement, which we shall explain below. It states that, as the receipts from Jutland are not sufficient to pay the expenses of the troops, all merchandise coming from the islands of Denmark will for the future be subject to customs dues. At the same time all the Danish journals save two, the *Berlingske* and the *Flyveposten Illustré*, are interdicted in Jutland.

GERMANY.

The Conference of Vienna still drags its slow length along without making much perceptible progress. The question of the boundary line between Slesvig and Jutland is still unsettled. Captain Scholler, of the Danish service, has returned to Copenhagen from Vienna, to discuss that point with the Danish Minister for Slesvig. The point in dispute is the small town of Christiansfeld in Slesvig, which is claimed by Denmark. It was originally agreed that a portion of the public property of Denmark should be given up to the Duchies, and the Danes have accordingly proposed to submit to arbitration the question of the amount to be liquidated; this proposal has been declared by the Germans to be inadmissible, and a definite answer on this point was required from Denmark. The Danish Plenipotentiaries were therefore obliged again to send to Copenhagen for further instructions. They hoped to be able to give their reply on the 4th or 5th inst. The repeated delays caused by the exorbitance of the German demands, and the unwillingness of Denmark to concede them, have stirred up the bile of the conquerors. As one of their journals expresses it, they have been obliged to employ every means to force Denmark into a speedy peace, especially that of putting the screw upon the unfortunate province of Jutland. This is the meaning of the announcement mentioned above of a new impost upon Danish merchandise.

The *Neue Freie Presse* of Vienna publishes an interesting article on the visit of Lord Clarendon to that city. According to the writer of it, his Lordship's mission was almost entirely unconnected with the Dano-German matter, but related more especially to the new aspect of affairs consequent upon the Franco-Italian Convention. He wished to bring before the eyes of the Austrian Government the advantage which they may gain by a departure from their present principles, a recognition of Italy, and a reunion with the great Powers of the West. He especially deprecated all thought of a coalition of Austria, Russia, and Prussia. Such was the general object of Lord Clarendon's mission to Count von Rechberg, and it receives the hearty support of the writer of the article.

The movements of European diplomatists are watched with the same sort of anxiety as, in a smaller sphere, animates the chess-player watching the intricate motions of his antagonist's pieces. Lord Clarendon and Herr von Beust have left Vienna. Herr von Bismarck joined the King of Prussia at Baden-Baden, and was reported to be about to return in his company; but it was whispered that the Prussian statesman will find that a course of sea-bathing at Biarritz in France will be of benefit to him.

SWEDEN.

The visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Stockholm has elicited from another and an equally admirable nation compliments and ovations of which every Englishman may rightly feel proud. Sweden was in a better situation for receiving a royal visitor with a happy face than Denmark, weighed down with political cares and national humiliation. The opportunities also in Stockholm for holding a splendid festival are greater than those of Denmark, and they appear to have been taxed to their utmost, and with complete success, to do honour to the illustrious strangers. The Prince and Princess left Copenhagen on the 23rd ultimo in the royal yacht *Osborne*; unfortunately, the bad weather which the Prince has so often met with in England pursued him on the sea, and he suffered all the miseries of a thoroughly bad passage. On the 26th ult. they at length reached Stockholm, and were received by the King's brother, Admiral Prince Oscar, who steamed out in the yacht *Valkyrian* to meet them. An unfortunate accident happened as his boat was nearing the *Osborne*; one of the crew of the latter vessel, who was preparing to receive the visitors, slipped into the sea and was drowned, in spite of all attempts to save him. This incident deeply affected the Princess who retired to her cabin; but the Prince remained on deck and received Prince Oscar. At 7.30 P.M. the party landed, and were received by the governor of Stockholm and other officials. They were conducted to the carriages which had been long expecting them, amidst the hurrahs of the whole population of the city. The magnificent Norwegian Guards formed their guard of honour; and the Charles the Twelfth Guards, dressed in the costume of the monarch whose name they bear, acted as their mounted escort. Their apartments were in the royal palace had been redecorated for the occasion on a scale of nificence of which we in modern England have no smallest idea. The first act of the Prince on arrivin to telegraph to the Queens of England and Denmark they had arrived safely after a long, cold, and unple voyage. In spite of their fatigues, the whole party ready after dinner to go to the opera, where the Ki Sweden presented his visitors to his people. They greeted by tremendous cheers, again and again repe On the next day the whole party paid a visit to the va points of interest in Stockholm, a town which has servedly received the encomia of all travellers for it ceeding beauty. It was suggested that the Prin Wales should have one day's elk-shooting before he l this country, but as he was to return to Denmark b 2nd instant, it was improbable that time could be f for it.

A dispute has recently arisen between the Swedish Danish press upon the question whether Count Mar ström, the Swedish Foreign Minister, did or did not Denmark to believe she would be assisted by Swede the recent war, and afterwards leave her to bear the b of the struggle single-handed. With reference to subject Mr. Hall, the former President of the Counc Denmark, has published a statement of his correspond with Count Hamilton, Swedish minister in Copenha in 1863, which led him to believe that active assist was to be expected of Sweden. The Swedish Gov ment has thereupon published a despatch from von Manderström, the Swedish Foreign Secretary, d October 6, 1863, which proves that the Swedish cal had always declared its assistance to be conditional or approval of their Chambers of Deputies, and that were never blind to the disadvantages which might from an alliance such as was proposed. One sentenc the despatch distinctly reserves to the Swedish Gov ment the power of drawing back from their engagem on the occurrence of certain events, the nature of w is not mentioned.

RUSSIA.

An awful catastrophe similar to that which has so l struck terror into the hearts of the inhabitants of Lo has wrought ruin and alarm in St. Petersburg. Pa the great powder-magazine of Ochta, a suburb of capital, blew up; the force of the explosion was suc to destroy thirty buildings in the neighbourhood; a g number were burnt in the fire which followed on the plosion, and about eighty more were dangerously sha The victims of this catastrophe are numerous eno although not so many as might have been expected. workmen were killed, and about fifty wounded; t more have utterly disappeared. The shock of the ex sion was severely felt all round. In the conven Smolnos, on the other side of the Neva, every window broken.

SWITZERLAND.

The States Council has ratified the Franco-Swiss c mercial treaty by a majority of 31 to 11.

The Electoral Board of Geneva, whose decision ag the validity of M. Chenevière's election was reverse the Federal Council, have appealed to the National C cil against this judgment. Their appeal has been fir dismissed, and ample powers delegated to the Fed Council to deal with these matters.

A terrible catastrophe has lately happened at Gen One of the large houses on the quay has been burnt to ground, and thirteen of the persons living in it burn death.

BELGIUM.

One of the most remarkable features of the Festiv Independence lately celebrated at Brussels was the sence of a body of English volunteers. They were recei at the station by the *chasseurs éclaireurs* of Brussel body resembling somewhat one of our own volun corps. They were warmly greeted on their arrival, marched to the Salle d'Orient, where a handsome lu awaited them. After lunch the healths of King Leo and Queen Victoria were drunk with rapturous appla and finally the toast of 'The Ladies,' in compliment our English fashion. It was responded to by the wife one of the English volunteer officers present in a grac manner. Many of the volunteers had the honour o presentation to the King and the Duc de Brabant.

SPAIN.

Queen Christina, the well-known Queen Dowager of Sp who has for a long time been residing in Rome in exile f her country, returned to Madrid on the 30th ult. Majesty was well received by the crowds on her arri and the Madrid journals speak of this event in favoura terms.

The *Clamor Publico* of the 29th ult. strongly insis on the policy of terminating the war in Santo Domin preserving only the towns of Santo Domingo, Samor and Puerto Plata, and abandoning the rest of the isla This advice may perhaps be modified by the news of 1st inst., according to which the Spanish general in Sa Domingo completely defeated the insurgents in an gagement on August 31, and killed their general, M tinez.

Admiral Pinzon, the commander of the Spanish sq dron in the Pacific, and the perpetrator of the outrage seizure of the Chincha Islands, is to be superseded Admiral Prijera, a man of more moderate and conciliat views. This step is greeted with great satisfaction those who deprecate a needless war between Spain the South American republics.

TUNIS.

The squadrons of the great Powers which have some time been stationed at Tunis have now taken their

parture. The loyal garrison of Soussa attempted to make its way out in a sortie, but was repulsed. The insurgents are bringing up all the arms they can find.

MEXICO.

On the 21st ultimo Admiral Bousse appeared at the mouth of the Rio Bravo in the Gulf of Mexico with a squadron of four frigates. Instantly landing a body of 400 men, he made a vigorous attack on the town of Bagdad, drove out the Juarist authorities, and hoisted the French and Mexican flags side by side. From other quarters the accounts are equally favourable; Juarez is hard pressed, but still remains at the head of a few thousand men; he has shipped off his wife and family to New Orleans. The Emperor of Mexico has been making a tour through the country; he has everywhere been received with enthusiasm; his visit will produce lasting effects. The Empress has remained at Mexico, where she has given some general audiences. These were attended by some of the very lowest of her subjects; even Indians were admitted to her presence.

The Mexican Government has forwarded 2,500,000 francs to France in execution of the Convention of Miramar.

The profitable trade which the Yankee shippers have been driving in supplying arms and munitions of war to the army of Juarez—munitions not seldom purchased from a 'cute quartermaster of the Federal army—has been cut short by the energetic remonstrances of the French. One ship, which had gone off from under the very nose of the Custom House, was brought back on their requisition, and its cargo confiscated. Very probably it returned into the possession of the very persons who had before so profitably sold it.

JAPAN.

By advices from this country we learn that two English ships have been fired upon by a battery belonging to the Prince Chosien. The cholera is severe at Shanghai.

THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

We must really suggest that at the next Congress an article should be passed forbidding any countries to civilise themselves, or frame for themselves constitutions, during the next fifty years at least. Without some such wholesome restraint, the foreign news will utterly exceed the limits of every reasonable newspaper, and we shall be driven by the very excess of knowledge into ignorance of what half the world is doing. Here is the King of the Sandwich Islands delivering a speech to his Convention, of which all we need say is, that we wish we could hear a few so much to the purpose in England. In the course of it he proposes to effect, with the assistance of his Upper and Lower House, various constitutional changes of importance. He would make the marriages of the royal family matters of policy; he would erase the clause providing for the alienation of the kingdom—as a point of abstract policy the latter change seems unquestionably desirable, but practically we doubt its importance. Would the kingdom of the Sandwich Islands find a purchaser in the European market? He next proposes to take away the power possessed by an officer called Kuhina Nui of controlling absolutely the acts of a body of which he himself is a member, and in which he has a vote. Then he observes that 'the protracted sittings of the Legislature have been caused by the absence of all direct intercourse between the House of Representatives and the Executive.' This he would obviate by admitting into the House some members of the Cabinet—a lesson which gentlemen at Washington might learn with advantage; he suggests that the representation of the people should be regulated according to population by districts, and finally hopes that they will establish a property qualification for the House of Representatives. Such are the discussions of the Sandwich Islands while Europe is gloomy with suppressed war, and America is writhing in fire and blood.

A Swiss Circular.—The Federal Government of Switzerland has issued the following circular, dated September 29, cautioning against emigration to the belligerent States of North America:—'Many concurrent and well-grounded reports reach us from North America, conveying a very earnest and urgent warning against emigration to that country under present circumstances. The course of the war, with its changeful history, has naturally limited the chances of obtaining a livelihood, and it is consequently most difficult to procure and to maintain an adequate means of existence in that country. The emigrants who are wanting either in influence or in adequate funds often find themselves in a most critical position, which leaves them no other choice than that of entering the army. Amongst them, sad to say, are to be found Swiss, the inability of whose friends to render them assistance, and whose ignorance both of the language and the manners of the country, are taken advantage of by unprincipled men to effect their enrolment and thus lead them to a hopeless and lamentable fate. This warning against the selection of North America by the emigrant as his destination may also be addressed to those whose minds are made up for military service. To these we would recommend great consideration, as it often happens that foreigners who have enlisted are deprived of the greater portion of their bounty by agents, who use every means in their power to defraud young and inexperienced men of the miserable price paid them for the surrender of their liberty. Many cases may be cited which tend to show the justness of this warning in both points of view, more especially as the authorities, however willing they may be, are not always able to afford immediate and adequate help to those who return to claim their assistance.'

Republican Policy.—The *Boston Courier* says:—'Two-thirds of the United States Senate are Republicans, and, if M'Clellan should be elected, will, it is most probable, act as a check on the further prosecution of the war, unless it be carried on in the Abolition interest. In fact, we are inclined to believe that they will oppose it in any way as a matter of party policy, and it is not at all unlikely that they will sooner favour a recognition of the independence of the Southern Confederacy than a restoration of the Union, by which they would be placed in a hopeless minority.'

LITERARY NOTES.*

Time was when John Henry Newman was one of the chiefest ornaments and most shining lights of the Church of England. He was one of the most distinguished of a class of men whose existence and influence is her peculiar characteristic—who are at once thoroughly devout priests and thoroughbred gentlemen, whose honour is as unquestioned as their piety, and whose scholarship is not the stumblingblock but the mainstay of their faith and that of others. To this class of men, by no means rare among her clergy, the Church owes that strong hold on the most cultivated and enlightened classes of society which is so distinctive of England, and has conduced so greatly to her happiness and stability. Dr. Newman was a great man in the Church—a distinguished divine, a powerful preacher, the acknowledged leader of an influential party. He held a living which, for his peculiar tastes and character, had greater charms than any other could have had, St. Mary's, Oxford, which made him one of the principal religious teachers of the University, and enabled him in no small degree to direct the minds of those who were studying for the priesthood, and influence the future views of the Anglican clergy. In 1843 he resigned all these things; and two years afterwards he was received into the Roman Catholic Church. In his new communion he holds a comparatively undistinguished position. It is only of late that he has been appointed rector of a Catholic University; till then he was no more than the chief of an 'Oratory' containing some half-dozen priests in the very unpleasant town of Birmingham. The most distinguished of English converts has not even received a Roman Catholic bishopric; while, had he remained in the Anglican communion, he could hardly have failed by this time to have taken his seat on the Episcopal bench in the House of Lords. In a worldly point of view, he has given up much and gained little; has gone through much trouble and obloquy to be less than he was twenty years ago. A study of the work '*Apologia pro Vitâ suâ*' removes all doubt as to Dr. Newman's perfect candour and spotless loyalty. But the work will not further the interests of Catholicism. The path by which Dr. Newman arrived at Rome is one which few will follow; and most readers will be disposed to think that the strength and soundness of the author's judgment fell very far short of the brilliancy of his intellect and the purity of his heart. His logic is too fine-drawn to convince even where it may puzzle; and his experiences, though they may teach antagonistic churches a little more mutual charity, hardly show any cause or means to soften their antagonism. The book, therefore, may be safely recommended to all but the very young and fanciful. It is admirably written, and most charming to read; it breathes as deep a spirit of toleration as a hatred of latitudinarianism; and it teaches a lesson in charity without threatening a single point of faith. Indeed, it was never meant to proselytise—a task evidently uncongenial to the author's mind. It is personal, not controversial; a spiritual biography, not a theological treatise.

'Archbishop Whately's Memoirs,' the work, we believe, of an Irish Roman Catholic, are very readable, but very bad. Their tone is flippant and offensive; the information they contain ill-digested and incomplete; and the picture they present of the prelate most unfair and repulsive. For his sins and shortcomings assuredly was the Archbishop of Dublin doomed to fall after his death into the clutches of this unscrupulous bookmaker; to be made responsible for arrant nonsense and impertinent absurdities; to figure as the hero of foolish and undignified quarrels; to have indecent jests and brutal outrages fathered upon him, and to be held up to the world as a man not wanting indeed in intellect or in virtues, but of the coarsest manners and the most overbearing temper, unclerical in his speech, unchristian in spirit, ungentlemanly in his conduct—a boor, a bully, and a brute. This portraiture is due as much to the author's bad taste as to his malice. He really wished to make Dr. Whately seem as respectable as it would befit a heretic pastor to be; for Dr. Whately had earned his goodwill by discouraging, to the best of his abilities, all attacks on the Roman Catholic religion, censuring invective, reproving uncharitable imputations, and turning the cold shoulder to controversy. But he did not know how to paint an English gentleman; and he has turned brusquerie into brutality, wit into insolence, and negligence into studied rudeness. To judge by these memoirs, we should suppose that the Archbishop was always in hot water, and generally by his own fault; that he snubbed inferiors, insulted colleagues, and set his superiors at defiance; that he was on much better terms with the Roman Catholics than with his own clergy; and that his conversation was often of a kind wholly unfit for the lips of a clergyman or the ears of a woman. Of Whately's public usefulness we learn little or nothing from this; of his private charities we find some incidental notices; concerning his services to the cause of intellectual freedom and religious enlightenment, only a scattered hint here and there. We do trust that the memory of one of the greatest minds which the Church of England has produced during this century may be rescued from the dishonour of so unworthy a record, and fittingly embalmed by some one whom personal character and intimate knowledge have qualified for that office.

Mr. Masheder's 'Dissent and Democracy' is a work well calculated to promote the purpose which its author has at heart; to awaken the friends of the English Church to a livelier sense of the dangers by which she is threatened, and make them distinctly aware of the strength of her enemies, the policy they are pursuing, and the ends they have avowed. It imputes nothing that it does not prove; and exhumes from the archives of the enemy a full explanation of the real meaning and object of their measures. It contains a history of the war waged by the great union of so-called political dissenters upon the Established Church, and an account of the changes in their strategy. Before the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts the Dissenters asked for no more than complete liberty of worship and relief from civil disabilities imposed on religious dissidence. After the Reform Bill had become law, they organised an open warfare against her existence, proposing openly to rob her not only of her public privileges but of her own corporate property. They fought many a battle on this open ground, and were beaten by majorities increasing as the Conservative spirit of the country recovered from its prostration. Then they gradually changed their tactics. The Anti-State Church Association took the name of the 'Society for the Liberation of Religion from State Patronage and Control' (Liberation Society)—a title which fails to express its principal object, that of delivering the Church from the burden of her endowments, no portion of which are in any sense derived from the State. Since 1850 the policy of this Society, which directs the action of the political Dissenters, has been to attack one by one the outposts of the Church, with the aid of allies who pretend that they desire to surrender the outposts for the better security of the citadel. The avowal of the Liberation Society that it is seeking to undermine the citadel itself—that its object is not to abolish churchrates for the sake of conciliation, or to claim churchyards in the name of peace, but that it aims at the overthrow of the Church through these ends, at the spoliation of her property and the desecration of her edifices—as a test of the real character of the pretended friends of the Church who vote perseveringly at the bidding of her mortal enemies. By bringing its avowal on the one hand and the declarations of thoughtful statesmen as to the justice of churchrates and the nature of tithe on the other clearly before the public; by proving that the spoilers of the Church are robbers of the poor, and that the end of the anti-churchrate party is the complete spoliation of the Church, Mr. Masheder contributes his part to rally round the standard of the Establishment all those who respect the sacredness of property, the rights of the poor, and the institutions of their country.

The Danish war has given rise to a good number of books. M. Gallenga, the well-known correspondent of the *Times*, and ex-deputy of Piedmont, has written one very interesting work, consisting mainly, however, of the letters already published in the newspaper by which he was retained, and containing more description than information. It is a pen-and-ink sketchbook, rather than a history or a work of travel; and perhaps for that reason is more readable than any book of a political character that we have seen for some time past. 'The Invasion of Denmark' is as neutral in tone as the *Times* could render it. Mr. E. Dicey's 'Schleswig-Holstein War' carries a German falsehood in its very title. There never was any Slesvig-Holstein, except in the minds of unscrupulous German professors, and the enthusiastic songs of beery students; and certainly the war was in no sense a Slesvig-Holstein war. Slesvig was a Danish duchy, into which German immigrants had gradually intruded, occupying the land and eating out the native Danes in the southern part. Holstein was a German duchy, which the King of Denmark happened to hold by the same right by which William III. is King of Prussia, or Louis II. of Bavaria; and the war was an attempt on the part of Prussia and Austria to outbid each other for German popularity, by stealing for Germany a good harbour on the Baltic. But the political interest of the matter is gone by. What deserves notice is, that all who have had the opportunity of knowing the Danes speak of them with enthusiastic and affectionate admiration. As brave as Englishmen, as patient as Russians, as industrious as Scotchmen, they combine all the enlightened intelligence of the most highly civilised with all the Christian virtues of the simplest people. Hospitable without stint, gentle beyond measure, most courteous in their manners, most irreproachable in morals, of quiet and simple tastes, of generous and ingenuous temper, no people on earth extend so kindly a welcome to the stranger, or win so large a share of his regard. That they are slow to an extreme; slow in movement, slow in learning, slow in taking up the improvements of the age, slow in anger, slow in battle, still slower in retreat—this is the one complaint which every one repeats in every form, the one fault which proves to their delighted visitors that the Danes are human. For the rest, the character of the people, their scanty numbers on a fertile soil (for they are slow in increase as in everything else), their industry, and in the summer months the charms of their climate, seem to render Denmark, in all essential respects, one of the happiest countries of the Old World; a country where there is no severe pressure on the means of subsistence—the general curse of Europe; no passionate, wearing race after riches—the curse of America; where few are poor enough to want or rich enough to idle, and where wealth is diffused very evenly among a contented, happy, and brotherly people. That such a country should be weak enough to be the prey of nations in every way so inferior as Austrians and Prussians, is one of the most painful phenomena of the political world; that it should be left to its fate by kinsmen who could have saved it by

* 'Apologia pro Vitâ Suâ.' A reply to a pamphlet entitled 'What then does Dr. Newman mean?' By John Henry Newman, D.D. Longman & Co.

'Memoirs of Richard Whately, Archbishop of Dublin.' By W. J. Fitzpatrick, J.P., Author of 'Lady Morgan,' &c. R. Bentley.

'Dissent and Democracy.' An Historical Review. By Richard Masheder, B.A., &c. &c. Saunders, Ottley, & Co.

'The Invasion of Denmark.' By A. Gallenga, late Special Correspondent of the *Times*. R. Bentley.

'The Schleswig-Holstein War.' By Edward Dicey, Author of 'Rome in 1860.' Tinsley Brothers.

'The Poems of William Mackworth Praed,' with a Memoir, by the Rev. Derwent Coleridge. E. Moxon & Co.

'Les Misérables.' By Victor Hugo. Authorised English Translation. Hurst & Blackett.

'Mattie, a Stray.' By the Author of 'Owen, a Waif.' Hurst & Blackett.

'Wondrous Strange.' Newby.

'Cumworth House.' By the Author of 'Caste,' &c. Hurst & Blackett.

'The Black Angel, and the Star of the South.' By the Author of 'Hunted to Death.' David Bryce, Paternoster Row.

a word, had that word been conveyed by the fleets that lay idly at anchor, is one of the most disgraceful and inexplicable scandals that history will record.

Mr. Winthrop Mackworth Praed was one of the most charming minor poets of the age of which Scott, and Byron, and Shelley were the great luminaries. Younger than these, he survived the last of them a few years. His poems are all very graceful; light and airy in their tone, joyous in their spirit, even when tragic or grotesque in their subject; and breathe an air of cheerful good sense and unaffected good humour which contrast strangely with the melancholy mysticism of one of his contemporaries, and the gloomy, half-affected misanthropy which pervaded the poems if not the life of another. Perhaps Praed might have attained higher rank as a poet but for the political aspirations which diverted his energies into another channel, and the early death which cut short a very useful and unusually happy life. He had great facility in versification; and this perhaps led him into that careless irregularity which, without degenerating into slovenliness, prevents his poems from receiving all the meed which is their due. The best and longest of them are simply legends or romances of a mythical kind, told in a lively vein; sometimes allegorical, sometimes moral, sometimes simply fantastic, but all amusing, and generally interspersed here and there with allusions, comparisons, or metaphors drawn from daily life, or common sarcastic saws, which irresistibly provoke a laugh at the most unforeseen moment. Thus a haunted pool is described, in the midst of one of the least humorous and most earnest of these tales—

The water was as dark and rank as ever a company pumped:

and, in a better known stanza,

I am alone,
No comrade shares my beaker;
Some lie beneath the churchyard stone,
And some before the Speaker.

Most of the minor poems are *vers de société*: the very best of such, no doubt, but still written for albums and annuals, and not bringing forth the powers of the poet. But in these, as in all his writings, it is impossible not to discern the heart of a man who could not but be loved, and the mind of one who well deserved the general admiration he received. We are sorry to miss from this collection the first of Praed's poems that ever fell into our hands, and to gather from some ambiguous words in the preface that others also are wanting.

Novels are as abundant as usual. The brilliant style, false sentiment, and bad morality of Victor Hugo have secured for 'Les Misérables' a demand which has made the publishers think it expedient to issue a cheap edition, which will diffuse through all classes the crudities of a work in which rebellion is treated as a jest to be undertaken for a morning's diversion, law as a tyranny, crime as a misfortune, and order and good government as the only real wickedness. With a galley slave for its hero and the police for its evil genius, the novel is perfectly consistent in its philosophy, which reserves for criminals the right of shedding blood, and insists that only the innocent should be subject to capital punishment; which will not allow society the right of self-defence, because forsooth it is society which, by its neglect of duty, made the criminal it proceeds to punish. Frenchmen affirm that M. Hugo's account of the French penal code is as false as the anti-social and anti-nomian morality which he hangs thereon, and we have no doubt that they are right. The work is a tissue of improbabilities in fact and impossibilities in morals; but it has marvellous charms of style and execution, has passages very eloquent and touches exquisitely pathetic, and is worth the perusal of any one who feels himself proof against the moral poison of George Sand and her school, of which M. Victor Hugo is, after all, a mere imitator.

'Mattie: a Stray' is one of the most sensible novels we have read, and offers throughout a direct contrast to 'Les Misérables:' as honest as that is immoral, as true as that is false, as Christian as that is anti-social. Mattie belongs to the same class as the hero of 'Les Misérables,' and is reclaimed by the same means—the denial of her guilt by the person she had robbed; and from that time she works her way upwards in the world, by strict honesty and hard work, to become the guardian angel of him who had saved her, without reproaches against society, with frank acknowledgment of her sin, and with an earnest admiration of the happy homes of honest people which proves her redemption. She is not a persecuted saint, like Victor Hugo's inveterate thief, but a repentant sinner; and she reaches not the sentimental glory of the French ex-convict, but the solid happiness and wellbeing which resolute good sense and honest endeavour do generally achieve in this world, even for those who start from the lowest ground.

A batch of other novels are before us, but we can only mention one or two. 'Wondrous Strange' is what may be called a 'sensation story,' inasmuch as its leading incidents are the murder of an adored wife, and the widower's marriage with the murderess. But a considerable part of the narrative is disconnected from the 'sensation,' and here real taste and feeling are displayed. The chief character in the book—the husband of the murdered lady—is a failure, not for lack of skill in drawing, but because the combinations assigned are simply impossible; the man could not be at once so strong in intellect and so silly, so good and so given up to his passions. A merely clever man may be a fool; a good but weak man may make awful blunders; but neither a merely clever man nor a good weak man could have held the position ascribed to Cuthbert Erle. He must have had strong *sense*; and this is exactly what fails him in the story. The two daughters are charming; the secretary better than women's men are wont to be. 'Cumworth House' is the story of a woman too good for this world, and a man too bad for her to love, whom nevertheless she worships when he betrays her, and almost invites him to trample on her when she marries him. Otherwise the story has considerable merits, though far inferior. 'The Black Angel and the Star of the South' form between them one incomplete story of the American war, full of wonderful feats performed by Southern heroes and heroines, after the style of G. P. R. James and H. Ainsworth. To those who love tales of impossible adventure and exciting achievement, these volumes are worth the 4*s.* for which they may be had at a railway bookstall. Especially the story of the escape of the Spitfire from New York harbour, will be delightful to schoolboys.

MAGAZINES FOR OCTOBER.*

The magazines for the present month are a decided improvement on those of September, and the cause may, perhaps, be sought in the renewed vigour imparted by the pleasures of the vacation.

Blackwood has an article entitled 'Max Müller's Second Series,' and in it the writer very justly criticises the bold rejection of the *bow-wow* and *pooh-pooh* theory. He observes that when words have been resolved into primary roots the roots stare you in the face, and ask some explanation of their creation. That 'there never was an independent array of determinate conceptions waiting to be matched with an independent array of articulate sound' may most readily be admitted, but that we could not think without language, or that the body of language never had an objective existence, is not so plain. After a few reasonable remarks on this part of his subject, the writer launches into the question of spelling. He argues that it is unfair to insist on what is a case of sheer arbitrary memory as a test of education. Perhaps, to a man of decent education nothing is so fruitful a source of irritation as the receipt of a letter abounding in defective spelling. There is such a thing as loving a language for its own sake. Dr. Arnold derived as much pleasure from the study of a map as an artist from the study of a Claude. Similarly, to the eyes of scholars accustomed to critical examination of the nature and disposition of words, a syllable wrongly spelled is as great a deformity as the want of truth in a perspective. The article concludes with some able strictures on the deficiencies of Max Müller when wandering beyond the confines of philology into that field common to the psychologist and philologist—namely, the nature and functions of language itself. In fact, Max Müller is merely open to the universal charge of that vanity which tempts a man to believe that his peculiar sphere of labour is the shadow under which repose all the subjects of metaphysical research.

'The Life of Jesus' is worth reading, because it contains extracts from Dr. Tulloch's lectures on the famous work of M. Renan. The article itself, beyond a little harmless attempt at sarcasm, rather tells in favour of the ideas which it abhors. It implores those whom it attacks not to rob us of the consolations and hopes which religion affords; and why? Not because, in so robbing us, they plunder us of the greatest prize of time and eternity—namely, truth—but because we are weak, and this is a sorry world, and if there is no possibility of a life more worth living than this, then it only remains for us to despair. Again, the article congratulates itself on the steady and loyal adhesion of the broad general mass of the common people, who have no time for discussion, while it contemptuously dismisses the *savants* to their own doubts and difficulties. Is not this to confess what is equally monstrous and untrue—that religion can only exist in union with ignorance, and is inconsistent with the use of intellectual efforts? With such weapons as these M. Renan is not to be defeated.

'The Public Schools Report' presents a fair picture of Westminster, Charterhouse, St. Paul's, and Merchant Tailors' Schools; but the effect is rather marred by the writer having yielded to the temptation of serving up a sketch of the inner life of the Queen's scholars at Westminster. A boy of an unaccountable temperament, and of a singular unwillingness to rough the small hardships and conventionalities of ordinary school life, and also oblivious of the time-honoured maxim not to be one 'qui dicta foras eliminet,' revealed a long story of horrors to a nervous parent, who thought that the history of his son's wrongs would figure grandly in the Commissioners' Report. Imagination supplied a large proportion of the evidence, but Westminster School was effectually vilified.

The present number contains also 'Memoirs of Richard Whately,' and an article on 'Our Trade,' containing an attack on that friendless piece of legislation, 'The Bank Act.'

Fraser leads off with 'The Decline and Fall of Whiggery,' a subject which affords an opportunity for some detail and argument of a commonplace kind on the subject of the birth and life of the Whig party. The writer evidently regards Whiggery not as a development of a particular line of political faith and action, but as a mere creature produced to meet the exigencies of an historical situation. The conduct of James II. and the existence of William III. produced Whiggery. With such a birth as that, it is only natural that a dissolution should be expected after the lapse of nearly two centuries. To illustrate further the writer's theory, it may be mentioned that the Reform Bill is looked upon not as a step in the steady progress of Whiggery, but as a kind of galvanic activity induced by the conviction that something ought to be done. The degrees of political advancement are simple enough. A Whig is antiquated, a Tory is more antiquated, but the writer, 'an advanced Liberal,' is the correct thing. Indeed, the verdict is that 'the Whigs have failed to understand the exigencies, and have, on each occasion, been wise too late.' That Whigs and Tories are rapidly becoming obsolete is, however, true. At the present moment there is a perfect calm: a few years will probably develope a new set of opposing forces, acting under new titles and operating in distinct methods. In this connection a passage in the article 'A Campaigner at Home' deserves notice. After a remark on the monotony of the ways of the world, even to the playing of 'Don Giovanni' or 'Il Trovatore' *ad nauseam*, the writer proceeds:—

Even a French revolution has lost its zest by this time. A revolt in Poland is like a novel where the end is visible from the beginning. We know by heart all Lord Palmerston's jokes. The frantic efforts of the Yankee Barnums to get up a sensation piece have failed lamentably: these endless battles on the Rapidan and Rappahannock are dull as ditchwater. Not for the first time have Prussian and Austrian brigands plundered and murdered their innocent fellow-creatures. There is only one mature human soul, I believe, which is insensible to the tedium of the play. Let us honour Earl Russell that is—Lord John that was. He is the oasis in our desert. He was seventy years of age the other day, I am told, and yet no boarding-school girl in all the land writes longer or more gushing letters to her dearest friend. One can understand why his male correspondents, waspish creatures like Bismarck and Gortschakoff, swear when they see his handwriting. But no experience disenchants him. He is never *blasé*. He clasps the Test and Corporation Act to his heart with the fervour of earliest passion. One does not see how Earl Russell will occupy himself in glory. He cannot well introduce a Reform Bill into heaven, yet if any of the archangels were to presume on their position, it is possible enough that even there we might hear a great deal about close boroughs.

An article 'On the Census of England and Wales, 1861,' is highly interesting. It goes to prove, first, that the rich become every day richer, and the poor every day poorer; second, that the number of paupers receiving relief is close upon one million, besides some thousands of vagrants; third, that the prevalence of the social evil is such that our affectation of national righteousness is absurd. Indeed, the mind wanders away from the picture of want and crime to dream of a State where one old woman represented the pauper class, or another State where, with the exception of a few specimens from the holy city of Boston, immorality was unknown. Alabama is entitled to the one mark of distinction, and the 'Old Dominion' to the other.

A third part of 'Notes on Diplomacy and Diplomatic History' commences with the partition of Poland and ends with the career of M. Guizot. As a justification of the past attack on the power of Russia, and of any future attack on Prussia, it is highly satisfactory. The writer concludes with a moral. He wishes the Parliament of England to interfere between the execution of a preliminary treaty and the ratification. Apart from the inability of a popular assembly to act the diplomatist, the door which would be opened to the practice of any amount of *pious fides* seems to deprive the theory of any foundation.

The article 'From Auckland to Awamutu' will excite attention in the present state of New Zealand.

The *Cornhill* in its fugitive pieces is decidedly happy, and contains a pleasing alternation of practical discussion and of the lightest talk.

An article on 'Middle-class Education in England' is more admirable as an enticement to thought than suggestive of sound ideas. Of course the writer neglects no opportunity of having a 'slap' at the public schools. Indeed, the School of Eton, which furnishes the theme of abuse or admiration, and which seems to absorb the undivided attention of every newspaper or magazine article on public schools, has the same kind of fascination to the eye of the *Cornhill* which a red rag has to the visual organ of a mad bull. That which is already in existence is bad, that which has existed for the space of a century is wretched, but Eton itself is simply atrocious. Such seems to be the creed of the *Cornhill*. Of course it is of opinion that the sons of our middle-class men—that is, our farmers, innkeepers, tradesmen, apothecaries, office clerks—are very badly educated, and beyond doubt the opinion is not very erroneous. The position, indeed, is rather hopeless. Assuming, for argument's sake, that these boys learn as much as boys at public schools, yet they never acquire 'the spirit and manliness, the health and the self-reliance' of Eton boys. State support and State superintendence are proposed, and the religious objection is rather evaded than overcome by an appeal to the admitted impartiality of the State in dealing with the lower-class schools. These last are, however, of course, day-schools, and the like success might be attained if the boys of the middle class were taught at day-schools. But unfortunately English people have a notion, and a probably well-founded notion, that if a boy is to have spirit, courage, and manliness, together with that peculiar power of self-government which teaches to resist firmly and to yield graciously, he must spend a few years in a world of boys, and not be alternately learning in a class and going out for a walk with his sisters. To the proposition that a Royal Commission of Enquiry should be appointed, there is no great objection. It will develope a few facts and propound a few fallacies; it will give theorists something to read and reviewers something to review. Just as the institution of the Divorce Court proved that the morality of the middle classes was worse than that of the upper classes, so will a Commission prove that the education of the former is inferior to that of the latter. One thing it will entirely fail to do, what every master of every public school declares that the Public-School Commission has failed to do, namely to offer any solution of the particular difficulties which beset the teachers of youth. One of these, and perhaps the chief, is the disgraceful neglect of parents. The powers of memory, to give but one instance, may be rendered prodigious by a skilful cultivation of them in a child. The task of cultivation is not arduous, yet nothing is so amazing as the deficiency of the retentive power in the mass of boys. Of course, this argument may be made to revolve in a circle, for the parents themselves were educated at similar schools. Nevertheless, the remark of an Eton Master made to us is suggestive: 'I can tell, within three weeks after a new arrival, what sort of a mother a boy has.'

'A Visit to a Convict Lunatic Asylum' should not be read by nervous people just before bedtime. The writer pretends to total ignorance of what a lunatic asylum is like, and then comes suddenly on what to him is a very startling method of treatment. He goes to a ball

* *Blackwood's Magazine*—*Fraser's Magazine*—*The Cornhill Magazine*—*Macmillan's Magazine*.

and sees a young fellow dancing with a blooming damsel. To his horror he finds that each of the two has committed a murder. A respectable doctor sings 'Jock of Hazeldean' with considerable success, and turns out to have been a wholesale destroyer of human life. Another gentlemanly individual justifies himself for having killed a poor tax-collector who summoned him for not paying a dog-tax. His friend X——, who introduces him, further enlightens him in a startling manner on the affinity between insanity and crime, and, what is more, on the affinity between bad temper and insanity. Inasmuch as the visitor is a barrister, he may congratulate himself in future on his capability of setting up a good defence for his client, even under the most trying circumstances.

'Madame de Monferrat' is a pretty story, and, what is more, it enables the writer to give vent to his dire hatred of Verdi's music. The 'Traviata' is peculiarly abhorrent to his feelings, but whether on moral or musical grounds is not quite clear.

'Flower Farming' is enough to seduce any one from the easterly winds of October to the charming districts of Nice, Cannes, and Grasse. Indeed, the description of acres of jasmine, orange, violet, jonquil, cassia, and roses far excelling the products of Pæstum,

'biferi rosaria Pæsti'

would transport the imagination, if the writer, besides explaining the art of culture—

'pingues hortos quæ cura colendi
Ornaret'—

did not take care to tell us that after all it is done for money, and not the love of the beautiful. Indeed, all poetry fled on our arrival at the method of absorption by the use of 'butter, grease, and fat.'

Macmillan's Magazine has two very readable articles—one by the editor on that part of the life of Dr. Chalmers which dated from his retreat from the career of a pulpit-orator at Glasgow to the chair of moral philosophy at St. Andrew's, and an article on Tübingen in 1864. Mr. Masson tells an anecdote of Dr. Chalmers which is highly illustrative of the inequality of the powers of the mind. In many respects Dr. Chalmers was a practical man, and his scheme for the relief of pauperism, demonstrated by actual trial to have earned at least the merit of unbounded success, stamped him as a sensible man of business as well as a deep thinker and an eloquent speaker. Yet this lecturer on political economy, this practical reformer of the poor law, this man learned in the whole field of natural and revealed religion, imagined that no better specific could be found for the conversion of a freethinking Italian than a course of study of English works, including, among others, Paley's 'Evidences,' Lardner's 'Credibility,' Butler's 'Analogy,' and Leslie's 'Short and Easy Method with the Deists.'

The article on Tübingen in 1864 points out very clearly the means by which that distinguished university has, at the same time, made and marred an unrivalled reputation in the history of dogmatic theology. There is no institution in England which teaches theology as a science; and the renown achieved by Englishmen in that field of learning has been the result of individual taste and individual exertion. Isolation is the obstacle to success in the English student. The University of Tübingen is the greatest example of the application of the force of combined efforts to the attainment of a purely intellectual triumph. Four years under special theological training by way of preparation for the university, and a more extended period of cultivation at the *Stift*, produces theological athletes of the calibre of Strauss and Baur. Again, a contempt, not only for the efforts of Anglican divines, but even for the sublime genius of Pascal or Bossuet, has made their most elaborate subtleties resemble the struggles of a great *tour de force*. At the same time, whether the development has been in the direction of speculative rationalism or Biblical dogmatism, they have acquired an indisputable title, not only to great originality and ingenious criticism, but also to unrivalled erudition.

'Bodies and Souls: a Discursive Paper; with Glimpses of the City of Bath,' is written by a lover of cleanliness and an enemy of sober ideas and good English. His love of cleanliness is so great that he puts on the threadbare text, 'Cleanliness is next to godliness,' an interpretation which we imagined to be the peculiar property of elderly housekeepers and active scullery-maids. He talks of 'getting at men's souls in the way which Providence seems to point out as the true and lawful way—*through* their bodies.' He calls Edinburgh 'bold and manly' (about as violent a breach of usage as to call a ship 'him'), and Bath 'lovely and feminine,' until we long to see the produce of a union of the two. He evidently is very suspicious about the machinery by which the 'waters' of Bath are heated, for though he laughs at those people 'who seem to believe in the Abode beneath more eagerly than in the Abode above,' he cannot forbear rapturously to exclaim, '*Where* can be, *what* can be, that wondrous and inextinguishable fire which boils this unlimited supply of hot water as it has done for thousands and thousands of years?' 'Wondrous and inextinguishable fire' is perhaps poetical, but 'an unlimited supply of water' is intolerably suggestive of the payment of a water-rate.

'Châlons: The Camp and Fête Napoleon' is principally remarkable for the contrast between the expectations raised by a fine heading and a capital subject and the results of a perusal of the article. The only information which we gathered was that Marshal M'Mahon is a courteous gentleman, and that there is a great deal of dust at Châlons.

The number terminates with what pleaders would call a 'replication' to a 'plea' of the *Saturday Review* to a 'declaration' of the Rev. F. D. Maurice on 'Bribery at Elections.' Mr. Christie is the author of the 'replication,' and, from the tone of the writers on both sides, the 'rebutters and surrebutters,' if the pleadings arrive at that stage, will probably be highly entertaining. Mr. Christie says, 'The *Saturday Reviewer* has written for the ignorant and vulgar.' Why, then, does Mr. Christie answer him, unless he aspires to be judged by a similar audience?

THE FEDERAL WAR DEBT AND THE BOUNTIES.

(From the *New York World*, September 21.)

In estimating the burden of the debt entailed by the war upon us and our posterity, that part of it which arises from taxation imposed on the people of the towns and counties by their direct votes, for the purpose of stimulating enlistments, requires particular consideration, not only because its weight is heavier than is generally supposed, escaping observation by being created in detail both as to amount and locality, but also because its management is controlled by individuals in the several communities, under State laws and county regulations, and because its charge rests directly upon the lands and goods of each farmer and tradesman among them. The United States official represents a remote and indefinite power—the town collector is one's next-door neighbour, and knows everything about the home on which he holds a lien. Let us take an illustration. A senatorial district of New York State, not more than a hundred miles from the metropolis, sent to the war a magnificent regiment, over a thousand strong, and has lately welcomed back its gallant wreck, less than two hundred in number. Many of them enlisted for bounties of $300, raised by vote of public town meetings, the aggregate of which exists as county bonds, legalised by the State Acts of 1863. The Act of 1864 amends and enlarges the scope of the former one, permitting a majority of the electors at a town meeting to vote a bounty, and creating a lien for its payment upon all the taxable property of the county. In some of the towns of this district a public vote has recently fixed the bounty at a thousand dollars, and filled the quota at that cost to property-owners. Now it is to be observed, first, that the noble-hearted farmers of this district have given their own hearts' blood, their very sons and brothers, to the country, and that there is scarcely a house among its secluded hills not darkened by the garments of mourning. Next, that they have patriotically burdened their property with a charge which impairs its value and lessens its income for them and their descendants. And last, that it is not by their own votes alone that they have decided how much of their acres they shall henceforth till as agents for the public creditor; but that it is the majority of the town electors, most of them landless, and many of them destitute of any property, that have sheltered themselves from the draft by aiding to lay this tax upon the real-estate owners. As in this district, so over all the land. It is impossible yet to compute the millions which our high-hearted yeomen have thus bound themselves to pay; but enough is known to show that this addition of county obligations to the national debt will be enormous.

Hood's Legs.—Confederate ingenuity is never at a loss. The head and trunk of a man deprived of one or more limbs will furnish the wisdom and ardour of a perfect Hercules. The means of activity can be acquired by art. A regular service has been organised in the Confederacy for the supply from the most skilful makers in Europe of artificial limbs and members equipped with all the most cunning contrivances that modern ingenuity has devised to render them effective substitutes for living bone and muscle. In the early part of this year an eminent staff surgeon in the Confederate army was despatched to London, and took up his quarters in the neighbourhood of a skilled artist. He came provided with models of the truncated members of a number of Confederate officers, spent several weeks in superintending the manufacture of a number of arms, legs, hands, &c., which were supplied in sets of two or three each, that amidst the perils of blockade-running one at least should reach its destination in safety. On one particular specimen of ingenuity particular care was bestowed, and the surgeon took charge of it himself, sewing it up in a waterproof casing, that it might survive the chance of being thrown overboard to be rescued from the clutches of Federal chasers. This was the identical limb—an 'Anglesey leg,' as it is called—which enabled General Hood to take active service again, and assume the command of the army at Atlanta.

The United States Emigration Company.—We take the following from the *New York Daily News* of September 17:—'What have we now to offer to the immigrant? What is it that this shrewd Emigration Society proposes by its specious scheme? Why, simply this: to buy men—white men—at the small cost of their passage money to this country in an overcrowded vessel filled with miserable dupes, who sell themselves into a state of slavery. What is the object of this new scheme of enslaving Irishmen? A Christian object surely, since it emanates from the most godly of the godliest of New England. Certainly. The object of the white slave system is to save the precious Massachusetts carcases from death in battle with the "rebels." The object is to lure the emigrant into our free State slave pen, to maltreat him, drug him, starve him, till, under the combined or separate influence of force and fraud, these so-called emigrants are driven by desperation from the slave pen of the North into the bloody slaughter pens of the South. That is the godly object of this American Emigration Company. A better name for it would be the *Massachusetts Slave and Slaughter Company*.'

A Gallant Rescue.—The *Mobile Register* of September 8 says: 'A gallant little affair took place near the water obstructions Tuesday night. A picket boat with four men and a negro crew of oarsmen was out on its customary round of duty. The tugboat *Gunnison*, Captain Thomas Lynch, was on hand to give its help in case of trouble. At about half-past one o'clock, A.M., Captain Lynch discovered from a signal that the boat was attacked by a Yankee launch with thirty men from one of the monitors. He immediately got under way and steered for the scene of the chase, and found the picket boat making its best time, with the launch firing musketry and in hot pursuit. In a few minutes the Yankees reached and captured the boat and had her in tow, and Captain Lynch heard our people calling for help. Lynch had by this time run the *Gunnison* aground, but kept his engines going to make the Yankees believe that he was after them. Very soon the Yankees cut their tow loose and skedaddled, Lynch sending three shells after them. The captured boat was thus recaptured by the coolness of Lynch.'

A Favoured State.—Massachusetts is truly a highly favoured State. In all other States, volunteers who enlist in old regiments are compelled to serve out their full term without respect to the expiration of the time of regiment; but the Government allows special favours to that State, among which is the important one of allowing all the men to be mustered out when the regiment has been three years in the service. Some of the men have not been six months in the service. This is a scandalous piece of favouritism to that State, and is naturally exciting great indignation in the army.—*New York World.*

GALVANISING DEAD ENTHUSIASM.

(From the *New York Daily News.*)

For the twentieth time the Abolitionists would have the public believe the rebellion about to be crushed. 'Short, sharp and decisive' is a worn-out form of expression with which they characterise the military action of the hour. This, they declare in brazen-faced repetition of a dozen such assurances that have proved fraudulent, must, will through all the moods and tenses 'trample treason in the dust.' The powder-burning for the evacuation of Atlanta and the fall of Fort Morgan, was part of a system. The invitation of the people to public prayer for successes that are not only minor incidents of tremendous conflicts, but are to all intents and purposes worthless in relation to the general result, is a piece of the same clap-trap. A systematic effort is being made throughout the wide domain of King Shoddy to astonish us with small triumphs, real or pretended. The authorised news announcing, for example, a mere brush, resulting in General Milroy's retreat, comes to us from Louisville under a circus-bill-heading, announcing 'the enemy's cavalry defeated.' The Black Republican Convention of Syracuse, acting under the same motive, rehash the capture of Fort Morgan and the evacuation of Atlanta; and, in addition to some mention of success that the public has not heard of in Tennessee, speak with affected enthusiasm of the signal victory, as they choose to call it, on the Weldon Railroad!

The Secretary of War plays in these public frauds side by side with the smallest Provost-Marshal that lords it over a country telegraph operator. He deliberately withholds news, as our Washington correspondent shows, touching, for example, the movements of Sheridan. We are thus exposed, under a combination between the censor and the Secretary of War, to every falsehood that may be put upon us in order to help out Mr. Lincoln's vain attempt to give his abolition war the support of popular passion. The horseman who, we were told three weeks ago by the *New York Herald*, was riding to Early's camp with orders for his immediate return to Richmond, was a creation of the executive combination to deceive. The pretence that the Confederates are retreating from Sheridan, and that they are being followed by that officer in pursuit, is of a piece with the same general plan of imposture. Our military correspondence shows that on the contrary, while Sheridan moved cautiously up the eastern side of the valley of Virginia with the view of threatening Early's flank, he received at Berryville a blow so heavy as to drive him for safety into intrenchments. Immediately afterwards his ambulances were captured; and his communications, for at least the time, cut off. Early is not retreating; and Sheridan is not pursuing.

Forewarned is forearmed. We caution the people against the deliberate intrigue that has been formed for catching their judgment in a whirl of popular passion. The advocate of bloodshed and destruction stands before them on his trial, and seeks to escape their righteous verdict in vain attempts to excite them to frenzy. They have been deceived in the same way too often. The enthusiasm of the masses for a war that has cost them hundreds of thousands of those they loved is for ever dead, and cannot be roused to even a momentary semblance of life, by all the experts of electioneering galvanism.

Slaughter in the Streets of London.—It may startle some of our readers to be told that there is greater slaughter in the streets of London than on all the railways in England and Wales. Nevertheless, such appears to be the case if recent experience is to be accepted as a guide. Every week the Registrar General gives us a return of the metropolitan mortality. Taking the reports for the last three weeks we find that the number of persons killed by vehicles in our London streets was in the first week (ending September 17) seven; in the second no less than eleven; and in the third week (ending on the 1st inst.) seven again—thus making a total of 25. It cannot be supposed that these three weeks stand wholly apart from all the rest of the year, even though we may admit that they afford instances of the maximum fatality. Twenty-five deaths in three weeks would be 433 in the course of a year. Suppose we reduce this by two-thirds, and take the annual fatality at 144 deaths. By so doing, perhaps, we shall keep very much within the mark, the deaths then being less than three per week, instead of more than eight, the number shown by the three weeks referred to. Turning to the last annual report of the Board of Trade we find that in the year 1863 the number of persons—passengers, servants, trespassers, and others—killed on the railways in England and Wales was 129, or fifteen less than our estimated number of deaths from vehicular accidents in the metropolis alone. The number of actual passengers killed on the railways was only eleven, although the total number carried was about fifty-seven times the population of London.—*The Standard.*

Cotton Trade of the Confederate States.—The Southern States have managed to send from Texas, mostly over Mexico, and from other States to Bermuda, $20,000,000 more cotton than they did last year, and the means now of sending cotton from Texas have greatly increased. The crop of Texas, it is stated, will be larger than ever, reaching 500,000 bales, and a value of $400,000,000, or enough to pay the whole war debt of the Confederacy, has been raised this year, and can be sent over Mexico to market under the imperial protection. It is quite possible that the continuance of the war may be a means of sustaining the price of cotton so that the Confederacy, by having a market over Mexico, may for comparatively small crops realise immense prices. Their cotton has always the preference, and it is better to sell 1,000,000 bales for $700,000,000, than to sell 4,000,000 bales for $200,000,000 as formerly. This seems to be the course that affairs are now taking. It would obviously be ruinous to the markets of the world for the Southern cotton supply to be resumed at the former magnitude, whereas by a gradually enlarged supply, through other ports, the new empire of Mexico would be greatly benefited, and great strength imparted to the southern section of the Confederacy, with growing wealth to the whole of it. This seems to be among the commercial contingencies of a prolonged war.—*New York Paper.*

Infant Mortality.—From a return made to the House of Commons it appears that 22,757 inquests were held in the course of last year upon persons who had come to their death in some violent or unusual manner. Of this number 6,506 were held upon infants under seven years old, and 3,644 upon children under a year old. Of the former class 1,100, and the latter nearly 1,000, were illegitimate. A frightful prevalence of infanticide is disclosed by such a return, and it is to be feared that the great mortality of infants is an evil which must be reached as much by moral as by sanitary influence.—*Times.*

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

The Index was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, The Index has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. The Index does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, The Index is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of The Index, 13 Bouverie Street, E.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

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THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1864.

The Peace Party and the Presidential Election.

The prospects of General M'Clellan are brighter. It is not supposed that he will win, but the warmest admirers of Mr. Lincoln are fain to admit that the election will be hotly contested. When the Peace party rejected the Chicago candidate because the candidate rejected the Chicago platform, there was much joy amongst the loyal people of the North—that is, amongst the Republicans who support Mr. Lincoln. It would be too absurd to suppose that Mr. Lincoln or Mr. Seward is greatly disturbed by the progress of the election. It would be as reasonable to imagine that when Augustus Cæsar gratified his subjects by going through the farce of a periodical election, he was anxious about the result. Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward would prefer, and doubtless anticipate, a legitimate triumph; but if Democratic 'treason' should prevail at the ballot-box, it does not follow that Abraham Lincoln will resign his right to reign over thirty-four States. Assuming, however, that the world is to witness, for the first time, a fair popular election, when one of the candidates is the master of legions, it is not to be denied that M'Clellan's chances are improved.

The Peace Democrats will not nominate a candidate, and probably they will vote *en masse* for General M'Clellan. One reason is that the friends of the General have in a most emphatic manner declared that he is for peace, and that the letter of acceptance was warlike in its tone to conciliate a section of the party who still believe in the restoration of the old Union. M'Clellan is firmly persuaded that the South will come back under constitutional guarantees, but he will not adopt unconstitutional means to bring back the South—that is, he will not seek to restore the Union by force of arms.

These assurances and explanations, however pleasing and plausible, do not constitute the principal reason for the Peace Democrats voting for M'Clellan. The Peace Democrats are intent on putting an end to the war. They are sincerely attached to the Union, and would, if it were possible, restore it by negotiation. But they are opposed to the war, because war cannot possibly reconstitute a voluntary federation of sovereign States. They denounce the war because it is bringing the country to ruin, and because its prolongation threatens to bring about a fresh secession, and must eventuate either in civil war or in perpetuating the despotism that has been developed in the person of Mr. Lincoln. The Peace Democrats would have preferred a candidate pledged to peace, but no such candidate being before the country they will either abstain from voting or vote for a candidate whose election would promote the cause of peace. It seems to them that if M'Clellan is chosen President the days of warfare will be numbered. If M'Clellan redeems the promises made in his behalf, then, even if the war survive the present year, his inauguration in March next will be the signal for sheathing the sword. Or suppose M'Clellan should pursue a different course, and, fired by military ambition, should resolve to continue the war, his election will still strengthen the cause of peace. M'Clellan will fight to restore the Union as it was. Will the Abolitionists support that policy? Assuredly not. Abolitionism has been with some of its followers a genuine fanaticism, with the majority a cloak for covetousness, and both classes will be the bitter opponents of the Administration of a War Democrat. How can a war carried on whilst the Democrats are in power pay New England? How can sincere Abolitionists support a war waged to reaffiliate the institution of slavery to the United States? So, if M'Clellan is elected, we shall hear the old cries, 'Down with the flag!' 'Abolish the covenant with death and hell!' 'Let the Union slide!' and the New Englanders will become what they were before 1860—fierce secessionists. Indeed, Mr. Lincoln's friends have been exceedingly frank in this respect, and have warned discontented Republicans and Unionist Democrats that the rejection of Mr. Lincoln would be the end of the war, that New England would not fight to restore the old Union, and thereby place the Republicans in a hopeless minority. So, then, if a Democratic President is elected, whether he be for peace or war, the Republicans will in that case be for peace. Moved by this consideration, the Peace Democrats have determined to do their best to defeat Mr. Lincoln.

But the Republicans have gone further than to assert that they will not support the measures of a War Democrat. They are resolved, if M'Clellan is chosen in November, that he shall not have the choice of peace or war. Before his inauguration they will proclaim an armistice and conclude a peace. They know the power of the sword. They know how the war has enabled Mr. Lincoln to trample on the rights of, and to tyrannise over, the whole nation. They will not allow 'a Northern traitor'—that is, a Democrat—to seize upon such power. Therefore the Peace men will support M'Clellan, since his return is likely to eventuate in an immediate peace.

We will not attempt to estimate the chances of the respective candidates. There is yet a month before the day of election, and many events may occur in that time to affect the result. Already the occupation of Atlanta and the naval victory of Farragut are seen in their true proportions. It is clear that neither event improves the military position of the North, or holds out a prospect of subjugating the South. The victory of Sheridan turns out to be a drawn battle, if not a defeat. The raid in Grant's lines manifests the strength of Lee and the comparative weakness of his adversary. The enforcement of the draft disgusts the native population with the war, for the cost of foreign mercenaries is very heavy, and the supply is failing. A Confederate victory, or continued inactivity on the part of the Federal commanders, would do much to make the war unpopular. It is consequently vain to speculate on the prospects of either candidate. Both are confident; and if Lincoln has the best chance now, there are many probable contingencies that may give M'Clellan a majority on the 4th proximo. Whether the popular vote can unmake in 1864 the thing it made in 1860 is another question. If Mr. Lincoln is defeated and gives up his office, it will not only be the first instance of his observing the oath he took at his inauguration, but it will prove that he has more virtue and less power than we think he has. If the Democrats are determined to oppose force to force, the game of Mr. Lincoln is over, for civil war in the North will stop the war against the South; and the war against the South being ended, the people will be able to restore peace at home.

The reelection of Mr. Lincoln will be adverse to immediate peace, but the war will be carried on in a different manner. The Northern finances and the Northern recruiting grounds cannot sustain another four years' war on the scale of the last four years. The war will languish, and, if it is continued, it will be so, not in the hope of conquering the South, but for the purpose of keeping the North in subjection. The Confederate States would be glad of an immediate peace, but a prolongation of the war will do them but little injury compared to the injury which it will inflict upon the United States.

Blockade and Capture.

The Association for the Promotion of Social Science, if not altogether free from absurdities, among which may be ranked its somewhat pompous title, is nevertheless a sufficiently respectable and highly useful institution. It serves three valuable ends. It enables crotcheteers to obtain a hearing for their views, and exempts them from the irritation of neglect and the honour of social persecution: it is, in fact, a safety-valve for theoretic enthusiasm. It is also a neutral ground for the impartial discussion of questions which must, one day or other, give rise to political measures, and which are thus ripened and settled before they come into the hands of Parliament and are incurably confused by being made the watchwords and stalkinghorses of party battles. And, thirdly, it allows the free and full 'ventilation' of ideas which are unsound indeed, but so plausible that, if not thoroughly discussed and sifted in this or some similar manner, they would gain a dangerous hold on public opinion without ever being fairly encountered and debated. We should rank among the third class what its friends would place in the second—the proposal of Mr. Ashworth of Manchester for the reform of the laws of maritime warfare.

That proposal is, that private property should no longer be liable to capture at sea by the public enemy, and that commercial blockades should no longer be permitted—a logical consequence of the former, since the purpose of commercial blockades is the capture of private property, whether belonging to or intended for subjects of the enemy; a practical consequence, as otherwise the effect of the law would be that a strong naval Power may capture while a weak one may not. But the right of seizing contraband of war, and of blockading by sea a place also besieged by land, or blockading in the attempt to take a fortified port, would still be left to belligerents. It would be necessary to the practical working of this plan that 'contraband' should be strictly limited to munitions of war; otherwise this exception might be made the means of defeating the rule.

In support of the proposed innovation it is argued that private property on land is, by the law of nations, exempt from hostile confiscation, and that there is no reason why a different rule should prevail at sea. Capture of private ships and cargoes is a relic of the piratical character of ancient maritime warfare. Blockade bears a similar character, and involves this further inequity, that it inflicts on neutrals an injury always considerable, and sometimes sufferings as great as are endured by the blockaded country. While the great maritime Powers maintained the rule that 'the enemy's goods are not covered by the neutral flag,' the right of capture was a very valuable instrument of war; for it enabled them to destroy all or nearly all commerce by sea between the enemy and the outer world. But now 'free ships make free goods,' and you can no longer intercept his commerce by capture, if he carry it on under a neutral flag. Capture strikes only at his shipping, not at his trade. Blockade, indeed, retains its power of intercepting his trade by sea. But this power is of comparatively little value now that the vast improvement of land carriage has made it possible with great speed and little cost to transport merchandise from a neutral port to an inland mart of the belligerent five hundred miles away. Maritime Powers, then, can derive comparatively little advantage from the rights of capture and of blockade. And, on the other hand, these rights may be exercised by others greatly to the disadvantage of such Powers, whether as belligerents or as neutrals.

England especially is liable to suffer by the present state of the law. She has parted with the right which made her navy so terrible a weapon against a foe—the right of seizing enemy's goods wherever found. She can only capture enemy's ships; and only one enemy with whom she is likely to be engaged has any considerable number of merchant ships to lose. The experience of the American war has proved that half a dozen swift cruisers can so effectually terrify shippers and injure shipowners, by inflicting a heavy rate of war insurance on the enemy's marine and cargoes carried under his flag, as practically to suspend the carrying trade of the greatest of maritime Powers. Granted that in any future war England will sweep her enemy's merchant and fighting navy alike from the sea, yet she will not be able to prevent six or ten *Alabamas* from scouring the seas in his service. And these few cruisers will effectually shut up our ships in port, not because they will capture so many, but because every one who ships a cargo under our flag will have to pay a war insurance; and therefore all will choose a neutral flag in preference. By the right of capture, then, we shall suffer more than we can inflict in time of war, simply because we have more to lose than anybody else in the way of carrying trade, and each belligerent will lose all he has. Then as to the right of blockade; if once we should lose the mastery of the sea, no Power on earth could suffer so much in so many directions as we might do by a commercial blockade. Such a blockade would starve us even in these islands; not merely deprive us of tea and coffee, sugar and wine, but actually put us on famine rations of bread and beef. On whom could we inflict so much by the strictest of conceivable blockades?

Even as neutrals, we suffer by the present law.

Whenever there is a rumour of war in Europe, shippers—even English shippers—in China and India, and other distant quarters, prefer to ship under another flag. 'England may be involved in this war before our cargoes reach their destination, and if so they will only be safe under some other flag than hers.' This feeling, in 1859, operated as a premium upon American shipping. How much we may suffer as neutrals by a foreign blockade, we have just been severely reminded.

Mr. Ashworth and the shipowners whom he represents, then, argue as follows:—Civilisation, consistency, and English interests require the immunity of private property from capture at sea and the abolition of blockades. Consistency and civilisation require that a barbarous practice, discontinued on land, should cease at sea. English interests require that we should labour to abolish practices which greatly injure us in a commercial, and do not greatly aid us in a military, point of view. We propose to answer these arguments, and suggest one or two other points.

And first of English interests in time of peace. They suffer, like those of all neutrals, by blockade. They suffer, as those of all *belligerents in posse*, by the law of capture. But the latter injury is much less serious than might be supposed. England has so enormous a share of the shipping of the world, that no nation could take much of its carrying trade from her except the Americans. When all Swedish, and Spanish, and Greek, and Portuguese ships were loaded, there would still remain enough for English ships to carry. The idea of the shipowners in 1859 was that America was a permanently neutral nation, and that, by virtue of that secure and permanent neutrality, she would steal from us our carrying trade. The fear was reasonable, but the cause is now removed. For the future, the United States are as likely, in a series of years, to be at war as we are. And the nations which may expect to be more frequently neutral than England have not among them all a merchant navy capable of taking from her any considerable part of our carrying trade. The alarm, therefore, lest we should be seriously injured as the carriers of the world in time of peace by our liability to go to war, appears chiefly chimerical.

Then of our interests in time of war. We need not take into account the idea of our being worsted at sea and blockaded at home. If such a thing be possible, it would mean for us nothing less than destruction, from which no alteration of maritime law could save us. While we are a Power at all, we shall be the first of maritime Powers; and in that capacity blockade is a weapon in our hands, not in our enemy's. Capture, again, is not likely to be so effectually used against us as is supposed. The case imagined is that we have shut up or annihilated the enemy's fighting ships, and are assailed only by a few swift cruisers, depending on their speed for safety. Surely we could protect our merchantmen in a great measure against such vessels by organising our heavier commerce into convoys, defended by steam men-of-war, and sending mails and the like in armed vessels capable of beating off any cruiser sufficiently light to escape the pursuit of our navy? This is no doubt a dreary and costly prospect, but it is far from presenting the picture of utter ruin which our prophets of evil paint for us. So much for defence. Now as to weapons of aggression. Whatever blockade and capture may be worth, they form the chief part of our armoury, and we ought not lightly to part with them. Against any nation even of the second rank we could hardly maintain an offensive war by land. We could hardly land more than 50,000 men anywhere; and even a second-rate Power could, in self-defence, muster much stronger forces than this. Our means of offence, then, are blockade, capture, and the bombardment of seaports and dockyards. It is by these alone that we could punish an insult or revenge an encroachment without the support of military allies. It would be absurd, then, to abandon two of the three. Grant that we made a great mistake in blunting the second weapon by the Convention of Paris, yet let us keep what remains of it. Grant that there are some nations that could not be greatly injured by blockade, because they have easy land communication with neighbours, as France, Prussia, and Austria; yet this is true only in a limited degree of Spain (if Portugal were our ally), of Italy, of Russia. On any of these an effectual blockade would inflict severe injury. It would tell with still greater effect on Sweden and Norway, on Chili, on Brazil, and on the United States. Those who deny the efficacy of a blockade to injure the possible enemies of England seem to have confined their views to France.

Let us add that blockade and capture serve, in one set of cases, the purpose of war; i.e. when a strong Power wishes to coerce, without injuring, a weak one. Whether such coercion be just or unjust is not relevant to the question; just or not, surely it is a gain that it should be gentle and bloodless. We have coerced Greece and Brazil by the use or menace of these rights; had we been precluded from blockading Rio or seizing Brazilian vessels, it would have been necessary to repeat the tragedy of Kagosima. To renounce our milder weapons of offence would force us, in all such cases, to that kind of coercion which so reluctantly we practised at Copenhagen in 1807, which no ordinary need could possibly have excused. It is not always that humanitarian proposals tend to promote humanity.

Passing to more general arguments, we doubt whether Mr. Ashworth's proposal is any better supported by these than by those national considerations we have just discussed. Do civilisation and consistency require the abolition of the rights of maritime warfare? War is waged for purposes of coercion; can there be any milder form of coercion than that of blockade and capture on the high seas? Again, is it not consistent with civilisation that the evils of war should be brought home to the conscience and feelings of those who make war? It has pleased Providence that England should know nothing of those evils, save in heavier taxation and the blood of her soldiers. But if those nations that are eager for military glory are not to feel the evils of war in anything that touches them nearly, is not this an encouragement of war? Does not the true interest of civilisation demand that in one way or other the *peoples* on whose will in almost every country war now depends, should be made sensible of its existence, and suffer by its progress? Blockades serve to bring home a sense of the evils of war to the hearts of those who make it; they apply coercion directly to classes that have a powerful influence in determining the time and terms of peace. And certainly few operations of war are less cruel and less unjust.

Nor is there anything inconsistent with the practice in vogue on land in that which prevails at sea. A blockade is virtually a partial siege of the entire country, and its usages are in nowise more severe than those of a siege. The capture of private property at sea is somewhat more indiscriminate than the usage of the most civilised nations in warfare on land; but it inflicts less suffering than even the quartering of an invading army on the people, when that invading army is in strict discipline; and it is infinitely less cruel than the mildest proceedings of Wrangel in Denmark or Benedek in Piedmont. The advocates of the change are simply mistaken in their idea, not perhaps of the law, but of the practice on land.

But the conclusive objection to the proposed innovation is that it would never work. It calls upon belligerents only to fight with buttoned foils at sea, while they fight with sharpest rapiers, or it may be with poisoned daggers, on land; and to such a restraint, when their blood is up, no human beings—and Governments are human—will submit. Consider the practical consequences that would, during the last five years, have flowed from this change in the law. While Prussian Generals were robbing the peasants of Jutland of their subsistence and the tradesmen of their wares, Prussian vessels would have passed untouched through the midst of the Danish squadron, laden perhaps with the spoils of Danish subjects. While German invaders interdicted trade between Jutland and the isles, Denmark would have been forbidden to close the mouth of the Elbe against the trade of Hamburg. Is it to be conceived that men with blood in their veins would have submitted to a restraint so purely technical? Could neutral Powers have pretended to enforce a distinction so manifestly unjust? Look at America. The United States would have been bound to allow the South to export yearly to England cotton worth 30,000,000*l.* sterling; and thus to provide a fund in Europe by means of which anything that she desired to purchase, from a cannon to a navy, might have been bought, and secresy paid for at a price which might almost have commanded it. They would have been obliged not only to let cotton go out free, but to let wine, clothing, coffee and sugar, ice and medicine, salt, everything the South most wanted except arms and powder, go in free; and arms and powder would have run the gauntlet as they have actually done. Is it conceivable that a nation desperately in earnest, prepared to spend two hundred thousand lives and two hundred millions of money per year in prosecuting the war, would have consented to tie up its hands in such restraint as this, and strike only with padded gloves precisely where the enemy was most vulnerable? Again, is it to be supposed that the Confederates—seeing cities burned, homesteads levelled to the ground, cattle and property plundered, negroes kidnapped, women and children driven out to perish of hunger and cold, or worse evils than these—should have allowed any law to restrain them from lighting up the ocean with the burning ships that carried the flag of marauders and incendiaries? The mere mention of these consequences of the Manchester doctrine of maritime neutrality is enough to reduce it to a palpable absurdity. No one can deny that these are the very simplest and first consequences of that doctrine; no one who has any notion of the strength of human passions, or any sense of retributive justice, will for a moment admit that a doctrine which would require such abnegation on the part of nations infuriated by wrong and exasperated by conflict can ever form a practical part of international law.

It may be worth observation that, so far as the South has any interest in this question, her interest would seem to coincide with ours and with the existing law. True, she has suffered much through the blockade; but it has failed to weaken her constancy or impede her Government in the prosecution of the war; while the *Alabama* and her consorts have inflicted more injury on the Yankees than any other Southern weapon could have done. Only through the law of maritime capture can the real authors of the war, the Puritan savages of New England, be made to bear any part of its burdens. When this war is over, the future interest of the South will be still more clearly evident. The development of Mexican prosperity and the gradual improvement of Texas will establish a communication with the outer world independent of Confederate ports, and neutralise the effect of any future blockade; while in the right of maritime capture the Confederacy will retain a sharp and heavy weapon wherewith to avenge herself on any future invader of her territory—a weapon which the countrymen of Captain Semmes will ever be too wise to break.

The British Soldier.

It is impossible, in making our observations on the Belvedere catastrophe, not to advert in terms of the highest admiration to the conduct of the military, not only with respect to the efficient assistance afforded, but also to the heartiness with which it was given. Periodically the snarling calumny goes round that every Englishman enlisted into the army is a man spoilt for all reasonable service to his country. The error, which owes its birth mainly to the prejudiced sophisms of the Peace party, is connived at, and to some extent fostered, by the military authorities, who are glad to prove, even at the price of truth itself, that every veteran had better remain in the service than return to the pursuits of civil life. It is, we repeat, a calumny; and if there are men who, from an easy trustfulness in the wisdom of others or an inaccurate and superficial observation of facts, are inclined to think the contrary, let the events of Saturday last convince them of their mistake. Let us glance for a moment at the occurrences of that fearful morning. A terrible disaster had happened; a no less terrible one was imminent. The wall which protected the adjoining plain from the inroads of the river had been burst asunder, and a breach of 100 yards long yawned menacingly. A message was instantly sent to Woolwich for assistance; the garrison, alarmed by the explosion, were already on the alert. The bugles had hardly time to sound before upwards of 1,000 men were ready to give their aid in the extremity.

Six hundred of the 5th Fusiliers, four hundred engineers, artillerymen, and marines, composed the forlorn hope who were to storm this 'imminent deadly breach,' not to destroy but to save. Colonel Hawkins, their commander, quickly scanned the scene of the disaster. With a practised eye he saw the full extent of the evil and the only possible chance of safety. In a few minutes every man was at his post, some using the shovel, others passing the clay from hand to hand along lines stretching from the excavations to the embankment. 'The facility with which every man found his place showed the unmistakable superiority which marks the operations of a carefully trained and disciplined body of men even in labours which they may be seldom called upon to perform.' Such is the opinion given by the correspondent of the *Standard* in his graphic description of the catastrophe. No less favourably does he remark upon the catlike activity, the determination to surmount all obstacles, and the general heartiness of the soldiers' work. We need not repeat the rest of the tale; it has been already heard and commented upon elsewhere. How the relentless tide rose hungering to re-envelop in its embrace the wealthy plains which had once been its own; how the soldiers battled with its advance, raising their rampart inch by inch to stem the ever-rising flood; how it had wellnigh broken through the wall in its fierceness, but was straightway beaten back again into sullen subjection, until at last, wearied with its efforts, at the appointed hour it retired, discomfited by the vigour of its human adversaries. Such is, in a few words, the history of the soldiers' deeds at Belvedere. Let us give all honour where honour is due—to the promptness and sagacity of the commanding officers, and to the readiness with which the railway company gave their aid in transporting the troops. After credit has been given to all others who deserved it, our chief thanks are due to the carriers of

the clay and the wielders of the spade for averting from us a second great calamity.

We do not notice these events in order to drag out of them a compliment to the British army—far be it from us. On the contrary, had the French, the Italian, or any other properly constituted army been there in the place of English troops, we should have expected the same results. We simply wish the slanderers of our army to observe that the British soldier is both morally and physically capable of doing the fiercest work that can be assigned to him. Indeed, it would be strange were it otherwise. A country labourer or a handicraftsman is enlisted: already enured to hard work, he thrives upon good and plentiful food, and improves his muscular power by a reasonably severe course of drill. When he has finished the daily work required of him, he may, and in old times often did, waste his time and his health in idleness and dissipation. But the old times are rapidly passing away; reading-rooms and gymnasia are becoming common in the service; and many a garrison town could, on a short notice, produce an exhibition of manufactures similar to, though smaller than, that which this year was the honour of Aldershot. A British soldier is now a magnificently trained thoroughbred animal; he is also rapidly becoming a well-taught reasonable man. With the muscular education which is given to him, he may go forth into the civil world as an invaluable labourer. When the habits of obedience naturally engendered in him by the drill are thoroughly matured by the schooling which it is the interest and duty of the authorities to provide for him, he will become a model citizen.

From another point of view the British soldier is a distinct species of the *genus humanum*: he has his own form and manner of performing every action of his life; a practised eye can detect him under the most complete outward disguise merely by the fashion in which he fills and smokes his pipe. Traditions are handed on and conformed to by generation after generation of soldiers, just as they are in our public schools. This peculiarity has been noticed and magnified by those who desire to vilify the soldier; they adduce it as an evident sign that he is set apart, and therefore for ever unfitted for practical usefulness. Such a notion only requires to be set down in black and white to be exposed in its utter folly. We firmly believe that the only serious obstacle which can impair the civil usefulness of our soldiers is that, having been taught to depend on superior orders before proceeding to any action, they may feel at a loss and somewhat helpless when the guiding power is withdrawn. We need only see this difficulty to learn to obviate it; let a soldier thoroughly understand the orders given to him, and he will do his work equally well whether he has on a red coat or the more pacific waistcoat of the navvy.

With these ideas of the usefulness of a military life, we can look forward with unalloyed satisfaction to the time when the armies of the Confederacy shall be disbanded, and the victorious soldiers turn their swords into ploughshares. To their individual characters the war need have been nothing but an unmixed benefit; having already been educated up to the average of the country, they required only to learn that ready obedience to the details of the law which cannot be better inculcated than by a thorough course of military discipline. The day will come when the Federal States, overrun with hordes of marauders, half soldiers, half brigands, will look with envy upon the Southern citizen who can see his rifle hanging peacefully over his hearth, and remember the salutary lessons which he learned while he carried it.

A Paid Prophet.—A pleasant correspondence enlivens the columns of the *Daily News*, wherein Mr. F. W. Newman communicates an extract from a letter from Mr. William Whiting, Solicitor to the War Office in Washington, which Mr. Newman considers may prove of interest 'as showing what a Federal official thinks of the military prospect.' What Federal officials think on the issue of the war is of small interest to anybody, and we question whether Mr. Newman himself can place any faith in their prophecies; if he does, it will only show how a mind eminently sceptical may receive as truth the wildest vaticinations. The extract is remarkable only for the refreshing piety of the Solicitor to the War Office at Washington (a city in which this crowning grace of character is sufficiently rare), and the sweetly hopeful reliance he manifests in Divine Providence, whose purposes he seems so thoroughly to comprehend. After expressing his confidence that Mr. Lincoln will be re-elected, and by 'the permanent establishment of his war policy' will restore the 'dignity and power' of the Government 'on the basis of universal freedom' ('fine words—we wonder where he stole 'em')—which phrase, Mr. Newman tells us, Mr. Whiting emphasises in his MS. 'with a dash'—the Solicitor goes on to predict a peace 'founded on justice and the inalienable rights of man.' It is difficult to understand how peace is to be secured by 'the *permanent* establishment' of a war policy; but Mr. Whiting knows, we have not a doubt. 'When the civil war, the most terrible dispensation of the Almighty, shall have purged away slavery *and all national crime*,' &c., &c., says Mr. Whiting, all these fine things he foretells shall come to pass; but if the American war is to go on until it purges Washington of its sin in high places, New England of its Free-love licentiousness and infidelity, Pennsylvania of its peculation, and New York of its hydra-headed immoralities, justice and the inalienable rights of man must wait some time before they can be accommodated.

THE LIVERPOOL BAZAAR.

To the Editor of The Index.

Liverpool: October 3, 1864.

Sir,—The Bazaar which is to be held in this town on the 18th of October in aid of the Southern Relief Fund promises to be a great success. It has been decided to fit up the stalls in a style worthy of the splendour of St. George's Hall. To each State in the Confederacy a stall or set of stalls will be allotted, and the ladies to whom will be committed the care of the stalls will vie with each other in an honourable emulation for the supremacy of their own particular State in abundance of saleable articles and in magnificence of decoration. Contributions are pouring in from all quarters, from the Confederacy, from Canada, France, Switzerland, and even India. The ladies of Nassau, in spite of the terrible affliction which has befallen that region, have sent a second contribution in money, making with the former donation a sum of 1,000*l.* It is to be hoped that all in whom a recollection of the terrible sufferings endured by the gallant soldiers of the South have excited a mingled feeling of admiration and sorrow will strenuously aid as contributors to, or purchasers at, the Bazaar.

No one who has a just appreciation of the noble pride of the people of the Confederate States, of the energy of the Administration, of the unselfish generosity of the non-combatant portion of the inhabitants, of the boundless resources of that rich and powerful country, will commit the error of regarding this offering for the relief of the wounded heroes of the Southern army in the light of a gift of pitying charity to the people of the Confederate States. It is to be regarded, first, as an act of kind and Christian generosity, done in obedience to that law which bids us to do good unto all men; second, as a tribute of admiration and sympathy, apart from all political sentiment, for the bravery, the devotion, and the patient endurance of the Southern army.

A Subscriber.

CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Manchester: October 5, 1864.

Almost simultaneously with an ominous report of a renewed increase of distress, particularly in Rochdale, there appears in the *Manchester Examiner*, reprinted, it seems, from one of the New York papers, a characteristic little note recently received by the Hon. James M. Scovell from the M.P. for the much-suffering borough above mentioned. The approaching winter, says the report, threatens to be a severe period of distress for the operatives of Rochdale. But what of that, says Mr. Cobden, if only in the great American struggle 'against exhaustion and ruin' the North 'will be able to hold out longer than the South?' Nearly 4,000 'hands,' says the report, are already completely out of work, being an increase of considerably more than 1,000 since last month. But we must resign ourselves, says Mr. Cobden, to the 'tedious and dreadful process' now going on for the settlement of the American quarrel, a process more 'tedious,' because in the modern development of armaments (Mr. Cobden *loq.*) there seems to be something which 'favours the defence over attack,' so that 'whichever side is the assailant' seems to be pretty sure of being unsuccessful, and a state of things that (again Mr. Cobden *loq.*) will make the issue depend on the comparative strength of the resources of the contending parties, and must therefore tend indefinitely to prolong the war. It is not clear at present, adds the report, how this large number of paupers is to be employed, or even maintained, during the ensuing season; especially if, as is too probable, that number eventually includes not only the great majority of all the cotton hands (nearly 7,000), but a larger proportion than before of the woollen operatives upon a further rise in the price of wool. Truly a sorry prospect: and perhaps it was polite as well as characteristic that Mr. Cobden, in writing to Mr. Scovell, should exclude from his sheet of notepaper anything half so disagreeable. What matters it if three-fourths of the 'virtually represented' portion of the honourable gentleman's constituents starve, so long as the North doesn't cease fighting? They for their part must resign themselves to the 'tedious and dreadful process' made necessary by the modern principle which, according to Mr. Cobden, 'favours the attack over defence;' while Mr. Cobden, for his own part, will go on penning little military disquisitions meant to be encouraging, and rejoice at the 'amiability' shown to the younger members of his family by Abraham Lincoln, in indulging their wish by sending over to them the Presidential autograph.

But, aside from Mr. Cobden's sillily-published missives, whether warlike or civil, there is serious cause for apprehension, if not alarm, in the rapidly-growing symptoms of returning distress throughout the manufacturing districts. To avoid the suspicion of accidentally over-stating the case, let me quote two or three short extracts from the *Guardian* and from Mr. Cobden's favoured organ, the *Manchester Examiner*:—

The distress in Rochdale (says the *Examiner*) threatens to be more severe this winter *than at any time during the cotton famine*. Owing to the mixed nature of the trade, some of the cotton operatives have been enabled to find employment at the woollen mills, this branch of business being comparatively brisk the past two winters. Already, however, one woollen mill has commenced running short time, and others are expected to do the same. The applications for relief, both to the local committees and the Board of Guardians, have considerably increased during the past week. This has also been the case at Ashton-under-Lyne.

And on the following day the same journal was even more disheartening:—

Returns before us from Stockport, Stalybridge, and Accrington and district, all show a falling off in employment, and a corresponding increase in the applications for relief, both to the guardians and to the local committees. Some of the relief committees in this district have no adequate funds to meet even urgent cases; *and altogether the prospects for the coming winter are most gloomy.*

The *Guardian* upon the same serious subject has the following:

The return of pauperism in the cotton manufacturing districts, published by the Poor-law Board, shows a very large increase this week. Since the commencement of September, 7,660 paupers have been added to the union relief lists; and of that number, 4,210 are due to the past week. Nineteen unions 'have more paupers.' The largest accessions took place in the Ashton-under-Lyne union, 400; in the Blackburn union, 360, in Manchester, 520; in the Preston union, 760; and in the Stockport union, 370. Nearly half the new additions to the pauper ranks last week were adult able-bodied (1,796); and that class is now swollen to 21,400. The out-relief disbursed by the guardians was 36*2l.* in excess of the expenditure for the third week of September.

As a sample of the weekly rate at which the distress is increasing, take the following returns just made up in Preston. It was officially reported at yesterday's meeting of the Board of Guardians that in the Preston union there were 2,555 cases, representing 6,476 persons who have been relieved during the week, at a cost of nearly 400*l.* As compared with last week, these figures show an increase of 235 cases, 600 persons, and 21*l.* in expenditure. At present the guardians have in their service 500 able-bodied men. The local cotton trade returns made yesterday show that 8,917 operatives were working full time, 1,280 five days a week, 749 four, 5,227 three, 130 two, and that 11,112 are totally unemployed. The number of mills closed is 25. The increase in the number of unemployed is upwards of 1,000 during the week.

At Blackburn, also, affairs wear a very unfavourable appearance, and the operatives are showing some signs of restlessness. On Monday evening about 2,000 of them assembled in the market-place to discuss the means to be taken to provide themselves with the 'common necessaries of life,' many of them asserting that they were actually starving, though exceedingly willing to take any kind of work. An operative named Christopher Marsden was appointed chairman. He said the object of that meeting was to elect deputations to wait upon the corporation to induce them to find employment under the Public Works Act. Several speakers addressed the assemblage, and resolutions were unanimously adopted in accordance with the object of the meeting. It was stated that the Relief Committee would sit to-morrow (Thursday) to hear all applications for relief, it being the first meeting for that purpose since May last.

Professor Goldwin Smith certainly acted prudently in withholding from purely Lancashire readers his long-threatened pamphlet addressed to 'A Whig Member of the Southern Independence Association;' but it may be doubted if he has been decently careful of his reputation in relishing his half-prepared concoction expressly for the Yankee palate, and serving it up seasoned, *ad gulam recipientis*, with the corsecot of 'buncomb.' The affair, I perceive, has been published in Boston; and a review of it—which reads half like the Professor's too—lays waste nearly half a page of the *New York Tribune*. Dating from Lancashire, it will not be foreign to the matter if I say that, during the past year, I have been among thousands and tens of thousands of our factory operatives in multitudinous public meetings, who not only understand the American question far better than Mr. Smith appears to do, but of whom it is entirely within compass to say, that very many of them would be quite competent to refute so much of the learned Professor's argument as their homely English self-respect did not bid them treat with contempt.

A meeting of working-men was held a few evenings ago in the assembly rooms, Wigan, to take into consideration their prospects during the coming winter, in view of the continuance of the American war. Mr. Ralph Leigh, manufacturer and cotton spinner, presided on the occasion. The speeches, which were exclusively those of working-men, were strongly in favour of recognition of the Southern States, as a matter of right to the Confederacy, and the only possible means of alleviating the distress in the cotton districts. Some difference of opinion was expressed in the earlier stages of the proceedings, but after a long and good-tempered discussion all opposition was withdrawn, and the several resolutions were passed unanimously, or at all events without contradiction. I have been informed that the factory operatives of Wigan contributed upwards of 10,000 signatures to the Peace Address to the People of the United States. This, too, was in addition to a numerously-signed list supplied by the local gentry and manufacturers in that district. The M.P.s for the borough (General the Hon. James Lindsay and Henry Wood, Esq.) are equally well known as sympathisers with the Confederate cause.

THE AMERICAN QUESTION IN GERMANY.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Frankfort-on-Maine: October 2, 1864.

The quota of the journals favourable to the Confederate cause has been augmented by the *Globus*, a geographical review under the editorship of Dr. O. Andrée, a scholar of great merit, and whose acquaintance with the Northern States of America is considerable. Dr. Andrée resides at Dresden, and the journal in question is published at M. Meyer's Bibliographical Institute at Hildburghausen.

The twelfth number of the sixth volume contains an article written by the editor, and has for its title, 'Sayings and Doings in Yankeeland.' The summary of this article contains the following passages:—'Three thousand millions of debt and three million soldiers in three years—Fraud practised towards the State creditors at New York—Repudiation—Heaps of taxes; inland tax, encumbrance of inheritances—Police tribulations.'

The above is an analysis of this remarkable article. In the Northern States, one tie after another is being broken in rapid succession, and even the most short-sighted observers in Europe clearly perceive to what result these affairs are now tending. A general bankruptcy appears to be inevitable. During the past three years a debt of more than 3,000,000,000 thalers has been contracted with Prussia. The paper money has lost two-thirds of its value. In July last, the Minister of Finance finding himself to be $86,600,000 in arrears for the payment of the troops and for supplies furnished for purposes of the war, appealed to the nation for a loan of 200 millions—a sum, be it observed, very like in comparison to a sprat in a whale's belly. *In this wasting and reckless war—a war which a blind fury and a fanaticism maddened to frenzy wages against the South, which fights for its self-government and its independence*—nearly 3,000,000 men have been called to arms by the North, and yet in July last the Confederates approached Washington.

According to certain official communications made to the Congress, the Washington Government has expended upwards of $150,000,000 in enlistment expenses, and a large portion of its armies is made up of European mercenaries, the Northerners preferring to free themselves from the obligation of fighting by the payment of $300.

In the State of New York, wholesale cheating has been already practised towards the State creditors. The two legislative chambers declared (notwithstanding the entreaties of the Governor that they should refrain from committing so grave a fraud) that the interest of the loan should not be paid in cash, as stipulated in the contract, but in paper money (greenbacks). Thus the creditors receive a third part only of the sums due to them.

The political liberty and the fundamental laws of the Federal Constitution are trampled under foot. The Provost-General exercises an arbitrary power over the tribunals, and confiscates or interdicts at his will every journal whose principles he disapproves.

Extracts are then given from the *New-Yorker-Staats-zeitung* of July relative to the situation of affairs, to Mr. Lincoln, the inland tax, &c. M. Andrée's article thus concludes:—'This will suffice for the present. We regard it as our duty to publish proceedings and opinions respecting which the lackeys of Mr. Lincoln who furnish the German press with New York and Washington correspondence are cautiously silent.'

I enclose an article that lately appeared in the *Cölnische Zeitung*, which has produced considerable impression here, and a translation of which published in your columns will fairly bring before your readers the progress that the Confederate cause is making in Germany, hitherto the stronghold of the Federals.

THE AMERICAN WAR.

(From the *Cölnische Zeitung*.)

The following is a translation of the article referred to by our Frankfort correspondent:—

The old Union is out of joint, and the right man for its re-adjustment has not yet been found—neither will he be found. And, notwithstanding the censure to which we may expose ourselves, we venture to affirm that the breach which during past years has been formed between the Northern and Southern States, will not easily be bridged over. Neighbourly and friendly feelings, coupled with alliance, may easily be reestablished; political union never—at all events but for a short period. In this matter numbers do not decide. The confusion of the North is greater than it ever was, and the South is more than ever determined to fight to the last. But however loudly passion may rage, and however great human endurance may prove, still human power ultimately finds its limits; and though on both sides the arm may fall helpless and exhausted, still the victory is with those who fight, and not with those who seek for conquest.

Whatever may be still hidden from us in the future, we take the present appearance of things as a certain indication that sunny days are not in store for the North. The seat of war still occupies the same position, and we may with truth say, that during the last two years little change of any kind has been effected. Continual and desperate fighting, but no progress. Impetuous attacks are made and repelled, and the combatants then return to the positions which they before occupied. Washington is now more seriously menaced than Richmond; invasions by the Confederates in Maryland are not uncommon; Grant lies before Petersburg and Sherman before Atlanta, both unable to effect anything. The principal harbour-towns of the South, Wilmington in North Carolina and Charleston in South Carolina (against the latter of which a useless siege has been directed for more than two years), Mobile in Alabama and Galveston in Texas, are still held by the Confederates. The single exception is that of New Orleans, whose capture was effected by a bold stroke made by Admiral Farragut. The pretended subjugation of Louisiana by the conquest of New Orleans, and the pretended opening of the Mississippi in favour of the Northerners by the occupation of Port Hudson and Vicksburg, have proved to be a deception.

The hero of New Orleans, Admiral Farragut, one of the most resolute and successful combatants of the Union, attacked Mobile some time since, and performed deeds of great valour. Nevertheless, Mobile has not yet fallen—or, at least, it had not fallen at the time when the last news arrived.

Mobile, which before the outbreak of the war was, according to the United States census, the third greatest export town in the Union, is situated on the right bank of the river of the same name, occupying the innermost corner of the Bay of Mobile, about sixty English miles below the confluence of the Alabama and the Tombigbee, near that part where the Mobile stream flows into the bay. At this point is the termination of the Mobile-Ohio railway. The chief article of trade here, formerly, was wool, but other articles, in considerable quantity, were exported for foreign and home use. A better military post than this is not to be found in any part of the Gulf of Mexico. The high land on the western side dries quickly after rain, and at Spring Hill, a few miles distant from the town, is a fountain of clear cool water, from which the town is supplied by means of pipes conveyed beneath the ground. The Bay of Mobile extends from the Gulf of Mexico, and is about thirty English miles in length and twelve miles in breadth. It is connected with the Gulf by two straits, formed by the interposition of the Island of Dauphin which lies between them. The western-most strait is not navigable for ships drawing more than five feet of water; that on the east side, between the island and Mobile Point, has twenty-two feet of water, which diminishes in its depth a short distance beyond that place. In the neighbourhood of the upper end of the bay is a bar, formed by a shallow bank beneath the water, which stretches across the bay, and on which there is a depth of eleven feet of water only. The lighthouse of Mobile Point is situated on the east side of the entrance to Mobile Bay in lat. 30° 11′ 48″ N. and long. 88° 0′ 30″ W. Within the bay, a little to the south of the town of Mobile, is Choctaw Point lighthouse. Fort Morgan is situated on the western side of Mobile Point, on a small tongue of land which stretches out into the Gulf in the form of a crescent. Fort Gaines lies on the eastern end of the Island of Dauphin, at a distance of about three miles and a half from Fort Morgan. The anchorage for shipping is on the inner side of the Island of Dauphin, and is twenty-eight miles distant from the town. The nearer the town is approached the shallower does the water become. There is, however, a canal, leading to the Dog River bar, of sufficient depth for the navigation of ships drawing from ten to twelve feet of water. At this place the mail packets often find it difficult to pass; and from thence to the town there is a depth of water varying from nine to twelve feet. When, however, a strong wind blows from the south or east, the water is driven up from the Gulf, so that at high tide its depth is increased to ten or fifteen feet.

It is held in the Southern States that Mobile could not be easily taken by a fleet alone, as, owing to the shallowness of the water, vessels would be prevented from approaching sufficiently near to the town; the assistance of a land force, and one of considerable strength, would be also necessary to effect its capture. Troops are, indeed, now sent from Pensacola to Mobile, but their numerical strength is inconsiderable.

Thus much for military matters. In order to place before the reader a general view of affairs as they at present stand, the following observations are taken from a private letter, written by a German residing in the North of the Union:—

'The hope entertained that the American war would be soon brought to a close, and the reestablishment of the Union effected by the superior strength of the North, has unfortunately not yet been realised, nor does it seem at all likely, so far as appearances go. The small success hitherto achieved by the North must not be attributed either to a deficiency in military skill or to a want of zeal, but to the difficulties experienced by the troops resulting from a want of union among the Northern populations relative to the object of the war, to the incapacity of a democratic Government, wanting in dictatorial power, to quell a rebellion of so gigantic a nature, and lastly, to the acknowledged inability of the present Government.

'It is the unanimous opinion of several European officers, who have served on both sides, that the American soldiers are not excelled in courage, intelligence, or the endurance of fatigue, by those of any other nation in the world; and, generally speaking, the Northern soldier may be regarded as superior in these qualities to a soldier of the South. On the other hand, the Southerners may boast of more skilful officers, as also of better discipline. The reason of this difference, which indeed shows itself in the Administration as well as in the army, arises from the circumstance that the Southern Government has hitherto been aristocratic, that of the North democratic. These facts give the key to American affairs in general. The majority of the Southern population are governed by the minority of rich slaveholders, who exact from them a mute submission to all their commands. These men, therefore, being free from all the cares which are involved by labour, are in a position either to devote their attention to administrative pursuits, or, by a course of preparation in the three military schools established for the use of the regular army, or the West Point Academy (the North, be it remarked, possesses no schools of this kind), to fit themselves for the military service. If a Southerner be ambitious of political distinction, he has nothing to do but to get himself elected, as magistrate or town councillor, with the view of ultimately becoming a senator of the United States; should he give proof of aptness for his office, he may hold it as long as he pleases. Further, should he entertain a passion for military distinction, he immediately becomes captain of some militia company, exercises himself in fencing and in the chase, applies himself to the study of military works, and sets off to Europe in order to make himself acquainted with the military organisation of the Continent.

'It is quite otherwise in the North. Here, as is well known, we have but little landed property. A man who aspires to independence, and who is desirous of obtaining it in a legitimate way, must devote himself to some commercial or industrial pursuit; and, indeed, those professions which in other countries are regarded as so different from commercial pursuits, such as theology, medicine, law, art, &c., have here, more or less, a mercantile tinge. In politics, however, there is no money to be made; at all events, it cannot be made honourably, for the appointments do not extend over two years, whilst for every office there are at least a hundred candidates, who, on the expiration of the term, again present their applications. These office-hunters, for the most part, consist of briefless barristers, who are without employment, and who make use of every conceivable means to gain their object.

'Hence arises this very marked difference, that whilst political employments in the South are regarded as respectable, in the North they are despised. Should a war break out, then this same class of demagogues immediately make a rush after military employment, each seeking, in a barefaced manner, some office commensurate with his political rank; and although ignorant of the mere alphabet of military science, the Government is generally foolish enough to gratify their demands, lest by refusal they should become its enemies. For example, supposing one of these people to be a member of the Legislature, he is then immediately presented with a colonelcy; should he be a member of the Congress, he is made Major-General; and this to the prejudice of a hundred well-trained officers who are infinitely better qualified to fill such appointments.

'In these ranks are to be found those people to be found who have had some experience in military routine, and who are therefore capable of filling inferior posts, whilst those of a more important character are intrusted only to officers of the regular army. Hence it follows that whereas during peace the Union has been ruled by Southern statesmen, so now in war the Southern army, owing to its superiority to that of the North in discipline, numbers, and equipment, may well continue to hold its ground, nor can it be conquered save by the gradual extirpation of the whole of its people capable of bearing arms.

'In their President, Jefferson Davis, the Southerners possess a skilful, sharp-sighted, and most energetic man, whilst in Lincoln we see a man of mean acquirements, who, before his election to the office of President, was a simple attorney in a small town in the West, and who since his appointment to office has played the part of an unprincipled wriggling jester, engaged solely in reckoning the probabilities of his reelection. And can it be that he is again named a candidate for the Presidency? Yes; not by the *people*, however, but by his immense troop of servants and officers, whose situations would probably be at stake were Lincoln to be succeeded by a man determined to put a speedy end to the war. The present condition of affairs, thanks to the imbecility of the Government, is a truly desperate one. The 2,000,000 soldiers furnished by the people, and who, under skilful guidance and proper discipline, might have achieved wonders, have melted like butter in the sun; the millions of money assigned to the treasury have flown away like water through the Danaids' sieve. The enormous taxes and the high price of all articles of food have already ruined numerous tradesmen and private persons; for example, many of the West, where the burden of the war is the most heavily felt, especially as the harvest this year, on which many there depend, has been so unfavourable. Articles of common consumption are selling at triple their usual cost. Flour, which formerly sold at from $5 to $6 the barrel, is now sold at from $11 to $12; butter, which was sold at 12 cents the pound, now sells at 35 cents: the price of wood has risen from $3¼ to $8; sugar, which formerly sold at 12 cents, is now sold at 35 cents; coffee, which could formerly be purchased at 20 cents, now sells at 60 cents, &c.'

Surely the war has produced trouble and misery enough, and during the past three years the Americans may be said, with Macbeth, to have had their fill,'and more than their fill, of horrors. At least, one is disposed to think so. Nevertheless, no signs of a cessation of these horrors are apparent. For what can human effort and reason avail, where passion, a low sense of honour, and grovelling selfishness hold their sway?

FIFTY MILES SOUTH OF MACON.

(EXTRACT FROM A PRIVATE LETTER.)

August 12, 1864.

Last Saturday week Mr. N—— came home from Indian Springs, a place forty miles north of Macon, leaving his two daughters at the Springs. He stayed a day in Macon, and heard many rumours of Yankees being expected there, but did not believe them, there are so very many false ones; so we were not at all uneasy at the time of danger, though we had a false alarm afterwards. It seems on that very Saturday there was fighting all day in East Macon; it was attacked, the Yankees imagining it would be easily taken, but not carried. General Johnston was in Macon. Every one did his best; the old men and schoolboys went out to fight, the convalescents in the hospital showing them how. Stoneman commanded in this raid 7,000 men; they destroyed the bridge over the Oconee river of the Savannah and Macon Railway, and a road bridge as well, but were driven back out of Macon in the evening. General Wheeler's cavalry (Confederate) just then arrived from Atlanta, pursued them, took about 1,000 prisoners, and among them Stoneman, who had boasted he would sup in Macon, but did not probably expect it would be as a prisoner. Mr. N——'s Virginian cousin, who is living in Macon with her daughters, refugees from Mississippi and Upper Georgia, had her share of the troubles. Her elder son-in-law was lying wounded at Atlanta; the second was brought in wounded in Saturday's fight, apparently dying. His wife fell ill from the shock. But generally the Southern women do not give way; they think themselves happy to have the chance of nursing their 'own' at home, whatever that home may be. I know one very wealthy lady, who, having lost everything, instead of repining, set to work and earned enough by making artificial flowers of feathers to buy her husband a horse.

Indian Springs is on the way to Macon, and the ladies there expected the raiders. The gentleman who was their sole protector gave us a lively picture of his perplexities. He wished to bring his charge away, but he found that the Government had seized every vehicle; not even a wagon was to be had. Luckily for the ladies, the Yankees left Indian Springs rather on one side (not coming nearer than six miles), in order to cross the Ocmulgee at the most convenient place. They robbed and burned all the way as usual—a factory among other buildings. We heard nothing of all this till midday on Tuesday, for the train never runs on Sunday, and no newspapers came on Monday. On Tuesday morning at daybreak a messenger galloped up to say that the line was cut between us and Macon, and that Mr. N—— was to go to the station with his gun; there were said to be raiders at Hawkinsville. The only other white man, Mr. M——, who was at home on sick leave, went too, leaving us ladies to be protected by two boys of fourteen and twelve, Willie N—— and Peter M——. These boys were most anxious to accompany their fathers, but were persuaded they would be of great use at home. Mrs. N——, not thinking it worth while to attract observation unnecessarily, took down the Confederate flag Willie always has flying on his log-hut. We ladies sat for many hours thus, feeling the Yankees very near indeed. But it was a false alarm; at 1 P.M. the gentlemen returned with the news I have detailed above.

The Federal Slave Trade.—The following is taken from the *New York Herald*:—'Surplus Recruits Offered.—Watertown, New York, September 8, 1864. For the benefit of localities wanting recruits, I can state that there are four hundred surplus recruits over our quota in the barracks at Sackett's Harbour, and they can be credited to any locality in the State on the payment of eight or nine hundred dollars for each.—John H. Conkling, Chairman of Board of Supervisors of Jefferson County.'

THE ELECTION AND THE CHANCES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York: September 18, 1864.

The opposition to M'Clellan within the Democratic party is rapidly subsiding. All idea of active efforts against him is given up by the most determined Peace advocates. The consultations among them, which have been quite active, have resulted in the general agreement not to make or encourage a new nomination. The remaining question among the most impracticable is whether they shall give their votes to M'Clellan at the coming election or not vote at all. Seymour, of Connecticut, and Fernando Wood, of this city—and, indeed, most of the leaders of the uncompromising Peace men of the Middle and Eastern States—have not only publicly acquiesced, but have advised their friends to vote for the ticket, upon the single ground that it is necessary, first and above all things, to displace the Lincoln Administration, before it is worth while to debate upon what shall be done by its successor; and there is no way in which this can be accomplished but by voting for General M'Clellan. The orators at the great meeting in Union Square on Saturday evening condensed the argument in a few telling words. Platforms and candidates are nothing of themselves. What is wanted is success; unless we have a change of rulers, we all perish together. If we beat Mr. Lincoln, we may begin to hope. Let us strike him down first, and not quarrel about the kind of weapon which comes to our hand for us to do it with. When we have got the power to do something, there may be some sense in disputing about what we shall do.

The force of these appeals was already manifested in the immense multitude which gathered in the Square, where they were addressed from ten different stands, who shouted in one place for M'Clellan where they were told by one orator that there never would be peace until the rebels were subdued by force, and the Union must in all events be preserved 'at all hazards;' and in another vociferously applauded the sayings of an orator that Mr. Lincoln had justified the resistance of the South, and that, until his policy was altogether reversed, 'the South will never cease fighting, and never ought to cease fighting,' and then gave three cheers for M'Clellan.

Perhaps the most remarkable speech, as reflecting truly the political character of a large mass of the Opposition, was that of Fernando Wood, who has been the most powerful leader of the Peace men of this State, and was a member of the Chicago Convention. He said, with amazing frankness, that the platform and the candidate of the Convention were not in harmony with each other; but, 'for paramount reasons connected with success, it (the Convention) deemed such a contradictory position reconcilable with good policy.' He proceeded to contend that there was nothing in the terms of General M'Clellan's letter of acceptance which bound him to carry on the war against the public sense of his supporters; and argued that it would be impossible for M'Clellan, when elected, to carry on the war if he should wish it. Hostilities must cease, by moral and political necessities, and the Union must be sought by the old agencies or be lost for ever. I note this as a manifesto for the most influential of the Peace men of New York, explanatory of their reasons for the support of General M'Clellan. They are such as will give him the bulk of the Peace vote. The temper of great masses of the people is so excited against Mr. Lincoln, that they do not scrutinise closely the consistency of the reasons assigned for combining men of opposite opinions against him. This temper, and the alarms which prevail of deadly peril to their own liberties, are suppressing all sense of inferior discords, as a storm at sea sometimes quells a mutiny in the ship's crew.

Unquestionably the M'Clellan demonstration was a magnificent display of popular enthusiasm in this city, and was the more significant because it was attended numerously by merchants and bankers, men of property and substance, citizens who do not usually take part in elections, and some very prominent men who in the beginning were zealous in sustaining Mr. Lincoln. It is an encouraging omen for a large majority for M'Clellan in the city of New York, and gives the sanguine confidence in carrying the State in November.

But calm observers must not overrate these popular ebullitions. They meant something more than they do now, when elections were free, and were decided by the usual agencies of peace. But it is not now that the power of parties, in such a contest as this is to be, can be judged by the comparative strength of their paper resolves, the vehemence of oratorical displays, or superior parading in processions, transparencies, and gun-firing. The value in elections of the popular reaction against Mr. Lincoln which seemed to break out so universally on the selection of General M'Clellan as his opponent, has been tested in two elections in the States of Vermont and Maine, held since the nomination. There is scarcely a perceptible decrease of the party strength which gives Lincoln these States. In each State his friends elect the Governor, both Houses of the Legislature, and all the members in the next Congress. The Democrats had previously one representative in Maine. This they have lost, and the general result is the effective addition, by the transfer of this vote, of two to the already large majority of Congress which the Democrats must overcome in the coming elections in order to enable them to give any effect to those promises of repealing the proscriptive laws which they denounce as making the restoration of peace impossible.

But the Administration does not intend to permit itself to be beaten at the elections. The stake is too mighty to be surrendered while there are any possible means for retaining it, and its means are enormous, compact, and used with audacious and unscrupulous will. It has unlimited powers of corruption, and wields all the tremendous energies of a military dictatorship. The Administration controls the means of living for an immense swarm of officials—an army in time of peace, doubled in number and trebled in zeal by the necessities and hardships of war—making a disciplined corps of pensioned electioneering agents, working day and night for their bread, with which no volunteer association of men can well compete. It has also the handling of a thousand millions of dollars for annual receipt, and again for annual expenditure, out of which the favourites of Government make rapid fortunes. Capitalists throng around to compete with each other for the favour, and whole classes become dependants or expectants, and clamour and pay for the support of the system and the war. It is on this resource that the Administration party relies for the corruption fund by which elections are to be managed, and there is little disguise in the manner they avow and carry out the purpose. Copies have been heretofore published of the circulars sent by the postmaster of this city to the various postmasters in the State, requiring each of them to transmit to him a specified sum, according to the value of the office, to be used for election purposes. The following is of a different class, showing that the system of levying contributions to help the election of Mr. Lincoln reaches to all those who furnish anything to the Government as well as those who are directly employed by it. It is addressed to a dealer in medicines from whom the Government has been buying drugs, and on that contract it establishes a claim to tax him for the benefit of the party in power.

'Rooms of the National Union Executive Committee,
'Astor House, New York, September 15, 1864.
'(Private.)

'Dear Sir,—Your name, with others, has been handed to me as having been employed by the Government in furnishing supplies to the Medical Department of the army during the past year. I take it for granted you appreciate the necessity of sustaining the Government in its contest with the rebellion, and of electing the Union candidates in November, the only mode of carrying the war to a successful close and of restoring a peace which shall also restore the Union.

'I trust you will have anticipated the application now made for a contribution to the fund which we need for organising and carrying on the Presidential canvass. The amount of this contribution I of course leave to yourself. Please remit whatever you feel inclined to give in a cheque, payable to my order as Treasurer of the National Executive Committee. I respectfully ask your immediate attention to this matter, as the need of funds is pressing, and the time for using them is short.—Your obedient servant, 'H. J. Raymond, Chairman.'

This is no local call by obscure partisans. The Committee in whose name it is issued is the Committee appointed by the Baltimore Convention which nominated Mr. Lincoln. The Chairmond, Mr. Raymond, is the editor of the *Daily Times* of this city, the recognised leader of the party of Mr. Lincoln in the press, and the same gentleman to whom public rumour assigns the post of Minister to France in the event of Mr. Lincoln's success. The letter lays bare the means by which the Administration party expect to raise an enormous election fund. The resource is equal to the most exorbitant demands. It is computed that a poor 5 per cent. on all who receive pay in some form and make profits from Government directly or indirectly, would amount to $50,000,000. Half that sum is attainable if the heads of the party are such as to exact it. Whatever is wanted will be had. In the competition of the purse the advantages of the Administration are immense, and American politics are full of examples of the free use of money and its influence in deciding great results. It is a fact, as notorious as anything can be, which has never been brought to a judicial investigation; but everybody believes, because the facts were as openly talked of at the time as the state of the weather, that the October election in Pennsylvania, preceding the Presidential election of 1856, which determined the result of the November election in favour of Buchanan, was carried for the Democrats by the use of money raised in New York City to determine the course of some saleable politicians who had little organisations to dispose of. The agent in that transaction was Jno. W. Forney, who is now Secretary of the United States Senate, proprietor of two Lincoln newspapers, and manager for Mr. Lincoln in Pennsylvania. Even in this land of popular purity the purse is mighty, and its whole weight in this contest will be summoned without stint or scruple to defeat General M'Clellan. Secondly, the army, in the hands of the Administration, has become a great electioneering machine- first by the control it has established over the votes of the soldiers, and next by its use of the soldiery to constrain the votes of others.

The Democrats were largely moved to the nomination of M'Clellan by the persuasion that it would be a successful appeal to the votes of the soldiers for a favourite general against an unpopular civilian; but it will prove, I think, but a feeble reliance against the energy with which the M'Clellan vote in the army will be steadily repressed by the Government. The intimidation began long ago in the frequent dismissal or systematic persecution of officers who expressed political opinions adverse to the Administration. More than two years ago there was issued a special order (No. 110) from the War Department, giving a list of dismissed officers with the causes of their dismissals. The following is a true extract:—

'War Department, Adjutant-General's Office,
'Washington, March 13, 1862.
'(Special Orders No. 110.)

'By direction of the President, the following officers are hereby dismissed the service of the United States.

. . . . . .

'Lieutenant A. G. Edgerly, Fourth New Hampshire Volunteers, for circulating copperhead tickets and doing all in his power to promote the rebel cause in his State.

'By order of the Secretary of War,
'L. Thomas, Adjutant-General.'

The offence of Lieutenant Edgerly thus described was simply that when home on leave he was active as a citizen at the polls. At the same election, the Administration sent home a large number of New Hampshire Republican soldiers, expressly to be in the State to help the Republican ticket. The three United States officers at the Military Academy at West Point, who insisted on their selection of General M'Clellan as the orator at the Battle Monument ceremonial this summer, have now been one after the other displaced or disgraced, and it is felt throughout the army that not to be politically in favour of the Administration is to be marked for neglect and persecution. With the exception of two or three officers too high in position to be touched, or too necessary to be spared, the friends of M'Clellan are either silenced or retired out of prominent positions. All the pressure of military discipline, enforced where the rule of the superior is the supreme law and touches every private soldier in his daily routine every hour of his life, is brought to direct the political action and constrain the votes of the army. We have it already averred that a company of men who hastily expressed their joy at the nomination of M'Clellan were abruptly marched out to a field of double toil and exposure, and such actions are not at all improbable in the class of pothouse politicians who have obtained commands in the army. Under these obstructions it is not likely that any very strong vote will be cast for M'Clellan by the army, even though it be much larger than was cast for Democratic candidates at the last elections. The army vote was nearly unanimously for the Lincoln candidates, in most cases superfluously, for they were already largely ahead on the House vote.

The use of the army vote to constrain the votes of citizens, and to control the elections within the States, is another formidable danger, against which the Democrats are provided with nothing for defence but appeals to the resentment of the people, and deeply muttered threats not to be bound by an election which shall have been carried by such means.

Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri are examples of States whose most recent elections were carried for the Administration by the action of the military agents of the Federal Government intruding upon State authority, directing State politics, proscribing opponents, and driving them away from the polls. Military terrorism has ruled the elections in those four States directly, with the help of martial law proclaimed in two of them, Kentucky and Missouri. The Chicago Convention recorded its apprehension of a renewal of these proceedings and a renewed success in its third resolution, by declaring them to be a 'shameful violation of the Constitution,' and resolving that a repetition in the approaching election 'will be held to be revolutionary, and resisted with all the means and power under our control.' But they omitted to enumerate what those means and power are, and how they would be applied in order to resist the 'revolution.'

The audacity of the Administration has gone a step further in the attempt to control by intimidation the votes of States wherein there has been no armed rebellion at any time, but which are proscribed because their population is suspected of a disaffection towards the Administration which might affect its electoral vote. In the military district composed of the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan, the two States of Indiana and Illinois are ordinarily Democratic. For two years the Republicans have been forming party associations under the name of Loyal Leagues, of which one of the articles of agreement is, that each man should fully equip himself with arms. Morton, the Republican Governor of Indiana, at the same time organised a voluntary State militia, to be called the Home Guard, who were supplied with arms by the general Government. Democrats organising themselves into companies under the law were refused the arms, so that the Home Guard and the Loyal Leagues are mere Republican associations armed at the Government expense. Lately it was pretended to be discovered that Democratic associations were importing arms for themselves. An arbitrary and lawless seizure was made of the arms which were the grounds of the suspicion; and General Heintzelman, the United States commander of the Military Department, has prohibited the bringing into any of the States of his department of any kind of implement or munitions of war, except by the written permission of the military authorities. It is not difficult to see how this intimidation of one party, by leaving it without the means of self-defence while the other is fully armed and equipped and assured of the support of the army in any case of difficulty, will affect the results of voting where an election might otherwise be doubtful. The chances are that the weaker and defenceless party will stay away from the polls, and the Administration obtain a triumph without the necessity of employing directly the force which will have effected the object.

I know the Democrats are protesting valiantly that they will not submit to this, that it is revolutionary, and will be resisted at all hazards. It may be so; but the question rises again, how, and at what point? These are after-questions. I make this recapitulation now of the vast means which the Administration has for controlling elections in order to estimate the probable chances which exist for displacing it, its capacity to secure the number of electoral votes, cast with the forms of an election, which will give it that title of legality that can only be overthrown by a revolutionary seizure of the Government, constituting civil war, in the North.

The aspects of the case seem to me, at this time, to be decidedly favourable to the success of Mr. Lincoln. He cannot be defeated but by a thorough, practical, efficient, enthusiastic organisation everywhere, of which, through all the vapouring and speech-making, I do not yet see the signs, and with means which I cannot imagine them capable of finding.

The number of electoral votes to be contended for is 231, of which 116 make a majority. I include the five votes of West Virginia, because the law of Congress, which undertakes to regulate the manner of determining this election, recognises West Virginia as a State. It will be another question if that vote, cast by a State unconstitutionally torn away from the State of Virginia, shall become important in the result.

In the light of all the recent elections, Mr. Lincoln is sure of the thirty-nine votes of the six New England States. I know the Democrats say they have a chance for Connecticut, which they contended for last year with a Peace Democrat and were beaten, and again this year with a War Democrat, and were further beaten still. But it is idle to speculate on chances. The six New England States must, in all fairness, be allowed to Mr. Lincoln, with thirty-nine votes.

By the same rule of calculation, taking the results of the last elections as the basis, and estimating the power of the Administration to repeat its system of operations successfully, the Border States may be set down as most likely to vote for Mr. Lincoln. These States are Delaware (3), Maryland (7), West Virginia (5), Kentucky (11), and Missouri (11)—37 votes more. The Democrats say they are going to wrest some of these States from Mr. Lincoln. But it is not disputable that he is in full possession now, and with great means for keeping them.

There are seven other States—viz., Kansas (3), California (5), Minnesota (4), Iowa (8), Wisconsin (8), Michigan (8), and Oregon (3)—in which the Administration ticket has been successful at every election since Mr. Lincoln's accession. In one or two small ones the tickets have been mixed, but at no election has a Democratic or mixed Conservative ticket been successful. Reasoning on the same rule of probabilities, Lincoln has much the better chance for these 39 votes than M'Clellan.

Mr. Lincoln therefore goes into the canvass with six New England States and seven Western States—78 votes, which have never failed to be cast for his party since it was organised at Chicago in 1860—and with five Border States having 37 votes which he holds absolutely at his disposal. Here are already 115 of the 116 votes required to elect him, for which he has a resource in New York (33), which, at the last general election, gave nearly 30,000 majority for his friends; Pennsylvania, which gave the same party over 15,000 majority; and Ohio, which gave them over 100,000 majority.

Indiana (13) and Illinois (16) gave Democratic majorities at their last general elections. New Jersey (7) is the only State which voted against Lincoln at the elections, and it has consistently voted against him at every election since.

By this review of the political status of the several States as they were at their last previous elections, it will be seen that Mr. Lincoln has vastly the advantage in the settled preferences of Republican States; and by his control over the suffrages of the Border States, amounting to 115 votes, and that of the remaining States, only one with 7 votes is positively, by the same standards of judgment, to be assigned to M'Clellan. Of the remaining States, all are more or less debatable, and all of the larger ones must be carried for M'Clellan to give him a chance of success. The carrying of either of the three largest—New York, Pennsylvania, or Ohio—by Mr. Lincoln would enable him to dispense with several of the smaller, and make the dis-

putes about legality therein immaterial in their effect on the general issue.

These are the present data of the problem, and I give them to you as material to aid you in tracing out the course of this campaign. They may be changed by sudden events or unexpected combinations. The air is full of portentous warnings of both. But, as things now stand, the success of Mr. Lincoln in obtaining the number of electoral votes necessary to a reelection is the thing most probable. What may follow in the event, and the processes by which it will be brought about, is a graver question, not to be discussed in the close of a letter already too long.

The Treasury Department has suspended the usual weekly publication of the condition of the finances. The last statements have shown a rapid increase of arrearages for unpaid requisitions; and, from the disappointment in the income anticipated from the new tax and tariff bills, which leaves no resource but in the expansion of the currency by further issues of greenbacks, the public debt is growing at the rate of nearly two millions a day—a state of things which the Government thinks it expedient to conceal as far as it can. There is semi-official promise in some of the papers that the reports will be made monthly—that is, there will be one more report made before the election. We shall see whether a way will not be found to evade this undertaking. The condition of the finances will not bear inspection; but, while the canvass is going on, the Administration presses will maintain every day that all things are doing well, and it is 'copperhead' disloyalty to doubt it.

ARREST OF AN EDITOR BY GENERAL PAINE.

(From the *Gallatin County* [Illinois] *Democrat*, August 30.)

On Friday, the 19th instant, as we were sitting quietly in our office attending to our own business, our office was surrounded by a squad of soldiers, under command of Lieutenant J. E. Chapman of the 139th Illinois. The lieutenant, with his men, rushed into our office, and told us that he was ordered to arrest us and take us to General Paine, then at Casseyville, Kentucky. We remonstrated with the lieutenant, telling him that he certainly had no authority to arrest us and carry us out of the State; that my wife was lying dangerously ill; and that, under the circumstances, we would beg him to take our parole of honour to report at Paducah at any designated time; but all to no purpose. Myself and printer were hurried aboard some transports (some seven in number), then lying at the wharf loaded with soldiers, whose ostensible purpose was to effect the arrest of myself, printer, and E. F. Armstrong. After we were placed aboard the transports, we were all placed under strict guard, and were soon on our way to Paducah. Arrived there Sunday morning, we were taken ashore and paraded through the principal streets, evidently to the delight of those that had us arrested, and to the negro soldiers particularly, who seemed to have special orders to taunt us with opprobrious epithets. We were finally brought before one Major Bartling, Provost-Marshal of Paducah, who, without any ceremony whatever, ordered us to the Military Prison. We were then marched through the streets to the prison, and, arriving there, were thrust into the prison (amid the yells and taunts of negro soldiers), containing some fifty or sixty persons—some citizens, some guerillas, some rebel soldiers, some deserters from the Federal army, some negro soldiers, and some for stealing, &c. Here we were kept in filth and privation until 10 o'clock Tuesday morning, when we were called for and taken into the presence of General Paine, who hailed us with 'I am going to send you d——d sons of b——s home.' Here ended the whole affair, adding but another to the great list of public wrongs done to private citizens by those who had solemnly sworn to protect and defend them. General Paine told us we were charged with being a member of the Sons of Liberty. This was the only charge against us—which was not substantiated—and our release followed as a matter of course.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

Wednesday Evening.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

The money market within the last few days has become slightly easier. Previous to the 4th of the month the applications for discount were rather heavy, both at the Bank and in Lombard Street; but since then there has been much less pressure, and quotations out of doors are gradually declining. The worst of the failures, through the Leeds Banking Company, are believed to have been worked out, and though occasionally other suspensions may be reported, the mischief created by that gigantic suspension is believed to have been pretty well exhausted. Trade is not so sound as could be wished, because of the speculation in cotton and the decline in produce. But it is still hoped that the year will terminate without any great addition to our mercantile disasters, since the markets altogether are in a sensitive position. Still it must be confessed that with the late overweight of securities in circulation, a decline even in some of the best must take place, and complaints are made that several of the Banks and Finance Companies are refusing further advances. The terms for first-class paper are about $8\frac{3}{4}$ to $8\frac{7}{8}$ per cent., and as we are approaching the payment of the dividends, some are sanguine enough to expect a reduction in the official *minimum*. At the Stock Exchange the rates for short advances are from 5 to 6 per cent.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The improving aspect of the bullion market continues, and the influx of gold is not now much affected by the withdrawals from the Bank to supply foreign wants; but this is mainly to be attributed to the high rate of discount. The amount sent into the Bank this week has been 344,000*l.*, whilst the withdrawals have been only 10,000*l.* The arrivals of specie this week have been very limited, comprising only 66,800*l.* from New York, 9,396*l.* from the Brazils, and 3,067*l.* from Alexandria, making a total of 79,263*l.* The shipments to the East by the present mail amount to 110,033*l.*, the proportion of silver being 103,132*l.*, and of gold 6,901*l.* The quantity to India is 55,977*l.*, to China 31,579*l.*, to Singapore 16,750*l.*, to Alexandria 4,200*l.*, and to Point de Galle 1,527*l.* The packet for the West Indies took out 7,430*l.*, of which 2,000*l.* was in gold and 5,430*l.* in silver. The silver market remains very quiet: for bar there has been very little demand, and the price is unchanged. Some Mexican dollars have been disposed of for China at 60*d.* per oz., being a decline of $\frac{3}{8}$*d.* as compared with previous sales. The only gold ship at present advised from Australia is the *J. E. H.*, with 44,000*l.*

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The more satisfactory aspect of monetary and commercial affairs within the last two or three days has had a most beneficial effect upon the English funds, and a rather extensive business has been transacted at gradually improving rates. To-day the market opened with a very buoyant aspect, at a further advance in Consols of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., but the rise brought forward sellers, and there was subsequently a relapse, but prices closed firm, Consols being $88\frac{1}{2}$ to $88\frac{5}{8}$ for both money and account, which, as compared with this day week, is an improvement of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Exchequer bills are also firmer, the March issue being 7*s.* to 3*s.* dis., and those of June at 18*s.* to 10*s.* dis. In the foreign stock market business has again become more active, but the transactions, comparatively, have not been so extensive as in the other departments. Prices, however, for most of the leading descriptions continue to improve, though the transactions have not been extensive. The chief changes comprised an advance of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Mexican, $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. in Spanish Passives, $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. in the Certificates, and the same in Greek. Turkish remain very steady at previous quotations. The closing prices this evening were, Greek stock at $23\frac{1}{4}$ to $23\frac{1}{2}$, Mexican at $27\frac{3}{8}$ to $27\frac{5}{8}$, Spanish Passives at $31\frac{1}{2}$ to $31\frac{3}{4}$, Ditto Certificates at $13\frac{7}{8}$ to $14\frac{1}{8}$, Turkish Six per cents. of 1854 are $90\frac{1}{2}$ to $91\frac{1}{2}$, and those of 1862 70 to $70\frac{1}{2}$.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The business transacted in American Government and Railway securities has again been to a fair extent, but in the majority of instances prices have a declining tendency. The brokers are still very shy of this class of investments, and under the circumstances any extensive dealings in them cannot be expected. The sales this week have comprised United States of 1881 at $44\frac{1}{4}$, $43\frac{1}{8}$, 43, $43\frac{1}{2}$, $43\frac{1}{2}$, $43\frac{1}{8}$, $43\frac{1}{2}$, 43, and $43\frac{1}{2}$; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York section, first mortgage, at 75; do. do., second mortgage, at 68, $67\frac{3}{4}$, and $68\frac{1}{2}$ ex div.; do. do., Pennsylvania section, at 76, $73\frac{1}{2}$, and 73 ex div.; and Illinois Central, $100 shares, all paid, at $48\frac{1}{2}$, $48\frac{1}{4}$, $49\frac{1}{2}$, 50, $50\frac{1}{4}$, 51, and $50\frac{1}{2}$.

CONDITION OF THE CROPS.

The Department of Agriculture at Washington has issued a report on the condition of the principal autumn crops on September 1. We subjoin some extracts from which it will be seen that the crops are below the average, and that they have been considerably injured.

Corn.—Below the common average condition, such as seen in the crop of 1862, are: Michigan, $3\frac{1}{2}$ tenths, or 35 per cent.; Maryland, 3 tenths; Kansas, $2\frac{3}{4}$ tenths; Missouri, $2\frac{1}{2}$ tenths; New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, and Nebraska Territory, 2 tenths each; Maine, Indiana, and Ohio, $1\frac{1}{2}$ tenths each; Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Kentucky, 1 tenth each; Pennsylvania and Illinois, $\frac{2}{3}$ of a tenth each; West Virginia, $\frac{1}{2}$ of a tenth; while Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, and Iowa, are a full average. The returns show that the injuries are greater than the condition is below an average.

Tobacco.—Below the average condition are: Missouri, $3\frac{1}{2}$ tenths, or 35 per cent.; Nebraska Territory, 3 tenths; Michigan, $2\frac{1}{3}$ tenths; Rhode Island, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana, 2 tenths each; New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Kansas, and West Virginia, 1 tenth each; Illinois, $\frac{1}{2}$ of a tenth; whilst Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, and Minnesota are a full average. The injuries to this crop are greater than their condition is below the average.

Sorghum.—Below the average condition are: Michigan, $2\frac{1}{2}$ tenths, or 25 per cent.; Wisconsin, 3 tenths: New York and Kansas, 2 tenths; Indiana, $1\frac{2}{3}$ tenths; Maryland, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska Territory, 1 tenth each; Illinois, $\frac{2}{3}$ of a tenth; New Jersey, $\frac{1}{2}$ of a tenth; whilst Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Kentucky, and West Virginia are a full crop. The injuries to this crop also are greater than their condition is below the average.

Cotton.—Below an average condition are: Kentucky, 3 tenths; Massachusetts and Delaware, 2 tenths each; Illinois and Missouri, 1 tenth each; and Kansas and West Virginia are a full average.

Potatoes.—This crop has suffered more than any other, for, in addition to the injury from drought, the potato bug has committed very great depredations in the Western States. Below the average condition are: Missouri, $5\frac{1}{2}$ tenths, or 55 per cent.; Michigan and Nebraska Territory, 5 tenths each; Maryland and Kansas, 4 tenths each; Indiana, $3\frac{2}{3}$ tenths; New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Kentucky, and Iowa, 3 tenths each; Maine, Delaware, and Illinois, $2\frac{1}{2}$ tenths each; Ohio and Wisconsin, $2\frac{2}{3}$ tenths each; Pennsylvania, 2 tenths; Connecticut, $1\frac{3}{4}$ tenths; Massachusetts, $1\frac{1}{2}$ tenths; Vermont, $1\frac{1}{2}$ tenths; and Minnesota and West Virginia, 1 tenth each. This crop has also sustained injuries greater than the condition is below the average.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

This stock, in common with most others of a speculative kind, has suffered a heavy fall; the price at one time touched 58, but recovered again to 65. To-day the market is again flat, and we quote $62\frac{1}{2}$, $63\frac{1}{2}$.

TENDERS FOR BILLS ON INDIA.

The biddings for 30,00,000 rupees in bills on India took place to-day at the Bank of England. The proportions allotted were:—To Calcutta, 17,65,000, rupees; to Bombay, 12,00,000 rupees; and to Madras, 35,000 rupees. The minimum price was as before, 1*s.* $11\frac{1}{2}$*d.* per rupee on Calcutta and Madras, and 1*s.* $11\frac{3}{4}$*d.* on Bombay. The applications within the limits amounted to 77 lacs. Tenders on Calcutta and Madras at 1*s.* $11\frac{7}{8}$*d* will receive about 69 per cent., on Bombay at 1*s.* $11\frac{7}{8}$*d.* about 37 per cent., and all above these prices in full.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

The railway share market, in sympathy with the other departments, has greatly improved within the last two or three days; not only have the dealings considerably increased, but prices have as rapidly advanced. In nearly all descriptions prices have risen, and the market closed with a further upward tendency. As compared with last week, there has been an improvement of 4 per cent. in Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, and Metropolitan; of 3 per cent. in London and North Western, Midland, and Birmingham and Derby; of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Lancashire and Yorkshire; of 2 per cent. in London and South Western; of 1 per cent. in Great Eastern, Great Northern, Great Western, West Midland (Oxford), North Eastern (Berwick), do. do. (York), and North Staffordshire; of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. in South Eastern, and of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in East Anglian, London and Brighton, and North Eastern (Leeds). On the other hand there has been a decline of 1 per cent. in Edinburgh and Glasgow, and Great Southern and Western. Foreign shares have been rather more quiet, but prices have slightly improved in most instances. Indian and Canadian descriptions have been more in request, at advanced quotations.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES, &c.

At the ordinary general meeting of the Crystal Palace Gas Company, a dividend was declared at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preference capital, and 10 per cent. on the ordinary capital of the company, both free of income-tax.—At an extraordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Trading Company the report of the directors was adopted, and a dividend at the rate of 2*s.* 6*d.* per share free of income-tax declared. At the first ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Land Mortgage Bank of India, the report of the directors was unanimously adopted. The chairman said he attributed the limited success hitherto achieved to the prevalence of the high rates which had unexpectedly ruled for exchange in India on London, which had prevented the raising of money on debentures. On the other hand, he showed that the bank stood high in public estimation, and was becoming more and more known in India. The first annual meeting will be held in April next, when a dividend will be declared. At an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, held to-day, a very satisfactory statement was presented and accepted. It showed that the undivided profit from the previous half year was 13,064*l.* The profits for the six months ending June 30 amounted to 68,022*l.*, being at the rate of nearly $18\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. A dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum free of income-tax was declared, leaving a balance of 26,544*l.* to be carried forward.—At the half-yearly meeting to-day of the Great Western Railway of Canada, the report, which was unanimously adopted, showed that the receipts on capital account during the half year amounted to 1,138*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*, and the total receipts to July 31 were 5,218,356*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* The aggregate expenditure to the same date amounted to 5,074,004*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*, leaving a balance to the credit of the capital account of 144,352*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The following mercantile suspensions have been announced during the week, viz.:—Messrs. Ogle & Co., East India merchants, of Great St. Helen's, with liabilities extending to about 500,000*l.*—Messrs. Early & Smith, of Houndsditch, export clothiers, with about 100,000*l.* liabilities.—Messrs. Hall & Jones, of Liverpool, in the sugar trade. The debts and liabilities are put down at 500,000*l.*—Messrs. Walker, Cotesworth, & Co., of Liverpool, in the cotton trade. Liabilities between 500,000*l.* and 600,000*l.*—Mr. Julius Mendel, of London, commission merchant, with 40,000*l.* liabilities.—Messrs. Westall Brothers, of Manchester, commission merchants and manufacturers, with liabilities to about 100,000*l.*—Mr. Solomon, of Old Change, in the drapery trade, with liabilities reaching to about 60,000*l.*

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

The produce trades continue in the same state of inactivity as noticed for some time past. If anything, the tone during the last day or two has in several departments been firmer, with rather more enquiry on the part of buyers, but there has been no recovery in prices, and no extension of business worth naming. Imports during the week have been moderate only, and clearances from warehouse have somewhat increased, but stocks are well kept up, and in many cases are in excess of those of last year at this period. The grain markets have acquired a stronger bearing, the recent heavy importations of foreign produce having been to some extent worked down, whilst the farmers have shown a disinclination to bring forward supplies at present prices. Purchases are, however, made in the same cautious spirit as they have been for some time past, and, whilst firmer, the markets are still inactive. Cotton has gone slightly dearer yesterday and to-day, partly under the influence of light arrivals and partly on advices from Alexandria quoting an advance there. As a consequence, the principal improvement has been in Egyptian. The provision trades in general have remained steady. In American bacon purchases are confined to short middles, rib in, at 44*s.* to 45*s.* per cwt. Mess beef has given way 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., but is more saleable at the decline. American butters meet a good demand, and are very firm in price, 86*s.* to 112*s.* per cwt. according to quality. Cheese is also in good demand at full prices. In petroleum there is not a great deal passing, but rates are maintained, American refined being quoted 2*s.* per gallon on the spot, and 2*s.* 1*d.* last three months. Crude remains at 17*l.* 10*s.* per tun. Scarcely any variation has taken place in the value of oils, the trade in every description remaining extremely quiet. The tallow market has exhibited increased heaviness and prices have receded 6*d.* per cwt. for both immediate and future delivery. The metal market shows no indication of improvement. Stagnation is general, and relieved only at intervals by forced sales at reduced prices. The selling has been principally in Scotch pig iron, which has suffered rather a decided fall, the quotation this afternoon being 54*s.* 6*d.* cash. Spelter is quoted nominally 23*l.* 10*s.*, and foreign tin 98*l.* per ton. Gums of most kinds are rather easier in price, but without any important depression. Cutch has receded to 22*s.* and 22*s.* 6*d.* for good Pegu. Public tea sales have progressed steadily, with a moderate demand. Sugar has further given way 6*d.* per cwt., but the enquiry is rather more active at the close. Coffee maintains its value, and the demand keeps pace with supply. Jute is more in request, and at the sales to-day prices in some instances showed a recovery of 10*s.* to 20*s.* per ton. In drugs and chemicals the variations have been trifling. Soda crystals continue to sell freely at 4*l.* 15*s.* ex ship.

Liverpool, Wednesday, October 5.—There is not much improvement to notice in the state of our cotton market, though the tendency is, if anything, slightly better. Business, however, continues greatly depressed in consequence of the general stagnation of trade in the other departments and the continued high value of money. In the early part of the week some sales were effected at very low figures, even as compared with previous rates; but it is thought, now that confidence is partially restored, an improvement may be looked for. American cotton has been in rather more demand this week for export chiefly for New York, and to a moderate extent to the trade; but the offers being large quotations have rather declined. The sales this week have been again but moderate, amounting to only 26,000 bales, of which 10,500 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year up to the present time have been 1,980,136 bales, and to the same period in 1863 they were 1,913,479 bales. There have been imported this year 1,769,654 bales, against 1,172,592 last year. The trade have taken this year 1,214,695 bales, and to the same period in 1863, 1,022,144 bales. The exports this year so far have been 420,116 bales; last year they were 347,488 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 332,815 bales, and in 1863, 506,297 bales. The estimated stocks at the present time are 412,467 bales, and at the same time last year they were

193,060 bales. The latest quotations were, for American descriptions, 23½d. to 26d.; Pernambuco, 23½d. to 26d.; Maceio, 21¼d. to 21½d.; Bahia, 21¾d.; Egyptian, 14¾d. to 25¾d.; Smyrna, 13¼d. to 14d.; Surats, 10½d. to 19d.; Madras, 14¾d. to 15d.; Bengal, 10d. to 10¾d.; Scinde 10¼d. to 10¾d.; and China, 13d. to 14d.

Business at Manchester continues very depressed, but a slightly improved feeling has prevailed within the last day or two, in consequence of the generally better state of financial affairs. The gloom caused by the recent failures appears to be passing away, under the impression that for the present the worst has been seen. There has been rather more business doing in shipping yarns, but still there is no stability in prices, which continue very depressed. Nevertheless, there is more disposition on the part of spinners to effect sales, some showing an inclination to accept lower terms than ruled a week ago, but others refuse to deal except at an advance. In home trade yarns there is but little doing, buyers showing no disposition to operate with freedom. For the little business done, spinners, however, have obtained rather increased rates in some few instances, but the improvement is far from general. In cloths there has been more business doing than for some time past, but there has been no improvement in prices; in fact, most of the transactions have been at rates lower than those previously quoted. Stocks have been greatly reduced, but there is sufficient pressure to affect prices unfavourably. There are now so many mills standing, or working only short time, that the produce offered is not more than one third to one half of the usual supply. The latest quotations were for $\frac{7}{8}$ Grey Printers, 6s. 9d. to 13s. 7½d., according to quality; $\frac{9}{8}$ Grey Madapollams, 5s. 9d. to 8s. 9d.; $\frac{9}{8}$ Grey Printers, 9s. to 16s.; $\frac{5}{4}$ Grey Shirtings, 10s. 9d. to 22s. 6d.; Water Twist, No. 20, 1s. 8d. to 2s. 4d.; No. 30, 2s. 1d. to 2s. 7d.; and No. 40, 2s. 7d. to 3s. 1d.; Mule Twist, No. 20, 1s. 6d. to 2s. 1½d.; No. 30, 1s. 8½d. to 2s. 4d.; No. 40, 1s. 11d. to 2s. 7d.; No. 50, 2s. 2d. to 2s. 10d.; No. 60, 2s. 5d. to 3s.; No. 70, 2s. 8d. to 3s. 2d.; No. 80, 2s. 10d. to 3s. 4d.; No. 90, 3s. to 3s. 6d.; and No. 100, 3s. 3d. to 4s. The actual decline in prices during the past month has been, in cloths, about 2s. per piece on $\frac{7}{8}$ Printers; 1s. 6d. to 2s. on Madapollams; 1s. 9d. to 2s. 6d. on $\frac{9}{8}$ Printers; 3s. to 4s. on Indian Shirtings up to 7 lbs.; and 4s. to 5s. on the heavier weights; 3s. to 4s. on Figured Shirtings; 9d. to 1s. on Jacconets; 9d. to 1s. on Mules; 1s. 6d. to 2s. on T Cloths; 2s. to 4s. on Long Cloths; and ½d. to 1d. per yard on Domestics. Yarns have declined about 7d. to 8d. per lb. for India counts; about 4d. to 5d. per lb. on the lowest descriptions, already comparatively cheap a month ago; and as much as 9d. to 11d. per lb. on the fine Bolton counts.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Ships Arrived.

At Liverpool.—September 28: The Pennsylvania, from Matamoras. The Caroline Goodyear, from Bermuda. The Belgian (steamer), from Quebec. The Lotty, from Rio Janeiro. The Amelia, from Halifax, N.S.—September 29: The Sarah Princep, The Paradies, from Bahia. The Eastern Empire from St. John's, N.B. The Blink Bonny, from Bermuda.—October 4: The John, from Bahia.

At Gravesend.—October 2: The Oceanus, from S. Jago de Cuba.

At Queenstown.—October 1: The Wilhelmine, from Bahia. The St. Mark, from Callao. The Mary A. Troop, for St. John's. The Sardinia, for Quebec.—October 2: The Europa (steamer), and left for Halifax, N.S.

At Castletown (Ireland).—October 1: The Barzillai, from Quebec, for Queenstown, with cargo shifted.

Off the Bolt Head.—September 29: The Header, from Quebec.

In the Bristol Channel.—October 2: The Washington, from Quebec.

At Cardiff.—September 27: The Fortuna, from St. Nazaire.—September 30: The Cabinet, from St. Nazaire.—October 1: The Margaret and Jane, from Bilboa. The Mildmay, from St. Nazaire.

At New Quay Bay.—September 27: The Keldhead, from Matamoras, for Liverpool.

At Falmouth.—October 2: The Flamingo, for Halifax, N.S.

At Warrenpoint.—September 27: The Fauna, from Miramichi.

At Cuxhaven.—September 26: The Maria Louise, from Jamaica.

At Waterford.—September 29: The Dumfries, from Liverpool, for Halifax, N.S., leaky.

At Leith.—September 28: The Sydney, from Demerara.

At Youghal.—September 29: The Nameless, from Miramichi.

At Clyde.—September 28: The Agra, from St. John's, N.B.—September 29: The Iona, from Montreal.—October 1: The Walter Baine, from Matanzas.—October 3: The Clara Hargrave, from Havana. The Florence, from Matanzas.—October 3: The Argonaut, from Quebec.

At Crookhaven.—September 28: The Ada, from Bermuda, for Liverpool.

Off Dartmouth.—September 27: The Vancouver, from Callao, and proceeded for Hamburg after being supplied with provisions.

At Bristol.—September 28: The Oceanus, from Bahia.—October 2: The Minerve, from Havana.

At Newport.—September 26: The Oriental, from St. Thomas.—October 1: The Eva, from Quebec.

At Portsmouth.—October 2: The Joven Carlos, from Porto Rico.

Off St. Mawes.—September 26: The Salem, from Quebec, for Hull.

At Penarth Roads.—September 27: The Lizzie, from New River, N.P. The Alma, from Montreal.

At Appledore.—September 28: The Ariadne, from Quebec.

At Portland.—October 3: The Aguar, from Belize.

At West Hartlepool.—October 3: The Prince Albert, from Quebec.

At St. Thomas.—August 29: The St. Thomas (steamer), from Liverpool.—September 8: The Hayti (steamer), from Liverpool. The Margaretha, from Cardiff.—September 12: The Susan L. Campbell, from Clyde. The Johannes, from Swansea.

At Matamoras.—July 11: The Zeal, from Liverpool.—September 15: The Dyson, from Liverpool.—September 18: The Starlight, from Liverpool.—July 23: The Herbert, from Liverpool.

At Halifax, N.S.—The Sidon (steamer), from Liverpool. The Roseneath, from Clyde.

At Barbadoes.—September 7: The Duke of Wellington, from Clyde.

At Demerara.—August 27: The Jessie, from Clyde.—September 2: The Coral Isle, from Clyde.

At St. Nazaire.—October 1: The Nouveau St. Pierre, from Cardiff. The Thames (steamer), The Clemence, from Swansea.—October 2: The Teresa, from Havana.

Ships Sailed.

Liverpool.—September 27: The Alma, for Pernambuco.—September 29: The Ellen, for St. Thomas. The Artaxerxes, for Pernambuco. The Neptune, for Havana. The Prospero, for Nassau, N.P. The Wild Wave, for Matamoras.—September 30: The Loyola, for Havana. The Glenroy, for Matanzas. The Byron, The Herbert, The Rimac, for Matamoras. The Muscongus, for Miramichi. The Hannah Codner, for Bahia.—October 1: The Penelope, for Halifax, N.S. The Gladiator (steamer), for Pernambuco. The Zallula, for Bahia.—October 4: The Westfield, for St. John's, N.B. The Tres Hermanos, The San Fernanda, The Pizarro, for Rio Janeiro. The Morning Star, for Halifax, N.S. The Herbert, for Matamoras. The Ruby (steamer), for Bermuda. The Punjaub, for Miramichi.

Gravesend.—September 28: The Catherina Hermanna, for Buenos Ayres.

Deal.—September 28: The Louise, for Barbadoes.—September 30: The Blancho, for Santander.—October 1: The Orinoco, for Rio Janeiro. The Hermann Albrecht, for Montevideo. The W. A. Rogers, for Halifax, N.S.—October 3: The Grace and Jane, for Demerara.

Swansea.—September 28: The Wasp, for St. Lucia. The Actif, for Nassau. The Antonio Vincent, for Valparaiso. The Onorato, for Montevideo.—September 29: The Cobrero, The Pedro Ferrez, for Cuba.—September 30: The Governor, The Wild Wave, for Valparaiso. The Jessie Conder, for Teneriffe.—October 1: The Susan, for Teneriffe.

Newport.—September 28: The Johanna Wilhelmina, for St. Thomas.—September 29: The Olaf, for St. Thomas.—October 4: The Albion, for St. Thomas.

Whitehaven.—September 29: The Restless, for St. John's, N.B.

Troon.—October 1: The Cassiopea, for St. Thomas. The Nicolina, for Havana.

Cardiff.—September 27: The Osiris, for Montevideo. The Presto, for Halifax, N.S.—September 28: The Darien, for Cuba. The Minuet, for Bermuda.—September 29: The Flying Eagle, for Bermuda.—September 30: The Aeron Vale, for Buenos Ayres. The Dodo, for Rio Janeiro. The Chatsworth, for Callao. The Lakemba, The Venus, for Bermuda.—October 1, The George and Henry, for Buenos Ayres.

Clyde.—September 29: The Greenock, for Demerara. The Queen Bee, for Buenos Ayres.

Belfast.—September 30: The Arcadian, for Miramichi.

Southampton.—October 3: The Tasmanian (steamer), for West Indies.

Salcombe.—October 1: The Mary Ellen, for Terceira.

Waterford.—September 30: The Dumfries, for Halifax, N.S.

Londonderry.—October 3: The B. de Wolfe, for Bermuda.

Matanzas.—September 9: The Barbata, for Belfast.

Demerara.—August 27: The Gondola, for London.—September 1: The Fanny, for Bristol. The Elizabeth, for Queenstown.—September 2: The Ilra, for Liverpool. The Victoria, for Queenstown.—September 3: The Wave Queen, for London.

Ships Loading.

At London.—For Bermuda: The Jane Smith, The Hansa, The Koh-i-noor, The Ocean Spray, The Western Star. For Bahia: The Antonia Hendrika Carolina. For Halifax, N.S.: The Britain's Pride, The Augusta Kelly, The Young Nova Scotian. For Nassau (N.P.): The Merchant; Davison Brothers & Co. The Refuge, J. Worley. The Magna Bona. For Montevideo and Buenos Ayres: The Gustave and Marie; Davison Brothers & Co., St. Katharine's Docks. For New York: The Lafayette (mail steamer), from Havre, October 19; Stringer, Pembroke & Co.—For West Indies: The Tampico (mail steamer) from St. Nazaire. October 16. For Callao: The Star of the Sea. For Belize: The Sheffield.

At Liverpool.—For Bermuda: The Nutfield, The Madonna, The Mary Bond; Peniston & Co. The William Sinclair. For Bermuda and Jamaica: The Jane Doull. For Halifax: The Morning Star, The Roseway, The British Lion. For Matamoras: The Oleander, The St. George, The James, The Geertina, The Albion, The Gleaner. For Nassau (N.P.): The May Garland, The Ellen, The Sovereign, The Henry Adderley, The Aid. For St. Thomas: The Canondah, The Amalie, The Mexican (steamer), The Granadian (steamer).

At Bristol.—For St. Thomas: The Tweed.

At Gloucester.—For Bermuda: The Mavonroen.

At Cardiff.—For Bermuda: The Admiral Kanaris C. Rapier, The Augusta. For Nassau: The Zeletta, The King Mou. For St. Thomas: The Lacoste.

At Newport.—For Bermuda: The Mavourneen, The Eva. For St. Nazaire: The Trois Frères. For Quebec: The Crimea. For St. Thomas: The Queen of Britain, The Albert, The Tweed.

At Swansea.—For Quebec: The Consul.

At Glasgow.—For Halifax: The David M'Nutt. For Halifax, N.S.: The Delhi. For Nassau: The H. Denny. For St. Thomas: The C. Frederick.

Among the Contents of The Index *of September* 29 *are*:—

The Northern Peace Party.
Notes on Events of the Week at Home and Abroad.
General M'Clellan and the Peace Democrats.
Selling White Men at Auction.
Extracts from Southern Papers.
Operations of the Democratic Party.
The War.
Washington Diplomatists.
The Modern Cremona.
New Prospects of the Roman Question.
The Confederate Cause in Lancashire.
An Abolitionist Clergyman on Southern Independence.
Letter from New York.
Disturbances at Turin.
Federal Rule in Memphis, Tennessee.
Affairs Financial and Commercial.
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It is intended to hold a Bazaar in St. George's Hall, on the 18th inst., in Aid of the Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund. Many Ladies, in addition to those named, have promised their active aid.

The suffering of the Southern Prisoners of War in sickness, wounds, and deprivation of every comfort of life; the multitudes of widows to whom nothing remains and of orphans unable to help themselves - form an amount of woe, which some who are blessed here with abundance and peace have felt a desire to alleviate.

Efforts have already been made, and not without success, through reliable friends in the Northern States, but unhappily the field is so wide that aid is now required to replace the means already provided and exhausted.

It is hoped that you will not refuse your assistance in this work of humanity. The Committee will be glad to hear in what form you will aid them, if disposed to do so, and will attend at once to any suggestion with which you may oblige them.

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Please address communications to Mr. Spence, Fenwick Street, Liverpool.

Liverpool October 1, 1864.

BY AUTHORITY.

REGULATIONS TO CARRY INTO EFFECT THE ACT TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS UPON THE FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENCE, APPROVED FEBRUARY 6, 1864.

I.—As to the Sea.

1. The owners of any vessel intending to sail from a Confederate port with a cargo consisting in whole or in part of cotton, tobacco, military and naval stores, sugar, molasses, or rice, shall, before the lading on board of any such articles, file with the collector of the port from which the vessel is to sail a copy of her register, with a declaration of the names of the owners and officers thereof, the place of their birth, and of their residence for the preceding year, together with the port or place to which the said vessel proposes to sail. The said declaration shall also set forth the quantity and value, in Confederate currency, of the cargo proposed to be taken out, as also the consent of the said owners that one-half of the tonnage of the said vessel may be employed by the Confederate Government for its own use, both on the outward and homeward voyage, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned. The collector shall submit a statement as to the owners and officers to the military commandant of the port; and if he shall not object to their loyalty, or to the sailing vessel, for reasons of military necessity, the collector shall grant a permit for the lading of said vessel, one-half for account of the owners, and one-half for account of the Confederate States.

2. Before the said lading shall be completed, the owners of the vessel shall execute to the Confederate States a bond in one-half the value of the vessel, with security deemed adequate by the collector, conditioned that she will pursue the voyage designated, and that she will return with reasonable despatch to a Confederate port, after her outward cargo shall be discharged, with a cargo consisting one-half of articles not prohibited by the laws of the Confederate Government, and the other half of such articles as the Government shall offer for shipment from such port, at the rate of freight hereinafter mentioned.

3. Each shipper of any portion of the cargo proposed to be laden on board the said vessel shall, before the lading thereof, make application to the collector for a permit to lade the same; which application shall declare the articles to be shipped, and the quantity and value thereof in Confederate currency, the port of destination, and the name of the consignee. A permit shall then be granted by the collector, if the application is deemed satisfactory. The lading shall be had under the inspection of a revenue officer, who shall be charged with the duty of seeing that the goods laden conform to the permit.

4. Before the completion of the lading on board, or the granting a clearance, each shipper of any portion of the cargo shall execute and deliver to the collector a bond to the Confederate States, in one-half the value of his shipment in Confederate money, with security deemed adequate by the collector, with condition that at least one-half the net proceeds of said shipment shall be invested in goods or articles not prohibited by law; and said goods or articles shall be shipped by the same or some other vessel to the Confederate States within sixty days from the unlading of said cargo.

5. The freight to be paid by the Confederate States on all cotton and tobacco shipped from a Confederate port shall be fivepence sterling per pound, payable on delivery at the port of destination, in coin or sterling exchange. Return freight shall be at the rate of 20*l.* per ton, payable on its delivery in a Confederate port, in cotton, at twelvepence sterling per pound for middling uplands, and at a proportionate price for cotton of other qualities; or, at the option of the Government, in specie or sterling exchange. In calculating the ton of freight by weight, 2,240 pounds shall be allowed; by measure, forty cubic feet shall be allowed.

6. The rates of freight for articles other than cotton and tobacco shall be adjusted at the same relative rate, and payable in the same way.

7. The Government reserves the right to limit or prohibit the shipment of rosin, turpentine, or any manufacture thereof, whenever deemed dangerous to its own shipment.

8. Upon the completion of the lading of the vessel, and before receiving her clearance, there shall be delivered to the collector, in addition to the usual manifest, another, setting forth the names, ages, and description of the officers and crew, and of every passenger intending to sail in her. The said last-mentioned manifest shall be delivered to the commandant of the port, who shall thereupon cause the entire vessel to be searched; and if satisfied that the parties on board are persons who may safely be permitted to leave the Confederacy, and that the passengers have the proper passports, he shall certify the same on the manifest, and return the same to the collector; whereupon, and not before, a clearance shall be granted to the vessel, and she shall be permitted to sail.

9. The owners of each vessel, and of each portion of a cargo, sailing from a Confederate port, shall be allowed to take up their respective bonds by producing to the collector the certificate of the proper agent of the Confederate Government at the port of delivery, setting forth the particulars, showing that the said party has complied with the obligation of the said bonds so far as the same was practicable; and the collector, upon being duly satisfied, shall be authorised to surrender the said bonds.

10. Nothing in these regulations shall be so construed as to conflict with the proviso of the law which declares 'that nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit the Confederate States, or any of them, from exporting any of the articles herein enumerated on their own account,' nor shall a bond be required of a State in any case.

11. The penalties of all bonds executed in conformity with these regulations shall be recoverable in full, on proof of breach of the conditions of the bond, and without proof of any damage suffered by the Confederate States in consequence of such breach; and all bonds shall be executed in such form as to give effect to this regulation.

12. Vessels sent into the Confederacy for the purpose of exporting cotton received in payment of any Confederate bond or obligation, shall be subject to these regulations only so far as relates to such portion of the tonnage, if any, as may remain vacant after the lading of the cotton received in payment as aforesaid.

13. Whenever any vessel shall bring into the Confederate States an entire cargo for account of the Confederate States, the owners of the said vessel and the shippers of her cargo shall be relieved from the bonds previously given to invest and bring in one half of the net proceeds of her outward cargo; and the certificate of the agent of the Treasury Department, at the port of lading, that such cargo was duly shipped in pursuance of the regulations, shall authorise the collector to cancel and surrender the said bonds.

G. A. Trenholm, Secretary of the Treasury.
J. A. Seddon, Secretary of War.

Approved August 3, 1861,

Jefferson Davis.

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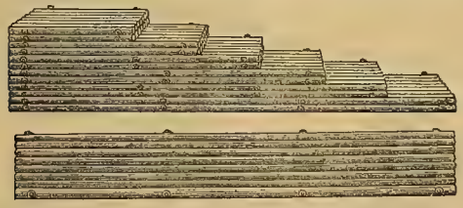

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THE INDEX

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NOTICE.

OFFICES OF THE INDEX.

On Saturday, October 22, the Offices of THE INDEX *will be removed to*

291 STRAND.

Our Offices in Bouverie Street have long been too confined for the transaction of our business, and we are therefore compelled to make this change.

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The Situation of the South.

'ALL with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians."' Likely enough, the silversmiths prevailed for a time, and the multitude were persuaded that Diana was a real god, and that ST. PAUL was an impostor. Clamour will often drown the voice of reason. We doubt not that the hoarse shouts of victory proceeding from those who fear that peace in America would put an end to their profitable trade, have led some persons to suppose that the South is about to pass under the Yankee yoke. Wonderful credulity! Wonderful that any person can believe that the smallest of mice has brought forth the biggest of mountains. On September 1 the North was sick of the war; after four years of tremendous effort it was confessed that the South was unconquered; the cry was for M'CLELLAN and peace; Mr. LINCOLN was deserted by many of his prominent supporters; the *New York Herald*, the ready exponent of the popular sentiment, demanded an armistice; the Federal Generals were urgent for reinforcements, but the Administration postponed the draft; and gold was at 260. On October 1 gold in New York had fallen to 190; the old talk of Southern subjugation was renewed; LINCOLN was the favourite candidate; loyal contractors ceased their croaking and thanked God that there was no chance of peace interfering with their profits. Why this change? Has Richmond fallen? Has Mobile been captured? Has Charleston surrendered after a five hundred days' siege? No; not one of these events, which might have palliated, though it could not justify, the Northern enthusiasm, has happened. Two reasons are assigned for the ecstasy of the North. General SHERMAN is in Atlanta asking and waiting for reinforcements, with a Confederate army in his front and a Confederate force operating in his rear. General SHERIDAN, with 40,000 men, has at a cost of 5,000 men forced EARLY, with 20,000 men, to retreat to a fortified position. Such are the achievements that Mr. LINCOLN's loud-mouthed prophets declare to be the immediate forerunners of the conquest of the South. So they said after the fall of Nashville, after the fall of New Orleans, after the fall of Vicksburg; though, after all these reverses, the South has, with dauntless resolution and with undiminished strength, chastised her insolent, boasting enemy. It is irksome for us to answer such folly, but it is a duty from which we must not shrink. The mendacity of the Federals does not hurt the South. It signifies not to the Confederates that Mr. LINCOLN for electioneering purposes thanks the Almighty for bogus victories. But Mr. LINCOLN's prophets do not labour in vain. Through their European organs they ensnare many victims. The Federal Administration wants men and money, and the one is procured in Ireland, and the other in Germany, by aid of the audacious misrepresentations of Mr. LINCOLN's European organs. Whether our warning be heeded or not, it is incumbent upon us to expose the fraud. Moreover, in the interests of peace we are bound to set forth the true state of the case; for our silence might be construed into an admission that the task of subjugation is not hopeless, and so we might do harm to the cause of peace. We are aware that our sensitiveness in this respect will be called pusillanimity, just as the frankness of the Confederate authorities, who will not lie and call defeat victory, is referred to as evidence of despair. But we never have concealed, and never will conceal, our desire to see this vain and bloody war ended. We are not War-Christians, and we could not enjoy the carnage, even though we could coin every drop of blood into cents and dollars.

Frequent changes of fortune are characteristic of all wars, and though in the present American war it will be admitted that the balance of success is heavily in favour of the Confederates, their success has not been uninterrupted. Look at the campaigns of the past spring and summer. In Florida a Federal army was utterly routed. On the Red River BANKS was signally defeated. In vain attempts to get to Richmond GRANT sacrificed a hundred thousand men. Against this what are the vaunted triumphs of the Federals? But we are not going to compare the military performances of North and South. Victories in the field and the capture of cities do not always presage a final triumph. If they did, the Netherlands would not have escaped from the dominion of Spain, and the United States would still have been appendages to the crown of England. It is a happy omen that the South has been so fortunate in war, but her independence rests upon a surer foundation than even the triumphs of her military genius and her devoted heroism. The North has not merely to conquer the Southern armies, but also the Southern people. It has failed to do the first, and the latter is a task the like of which has never yet been accomplished.

It will not be denied that the North has been at her best and the South has been at her worst. The North has put forth all her strength, and in four years has accumulated an oppressive debt and fearfully depleted her fighting population. In 1861 she had abundance of money, abundance of men, a navy without an opponent, and the Administration was permitted to disregard all rights and laws in order to push on the war. On the other hand, the South was taken at a fearful disadvantage. The young Confederacy was without an army and without arms. She was cut off from the markets of Europe. In her vast territory there was not a gun factory, not a rolling mill, not a powder-mill. As yet her iron mines had been unexplored; as yet no saltpetre had been collected in the country. Nay, even in the common necessaries of life the Confederacy was deficient. She was without clothing, and by a barbarous edict she was deprived of medicines. Look at the Confederacy of to-day. In 1861 she was the most dependent, now she is the most independent, nation on the face of the earth. Now, if the blockade were indeed effective, and the South completely cut off from communication with the rest of the world, the Confederates could continue the struggle. Necessary food they have in abundance, and articles of luxury they have learned to do without. Soldiers and civilians are comfortably clad in homespun and long cloth, the production of Southern cotton mills. Patriot armies in the South are not so gaudily arrayed as the mercenaries of Mr. LINCOLN, but they are as well furnished with weapons and ammunition. The North has been at its best, and the South at her worst.

What has the North done? Military critics who doubted not the ultimate triumph of the South, were of opinion that the Federal armies would march through the Confederacy and occupy the principal towns of the South without much opposition or difficulty. Very different indeed has been the result. Except New Orleans and Nashville, no large town in the South has been taken. Richmond, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, and Wilmington have not been conquered; yet all these places are comparatively accessible to the forces of the enemy. The Mississippi River is closed against commerce, in spite of the gunboats of the Federals. In Louisiana the enemy holds New Orleans and a few plantations. Texas is almost free from the invader. The Federals are represented in Arkansas by a solitary garrison. Altogether the invader holds less Southern territory now than he did in 1863. But if the North has not been able to overcome the South with unimpaired resources, how will she do so with a crippled treasury and a diminished army?

It may be asked if the South has not suffered as well as the North, and if she has not less means to oppose to the impaired resources of the enemy. Where is the evidence of Southern exhaustion? Is she in want of arms and ammunition? Certainly not. Is she in want of food and clothing? Even the partisans of Mr. LINCOLN cease to prate about the South being starved out. Are the Southern armies less numerous? They were never stronger, they were never so strong as at present. There has been a terrible loss of life, but it is not an exhaustive loss. Does any one suppose that the casualties on the Southern side—we mean the killed and those too severely wounded to resume service—are equal to one thousand a week? Now, a reference to the Southern population tables will show that the number of males annually attaining the military age is 80,000. The accessions to the army are greater than the most exaggerated estimate of losses. The Southern armies, then, cannot be weakened by the continuance of the war on the scale of the last four years, and the North cannot increase its war power.

We have said that the North has to conquer not only the armies but the people of the South. Now, the North has not yet acquired a yard of Southern territory. The Federals have held New Orleans for more than two years, yet they have made no way in the State of Louisiana, and if the Federal troops were withdrawn there would not be a ghost of Union feeling in New Orleans. What would become of Unionism in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Maryland, if the Federal forces were withdrawn? It is only by force of arms that Mr. LINCOLN can maintain 'loyalty' in the North; he has utterly failed in a single instance to convert by force of arms a town or village of the South to Unionism. What follows from this? If the whole South is to be kept in the Union, it must be garrisoned as well as overcome. But that cannot be done. If the Southern people will not submit—if they will contend to the last—they cannot be subjugated. 'True!' exclaims the War-Christian; 'then we will exterminate the people of the South.' That, too, is an impossible task. The experiment

of exterminating a people has been tried under far more favourable circumstances, and has invariably and completely failed. But in vain are all the lessons of the past. History perpetually repeats itself. The actors are different, the costumes are changed, the stage is new, but the plot of the drama is the same. The worst follies of the Governments of the Old World are repeated by the Government at Washington. When the colonies revolted from the mother-country, the colonists learned how invincible is a resolute people, inhabiting a large country, against apparently overwhelming numbers. But the lesson is forgotten; and now we find the North trying to conquer the South, though the numerical odds are not nearly so much in her favour as were the odds in favour of England in the contest with her colonies. History abounds with examples of subjugated nations; but there is no example of a united people falling under a foreign dominion.

In writing on this topic we are somewhat in the position of the village pedagogue who endeavoured to prove to a thick-skulled clodhopper an axiom of Euclid. What can we do for those who dispute the logic of facts? After four years of war the South has larger armies in the field than at any former period. Does this point to her speedy subjugation? After four years of war the North occupies less Southern territory than she did after two years of war. Does this indicate the immediate conquest of the South? After four years of war the North has not brought a hamlet within the Union. Does this indicate the coming submission of the South? The North has solicited the South to come back to the Union on her own terms, and the South has refused all such overtures. Does this hold out any hope of the restoration of the Union? Recruits in the North are becoming scarce and dear, the finances of the North are becoming more and more deranged, the people of the North are becoming more and more divided. Do these things promise a more triumphant prosecution of the foreign war? Humanly speaking, the task undertaken by the North was an impossible one, and the events of the war and the present situation demonstrate the impossibility.

The war may go on for months and perhaps for years. It may be that the Northern Government will be strong enough to force its subjects to replenish its armies, and that the fiat of bankruptcy will not stop the war. But the South has nothing to dread on account of her independence. It is sorrowful beyond expression that more names are to be added to the long list of martyrs to the cause of Southern liberty, but that liberty will not be crushed by the madness of the North. It is the North that will suffer most by the prolongation of hostilities. A few weeks hence it will be seen that the present ecstasy is as unfounded as the former jubilations over the discomfiture of the South. Surely the hour is at hand when the Lincolnites will not be able to dupe Ireland and Germany, and rob the one of her sons and the other of her money. Surely the hour is at hand when even the people of the North will see things as they are, and will refuse any longer to be the tools and victims of New England politicians and loyal contractors.

Northern Repudiation.—The *New York Herald* of September 27 has an article to show that repudiation is the fiscal policy of the Republican party. It says: 'Will the people elect as President a man whose policy, and that of his party, is repudiation? The record of Mr. Lincoln and his party, since they came into power in 1861, has been consistently that of repudiation. For example, the Indian annuities are paid in greenbacks, in open violation of treaties wherein the faith of the United States is solemnly pledged that they shall be paid in coin. The recent Indian outbreaks were mainly caused by this unjust act on the part of Mr. Lincoln, and the expense of putting down the Indians will cost millions of dollars and the lives of many valuable citizens. In Pennsylvania the Republican party adopted repudiation as its fiscal policy, by passing a law to pay the interest of the State debt in greenbacks, instead of gold coin, in open violation of the special contract of the loan, ratified by a State law at the time the money was loaned, that the principal and interest should be paid in gold coin of the United States, or in London or Paris. The Republican party did the same thing in the State of New York, in open violation of the New York State laws, which recognise no money but gold and silver. These facts, and the continued enormous issues of paper money by the Administration and national banks, favour the opinion entertained now by many intelligent and influential Republicans, that nothing can save the country from disgraceful repudiation if Mr. Lincoln is re-elected.

The War in Virginia.—The *New York World* gives the following estimate of Federal losses in three years' war in Virginia:—

Pope's campaign—killed and wounded	20,000
Fredericksburg " "	20,000
Chancellorsville " "	22,000
From the Rapidan to the James	80,000
From the James to the mine	30,000
Under Butler	10,000
In the Shenandoah	30,000
Total	212,000

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

Advices from Virginia, received through the Federal newspapers, represent that General Ord's corps of the army of General Grant advanced upon the Confederate lines on the north side of James River on the morning of September 29, capturing, according to one telegram, a strong line of intrenchments in his front, together with 15 guns and 100 prisoners, and according to another taking the fortifications of Chapin's Farm with 15 guns and 200 prisoners. There is some confusion here, which becomes greater when the two statements are compared with the latest telegram of all, namely, that 'on Thursday (the 29th) the Federals were within five miles of Richmond, and General Burnham was killed. One division of the 18th Corps suffered severely.' Chapin's Farm is nine miles below Richmond, and we can only reconcile these conflicting reports by supposing that after the capture of Chapin's Farm—if indeed that point *was* taken by General Ord—the Federals advanced four miles along roads strongly defended, fought a serious engagement, and were signally defeated. The defeat is probable enough from the Federal admission as to the 18th Corps, but the place where it occurred is matter of doubt. Simultaneously with these movements, General Birney is stated to have advanced on Deep Bottom and carried some important works on the New Market Road. The following day, so General Butler reports, an assault of the Confederates, in three columns, near Chapin's Farm, was repulsed, which gives us additional embarrassment in comprehending the situation. The Northern accounts are the more difficult to understand for the reason that they give their own names to localities in Virginia. We know of no Fort Morgan on James River and no Junction Hill in the region around Richmond, yet Birney is reported as having arrived at the one and Ord as having taken the other. On the south side of James River General Warren claims to have carried the Confederate lines on the right, and General Meade is said to occupy a position at Poplar Grove. The indications are that all these reported successes of the Federals are preliminary to an approaching general engagement between Generals Lee and Grant, of which the result may be of very great importance.

The operations in the Valley of Virginia, again, are not very clearly stated in the telegrams. It seems tolerably certain that on Monday, September 26, four days after the fight at Fisher's Hill, Early repulsed Sheridan at Broom's Gap, and pursued him for six miles to Port Republic, and, we may infer, yet further; for on Thursday, the 29th, according to the Federal account, Early was compelled *to fall back* to Port Republic, so that he must have advanced beyond that point. Sheridan's cavalry, under Torbet, destroyed a considerable quantity of property at Staunton and Waynesboro', but retreated upon Harrisonburg, fearing to attack a Confederate force stationed at the Blue Ridge Tunnel for its defence.

General Forrest is operating successfully in Sherman's rear in North Alabama and Tennessee. At Athens he captured 1,300 prisoners, 2 guns, and a large quantity of stores, and afterwards destroyed the bridge over the Elk River and thirty miles of the railway between Athens and Pulaski. From Pulaski he passed through Fayetteville to the railway connecting Nashville with Bolivar, a link of the Nashville and Chattanooga line, a considerable portion of which he rendered unserviceable, and then fell back upon Fayetteville. He took two trains on the Chattanooga railway, and destroyed the trestle-work and bridge at Elkhorn. General Rosecrans was sent out to oppose him, but, fearing a flank movement on the part of Forrest, retreated to Nashville. It seems quite clear that all Sherman's communications with Nashville are cut off.

Great alarm had been excited among the Federals in Missouri by the advance of General Price with a force estimated at 30,000 men. Generals Kirby Smith and Shelley, it is stated, were acting in cooperation with him. General Price, after occupying successively Mineral Point, Pilot Knob, and Potosi, was marching upon St. Louis. General Rosecrans had called upon the people to take up arms, and all business at St. Louis had been suspended.

Late news from Texas represents the condition of the country as most gratifying. The cotton crop is large, and the grain crops are exceedingly favourable. The *Houston Telegraph* says: 'The wealth of corn produced this year in Texas is something wonderful. From all accounts the most overwhelming crop has been produced—enough to supply the State two years.' There were no military movements. General Magruder has been placed in command of the district of Arkansas. General Walker has been put in his place at Houston, Texas, and General Buckner in command of the district of West Louisiana. Brigadier-General Slaughter takes command of the line of the Rio Grande, and of the road from the mouth of that river to the mouth of the Colorado.

The *Charleston Courier* of September 22 reports that the Federals had kept up a brisk fire on the city for three days. The only casualty was breaking down a shed and injuring a little child.

The sad duty which the progress of the war in America imposes upon us with melancholy frequency of announcing the death of Confederate officers in battle, now calls on us to announce the loss of two generals slain in the recent battles between Sheridan and Early near Winchester. General Robert E. Rodes, who fell commanding a division, entered the military service as Captain of a Tuscaloosa company in 1861, but soon became the Colonel of the 5th Alabama Regiment, and rose rapidly from this position to the high grade of major-general. He was a native of Lynchburg, Virginia, and a graduate in the Class of 1848 of the Virginia Military Institute. Conspicuous for his gallantry on many fields, and bearing two honourable wounds, he was greatly beloved by his immediate command, and was justly esteemed as one of the most gallant and accomplished officers in the Confederate army.

Brigadier-General A. C. Godwin, who was also among the killed mentioned in the despatch of General Lee, was at one time Provost-Marshal of Richmond, and went into the field as the colonel of a North Carolina regiment. He had been promoted for good conduct to a brigadier-generalship but a short time previous to his death.

The report that Cortina had occupied Brownsville, on the Rio Grande, and raised the Union flag, is denied in the correspondence of the *New York Herald* from Brazos Santiago, under date of September 13. Some fighting had occurred near the field of Palo Alto between the Federal Major Noyes, commanding a mixed force of United States troops and Mexicans, and the Confederate General Ford, with unimportant results, when the combatants retired to Brazos Santiago and Brownsville respectively.

Mr. Blair has ceased to be Federal Postmaster-General. On September 23, Mr. Lincoln wrote to him: 'You have generously said to me more than once that whenever your resignation could be a relief to me it was at my disposal. The time is come. . . . In the three years and a half that you have administered the General Post-Office, I remember no single complaint against you in connection therewith.' Why should it be a relief to Mr. Lincoln to get rid of this faithful Minister? In some quarters it is asserted that Mr. Blair is kicked out to please the friends of Mr. Chase. We believe the immediate cause of Mr. Blair's dismissal was the new compact between Fremont and Lincoln. There has been a long and bitter feud between the Blair and Fremont factions, and it is worthy of note that, the day after General Fremont publicly withdrew from the canvass for the Presidency, Mr. Blair was summarily turned out. This is one, but not the only, reason of Fremont's return to 'loyalty.' On the occasion of a lady applying to Mr. Lincoln to release some political prisoners, he said, 'Oh, those are Seward's prisoners. I cannot "boss" in this business.' The President very earnestly though vulgarly defends his position. He is only the titular master of the White House. Whether the members of his Cabinet are agreeable or disagreeable, he cannot retain or dismiss them except at the bidding of the wirepullers whose puppet he is. The resignation of Mr. Blair is not of much political importance. It indicates, however, that there is a split not only in the Republican party, but also in the ranks of the Lincolnites.

The new Postmaster-General is Mr. William Dennison, of Ohio, the son of the projector of the well-known Dennison House Committee. He was at one time a Whig, but became an Abolitionist. In 1859 he was elected Governor of Ohio. When the war broke out his name became notorious in connection with 'tin cup' contests and other peculations in the organisation of the State militia. His friends declare that he was slandered, and that the charges were invented by members of his party who did not obtain offices or contracts.

General Fremont has withdrawn from the Presidential contest. In his letter to the Cleveland Convention Committee, he says:—'In respect to Mr. Lincoln I continue to hold exactly the sentiments contained in my letter of acceptance. I consider that his administration has been, politically, militarily, and financially, a failure, and that its necessary continuance is a cause of regret for the country.' But he will not oppose Mr. Lincoln, because men were not found willing 'to make public a dissatisfaction and condemnation which could have rendered Mr. Lincoln's nomination impossible;' and as 'united the Republican party is really sure of success, divided the result of the Presidential election is at the least doubtful,' General Fremont will vote for the continuance of an administration that 'has been, politically, militarily, and financially, a failure.' It is a question of party, not of the welfare of the country. If the Democrats came in, Fremont and his friends would not be rewarded out of the Federal treasury for their loyalty and their philanthropy.

As General Fremont has withdrawn, there is not an anti-slavery candidate for the Presidency of the United States. The *New York Herald* says: 'Lincoln cares as little about the negro as M'Clellan does. Seward shows no more sympathy for him than Vallandigham does. Grant does not seem to attach any more importance to his existence than does Sherman, who, in clearing Atlanta of its population, gave the negroes their choice of either going South with their owners or rendering military service to the United States. And, strangely enough, the same supreme indifference on the question of negro slavery seems to prevail as completely in the rebel as in the loyal States. The only real question now is, that of a united or of a divided republic.' The reason is sufficiently obvious. The South did not secede to preserve an institution that the North was and is willing to uphold and support; and the North does not fight for emancipation, but for subjugation. The North is willing to support slavery if the South will reenter the Union—the South will not give up her independence on any condition.

A correspondence is published between Generals Hood and Sherman on the subject of an exchange of prisoners, man for man, which General Hood proposed and General Sherman accepted, but subsequently receded from, declaring that he would not accept Federal soldiers whose terms of enlistment had expired in exchange for Confederates held by him. This

declaration is wholly unjustifiable, as being in direct conflict with the terms of the cartel originally agreed upon between the two Governments, and it must certainly be taken as indicating a heartless indifference on the part of the Federal commander to the sufferings of men who have fought well for the cause of the Union. Several days after this correspondence a special exchange of 2,000 men was negotiated between the two generals, and 700 Federals had been delivered up under its provisions.

Wall Street was agitated by a report that Vice-President Stephens, Governor Brown of Georgia, and General Sherman were about to negotiate a separate peace for Georgia. Very great is the gullibility of Wall Street, and so possibly some persons half believed that Vice-President Stephens and Governor Brown were capable of such treachery and folly, and that the people of Georgia would consent to be handed over to the Yankees. It is now said that Sherman has made peace propositions, and that Governor Brown has referred him to the Confederate Government. The whole affair is only one of Mr. Lincoln's electioneering dodges. At the beginning of the month the Peace party was in the ascendant, and Mr. Lincoln was desirous of conciliating the Peace party in case of need. Therefore, Sherman was instructed to open some kind of negotiations. The whole affair was doubtless arranged in Washington.

The fluctuations in the price of gold in New York have been violent, and business has been completely unsettled. The quotation on October 1 was 190.

ENGLAND.

The great handicap of the year was fought out at Newmarket on Tuesday last with more than usual excitement. With ninety acceptances of the weights as imposed by Admiral Rous, and with, as the result proved, a net stake of 1,765*l.* to be won, interest was raised to a considerable pitch. Neither in the present year was there that overwhelming superiority of any one horse at the weights which last year brought the name of Lioness into prominence, and destroyed the whole importance of the race. The Cesarewitch Stakes—a free handicap of 25 sovs. each, 15 forfeit, and 200*l.* added—is open to all horses of the age of three years and upwards. The course over which the race is run being in length two miles and two furlongs, with but one gentle turn, is the finest running ground in the world. On the one side of the famous Devil's Dyke lie two miles of ground, and on the other a like expanse—the whole constituting the celebrated four-mile course, over which the heroes of old have fought for the 'Whip' and 200*l.* with all the zeal which a Derby can evoke. Now-a-days, owners and trainers shrink from exposing valuable horses to such exertions, yet even the peasants of the neighbourhood can tell how Stockwell and Kingston, each carrying 140 lbs. weight, raced from end to end of the four miles as though the distance was a trifle, and the fate of the world hung on their prowess. The two middle miles and a few additional yards of this four-mile course constitute the running ground for the Cesarewitch. At no portion of the course is there any rise or fall in the plain of any note, but in the last 200 yards there is a decided incline, down which the horses descend before breasting the final rise which terminates with the winning-post. In fact, the race for the Cesarewitch ends at the same place which marks the finish for the Two Thousand Guineas Stakes, and experienced observation loves to mark how the flashy jades stop as the final slope is attained. On Tuesday, twenty-nine horses appeared at the starting-post for the event, and of these Gratitude, four years, with an impost of 6 st., was made the favourite, at the odds of 100 to 30. 9 to 2 was betted against Mr. William Day's Mail Train, three years, 6 st. 10 lbs., who came to Newmarket from Woodyeates armed with a reputation fit for the winner of a dozen great handicaps, and who was the favourite with that part of the sporting community who have a small bet on every big race, never see above one contest in the year, and scarcely know a horse from a bull. 100 to 15 were the odds against Thalestris, four years, 6 st. 2 lbs.; 100 to 7 against Mr. George Craven's Planet; 100 to 6 against the Brewer, a horse who must be about a dozen years of age, and who vainly essays at equal weights to beat animals of tender years; and 40 to 1 against Mr. Harry Hill's Ackworth, three years, 7 st., a weight perhaps rather greater than the antecedents of the horse could justify. Immediately on starting the Brewer made play, with Mail Train and the illustrious Tomato at his side, Thalestris and Gratitude lying in the same line at an interval. Before even a mile had been traversed three or four animals, such as Roly Poly, King Charming, and Charmian, were hopelessly beaten. Until the bushes were reached, that is, within 400 yards of the winning-post, the order of the leaders was maintained, the rest of the field, with the exception of the three hopeless ones, lying well up. At the bushes, however, Mail Train, Gratitude, Thalestris, Planet, and Dr. Syntax came to the front, and here Mail Train and the Doctor hung out evident signs of defeat, and, swerving across the course, nearly succeeded in penetrating the crowd of spectators on the hill. Gratitude was leading by three parts of a length, and loud were the shouts for the victory of the favourite; Thalestris, however, struggled on with great gameness, and, catching the favourite on the ascent of the hill, won a terrific race by a head. Mr. Hill's Ackworth, who, in spite of his impost, came with a gallant rush, finished about three-quarters of a length from Gratitude. Mail Train was fourth and Planet fifth. The winner, Thalestris, is the property of the Earl of Coventry, and is by Kingston out of Virago, the famous mare who, as a three-year-old, won twelve great races for that great sportsman, Mr. Padwick. After the termination of her career she was sold for 1,000*l.* as a brood mare, and she has bred foals to Orlando, the Flying Dutchman, and Stockwell, with a failure in results which has puzzled all the breeders in England. Indeed, one of the slowest horses that we have ever seen was her offspring by the Flying Dutchman. Gratitude is the property of Mr. Wybrow Robinson, and is own sister to Limosina, who, strangely enough, ran second for this same race last year. She is by Newminster out of Charity by Melbourne. On the same day the race for the Clearwell Stakes was also contested. The race is open to two-year-olds with a subscription of 30*l.* each. For it thirteen colts and fillies came to the post, of whom Count F. de Lagrange's Gladiateur, by Monarque of Miss Gladiator, was made the favourite at the odds of 7 to 4, with 3 to 1 against Captain White's Joker. The ring was right in its estimate, for the French horse won by a length, Joker was second, and Lord Hastings' Pantaloon was third.

The monthly report of Mr. Maclure, read at the meeting of the Executive Committee at Manchester, showed that on September 24 the number of operatives working full time was 212,520; short time, 102,047; and out of work, 135,821. The figures for the month of August were 299,229, 59,074, and 102,090, respectively. According to Mr. Farnall's report, there was an increase of persons receiving relief in 27 unions of 12,209, as compared with the number in the month of August. At the meeting of the General Committee, the report stated that 114,000 persons were now receiving relief in some form or other. The funds in hand were as follows:—The Central Fund, 118,623*l.*; the Cotton Districts Relief Fund, 55,995*l.*; the Liverpool Fund, 35,575*l.*; altogether, 210,193*l.* Sir J. Kay Shuttleworth, while holding that increase in the distress, though likely to be yet more severe, would not be prolonged, urged strongly upon the meeting that the funds in hand were not more than adequate, and that great caution and economy were necessary. He admitted that even if the distress fell for a period it would again rise at intervals with renewed force.

The Blackburn Relief Committee have published an exhaustive report of their proceedings from December 1861 to June 1864. The following is the summary given of the industry of the town before the American war, a perusal of which will give a fair idea of the manner in which the existence of Blackburn and similar places was bound up in the cotton trade:—

The population of the borough in 1861 was 63,126, and of this number it was estimated that 24,854 were directly employed in spinning or weaving cotton, and that an additional 3,000 were engaged in occupations immediately dependent upon the cotton trade. For each worker it may be fairly assumed that there is at least one dependent—an aged parent, a wife, or a child—thus making upwards of 55,000 persons whose welfare depended upon the prosperity of one trade. From the number of spindles and looms then in Blackburn we obtain a proximate estimate of the weekly earnings, and the extent and value of the yarns and cloth produced:—

Weekly Wages.

1,006,422 spindles, at $\frac{3}{4}$*d.* per spindle	£1,677
31,072 looms, at 5*s.* 3*d.* per loom	8,146
Wages for the preparation connected with the spinning department	1,677
Wages for same in weaving department, 31,072 looms at 1*s.* 9*d.*	2,715
Weekly wages of cotton operatives	£14,215
Added to which 3,000 mechanics, engineers, &c., at 25*s.* per week	3,750
Making a total amount of weekly wages of	£17,965

Weekly Production.

With American cotton at 6*d.* per lb., and cloth prices at 1*s.* per lb., which are about the average for ten years previous to the cotton famine for shirting qualities, the length and weight of cloth, and its average value, we assume as follows:—

31,072 looms, using each 45 lbs. of yarn per week	1,398,240 lbs.
31,072 looms, producing each 260 yards of cloth per week	8,073,720 yards
1,398,240 lbs. of cotton cloth, at 1*s.* per lb.	£69,912

The report next proceeds to detail the exertions made to relieve the distress. At the end of 1861 there were 471,636 spindles and 7,315 looms unproductive, and 5,757 workpeople unemployed. As time went on things became worse, until the number of persons in receipt of relief in various forms rose to 32,000. Independently of the expenditure for clothing, fuel, and on account of the infirmary and public kitchens, the actual sums of money distributed by the Committee amounted to 60,798*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*, and by the Board of Guardians to 50,423*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, making a total in 127 weeks of 111,222*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*

The mediation of Lord Leigh in the difficulties of the colliers' strike has hopelessly failed. A mass meeting of 4,000 colliers took place at the close of last week to hear the statement of the deputation with whom the Lord-Lieutenant of Warwickshire had been in communication. It appeared that the delegates had been twice received by his Lordship and treated by him with the greatest courtesy. On the third visit Lord Leigh said that the miners ought to make some concession. They, in answer, offered to go to work for a fortnight on the reduced terms with a promise of an advance after that date. To this proposition, however, the employers would not agree, but desired that the men should work for a month at the old rates. The delegates consented. This proposition, therefore, was made by Lord Leigh to the masters at the Hen and Chickens Hotel in Birmingham, where the masters were assembled in one room and the men in another. Lord Leigh, after conferring with the masters, proposed to the delegates that they should induce the men to resume work. On a refusal Lord Leigh, it is affirmed, offered the two delegates 10*l.* each to persuade the men. They refused the bribe, and thereupon Lord Leigh called the deputation fools, and fanatics, and madmen, said that they were the cause of all the distress, and that but for them the men would have gone to work. It was then resolved that the strike should continue until the masters sent for the men as a body, or published their intentions in the *Birmingham Daily Post*.

On Monday the colliers met in great force at Bilston. Detachments of men marched in, with bands at the heads of the columns, from all the neighbouring townships. They were followed by policemen to the number of 150 armed with sabres. At the meeting speeches were held denouncing Lord Leigh, and pledging the men to continue the strike till the masters gave way. The 80th Lancers are stationed at Birmingham, and horses are kept saddled day and night. A regiment of volunteers has also been kept under arms in Bingley Hall ready for emergencies. One instance has occurred of what are called strike outrages. An attempt was made to blow up the house of a collier who had gone to work at Lord Dudley's mines. The man and his family were at the time asleep. The roof of the cottage was blown off, but no one was injured.

General John Reeve, Colonel of the 61st Regiment of Foot, died last week. He entered the army in 1800 as ensign in the Grenadier Guards. He served in Sicily in 1806 and 1807, and with Sir John Moore in 1808 and 1809; was present at the battle of Corunna, and subsequently served in Walcheren and Cadiz. He was present at the passage of the Bidassoa, at Nivelle, and Nive. He served in the campaign of 1815, and fought at Quatre Bras and Waterloo.

The troop-ship *Urgent* arrived on Monday at Portsmouth from Quebec, and St. John's, Newfoundland, with the second battalion of the Scots Fusilier Guards on board, under the command of Colonel Stephenson.

Fraud and bankruptcy have been accustomed to go hand in hand, and just as the Leeds Banking Company has been hurried to speedy ruin by the operations of a forger, so now a respectable firm in the city of London has, by the fraud of the chief clerk, suffered a similar misfortune. Mr. A. Salomons, of Old Change, stopped payment last week, and the suspension is attributed to forgeries and defalcations to the amount of 40,000*l.* by a man who for twenty-five years had served in the establishment, and latterly had filled the confidential position of cashier. This individual had left his desk for a few days' recreation. His prolonged absence created suspicions, which a letter of confession amply justified. The forger is believed to have gone to Liverpool; and though a warrant has been issued for his apprehension, it is not improbable that he is already far on his voyage to New York. His name is James Allen Thornley, and in his letter of confession he states that he had engaged in extensive speculations to recover losses sustained on account of a brother. Up to the end of 1862 he had abstracted 7,500*l.*, and in November 1863 his plunder had grown to 25,000*l.* He committed the forgeries by tracing the writing over the genuine bills. Within the past month large sums had been paid for differences. The forger had a considerable amount open in Spanish stock, and hoped by holding on to receive by the Spanish Passives and Certificates a sufficient sum to retrieve his position.

Everyone who has laboured under the idea that the great ship of war the *Royal Sovereign* was intended to take the sea, to form in line of battle with the Channel fleet, or even to cruise off the coasts, will be disappointed on learning that her vocation is that of 'a floating battery for harbour defence, capable of being sent to any port in the Channel, but not adapted to the performance of more active operations.' She has now been attached to the *Excellent* as a tender, Captain Osborne, the first lieutenant, and the complement of men required for further experiments and ordinary management only being retained. Probably some explanation will be offered by the Government of the merits and faults of the ship as disclosed by her trial trip. There is a strong belief in the skill of Captain Cowper Coles, and in the truth of his theories; but inasmuch as all England looked upon the *Royal Sovereign* as a sea-going ship, an account of her capabilities will be awaited with much interest.

Another member of the system of railway bridges destined to connect the southern lines with the northern bank of the Thames, and eventually with the eastern, northern, and western lines of railroad, has been completed. On October 6, the directors of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company, with Mr. Cubitt, the engineer, and Mr. Kennard, the contractor, passed in a trial trip train over the new bridge at Blackfriars, and across the new viaduct in Earl Street to the station above Ludgate Hill. The bridge is 939 feet long and 56 feet wide. The weight of the iron in the bridge is 3,000 tons. Three hundred men and boys were employed on the work of making the bridge for eight months.

Sir Moses Montefiore has attended by special invitation a meeting of the Court of Common Council convened in Guildhall, to receive the resolution which was passed in April last, tendering the thanks of the corporation for the signal services rendered by him to the cause of humanity in having undertaken missions to various countries in relief of oppressed communities, especially for his journey to Morocco, whereby he obtained from the Sultan the relief of the Jewish and Christian inhabitants from all disabilities. The resolution was presented to him emblazoned on parchment, and splendidly framed, and the gift was enhanced by an address replete with eulogy delivered by the Lord Mayor. It will be remembered that the venerable Baronet is now eighty years of age, and that he served the office of Sheriff in the year of Her Majesty's accession.

On Tuesday, the Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer arrived in Bolton, and was received by the

mayor and civic authorities. The town clerk read the address of the corporation, and Mr. Gladstone replied in a speech of considerable length, dwelling principally on the distress in Lancashire and the admirable attitude of the working-classes. On the following day Mr. Gladstone opened the People's Park at Farnworth, near Bolton. Mr. Gladstone is to visit Liverpool and Manchester towards the close of the present week.

IRELAND.

The conviction that the cultivation of flax in Ireland will be highly remunerative is gaining ground rapidly. At Cork, last week, a flax market was opened, at which nineteen loads of unscutched flax from the districts round Cork, and 140 stone of mill and hand-scutched flax from Limerick and the neighbourhood of Mallow and Clonakilty were offered for sale. On the following day the Cork Flax Spinning and Weaving Company held their first meeting on their new premises at Blackpool. The chairman, Mr. Maguire, M.P., explained at considerable length the operations and purposes of the company. The capital was 60,000*l.* in 6,000 shares of 10*l.* each. Mr. Maguire stated that in Ulster there was an increase within the last two years of 70,000 acres in the breadth of flax grown. He thought that for a generation cotton would not recover its position, and for twenty years flax would not be as low-priced as it was six years ago. The Americans would be obliged to impose a tax on the exportation of cotton in order to meet the enormous cost of the war, so that cotton would not for some time displace flax. After some other addresses, a list was opened and 132 shares were at once taken. The subscribed capital is now 28,140*l.*

On October 10, the seventy-fourth anniversary of the birth of the Very Reverend Theobald Mathew, the statue of the apostle of Temperance, raised to his honour by the citizens of Cork, was unveiled. The crowd present at the ceremony was enormous, the various Temperance Societies and the trades being drawn up in order with their banners and their bands. John Francis Maguire, M.P., Mayor of Cork, officiated, and delivered the inaugural address. The statue, by Mr. Foley, R.A., is of bronze, stands eight feet high, and in resemblance to the original, and the dignity and grace wherewith it is invested, is decidedly a masterpiece. Father Mathew is represented in the act of blessing the multitude to whom he has just administered the pledge. The statue cost 1,000*l.*, and was executed by Prince of London. The pedestal stands nine feet six inches high, and bears the inscription 'Mathew, Apostle of Temperance,' on the frieze; on the block are the words, 'The Tribute of a grateful People,' with the words inscribed on the back, 'Erected in the Mayoralty of John Francis Maguire, M.P., 1864.'

CANADA.

By order of the Imperial Government, a formal Convention of the Governments of the various British Provinces was to be held at Quebec on October 10, for the purpose of coming to a decision respecting the federation scheme, and in case of unanimity immediate steps were to be taken to frame the necessary laws. An opposition, however, is springing up in Lower Canada, and the scheme has been denounced in violent language by the organ of the Rouge party (*La Nationale*). A banquet had been given at Halifax, in honour of the delegates from Canada, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward's Isle. The custom-house at Quebec, completed in 1859 at a cost of $300,000, has been burned down.

Lord Lyons was on a visit to General Monck in the last week of September.

INDIA.

The accounts of the cotton crop in the Bombay Presidency are decidedly bad, and though it is pretty certain that the extent of land sown is greater than heretofore, yet the quantity of the present will fall short of that of the past year. The case is worse in Bengal, where the cotton crop will be much less than it was last year.

An embassy has arrived in Cashmere from the kingdom of Kokand, after three months of forced marching. The mission will attempt to procure the assistance of the Viceroy to resist the aggression of Russia upon Kokand. The ground upon which the support of the British Government is claimed for the sovereignty of Kokand is that the object of Russian aggression in Kokand is to obtain a base from which to attack the British Empire in India.

The expedition against the Bhootanese is to start at the close of the present month. The Bhootanese are fortifying Missagong in apprehension of an attack.

A Reign of Terror.— General Fry of Kentucky, and of Zollicoffer fame, has arrived at Paducah, having been sent from Washington, to investigate the reign of terror and blood of General Paine. The simple facts that will be substantiated upon this investigation will send a thrill of horror through the people of the civilised world. Paine was in command fifty-six days, and shot sixty-seven men, and no evidence can be found that a single one was ever tried by a military commission or court of any kind. He was at the guardhouse one day, and a prisoner happened to displease him, when he ordered the guard to shoot him down. A negro faithfully executed the order. When a prisoner was brought to General Paine, pronounced by his captors a rebel in arms, the matter was always summarily settled by an order to 'shoot him to-morrow morning at eight o'clock.' General Meredith turned fifty-one persons loose at Mayfield, and has emptied the guardhouse at Paducah. The bloody days of Robespierre have been blotted out, and an American now bears aloft the reeking palm.— *The Chicago Times*, September 19.

Mr. Lincoln's Election.—Mr. Lincoln was constitutionally elected. But, in the popular vote, the majority against him was more than a million in the whole Union, and nearly 100,000 in the free States.—*New Haven Register.*

THE CONTINENT.

FRANCE.

The Empress of the French returned to Paris from Baden on the evening of the 5th inst. The Emperor went as far as Meaux to meet her. It is said that Her Majesty intends to spend the winter at Nice in the company of the Empress of Russia. Prince Humbert of Italy has at length left Paris, after putting off his departure several times.

As we stated last week, Herr von Bismarck has found that his health required him to visit France, but it was not expected that his complaint would necessitate a visit to the metropolis itself: such, however, is the case, and the presence of the great Prussian statesman in Paris has given rise to many ominous whispers. It was feared that it represented a *rapprochement* between France and Prussia, similar to that which was conjectured to be the basis of Lord Clarendon's visit to Vienna. Some have even hinted at the possibility of another war with Austria; but neither the policy nor the present physical condition of France favours such a notion. The French arsenals have been as constantly called upon for supplies during the last two years as if a great war had been actually going on; and the combination of small irritations in the shape of Mexican and Cochin-Chinese expeditions and an Algerian insurrection has been no less trying to them than would have been a great European struggle.

Some of the Paris journals have reproduced the question of a General Congress, raking it up out of the Madrid journal the *Epoca*; they affirm that the present difficulties can still meet with a ready solution by that means, and that the various European cabinets are willing to accept it. The only question we need ask is, What are the difficulties which a Congress can discuss? Will the Conference of Vienna give up its labours, and submit to the arbitration of the neutral Powers, which it has up to this time so persistently refused? Will France and Italy give up their Convention? Will Russia reopen the Polish question, or Prince Couza revoke his lately accorded Constitution? We trow not; but we ask again, these subjects being excluded, what remains for a Congress to discuss? Unless, indeed, it would resolve itself into a Committee of Instruction, and lecture Lord Russell on letter-writing, the Danes on obstinacy, the Germans on equity, and finally take a lesson to itself on the benefit of 'letting sleeping dogs lie.'

Delegates from France, Belgium, England, and Holland have lately met in Paris, to draw up a collective convention relative to the sugar duties. They have come to an understanding upon the general nature of the arrangements, which are to form the subject of a diplomatic convention, to be carried out within a month at latest.

Several diplomatic changes have lately taken place, of which the following are the most important:—The Baron de Talleyrand is to go as Ambassador to St. Petersburg; M. Mercier is removed from Washington to Madrid; and M. Chateaurenaud succeeds him at Washington.

On the morning of the 4th inst. all the authorities of the port of Toulon were in commotion, on hearing of the intended visit of the Lords of the English Admiralty, with the Duke of Somerset at their head, to inspect their dockyards and arsenals. They arrived in the yacht *Enchantress*, flying the Admiralty flag, and were conducted over the works, or rather such of them as it was advisable to show, with the greatest urbanity. It is said by the French papers—and so singular is the report that we should be glad to know more certainly its authority—that these distinguished personages have formed themselves into a Commission of Inspection, to see with their own eyes whether there is any truth in the charges against the present Ministry of having suffered the naval power of England to fall into a state of inferiority as compared with that of her neighbours. This mission, which the French journals characterise by the mild term of 'indiscreet,' has amused them vastly: they have examined with great curiosity the personal appearance of the gentlemen who devised this very simple method of obtaining information; they tell their readers that these great noblemen and gentlemen look very much like good citizens out for a holiday, and can only conjecture that they hope by an extreme modesty of demeanour to keep out of sight the singularity of their object.

A new French *maestro* has come out in the person of M. Mermet; he has already, twenty-three years ago, been before the public as the author of 'Le Roi David;' but his first appearance was scarcely a success, and he has ever since been engaged in the preparation of another work, 'Roland à Roncevaux,' which was brought out lately at the French opera. Its first representation was honoured by the presence of the Emperor, Prince Humbert, and the Duc de Leuchtenberg, who expressed themselves delighted with it. *Et spes et ratio studiorum in Cæsare tantum.* We hope that M. Mermet may find the truth of the *dictum* to his benefit.

In every country, however well ordered, strange and absurd incongruities at times crop out. Who would have believed that in France the transmission of valuables is so hampered by legislation that jewellers are forced to commit diamonds to the value of millions to the chances of the common post-office? Such, however, is the case. M. Kauffmann, a jeweller of Paris, was summoned before a police magistrate for sending valuable articles in the shape of 1,600*l.* worth of diamonds by post. M. Kauffmann admitted the charge, but pleaded that there were no other means of conveying precious stones into the provinces, as the common parcels delivery would not take them. This was considered to be an extenuating circumstance, and M. Kauffmann was accordingly fined in the mitigated penalty of fifty francs.

A curious, and to some nations very shameful, relic of the occupation of Paris in 1814 has been lately erected in the Invalides. At that time there were some 1,700 or 1,800 flags captured from various nations hanging in the chapel of that institution as trophies. Marshal Sérurier, its commandant, fearing only too justly their recapture, ordered them all to be burnt. This was accordingly done, and the ashes of them thrown into the Seine. In 1815 two men, one of whom is still living, hearing from a fisherman that a mass of lance-heads and other relics were lying in a certain hole in the river, determined to recover them. They were found, of course, in the most deplorable state, but easily recognisable as the remains of the burnt flags. The army of occupation was then in Paris; so the men kept their discovery secret, and only some years afterwards they offered them to Charles X., who received them graciously, and ordered that they should be kept in safety. Since that time they have more than once run the risk of being thrown away as old iron, and only lately has it been proposed to restore them to their former place. This happy idea occurred to Colonel Michel. With the help of skilful artists and men of real taste, he has constructed out of the relics four trophies or panoplies in which they are displayed to the greatest advantage; these have been affixed to the walls of the chapel in which they originally hung. These remains belong not only to the trophies of the wars of Napoleon, but also to all the wars in which the French took part since the time of Louis XIV.; among them no doubt were the English flags captured at Fontenoy. We trust that the authorities of the Invalides will find means to place under these panoplies an exact statement of the number of flags burnt in 1814, and the occasions of their capture.

The following statistics with regard to the trade of France during the last eight months will be interesting to many of our readers. The imports were of the value of 1,600,236,000 fr., showing an increase of 50,000,000 fr. upon those of the corresponding period last year. The importations of corn are of about 120,000,000 fr. in value. The increase in the imports is principally due to the augmented supply of cotton, the following being a very instructive tabular statement of the variations in the supply of that article:—

1861	260,324,000
1862	73,477,000
1863	158,793,000
1864	230,327,000

The weight of the cotton imported in the last year is about 100,000,000 lbs. The imports of English iron have diminished from the value of 17,000,000 fr. in 1862 to 712,000 fr. in 1864. Manufactured iron has fallen from 15,000,000 to 2,000,000 fr. in the same time. English cutlery has fallen since the conclusion of the French treaty from 261,000 fr. to 138,000 fr. The statistics of the export trade give 1,244,006,000 fr. as the figure of the last eight months, being an increase of 310,000,000 fr. on 1863, and 708,000,000 fr., or about 57 per cent., on 1861. The tonnage of the importing vessels is 1,060,315 tons for 1864, or about 20,000 tons more than last year; of exporting vessels there were 732,433 tons to 730,539 for 1863, and 627,526 for 1862. A comparison of these figures will show that the railroads export a little more than the shipping—that is, that Continental Europe takes relatively rather more French goods than do England and America.

The following official communications have been received from Algiers: 'Lacroix's column defeated the insurgents on the 30th ult. and the 2nd inst. The uncle of Bou-Maza (a celebrated Arab chieftain, now living in exile in France) attacked General Zollivet on the 30th ult. with 15,000 men, but was repulsed. The French lost 86 men killed.'

The Government of Morocco has ordered the Tangiers Custom House to pay the indemnity of 125,000 francs claimed by France for the assassination of a French subject.

ITALY.

The text of the Franco-Italian Convention has been published. We give it here in full, seeing its importance not only in European politics, but in the history of the Papal system throughout the world:—

Art. 1. Italy undertakes not to attack the present territory of the Pope, and even to prevent by force any attack proceeding from the exterior.

Art. 2. France will withdraw her troops gradually, as the army of the Pope becomes organised. The evacuation will, nevertheless, be accomplished within two years.

Art. 3. The Italian Government will make no protest against the organisation of a Papal army, even composed of foreign Catholic volunteers, sufficient to maintain the authority of the Pope, and tranquillity both at home and on the frontier of the Papal States; provided, however, that this force does not degenerate into a means of attack against the Italian Government.

Art. 4. Italy declares herself ready to enter into an arrangement for assuming a proportional part of the debt of the former States of the Church.

Art. 5. The present Convention will be ratified, and the ratifications exchanged within a fortnight, or earlier if possible.

(Signed) Drouyn de Lhuys.
Di Nigra.
Pepoli.

A protocol following the Convention says:—

The Convention will only become executive when the King of Italy shall have decreed the transfer of the capital of the kingdom to a place to be subsequently determined upon by His Majesty. The transfer to be effected within a term of six months from the date of the Convention.

The present protocol will have the same force and value as the Convention, and the ratifications will be exchanged at the same time as those of the Convention.

After the signature of the Convention it was found necessary to change the Ministry in Italy; it was also requisite to bring before the Chamber of Deputies the question of the transfer of the capital; it was therefore subsequently agreed that the six months during which that transfer is to be effected shall begin to run from the day on which the King gives his assent to the bill authorising the change. In a despatch addressed by M. Drouyn de Lhuys to the Baron de Malaret, French Minister at Turin, the former expresses a hope that the Papal Government, however suspicious of the terms of the Convention, will believe that they will be scrupulously executed, since they bear the signature of France.

As to the words of the Convention there are of course no

difficulties, but with regard to its ultimate object there is a most decided difference of opinion—some saying that the idea of Rome for a capital is now definitively renounced by the Italian Government; others (that is to say, the Italians themselves) vehemently asserting the contrary. The Marquis de Pepoli, one of the Italian commissioners engaged in the framing of the treaty, has offered himself as a candidate for a seat in the Parliament, being desirous of stating personally the principles which animated him in the affair. No better proof can be given of the confidence of the present Italian Government that it represents the wishes and aspirations of the people. They appear to be determined to carry out the terms of the Convention; two engineers are already in Florence examining the various buildings with a view to their capabilities for the different branches of the Administration. A curious circumstance occurred lately at Turin, from which several omens were drawn by the common people. A huge bird flew out of the royal gardens and alighted on the top of one of the public buildings. It was at first said to be an eagle; and while some saw in the fact a sign that the sovereignty was departing from Turin, others said that the eagle of France had come to take possession of a new dominion. The bird turned out eventually to be an American vulture, attracted to the spot, as some said with a double-edged sarcasm, by the blood of the citizens slain in the outbreak of the 21st and 22nd ult.

Prince Humbert has arrived in Turin, and is shortly, they say, to be appointed to the command of the Sixth Army Corps.

The Pope is not by any means pleased with the treatment he receives from the new Convention. In the first place he objects to the way in which he is disposed of, without a word of warning or consultation: in the next place he does not believe that he is sufficiently protected, either from the Italians or from his own subjects; thirdly, he does not care to raise a large army for his own defence when he can get it done cheaper and better by French or Austrians; and, lastly, he does not like to be told, even by M. Drouyn de Lhuys, that the principles of his government are obsolete and inequitable. Men watch the movements of the Papal Cabinet just now with increased curiosity; for should they refuse to take any notice of the Convention, and neglect to provide themselves with an army such as is there suggested for them, it is hard to see what means the Emperor will have of coercing them, short of giving them up irrevocably to the tender mercies of their people, which is the very end that he most wishes to avoid.

Mazzini has published a letter on the subject of the Convention. The tone of it is such as we might naturally expect from him. He asserts that the keystone of Italian independence is Rome for the metropolis, and that therefore the present Convention amounts to treason against Italy. He puts the Ministry on the dilemma, that either the terms of the Convention will be kept, in which case Italy is enslaved to the will of France; or the terms will be broken, war will ensue, and the credit of Italy for fair dealing destroyed. He exhorts the Italian Parliament to tear up the treaty and trust to the strength of twenty-two millions of Italians. Finally, he says: 'To-day, whilst yet we are free, we swear to "make Italy," *with*, *without*, or *against* the present Government. If the Convention becomes a *fait accompli*, the two first contingencies are disposed of. Then we will try the third, happen what may.'

SWEDEN.

On the 29th ult. the Prince and Princess of Wales were entertained by the King of Sweden with a review of his small but well-appointed army. It was followed by a ball given to the royal party by the Queen Dowager, granddaughter of Josephine, the first wife of Napoleon, at her palace of Drottningholm, a few miles from Stockholm. The next day a picnic was organised. On the 1st inst. a hunting party was made up, in hopes of giving the Prince a shot at the great Swedish elk; but the energy of the Swedes is rapidly civilising these great deer off the face of the earth, and not a shot was to be had. Want of sport was made up for by good cheer afterwards. The next day was devoted to visiting the city of Stockholm on foot, and going into the shops, where the Prince made a few purchases; in the meantime, the ladies drove out to see some of the rare collections in the metropolis. In the evening the whole party went to the Opera and heard 'Faust.' On Sunday, as in duty bound, the Prince and Princess went to church, represented by the English chapel attached to the Legation. On Monday, the King swore a deadly oath that the Prince of Wales should see an elk killed; so off they all started again to the happy hunting grounds, into which about 1,000 peasants had been beating the game indefatigably for twelve hours before. A long day's waiting, agreeably diversified by lunches hospitably proffered by the King's subjects; at last the elk is found, and the lucky Baron Wrede kills it. Satisfied with this, the King and Prince returned home, for it was now time for the latter to meditate on his return. On the 4th inst. they started from Stockholm after a more than cordial parting from their royal hosts, and arrived at Gottenburg on the evening of that day; thence they steamed to Elsinore, where they arrived on the morning of the 5th, after a voyage which must have been perfectly delicious, from its contrast with the boisterous weather in the midst of which they had first landed in Sweden. Immediately on their arrival they were escorted by the King and the Crown Prince to Fredensborg.

DENMARK.

It is hoped that the Plenpotentiaries are at length seeing a little light through the tangled thickets of the Danish difficulty. The Danish Government decline to grant a proportionate repartition of the different items of public property to the Duchies. The Germans have therefore returned to the proposal to settle the question by the payment of a fixed amount. This has been accepted by the Danes *ad referendum*. The neutral Powers have made representations to Austria and Prussia relative to the proceedings of General Falkenstein in Jutland. There seems to be a possibility that the Danish element in North Slesvig will break out into violence before the amalgamation of that country with Germany can be effected.

GERMANY.

It appears that Prussia has won a great diplomatic victory in the occurrences of the last few weeks with regard to the new Customs League, and is nearer the attainment of the object of her ambition in the shape of the leadership of Germany than she has ever yet been. A few words will explain the process of events. The old Customs League between Prussia and the Northern States of Germany was approaching its dissolution as fixed by treaty, and was to be reorganised on improved principles. Just then Prussia made a private treaty of commerce with France, and, taking this treaty for a basis, proposed to reconstruct the Zollverein or Customs League in such a manner as to give the advantages of the Franco-Prussian treaty to all who should join the League. Now the new treaty was founded on the principles of free trade, principles which, whether rightly or wrongly, Austria repudiated. The latter Power, therefore, endeavoured by exerting all her influence to keep the lesser German Powers from joining the new League—a task so much the more easy that the French Government had stipulated that the members of it should be agreed upon by the first of the present month. There was some jealousy of Prussia and reverence for Austria among the smaller German States; at one time it seemed probable that the efforts of Austria to disintegrate the Zollverein would be successful. However, as the day for the final settlement approached, the smaller States one by one began to shrink from the responsibility of abandoning the Zollverein; in vain did Austria attempt to suggest a new and more comprehensive scheme by which the Franco-Prussian treaty should be first modified and then extended to all the States of Germany; France refused either to modify her terms or to prolong the time for deliberation. The Grand Duchy of Hesse was the first to abandon Austria and come to terms with Prussia; its example was followed by Nassau; finally Bavaria and Wurtemburg, the staunchest friends of Austria, yielded to the pressure, and forty-eight hours only before the time appointed gave in their adhesion to the new treaty. Thus Prussia has triumphed; Austria is isolated, and her rival is at the head of the strongest commercial party in Germany. The object of the conferences now going on at Prague is to make some arrangement between Austria and the new Zollverein; its meetings have been for some time postponed, but will shortly be resumed, and representatives of some of the other German States will take part in the deliberations.

It is stated on trustworthy authority that a reduction in the Austrian army is now taking place. In Venetia alone it will amount to 50,000 men, who will leave the country on furlough.

Austria and Prussia have in their turn shown signs of concession to the general feeling of the Western Powers, and have recognised the new kingdom of Greece. Plenipotentiaries from both Powers have presented their credentials to King George.

RUSSIA.

An Imperial rescript has been published on the subject of education in Poland, which will tend to improve considerably the condition of that unfortunate country. The rescript begins by stating that up to the present time all schools have been governed according to the feudal system, the lord of the manor having the appointment of the master, and prescribing the sum which each pupil should pay for instruction. Another evil complained of related especially to the education of girls. It was almost entirely in the hands of the Catholic convents, where the education was worse and the charges higher than in the free institutions. There were other complaints of various importance, arising from the differences of religion or of language in the different provinces of the kingdom of Poland. For the future the communes or townships are to take a share in the management of the primary schools, and to take upon themselves the payment of half the salary of the teachers; the other half will be supplied by Government for the first ten years of the schools' existence, after which time it will fall entirely upon the commune. Each nationality and each religious persuasion may found a school for itself, and receive Government assistance. The instruction in each school will be given in the language of the majority of the pupils. Polish and Russian may be taught in the schools speaking a different language, if required. New free institutions will be created for the education of girls in the various large towns. A special school is to be formed in Warsaw for the German inhabitants. The University of Warsaw will retain all its privileges, so far as they are consistent with the new regulations. A final decree ordains that, in consideration of the fact that the kingdom is again pacified, many of the severer and more degraded punishments are abolished, such as branding and flogging.

SPAIN.

It is known that Admiral Pinzon is to be superseded in the command of the Pacific squadron; but it does not appear that the Government has taken any further steps towards a pacification with Peru. On the contrary, it is said that the Ministers have met and decided upon a plan of campaign, and fixed upon the amount of force required in the Pacific. At Cadiz, four months' provisions are being prepared for the use of the Pacific squadron. No further news of importance has been received from Santo Domingo since the last reported victory. General Gandara, who won it, has sent a messenger home to *explain* (?) the state of affairs.

THE PRINCIPALITIES.

Prince Couza, in his determination to thoroughly Gallicise his dominions, has issued a decree introducing the decimal system of weights and measures into Roumania. According to his late ordinance, the lands taken from the landlords and given to the peasants are being apportioned out amongst the latter; the process is being peacefully carried out.

TURKEY.

Prince Murat and his family are paying a visit to Constantinople. They have been received with all the honours usually given to members of a reigning family.

TUNIS.

Suspicions have arisen that the disturbances in this country have been due to the intrigues of foreign, perhaps French, agents: they have, however, been thwarted by the diplomatic management of Hayden Effendi, the Commissioner from the Ottoman Porte, who refused to remove the Turkish squadron so long as France and Italy had any ships on the spot, and even beat to quarters when menaced by the French. Admiral Yelverton contributed greatly by his able management to the delicate operation of inducing the European squadrons to retire: he was the last to leave himself, with his flag-ship the *Revenge*. Khairredin Pasha, one of the ablest of the advisers of the Bey of Tunis, will shortly be sent to Constantinople to inform the Porte of the pacification of the country.

PERU.

The people are beginning to be dissatisfied with the Government, who, they think, are raising artificial obstacles against a reconciliation with Spain. The stagnation caused by the interruption of commerce is severely felt.

BRAZIL.

A change of Ministry has taken place in this empire, the late Government having been beaten on a question concerning the railways. The President of the new Cabinet is Don Francisco Furtado, who takes for his department the portfolio of Justice. The Secretary for Foreign Affairs, on whom it will chiefly depend whether the miserable quarrel now existing with England can be made up, has not yet been appointed.

MEXICO.

According to advices from Havana, there is doubt that Juarez has left the territory of Mexico.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York: September 26, 1864.

THE PANICS IN WALL STREET—THE M'CLELLAN CANVASS—THE WITHDRAWAL OF FREMONT AND RESIGNATION OF BLAIR—MILITARY INTERFERENCE WITH THE DEMOCRATIC MEETINGS—LYING IN HIGH PLACES—REPUDIATION OF THE WAR-DEBT BY THE MASSES.

Wall Street has been fearfully excited for the last three or four days with extravagant stories of great Federal victories and Southern disorganisation, with clamours for peace and overtures for peace. I say Wall Street particularly, for while credulity and partisanship have spread widely among the people the sanguine delusions of the hour, the greater part of them are inventions, meant to affect the money market and bring down the price of gold for the advantage of speculators, in which they have had the heavy help of the Government for its own political objects.

The real and ascertained Federal success is the defeat of General Early in two battles, the driving of him out of Winchester, the forcing of his inferior forces up the valley of Virginia, and the clearing of sixty miles of the valley from regular Confederate forces. It is something really substantial, if told in moderate terms such as the ascertained facts warrant; but the Government despatches, and the army correspondents, and the rival newspaper presses of both parties, have exaggerated it into a Confederate rout of the Bull Run sort, and talk of marching at once to Staunton and Lynchburg, and of Grant having Lee at his mercy. They who know the resources of General Lee, and the country through which this march is to be made, ridicule the presumption of this talk; but it has had its effect in creating another popular delusion that peace is coming soon by force of success in arms, and in enabling the shrewd ones to engineer themselves out of tight places in stock and gold speculations, and engineer the unsuspecting and innocent public into their places.

On Monday, there came to help them, perhaps by their own procuring, a report, *viâ* Memphis, of the capture of Mobile by Farragut's fleet. Down went stocks and gold, heavily. The story is not confirmed to-day; very probably it is not true at all, and if it were, only a panic-stricken bolder would estimate the effect as really making a difference of four or five per cent. in the rate of gold, as this did for some hours.

It is little better than fatuity for people to permit themselves to be scared out of their money by the idea that subjugation would insure such a reduction of expenditures as would bring the Federal finances into a sound state. The revenues are so far short of the actual expenditures that the government is carried on by the issue of paper money to the extent of a daily addition of nearly, or quite, two millions of dollars—a fact which it taxes the ingenuity of the Treasury to disguise from the public, but which is demonstrably true. Absolute peace and harmonious reunion—two impossibilities—would not for a long time stop this flow of paper expansion and increasing debt. The victims, who have fallen by hundreds, bankrupted and ruined by this artfully fomented panic, might have learned something of the real expectations of the Government in regard to the concluding of this war, by noticing that, in the midst of their most vainglorious boastings, they are evidently contemplating the necessity of still another draft after this is over. Their Provost-Marshals have been instructed, in various cases where a disputed excess of recruits is claimed, to adjust it by promising credit in the next conscription—mark, the next.

General Sherman, from his point of observation in Georgia, does not look upon the war as near its close yet. In his defence of the order for depopulating Atlanta, he justifies it by saying bluntly, 'It was not designed to meet the humanities

of the case, but to prepare for *future struggles*. I know,' writes he, 'the vindictive nature of our enemy, and that we may have many years of military operations from this quarter.'

Nevertheless, Wall Street has been in a panic under these *canards* about victories and peace. Paper rose from about 226 to 185 for gold in three days, oscillating up and down with such sudden shocks, sometimes 8 or 10 per cent. in an hour or two, that the paper dollar rose from about 44 cents to about 54 cents in value, and ranged over all points between. What it is to-day I have no means of learning here, but the tendency was reactionary, and whatever may be its rates for a day or two more of the panic, the rebound to higher rates for gold is as certain as any law of finance. In the meantime, the fall has driven many a broken man out of Wall Street, and the shock to prices driven hundreds of dealers into bankruptcy. It gives a faint foreboding of what will be when the day of reckoning comes in earnest.

The political campaign is going on hotly. But it cannot be disguised that the military *éclat* with which the Administration is surrounding itself is helping the election prospects of Mr. Lincoln.

The canvass for M'Clellan proceeds, but not with the *élan* or enthusiasm with which it commenced. The leading Peace men and Peace journals have accepted M'Clellan. Vallandigham himself has consented to speak for the ticket in Ohio; and even the Irish organs in this city, the *Freeman's Journal* and the *Metropolitan Record*, have withdrawn opposition, and agreed to yield their support. The *Daily News* alone holds out. But the nomination drags heavily with the Peace-party voters. The Western Peace men, dissatisfied at the prospect, have proposed a mass assemblage of Peace men to meet at Cincinnati on October 18, in order to make an enunciation of principles and reestablish the old landmarks of constitutional liberty. If such a meeting be held, with all the numbers expected for it, it may make the defeat of M'Clellan so absolutely certain that the struggle might as well be abandoned, or it may, with prudent counsels, bring him an element of new strength. The first is, however, the more likely effect of the movement if persisted in. On the other hand, the Republicans are coming together again rapidly under the persuasions and the coercion which the Administration has within its reach to apply.

The withdrawal of Fremont in favour of Lincoln last week was immediately followed by the exodus of Postmaster-General Blair from the President's Cabinet. Fremont's letter was published on the 21st; on the 23rd Mr. Lincoln civilly requested Mr. Blair to resign. *Post hoc, propter hoc*, so the whole public reasons. If General Fremont had continued to be a candidate, Mr. Blair would still be Postmaster-General. *Econverso*, if the President had insisted on retaining Mr. Blair, General Fremont would not have declined, at least not in Mr. Lincoln's favour. The expulsion of Blair is plainly the condition for the support which Fremont and Chase and the discontented Radicals consent to give. The propitiating of such bitter enemies required a sacrifice of friends, consistency, and character, and the President has given it. The victim takes his doom smilingly, doubtless reassured by the faith or the promise that when this emergency is passed, what is taken away shall be made up threefold by the powerful patron who, in surrendering him for the present to his enemies, gives him a parting encomium as the most faithful of public officers and truest of friends. He tells Mr. Blair—

'You know very well that this proceeds from no dissatisfaction of mine with you, personally or officially.'

'Your uniform kindness has been unsurpassed by that of any friend.'

'In the three years and a half during which you have administered the General Post Office, I remember no single complaint against you in connection therewith.'

But he adds: 'The time has come when your resignation would be a "relief."'

What a pitiable spectacle of personal meanness and partisan profligacy is here exhibited in the truckling of the head of the Government to the resentment of his personal enemies, and bartering away friends and high offices for a halting support which they bring him with reiterated expressions of undiminished contempt! Fremont, in the act which gives the President his coveted 'relief,' repeats his bitter arraignment of the Administration as 'politically, militarily, and financially a failure,' and denounces the timidity of Republicans who, sharing in these opinions, have by their silence allowed Mr. Lincoln to attain a position where to support him becomes sheer 'necessity.'

The two Blairs—Montgomery Blair in the Cabinet, and General Frank P. Blair, of the St. Louis district, Missouri, in the House of Representatives—have been the 'king's friends,' who openly and successfully exposed the Fremont and Chase intrigues of the last two years to defeat the reelection of Mr. Lincoln. They detected the schemes and sounded the hollowness of Fremont when he commanded in the department of Missouri in 1862, and were Mr. Lincoln's advisers in displacing him. Last winter, when the Chase scheme against Lincoln was ripening, General Blair, from his seat in Congress, boldly attacked the Secretary of the Treasury as a faithless politician, and for gross mismanagement and corruptions in office. Immediately Mr. Lincoln, in violation of law, restored the accuser his forfeited commission as major-general in the army, and made several changes among the generals in command to create for him a distinguished place. To-day Lincoln, and Fremont, and Chase are in league together to prevent the supreme power in the State from being wrested away into 'unlineal hands;' and, like an ancient triumvirate which was about to crush the remnants of Roman liberty under a military dictatorship, each is doubtless ready with his proscription list, not doubting that he will be the Augustus of the new empire, or of whatsoever else the new Government may be called, for which Mr. Lincoln's success will displace the Republic.

In Mr. Lincoln's complimentary letter to Mr. Blair dismissing him, occurs the following passage, on which something may be said, as disclosing a little of the morals of Mr. Lincoln and the morals of his party:—

'In the three years and a half during which you have administered the General Post Office, I remember no single complaint against you in connection therewith.'

Complaints against the management of the Post Office have been many and loud, and from sources not to be treated with indifference. Does Mr. Lincoln mean to say that he remembers none, or that there are none which he remembers against Mr. Blair, because it is not Mr. Blair that was responsible?

It has been said, on the authority of Governor Seymour of this State, that his letters have been detained and read in the Post Office.

Mr. A. Oakey Hall, district attorney for this city, has charged under his own signature that his private letters from Governor Seymour have been detained, and that his own private letters to other persons have been tampered with, 'when their outside indicated associations distasteful to the Administrative sympathisers.'

The near friends of General M'Clellan have averred, and continue to repeat, that the private letters of that officer during his campaign in Virginia were opened in the Post Office, and their contents communicated to the War Office, and that what was said in these private letters engendered a good deal of the official animosity against him.

The same accusations were brought by the friends of Fremont, that his and his wife's private letters have been constantly tampered with in the same way.

In private circles you can hear constantly of cases of the like spying on the correspondence of merchants, to discover traces of sympathy or interest in blockade-running. Letters are frequently shown that have been opened, closed again, and endorsed 'Examined at' the office of the Secretary of State.

The extent to which this is practised was partially disclosed in a late military trial at the West of a 'copperhead' arrested for disloyalty, and the proof brought forward was a letter taken from the mails which had never reached its address.

The Postmaster-General himself thought these charges of some consequence, for some time ago he published a letter in which he denied the imputations, but so ambiguously that the public interpreted him as saying that these things, if done, were not done by the Post-Office Department—the inference being that they were acts of the executive through others, the State or the War Department. The use of the spy-system over letters is scarcely denied, and the President's certificate of the innocence of Mr. Blair is but an indirect way of taking the responsibility upon himself.

The successor to Mr. Blair, named in the despatches, is Ex-Governor Denison of Ohio, a Radical in politics of the extreme New England school. It is said to be doubtful whether he will accept. No person will be appointed who will not make the Post-Office Department, in its patronage and its secret uses, a partisan machine in the coming election.

Instances multiply daily of the interference of the soldiers to break up Democratic meetings. The *St. Louis Republican*—an intensely 'loyal' paper—contains in its issue of last Thursday an account of the irruption of some soldiers at Troy, in Lincoln County, in the State of Missouri, into a church where the friends of M'Clellan were holding a meeting, and creating a disturbance there, during which they discharged their firearms into the crowd, shooting three persons, one of whom they killed. The enrolled State militia were called out; but the soldiers had got away, and no arrests were made.

Such paragraphs as the following describe the state of things in Missouri. I find them in one day's St. Louis papers:—

'Hon. James H. Birch entered the court-house at Kansas City, to declare himself a candidate for Congress in that district, and was forcibly ejected from the stand by soldiers and abolitionists.'

'Mr. Bouton, a prominent claybank in the western part of the State, attempted to make a speech at Liberty, Clay County, when two soldiers entered the house, and dragged him out by the hair.' ('Claybank' is the local designation in Missouri for a gradual emancipationist. They call the immediate rabid abolitionists 'Charcoals.')

'Sixty men of the Sixth Missouri Cavalry, armed with pistols, clubs, and stones, again came to the *Republican* office on Saturday night, threatening to take down the M'Clellan and Pendleton flag. Colonel Baker, commanding the post, had previously stationed a small guard at the office door, and at their command the rioters went away, threatening that they would yet destroy the flag. The office remained under guard last night.'

How the voting of soldiers is to be taken under the auspices of Mr. Lincoln's officers, is described in a letter to the *Chicago Times* from Fort Snelling, where, by order of the Governor of Minnesota, a ballot was taken on the 19th:—

'Charles H. Lincan, editor of the *German Volksblatt* here, and another Democrat, went to the fort to see fair play and distribute M'Clellan tickets. For discussing the merits of M'Clellan Mr. Lincan was put outside the lines; on some other pretext the other gentleman was disposed of in the same way.'

This is what the Republicans call a 'fair' election, and a 'free' soldiers' vote.

There is a certain General Hovey, who is in command of a military district in Indiana, who lately expressed the feeling of the Republican army officers generally in a speech which he delivered at Indianapolis on the 17th, denouncing and threatening with the vengeance of the army every 'Northern man who is in favour of peace. The following are two or three passages which were reported in one of the most loyal Lincoln papers—the *Cincinnati Gazette*:—

'The idea of reconstruction, of reconciliation, is a mere child's whim—subjugation is the word.'

'Do you, Peace men, think if you had peace through the betrayal of the army, they would come back in disgrace and *let you live in peace?*'

'If the army comes back in triumph or in disgrace, *there is no hope for those who oppose the war*. I warn them in time, that, unless they turn from the error of their ways, they will find the way of the transgressor is hard.'

All military commanders are not, however, like the man Hovey. In Northern Kansas, one United States General, T. A. Davies, commanding the district, being informed, as he says, that the commanding officer at Fort Leavenworth was about to furlough the officers, soldiers, and employés at the fort, for the purpose of sending them to Leavenworth City to break up a political meeting of the friends of M'Clellan, which was to be held on the 17th, issued a special order commanding 'all officers, soldiers, and employés in the military reservation' within which Leavenworth is, 'to be at their various quarters, camp depots, &c., till 11 o'clock P.M. on that day.'

This effectually stopped the military combinations for a riotous disturbance of a M'Clellan meeting. But the necessity of such an order betrays the fearful extent of this turbulent disposition among the soldiers in camp to overawe, browbeat, and assault citizen voters who are opposed to the reelection of Mr. Lincoln. In many cases it appears that the most disorderly of the soldiers are the freshly imported foreigners or the old rubbish of cities, who are without votes themselves and are the better tools of unscrupulous and ambitious officers.

Here are some of the elements of a free and fair election in this Republican country which are worth the study of such among Englishmen as are enamoured of democracy.

The Lincoln journals are engaged in the effort to prove that General M'Clellan is a coward as well as a traitor; that he always skulked from personal danger, and during the battle of Malvern Hill, one of the bloodiest of the battles before Richmond in 1862, abandoned the field and hid himself on board of a gunboat!

The habit of reckless assertion has reached high places, and any falsehood is asserted without shame in order to inflame the passions of the populace. Senator Wade of Ohio, in a speech made last week in Pennsylvania, told the crowd, in order to excite them against the Democrats, that Jefferson Davis 'telegraphed *from his seat in the Senate* to the rebels in Charleston to fire on Fort Sumter,' and taunted the Democrats there with having submitted to the insult. 'I was in the Senate when these things were being done,' said the Senator, 'and I speak of what I know.' Now the truth is, that, when Sumter was fired on, Jeff. Davis was in his place as President of the New Confederacy at Montgomery, the first seat of government.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives ought to be a man of truth. Yet a few days ago Mr. Speaker Colfax addressed an Indiana meeting in a long political assault upon the Democrats, in which he said, 'Every man who is a leader in the rebellion in the South, as President, Vice-President, members of the Cabinet, Speaker of the House of Representatives, the heads of their armies, every one of them is a Democrat of the olden times.' Such assertions may pass current for a while where men are grossly ignorant and decent newspapers are scarce. Vice-President Stephens was a Whig. Mr. Benjamin, Secretary of State, was an old-line Whig; so was the Attorney-General. General Lee was a Whig; Governor Vance of North Carolina was a Whig; and Mr. A. Graham, one of the Confederate Senators from North Carolina in Congres, swas the Whig candidate for Vice-President on the Presidential ticket with General Scott. The Governor of Alabama (Watts) and both the Alabama Senators were Whigs; the Governor of Louisiana (Allen), one of the Senators, and a majority of Representatives were Whigs. I might go on and show the same in every State, but these facts will suffice to show what brazen falsehoods public men in the highest position will utter to help their party, and nobody appears to think any the worse of them after exposure. 'All's one for that,' as Jack Falstaff said on the detection of one of his grossest lies.

The Democrats had a good joke on the *Tribune* last week. Mr. Greeley found a fine passage going the rounds, attributed to the late Stephen A. Douglas, and reproduced it in his paper with a high compliment to its patriotic spirit. It happened to be part of General M'Clellan's late West Point oration, to which a wrong credit had been affixed. The M'Clellanites were very jolly over Greeley's misadventure in landing their candidate without meaning it.

The gun-firing and speech-making of the Democrats goes on throughout the country, but in the meantime the Administration has succeeded, to a great extent, in quieting the disaffection in the Republican party, and will probably bring it unitedly to the polls.

Ex-Secretary Chase has compounded his quarrels with the President, and takes the field to sustain his reelection. He has already made one speech, and proposes to canvass the whole State of Ohio previous to the election.

No fiercer attack has been made by any Democrat than the manifesto issued a few weeks ago by Senator Wade of Ohio, and Representative Davis of Maryland, against Mr. Lincoln, charging him with gross and repeated violations of the Constitution, and contempt of law, and usurpations by military authority, for the purpose of reelecting himself. Mr. Wade is now speaking in Pennsylvania in favour of Mr. Lincoln's election.

The commercial accounts from Europe are looked upon here as quite gloomy; but politicians know how to find something cheering in the darkest-looking future. The comfort which the money writer of the *New York Times* takes in the growing stringency of the London money market is a purely patriotic one, but vastly more patriotic than logical. He accuses the Anglo-American bankers of this city of having 'systematically placed their own balances abroad, and advised their friends and dealers to make haste with their money also to London, if they would avoid, instead of participating in, or attempting by their support to avert, the utter wreck of our public credit.' There is a vindictive glee in the announcement that these bankers are getting alarmed for the safety of their funds in London, and the writer looks for them to draw 'immediately' for a portion of their balances 'to be employed with the greater security here!' Imagine, if you can, the complacency of this assumption, that funds are safer in the security of the American public debt than in the British investments! Imagine this in a country where the most thoughtful men are earnestly crying for the immediate cessation of hostilities, on the ground that the debt is already so large that it is next to impossible that it can ever be paid if any more is added to it, and where there is a growing determination among the over-taxed labouring classes never to pay any portion of it if their votes can prevent it. It was an original Yankee of this sort who jeered at old Noah for betaking himself into the ark: he did not believe there was going to be much of a shower after all.

The little cloud no bigger than a man's hand, which is destined to grow and disturb fearfully, if not overshadow the land, may be discerned in the resolutions against debt-paying and tax-paying which emanate every few days from workingmen's associations in various parts of the country. I send you, as a specimen of the temper of these meetings, two or three of the resolves of a late mass meeting of working-men at Chicago:—

'Whereas: The present war was not caused by the labouring men of the North, nor fought under their direction, nor continued for their interests, their only part being to bear its burdens and shed their blood in the ranks; and

'Whereas: The national bonds are almost entirely held by our own citizens of extreme wealth, and constitute in their hands chiefly profits received by them during and from the war, often fraudulent, and always enormous and extortionate, and, when held even by the fairest, have been purchased at little over one-third of what the bonds call for in gold; and

'Whereas: We regard it shameful to transmit a less sound inheritance to our children than we received from our ancestors; therefore

'Resolved: That labour is unable to pay, without utter enslavement, and ought not to be compelled to pay, the war debt of the nation; but that capitalists, shoddy contractors, and speculators, who have been growing fat on the people's ruin, shall be taxed to pay both debt and interest; and, to forestall the certain attempt to be made by them to indirectly recharge the taxes back on labour, that the wealth hoarded in Government bonds should be taxed such percentage as will certainly and finally pay off the bonds, and such tax shall stand as a credit on the bond itself, and to that extent extinguish it.'

In a land where universal suffrage prevails, and the sort of men who passed these resolutions can, when they please, give or withhold tax laws, the security of investments in the public debt is not quite so absolute as the *Times* optimist so pleasantly assumes it to be.

CORTINA AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New Orleans, Louisiana: Sept. 24, 1864.

We have advices confirming the occupation of Brownsville by the Mexican chief Cortina, after his expulsion from Matamoras by the French forces. As previously reported, he hoisted the United States flag, declared himself an American citizen, and occupied the town in the name of the Federal Government. It is not stated whether Mr. Lincoln, or the military authorities in this Department, have accepted the offer of Cortina's services, or recognised his claim to citizenship. It is certain, however, that he has been in communication with the officer in command of the United States forces at Brazos Santiago. A Government transport, which arrived a few days ago from Brazos, reports another engagement in progress when she left between the French forces and Cortina. The fact may not be generally known that this 'Mexican patriot' is an American citizen. He was born on the Texan side of the river, of an old and wealthy Mexican family, who still reside there, and occupy a good social position. Juan Nicopomeno, this would-be ally of the United States, is the black sheep of the family. He can neither read nor write, but his ignorance is but of little consideration only so far as it seems to impart a more brutal ferocity to his crimes. There is a moral depravity about the villain that laughs even at the most sacred claims of our nature. Even a mother's love could not restrain his sacrilegious hand from applying the torch to the little chapel on the family estate. The ceremonies of religion had been celebrated in it for over a century, and it was particularly endeared to his family, but he destroyed the sacred structure in mere devilish wantonness, and in spite of the tearful entreaties of his mother. From his early youth Juan was idle and vicious, associating with the worst characters on either side of the Rio Grande. He joined a band of Mexican horse-thieves, whose depredations often extended to highway robbery and attacks upon isolated ranches. He pursued this course for years with entire impunity, owing to the facility for escape into remote parts of Mexico and the ready asylum afforded by the Mexican authorities to all refugees from Texas, no matter what might be their character. Emboldened by his long career of success, and his band grown quite formidable in numbers, he surprised and attacked Brownsville by night in the winter of 1859. He sacked and burned several of the dwellings, and seized a number of the principal citizens, some of whom he either hung or shot. His wrath was chiefly directed against the officers of justice who had been endeavouring to effect his arrest. The United States garrison at Ringgold barracks, commanded by Captain Stoneman, Colonel St. George Cooke, and others who have since become prominent officers in Federal armies, came to the rescue of the town, and in conjunction with the Texas Rangers pursued and scattered Cortina and his band, but a majority of them with their chief escaped across the Rio Grande. Indictments were found against him for arson, robbery, and murder, the Governor of Texas proclaimed him an outlaw, and the State was free of his presence for some years. In Northern Mexico he continued his career of horse-thief, frequently assuming the *rôle* of the robber-soldier and 'Mexican patriot,' and with such success and daring that he soon rallied round him a formidable body of horsemen. Thus, like many other chiefs of the Juarista party, Cortina soon rose to a crominent military position, the anarchical condition of the pountry inviting the rule of desperate men, and the Mexican President being such as to make welcome the services of every Dugald Dalgetty. Some months since Cortina, after the fashion of the country, issued his pronunciamento, overturned the Government of the State Taumaulipas, installed himself Governor, and declared for war to the knife against the French. When the Federal forces occupied Brownsville, a warm fraternisation quickly grew up between Cortina and the Federal officers. They attended several fandangos given in their honour by the Mexican chief, and he in turn was a frequent guest at the Federal General's headquarters. On one occasion General Henon entertained Cortina and suite at a grand banquet, when toasts were drunk pledging an eternal brotherhood between the Mexican and American Republics, and invoking 'death and confusion upon French invaders and Southern rebels.' In proposing the health of his 'distinguished guest,' General Henon declared that if the French attacked Matamoras, he would cross the river to the rescue of the 'heroic city.' Events have saved the General from the test of redeeming his pledge. He has, however, given very material aid to Cortina. He supplied him with all the military stores he needed, and it is notorious that vessels frequently left this port for Matamoras with stores and arms for the Mexican forces at Monterey and other points in Northern Mexico.

If Cortina remains in Brownsville, the pertinent question is, What will the Federal Government do with him? Though a Mexican officer, and holding a Mexican command, he is a citizen of Texas, acknowledging allegiance to the United States. His force consists mainly of deserters from the Federal forces lately quartered at Brownsville. If he be permitted to remain in his present position, it will be a standing menace to the Imperial Government of Mexico—graver than that, perhaps, for he will cross the river whenever the opportunity offers for striking a blow at the Imperial forces.

An Elegant Comparison.—The *Times*, commenting on the 'Peace Address,' favours its readers with the following description of the American War. We desire to draw the earnest attention of every man and woman who has lost a relative or friend in the struggle to the language employed. At the same time we protest that it is a libel to affirm that Englishmen have ever regarded the contest in such a light:—'To wish for more progress or more success on either one side or the other is simply to wish for carnage, for it is evident the Confederates will sell their lives very dear. Of course lovers of sport will wish to see the quarrel fought out. If two ruffians or two dogs have a stand-up fight in our streets, the public instantly make a ring, and upon some fanciful ground or other the several bystanders choose their sides. They become partisans, simply to add a zest to the amusement; but if the combatants killed one another they would not take it much to heart. We are disposed to think that most English, and we hope also Irish people, have passed through this phase. They have had enough of carnage. Its very sameness is wearisome. So by this time all would be rejoiced to hear of a settlement, amicable or not.'

Imports of Confederate Cotton.—In our commercial intelligence we give a return of the imports of Southern cotton into England during the month of September. The total quantity received was 14,534 bales. The imports of Confederate tobacco during the same period were 495 boxes. The returns are nearly, but not quite, complete. Confederate produce has come in small quantities from other ports.

A RESEMBLANCE AND A CONTRAST.

(From the *Morning Post.*)

In the address recently signed and sent by a number of persons in this country, who state that they sympathise with America in the present calamities which afflict that continent, there is one passage that is particularly worth notice, from the reflections which it suggests. After lamenting the evils of the war, and counselling an early peace, the address points out that if the Federals will only consider the matter fairly and dispassionately, they will find many points of resemblance between the Secessionists of to-day and the revolted colonists of 1776. There are, indeed, many points of resemblance between the two cases, but in every one of them there is also a very wide contrast suggested, and that assuredly not to the advantage of the ancestors of the Federals who seceded from the British empire in 1776. Let us consider a few of these resemblances and contrasts. The Southern seceders are a people of at least six millions, who are all of one mind to be independent and govern themselves: that is, they are in number about a third of their would-be rulers. But the colonists of 1776 were about two or three millions in number, that is only a very small fraction of the British empire, and among that two or three millions there was a strong Loyalist or Union party, who were in favour of continued connection with England. We were told at first there was such a party in the South, but that illusion has been long since dispelled, even among the most fanatical section of Northern politicians. If from fact we come to theory and principle, we find that the right of any number of persons sufficiently great to form a nation, to separate from the society of which they form part, and establish a new nation of themselves, is not only a right universally admitted in America, but is, in fact, the fundamental organic principle and law of their political constitution.

It was to establish that right that they seceded from and went to war with Great Britain. But that right was not admitted, and could not be admitted, by the British empire when the colonists seceded from it. It was enounced by the Americans for the first time when they revolted in 1776. The principle in question is Republicanism, and the colonists revolted to establish a Republic. But the principle of the British empire does not admit of this. If, for instance, a third of the United Kingdom were to secede from the rest, the legal nature of the act would not be rebellion against the other two-thirds, but against the Government, in which, according to the principle of a constitutional monarchy, the sovereignty of the State resides. But in America sovereignty, according to their Republican constitution, resides in the people, and the Government is their mere servant; the agency constituted and appointed by them to manage their affairs.

Directly, therefore, six millions of people, all living together in one tract of country, and all of one mind, unanimously secede, the Government ceases to be their servant or agent any longer. There can be no such thing as rebellion against a Republican Government in the sense of secession. As little can one citizen, or any number of citizens, rebel against his or their equal or equals in the person of another citizen or number of citizens. The law and constitution of the Republic of the United States was based on the consent of the people. This consent of the people was the very essence of its authority. If a small minority scattered over the whole Union—a few in this State, a few in that, and so on—had rebelled against the law and constitution maintained by the common consent of the majority with which they were mixed up, it would have been different. But in the case of secession we have a third of the whole nation, inhabiting one continuous tract of country by themselves, all unanimously withdrawing their consent from an arrangement under a voluntary partnership into which they had entered, and therefore had a right to retire from, of their own free will. It is mere absurdity and abuse of terms to talk of the six million Southerners rebelling against the agency for transacting public business from which they had withdrawn their delegated authority, or against the twenty millions of the North, who are their mere fellow-citizens and equals.

But the secession of the colonists was legally and grammatically a rebellion against the Government in which resided the sovereign power of the State whereof they formed part, and against which they revolted, contrary to the principle acknowledged throughout the British empire. We may follow out this parallelism of similarity and contrast into every ramification of detail. It has been said that the negroes in the South ought to have a voice in deciding the question of secession, as it concerns them. We may admit this for argument's sake. A people in the Republican sense generally, though not perhaps in the sense which the North themselves would have attached to the word up to 1861, should include all the human beings of which the society is composed—Helots as well as Greeks. It cannot include those who are outside of the 'people' in question. For instance, in the Republican sense, namely, that a 'people' means any number of persons large enough to constitute a nation, and resolved to establish a new society of their own, whether they have hitherto formed part of another community or not, the North, who are separated from the South by a sharp, well-defined line, are not entitled to a voice in the matter at all, any more than the rest of the British empire had any right, according to their theory, to a voice in the question of colonial secession in 1776. But what will be the consequence of admitting that the negroes have a right to a voice in the matter?

In the first place, the negroes are a small comparative minority of that society which has resolved to secede, so that their vote, man for man, will not count for much. In the next place, if it is their interest that the Union should be maintained—that they might have a chance of escaping from their owners into the free States—it was much more the interest of the slaves of the colonists that the Union should be maintained with the British empire. There were fugitive slave laws in the United States, but there was no fugitive slave law for handing over to their masters the slaves who had escaped from the colonies to England. Slavery would have been much more likely to be perpetuated, had the Union been continued, or were it restored, than it would be in the case of North and South becoming two separate independent empires. Would not the slaves have a better refuge to escape to if North and South became two independent States, the former free, the latter slaveholding, than if both were one Union as before, with fugitive slave laws for delivering up escaped slaves when claimed by their masters? If the old Union is restored, slavery, which was an essential institution of the old Union, will inevitably be restored with it. It has been said that the Southern States were represented in the American Parliament, while the colonists were not represented in the Parliament of England. But this is a mere quibble about names and definitions. What does it matter whether the South were nominally and formally represented or not, so that they were outvoted, and their interests systematically sacrificed to the North. So long as the tyranny of the majority is established in reality, how does it signify under what specious forms it may be done? We might continue this parallelism much further, but we have said enough to convince every reasonable and impartial mind.

HOW SUBJUGATION PROCEEDS.

(From the *New York Daily News*, September 27.)

The fall of Vicksburg is undone. The Mississippi has been once more sealed to the up-country merchantmen. Confederate guns sink, burn, and destroy, along the line of the Father of Waters; and the declaration by the Constitution of the Confederacy of the freedom of its navigation, has been annulled, *vi et armis*, by horse, foot, and artillery. And the conquest of the South, ye men of the West, goes bravely on!

Texas has been abandoned. The Rio Grande has been opened for supplies of Confederate material. Matamoras is a port of entry for Southern cotton, and a banking-house charged with unlimited transactions in Southern gold! Thus, ye war advocates of these broad States of the North, are the supplies of the Confederates being cut off, and their credit crippled by exclusion from the markets of the world!

The Louisiana of the Abolitionists was a broad State while its riches were ungarnered by organised robbery. Like a sucked orange, now that its 'loot' has been transferred to Black Republican pockets, it has collapsed. A ring-fence of pickets hedges in the jurisdiction of Mr. Hahn within a narrow circle around New Orleans, and he has fallen from his high estate below the level of the ambition of Sancho Panza, since his dominions have ceased to embrace the governorship of even Barataria!

Stand Wattie lords it with his Indians on the Western border. The lands of the Creeks and the Cherokees are once more under the protection of his braves, and he holds sway so far up towards Kansas to give law probably at this moment from Fort Gibson!

General Steele sleeps at Little Rock. He is as inoffensive as a quaker gun. His army appears to be as mythical as Sir John Falstaff's men in buckram. Price moves up on one side into Missouri, and Shelby, Marmaduke, Fagan, had already preceded him on the other, within seventy or eighty miles of St. Louis. And thus, ye hopeful advocates of subjugation, does the work of conquest progress beyond the Mississippi.

Western Tennessee the work of subjugation has compelled us to surrender. The recruiting ground and storehouse thus opened has given and fed an army for Forrest. The Memphis and Charleston Railroad has been surrendered. Memphis has been lately plundered by a few Confederate horsemen; Vicksburg has recently been threatened by a gathering at Jackson; and the sovereignty of the Confederacy stands unchallenged throughout almost the length and breadth of the great producing region of Mississippi!

Forrest is in Middle Tennessee, killing, capturing, plundering, and not afraid. Cavalry men of the regular army of the Confederacy, guerillas, bushwhackers, and all descriptions of evil-doers, disturb Federal dominion in the fair State of Kentucky. And thus, you believing imperialists, progresses between the Tennessee and the Ohio the highly democratic business of armed repression!

Sherman is in Atlanta. The gallant fellow seems to have been less puzzled as to the mode of taking it than he is now by the question of what to do with it. One advantage that the war-makers have gained by it is the comforting assurance that he sees, from within its earthworks, a business of conquest which must go on, he says, for many years. The great guns fired and the powder burned for the fall of that den of misery and blood: what has been accomplished, aside from executive clap-trap, by this foolish hunting of the *ignis fatuus* of Southern subjugation into the jaws of the cannon of Atlanta?

Sheridan has won two victories in the Valley. The material result so far gives him the possession of that region for a distance of about sixty miles from the Potomac—but not until after Early had stripped it very thoroughly of its corn and oil, its flocks and herds. The Federal chief may, it is true, with his overwhelming force—obtained by crippling Grant press still onward; but unless Sherman abandons his wild-goose chase into Georgia for a movement on the rear of Richmond, can do so only subject to the danger of such a movement in his rear as that which hurled Hunter to the Kanawah at the head of a starving mob.

Grant—oh! we hate to think of the thousands of poor victims that now drop around him under the shot and shell, and breastwork and mine, of deadly pestilence! The Lieutenant-General, however, still languishes with his shattered army under the tide-water fever of Virginia. He is monarch of about 100 square miles of Virginian soil—for which, however, he has recently acknowledged his vassalage to the extent of a contribution of twenty-five hundred fat bullocks!

All around the coast of the Confederate States the Federalists hold positions very favourable for killing our men by pestilence. All these, however, are of no use to the work of war, save only so far as they illustrate its barbarities by shelling a city, burning some houses, and frightening poor women out of their wits. At Mobile and at Charleston the Federalists have fleets that cut off foreign intercourse at these points after it had been opened, without let or hindrance, along all the wide border of Texas! Vessels by the hundred steam up and down from the Potomac to the Mississippi around the Southern shores; and pretend to declare these Federal States masters on the ocean, while the Confederate cruisers make the high seas too hot for the Northern merchantman! Such, oh! ye jubilant assertors of conquest, is the progress of your work upon the shores and waters of the deep!

And the draft? What of that? A false pretence! A crimp-sergeant's trick for winning recruits! Abandoned in New York and Brooklyn by confession, it is also abandoned all over the country in actual fact. A make-believe of filling quotas here by volunteering, or of completing them there by conscription, the call for five hundred thousand men has turned out like that of Glendower for spirits that would not come. One hundred thousand men would, we firmly believe, represent more than the total results obtained under the draft whip; and that number falls greatly short of the recruits required to bring up our armies to their old relative standard of comparison with those of the Confederacy. Expirations of terms of service, prostrations by sickness or death under autumnal fevers, casualties of battle, &c., may be fairly supposed to have involved a reduction in our strength in the field to an extent that permits of but very moderate expectations from the accessions obtained under the call for five hundred thousand men. The 'rebels,' in the meantime, have met our pretended conscription by new levies; and thus do both sides come again together to enter, for the tenth or twelfth time, on a work of blood which will surely be completed in ninety days. And thus, most sapient friends of Imperial Federalism, does the labour of war go bravely on!

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

The Index was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, The Index has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. The Index does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, The Index is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of The Index, 13 Bouverie Street, E.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. Hopkins, Index Office.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1864.

The War.

The British public has, for the last week or two, jumped at the conclusion that Mr. Stanton has made up his mind to be honest, and that a bulletin from the War Office at Washington is a true exposition of facts. It does not say much for the sagacity of general readers that they should arrive at this decision when the North is in the throes of a Presidential election, and when the falsifying of despatches or the invention of telegrams would be regarded not merely as venial frauds, but as commendable developements of party warfare. But we all know the advantage of having 'the first say.' Mr. Lincoln and the gentlemen of his Administration are, of course, alive to its importance; and we can hardly wonder if their tactics are almost as successful on this as on the other side of the Atlantic. It takes some time to stifle a malicious scandal and to root out a mischievous error even in this country. When lying is so easy and so profitable, as it is at this moment to Mr. Lincoln's satellites, we ought not to be surprised that the most is made of twenty-four hours' start, and that very little importance is attached to the subsequent correction, provided the highly-coloured version of interested officials shall have had due circulation. And at this juncture every item of news that comes from the North should be read by the light of the contest now going on in all the States of the Union. The greatest purist that ever lived, in view of four years' prolonged retention of office, could hardly fail to exaggerate if his chances of success depended on his inventive powers. What, then, can we expect from Lincoln, and Seward, and Stanton? Now it is not our intention to make light of the reverses which have befallen the Confederate arms in the Valley of the Shenandoah. A people which is fighting the battle of independence against a Power possessing more than three times its numerical strength and material resources must expect, in a prolonged war, vicissitudes of fortune, and cannot hope to conquer a peace by an uninterupted course of victory. But admitting that Early has sustained a defeat, we may yet consistently, and in perfect confidence, assert that Mr. Stanton has not chosen this moment for a sudden display of honesty, and that the Northern bulletins have ridiculously overstated the successes of Sheridan's army.

The battle of Opequan Creek was a heavy blow to the Confederates, not so much from its intrinsic importance as from its political effect. It was undoubtedly a great gain to the Federals to be able to say that, at the end of a hard day's fighting, they had compelled a Confederate army to retire from ground of its own selection. But there is no doubt that beyond the prestige of victory the Federals achieved very little. Their losses were nearly double those of Early's army. Advancing in heavy columns upon a strong position, they were literally mowed down by grape and canister, and in the end only dislodged the Confederates by the onslaught of an overpowering mass of cavalry on the unguarded flank of their brave antagonist. The superiority of Sheridan in cavalry compelled Early to continue his retreat, but there is not the slightest evidence to show that it was not conducted in the most perfect order; and the fact that the pursuit of the retreating army was not commenced for twenty-four hours after the engagement sufficiently proves the rough treatment Sheridan's army experienced. At Fisher's Hill cavalry again enabled the Federal General to outflank the Confederates, and Early chose rather to lose a certain amount of material than to risk the destruction of his small force. But this was the last Federal triumph. Notwithstanding Sheridan's inflated boasts of having routed the army opposed to him, Early's rearguard easily held him in check at Mount Jackson, and finally retired unmolested in the direction of Harrisonburg and Staunton. But by this time the earlier conditions of the fight were altered. Sheridan was seventy miles away from his base of operations, Harper's Ferry; Early was falling back upon reinforcements and supplies. Kershaw's division had come up to his aid; probably fresh troops had been despatched to his assistance. At all events, it is reported from Southern sources that at Broom's Gap the Confederates had taken up a strong position, which Sheridan had assaulted unsuccessfully; that Early had then resumed the offensive and driven the Federals six miles; and this intelligence is borne out by the admission that the Federals had actually fallen back to Harrisonburg, at least twenty miles from Broom's Gap. Under these circumstances it would appear that Sheridan's progress has come to an end, and if he cannot advance he must retire, and once more abandon the Shenandoah Valley. He has suffered fearful losses; his army is worn out with heavy marching and constant fighting; he is eighty miles distant from his base; his line of communications is open to the constant incursions of Confederate cavalry through the gaps of the Blue Ridge. There is a reasonable probability, therefore, that we shall hear either of the retreat of Sheridan's army or of a new humiliation to the Federal arms in the Valley of the Shenandoah.

But both Sheridan's and Early's forces can only be regarded as detachments from the main armies at Petersburg and Richmond. Sheridan's attack appears to have been concerted with General Grant, and as soon as its success was known Grant put his army in motion. On the right and left the Federals attacked, according to their own reports, with partial success. Generals Birney and Ord, on the north bank of the James River, are reported to have carried strong intrenchments close to Chapin's Farm; and General Warren is said to have extended his front into close proximity to the South Side Railway. This change would make Grant's line some twenty miles in extent, and we may hope that Lee will soon find out some weak point in so extended a position. That the Federals should claim guns and prisoners, and should declare Richmond in serious danger, is nothing new. General Birney is the hero of half a dozen successful advances and as many great defeats, and he may again capture some unimportant earthworks; but if he is within five miles of Richmond, then he will find that his labour is just beginning, and that the fortifications of the Southern capital will stand a lengthened siege. But if Grant has been encouraged or impelled to assume the offensive in Virginia, it is certain that Sherman's army in Atlanta is in a position of extreme peril. Strong enough to hold Atlanta against any force that can be brought against it, it has yet to preserve a bold front before Hood's army, and to keep open a line of communications some 250 miles in length. According to the latest accounts, a Confederate cavalry force was destroying the direct line between Chattanooga and Atlanta; Forrest with 10,000 men had cut the railway at Athens, Alabama, had driven the Federals into Nashville, and was preparing to operate seriously on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad. Hood was taking up a position threatening the Federal rear, and Wheeler's cavalry force was held in reserve to act either in Georgia or Alabama. Meantime Sherman was said to have got his last man. The North-western States had been drained to recruit his armies. The Federals in Missouri wanted aid; in Arkansas the existence of Federal rule depended on the tenure of one fortified town; Little Rock; Texas, can not boast of a single Federal soldier on her soil; and Western Louisiana, with the exception of the city of New Orleans, has virtually returned to the Confederacy. It is obvious that all the talents of Mr. Stanton are needed to bolster up Mr. Lincoln's chances; and it ought not to surprise our readers if for the next two weeks every skirmish should assume the aspect of a Federal victory, and every movement of Federal troops should be described as a preliminary to the *coup de grâce* to the Confederate cause.

A Pretty Game of Chess.

It is curious to see what infinite perplexity and confusion are given to the followers of Lincoln by the unfortunate African. "Am I not a man and a brother?' receives at one time an affirmative and at another a negative answer; and the sable interrogator, after having caused a world of vexation and sorrow to his Northern benefactors as a slave, seems likely to involve them in yet greater trouble as a freeman. In the political circles of the United States, singularly enough, the negro has now no friends at all, and in the social circles, though he asserts himself greatly, attends the levees of President Lincoln, takes the best seat in the lecture-room or the concert-hall, and dances with a white partner at miscegenation soirées, he is yet so far under the ban of the 'Hunc tu Romane caveto,' that his oldest and most consistent eulogists are constrained to repudiate him. In truth, the 'nigger worshipper' is getting tired of his dark idol, and somewhat ashamed of his former idolatry. A few faithful adherents still stand by Cuffee and dance with him—nay, for aught we know, marry him, or worse—such as Angelina Weld and Anna Dickinson; but the politicians and philosophers, such as would retain any influence over the public mind, manifest the strongest repugnance to being known as associates of the poor negro, and disown the very doctrines they have for years been defending.

Par exemple, Horace Greeley. Ardent friend of the negro has been the editor of the *Tribune* since he first began his career as journalist, teacher of public morals, and propagandist of -isms. His porch has always been open to the black man—his academy has always proclaimed the equality of the races. Yet Horace now denies this equality, will not dance with 'cullurd pussons' any longer, let who will pipe unto him, and is so indignant at the bare statement that white Black Republicans can fraternise and mingle in the 'windings of the mazy' with black Black Republicans, that he threatens to horsewhip the reporter who tells of the free-and-easy fandango. Horace horsewhipping! Shade of Tamerlane, but this is horrid! Odds Enfields and Whitworths, but here's a transformation! Well, we have lived to hear John Bright, the prophet of peace, cry bravo to the cruellest and most unnatural war of all the ages, and we may not wonder that the spirit bellicose should so change the meek optimist of the *Tribune* that he should aspire to try the other end of the horsewhip, as a mild preparative to the musket or the sword.

On the evening of September 21, there was a meeting of the Central Lincoln Club at the regular Republican headquarters, corner of Twenty-third Street and Broadway, New York City, at which many eloquent speeches were made, and upon the adjournment of the club, the hall was immediately given up to a miscegenation ball at which several prominent Republicans assisted. Whites and blacks alternated in the dances like the keys of the pianoforte, and became mixed up on the floor like the pieces on the chess-board, in a strikingly miscellaneous manner. Considering the place at which the ball was held, and the fact that it followed directly upon the adjournment of the Central Lincoln Club, one might fairly attach to it a political significance, such as belonged to the *salons* of the Revolution of 1793. It might have well been regarded as a sort of political *partie d'échecs* in which black was to play and checkmate in two moves. Yet mark that when the *New York World*, in the legitimate exercise of its vocation as chronicler of events, undertakes to report the proceedings, Greeley waxes wroth, and declares that anybody who dares assert that Abolitionists have danced with negroes deserves to be horsewhipped. *A fortiori*, then, the Abolitionist who so dances is worthy of castigation, and, as for the negro, we suppose he or she that should be caught in a galop with a white partner ought to swing on the gallows. Alas! poor Cuffee!

It is difficult to account for this recent sensitiveness of Greeley on the subject of social fraternisation with the blacks. It may be that, Seward having thrown the negro overboard in his Auburn speech, and Lincoln having wholly abandoned the idea of the extermination of slavery, policy dictates the desertion of the dusky brethren on the part of the recognised friends of the Government. Or it may be that the negro, since the enlargement of his rights, social and political, has fallen into bad company among the lower white classes of the Northern States, and thus degraded himself in the eyes of Horace, just as Doll Tearsheet tells us of the word 'occupy'—'which was an excellent good word before it was ill-sorted.' Or yet again the wrath of Horace may be referable altogether to physical objections becoming stronger and stronger against Dinah as the atmosphere of the ball-room becomes more and more heated, and the negro may be only objectionable

when in a high state of perspiration. Certain social privileges may be safely allowed him in a cold climate and in the open air, which must be withheld in crowded apartments and under a tropical temperature, and thus his full citizenship be determined by isothermal lines, and not by 36.30 or any other degree of latitude. Sydney Smith once said that he thought the negro might have become a citizen in the United States but for his odour, like the bay-tree in the Georgics—

Et si non alium late jactaret odorem,
Civis erat.

The question is, after all, not a very pleasant one to pursue, and might fairly be left to the discussions of the Anthropological Society; but it is certainly worthy of remark that, while miscegenation is going on apace in the Northern States of America, the Lincolnites proper are deserting their black brother and backing out from the practical working of their own long-cherished dogma of African equality.

The Bazaar at Liverpool.

The thanks of every lover of his fellow-creatures will be awarded to the promoters of the Liverpool Bazaar. To alleviate the physical sufferings of human beings, whether by the foundation and support of hospitals, or the still nobler effort of charity which prompts sisters of mercy to pursue their self-imposed tasks, is the peculiar office of Christian benevolence. Indeed, while the eye gazes on the picture of gentleness, of loving acts and emotions, which command devout admiration for Him who taught peace and goodwill among men, no feature so enchants the imagination as those acts of healing which restored to vigour the miserable victims of disease. Inasmuch, then, as the approximation to an ideal perfection constitutes the highest claim to just applause, it is not without a law of reason that respect unbounded and unqualified has been bestowed on those who have loved to smooth the pillow and bind the wounds of the soldier. Moreover, in a country and among a people obedient to the laws of Christianity and civilisation, just as the spectacle of a woman fighting in war shocks the softer sensibilities, so by the force of contrast does woman, while bravely enduring the horrors of the hospital, inspire a courage and devotion such as even the fierce enthusiasm of a Jeanne d'Arc can scarcely excite. But if the conduct of the primary agent is so worthy of praise, it follows that every effort which renders that conduct more potent of good is also laudable in its degree. Assuredly, if millions fall down and worship him who successfully sends brave men by thousands to the grave or to the hospital, some may be found to admire those who assuage the misery which the mighty master of war has created. Then again, stern as the realities of the battle, the forced march, or the night watch may be, it has been found possible so far to embellish war with outward trappings and with ideas of triumphant glory as to fill the imagination with all 'the pride, pomp, and circumstance of war,' and to obscure its severer features. Yet, perhaps, if poets had been more just or their audience more gentle, it would have been a truer and more facile labour to have softened the repulsive traits by dwelling on the acts of mercy evoked. At any rate, but few years have passed since English people regarded the operations of the Patriotic Fund and the efforts of Miss Nightingale with more sincere and more deep pride than all the honour of the hard-fought struggle of Inkerman.

On these grounds we think that every one who lends a hand to promote the success of the Bazaar which is to be held next week at Liverpool will deserve praise. The object of the Bazaar is to add a good sum of money to the Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund. The operations of that Fund have been conducted on an extensive scale and in a creditable manner. Not only is it attempted to minister in a thousand ways to the unfortunate men who by the accidents of war are confined in Northern prisons, but also to alleviate the sufferings of wounded men within the Southern States, either when lying in the hospitals or on their journeys from the field to the cities. We in this country remember the peculiar pleasure derived by the soldiers in the Crimea from the institution of dispensaries which administered certain comforts to the invalids on their embarkation for Scutari; and just in the same manner many a gallant fellow in the Confederacy has blessed the hand which at the wayside houses has strengthened his body and cheered his spirit by the timely gift of some small luxury.

There is, however, one point of considerable importance which must not be overlooked in this matter. When we English people gave our money freely to our soldiers in the Russian war, we did not do it because the treasury of England was incompetent to perform the task. Besides our desire to lend a hand actively, as free men ought, to maintain the power and honour of the nation, there was also, it is believed, an honest and humble desire to do an act of Christian benevolence. Similarly, although in the present case we are dealing with a people who, though speaking our language, using our religion, and sprung of a common stock, are nevertheless not our people, we should not for one moment dream that we are eking out resources insufficient for the purpose. Such a thought would entirely destroy the value of the gift—first, because it would be the offspring of a haughty spirit condescending to an act of pity; second, because it would be a galling insult to a noble and an independent people. We are convinced that such a mistake will not be made, and that the gift will be offered and received in a spirit which will do honour to the donor and the recipient.

There is yet one more view not to be overlooked. The task to which in these columns we have devoted ourselves, not entirely without success, has been that of demonstrating that the English people and the people of the Confederate States possess interests in common of no ordinary magnitude, and that it is necessary for the welfare of both that they should understand with greater accuracy, and learn to look with a more just appreciation on the ideas, the laws, and the usages of each other. We believe that between them bonds of union of no ordinary stringency ought to exist, and we are well assured that the Southern people are not destitute of a kindly and even a respectful yearning towards the old country. Therefore, if such acts of benevolent sympathy as this Bazaar indicate a desire to make closer the connection between the English nation and that people whom three years of a war unprecedented in fury have demonstrated to be capable of the highest acts of genius, courage, and devotion, we shall hail the success of the experiment with pleasure, because it will be one step of progress in that task the accomplishment of which will be of lasting advantage to England, to the South, and to the civilised world.

The Strike in Staffordshire.

All nations that have a just pride in themselves are open to the charge of vanity. Indeed, the absence of vanity would argue a want of just pride. Vanity run mad has been the ruin of the Yankee people, and of them it is perhaps true—

Quem Deus vult perdere prius dementat.

Englishmen, however, are, and not without good cause, proud of themselves. Perhaps, as a nation, they are the greatest success in existence. Nay, it is probable that no nation has ever arrived at an equally favourable condition of fame, tranquillity, and wealth. England has experienced boundless prosperity in commerce and manufacture, has achieved a noble reputation in war, has built up a grand empire, has solved the problem of a combination of liberty and order, and has even acquired some little respect for morality and religion. Just at this present moment she happens to find that some other nations are not in an equally happy state with herself. War, bankruptcy, disunion, oppression prevail in America and on the continent of Europe. She herself has felt the rebound of blows inflicted, has seen her people stirred in their very souls with indignation at the rapacity of great European Powers, has beheld one great section of her industry and one immense source of her wealth absolutely paralysed, while thousands of her most industrious sons have been reduced to idleness and beggary. But, on the whole, she is singularly fortunate: her revenue is elastic, her people contented, the burdens of taxation are not overwhelming. The political world is singularly stagnant, and members of Parliament addressing their constituents at soirées or their tenants at an agricultural meeting, are forced to dilate on the cheapness of wheat and the science of crossing Leicester and Cotswold sheep. Indeed, a patriot might be pardoned for believing that the golden age had returned, and that England had become a living and tangible Utopia.

But just as the priesthood rightly exclaim, 'Let him that standeth take heed lest he fall,' so the greater the elevation of power and wealth to which England has arrived, the greater is the caution needed. It is a foolish thing to croak; the man who informs his friend, after the occurrence of some horrid disaster, that he always felt convinced that the evil would come to pass, justly earns the title of a very inopportune and impertinent critic. Yet it is a matter of reprobation that a folly or a weakness perhaps easily remedied, yet injurious if not removed, has an existence even in a state of approximate perfection.

At the present moment the old war between labour and capital—forces which in combination the economist contemplates as the origin of all effects—is raging with peculiar sharpness. The contest does not cover a broad expanse of ground, but within narrow confines it manages to attract the attention of a very considerable number of neighbours. After the French newspapers have been for many weeks narrating and commenting in terms not favourable to England on the strikes in the collieries, the journals of this country have at last discovered not only that there is a strike, but even that its dimensions are considerable and its consequences unpleasant. Indeed, to quiet humdrum people to whom an explosion of gunpowder gives a shock, the terrors of which are only relieved by the novelty of the sensation, it is really startling to find that 30,000 colliers have fully made up their minds not to dig coal except at an advance of wages; that they have held, and will continue to hold, enthusiastic meetings in which lord-lieutenants are denounced and clergymen derided, while the Mayor of Birmingham is so alarmed for the safety of the city of John Bright that he invokes the assistance of a regiment of lancers and a battalion of volunteers. If it be added to this, that an attempt has been made to apply the system of Guy Faux to a collier who preferred work at the reduced rate of pay, honest men may be pardoned for trembling in their beds. It is not for us, however, to decide on the merits of this unfortunate quarrel. Oppression on the part of masters is detestable, and reckless obstinacy on the part of the labourer is only less unfair because it is usually less systematic. So far as a strike is the honest protest against an attempt on the part of capital to usurp the obedience of labour, does it deserve support; but nothing is more difficult than to distinguish a just cause of opposition from a state of enforced idleness brought about by the interested machinations of a dozen committeemen. At the same time a state of things which renders the Mayor of a town panic-stricken at the threats of his fellow-citizens, is not creditable, especially when it would be so easy to obtain the mediation of the greatest of peace-makers, John Bright. Perhaps, however, that distinguished individual may consider the case a little too complicated even for his ingenuity. He might consider himself able to reconcile the colliers and the owners of collieries; but when the iron-workers, owing to the fall in iron of 1*l.* per ton, refuse to pay the ancient price for coal, and the vendors of the latter commodity reduce the wages of their men by 6*d.* a day to make up the loss, a professed peacemaker might well stand aghast at the attempt to adjust the difficulties of a triangular duel. Yet if there is any meaning in a borough having confidence in its representative, or if there is any use whatever in a representative, why is not such a mediator invoked? The aristocrats have failed hopelessly—why not let the democrats try? Are these distrusted by the masters or by the men? At least, whether Bright be useless or not, whether he be a practical man or a helpless agitator, surely the colliers and the owners of collieries have sense enough to adjust a dispute, the continuance of which inflicts heavy losses on the one combatant, and sours the temper and empties the cupboard of the other.

'Talk thus to the Marines!'

The struggle in America may be not inaptly defined as one between the power of insolent brute force and the principle of law and order. The human mind is never satisfied with abstract ideas, but desires to embody them in living forms. If the personification of insolent brute force is sought, it will be found to live in the person of Major-General W. T. Sherman. Butler, Milroy, Turchin, and Paine are equally insolent and equally brutal, but their fury is futile except against defenceless objects. Grant approximates very nearly to Sherman, and their relative superiority was long in suspense. The talk about 'the last ditch' and about 'robbing the cradle and the grave' was sufficiently insolent and sufficiently brutal. But Sherman eclipsed the Lieutenant-General, when he bade a Southern General 'to talk thus to the marines and not to him.'

What sort of correspondence with an enemy in the field such men as Attila or Zingis Khan carried on, it is not easy to say. Perhaps they conveyed what they desired to tell in the manner in which Nero informed Hannibal of the defeat and death of his brother at the Metaurus. In modern times, however, such methods have been abandoned, and warriors like Wellington and Soult knew how to communicate with each other without displaying the tempers of savages or using the language of costermongers. Nay, the very New Zealanders could teach Federal generals a lesson in common courtesy. Of the statements in Sherman's letter it is unnecessary to say much. There is not one which is not disproved by General Hood. Let every man read and judge for himself the correspondence which we elsewhere print. What we desire to learn is, whence do the men in power in the Northern States derive

their love of vulgar insolence, their hatred of decent courtesy? From Lincoln, who condemned himself before the civilised world by his filthy frivolity at the reception of the Peace Congress, to the mad brigadier of Kentucky, it is all one story. Is it congenital coarseness, or is it the force of example? Is it nature, or is it fashion? It is bad enough for the South to have to contend with an enemy destitute of humanity. What evil destiny has decreed that her foe should repudiate common decency?

YANKEE CALCULATION.

To the Editor of The Index.

Sir,—The *Spectator* published, on October 8, a letter from its Special Correspondent in New York, in which, after declaring that the *excess* of Federal captures is more than 40,000 men, and that the Confederates had proposed to exchange all prisoners, the excess to be on parole not to serve till exchanged, the writer says: 'Now we (i.e. the Federals) have done this before, and we have learned by experience that it would now be equivalent to sending straight into the ranks of the rebel army, not only the actually exchanged men, but the excess of 40,000 paroled men, with this difference also, that the men whom they received would be healthy, well fed, and hearty; whereas our poor fellows are so wasted, so worn, and so diseased by the manner and places of their confinement, that the sworn and trebly confirmed story of their wretchedness has spread sorrow and indignation throughout the country.'

There is a calm merciless spirit in this calculation which stamps it as the work of a Yankee. One hundred thousand Northern soldiers may pine in prison, but the cost of relief would be one hundred thousand Confederates. The former are wasted and worn, and not fit for fighting. The latter are robust and ready for war. That is the only consideration. If an exchange will not pay, the argument of mercy even for their own soldiers will find but a deaf ear among the War-Christians.

I am, &c.,

Misericordia.

THE PRINCE OF WALES IN RICHMOND.

To the Editor of The Index.

Sir,—I observe a note in your paper of last week, referring to a passage in a recent letter of Mr. Sala to the *Telegraph* which treats as true that absurd slander of the Prince of Wales having been insulted by a mob in Richmond, Virginia. As I was in Richmond in October 1860, when the Prince of Wales visited that city, and learned the whole facts of the case, you will perhaps give me space enough in your columns to relate them.

One Mr. Joseph Howard, jun., a travelling correspondent of the *New York Times*, had without invitation intruded himself on board the *Harriet Lane*, the steamer which conveyed His Royal Highness and suite from Washington City to Acquia Creek, where they took a special train for Richmond, sent by the civil authorities of Richmond to meet them. Howard came by the train to Richmond, and arriving at a point on the northern edge of the town where open carriages were in waiting to carry the distinguished guests to their hotel, attempted to enter one of these carriages, but was promptly hindered from so doing by the Committee of Reception. Stung by this rebuke for an impertinence, he wrote, two days afterwards, the letter to the *New York Times*, in which the utterly baseless story of the mob and the insult to the Prince was first given to the public. He was thus revenged upon Richmond for what he conceived his wrongs at the hands of its authorities. The letter was quickly seized upon by the Abolition journals of the North as furnishing proof of the 'brutality' of the 'slaveocracy' of the Southern States, and widely circulated to the prejudice of Richmond. The Mayor of the city, the Hon. Joseph Mayo, in vindication of its fair fame, wrote to Lord Lyons and the Duke of Newcastle, both of whom accompanied the Prince to Virginia, asking whether there was any shadow of truth in the statement made by the correspondent of the *New York Times*, and received letters from these noblemen declaring that there had been no insult given to his Royal Highness by mob or otherwise, but that his visit to Richmond had been altogether pleasurable and satisfactory. If communication with Richmond by mail were not interrupted, it would be an easy matter to procure the official refutation of this disgraceful slander, which was accepted for truth at the time by many persons in England, and naturally enough excited in their minds a feeling of indignation.

Of Mr. Joseph Howard, jun., it is perhaps unnecessary to say more here than that he has recently furnished the world with another specimen of his mendacity, in the forged proclamation of President Lincoln, which procured for him an incarceration for some months in Fort Lafayette.

Naturam expellas furca, tamen usque recurrit.

I am, very respectfully, yours,

A Virginian.

Close of the New Zealand War.—Submission of the Natives.—A copy of the following telegram from the Acting Consul-General, Cairo, to the Foreign Office, dated October 10, 1864, has been received at the War Department: 'I beg to communicate through your Lordship's Office, to the Secretary of State for War, and to the Quartermaster-General, Horse Guards, London, the following telegram, just received from Lieutenant-General Cameron, dated Tauranga, August 6: —"A meeting took place on the 5th and 6th of August between his Excellency the Governor of New Zealand and the natives of Tauranga, at which the latter submitted unconditionally to the Queen's authority, and placed their lands at the Governor's disposal. They have been permitted to return to their lands, a small portion only of which will be forfeited."'

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.

FROM A CONFEDERATE CORRESPONDENT.

Paris: October 12.

I regret that, owing to an illness which has confined me to my bed during the past fortnight, I have been unable to acquaint your readers with the recent comments of the Paris press relative to the affairs of America. During this short period, however, the attention of the French journalists has been diverted from the American continent, and has been wholly concentrated on the Italian peninsula. With that versatile impetuosity which is so prominent a feature in the French character, the Parisian press has seemed to ignore every question in the whole political world save one—that of Rome. In its consideration of this subject all other interests of a political nature have been for a time forgotten, and its every energy has been devoted to the investigation of this curious Italian Convention.

This Roman question being one of a purely speculative nature, it was not long in becoming a source of weariness to the French journalists, who, a few days since, abandoned its consideration and reapplied themselves to the American question, the changeful features of which afford a deeper and more varying interest.

The nomination of General M'Clellan, which was at first received with indifference, if not with some degree of sympathy, by the Liberal journals, has now become the subject of their most severe attacks. So long as the Peace Democrats appeared hostile to the General, he received but little opposition from these journals, but when they witnessed the entire Democratic party advance to his support, he immediately became the object of their bitterest criticism.

The *Opinion Nationale*, the *Siècle*, the *Journal des Débats*, and the *Temps*, with one voice exclaim, 'Away with this pro-slavery candidate, who seeks to reestablish the Union by the pollution of slavery!'—and they one and all consign him to the malediction of posterity. It is not he who is to restore the Union. This glorious task is reserved for honest Lincoln, for patriotic Lincoln, for the unswerving and clear-sighted Lincoln. It is amusing to notice the rambling notions of these journals on this subject.

The *Temps*, which may generally be regarded as a grave and moderate journal, in its enthusiasm for Mr. Lincoln positively allows itself to be carried into the domain of poetry. According to this journal, Mr. Lincoln is not only an honest, courageous, persevering man: he is more than this—a noble-hearted man, a man 'who has most unflinchingly borne the heaviest burden of responsibilities ever yet imposed upon a statesman, who has never once despaired of the safety of the country, who found the Union on the very brink of ruin, and who gave it gigantic armies and fleets, and who has but one effort more to make in order to save the great republic.'

Such language as this deserves notice. Lincoln found the country on the verge of ruin, and gave it gigantic armies and fleets! What a present! Surely General Butler's organ at Norfolk alone would have ventured to congratulate a democratic republic on having received such a gift!

The *Temps* thus characterises the two candidates for the Presidency. One is most determined on the reestablishment of the Union and the abolition of slavery; the other is also for the Union, but does not trouble himself much about emancipation. It is evident that the *Temps*, with other journals of the same stamp, has learnt nothing from Mr. Seward's speech at Auburn—'None so deaf as those who will not hear.'

In an article written by M. Chatard, of the *Presse* (notwithstanding its numerous errors, some of which are very serious), the respective situations of the candidates for the Presidency are more correctly described. M. Chatard appears clearly to understand that the question of slavery is no longer the cause of dispute, and that the election contest has nothing whatever to do with it. He remarks as follows:—

M'Clellan's programme differs but little from that of Abraham Lincoln, and it may well be adopted by those Republicans by whom the Union is regarded as of greater importance than Abolition. But this is also precisely the programme of Lincoln. Although he has used his best energies to secure Abolition, he nevertheless remains immovable on the principle of the Union, and in case of need, and with a view to further his Presidential success, he would quickly divest himself of the surplus weight of Abolition in order to gain his object.

The *Patrie*, with still greater exactness, describes the character of this election contest, and states that it is open between—

First, Mr. Lincoln, a candidate of the Republican party, whose programme is: political centralisation at Washington; the conquest of the South and the maintenance of the Union, with the clause, well defined by Mr. Seward, that slavery has nothing whatever to do with the present war.

Secondly, General M'Clellan, a candidate of the *Democratic party*, whose programme is: political decentralisation; acknowledgment of the rights pertaining to the States of the Union; the maintenance of the Union by pacific means if possible, and by war if indispensable, with the tacit clause, or rather the hope, that M'Clellan will not persist in his warlike determinations.

In the clear and precise sketch above given, you will doubtless recognise the pen of that intelligent defender of the Southern cause, M. Aucaigne.

You are no doubt aware that an account of the cruises of the *Sumter* and the *Alabama* has been published in French by Dentu. The sympathy exhibited by the whole French nation towards Captain Semmes on the occasion of the glorious combat near Cherbourg insured a remarkable success for this book: its first edition was disposed of in a few days, and a second is now in course of preparation, which will no doubt meet with an equally rapid sale. This unpretending little work, whose every page records some daring exploit, and which is animated throughout by a truthful and patriotic sentiment, has been received with great favour and sympathy by the entire press. The *Patrie*, by the pen of M. Aucaigne, the *Constitutionnel*, the *France*, and the *Pays*, have each earnestly directed the attention of its readers to these truly dramatic and heroic recitals, and have been loud in their praises of those hardy cruisers, whose courage and romantic adventures so thoroughly harmonise with the French temperament.

The *Petit Journal* itself, a popular organ *par excellence*, reckoning at the present time upwards of 150,000 subscribers (which supposes it to have at least 300,000 readers), has welcomed this book in an article extending over four columns, bearing the signature of the illustrious *Timothée Trimm*, whose celebrity amongst the working classes exceeds that of the most popular writers of the day.

This unanimous praise has caused no small vexation to the *Siècle*. In a furious article, inspired by the blindest hatred, it passionately calls the whole press and the entire French nation to the rescue against the *Alabama* and Captain Semmes, whose popularity, according to its way of thinking, is a decided disgrace. This article, altogether unworthy of a French writer, has met with the following stern comment from the *Pays*:—

It is in vain that the *Siècle* seeks to heap insult upon those who have bravely sacrificed their lives in the defence of their country; such sentiments as these can never conduce to popularity in France.

The *Patrie*, referring to the occupation of Brownsville by General Cortina, very justly remarks that complications of a serious nature may result from this circumstance. It is strange that such an event should have remained unnoticed by the other Paris journals, more especially as its importance must be apparent to all. This journal also contains an interesting article, written by M. Cucheval-Clarigny, on the torpedoes and armour-plated ships whose invention is due to the Confederates. Although M. Cucheval, being an editor of the *Patrie*, is an advocate of Northern interests, still in this article, which is by no means political, he evinces great impartiality. The fight of the *Tennessee* against the combined fleet of Admiral Farragut is related with great exactness. M. Cucheval admits the heroic defence made by this vessel, and does justice to the inventive genius of the Confederates in stating that the *Tennessee* fought unaided, during two hours, against the combined Federal fleet, being overcome at last by a mere accident, her armour having suffered no considerable damage.

CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Manchester: October 12, 1864.

The distress arising from the cotton famine has made another great stride this week, and unless matters mend to a degree not at all to be counted upon, we must shortly be prepared for a worse winter of misery than has afflicted us in any previous year. The gravity of the occasion was fully recognised at the monthly meeting of the Central Executive Relief Committee, held at the Town Hall on Monday last, when among the noblemen and gentlemen present were the Earl of Derby, Lord Egerton, Lord Edward Howard, M.P., Sir J. P. Kay Shuttleworth, Colonel Wilson Patten, M.P., and Mr. T. Bazley, M.P. Mr. Commissioner Farnall's report showed, in the words of the *Manchester Examiner*, 'a lamentable increase in the number of the distressed operatives during the last month.' As a matter of fact, more than 30,000 persons were thrown out of work between September 3 and October 1, and it is estimated that the number of people at the present time in receipt of aid either from boards of guardians or from district relief committees, falls very little short of 120,000. With good reason may the *Guardian* observe, in commenting upon so alarming a statement, that the report of Monday's proceedings will have been read with anxious concern throughout the cotton manufacturing districts. From the tenor of the discussion, it appeared to be the general opinion that, inasmuch as 'great fluctuations' would probably take place in the amount of mill work 'before the cotton trade returned to its ordinary settled condition,' the Executive Committee were impressed with the necessity of husbanding and economising their resources so as to provide if possible for any contingency that may from time to time arise. With this view, they recommended an increased employment of factory operatives upon public works; and also that a larger proportion of the unemployed than hitherto should receive relief, not from the central or district committees, but from the Poor-law Guardians, thus facilitating the inevitable transition from voluntary charitable aid to the relief to be provided at the cost of the ratepayers. This new feature in the mode of dealing with the distress would not appear of much importance unless, other things considered, it were sadly ominous of the difficulties in store for us in a more straitened and less bountifully provided future. About eighty towns have already adopted the Public Works Act, and an additional number of men will be immediately set to work where the pressure of the distress is heaviest, and works suspended during the summer in three of the unions will be immediately resumed.

The necessity of actively applying the Act in all the unions was strongly insisted on, and it was held by some of the speakers, although the statement was not verified by evidence, that there was a culpable remissness somewhere. Mr. Commissioner Rawlinson calculated that 13,000 men, whose families amount to 50,000 persons, might find employment on the public works; yet the reports for September show that the number so employed fell short of 5,000 men. Before separating, the Relief Committee expressed their sense of the seriousness of the crisis by passing a resolution to meet on each of the two succeeding Mondays, instead of fortnightly as before. Grants to the amount of 6,000*l.* were made from the general relief fund. The balance at the disposal of the committee is now 210,000*l.*; but large as this sum may appear, Lord Derby and his colleagues were sufficiently emphatic in their opinion that it would not be found more than adequate for the most cautious expenditure.

In view of so much bitter hardship *in esse*, and so much more *in posse*, it seems a cruel mockery of the wretched condition of the operatives that agents—avowed Federal agents—should still be permitted to hover among

them in prosecution of the iniquitous design of inducing them to emigrate by shiploads to America. A Mr. Peter Sinclair, whom we chiefly remember in Manchester as one of the Yankee operators in the infamous *George Griswold* swindle, boasts of having visited Bradford (Mr. W. E. Forster's constituency) and other manufacturing towns in the north, for the purpose of engaging our unfortunate dupes under what he styles 'a legal contract of service for twelve months' in their respective trades in one or other of the Federal States. The list of trades with members of which he appears to have been tampering is a tolerably comprehensive one, and represents a good deal of that kind of *physique* that goes to recruit armies. His first shipload—if it is allowed to sail—or, as he says, his first 'group,' purports to consist of (besides weavers, calenderers, &c.) iron-puddlers and their 'helps,' heaters, roughers, rollers, finishers, blast-furnacemen, iron-turners, brass-turners, farmers' labourers, and domestic servants. The terms upon which Mr. Sinclair is said to have engaged the 'parties' are, that from the time of starting from their respective localities they should be paid all their expense of transit to New York, and from thence to the works in the several States where they are to be employed—the emigrants agreeing to refund the cost by small weekly instalments until the whole is repaid by the workmen to the employers who advanced the capital through the medium of the aforesaid Mr. Sinclair. The sums thus to be repaid will, it is naïvely added, be 'considerably lessened by so many going together.' The whole bedding, for instance, with an extra blanket for each, towels and cookery utensils, 'as required by the Emigration Act,' were purchased for less than 10*s.* each; and in like manner the railway fare to Liverpool and the passage by mail steamer to New York were procured, as it is said, 'at a reduced rate to the emigrant,' the whole probably amounting 'to about 6*l.*' for each emigrant to repay during his year's engagement. Will Her Majesty's Government make any enquiry into the doings of this Peter Sinclair? Earl Russell might possibly make so bold as to 'see about it,' if he were encouraged by a perusal of the opinions entertained and published of this nefarious scheme by C. Godfrey Gunther, the Mayor of New York. Mr. Gunther, in acknowledging receipts of papers from the 'general agent of the American Emigration Company' (to wit 'Peter Sinclair'), writes as follows:—

Mayor's Office, New York, September 14, 1864.

Sir,—Your letter of the 5th inst. requesting my sympathy and support for your Association, together with circular, articles of agreement, and a copy of the recent Act of Congress 'to encourage immigration,' was duly received. Immigration under ordinary circumstances is a source of wealth and prosperity to a people, and its encouragement a duty. The Act of Congress under which your Association has been organised, however, is, in my judgment, for another purpose. Its title is a misnomer, and it should have been called a bait under fraudulent pretences to enlist foreigners.

England and the American War.—The war has swept American commerce from the sea, and placed it, in great measure, in our hands; we have supplied the loss of the cotton which was suddenly withdrawn from us; the returns of our revenue and our trade are thoroughly satisfactory, and we have received an equivalent for the markets closed to us in America in the vast impulse that has been given towards the development of the prosperity of India. We see a great nation, which has not been in times past sparing of its menaces and predictions of our ruin, apparently resolved to execute, without pause and without remorse, the most dreadful judgments of Heaven upon itself. We see the frantic patient tearing the bandages from his wounds and thrusting aside the hand that would assuage his miseries, and every day that the war goes on we see less and less probability that the great fabric of the Union will ever be reconstructed in its original form, and more and more likelihood that the process of disintegration will extend far beyond the present division between North and South. We observe the rapid destruction of that mighty fabric of prosperity which was so formidable a rival to our own colonies, and we look forward, at no distant date, to the day when the credit of the Republic must be hopelessly and utterly destroyed. Were we really animated by the spirit of hostility which is always assumed to prevail among us towards America, we should view the terrible spectacle with exultation and delight, we should rejoice that the American people, untaught by past misfortunes, have resolved to continue the war to the end, and hail the probable continuance of the power of Mr. Lincoln as the event most calculated to pledge the nation to a steady continuance in its suicidal policy. But we are persuaded that the people of this country view the prospect of another four years of war in America with very different feelings. They are not able to divest themselves of sympathy for a people of their own blood and language thus wilfully rushing down the path that leadeth to destruction. Accustomed themselves to the use of freedom, to believe in its future and to confide in its progress, they cannot see with indifference the ruin of so many hopes, the eclipse of so many glorious aspirations. They know very well what are the sentiments with which this fearful American catastrophe is regarded by those Governments which consider it their mission to put down liberty of every kind in the whole world, and to inculcate the doctrine that order can only be preserved by tyranny. The people of this country view with dismay the overthrow and abolition of the rights of individuals which immemorial tradition has taught them to hold sacred, and as they muse on the appalling spectacle their faith in the ultimate triumph of the good cause grows weak, and their apprehension that human nature has in it something suicidal, which the best institutions are powerless long to resist, becomes strong. Suppose any one five years ago had predicted, we will not say the present fearful condition of the United States, but the existence of the least and most tolerable evils which oppress them, from whom would he have found belief? And if such is the state of things now, what will it be after four years more such as the last four years have been? In comparison with these tremendous questions the success of one war party or the other is a matter of indifference. Ruin stares the Union in the face if the war is to be conducted by General M'Clellan, and if it be conducted by President Lincoln the result must be exactly the same. Why should we feel anxiety as to the success of one party or the other, when either must be equally fatal to the welfare of the Republic and equally pernicious to the cause of liberty and good government throughout the world?—*Times*, October 10.

THE CONFEDERATE SECESSION.*

Thoughtful and sensible as it is, the Marquis of Lothian's book is not very easy to read, and has faults which a more experience and more attention would have certainly avoided. The present tense is confused with the past, and imaginary cases, suggested for the sake of illustration, are mixed with real history, in a manner very likely to mislead a hasty reader ill-acquainted with the actual facts to which the author refers. The excuse, however, which he fairly pleads for faults frankly confessed—that ill-health has interfered with the composition of the work, and that want of practice has hindered its due arrangement—must exempt it from severe criticism, except at the hands of those avowed enemies from whom no book favourable to the South can expect justice, much less mercy; and these faults, after all, are the less likely to impair its usefulness, since three years of full and eager discussion have made most Englishmen acquainted with the history of Mr. Lincoln's election, and of the consequent withdrawal of the Southern States from the Union.

The Marquis writes as an Englishman, and not as a Southerner; and on the subject of slavery he shares the abstract views almost universal in this country. But he looks at the question from a practical point of view, and is willing to allow due weight to those considerations of policy which must modify and control the expression of theoretical opinions, and the efforts to carry those opinions into action, of all men fit to take a part either in the discussion or the execution of measures intended for a world of concrete phenomena, and not of pure abstractions. The essential distinction between a fanatic and a philanthropist—the regard of the latter for those practical complications of all simple theoretic questions which the former overlooks, and for the consequences which he despises—is generally the distinction observable between the English friends of the South and their countrymen who have espoused the cause of the North. The devotee of Yankeedom curses the Southerners as slaveholders, and overlooks the manner in which slaves were forced into their hands, and the reasons which have made it impossible for them to get rid of slavery; he shouts for instant abolition, without considering what abolition would make of the South, and what it would do for the negroes. The sober and honest Englishman bears in mind the fact, so pointedly recalled by the Marquis of Lothian, that it was England who forced slavery and the slave trade upon her colonies, in despite of their earnest opposition; that they have not, for the last forty years, ever been allowed to consider the subject fairly and temperately, but have been forced to defend their institutions, sword in hand, against a sect which has striven to effect an instant emancipation through midnight murder, through incendiarism, through conspiracy, through legislative usurpation, and through civil war; and remembers that they have before their eyes the examples of Jamaica and Hayti—the latter proving what becomes of emancipated negroes when left to themselves, the former what must be the fate of a country which depends for its existence upon negro labour, if once it releases the negro from that compulsion without which he will not work. No one honest enough to bear these things in mind can blame the South for not having abolished slavery; and no one who does not blame her on that score can feel any sympathy with the frantic tirades of Messrs. Bright and Taylor against the countrymen of Lee and Stonewall Jackson.

But the Marquis has one charge to bring against the upholders of Southern slavery which, as it is temperately urged and plausibly argued, ought not to be passed over altogether without notice. They do not, he says, look upon slavery sufficiently as a state of transition, through which the negro race should be educated for freedom and equality. It would seem that he has taken for granted, with too little consideration, the theory of the fundamental equality of races which is in vogue in Europe; that, while admitting the vast difference between the Caucasian and the negro, he thinks the latter capable of being fitted, by a slow and gradual process, for the same freedom and the same institutions that are enjoyed by the latter. We are not going now to argue the question whether this be true or not. We shall only say that it is questionable, and that those who know the negro best hold the contrary opinion. They believe that he is essentially inferior to the Caucasian, and that no training can ever bring a negro population to the level of the Caucasian race, especially of its Anglo-Saxon variety, or even so near to that level that the two could dwell together on terms of equality. Now historical experience shows us, that where a naturally superior and a naturally inferior race are in close contact, only two things can happen to the inferior—it must be enslaved or it must disappear. The latter is the fate of those races which cannot be enslaved, as the Maori and the Red Indian. If the 4,000,000 negroes were free among 8,000,000 whites, it would seem to be a certainty, according to the laws deducible from history, that they would be extirpated. Is it not better that they should remain slaves; being, as is admitted, happy and well treated in their slavery, well fed, well cared for in soul and body, humanised, protected, Christianised? Such is the Southern view; and unless the theory on which it rests be shown to be false, the conclusion can hardly be contradicted. At all events, those who believe the negro's inferiority to be incurable, cannot be blamed for not preparing to give him a liberty which, in that case, must inevitably destroy him.

But the most ardent Southerner will readily pardon this oversight in one who has taken so much pains to set the cause of the South in a just and favourable light before Europe. Three years or more ago, the prevalent theory in England was that secession was an aggressive movement, of which the object was the extension of slavery. So little was known of American history that it was currently supposed that slavery was the original and only ground of difference between the North and South—that the South had forced upon the North one compromise after another in favour of slavery; had sought new territory for the sake of extending slavery into it; had possessed herself of the government of the Union, and directed it to her own ends from the very first; and finally, having roused the fury of the North by repudiating her own compromises, and attempting to assert the right of holding slaves in all the territories (some said in all the States), had seceded because for once she was unable to elect a President of her own. This monstrous series of fictions has gradually been eliminated from the minds of all except those adherents of Mr. Bright whose frantic worship of democracy can see nothing but excellence in New England and nothing but evil in her enemies. But it is well to have it shown so distinctly as this book does show that in every respect this received version of the American schism was the exact reverse of the fact.

At the outset, Massachusetts was the only non-slaveholding State. She had found that slavery did not pay, and had sold her slaves to the South. Even the Fugitive Slave Law, as our author observes, was enacted on the proposition of Pennsylvania. And yet, at a very early period, the distinction between Northern and Southern interests was declared to be as strong as that between the interests of Russia and Turkey. And this was almost literally true. The North (the States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New England) had two sorts of interests, both unconcerned with foreign trade. There were the agriculturists, who lived on their farms and provided themselves with nearly all they wanted, and fed the towns, but found no market in Europe for their corn, wheat, and similar produce; and there were the manufacturers of various goods, who, so far from exporting, could hardly hold their own at home against the superiority of Europe. Their interest, then, was protectionist; that of the farmers was hardly of any account either way. But commerce was the very life of the South. She employed her whole energy in producing cotton, tobacco, rice, for foreign markets. The only article for which she could find an adequate market at home was indigo. Her interest, therefore, was in universal free trade, except in indigo. For as she had no manufactures, and could not afford to waste her industry in that way, she was an enormous consumer of foreign goods; and a protective tariff would therefore affect a much larger portion of her expenditure than would be the case in any other country. There was, then, a strong feeling of indignation excited in the South when Congress, under Northern domination, continually increased and multiplied the duties on foreign goods, till every article of domestic consumption that could be produced at home was protected by enormous duties, *except indigo*. This kind of protection had no analogy to our Corn Laws or Navigation Laws. These were intended primarily for the national benefit; the latter inflicted no considerable burden on any one; the former conduced to the profit of a class which, in return, paid (and still pays) from fifteen to twenty millions of taxation proper to itself, besides its equal share of the general taxation of the country. At any rate, the profits of these duties levied on Englishmen went into English pockets. But American protectionists proposed no national benefit; their tariffs were a naked spoliation of one section for the profit of the other. The South paid in customs' duties perhaps two-thirds of the Federal revenue. She paid ten times as much in the shape of extra prices to Northern manufacturers for the inferior articles which they substituted for the better and cheaper British goods excluded by protection. That is to say, the South probably paid some fifty millions sterling as tribute, not to Southern citizens, but to a greedy and unfriendly community which sucked her wealth from her through the channels of political connection.

By this time the West had come into being. It consisted of two (afterwards of three) portions—the country ceded by Virginia to the Union, and the country purchased from France. The country stolen from England and that forcibly torn from Mexico was subsequently added. On the course taken by the West depended the settlement of all questions between North and South; whichever she joined must certainly prevail. She had no interest in protection—quite the contrary. But as her supplies must in any case come through the North, and at great expense, the value of free trade did not present itself to her so forcibly as to the South. She had, however, or supposed herself to have, another interest hostile to the latter. The Western people were insatiable in their greed for land, and the question whether any given land should belong to them or not practically depended on the question whether or no slavery should be admitted there. If it were excluded, they would take undisputed possession. Hence the West became strongly anti-slavery, or rather anti-negro. And a battle-ground speedily presented itself on which North and West, protectionists of manufactures and protectionists of labour, monopolists of the market and monopolists of land, might join hands against the South. The second portion of the Western territory had to be organised into States. Louisiana came in naturally as a slave State. A dispute arose about Missouri. The South—which had given to the freesoilers the vast territory which now forms the States of Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin—demanded the admission of Missouri with the pro-slavery constitution which she had chosen. The Northerners resisted. The real question was that which has been fought between the two ever since—Northern ascendency or Southern independence. To admit the principle of excluding fresh slave States was to establish the former; to allow the new State to fix its own constitution gave the South as much as she could claim. At last the matter was compromised. Maine was admitted as a free State under a solemn agreement that the next year Missouri should come in as a slave State, and that for the future slavery should be excluded from all territory north of the parallel of latitude 36° 30′—that is, that all such territory should be surrendered absolutely to the Northerners. It would seem fairly to follow that all south of this should be Southern; and this was the intention.

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* *The Confederate Secession.* By the Marquis of Lothian. Blackwood.

This has been strangely represented as a Northern concession—as if the territories should be naturally freesoil, as if the property of Southern citizens of the United States should be naturally confiscated on their entering the common unappropriated domain of the Union. But no reason has ever been alleged for so strange a doctrine. The natural law would clearly be, in the absence of express provision—as the Supreme Court afterwards ruled—that every citizen had a right to go with his property where he pleased in the territory not yet formed into States, and so capable of legislating for itself; and it might be doubted whether even Congress had power to deprive him of that right. And if this did not work fairly, the next rule of justice would seem to be an equitable division (giving the South credit for the enormous territory ceded by Virginia to the North), either by an equal sharing (with such allowance), or by tracing Mason and Dixon's line through from the Mississippi to the Pacific. Nothing so favourable to the South was allowed. She gave up her right to an equivalent (if the territory were to be divided) for the Virginian cession, and received only the territory south of a line to the north of which lay Virginia, Kentucky, and Maryland. The compromise, then, was wholly and solely a concession on the part of the South both of her legal and her equitable rights. But even this compromise would not satisfy the North. The perfidious Yankees tried, the very next year, to exclude Missouri till she would give up slavery, in direct violation of the bond; they made a similar [attempt in the case of Arkansas; and in California they succeeded in locating a free State in the extremest corner of the South-west. So much for Southern encroachments and Southern breaches of faith. It was not till after the admission of California as a free State that the Missouri Compromise was finally torn up by a decree of the Supreme Court, based on the principle above suggested, which pronounced the indefeasible right of a citizen to take his property with him to any spot within the unappropriated domain or 'territory' of the United States.

The anxiety of the South to secure new slave States was wholly independent of slavery. It had regard simply to her sectional safety. The European immigration, acting on a highly democratic constitution, had given the North an overwhelming preponderance in the House of Representatives and an advantage in the Senate, and consequently a majority in the college of Presidential electors. The only chance the South could see of maintaining something like an equal rank in the Union was to secure, by the creation of new States, an equality in the Senate, and even in this she had failed. So far from controlling the policy and monopolising the government of the Union, she was in a minority in both branches of Congress, and she had 120 votes in the Presidential elections against 183. And since 1829, every President elected, except Mr. Buchanan, had a majority of Northern votes, and since 1837 four out of six had been Northerners. Till 1856 the Union was ruled by a party which had a majority in both sections. From 1857 to 1860 it was ruled by a party which had a Northern minority and a Southern majority. So much for Southern monopoly of power! And all this time the Federal Legislature used its most important privilege, that of taxation and expenditure, to enrich the North at the expense of the South. It imposed, as we have seen, an enormous tribute on the latter for the benefit of Northern manufacturers and shipowners; and it spent the public money exclusively on the North.

In clearing up confusion and error of this kind, 'The Confederate Secession' will prove a useful work. Into the arguments on other questions which it contains we have not entered, because some of them are far from new, and others, though opportune enough when written, have lost much of their force in the presence of subsequent events. The friends of the South have reason to be grateful to the writer; the abuse of her enemies will afford a less suspicious testimony to his merit than any praise of ours.

The Interest of England in Southern Independence.—The *New York Daily News* of September 26 says: 'The independence of the Confederate States will throw open to the British producer an annual demand of upwards of $250,000,000. The cheap goods of free trade brought into contact with the high goods of protection all along the St. Lawrence on the one side, and the Ohio on the other with the high goods of protective tariffs, an irresistible mode of argument will have declared the agriculturists of the West taxed grievously to sustain the monopolies of New England. Free trade will thus sweep over the Great West, and finally take its position in the policy of the Federal Government. The independence of the Confederacy thus throws open to the English producer, under a free competition, the South, the North, the West, and the markets of the teeming lands that are now budding into great States on the slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Southern independence breaks down the navigation laws. It destroys the rich monopoly of the coasting trade. Three-fourths of the export freights of the old Union, made up of the products of the now Confederate States, will have been thrown open, after their independence, to the free competition of British bottoms. The shipping interest of England will be enriched under Southern independence by the coasting trade and by three-fourths of our whole freights. Her products, in that event, will flood the whole continent under a perfect freedom of trade. Her political power will be increased, and her colonial possessions guaranteed, by a dissolution which shall make her one of the weights in an American system of political equalibration. Here are, in brief, some results for England inconceivably great, and, in their commercial and political bearing, of an importance worthy, on the part of that country, of a most decided policy.'

'The Cradle and the Grave.'—The rebels have had 1,802,000 men, wherewith to carry on their military operations during the four years of the war, and having called out 818,000 of these, they have got a surplus of 884,000 men of the proper military age. This, added to the 202,000 men now in the field, gives 1,186,000 men as the present available military strength of the rebellion, not counting the boys and old men, and not robbing either the cradle or the grave. These are facts which cannot be disputed.—*Cincinnati Enquirer.*

CANADA.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Quebec: September 26, 1864.

The grand scheme projected by politicians for the future government and greatness of Canada is that of amalgamation with the maritime provinces. Statesmen have been put to their wits' ends. Party interests and sectional divisions have for a long while disturbed the harmonious working of the Government, and so impeded its progress that it had even very recently been brought to a dead-lock. Despairing politicians luckily alighted upon a project which many consider feasible, but respecting which some sagacious people entertain the worst and most gloomy apprehensions. It is pleasing, however, to find that the Hon. Messrs. G. Brown and J. A. Macdonald, who for a series of years have been the most formidable political opponents, should have sunk their party predilections and have united, *con amore*, in a plan which may have the effect of improving the political and social condition of their country.

So far matters have progressed very favourably. The provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward's Island had agreed to hold a Conference at Charlottetown, the capital of the last-mentioned province, which accordingly took place during the early part of the present month. The object was to consider the propriety of uniting their political fortunes in one federative alliance. Permission was accorded to the Canadian Government to attend this assembly (which they did informally and unofficially), for the purpose of discussing the larger proposition, namely, whether it would not be politic and possible for all the provinces to combine themselves for the common good in one confederation. In this Conference the Government of Newfoundland was not represented; but it appears, from authoritative communications received, that they heartily sympathise with the movement, and evince a desire to attend any further deliberations on so vital a question. As the proceedings of the Conference were conducted with closed doors, a good deal of surmise was indulged in by the journals of the Upper and Lower Provinces as to the nature of the speculations brought forward and the programme that might have been determined upon. All surmise, however, has for the present been removed by the announcement that a formal Conference of the Governments of Canada, conjointly with those of the Lower Provinces, has been summoned by the Governor-General (I am confidentially informed, under authority of the Imperial Government) for the 10th proximo, at Quebec, as well as by the issue of a semi-official statement drawn up by a leading member of the executive. From this we learn that no definite policy has yet been agreed upon relative to the details of the projected political alliance, although we are told that the question was discussed in all its bearings; that no insurmountable obstacles were encountered; and that the conclusion was unanimously arrived at that a confederation of the entire British North American provinces would be highly advantageous, provided equitable terms of union could be agreed upon. At the approaching Convention several programmes will be submitted bearing on the question of union, and it will then be seen whether or no the project be possible of accomplishment.

I now give you the gist of the suggestions thrown out at the late Conference. These no doubt will form the subjects of unfettered enquiry during the sittings of the forthcoming Convention. First, then, it has been suggested that for the present the confederation should be composed of three sections—Upper Canada, Lower Canada, and the Maritime Provinces; that these may be admitted into the union either collectively or otherwise; and that provision might be made for admission into the union, at a future time, of the whole North-western territory, including British Columbia and Vancouver's Island. Secondly, it was suggested that the control of all local matters should rest with a local legislature and executive, while the affairs of the whole country should be vested in a general government and legislature. For this end, and to prevent collision, it would be incumbent to have the nature of the functions of both governments clearly and severally defined and embodied in an Act of the Imperial Parliament. Thirdly, it seems to have been suggested that, with reference to the constitution of the Federal Legislature, the representation in the Lower House should be based on population, and that of the Upper House on sectional equality. And here I may remark that the mode of selecting the members of the Upper House will form a subject of some difficulty, and certainly give rise to long and warm discussion. It seems that some favour election by the people for a term of years; others advocate that such election should be vested in the local legislatures; while others again as warmly contend that the election should devolve upon the Crown, acting upon the advice of its responsible ministers. Fourthly, it was suggested that the Federal Government should be constituted as at present—the representative of the Crown being advised by an administration possessing the confidence of Parliament. Fifthly, discussions likewise arose, it would appear, upon the nature and extent of the questions that would properly come under the cognisance of the Federal authority, such as trade, navigation, currency, banking, taxation, &c., &c., &c. No less formidable a subject for debate was the model upon which the local legislatures should be based. Some advocated two legislative chambers; others, one. Some favoured making the executive Government, as at present, responsible to the legislature; while others advocated that the lieutenant-governors and chief officials should be elected by the people. So far as the question of finance is concerned, little if any difficulty will be experienced. Should the union become a *fait accompli*, it is presumed that all the debts and assets of the several provinces would be assumed by the Federal Government; and it appears from a critical examination of the financial affairs of each province that the debt and annual burden now borne by the people are pretty equable; that the public exchequers all show a surplus; and that, consequently, no injustice could possibly be inflicted on either section composing the federation.

For my own part I am not at all sanguine that the projected alliance will be accomplished. A good deal of opposition will be offered to the contemplated change of government; the interests to be conserved and the probable details of the scheme are so numerous and entangled that it will be wonderful indeed if anything like unanimity of sentiment shall prevail. Several of the Franco-Canadian organs attack the proposed alliance with their customary vigour, and even some English organs are not silent in denouncing the measure. The *Chronicle*, the most popular journal in Quebec, this very morning has an article on the subject, and looks very dubiously, if not hostilely, on the movement. It regards it as nothing more or less than 'a transcript of the American Union which is just now offering so sorry an example of its cohesive and governmental powers.' It further observes that 'a federal division of the governing powers appears a very clumsy mode of giving them such an identity as would make them emphatically *juncta in uno*. It is in truth doing business by halves, and leaving the right, the true thing, to be done at a future time, if the opportunity which now offers should ever occur. . . The leaving the work that will surely have to be done some day, if we are to retain our present political existence, and not to be torn from our loved connection with Great Britain by ruthless violence, will be an error that we shall all deplore when perhaps the hour will be past at which it could have been remedied.' Owing to the difficulties in the way of governing Canada and her isolated position, I have heard some intelligent persons observe that they considered annexation to the States inevitable.

THE EVACUATION OF ATLANTA.

The following is the correspondence between General Sherman and General Hood with respect to the order for the evacuation of Atlanta:—

Headquarters, Mil. Div. of the Miss.,
In the Field, Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 18, 1864.

General J. B. Hood, commanding Army of the Tennessee, Confederate Army.

General,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, at the hands of Messrs. Ball & Crew, consenting to the arrangements I had proposed, to facilitate the removal south of the people of Atlanta who prefer to go in that direction.

I enclose you a copy of my order, which will, I am satisfied, accomplish my purpose perfectly. You style the measures proposed 'unprecedented,' and appeal to the dark history of war for a parallel as an act of 'studied and ingenious cruelty.'

It is not unprecedented, for General Johnston himself very wisely and properly removed the families all the way from Dalton down, and I see no reason why Atlanta should be excepted; nor is it necessary to appeal to the dark history of war when recent and modern examples are so handy.

You yourself burned dwelling-houses along your parapet, and I have seen to-day fifty houses that you have rendered uninhabitable because they stood in the way of your forts and men. You defended Atlanta in a line so close to the town, that every cannon-shot and many musket-shots from our lines of investment, that overshot their mark, went into the habitations of women and children.

General Hardee did the same at Jonesborough, and General Johnston did the same last summer at Jackson, Mississippi. I have not accused you of heartless cruelty, but merely instance these cases of very recent occurrence, and could go on and enumerate hundreds of others, and challenge any fair man to judge which of us has the heart of pity for the families of a brave people.

I say it is a kindness to these families of Atlanta to remove them now at once from the scenes that women and children should not be exposed to, and the 'brave people' should scorn to commit their wives and children to the rude barbarians who thus, as you say, violate the laws of war, as illustrated in the pages of its dark history.

In the name of common sense I ask you not to appeal to a just God in such a sacrilegious manner—you who, in the midst of peace and prosperity, have plunged a nation into civil war, dark and cruel war, who dared and badgered us to battle, insulted our flag, seized our arsenals and forts that were left in the honourable custody of a peaceful Ordinance Sergeant; seized and made prisoners of war the very garrisons sent to protect your people against negroes and Indians. Long before any overt act was committed by the, to you, hateful Lincoln Government, you tried to force Kentucky and Missouri into the rebellion in spite of themselves; falsified the vote of Louisiana; turned loose your privateers to plunder unarmed ships; expelled Union families by the thousands, burned their houses, and declared, by act of your Congress, the confiscation of all debts due Northern men for goods had and received.

Talk thus to marines, but not to me, who have seen these things, and who will this day make as much sacrifice for the peace and honour of the South as the best born Southerner among you.

If we must be enemies let us be men, and fight it out as we propose to do, and not deal in such hypocritical appeals to God and humanity. God will judge us in due time, and He will pronounce whether it be more humane to fight with a town full of women and the families of a brave people at our back, or to move them in time to places of safety among their own friends and people.—I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed) W. T. Sherman.
Major-General Commanding.

Headquarters Army of Tennessee, September 12.

Major-General W. T. Sherman, Commanding the Military Division of the Mississippi.

General,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, with its enclosure, in reference to the women, children, and others whom you have seen proper to expel from their homes in the city of Atlanta. Had you seen proper to let the matter rest there, I would gladly have allowed your letter to close this correspondence, and, without your expressing it in words, would have been willing to believe that whilst 'the interest of the United States,' in your opinion, compelled you to an act of barbarous cruelty, you regretted the necessity, and we would have dropped the subject. But you have chosen to indulge in statements which I feel compelled to notice, at least so far as to signify my dissent, and not allow silence in regard to them to be construed as acquiescence. I see nothing in your communication which induces me to modify the language of condemnation with which I characterised your order. It but strengthened me in the opinion that it stands 'preeminent in the dark history of war for studied ingenious cruelty.' Your original order was stripped of all pretence; you announced the edict for the sole reason that it was 'to the interest of the United States.' This alone you offered to us and the civilised world as an all-sufficient reason for disregarding the laws of God and man.

You say that 'General Johnston himself very wisely and properly removed the families all the way from Dalton down.' It is due to that gallant soldier and gentleman to say that no act of his distinguished career gives the least colour to your unfounded aspersions upon his conduct. He depopulated no villages, nor towns, nor cities, either friendly or hostile. He offered and extended friendly aid to his unfortunate fellow-citizens, who desired to flee from your fraternal embraces. You are unfortunate in your attempt to find a justification for this act of cruelty, either in the defence of Jonesborough by General Hardee, or of Atlanta by myself. General Hardee defended his position in front of Jonesborough at the expense of the houses—an ordinary, proper, and justifiable act of war.

I defended Atlanta at the same risk and cost. If there was any fault in either case, it was your own in not giving notice, especially in the case of Atlanta, of your purpose to shell the town, which is usual in war among civilised nations.

No inhabitant of either town was expelled from his home and fireside by either General Hardee or myself, and, therefore, your recent order can find no support from the conduct of either of us. I feel no other emotion than pain in reading that portion of your letter which attempts to justify your shelling of Atlanta without notice, under the pretence that I defended Atlanta upon a line so close to town that every cannon-shot and many musket-balls from your line of investment, that overshot their mark, went into the habitations of women and children. I made no complaint of your firing into Atlanta in any way you thought proper. I make none now, but there are a hundred thousand living witnesses that you fired into the habitations of women and children for weeks, firing far above and miles beyond my line of defence. I have too good an opinion, founded both upon observation and experience, of the skill of your artillerists, to credit the assertion that they, for several weeks, unintentionally fired too high for my modest field-works, and slaughtered women and children by accident and want of skill.

The residue of your letter is rather discursive. It opens a wide field for the discussion of questions which I do not feel are committed to me. I am only a general of one of the armies of the Confederate States, charged with military operations in the field, under the direction of my superior officers, and I am not called upon to discuss with you the cause of the present war, or the political questions which led to or resulted from it. These grave and important questions have been committed to far abler hands than mine, and I shall only refer to them so far as to repel any unjust conclusion which might be drawn from my silence. You charge my country with 'daring and badgering you to battle.' The truth is, we sent commissioners to you respectfully offering a peaceful separation before the first gun was fired on either side. You may say we insulted your flag. The truth is, we fired upon it and those who fought under it when you came to our doors upon the mission of subjugation.

You say we seized upon your forts and arsenals, and made prisoners of the garrisons sent to protect us against negroes and Indians. The truth is, we expelled by force of arms insolent intruders, and took possession of our own forts and arsenals to resist your claim to dominion over masters, slaves, and Indians, all of whom are to this day, with unanimity unexampled in the history of the world, warring against your attempts to become their masters. You say that we tried to force Missouri and Kentucky into rebellion in spite of themselves. The truth is, my Government, from the beginning of this struggle to this hour, has again and again offered before the world to leave it to the unbiassed will of those States and all others to determine for themselves whether they will cast their destiny with your Government or ours, and your Government has resisted this fundamental principle of free institutions with the bayonet, and labours by force and fraud to fasten hateful tyranny upon the unfortunate freemen of the States.

You say we falsified the vote of Louisiana. The truth is, Louisiana not only separated herself from your Government by nearly a unanimous vote of her people, but has vindicated the act upon every battle-field, from Gettysburg to the Sabine, and has exhibited an heroic devotion to her decision which challenges the admiration and respect of every man capable of feeling sympathy for the oppressed, or admiration for heroic valour. You say that we turned loose pirates to plunder your unarmed ships. The truth is, when you robbed us of our part of the navy, we built and bought a few vessels, hoisted the flag of our country, and swept the seas in defiance of your navy, around the whole circumference of the globe.

You say we have expelled Union families by thousands. The truth is, not a single family have been expelled from the Confederate States that I am aware of; but, on the contrary, the moderation of our Government towards traitors has been a fruitful theme of denunciation by its enemies and many well-meaning friends of our cause. You say my Government by Acts of Congress has confiscated 'all debts due to Northern men for goods sold and delivered.' The truth is, Congress gave due and ample time to your merchants and traders to depart from our shores, with their ships, goods, and effects, and only sequestered the property of our enemies in retaliation for their acts declaring us traitors, and confiscating our property wherever their power extended, either in their country or our own. Such are our accusations, and such are the facts known of all men to be true.

You order into exile the whole population of a city, drive men, women, and children from their homes at the point of the bayonet, under the plea that it is to the interest of your Government, and on the claim that this is an act of 'kindness to these families of Atlanta.' Butler only banished from New Orleans the registered enemies of his Government, and acknowledged that he did it as a punishment. You issue a sweeping edict, covering all the inhabitants of a city, and add insult to the injury heaped upon the defenceless by assuming that you have done them a kindness. This you follow by the assertion that you will 'make as much sacrifice for the peace and honour of the South as the best-born Southron.' And because I characterise what you call kindness as being real cruelty, you presume to sit in judgment between me and my God, and you decide that my earnest prayer to the Almighty Father to save our women and children from what you call kindness is a 'sacrilegious, hypocritical appeal.'

You come into our country with your army avowedly for the purpose of subjugating free white men and women and children; and not only intend to rule over them, but you make negroes your allies, and desire to place over us an inferior race, which we have raised from barbarism to its present position, which is the highest ever attained by that race in any country in all time. I must therefore decline to accept your statements in reference to your kindness towards the people of Atlanta, and your willingness to sacrifice everything for the peace and honour of the South, and refuse to be governed by your decision in regard to matters between myself, my country, and my God.

You say 'let us fight it out like men.' To this my reply is, for myself, and, I believe, for all true men, ay, and women and children, in my country, we will fight you to death. Better die a thousand deaths than submit to live under you or your Government and your negro allies.

Having answered the points forced upon me by your letter of September 9, I close this correspondence with you, and, notwithstanding your comments upon my appeal to God in the cause of humanity, I again humbly and reverently invoke His almighty aid in defence of justice and right.—Respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed) J. B. Hood, General.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

Wednesday Evening.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

The state of the money market remains unsettled. The numerous failures, the heaviness in cotton and other produce, and the high rates for discount, would, in ordinary periods, have created a perfect panic. Though a want of confidence exists, and it is not yet certain whether the Bank directors may not go to 10 per cent., the position is less embarrassing than it was a few days ago. The payment of the dividends has just occurred in time to bring money out. The Bank accounts, it is hoped, will shortly improve, and, if so, further danger may be averted for the present. Still there are many who think we shall see things considerably worse towards the end of the year, particularly in the dull days of November and December. No great apprehension is now entertained of any very serious crisis, because the bankers and brokers have adopted every precaution to protect themselves. Through being 'forewarned,' the operators generally have got out pretty well, but, of course, there must be some who will risk the sacrifice. The supply of money has increased the last forty-eight hours, and, were it not for exceptional circumstances, the rates would be cheaper. An influx of foreign gold is expected, and, therefore, probably the next two weeks will see a return to partial abundance. The Bank has been charging 10 per cent., the majority of transactions have again ensued at 9, and the joint-stock banks work a little more freely.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The state of the bullion market may be regarded on the whole as satisfactory. There have been no great changes, but what there have been are favourable. The specie sent into the Bank during the week has amounted to 190,000*l.*, and the withdrawals have been only 20,000*l.*, which was taken for Lisbon. The arrivals of specie have only been moderate, viz.: 177,650*l.* from New York and 10,762*l.* from the West Coast of Africa. The silver market has not been particularly active, there not being at present much demand for the East. The bar silver by the last West India packet has been disposed of at 61*d.* per oz., which is a decline of about $\frac{3}{8}d.$ upon the previous sales. There is very little doing in Mexican dollars, and prices have not varied from those current last week. Telegraphic advices from Melbourne to August 25 state that the shipments of gold during the month were 16,500 oz. of the value of 66,000*l.*

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The suspensions announced during the week have been Messrs. John Gladstone & Co., of Three King Court, Lombard Street, in the export American and Australian trades. The liabilities are believed to be between 150,000*l.* and 200,000*l.*—Mr. John Catto, of Upper Thames Street, in the French and Belgium paper trade, with about 35,000*l.* liabilities. — Mr. Patrick Thomson, ship and insurance broker, with debts amounting to about 25,000*l.*—Mr. E. Lazard, of Moorgate Street, exchange broker and agent to Paris bankers. His liabilities represent about 500,000*l.*—Messrs. Weber and Biddulph, of Philpot Lane, in the continental trade, with about 70,000*l.* liabilities.—Mr. G. P. Lascaridi, of Winchester House, in the Greek trade, with debts amounting to 40,000*l.*—Messrs. Mavrogordato & Co., of Gresham Street, and Messrs. Glaucopide, Brothers, & Co., also of Gresham Street, both likewise in the Greek trade, but it is expected that the joint liabilities will not exceed 20,000*l.*—This evening the suspension has been announced of Mr. Louis Speltz of Liverpool, cotton broker. He is known to have been in difficulties for some little time, consequently the event has not caused any surprise. It is stated that his own acceptances amount to about 250,000*l.*, and his endorsements and engagements on other bills to about 70,000*l.* more. Of the latter about 50,000*l.* are expected to rank on the estate. At present the assets are quite uncertain, but it is feared that they will not turn out very favourable. Messrs. Kemp, Ford, & Co. have been appointed by the creditors to examine the accounts, and a meeting will be called of the creditors as soon as a balance-sheet can be prepared.—The failure has also been announced this evening of Messrs. Bendie & Co. of the Corn Exchange, with liabilities to the extent of about 25,000*l.*—At a meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Fletcher & Co., corn merchants, Manchester, held on October 6, a balance-sheet was read showing the estimated liabilities to be 143,175*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*, and the assets 66,850*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*—At a meeting of the creditors of Thackrah Brothers, of Leeds, on Friday last, it was agreed to wind up the estate under assignment. The assets were estimated at 8,500*l.*, and the liabilities at 12,100*l.*

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The stringent state of the money market, combined with the suspensions which are now daily taking place, not only in the metropolis, but in all the large centres of commerce, continue to have a very adverse influence on all departments of the Stock Exchange. The brokers, under the circumstances, are afraid to operate with anything like freedom; consequently transactions are limited, and prices generally are lower. In the English market to-day, however, there has been rather more firmness, and Consols improved about $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., but in the foreign department there was scarcely any change. Consols closed this evening at 88 to 88$\frac{1}{8}$ for money, and 81$\frac{1}{2}$ to 81$\frac{5}{8}$ for the November account, which, as compared with this day week, is a fall of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Exchequer bills have also declined considerably, the present price being for the March issue 11*s.* to 5*s.* dis., and for those of June 25*s.* to 15*s.* dis. The decline in most of the foreign stocks has been greater comparatively than in Consols. Greek close this evening at 22$\frac{1}{4}$ to 22$\frac{3}{4}$, being a drop of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Mexican are down 1$\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., the present quotation being 26 to 26$\frac{1}{4}$. Spanish Passives have declined 1$\frac{1}{4}$, and the Certificates $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the prices respectively being 30 to 30$\frac{1}{2}$ and 13$\frac{3}{8}$ to 13$\frac{5}{8}$. Turkish descriptions are from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. lower, the Six per cents. of 1854 being 87$\frac{1}{2}$ to 88$\frac{1}{2}$ ex div., and those of 1862 69$\frac{1}{4}$ to 69$\frac{3}{4}$.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The market for American Government and Railway securities has again been more active this week; prices have fluctuated rather more than usual, but they close at about the highest point of the week. The dealings are chiefly of a *bond fide* character, the brokers still showing but little inclination to speculate in this class of securities. The dealings officially recorded have been as follows:—United States Government securities, 1882, at 47$\frac{1}{2}$ and 47; do. do., 1881, 43$\frac{1}{2}$, 43$\frac{3}{4}$, 44, 44$\frac{1}{4}$, 44$\frac{1}{2}$, 45, 45$\frac{3}{4}$, 47, 46$\frac{1}{2}$, and 47$\frac{1}{4}$; Virginia State six per cents., 28, 26, 27, and 28; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York section, second mortgage, 68; do. do., Pennsylvania section, first mortgage, 73, 72$\frac{3}{4}$, and 73 ex div.; do. do., second mortgage, 68; Erie, $100 shares, all paid, 40$\frac{3}{4}$, 42, 41, and 42; do. do., fourth mortgage, 50; Illinois Central six per cents., 76 and 75 ex div.; and do. do., $100 shares, all paid, 51, 50$\frac{3}{4}$, 52, 51$\frac{1}{2}$, 52$\frac{1}{4}$, 51$\frac{3}{4}$, and 51$\frac{1}{2}$.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market for this stock has been again depressed by the receipt of unfavourable war news and the monetary disasters here and in Liverpool. The lowest price was 50$\frac{1}{4}$, from which there has been to-day a rebound to 57 to 60, and the market closes 53 to 55. The attempt to close extensive bear accounts was the cause of these rapid fluctuations, which, at the same time, illustrate the baseless origin of the recent heavy decline.

IMPORTS FROM THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

The following table, extracted from the Customs Bill of Entry, is a statement of part of the imports of Southern cotton and tobacco into England from September 1 to October 1:—

Date	Name of ship	Port	Consignee	Bales of cotton	Boxes of tobacco
Sept. 1	Sophia	Matamoras	Leo Schüster & Bros.	211	
Sept. 3	Esmeralda	Havana	Timenez & Co.	4	
"	"	"	Mancha & Co.	26	
"	"	"	To Captain	1	
Sept. 7	Helen	Nassau	Fraser & Co.	431	
"	Morning Star	Matamoras	Droege & Co.	462	
"	"	"	Lemonius & Co.	24	
Sept. 8	Urania	Bermuda	To order	341	
"	"	"	Fraser & Co.	2	
"	"	"	S. R. Graves	7	
"	"	"	J. M. Calder	24	
Sept. 9	Herbert	Matamoras	Lizardi & Co.	55	
"	"	"	C. Robertson	25	
"	"	"	Lemonius & Co.	276	
"	"	"	Droege & Co.	859	
"	"	"	Huth & Co.	830	
"	"	"	To order	307	
"	"	"	Railton & Son	24	
Sept. 10	Henry Adderley	Nassau	Fraser & Co.	1582	
"	"	"	Lawrence & Co.	6	
"	"	"	To order	1	
"	"	"	R. Edwards	—	
Sept. 12	Ed	Bermuda	Beach, Root & Co.	211	
"	Albion	"	Gillat & Co.	377	
"	Jane Doull	"	Maxwell & Co.	990	
"	"	"	To order	29	
"	"	"	Gillat & Co.	—	50
"	"	"	Rothschild & Sons	—	30
"	"	"	Somerville & Co.	—	117
"	Kestrel	Havana	To order	16	
"	"	"	Milligan & Co.	50	
"	"	"	Middleton & Co.	560	
Sept. 15	Iris	Bermuda	Beach & Co.	268	
"	Zeal	Matamoras	To order	160	
Sept. 16	Honesta	Bermuda	To order	278	
Sept. 19	Tuya	Matamoras	P. Z. Rodocanachi	24	
"	"	"	J. Martinaud	54	
"	"	"	De Lizardi & Co.	206	
"	"	"	Leech & Co.	50	
"	"	"	De Murrutia & Co.	75	
"	"	"	To order	90	
"	Aid	Nassau	T. A. Paterson	264	
"	"	"	Boult & Co.	10	
"	"	"	W. Williams	5	
"	"	"	Gilliat & Co.	—	
Sept. 20	White Star	"	To order	13	
"	"	"	Leech & Co.	44	
"	"	"	J. M. Calder	82	
"	"	"	Thomson & Co.	40	
"	"	"	S. R. Graves	18	
"	Mercurius	"	Collie & Co.	250	
"	"	"	Claypole & Co.	31	
"	"	"	Fraser & Co.	119	
"	"	"	Ommera & Co.	23	
"	"	"	To order	74	
"	"	"	"	—	63
"	Erce	Bermuda	Collie & Co.	410	
"	Ocean Belle	"	To order	292	
"	Julie	"	Beach & Co.	179	
"	Gleaner	Matamoras	De Lizardi & Co.	84	
"	"	"	J. Rice.	9	
"	"	"	Green & Son	12	
"	"	"	Huth & Co.	78	
"	"	"	F. Martinaud	63	
"	Sunrise	Havana	T. & J. Brocklebank	3	
Sept. 21	Antonia	"	Masier	3	
"	Cathrine	Bermuda	Collie & Co.	158	
Sept. 26	Storm King	"	H. Lafone	851	
"	"	"	A. Nicholls	13	
"	"	"	J. S. Oxley	1	
"	"	"	Fraser & Co.	13	
"	"	"	S. R. Graves	34	
"	"	"	J. M. Calder	14	
"	"	"	De la Rue & Co.	25	
"	"	"	Dixon & Co.	5	
"	"	"	To order	956	
"	"	"	Maxwell & Co.	—	81
"	"	"	Rothschild & Co.	—	97
"	"	"	Somerville & Co.	—	10
"	"	"	Gilliat & Co.	—	10
Sept. 27	Pensilvania	Matamoras	To order	574	
"	"	"	Lemonius & Co.	71	
"	"	"	Green & Son	40	
Sept. 30	Blink Bonny	Bermuda	Collie & Co.	250	
"	Caroline Goodyear	"	Cowie & Co.	288	
Oct. 1	Keldhead	Matamoras	Leo Schüster & Bros	214	
		Total		14,534	495

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

A slight improvement took place in some of the produce markets towards the close of last week, but it has since entirely disappeared, owing to the increased stringency in money and renewed uneasiness in reference to the future course of financial affairs. At the present moment the markets throughout have a dull and gloomy aspect, and, although only moderate supplies are brought forward, arrivals having been light for some time past, prices have a downward tendency. Deliveries from warehouse show some falling off, and stocks are in many cases in excess of those of last year at this time. Many cargoes are close at hand, and with a change of wind, increased importations may be expected. The cotton trade has participated in the prevailing heaviness, and sales have been difficult to effect at $\frac{1}{8}d.$ to 1*d.* per lb. decline in the London market. The grain trade has hardly varied; wheats are generally held firmly, and but short supplies of English are brought on offer. Both English and American flour is also firm in price, although the demand is dull. Provisions meet only a slow sale, and butters have declined 2*s.* to 4*s.* per cwt.; otherwise quotations are not materially altered. American cheese continues to find a steady sale at 46*s.* to 60*s.* per cwt. In petroleum a moderate business is passing, without much alteration in the terms current; 2*s.* 0$\frac{1}{2}d.$ to 2*s.* 1*d.* was the quotation for American refined this afternoon. Crude remains at 17*l.* per tun. For linseed oil there is still a fair demand, and the fall in the value of cake having caused a diminished production, prices are from 34*s.* 6*d.* to 34*s.* 9*d.* on the spot. At Hull the price is 33*s.* 6*d.* Rape oil is dull of sale at 45*s.* per cwt. pale, and 42*s.* brown. Olive offers on rather lower terms: Mogadore 52*l.* 10*s.*, and Gallipoli 60*l.* per tun. Cocoanut is very unsettled; the current quotations are 38*s.* to 38*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. for Cochin, and 36*s.* to 36*s.* 6*d.* for Ceylon, but forced sales by speculative holders take place occasionally under these rates. Palm oil is tolerably steady at 36*s.* per cwt. Sperm, in the absence of any transactions of moment, is nominally unaltered. Oilcake moves off slowly at 10*l.* 10*s.* to 10*l.* 15*s.* per ton for American barrels, and 9*l.* 10*s.* to 10*l.* 5*s.* for bags. The tallow market continues heavy, with drooping prices. Y.C. closed this afternoon at 40*s.* 6*d.* for old, on the spot, and 41*s.* 6*d.* new. 'Sorts' sell at proportionate rates. Jute has entirely lost the improvement quoted last

week, and common qualities have further declined 10*s.* per ton. Hemp is saleable only in retail quantity, except on lower terms. The quarterly sales of East India indigo, comprising 13,206 chests, have opened with a decidedly flat market, and prices range 2*d.* to 6*d.* under those of the July sales, the heaviest decline being on the common qualities. Cochineal meets only a limited demand, but prices are not perceptibly depressed. Plumbago is rather dearer, common dust selling at 7*s.* 9*d.* to 8*s.* 3*d.*, and lump, 12*s.* to 17*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. In gums there is no quotable change. The metal trade continues extremely dull, and Scotch pig iron has been heavily depressed, 5*s.* 6*d.* cash being the closing quotation to-day. The sugar market has again become inactive, and prices are 6*d.* to 1*s.* per cwt. lower than on this day week. Refined sugars are not, however, so much depressed as raw, and they are in moderate request. In spices the only quotable change is a further decline of 2*s.* per cwt. on the price of Cochin ginger.

Liverpool, Wednesday Evening.—In the early part of the week our cotton market presented a more animated appearance, and prices generally advanced about ½*d.* to 1*d.* per lb.: but there has since been renewed heaviness; the transactions have again become limited, and quotations less firm. American cotton has again been in good request, particularly for export, but buyers refuse to give any advance upon the recent fall. The sales this week have amounted to only 28,000 bales, of which 12,000 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year to the present time have been 2,019,211 bales, and to the corresponding period in 1863 they were 1,975,937 bales. There have been imported this year 1,786,856 bales, whilst last year the number was 1,201,922 bales. The trade have this year taken 1,234,908 bales, against 1,049,562 bales in 1863. The exports this year have been 443,591 bales, and to the same period last year 357,834 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 339,333 bales, and to the same in 1863, 522,819 bales. The estimated stock at the present time is 395,827 bales, whilst at the corresponding period last year they were 184,618. The latest official quotations were, for American descriptions, 19*d.* to 25*d.*; Maceio, 21½*d.* to 21¾*d.*; Bahia, 21½*d.* to 22*d.*; Egyptian, 8½*d.* to 25½*d.*; Smyrna, 13½*d.* to 14*d.*; Surats, 8½*d.* to 16¼*d.*; Bengal, 9½*d.* to 10½*d.*; Scinde, 9½*d.* to 10½*d.*; and China, 13*d.*, and Japan, 14¾*d.* to 15½*d.*

The markets at Manchester have again been greatly depressed in all branches, and, under present circumstances, there appears but little reason to anticipate a speedy improvement. In shipping yarns there has been very little doing, and to have effected sales spinners would have been compelled to accept at least 1*d.* per lb. decline on the rates of last week; but even at such a reduction buyers have evinced no disposition to operate. In home trade yarns, also, there has been very little business transacted; but in the few dealings that have taken place a decline of at least 1*d.* per lb. has to be recorded. There is, however, an exception with respect to yarns made of good cotton, which spinners do not seem disposed to press upon the market, because of the loss to which they would have to submit. In the cloth market the transactions have been very limited, and prices have been gradually declining throughout the week; nevertheless, there has been more anxiety evinced to sell than for a long time past, notwithstanding the loss which must be thus entailed. The recent failures that have taken place, and the numerous adverse rumours afloat as to the stability of other parties, is creating great anxiety, and all the markets close with a feeling of unusual depression. The closing quotations were as under: ⅞ Grey Printers, according to quality, 6*s.* 6*d.* to 13*s.* 3*d.*; ⅞ Grey Madapollams, 5*s.* 9*d.* to 8*s.* 9*d.*; ⅞ Grey Printers, 8*s.* 9*d.* to 15*s.* 9*d.*; ⅞ Grey Shirtings, 10*s.* 3*d.* to 22*s.*; Water Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 7*d.* to 2*s.* 3*d.*; No. 30, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*; and No. 40, 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.*; Mule Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* 0½*d.*; No. 30, 1*s.* 7½*d.* to 2*s.* 3*d.*; No. 40, 1*s.* 10*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*; No. 50, 2*s.* 1*d.* to 2*s.* 9*d.*; No. 60, 2*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* 11*d.*; No. 70, 2*s.* 7*d.* to 3*s.* 1*d.*; No. 80, 2*s.* 9*d.* to 3*s.* 3*d.*; No. 90, 2*s.* 11*d.* to 3*s.* 5*d.*; and No. 100, 3*s.* 2*d.* to 3*s.* 11*d.*

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Ships Arrived.

At Liverpool.—October 8: The Mariner, from St. John's, N.B. The Jane, from Prince Edward's Island.—October 10: The Arabia, from Boston and Halifax, N.S.—October 11: The Enterprise, from Valparaiso. The Maria, from Porto Rico.

At Gravesend.—October 11: The City of Hamburg (steamer), from Havre.

At Deal.—October 7: The Landore, from Sunderland, for Bahia.—October 11: The Otodini, from Shields, for Rio Janeiro.

At Bristol.—October 11: The Julia, from Havana.

At Queenstown.—October 6: The Sir John R. Reid, from Quebec. The Reindeer, from St. John's, for Bristol.—October 8: The Lightning, from Bermuda.—October 10: The Germania, from Buenos Ayres. The Mary, from Porto Rico.

At Clyde.—October 5: The Jamaica, from Havana.—October 7: The Harlequin, from Montreal.

At Falmouth.—October 10: The Flora, from Havana.

Off Mounts Bay.—October 10: The Georgia, from Montevideo, for Havre.

At Halifax, N.S.—September 16: The Mary, from Porto Rico. The Sophia, from Barbadoes. The Spirit of the Ocean, from London.—September 17: The Armstrong (steamer), from Bermuda. The Western Belle, from Cardiff.—September 18: The Roseneath, from Clyde. The Isabella Thompson, The John Geddes, from Kingston. The J. Banks, from Inagua.—September 20: The Ptarmigan (steamer), for repairs. The Flamingo (steamer), from Bermuda.—September 22: The Spanish Main, from Havana.—September 24: The Forest Queen, from London.—September 26: The Eolus, from Cuba.—September 27: The Hannah, from Lunn City. The Will o' the Wisp, from Demerara. The Rat (steamer), from Liverpool.—September 29: The Asia (steamer), from Liverpool.

At Wilmington.—August 9: The Coquette (steamer), The Will o' the Wisp (steamer), from Nassau, N.P.

At Madeira.—September 24: The Julia (steamer), from Vigo, for Nassau, N.P.—September 29: The Mercurio, from Demerara, for Lisbon.—October 2: The Cleo, from Demerara.

At Vigo.—September 17: The Dos Emilios, from Havana. The Numancia, from Porto Rico.—September 26: The Manuela, from Havana.

At Port Mahon.—September 21: The Maria, from Havana.

At Santander.—October 5: The Virgen de Begona, from Havana.—October 6: The Lorenzo, The Maria, from Havana.

Ships Sailed.

Liverpool.—October 5: The Mary Garland, for Nassau. The Mary Bond, for Bermuda. The Magellan, for St. John's, N.B.—October 6: The Mindanao, for Callao. The Uruguay (steamer), for Buenos Ayres. The Damascus, for Quebec. The Nauphante, The Aconcagua, for Valparaiso. The Rosedale, for Buenos Ayres. The White Star, for Nassau, N.P.—October 7: The Coloma, for Callao. The N. & E. Gardiner, for Rio Janeiro. The City of the Sultan, for Bahia. The Almira, for Matamoras.—October 8: The David Cannon, for Prince Edward's Island.—October 9: The Laurel (steamer), for Matamoras.—October 10: The Granadian (steamer), for St. Thomas's.—October 11: The Lizzie Morrow, for St. John's, N.B. The Jane Doull, for Bermuda and Jamaica. The Clarendon, for Bermuda, *via* Cardiff.

Gravesend.—October 6: The Orinoco, for Rio Janeiro (put back). The Celestial, for Demerara.—October 7: The Islander, for Barbadoes.—October 8: The Vicar of Bray, for Valparaiso. The Rachael Blackwood, for Demerara.—October 11: The Teazer, for Buenos Ayres.

Deal.—October 9: The Anna Magdalena, for St. Thomas's.—October 10: The Triumph, for Cuba. The Ocean Spray, for Bermuda.

Swansea.—October 6: The Mary Ann Holman, for Valparaiso.

Plymouth.—October 10: The Bateau Veritas, for Montevideo.

Newport.—October 6: The Alma, for Buenos Ayres.—October 8: The Albert, for St. Thomas's.

At Grimsby.—October 11: The Ceres, for Montevideo.

Cardiff.—October 5: The Kung Mow, The Zitella, for Nassau, N.P.—October 6: The Texian, for Demerara.—October 7: The Solefita, for Rio Janeiro. The Patria, for Havana. The Lady Milne, for Halifax.—October 8: The Urgent, for Bermuda.—October 9: The Helena, for Jamaica. The Auguste, for Bermuda.—October 16: The Felix, for Buenos Ayres.

Clyde.—October 5: The Eliza, for Pernambuco.—October 10: The Glengarnock, for Demerara.

Waterford.—October 2: The Dumfries, for Halifax, N.S.

Belfast.—October 4: The Charlie Wood, for Demerara.

Londonderry.—October 6: The B. de Wolfe, for Bermuda (after repairs), reported as having sailed on the 3rd.

Shields.—October 7: The Otodini, for Rio Janeiro.—October 11: The Gulnare, for Rio Janeiro.

Troon.—October 11: The Avena, for St. Thomas's.

Queenstown.—October 10: The Vulture (steamer), for Bermuda.

Falmouth.—October 10: The Eleanor and Jane, for Rio Janeiro.

Halifax, N.S.—September 15: The Alpha, for Bermuda.—September 19: The Little Hattie (steamer), for Nassau.—September 22: The Lady Sterling, for Nassau. The Armstrong, for Bermuda.—September 24: The Condor (steamer), for Nassau.

Ships Loading.

At London.—For Bermuda: The Hansa, The Koh-i-noor, The Ocean Spray, The Western Star. For Bahia: The Antonia Hendrika Carolina. For Halifax, N.S.: The Augusta Kelly, The Young Nova Scotian. For Nassau (N.P.): The Merchant; Davison Brothers & Co. The Clarovine, J. Worley. For Montevideo and Buenos Ayres: The Gustave and Marie; Davison Brothers & Co., St. Katharine's Docks. The Lancastria. For New York: The Yorktown, The Liverpool, The George VIII., The Christiana, The Hudson. For Callao: The Star of the Sea. For Belize: The Sheffield.

At Liverpool.—For Bermuda: The Driving Mist, The Madona, The William Sinclair. For Halifax: The British Lion. For Matamoras: The Oleander, The St. George, The James, The Geertina, The Gleaner. For Nassau (N.P.): The Ellen, The Sovereign, The Henry Adderley, The Aid, The Sarah Prinsep. For St. Thomas: The Canondah, The Amalie, The Catharinda, The Adelgunde.

At Bristol.—For St. Thomas: The Tweed.

At Gloucester.—For Bermuda: The Mavourneen.

At Cardiff.—For Bermuda: The Augusta, The Conqueror, The Ariel. For St. Thomas: The Lacoste.

At Newport.—For Bermuda: The Mavourneen, The Eva, The Tyro. For St. Nazaire: The Trois Frères. For Quebec: The Crimea. For St. Thomas: The Albert, The Tweed, The Dolphin, The Lowe, The Devon, The Fido.

At Glasgow.—For Halifax: The David M'Nutt. For Halifax, N.S.: The Delhi. For St. Thomas: The C. Frederick. For Bermuda: The E. Henry. For Demerara: The Orange Grove, The Glenmessen.

At Greenock.—For Nassau: The Kenilworth (steamer).

At Leith.—For Barbadoes: The Anne Baldwin.

Among the Contents of The Index *of October* 6 *are*:—

The 'New Regime.'
The Cotton Famine.
Notes on Events of the Week at Home and Abroad.
Literary Notes.
Magazines for October.
The Federal War Debt and the Bounties.
The Peace Party and the Presidential Election.
Blockade and Capture.
The British Soldier.
The Liverpool Bazaar.
The Confederate Cause in Lancashire.
The American Question in Germany.
Fifty Miles South of Macon.
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It is intended to hold a Bazaar in St. George's Hall, on the 18th inst., in Aid of the Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund. Many Ladies, in addition to those named, have promised their active aid.

The suffering of the Southern Prisoners of War in sickness, wounds, and deprivation of every comfort of life; the multitudes of widows to whom nothing remains—and of orphans unable to help themselves—form an amount of woe, which some who are blessed here with abundance and peace have felt a desire to alleviate.

Efforts have already been made, and not without success, through reliable friends in the Northern States, but unhappily the field is so wide that aid is now required to replace the means already provided and exhausted.

It is hoped that you will not refuse your assistance in this work of humanity. The Committee will be glad to hear in what form you will aid them, if disposed to do so, and will attend at once to any suggestion with which you may oblige them.

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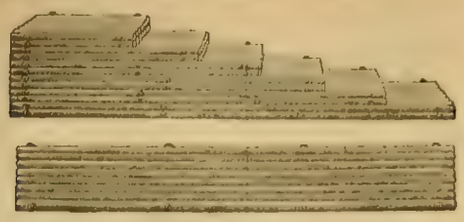

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THERE are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellow-men.

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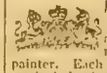

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THE INDEX

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VOL. IV.—No. 130.] LONDON: THURSDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 20, 1864. [PRICE 6D.

NOTICE.

OFFICES OF THE INDEX.

On and after Saturday next, the Offices of THE INDEX *will be removed to*

291 STRAND.

Our Offices in Bouverie Street have long been too confined for the transaction of our business, and we are therefore compelled to make this change.

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THE DEMOCRATIC PRESS ON M'CLELLAN.
AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.
SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Abolitionism and the Negro.

THE record of the negro race is a sad and inscrutable enigma. If ever it were justifiable to say, 'Behold the curse of the Eternal!' it would be so in respect to the history of the negro. History! Bitter mockery! The negro has no history. From the days when the sable sons of Africa were the slaves of the Kings of Egypt until this hour, when clad in LINCOLN'S livery they are driven into the very jaws of death, their existence has been a blank—a perfect blank. They have no trophies. They have left no tracings on the sand of time. When not savages they have been slaves. The monuments of antiquity raised by their labour were designed and directed by others. When they have appeared in history, it has been as tools to be cast aside and forgotten when the work was accomplished. So far as the historian can discern, literature and art, government and all other sciences owe no more to the negro race than to the generations of African cattle. Yet negroes are not cattle, and hence it is that their career is a riddle. Not only have they their place in nature, but they are members of the human family. Intellectually inferior to white people, as children compared to Caucasian tribes, they are nevertheless men—men who, as the institution of negro slavery in the South shows, may be a blessing to their generation, in whose hearts kindly treatment begets grateful affection, who are capable of social progress, who under favourable circumstances are happy, and who above all else have aspirations for immortality, and like the white man are supported by the faith and rejoice in the promises of Christianity. The Abolitionist may tell us in his frenzy that the negro is intellectually equal to the white man. But what avails mere assertion in the face of the facts that we have cited? We are not afraid of the truth. We assert the negro's intellectual inferiority whilst we stoutly maintain his human brotherhood. And because of his humanity and of his mental childhood, we are incensed and appalled at the brutal—nay, the expression is inadequate—at the fiendish malignity with which he is persecuted by the Abolitionists of New England. What should we say of those who would corrupt children, incite them to commit infamous and bloody deeds, meanwhile robbing their victims and subjecting them to the vilest uses; and who, to paraphrase Mr. LINCOLN, would drive them into slaughter-pens as a butcher does sheep? No language is powerful enough to properly denounce such crimes, and neither can any one fairly express the detestation inspired by the consideration of the horrible sufferings that New England Abolitionism has inflicted on the negroes who, by the cruel fortune of war, have fallen under its merciless and abominable yoke.

It was inevitable that the invasion of the South should do harm to the negroes, because they are a component part of the nation, and therefore enjoy the prosperity and suffer from the adversity that lights upon their homes and country. It was not, however, to be supposed that they would have been, as they have been, the victims of the most ruthless passions of the invaders. What has the negro done unto the North that he should be persecuted with bloody and unparalleled ferocity? What raised New York to the rank of an Empire city, and lined her streets with marble palaces? The profits realised from dealing in the products of negro labour. And what laid the foundation of the greatness of Boston? Not Emancipation, not any theory of rights, not righteousness or philanthropy. The middle passage was revolting, but it was profitable; and the self-dubbed saints of New England waxed rich by the zealous pursuit of a highly remunerative slave-trade. Why should New England hate the race that has given her riches? Because, forsooth, the negro is the cause of the dissolution of the Union? The North knows full well that negro slavery was not the cause of secession, and is not in the way of reunion. The South would have left the North even if the Government of England had not forced her to receive the negro slaves brought to her ports in English and Yankee ships; and if the South would return to the Union, slavery would be no obstacle, and Abolitionism would be no more heard of.

We understand why Mr. LINCOLN desired to deport the negroes to a remote place where they might die out. Mr. LINCOLN is from the West, and Western men, thanks to the insidious teaching of New England, have always been intolerant of the presence of the negro, and, from a fear that free negro labour might compete with white labour, have made it penal for negroes to reside in their States. We understand why the Irish settlers have an antipathy to the negro, for the unscrupulous Abolitionists have told them that the negro will interfere with their labour. But we do not understand why New England should so hate the negro. Is it a mere savage instinct that makes her prone to oppress the helpless? We cannot tell. The motive is problematical, but the fact is hideously glaring.

This hate is not of recent growth, though the war has amazingly developed it. From first to last the North has behaved inhumanly to the negro. We have seen how the Yankees for the sake of gain were active participators in the slave-trade. While the Southerners were petitioning the home Government to send them no more negroes, the merchants of Boston were importing living cargoes and selling them by auction. Nor were they without an excuse. They declared that they were engaged in a holy mission. They were rescuing the 'blacks' from savage life and heathenism, and bringing them into a Christian land. So long as slave labour was profitable in the Northern States, so long did the Northerners keep slaves. When the influx of emigrants and a change in the cultivation of the soil rendered slave labour unprofitable, slavery was abolished. What did the New Englanders with their slaves? Emancipate them? What! the saints of New England sacrifice property for the sake of a professed principle? That phenomenon has not yet happened. No, the New Englanders *sold* their slaves to the South—sold the fathers and mothers of the slaves they are now seeking to destroy in the name of philanthropy. Thenceforth the negro had no rest in the North. He was free, but he was a leper. Happy for the Northern slaves that the South could purchase them, for otherwise they would have perished from sheer neglect and misery. The free negro has not prospered in the North. From 1840 to 1850 the Census of the United States informs us that in the South the free negroes increased from 170,335 to 210,955, and in the North from 215,968 to 223,248—that is, in the South about 25 per cent., and in the North about 3 per cent. And this difference cannot be mainly ascribed to the Southerners freeing their slaves, for we find that in the same period the slave population advanced from 2,519,087 to 3,112,806—or at the rate of nearly 20 per cent. So the negroes in the South were more than six times as prolific as the negroes in the North. We suppose that few persons will deny that prolificacy is an unerring test of comparative happiness, prosperity, and virtue.

The war, as we have said, has amazingly developed the long existing hate to the negro. What can be more wonderful than the demoralisation of the negroes that have been 'freed'? We might have expected some, but were not prepared for such a rapid and fearful deterioration. We learn from the United States Census, that in 1850, in every 10,000 coloured persons, *excluding slaves*, there were in the State prisons and penitentiaries:—

In the Slaveholding States . . .	938
„ Free States	28·743

Not quite 1 in 10,000 of the free negroes in the South were in prison, while of the free negroes of the North there were more than 28 in 10,000. But this, we repeat, did not prepare us for what has occurred. In the South we see the fruits of 70 years of a humane and civilising treatment. All the incentives of the North have not succeeded in shaking the fidelity of the negroes to their masters, or in making them faithless to the principles of our holy religion. Mr. LINCOLN'S invitation to them to rise up and murder the families of their masters—for such is the only meaning of what he is pleased to call a military measure and a proclamation of emancipation—has proved a *brutum fulmen*, and has been utterly disregarded. Whilst the Southerners have been fighting their battles, the negroes have in no instance plundered their masters' property, or been other than good servants to the white women and children. But mark what has been the conduct of those who have been dragged into the clutch of Abolitionism. Look at the horrible massacres perpetrated by negro soldiers. Look at the host of coloured prostitutes that swarm in the Federal camps. Look at the Federal officers parading the towns with their negro wenches. But decency forbids that we should unveil the filthy orgies of miscegenation.

The condition of the negro in the North is at this moment heartrending as well as loathsome. See the 'freed' negroes on the Mississippi—'freed,' but forced to labour for less rations and less money perquisites than the slaves obtain, while even these rations and this money are kept from them. There they are in shoals literally rotting away. They are hungry, and the Yankee commissariat officers purloin their food; they are sick, and the Yankee doctors will not tend them, though they pocket fees for so doing; and so the freed negroes rot away in hunger, dirt, and disease. We write not thus on Confederate testimony. A Federal inspector testifies to the shocking state of the negroes on the Federal Government plantations; and Federal papers publish graphic accounts of the sufferings and the degradation of the coloured race. But the climax of Abolitionist savagery towards the negro is conscripting him and placing him in the battle-field, where there is no escape from death or mutilation.

The Federal generals and the Federal Government evince the most callous contempt for the lives of the mercenaries they command. GRANT is not censured for sacrificing 50,000 lives to reach a position that he could have gained without the loss of a man. Because the terms of service of some of the Federal prisoners in the South have expired, the Federal authorities will not exchange them. For the German and Irish recruits there is no more

feeling than for the guns they carry; but for the negroes there is, besides callous contempt, a manifest delight in their torture and carnage. The Earl of Chatham denounced in withering language the proposed employment of Indians in the first war of American Independence. But what is there in such a scheme to compare with the employment of negro soldiers? The Indian is a warrior, and he fights without dread. The Indian does not need the stimulus of the bayonet to make him face the enemy. With the negro it is altogether different, and especially with the negroes in the Federal service. They shrink from the conflict, and above all from a conflict with those who have governed them from the hour of their birth, and whom ere the war began they loved and reverenced. But the trembling creatures have no chance. Drugged with whisky, under cover of Federal guns, and pricked on with Federal bayonets, they are driven to 'the post of honour.' The rest is soon told. The hissing bullets and the whirring shells of the Confederates fall amongst them, and palsied with fear they crouch in the slaughter-pen. To advance is death, to flee is death, and so they remain until the dead and dying form a wall between the Confederates and Mr. Lincoln's drovers. How true this is may be seen from the Northern accounts of the fight before Petersburg, and of the late action on the junction of the Varina and Newmarket Roads. One story is so exact a repetition of the other that it will suffice to notice the last. Birney's coloured brigade had to assault the Confederate works. Before the works was a ditch, into which 2,000 negroes huddled. Let the correspondent of the *New York Times* narrate the rest: 'About 2,000 of the negroes got into this ditch and never came back. At least twenty of them climbed on the parapet of the fort and were shot dead, tumbling back upon their comrades. The rest, it is said, were slaughtered by the enemy with shells thrown among them by hand.' How awful yet how vivid is the picture! Out of the terrified creatures only twenty ventured to put their heads above the parapet. But, since they could not advance, why did they not retreat? We are writing of negroes, not of white troops. Retreat! What to? What would they gain? Are the Confederate balls more deadly than those of the Federals? But they had not even courage to retreat if retreat had been possible. Bereft of reason, screeching with agony, the quivering mass of black flesh did not attempt to emerge from the grave into which they had been driven. There they were, the living, and the dead, and the dying, until the work was done; the white troops looking on, but not helping them. So 2,000 negroes were slaughtered for—what for? That Mr. Lincoln may reign over thirty-four States? That the loyal contractors may grow rich? That Mr. Seward may keep in office? No, for none of these, though these are the objects of the war. Will it be pretended that the negroes are of any service to the North or any source of danger to the South? Is anything to be gained by this horrible slaughter? So far as the progress of the war is concerned, Birney might as well have sent 2,000 black cattle into the fatal ditch. We shudder at the crime; but we cannot tell the motive thereof, unless it is savage hate.

We must turn from the sickening sight. To gaze too long upon it would inflame the imagination and make reason reel. But we cannot forget such deeds. We cannot forget the Petersburg pit. We cannot forget the ditch of death with its 2,000 poor negroes whom the correspondent of the *New York Times*, with grim diabolical humour, designates as 'nameless black men who have won the title of hero.' Do Abolitionists believe that there is a God who sees the sparrow fall, and who is also the God of the negro? Nameless black men! Yes, but as precious in the sight of Heaven as white heroes. Would, for the sake of humanity, that the Abolitionist could learn that negroes are not vermin, but men!

Cui bono? Wherefore do we write? Will words of ours check the persecution of the negro? No! So long as the war goes on, the negroes that fall under Federal rule will be debauched and slaughtered. For them there is no hope but in their home—the South—being freed from the invader. What then does it avail to expose the utter depths of Abolition infamy? We say that England, that the civilised world is bound to protest against the ruthless brutality of Abolitionism. We may or may not be called upon to intervene. We may or may not be justified in leaving the whole work to the South. But we are called upon to protest. There must be thousands—nay, millions—of people in the Northern States who have not bowed down to the idol of Abolitionism; and it may be that they will heed the protest. When the Great Avenger maketh requisition for blood, let us be able to plead that, though we could not save the negro, we denounced the conduct of his persecutors. This is surely the least that any Christian can do—it is surely the least that England can do, seeing that England planted the negro population in the Confederate States.

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

The truth is oozing out in spite of the indefatigable Stanton. For two or three weeks, whilst M'Clellan was supposed to have a chance of being elected President, Mr. Stanton's ready pen gained two or three victories a day. It was all up with the South. Sheridan was hotly pursuing Early. Grant was marching on to Richmond. Lee's army was caving in. Hood's army was dispirited and demoralised. Georgia was in despair. The Confederate Government and the Confederacy was on its last legs. The rebellion was crushed, and it only needed another 200,000 men to grind it into powder. 'Only 200,000 more,' cries Mr. Stanton, 'and "up goes the donkey!"' The last two mails, however, tell a very different tale. It is not Mr. Stanton's fault. He still does his best to make victory look like defeat, and defeat look like victory. But the truth is too much for him. Those obstinate, aggravating rebels have completely spoiled his game.

General Grant has added considerably to his enormous butcher's bill. His recent operations, though well-pleasing to Mr. Stanton, have not brought him nearer to Richmond, but have resulted in killing and wounding about 10,000 Federals and in the slaughter of 2,000 negroes. But though the operations at Deep Bottom and before Petersburg have failed, and though it is intimated that Grant is withdrawing from the north of the James, we are informed by the correspondent of the *New York Times*, that 'refugees from Richmond report the evacuation of the city by non-combatants, and great dismay prevailed everywhere.' Seen through Federal spectacles, the people of Richmond are very eccentric. When the Confederate arms are reported to be unsuccessful, they are undismayed; but when the Federals are repulsed they are always evacuating the city. During the last three years Richmond has been evacuated about a hundred times, and at least twenty times the inhabitants have been starved to death.

There was a report that Butler had been killed in battle, but he has not met with a soldier's death; and, seeing that he keeps as far as possible from the scene of conflict, he is not likely to do so. Butler's lines were assaulted by the Confederates, and Kantz's artillery was captured. We are told that Birney recovered Kantz's position, but we are not told that he recovered the artillery; from which we infer that the Confederates made off with their booty, and that Birney merely occupied the post that the Confederates did not attempt to hold.

The Federals broke through a portion of the Confederate lines on the south of the James, and were driven back with the loss of 900 prisoners.

In the Shenandoah Valley the position of affairs is changed; or, rather, the true position is now known. General Early was outnumbered and slowly retreated before his antagonist, dealing blow for blow, losing and inflicting loss. Then the hot pursuit stops. A battle ensues. Sheridan is in turn forced to retire. Confederate guerillas are in the Federal rear, capturing—so the Federal Government intimates—numberless deserters, but capturing, we know, the Federal supply trains. Sheridan is checked. If it is true that General Longstreet with 20,000 fresh troops has joined Early, Sheridan is in imminent danger of being checkmated. The worship of Sheridan, 'the brilliant Yankee Blucher,' did not last quite a week.

The Federals under General Burbridge have been defeated in Virginia. They attacked Salthill in the western part of the State, were 'badly repulsed, retreating in confusion, pursued by the Confederates.' The Federal military prospects in Virginia are not improved or promising, and they are not better in other quarters.

General Sherman at Atlanta is on the defensive. General Hood has reminded the Federal commander that he can act on the offensive, and General Forrest has destroyed a portion of the Chattanooga railroad, and captured Big Shanty. It is said that Forrest has been compelled to retreat and leave 1,000 of his dead and wounded in the hands of the enemy. The initiated in Federal reports will not suppose from this that Forrest has sustained any serious check.

General Price has met with great success in Missouri. Not only has he advanced to within six miles of St. Louis, but his army has been increased by 5,000 Missourians. Such is the reply that the men of this gallant State give to the appeal of the Federal commander to enlist in the service of Abraham Lincoln. Generals Magruder and Kirby Smith have entered Arkansas, it is supposed for the purpose of cooperating with General Price.

Surely the Northerners must now be convinced that the 'rebellion' is not so near exhaustion as the Lincolnites report. It is manifest that the Confederate armies were never more numerous, and never in better fighting order.

The so-called Governor of Tennessee (Federal) has issued an order that no person can vote for President unless he swears to oppose an armistice. It is common enough to exact pledges from candidates, but it is a novelty to exact pledges from voters. The Lincolnites have curious views about the freedom of election. They must not vote unless they are loyal, and the test of loyalty is voting for Mr. Lincoln.

At Chicago there is a commercial panic, and several banking houses have stopped payment. It is ominous of what may be expected that the military were called upon to keep order at the first mutterings of the financial storm that must sooner or later overwhelm the whole country.

Two years ago there was an outcry in London against the practice of tradesmen feeing the servants of their customers. The evils of the system are palpable. The servant so feed will not scrutinise the tradesman's bill or the tradesman's goods. For every pound the servant receives the master is mulcted of twenty pounds. An analogous game is being played by Mr. Lincoln. He is asking for presents from those who purvey for the United States. To pay for the expenses of his election, not only the salaried employés of the Government, but even the loyal contractors, have to contribute. The following letter is published in some of the Northern papers:—

Rooms of the National Union Executive Committee,
Astor House, New York, September 15, 1864.
(Private.)

Dear Sir,—Your name, with others, has been handed to me as having been employed by the Government in furnishing supplies to the Medical Department of the army for the past year. I take it for granted you appreciate the necessity of sustaining the Government in its contest with the rebellion, and of electing the Union candidates in November, the only mode of carrying the war to a successful close, and of restoring a peace which shall restore the Union.

I trust you will have anticipated the application now made for a contribution to the fund which we need for organising and carrying on the Presidential canvass. The amount of this contribution I of course leave to yourself. Please remit whatever you may feel inclined to give in a cheque payable to my order as Treasurer of the National Executive Committee. I respectfully ask your immediate attention to this matter, as the need of funds is pressing, and the time for using them is short.—Your obedient servant, H. J. Raymond, Chairman.

We may be sure that the contractors for medical stores will remember their donations in the price and quality of the goods they will supply. It is not in human nature, and it certainly is not in Yankee nature, to do otherwise.

The Knights of the Road, the thieves of the last century, were humorous scoundrels. If they relieved a bishop of his watch, they reminded him that it was a kindness to take from him part of his worldly goods, which are a snare and an incumbrance. If they robbed a fat trader of his purse, they told their victim that he would not be troubled about the investment of his money. Mr. Lincoln's Knights of the Silver Spoon and the Dollar are not less humorous. A riot occurred in Cincinnati, the *Cincinnati Enquirer* published a report of it, the report was quoted in many papers, and at last in the *Baltimore Evening Post*. The *Evening Post* put forth a bill of contents, which announced the riot in Cincinnati. Upon this General Wallace determined to suppress the paper, and sent the following order to the editor:—

Eighth Army Corps, Middle Department,
Baltimore, September 30, 1864.

Editor of the *Evening Post*,—As the surest means of preventing your office from being made the subject of violence, you will discontinue the publication of your paper, the *Evening Post*. By command of Major-General Wallace.
Oliver Matthews, Captain and A. A. G.

The *Baltimore Sun* of October 1 says: 'General Wallace stated last evening that he suppressed the publication of the *Evening Post* purely to prevent riot and perhaps bloodshed in this city, and to save the building in which the *Post* was published from destruction, and that the *order for the suppression would not be revoked.*' Really Mr. Lincoln must look to his laurels. This joke beats many of his Western stories.

The following, suppressing a Louisiana paper, though not quite so racy, is worth reading:—

Headquarters Lafourche District, Thibodaux, La.,
September 21, 1864.
(General Orders, No. 107.)

The *Thibodaux Sentinel*, a newspaper published at Thibodaux, in the parish of Lafourche, on account of its notoriously disloyal tendency, its insinuating treason and rebel innuendoes, is hereby suppressed, and its publication under its present management will cease.

Its present editor and proprietor, if he feels aggrieved, can have safe conduct to his friends outside of the Union lines by applying at these headquarters. By command of
Brigadier-General R. A. Cameron.
B. B. Campbell, A. A. G.

The joke here is, we suppose, the doubt implied whether the proprietor would feel aggrieved at the ruin of his property, or whether he would rather enjoy the fun, and that, if he did not like the fun, he could be banished as well as robbed. The jest of General Wallace is more *piquant*. The kindness of killing a man to save him from hurting his little finger is charming. After all, these must be sorry jests to those Federals who remember that in 1860 they were free, and that now they are the creatures of Abraham Lincoln.

The *New York Herald* has invented an excellent title for its summaries of electioneering news. It has adopted the heading of 'The Political Market.' Politics in the United States are a trade, and a most nefarious one.

There has been a riot in Cincinnati, attended with loss of life. A Lincolnite procession, headed by one of Mr. Lincoln's employés, the postmaster of Covington, and whose retention of office depends upon Mr. Lincoln's re-election, marched through the town, threatening Democrats and breaking windows. A crowd collected, consisting principally of women and children, and there were shouts for M'Clellan. Upon this the Lincoln mob, under the direction of the Covington postmaster, fired into the crowd. A woman was killed, and several persons were wounded. His people may be slow to learn, but Mr. Lincoln may be sure they will ultimately learn and not forget, the lessons of bloodshed that he is teaching them.

Mr. Vallandigham lately delivered a speech at Sydney, Ohio, in which he denounced the efforts of the Government to disturb demonstration meetings, and declared that he was ready to oppose force by force.

It is an old adage that speaking truth shames the devil. Mr. Lincoln's supporters will never put the devil to

shame. When they are at a loss to invent new calumnies, they repeat oft-refuted calumnies. Mr. Blair, at a Lincoln ratification meeting held at the Cooper Institute, New York, said: 'The next step in this war of treason was the distribution of the arms of the United States from all their arsenals and cannon foundries among the State authorities favourable to secession.' Now Mr. Blair knows that this assertion is utterly false. He knows that when the war broke out the Southern States had not received their fair share of arms. It is much to be regretted that the South did not prepare for war, and secure her fair share of arms and *ships*. We do not suppose that even Mr. Blair will say the South had her share of the navy.

The gold market in New York is still visibly agitated. On the 4th the quotation was 189, and on the 8th it was 201¼. Mr. Fessenden has asked for a new loan of $40,000,000 six per cent. gold-bearing bonds. If he gets it, it will pay about a fourth of the pressing claims on the Federal Treasury.

ENGLAND.

One more member of that brilliant company of gentlemen who have adorned by their lives and their talents the public schools of Eton and Harrow, the University of Oxford, the Houses of Parliament, and England herself, has died. The Earl of Elgin, Lord Canning, Lord Herbert, the Marquis of Dalhousie, Sir Robert Peel, and now the Duke of Newcastle—all statesmen of the best type, true patriots, and men of honour; ambitious of power, not for their own glory, but for that of their country; Viceroys of India, Ministers of War and of Finance—each one in turn has died almost in his prime, the victim of an unwearied devotion to duty. Mr. Gladstone, associated with them at school, at college, or in Parliament, imbued with their ideas, their compeer in industry, genius, and integrity, alone remains to represent worthily the once powerful Peelites. The Duke of Newcastle was born in 1811, a Tory of the Tories. He was educated at Eton, which, in the famous scholarship founded by the father of the deceased statesman, preserves the name of Newcastle as an emblem of intellectual superiority. Thence His Grace proceeded to Christ Church, Oxford. He took his degree in the year 1832, and in the same year entered the House of Commons as member for South Nottinghamshire. In 1846 came the crisis of the Corn Law agitation, and Lord Lincoln went for Sir Robert and repeal. His father burned with indignation at the defection of a Clinton, and opposed his son at the election for South Nottinghamshire; Lord Lincoln was defeated at the poll, and after an equally unhappy attempt to win North Notts in the face of the Clumber interest, found a seat in the Falkirk burghs, and qualified himself to hold the post of Chief Secretary for Ireland. He had been a Lord of the Treasury in 1834-5, and Chief Commissioner of the Woods and Forests from 1841 to January in 1846. In December 1852 he was made Secretary for the Colonies and for War (for at that time the offices were combined) in the Aberdeen ministry. Then came the Russian war and the disastrous winter of 1854, when the British troops were quartered in front of Sebastopol in diminished numbers, with a broken-down commissariat, a helpless quartermaster department, without medicines, without clothes, without meat, exposed to the fury of the elements, sustained only by the indomitable fire of British courage. When Parliament met in 1855, Mr. Roebuck, backed by the almost unanimous voice of the country, gave notice of an enquiry into the administration of the war. Lord John Russell with characteristic discretion left the sinking ship. Lord Palmerston with characteristic courage stood manfully by his colleagues. The brunt of popular indignation fell on the Duke of Newcastle; for the anger of a multitude always desires a scapegoat, and the man who had scarcely known a night of sleep, and never had known a day of recreation, was openly accused of 'indolence and indifference.' Those who were aware that blame rested on every department of the military administration, and that one man could not be responsible for the inefficiency of 10,000 officials whom a long period of repose had rendered unequal to the exigency, knew that after a lapse of time a reaction would welcome back the Duke to power. As Secretary of the Colonies from 1859 to 1864, His Grace enjoyed an office for which he was peculiarly suited. Every one remembers the visit of the Prince of Wales to America, and the tact with which the Duke encountered the difficulties incident to an intercourse with men of every shade of temperament and opinion. The Duke of Newcastle died, at Clumber, at seven o'clock in the evening of the 18th October. In concluding this necessarily brief memoir of a man who is deservedly lamented by the Queen, by an immense circle of illustrious friends and colleagues, and by the people of England, we are compelled to do the work of Garter King at Arms, from respect to the illustrious rank of the deceased. Henry Pelham Fiennes Pelham Clinton, K.G., fifth Duke of Newcastle-under-Lyme, in Staffordshire, Earl of Lincoln, Baron Clinton, Lord Warden of the Stannaries of Cornwall and Devonshire, Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, Rider and Master Forester of Dartmoor, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Sherwood Rangers, High Steward of Retford, Keeper of St. Briavel's Castle, &c., born May 22, 1811, married Lady Susan Harriet Catherine Hamilton Douglas, only daughter of the Duke of Hamilton, by whom he leaves four sons and one daughter. He is succeeded by his son Henry Pelham, Earl of Lincoln, born January 5, 1834, married February 11, 1864, the only daughter of the late Mr. Henry Thomas Hope, of Deepdene.

Mr. Gladstone, in a speech on Friday last in the Town Hall, Manchester, made the following remarks with reference to the American war:—'I don't believe that history records a case in which the internal dissensions of a country have produced such widespread calamities in other nations beyond its borders. But we have felt that it was our duty to respect American freedom—to respect the discretion of the American to deal with his own affairs, whatever might be our particular opinion as to the wisdom of any course they were pursuing or as to the practicability of any object they had in view. For my own part I confess I have always had great doubts as to the probability of reducing to subjection any large portion of a country that manifests a determined disposition to separate. But whatever be our opinion we have no right to place it in a form which should make us the judge of what it is fit for another country to do. Theirs is the responsibility; ours is—has been, in fact—the suffering; but if we groan over the suffering which has been experienced among our own population, let us look at the frightful magnitude of the calamities the Americans are undergoing. It is for them, as they have the responsibility, to judge of their own course. I entertain, in the first place, this conviction, that by any attempts to enforce our own judgment instead of theirs, we should have done nothing but embitter a contest already too much exasperated. In the second place, I feel that the sentiment with which we ought to regard this most unhappy war is this. We have no jealousy of American greatness. We have no reason to fear them or any other nation. We feel they are our brethren by blood and language. We know their continent is calculated to continue in relations of the most beneficial intercourse with us, and we ought to pray Almighty God that it may please Him in His mercy to bring this sanguinary contest, if it be His will, at an early period to such a termination as shall be most for the happiness, peace, permanent welfare, and prosperity of all the inhabitants of what were once the United States.'

The distress in the cotton districts continues rapidly to increase. At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Central Relief Fund on Monday last, Mr. Commissioner Farnall delivered a report, from which it appeared that during the past week there was an increase of upwards of 5,000 in the number of persons receiving relief in the twenty-seven unions embraced in his returns. Mr. Farnall also stated that the whole of the money which the Loan Commissioners were authorised to lend under the Public Works Act had been appropriated.

The colliers' strike at Bilston has come to an end. A notice had been issued calling a meeting for Saturday last, at which some thousands of workmen attended. Mr. Griffiths, a well-known metal broker, enjoying a great popularity among the working population, addressed the meeting to the effect, that while the strike was amply justified, and while, with one or two exceptions, for which the general body of colliers were not responsible, the men had conducted themselves in a most exemplary manner, yet the iron trade was in such a condition that a further struggle was hopeless. A miner and member of the committee then moved that the colliers and miners should resume work on the following Monday. The motion was duly seconded, but the nervous embarrassment of the speakers was so great that the audience greeted their perplexities with hearty shouts of laughter. When the motion was put, the men preserved a deep silence, broken only by some merriment at the situation. The committee, on consultation, then agreed to abnegate their functions, and to leave every man to do as he judged right for himself.

On Monday last, Earl Russell opened the North London Working-Classes' Industrial Exhibition at the Agricultural Hall, Islington. The report of the Secretary showed that the Society included the districts of Clerkenwell, Islington, St. Pancras, St. Luke's, Hoxton, St. Andrew's (Holborn), and Bloomsbury. The exhibition was to consist of objects manufactured by the exhibitors, either as specimens of skilled workmanship, or examples of self-taught handicraft. The guarantee fund amounted to 350*l.*, of which 50*l.* had been guaranteed by Miss Burdett Coutts, and 100*l.* by Mr. Samuel Morley. The exhibitors were 866 in number, and the articles shown by them occupied 5,930 feet of wall, 2,012 feet of counter, and 1,750 feet of floor. The articles were classified in the divisions of professional workmanship, amateur productions, inventions and novel contrivances, mechanical models, architectural and ornamental models, artistic objects, ladies' work of all kinds, and miscellaneous articles. After the report had been read, Earl Russell addressed the assembly, affirming that fresh proof was now afforded that the working classes of London were the highest in the world, and alluding to the unity of all classes in the path of progress. Mr. Digby Seymour, M.P., in proposing a vote of thanks to Earl Russell, whose name had long been identified with the welfare and progress of the people, social and political, did not neglect the opportunity of suggesting the propriety of completing the political emancipation of the working classes.

A fine ship of war was launched at Portsmouth on Saturday last. The *Royal Alfred* is an ironclad ram, destined to be armed with 4½-inch plates to her waterline. She was laid down in 1859 as a 91-gun ship of the line, but has undergone conversion. In 1861, she was lengthened amidships, and her bow and stern altered to convert her into a powerful ram. Her length between perpendiculars is 273 feet, her extreme breadth 58 feet, and her burden 4,045 tons. She is classed with the *Royal Oak*, *Prince Consort*, *Caledonia*, and *Bellerophon*.

Mr. Thomas Burrowes, a stockjobber, who was declared a defaulter on the Stock Exchange on Saturday last, was brought up the same day before Mr. Alderman Challis, charged with obtaining 2,000 Confederate cotton bonds, value 1,280*l.*, from Mr. J. Tucker, of 10 Hercules Chambers, under false pretences. Mr. Mullens, who appeared for the prosecution, stated that the prisoner had given cheques for bonds at a time when he knew he had no money in his bank to meet them, and that the cheques given were for no less an amount than 10,000*l.* It was proved that the cheque for 1,280*l.* was given on Friday, and was returned unpaid on the same day. It was also proved that the balance of his account at the time amounted only to 7*4l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* Cheques to the extent of 9,120*l.* were presented on the same day, and returned unpaid. The prisoner stated that he could not sell the stock because he was an object of doubt and suspicion on the Stock Exchange. The stock was, in fact, in the hands of the Stock Exchange. The defalcation would not amount to 300*l.*, and in a few days that amount would be set right. The magistrate offered to take the prisoner's bail in 1,000*l.* and two sureties in 500*l.* each. The prisoner was unable to obtain it, and was removed in custody. The method by which Mr. Burrowes was captured proves, first, that the gentlemen of the Stock Exchange have confidence in their ability in other matters besides money transactions, and second, that the confidence is not misplaced. Two or three brokers having got wind of the state of Mr. Burrowes's affairs, and finding themselves the holders of worthless cheques in exchange for good securities, concocted a scheme for the apprehension of the presumed fugitive. They discovered that he had left his office early, and naturally supposed that he would put in an appearance at some railway station in the course of the day. They chose to act as detectives on their own account rather than to trust to the activity of Scotland Yard. Mr. Sturdy, of the firm of Messrs. Baker & Sturdy, was detailed to the Charing Cross Station. In the train that was to convey the Paris mails a gentleman was seated with a lady by his side. The face of the gentleman was clean shaved, and the heavy dark beard and moustache of Mr. Burrowes had disappeared. But Mr. Sturdy was not to be deceived. He interrogated Mr. Burrowes, and finally induced him to travel, accompanied by the lady, to some offices in the City. At the opening of the market announcement was made of the capture, and the narrative was received with tumultuous applause. Mr. Sturdy was seized and chaired in splendid style, and some minutes elapsed before order and business resumed their sway.

A new feature in the method of entertaining the public in their jovial hours sprang up some eight years ago in London, and has been developed into an institution of no mean pretensions. It was justly considered that there was an immense multitude of individuals of both sexes desirous of amusement between the hours of 8 P.M. and midnight, and that little or no provision existed for the satisfaction of those impulses. There were theatres; but to them the serious objection prevailed that smoking was prohibited, liquor stronger than lemonade or gingerbeer did not exist, and the knees were made intolerably stiff by eternal sitting in cramped positions. Again, there were public-houses where drink and smoke were unlimited; but inasmuch as the Londoners are not so addicted to mere animal delights as to adore the bar of a grog-shop, it was natural that a line of entertainment should be adopted which would, while permitting the body to be refreshed or wearied by a variety of supplies, yet take care to administer pleasure to the more elevated senses. Enterprising men, therefore, started music halls; and the success of the Alhambra, the Oxford, the Islington Philharmonic, and Canterbury Halls testified that the taste of one class of Londoners had not been misconceived. Men, and women too, liked to listen to a fair quantity of decent vocal and instrumental music, to hear Unsworth deliver a stump oration, or see Leotard and the Brothers Conrad fly through the air, especially when the price of admission did not exceed one shilling. We do not know that the music halls have done much to elevate the moral sentiments of their *habitués*, but there is no reason for supposing that they have acted in a contrary direction. The latest speculation in this line is the Strand Music Hall, which was opened for the first time on Monday night. To criticise its attempts at amusement would be unfair at so early a stage of its existence. The company has erected a building whose front, defiant of all laws or schools of architecture, possesses variety, if not grotesqueness; at the same time it bears the marks of very considerable skill, and certainly has powers of attraction. If the doings within are equally novel and eccentric, doubt of a success will scarcely exist.

The interest of the Second October Meeting at Newmarket did not close with the decision of the race for the Cesarewitch. On the ensuing day a contest, worthy of record from its extraordinary severity, was fought out between three colts of fair pretensions. The prize was small, and the course was but three-quarters of a mile in length. Thirteen competitors, however, came to the post, and on the word being given the pace at once became serious. At about one hundred yards from home Lord Stamford's Gownsman, Mr. York's Lytham, Lord Hastings' Attraction, and Mr. Payne's The Beadle appeared in the van, and fought out a result which placed the three first named on the equal terms of a dead heat, and The Beadle but a head behind the trio. In the deciding heat Gownsman beat Lytham by a head, and Attraction was half a length behind Lytham. On the next day Count F. de Lagrange's Fille de l'Air put in an appearance for the Newmarket Oaks, and was made favourite with the odds of 13 to 8 laid on her. Baron Rothschild's Breeze, who finished second to Fille de l'Air in the Epsom Oaks, figured at 6 to 1, while 8 to 1 was laid against John Day's elegant filly Teneriffe. The length of the course was nearly two miles. As for struggle there was none, for the renowned victrix of Vermout passed her opponents at a distance from home and galloped in some lengths in advance of Breeze. Teneriffe was third, Baron Rothschild's Evelina and Tomato fourth and fifth, and Lord Exeter's Auricula, whose brotherhood to Stockwell and Rataplan augured better things, last. Again, on the next day, Fille de l'Air added fame and money to her owner by winning the Newmarket Derby. Her opponents were Mr. Bowes's Claremont, and Mr. W. Day's 'Cesarewitch crack' Mail Train. The latter animal went furiously for three parts of a mile, and then stopped as if

shot. Fille de l'Air then took up the running, and won in a canter by six lengths. Perhaps, however, the most interesting event of the meeting was a match for 500*l.* between Lord Glasgow's General Peel and Lord Stamford's Cambuscan. General Peel, by Young Melbourne, the winner of the Two Thousand Guineas, and second to Blair Athol in the Derby and Leger, seemed to enjoy a reputation greater than that of the handsome son of Newminster and the Arrow. The latter horse won the July stakes at Newmarket as a two-year-old, but his career in the year 1864 has not been quite equal to the promise of earlier youth. In the Derby he was not many lengths behind General Peel, but his noble owner was justly dissatisfied with such a position. In the St. Leger he showed a decided improvement, inasmuch as he succumbed to General Peel only after a gallant fight. Both the horses had come to Newmarket to fulfil engagements, for which they were allowed to 'walk over,' and it was considered by their sporting possessors that it was not to be endured that they should return home without a display of prowess. So, when Lord Glasgow expressed a readiness to concede two pounds' weight, as the measure of the St. Leger head, to his adversary, no difficulty was experienced in concluding the terms of the struggle. The ring after much wavering laid 6 to 5 on Cambuscan, and were right in their notion. The race was run over the Two Thousand Guineas course, one mile and seventeen yards. General Peel went away with the lead, and maintained his superiority till he descended the Bushes Hill. At this point Cambuscan got his head in front for a few yards. On ascending the final rise, General Peel again obtained the lead, but within fifty yards from the post Cambuscan got up and won by half a length. The cheering at the victory of Newmarket over Yorkshire was tremendous. In the course of the week, Mr. Tattersall sold the Duke of Cleveland's stud by auction. The gallant Tim Whiffler by Van Galen by Van Tromp, out of Sybil by the Ugly Buck, the winner of the Chester, Epsom, and Doncaster Cups, who finished his racing career in the dead heat with Buckstone for the Ascot Cup of 1863, was purchased by Lord Coventry for 750 guineas, a price probably much below the value of the horse. Tim Whiffler has neither the quality of great beauty nor that of great size to recommend him for the stud, but his legs are of iron and his heart of steel, and he was the best-tempered horse ever trained.

IRELAND.

THE Ribandmen have achieved a great success. They have shot an aged and infirm man, against whom no charge of oppression could be brought, and who had done no act calculated to arouse hostility. Mr. Robert Wilson had been for many years the agent of Lord Leitrim. He was kind and affable, and if he had ever dismissed from employment some impracticable individual, he had never earned a name as a lover of eviction. Some eight days since he was on his way to meet the pay-clerk at Leetbeg, in the county of Donegal. At a point in his journey where the road was not belted by trees, he observed a number of corn sheaves placed in a heap. He stopped his horse to survey the singular structure. At that moment, when he was about fifteen or twenty yards from the heap, two shots were fired, both taking effect in his arm, leg, and lung. The horse was wounded and immediately ran away. The unfortunate gentleman looked back and saw two men with guns on their shoulders leisurely marching off. Many peasants witnessed the affair, but neither did any one attempt to arrest the fellows, nor has any one given information to the police. One of the slugs has been extracted, and there is some hope of Mr. Wilson's recovery. Even if an arrest is effected, it is not probable that the Crown will succeed in getting a conviction.

AUSTRALIA.

The Ballarat and Daylesford gold-fields have received a fresh development, and enormous yields of gold are being obtained from the 'deep-sinking claims.' It is known that 'leads' of wash dirt, consisting of submerged river beds, exist hundreds of feet below the surface of the earth, and these deposits are being worked with success.

A quarrel is not only being fomented between Victoria and England, but also between the Melbourne and the Sydney Cabinets. The Northern Railway of Victoria runs near the Murray River, and consequently there is an influx of goods from New South Wales. The latter colony claims absolute jurisdiction over the river, and has placed her custom houses along the banks. Besides the certainty of a prodigious amount of smuggling, there is a dispute arising from the claim of an easement over the river by the Government of Victoria.

The transportation question has excited a strong feeling of indignation at the conduct of the English Cabinet. Mr. Cardwell's last despatch announcing the intention of continuing transportation to Western Australia, coupled with the speeches in the House of Lords, has afforded a cry to the Opposition, embarrassment to the local Government, and food for fury to the general public.

A copy of the minute submitted by the Cabinet of Victoria to the Governor of the colony has arrived in London. In the document regret is expressed that all efforts to secure that measure of justice which the colonists had a right to expect had failed, and that the decision of Her Majesty's Government was not only at variance with the statement made by the Duke of Newcastle in 1853, but also in contravention of the policy declared by His Grace to be the duty of Her Majesty's Government. The Government of the colony had determined to exercise the powers of self-government to initiate legislation in concert with the other colonies for their common protection. It had accordingly addressed a circular to the Chief Secretary of each of the colonies, inviting cooperation in framing measures prohibitive of all intercourse whatsoever with Western Australia, in order that her position as the only convict colony in Australia might be distinctly marked. It is further intimated that no measures of isolation would be efficient while the mail steamers continued to call at King George's Sound; therefore, that unless the terms of the existing arrangements with the Peninsular and Oriental Company be altered, and the company consent not to touch at any port in Western Australia, the Government of Victoria would cease to contribute to the annual subsidy. His Excellency is requested to assure Her Majesty's Government of the reality of the feeling of the people of Victoria on the subject.

THE CONTINENT.

FRANCE.

It is certainly not the fault of the French press that we do not yet clearly see what the effect of the Franco-Italian Convention will be upon the political relations of Austria, but their challenges to the Germans have fallen comparatively flat. Neither the Cabinet nor the press of Austria are very expansive in their declarations; we are still left to conjecture on this important point. That the statesmen of Vienna are wise in not showing their hand is becoming daily more evident. Ominous whispers are heard of an imminent coolness between them and the Cabinet of the Tuileries; they are confirmed by the behaviour of France to Prussia, the courtesy with which her envoys have been received, and the patience with which her conduct in Denmark has been endured. The recent appointment of M. Benedetti to the French Embassy at Berlin is again a fact worthy of notice, as pointing in the same direction. That gentleman is an avowed enemy of Austria, and will doubtless do his best to put her in a disadvantageous position with regard to Prussia. All these things considered, we are not surprised to hear of rumours that M. Drouyn de Lhuys is about to resign his post as Foreign Minister of France; his Austrian sympathies are too well known to allow of his remaining in a Cabinet which entertains views adverse to that Power. Again, another report says that the army of Algeria is to be raised to a fighting complement of 100,000 men; it is certain that that army is being largely reinforced, and men call to mind the events of 1858, when the same device was used for collecting troops, which in the next year were poured into the plains of Italy. The number of the reinforcement in the present instance may be exaggerated, as also may be the story of a new loan of thirty or forty millions sterling; but if the old maxim be true that there is never smoke without fire, we may expect fresh troubles in Europe.

It is settled that the Emperor and Empress of Russia are to visit Nice; the Empress will stay there during the winter, and the Empress of the French will join her. Their route to that town lies through Lyons, where apartments are already engaged for them; the Emperor of the French will probably meet them in that city. According to another story, he will pay them a further visit at Nice as soon as they are established there. A battalion of *chasseurs à pied*, of the Imperial Guard, has already arrived at Nice, and will act as a guard of honour to the Czarina during her stay.

M. Prévost-Paradol has vindicated the wisdom and liberality of the English Constitution with an energy and a completeness which are all the more gratifying that they come from a Frenchman and not an Englishman. The Duc de Persigny, in his anxiety to find new praises for the present Imperial Constitution, had hazarded a comparison of the liberties of France and England, and had come to the conclusion that the executive, legislative, and judicial powers in England were all concentrated into the same hands—those, namely, of the conquering class, the traditional inheritors of the Conquest—and that consequently freedom in England was confined to that class. The philosopher of old declined to argue with 'the master of forty legions,' and the modern journalists have been shy of refuting the Imperial confidant. Thereupon M. de Persigny raised a shout of triumph, and proclaimed to the world that his theories had been unchallenged, because they were unassailable; nor did he omit to thrust into the faces of his adversaries the revered name of Montesquieu, the father of constitutionalism. This was *un peu fort*; and M. Paradol determined to run all risks in exposing the fallacies of the Imperialist philosopher. He begins by reminding his antagonist of the difficulty under which every man labours in discussing the French Constitution in an adverse fashion—a difficulty which, he bids him remember, was created by the restrictions which M. de Persigny himself, when in office, had imposed upon such discussion. In a very few words he disposes of M. de Persigny's claim to number Montesquieu among the authorities for Imperialism. 'M. de Persigny,' he says, 'thinks he has found out the right system of government, and asserts that he derives it from Montesquieu himself. M. de Persigny is too modest; it is his own exclusive property.' M. Paradol then examines the attack made on the English Constitution. He shows that the ultimate power lies in the hands of the electors, who hold the franchise according to assessment of property, and concludes with these telling words: 'Really we cannot consider the invitation of M. de Persigny to discuss these delicate questions, nor even his regret that they should not be discussed, as a sufficient "safe conduct" to follow him on such a battle-field. We prefer pulling up short, and telling M. de Persigny the plain truth, as he will insist on having it. The thesis developed in his letter consists of two parts, a criticism of the institutions of England, and a eulogy of our own. Of these two parts the first, were it not signed with the name of M. de Persigny, would not deserve discussion; the second, under whatever name it might be put forth, cannot be discussed.'

A very interesting sham naval fight took place on the 9th instant at Toulon. The whole squadron, with the *Solferino* at the head of it, made an attack upon the batteries defending the entrance of the harbour of Toulon, exactly similar to that which a hostile fleet would make. The immediate object of it was to discover how many shots an ironclad might be expected to fire at each battery under a given speed, and with a certain circumscribed space for performing evolutions. The engagement lasted for one hour exactly, under a bright sun, and with a fresh breeze blowing. It was, of course, most interesting and exciting to the innumerable spectators who had assembled on the shore; but the practical results of it are a secret for the outer world.

The spirit of disorder so rife in our mining population has appeared in France under an exactly similar shape. A conspiracy was formed among the miners of Valenciennes to strike for an advance of wages, which they required to be fixed for all workmen, bad and good, at three francs a day. They succeeded in keeping their machinations secret. On the night of the 20th ult., believing affairs to be ripe for an explosion, they broke out; they forbade all workmen to go down into the pits, extinguished the engine fires, and stopped the whole of the works; they then entered the cottages of all who were not taking an active part in the disorder, and compelled them to join. Strikes are not treated with much respect in France; the military were instantly ordered up, a whole batch of arrests were made, and quiet restored. An ineffectual attempt was made to break out again on the following night, which was checked in the same way. On the 7th inst. twenty-nine workmen arrested in the two affairs were brought before the magistrates at Valenciennes. On examining them the authorities were disgusted to find that they had failed to get hold of the ringleaders and original movers of the disturbance; the accused were all young men earning fair wages, and evidently the dupes of some older criminals. They received a suitable lecture, and were condemned to short periods of imprisonment, varying from six weeks to one week.

One of the vast cloth factories of Normandy, the property of the firm Méry Sampson, situated at Lisieux, has been burnt to the ground, and a vast amount of property destroyed, including cotton to the value of upwards of 40,000*l.* Six hundred workmen are thrown out of employment by this catastrophe.

M. Jules Gérard, the lion-killer of Africa, whose name was familiar to the world before Gordon Cumming made his battues in the Cape Bush, or Speke and Grant had penetrated to the core of Africa, has unfortunately been drowned in attempting to cross the River Jong, near Sierra Leone.

ITALY.

The election of deputies is proceeding energetically. General della Marmora and others of the Cabinet have been duly re-elected to their seats. The electors of Castel-Maggiore have returned the Marchese di Pepoli as Deputy; that statesman has therefore gone off to Russia, in which country he was Ambassador, to present his letters of recall. He will return to Turin in time for the meeting of the Chamber. A banquet was given at Milan in his honour on the 10th inst., at which a unanimous resolution was passed in favour of the Convention, in the framing of which the Marquis was so largely concerned. He himself proposed the health of the city of Turin, and in the course of his speech exhorted her to submit to the sacrifices which Italy demanded of her, and to rest assured of the falsehood and malice of those who prophesied that she would be the victim of cowardly cessions or foreign conquests. The speech was well received, and has been eagerly quoted in France. Without in any way doubting the sincerity of the Marquis's statements, we may remember that the cession of Nice and Savoy was once denied even more categorically by Count Cavour. A meeting of workmen has been held at Turin with the object of presenting a petition to Parliament requesting the impeachment of the late Ministry, and protesting against the Convention. The United National Committees are preparing to present a similar petition against the Convention, which they declare to be a fatal blow to the unity of Italy. A circular note is now in course of preparation by the Premier, to be addressed to all Italian ambassadors abroad. It maintains that the emigration of the Government to Florence is a purely strategical measure, and expressly points out that, although the Government desires reconciliation with the Papacy, it cannot ignore the principle that the Romans have the right of selecting their own Government. It is understood that the King will still permanently reside in Turin, so that one of the objections to the change will be obviated. The question of the transfer of the capital will of course be made a Government question in the Chamber, and any amendment in favour of the claims of Naples to the sovereignty will be considered as a vote of want of confidence in the Administration. It is satisfactory to see that a decree of amnesty on behalf of the prisoners taken at Aspromonte has been passed. Their offence was flat rebellion, and amply deserved punishment; but the circumstances of the case palliated their crime to a great extent, and it was impossible to continue a course of severity against the subordinates while Garibaldi, the leader of the movement, was nominally at large. It is said that the reduction in the Austrian army will be answered by a corresponding reduction in the Italian forces. About 50,000 men will be sent to their homes, 41,000 of whom will come from the infantry.

The Pontifical gendarmes have been effecting some arrests among the brigands; five of a band which murdered some French officials have been taken. No idea can yet be formed of the position which the Pope means to assume with regard to the Convention. The French journals deny everything which might lead men to suppose that the Holy Father will embarrass his powerful ally, or complicate the situation further. The story now is that, on being informed of the treaty by M. de Sartiges, the Pope replied not a word, but merely pointed to the crucifix with a gesture of sublime resignation. The people of Rome, after some uncertainty and wavering, have declared themselves strongly in favour of the new Convention, thereby proving to the world that they at least still hold the doctrine of 'Rome for a capital,' and foresee a means of realising their wishes. An amusing story is told of the Roman police. They were lucky enough to capture thirteen pickpockets in one night, who were duly brought to the lock-up. The superintendent, however, considering thirteen to be an unlucky number, declined to receive more than twelve, and sent the other about his business!

DENMARK.

The sittings of the Conference of Vienna have been succeeding each other with great rapidity. The difficulty on the financial question has been settled, Denmark having consented to fix the round sum of 9,000,000 as the share which the Duchies are to have in the public property of Denmark. This amount will therefore be deducted from the portion of the Danish debt which has been assigned to the Duchies. Captain Sköller has arrived in Vienna, bearing the approval of the Danish Government to the settlement of the frontier question as arranged by the Conference. It is said that the plenipotentiaries have begun to frame the final treaty of peace, immediately upon the signature of which the Diet will be requested to withdraw the Federal troops from Holstein. The King of Denmark has made about forty Swedish and Norwegian officers, who took part in the late war on the side of Denmark, Knights of the Order of Dannebrog. The Rigsdag of Denmark, which was opened by the King in person on August 5, and prorogued to October 3, has resumed its sittings. In the address of both Houses, the Landsthing and the Volksthing, great stress is laid upon the desire of the people to see the Constitution of 1849 carried out in its entirety. The Minister of the Interior has, however, stated in the House that the Government can as yet make no promise with regard to the Constitution of 1849, and that, in any case, it will require serious modifications. The *Dagbladet* of the 15th inst. suggested that if peace be made with Germany on the present principles, the basis of the present order of succession would be overthrown, in which case the legitimate heir to the Danish throne would be Prince Frederick of Hesse and not Christian IX. For making this statement, M. de Bille, the late plenipotentiary at the Conference of London, has demanded that the editor should be prosecuted for high treason.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, and the infant Prince Albert Victor, left Fredensborg on the 11th inst. They proceeded in the yacht *Osborne* to Travemünde, in the territory of Lubeck, and thence by train through Hamburg to Glückstadt on the Elbe, in the Duchy of Holstein. Here they were met by the royal yacht *Salamis*, in which the infant Prince was conveyed to England. The royal couple will perhaps visit Hanover and Brussels before their return; but their visit is not likely to extend its limits further. They have displayed some ingenuity already in avoiding Prussian soil.

With regard to the alliance of Russia and Denmark in the persons of the Czarewitch and the Princess Dagmar, some journals have expressed themselves in a very sulky and ill-mannered fashion. They declare that such an alliance will be very distasteful to the Scandinavian nationality, and indulge in very gloomy views of the future. This testiness can easily be explained by observing that, to all anti-Danish minds, the alliance of Russia and Denmark is a great source of disquiet; they look forward very uncomfortably to the day when the new Czar may choose to avenge the sufferings inflicted by the Germans on the country of his wife. However, this day is yet far off. The marriage is not to come off for another eighteen months, when the Princess will have wellnigh attained the age of twenty years. She will probably pay a visit to Russia next summer, and her *fiancé* is expected in Copenhagen about Christmas time. A marriage was projected between the only daughter of Charles XV. of Sweden and the Crown Prince of Denmark, but difficulties are said to have arisen against so promising a match.

GERMANY.

The policy of Austria and Prussia appears to diverge farther and farther daily. Some very angry articles have appeared in the Viennese *Botschafter* and *Morgenpost*, declaring that Austria is losing all her influence with the secondary States of Germany by her servile acquiescence in Prussian arrogance, and demanding a speedy solution from the Cabinet of Vienna of the difficulties which will now shortly arise in the Duchies. Thus much is known, that the Austrian troops have received orders to leave Jutland immediately, while Prussian officers have been sent to organise the national army of Slesvig-Holstein. After the signature of the treaty of peace, a Prussian division will be left in the Duchies, consisting of four regiments of infantry, two of cavalry, and two brigades of artillery. There are reports of a ministerial crisis in Vienna, and it is believed that Count Rechberg will tender his resignation on account of the present complicated state of foreign policy. In one point of view Austria has been successful; M. Pleuer has succeeded in some way or other in getting his loan of 90,000,000*l.* accepted; 30,000,000*l.* of it, however, are to be raised by a tax loan, a process apparently similar to the 'benevolences' of the times of the Tudors. M. Pleuer has gained some credit by his skilful management of this affair, which was generally believed to be hopeless. Austria has been blessed with a very good harvest, but the people complain that there is not a corresponding diminution in the prices. The seat of the commercial conference is to be removed from Prague to some other city not yet named, and Saxony and Bavaria are to take part in the future discussions along with Austria and Prussia. The Cabinet of Vienna intends before the reopening of the Conference to elicit from Prussia a clear and precise statement of the bases on which she intends to negotiate. Mr. Ward, the English Consul at Hamburg, went to Berlin to frame a new system of commercial relations with the reconstituted Zollverein, but was met with the answer that since the conclusion of the new treaty and the admission of other German States to the benefit of it, Prussia could no longer negotiate in her own name. A meeting has been arranged between the Emperor of Russia and the King of Prussia at Darmstadt, and again another at Berlin, later in the year, when the Emperor returns from Nice to St. Petersburg.

A renewal of the Constitutional contest in Prussia seems imminent; lulled to sleep, or rather smothered, for a time by the Danish war, it rises again with fresh vigour upon the restoration of peace. Parliament must meet on January 13, but no royal ordinance on the subject has yet appeared. There is plenty of work for them when they do meet; estimates will have to be voted, and thus the *vexata quæstio* of the reorganisation of the army will again be brought upon the boards. There will, of course, be long debates on the Slesvig-Holstein question, in connection with the loan which Government will demand, and the increase of the budget for the navy will also create discussion. Some skirmishing has already gone on between the organs of the Government and the Liberal party, which shows that neither side is inclined to concede an inch. The result of the whole business will of course be a dissolution beyond which no eye can at present pierce.

SWITZERLAND.

A daring and outrageous attack has been made upon the diligence running over Monte Cenere, between Bellinzona and Lugano, in the canton of Ticino. One of the passengers was mortally wounded, and the luggage of the rest was utterly ransacked; the Federal mails were also plundered. The police are on the tracks of the assassins.

GREECE.

A new Constitution is being discussed by the Chamber of Deputies; several articles have been carried with regard to the throne and the regency, of which the following are the most important and interesting:—

Art. 45. The Greek crown and its constitutional rights are hereditary, and descend to the immediate legitimate issue of King George I., in the order of primogeniture, male issue having the preference.

Art. 46. In default of a successor to the throne, one is to be chosen by the King, with the assent of two-thirds of the deputies.

Art. 47. Every successor to the Greek crown must profess the creed held by the Eastern orthodox Christian Church.

Art. 48. The crown of Greece and that of any other State can never descend to one and the same individual.

Art. 52. In case of the throne becoming vacant, the Chamber shall assemble without being convoked, and nominate a Greek citizen as provisional Regent. The Ministerial Council will exercise the royal authority in the name of the nation until the Regent takes the oath. Within two months at latest an equal number of representatives to the number of deputies shall be chosen by the people, who, together with the Chamber, shall then elect the new King, in which a majority of at least two-thirds of the entire number shall be decisive.

In addition to these a bill, introducing universal suffrage, has been voted. An unsuccessful attempt was made on the 11th inst. to assassinate the Minister of the Interior. Earl Russell has favoured the Greek Cabinet with one of the lectures for which his name will be for ever notorious; in it he condemns the anarchical demonstrations in Greece, and is especially severe upon a party calling itself 'the English party;' in the name of England he repudiates all factions. He further states, 'that in case of necessity England would, in conjunction with France and Russia, take measures for the maintenance of order and the strengthening of the reigning dynasty.'

SPAIN.

The election of the new Chambers is just now exciting much interest. The Government appear to be acting in a liberal and straightforward manner. Señor Gonzalez Bravo, the Minister of the Interior, has addressed a circular to the governors of provinces, recommending them strictly to observe the law, and to allow to every man the free and uncontrolled use of his electoral rights. The Progressist party asked and obtained leave to hold a public meeting under the presidency of Señor Olozaga, at which a committee was appointed including the names of General Espartero, General Prim, Señores Olozaga and Madoz. Some of the journals urge the Government not to remain aloof from the arrangements tending to guarantee the independence of the States of the Pope, which must be under the guarantee of Europe if the French quit Rome. By advices from Santo Domingo the former favourable reports are confirmed. The chiefs of the revolution have retired to Hayti, and were making proposals to the Spanish generals for the termination of the war.

PORTUGAL.

Can a constitutional party become extinct? Or, to vary the terms of the problem, can a constitution survive the extinction of one of its component parts? In old times we know pretty well that it was impossible. If a Cæsar destroyed the party of a Pompey, or an Octavian drove an Antony out of the field, his next step was to establish a despotism. The question arises now in Portugal. According to the *Official Gazette*, the Conservative party in that country is absolutely extinct. It goes on to state that 'a political transformation is therefore inevitable, the Reform party taking up the position of the Progressist party, and the Government remaining Progressists.' This is puzzling. Some one is evidently going to play at being Opposition, to devote himself to the ungrateful task for the sake of Constitution. Thus much is evident. But which side is to be the victim, whether the Reform party are going on the Opposition benches, or the Government mean to oppose themselves, is a problem for Lord Dundreary himself.

RUSSIA.

The *Invalide Russe* publishes a long article on the emigration of the Caucasians, of which the substance is somewhat as follows. The conquest of the Caucasus was determined in 1859; the plan originally fixed upon for the maintenance of order in the conquered country was first the dislodgment of the tribes from their mountain fastnesses, and next the establishment of military colonies of Cossacks on the plains which the conquered people would then be forced to inhabit. A habit had arisen among the Caucasians, even before the Russian war, of making family pilgrimages to Mecca; on the restoration of peace the custom increased to so alarming an extent that the governors were ordered to reduce it to the number of eighty families per year at most. Upon the advance of the Russians in 1859, the tribes flocked down to the coast in myriads, determined to take refuge in Turkey, on the same principle on which the former small emigrations had been conducted; the results were epidemic, famine, and disappointment. The tribes who had remained in the country submitted quietly to the Russians rather than undergo the perils of emigration. But, strange to say, the further advance of the Russian arms in 1863 was again, as on the former occasions, met by a sudden wild emigration; on this occasion no fears seem to have been strong enough to restrain the people. The Russians did a good deal for them: they provided them to a certain extent with food, passage-money, and medical attendance; but how inadequate the supplies were to meet the necessities of the case we know from the history of the last six months. The statistics of emigration during the first six months of this year give 230,718 as the number of emigrants from the borders of the Caucasus. Previous to this year about 400,000 souls have left Circassia and taken refuge in Turkey.

A strange affair lately happened in the town of Orel. A proprietor in the neighbourhood was to receive the sum of 4,300*l.* through the police-office of the town. On applying for it he was told that he could not receive it unless he presented the office with 500*l.* He immediately reported the case to St. Petersburg, and the money was thereupon paid over to him. On the same evening four men rushed into his study, their faces covered with black crape, and demanded his money. He had time, however, to seize a revolver and shoot two of the thieves; the others took to their heels. Judge of the surprise of himself and the police, whom he immediately summoned, to find, on taking off the crape masks from the two corpses, that the men were no other than the head of the police and his secretary!

ALGIERS.

Another smart engagement took place on the 29th and 30th ult. between the Arabs under Si-Lalla and the French column under General Jolivet. The general gives a lively and neat account of the affair, which must have been singularly exciting. He had gone to the head of his column after a very fatiguing day's march, partly to trace out the camp for the night and partly to send water back to his exhausted men from the well which they were approaching. Scarcely had he despatched a large part of his cavalry on this mission when an immense body of Arabs made their appearance on the neighbouring hills, and, rushing down upon him, completely cut off his communication with the main body: he was left with a body of barely 100 horsemen to contend against masses of natives. For an hour and a half the struggle was kept up. The general watched anxiously for the main body to arrive; but the ammunition of the little band began to fail before the head of the column came in sight. When at last they came, so straggling was the appearance of the main column that the Arabs left their sorely-tried foes to fasten upon what seemed to be even an easier prey. But the energy of the general was infused into his troops; again the Arabs were beaten off, and the soldiers allowed to form their camp in peace. The loss of the French in this gallant affair was 82 killed and 27 wounded, the proportion of the two showing the severity of the conflict. The Arabs lost upwards of 400 men. Si-Lalla, shortly after this, burnt the village of Sidi-Ali-ben-Youb under the very nose of the troops, and nearly succeeded in capturing the caravanserai. The general success of the French arms, however, has made a great impression on the natives, many of whose tribes are returning peaceably to their cantonments.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

The Taepings have lost the great city of Nankin, but are not yet extinguished; a party of them defeated a strong division of Imperialists on August 3. Under these circumstances the Government at Pekin has determined to continue the service of the Franco-Chinese corps, under Lieutenant d'Aigueville; that officer has accordingly been enrolling Europeans at Shanghai for a two years' service.

The united fleets of England, Holland, and France, have determined to force a passage into the inland sea past the batteries of Prince Nagato. It is expected that some resistance will be made, and some land forces have accordingly been summoned from China to support the naval movements; among them is a regiment of Beloochees, natives of the district adjoining Afghanistan.

SOUTH AMERICA.

A commercial crisis has occurred at Rio Janeiro in consequence of the failure of the banking firm of M. Soute, and other similar mischances.

The Government has decreed the suspension of cash payments for notes by the Bank of Brazil, and has given a forced currency to the bank's paper.

War has been declared between Brazil and Uruguay.

At Lima the popular tendencies are towards a reconciliation with Spain. The Government declare that they can now proceed with confidence, since there is a prospect of internal concord in Peru. They are willing to try all lawful means of pacification with Spain, but they refuse to give in to the principle involved in the seizure of the Chincha islands.

Señor Garcia Moreno, the President of the Republic of Ecuador, has taken the very decided step of declaring himself Dictator, and trying, condemning, and executing his rival and enemy, General Maldonado. For these acts he pleads, on the one hand, that the very existence of the republic was threatened by internal dissensions and foreign usurpations, and that consequently strong measures were needed in remedy; and, on the other hand, he shows that General Maldonado had lately made an attempt to assassinate him, which was luckily unsuccessful. The energetic course taken by the President has not been unfavourably received by the nation.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York: October 4, 1864.

The mail closes to-morrow morning too early for your correspondent to be able to say anything of the news which may be in from Virginia, where General Grant is delivering the blow which has been so mysteriously announced from time to time, for a week or two, as about to drive Lee into the entrenchments of Richmond and overwhelm him there. The Northern people seem to have been worked up again into a full belief that now Grant is going to succeed without fail. The telegraphic reports of the skirmishes preliminary to the grand attack read very like those with which the first battles of Grant, after he crossed the Rapidan, were announced to the Northern people as great victories, and welcomed by Mr. Lincoln with a solemn proclamation recommending a *Te Deum* for victory in all the churches. A little examination, however, shows that the Union troops have won a skirmish and seized some outwork of little value at an enormous cost of life, and that every foot of advance upon Richmond is to be won, if won at all, by dashing columns of men against well-defended breastworks, bristling at every point with artillery.

There are various rumours, from different sources, that General Sheridan in the ardour of his pursuit has got so far into the Valley of the Shenandoah as to find difficulty in getting back, and has sustained a defeat, but when, and to what degree, is not mentioned. But it is worth noticing that no mention has been made of the extent of his losses in the late battles in the Valley. All accounts of these are suppressed in the reports of the Government. The *World* newspaper of this morning gives an idea of how his army was handled in a statement, from private sources, that there are two thousand 'badly wounded' Federal soldiers in the hospital at Winchester, and twelve hundred slightly wounded had been sent to Baltimore. An aggregate of 3,200 in the single item of disabled by wounds shows how furiously the battle must have been contested.

Farragut has not taken Mobile, but has been sent round to try and take Wilmington.

Sherman is fortifying himself in Atlanta, and is much troubled about his communications, which are harassed by the Confederates to such an extent as to cause a good deal of uneasiness at Washington about his position. Except at fortified places, and along the lines of roads, which are guarded by large bodies of troops, the whole country in his rear, up to the Mississippi River, is in the possession of Confederates; and Forrest, Wheeler, and Roddy roam very much as they please, capturing towns and breaking up railroads. At the latest accounts they were about making a junction in force, which will require extraordinary exertions on the part of Sherman to keep himself supplied and stay in Atlanta in the vicinity of Hood's army, the command to which Beauregard has been assigned, and with the announcement of that change the spirits of the Southern people rose from temporary depression into confidence.

West of the Mississippi the Confederates have recovered Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas, with the exception of a few garrisoned places, and a large force, under Sterling Price, is invading Missouri, finding supplies and recruits there, and frightening the Federals for the safety even of St. Louis.

The domestic controversy in the North is developing some strange traits of party and politics. The summary processes by which the votes of the border States are to be made sure for Mr. Lincoln have been put in force in Maryland. It was insultingly said in the Baltimore correspondence of the *New York Tribune*, a few days ago, that no ticket would be permitted to be voted for in Maryland which is not friendly to Mr. Lincoln. The impudent boast of the partisan was but the forewarning of the measures of violence to come.

The experiment of carrying the Border-State elections by this direct application of force is an audacious one. But audacity in usurpation has succeeded thus far. Why should it not continue to be successful in this crisis of the struggle for the perpetuation of power, for which a great majority of the Northern people have made and are making so many sacrifices of honour, and liberty, and rights?

As it is with Maryland so it will be with all the border States. Mr. Lincoln holds the thirty-two votes of Delaware, Maryland, Western Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri, as absolutely in his hand to-day as if the vote had been cast, and the certificate made out. The Democrats see this, but are powerless to prevent it. Their hope is to make out of these transactions such a case of palpable fraud upon the elective franchise, such flagrant outrage upon the liberties of the people, such an audacious usurpation of military power for the purpose of seizing the supreme authority against the will of the people as will alarm the voters of the North, and create an indignant uprising here, which will overthrow the schemers in the very success of their schemes. The mockery which their appeals meet with among the oracles of the majority does not yet show any sign of fear for any formidable reaction. There are occasional protests made by devoted party friends against the indiscretion of these acts, and a few individuals among the dominant party openly censure them, but the great ruling masses of the party are apparently unmoved.

The friends of the Administration are not satisfied with the application of the military pressure by the Government against its adversaries, but have provided for a secret military organisation among themselves. The 'loyal leagues' (so called) throughout the country have been long known to be secretly armed. Indeed, it is one of the conditions of membership that every man shall provide himself with arms. The following is one of the series of resolutions just adopted by the General Council of the Loyal League Clubs of this State. It is part of the general organisation of councils in States where the Democrats have been disarmed by the State authorities and authorities of the Federal Government, by seizing such arms as they had provided for themselves, and making the introduction of arms and ammunition into those States, except by direct permit of the Government, contraband:—

'Resolved: That we earnestly recommend and urge upon the subordinate councils *to organise military companies within their several bodies, to arm and drill with the utmost diligence, and with great caution*, that no unnecessary occasion of offence be given our enemies.

By the State Council,
Isaac M. Schermerhorn, President.

Oliver T. Beard, Secretary.

These are ominous preparations for overawing the people at the polls, to be backed, as they will be, by the regular troops of the Government, if resistance should provoke disturbance. General Wallace's rule will then come in, that the people ought to be made to stay away from the polls if their coming to vote provokes violence.

The social condition of the Border States resulting from this war passes all comprehension of those who do not hear verbally the tales of eye-witnesses that cannot get into print. In whole counties and large sections of States the restraints of law are utterly disregarded. Bands of armed men range about, plundering and burning houses, and shooting or hanging objects of their animosity with as little remorse as they used to go out hunting wild animals. Desperadoes get up these gangs, now in the name of Confederates, harrying and robbing and murdering Unionists, now in the name of Unionists, waylaying travellers on the highway, and shooting them down as rebels, or firing their dwellings at midnight, and slaughtering all who attempt to escape from the flames. Thousands thus made homeless and despairing turn marauders themselves, and civil war thus creates bands of roving banditti, who know no other impulse than revenge and plunder. Missouri and Kentucky swarm with such ruffians, that abuse the name of both sides by pretending to belong to one or the other, while indiscriminately preying on both as opportunity offers. A fearful example of what state of things is thereby created in the wild Western districts is told in a late number of the *Chicago Times*, giving an account of one Bill Anderson, chief of a gang in Missouri, which captured a Federal train at Centralia, and afterwards shot twenty-four Iowa and Missouri soldiers who were prisoners. The *Times* says: 'Anderson told citizens whom he released that he was not a secessionist, but that Federal troops a year ago killed his father in Jackson County, ravished his two sisters, and put them in the female prison in Kansas City, and then burned down the building, destroying them by the flames. Also, that his mother died of grief. He swore that, as long as he lived, he would kill every man he met in Federal uniform. His lieutenant is young Beckham, whose brothers and sisters were murdered in Obion country by negro soldiers.'

The whole of South-western and Western Missouri teems with tales of just such outrages as made Bill Anderson mad,—and not of one side but of both sides—and of the wretches who have only their own bad instincts and villanous propensities to prompt them. How many years would it be, in a state of profound peace, before such a population could be made to sit down again peaceably with each other, or what would be the cost and the toil, and for how long, before order can be made to rule again? As it is in these districts of Missouri, so it is in all those States, and portions of States, where the population was divided originally in political sentiment, and the contending armies have alternately driven each other out, the victors when in possession giving license to persecute the conquered.

The monthly report of the Secretary of the Treasury for the 1st inst. has been published at Washington, and a telegraphic abstract received here. I copy from it the following statement of the condition of the public debt on September 30:—

	Debt	Interest
Bearing interest in coin .	$923,085,941	$54,608,445
,, .. ,, currency	564,585,874	27,170,197
Interest ceased . . .	356,970	
Without interest . .	467,944,929	
	$1,955,973,714	$81,778,643

The report for July 28, the last I have seen previously, gave the gross amount of debt at $1,805,523,564, showing an actual increase of $150,450,152 within thirty-four days, an increase of over $4,400,000 a day. A large part of this increase is made by the paying off of the arrearages of pay due to the army, which will help to put them in better humour about election time. Unpaid requisitions have been reduced about $45,000,000; but the accumulations cannot be kept down, for certificates of indebtedness have increased about $27,000,000. The general result is as stated. The expansion of the currency appears to be covered up in this abstract by counting the interest-bearing notes, which are used so extensively as currency, among the interest-bearing debts, as though they were funded.

The Secretary of the Treasury is out with a proposal for a new loan of $40,000,000 in five-twenty 6 per cent. gold-bearing bonds, the proposals to be opened on the 14th inst. It is but a small instalment of what he wants.

The drafting is going on in various localities, but the success is not by any means what is wanted for the purposes of Government. The roads are filled with fugitives rushing away from the draft—thousands of them crowding into Her Majesty's Canadian dominions. The wheel turns out the required names; but to find them and get them passed, and to organise them, is another part of the work of which the results are not so propitious. The Government finds it a very slow process; for a new and pressing order is out from the Secretary of War, which calls for renewed efforts to obtain volunteers, for the purpose of enabling General Sherman to maintain his position and carry out his further plans. In fact, the spirit for fighting, and the material for renewing armies in the North, are well-nigh worn out. It may be reasonably doubted whether all the recruits and conscripts raised under the last call will repair the losses by casualties of battle and sickness in the Federal armies since May. The calculations of Grant and the War Department are, that the South is still more exhausted, and must give in soonest. Everything is staked on the result of the new movements which Grant is making towards Richmond, which have commenced with a gleam of success that already seems to intoxicate the Northern brain with visions of a speedy end to the war.

This drafting has its grotesque incidents. The people of Hudson, in this State, made up a purse with which to pay bounties for recruits with which to fill their quota, and sent a committee down to Virginia to engage discharged soldiers. They effected their object, engaged their men, and paid out their money. Returning home with their recruits, Mosby overtook them, captured the party, and sent the committee home without followers and penniless; and the paying patriots must pay over again or stand the draft.

Another party of substitute hunters has come to grief in Canada. Several wealthy young men from Ontario, to secure their personal exemption from fighting, went over into Canada, but thought to make compensation by engaging Canadians to come over and do the real work. One of them had succeeded in hiring a Canadian, when the authorities arrested him for violating the British law against foreign enlistments, and have convicted him. The newspapers say he has been sentenced to eighteen *years'* imprisonment. If this be not a mistake for eighteen months, it is doubtless preliminary to a pardon—the sentence being for a caution to others.

Such items as the following are not very encouraging to men who have to go and fight on compulsion. It is a summary, made up by some curious hand, of the fortunes of the volunteers who went out originally to the wars as three-years men. Of seventeen regiments whose term has expired, and which have returned home, the original number was 37,001, the number which came back is 4,375, not one in eight! What a suggestive record of wholesale slaughter!

Among local incidents here is the veto of Major Gunther, on the resolution of the Common Council to have a general illumination in honour of the late Federal successes in arms. It shows Major Gunther to be a peace man of the most unequivocal and uncompromising cast; and a bold man, too, to proclaim such rational, civilised, and Christian sentiments, in the face of two infuriated parties who are rivalling each other in their demands for more blood, if the Southern people will not consent to their own disgrace and enslavement. There are many thousands who think with him, but will not dare to open their mouths to sustain him, assailed as he is for speaking unseasonably for a discountenanced truth.

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Richmond: August 26, 1864.

The situation in front of Petersburg has undergone some change during the past week. For the first time Grant's clever strategy has enabled him to gain some slight advantage—an exceptional circumstance, which the reader may feel assured the United States authorities and newspapers will make the most of possible. Having made his works in front of Petersburg so strong that they could be held for a time by a small force, Grant sent a heavy column across James River to his right, and as soon as he discovered that General Lee had detached a suitable force to contest his advance upon Richmond, if such was his design, he threw another heavy column against the Weldon Railway on his extreme left. Both of these demonstrations were intended to be feints or real attacks as circumstances might determine. If Lee should neglect the movement on the north side of the James, under the impression that it was made—like that on July 30, when the mine was sprung—to deceive him, then an earnest effort with an adequate force would be made to reach the capital, or at all events to turn the fortifications on the river, and if possible reduce them. If, on the contrary, Hancock's column on the north side of the river was met by a force sufficient to hold it in check and defeat any attempt he might make against Richmond, then the second column under Warren, which did not move for three or four days after the first had crossed the river, would march rapidly against the railway four miles below Petersburg, immediately entrench itself, and prepare to hold it until Hancock could be brought back from the north side of the James. Events took the latter direction, and the real attack or movement was made on the railway on the left.

To be more explicit: finding that his passage of the James had not escaped Lee, and that the latter confronted him with a sufficient force, not only to frustrate his designs, but to beat him in action, Grant, on the night of the 18th, ordered Warren to move out and occupy the Weldon Road, and fortify his position. As soon as the movement was discovered, Beauregard (Lee being on the north side of the James) directed Lieutenant-General Hill to proceed with Mahone's and Heth's divisions and dislodge the enemy. Hill encountered Warren's superior force at 3 P.M. on the 19th, drove him back down the railway about a mile, inflicted a heavy loss upon him, including 2,400 able prisoners and about 800 wounded who fell into his hands, his own casualties footing up not quite 600. For some reason, the fight was not renewed until Sunday the 21st, before which time Warren had been reinforced by the greater part of Hancock's troops, and had thrown up three lines of breastworks, the inner one of which was very strong. When Beauregard moved against him, therefore, at 9 A.M. on the 21st, with a slightly increased force, he found it impossible to drive him away. He beat him back out of the first two lines, and pushed him into the third; but here he found his position so strong—his lines extending across the railroad through a level field, and his flanks and rear protected as effectually as his front—that he determined to recall his troops, who had already suffered considerably. His loss on the 21st, however, did not exceed 800 men, including 200 prisoners taken from Hagood's South Carolina brigade. In the thickest of the fight, a Federal colonel seized the colours of a South Carolina regiment, and demanded a surrender. This, Hagood, who happened to be near at hand, declined to do, and called upon the Yankee to lay down his arms, which was also declined; whereupon the two officers engaged in mortal combat, their respective commands pausing meanwhile from their work of death to witness the conflict. The result is soon told; the Yankee was slain by the gallant Carolinian, and the colours brought off. The brave Brigadier-General Saunders of Alabama was killed on the 21st, the femoral artery having been severed by a Minié ball.

Grant still holds possession of the Weldon Railway. His picket line comes up to within two miles of the town. In thus extending his left wing he has stretched out his lines to a dangerous length, as he may find some day to his cost. The railway, though not without its convenience, is not indispensable to the Confederates. Up to a recent period it was a link in the only line by which they could move troops or draw supplies from the South Atlantic States; but since the completion of the Danville connection, they have a shorter, better, and less exposed route to their chief sources of supplies and men. Meanwhile Lee bides his time, waiting for the opportunity, which will almost surely come, when he can strike a blow that will end the campaign, and perhaps the war itself.

A telegram received from Mobile yesterday states that Fort Morgan had fallen. On the 23rd scouts from below reported that a large fire was seen at the fort, and that subsequently a loud explosion was heard, as if the magazine or the fort had been blown up. No further particulars have been received, so we are left in doubt whether that fine work was surrendered, blown up, or evacuated. It was believed that the attack upon the shore batteries and inner line of fortifications would be made at an early day. Reinforcements are crossing the Mississippi from the West, and it is believed they will reach Mobile in time to insure the safety of the place. The Federal column that was moving down through Northern Mississippi to cooperate in the attack has been forced by Forrest to retrace its steps. It seems that Forrest passed around this force and assaulted the works around Memphis, compelling Washburne and his staff to beat a hasty retreat into the city in their night-clothes in order to save themselves. Their camp and baggage fell into the hands of the bold Confederate chieftain. Major-General Frank Gardner is in command at Mobile, and Lieutenant-General Maury, lately promoted, has been placed in command of the Department of Mississippi until Lieutenant-General Taylor can bring his forces across the river and get them in position. In all the vast region lying beyond the Father of Waters hardly an enemy is to be found. The last Yankee has disappeared from Texas, and that notable invasion by way of the Rio Grande and Brownsville is an utter and costly failure.

LETTER FROM NASSAU.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NASSAU, BAHAMAS: September 26, 1864.

SINCE my last communication we have had nothing of striking moment here, but I am glad to report a great improvement in our prospects for the winter months. The scourge of yellow fever has almost disappeared, and merchants are rapidly finding their way back again. During the last ten days we have had quite a fleet of steamers in our harbour. Four have successfully run in from the beleaguered Charleston, and their handsome cargoes of cotton have put new life into the 'cotton gang.'

A remarkable feature in the development of the resources of the colony has at last taken a wider range, and after the small production of late years, Bahama cotton is now likely to show in the market. Several estates from 50 to 300 acres have been planted, and put under careful cultivation. The staple hitherto obtained is of fine quality, and will be appreciated by the Lancashire manufacturers.

The loss of the entrance to Mobile and the occupation of Atlanta, though discouraging to the Southern exiles here, has not abated their faith and hope in the ultimate triumph of their cause; and if the news this morning by way of Havana respecting the movements of General Kirby Smith's command be correct, Sherman will find his quarters in Atlanta anything but desirable.

The closing of Mobile will throw more business into Nassau, and our phantom commerce of the next few months is sure to be very lively, while in the North they are settling the question of the elections.

Among the finest steamers that have visited us is the *Ella*, a perfect model of a boat, admirably adapted for her traffic. The fine steamer *Agnes Louise* has been unaccountably, some say disgracefully, run on the rocks close to the Lighthouse, and has defied all efforts to get her off.

I shall hand you a list of arrivals by next mail.

THE MASSACHUSETTS SLAVE AND SLAUGHTER COMPANY.

THE following letter appears in the *Courrier des Etats Unis*:—

SIR,—I have the honour to make known to you a circumstance similar to that which I read in your issue of Wednesday.

The ship *Guerland*, that left Anvers for Boston with 251 passengers, hired as working-men, arrived on the 29th August, and anchored within a half-hour's sail of the port. She was there joined by three steamers, on board of which were Federal soldiers. The French and Belgian passengers who, according to the promise given by the agents, were to have received in advance, besides their passage, the sum of five hundred francs and the ordinary weekly wages, were called upon to sign an agreement in English, which was no other than articles of enlistment. They were informed that, they were no longer entitled to rations on board, and that after having signed, they would be transferred to the steamers that would conduct them to the place where they were to work, and where dinner awaited them. They insisted upon being landed in Boston, but this was categorically refused. After resisting for twenty-four hours (for they feared some deception), impelled by hunger and surrounded by soldiers, the greater portion, that is two hundred and twenty, signed and were transported to the fort, where they were compelled to put on the uniform, in despite of their protestations. Three of those who had signed, a Frenchman and two Belgians, persisted in their refusal to march, and were put in irons on a neighbouring island; they are probably still there. They are Sincrit, the Frenchman, and Albreght and Verheyden, Belgians. The remaining thirty-one refused to sign in defiance of threats, and were landed in Boston at their own expense, whence they started for New York. They are almost in a state of destitution.

Thus the agent, or rather the purveyor, of the Black Republican butchers of the North must have pocketed one hundred dollars per man, which makes a round sum, and they will tell us that the administration at Washington is not in complicity with this infamous traffic. It seems to me that these things, so often repeated, should open the eyes of European powers, and that the Government of Mr. Lincoln should be called upon, not only to prevent this traffic and to punish its authors, but also to liberate all its victims. Heaven alone knows how many they are, and how many are yet alive.

Make what use you please of this letter.

AUGUSTE DE MONTARGIS.

P.S.—The facts I have related are based upon authentic depositions, and two witnesses known to me are still here, Messrs. Michiels and Seray.

THE BARBARITIES IN KENTUCKY.—The following is an extract from a private letter recently received by a gentleman in Manchester from a resident in Kentucky, with reference to the atrocities committed in that State by General Paine:—'We have been "through the mill" since my last to you, and we are truly thankful that we are living. If there ever was a demon let loose among men, women, and children, we have had him in command at this post. Houses have been sacked and the contents sent north to the homes of these scamps who profess to be fighting for principle; taxes have been levied to the amount of $800,000 in this district (more than is in private hands or the banks of this place); tenants were notified to pay no more rents to property owners, but to pay to this ever-grasping monster, General Paine. This same fellow violated our mails and opened the letters, using any evidence he could glean as an instrument and a pretence to grasp what money or property the writers or receivers of said obnoxious letters were possessed of. Our guard-houses have been crowded for weeks with men against whom no charges were made, but who, from malice or because it was convenient, were put out of the way while our barbarous enemies practised their nefarious theory—"no submission; nothing but annihilation." In fifty-six days there were sixty-seven men shot without trial, judge, or jury, and many without any charge being preferred. Many coming into town to try to get out family supplies to preserve life have been put in prison, and some allowed to go home by paying what money they had. Expeditions have been sent out to burn and destroy. Mills, even, on which the people depended to get their corn ground, have been burned, and some have to go from twenty-five to thirty miles to get a little wheat ground to make bread. I cannot pretend to give you anything like a detailed account of the atrocities committed by these devils in human shape.'

THE POWER OF THE SOUTH.

EUROPE refuses to recognise the South because of her weakness. The North refuses to recognise the South because of her strength. The following is an extract from the *New York Times*:—

The skilful and pertinacious resistance which the slaveholders have made only proves how formidable a power of evil they will be if allowed to establish themselves as a nation.' So observes that profound political philosopher, J. Stuart Mill, in a private letter to a friend in this city. It is a pregnant truth. There are not a few men who make the fierceness and stubbornness with which this war is kept up by the rebels reasons for abandoning it; when in truth they are the very strongest of all reasons for our maintaining it to the very last limit of our endurance.

If secession were simply the subtraction of certain territory from our national area, it would be comparatively a slight evil. We should have territory enough left for the development of the mightiest of nations. Again, if secession involved only the juxtaposition of a comparatively weak Republic at the south of us, it would be a correspondingly small evil. A weak nation right under the shadow of a strong one is always really subordinate, notwithstanding its so-called sovereignty. The policy of the United States would still be the controlling policy of the continent. It is precisely because the 'Confederate States,' if possessed of independence, will not be feeble, but will be a gigantic Power of tremendous strength and imperious will, that we are called upon to do our very utmost to resist that independence.

The rebels have exhibited a most wonderful energy and skill in carrying on their struggle. No people on the face of the earth ever made so hard a fight with such limited means. It is difficult to say which has been the most extraordinary—their organising or their fighting capacity. Either, three years ago, would have been deemed incredible. Ninety able-bodied men out of every hundred within their limits they have placed in their armies, when the highest attainable proportion in all previous wars has been held to be twenty out of every hundred. These armies have been armed, equipped, clothed, and fed in a most serviceable way from what seemed the most meagre resources. In their actual warfare for three years they have displayed a combination of dash and endurance never before equalled in military history. All candid men, whatever their hatred of the rebellion, and whatever their admiration of our own heroic soldiers, are free to admit that the final triumph of our national armies will be due only to superiority in numbers.

The prolongation of the war, having thus fully brought out these prodigious military capacities of the Southern people, has fully established the necessity of a course of action which shall prevent their exercise against us hereafter. It has demonstrated that, at all costs, we must now so act that this people shall be in amity with us hereafter, and not in hostility; or, at all events, that their power to gratify hostility shall be reduced to the lowest degree possible. We of the North are a people devoted to industry. We want to give our undivided energies to the developement of all our matchless resources. We have neither time nor disposition to make fighting a business; and all our conditions of life are unfavourable to our becoming a military nation. A slaveholding Confederacy would be very differently situated in this respect. Its labour would be done by a servile black class. The body of its white people would be poor, unenterprising, and ignorant, just fit to be ruled by the slaveholding aristocracy, and to fill up great armies with which to fight its battles. And this aristocracy would surely have battles to fight. Its interests would be in constant collision with those of the free North, and its proud, imperious, unyielding temper would make the most of every cause for quarrel. There would be no earthly probability of our long remaining at peace with it, except by a constant submission, on our part, of a most degrading character. And yet, if we went to war, we should only have the same devilish skill and pertinacity, and fierceness, and cruelty to contend with that we have been encountering for the last three years, only all the more expanded and hardened. The contiguity of such a people, controlled by such influences, would be an insupportable curse.

ENGLISH STATISTICS.—The total gross State expenditure, in round numbers, was—

For the year ending March, 1852 .	£54,000,000
" " 1861 .	73,000,000
" " 1864 .	68,000,000

Steamships afloat, June 30, 1864.

Number	Tonnage	Guns
493	586,150	8,505

Armour-plated Ships, June 30, 1864.

	Number	Tonnage	Guns
Afloat	17	69,068	396
Building	10	35,716	173
Floating batteries afloat	7	12,029	106
Total . .	34	116,813	675

The above return is exclusive of the two rams recently purchased of Messrs. Laird.

Volunteer Force, November 30, 1863.

	Enrolled	Efficients
Light Horse	731	574
Artillery	26,052	18,833
Engineers	3,757	2,326
Mounted Rifles . . .	548	525
Rifles	130,851	90,341
Total	161,939	112,599

	£
Woollens exported to United States in 1859 .	4,502,000
" " 1862 .	2,711,000
Difference	1,791,000
Woollens exported to France in 1859 . . .	419,000
" " 1862 . . .	2,176,000
Difference	1,757,000
Silk manufactures imported from France in 1859 .	1,732,928
" " 1863 .	5,214,619
British and Irish silk manufactures exported to France in 1859	44,039
Ditto in 1863	121,664
	Gallons.
Wine imported from France in 1859 . . .	597,000
" " 1864 . . .	1,965,000
Wine imported from countries other than France in 1859	5,567,000
Ditto in 1864	8,652,000
	£
Value of imports of wine from all countries in 1859	2,781,040
" " 1864	4,497,343

—*Edinburgh Review.*

FEDERAL BARBARITY.

(From the *Richmond Enquirer*, September 13.)

THE following letter, not written for publication, is from the daughter of a gentleman in Clarke County, Virginia, whose house was lately burned by the enemy.

Clarke County, Virginia, August 24, 1864.

My dearest Sisters, Since that terrible day that we were deprived of house and home, I have neither had time nor nerve to write to you, but now that an opportunity offers to let you hear of our personal safety, I must try to tell you of all that has befallen us. I feel almost frantic to think of it, and night and day the horrors of the scene are present with me. To-day, two weeks ago, my aunt, Mrs. S., was taken sick, and day after day she grew worse until on Thursday night, at half-past twelve o'clock, she breathed her last. Dear mother was with her and wrote immediately to father and myself to come, and just as I lighted the lamp to read the note the report of fire-arms reached our ears. I immediately extinguished the light, as we were surrounded by the enemy, and from what we had heard in the evening we conjectured the shots proceeded from the picket post which Mosby had attacked.

Of course, father and I could not go to mother until morning; he then went, and mother returned with him. Just at the moment of return sixty Yankees rode up to the house. One of their officers seized the horse mother rode, and demanded to know where she had been. Mother was completely overcome and could not answer. I replied, 'She is just from the deathbed of her sister, and if you have any heart or manly feeling tell me quietly your business, and I will attend to it.' He turned to father with an expression of fiendish delight on his countenance and said, 'I have orders to burn every house on your farm.' Father demanded the charges against him, and he (the captain) replied: 'Because Mosby murdered one of our pickets last night, and there was a light seen in this house, and we know Mosby came from this house.' We protested they had not, and told him the reason we had a light for a minute. Father then begged to be taken to General Custer as a hostage, and asked him to spare his house on account of his sick wife, sick son-in-law, and two helpless little infants. The captain replied, 'Men, to your work; take what you want and fire as you go.' 'Guard that man down here, and carry him up to headquarters.' 'That man' was my sick husband, and in my agony I fell on my knees to that brute and besought him to spare my sick husband and take me. With a mocking laugh at my request he sent his surgeon to examine him, and, thank God, the surgeon had a heart, and, instead of saying anything to Dr. B., said to me, 'Come, go with me, and I will help you to save some clothes.'

The house was then on fire, and the men plundering and firing as they went. My poor old father and myself went back to the captain, and besought him, for God's sake, to come and stop the men until we could get even a change of clothes. He replied, 'My presence is not needed;' and at last, when we began to throw some things out of the windows, and he thought he might pick up some valuables, he came up to the house. Nearly everything we threw out was stolen—clothes, jewellery, silver, and something of everything, they carried off. Some of them had bundles as large as a child before and behind them. One of them swore I should not take from the burning house my dear little boy Charlie, who was asleep, because they said he would grow up to be a rebel. I pushed by the man, and told him as soon as he was large enough I would put a gun in his hands and tell him of all we had suffered, and if he did not fight with an unequalled bravery he would not be my son. One of the brutes held my mother in the store-room while some others rifled it and set it on fire. One took me by the shoulders and threw me from the top to the bottom of the steps. The last time I was in the house I seized my box of jewellery; a man, or rather a devil, jerked it from me, and scattered the contents on the floor. I caught up one of my diamond rings, the bracelet sister C. gave me, the children's bracelets, and several other things, when the wretch seized me, and held me and got them from me.

In less than fifteen minutes the flames had enveloped the whole house. The labours of mother and father for thirty-three years were destroyed in fifteen minutes. They rifled father's secretary, where all his public and private papers were, and then set the pieces of furniture on fire.

The officers went off loaded with the richest part of the plunder. Not a carpet was saved, not a comfort, not a bureau, not a washstand, but one pitcher and basin. They stole two dozen handsome silver spoons, nearly all the jewellery belonging to mother and myself, twenty-six pairs of linen sheets and three hundred pounds of sugar were burned and stolen.

Oh! the worst is yet to be told. When the flames burst from every part of our dear old comfortable home, my darling mother's reason gave way. For twenty-four hours she was a raving maniac. She fainted away time after time, and after she became sensible, it would have touched a heart of stone to have witnessed her sorrow. She grieved for the home where her children had been born and bred and died, where she had seen sorrow and pleasure. Every corner and spot in it, and everything in it, was associated with some dear remembrance. My poor father bore it like a hero, and, with tears streaming down his face, said: 'Oh! my child, you have let the Yankees shake your confidence in God.' In my agony I had called out: 'Oh! God, why hast thou forsaken us?' Oh! no words can describe the horrors of that day. The next day (Saturday) we had to place the remains of my dear aunt in the grave without a word. The Vandals would not permit a minister to come out of Berryville or from the neighbourhood; we had to send to Loudon for a coffin and to put the grave in the garden. We had a supply of flour which could have been saved, but the wretches knocked the heads of the barrels out to prevent our moving it. The trunks containing the winter clothes were rifled: I lost nearly all my clothes.

What they did not carry off they set on fire. A handsome silk dress which mother had given me, and had been made but a few weeks, one of them took, and said 'he knew he was going to take that to his old woman.' I was reaching to the top of a press, getting down some house linen, when a demon took a large scrap-bag and two cambric wrappers and set them on fire just under me. I saw my danger, and sprang over to save my life, though now I feel the effects of the heated flames. Tell brother T. I fought for his picture, and when I found I could not save it I broke it to pieces. Some days afterwards mother and I went to General Custer's headquarters to try to recover some of father's papers and some of the silver. Of course we got none. But we told him of the conduct of his men and officers, and told him we would publish it to the world. They burned three houses; ours was the first. A short time after they left our house, Mosby passed by and overtook them, and killed, it is said, thirty of them. Even my purse was stolen, with every cent of money we had.

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 13 Bouverie Street, E.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1864.

The War.

IT appears to be admitted at Washington that GRANT's latest movement has proved a failure; that its results are utterly incommensurate with the losses incurred in achieving them; and that no substantial progress has been made towards the reduction of Petersburg or the capture of Richmond. Like every other advance it has developed defensive works, more formidable as they are nearer to the capital, and demonstrated only with more terrible accuracy how many thousands of Northern soldiers must bite the dust before that capital falls. General GRANT's tactics on this last occasion were almost a repetition of those which gained him his position on the Weldon Railroad. He had been very heavily reinforced with all the troops that Mr. STANTON could send on from the North, and is said to have had 100,000 effective men under his command. His position had been strengthened by the extension of the City Point Railway to Ream's Station, which enabled him to transfer troops rapidly to either wing, and this advantage, in addition to his superior numbers, gave him the opportunity for striking a sudden blow at any point in LEE's lines. Of the defences of Petersburg he had had experience enough. They were proved to be unassailable. It was arranged accordingly that an advance should take place almost simultaneously at the two extremities of LEE's position. With this view two whole corps were thrown rapidly across to the north bank of the James River under General BIRNEY, and marched directly upon the Confederate works. One of these corps took the river bank, and made for the fortifications about Chapin's Farm; the other took the direction of the Newmarket Road, with the object of capturing the strong position of Laurel Hill. The earlier operations of both corps were attended with some success. They found the outer defences weakly manned, and although the Confederates made a gallant stand and inflicted heavy losses upon their assailants, the latter steadily advanced. The most serious opposition at Chapin's Bluff was encountered at a work at the extremity of the fortifications of that important point, which was assaulted and carried under a heavy fire which cost the Federals dearly, General ORD, the commander of the corps, falling severely wounded, and General BURNHAM being killed on the spot. With the capture of this work the advance terminated. The Confederates made a determined effort to recapture it, but only succeeded in recovering one small redoubt. On the Newmarket Road the Federals met with a severe repulse. One or two small earthworks, scantily manned, they carried with a rush, though not without heavy losses. But the regular fortifications on Laurel Hill defied all their efforts. A division of negro troops was ordered up to the assault, and it fared as badly as all assaulting columns of black soldiers have fared during the war. Drawn up in front, driven to destruction, in all probability having as much to dread from a retreat as from the advance, the negroes in dense columns reached the ditch of the redoubt, some twelve feet deep, and then the butchery commenced. Of 2,000 living men who jumped into that ditch, writes a correspondent, not fifty returned alive. The advance was checked. The Federals had sufficiently tested the strength of the Richmond works, and the whole corps fell back upon the works carried earlier in the day. General BIRNEY's attack cost the Northern army some 3,000 killed and wounded. Its chief result was the discovery that north of the James River, as at Petersburg, siege operations of the most tedious and unpromising character would be necessary. How little the Confederates suffered may be appreciated from the fact that they fought under cover, and that two or three days later they were strong enough to assume the offensive, to rout KANTZ's division on BIRNEY's right with the loss of all his artillery, and even attack BIRNEY's whole corps. It is reported that the whole of the force, with the exception of the troops holding the fort at Chapin's Farm, that crossed the James River had at the latest date rejoined the main army. If this be so, we may conclude that GRANT has for the present abandoned the direct advance upon Richmond. But the expedition across the James River was only part of his programme. Almost simultaneously with the attacks upon Laurel Hill and Chapin's Bluff, General MEADE extended his left towards the South Side Railway, by which LEE obtained the bulk of his supplies. On this occasion he was not so fortunate as at Ream's Station. He carried one weak line of entrenchments, but at a considerable loss; for the Confederates, taking advantage of the gap caused by the extension of his line, fell upon the 9th Corps and doubled it up, capturing some 1,700 men, and throwing the whole force into confusion. Finally, MEADE found his advance checked by strong works heavily armed and manned, covering the South Side Railroad. And thus the fighting ended, with an admitted loss of some 6,000 men on the Federal side, leaving GRANT practically no nearer to Richmond than he was a month back, and the *morale* of his army suffering from one more potent defeat. The operations of GRANT's troops were doubtless intended to facilitate SHERIDAN's advance, but they failed in this respect also. SHERIDAN, flushed with success, had advanced against Broom's Gap, and been repulsed; and at the latest date had fallen back upon Harrisonburg, acting entirely on the defensive. In the meantime EARLY had been reinforced, and felt himself perfectly able to prevent SHERIDAN's further progress up the Shenandoah Valley, or across the Blue Ridge Mountains. Guerillas were cutting off the Federal supplies, and cutting off couriers, and it seemed very unlikely that SHERIDAN would be able to maintain his position in the Valley. When it is borne in mind that these results are drawn from purely Northern sources, that scarcely a line of news from the Confederacy is allowed to be reproduced in the Northern papers, and that LINCOLN's hopes of re-election rest on a good show of victories during the month of October, the prospect can hardly be deemed encouraging to the North.

But if in Virginia Northern armies make little or no progress, in the South-west the Northern cause is daily losing ground. Notwithstanding the studied obscurity of Mr. STANTON's telegrams, it is certain that SHERMAN's communications are in serious peril. It seems to be beyond a doubt that FORREST's and WHEELER's forces have effected a junction north of Atlanta, that the State of Tennessee is overrun by Confederate cavalry, and that no Federal train is safe in passing through that State, or in running from Chattanooga to Atlanta. It is true that Federal unofficial reports claim a victory over FORREST at Allatoona, and that other accounts represent him as driven to the Tennessee River, and prevented from crossing by Federal gunboats. But it turns out that the Confederate force which captured Big Shanty and was engaged at Allatoona was a portion of HOOD's army, which is said to have been operating to get upon SHERMAN's communications; and between this column and FORREST's cavalry there was a distance of 100 miles. Even according to Federal accounts, however, it is plain that the Confederates are in strong force at half a dozen points on SHERMAN's single line of railroad. We hear of them at Big Shanty, close to Marietta, at Dalton and Resaca, in Georgia; at Fayetteville and on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railway; on the Nashville and Louisville Railway, and fifteen miles south of Nashville, everywhere running off trains, capturing supplies, intercepting despatches. Whether HOOD's whole army has been thrown upon SHERMAN's line of communications we cannot venture to guess. Such a movement would be one of the boldest, and possibly one of the most decisive, of the war. But there is a strange contradiction between the despatches of General THOMAS, announcing Confederate defeats, and the reports of the Southern newspapers, which declare SHERMAN's position untenable; and time alone will show who is correct. All that we know is that at the latest date the bulk of HOOD's army was at West Point, west of Atlanta, striking northward. Another week or fortnight may elapse before we shall hear anything like the truth from the South-west. But in Missouri the truth cannot be denied. There the Federal prospects are most gloomy. General PRICE, in the possession of all the railways of the State, had appeared before Jefferson City with a force of 20,000 men; SHELLY was not far from him; MAGRUDER and KIRBY SMITH were, it is said, marching upon the last Federal garrison in Arkansas. It is quite probable that by this time a great battle has been fought involving the destiny of Missouri for many a year, and that Arkansas has been freed from the presence of the Northern invader. The struggle is intensifying in every quarter. But, despite the lying telegrams and other electioneering devices of Mr. LINCOLN's partisans, there is good reason to believe that the Confederacy has during the last month gained many substantial advantages.

Our Indian Empire.

ONCE upon a time King CHARLES II. paid a visit to Westminster School. He was received by the Head-Master of the day, and conducted over the establishment with all the honours due to majesty. In one point only the KING was surprised to see an apparent disrespect: the Doctor, with all his humility, never once took off his cap to the KING. His MAJESTY enquired the reason for such peculiar behaviour. 'Sire,' replied the Doctor, 'if my boys believed that even your MAJESTY is a greater man than I, I shall never keep them in order at all.' The present Governor of Madras, Sir WILLIAM DENISON, has been placed in charge of a vast district inhabited by a mixed population of Orientals, the majority of whom require the same treatment as schoolboys. This population he is busily engaged in ruling prudently with all his power, at the same time that he administers the laws of the Imperial Parliament of England to the British residents within his Presidency. Suddenly Sir CHARLES WOOD enters on the scene. Sir CHARLES WOOD, Indian Secretary, and temporary Emperor of India, without the courtesy or the goodhumour of the Merry Monarch, who willingly accepted the schoolmaster's reason given in our story, makes certain enactments, passes certain ordinances in the teeth of Sir WILLIAM DENISON's advice, without regard for Sir WILLIAM DENISON's credit or dignity in England or India. What will be the result of a course of policy conducted on this model? Will the words of the Westminster Head-master be fulfilled, and the degradation of the Governor in the eyes of his subjects be followed by a general disorder? or shall we gradually see the dignity of the office dwindle away on the refusal of all high-spirited men to accept so unworthy a post? Neither alternative is very satisfactory to contemplate.

Let us see what is the nature of the dispute between the Secretary and the Governor. Upon the amalgamation of the Royal and Company's armies, and the dethronement of the Leadenhall Street Company from the Empire of India, a certain number of English officers serving in the Sepoy regiments were thrown out of employment; to mitigate the hardship of this, the Government of the day, with the consent of Parliament, gave guarantees securing certain benefits to the local India officers. A few weeks ago, however, Sir CHARLES WOOD sent out certain instructions to the Governor, by which the benefits of the Parliamentary guarantee were considerably curtailed. What Sir WILLIAM DENISON, the Governor of Madras, thought of these instructions, we may gather from the latest Indian telegrams; they tell us that he refuses to carry out the instructions, on the ground that they are opposed to the Royal wishes, and are a flagrant violation of the guarantees given to the late Company's officers. This is pretty round talking. It means simply that one of two English Ministers has committed a crime for which, in the days of bluff King HARRY VIII, he would have lost his head without more ado. Either Sir C. WOOD is guilty of the offence imputed to him, and has given an important order directly contrary to the Royal wishes; or Sir W. DENISON has committed an act of insubordination which, in a country like India, is little short of mutiny. The question is now in the hands of the public. A final decision will of course not be arrived at before the receipt of fuller details; but we warn the Indian Secretary that the minds of the jury are decidedly prejudiced against him. The rule of the criminal courts not to mention previous convictions against a prisoner until he is again found guilty has no counterpart in the system of natural justice; and no man can think of Sir C. WOOD in his relations with India without remembering the names of LAING, of WILSON, and of TREVELYAN, three able men and valuable public officers, sacrificed to the jealousy and interference of the head of our Indian Office. In India, indeed, no further condemnation will be required than that which has already been passed by almost unanimous acclamation. Every mail teems with reports of the dissatisfaction prevailing in our Eastern Empire with the multitudinous, wearisome, vexatious, contradictory, supercilious regulations

received from the Indian Secretary. Nothing can be more natural than that the inferiors in the office should follow in the steps of their leader, and that red-tapism should reign triumphant, secure in the impunity which, for some reason or other, Sir C. Wood continues to enjoy. What follows? If the system is not exploded by a vigorous effort of the English people, either we shall see the object of the present Indian Government attained, and India completely ruled from the council-table in England, or disorders of the most serious character will arise in India itself, which will compromise our very existence in that country.

No doubt every man has a right to his own opinion; and though Sir C. Wood sincerely holds that centralisation in a London office is the greatest boon which can be given to India, we must not therefore heap up faggots to burn him at the stake. But we may ask, with painful surprise, out of what materials he has evolved this theory—whether from historical experience, which generally contradicts it; or from the peculiar circumstances of the case, which are certainly not more in its favour; or, finally, from an intense appreciation of his own power to extract good out of a bad system, and a weakness for displaying himself in the cast-off clothing of the Great Mogul. He seems to be blind to the fact that India, ever since our first occupation of an insignificant factory on its shores, has been to us in the position of a military dependency; whatever it may have been to certain individuals, or to certain merchant firms, to the Government of England, in a political point of view, it has been, and will continue for some time to be, an Algeria. A fatal blindness to this truth brought about the great mutiny of 1856; a similar blindness in later times will produce the disastrous result of an estrangement between the two countries. Is the fact doubted? Apply the test suggested lately by a French politician. From the empire of India take away its military organisation; and what have we left? A swarm of savages exulting a second time over the mangled bodies of the few remaining merchants. Again, take away from the same empire the whole of its present commercial system, agriculture, ships, labourers, and everything, leaving the military only as possessors of a new unexplored country. In ten years all things would be restored: commerce and capital would flow into the country like a returning wave, burying beneath it all traces of the former destruction. The very life and existence of British India therefore depends on the military; its commercial greatness is entirely subsidiary to its physical strength, and must throughout be subordinated to it. If another proof were required of the same fact, we may find it in Mr. Laing's Address to the Young Men's Christian Association at Kirkwall. 'After all,' he says, 'men, not measures, are the great requisite of India.' Can the same be said of any of our commercial colonies? Of Canada, or Australia? There measures, not men, are principally needful; Federation Acts, Lands Acts, Franchise Bills, and so on, would be equally beneficial to these colonies if they grew like turnips out of the earth, instead of being elaborated in human brains. In India a man is wanted—a dictator—whose personal influence may be felt throughout the country, and who above all things can be swift and strong in punishment; in other words, he must be the head of a strong military organisation.

If it be granted that India has all the essentials of a military colony, we are at a loss to see on what ground Sir C. Wood justifies his continual interference in its affairs. It is very doubtful whether the duty of every Colonial Secretary should not be very much that of *Deus ex machinâ*, to appear at critical times as a sort of terrestrial Providence, to punish wrongdoers, correct the effects of their crimes, and read every body a good lecture. This is, in fact, a rough representation of the functions performed by the Colonial Office; but India, forsooth, being a country pre-eminently requiring a strong administration, is subjected to a hierarchy of officers, so contrived that at first sight the main duty of each official appears to be to act as a check on his colleagues, instead of governing those committed to his charge. As we said above, we are not aware of any instance in history in which such a system has been successful; but we can see that the Romans, our great masters in the art of colonisation, carefully avoided it. We are inclined to think that even Charlemagne was not much addicted to the use of it. On the other hand we know that the chief difficulties of the Spaniards in the New World arose from the petty interferences of the Cabinet at Madrid; and, lastly, we observe that the French, after relaxing their hand for a short time in Algeria, have been forced to tighten their grasp again, and re-establish an absolute military despotism.

We must not underrate the temptations to which our Indian secretaries are exposed, temptations of singular power to a mind steeped to the lips in the slough of red-tape, and passionately attached to bureaucracy as the culmination and noblest expression of human intellect and power. We can fancy the Indian Secretary, in the sanctuary of his office, turning over with glistening eyes and sincere admiration the well-thumbed pages of that Indian history the secrets of which he has, alas! so signally failed to discern; and as his glance rests on the names of Clive, of Hastings, or Dalhousie—the great proconsuls who ruled the nations with a rod of iron; who dared, in their pitiless, resistless course, to trample upon the rights of nobles and princes of the earth, the dignity of an ancient empire, aye, and often upon the laws of God himself; and swept 150,000,000 souls as it were into the hollow of their hand—we can fancy him rejoicing in his heart that he is in a position to eclipse these illustrious men. He sees the Government pens, ink, and paper lying invitingly at his elbow; he knows that constant mail packets are waiting to do his behests; and with the spirit of emulation burning in his heart, and the pride of advancing civilisation radiant from the very nibs of his pen, he indites a despatch to the Governor-General of India, to teach him how to elect clerks for his offices, or to regulate the amount of spelling required from a native exciseman.

Acadia.

This is the proposed title of a State yet in embryo—the name by which the world is to know the youngest born nation of the Anglo-Saxon race. A new kingdom, fused out of many provinces, some of them hardly known to us save through blue-books and geographical treatises, is to be added to the realms that acknowledge the sovereignty of Queen Victoria. A few days ago the leading politicians of British America met at Halifax to consider the possibility of uniting into one Federal State the various colonies comprised under that geographical designation. Their enterprise has the warm sympathy of the colonists and the cordial approbation of Her Majesty's advisers; nor do we think that it is likely to meet with any other feelings than those of thorough satisfaction and hearty congratulation from any party in the mother-country. The interests involved are too serious, too national, to be seized upon as the battle-ground of faction; for English statesmen, in or out of office, rarely forget the duties and responsibilities of loyal subjects in the ardour of partisans, and the title of 'Her Majesty's Opposition' aptly represents the relation of the party out of power to the Sovereign and to the country. And, as we are sure that no factious objections will be raised, so we hardly think that any real objections can be felt to a scheme so well calculated to remove embarrassments that have of late caused no little uneasiness to the Colonial Office, and to remedy defects which have threatened at once the security of the Canadas and the peace of the Empire. What difficulties may await the authors of the proposed Federation are inherent in the nature of their scheme, and in the conditions which they have to satisfy; it is hardly likely that any artificial obstacles will be raised by wilful opposition, either in England or in the colonies. In adjusting the details of a union which is to embrace provinces of diverse circumstances, distinct interests, and very unequal power and importance, hitherto for the most part connected by no other tie than that of a common allegiance, and more closely attached to the mother-country than to each other, many difficult questions have to be answered, many conflicting claims to be reconciled, many jealousies to be appeased, many qualms of local patriotism to be set at rest. But so clearly do the interests of all parties tend in the same direction, so manifest is the value of union to all, and so peculiarly anxious for its accomplishment are the two provinces whose superior power and consequence might induce them to put forth demands which their neighbours would not easily concede, that we have little fear lest these difficulties should prevent, or long delay, a consummation desirable alike to Great Britain and to her colonies, to Canada and to Prince Edward's Island.

Federalism is just now in disfavour—a disfavour as unreasonable as the exalted opinion of its value formerly entertained by nearly all American nations and by certain classes of European theorists. It is in disfavour because the greatest experiment of the kind which the world has seen has just culminated in a disruption the most complete, and at the same time the most sanguinary, that has ever yet befallen a nation. And yet, fairly considered, neither the secession of the South nor yet the war waged upon it, in defiance of federal law as well as of natural justice, by the rest of the late United States, proves anything whatever against the federal principle. Of course, if any one has claimed for that principle the nature of a universal panacea, applicable to all cases, and capable of curing all political disorders, such a theory is effectually refuted by a disaster which demonstrates first that no federal tie can really unite nations essentially different in character and institutions, and next that eighty years of federalism will not correct the vices of a self-conceited and overbearing people, fostered by a democratic polity and a Pharisaic creed. But all that rational politicians have ever claimed for federalism is that, while a far weaker form of government than consolidated monarchy or republicanism, it may yet serve sometimes to prepare a homogeneous people for political consolidation—as in Holland—and often, as in Switzerland, to bind together in effective union, excluding alike foreign conquest and civil war, States too diverse in character, race, and language, or too far separated by distinct interests, to form a single consolidated nation. It is pure evil to substitute a federation for a consolidated State, where, as in Mexico, no local diversities make consolidation intolerable; it is almost unmitigated gain to unite, by a federal bond as strict as they will bear, States whose separation makes them weak and unprogressive, with which consolidation is impossible, but which are sufficiently akin to each other to work harmoniously together in a connection which yet leaves to each the control of at least a portion of its purely domestic business. And the closer the bond—so it be not close enough to be irksome—the greater the gain.

Now the separation of our North American colonies has certainly been a hindrance to their growth in strength and prosperity. It has made them, in the first place, singly weak in the presence of a greedy and overbearing neighbour. It has kept back the advance of the maritime provinces by preventing the formation of that close commercial connection between them and Canada which a political union would certainly have fostered. It has generated in each of these minor provinces all the evils which belong to a community too poor in numbers to be great or dignified in spirit—a petty provincialism of character—bitter local feuds, such as invariably grow up in a small society with no outlet for its energies in a wider field than its own—narrow views, paltry schemes, factions for parties, and a vestry for a parliament. Men of real capacity and dignity have felt it beneath them to take part in the politics of a society no bigger than an English borough; and thus the government of the colony, involving the direction of all its internal legislation and administration, has too generally been left in the hands of the same class who find objects of ambition in the municipal offices of Marylebone or the Tower Hamlets, and who, quite capable of controlling policemen and watching over poor-rates and sewerage, are utterly unfit for the functions of general government, on however small a scale. Lastly, local factions which, if the whole of the colonies were united, would be held in check by a large public opinion and by a central power, exercise an uncontrolled tyranny within their own little sphere. The quarrels of Ribandmen and Orangemen in Newfoundland have been much what they would be in Belfast, if Belfast were left to make a civil and criminal code for itself, and to govern itself without the intrusion of soldiers or the interference of the county constabulary when its streets are made the scene of a murderous encounter.

While it is time that separation should cease, consolidation is for the present clearly impracticable. The great distance between the settlements, in winter often impassable, and the different stages of organisation and civilisation which they have reached, render it desirable that each should have on the spot a local Government, in close relation with local opinion. And in the case of the two colonies now united, Upper and Lower Canada, the distinctions of race, religion, and character, have made the union a source of discord rather than of harmony. The Upper Canadian party, fighting for an increased share of power to which their greater wealth and population entitle them, and the Lower Canadians, refusing to be governed by their neighbours, just as the South refused to be ruled by the North, have brought all public business to a deadlock. Nothing more than a federal tie is possible between them; and this conviction it was which suggested, as a practical and immediate policy, the idea of a federal union of all the colonies.

That union will create a State powerful enough for self-defence and great enough for self-respect. Men like Mr. M'Donald, who have felt that even a Canadian Parliament hardly afforded them a fitting sphere, will be proud to share in the government of a country with an ample seaboard, a large commercial navy, and an almost unlimited extent of fertile territory; and their services, when once all the best talent and energy of the colonies has been drawn towards political life, will be available not only to the central, but also to the local Governments. With 70,000 seamen, with a large and constantly increasing amount of shipping, and unlimited means for shipbuilding, with a population not far short of 4,000,000, and likely to double itself in ten or fifteen years by the emigration steadily setting in from Europe, with some half-million of men in the full vigour of manhood, leading for the most part an active outdoor life, and capable of being trained, by proper arrangements, into an excellent national militia, and supported in case of need by the English navy and by a small but thoroughly

disciplined English army, the Confederation would be well able to make head against the only enemy whom it could possibly have to fear. The new State will therefore enter upon its career with the fairest prospects. Already it will have as large a population and almost as large a territory as the United States possessed in the days of Washington; and some even of those who met in conference at Halifax may live to see it capable of taking rank with a second-rate European kingdom. In the future history of North America, it will probably play no unimportant part. If, as seems most probable, the establishment of Southern independence should be followed in due time by the separation of the Pacific States from the Union, and this by the division between the East and the West, Acadia will be second in power only to the Southern Confederacy. In any case, her strength will be an important element in that balance of power which must replace in the Western hemisphere the despotic ascendency of one overgrown and overbearing nation; and in alliance with the Confederate States, and in dependence on England, she will exercise no trifling influence in preserving the peace of the New World.

In two essential respects the new State will have an advantage over its predecessors in the experiment of federalism. In the first place, there is much less jealousy of the proposed federal Power than existed among the thirteen United States; and it will be possible to intrust to it much wider powers than have been wielded by the Congress at Washington, and consequently to establish through the colonies a uniformity of laws and a unity of judicial authority which has been denied to their neighbours. If, as was lately rumoured, it should be proposed to make the delegates of each province to the central Parliament serve also as the local legislature, the likelihood of conflict between the federal and colonial Goverments, and the disposition of the latter to be jealous of its own independence, would probably be reduced to a minimum. Again, Acadia will be a confederation not of republican States but of colonies, owing allegiance to a common mother-country, and ruled by representatives of the Sovereign; and the Federal Government itself will partake of this colonial character. In lieu of a President with Ministers appointed by himself for a fixed term, there will be a Viceroy, independent of his subjects, with Ministers responsible to, and in practice removable by, the Parliament. This circumstance will enable the Acadians to combine with the advantages of federalism those of constitutional monarchy. No periodical elections will overthrow a government entirely acceptable to the people, and force upon the country the bitterness and the confusion of a contest for the Presidency; no government that has ceased to possess the confidence of the people will be able to retain power to the end of an appointed term. The Ministers will, of course, have seats in the Federal Parliament, and hold precisely that relation to it which they now hold towards the provincial legislatures. For the first time the world will see an example of a true Federal State with a constitutional monarchy at its head; and half the jealousies and conflicts which have broken the peace and endangered the existence of other confederacies will be saved to Acadia by this cause alone.

Nor is there the slightest reason to believe that the union of the colonies among themselves will tend in any way to weaken the tie which binds them to the mother-country. It is said that they will be the better able to dispense with our protection; but they will not be so strong as not to feel that protection an advantage, or so powerful as to lose their sense of pride in belonging to the most powerful empire in the world. Separation would still lower each individual colonist in his own esteem; he would cease to be an Englishman, and become an Acadian—a citizen of a third-rate Power. Nor is it likely that any conflict will arise between us and the Federal Government. To interfere with its internal affairs would be absurd; our absolute authority over its foreign relations is so clear and so undivided as to be liable to no misconception or dispute. On the other hand, the Federation will often stand between the mother-country and individual colonies in cases where, wanting such intervention, a quarrel might not improbably occur. It will spare us the necessity of controlling the vagaries of the Irish population of Newfoundland, or contradicting any ultra-Catholic legislation of the French of Lower Canada; and is likely to be far more tractable and rational than the local governments of minor colonies, in proportion to its consciousness of a greater power and a more real dignity. If it should prove inexpedient to gratify the loyal feelings of the people by giving them for Viceroy a Prince of the blood royal, it might not be inexpedient to acknowledge in another way the importance and the attachment of their country, and to insert among the titles of the Queen the name of a State more populous than Scotland, richer than Ireland, and likely in future ages to rank second to no portion of her dominions, except England herself.

THE QUARTERLIES.*

The masterpiece of the *Edinburgh Review* is the article on 'The Five-year-old Parliament.' It is exhaustive and not tedious, elaborate and not laboured; yet it is marred by the simple but fatal error that it is nothing more or less than a Whig electioneering manifesto. It undertakes to prove that from the moment when Lord Derby was driven from office in 1859 to the publication of the 246th number of the *Edinburgh Review*, the conduct of Lord Palmerston's Administration has been absolutely faultless. To argue that, on the whole, in spite of errors and weaknesses of no ordinary magnitude, the Government has deserved well of the country, might be within the bounds of possibility; but to propose to oneself the alternative 'aut Cæsar, aut nullus,' and to say that the Government is 'Cæsar' and the Opposition 'nullus,' is a conclusion which would be monstrous if it were not absurd. At first we had a faint idea that there was a pricking of the conscience while the details of the method by which Lord Palmerston and Lord Russell crept into office were being explained. To enter under a promise of Reform with a deliberate intention of repudiating the obligation, was a bad beginning. But thrones have been won by doubtful means and yet occupied with credit; and so pardon might have been granted even to Lord Russell, if he and his friends had quitted themselves like men in their usurped places.

No less than nineteen magnificent claims to applause are put forward. Of these the first six, having relation to finance and commerce, are the work of one man. Of the remainder, no less than seven are very doubtful, leaving six wonderful achievements for the members of the Government other than Mr. Gladstone to do in a period of five years. Even the foreign policy of Lord Russell is an object of admiration. 'He has preserved peace with America and with Europe.' The manner and the price are of no consequence. For the pearl of great price all has been sold, and in wealth and trade is the reward. Of peace with America we will but observe that it has been maintained by a careful obsequiousness to the belligerent whom Lord Russell believes to be the more powerful of the two. Indeed, Mr. Lincoln says, 'Lord Lyons is *our* friend abroad,' and Mr. Lincoln is notorious for standing by his friends. But as regards peace with Europe, let the foreign policy of the article form the test of Lord Russell's success. 'Whenever our own rights are affected we are strong enough to protect them: but we are not really concerned in many of those questions to which an exaggerated indirect importance has in former times been attached.' If, then, we are not concerned with any rights but our own, why does the policy of Lord Russell meet with approbation? Is it not admitted that to threaten and to cave is undignified? Is it not notorious that the English public has blushed for the part played in the cases of Denmark and of Poland? Nay, is it not the fact that the unprecedented situation has been witnessed of a Government in a free country acting in a diametrically opposite direction to public opinion? It is not merely that friends are sacrificed, and the honour of England in the eyes of the world is tarnished. There is a mischief greater than that, namely, the working of a breach between the people and objects whom they delighted to honour. M. Guizot once did similar offices for the King of the French.

When, however, we turn to the financial part of the question, approbation and not censure must be awarded to the splendid efforts of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. We extract the following summary of his achievements.

> In 1859 the income-tax was 9*d.*, it is now 6*d.* in the pound: the commodities subject to Customs' duties in 1859 were 419 in number; the Customs' duties are now substantially confined to 14 articles, upon all the most important of which the charges have been largely reduced. Allowing for new duties imposed, the relief given to the public by the abolition or reduction of Customs between 1859 and the close of 1863, amounts in round numbers to 4,500,000*l.* a year: of these, 3,200,000*l.* were, in the last-named year, replaced to the Exchequer through the increased consumption of the few articles remaining subject to duty. Within the same period the excise upon paper and upon hops was abolished, and other changes were effected in duties of Inland Revenue, by which relief was given to the public of, in round numbers, 1,500,000*l.* a year; 1,000,000*l.* additional was imposed upon spirits and upon licenses, but another 1,000,000*l.* has been derived from the enlarged demand for articles under Excise. Nor is this all; the present year has witnessed further reductions in the duties upon sugar and upon fire insurance, so that the total amount of indirect taxes remitted since 1859 exceeds 8,000,000*l.* a-year, while the income-tax has been reduced by nearly 5,000,000*l.* At the same time, the national debt, funded and unfunded, has been diminished by between 16,000,000*l.* and 17,000,000*l.* Notwithstanding the enormous reductions of the national burdens, Mr. Gladstone, after bringing the income of the country to a level with the expenditure, has been able, for now three years in succession, to meet Parliament with a surplus. On the 7th of April last, after proposing a remission of 2,750,000*l.* within the current year, he could anticipate a revenue of upwards of 67,000,000*l.*, and once more look forward to an excess of receipts over outlay.

Then again the trade with France by the operation of the treaty has shot up from twenty to forty millions sterling, and there are symptoms that purer wines at a cheaper rate are improving the public taste. To attribute an increase in trade to a party is a questionable mode of eliciting praise. Yet, whether the Government or the merchants are to monopolise the credit, it stands as a fact that although the trade with America has decreased by 28,000,000*l.* since the war, yet the annual value of the trade of the United Kingdom, which in 1858 was 300,000,000*l.*, rose in 1863 to nearly 450,000,000*l.*

The article concludes with an attempt to glorify the Liberal, and to condemn the Conservative party. The reflection does not occur that all the reforms and all the progress so magnificently portrayed could never have been realised except with the active cooperation of the opposition. Lord Stanley at the Merchant Taylors' dinner proclaimed that no difference of political connection should prevent him from doing justice to the authors of the improvement effected, and that is the feeling of many gentlemen of the opposition.

'Archbishop Whately' is scarcely a success. There is no grasp of the mental organisation of the man who ought not only by his works but by the actions of his life to have furnished sufficient data for a lucid explanation even of so remarkable a phenomenon. For an Archbishop, Dr. Whately, though perfectly ready to put faith in mesmerism, clairvoyance, table-turning, spirit-rapping, and all the arts and methods of modern thaumaturgy, believed very little of that vast mass of fact or doctrine from which theologians carve such portion as best suits the bias of their moral and intellectual faculties to hold out as their creed. Whately was deficient in the imaginative powers of adoration; he went at every point of faith, at every mystery of deep and sublime doctrine, in a 'cut and thrust' style, as if his logic, or that of the knot of men with whom he shared his opinions, and on whom he leaned for support, was the test of all things in heaven and in earth. Beyond doubt he lived at a time when too much weight could scarcely be attached to words like the following:—'We must not be deterred from this duty (of plain speaking in Biblical interpretation) by the fear (so often put forward) of what is called "unsettling men's minds." It is true that every man's mind is likely to be somewhat unsettled, if he has been taught to build on a foundation of sand, and you seek to place his building on a rock.' Such a warning was only too necessary in the days, scarcely even now entirely past, when men were asked not only to accept the dogmas of this or that school or section of theology, but even to swallow cut-and-dried arguments for such acceptance. But there was an absence of leadership in Whately, not in the sense of a lack of administrative talent for which he deserved high praise, but in the sense of a destitution of that nobility of genius which attracts disciples, inflames the souls of ardent followers, and stamps the impress of one man's creed and character on a generation. Whately was too matter-of-fact, had too great a contempt for authority, to reach the ideal of a spiritual pastor. He was all logic, and statistics, and dry argument, and probabilities, and the like. He did not excite love or admiration. He had to be content with the public appreciation of his sound sense, his rigid impartiality, his freedom from sectarian zeal, his unswerving probity. Perhaps the most amazing thing about Whately was the difficulty that every one has experienced in discovering why he was made Primate of Ireland. The experiment was a success, but not even the Whig leaders can give any rational explanation of the choice. It is, indeed, painfully suggestive of the remark made to us by an American gentleman, 'that it was impossible for any man to affirm that he would not be elected President of the United States.' The career of the Archbishop as the framer and promoter of a scheme of education commencing so auspiciously in conjunction with Archbishop Murray, and closing disastrously under other circumstances, needs no repetition. The most pleasing feature in the Archbishop's plans and acts was his conduct in aiding the reform of the Poor Law. With some serious defects that piece of legislation has done wonders for the agricultural classes. Many of its faults have been born since the birth of the Act, and are even the creatures of a diminution of pauperism. Perhaps the expense of the present machinery is the most culpable feature; and guardians themselves are not only aware of the existing mischiefs, but also ready with suggestions of suitable remedies. It is probable that many years will not elapse before fresh legislation is attempted in this department of social organisation.

The *Edinburgh* has also a spirited article on 'Weber's Life of Marshal Saxe,' and in it a tolerably complete picture is given of the great military chieftain, equally conspicuous in corporal strength and mental vigour, equally successful in the contests of Venus and of Mars—a man to whom a seraglio was an indispensable part of a military equipage; to whom the excitement of war was varied by the delights of the gaming-table; who never fought a battle that he did not win, and never besieged a place that he did not take; who wrestled with and threw a scavenger at Newmarket, and defeated the English Guards at Fontenoy.

There are also articles on 'Robert Browning's Poems,' on the two 'French Anti-Clerical Novels,' Le Maudit and La Religieuse; on 'Coniferous Trees;' and on 'Angus, its History and Traditions,' with some account of the progress of the linen trade in Forfarshire. That industry has been much developed by the cotton scarcity. In addition to the competition with cotton goods into which linen goods have now come, there is an enormous demand for the coarse articles used for munitions of war, ducks being used for tents, hessians, and sackings; and for these the United States are excellent customers, as is clearly shown by the following figures:—In six months of 1862 the value of linen exported from the United Kingdom to the United States was 852,975*l.*; in six months of 1863, 1,087,033*l.*; and in six months of 1864, 1,780,499*l.* In the latter period the value was represented by 54,977,429 yards.

The *Westminster* contains a valuable article on the laws of marriage and divorce, and the contents are not the less worthy of study because they consist of much information and very little suggestion. An accurate knowledge of the history of the institution of marriage, with especial reference to the state both of the early Roman law and the civil law, can furnish the only basis for a proper adjustment between the contending or combined ideas of a civil contract and a religious ceremony. The reforms brought about by 4 George IV., c. 76, removing the severity and retaining the caution of Lord Hardwicke's Act, and by the action of the Legislature in the establishment of the Divorce and Matrimonial Court, are admirably explained, and the crying abuses of the Scotch law, as well as the strange anomalies of the Irish law, render the reader impatient of the continuance of such a system. At the same time, nothing can exceed the sensibility of both men and women in such matters, and the Legislature is compelled to proceed with a delicacy that embarrasses its operations and makes all

* *The Edinburgh Review—The Westminster Review—The Dublin Review.*

its efforts one-sided. Indeed, the patchwork condition of the law plainly indicates that the good old English plan has been followed of relieving iniquities and encouraging anomalies. Every one will agree that the objects to be attained by State regulations for the celebration of marriage are—first, the discovery of obstacles by notice; second, such a method of making the contract that the intention of the parties shall not be in doubt; and third, the perpetuation of testimony of the act done. Whether the proposition of compelling the interchange of consent before the civil officer will prove acceptable is not clear; but inasmuch as the religious celebration would remain intact, it is difficult to see how any shock would be dealt even to the most exalted conception of the sacred mystery. Whether or no the English law be left untouched, the scandal of the Yelverton case leaves no doubt as to the necessity of a reform in the Scotch and Irish systems.

The article on the Patent Laws—to take a jump from religious and social rights to mechanical matters—furnishes another field for legislation. It is rather startling to find that owing to the heavy fees, which, however, the Royal Commission has not considered excessive, the larger proportion of patents are allowed to lapse at the end of three years; but it is still more amazing to hear that it is seriously proposed to examine, by means of a Board, into the utility of an invention. Such a system would probably have discarded the most mighty discoveries of modern science, besides constituting a gross usurpation of the rights of popular judgment. Every one admits that a new Patent Court must be established. Not only would it secure a more scientific body of men to act as judges, barristers, and agents, but it would sweep away the double action of law and equity, which, in patent cases, is absolutely intolerable. The article is an able defence of the principle of patent laws, and contains valuable suggestions on the amendment of the present law.

While discoursing on the reform of law, it is right to direct attention to 'Modern Phases of Jurisprudence in England.' We regard the work of Mr. Maine on ancient law as a masterpiece in this field of enquiry. He rejects, as contrary to fact and as irreconcilable with the possible conditions of society, all the once-honoured notions of men meeting to frame a social compact. He relies for the means of revealing the mysteries of primitive law on the theory of patriarchal life. The records of early Roman writers, the phenomena displayed by the Greek communities, the customs of Germany, of the Slavic populations, even the modern habits of the Hindoo villagers, combine to enforce the truth of this principle. The original unit of society was not the individual but the family; the tendency of society is to raise the individual to distinctiveness and to obscure the family. Each family was an independent or even sovereign community, ruled by a despotism, looking for its laws in the breast of the chief; an aggregation of families has gradually formed a tribe or a nation. So, again, in the law of contract. Mr. Maine justly observes that the love of truth does not exist in primitive races. The virtue is of gradual growth. To take one proof. The ceremony which accompanies the promise, and not the promise *per se*, binds the obligor. No pledge is valid without the form, and the form makes valid the offspring of duress or deception. The relief of equity is a thing of yesterday, and was only created when men grasped the substance of truth, and not its mere shell. The article also touches, in speaking of Mr. Stephen's view of the criminal law of England, on the distinction between felonies and misdemeanors, once so clear and rational, now almost an arbitrary and technical division of offences. Of the obligations imposed on every member of a community with reference to public order and to the security of life and property, one portion seems to be recommended by the current principles of morality, and another, not contained within the spirit of any confessed moral code, yet falls within its scope and spirit, and assumes in the breach forms not easily embraced in exact technical terms. The offences against the former were defined as *felonies*—those against the latter as *misdemeanors*. The line has now become merely arbitrary with the disappearance of the broad principle of the distinction, and it is not improbable that the simple word 'crimes' will usurp the double functions of the two ancient offences. There are also articles on 'The Life of Jesus by Strauss,' on 'Dr. Newman's Apologia,' 'Mr. Tennyson's New Poem,' and, to conclude the list, a rather severe examination of Mr. Charles Dickens's claims to immortality as an English classic. We are told that 'his intellect is crushed and dwarfed by his emotional faculties,' and that 'he is unable to take an extensive or an intensive view of the subject.' 'His plots are pronounced inartificial, his genesis of character rude and unphilosophic, while his literary execution oscillates with tolerable evenness between the intensely vulgar and commonplace, and passages of the most striking beauty.' Hard measure this for the author of 'Pickwick Papers' and of 'Dombey and Son.' Were we inclined to be harsh, we should dilate on the truth of the saying about the class of persons to whom the defects of great men furnish much consolation.

In the *Dublin Review* two articles deserve attention, one because it affords a remarkable illustration of the dress in which Catholic imagination clothes the objects of its survey, the other because it combines just criticism with a pleasing method of instruction. 'The Christian Schools of Alexandria' attempts to draw a picture of Alexandria in all the pride of her commercial and intellectual splendour, and rapidly glances at the names and ideas of Philo and the school of Neoplatonists. Numenius, Ammonius Saccas, Porphyrius, Iamblichus, and Proclus are passed by with scarce a word of comment. Even Plotinus, the strange theorist, nursed, it is averred, for years instead of months at the breast, yet a weak miserable valetudinarian, so ugly or so etherialised as to deny himself to the artist's canvas, so mighty that he could blast the sacrilegious pupil who dared to attack the master, so favoured that a demon of no ordinary power was his visible guardian, is only worthy of mention. His wondrous system of the Triad with its principles of the Good, the Mind, and the Soul, with the Logos, the effulgence of these two; his method of interpreting mythology, resembling the method applied by Origen to Scripture; his remarkable theory of the nature of evil, are neglected. Perhaps such speculations had no charm for a Catholic; perhaps even the beautified edition of Creuzer could not overcome a natural repugnance to the riddled Greek and obscure arguments of the fantastic native of Lycopolis. The reviewer has his eye firmly fixed on Clement of Alexandria, and after a glance at Cantenus, the first doctor of the catechetical school of whom history has left account, he hurries on to the hero of his tale.

The whole argument, which is an attempt and a failure, to prove that Clement was a good Catholic, is based on the one broad principle consistently held by the Church of Rome, that the whole world of physical and metaphysical causes and effects is to be regarded as a portion of the domain of the Church. We admit that the idea is sublime, even to sublimity, for what effort of faith can be more magnificent? But to prove the truth of the assertion that 'Clement simply held up the crucifix,' would tax the genius of Bossuet; nay, even if such a proposition could be demonstrated, the insuperable task would remain of proving that Origen did likewise. Clement, as we understand him, believed in a progress in parallel lines, if not in a combination of religion and philosophy. For him faith, in its humility, was not sufficient, for 'while the believer has stopped short at the point of faith, the Gnostic has attained to the true philosophy of Christianity:' or, to use the more plain language of St. Augustin, 'The grand purpose of the Christian is, that he should behold with the eye of reason also that which he already grasps with the confidence of faith.' The remark made on the allegorical system of interpretation, that it was the fashion, is a very just one. Origen admitted that it came direct from Philo and Aristobulus, and called in the example of St. Paul to his defence. Clement did not, and Origen did, lose sight of the obvious meaning of the text, and so far Clement was better than his successor. Every passage of Scripture has a definite sense, which was prominently before the writer or in the intention of the Spirit. This meaning it is the duty of the expositor to unfold. This is a golden rule laid down by Mr. Newman in his work on the Arians. Who will affirm that Clement did not disregard it?

'Surnames in relation to the History of Society' admirably exposes the defect of Mr. Ferguson's work on 'English Surnames.' The latter book quietly ignored the fact that the British Isles, and it may be added England herself, contains many persons not descended from the Teuton, that there are such strains as Celtic in our blood, and therefore that it is possible that there may be surnames the roots of which are not to be found either in old Norse or Old High German. If Mr. Ferguson were to write a book on the pedigrees of the equine species, he would probably derive all the Derby winners in existence from the blood of the desert. The article is suggestive, in that it draws particular attention to names that had their origin in devotion, and is entertaining on the kitcheners, carvers, falconers, bowyers, and butlers of the ancient castle. The idea, moreover, that a name dictates a calling is pleasing. 'Why was Nicias a general, Law chief justice, Mr. Cubitt a builder, or Mr. Truefitt most perfect in his *appliqués*?

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.

FROM A CONFEDERATE CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS: October 19.

SHERIDAN'S campaign in the Shenandoah has been, generally speaking, appreciated at its just value by the Parisian press. The *Pays* estimates the losses he has incurred and the advantages he has gained, and shows to what they may collectively be reduced.

Sheridan's victory, says the *France*, is simply one of those sanguinary feats of military skill which the fortune of arms turns at one time to the side of the Confederates, at another to that of the Federals; it can have no serious result whatever.

Sherman's position at Atlanta is likewise regarded as by no means dangerous to the Confederates. On this the *Pays* remarks as follows:—

Unless Sherman should succeed in quickly reestablishing his communications, the capture of Atlanta will prove of little value to him. His expedition, whose commencement appeared so promising, will have a disastrous termination, and the remnant of his army will find it no easy matter to escape the vengeance of an exasperated people.

A similar observation is made by the *France*. In this journal, the American question is now for the most part treated by the Baron de Bazancourt. This distinguished writer, whose high authority in military matters is so well known, surveys the operations of Sheridan, Sherman, and Grant, and justly perceives in the redoubled activity of these generals tactics which have been dictated by Mr. Lincoln with a view to influence the electors. According to M. de Bazancourt, these tactics will in all probability fail in their object, since Lee is on his guard, and is fully preparing himself to receive the grand blow which the movements of Grant and his lieutenants announce.

In another article M. de Bazancourt examines the moral situation of the Federal and Confederate armies. He shows that if Grant were to experience a sudden check a fatal blow would be dealt against the North, whilst, on the other hand, even the fall of Richmond would fail to weaken the Southern cause. The view here taken is a very exact one. It seems to be generally believed in Europe that the capture of the Southern capital would at once put an end to the war and decide the fate of the Confederates; M. de Bazancourt, however, proves that such would not be the case:—

It would be (he says) the capture of a town, and nothing more. The seat of the Confederate Government would simply be transferred to another point where the North, exhausted as it is [illegible] of men, money, and troops must again pursue, besiege, and fight. Lee [illegible] Richmond supposing such to be [illegible] could [illegible] a new army out of the remnant of the present [illegible] no longer in Virginia he will be in the West as well as everywhere where partisans of the Confederacy are to be found. His retreat would be still a [illegible] gain, and he would [illegible] by remaining on good [illegible] let those who [illegible] the war at any cost think of this. Let them [illegible] or rather let them [illegible] to ascertain [illegible] as to the real state of things, and then let them tell us if they can see what course the North will [illegible] to [illegible] to replace those which at the present time it possesses with so great difficulty, let them tell us how the North with the poverty of its finances, will be able to raise money adequate to its [illegible] and how it can ward off a financial crisis which may prove its ruin.

The opinion above expressed by the Baron de Bazancourt is confirmed by a private communication received by the *Patrie* from a Frenchman who is at the present moment engaged on a mission in America. The despatches published by the Government, say this correspondent, are of its own invention, and their object is simply to bias public opinion. He further states that Richmond is neither attacked nor threatened, and that Grant is not in a position to lay siege to the Confederate capital.

In the *Patrie*, M. Ancaigne also examines the situation of the Confederates as it now presents itself after the recent events, and considers it by no means critical. He remarks that however victorious they may be, 'the three Northern generals appear to be brought to a stop in the centre of the provinces which they pretend to have conquered, very much like foxes caught in a snare.'

The above statements will convince you that the French press of the present day does not allow itself to be duped by the reports of fresh victories imported by the Yankees.

It is of course unnecessary to say that the opinions just stated are not shared by the journals of a more or less Republican tendency. The *Temps*, which daily becomes more and more attached to Federal interests, sees Richmond seriously threatened, and the *Opinion* declares point-blank, that it is all over with the slave capital. Amen!

The *Presse* also considers Richmond to be in danger. According to M. Chatard, the position of Lee, of Petersburg, and of the Confederate capital is gravely compromised by the successful movements of Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley, and he is unable to perceive what attempt Lee can possibly make in order to baffle the skilful tactics of an opponent 'who is his equal both in prudence, energy, and strategy.' For an Opposition journal this judgment respecting Lee may be considered fair enough.

The *Siècle* is triumphant. According to this humanitarian journal, whose sole policy consists in the expression of a double hatred, part of which it bestows on the priests, and part on the slave-dealers, the American contest has assumed its last phase, the Confederates are running in breathless haste to demand pardon, and true patriotism is at last to meet with its reward. This great and noble result will be due to the Northern generals, *who have carried military glory to so high a pitch without at the same time compromising American Democracy*!

Your readers will doubtless consider that the writer of the above lines undertakes to speak on a subject of which he knows nothing: but what will they say of a writer who, in the same journal, thus expresses himself relative to the issues of the coming election?—

Lincoln being elected, the following will be the results. The South will lose courage and abandon the contest: the lands reduced to barrenness by servile labour will be again rendered productive by the labour of the freeman: the Confederates, *who know only how to fight and who are supported by the sweat of others*, will purify and regenerate themselves by the exercise of their own brains and of their own hands.

The following would be the calamities resulting from the election of McClellan. The North would be irremediably abased and the South exalted: the great Republic would divide itself into three portions incapable of governing themselves, and the United States would enter upon an undefined future of misery which would reduce it to the condition of Spanish America. The sad consequences of so fearful a catastrophe would be felt even in Europe: the fall of the Republic would there produce a confusion, a disorder, and a discouragement by which tyrants would profit!

These strange remarks conclude with words of encouragement to 'the robust-shouldered, iron-fronted, firm-lipped' Lincoln, and prayers for the welfare of the American brethren.

You will not easily credit it, but this article—a very masterpiece of delirium and absurdity—bears the signature of one of the most eminent writers of the day, M. Henri Martin, the celebrated historian of France. What a remarkably strange *History* M. Martin's must be if in it he judges of the men and matters of his own country in the same way as he has judged of those of America!

The *Pays* reverts with energy to the frauds committed in Europe by the Federal recruiting officers. Basing its statements upon the recent disclosures communicated to the *Courrier des Etats Unis* by one of the victims of these people, it relates that 251 passengers, engaged at Antwerp as workmen, were compelled, on their arrival at Boston (of which the Federal recruiters have made a kind of flesh and blood emporium), to sign a contract which they did not understand, and which obliged them to assume the Federal uniform.

THE FEDERAL 'WHITE TRASH.'—We observe another indication of the degradation of the 'poor white trash' among the Yankees. Sherman has declared he will not exchange our soldiers for Yankees whose term of enlistment has expired. Whose fault is it that the term of these soldiers has expired? Certainly not that of the soldier. He has complied with his contract: his Government has violated theirs. They owe him protection. They have guaranteed him the right of civilised warfare. They have exacted from the soldier the last day of service that was due; they then abandon him to the horrors of a prison life, without hope of release until the end of a war that daily seems more interminable.—*The Richmond Enquirer.*

THE LIVERPOOL BAZAAR.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

Liverpool: October 18, 1864.

The well-known law in the meteorology of England, by which, when anything remarkable is fixed to come off on a certain day, whether fête, archery-meeting, cricket-match, Cesarewitch Stakes, inauguration of somebody's statue, or grand contest of the Royal Yacht Squadron, that day will infallibly dawn dark, dismal, dreary, and everything else disagreeable beginning with *d*, has been happily pretermitted in its application to the opening of the Southern Bazaar. The morning broke beautifully over Liverpool, its domes and steeples, over the 'forest of masts' in the Mersey, over the fair lawns and the flaring furnaces of Lancashire, brightening the russet foliage of the park and the dun surface of the downs with real Confederate sunshine, supplementing the English *autumn* with something of the glory of the American *fall*, and inspiring us (by us I mean all who felt an interest in the Confederate cause) with the augury and earnest of success. Not even the ten thousand chimneys of the second city of the United Kingdom pouring out their dense columns of smoke could blacken the blue of the sky, and at the meridian, the hour when the Bazaar was opened at St. George's Hall, the day was as fine as was ever seen in the sunny South, or in Italy itself. As if to cheer us, too, there came hopeful news from Virginia, and the happy throng that assembled in the Exhibition Hall in the early afternoon had matter of congratulation among themselves as they entered the building, and burst into exclamations of delight at the scene which was presented therein.

I am not strong in description, and was never skilful in driving a team of adjectives. I am, therefore, not over sanguine that I shall be able to convey to your readers any adequate idea of the brilliant and confusing spectacle, to produce which so much zeal, taste, skill, industry, and liberality, have been employed. Too much credit cannot be given for the energy and administrative talent shown in the general management of the benevolent enterprise, and the gentlemen of the Committee deserve warm praise for the hearty cooperation they have lent to the carrying out of the numberless and perplexing details of the Bazaar.

A steady stream of visitors flowed into the edifice from 12 o'clock throughout the day, and at 4 P.M. the great hall was crowded, floor and galleries, to its utmost capacity. The *coup d'œil* from the gallery was truly magnificent. All that the imagination can call up to produce a grand and striking effect—the pomp of architecture in the noble room itself, masses of colour in banners and canopies, fabrics of all gorgeous tints, the loveliest women here, there, and all around—the eye was bewildered with the multiform beauty that it surveyed. But when one descended from the gallery to the floor of the hall, and turned from stall to stall, vainly attempting to settle for himself which offered the greatest attraction, slowly making his way through a weltering sea of crinoline, and in that dangerous navigation everywhere coming upon sparkling eyes and fair faces not to be forgotten, it was surely then that he lost himself in the charming confusion and intoxicating whirl. Night could not increase the throng, but it heightened the splendour, as the blaze of gas fell down upon the tables and the toilettes, and was reflected from the glittering objects of steel and silver, crystal and ivory, that were exposed for sale, or gave a yet warmer tint to the scarlet hangings and parti-coloured banners that drooped above the heads of the visitors.

As yet I have dealt only in generalities in attempting to portray the Bazaar. It is time that I should come to particulars. Let me say, then, that the stalls for the sale of articles were occupied as follows:—

Virginia: The Countess de Dampierre, Mrs. Patteson, Mrs. M. G. Klingender. North Carolina: Mrs. Spence, Mrs. F. Worthington. South Carolina: The Lady Wharncliffe, Mrs. Prioleau. Georgia: Mrs. Bulloch, Mrs. Trapmann. Florida: Mrs. Cassin, Mrs. Patrick. Alabama: Mrs. Malcomson, Mrs. Pratt. Mississippi: The Countess of Chesterfield, The Hon. Mrs. Slidell. Louisiana: Mrs. Byrne, Mrs. T. Byrne, Mrs. F. Rodewald. Texas: Mrs. A. Forwood, Mrs. W. Forwood, Mrs. W. Heyn. Arkansas: Mrs. Sillem, Mrs. J. Willink. Tennessee: The Lady M. Beresford Hope, Mrs. F. Hull. Kentucky: Lady de Hoghton, Mrs. G. W. Oliver.

In attempting to present some picture of the stalls, I am greatly embarrassed, for to tell what ornamentation surrounded them would most imperfectly describe their attractiveness. The Virginian stall was surrounded by pictures of General Lee and Stonewall Jackson, and it offered to the patriotic Confederate a subscription to a superb sword which was designed for presentation to General Lee. The Mississippi stall was graced by the presence of Mrs. Slidell and one of her daughters, as well as of the Countess of Chesterfield, and no visitor could pass it without an investment in some of the articles of *luxe* and utility which were displayed so attractively for sale. The Alabama stall, presided over by Mrs. Malcomson, was rich in everything that could tempt the eye, and some specimens of Dieppe work in ivory secured the admiration of all. The prominent stalls of Kentucky and Tennessee occupied, perhaps, the most eligible positions, inasmuch as they occupied the central part of the hall, and no one could move through the crowd of visitors without seeing all that they exhibited for the allurement of the public. Nor was the South Carolina stall behind the rest in the profusion of its articles of taste, not to mention that it was superintended by Lady Wharncliffe, assisted by Mrs. Prioleau and Mrs. Eustis. But discrimination is invidious where every table had its bevy of admirers and patrons, and the only difficulty seemed to be which State had achieved the greatest success. The stalls of Kentucky and Tennessee, in addition to their more advantageous position in the very centre of the hall, had the *prestige* of the presence of Lady Mildred Beresford Hope and Lady de Hoghton.

The portraits of Confederate Generals which adorned the room were excellent likenesses, especially that of General Beauregard, which was placed very near the entrance to the hall; and of all the articles so rich and beautiful that were presented to the visitor, none had a higher interest than the crosses made from the wood of Fort Sumter, which Miss Eustis had the privilege of offering to the purchaser.

I should not omit to state that concerts were given in the small music hall of the building, both in the morning and afternoon, by Mr. Henri Drayton, in aid of the general fund. It is also to be noted that two *salles à manger* were provided for the visitors by the Committee of Management, where ladies and gentlemen might procure lunch and dinner that rivalled in excellence of *cuisine* the restaurants of Paris.

It is not to be assumed, of course, that all the patrons of the Southern Bazaar were thoroughly in sympathy with the Confederates in their struggle with the Federal Government, because the cause of wounded prisoners appeals to the humanity of every class, and the Englishman who espouses the side of the North might with perfect consistency lend his aid in behalf of an undertaking which seeks to alleviate the sufferings of the unfortunate. But it may reasonably be claimed that the decided success of this fair demonstrates that the vast majority of the people of Liverpool regard the Confederate cause as one that challenges the sympathy and approbation of mankind.

The receipts of the Southern Bazaar may be set down as having reached the sum of 10,000*l.* as the result of the first day's operations, and we cannot doubt that 15,000*l.* will be realised before its close.

Liverpool, October 19, 1864.

The old constitutional murky sky of Britain has succeeded to the brief blue of yesterday, and Liverpool to-day is as gloomy as if there were 'no sun,' which poor Tom Hood said was the characteristic of November. Scarce light enough penetrates the blackened window-panes to enable one to read the telegrams in the *Times*, and out of doors, rain, soot, and mud conspire to make the city unspeakably disagreeable. That 'entire absence of comfort' which the old lady in the country remarked upon as belonging to the days of the French Revolution, impresses the pedestrian, or the occupant of the Hansom cab, as he walks or is whirled along the oozy, viscous, clammy pavements, splashing or being splashed. The transition from yesterday is almost Tartarean. But we could not hope that the regal sunshine which lent its pomp to the opening of the Southern bazaar would long endure, and we must therefore accept the darkness and the moisture as climatic conditions of the season and the locality.

There is, however, one bright, cheerful, pleasant place in Liverpool upon which the elements exert no depressing influence—the interior of St. George's Hall. The exhibition seems all the gayer for the outside gloom. The rich colouring of the decorations; the beautiful stuffs, wares, porcelains, jewellery upon the stalls; the pretty scarfs and badges of the fair ladies; the flags and the flowers, all make up a kaleidoscopic brilliancy of effect, as the ever-moving throng presents each moment a new combination to the eye. There is an air of unreality in the whole affair: it is like a scene out of the opera, or an illustration of the "Arabian Nights:" and the idea is constantly suggested of the agency of the fairies, which illusion is kept up by the music floating through the ample spaces of the great hall, and the sounds of merriment from the promenaders, and is only dispelled when one sits down to turtle soup, roast mutton, and *Clos Vougeot*, in the Civil Court room, transformed from a temple of Themis into a dining-room, where the precedents quoted are Soyer's, and the briefs are tempting bills-of-fare.

The arrangements for lunch and dinner are capital, and speak well for the prevision of the members of the *Southern Club*, by whom they were made. The silver and crockery were furnished by Messrs. Dismore, Messrs. Elkington, Messrs. Letherland, and Messrs. Livingston & Stonier, while the carpeting was supplied by Mr. Jeffery, liberal tradesmen of Liverpool. The furniture came from the rooms of the Southern Club, temporarily despoiled for the benefit of the bazaar.

Of the objects of especial interest disposed for sale there is the *embarras des richesses* in the enumeration. Still three or four may be mentioned. The Alabama stall presents a beautiful model of Milan Cathedral, made of pearl shell, and an automaton rabbit that plays the fiddle; and whoever loiters to look at these curious pieces of workmanship will find himself in danger of parting with a 'fi'pun' note' before he escapes from the fascinations of the ladies who preside there. A large and handsome flag, the work of Lady de Hoghton, surmounts the orchestra stand, from which the excellent band of Mr. Streather discourses at intervals 'Dixie,' 'My Maryland,' 'God save the Queen,' and other appropriate airs. A magnificent piece of silver work, designed as a present from the owners of the blockade-running steamer, *Banshee*, to Colonel Lamb, Commandant of Fort Fisher, at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, attracts universal attention. It represents a coast-line of the Atlantic ocean, surmounted with pieces of artillery, and a trim, keen, fast-sailing, Clyde-built steamer, lying in security at anchor below, while the palmetto tree lifts its delicate branches from the shore. There is also a cunning model of a yacht full-rigged and ready for a cruise around 'Virginia Water,' or any other lake in a royal or republican pleasure-garden. At the Mississippi stall, where Mrs. Slidell presides, there are to be seen some exquisite specimens of embroidery, altogether irresistible when offered by that lady or one of her graceful assistants. Mrs. Prioleau, and Lady Wharncliffe, who worthily represent South Carolina, have, besides a wonderful assortment of elegant utilities and inutilities, a collection of autographs, comprising Lee, Davis, Beauregard, and his Holiness, the Pope. At the Arkansas stall there is a model of the *Florida*, which Mrs. Sillem and Mrs. Willink are glad to show to the curious visitor. I have already mentioned the sword, designed for presentation to General Lee, at the stall for Virginia, where Mrs. Patteson and Mrs. Klingender so sweetly officiate, assisted, in the absence of the Comtesse de Dampierre (who, to the regret of all, is detained in France by indisposition), by Miss Soutter, a charming representative of the Old Dominion. A sumptuous piece of silver ornaments the Kentucky stall in the centre of the hall, the design of Mrs. Oliver, who shares with Lady de Hoghton, the administration of this tasteful counter. It typifies the Confederacy in the shape of a female draped with the Southern flag and crowned with 13 stars, with the palmetto overshadowing her. There are many portraits of Confederate generals and statesmen hung around the hall. The best is a full-length of Beauregard, and the worst is a half-size of General Lee. There should have been a fine full-length picture of President Davis over the stall of Mississippi.

The most striking feature of the bazaar is the disposal of the chances in the numberless raffles of all sorts of articles, and the visitor is assailed the very moment he enters the hall with solicitations to take a ticket for a bouquet-holder, or an odour bottle, or a rug, or a watch, or anything else that he may or may not want. He must be a very impracticable person, or one who has learnt well the difficult task of saying 'no' to a pretty woman, who can go through the hall without parting with several sovereigns, and getting in exchange tickets which only the blind goddess of Fortune can make of any value.

The only drawback upon the success of the bazaar to-day has been the immense crowd of persons in attendance. At one time the difficulty of locomotion was as great as it ever was at a drawing-room at St. James's, and the mass swayed to and fro through the hall in hopeless and inextricable embarrassment. The eccentric Mike Walsh of New York once said that it required as much ability to cross Broadway in the afternoon as it did to be a Member of Congress or Governor of Rhode Island, and I am sure that moving about the bazaar this morning with comfort and rapidity was more than could have been done by a Cabinet Minister.

Altogether there never was a greater success in England than the Southern Bazaar. The best people of Liverpool and its neighbourhood have come forward to manifest their sympathy with the wounded Confederate prisoners, and the hearty cooperation that has been given to the enterprise by the generous mercantile class of this great city reflects lasting honour upon the Liverpool Exchange. The Latin poet tells us that faithfully to have studied the arts softens and ennobles character; but there is something in commerce as well that elevates and dignifies life, and inspires a genuine admiration for courage in a great cause.

In my letter of yesterday, I placed the results of the bazaar in *l. s. d.* at 10,000*l.* This estimate was based upon the amount that had been already subscribed, 7,500*l.*, to which was to be added the receipts of the first day's operations. It was slightly under the mark, as will be seen by the following statement of the exchequer at the close of the bazaar last night:—'The amounts taken at different stalls were as follow, each stall it should be remarked, being called by the name of one of the Confederate States:—Virginia, 250*l.*; North Carolina, 300*l.*; South Carolina, 300*l.*; Georgia, 200*l.*; Florida, 100*l.*; Alabama, 250*l.*; Mississippi, 150*l.*; Louisiana, 300*l.*; Texas, 150*l.*; Arkansas, 100*l.*; Tennessee, 200*l.*; Kentucky, 150*l.*; Missouri, 100*l.*—making a total of 2,550*l.* The money received at the entrance doors was 275*l.*; that realised by the sale of season tickets, 270*l.*; making a grand total of 3,170*l.*'

This 3,170*l.* added to the 7,500*l.* already subscribed will show an aggregate for the first day of 10,670*l.* which will doubtless be swelled before the close of the bazaar to 15,000*l.*

A handsome Shetland pony presented by Mr. Tait, of Limerick, and named 'Varina Davis,' in a spirit of compliment to the wife of President Davis, was put up for sale by raffle. The chances were sold in hot haste, and the money received amounted to 120*l.* The pony was won by Mr. H. O. Brewer, Alabama, who immediately presented it to the Bazaar in order that it might be the object of a second raffle.

I cannot close this letter without mentioning, among the gentlemen of the *Southern Club* who have actively participated in the affairs of the bazaar, the names of Mr. Spence, Mr. Prioleau, Mr. Stoess, Mr. Oldenshaw, Mr. A. B. Forwood, and Mr. F. A. Patteson. Others, there are, of whom I am not informed, that have rendered important services, and made the fame of Liverpool for liberality and public spirit yet brighter and more enviable.

Lastly, I ought not to omit the name of Mr. Ashbridge, the indefatigable Treasurer of the Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund.

THE DEMOCRATIC PRESS ON M'CLELLAN.

To the Editor of The Index.

New York: October 4, 1864.

Sir,—Notwithstanding the stratagem by means of which the war principles of the Democratic candidate for the Presidency (M'Clellan) have been substituted for the peace resolutions adopted at the Chicago Convention, the Peace journals are one by one giving way to the general pressure of the other organs of their party: and if they do not declare their adhesion to M'Clellan, at least they no longer oppose him. In New York State, outside of this city, there is but one Democratic paper, the *Franklin Gazette*, that yet holds out against him, and its editor is preparing to discontinue his paper—hardly the duty of a journalist, one would think, in these revolutionary times. In New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, every Democratic journal supports the nomination of M'Clellan. The *Columbus* (Ohio) *Crisis* is the only opponent he has in Ohio, against more than eighty supporters. The *Hillsboro' Gazette* of that State hesitates at present; but that its editor will yield to the exigency, there can be little doubt. In Indiana, *Dawson's Fort Wayne Times* is the only journal that has hesitated, and it is now preparing to follow suit. The *New York Freeman's Journal* and the *Metropolitan Record* have also ceased their opposition to the Presidential nominee of the Chicago Convention. In no other Northern State is there one Democratic paper in opposition to him. 'The people so will it,' says the *Freeman's Journal*, 24th ult., 'and it will not do to be wiser than the generation with whom we must live. Peace men, even if they do not recognise the powerful party they might have had, must act and make their influence felt. Since they were not ready to rally (upon the appearance of M'Clellan's letter, in which he declared that he would carry on the war until the Union was restored) and to bring the War men to terms, we hold, as our present advice, that they ought to give the M'Clellan ticket an active and a potential support. The day will soon come when the masses of the people will require the terms that we wished now to secure for the country. The majority of those who will vote for M'Clellan will vote for him as the last hope for peace. Their voices, and their brave hearts, and their strong arms, must not be without leaders in that hour.'

The sentiments of the *Metropolitan Record* were, on the same date, expressed as follows:—'We have done all that lay in our power to secure the nomination of a Peace candidate for the Presidency, up to a point when it seemed to us that, in consequence of want of united action in our ranks, success was impossible, and we have unsparingly condemned a departure, for the sake of expediency, from the true and time-honoured principles of Democracy. All this we have done in compliance with our own sense of right; but having thus defined our position in the present canvass, our opposition shall cease at this point. We cannot consent to set aside the counsel of sincere friends—friends who are as tenacious of principle as we profess to be—friends who prefer, however, to fight the battles for those principles *within* the Democratic party than *outside* of it; and their counsel is that we cease to oppose the election of General M'Clellan. This we shall do. We are willing, in view of their tried and well-established devotion to principle, to comply with their urgent desire; but here the matter ends, as we are resolved to be free, when M'Clellan is elected, to oppose him on the first indication of a return to the war policy as a means of restoring the Union. We shall advise no man to vote against M'Clellan, and we hope that the change of Administration for which such a unanimous wish is expressed will, as is so confidently believed by our friends, be really for the better. As for ourselves, our opinions and views remain unchanged. We believe that the South is entitled to the selection of her own form of government, and that the North, in the endeavour to force her into a compulsory union, is violating the principle of universal suffrage, which we claim to be the foundation of our Democratic system. By this right we shall continue to stand, for it is a right older and more valuable than even the Union itself, much as it is prized by every man who loves free institutions.'

If, indeed, M'Clellan should be elected, and resolve to continue the war, he will find a stronger opposition to him than that which now confronts Abraham Lincoln. The Peace party

will then embrace in its ranks not only the Peace Democracy, but that portion of the Republicans which will oppose him upon party grounds, and find fault with every measure of his administration. Above all, the party now in power will oppose the admission of the South on any other terms than as military dependencies or conquered provinces, deprived of equal rights with the so-called loyal States. The true policy of General M'Clellan will therefore be found in the inauguration of peace, which affords the only hope for the freedom of the people and a union of the Northern and Southern Republics on a firmer foundation than that on which the United States rested before the commencement of the present war.

The *Burlington* (Iowa) *Argus*, 15th ult., well illustrates the sentiments of the 'far West' upon the subject of M'Clellan's election. 'The existence of the Republican party,' it says, 'depends upon its retention of power and the continuance of the war. The present Administration cannot restore the Union if it would; it has gone too far, committed itself too irrevocably to unconstitutional measures, which make it utterly impossible for any settlement with the South. On the part of the North it has become a war of relentless conquest, seeking the subjugation or extermination of six or seven millions of people, with whom we once lived in terms of fellowship and union, and with whom we had fondly hoped to live again under the old star-spangled banner. It clinches its arguments against the reelection of Abraham Lincoln in this wise. 'Simply as a matter of dollars and cents, can we as a people stand another term of Lincoln imbecility? The land already groans under the taxes imposed upon the people. Every branch of industry feels the burdens, and is already straining every nerve to meet the demands of the creditor, who knows no mercy but the strict letter of the law. In the last year we have travelled rapidly on the road to remorseless taxation. In what condition will four, three, two, or even one year, of the same rule, find the mechanics and labouring men of the land? At the East, in our large cities, strikes and unions have been resorted to, to obtain the increase of wages actually demanded to sustain life. Here at the West, where our paucity of numbers has prevented such organisations from succeeding, the poorer and middle classes have had to curtail every expense of tea, coffee, and the little luxuries of life upon which Americans have heretofore prided themselves upon their ability to enjoy. Many are living upon only the cheapest articles of diet, economising in dress and comfort, and still living without prospect of any change for the better. On the contrary, another year like the past must add still more to their wants and necessities, and raise still higher taxes and expenses. If any one doubts these facts, let him visit the shops and business places in this city. Let him ask the coopers, the tinsmiths, the wagon-makers, the tobacconists, and the score of other trades who are paying five per cent. of their gross earnings monthly to the tax-collector, how much they have left when their work is done. Tell them their tax is to be doubled with every successive year of Abraham Lincoln's reign (and no Republican dare deny the inexorable logic of such a result), and ask them if they can afford to reelect this Administration. The senseless cry of disloyalty and Copperhead has lost its effect. No man who feels the gripe of Abe Lincoln's tax-gatherers upon his purse as he closes his month's account, will call his neighbour a traitor for daring to vote against the power which would confiscate its entire contents. While the mass of the people have grown poorer while the war progressed, the favoured few, the pampered pets of Abolitionism and Shoddy, have waxed fat over the plunder of the Government. Millions of Government bonds are now held by these Administration favourites free from tax, and their interest payable in gold. What is good enough for the masses is not good enough for these favourites of Lincoln. Gold they demand as the price of their patriotism, while the nation labours for greenbacks worth 40 cents on the dollar. Can the nation afford this thing to continue another four years? Can the lifeblood of the nation stand this eternal drain upon its current? Ye have taken Joseph and Simeon away. Will ye now take Benjamin also? The cry of lamentation and woe is arising from the hearthstones of every family circle, and instead of the willing sacrifice, the fatlings of the flock, the last hope of declining years, the widow's staff and the orphan's trust, are to be dragged to the field of carnage, to satiate the implacable animosity of an imbecile ruler? Can the nation afford to reelect Mr. Lincoln? The people in its heart of hearts answers No.

'Governor Seymour,' says the *Bangor* (Maine) *Democrat*, 'never declared a more evident truth than when he said, in the Chicago Convention, that the great and all-pervading sentiment of a party shapes, directs, and controls the action of its Administration. In the present political contest there is but a single issue—peace or war. The controlling sentiment of the Republican party is war; and if Abraham Lincoln is elected, we shall have interminable war. The controlling sentiment of the Democratic party is peace; and if their candidate is elected, we shall have immediate peace. Let the issue be clearly and fairly understood. The Democracy are struggling for an early and honourable peace; the Republicans are striving for the further prosecution of this war of subjugation and national ruin.'

The position in which General M'Clellan now stands towards the Democratic party and the Peace journals is stated with some force and much truth in the *Daily News* of this city, on the 24th ultimo:—

'In almost every instance those Peace journals that have signified their purpose to support General M'Clellan have done so under protest and because there remained no alternative except to withdraw entirely from participation in the canvass. The War Democracy deceived themselves, we fear fatally, in accepting this reluctant support as a sign that the Peace men generally will vote for the candidate who has betrayed their principle. The position of a public journal in a political campaign materially differs from that of the individual citizen. Pecuniary and other interests render it a great sacrifice for the journalist to place his paper outside of the pale of his party. It is like the act of the devotee who shuts himself from the world within a monastery. One by one, therefore, we have seen our quondam Peace contemporaries yielding to the pressure of material interests and departing from the strict letter of their faith. But with the individual the ordeal is less difficult to pass. The great majority of Peace men will remain true to their doctrine, and disfranchise themselves rather than cast their votes for one who, in denying the platform upon which he was nominated, proclaims himself in opposition to the paramount article of their creed. If this is doubted, let General M'Clellan put himself in communication with the masses of the West, the stronghold of the Peace Democracy. He will hear either the loud outburst of defiance or the sullen murmur of discontent. Let him commune with the resolute farmers of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, who find the fruits of their honest toil withering in the pestilential atmosphere of civil strife, and he will understand that he has abandoned the surest element of his success in response to the selfish counsels of demagogues and time-servers. There is another class that he has driven from his camp by asserting the war policy, from which it was hoped he would deliver them. We know of many Abolitionists who, weary of the war, and conscious at last that their philanthropy has erred in selecting the path of carnage and destruction to fulfil its mission, would have given their quiet but valuable support to any candidate pledged to favour a cessation of hostilities. As it is, the two opposing candidates stand upon the same platform so far as relates to a prosecution of the war, and as upon that point there is no choice between them, the Peace Abolitionists will naturally incline to act in concert with the party that they originated and brought into power. Under any circumstances, General M'Clellan might have counted upon the support of the War Democracy. He has committed the folly of paying them more than they asked, and of denying the Peace Democracy that upon which they insisted.'

M'Clellan is accepted now by the Peace men, declares Mr. Lincoln's especial organ in this State, the *New York Times* (17th ult.), 'because they take him to have neither independence of character nor decision of purpose. They take him because, as the *Daily News* had it, he has pledged himself privately to bring about, in the event of his election, an immediate cessation of hostilities. They adopt him because he is the creature of circumstances, and can be made an abject instrument of men of native will. It has been charged, and the accuser holds himself prepared to furnish overwhelming evidence of the truth of his charge, that General M'Clellan was consulted two months ago as to the peace resolutions in the Chicago platform. "Early in the month of July last the platform, with its peace planks, almost word for word, as adopted, was presented to General M'Clellan, and was by him approved both in letter and in spirit." To this charge neither the organs of the *soi-disant* War Democracy, nor the "hero of Antietam" himself, have dared to reply. It was but reasonable, then, that the consistent men of the party who were swindled into accepting the Chicago candidate, on the faith of his personal pledges and those of his immediate following, should bitterly resent the attempt to foist their man before the public as the destined conqueror of the South.'

Perhaps in no portion of this Northern Confederacy is the peace sentiment stronger than in the North-western States. Through the instrumentality of a number of State-rights and Peace men of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Iowa, who have been in consultation ever since the M'Clellan *contretemps* at Chicago, it has been determined to call another Peace Convention, to meet at Cincinnati, Ohio, on the 18th instant. It is felt that the outspoken expression of the peace sentiment which pervades the minds of the people was prevented at the Convention at Chicago, and an authoritative expression of their views is to be obtained through a Convention of volunteer representatives of the Peace Democracy. No nominations for President or Vice-President will, it is expected, be then made or seriously proposed. The Convention will assemble purely and simply to obtain a clear enunciation of the cardinal doctrines of Democracy.

CHICAGO.

OFFICIAL REPORTS.

THE following is General Forrest's report of the capture of Athens, Alabama:—

Athens, Alabama, Sept. 28, 1864.

Hon. Secretary of War,—My forces captured this place this morning with 1,300 officers and men, 50 wagons and ambulances, 500 horses, two trains of cars loaded with quartermaster and commissary stores, with a large quantity of small arms and two pieces of artillery. My troops are in fine spirits. My loss is 5 killed and 25 wounded.

N. B. FORREST, Major-General.

The following order from General Taylor has been published:—

Headquarters Department Alabama,
Mississippi, and East Louisiana,
Meridian, August 23, 1864.

General Orders No. 114.—Pursuant to orders from the War Department, dated Richmond, Va., August 15, 1864, I assume command of the 'Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana.'

The Headquarters of the Department will, for the present, remain at Meridian, Mississippi. No change will be made in the Departmental staff until further orders.

R. TAYLOR, Lieutenant-General.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

THERE has not been any alteration in the Bank rate of discount. The improved aspect of the money market will, unless any adverse contingencies should arise in the commercial world, render any further advance at present unnecessary. At the same time, there is not any prospect of its being lower for some time to come, and until there is an end of the mercantile suspensions, which are now of daily occurrence. Within the last few days the demand for accommodation, both at the Bank and in Lombard Street, has been rather less pressing, but amongst the brokers the terms for discount rule at 9 per cent. and upwards. The joint-stock banks are working at about $8\frac{3}{4}$ to $8\frac{7}{8}$. There is plenty of capital in all quarters, and the supply appears to be rather on the increase than otherwise. On the Stock Exchange the demand for money is rather limited at present. The rates for short loans have been 6 per cent., and at present they are from 4 to 6. The last and most unfavourable intelligence is from Brazil, where there has been a commercial crisis; but its effects, though serious, have not been very potential in London. The majority of the English houses escape with very little loss, and the principal firms compromised are those of Portuguese or local origin.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The bullion market is still wearing a favourable aspect. The amount of gold sent into the Bank during the week has been 260,000*l.*, against which there have been no withdrawals whatever; and so long as the rate of discount remains at its present high figure, there is not much probability of any adverse movement. The arrivals of specie have not been very large; they comprise 408,431*l.* from the West Indies and Pacific, 44,100*l.* from New York, and 7,864*l.* from Alexandria, making together 460,395*l.* There has been very little doing in the silver market, there not being at present any demand for the East; a few transactions, however, have taken place at $61\frac{1}{8}d.$ to $61\frac{1}{4}d.$ per oz. In Mexican dollars there has been nothing doing, and the nominal price is $59\frac{3}{4}d.$ to 60*d.* per oz. The advices from Australia announced the sailing of the Clyde from Melbourne with 63,084*l.* The S. E. H., previously advised with 44,000*l.*, is still out, but her arrival is daily expected.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The improved state of the money market has had a beneficial influence on the English stock market. Business has been more active than for some time past, and prices have further improved, though the highest price of the week was not sustained at the close. The brokers are now operating with more freedom; still they are restrained to a certain degree by the uncertain state of affairs in most commercial circles. The foreign market, however, although fairly active as regards business, has suffered a relapse in nearly all stocks of a speculative character, but the adverse influence is chiefly to be attributed to the political relations of the various countries interested. There is an exception, however, with regard to Turkish, which show an improvement. Consols left off this evening at $88\frac{3}{8}$ to $88\frac{1}{2}$ for money, and $88\frac{1}{2}$ to $88\frac{5}{8}$ for the account, which, as compared with this day week, is a rise of $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. Exchequer Bills are rather firmer, the March issue being at 10*s.* to 6*s.* dis., and those of June at 20*s.* to 12*s.* dis. As regards foreign securities Greek shows a decline of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., the present quotation being $21\frac{1}{2}$ to 22. Mexican are $25\frac{5}{8}$ to $25\frac{7}{8}$, being a fall of $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. Spanish Passives are $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. lower, and the Certificates $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., the respective quotations being $29\frac{3}{4}$ to 30, and 13 to $13\frac{1}{4}$. Turkish Six per Cents. of 1854 are 88 to 89 ex div., being a rise of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and those of 1862 at 69 to 70, or an advance of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The recent advices from America being again regarded as favourable to the Southern cause, the market for American Government and Railway securities has once more become exceedingly dull and heavy. The dealings this week have been greatly circumscribed, but, on the whole, prices have been fairly sustained. The transactions comprised:—United States, 1881, at 47, $47\frac{1}{2}$, 46, $47\frac{3}{4}$, 45, 44, $43\frac{1}{4}$, $43\frac{1}{2}$, $42\frac{1}{2}$, and 43 ex d.; Virginia State Six per Cents., at 28; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York section, first mortgage, 72; Erie, $100 shares, all paid, at 41, 42, and 41; and Illinois Central, $100 shares, all paid, $51\frac{1}{2}$, $52\frac{1}{2}$, 52, $50\frac{3}{4}$, and 51.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market for this security has been a steady and improving one, advancing on the receipt of good war news, followed by numerous purchases, with few variations during the week. The closing price is 64 to 66.

IMPORTS FROM THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

The following table, extracted from the Customs Bill of Entry, is a statement of part of the imports of Southern cotton and tobacco into England since our last number:—

Date	Name of ship	Port	Consignee	Bales of cotton	Boxes of tobacco
Oct. 14	Emblyn	Nassau	To order	288	
,,	,,	,,	Hill & Son	$101\frac{1}{2}$	
,,	,,	,,	Hoffnung & Co.	1	
,,	,,	,,	Leech & Co.	22	
,,	,,	,,	Claypole & Co.	8	
,,	,,	,,	Thompson & Co.	$3\frac{1}{2}$	
,,	,,	,,	To order	—	36
Oct. 15	Lightning	Bermuda	Fraser	214	
Oct. 17	Alexander	,,	Joyce & Co.	874	
,,	,,	,,	Maxwell & Co.	64	
,,	,,	,,	Somervail & Co.	—	203
,,	,,	,,	Gilliat & Co.	—	98
,,	Ada	,,	Collie & Co.	463	
Oct. 18	Elinor	Nassau	Zimmern & Co.	2	
,,	,,	,,	H. & H. Harris	53	
,,	,,	,,	To order	12	
,,	,,	,,	Somervail & Co.	—	10
,,	,,	,,	Rothschild & Co.	—	34
		Total	. . . . .	2106	381

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

A fiat in bankruptcy was opened at Leeds District Court, on Tuesday, October 11, against James Cunliffe, shipping agent, trading under the firm of James Fort & Co. The bankrupt has disappeared. The following suspensions have been announced:—Messrs. Bendir & Co., merchants and commission agents, of Mark Lane; Mr. Louis Speltz, a commission merchant and broker, of Liverpool, with liabilities for 320,000*l.* Mr. Thomas Burrowes, of the Stock Exchange, has been declared a defaulter, and stands charged with obtaining money under false pretences. Mr. Henry Ledgard, of Wood Street, in the drapery trade, liabilities about 25,000*l.*—Mr. E. Coombe, in the Spanish trade, liabilities not stated, but they are believed to be considerable.—Messrs. Brown, Buckley, & Co., of Great Tower Street, East India brokers, liabilities about 200,000*l.*, of which about 100,000*l.* is covered by securities.—Messrs. A. Drosten & Co., of Mark Lane, in the corn trade, liabilities about 7,000*l.*—Messrs. Monninger & Denninghoff, London, commission merchants, associated with the petroleum and oil trades, liabilities said to be between 80,000*l.* and 100,000*l.*—Messrs. Cuadru, Enciso, & Co., London, in the Spanish trade, liabilities about 60,000*l.*—Messrs. Francis Gibbs & Co., of Sydney, with liabilities reaching to 140,700*l.*, of which 73,000*l.* is due to English creditors.—Messrs. Rudge, Moreira, Brothers & Co., of Great St. Helen's, in the Brazilian trade, with 100,000*l.* liabilities. Messrs. Paul Joske & Co., of London, in the wine trade, liabilities about 40,000*l.* Messrs. Bullock and Fernyhough, of Mincing Lane, colonial brokers. From the manufacturing districts, accounts have been received of numerous small failures, the majority of them being in the neighbourhood of Blackburn. At Manchester, Messrs. Barrat & Wilson, calico printers, have suspended, with liabilities extending to about 60,000*l.* From Brazil, the accounts by the mail just arrived are of a very alarming character. Four banks at Rio de Janeiro have failed; the names are Messrs. Sonto & Co., Messrs. Gomes & Filho, M. Oliveira Bello, and Messrs. Montenegro and Lima. The two first named are the largest bankers in the place. In addition to these, the suspensions are announced of ten or twelve commercial houses, most of them of high standing. From Spain, also, the accounts are very discouraging. The New York advices mention, among other failures, those of Messrs. Maxwell, Wright, and Co., of Baltimore; later accounts state that the failure is likely to be less disastrous than was first supposed. The property of the firm is said to be very large.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

The prospectus has just been issued of the Colonial Trading Company (limited), with a proposed capital of 500,000*l.*, in 20,000 shares of 25*l.* each, only one-half of which are to be issued in the first instance. The object of the undertaking is to afford to manufacturers and traders in Great Britain and the colonies direct facilities not presented by any existing banking or other institution. The business, as set forth in the pro-

spectus, will be 'the undertaking of agencies for colonial governments, merchants, manufacturers, insurance, colonial railways, mail, and other companies. Traders, either in Great Britain or the colonies, can supply their wants, through the Company, paying for same either on arrival or at such times afterwards as may be arranged. The Company will provide, at moderate rates, convenient depôts for storage, including bonded stores, sampling, show, and sale rooms. In England and abroad the Company will make temporary and other loans on merchandise, produce, and ships, and will leave the borrower the option of sale, of repayment of advances by approved bills, or of exchange of merchandise.' Branches and agencies will be established in the colonies and foreign countries, and an agreement is said to have been made with an old-established and successful firm for the transfer of its business and connections.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

The produce trade continues extremely dull in every department, purchases being made with increased reserve in consequence of the dearness of money and the renewed uneasiness that has been caused in reference to commercial credit by the recurrence of failures. The corn markets have been firmer than most others, and quite late rates have been obtained for wheats of all kinds. American flour also maintains its value; passing operations are, however, extremely small, and the firmness is attributable solely to the very moderate supplies coming forward at the moment. For seeds there is very little enquiry, and easier rates must be taken for both linseed and rapeseed, to effect sales of any amount. Oilcake offers on lower terms, American barrels 10*l.* 10*s.* to 10*l.* 15*s.*, bags 9*l.* 10*s.* to 10*l.* per ton. Provisions sell steadily, but are not active. The finest qualities of American butter command a fair sale at 112*s.* to 118*s.* Inferior sorts hang on hand. There is still a good demand for the best dairies of American cheese at 58*s.* to 62*s.* per cwt. Bacon is dull at 52*s.* to 54*s.* for singed sides. For middles, the demand is confined to the better qualities, which are scarce. Pork is very dull, as also is beef: but the stock of the latter is now very much reduced. Petroleum has declined to 2*s.* for American refined, at which only moderate parcels could be placed. Oils in general are lower; linseed offering at 34*s.*; brown rape at 41*s.* 6*d.*, and pale at 44*s.* 6*d.*; sperm is neglected, and the price is quite nominal at 64*l.* to 56*l.* per ton. Tallow continues to droop, and is about 9*d.* lower than on this day week. Sugar has been further depressed 1*s.* per cwt., and prices are now below those current prior to the late speculation; but in the present position of monetary affairs, there is no apparent disposition to take advantage of the moderate rates now ruling. A favourable feature in this market is that stocks of refined are low, and manufactured goods relatively firm. Coffee is at length participating in the prevailing dullness, and prices are tending in buyers' favour. Common black leaf teas have further declined $\frac{1}{2}$*d.* per pound, and large parcels continue to be brought to public sale. Rice is neglected. Fine saltpetre sells at 29*s.* 1*d.* with short prompt. The spice trade has undergone very little change except that there is even less doing, and East India ginger is again cheaper, Bengal selling at 39*s.*, and Cochin at 61*s.* and 67*s.* The jute market shows renewed depression, prices to-day having further given way 15*s.* and 30*s.* per ton; common to fine may now be quoted 9*l.* 0*s.* to 25*l.* 10*s.* Hemp is nominally unaltered. The metal trade is stagnant, and sales are almost impracticable, even at decidedly lower prices. Spelter offers at 22*l.*; Straits tin at 96*l.*, and Scotch pig iron at 50*s.* 3*d.* cash.

Liverpool, Wednesday, October 19.—In the early part of the week our cotton market was greatly depressed and irregular, but within the last day or two there has been rather more doing, and prices slightly improved. Still business generally is very flat, and at present there does not appear any reason to anticipate a permanent improvement. It is considered in some quarters that for some time to come the lowest price of cotton has been touched, but certainly this is not the general impression. To-day, in consequence of adverse news from Manchester, the market has been extremely dull and depressed. The sales this week have reached 32,000 bales, of which 13,000 were on speculation and for export. The total sales this year have been 2,043,547 bales, and to the same period in 1863 they were 2,108,204 bales. There have been imported this year 1,798,446 bales, and to the same period last year 1,233,861 bales. The trade have taken this year 1,247,558 bales; and to the corresponding period in 1863, 1,094,571 bales. The exports this year have been 456,152 bales; last year they were 396,504 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 312,556 bales; same in 1863, 585,244 bales. The estimated stocks at the present time are 382,150 bales; at the corresponding period last year they were 162,634 bales. During the week American cotton has been sold at 2*d.* per lb. lower than on the week previous; Egyptian, about the same; Brazil and Bahia, 1*d.* per lb. decline; East India, from $1\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to 2*d.*; and China, from $\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 1*d.*; but from this decline there has since been a fractional recovery. The quotations this afternoon were:—American descriptions, according to quality, $19\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to $24\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; Pernambuco, $23\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to 24*d.*; Maceio, $21\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to $21\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Bahia, 21*d.* to $21\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; Egyptian, $12\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to 29*d.*; Smyrna, $14\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to $15\frac{3}{4}$*d.*; Surat, $8\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to $16\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; Bengal, $9\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to $11\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; Scinde, $9\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 11*d.*; and China, $11\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to 13*d.*

For the last two days very great depression has prevailed in all the Manchester markets, and it has been the more severely felt in consequence of manufacturers anticipating that the worst was passed, and that the lowest prices have been touched, and an attempt was in consequence made by many of the manufacturers to advance the selling price of cloths from 1*d.* to 2*d.* per lb., but buyers would not submit to any advance, but would only give orders at a further reduction. In shipping yarns there has been very little business doing, and prices close with a tendency to a further decline. In home trade yarns the rumours of further failures have had a very depressing influence; there is evidently a general want of confidence, which causes quotations to be very unfavourable. There has been very little doing in cloths, and manufacturers find great difficulty in effecting sales. Some few transactions are recorded at fair prices, but in general terms are lower. The telegraphic advices from India just to hand are very unfavourable. The markets there are reported to have been paralysed by the bad accounts to hand from England. The latest quotations were:—Cloths, $\frac{7}{8}$ Grey Printers, 6*s.* 6*d.* to 13*s.* 3*d.*; $\frac{9}{8}$ Grey Madapollams, 5*s.* 9*d.* to 8*s.* 9*d.*; $\frac{9}{8}$ Grey Printers, 8*s.* 9*d.* to 15*s.* 9*d.*; $\frac{4}{4}$ Grey Shirtings, 10*s.* 3*d.* to 22*s.*; Water Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 7*d.* to 2*s.* 3*d.*; No. 30, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*; and No. 40, 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.*; Mule Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 5*d.* to 2*s.* $0\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; No. 30, 1*s.* $7\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 2*s.* 3*d.*; No. 40, 1*s.* 10*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*; No. 50, 2*s.* 1*d.* to 2*s.* 9*d.*; No. 60, 2*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* 11*d.*; No. 70, 2*s.* 7*d.* to 3*s.* 1*d.*; No. 80, 2*s.* 9*d.* to 3*s.* 3*d.*; No. 90, 2*s.* 11*d.* to 3*s.* 5*d.*; and No. 100, 3*s.* 2*d.* to 3*s.* 11*d.*

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Ships Arrived.

At Liverpool.—October 13: The Malvina, from St. John's, N.B.—October 14: The Emblyn, from Nassau. The Lightning, from Bermuda. The General Berry, from St. John's, N.B.—October 15: The J. P. Smith, from Demerara.—October 16: The Jura, from Bahia. The Thames, from Montevideo. The Ada, from Bermuda. The Sardinian. The Zenir, from St. John's, N.B. The Alexander, from Halifax, N.S.—October 17: The Compage, from Nassau. The Edith, from St. John's, N.B. The Ilos, from Demerara. The Prince Charlie, from St. John's, N.B.—October 18: The St. Thomas (steamer), from St. Thomas's. The Admiral Prinz Adalbert, from Halifax, N.S. The Mackay, The Rising Sun, from St. John's, N.B.—October 19: The Mary James, from Nassau, N.P. The Shamrock, from Bermuda. The Blomidon, from St. John's, N.B.

At Gravesend.—October 14: The Minerva, from Havana.—October 15: The Magician, from Porto Rico.—October 16: The Indian Chief, from Demerara.—October 17: The Eurydice, from Montevideo. The Mary, from Porto Rico. The Eleanor, from Nassau.

Off Salcombe.—October 15: The Elinor, from Nassau, N.P.

At Cowes.—October 15: The Melody, from Rio Janeiro.

At Deal.—October 13: The Gumare, from Shields, for Rio Janeiro.—October 17: The Jem Bart, from Callao.

At Clyde.—October 13: The Brenda, from Porto Rico. The Mary Raymond, from St. John's, N.B.—October 17: The Pillar, from Havana. The Annie, from St. John's, N.B.

At Holyhead.—October 13: The Dauntless, from Montevideo, for Belfast.

At Queenstown.—October 13: The Resolution, from Bahia.—October 14: The Dryad, The John Duncan, from Callao. The Williamson, The Kestrel, from Montevideo. The Nebraska, from St. John's, N.B.—October 15: The Westa, from St. John's, N.B.—October 16: The Canada (steamer), from Liverpool, for Halifax, N.S. The Lizzie, from Buenos Ayres. The Charles Regier, from Montevideo. The Royal William, from Demerara.

Off Queenstown.—October 15: The Royal William, from Demerara.

At Pill.—October 14: The Fanny, from Demerara. The Annie, from Havana.—October 15: The Svea, The Faletta, from Havana.

At Falmouth.—October 13: The Olinda, from Bahia. The Carioca, from Rio Janeiro. The Christopher Hansteen, from Havana.—October 14: The Massahote, from Havana.—October 15: The Byzantium, from Montevideo. The Union, from Havana.—October 16: The Catharine, from Buenos Ayres. The Breidablik, from Havana. The Victoria, from Rio Janeiro.—October 17: The Dona Paulina, from Rio Janeiro. The Albina, from Bahia. The Rem Vindo, from Bahia. The Pepito, from Porto Rico.—October 18: The Catharina, from Porto Rico.—October 19: The George Duncan, from Havana. The Jesusa, from Havana.

At Troon.—October 15: The Fanny Palmer, from Demerara. The Russia, from Havana.

At Belfast.—The Mary, from St. John's, N.B.

At Drogheda.—October 18: The Princess Royal, from St. John's, N.B.

At Gibraltar.—October 1: The Rosario, The Jeddo, The Ernest and Maria, for Rio Janeiro.

At Marseilles.—October 10: The Deux Eulalie, from Rio Janeiro.

At Lisbon.—October 2: The Cosmopolite, from Rio Janeiro.—October 3: The Josen Palmira, from Bahia. The Maria Camilla, from Rio Janeiro.—October 4: The Mercurio, from Demerara.—October 5: The Rio Ave, from St. Thomas's.

At Nassau, N.P.—September 27: The Coquette (steamer), The Will o' the Wisp (steamer), from Wilmington both not arrived at Wilmington as before reported.—August 26: The Fox (steamer) from Charleston, and cleared 27th for St. John's, N.B.; arrived again September 13, and cleared 24th for St. John's, N.B.—August 27: The Syren (steamer), from Charleston, and cleared 31st for St. John's, N.B.; arrived again September 13. The Will o' the Wisp (steamer), and cleared September 1 for St. John's, N.B; arrived again 12th, and cleared 24th for St. John's, N.B.—August 29: The Druid, from Charleston, and cleared September 1 for St. John's, N.B.—September 5: The General Whiting, from Charleston, and cleared 17th for St. John's, N.B.—September 7: The Coquette (steamer), from Wilmington.—September 9: The Chicora (steamer), from Wilmington.—September 12: The Ella (steamer), from Wilmington. The Star of the East, from London, and sailed 22nd from Liverpool.—September 20: The Beatrice (steamer), from Clyde. The Secret, from Cardiff.—September 23: The Rhoda, The Flying Cloud, from London.—September 21: The Amy, from Cardiff.—September 30: The Harriett, from Liverpool.

At Trinidad.—September 2: The Crocodile, from Nassau.

At Bermuda.—September 21: The Lizzie (steamer), from Clyde.—September 2: The Harvest, from Cardiff.—September 6: The Balcombe, from London.—September 13: The Stormy Petrel (steamer), from Clyde.—September 15: The Night Hawk (steamer), from Madeira. The Banshee (steamer), from Liverpool.

At Bahia.—September 11: The Miranda, from Trieste. The John Mayall, from Morro de San Paulo.—September 12: The Novo Flizio, The Donna Maria, from Cardiff. The Barros Secundo, from Gothenburg.—September 13: The Kepler (steamer), from Liverpool, and left the 15th for the River Plate.—September 15: The Jenny from Bremen.—September 16: The Tasmania, from Trieste, and sailed the 21st for Rio Janeiro. The Rio de la Plata (steamer), from Pernambuco, and left the 19th for the River Plate.—September 17: The Nova Amizade, from Lisbon.—September 18: The Ricardo, from Rio Janeiro.—September 20: The Tavarita, The Tigre, from Pernambuco. The Vestal, from Montevideo. The Challenger, The Lilie, from Rio Grande.

At St. Thomas's.—September 12: The Vater Gruner, from Cardiff.—September 15: The Gambia, from London. The Nelson, The Nathalie, The Rose, The St. Francois, from Newport. The Laplace, The Home, from Cardiff.—September 16: The Forester, from Liverpool.—September 17: The James Holmes, from Newport.—September 19: The Arche d'Alliance, from Cardiff.—September 20: The Marcell, The Hebden, from Liverpool. The Malherbes, The Peter and Lauritz, from Cardiff. The Belles de Nuit, from Newport.—September 21: The Iris, from Cardiff.—September 25: The Alpha (steamer), from Halifax, N.S.

At Demerara.—September 12: The Erloach, from Clyde. The Lord Elgin, from Liverpool.—September 16: The Panderma, from London.—September 17: The Ruckers, from London. The Stirlingshire, from Liverpool. The Hippolyte, from Clyde.—September 18: The Dora, from Bristol. The St. Croix, from London.—September 19: The Hesper, from Liverpool.—September 22: The Sandacks, from Liverpool. The Elizabeth Brown, from London.—September 23: The Rambler, from London. The Merry England, from Clyde. The Ellen Sophia, for Liverpool.

At Havana.—September 21: The Elias, from Liverpool.—September 22: The Paul, from Cardiff. The Jesus, from Liverpool.

Ships Sailed.

Liverpool.—October 12: The Rosetta, for Buenos Ayres. The Jane Doull, The Nutfield, for Bermuda. The Ivanhoe, for Montevideo. The Bagdad Packet (steamer), for Havana.—October 13: The Andes, for Rio Janeiro.—October 14: The Etta, for Callao. The Jos. Rowan, for Montevideo. The Hebe of the Exe, for Pernambuco. The James, for Matamoras. The New Lampedo, for St. John's, N.B. The Kelpie, for Havana.—October 15: The Sancta, The Payta (steamer), for Valparaiso. The Arethusa, for Buenos Ayres. The Miranda, for Pernambuco. The Amalie, for St. Thomas. The Henry Adderley, for Nassau. The Gleaner, for Matamoras.

Gravesend.—October 12: The Favourite Lass, for St. John's, N.B.—October 13: The Refuge (Josh. Worley), for Nassau, N.P.—October 14: The George F. Lovett, for Bermuda, *viâ* Cardiff.—October 18: The Antonia Hendrika Carolina, for Bahia. The Young Nova Scotian, for Halifax, N.S.

Deal.—October 13: The Teaser, for Buenos Ayres. The Favourite Lass, for St. John's, N.B.—October 14: The Refuge (Josh. Worley), for Nassau.—October 16: The Hansa (steamer), for Bermuda.

Cardiff.—October 11: The Edouard, for Montevideo.—October 13: The Christopher Hall, for Rio Janeiro. The Conqueror, for Bermuda.—October 14: The Speed, for Montevideo.—October 15: The Alexandre Delphine, for Havana.

Queenstown.—October 13: The Ruby (steamer), for Bermuda.

Swansea.—October 12: The Anna, for Buenos Ayres.

Falmouth.—October 14: The Vixen, for Bermuda.

Clyde.—October 11: The Lucerne, for Valparaiso.—October 13: The Helen Denny (steamer), for Bermuda.

Troon.—October 13: The Syracuse, for Demerara. The Realm, for Havana.—October 14: The Emperor, for Demerara.

Limerick.—October 9: The Colonist, for St. John's, N.B.

Cadiz.—October 5: The Indus, for Bermuda.

Havana.—September 23: The Denbigh (steamer), for Bermuda. The Susana (steamer), for Nassau.

Bermuda.—September 2: The Wild Rover (steamer), for Nassau, N.P.—September 3: The Lynx (steamer), for Nassau, N.P.—September 10: The Alma, The Electric, for Queenstown.—September 13: The Tartar, for London.—September 15: The Claudia, for London.—September 19: The Glengarry, The Ceylon, for Liverpool. The Hope, for London.—September 21: The Peony, for Queenstown.

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Bahia.—September 11: The Saudade, for Falmouth.—September 12: The Palme, for New York.—September 13: The Princess, for Falmouth.—September 14: The Heinrich, for Falmouth. The John Mayall, for Liverpool.—September 16: The Floating Cloud, for Falmouth.—September 17: The Pfeil, for Hamburg.—September 21: The Esperanza, for Falmouth.—September 22: The Constantia, for Falmouth.—September 23: The West India, for Falmouth.—September 24: The Annie Laurie, for Falmouth. The Callao, for Reunion.—September 25: The Vestal, for Havana.

Ships Loading.

At London.—For Bermuda: The Jane Smith, The Koh-i-noor, The Western Star. For Demerara: The Early Bird, The Hero, The Emerald Isle, The Sir Colin Campbell, The Enthusiast, The Elizabeth, The Guiding Star, The Morning Light. For Halifax, N.S.: The Young Nova Scotian. For Nassau (N.P.): The Merchant: Davison Brothers & Co. The Claravine, J. Worley. For Montevideo and Buenos Ayres: The Gustave and Marie; Davison Brothers & Co., St. Katharine's Docks. The Lancastria, The Louise Alwardt. For New York: The Liverpool, The George Otto, The Hudson. For Callao: The Star of the Sea. For Havana: The Anunciacion.

At Liverpool.—For Bermuda: The Bat (steamer), The Driving Mist, The Madona, The William Sinclair. For Matamoras: The St. George, The Geertina, The Euterpe, *viâ* Bordeaux. The Rosina Claypole, The Clara Manning, The Esther, The Ocean Belle. For Nassau (N.P.): The Sovereign, The Aid, The Sarah Prinsep, The Julie. For St. Thomas: The Canondah, The Catharinda, The Adelgunde. For Demerara: The Briarley, The Grace Darling, The Achilles *viâ* Troon.

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The Situation of the South.
Notes on Events of the Week at Home and Abroad.
Letter from New York.
Cortina and the Federal Government.
A Resemblance and a Contrast.
How Subjugation Proceeds.
The War.
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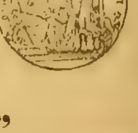

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AMERICA.

THE most significant feature in the news brought by the *Asia* is an omission. Is Mr. Stanton sick? Has he turned traitor to his party? After for many weeks manufacturing victories with singular boldness and rapidity, the supply stops at the most critical juncture. We have an important budget of news, but we look in vain for a Federal triumph. A mail goes out to Europe, and Mr. Stanton's pen does not kill fifty thousand Confederates and win a great battle. Perhaps Mr. Lincoln has bidden the invincible Stanton to rest upon his laurels, deeming the discomfiture of his political rival certain, or because he is resolved, if the people are so disloyal as to put him in a minority, that he will throw the sword into the scale, and so continue to reign. But there is another reason for the remarkable omission. The military situation is awkward. Mr. Stanton could not invent a victory without the most stupid dupe in the country seeing that it was a bogus victory. It was manifest, for example, that Grant was 'advancing by his rear,' and under such circumstances the most fervid 'loyalty' could hardly believe that Grant was advancing on Richmond. However, the election is at hand, but not yet over, and before the event is decided we doubt not that Mr. Stanton will add a score or two to the thousand and one victories already gained by his terrific pen.

ON the 7th inst. a battle took place on the Charles City Road, which resulted in the capture of all the positions held by the Federals between that point and the Newmarket Road. The Confederates took 500 prisoners, 300 horses, and drove the enemy within the works of Fort Harrison. The loss of the Confederates was small, but we regret to add that it included General Gregg, who died at the head of the Texas brigade, which he led into action.

Sheridan has retired to Strasburg. A letter in the *New York Daily News* says that his losses were so heavy, and his position so serious, as to cause General Grant to return to Harper's Ferry. Sheridan's military failure will not be compensated for by the burning of mills, barns, and farming implements.

General Burbidge admits that he was defeated at Saltville with heavy loss, and had to retreat precipitately. Altogether the news from the Old Dominion is highly favourable to the Confederates.

General Sherman reports that the Confederates have captured the garrisons at Big Shanty and Ackworth, and held some miles of the railroad. Later intelligence informs us that the Confederates have captured Dalton. On the 8th inst. Sherman writes, 'I am watching him (Hood) in case he tries to reach Kingston or Rome.' The Southern papers report that Rome has been taken. Sherman says that he has abundance of provisions at Atlanta, and it is fortunate for him, for his communications are interrupted. He observes, 'Atlanta is perfectly secure to us, and the army is better off than in camp.' Likely enough the army is safer in inactivity; but to remain inactive is not to pursue the work of conquest. It is not very promising when an invading army is on the defensive.

General Price, having for a few days been before Jefferson City, is moving northward destroying bridges of the Pacific railroad. General Forrest is said to be 'escaping across the Tennessee River,' which means that he is successfully carrying out his campaign, and that the Federals have no effective force to oppose to him. An attempt to dispute the passage of the Tennessee River resulted in the defeat of the Federals, with the loss of their transports and all their artillery. Unless there is a sudden change in the fortune of the war, Mr. Lincoln will not go to the polls with a halo of victory.

AFTER being long disabled by his wounds, General Longstreet is in the field. He is in command of the troops lately under General Early. The last-named gallant officer is not replaced from any dissatisfaction with his conduct, and will not have much breathing-time from active service.

GENERAL BEAUREGARD has been appointed to the command of the Department of Tennessee and Georgia, and the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana. Generals Hood and Taylor will retain the command of their respective armies, though, as the Department commander and ranking officer, General Beauregard will repair to any part of his command at will where he deems his presence necessary. It has not transpired where General Beauregard will fix his headquarters.

THE Federal General Sheridan, with characteristic effrontery, boasts that in his recent retreat to Strasburg he devastated a wide region lying between the Blue Ridge and the North Mountains of Virginia, destroying two thousand barns and seventy mills, with a vast quantity of hay, farming implements, meal and flour. Such energy in destruction will call forth the cordial approval of his Government and endear him to the heart of the Yankee people. That it is not legitimate warfare—that any European general who should have committed such an outrage would have been branded as an enemy of the human race—is of no consequence to them. They will say as the French said at Balaklava, *Ce n'est pas la guerre, mais c'est magnifique!* It is not every general that can work a famine over a hundred square miles of territory. But General Sheridan did more. He burned down every human habitation within a radius of five miles of the spot where a subordinate officer of his command—one who had been shot by the Confederates for participation in the devastation of the mills and barns—met his just doom. The work of Southern conquest goes *bravely* on indeed, and the unhappy people of the ruined district, whose dwellings have been burnt over their heads, will, of course, hereafter become excellent citizens of the restored Union. Let Sheridan have his due measure of credit for 'reconstructing' by demolition, and inspiring love for the Union by fire and sword.

THE death of Roger B. Taney, Chief Justice of the United States, which occurred at Washington on the night of the 12th instant, is an event which would have produced a profound impression in the days of the old Union, but which will be received with indifference now by the mass of the people. To the Government it will give satisfaction, for by so well-timed a departure the Chief Justice has afforded President Lincoln the opportunity of appointing his successor. Judge Taney belonged, indeed, to the purer and better age of the Republic. To much learning he added a rare equanimity of temper, and his courtesy and dignity on the bench were not more remarkable than the fearlessness with which he uttered and the firmness with which he maintained his opinions. To no one would the *justum et tenacem propositi virum* more fitly apply than to this venerable man, who was unawed by popular clamour, and unseduced by executive patronage. His decision in the Dred-Scott case and his more recent dictum in upholding the rights of the citizen against military despotism in Baltimore, rendered him the subject of obloquy and hatred in the North, and his last days were saddened by the mournful spectacle of liberty overthrown and law outraged by a reckless dominant faction. But his name will live in association with that of John Marshall, whose ermine he wore so purely and so well. Chief Justice Taney had attained the advanced age of ninety-four. He lived and died in the tenets of the Roman Catholic faith.

The accession of a Black Republican to the bench of the Supreme Court *vice* the late Chief Justice, will make that high tribunal the mere servant for recording the foreordained *fiat* of a party in any case involving the rights of the States. And all who think the Southern people could have committed their liberties safely to the arbitration of such a tribunal will now see how worse than futile would have been the hope of having the balance evenly held in matters that were as near to them as life itself. The Supreme Court was a mockery of justice in all sectional disputes, and must ever have been so by reason of the very nature of its organisation and the mode of appointment of its members.

ANOTHER remarkable letter is published in the American papers from Francis P. Blair, bearing date at Silver Spring, October 5, 1864, which permits us to see something of what is going on behind the scenes in the intrigues of the Presidential campaign. This letter was not captured by Confederate cavalry, but is given to the public by Mr. Blair himself, to set Mr. Lincoln right on the question of his having offered a command to General M'Clellan if that gentleman would but withdraw his claims as a candidate for the Presidency. Mr. Blair tells us that he went to New York as a self-appointed commissioner in the interests of harmony among the friends of the Union, just as Kirk, *alias* Gilmore, and the melancholy Jacques went to Richmond on the blessed errand of peace, and, like Kirk and Jacques, he had no authority to speak for Mr. Lincoln at all. Oh, no! The President had no knowledge whatever that he had left Silver Spring, and what he said to the New York editors and politicians was wholly on his own personal responsibility. Some tender interviews he held with the amiable Bryant, the philosophic Greeley, and the incorruptible Bennett, and with General M'Clellan he had the pleasure of a long and free conversation, in which he certainly gave the General to understand that if he would resign all aspirations for the Presidency, and write to the President asking a command, that command would be given him. General M'Clellan promised to ponder the propositions of Blair, but pleaded the domestic trouble of a sick child in the country as a probable bar to a second interview. Mr. Blair returned to Washington and made known to President Lincoln the results of his mission, who received them kindly and courteously, but without indicating approval or disapprobation. It seems clear enough that Blair did not make this offer to M'Clellan without an assurance from some quarter that it would have been ratified at Washington in case it was accepted; but M'Clellan was astute enough to decline. That's all.

WE give in another column the address recently issued to the people of the United States by the Democratic Central Committee, as a part of the political history of the times. The address is signed by the Hon. Auguste Belmont, a gentleman of very high consideration in the councils of his party, and well-known as having filled the important position of Minister Plenipotentiary at the Hague during the Administration of President Buchanan. The Central Committee speaks for the whole party, and this address commands, therefore, a larger degree of attention than would the speech or letter of any individual Democrat, however distinguished he might be.

THE council of war recently convened at New Orleans for the examination of the Confederate General Page, charged with destroying the works, armament, and munitions of Fort Morgan after he had surrendered, has acquitted him. The findings of the council were approved by General Canby. The council reported the facts in the case to be, that the white flag was hoisted on the glacis of Fort Morgan about the hour of six o'clock on the morning of the 23rd of August last; that no public property was destroyed after that time; that the spare gun carriages were destroyed by chopping and sawing several days before the surrender.

THE elections recently held in Ohio, Indiana, and Pennsylvania, would seem to indicate the triumph of the Republican party, though both sides claim to have gained the advantage, and further returns are needed to settle the matter beyond dispute. In Pennslyvania, it is said that the Republicans prevailed by a very small majority in the home vote, which it was expected would be swelled to 15,000 by the vote of the army.

THE value of greenbacks has rapidly decreased. On the 13th the price of gold at New York was 209. We need hardly remark that these violent fluctuations must completely disorganise business.

ENGLAND.

THREE men of some note in the political world have addressed their constituents on foreign and domestic politics during the past week. We have elsewhere commented on their orations. In this place it will be sufficient to quote such portion of their speeches as had relation to the American war.

Lord Stanley, M.P. for King's Lynn, said on that subject:—'Neither party, as I believe, is half beaten yet; and considering the determination which the North has shown, I think it likely, as I did three years ago, that with its enormous superiority of force it will occupy and overrun in the end the whole territory of the South. The North may succeed so far as to gratify its feeling of revenge and its desire for supremacy; but when it has done that its political difficulties will begin. I cannot realise the manner in which a Republican community of 20,000,000 is to hold, consistently with its own principles of government, or, indeed, with any principles of government, another community of 6,000,000 or 7,000,000 utterly disaffected to its rule. That is the real perplexity of the American future. As to the drain of men and money, I do not attach much weight to it. The overflow of Europe will fill up all gaps in the population, and although I should be myself equally sorry to be a creditor either of the North or of the South, yet a country with the gigantic natural resources of America cannot be permanently ruined. All we can do, all we ought to do, is to let them fight it out.

Mr. Bernal Osborne, M.P. for Liskeard, said:—'I say, that we have pursued a right course towards America, and that we have no business to interfere. That war was to be lamented for the sake of our common humanity; but at the same time as Englishmen we cannot help remembering that those people, upon both sides, who are showing this indomitable perseverance, and making this stupendous struggle—that those people are descended from ourselves. We must feel pride in that. The reason they have to fight is great; for if the Southern States are separated from the North the greatness of America is set for ever. Therefore it is a great struggle; I can fully understand it; I can fully enter into it; but I can give no opinion as to the result. Looking at it as a sensible man—looking at all the circumstances, I cannot help thinking that, however long the contest may be, it must be like that of two gladiators in the arena, with whom, science being equal, weight will tell, and I believe the North will eventually make a solitude and call it peace. It is not for us to vindicate either party; it is for us to stand by and be as little offensive to either as we are capable of being.'

The Solicitor-General (Sir R. P. Collier, M.P. for Plymouth) addressed himself at considerable length to the policy of neutrality adopted by the Government. He eulogised the conduct of the Northern prize courts, and said that no great cause of complaint against them existed. But he thought that the number of Irish emigrants entrapped into the military service of the Northern States 'by means employed no doubt merely by subordinate officers, he did not say by the responsible officials of the American Government,' furnished matter of complaint. He justified the course pursued by Her Majesty's Government in the prosecution of the *Alexandra* and the detention of the steam rams; and he quoted Mr. Baring as an authority for the assertion that the Foreign Enlistment Act and such seizures under it did not press hardly on traders. He repudiated with indignant scorn the pretence that the trading classes of this country were fairly represented by a few contraband traders, whose interest was directly opposed to the interests of the great mass of the community, and whose gain was in the loss and calamity of their country. He did not propose to speak on the general question of the American war. As to its future he would not attempt to prophesy. It was very easy to utter a prophecy, and it was impossible to contradict it at the time, but events might contradict it in the future. He would do no more, therefore, than express the hope which he most fervently entertained, that out of this horrible strife, out of this immense amount of evil and suffering, almost unparalleled in the history of the world, God in his own time would educe that great good—the abolition of slavery.

THE colliers' strike in South Staffordshire, after the temporary lull mentioned last week, has broken out with renewed fury. On the Monday and Tuesday following the meeting at which the committee abnegated its functions, nearly the whole of the pits in the Bilston district were at work. The Tipton and Dudley districts, to some extent, followed this example. However, on Wednesday matters took a different turn; a large party of men assembled before daybreak with drums and bands, and marched through Deepfields and Tipton on their way to Bilston. The superintendent of the county constabulary, accompanied by a force of policemen, followed them, and barred their road whenever they attempted to diverge towards the pits. On the next day the demonstration assumed a more threatening aspect. Three large bodies of men, all armed with sticks, and marshalled in order with the precision of soldiers, marched to Earl Dudley's pit, on the Dudley and Tipton road, with the determination of driving the working colliers out of those mines. At the point where the road to the pit joined the main road, Major M'Knight, the deputy chief constable, with twenty-five policemen, confronted them. The colliers raised a furious shout and charged. The small body of police drew their cutlasses, and after a short *mêlée* repulsed the colliers, capturing 19 men, who were at once conveyed to Bilston and locked up. Later in the day intelligence was brought that 6,000 colliers from Tipton, armed with sticks, were marching to a meeting at Dudley. The 19 captured colliers were brought up before the magistrates, and remanded for a week. On the same day the Lord Lieutenant of the county, the Earl of Lichfield, sent to Birmingham for 80 Lancers. During the two following days the Lancers rode through the district to show that the military force was ready for any emergency. A meeting of no less than 15,000 persons has been held at Tipton, at which speeches of an excited character were delivered. A vote of censure was passed on the police for their violence, and a strong determination to 'stand out' was expressed. It was also resolved to employ counsel to defend the 19 prisoners.

M. LEPROVOST is intent on rescuing our bodies and saving our feelings from railway outrages. He has invented a carriage which differs from the present style of English railway carriages in the single particular that a longitudinal passage runs from one end of the train to the other. Along this passage an official can parade at ease, ready to render assistance in all emergencies. Persons seated in one compartment can neither see nor be seen by those seated in the adjoining compartment. He has therefore attempted to frame an article which, while permitting the English or French traveller to enjoy solitude, will save him from the violence of a mad or a murderous companion. M. Leprovost is scarcely ingenious, and he is assuredly not admirable. Perhaps he imagined that a close resemblance between the railway carriage and the police van would raise such unpleasant associations in the mind of a 'ticket-of-leave' traveller as to deter him from criminal enterprise. Switzerland, or, for the matter of that, the Great Eastern Railway in this country, can furnish designs more worthy of imitation than the marvellous contrivance of M. Leprovost.

ACCORDING to the returns of the Board of Trade it appears that, in the year 1863, the number of passengers killed on the railways in the United Kingdom was 35, and the number wounded was 401. Of the former list no less than 21 were killed by accidents arising from their own misconduct or want of caution. Of the remaining 14 deaths, 7 were caused by a heifer which had strayed on the line, and which almost succeeded in refuting the *dictum* of George Stephenson. Inasmuch as 64,391 season-ticket holders and 204,635,075 ordinary passengers were conveyed, it follows that only 1 out of 14,615,362 was killed by causes beyond the control of the individual; while the injured from similar causes were as 1 in 511,587. The total number of passenger trains was 2,917,660, and therefore a death occurred in 1 passenger train out of 486,276, and an injury in 1 train out of 59,544. To take another calculation, we may suppose all the trains to pass one spot at an interval of one minute. In such case, 337 days and nights would elapse before one of the six trains in which fatal accidents beyond the control of the killed persons came up, and 41 days and nights would elapse before a train destined to cause an injury beyond the control of the injured came up. Indeed, the mere fact of travelling on a railway is conducive to the preservation of life. For lightning killed 18 people in England and Wales alone, while, exclusive of suicidal acts, 2,463 persons were drowned, 1,219 suffocated, 216 poisoned, 111 shot, and 5,397 killed by fractures and contusions in one year. But the worst yet remains to be told. The streets of London kill at a frightful rate. No less than 25 persons were killed in the last 21 days of September 1863, and September is a month in which the traffic is comparatively slight. Even at this rate, which is a bad rate for obtaining a correct sum, 433 persons would be killed by street accidents in one year—that is, more than 31 times as many as were killed by railway accidents 'beyond control.'

SOME weeks since an application was made to Her Majesty's Government requesting permission to ship forty tons of coal on board the Federal ship *Sacramento* at Dover. In reply, Earl Russell informed the United States Minister that as it appeared that this vessel had been furnished with eighty-seven and a half tons of coal at Cork on July 29, and with a further supply of twenty-five tons at Plymouth on August 17, Her Majesty's Government could not permit the *Sacramento* to be again coaled at any port in the United Kingdom until the expiration of three months from the last date. The Commissioners of Customs have issued a circular to the outports, calling attention to the case of a supply of coal to a Federal steamer under an evasion of the law. The cargo was shipped on board a vessel at a British port without due clearance by the proper officers of customs, and the cargo was received out at sea on board a Federal ship-of-war.

THE sporting world has witnessed the last great two-year-old race and the last great handicap of the year, and nothing now remains for speculation or entertainment but to watch the efforts of shrewd owners to make a few hundred pounds to keep things going during the idleness of winter. On Monday last, in addition to the spectacle of a disastrous defeat of Mr. R. Ten Broeck's Paris by General Peel in a match for 500*l.*, there was the excitement of the Criterion Stakes. This race, with sixty-three subscribers of 30*l.* each, is run over a course of 5 furlongs and 182 yards, and the running ground, occupying that portion of the heath which lies nearest to the town of Newmarket, is stretched on a decided incline. Fifteen animals came to the post, and Lord Westmoreland's Brahma was made the favourite at 2 to 1. The odds of 3 to 1 were betted against the pair of Count F. de Lagrange, Le Mandarin and Gladiateur, 6 to 1 against the Duke of Beaufort's Koenig, 8 to 1 against the Duc de Morny's Monitor, and 10 to 1 against Mr. Naylor's Chattanooga. In the event the race was left to Chattanooga, Brahma, and Monitor, who drew away entirely from the ruck, Chattanooga winning by two lengths, and Brahma defeating Monitor by the like distance for second place. Chattanooga is the son of the veteran Orlando and Ayacanora. The latter mare is the daughter of the famous Pocahontas, and therefore sister to Stockwell, Rataplan, and King Tom. Indeed, now-a-days the record of racing is but a history of the triumphs of the descendants of Pocahontas. On the following day the Cambridgeshire Stakes attracted enormous crowds of visitors to Newmarket Heath. This race is a handicap sweepstakes of 25*l.* each with 100*l.* added. Horses struck out immediately after the publication of the weights are only mulcted in a penalty of 5*l.* Eighty nominations availed themselves of this right, forty-nine animals came to the post, and the remainder paid 10*l.* forfeit. The original number of subscribers was 221. The course, a distance of one mile and 240 yards, is, from the nature of the ground, unrivalled for severity, and the last five furlongs are those which constitute the Criterion course. The position of Mr. W. Robinson's Gratitude in the Cesarewitch race, where she only succumbed by a head to Lord Coventry's mare, had directed universal attention to her chances, but on the morning of the race Lord Wilton's Stockinger was made favourite at 100 to 30; the odds of 5 to 1 were laid against Gratitude; 6 to 1 against Lord Stamford's Brick, who, as a three-year-old, promised marvels of success, but was debarred from fulfilment or failure by an accident; 100 to 8 against Lord Strathmore's Saccharometer, the handsome son of Sweetmeat, whose fortune in early youth gave promise of greater deeds in mature age; 100 to 8 likewise against a colt by Daniel O'Rourke, out of Highflyer's dam; 100 to 7 against Ackworth; and 100 to 1 against Baron Rothschild's famous mare Tomato. One hour was consumed in vain efforts to effect a start of forty-nine horses all eager to secure a good place in a short and scrambling contest; but at length the patience of the public was rewarded by the fall of the flag to an admirable advance. At a quarter of a mile from home Gratitude appeared in front, with Ackworth, Tomato, and the Highflyer colt in close company. At the cords Gratitude resigned the contest; Ackworth and Tomato joined in single combat, and after a most splendid struggle the Baron's mare succumbed to Ackworth by a head; the Highflyer colt was beaten by three lengths, Columbia was fourth, and Gratitude fifth. The favourite Stockinger was nowhere, and Brick ran only half a mile. Ackworth, who was sold a fortnight since by Mr. Harry Hill to the Marquis of Hastings, after running into the third place for the Cesarewitch stakes, is the son of Lord Derby's Fazzoletto and Consternation. It is said that Lord Hastings has won 30,000*l.* on the race.

THE November session of the Central Criminal Court was commenced on Monday last. The Recorder of London, Russell Gurney, Esq., in charging the Grand Jury, recapitulated the substance of the depositions against Franz Müller on the charge of murdering Mr. Briggs.

The trial of Müller is to take place this day.

The counsel for the Crown are the Solicitor-General, Mr. Serjeant Ballantine, Mr. Hannen, Mr. Giffard, and Mr. Beasley. The counsel for the prisoner are Mr. Serjeant Parry, Mr. Metcalfe, and Mr. Besley.

The Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer is the presiding Judge.

INDIA.

There is no doubt that Afzul Khan is a prisoner in the hands of his brother the Ameer; and it is affirmed that the former is in irons in the Fort of Tasharghur.

It is now stated that Sir Charles Trevelyan will not resign his office of Finance Minister.

A new bishopric is to be established, with its seat at Lahore.

The Bombay Legislative Council has passed a Bill for the suppression of time bargains.

AUSTRALIA.

The colony of Victoria has exported 919,341 ounces of gold during the first six months of the present year. This sum must be diminished by the subtraction of the product of the New Zealand mines, and increased by the added quantity of deposits in the Treasury and the banks during the same period, namely, 1,133 ounces. The net yield of the Victorian gold-fields was therefore 759,461 ounces. The average number of miners in the half-year was 83,175, of whom 60,067 were Europeans and 23,108 were Chinese. If then the value of the gold be taken at 4*l.* per ounce, the average weekly earnings of each man will be 1*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* As compared with the first six months of 1863, there is a falling off in the yield, owing to the diminished number of hands, but an increase in the earnings per man. In the first six months of that year the number of miners was 92,292, and the total yield 1,578,079 ounces.

NEW ZEALAND.

The published despatches of Lieutenant-General Cameron furnish additional particulars with reference to the submission of the Tauranga tribe. No operations were undertaken against the natives subsequently to June 7. On July 25, 133 natives of Tauranga, including some chiefs of rank, delivered up their arms to Colonel Greer, commanding in that district, and signed a declaration of allegiance to the Queen, leaving their lands at the disposal of the Governor. A request was further made that Sir George Grey, the Governor, would meet the natives at Tauranga to arrange the terms of submission; and it was expected that W. Thompson and other chiefs would be present, but it was not to be hoped that all the tribes would give in their adhesion to pacific measures. The Governor has issued an address to the natives, the style and manner of which are sufficiently curious to merit quotation:—

Sir George Grey's Address to the Hostile Natives of Tauranga on August 6, 1864.

At present I am not acquainted with the boundaries or extent of your lands, or with the claims of individuals or tribes. What I shall therefore do is this. I shall order that settlements shall at once be assigned to you as far as possible in such localities as you may select, which shall be secured by Crown grants to yourselves and your children. When this has been done and the boundaries of your lands have been ascertained, I will inform you in what manner the residue of your lands will be dealt with; but as it is right in some measure to mark our sense of the honourable manner in which you conducted hostilities, neither robbing nor murdering, but respecting the wounded, I promise you that in the ultimate settlement of your lands the amount taken shall not exceed one-fourth of the whole land. And in order that you may, without delay, again

be placed in a position which will enable you to maintain yourselves, as soon as your future location has been decided seed potatoes and the means of settling on your lands will be given you.

I now speak to the friendly natives. I thank you warmly for your good conduct under circumstances of great difficulty. I will consider in what manner you shall be rewarded for your fidelity. In the meantime, in any arrangements which may be made about the lands of your tribe, your rights will be scrupulously respected.

(Signed) G. Grey.

Tauranga, August 6, 1864.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The Governor has stated that the Home Government will shortly decide whether Caffraria shall be incorporated with the Cape Colony. The difficulties to be encountered in the execution of the project are the persuading the Caffrarians that union with the Cape Colonists would be to their own advantage; the redistribution of the franchise in such a manner as at once to represent the Kaffrarians and to secure the influence of the midland and western districts, and further the means of defending the frontier; and the civilisation of the savage tribes beyond the border. The natives, at the latest advices, had shown no disposition to rise, and the commander of the forces was at Grahamstown. A rich harvest was expected, trade was good, money plentiful, and provisions cheap.

THE CONTINENT.

FRANCE.

The Czar and Czarina of Russia left Darmstadt on the 18th inst. to proceed to Nice, where Her Majesty intends to pass the winter. They were welcomed on their arrival in French territory at Mulhouse by General Fleury, aide-de-camp to the Emperor of the French. They arrived at Marseilles on the 21st, and passed the night in that city; they did not, however, stay to examine the magnificent works of the new port, which might excite the envy of the greatest monarch in the universe, but left early on the morning of the following day. They were received with all due honours at Nice by the French authorities and the Russian visitors. Their Majesties are of course travelling under the strictest *incognito*: the Czar being anonymous, and the Czarina bearing the title of Countess Borodinska. A Russian frigate is on its way to Civita Vecchia to take the Crown Prince of Russia to Nice after his visit to Rome. Nothing seems to be clearly known as to the future movements of the Emperor of France. Report says that he will shortly pay a visit to Nice, and that the Czar will go to Compiegne on his way back to St. Petersburg.

Quite a panic has been created among the holders of certain French stock by a rumour that the Treasury were preparing to sell up all the certificates of the last loan, the payments on which were in arrears. To this it was added that a serious diminution of bullion had taken place during the last week in the Bank of France, to the extent of about 15,000,000 francs; and lastly, that the Government were intending to put out a fresh loan. The effect of these reports was so mischievous that all the official and semi-official organs were obliged to contradict all three points categorically. They said, with regard to the first, that the arrears in the instalments of the last loan were too insignificant to require such a measure; as to the second, that, so far from a diminution, there was a slight increase in the bank stock; and as to the third, they denied it positively.

The Franco-Italian Convention being practically done with for the present, the papers have begun to discuss the revived question of a Congress, building their hypotheses upon a letter which the Emperor is supposed to have written to M. Rouher on that subject. It is said that this communication urges the expediency of assembling a Congress for the sake of adjusting existing differences, and arriving at a pacific solution of the present serious difficulties. The general reduction of European armaments is also advocated. It does not yet appear that any more practical details of the proposed Congress have been suggested, and until that is done the idea is of the most barren description. A Congress in the abstract may be a very beautiful object, but a Congress of statesmen assembled without anything definite to talk about verges on the ridiculous.

The Convention will be discussed both in the French Senate and in the Chamber. It will be supported in the former by the Cardinal Archbishop of Paris, in his maiden speech; in the latter by M. Jules Favre, the great lawyer of the Opposition. It will be curious to see how far the arguments of the Churchman and the Liberal will refute each other while directed towards the same object.

The statue representing the town of Lille on the Place de la Concorde has been mutilated by an individual of whom it is only charitable to suspect that he is insane. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon, in the midst of the bustle and traffic of the day, he was seen to clamber up the pedestal with great activity, snatch the heavy iron sword from the hand of the statue, and smash with vigorous blows the face of the figure; then, after breaking one of the arms and a foot, he demolished at one blow the mural crown with which the head is adorned. The crowd around then succeeded in stopping his fury; he broke through them, and attempted to escape by flight, but was caught by a sergent-de-ville, and lodged in durance vile.

Never was the plea of extenuating circumstances, for the abuse of which so many a sneer has been directed against French justice, so evidently applicable as in the awful crime which we are about to relate. Two young people were walking along the high road on a fine evening in autumn, the girl leaning on the arm of her swain and listening to the unconscious poetry of his conversation. Their course took them by the side of a lovely garden, in which they could see the roses in full bloom. 'What exquisite roses! and how I should like one of them!' was the natural expression of feminine wonder and acquisitiveness. The enamoured youth without a word climbed the wall, leaped down into the garden, and with open knife was preparing to attack the devoted flowers when, enter the watchman, who collars the lover, and drags him off to justice, leaving the lady, like the Peri at the gate, all weeping and disconsolate. The luckless swain was accused of robbery in the night-time, accompanied by forcible entrance over a wall into an inhabited house close to the high road, while the open knife was produced to prove premeditated violence. Every point required by the Code Pénal to form the gravest offence known short of murder was amply proved; the penalty is penal servitude for life. We await with anxiety the result of the trial.

A measure is now in the course of preparation to provide against the gradual destruction of land on the slopes of the Alps. The evil against which it is directed ill illustrates curiously the effect of the inconsiderate and short-sighted progress of civilisation. These slopes have been from time immemorial pasture-lands, of no very great value, but still sufficient from their size to support very large flocks and herds. As the modern ideas of agriculture gained ground, the pastures were turned into arable land, and thoroughly ploughed up. Then came some of those torrents of rain for which the slopes of mountains are proverbial, and lo! the land loosened by the plough, and kneaded by the rain into one immense and slippery mass, glided quietly off the rock on which it rested into the plain below, leaving the proprietor to get what crops he could from the bare stone. This phenomenon was early observed; steps were taken to check the practice of ploughing the slopes in the year 1669, and the salutary measures remained in force till 1791. In that year all such legislative restrictions were abolished as so many fetters on the liberty of the subject. The evil reappeared with all its accompanying miseries. Not only was the higher land absolutely destroyed, but the plains also suffered from the unwelcome acquisition of a new layer of soil, the cattle diminished for want of pasture, and the inhabitants died or were forced to emigrate through famine. It is now absolutely necessary to revise the laws of 1669 framed by the great Colbert. The whole of the mountain slopes are to be put under forest law; it will be forbidden to cut wood there except under certain restrictions, and even the cattle are to be kept off them until a new soil is completely formed. When a strong growth of trees and underwood has bound the land well together, sheep will be admitted into the steeper pastures, and heavier cattle into those where their weight will be of less risk. The one animal which will be completely excluded is the goat: this creature is so destructive both to woodland and pasture, in consequence of its fatal predilection for the bark of trees and its habit of uprooting every plant of grass the blades of which it nibbles, that it has long been forbidden in the forest. Even now in many parts of Switzerland the number of goats in a community is limited to one to each person, and even then must be led out to pasture with a cord.

The French are a military people with a vengeance. A private in the 16th Foot has been condemned to death for the following crime. He was on duty in the guard-room at Dieppe on August 15, the fête day of the Emperor, on which occasion double rations are served out to the soldiers. Not content with these, however, he and his comrades subscribed and sent for some more cognac to drink His Majesty's health. When the turn of Julien Guyonnet came to go on sentry duty, he was a little elevated; however, he took his firelock and went. A quarter of an hour had not elapsed before he appeared again, and on being ordered by the corporal to return to his duty, he laughed and declined, saying that on that day the Emperor wished all his soldiers to enjoy themselves. Of course such insubordination was not to be endured. The corporal repeated his order, but was answered by insult. At last the drunken man became violent, and attacked his superior officer; it was then necessary to carry him off and put him in irons. He was brought before a court-martial at Rouen, who, after hearing the evidence, found him guilty, and condemned him to *death*: nothing less would satisfy the offended majesty of military discipline. The sentence has been confirmed by the Superior Council, and now nothing stands between the wretched toper and his fate but the possible clemency of the Minister of War.

The following statistics will be interesting with regard to the supply of cotton from Egypt to the great markets of Europe. During the past eight months the amounts exported have been as follows:—

	lbs.	Value
To England . .	94,700,635	. . £10,192,905
To France . .	22,224,168	. . 1,874,085

making the value of the united exports for the whole year about 15,000,000*l.* The corresponding imports of coin into Egypt in payment for this amount have been:—

	£
Gold from France	1,538,236
Gold from England	1,521,973
Silver from England . . .	4,552,527
Total . . .	7,612,736

leaving a balance in favour of Egypt of the value of 4,454,254*l.*, which, however, is pretty well accounted for by an estimated excess of 1,000,000*l.* in the imports of coin during the first eight months of last year over the exports of cotton. Three years only have been required for Egypt, with a population of 3,350,000 inhabitants, to grow this amount of cotton, which is nearly equal to that furnished to England by India and Brazil in 1856. It is remarkable that $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Egyptian cotton is grown by the fellahs, or peasant proprietors, although there are some very large landholders in the country. The French journals dilate upon the growing figures of the Egyptian trade with rapture, and prophesy of the day when Marseilles will be the Liverpool of the East.

Motives of policy on the one hand, and of courtesy on the other, make it advisable that no disrespectful expressions should be used of Austria or Russia, and the *Charivari*, not being likely to find this out by its own sense of right, has been privately admonished on the subject. Apparently the same favour was not shown to another comic paper, the *Nain Jaune*, which appeared on Saturday with its first page unbelieved by print, except the heading of an article '*On allemande?*' and the signature of the writer. It has been officially communicated that the suppression of the article has not any political significance, but the statement is supposed to be rather jesuitically worded.

ITALY.

The Chamber of Deputies was reopened on the 24th inst., under the presidency of S. Cassini. The new Ministry were in their places, and the members of the former Administration were also present. General della Marmora laid the Franco-Italian Convention on the table, together with the diplomatic correspondence connected therewith. In presenting it to the Chamber, he said that the sanction of it was a political necessity, and its benefits immensely superior to its inconveniences. He considered that the transfer of the capital was the preparation of a satisfactory solution of the Roman question, and any sacrifices which it involved were called for in the name of the national dignity, independence, and unity. From the correspondence laid on the table it appears that the Italian negotiators declared that the Convention simply and only undertakes on behalf of Italy that she shall renounce all violent measures against the Papal States. Signor Lanza brought forward a bill for the transfer of the capital to Florence, and requested that it might be declared urgent. The bill fixes the credit required to meet the expenses of the transfer at 7,000,000 fr. During the day of the reopening of the Chamber, the town was perfectly quiet, in spite of the many anonymous threats of disturbance which had been circulated. Arrangements had been made for calling out the national guard in case of need. This was done as a special compliment to the citizens of Turin, who thanked the Minister of the Interior for his confidence by the mouth of their syndic Signor di Rora. A committee of nine members of the House has been appointed to enquire into the causes and nature of the sanguinary disturbances which took place in Turin on the 21st and 22nd ult. A report has been published on this subject by the municipal junta of Turin, which inculpates the 'guards of public security' in the highest degree. There is no doubt of the excesses committed by that body, which has been disbanded in consequence; but the extent of provocation given to them by the people remains yet to be ascertained. By an official report of the casualties in the two days' riots, it appears that there were 52 killed, and 187 wounded now in the hospitals, but it is said that a great number of the wounded were taken to their own homes, and therefore have not been counted. Of the killed five only were Turinese, and of the wounded 85; this confirms the belief that the excesses were mainly due to the presence of agitators from the neighbouring provinces.

The report of disarmament in Italy has been negatived by the *Italia Militare*, which asserts that, whatever economical measures may be carried out, the strength of the army is not to be diminished; the soldiers on furlough are capable of recall in a few days upon any emergency.

On the 16th inst., a band of forty refugees from the South of the Tyrol, dressed in Garibaldian blouses, and carrying a tricoloured flag, appeared in the province of Udine within the Government of Venetia. They were commanded by an ex-captain of Garibaldi's army. They attacked and plundered the barracks of the gendarmes in Spilembergo and Maniago, and took possession of the treasury of the tax-collectors in those townships, leaving a formal receipt in its place. They were preparing to advance further into the country when they heard of the approach of Austrian troops, and dispersed in consequence. The inhabitants showed no willingness to join them. Some arrests have been effected, and the frontiers are strictly watched.

This week has been very fertile in *on dits* with regard to the royal family of Italy. In the first place, we are told by the *Opinion Nationale* that the King was subjected to a brutal attack while on the way from Mandria to Turin, but the informant goes into no details on the matter. Again, in political *canards*, we have one which is a *rechauffée* of an old story, that Victor Emmanuel is only awaiting the successful accomplishment of the transfer of the Government to Florence to abdicate the throne in favour of his son. This has been positively and circumstantially contradicted. Lastly, with regard to the said Prince Humbert, who has been wife-hunting lately without any great success, it is said that a marriage is proposed between him and an Archduchess of Austria, who will bring him Venice as her dowry. It is to be feared that this news is too good to be true; besides, who in this age of progress would be satisfied with so old-fashioned a way of getting over a difficulty? It would be a clear fraud on the rights of the party of progress not to have a revolution.

By the way, it ought to be mentioned that the Ex-Grand-Duke of Tuscany has lodged a protest against the transfer of the Piedmontese Government to his capital. The protest is founded on the provisions of the treaty of Zurich.

It is said that the evacuation of Rome, which is to be effected gradually, is about to commence. A regiment, or thereabout, will be withdrawn every quarter. The Legitimist party in Paris are using every effort to form a legion for the Pope; the command has been tendered to Lamoricière, who, taught by painful experiences, has replied that when a real army was once formed, he would be happy to take charge of it, but not till then.

DENMARK.

It appears that the statements made by us last week, on the word of that usually infallible chronicler, Mr. Reuter, with regard to the movements of the Prince and Princess of Wales, were somewhat premature, and applied in truth to the infant Prince Albert Victor only. His princely parents left Copenhagen on the 22nd inst., in the *Osborne*, following, it is true, the footsteps of their precocious

progeny, who has thus early learnt to travel alone. They left Copenhagen amidst the acclamations of the people. It is noticed that the Prince of Wales is bringing back with him a specimen of animals with which England is supposed to be tolerably well supplied, in the shape of some pairs of fancy rabbits from Sweden, which will eclipse all the glories of the lop-eared ones dear to readers of *Bell's Life*. Considering that another Englishman is importing a few Prussian horses to teach ours how to trot, we may say that England's supremacy is really becoming imperilled.

The Vienna Conferences are wellnigh closed, and the news of the signature of the treaty of peace is expected daily. The German commissioners have ordered their officials to retire from the territory of Ribe, which is therefore to be left in the possession of Denmark, though enclosed within the Duchy of Slesvig.

The Danish budget for 1865-6 has been submitted to the Rigsdag. The total receipts are valued at $8,722,301, and the expenses at $6,161,281.

Great irritation has been felt in Jutland in consequence of the demands made by the Danish Government for the arrears of imposts from April 1, 1863, to April 1, 1864. It is of course impossible to satisfy these demands after the harrying which the unfortunate Jutlanders have suffered at the hands of the Germans, and serious troubles are consequently expected should the Government insist on the exactions.

GERMANY.

We mentioned last week an idea thrown out by the editor of the Danish *Dagbladet* that the rights of King Christian to the throne of Denmark are invalidated by the coming treaty of peace. This notion has been taken up by some parties in Germany, who seek to prove that on this principle the rights of those who renounced their claims to the throne in favour of the present King are restored to them, and especially those of the Landgrave and Prince Frederick of Hesse. We have very little doubt that German ingenuity, building a new edifice on every fresh concession made to it, would finally succeed in proving the title of some German princelet to every throne in Europe, and even to the reversion of President Lincoln's refreshing little kingdom in America.

The *Kreuz Zeitung*, however, is very indignant at the claims of small Germans, particularly when they demand a small allowance of power in the Duchies. That journal states that, up to the time of the signature of the preliminaries of Vienna, King Christian IX. of Denmark was legitimate sovereign of Slesvig-Holstein (pretty cool this!), and argues thereupon that the succession to the Duchies is a matter to be settled by the signataries of those preliminaries. In fact, it denies the right of the Federal Diet to interfere in the matter at all. This is of the greater importance as the article is evidently from official sources. The Duchies have certainly 'fallen among thieves.' Their inhabitants continue to demand the recognition of Duke Frederick VIII. as their lawful sovereign; but such a measure would be much too straightforward for Prussia. 'An assembly of legal advisers is to be convoked by Austria and Prussia, with the approval of the Diet; and the legal decision having been given and properly considered, as well as the general interests of Germany' (rather a wide clause, which may admit some very Prussian interests also), 'a final resolution on the subject will be passed.' In the meantime the Federal Diet is going to send in to Slesvig-Holstein its little bill for the expenses of an army of occupation. Prussia has 'invited' this army to retire on the signature of peace; but Austria is violently opposed to their departure, not being sufficiently satisfied of Herr von Bismarck's honesty to leave him in uncontrolled possession of the land.

The Landtag of the Duchy of Lauenburg has carried a motion to annex Lauenburg to Prussia, and the offer has accordingly been made; but Prussia is too wary to accept the offer, and tells the Lauenburgers semi-officially that in virtue of the late treaties Austria is joint-tenant with her in the territory of the Duchies. This, of course, is pleasant for the good people of Lauenburg, who thought that they were making a present of themselves to Prussia, and are told by way of thanks that they already belong to her and another Power. However, the neighbours of Prussia must by this time be, like the eels, used to skinning. It is pretty clear that Austria would approve of no such annexation; she is now arguing hotly against the necessity of making Kiel and Rendsberg Federal, i.e. Prussian fortresses; her partisans say that at Rendsberg there is no necessity for a fortress at all, and that, if a port be wanted on the Baltic, Danztic will be infinitely preferable to Kiel for Federal purposes.

Herr von Bismarck goes from Biarritz to Berlin, *viâ* Paris. His pursuit of health in France must have been somewhat impeded by the wicked rumour of a Holy Alliance between Russia, Austria, and Prussia, which *La Presse* thought fit to revive out of the columns of the *Morning Post*. The Prussian official organs have denied with a holy horror the truth of any restoration of cordiality between themselves and Austria—a superfluous trouble on their part, as nobody believed the story.

The Liberal Government of Baden has been met by a demand from the Progressist party in that State, to which, with all its liberality, it declines to accede. It involves no less than a subversion of the whole existing system, the introduction of universal franchise, the suppression of public religion, a reorganisation of the army, &c. The Bismarckites crow with delight over this rebuff received by one part of German liberalism from another.

The third son of the Crown Prince and Princess of Prussia was baptised on the 18th instant at Potsdam, in the presence of the Archduke Leopold of Austria. Many addresses of congratulation on the birth of this prince have been received by the King and the Prince—one in particular, from the magistracy of Berlin, which was answered by the King in a very crusty spirit, significant of his sentiments towards those dignitaries. The Crown Prince received them very cordially, and spoke with feeling of his duty to bring up the child so as best to be of service to his country.

Some choice military anecdotes are flitting about. One is with regard to the three brothers, the Counts Schmising Kerssenbruck, who were cashiered for expressing their deliberate opinion that duelling was an immoral practice, and contrary to the laws of God. Some of their co-religionists, Roman Catholics, have petitioned the King in favour of the three martyrs, and have received a magnificent snub for their interference, on the peculiar ground that they are endeavouring to sow religious quarrels in the army. Then there is a dark mysterious story about some iniquity committed by two Prussian officers in the garrison of Glogau; the details are not published, and apparently there is good reason for their suppression. All we know is that two girls were inveigled by these officers into their quarters, and that the next morning one of them was carried out dead, and the other was taken home in a state of insensibility, from which she only recovered to find herself horribly 'mutilated.' The officers were not reported, but were simply transferred to another garrison. Once more, an English lady of venerable age was travelling in Northern Germany with the attendance of one servant only; on arriving at Kiel she found great difficulty in obtaining lodgings, and was at last, after much trouble, admitted to a room which had been just vacated by some Prussian officers. She locked her door and went to bed; in the middle of the night a noise disturbed her; she woke up to see two officers standing by her bedside; with great calmness she requested them to leave the room; the officers only laughed at her, told her the room was theirs, and bade her get up and vacate it instantly. She then requested them to look at the letters of introduction lying on her table, addressed to some of their own superior officers; the sight of these quieted them considerably; they contented themselves with swaggering out of the room, and banging the door wide open. She was not satisfied until she had brought them back and compelled them to shut it. The next day she lodged a complaint against them, and was so lucky as to have sufficient influence to force an apology out of them. We forgot—there is another anecdote: the Prussian army who served in Jutland is to receive a commemorative cross, the Cross of the Assault of Düppel.

GREECE.

The King has complained to the Assembly of the slowness of the debates, and fixes one month as the period within which the constitution and the electoral law shall be drawn up; should that time be exceeded, the King reserves to himself full liberty of action, and throws the responsibility upon the Assembly. He has further declared that he will not sign the constitution unless it contains a provision for the creation of a Council of State. In consequence of this declaration the provision was carried by a vote of 130 to 124, ten members refusing entirely to vote.

RUSSIA.

An agricultural exhibition is being held at Moscow, which is chiefly remarkable for the number of peasant exhibitors which it has brought out. Some of these have taken a two months' journey from Siberia, driving their cattle along with them to exhibit them in Russia. The curse of Russia at the present moment is the number of incendiary fires which take place. At Limbirsk, 1,156 buildings were destroyed by fire; and at Ekaterinoslaw the alarms were continuous for three weeks together, during which 25,000*l.* worth of property was destroyed. At Orenburg, 660 houses were consumed, and in the province of Kieff 28 fires have occurred. Threatening letters have been found in several places, and the police are on the alert, but as yet no clue has been found to the conspiracy which evidently exists.

An ironclad turret-ship has lately been launched at Cronstadt, named the *Smertch* (the 'Trumpet'). She is three-masted, the main and mizen being of iron, hollow, and triangular in shape. She carries two turrets and five steam-engines, two for the screw, one apiece for the turrets, and one for the ventilating machinery; she also carries furnaces for filling shells with molten iron. Her rigging is entirely composed of iron cables and wire.

SPAIN.

We have no further news from Spain on the South American difficulty since the reported declaration of war by Peru. The journals still urge the Government to keep the Chincha Islands as guarantees until Peru shall have given satisfaction. The Bank of Spain is about to increase its capital by 75,000,000 reals (about 1,000,000*l.*), for which purpose the shareholders have been summoned. A project is on foot for planting a colony of 1,000,000 Irish in the north of Spain. The *Correspondencia* of Madrid assures us that the plan is daily developing itself in the most favourable manner.

ALGIERS.

The fighting still continues in this province between the French and the revolted Arabs. The results, in a purely military point of view, appear to have been invariably favourable to the Europeans, but the ferocity and determination with which the natives fight augur ill for the well-being of the colony for the next few years. The losses of the French are not large; the assaults of the Arabs appear to have more fire and fury in them than real effectiveness. Several brilliant deeds of arms are recorded, one of them being the death of Lieutenant de Moncey, a name familiar in the wars of the first Napoleon. He was killed while charging in advance of his line; the Arabs attempted to get possession of his body, but his two orderlies defended their dead master, and were able to save him from the ignominy of capture after death, though at the price of their own lives. The three bodies were buried side by side, even as they had fallen. The two insurgent chiefs, Si Hamza and Si Lalla, are still at large, and likely to do further mischief.

MEXICO.

A telegram has been received *viâ* New York, and therefore requiring considerable confirmation, that during the absence of the Emperor Maximilian from the city of Mexico, Miramon, backed up by the Archbishop of Mexico, had declared against Maximilian. The trustworthy accounts from Mexico are all favourable to the Imperial cause; Juarez had been driven from Piedras Negras by the hostile attitude of the population, and had taken refuge in or about Monterey, in the province of Cohahuila, with the Generals Ortega and Negrete and some 1,800 men. He was speedily followed by General de Castagny, and fled from Monterey as the allied troops entered it. He has now betaken himself to Chihuahua. The Republican troops are dispersing on every side. General Dupin captured Matamoras on the 20th ult., Cortinas having fled on the mere news of his approach. An English company has taken the contract for the railway between Vera Cruz and Mexico; it is to be completed in about four years. General Doblado has made his submission to the Empire, and has received letters of safe-conduct to return from the United States to Mexico.

Seven hundred recruits for the foreign legion have arrived at Vera Cruz; 600 more of the Belgian legion embarked at St. Nazaire on the 16th inst. for the same destination. They were welcomed on their way at Nantes and Angers; at the latter place they were honoured with a public dinner, at which the toast was 'the health of our apostle-soldiers!' An officer of this corps appeared in full uniform in Paris in the Palais Royal, and of course attracted the eyes of the countless loungers in that temple of curiosity. The uniform is not very remarkable—a short blue tunic, red trousers tucked into large boots with steel spurs, a red cap with a sort of visor like a helmet, which can be lifted to form a shade, and a common brown overcoat. It may be set down for certain now-a-days, that every queer uniform one sees is worn either by an English volunteer or a Mexican foreign-legionary.

General Count von Thum is now making arrangements in France for the transport of his Austro-Mexican legion, 7,000 strong, to Vera Cruz.

CANADA.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

QUEBEC: October 10, 1864.

I HAVE just returned from a tour in the Western States, and have thereby got a clearer insight into the position of affairs in these regions than I could possibly receive by any amount of newspaper reading. Almost everywhere I found that the people were strongly, almost vehemently, opposed to the Lincoln Administration, heartily sick of the war, and ardently desirous for a change of government and policy. Nor did they strive to conceal their sentiments. In public rooms, among indiscriminate company, the most treasonable sentiments were boldly avowed, and the name of Lincoln saluted in a manner far from flattering. I was really startled by the recklessness and want of ordinary caution displayed; but at the same time considered that treason was too ripe for even the provost-marshal to restrain; for were all the political recusants to be arrested, it would be next to impossible to find prisons wherein to incarcerate them.

From all I could observe and learn, a surly discontent obtained among a large proportion of the people. Hints were even thrown out that a terrible crisis was looming in the distance; and this discontent prevailed most among the labouring population. I heard it stated that the depreciation of greenbacks was such, that except the wages of the working classes were raised in proportion, results would ensue painful to contemplate. The masses had much to bear, but their patience was nearly exhausted. Revolutionary symptoms were held in abeyance pending the election of the next President. Should Lincoln, however, be reelected, the war be prosecuted, and 'shin-plasters' continue at their present value, I much fear that manifestations of popular discontent will arise, that may awe the Executive at Washington even more than the presence of Lee's army did in Maryland.

The farmers, I was informed, were holding back their grain, not being willing to part with their produce for greenback currency. Dubious of its permanent value, they prefer to act in this manner rather than part with any commodity for paper money, which ere long may absolutely become worthless. This accounts for the unusually low supply of cereals in the New York market—a circumstance attributed, I believe, to a bad harvest. I am assured, however, that the harvest, notwithstanding the prevailing drought during the summer, has been at least an average one, and that there is by no means a scarcity of grain.

Many people in the Western States look with considerable interest upon the action now being taken by the Governments of Canada and the Lower Provinces with regard to the Confederation project. Should such action finally eventuate in success, I am rather led to believe that it is far from improbable but that some of the neighbouring States may be inclined to cast in their lot with the newly-organised provinces, which would then form the nucleus of a great nation.

To-day the General Convention inaugurates its sittings in the Parliament House, which has been prepared for their reception. The entire delegation comprises some thirty-six members, the names of whom I append:—

Newfoundland: The Hon. Messrs. Carter and Shea.

Nova Scotia: The Hon. Messrs. Tupper, Henry, Archibald, M'Cully, and Dickey.

New Brunswick: The Hon. Messrs. Tilley, Steeves, Mitchell, Johnson, Fisher, Chandler, and J. H. Gray.

Prince Edward's Island: The Hon. Messrs. Hamilton Gray, Pope, Palmer, Davis, Coles, Haviland, M'Donald, and Whelan.

Canada: Sir E. P. Taché, Premier, and the Hon. Messrs. J. A. M'Donald, Cartier, Campbell, M'Gee, Galt, George Brown, Chapais, M'Dougall, Mowatt, Cockburn, and Langevin.

I do not expect that the deliberations of the Conference will extend beyond the present week. As it holds its sittings with closed doors, very little will be publicly known of its proceedings until the Assembly of Delegates finally separates. A week may appear a short time wherein to discuss the multitude of questions necessarily arising out of the contemplated change of government; but I apprehend a broad basis will be assumed by the delegates from each province, and that if they can agree upon general plans, minor details will be subsequently arranged, perhaps by the local legislatures. The scheme certainly

is a vast one—one, moreover, that must prove of infinite advantage to British possessions on this side of the Atlantic. But it will require clever statesmen to carry it out; and political parties will have no slight difficulty in sinking their petty jealousies and cherished predilections, in order to realise the desired and desirable consummation. In this portion of the province but a very insignificant proportion of the French people are favourable to the change of political policy, consequently some opposition must be expected, should the legislature be summoned to express its opinion. In Upper Canada, without at all understanding the matter, the people are favourable to that, or indeed to any change likely to free the country from its usual periodical perturbations. In any case, before the provinces could enter upon a new political existence, a very long time must transpire. Meantime, we are to have a week of jollity, of fêtes, and feastings. To-morrow the Governor-General will hold a drawing-room, and it must excite a smile when you are informed that the etiquette usually observed at the Court of St. James's is to be scrupulously followed, namely, that gentlemen who have not already been presented to his Excellency, will have to send in their cards to the aide-de-camp in waiting the day previous, for his Excellency's approval. A grand ball is likewise to be held on Friday evening in honour of the delegates from the maritime provinces.

I regret to find that there exists too strong an influence in the Canadian Parliament favourable to the Northern States. Mr. George Brown, the President of the Council, is well known to possess Northern 'proclivities,' and his paper, the *Toronto Globe*, manifestly sympathises with the Union party and the Administration that endeavours to conserve it, although 'the Union' has long since been defunct, without the vaguest hope of resuscitation. As for Mr. M'Dougall, the Colonial Secretary, everybody is aware of his tendencies and predilections, for which reason he is familiarly designated by the *nom-de-nique* of 'Look-to-Washington M'Dougall!' But the most astounding circumstance of all is that Mr. J. A. M'Donald, the Conservative leader, should, in a recent speech, have expressed himself highly in favour of the American Constitution. Surely this could not have been done to please his colleague in the ministry, Mr. Brown, whose abuse of Mr. M'Donald in the *Globe* has been so caustic and repeated in former times. At all events much severe comment has resulted from the unguarded language that escaped from the Attorney-General's lips while venturing to talk on American politics. Such adulation of a rotten Government has proved most unpalatable to the Canadians, by which the new political proselyte has sunk greatly in popular favour.

THE LIVERPOOL BAZAAR.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

LIVERPOOL: October 22, 1864.

THE closing scenes of the Southern Bazaar have been full of animation, and have abundantly manifested the deep interest felt in the good cause for which the enterprise was undertaken. The attendance was larger and larger as the time approached for the *finale*, and last night so great was the pressure within the Hall, that it became absolutely necessary for the officers to refuse further admissions. Your special correspondent, after waiting fifteen or twenty minutes in the rain outside the building at the main entrance, and after vainly endeavouring to get in at a side door, was compelled to return to his hotel, rejoicing at the necessity for his exclusion, though regretting that he had not presented himself half an hour earlier. This regret was increased next morning when he heard that at ten o'clock the general crowd of visitors gave way for an impromptu dance, which was kept up till a late hour, and proved not the least attractive and brilliant part of the whole undertaking. To-day, again, the Hall has been densely thronged, the sales at the stalls have been considerable, and the goods that remained unsold have been disposed of by auction. The interest excited by the Bazaar, so far from flagging, has shown such augmentation from the commencement, that we might fairly suppose the sales could be kept up for weeks to come, if the fair ladies who conducted them were equal to the protracted fatigue.

The total amount raised by sales and subscriptions exceeds 20,000*l.*, a noble contribution indeed, and worthy of the people of Liverpool, who in great part made it up. Many generous contributors there were from other points in the kingdom, and among those who actively participated in the good work, both in furnishing material aid in its organisation, and in carrying out the details, were well-known citizens of the Confederate States temporarily living in Europe, either in exile or in honourable employments, who will be remembered for their zeal and liberality when there shall be no longer the unhappy necessity of ministering to the wants of our 'prisoners and captives.'

Your correspondent is only too well aware that he has presented but a tame and cold description of the beautiful spectacle. Perhaps he has unconsciously in some instances misstated a fact or blundered into error. It is almost certain that he has omitted many things that might have been mentioned effectively. Where a thousand objects of taste, luxury, elegance, and utility assail the eye in one confusing *ensemble*—where all the arts combine to please, and music, painting, architecture make their demands upon the admiration together—where the delighted and bewildered spectator finds himself surrounded by animated beauty as well, and this animated beauty appeals to him on every side in behalf of numberless enterprises of more or less 'pith and moment'—it is not an easy thing to fix the attention upon individual matters, or to bring away more than a general impression that he has been enchanted, and that the enchantment has cost him a certain or uncertain amount in £ *s. d.*, which he has the satisfaction at least of knowing has been spent worthily in a noble cause.

And so your correspondent throws himself upon the clemency of the public for any sins of omission or commission he may have unwittingly fallen into, feeling well assured that all will credit him with the sincere desire to render the meed of praise wherever it was due. And as the great aim and purpose of the Southern Bazaar was to raise a fund for the alleviation of the sufferings of Confederate prisoners, and not to give *éclat* to those who engaged in it, and as the fund has been raised in excess of the most sanguine expectations of any participant, the fault of failing to award the proper credit for valuable services will be the more readily pardoned.

In reviewing the work, however, by general consent it will be admitted that, if to any one person more than another may be assigned the honour of having insured the success of the Bazaar, that person is James Spence, Esq., whose indefatigable exertions for weeks in advance wrought out such harmonious results in the arrangements, and whose energy during the week of its operations has been so conspicuous and so unfailing. He was fortunate indeed in having the cooperation of Mrs. Spence in the tasteful decoration of the tables and saloons, while the handsome sum taken at the North Carolina stall, at which this lady attended, shows how successfully she prosecuted the pretty traffic of this mart of benevolence.

Perhaps the incident which of all others afforded the greatest amount of amusement at the Hall was the lottery of the Shetland pony, which animal was twice drawn by H. O. Brewer, Esq. of Alabama. This liberal gentleman was not a little embarrassed by the persistency with which fortune threw the pony into his hands. It seemed of no use to make the pony a present to the Bazaar, for the next raffle would find Mr. Brewer again in possession. While all the other holders of tickets watched the turn of wheel with eager interest hoping to win the prize, Mr. Brewer as eagerly awaited the drawing hoping to lose it. At last the inevitable owner presented the pony, twice won, a second time to the committee, stipulating that there should be no further lottery of it, but that it should be sold at public vendue. I did not learn whether Mr. Brewer, urged by destiny, attended the auction and bought his prize, though this is likely enough to have occurred.

And now, having seen the Bazaar concluded, your correspondent takes his leave of the subject, and the express train for London.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE MANCHESTER COTTON TRADE.

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

SIR,—When Mr. Gladstone was in Manchester a fortnight since, he addressed a limited number of its merchant princes in the large room of the city Town Hall.

In the course of his speech he made especial reference to the paralysed condition of the cotton trade. Among other observations he said he trusted they would soon see the day when the present cause for anxiety in connection with the condition of their great industrial occupations would have passed away; and further, 'that they would see their great cotton industry restored to an extension such as it never yet enjoyed.' Such happy sentiments might well elicit a hearty response from the lips of his hearers, though there were few, however, who believed in either expectation except through the cessation of the American war, the independence of the South, and a good supply of Orleans cotton. Certainly, the speech did not prevent prices on 'Change' from becoming weaker than they were on the preceding Tuesday.

For full three years the trade has worked on, tantalised with the same visionary ideas as those expressed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, until half the property of the manufacturing districts has been swept away, with a fair prospect of the remainder following. The whole world is, as Mr. Gladstone observed, indebted to the cotton industry of Lancashire, and in turn Lancashire is indebted to the Southern States, whose raw material has been the base of the British cotton trade. It has been the removal of such base that has brought down the cotton trade, which is attempted to be replaced by cotton from other countries. How far the experiment has succeeded the Board of Trade Returns for the first eight months of the present year will testify. That the reader may decide the matter for himself, we give a quotation for three years:—

Statement of Cotton Imports for Eight Months ending Aug. 31, *for the Years* 1862, 1863, *and* 1864, *expressed in cwts.*

	1862	1863	1864
United States	43,654	37,053	108,670
Bahamas and Bermuda	27,545	135,708	218,848
Mexico	8,916	66,752	163,769
Brazil	135,800	155,899	234,147
Turkey	28,624	59,347	147,932
Egypt	418,125	595,514	845,212
British India	1,417,095	1,805,518	2,213,270
China	3,582	187,376	537,965
Other countries	125,442	131,115	200,187
	2,208,783	3,174,282	4,670,000

In the first place, the 4,670,000 cwts. of raw cotton received did not form more than one-half of the amount needed by Great Britain to meet the requirements of her domestic and export trades. In the second place, the imports from the Bahamas, Bermuda, and Mexico, are American cotton, and so make the Southern States a creditor for 491,287 cwts. Whilst, in the third place, all the other cottons named, except Brazilian and Egyptian, are so short in staple, or so heavy in dirt, as to render them very second-rate cottons compared with American, and would not remain in use if the latter could be obtained, only for very low yarns. It may be taken for granted that necessity alone compels the use of Chinese, Indian, Turkish, and Smyrna cottons, and that so soon as American cotton can be obtained, the former will be restricted in their consumption, if not entirely discarded. Whatever may be the ideas of Mr. Gladstone, neither master nor operative will continue to use or work short-stapled cottons a single month beyond the termination of the American war. If then such be the fact, how can the Chancellor of the Exchequer look for other cottons supplanting American cotton, unless such cottons possess the qualities of, and can be had at the price asked for, American? Every one of the merchants who heard Mr. Gladstone will hasten into market on the return of peace, and, by preferring to buy American cotton, or the fabrics made therefrom, to Indian, Chinese, Turkish, or Smyrna cottons, neutralise the very sources from which he hopes that England will hereafter be made independent of America. Time will show how inconsistent fancies and facts are in regard to our cotton supplies. England nevertheless has made, and is still making, gigantic efforts and sacrifices to obtain an adequate supply of cotton for her cotton trade. She has succeeded in obtaining fifty per cent. of her requirements after three years' anxious effort, and at a price which exceeds belief. We give the annexed quotation from the Board of Trade Returns:—

Computed Real Value of Cottons imported into Great Britain in the First Seven Months of 1862, 1863, *and* 1864.

	1862	1863	1864
	£	£	£
United States	253,580	206,151	1,345,647
Bahamas and Bermuda	101,837	796,513	2,505,379
Mexico	51,749	432,470	2,072,138
Brazil	741,197	1,345,471	2,873,296
Turkey	132,471	464,255	1,442,123
Egypt	2,372,755	5,443,278	10,192,905
British India	4,883,899	11,950,999	17,816,147
China	8,302	994,425	4,216,584
Other countries	698,299	967,776	1,928,197
	9,243,289	22,601,368	44,392,716

Such is the cost of a seven months' import of cotton during the past three years. For eight months in 1864 the amount cannot be less than fifty millions sterling, or 2*s.* per lb. on the average, a sum four times as much as was paid for a far superior article in 1860.

From the Board of Trade Returns, we find that, during the first eight months of the present year, we exported of

		£
Cotton yarns	53,877,431 lbs. valued at	6,548,424
Piece goods	1,190,936,553 yds. „	30,051,112
White or plain	746,187,566 „ „	18,415,486
Printed or dyed	444,748,987 „ „	11,635,626
Other manufactures		1,296,333

According to the figures given, cotton yarns have been sold on the average at 2*s.* 5*d.* per lb., or double the price only of 1860, whilst manufacturers have realised 6*d.* per yard instead of 3*d.*; of course the consumer at home and abroad has the difference to pay for the experiment of using other cottons than American, which but for the blockade might be obtained. The following items will show why spinners prefer to stop rather than go on, even at such enhanced prices:—

Cost of converting present Qualities of Cottons into Yarns.

	s.	*d.*
Cotton, as per average of Trade Returns, per lb.	2	0
Commission and carriage to works	0	0½
Dust, dirt, and short staple, 20 per cent.	0	6
Wages	0	1¼
Interests on capital employed	0	1
Trade expenses, discounts, &c.	0	1
	2	9¾
Deduct, &c. sale of short waste	0	2¾
Net cost of conversion to spinner	2	7
Average value of sales as per Trade Returns	2	5
Absolute loss on the business	0	2

It may be remarked that the spinner having to sell to the merchant at a less price than 2*s.* 5*d.* per lb., at which rate it is declared in the bill of exports, it is quite clear that the trade is sustaining a loss of no less than 10 per cent. upon present prices. Need we wonder at the rapid closing of the cotton mills, the failures, and ruin in Lancashire? If the Chancellor of the Exchequer could exhibit no better budget than the above, his popularity as a financier would go down.

At the rate of imports for the first eight months of the year, the total imports will amount to no less than 75,000,000*l.* sterling for the year for cotton. On this there will be a loss of 7,500,000*l.* sterling to the trade. In 1860 the cotton manufacturing districts realised no less than 20,000,000*l.* sterling of profits through the use of American cotton. That, however, is now lost, and nearly half as much more besides. K.

Liverpool: October 24.

'ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED MILLIONS STERLING.'—Americans are only beginning to reflect on the cost of the war. It was one of the first considerations that occurred to European statesmen, and greatly influenced their opinion on the policy of the North. The American calculations we have recently published prove that two millions of men have been lost to industry, and that, instead of two or three hundred millions sterling, the Northern Treasury has already expended double the largest of those amounts. In June last the Federal debt was 520,000,000*l.* Since then the war has been carried on at the estimated cost of 800,000*l.* a day. By March next, therefore, when Mr. Lincoln, if elected, will begin his second term of office, the debt of the North will amount to 700,000,000*l.* The interest of this debt will be, at least, 42,000,000*l.* This principal, however, gives a very imperfect idea of the sum total of the national liability. All reference to the Confederacy and its debt is of course omitted. The seven hundred millions do not include 'the immense amount of unsettled claims yet to be brought in,' of which the American estimate speaks. The items we need not specify, but coming at once to the total of the calculation we find they will add more than 300,000,000*l.* to the ascertained debt, making a grand total, which can be more clearly expressed in words than figures, of one thousand one hundred millions sterling. This is half the value of all the real and personal property in the 'loyal States,' even reckoning among them the two States of doubtful allegiance, Missouri and Kentucky. But even now we have not arrived at the climax. The last property valuation of the Northern States was made when they were at the height of solid prosperity. Since that period the productive powers of all have been fatally diminished, and Maryland, Missouri, Western Virginia, and Kentucky have been devastated. The last tale of destruction is from the Valley of the Shenandoah, which is being deliberately converted into a desert. The interest of the debt already accumulated is reckoned at 6 per cent., or almost double that of England; so the Americans have the prospect of bearing a future financial burden exceeding that borne by any European nation. To pay the interest of the several loans their resources are almost in inverse proportion. In the last year of Mr. Buchanan's administration the Federal Government had a surplus revenue large enough to enable it to pay off its debt. It bought up its own outstanding liabilities at a premium, for as a good investment they had long stood above par in the market. Then the United States' Federal debt was really a 'fleabite,' compared with the revenue and resources of the country. The Revolution the Americans will not see has destroyed all this financial prosperity. To meet these enormous liabilities the Federation has only 14,000,000*l.* yearly revenue from the Customs' duties, which are paid in gold. It is exactly one-third of the amount required for the interest of the present debt. The current expenses of the war have been met almost entirely by loans.—*Times.*

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ENGLAND.

The following is an extract from the *Standard*:—

In speaking of the American war, English statesmen are far too prone to adopt the tone and language of Pilate, and, sanctimoniously washing their hands in the face of the world, to say to the belligerents in the name of England, 'I am guiltless of this innocent blood; see you to it.' The authors of the war, the politicians, preachers, and frenzied multitude of the North, who have rushed into civil strife in utter violation of the principles on which their freedom was founded and of the laws by which alone their Union subsisted, are but too ready to rejoin, in the words of the Jewish murderers, 'This blood be upon us, and upon our children.' But have we any right to believe that history will hold our excuses more valid than those of the unhappy Procurator? Are we not guilty of the very crime which has handed down his name to everlasting and ineffable infamy—the crime of cowardice? Have we shrunk from no duty incumbent upon us the fulfilment of which would at least have had a tendency to check the sanguinary fury of the aggressors? has no language been used among us by which the flagging hopes of the North have been encouraged, and its Government strengthened in the enforcement of a tyrannous rule at home and a savage war policy abroad? Is there nothing in our conduct to give at least an apparent justification to the reproach that we have looked on with cold-blooded indifference at a strife which has seemed likely to do us good by weakening our rivals? Unless all these questions can be answered unhesitatingly in the negative, the self-complacent language of our politicians is inconsistent with truth, and our national conscience is by no means clear in regard to the most flagrant political crime recorded in modern history—the attempt of twenty millions of Christian citizens to exterminate eight millions of people professing the same faith and speaking the same tongue. How do the facts stand?

First, as to the conduct of our Government. It must not be forgotten that we are solely responsible for the joint policy of England and France; that every step that has been taken has been taken at our instance; and that the proposals of the Emperor for a pacific interposition on the part of united Europe have been baffled by us alone. Was this well done? Was it consistent with our past practice and present principles? When the Turks were proceeding to put down the Greek rebellion by a process somewhat similar to that which Paine and Butler have pursued in their respective governments, Sherman in Georgia and Grant in the Shenandoah, we, in conjunction with Russia and France, declared that this attempt was an outrage on humanity which Christian nations could not permit. We prevented it accordingly. The Yankees have openly professed their determination to exterminate the Southern people rather than let them go in peace. The myrmidons of Lincoln are to the full as brutal as those of Mahmoud and Ibrahim. The Confederates have not provoked their fate by one such act of cruelty or treachery as habitually marked the successes of the Greek insurgents. Is it a less atrocity to slaughter eight millions than one? Or are English-born Christians less worthy of our sympathy than semi-barbarian Greeks? Surely a Navarino at Charleston or Mobile would be no more untoward an event than that which liberated Greece; and yet we have not ventured even on a peaceful remonstrance. We have protested against the severities by which Russia avenged herself on that gang of assassins called the National Government of Poland; we have no word of rebuke for the murderous crimes committed by the generals and governors of Mr. Lincoln on the peaceable citizens of Kentucky and Missouri, the helpless prisoners of Norfolk and New Orleans. Unless our interposition on behalf of Greece and Poland was a wanton act of injustice and aggression against our allies, our silence in face of the savage atrocities of the Federal authorities is a dereliction of duty which renders us verily guilty of our brother's blood. But pass this over. Assume that no amount of wickedness can require the intervention of Christian Europe: have we given no positive encouragement to the North? Have we been honestly and impartially neutral? Certainly not. Neutrality would have required us to adhere to the treaty by which we recognised the independence and sovereignty of Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia. Neutrality would have required us to recognise the Confederacy after the battles of Manassas; for never before did we withhold recognition from a power so well established. Neutrality would have required Lord Russell to rebuke with stern independence the insolence of Mr. Adams, and to assert his right to receive the Confederate envoys with all possible courtesy and all the civilities of private intercourse. By refusing recognition; by snubbing the Confederate envoys; by seizing the Confederate vessels while we allowed regiment after regiment to be levied in Ireland for the Federal service, we have, through our ministers, bidden the North good speed in its enterprise of robbery, murder, and enslavement. We are verily guilty concerning our brother.

Turning from the conduct of the Administration to that of individuals, we are constrained to ask whether such language as has been used by more than one public speaker of late has not a mischievous effect on the temper of the North. They tell us that in their belief the Yankees will conquer, 'will make a solitude, and call it peace;' and though they deprecate this result their language has a direct tendency to encourage the invaders with the hope of success in the one point about which they are solicitous—the subjugation of the Confederates. There is no party, no class, that has any influence or credit in England, favourable to the Federal cause; but there are individuals, whose active and noisy exertions give the impression that there exists if not a public at least a class opinion in this country in favour of Mr. Lincoln and General Butler. We know that it is useless to remonstrate with Messrs. Bright and Cobden. They delight in the thought that they are encouraging the savage democracy of Yankeedom, so far as in them lies, by misleading it as to the opinion of England. The Quaker rejoices in the progress of the fiercest and most bloody war on record. The Freetrader triumphs in the triumphs won in the cause of protection and the Union. It is in vain to argue with them; and it would be most undignified to waste words on George Thompson, Francis Newman, and Peter Taylor. But Mr. Forster is a man of much higher calibre—a sober statesman and cultivated gentleman, and one of the brightest ornaments of the Liberal party. It is painful to find a man like this fostering the wild delusions of the Abolitionists, and representing the Federal armies as the deliverers and protectors of negro refugees. Mr. Forster cannot but be aware that, so far from the negroes flying to the Federal camp, they are the most useful spies of the Confederates. He must know that the mass of negroes acquired by the invaders have been either the inhabitants of conquered districts or captives carried off at the bayonet's point by the marauding expeditions in which the Yankees delight; never, or hardly ever, voluntary fugitives. He knows that these wretched victims have, according to trustworthy official reports, perished by thousands from the neglect and cruelty of their captors, and that the description of their condition given by the agents of Mr. Lincoln represents, and proves by statistics, that the mortality among them on the plantations of the Yankee squatters and in the purlieus of the camps is at the rate of 50 per cent. in three or four months. Against these facts what is the worth of stories sent in by a stray Abolitionist here and there, with a purpose to serve by representing emancipation as a boon to the negro? Has not Mr. Forster read the horrible story of the manner in which these negroes were made to 'fight for their freedom' at Petersburg—how, driven by Federal bayonets into the trenches of the enemy, they lay there, shrieking and crying, daring neither to retreat nor to advance, until two thousand of the wretches were destroyed without striking a blow? And knowing these things, how can he reconcile it to his conscience to encourage a system so cruel and so useless? how can he, as a self-styled friend of the negro, patronise the cause of those who emancipate him only that he may rot out of existence in cold and hunger and unutterable squalor, or enlist him in their armies only that he may 'stop the bullets which might otherwise pierce the white soldiery?' It is quite as much in pity to the negro as in sympathy for the South that we denounce the unscrupulous misstatements, the sanguinary spirit, the un-English sentiments, of those who encourage to the utmost of their ability the savage determination of the North under the pretence of sympathy for the Abolitionist tendencies which have avowedly no other purpose than to deprive the South of her labourers and use them as targets for Southern bullets. A share of the guilt of the North rests on the souls of its English sympathisers; and the admirers of Lincoln and apologists of Butler are not innocent of the massacres of Palmyra, the devastation of Virginia, the cold-blooded murders and fiendish outrages of which Southern women and non-combatants are daily the victims.

THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE'S ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE.

The following is the address of the Democratic National Committee to the people of the United States:—

To the People of the United States: The Democratic National Committee of the United States hold it to be their duty to call the attention of their fellow-countrymen without distinction of party to certain grave acts of usurpation and wrong now practised upon the citizens of Maryland and of Tennessee, but involving the dearest rights of all the people in all the States; and the very existence of those constitutional remedies against executive wrong-doing which have heretofore saved this nation from the convulsions through which popular liberty in other lands has been forced to assert, to maintain, and to extend its guarantees.

In the State of Maryland, on September 30, the *Evening Post*, a journal printed in the city of Baltimore, which had that day for the first time published the electoral ticket of the Democratic party of that State, was suppressed by the following order of Major-General Wallace, commanding the United States troops in that city:—

'Eighth Army Corps, Baltimore, September 30, 1864.

'Editors of *Evening Post*.

'As the surest means of preventing your office being made the subject of violence, you will discontinue the publication of your paper, *The Evening Post*.'

The sole pretext for this order was the assertion that several soldiers subject to the command of Major-General Wallace intended to create a riot in the streets of Baltimore, and to destroy the property of the suppressed journal, on account of a statement on its bulletin board, announcing as an item of news, 'a fearful riot in Cincinnati, during which a Lincoln club procession from Kentucky fired upon the citizens, men, women, and children, several being killed and wounded.'

Such a pretext for such an order is so manifestly disgraceful to the military officer who, in issuing it, confessed his inability to restrain soldiers of the national service from an act of military insubordination and of civil outrage, that it is impossible to believe he could have been convinced, as he subsequently has been, in pursuance of the command of the President of the United States, had not the suppression of *The Evening Post*, which was the only Democratic journal published in Baltimore, been designed by the Executive for the express purpose of depriving the political opponents of the existing Administration in that city of their sole means of advocating their opinions, and even of disseminating the information necessary to guide the voters of their party to intelligent action at the polls.

Maryland is a loyal State. To her fidelity President Lincoln in his message to Congress on December 25, 1861, bears this emphatic witness: 'Her bridges and railroads are repaired and open to the Government; she already gives seven regiments to the cause of the Union and none to the enemy; and her people at a regular election have sustained the Union by a larger majority and a larger aggregate vote than they ever before gave to any candidate on any question.'

No enemy now treads her soil. The victorious advance of Sheridan has cleared even her furthest borders of all rebels in arms. Her people are as fully entitled to absolute freedom at the polls and in the discussion of all political questions as the people of Massachusetts or New York.

To sanction an act by which they are shamelessly deprived of this freedom is a deliberate assumption by the Executive of his intention to perpetuate his authority by any exercise of arbitrary power in contempt of the popular will, and in violation of all the laws by which liberty in America has been hitherto protected.

All doubt as to the meaning of this conduct of the Executive in Maryland is put at an end by the simultaneous occurrence in the State of Tennessee of an act equally lawless, and equally eloquent of a settled purpose to retain the control of the resources and destinies of the people by means foreign to our institutions and fatal to our liberties.

On the 30th day of September, Andrew Johnson, a brigadier general of volunteers, holding by appointment of the President the office, unknown to our laws, of military governor of Tennessee, and by the nomination of the Republican party a candidate for the Vice-Presidency of the Union, issued a military order commanding an election for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency to be held in that State, and prescribing arbitrary qualifications for voters at the election. This order is based on the proceedings of a political meeting which the military governor treats as a free convention of the people, absolutely subjected by the will of Mr. Lincoln to his authority, and in it the following oath is prescribed to be taken at the polls:—

'I solemnly swear —— that I will cordially oppose all armistices or negotiations for peace with rebels in arms until the Constitution of the United States, and all laws and proclamations made in pursuance thereof, shall be established over all the people of every state and territory embraced within the national Union, and that I will heartily aid and assist the loyal people in whatever measures may be adopted for the attainment of those ends.'

This oath is directly intended to deprive all loyal citizens of Tennessee who may be constitutionally entitled to vote at all, of their right to support at the polls any policy for the suppression of the existing rebellion, save that which is advocated by Mr. Lincoln, by Mr. Johnson, and by the party sustaining them. The policy repudiates any issue of the war now waging, save the subjugation of the States in rebellion, and the abolition by the Federal power of the institution of slavery, and utterly forbids all negotiation, not only with the so-called Republic of the Confederate States, but with any single State, while a soldier remains in arms against the Union.

The oath prescribed by the Republican candidate for the Vice-Presidency to the loyal citizens of Tennessee requires of them an absolute adhesion to the policy of his own party as the condition of their exercise of the most sacred right of citizenship. In other words, this oath commands every loyal citizen of Tennessee to vote for the Republican candidate or to abstain from the polls. Under the operation of this oath, any citizen who holds such views of the policy proper to be pursued toward the States in rebellion as those put forth for example by the Hon. Charles Francis Adams, actually Minister of the United States in London, would be disfranchised by the bayonets of the Executive in Tennessee.

'For one,' said Mr. Adams in the House of Representatives, January 31, 1861, 'I am not yet ready to take the responsibility of absolutely closing the door of reconciliation. I cannot persuade myself to forget the warnings that have descended to us from many of the wisest and best statesmen of all time against this rigid and haughty mode of treating great discontents. I cannot overlook the fact that, in the days of our fathers, the imperious spirit of Chatham did not feel itself as sacrificing any of its proud dignity by proposing to listen to their grievances, and even to concede every reasonable demand long after they had placed themselves in armed resistance to all the power of Great Britain. Had George III. listened to his words of wisdom, he might have saved the brightest jewel of his crown.

'He took the opposite course. He denied the existence of grievances. He rejected the olive-branch. History records its verdict in favour of Chatham and against the King.'

Hundreds of thousands of citizens of the Union, without distinction of party, animated by a similar spirit, and drawing a like instruction from the lessons of history, believe with General M'Clellan, in his letter accepting the Presidential nomination, that,

'So soon as it is clear or even probable that our present adversaries are ready for peace upon the basis of the Union, we should exhaust all the resources of statesmanship practised by civilised nations and taught by the traditions of the American people, consistent with the honour and interests of the country, to secure such peace, reestablish the Union, and guarantee for the future the constitutional rights of every State. The Union is the one condition of peace; we ask no more.'

All such citizens are outlawed in Tennessee by the arbitrary will of the Republican candidate for the Vice-Presidency, nor will any man be suffered by him to do the highest duty of a freeman unless he is ready to accept a policy which substantially recognises the Republic of the Confederate States, by refusing to the several States, now unhappily leagued together under that name, the right of returning to, and of making peace with, their sister States of the Union.

Such is the necessary effect of this unprecedented course of the 'military governor' of Tennessee, a course of which, in the words applied by two distinguished members of the Republican party, Senator Wade of Ohio, and Representative Davis of Maryland, to the conduct of President Lincoln in unlawfully creating another 'military governor' for the State of Louisiana, it may be said is 'without authority of law and therefore void,' a 'blow at the rights of humanity and at the principles of republican government.' This course the President has sanctioned, as he has sanctioned the course of Major-General Wallace in Maryland, therein again forgetting, to use the words of the same distinguished Republicans, his obligation 'to confine himself to his executive duties; to obey and execute, not make the laws; to suppress by arms armed rebellion, and leave political reorganization to Congress.

'If the supporters of the Government,' Senator Wade and Representative Davis go on to say, 'fail to insist on this, they become responsible for the usurpations which they fail to rebuke, and are justly liable to the indignation of the people whose rights and security, committed to their keeping, they sacrifice.'

To this plain speaking of men eminent in the Republican party we might well content ourselves with pointing the citizens of the United States, in the presence of these new and atrocious attempts upon the freedom of discussion and the sovereignty of the people. But we cannot forget that the very men who have so earnestly denounced executive usurpation in the past have now become its passive instruments and its silent apologists.

This conquest of the last voices of constitutional liberty in the bosom of the Republican party by the seductions of power and of place, makes it imperative upon us to warn the people of America that the perils prefigured by such men as Senator Wade and Representative Davis are upon us to-day, and that they can only be conjured from the future of our country by the united and resolute action, not of the partisan supporters of a partisan Government, but of a patriotic people combined for the defence of the Constitution and the laws.

The conduct of President Lincoln in Maryland and in Tennessee distinctly reveals a revolutionary purpose. The electoral votes of those States, eighteen in number, cast at the dictation of arbitrary power, may neutralise the same number of electoral votes freely and lawfully cast in other States of the Union. Upon those votes, therefore, the whole future of America may turn. To control these votes in the way attempted by Mr. Johnson in Tennessee, and by General Wallace in Maryland, is to plan a crime against liberty in the Republic. We are fully aware of the gravity of the charge, but the rights, the interests, the issues here at stake are not less grave.

Again and again for the past four years, Mr. Lincoln and his ministers, under one or another plea of military or political 'necessity,' have transcended the limits of executive authority, have trampled upon the sanctity of communial and individual right. It may well be doubted whether any Government in the old world, claiming to hold its authority by Divine right, would have been permitted by any people of modern Europe to pursue its in-

fractions of law and its contempt of liberty so far as the American people, in their devotion to the Union, have suffered Mr. Lincoln to go.

But the patience of the American people has been the fruit of their traditional reliance upon the remedies provided by the Constitution—the right freely to speak their thoughts, freely to print their thoughts, and, above all, the inalienable right freely to choose and to change the agents of the public will.

Once before in our history, under the pressure of an imminent national danger, executive recklessness ventured upon infractions of popular right, tame and insignificant enough to-day beside these usurpations in Maryland and in Tennessee.

Then, however, though in the infancy of our constitutional experience, the wise devotion of the people to the principles of our national liberty, triumphed over the assumption of power, and the 'peaceful revolution' of 1801, under Thomas Jefferson, secured to us sixty years of freedom and of progress.

The ambition of Mr. Lincoln and his supporters now threatens the very remedies through which the 'peaceful revolution' of 1801 was accomplished.

This revolutionary ambition has already been met by Senator Wade and Representative Davis in a temper as revolutionary, with a formal summons of the people to extreme and ulterior measures.

'If those voters turn the balance in his favour,' they exclaim, 'is it to be supposed that his competitor, defeated by such means, will acquiesce? . . . Let the people consider the remedy for these usurpations, and, having found it, fearlessly execute it.'

The National Democratic Committee do not so far despair of the future of the Republic. They believe that the American people, armed with the majestic authority of the Constitution and the laws, will meet these beginnings of usurpation in the spirit and with the determination of their fathers, nor suffer Executive ambition so far to corrupt the constitutional remedies of Executive wrong-doing as to condemn this great and free people in the immediate future to the condition, and with the condition to the remedies, of the subject populations of the older world.

August Belmont, Chairman.

F. O. Prince, Secretary.

PRESIDENTS AND VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

The following is a list of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the United States, and of the candidates for each office at the respective elections, with the electoral vote received by each since the organisation of the Government:—

1788. George Washington and John Adams. Washington received 69, the entire electoral vote, while Adams, for Vice-President, received 34; John Jay, 9; John Hancock, 4; R. H. Harrison of Maryland, 6; and John Rutledge of South Carolina, 6.

1792. Washington and Adams re-elected. Washington received 132, the entire vote; Adams, for Vice-President, 77; George Clinton of New York, 50; Thomas Jefferson, 4.

1796. John Adams, opposed by Thomas Jefferson, who, having the next highest electoral vote, became Vice-President. Pinckney of South Carolina received 59 votes; Aaron Burr of New York, 15; and Oliver Ellsworth of Connecticut, 11 votes.

1800. Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr elected, each receiving 73 out of the 138 votes cast; John Adams, 65, and Charles C. Pinckney of South Carolina, and John Jay of New York, one vote. On January 11, 1801, Jefferson was elected by Congress on the thirty-fourth ballot (each State voting one vote), receiving the votes of ten States to four States for Burr. The members from two States being equally divided, the State voted blank.

1804. Thomas Jefferson and George Clinton, beating Charles C. Pinckney and Rufus King. The successful ticket each received 162 out of the 176 votes given, while Pinckney and King received but 14 each—9 in Connecticut, 3 in Delaware, and 2 in Maryland.

1808. James Madison and George Clinton, defeating Pinckney of South Carolina and Rufus King of New York. Out of the 175 votes given Madison received 122 for President and George Clinton 113 for Vice-President. Pinckney for President and King for Vice-President, 47 votes each.

1812. James Madison and Eldridge Gerry of Massachusetts. Whole number of votes cast, 217. For President, Madison, 128; George Clinton, 89. For Vice-President, Gerry, 131; Jared Ingersoll of Pennsylvania, 86.

1816. James Monroe and Daniel D. Tompkins, with scarce any opposition. Out of the 217 votes cast, Monroe and Tompkins each received 183. Of the remainder, Rufus King received for President, the 22 votes of Massachusetts; the 9 votes of Connecticut, and the 3 votes of Delaware. For Vice-President, Massachusetts cast her 22 votes for Howard of Maryland; Connecticut 5 votes for James Ross of Pennsylvania, and 4 votes for John Marshall of Virginia; and Delaware her 3 votes for Robert Goodloe Harper of Maryland.

1820. Monroe and Tompkins reelected; the former receiving all the votes given, save one in New Hampshire, cast for John Quincy Adams. For Vice-President, Tompkins had 218; Richard Stockton of New Jersey, 8 of the 15 votes of Massachusetts, and Daniel Rodney of Delaware the 4 votes of that State.

1824. John Quincy Adams and John C. Calhoun elected. Whole number of votes cast, 261; necessary to a choice, 131. For President, Adams, 84; Jackson, 99; William H. Crawford, 41; and Henry Clay, 37. No one having a majority of the votes, a selection from the three highest candidates devolved upon the House of Representatives in Congress, where the votes, being taken by States, resulted in the election of Mr. Adams, he receiving the vote of 13 out of the 24 States. For Vice-President, John C. Calhoun had 182 votes; Nathan Sanford, of New York, 30.

1828. Andrew Jackson and John C. Calhoun elected. Whole number of votes cast, 261; necessary to a choice, 131. For President, Jackson received 178; John Quincy Adams, 83. For Vice-President, Calhoun, 171; Richard Rush, of Pennsylvania, 83; William Smith, of South Carolina, 7; the latter being a part of the vote of Georgia, which State voted her entire vote for Jackson, but gave but 2 votes for Calhoun, the remaining 7 for Smith.

1832. Jackson and Van Buren elected. Whole number of votes, 288; necessary to a choice, 145. For President, Andrew Jackson received 219; Henry Clay, 49; William Wirt of Pennsylvania (anti-masonic), 7. For Vice-President, Van Buren, 189; Jared Ingersoll of Pennsylvania, 49; Ames Ellmaker (anti-masonic), the vote of Vermont, 7.

1836. Martin Van Buren and Richard M. Johnson of Kentucky. Whole number of votes, 294; necessary to a choice, 148. For President, Van Buren received 170; William H. Harrison of Ohio, 73; Hugh Lawson White of Tennessee, 26; Daniel Webster, 14. For Vice-President, Colonel R. M. Johnson, 147; Francis Granger of New York, 77; John Tyler of Virginia, 47. William Smith of Alabama, 23. No candidate for Vice-President having a majority of all the votes given, Colonel Johnson was elected Vice-President by the United States Senate.

1840. William H. Harrison of Ohio and John Tyler of Virginia. Whole number of votes cast, 294; necessary to a choice, 148. For President: Harrison, 234; Van Buren, 60. For Vice-President: John Tyler, 234; Richard M. Johnson, 18; Lyttleton W. Tazewell of Virginia, the vote of South Carolina, 11.

1844. James K. Polk of Tennessee and George M. Dallas of Pennsylvania elected. Whole number of votes cast, 275; necessary to a choice, 138. For President: James K. Polk received 170; Henry Clay of Kentucky, 105. For Vice-President: George M. Dallas received 170; Theodore Frelinghuysen of New Jersey, 105.

1848. Zachary Taylor of Louisiana and Millard Fillmore of New York elected. For President and Vice-President: Taylor and Fillmore each received 163 votes; Lewis Cass of Michigan, and William O. Butler of Kentucky, 127 each.

1852. Franklin Pierce of New Hampshire and William R. King of Alabama elected. For President and Vice-President, Pierce and King received 254 votes, against 42 each for General Winfield Scott of New York and William A. Graham of North Carolina.

1856. James Buchanan of Pennsylvania and John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky elected. For President and Vice-President, Buchanan and Breckinridge received 174 votes each; John C. Fremont of California and William L. Dayton of New Jersey, 114 each; and Millard Fillmore of New York and Andrew J. Donaldson of Tennessee, 8 each.

1860. Abraham Lincoln of Illinois and Hannibal Hamlin of Maine, elected. For President and Vice-President, Lincoln and Hamlin received 180 votes; John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky and Joseph Lane of Oregon received 72; John Bell and Edward Everett, 39; Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois and Herschell V. Johnson of Georgia, 12.

Votes for President in 1860.

Northern States	Electoral Vote		Popular Vote	
	For Lincoln	Against him	For Lincoln	Against him
California	4	.	39,173	79,667
Connecticut	6	.	43,792	33,454
Illinois	11	.	172,161	167,532
Indiana	13	.	139,033	133,110
Iowa	4	.	70,409	57,922
Maine	8	.	62,811	35,107
Massachusetts	13	.	106,533	62,642
Michigan	6	.	88,480	66,267
Minnesota	4	.	22,069	12,730
New Hampshire	5	.	37,519	28,434
New Jersey	4	3	58,324	62,801
New York	35	.	353,804	303,329
Ohio	23	.	231,610	210,831
Oregon	3	.	5,270	9,140
Pennsylvania	27	.	268,030	208,412
Rhode Island	4	.	12,244	7,707
Vermont	5	.	33,808	9,036
Wisconsin	5	.	86,110	66,070
Total	180	3	1,831,180	1,554,191
Southern States				
Alabama	.	9	.	90,357
Arkansas	.	4	.	54,053
Delaware	.	3	3,815	12,224
Florida	.	3	.	14,347
Georgia	.	10	.	106,365
Kentucky	.	12	1,364	144,852
Missouri	.	9	17,028	148,490
Louisiana	.	6	.	50,510
Maryland	.	8	2,294	90,218
Mississippi	.	7	.	69,120
North Carolina	.	10	.	96,2[illegible]
South Carolina	.	8	.	53,100
Texas	.	4	.	62,986
Tennessee	.	12	.	145,333
Virginia	.	15	1,929	165,294
Total	.	120	26,430	1,303,479
Grand Total	180	123	1,857,610	2,857,670

A Recantation.—General Garibaldi seems to have awoke to the true nature of the American war. His sympathies have long been claimed by the partisans of the Federal cause. The following extract from a letter, written by Mr. Robert M'Tear, and published in the *Glasgow Herald*, contains the present ideas of Garibaldi on the subject:—'He (Garibaldi) expressed great regret at the continuance of the struggle in America, and said he did not believe that the North honestly desired the extinction of slavery, or that the war was carried on for that end. It is a war for power, and to satisfy wounded pride on their part, and has become a war of self-defence on the part of the South, which has shown the truest patriotic feeling, the greatest bravery, and the finest generalship. He abhors slavery in every form, and believes that it has received its death-blow in America. He denied most emphatically that he ever offered his services to the Federals, and said that he did not see how he could consistently have interfered in the quarrel under the circumstances. General Türr told me precisely the same thing.'

Paine and Lincoln.—For some weeks our columns have contained accounts of the infamous atrocities of General Paine—of his thefts and of his cold-blooded murders. The Cairo correspondent of the *St. Louis Republican* says:—'General Paine informed one of our citizens, after he had been relieved, that he had received a long letter from President Lincoln heartily endorsing and approving all he had done, and warmly commending him as the right man in the right place.'

SOUTHERN PRISONS AND YANKEE GRATITUDE.

The Right Rev. Bishop Johns, of Virginia, has written the following letter to Mr. Stanton, the Federal Secretary of War, in correction of the statements of a Federal surgeon who was paroled at the request of Bishop Johns. This letter was sent to Stanton with the request that he would publish it. As might be expected, he declined to publish it:—

Richmond, Virginia, Jan. 28, 1864.

To the Hon. Secretary of War, U. S.:

Allow me to submit for your consideration a simple statement, with no other design than to subserve the cause of humanity as connected with the treatment of prisoners.

Some weeks since it was my privilege to obtain the release of Dr. Goldsborough, a surgeon in the United States army. I had repeatedly visited him during his confinement, and was permitted to proffer to him and others similarly situated any assistance which I deemed proper. He invariably replied to my enquiries that he was furnished with everything which a prisoner of war could expect—wanted nothing but an additional under-garment to supply the place of one which he had lost at Gettysburg. This I offered to send him at once; but as he expressed a preference for purchasing it with his own funds, which were in the possession of General Winder, I had the order procured and placed at his disposal. He did not use it, and, in a subsequent interview, attempted an explanation, but so confused in its character that I changed the conversation to relieve his embarrassment.

At a later date he sent for me to show me a letter which he had received, informing him of the illness of his father and brother, and of their great desire to see him, and asked me to try and procure his parole for this purpose. He urged this on the ground of his being a non-combatant, assuring me that he had not joined the army from any zeal against the South, but that, being without practice, he was desirous to be in a position which would afford him employment and support in the line of his profession. I went immediately to Judge Ould and asked for the parole, solely on the plea of humanity. He replied that, under existing difficulties, which had arrested the exchange of prisoners, he did not feel authorised to yield to the sympathy which the case involved, unless by so doing something could be effected towards a general exchange of surgeons and chaplains; but if Dr. G. could and would visit Washington for this purpose, and use his own and such other influence as he could obtain to promote this and the plan proposed by Judge Ould, then the parole might be granted. I asked for these conditions in writing, and handed them to Dr. G. for his consideration. He assured me that he cordially approved of the views of Judge Ould, and would do all in his power to prevail upon his own Government to concur. He then signed an agreement to this effect, and took a copy for himself. By the next flag of truce he was permitted to return to the United States, and carried with him the funds which, during his imprisonment, had been in the keeping of the Provost-Marshal. In parting, I took the liberty of stating to him that my ability to be of service to others would depend very much on his course after his liberation, and expressed the hope that nothing would occur to make me regret my agency in procuring his parole. His assurances left no room for apprehending the slightest disappointment. And yet this man, with a worthy name, which he should have changed before prostituting it by ingratitude and falsehood, had scarcely reached his home when he began to utter the grossest misrepresentations as to the treatment to which his fellow-prisoners and himself had been subjected—hastened to Washington, not to comply in good faith with his engagements as an agent for effecting a humane arrangement; but to widen the existing breach—inflame revenge by his report of cruelties which he knew had never been practised; and then boast that his statements had stimulated his Government to severe retaliation upon the Confederate soldiers in their prisons.

As I was connected with his parole, which afforded him the opportunity for attempting to increase the sufferings of others, I deem it a duty to make this statement to correct the false impression which his uncontradicted representation may have produced, and to prevent the misery which might ensue. My own testimony is as follows:—During my visits to Libby Prison, to minister to its inmates as need might require. I have often appealed to them, individually and in groups, to know if they had any cause to complain of the treatment which they experienced, assuring them of my readiness to secure the redress of any real grievance. The uniform reply has been that they had no inhumanity to complain of, and that, except the want of outdoor exercise, they wanted nothing but to go home. The spacious rooms of the building, which was originally an extensive tobacco warehouse, I always found sufficiently warmed and ventilated, and the appearance of the inmates that of persons in good health.

In penning this statement, I do but comply with the demands of conscience and humanity, and shall be most happy if it serves to prevent all unnecessary suffering on the part of those whom the fortune of war has subjected to imprisonment.

With due consideration, yours,

J. Johns,

Bishop of the P. E. Church in Virginia.

Disease in the Federal Army.—Surprise is sometimes expressed at the awful mortality in the Federal armies. It is forgotten that besides the waste of life in battle there is camp sickness, which must be exceedingly heavy among troops remaining during the unhealthy seasons in a trying climate. Probably the roll of death is more augmented by fever than by the sword. The *New York Daily News* says:—'The pestilence that killeth in the noonday is already among our army at Newbern. The Assistant Medical Director at Fortress Monroe has sent to that place several additional physicians. The "prevailing sickness" which is stated to be the cause of these additions to the hospital there is, we presume, some of the terrible forms of the "tide water" fever. The ravages of that disease among Grant's troops have been kept profoundly secret from the public; but they are, notwithstanding, well known here to have been very great.'

The Chinese and the Negro.—In the course of a speech recently delivered in New York, ex-Governor Bigler, of California, said:—'If the free voting principle be extended to the negro, what was to be done with the Chinese, of whom there were 40,000 in California? They were a more intelligent race than the negro, and yet the California Supreme Court had decided that the Chinese could not constitutionally become citizens of that State.'

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 291 Strand, W.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

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THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1864.

The War.

As the day of election draws nearer, the driblets of news from the war that reach us through Northern sources become more and more obscure and perplexing. At no previous time has so wide a discrepancy between Northern and Southern accounts been observed; and as we have no reason to believe that the officers of the Confederacy have suddenly adopted Mr. STANTON'S tactics, we are bound to conclude that it is the emergency of 'the situation' north of the Potomac which is accountable for the extravagances of telegrams, and that the Northern palate requires at this juncture a more highly seasoned dish than usual. On three important events—the chief features of the news brought by the last mail—the reports from Washington and from Richmond not only differ, but are entirely contradictory, and they will be interpreted, of course, by Northern partisans in the most favourable sense to the armies of invasion. But there are a few facts admitted on both sides which point to certain definite results of the operations reported, and from these we venture to think a tolerably sound judgment may be arrived at. Taking the battle-field of the Shenandoah Valley first, we find that SHERIDAN has actually retreated forty miles from Harrisonburg to Strasburg. We pointed out last week the difficulty he would experience in maintaining his position at the former town, and the probability of his retirement. There was ample reason for such a retrograde movement, in the fact that he was fronted by a Confederate force which had repulsed an attack, and that his communications were more or less open to the raids of MOSBY'S horses. But Mr. LINCOLN'S organs endeavour to buoy up the hopes of the North with the suggestion that it is only 'a change of base,' and that Manassas and Alexandria are to be henceforth what Harper's Ferry has been to the army of the Shenandoah. This will deceive no one who has any recollection of past Virginian campaigns. SHERIDAN'S force east of the Blue Ridge Mountains would be exposed to an attack from Richmond at any moment, and would be entirely useless. There is no field for this gallant officer's special talents between Manassas and the South Anna River. The hot blast of war has already rolled over this district; there are no barns to burn and but few families to render homeless. Moreover, unless SHERIDAN'S force is doubled, and that by veteran troops, he is not likely to try his luck on the classic ground of Manassas. The movement upon Strasburg is a retreat *pur et simple*—the cruel desolation of the Shenandoah Valley and the fortifications at Strasburg prove this; and this retreat means that the diversion intended has failed, and that the danger which for a moment seemed to threaten LEE'S communications with the West, and with his depot, Lynchburg, has entirely passed away. Whether SHERIDAN will hold Strasburg or not depends upon LEE'S necessities at Richmond. But if it be true that LONGSTREET has superseded EARLY, we shall in all probability soon hear that the Confederates have resumed the offensive. As to SHERIDAN'S claim of a victory, of the pursuit of ROSSER twenty-six miles, and the capture of eleven guns, it is so much on a par with his report of 'EARLY'S demoralised and routed army' flying *pêle-mêle* into Richmond that we must at least wait for corroboration from Southern sources. Let us hope, for the credit of humanity, that this Federal MUNCHAUSEN has as grossly overstated the havoc and ruin he and his brutal soldiery have caused in the valley of the Shenandoah.

The accounts of the last day's fighting in the neighbourhood of Richmond are equally discordant. But here the discrepancy is less perplexing, for it is General BUTLER who fixes the losses of the victorious Confederates as well as those of the defeated Federals; and opposed to his version is that of General LEE. We don't believe that even the *New York Herald* would endorse BUTLER'S figures. What is certain is, that, after checking the Federal advance along the Newmarket Road on the Thursday, LEE became the assailant on the following day, drove KANZ'S division in confusion from their entrenchments, capturing ten guns and many prisoners. The attack on General BIRNEY'S lines appears to have been an *addendum* of General BUTLER. Under any circumstances that engagement put out of the question for some time to come any further advance upon Richmond, and brought the operations north of the James River to a standstill. In despair, GRANT has again had recourse to Mr. LINCOLN'S advice, and has called up FARRAGUT to his assistance. As that energetic and resolute officer has succeeded where others have failed, it is perhaps fancied he may find a new road into Richmond. But he will find the work of removing the obstructions of the James River a tough and tedious job. Wherever his ironclads go there must be assaulting columns to aid him, or there will inevitably be a repetition of last year's failure. The record of contradictions would not be complete without General BURBRIDGE'S repulse at Saltville. This officer claims to have driven the Confederates into the very works which it was his object to capture; and then, failing suddenly in ammunition, to have retired comparatively without loss. Of course the obvious truth is, that he assaulted Saltville, was repulsed, and driven off with heavy loss, affording one more proof of the extraordinary resources General LEE has at command in and around the capital of the Confederacy.

But the most striking contradiction occurs in the reports from the two armies in Georgia. In Washington, SHERMAN is represented as master of the situation, HOOD is reported to be in full retreat, and FORREST to have barely escaped annihilation. In Richmond things are regarded very differently. It is there held that HOOD has commenced offensive operations on a grand scale; that by a bold and skilful manœuvre he has marched the bulk of his army upon SHERMAN'S single line of communication; and that for the time SHERMAN is completely isolated and cut off from Tennessee. The admissions of the Federal commander go far to confirm this view of the position. Whilst claiming a victory at Altoona, he expresses his fears about Rome and Kingston; he acknowledges the occupation of Dalton, but states that he has no reason to fear for the safety of his main army. The facts seem to be these. HOOD, after strengthening the defences of Macon, and rendering that city secure against a sudden attack, marched with his main army upon West Point, west of Atlanta, and then turning eastward crossed the Chattahoochie, and fell with different portions of his force upon several points of the Chattanooga and Atlanta railroad. He had thus planted himself strongly on SHERMAN'S only line of communication, and it would be necessary for the latter to march out of Atlanta and fight a pitched battle, or starve. Confederate accounts represent HOOD as holding a strongly entrenched position at Marietta, as having captured Rome with its garrison of 3,000 Federals, and as threatening Kingston. In any case it is clear that the bulk of HOOD'S army is somewhere between Atlanta and Chattanooga, and that the Federal garrisons of the intermediate stations will be easily reduced. It is not improbable, then, that another great battle may be fought in Georgia. But it must be borne in mind that defeat in such a case would be destruction to SHERMAN'S whole army; and it is very doubtful if he has sufficient means of transport and supplies to enable him at once to take the field and hold Atlanta. He is deficient in cavalry; his train of mules is known to have suffered terribly; he has lost many regiments of veteran troops, and for weeks his transport of provisions and ammunition has been seriously impeded by the Confederate operations in Tennessee. Nor can he be easily reinforced. Everywhere the North is in need of troops. The Federals are hard pressed in the Shenandoah Valley; they are inactive before Petersburg; in Tennessee they have hard work to hold the railroads; in Missouri they are outnumbered and threatened with expulsion. And, above all, there is the Presidential election close at hand, which will effectually dispose of many thousands of Federal soldiers. From the Mississippi neither supplies nor reinforcements can reach him, as is proved by the fate of the expedition from General WASHBURNE'S department. And it seems to be left to General SHERMAN to extricate himself from the difficulties of a position, the perils of which he never sufficiently considered. If it shall turn out, as we have reason to believe it will, that HOOD has been heavily reinforced, and if FORREST, and RODDY, and LEE, and WHEELER, are all acting in concert with the view of isolating SHERMAN and cutting off his retreat, then the campaign in Georgia and Tennessee will assume an importance not second to that of the operations around Richmond. It would be worse than useless to speculate on the probabilities of such a struggle. But it is sufficient for the present to know that everything points to a favourable issue of the movement so brilliantly commenced by General HOOD.

At Home in England.

THE Liverpool Bazaar has proved a decided success. The objects for which it was called into existence have excited, not generosity, but enthusiasm. As a mere act of charity it is an addition to the long and splendid list of the efforts of English benevolence; but it can be regarded under aspects exceeding in attraction even that of noble liberality. As regards the mere monetary results, the Bazaar has no precedent. The Patriotic Fund, the subscriptions for the Lancashire Distress Fund, surpassed by tens of thousands the twenty-three thousand pounds realised last week at Liverpool; yet those sums were raised by a nation for its national purposes—they had their strength in the principle that charity begins at home—they contained within them the remote regard for self joined to and elevated by the idea of a true devotion. But the work of benevolence done at Liverpool was accomplished for the benefit of men as near akin to us as it is possible for foreigners to be, yet at the same time foreigners. In the simple fact that the Confederate soldiers are not Englishmen consisted the supreme excellence of the disinterested effort of kindness.

The word foreigner, however, must sound harshly to the ear of a Southern man. If the saying be true, 'ubi libertas, ibi patria,' surely it may be conceded that a similar title can be earned by the scene of friendly actions. In truth it may without much trepidation be affirmed, that to the Confederate gentleman England is a second home. He may travel on the continent of Europe, and in the polite capital of France, among the courteous citizens of Florence or Milan—even in the cities of Germany—he can find hospitality, urbanity, and generous sympathy. But all his hosts are foreigners, his most respectful companions are strangers. Here in England there is for him something warmer than the expression or the show of courtesy. It is not merely that the language, the religion, the manners, the laws too, and the political and social features bear a marvellous resemblance to those of the South, though all these have their just influences. It most assuredly is not the admiration or the pleasantries of men in high places. It is the deep and unshaken assurance that the hearts of the English people are with him.

Indeed, if the tone of ministers and politicians could succeed in a perfect estrangement of two peoples between whom a good understanding is of the last importance, the conduct of leading men in this country would be attended with immense results. What can be more distasteful to a nation that has a keen appreciation of sincerity, and has also the courage to be sincere, than the wretched comments of English politicians on the American war? Speeches full of reservations, qualifications, of hopes of this good result and fears of that evil result, and pious ejaculations, and neutrality not of policy but of sentiment, with a holy horror of bloodshed, a suppressed idea of the antitype of the Pharisee and the Publican, and an insinuated thankfulness of superiority to a pair of miserable combatants, sicken the soul of straightforward men. It is asked again and again, why cannot these leading men speak out? If they are for the Federal Government and think its objects sound and its actions just, why do they not say so? Why this perpetual trimming, this assumption of neatly balancing the virtues and the vices, the gallantry and the weight of metal of either side? In a moment of heat the exclamation rises to the lips, 'If God be God, serve him; but if Baal, then serve him.'

Yet there is a force which instantly checks the just indignation. The English people are braver

and more honest than their leaders. The phantom of irrational responsibility does not dance before their eyes. They are willing to acknowledge that the heart does form part of their natural organisation; and they are not ashamed, in spite of the state of exports and imports and the exuberance of trade, to obey the impulses of a noble passion. If they sympathise with the Confederate cause, they avow their predilections; and it is precisely because no Southerner can walk the streets of London, or travel by railway, or converse with those persons who from time to time cross his path, without indisputable evidence of the feeling of the English people, that to him this country becomes a second home. Nay, if he chooses to mix with the crowd that scans the bulletins of the daily journals, he may fancy that he is once more in Richmond, and that he hears the expressions of his own compatriots.

Now, in the Liverpool Bazaar, a way was opened for the full current of popular feeling to flow. The state of the tide was already learned, but there its force and direction were abundantly ascertained. Of course fashion will do much, and a gorgeous spectacle will do more. But facts exist which indicate with unmistakable clearness that the Bazaar was neither a parade nor a charm for the cure of *ennui*. Two statements will suffice for example. The stalls were guarded not merely by Southern ladies, but by English ladies exceeding in number the natural protectors; while the energy of the latter in no way fell short of that of the former. The second proof is yet more noteworthy. It is a fact that the tradesmen of Liverpool came forward, and, with a liberality beyond praise, supplied at their own cost the most sumptuous entertainment, constituting themselves hosts with a prodigality not easily to be forgotten. These and the like examples are the bubbles on the surface which surely indicate the action of hidden impulses.

For these reasons, then, in spite of official coldness, in spite of the caution of aspirants for power or of self-imagined politicians, in spite of the ten thousand calumnies which once froze up the reputation of the Southern nation, but which have thawed rapidly under the effect of that warmth of admiration which gallant deeds and noble hearts excite in the breast of a great people, the Confederates hold England dear. They refuse to forget from what ancestors they have sprung, and whence they have drawn the inexhaustible fountain of an unconquerable spirit; and they look forward to a time when the bonds already formed by the ties of blood, of laws, and of dependent interests shall be cemented by the candid avowal of mutual respect.

Political Passions.

There is a certain class of statesmen in England for whom the cant phrase of approbation is that 'their opinions are always listened to with respect.' This may certainly be considered as faint praise, and therefore as carrying with it the condemnation which the poet declares is involved in that expression; but by the conventional usages of society it is relieved from this meaning, and is allowed simply to denote that the object of it is neither a scoundrel nor a drivelling idiot; in short, it is a mere negation of bad qualities. In another point of view the expression may be considered to be an amplified form of the Homeric epithets with which our public language abounds. In old times a warrior was always blameless, a maiden always deep-breasted; in the nineteenth century every officer is gallant, every lord is noble, every lawyer learned, and every common-place politician entitled to be listened to with respect. The great advantage of the formula is that the speeches of the gentleman to whom it is applied may always be described as able and temperate, without in any way binding the critic to an enthusiastic admiration of the sentiments uttered, or even an acquiescence in their fundamental truth.

Of all the rising politicians of the day the very last who ought to be placed in the category of pure mediocrity is Lord Stanley. The heir apparent of a great house, the son of an English statesman of very high order, with a mind carefully trained in the best schools of thought, with an experience of men and affairs far greater than usually falls to the lot of men, he bids fair to take up with dignity the prominent position to which a large class of Englishmen are most anxious to call him. Whatever may be the defects which his adversaries find in him, we should scarcely expect them to be those of a man whose speeches 'deserve to be listened to with respect.' Holding these opinions on the subject of Lord Stanley, we are pained to read the 'able and temperate' speech made by his Lordship to his constituents at King's Lynn. It is one which we cannot consider worthy of his position, of his family, or of himself. Had the speaker been a native of Yankeeland, he would have been aptly described as 'sitting on a rail,' and his smartness would have been admired by those who care little for downrightness and straightforwardness. Had he lived in that as yet undiscovered Utopia where government can be conducted constitutionally without the aid of distinct parties in the State, he might have deserved credit as the cautious and somewhat cold-blooded apostle of that doctrine. But being an Englishman, and a reputed lieutenant, so to speak, of the Conservative party, he cannot evade the responsibilities of his position; he must either stand by his creed manfully, or manfully abjure his errors; he must not be suffered to tone down disagreeable differences into agreeable varieties after this fashion:—'Between moderate Conservatives and moderate Liberals the differences are slight—all between the two extreme parties represent shades of opinion which imperceptibly merge into one another, the most reasonable one, in my opinion, being generally found near the middle.' If Lord Stanley really believes this, we are sorry for him; but we should as soon expect to hear a Protestant theologian descant on the imperceptible gradations between bad and good, as a Conservative statesman enunciating such opinions. That they are 'able and temperate' in the cant sense of the term, we allow with a sigh of disappointment; but that in the present juncture of affairs they are truly statesmanlike, we must absolutely decline to believe.

The same temperateness and deadness of colour is apparent in the manner in which his Lordship touches upon the principal points of external and interior policy which are at the present time engaging our attention, and influences equally the correctness of his conclusions. Thus, in the first matter which he brings before his audience, the policy of complete non-intervention, inaugurated, as he says, by the great debate of July last, he is perfectly contented to adopt the theories which were then supposed to have received the sanction of the nation, merely warning his hearers that the day will come when the feelings and political passions of men will lead them to think differently, and destroy the good work of the last session of Parliament. To any but an 'able and temperate' speaker it might have occurred that feelings and political passions were possibly quite as active in establishing the new doctrine as they will be in destroying it, and that it might be worth while to analyse the peculiar sentiments of which our lately-founded policy is the offspring. But either the natural temperament of Lord Stanley or the purpose of his dissertation forbade it, and he passed on to an examination of the particular events in which our non-intervention was manifested. They are the affairs of Italy, Germany, Turkey, and America. In the discussion of the first of these we regretted to see that the 'temperateness' of the orator was evinced by the cold and sneering fashion in which he spoke of the enthusiasm of the Italians for Rome, 'an unhealthy and decaying town, possessing no peculiar military and commercial advantages, and with nothing to recommend it except an historical name.' Of all sorts of interference there is none so galling, and at the same time so useless, as that of a sneering comment; and the criticism is in this case doubly unfortunate, as it must be equally disagreeable to each of the contending parties in Italy. Then, with regard to Germany, we might have expected to hear a statement of some of the reasons which induced the House of Commons to run counter to the 'feeling and political passions' of England, the existence of which Lord Stanley will scarcely, we suppose, deny. Or, again, since he declined entirely to take notice of the effect of the Danish war on ourselves, he might have touched on the manner in which the whole of Europe has been affected by the arbitrary proceedings, the reckless repudiation of treaties, and the general hypocrisy in which the German Powers have so largely indulged. Quite the contrary; he never mentions the Danish war, but treats us instead to a prophecy with regard to the future of the smaller States of Germany, again studiously ignoring the existence of a certain German feeling, emotional, enthusiastic, romantic, or whatever he may please to call it, still a real live feeling, which is more likely to decide the future of these States than the abstract consideration of the advantages or disadvantages of a French alliance. With respect to Turkey the language of the speaker was, designedly perhaps, obscure; he rebuked the prejudices of our older statesmen, who refuse to let Turkey go by the board, and prophesied the speedy appearance of a certain dominant race in those quarters, with whom we are to drive an enormous trade: at the same time he allowed that it would be highly impolitic to permit any strong European Power to hold Constantinople, and equally foolish not to secure the neutrality of Egypt. Of course, we may ask what is the dominant race which will possess the plains of Thrace and the rich provinces of Asia, while it leaves Constantinople on the one hand, and Egypt on the other, in a state of neutrality. We may demand a clue to this political problem, and look with respectful surprise upon the man who can speak of it as if he held the solution in his hand; but this is not the point to which we are now drawing the attention of our readers. We would rather have them ask why Lord Stanley has taken no account of the remarkable incidents which ushered in the Crimean war—the aggression of Russia and the determination of the Western Powers to resist her attempts even at the price of commercial advantages. He has again ignored in this case the peculiar features by which the first interruption in the forty years of European peace was marked—the 'feelings and political passions' which were then working, and which are still equally active, though in a somewhat varied shape.

In his remarks upon the American war, the fourth matter of our external policy of which Lord Stanley treats, he has been no less unfortunate. Curiously enough, he has in this instance allowed for a certain amount of political passion as an agent in the affair, and points out the results which he thinks will ensue in consequence of it. He says: 'Considering the determination which the North has shown, I think it likely, as I did three years ago, that, with its enormous superiority of force, it will occupy and overrun in the end the whole territory of the South.' This determination of the North, he then explains, is the result of 'a feeling of revenge and a desire for supremacy.' Now we must really object to this remarkable way of stating the relation between the belligerents in America; it must not be supposed that so erroneous a view of affairs can be allowed to pass unchallenged by us. We are not asking for the intervention which once might have saved rivers of human blood; the time is past when we might have used humble intercession to the European Powers on behalf of the Confederate States of America; the hour is fast approaching when they themselves will demand it as a right against which none can argue. All that we would now point out to our readers is that Lord Stanley has, on his own showing, omitted to mention the strongest political passion which has affected either side in the American war. He speaks of the determination of 20,000,000 Northerners to conquer—a determination which has as yet failed of its object. Why has he said nothing of the determination of the 6,000,000 or 7,000,000 Southerners to resist, which has up to the present time been so successfully carried out? Surely, where the numbers are so absurdly disproportioned, the feeling which influences the victorious minority should be taken into account equally with, if not before, the abortive desire for revenge by which the Northern community is inflamed. Lord Stanley has resolved the determination of the North into its two elements of revenge and tyranny; may we not also say, on the other side, that patriotism to the Confederation, patriotism to the State, memory of family wrongs and of personal insults, indignation at licentious brutality and wanton massacre, contempt of past knavery and present hypocrisy, all combine with the innate love of independence in the Southern nature, and are welded together into a fixed purpose of resistance, before which the lusts of a Lincoln will prove powerless? Thus far for the Southern feelings which Lord Stanley has not cared to mention. But what of that Northern determination of which he thinks so much? Founded on wrong, and built up in iniquity, it is itself continually in danger of destruction from the internal dissensions with which it is vexed; and if that were not enough to insure its fall, it has an antagonist from without, though within its own Constitution, in the shape of a peace party, which may even at this moment be sapping its foundations. Such is the character of the only moral influence which Lord Stanley acknowledges within the whole range of the political world.

We have confined ourselves to the foreign topics which Lord Stanley discussed, as illustrating most fully the error into which he appears to us to have fallen. The same error may be detected in his comments on our colonial affairs, on our financial department, and on the long-vexed difficulty of reform. We confess the temperateness with which the argument is conducted; but we must consider that temperateness is bought at a very dear price, when for the sake of it all the inner motives are passed over, the natural sympathies, the prejudices and aspirations which are continually at work in the politics of the world, and which must work so long as nations are made up of men and not of machines. We regret the evil road into which Lord Stanley has wandered the more that we believe the mistake to have occurred unconsciously to himself, in his anxiety to offend as few as possible; but we are not the less bound to protest against it as the cardinal doctrine in a system which promises hereafter to be most fertile in mischief.

Voices of the Recess.

Two noteworthy speeches have been delivered during the past week, one by a clever Ministerial subordinate, the other by a clever Liberal malcontent; both throwing some light on the ideas which have of late years gained a general if not very sincere acceptance among a certain class of politicians, and suggestive of enquiries which can hardly be summarily disposed of within the limits of those autumnal speeches which have become a part of the acknowledged functions of a member of Parliament. Mr. Bernal Osborne fills an unrecognised office which, if not very dignified, assures to its possessor a certain amount of notice and even of popularity. The House of Commons, which has assumed so many of the ancient privileges of sovereignty, insists, like the sovereigns of old, on keeping a jester, whose licensed impertinences relieve the dulness of debate and enliven the weariness of legislative work; and for several years that post has been filled, to the general satisfaction, by the member for Liskeard. It is due to Mr. Osborne to admit that amid the mass of stale jests and dull buffoonery which the tolerant taste of Parliament accepts as wit and honours with a laugh, are to be found occasional flashes of sarcastic humour which are really telling, and home-thrusts which hit the harder that dignity forbids their victims to resent them. The Solicitor-General is a man of great consequence. He represents in the Administration that American interest which exercises so powerful an influence on their policy. While holding the office of Counsel to the Admiralty, he stretched the license of his profession to its utmost limits in undertaking to advise the Federal Embassy in the prosecution of its claims upon the Government in the case of the *Alabama*; and his voice has seldom been heard in the House of Commons save when it has been necessary to justify the measures by which the Ministry have proved the warmth and friendliness of their neutrality towards the Northern States. It is not without significance that the points on which this gentleman founds an enthusiastic eulogy of the Government he serves, are precisely those which Mr. Bernal Osborne singles out as exceptions to his searching and sarcastic criticism of their general policy—namely, the 'strict neutrality' they have observed between the American belligerents, and the pacific tendency of their action, if not of their language, in regard to the quarrels which have disturbed the peace of Europe. The points in the conduct of the Ministry upon which each dwells with most commendation refer to those topics on which each is at variance with the public sentiment of England. The legal adviser of Mr. Adams eulogises their American policy; the Parliamentary champion of Prussia praises their treatment of Denmark.

Mr. Osborne draws a contrast, the moral of which has a double aspect, between Lord Russell's interposition on behalf of Poland and his careful avoidance of intervention in America. Why, he asks, if you would not interfere in the sanguinary American war, should you have meddled with the fruitless insurrection of Poland? And we, in turn, may ask why the Minister who sympathised so warmly with the sufferings of Polish rebels had no word of rebuke for the worst atrocities inflicted on the gallant people of the Confederate States, our near kinsmen and coreligionists. Are we to suppose that Mr. Osborne is right in attributing the distinction to Lord Russell's confidence in the temper of Russia, and his dread of the irritable susceptibilities of the people of the Northern States?

Sir R. Collier, avoiding the Polish precedent, is lavish of his expressions of self-complacent satisfaction with the faithful observance by Government of our neutral obligations towards the United States. It is to be observed that he, like most of those who take a similar view, speaks of the American war as if there were only one party to it—as if we had nothing to consider but how to avoid any interference with the rights and interests of the North. This is the tone of nearly all Ministerial advocates, and their acts accord but too faithfully with their language. Their only care has been to do and endure everything which the North could with any shadow of reason demand of them. Thus Sir R. Collier cites, as a proof of their strict fulfilment of neutral obligations, the seizure of the supposed Confederate ships at the demand of the Federal Embassy. It is only from his very peculiar point of view that such an act could be deemed anything else than an extreme act of complaisance towards one of the belligerents, barely consistent with neutrality. For the Attorney-General distinctly laid it down that no rule of international law obliged us to such a measure. And if we admit that the Foreign Enlistment Act entitled us to seize the ships, this by no means disposes of the question. That Act is not a compulsory one, and Ministers have always used the widest latitude in regard to its enforcement. It had never been enforced before; it had been very recently and openly disregarded in the case of the Garibaldians; and its sudden revival for the purpose of checking the operations of one belligerent while the other was notoriously and systematically violating or evading its provisions, can hardly be treated as a proof of impartial observance of neutral obligations. Indeed, the case would never have been recalled to the recollection of his hearers by an orator who had any serious regard to the fact that the action of a neutral ought to be impartial. The Solicitor-General only cared to show that we had done nothing unfriendly to the North; he was bent on praising the Government, and, in his eyes, acts of hostility towards the South would not be ground of dispraise. Had he really been intent to show that the attitude of Government had been one befitting a neutral Power—had he bethought him that neutrality has two sides to it, and that it was quite as necessary to show that we had not befriended the Federals as that we had not injured them—his task would have been by no means so simple. He would have had to explain the distinction which permits the Federal Government to make Ireland a recruiting-ground while the Confederates are excluded from the Liverpool dockyards. He would have had to account for the withdrawal of consuls from Confederate ports at the demand of the Federal Government. He would have had to excuse the seizure of the *Tuscaloosa*, a Confederate commissioned man-of-war, and the license allowed to Federal cruisers to burn and sink vessels within musket-shot of British shores. It deserves notice that all those who commend the neutrality of the Government pass these matters by without comment, and dwell only on the undeniable fact that the Ministry have done everything in their power to conciliate the North—a fact in itself sufficient to cast suspicion on their neutrality in the judgment of all who remember that the claims of both belligerents on neutral Powers are strictly equal, and that every favour rendered to one is an injury towards the other.

Satisfied, or more than satisfied, with the curious kind of neutrality observed by Government in the American quarrel, both the Minister and the malcontent express a hearty approval of its determination not to fight in defence of the integrity and independence of Denmark. Mr. Osborne belongs to that school of Liberalism which makes an open profession of national selfishness and calculating cowardice; which holds that wealth is better than honour, and commerce more precious than conscience; which regards a ten per cent. income-tax as the worst of evils, and will hear nothing of any duty, any principle, any obligation arising out of the riches, the security, the strength, that God has given us to protect the weak and stand up for the right. Let despotism trample out liberty, let great Powers absorb small ones, and let England sit by with folded arms, waiting until the tide of aggression threatens herself before she dreams of risking her trade or closing her markets by drawing the sword upon her customers. Such is the doctrine of those in whose ranks Mr. Osborne has enlisted; and it is one to which the Solicitor-General also betrays an inclination. But he cannot make up his mind to that self-created isolation, that accepted insignificance which the scheme involves. Don't let us go to war, but let us not therefore abdicate our place in Europe. 'Why should we hold our tongue because we do not choose to fight? Why should we not freely express our opinions, though we don't intend to back them by force?' So argues Sir R. Collier. The answer ought to have been sufficiently apparent to any man who has ever asked himself what is the meaning of an expression of opinion by a Government. Why do foreign nations listen to the advice of the English Government, and at its instance postpone or settle a quarrel? Is it because our reasoning is so powerful, our Minister so wise? If it were so, the interposition of Belgium would be fully as effectual as our own. Can any one in his senses suppose that Count Rechberg, or Herr von Bismarck, or M. Minghetti, or their sovereigns care what Lord Russell or Lord Palmerston personally think of their proceedings, or are moved by the arguments of those noble lords? What foreign Governments respect is the English navy; the opinion to which they listen is the opinion of those who can send that navy to blockade their ports and blow their coast defences about their ears. When once it shall come to be understood that we don't intend to use our navy for the purpose of enforcing our opinions, we sink at once, in point of influence and authority, to the level of Belgium. Our neighbours know that they can do what they like without our leave, and they will no longer take the trouble to ask it. If we do 'speak our minds,' we shall not be listened to with even the show of respect; and it does not beseem a nation to utter an opinion which has ceased to carry weight. We cannot enjoy the cheapness of isolation, and the power and authority that belong to an active participator in the world's affairs, at one and the same time; and if we have decided upon the former, let us not make ourselves ridiculous by vainly pretending to the latter.

But the truth is that England retains her influence because her neighbours are aware that neither the policy of isolation, nor the modification proposed by the Solicitor-General and practised by the Foreign Office, really represents her national intention. Mr. Osborne and Sir R. Collier, Mr. Cobden and Lord Russell, as little represent the mind of the nation in their European as in their American policy. While the Government truckles to the North, and the Radicals flatter it, the heart of the nation is with the gallant struggles of the South, and will respond unanimously to the first appeal that shall be made to it by a Minister resolved either on an honest neutrality or an energetic interposition. And while Mr. Cobden preaches the gospel of selfish gold-worship, and Lord Russell makes open profession of cowardice before Europe, the English nation fears neither the cost nor the danger of war; and the first Minister who shall appeal to her ancient spirit on behalf of an oppressed and injured State will find that spirit as quick and as fiery as ever. Lancashire has endured three years' starvation rather than begin an 'unrighteous' war; England would face thrice as much rather than submit to an unworthy and ignominious peace.

'Measures, not Men!'

In days of conflict, when the armour is in constant use, no rust can lie on its surface undetected; when the strife has ceased, vigilance is needful, lest, disuse breeding neglect, rust should mar its brightness or eat away its strength. When neither storms threaten from without nor internal convulsions shake the State—when the struggle for freedom is ended, and the mind is loosed from the folds of superstition, and the body is unshackled by the chain of tyranny—when peace is within the borders and prosperity abounds—when the term is reached where it is lawful 'to rest and be thankful,' and to move forwards is only to move downwards—when all men say 'peace and safety'—the time of a nation's greatest peril has arrived. Then it behoves men to beware that the heritage received from their fathers sustains no damage at their hands—that the blessings they enjoy are jealously preserved and righteously used. There is danger lest overweening confidence, the sure precursor of ruin, should be induced by prosperity—lest the principles which sustained the conflict should be lost sight of in the rest secured. What is party warfare but a conflict of principles? If principle be wanting, it degenerates into a selfish struggle of rival factions. What is constitutional government but that graduation of classes, that balancing of opposing influences, which, while it preserves order in the State, secures liberty to the citizen? It has been slowly evolved in England from a mass of hostile principles and conflicting interests, and it has been the good fortune of this country that neither King, nor Lords, nor Commons have at any time been strong enough to override and exist without the others; while the different classes which make up together the subjects of the realm, though always distinct, have never been utterly separate, nor has any one principle or any one interest ever been able to assert and maintain complete supremacy over its competitors. The results are patent to all: there is no nation so free and yet so orderly as England, no country so abounding in wealth and resources of every kind. But this, as we have seen, is precisely the state of things that calls for the greatest vigilance, and should make us consider how these results were obtained, and how they may be best preserved. Such a problem, however, we have no intention of discussing on the present occasion. But one or two collateral questions may be shortly noticed as worthy of consideration. At the same time it must be borne in mind that, though we speak of the constitution of England as the product of principles and interests differing among themselves, these are in fact the motives which impel men to action, and the results obtained through their influence are gained by earnest men. This remark is an obvious one, the reason for making which will presently appear. The traveller in unknown regions finds his attention arrested at every step—every new turn in the way presents fresh objects for scrutiny and consideration—while the man passing over a well-known and oft-trodden path goes on his way heedless of the objects around him. So also a new doctrine invites criticism, and by its opponents and partisans is so investigated and thoroughly sifted that no fallacy involved in it escapes detection; while an old doctrine is accepted for the most part without reflection and retained without consideration. A new party cry or form of words attracts attention and challenges opposition or support; an

old one is adopted with scarcely a thought as to the meaning it conveys, or rather conceals; the ignorant, the thoughtless, or the prejudiced catch up and reproduce the empty words which, while they convey no true meaning to the mind, often influence and generally mislead men's actions. 'Measures not men' has become a sort of cant expression repeated on all sides with a sort of feeble enthusiasm, but with little heed to the principle it involves; but it is worth while to pause for a moment to consider what is the meaning of an expression so vaguely employed—what is the truth or falsehood veiled by that form of words. 'Measures not men'—that is to say, so long as certain measures are introduced, we care not by what men or set of men they are brought forward. Whether Lord Derby or Lord Russell, Lord Palmerston or Mr. Disraeli are the men in power, we care not to enquire; all we require is that the men in office shall form a sort of machine for the producing of certain measures necessary, or supposed to be necessary, for the well-being of the social system. It is no doubt true that if certain measures are ascertained to be necessary for the country, and if those measures can be introduced by any party or any set of men, then it matters little, except to the enjoyers of power and its emoluments, and to their immediate followers, who the fortunate few may be. But, we would ask, who can decide what measures are necessary? Who can decide that the measures which appear beneficial now would not be absolutely injurious three or four years hence? Who can feel secure that the measures promised on the hustings will be introduced to and carried through Parliament? Does not the present Ministry afford a notable instance that the very contrary of this may occasionally happen? Mr. Carlyle has well observed that the 'history of the world is the biography of great men.' Are we to ascribe the various changes which since the world began have swept across it, to the adoption of measures or to the actions of men? Does the measure mould the man? or is the man the author—the soul, so to speak—of the measure? Great changes have ever been introduced, vast results achieved, mighty empires shaken or supported, not by the measures that may have been adopted, but by men with a definite purpose before them, acting on a clearly present principle, having the sagacity to devise and the courage to carry out their schemes. It is the fashion to say that great occasions produce great men, and that in troublous times men equal to the emergency are sure to arise. Does the time produce the man, or does the man take advantage of the opportunity? What made Macedon for a time the ruler, or at least the terror, of the world. The skill of Philip and the valour of his son. Was the power of Rome shaken, and her very existence threatened, by the prudent measures of Carthage, or by the skill and courage of Hannibal? What gave the imperial for the republican form of government to Rome—the measures adopted in the Senate, or the vigour and capacity of Augustus? What broke up the Roman empire but the decay of manhood in her citizens? Was it the measures proposed by his advisers, or the address of Belisarius and Narses, that reproduced the ancient fame of the empire, and shed a lustre of glory over Justinian's reign? It is vain to multiply instances which must occur to every mind. If we search the pages of ancient history, what stands out conspicuously in every country and under every circumstance? What illumines the darkness of the middle ages? What has built up and perfected the civilisation of modern times? The measures proposed, or the men who have acted? If men are required to break down, or change, or build anew, how much more are they necessary for that harder task of supporting in a time of quiet that which has already been built up, of preventing injury from arising to the fabric through the lethargy of some, or the reckless desire of change displayed by others! Further, let us consider what manner of men they are who compose, so to speak, the history of the world—whether the exigencies of the hour or the requirements of the after-time weighed most with them. Would England now be what she is if, in the days of the First Charles, the Hampdens, Pyms, and Elliots had counted the cost of resistance to kingly encroachments? Was it the highest prudence or a fortunate rashness that inspired Elizabeth to resist the apparently resistless power of Spain? Had the cost of the struggle or the might of the enemy weighed with Pitt, and Canning, and Castlereagh, Europe might still be trembling at the power of France. Reform was carried, and Catholic emancipation obtained, by men with a definite purpose before them, and a steady will to attain the objects they had in view, regardless of the immediate difficulties and dangers in their path. Men, not measures, then, have fashioned the world's history, and those men have been influenced, not by narrow views of present gain or safety, but by a comprehensive understanding of what would in the long run prove advantageous. It is not too much to say, that, until recently at all events, England has been preeminent among the nations for her disregard of expediency and steady adherence to principle, and in this she has prospered. From the days of Corcyra and Corinth down to the present time, no country has ever become great, and no great country has ever continued so, by abandoning the duties imposed by its relations with other States, or by refusing, from a selfish fear of consequences, to act the part assigned to it by circumstances. The preservation of the peace of the world is the great object which a great commercial country ought to have at heart. It is not enough that its ports should be filled with the merchandise of every clime, and the interests of trade advanced and protected by its Government; other nations expect more than this of it; the people themselves feel that they exist for something more than this. It is melancholy when the honour of a country is sacrificed by its rulers. A high-spirited people will not long endure that it should be so. Not merely to carry on successful war, but also to maintain honourable peace, it is essentially necessary that those holding office should be ready not to propose measures only, but to act the part of men. In their relations with foreign Powers, in their dealings with their sovereign no less than with their fellow-subjects, the Ministers of a great country should be men. Let one instance suffice. Few Englishmen beheld without indignation the grievous wrong wrought on the Danes by the German Powers; none beheld without shame the course pursued by England. Who did not blush to see hopes excited only to be disappointed—a gallant nation brought to the verge of ruin by the uncertain vacillations and pusillanimous conduct of English statesmen? The sympathy for Denmark was general throughout the country; if we may judge from their words, the Ministers themselves shared in the general sympathy. We were told that the Danes should not stand alone in a certain contingency. On another occasion we heard that the English fleet was in the Downs ready for service. When asked for an explanation of a statement so unexpected, the high-spirited Premier of England had recourse to the empty boast that the English fleet was ready to go anywhere and do anything. Who, that knows aught of current history, is ignorant of the cause of England's sympathy become so useless, of the discrepancy between the words and acts of her statesmen? Who does not grieve that it should be so? Who can forget the contrast presented by Pitt, who, when no longer able to serve his king and keep his pledged word, resigned the trust he could no longer hold with honour? As we have before observed, it is as hard to keep a country great as to make it so. Men are required to do men's work in times of peace and plenty as much as in times of danger and alarm, but it is harder to discover them. Only find the men—the measures may well be left to take care of themselves. The Ministers of a free country have to direct into the proper channels the popular energies; they have also to tender advice to the sovereign. When an object is proposed in any quarter incompatible with pledges they have given, either to the people at home or to foreign nations, or when it is contrary to what they believe to be for the public advantage, only one course is open to them if they would preserve their honour and their reputation. A great country needs great men; these secured, wise measures will be obtained from them. An Administration which is either moved by the tumult or applause of the people, or is made to swerve from the path of duty by other considerations, does no good service to the sovereign, brings discredit on itself, and reflects upon the country its own disgrace.

Sheridan's Retreat.—By an order from General Grant the Federal force under Sheridan, which has pursued the Confederate army down the Valley of the Shenandoah, has turned northward again. But in retiring it has devastated the whole of the valley, from Brook's Gap, the most southerly point it reached, to Strasburg, its present quarters. A track of fertile country, 60 miles in length, with an average breadth of 40, between the Blue Ridge and the North Mountains, is burnt into a wilderness. We hope the General has exaggerated the extent of the destruction of which he has been the instrument, but he reports that 2,000 barns and 70 mills, stored with corn and forage, meal, and implements of agriculture, have been given to the flames. One of his men was shot in carrying his order into effect, and in retaliation 'every dwelling within a radius of five miles from the spot where he fell' was burnt. Comment on such an atrocity is needless. Some physiologists have asserted that the Americans have gradually acquired something of the Red Indian cast of countenance. Can the spirit of the savage have also entered into them? But if the war is to go on thus it will be the modern disgrace of mankind. The destruction of what invaders spare, if even for their own sake, looks more like desperation of success than a reasoning confidence. The Federals must have given up the hope of possessing in future the soil they ravage. *Nemo sic vastat sua.*—*Times.*

Electioneering Victories.—A correspondent of the *Montreal Gazette*, writing on October 5, says:—'I am a careful reader of the telegrams, and find that in the last three months—ever since Mr. Lincoln was renominated—the Federals have won fifty-nine battles, while during the same period they did not admit a single reverse.'

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and of much less importance, whether
commercial sense, to ourselves. Except
who have been in the Colonial Office, it is p
no English statesman could point out on the map
and boundaries of more than some of the greatest o
transmarine possessions, or say offhand how many separa
dependencies we possess on the American and Australian
continents. It is remarkable that colonial affairs occupy a
smaller space in our newspapers than is given to the business
of a single police court, and that France occupies in one day
as many columns of the *Times* as are afforded in a week
to the whole of our colonial empire put together. One
principal reason of this apparent indifference is no doubt
the absence of all anxiety or alarm on behalf of communities so prosperous, so progressive, and so very well able
to take care of themselves; another, less satisfactory to
the sensitiveness of the colonists, is the frequent pettiness
of those political contests which occupy so large a share
of their attention, and the difficulty which English
readers find, from their necessary ignorance of the details
of colonial affairs, in understanding even such important
questions as those connected with the occupation and distribution of land, the organisation of secular and religious
education, and the like. But there is no real indifference
between the mother-country and her distant children. An
invasion of Canada would be resented as fiercely as an
invasion of Kent; and the prosperity of the Australian
settlements is as gratifying to us as that of Scotland. If
Canada has been, until lately, comparatively neglected by
the English press, it is not necessary to attribute this circumstance to any coolness or want of sympathy with our
most powerful and civilised colony. She has been overshadowed to a great extent by the more rapid growth and
infinitely greater power of the United States. Her politics have been complicated and uninteresting; her prosperity has been sufficient to preclude all uneasiness on her
account without exciting peculiar notice. But of late
events have made her the subject of a degree of interest
second only to that excited by the affairs of New Zealand,
and much more likely to last. The outrage on the *Trent*
made the defence of our American possessions a matter of
extreme anxiety; and never since that time have our relations with the Northern States been such as to reassure
us on that score. The difficulty of communicating with
the Western province, and the absence of railways
and obstruction of river navigation, which makes the
transmission of reinforcements during six months of
the year all but absolutely impossible, have caused
much discussion in this country, and made us far better
acquainted with the geography and the circumstances of
British America than we were four years ago. And just
now peculiar interest attaches to that country, as the proposed scene of a new experiment in colonial government.
The prospect of a federal union among the provinces is
regarded with hopeful good will by all parties in the
mother-country; nor are Englishmen slow to perceive, or
lukewarm in approving, the effect of such a union in the
relations between British America and her ambitious
neighbours. Canada begins to interest us, not only as a
British settlement, but as a nucleus of a future British
Power in America—a power which, by its own strength
and its connection with the mother-country, will be likely
to play no unimportant part in the politics of the Western
hemisphere. These circumstances have attracted towards
Canada and her sister provinces an unusual share of public
attention, and Mr. Day could not have chosen a better
time for the publication of a work on 'English America.'
A somewhat different arrangement, the omission of some
matters in no way peculiar to the country—as the description of a lunatic asylum, and the chapter on newspaper
puffs of quack medicine—as well as a clearer and fuller
account of interesting matters with which the public at
home are not so well acquainted as Mr. Day seems to
suppose (the oil wells, for example), would have made the
book more agreeable to the general reader, and promoted
its popularity. It might have been as well, moreover, to
have collected together the statistics distributed through
the volume, and formed them into a tabular appendix.
However, the work contains much useful information, and
will afford material for many 'public instructors' who are
somewhat at a loss where to seek an account of Canadian
progress more recent than the excellent work of Mr.
Johnston.

The unfortunate rejection of the Militia Bill gave
rise to a serious, though not protracted, misunderstanding between the Canadians and their countrymen at home. This scheme of colonial defence was
understood to be recommended by the Imperial authorities, and to be absolutely essential for the protection
of the provinces; and its rejection was thought to
signify a disposition on the part of the colonial
Legislature to throw the whole burden of their defence
upon England. This, as it appears from Mr. Day's narrative, was a mistake. The Bill was introduced by a Ministry which had brought itself into great unpopularity, and
the finances of Canada into utter confusion; it would
have involved an expense which the Exchequer was in no
condition to meet; and Parliament was not prepared to
accept so large and costly a measure at the hands of a tot-

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* *English America; or, Pictures of Canadian Places and People.* By Samuel Phillips Day, Author of 'Down South,' &c. T. C. Newby.

…n with the Bill, much less energetic …ay be doubted whether …nce for a country like … for any length of time … season when drill and mili… …iculty be performed in the … be necessary to quarter the … would never be encamped, …rained in winter. A good …ing the whole country, would …able method of utilising its mili… …er Canada, by Mr. Day's account, is …ion of the movement; but in Montreal …e English settlers have taken it up more …d we may hope in a few years to see the …onfederation defended by a volunteer army …ided by an English division and commanded by …ers of the regular army, would be more than a match …or any enemy it would be likely to encounter.

Sore as they were at the somewhat sharp censures of the English press, the Canadians were in nowise rendered less loyal to the mother-country by this unlucky controversy. The impertinent sympathy offered by the New York press was indignantly repelled, and the colonists trusted to time and explanation to set them right with their compatriots. We are assured that no part of the British empire contains more loyal subjects of Her Majesty than Canada. Their feelings and their interests alike attach them to a sovereign whose rule is never felt as a restraint, but always as a protection. Upper Canada did not until lately feel so keen an antipathy to the Yankees as their recent insolence has provoked; but the Orange spirit, whatever its faults, which prevails in that province is in itself a guarantee of attachment to the British Crown, and the colonists were constantly reminded, by their political contests with the French Catholics of Lower Canada, of their British birth and their connection with the great Protestant nation from which they sprang. There are in the Western province few settlers of other than British blood; the German element is wanting and the Irish subordinate; and thus the colony has none of those anti-English influences which are paramount in the States, and are not altogether absent from our Australian possessions. Such being the case, it would require a long course of interference, vexation, and insult, such as is happily now impossible, on the part of the Colonial Office, to alienate the affections of Upper Canada. Lower Canada is comparatively lukewarm, but content and prosperous under our rule, and therefore loyal in the passive sense. Another feeling supplies the place of that natural devotion which we can hardly expect from a foreign race. If the French Canadians do not love the British, they detest the 'Bostonais,' and in the event of an invasion would fight as heartily from hatred of the starspangled banner as their Western brethren from love for the British flag. Both sections are perperfectly sensible of the advantage they derive from the protection of Great Britain; and the expression of an unfortunate mayor, who, in what he meant for a loyal speech, pronounced his attachment to British rule on the ground that it was 'so much cheaper,' represented a conviction universal even among those who are the least moved by any sentiment of traditional loyalty.

Recent events have done much to stimulate the ill will between the Yankees and the Canadians, and the aversion of the latter to that annexation which is continually promised or threatened by their neighbours. The menaced conscription drove American citizens from all the frontier States into Canada, until the border counties positively swarmed with fugitives; and the spectacle of so many refugees, congratulating themselves on their escape from the land of liberty, was calculated strongly to impress the Canadians with a sense of their own good fortune in living under the shadow of an empire which asked nothing of them but that they should assist in their own defence. The Federal authorities took violent measures to repress the emigration. They stationed guards along the frontier, on the banks of the lakes, and of the St. Lawrence, to arrest the fugitives. More than once these guards fired on Canadian boats, sometimes when these contained women; and the Canadians were so indignant at the outrage, that they were with difficulty restrained from taking that summary vengeance which the offenders had amply provoked. Such acts as these, and the inroads on British territory made by parties in pursuit of deserters, leave behind them an animosity which rankles long and deeply, and gives an additional fillip to the loyal zeal and the Southern sympathies of the Canadians.

It is not now too soon to predict that the history of Canada is not to end in annexation to the United States. The separation of the East and West—of the energetic, pushing, Protestant population of Upper Canada, from the calm, Conservative, Catholic French of the Lower province—will remove the last source of discontent and danger. The Upper Canadians at present outnumber their neighbours considerably, and are jealous of the equal share of political power assigned to the latter by a scheme devised when the preponderance was on the side of Lower Canada. And the French Catholics, with a social system derived from the *ancien régime*, are resolute in resisting the political encroachments of their rivals, feeling that their institutions would not stand long against the assault of a British and Protestant majority. But when left each to itself, without fear on the one side or jealousy on the other, Upper Canada will have no desire to meddle with her neighbours, and they no reason to stand on guard against her. A close federal union will certainly be possible between those who for twenty years have contrived to get on under a consolidated government; and the new Federation will be far too powerful to have any inclination towards Yankeedom. The development of those internal communications which the separation of Canada from the maritime colonies has hitherto retarded, will give that stimulus to emigration and to commerce which is alone wanting to enable Canada to rival the prosperity of the Western States. Railways, judiciously directed, will make Toronto as accessible as Cincinnati, and will offer to the immigrant as good a market for his labour as he can find in Illinois or Ohio. The condition of the States after this war will not be such as to tempt intending emigrants to prefer the Stars and Stripes to the Union Jack; and Canada will, if she make due use of her opportunities, be enabled to secure that supply of labour which has hitherto been absorbed by the States, and which has given them their sole advantage over her. It is impossible to read Mr. Day's book without seeing that Canada has great advantages over more popular fields of emigration. She has a less genial climate than that of Australia, but a soil much more favourable, and resources in her inexhaustible forests, and advantages in her vast sheets of water, which are altogether wanting to a continent which seems to be behind the rest of the world by a whole geological era. When once the intercolonial railway shall enable travellers to reach the unoccupied lands of Canada through British territory; when proper places and means for the reception of emigrants (the absence of which Mr. Day discloses) shall have been provided; and when sufficient communication shall have been established between the farms of the West and the markets of the maritime colonies—all of which improvements seem to be now in a fair way towards their accomplishment—Canada will begin to reap the advantage of her comparative proximity to England, and divert no inconsiderable portion of that stream of labour which now finds its way to the Antipodes; enriched and fertilised by which, she will become indeed, what she has been often called, 'the brightest jewel of the British Crown.'

THE FALLS OF NIAGARA.

(NOTES OF AN EXCURSIONIST.)

September 1864.

We started by steamer early in the morning, landing on the American side by the mouth of the Niagara River, and proceeding by rail to the largest of the several hotels on that side, 'The Cataract.' The journey was only a short one, noticeable for nothing beyond the curious feature presented by the confluence of the Niagara River and the broad waters of the Lake, where, as with the Rhone and the Arve at Geneva, the Ottawa and the St. Lawrence at Montreal, the Gulf Stream and the Atlantic Ocean, there seems to be such a want of chemical affinity between the two currents that their waters will not intermingle: for miles you could trace the line of contact so distinctly marked that you might fancy some hidden breakwater kept the two apart. Our steamer took us about eight miles up the Niagara River, a very pretty sail through lofty wooded cliffs, and thence 'the cars' whisked us along the top of the American shore, skirting the edge of the precipice at such a giddy height as made me shudder to look down and see the angry rapids foaming and fretting beneath us. Half an hour and we were in sight of the cloud of mist that day and night rises from the Falls high above the forest and the town; and another half-hour, and, after a very distant peep at the Falls themselves, we were landing from the cars within a few yards of the great Cataract Hotel.

The house stands close upon the edge of the upper rapids of the river, just where they race and hustle through the rocks as they prepare themselves for their final leap into the abyss beyond. There is no view from the windows of the actual Falls, but the scenery around is beautiful. The rooms open out upon the rapids, the drawing-room being a splendid apartment with a balcony running round it, from which we took our first view of the magnificent scene; our second look at the same grand picture being obtained from a wooden pier thrown out upon some boulder-stones that have lodged in the midst of the current. Opposite to the Hotel lies Goat Island, concealing from the eye the Canadian Falls, but adding to the beauty of the rapids by its own exquisite loveliness of foliage. It is this island that divides the waters of the river into the two currents that are precipitated over the Canadian and American Falls. The Canadian, or Horse-shoe Fall, is the grander of the two. The American, of less volume, is at right angles with the former some little distance lower down the river, for the Canadian Fall, the more powerful, has eaten away the upper bed of the stream faster than her sister Fall, and so retreated, as it were, several hundred yards higher up the gorge.

Passing by a suspension bridge which connects Goat Island with the mainland, we walked to the lowest corner of the isle and stood at once upon the brink of the precipice down which thunders the American Fall. No scene that I have ever witnessed overwhelmed me with such uncontrollable wonder as that which I looked upon as I stood on the margin of the plunge of the mighty cataract. The height, the power and volume of the Falls exceeded my utmost expectations. I had been told that I should be disappointed; but if there be any who have been, I cannot conceive what their imagination could have anticipated. I own I expected more noise, but the state of the atmosphere affects that, and the roar of the Falls (like that of Bottom and Earl Russell) will at one time be as paltry and insignificant as at another it will be grand and terrifying. I should like to have the power to give you some idea of the sublimity of the scene, but it is utterly useless to attempt a description of what is wholly indescribable. The tortuous surgings of the rapids, the sudden calmness at the brow of the cataract, the majestic sea-green curve in which the liquid mass glides over the edge of the precipice, the silvery ringlets into which it is broken up soon after leaving the brink of the rock, the feathery mist in which it showers down into the cloud of spray that ever veils the last fifty feet of the Fall, and the infernal writhe and whiteness in which it reappears in the depths of the abyss, all these wondrous features of the Queen of Cataracts must be seen, watched, sat beside for hours and days, before the mind can grasp the magnificence of the scene. But we were as yet only in sight of the American Fall. A walk along the further side of Goat Island brought us in view of the Canadian Fall, and then I found that I had been expending my fullest admiration and astonishment upon a mere thread of Niagara, the thousandth part of its volume and grandeur, for there was before me again the same glorious scene that I have so briefly sketched; only it was a thousand times intensified.

We ascended and took a view from every one of the numerous points from which tourists are expected to survey the Falls, and paid all those preposterous sums which tourists are invariably doomed to give—for Niagara has its excursionists by thousands, and its 'look-outs,' 'summer-houses,' 'retreats,' 'staircases,' 'perilous seats,' and such-like attractions for an excursion party; but it is less cockneyfied, for all that, than many a place that I have visited—less so than Chamouni and the Righi, and such favourite resorts that do not draw half so many visitors as the Falls. Having done our duty as pure excursionists, and been bled accordingly, we took a carriage and drove off to the Canadian side of the river, crossing by the famous suspension bridge which connects the British and American territories. It is an extraordinary triumph of engineering skill to have thrown across the yawning gulf such a mass of weighty metal as here spans the torrent. How it ever got there is to my mind a dark inexplicable mystery, of which I am not mathematician or engineer enough to see the solution; but there it is to testify, in conjunction with the tubular bridge of Montreal and the canals of the St. Lawrence, to the ingenuity and enterprise of the people of Canada. The bridge is two miles below the Falls, so that the view thence is too distant to be effective; but the drive up to them along the Canadian cliff, past 'The Clifton House,' the great Canadian hotel, is, I think, the most beautiful road I have ever seen. It is from this side that you get in one grand comprehensive landscape the whole length of the American and Canadian Falls, with the steep precipices of Goat Island between them, and the cliffs of the American bank further down the gorge, and above them the roofs, and spires, and gables of the town peering out from amid the forest that forms the background of the picture. Table Rock is a lofty shelving promontory of limestone jutting out from the Canadian shore close upon the brink of the plunge of the great Horse-shoe Fall; and there we sat, as all tourists do, and gazed in rapture at the marvels of nature unfolded around, above, beneath us. I cannot tell you what we saw; you could not depicture it to yourself if I could. I will only say that that one view from Table Rock would repay any one a journey from the farthest corner of the world. All the landscapes I have ever seen—all the snow-pictures of the Alps—all the coast-scenery of the Mediterranean—all the lochs and moors of the Scotch Highlands—sink into insignificance when compared with the incomparable grandeur of Niagara. It is not the Falls themselves alone that cause the magnificence of the scene; but the beauty of the landscape, of which they are the centre, adds a hundredfold to their intrinsic splendour. But it is useless to tell you how I sat and wondered at the majesty of the view from Table Rock; you must go and stand there yourself, and then you will be amazed, as I was, at the all-absorbing interest of the scene, and ponder as I did upon the marvellous force and volume of the waters that every second plunge down the heights before you, and wonder whence comes the inexhaustible supply, and whither it goes, and how many a long roll of countless summers has looked on the same unvaried scene; and so you will wish, perhaps, to put down on paper some little memento of what you saw and felt, and find I dare say, as I do, that the attempt is futile.

But a distant view of the Falls gives but a faint idea of their solemn grandeur. To comprehend them in their awe-inspiring sublimity, you must descend to the base of the cliff, and walk in amongst the spray, and under the curve of their flight down the precipice, and see the terrific power of their waters and the impotence of man beside them: in fact, you must do as I did, make the expedition to 'the Cave of the Winds,' and then you will have impressed upon your mind, perhaps too forcibly, the detail of the more awful properties of Niagara, which a close acquaintance can alone reveal to you.

The 'Cave' lies underneath the American Fall; the trip is decidedly a perilous one, but it is '*the* thing,' and so, to be fashionable, I did it. The party of adventurers consisted of eight, and a guide, a French Canadian. At a house by the foot of the Fall we were provided with a dress, or at least an apology for a costume, the very queerest, oddest-looking, scantiest set of garments in which I have ever appeared in public. The suit consisted of a remarkably thin threadbare flannel shirt, a much thinner and much more threadbare pair of flannel drawers, a pair of flannel socks or slippers, and a cord round the waist; the whole surmounted by an oilskin skull-cap. I never felt more like the maniac who persisted in confining his street toilette to 'hatband and straps,' or realised more painfully the confusing effect of the penetrating glances of half a dozen young ladies, than on the occasion when our little party in Indian file threaded the gauntlet of the inquisitive ones who had drawn up to see us enter the cave. But a bold face and buoyant spirits were necessary for the work that lay before us. After a few words of counsel from the guide about not being frightened, but keeping straight ahead, and energetic assurances that we should *not* be drowned—though we should be sure to fancy that would be the result, for every one, he said, thought so at first—we descended some steps that led right down into the spray of the Fall, and at the bottom came upon a path or narrow ledge that wound along the cliff inside the archway of the Fall. From the moment that we left the stairs, we got into a fine pelting rain that gradually increased in weight and volume till it bore down upon our skull-caps like hail on a skylight. But the cave lay on the further side of the sheet of water, through which we had to get as best we could. How that was I cannot tell you. The guide led the way into the steam and turmoil, bending himself nearly double to keep the beating spray from his nostrils, and clinging on to the slimy rock, for the foothold was slippery and difficult. I believe I did the same, but I cannot say. The guide was immediately lost to our view; and all that I could hear amid the thunder of the cataract beside us was an injunction to push on when it came to the worst, for the illogical reason that it was shorter to get beyond the sheet of water than to turn back. I cannot tell you what a terrifying scene it was—how the waters roared around us—how the stifling spray beat upon our faces so as to drive all the breath out of our bodies—how the wind, caused by the falling mass of water, blew about in a thousand blinding gusts (as if old Æolus had untied every single sack, and let out the whole of his seminary for a general holiday), dashing the rain into our faces and chests, or driving it against our backs and legs, or both ways at once with equal fury—or what I did, or what I saw. I don't know where, or why, or how I went. I only know that I went down into this watery hell and came up again uninjured, but very much out of breath and more frightened, half blinded, more than half deafened, and three-quarters drowned. The rest was comparatively simple—merely a scramble through the mist over slimy polished rocks, a swim across a little pool, and a climb to a chair fixed on a rugged crag, when I found myself out in front of the Fall, with a splendid view of it looking upwards before me, and, the greatest novelty of all, a circular rainbow all around me, at times too doubled. Five minutes' rest upon the crag, and we retraced our steps—for there was no other way back again to terra firma—and then in again amongst the rain and the din of waters, more panting for breath, more struggling with the wanton gusts, more bewildering of the eye and ear, more clinging for bare life to the slimy rock, and clambering up the slippery staircase; and so we reached the more hospitable regions of the open air, and again ran the gauntlet of the curious eyes that awaited our return to daylight—less nervous, perhaps, about their gaze

after what we had faced below, but very much more *dégagés* and disreputable. I don't know that I should care to make the expedition again, though I met one rather stout Canadian who told me he went down regularly twice a week under the idea that it would reduce his fat; but I am not by nature amphibious, and I consider the feat well worthy of the certificate with which the guide presents the visitors before they leave, testifying to the fact that they have 'passed through the Cave of the Winds.'

The Cataract Hotel was filled with guests—all the hotels always are—and there was an amount of style about them which was very different from anything I had seen in Canada. Dinner was served with profuse liberality—dinner toilettes as profuse in their extravagance, colour everywhere, gaiety ditto; a whirl of excitement, dress, flirtation, and fun; and all for $4 a day, which, at the rate at which I sold my gold, was equal to 6*s*. 9*d*. sterling, including music in the evening by a first-rate band, and such a Charlotte Russe as I never tasted elsewhere, and ice-creams, and lots of back hair and no crinoline, and *such* blue eyes, and endless other luxuries, that made me very loth to leave the Falls, as we at length did, *en route* for the Great West.

THE GERMAN MARKET FOR FEDERAL BONDS AND FEDERAL RECRUITS.

FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

VIENNA: October 20, 1864.

ONE journey performed by railroad is so very like any other accomplished by the same mode of locomotion that, with the exception of what may be seen and heard during the occasional pauses, a description of the incidents of one would equally describe them all. I am quite sure that you would find but little to interest you in the detail of commonplace events attending a journey from London to Vienna.

I stopped for a day in the free city of Frankfort. This is, as you are doubtless aware, an important point for the traffic in Federal bonds, and in the human flesh necessary to fill up the broad gaps made in Federal armies by Confederate bullets. This latter trade is carried on so briskly, and with so little attempt at concealment, that the day before my arrival a Frankfort journal announced without comment, but merely as an item of current news, that recruits for Grant's army were daily enlisted at the American consulate. There exists no doubt whatever that there are several leading commercial and banking houses in different parts of Germany who receive as regular a commission per head for the human victims they send to Grant's slaughter-pens as they do for the Federal bonds they sell to the speculators in that most fanciful of all the fancy stocks. There is a commercial house in Hamburg which is said to have done the most prosperous business in the way of selling white-skinned Germans to cut Southern throats for the benefit, as they say, of the poor blacks. In justice, however, to all the parties engaged in this nefarious traffic, I must say that they themselves consider this plea as a simple pretext. The Yankees buy the Germans to do their fighting just as their ancestors bought the Africans to do their plantation work. The intermediary agents labour only for their commissions, just as the captains of the slave ships in former days contracted for the delivery of cargoes of Africans; and the hired German knows well that his business will be to cut the throats of his fellow-men, in consideration of high wages in hand and ample bounties in expectancy. The truth is, that the slave trade never assumed a form so odious as that in which it now presents itself in the matter of selling and buying ignorant foreigners, to kill and be killed under the benign rule of President Lincoln. These miserable victims of a trade, alike disgraceful to all the parties engaged in it, as well as the European Governments which wink at, if they do not sanction it, are deceived by the slave-dealers into the belief that they will incur but little risk, while their prospect of gain is enhanced by the probabilities of a speedy suppression of the rebellion, and the distribution of Southern estates among the soldiers of the Federal army. They richly merit the hard fate which awaits the greater number of them in Southern pestilential swamps or from Southern bullets, but their guilt does not soften the criminality of those who employ them in the avocation of hired cut-throats.

It is currently reported that the depot which has been established in Belgium is under the sanction or connivance of King Leopold's Government. If this be true, and there seems to be no reason to doubt it, we have but another evidence of the terror which the United States has inspired amongst the Governments of Europe great and small. They all detest that arrogant Power, and with all their hearts wish success to the Confederates, yet their fears are more potent than their partialities, and they do the bidding of the Yankee Government with a promptitude which, under the circumstances, would be almost ludicrous if it were not so injurious in its influence upon the Southern cause.

This traffic in the raw material for new Federal levies goes hand in hand with the trade in Federal promises to pay. If the former flourishes, it enhances the value of the latter. It is perhaps for this reason that the agents who are engaged in selling the one employ themselves also in the purchase and shipment of the other. You must not, however, suppose that these dealers have any special sympathy for the cause of the North. They speculate simply for the pay and the promised profits; and I am told that the bankers most largely engaged in this trade, and those who have realised the greatest amount of profits, buy to-day and sell to-morrow, or at least as soon as they can succeed in bringing the public to believe, through the press, that the very latest news from America goes to show that the Federal cause is everywhere triumphant.

The Confederate cause throughout Germany labours under a twofold disadvantage. First, the whole country is deluged with Federal agents. You encounter them everywhere—in Frankfort, in Berlin, in Hamburg, in Vienna, and in almost every city where a bond may be sold, or a white cutthroat bought. Unfortunately the Confederates have no means of counteracting the influence of these agents. There are no Confederate officials in Germany, who might accomplish much towards driving out these Federal agents by simply spreading facts before the German public. If but a comparatively trifling though earnest effort had been made, from the commencement of the American war, to enlighten the public as to the true merits of the controversy, and to expose the deceptions which were practised upon them, millions of dollars and thousands of recruits which have been employed by the Yankees in the prosecution of the war, would have remained in Germany. But in the very nature of things this could not be, and hence the Yankee Government has wisely made Germany its chief mart for the sale of bonds and the purchase of white men.

It may be safely assumed that Germany has furnished more actual money for the prosecution of the war against the South than the total amount supplied by the United States. This fact of itself ought to open their eyes in regard to the precarious nature of the securities they hold. If the people of the North do not confide in their own promises to pay, it would seem passing strange that other nations should be willing to trust them.

The truth is, however, that the great body of the German speculators in Federal stocks do not invest in these more than doubtful securities with the intention of holding them until the close of the war. They buy upon the chances of selling at a higher rate, upon a mere calculation that, the Northern armies being the more numerous, Federal successes are more probable than Federal defeats in proximate conflicts. Like the betters at *rouge et noir*, they know that, in the end, the greater number will be losers, but they hope for a short run of good luck, and then to be able to withdraw from the game, leaving others to be the sufferers.

However this may be, 'operations' in Federal bonds and contracts for the supply of human cargoes as food for the American war are now the favourite speculations of a very large class of Germans.

It is not difficult to discover, notwithstanding all this, that the opinions of the intelligent classes in regard to the merits of the American war have undergone a great change within the past two years. The profound ignorance of the German public of the nature of the late American Union and the causes which produced the war has given place to a partial enlightenment, which the events of the great conflict have, as it were, forced upon their understanding. They were slow to comprehend that South Carolina was, by virtue of the Constitution, a sovereignty distinct from Massachusetts. or that Prussia owed as much allegiance to the German Confederation as Georgia to the Government of the United States. Even yet intelligent Germans often speak of the 'Southern provinces.' But still a great change has taken place, and the partisans of the North are confined to the money dealers and the ignorant Abolitionists who still believe that the war was inaugurated by the North with the sole view to the extermination of slavery in its Southern possessions.

It is surprising that the public press of Europe have given so little attention to this German and Belgian traffic in the blood and sinews of white men. We might have hoped for better things from Belgium; but, alas, there are few Governments in Europe, even among the proudest and the greatest, which dare to give offence to the Federals by doing justice to their adversary. How could such temerity be expected from the minor States?

I know of no remedy for the evils to which I have referred, except in a more enlightened appreciation of the facts, which time and circumstances may develope. If in this case the least guilty are those who suffer most, it may at least be said that all are guilty in a greater or less degree.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

THE COMMERCIAL CRISIS.

We are in the midst of a commercial crisis. We hope that it will not be very violent or of long duration, but it exists. When the merchant takes up his daily paper, he turns immediately to the money article to read the list of yesterday's failures. The high rate of discount has kept our coffers supplied with gold, and loans for very short dates are done at 4 to 6 per cent., whilst very choice paper commands 8½ to 9 per cent. The inference is obvious. Discount is dear, not merely that money is scarce, but because commercial confidence has been rudely shaken. What adds to the panic is, that it comes under unusual circumstances. We have had such a good harvest that wheat is too low to remunerate the farmer, and our last trade returns show an astounding increase. These things ought to indicate fair weather; but the commercial barometer has gone back from 'Fair' to 'Change,' and from 'Change' to 'Stormy.' We propose to suggest the explanation of this apparent enigma.

The return of the Lancashire distress and the strike of the colliers in Staffordshire, though serious events, do not influence in any appreciable degree the condition of commerce. If the colliers' strike continues, it will deeply affect the industry of Birmingham, and so injure the capitalists, but until now it has not done so. Let us now glance at the causes of the commercial crisis.

1. Our abundant harvest is not without alloy. England is preeminently a meat-eating country, and the long drought of the summer and autumn has resulted in a short supply of meat. We shall have to import heavily from the continent. Our wheat harvest was not above the average, and our meat supply being so much below the average, it follows that, on the whole, our stocks of home-produced food are short; and therefore it is an error to say that the commercial crisis comes in the face of abundance.

2. Our trade returns are deceptive. The increased amount is mainly due to the increased price of our products. Dearness does not involve a larger profit, but, on the contrary, the manufacturer is more prosperous in times of cheapness. Take cotton fabrics as an example. Every yard of calico now fetches more money, but not more profit. The effect of the production of Californian and Australian gold is manifest in our trade returns. If by a miracle the gold and silver in the world were doubled, our trade returns would be doubled, or nearly so, but our profits would remain as before. It is probable, then, that our increased amount of trade represents but a small, if any, increase in profits.

3. There has been a mania for speculation created and fostered by the facilities for discount offered by joint-stock banks and financial companies. For the past two years any man of business desirous of speculating has found no difficulty in converting accommodation-bills into money. At no former period was so large an amount of fictitious paper afloat, and for the reason that never before was fictitious paper so easily floated. A glance at the list of failures shows that they are not confined to particular trades.

4. The uncertainty respecting the price of the raw material of our staple industry is an element of danger and disaster. The rumours of peace, and the consequent fall in the price of cotton, were the immediate cause of the present panic.

Thus, then, the crisis is not an anomaly, but a natural result of known causes. We are not so prosperous as we seem to be, and we have been speculating beyond our means. We may expect a return of commercial confidence when the crisis has swept away the tribe of rotten speculators; but we must not expect to be in a safe condition until peace in America has taken our staple industry out of an abnormal position.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

Another week has passed without any alteration having been made in the *minimum* rate of discount; but although the money market has, altogether, assumed a more satisfactory aspect, the terms out of doors continue stringent. In all quarters there is an abundance of capital, and the demand for accommodation is far from pressing, either in Lombard Street or at the Bank. There is no doubt that money would be easier but for the mercantile suspensions which are continually taking place, and which naturally engender extreme caution, with a reluctance to accept anything but first-class bills. In the open market the terms must be called 8¾ to 9 per cent.; but if the Bank account shall prove satisfactory, there will be a further fall. At the Stock Exchange the quotation is about 5 to 6 per cent. for short loans. It is imagined that, with the influx of capital from abroad, the Bank Directors may, at no distant date, reduce to 8 per cent.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The bullion market has been very quiet this week, but the movements, though not extensive, are not unfavourable, the amount of gold sent into the Bank having been 123,000*l*., whilst the only amount withdrawn has been 50,000*l*. for transmission to the Brazils, leaving a balance of 73,000*l*. to be added to the Bank stock. The arrivals of specie amount to only 15,000*l*. The last packet for the East took out only 68,000*l*., of which 47,783*l*. was for Hong Kong, and 20,226*l*. for Madras, the proportion of gold being 6,075*l*., and of silver 61,934*l*. The silver market has remained in a perfectly quiescent state. The last sales of bar silver were effected at 60⅝*d*. per oz., which is the lowest price attained since September 1861. Mexican dollars, in the absence of any demand, are also nominally lower, the latest transactions having been 59¾*d*. per oz., but it is believed that that price could not now be obtained.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The English stock market has during the week presented an improved aspect, chiefly occasioned by the more satisfactory state of the money market. Business, however, has not been particularly active, the continued failures amongst commercial houses, in various descriptions of trades, preventing speculators from operating to the extent they otherwise would. Still there is an impression in some quarters that the worst has passed, and a return of more general confidence may soon be effected; at the same time in other quarters a more unfavourable opinion prevails. Prices, however, have further advanced, and the market closes steadily. In foreign securities there has been more doing, particularly amongst the fancy stocks, nearly the whole of which are better, particularly Mexican, Spanish, and Turkish, and there seems every probability of a further improvement. Consols closed this evening at 89⅛ to 89¼ for money, and 89¼ to 89⅜ for account, which, as contrasted with the prices of this day week, is a rise of ¾ per cent. Exchequer Bills remain steady, the March issue at 10*s*. to 6*s*. dis., and those of June at 17*s*. to 12*s*. dis. Greek 21⅞ to 22⅛, being a rise of ⅛ per cent. Mexican are up ⅝, the quotation being 26¼ to 26½. Spanish Passives show an improvement of 1¼ per cent., and the Certificates ⅞ per cent., the respective quotations being 31 to 31¼, and 13⅞ to 14⅛. Turkish Six per Cents. of 1854 are 88½ to 89½, and those of 1862 at 70½ to 71, being an advance in the former of ½ per cent., and in the latter of 1 per cent.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The dealings in American Government and Railway Securities are again getting very restricted, the favourable accounts from the Southern armies operating as a strong incentive against purchases. Prices, however, have, under the circumstances, remained remarkably steady. The dealings comprised:—United States of 1881, at 43, 43½, 43¼, 43, and 43¼ ex d.; Virginia State Six per Cents., at 28; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York section, first mortgage, 70; Do. do. Pennsylvania section, 70½ and 70; Erie shares, $100, all paid, 40, 41, and 40; and Illinois Central, $100 shares, all paid, 50¼, 50, 50½, 50¾, 51, and 50.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market has been quiet during the week, but former prices are not maintained. The closing price to-day is 62 to 63.

IMPORTS FROM THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

The following table, extracted from the Customs Bill of Entry, is a statement of part of the imports of Southern cotton into England since our last number:—

Date	Name of ship	Port	Consignee	Bales of cotton
Oct. 18	Mary James	Nassau	To order	325
"	"	"	Thompson & Co.	5
"	"	"	Hoffnung & Co.	7
"	Compage	"	Fraser & Co.	217
Oct. 19	Crocodile	"	Fraser & Co.	405
"	"	"	Lawrence & Co.	25
"	"	"	J. M. Calder	17
"	"	"	S. R. Graves	10
"	"	"	Zimmesu & Co.	10
Oct. 20	Shamrock	Bermuda	Beach & Co.	917
"	Twilight	Matamoras	Lemonius & Co.	197
"	"	"	Droege and Co.	210
"	"	"	Huth & Co.	317
"	Lady of the Lake	Bermuda	To order	1083
		Total		3745

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

The English railway share market has shown more animation this week than for some time past, but the variation in prices has not been so great as might have been expected under the circumstances. The general tendency, however, is better, and prices for the most part have improved, the exceptions being inconsiderable. As compared with last week there has been a rise of 1½ per cent. in London and North Western, of 3 per cent. in Great Western, of 1¼ per cent. in Midland, of 2 per cent.

in Metropolitan, of 1 per cent. in Edinburgh and Glasgow, Great Northern, West Midland (Oxford), Sheffield, Birmingham and Derby, Shropshire Union and Vale of Neath, and of ½ per cent. in Caledonian and South Eastern. On the other hand there has been a fall of 5 per cent. in Taff Vale, of 1 per cent. in London and Blackwall, and of ½ per cent. in North Eastern (Leeds). In foreign and colonial descriptions there has not been so much doing, but prices are generally steady.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

The first meeting of the London, Hamburg, and Continental Exchange Bank (Limited) has just been held, Mr. George Chambers in the chair. The report, which was unanimously adopted, showed that a profit had been earned of nearly 20 per cent. on the paid-up capital. The nett profit was 7,537*l.*, which was disposed of as follows:—3,518*l.* towards payment of a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum free of income-tax; 2,000*l.* to be placed to the reserve fund; 1,000*l.* to be written off the preliminary expenses; and the balance, 1,019*l.*, to be carried forward. It was determined that in future the meetings of the bank should be held in July and January of each year.—At a meeting to-day of the shareholders of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company a dividend was declared of 3*l.* per share out of the ordinary profits, and a bonus of 2*l.* per share from the insurance fund.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The following suspensions have been announced since our last number:—Mr. John Peddington, foreign patent agent, liabilities about 30,000*l.*; Messrs. Duckworth and Co., liabilities about 45,000*l.*; Messrs. Hall and Geere, Russia brokers, liabilities about 30,000*l.*; Messrs. Simpson and Co., insurance brokers, liabilities about 29,000*l.*; Messrs. Manning and Collyer, jute brokers, liabilities about 100,000*l.*; Messrs. Galbraith, Bigland, and Co., merchants and commission agents, liabilities about 150,000*l.*; Messrs. de Wolff, Schück, and Co., merchants, liabilities about 35,000*l.*; Messrs. Hodgson and Mather, Liverpool merchants, liabilities about 200,000*l.*; Messrs. Thompson and Oldfield, Liverpool merchants, liabilities about 37,000*l.* The bills of Mr. T. W. Bradley, wine merchant, have been returned. His liabilities are supposed to be considerable. Letters from Brazil confirm the magnitude of the failures reported in our last number. The liabilities of Messrs. Souto and Co., who were the largest bankers in Rio, are stated at 5,200,000*l.*; those of Messrs. Gomes and Filho, 3,000,000*l.*; those of Montenegro and Lima, 1,600,000*l.*; and those of Oliveira and Bello, 1,200,000*l.*—making a total of 11,000,000*l.* Messrs. Lamb and Co., wine merchants, and also engaged in blockade-running, with liabilities said to be about 500,000*l.* The stoppage of Messrs. Souto and Co. appears to have been the cause of the other failures. Mr. Vilebes, engaged in the Spanish trade, with 50,000*l.* liabilities, with assets expected to prove satisfactory; and Messrs. T. R. Schweitzer and Co., bill brokers, for 100,000*l.*, and the assets, it is hoped, will realise a good dividend. Nine small failures have occurred in Manchester, with liabilities about 150,000*l.*, and three in Liverpool, with liabilities about 72,000*l.*

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

The prospectus has been issued of the London and Scotland Bank, for which a capital is sought of 500,000*l.*, to be raised in 10,000 shares of 50*l.* each, with a first issue of 5,000 shares, more than two-thirds of which, it is said, have already been subscribed for. The object of the undertaking is the centralising the business of a number of branches of the London Bank of Scotland, which have not been included in the arrangements entered into between that bank and the Mercantile and Exchange Bank. The branches in question are situated at Edinburgh, Dundee, Falkirk, Jedburgh, Hawick, Berwick-on-Tweed, Alnwick, Morpeth, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Hexham. The head office is to be in London, with a principal office at Edinburgh.—The prospectus has also been issued of the Ouvah Coffee Company (limited). The capital proposed to be raised is 100,000*l.*, in 10,000 shares of 10*l.* each, power being reserved to the directors to increase the capital should they deem it necessary. The arrangements for the purchase of the estate appear to be satisfactory, and Messrs. Hallett, Ommanney, and Co., bankers, of Great George Street under an agreement with the vendor, guarantee upon the capital paid up a minimum dividend of 10 per cent. per annum, by half-yearly payments during the three years next after the allotment.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

In the produce markets business progresses slowly; but although purchases continue to be made with considerable reserve, they are in many instances slightly extending. The high value of money, however, imposes an efficient check to any important enlargement of operations either by the trade or speculators. Prices since our last report have, as a general rule, remained steady with rather a firmer tendency than otherwise, arrivals having continued moderate, and the supplies on the markets by no means heavy. The grain markets do not present any new feature; the buying is in no case extensive, but rates for wheat, flour, and maize are steadily maintained. The provision trade is without activity, but quotations for the most part are firm. American butters, of good and fine quality, command a steady sale at 90*s.* to 112*s.*, and some extra fine parcels have realised 116*s.* per cwt. Bacon is dull of sale. American short rib-in middles, 44*s.* to 45*s.* per cwt. In navy provisions there is next to nothing doing, and rates are merely nominal. The petroleum market is inactive, and prices a trifle weaker. American refined is quoted 2*s.* per gallon, but there are few offers over 1*s.* 11½*d.* Crude remains at 17*l.* per tun. Seed oils are still rather depressed, linseed being purchasable at 33*s.*, and pale rape 44*s.* 6*d.* For brown rape, however, the tendency is slightly firmer, 42*s.* 6*d.* being asked for foreign and 42*s.* for English. Tallow has not varied materially, but holders are less desirous of selling, and the tone is firmer in consequence. The metal trade is still without any symptoms of improvement. Scotch pig iron has been at 50*s.*, then rallied to 50*s.* 9*d.*, and is now 50*s.* 6*d.* per ton cash for mixed numbers. Spelter has declined to 21*l.* 10*s.* per ton. Straits tin has been sold at the reduced price of 94*l.* 10*s.* cash. Common English pig lead offers at 20*l.* to 20*l.* 5*s.* In dyes the only movement to note is a decline of 1*d.* per lb. for Honduras, and 1*d.* to 2*d.* for Teneriffe cochineal. The former may now be quoted 2*s.* 7*d.* to 2*s.* 11*d.* for ordinary to middling silver, and the latter 2*s.* 10*d.* to 3*s.* 1*d.* for low middling to good. Drysalteries are generally steady. Cutch is dearer at 22*s.* to 22*s.* 6*d.* for Pegu. In chemicals, soda crystals have been placed at 4*l.* 10*s.* ex ship, being cheaper. A moderate business has been concluded in sugar at about previous rates. Coffee maintains its value firmly, but the demand is not active. The tea trade is dull, but in the few transactions effected previous rates are current. For fine saltpetre 29*s.* is still the selling price cash terms, and a moderate business is passing.

Liverpool, Wednesday, October 26.—Our cotton market during the greater part of the week was very much depressed, and the improvement gained the week previous was almost entirely lost. This was chiefly caused by the unfavourable nature of the commercial advices, which checked operations. Yesterday, however, there was a considerable improvement in the tone of the market, the dealings were more animated, and there was a general advance in prices, in some descriptions to the extent of 1*d.* per lb. American and Surats were in good demand. To-day, although there has not been so much, the market was good, and prices further advanced about ¼*d.* to ½*d.* per lb. The sales this week have been 50,000 bales, of which 26,500 were on speculation and for export. The total sales this year down to the present time have been 2,073,110 bales, and to the same period in 1863 they were 2,209,686 bales. There have been imported this year 1,865,904 bales against 1,295,158 bales last year. The trade have taken this year 1,264,067 bales: to the same period in 1863, 1,124,811 bales. The exports this year have amounted to 463,757 bales; against 382,746 last year. There have been taken on speculation this year 349,772 bales; and in 1863, 641,862 bales. The estimated stocks at the present time are 425,558 bales; whilst last year they were 177,932 bales. The closing quotations were:—American descriptions, 20¾*d.* to 23½*d.*; Pernambuco, 20½*d.* to 23¾*d.*; Maranham, 25¾*d.* to 26½*d.*; Maceio, 19¾*d.* to 20½*d.*; Bahia, 19¾*d.* to 20¾*d.*; Egyptian, 12¼*d.* to 24*d.*; Smyrna, 12½*d.* to 13¼*d.*; Surat, 8½*d.* to 16¾*d.*; Madras, 14¾*d.* to 16¼*d.*; Bengal, 6¼*d.* to 9¾*d.*; Scinde, 6½*d.* to 9¾*d.*; and China, 11½*d.* to 12½*d.*

The markets at Manchester have assumed a rather more cheerful tone within the last day or two, but still great depression exists. A little more business has probably been done on Indian account, but at prices anything but remunerative to the producer. In the market for shipping yarns there is not much improvement: a few sales have been effected at what are described as ruinously low prices. Evidently considerable distrust still prevails: hence there is little disposition evinced to operate. Home-trade yarns have slightly improved in consequence of the better feeling at Liverpool, but prices have not changed. Spinners, however, have lately shown more disposition to press sales, but it has not led to an increase of business. There has not been much doing in the cloth market, but prices remain tolerably steady, the downward tendency recently exhibited being checked by the accounts from Liverpool. This has brought more buyers into the market, who seem disposed to operate more freely, but at present they have not much increased business. The latest quotations are for 7/8 Grey Printers, 6*s.* 6*d.* to 13*s.* 3*d.*, according to quality; 7/8 Grey Madapollams, 5*s.* 9*d.* to 8*s.* 9*d.*; 7/8 Grey Printers, 8*s.* 9*d.* to 15*s.* 9*d.*; 7/8 Grey Shirtings, 10*s.* 3*d.* to 22*s.*; Water Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 7*d.* to 2*s.* 3*d.*; No. 30, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*; and No. 40, 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.*; Mule Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 5*d.* to 2*s.* 0½*d.*; No. 30, 1*s.* 7½*d.* to 2*s.* 3*d.*; No. 40, 1*s.* 10*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*; No. 50, 2*s.* 1*d.* to 2*s.* 9*d.*; No. 60, 2*s.* 1*d.* to 2*s.* 11*d.*; No. 70, 2*s.* 7*d.* to 3*s.* 1*d.*; No. 80, 2*s.* 9*d.* to 3*s.* 3*d.*; No. 90, 2*s.* 11*d.* to 3*s.* 5*d.*; and No. 100, 3*s.* 2*d.* to 3*s.* 11*d.*

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Ships Arrived.

At Liverpool.—October 19: The Providencia, from Havana. The Twilight, from Matamoras.—October [illegible]: The Clio, from Buenos Ayres. The Evelyn, from Montevideo. The Jane [illegible], from Pernambuco. The Credenda, from Havana. The Moose, from Prince Edward's Island.—October [illegible]: The [illegible] of the Lake, from Bermuda.—October 23: The Estella, from Prince Edward's Island.

At Gravesend.—October 2[illegible]: The Hannah, from Demerara.—October 21: The [illegible], from Buenos Ayres. The Wave Queen, from Demerara. The Pepita, from Porto Rico.—October 2[illegible]: The Catharina, from Porto Rico.—October 25: The [illegible], from Montevideo.

At Deal.—October 2[illegible]: The Victoria [illegible], from Bahia.—October 25: The [illegible], from Buenos Ayres.

At Cowes.—October 19: The Thistle, from Porto Rico.

At Falmouth.—October [illegible]: The [illegible], from Havana. The Louise. The Zeepaard, from Buenos Ayres.—October [illegible]: The Alexander, from Pernambuco.—October 23: The [illegible], from Rio Janeiro. The [illegible], from Havana.—October [illegible]: The St. [illegible], from Bahia.—October 25: The Fortuna. The Maria, from Rio Janeiro. The [illegible], from Bahia. The Caroline, from Buenos Ayres.—October 26: The Flying Scud, from Rio Janeiro.

At Limerick.—October 19: The [illegible], from St. John's, N.B.

At Belfast.—October 19: The Dauntless, from Montevideo.

At Kingstown.—October 22: The Lizzie, from Buenos Ayres, for Belfast.

At Queenstown.—October 20: The Caroline, from Montevideo. The Anna Bell, from Havana. The [illegible], from St. John's, N.B.

At Cork.—October 19: The John Duncan, for Callao.

At Holyhead.—October 22. The Powerful (steamer), from Bermuda.

At Plymouth.—October 23. The Christian, from Buenos Ayres. The Sons, from Montevideo.

At Cardiff.—October 22: The Violante, from St. John's, N.B.

At Cuxhaven.—October 21: The San Roman, from Callao. The Rixtina, from Bahia.

At Antwerp.—October 22: The Tiptree, from Callao.—October 23: The Amisdad, from Havana.—October 24: The Otis Norcross. The George F. Patten, from Callao.

At Halifax, N.S.—September 8: The Caroline (steamer), from Clyde, and left for Bermuda.—October 12: The Europa (steamer), from Liverpool. October 14: The Hecla (steamer), from Liverpool.

At Bermuda.—September 12: The Hawk (steamer), The Virginia (steamer), from London.

At Vera Cruz.—September 5: The Tabasco, from Matamoras.

Ships Sailed.

Liverpool.—October 18: The Marian, for Demerara.—October 19: The Romeo, for Havana. The Aid, for Nassau.—October 21: The Eastfield, The Exodus, for Callao. The Spirit of the Day, for Valparaiso. The Carrie Wright, for Buenos Ayres. The Aid, for Montevideo. The Helen, for Rio Janeiro. The Briarley, for Demerara. The Julie, for Nassau, N.P. —October 22: The Familiar, for Havana. The Helena, for Rio Janeiro. The Julie, for Nassau. The Catherine, for Bermuda. The Ocean King, for Buenos Ayres.—October 24: The Stag, for Halifax, N.S.—October 25: The Fanny Buck, for Callao. The Lawrence, for Montevideo.

Gravesend.—October 19: The Margaret, for Demerara. The Ocean Sprite, for Bermuda.—October 21: The Blumenthal, for Rio Janeiro. The Segundo Triunfo, for Havana.—October 22. The Western Star, for Bermuda. The Sir Colin Campbell, for Demerara. The Merchant, for Nassau.—October 25: The Stephenson, for Buenos Ayres.—October 26: The Gustav and Maria (Davison Brothers & Co.), for Buenos Ayres.

Torbay.—October 25: The Refuge (J. Worley), for Nassau.

Newport.—October 20: The Dorothy, for Buenos Ayres.—October 21: The Dolphin, for St. Thomas's.—October 22: The Bleng, for Montevideo. The Mattie, for Rio Janeiro. The Lowe, for St. Thomas's.

Clyde.—October 21: The Archibald M'Millan, for Bahia. The Glenmesser, for Demerara. The Carl Frederik, for St. Thomas's.—October 24: The Carmen, for Havana.

Lamlash.—October 21: The Fanny Palmer, for Demerara. The Russia, for Havana.

Queenstown.—October 20: The Jane Doull, for Bermuda.

Holyhead.—October 25: The James, for Matamoras.

Halifax, N.S.—September 8: The Colonel Lamb (steamer), for Bermuda.

Montevideo.—September 8: The Orion, The Gepbina Helena, for England.—October 9: The Florence, for England.

Bahia.—September 14: The Flying Foam, for Falmouth.

Ships Loading.

At London.—For Bermuda: The Jane Smith, The Koh-i-noor. For Demerara: The Early Bird, The Hero, The Emerald Isle, The Sir Colin Campbell, The Enthusiast, The Guiding Star, The Morning Light. For Halifax, N.S.: The Markland. For Nassau (N.P.): The Laughing Water; Davison Brothers & Co. The Clarovine, The Indian Chief; J. Worley. For Montevideo and Buenos Ayres: The Lancastria, The Louise Alwardt, The Para. For New York: The George Otto, The Hudson. For Callao: The Star of the Sea. For Havana: The Anunciacion.

At Liverpool.—For Bermuda: The Palikari (steamer), The Driving Mist, The William Sinclair, The Eleanor. For Matamoras: The St. George, The Geestina, The Euterpe, *via* Bordeaux. The Rosina Claypole, The Clara Manning, The Esther, The Ocean Belle. For Nassau (N.P.): The Sovereign, The Clarence, The Mistletoe. For St. Thomas: The Canondah. For Demerara: The Grace Darling, The Tyne, The Ilos, The Eva, The Achilles *via* Troon.

At Bristol.—For Havana: The Nearchus. For Valparaiso: The Clarendon.

At Cardiff.—For Bermuda: The Ariel, The Danish Princess, The Yates, The Lalla Rookh, The Europa, The Princess Royal, The Clarendon. For St. Thomas: The Lacoste, The Amalia. For Nassau: The Osborne and Elizabeth, The Iris.

At Newport.—For Bermuda: The Mavourneen, The Eva, The Tyro. For St. Thomas: The Lowe, The Devon, The Fido, The Macaulay, The Eagle, The Ellen Stewart, The Coursière, The Danmark, The Amazon, The Lady Mary, The Chieftain.

At Swansea.—For Nassau: The Ann Logan, The White Star. For Halifax: The Ada B., The Pembroke.

At Glasgow.—For Halifax: The David M'Nutt. For St. Thomas: The C. Frederick, The Maple Valley. For Bermuda: The E. Henry.

At Greenock.—For Nassau: The Kenilworth (steamer).

Among the Contents of The Index *of October* 20 *are*:—

Abolitionism and the Negro.
Notes on Events of the Week at Home and Abroad.
Letter from New York. Letter from Richmond.
Letter from Nassau.
The Massachusetts Slave and Slaughter Company.
The Power of the South. Federal Barbarity.
The War. Our Indian Empire. Acadia.
The Quarterlies.
The Confederate Cause in France.
The Liverpool Bazaar.
The Democratic Press on M'Clellan.
Affairs Financial and Commercial.
Shipping Intelligence.

Death.

Haslenam.—On the 23rd inst., at Rusholme, aged 75, Lieutenant William Gale Haslenam, of the 48th Foot, and afterwards of the 6th Royal Veteran Battalion.

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From the *Times*, October 5.

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THERE are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

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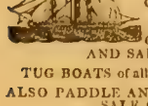

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A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

VOL. IV.—No. 132.] LONDON: THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 3, 1864. [PRICE 6D.

NOTICE.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Mr. John Bright.

AN old divine said that the paths of the wicked resound with laughter, and there is some foundation for the remark. Unfortunately, the antics of the devil are provocative of mirth. Things nasty and things immoral will ofttimes call forth a smile instead of a frown. At least, we know it is so within this realm of England. We have a striking illustration of this in the national out-door drama that from time immemorial has delighted the ragged urchins of our towns. At the sound of the drum, the whistle, and the shrill cry of 'root-too-too-to-toi,' a crowd of children and many adults assemble in eager haste to witness the exciting performance of Punch and Judy. As far as we recollect, Mr. PUNCH is a gentleman of a humorous and irritable temperament, who throws his baby out of window because it cries, murders JUDY because she deplores the murder of her child, and finally, instead of being hanged for his crimes, manages, by an adroit manœuvre, to hang his appointed executioner. What is there funny in murder, in the gallows, and in cheating justice? Yet, whenever and wherever the drama of Punch and Judy is enacted, the humour of the murderer is thoroughly enjoyed, and great is the ecstasy when the wrong man is hanged. Or, to take another instance. In the favourite play of the 'Winter's Tale,' a clever clown in a most barefaced manner robs a benevolent country bumpkin, to the intense gratification of boxes, pit, and gallery. Now, our object in these remarks is to excuse ourselves to our readers, if, in dealing with Mr. JOHN BRIGHT, we should manifest any levity. We are utterly disgusted with his coldblooded and shameless hypocrisy; yet there is so much humour in the situation of the member for Birmingham that it is almost as hard to treat his pranks seriously as it would be those of a pantaloon. Mr. BRIGHT, in a most obliging manner, is perpetually unmasking himself, and there is this much to be said in his favour, that if any one foolishly supposes him to be an honest reformer, a true friend of popular liberty, and a hater of bloodshed, such a blunder is not the fault of Mr. BRIGHT. He has done his best to exhibit himself in his true colours. We do not know whether Mr. BRIGHT is in himself a merry man, but certainly he is the cause of merriment in others. His profession and his practice are in comic antagonism. Does any one suppose that Mr. BRIGHT, forgetting all else than his great mission to destroy the bloated aristocracy of England, has paid no heed to his personal interests? Such a one is wrong. Mr. BRIGHT has combined carpet-weaving with politics, and though an inconsistent politician, he has always been a consistent political economist so far as his private interests are concerned. He has bought the people's labour at the lowest market price. Does any one suppose that Mr. BRIGHT, who hates everything aristocratic, who denounces the game laws, who talks so loudly about the way in which the Saxon serfs are oppressed by the Norman lords, devotes the recess to condoling with his unhappy clients? Not at all. Mr. BRIGHT goes to Scotland, and, like a bloated aristocrat, passes his time in sporting over well-preserved moors. There never was a completer sham than is Mr. BRIGHT, and it would require the humour of Mr. THACKERAY and the nervous style of Mr. CARLYLE, in combination, to pen a graphic sketch of one who is always proclaiming to the world what a thorough-paced hypocrite he is.

About Mr. BRIGHT'S early career we know little or nothing, but we believe that he succeeded to a profitable business established by his father. About the time of the Corn Law agitation Mr. BRIGHT was thrown upon the surface, and being a man of considerable eloquence soon acquired a reputation that brought him a seat in the House of Commons. Now Mr. BRIGHT has throughout his political life, in a most violent and uncompromising manner, advocated Free Trade, the perfect liberty of the subject, and he has also most solemnly and emphatically protested against war. In 1859 he marched from place to place, and tried, though happily in vain, to set class against class, and to pour contempt upon the institutions of his country. His staple argument was the United States. It was to that land he pointed as affording the most marked contrast to the miserable and debased condition of England. He used to tell his audiences that in America there was not an enormous national debt to crush the energies of the labouring man—that the wages earned were not seized upon by the tax-collector—that there industrial communities were not cursed with great military and naval establishments—in short, he held up the United States as an example for this poor England to follow in respect to freedom of trade, political freedom, and freedom from the burdens of war. And in 1859, though every one found fault with Mr. BRIGHT'S recklessness of assertion, it was by every one supposed—certainly we were under that impression—that the man was honest. The American war shows that Mr. BRIGHT was a mere hypocrite.

It must, we think, have struck everybody as curious that Mr. BRIGHT should not at least have protested against those departures of the Northern Government from the principles he professed. We don't mean that Mr. BRIGHT should have sided with the South. Such a man could not by any possibility have a sentiment in common with a nation of patriots giving their blood and their treasure rather than resign their best-loved heritage of freedom. Moreover, it was inevitable that Mr. BRIGHT should sympathise with such a Government as that of which Mr. LINCOLN is the titular head. But whilst hating the South with perhaps even more ferocity than he hates the institutions of England, and whilst loving the North with a love that smacks of arrant toadyism, it was to be supposed that this Freetrader would have denounced the MORRILL tariff, that this lover of popular liberty would have denounced Mr. LINCOLN'S acts of tyranny, and that this man who hates bloodshed so much would have deplored vehemently the horrors of the war and its prolongation. Mr. BRIGHT has done nothing of the sort; he has swallowed the leek of Northern Protection without wincing; he designates Mr. LINCOLN'S despotism as patriotism; and he has no more protested against bloodshed than have Parsons BROWNLOW and BEECHER. We quite understand Mr. BRIGHT'S reticence. It requires moral courage to recognise the virtues of an enemy and to see the faults of a friend; and though Mr. BRIGHT is not afraid to bully the aristocracy, well knowing that he can do so with impunity, he is totally without moral courage. And he is not without excuse. He knows that his sun is set. Not only has an eminent statesman declared that Mr. BRIGHT shall never be a member of an English Government, but the people are not deceived by Mr. BRIGHT'S loud professions, and his popularity has long been a thing of the past.

At length Mr. BRIGHT has ceased to be reticent. His letter to Mr. GREELEY, dated October 1, 1864, is altogether a remarkable document. Its sole object is to support Mr. LINCOLN. Mr. BRIGHT says, with STANTON-like audacity, that the friends of the Confederacy are in favour of General M'CLELLAN—an assertion that he must know to be utterly unfounded. Friends of the South are not the kind of people to associate with Mr. BRIGHT, and therefore he could not learn the Southern view of the Presidential election from private sources. But what say the organs of public opinion? The Confederate newspapers have preferred LINCOLN to M'CLELLAN. We, and the rest of the English press, with the exception of the half-dozen journals that are the organs of Mr. LINCOLN, have been perfectly indifferent as to the result of the election. We think M'CLELLAN an abler man than LINCOLN, and as peace is so desirable, and it is said that M'CLELLAN will carry on the war, we would rather have a foolish jester than a clever soldier for an enemy. We here express the sentiments of the South and of the friends of the South. It is, we repeat, utterly, *palpably* false to say, as Mr. BRIGHT does, that the friends of the South have preferred M'CLELLAN to LINCOLN.

Mr. BRIGHT does not censure Mr. LINCOLN'S illegal acts, but, on the contrary, praises Mr LINCOLN for unfaltering patriotism. Mr. BRIGHT has been a Freetrader, and he supports a MORRILL tariff; he has been a preacher of popular rights, and he supports Mr. LINCOLN'S despotism; he has been an advocate of peace at any price, and by an electioneering manifesto he tries to continue a cruel and desolating war. Even Mr. BRIGHT'S organ, even his own devoted *Star*, is alarmed. In an article in which logic is expelled by the force of affrighted anger it is pretended that in his letter to Mr. GREELEY Mr. BRIGHT does not recommend the prosecution of the war. This is how the case stands:—

1st. Mr. BRIGHT believes Mr. LINCOLN to be a man of honour and patriotism, and that his reelection will be an assurance that 'the integrity of your great country will be preserved.'

2nd. Mr. LINCOLN is pledged to carry on the war if reelected.

Therefore, says the *Star*, as Mr. LINCOLN is not a liar, and as he is pledged to carry on the war if re-elected, it follows that in advocating the reelection of Mr. LINCOLN, Mr. BRIGHT did not advocate the continuance of the war!

Mr. BRIGHT cannot get out of it. Not all the lying in the world can obliterate the brand of bloodthirstiness. Mr. LINCOLN is preeminently the war candidate, and, at a critical moment, Mr. BRIGHT urges the reelection of Mr. LINCOLN. Is not this to advocate the prosecution of the war? No doubt Mr. BRIGHT'S power is small, but he has done what he could in behalf of continued bloodshed. And we know why Mr. BRIGHT came out so strongly on a war platform. On October 1, it was supposed that M'CLELLAN would come out on a peace platform. This excited the

wrath of Mr. BRIGHT, and therefore he did what he could to secure the reelection of a President who he thinks will carry on the war. When Mr. BRIGHT was elected for Birmingham, it was remarked that the gunsmiths ought to vote for him, because, though he talked peace, he really promoted strife. At the next election, if the gunsmiths are grateful, they will vote for him because at a critical moment he boldly wrote in favour of war. The Birmingham manufacturers will of course be wise enough not to take Federal greenbacks even on the recommendation of Mr. JOHN BRIGHT.

There is a vulgar story that when the sheriffs appoint a hangman, they spit upon their new officer and kick him out of their presence. This is not so; but it is true that the office of Jack Ketch is a very loathsome one, and that men in power are often obliged to use tools whom they despise. Mr. LINCOLN is not very sensitive, but we are sure that even he must feel the utmost contempt for many in the crowd who supplicate his favour, for those who to serve his purposes are willing to sacrifice every vestige of self-respect. We are certain, then, that whilst Mr. LINCOLN must enjoy the spectacle of Mr. BRIGHT's abasement—whilst he laughs at the Freetrader turned Protectionist, at the demagogue defending despotism, at the apostle of peace making an effort to prevent the conclusion of a desolating war—he cannot but regard Mr. BRIGHT as the meanest tool in his employ. When the history of this great conflict is written, so many striking events will have to be recorded, that it is hardly to be expected that a line will be devoted to rescuing the name of JOHN BRIGHT from oblivion; yet the nineteenth century has not produced a more flagrant instance of hypocrisy, and of solemnly avowed principles audaciously abjured for the sake of partisanship.

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

THE latest advices from the United States represent the situation of military affairs in front of Richmond as materially unchanged. On October 13 Grant pushed forward a force to attack the Confederate lines, between the Darbytown and Charles City roads, on the north side of James River, below the city. Several attempts were made, beginning at 7 o'clock in the morning, the most vigorous at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, to drive the Confederates from their position; but all without success. General Lee reports that after this last effort they withdrew, 'leaving many dead.' Federal papers admit a loss of 400. General Lee says, 'Our loss slight.' Subsequent to this repulse, according to a rumour which was prevalent in Washington and credited in New York, Grant removed Generals Meade and Warren from their respective commands because of their unwillingness to assault the impregnable earthworks of the Confederates, and Secretaries Seward, Stanton, and Fessenden made a journey from the seat of government to Grant's head-quarters to urge upon him the vital importance of his achieving some decisive military success without further delay, and gave him plenary authority to concentrate troops from any and every quarter for the successful accomplishment of this object. This mission of the secretaries was undertaken, not in the general interests of the country, but in the special behalf of Mr. Lincoln. It was a political, and not a military, necessity that another grand demonstration should be attempted before the Presidential election, and the slaughter that has probably since occurred, and of which the next steamer may bring us an account, is to be set down to the electioneering wants of the President. He is in sad need of a victory before Richmond to affect his chances at the polls. The Confederate army, though probably inferior in numbers to the army of Grant, was in excellent condition, and there was no reason whatever to apprehend that the advance of the enemy would result otherwise than all the previous efforts of the Federal commander, in disastrous failure.

A VERY heavy battle was fought on the morning of October 19, near Strasbourg, between the armies of General Longstreet (Confederate) and General Sheridan (Federal), in which it was claimed by the Federal journals that Longstreet was repulsed with a loss of 1,600 prisoners, and 50 pieces of artillery. The fighting was begun at an early hour, before daylight, by General Longstreet, who surprised the enemy on the north bank of Cedar Creek, and drove them in great confusion from their intrenchments, capturing 24 guns and many prisoners, and pursuing the flying and disordered columns to Middletown, a distance of four miles. General Sheridan opportunely arrived from Winchester just at this crisis, rallied and reformed his command, and after an obstinate contest, forced back the Confederates beyond the lost ground, and reoccupied Strasbourg, with the losses we have stated above. Such is substantially the account, as it comes to us through Federal sources of intelligence, on which a great victory is reported for Sheridan. The correspondent of the *New York Herald* estimates the loss of the Yankee army at 5,000 men. It is not set forth in the telegrams that the prisoners taken by Longstreet in the early morning were recaptured, and it may be fairly assumed that they were equal to, if they did not exceed the number (1,600) declared to have been taken by Sheridan. The fifty guns comprised the twenty-four lost during the day. On the Federal side General Bidewell was killed, and Generals Wright, Grover, and Ricketts wounded. On the Confederate side we hear only of the death of General Ramseur. During the night after the engagement General Longstreet retreated towards Woodstock. This is conclusive of an inability on the part of the Confederate general to maintain the advantage he had gained, but when we consider the vaunting proclivities of the Yankee press, and the urgent need of a Federal victory on the eve of the Presidential election, it is safe to withhold full credence from the account until we can hear from the Confederates. It may turn out to have been a very dear and barren victory after all.

GENERAL PRICE, at the head of a large and constantly increasing force, had successively occupied Sedalia, Danville, Lexington and Glasgow in Missouri, and was recruiting at the latter place when last heard from. The people of the State were flocking to his standard, and his movements were watched with great concern by the authorities at Washington. Rosecrans was reported as marching from the east to give him battle, and a Federal force had been concentrated at Kansas city to attack him from the West. The telegram received at New York on October 22 states that Curtis had engaged the advance of Price's army, with what results was not given. There can be no doubt that very important events are on the wing in Missouri, and the great West may yet become the theatre of war upon a grander scale than in 1861-62.

THE Federal accounts about Sherman are obscure and conflicting, but it is evident that the Federal army in Georgia is altogether on the defensive, and that it will have some difficulty in maintaining its position at Atlanta. Sherman has been accumulating stores of provisions at Atlanta, and it is said he has rations for 100 days. Other accounts say that his rations will not hold out 50 days.

ON October 15, an interview took place at the White House in Washington, between President Lincoln and a number of citizens of Tennessee, styling themselves 'Loyal Tennesseans,' a report of which, under the signatures of these gentlemen, is published in the journals of the United States. The purpose of the 'Loyal Tennesseans' in seeking the interview was to protest against the proclamation of Andrew Johnson, Military Governor of Tennessee, imposing a test oath to be taken by all persons who should be permitted to vote in the election of President and Vice-President of the United States. Their protest was embodied in a well-considered and strongly drawn paper, which they read in the hearing of the President, who, upon its conclusion, asked with characteristic pleasantry, 'May I inquire how long it took you and the New York politicians to concoct that paper?' The 'Loyal Tennesseans' made reply that the paper had been 'concocted' at Nashville without consultation with any but citizens of Tennessee. Whereupon arose that grim, jocose, angular, long-limbed occupant of the Executive Mansion, and said to the 'Loyal Tennesseans' 'emphatically,' 'I expect to let the friends of George B. McClellan manage their side of this contest in their own way, and I will manage my side of it in my way.' In other words, Lincoln declined to interfere with the arbitrary proceedings of his lieutenant in Tennessee, and intimated clearly enough that he intended to use all the power of which he was possessed to secure his reelection. The opposition journals of New York are making good use of this most impolitic answer, and it is clear that the President made a grave blunder. He should have entertained the 'Loyal Tennesseans' with a little joke, and reserved his reply to their protest until he could communicate with his constitutional advisers. They were fairly entitled to the customary civilities and jocularities of the White House, and Mr. Seward in half-an-hour could have written a smooth, easy, inoffensive, meaningless response which would have extricated his master from all embarrassment and yet given no annoyance to Andy Johnson. We shall see how Lincoln will manage his side of the contest in his way.

JUDGE JOSEPH HOLT makes an official report to President Lincoln as to the existence of a dangerous armed conspiracy in the North-west, having for its object the overthrow of the Federal authority and the establishment of a separate Western Confederacy. He asserts that there are 500,000 men belonging to the confraternity of the O.A.K., who are armed with revolvers, and in league with the 'rebels' of the South. Judge Holt's statistics of Western disloyalty are, indeed, somewhat portentous. If there were 500,000 men in the West with weapons in their hands, and disaffected towards the Federal Government, that Government would probably not stand before them more than twenty-four hours after their organisation had been effected; and supposing this vast number of men 'capable of bearing arms' to be within reach of Lincoln's conscript officers, it seems a little remarkable that he has not recruited his army with them. If Judge Holt's report is not a mere raw-head-and-bloody-bones story, it can have but one meaning. It is intended to prepare the public mind for some acts of arbitrary power on the part of Lincoln, and to excuse the exercise of despotic rule in the West for the purpose of overawing the West in the coming election. Only that and nothing more. The O.A.K. may look out for political arrests by the thousand. The moral to be drawn from this extraordinary report is simple enough. There does exist in the North-west a very natural hostility towards Lincoln, and a growing repugnance to continued political association with the Rump of a Republic having its seat of Government at Washington. That the great West will sooner or later cut loose from the Union is morally certain, and nothing that Lincoln may do can postpone, though his vulgar despotism and unscrupulous acts may hasten, the day when the blow for Western freedom and Western nationality shall be struck once and for all.

VICE-PRESIDENT STEPHENS has written a letter upon the subject of State rights and a convention of States. If any one was weak enough to believe the assurances of Federal authorities that Mr. Stephens was willing to negotiate a separate peace for Georgia, and in the Yankee phrase to let the Confederacy slide, this letter will correct any such ridiculous error. Mr. Stephens says the Chicago platform is the first symptom of peace that he has seen, and that he agrees with much that was said at the Chicago convention. He has no objection to a convention of States, but he does not advise that the South should abide by the decision of such a convention, but that the decision of the delegates should be submitted to the sovereign States for ratification or rejection. He also observes that for such a convention of States it would be necessary to obtain the assent of the properly-constituted authorities at Richmond and Washington. In short, Mr. Stephens says that provided the North will recognise the independence of the Southern Confederacy there is no objection to a convention of the sovereign States of both Confederacies for the purpose of discussing the conditions of a permanent peace.

ACCORDING to the telegraphic summary of news, per *Jura*, the Federal steamer, the *Roanoke*, upon her voyage from Havana to New York, was captured by a party of Confederates under Lieutenant Brain on the high seas. It appears that the vessel was taken into St. George's, Bermuda, where the passengers were landed. The vessel was then taken out to sea and burnt. The crew returned to the British port in open boats, and thereupon Lieutenant Brain was arrested by the British authorities. Why he was arrested we know not. It may be alleged that Lieutenant Brain had no right to take the *Roanoke* into a British port; but having done so, and subsequently been permitted to depart, we are at a loss to understand why he was arrested. We must, however, wait for details before we can judge whether the British authorities were justified in such a proceeding, or whether it was one of those acts of warm neutrality which savour of Federal partisanship.

THERE is another case mentioned in the mail, in which the British authorities have lawfully or unlawfully been aiding the Federals; and in this case we must also wait for details before we can form a reliable judgment. A party of 25 Confederates attacked the bank at St. Alban's, Vermont, took some valuables, killed two citizens, and departed for Canada. It is said that the Canadian authorities assisted in arresting most of the Confederates. Now it is clearly no greater offence to plunder a Federal bank than it is to burn 2,000 Confederate barns: but if the expedition was fitted out from Canada, the interference of the British authorities is justifiable. The mere fact of their proceeding to Canada would no more justify their arrest by the British authorities than it would be justifiable to arrest General Sheridan for his devastation in the Shenandoah Valley if he visits Canada. Probably the Canadian authorities will plead that the expedition started from Canada, and we may be sure that the authorities will not permit any infraction of international law on the part of the Confederates to go unpunished.

MR. LINCOLN has arrested a number of merchants in Washington and Baltimore, and closed their stores. It is said that their offence was contraband trading, but such an offence does not call for a military *coup d'état*. We expect that all the persons arrested are Democrats, and that will sufficiently account for the proceeding.

ON October 22, gold was quoted at New York at 112⅝ premium.

ENGLAND.

ON Thursday morning last, Franz Müller was placed at the bar of the Central Criminal Court, charged with the murder of Mr. Thomas Briggs in a railway carriage on the North London Railway, on Saturday the 9th of July last. The prisoner, on being arraigned, pleaded 'Not Guilty.' The Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer and Mr. Baron Martin presided. The Solicitor-General, Mr. Serjeant Ballantine, Mr. Hannen, Mr. Giffard, and Mr. Beasley were for the Crown; Mr. Serjeant Parry, Mr. Metcalfe, and Mr. Besley appeared for the prisoner. The prisoner, through his counsel, elected to be tried by an English jury. Jurymen were called from the five different panels of the five counties which enjoy the right of sending prisoners for trial to the Old Bailey. The Crown and the prisoner challenged freely, tailors and bootmakers being rejected by the Crown, publicans and butchers by the prisoner. The Solicitor-General opened the case, giving a clear narrative of the events of the murder, and detailing the evidence to be produced on the part of the Crown. The speech was, of course, perfectly calm and temperate throughout. The first Crown witness was Mr. David Buchan, of Nelson Square, Peckham, who deposed that Mr. Briggs was sixty-nine years of age, that on July 9 Mr. Briggs dined with the witness, that when leaving he had with him a black bag and stick, that he got into an omnibus in the Old Kent Road in order to go to King William Street. That night Mr. Briggs had his watch on, and more than once referred to it to ascertain the time. Mrs. Buchan gave similar evidence. Thomas Fishbourne, ticket-collector at Fenchurch Street station, deposed that Mr. Briggs presented his day-ticket to the witness for the 9.45 P.M. train on July 9. Harry Verney and Sidney

Jones, both clerks in the banking-house of Messrs. Robarts & Co., deposed that on July 9 they got into a first-class railway-carriage at Hackney Wick; that, on finding blood on the seat, they called for a light; that in the carriage were found a hat, a black bag, and a stick. Benjamin Aimes, the guard who brought the light, said that there was blood on the seat of the carriage and on the quarter light. He also said that the train left Fenchurch Street at 9.50, Bow at 10.1, and Hackney Wick at 10.5 P.M. The train was from three to three minutes and a half going from Bow to Hackney Wick. W. Timms, a guard on the North London Railway, deposed that he was with the up-train to Fenchurch Street which left the Victoria Park station at 10.5 P.M. As the train passed over the canal-bridge between Victoria Park and Bow, he saw something lying on the six-foot way. The train was stopped, and the guard, on going back, found the body of a gentleman lying with the head towards Hackney. The engine-driver gave similar evidence, as did also a police-constable who was on duty near the spot, and heard a shout for assistance. Evidence was also given of the carriage above mentioned arriving at Chalk Farm, and of the hat, bag, and walking-stick being taken by the station-master and handed over to Lewis Lambert, a police constable, who gave them to Inspector Kerresey, who now produced those articles. The same witness also produced a gold chain hook which he had taken from the buttonhole of Mr. Briggs's waistcoat, a small jump-ring received from Sergeant Prescott, and a gold chain with a seal and two keys received from Mr. Death. The medical evidence of three surgeons went to show that the left ear of Mr. Briggs was severed about an inch, that anterior to the ear was a deep wound extending to the bone, over the temporal muscle was a contused wound, superficial and grazed. There were several incised wounds on the scalp, and a wound on the crown of the head. The skull was extensively fractured. In the centre a piece of bone, triangular in form, was separated from the skull and fell out on the removal of the scalp; all the wounds were inflicted by a blunt instrument. Mr. Briggs died on the Sunday, at three o'clock in the afternoon. Mr. John Death, jeweller, in Cheapside, recognised the prisoner as having come to his shop on July 11, at 10 A.M. The prisoner produced a chain for which Mr. Death offered 3*l.* 10*s.* The prisoner took in exchange a chain worth 3*l.* 5*s.* and a ring valued at 5*s.* The chain was put in a box. The box produced was the same one. Mr. Death communicated with the police on the same day. Mrs. Blyth, of Park Terrace, Old Ford Road, said that the prisoner lodged with her for about seven weeks previous to July 14. She saw the prisoner at 11 o'clock in the morning on July 9. She went to bed that night about 11 P.M., and did not know at what hour the prisoner returned; but he breakfasted with her at 9 A.M. on the Sunday morning, and stopped at home all day. In the evening she, her husband, and the prisoner walked out. Müller did not leave them, but returned home and went to bed. The prisoner breakfasted with her on the Monday morning, and went out at 8 A.M. He returned in the evening of that day, and exhibited to them the gold chain obtained at Mr. Death's. He finally left on the Thursday. The witness identified the hat-box with the name of Walker on it as the box brought by the prisoner to her house. The coat produced was the one worn by him on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. He wore the same trousers on Saturday and Sunday, but the witness was not sure whether he wore the same on Monday. He wore a slipper—the one produced—as he had hurt his left foot on the Thursday, July 7. She knew of his intention to go to America a fortnight before he left. He mentioned the ship *Victoria* as the one in which he was to sail. After his departure she received a letter, of which the following is a copy:—

16 Park Terrace, Old Ford Road, Bow, London (in pencil).
On the sea, July 16, in the morning.

Dear Friends,—I am glad to confess that I cannot have a better chance as I have, for the sun shines nice and the wind blows fair. As it is at the present moment, everything will go well. I cannot write any more. Only I have had no postage stamps; you will be so kind to take that letter in.

The post-mark was Worthing, July 16, 1864.

Mrs. Elizabeth Repsch, of 12½ Jewry Street, Aldgate, said that the prisoner frequented her house. He had a watch and chain, but it was in pawn on July 9. On that day he was at her house. When he left he took away two boots and one slipper. When he came to her on July 11, he wore a pair of light trousers, having left on Saturday in a dark pair. He showed her a chain (Mr. Death's) on the Monday, which he said he had bought in the docks that morning for 3*l.* 15*s.* He also had a plain gold ring with a white stone and a head engraved, for which he said he had paid 7*s.* 6*d.* when he bought the chain. He had a new hat on that morning, and in answer to the question of witness's husband he said that he gave 14*s.* 6*d.* for it. Her husband said that it looked more like a guinea hat. The hat he had previously worn was a plain black beaver hat, with merino-lined brim and striped lining, broad brown stripes, and broad blue stripe edged with black and white. The hat produced (the one found in the railway carriage) was the same hat to the best of her belief. He had told her that Matthews, the cabman, had given him the hat. She identified the two pairs of trousers found in Müller's possession on his arrest, one as his working pair, the other as the light pair worn by him on July 11. Neither pair was the one worn by Müller on July 9. That pair she had not seen since. After evidence of the manner in which Müller had redeemed his own watch and chain on the 12th and 13th of July and pawned both again on the latter day, the cabman, Jonathan Matthews, was put in the box. This witness said that he had known Müller for more than two years. About the beginning of last December Müller had admired the hat of the witness, and Matthews, at his request, obtained a similar hat for the prisoner at Walker's, Crawford Street, Marylebone. The hat had a striped lining, it came in a box, and Müller took away the box with the hat. In return for the hat Müller made a waistcoat for the witness. He had seen Müller wearing the hat frequently, and the last time about a fortnight before the 9th July. The hat produced was the same hat. He knew it by the crease, for he had ordered the hat to be turned up a little extra at the shop. He remembered seeing a small box in his house with the name of Death on it. The prisoner had given the box on the 12th July to the witness's daughter. The witness, in cross-examination, said that he had never before mentioned the fact about the brim being turned up at the shop. Before the coroner he had identified the hat by its being turned up on one side more than on the other, as he supposed, from its being continually lifted from the head by that part. Witness could not say how many hats he had used in eight months previous to July 9. He admitted that his account of his hats given before the coroner was erroneous, and that though he had said he had bought a hat at Down's, in Long Acre, three weeks before the job, yet that was a mistake, for there was no such shop existing at the time. He could not swear to his own hats. He first heard of the murder on Friday night, July 15. He took in Lloyd's weekly newspaper, and sometimes bought a daily paper, he occasionally went to a public house for refreshment, he went to the cabstands and passed the police offices, he was out with his cab all day and every day, and yet he never heard of the murder till July 15. He first gave information on Monday, July 18; he had bid Muller good-bye on the 14th. He now found that on the night of July 9 he was out with his cab, though before the coroner he could not account for his proceedings on that night. He now said that his master 'sold off,' though before the coroner he had said that his master was 'sold up.' He had been a licensed cabman about eight or nine years. Twenty-two years ago he had been in a training stable. He had been in a small fly business, and a driver for the General Omnibus Company. He owed money, and was unable to pay. He denied that he had promised to pay his creditors as soon as he got the reward. As to that matter, he left it to his country whether it would think he had done his duty. He had been in prison. He had been tried before a jury at Norwich in 1850 for stealing things belonging to his master, and had twenty-one days' imprisonment. The witness then detailed the reading by him of the placard offering the reward, and his communications with the police. He had discovered that on July 9 he was at Paddington Station with his cab from 7 P.M to 11 P.M. Mrs. Matthews, the wife of the last witness, gave similar evidence as to the box and the hat. She heard of the murder on Monday, July 11, but did not speak to her husband on the subject. Edward Watson, a workman at Mr. Walker's, said that the hat produced (the one found in the railway carriage) was manufactured by Mr. Walker; it had a peculiar lining; he did not think that Mr. Walker ever had more than three or four of that particular lining in the establishment. Mr. Walker, the hatter in Marylebone, said that he had sold the hat produced; the lining was peculiar, and he did not think that he had had more than two hats of that lining. James Clifford, the agent of Messrs. Grinnell at the London Docks, said that Müller paid his passage, 4*l.*, on July 15; the prisoner gave his name as Franz Müller and his age as twenty-four years. George Clarke, sergeant of the detective police, detailed the arrest of Müller on board the *Victoria* in New York Harbour. In answer to the charge of having murdered Mr. Briggs on the North London Railway on July 9, the prisoner said, 'I never was on that line.' He took a key from the prisoner and unlocked the prisoner's box. In it he found a watch sewed up in a piece of leather, and a hat. Müller said he had had the watch two years, and the hat about twelve months. Inspector Tanner spoke to the identification of Müller by Mr. Death on board the *Victoria*, and also stated that Müller complained that a gold ring with a white stone in it had been stolen from him on board. The prisoner did not say that he had bought the watch and chain at the Docks. That was suggested in court at New York. Mr. Thomas James Briggs, son of the deceased, identified the watch found in Müller's box and the chain produced by Mr. Death as the property of his father. He also identified the bag and stick. He did not at first recognise the hat as his father's. It was much shorter. Samuel Tidmarsh recognised the watch as belonging to the late Mr. Briggs. He had repaired it in February 1863, and had recorded the number. Mr. Digance, hatter, at 18 Royal Exchange, had made hats for Mr. Briggs for twenty-five years. He made him a bell-crowned hat in September 1863. The hat produced was lower in the crown. Mr. Briggs's hat was too loose, and some tissue paper had been put in; a few fragments were adhering to the hat produced. The hat had been cut down an inch and a half; the piece had been cut off and sewed together again. It had been neatly sewed, as by a person who understood sewing, but a hatter would have used gum and put the hat on a block and pressed it with a hot iron. The part of the hat cut away would have contained the name of the owner. F. W. Thorne, a workman for Mr. Digance, gave similar evidence. Mr. Serjeant Parry then addressed the jury for the defence. His speech was a calm dispassionate discussion of the points at issue, and was entirely free from vehemence. He commented at length on the inaccuracies and contradictions of the evidence of Matthews, and on the inability of that witness to produce his own hat corresponding to the one sworn to as Müller's. The identification of Mr. Briggs's hat was incomplete, and it would be proved that hats in the second-hand trade were cut down as the hat produced had been. He held that Müller's deception about the watch and chain was the natural result of the suspicious circumstances under which he bought them. He also argued strongly on the physical impossibility of Müller committing a murder on a man of the strength and weight of Mr. Briggs under the circumstances shown. He then detailed to the jury the nature of the evidence for the defence. The first witness, Thomas Lee, said that he knew Mr. Briggs. He saw him at Bow station on the 9th of July, about 10 o'clock. He was seated in a first-class carriage. There were two other persons in the compartment, one of whom sat opposite to Mr. Briggs and the other by his side. The former was a stoutish, thickset man with light whiskers; the latter appeared to be a tall thin man, and dark. He did not think that the prisoner was one of the men. There was a light in the carriage. He said 'Good night, Mr. Briggs,' and Mr. Briggs answered 'Good night, Tom.' He himself got into a second-class carriage nearer the engine. The witness did not communicate with the police. He did not wish to be brought up. He did not think there was any need of his evidence. He should not have informed the police at all, because he thought it unimportant, and knew how much bother it was. He had never known or heard of Müller before. Mr. Briggs generally slept in the train. George Wire, a hatter, said that he should have stuck the hat with shellac as well as stitching it, but some workmen might omit to gum the hat from hurry. William Lee, a hatter, said that he should not cut down a hat in the same manner; but it was cheaper in the second-hand trade to stitch hats than to use varnish. Alfred Woodward, clerk in the Electric and International Telegraph Company, proved the date of a certain message to be the 9th of July last. The message was to Miss Eldred, Stanley Cottage, James Street, Vassall Road, Camberwell. Mrs. Jones of Stanley Cottage said that a young woman, Mary Ann Eldred, lodged with her. Witness knew the prisoner because he visited Miss Eldred. Müller came to her house about 9.30 P.M. on July 9. She knew the day by the date of the telegram, which arrived on the same afternoon, and she knew the hour because Eldred asked her the time when the latter left the house. It was then 9 P.M., and Müller came about half an hour afterwards. Her house was not quite three-quarters of a mile from where the Camberwell omnibuses start. Müller had a slipper on one foot when he called. Mary Ann Eldred gave evidence as to the receipt of the telegram, and as to her going out about nine o'clock, but she had no means of fixing the time except her usual habit of going out at that hour. On the Sunday morning Mrs. Jones told her that Müller had called. Charles Forman, an omnibus conductor between Peckham Rye and Gracechurch Street, said his last journey in the day was from Camberwell Gate at 9.55 P.M. to Gracechurch Street at 10.20 P.M. He remembered a gentleman riding in his omnibus on his last journey from Camberwell, who appeared to be lame and wore a slipper. He noticed the man, because the latter leaned on his arm in descending from the omnibus, and witness remembered saying, 'Ah, he's got a touch of my old complaint; he's got the gout.' Witness did not know whether this was in July or August. The Solicitor-General then replied, and the Lord Chief Baron summed up the case. The Jury retired for fifteen minutes, and came into court with a verdict of 'Guilty.' Mr. Baron Martin passed sentence, and in the course of his speech said that 'he felt in his own mind as satisfied of the prisoner's guilt, as he could of any other matter which he had not seen with his own eyes.' After judgment, Müller said, 'I am perfectly satisfied with my judges and the jury, but I have been convicted on false evidence and not on a true statement. If the sentence is carried out, I shall die innocent.'

HIS Grace the Duke of Newcastle was buried at Markham Clinton, Notts, on Thursday last. The tenantry assembled in Clumber Park at nine A.M. The funeral procession was headed by 500 tenants on horseback, all wearing mourning, led by the Forester. The Earl of Lincoln and Lords Arthur and Albert Pelham-Clinton were the chief mourners. Lord Foley, Lord de Tabley, Lord Harris, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the executor of the Duke, followed the body.

THE Right Hon. the Marquis of Bristol died at Ickworth Park, Bury St. Edmunds, on Sunday last. His Lordship was born July 15, 1800. As Earl Jermyn he represented Bury St. Edmunds in the House of Commons from 1830 till his accession to the peerage in 1859. In early life he was in the ranks of the Tory party, but he afterwards joined the Peelites, and held under Sir Robert the office of Treasurer of the Queen's Household. Subsequently he supported the Earl of Aberdeen and Lord Palmerston. His Lordship bore the titles of Marquis and Earl of Bristol, Earl Jermyn of Herninghurst, and Baron Hervey of Ickworth. His father was the first Marquis, and his mother was the Hon. Charlotte Upton, second daughter of the first Lord Templetown. He married Lady Catherine Manners, fourth daughter of the late Duke of Rutland.

THE Bishop of Oxford, at a meeting held at Hastings on behalf of the Additional Curates' Aid Society, made the following important comment on the present condition of the English clergy:—

Instead of being, as is often said, an exceedingly rich Church, our Church, if the income be divided among teachers, is an exceedingly poor Church. If divided head by head among the existing clergy, it would come to a maximum of 200*l.* a year to each. And do you think that you can go on paying only 200*l.* to each and get, under the present state of things, a true set of men to be the champions of religious thought in this country? Look how every other profession is paying its members. In withholding the support needed you depress the class from which you gather your clergymen to the class who look upon 200*l.* a year as a prize instead of the class who look upon it as starvation. This is what has been practically done in France. There is not one in a thousand educated for the ministry of the Church of France who does not come from the low peasant class of the community. The gentry never educate their sons for it, and the high and noble, except here and there one whose soul is devoted to it, never dream of educating their children for the cause, and what is the result? The French clergy become in manners and habits an association below the middle class. You can easily see the effect of that. It altogether deprives a body of clergy of that which has been one of the blessed marks of the English clergyman, that they are thorough citizens of their nation as well as teachers of the people. It makes them the slaves of those who for the time being admi-

nister the laws, and it keeps them literally from enlightening and enlarging pursuits; the consequence is, the ministry becomes gradually depressed, so that it has not its due influence upon the mind and intellect of the nation it ought to teach. Sydney Smith said: 'The principle in removing the heap o dirt has been the lottery principle. The Church of England is paid upon the lottery principle, and we can always get work done cheaper upon that principle. If I had a heap of dirt outside my door and wanted to move it, and found that it would take about 50*l.* to do so, I could do it in a cheaper way by burying ten sovereigns in different parts of it, and saying to the men, "You may carry it away, and every man who finds money may keep it." I should have a hundred labourers, with their barrows, wheeling away as well as they could, because every one would think of getting hold of the 10*l.* And what young curate's mother in all England, who, on hearing her son preach his first sermon, is not confident that he will be Archbishop of Canterbury?' The heap of dirt is being carried away by the young curates, and the 10*l.* is not buried beneath the surface. But if you take it away, and you have taken it away, unless you add something to the endowments and the wealth of the Church, you will be letting the Church sink into that lower position, and not that only, but as your population multiplies in the degree in which it is now multiplying on every side, the members holding the endowments will not find the necessary number of clergy to do the work.

MR. JOHN LEECH died on Saturday, October 29, at 7 o'clock in the evening. Mr. Leech was born in London in 1817. He was educated at the Charter House, and afterwards studied medicine. In 1841, however, he finally relinquished all labour in that profession, and gave himself up to the toil which has made his name familiar and himself beloved by the nation. Though the annual almanack looked to him as the great merrymaker of Christmas time, yet it was in *Punch* that he may be said to have 'lived, and moved, and had his being.' It is difficult to pen a just eulogy of efforts whose excellence has been demonstrated by an unwearied course of popular admiration. To say that Mr. Leech was a consummate artist—that he produced men and things, living forms, and natural pictures, with an equal and amazing fidelity—is only to endorse the opinion of those whose word is law. Yet there are features in his drawings on which comment may be made without pretension of critical acumen. Lord Macaulay justly considered that it was not beneath the dignity of the most stately of historians to record how our ancestors dressed, in what houses they lived, what they ate and drank, and in what to them consisted the pleasures and the duties of life. Hogarth has achieved immortality because his canvas has performed a similar office, and Mr. John Leech is beyond doubt the most faithful witness of the England and the Englishmen of this century. It is not a new remark, but it is one to be recollected, that, whereas a comic newspaper on the other side of the Channel imagines that situations arising from breaches of morality can alone produce a grotesque or humorous picture, the works of Mr. Leech have been eminently pure. Just as Mr. Charles Dickens and the late Mr. Thackeray have redeemed the pages of the novelist from the stain of impurity, and have excited interest without exciting passion, so Mr. Leech has banished from the canvas of the satirist all grossness. Therefore, his pencil has earned for him not admiration only but affection, and on this account, apart from the loss of pleasure which his weekly supply of delicate humour and of artistic workmanship afforded, the death of Mr. Leech is a misfortune in a social, or we may even say in a national, point of view. His early death is to be attributed in part to that curse of London, the street organs. His organisation was peculiarly sensitive, and the character of his toil increased the fault of nature. A retreat from Brunswick Square to Kensington, a flight to the continent, were the remedies employed, but even these did not suffice. Indeed, the earnestness with which he protested the cause of suffering sufficiently proved that his complaints were not fanciful. When Mr. Bass proposed the bill relating to street music, he had among other proofs a letter addressed to him by Mr. Mark Lemon, detailing the sufferings of his friend Mr. Leech. Perhaps those who, in the interest of gaping housemaids and dancing ragamuffins, opposed the bill, will at least confess that music can be something more than a nuisance, and that their pet Savoyards have at last succeeded in inflicting on us an irreparable loss.

THE colliers' strike has come to a termination. A meeting has been held at which confession was made that it was useless under present circumstances to continue the strike. Consequently, with the exception of 4,000 men, who for special reasons still are 'out,' and who are to be supported in their resolution by necessary aid, the whole body of miners will return to work. The speakers at the meeting held out a hope of inducing the whole mining population of Great Britain, 250,000 strong, to go on strike at the same moment. In this connection mention may be made of a speech delivered by Mr. J. J. Powell, Q.C., M.P., at Wolverhampton, in which that gentleman explained the French method of adjusting the disputes between labour and capital. The following passage is worthy of quotation:—

> In this country we are not much accustomed to think the French superior to ourselves; we are very loth to admit that such is the case, but there is no question that in this particular matter the French are far in advance of us. Strange to say, from the earliest ages—(it is not the result of modern political economy)—but from the earliest ages in France there have existed institutions called 'Conseils des Prud'hommes,' the duties of which councils are to enquire into and adjudicate upon disputes between masters and workmen on the subject of wages, and the plan pursued is as simple as possible. In every district, and with reference to every class of trade and manufacture in that district, a council is appointed, the masters electing three members and the men three. A president is chosen to preside over their discussions. If the decision of the council be not acquiesced in, an appeal lies to the Chambers of Commerce, but, as I ascertained when in Paris a few weeks ago, although on an average 4,000 or 5,000 cases are annually brought before the council in that city alone, appeals are almost if not quite unknown. Thus that large number of cases is settled between the masters and men without any disturbance or difficulty whatever. And what is stranger still is that, although these councils have power to adjudicate, and although by law the adjudication may be made as binding upon the parties as would be the judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction between litigant parties in this country, yet so admirably is the system managed that out of these 4,000 or 5,000 cases, of which three-fourths relate to wages alone, the great majority are not adjudicated upon at all, but settled by the conciliatory action of the council. I trust some of the working men will hear what I say, not because I say it, but because I think they must see at once that the way I have described is a much more rational way of settling their disputes with their masters than by resorting to the barbarous and expensive practice of a strike. I presume the workman wants only what is fair, and I presume the master only wants what is fair, and if so, why not resort to some such system as exists in France to settle their differences, instead of going on in the absurd way in which they have been going on lately to their own detriment and the injury of everybody else?

GENERAL TODLEBEN, the renowned defender of Sebastopol, who is now in England, paid a visit on Tuesday last to Chatham, and inspected the naval and military establishments at that port and garrison, as well as the system of fortifications there carried out. The General also on the same day visited the Royal Engineer establishment at Brompton.

IRELAND.

THE new Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland is to arrive at Dublin Castle on November 8. The Lord Mayor will go in state to meet his Excellency. The following is a summary of the address to be presented on the occasion:—

> After the usual expressions of welcome and congratulation, it goes on to say that the expressions of regard were not offered to him as a distinguished member of a political party, but as the representative of the Sovereign. In that exalted character alone was he recognised and received. In the appointment of his Excellency as successor to Lord Carlisle, they (the corporation) saw with satisfaction a sign that the Lord-Lieutenancy of that country was to be continued, as the citizens of Dublin saw with regret the repeated menaces that assailed its perpetuation, and the misrepresentations of the grounds on which the Irish people resisted its abolition. They disclaimed and repudiated the mean and narrow considerations attributed in England to their defence of the Irish Viceroyalty. They resisted its abolition as another fatal step in that pernicious policy of centralisation that had already worked so much evil to the country, and had stripped it of so many of the noble and useful rights and prerogatives of a nation. The arguments in favour of the abolition of the office, if they prevailed, would strip it still further of its institutions one by one, until at length the baleful policy of centralisation would have swept away everything that a people could call their own. Dublin never sought the retention of the Lord-Lieutenancy for the sake of the expenditure of the salary attaching to the office among its citizens. It advised the retention of the office on the higher grounds of national right, and with the single purpose of assisting in the general advancement of the nation. The address then proceeds to call his Excellency's attention to the anomalous state of the kingdom he was called on to govern. His Excellency would see a country blessed with all that should constitute the national elements of prosperity, inhabited by a virtuous, brave, and industrious people, and yet he would see its resources undeveloped and witness many proofs of decay. He would learn that a vast number of its wealthiest proprietors were absentees, and that the rents they received, as well as the revenues of the country, were constantly remitted to England without any adequate return. The address next refers to the immense proportion of the Imperial revenues expended in England, while but very little was expended in Ireland, and also to the vast emigration from its shores. The advantages of the port of Galway as a transatlantic packet station are next alluded to, and the address remarks that, although a company had been formed for the purpose of establishing a line of packets between that port and America, it had in a short time fallen beneath the narrow spirit of jealousy which it had to encounter in England. The advantages of Queenstown harbour as a naval station are also touched upon, and it is added that the address might be swelled by references to many other congenial topics, but the corporation would not enter into subjects on which there might be differences of opinion. They had touched only on matters on which the people of Ireland were unanimous in their views. The address concluded by referring to the confidence which was now rapidly growing up between all classes in Ireland.

THE CONTINENT.

FRANCE.

THE Czar of Russia has been winning the hearts of the very mixed population of Nice by the liberal manner in which he has displayed his august presence to their eager eyes. He has also established himself in the good graces of the guard of honour of French *chasseurs* provided for him by taking the surest road to the human heart, in the shape of a good dinner. The complimentary toasts were exchanged between host and guests, in honour of the Emperor of the French and the Czar of Russia. This was followed by a review of the troops, on which occasion the spectators remarked with pleasure the very respectful salute with which His Majesty greeted the colours of the regiment. On the 26th ult. the Emperor of the French left Paris for Nice. He passed through Lyons and Marseilles, stopping for a few minutes only at Avignon and Arles to hear from the mouths of the local authorities the extent of the disasters consequent on the floods of the Rhone. He arrived at Nice on the 27th ult. amidst the most enthusiastic cheering. On the following morning he was on the point of starting to pay a visit to the Czar, when his Russian Majesty himself appeared at the Prefecture where the Emperor was staying, being desirous of anticipating the visit in order to show his sense of the courtesy and hospitality which he has received in France. The Emperor immediately returned the visit to the Czar and Czarina. After these ceremonies the inevitable review of the troops in garrison was held, which was followed by a visit to the Russian and French frigates stationed at Villafranca. In the evening the Emperor dined with the Czar; the whole Imperial party then went to the theatre, which was in gala for the night. The political importance of this meeting is said to have been overrated; the Czar had hinted his desire that the name of Poland should not be mentioned, and the conversation, though cordial in the extreme, was never of so private a nature as to have made serious discussion possible. The Emperor is said to have pressed the Czar to pay a visit to Paris; but his offer was courteously declined on the ground of 'urgent *public* affairs.' On the next morning the Emperor left Nice for Toulon. The road between the two towns had been so seriously damaged by the late storms that there were great fears that it would be found impassable; the exertions of the workmen throughout the whole night of the 28th luckily restored the road to working order; otherwise we should have had a nineteenth-century edition of the legend of Canute, the first king on record who learned that he could 'not control the sea. Immediately on reaching Toulon, His Majesty visited the squadron, and was present at another great sham attack of the harbour. From Toulon he went to Marseilles, and thence to Lyons, stopping in both of these cities to visit the works in progress. On Monday evening, the 31st ult., he had returned to his capital. He is said to have been excessively gratified by the spontaneously enthusiastic reception everywhere given to him by his subjects of the South. The Czar left Nice on the 30th ult. on his return to St. Petersburg. He was expected at Stuttgard on the following day to join with his sister, the Queen of Wurtemburg, in the celebration of a service commemorative of the death of their mother. Thence he was to go to Berlin, and, after a few hours' visit to the King of Prussia, proceed to St. Petersburg. The King of the Belgians has been staying at Marseilles, and is expected at Nice.

The floods caused by the swelling of the Rhone have been the source of much loss and distress. The low-lying lands about Avignon are flooded, and the stream runs under the old walls of that city, built by Boccanegra in the fourteenth century, and still capable of withstanding the attacks of the elements, although since the use of cannon their natural occupation is gone. At Arles the bridge of boats was carried away, and, being borne with violence into the small river shipping, did much mischief. The Emperor, after enquiring into these misfortunes, left the inhabitants of Arles with the substantial consolation of a promise that their projected stone bridge should be made as speedily as possible. The Loire is reported to be rising rapidly, and fears are entertained of an inundation there also. The floods caused by the rise of the Loire in 1852 will be remembered for a long time as one of the greatest calamities which have desolated that part of France.

The rumours of a new French loan are denied; but a project is on foot for establishing a public works fund of 30,000,000*l.*, to be raised by bonds. The object of the fund will be to supply the many works of public utility wanted throughout the whole French empire. Thus it will occupy towards the whole country the same position which is filled by the works fund towards the city of Paris. The advantages of it are to be extended to Algiers. Marshal MacMahon, the governor-general of that province, has invited his subordinates to send in statements of the works required in their several departments, in order that the most necessary of them may be submitted to the central authorities for their approval.

ITALY.

If additional light could be thrown on a difficulty by repeating the arguments on both sides *ad nauseam*, the real gist of the Franco-Italian Convention would now be as clear as noonday. We have already stated what the positions of the several parties are. On the one side is the Papal faction in France, who insist upon it that the Italians are bound according to the treaty to give up all thoughts of Rome. Their arguments are backed up by the ultra-French press, if we may so call them—those, namely, who are jealous of an extension of the Italian power. On the other side are the more moderate Italians, who do not consider that the claims upon Rome are at all affected by the treaty; and this is the view which the present Italian Government is supposed to take of the matter. Then there are the Red-Republican Italians, who believe that the object of the Convention is to defraud them of their coveted metropolis; and the Pope himself, who considers that he is betrayed by its terms. Thus there are two parties who agree to the treaty, the one because it tends to realise the Italian aspirations for Rome, the other because it extinguishes those aspirations; there are two who object to it on the same grounds. The fun of the affair is that all parties refer to the same documents in support of their views; so that the terms of the treaty must be like the spear of Achilles, which could heal with its butt-end the wound which it gave with its point. The Italian Parliament has been adjourned for a few days, having nothing to discuss until the all-absorbing question of the day is settled. The bill for the transfer of the capital to Florence has been submitted to a committee of nine, chosen by as many preliminary committees, or permanent *bureaux* composed of members of the House. The similarity of this plan to the system of the Presidential election in America is curious; and as in America the real contest is fought in choosing the delegates from each State, so here also the great discussions took place in the *bureaux* upon the nomination of the several committeemen. The opposition demanded that Florence should be designated in the bill as the 'provisional capital,' or that the House should confirm the vote of March 27, 1861, proclaiming the right of Italy to Rome. They were, however, unable to gain a majority in any of the *bureaux*; the committee elected declared in favour of the Convention, and for the transfer of the capital to Florence. The supporters of the Government in the House have held a private meeting; 200 members were present, and a unanimous vote given in favour of the Convention. The National Bank has been officially invited to establish itself at Florence; in view of the proposed change, the council of the bank have determined to increase their capital by 400,000*l.*, and have

therefore called up the 250 francs still due upon each of their shares. The King, impressed with the necessity of economy and retrenchment, has given up 140,000*l.* of the civil list in favour of the State. Correspondence from Turin speaks with great admiration of Signor Lanza, the Finance Minister, by whom the bill for the transfer of the capital was brought forward. He has been a member of the House since 1848, and during his fifteen years' service he has acquired a reputation for eloquence, and a personal influence over the minds of the deputies, which now make him complete master of the House. It is to his exertions that is due the spirit of order and moderation, as well as the earnestness and activity, by means of which the proceedings of the last fortnight have been successfully carried out. The Chamber of Deputies reassembles to-day (Thursday) to receive the report of the committees. It is said that a bill is to be brought forward for compensation to the city of Turin.

Concerning the inroad of Garibaldians into Venetia, we have no further reports; there are said to be about 500 of them now hiding in the mountains. A certain Signor Cairoli has issued a proclamation calling upon the people to support the insurrection, and requesting assistance for the insurgents. The *Diritto* and the other journals which have published this have been seized. The *Opinione* says that the originators of the movement are known, and are a few 'generous but inexperienced young men.' It states that the Government disapproves these inconsiderate movements, not disavowing the principle of them, but considering them inopportune. It must be remembered that these 'generous but inexperienced' men have undertaken a desperate enterprise; that they attempted to draw into it the defenceless population of the country which they invaded, men whom they pretend to call fellow-citizens; and, finally, that they well knew that, in the almost certain event of their failure, their unfortunate dupes would assuredly be the victims of Austrian vengeance, while they themselves could count upon a safe retreat into the mountains. If the *Opinione* has no harder censure than this for the selfish and stupid vanity which can only be fed by the desertion of the men whom it is pretended to succour, we must allow that they who look for Italian patriotism elsewhere than in the ranks of the Italian Government have some excuse for their notions. A band of 500 Garibaldians has appeared in Illyria, commanded by an ex-Garibaldian officer. They respect private property, but take everything that belongs to the Austrian Government.

A wagon, containing the sum of 6,000*l.*, belonging to the railway contractors, and escorted by a guard of six lancers, was stopped on the road to Foligno (on the northern frontier of the present States of the Church) by a band of twenty brigands, who succeeded in carrying off the whole sum.

SWITZERLAND.

M. and Madame Trümpi were a married couple living at Berne at the beginning of the present year. M. Trümpi was engaged in commerce, and had latterly been somewhat unsuccessful in his undertakings; he was a man of violent temper, and was consequently unhappy in his household; he was often on bad terms with his wife, partly from his own character, partly from some suspicions of her fidelity; on one occasion he had thrown a decanter at her in the heat of a quarrel, and cut out her eye. He was by no means a moral man, and at the time to which we have referred, his health was seriously impaired by his excesses. Dr. Demme, the family doctor, a young man of great promise, who had only failed in consequence of his youth in getting the Professorial chair of medicine in the University of Gottingen, was summoned to attend him. He performed an operation upon him, and treated him medically for some little time. After some rallyings and relapses, M. Trümpi at last died, apparently of apoplexy, so at least thought Dr. Demme; but in order to satisfy some suspicions which had arisen as to the manner of his death, and also, as he said, to be able to make a due report to the life insurance societies which would be indebted to the representatives of the deceased, and, further, at the request of the prefect of the district, he made a post-mortem examination. The report, confirming Dr. Demme's previous opinion, was forwarded to the prefect, who examined it with great care; so little satisfied was he with the manner in which it was drawn up, that he requested two eminent Swiss doctors to repeat the examination. On their inspection of the body, they found to their surprise that Dr. Demme had opened the head only, leaving the internal organs of the body untouched. It was to these that they turned their attention; a slight analysis detected the presence of ten grains of strychnine. Upon this the prefect of Berne put the whole affair into the hands of the College of Health, and requested that body to report whether the poison had been taken by accident, or through a determination to commit suicide, or whether a horrible crime had been committed. They reported that it was impossible that so large a dose could have been taken by accident; that circumstances did not exclude the possibility of suicide; but that to distinguish between murder and suicide was not in their province, but the duty of a court of law. Dr. Demme and Madame Trümpi were thereupon arrested on the capital charge. Their trial began on the 25th ult. The procedure of a Swiss court is very similar to that of France; there is no ceremony or pomp of any kind, no gowns, wigs, or ermine. On the other hand, the public prosecution is never offensively violent, nor the president bent on considering the guilt of the prisoner as a foregone conclusion. The facts from which the prosecution inferred the guilt of Dr. Demme were, the criminal connection which was shown to have existed between the two prisoners before the death of M. Trümpi; the marked deficiency, if not falsehood, of Dr. Demme's report; and the glaring inconsistencies in his narrative. Madame Trümpi appears to be a person of doubtful sanity; her demeanour in court confirmed this idea; she said she heard voices, at one time urging to confess the crime, at another to conceal it. Nevertheless, the doctors were inclined to think that she was capable of distinguishing right from wrong even then, and much more so at the time of her husband's death. In favour of the theory that M. Trümpi had committed suicide, several sayings of his were quoted, showing that he was expecting to die shortly, and that he had contemplated self-destruction. One of the most horrible features of the case was that Dr. Demme had engaged himself to the daughter of Madame Trümpi immediately after the death of her husband. This engagement, according to the prisoner's account, was only the result of previous arrangements made before Trümpi's death. According to the theory of the prosecution, it was intended to divert suspicion from his criminal intimacy with her mother. The evidence for the prosecution showed that Dr. Demme had been sleeping in the house for several days before the death of his patient, and had had ample opportunities for administering to him the fatal dose. The same fact was used by them to rebut the theory that Trümpi had committed suicide; for a doctor of the eminence of Dr. Demme would never have allowed a patient suffering from a dangerous illness to take a dose of poison so hard to get at and so difficult to conceal effectually without his knowledge. A very remarkable piece of evidence against the accused was an unfinished letter written by Madame Trümpi in a moment of acknowledged delirium after her arrest. In it she confesses the whole crime, and accuses herself of theft, lying, adultery, and murder. The counsel for the defence contended that such a document could not be considered as trustworthy, and Madame Trümpi herself repudiated it in court.

The trial is not yet concluded; it is one which must be interesting to English readers, as it contains two of the peculiarities of many of our English cases of murder, the suspected use of poison by a physician, and the alleged insanity of one of the accused. It will be instructive to hear what remarks will be made on these two points in a foreign criminal court.

DENMARK.

But for the insane attempts at insurrection in Venetia, Europe would at this moment be at peace. The treaty between Austria and Prussia on the one side, and Denmark on the other, was signed at Vienna on the 30th ult. It differs but little from the preliminaries already executed at Vienna. In conformity with Article 2 of the preliminaries, the Jutland enclaves in the Slesvig territory, situated south of the southern limit of the district of Ribe, and ceded by Denmark to the German Powers, have been exchanged against a portion of Northern Slesvig.

The new frontier of Slesvig will be fixed to the north of the town of Christiansfeld; on the east it descends to the south of Stenderup, in order that the eastern side of Slesvig, which if possessed by Germany would be a continual menace to the island of Fünen, may remain with Denmark.

The ratification of the treaty of peace will take place within three weeks, but the Prussian troops will only evacuate Jutland at the expiration of twenty-one days after that event, during which period Prussia will continue to retain all her former power in the province.

It is asserted that the round sum to be paid by Denmark to satisfy the claims of the Duchies on the public property will amount to 8,500,000 rigsdalers, and that she will also have to pay an indemnity for all the captured shipping.

The Rigsraad will meet on the 7th inst. to complete the ratification of the treaty on the Danish side. There were rumours of a new hitch in the arrangements, which were confirmed by the new pressure put upon Jutland by General von Falkenstein. He gave notice that on the 1st inst. all the postal officials in Jutland would be dismissed, and that after that time he should himself appoint all functionaries in that province. He further entirely prohibited all exports and imports by sea from and to Jutland. The unfortunate Danes were obliged to yield to the pressure, which was apparently used to extort from them a last concession. The final defeat was, we must suppose, not accepted until every effort had been made to induce other Powers to interfere on behalf of oppressed Jutland, for, according to the *Dagblad*, 'The Minister of the Interior has informed the representatives from Jutland to the Rigsdag that the complaints made by the Danish Government to the neutral Powers concerning the violation of the preliminaries of peace by Prussia have always been fruitless.'

GERMANY.

The Prince and Princess of Wales went from Copenhagen to Hanover, to visit their relations in that kingdom. The present King, George V., is, as is well known, the son of Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland and son of George III.; he is consequently first cousin to the Queen of England. Though afflicted with blindness—a calamity which is dreadful to all, but particularly to a king, who governs as well as reigns—he is able to take his part in the administration of his country. They were received and hospitably entertained by the King, the Queen, and the Crown Prince. They paid a flying visit to the grandmother of the Princess, and were doubtless grieved that they could not present to her the infant Prince, her descendant in the third generation. Before going to Hanover they spent a day in Brunswick, where they must have looked with interest on the cradle of the great House of Guelph, the royal House of Europe during the last 900 years, of which the Prince himself is not the most insignificant member. From Hanover they went to Cologne, accompanied by the Crown Prince and Princess of Prussia, who had gone from Berlin to Hanover to escort them on their way. It was remarked that none of the royal family of Hanover went down to the station to salute the Prussian Prince; and the reason for it was found in the very unceremonious way in which the Prussians turned the Hanoverian troops out of Rendsberg. At Cologne the princely party could not be let off without a review: a sham fight was got up, representing the capture of the city of Cologne. From Cologne they go to Frankfort, and thence to the palace of the Prince of Leiningen, where the Prince of Wales means to shoot, and the Princess hopes to rest. After that it is supposed that they will pay a visit to the Princess Alice of Hesse. Then they will perhaps be attracted by Bonn, where Prince Alfred is now staying, and finally make their way home through Brussels.

The event of the day in German politics is the resignation of Count von Rechberg, and the nomination of Count von Mensdorf-Pouilly as his successor. Count von Rechberg had done good service to his country; he had taken its affairs in hand after the peace of 1859, when they looked gloomy enough, and restored them to a moderate degree of prosperity; but he was so entangled in the meshes of the Prussian alliance, which has become very burdensome to Austria, that the Emperor saw no means of extricating himself from his difficulty but by cutting the Gordian knot, and taking another minister. He has, however, given Herr von Rechberg the Order of the Golden Fleece, and requested him to remain as Austrian Plenipotentiary in the Conference of Vienna; he has therefore signed the treaty of peace on behalf of Austria. The appointment of Count von Mensdorf-Pouilly is supposed to inaugurate an entirely new line of policy, one point of which will of course be a withdrawal from the present close intimacy with Prussia. This is expected to conciliate the smaller German States, who look with great suspicion upon the policy of annexation which is the characteristic of modern Prussia. The relations with France will also probably be put on a more satisfactory footing, an event which will rejoice the hearts of the Viennese, who appear to have conceived an intense admiration for Napoleon and Napoleonism. Herr von Mensdorf-Pouilly, the new Foreign Minister, has up to this time been acting as military commandant in Galicia; it is said that a very early measure of his will be the removal of the state of siege in Galicia; the deputies from that province have decided not to abstain from the deliberations of the Reichsrath any longer. Herr von Mensdorf-Pouilly is a first cousin of the Queen of England, her mother and his having both been daughters of the Duke of Saxe-Saalfeld-Coburg. He holds the rank of lieutenant-field-marshal in the army; he served in the Italian war of 1849. In 1850 he was sent to London on a diplomatic mission on the occasion of the Slesvig-Holstein war of that date. After that he filled the embassy at St. Petersburg, and more lately he was appointed to various military commands in the Austrian provinces.

Herr von Bismarck returned from Paris to Berlin on the 30th ult., and proceeded direct from the railway station to the residence of the Minister of War. A conference of Ministers took place on the 31st, after which Herr von Bismarck had an interview with Prince Gortschakoff.

The Duchies of Slesvig-Holstein are very angry at the treatment they have received in the Conference of Vienna. They declare that some exclusively German territory has still been left to Denmark, that the share apportioned to them of the Danish national property is smaller than their due, and that they have been saddled with at least their portion of the public debt, besides the expenses of the war, which ought to have been paid by Denmark. The only way to quiet the angry feelings which have been excited in the Duchies, is for Austria and Prussia to hasten a solution of the question of the succession. Of all the candidates who were in the field, the Duke of Augustenburg is virtually the only one left; the Duke of Oldenburg either has given up his claim as hopeless, or is waiting for the act of renunciation in his favour by the Czar of Russia, an act which, it is whispered, never has been signed and never will be signed. As to the Duchy of Lauenburg, Herr von Bismarck has, they say, got leave from France to annex it, if he can find a decent pretext or excuse for the proceeding to give to Austria.

The exertions which have been made by Professor Liebig in the cause of philosophical agriculture have been recognised in England by the deference with which his opinions are quoted by all classes in this country. So gratified is he with our appreciation of him, and so interested in the results of the experiments now being made here in the utilisation of sewage, that he has given up the chair of Chemistry and the Laboratory of the University of Munich, and is about to come to London, where he will occupy a very important post in the company formed to carry out the purpose which he has so much at heart.

GREECE.

We mentioned last week that the King had sent a message to the Assembly complaining of the very dilatory manner in which it is considering the Constitution, and hinting that, if it be not completed in a month, some strong measures will be taken. This message, although much criticised by some who say that a constitutional king ought to have constitutional patience, has produced a most salutary effect; the House has at length betaken itself to the task of legislation in earnest, and there is little doubt that the King's object will be attained. The legislative union of Greece with the Ionian Islands will come into operation on the 1st of January next. It will probably involve a complete assimilation of law—that is, the abolition of the Ionian code and the introduction of the Greek. The chief mischief of this will be that it will bring with it the dismissal of all the present Ionian functionaries, and the distribution of the patronage among needy Greek lawyers. The assimilation of the fiscal system will not yet be carried out, as the olive crop is good, and the Government wish to obtain all the benefit of the present export duty. It is feared that in the present state of Greek commerce the receipts of the Custom House, on which the King's income and the pensions of the discharged officials are secured, will not be a very good guarantee.

SPAIN.

No new feature has presented itself in the Peruvian difficulty; diplomatic correspondence between that country and Spain is suspended. The insurgents of Santo Domingo have made serious proposals of peace, throwing themselves unreservedly on the clemency of the sovereign. The Minister of Finance has been trying to raise

money; he called a meeting of capitalists, and appealed to their patriotism either to negotiate 600,000,000 reals (rather more than 8,000,000*l.*) of the bonds given in payment of the national property, or to subscribe to an issue of hypothecated notes of the bank, bearing interest at 6 per cent. The meeting separated without coming to any decision.

Admiral Pareja has been sent to the Pacific, not, as was supposed, to replace Admiral Pinzon in command of the fleet, but to supersede Señor Salazar y Mazarredo as plenipotentiary. General Espartero, Duke of Victory, has declined the presidency of the Progressist committee; they, however, have refused to accept his refusal. The majority of that party have agreed to continue to abstain from politics; but a strong and very respectable minority have combated this resolution as unpatriotic and ungracious, in the face of the very liberal circular addressed by the Minister of the Interior to the governors of provinces on the subject of the elections. The Minister of Public Instruction has written a letter to the various instructors in the kingdom, reminding them that the Catholic religion alone is acknowledged in Spain, and that the acknowledged form of government is an hereditary constitutional monarchy under the present dynasty; and that, therefore, any attacks made on these two cardinal principles would meet with severe punishment.

PORTUGAL.

The Government has contracted a loan of 225,000*l.* with Portuguese capitalists. Colonel Facio, the envoy of the Emperor of Mexico to the courts of Madrid and Lisbon, has presented his credentials to the King of Portugal.

TURKEY.

Osman Pacha has been appointed Commissioner for Turkey to superintend the allotment of lands to the Suez Canal Company according to the decision made on that subject by the Emperor of the French. The English *chargé d'affaires* has officially expressed to the Porte the regret felt by his Government that the Italian Minister has been excluded from the commission appointed to settle the difficulties in Syria.

ALGIERS.

THE news from Algiers is still very favourable to the French cause. General Yusuf has received the submission of the greater part of the civil tribes of Boghar. Colonel de Lacroix reports that the tribes in his district are evincing a like spirit of submission, which may be in a great part owing to the skilful military combinations effected by that commander, which have placed the natives completely at his mercy.

MOROCCO.

THE Sultan of Morocco has given to the commercial world an invaluable boon in the shape of a lighthouse on Cape Spartel, the north-western promontory of the continent of Africa. This was for centuries one of the most dangerous coasts in the world; but the apathy of the Moorish sovereigns was too great to admit of the obvious improvements which might have diminished its perils. In 1860 the Brazilian frigate *Doña Isabella* was lost here with nearly all hands. The Sultan then, at last, acceded to the prayers of the French consul, and ordered the present lighthouse to be erected. The engineer was supplied by the French Government; the expenses of the building, which were very great, from the fact that no wood could be used in the construction in consequence of the dampness of the climate, were defrayed by the Sultan. We give the bearings of the light for the benefit of those who may be interested:—N. lat. 37° 47′ 14″; long. W. of Paris, 8° 15′ 50″; height of tower, 78 ft.; height of lantern above the level of the sea, 310 ft. It shows a steady white light.

MEXICO.

Two victories are reported for the French arms. The corps of Ortega, Negrete, Carhajal, and Patoui, had united in their retreat into Chihuahua under the command of Juarez, forming a body of 4,000 men with 20 guns. They were caught by Colonel Martin with 500 French Zouaves and 100 Mexicans, attacked in position, and routed with the loss of all their artillery, 500 killed and wounded, and 130 prisoners. They were forced in their flight to blow up all their ammunition. The French loss was one officer, eleven French soldiers, and three Mexican, killed; three officers and 41 French soldiers wounded. The officer killed was, unfortunately, Colonel Martin himself, who was cut in two by a cannon-ball early in the action. Near Vera Cruz the Imperial General Calderon fell upon the guerilla bands, and dispersed them; the chiefs, Crispino, Martinez, and Valentino Garcia, were taken prisoners and shot. Cortina, the leader of the Liberal party in Mexico, had given in his adhesion to the Emperor Maximilian unconditionally. The Emperor was away in the interior, but was expected to return shortly to the capital.

SOUTH AMERICA.

In Chili the question of the subjugation of Araucania and the occupation of that country for Chilian colonisation had received much attention. With a view to placing the coast in a state of defence, an income-tax was proposed of 5 per cent. on all incomes exceeding 200 dollars, but it was not expected to be carried.

In the northern provinces large deposits of guano had been discovered which will yield 25 per cent. of ammonia.

Ex-President Moutt has proceeded to Peru as plenipotentiary from Chili, to take his place in the proposed South American Federal Congress, and to represent Chili in aiding Peru, if necessary, to repel from her territory the enemy of South American independence.

In Peru, as in Spain, the Spanish-Peruvian difficulty remains the same, no steps having been taken towards a solution.

The Government of Peru has accredited M. St. Banduson on an extraordinary mission to the Court of Madrid.

The Spanish squadron lies peaceably at the Chincha Islands, receiving abundant supplies. The only inhabitants left on the islands are Chinese labourers.

The Peruvians are still actively engaged constructing their navy, and their monitors are being completed with vigour.

The Government has decreed that no charters for the exportation of guano are to be entered into after October 1 till further notice, in order that the large stocks in Europe may be wrought off.

LETTER FROM CANADA.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

QUEBEC: October 17, 1864.

PUBLIC interest is daily growing more intense respecting the question of a federation of the provinces. The Intercolonial Conference sits daily for four or five hours, and I believe its proceedings are going on harmoniously.

Since the Canadian Ministers' return from the Charlottetown Convention, they deputed two of their leading members to draw up a *projet* of Confederation in order to be submitted to the Conference. After the preliminary business, including the appointment of Sir E. P. Taché as chairman, it proceeded to the consideration of this document. During the first few days the discussion was conducted in committee of the whole, and every member was placed under injunction of secresy not to divulge any statements made by particular delegates.

It appears that a majority of the delegates would prefer a legislative to a federal union of the Upper and Lower Provinces. The necessity, however, of conciliating Lower Canada, which feels that its peculiar interests can only be secured by the protection of a local legislature, will, it is thought, cause a concession to be made. At the same time, the aim will be to make the Confederate Government as strong as possible, and to delegate but a circumscribed power to the local legislatures. In the division of powers certain specified privileges will be conferred on these bodies, but everything else will fall to the share of the general government. The appointment of the local governors is likely to be vested in the Confederate Government, the head of which will be appointed by the Crown, possessing the title of viceroy or governor-general.

It was suggested in a sort of *compte rendu* of the proceedings of the Charlottetown Convention, which is known but not acknowledged to be official, that the Confederate Government should, out of the revenue it would collect from existing sources, make an annual allowance to the local legislatures. Several objections to this proposal were made, and it is understood to have been abandoned. Among other things, it was objected that if the local legislatures obtained a revenue without the responsibility of imposing and collecting taxes, a dangerous temptation to extravagance would be given. The chances at present are that the local legislatures will be left to raise their own revenue, and it is questionable whether this can be done without resorting to the alternative of direct taxation. As the general government will monopolise the great sources of revenue, which, in these provinces, consist chiefly of customs and excise duties, there seems no other course left to the local governments. None of the provinces have been accustomed to this mode of raising their revenue, beyond what is necessary for mere municipal purposes; and it is only in Upper Canada that municipal institutions have been fully developed.

The cry that the Confederation will inevitably lead to direct taxation for the support of the local governments has already been raised in Lower Canada, where that precise form of taxation would be more objectionable than perhaps in any other portion of British America. It is being used as a weapon of opposition at an election of a member for the Upper House by what are called the *Rouges*, who, as a party, are strongly opposed to the new scheme. An anomalous condition of things exists in this contest; the ministerial candidate—an Englishman and a Protestant—receiving the entire support of the Catholic clergy in the electoral division, against a French-Canadian and a member of their own communion.

So far as the clergy referred to (who are almost all-powerful in Lower Canada) have shown any leaning on the question of confederation, it has been in favour of the Government project. There may have been some exceptions, but this is the general rule. An instance will serve as an illustration:—

Some time ago an opposition French organ, published in Montreal, printed several letters purporting to be written by a curé. The Roman Catholic bishop of the diocese caused his secretary to address a letter to the editor, calling in question the allegation that they had been written by a priest, and conveying an intimation that the bishop desired the clergy under his charge not to interfere in politics. This was a piece of clerical diplomacy, the real meaning of which was that the bishop did not desire his priests to write in the sense his curé, real or pretended, had written. It is understood that the Roman Catholic hierarchy as a body have resolved to take a quiescent position in the meantime until the project is introduced, when they will meet and pronounce *ex cathedrâ* upon it. Their influence may be considered sufficiently effective in deciding the fate of the elections in about two-thirds of the Lower Canada constituencies. To their credit be it said, that they have hitherto used their power with considerable moderation, and there is no instance, I believe, since the union of the two provinces in which they have made a determined or systematic opposition to any government. As a rule, they scrupulously abstain from intermeddling in political contests, unless they conceive that the issues before the electors involve the interests of their Church.

The debts and tariffs of the various provinces being necessarily dissimilar, will cause some difficulty in their adjustment. The difference of the debts of the three principal provinces (Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick) is not very serious. The amounts, of course, vary vastly, but when we come to consider them with reference to the population, the percentage per head does not exhibit any higher difference than 36s. sterling. Viewed in this light, the debts of Canada and New Brunswick are about equal—the difference being that the liabilities of Nova Scotia are so much the less. Prince Edward's Island is almost literally without debt, its entire obligations to creditors being not much more than equal to one year's revenue. As a means of indemnifying this island for the larger share of debt it will have to assume as a member of the Confederacy, its delegates demand an equivalent in money; such money not to be applied in any predetermined manner, but to be used as the local legislature may deem fit. Had the Intercolonial Railroad been constructed on the terms last agreed upon by the three provinces interested—namely, five-twelfths of the expense to be borne by Canada, and seven-twelfths by Nova Scotia and New Brunswick united—the debts of the two latter would be relatively larger than that of Canada. The (late) Canadian Government, in breaking up the compact into which they had voluntarily entered for the construction of this road, will ultimately entail upon this province a much greater share of the cost. Canada will probably have to pay eight-twelfths instead of five-twelfths of the entire expense; that being more in proportion to the relative resources of the various provinces than the previous proposition. Perhaps, however, the difference will be more apparent than real, because in any case the Confederation must assume the entire debt of all the provinces.

Taken altogether, the tariff of Canada is higher than that of any other of the provinces—considerably higher than some of them. In Newfoundland, where there exists a general feeling in favour of the Confederation, a fear is felt that the intercolonial free trade, which would be an incident of the union, must considerably reduce their revenue; customs duties being, in the opinion of the colonists, their only resource. They have not, like Canada, any distilleries, and scarcely more than a brewery, from which to obtain excise duties. Direct taxation in a colony, the leading pursuit of which is an uncertain fishery, and in which one-fourth of the entire revenue is sometimes absorbed in relieving unsuccessful and, for the time being, pauperised fishermen, is absolutely impracticable.

FROM BUFFALO TO CLEVELAND.

NOTES OF AN EXCURSIONIST.

September, 1864.

In the evening we started for Buffalo. An hour's ride in the cars brought us to the depot or railway station, here pronounced 'dēpō,' and five minutes more to the American House, the chief hotel of that city. Buffalo is a handsome city of 100,000 inhabitants, just at the lower end of Lake Erie. The main street is one of the finest streets I know—a broad, well-paved avenue stretching from the quays on the lake shore for a distance of three miles back into the country; the lower end composed of enormous warehouses, stores, shops, and hotels—the upper portion of splendid private residences. We could not help noticing how different from Canada was the aspect of everything we saw in this the first great American city which lay in our road; how busy were the wharves and the streets leading to them, how fine were all the buildings, how tasty and elegant the 'boulevards' running into the main street from the various suburbs of the city; how wealthy and prosperous everything looked and everybody; how 'go-ahead' was legibly written on all that met our eyes, and echoed in every word that struck our ears. There's a peculiar characteristic about these new American cities which is unlike anything I have ever seen upon our side of the Atlantic. The people themselves express this trait by the word 'fast,' an epithet in which they take the greatest delight, for they are everlastingly assuring you that this much-prized feature is to be found in their national character to an extent unknown in the Old World. 'We are a very fast people, yess- - - -sirrrr- - - -eeeeee.' And true enough there is a rapidity of development in their national and individual life, in their ideas and institutions, which in great measure justifies their vainglory; the egg is prematurely hatched, the fœtus artificially developed, and yet the pace does not kill. The wheels run easily, the machinery is well oiled; there is no hitch or clog about it as in Canada. In Buffalo and in Cleveland which I passed through yesterday, and still more in Chicago where I now am, there is a smartness, a brilliancy, a dash about everything, the like of which I did not see in the Canadian cities, still less have I seen it in steady-going old England. I don't know how to explain to you what I mean—I hardly know how to realise to myself what it is that makes this people differ so from any other with whom I have come in contact; but there certainly is amongst these Western men a marked element of dissimilarity from all European races, a peculiarity of character which I have never seen sufficiently brought out in the writings of any newspaper correspondent or author. In fact, the more I see of the Americans, the more plainly I see how great and lamentable an ignorance of each other the people of two continents may live in, spite of all the modern facilities of communication, when they have 3,000 miles' breadth of water interposed between them, and no direct reason for improving their acquaintance.

In the evening the intelligence reached the town that General M'Clellan had been nominated at the Chicago Convention. I was disappointed at having missed the opportunity of seeing and hearing the orators of the day, but I could not manage otherwise, so I had to content myself with hearing the matter discussed in Buffalo, where the news of the General's nomination was enthusiastically received. Bonfires were lit, and guns fired, and flags waved, and windows broken, till a very late hour of the night; for 'little Mac,' as he is familiarly called by his friends, is high in favour just now at Buffalo; not that he is considered the best representative of his party, but the Democratic 'platform' which he is intended to typify is the popular one in the great trading cities of the West, where, as far as I can see, the Republican 'ticket' will carry no favour. To those who are accustomed to look upon Conservatism as the religion of the rural districts, and Liberalism as the faith of the towns, it must seem strange to find the order of things exactly reversed on this continent, for the country farmers are here the Radicals, and the Conservative element is affected in the populous cities. This is, of course, a very interesting time to travel here with the approaching election so near at hand, but it is extremely difficult to get with anything like certainty at the probable result of the coming election. Both parties are now equally confident of success, and I have as yet little means of judging which is the stronger. Besides, people are very cautious about what they say on the subject of politics; they will venture readily enough upon general remarks, but beyond these they are unwilling to trust themselves. Indeed, I have only met with one man who opened his heart to me, and gave me what I suppose to have been his real ideas; but he may have been a spy only, sounding me. Still there is plenty of talk and squabble amongst themselves, for party feeling, running at all times far higher than it does with our less excitable politicians, is naturally swollen by the flood of war; and Democrats and Republicans have a gulf between them which no coalition could bridge over.

Two travellers joined G—— and myself at Buffalo, and the following evening our party of four left by one of the Lake Erie steamers for Cleveland on the Southern shore, intending to take the cars thence to Chicago, a distance in all of 530 miles. But that is a mere nothing to the erratic people of this continent—a distance which I believe they would travel if they could every day of the year. For travelling is cheap, and, though not rapid (in the West), extremely comfortable. Locomotion is made very easy; the arrangements are perfect; everybody plays into everybody's hands; the hotels, the trains, the boats, and the omnibuses all work together

most harmoniously. If the train by which you are to travel stops anywhere to enable the passengers to dine, you won't get dinner at the hotel; if the boat gives a breakfast, you must take it on board, or go without; if the train gets in by supper time, you are expected to look for nothing to eat at the refreshment rooms, but wait till you reach your hotel. Then the steamboats all 'connect' with the trains, and the trains with the steamboats, and the omnibuses with both. Where the cars run in connection with the boats, the line is carried right down to the side of the wharf; where no water communication exists, the railway runs down the principal street, and the depot is in the centre of the town; for an American does not look upon a railroad as a nuisance to be kept out of sight down amongst the back slums of a city, but treats it as what it really is, the greatest comfort and convenience of the present century. Add to all this the low rate of the fares, fixed in most cases by Act of Congress, and thereby prevented from participating in the general rise of prices. Well, then, with every inducement to travel, the Americans turn out in extraordinary numbers; every one does his or her proper number of miles in thousands every year. Country seats are unknown, and some change being necessary to keep them alive, the people rush to and fro in a restless way that would surprise you were you to see it. One old gentleman told me that he took his family to the seaside, 1,800 miles every year, and 1,800 back, with less trouble and concern, I dare say, than a Londoner would make about going down to Ipswich. A youth of fifteen thinks himself ill-used if he has not seen all the great cities of his country and the interior of every State; a girl of thirteen considers her education neglected if her parents have not allowed her to see more. But it's not only in summer that the traffic is so enormous; it's all the year round just the same. People in the East are sure to have friends and relations in the West, who have come to grief and migrated thither, and the truants must be visited every year. Adventurers and prodigals from the West must be welcomed as often in their deserted homes. So the nation is in a chronic state of 'fidgets.' Men and women of every age, babies in arms, and men who are here called old, females almost as numerous as the males, crowd the cars, stuff the steamboats, overwhelm the omnibuses, and storm the hotels. This fearful overcrowding of all the conveyances is the only nuisance which I have hitherto experienced, and in the cars it has sometimes amounted to something more than a personal inconvenience. You have heard, of course, of the extravagant respect paid by the people of the West to what I cannot conscientiously call here the softer sex—their frames are much too angular and uninviting. Now I don't believe in all this exaggerated deference to the weaker sex. If I have paid my fare for a seat in the cars, I don't see why I should give it up to any ill-clad woman who enters after me. If I have taken the trouble to secure a berth in the steamboat, I don't know on what principle of equity I am called upon to give it up to the ugliest woman who may ask for it. In the street cars the evil is far worse. No matter how full of hard-worked men the car may be, any fishwoman with her basket on her arm will hail it, knowing that some gentleman must rise for her. It's an unnatural, untrue, mock respect, productive of ill consequences in the female mind, and besides totally superficial; for with all this unhealthy outward show of deference, there's not half that quiet easy courtesy and real genuine veneration which are the acknowledged tribute to the fair sex amongst the educated classes of England.

THE FEDERAL DEFEAT ON CHARLES CITY ROAD.

The *Richmond Enquirer* of October 15 says:—

Further accounts from the battle-field of Thursday (the 13th) fully sustain the general idea of the completeness of our victory over the enemy on that memorable day. The effort to carry our lines was well matured, and the enemy was fully prepared to make the great sacrifice they did in the endeavour. During Tuesday night heavy reinforcements were thrown across the James from the enemy's front at Petersburg, and all day Wednesday was occupied in getting the men up to the lines in front of Chaffin's, and preparing for the conflict of the following day. The main force moved up the Charles City Road, and on Thursday morning, when the attack was begun, it was evident that the principal fighting would have to be done in the vicinity of that road, although the enemy's left rested near the Darbytown Road, and the advance by that route was simultaneous and in strong force. The advance of the enemy was checked about a mile and a half from our main works, and soon after the battle was joined their troops began massing near the Charles City Road for those desperate and repeated charges which proved so disastrously unfortunate for them. They advanced repeatedly against our lines and breastworks, but were literally mowed down as repeatedly, and not in a single instance did they secure an advantage, with all their compulsory recklessness in their foolhardy charges. Beaten at every point of the line, they were at last compelled to abandon the contest, not only giving up the field, but their dead and many of their wounded. The repulse was as complete as it was sanguinary, and furnishes room for a lengthy pause ere the effort to flank Chaffin's Farm may be attempted again. But the necessities of the political campaign at the North can recognise no such considerations. The terrible losses of this day will be concealed, as others before it; and before many days are over we may expect to hear of just such another and perhaps more disastrous and important assault. Our losses in the engagement will not exceed one hundred.

The *Richmond Examiner* of the same date says:—

After their bloody repulse of Thursday the enemy had no stomach to repeat their experiments on our works. Their defeat was much more thorough and disastrous than many are aware of. They made five distinct and determined assaults, and each time, being met by a most murderous fire of musketry at close range, were driven back in rout and confusion, leaving the ground thickly strewn with their dead. Notwithstanding these facts, we have no doubt Grant has already telegraphed to Washington that the affair was, on his part, nothing more than 'a reconnaissance in force, when, its object having been fully accomplished, our forces withdrew.' We know it to have been no reconnaissance, but a determined effort to break through what was supposed by the enemy to be a weak part of our lines, and we take our success then as an omen of the result when the grand tug of all shall come, when the Dutch Gap Canal shall have been completed, and Grant, with combined army and navy, shall make his grand old 'On to Richmond,' with a view of affecting the Presidential election.

Charleston papers of October 11 announce the death, by yellow fever, of Colonel Harris, chief engineer of General Beauregard's staff.

MR. BRIGHT'S LETTER.

The following is the text of the letter addressed by Mr. John Bright to Mr. Horace Greeley:—

Rochdale, October 1, 1864.

Dear Sir,—For more than three years the people of this country have watched with a constant interest the progress of the great conflict in which your people have been engaged; and, as you know, some have rejoiced over the temporary successes of the enemies of your Government, and some have deeply lamented over them.

At this moment we turn our eyes rather to the political than to the military struggle, and there is with us the same difference of opinion and of sympathy as regards your coming Presidential election that has been manifested in connection with your contest in the field.

All those of my countrymen who have wished well to the rebellion, who have hoped for the break-up of your Union, who have preferred to see a Southern slave empire rather than a restored and free Republic, so far as I can observe, are now in favour of the election of General M'Clellan. All those who have deplored the calamities which the leaders of secession have brought upon your country, who believe that slavery weakens your power and tarnishes your good name throughout the world, and who regard the restoration of your Union as a thing to be desired and prayed for by all good men—so far as I can judge—are heartily longing for the reelection of Mr. Lincoln. Every friend of your Union, probably, in Europe—every speaker and writer who has sought to do justice to your cause since the war began—is now hoping with an intense anxiety that Mr. Lincoln may be placed at the head of your Executive for another term.

It is not because they think Mr. Lincoln to be wiser or better than all other men on your continent, but they think they have observed in his career a grand simplicity of purpose, and a patriotism which knows no change, and which does not falter. To some of his countrymen there may appear to have been some errors in his course. It would be strange indeed if in the midst of difficulties so stupendous and so unexpected any Administration or any ruler should wholly avoid mistakes. To us, looking on from this distance, and unmoved by the passions from which many of your people can hardly be expected to be free, regarding his Presidential path with the calm judgment which belongs rather to history than to the present time—as our outside position enables us, in some degree, to regard it—we see in it an honest endeavour faithfully to do the work of his great office, and, in the doing of it, a brightness of personal honour on which no adversary has yet been able to fix a stain.

I believe that the effect of Mr. Lincoln's reelection in England and in Europe, and indeed throughout the world, will be this: It will convince all men that the integrity of your great country will be preserved, and it will show that Republican institutions, with an instructed and patriotic people, can bear a nation safely and steadily through the most desperate perils.

I am one of your friends in England who have never lost faith in your cause. I have spoken to my countrymen on its behalf; and now, in writing this letter to you, I believe I speak the sentiments and the heart's wish of every man in England who hopes for the freedom and greatness of your country.

Forgive me for this intrusion upon you; but I cannot hold back from telling you what is passing in my mind, and I wish, if possible, to send you a word of encouragement.—Believe me always, with great respect, yours very truly,

John Bright.

Horace Greeley, Esq., New York, U.S.

'THE PROGRESS OF CONQUEST.'

(From the *New York Daily News*, October 19.)

Texas has been ceded to the Confederacy! Mr. Jefferson Davis is sovereign lord of the region that extends from the Mississippi to the Rio Grande!

The attack on Mobile has been abandoned. Even Farragut, gallant old sailor as he is, has turned from its torpedoes, and artillery, and earthworks, and stern resolution, in utter hopelessness. Charleston, like Mobile, has proved too hard a nut to crack; and while serving to illustrate Black Republican barbarity in a bombardment of devilish wantonness, keeps the Federalists at arm's length, baffled and defeated.

Albemarle Sound is dominated by a Confederate ironclad. Expelled from Plymouth, we have lost our foothold in the Valley of the Roanoke; but are allowed to enjoy the lordship of Newbern, subject to the deadly protests of yellow fever.

Grant's army still languishes in the region of 'tidewater' fevers. The death that frowns upon his front gives his troops occasional respite; but until the return of winter frosts, there appears to be no rest for them from the death that preys upon his rear. And yet, what has been the material result of all this fearful loss of life? Fifty thousand additional victims of conflict or congestion have, it is stated, been added lately to the masses under Grant. But what of this? So completely paralysed is he known to be by his vigilant opponent, that even that tremendous accession of force was not allowed to interfere with the withdrawal of Confederate troops from Richmond for the reinforcement of Early. The auctioneer-like 'blowing' of the Administration must weigh as nothing in the face of this evidence of General Lee's calm, intelligent confidence in his own strength. The flank movement on Butler's right, the repulse of the Federal advance of last Thursday, the threatenings of Confederate attack on our extreme left, the detachment of several thousand reinforcements to the Valley, and Hampton's late 'operations' in the Federal beef-market, constitute an irresistible demonstration of the fact that the army of Northern Virginia is one of tremendous power of offence. Marchings and counter-marchings, stories of cradle robbings and grave plunderings, and all the enginery of bullet and bulletin have failed, after fighting it out 'on this line all the summer,' to disturb the hard fact that General Lee is sovereign lord of all the broad lands of old Virginia!

The Sheridan soap-bubble has collapsed. Even the censors can no longer turn that enterprising officer to any political account. The 'starving' masses that the *Herald* represented as wandering 'without arms' through the mountains, appeared, suddenly, well fed and well equipped, rushing down into the plain in furious pursuit of the Federal retreat from Brown's Gap! The denial of that disaster to Sheridan's arms has become, at last, of no avail; for, behold, it is declared to the world in the acknowledged fact that, after having fallen back more than fifty miles, Sheridan had returned, at last accounts, as far northwardly as Strasburg. Early, in the full flush of reinforcement and advance, is following up the Federal retreat; and, unless we accept the sanguine conclusions drawn from the partial encounter of last Saturday, will surge up once more to the Potomac, threatening the inoffensive people of Pennsylvania with the reprisal of fire and sword.

Burbridge has been hurled back from Saltville, in Western Virginia, with heavy loss. Kentucky threatens to blaze out into a general flame of irregular warfare; for while guerillas dash up into the neighbourhood of Covington and of Lexington, General Buford pushes forward, in cooperation, by way of Clarkesville, with a following of twelve hundred horsemen. Clouds of Southern cavalry are scudding up through Tennessee, and threaten to break upon Central Kentucky like an inundation.

Forrest, and Wheeler, and Roddy, and Dibrell, have burst, with all their followers, like a cloud of locusts, on Middle Tennessee. Decatur and Athens captured, bag and baggage, horse, foot, and artillery, on their way, these bold troopers have destroyed one of Sherman's lines of communication; and, two weeks ago, had moved forward to destroy the only one remaining. The censor has covered up, in that case, the work actually accomplished; but we may infer that it has been done very thoroughly, from the fact that Forrest remained, at last accounts, master of the situation. Twelve hundred infantry that had ventured down the Tennessee to dispute his sway, fled from his presence with the loss of their transports and their guns.

All of Western Tennessee has reverted to the Confederacy. Columbus is said to be endangered, and Southern advance sweeps up once more towards the Ohio at Paducah. Northern Mississippi does not own the presence of a single Federal soldier. Corinth, of bloody memory, is in the hands of the South; and, while enjoying free communication with the Gulf by way of the Mobile Railroad, sends beef, and bacon, and corn, and wheat, from the fat prairies of Mississippi and Alabama to the Confederate commissaries that drink the waters of the Tennessee at Tuscumbia.

Hood holds his whole army on Sherman's line of supply. Covering the work of Forrest and Wheeler, he threatens to confront the Federal retreat towards Chattanooga. With Talladega a terminus of his railway communications on one hand, and Tuscumbia an alternative on the other, a well organised system of wagoning, never exceeding a transportation of over a hundred miles, may enable him to retard Sherman's retreat by falling back before him even to the junction of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad with the Nashville and Chattanooga road, at Stephenson. If strategy do not enable the Federal chief to foil the bold design thus apparently contemplated for his destruction, he may not be able to do so by even a rapid succession of direct blows in less than, perhaps, three or four weeks. If Hood's alleged deflection towards Bridgeport be true, then does he intend, after having done the work of destruction to Sherman's communication as far as Dalton, to carry them out from Bridgeport as far as practicable towards Nashville. The formidable danger thus threatening Sherman, if it shall not show the madness of his venture by the capture or destruction of his army, will, should Beauregard not fail in skill, demonstrate the folly of an invasion that may, in the moment of its triumph, be compelled to resume its work *de novo*, two hundred or two hundred and fifty miles in its rear.

The sovereignty of Arkansas has returned to her own domain, 'vice' the government of Mr. Murphy, 'retired.' Murphydom has, to borrow an expression from Mr. Horace Greeley, been thus 'kicked out of the Union.' Marmaduke, and Cabell, and Fagan, and Shelby, tramping, and champing, and prancing, at the head of swarms of horsemen, have gone into Missouri; and having gathered an abundance of stores and recruits to cheer his heart, called up General Price with all his long and deep ranks of the victorious infantry of Kirby Smith. The great army that has thus swept down towards St. Louis, destroying the communications with that city as it passed, has moved on in peace and quiet towards the West; and having looked in at Jefferson City, sits down leisurely, with none to say it nay, in the enjoyment of the good things that concentrate in the Valley of the Missouri at Boonville!

Oh! ye of supple belief, hearken unto the voice of the bulletins that bid you be of good cheer in patient abiding of the assurance that 'this most wicked rebellion' is about to be crushed in—just ninety days!

Voting in Indiana.—The *Philadelphia Age* says: 'In Wayne township and city of Fort Wayne, Allen county, which are Democratic, 3,098 persons, between the ages of 20 and 45, were enrolled for military service, and the vote polled was 2,878. Now, mark the contrast. In Indianapolis and township, which are controlled by the Abolitionists, 4,762 persons were enrolled for military service, and the majority for Morton, the Abolition candidate for Governor, is claimed to be 6,000. This difference is worthy of attention. It shows the means by which the Abolition party are endeavouring to cheat the people out of their rights, and make the elective franchise a farce. But one more fact: In a Democratic county, where the judges of the election acted under the solemnity of an oath, and in strict accordance with the election laws of the State, out of 450 soldiers who were brought to the polls, only seventy-two would take the oath and submit the proofs that would entitle them to deposit their ballots. And yet, in an adjoining county, where the Abolitionists ruled the polls, two regiments of Massachusetts soldiers, with their State numbers on their caps, were allowed to vote, and in this way nullify the wishes of the legal voters of Indiana.'

The Nitre and Mining Bureau.—The United States, with the markets of the world open to them, employ 80,000 men in this business, which under the charge of the Nitre and Mining Bureau of the Confederacy employs but 10,000. These employés of the Nitre and Mining Bureau are composed of near 6,000 negroes and 4,000 whites. Its operations on the frontier, and often within the lines of the enemy, have compelled its officers to withhold facts that would have corrected misrepresentation and often prevented gross injustice. We are advised that out of its conscript force of 4,000 men over 1,500 are and for a month have been doing service at the front. At Saltville they fought and won the commendation of their officers for good conduct. In Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama they have repeatedly responded to the call for troops, and have invariably done the service credit.—*The Richmond Enquirer.*

Reported Death of Mrs. Greenhow.—The *Wilmington Journal* reports the death of Mrs. Greenhow, who was returning to the Confederacy from Europe. The journal says: 'Up to the time of writing, we have obtained few particulars. We know that on Friday night or Saturday morning the steamship *Condor*, in endeavouring to come over the New Inlet bar, got aground, and that a boat from her got swamped on the 'rip,' and that Mrs. Greenhow, being a passenger on board the boat, was drowned.'

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 291 Strand, W.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1864.

Capture of the 'Florida.'

THE Confederate authorities in London have received a telegraphic despatch, dated Lisbon, from Captain MORRIS, commander of the Confederate steamship *Florida*, announcing the capture of that vessel on October 7, by the Federal steamer *Wachusetts* in the harbour of Bahia. At the time of capture, the *Florida* was lying under the guns of the Brazilian forts and of the Brazilian fleet, and Captain MORRIS was on shore. Captain MORRIS is now on board the *Magdalena*, bound for Southampton.

We forbear to comment at length on the above intelligence. We hope in a few days to receive such details as will enable us to form a complete judgment on the affair. In the meantime, the facts stated justify the assertion that the act of the Federal officer in command of the *Wachusetts* has no precedent in audacious disregard of the rights of neutral Powers. Brazil is weak and the United States is strong; but a gross outrage on the first principles of maritime law demands the earnest attention of every maritime Power.

The Odar.

ONCE more we are startled with the news of a great Federal victory, and to add to its significance it is one of SHERIDAN'S victories. They are always complete. It is no drawn battle, no indecisive engagement—the success is undeniable, the rout is unparalleled, the captures incredible. SHERIDAN'S career in the Shenandoah Valley is a romance of history. He has, according to his own account, destroyed at least two Confederate armies. At Opequan Creek he inflicted a tremendous defeat on EARLY'S army; at Fisher's Hill Gap he annihilated it. There never was an army so routed and demoralised as EARLY'S, he informed the Northern public. Yet a week afterwards this panic-stricken corps, represented as making for Richmond, took up a strong position in his front, repulsed an assault of the Federals, and in its turn became the assailant. SHERIDAN retreated up the valley as far as Strasburg; there the beaten army pressed him too closely; he advanced to the attack; General COOK, his subordinate, with his accustomed impetuosity, charged, and threw the Confederates into confusion, and they retired without giving him the opportunity of another victory. It was strange at least, that the army which was so soon to become the assailant should at once withdraw when threatened—stranger still that a day or two later SHERIDAN'S force should itself have retired beyond Strasburg and the intrenchments which it had thrown up in front of that town. But now we come to SHERIDAN'S greatest triumph. He reports that on the 19th LONGSTREET'S army attacked his army at Cedar Creek, before daylight, threw it into disorder, and drove it four miles, capturing large numbers of prisoners and a quantity of artillery and *matériel*. The General himself was at Winchester when the attack took place; he hastened up, was in time to rally his troops and reform his line, repulsed an attack, assumed the offensive, and finally drove the Confederates off the field, capturing fifty guns and 1,600 prisoners. Now this is a very remarkable statement. For an army surprised and beaten, driven in disorder over four miles of ground, with heavy losses in guns and prisoners, to rally, become the assailant, and finally in the afternoon to defeat the victors of the morning, would be a great feat. But that it should not only defeat, but rout and drive its assailants several miles, recapture its own guns, and take some five and twenty from the enemy, is little less than marvellous. We do not deny SHERIDAN the possession of energy, dash, and skill; but that the mere appearance of one individual in the field of battle should suffice to convert a disgraceful defeat into a brilliant victory, is more than we can credit on that gallant officer's unsupported statement. Until we get the Southern accounts of the engagement, it is of course idle to speak with any degree of certainty as to its results. But, taking the affair as it is now represented, we think we are justified in considering it as another of those indecisive engagements which have unhappily been so frequent during the war. LONGSTREET'S force, although attacking, would be obviously inferior in numbers to that of the Federals; and it is possible that his earliest success may have encouraged him to continue the attack even after the Federals had been heavily reinforced. But we are more inclined to believe that LONGSTREET would have been quite content with his first triumph, and that the afternoon's battle was fought with a view principally of carrying off the trophies of victory. It may turn out that, aware of the arrival of reinforcements from Winchester, LONGSTREET had already commenced his retrograde movement, and that the action on his part was confined to defending his rear against the attacks of SHERIDAN'S enormously superior force of cavalry. That his army was not routed is proved by the fact that night alone put an end to the struggle, and that nothing was heard of any pursuit on SHERIDAN'S part. The casualties on both sides must have been severe. Northern correspondents admit a loss of 5,000 men, and almost for the first time no estimate is given of the number of Confederate killed and wounded. But as the Federals were surprised and terribly cut up in the morning, and as in the afternoon they were compelled to become the assailants, it is probable their loss far exceeded that of their opponents. As to the capture of the fifty guns, the figures look very large, but at least half of these were lost, on SHERIDAN'S admission, by the Federals, and we strongly suspect General LONGSTREET'S account will give a very different version of the whole affair. In the meantime it is significant that although the battle was fought on the 19th, nothing further had been heard from SHERIDAN on the evening of the 22nd, and that the day after the report of this great victory reached Washington gold went up two per cent. From other quarters the news is uniformly favourable to the Confederacy. It is now quite certain that HOOD and BEAUREGARD have become the assailants, and that great movements are on foot with a view to the expulsion of SHERMAN from Atlanta. HOOD'S whole force, when last heard of, was at Lafayette, marching westwards, either for Huntsville, Alabama, or for Bridgeport. At the same time a large Confederate cavalry force was in the neighbourhood of Chattanooga, and Confederate horse were actively employed between Chattanooga and Knoxville. All communication between the West and SHERMAN'S army had been cut off, and it seemed likely that HOOD would make Tuscumbia his supply depot, if not his base of operations. FORREST was busy in Western Tennessee and Western Kentucky. His cavalry were threatening at the same time Memphis and Lexington, and all the reports of his having been driven across the Tennessee River were mere inventions. SHERMAN was evidently perplexed by the new tactics of the Confederates. To follow them with a large force from Georgia would be to leave his line of railway unprotected, and to expose the garrison of Atlanta to considerable peril. Moreover, HOOD would be falling back upon his new base, whilst SHERMAN would have to move through an unfriendly and very difficult country, with no railway to assist his transport, and constantly exposed to the harassing attacks of a general possessing better means of provisioning his troops, and a far more intimate knowledge of the country. An advance by SHERMAN into Northern Alabama is out of the question, and if HOOD shall seriously threaten the Nashville and Stevenson railroad, it will be a hard matter for SHERMAN to retain his hold upon Atlanta. In Missouri PRICE is still making progress, and wherever his army advances fresh recruits flock to his standard; and although there are rumours of the concentration of Federal troops for an offensive movement, up to the present time all the efforts of the Federal commanders seem to have been made to avoid an engagement. The Northern Government is now trying concentration, and it finds the new system hardly more profitable than the old one. SHERMAN and GRANT monopolise the resources of the North, and withal effect very little, whilst in the outlying tracts the Federal power is every day losing ground. Texas has not a single Federal soldier on her soil; Arkansas can boast of but one strong garrison; Missouri is almost occupied by Confederate armies. If the extent of territory ruled by the Confederate Government in November 1864 be compared with that possessed in the same month last year, the gain is enormous. And yet there are found Englishmen who profess to believe in the possibility of the South being overcome and subjugated by Northern armies.

Presidential Elections.

THE near approach of the Presidential election in the United States invites attention to the mode by which the chief magistrate of the model republic is invested with his authority, by which a change of rulers is effected, or the power held by a reigning President is entrusted for four years more to his hands. There is, perhaps, nothing of which the English people know so little as the mechanism of a Presidential election; nothing which is, indeed, so difficult for the foreigner to understand as the complex working of the agencies of popular conventions and electoral colleges in elevating to the highest seat in the State some man theretofore often without consideration or influence. DE TOCQUEVILLE, who was probably the most sagacious cis-Atlantic observer that ever thought and wrote upon American affairs, somewhat offended the *amour propre* of the people of the United States, by declaring that the tendency of their institutions was to raise inferior men to the Presidency. At the time this opinion was advanced, the Presidents had been men of eminent qualities, conspicuous, before they became such, for statesmanship and a mastery of political science. But when we consider what sort of men have since moved across the stage in the procession of Presidents, a procession commencing with the imposing figure of GEORGE WASHINGTON, and terminating with the ludicrous image of ABRAHAM LINCOLN, we are compelled to accept the opinion of DE TOCQUEVILLE as safe and wise. Of BUCHANAN, LINCOLN'S immediate predecessor, it might be said, in the oft-quoted verdict of the Roman historian upon GALBA, that he would have made a worthy President had he never been elected—*Omnium consensu capax imperii nisi imperâsset*; but of LINCOLN nothing whatever could have been predicated, and his conduct in office, which has excited the derision and indignation of the world, was foreshadowed by no antecedent notoriety beyond the narrow limits of a local electioneering campaign.

Theoretically it is presumed that the choice of the people in the election of their President will fall on their most capable and worthy man. And so it might, did not party machinery interpose between the popular preference and the polls. Perhaps; for it cannot always be supposed that the popular preference will be for that best and wisest person. But here the popular preference is controlled by *King Caucus*. There are two, three, or four parties, each one of which is to put forward a candidate. The mode of selection is by the vote of a convention composed of delegates elected in primary meetings of the voters belonging to the parties respectively. If any one supposes that these primary meetings are expressive in any sense of the will of *the people*, or even of a fair majority of the voters they represent, he is egregiously in error. The resolutions are regularly written out in advance, and carried through by small party managers; and the delegates are committed from the beginning to some political candidate of their preference, failing to secure whose nomination, their next aim is to defeat the nomination of some odious competitor. And so the party conventions are composed of men who go into the body with their course marked out beforehand. In convention the names of the most eminent leaders of the party may, or may not, be brought forward, but on none of these is the nomination likely to descend. For eminent leaders must have been many years in public life, must have made a 'record,' must have sown the seeds of enmity far and wide, and must be compelled to contend in the outset with elements of opposition of long-standing and embittered animosity. So that a caucus or secret meeting is held during the session of the convention, while the ballots are yet hopelessly divided between half-a-dozen candidates, in which the friends of three or four combine to defeat the possible nomination of one, and thus 'availability' secures the selection of some 'illustrious obscure' against whom nothing can be said, simply because his career in the public councils has been marked by nothing salient or striking whatever.

It may here be observed that the occupant of

the Presidential chair goes into the convention for a second nomination with the overpowering advantage of the patronage of his office, which is, in the majority of cases, potent to secure his selection by his party, as afterwards it may be, though we cannot say with certainty that it will be, to secure his election by the people. A whole army of postmasters, clerks, custom-house officers, commissioners, Indian agents, sub-treasurers, and other dependents upon executive favour, a vast and powerful combination of Government contractors, wielding an immense influence, and representing a great moneyed interest, stand by the President in the convention, while the most serious danger to be apprehended by him in the subsequent campaign is from the antagonism of the 'outs' towards the 'ins,' and the multitude of impecunious adventurers who desire another shuffle of the cards. When the convention has decided that he shall stand for a second term of office, he may find himself opposed by some new and wholly untried aspirant for political honours, who has won military laurels, and is therefore famous, or achieved a parochial victory in a State election, and is therefore thought likely to carry the day when put forward for the first office in the gift of the people.

As soon as the candidates of the several parties have been chosen by the party conventions, the excitement and frenzy of the Presidential campaign begin to be manifested throughout the land. Biographies of the candidates are published by the thousand, in which their extraordinary talents, virtues, and services are set forth in eloquent periods, and it forthwith appears that two, three, or four men are before the people, each wiser, braver, purer, more disinterested than the other. All are men 'worthy of the better days of the Republic,' according to their biographers; all are deserving the Penitentiary according to the statements of the opposition press. For three or four months the daily papers are wholly given up to the question of the next Presidency. Arts, letters, education, public works, sanitary matters, all are left to take care of themselves till it shall be determined who shall live for the next four years in the White House. In the larger cities the hurly-burly is heightened and exacerbated by the orgies of political clubs, which parade the streets with torches and banners and music, always ready to provoke a *fracas* with their opponents, while in the country districts the 'mass meeting' calls together thousands and thousands at many points easily accessible by the railway, all the industrial interests of the land being neglected while the mighty question of the day is yet pending.

The demoralisation of the people inevitable to this periodical agitation, and the bitter hatreds engendered by this quadrennial upheaval of society in a *popular* election, were anticipated by the framers of the Constitution. They endeavoured by the establishment of the Electoral College to avoid this very tumult and commotion, and they fondly imagined they had thereby provided against the possibility of permitting the election of President to become a fierce and furious strife among the masses of the people. The calm statesmen of the earlier age would have bowed their heads in humiliation had they supposed that the illustrious competitors for the highest office in the republic would ever have the white robes of their candidature covered with the dust of the political *pied poudre*, far less bespattered with the mire of the cross-roads. And so they appointed that the President should be chosen by an Electoral College. The discussion in the convention which framed the Constitution was long and earnest as to the mode in which the election should be effected. At length, having decided that neither Congress nor the people should elect, they agreed upon the following clause:—

> Article II., Section 2.—Each State shall appoint, in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors equal to the whole number of senators and representatives to which the State may be entitled in Congress.

And this clause was followed by another prescribing the manner of voting for President in the Electoral College, and of transmitting the vote to the President of the Senate. The theory was, that the electors should be free to choose, without interference or dictation from any quarter, the person whom they should deem fittest for the exalted position. In like manner it was provided that Senators of the United States should be elected by the State Legislatures, in order that they should be removed far above the atmosphere of party excitement and popular clamour. But in the election of Senators, as in the election of Presidents, the tendency of universal suffrage to popularise all such intermediate agencies, and to break down the barriers which the Constitution had erected for the preservation of the nation's liberties, was sufficiently proved by the fact that in the memorable contest between Douglas and Lincoln in Illinois—the only occasion on which Lincoln, prior to his election as President, had ever been placed prominently before the country—the two candidates went all over the State addressing *the people* upon the hustings upon the issues of the day for a seat in the Senate; and the Legislature of Illinois, yielding to the pressure from without, permitted itself to be made the mere instrument of carrying out the popular choice.

The Hon. James Williams, in his admirable volume entitled 'The Rise and Fall of the Model Republic,' has shown how the intentions of the framers of the Constitution with regard to the election of President were in course of time frustrated and openly set at naught—how the Legislatures of the several States, with the single exception of South Carolina, directed that the choice of electors should be committed to the direct vote of the people—how it soon became virtually settled that the Electoral College should have no range of selection outside the nominees of the party conventions—how these nominees came to entertain no opinions and to adopt no policy that the 'platforms' of the party conventions had not expressed and marked out—and how, in this manner, the great cardinal principle of the sovereignty of the States, which underlay the whole fabric of the political system, was utterly abandoned to the inevitable ruin and enslavement of the South, had they passively submitted to the election of a candidate upon an issue purely sectional, in which their dearest rights and interests were involved. The Electoral College degenerated into being the blind and unreasoning agent of the party convention, the nominee of the party convention pinned his faith to the party platform, the law of majorities was established beyond all restraint or interference; and thus the States dwindled into the rank of counties or shires, their ancient *prestige* and influence lost in the rage and swell of popular domination. Had the Electoral College been wholly abolished, had all State lines been obliterated, and the destinies of the country been left to the will of the mere numerical majority counted by the head, there would at least have been a majority clearly ascertained for some one candidate; but the retention of the constitutional forms and the voting by States, while the rights of the States and the spirit of the Constitution were repudiated, made it possible for a candidate to be elected who was *not* the choice of the people, and thus Lincoln obtained his seat, wanting more than one million of votes to constitute a majority; a result which demonstrated, as Mr. Williams very well remarks, that in pursuance of the "fatal policy of cheating the Constitution, and cheating the States composing the Confederacy," the American people finally "cheated themselves, by placing a President in power in direct violation of their own will as expressed at the ballot-box."

It is, perhaps, idle to speculate on the probable issue of the political struggle now going on in the United States, an issue which will be decided before another week shall have rolled over our heads. The contest is complicated by the element of military dictation, hitherto absent from the elections of Presidents, and may not be terminated without disturbance at the polls, ushering in that inevitable day of doom for the 'Model Republic' when no law shall be recognised but the law of the strongest, when anarchy shall imperil civilisation, and civilisation, if rescued at all, must be rescued by the creator of an organised despotism. The answer given by Mr. Lincoln to the 'Loyal Tennesseans' who waited on him with a protest against the imposition of test oaths, that he expected 'to let the friends of George B. M'Clellan manage their side of the contest in their own way, and that *he* should manage *his* side of it in *his* own way,' would seem to imply that he was prepared to forestal any resistance to arbitrary 'management;' and he may, and probably *will*, prove too powerful to be displaced by the combined opposition of the War Democrats and the Peace Democrats, the men who desire the control of affairs, and the men who are weary of the shedding of blood. But the result, whatever it may be, will furnish only another illustration of the fact that the Presidential election has become a very different thing from what it was designed to be by those calm, pure, worthy men who started the United States of America, less than a century ago, upon their career of glory and of shame.

The Trial of Muller.

Mr. Baron Martin, in sentencing Franz Muller to be hanged for the murder of Mr. Briggs, affirmed that 'he was as certain that the prisoner did the deed as he could be of any fact which he had not seen with his own eyes.' The manner also in which the case was left to the jury by one of the most discreet and most merciful Judges that ever sat on the bench, plainly indicated that the Lord Chief Baron was at one with his brother Judge on the question of Muller's guilt. The circumstance that the jury considered fifteen minutes ample time for deciding the fate of a fellow-creature, demonstrated that they had no more doubt than either of the learned Judges. To differ from the experience of Judges and the honest sense of twelve jurymen argues a singular obliquity of the perceptive faculty, and most undoubtedly we have no intention of shaking the faith of our readers in the guilt of Franz Muller.

Perhaps no conditions so manifestly display the power of judicial acumen as the existence and the disregard of difficulties. We remember a case which was tried before the present Lord Chief Justice of England, in which the evidence against the prisoner was convincing. There was, however, one serious objection to his guilt. The spoil of the burglary was found in a newspaper bearing a date subsequent to the capture of the accused. The Judge admitted that he could not explain the objection, though he held that it was not worthy of regard. The prisoner was convicted. The newspaper, as it turned out, had been published before the capture, but, according to custom, bore a date many days later than the actual day of issue. Similarly, in the case of Muller, there were points of evidence which explanation alone can render consistent with the guilt of the accused. Yet these were in the eyes of the Judges mere straws in comparison with the irresistible weight of the evidence of guilt.

Indeed, there was one feature in the case which must find its support in the force of moral suasion and not in logical calculation. Matthews, the principal Crown witness, had one story for the coroner and another for the court. In the one place he had bought a hat at Downs's in Long Acre, in the other place he admitted that since that assertion he had discovered that there was no such shop. Before the coroner he recognised Muller's hat, 'because it was turned up more on one side than on the other, probably from the prisoner lifting it by that part;' before the Judges he remembered that he had instructed the maker to turn it up in that fashion. Moreover, he confessed that he had spent every day, and the whole of every day, from July 9 to July 15, in the streets of London, that he had visited public-houses, cab-stands, and other places of resort used by cabmen, and that until the last-mentioned day he had never heard of the murder. His wife knew the facts on the Monday, but, with a peculiar and inexplicable reticence, never even gossipped over her tea. He himself, too, could read, and at times bought his penny paper; yet, oddly enough, he never saw the placards which were affixed at every cab-stand, and never beheld the bulletins which daily were emblazoned with capitals announcing the details of the crime. Nay—strange and perverse being that he was—the man, in whose breast lay the secret that was to unravel the mystery of the murder, never even heard the street-boys shout the news, and never listened to a fellow-cabman discussing what was in the mouth of every Londoner. But the Court believed Matthews, and even the counsel for the defence did not venture to reject his testimony as falsified by his own enormous inconsistencies. Now to take the other side of the case. Mr. Thomas Lee, for aught we know a thoroughly respectable person, swore that he saw and spoke to his friend Mr. Briggs at Bow station; that in the carriage with Mr. Briggs sat two men, one opposite to and one by the side of the deceased gentleman. The description given by Mr. Lee of the two men finds no counterpart in the appearance of Muller, and Mr. Lee believes that Muller was not one of the men. Immediately after addressing Mr. Briggs, Mr. Lee entered the next carriage, and the train started. Now, if Mr. Lee was correct in his statement, it was next to an impossibility that Muller should have been the murderer of Mr. Briggs. Of course, Mr. Lee did not closely observe the two individuals in the railway carriage; but it may be that if one of them had been a poor German tailor, Mr. Lee would have marked him as a quaint occupant of a first-class railway carriage. On what ground then is the evidence of Mr. Lee disregarded? The witness on being asked why he did not, on hearing the news of the murder, inform the police of what he had seen at Bow station, answered that 'he did not think his evidence of importance, and that an appearance in a prosecution was a bother.' We will not abruptly assume that this strange reply procured the rejection of his evidence, but we may be pardoned for a remark on its nature. There are persons to whom notoriety is pleasing; there are others who have a deep-rooted and unconquerable aversion to an appearance either in the witness-box or in the columns of the press. Mr. Lee may be one of them, and his reply may consequently have been a sin in language rather than in substance. If he did not think his evidence of importance, he cannot incur censure for this supposition, because that was precisely the opinion formed by both judge and jury of what Mr. Lee had to say. Why then was Mr. Lee dismissed from all

consideration? Why was it assumed that he who had never seen MULLER in his life before was committing perjury to save the murderer from his just fate, or that he had no eyes wherewith to see, and no ears wherewith to hear? The explanation is not difficult. Mr. LEE's evidence was an objection to the theory of guilt, but it was an objection that was swept clean away by a torrent of facts utterly inconsistent with any possible theory of innocence. By the side of these difficulties the objection of MULLER's physical incapacity to perform the act, of his declared intention of emigrating, of his entering his passage in his own name, of his pawning the chain in Cheapside, are of minor importance, and only deserve mention as elements in the fashioning of the mystery of the case.

The three weapons by which MULLER was defeated were the watch and chain of Mr. BRIGGS, the hat of Mr. BRIGGS, and the hat of MULLER. Unless MULLER acquired the watch and chain between 8 A.M. and 10 A.M. on July 11, he beyond all doubt possessed them before sunrise on July 10. That he purchased them at the Docks on the Monday was an invention due to the distinguished advocate who defended MULLER at New York. The prisoner on board the *Victoria* declared that he had possessed the goods for a year or two. The proof that MULLER wore Mr. BRIGGS's hat after the murder, and that the same hat was in the box of the prisoner found on board the *Victoria*, is not quite conclusive. Only one hatter would affirm that in the second-hand trade hats were stitched and not gummed, while other witnesses swore that shellac was always used, and that the work before them was not that of a hatter, but of a person skilled in sewing. But the proof that MULLER cut down and stitched a hat does not demonstrate that the subject of the operation was the hat of the murdered man, and Mr. DIGANCE has made too many hats to lend strength to the proof by the mere fact that he was hatter to Mr. BRIGGS. There remained, however, the damaging evidence of MULLER's hat being left in the railway carriage. Mr. WALKER swore that he made but two hats with the peculiar lining found in the hat produced—one for MATTHEWS, the other for MULLER. It is odd—perhaps nothing more than odd—that though at least a week elapsed between the making of the two hats, yet that Mr. WALKER inserted in no other hat a similar lining. But it is indeed strange that both hats had disappeared, and that neither the cabman nor the prisoner could offer any explanation of the loss.

We admit that mystery surrounds the case; but it must be conceded that the guilt of MULLER is beyond question. Even if humanitarians do wrest the difficulties inseparable from imperfect means of knowledge into arguments for false mercy, we are sure that the words of Mr. BARON MARTIN will sink so deeply into the mind of the advisers of the Crown as to cause a summary rejection of impertinent appeals.

Arming the Negroes.

ON October 18, the New York papers republished an article from the *Richmond Enquirer* on the subject of arming the negroes. Curiously enough, on October 22 it is telegraphed from New York as if it were latest intelligence. It is also stated that the Government of the State of Louisiana recommends the measure. Without some explanation, this telegram may lead to misapprehension.

Now, the Government of Louisiana recommends the arming of some of the negroes as a species of retaliation, and as a means of protecting the coloured race. The Federals have kidnapped a large number of negroes in Louisiana for their armies, and have treated the negro women and children with the most horrible barbarity. It is therefore suggested that the negroes should be armed, and necessarily admission into the military service of the Confederate States will free them and their children.

The *Richmond Enquirer*, like the rest of the Southern press, is an independent organ of public opinion, and what it recommends has no official stamp. But there is good sense and earnest patriotism in what it says about arming the negroes. The South is fighting for independence, and for that cause the institution of negro slavery will be given up. If the North is to win, then the negroes will pass into the hands of the Yankees, therefore if any danger arises of the North overrunning the country it will be politic to arm the negroes. If all the whites are enlisted, Virginia will fight the invader with her blacks. The *Enquirer*, which, like the rest of the Confederate press, is always discounting defeats and manfully preparing for the direst extremity, recommends that Congress should authorise the Government to purchase 250,000 slaves, enlist them in the army, and of course free them.

We do not see any probability that the Confederate Congress will adopt this advice, because there is at present no need of such a measure. The Confederate armies were never numerically stronger than at this moment, and the Northern Government never found it more difficult to recruit its rapidly and continually depleted ranks. Still there are conceivable contingencies in which the negroes might be armed. If after another four years of war the South is half as badly off as the North now represents her to be, or even if she is as hard pressed as were the colonists in the first war of independence, the negroes may be called upon to fight for home and country, for life and family. That freed negroes will fight vastly better for their Southern masters than for their Yankee kidnappers is past questioning. It seems to us altogether improbable that the Confederates will have to enlist negroes. Still the battle is not over, and all other sources failing, the Confederates have the card in their hands of 'arming the negroes.'

THE POWER OF THE SOUTH.—The *Morning Post* of Tuesday contained a letter from which we extract the following:—'The mere numerical superiority of the North is grossly exaggerated. The population of the fourteen Southern States is 12,000,000, and of the Northern States 19,000,000. I shall be reminded that some of the Southern States are not under the control of the Confederate Government, and that I ought not to include Kentucky, Maryland, or even Tennessee and Missouri. I reply that the sons of these States are in the ranks of the Southern armies, though not to the extent they would be if the forces of the North did not keep them back. But here is a point curiously overlooked by our political arithmeticians. These States, if they did not send a single recruit to the Confederate armies, would still have to be counted in the resources of the Confederacy. They do not add to, but take from the resources of the North. They are declared by Mr. Lincoln to be under martial law, and they are undoubtedly under martial law. Mr. Lincoln is obliged to employ a large army to keep them in any sort of subjection. Since these States engage a large Northern army, they are just as much a source of strength to the South and of weakness to the North as if they were situated like Virginia or South Carolina. If this were remembered, it would explain, in a great measure, the utter failure of the North. Even in respect to mere numbers, it is not so much as two to one in favour of the North. It may be objected that I include the negroes in the Southern population, and that the negroes are not available for the Southern armies. Is the whole male population of the North available? Since they have not negroes, the Northern fields must be tilled by white men. The negroes are not idle. If I am to deduct 33 per cent. from the Southern population on account of the Southern tillers of the soil, I must at least deduct 33 per cent. from the Northern population on account of the Northern tillers of the soil. I say at least 33 per cent., for it is undeniable that a larger portion of the Northern than the Southern population is necessarily engaged in non-military occupations. A careful examination of the question will convince any candid enquirer that in respect to mere numbers it is not nearly so much as two to one in favour of the North. Is it not an axiom in war that, to have a chance of success, the invader must in numbers be vastly stronger than the invaded Power? A whole people cannot be enlisted in a foreign war—a whole people is enlisted in a defensive war. The Federal Government conscripts armies for offence—the whole South is a camp, and every man is an enemy. Nay, the very women of the South are active enemies. The Northern armies have not only to contend with the Southern armies, but against the entire population. In a military point of view I maintain that the invading North has not a numerical superiority.'

MR. LINCOLN'S WAY.—A deputation of citizens of Tennessee waited upon President Lincoln to deliver a protest against the recent illegal proceedings in that State. The following account of the interview is given by Mr. John Lellyett, the accuracy of the narrative being attested by the Hon. Charles Mason:—'I called upon the President to-day, and presented and read to him the subjoined protest. Having concluded, Mr. Lincoln responded: "May I enquire how long it took you and the New York politicians to concoct that paper?" I replied, "It was concocted in Nashville, without communication with any but Tennesseans. We communicated with citizens of Tennessee outside of Nashville, but not with New York politicians." "I will answer," said Mr. Lincoln emphatically, "that I expect to let the friends of George B. M'Clellan manage their side of this contest in their own way; and I will manage my side of it in my way."—"May we ask an answer in writing?" I suggested.—"Not now. Lay those papers down here. I will give no other answer now. I may or may not write something about this hereafter. I understand this. I know you intend to make a point of this. But go ahead, you have my answer."—"Your answer, then, is that you expect to let General M'Clellan's friends manage their side of this contest in their own way, and you will manage your side of it in your way?"—"Yes." I then thanked the President for his courtesy in giving us a hearing at all, and took my leave. Judge Mason, of this city, was present at the interview, to whom I refer in regard to the correctness of this report.'

CHAPIN'S FARM.—The following from the *Richmond Enquirer*, of October 15, shows how much truth there was in the Federal report that Chapin's Bluff had been taken:—'There is a field about a mile below our defences on Chapin's Farm, and not far from Fort Harrison, which is concealed by an intervening hill and a growth of woods. Here the enemy have been for some time industriously at work, defending their operations from observation by a line of sharpshooters. The new works are evidently designed to operate against our defences at Chapin's Farm.'

BURBRIDGE'S RETREAT.—The *Cincinnatti Enquirer* says:—'Parties who conversed with some of the officers of General Burbridge, state that our forces were greatly harassed by the enemy during the retreat from Saltville, Virginia. The roads were literally lined with bushwhackers, and even the women and children fired upon our troops. Trees were cut down across the roads to impede their progress, and other means were resorted to by the people to destroy them.'

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.

FROM A CONFEDERATE CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS: November 2.

DURING the past week the Paris journals have been completely deluged with American correspondence. The *Moniteur*, the *Patrie*, the *Pays*, the *Temps*, the *Mémorial Diplomatique*, the *Courrier du Dimanche* (which last journal reappeared yesterday after a two months' suspension), the *Siècle*, and even the *Opinion Nationale*, which had hitherto contented itself with relying solely upon the enlightened judgment of the infallible Malespine in everything pertaining to the American question, have published letters from America more or less authentic in their character, and more or less impartial in their statements.

The correspondence published by the *Moniteur* cannot fail to excite the deepest interest in the minds of its readers, even of those who busy themselves but little with the consideration of those grave matters of which America is now the theatre. Although no signature is appended to the letters published in this journal, it is nevertheless easy to perceive that they are not all the production of one writer. The most remarkable feature in these communications, whose writers are evidently well acquainted with American politics, is their thorough impartiality. Whilst showing, with a moderation which gives them a double weight, that both right, justice, and humanity are on the side of the South, they evince a rigorous impartiality towards the North, and the most punctilious Federal would fail to find in them anything which would justify him in questioning their honesty.

Certainly the same could not be said either of the correspondent of the *Siècle* or of that of the *Opinion*. The correspondent of the first-named journal, for example, having adopted a certain system, adheres to it through thick and thin, nor will he depart from it come what may. According to him, the Southern Confederacy is at all times within an inch of its destruction, it is demoralised, discouraged, ruined, and the North has but a slight effort to make to effect its dissolution. Should the Confederates carry the lines of General Kantz, then this correspondent, assuming the tone of General Butler, exclaims: 'A great victory for the North!' Should General Hood, by a skilful manœuvre, place himself on Sherman's rear, then he writes: 'The news from Georgia is satisfactory.' Doubtless it is well to have principles, but when pushed to such an extreme as this virtue becomes vice.

The correspondent of the *Opinion*, M. L. Cortembert, proceeds otherwise; he has not that placid confidence possessed by his colleague as to the depression of the South; he acknowledges that St. Louis is greatly menaced, and advocates coercive measures of the most violent character. I rather think that I had the honour of knowing this redoubtable correspondent in America, and he is, if I do not mistake, a Red Republican, who has for a long time occupied the post of leading editor of the *Revue de l'Ouest*, a French journal published at St. Louis, in which the following lines recently appeared:—

We wish for a war without mercy. We wish to see the war prolonged until a general bankruptcy and a general arming shall become inevitable, until every man capable of bearing arms, be he Jew or Christian, native or foreigner, is enrolled. Until the American soil shall have been watered by the blood of a myriad combatants, all hopes of making peace are vain!

This superb *morceau* will give you some idea of the general tenor of M. L. Cortembert's communications.

The correspondent of the *Courrier du Dimanche*, a man, it must be acknowledged, of no mean capacity, does not express himself in such violent language as the above; still, his remarks betray that disingenuousness which is so marked a feature in writers who maintain an unjust cause. By the side of ingenious and sometimes very just sketches of the present position of American affairs, he places assertions which are not only frivolous and erroneous, but known to be incorrect. I willingly admit that this correspondent is mistaken when he states that the South is exhausting its vitality in its complicity with its partisans in the North; when he affirms that 'Confederate', in the South and 'Democrat' in the North are synonymous; and when he points to the Southerners as 'the most curious example of what education and interest combined can effect in the shape of *infatuation, blindness, and iniquity*': but I refuse to believe him in error when he speaks of the violent military despotism of the Confederate Government, of the Unionists who are thereby oppressed, and when he affirms that Mr. Vallandigham has been named President of the *American Knights* by Mr. Davis. Such glaring blunders as these could not be unintentionally committed by so well-informed a writer.

I am glad to notice, on the other hand, that this correspondent has given a tolerably exact account of the state of feeling in the South-west:—

The service rendered to the Union by the Border States (he says) is an unwilling service, and their sentiments are those of a conquered country. There, it is no longer a factious minority which resists, but the majority of the citizens, who, notwithstanding the military rule to which they are subjected, are engaged in a secret and perpetual conspiracy. Missouri may almost be regarded as a rebel State and a conquered country; the Federals only maintaining themselves there by a state of siege. Families are to be found in that State whose numbers have been decimated by the war, but who nevertheless have not furnished a single soldier to the Northern armies, their sons being all sent to the South.

Are not these important and loyal admissions on the part of a Federal correspondent?

I informed you some time since of the flattering portrait of Mr. Lincoln [which had been drawn by the correspondent of the *Temps*; this week he has favoured us with that of General Butler, which is worthy of preservation.

Butler, according to this chronicler, is one of the most popular men in the United States; his mental resources are very great, he has an acute perception, his energy is

invincible, and he has a special aptitude for influencing the masses! In what manner would this appreciation be viewed by Lord Palmerston, by whom the hero of New Orleans was so severely stigmatised in open Parliament?

The *Patrie* of Friday last contains an excellent article, by M. Aucaigne, on the question of the American election. It remarks as follows:—

Whether Mr. Lincoln or General M'Clellan be elected, the question of emancipation will be neither advanced nor retarded. For the first time during thirty years no Abolitionist candidate has entered the lists. This is an anomaly all the more strange, since it has been made to appear that the North was fighting for emancipation, and after four years of a disastrous war, each of the candidates for the Presidency who have offered themselves has effaced the word 'abolition' from his banner.

This word, to which the Northerners attribute their misfortunes, has certainly not been reserved by M'Clellan. Neither has Mr. Lincoln the right to call himself an Abolitionist candidate, since his Minister of State, his *alter ego*, Mr. Seward, recently declared at Auburn, that 'slavery has nothing whatever to do with the war.'

It is therefore clearly proved that the South is not fighting for the maintenance of slavery, since neither of the candidates for the Northern Presidency has the word *abolition* inscribed on his banner. The Confederates are fighting, not in defence of their *peculiar institution*, which no one attacks, but for the establishment of their autonomy, their national independence.

In the *France*, M. le Baron de Bazancourt examines the present situation of affairs in America, and shows that, contrary to what is believed by many, the South everywhere opposes the advance of the Federals, whose few partial successes have made them far too presumptuous.

He also criticises Grant's campaign in Virginia, and remarks:—

History will perhaps one day recount the horrible destruction of human life exacted by this persistent Virginia campaign, and it will then be asked if such butcheries as these can be called glory, and if such profligate sacrifices of wealth can be called government.

A pamphlet was published by Dentu, some days since, entitled 'The American Question in 1864,' which is certainly the best publication that has yet appeared on the subject in France. This pamphlet—or I should rather say volume, for it contains forty large-sized pages of closely-printed matter—bears the signature of M. J. Bourgeois, a gentleman whom I have not the honour to know, but who has the advantage over most of the foreigners whose works I have read and with whom I have had opportunities for conversation, inasmuch as he evidently possesses a deep knowledge of the history, institutions, and politics of America. I would particularly recommend this work to the attention of those of your readers who are acquainted with French.

THE FACTORY OPERATIVES AND THE WAR.

FROM OUR SPECIAL REPORTER.

Oldham: October 31.

A meeting of the most pitiable character I have ever witnessed has just broken up within a short distance from where I am now writing. It was a gathering of between 5,000 and 6,000 wretched paupers, many of whom were women with children in their arms, who, starved apparently in body and spirit as in raiment, had met together to exchange miseries, and ask one another what was to be done. This assembly of wretchedness took place in accordance with the following invitation, which, if somewhat 'sensational' in its terms, is tameness itself in comparison with the result it produced—which in all conscience was 'sensational' too—but in by no means the opprobrious sense of the modern epithet:—

'The Crisis! The Crisis!! The Crisis!!!

'These are the times to try men's souls, their patience, and their pockets.

'A meeting will be held on Monday next, October 31, on Oldham Edge, at two o'clock, to take into consideration the present condition of the country.

'Fellow-countrymen, attend in your thousands, and let your voice be heard. *Why should you be idle?* Let that question be fairly and openly discussed at the meeting.

'The meeting will be addressed by speakers from various parts of the cotton districts.

'The chair will be taken by Mr. Kinder Smith, of Oldham.'

The Chairman, who is a member of the Oldham branch of the Central Relief Committee, opened the proceedings by lamenting the necessity which had called the people together. He next proceeded to defend the District Committee, of which he was a member, from certain attacks recently made upon that body. He had heard it said that the Oldham Relief Committee deserved to be hanged for the negligent and stingy manner in which they had doled out relief. He himself, as a member of that Committee (though an operative), had been taunted in the streets of Oldham for the part he was supposed to have borne in the mismanagement of the funds. He was anxious to say that the blame ought to be laid where it was due, viz., on the people of Manchester, who were the first to ordain the degrading 'labour-test' for distressed operatives, and were the first to say they ought to be sent to the 'bastile' (the workhouse), notwithstanding the complimentary distinction that had often been drawn between 'chronic paupers' and factory hands unfortunately out of employ. So long as there was a farthing in Manchester or London of the money contributed by the public for the relief of the operatives, they ought to be supported out of that fund. But while they would be thankful ever for such support, it was after all only living on alms. The truth was, they would never regain the position they had lost—the position they ought still to occupy—until the American war was brought to an end. Supplies of cotton from any other quarter would only serve as a stopgap, and the miseries of the operatives would only be prolonged to an indefinite period. He himself had formed one of a deputation to Sir Charles Wood, to urge the repeal of the Indian import duties upon Lancashire manufactures, and Sir Charles Wood's reply was, that the duties could not be spared. Mr. Laing, however, directly controverted that statement. It would be a public benefit if Sir Charles Wood were superseded at the India House by Lord Stanley. But these things were foreign to the occasion upon which they had met together, and he would at once conclude by inviting the respective speakers to bring forward their resolutions.

Mr. John Matthews then moved the following resolution:—

That in consequence of the widespread distress that now prevails in the cotton districts by the continuance of the war in America, this meeting is desirous that Her Majesty's Government should use their influence, together with France and other European Powers, to bring both belligerents together in order to put a stop to the vast destruction of life and property that is now going on in that unhappy country.

In support of that resolution, the speaker, who is a Lancashire weaver, though a so-called 'agitating' one, said it appeared to him that so long as the devastating war in America was continued, there would be nothing but material and moral pauperism for the working men of these four northern counties. The very fact that so many thousands could be convened on a Monday afternoon was, to his mind, a cruel proof, a proof that placed the matter beyond the pale of controversy, that 'something ought to be done.' While belonging, therefore, to no party, he wished it to be distinctly understood—and the evidence of it was before him in that immense meeting—that the resolution he had proposed was one to which he believed they had already arrived by conscientious conviction. He had no objection to say it was quite true that there was a difference of opinion upon the American question. Some said the South was right—and they were many; others, though few, but whose opinions he respected, took the side of the North. For himself, he thought he had no right to say either to the North or to the South how they ought to be governed, or what form of government they ought or ought not to have. The only question in which he was concerned in the present instance was—How are our people to live while the war goes on? They had been told by one party in the State that they had no right as a Government to interfere in the affairs of other countries. That doctrine, he held, would be sound enough if it did not interfere with their own material and most important interests; but since this war broke out, there had been nothing but starvation for the people and bankruptcy for the small tradesmen in these districts. They had been told that neither the Government nor the Parliament could interfere. Away with such doctrine! Let them ask themselves what Governments and Parliaments are for, if not to enable the people to live. If the Government now in power and the Parliament now existing cannot do that, let them abdicate their places, as they will have abdicated their functions. There would never be any settled confidence in the cotton trade, nor any return of employment for the pauperised families in the cotton districts, until American cotton finds its way freely into the ports of this country.

The resolution having been seconded by a factory operative named Joshua Coop, the chairman put it to the meeting, and all hands were held up for it.

The next resolution, moved by Mr. M. Grimshaw, another well-known 'agitating' weaver, but a man of considerable powers of speech and influence with his class, was as follows:—

That this open air meeting of factory and other operatives, held October 31, 1864, on Oldham Edge, Oldham, memorialise the Right Honourable Viscount Palmerston, Her Majesty's First Lord of the Treasury, for the immediate and total repeal of all duties now levied on cotton goods and yarns when imported into British India, and that such memorial be signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting; that a deputation be appointed to present the memorial to his Lordship; and that a request be made to the borough and other members of Parliament to accompany such deputation.

The speaker supported that resolution in a long and somewhat intemperate speech. He condemned the Government and the House of Commons for not taking action three years ago to stop what he called 'this wicked war.' Abraham Lincoln was 'no statesman,' and the war would go on so long as he remained President. It was the 'duty' of England, France, and other European Powers to prevent the brave and self-governing people of the Southern States from being exterminated, while the cotton spinners, manufacturers, and operatives of Lancashire were brought to the verge of ruin and starvation. A general election was not far off, and the operatives must 'see to it' that no man is returned to the next Parliament without pledging himself to advocate a speedy termination of the war. He, for one, would not appeal any more to Earl Russell, 'but would go direct to Lord Palmerston,' for it was a matter of certainty that they would have such a winter as had never been known. There was nobody to 'move' in the matter unless they did it themselves, and it was impossible for things to be made worse than they were at the present time. The Americans were making slaves of them. He objected to be starved for the sake of the emancipation of anybody else. Lord Palmerston must 'be given to understand' that he must remove Sir Charles Wood from the Indian Office, and he must also be 'distinctly told' that he must no longer remain inactive on the American question, but that he must 'go in' for the war to be ended, or resign his post as first adviser of the Crown. The war must be stopped upon some 'plan' or other, and the sooner the Government set about it the better it would be for themselves.

An old man named John Cheetham, without committing himself to all that had been said by the last speaker, seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

A deputation, in which it was said several towns were to be represented, was then appointed to wait upon the Premier, and after a vote of thanks to Mr. Kinder Smith, the meeting broke up, the men dispersing moodily, and the poor women and children trailing after them, a picture of wretchedness in its most pitiable form.

DAHOME.*

'Charity begins at home,' says the proverb, so eminently English alike in its best and its worst interpretation; so characteristic of the good sense which recognises domestic duties as having the first, highest, and holiest claim on the energy and devotion both of men and women, and indignantly reprobates those who, not finding these duties sufficiently onerous for their ascetic disposition, or sufficiently interesting to satisfy their craving for excitement, desert the post in which God has placed them to find more active, noisy, and notorious offices elsewhere; so characteristic of that national vanity which seriously supposes that the well-being of England and of Englishmen is the first object for which not merely England but the world exists, and which, in a curiously perverted form, animates that school of politicians which would not shed a drop of English blood or spend an English sovereign to defend the liberties or save the lives of our nearest kindred and closest allies. And yet the policy of England affords a strange contradiction of this peculiarly English doctrine, our charity as a nation seeming to become earnest and active in proportion to the distance from home of the scene in which it is exercised. We have recognised the rule of non-intervention, at least in that stricter sense in which it refers to the internal affairs of foreign nations, as the absolute guide of our European policy. We decline to consider the most atrocious misgovernment, the most frightful anarchy, as affording ground for forcible interference in the domestic politics of any European country. We allow the Poles to be massacred without lifting a finger in their defence, however noisily may wag the tongue of Exeter Hall, and however busily the pen of the Foreign Secretary may cover sheets of foolscap with despatches, which our determination not to give them practical effect renders rather worse than useless. We had words of commiseration and of censure for the sufferings of Poerio and the brutal tyranny of King Ferdinand; but no English statesman ever dreamed of sending a British fleet to enforce humanity and decency upon the King of Naples. Greece may fall into utter anarchy, and we shall give her no help; nor is it at all likely that we shall send a squadron to Cadiz to extort material guarantees for the payment of the Spanish debt. Yet we are not so scrupulous when other quarters of the globe present occasions for a charitable interposition. We sent a force to Mexico to cooperate with France first in compelling that organised anarchy to pay the money it had borrowed of British subjects, and to refrain from its bad habit of assassinating and robbing foreign residents in the course of domestic broils; and secondly, in establishing there some sort of government with which it might be possible for civilised Powers to hold diplomatic relations. True, we backed out of the affair without making an effort to accomplish the latter object; reflection having apparently convinced the Cabinet that Mexico was a little too near home, in a moral and political, if not in a geographical point of view, to be a proper scene for the exercise of that kind of political charity. In Japan we were a good deal more peremptory in our good offices. We undertook to enforce upon that strange and exclusive country a proper sense of the advantages of commercial intercourse with the rest of the world; and in order to complete our instructions, we took it upon ourselves to punish one refractory Damio by burning his principal city, and have just sent a squadron to take the batteries and seize the vessels of another. In China we went still further, and in order to prevent the triumph of a set of rebels who showed a singular incapacity for Government, we allied ourselves with the existing Administration, and enabled it, by the assistance of British forces at the outports, and of British officers in the interior of the country, to reassert its authority, hang and crucify a certain number of Taepings, and drive their chief to the extremity of suicide. We have civilised India by the simple and effectual process of conquest; a conquest satisfied and justified, in our view, by the charity which has prompted us to use our power for the benefit and elevation of the native race. We have put down infanticide, suttee, and human sacrifices; and while nearer home we pride ourselves on a strict adherence to the principle of non-intervention, in India we never hesitate to annex the dominions of a prince whose tyranny or incapacity render his subjects more miserable than our conscience will permit us to leave them.

But it is on the coast of Africa that the strangest manifestation of our peculiar policy is to be witnessed. In that quarter charity—kindness and pity for the savage races who inhabit that sultry land—has been undoubtedly the chief if not the sole actuating motive of our policy during the last forty years; and in order to carry out that policy we have deliberately set aside every ordinary rule of national action, and not a few rules of international law—have paid exorbitantly for the right of searching ships under the flag of one nation—have made disadvantageous treaties with another—have deliberately committed piracy against a third—have spent valuable lives and enormous sums of money—have maintained expensive colonies and a squadron which costs us yearly some of the best officers and seamen in our service—have sent English troops and civilians to perish in a pestilential climate—have run the risk of war with the United States, and offended several of our natural and most faithful allies. To suppress the slave trade has been our main purpose; to civilise the negroes the second. We have made and are making great sacrifices for these ends; it is well that we should listen calmly and patiently to men who are competent and willing to tell us what have been the results of our efforts.

It is from the light which they cast on this question that Captain Burton's works derive their chief value. That officer is a hard-headed practical man, with ample

* *A Mission to Gelele, King of Dahome, &c.* By Richard F. Burton, author of 'A Pilgrimage to El Medinah and Meccah.' Tinsley Brothers, Catherine Street, Strand.

information and no preconceived prejudices, knowing more about the negro race than any other English writer, and perfectly free from that sentimental affection for 'our coloured brethren' which is always most prevalent among those who know least about them. His dissent from the popular views is of more weight, as testimony to the real character of the negro and the real effect of our policy, than ten thousand Abolitionist stories and the declarations of a hundred Exeter Hall philanthropists. And perhaps the most valuable part of his evidence is that which is given indirectly, in the course of a narrative not intended to illustrate the question, but simply to convey a true account of the things he has seen and heard; such as the history of his 'Mission to the King of Dahome.'

Landing at Whydah, the port of this negro realm, Captain Burton travelled, principally in a hammock carried by native bearers, to the capital, which is many days' journey inland. The account of his journey is very clear and interesting; though he met with no perils and few adventures, and the ceremonials of his reception at each town through which he passed were tiresome and monotonous. All that he saw on his journey tended to convince him that the population and power of Dahome have been immensely exaggerated; that she is on the decline, and has within herself no resources whereby to repair the losses she has sustained; and that the conquests made by former kings—their policy lacking altogether any element of conciliation or assimilation—have rather diminished than increased the numbers and the strength of the nation. These impressions were strengthened when he reached Agbome, the capital, and had leisure to form a careful estimate of the forces gathered around the King on the occasion of the Grand Customs. He considers that the famous corps of Amazons does not exceed 2,500 in number; and that only two-thirds of these are really fighting women. The existence of such corps he attributes simply to the fact that among the negro tribes of this part of the coast the women are equal in size and strength to the men, and not unfrequently superior; and his estimate of the real value of the 'fightresses' as he strangely calls them, is very low indeed. Altogether, it seems probable that a brigade of Sikhs or Goorkhas would put to flight the whole Dahoman army, and reduce the country under British rule.

The Customs of Dahome—the practice, that is, of systematic human sacrifice—consist of three distinct kinds. First there are the grand customs, which occur only on the death of a king, when perhaps as many as a thousand lives may be taken in the course of the year. Then there are the annual customs, which involve a much less frightful sacrifice of life, but which are still horrible enough. Finally, it is the practice of the King, whenever he builds a new house, receives a visit from a white man, or has any other matters of interest to communicate to his predecessor, to send a messenger to the shades with the announcement; and Captain Burton supposes that the number of lives taken in the two last ways amount to five hundred annually. He is disposed to apologise for these atrocities on two grounds: first, that the victims are always either criminals or prisoners of war, which can hardly be true of so vast a number, though we may believe that such are always selected by preference; and secondly, that Ashantee, Abbeokuta, and other negro states, excel Dahome in the frequency and cruelty of their murders. It is impossible to read his account of the customs without a thrill of horror and disgust, when we remember that these victims are slaughtered for no earthly purpose except the maintenance of an insane and diabolical superstition, within a couple of hundred miles of European settlements; and reflect that these are the same creatures who, under the mild and kindly rule of white masters, may in two or three generations become happy, contented, useful Christian labourers. That man must be strangely wedded to his prejudices who is not led by the contrast between the life of the negro in Alabama and in Dahome, to ask himself whether there is no screw loose in the anti-slavery creed in which he has been educated; no error in the policy of his country. Can it be right to spend hundreds of thousands of pounds and scores of English lives every year, in order to prevent the subjects of King Gelele from being transferred to Cuba or the Carolinas? In Africa the negro lives the life of a miserable savage; suffering every evil that the brutality of a savage master, the barbarism of a government that reverses every principle of rational and Christian policy, the cruelty of merciless enemies, and the bloody rites of a degrading superstition can inflict; and withal he is the helpless, hopeless slave of his equals in brutality, ignorance and degradation. Are we doing well to strive so hard against his removal to a country where he may enjoy the advantages of civilisation and Christianity; and where, if he be a slave, he will be the slave of a humane and merciful man, who is to him a superior being, and protected by laws which render his life and limbs as sacred as those of his master?

No doubt, even in Captain Burton's volumes, we may discern the fact that many aggravations of the negro's misery arise out of the slave-trade, even apart from the additional horrors created by our endeavours to suppress it. Slave-hunting—wars and forays undertaken for the express purpose of procuring slaves to sell to the white trader—kidnapping, and cruelties only less horrible than those of the murderous customs—are incident to the traffic; and it may be added, that while such a trade exists, all attempts to introduce a more legitimate trade and to promote honest industry on the African coast, will be futile. On the other hand, it seems certain that the negro will never of his own accord abstain from murderous raids on less powerful tribes, from human sacrifices, and from the enslavement of his fellows. If we intend to civilise the negro, and to civilise him in his own country, there is but one way of doing it. We failed in all attempts to abolish the malpractices of Hindoo superstition until we conquered the country, and affixed severe legal penalties to the sacred rites of widow murder and infanticide, of Juggernaut and Meriah sacrifice. If we wish to do likewise by the customs of Dahome and Ashantee, we must use the like measures. We must not send envoys to sit for hours in the sun before Gelele's door, and wait two months for leave to deliver Her Majesty's message: but we must undertake ourselves the government of the country, and govern it on the same principle of beneficent despotism that has marked our rule in India, with that additional stringency of supervision which the vastly inferior intelligence of the African races demands. If we shrink from this task—and it is one from which we well may shrink—it is labour lost to negotiate with barbarian chiefs for the abolition of customs in which they delight, and of a traffic by which they are enriched. The negro will work when he is compelled, and abandon his savage habits only when forced under the influences of civilised masters; and if we are not prepared to apply that compulsion, we may be sure that he will continue to prefer slavehunting to the laborious cultivation of palm-oil, and to delight his eyes with the death-agony of as many fellow-creatures as he can afford to kill.

In his recent attack upon Abbeokuta, undertaken soon after the close of Captain Burton's mission, Gelele sustained a signal defeat; and the power of Dahome received a blow from which it is not likely to recover. The overthrow of this ferocious and aggressive kingdom will no doubt be a blessing to its neighbours; but the barbarism of Abbeokuta is hardly less loathsome than that of Agbome; nor is it likely that the rich territory of Dahome will ever be cultivated by industrious and peaceful labourers while it remains under negro rule. The only real hope for negro races lies in the presence and control of white men; under that control, as in the Southern States of America, they improve to such degree of civilisation as their nature and intellectual capacity permit; without it, as in Africa, they remain in the most miserable bondage and the most loathsome barbarism; removed from it, as in Haiti, they rapidly sink back into their native savagery. It may be doubted whether Africa has gained anything by the substitution of English rule for that of other races, who, if they thought less highly of the negro, expected less from him, and were therefore more patient with his shortcomings. The men of the Southern States alone of all the English race have been successful in the management of Africans.

Captain Burton, in common with almost everyone else who has ever had anything to do with negoes, has no mercy on that theory which supposes them to be simply Caucasian men with dark skins, and supposes colour to be the sole distinction between the slave race and its masters. On the natural and incurable inferiority of the negro to the white man, he dwells as strongly as any Southern physiologist, and warmly accepts the views announced by Dr. Hunt, and so ill received by what he describes as the 'ignorant' party in England. He lashes with just severity the fools who imagine, as many Abolitionists have asserted, that Athanasius, Origen, and Tertullian were negroes, because they lived in Africa (i. e. Egypt and Libya, then settled by Greeks and Italians); and the knaves who instance mulattoes and quadroons as examples of negro intelligence, concealing altogether the fact of their double origin. With similar severity he treats some of the falsehoods lately propagated by itinerant mulatto agents of the Abolitionists. The following remarks point to a source of error that is too generally overlooked in all controversies on this question:—

> The second error is the confusion of the negroid, the Semiticised, or noble African, with the ignoble pure negro. This is a more venial error than the first, because ethnological knowledge is requisite to draw the distinction, but its effects are even worse. The traveller is ever falling into this pit, and the mass of observers is as yet hardly aware of the distinction of the alphabet invented by the Vai or Vahie—a race cognate with the Mandenga and cognisant of the Koran. Commander Forbes remarks: 'How far we must have mistaken the African's constitution.' Mr. Winwood Reade proposes to apply the term 'negro' to the maritime races, and 'African' to those of the interior; but in the central continent there are tribes as purely negro as on the coast. Others would assume 10° N. latitude, and the same line south of the equator as the boundaries of the race: in the interior, however, it crosses both these limits, nor has any frontier been traced by travellers. As I have said, the fetor is the grand *discrimen*; thus we distinguish the Somali Semite and freeman from his slave neighbour the Kisawahili, and the Asiatic Malagash from the negro Johanna-man, who will call himself an offset from the noble Arabian Kuraysh. By not attending to this distinction between nobles and ignobles, the Moor of Venice has been represented as a 'nigger.' When such men as Toussaint l'Ouverture ('The Opener') are quoted as 'full-blooded blacks,' I must discover, before assenting to that proposition, what was their descent. They might be of Hansa, or other Semiticised blood; and this would be confounding Norman with Saxon. The negroid has taken a long step in the way of progress; for the Arab and the negro, as might be expected, combine better than the European and the black. El Islam, by forbidding impure meats and spirituous liquors, by enjoining ablutions and decent dress, and by discouraging monogamy and polyandry, has improved the African's *physique*, and through it, by inevitable sequence, his *morale*. It is a cognate and a congenial civilisation, not one imported from 1,500 miles of latitude, and sitting grotesquely upon the black mind, as the accompanying vestments upon the sable body—both being made contemptible by the contrast of what is and what ought to be. The pure negro does not exist in septentrional or in Southern Africa. North of the Sahara men are more Semitic than Hamitic, and resemble the peoples of Southern Europe more than they do the typical negro. I have elsewhere given reasons for suspecting in the great Kafir family a considerable mixture of Arab, Persian, and other Asiatic blood.

In Captain Burton's works we find more abundant information concerning the various African races than is contained in the writings of any other traveller; combined with a practical sense and contempt for sentimental theories which entitles him to peculiar confidence. It is a pity that the vehemence of his language should occasionally detract from the dignity which befits an impartial witness, and that his attacks on all who differ with him should be so fierce as to provoke a degree of enmity very prejudicial to his influence and usefulness.

THE QUARTERLY AND BRITISH QUARTERLY REVIEWS.

THE *Quarterly Review* shares the weakness of its contemporaries. The subjects proposed are of moderate interest, and the skill displayed in their treatment is not such as to redeem their character. In point of utility the article on the sanitary state of the army in India is worthy of attention, and the first statistics presented are of a startling nature. In the year 1862, the European army in the Empire of India was 74,500 strong, and of these men 48,000 were in Bengal, 12,000 in Madras, and 14,000 in Bombay. Now, the mortality of men of the soldier's age in the healthy parts of England is such, that on an average eight in every 1,000 die annually. In the British army at home 17 men in every 1,000 die annually. In the British army serving abroad the mortality is about 41 in 1,000. But in India since the first occupation of the country by British troops, the mortality has oscillated round 69 per 1,000. Consequently, in addition to the number of men who might, under ordinary circumstances, be supposed to die in a healthy part of England, 60 men in every 1,000 are lost by causes peculiar to India. One company, therefore, in every regiment, disappears every twenty months. Soldiers leave few children, and the gaps created are filled by new shiploads of recruits. To put the figures in another way, it would be found that 8·6 is the mean period of service; that eleven recruits are required annually to keep up the standard of each hundred men, and that to maintain an army of 85,856 men, 10,000 annual recruits are required. Half of such an army will have served only six years, and but one-fourth will be veterans of ten years' standing. The elements of destruction are fever, dysentery, diseases of the liver, and epidemic cholera—diseases which rage in the sultry plains, but whose violence is mitigated on the more elevated lands. Of course bad ventilation, bad drainage, and unwholesome water create disease everywhere; but India adds a high temperature, and consequent rapid decomposition of matter, to universal mischief. The principal agent of evil is malaria, and malaria is the product of heat, moisture, and vegetable decomposition. It is absorbed by the soil, and is emitted under the influence of rain. At great elevations it disappears with the disappearance of humidity and vegetation; yet an adjacent tract of low country may send up malarious influences to the height of thousands of feet, and render deadly a station which seemed far removed from danger. But the soldier is injured before he ever sets his foot on the empire, for he goes out as a representative of ballast or outward cargo at such a period of the year as to arrive in the sickly season, and he is fed in the most deleterious manner during his voyage. For the future, however, the troops will be sent by the overland route, to the saving of time and the relief of the soldiers. To discover the evil is, in point of fact, to find the remedy; and drainage, ventilation, water supply, and the substitution of cool drinks for spirits are among the natural recommendations of the Commission. The question of arrangements to facilitate marriage among the troops is justly considered of deep importance, and in the absence of these to discover some means of annihilating the results of celibacy. To sum up the matter in the words of the article, good drainage, regulations as to sewage and water supply, hill stations for European troops and invalids, and location of recently-arrived English soldier sin such stations, are the methods of health in India. Such are the main features of the report of the Royal Commission. But great error would exist if the fact was not carefully observed that in 1862 the deaths in the forces in India had sunk to about twenty-five in each 1,000, and that immense exertions have already been made by the authorities.

Workmen's Benefit Societies is a striking comment on the force of cooperation. It is something to be told that the Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows has an income of 350,000*l.* a year, and spends 300,000*l.* in sick relief, that the ancient order of Foresters contains 250,703 members belonging to 3,053 lodges. Next to these two great orders follow the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows with 56,603 members, the Loyal Order of Ancient Shepherds, 40,000, the Order of Ancient Druids, 38,913, the National Independent Order of Odd Fellows, 32,000, and the United Order of Free Gardeners, 18,577. Besides these Societies there are the orders of the Ark, the Rechabites and Templars of Nazareth (Teetotallers), the Sons of the Phœnix, and the Sons of Temperance (both Teetotallers), the Order of the Golden Fleece, the Order of the Peaceful Dove, Knights Templars, Knights of Malta, and the Ancient Order of Buffaloes. There are, also, trades clubs of considerable wealth and importance performing the double function of providing for the sick and securing what are deemed the rights of the members as workpeople as against their employers. The figures given are elaborate and of much interest.

In the way of theology there is an article upon Dr. Newman's 'Apologia,' which at once admits the nobility of the apologist and defends the cause of the Established Church. There is also an article on Dr. W. Smith's 'Dictionary of the Bible.' It is impossible to give an idea in a short space of the exhaustive manner in which the persons and things of Scripture are taught, and the article has no other course itself than to serve up a few prominent topics as themes for quotation. We may, perhaps, be pardoned for an extract of a striking description of the apostle St. Paul:—

> We have no very trustworthy sources of information as to the personal appearance of St. Paul. Those which we have are the early pictures and mosaics described by Mrs. Jameson, and passages from Malalas, Nicephorus, and the apocryphal *Acta Pauli et Theclæ* (concerning which see also Conybeare and Howson, i. 197). They all agree in ascribing to the Apostle a short stature, a long face with high forehead, an aquiline nose, close and prominent eyebrows. Other characteristics mentioned are baldness, gray eyes, a clear complexion, and a winning expression. Of his temperament and character St. Paul is himself the best painter. His speeches and letters convey to us, as we read them, the truest impressions of those qualities

which helped to make him The great Apostle. We perceive the warmth and ardour of his nature, his deeply affectionate disposition, the tenderness of his sense of honour, the courtesy and personal dignity of his bearing, his perfect fearlessness, his heroic endurance; we perceive the rare combination of subtlety, tenacity, and versatility in his intellect; we perceive also a practical wisdom which we should have associated with a cooler temperament, and a tolerance which is seldom united with such impetuous convictions.

There are also articles on Photography, Cochin China, and Cambodia, and on the State papers and MSS. relating to English affairs existing in the archives and collections of Venice and in other libraries of Northern Italy. The value of Mr. Rowden Brown's efforts to provide, by an exposition of the Venetian archives, materials for the history of commerce and diplomacy, cannot be too highly appreciated.

In the *British Quarterly* we may notice two articles, one on 'William the Conqueror' being a review of Sir P. Palgrave's work, 'The History of Normandy and of England.' Errors taught in childhood are not easily eradicated, but it is pleasant to find a few grand mistakes exposed. Thus, we are no longer to believe in 'the disgraceful battle of Hastings,' seeing that the combatants fought from nine in the morning until sunset, and that the death of Harold did, in fact, decide the struggle; we are not to suppose that William changed the language and laws of England, for it may be remarked that without the cause of conquest the Danish language has undergone more change than the English, whilst customary tenures, and the courts of the burgh and the shire, are living witnesses of the endurance of the Saxon rights. Nor again was a Saxon maiden an object of condescension, but of ambition, as the bride of a Norman. Lastly, the curfew was rung at an hour which to the good Saxon was midnight, and his duty was not to put out fire or light, but to cover it with turf or slow coal. That men should at that hour be within doors was a municipal regulation in the middle ages not disobeyed even by the London 'Prentices.'

'Chevalier's Mexico' deserves attention on the ground that, though to a certain extent obscured by the terrific drama being acted in a more northern latitude, the progress of the new empire is keenly watched by all students of the destiny of the American continent. France looks to Mexico for much in return for benefits conferred her. She requires a merchant marine. She must have commerce. Colonies are, therefore, to her indispensable. Algeria is but a province held under the sword. Mexico, situated equally distant from Europe and Asia, having noble harbours on the two great oceans, combines the advantages of an American colony and an oriental dependence. It commands the isthmus which only waits the skill of the engineer to unite the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific. Mexico is the Switzerland of the tropics, yet its European prototype is but its miniature. Mexico has the climate and the vegetation of all the zones. Cortez found it the cradle of the only civilisation of the new world. Its very ruins raised Spain to the rank of the most wealthy and powerful nation. In spite of most improvident administration, Mexico for four centuries has loaded the coffers of the Old World with its treasures. Mexico needs capital, industry, enterprise, and a regular Government. It has labour and natural wealth. If France supplies the needs of Mexico, she may obtain in return harbours for her ships, sugar, cotton, tobacco, coffee, rice, indigo, cereals, and precious metals for her trade. Mexico will also open to the French what India and the colonies have supplied to England, a field for the abundant energy and ambition of a fiery youth, which, cooped up in France, has only the excitement of war or revolution to satisfy its cravings.

ALABAMA.—The General Assembly of the State of Alabama has passed the following resolutions:—'Whereas, this General Assembly did, on August 29, 1863, adopt the two resolutions following, to wit:—1. Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Alabama in General Assembly convened, that the war now being waged against the people and property of the Confederate States, by the United States, is unprovoked and unjust, and is being conducted by our enemies in utter disregard of the principles which should control and regulate civilised warfare; that our oft-repeated purpose never to submit to abolition rule remains unshaken; that our late reverses, not being attributable to any want of courage or heroic self-sacrifice on the part of our brave armies, should not discourage our people or produce doubts as to the final success; and that we hereby pledge to the cause of independence and perpetual separation from the United States all the resources of the State of Alabama. 2. Be it further resolved, that, in order to insure a speedy triumph of our cause and the firm establishment of our independence, it is the paramount duty of every citizen in the Confederate States to sustain, invigorate, and render effective our gallant armies to the full extent of his ability, by encouraging enlistments, by furnishing subsistence to the families of soldiers at prices corresponding with the means of such families, and by upholding the credit and currency of the Confederate Government; and that to dishearten the people and the soldiers at a period like this, to enfeeble the springs of action and destroy the elasticity requisite to rise superior to the pressure of adverse circumstances, is to strike the most insidious, and yet the most fatal blow at the very life of the Confederacy. And whereas, this General Assembly still entertains the opinions and cherishes the spirit herein expressed, therefore—Be it resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Alabama, in General Assembly convened—1. That the resolutions above copied be and the same are hereby reasserted and readopted, as expressive of the feelings, sentiments, wishes, and determination of this General Assembly at the present time and in the present exigency. 2. That in the military events of last year no case for despondency is found, and that neither patriotism nor wisdom can tolerate any termination of the present war without the maintenance of the independence of the Confederate States.'

SETTLEMENT OF THE MORAL DRAINAGE QUESTION.—Since Australia refuses to allow our convicts to come near her, would Abraham Lincoln take them? As recruits they would constitute food for Confederate powder quite as good as the voluntary refuse employed; and one sure advantage of sending them to fight the battles of the Yankees would be that we should never see them again.—*Punch*.

TABULAR STATEMENTS OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.*

Popular Vote in Presidential Elections from 1824 *to* 1860.

Year	Names of Candidates	North	South	Total	Majority and Minority
1824	John Quincy Adams (Democrat)	82,863	22,458	105,321	No election by Electoral College
	Andrew Jackson (Democrat)	74,786	78,113	152,899	
	Wm. H. Crawford (Democrat)	17,398	29,867	47,265	
	Henry Clay (Democrat)	19,361	27,726	47,087	
1828	Andrew Jackson (Democrat)	417,871	232,157	650,028	majority 137,870
	John Quincy Adams (Whig)	411,162	100,996	512,158	
1832	Andrew Jackson (Democrat)	487,730	199,772	687,502	majority 137,313
	Henry Clay (Whig)	449,229	104,565	550,189	
1836	Martin Van Buren (Democrat)	550,880	211,269	762,149	majority 25,413
	All others (chiefly Whig)	520,024	216,712	736,736	
1840	William H. Harrison (Whig)	900,346	374,437	1,274,783	majority 138,472
	Martin Van Buren (Democrat)	809,705	318,997	1,136,311	
	Birney (Abolition)	7,609	—		
1844	James K. Polk (Democrat)	924,632	411,202	1,335,834	minority 23,469
	Henry Clay (Whig)	910,860	386,173	1,359,303	
	Birney (Abolition)	62,270	—		
1848	Z. Taylor (Whig)	970,165	391,866	1,362,031	minority 152,102
	Lewis Cass (Democrat)	847,842	374,613	1,514,133	
	Martin Van Buren (Free Soil)	291,379	299		
1852	Franklin Pierce (Democrat)	1,147,375	443,115	1,590,490	majority 54,605
	Winfield Scott (Whig)	1,044,347	364,242	1,535,885	
	Hale (Abolition)	156,856	440		
1856	James Buchanan (Democrat)	1,232,783	618,177	1,850,960	minority 369,553
	Millard Fillmore (American)	407,843	478,117	2,220,513	
	J. C. Fremont (Republican)	1,333,306	1,247		
1860	Abraham Lincoln (Republican)	1,831,180	26,430	1,857,610	minority 1,000,050
	Douglas (Democrat) / Breckenridge (Democrat)	1,480,033	786,496	2,857,660	
	Bell (Southern Peace Candidate)	74,658	515,973		

Elections by the Presidential Electoral Colleges, from Washington to Lincoln inclusive.—1788 *to* 1860.

Year	Names of Candidates	Votes cast for each Candidate N.	S.	Total	Whole Number of electoral Votes	Distributed N.	S.	Number of States in the Union N.	S.
1788	George Washington	38	31	69	73	38	35	5	5
1792	George Washington	73	59	132	135	73	62	8	7
1796	John Adams (Federalist)	59	12	71	138	73	65	8	8
	Thomas Jefferson (Democrat)	14	54	68					
1800	Thomas Jefferson (Democrat)	20	53	73	138	73	65	8	8
	John Adams (Federalist)	53	12	65					
1804	Thomas Jefferson (Democrat)	85	77	162	176	95	81	9	8
	C. C. Pinckney (Federalist)	9	5	14					
1808	James Madison (Democrat)	50	72	122	176	95	81	9	8
	Pinckney (Federalist)	39	8	47					
1812	James Madison (Democrat)	40	88	128	218	121	97	9	9
	De Witt Clinton (Federalist)	80	9	89					
1816	James Monroe (Democrat)	93	90	183	221	124	97	10	9
	Rufus King (Federalist)	34	—	34					
1820	James Monroe (Democrat)	128	103	231	235	129	106	12	11
1824	J. Q. Adams (Democrat)	8	5	13	24 States			12	12
	Crawford and Jackson (Democrats)	4	7	11					
1828	Andrew Jackson (Democrat)	73	105	178	261	147	114	12	12
	J. Q. Adams (Whig)	74	9	83					
1832	Andrew Jackson (Democrat)	132	87	219	288	165	123	12	12
	Henry Clay (Whig)	26	23	49					
1836	Van Buren (Democrat)	113	57	170	294	168	126	13	13
	W. H. Harrison (Whig)	45	28	73					
1840	W. H. Harrison (Whig)	156	78	234	294	168	126	13	13
	Van Buren (Democrat)	12	48	60					
1844	James K. Polk (Democrat)	103	67	170	275	167	108	13	13
	Henry Clay (Whig)	58	47	105					
1848	Z. Taylor (Whig)	97	66	163	290	169	121	15	15
	Lewis Cass (Democrat)	72	55	127					
1852	Frank Pearce (Democrat)	158	96	254	296	176	120	16	15
	Winfield Scott (Whig)	18	24	42					
1856	James Buchanan (Democrat)	62	112	174	296	176	120	16	15
	J. C. Fremont (Republican)	114	—	114					
	Millard Fillmore (American)	—	8	8					
1860	Abe Lincoln (Republican)	180	—	180	303	183	120	18	15
	Douglas (Democrat)	3	9	12					
	Breckenridge (Democrat)	—	72	72					
	Bell (Peace candidate)	—	39	39					

* From Hon. J. Williams's 'Rise and Fall of "The Model Republic."'

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

THE appearance of the money market has been favourable the last few days, and it is hoped that the present month will see us out of our difficulties. It is quite clear that the late circumspection has largely reduced outstanding engagements, and that the existing state of things is much healthier than in the beginning of October. Although the Bank quotient is 9 per cent., and the rate in the open market is about 8½ to 8¾, the tone is much better with more encouraging prospects for the future. We may have additional failures—that is very likely from the condition of the produce markets and the advices from abroad. It is nevertheless probable that if the Bank directors shall be able to reduce the rate of discount to 8 per cent. in the course of the next week or fortnight, there would be a strong stimulus to confidence, with a recovery in trade and a rally in prices. How long the Bank court may feel it necessary to keep things in check it is not for us to say; but if the governor and the deputy-governor see their way to an amelioration, the sooner the better. Speculation is quite at a stand in the Stock Exchange. There need be no apprehension about any return to inflation. The public are too full of securities to be led into temptation again, and for the present the company movement has been thoroughly subdued. The supply of money in the open market must go on increasing, because through the absence of confidence the bankers and discount houses are receiving a full accession of deposits.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The market for bullion and specie continues in a very satisfactory state. There is very little specie going out of the Bank, but although the quantity sent in this week has not been large, there is no doubt that it will be greatly increased within the next few days, in consequence of the large arrivals from abroad. The amount of gold sent in has been 121,000*l.*, and the only parcel taken out has been 20,000*l.* for the West Indies. The arrivals of gold amount to 691,877*l.*, of which 406,000*l.* is from the West Indies and Pacific, 128,000*l.* from Melbourne, 143,000*l.* from New York, and 14,877*l.* from Alexandria. In addition to the above, the *Magdalena* has arrived at Lisbon from the Brazils, and brings 43,039*l.* for this country. In the early part of the week the silver market was very inactive and depressed, and a portion of the Mexican dollars by the packet of last month were sold at 59½*d.* per oz., being a further decline of ⅛*d.* to ¼*d.*, but a demand has since sprung up, the chief enquiry being for Amsterdam, and nearly all the dollars in the market were purchased for Japan at 60¾*d.* per oz., being an advance of 1⅛*d.* The bar silver by the last Mexican packet has been sold at 60⅞*d.* per oz., being an advance of ¼*d.* upon the previous sales.

TENDERS FOR BILLS ON INDIA.

The biddings for 30,00,000 rupees in bills on India took place to-day at the Bank of England. The proportions allotted were—to Calcutta, 27,57,000 rupees; to Bombay, 1,75,000 rupees; and to Madras 68,000 rupees.

The minimum price was, as before, 1*s.* 11¼*d.* per rupee on Calcutta and Madras, and 1*s.* 11½*d.* on Bombay. The applications within the limits amounted to 52 lacs. Tenders on Calcutta and Madras at 1*s.* 11¼*d.* will receive about 51 per cent.; on Bombay at 1*s.* 11½*d.*, in full; all above these prices in full.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The market for American Government and Railway Securities has not been particularly active; but nevertheless a fair amount of business has been transacted. Prices have not materially varied, but quotations were rather firmer at the close. The dealers still refrain from speculating in these securities, and the transactions which take place are chiefly on

behalf of Americans. Dealings are recorded in United States of 1882 at 42½, 42¾, and 43; ditto of 1881, at 41½, 41, 43, 42, 42¼, and 42½; ditto of 1874, at 43; Virginia State Six per Cents., at 27; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York Section, 1st mortgage, at 70, 70¼, and 70½; Ditto Pennsylvania Section, 1877, at 70½, 71, and 70; Erie, $100 shares, all paid, at 40, 40½, 40, and 41; Illinois Central, at 72; and ditto, $100 shares, all paid, at 51, 50½, 50¾, 51, 51½, and 51.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market for this security has been quiet all the week, with rather a falling tendency more or less influenced by the conflicting accounts from the seat of war. The closing price is 59 to 60.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

Under the influence of the improved aspect of monetary and commercial affairs, the stock markets, both English and foreign, have continued to present a better appearance. Business has been generally more active, and prices in almost all instances have steadily advanced; but the rise in the English securities has not been so rapid as it was last week, nor to so great an extent, although it has been quite sufficient to prove a more healthy state of things. Foreign stocks have not fluctuated to any great extent, not having been affected by any political rumours of importance from abroad, with the exception of Spanish, which have been prevented attaining a higher quotation through the unsatisfactory state of financial affairs in that country. Consols closed this evening at 89⅝ for money, and 89⅝ to 89½ for the account, which, as compared with this day week, is a rise of ¼ per cent. Exchequer Bills have also further improved, the present price being for the March issue 6s. to 1s. discount, and those of June 14s. to 10s. discount. Greek stock has advanced ⅜ per cent., being up to 22 to 22½; Mexican are 26¾ to 27, being a rise of ½ per cent.; Spanish Passives are up ¼, and the Certificates ⅛ per cent., the prices respectively being 31 to 31½ and 14 to 14¼. Turkish Six per Cents. of 1854 have improved ½ per cent., and those of 1860 to 1½ per cent., the quotation for the former being 89 to 90, and for the latter 71½ to 72½.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The following suspensions have been announced since our last number:—Messrs. W. J. Morgan & Co., in the cotton trade, liabilities 80,000*l.*; Messrs. H. C. Smith & Co., Liverpool, in the River Plate trade, liabilities 150,000*l.*; Messrs. John C. Cole & Co., in the Spanish trade, liabilities 100,000*l.*, owing to the failure of Messrs. Hartley of Seville; Messrs. Arthur Hoare & Co., in the woollen trade, liabilities 25,000*l.*; Messrs. Leiske & Co., merchants, of Gracechurch Street, liabilities not yet ascertained. The liabilities of Messrs. De Wolf, Schück & Co. are 100,000*l.*, not 35,000*l.* as stated last week.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Commercial and Trading Company has been held for the purpose of considering the terms of an agreement provisionally made with Messrs. Briggs & Co. of Alexandria, for the acquisition by this company of the goodwill of the commercial business hitherto carried on by that firm, and under the terms of which agreement Mr. Ross, the principal, will become the general manager of the company's affairs in Egypt; and, if the shareholders should approve thereof, to confer on the directors all such powers in reference thereto as the meeting should think proper; to consider the propriety of increasing the capital of the company by the issue of further shares; to consider the propriety of making alterations in the articles of association, so as to provide: firstly, that the ordinary meetings of the council of directors shall be held in London instead of Alexandria; secondly, for altering the constitution of the London and Alexandria boards respectively; and thirdly, for vesting the powers of filling up occasional vacancies in the council in lieu of the respective committees. Special resolutions were passed in accordance with the objects above mentioned.—At the twenty-seventh half-yearly ordinary meeting of the Great Central Gas Company, a dividend was declared of 5 per cent. for the half year, and a further payment of 4½ per cent. on account of dividends in arrear. This would absorb 17,047*l.*, leaving a balance of 1,129*l.* to be carried to the current half year's account.—At the annual meeting of the Queen Insurance Company a dividend was declared of 10 per cent., leaving a revenue fund of 114,312*l.*

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

In the produce trades there have been some indications of improvement, purchases having in many cases been made with more freedom. The revival of business, however, is still slow, and it is only in one or two instances that any decided activity is perceptible. The corn markets have been firm with moderate transactions; prices are regarded as in every way safe, and dealers are showing more disposition to replenish their stocks. The provision markets in general remain without much variation, but the tendency has been rather downwards than otherwise. American butters are more difficult of sale, but fine qualities still range up to 112*s.* The sales of bacon have been trifling and on lower terms—for American short middles, rib in, there is a moderate enquiry at 44*s.* to 45*s.* per cwt. Beef and pork remain out of demand. In sugar the dealings have slightly increased, and prices are the turn higher, but the market is without much animation at the close. Coffee maintains its value firmly so far as Ceylon kinds are concerned, whilst Brazil coffees are still neglected. Public tea sales have been in progress during the last two days, and they show a dull demand at about previous rates. In spices the quarterly sales of cinnamon form the only new feature. The quantity offered was very small, and the result has established an advance of 2*d.* to 3*d.* per lb. on the rates of July last, low to fine ranging from 1*s.* 10*d.* to 3*s.* 2*d.* per lb. Saltpetre sells steadily at 29*s.* per cwt. cash for fine Bengal. A good business has been done in petroleum, and the market is firm for American refined at 2*s.* per gallon. Crude is dull of sale at 16*l.* 10*s.* per tun. The tallow trade is still without activity, and prices are nearly stationary. Linseed oil has further declined to 33*s.* per cwt., but at this price there is more disposition to buy. Fish oils meet very little enquiry. Sperm offers at 64*l.* to 66*l.* per tun. Turpentine has further given way to 59*s.* per cwt. for French. In dyes but little is passing. China galls have, however, advanced, 62*s.* 6*d.* being paid for fine. Bengal turmeric realises 21*s.* 6*d.* to 22*s.* per cwt. Jute is more firm, and the small supplies brought to sale to-day realised 10*s.* to 20*s.* per ton advance. Cotton has been very active; higher rates have again been paid, but the market was barely so good to-day. The next series of colonial wool sales are fixed for the 17th inst., and will offer some 80,000 bales. There is more doing in American tobacco than for some time past, and full rates are paid. A much better feeling prevails in the metal market. Spelter is selling rather freely at 21*l.* to 21*l.* 5*s.*, and Scotch pig-iron has recovered to 50*s.* Copper is still dull, and English offers at 3*l.* to 4*l.* under fixed rates.

Liverpool, Wednesday, November 2.—In consequence of the improved aspect of monetary and commercial affairs generally, our cotton market has assumed a decidedly better appearance during the past week. The transactions have greatly increased, large purchases having almost daily been made by speculators and importers, besides considerable parcels having been taken by the trade. Prices have also advanced for almost all descriptions, and the market closed this afternoon with increased firmness. The sales this week have reached 84,000 bales, of which 36,000 were on speculation and for export. The total sales this year down to the present date have been 2,149,104 bales; and to the same period in 1863, 2,273,516 bales. There have been imported this year 1,879,362 bales; whilst last year the number was 1,318,671 bales. The trade have taken this year 1,298,310 bales; same in 1863, 1,146,592 bales. The total exports have been this year 470,718 bales, and to the same period last year 398,214 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 374,958 bales, and in 1863 673,394 bales. The estimated stocks at the present time are 397,718 bales, and at the same period last year they were 163,818 bales. The closing quotations this afternoon were:—American descriptions. 21¾*d.* to 25¼*d.*; Pernambuco, 22½*d.* to 24½*d.*; Maceio, 23¾*d.* to 24*d.*; Bahia, 24*d.* to 24¼*d.*; Egyptian, 14¼*d.* to 28*d.*; Smyrna, 14*d.* to 15¼*d.*; Surat. 10¼*d.* to 19½*d.*; Bengal, 10½*d.* to 11½*d.*; Scinde, 10¼*d.* to 11½*d.*; China, 13½*d.* to 14½*d.*; and Peruvian, 22¼*d.* to 23¼*d.*

The markets at Manchester have generally an improved tone, but business is considerably restricted through buyers and sellers not seeming inclined to meet each other's wishes as regards prices. In shipping yarns there has been but very little doing, in consequence of the high prices demanded by spinners. It is understood that had they consented to accept a slight advance on last week's rates, buyers were prepared to give some extensive orders. The market, however, closed firm. In home trade yarns there has been a much better market, and prices have further advanced, but it has to a certain extent checked business. Fine yarns are rather dearer than they were last week, and generally there has been an advance of from 2*d.* to 3*d.* per lb. within the last week or ten days. The cloth market has become very buoyant, and prices have been gradually advancing from day to day. There has been a more general disposition to transact business on the part of both merchants and agents, and the circle of buyers has largely increased. More confidence is exhibited amongst all parties, and the market shows greater stability than for some time past. Manufacturers, in consequence of the state of the Liverpool cotton market, have greatly advanced their prices; but in most cases the advance has prevented the amount of business being done which might otherwise have been recorded. Annexed are the latest quotations:—⅞ Grey Printers, 6*s.* 6*d.* to 13*s.* 3*d.*, according to quality and weight; ⅞ Grey Madapollams, 5*s.* 9*d.* to 8*s.* 9*d.*; ⅞ Grey Printers, 8*s.* 9*d.* to 15*s.* 9*d.*; ¾ Grey Shirtings, 10*s.* 3*d.* to 22*s.*; Water Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.*; No. 30, 1*s.* 10*d.* to 2*s.* 4*d.*; No. 40, 1*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* 9½*d.*; Mule Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 2½*d.* to 1*s.* 10*d.*; No. 30, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 1*d.*; No. 40, 1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.* 3*d.*; No. 50, 1*s.* 11*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*; No. 60, 2*s.* 2*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.*; No. 70, 2*s.* 5*d.* to 2*s.* 11*d.*; No. 80, 2*s.* 7*d.* to 3*s.* 1*d.*; No. 90, 2*s.* 9*d.* to 3*s.* 3*d.*; and No. 100, 3*s.* to 3*s.* 7*d.*

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Ships Arrived.

At Liverpool.—October 27: The Her Majesty, from St Thomas's and Curagoa. The Powerful (steamer), from Bermuda.—October 29: The Galileo (steamer), from Buenos Ayres. The Helene, from Bahia.—October 30: The Royal William, from Demerara.—November 1: The John Mayall, from Bahia.

At Gravesend.—October 29: The Charles Rigier, from Montevideo.

At Portsmouth.—October 26: The Abo, from Callao.

At Wexford.—October 25. The Carrig, from St. John's, N.B.

At Queenstown.—October 30: The Africa (steamer), from Liverpool, and left for Halifax, N.S.

At Falmouth.—October 30: The Favorit, from Rio Janeiro.—October 31: The Circassian, from Rio Janeiro. The Heinrich, from Bahia.

At Demerara.—September 24: The Nereid, from Clyde.—September 28: The Cornelia Henrietta, from London.—October 4: The James Armstrong, from London.

At Havana.—October 1: The Anne Kay, The Augusta, from Liverpool.—October 5: The Jane Duncan, from Liverpool.

At Bermuda.—September 11. The Mavrocordatos (steamer), from England. The Eastern State, from Cardiff.—September 12: The Trio, from London.—September 26: The Albicore, from Cardiff.—September 28: The Only Son, from London.—October 1: The Ella (steamer), from Wilmington. The Mystery, from London. The Solway Queen, The Thomas Edwards, from Liverpool. The Lady Mulgrave, from Cardiff.—October 11: The Queen of the Clippers, The Aurora, The Kate, from London.—October 14: The A. C. James, The M'Millan, from Cardiff. The Emily Agnes, from Liverpool.

At St. John's, N.B.—October 2: The E. V. Goodwin, from Cuba.—October 5: The Youba, from Liverpool.—October 7: The Nictaux, from Liverpool.

At Halifax, N.S.—September 30: The Sarah, from Havana.—October 5: The Caroni, from Cardiff. The Alpha (steamer), from Bermuda. The Louisa, from Demerara.—October 10: The Charlotte (steamer), from Queenstown. The Thomas Albert, from St. Thomas's. The Emily Jane, from Porto Rico.

At Picton, N.S.—September 21: The Autumn, from Nassau.

Ships Sailed.

Liverpool.—October 26: The Jane, for Havana.—October 27: The Alpine, for Montevideo. The William Sinclair, for Bermuda. The Adelgunde, for St. Thomas's.—October 28: The Bella Gallega, for Havana. The Madonna, for Bermuda.—October 29: The Kate Fitzgerald, for Buenos Ayres. The Saladin (steamer), for Pernambuco. The Justitia, for Porto Rico. The J. Poledo, for Havana.—October 30: The Princess of Wales, for Bahia. The Saleta, The Esmeralda, for Havana.—October 31: The Regina, for Montevideo. The King of Algeria, for Rio Janeiro. The Cornucopia, for Pernambuco. The Alexander, for St. John's, N.B.

Gravesend.—October 26: The Speedwell, for Jamaica.—October 27: The Elizabeth, for Demerara.—October 28: The Apolline, for Buenos Ayres. The Hero, for Demerara. The Glenbrook, for Jamaica.—October 29: The Harriett Wardle, for Jamaica. The Koh-i-noor, for Bermuda.—October 30: The Run Her (steamer), for Bermuda.

Queenstown.—October 29: The Ruby (steamer), for Bermuda.

Newport.—October 25: The Tweed, for St. Thomas's.—October 26: The Tay, for Rio Janeiro.—October 27: The Eagle, The Fido, for St. Thomas's.

Pill.—October 31: The Orchid, for Demerara.

Cardiff.—October 24: The Carrie Davies, for Montevideo.—October 25: The Maria Frederika. The Nicoletta, for Montevideo. The Cabinet, for Rio Janeiro.—October 26: The Goffredo, for Montevideo. The Ariel, for Bermuda.—October 27: The Richard Thornton, for Montevideo. The Oceanus, The Johanna, for Bahia. The Albert the Good, for Rio Janeiro.—October 28: The Louisiana, for Montevideo. The Washington, for Havana.—October 29: The Osborne and Elizabeth, for Nassau.—October 31: The Iris, for Nassau.

Swansea.—October 26: The Dodo, for Rio Janeiro.—October 27: The White Star, for Nassau, N.S. The Ada B, for Halifax, N.S.—October 28: The Anne Logan, for Nassau.

Clyde.—October 25: The Evelyn (steamer), for Halifax, N.S.—October 28: The Cuyuni, for Demerara. The Margaret Falconer, for Buenos Ayres.—October 29: The Emma Honey (steamer), for Bermuda.

Troon.—October 31: The Syracuse, for Demerara.

Bermuda.—September 27: The Stormy Petrel (steamer), for Nassau.

Halifax, N.S.—October 1: The Annie (steamer), for Nassau.—October 3: The North Heath (steamer), The Bat (steamer), for Nassau.—October 4: The Old Dominion (steamer), for Nassau.—October 14: The Europa (steamer), for Boston.

Demerara.—September 27: The Cleopatra, for London.—September 28: The Brothers, for Portsmouth.—September 29: The Jonge Eduard, The Parker, for Liverpool.—October 4: The Strathleven, for Clyde.—October 5: The Coral Isle, for London. The Cowlitz, The Bellona, for Queenstown. The Dora, for Bristol.

Havana.—October 4: The Ricardo, for Liverpool.—October 6: The Flora, for Falmouth.

Ships Loading.

At London.—For Bermuda: The Jane Smith. For Demerara: The Early Bird, The Emerald Isle, The Enthusiast, The Guiding Star, The Morning Light, The Couranto. For Halifax, N.S.: The Markland. For Nassau (N.P.): The Laughing Water; Davison Brothers & Co. The Clarovine, The Indian Chief; J. Worley. For Montevideo and Buenos Ayres: The Louise Alwardt, The Para, The Meppel. For New York: The George Otto, The Hudson, The E. W. Stetson. For Callao: The Star of the Sea. For Havana: The Maria Victorina.

At Liverpool.—For Bermuda: The Driving Mist, The William Sinclair, The Eleanor, The Alexander. For Matamoras: The St. George, The Geertina, The Euterpe, *vià* Bordeaux. The Rosina Claypole, The Clara Manning, The Esther, The Ocean Belle, The Yumuri, The Friedrich and Adolph. For Nassau (N.P.): The Sovereign, The Clarence, The Mistletoe. For St. Thomas: The Canondah, The Cleveragh, The Her Majesty. For Demerara: The Grace Darling, The Tyne, The Ilos, The Eva, The Achilles *vià* Troon.

At Grimsby.—For Havana: The Zachris Franzen.

At Bristol.—For Havana: The Nearchus. For Valparaiso: The Clarendon.

At Cardiff.—For Bermuda: The Danish Princess, The Vortex, The Lalla Rookh, The Europa, The Princess Royal, The Clarendon, The Nutfield. For St. Thomas: The Amalia. For Nassau: The Iris, The Glengariff.

At Gloucester.—For Havana: The Superb.

At Newport.—For Bermuda: The Mavourneen, The Eva, The Tyro. For St. Thomas: The Lowe, The Devon, The Fido, The Macaulay, The Eagle, The Ellen Stewart, The Courrier, The Danmark, The Amazon, The Lydia Mary, The Chieftain, The Osborne.

At Swansea.—For Halifax: The Pembroke.

At Glasgow.—For St. Thomas: The Maple Valley.

Among the Contents of The Index *of October* 27 *are*:—

Notes on Events of the Week at Home and Abroad.
Canada. The Liverpool Bazaar.
Mr. Gladstone and the Manchester Cotton Trade.
The Responsibility of England.
The Democratic National Committee's Address to the People.
The War.
At Home in England.
Political Passions.
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Anthropology at the British Association. A.D. 1864.
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NOTICE.

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AMERICA.

IN a supplement to the current number of THE INDEX, we print the official report of Lieutenant-Commanding C. M. Morris, the commander of the Confederate States steamer *Florida*, upon the seizure of that vessel by the enemy in the neutral port of Bahia; also the official correspondence on the same subject between the Consul of the United States and the authorities of the outraged country, a Brazilian newspaper account of the affair, and some further interesting particulars.

'GRANT'S repulse on the 27th was more serious than was at first reported. He lost 1,500 killed and wounded. Butler's losses were still heavier.' So say the advices per *City of Washington*. On Thursday, the 27th ult., the Butcher, as his men style him, made a 'reconnaissance in force' along the whole line, but he found no point unguarded in the Confederate lines, and was finally driven back with severe loss. This is the Federal version of this latest 'reconnaissance in force,' but when the Southern accounts come to hand it will be found that the so-called reconnaissance was a serious attempt to carry the Confederate lines. Of course the exigencies of the political situation particularly forbid the publication of any serious disaster to the Federal arms.

What at first appeared to be a reverse to the army of General Early, later and more authentic accounts prove to have been a decided victory. The force which Sheridan proclaimed broken up, though far inferior in numbers, attacked and routed the Federal army, driving it in disorder for several miles, capturing guns, wagons, stores, ambulances, camp equipages, &c., pausing in its career of victory only when the foe sought shelter behind his entrenchments. If General Early failed to reap all the fruits of his victory, it is not so very surprising when we consider the great numerical superiority of his antagonist and Early's entire lack of cavalry, while Sheridan has the largest and best body of horse in the Federal service. The wholly unreliable character of the Federal commander's despatch is apparent from the fact of his announcing the utter rout of Early, his arriving at Newmarket without an organised regiment, &c., whereas he brought off the field and safely landed in Newmarket 1,300 Federal prisoners. Our latest advices state that Early is again about to assume the offensive. His cavalry occupy Fisher's Hill.

It is rather difficult to learn the exact position of affairs in the West and South-west. Price is reported retreating into Arkansas after having suffered a reverse, while it is also asserted that a considerable body of his forces have crossed the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, moving northwards. General Price may be retiring from Missouri, but there is as yet no authentic account of his having been forced to retreat, or indeed of any serious engagement between him and the Federal army.

In Georgia and Tennessee the movements of the two hostile armies become more interesting and important each day. General Beauregard has assumed supreme command of the Confederate forces in Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana. His first effort will doubtless be to rid Georgia of Sherman's army, and, from his recognised ability as a soldier, his great devotion to the cause of the South, the *prestige* of success which belongs to his history, and the unchecked scope of his authority within his department, we may reasonably expect to learn very soon that he has plucked from the Federal commander all the fruits of his bloody, wearisome, and costly campaign from Chattanooga to Atlanta. Already we have rumours of Sherman having evacuated Atlanta. There is at least a certainty that he has left that city with the main body of his army for the purpose of protecting his communications. But the railways are already broken, and though the line between Atlanta and Dalton may be repaired, to secure the several lines running to Chattanooga, Sherman must have followed Hood into North Alabama, perhaps into Tennessee, and forced him to battle under circumstances rather disadvantageous to the Federal arms. Beauregard is bringing forward reinforcements to Hood from the contiguous States, and the prospect seems fair for something like an equality of numbers between the Federal and Confederate armies of the West in the next contest. Forrest, too, is up and doing, threatening Columbus and Paducah, Kentucky; while a large body of cavalry from South-western Virginia has also invaded the same State. Large guerilla bands are also said to be operating on the Tennessee and Kentucky border and threatening the Nashville and Louisville railway. From this it will be seen that Sherman is very thoroughly cut off from the Ohio River, his true base.

PRESIDENT DAVIS had returned to Richmond, at our latest advices from that capital, from his tour in the Southern States. It is known to our readers that at Macon, Augusta, and other points of his journey, he addressed popular assemblages upon the exciting questions of the day; but from the versions of his speeches given in the press it was easy to see that the reporters had presented them in their own manner rather than that of the President, which has been so generally admired for its severity and composure. At Columbia, South Carolina, the President was more fortunate in his reporter, and his remarks to the citizens of that town on October 4, as given in the *South Carolinian*, are marked by all the characteristic excellences of his style. After expressing the satisfaction it afforded him to meet the people of South Carolina in the capital of their State, and to receive their plaudits for his official conduct, without which he might have feared that he had not discharged his duty to the country, Mr. Davis declared that he was confident that no son of their soil longed for the fleshpots of Egypt, or would consent to any measures looking to a reconstruction of the Union. The Confederate Government had made every honourable effort to avoid a collision of arms in the first place, and to secure since a settlement of the strife based upon the recognition of its independence. But all its efforts had failed. A passport had been refused to Vice-President Stephens when he sought to go to Washington on a mission of peace. Foreign intervention had proved an *ignis fatuus*. There remained but one hope of gaining freedom and peace, and this lay in uniting with energy and determination to fight the battles and achieve the victories which should teach the world that the Confederate people could defend their rights, and the Yankee nation that it was death to invade them. It was no time, said the President, to ask whether the law exempted one from the army, or to take out a writ of *habeas corpus* for the protection of legal personal rights. No man was too old, and no boy too young, if he had the physical capacity, to enter the ranks of the army. In the days of the Revolution the youth of the country rushed with eagerness to arms, nor laid them aside until the independence of the country had been accomplished, and the youth of Carolina were not degenerate sons of their Revolutionary sires. Indeed, they had proved themselves on more numerous and bloodier fields worthy of the memories of the past, and there were fewer who were lukewarm in the cause now than existed in the Revolutionary period. It was said that a plan of negotiation had been offered for consideration, and it was expected by some that the war might be ended through the intervention of the States. It was not easy to see upon what terms the States could negotiate. They had no constitutional power to do so. Mr. Lincoln had also declared that he would not negotiate with them unless they could control the army, and they could only obtain the power to control the army by traitorously entering into a treaty contrary to the Government they had instituted. But, admitting that this were possible, the only terms which the insolent enemy would be willing to concede were the acknowledgment of the crime of rebellion, submission to their authority, the emancipation of the slaves, and the surrender of the leaders, as they called the President himself, to be punished, when the Southern people would be permitted to vote, together with their negroes, according to the pleasure of Mr. Lincoln. If there was a man within the sound of his voice who could think of such a proposition, Mr. Davis pitied him from the bottom of his heart. The President referred hopefully to the condition of military affairs and the reasonable expectation all might entertain that Generals Beauregard and Hood would soon redeem Northern Georgia; he avowed himself the disciple of Calhoun, and the undeviating defender of the great principle of State sovereignty; and he paid a glowing compliment to the heroism and devotion of Southern women. The President expressed, in conclusion, a pathetic desire that he might live to see the final triumph of the Southern cause, and said:—'Prayerful for your welfare, confiding in the armies of the Confederacy to do that which soft words can never achieve, and in the hope that God will preserve the little ones of all brave men who are in the field or who are going to it, and trusting that in the future, under brighter auspices, it may be my fortune to meet the good people of Columbia, I wish you all, for the present, farewell.'

AMONG the countless atrocities committed on land and sea by the agents of the Federal Government, none has been more remarkable for savage brutality and cowardice than the murder of the crew of the *Night Hawk* by a boat's crew from the blockading fleet off Wilmington. The *Night Hawk* had run aground near Fort Fisher in an attempt to get into the Cape Fear River, and while she lay thus stranded she was boarded by twenty-five or thirty men from one of the Yankee vessels, who began at once, to the horror and consternation of all on board, slashing with their cutlasses and firing their revolvers, with the cry of 'No quarter!' The *Night Hawk* was an unarmed vessel, engaged in an enterprise purely commercial, and her officers and men were utterly without the power of making any resistance to the sudden attack thus so wantonly made upon them. In the darkness of the night, expecting no such murderous visitation, they fell helpless victims to the fury of their assailants. About sixty persons were on board the *Night Hawk* at the time she struck upon the breakers, of whom one-third had gone off in the boats to land before the Yankees came alongside, but for which the loss of life might have been greater than it was. The two engineers of the vessel were instantly killed; one had his head cloven through by the stroke of a cutlass, while several other persons were wounded by pistol-shots. This occurred on the night of September 30. The Yankees, after having accomplished their massacre, fired the vessel and then took to their boats in precipitation, as a rocket had been thrown up at Fort Fisher, and they feared the guns of that Confederate fortification might imperil their safe return to the fleet. The *Night Hawk*, in seeking to run the blockade, was fairly forfeit to the Yankee cruisers could they succeed in intercepting her, but it is a new and most abhorrent doctrine of international law, known only to the nation which attacks vessels in neutral ports, that the crews of blockade-runners may be slaughtered on their decks like pirates. To strike down unarmed and unresisting men is a work worthy of the Yankees; if these men happen to be Englishmen, the matter must be deplored, but it is idle to imagine that any reclamation will be made upon the United States in consequence. The powers of the earth would seem to consent that the United States should be left free to commit what outrages it will with impunity. With regard to this *Night Hawk* assassination, well indeed may the correspondent of the *Times*, to whom we are indebted for the details we have given of it, enquire of the English reader whether he is 'able to discern any difference between the conduct of this Yankee boat crew and that of the inhuman fiends who man the piratical craft which issue from th

island of Formosa, and assail becalmed and defenceless commercial vessels in the Chinese seas.'

The citizens of Halifax, Nova Scotia, not less than the friends of the Confederacy everywhere, have been mortified at the curt civilities shown by Admiral Hope, commanding Her Majesty's fleet in American waters, to the Confederate steamer *Tallahassee* on her recent visit to that port. This vessel had barely appeared in the harbour when she was notified that she must sail within twenty-four hours, and would be allowed to lay in only 100 tons of coal; in consequence she was compelled to return immediately to Wilmington. The law of England in respect of belligerent ships of war appearing in her harbours must be enforced, it appears, rigidly against the Confederates, while it remains a dead letter against their enemies. It is notorious that the whole circumference of the island of Great Britain is patrolled by Federal steamers watching for Confederate prizes, and that these cruisers have again and again been received with hospitality in British ports. The *Niagara* remained several days in Liverpool waiting to intercept the *Georgia*. The *Iroquois* and the *Kearsage* were allowed to coal at any port they might choose to enter. The case of the *Sacramento*, which steamer was allowed to coal not less than three times at shorter periods than the law permitted, was so flagrant a departure from good faith, that even Earl Russell in his letter to the Board of Trade admitted the evasion of the regulations, and was constrained to act in the matter. It was but a short time ago that as many as four Federal vessels of war were in British waters, exhibiting upon every occasion an insolence which it is amazing has not been resented. The *Sacramento* dared even to pick up a Spanish vessel having on board the Spanish mails, under pretence of her being a Confederate privateer. While such is the temper of the Government at home, we may not wonder that British naval officers on colonial stations should be chary of their good offices towards Confederate vessels.

Lieutenant-General R. H. Anderson has been permanently assigned to the command of the corps lately commanded by General Beauregard, and Lieutenant-General Dick Taylor has been assigned to the command of the troops lately under Lieutenant-General Hardee.

The *New York World* makes an interesting and valuable summary of the loss which the North has sustained in the products of Southern labour contributed to the general economy before the war. The estimates are based upon the census returns of 1860. Besides the entire cotton crop, valued at two hundred and eight millions of dollars within a small fraction, it would appear that the Southern States produced one-fifteenth of the total crop of barley; one-tenth of the total crops of Irish potatoes, and of clover and hay; one-eighth of the total crop of orchards; one-fourth of the total crop of wool; one-third of the total crops of wheat, and of sorghum; one-half of the total crops of Indian corn, of hemp, of honey, and beeswax, and of animals slaughtered; three-fourths of the total crop of tobacco and of the articles included in home-made manufactures; four-fifths of the total crops of sweet potatoes and of peas and beans, and *all* the cane, sugar, and rice that was grown in the whole country.

Additional news from the Confederacy has unhappily confirmed the report, copied in this paper last week from the *Wilmington Journal*, of the drowning of Mrs. Rose O'Neal Greenhow, who was a passenger in the steamer *Condor*, on the first voyage of that vessel from a foreign port into Wilmington, North Carolina. The circumstances were exceedingly sad. As detailed by the careful correspondent of the *Times*, the *Condor* struck upon a reef under the guns of Fort Fisher, through the blundering of the pilot, after having safely eluded the blockading fleet, and Mrs. Greenhow, against the remonstrances of the captain, determined to attempt a landing in an open boat rather than run the hazard of again falling prisoner into the hands of the enemy. A boat was accordingly lowered, into which Mrs. Greenhow, the Hon. James P. Holcombe, who was returning from Halifax to the Confederacy, and one of the ship's officers descended, but, the sea running high at the time, the boat had no sooner left the side of the steamer than it was upset by an angry wave. All the other occupants but Mrs. Greenhow succeeded in clinging to the boat and were washed ashore. She alone was missing of the little party that braved the perilous venture. In the darkness of the night and in the fury of the elements no assistance could be afforded to the unfortunate lady. Her body was subsequently recovered, and was buried in Wilmington according to the ceremonies of the Roman Catholic faith. The news of her death created a very painful impression in Richmond, where she had many friends, and she will be lamented and remembered as one who rendered important services to the Confederate cause, and adhered to it through good and evil report.

A valuable life was spared to the country in the happy escape of Mr. Holcombe from the fearful danger in which he was placed.

The yellow fever, brought in by vessels running the blockade in the absence of proper quarantine regulations, has been prevailing to a painful extent both in Charleston and Wilmington. The enemy availed themselves of its appearance in the former city to reopen the bombardment from their batteries on Morris Island with great fury, so that the citizens who yet remained at their homes might be rendered as wretched as possible. The pestilence was thus welcomed as an ally by the besiegers. The mortality does not seem, however, to have been as great as in former years, and the early frosts of the autumnal season have probably already stopped its ravages.

The venerable mother of General John C. Breckinridge, of the Confederate Army, died at the house of the Rev. Dr. Bullock, in Baltimore, on October 8.

ENGLAND.

The following extract from Mr. Purdy's report will furnish a good test of the state of pauperism in the unions of the cotton district. The figures are, of course, confined to the legal relief:—

The *maximum* amount of pauperism in these unions during the distress was attained in the first week of December 1862, when the total number relieved by the guardians was 274,860.

The *minimum* was touched in the fourth week of August last, when the number of paupers was returned as	78,730
Add the net increase during the month of September 1864	7,760
Add the net increase in the first week of October 1864	4,640
Add the net increase in the second week of October 1864	6,580
Add the net increase in the third week of October 1864	3,970
Add the net increase in the fourth week of October 1864	2,520
Add the net increase in the fifth week of October 1864	2,290
Total in receipt of relief from the poor-rates	106,490

Able-bodied Paupers.—The total number of adults on the relief lists of the 28 unions last week was 28,450, which is 1,011 more than shown by the previous statement.

Outdoor Relief.—The total sum expended in these unions last week was 6,475*l.* This amount is 1,554*l.* less than the sum disbursed in the corresponding period of 1863, and 281*l.* more than that of the week immediately preceding the last.

The convict Franz Müller, since his confinement in Newgate, has maintained a constant reserve with regard to the murder of Mr. Briggs. To his lawyer and a clergyman, a friend with whom he corresponds, he protests that he is innocent of the crime and was convicted on false evidence, the Repsch family being his enemies. His whole demeanour betokens quietness of mind, and it is thought that his satisfaction is caused by the knowledge that his countrymen in England are making every effort to obtain the reprieve of his sentence. He is studious still, as he has always been. On Monday, the 7th inst., the German Legal Protection Society presented a memorial on his behalf to Sir George Grey, the Home Secretary. The petition is long and diffuse; some of the suggestions thrown out in favour of the prisoner are rather startling. The memorial states, first, the accusation against Müller with regard to the chain and hat, the finding of the hat in the railway carriage, and the exchange of the chain at Death's in Cheapside, comprising the whole of the evidence. On his side the Society first advance his youth, steadiness in work, and humanity and gentleness of character, his repeated mention of his intention to go to America, and that he had been lame since July 7. He had, they say, enough money to pay his passage out before the 9th, and was at work that entire day, and was at the house of his sweetheart (Eldred) until 9.35 or 9.40 that evening. Mr. Briggs's train left Fenchurch Street at 9.50, allowing only ten or fifteen minutes for Müller to travel from Camberwell to Fenchurch Street—an impossibility. The remembrance of the omnibus conductor of his gouty passenger from Camberwell one evening in last summer, supposed to be Müller, his physical incapacity to turn a large man like Briggs out of the railway carriage without a coadjutor, and Mr. Lee's evidence of seeing two men in the carriage, are also brought to bear on the question. The chain, it is said, was bought of a pedlar at the docks, particularly described by Muller. A pedlar of such an appearance was missed from the docks when the police were first on search for the murderer. Would Muller, it is asked, if the murderer, have exchanged the chain at all or given the box to Matthews's child for a toy? As to the hat, Walker admits that he sells three or four dozen such hats in a week, and that the lining should be used only for Müller's and Matthews's hats seems to the Society almost incredible; other hat-makers or hat-menders being, they think, probably provided with the like pattern. Matthews cannot tell the fate of his hat. Why should Muller be a better prophet? An old hat sold into Petticoat Lane may be worn by any thief or murderer. Is the original holder accountable for its future? Muller's own hat, supposed to be the cut-down hat of Mr. Briggs, he states to have been purchased at Digance's in the middle of May; he describes the salesman, and mentions that the Repsches saw him cut it down. Digance refused to show his day-book to the prisoner's friends. Since the trial of Muller, a witness unknown declares that on the night of the murder he saw a man covered with blood, apparently stunned or drunk, about 100 yards from the place where Mr. Briggs's body was discovered. This individual, the Society infers, was one of the men Mr. Lee saw, and the companion of the person who, at the Hackney Wick station, swore at the porters, and was in such a hurry to leave the platform after the tickets for the passengers in the train were taken. It is also now stated that about 2 A.M. on July 10, from a cab passing down the Edmonton Road on its way from London, was thrown a pair of trousers at the window of a Mr. Poole, who immediately pursued the cab. Coming up with it after a chase, he discovered four men in the cab, one without his hat, his head being bound with a handkerchief; all the men bore an appearance of considerable disorder. Apologising to Mr. Poole, they drove on. The trousers, which were given into the possession of the Society, were stained with blood ascertained to be human. John Bennett, of Ponder's End, a place lower on the line of country, speaks of a labourer observing one of these men throw his hat into a pond, and reiterate's Lee's assurance that the men he saw in the railway carriage were both totally unlike the prisoner Müller. The memorial terminates by saying that Müller was condemned by public opinion before his arrival in England, comparing his case to that of Dr. Smethurst; and confidently hopes that if a respite is granted a like result may follow. There is not the smallest probability of the memorial having any weight with the Home Secretary, as it is clear that the judges at the trial considered the evidence as conclusive.

M. Berryer, the eloquent French advocate, arrived in London on Saturday as the guest of Lord Brougham. The Duke of Wellington, Lord Clanricarde, Sir Fitzroy Kelly, and other persons of rank, dined with Lord Brougham and his guest on that day. On Sunday, Sir F. Kelly was the host, and the luminaries of the law mustered in strong force, Lord St. Leonards, Lord Justice Knight Bruce, the Lord Chief Baron, and Vice-Chancellor Sir J. Stuart, being present. On Monday M. Berryer was present at the opening session of the Jurisprudence and Law Amendment Department of the Social Science Association. On Tuesday he appeared in the Court of Queen's Bench at Westminster, and was received with marks of high distinction by the Judges and the Bar.

On Tuesday night a grand banquet was held in the hall of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, at which M. Berryer was the guest, and the Bar of England the hosts. More than 400 persons sat down to dinner. The Attorney-General (Sir R. Palmer) was in the chair; on his right and left were M. Berryer and M. Desmarest, Lords Brougham and Kingsdown, the Lord Chief Justice of England (Sir Alexander Cockburn), the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord Justice Knight Bruce, two Vice-Chancellors, six Puisne Judges, Sir Hugh Cairns, M.P., the Solicitor-General, many Queen's counsel, serjeants-at-law, and members of the Utter Bar. After the health of the Queen and Royal Family had been given, the chairman gave the toast of His Majesty the Emperor of the French. Then the health of M. Berryer was given, and received with loud applause. The distinguished advocate replied in French, remarking on the relations of mutual respect and amity existing between the judges and barristers of England, on the fact that in France revolutions tended to place the bar outside of political influence, and to constitute it the asylum of those who refused to change their principles. Then followed the health of M. Desmarest and the Bar of France, of Lord Brougham, of the Judges of England, with the name of Sir Alexander Cockburn. That distinguished Judge said that in his eyes the crowning virtue of M. Berryer was that he had throughout his career conducted his cases with untarnished honour. The arms which an advocate wielded he ought to use as a warrior, and not as an assassin. He ought to uphold the interests of his clients *per fas*, but not *per nefas*. He ought to know how to reconcile the interests of his client with the eternal interests of truth and justice. M. Berryer had never forgotten the honour of the advocate, and for that the Chief Justice respected him as much as for the eminent talents which had cast so much lustre on his name and profession. The Houses of Lords and Commons formed the next toast, Lord Kingsdown responding for the one and Mr. Gladstone for the other. The festivities were prolonged to a late hour.

Louis Wasloushi, cook and steward to the good ship *Conflict*, summoned the skipper for wages in arrear, agreed on at the rate of 8*l.* 5*s.* per month, before the magistrates of Liverpool. The point at issue was the value of the American dollar, and the skipper made a tender on a calculation of 100 per cent. premium. The Justices ordered payment in full value, and refused to take cognisance of the present price of gold at New York.

The Royal Mail steamship *Jura*, one of the Quebec and Montreal Ocean Steam Navigation Company's line, was wrecked on Thursday last on one of the sandbanks at the entrance of the River Mersey. She had been boarded by a Liverpool pilot outside the Bell Buoy at midnight, and crossed the bar at flood tide at one in the morning. Near the Formby light ship the vessel got out of the channel and struck on the 'Crosby Spit' midway between Crosby and Waterloo. Her bows became firmly imbedded in the sand, while her stern hung in deep water. Steam tugs came alongside, and her passengers, mails, specie, and a large portion of her cargo were got out and conveyed ashore. At 6.20 A.M. she parted amidships, and thereby all hope of saving her was at an end. No lives were lost.

The new Lord Mayor of London, according to immemorial custom, went in procession yesterday from Guildhall to Westminster to be presented to the Barons of the Exchequer. In the evening he presided at a grand banquet in Guildhall. M. Berryer was present.

Viscount Amberley, the eldest son of the Right Hon. Earl Russell, K.G., was married on Tuesday last to the Hon. Katharine Stanley, daughter of Lord Stanley of Alderley.

The Prince and Princess of Wales arrived at Marlborough House on Monday from the Continent.

Mr. John Leech was buried on Friday last in Kensal Green, in a grave close to that of Mr. Thackeray. The pall-bearers were Mr. Mark Lemon, Mr. Shirley Brooks, Mr. Tom Taylor, Mr. J. E. Millais, R.A., Mr. Horace Mayhew, Mr. F. M. Evans, Mr. John Tenniel, Mr. S. Lucas, Mr. F. C. Burnand, and Mr. Henry Silver.

IRELAND.

Mr. Simms by his will bequeathed 500*l.* to two Roman Catholic clergymen to be applied for 'the maintenance and education of two priests of the Order of St. Dominick.' The residuary legatee holding that the Order was an illegal society, and that the bequest was null and void under 10 George IV. c. 7, filed a bill in Chancery, and the case came before the Master of the Rolls. The membership in the order was admitted. It was contended by the counsel for the legatees that the statute only struck at members coming into monastic orders subsequent to the passing of the

Act, and further, in case of failure on that point, that by virtue of the *cy près* doctrine power was vested in the court to apply the legacy to that charitable purpose which was at once within the law and most nearly approximated to the wishes of the testator. His Honour held the bequest to be illegal, but ordered the same to be carried out *cy près* under the sign manual. In the course of his judgment His Honour expressed an opinion that the *cy près* doctrine in charitable uses was contrary to common sense. Formerly great injustice was involved in the doctrine, for during the existence of the penal laws a bequest for the maintenance of Roman Catholic priests might be applied to the maintenance of the clergymen of the Established Church. Now the legacy might without injustice be used for the education of two secular priests. The Act 10 George IV. c.7 enacted, among other things, that every Jesuit and every member of any other religious order, community, or society of the Church of Rome bound by monastic or religious vows should, within six months after the commencement of the Act, deliver under a penalty, to the clerk of the peace for the county or borough, a notice in the form therein set out; that any Jesuit or member of any such religious order coming into the realm should be guilty of a misdemeanour and be banished for life from the United Kingdom. There are also clauses against admissions of persons into the orders.

INDIA.

A frightful hurricane burst over Calcutta on the morning of October 5. The whole shipping of the port were driven from their moorings over to the Howrah side of the river, where they lay huddled together with mast-yards and hulls locked and crossed in great confusion. The *Loochoo Azemia*, the *Lady Franklin*, the *Lady Rawlinson*, the *Vespasian*, the *Ville de St. Denis*, and the *Govindpore* were totally lost. Three hundred ships were more or less damaged. The mischief on shore was frightful. The roads were completely blocked with fallen trees and ruins of houses. The gale lasted from 10 A.M. to 4.30 P.M.

A telegram, dated September 27, had been received by the Governor of Bombay from the director of the Persian telegraph, from Teheran, which occupied only sixteen hours and twenty-one minutes in its transmission from the Persian capital to Dapooree, announcing the completion of the telegraph from Bushire to Teheran. The line to Bagdad would, it was expected, be completed in a few days from the above date; but it could not be opened until the dispute between the Turks and Persians regarding the frontier has been decided. Messages can now be sent from Bushire to Shiraz, Ispahan, and Teheran, and to all parts of India, by the submarine telegraph through Kurrachee.

There are great complaints in all the cotton districts of deficiency in the rain-fall, and the supplies will be much inferior to those of last year.

The force destined to operate against the Bhootanese is 10,000 strong. There will be only two batteries and one regiment and a half of European infantry; the remainder of the force consisting of Goorkhas and Bengal Native Infantry.

THE CONTINENT.

FRANCE.

Fortunately for the French journalists, circumstances of engrossing interest have occurred this week in other countries which have preserved their papers from death by inanition. Of these the most important are the wrangling which still goes on, and has at length ascended to the very highest quarters, on the true meaning of the Franco-Italian Convention; the scandals concerning the Presidential election, and the apocryphal war news from America; the treaty of peace between Germany and Denmark; and the trial of Dr. Demme and Madame Trümpi in Switzerland. Of home news there is none worth mentioning. The cities which have been honoured by the passing visit of the Emperor have acknowledged the compliment in the usual spirit of profuse loyalty, which is only distinguished from other manifestations of the same sort by being exceptionally sincere. The Court goes to Compiègne on the 7th inst., where the Emperor will entertain the customary series of visitors. As to the Public Works Fund of which we spoke last week, it appears that M. Fould, the Finance Minister, is not inclined to satisfy the expensiveness of M. Beluc, the Minister for Public Works. That gentleman proposes to set the capital of the fund at 750,000,000 francs. M. Fould, who very likely sees an objection to the locking-up of so much capital in the present juncture of affairs, holds out for 300,000,000. The natural way of coming to an agreement is to split the difference and take 450,000,000, and this is probably the decision which has been arrived at.

ITALY.

We have already often said, that whatever the Franco-Italian Convention *ought* to mean, according to the wishes of the various parties interested in it, the French Government alone can tell us what it *does* mean. That oracle has at last spoken, and in no dubious language. Chevalier Nigra, Italian Ambassador in Paris, in his despatch of September 15, communicating to his own Government the conclusion of the Convention, gave them to understand that, although Italy had promised to use no material force against the Pontifical State, it would still be lawful to employ 'moral means' to complete the unity of Italy. He further asserted that the French Government neither had nor could have any intention of extinguishing the 'national aspirations' towards Rome. This, though of course only an *ex parte* statement, was of great assistance in satisfying the tender patriotism of those Italians who would hear of no fresh obstacle between themselves and Rome. The truth of this gloss upon the treaty was vehemently attacked and as vehemently defended both in France and Italy. The French Ministry alone kept up an ominous silence. At length, on the 30th ult., M. Drouyn de Lhuys sent a despatch to M. de Malaret, French Ambassador at Turin, in which, after accounting for his long silence by his desire not to embarrass the Italian Government in their communications with their Parliament, he uses these words, which may be considered as one of the most perfect specimens of a flat contradiction 'veiled in allegory':—

> I have felt bound to avow to M. Nigra that, if I did not raise any doubt as to the perfect sincerity of his intentions, or even as to the accuracy of the facts stated in his report, I was unable, nevertheless, to conceal my opinion that the document in question does not reproduce, in a complete manner, the physiognomy of the negotiations or the sense which we attach, and which the Italian Government itself must attach, to the engagements which resulted therefrom.

He then goes on to say, with sufficient firmness, that no hopes whatever may be built on the 'national aspirations,' or on the 'moral means' through which they are to be satisfied. The King of Italy has promised not to go to Rome, and this promise must be understood literally, without any *arrière pensée* of 'national aspirations' or 'moral means.' As for the possibility of a spontaneous revolution in Rome, this is not provided for by the Convention. 'For that eventuality France reserves her liberty of action.' M. Drouyn de Lhuys accounts for the absence of these explanations in the body of the Convention by saying that the admission of them would have been an insult to the Italian Ministry—a pretty plain hint that any action on the part of Italy contrary to the spirit of these explanations would be considered by France as a dirty trick. A second despatch, dated the 2nd inst., states that, in order to put an end to all misunderstandings, M. Drouyn de Lhuys and the Chevalier Nigra had exchanged explanations in the presence of the Emperor himself, at the conclusion of which Signor Nigra had declared his views to be in complete accordance with those of the French Government. A despatch from the Chevalier Nigra to his own Government, dated the 30th ult., informs them of the explanations which had passed between himself and the French Minister (prior, of course, to those given in the presence of the Emperor); the tenor of the whole letter is a confession that he has been obliged to eat his words, although he concludes by declaring that he maintains his former despatch in its integrity. As for the 'national aspirations,' he declares their object to be only a reconciliation between Italy and the Papacy upon the principle of a free Church in a free State. Thus France has a second time checked the hopes of the party of progress in Italy. If we look for the reason of this course, it appears to be simply this: that the French Government have with great prudence allowed the temper of the French people to display itself before compromising themselves in any way; they have discovered that the clerical party is very strong, and the ultra-French party, which is jealous of all further Italian aggrandisement, is numerous, if not respectable; they have seen that while there are some who on really conscientious principles object to a possible dethronement of the Pope, there are others who write and think in this fashion: 'While Spain threatens our rear, England, Belgium, and Holland our front, Germany, Austria, and Russia our flanks, Italy means to aim at our legs, and drive a bayonet into our stomach, the only part which, up to this time, we had thought was protected. The coalition against France is increased by one member.' (*Progrès de Paris*, November 6.) Without indorsing any such notions, the Government was obliged to take account of them. It has consequently been necessary to calm the religious fears of the one and the physical terror of the other, by contradicting the Italian hypothesis in the manner in which M. Drouyn de Lhuys has so effectually done it. Next as to the meaning of the French action. This is unmistakable; the weaker must go to the wall. Where the vital interests of the French empire are at stake, those of the Italian Government must consent, if need be, to be sacrificed. The necessity for this sacrifice is very possible; nay, it might have been highly probable, were it not for the great discredit in which the party of progress is at present in consequence of the revolutionary disturbances which it has excited in Venetia. The extreme delicacy of the position in which the Italian Ministry are now placed will be understood when reference is made to the discussion of the Convention in the Italian Parliament on the 3rd inst. Signor Petrucelli asked whether Signor Nigra's despatch was a genuine account of the state of affairs. The Minister, Signor Lanza, stated that it was not becoming to throw doubt upon a solemn diplomatic act from simple assertions of newspapers. The Minister continued: 'The note of Chevalier Nigra is true, and substantiated in every particular. It is also recognised as such by the two contracting parties.' Thus the Italian Government has committed itself to the truthfulness of a document which the French Government contradict and repudiate. The committee upon the bill for the transfer of the capital to Florence has been more prudent in its report, although even they are more sanguine in their hopes than is authorised by M. Drouyn de Lhuys' despatch. They think the Convention does not satisfy, but paves the way for the satisfaction of, the national aspirations. They assert boldly that the principle of non-intervention with regard to Rome will be carried out loyally, but at the same time they consider that any declaration of principle would be both mischievous and useless. With these observations, they recommend that the bill should be adopted as proposed by the Government. On Monday, the discussion of the Convention was renewed, with the help of the new light thrown upon it by the late despatches. General della Marmora stood manfully to his previous statements, and positively confirmed Signor Nigra's despatch of September 15. He had on the same day (the 7th instant) addressed a communication to Signor Nigra, regretting that M. Drouyn de Lhuys should have thought it necessary to allude to secret dealings, and the possibility of the Italians having recourse to them. The despatch further said that, while the two countries may have differences of opinion on the consequences of the Convention, no discussion ought to take place after Italy has promised in no case to violate the treaty. It concluded by reserving for Italy the same liberty of action which France has claimed for herself in the event of a spontaneous revolution in Rome.

So much for the Convention. With regard to the financial question, Signor Sella has made some very interesting statements. First, as to the compensation to be paid to the municipality of Turin, in consideration of the debt which that city has incurred while capital: it is fixed at a yearly payment of 1,067,000 francs, upwards of 40,000*l*. The Supreme Court of Appeal is also to be removed from Milan to Turin. To meet this expense, as well as the other necessary outgoings consequent on a change of capital, M. Sella proposes to reduce the national expenditure by 60,000,000 francs, 42,000,000 of which are to come from the military and naval departments; and to increase the taxation by about 40,000,000, to be charged on tobacco, salt, and other articles of common use. These reductions and augmentations will, of course, benefit the budget of 1865; but in the meantime the Government has pressing need of 200,000,000 francs, to cover the deficit of the year now closing. To meet this it is proposed to sell or mortgage Crown property to the value of 40,000,000 francs, and to anticipate the land-tax of next year to the tune of 124,000,000 francs; add to these sums 36,000,000 francs in Treasury bonds, and the sum of 200,000,000 francs is complete. In accordance with this scheme, the Crown lands have been mortgaged to the Crédit Mobilier and other credit institutions.

It is asserted that the Minister of Public Works has entered into negotiations with the British Government for the purpose of establishing a new Indian postal service by means of special trains on the Susa and Brindisi lines as soon as the Brindisi lines shall have been finished.

The Roman police authorities have taken two very important steps. They have burnt all the documents relating to political trials preserved in the archives of the Tribunal of the Sacred College, a step which looks very much like that of putting one's house in order before leaving it; and they have resolved to transform all the troops of the line in the Pontifical army into gendarmes; this is a move in the direction of the Franco-Italian Convention. Soldiers are used to repel the attacks of foreigners, gendarmes to repress the violence of citizens; therefore, when Cardinal Antonelli changes the whole Pontifical army into gendarmes, he means that the States of the Church are now secure from foreign invasion, but more than ever subject to insurrections at home.

The *Opinione* of Turin denounces the existence, in several towns in the centre of the country and on the coast, of offices for enlisting volunteers for the United States of America. The recruiting agents are said to have caused desertions in the Italian army.

SWITZERLAND.

The trial of Dr. Demme and Madame Trümpi on the capital charge of having poisoned M. Trümpi has been brought to a close. The evidence produced was at least as consistent with the opinion that M. Trümpi had committed suicide as with the suspicion of murder. The medical experts, with one exception, confined themselves to the proof of the fact that the poison had been taken voluntarily, and not by accident. The question whether it had been administered to the deceased by his own hands or by those of others was left to the jury. On this point a curious demand was made by one of the counsel: he desired to prove that the bitterness of strychnine was so great that it was impossible for ten grains of that poison to have been given without causing an attack of vomiting; he therefore required that the jury should themselves taste and report on it. With horror-struck faces the jury declined to make the trial. At last the foreman, with a deep sense of his responsibility, consented to experimentalise in this novel line of tasting, only requiring the physicians present to measure the dose given to him with extreme accuracy, and to take every possible precaution to neutralise its effects. Such a Curtius-like devotion to the cause of justice is worthy of a world's admiration. We are happy to say that he was not called upon to carry out his resolve. The one exception to the fairness of the medical evidence was in the case of Dr. Emmert. This gentleman was known to be a personal enemy of Dr. Demme, and his wife was strongly suspected of having written certain anonymous letters, which chiefly led to this trial. His report travelled out of the regular path of medical evidence to assert the guilt of Dr. Demme. He had collected and commented upon all the testimony against him. Even when under examination in court he persisted in the same course, quarrelling with the counsel, and even bandying words with the prisoner in his anxiety to procure a conviction. His conduct was a disgrace to the medical profession, and was received as such by the crowds of students who had assembled to hear the case; he was at last called to order and silenced by the judge, who found it difficult to repress the storm of indignation with which the audience received the evidence. The evident *animus* of this important witness told greatly in favour of the prisoners; and when it was found that M. Trümpi had allowed his affairs to become involved, that he had often openly spoken of committing suicide, and that he had bought strychnine from more than one person shortly before his death, the jury could scarcely, consistently with their oaths, have brought in any other verdict than that of 'Not Guilty.' Dr. Demme's suspicious conduct is explained to some extent by the supposition that he was cognisant of the suicide, and was desirous, for the sake of his friendship with the deceased and his family, to conceal it. In addition to the verdict of 'Not Guilty,' the jury awarded damages to Madame Trümpi, whose reason, it is feared, will be permanently affected by this terrible episode in her life.

DENMARK.

The text of the treaty of peace has been published. The only points in it which we need notice, in addition to those mentioned last week, are—Art. 8. The portion of the National Debt of Denmark with which the three Duchies are chargeable is fixed at 29,000,000 rigsdalers

(3,187,500*l.*), and Austria and Prussia guarantee that the same shall be paid to Denmark either in cash or in new State bonds. Art. 12. The Duchies shall pay the expenses of the war to Austria and Prussia. Art. 13. The vessels and cargoes captured on either side during the war shall be mutually restored, or their owners indemnified; a valuation shall be made of the contributions levied in Jutland during the war, which shall be set off against the compensation due from Denmark for captured shipping. The accounts shall be made up in three months from this time if possible. No mention is made of the 8,500,000 thalers which were reported to have been exacted from Denmark as the share of the public property fairly belonging to the Duchies; it is only stipulated that Denmark should repay into the Treasury of the Duchies all deposits or trust funds which she may hold of theirs. The Rigsraad of Denmark was opened on the 5th inst.; the speech from the throne deplored the unhappy result of the war, but hoped that the Rigsraad would resign itself to the late heavy misfortunes. The King promised shortly to submit to the House a bill for making the necessary changes in the constitution. The treaty of peace was then laid on the table of the House, and was discussed privately on the same evening: the public discussions will take place on two days during the present week. The Folksthing (Lower House) has approved of the proposal made by the Government to indict M. de Bille, late Danish plenipotentiary, member of the Rigsraad, and editor of *Dagbladet*, for high treason on account of the article published by him, and maintaining that by the peace of Vienna the present King loses his rights to the throne in favour of a prince of the house of Hesse. The punishment for high treason in Denmark is not so severe as it is in England. Instead of being hanged, drawn, and quartered, he will, if found guilty, be fined and imprisoned. Several mistakes have been made with regard to this prosecution. It was originally stated that M. de Bille had applied to the Rigsraad to prosecute the editor of *Dagbladet*. However, the editor is none but M. de Bille himself, who has indulged himself in this insignificant impertinence against the King of Denmark for no reason apparently except that he had identified himself with the war party in Denmark now out of office.

It is said that, immediately upon the conclusion of the treaty of peace, the King of Prussia telegraphed to General von Falkenstein, the commander of the army of occupation in Jutland, to suspend the execution of some of his late decrees pressing upon the province over which he is ruling. The General, who appears to be an adept in the art of torture, could not even perform the act of clemency dictated to him by his sovereign in any but the most ungracious fashion. He published a manifesto to the effect ordered, and concluded it with a threat that, if the Rigsraad of Copenhagen did not ratify the treaty with all speed, all the obnoxious ordinances would be put in force again with aggravation.

GERMANY.

The Danes may grumble about the hardness of the treaty of peace; but, after all, the Duchies are the real sufferers. They thought once that the war was to be for them entirely a case of 'Heads, I win; tails, you lose;' if the Germans were successful, they would gain their coveted liberty; if the Germans were beaten, it would not be their loss. The glorious vision of a substantive existence within the German Federation is somewhat clouded by the snug little nest-egg of a national debt which has been laid up for them—3,187,500*l.* to be paid down to Denmark; the expenses of the war to be reimbursed to Austria and Prussia; and an annual charge of 75,000*l.* for pensions to officials transferred from the books of the Danish exchequer to their own. And even if their patriotism is sufficient to make them overlook the money question, there is the grievous fact that they have as yet no sovereign, and apparently no immediate chance of getting one, even from the hands of their liberators. As far as their financial affairs are concerned, the Duchies have a sum of 120,000*l.* in hand, as they have had neither civil list nor military expenses to pay during the past year. The budget calculates on the meeting of the Diet of Slesvig-Holstein in March 1865, and has prudently put down 4,000*l.* as the probable expense of the session. This is apparently meant only as a sort of pledge to Germany of their determination to meet and decide on their own destiny; but it is scarcely likely that they will be allowed to do so. The official Prussian journal has informed the Diet that it is time for their army of occupation to leave the Duchies. 'Hanover and Saxony must settle the matter with the other minor States; that is not Prussia's business. All she requires is that they should relieve the country of their presence as speedily as possible.' It has been already stated that Austria and Prussia propose to call a jury of lawyers nominated by the six largest Powers in Germany to decide on the succession question; the Diet on the other hand wishing to have the appointment of this jury itself. The latter plan is, of course, favoured by the small States of Germany, and it was hoped that Herr von Mensdorf, the new foreign minister for Austria, would inaugurate his new policy by yielding in this matter to the wishes of the Diet. A semi-official journal of Berlin, however, asserts that no such change in the policy of Austria will take place, and that the two countries have exchanged the most satisfactory assurances on this subject. The Grand Duke of Oldenburg has submitted his memorial claiming the sovereignty of the Duchies to the Diet; that of the Duke of Augustenburg is already in their hands: it does not appear that the question is at all nearer to a solution in consequence; both memorials have been referred to that singular Slesvig-Holstein committee, which must be a body with the best digestion in Europe; it absorbs the most terrific number of diplomatic documents, in return for which it produces absolutely nothing. The substitution of Herr von Mensdorf for Herr von Rechberg is expected to have a most beneficial influence on the kingdom of Hungary. The late Minister, whether rightly or wrongly, was supposed to represent the party of reaction, and Herr von Schmerling always used him as the money-lender does that invisible partner of his, whenever the Hungarians applied for any reform—'Nothing would give me greater pleasure, personally; but, unfortunately, I am not omnipotent; and my partner is a *very* hard man—nothing to be got out of him.' This answer, to which the Hungarians had become quite used, must now be laid on the shelf; some real reforms are urgently demanded of the new Minister. There is some difficulty arising from the nature of the Reichsrath, which is summoned to meet on the 12th instant; it is the Full Reichsrath, the representative of the whole empire, which generally has enough to do in the discussion of the budget; the question of the proposed reforms in the Sclavo-German possessions of Austria must be decided in a Lesser Reichsrath, which has received no orders to assemble. However, it is expected that the Hungarian Diet (again another and perfectly distinct body) will be convoked, and such alterations made in the constitution of the country as will bring about a reconciliation with the Imperial Government. To facilitate this twenty new prefects have been appointed, all of them men of merit, and not members of the aristocracy; they are all *ex officio* members of the House of Magnates, which, it is hoped, will form the nucleus of an efficient Government party. The experiment of convoking the Diet was tried four years ago with but little success; the Germans were too patronising and the Magyars too excitable to work well together. Perhaps a little more humility on the one side and rationality on the other will lead to a better result.

The Prince and Princess of Wales followed the route which we traced out last week with fidelity; they were consequently very near Hesse Darmstadt on the 1st inst., when the confinement of the Princess Alice of Hesse took place. Prince Louis is rather disappointed that his second child is again a girl. The good-natured condolences and prophecies of his friends, both English and German, are somewhat comical in their homeliness. The Prince and Princess spent one night at Brussels on their way home, entertained by the Duc and Duchesse de Brabant as representatives of the King. They left Antwerp in the *Osborne* on the 6th inst., and were received at Woolwich at 2.30 P.M. on Tuesday the 7th, after their succession of most successful visits, whether we consider them from a social or from a political point of view.

The Czar of Muscovy, better known, perhaps, as the Emperor of Russia, passed through Berlin on the 1st inst. He dined with the King at Potsdam, visited the ballet at Berlin, went out shooting at Letzlinger, and on the 5th inst. started homeward for St. Petersburg, where he will stay for the winter.

GREECE.

The well-timed manifesto of the king has had the best effect upon the national assembly at Greece, which terminated its discussion upon the Constitution on the 4th inst., and adopted the draft of it on the following day. There are still some recalcitrants, who will probably refuse to sign the Constitution; but when once it becomes formally the law of the land, when the present assembly is dissolved, and a new, and let us hope, more manageable one elected in its stead, the factious opposition of a Republican or unprincipled minority need not be regarded.

RUSSIA.

It is amusing to watch the anxiety with which the French and Russian journals reciprocally disclaim all political significance in the late Imperial meeting at Nice. 'We warn our Government,' says *La France*, 'to avoid any attempt at a more intimate alliance with Russia. We want no more alliances, but must preserve at any cost our liberty of action.' *L'Invalide Russe* reproduces the whole article, and concludes by assuring *La France* that a more intimate alliance between the two countries is as little to the taste of Russia as of France, and that Russia also means to preserve her liberty of action—an exchange of amenities between two great European Powers, which proves them to be, in one respect at least, fully qualified to practise in a British Court of Bankruptcy.

TURKEY.

The budget for 1864-5 shows a revenue of 14,571,238*l.*, being a surplus of nearly 200,000*l.* over the calculated expenditure. This margin, though seemingly small, is equal to the surplus of nearly 1,000,000*l.* in the British revenue of 70,000,000*l.* The expenses for the ensuing year show an increase over that now closing, which is acounted for by the increase in the public debt, and the Circassian immigration. A reduction in the army and navy expenses of 37,758*l.* will be made. The cotton crop has suffered severely from the late rains, and it is calculated that sixty per cent. of it is spoiled or lost.

The authorities at Constantinople have begun to ship off some of their Circassian refugees to the provinces. On the 7th ultimo three ship-loads of them were received at Cyprus. The wretched people seem to have suffered as much in Turkish hands as in those of the Russians. They started 2,700 in number, of whom 1,344 only arrived. They appear to have died off by hundreds from want of water, and many others were washed ashore who had evidently been thrown overboard alive. They were not landed without much opposition from the Cypriote authorities; and when at last they were lodged in the lazaret, they died off by thirty and forty every day. The Western Powers, and particularly the English, who have experience in the packing of emigrant ships, ought surely to give advice and active assistance in such a matter as this, which the most timid Minister on earth could not construe into the much-dreaded 'breach of the privilege of non-intervention.'

SPAIN.

Do Spanish politicians ever read history? or, if that is too much to ask of them, do they ever read the libretti of the operas which they perhaps sometimes take the trouble to attend? If so, they may have read of one Gessler, a pompous and tyrannical bully who put his hat on the top of a pole, and ordered all men to salute it on pain of death; and they may further have read how Wilhelm Tell, a Swiss peasant, declined to do obeisance to the hat of any man, much more to that of an old vapourer like Gessler; and how Gessler was turned out of the place, hat and all, by the said Tell and his friends, to be an eternal warning to all arrogant but decrepid blusterers who are not satisfied with civility, but demand servility. If they have not read this little tale, as it is set to music by Rossini, we commend it to their notice before they again fire on a British ship. It appears that the Spaniards have erected a battery at Ceuta opposite to Gibraltar, and have given out that every ship coming within gun-shot distance of the battery shall hoist her flag. The English merchant ship *Mermaid* happened to pass without complying with these absurd and obsolete orders; straightway without the warning of a blank cartridge or even a shot fired across her bows, she is fired into by the battery and sunk, her crew with difficulty escaping. We have not heard what complaints have been made by our Government of this outrageous impertinence; 'of course,' it is said, the Spaniards will pay up a proper compensation, but that will evidently depend on the tone in which compensation is asked for. The *Politica* of the 4th inst. states that Señor Pareja is the bearer of an ultimatum to Peru, demanding from the Peruvian Government prompt and full satisfaction, and that, if he does not obtain it, the Spanish squadron is at once to take possession of the principal ports of the Republic and to destroy its fleet.

The insurgents in Santo Domingo are still said to be treating for peace, but doubts have been thrown upon the truth of this statement by a correspondent of the *Standard*, who asserts that the only negotiations going on are some in which the Spaniards have offered to the Dominicans to evacuate the island on being reimbursed the expenses of the war—a condition which the insurgents are apparently in no great hurry to accept. If this be true, it is evident that the Government of the island considers itself certain of victory, if not already victorious; otherwise an offer to evacuate the island would scarcely have been refused, however hard the conditions.

MEXICO.

The capture of Matamoras has been an immense success for the Imperial Government. Admiral Bosse, in his despatch describing the operations which brought about the submission of the Juarist General Cortinas and the surrender of the city, says: 'Eighty vessels of all nations are at this moment in the roads awaiting our permission to begin their commercial operations; the Custom House will make a good thing out of them. Already, in anticipation of the renewal of trade, a convoy of 500,000 piastres has been sent to Monterey, and is only waiting until the roads shall be officially declared safe to be brought on to Matamoras.' Vidaurri, the late chief of the province of Nueva Leon, has given in his adhesion to the Empire. It is said that the Emperor Maximilian has written to Napoleon, stating that the task of setting in order the chaos of Mexican finance is almost superhuman. He requests his brother Emperor to lend him some experienced financier to assist in getting affairs into better order. We do not hear any person named as the probable choice of the French Government; perhaps, when they have found their prize financier, they may be tempted to keep him 'for home consumption.'

MR. LINCOLN'S WAY.—We clip the following from a New York paper:—Mr. Jeremiah Burke, residing at 49 North Fifth Street, Brooklyn, a blacksmith, working in the boiler-maker's department, in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, for ten months past, makes the subjoined statement: On October 13, he, with fifty-four others, working in that department, was informed by Mr. Maxson, master mechanic of the boiler-maker's department, that he was to be turned over to the Naval Constructor's department. The following morning, with his fellow workmen, he appeared in the yard to be mustered in his new department, but was not mustered. A committee was appointed to wait upon Mr. Davidson, assistant naval constructor, to ascertain the reason for the non-muster. Mr. Davidson, after half an hour's delay, called into his office all the workmen, singly, and propounded the following questions:—First, 'Are you a Union man?' All answered in the affirmative. Second, 'Do you belong to the Loyal League?' To which two only of the fifty-five answered that they were members. Before propounding the third question, he stated that he had a letter from the Secretary of the Navy, in which he asserted that any man who voted for M'Clellan, or advocated his election, was a traitor, and disloyal to the Government, and could not be employed on any public works. Burke replied that he had served the country two years in iron-clads during the present war, and the question of his political preferment had never before been asked; that he was not a traitor, but a loyal man, and he should vote for whom he pleased. Mr. Davidson then replied that he could dispense with his services, and he was discharged from the yard at once. The two members of the Union League were the only ones who were restored to employment, and are now at work in the iron-clad shop.

GARIBALDI ON THE AMERICAN QUESTION.—'To the Editor of the *Star*. Sir,—A statement has recently gone round to the effect that Garibaldi had expressed pro-Southern views. The *Index* printed it under the title of "A Recantation." When reading it first, the thought struck me at once that my friend M'Tear, of Glasgow, for whom Garibaldi entertains feelings of the highest esteem, must have misunderstood him, owing to the conversation being held in English, in which Garibaldi does not express himself fluently. I have now received from Caprera a letter intended for publication, of which I enclose a translation for your influential paper, and I remain, sir, yours obediently, KARL BLIND.'—(Translation.)—'Caprera, October 30.—My Dear Blind,—M'Tear must have misunderstood my English. My opinion on the American question is well known. Not only do I hope from it the abolition of slavery, but I consider the question to be one affecting all mankind, and woe to the world if the North did not come out victorious from this struggle! I thank you for your good news. With cordial greeting to Mrs. Blind and to our friends, believe me, for ever, yours affectionately, G. GARIBALDI.'—*Star*, November 9.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

[We desire to draw the attention of our readers to the following letter. It is the first published of a series which we have every reason to think will prove of utility and interest. The writer has peculiar opportunities of learning the course of military operations, and his statements will, we believe, be characterised by impartiality and truth.]

Washington: October 21, 1864.

Being at the headquarters of information in the North, I propose to write you, at the end of each week, a condensed and, so far as it is possible, an impartial account of the week's progress of our sad American war. The materials will be drawn from both Northern and Southern sources, and the sole endeavour of this correspondence will be to extract the truth from the immense mass of despatches and letters which in both North and South contain the history of the conflict.

Seldom since the war began have Federal prospects been so gloomy. In the Shenandoah Valley after a series of reverses there has been a slight Federal success, which is magnified by official despatches into a victory, but everywhere else the South has achieved most marked success. The contest in the Valley is the most important of this week's events. Longstreet superseded Early in command of the Confederate forces there some two weeks since. At that time Sheridan with the Federal army was at Harrisonburg. Sheridan at once began to retreat. He withdrew to Strasburg, and on October 10 was encamped there. Strasburg is fifteen miles south-west of Winchester. East from Strasburg runs the Manassas Gap railroad to Alexandria on the Potomac. Thirty miles east of Strasburg on this railroad is Rectortown, and north-west from Rectortown a turnpike runs across the mountain ridges to Winchester. The Federal authorities, thinking that Sheridan's barbarous destruction of everything valuable in the Valley would prevent any more Confederate advances, ordered him to detach a large portion of his command to reinforce Grant. These troops were sent from Strasburg through Manassas Gap to Alexandria. The trains were fired into by guerillas, and many soldiers were killed, but they reached Alexandria, and some were embarked on the Potomac for Grant's camp. Sheridan, on October 13, was in Washington. The guerilla raids on the railroad were so fierce, however, that east of Rectortown for a half-mile on each side of the line the woods were cut down to obliterate their hiding-places. West of Rectortown, however, this could not be done; the woodcutters were driven off, and a train seldom passed from or to Strasburg. At Rectortown fortifications were built, and General Augur placed there with a strong force—a sort of outpost among guerillas.

The withdrawal of the troops to reinforce Grant was a fatal mistake. As soon as Longstreet discovered it he resumed the offensive. He came northward from Harrisonburg, with the cavalry in advance, having continuous skirmishes with the Federal rear-guards. In all but one of these he was successful, capturing prisoners and stores. In that one he lost nine guns and some wagons, his cavalry having in their impetuosity pursued the Federal troops too far and been ambuscaded. The Federal outposts all retreated, however, and on October 12 there was not a regiment south of Strasburg. Longstreet seized Fisher's Hill, the celebrated stronghold just south of the town, and encamped there. Sheridan, in Washington, heard of these rapid advances, and recalled the troops sent to reinforce Grant. Augur, from Rectortown, telegraphed him that guerillas cut all communication with Strasburg, and, on October 13, Sheridan, with his troops at Washington, started for Harper's Ferry, to get into the Valley by that route. The blow soon came, however. On October 13, Longstreet attacked the Federal troops in Strasburg and drove them out. He captured a large amount of stores and 800 prisoners, and the remnant of the command retreated to some earthworks on the north side of Cedar Creek, about four miles north of Strasburg. From Fisher's Hill as a base Longstreet then began a flank movement. He moved a strong column east to Front Royal, destroyed the Manassas Gap railroad there, and at once cut off all communication between Augur at Rectortown and the Federal post on Cedar Creek. Sheridan, on October 14, was at Harper's Ferry, and on the 15th at Martinsburg. On the 16th and 17th his troops from Alexandria were arriving at Winchester. Longstreet completely destroyed the railroad from Strasburg almost to Rectortown, and then his column started northward. On the 18th, Sheridan came down to Winchester, and, getting a slight inkling of Longstreet's movement, ordered the post on Cedar Creek to be given up and the troops to withdraw to Winchester. On the night of the 18th, when the retreat began, Longstreet's column was north-west of Cedar Creek. At dawn on the 19th, when the retreat had scarcely commenced, a Confederate column marched between Winchester and the outpost on the Creek; then turning southward met the advance of the retreating Federal column at Middletown, eight miles from Winchester. A battle began. At the same time a Confederate force from Strasburg crossed Cedar Creek, and attacked them from the south. Attacked in front and rear, the Federal troops were soon defeated. Their organisation was broken up, and they fled in confusion. Twenty-four cannon, many hundred prisoners, and large numbers of wagons and stores fell into the hands of the Confederates. The rout was complete, and the Confederates withdrew towards Fisher's Hill with their booty.

Sheridan came on the field with his troops from Winchester just as this affair was over. He attacked the rear of the Confederates as they were retreating southward. They fought him, but rapidly withdrew across Cedar Creek and into Strasburg. Sheridan's attacks became more and more heavy, and Strasburg was given up, the Confederates retreating to Fisher's Hill. In Strasburg, the Federal troops found a large number of artillery—Sheridan says fifty pieces—including among them some of the Federal guns taken in the morning. The pursuit halted at Strasburg, and the Confederates reached Fisher's Hill without further contests. The retreat had been stubbornly contested, and about 1,600 Confederate prisoners were taken. Some abandoned wagons and ambulances also fell into Sheridan's hands. The artillery captured were guns stowed away in Strasburg, many of them having previously been taken from Federal troops. In the various contests the Federal army lost 2,000 killed and wounded, and 3,000 prisoners. The Confederates lost 1,600 prisoners; their other casualties are not known. The Confederate General Ramseur was captured, and has since died from his wounds. The Federal General Bidwell was killed, and Wright and Ricketts, two corps commanders, were wounded. Sheridan lost heavily in officers, and evidently had the worst of the contest.

The Confederates did not halt at Fisher's Hill, but retreated south of it. Sheridan withdrew his main body to the old camp on Cedar Creek, and on the morning of the 20th sent a reconnaissance to Fisher's Hill which discovered that the enemy were gone. If Longstreet again advances, this party will fall back to Cedar Creek. After all this bloodletting we find the two armies in their old positions in the Valley. Sheridan's loss of 5,000 has done him no good. He cannot reinforce Grant now, and General Lee, who I have no doubt directed the movement in the Valley, has prevented an attack on Petersburg. The common report is, that all the armies were to have moved forward to-day, October 21. Grant on the north side of the James was to have made an effort to capture Chapin's Bluff. I scarcely think he will do anything now, though at last accounts he was evidently moving his forces to the north bank of the river. There was also to have been a naval attack upon Wilmington, North Carolina. The Baltimore people say that 107 Federal vessels, concentrating for some time past at Fortress Monroe, have sailed to attack Wilmington.

The movement of the Confederates in Sherman's rear is still enveloped in great mystery. It can be traced plainly for a certain distance, and then, just when the Confederate column reaches a point where news of its progress could, if the authorities chose, be telegraphed to us in the North, all information ceases. Beauregard is with Hood. He commands the Southern column. From Marietta up to Tunnel Hill, a distance of over seventy miles, the Atlanta supply railroad has been destroyed. All the bridges and culverts have been burned, the rails torn up, and in many places the ditches have been filled and the embankments broken down. The ruin has been complete. At least fifty out of the seventy miles will have to be rebuilt, and in an enemy's country, surrounded by guerillas, months will be required for the working parties to repair the road. Sherman, with three-fourths of his army, has been brought back to Chattanooga. At Atlanta there are about 20,000 Federal troops well fortified. If the Confederates can spare any force to threaten Atlanta, they could seriously endanger it. When last heard from, Hood with his forces had gone westward from Dalton to Fayetteville, a town on the road to Bridgeport where the railroad from Nashville to Chattanooga crosses the Tennessee River. Sherman's army was at Ship's Gap, eight miles east of Fayetteville. Sherman's last despatch states that Hood had left Fayetteville as if he were returning southward. General Wheeler is with Hood. General Forrest is at Meridian, Mississippi, having successfully eluded all the efforts to capture him or retake any of the prisoners or stores he had captured. In the west all fears of a Federal attempt to advance south of Atlanta are gone. It is extremely doubtful if Sherman can hold his own there. He holds no ground south of Chattanooga but the isolated post at Atlanta. Between Louisville and Chattanooga he has only the line of the railroad. Troops do not venture a mile on either side of it. Guerillas cut it daily, and one half of the railroad trains which pass along are destroyed. It has been over six weeks since a railroad train passed between Chattanooga and Atlanta; and five weeks ago all telegraphic or other communication with Atlanta was broken. We know nothing of what is happening there. Stanton says to-day that the telegraph is working to Atlanta, but that he has received no reports. Stanton must be mistaken. A Southern despatch just received says that the Confederates are within one mile of Atlanta, and they pick off every Federal soldier who ventures outside the works. They look for the fall of Atlanta at any moment. A new Confederate movement has begun. A column has concentrated at Talladega, Alabama, and is now on its way northward towards Huntsville, with the intention of striking at Nashville, which will be unprotected so long as Beauregard keeps Sherman employed. We have not yet heard of this expedition through Northern sources. Sherman's prospects are sad indeed.

At Petersburg everything is quiet. All attempts to reach the South-side railroad, or to capture the works on Chapin's Bluff, on the north bank of the James, appear to be given up. Terry and Kantz, who made the last attempt on Chapin's Bluff, were most wofully beaten. The truth is just coming out. They lost nearly 500 men, and retreated in confusion. Butler and Meade have a great quarrel, and Grant is unable to move. Three cabinet officers—Seward, Stanton, and Fessenden—have been down to the camp, trying to smooth the ruffled tempers and urge an advance, in view of the exigencies of the Presidential election. Petersburg is still safe, and juts out like a cape into the Federal camp. Grant has but 75,000 men, and if he contemplated any movement in view of the election, Sheridan's failure to reinforce him must have caused it to be given up. Grant's extended line of nearly forty miles, from the Weldon railroad away around to Chapin's Farm, is a long line to guard. The Dutch Gap canal slowly progresses, and it is now given out that no movement against Lee will be made until it is completed. Grant wishes to make up in gunboats for the weakness of his army.

In Missouri, General Price continues his march steadily but slowly westward towards the Kansas border. He follows a series of roads which run about twenty miles south of the Missouri river. His advance is now at the Blackwater river, just west of Sedalia, a town which he captured about four days ago. The point where he has struck the Blackwater and is about crossing it, is thirty miles east of the Kansas line. There is no force of Federal troops in front of him, and his march is therefore unobstructed. General Curtis has gathered all the troops he can find, and is now at Kansas City, on the Missouri, six miles east of the State line, and thirty miles northward of Price's post on the Blackwater. Curtis is labouring hard at fortifications. In North Missouri the guerillas control everything. Nine-tenths of Missouri is now in Confederate hands. Rosecrans, the Federal commander, is like one paralysed. He can do nothing and attempts nothing. Price's invasion is a most important diversion in favour of Hood.

Virginia will be Free at all Events.—The *Richmond Enquirer* says: 'We should be glad to see the Confederate Congress provide for the purchase of 250,000 negroes, present them with their freedom and the privilege of remaining in the States, and arm, equip, drill, and fight them. We believe that the negroes, identified with us by interest, and fighting for their freedom here, would be faithful and trustworthy soldiers, and under officers who could drill them, could be depended on for much of the ordinary service, and even for the hardest fighting. It is not necessary now to discuss this matter, and may never become so; but neither negroes nor slavery will be permitted to stand in the way of the success of our cause. This war is for national independence on our side, and for the subjugation of whites and the emancipation of negroes on the side of the enemy. If we fail the negroes are nominally free and their masters really slaves. We must, therefore, succeed. Other States may decide for themselves; but Virginia, after exhausting her whites, will fight her blacks through to the last man. She will be free at all costs.'

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York: October 25, 1864.

We have now the Confederate accounts of the battle of the 19th in the Shenandoah Valley, which has been made so much of during the past week as one of the greatest victories of the war, raising General Sheridan not only above Cæsar and Napoleon, but even above Sherman and Grant. The election is, however, only two weeks off, and bombast is the prevailing tongue of all parties.

There was undoubtedly a Confederate reverse after a Confederate victory. General Early—not Longstreet, who was not present—attacked Sheridan's camp near Cedar Creek, and surprised and routed three Unicn corps, capturing eighteen pieces of artillery and 1,300 prisoners, which were carried off. The Federals were driven back several miles, when they made a stand behind breastworks at Middleton, and, having a great superiority in cavalry, repulsed the Confederates, who were compelled to retreat. In the retreat they were pursued by the Federal cavalry, and lost in the streets of Strasburg not only the guns they had captured, but a number of their own guns, which had become wedged in with the others, and were left behind. Their net loss of guns abandoned in Strasburg is put by themselves at twenty-three. The army bulletins of the Northern troops reckon their trophies at nearly fifty, which includes the recovery of what they had previously lost. The Confederates maintain that the loss of guns is their only material loss, the loss of men being much less than that of the Federals, and they flatly contradict the reports of demoralisation or despondency in Early's army. Nothing which Sheridan has been able to do in the valley of Virginia has yet advanced him towards the objective point, for which Grant has waited to aid his assault on Richmond. Lynchburg is not reached, and Early's forces still keep employed several corps of the army which Grant wants for operations in the front, and the season is advancing rapidly when it will be too late to carry out these plans, if it were ever practicable.

There is nothing new from the front. The journals are full of alternate rumours that another grand attempt is to be made from some quarter to reach Richmond, and that the quiet which prevails is preparatory to the closing of the campaign, and the deferring of the capture of Richmond to another year.

The state of things with Sherman is a mystery. If you believe the Union telegraphs, Hood has been counter-checked in his flank movements, and been compelled to retreat southward with General Sherman's army in 'hot pursuit.' Whenever I see that phrase in a telegraphic despatch, I get suspicious. It is one of the conventional phrases of sensationalism, and it generally turns out that the army said to be in 'hot' pursuit is engaged in trying to take care of itself, and sometimes is trying to get away from the enemy. The tone of the Confederate press is very confident of the success of Hood's movements, which are said to be bold and dangerous, but with a bright promise of so cutting off Sherman's communications as to force him to evacuate Atlanta and retreat upon Chattanooga, with a good prospect of losing his army. Between these conflicting statements, who can judge of the real condition of affairs? The plea in favour of the better credibility of the Confederate accounts is that they have no Presidential election on hand, in which both sides think it their interest to magnify the achievements of the army in order to set forth, each for its candidate, the superiority of capacity to improve victory for the bringing back of peace; and, besides, the Confederates have a blunt way of speaking out concerning their own disasters, and, instead of disguising the straits of a position, tell it plainly, in order to impress upon their countrymen the need for efforts. The impression here among those who study the incidents of the campaign in Georgia is that General Sherman is in a very critical position.

The other field of battle about which a great interest is felt is in Missouri, in which General Price has a Confederate force of indefinite numbers, but constantly increased by accessions from Missourians friendly to the Southern cause originally, or eager to escape from the cruelties and oppressions of Unionism. Two-thirds of the State are under Confederate sway, and nearly all the rest is given up to the ravages of guerilla bands, composed mostly of desperadoes, deserters from both armies, or vindictive men stung into savage outlawry by bloody persecutions and outrages on themselves and families—the horrid offspring of the ungovernable passions this war has let loose. A Federal letter-writer from Missouri says:—'All accounts from the interior concur in the fact that General Price is securing a very large number of recruits. Almost every able-bodied young man in some of the central counties has been "conscripted." The truth is, that there is no other place of safety for the man who is not a follower of Honest Abe. Every squad of Federal soldiers in the State has been performing the office of judge, jury, and executioner for the last six months. Every township and neighbourhood has its own tale of blood, to say nothing of wholesale robbery, arson, and thieving. These enormities have been committed, if not at the instigation and with the connivance of those in authority, at least without the punishment of the offenders, until no man feels the least security for his person or his property. It would be a miracle, therefore, if Price's army is not doubled, if he remain in the State for six weeks, not by unwilling conscripts, but by men goaded to madness and burning for revenge.' We get no reliable intelligence of the movements of the United States military sent to oppose this force; and certainly no military success can be expected to give quiet to a State in this condition. The last telegraphic reports say, in very indefinite terms, that Price has been encountered in the extreme west of the State, and defeated, and that the Federals are in 'hot' pursuit. But contemporaneous despatches speak of Federal reverses and [retreats, so that the western victories are looked upon as mere electioneering shams. These reports have not affected the gold market. On the contrary, since the announcement of Sheridan's Napoleonic victories and Sherman's defeats of Hood, the quotations for gold have risen from 207 to 217, and, after the report of the repulse of Price, stood at 216½. It is evident that the stories do not get credit.

The proposition in the *Richmond Enquirer* to arm the negroes of the South, under a new conscription law to be passed at the ensuing session of the Confederate Congress, is very favourably received in the South. It has been asked for by planters in the South-west; and among some captured despatches, published in New Orleans, a letter appears from H. W. Allen, the Confederate Governor of that State, addressed to the Secretary of War, urging the measure, and sending forward tenders by slaveowners of a part of their force. The project was matured, to be presented to the Alabama Legislature last year, but withheld, from considerations of policy, in the then condition of affairs. It was said that

the Legislature was ready to adopt it. It is now brought forward by the Richmond journals, in apparent concert with the Confederate Government. It is supported on the ground that slavery is but a secondary question compared to national independence, and that the negroes constitute a fighting force which is but property after all, and property which may be voluntarily given up for the securing of the greater good. They do not shrink from saying that emancipation of slaves, with permission to remain in the State with the donation of lands, would be, under wise legal provisions, a less evil than subjugation by the North, or consent to be at the mercy of Northern majorities.

The subject is under discussion in the press, but can hardly be said to have been so thoroughly examined as to be a measure of received public policy. But the favour with which the suggestion has been received, and the high official auspices under which it is brought forward, show how deeply the passion for total independence from the North has penetrated into the Southern soul, and how utterly exploded now the old suspicion must be, that this was purely a 'slaveholders' rebellion,' simply for the maintenance of slavery and the establishment of a 'slaveholding Confederacy.'

The inhabitants of the devastated portions of Virginia—the blackened waste which Sheridan has made of the flourishing valley of the Shenandoah—are eager to repay these atrocities in kind, and ready to lead their own slaves for vengeance into the valleys of Pennsylvania. The exasperation is natural; but the higher motive will prevail with the Government should they arm their own blacks as an addition to their physical means for repelling invasion and building up independence.

It is now currently stated and believed that a new conscription is to be ordered by the President immediately after the election, with the required notice of fifty days. The drafting will take place some time in January. Previous to the actual drafting, it is stated that Government has it in contemplation to propose several amendments to the law, the most material of which is that no substitutes will be accepted, but every man drafted and physically able must give his personal service. These statements are given in the Democratic journals with great positiveness, but it is by no means certain that they are not exaggerated, with a view of influencing votes. The terror of the next draft is excessive. The last attempt showed the floating material for substitutes to be nearly exhausted, and the burden of paying immense extra bounties was enormous. The cost of the unfinished draft for the last 500,000 men is computed to have been not less than $100,000,000 on individuals and local bounties, &c., in addition to the Government allowances. Yet with all the cost and exertion the drafting was a failure. After allowances for credits on other calls, the whole number realised is certainly not over 100,000 men, and those of very inferior material. Several Administration journals have expressed their belief that a draft of 300.000 men, rigorously enforced, is indispensable to keep the army full, after the discharges of those whose terms of service expire early next year. The severity of the proposed amendments is a matter of inference from the necessities of the case and of the military position, and the Democrats are well disposed to exaggerate them in order to rouse the popular feeling against the Administration. There is no doubt, however, that a draft must be had. The figure is fixed at 300,000. The aggregate of all the calls made since the war commenced will then reach 3,225,000 men.

The Adjutant-General of this State lately published a corrected table of these various calls, and made the aggregate of men (after deduction for all credits, for duplicates, and consolidated calls) actually summoned to the field 2,325,000 men, to which the new call will add 300,000, making the effective numbers for Mr. Seward's little war 2,625,000 men; and General Sherman, who is pretty good authority, says, 'The war is just begun.'

The Presidential struggle is going on with increasing audacity on the part of the Administration party, and increasing exasperation among the Democrats. The October elections gave a victory to the Administration in the three States of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana. But in Pennsylvania the home vote was decidedly Democratic; the majority is cast the other way by the votes of soldiers in the hospitals and in the field. The opposition papers teem with accusations of unfair practices on the part of officers and agents of Government, in intimidating Democratic soldiers, and obstructing their voting, and cheating or forcing them into voting for the Lincoln tickets. The Republican votes returned are to the Democratic vote as more than three to one. The opponents of Mr. Lincoln are provided with the material for accusing the Administration party of carrying Pennsylvania, if it shall be carried against M'Clellan, by its tyrannical or fraudulent use of the soldiers' vote.

From Indiana the same cry comes, with columns of certificates and specifications of gross frauds and daring military interference for suppressing the votes of Democrats, driving them away from the polls, and filling the ballot-boxes with illegal votes cast by soldiers from other States. There is another case of Democratic grievance. They will say, and it will probably be true, that if the vote of Indiana is cast for Mr. Lincoln, it will be so cast by the arbitrary interference of the military supporters of Mr. Lincoln sent in from other States to subjugate Indiana.

If such things have been done, they may be repeated. The profound, and I believe sincere, conviction of the Democratic party is, that if the election could be fairly conducted, and the vote cast without intimidation, General M'Clellan would certainly be elected. The leaders of the party, while they work strenuously and encourage their voters to the most zealous efforts, do not believe that there will be a free or fair election, and have not any confidence in the election of their candidate So far as their plans and expectations are developed, I think they mean to struggle for, and hope to carry, the following States for M'Clellan, as the basis for whatever action they may decide upon in the event of his defeat. They look upon Pennsylvania, notwithstanding the late result, as likely, from various local causes and means they are industriously applying, to give her 26 votes to General M'Clellan. They count their capital thus: New York, 33; New Jersey, 7; Pennsylvania, 26; and Illinois, 16. This makes a total of 82. If they obtain these 82 votes for M'Clellan, and no more, they will claim that he is entitled also to the 32 votes of the Border States, on the ground that none of these States can be carried against him but by the direct application of unlawful force for the suppression of the rights of free suffrage. These make 114 of the Presidential votes, and a majority if West Virginia, whose right to vote at all is contested, be excluded. That State exists in direct violation of the Constitution of the United States.

The conditions may be varied if General M'Clellan should carry one or two States other than those enumerated. These carried, however, there is a basis to strengthen the Democratic plea that the election of Mr. Lincoln cannot be effected except by the unlawful interference of the President, through his office-holders and the army, in reappointing himself. Hence the grand struggle will be to carry those States, and the chances seem of late to improve to that extent, that, if they do not elect a President, the opposition will be able to show that they have been defeated by means which justify revolution. It aggravates this case that the President has been taking steps to secure for himself some additional votes, of disputed legality, by the exercise of the same executive lawlessness, to be produced if necessary to secure his reelection. In Louisiana—a State reconstructed without law, under his military dictation, and ruled by his military subordinates—an election has been ordered for Presidential electors, to be chosen in November, for *seven* reserved votes, which may or may not be counted as the occasion arises.

The worst case is Tennessee, a State not reconstructed at all, but still proclaimed to be in insurrection, and governed under martial law by Andrew Johnson, Mr. Lincoln's associate on the ticket as candidate for Vice-President, now military governor of Tennessee, appointed by Mr. Lincoln. Governor Johnson orders an election for Presidential electors, and prescribes an oath to be taken, which is almost literally an oath against the Chicago nominee and platform. No man can vote under it except for Lincoln and Johnson. The President being prayed to annul this act, refuses to interfere, on the ground that he cannot interfere with elections, even to correct a gross act of party tyranny by the man who committed it in his name. He perpetrates a grim joke by telling the protesting parties that they can escape the oath by taking no part in the election—leaving the field unobstructed for Lincoln and Johnson; and with the same bland assurance adds that, after the vote is cast, which will be of course for Lincoln and Johnson, it may not be counted in Washington, if it be vitiated by the administering of this oath or other irregularity. Having made sure that it shall not be cast for M'Clellan, he treats the friends of M'Clellan to the consoling assurance that it may be not counted for himself—as it will probably not be unless he wants it. Not one of the partisan presses of this city devoted to Mr. Lincoln has said a single word in rebuke of this mixture of tyranny and jocularity in the closing against his rival of all chance for any vote in Tennessee, reducing the question to the alternative that Tennessee shall vote for him or otherwise not vote at all. Is not this a free country, and are you not almost persuaded by Mr. Cobden that democratic institutions which work this way are just the thing to improve the morals and happiness of the British people?

MR. SALA AND THE FEDERAL PRISONERS.

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

SIR,—The treatment of prisoners of war by the authorities of the Confederate States has been, since the very beginning of the American struggle, a subject of persistent falsification on the part of the Yankee press and the upholders of Abraham Lincoln. They have constantly sought to excite the indignation of Europe against the imputed inhumanity of the Confederates, and thus to break the force of that natural abhorrence which has been aroused in the breasts of all intelligent foreigners by the numberless atrocities of the Federal armies, acting under the orders of Federal generals and with the approval of the Federal Government. If they could but succeed in directing the sympathies of Englishmen towards the thousands of prisoners held by the Confederates, by representing these unfortunates as the victims of barbarity, they might divert attention from the smoking desert which Sheridan has left in the track of his legions through the once smiling valley of the Shenandoah, and the houseless women and children whom Sherman has turned out into the wilderness he has created in Georgia. The purpose of this systematic misrepresentation with regard to the prisoners of war in the Confederacy is apparent enough; and it must be admitted that, if credit is ever to be gained by frequent reiteration of a falsehood, the Yankees are likely to induce some belief on this side of the Atlantic in the story of Southern cruelty and wrong.

In a recent letter to the *Daily Telegraph*, Mr. George Augustus Sala recites the adventures of one Packer, 'the brother of Mr. John Elliott Packer, late captain's clerk of the United States ship *Aries*,' who was taken prisoner by a body of Confederate cavalry in the month of January last on the coast line of the Atlantic (his boat having been washed ashore not far from Charleston), and made to undergo all manner of hardships, privations, and bodily sufferings for a period of eight months, until he was regularly exchanged at Charleston in September. Packer tells, indeed, a doleful tale. The prisoners had nothing to eat, or their food was loathsome. They were locked up in rooms filled with vermin. They were constantly shot at by the sentinels. They were hunted, when escaping to the swamps, with bloodhounds. This tale Mr. Sala accepts for true, and makes his own by rewriting it and assimilating it to the rest of his material, a part of which is a description, painfully faithful, of a photograph exhibited in a shop window of Broadway, representing an exchanged Federal, long an inmate of the Libby Prison, taken from life, or we might rather say from approaching death. Now, Mr. Sala, as we all know, is nothing, in his peculiar line of correspondent or 'special commissioner'—absolutely nothing—if not 'sensational.' Every column of 'America in the Midst of War' must be striking—*Sala-esque* (I resist the temptation to say *Sala-ent*); every paragraph must be piquant, and the Packer story was just sufficiently 'full of horrors' for his purpose. It came opportunely to relieve the insipidities of Saratoga and its spas, of which he had just written *ad nauseam*, and we may not wonder that he seized hold of it eagerly as affording him a fortunate opportunity of writing one of those characteristic essays in the interests of humanity and virtue, in which he is always so sparkling and successful. But the Packer narrative will not meet with such ready credence at the hands of everybody as at the hands of Mr. Sala. It is purely *ex parte*. It was made as ghastly as possible to insure a rapid sale. It was, moreover, brought out to excite the Northern mind yet more fiercely against the South in the midst of a Presidential campaign. Upon its own merits, it is not likely to be generally trusted abroad, when we consider how the credulity of Europe has been imposed upon by Yankee misstatements of every sort, and of every source, from the Secretary of State at Washington to Mr. Joseph Howard, jun., in the office of the *New York Times*. But there are some who will believe it, and for the benefit of these I beg to say a few words in your paper concerning this matter of the treatment of Yankee prisoners by the Confederates.

It is not to be denied that much personal suffering is inevitable to the condition of prisoners of war. This is aggravated in the case of large bodies of men who for security must be kept at remote points, in climates different from their own, and carried to and fro with inadequate means of transportation. The prisoners of war taken by the Confederates have suffered much from the straitened circumstances of the Confederacy itself; many have died from climatic diseases; at times, the inmates of certain prison encampments have not been furnished with the proper allowance of food. But I deny that they have ever been treated worse than the soldiers of the Confederate army in the field, or that they have been compelled to endure any hardships or privations not actually incident to their position which a humane Government could have spared them. The Federal authorities, at the very outset of the struggle, in utter violation of all the usages of civilised warfare, made medicines and surgical instruments contraband of war, and the Confederate surgeons have therefore at times been without the means of alleviating the pangs of the sick and wounded. There have been seasons of great stress, also, when the armies of Generals Lee and Johnston have been without their rations of meat, and when, consequently, it was absolutely impossible to supply twenty thousand prisoners with the food they might very properly expect and demand. *Dura necessitas*, and nothing more. As for the rooms reeking with vermin, it will naturally occur to the intelligent reader that among the miscellaneous herd which composes the Federal army, *colluvies omnium gentium*, vermin are very apt to be generated, and five or ten thousand prisoners taken promiscuously from this army would carry the vermin with them wherever they might go. I reassert, then, that the sufferings of the Federal prisoners of war in the Confederacy, while greatly exaggerated, have been unavoidable. The same could not be said of Confederate prisoners in the United States. The bleakest points along the Northern frontier were selected for the prisons. At Camp Douglas, last winter, hundreds of men were frostbitten from the cruel exposure to which they were subjected, and many perished of the cold. At Jeffersonville, Indiana, opposite Louisville, Kentucky, on the Ohio River, a railway train, consisting entirely of open cars, built for the transportation of live stock, but filled with Confederate prisoners, was kept in waiting during a whole night of January, out of doors, when the mercury had fallen nearly to zero of Fahrenheit. In the morning nine dead bodies were taken from the train; and yet there was no lack of fuel, no deficiency of comfortable railway carriages in the United States.

It so happens that while Mr. Sala, who has never been in the Confederate States, thus readily adopts the story of Packer, and grows eloquent in his denunciation of Southern barbarity, other Englishmen, as observant and as intelligent as he, who *have* been in the Confederate States, have investigated for themselves this matter of cruelty towards Federal prisoners, and given willing testimony in behalf of Southern humanity. I might refer to Mr. S. Phillips Day, to an 'English Merchant,'* to 'A Lancashire Man in Richmond' (*vide* THE INDEX for May 12, 1864), to Colonel Fremantle and others; but as the photograph of the moribund occupant of the Libby Prison is embodied in Mr. Sala's letter, and as he evidently expects this hideous presentment to be accepted for irrefutable proof of the special cruelties practised in that establishment, I will simply ask leave, though not an Englishman, to speak thereupon from my own personal knowledge. The photograph is even less to be credited than Packer, for Packer may have been a prisoner in Georgia, but no such cadaverous Yankee ever went home from the Libby Prison. In the month of December last, in company with Mr. Lawley, the correspondent of the *Times*, I paid a visit to this prison, and was escorted through all its wards by Major Turner, the commandant. The major, who is represented by the Northern press to be a fiend incarnate, we found to be an amiable gentleman of about four-and-twenty, upon the best terms with the officers of highest rank under his charge. The condition of his prisoners was one, not of comfort merely, but of positive luxury. There were 1,100 of them, confined upon six lofts or stories, so that fewer than 200 were in the same apartment, which was, perhaps, 100 feet long by 40 in width. The rafters above their heads which were not hidden from view by ceiling, and the shelves around the walls, were hung or packed with everything in the way of provisions that

* *Two Months in the Confederate States, including a Visit to New Orleans under the Domination of General Butler.* By an English Merchant. London: Richard Bentley, New Burlington Street. 1863.

A single extract from this work will suffice upon the matter under discussion. The writer says:—'It should be said, that there never has been, and is not now, any distinction shown between friend and foe among the sick and wounded. Eye-witnesses assure me that all along, during those terrible days in June and July 1861, when M'Clellan and his 150,000 men were within five to ten miles of the city, and when the railway cars, ambulances, country wagons, and litters were pouring in thousands of wounded men daily, from the bloody "seven days" fight, no distinction was shown between friend and enemy. The hot coffee, iced water, lemonade, food, and other happily-selected luxuries, which every family daily prepared, and sent or took down to the depôts, were indifferently distributed to the man most in need. Every church was stripped of its carpets, cushions, and hassocks, to make pillows and mattresses, and have never been replaced; ladies laboured like Hood's poor sewing-girl, making lint, bandages, splinters; and the gentlemen and boys with their own hands lifted the fainting heads, eased the shattered limb, moistened the parched throat, or fed the craving mouth. But in all this, I am assured, Federal and Confederate fared alike.' (pp. 167–8–9.)

even Fortnum and Mason could supply. Sugar-cured hams of bacon, flitches of smoked beef, haunches of venison, sausages of Bologna, potted meats, cans of mushrooms, jars of jam and jellies, bottles of pale ale, and Worcester sauce, and other appetising comestibles were thus disposed of, while barrels of apples and boxes of lemons and oranges were to be seen in every corner. It was clear that the inmates of the Libby Prison were faring more sumptuously than the richest citizens of Richmond, not to say the members of the Confederate Cabinet. I do not mean to assert, of course, that these creature comforts were provided by the Confederate authorities. But the Confederate authorities permitted them to be sent from the North, and afforded the conveyance for them from City Point, and such permission would not have been granted by a Government disposed to treat its prisoners inhumanely. A few days after our visit to the Libby Prison, Mr. Lawley and myself went across the river to Belle Isle, under escort of Major Turner, to look at the prison encampment there. It was a fine frosty morning, with an unclouded sky and a keen wind blowing from the north, and in the eddies of the rapids crusts of ice had formed the night previous. Eleven thousand prisoners were then under guard on the island, all in tents. The sufferings of these men, supposing them to be the victims of inhumanity and neglect, would be greatest during the wintry season, and winter had fairly opened in all its rigour. And yet we saw nothing of suffering at all. A thousand fires sent up their blue columns of smoke into the clear atmosphere, and the distribution of fuel was going on as we walked around among the sentries. Each tent was furnished with its brick chimney, and was far more habitable than cabins I have seen in Perthshire and Tipperary. We inspected the bakery, and ate some of the bread prepared therein, which was of excellent quality. There was also a distribution of clothing going on, clothing which had been sent from the Quartermaster-General of the United States, but which the Confederate Government might have declined to bring had its temper towards the prisoners been such as has been represented. When the boxes of provisions from individual friends at the North, and the supplies of clothing from Washington, were first sent *viâ* City Point to Richmond, the Yankee journals, ever ready to publish some new slander against 'the rebels,' pretended that they never reached the parties for whom they were designed, but were stolen *en route* by the Confederate officers in charge. Such an accusation might well have justified the subsequent refusal on the part of the Government to forward similar supplies in future. But the Government adopted another course, wholly inconsistent with the idea of cruelty. The officers were instructed to require accurate certified lists of the articles intrusted to them to be furnished by the Federal agents at City Point, and the articles were handed over with the lists to a committee of Federal prisoners chosen from themselves, who gave proper receipts and personally superintended the delivery to the rightful recipients. Lieutenant Bossieux, who commanded on the island, informed us that the only real sufferings of the prisoners arose from their barbarity towards each other, and that the utmost vigilance was necessary to prevent theft and murder among them. When I looked into the faces of some of the scoundrels that glowered at us as we moved about the island, I confess I recognised the necessity of ruling such dangerous elements of character with something of severity.

So much, then, for the tales of horror that are unfolded to the people of England about the cruel treatment of Federal prisoners in the Confederacy, one of which tales Mr. Sala has thought proper to incorporate in his correspondence with the journal having 'the largest circulation in the world.' Were they all true—were the tortures inflicted upon the Federal prisoners worthy of being recited by a Dante rather than a Sala, the prisoners themselves (Packer included) should blame their own Government rather than the Confederates for their fate. Abraham Lincoln, and not Jefferson Davis, is responsible for the sacrifice of human life inseparable from the long confinement of thousands in Northern and Southern prisons. No one has more ardently desired the exchange of prisoners to go on uninterruptedly than President Davis. The correspondence between Commissioner Ould on the part of the Confederacy, and Messrs. Meredith and Mulford at various times on the part of the United States, will sufficiently show, the Federals themselves being judges, that no disposition has been wanting to the Confederate authorities to release all the prisoners in their hands on the basis of a just and honourable cartel. The Federal Government alone has been insensible to the cries of its soldiers, and would care little if every man now retained in Georgia, *whose term of enlistment has expired*, should die of the fever of the climate. General Sherman, who declined, in his correspondence with General Hood, to surrender Confederates for Federals *no longer available as troops*, fairly represented the insensibility of his Government in this matter.

Apologising for the length of this letter, I enclose my card, and remain very respectfully yours,

A Virginian.

Advance not Conquest.—Let it be supposed that Sherman continues his advance to Savannah or to Mobile. What shall the work of conquest have gained even by the success of such an adventurous movement? Simply an additional extent of the cutting and filling of a railroad track, and at the cost of a still more extensive system of detachment for holding its stockades. His line of advance won, garrisoned, held, what, after all, will have been accomplished towards Southern subjugation? He may fight his way up, and down, and across the great regions of the Confederacy, but it is utterly impossible to hold his line of movement after he shall have passed on. That we have no troops for a task so unheard of is plainly seen in the fact, that the accomplishment of his advance has already been effected by abandoning great breadths of territory that had been previously occupied.—*New York Daily News.*

LOUISIANA.

To the Editor of The Index.

The Yankee continues his schemes of fraud and plunder in New Orleans and the other portions of Louisiana which gunboats have enabled him to conquer and hold. General Hurlbut, Banks's successor, has imposed another forced loan upon the merchants, bankers, moneyed and eleemosynary corporations, and even widows and orphans possessing any means. The sum assessed amounts to over a quarter of a million dollars, and purports to be an assessment of 25 per cent. upon a fund subscribed by the inhabitants for the defence of the city in the spring of 1861. Two assessments of a like amount have already been made. Of course, the 'Major-General Commanding' seeks to base this authorised spoliation upon the very purest motives, and the legitimate authority of Government over 'armed treason.' Certainly! Butler, that 'cunningest pattern of excelling nature' in the *rôle* of Verres, did the same, and Banks and Hurlbut are but feeble imitators of the Beast. The assessment then, as now, was for the support of the poor. But to what uses the philanthropic Butler appropriated it can easily be imagined by all acquainted with his contempt for the goods of this world. General Hurlbut is said to be a gentleman, and perhaps his Carolina breeding may have kept him pure amid the grovelling meanness of his 'hoosier' home in Illinois. But his personal probity cannot excuse the spoliation of the few in New Orleans still comparatively wealthy for the support of vagrant contrabands and families of Federal soldiers, particularly when we are now told that a large portion of the State has returned to 'its allegiance,' and when a 'loyal legislature' is in session in New Orleans electing senators to the United States Congress, and preparing to cast the vote of the State for Abraham Lincoln. If the city be so loyal, if its inhabitants have returned to 'their allegiance —and thousands have, under the pressure of circumstances, taken the oath of allegiance—what excuse can be given for forced loans, and the innumerable other exactions imposed by the military authorities? It is evident that the armed occupation of New Orleans is solely for spoliation and subjugation, that the conqueror distrusts the submission of the vanquished, and that the forms of civil government which have been introduced are but new engines of oppression. The civil is the creature of the military power, and was instituted solely for the aggrandisement of a horde of needy, corrupt, and purchasable adventurers, who have become the pliant tools of Abraham Lincoln in his schemes against the liberties of his country. You will perceive from the list which I send you that this new forced loan presses very heavily upon some of the noblest charities of the Crescent city. The McDonough School Fund is assessed $35,000, and the Fink Asylum Fund $13,750; besides, the banks and other moneyed corporations are very heavily assessed, which of course diminishes greatly the incomes of many widows and orphans. I also observe in the list the name of the Prussian Consul, John Krullscneidt, who is assessed $5,000. Many others, too, who are the victims of this authorised robbery, are foreign subjects as well as M. Krullscneidt. In reference to the election of senators to the Yankee Congress, I subjoin the following extract from a letter just received from a friend in one of the Northern cities:—

A friend has just written me from New Orleans, respecting the character of the so-called 'senators' elected (two) from 'Louisiana' in place of Messrs. Benjamin and Slidell. I shall not soil my letter with their names, but you will find them in the daily papers. One of these men ('senators') was entirely unknown in New Orleans—that is, to the citizens proper. Hailing as a carpenter from one of the plantations of the State, he was elected to the 'Legislature' *on board a United States gunboat*, and out of that Legislature he was sent to represent the State of Louisiana at Washington! The other 'senator' stands on the criminal record of *Illinois* as a fugitive from justice—a counterfeiter and black-leg of the lowest type. Such are the 'senators from Louisiana' to the next Lincoln Congress. That they will fitly represent the hirelings who sent them thither there can be no question, but there's not an old resident of the Creole State who will not bitterly feel the degradation.

I remain, &c.,

Louisianian.

London: November 9, 1864.

OFFICIAL REPORTS.

(General Orders, No. 12.)

Headquarters, First Army Corps,
October 18, 1864.

By special orders No. 218, Headquarters Army Northern Virginia, Lieutenant-General Longstreet resumes command of his army corps.

The undersigned congratulates its gallant officers and men on the restoration to them of that distinguished leader, with whom are associated so many of the proudest recollections of the corps.

In parting with them for a new command he desires to express his thanks for their ready support, his high commendation for their gallantry and fortitude during the past unexampled campaign, and his best wishes for their future fortune and prosperity.

R. H. Anderson, Lieutenant-General.

(General Orders, No. 13.)

Headquarters, First Army Corps,
October 19, 1864.

The undersigned, with deep and grateful emotions, resumes command of his army corps.

Although separated from it since the first action of the past eventful campaign, the history of your share in that campaign is not unknown to him.

He has marked with pride and pleasure the success which has attended your heroic efforts under the accomplished commander who has so worthily led you.

Soldiers, let us not go backward. Let the First Corps be always true to itself. We have in the past a brilliant, an unsurpassed record. Let our future eclipse it in our eagerness for glory, our love of country, and our determination to beat the enemy.

J. Longstreet, Commanding-General.

THE YANKEE MILLENNIUM.

The following is from the *Richmond Examiner* of October 14:—

Future historians of America will pause to dwell with incredulous amazement upon the fact that, in this fourth year of the great war, certain parties in the North country proposed, for solution of their troubles, a 'convention of all the States;' and, further, that one, nay two, statesmen of the South received such project with favour, and recommended its adoption—as if, in the midst of the Third Punic War, some maniac had proposed to settle the matter by a report of a joint committee of the Senate of Carthage and of Rome. The perplexed historians will strive to account for this phenomenon, and explain it away or make light of it; but all in vain. There stands the record—a great party at the North, lately the dominant party, and hoping soon to be dominant again, being assembled at Chicago, do solemnly announce that, war having failed to subjugate the South, a convention shall be called of all the States, North and South, to settle their little differences! Let future ages make a note of that, and account for it as posterity pleases. . . . . .

A Southern man, Mr. Stephens, Vice-President of the Confederate States, gives, or seems to give, his assent to the monstrous proposal. 'To such a convention of the States I should have no objection, as a peaceful conference and interchange of views between equal and sovereign States.' Mr. Stephens, however, probably thinks it wise, with some politic view or other, to encourage the idea, knowing the thing to be impossible. Perhaps he supposes that the apparent reception and entertainment of the suggestion at the South might act favourably on the efforts of the Democratic party—that is, the peace party—at the North.

Possibly the same explanation may account for the letter of Mr. Boyce, of South Carolina, to the President, wherein he most warmly urges, or seems to urge, the President to meet this action of the Chicago Convention 'by declaring his willingness for an armistice and convention of all the States,' &c. 'I think,' says Mr. Boyce, 'that action (namely, the action of the Chicago meeting) demands a favourable response from our Government.' And the honourable gentleman carries the joke so far, in his artful design of encouraging Yankee Peace men, as to affect a kind of enthusiasm for their noble idea of a convention. 'Imagine,' he cries, 'this grand council of the States in the act of convening, after the people everywhere in peaceful possession of their right to elect their ambassadors had done so. What a sublime spectacle! There would be nothing to compare with it in moral grandeur in ancient or modern times,' &c.

Well, imagine it. Let us also try to conceive, if the human imagination can, this proposed august convocation. A very vast 'wigwam,' huger than the Colosseum, is erected with circling tiers of seats for myriads of spectators—for it is to be a highly imposing assembly; never was the like 'in all creation' (a Yankee boast which this time will be true); and as we have astonished mankind by our war, so we are to dazzle them by a peace which shall be the envy and despair of all nations. Of course there will be a mighty throng of ladies from the several States; for none have a deeper interest in the result, nor a more legitimate curiosity to behold so many men of immortal names assembled on the grandest occasion in history—up to this date.

The solemn assemblage, pregnant with the destiny of a hemisphere, is opened. The heart of the vast multitude beats high, and its breath comes quick as the delegates enter. Arrive the representatives of South Carolina; they take their seats, with courteous greeting, beside the honourable gentlemen from Massachusetts, and the Bay State has, of course, sent her greatest men. There sits Banks, late Commanding General at New Orleans, in civil attire; for all swords are sheathed or turned into ploughshares or steel pens. At sight of him, perhaps, one of our Louisiana delegates cannot but think sadly of his house and plantation sacked and burned on Red River, and his children shipped off and landed, houseless refugees on the bare strand of Pascagoula, by order of that Banks; but he represses such thoughts; they must not be indulged on this joyful day, for this, look you, is a day of peace on earth and goodwill unto man.

On the same bench you recognise also the calm, statesman-like visage of Sumner, who formerly, in the bitterness of his heart and the soreness of his head, termed us Southerners the 'sum-total of all barbarism'—he is all smiles to-day as he looks on his Southern brethren, for he says within himself, 'Now I know that the Lord hath delivered them into my hands.' Behold, also, the lofty brow of mellifluous Everett, who conjured the very old women of Massachusetts, if they could do no better, to stab us with their knitting-needles; and Benjamin Butler, whose wholesome discipline tamed the spirit of the New Orleans women, and put a bit between the teeth of the clergymen of Norfolk.

And now all eyes are eagerly bent to gaze, as through another door file in the proud Virginians, holding their heads somewhat high at first, but soon they look more humble, when they find their allotted chairs beside the representatives of 'Pierpont' Virginia (for this, you remember, is a convention of all the 'States'). Dr. Bucker and General Hunter politely greet the gentlemen from the eastern fragment of the Old Dominion; and as the last-named commanding general is announced, there is a movement among the Virginia ladies in the auditory; they begin to inspect curiously, through *lorgnettes*, the jewelry which graces the arms and necks of the fair daughters of New England, seated near by, and fancy that they recognise certain chains and bracelets. Some may even shiver and shudder, and hardly suppress a sob, when they see the man who burned their houses over their heads, and can almost fancy they hear again the roar of the flames bringing their roof-tree crashing down upon the hearth.

Delegates from Hahn's new 'State' of Louisiana (some of them coloured gentlemen) fraternally meet planters from the 'coast,' whose plantations have been leased to Yankee agriculturists. As Ohio representatives take their seats, spectators from Tennessee perhaps think upon John Morgan and his staff, with their heads cropped, in the prison dress of the penitentiary. Not a Northern delegate who enters but calls up to some Georgian or North Carolinian spectator the memory of desolated homes and murder-shrieks rising from burning towns, and the wail of violated virgins tearing their hair, until, by the time the Convention is called to order, the whole atmosphere seems laden with curses and lamentations, and the moan of a hundred thousand ghosts crying aloud for vengeance.

Then the parson rises to open the proceedings with prayer. But it is best to stop here, lest we verge on blasphemy—for what form of prayer will serve *his* turn?

on no sounder foundation than the exultation of foes. We do not wish to disguise the serious nature of so great a change in the social fabric of any country as this implies in the South. Were that fabric purely artificial or essentially vicious in its construction, we should tremble for the result of so severe a test. But we have never hesitated to express our firm conviction that the relation of the inferior to the dominant race in the Confederate States has not its origin or reason in municipal laws, but in a decree of nature. If we are right in this—and our conviction springs from no mere theory—then no change which does not violently invert the habitual and natural positions of the protector and the protected, can be attended by such dangers as to be beyond the control of humane and judicious legislation. In other words, the emancipated slave who earns his freedom by loyal service to the country and the master who trusted him is a very different being, and occupies a very different place in the scale of civilisation, from the mere tool of a foreign enemy employed in crimes against common humanity. The danger, if danger there is, is the negro's, not the white man's. Negro slavery in the South—and we mean no other form of the system—odious as the very name of slavery is to European ears, vilified and slandered as it has been by both honest and dishonest fanaticism, is in solemn truth an institution in which the black man has a nearer interest than the white man. The white man everywhere can prosper without it; it is yet an unsolved problem whether the black man can. Our anxiety is the same as that with which we would see children and the physically or mentally feeble adult thrown upon their own unaided resources. It is never remembered by European theorisers that, though it may be agreeable to have no human master, it may be better to have one, almost inevitably from the nature of circumstances belonging to a cultivated class, as the negro has in the South, than to have a whole community for a master and be everybody's slave, as the negro is in the North. It is painful to us, moreover, to think of the negro, with so much that is good and amiable in his weakness, made the innocent victim of the sanguinary quarrels of a stronger race. We know that this consideration has been the main cause of Southern hesitation; but as the North has forced the necessity upon the South, and as the philanthropy of the civilised world so wills it, the African blood already shed and to be shed in this war will not be on the heads of the Southern people. And while we would not lightly or wantonly advise such an expedient as this to which the South in self-defence may resort, we rest our hopes of the future upon the large strides which the Southern negro, in fifty years of Southern tutelage, has made upon the African savage or even his enfranchised brother of Federal and British America. These hopes are confirmed by the consistency with which as a race he has during the last four years withstood temptations which might have shaken the fidelity of a colder heart coupled with a hotter brain than his. If any population of negroes can make good use of freedom, it must assuredly be that of the Confederate States, affording by the unanimous verdict of the world the best physical, moral, and intellectual types of their race.

No unprejudiced man of intelligence will doubt that the Southern slave will fight for and with his master, or that on those conditions he will fight well. For the rest, the solutions of the new problems which the new contingencies will propound, we have an abiding confidence in the wisdom of a Christian community of Southern men and women, familiarly acquainted with the character and capacity of the negro, and kindly disposed to him. Above all, we trust to the merciful designs of that All-wise Providence which 'shapes our ends, roughhew them as we may.'

A Model Vice-President.

THE election of a President and Vice-President of the United States for four years from the 4th of March next was doubtless made the day before yesterday, or, more properly speaking, electors were then chosen whose recorded votes in the Electoral College shall determine the rule of the land for that period of time in the future. It may be regarded as almost a certainty that the victory was with the Republicans, and that ABRAHAM LINCOLN has been given a new lease of office wherein to perfect what he has so well begun, and pushed already so nearly to completion—the ruin of his country. Assuming that such is the fact, it is not precisely accurate to say that no change has been effected in the Administration, for a new Vice-President comes into office. HANNIBAL HAMLIN gives place to ANDY JOHNSON. It may be expressed in the language of the stage directions: '*Scene—Same as the preceding. Exit Countryman—Enter Fool.*'

The office of Vice-President, under the Constitution of the United States, is as unimportant, while the President yet survives, as can well be conceived. Mr. HAMLIN has had as small a quantity of work on his hands during the last four years as the statue of Liberty that surmounts the dome of the Capitol at Washington. His is not so graceful or so imposing a figure as that displayed by this highly respectable goddess, nor are his attitudes in the chair of the Senate at once so full of ease and dignity as the *pose* which the sculptor has given to his lofty creation. But while the business of Liberty is to stand (far above the reach of the multitude and out of the atmosphere of Washington, indeed), the business of the Vice-President is to sit, and to do little else. Mr. HAMLIN, we believe, did constitute himself the usher to Miss ANNA DICKINSON, when she expounded in the Capitol, like a Republican Pythoness or a Connecticut Corinne, the doctrines of miscegenation; but this was a voluntary service in no way connected with his office, nor can we suppose that ANDY JOHNSON will consider himself under any obligation to succeed him in its performance, should ANNA again recite her wild improvisations on that august stage.

Considering the insignificant *rôle* of the Vice-President in the chair of the Senate, where the Anthropoglossos would execute his functions quite as well, it would seem, indeed, a matter of very little moment who was chosen for the office. There would appear to be a certain fitness, it is true, in selecting some one of similar tastes and character with the President himself; and when we remember that ANDY JOHNSON is altogether as vulgar, as ignorant, and as uncouth as ABRAHAM LINCOLN, the choice would impress us as a happy one. But we must not forget that the Vice-President may become at any moment the most important man in the Republic. Let death, or the Confederate cavalry, carry off the Chief Magistrate, and he instantly succeeds to the first authority—his policy becomes the policy of the Government, and his hands dispense the overgrown patronage of the Federal head. Here, again, we discern a perfect harmony between the candidates of the Republican party. The policy of LINCOLN would be the policy of JOHNSON, and it is in this consideration that the election of the latter as Vice-President assumes a grave significance that cannot be overlooked. They would differ from each other only in their style. ABRAHAM is jocose as a tyrant, ANDY would be grim. The one would send a 'rebel' to the scaffold as quickly as the other; only he might spare the victim his 'little joke' on the way to execution. It would be only the difference between *Jean qui rit* and *Jean qui pleut*. And this is not much after all.

If any gain is secured by the transfer of ANDY JOHNSON to the office of Vice-President, that gain will be to the unhappy people of Tennessee who yet remain within the lines of the Federal armies, since it is next to impossible that they can be oppressed by another military governor as ruthless and tyrannical as he. Demagogue by nature, endowed with just that amount of talent which enables a man in a State where universal suffrage prevails to get into office by flattering the mob, the *ci-devant* journeyman tailor was remarkable in the Congress of the United States for his professions of loyalty to his State and her institutions, and clamoured as loudly for territorial rights as he now does for the supremacy of the Union. It was natural that when he was invested with arbitrary rule under a military despotism, he should play the tyrant over the multitude he had once courted, and as a tailor in office he should hector the better men that despised him. When we applied to him the title of 'fool,' it was only in a dramatic sense, in respect of his lack of moral presence, and not by any means in disparagement of his ability or astuteness which we clearly enough recognise. It was a clever stroke, indeed, by which he forestalled the vote of Tennessee in the election, illegal at best, by the employment of the test oath, and LINCOLN was not wanting in *nous* to decline interfering with its beneficent operation. LINCOLN'S only fault was in not committing the answer to the 'Loyal Tennesseans' to SEWARD; but unquestionably he was right in refusing to nullify ANDY'S action in the premises. Practically the test oath amounts to just nothing at all, for the only voters in Tennessee are of the class of camp followers and dependents upon the Government, and the State is not *in* the Union nor *of* it. We can only wonder that a show of opposition could be made among ANDY JOHNSON'S subjects to the Republican party. But the end is not yet. If it shall appear that the people of the Northern States submit passively to this farce of a vote in Tennessee, and shall have reelected, by their suffrages, voluntary or under compulsion, the usurper of their constitutional rights, then, indeed, shall we be furnished with another illustration of the truth of BOLINGBROKE'S language, in his 'Idea of a Patriot King.'

If a people is growing corrupt, there is no need of capacity to contrive, nor of insinuation to gain, nor of plausibility to seduce, nor of eloquence to persuade, nor of authority to impose, nor of courage to attempt. *The most incapable, awkward, ungracious, shocking, profligate, and timorous wretches, invested with power, and masters of the purse, will be sufficient for the work when the people are complices in it.* Luxury is rapacious; let them feed it; the more it is fed the more profuse it will grow. Want is the consequence of profusion, venality of want, and dependence of venality. By this progression the first men of a nation will become the pensioners of the least; and he who has talents the most implicit tool to him who has none.

The Social Position of the English Clergy.

THE career of the clergy in modern Europe has been more chequered than that of any other class or society of men. A prolonged struggle in which the energy of individuals and the force of coalition triumphed over emperors and kings, military chieftains and standing armies, placed the Church above the law, and caused the temporal powers to tremble at the thunders of the spiritual arm. Not only did the genius of HILDEBRAND and the traditional glory of less ambitious Popes reduce all principalities and dominions within the majesty of the head of the Church, but in the several kingdoms of Europe the offices of state were splendidly exercised by the ecclesiastical hierarchy. When shaken by war or crushed by popular fury, the Church, on the Continent, with tenacious vitality, had risen to reassert her nobility. In the northern counties of England the Bishop of Durham enjoyed Palatinate rights, and maintained an army and navy. Every duty and every independent action of life became subject to archiepiscopal control. Marriage and divorce, the probate of wills, the administration of personal property, the whole province of the Court of Chancery, had fallen under the ecclesiastical authority. The offices of state had been superadded to the judicial functions. In WOLSEY the combination of spiritual and temporal magnificence attained its climax. With the Reformation and its changes, doctrinal and political, the laity regained their lost supremacy, and the condition of the clergy sank gradually but surely. Perhaps the pen of Lord MACAULAY painted their deepest degradation. To furnish a source of pride to an illiterate squire, boasting that his household had its chaplain to say grace, and fancying that thereby he had rivalled the pretensions of the lord-lieutenant, to eat of the corn-beef seated at the extremity of the hall, to decline with scrupulous care both pasty and sweetmeat, to look upon a lady's maid as a suitable partner in life, and to aspire to the hand of a housekeeper of tarnished reputation—this was the lot of the country curate in the eighteenth century. Partly owing to the diffusion of education and more liberal ideas among the laity, and partly to the zeal displayed by the awakened vigilance of the Ministry, the clergy have risen enormously in the social scale during the last seventy years.

> Nunc, positis novus exuviis, nitidusque juventa,
> Lubrica convolvit, sublato pectore, terga,
> Arduus ad solem, et linguis micat ore, trisulcis.

Their advance was at once rapid and real. The name of parson, in the place of recalling niggardly tithes and ragged cassocks, became a passport not only of respectability but even of refinement. The rise in the value of land caused the income of the Church to spring up with elasticity. The wealth of the episcopal sees, deaneries, and cathedral estates presented prizes worthy of arduous competition, while the reform in the tithe law rendered the position of the country rector enviable in a high degree. The consequence of these changes was that the most brilliant intellects and the most elegant minds of the great seats of learning were enlisted under the banners of the Church, and it seemed that though the days of political supremacy had ceased yet the social grandeur of the priesthood was renewed.

A sudden but unmistakable change has come over the condition of affairs. Statistics plainly indicate that Oxford and Cambridge do not contribute their ancient quota to the candidates for ordination, while the want is supplemented by a host of men not of inferior talent to their fellows, but of a different social *status*. The bishops give the cry, and the examining chaplains reecho it. Again, of the candidates supplied by Oxford and Cambridge but few have attained to high academical honours, while the bar, the educational profession, the Government offices, and even the counting-houses attract wranglers, and first-class men in abundance. Pamphleteers, newspapers, and clerical orators have acknowledged the truth, and enquired the cause. The Bishop of OXFORD has added the weight of his opinion, and the fact stands beyond controversy even though the reason or the remedy may be matter of speculation. 'Our Church,' said that distinguished prelate, whose

speech we reported last week, 'is an exceedingly poor Church, if the income be divided among teachers. If divided head by head among the existing clergy, it would come to a maximum of 200*l.* a year to each. In withholding the support needed, you depress the class from which you gather your clergymen to the class who look upon 200*l.* a year as a prize, instead of the class who look upon it as starvation. This is what has been practically done in France. There is not one in a thousand educated for the ministry of the Church of France, who does not come from the low peasant class of the community.' The argument is sufficiently convincing; but the question is, in what respect the income of the Church has been changed from the condition under which the wisest and best men were attracted. The bulk is not diminished. On the contrary, it is far greater than it was twenty years ago. Not only has land risen in value, but modern legislation has so far affected the tenures of episcopal and capitular estates as to increase the rents and profits in a high degree. The Bishop of Oxford does not overlook the point. He recalls Sydney Smith's parable of the heap of dirt. Bury under the heap a round sum of money. Hundreds will help to remove your heap, in the hope of being the lucky finder of the treasure. The Church of England is paid on the lottery principle. Every French soldier carries the marshal's *bâton* in his knapsack, and every deacon has a chance of being Archbishop of Canterbury. But the curates are removing the heap of dirt, while the lump of money has no existence. It has been taken away, and its place is not supplemented. There lies the whole secret of the case. A profession may have a thousand members existing in starvation. The odds against success may be as a thousand to one. Once make the one fortunate man truly enviable, and the intellect of the world will compete for the prize. That was the idea of our forefathers. Load with wealth, power, and patronage the man at the top of the ladder, and the first round will be thronged with climbers. But now-a-days spiritual peers are reduced to a mere competence, deans can only be respectable, and sinecure rectors have collapsed. Some hundreds of priests, who once had 100*l.* per annum, now enjoy the magnificent income of 200*l.* per annum, and reformers boldly ask the talents of the age to compete for such a pittance. The Bishop of Oxford says, 'Look how every profession is paying its members.' In point of fact the gross income of the Bar is not greater than that of the Church, but the method of reward is 'to give to him that hath.' There are splendid prizes, the chances are tolerably equal, and competitors come in myriads.

It is not to be imagined that the spurious system of reform to which the Church has been subjected has fallen on the clergy only. The false liberalism has permeated the whole body politic. The system of distributing prize-money in the army and navy aptly illustrates the practice. In the old European war men were pressed and conscripted in such a fashion that many a fat easy-going citizen dreamed uneasily of bayonets and heard in his sleep the thunder of the guns of Bonaparte. Soldiers and sailors were badly paid, badly clothed, badly fed. The ploughboy believed in his own fireside, and looked askance at the sergeant, his ribands, and his shilling. The fisherman trembled as he heard the press-gang on their rounds. But at times some lad of the village, with a scar, it might be, or wasted cheek-bones, appeared. He bore, however, gold, prize-money, his share of some big merchantman which Cochrane had cut out on a dark night from under the guns of the convoy. The news spread, and boys of bold enterprise were moved to think that their luck might be equal to that of the sick sailor. Then again, any act of desperate valour would enlist a hundred hands; neither officers nor men were wanting when thousands of pounds were within reach. A 20-gun tortoise contemplated the destruction of a line-of-battle ship, and cannon in position dwindled into popguns. Now-a-days it is equitable and in harmony with the spirit of progress to divide the fruits of an exploit among a fleet; each sailor receives his 30*s.*, and no distinction is drawn between the desperate valour of a night attack and the tranquil repose of the Admiral's ship. Who will face death in ten thousand forms when success finds a just compensation in the receipt of a few shillings and a silver medal, and when the leader of the assaulting column shares his booty with the commander of the depot? The Bishop of Oxford is right. The curates are removing the heap of dirt, but the lump of treasure is withdrawn.

If the ox is muzzled, it is idle to expect that he will tread out the corn. Men of high education, brilliant talents, and refined manners will refuse to admit the influence of a boorish clergy. The poor and ignorant may teach the gospel to their fellows with unbounded success, but the Bishop of Oxford knows well that wisdom must appeal to intelligence. As he justly observes, something must be added to the wealth and endowments of the Church to prevent the clergy from sinking to that lower level. We fear that the operation is impossible. But it is not the less a duty to point out the consequences of a misguided policy.

THE SERIALS FOR NOVEMBER.*

The *Cornhill* leads off with 'Armadale,' a new novel by Wilkie Collins. The etching which appears at the head of the story is painfully suggestive of the character of the plot and narrative. Sensational is scarcely the proper epithet. The Archbishop of York must have been presented with the proof-sheets of this latest example of the modern novel before he delivered his patriarchal invective against the modern phase of storytelling. In the frontispiece appears a group that is almost appalling—a gaunt positive Scotchman feeling emotion for the first time in his life; a comfortable German physician with a benignant and simple look; a lady in the last stage of distraction; a man of middle age already in the grasp of death, the miserable victim of the most acute mental and bodily agony, with eyes starting from their sockets, hollow cheeks, and transparent hands; lastly, a young child, who, in jovial ignorance of the tragedy, wheels his toy of horse and rider along the chest of the dying man. In the drama there are two Allen Armadales, one of whom supplants the other in the possession of half Barbadoes, while the latter plays Jacob in respect of the betrothed of the former. Allen Armadale No. 1. murders Allen Armadale No. 2 The murdered man leaves a posthumous child bearing his father's name. The murderer has also a son, Allen Armadale, and the dream of the murderer confessing his crime on his deathbed is that in the second generation hatred ending in mutual destruction will rage between the two Armadales. 'I believed in destiny then; I believe in destiny now,' is the cry of the dying murderer—an idea on which every one of the class of novels which came under the archiepiscopal denunciation has been made to turn.

'Colonel Gordon's Exploits in China' is a fair sketch of the formation of the native force, which, having failed under those accomplished scoundrels Ward and Burgevine, proved under Gordon what results may be obtained by drill and leadership from miserable material. Gordon saved the Imperial Government from the Taepings, yet without prejudice to the authority of Pekin. Perhaps to a weak executive the risk from a friend is greater than the peril from a foe, and a careful perusal of the official history of the Sherard Osborne expedition will demonstrate how narrowly China has escaped the fate or the fortune of India. The description given of Gordon's fleet is highly entertaining, and recalls the devices and desperate enterprises of cotton-clad gunboats in American waters.

> The two little vessels which formed his inland navy, named the *Hyson* and the *Firefly*, had been originally built as towboats, for the use of American firms at Shanghai; and in appearance seemed the most unfit of all imaginable craft for warlike purposes. Though differing slightly from each other, a description of one will serve for both these vessels. The *Hyson* was about eighty feet in length, by some sixteen feet breadth of beam. Drawing barely three feet of water, she was enabled to penetrate the most shallow lakes and canals; and, carrying a 32-pounder bow-gun, with a 24-pounder howitzer overlooking the stern, she fully justified the terror which her appearance excited wherever she threatened the rebels. With the exception of a few planks carried up laterally for some feet fore and aft of her paddle-boxes, she was utterly innocent of bulwarks; and could she have been reached by a raking fire of grape, a shot in the unprotected boiler, or an explosive missile in her captain's sleeping-den in the hold, which was made use of as the powder magazine, the career of the *Hyson* and her crew might at any moment have been cut short. Her undaunted captain, however, an Irishman named Davidson—a man far more capable of fighting a battle against enormous odds than of subsequently penning a report of his victory, but utterly inaccessible to the bribes which were frequently offered him as the price of desertion with his vessel—handled this curious little war-ship with such daring and discretion, that the mere sight of the smoke from her funnel was sufficient to put to flight a rebel army; whilst in action the execution done by her limited but well-served battery was probably greater than it has fallen to the share of any two single guns to achieve. In addition to the commander Davidson, only two Europeans, a mate and an engineer, were employed on board. The crew, including a squad of gunners, commanded by a Chinese of extraordinary gallantry, who had been advanced to the grade of lieutenant, were all natives; but it not unfrequently happened that the *Hyson* or the *Firefly*, was made the headquarters of Gordon himself in action, and on such occasions his 'snake-banner,' a peculiar battle-flag or streamer, forming the insignia of Chinese commanders in the field, might always be seen waving in the prow.

From the 'Scottish Farm Labourer' we shall quote one paragraph:—

> The servants, male and female, in bothy districts, have long been hired at what are called 'Feeing Markets,' or 'Hiring Fairs,' and nothing can be more calculated to lower the moral position of the agricultural labourer than these degrading exhibitions. Upon the hiring day, nearly the whole rural population flock to the 'market.' Great numbers give up their places for no other purpose than to obtain the holiday. Assembled in the county town, they crowd its principal street, packed up in one dense and promiscuous mass, and there remain, like the men in the parable, 'idle in the market-place, waiting to be hired.' No attempt is made to enquire into character, and the labourers who thus exhibit themselves, like oxen, are judged like oxen by their physical appearance only. The long day done, the thoughtless lads and lasses compensate themselves for the tedium of the morning by evening orgies, which many of the women at least may have lifelong cause to regret.

These 'Hiring Fairs' are not confined to Scotland. They flourish in Monmouthshire, and are found at Reading within thirty minutes' journey from the metropolis. The manner in which the muscular development, stout arms, and ruddy cheeks of the dairymaids designate are handled and criticised, would warm the heart of Mrs. Beecher Stowe.

Blackwood is perhaps the best of the magazines under notice. 'Banting on Corpulence' is excellent, and the article on General M'Clellan is at the present moment of supreme interest. Mr. Banting resembles Marius. He has been elevated to the pinnacle of glory to be cast into the depths of reprobation.

> Quid illo cive tulisset
> Natura in terris quid Roma beatius unquam?

He had made the discovery of the age. Galileo was a trifler to him. What reward was too high for the man who had abolished 'walking backwards downstairs,' and had for ever silenced the mocking jeers of the *gamins de Londres?* Now poor Banting is the laughter of daily journals and the scorn of grave magazines. Because, with noble devotion to the public good, Mr. Banting admitted a predilection for buttered toast, beer, and pastry, pleaded guilty to four meals a day, and the trick of sliding into arm-chairs, nothing is bad enough for him.

> Exilium et carcer Minturnarumque paludes.

Mr. Banting condemned farinaceous food as unwholesome. He was, beyond all doubt, wrong. The greatest of living warriors has defied M'Clellan, and Meade, and Grant, on farinaceous food. But in refutation of the theorist it was scarcely necessary to galvanise into life the miller of Billericay, who arrived at Herculean strength and Tithonian age by the diet of a simple pudding made by boiling coarse flour in water without salt. The hero of the article is M. Brillat-Savarin, plagiarised shamefully by Mr. Banting. The author of the 'Physiologie du Goût' is an unpleasant person. He divides the human race into those who die of consumption and those who degenerate into fatty monstrosities. Persons with brown hair, a long face, and a sharp nose, fall victims to one malady, men with round eyes and short noses, and dear little creatures with dimpled cheeks and pert noses, all fresh and blooming, to the other. After all, Mr. Banting was not a fat man; his greatest weight was but 202 lbs., a ponderosity which has been held indispensable in archbishops and law lords. Probably, however, Mr. Banting was fat enough not to have run any risk of being a Jack Sheppard. On this point the article is decidedly great, and the following passage may be recommended to the lawyers of the Old Bailey:—

> It is a notable fact in criminal statistics that no fat man was ever convicted of the crime of murder. Stout people are not revengeful; nor, as a general rule, are they agitated by gusts of passion. Few murderers weigh more than ten stone. There are, however, exceptions, which justify us in assuming eleven as the utmost limit of the sliding-scale, but beyond that there is no impulse towards homicide. Seldom has such a phenomenon as a fat housebreaker been paraded at a criminal bar. It is your lean, wiry fellow who works with the skeleton-keys, forces himself through closet-windows which seemingly would scarce suffice for the entrance of the necessary cat, steals with noiseless step along the lobby and up the stairs, glides into the chamber sacred for more than half a century to the chaste repose of the gentle Tabitha, and with husky voice, and the exhibition of an enormous carving-knife, commands silence on pain of instant death, and delivery of her cash and jewels. It is your attenuated thief who insinuates himself under beds, skulks behind counters, dives into tills, or makes prey of articles of commerce arrayed at shop-doors for the temptation of the credulous passenger. A corpulent burglar is as much out of place and as little to be feared as was Falstaff at Gadshill—and what policeman ever yet gave chase to a depredator as bulky as a bullock? Corpulence, we maintain, is the outward sign not only of a good constitution, but of inward rectitude and virtue.

The *New York World* would have embraced with rapturous ardour the panegyrist of 'Little Mac' if the New York public could only have read and digested *Blackwood* on General M'Clellan before November 8, 1864. There is no doubt that the report of the Federal general derives additional merit from the justification, by events which are now historical, of the military plans and political objects therein detailed. The question asked, 'Shall we crush the rebellion at one blow, terminate the war in one campaign; or shall we leave it as a legacy to our descendants?' shows that one man north of 'Mason and Dixie's line' conceived the magnitude of the situation, and was above the 'ninety days' humbug of Stanton. M'Clellan also strongly advised the protection of private property and unarmed persons, with kindness to private soldiers; and here also he showed himself a prudent man. Doubtless, too, some portion of his failures is to be attributed to the ridiculous caprice and envy of the Washington politicians, and the 'Neglee' correspondence has exposed the villany of Stanton, who, within an hour, wrote the foulest libels of and the most devoted letters to the general of the army of the Potomac. But M'Clellan had the grave fault of concealing or disparaging the numbers of his own men and magnifying the Confederate forces. He is welcome to the alternative. If he, being attacked by 30,000 men, chose to declare that his foe was 100,000 strong, then he either lied with Pope, Butler, and the inimitable Stanton, or he was beyond measure defective in one of the most important characteristics of a general. The article blames him for his fault, but sins equally with the object of its censure. To take, for instance, the battle of Sharpsburg, which the Yankees call the battle of Antietam. M'Clellan estimates Lee's army at 97,445 and the Federal army at 87,164. The article gives to Lee 70,000. M'Clellan admits that at Antietam he lost 12,000 men. Besides these, Hooker's command, 6,000 strong, actually abandoned the field. In other words, the hero of Antietam won what the Federals called a victory at the expense of 20,000 men. But what if General Lee had but half the men estimated by the article? what if his whole army did not exceed 35,000 men, as indeed was the fact? Then are not two things demonstrated—first, that M'Clellan boasted equally with Pope; second, that the Confederates achieved a triumph almost unparalleled in modern warfare? Indeed, when the true history of this war is written, the world will be amazed at the disparity of numbers in the earlier struggles; and now also, though the North has gone mad on the repulse of

* *The Cornhill Magazine—Blackwood's Magazine—Fraser's Magazine—Macmillan's Magazine.*

Early by Sheridan on the Winchester Pike, it is placed beyond doubt by the evidence of the Richmond correspondent of the *Times* that Early had orders to stop Sheridan at all hazards, though the Federal army was 35,000 strong, and Early had but a handful of 12,000 men. We will not quarrel with the article, which is on the whole accurate, for imagining that Seven Pines and Fair Oaks were different battles—the fact being that to a place called Seven Pines the Yankees, with their perverse skill in nomenclature, gave the name of Fair Oaks. The political considerations are at least well weighed, and the criticism of M'Clellan's letter of acceptance to the Chicago Convention is most just. 'The advocates of peace,' says the article, 'were silenced (*i.e.* by the turn of military events), and M'Clellan made that declaration of war principles which, while it was so ill-timed as to deprive his course of all appearance of independence, was also so ill-judged as to alienate from him the strength of his party.'

'Cornelius O'Dowd' has a turn at the new Italian Convention, and tries his hand at the defence of the Irish Viceroyalty. *Blackwood* has also a review of 'Enoch Arden,' and a 'Vacation Excursion' in that corner of the Alps where Austria and Bavaria meet.

Fraser is not particularly attractive. Dr. Pusey and the Court of Appeal will perhaps draw some attention. Dr. Pusey is roughly handled by his critic, who is more happy when he talks on his own account than when he is censuring Dr. Pusey for the use of language from which he himself assuredly does not abstain. The points discussed are the famous propositions that every clergyman of the Church of England is not strictly bound to affirm (1) that every part of every book of Holy Scripture was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and is the Word of God; (2) that it is impious or heretical to entertain or express a hope that even the ultimate pardon of the wicked who are condemned in the Day of Judgment may be consistent with the will of Almighty God. The question on the first proposition is evaded and not solved by the suggestion of Dr. Pusey that the words of the Lord Chancellor's decision might be satisfied by proof that a genealogy was spurious. This is of course only advanced by way of a feeler by Dr. Pusey, but the critic falls into the trap. The real point is the nature or definition of inspiration. As the article observes, Usher or Calvin gives a meaning different to that found in Hey's Lectures; Warburton and Tillotson differ from Dr. Chalmers; and it may be added, Dr. Wordsworth differs from Dr. Rowland Williams, the two representing perhaps the notions most distant, yet each holding that Scripture is inspired. Even between such divines as these the question might possibly turn on the degree of inspiration, and the latter divine would perhaps institute comparisons favourable to his view between the Book of Ecclesiastes and the sublime images of 'Paradise Lost.' On the doctrine of the eternity of the punishment a portion of the language employed may be quoted:—

Considering what a doctrine the doctrine in question is if true, the space which it fills in the New Testament is so small, that it is impossible to believe that it occupied in the minds of the writers the position which Dr. Pusey assigns to it. Our Lord speaks of a judgment to come; of rewards and punishments according to the good and evil works of those who are judged; of few stripes for the servant who knew not his Lord's will, of many stripes for the servant who knew it; of not coming out till the uttermost farthing was paid; and besides this, no doubt, of a worm that dieth not and a fire that is not quenched; and also of everlasting fire. This, however, is all. The machinery of legions of fiends, exquisite and refined tortures, and the like, is almost entirely the product of the imagination of the middle ages. Dante and Milton, the legends of saints, and the pictures which represented them—from the hideous daubs on church-walls in Roman Catholic countries, up to the awful imaginations of Michael Angelo—these, and not the New Testament, are the source of that vague popular notion of hell -lurid and vivid because it is vague—which Dr. Pusey cannot bear to see disturbed.

The leaning of Dr. Pusey towards the Evangelical party, as against what is called the Liberal party, of course furnishes matter of attack. The combination of forces whose alliance was not antecedently probable as against a common enemy does not necessarily condemn the allies.

The spirit of Mr. Forster on the reign of Charles I. may be readily discerned by the conclusion arrived at, which is, that 'no one ought to deny the noble qualities of the Cavaliers; but they had one fatal weakness. They were ready to trust a liar because he happened to be a King.'

There are also articles on 'Popular Education,' 'Life at Awamutu,' and 'The Mysterious Maid,' wisely avowing itself to be a sensation tale.

Macmillan has 'The Cambridge Apostles,' the point of which is, that if you wish to make your mark in England you must belong to the strange dozen of men called by the above title, who from time to time have, during their University career, bound themselves together in the links of wisdom and friendship. The list is, beyond doubt, golden; Arthur Hallam, Trench, Alford, W. H. Thompson, Charles Merivale, Alfred Tennyson, Frederick Maurice, and Tom Taylor are the brightest stars in the firmament.

There is also a readable article on Schwalbach and its mineral waters; one on William Blake, 'Pictor Ignotus,' with continuations of 'The Story of Two Families' and of 'A Son of the Soil.'

General Forrest's Flight on the Tennessee River.—The Mobile papers of Oct. 12, publish the following report, addressed to General Taylor:—'Three Yankee gunboats and four transports were up the Tennessee River yesterday, as far as Eastport. They landed 2,000 men and three pieces of artillery. Lieutenant-Colonel Kelly, with Forrest's old command, the 12th Tennessee, surprised the enemy, capturing three guns, 25 prisoners, and 30 horses. Two hundred of the Yankees were drowned in attempting to embark on their boats. The first shot from our batteries penetrated the boiler of one of the transports, and many men were scalded and burned to death. The boats have gone down the river. Our victory was complete.—N. B. Forrest, Major-General.'

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.

FROM A CONFEDERATE CORRESPONDENT.

Paris: November 9.

In my last communication I spoke of the American correspondents of the *Moniteur* and the Liberal journals; let me now say a few words respecting those of the *Patrie* and the *Pays*.

The *Patrie* has no fewer than four American correspondents—one at Richmond, one at Washington, and two at New York. The Washington correspondent, who appends no signature to his correspondence, and the New York correspondent whose letters bear the signature *Albert Fabre*, are those whose communications are the most frequent, and who appear to be the best informed in American affairs. They are both of them severe but just censors of Mr. Lincoln's administration, and also of the policy of the Abolitionist party. They each see in the Confederates the true representatives of those grand principles of constitutional liberty which presided at the formation of the Union, and are of opinion that the Democratic party will succeed in reviving a respect for these principles among the populations of the North. They are, however, not mistaken respecting the present tendencies of the majority of these populations, or at least of those by whom they are directed, and regard the election of Mr. Lincoln as certain. In his last letter M. Fabre gave certain reasons in support of his views which appear to me conclusive. In his communications this correspondent deals rather with the political than with the military side of the American question. The Washington correspondent has a weakness for battles: he recounts the victories of the Confederates with the greatest complacency, and smartly ridicules those which are always being gained, in their bulletins, by General Butler and Secretary Stanton.

The *Pays* has three American correspondents—one at New Orleans, who is M. Emile Lefranc, and two at New York, one of whom signs *Frank Harry* and the other *Alexandre Lustig*. M. Harry is of a witty turn of mind; he is fond of anecdote, and has a special relish for jokes respecting Old Abe. I am told that it is the intention of this correspondent some day to publish a collection of these jokes, but this I will not undertake to guarantee. M. Emile Lefranc is the courageous editor of the *Renaissance Louisianaise*, the only journal published within the limits of the Federal lines, in Louisiana, that still dares to speak worthily and with sympathy of the Southern Confederation. Favourably located at New Orleans, where a portion of the population is still devoted to the cause of the Confederates, with whom it constantly maintains a secret communication in order to acquaint itself with Southern sentiments, M. Lefranc seeks to make these sentiments known to the readers of the *Pays*. This task he fulfils most honestly and without any party feeling, rendering great justice to the North when, by chance, there is good reason for so doing. M. Lefranc is, moreover, perfectly acquainted with Southern institutions, respecting which he has published a volume replete with the most judicious observation.

If I have dwelt somewhat at length on the correspondence of the Paris journals, it has been to show the friends of the Southern cause how greatly the sources from which these journals derive their information have been increased. But a few months ago, the only source from which their information was derived was the Abolitionist journals of New York: hence, how many have been the errors and how great the calumny which have thus been disseminated, and become rooted, in the public mind! But now, a change in these matters has been effected: the Northern journals have lost all their authority, and the two or three *specials*, who assumed the character of oracles when the name America was mentioned, have lost their prestige.

You have no doubt noticed that even M. Malespine himself is insufficient for the *Opinion Nationale*, which, in order to complete the strangling of the South, has engaged the services of an assistant-hangman from New York, M. Cortembert. This Cortembert is so fierce on the Confederate question that he directs no end of arrows from New York against the Agence Havas, which he accuses of having betrayed the North.

You must have remarked that in this American question the *Opinion Nationale* and the *Siècle* have each their eyesore; that of the *Siècle* is the correspondent of the *Times*, and that of the *Opinion* the Agence Havas. No sooner does this correspondent or this agency transmit news favourable to the Confederates, than the *Siècle* and *Opinion* immediately exclaim—the one, 'The *Times* correspondent, whose partiality towards the South is so well known;' the other, 'The Agence Havas, whose partiality towards the South is so generally recognised.' Sometimes these two words, 'the partiality,' become lengthened, and are changed into 'the *disgraceful* partiality,' or 'the *culpable* partiality.' When M. Malespine is disposed to be more than usually cutting, he writes 'disgraceful;' M. Jourdan, who is more dignified, writes 'culpable.'

To finish with the correspondents of the Paris journals, I may tell you that the correspondent of the *Temps* has been seized with a desire for travelling, and that he is now engaged on a tour in the West. In his journey from New York to Springfield (Illinois), he has discovered 'that the Supreme Court of the United States lost all its prestige under the long domination of the Democratic party.' It is evident that if he learnt this on his journey, he has forgotten his French, so that this will serve as a compensation. And travels, it is said, are instructive! After this, believe anything.

In the *Deux Mondes* of Frankfort, an excellent French journal, on which I have not hitherto bestowed the attention which it deserves, I notice a number of interesting and well-written articles on the American war, as also some well-informed communications from New York and Richmond. The last number of this journal contains no less than four articles on America; one on the military situation, two on the state of the finances, and a letter from New York.

I also notice that the *Europe* of Frankfort, a Radical organ, reproduces, in the form of a *feuilleton*, a long article from the *Revue des deux Mondes* upon the American war, from the pen of M. Elysée Reclus. This production, which pretends to be a history of the war, is simply a long diatribe against the South. Allegations of the greatest and most notorious untruth are there most complacently exhibited, and even exaggerated. One reads, among other statements contained in this article, that the Confederate Senate decreed that all Federal officers taken prisoners should be condemned to compulsory labour, and that the negro prisoners of war, whether free or slaves, are all either hanged, whipped to death, or massacred. All that M. Reclus sees in the American revolution is the negro; he bestows but little attention on the white—the negro, and the negro only, absorbs all his sympathy.

I have seen M. Reclus in Louisiana, where he was professor of French. He has taught in one of the Roman families, I do not recollect in which of them, and also, if I am not mistaken, in the family of the brave and lamented General Polk. He is an intelligent man, possessing considerable aptitude, but of an extremely passionate disposition: he married a woman of African origin.

I will only direct your attention to one article which has appeared in the Paris press during the past week; it is by the Baron de Bazancourt, of the *France*, and its subject is a criticism of the military situation in Virginia. The following are the conclusions of this very competent writer:—

One important fact is therefore clear, namely, that the Federals, possessing interests which assured them a victory, have not yet been able, even after mustering their united forces, to obtain this great military result, which would, they think, so powerfully influence the election question.

If we look at Georgia, or at Missouri, we see contention everywhere, annihilation nowhere. The two parties stand erect, formidable, threatening, restless. Everything still depends upon the future and upon the chances of war.

THE COTTON FAMINE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Manchester: November 9, 1864.

The recent decided symptoms of a renewal of distress in the cotton districts, so far from being unabated, are, as might have been expected, growing in intensity with the approach of winter. At the last meeting of the Central Executive Committee held at the Town Hall, Manchester (the Earl of Derby in the chair), the honorary secretary presented but a gloomy report of the past and present, unredeemed by any hopeful expectations in the immediate future. In January last the number of unemployed operatives was (about) 158,000; at midsummer the number had fallen to a little over 100,000; in early autumn it had risen to nearly 136,000; and by the end of last month it reached between 170,000 and 180,000; the highest figure, so far, during the present year. The number on full time last year (155,170) was less by nearly 60,000 than the number so employed in the previous month. Mr. Maclure pointed out, however, even a more unfortunate feature in the present condition of the 'Cotton Famine' than any that had been previously experienced—viz. in the arrival of a time, 'long foreseen,' when others beside the operative class would begin to feel the consequences of a dearth in the raw material.

Between the 1st and 31st of October no fewer than sixty-eight spinners and manufacturers (says the Report) have been compelled to suspend payment; and in this number many are not included who, by private arrangements, have been enabled to prevent their difficulties being publicly known. By these failures, it is estimated that at least 13,600 operatives will be, or have been for the time, entirely thrown out of employment. The increase of indigence has of necessity been considerable, and, unless the state of trade changes for the better much more rapidly than is anticipated, there is every reason to fear there will be a still further increase in the numbers relieved.

The weekly returns presented by Mr. Commissioner Farnall were of the same gloomy character. Up to the close of last week there was an increase in the number of persons receiving parochial relief in the twenty-seven unions of the cotton districts, as compared with the number so relieved in the previous week, of nearly 3,000. Of that serious increase Haslingden contributed upwards of 500, Bury 400, Preston 340, Oldham 320, Manchester 300, Ashton upwards of 200, and Ashton and Salford nearly twice that number. The total number of persons receiving parochial relief during the week adverted to was between 105,000 and 106,000, whereas in the corresponding week of 1861 the number was little beyond 48,000. The increase is therefore nearly 120 per cent. The total weekly cost of outdoor relief last week was 6,363*l.*; whereas in the corresponding week of 1861 it was 2,398*l.*; the increase is, therefore, 165 per cent. With regard to the able-bodied poor receiving relief during last week the number was 8,144, showing an increase of nearly 500 in comparison with the previous week; and more than half of that large number are reported as capable of being employed in public works, but are not so employed at present.

The following more detailed returns will not be without significance, as showing the condition of affairs in towns and villages to which they apply:—

Rochdale.—At the meeting of the Board of Guardians on Friday last, it was reported that during the week 4,300 persons had been relieved at a cost of about 400*l.* From the chief constable's returns of the state of trade it appeared that the usual number of hands employed before the war was 6,744, whereas the number now working full time is 855; working five days a week, 60; four days, 224; three days, 513; two days, 219; and totally unemployed, between 4,000 and 5,000. During the past month nearly 1,000 persons have discontinued to work full time, and the number of totally unemployed has increased by 1,500.

Hyde and Dukinfield.—In this division of the constabulary of Chester there are 89 mills, usually employing before the war

26,450 hands. Of that number only 2,685 are now working full time, between 4,000 and 5,000 four and five days a week, 1,700 three days, 1,600 two days, and between 15,000 and 16,000 are totally unemployed. As evidencing the great distress prevailing in this part of Cheshire, it may be stated that Dukinfield alone had usually nearly 6,000 factory operatives working full time, of which number at the present time only 640 are working full time, 360 four or five days, and between 4,000 and 5,000 are totally unemployed. A slight deduction, however, has to be made on account of those employed under the Public Works Act or those who have emigrated.

PRESTON.—The number of mills now closed in this town is thirty. The trade report published on Monday last shows that three more factories have been closed since last week; that only 9,500 operatives are working full time; 480 five days a week; 1,370 four days; 4,000 three days; 630 two days; and between 11,000 and 12,000 totally unemployed. At the meeting of the local board of guardians on the day above mentioned, it was reported that in the Preston Union there were now upwards of 3,000 cases, comprising between 7,000 and 8,000 persons, who have been relieved at the weekly cost of nearly 500*l.* In comparison with last week those figures show an increase of 140 cases, upwards of 300 persons, and upwards of 20*l.* in cost. The guardians have in their service upwards of 700 able-bodied men. In addition to the number of persons relieved as above, the Relief Committee have this week on their books nearly 3,000 cases, comprising nearly 10,000 persons. As compared with the previous week the increase is 146 cases, comprising 450 persons.

WIGAN.—A slight reduction, apparent rather than real, has taken place in the distress in this town, in consequence of the adoption of the regulations recently enforced by the Central Relief Committee; and some little of the decrease in the pauperism must also be attributed to a slight improvement in the state of employment, which was so bad during the summer that it was scarcely possible for it to become worse. The number of persons on the books of the Relief Committee is now 2,000, whilst the number relieved by the guardians is upwards of 4,000, showing a considerable increase in comparison with the previous week.

STALYBRIDGE.—The monthly returns furnished by the chief superintendent of police for this borough also show a considerable increase. The number of cotton mills usually at work before the war was 39; foundries, 25; bobbin turners, 3; total, 67. The number of mills now working full time with all hands is 7; working full time with part hands, 17; short time, 28; stopped altogether, 15. The number of hands usually employed was 11,493, of which number only 1,700 are working full time, 530 five days, 36 four days and a half, 1,226 four days, 89 three days and a half, 2,120 three days; 1 two days, and between 5,000 and 6,000 totally unemployed. During the past week the Relief Committee alone has relieved 1,553 families.

BLACKBURN.—The increase of pauperism in this borough has been no less marked during the past week. At the weekly meeting of the Relief Committee, held on Monday evening, the number of persons reported to be relieved was 1,693, being an increase of between 400 and 500 since the previous week. It was also reported that the committee have only an available balance in hand of 290*l.* It was remarked that fuel and clothing would be distributed again in the borough as they were last winter. Lady Kay Shuttleworth has contributed 100*l.* through Mrs. Potter for the support of 'sick kitchens' during the approaching season.

THE ROSSENDALE DISTRICT.—The monthly returns for this district show no improvement in comparison with those for other districts. At Bacup the number of hands working full time is 449 against 1,312 for the previous month; four and five days, 1,079 against 1,190; three days, 644 against 525; two days and under, 152 against 160; and entirely out of work, 2,040 against 1,175. And Newchurch, the number working full time is 229, against 683 in the previous month; four and five days, 671 against 608; three days, 248 against 169; two days and under, 70 against 0; entirely without work, 1,161 against 919.

ROCHDALE.—The usual number of hands employed in this borough before the war was about 6,700; of this number only 855 are working full time; 60, five days a week; 224, four days; 513, three days; 219, two days; and between 4,000 and 5,000 are entirely out of employ. Since the previous month 886 persons have discontinued to work full time, and the number of totally unemployed has increased by 1,500.

ARMING THE NEGROES.

(Reprinted from THE INDEX, September 10, 1863.)

WITHOUT placing absolute credence in the startling intelligence brought by the *Hibernian*, it is safe to speculate upon it, if not as an actual fact, at least as an event which has recently entered into the range of immediate probabilities. We have, in the various rumours that preceded this last direct announcement, so many indications that the question of arming the slave population has been under careful and serious consideration in the Confederate councils. It is also certain that the same subject has been frequently discussed by the Confederates and their friends in Europe within the last few months. The Southern mind, therefore, on both sides of the ocean, has been ripening for this step, and, if not already taken, is prepared to take it.

Intelligent observers of the struggle have long been aware that as a last resort the South possessed an element of latent strength which, whenever called forth, would at once shift the numerical superiority to the side which has heretofore been the weaker, and thus end the conflict. Those who knew the temper of the Southern people knew that, if the alternative were fairly presented between independence and the maintenance of negro slavery, it would not hesitate an instant to sacrifice the latter to the former. The choice made, it is not in the Southern character to resort to halfway measures. If the measure became expedient, it would be carried out thoroughly and without delay. If negroes were to be armed, the arming would be *en masse*. The chief obstacle lay not in any fear of the use the negroes might make of their arms: on that subject, except in the few localities where the negro has been corrupted by long contact with the Yankees, no Southern man ever entertained a doubt. The difficulty was in the repugnance which a proud nation, regarding the bearing of arms as a privilege and an honour, must necessarily feel in extending that privilege and that honour to a servile race. But at the call of patriotism the Southerners would sacrifice this repugnance, as they have sacrificed property and life, without hesitation and without vain regrets. Our only reason for doubt, then, is, that we do not believe the stress of military necessity so great as to warrant the use of this last, though infallible, reserve. At the same time it must be remembered that the South is led by men who will not wait until driven by necessity to resort to a measure which they foresee that the public safety may require.

The force which the South can thus suddenly throw into the scale, ensuring prompt success, is easily available. Five hundred thousand would indeed comprise nearly the whole number of able-bodied negroes within the jurisdiction of the Confederacy, but these could be spared with less detriment to agricultural pursuits than any equal proportion of any other labouring population. The South has abandoned all its usual staples. Nothing now is asked from the soil but food. For the production of this black female labour will suffice, and in health, hardiness, and strength the females of the African race far exceed the peasant women of Continental Europe. The rich lands of the cotton region are easily tilled, and the young and aged who cannot fight can grow corn and tend cattle. Nor is there any serious difficulty in organising this force. In the South, unlike the North, the relations between the white man and the black are well defined, and are accepted by both without question; they rest upon a reciprocal confidence and a perfect understanding of each other's character. The white man, therefore, will not feel degraded or in an anomalous position in commanding negro troops. If the discipline of the plantation is less rigorous than that of the camp, it is nevertheless an admirable preparation for the latter, and has moreover the merit of furnishing, ready to hand, a class of efficient noncommissioned officers, accustomed to the exercise of delegated authority over those of their own colour, and to the responsibility for their good behaviour. Even the scarcity of arms is no insuperable obstacle. There are, probably, enough of firearms for a select corps of negroes, already familiar with their use; and as for the others, it may be doubted whether they would not be more effective in the field with the more primitive weapons which the blacksmith's shop on every plantation could readily forge out of the implements of husbandry. A hundred thousand negro pikemen or scythemen would probably be a more formidable body for immediate service than the same number of raw recruits entrusted with unwonted weapons. There is no doubt, also, that the greater portion of the negro levies would be quickly thrown across the Northern border, where at worst they would have to meet foes no better armed or drilled than themselves. As for the negro's courage, when supported and led by his master, not against him, we have never entertained a doubt. The Confederate negro troops will be as much superior in steadiness and effectiveness to the black levies of the North, as the Sepoys under European officers were to the mutinous hordes of Nana Sahib. Besides, what the negro lacks in that intelligence which characterises the white American volunteer, he more than supplies by implicit obedience and insensibility to danger, and he thus possesses the very qualities which professional officers are prone to consider the highest of the soldier.

If the military importance of such an enormous accession to the numerical strength of the Confederacy is almost beyond adequate comprehension, the political and social aspects of the measure assume even more gigantic proportions. It is the most complete scheme of emancipation that visionary ever dreamt of, and, though we cannot disguise the terrible danger of thus subverting at one blow the whole social fabric of a great country, it is undeniable that the experiment, if it has to be tried, is tried in this form with immensely superior practical prospects, and under fewer disadvantages. The liberated slave is spared the demoralisation of a violent change of authority and a disruption of natural ties; he does not learn the duties of freedom by those lessons of domestic treachery, of murder and arson, which the North undertook to teach him; he graduates, so to speak, into liberty, under the same guidance and protection around which the best feelings of his nature have wound themselves from his childhood. What the Yankees promised him as the reward of treason, he receives as the guerdon of honourable service; where they would have implanted corroding hatred, there grow the wholesome fruits of genuine gratitude; where they would have made him the irreconcilable enemy of the Southern white man, under whose care he has advanced from African barbarism to civilisation and Christianity, he continues, what he has always been, a humble but confiding friend, yet with titles to respect from the superior race which he never before, or by any other means, could have enjoyed.

The general belief which the mere rumour that such a step was meditated by the South has received, and the dread which it has inspired in the North, are in themselves the most conclusive refutations of the slanders which have been so industriously propagated in regard to the treatment of the slaves by their masters. Surely, if there were a tithe of that repressed antagonism which Abolitionist fictions describe as the relation between a cruelly oppressed race and their oppressors, this act of the South would be the maddest of suicides. If the inventors of these fictions really were so self-deluded as to believe them, they must scout the simple mention of such an act with ridicule. That they accept it as possible and even probable is a confession that they know the South's trust in the negro, and its reasons for that trust. If the South makes this great sacrifice we shall not be without fears for the future consequences upon its industry, but we shall have the consolation that at last this brave and self-devoted nation stand before a prejudiced world in its true light. The most bigoted partisan of the North will then no longer be able to shut his eyes to the only issue involved in this American struggle—a nation, occupying half of a continent, rising as one man, old and young, male and female, master and serf, in self-defence against against a foreign yoke. Whether or no the gift of freedom be a boon to the negro, time and experience alone can show; but the only flag under which he can earn that dangerous boon will then the cross on the white field, the emblem of hope and faith, and not the polluted and dishonoured stars and stripes, the symbol of dominion and tyranny. It will then be seen whether the professed sympathy for the slave is a genuine feeling, or only a cloak to conceal envy of the master. The hypocrisy of the North, which makes the freeing of the slaves a pretext for enslaving the free man, will no longer find any so lost to shame on this side of the Atlantic as to defend it. Among the nations of the earth the Confederate States will stand distinguished for the most courageous experiment of emancipation on record, an experiment on so unprecedented a scale that the boasted self-sacrifices of other nations in distant colonial possessions sink beside it into utter insignificance. And if ever a nation gave proofs of earnestness of purpose and of a character of heroic mould, it will have been that nation which battled for years against a vastly superior foe, and which did not account wealth, dominion, cherished prejudices, both present and future prosperity—nay, its entire social fabric—too dear a price to pay for independence.

A SOUTHERN HYMN.

BY the sword each freeman draws
Freely for the country's cause;
By our fields with slaughter red,
Battle-gorges choked with dead;
By our bleeding fatherland;
By her countless orphan band;
By her martyrs' nameless grave—
God of Justice, hear and save!

By the helpless left behind;
By the eyes with weeping blind;
Choking voices, that in vain
Call the loved ones back again;
By the homes where never more
Father's step shall cross the door;
By the sighs that load our air—
God of Mercy, hear and spare!

By our burnt and wasted soil;
By our homes, the foeman's spoil;
By the grief that never heals;
By the shame no time anneals;
By the wrongs no tongue can speak—
Fears that blanch the brave man's cheek,
Crimes Thine angels' sight that blast—
God of Vengeance, hear at last!

Once set forth in Freedom's track,
Come what may, we turn not back.
Taking each his life in hand,
Face to face with fate we stand:
One resolve in every eye,
Sword in hand to do or die;
And one prayer in every mouth—
'God of Battles, save the South!'

P. G.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

THE money market is in a much more favourable condition than it was a week or two ago. The engagements have worked down very rapidly, and it is evident that the Bank directors will have without further delay to reduce the terms of discount. Were it not for 'breakers ahead' in one or two quarters, we should have an easier state of things in general. It is highly probable, however, that in the course of the next two weeks, if the Indian payments shall pass off in a satisfactory manner, quite a revulsion will take place for the better, both in discount and the value of stocks. The final step towards this will be in getting the official minimum from 9 to 8 per cent. Subsequently, should affairs prove so encouraging that there shall be a hope of a reaction to 7 per cent., the dread of a bad end of the year might be at once removed, and the current of transactions would be proportionally animated. At once, it is believed the court of directors will place the rate at 8 per cent., since it was to be well understood that in the discount department little or no business is transacting. Of this we may pretty well judge by what is passing out of doors. The rate among the bankers and discount brokers is not more than 8½ per cent. in the general channels, and in exceptional instances the quotation is 8¼ per cent. It is not likely, therefore, many firms will seek assistance with the quotation at least a half to three-quarters per cent. below that figure in the general market. On the Stock Exchange the rates for short loans have been equal to 6 and 7 per cent.; the latest quotations are 4 to 5 per cent.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The bullion market continues to present an improving appearance in every respect, the amount of gold sent into the Bank being 178,000*l.*, against which there has been one withdrawal only of 50,000*l.* for transmission to Alexandria. The arrivals of specie amounted to 313,051*l.*, of which 264,400*l.* was from America, 4,896*l.* from Alexandria, and 43,755*l.* from the Brazils. The shipments of specie for the East by the last packet amounted to only 93,619*l.*, of which 91,073*l.* was in silver, and 2,546*l.* gold. Of this amount 91,073*l.* was for China, 1,546*l.* for Madras, and 1,000*l.* for Alexandria. The silver market remains very steady at previous rates, with but very little doing at present.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The English stock market has continued exceedingly buoyant throughout the week, the dealers being stimulated by the improving state of the money market, and the prospect of an immediate reduction in the *minimum* rate of discount. There has not been quite so much business doing to-day, which is generally the case on the eve of the weekly meeting of the Bank directors, when a change is anticipated, and the dulness has been further increased through its being Lord Mayor's Day. The foreign stock market has also been more active, but the improvement in quotations has not comparatively been so great as in the English securities. In consequence of the unsatisfactory state of monetary affairs at Madrid, Spanish securities have declined; but in nearly all other descriptions there has been a rise. Consols closed this evening at 90⅜ to 90½ for money and the account, which, as contrasted with the rates of this day week, is a rise of about 1 per cent. Exchequer bills have likewise further improved, the present quotation being 5*s.* discount to par. Greek stock closes at 22¼ to 22¾, being an improvement of ¼ per cent. Mexican have advanced 1½ per cent., being at present quotation 28¼ to 28½. Spanish Passives have declined 1 per cent., and the Certificates ⅜ per cent., the quotations being 30¼ to 30½ and 13⅝ to 13⅞ respectively. Turkish Six per Cents of 1854 are 90 to 91, being an advance of 1 per cent., and those of 1862, 72¼ to 72¾, or an advance of ¼ per cent.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

There has again been rather more activity displayed in the market for American Government and railway securities. The dealings have been beyond the usual average of late, and in the early part of the week prices had a firmer tendency, but with the last day or two, in consequence of the pressure of sales, there has been a general decline. United States of 1881 have changed hands at 43, 43¼, 43, 43¾, 43¼, 42¾, 43, 41½, 41¾, and 41; ditto ditto of 1882, at 42¾; Virginian State Six-per-

cents at 27 and 27½; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York Station, first mortgage at 70; ditto on Pennsylvania ditto, first mortgage at 70½, 70¼, and 70; ditto ditto, second mortgage at 64; Erie $100 shares all paid 41, 41½, and 40; Illinois Central Six-per-cents. at 76; ditto ditto $100 shares all paid, at 51½, 52½, 53, 53¼, 52¾, 53, 53¼, 52½, 53¼, 52¾, 53¼, and 52.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market has been dull and drooping all the week, with very little business doing. To-day, on receipt of later news favourable to the Southern arms, an improvement has taken place, and we close firm at 60 to 61.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

The market for Railway Securities has generally throughout the week shown an improving tendency. A large business has been transacted at, in most instances, gradually improving prices. To-day, however, there has been somewhat less buoyancy, and some of the leading stocks have receded about 5*s.* per share. As compared with last week, however, there has been an improvement of 2 per cent. in Great Eastern, Great Northern, London and Blackwall, Chatham and Dover, and London and North Western; of 4 per cent. in Vale of Neath; of 1¼ per cent. in Metropolitan; of 1½ per cent. in North Eastern (York), and South Eastern; of 1 per cent. in West Midland (Oxford), London and Brighton, North Eastern (Berwick), do. do. (Leeds), North Staffordshire, South Devon, and West Cornwall; and of ½ per cent. in Caledonia, Midland, and North British. On the other hand there has been a decline of 1 per cent. in Edinburgh and Glasgow, Great Southern and Western, and North London; of ½ per cent. in Cornwall; and of ¼ per cent. in Great Western. There has been rather more activity displayed in the Foreign Share market, and also in the shares connected with the British Possessions, but prices, though firm, do not present any important variations.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The following suspensions have taken place since our last number:—Messrs. von Leesen & Co., of Hamburg, a large and respectable firm; M. Posno, a diamond merchant, of Amsterdam, liabilities about 170,000*l.*; Messrs. Dovey, Benjamin, & Co., of Crosby Square, in the Brazilian trade, owing to the financial disasters at Rio, liabilities not known; Messrs. Darby & Co., wholesale grocers, liabilities about 80,000*l.*; Messrs. Rougemont, Lowenberg, & Co., of Paris, bankers, liabilities supposed to reach about 600,000*l.*

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

At a meeting of the proprietors of the Vauxhall Bridge Company a dividend was declared of 15*l.* per share, free of income-tax, and it was stated that the recent reduction in the passenger toll from 1*d.* to ½*d.* had proved most beneficial to the shareholders.—The Panulcillo Copper Company have issued a statement preparatory to the meeting to be held on the 29th inst. The accounts for the half-year ending June 30 show a balance of 4,863*l.* net profit in the Company's favour, or 2,654*l.* after payment of all the preliminary expenses, &c. The directors, in accordance with the articles of association, have set aside 10 per cent. of the net profits, after allowing interest on paid-up capital to the reserve fund, and recommend the payment of a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum, including interest at 5 per cent. on the paid-up capital, free of income tax, which will leave 410*l.* to be carried forward to the current account.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

The produce markets have shown increased firmness in most departments since our last report, and although transactions are not greatly extended, there is more doing generally. Imports have continued very light, and this, whilst tending to keep operations upon a limited scale for want of supplies, has added to the stability of prices. Deliveries from warehouse go on satisfactorily, and stocks are in many cases decreasing. The grain trade throughout the country continues very quiet but very steady, and at Mark Lane prices of both wheat and flour remain the same as last week. The provision markets have been inactive. Fine American butters have, however, sold to a fair extent at 106*s.* to 112*s.*: middling sorts meet very little attention. Bacon is depressed in value generally, but short-rib in American middles still sell at 44*s.* to 45*s.* per cwt. Beef is very dull of sale, and offering at reduced rates. A good business has been concluded in sugar at fully 6*d.* advance, and the market closes firm, with but small supplies offering. Coffee is 1*s.* dearer on Ceylon kinds, and East India descriptions have also sold at former prices, but Brazil coffees remain out of demand. The tea trade has improved slightly, and for common and medium Congous quotations are stronger. Small public sales of Assam have gone at very full prices. Spices are dull of sale, and nutmegs 1*d.* and 2*d.* cheaper. For soft grain rice there is a much better demand at advancing prices. Saltpetre has realised 30*s.* cash for fine, being dearer. American refined petroleum sells steadily at 2*s.* per gallon. Crude is quoted 16*l.* 10*s.* per tun. The oil trade continues very dull. Sperm is quoted nominally 64*l.* to 66*l.* Pale seal 48*l.*, and pale Southern 46*l.* Linseed oil is a shade firmer at 32*s.* 9*d.* to 33*s.* Pale rape is firm at 44*s.* 6*d.* to 45*s.*, and brown at 42*s.* 6*d.* to 43*s.* per cwt. Fine palm is steady at 36*s.* The setting-in of frost at St. Petersburgh whilst a considerable quantity of tallow, is not yet shipped, has increased the value of this article here, and with an active market prices are now quoted for Y.C. old, 40*s.* 6*d.*; new 41*s.* on the spot; 42*s.* 6*d.* spring; 43*s.* 6*d.* buyers March. Hemp is firmer at 31*l.* to 34*l.* for clean Russian. Jute has again risen 10*s.* to 20*s.* per ton, principally on the medium qualities. Common to good sold to-day at 11*l.* to 25*l.* per ton. Cotton was flat just after our last, but is firmer, and rather dearer. There is an enquiry for East Indian indigo of the lower qualities, and prices are quite up to those of the October sales. The periodical sales of cochineal have gone at very full prices to a small advance. Cutch is in good demand at 22*s.* 6*d.* for Pegu. Metals are nearly all in better demand. Scotch pig iron has risen to 51*s.* 9*d.* and 51*s.* 10½*d.* Spelter to 21*l.* 15*s.* Straits tin to 97*l.* three months prompt, and 95*l.* cash.

Liverpool, Wednesday, November 9.—Our cotton market was animated early in the week, but there was subsequently a falling off in business, though within the last day or two there has again been an improvement, and prices once more show a tendency to recovery, but the advance in prices has not been large. The sales this week have been 43,000 bales, of which 17,000 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year have been 2,238,846 bales; and to the same period in 1863, 2,303,418 bales. There have been imported this year 1,922,904 bales, against 1,335,987 bales last year. The trade have taken this year 1,342,415 bales; and in 1863, 1,163,301 bales. The exports this year have been 477,654 bales, against 477,640 bales last year. There have been taken on speculation this year 402,595 bales, and in 1863, 680,996 bales. The stock at the present time is 390,215 bales, against 149,306 bales last year. The latest quotations were:—Fine Egyptian, 24*d.* to 24½*d.*; Dhollerah, 15¾*d.* to 16*d.*; Middling Upland, 23*d.* to 23½*d.*; Orleans, 23½*d.* to 23¾*d.*; Mobile, 23¼*d.* to 23¾*d.*

There has been very little change in the Manchester markets during the week, but within the last day or two there has been rather more regularity as regards prices, and a slight increase in the demand for some of the better classes of goods. Shipping yarns now show rather more firmness, and the spinners generally are asking a slight advance in prices, which has checked business—buyers not feeling disposed to give increased rates. In home trade yarns the market is rather stronger, but without leading to much business, and prices remain nearly the same as last week. Spinners appear very easy about prices, believing that a further advance must for a time take place. The cloth market is rather quiet, but owing to the scarcity of stocks sellers have only been able to complete a few transactions at prices rather over those of last week. In most cases manufacturers are asking higher prices, which restricts business, buyers evidently being more cautious than they were a few days ago. The latest quotations were:—⅞ Grey Printers, 6*s.* 6*d.* to 13*s.* 3*d.*; ⅝ Grey Madapollams, 5*s.* 9*d.* to 8*s.* 9*d.*; ⅝ Grey Printers, 8*s.* 9*d.* to 15*s.* 9*d.*; ⅝ Grey Shirtings, 10*s.* 3*d.* to 22*s.*; Water Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.*; No. 30, 1*s.* 10*d.* to 2*s.* 4*d.*; No. 40, 2*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* 9½*d.*; Mule Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 2½*d.* to 1*s.* 10*d.*; No. 30, 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 1*d.*; No. 40, 1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.* 3*d.*; No. 50, 1*s.* 11*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*; No. 60, 2*s.* 2*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.*; No. 70, 2*s.* 5*d.* to 2*s.* 11*d.*; No. 80, 2*s.* 7*d.* to 3*s.* 1*d.*; No. 90, 2*s.* 9*d.* to 3*s.* 3*d.*; and No. 100, 3*s.* to 3*s.* 7*d.*

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Ships Arrived.

At Liverpool.—November 2: The Gerberdina and Jeanette Emilie, from Pernambuco. The Pilot Fish, from Rio Janeiro.—November 8: The Betsey, from Demerara. The Virgen del Carmen, from Havana.—November 9: The Imogene, from Pernambuco.

At Gravesend.—November 5: The Aakander, from Pernambuco.

At Bristol.—November 2: The Salem, from Havana.

At Pill.—November 2: The Salem, from Havana.

At Queenstown.—October 7: The Ionian, The Lady Rowena, from Callao. The Victoria, from Demerara. The Orient, The Oriental, from Jamaica. The Kate, from St. John's, N.B. The Brothers, from Demerara. The Rhea Sylvia, from Callao.

At Milford.—November 1: The Elbe, from Demerara.

At Falmouth.—November 7: The Trifolium, The Catherina, from Rio Janeiro.—October 8: The Gem, from Buenos Ayres.

At Portland.—November 2: The Solis, from Montevideo.

At Plymouth.—November 3: The Maria, from Rio Janeiro.

At Clyde.—November 3: The Inglewood, from Havana.—November 5: The Jesusa, from Havana.—November 7: The Ulidia, The Anna Bell, from Havana.

Off the Lizard.—November 1: The Zestria, from Buenos Ayres.

At Crookhaven.—November 1: The Wadel (? Widar), from Montevideo.—November 2: The Terrible, from Montevideo.—November 3: The Floating Cloud, from Bahia.

At Belfast.—November 1: The Lizzie, from Buenos Ayres.

At Montevideo.—September 22: The Parana (steamer), The Queen, from Liverpool.—September 26: The Sagitta, from Liverpool.—September 28: The Kepler (steamer), from Liverpool.

At Wilmington.—October 19: The Owl (steamer), from Bermuda.

At Bermuda.—October 19: The Lady Stanley (steamer), The Let Her Rip (steamer), The Little Hattie (steamer), The Fox (steamer), from Wilmington.

At Nassau, N.P.—October 7: The Hope (steamer), The Falcon (steamer) from Wilmington.

At Halifax, N.S.—August 28: The Asia (steamer), from Bermuda, and left October 8 for Liverpool.—October 14: The Surprise, from Liverpool. The Wild Hunter, from Cuba.—October 16: The Eclipse, from Malaga.—October 17: The Eureka, from Porto Rico.—October 21: The Summer, from Liverpool. The Frank, from St. Thomas's. The Fearless, from Cardiff.—October 24: The Mavrocordatos (steamer), from Bermuda.—October 26: The Tecumseh, from Liverpool. The Canada (steamer), from Liverpool.

At Rio Janeiro.—September 2: The Uncas, from Newcastle.—October 3: The Lota, The Englishman, from Liverpool.—October 4: Nordistjenner, from Liverpool. October 5: The Catherine Scott, from Sunderland.—October 6: The Benton, from Newcastle.—October 8: The Mount Pleasant, from Liverpool.

At Buenos Ayres.—September 12: The Stranger, from Newport. The Elizabeth, from London.—September 13: The Queen of Peace, from Liverpool.—September 14: The Josepha, from London. The Helen Morrow, from Newport.—September 16: The Dauntless, from London.—September 17: The Rewcridina, from Newport.—September 22: The Forte, from Liverpool.—September 24: The Queen of the Dart, from Newport. The Wilhelmina, from London.

Ships Sailed.

Liverpool.—November 2: The Satellite, for Rio Janeiro.—November 3: The Pantheon, The Tarapaca, for Valparaiso.—November 6: The Aureliana, for Havana. The Mistletoe, for Nassau. The Eleanor, for Bermuda.—November 7: The Augusta, for Rio Janeiro. The Stag (steamer), for Halifax, N.S.

Gravesend.—November 3: The Anunciacion, for Havana.

Deal.—November 3: The Markland, for Halifax, N.S.—November 4: The Helen, for Jamaica.—November 5: The Early Bird, The Morning Light, for Demerara.—November 8: The Orinoco, for Rio Janeiro.

Newport.—October 31: The Courier, for St. Thomas's. The Jupiter, for Havana.—November 1: The Ellen Stewart, for St. Thomas. The Camilla, for Nassau.—November 2: The Tyro, for Bermuda.—November 6: The Camilla, for Rio Janeiro.

Cardiff.—November 1: The Atalanta, for Rio Janeiro. The Amalia, for St. Thomas. The G. G. Mosley, for Havana.—November 2: The H. A. Stephenson, The Antverpia, The Aspasia, for Montevideo. The Europa, for Bermuda.—November 4: The Martha, for Bahia. The Danish Princess, The Vortex, for Bermuda. The Clansman, for St. Thomas.—November 5: The Glengariff, for Nassau. The Clarendon, for Bermuda.

Shields.—November 8: The Peru, for Callao.

Swansea.—November 1: The Betty, for Bahia.—November 2: The Clarendon, for Valparaiso.—November 3: The Pembroke, for Halifax.

Clyde.—November 7: The Jamaica, for Jamaica.

Troon.—November 2: The Tyrol, for Havana.—November 5: The Stonewall Jackson, for Havana.—November 9: The Mary Jane, for Havana.

Shields.—November 4: The Phœbe, for Rio Janeiro.—November 5: The Tynedale, for Callao.

Halifax, N.S.—October 18: The City of Petersburg (steamer), for Nassau.—October 22: The Ptarmigan (steamer), for Nassau.—October 26: The Colonel Lamb (steamer), for Nassau.

Bermuda.—September 30: The Banshee (steamer), for Wilmington.—October 20: The Melita (steamer), for Liverpool.

Nassau, N.S.—September 29: The Coquette (steamer), for Wilmington.

Rio Janeiro.—September 25: The Maria Adelaide, for Falmouth.—September 26: The Nannette, for Falmouth.—September 30: The North Star, for Queenstown.—October 3: The Camarsac, The Jeune Marie, for Falmouth.—October 6: The Bertha and Pauline, for Falmouth.

Montevideo.—September 17: The Byzantium, for England.—September 20: The Etincelle, The San Augustin, for England.—September 23: The Essore, for England.—September 24: The Emma, for England.—September 25: The Hound, for Liverpool.

Buenos Ayres.—September 13: The Auguste, for England.—September 14: The Lina, for England.

Ships Loading.

At London.—For Bermuda: The Jane Smith, The Whisper. For Demerara: The Emerald Isle, The Guiding Star, The Couranto, The Warrior Queen, The Express. For Nassau (N.P.): The Laughing Water; Davison Brothers & Co. The Indian Chief, The Hannah; J. Worley. For Montevideo and Buenos Ayres: The Louise Alwardt, , The Para, The Meppel. For New York: The Hudson. The E. W. Stetson, The Jenny. For Callao: The Star of the Sea. For Havana: The Maria Victorina.

At Liverpool.—For Bermuda: The Driving Mist, The Alexander. For Matamoros: The St. George, The Geertina, The Rosina Claypole, The Clara Manning, The Esther, The Ocean Belle, The Friedrich and Adolph. For Nassau (N.P.): The Sovereign, The Clarence, The U. S. C., The Crocodile. For St. Thomas: The Canondah, The Cleveragh, The Her Majesty, The St. Thomas. For Demerara: The Tyne, The Ilos, The Eva, The Florence, The Achilles *viâ* Troon.

At Grimsby.—For Havana: The Zachris Franzen.

At Bristol.—For Valparaiso: The Clarendon.

At Cardiff.—For Bermuda: The Lalla Rookh, The Princess Royal, The Clarendon, The Nutfield, The G. F. Lovett, The Lovetand. For St. Thomas's: The Helena. For Nassau: The Glengariff, The Killia Lass, The Cuoana.

At Gloucester.—For Havana: The Superb.

At Newport.—For Bermuda: The Mavourneen. For Nassau: The Eulia. For St. Thomas's: The Devon, The Macaulay, The Courrier, The Denmark, The Amazon, The Lydia Mary, The Chieftain, The Osborne.

At Swansea.—For Halifax: The Echo.

At Glasgow.—For Bermuda: The S. Berine. For Demerara: The Eskdale. St. Thomas's: The Maple Valley.

MOVEMENTS OF BLOCKADE-RUNNERS.

(From the *Liverpool Journal of Commerce.*)

We received the following telegram last evening, which puts us in possession of the latest movements of the blockade-running fleet:—

Arrived at Havannah.—The St. Francis, with 1,050 bales of cotton, and the Jane, with [illegible] bales. The Denbigh was daily expected. All from Galveston. Sailed.—The Lizzie and Susannah and Kate.

Repairing at Nassau.—The steamers Ella, Blenheim, Lucy, Beatrice, Syren, Scotia, Will-o'-the-Wisp, Mary, May, and Virginia. Sailed.—The Falcon.

At Charleston.—The steamers Coquette, Stag, and Diana. The Constance has been totally lost.

Arrived at Bermuda from Wilmington—The Wild Rover and Owl.

Captured.—The steamers Hope, Flora, Bat, and Let Her Rip.

At Wilmington.—The steamers Badger, Banshee, Atlanta, and Edith.

On shore.—The steamers Lynx, Night Hawk, and Condor.

At Halifax.—The steamers Helen, Colonel Lamb (since sailed), Ptarmigan, and Dominican. The Racer and City of St. Petersburg have returned twice.

At Mobile.—The steamers Virgin, Red Gauntlet, Mary, and Heroine, all of which are expected to arrive at Havannah shortly.

Among the Contents of The Index *of November* 3 *are*:—

Mr. John Bright.
Notes on Events of the Week at Home and Abroad.
Letter from Canada. From Buffalo to Cleveland.
The Federal Defeat on Charles City Road.
Mr. Bright's Letter.
'The Progress of Conquest.'
Capture of the 'Florida.'
The War. Presidential Elections.
The Trial of Muller. Arming the Negroes.
The Confederate Cause in France.
The Factory Operatives and the War.
'Dahome.'
The 'Quarterly' and 'British Quarterly.'
Tabular Statement of Presidential Elections.
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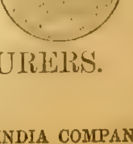

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THERE are, at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

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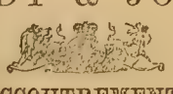
MILITARY  AND NAVAL

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SUPPLEMENT

TO

THE INDEX

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

VOL. IV.—No. 133.] LONDON: THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 10, 1864. [GRATIS.

The Seizure of the Confederate States Steamer 'Florida.'

WE are authorised to publish the following

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE COMMANDER.

Bahia: October 13, 1864.

SIR,—It is with great pain that I have to report the seizure of the Confederate States steamer *Florida*, lately under my command.

I arrived at this port on the 4th inst., at 9 P.M., to procure coal and provisions, and also to get some slight repairs, after a cruise of sixty-one days. Just after anchoring, a boat passing around us asked the name of our vessel, and, upon receiving our reply, stated that the boat was from Her Britannic Majesty's steamer *Curlew*. Next morning I found that the United States steamer *Wachusetts* was at anchor near us, but no English steamer; so I at once concluded that the boat which had hailed us the evening before was from the *Wachusetts*.

We were visited on the morning of the 5th by a Brazilian officer, to whom I stated my wants, and was informed by him that he would report the same to the President, and that until his answer was received we could hold no communication with the shore. At noon I received a communication (which was left on board the *Florida*) from the President, stating that he was ready to receive me. At our interview he informed me that forty-eight hours would be allowed me to refit and repair, but that should his chief engineer, whom he would send on board to examine the machinery, deem the time too short, he would grant the necessary extension. He was most urgent in his request that I would strictly observe the laws of neutrality, at the same time stating to me that he had received the most solemn assurances from the United States Consul that the United States steamer would do nothing while in port contrary to the laws of nations and of Brazil; and that he desired the same from me, which I unhesitatingly gave. The Brazilian Admiral, who was present at the interview, suggested that I had better move my vessel in between his ship and the shore, as our proximity to the *Wachusetts* might cause some difficulty. My assurances to the President seemed to set his mind at rest on the score of any collision between the two vessels, and upon leaving him I immediately repaired on board and moved the *Florida* close inshore to the position suggested by the Admiral. I found the Brazilian engineer on board, and was informed by him that it would require four days to repair the pipe of the condenser. Feeling now no apprehension of any difficulty occurring while in port, and wishing to gratify the crew with a short liberty, not only on the score of good conduct, but also of health, I determined to permit one watch at a time to go ashore for twelve hours, and sent the port watch off that afternoon. About 7.30 P.M. a boat came alongside, stating that she was from the United States steamer *Wachusetts* with the United States Consul, who had an official communication for the commander of the *Florida*. The letter, with the card of the Consul, was handed to First Lieutenant Porter, who, after examining it, and finding it directed to Captain Morris, 'sloop *Florida*,' returned it unopened to the Consul, stating that it was improperly addressed: that the vessel was the Confederate States steamer *Florida*, and that when the letter was so directed it would be received. The next day (6th), a Mr. de Vidiky came on board, having received a letter from the United States Consul enclosing one for me. He requested me, before receiving my letter, to permit him to read to me the one sent to him. It was a request to Mr. de Vidiky to carry a challenge to the commander of the *Florida*, and, in case of its acceptance, to offer his (the Consul's) influence in having the repairs of the *Florida* speedily finished. I informed Mr. de Vidiky that I had heard quite enough, and, finding the letter to me still improperly addressed, declined receiving it; but at the same time said to him that I had come to Bahia for a special purpose, which being accomplished, I should leave; that I would neither seek nor avoid a contest with the *Wachusetts*, but, should I encounter her outside of Brazilian waters, would use my utmost endeavours to destroy her. That afternoon, the port watch having returned, I sent the starboard watch (the other half of the crew) ashore on liberty, going also myself in company with several of the officers. From our nearness to the *Wachusetts*, persons on board of that vessel could well see these men leaving the ship. At 3.30 A.M. I was awakened by the proprietor of the hotel at which I was staying, and told that there was some trouble on board the *Florida*, as he had heard firing and cheering in the direction of the vessel, but on account of the darkness was unable to discern anything. I immediately hastened to the landing, and was informed by a Brazilian officer that the United States steamer *Wachusetts* had run into and seized the *Florida*, and was then towing her out of the harbour. I hurried off to the Admiral's vessel, and was told by him that he was at once going in pursuit, which he did as soon as steam was raised on board a small steamer belonging to the fleet. The Admiral's ship being a sailing vessel, sloop-of-war, was taken in tow by the steamer, and went out of the harbour. He returned in the afternoon with all his vessels, having been unable to overtake the *Wachusetts*. Upon mustering the officers and crew left on shore, I found there were four officers, viz. Lieutenant Barron, Paymaster Taylor, Midshipman Dyke, and Master's Mate King, and seventy-one men, of whom six had escaped by swimming from the *Florida* after her seizure. Of the actual occurrences and loss of life on board the *Florida*, I have been able to find out very little. The substance of what I have gathered from the six men who escaped is as follows: That at 3.15 A.M. on October 7, Master T. T. Hunter, jun., being in charge of the deck, the *Wachusetts* left her anchorage, and taking advantage of the darkness, steamed for the *Florida*, from whom she was not seen until close aboard; that she was hailed by Mr. Hunter, who, receiving no answer, called 'all hands' to quarters. Before the officers and crew were all on deck, the *Wachusetts* struck the *Florida* on her starboard quarter, cutting her rail down to the deck and carrying away her mizen-mast, at the same time pouring a volley of musketry and a charge of canister from her forecastle pivot-gun upon our decks. The *Wachusetts* then backed off, and demanded our surrender, to which demand Lieutenant Porter declined to accede. The enemy then fired again and again into us, which was returned by the officers and crew of the *Florida*. Another demand was then made for our surrender, and Lieutenant Porter answered, 'I will surrender conditionally.' The enemy then stopped firing, and the commander called for Captain Morris to come on board; Lieutenant Porter answered that Captain Morris was on shore, and that he as commanding officer would come on board as soon as he could get a boat ready. The enemy then sent a number of armed boats to take possession of the *Florida*. As soon as Lieutenant Porter was heard to surrender, fifteen of our crew jumped overboard to escape capture, of whom only six succeeded, the remaining nine having been shot in the water by the men on the forecastle and in the boats of the *Wachusetts*. Mr. Hunter was wounded and a number of men killed. The enemy made fast a hawser to the foremast of the *Florida*, and, after slipping her cable, towed her out to sea.

I called in person on the President as soon as possible, but could get no further information from him. On the 8th, I sent a protest to the President, of which I send you a copy, marked 2. On the 10th, our agent was informed by the interpreter that the President did not intend to answer my protest, as the Confederate Government had not been recognised by Brazil, and that I could find all the official correspondence in the newspapers. I then wrote the letter marked 3, in which reference is made to a letter from the President marked 4. Just before leaving Bahia, having received no answer, I sent our agent, Mr. James Dwyer, to the President. The result of his visit is contained in his letter marked 5. The Bahia papers contain a number of reports as to the killed and wounded on board the *Florida*, all of which I have thoroughly sifted and find no foundation for the same.

At the time of her seizure there were about twenty-five tons of coal on board, most of which was dust. The list of officers captured is contained in the report of Paymaster Taylor, marked 6.

The enclosed newspaper is an official extra, containing all the Brazilian official correspondence in reference to the *Florida*.

I am, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) C. MANIGAULT MORRIS,
Lieutenant Commanding C. S. Navy.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

(TRANSLATION.)

Consulate of the United States of America,
Bahia, October 5, 1864, 9 A.M.

To His Excellency Antonio Joaquim da Silva Gomes,
President of the Province of Bahia.

SIR,—This morning a steamer anchored in this port bearing the flag adopted by those who are involved in the rebellion against the Government of the United States of America, and I am informed that the said vessel is the *Florida*, which is engaged in capturing vessels navigating under the flag of the United States of America, and in destroying them by making bonfires of them and their cargoes.

The vessel in question is not commissioned by any recognised Government whatever, and her officers and crew are composed of persons of various nationalities, who are not subject to any international or civilised law, and are consequently not entitled to the privileges and immunities conceded to vessels navigating under the flag of a civilised nation. I therefore protest, in the name of the United States of America, against the admission of this vessel to free practice, by which she might be enabled to supply herself with coal, provisions, tackle, or utensils of any kind whatever, or receive on board any persons whatever; finally, against any assistance, aid, or protection which might be conceded to her in this port, or in any other belonging to this province.

I likewise claim that the piratical cruiser which, in combination with the pirate *Alabama*, violated the sovereignty of the Imperial Government of Brazil, by capturing and destroying vessels belonging to citizens of the United States of America, within the territorial waters of Brazil, near the island of Fernando de Noronha, in April, 1863, be detained with all her officers and crew, in order to answer for so flagrant a violation of the sovereignty of the Government of Brazil and of the rights of citizens of the United States within the jurisdiction of the Brazilian Government.

I avail myself of this occasion to renew to your Excellency the assurance of my distinguished consideration.—I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,

Your obedient servant,
THOMAS F. WILSON,
Consul of the United States.

(The above agrees with the original in English.
(Signed) A. S. BORGES, interpreter.)

Answer of the President of the Province.

Palace of the Government of the Province of Bahia,
October 5, 1864.

In a note dated this day, Mr. Thomas F. Wilson, Consul of the United States, claims that the steamer *Florida*, now anchored in this port, shall not be admitted to free practice, nor obtain permission to provide herself with coal, provisions, supplies, and utensils of any kind whatever, nor receive on board any person whatever; he likewise requests, that as this cruiser, in combination with the *Alabama*, violated the sovereignty of the Imperial Government of Brazil, by capturing and destroying vessels belonging to citizens of the United States of America, within the territorial waters of the Empire, near the island of Fernando de Noronha, in April 1863, she may be detained with all her officers and crew, in order to answer for this flagrant violation of the sovereignty of the Government of Brazil and of the rights of citizens of the United States, within the jurisdiction of the Brazilian Government.

In reply to the Consul, I have to inform him, that as the said vessel belongs to the Confederate States, in whom the Imperial Government recognised the character of belligerents, all the assistance required by humanity may be furnished her, which does in no wise constitute assistance for warlike purposes, as laid down by international law, and does not conflict with that neutrality which this Government studiously seeks to preserve, and has always preserved, in the contest between the States of North America. The undersigned cannot, therefore, admit the first portion of the claim of the Consul, in the general manner in which it was presented, and particularly in relation to those articles considered as contraband of war in conformity with instructions issued on that subject by the Imperial Government, and according to which the said vessel will only be permitted to remain in this port for a length of time absolutely indispensable.

In regard to the second part of his note, it is my duty to observe to the Consul that even if it were fully established that the *Florida* had previously violated neutrality, such a proceeding would scarcely authorise us to refuse her permission to enter the ports of the Empire, and could never warrant us to commit the acts required by the Consul, which would be equivalent to a hostile rupture, without the intervention of the Supreme Government of the State, which is alone competent to authorise such a rupture.

I renew to the Consul the assurance of my esteem and consideration.

(Signed) ANTONIO JOAQUIM DA SILVA GOMES,

To Mr. Thomas F. Wilson, Consul of the United States.

Interruption of Relations with the American Consul.

Palace of the Government of Bahia,
October 7, 1864.

Sir—The undersigned having been informed of the serious outrage perpetrated by the steamer *Wachusetts*, of the United States of North America, in violating the neutrality of the Empire and contemning its sovereignty, by capturing treacherously and under shade of the night, within the very port of this capital, the steamer *Florida* of the Confederate States—and, as in addition to the most sacred regulations of international law observed among civilised nations, prohibiting the commission of such reprehensible acts by civilised nations, the undersigned regarded as a pledge of respect for the neutrality of Brazil the word of honour of Mr. T. F. Wilson, the Consul of the United States of North America, who, in the most explicit terms, undertook to secure a compliance on the part of the captain of the said steamer *Wachusetts* with his duty by respecting the sovereignty of the Empire and by abstaining from all hostile acts whatever within its territorial waters—the undersigned cannot refrain from protesting solemnly and energetically against the outrage alluded to, and the more so as he considers the Consul himself as implicated therein, inasmuch as, notwithstanding his formal promise, he has volunteered no explanation tending to diminish his responsibility.

And as the occurrence, and the silence hitherto observed on the subject by the Consul of the United States, evidently prove that the undersigned can no longer confide in the said Consul to cause the neutrality and sovereignty of the Empire to be respected by the belligerent vessels of the said States, he has resolved to interrupt official relations with him, until the Imperial Government, which is about to be informed of this unexpected and deplorable event, shall have deliberated upon the subject, in full possession of all the facts and according to its superior wisdom. The Consul is likewise hereby notified, that positive orders have been to-day issued to the different authorities to refuse admission to the *Wachusetts* into any of the ports of this province. For this purpose the most energetic and forcible means will be employed (according to the instructions of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of June 23 of last year), if such shall be rendered necessary by the reluctance and criminal obstinacy manifested by that steamer in failing to comply with the intimations conveyed to her, thus continuing to infringe upon the duties imposed by international law and the honour and dignity of her own flag.

ANTONIO JOAQUIM DA SILVA GOMES.

THE BRAZILIAN ACCOUNT.

(From the *Jornal do Bahia.*)

THE Confederate States' steamship *Florida*, arriving from Sainte-Croix-de-Ténériffe, after a voyage of sixty-one days, entered port on the 5th, in order to repair her engines, and to take in water and provisions; her crew having been for a considerable time reduced to a daily ration of salt meat and compelled to drink filtered sea-water. The American Consul, appealing to the provincial president, demanded that he should refuse this vessel an entrance into the port, and that he should inflict some punishment upon her for having violated the Brazilian waters by burning an American vessel near the island of Fernando de Noronha. The president replied that he had granted the vessel two days in which the repairs necessary to her engines were to be made.

At the time of the *Florida's* arrival there was also in port the Federal steamship *Wachusetts*, and on the *Florida's* entrance the deck of the former vessel immediately presented a scene of the greatest excitement and commotion. The president of the province, foreseeing that an engagement was likely to take place, obtained the consent of the American Consul that the country should be duly respected, and that no act inconsistent with neutrality should be committed either in the port or within the neutral limits; and with a view to still greater security, the *Florida* placed herself beneath the broadside of the guardship.

On the 6th, the crew requiring rest, half of their number received permission to go on shore, and returned on board in the evening, several of the sailors being much intoxicated. The commander of the *Florida*, thinking himself perfectly safe in a neutral port, had permitted eighty of his crew and some officers to sleep on shore on the nights of the 6th and 7th inst. At ten minutes past three in the morning, the officer of the watch, Hunter Junior, was surprised in noticing that the *Wachusetts* was shifting from her moorings, whereupon he summoned his men to their posts, which was, however, a task difficult of accomplishment. At the same moment he found his vessel attacked by several boats, each of which was filled with armed men, who, upon receiving a charge of musketry from on board the *Florida*, were immediately supported by the *Wachusetts*. This vessel, without exciting suspicion, and taking advantage of the night, which was very dark, to hide the steam arising from her engines, had slipped her cables and advanced rapidly towards the *Florida*, passing on her way beneath the stern of the corvette *D. Januaria*, by which latter vessel she was ordered to cast anchor immediately; so far, however, from listening to these orders, the commander of the *Wachusetts* hastily directed his vessel towards the stern of the *Florida*, which had been turned towards the north by the ebbing of the tide. Scarcely had he approached the vessel when he gave orders to fire the gun placed on the prow of the *Wachusetts* and loaded with small shot, which carried away a mast, sending at the same time a number of his crew on board the *Florida*, from which vessel only a feeble discharge had been received.

It appears that several lives were lost on both sides in this engagement, in which the weapons used were side-arms and revolvers. It was, however, of short duration, since the united force of the *Florida* did not amount to more than fifty men. Amongst the killed is the officer of the watch, who was struck by a bullet in the breast and afterwards hanged. It is reported that an officer named Stone, after having himself killed six men, finding himself so surrounded that he was unable to make any further resistance, fired a pistol into his mouth and immediately expired; also that another officer, having leaped on board the *Wachusetts*, and stabbed six men in succession, at last fell, being beaten to death by the butt-end of a musket.

Out of fifteen sailors who threw themselves into the sea, only four escaped, being rescued by some merchant-vessels which were moored at a short distance. The eleven others were killed by musket-shots from the enemy, who had collected themselves together to the number of nine in order to shoot a single man.

To this contest succeeded a short silence, which was soon followed by prolonged huzzahs from on board the *Wachusetts*.

A boat was then despatched to this vessel by the naval commandant, Gervazio Mancebo, under the orders of Lieutenant Varella, with orders to the commander to moor immediately, threatening at the same time that his vessel should be scuttled if he persisted in the attack. The commander gave his word of honour that he would remain quiet, and that he would immediately return to his moorings. This answer was made by the commander to the officer from the ship's side, the latter not being permitted to come on board.

The *Wachusetts* had, however, craftily attached a tow-rope to the *Florida*, and, feigning to resume her moorings, steamed off in a south-western course, passing within a cable's length of the prow of the corvette *D. Januaria*. Eight shots were then fired by the latter vessel, to which the *Wachusetts* did not reply; on the contrary, she redoubled her efforts to place herself beyond the range of the corvette's cannon, nearly all of whose shots had been effective.

In the mean time, the crews of all the men-of-war being at their posts, the naval commandant ordered the steamship *Paraense*, whose fire had been lit at the commencement of the conflict, to tow the corvette as soon as her steam was sufficiently up; and the latter vessel, being in sailing order, was, with the aid of the steamship, quickly in a condition to reclaim the prize. The vessels then started in the following order: the steamship *Paraense*, the sailing corvette *D. Januaria*, and the yacht *Rio-de-Contas*. The *Florida* being towed by the Federal vessel, it appeared evident that the corvette would soon overtake her.

Chase was then given to these vessels, which were now five miles in advance and under full steam.

Up to seven o'clock in the morning the *Paraense*, which towed the corvette, gained greatly upon the American vessels, and fighting appeared imminent, when the wind began to fall.

At this time the *Florida*, which had been hitherto towed, began to make her way under full steam and heavy sail, thus gaining, with the *Wachusetts*, the advantage over the Brazilian vessels in pursuit.

The chase was vigorously continued by the corvette and the other vessels; but the Americans, still making great way, disappeared from the horizon, and the Brazilians, having lost sight both of land and of the fugitives, abandoned the pursuit at 11.45 in the morning.

The naval commandant, despairing of success, then went, in company with his officers, on board the *Paraense*; and leaving the corvette and the yacht *Rio-de-Contas* at sea, returned to the port, which they reached at 3.30 in the afternoon.

The *Florida*, at the time of her departure, was engaged in repairing her engines, some of the tubes belonging to which still remain in the naval dockyard.

When the proceedings related above became known in the town, the populace immediately repaired to the residence of the American consul, where, after having, by a shower of stones, knocked down the arms placed over the door, they dragged them through the streets. The police then took charge of the consulate, and brought a picket of soldiers for its protection, which remained there during the whole night.

The president of the province has withdrawn the *exequatur* from the American consul, Mr. Wilson, who, having slept on board the *Wachusetts*, has gone off in that vessel, and abandoned his post.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

BAHIA: October 13.

SIR,—The mail steamer being on the point of leaving, I can give you only a very succinct account of the extraordinary event which has filled our town with consternation and passionate indignation. You may, however, depend upon the accuracy of my statement, derived from information on the spot, and confirmed by eye-witnesses.

On the 4th inst. the Confederate steamer *Florida* came into port for a supply of coals and provisions, and also to make some necessary repairs. Permission was of course granted, and it being found upon the inspection of the Brazilian engineer that the repairs would require more than the customary forty-eight hours, the injured machinery was removed to the Government arsenal, in order to avoid any possible delay. At the time of the *Florida's* arrival the United States steamer *Wachusetts* had already been in the port nearly nine days, a concession beyond the usual rules applied to foreign vessels of war, which, as the *Wachusetts* required no repairs, can be explained only by the friendly relations heretofore subsisting between Brazil and the United States. The commandant of the port, however, to prevent any risk of hostile collision, exacted a pledge which was given by Mr. Wilson, the American Consul, on the one part, and Captain Morris, the commander of the *Florida*, on the other, that the neutrality of the port should be rigidly protected. For additional protection, the *Florida* was ordered into the inner harbour, and anchored under the guns of the fort. Moreover, two Brazilian men-of-war moored alongside of her.

The next day the American Consul sent to the commander of the *Florida* a letter which, not being officially addressed, the latter declined to receive. A second attempt to send the missive by the hands of a Brazilian gentleman was equally unsuccessful, but Captain Morris, learning from the bearer that the letter was a challenge from the commander of the *Wachusetts* to fight outside the harbour, replied verbally that while in neutral waters he could not entertain a challenge; that he had come to Bahia for a special purpose, which being accomplished, he would go to sea without either seeking or avoiding an encounter with the *Wachusetts*.

Fancying himself in perfect security, Captain Morris had given alternate detachments of his crew leave to go on shore. On the night of the 6th he himself, a large proportion of his officers, and about half the crew were on shore. From this point we have the narrative of the six men who subsequently escaped the massacre. Towards morning, in the darkest hour of the night, the watch on board the *Florida* observed a vessel rapidly approaching. When observed she was already quite close, but still her character was not immediately suspected. The watch had barely time to give the alarm before the approaching vessel, which proved to be the *Wachusetts*, had struck the *Florida*, at the same instant sweeping her deck with a raking fire of musketry and grape. The *Wachusetts* then backed and opened her broadsides upon the *Florida*. The latter vessel being anchored, while her assailant was under full steam, and moreover having her guns unshotted, as is the custom of foreign men-of-war in neutral ports, could only offer a brief and desperate, but ineffectual, resistance. Utterly taken by surprise, her crew, as soon as the men appeared on deck, many of them in their night-clothes and half-naked, were mowed down by the hailstorm of musketry and canister. The officer in charge had therefore no alternative but to surrender. Before, however, he could lower his boat to obey the *Wachusetts'* summons to come on board, the armed boats from the *Wachusetts* were approaching the *Florida*. Seeing this, and fearing that no quarter would be given, fifteen of the *Florida's* crew jumped into the water to swim on shore or to the neighbouring vessels. The boats from the *Wachusetts* opened fire upon the fugitives, and *nine* of them were shot in the water. The only excuse I have yet heard whispered of this inhuman act is that the Federal officers supposed Captain Morris to be among the fugitives.

The action was nearly over when the Brazilian authorities became aroused to what was going on. The Admiral sent his boat to the *Wachusetts* with a peremptory summons to return to anchor. A promise to this effect was given, but the Admiral's boat was not allowed to come alongside. Meanwhile, the *Wachusetts* had made fast her hawser to the *Florida*, and with her prize in tow steamed out to sea. The fort fired three shots at her, but without effect. The Admiral's flagship being a sailing vessel, pursuit was impossible. When a short time later a steamer could be got under way, the *Wachusetts* was already too far to be overtaken.

I cannot describe to you the rage and indignation of the population of Bahia. The American Consul's house was surrounded by an angry multitude, the consular coat of arms and flag torn down; but the Consul himself, foreseeing this, had taken refuge on board the *Wachusetts*, and was beyond the reach of personal violence. His exequatur was at once revoked by the President of the province.

All the leading merchants and the foreign Consuls have united in a memorial to protest against this lawless and murderous act, and the hope is universally expressed that the perpetrators may be disavowed and punished by their own Government. A reward of $500,000, offered by the Chamber of Commerce of New York for the capture of the *Florida*, is believed to have been the inducement of the Federal Consul and commander for this piratical defiance of international law.

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The London Press on the Seizure of the 'Florida.'

THE *Morning Herald* of November 3 has the following:—

A despatch communicated to us by a contemporary who maintains close relations with the agents of the Confederacy narrates a proceeding without precedent or parallel in the history of the world. An act of pure, simple, unmistakable piracy has been committed by one of the great maritime Powers in the harbour of a friendly State. This is no case of uncertain evidence or doubtful law. There is no question as to the distance from shore at which the outrage was committed. There is no doubt, difficulty, or confusion as to the meaning of the law. The criminal can have no excuse, true or false, to plead; and if the offended Power had taken him in the act, and hanged him at the yardarm of his own ship, his Government would have no right to complain. Nay, if his own Government do not instantly release his prize, and offer a complete apology to the injured State, it will be the duty of all the maritime Powers to interfere, and demand reparation for a gross offence against the public law which binds and protects them all. The Confederate steamer *Florida* had sought refuge in the harbour of Bahia, belonging to the empire of Brazil. The refuge could not be denied her by a neutral Power which continues to permit the ingress of her enemies. Every belligerent has a right to the hospitality of a neutral port, unless that hospitality has been, by previous proclamation, equally denied to both. When within the neutral port he is perfectly safe from molestation. Suppose the *Florida* had been lying in the Mersey; for a Federal officer to attack her there would have been an offence of precisely the same character as if he had attacked her crew in the streets of Liverpool. If he killed any one we should be entitled to hang him as a murderer; if he carried off the vessel we should be entitled to pursue, sink his ship, recover the prize, and extort from his Government an apology for the outrage. In a word, there is no more uncertainty as to the law of neutral harbours than as to the law of murder on land. The *Florida*, therefore, was under the protection of the Brazilian flag so long as she chose to remain in Bahia. If, during her stay, a Federal cruiser should enter that harbour, it was the duty of Brazil to take care that an interval of at least twenty-four hours should elapse between the departure of one belligerent and the pursuit of the other. To render the performance of that duty and the office of protection more easy, knowing the lawless temper of the Yankees, the *Florida* anchored under the guns of the Brazilian forts and men of war. In that position she was captured by a Federal man-of-war, the *Wachusetts:* in direct and flagrant violation of the neutrality of Brazil, the rules of war, and the universal law of nations. We challenge the Federal organs in this country to offer anything in the shape of an excuse for this act of piracy. They cannot deny that a neutral harbour is as sacred as neutral territory; they cannot deny that to violate either is a heinous and unpardonable crime; nor can they, as they have so often done heretofore, accept the statements of Yankee officers in disproof of the most positive testimony to the facts of the case. There is no manner of doubt here either as to the facts or the law. What, then, do the organs of Mr. Bright and of Mr. Adams think of their Northern clients?

If it should prove that Brazil was a consenting party to this act of unparalleled treachery and lawlessness, her dereliction of duty will in no sort exonerate the principal offender. Brazil could not give him the right to attack a Southern ship in her waters without previously declaring war against the Confederate States, which she has not done. But there is not, as yet, the slightest reason to suppose that a Government hitherto respected, and deserving of respect, had suddenly been guilty of so infamous a treason against the laws of hospitality, neutrality, and national independence. It is incredible that any sovereign having the slightest respect for himself or for his Crown could have given permission for the violation of his neutrality by a foreign Power. We do not believe that Lord Russell himself would permit a Federal man-of-war to seize a Confederate ship in an English port; and we have no reason for supposing the Emperor of Brazil to be no braver or more dignified than Lord Russell. The only fault of which the Brazilian authorities seem to have been guilty is that of timidity. Their duty was to fire into the pirate the instant that her designs were disclosed. That they did not do so must be ascribed to their fear of the vast naval superiority of the United States, their knowledge of the lawless character of their Government, and their just apprehension that, if they should do their duty, and enforce the rule of public law upon the too-powerful criminal, they would not be supported by the only Power whose flag divides with that of the Union the fear and respect of the American States. If England had been, as she ought to have been, on loyal terms of friendship with Brazil, and had been governed by men in whose honour and courage the allies of England could confide, the Imperial Government would never have made so unworthy a concession to the menaces of the Yankees. Time was when even so feeble a sovereign as the Emperor of Brazil would rather have had his capital blown to pieces than forfeited his honour by such a compliance; but since those days the self-respect of minor Powers has been grievously impaired, and by nothing so much as by the blustering, insulting diplomacy of Lord Palmerston and of the present Foreign Secretary. Brazil may have to render a strict account hereafter for her conduct on this occasion. There is no doubt that her compliance, however reluctant, would justify the Confederate States in exacting a signal reparation. But the real guilt rests with that Government on whose protection Brazil ought to have been able to rely, and which, as she well knew, would have abandoned her to her fate.

The case is one in which all maritime Powers are interested. When the lawless violence of Captain Wilkes led him into a far less flagrant outrage on our own flag the other Powers frankly and loyally came to our assistance, and, taking up the cause in the common interest of the civilised world, addressed a sharp and peremptory remonstrance to the Government by which the piracy had been sanctioned and seemed likely to be supported. Brazil is not able, as we were, to avenge her own honour. It is imperative upon the maritime Powers at large, and upon France and England in particular, to take up the case on behalf of one too weak to protect herself. We are all equally interested in maintaining the sanctity of neutral waters; for there is no nation whose ships may not, at one time or another, be forced to seek shelter in the ports of a friendly Power; and if they are liable to be there seized or attacked by an enemy international confidence and maritime commerce can no longer exist in time of war. We can hardly hope that England will do her duty. The cowardice of some members of the Administration and the Northern sympathies of others have induced them hitherto on every occasion to take the part of the Federal Government, whether against the Confederates or against their own countrymen. No word of rebuke from England followed the outrage committed by the seizure of two Confederate officers in Morocco; and we dare say that this outrage on the collective rights and interests of the maritime Powers will be regarded by Lord Russell with similar equanimity. But the Emperor of the French is neither a coward nor a Federalist; he regards with equal disgust and contempt the cringing servility of the English, and the brutal insolence of the Federal Government; and it is not impossible that he may choose to exhibit in striking contrast the dignified disinterestedness of France and the selfish timidity of her ancient rival, by undertaking personally to redress a wrong which, though it be an injury to the civilised world at large, is yet especially addressed to the first of naval Powers, and cannot be passed over in silence without degrading yet further the tarnished honour and damaged prestige of England.

The *Times* has the following:—

The capture of the *Florida* by the *Wachusetts* in Brazilian waters was reported by telegraph from Lisbon some days ago, but it was not until yesterday that the flagrantly lawless nature of this proceeding could be appreciated. The story, as it has now reached us from authentic sources, beats those related of Paul Jones, and carries us back to the time when the Spanish main was made infamous by the piratical deeds of civilised nations.

After giving the facts of the seizure, the *Times* proceeds:—

Most aggressions on neutral rights, such as the pursuit of a flying enemy within the jurisdiction of a neutral State, have some kind of excuse, whether in authority or usage, but we cannot even conjecture what defence can be set up for this. The United States have invariably claimed the absolute inviolability of neutral territory, and the American text books of international law are full of the most dogmatic assertions of this principle. One of the most recent of these, which bears the name of Halleck on its title-page, recapitulates the law on this subject with great force and clearness. 'The armed cruisers of belligerents, while within the jurisdiction of a neutral State, are bound to abstain from any acts of hostility towards the subjects, vessels, or other property of their enemies; they cannot increase their guns or military stores, or augment their crews, not even by the enrolment of their own countrymen; they can employ neither force nor strategem to recover prizes, or to rescue prisoners in the possession of the enemy: nor can they use a neutral port or waters within neutral jurisdiction, either for the purpose of hindering the approach of vessels of any nation whatever, or for the purpose of attacking those which depart from the ports or shores of neutral Powers. No proximate acts of war, such as a ship stationing herself within the neutral line, and sending out her boats on hostile enterprises, can, in any manner, be allowed to originate on neutral territory: nor can any measure be taken that will lead to immediate violence.' We owe our readers some apology for reentering upon ground already familiar to most in connection with the Alexandra case, but this summary may at least serve to remind them how far beyond the extreme pale of international law the *Wachusetts* placed herself by cutting an enemy's ship out of a neutral port. Had the *Florida*, for instance, actually sailed from Bahia, the *Wachusetts* could not have followed her till after the lapse of twenty-four hours, without infringing the law of nations. To attack her by night in the harbour, and that after a solemn pledge had been given that neutral rights should be respected, was neither more nor less illegal than it would have been to kidnap Mr. Mason in the streets of London. The plea that was urged by Lord Ashburton and admitted by Mr. Webster in the very dissimilar case of the *Caroline*—that of 'a necessity of self-defence, instant, overwhelming, leaving no choice of means, and no moment for deliberation'—was here conspicuously wanting, and we cannot believe that the Federal Government will condescend to make use of it. It may possibly be alleged that the Consul was carried off against his will by the captain of the *Wachusetts*, who is likely enough to claim the whole credit and responsibility of the exploit, and it is to be feared that some of Mr. Barnum's countrymen may chuckle over its shameless audacity. But the New York Chamber of Commerce has a character to lose, and, unless we are greatly deceived, will scruple to forfeit it by rewarding or justifying a crime so utterly subversive of confidence between neutrals and belligerents.

The *Morning Post* has the following:—

Whatever may be the shortcomings of the Federal Government, it cannot fairly be alleged that they are not served by very zealous officers. The representatives of what was once the American Union conceive it to be their mission to restore that Union in all its pristine integrity and splendour, and, so that the end shall be accomplished, they have on all occasions manifested the most supreme indifference as to the means by which it is attained. Animated by these feelings, they have no little reason to congratulate themselves on the readiness which their chosen servants have on every possible occasion manifested to give effect to their views. In their belligerent character their relations have been twofold—namely, with their enemies and with neutral States; and the obligations arising out of these relations they have, whenever it suited their purpose, or seemed to do so, studiously disregarded. The usages of civilised States impose restrictions, dictated by humanity, on the mode of conducting hostilities; but, in their anxiety to resuscitate their model republic, they have declared that, if needs be, the territory of their foes shall be converted into a howling wilderness, and the people by which it is inhabited utterly exterminated. Nor have they been more mindful of the duties imposed by the laws of nations in their relations as belligerents with neutral States. It is needless to recall a memorable occasion on which an officer in the Federal navy grossly outraged a foreign flag, and was nevertheless applauded for his zeal by the head of his department and publicly thanked by the House of Representatives, pending the receipt of those demands for redress from the aggrieved State, with which, notwithstanding all their braggadocio, the Federal Government deemed it expedient to comply. In a word, whenever they believed they could do so with impunity, the Government of which Mr. Lincoln is the head, and its officers, have equally set at defiance public opinion and public law. Serious, however, and manifold as have been their transgressions hitherto, they have been eclipsed by the outrage recently committed in the harbour of Bahia. The capture of the *Florida* by the *Wachusetts*, when lying at anchor in Brazilian waters and under the guns of Brazilian forts and ships of war, is perhaps, for cool audacity, and the contempt manifested for the territorial rights of a neutral State, unrivalled even in the records of American impudence.

(Here follows the report.)

Such is the plain, unvarnished statement of one of the most wanton and, we would also add, the most wicked outrages ever committed by a vessel of war belonging to a belligerent Power whilst in neutral waters. It is the joint act of the late American Consul at Bahia and the captain of the *Wachusetts*; and, until an opportunity has been afforded to the Federal Government of repudiating it, and meting out to the perpetrators the punishment which they deserve, the blame attaches solely to the latter. It is believed that the immense reward offered by the New York Chamber of Commerce for the capture of the *Florida* furnished the main inducement for thus setting the laws of nations, of honour, and of humanity alike at defiance, and for this reason the American Government may perhaps feel the less reluctance to disavow the act of their officers. But when we bear in mind the habitual arrogance of that Government, and when we recollect how powerless Brazil is to enforce redress, if redress should be refused, we cannot help entertaining misgivings respecting the future course of the Federal authorities. In any event, however, this outrage cannot be allowed to pass unnoticed by the other neutral Powers. When Commodore Wilkes dragged the Confederate Commissioners from beneath the protection of our flag, France, Russia, and other Powers instructed their representatives at Washington to protest against an act which was directed, not against the rights of this country alone, but against those of every neutral State. It is in the same light that the insult now offered to Brazil should be regarded, and it should equally evoke the strenuous protests of every maritime State. What was done in Bahia may be repeated in an English or a French port, and the case of the Brazilian Government may any day become our own. No justification can possibly be offered for the capture of the *Florida* and for the murder of a portion of her crew; and it would not only be graceful, but it would be prudent, on the part of the European maritime Powers to cause such representations to be made at Washington as may secure for the Brazilian Government that redress which, though entitled to demand, they would, without aid, be unable to secure.

The *Daily Telegraph* has the following:—

The capture of the celebrated Confederate cruiser *Florida* in a Brazilian harbour has been attended by such breaches of good faith and international rights as must be somewhat shocking even to an American conscience. We suppose that the duplicity and falsehood to which the commander of the Federal steamer *Wachusetts* resorted for the purpose of securing his prize will be excused on the ground that everything is fair in love and war; but this is true only as between the contending parties, and does not justify insult or injury of neutrals. The offence of which the aggressor has been guilty is precisely the same in nature as if he had pursued his antagonist up the Thames into the Pool, and had poured broadsides into her within sight of London Bridge. The practical difference between the two cases, however, is this—that the neutral Government upon which the outrage has been inflicted is too weak to effectually resent it; whereas, had a similar indignity been practised within the British jurisdiction, the offending vessel would have insured her own capture or destruction. The gist of the offence in the present instance is not the stratagem practised against the *Florida*, but the outrageous violation of the neutral rights of Brazil. We do not, of course, expect that United States ships should exhibit candour and perfect good faith towards their crafty and light-heeled foes; we do not expect the police to announce to a burglar that he is 'wanted' until they are tolerably confident that he is within their grasp. The constable generally prefers to slip on the handcuffs quietly when the fugitive is not on the look-out, and similarly we may be sure that Confederate commanders, if caught at all, must be caught napping. They will not voluntarily put themselves in the way of antagonists of greatly superior power, and therefore, so far as relates to the combatants, we do not know that there is much to be complained of in the recent capture. But the subject as it affects the Government of Brazil is altogether different, and it is one in which we, as neutrals, are very much interested. The point at issue is this: Shall the belligerents be allowed to fight out their quarrels in the territory of foreign States which studiously hold aloof from the conflict? It is almost superfluous to answer the question, and absurd to cite authorities in support of the obvious rights of neutrals to protect their territory from the ravages of a war in which they do not participate. If any exception to this principle were tolerated, we might have cannon-balls flying among the shipping of the Thames or Mersey, and Yankees and Southerners fighting pitched battles in our streets.

That such an event should cause anything but unmitigated satisfaction in New York is not to be supposed. The sharp practice, the broken pledge, the shameless falsehood, will appear of small moment compared with the capture of a hated foe. The disgust and amazement with which we should learn that an officer of Her Majesty's navy had deliberately violated his word of honour are feelings with which the American public evinces but little sympathy. Their present satisfaction, moreover, is not subject to that serious qualification which existed in the capture of Messrs. Mason and Slidell from an English vessel. In that case, the most rabid of the Federals must have been somewhat troubled by the apprehension of British resentment. In the present instance there is no need for similar alarm. Brazil is much too weak a Power to cope with the United States. The insulted Government has, by withdrawing the exequatur of the American consul, evinced its indignation, but is of course unable to obtain real redress. The unscrupulous Federals will, therefore, regard their achievement with unmitigated satisfaction. They overlook the fearful cost to themselves at which successes such as these are purchased—the loss of national honour, and the universal distrust of other nations. If they could adequately measure the self-injury which results from their Punic disregard of honour, truth, and international rights, they would discover that the capture of the *Florida* is in reality a ruinous triumph.

The *Standard* has the following:

We published yesterday a detailed account of the piratical capture of the Confederate sloop of war *Florida* in the neutral harbour of Bahia. As simply announced by telegraph the case looked black enough; the particulars now received enhance, if that be possible, the guilt of the captors. It appears that their

piracy was preceded and prepared by a deliberate perjury, and aggravated by cold-blooded murder. At the same time we are glad to find that we were misled in regard to the conduct of the Brazilian authorities; that they were deceived and surprised, and did their utmost to prevent or punish the crime. The facts are these. The *Florida* entered the harbour of Bahia while the *Wachusetts* was lying there, and required permission to take in coal, and to make some necessary repairs in her machinery. These demands the law of nations would not permit the Brazilian authorities to refuse, even had they been as servilely devoted to the Federal cause as Lord Russell himself. The visitor was permitted to repair her engine, and to remain so long as might be necessary for that purpose, and no longer. For greater security she was anchored under the guns of the forts, with two Brazilian men-of-war near her. One of these, however, appears to have been a sailing vessel, and the other a steamer of small size, so that they were not powerful enough to afford any real protection if the Federal vessel should be disposed to employ violence against a neutral flag in a neutral harbour. The American consul, however, solemnly pledged himself for the good conduct of the *Wachusetts*; and the captain of the *Florida* was so far satisfied that he allowed the damaged portion of the machinery to go on shore; and he himself, with half his crew, was on shore on the night of October 6. Before daylight the *Wachusetts* suddenly steamed down upon the *Florida*, carried away a portion of her bulwarks, and fired into her repeated volleys of grape and canister, killing and wounding many of her men. The officer in command, being utterly unable to make any effectual resistance, at length obeyed the summons of the assailant, and surrendered his vessel. Fifteen of the seamen hereupon jumped overboard and swam for the shore; but nine of them were murdered by the cowardly scoundrels on the *Wachusetts*, who fired upon them while in the water. After they had taken possession of their ill-gotten prize the captors fastened a rope to her mast, and proceeded to tow her out to sea. The consul, Mr. Wilson, whose honour had been pledged for the conduct of the *Wachusetts*, made his escape on board her. The pirate was summoned to return to her anchorage, but contemptuously pursued her course; and the Brazilians had no force capable of bringing her back. But for this circumstance, of course, the crime would never have been committed. To shoot seamen in a neutral harbour is an act of precisely the same character as to shoot them down in the streets of a neutral town; and had the assassins been taken Brazil would have been entitled and bound to bring them to trial and execution with the least possible delay. As it is, they have escaped; and their crime now rests upon the shoulders of their Government. Mr. Lincoln must either bring them to a courtmartial for piracy and murder, or adopt their act, and proclaim to all the world that the Government of the United States is *hostis humani generis*; that it respects no public law, no sovereign rights, no neutral territory, which it dares to violate; and that if it refrains from attacking Mr. Mason in the streets of London, and chasing Confederate cruisers into the ports of France and Spain, it is only from fear of the vengeance which Powers greater than Brazil may exact. Those who remember the famous suppressed dispatch, in which Mr. Seward threatened that Federal vessels should pursue and attack the *Alabama* in English ports, may easily conjecture what course the Government at Washington is likely to adopt towards the officer who has rendered so important a service at the trifling price of outraging and affronting the feeble empire of Brazil.

On the character of the act we need waste few words. There is no sort of question as to the absolute jurisdiction of independent Powers over their own ports. A belligerent has no more right to assail his enemy in a neutral port than on neutral soil; in either case killing is murder, and the attack may either be punished on the spot, by the municipal laws of the offended country, or made the subject of reclamation or reprisals against the Government of the offenders. Any Power of the first rank would, in such a case, at once avenge its honour by war: or, if it could act with sufficient promptitude, by pursuing and either capturing or sinking the guilty ship. The warmest partisans of the North would not venture to propose, if such an outrage had been committed in the Mersey or the Thames, that we should adopt any milder measures. But as Brazil is the sufferer, and as certain persons in this country, whose own misconduct has involved them and the nation in unpleasant relations with that empire, have done their best to get up a feeling of ill-will towards Brazil, one organ is found willing to attempt an apology for the outrage, in reliance on English prejudice against the victim. Two precedents are cited. It is said that English ships once destroyed some slavers, and a fort which protected them, on Brazilian territory. This has no sort of connection with the present case. We claimed a right to put down the slave trade; and if we had that right we were entitled to destroy slavers and their protectors. This is a case where no right can possibly be claimed—a case of naked, lawless violence against an unoffending neutral in his own harbour. The other alleged precedent is the seizure of an American privateer in a Portuguese harbour. At that time Portugal was almost an English dependency; and so little was the Peninsula considered as neutral that contraband cargoes bound thither were condemned by American Courts as if they had been sent to England herself. But what is conclusive against this precedent is, that the United States extorted and obtained from Portugal compensation for the capture. There is, therefore, no precedent for such an outrage, but a very strong one for its condemnation and punishment. The last excuse alleged for the outrage is a very strange one. Mr. Seward has repeatedly alleged that the Brazilian Government favoured the Confederate vessels; therefore he has a right to attack them in Brazilian harbours. It happens that Mr. Seward, whose veracity on such matters is not unimpeached, has made the same charge against England. Will our contemporary advise us to submit in patience if some Federal cruiser should seize the *Tallahassie* in a British port?

The duty of England in this matter is clear and pressing—to return to Brazil the support we received from our allies when a far less atrocious insult was offered to our own flag in the case of the *Trent*. To shrink from this duty is to expose ourselves to the bitter contempt and scornful reproaches of all who remember how ready we were to welcome the disinterested efforts of other Powers in the cause of public law and neutral rights, and witness our own unwillingness to raise a finger when the rights infringed are not our own. The character of the *Florida* has nothing to do with the matter. She is called a privateer, which is a silly piece of childish petulance, inasmuch as she is a commissioned man-of-war; and she is accused of violating public law by burning her prizes, though all persons who have ever looked into a law book know that a captor who cannot bring an enemy's ship into port has a right—nay, is bound—to 'sink, burn, or destroy it.' But if these petulant falsehoods were facts they would not affect the case. The *Florida* is a belligerent ship; Bahia is a neutral harbour; and the seizure of a belligerent ship in a neutral harbour is an unpardonable crime, not against the belligerent, but against the neutral, and against the collective interests and rights of the neutral world which are not affected by the character of the captured ship. The question is not one 'between Brazil and the United States,' it is one between the United States and all maritime Powers. It is the question of right against might, of national sovereignty against high-handed aggression, of public law against a lawless nation and a Government which has defied and insulted the opinion of Christendom. Those who set the example of disregarding the plainest rights of neutrals, and carrying the evils of war into the waters and territories of peaceful nations utterly unconcerned in their quarrels, are the foes not of one nation, but of all, and the common interests of the civilised world demand that a peremptory interposition on the part of the great Powers should oblige the perpetrators of a piratical outrage on an unoffending State to make an ample, complete, and humiliating apology and reparation.

The *Globe* has the following:—

It may be, perhaps, premature to speak of a matter upon which we are as yet but very curtly informed by telegraph, and respecting which another day or two must supply us with more exact particulars; but there seems little room for doubt that one of the officers of the Federal navy has committed a gross breach of international law. We allude to the capture of the Confederate steamer *Florida*, of which *The Index*, the London Confederate organ, gives the following official account:—'The Confederate authorities in London have received a telegraphic despatch, dated Lisbon, from Captain Morris, commander of the Confederate steamsnip *Florida*, announcing the capture of that vessel, on October 7, by the Federal steamer *Wachusetts*, in the harbour of Bahia. At the time of the capture the *Florida* was lying under the guns of the Brazilian forts and of the Brazilian fleet, and Captain Morris was on shore.'

If this statement be correct, there can be no doubt that another outrage of even a graver and more unjustifiable kind than that which called forth such decided action on the part of our Government just three years ago has been committed. In the present instance Brazil is the Power directly aggrieved; but in a certain sense the act affects every Power with a seaboard. Nothing in the international code is more distinctly laid down than that belligerents shall not engage in neutral waters, and a clear distance of three miles from any point of the shore is prescribed as that within which no act of war shall take place. Indeed, for all purposes, the waters within this line are as much part of the country which they lave as the streets of her capital or the palace of her monarch. Offences against the person or property of individuals within those limits, are open to be dealt with by the municipal law, equally with a murder or a robbery on shore. The reason for this is so obvious and so important that the nations of the world cannot but regard any departure from the rule with anxiety and displeasure. Neutrals must not be endangered by a war with which they have nothing to do. We would not allow Federals and Confederates to fight it out in Fleet Street, to the nuisance, and perhaps destruction, of the peaceful inhabitants. The right which we have to keep our soil free extends beyond our shores to that distance which has been agreed upon as a fair line of protection from the projectiles and explosions incidental to a naval action. . . . . .
The *Florida* and her Federal assailant were equally enjoying the hospitality of the Brazilians, and the rules for preventing the abuse of that hospitality are so clearly laid down that the belligerents have no right to leave the neutral limits within twenty-four hours of each other. That this offence should have been committed, as we are told, under the guns of the Brazilian forts, and in the midst of the Brazilian fleet, is a matter for surprise, and it certainly seems to give some sign of probability to the statement, that the local authorities were more or less parties to the proceeding. We should hope, however, that the detailed accounts will clear the Brazilians of what would be an act of gross treachery on their part—an act more detestable, both morally and internationally, than that of the Federal captain.

The following remarks appeared in the *Globe* on the receipt of full advices:—

The subjoined extracts, which we lay before our readers, from a private letter from Bahia, confirm, from a trustworthy and independent source, the main facts of the treacherous and lawless capture of the Confederate war steamer *Florida*, while anchored in a neutral port, and under the immediate and recognised protection of a neutral State. Unfortunately, as the captors doubtless anticipated with some degree of confidence, that *protection* proved anything rather than effective when it came to *voies de fait*. On the other hand, it may fairly be urged that any local authorities might be taken by surprise, who had gone to sleep, as they might well suppose themselves safe in doing on the security of the pledged word of the commissioned officer of a hitherto reputed civilised Government, and with the additional guarantee of the equally pledged word of its resident commercial representative at their port. If the Confederate captain and crew themselves were caught napping after such positive assurances, notwithstanding the better knowledge they may be supposed to have had of the extent to which they could trust their enemies, the Brazilian functionaries may comparatively be considered excusable for not having been wide awake, at three o'clock in the morning, against the occurrence of an outrage which they had the word of honour of officers—who were to be supposed men of honour—would not be attempted. The rescue of the honour of the Federal flag now rests with the Federal Government.

Here follow the extracts alluded to. The *Globe* then continues:—

The bait held out for the capture of the Confederate cruiser by the New York Chamber of Commerce (500,000 dollars) coupled with the reliance which may be assumed to have been felt by the captors on the lack of vigour of the Brazilian local authorities, may be considered as accounting for the extraordinary audacity of this most lawless proceeding. And we cannot but say that it may be very gravely doubted with what degree of propriety a commercial body take upon them to offer such inducements to a national service. Is it to be supposed that officers, who hold their country's commission, will do less than their duty, unless, in addition to the ordinary and legitimate prizes which reward success in doing it, mercantile men bribe them to their work with promised dollars? Or could it be intended to incite them, by holding forth that bait, to do more than their duty? It is for the New York Chamber of Commerce to answer. With the Federal Government, they stand before the tribunal of the whole civilised world, and it is not too much to say that the conduct which they may hold in this case will decide whether they deliberately elect for themselves the position of outlaws in the face of the jurisdiction of the whole civilised world.

The *Daily News* has the following:—

We have not thought it necessary, in the case of the *Florida*, seized by the *Wachusetts* in the neutral harbour of Bahia, to depart from the usual English course of hearing the evidence on both sides before forming an opinion. At present we believe not a line has been published in this country from any officer or friend of the Government of the United States with reference to the proceedings, either of the captain of the *Wachusetts* or of Consul Wilson, and of course there has not been time to learn how they are regarded at Washington. The accounts that have appeared in the English press are almost exclusively of Confederate origin, and leave traces of the natural feelings of their authors. If they are substantially true, the Captain of the *Wachusetts* has done his Government more injury than it was in the power of the whole Confederate navy to do, by committing a lawless outrage for which it will have to give satisfaction. The rules of maritime law as to the rights of neutrals are too plain, and the interests of all maritime Powers in maintaining them too evident, to admit of any controversy as soon as the facts have been ascertained, nor is there any doubt of the language which every English journalist will hold on the subject.

The following is from the *Morning Star*:—

When we have stated these general principles, however, the case is by no means complete. A neutral, to enjoy immunity and to have her sovereignty respected, must respect herself. She must take care that she does not favour one belligerent at the expense of another, that she does not permit one to use her ports as convenient naval bases from which cruisers may issue, furnished with all the necessary appliances of war, for the purpose of destroying the commerce of the other, and then make a practice of running for protection to the same harbours so as to elude the pursuit of enemies. This would not be tolerated by any belligerent who was strong enough to resent it; and, unfortunately for Brazil, the Confederate privateers have constantly been hovering around her ports, and, while burning United States vessels trading to Brazil, off the Brazilian coast, have run into her ports at the first sign of danger, have got coals consigned to them from Liverpool to be delivered in Brazilian harbours, and generally have made themselves disagreeable visitors. The *Alabama* on one occasion burned three or four American whalers close to a Brazilian harbour, and the Government of the Emperor punished by removal the governor of the island, who, after the occurrence, permitted Captain Semmes to obtain supplies. It is impossible to separate the act which has just been committed from the whole circumstances which have occurred during the war, and looking at those and the correspondence which has already taken place between the two Governments, we should imagine that the United States rely for justification upon the peculiar and exceptional circumstances connected with Brazilian neutrality. On July 13, 1863, Mr. Seward directed the Minister to the Brazils to say to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs of that empire, 'that if nations shall, in violation of our rights, suffer their ports to become bases for the operations of pirates against us, we shall adopt such remedies as the laws of self-defence allow. It is the earnest desire of the United States to remain at peace with all nations. We have sought specially to deserve the friendship of Brazil, and shall persevere in that friendly policy so long as the Emperor shall accord to us commercial and national rights, which are not less essential to Brazil and all the other American States than to ourselves.' From what has taken place we may fairly infer that the United States Government had come to the conclusion that Brazil was giving undue protection to the Confederate cruisers, such protection as amounted to an unfriendly act to the United States, thus forcing them to fall back upon those laws of self-defence which, after all, must be the paramount rule for all nations. Of the necessity for the application of those abnormal rules the United States is the proper judge, and it is a right which no State worthy of being included in the family of nations would ever consent to give up at the dictation either of a neutral or of foreign Powers. If Brazil has cause of complaint she may insist on an apology or reparation, and if that is refused withdraw her ambassador, as she did from this country a few months ago, as a formal protest against a Power which she is not strong enough to fight.

One thing is very clear—it is not a question which England can touch even with the longest possible diplomatic pole. In these days of steam cruisers English interests imperatively require, in the event of war, the observance of a strict neutrality by neutrals. If we should ever be unfortunately precipitated into war with the United States we must have no *Alabamas* and *Floridas* from France or Holland preying on our commerce, burning our ships, and then sneaking into a neutral port whenever a frigate appeared in sight. We must have no coaling of privateers in French, Dutch, or Spanish ports; no rendezvous for coal-laden jackals at the Azores, no toleration, in short, for belligerency under the garb of neutrality. Then this wretched vessel which has been captured was provided to the Confederates by a breach of our own laws, and by a violation of the proclamation of our Sovereign. The Liverpool shipbuilders have shut our mouths on the question. We could not touch the case without being taunted with the paternity of our bastard progeny. We should be told that had the vessel not been permitted to sail from our ports, the difficulty would never have occurred. Not only her origin, but the character of the *Florida's* career prevents us interfering. The burning of vessels on the high seas without taking them into port for adjudication is a more flagrant breach of international law than her seizure, even were there no justification, and England, above all nations, has no interest in fostering these ocean outlaws. Again, the character of our relations with Brazil entirely precludes our interference. She accuses us of seizing her own vessels in her own harbours unjustifiably, and has withdrawn her ambassador in consequence; we formerly entered one of her ports and captured four vessels, alleged to be slavers, and when a fort tried to protect them with its fire we demolished the fort. There is on record a resolution of the Brazilian Legislature desiring to place their ships under the protection of some strong Power to save them from what they called the violence of British cruisers. Clearly our protest against high-handed dealings with Brazil would be regarded by the world as the sublimity of hypocrisy. So far as we are concerned the *Florida* must 'slide,' and we contemplate the result with equanimity, as the question is entirely one between Brazil and the United States now, and between Brazil and the Confederate States hereafter, should they ever establish their independence.

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THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS OF 1856 AND 1860.

WITHIN the next four days, in the ordinary course of postal service with America, possibly within the next forty-eight hours, we shall hear the result of the recent Presidential election in the United States. While the steamer which bears the intelligence is nearing the shores of England, it may not be unprofitable for us to recur to the incidents which attended the last two preceding elections, and therein to mark the signs that indicated only too truly the approaching dissolution of the great Republic. Few, perhaps, who witnessed the exciting movement of that stormy drama, still fewer who participated in its action, looked forward to a close so tragical and so immediate. That the political strife, which had been gradually growing fiercer and fiercer for years as it absorbed within its elements the hate of sections and the frenzy of fanaticism, would at last end in blood, no thoughtful observer of the times could doubt; but men weakly deferred the evil to some distant future which should be sufficient thereunto, and patriots of a generation gone by had fondly uttered the prayer of WEBSTER that upon their eyes that day of darkness might never dawn. And yet it came, bringing its desolation which would now seem to have been inevitable. In the retrospect of the eight eventful years which have passed since North and South were first distinctly arrayed against each other upon a geographical line, narrowly noting the evidences that were afforded from time to time during that period of a deadly animosity between the two divisions, it appears to us little short of amazing that the struggle was not clearly foreseen, and that the authors of the great sorrow did not shrink back appalled from the too apparent consequences of their madness and folly.

It was in the contest of 1856, indisputably, that the great masses of the Northern people, under the leadership of corrupt disappointed politicians, were for the first time organised against the South upon a sectional issue, and urged on to dominate over the weaker party by the mere force of a numerical majority. The nomination of JOHN C. FREMONT by the Republican Convention which assembled at Philadelphia in June, 1856, was made at a time seemingly most propitious. When the old Whig party died, upon the defeat of its candidate, General WINFIELD SCOTT, in 1852, a new organisation had suddenly sprung into existence under the denomination of the 'Know-Nothing party,' so called, for no other reason that can be perceived, than that whoever was outside of its pale could 'know nothing' of its operations. An oath of secresy was taken by all who united themselves with it, and the meetings of its local clubs were conducted with closed doors. In the party slang of the day, the Know-Nothings carried on their work in the 'culvert,' and the 'dark-lantern' was the emblem of their order. They were known to each other by pass-words and grips of the hand. In the Northern States, this new society grew all at once extremely formidable. It triumphed in the municipal and State elections everywhere. The Democrats found themselves powerless to contend with an opposition which worked in the dark, and ruled its individual members by the irresistible authority of a sworn allegiance. The term by which this mysterious and most potent opposition was generally called in the popular assembly, in the streets, and in the beerhouses, was SAM; and SAM marched on from victory to victory, claiming town after town and State after State for his own, to the consternation of the Democrats, until it appeared almost certain that he would walk into the Presidency, and hang up his hat in the White House at Washington. But his career was brought to a sudden and melancholy termination. Virginia was about to elect a Governor, the second that had ever been chosen in that State, so well known for its conservatism and its adherence to constitutional liberty, by the direct vote of the people. The cardinal doctrine of the Know-Nothing party was Native Americanism, by which was meant, not a wholesome reform in the laws of naturalisation, but the political excommunication of all foreigners, and a bitter warfare upon the Roman Catholic Church. Virginia was not blind to the evils that had been brought upon the country by the undue immigration of foreigners, and the over-easy admission of them to the high privileges of citizenship; but if there were two heresies in politics more odious to her than all others, they were secresy in matters of public concern and the imposition of religious tests. She had always repudiated the ballot-box and demanded *vivâ-voce* voting at the polls, holding that no man had a right to vote who had not the manliness to avow his sentiments; and her Bill of Religious Freedom, from the pen of THOMAS JEFFERSON, was one of the muniments of their liberties of which her sons were most justly proud. Accordingly, when the people came to record their suffrages for a Governor, although the Know-Nothings had made the most energetic efforts to secure the success of their candidate, and up to that hour had never been defeated in an election, the Democrats prevailed by a very large majority, and HENRY A. WISE had the honour of having given the quietus to SAM for all time. Never, perhaps, in history had the fortunes of a party or an individual undergone in so short a period so complete and mournful a change. In 1854 his word might have prevailed against the world. In 1855 there were none so poor to do him reverence.*

It was just at this crisis in political affairs, when the Whig party was quite dead, and the Know-Nothings had been effectually vanquished and dispersed, that the Republicans or Freesoilers began to combine for a vigorous contest with the Democrats, who alone remained in the field. FRANKLIN PIERCE was in office, a pure man whose administration of the government had been guided by honest impulses and wise counsels; but the leaders of the Republican party, among whom WILLIAM H. SEWARD had already become conspicuous, thought they saw the opportunity of success in the restless efforts of the '*outs*' against the '*ins*,' and they speedily formed themselves into an organisation, which was all the more dangerous because it was likely that the vote of the South would be divided between two candidates. In the preparations for the campaign two candidates were, indeed, presented to the people —JAMES BUCHANAN of Pennsylvania, nominated by the Democratic Convention, and MILLARD FILLMORE of New York, who was brought forward by a ghostly assemblage of the departed Whigs at Philadelphia. But, happily or unhappily, as may be thought by persons of various opinions, the sectional triumph was not won in 1856, and the arbitrament of the sword was postponed for four more years, which were to be crowded with causes of embitterment and exasperation. Mr. FILLMORE received only the vote of Maryland, and this was secured by frauds in the city of Baltimore without a precedent theretofore in the history of the United States. The undivided South cast their votes for Mr. BUCHANAN; and the Northern States, with the exception of California, Illinois, Indiana, and Pennsylvania, voted for FREMONT. But the exception was everything. The electoral vote of Pennsylvania alone decided the contest. Had it been given to FREMONT, it would have secured his election. But Pennsylvania voted for her own son, and thus the sectional triumph was for the time averted—as some delusively imagined, was shown to be thenceforth impossible. We cannot fail to be struck, however, with the fact that in the narrow escape of the country at that juncture, and the small margin that was left to the Democrats in their success, lay the certain doom of the Union. Such was the campaign of 1856.

It will probably distress the political sensibilities of none, at this day, to declare that Mr. BUCHANAN as President was a failure. The Republicans, who felt their strength, did whatever they could to embarrass the Administration; and the fruitful source of controversy, that had been brought into Congress in the legislation rendered necessary by the territorial question, especially as it applied to Kansas and Nebraska, might well have perplexed wiser Cabinets and rulers than held their seats in Washington. The imbecility of the PRESIDENT was, perhaps, not fully shown until, near the close of his administration, he was called to deal with the Commissioners of the Seceded States. But we will suffer the weakness and duplicity of that *mauvais quart d'heure* to pass without comment. The causes of excitement and animosity between North and South were of such a nature, however, that no ability at the head of affairs could have sufficed to compose the quarrel or to postpone yet longer the inevitable resort to arms. In Kansas the fight had already begun, and the churches of the North had been converted into armouries, if not into drill-rooms, for the recruits that were sent to shoot down the Southern citizen who should practically assert his right to carry a slave into that territory. Not to refer to private combats and individual outrages, which had inflamed greatly the popular mind, the JOHN BROWN raid into Virginia with fire and sword, approved, as it had been, by the general acclaim of the Northern people, was of itself enough to embroil the country in war. There was a pretence of disclaimer of this armed invasion; many honest men of the North were shocked at an

* An amusing caricature was brought out in Virginia illustrative of this election, which was quite as successful as anything ever done in England by Gilray or H. B. The Whig party had been represented in former contests by the device of a raccoon, and the Democrats maintained that the Know-Nothings were only that 'same old 'coon' in another guise. The caricature to which we refer represented 'Sam' in three cartoons. The first, entitled 'Sam in 1854,' showed us a raccoon dressed as an 'awful swell' walking out with an eye-glass in his dexter orb, and a gold-headed cane in his hand. The second, entitled 'Sam in 1855,' was a drawing of a tree in the forest, with the bushy tail or brush of a raccoon sticking out of a hollow in the trunk, and Governor Wise in hot pursuit. The third was a view of the front door of the Governor's house in Richmond, with a 'coon skin nailed up against a board, with the title 'Sam in 1856.' It is remarkable that the whole foreign element of the population of the United States should have so readily enlisted in the service of the Yankees, who would have deprived them of all political rights, to make war upon Virginia, who saved those rights from annihilation.

attempt to excite a servile insurrection throughout the Southern States, and meetings were held at various points, in which 'Union-saving' resolutions were adopted that denounced the purpose of John Brown; but it could not be concealed that the great heart of the North—that heart which responded to the eloquence of Wendell Phillips, and was stirred by the poetry of Whittier—was sympathetic with the murderer of Harper's Ferry. The pulpits rang with execrations of Virginia and Governor Wise when John Brown came to his just fate upon the gallows; funeral guns were fired on that day. flags drooped at half-mast, New England and the North-West gave every outward manifestation of their grief and their purpose of revenge. With such a condition of the Northern mind, and the South naturally aroused to resentment and suspicion, the Presidential campaign of 1860 was begun. It is not worth while to enquire into the fatuity by which the Conservatives of the whole Union were divided in their votes between three candidates—Breckinridge, Douglas, and Bell; while the destructives, embracing the immense mass of the people north of a certain arbitrary latitude, were united upon one—Lincoln. Nor shall we waste time in showing how the 'rail-splitter' came to obtain the nomination at Chicago—by what chicaneries, what intimidation, what small malice of Greeley towards Seward, what promises of preferment, and all the disgraceful et cetera of party intrigue, the wily statesman of Auburn, the smooth, easy, all-accomplished Chase, the 'Pathfinder' who had lost his way four years before, the classical Sumner of the broken head, and others were set aside for 'Old Abe.' We have only to deal with the fact that one Republican sectional candidate appeared in the field with three competitors, the representatives of differing political creeds, but embodying no sectional animosity, and upheld by no mass of men seeking to make war upon the social institutions of a particular division of the land. The result was not difficult to anticipate. The Republicans, in the insolence of numbers, threw off all disguise, and declared their contest to be a sectional one. In the larger cities, vast processions of 50,000 men, wearing 'wide-awake' hats, and calling themselves 'Wide-awakes,' marched with torches and clubs, to the sound of military bands, through the streets at midnight; and it was the boast of the Republican papers, that these men were under military organisation and could handle the musket were the occasion presented for employing it. No one who saw the Republican processions of September and October 1860 in the city of New York, as they passed along Broadway, with their flaming lights and revolutionary banners, and heard their choruses of 'Old John Brown's a-marching on,' and other songs of hatred for the Southern people, could fail to perceive in the spectacle a presage of approaching wrath, and the earnest of a sanguinary conflict in which these 'Wide-awakes' should bear a part. Ellsworth's Zouaves were made up entirely of the members of a Republican Club in Chicago.

It is worthy of remark, however, that while such scenes as these characterised the campaign of 1860, in advance of the election, the voting at the polls was conducted with a degree of decorum almost without a parallel in American politics. No violent outbreaks attended the registration in the cities, while in the country districts the polling passed off more quietly even than a militia muster or a quarter sessions. The overwhelming preponderance of the Lincoln vote in the North caused the deposition of the ballots to seem only a matter of form, while the extraordinary fact that no Lincoln electors were voted for in any Southern State withdrew from the contest the only cause of outward disturbance. The calm that brooded over the land on that 6th day of November, 1860, was the calm which precedes the worst fury of the elements in the natural world. Less than two months had passed before the Federal officers were preparing to uphold the authority of the Union in retaining the forts in the harbour of Charleston; and the folly of the Administration precipitated the struggle which has wrought, during the last four years, such a fearful sacrifice of human life in the Western world. And thus the election of 1860 terminated, before the inauguration of the successful candidate, in the downfall of the Republic and the beginning of sorrow for the American people. It was better, perhaps, that it should have been so; for surely it were preferable that the South should have undergone all the material waste and personal anguish that has followed in the smoking track of war, than that it should have been delivered over to the North to undergo the bitter humiliation of enslavement for its citizens, and the ruin of its wide territory, upon whose products the prosperity of mankind so largely depended. The sufferings of the South are but for a time, the assured inauguration of a bright career of liberty.

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

Mr. Lincoln has added a new star to the 'glorious galaxy' of States which are honoured by his rule. The territory of Nevada has, by proclamation, been 'admitted as a *State* into the Union' just in time to give him three votes at the election. For, although Nevada is a mere slice cut arbitrarily out of the huge blank which on the map of the United States represents the almost unknown Western wilderness—although it has no population except a few thousand miners, temporarily attracted by its reported wealth in precious metals, and the garrisons and settlers of a few isolated frontier posts established for their protection against the Indians—yet by this sudden elevation to the rank of a State it becomes entitled to two votes in the Federal Senate and one in the Federal House of Representatives, consequently three in the Presidential election. By the same easy method, Mr. Lincoln might easily compensate the Union for the loss of the South, and, at the cost of a few more proclamations, rule shortly over as many States as composed it at the time of his election.

The campaign before Richmond is virtually at an end. Grant's troops are engaged, we are told, in erecting log-houses for winter quarters, and will remain upon the James River, we suppose, until the spring, when the plan of attack for the reduction of the Confederate capital may be resumed. The reason given for this early abandonment of active operations is, that the Federal commander has no longer men enough to continue the campaign, and must await the result of another draft, which cannot bring him proper reinforcements for several months. We are no longer in doubt as to the design of the conjoined assault of Grant and Butler on October 27. It was *not* a reconnaissance in force, as was represented, but a serious attempt to flank the army of General Lee on the right and left wings at the same moment. Three army corps were thrown forward by Grant on the extreme left (right of Confederate position) in the hope of carrying the works protecting the Southside railway, but they were driven back by the Confederates with a loss, estimated by the enemy, of 1,500 killed and wounded, and 'many prisoners,' number not stated. General Butler's movement was even more unsuccessful. His blow was directed upon what was thought to be the weakest point in the Confederate lines, but it was parried by the ever-ready Confederates, who poured such an effective fire across the line of retreat that two entire brigades were wholly cut off and made prisoners. On the night of the 30th, the Confederates made a sortie into the lines of Grant, penetrating them to a considerable distance, and returning to their own position with 400 prisoners whom they had captured. Grant has, therefore, not been able to lend the *éclat* of military success to Lincoln in the Presidential election.

The Federal General Sheridan has fallen back nearly to Winchester, and is kept in a lively state of anxiety, lest the army of General Early, which, notwithstanding it has been annihilated three or four times, appears to be still in excellent fighting condition, should attempt another passage of the Potomac into Maryland. Much grave apprehension was felt by the Federals with regard to the advance of this utterly demoralised and worthless army of Early, and despatches from Hagerstown, Maryland, report the sound of their cannon in the direction of Sheridan's position. But this position must have been moved much further to the north, if the cannonade of an attack by Early could be heard at Hagerstown.

General Hood is reported as having crossed the Tennessee River at Cypress Creek, Alabama, on October 30, and to have advanced with 30,000 men into Tennessee, where Forrest, Buford, Chambers, and Bell, were concentrating their forces. The Confederates had destroyed the steamer *Mazeppa* and captured the *Undine* on the Tennessee River. Besides the armament of the *Undine* they had fourteen pieces of artillery. General Hood has probably reached the interior of the State ere this, and it may be hoped that he will yet drive the Yankees beyond its borders. Such confidence had been inspired by his movements in the people of Tennessee, that the Confederate Governor had issued his message convening the Legislature of the State at Jackson. General Buford, it was reported by Louisville papers, had been sent against Columbus and Paducah, in Kentucky. All the warehouses and shops in the latter place had been closed and the goods removed, and the Federals were preparing to defend the town.

Advices from Missouri represent General Price as retiring into Arkansas with abundant material supplies, collected during his recent occupation of Missouri.

General Longstreet's headquarters were at Gadsden in Georgia, and the garrison of Atlanta was stated as being only 6,000 men. But we are at liberty to place small confidence in this estimate.

We have received Southern newspapers to the 29th ult. They contain hopeful accounts of the condition of the armies and the military situation everywhere. A grand disaster is confidently expected to befall Sherman's army in consequence of the brilliant strategy initiated by General Beauregard and carried out by General Hood with his usual dash and vigour. The appeals of President Davis have evidently had immediate and complete effect. According to the *Charleston Mercury* of October 22, 'The ranks of General Lee's army are rapidly filling up, and the corps, divisions, brigades, and regiments, depleted by many battles, are assuming their former proportions. At dress parade on Sunday last, a Virginia regiment, which had inscribed on its battle-flag the names of our earliest battles, turned out eleven hundred muskets, and one of our smallest divisions numbered seven thousand effective men.' The press continues to discuss the proposal of arming the negroes, and appears to give it an almost unanimous approval. According to the *Confederate*, a journal published at Raleigh, North Carolina, arrangements are progressing at Richmond to arm 300,000 slaves for the spring campaign, the owners to be compensated by the Confederate Government. The same authority states that these slaves are to receive, besides their liberty, a grant of land of fifty acres each at the conclusion of the war.

General Wallace, commanding at Baltimore, has suppressed another newspaper, called the *Loyalist*, in that city, for stating that a call for 300,000 more recruits would be made during the winter, and no substitutes allowed. As the name of the paper sufficiently indicates its devotion to the Republican autocrat, we may assume that the real offence so severely punished is that of an indiscreet revelation.

Various disgraceful attacks by Republican mobs upon Democratic meetings and processions on the eve of the election are chronicled in the Northern papers. In some instances there has been considerable loss of life.

The latest advices from Charleston and Wilmington announce that the yellow fever has been checked by recent heavy frosts, and give hope of its speedy abatement.

The preparations for the threatened attack on Wilmington seem to have been made on an enormous scale. The fleet under the command of Admiral Porter consists of more than 60 vessels, mounting about 600 guns. Six of the vessels are ironclads. A land force will be at hand to occupy any works which the fleet may succeed in capturing. The new torpedo vessel *Stromboli* was expected to perform miracles of destruction—in fact, to revolutionise naval warfare. The Confederates, on the other hand, are full of activity, strengthening the defences and mounting fresh guns. All non-combatants have been ordered to leave the port. Fort Fisher is a work of no ordinary character, and New Inlet Channel may prove an entrance of destruction to the Federal fleet. The defences at the western bar are equally formidable. It is assumed on all hands that the fleet under Admiral Porter is destined to attack Wilmington. It may possibly turn out that the James River is the real point contemplated; at any rate, the season of the year lends colour to the notion that even electioneering necessities must succumb to the perils of the North Carolina coast in the month of November.

The Confederate ram *Albemarle*, on October 4, ran out as far as the Croatan lighthouse, captured the keeper, blew up the lighthouse, and destroyed its contents. She then put back through the Federal fleet. Lieutenant W. B. Cushing, with Picket Boat No. 1. of Porter's squadron, was sent on October 17 to blow up the *Albemarle*. On his return he reported that he had succeeded in blowing her up on the morning of the 28th, with the loss of his own boat, and that the destruction of the ram was complete. Cushing and one other man escaped; the rest of his crew were captured. The Admiral says that Commander Macomb writes that, 'from circumstances which have since occurred, he (Macomb) was able to inform Porter that the ram was sunk.' The Admiral quotes a second authority to confirm Cushing's statement. Did he think the story of his subordinate too marvellous to be true?

It appears, upon the authority of Admiral Buchanan, that at the fight in Mobile Bay the Federal fleet numbered 14 steamers and 4 monitors carrying 199 heavy guns besides boats' howitzers, with crews of 2,800 men. The Confederate squadron had 22 guns and 470 men. The loss of the Federals was 420 men, that of the Confederates 2 killed and 20 wounded.

There is a grim joke, not at all inconsistent with Mr. Lincoln's character, in the suggestion that Butler would be appointed to the command of the city of New York pending the elections. The rumours to this effect preceded, and are in a measure confirmed by, the unexplained presence of that redoubted warrior against clergymen and women. Verily this would be for the North taking to its own lips the bitter cup of which the unhappy populations of New Orleans and Norfolk have drunk to the dregs.

The amount of Federal debt outstanding up to the month of October was officially stated at $2,017,099,515 75 cents., being an increase of $61,000,000 since the last monthly announcement. The interest then payable stood at $56,646,000 in coin, and $28,657,000 in lawful money. The amount in the Treasury was nearly $27,000,000, and the unpaid requisitions $37,500,000.

The Hon. J. P. Benjamin, Secretary of State, has addressed a note to the Confederate representative at Brussels, directing attention to the enormous and increasing weight of the Federal debt, and the unavoidable insolvency of the Northern States. He estimates the annual interest at $81,778,043, and observes that that sum already exceeded the total revenue of the United States as it existed prior to the secession of the Southern States. The rate of increase in the debt was $2,215,200 per day, and the increase was entirely in the interest-bearing debt. He calculates that on the opening of the spring campaign the Federal debt will amount to $2,430,000,000, bearing interest to the amount of $112,780,000. In addition, there were the burdens of the pension list and unliquidated claims, reaching to hundreds of millions of dollars. Then again, according to Mr. Fessenden, the taxation on the Federal States exceeded by upwards of $30,000,000 the revenue of Great Britain, as estimated for the current year by Mr. Gladstone. The population subject to taxation in the North was about 23,000,000, of whom a large number had been converted from producers into de-

stroyers. The war could not be carried on by the North except by a daily increase to the public debt of $2,250,000, and it was clear that if the war lasted one more year the United States would, even if desirous, be utterly unable to meet their obligations. If the capitalists of Europe cut off the supplies, the United States could not continue the war, and in the cessation of war lay the only hope of payment for the foreign lender. It will be observed that Mr. Benjamin's estimates are on the most moderate scale.

THE mail steamers which have arrived from North America during the past ten days have brought nearly $3,000,000 in specie.

AT New York on the evening of November 5, gold was at 245¼.

ENGLAND.

THE crime of Müller has been followed by a murder of less romance, but equal atrocity, and in the latter case both the victim and the supposed murderer are foreigners, the latter being a Dutchman and the former a German. The facts of the crime are as follows:—A party of men were out shooting in Plaistow Marshes, close to Silvertown, on November 8, when one Richard Harvey, who was beating the rushes for game, came suddenly upon the trunk of a dead man. The corpse lay on its back, and was headless. The spot was fifty yards from the river bank, and the reeds were seven feet high. The body was dressed in a pair of black cloth trousers and Wellington boots. It had no other covering. The body, in the presence of the police, was removed to an hotel in Silvertown, and a surgeon was summoned. The muscular portion of the neck down to the bone had been eaten away by rats; the flesh of the left hand and part of the flesh of the right hand had been eaten away. It seemed that a knife and chopper had been used in severing the head from the trunk. The body was that of a well-fed muscular man, and had probably lain in the marshes for four or five days. On the ensuing day a vigilant search developed the details of the tragedy. At a considerable distance from the spot where the trunk was found runs a ditch seven feet wide and three or four feet deep in mud. Here was found a pool of blood four feet long and one foot broad. From the ditch to the spot above named traces of blood were plainly discernible, and at about two-thirds of the distance was seen a circular patch of blood such as would have been caused by a momentary deposit of the head. As far as can be surmised from a view of the scene of the murder, it seems that the victim must have been walking in front of his murderer at the approach to the ditch, the narrowness of the path precluding the possibility of two men walking abreast. Into the ditch the victim descended first, and at that precise moment a blow must have been dealt him across the left eye and temple. He fell forwards, while his boots were driven into the clay of the ditch. The murderer must, by means of a large-bladed knife or chopper, have severed the head from the body, dragged the trunk about eighteen yards, then, having deposited the trunk, proceeded to a further spot and dug a hole twelve inches deep for the head, which was there discovered by the police. The face of the victim bore the characteristics of a German physiognomy. Ferdinand Edward Köhl, of Plaistow, a sugar-baker, and native of Holland, a dull-looking man of twenty-seven years, and Hannah his wife, an English girl of eighteen, were arrested. Before the magistrate, Heinrich Zutch, a shoemaker, identified the body from the boots, which the deceased had shown to him in order to have them repaired. Elizabeth Warren, of Plaistow, said that the prisoner formerly lodged with her, that he went to Germany, and returning, brought to her house a young man whom he used to call John. On his return Köhl married the female prisoner. The young man John lodged at the house of witness for thirteen days. He could not speak English. He was young and remarkably handsome. The prisoner spoke of the young man as bound for New York, with a salary of 200*l.* a year. The latter had at one time handed to witness six sovereigns, a silver watch, gold Albert chain, and ring. All these she returned to him. When he left her house he had four sovereigns and some silver, and when he paid her he said that if he changed another sovereign he should not be able to pay his passage to New York. She kept some of his clothes because he did not pay the whole of his bill, but she restored the things on the following day. The deceased left her house with the male prisoner, two lads, and a German whom they called 'Butcher.' The latter paid the balance of her account. This occurred about a month since. The deceased said that he was to sail a few days afterwards. She had not seen Butcher since. Mr. Howie, Superintendent of Police, said that he went to the house of the male prisoner and enquired whether a young German was missing. The prisoner said that the German who had lodged with him was missing; that he and the German had gone to the docks to look for a ship, and on returning the prisoner went into a sugar-bakery, leaving the German in the street; that on emerging from the bakery he missed the German, and had since searched in vain for him; that he could not identify the body, not having seen the head, but that the trousers were like those of the German. Henry Lee said that on November 3, at 10 A.M., he had seen the prisoner, and the German whom he believed to be deceased, walking along the river wall near the sugarhouse towards Silvertown. He remarked to two fellow-labourers that those were the two men he had seen together at the shop of Zutch. It would be about four minutes' walk from where he saw the two men to the place where the body was found. At half-past four on the same day he met the prisoner, who told him that the young man was missing. Witness replied that he had seen the prisoner and the young man that morning walking by the river bank. After hearing the evidence, the magistrates discharged the female prisoner, and remanded Köhl for further enquiry.

AT 8 A.M. on the morning of the 14th instant, Franz Müller was hanged, for the murder of Mr. Briggs, in front of the Debtors' Gate of Newgate Prison. Unremitting efforts had been made by the German Legal Protection Society to obtain a respite of his sentence, on the ground that fresh evidence threw grave doubts on the justness of the verdict of the jury; but Sir George Grey could see no reason why the sentence of the law should not be carried out. Müller continued to deny his guilt to the very last. On several occasions Dr. Capell, the Lutheran minister who attended him even to the gallows, adjured him, if he was guilty, to confess the fact; but, sometimes vaguely, at other times more circumstantially, always persistently, the condemned man asserted his innocence. During the whole of the Sunday night a small crowd stood around the fatal space which was to contain the scaffold; the continuous drizzle, which at times increased to a pitiless pelting storm, was strong enough to prevent the crowd increasing, though not able to disperse the small nucleus which had taken up a front position before the gate of the gaol. At about 5.30 A.M. the weather began to clear, and as the dawn grew brighter the whole length of the Old Bailey gradually filled with that horrible crowd, the sickening refuse of the world's metropolis, in whose favour public executions are still preserved as an English institution. Right well did they act up to their character on that morning. If it be possible that filth, violence, and obscenity can by their accumulation form a greater crime than that of murder, truly Müller looked down from his scaffold upon many a greater criminal than himself. At 5 minutes to 8 the bell of Newgate began to toll. At the sound of it even that nauseous mob became sober, and stood silent with doffed hats as the awful procession came up the steps. Two chaplains were there—one English, the other German. The former was silent; the latter began to address the condemned man with an awful earnestness and somewhat excited gesticulation. At the last moment, as he laid his hand upon that of Müller, the wretched man appeared to bow his head; almost at the same instant the drop fell. The two clergymen hurried from the fatal platform; when at the bottom of it, Dr. Capell, the German, sank into a chair and gasped out 'Thank God!' At the last moment Müller had confessed. After denying his guilt to every one, whether friend or stranger—after denying it before receiving the holy sacrament—after twice denying it while the rope was round his neck, and he stood under the beam of death—he had used his last breath to utter the words, 'Ich habe es gethan'—'I have done it.'

LORD PALMERSTON, in the course of a speech of thanks for the toast of Her Majesty's Ministers, at the Guildhall Banquet, said that there was one dark spot in the picture which the affairs of the world presented. That dark spot lay on the other side of the Atlantic. Every man of right mind must grieve that that bloody and disastrous war, which broke out three years ago among the kindred nations of the northern part of America, still bedewed with the blood of its people the tracts of territory which ought to be cultivated and become the source of wealth and happiness to mankind. He trusted that the contending parties, within some period not remote, would find it better to be reconciled than to fight, and that their disputes would be settled by amicable arrangement between themselves. The beginning of that strife was expected to be attended in this country with the most disastrous results to our manufactures. Those alarms had been found to be groundless. At all events, out of evil some good might come, for he trusted that in future the sources of cotton supply would be spread over a great portion of the globe, and that this country would be no longer dependent upon any one country for the materials which were essential for the industry, the wealth, and prosperity of a great part of the population of the country. Probably no man in England but Lord Palmerston would have delivered such an oration as this, for no one else could presume sufficiently on his position to allow himself to utter such unreasonable language. Perhaps Lord Palmerston thought it good enough for a Guildhall dinner; but even in that place he might recollect that he is the Prime Minister. When he said that alarms at the effect of the war upon our manufactures were groundless, he must have been absolutely oblivious of the misery of half a million honest men, of the blows dealt at the commercial condition of the country, of the enormous and increasing prices of calico, woollen, and cloth goods, and all kindred fabrics, to the taxation of the resources of every family. Yet Lord Palmerston may be pardoned, for he sees an end to our troubles. He looks to other sources of cotton supply. Last year this expectation had some little foundation, for the prospects of cotton other than American were not quite desperate; now the situation offers no support whatever for the supposition. In India 60 per cent. of the cotton crop has failed, and the remnant will break the hearts of the mechanics and the pockets of the millowners. In Turkey there is a similar failure. We have demonstrated by unanswerable statistics that the imports are wholly inadequate even when the calculations are based on plentiful crops; and Lord Palmerston chooses a year of blight and barrenness to utter his oracular congratulations. 'Out of evil comes good'—that is the cry of the Abolitionist who desires to see slavery destroyed at any price; and Lord Palmerston promotes the conviviality of the Corporation of London by the consoling reflection that out of the slaughter of a million men and the burning of a million homes England may get Surat rubbish instead of New Orleans Fair.

SOME words which fell from the Chancellor of the Exchequer when presiding at the annual dinner of the Queen's Westminster Volunteers, deserve record as pointing out an important characteristic in the composition of the force. Mr. Gladstone said:—

> Until the Volunteer force came into existence there was one special gap and one special defect in the military institutions of the country. We had an incomparable army and navy. I hope in this assembly we may call them incomparable without disparagement to the army and navy of any other country. We had an admirable army and navy, composed of officers and men. The officers were taken, speaking generally, almost uniformly from the upper classes, and the men from the lower classes of society. I am not going to set up against the upper or against the lower class, or any other class of society; but still I do maintain that between those two classes of society there is a class which is of considerable importance, termed the middle class of society. That middle class of society has, like every other class, its merits and its faults. But it is a class of very great weight and very great consequence in every well-regulated country. In point of fact, if you go into any ill-ordered country, you will generally find that it has not a good sound middle class; and if, on the other hand, you go into a well-ordered country, you will find that there is in it a strong middle class. In fact, the middle class is in a very great degree the cement between the upper and lower classes. Until the volunteer force came into existence an Englishman of the middle class, possessed of political power, and wanting in none of the gifts and qualities which belonged to the other classes, had, I may say, speaking generally, no opportunity of exhibiting his desire for, and contributing his fair share to the defences of his country. I hold it to be a great permanent, national, and social gain that the creation of the Volunteer force has united as it has done in perfect harmony every class from the highest aristocracy of the land, which you see at the head of some of your metropolitan regiments, and the honest, laborious, industrious, ingenious mechanic, who has contributed so large a share towards making England what it is. The Volunteer force has brought all these together into one well-commanded body; it has supplied the lack and defect which existed before, and has added a new social bond as well as a new military defence to the institutions of the country.

MR. M'CULLOCH died on Friday, November 11, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. He was born in Wigtonshire, and on quitting school entered the office of a Writer to the Signet. He, however, abandoned the law, and went to the University at Edinburgh. His career as a literary man dates from 1817, when he first became connected with the *Scotsman*. He held, for a short period subsequent to the year 1823, the Professorship of Political Economy in the University of London. In 1838, he was appointed Controller of the London Stationery Office. His works, remarkable for industry, lucidity, and laborious compilation, will carry his name down to many generations of political economists. The two principal achievements of his life were the 'Dictionary of Commerce and Commercial Navigation,' and the 'Statistical Account of the British Empire.' His edition of 'Smith's Wealth of Nations,' 'The Principles of Political Economy and the Principles and Practical Influence of Taxation and the Funding System,' are works valued by the statesman and by the student of political economy.

THE ship *Great Western*, bound from Liverpool to New York, has been stopped by the authorities. She is supposed to have on board a large number of passengers kidnapped for the Federal service.

IRELAND.

The town of Athlone has performed the feat of arresting a Federal recruiting agent in the very act of decoying British soldiers. On Sunday last a number of young soldiers of the 25th Regiment were enjoying themselves in a convivial manner in a public-house, when a worthy individual of about sixty years of age, and of military mien, joined the party. His proposition to pay for the liquor at once placed him on familiar terms with the soldiers; and, after a grand discourse on the American war generally, the stranger proceeded to dilate on the love of the United States towards Ireland, and the duty of the Irish to requite that benevolence by fighting for their adopted country. Emboldened by the seeming assent of his audience, he proceeded to administer to four of the party an oath of allegiance to Mr. Lincoln. Meanwhile, one of the soldiers had left the house, and, having secured the assistance of a policeman, returned just in time to arrest the agent *in flagrante delicto*. The latter now awaits his trial at the sessions. A search discovered in his portmanteau divers papers relating to military affairs, and a letter instructing him in what quarter money, when necessary, would be supplied.

CANADA.

Reports have been prevalent at Montreal that the Federal Government had notified the English Government that, for the purpose of protecting the frontier, the armament maintained on the Canadian lakes by the United States will immediately be increased.

THE CONTINENT.

FRANCE.

WE may be thankful in England that we have been spared the necessity of adjudicating upon another crime committed by a foreigner—a murder more revoltingly cruel than that for which Müller has just suffered, and more destructive in the number of its victims. Fortunately for us, the murderer had so framed his plans that England is not required to perform upon him the stern office of judge. Leduc was a native of Montcavarel, near Montreuil, and had for many years followed the occupation of a waiter, in which capacity he has lately been employed in the Etablissement des Bains at Boulogne. He is married, and his wife lives in Boulogne; but he appears to have been in constant communication with the opposite shores, and to have kept a mistress and two children in London. On the 6th instant he crossed over from Folkestone with his two English children; he was seen at 7 P.M. with them in his company; at 8.30 P.M. he appeared at his wife's house alone, with his clothes wet. He accounted for the fact by saying that he had fallen into the port; it is proved, however, that no accident of the kind happened. He left his house, and returned again at 10.30 P.M.; he was in a very bad temper, and demanded money of his wife, threatening to shoot her if she did not give him some. She gave him five francs to pacify

him; he stopped all night in the house, and left it on Monday morning to go off by the railway. On that morning the inhabitants of Boulogne were awakened with the horrible story that the bodies of two children had been found in the port, and that a murder had undoubtedly been committed. Suspicions fell instantly upon Leduc. The police were despatched in large bodies to Montcavarel, the native place of Leduc; it having been judged, and rightly, that his five francs could take him no further than that place. The most intense excitement reigned meanwhile in the town. The fishwomen went by hundreds to view the bodies of the children. With the impulsiveness of their sex they gave full vent to their pity of the victims and horror of the murderer. One woman said she had to work hard to support her four children, but would willingly have increased her labours to provide for those two innocents. So incensed were they with Leduc that it was feared he would be sacrificed to their indignation when captured, without the formality of a trial. At last the news came that he had been arrested at 8.30 P.M. on the 8th inst. He was brought to Boulogne with the greatest secresy, and taken to the Hôtel de Ville. On the next morning he was examined by the magistrates, and confronted with the bodies of the children. He examined them with calmness, and steadfastly asserted his innocence; he allowed that they belonged to him, and said that 'as for the brigand who made away with them, I shall have his life, or he shall have mine.' On the 10th inst. he was examined a second time, and the carpet-bag and portmanteau brought over by him from Folkestone were opened and turned over in his presence. Not many articles were taken out before the prisoner's ease of manner vanished. He said: 'It is useless to proceed; I admit that I committed the crime.' The case was concluded, and the prisoner will be sent to trial at St. Omer.

The sovereigns of South America are being treated with scant ceremony in Europe. The Emperor of Brazil has lately been elected a corresponding member of the Geographical Society of London. Well, this, if not a very lofty or very valuable distinction, is at least not damaging to his Imperial Majesty's character; but the King of Araucania and Patagonia, Orlli Antoine I. — alas for his Majesty!—has been brought before the Correctional Police Court of Paris on a charge of common swindling. It appeared that this gentleman, whose private name is De Tonnens, emigrated to South America in 1858. He found the Araucanians without government or organisation; he suggested to them the advantages of a constitution, and offered to make one for them. The Araucanians accepted his offer, and elected him king. The Patagonians, determined not to be outdone, begged him to accept their crown also. Thus he became Orlli Antoine I., by the grace of God and the national will, King of Araucania and Patagonia. This imposing title did not deter his neighbours the Chilians from attacking him, taking him prisoner, and condemning him to death; he was saved by the interference of the French authorities, and returned to France. Here he attempted to raise a company for the creation of a factory in his kingdom; his manifesto, however, fell flat; not a sou was subscribed. At last the hotel-keeper, on whom he had been living for four months, waxed impatient, demanded his money, and in default of it summoned him for swindling. The presiding magistrates gave his ex-majesty a sharp rebuke, but finally dismissed the case, the evidence showing that the unfortunate Orlli Antoine I. really believed in the possibility of a return to his kingdom. He has mistaken the character of modern times; 'Restorations' were possible before events marched on with their present railroad pace. The Bourbons are extinct in France and Naples; the House of Lorraine will never again rule in Florence; King Otho will not return to Greece; the United States and the Confederates are for ever sundered; and Araucania and Patagonia will never again see their ancient King.

The Marquis de Beaumont insured the life of a M. Driencourt for the sum of 2,000*l.* in the International Life Assurance Company in 1854, and paid all premiums on his policy up to 1863, in which year M. Driencourt died. The company declined to pay the sum assured, on the plea that the assurance of the life of a third party, a stranger to the contract, was illegal in England, and that such an assurance was a mere wager on the duration of a human life. The case came before the *Tribunal de Commerce de la Seine*, who decided that the law of England had nothing to do with a contract made in France by a person ignorant of that law, and that the assurance of the life of a third party was not a wager, but constituted a certain debt, the payment of which was postponed until the occurrence of an event, i.e. the death of the third person. The company was accordingly ordered to pay the amount of the assurance with costs. This trial is remarkable as bringing out, with great distinctness, the difference between the French and English law in a matter which is daily becoming of more importance. In England we are consistent in condemning 'time-bargains' on the same principle of the illegality of wagers. In France they are equally condemned, but at the expense of legislative consistency.

The grandest defence which it has ever been our lot to see crowned with success was that of a young gentleman suspected by his uncle of too great fondness for his young and pretty aunt. The uncle was seventy, the aunt twenty-three, and the nephew twenty-seven; this alone was a *primâ facie* case against the young man. But there was more than this; the uncle had pounced upon a packet of letters which left no doubt of his nephew's sentiments. There was a child too; and, as the old man said, the only ray of comfort that he saw on the birth of the child was, that, being legally bound to recognise it, he could deprive his nephew of that share in his fortune which otherwise he should have been forced to leave him. The President of the court saw the letters, and asked the defendant how he could hope to explain them. 'Easily,' was the reply; 'the letters are only so many chapters in a novel which I am writing in an epistolary form.' 'A novel, eh? but,' said the uncle, 'they are addressed to my wife.' 'A mere coincidence; my heroine is to have the same name, that's all.' 'And you waited all this time to tell me so!'—then to the Court, 'I withdraw the charge.' Apparently the young gentleman's novel will be very one-sided, for we do not hear of any letters in the same collection addressed from the lady to the gentleman.

On the 9th inst. the Convention between England, France, Belgium, and Holland, on the subject of the exportation of sugar and the drawbacks on reimportation, was concluded and signed in Paris.

The King of the Belgians is now paying a visit to the Emperor at Compiègne.

The advices from Algiers are exceedingly satisfactory; the insurrection is daily losing ground. An immense mass of ammunition and provisions has been forwarded to the inland city of Laghouat, which will now become the base of the operations of the expeditionary army.

ITALY.

The debate on the Franco-Italian Convention was renewed in the Italian Parliament on the 8th inst. It was hoped that it might be closed on the 17th inst., but the habits of a young debating society always tend to produce prolixity. In accordance with the methodical habit borrowed from the French system, the names of those who intend to speak on the subject are put on the paper; they amount to seventy-four, and each of these is allowed to say his full say. In some instances the House rose in the middle of a speech, and the orator was then allowed to begin again with restored vigour on the following morning. Once the speaker, Signor Laporta, after speaking for three hours, coolly asked the House to adjourn for a quarter of an hour; the request was granted, but on recommencing he was soon obliged to ask for another rest. As very few of the speakers have any style to recommend them, and none have any new arguments to bring forward, the debate is very flat. No one doubts as to its result; consequently, the public trouble themselves little about the speeches. Signor Visconti Venosta, late Foreign Minister, made a good speech in favour of the Convention. Signor Buoncompagni made a very wearisome one in presenting the report of the Committee on the transfer of the capital, which was in favour of the Government proposals. Signor Ferrari, an eccentric but able member, who prides himself upon the fact that he has never once before voted in favour of the Government, made an amusing speech on their side. He approves of the adoption of Florence for a capital, and thinks that Rome is too thoroughly saturated with the tyranny and duplicity, first of the Emperors and next of the Popes, ever to make a good capital. As for the extinction of the temporal power of the Popes, that he has no doubt, will be effected by the Convention; Rome will become Italian, but it need not therefore become the capital of Italy. His only difficulty was to find an historical precedent for the transfer of a capital, and to do it he was obliged to travel as far as China, where, in the year B.C. 2000, he discovered his desired parallel, to the huge amusement of the House. General della Marmora addressed the House on the 12th inst. He stated that he had been originally opposed to the treaty, as one likely to disturb the freshly cemented union of the Italian provinces. However, on coming into office, and finding the Convention already signed, he reasoned himself out of his fears, and determined to support it. He regretted that any suspicion had been thrown on the conduct of France, and stated that the Emperor had always spoken and acted in the most favourable manner for Italy. 'I have great confidence,' he said, 'in the Emperor, who has entirely devoted himself to the Roman question. I believe also that he will assist us for Venice; I speak as a private person. Some solution may become possible with respect to Venice. I believe the mind of the Emperor of Austria may be brought to fresh resolutions with this object.' This remarkable statement was received by the House with the greatest applause; whether it will be received with equal favour in the French Cabinet is a question. It establishes a sort of 'solidarity' between the positions of Rome and Venice which must be unacceptable to many people, even though true. Evidently, if the Emperor is inclined to assist in giving Rome to the Italians in the same sense in which he would assist in giving to them Venice, or has already given to them Lombardy, it must be by taking it or allowing it to be taken from its present masters. The Marchese Pepoli followed on the same side. He took a more European view of the question, pointing out that the solution of the Roman difficulty by France in favour of the 'nationality' principle was a counter-stroke to the settlement of the Slesvig-Holstein and Polish difficulties by Germany and Russia. He hoped the Convention would reestablish confidence between England and France, disturbed by the refusal of the former to participate in a Congress. The task of Italy was to further this alliance, which alone could secure the triumph of liberal ideas. He implored the Chamber to support the Convention, as its repudiation would be the destruction of the Liberal party throughout Europe.

General della Marmora found it necessary to explain his observations with regard to Venice in a speech delivered on the 15th instant. He said no menace to Austria was intended, and that the Italian Government deeply deplored the movement in Friuli.

The financial scheme proposed by Signor Sella has been received with less surprise in Italy than in any other country in Europe. The proposal to anticipate the land-tax, and to levy increased duties on such necessaries as salt, grain, and tobacco, appeared to all strangers to be suicidal. In Italy, however, it is believed that the application of these financial measures will be far more easy than was expected. One municipality—that of Brescia—has declared its readiness to anticipate the payment of the land-tax for 1865 on account of its citizens. The fulness of this liberality will only be perceived when we observe that there is no chance that the land-tax now anticipated will be remitted for many years. Thus, the anticipation of it is only a new method of getting out of the people a forced loan, without paying interest for it.

Florence, the future capital of Italy, has been suffering seriously from floods. Its communications are cut off on every side by the destruction of the railways and telegraphs. The lower parts of the town are inundated, and the Arno has risen to the level of the parapets of the quays. Much property has been destroyed, and many houses threaten to fall in; but as yet few lives have been lost.

One or two fresh bands of insurgents have been discovered in Venetia, within the province of Friuli. Some of them have contented themselves with the pillage of the post houses, but others have attacked the Austrian troops. In one engagement the Austrians lost several men, and had a lieutenant killed. The insurrection is not, however, flourishing; the inhabitants of the country decline to take a part in it.

The Czarewitch is now at Turin, and has exchanged visits with the King. Prince Omberto is doing the honours of the city to his illustrious visitor.

DENMARK.

The treaty of peace was approved by the Folksthing (the Lower House) on the 9th inst. by 75 votes to 21. All the deputies from Slesvig and the Danish *enclaves* voted against its adoption. The bill was then sent up to the Upper House (the Landsthing), where it was approved by 55 votes to 4, four members abstaining from voting. The four in the minority, with the four behind the chair, were again the members from Slesvig. The King signed the treaty at a Privy Council held on the 12th inst., immediately upon which Count Moltke-Hvidtfeld was despatched to Vienna with the ratified treaty. One curious result of the treaty is, that, peace being now reestablished, the King of Denmark will, according to the etiquette of royalty, send ambassadors to Vienna and Prussia to announce to the rulers of those countries his elevation to the throne—an event which may be considered to be pretty familiar to them, considering that upon it some of their gravest arguments for the justice of the late hostilities were founded. The Danish journals announce that the new Danish frontier is to be strongly occupied, and the villages on the west coast of the island of Fünen facing the mainland are to receive permanent garrisons. The army is to be immediately placed on a peace footing, and all the ships of war are to be disarmed.

GERMANY.

According to trustworthy advices from Germany, it appears that Count Mensdorff has taken a very decided attitude with regard to the German Federation. He objects *in toto* to the manner in which the authority of that abstract body has been set at nought lately. He at first refused to sanction the notice given by the two great Powers to the troops of the Federation to evacuate the Duchies; and at last he only consented to a compromise, whereby the so-called army of execution was to be withdrawn, and a mixed force admitted into the country for the preservation of order, of which at least one-third should be troops of the Federation. The civil commissioners of the Bund should also be admitted to a corresponding share of the authority over the country. This has delighted the hearts of the Union States, who were becoming more and more dissatisfied with the conduct of affairs by Prussia; they remembered that their plenipotentiary, Herr von Beust, has already suggested that the surrender of Slesvig-Holstein, a part of the German Federation, to two private members of the same Federation, is illogical and therefore illegal; and they were afraid that Prussia would take advantage of the one illegality to proceed to another, and annex the Duchies to herself. Count Rechberg was supposed to be too thoroughly committed to a common action with Prussia to be able to protest against this usurpation, even if he had wished it. The appointment of Count Mensdorff and his immediate action has, to a great extent, extinguished their alarms, in spite of the continued assurances that the alliance between the two great Powers is as intimate as ever. A curious reason is given for the change which has lately taken place in the attitude of Russia with regard to the Duchies. It will be remembered that the Emperor of Russia ceded all his rights to the throne of the Duchies to the Grand-Duke of Oldenburg. This was, in fact, to acknowledge that the treaty of London of 1852 was null and void; but if this were acknowledged, then, according to the arguments which have already been detailed in these pages, the title of the present King of Denmark, the future father-in-law of the heir-apparent of Russia, is also destroyed. In order, therefore, not to compromise the rights and dignity of one who is soon to be connected with the Imperial throne, the Emperor of Russia has declined to declare the treaty of 1852 invalid, and has cooled the fierceness of his partisanship for the Grand Duke of Oldenburg. The municipality of Kiel presented an address to the Duke Frederick of Augustenburg upon the conclusion of the treaty of peace. In replying to them, the Duke said that they owed much to Germany, and especially to Prussia. It would be to their immediate interest to sacrifice a little to the latter Power. 'The Duchies could play an important part if their position and their sailors were made use of by the Prussian navy.' A suspicion has been already expressed that the Duke Frederick has consented to give Prussia the naval, military, and political use of the Duchies in return for her favourable influence. The speech above quoted can only strengthen such a suspicion. The inhabitants of the Duchies are extremely indignant with Prussia. Some demonstrations were got up in her favour upon the conclusion of the treaty of peace; but in Altona and Kiel few of the citizens could be induced to hoist the black and white flag.

The Reichsrath of Austria has been twice opened—once informally by the Archduke Rainer (Gallicè Regnier) on the 12th inst., and again on the 14th inst. by the Emperor in person. The Imperial speech was long and somewhat discursive. The acceptance of the crown of Mexico by the Archduke Maximilian, and the settlement of the

Dano-German war, were touched on with an equally light hand. Italy was not even hinted at. The Emperor congratulated himself and his audience that the state of siege in Galicia, consequent on the war in Poland, need no longer be maintained. He then turned to financial matters. He first said that it was intended to discuss the budgets of 1865 and 1866, the one immediately after the other, in order to introduce a settled succession of time in the sessions of the Reichsrath and the Provincial Diets. Next he spoke of the changes to be made in the taxation, both direct and indirect; of a new customs tariff which is to be brought in during the session, probably in connection with the late Tariff Conferences at Prague; and of the railways, which he hoped would be multiplied throughout his empire. In mentioning these subjects, the Emperor used the alarming word 'politico-economical' several times, which doubtless awed and astounded his hearers as much as it was intended to do. A novel feature in this Reichsrath is the presence of the full number of nine Polish deputies in the Lower House. The Tcheck deputies from Bohemia still persist in their policy of abstention from their Parliamentary duties. In accordance with the words in the Emperor's speech, proclamation has been made throughout Galicia that the civil tribunals will henceforth resume their jurisdiction over all crimes except high treason and rioting; these two will still be subject to the military law. A new state loan for 25,000,000 florins at 5 per cent. was announced in Vienna on the 9th instant; its issue price is 87.

The party of 'reaction' in Prussia is having it all its own way just now. Legal persecution is the favourite plan when it is possible, as, for instance, against the press; when this is not feasible, more violent measures are resorted to. The enmity of the Government seems to be particularly directed against the instructors of youth; nor are they contented with ejecting men from their posts without assigning any reason, but they do the same to schoolmistresses to whom they object. A very hard case is mentioned at Cöslin, where a schoolmistress was deprived of her livelihood in the most summary and inexplicable manner: she herself is of the best possible character, but she has the misfortune to have a brother who is a Liberal deputy.

Amidst the horrible murders which have excited the attention of Europe lately, that of Professor Gregy at Berlin has not been the least appalling. The body of this gentleman was found in the Spree on April 19 frightfully mutilated. It was some time before the police could get any clue to the assassins. At last their suspicions fell upon three persons, Louis Grothe, Marie Fischer, and the widow Quinche. The trial of these persons has just taken place; partly from their own confessions, partly from collateral evidence, it was discovered that the two women were of the vilest character—except that, if possible, Louis Grothe was viler still, for he lived upon the wages of their crimes. Marie Fischer enticed the Professor into the cellar in which the trio lived; he unfortunately yielded only too easily to the temptation. Louis Grothe concealed himself in a neighbouring apartment; when the Professor rose to go, he felled him to the ground; then, attacking him with an axe, he showered blows upon him, 'as if he was chopping wood;' some one, it is not known who, then dealt him several stabs with a knife, until the unfortunate man was evidently dead. They then robbed him and stripped him; they next, in the most methodical way, proceeded to set the room in order, and scrub out the blood on the floor; finally, they put the corpse into a sack, carried it to the river, and flung it in. All the prisoners were sentenced to death.

RUSSIA.

The principal English residents in St. Petersburg assembled on the 12th inst. to take leave of Lord Napier upon his appointment to the British embassy in Vienna. His Lordship in addressing them said the peace of the past year was entirely owing to the attitude of the English Ministry (a fact which we may observe no one yet ever presumed to doubt, although very few care to trumpet it forth). He said that the necessity for peace was restoring the former good feeling between England and Russia, and that a further improvement would take place, by the extension of commerce between the two countries, by the development of the liberal tendencies of the Russian Government, and a more reserved policy on the part of that Government in the Eastern question. He trusted that Russia would soon adopt the principle of free-trade, the absence of which is now so much to be regretted in her system. The telegraph between Irkutsk and Kiacht has been opened, whereby news can be sent to Pekin in four days' less time than formerly.

The regeneration of the Polish peasantry is said to be steadily progressing. The only difficulty is felt with the Schliacta, or body of inferior nobles, who are removed from the rank of peasants by the nobility of their blood only. In former times they subsisted as dependants of the greater nobles; now that these are impoverished, they are reduced to misery, being too poor to hire labourers, and too proud to work with their own hands. As this class number 1,200,000 out of the 4,000,000 which is the population of Poland, the difficulty is very grave.

SPAIN.

The public feeling is calling for an honourable settlement of the debts due from the country. The people are no doubt painfully sensible that the flagrant dishonesty which has so long shut them out of the principal markets of Europe falls little short of that which in Mexico has called for foreign armed interference. Señor Bravo Murillo, indeed, has published a pamphlet inveighing against the holders of Spanish Certificates, who have no right, he says, to provoke solemn declarations and promises on the part of the Government; but the *Epoca* answers him and says it would be, perhaps, more advantageous to satisfy these creditors, for it is possible that it will be in the end cheaper to pay them than to leave them unpaid.

Severe inundations have afflicted Spain in common with France and Italy. In Valencia, the canals of irrigation for twenty-seven villages have burst, and a number of lives have been lost, besides a quantity of property. Every possible assistance has been given to the sufferers; subscriptions have been liberally filled up; some of the neighbouring towns have given up their whole store of provisions for the subsistence of the unfortunate people.

JAPAN.

A combined attack was made on September 5 upon the batteries guarding the Straits of Simonosaki, by the squadrons of England, France, and Holland. Eight English ships were engaged, three French, and four Dutch The flag of the United States was carried by the *Takiang*, a merchant ship commissioned by the local Yankee authorities for this very purpose—a proceeding which, in its confession of helplessness and simultaneous arrogation of power, is very like the paper blockade instituted by the same Yankees when the blockade of three thousand miles was effectively enforced by a handful of gunboats and converted merchantmen. The bombardment of the forts lasted for three days, and was throughout completely successful; the batteries were utterly destroyed, and the guns captured. On the 10th, the allied squadrons appeared before the town of Sinonosaki, where they were met by a plenipotentiary from the Prince of Nagato, the refractory Daimio whose hostility has forced the Western Powers to make the attack; a military convention was made between the two parties by which a free passage through the straits was secured to ships of every nation, and a proper compensation promised for the injuries already done. The losses on the side of the Europeans were 15 killed and 90 wounded; the Japanese fought well, and proved themselves worthy antagonists of the greatest maritime Powers of the world.

SOUTH AMERICA.

A most severe flood has visited British Honduras, from the swelling of the Belize River. Heavy rains prevailed continuously for three days, and the river burst its banks and inundated the adjacent country, causing immense damage to the mahogany, cotton, sugar, gum, and plantation crops. The shipping in the harbour of Belize also suffered severely. In the early part of October the heat was great, but the high winds had prevented sickness. The first of a new line of steamers from Liverpool had arrived.

A NEW CONFEDERATE CRUISER.

WE have much pleasure in being able to state that, almost at the same time when the *Florida* was treacherously seized in Bahia harbour, the Confederate flag was hoisted on a new cruiser at least the equal of the *Florida* in armament, speed, and general efficiency. The *Shenandoah* starts upon her career with every prospect of emulating the fame of her predecessors. She is commanded by Lieutenant Waddell, Confederate States navy, and a gallant staff of officers. Having received her crew and armament—everything, in fact, that constitutes her a belligerent vessel—on the high seas, far beyond any neutral jurisdiction, there can fortunately be no pretence of accusing her of any violation of municipal laws or international obligations. It is evident that Federal commerce is baulked of the expected reward of the murderous outrage in Bahia; for already the telegraph has advised us of the doings of no less than three Confederate cruisers, the *Tallahassee*, the *Chickamauga*, and the *Olustee*, all of which have recently issued from their own ports and are busy at work avenging the *Florida's* fate. To this formidable list of ubiquitous enemies the New York Chamber of Commerce must now add a fourth; and Confederate sympathisers, paraphrasing the familiar 'Le roi est mort—vive le roi!' may exultingly exclaim, 'The *Florida* is gone—long live the *Shenandoah*!'

NASSAU.—Our correspondent from Nassau, under date October 22, writes as follows:—'At last we may say positively that the yellow fever has taken its departure. We see it in the flags of the shipping once more flying from the peak; we see it in the increased vitality of trade; we see it in the daily advent of the truants to New York and Canada, who flew like a covey of partridges at the first blast of its withering breath, and in the disappearance of the hearse from the streets through which it so constantly conveyed its tribute of mortality. To be sure, some nervousness still exists among the new arrivals, developing itself in a proneness to umbrellas, light drinks, and avoidance of the night air. Yet Nassau now and for the coming five or six months may be safely rated as one of the healthiest climates in the world. The mercantile campaign against Wilmington and Charleston is consequently just opening, and promises to be carried on more vigorously and effectively than ever before. Cotton arrived freely last moon, and to-day the pioneer arrival of the present moon is hourly expected. I regret my inability at the present moment to continue the blockade statistics, but will bring them down to date in my next. The standard of inefficiency will, however, be found unaltered with regard to the number of losses, but the increased capacity of the boats now engaged in the trade over those of last winter makes a heavy difference both in the supplies furnished to the Confederacy and cotton delivered here. All of them carry full cargoes in, outside shippers offering freely at from 35*l.* to 40*l.* per ton. Notwithstanding the fact that exchange in the Confederacy is now quoted at 25, yet goods of nearly all descriptions pay a fair profit. A recent visit to Havana has convinced me that the closing of the port of Mobile has not materially interfered with the blockade business in that locality. It has merely transferred the business to Galveston, but as that port will not admit of more than seven feet draught of water, there is a great scarcity of the proper description of vessels. Several parties have recently passed through here on their way to Canada and England to procure them, and one recently arrived steamer, the *Lizzie*, changed chances here to an Havana firm at the rate of 20,000*l.*'

IMPORTS OF CONFEDERATE COTTON.—In our commercial intelligence we give a return of the imports of Southern cotton and tobacco into England from October 27 to November 14. The total quantities received were 9,639 bales of cotton, and 73 boxes of tobacco.

LETTERS FROM NEW YORK.

FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK: November 1.

IT is now freely conceded that the fall campaign against Richmond and Petersburg is at an end, and that no further movement in that direction will be made before the ensuing spring, and perhaps not at all. General Grant, in his two despatches which went out by the steamer of Saturday, asserted that he made a 'reconnaissance' on Thursday, and gave the public to understand that it was a success. Before that day had passed, however, it began to transpire that the so-called 'reconnaissance' was, in reality, *a movement of his whole army*, and it further transpired that the movement had been def ated, with a loss to the Petersburg wing of the army of 1,500 to 2,000, and to the James River wing of probably 1,000.

This was the end of the 'reconnaissance.' Grant admitted, in the same despatch claiming a success, that the Confederate works were guarded, fully manned at every point along the thirty miles of works, that there was not a weak spot in them, and, after this information had been obtained, he deemed it prudent to withdraw.

This last admission of itself was equivalent to a defeat, though the journals in the Federal interest still insisted upon it all day (Saturday) that 'fifteen miles' of Confederate ground had been gained in the movement, reducing the number finally to three, and to-day to a 'return to the old position.' The Confederate accounts assert that they (the Federals) are not so near the Southside Railroad as they were previous to the fight.

General Grant has telegraphed nothing further since his despatches dated on Friday last, but we have, in place of any additional Federal accounts, two despatches from General Lee, and also some of the details of the fighting from the Richmond papers. These prove clearly a Confederate victory both near Petersburg and on the James, and give the impression that the James River movement was merely a feint to cover the one made simultaneously on the Weldon Road. General Grant has attempted just such a manœuvre twice before, and failed in both instances, and his repeated efforts are sufficient evidence that he has no idea of being able to take Richmond by an assault upon the works which defend it. It is Petersburg and the Southside Road that he imagines to be the key to Richmond, and hence his persistent efforts in that direction. Yet he has failed as lamentably in the grand object of his attainment (Petersburg and the railways) as he has in all his movements directed against the Confederate capital.

If you would have convincing evidence of the public feeling upon the miscarriage of all his plans, I need but refer you to the heavy rise of 20 per cent. that has taken place in gold within two days, the rate as I write being 237.

But to the Southern accounts of this last 'On to Richmond.' On Wednesday evening the Federal troops on the James were thrown across to the north side at Deep Bottom to the number of 20,000 to 25,000 men. About 10 A.M. an attempt was made to turn the Confederate left on the Charles City Road, but it was repulsed with severe loss in killed and wounded, and the capture of 500 prisoners. Butler, it is said, was on the field in person, which may account in part for the reverse. At about the same time an attack was made upon the Confederate lines along the Williamsburg City Road, which, says General Lee, was also repulsed, the enemy leaving his dead in front of the works, and the Confederates holding 400 prisoners and 7 stands of colours. On the following day the James River forces returned to their former position, and thus ended the 'reconnaissance,' or 'feint,' whatever you may call it, on the part of that portion of the Federal army.

While this movement was progressing—or rather failing—on the north side, Grant in person, accompanied by General Meade, was busy in what it is believed was intended to be the real movement on the south side. The 2nd, 5th, and 9th Corps, comprising cavalry, artillery, and infantry, crossed the creek below Burgess Hill, some seven miles below Petersburg; and, driving in the Confederate skirmishers, occupied the Boydton Plank Road. General Mahone, with three brigades, was at once ordered to attack them on the flank, and General Hampton on the rear. The result was not wholly successful, as the force opposed to the Confederates was nearly two to one. Four hundred prisoners, three stands of colours, and six pieces of artillery were nevertheless captured, though the latter could not be secured owing to the Federals being still in possession of a bridge on the road. Towards night an attack was made by the Federals; but, the Confederates being reinforced since the attack made by them, they broke the whole three Federal lines of battle, and the latter withdrew under cover of night, abandoning the road completely, and leaving the wounded and 250 dead upon the field. The Confederates took 500 prisoners, 1,500 stand of arms, three flags, and some wagons and caissons that the Federals left behind in their flight, Thus ended the attempt to carry the Confederate position on the Boydton Plank Road, which failed even before the works that defend the road had been reached.

The same night, about ten o'clock, an assault was made upon the Confederate works on the Jerusalem Road, and also upon the Baxter Road, both of which were repulsed by midnight, and since then the Confederates have been 'let alone.' The army correspondent of the *Herald* may well say that 'General Lee, it must be confessed, displayed his usual and indisputable sagacity in these operations.' He has indeed; and I repeat the remark made at the commencement, that this last movement of Grant probably ends the campaign—perhaps for ever.

The army correspondent of the *Times* attributes the failure on Thursday to the want of men. 'Grant,' he says, 'needs reinforcements,' and this is said in the face of a statement in the *World* to the effect that the army with Grant is the largest that ever menaced Richmond.

Among the prisoners taken by the Federals during the counter movements of Thursday, near Petersburg, they claim to have taken Major Venables, the chief adjutant of General Lee. The Richmond papers, however, do not confirm this capture, though there may be a motive for not alluding to it. The Major, when taken, refused to give the name of the staff to which he belonged, and the Federals are to this hour in the dark as to who their prisoner is. General Dearing, one of the most rising young officers in the Confederate service, lost his life while with his cavalry in the battle of Thursday.

I have just received, through private channels, intelligence of another Federal reverse in Louisiana. We must not look for such information through the New Orleans press, as the publication of *defeats* is strictly forbidden. The affair I allude to occurred on the 13th, near Evergreen, in the parish of Avoyelles. The Federals, not supposing that the Confederates were in force, marched on boldly, driving the latter before them, until the Federals were got in an ambuscade, when the

Confederates opened from all sides simultaneously, and forced the enemy to retreat, leaving fifteen guns behind.

The latest advices from the Valley represent heavy firing just beyond Winchester, from which it was inferred that the Confederates under Early were again advancing down the Valley. The *Richmond Whig* would seem to intimate that such a purpose at least was on foot, as it announces that Early has advanced his headquarters while Sheridan has fallen back. The destruction of the Manassas Gap railroad has been commenced by the Federals—the depredations of the Confederate rangers upon it rendering it wholly useless as a means of travel.

It is said that Dick Taylor brought 10,000 men with him when he entered Georgia for the purpose of joining the forces of Hood.

Vaughan's brigade of Breckenridge's army is reported

5 o'clock P.M.—Gold has been excited and active all day, with a strong speculative feeling. The rate at one time leaped to 241½—then receded to 236—and is now about 240. Exchange on London 9¼ for gold. Bill-drawers refuse to name a rate for currency.

Cotton is held very firm at $128 to $130 for middling.

News has just come in of a Confederate attempt to pierce the Federal centre at Petersburg, which the Federal accounts say was defeated. The attempt was made at half-past nine on Sunday evening, and the line between the 2nd and 5th corps was penetrated for some distance, with the capture of several hundred prisoners. The Federal breastworks were then charged, but the attack was repulsed, the Federal loss being unknown. No official account of the affair is published. The prisoners taken by the Confederates (387 in number) were all safely removed.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York: November 1, 1864.

The Southern papers received here appear to be unanimous in favour of arming the blacks for the spring campaign. Slavery seems to be entirely lost sight of in the determination to achieve Southern independence. The Union papers at Newbern, North Carolina, send us the following extract from the *Southern Confederate*, a North Carolina paper, of an article written home by the editor from Richmond:—'The pressure brought upon the authorities here, favouring the arming of the blacks, has been too strong to resist. Hence it is with gratitude that I am able to state officially that arrangements are now being made to arm, for the spring campaign, three hundred thousand slaves, whose masters are to be compensated by the Confederate Government. The slaves thus armed are to have their freedom and fifty acres of land each, which insures them permanent homes in the South.' The measure he speaks of requires the previous assent of Congress. The writer is probably able to say that Government has the project matured, to be laid before Congress when it meets; and that, from the force of opinion already developed, it will be adopted as a precautionary measure in view of ulterior possibilities. The necessity has not arisen; time will be required to organise safely such a change in the social condition of the blacks, and to prepare them for military service. But it will be done whenever the Southern people are convinced that they cannot secure their separation from the North without it.

With regard to the Confederates held prisoners in the North, I find published at the seat of government in so respectable a paper as the *National Intelligencer*, which vouches for the sincerity and respectability of the writer, a letter from a lady who has herself witnessed the horrors of the military prison at Elmira, in Central New York:—'I have just returned from Elmira. Though not permitted to go inside the prison enclosure, I saw the condition of the fifteen hundred who were taken away for exchange, many of them in a dying condition. There are ten thousand prisoners at Elmira. A great number have been in confinement since the battle of Gettysburg. They have been kept at Point Lookout; have contracted disease from the unwholesome water there; were transferred to Elmira scantily clothed to face the cold Northern climate; no tea or coffee is allowed them; no variation of their scanty prison fare. No wonder that the mortality has been and is frightful—that the sick number fifteen hundred. Sleeping on the ground, under tents, four blankets for five men, many without socks or shoes; when at last taken to the hospital, they are too far gone to be restored to life. Several of those taken away for exchange died on the cars. Happy they to be at rest! No more cold or hunger pangs to suffer! Only think of it. Never to be warm, never to have a full meal, a cup of coffee in a land of plenty; to die of lingering torture. It is useless to appeal to the Secretary of War. It rests with the men of the North to remove this foul stain from our country. The officers in charge of the prison at Elmira are kind and humane, but the condition of things is beyond their power to remedy. A quantity of coarse warm clothing is immediately required. Socks, under-clothing, blankets, and thick knit jackets are wanted for hospital use, and an effort ought at once to be made, such as Mr. Stanton cannot withstand, to have them allowed coffee, tea, and sugar. I cannot, will not believe that my countrymen of the North will permit this state of things to continue. Those fifteen hundred pale faces are before me as I saw them pass me at the depot. Those ghastly, pleading faces! I saw them here again—saw the pile of dead—dead from want of nourishing food—a cup of coffee. I saw in a city whose church steeples tower towards heaven gentle women who would have given this nourishment driven by brutal police and detectives from the mission bequeathed to them by the pitying Son of Mary. Hot tears of shame for my countrymen who permit these outrages upon humanity and Christianity—tears of pity for these poor sufferers—blind my eyes. I cannot write.'

The Government has forbidden the Confederate prisoners at the North to receive any contributions not expressly allowed in exceptional cases by a Government order, and has reduced its rations to what it calls the starvation rates in the impoverished South. It is so in all the prisons; and a couple of weeks ago there was a fiendlike paragraph in one of the city papers exulting over the alleged fact that some of the Confederate prisoners exposed in the pen at Fort Wagner, and fed on quarter rations, had died from exhaustion—were deliberately starved to death; and that others, crazed by hunger, were importuning to be allowed to take the oath of allegiance, that they might get food.

All these horrors, at which humanity revolts, could be stopped if the Government would consent to an exchange of prisoners—like for like—leaving the slave question apart, as the Confederates have constantly proposed to do. They abandon their own men, and inflict unspeakable torments on the prisoners in their own power, on the pretence of a fanatical idea in favour of the liberation of a few blacks, of whom there are at most two or three hundred who are to be affected. This fanatical idea is only a pretence. It is all but distinctly avowed that the real purpose is to exhaust the Southern armies by keeping in prison and using up fifty thousand Confederates, who, if released, would hurry back into the field—at the cost of leaving in the Confederate prisons an equal number of their own men whose terms have expired, and who would not reenlist. It is the ghastly realisation of the exterminating process by which it is so often demonstrated at the North that, with the destruction of equal numbers, the more populous North will ultimately triumph.

The whole country is convulsed with political excitement. Nothing is done or thought of but electioneering, and nothing else will be listened to until after Tuesday next. It is even likely that it will not end with the election. The passions the people are greatly roused, and the audacity with which he President and his party are endeavouring to win advantages by fraud, and control votes by force, are adding fuel to this excitement every day. It is the cry of the Democrats everywhere that Mr. Lincoln does not intend to permit a fair or free election, and will, if reelected, succeed by dishonest, unconstitutional, and arbitrary means; and this state of mind is exasperated by new provocations as the election approaches, and it becomes more evident that Mr. Lincoln could not possibly be chosen if there were a free choice permitted.

The latest and boldest *coup d'état* was the arrest by military orders and confinement at Baltimore and Washington of the State agents sent by Governor Seymour to collect the votes of the New York soldiers, and the seizure of the ballots and envelopes with which they were charged. The pretence that a subordinate agent had committed a fraud was no extenuation of a high-handed act of military authority, which treats the jurisdiction and the authority of the State of New York with contempt, and grasps into the hands of the tools of the United States Government the power of obstructing or falsifying the entire vote of the New York Democrats in the army. In the mildest form in which it could be viewed, it was a usurpation and an insult to the authorities of New York, and a practical suppression of a large part of the M'Clellan vote in the army, which, even with the most liberal and energetic action, can hardly be reached now so as to be returned in time for the election, and, in the present temper of the Government, can hardly be reached at all. But the case is held to be even worse. It is the deliberate opinion of the public men of the Democratic party of this State, shared universally by their followers, that the case was one of conspiracy, a plot of the agents of the Republican party to trump up a case to base a charge of fraud upon against the Democrats, and afford a pretext to seize their ballots. If they are given up, as they may be, the end will be accomplished of lessening the vote for M'Clellan in the New York election, and perhaps changing the result in the State, on which a great deal depends. The Democrats want New York and Seymour for Governor to be the rallying point of constitutional resistance to Lincolnism, successful or defeated in the general result. If the Democrats lose New York, they are hopelessly prostrate, and there is no help for them, nor for the country thereafter, but in civil war at home. They believe that the votes of the soldiers, fairly taken, will secure this as the rock of refuge in the future, and they will contest it desperately, and they will make a deadly issue with whatever interposes to rob them of it by violence or trickery.

The Administration are making a great mistake in giving their adversaries the advantage of presenting such a case of attempted outrage, and of superadding to the complaint heretofore so vehemently urged against Mr. Lincoln, that he is using the army to coerce the Border States to vote for him, the more dangerous charge that, for the same purpose of selfish aggrandisement, he is instituting or favouring schemes to cheat the soldiers of States indisputably loyal out of their votes. It is bad policy, as John Van Buren said in a speech in Columbia County last week, for a man at Washington to cheat men of their ballots who have muskets in their hands, which they may take it into their heads to use instead of the ballots.

Governor Seymour instantly appointed a commission, composed of men of the highest position and purest character in the State, to proceed to Washington and enquire into the facts, that he may see that the dignity of the State of New York, the rights of the Government of the State and of her citizens be respected, and all attempts to defraud the soldiers of their votes, or prevent their voting, be exposed and resisted. The committee consists of Judge A. J. Parker, Judge W. F. Allen, and Hon. Wm. Kelly, than whom there are not three more upright and esteemed citizens of the State. But what can they do, or what can the Governor do? All the Republican party desired, after securing the Lincoln vote—which has been done fully through the agencies the Government itself instituted long ago and controls—was, that the Democratic votes should be obstructed and their agents delayed a few days, and this is accomplished. The whole transaction is a bitter reproach to Governor Seymour and his advisers, that they yielded, in 1863, against their own convictions, to the popular clamour in favour of the soldiers' vote in camps. Whatever the result may be as affecting the election, the ominous fact is glaring out here, as in many other States, that the Presidency is to be disposed of by the army, and that, in the more powerful States, the struggle between nicely balanced parties is for the favour of the soldiery.

Kentucky has been long made the theatre of executive dictation, and her authorities, which at first were in complicity with Mr. Lincoln, sustaining all his lawless, bloody, and proscriptive conduct towards the South, finding themselves borne down and trampled under by the Federal soldiery, usurping power over the civil Government among them, have been protesting, and declaiming, and denouncing, and threatening for some time past—always, however, retreating when confronted directly by the military power. Governor Bramlette has given some signs of a lurking vitality of civil rights left in Kentucky by issuing a very valiantly sounding proclamation, requiring the Federal authorities to abstain from all military interference with the Presidential election this month. It is directed to the officers of election and citizens of Kentucky. In it he recapitulates the provisions of the Kentucky laws in respect to elections, which he affirms to be the only lawful rules for the government of elections, and asserts the power and the purpose of the State authorities to give effect to them all, and permit no other. He adds:—'There being no power or authority in the Federal or State Governments to authorise military interference with elections, it follows as a consequence that any such interference, under any pretence whatever, must be a wanton violation of the law, and places the perpetrators in rebellious contumacy to the Government.' He therefore directs the officers of election to observe the rules and impose the tests and qualifications for voting, as directed by the laws of the State, and no other, to resist every attempt by the military to interpose, and appeal to the civil officers for support in the arrest of the intruders; if they are too strong, to close the polls and adjourn the election, reporting the offenders to the next Grand Jury for indictment.

It is not believed that the Administration party will suffer the vote of Kentucky to be cast for General M'Clellan. It is in Governor Bramlette's power to refuse to permit it to be cast at all, and thus defeat the calculations which count it among Mr. Lincoln's certainties. Eminent Kentuckians now in the city have said that in a free vote Kentucky can cast one hundred and thirty thousand votes to-day, of which Mr. Lincoln would not receive twenty thousand; yet, by force of military terrorism, he would be sure of the State, if the State authorities do not block the game of fraud, and insist that, if there be not a free election, there shall be no vote.

The President has secured three more votes for himself in his proclamation admitting Nevada into the Union as the thirty-sixth State, by Federal computation, of the number subject to the Union, the twenty-fifth in the roll of States to vote in the election. This makes the whole number of electors (including Western Virginia, and not reckoning Tennessee or Louisiana) amount to 234, of which a majority is 118.

The singularity about the admission of Nevada is that Congress authorised that Territory to make a Constitution and come into the Union with it without any further action, except the issuing of a proclamation by the President reciting the fact. No enquiry is to be made into the terms or provisions of the Constitution, and it is said that the President, in his haste to get the new State ready to vote for him in November has not waited to get a copy of the Constitution, but has declared it accepted, on a telegraphic report of its having been adopted and forwarded. Nevada is situated on the western side of the Territory of Utah, and was only erected into a Territory in 1861, when it had a wandering population of 6,857 all told. To-day it is hurried into the Union, and made equal in its power in the United States Senate to New York with her four millions of inhabitants; and the avowed and only object for this indecent haste is that it may cast a vote for the reelection of Mr. Lincoln. If these men had a deliberate purpose to bring the doctrine of State sovereignty into utter contempt, they could have devised nothing more effectual than this way of bestowing it on a small fraction of party followers as the reward of party services. How old, proud, populous, and powerful States like Massachusetts and New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, can relish or tolerate such palpable and radical changes in the distribution of power, and such a debasement of their own dignity for such paltry objects, is one of the incomprehensible mysteries of the American character.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Washington: October 28, 1864.

The truth has at length come out about the contest in the Shenandoah Valley. The Southern account is very much like the history of the battle I sent you last week. General Early was in command of the Confederate forces—not General Longstreet. Longstreet, though appointed to the command before the battle, did not reach the ground until the day after it. The Southern accounts state that they attacked Sheridan's troops posted on the north side of Cedar Creek, four miles north of Strasburg. The Federal camp was surprised, and after a brief contest the troops were completely defeated. Routed and demoralised, they abandoned everything, and fled four or five miles northward to Middletown. The Confederates pursued them. All their camp equipage, wagon trains, ambulances, and eighteen cannon were taken. Thirteen hundred prisoners were also captured, and with the cannon were sent to the rear. At Middletown, the Federal troops sought refuge behind entrenchments, and, reinforcements arriving from Winchester, a stand was made. The Confederates meanwhile fell to plundering the camp, and became disorganised. Thereupon Sheridan ordered his fresh troops to advance. The Federal infantry followed the retreat to the old camp at Cedar Creek, and then halted. The Federal cavalry pursued further. In Strasburg, twenty-three Confederate guns, and seven of those which had been captured from Sheridan, became entangled in the streets. A panic seized the drivers, and the guns could not be moved. The Federal cavalry captured these thirty guns. Eleven of Sheridan's were carried off, so that the net Confederate loss of cannon was but twelve. No impression was made upon the Confederate rear, and they retreated in good order. They report their loss in killed, wounded, and missing, in the entire battle, at 1,000. Sheridan has made a report of his loss which foots up 4,086. The general impression now is, that the Federal troops gained no victory. At the end of the contest they were in the position held when it began; their losses were far heavier than those of the Confederates; and the Confederate movement prevented any reinforcement of Grant's army, and saved a new attack upon Richmond. To-day Sheridan is encamped on the north side of Cedar Creek in his old position. He has cavalry outposts at Fisher's Hill, south of Strasburg, and at Front Royal, east of Strasburg, on the Manassas Gap railroad. Thirty miles of this road were thoroughly destroyed by the Confederates, and Sheridan is now trying to repair it. His supplies come from Alexandria to Rectortown over the railroad, are landed just east of Manassas Gap, and then have to be wagoned thirty miles to camp, over the most execrable mountain roads, and subject to all sorts of guerilla raids. Mosby is playing all possible pranks on Sheridan's communications, and a large proportion of the Federal supplies go to the Confederate commissariat. It is said that 20,000 men are required to guard the railroad. South of Fisher's Hill the Valley is held by the Confederates. Their headquarters are at Newmarket, but their scouts come all the way north to Fisher's Hill.

In the South-west military affairs are involved in great mystery. On October 17, General Beauregard took command of the Confederate armies, making an excellent address to them, in which, whilst he held out no promises, he spoke hopefully. Atlanta is still isolated from the North. Many rumours have come to us that the railroad running to Chattanooga has been repaired, and communication reopened, and some of them may have wandered across the ocean to you. None of them have any foundation. Months will be required to repair the road, and Slocum with about 8,000 men is still shut up in Atlanta. The Confederates have no large force on the line of the destroyed railroad; all have gone westward; but guerillas control everything there, and capture every courier sent from or to Atlanta. Sherman has some working parties trying to repair the railroad, but they work very slowly, and more than half their time is spent in fighting the guerillas. No news has been received from Atlanta for six weeks. The Confederates are reported to be making the greatest exertions to capture it. Iverson, who, however, has but a small force, has invested it, and a large army is said to be collecting to insure its capture. Hood is leading Sherman on a wild-

goose chase over the mountains, westward from Chattanooga. When last heard of, Sherman was at Gaylesville, seventy miles south-east of Huntsville, and in Alabama. Hood had apparently turned southward. On October 25, Sherman at Gaylesville appeared as if he did not know what to do. Hood had disappeared, though in what direction was not known, and it looks very much as if he intends to make a sudden dash upon Atlanta and capture it. Beauregard has evidently out-generaled Sherman, and may yet capture Atlanta. Sherman is far away in an enemy's country, without supplies, surrounded by guerillas, and with a fatigued and baffled army. The Confederates say he has but 50,000 men, only half of whom are with him. Forrest and Wheeler are still near him at Gaylesville, and keep him busily employed. Forrest's last exploit was to send an expedition across the Tennessee River at Florence, Alabama, which marched westward to Eastport, Mississippi, and captured the Federal garrison at that post. It was about 600 Federal troops, under a Colonel Hoye; and the Federal despatch announcing the capture states with great *sangfroid* that 'Colonel Hoye is not to blame for the disaster, as he simply obeyed orders.'

There have been various minor movements in the region supposed to be reigned over by Sherman. Last week the town of Mayfield, in Western Kentucky, was entered by a body of Confederates. The Court House was burned, and much property seized. The Federal troops in the neighbourhood hid themselves till the Confederates left, and then began to retaliate upon the inhabitants of the surrounding country. The railroad running from Louisville to Nashville is infested with guerillas. One of the most unique exploits (as Mr. Seward would say) of these partisans was the robbing of a Federal mail-carrier by a party under command of a woman named Sue Mundy. She escaped with the booty, but four guerillas, afterwards captured on the Cumberland River, were shot at Louisville on October 25 for her success. On the Mississippi, below Vicksburg, there has recently been a large Federal cotton-stealing expedition. A band of negro troops has visited Port Gibson, Woodville, and other places on the eastern bank of the river, frightening women and children, but getting very little cotton for their pains. Of course they burned houses and carried off helpless old men—such mercenaries always do that.

In Arkansas the Confederates have been achieving great successes. A railroad runs from Little Rock eastward to Duvall's Bluff, near the Mississippi. Over this road General Steele, who is almost useless at Little Rock, gets his supplies. General Shelby, with a Confederate force of 2,500, recently planned an expedition to destroy this railroad. He marched against it and struck it about thirty miles west of Duvall's Bluff. His troops at once began tearing up the rails. They turned eastward towards Duvall's Bluff, tearing up the rails as they went. Bridges were burned, and the road thoroughly broken up for nearly twenty miles. At every station the Federal garrisons were captured, and the block-houses which protected them were destroyed. When about ten miles from Duvall's Bluff, Shelby left the road and marched southward. He captured and carried off with him 577 Federal prisoners and an immense train of Federal wagons loaded with captured ammunition and supplies. His loss, all told, on the expedition was but 73. The aggregate Federal loss in killed, wounded, and captured from this expedition is reported at 2,500, one man for every Confederate engaged. Steele is now cut off at Little Rock, and nothing can be heard from him.

There is no longer any doubt that General Price, with the army which for a month past has been invading Missouri, is retreating southward towards Arkansas. He has captured so much in supplies that this is a necessity. Price retreats southward along the line dividing Missouri from Kansas. After going fifty miles from Kansas City, almost to Fort Scott, a garrisoned Federal post in the south-eastern part of Kansas, he turned south-east, and is now marching towards Arkansas. All the Federal troops had been concentrated at Kansas City, and of course their cavalry followed Price's movements. Therefore we have a despatch this morning that, in the various skirmishes with the Confederate rearguard, 1,500 prisoners, including Generals Marmaduke and Cabell, and twelve cannon were captured. Few people believe this. It professes to have been done three days ago, and if it had been done the War Department would very quickly have told us of it. Of course some stragglers and property were taken, as is always the case on the line of retreat of a great army, but nothing like this. When Price makes his official report of the operations in Missouri, he will give a story of captures of prisoners, cannon, and food, such as few dream of. He has just sent a raiding party to attack a train marching north from Fort Smith in Arkansas to Fort Scott. Half the wagons were burned. A town near by was entered by the raiders, and six Federal colonels who were found there were shot in retaliation for the murder of citizens of Missouri charged with being guerillas.

The movement against the Confederates which is to be made to influence the Presidential election, is to be a naval attack upon Fort Fisher and the batteries protecting the entrance to Wilmington, North Carolina. A large fleet has been for some time collecting at Beaufort, North Carolina, and Admiral Porter, who is to command it, will leave Washington to-day or to-morrow. Another fleet, containing all the ships and troops that can be spared from the South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida coasts, has been collected at Hilton Head, and we have Southern despatches announcing that many of the vessels have already sailed north past Charleston harbour. The attack upon Wilmington is to be made at the middle of next week if possible, so as to have the news in the North in time to influence the voting; so we may look out for the tallest kind of military lying the subject is capable of. The ultimate object of the attack, I suppose, will not be the capture of the town, but merely the seizure of the harbour defences, in order to perfect the blockade.

Admiral Buchanan has just made a report of the naval battle in August last in Mobile Bay. He says he does it to contradict the many misrepresentations which have appeared in Northern newspapers. His fleet was composed of but one ironclad and three wooden vessels, and carried but 22 guns. The Federal fleet was fourteen steamers and four Monitors, carrying 199 heavy guns, besides boats' howitzers in the tops of some of the ships. The Federal force was 2,300 men; the Confederate force but 470. Out of these his loss was but 22, whilst Farragut lost 420. The battle, considering the disparity of numbers and Farragut's subsequent failure to accomplish anything by it, was not by any means disgraceful to the Confederates. There has been no change at Mobile for a long time.

At Petersburg everything is quiet. The Confederates are reported to be massing large forces south-west of Meade's position on the Weldon railroad, as if an attack was contemplated.

The yellow fever is still raging in Newbern and various Federal towns on the Atlantic coast. There are also reports of its prevalence in Charleston and Wilmington.

THE DAY OF THANKSGIVING.

THE following proclamation has been issued by the President of the Confederate States of America:—

It is meet that the people of the Confederate States should from time to time assemble to acknowledge their dependence on Almighty God, to render devout thanks for His manifold blessings, to worship His holy name, to bend in prayer at His footstool, and to accept with reverent submission the chastening of His all-wise and all-merciful providence. Let us, then, in temples and in fields, unite our voices in recognising with adoring gratitude the manifestation of His protecting care in the many signal victories with which our arms have been crowned, in the fruitfulness with which our land has been blessed, and in the unimpaired energy and fortitude with which He has inspired our hearts and strengthened our arms in resistance to the iniquitous designs of our enemies.

And let us not forget that, while graciously vouchsafing to us His protection, our sins have merited and received grievous chastisement; that many of our best and bravest have fallen in battle; that many others are still held in foreign prisons; that large districts of our country have been devastated with savage ferocity, the peaceful homes destroyed, and helpless women and children driven away in destitution; and that, with fiendish malignity, the passions of a servile race have been excited by our foes into the commission of atrocities from which death is a welcome escape.

Now, therefore, I, Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America, do issue this my proclamation, setting apart Wednesday, the 16th day of November next, as a day to be specially devoted to the worship of Almighty God; and I do invoke and invite all the people of these Confederate States to assemble on the day aforesaid, in their respective places of public worship, there to unite in prayer to our Heavenly Father, that He bestow His favour upon us; that He extend over us the protection of His almighty arm; that He sanctify His chastisement to our improvement, so that we turn away from evil paths and walk righteously in His sight; that He restore peace to our beloved country, healing its bleeding wounds and securing to us the continued enjoyment of our right of self-government and independence, and that He graciously hearken to us while we ascribe to Him the power and glory of our deliverance.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Confederate States, at Richmond, on the 26th day of October, in the year of Our Lord 1864.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

By the President:
J. P. BENJAMIN, Secretary of State.

The following is from the *Daily Telegraph* of the 15th instant.

To-morrow, a brave people, compassed round with sore perils and in extreme perplexity, will unite in a solemn act of prayer. From Northern Virginia to the swamps of Florida, from the coast of the Carolinas to the wild lands that roll away to the westward of the Mississippi, wherever soldiers or citizens of the Confederate States of America can assemble together, they will offer up a petition for help and guidance at the throne of the Most High. There is always something sacred in the spectacle of a nation on its knees. At once the cause of quarrel seems to be taken away from the poor tribunals of human judgment, which passion can influence and prejudice can sway, and the appeal is laid before the only court whose decisions cannot err.

. . . . . .

More and more clearly has the truth been established, that secession is not a mere freak of anger; that it represents the deliberate resolution of a whole people to be free, and to resist to the death any attempts at coercion. Not more certain is it that Italy hates the Austrian, and will some day try to drive him from her soil—not more certain is it that Poland hated the Muscovite, and fought against him until the noblest of her children had fallen in the unequal struggle—than that the men of the South are absolutely determined never to re-enter the Union which they have left. If the principle of nationality means anything at all—if a people is indeed and honestly free to choose whatever form of government it may prefer—we need scarcely wonder that the English, who mourned the martyrs of Warsaw, and who exulted in the triumph of Garibaldi, should sympathise with the undoubted patriots who fight by the side of Robert Lee. Often have the prospects of the South seemed almost hopeless; but even in the darkest hour of national tribulation there was no flinching. And, whenever the history of this great war shall be written, it will be recorded that never did the Confederates stain the lustre of their valour by such crimes and excesses as have often marred the brilliancy of struggles for national freedom; that they have faced the enemy sword in hand, but that they have never confronted him with the torch of the incendiary or the dagger of the assassin. Many of their best and bravest have fallen. Stonewall Jackson, Cavalier by the magnificent impetuosity of his soldiership, Puritan by the solemn earnestness of his faith; Stuart, the gay chivalric horseman, the Bayard of the South: these and a host of other gallant champions have done their work and gone home for their wages. Lee's toilworn veterans, who night and day keep watch and ward in the trenches that guard Petersburg and Richmond, have seen their ranks most lamentably thinned; but still there is scarcely a whisper of discouragement to be heard. Social miseries and privations have caused almost as much distress to the land as the sword itself; but these also the Confederates were ready to endure—from these also they did not shrink; and the delicately nurtured women of the South, when they had sent their boys to the field of battle, sent their jewels to the treasury of the State.

From a people thus sternly tried, and thus heroically superior to adversity, the voice of prayer may well ascend; nor will any one feel inclined to mock at the devotions of men who have so valiantly faced danger and so patiently endured calamity.

The following is from the *Morning Post* of November 16:

The Government and the people of the Confederate States of America propose this day, humbly and devoutly, to implore the Divine aid and direction. That which has been but too often a form in the North will, we cannot doubt, be a solemn act of devotion in the South. There can be no lip-worship with a nation that is wrestling for its existence. Where hearts are engaged, and when everything that is sacred and dear is at stake, no words can adequately express the emotion that is experienced. There can hardly be a family in the Southern States that is not mourning its own bereavements, and all more or less have had their share in the common affliction. All, too, must see—without dismay, but with a sad, stern, and invincible resolution—that their national independence and their individual destruction are alike compassed. It is not, however, that they are appalled by threats of extermination. They hope still, by the help of Heaven, to be enabled to deliver themselves out of the hands of those who would make their land a howling wilderness, and to this end brave men under the flag of their country, and heroic women in the churches of their religion, are about to unite in earnest prayer to the God of battles. Nor will they pray alone. Wherever patriotism and enduring courage are honoured, there will their appeal meet with a fervent echo. They have constrained the sympathy, and fairly won the admiration, of the civilised world; but even if their valour had been less conspicuous, the action and the proclaimed intentions of the Northern Government would have enlisted the indignation of free men of every clime in their cause.

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The subjugation of the Confederate States may be assumed to be impossible in any sense that is compatible with the ideas of civilisation; and it is unnecessary to discuss the justice of the alleged right which the Northern Government claims to enforce their return into the Union. For all practical purposes it is enough to say that the Southern States assert another right which, to refer only to recent occurrences, has been recognised in Greece, in Italy, and in Mexico, and which constitutes, in fact, the title of the so-called United States of America. In short, they have proclaimed their independence, and will again to-day invoke the blessing of Providence upon the cause they are resolved to uphold to the death. With more valid legal grounds for action than the people of Lombardy and of Naples had, they are contending for the prize those people have, it must be observed by the aid of foreign intervention, obtained; and the sympathy we cordially extended to the Italians cannot in equity be denied to the Confederates. The English people may express in behalf of a nation speaking their own language, and bound to them by ties of kindred, the aspirations they have entertained when other nationalities have risen up to demand neither more nor less than the united population of the Confederate States are now fighting to secure. We may join in their prayers without infringing our neutrality, and as Christians we must deprecate the hostility and coercion that can only be successfully resisted at the cost of humanity, and which, should that resistance, contrary to all reasonable expectation, prove unavailing, would reestablish a nominal sovereignty over the grave of a gallant and devoted people.

OFFICIAL REPORTS.

Headquarters, Army Northern Virginia.
October 27, 1864.

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War.

THE movement of the enemy against our left to-day was repulsed. Two attacks upon our lines were made, one between the Henrico Poor House and Charles City Road, the other on the Williamsburg Road. Several hundred prisoners and four stand of colours were captured. Our loss very slight.

On the south side the enemy crossed Rowanty Creek below Burgess's Mill, and forced back the cavalry in the afternoon. General Heth attacked, and at first drove them, but found them in too strong force. Afterwards the enemy attacked and were repulsed. They still hold the plank road at Burgess's Mill. Heth took some colours and prisoners.

On the 25th, Colonel Moseby, near Bunker Hill, captured Brigadier-General Dufie and several other prisoners, a number of horses, and killed a number of the enemy. He sustained no loss.

R. E. LEE.

Headquarters, Army of Northern Virginia,
October 28, 1864.

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War:—

General A. P. Hill reports that the attack of General Heth upon the enemy upon the Boydton plank road, mentioned in my despatch last evening, was made by three brigades under General Mahone in front, and General Hampton in the rear. Mahone captured four hundred prisoners, three stands of colours, and six pieces of artillery. The latter could not be brought off, the enemy having possession of the bridge.

In the attack subsequently made by the enemy General Mahone broke three lines of battle, and during the night the enemy retired from the Boydton plank road, leaving his wounded and more than 250 dead on the field.

About 9 o'clock P.M. a small force assaulted and took possession of our works on the Baxter Road, in front of Petersburg, but was soon driven out.

On the Williamsburg Road yesterday, General Field captured upwards of 400 prisoners and seven stands of colours. The enemy left a number of dead in front of our works, and returned to his former position to-day.

R. E. LEE.

GARIBALDI ON THE AMERICAN QUESTION.—We published in our columns, on October 27, a letter written to the *Glasgow Herald* by Mr. Robert M'Tear, embodying the most modern opinions of General Garibaldi on the American war, and leading the reader to infer that Garibaldi sympathised with the cause of the Confederate States. Last week we published a letter addressed to the *Star* by M. Karl Blind, which seemed to justify an exactly opposite conception of Garibaldi's notions. For the benefit of all persons who attach any importance to what General Garibaldi may think on such a subject, we subjoin a replication from Mr. Robert M'Tear, addressed to the *Glasgow Herald*:—'Sir,—One word in reference to Garibaldi's letter to Karl Blind. That letter and my vidimus of Garibaldi's opinions on some points of the American question (which I adhere to in every particular) are quite consistent with each other. He asserts strong Northern "proclivities," which I neither denied nor doubted; all I attempted was to show that he was not an insensate partisan, but that, like an honest, truth-loving man, he as deeply regretted the many shortcomings and errors of the North as he frankly admitted that many good things had come out of the South. I presume it will be conceded that Garibaldi is not singular in these opinions. As to the paragraph in the *Index* imputing "recantation" to Garibaldi, had I seen it I would at once have contradicted it. An attempt has been made to disprove the statement that Garibaldi had not "offered" his services to the North; but the documents quoted only prove that an offer was made *to* him, not *by* him, and that he declined it. I beg to acknowledge the courtesy of Karl Blind in this matter, and would recommend some others to "assume a virtue if they have it not," and try to follow his good example. As I have neither time nor inclination for further controversy, I shall decline to answer intemperate and personal attacks.—I am, &c., ROBERT M'TEAR.—St. Mary's Hall, November 12, 1864.'

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 291 Strand, W.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1864.

The Day of Thanksgiving.

YESTERDAY, the people of the Confederate States, in accordance with the proclamation of President DAVIS, united in solemn ascriptions of thanksgiving to Almighty God for the victories which have recently crowned their arms, and the signal marks of His guidance and protection that have been vouchsafed to them during four wasting years of war. The attitude of the Confederate States at this moment challenges the respect of the world, and the spectacle presented to us in a nation humbling itself before the throne of the Most High, and looking to the interposition of the Divine Hand for its final deliverance, while it shrinks not from peril or sacrifice in the great cause, is little short of sublime. Well indeed may it have called forth the admiration of foreigners and the warm assurances of sympathy from the press of England. We speak only what all intelligent Englishmen will endorse when we say that yesterday thousands of hearts in this island joined in the prayers that went up from the soil of the South for future triumph, and that the general chorus of praise, inaudible across leagues of ocean, and drowned even at home in the roar of cannon, was swelled as it rose to the Infinite Ear by the accents of strangers. Premiers and Parliaments cannot repress the spontaneous effusions of Christian men and women in behalf of brethren and sisters whose sufferings and heroism have so conspicuously set forth their trust in the ultimate establishment of truth. 'God defend the right!' was the petition with which the Confederates entered upon their struggle for independence, and, now that their devotion to country has been sealed with the blood of their best and bravest, they breathe the same hopeful orison.

The Thanksgiving of yesterday was no unmeaning, no inappropriate solemnity. The boastful adherents of the Federal tyrant affect to believe that the day of Southern subjugation is near at hand, and that the Confederates have little reason for gratitude to God in the gloom which surrounds them. But never from the beginning has the promise of success been more encouraging than at this moment. The vast armies of the United States hang on the skirts of the land on every side; great armadas are on the water, whose Titanic enginery of destruction is to be directed against Southern cities; but through the cincture of fire and steel that girds the Confederacy, from the very midst of the dark clouds that envelope the undaunted defenders of the soil, we catch the signs of anticipated triumph and the cheerful note of undiminished confidence. The pious exercises of yesterday were but an interlude in the conflict, a vigil before renewal of battle; but the day will come, sooner than we dare hope for, perhaps, when the *Te Deums* of victory, final and complete, shall arise from a land desolated but disenthralled, and the Confederate States of America shall take their proper place among the proudest nations of the earth.

The War.

THERE seems to be good reason to believe that GRANT has made his last advance upon Richmond for the present campaign, and that for the next few months he will content himself with a strong position and threatening attitude in the lines he now occupies. So admirably have both armies developed the system of earthworks of which the illustrious General TODLEBEN is the author, that not only may the defences of Richmond be pronounced impregnable, if properly manned, but even GRANT'S intrenchments are declared by competent authorities to be unassailable by the forces under LEE'S command with any reasonable chances of success. Still, Richmond is not to be captured by soldiers that skulk behind intrenchments, nor is much faith to be reposed in an army of invasion whose generals are content to remain for months on the defensive; and although it might be disastrous to Mr. LINCOLN'S administration to declare the campaign in Virginia at an end, there can be little doubt that the supreme effort of the North has been made, and that if GRANT is hutting his troops, as is reported, it is less with a view to the capture of Richmond than with that of postponing the confession of failure until a more convenient season. The 'reconnaissance in force' of the 27th, though it cost the Federals only between 4,000 and 5,000 men, was undeniably one of GRANT'S greatest failures. We know now that some 80,000 Federal soldiers were engaged in it, and that every preparation was made for a general assault. Whether General GRANT really persuaded himself that he had only the 'spoils of the cradle and the grave' to oppose him, and that desertions at the rate of one regiment a day had left Richmond defenceless, we cannot say. But the fact that, along a line some thirty miles in extent, he found General LEE'S lines well guarded, and that at no single point was he able to make even a temporary impression, seems to have sent the whole North into a sort of collapse of despair; and it is quite plain from the tenor of correspondence from the Northern States that the public regarded the repulse of the 27th as a far more decisive disaster than any previous failure, if not as conclusive so far as the fate of Richmond is concerned. The strategy of the Federal commander was not remarkable for its originality. It was a development of the plan he had on two former occasions essayed to no purpose. Retaining a strong force in his intrenched camp in the centre, he moved large bodies of troops against both wings of the Confederate army; but instead of marching them, as hitherto, against the defences immediately in front, he conceived the idea of turning them, of marching his troops completely into their rear—in other words, of so greatly extending his line as to render it impossible for LEE with his inferior force to oppose the movement. The result, as might have been expected, was absolute failure. His 80,000 men marched out, and then marched back again. They found the advance anticipated by strong intrenchments, of which they had known nothing; they tried left, right, and centre, and everywhere they found the Confederates watchful, numerous, and determined. Not only so, but General LEE, taking advantage of a gap between two of the Federal corps, threw three brigades under MAHONE into the interval, which, taking the Federals on the flank, drove them back in disorder with heavy loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners. Backed by numbers, MEADE, who commanded the attack on GRANT'S left, succeeded in reestablishing the Federal line, but the chances of a successful assault were gone, and at daybreak the order was given to retire. The Confederate cavalry followed up closely, and so hastily was the retrograde movement made that the Federal dead and badly wounded were left on the field. BUTLER'S advance on the right fared still worse. His two corps marched, one upon the defences of the Charles City Road; the other, making a wide detour, upon the Williamsburg Road. Both came upon strong Confederate intrenchments, and were easily repulsed with heavy loss; two whole brigades of WEITZEL'S corps throwing themselves on the ground to escape the Confederate fire, and remaining prostrate until darkness more effectually sheltered them. The total losses of the Federals are estimated at little under 5,000 men. Three days later General LEE became the assailant. A brilliant sortie was made on the evening of the 30th ult., and some 300 or 400 Federal soldiers were captured. Northern correspondents urge, as an excuse for this loss, that the prisoners were '*new men*,' and that '*some of them had never loaded a gun*.' Is it any wonder that even GRANT hesitated to assault, and that the Federal organs announce that the campaign is concluded?

So far as GRANT may decide, the campaign may be over in Virginia; but the question does not entirely rest with the Federal commander. We are not inclined to think that the Federal troops in the Shenandoah Valley will be allowed much rest south of the Potomac. Mr. STANTON sends no news, but for all that there is good reason to expect another Confederate advance and a determined attempt to drive SHERIDAN out of the Valley. The battle of Cedar Creek is now pretty well understood. It was a brilliant Confederate triumph marred by one of those extraordinary reverses which sometimes overtake a victorious army, and which are invariably attributable to a laxity of discipline. General EARLY is justly severe upon his men, but we cannot help thinking that he expected too much of them. They had marched long distances, they had fought for seven or eight hours, they had attacked and beaten and driven four miles an enemy of twice their strength, and they had done this with comparatively no cavalry force to oppose to SHERIDAN'S 5,000 or 6,000 horsemen. Doubtless the temptation to plunder was strong, and accounted for much of the disorder. But there is such a thing as asking too much from flesh and blood, and this we conceive to have been the chief cause of the day's disaster. How nobly these Confederate soldiers fought is proved by the fact that the admitted loss of the Federals was 7,000 men, killed, wounded, and prisoners; whilst the whole force EARLY had in his command could not have exceeded 15,000. It remains to be seen whether SHERIDAN, after such a diminution of his strength, can maintain his position in the Shenandoah Valley. Every battle has brought the two armies nearer to an equality. If EARLY attacks again—and there is every indication that he is pressing forward with that intention—the battle will be fought, not for Lynchburg, but the towns of Pennsylvania and Western Maryland.

The last mail has not removed the obscurity that has so long surrounded the movements of HOOD'S and SHERMAN'S armies, but it points to Middle Tennessee and the Nashville and Chattanooga line as the country in which BEAUREGARD'S new effort to relieve Georgia is to be made. Southern papers of the 31st ult. represent HOOD'S main army as marching northward for Guntersville, a small town in Alabama, on the Tennessee River, and BEAUREGARD sending on reinforcements from Jacksonville, in the same State, some thirty miles distant. It is further said that a force of some 15,000 men was marching on Atlanta, which was defended by 6,000 men. The precise destination of HOOD'S army was not divulged, but we are told that secrecy and rapidity were two conditions of its success, and that the utmost confidence was reposed in BEAUREGARD'S promise of the expulsion of the Federals from Georgia. With HOOD'S army, FORREST, CHALMERS, and RODDY were cooperating in Western Tennessee; whilst a portion of BRECKENRIDGE'S troops from South-western Virginia, and WHEELER'S cavalry, were acting in Eastern Tennessee. Within a week, then, we may have very important news from the South-west—news which will entirely change the aspect of the struggle. If HOOD can drive the Federals from Atlanta, he will have gained one of the most decisive victories of the war. So far his movement has been a surprise and a success; but the hard fighting has yet to be done. SHERMAN has a fine army under his command, though it has been weakened by the loss of two corps since the fall of Atlanta. Whether the Federal General is a match for his opponents in the strategical ability necessary for the conduct of a campaign in which the odds have been so greatly reduced by the skilful manœuvres of the Confederate commanders, has yet to be proved.

Reconstruction.

IT was our fortune recently to converse with a gentleman thoroughly familiar with the tone of feeling and opinion in that portion of English society which is most deeply interested in the destinies of America, and most anxious for the termination of a struggle which paralyses their trade, locks up their capital, wastes, starves, and disorganises their industry—which, while it continues, renders them dependent on supplies raised by artificial encouragement and abnormal prices, and, by the utter uncertainty of its duration, forbids them to take effectual measures to obtain a permanent substitute which might at any moment be reduced to a third of its present value by the renewal of the cotton cultivation of the Gulf States. It is not, perhaps, surprising that men so keenly interested in the matter should overrate the importance of minor indications, and place their trust in pacific influences and inducements which really have little or no weight with those on whose will the prolongation of the struggle depends. But we were not a little surprised to learn that many men who ought to know better were disposed to rest their hopes of peace on the supposed interests of the Southern leaders, and to imagine that the

ambition of these statesmen would induce them to favour any scheme of reconstruction which would restore them to their natural rank and authority as the chiefs not only of the South, but of the Union at large. This is a prevalent delusion among a certain class of politicians in the North, who never understood the meaning of political principles, and conceived that the public professions of statesmen were mere instruments for the advancement of their private ends. But we should have thought that Englishmen better understood both the character of an Anglo-Saxon people and the disposition of the men to whom such a people has been willing, in the crisis of a great revolution, to intrust its destinies. If Mr. Davis and those around him were capable of postponing the welfare of their country to the gratification of their private ambition, is it conceivable that they would ever have obtained that ascendency over the minds of an intelligent and high-spirited nation which has enabled them, in the darkest hour of the national fortunes, to maintain unshaken their hold on the affections and confidence of their countrymen?

No doubt it is perfectly true that the personal interests of the great leaders of the South did not point towards secession. Their vast superiority, in intellect and character, to their Northern rivals, assured them an ascendency in political discussion and administration which no temporary majority could take from them. They were the chiefs of the Union; and that was a far higher office, in point of power and vulgar estimation, than the leadership of a Confederacy which lacks both the numbers and the wealth that made the United States one of the great Powers of the earth. Selfish ambition would have kept them in the Union; it could only be political principle and patriotic self-devotion which induced them, or any of them, to cast their weight into the scale of secession. But this fact alone ought to have satisfied English observers that secession was not, as Northern writers have pretended, the work of politicians. Great revolutions arise from the spontaneous impulse of the people; they cannot be excited by demagogues however eloquent, or got up by statesmen however powerful and skilful. And if ever a revolution was the act of a people, it was that which separated the Southern States from the Union; and, at this hour, the statesman who should propose a surrender or a compromise would irretrievably forfeit his influence with the nation. The same popular conviction which brought secession to pass still exists, more powerful and more unanimous than ever, to forbid the idea of reconstruction. There may be disheartened politicians, disappointed aspirants, who would now consent to retrace their steps; but there is no party in the South which would listen to them.

It would be well that the North, as well as Europe, should learn to recognise this fact; for it is by ignoring it that men not utterly devoid of understanding have come to believe reunion possible. To restore the Union by subjugation is the hope of fanatics; to exterminate the Southern people is the purpose of devils; and if no support were given to the war by those who desire neither subjugation nor extermination, its end could not be far distant. Foreign nations can neither believe in the possibility nor desire the accomplishment of either; and if once thoroughly convinced that no other way to reunion existed, they would make their impatience of an insane and wicked enterprise audible to their hesitating and timid Governments. But, both in the North and abroad, this idea of reconstruction through war—of reconciliation through victory—of bringing the South to terms—is more generally entertained than avowed. The utter impossibility of such a result fairly and fully admitted, it is mere insanity either to protract the war or to defer the recognition of the South. And reconstruction is utterly impossible. The distinct and resolute language of the Confederate Government feebly expresses the fixed, unalterable determination of the country. Independence is the only proposition to which the South will give ear; recognition is the condition precedent of negotiation.

Because there was a large vote against secession, some have imagined that there would be a large vote for reunion. This implies a misconception and an oversight. The vote against secession was not a vote of goodwill towards the North; it was a vote for delay—an expression of doubt as to the policy of the course which the extreme party were pursuing—a vote in favour of a less violent and hasty separation, not against separation itself. And since that time, has nothing happened to change the feelings of the moderate party? Does it make no difference in their views that three years of bloody and desperate war have intervened—that Northern marauders have fired their homes, plundered their cities, stolen their slaves, outraged their families? Things do not stand as they stood then. A river of blood, a dark gulf of hatred and vengeance, lies now between North and South; and not one in a thousand of those who voted against the opening of that gulf would now attempt to bridge it over. The war waged by the North has been no ordinary war, consistent with feelings of mutual respect, and capable of being closed by a peace cemented with goodwill and reciprocal confidence. It has been a war of robbery and murder, of outrage and incendiarism—a war against every individual citizen of the South—a war that has left on every Southern mind the recollection of personal wrong too foul to be ever forgotten or forgiven. French and English were never personal enemies; Yankees and Southerners are such. The war will leave behind it the feelings of a mortal feud, not of a national tournament. Neither in the Senate nor the marketplace could men of the two nations meet on friendly terms. In Congress, the Kentuckian would front the military murderer who hanged his son; the citizen of New Orleans would face the tyrant who sent his aged father to labour at the crank, and his wife to dwell with prostitutes and thieves; the Virginian would encounter the New Englander who burnt his home over the heads of his children; the Tennessean the general from Michigan who shot his brother at his own doorstep; and the representative of Alabama the man who outraged his daughter. Nothing but political separation could terminate the war; for hardly a Southerner could enter the North without encountering a foe who could not meet him and depart alive.

Nor, if reconstruction were morally possible, would it be politically safe. Be the terms what they might, it would be for the South virtually a surrender at discretion, for she could have no security that those terms would be observed—nay, she knows by long and bitter experience that they would certainly be violated. What better terms could she desire than the Constitution gave her—perfect control over her domestic affairs, equal rights in the Territories, security for the restoration of runaway slaves? Yet every one of those conditions of the Union was violated by the North. What better security could be offered for the observance of the new treaty than the powers of the Supreme Court offered for the observance of the old? And yet New England set the Supreme Court at defiance, and Mr. Lincoln has at last converted it into an engine of lawlessness and tyranny. Is it to be said that the conditions of a treaty made after an obstinate struggle would be considered as binding by men who have ventured to pervert a Constitution? The North tried to violate the essential condition of the Missouri compromise within a year after its enactment. It is obvious that no Constitution can be made, resting on numbers as its basis, under which any rights can be secured against the aggressions of a majority indifferent alike to honour and to law. The new Federal compact would be violated as the old was, and with the less delay and hesitation that the one resource of the minority—secession—would have failed. The only escape from ruin and political vassalage would be by a new secession and a new war under much more unfavourable circumstances. Reconstruction, then, means for the South nothing else than submission. Reorganise the Union in any way you can imagine, the power of the North would still be paramount, and continually gaining upon the weakness of the South; and it would be madness for the minority to quit the battlefield, where courage and devotion avail to counterbalance numbers, and carry the contest to the ballot-box, where numbers alone have weight.

Nor has the South anything to regret in the lost Union. It gave her nothing, and she paid a high price for it. She was taxed to build Northern lighthouses, lay out Northern roads, construct Northern harbours; she was laid under tribute to the manufacturers of New England and the iron-masters of Pennsylvania; New York monopolised her carrying trade, at freights exaggerated by the monopoly; her wealth supported the whole brood of Yankee brokers, dealers, manufacturers, of whom she had no need, and who drew their very existence from her. The North rendered her no service in return—gave her no protection, failed to light her coasts, neglected to make her roads, did nothing for her that she could not have purchased better and more cheaply from England, or done equally well for herself. It is very easy to understand why the North should fight desperately to recover the South for the Union—the lucrative commercial tribute of the South for herself; but it is impossible to discern any motive which should induce the South to renew the unequal and unprofitable partnership.

A convention of States is the favourite proposition of the reconstructionists of the North. 'Let the delegates of the various States meet in convention and arrange a compromise.' There are two conclusive objections to this scheme. In the first place, it conveys a double insult to the South. It ignores altogether the Confederation formed at Montgomery in February 1861, and the Confederate Government installed at Richmond in February 1862, sets aside the Constitution and the Government under which the Southern people have lived and fought so long, and treats the States as individuals bound by no common tie; and, again, it implies that they are still considered and included as members of the Union from which they have formally seceded. In the second place, there is nothing for a convention of States to do. The function of such a convention would be properly to amend the Constitution; and it need not be said that the Confederate States have no interest in the Constitution of the United States. Nor is any negotiation required in which such a convention would play a useful part. If it were required to arrange terms, guarantees, and securities for a new Union, such a body would find its proper place. But no such arrangement is possible; as we have shown, no guarantees or securities can be of any use to the South, and no reunion is possible consistently with her honour, safety, or self-government. And in the only negotiation which can lead to peace, a convention would be an absurd incumbrance. A sheet of note-paper will contain all the conditions of peace, and they are all perfectly well known beforehand. Recognition, liberty of the Border States, freedom of the Mississippi—what is there here for a convention of States to discuss?

That the final negotiation, however, will be with the States, and not with the Federal Government, is by no means impossible. The North has always declared that without the South the Union cannot hold together; and the prolongation of the war daily imperils the cohesion of the Federal States. California has taken no part in the war; her Pacific sisters very little; and at present their connection with the Union is so merely nominal that it might be severed without the slightest shock to either. The lawless tyranny of Mr. Lincoln has alienated from him the great States of New York and Pennsylvania, and all but provoked revolt in the West; while New England renders him, in his worst extravagances, a devoted and admiring support. The strain which he is putting on the Federal bond, in the attempt to force his election by illegal votes, is not unlikely to snap it. The patience of the people has been tried to the uttermost already; it will not be surprising if this Presidential election, with the scenes of lawless violence and unparalleled excitement which it promises to present, should bring them into direct collision with the faction that oppresses them, or if the Union should be virtually dismembered by the shock. And should the result be to place a President chosen by fraud and force in the White House, with some of the States in open opposition, and a large party everywhere disputing his title, it is clear that the strength of the Federal bond and of the central authority will be severely tried. The future rests, in no small measure, on the conduct of the State Governments. Prolonged war or satisfactory peace, universal anarchy or an orderly redistribution of power, may depend on their wisdom and firmness. With the great States—any one or two of which could stop the war—the South may negotiate with hopes of a sober consideration and a practical result which could not be entertained in dealing with Mr. Lincoln; but for a formal convention of States, assembled to debate the fate of a Union which was dissolved three years and a half ago, there is, under present circumstances, no place and no purpose.

It would seem, indeed, that the North American continent is destined to contain not one overgrown and overbearing Empire, but many powerful, prosperous, and improving States, whose relations with one another must be those of allies, friends, and neighbours, but not of confederates. The area is too vast, and its vastness creates too many distinct interests, geographical divisions, and local characteristics, to allow of its retention under a single Government. This is, no doubt, a disappointment to the gigantic dreams entertained by Americans of a Republic whose hundred millions of people should spread over the continent and give law to the world. But it may well be a blessing not only to the world at large, but to America herself. National rivalry, the mutual vigilance and control of neighbouring Powers, the contrast and collision of different Governments, have their use in the economy of Providence, and it may be that the time is come when they are necessary for North America. Be that as it may, it is certain that North and South could never again live under one government, unless that government were a crushing despotism; and those who still cherish the vision of reconstruction are engaged in a task as utterly hopeless as those of Sisyphus and the Danaides.

Short-lived 'Conquests.'

Most probably Mr. Lincoln has secured another four years' lease of power. How he acquired it—whether he is the elect of bayonets or of a free ballot—concerns our present purpose but little. It

is sufficient for us to know that the party which is bent upon the overthrow of the Confederate States, or the extermination of their people, will wield the whole power of the Northern Government for the next four years. Some regret may indeed be felt at witnessing so tame a surrender of all their liberties by a people once so jealous of even the least of their privileges, at their submission to a vulgar despotism unrelieved by a single quality that can excuse its toleration. Even the optimist must be startled at the political madness that has seized upon the nation, impelling it to the shipwreck of all the elements of its prosperity and greatness, for the accomplishment of an end condemned by the common instinct of humanity.

Such a spectacle may well shake our confidence in self-government, but for the people of the South it can only serve to nerve their arms and quicken their purpose, for upon the struggle they are now waging hangs not alone their own existence as a free people, but the last hope of true republican liberty on the American continent. This acceptance of Mr. Lincoln's rule for another four years forcibly illustrates the blind headlong passion of the North, its disregard of the teachings of the past three years, as well as its indifference to the reckonings of the future. In the face of the meagre results of the enormous expenditure of blood and treasure, can it be believed that the people will persevere in a war of subjugation? If they were to-day any nearer their object, we might applaud their energy, their fortitude, and their faith, whilst condemning and abhorring their purpose.

A glance at the operations throughout the whole theatre of war, during the past three years, shows, particularly in the West, how unprofitable has been the immense sacrifice of men and money, and how short-lived have been the conquests. At the opening of the present year the Federal arms held almost undisputed possession of Kentucky, Tennessee, North Alabama, two-thirds of Mississippi, Missouri, Arkansas, that portion of Louisiana known as the Teche country, and the Texas coast—except Sabine Pass and Galveston—to the mouth of the Rio Grande, and up the line of that river for about 150 miles. Sherman, with an army of 40,000 men, had swept across Central Mississippi, forcing General Polk to the left bank of the Alabama, and so paralysing the movements of the Confederates by the bare weight of numbers, that Mobile, Selma, Montgomery, or whichever was his 'objective point,' seemed within his easy grasp. At the same time a cooperating column of 10,000 cavalry came sweeping down from the line of the Tennessee, so that, for the second time since the fall of Vicksburg, the State was completely overrun. Forrest's splendid victory over this cooperating force will be remembered by our readers, and with the defeat of his cavalry Sherman was compelled to retreat, the Confederates harassing him in flank and rear to within cannonshot of the fortifications of Vicksburg.

While Sherman was thus 'crushing out armed rebellion' in Mississippi, West of the Father of Waters three armies were converging to give the *coup de grâce* to the 'demoralised hordes' commanded by Generals Taylor, Magruder, and Price. Everything seemed auspicious for the Union arms, and many no doubt believed that the campaign would prove no more hazardous or exciting than a *promenade militaire*, as Banks expressed it. The Union army of the frontier, under General Thayer, was advancing to occupy Magruder and cut off the retreat of Price, while Steele's army from Little Rock should run him to earth or into Red River. Fort de Russey and Alexandria had yielded to Admiral Porter's fleet and the 16th Army Corps. Banks was 'conquering' for the third time West Louisiana from the Gulf to the line of the Red River, while the whole coastline of Texas and that of the Rio Grande were dotted with the flags of Federal ships or garrisons. Such was the 'situation' in the Trans-Mississippi Department in the early spring of 1864. Did these armies of Steele, Thayer, Smith, and Banks, with their fleet of gunboats, 'finish up the rebellion' in that quarter as they boasted they would do? How the tide of invasion was rolled back, and the confident hosts of the enemy were broken and scattered—his trains captured or destroyed, his transports, and not a few of his gunboats, burnt or sunk—till, to escape total annihilation or capture, he abandoned everything that might impede his flight—may be read in the light of the victories of Mansfield, Pleasant Hill, Grand Ecore, and the other brilliant achievements of Generals Taylor and Price in the memorable campaign on Red River in the spring of 1864. Since then the career of the Confederate armies in the Valley of the Mississippi has been one of unbroken success. They have put the enemy on the defensive throughout the whole Valley. They have wrested from him position after position, till now, after three years of war, the invader is forced to abandon all his conquests in Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas, with the exception of those covered by his gunboats, and even these could not secure him Galveston. Mississippi and Middle and West Tennessee have been recovered, and the three Federal armies—that of the Tennessee, that of the Cumberland, and that of the Ohio—which overran and once occupied these States, is reduced from half a million to the 40,000 or 50,000 men under Sherman and the few white regiments in garrison along the rivers. The 'conquest' of Arkansas and the Indian territory cost, according to a Federal estimate, fully 50,000 men, so protracted and desperate was the struggle. Fortress Monroe scarce seemed more firmly within the Federal power than this State, every town and strategic point—even those in the Indian territory—having its garrisons, with the White and Arkansas rivers patrolled by fleets of the gunboats. How much of the State do the Federal arms dominate to-day? Helena on the Mississippi, and Little Rock on the Arkansas, each of them under cover of the gunboats. Duvall's Bluff and Batesville on White River, Pine Bluff, Dardanelles, and, we believe, Fort Smith on the Arkansas, have been abandoned. The army of Steele is shut up in Little Rock, while Price marches almost without opposition into Missouri, gathering supplies and recruiting thousands of enthusiastic volunteers, when in good sooth the native and German Radicals of that section were flattering themselves that the defeat of Pea Ridge had rid them for ever of Price and his 'rebel hordes.' Turning to the department of the Gulf, we find all West Louisiana, to Berwick's Bay, recovered from the enemy for the third time, and not a hostile foot upon the soil of Texas; Indianola, Matagorda, Pass Cavallo, Pass Aransas, Brownsville, the whole line of the Rio Grande abandoned. Except the single post at Port Hudson, the army of the Gulf do not to-day hold as much territory as it did three months after Butler's arrival in New Orleans. Truly, the suppression of the rebellion is a big job, as Mr. Lincoln once expressed it, and the wonder is that he will keep pegging away at it—to use another elegant expression of his—seeing what a costly indulgence it is. We know, to be sure, that his political ambition demands a continued prosecution of the war. But it passes our comprehension that the people should thus continue blindly to sacrifice their blood and treasure when thousands of lives and millions of money have already been wasted; while every impartial observer sees that the final result must be the exhaustion of the North—perhaps of the South too—and the political independence of the Confederacy. There is surely a madness that seizes at times upon whole nations as well as individuals; else how can we account for this political blindness? 'Let him alone—Ephraim is wedded to his idols.'

ENGLISH CHIMNEY-SWEEPERS.*

The faculty of invention is limited, and it is not possible to attribute even to Abolitionists the ingenuity necessary to the fabrication of all the stories which have adorned the romances of Mrs. Beecher Stowe. Indeed, a perusal of certain documents stored in the State offices of Boston has more than once raised the suspicion that copious draughts have been fetched from those pure fountains of horrors. Sufferings inseparable, except under the restraining hand of conscientious legislation, from a vast system of manufactures had assumed in the city of piety, learning, and philanthropy, a portentous magnitude, and the record of misery remains as an admirable armoury, the weapons of which, like the more material steel, are cast at home, to be wielded against the foreigner. Of course it was open to men who were vilified as 'men-stealers, heathen, and nigger-drivers,' to retort upon the Puritans of Massachusetts, and bid the physician heal himself, though possibly it might occur to a candid mind that the accusation in either case sprang from hate or recrimination rather than a strong sense of just indignation.

We have abused the iniquities both of Boston and of the enemies of Boston, and now we have a charge to level against ourselves, not from any peculiar desire to induce ourselves to think worse of England and Englishmen, but rather from a feeling of shame that we who never weary of holding ourselves out to Christendom as the chosen race, the children of righteousness, superior to Frenchmen in morality, to Yankees in honesty, to Southerners in ardent love of universal freedom, are detected tripping in a very unseemly manner. We have been convicted on the clearest evidence of selling human beings, of brutally ill-treating children of tender years, of conspiring to defeat the humanity of the law. There is no ground of defence, and confession, to be followed by amendment, is our only resource. Our crime has about it a peculiar atrocity. It has not been committed by the refuse of society, by that crowd of miscreants who seem born for no other purpose than to degrade honester men by their impure contact, but by gentlemen, by peers of the realm, and even by members of the House of Commons. Worse than all, our women have offended equally. Town and country, London mansion and manorhouse, all have been the scene of our iniquity. The police have copied their betters and been indifferent; the efforts of merciful informers have been set at naught by magistrates.

Just as an occasional walk through the wretched alleys of this metropolis is a duty cast on the possessor of wealth, in order that the evidence of his own eyes may prove what a gap exists between the Dives and Lazarus of the nineteenth century, which it behoves the former to fill up, so a certain report, published in the year 1863, may be safely recommended as a salutary alterative to any one who fares sumptuously every day. There he may read, perhaps to his amazement, that it is possibly owing to the sufferings of an infant that he has for the last ten years been enabled to dine in a manner worthy of Philippe's or the Reform Club. He does not rise at 3 A.M., and may be ignorant of the fact that his chimney is purified by the efforts of a climbing-boy. A glance at a portion of the contents of the First Report of the Children's Employment Commission may cause a shock to his digestion, but in the end the result may be advantageous, not only to his fellow-creatures, but even to himself. We had seldom realised accurately the meaning of the word 'horrible' until we had studied the above-mentioned volume, and pardon must be asked and granted if citations therefrom produce a sense of deep disgust.

In the year 1840 an Act of Parliament provided that any person who should compel or knowingly allow any child under the age of twenty-one years to enter a chimney for the purpose of sweeping the same should be fined, and further that no child under sixteen years of age should be apprenticed to a chimney-sweeper. A panic thereupon set in among the masters, and climbing boys fell into desuetude. It is now unhappily placed beyond doubt that the employment of children in the work has increased immensely during the last six years. Thus, a London sweeper affirms that his country customers in the machine trade declare that the use of climbing boys is quite general in the country, while another witness says that there are plenty of men in London that still have boys, and that there are undoubtedly more climbing boys now in London than there were a few years ago. The metropolis is, however, less open to censure than the manufacturing towns, among which Birmingham, Rochdale, Ashton-under-Lyne, and above all Nottingham, seem to enjoy an infamous preeminence. The offence, too, is immeasurably increased by the indisputable efficacy of the machines, rendering the employment of boys a mere satisfaction of the idleness of the master or the unscrupulous perversity of the house-owners.

The method by which the boys are procured for the work is by bargain and sale or by letting. The price at which the unfortunate wretches are bought body and soul varies from 5*l.* to 50*s.*, and the letting value appears to range from 1*l.* to 5*l.* The vendors or lessors, as the case may be, are either mothers of illegitimate children or fathers who derive a small and infamous profit from the letting of their own sons. One witness will suffice. Mr. Clarke of Nottingham says, 'A crown or so is paid down to the parent, and in some cases a pound or so a year is afterwards paid, but generally nothing. I believe this is the rule throughout the country.'

The age of the victim is the next feature of a dark description. Six is the most docile period; at eight the growth becomes too much advanced; while five and even four years and a half have added their quota. 'I once saw (says a witness) a child of only four years and a half in the market-place (Nottingham) in his sooty clothes and with his scraper in his hand. His father told me his birthday, and said that he began when he was four, and that he would make a nice little climber.' The education is attended with much suffering, not merely from the injury done to the hands, elbows, and knees, but from the brutality of the masters. One of these, speaking of a clumsy boy, says: 'Part of his knee-caps got torn off, the gristle all showed white, and the tendons all around were like white string, or an imitation of white cotton; his back was covered with sores all the way up. To harden his knees, a lotion made of urine, simmered with hot cinders, was put on them; and, to make him hold up his knees straight the while, he had a brush tail tied up and down his back, and something else like it in front, and he was made to walk in this way twenty, forty, or fifty times up and down the room. It was like killing him, and I had to stand by and see it all.' Then, again, instances are given of a boy being burnt from the chimney being on fire, of another being flogged for refusing to enter a second time into a hot steam-boiler flue, of another who died in a chimney, and of whom the doctor, at the inquest, declared that 'they had pulled his heart and liver out of place in dragging him down.' Indeed, one gentleman of Leicester has collected twenty-three cases of boys who have been stifled in chimneys since 1840. But even if the perils of flues and the blows of masters leave life to the boys, the existence is one of pain and sorrow. Sleeping in sooty clothes induces a peculiar cancer known as the 'sooty wart,' one of the most frightful forms of disease that ever afflicted humanity. The moral condition of the adult is on a par with his physical state. School is almost unknown; crime is the great lesson, readily learned and never forgotten; and the gaol frequently affords the only refuge to the grown-up climbing-boy. We shall close this sketch, already sufficiently appalling, with one more citation from the evidence. The following is the experience of one of the Assistant-Commissioners:—

On a subsequent night, at about 10.30 P.M., I accompanied the witnesses Simpson and Stransfield to some cellars where they thought we might find some boys 'sleeping black;' so far as the boys were concerned our visit was unsuccessful; my companions said that my enquiries had been heard of and the 'birds had flown;' in one place, however, I saw what they informed me was a specimen of the habits of the ordinary journey sweep, and at the same time an illustration of the practice, for instances of which I was in search, though it happened to be an adult and not a child in the present case.

I followed Stransfield down some broken stone steps into a dirty and ill-drained area in a district of Manchester, where a dense population is closely packed in small and crowded dwellings. He entered a door, and after some delay returned and took me in with him to a low-pitched unsavoury cellar, the only occupants of which appeared at first to be a woman and

* *First Report of Children's Employment Commissioners* (1862).

wo little girls in ragged clothes. After some little time I dis-overed by the fire light, there being no candle, a small bed-tead, which with two wooden three-legged stools and a table onstituted all the furniture of the place; on it was a mattress, nd on the mattress a black heap, which ultimately proved to e a young man who was sleeping underneath the blanket, in hich he used to catch the soot in his trade of chimney-sweep-ng; he and his blanket were both quite black, and that blanket was told, was the only bed covering for his wife and two laughters who were then preparing to join him; I certainly ould see no other. Simpson told me that the stench there at imes was enough to knock him down, and that he would never o inside, but kicked at the door and smoked his pipe outside ill some one came.

Such a state of things is wellnigh incredible in a country that not only boasts of the freedom and happiness of its own people, but has set itself the task of *corrector norum* to the universe. Happily for the credit of England, the Legislature has—basing its action on this Report—passed strong laws to put down this nefarious system; and the efforts of the Association for Suppressing the Use of Climbing-Boys are such as to give some hope of success.

DISPUTABLE AND INDISPUTABLE LIFE ASSURANCES.*

If there is one thing certain in human life, it is its uncertainty; if there is one thing more uncertain than life itself, it is Life Assurance. Every one who knows anything of the ordinary policies of life assurance knows that they not only can be, but continually are, disputed. But what an indisputable life assurance may be, and how it differs from an ordinary policy, is a matter on which the world in general is in total ignorance. On this point Mr. Robertson's little book supplies us with information. It appears that an ordinary policy of life assurance is coupled with a number of conditions the failure to comply with any one of which renders the policy void. An indisputable policy, on the other hand, is based upon one single condition—namely, that the person on whose life the insurance is effected is alive at the time the policy is granted; and provided this be so, the payment of the annual premiums absolutely entitles the holder of the policy to the amount secured whenever and from whatever cause the contemplated death may occur. In both cases enquiry is made into the facts affecting the proposed insurance, in order that it may be ascertained that the speculation is a reasonably safe one, before the policy is granted. But in the one case the office is contented to rely solely on this preliminary enquiry, while in the other a power is reserved of disputing the liability on a variety of grounds after the death has occurred.

The cases collected by Mr. Robertson illustrate the different grounds on which an ordinary assurance may be disputed, and they are of a number and a nature to alarm any one who is interested in that kind of security. If the policy has been obtained by fraud, if the person on whose life the assurance is made has gone beyond certain geographical limits, if his death has been by suicide, if the policy has been assigned without a formal notice to the office, or if there has been a misstatement in any of the documents lodged with the company preparatory to the assurance, whether that misstatement has arisen from an innocent error or been made fraudulently, and whether the statement be of any or of no importance—on all or any one of these grounds an ordinary policy may be held void. Seeing the great number of statements which have to be submitted in writing to the office before an assurance is effected, it is scarcely credible that such a condition as the last should be inserted in most policies, or be insisted on by any office as a defence to a bonâ-fide claim. But, according to Mr. Robertson, one policy was successfully resisted on this very ground.

It would be more satisfactory if a book, which is based entirely on cases contested and decided in courts of law, had afforded its readers an opportunity of testing its accuracy by giving the references to the published reports where those cases are to be found; but those who are conversant with the dealings of insurance offices know that the instances quoted are by no means exceptional. In the little work before us the objectionable conditions which hamper the policies of the various offices are massed together, as if they were all to be found in every 'ordinary policy of assurance,' whereas in fact there are as many varieties of assurances, and as many degrees of security, as there are offices in existence. It is clear, however, that the one object and intention of life assurances is to provide a security against some of the evils entailed by the uncertainty of human life; and, therefore, in life assurances insecurity or uncertainty is the greatest of evils. It seems almost necessarily to follow that the nearer such a policy approaches to being indisputable, the nearer it attains to the desired end.

* *Analysis of Recent Cases (decided in the Law Courts of England, Scotland, and Ireland), exemplifying the Difference between an Ordinary and an Indisputable Life Assurance.* By Alexander Robertson, W.S. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, Law Booksellers and Publishers. Price 1*s.*

New York in time of War.—The equipages on the Park were never more dashing or numerous. A day or two since the Park seemed like the dazzling panorama of an Eastern pageant, with nature and her sublime artist, Frost, to touch the picture with their unapproachable tints. The stores were never better patronised for fine and costly goods. The opera was never more gay and brilliant; the theatres never better patronised, including 'Solon Shingle.' The fancy stores, the superb establishments like that of Helmbold's, just above the Metropolitan, never had more lucrative customers. The hotels were never more crowded, so that you have to order a room a week in advance in order to secure a comfortable one.—*New York Herald.*

Schenectady, in the State of New York, boasts a novelty in journalism. It has a daily paper with two editors, one Republican and the other Democrat, who each have a page of every day's paper. The second page is for M'Clellan and the third for Lincoln, and spirited controversies are constantly going on within the limits of a single sheet.—*Boston Courier.*

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.

THE FRENCH PRESS ON THE CAPTURE OF THE *FLORIDA*.

FROM A CONFEDERATE CORRESPONDENT.

Paris: November 16.

If there be qualities in the character of the French people which are more prominent and more generally recognised than others, they are those of spontaneity, vivacity, and impetuosity. Sometimes, indeed, they are charged with an inability for meditation, are said to lack both calmness and moderation—in a word, to be too prompt in action and too hasty in judgment.

I know not whether these eulogiums or censures, by whichever name they may be called, are merited; but I do know that this French press, which appears so formidable to the Imperial Government, from the frivolous manner in which questions of public importance are examined by it, and the passionate spirit in which it discusses them, is considerably behind the press of all the other large contemporary social centres.

Apart from the consideration of questions of exclusively French interest, I do not know of one the discussion of which has originated in the French press. The French journalist almost invariably follows in the track of his foreign contemporary. It is by the latter that ideas are disseminated in the public mind, and it is he who first directs attention to their consideration. I do not remember the French press having once taken the initiative in the discussion of any subject excepting one in which the village clock-tower was concerned. In support of this statement many instances may be cited; but I will now speak of one only, which is furnished me by the case of the *Florida*.

If there be one uncontested and incontestable principle in matters of international jurisprudence, it is that which has been so outrageously violated by the Federals in the port of Bahia. Never was so gross an infraction of the law of nations committed; never was so odious a crime perpetrated by a belligerent, without scruple and without either honour or law. If there be one subject on which public opinion may be at once made up, it is that of the *Florida*. Will it be credited?—the Paris press has allowed an entire week to elapse without having scarcely uttered a word on the subject. Was it meditating, or was it hesitating? However this may be, it was not until the English press had pronounced and repronounced its opinion on this affair that it received any notice from the French journals.

I mention this tardiness without wishing to censure it. All that I would say is, that the French press is not so thoughtless as it is generally considered, and that it gives its opinion only when the opinions of others have been expressed. If from this it be concluded that it receives its opinions cut and dried, an exaggerated deduction would be made from the facts which I have stated; nevertheless it may be truthfully asserted that the opinions of the French press are invariably formed by a comparison with the opinions of others. The French mind excels in arranging scattered elements, in collecting facts, in grouping them according to their affinity, and in deducing from them general laws; it does not create, it does not invent, it generalises. This feature of the French mind is prominently shown in its propensity towards centralisation and in its preferences for precise regulation.

So far as the case of the *Florida* is concerned, the delay of the French press in the expression of its opinion is not to be regretted. If it has taken its time to speak, it has at all events spoken well.

Indeed, I do not think that any act of the Federals, from the commencement of the war until the present, has ever been so severely judged by the French journals as this waylaying at Bahia. With the exception of the *Siècle* and the *Opinion Nationale*, which vainly seek for reasons on which to base an excuse for the commander of the *Wachusetts*, the whole of the Paris press has condemned this act with equal severity; and what is certainly curious is, that the two most serious and most severe articles which have hitherto been published on this subject have appeared in the *Journal des Débats* and in the *Nord*, two ultra-Federal journals. Let us examine these two remarkable and very interesting articles.

The 'Journal des Débats.'

Even though some of the aggravating circumstances with which the capture of the *Florida* seems to have been accompanied should be either exaggerated or denied, the fact itself, in its expressive simplicity, could neither be seriously discussed nor palliated by any excuse. The Federal Government, notwithstanding all evidence to the contrary, may deny the connivance of the United States Consul at Bahia and of the commander of the *Wachusetts*; it may maintain that the promise made by the Consul to the Governor of Bahia, that no attack should be made upon the *Florida* in the Brazilian waters, concerned the Consul only, and that the commander of the *Wachusetts* was entirely ignorant of this promise. Stripped of its trickery and falsehood, however, the enterprise of which the *Florida* was the victim is none the less a brutal attack on the Brazilian sovereignty, and a flagrant violation of neutral rights.

The *Journal des Débats* then reviews the 'captious' arguments (this is the word it uses) which may be advanced by the Federal Government; it shows their utter insufficiency, and restates its opinion in a single phrase which characterises, in very strong language, the international policy of the United States. 'The United States,' says this journal, 'does not acknowledge neutral rights.'

Must it be concluded, asks the *Débats*, that the weakness of the outraged State was the sole cause of this aggression? Both in France and in England the Americans have respected the principle which they have violated at Bahia; was this respect induced simply by a fear of chastisement? If, therefore, the Federal Government would avoid the accusation of regulating its actions by the strength or the weakness of the States to which it addresses itself it should certainly give satisfaction to the Brazilian Government. Unfortunately, it is to be feared that this Government will persist in maintaining its 'unqualified pretensions;' at all events, one is induced to think so from the arguments put forth by the United States Consul at Bahia in the request made by him to the Governor that the right of free access should be refused to the *Florida*. The *Débats* qualifies these *sophistic* arguments, and disposes of them as follows:—

In rejecting *his insolent summons*, the president of the province of Bahia, M. Da Silva Gomez, whose good judgment and energy in this matter cannot be too highly praised, had but one answer to make—that the Brazilian Government having conceded to the Confederate States in the present contest the title and character of belligerents, it was neither just nor possible to refuse them the privileges due to such an acknowledgment. And one of the most incontestable of these privileges is the right of seeking and of obtaining an asylum in a neutral port for the repair of damages. The duration and the conditions of this asylum may be a matter of dispute; but so far as the principle itself is concerned, every neutral State is bound to respect it, and in this matter there is no obligation other than the observance of perfect equality towards the belligerent vessels thus admitted.

The following is the conclusion of this remarkable article, which reflects the greatest honour on the impartiality of the *Journal des Débats*, and also on its writer, M. Ernest Doltaire. (I should state that throughout this article the *Florida* is called a *steamship of the Confederate States navy.*)

But again, the real question to which the capture of the *Florida* has given rise is that of the violation of a foreign territory, independent and sovereign. It is an act as culpably audacious as if an Austro-Prussian vessel were seized by a Danish vessel in the Brest Roads or at Spithead. It is not sufficient that the Federal Government should not acknowledge the rebels as belligerents, that it may have the right to seize their vessels in a foreign territory. To act thus is to commit an act of open hostility against such a territory—to be guilty of an insult which can only be effaced by war or by a prompt and public reparation. Such a reparation was obtained by England in the affair of the *Trent*, and France, more fortunate, had not even to demand it in that of the *Kearsage*. Let us still hope, notwithstanding apprehensions to the contrary, that reparation from the Washington Cabinet will be obtained by Brazil.

The 'Nord.'

The article published by this journal is of a more philosophic character than the preceding; its conclusions are entirely based on principles of jurisprudence and international law, and it is in the name of these principles it declares that 'although the belligerent victim of the aggressive act has of itself no reason to reproach its antagonist, which attacks it wherever occasion offers for so doing, it is still justified in expecting from the neutral a protection from all violence.' The *Nord* remarks as follows:—

The vessel captured in neutral waters acts the part of warrantee, and the neutral that of warrantor. Consulting its individual interest only, it is possible that the neutral may have the liberty to act or not, according as it shall see fit, but towards the belligerent, which has suffered damage for want of due protection, the neutral is compelled to use all diligence in order to afford it the benefit of the satisfaction which it will obtain for itself.

The *Nord* afterwards examines the accusation made against the *Florida* by Mr. Wilson, of her having on a former occasion violated the Brazilian waters, and observes:—

Even supposing that this allegation could be proved, we cannot believe that Brazil would have been authorised in abandoning the defence of the Confederate steamship, and in tolerating in her case, by a barbarous compensation, reprisals which would only add another evil to the one already committed. It should seek to redress the wrongs of both the adversaries, but without compounding with either the one or the other by granting them a bill of indemnity for misdeeds which compromise its political and juridical rights in its own waters, and which are inconsistent with the laws of neutrality. It should also remember that it is not permitted, in a moral point of view, passively to submit to such an outrage, as also that it is the duty of all neutral nations to support it with their most zealous cooperation; they have each and all to avenge a neutral law which has been scandalously disregarded. As soon as the rights of one neutral are infringed, the rights of all the others are attacked; the situation is one of joint responsibility, and the cause a common one.

It would be impossible to say anything more just, or in better terms, than this.

The 'Constitutionnel.'

This journal, in a long and elaborate article from the pen of M. H. Marie-Martin, expresses itself in language equally energetic with that of the *Journal des Débats*, over which journal it has, in this question, the priority:—

Neutral rights have suffered a formal attack at Bahia, aggravated in this instance by the premeditated violation of a promise which should be regarded as sacred.

The *Constitutionnel* afterwards sets forth the facts, and adds as follows:—

The most elementary principles of maritime law, therefore, interdicted any act of hostility on the part of the *Wachusetts* towards the *Florida* so long as the latter vessel remained within the limits of Brazilian jurisdiction. It was thus that the neutrality of the French waters was respected last summer on the occasion of the naval engagement which took place off Cherbourg.

Moreover, adds the *Constitutionnel*, the Brazilian Government had taken most praiseworthy precautions; it had appealed to the honour and the loyalty of the two belligerents, from which it had received the assurance that they would abstain from any hostile act within neutral limits:—

The American Consul at Bahia added his word of honour to that of the captain of the *Wachusetts*. Every possible precaution was then taken: to an obligation resulting from the prescriptions of international law was added the guarantee of the personal honour of a consular agent and of a naval officer.

M. Martin afterwards refutes certain errors of the *Siècle*, and shows that in the present case the leading feature is the violation of Brazilian neutrality. He thus concludes:—

It will be for the Washington Cabinet to consider whether it is disposed to accept the responsibility of such an act as this, or whether it should not rather disown the officer and the consul who have at one and the same time broken the law of nations and their word of honour.

THE 'PAYS.'

The *Pays* has not devoted a very long discussion to the case of the *Florida*, but its remarks are direct and to the purpose.

The capture of the *Florida* has given rise to the consideration of a question of law which the public conscience has already determined. It now remains to see if the Prize Court will sanction the decision at which public opinion has arrived.

Whether a ship of war or a privateer, the *Florida* should be given up to her Government and her crew again set at liberty. Indeed, the violation of a truce is not sanctioned by the laws of war. Now, a truce existed between the *Florida* and the *Wachusetts*—a truce doubly established by a pledge of honour and by the cartel addressed to Captain Morris. Even supposing the act to have been committed elsewhere than in a neutral port, the captain of the *Wachusetts* has clearly disregarded the elementary rules of the law of nations and the first laws of war. He has acted as a duellist who, after having arranged with his adversary the conditions on which they are to fight, should say to him, 'We will fight to-morrow morning,' and should assassinate him the same evening. There is another question between the Government of Washington and that of Rio Janeiro. On this we have but one remark to make:—The *Kearsage* would not have dared to attack the *Alabama* in the Cherbourg roadstead.

American justice has a grand example to give. If it validates the capture of the *Florida*, if the piratical act committed by the *Wachusetts* is ratified by a judicial decision in its favour, we shall then have before us the most lamentable spectacle for humanity, the most afflicting for civilisation, that of an iniquity committed with the paraphernalia of justice.

The *Patrie* has not yet published anything very remarkable upon the question with which we are now occupied, but I am told that either to-morrow or later it will treat it in detail.

The *Siècle* has endeavoured to show that Brazil alone had a right to complain, and that if that country would not take the part of the *Florida*, this vessel had no other resource.

The *Opinion Nationale* goes farther. It states that Brazil herself has no right to make any reclamation from the United States, since she has permitted Confederate *pirates* to commit acts of hostility throughout the whole extent of her waters, and that this tolerance has given to the Federals the right of reprisal. We may remark that in the course of this article its writer, M. Malespine, applies the term *pirates* indiscriminately to all the Confederate steamships; the *Siècle* contents itself with calling them privateers.

THE AMERICAN QUESTION AT ROCHDALE.

GREAT MEETING OF OPERATIVES.

FROM OUR SPECIAL REPORTER.

ROCHDALE: November 14, 1864.

A LARGE gathering of unemployed factory operatives in this locality took place this afternoon, in accordance with the terms of a placard of which the following is a copy:—

PEACE *versus* WAR!

The factory and other operatives of Rochdale and its vicinity are most respectfully informed that a public meeting will be held on the Show Ground, Newgate, near the Theatre Royal, on Monday next, November 14, at three o'clock, to take into consideration the present condition of the country, and also to propose some means whereby the distress may be alleviated.

The meeting will be addressed by speakers from various parts of the cotton districts.

The unemployed cotton operatives are earnestly invited to attend.

Mr. Kinder Smith, of one of the local (Oldham) Relief Committees, was called upon to preside. After reading the above placard, which elicited a general manifestation of approval, he went on to say there were few people, he believed, who would not take the affirmative side of the question at the head of the bill. In any and every country peace was surely preferable to war. No man and no woman, however much they might have been led to admire the American Constitution and the American people, could help deploring the devastation and destruction that had been going on in that unhappy country for the last four years; and he believed there were very few, whether men or women, especially in the manufacturing districts of this country, who had not bitter cause for desiring an early peace to be brought about between the contending parties. (Applause.) All they asked for was that instead of marching against one another in martial array, with sword and bayonet in the hands of the people, the two belligerents should be got together to talk over the causes and probable prospects of their fearful strife, and endeavour to arrange it in some amicable manner, instead of attempting the impossibility of ending it by cutting one another's throats. We ourselves were all well aware what war meant. We knew who it was in our own country that had to 'pay the piper' for our own fighting in past times; and it must be the result of the war in which the two American peoples were now engaged that they too some day or other would have to pay to a good tune for the madness of the present hour. Those who could remember 1819 and 1825 would well recollect the consequences of the Peninsular war. There was little but commercial failure throughout the land, and, as a consequence, the wages of the working classes began to come down, and a foretaste of their present grievous distress was bitterly experienced. It would be just the same—and worse—with America. Even though they sheathed the sword to-morrow, it would be a long while before they saw the same America that existed before the war began. The Chairman concluded, amid general applause, by bespeaking a patient hearing for all who might have to address the meeting.

Mr. John Matthews, an operative weaver, well known for many years as one of the leaders of his class, moved the first resolution. He said he came there to express his own honest convictions upon the war in America, and to say a few words upon the mode in which he thought it might be brought to an end. He was not addressing that large meeting at the dictation of any clique or party. He was acting on his own convictions, and, he believed, those of his fellow operatives—convictions which had been matured through bitter experience. They had known for themselves in the most feeling manner—he might say the only feeling manner—the distress that had been produced around them, and hunger combined with reason to assure them that something ought to be done whereby such a disgraceful and dangerous state of things should be put an end to. So far back as 1862 the Relief Committee were first instituted, and Parliament decided to vote a certain amount of money to remunerate so many of the unemployed as might be engaged under the Public Works Act; private efforts had also been most generously made; the public purse and the resources of private almoners had been freely drawn upon, and yet their misery and distress were greater that day than ever they had been known to be before. What was it that brought about that distress, and why should it be continued? What had paralysed their trade and commerce? Why were so many thousands of able-bodied men and more wretched women and children compelled to remain in a state of beggary? Why should the small tradesman go along byways to market lest he should meet creditors with whom he could not keep faith? The answer to all these questions was simply the continuance of the war in America. Some said they had no right to move in the matter. But he, as an Englishman, would say they had long ago bought, and dearly too, the right of freedom of speech and action; and he would demand to know what was the use of ambassadors and plenipotentiaries all over the world if Her Majesty's Government and the British House of Commons believed they were bound hand and foot, and even tongue-tied, whenever they were called upon to act to secure the welfare of their own country upon the basis of peace in any other. No right to act or even speak! A great calamity was upon them, and were they to be told that there was no earthly means of removing it? Had England lost her prestige, and was her Parliament as paralysed as her cotton trade? They had been taunted on some occasions of late years that they were a warlike people, and the Administration of those days was called a 'war Administration.' But who was it that declaimed at that time against that 'war Administration?' Who but the very Peace party who are now clamouring themselves hoarse in hounding on the war in America? The resolution he intended to propose was as follows:—

That, in consequence of the wide-spread distress that now prevails in the cotton districts through the continuance of the American war, this meeting is desirous that Her Majesty's Government should use their influence, together with France and other European Powers, to bring both belligerents together, in order to put a stop to the vast destruction of life and property in that unhappy country.

The war, continued the speaker, had been raging for four years. At the commencement, our Government was told, in bullying tones—'Hands off! we'll have no interference—we'll not be spoken to—we'll have fair play.' Fair play! Was it 'fair play' to the operatives of these northern counties that thousands and even hundreds of thousands of them should be turned into paupers? Was it 'fair play' not to listen to our merchants and manufacturers, whose business was ruined by the war? The least the British Government could do would be to address the Governments in America, and say to them—'Have you not yet had enough? because, for our part, we have had more than enough.' Let the factory operatives, 'in their thousands,' tell their own simple tale. They may not know much about international law, or what the comity of nations may mean: but they know the meaning of empty cupboards, and they know the meaning of empty bellies. Let the operatives make up their minds that every man, be he one of the 'friends of the people' or be he not, who says or writes one word in encouragement of that wicked war, is doing his very worst to keep their cupboards and bellies in the condition they are in now. Let peace prevail, and their backs would be clothed. The sacred Word told them that peace-makers were blessed, for they should inherit the kingdom of heaven. That was a gracious saying, but he for his own part wanted also to inherit the kingdom of earth. Without peace in America, there would be no peace worthy of the name in their own humble homes. The wives would have no real peace with their husbands, nor the children with their fathers, for there was a 'white war' going on in every household that was starving. Which of them, then, would second the resolution he had just read to them?

A number of operatives throughout the crowd seconded the resolution, which, upon being put by the chairman, was carried unanimously, and with a great clapping of hands in approval of the speech of the mover.

Mr. Mortimer Grimshaw, also an operative weaver, then came forward to move the next resolution, and was well received. He said he would read his motion forthwith, and let the people judge for themselves. It was as follows:—

This meeting is of opinion that this agitation for peace should be continued until the war in America is brought to a close.' (Applause.)

This war, he said, was now in its fourth year, ought never to have been begun, and therefore ought not to be continued. There were two peoples warring against each other, cutting each other's throats, neither to benefit themselves nor anybody else. Nobody, surely, ought to desire to assist either of them to carry on the war any longer, but rather do all they could to bring it to a termination. They had all heard a great talk about non-intervention and non-interference, but some people were everlastingly interfering one way or other. They had heard of letters sent to Horace Greeley, bidding him go on with the war. (Confusion.) In that case, why should not the Lancashire operatives go on too, and show by their votes that they meant to stop the war? Let Horace Greeley be told that the letter he had just received was not made up of the truth. (Uproar, and a voice, 'To h—with John Bright!') He thanked them for passing the previous resolution, which would have the effect of telling Horace Greeley that the 'party' who sent him that letter wrote what was not true. (Renewed uproar.) This war must be stopped. A general election was not far off, and let their electioneering cry be 'Peace.' It was his question as a 'factory chap,' and it was their question as 'factory chaps' too. Those who hounded on the war did not feel the consequences. They lacked neither meat, drink, nor clothing. But he was a Lancashire weaver and lacked all. He knew 'lots' who had spent their last shilling, and they would join their voices with his in showing that John Bright's representation to Horace Greeley was not correct. Let no candidate be returned who would not go in to stop the war. The men of Oldham had already spoken out. In a meeting of 6,000 in that town, only one hand was held up against the resolution the men of Rochdale had just passed. It was an operatives' question, and they alone must see to it. They wanted no interlopers to tell them what to do. It had been theirs to suffer, and it would be theirs to set themselves right. 'The time would come,' said Lord Palmerston, 'when England might interfere.' The time was now, and let the operatives act accordingly. The speaker said much besides to the same purpose, and concluded a vehement harangue amid loud applause.

Up to this period of the meeting, which until now was composed almost exclusively of factory operatives, entire unanimity appeared to prevail. During Mortimer Grimshaw's speech, however, a small band of local 'politicians' arrived on the scene, and endeavoured (with what success was shown above) to get up a counter demonstration in favour of 'John Bright.' The same party continued to receive slight accessions of strength until the close of the meeting, but the operatives appeared to resent their presence as an interference that might as well have been spared.

Mr. W. Cooper proposed the following amendment, amid a scene of indescribable uproar and disapprobation:—

It is the opinion of this meeting that America should be left to settle her own affairs, and it is the duty and interest of England to keep from meddling as heretofore in the struggle that has been brought about and continued by slavemongers up to this time in order to continue to hold negroes in slavery; and this meeting believes it would be 'base' and 'un-English' to recognise the slave power of the South, and thereby commit England to a war against our 'relations,' the freemen of the Northern States.

The amendment was seconded by Mr. C. Darrah, another well-known local politician, whom the meeting was exceedingly unwilling to hear. He contended, amid the greatest uproar, that the object of the present meeting was to further the Southern cause and embroil England in a war with that 'powerful Government,' the United States. (Confusion, and a voice, 'As lief have war as no food.') The North were fighting for a noble cause. (Hisses and laughter.)

The Chairman said the amendment was rather a distinct motion than an amendment upon the resolution. He would nevertheless put it to the meeting, as he wished to appear not partial to the side he sympathised with.

In the midst of the confusion that now prevailed, it was difficult to place the matter before the meeting in such a way as to insure an intelligible vote. Many of those who voted for the amendment endeavoured to correct their mistake by voting also for the motion, and atoned for their blunder by a liberal outpour of cheers for the Confederacy and groans for 'John Bright.'

During the whole of the proceedings the rain fell in copious showers. It was a conspicuous fact that the only opposition came from the outer portion of the crowd, composed of seemingly well-to-do people, who could, at all events, afford to discuss their grievances under the shelter of umbrellas.

At Preston, Stockport, and many other towns, the approach of winter is looked forward to with the greatest anxiety. There are nearly 11,000 factory operatives out of employ in Preston, and nearly 8,000 in Stockport. A new workhouse is about to be erected at the first-named town, at a cost of 32,000*l.*

The operatives engaged under the Public Works Act at Accrington are dissatisfied with their treatment by the local Board of Guardians, and apparently not without cause. The single men are paid at the rate of 5*d.* a day, and the married men are paid in proportion to the number of children they have. It is alleged that the 'skilled' workmen are paid 2*s.* 10*d.* a day, and yet many of the operatives are performing as much work of the same kind. The factory hands 'struck' altogether yesterday, but after consultation they decided to return to their employment, on the understanding that the guardians would take their case into consideration without delay. Many of the single men urged that they were strangers in the place, and were compelled to live in lodgings at 1*s.* per week, which left them only 1*s.* 6*d.* for food.

DEATH OF A DISTINGUISHED IRISH CLERGYMAN.—Rev. D. W. Cahill, the Catholic divine, died at the Carney Hospital, in Boston, on Thursday, at the age of seventy-one years. Dr. Cahill was a native of Ireland. He came to this country about five years since, and lectured in various cities of the Northern States and Canada. His correspondence with the Duke of Wellington, Earl Derby, Lord Palmerston, Lord John Russell and other prominent Englishmen, upon European politics gave him a great reputation in Ireland.—*New York Daily News.*

THE CAPTURE OF THE 'ROANOKE.'

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

St. George's, Bermuda: October 18, 1864.

SIR,—On September 29, ultimo, the United States mail steamship *Roanoke*, Francis A. Drew, master, left the port of Havana bound for New York, passing the Moro Castle at 5 P.M., with twenty-four cabin passengers and sixteen in the steerage; the officers and crew numbering fifty, making ninety persons on board. The noble steamer proceeded on her voyage at a speed of some twelve knots per hour, running within sight of, and a short distance from, the coast during some two or three hours, the time passing agreeably, and without anything unusual having occurred until 9.20 P.M., when, about twenty-five miles off the coast of Cuba, the passengers were not a little surprised at hearing a man dressed in the Confederate naval uniform, and who proved to be no less a personage than the capturer of the *Chesapeake*, viz. Lieutenant John C. Brain, proclaim in a loud voice, 'In the name of the Confederate States of America I demand the surrender of this vessel as a lawful prize,' and call upon Captain Drew to surrender as a prisoner of war. The announcement was immediately followed by the discharge of several pistols, with which the attacking party were armed. From that moment the work of capture commenced. Lieutenant Brain, taking the upper deck of the vessel, accompanied by officer Little, the purser, and a seaman, secured the captain and officers on that deck, placing them in irons; while officer Parr, the first and second engineers, and three seamen, proceeded with the capture of the officers and crew on the main deck, until Lieutenant Brain and officer Little, leaving the upper deck in charge of the purser and a seaman, went below to the assistance of officer Parr, when at fifteen minutes past ten o'clock, in the space of fifty-five minutes, the capture had been consummated, and the vessel was proceeding on her voyage as the Confederate States prize steamship *Roanoke*.

There was but little violent resistance made, except by the carpenter of the vessel, who, after surrendering, seized an axe and aimed a blow at the head of officer Parr, but the axe falling short of its mark, four balls pierced the body of the man, from the effect of which he fell and expired in a few minutes.

In a short time after the capture Captain Drew was released upon his parole.

Having been favoured with a perusal of the register of the *Roanoke*, I learn from it that she was built in New York, by the 'New York and Virginia Navigation Company,' who were her sole owners; her dimensions being, in length, 218 feet; breadth, 32 feet; depth, 10 feet 6 inches; and measuring 1,071 tons. Also, from a certificate attached to her register, it appears that the vessel was seized at the port of New York under the Confiscation Act of the United States, and released on bond.

Lieutenant Brain exhibited to me his orders and commission from the Secretary of the Navy of the Confederate States to make the capture of the *Roanoke*. Whether the fact of her having been owned by the Navigation Company aforesaid—some of the members being citizens of the Confederate States, and on whose account she was seized as above stated, thus dispossessing the said citizens of their property—caused the Government to order her capture, I am not advised. It would not, however, require any extraordinary stretch of the imagination to enable one to arrive at that conclusion.

Names and residences of the officers and crew who made the capture of the *Roanoke*:—John C. Brain, acting master, Holly Springs, Mississippi; H. A. Parr, master's mate, Nashville, Tennessee; Thomas R. Little, master's mate, Mobile, Alabama; Alexander Lathrop, purser, Kentucky; Robert Troth, first engineer, New Orleans; James Conlen, second engineer, Galveston, Texas; Robert Gage, seaman, Mobile, Alabama; Arthur Morehead, seaman, Louisiana; H. J. Braddock, seaman, Union Town, Kentucky; J. D. Van Amburg, seaman, Staunton, Virginia.

Lieutenant Brain informed me that, on his arrival off St. George's, it was his intention to provision and coal the vessel, parole and land the passengers, officers, and crew, and take the vessel to Wilmington. But it having been found impossible to take the vessel into said port, the only thing he could do was to burn the *Roanoke*, and, with his officers and crew, go ashore at St. George's; which he accordingly did (after transferring the passengers, officers, and crew to a brig five miles off the coast) at four o'clock on the morning of Sunday the 9th October inst.

A PASSENGER.

THE 'FLAMINGO.'—We are authorised to state that the report of the destruction of the blockade-runner the *Flamingo* off Morris Island by the Federal fleet is entirely false. The only vessel of that name in the blockade-running trade is now undergoing repairs at Glasgow.

THE FIGHT BEFORE RICHMOND.—From the *Richmond Sentinel*, October 28:—October 27, nine o'clock P.M. Five hundred prisoners have arrived, captured on the Darlington and Charles City Roads. A despatch from the operator at Chaffin's states that we also repulsed the enemy on the Williamsburg road, capturing two hundred prisoners and four stands of colours. Officers just from the front say that the enemy were several times repulsed with terrible loss in killed and wounded. Our loss on the north side, thanks to a merciful Providence, was not over twenty-five men in the whole day's operations. At eight o'clock yesterday morning the enemy made an attack on our extreme right, on the Boyd-town road, between the Weldon and Southside Railroad, about seven miles south-west of Petersburg. Passengers who came over on the evening train report the fighting as having been very severe, the enemy having assaulted our position seven times, and were seven times repulsed, suffering heavily on each occasion. The fighting had not ceased when the cars left. We regret to hear, from the same source, that the brave and dashing Brigadier-General James Dearing was among the killed. He was from Campbell county, Virginia, only twenty-two years old, and one of the most promising young officers in the cavalry service.

TELEGRAMS TO THE RICHMOND PAPERS.

Petersburg, October 27, 1864.

THE enemy, with a force of cavalry, artillery, and three corps of infantry—the 2nd, 5th, and 9th—moved this morning by a detour on our extreme right, driving in our cavalry, and occupying the Boydton plank road, near Burgess's Mill, seven miles below here. Our forces were disposed to meet them, and considerable fighting ensued between 4 o'clock and night. The enemy, at night, still held the plank road, and we have captured about sixty prisoners from the 2nd Corps.

This move places the enemy further from the Southside Road than they were before.

The fighting is not ended.

Petersburg, October 28, 1864.

Last night about dark the enemy charged our works on the Baxter Road, capturing a small portion of them, from which, however, they were quickly dislodged, with the loss of about a dozen prisoners.

Our loss was small.

Lieutenant-Colonel Harrison and Major Wise, of General Wise's brigade, were captured by the enemy.

About 10 o'clock last night the enemy charged our works on the Jerusalem plank road, capturing a part of our picket line, and driving in the rest of it. About 12 o'clock, however, the line was reestablished.

In the fight yesterday evening on the Boydton plank road, below here, three battle flags were captured from the enemy.

About 200 prisoners were taken yesterday.

Nothing has been heard from below this morning.

It is reported that the enemy's cavalry are on a raid towards the Southside Railroad.

Petersburg, October 28.

General Hampton attacked and fought the enemy in the rear yesterday evening, while General Mahone struck them in flank. Night supervening, and the enemy not being pressed sufficiently in front, alone prevented them from the greatest defeat of the war. As it was, the enemy was severely punished and greatly demoralised.

They abandoned the plank road last night, leaving over 300 in the hospitals, besides carrying off all their ambulances, laden with dead and wounded.

Over 500 prisoners have been captured thus far, and 1,500 stand of arms, besides limbers, caissons, and some wagons left on the field.

Our loss in killed and wounded is not over 150. In prisoners we lost probably 400. Mahone captured four pieces of artillery, but, owing to the density of the woods, could not bring them off, and the enemy repossessed them.

All quiet to-day, and the old situation resumed.

General Hampton lost one son killed and another wounded.

General Hampton and his cavalry on this occasion rendered a service which the country cannot too highly appreciate.

There is no truth in the rumour of a raid on the Southside Road.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

THE state of the money market is favourable. Indeed, the operators are already talking of a further reduction of the Bank rate. Having dropped to 8 per cent., it is said the position of the Bank accounts will enable the Court to go to 7 per cent. without any delay. If this should prove the case, the mercantile world will surmount their difficulties sooner than supposed. Still, it will be prudent not to go too fast. We are only just emerging from our apprehension, before a new Egyptian loan is announced, and plenty of other financial transactions will follow, if we are to have a comparatively easy official *minimum*. The loan contractors and the company promoters have had a little lull, and if they can but get a chance to revive speculation it will readily be supported by the public, if there is the least opportunity of making profit. Failures continue to take place in mercantile circles, some of them of magnitude; but the late panic symptoms have entirely disappeared, and there seems every prospect of tiding through the remainder of the year in a very satisfactory manner. We may see the rate of discount down to 7 per cent., but we do not expect, as some do, that it will gradually droop to 6 per cent. If it shall, then there will be immediate activity, to be once more succeeded by fresh disorder and reaction. Money at the Stock Exchange has been worth 6 per cent.; it is not higher now than 4 per cent., with ample supplies.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The specie market does not present quite such a satisfactory appearance as for the last few weeks, but still the alteration in the position of the stock is not very material. The amount of gold sent into the Bank has been only 50,000*l.*, against which there has been a withdrawal of 80,000*l.* for transmission to Alexandria, but there is a good quantity of specie in the market, some of which, it is expected, will be sent into the Bank. The arrivals this week have been to a fair extent, comprising 211,854*l.* from the West Indies and the Pacific; 68,000*l.* from Australia; and 245,160*l.* from New York, making a total of 525,014*l.* The silver market has remained very quiet indeed, and the small quantity of bars on offer have been taken at 60$\frac{7}{8}$*d.*, which shows no alteration whatever. Holders of dollars remain very firm, and the nominal price is 60$\frac{3}{4}$*d.* per oz. the same as last quoted. The advices from Australia state that the shipments of gold during the month of September amounted to 35,750 oz., valued at 143,000*l.*

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The reduction in the Bank rate of discount on Thursday last has had the effect of causing a considerable improvement in all the departments of the Stock Exchange. Business has not only increased, but prices have gradually but steadily advanced, and this evening business closed with even a firmer aspect. In the English stock market there has been nothing to cause any particular adverse movement, and nothing has occurred to prevent the improvement in prices continuing. The foreign market has also, with one or two exceptions, advanced, but business has been partially interfered with by the settlement of the account, but it was only temporarily. Since the arrangement was concluded, the general upward movement has continued. The closing prices this evening were, Consols, for money 90$\frac{1}{4}$ to 91, and for the account 89$\frac{3}{8}$ to 89$\frac{3}{4}$ ex div., which shows a rise, as compared with this day week, of about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Exchequer bills remain very steady at 5*s.* dis. to par, for both the March and June issues. Greek stock is at 22$\frac{3}{4}$ to 23$\frac{1}{4}$, showing a rise of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. There is the same improvement in Mexican, which are at 28$\frac{3}{4}$ to 29. Spanish Passives are up to 30$\frac{5}{8}$ to 30$\frac{7}{8}$, or an improvement of $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., and the Certificates at 13$\frac{3}{4}$ to 14, being $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. better. Turkish Six per Cents. of 1854 have declined $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and those of 1862 1 per cent., the respective quotations being 89$\frac{1}{2}$ to 90$\frac{1}{2}$, and 71$\frac{1}{4}$ to 71$\frac{3}{4}$.

A NEW EGYPTIAN LOAN.

Messrs. Frühling & Göschen have just issued the terms of the new Egyptian Loan, contracted for by the Viceroy of Egypt with Messrs. Oppenheim & Co., of Alexandria. It is for 5,704,200*l.* in bonds, bearing interest at 7 per cent. per annum from the 1st of October last, and is secured on the general revenues of Egypt. The amount is redeemable in fifteen years, by an accumulating sinking fund, the bonds to be drawn by lot half-yearly and paid off at 100. The price of issue is 93, including accrued interest from October 1, equal to about 1 per cent., of which 5 per cent. must be paid on application and the remaining 88 per cent. on allotment, or at the option of the allottee in instalments extending over to April 1. Arrangements, it is said, have been made for the regular transmission of the requisite funds for the half-yearly interest and sinking fund to Messrs. Frühling & Göschen in London. The scrip left off this evening at 1 to 1$\frac{1}{4}$ premium.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market during the last week rallied considerably on the receipt of good accounts from the States, the price marking at one time 65 to 67; since, on the closing of the fortnightly account, there has been flatness, and we close 63 to 64.

IMPORTS FROM THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

The following table, extracted from the Customs Bill of Entry, is a statement of part of the imports of Southern cotton and tobacco into England from October 27 to November 14:—

Date	Name of ship	Port	Consignee	Bales of cotton	Boxes of tobacco
Oct. 27	Powerful	Bermuda	H. Lafone	386	
,,	,,	,,	To order	134	
,,	,,	,,	A. Nicholls	4	
,,	,,	,,	Joyce & Co.	340	
Nov. 8	Hayti	Vera Cruz, Tampico, Havana, and Nassau	Benjamin & Co.	—	40
,,	,,	,,	Lemonius & Co.	272	
,,	,,	,,	Langworth & Co.	30	
,,	,,	,,	H. Hasselbrink	111	
,,	,,	,,	C. Robertson	—	1
,,	,,	,,	Johnstone & Co.	—	1
,,	,,	,,	Jimenez & Co.	—	1
,,	,,	,,	Fraser & Co.	193	1
,,	,,	,,	Crocker & Co.	—	1
,,	,,	,,	To order	450	15
,,	Virgen del Carmen	Havana	To order	325	
Nov. 10	Flying Cloud	Nassau	R. W. H. Welch	5	
,,	,,	,,	Fraser & Co.	261	
,,	,,	,,	Lawrence & Co.	72	
Nov. 11	Ocean Ranger	Matamoras	Mancha & Co.	36	
,,	,,	,,	Graham & Co	18	
,,	,,	,,	Langworth & Co.	91	
,,	,,	,,	Dufoy & Co.	235	
,,	,,	,,	Noesse & Co.	139	
,,	,,	,,	Mercantile Trading Company	119	
,,	,,	,,	M'Dowell & Co.	92	
,,	,,	,,	Galbraith, Redgate & Co.	362	
,,	,,	,,	Master	5	
,,	Star of the East	Nassau	J. M. Calder	180	
,,	,,	,,	S. R. Graves	42	
Nov. 12	Ariosto	Bermuda	To order	2,279	
,,	,,	,,	J. M. Calder	30	
,,	,,	,,	S. R. Graves	15	
,,	Laura	,,	Beach & Co.	350	
,,	Jane Gardner	Nassau	Lawrence & Co.	303	
,,	Harvest	,,	To order	680	
Nov. 14	Sulina	Matamoras	Hewitt & Co.	361	
,,	,,	,,	Huth & Co.	68	
,,	,,	,,	Bahr & Co.	23	
,,	,,	,,	Dennistoun & Co.	60	
,,	William Wilson	Matamoras	Droege & Co.	282	
,,	,,	,,	Lemonius & Co.	54	
,,	,,	,,	Jimenez & Co.	50	
,,	,,	,,	Huth & Co.	23	
,,	,,	,,	Uhthoff & Co.	24	
,,	,,	,,	Drake & Co.	50	
,,	Sagitta	,,	To order	347	
,,	,,	,,	Lemonius & Co.	75	
,,	Convey	Bermuda	Joyce & Co.	209	
,,	Harriet	Nassau	J. M. Calder	298	
,,	,,	,,	Fraser & Co.	—	13
,,	Ricardo	Havana	To order	160	
,,	,,	,,	Milligan & Co.	4	
			Total .	9,639	73

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The market for American Government and Railway Securities may generally be judged of according to the tenor of the news received from the States, whether favourable to the Federals or the reverse. This week, notwithstanding the easier state of the money market, the dealings have greatly diminished as compared with the last week or two; but still prices have not presented any remarkable changes. In fact, as regards values, the market may be regarded as steady. The dealings recorded in the official list are as under:—United States of 1881, at 41$\frac{1}{8}$, 41$\frac{3}{4}$, 41$\frac{1}{4}$, 41$\frac{3}{8}$, 40$\frac{3}{4}$, and 41$\frac{1}{4}$; ditto of 1882, at 40$\frac{7}{8}$, 41, 40$\frac{3}{4}$, 40$\frac{1}{2}$, and 41$\frac{1}{4}$; Virginia State Five per Cents., 46$\frac{1}{4}$; ditto Six per Cents., 27 and 26$\frac{3}{4}$; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, Pennsylvania Section, first mortgage, 70$\frac{1}{4}$; Erie $100 shares, all paid, at 40; and Illinois Central $100 shares, all paid, at 51$\frac{1}{2}$, 51, 51$\frac{1}{2}$, 52$\frac{1}{4}$, and 51$\frac{1}{4}$.

The following letter gives an account of the operations in American bonds on the Frankfort Bourse during the week ending November 13, 1864:—

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

Frankfort: November 13, 1864.

November 7.—The prices of North American funds were rather steady at the beginning of the Exchange, when 1882 Bonds were sold at 46$\frac{3}{16}$ to 46$\frac{1}{4}$. After the somewhat worse New York quotations of October 27 had been received, the price receded to 46 to 45$\frac{7}{8}$; but they recovered towards the close of Exchange to 46$\frac{1}{4}$. The whole transactions amounted to scarcely $40,000 or $50,000, and no first-rate banking-house did business as purchaser or seller. In the small Exchange in the evening transactions were trifling, and the price maintained at 46$\frac{1}{16}$ to 46$\frac{1}{8}$.

November 8.—The unfavourable New York accounts having spread further amongst the public, orders for sale seem to have

reached from abroad. There were at least more sellers than yesterday, and quotations declined from 46¼ to 46 and 45⅞. The amount of transactions about $70,000 to $80,000. In the evening prices without variation; business limited to some thousand dollars.

November 9.—The New York quotations of October 29 were known at the opening of Exchange. Securities declined to 45⅜, but maintained firm at that price. Shortly after 1 o'clock, the latest New York reports of November 1 having been known, a sudden fall to the price of 43¾ took place, finally recovering to 44. The transactions were rather important that day, amounting to several hundred thousand dollars. First-rate firms were sellers only after the arrival of the second New York quotations. In the evening, owing to the firmness of Amsterdam, prices recovered to 44⅜.

November 10.—Exchange opened duller at 44 to 44⅛; some large sales led to a decline to 43⅞. The business was not animated. In the evening the price recovered to 44¼, but closed 44.

November 11.—New York despatches of the 2nd inst. quoting gold 248½ produced a panic in Exchange, when 1882 Bonds were first given at 42¾. Numerous purchasers having arrived, the price recovered to 43½. The truth of the above-mentioned quotation was doubted, the first banking-houses having only received quotations from November 1, with gold 240½. The price closed firm at 43⅜. The Exchange was one of the most animated for Americans. In the evening small transactions; price maintaining.

November 12.—An order for purchasing Americans pushed them to 43⅝, but they remained offered for that price. None of the first-rate dealers was perceived as meddling in the operations. The relative firmness is founded on the approaching counting-day (Tuesday, November 15), bonds seeming to be not very abundant. Whether that firmness can maintain itself depends upon the reports which may possibly reach from New York before Tuesday.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The following suspensions have taken place since our last number:—Messrs. Caspari & Co., liabilities about 100,000*l.*; Messrs. Rougemont, De Lowenberg, & Co.'s liabilities are 800,000*l.*, not 600,000*l.*; Mr. Charles Wilson, silk importer, of St. Paul's Churchyard, liabilities 22,000*l.*; Mr. E. Caralambi, fruit merchant, liabilities between 40,000*l.* and 50,000*l.*; Messrs. Butterworth & Sons, woollen cloth merchants, of Huddersfield; Messrs. Halliday, Fox, & Co., East India merchants, liabilities 1,900,000*l.*, against which there are securities in produce at existing prices to the extent of 1,400,000*l.*, leaving about 500,000*l.*, which their other assets are estimated to pay in full; Messrs. Evans & Lewis, fancy dress warehousemen, of St. Paul's Churchyard, liabilities 55,000*l.*, and assets about 45,000*l.*; Messrs. Henry Powell & Sons, of London and Galatz, liabilities about 150,000*l.*; Messrs. Temple & Co., iron ship builders, of Blackwall; Messrs. Elliot & Co., China trade, with heavy liabilities; Messrs. C. Robin & Co., bankers, Paris, liabilities comparatively small.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

The improvement recently noticed in the demand for produce has not been fully maintained, and some of the markets are again exhibiting a want of animation. The return of confidence which was encouraged by the reduction in the value of money appears to be in some degree checked by the recurrence of further commercial failures. Transactions are accordingly restricted, purchases being for the most part extended only so far as to provide for present requirements. In the grain trade there is no new feature to notice; the demand is dull, but holders show no disposition to make any reduction from the moderate prices now current, and for all kinds of grain quotations remain nearly stationary. In provisions only a moderate business is passing; but for American, and indeed for most foreign butters, prices are well maintained. The bacon market is very dull, but American middles with short rib in sell steadily at 44*s.* to 45*s.* There is much less doing in sugar, and quotations are 6*d.* per cwt. lower. For Brazil coffees floating, much lower prices have been taken, but Ceylon imports maintain their value and meet a quick sale. Purchases of tea are still confined chiefly to the public sales, in which easier prices are occasionally accepted. A good deal has been done in soft-grain rice at 8*s.* 3*d.* to 8*s.* 6*d.*, but holders asking stiffer rates, the market has become less active. Saltpetre remains at 31*s.* for fine. Spices continue in limited request, and nutmegs have again sold on slightly lower terms. Petroleum sells steadily at 1*s.* 11½*d.* to 2*s.* per gallon for American refined, and 16*l.* 10*s.* per tun for crude. Linseed oil has advanced to 38*s.* 3*d.* on the spot. Cocoa-nut oil has met some enquiry for American, and rates are firm at 37*s.* 6*d.* to 38*s.* for Ceylon, and 38*s.* 6*d.* to 39*s.* per cwt. for Cochin. Sperm oil is obtainable at 64*l.* to 65*l.* Turpentine has advanced to 63*s.* per cwt., but is not a ready sale at the price. Dye goods generally are steady, with a better demand for indigo at last quarterly sales' rates. The metal trade is not so active as it was a week or ten days back, and Scotch pig-iron has receded to 50*s.* 10½*d.* cash, but prices otherwise are firm; spelter, 21*l.* 15*s.*; Straits tin, 95*l.* cash; and English pig-lead, 20*l.* per ton.

Liverpool, Wednesday, November 16.—Within the past week our cotton market has exhibited more animation, and a large business has been transacted by the dealers as well as the speculators, and prices have been gradually advancing. The operators appear to have more confidence since the reduction was announced in the rate of discount, and a belief appears to be entertained that prices will still further advance. The sales this week have reached 78,000 bales, of which 27,000 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year down to the present time have been 2,310,961 bales; and to the same period in 1863, 2,336,498 bales. There have been imported this year 1,939,561 bales, against 1,398,516 bales last year. The trade have taken this year 1,381,874 bales, whilst in 1863 the number was 1,182,449 bales. The exports this year have been 488,410 bales, whilst last year they were 424,072 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 422,380 bales, and to the corresponding period in 1863, 688,912 bales. The estimated stocks at the present time are 357,119 bales, and at the same period last year they were 182,014 bales. To-day the market has been steady, and the better qualities were about ¼*d.* dearer. The closing quotations were:—American descriptiods, 21¼*d.* to 26¼*d.*; Pernambuco, 24*d.* to 26¼*d.*; Maranhams, 23¾*d.* to 24¼*d.*; Egyptian, 13½*d.* to 28¼*d.*; Surat, 11*d.* to 24½*d.*; Madras, 13¼*d.*; Bengal, 8¾*d.* to 11¼*d.*; Scinde, 8½*d.* to 11½*d.*; China, 14*d.* to 14½*d.*; Japan, 16¼*d.*; and Peruvian, 26*d.* to 26¼*d.*

The markets at Manchester have been looking up during nearly the whole of the week, but within the last day or two business has been materially checked by the high prices demanded both by manufacturers and spinners, which buyers have shown but little disposition to accede to. Still, the markets close all very firm at the recent improvement, and altogether there is a far more cheerful appearance. A good business has been done in shipping yarns, and would have been much larger but for the advance asked. The rise within the week in the above description of yarns has been fully 1*d.* per lb., whilst in home trade yarns the advance has been from 1½*d.* to 2*d.*, and in some instances as much as 2*d.* to 3*d.* per lb. Buyers appear disposed to operate very extensively, could they be met with regard to prices. For home trade yarns the market is equally strong, but, for the reasons above given, business has been greatly restricted. There has been a very active demand for cloths, with an increased disposition to give orders, in consequence of which some very heavy orders have been given, extending over periods which place the final time of delivery some months hence, and prices have been gradually hardening. The latest quotations were:—⅞ Grey Printers, 7*s.* to 14*s.* according to quality; ⅞ Grey Madapollams, 6*s.* 3*d.* to 9*s.* 3*d.*; ⅞ Grey Printers, 8*s.* 9*d.* to 16*s.* 3*d.*; ⅞ Grey Shirtings, 10*s.* 6*d.* to 23*s.*; Water Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 7*d.* to 2*s.* 1*d.*; No. 30, 1*s.* 11½*d.* to 2*s.* 5½*d.*; No. 40, 2*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 11½*d.*; Mule Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 3½*d.* to 1*s.* 11*d.*; No. 30, 1*s.* 7*d.* to 2*s.* 2*d.*; No. 40, 1*s.* 10*d.* to 2*s.* 5*d.*; No. 50, 2*s.* 1*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.*; No. 60, 2*s.* 4*d.* to 2*s.* 10*d.*; No. 70, 2*s.* 7*d.* to 3*s.* 1*d.*; No. 80, 2*s.* 9*d.* to 3*s.* 3*d.*; No. 90, 2*s.* 11*d.* to 3*s.* 5*d.*; and No. 100, 3*s.* 2*d.* to 3*s.* 9*d.*

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Ships Arrived.

At Liverpool.—November 10: The Flying Cloud, from Nassau.—November 11: The Star of the East, from Nassau. The Ocean Ranger, from Matamoras. The Flor del Plata, from Buenos Ayres. The Manuela, from Havana. The Simla, from St. John's, N.B. The Eolus, from Matamoras.—November 12: The Iris, from Jamaica. The India, The Salus, from St. John's, N.B. The St. Clare, from Bahia. The Jane Gardner, from Nassau. The Laura, The Ariosto, The Convoy, The Harvest, from Bermuda. The Adona, from Buenos Ayres.—November 13: The Oriental, from Jamaica. The Wm. Wilson, The Sagitta, from Matamoras.—November 14: The Brothers, from Demerara. The Ricardo, from Havana. The Essex, from Nassau. The Sulina, from Matamoras. The Harriet, from Nassau.—November 15: The Hero, The Victoria, from Demerara. The John G., The Wild Pigeon, from Nassau. The Ceylon, The Glengarry, from Demerara.—November 16: The Melita (steamer), from Bermuda.

At Gravesend.—November 10: The Tartar, from Demerara.—November 13: The Victoria, from Rio Janeiro.—November 14: The Ino, from Buenos Ayres.—November 15: The Hope, The Gondola, from Demerara.—November 16: The Albina, from Bahia.

At Deal.—November 16: The Martin, from Bahia.

At Falmouth.—November 12: The Kate, from Bermuda, for St. Michael's. The Queen of the Clippers, from Bermuda, for Madeira.—November 13: The Adolph, from Havana. The Florence Nightingale, from Montevideo.—November 14: The West India, from Bahia. The Gondola, from Demerara. The Paquita, The Mercurius, from Havana.—November 15: The Jason, from Montevideo. The Manuela, from Havana.

At Plymouth.—November 14: The Floating Cloud, from Bahia.

At Clyde.—November 9: The Rei Salomao, from Bahia. The Union, from Havana.—November 10: The Mary Block, from Pernambuco.—November 11: The Nivaria, from Havana.—November 14: The Lady Rowena, The Rhea Sylvia, from Callao.

At Dublin.—November 8: The Williamson, from Montevideo.

At Cuxhaven.—November 6: The Skylark, from Callao.—November 10: The Louise, from Buenos Ayres.

At Queenstown.—November 9: The Danish Beauty, from Bahia. The Elizabeth Buckham, from Demerara.—November 10: The Von der Heydt, from Havana.—November 12: The Electric Spark, from Callao. The Peony, from Demerara. The Johannes, from Montevideo. The Decisao, from Havana.—November 16: The Napier, from Callao. The Emma, from Havana.

At Crookhaven.—November 9: The Alma, from Demerara.

At Bermuda.—September 27: The Owl (steamer), from Wilmington.

At Demerara.—October 19: The St. Michael, from Clyde.

At St. Thomas's.—October 15: The Mexican (steamer), from Liverpool.—October 25: The Merlin (steamer), from Bermuda, and left 26th on her return.—October 27: The Granadian (steamer), from Liverpool.

At Nassau, N.P.—September 28: The Wilsons, from Liverpool, and sailed October 15 on her return.—October 3: The Syren (steamer), from Charleston.—October 6: The Lizzie (steamer), from Clyde.—October 10: The Florie (steamer), from Wilmington, left 15th for St. John's, N.B., since reported captured.—October 11: The Ella (steamer), from Wilmington. The Armstrong (steamer), from Halifax, N.S., and cleared for St. John's, N.B., 17th. The Monarch, from Cardiff.—October 17: The Virginia (steamer), from Bermuda, and left for St. John's, N.B. The Rebecca, from London.—October 22: The Blenheim (steamer), from Bristol. The Julia (steamer), from Clyde. The Bessie Eustace, from England.

At Havana.—October 15: The J. A. U., from Liverpool. The Sea Queen, from Swansea.—October 16: The Lizzie (steamer), from Nassau.—October 18: The Flink, from Clyde.

Ships Sailed.

Liverpool.—November 8: The Grace Darling, for Demerara.—November 9: The Oruro, for Valparaiso. The Wreath, for Bahia. The Shamrock, for Jamaica.—November 10: The Eos, for Havana. The St. Thomas (steamer), for St. Thomas's.—November 11: The Fatima, for Jamaica.—November 12: The Tint, for Valparaiso. The Dependent, for Jamaica.—November 13: The Tyne, for Demerara.—November 14: The Crescencia, for Havana. The U. S. C., for Nassau.

Gravesend.—November 13: The Garibaldi, for Rio Janeiro.

Deal.—November 11: The Star of the Sea, for Callao. The Perilla, for Pernambuco.—November 12: The Whisper (steamer), for Bermuda.—November 15: The Cambrian, for Jamaica.

Dover.—November 11: The Pelican (steamer), for Matamoras.

Cardiff.—November 8: The George F. Lovelt, for Bermuda. The Lalla Rookh, for Nassau.—November 9: The Princess Royal, The Golovna, for Bermuda.—November 11: The Adler, for Jamaica. The Killia Lass, for Nassau.—November 12: The Marcia Greenleaf, for Montevideo. The Zoroya, for Nassau.—November 14: The Marie Elise, for Buenos Ayres. The Helena, for St. Thomas.

Newport.—November 9: The Mavourneen, for Bermuda. The Eva, for Halifax, N.S.—November 10: The Carry Wright, for Buenos Ayres.—November 11: The Lone Star, for Buenos Ayres. The Amazone, The Macaulay, for St. Thomas's. The Eva, for Halifax, N.S.—November 12: The Lydia Mary, for St. Thomas's.

Shields.—November 11: The Curlew, for Rio Janeiro.—November 12: The Harebell, for Rio Janeiro.

Swansea.—November 9: The Pathfinder, for Valparaiso. The Courier, for Bahia.

Clyde.—November 9: The Hattie (steamer), for Nassau.—November 11: The Mary and Ella (steamer), for Nassau.—November 16: The Margaret Smith, for Demerara.

Madeira.—October 23: The Vixen (steamer), for Bermuda.

Demerara.—October 8: The Eunomia, for London.—October 11: The Alciope, for Queenstown.—October 12: The Lord Elgin, for Liverpool. The John G. Morton, for Queenstown. The Jessy, The Dorothy, for London.—October 15: The Johnstone, for Liverpool.—October 17: The Jessie, for London.—October 18: The Despesche, The Anne Jane, for Queenstown.

St. Thomas.—October 17: The Julia (steamer), for Nassau, N.P.

Nassau, N.P.—September 26: The John G., for Liverpool.—September 28: The Essex, for Liverpool.—September 30: The Reinhardt, for Liverpool.—October 5: The Syren (steamer), for St. John's, N.B.—October 6: The Chicora (steamer), for Wilmington.—October 7: The Rhode, for Liverpool.—October 14: The Amy, for Liverpool.—October 19: The Falcon (steamer), for St. John's, N.B.—October 20: The Lucy, for St. John's, N.B.

Havana.—October 18: The Paul, for Falmouth.—October 19: The Antonio, for Falmouth.

Ships Loading.

At London.—For Bermuda: The Jane Smith, The Tartar. For Demerara: The Emerald Isle, The Guiding Star, The Couranto, The Warrior Queen, The Express, The Argus. For Nassau (N.P.): The Esperance, The Laughing Water; Davison Brothers & Co. The Indian Chief, The Hannah; J. Worley. For Montevideo and Buenos Ayres: The Louise Alwardt, The Para, The Meppel. The Regina. For New York: The Hudson, The F. W. Stetson, The Jenny, The Celestial Empire, The Iowa. For Havana: The Maria Victorina.

At Liverpool.—For Bermuda: The Mary Farleigh, The Alexander. For Matamoras: The Rosina Claypole, The Esther, The Ocean Belle. For Nassau (N.P.): The Clarence, The Crocodile, The Babthorpe. For St. Thomas: The Canondah, The Her Majesty, The Helena, The Cristobal Colon. For Demerara: The Anna Mary The Erse *vid* Troon. For Havana: The Casas, The Victory, The Salve Vir Maria, The Credenda, The Providencia, The Trafalgar, The Heinrich Beckmann.

At Bristol.—For Valparaiso: The Clarendon. For Pernambuco: The Elpis.

At Cardiff.—For Bermuda: The Nutfield, The Lovetand. For Havana: The Mystery. For St. Thomas's: The Helena. For Nassau: The Cubana. The Zoraya, The Princess Royal, The Firm.

At Gloucester.—For Bermuda: The G. H. Jenkins. For Havana: The Superb.

At Hull.—For Havana: The Hilda.

At Newport.—For Nassau: The Eulia. For St. Thomas's: The Devon, The Denmark, The Lydia Mary, The Chieftain, The Osborne, The Belmont.

At Swansea.—For Halifax: The Echo. For Nassau: The Sovereign.

At Glasgow.—For Bermuda: The S. Berine. For Demerara: The Eskdale. For St. Thomas's: The Maple Valley.

Among the Contents of The Index *of November* 10 *are*:—

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The Seizure of the 'Florida':—
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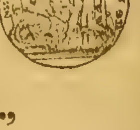

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THERE are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellow-men.

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A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

VOL. IV.—No. 135.] LONDON: THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 24, 1864. [WITH SUPPLEMENT 6D.

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AMERICA.

THE second session of the Second Congress of the Confederate States assembled at Richmond on the 7th inst. In a Supplement we give the Annual Message of President Davis, and the Report of the Confederate Secretary of the Treasury.

THE reelection of Mr. Lincoln was a foregone conclusion, and no one can be surprised or disappointed at the result of the contest. From the moment when General M'Clellan declared himself in favour of a war policy, it was certain that the Democratic party would be signally defeated. Under any circumstances it was not likely that Mr. Lincoln would permit himself to be placed in a minority. There are instances of the masters of legions laying down their power, but there is no instance in history of an Administration, supported by a vast army, being defeated at the ballot box. We believe that, if General M'Clellan had avowed himself in favour of peace, Mr. Lincoln would not have obtained so large a majority as he has done; but we do not believe that General M'Clellan would have been allowed to carry the election. At present it is not ascertained what are the numbers in favour of Mr. Lincoln, but unquestionably the majority is large, and without the votes of the bogus States, Mr. Lincoln has been chosen for President. It is worthy of remark that in New York City, where the opinion of the inhabitants is freer from military control than in any part of the Union, General M'Clellan obtained a majority. So far as the Confederate States are concerned, the result of the Presidential election will be a subject of congratulation. Since the people of the North are not yet convinced of the hopelessness of the attempt to subjugate the South, and therefore are determined to try the issue of another campaign, it is well for the good cause of Southern independence that the government of the North should be intrusted to an Administration which has proved an utter failure. The return of Mr. Lincoln will not save the Federal Treasury from bankruptcy; it will not replete the ranks of the army; it will not in the least improve the military position of the North. We do not see that the reelection of Mr. Lincoln can in any way postpone the advent of peace. Republican orators defy the Eternal Himself to prevent them exterminating the people of the South. But insolent and blasphemous bravado is of no avail. Every week adds to the oppressive load of the public debt. Every battle, every skirmish, every march, every day's encampment takes away from Mr. Lincoln soldiers that he finds it harder and harder to replace. Far be it from us to prophesy that the war will end in such and such a time. We hope, indeed, that the end is not so distant as some fear it to be; but whether the war terminates next year, or whether it goes on for another four years, we know from the history of the past that such a nation as the Confederate States cannot be subjugated or exterminated, and that at last the North will have to confess its inability to enslave the South. It ought to be ominous to the Federals that on the very day they were re-electing Mr. Lincoln there were rumours from all quarters of the failure of Mr. Lincoln's military plans. Grant was not marching on to Richmond, but anxiously defending himself from attack. Sheridan was vainly seeking forage for his horses, and could not break through the cordon of Confederate cavalry. Sherman, it was rumoured, had evacuated Atlanta, and though this may not be true, it is certain that Sherman is in a critical position. The reported successes which were vaunted by Mr. Lincoln to secure votes, collapsed on the very day of the election. We are not surprised at the return of Mr. Lincoln, but posterity will marvel at it. In vain will the historian of future times seek for a reason for the Federals granting Mr. Lincoln a renewed lease of power. What has he accomplished since March, 1861? He has crushed the liberty of the people. He has torn into shreds the constitution he was sworn to uphold. He has destroyed the credit of the country. He has piled up a debt which cannot be redeemed, and made repudiation inevitable. By his undignified demeanour, by his jesting, by his vacillation, by his jobbery, by his want of statesmanship, he has made the Government of the United States such an object of contempt, that no one found it strange that a hope should be expressed in the French Assembly that the United States might one day be *restored* to the rank of a first-rate power. Surely none of these things entitled Mr. Lincoln to a second term of office. Nor can it be pleaded in his favour that he has achieved military success. The Southern armies are unbroken, the Southern capital is not taken, and the Federals hold less ground in the South now than they did in 1863. The merchants of New York know full well that the Federal navy cannot protect their commerce on the seas. Farmers of the West know that the Mississippi is no longer open for trade. We cannot suggest any reason why Mr. Lincoln is reelected—that is, any public or patriotic reason. We need not suggest the secret reasons, for they are palpable to all those who choose to enquire into them. Enough for us to record Mr. Lincoln's success in the North; enough for us that the gallant people of the South are for ever separated and free from all connection with the most corrupt and demoralised Government on the face of the earth. Let Mr. Lincoln make merry and be glad that he has gained such a complete and easy triumph over the North, and let the friends of liberty everywhere rejoice that he cannot so triumph over the South. Mr. Lincoln is reported to have said that 'he thanked Almighty God for directing the mind of the country to a right conclusion.' Let us reverently hope that an All-wise and All-seeing Providence may bring good out of evil, and that in spite of their madness the people of the North may be saved from utter destruction by the return of peace.

THE military news of the week is not very clear. On the eve of the election Mr. Lincoln declined to allow the publication of any military reports, since none of them were particularly favourable to the Federal cause. Grant is inactive, or rather preparing as best he can for an expected Confederate assault. Sheridan is so hemmed in by what he is pleased to call the demoralised Confederate army, that his horses are dying for want of forage. Sherman, we are told, has given up the pursuit of Hood—a statement rather difficult to understand, seeing that Sherman has not been pursuing Hood. It is clear, however, that the position of Sherman is anything but pleasant and reassuring to his friends; and if he has not already evacuated Atlanta, there is a strong probability that he will have to do so. General Forrest has blockaded Tennessee between Paducah and Johnsonsville. At the latter place we are informed he 'captured and destroyed the Federal gunboats and transports, securing the officers, crews, and a considerable amount of stores and artillery.' The Federals claim to have defeated General Price, but as it is added that Price was retreating with large trains and a number of unarmed conscripts, we are warranted in discrediting the report. It is not usual to permit a defeated army to carry away large trains and unarmed recruits.

CONFEDERATE accounts confirm the reported blowing-up of the ram *Albemarle* and the occupation of Plymouth, North Carolina. Plymouth is a small place in Albemarle Sound, and when it was taken by the Confederates was full of Federal stores. There was not a soldier in it, or a single gun, when recently reoccupied by the Federals.

THE *Richmond Examiner* publishes an account of the condition of General Hood's army, and says that it is in excellent spirits and amply supplied with provisions. The railroads destroyed in Sherman's rear have been so completely cut up as not to be easily repaired. The rails have been bent, the ties burnt, and the excavations filled up.

THE telegrams from New York state that General Ewell has superseded General Early. As the former is the ranking officer, he would of course take the chief command, but it does not follow that the latter has been displaced from the immediate command of the troops.

THE New York papers publish numerous accounts of the successful operations of the Confederate cruisers. The *New York Herald* says that the *Chicamauga* has burnt the schooner *Otter* and a vessel name unknown, and that she also boarded the barque *Speedwell*, and bonded her for $18,000.

IT appears that Mr. Lincoln's chosen officers, and Mr. Lincoln's special organs, are as ignorant of the law of nations, and as devoid of all principles of honour, as South Sea savages. On the 7th the *Kearsage* arrived at the port of Boston. Captain Winslow forwarded to the Federal Secretary of the Navy an official report of the capture of the *Florida*, but did not give the least hint at the proceeding being illegal. From the official report of Captain Collins, it really appears that that person thinks his atrocious piracy merits a reward instead of the gallows. The *Boston Post* publishes a triumphant account of the capture, as though it redounded to the credit, instead of being an ineffable disgrace to the naval service of the United States. It is evidently in the North esteemed noble and brave for an officer to violate the law of nations, to break his word of honour, to grossly insult a friendly and neutral Power, and to attack a ship unprepared for defence because lying in a neutral port. Butler might as well say he is a brave soldier because he is not afraid to steal the trinkets of defenceless women. What the action of the United States Government will be is not yet known. Minister Webb has undertaken to repudiate all participation in the act on behalf of his Government, and to promise full reparation. Mr. Webb embraced the opportunity to bully England, in a style which even the *Star* calls unhandsome.

ON November 5, Benjamin F. Butler assumed military command in the State of New York, and issued his first general order. This document sets forth that troops have been detailed in that State to insure 'calm quiet,' and much more of such stuff. The concluding paragraph about fraudulent voting is really a curious composition. It is impossible to believe that the man who composed it was both sane and sober:—

> Every man knows whether he is a duly qualified voter, and he who votes, not being duly qualified, does a grievous wrong against light and knowledge. Specially is fraudulent voting a deadly sin and heinous crime, deserving condign punishment, in those who, having rebelliously seceded from and repudiated their allegiance to this Government when at their homes in the South, now having fled here for asylum, abuse the hospitality of the State and clemency of the Government by interfering in the election of our rulers. Such men can pile rebellion upon treason, breach of faith upon perjury, and forfeit the amnesty awarded them. It will not be well for them so to do.—By command of Major-General BENJ. F. BUTLER.

The appointment of Butler is significant of Mr. Lincoln's policy and of his power. To set over the citizens of the principal State in the Union, with head-quarters in the Empire City, a man whose crimes have made him notorious and infamous, indicates an intention of putting the foot down firmly on 'disloyalty' to Lincolnism, and that Mr. Lincoln feels confident he is strong enough to defy the New Yorkers to do their worst against his absolute authority. Nor does it seem that Butler is going to be more courteous in New York than he was in New Orleans or in Norfolk. We read in a New York paper of the 7th instant:—'Major-General Benjamin F. Butler, on Saturday morning, so far overstepped the limits of propriety as to send one of his military family to the residence of Judge Dean, summoning the latter to report at the general's head-quarters in this city. This, on the part of General Butler, was an intimation that in his intercourse with our citizens he proposed to ignore the conventionalities of etiquette, and to assume, in this city, the domineering attitude that marked his conduct within his military lines.' It remains to be seen if the people of New York will submit to the shameful yoke. If so, they will display unexampled docility. Never before did any community tamely submit to such a flagrant

insult. Never before, indeed, was a community so insulted. Never before was a community placed under the command of a 'general' who is a skulking coward in war, and who only dares to insult defenceless women, maltreat unarmed citizens, and plunder private houses.

THE Rev. Henry Ward Beecher has been preaching a series of 'campaign sermons' advocating the reelection of Mr. Lincoln. The idea of turning the pulpit into a political rostrum is sufficiently repugnant, but Mr. Beecher has made the proceeding peculiarly disgusting and sacrilegious. The *New York News* of November 7 contains a report of the 'campaign service' held in Plymouth Church on the evening of Sunday, November 6. We are told that 'the proceedings were commenced by the organist with "Star-spangled Banner," after which a polka was played, when Mr. Beecher made his appearance. After the usual preliminary service, Mr. Beecher announced his text from the book of Esther iv. 14.' In respect to the right of secession, Mr. Beecher said, 'he did not believe in the right of the Government to coerce the people, but the territory belonged to the United States.' Upon this dogma is founded the Lincolnite doctrine of extermination. The territory of the South belongs to the United States —that is, to New Englanders—and therefore, if the Southerners will not submit to be despoiled by the Lincolnites, they must emigrate or be slaughtered. A curious doctrine to be held by professing Republicans and by men who owe their political independence to a rebellion. During the first war of independence the colonists contended that a country belonged to its inhabitants, and Mr. Lincoln, in former times, held the same view when he declared that a people had a right to rise up and cast off their government. Mr. Beecher did not conceal from his audience that Mr. Lincoln was to be an absolute ruler. He did not deny that in great emergencies a strong central government was necessary, and added: 'But what if the people should say to Abraham Lincoln, "Be secret, take all the power, be arbitrary as you please; and when you have done, return us the power again?" What advantage, then, had a European Government over a democracy in making war?' The people of the United States cannot complain that they have been deceived as well as enslaved. Mr. Beecher maintained that it was a war for the negro, and said: 'He took the negro apart from all issues, and was ready to confess that he was fighting for him. He would fight for the *most ignorant German* under the same circumstances.' No words can express the contempt with which the New Englanders regard the Germans and Irish who fight their battles. The last part of the sermon almost rivalled the vulgar blasphemy of Parson Brownlow:—'In conclusion, the reverend gentleman appealed to all to give their votes to Mr. Lincoln. That man who dared to beg votes for the sham Democracy, especially of the soldiers, would stand in need of no day of judgment. He would get to hell without judge or jury.' All this was done and said on Sunday evening in a building solely dedicated to the worship of God.

THE conduct of the Federal troops at Natchez, Mississippi, seems to have reached the climax of brutal lawlessness. To rob barn-yards and hencoops, to steal mules, horses, and poultry, formed the amusement, not of the private soldiers only, but even of commissioned officers. The Federal General Dana had issued an order strongly condemning the disgraceful acts of the officers and men. On the occasion of a raid into Louisiana, the force not only plundered the white inhabitants, but let loose about 2,000 negroes, bidding them to do as they pleased, among the women and children. Ladies had the earrings stripped from their ears and the rings from their fingers, while it is even affirmed that three young ladies were carried off into the woods, and that of the three but one returned alive. Indignation had been loudly expressed in the Northern army at the disgrace heaped on the Federal uniform by such deeds.

MR. SEWARD has made a speech at Auburn, in which with unexampled frankness he admitted that the Confederates had gained some victories in the course of the war. He declared he never would surrender, even though the Confederates should be backed up by a foreign power. He said if ever he had been inclined to negotiate, 'I would have gone, under the pressure of national affliction, and made every defeat a claim to rebel sympathy and clemency. After the first Bull Run battle—after the second Bull Run battle—after Gaines Mill—after Fredericksburg—after Chancellorsville—after the defeat of Banks on the Red River.' We believe that this is the first time that Mr. Seward has confessed to a Federal defeat. He also made another true observation; he said, 'As for the arts of statesmanship, I know of none applicable in this case.' We are not aware that any one has supposed that Mr. Seward was acquainted with the 'arts of statesmanship.' A Northern politician is not necessarily a statesman; and though Mr. Seward could gracefully head the deputation which presented a silver currycomb for the use of President Taylor's horse 'Old Whitey,' it does not follow that he can play the part of a statesman. Wire-pulling may be profitable, but it is not statesmanship. We ought to add that, true to the instincts and traditions of his party, Mr. Seward introduced into his speech an irreverent parody on a passage in the Bible.

IN selecting 'Andy Johnson' as Vice-President, the supporters of Mr. Lincoln have manifested much consideration for the latter. If Mr. Lincoln were much worse than he is, he would, compared to his colleague, be almost a virtuous ruler and a gentleman. A speech Andy Johnson lately made to some negroes in Tennessee fully justifies this assertion. He said: 'But if, through an iniquitous system, a vast amount of wealth has been accumulated in the hands of one man, or of a few men, then that result is wrong, and the sooner we can right it the better for all concerned. It is wrong that Mark Cockrill and W. D. Harding, by means of force and unpaid labour, should have monopolised so large a share of the lands and wealth of Tennessee, and I say if their immense plantations were divided up and parcelled out among a number of free, industrious, and honest farmers, it would give more good citizens to the commonwealth, increase the wages of our mechanics, enrich the markets of the city,' &c. We commend this speech to the careful study of Mr. Bright.

IMMEDIATELY after the Presidential election General M'Clellan resigned his commission in the army. This, we presume, is a protest against the Administration. It is not unlikely that the reelection of Mr. Lincoln will thoroughly reunite the Democratic party.

THE Confederate newspapers report an important fall in the price of provisions. The *Montgomery Appeal* says, 'A very material decline in the price of many articles of daily consumption has taken place.'

ON the 12th inst., gold was quoted in New York at 242¼. The fluctuation in price had been violent, advancing on the 9th to 260. It is said that General Butler has warned some leading brokers that they must not speculate in gold to the detriment of the Government. Butler will find gold a very obstinate rebel indeed, and, in spite of arbitrary decrees, the precious metal will go up and greenbacks will go down. It will be some consolation to the saints of New England that a considerable amount of United States bonds have been sold at Frankfort. It will be esteemed as preeminently smart to have made the Germans fight the battles of New England, and also pay in hard cash for the privilege of being maimed or slaughtered.

ENGLAND.

LORD DUFFERIN has been appointed Under-Secretary for India in succession to Lord Wodehouse. Lord Dufferin, it will be remembered, acted as Commissioner to Syria at the time of the troubles of the Druses and Maronites. He is also known as the author of 'High Latitudes.'

THE affair of the ship *Great Western*, which, as was stated last week, has been stopped at Liverpool by the authorities, has created considerable excitement in that town. The vessel was bound for New York, being consigned to Messrs. Baring Brothers, who employ emigrant agents, and was stopped on suspicion of having on board a large number of men kidnapped for the Federal army. The case has not yet undergone judicial investigation, but some facts have been ascertained. It seems that two individuals of the name of Shaw had been enticing young men from London, Ashton-under-Lyne, Bolton, and other towns, under promises of employment in certain glass works at New York, to emigrate to the Federal States. The walls of Ashton had been placarded with offers of money, food, clothing, and other advantages for all able men who would avail themselves of the invitation. In London, one Starten had got together a band of thirty men with an artillery volunteer at their head, and had succeeded in conveying them to Liverpool. Several Germans were also induced to go on board the vessel. Since the seizure of the vessel many women and old men have visited her to implore their husbands and sons to return with them, and some sixty men at once left the vessel. They complained bitterly of their fare and quarters. They have been provided with shelter at the Liverpool workhouse. It is stated that more than 400 men were on board the *Great Western* ready to start. Many rumours are afloat as to the evidence of enlistment by the agents, but inasmuch as the whole matter will form a subject of judicial enquiry, we think it best to await the revelations of the police-court. The Solicitor to the Treasury has placed the matter in the hands of Messrs. Bateson, Robinson, & Morris.

MR. TEMPLE, Q.C., moved last week, pursuant to leave reserved, in arrest of judgment in the case of 'the Queen *v.* Jones and another,' on points of law with reference to the evidence and the validity of the indictment. The defendants had been tried at Liverpool before the Lord Chief Justice, and found guilty, for being concerned in enlisting men in the service of the Confederate States. The Lord Chief Justice considered that the points should be argued when the prisoners were brought up for judgment. Yesterday the defendants, through their counsel, submitted to a fine of 50*l.* each, to save the expenses of a discussion on the points of law. The Attorney-General assented to the proposition.

THE ship *Peterhoff*, which was taken by a Federal cruiser, and subsequently condemned in one of the prize courts of the Federal States for having goods contraband of war on board, has found her way into the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster. The underwriters had refused to pay the insurance on the vessel, setting up, in their pleas to the action of the owners, that the American prize court had found that the ship's papers were false and simulated, and that the ship was not going to Matamoras, but to some other port with goods contraband of war on board, in aid of a belligerent power with whom the Federal States were at war. Counsel now appeared to argue the demurrer to the pleas. For the defendant it was contended that, if a neutral ship carried contraband of war to a belligerent State, such conduct gave a right to the other belligerent to seize the ship and confiscate it and the cargo, as it was a violation of the law of nations; that this was a risk not insured against, and which, not having been communicated to the insurers, avoided the policy. It was also argued that the voyage insured against was a voyage to Matamoras, but that the *Peterhoff* never sailed for Matamoras, and therefore the policy did not attach, or the vessel had deviated in her voyage, which avoided the policy. The facts had been found by a competent court, and the finding was conclusive. For the plaintiff it was contended that, though the goods were liable to seizure by a belligerent, yet no municipal law was contravened by supplying a belligerent with contraband of war, and therefore the liability of the underwriters was not destroyed by the shipping of goods contraband of war. The shipper of course knew that the market at Matamoras was frequented by Confederate buyers, but he sent them to be sold at Matamoras, and not with the intention of their being sent to the Confederate States. The finding of the American court might be true, but did not exonerate the underwriters. The ship might have intended to carry her cargo to Nassau, and thence to carry her innocent cargo to Matamoras. There was nothing to justify the adjudication of forfeiture of an innocent cargo sent from a neutral State to a neutral State, and nothing to avoid the policy on that cargo. The simulation of the ship's papers had nothing to do with the cargo of the plaintiff. The Court took time to consider their judgment.

MESSRS. POTHONIER & Co., of Liverpool, have chartered for the Mexican Government three steamers, each of 2,000 tons burden and 600 horse-power, for the conveyance of the Austrian and Belgian troops raised for the service of the Emperor Maximilian. The steamers are the *Bolivian*, the *Peruvian*, and the *Brazilian*, and each is fitted to carry 1,000 men.

THE following is an extract from Mr. Purdy's weekly report of the distress in the cotton districts:—

The *maximum* amount of pauperism in these unions during the distress was attained in the first week of December 1862, when the total number relieved by the guardians was 274,860.

The *minimum* was touched in the fourth week of August last, when the number of paupers was returned as	78,730
Add the net increase during the months of September and October 1864	28,270
Total at the end of October	107,000
Add the net increase during the first week of November 1864	3,540
Add the net increase during the second week of November 1864	970
Total in receipt of relief from the poor-rates	111,510

Able-bodied Paupers.—The total number of adults on the relief lists of the twenty-eight unions last week was 30,780, which is 362 more than shown by the previous statement.

Outdoor Relief.—The total sum expended in these unions last week was 6,814*l.* This amount is 1,266*l.* less than the sum disbursed in the corresponding period of 1863, and 1*l.* less than that of the week immediately preceding the last.

AN example illustrative of the rights conceded to the ancient University of Oxford has been given by an application made a few days since to the Court of Queen's Bench. One Parsons, a tradesman in that city, had brought actions against certain undergraduates for goods supplied, and, neglecting his remedies in the Chancellor's Court at Oxford, had sued in one of the superior courts at Westminster. The Earl of Derby, as Chancellor of the University of Oxford, thereupon claimed cognisance of the causes, and Mr. Mellish, Q.C., moved for a rule calling on the plaintiff to show cause why the claim of cognisance should not be allowed. The learned counsel explained that the University of Oxford claimed jurisdiction over all personal actions brought against resident members of the University. The claim of cognisance had been entered on the record. The right was founded on the charter of Henry VIII., confirmed by statute 13th of Elizabeth, which gave power to the Chancellor of the University and his deputies to hear and determine all trespasses and contracts, pleas and complaints, personal and other causes whatsoever (pleas of freehold excepted), arising within the city of Oxford, or elsewhere in England where the scholars, or any person who ought to have the privilege of the University, shall challenge, or shall be one of the parties. The claim of the Earl of Derby was as follows:—

The Right Hon. Edward Geoffrey Smith, Earl of Derby, Chancellor of the University of Oxford, to the Right Hon. Sir Alexander James Edward Cockburn, Baronet, Lord Chief Justice of Her Majesty's Court of Queen's Bench at Westminster, and to the rest of the Justices of the said Court, sendeth greeting. Whereas the Lord Henry VIII., late King of England, by letters patent, sealed under his great seal of England,' &c. [Then the charter was recited, and the statute of Elizabeth ratifying it, and then the actions and the matters of fact set forth in the affidavits of the defendants were recited, and then the claim proceeded.] Therefore we pray you that, by virtue of the privileges to us in this behalf granted and confirmed, as soon as you shall have inspected these our letters significatory and claim, you will be pleased to suspend or supersede all further process or proceedings against the said Charles Bagnall, and that you will be pleased to remit the cognisance and final decision of the said action or suit to us, according to the privileges aforesaid, by virtue of which he is a person privileged and of the jurisdiction of the University, and the cognisance and final determination of the action or suit aforesaid we challenge and claim by these presents. Given under the seal of the office of Chancellor of the University of Oxford.

All the proceedings were framed in accordance with the precedent set in the time of Sir William Blackstone, when Sir William himself made the claim of cognisance, reported in Sir William's 'Reports.' The Lord Chief Justice granted a rule.

MEN who, by lives of intelligent industry and just frugality, accumulate happiness on themselves, their families, and those of their fellow-men with whom they are brought in contact, deserve notice. When the products of their perseverance are visible in improvements wrought in the mechanical arts, tending to increase the fertility of the soil, to facilitate locomotion, to economise labour, and to promote wealth, eulogy becomes a task of pleasure. All Europe, and some portions of the American continent, have acknowledged the fame of the firm of Messrs.

Ransome & Sims, the agricultural engineers of Ipswich; and many men in many countries have had personal or other knowledge of Robert Ransome, the chief of the firm. The son of the first founder of the firm, he elevated, by his ability and perseverance, a business of moderate pretensions into a manufactory of world-wide reputation. His qualities, however, as a private individual outshone his commercial abilities. He combined in a high degree the attributes of a Christian gentleman and the benevolent disposition of a true lover of humanity. Societies having what he conscientiously believed to be noble ends received his liberal support. He was a member of the Society of Friends, and retained the *insignia* of the order. We certainly should not admit the excellence of many objects to which he lent support, but not the less is the simplicity of his aims worthy of admiration. He died on November 6 at St. Goar, on the Rhine, and his corpse was brought home to Ipswich for interment. His funeral was attended by 1,000 workmen employed by the firm, by a large concourse of friends, the Mayor and Corporation of Ipswich, and many hundred residents of the town. The burgesses had not forgotten that with the prosperity of the firm the wealth, population, and importance of Ipswich had equally increased.

A MEETING of Southern gentlemen and friends of the Southern States was held on November 17 at the rooms of the Southern Club in Liverpool. Mr. Victor Poutz presided. After an able speech from the chairman on the success of the Liverpool Bazaar, and an expression of the gratification which the benevolence of the English people had caused to every citizen of the Confederate States, resolutions were passed tendering the best thanks of the meeting to the ladies and gentlemen who assisted at the Bazaar, and to the contributors and subscribers, with a special vote of thanks to Mr. James Spence for his untiring exertions in promoting the success of the undertaking.

AUSTRALIA.

The colonies of Victoria and New South Wales are at open war on the subject of the customs levied on the River Murray by the Government of the latter colony. Just as Victoria had opened up by her new railway communications a trade with the western or riverine section of New South Wales, the latter State determined on erecting custom-houses on the Murray River. Moreover, the river is claimed as part of the territory of New South Wales, while the Victorians have already by force resisted the customs' collectors. The question will now come before the courts, the final appeal being to the Privy Council.

The plan of sending home expirees is being carried out. At a meeting it was resolved to collect all the greatest scoundrels in the colony of Victoria and ship them to England, while secrecy should be preserved as to the times and vessels at and in which the expirees should leave the colony.

NEW ZEALAND.

A campaign on the west coast in the district of Taranaki, must be undertaken before the Maoris can be finally reduced. Two hundred Maori prisoners had escaped from Auckland, and had probably joined Thompson.

INDIA.

The cyclone at Calcutta was more awful in its effects than had been imagined. In Diamond Harbour 5,000 persons were drowned, and much suffering existed among the surviving population. In the town of Calcutta the number of houses wrecked by the hurricane reached to about 100,000. In many parts of the country villages have wholly disappeared.

THE Viceroy of India held a magnificent durbar at Lahore on October 18. On the previous day he had invested with the Star of India Rajah Rundheer Sing, Rajah of Kuppoortulla, in return for the distinguished services rendered by the Rajah in the campaigns of Delhi and Lucknow. The durbar on the 18th surpassed anything of the kind ever before seen in India. Not only the powerful chiefs and nobles of the Punjaub were present, but warriors and Princes from beyond the borders came to do homage to the Viceroy. The Maharajah of Cashmere and his son were the most conspicuous personages, being honoured with seats on the right of the Governor-General. As Sir John Lawrence entered the tent, wearing the Star of India and all the other honours borne by him, the assembly of warriors, Princes, and Rajahs rose to salute him, and the artillery thundered a salute. Having taken his seat on the throne, with the Maharajah on his right and the English officers on his left, the Viceroy addressed the assembly in Hindostanee. His speech was of great force and eloquence, and couched in language at once dignified and friendly. He reminded them that he had returned to visit them after six years' absence, and he named the most distinguished men whom he recognised as old friends. He spoke of the deep interest which the Queen of England took in the welfare of India, and of the duty which she had enjoined on him of caring for their interests. He reminded them how he and his brother Sir Henry Lawrence had laboured for many years to learn their language and usages, and to rule them with justice. He spoke of canals and roads constructed, of taxation lightened, of learning diffused. He called to mind how the Punjaubee soldiers, in the revolt of 1857, had shared the glories of the British arms. He finally invoked the great God of all the races of the world to guard them and teach them to love justice and hate oppression. On the 19th, His Excellency opened the Mooltan section of the Punjaub railway.

SIRDAR MAHOMED AMEER KHAN, of Kandahar, is resolved to fight the Ameer of Cabul. The King of Bokhara is also about to attack the Ameer, in consequence of the treachery and cruelty of the latter towards Afzul Khan.

THE CONTINENT.

FRANCE.

Some excitement has been created by the assertion of M. de Laguerronière in *La France* that there are three important State papers relating to the Italian question which are reserved for publication at some future time. The first of these is said to be a despatch from M. Drouyn de Lhuys to the French Minister at Turin, prior to that of October 30, which finally resolved all doubt as to the French acceptation of the treaty; the second is a circular addressed to all French diplomatic agents in foreign parts, denouncing the Convention. (We give the exact words of the French journals, but must decline the responsibility of putting a construction upon them. The meaning may be that this circular repudiated the sense attached to the Convention by the Italian nation.) The third is a despatch, dated the 7th inst., from M. Drouyn de Lhuys in answer to that of General della Marmora of the same date. This despatch treats particularly of the doctrine of non-intervention with respect to Rome, and makes some observations on the meaning of those much-discussed words, 'national aspirations.' A great controversy has arisen whether these documents exist at all, or are only the offspring of some fertile brain. The *Constitutionnel* has semi-officially denied their existence; yet the world is only half convinced. As far as regards the last of the three, we need only refer to our Italian news, to see that when questioned on that subject General della Marmora declined to give any answer. The tone of French policy has just now got a very Catholic strain in it. The collection of the Peter's pence, which has hitherto been merely tolerated, will henceforth be recognised by the French Government, organised and conducted with regularity; recruiting for the Pontifical army will be carried on publicly in France, without any hindrance from the Government, and those officers of the French army who may wish to enter the Papal service will be allowed to do so. Moreover, if the Spanish Government offer to occupy Rome on the departure of the French, it is not likely that the Emperor Napoleon would offer any serious objection.

The final examination of the scheme for constituting a 'Caisse des Travaux Publics,' or Public Works Fund, has been adjourned. The proposal to create a fund of this nature has excited much uneasiness in France; the French are by nature very much inclined to hoard their savings against either some unforeseen emergency or for some scheme of undoubted character; and it was felt that the completion of the many public works now wanted in France and Algiers was scarcely to be brought under either of these two heads. It is certainly advisable to leave something for posterity to do: and it is scarcely worth while to absorb the savings of this generation for purposes which may fairly be left for the next to carry out. There is a report that a new Ministry is to be formed in which one at least of the present Opposition will be offered a seat. M. Emile Ollivier is the person named for this honour; and, though it is uncertain whether he would accept it, the offer of it would stamp a new Administration with a perfectly novel character.

M. Mirès, the great financier of two years back, the great bankrupt of a later date, has for some time promised to start a new scheme by means of which he should be able to indemnify the shareholders in his former company (the Caisse Générale) for the losses which they have incurred through him. The scheme has at length appeared; it is unmistakably a very vast one; it is no less than the creation of a society, to be called La Banque des Etats, to be formed of all the great capitalists of Europe; its function will be to take up the loans which may from time to time be wanted by any Government, and to advance the capital required out of its own resources. The French are charmed with the notion, which is highly flattering to their *amour propre* as a nation. If successfully carried out, it would make France the general banker, the central Power of the financial interests of all great States. The scheme is certainly deserving of the most attentive consideration. The only fear for M. Mirès is that, as great capitalists are the most independent men in the world, they might adopt the idea as one of great value, but choose some other commercial centre besides Paris for its realisation.

The south of France has been the victim of several unavoidable misfortunes during the past few months; it suffered severely from the great drought, and was shortly afterwards inundated with rain, which swelled the streams, and caused a lamentable devastation. Since that time that part of the country has been visited by terrible snowstorms, particularly along the line of the Alps. In one breadth of eight miles the snow is reported to lie twenty inches thick.

A fashion is springing up in France of so remarkable a nature as imperatively to demand the attention of those who think that little things are often as well worthy of record as of great ones. At any rate, when we see with what avidity every little morsel of classical literature is gathered up which enlightens us at all on the social habits of the ancients, we may be allowed to mention some modern customs which are at least as curious. Every lady in Paris, whatever may be her position or her reputation, keeps her lap-dog. It is an article of furniture nearly as indispensable as a parasol. The fashion has arisen, if we may believe a journal u · lly well informed on these points, of dyeing these wretched quadrupeds a particular colour, which may, of course, be varied so as to contrast properly with the colour of the dress. We do not know how far this has been carried out; but evidently it may go to great lengths. A lively Frenchman suggests that the dog may thus be made a convenient vehicle for exchanging signals between an ardent lover and a timid maiden; but, without launching out into the realms of poetry, we can see many ways in which this fashion might be put to a very droll use. We should see dogs in widows' weeds, and dogs in half-mourning; dogs in genteel sorrow, and dogs in light affliction. The fair votaries of the turf would have their dogs dyed in Mr. Merry's colours, or in Lord Stamford's; politicians would lead about with them a blue King Charles or a buff pug, according to the creed which they might at the time possess; others would delight in a Union Jack terrier, or a tricolour Italian greyhound. There might be no end to the combinations; and, to perfect the whole scheme, the daily variation in each fair lady's temper might be denoted by a shade more or a shade less of colour on the hide of her hapless favourite.

The General Direction of Customs has published a statistical report of the commercial operations of France during the past year. From this it appears that the total receipts of the Customs amounted to 195,494,200 francs, being 8,773,000 francs more than in 1863. The total value of the imports was 3,236 millions, being 337 millions in excess of last year. These figures embrace all goods imported, both those meant for the use of the country and those in transit, or intended for reexportation. The value of the special imports—those, namely, which supply France itself—is 2,426 millions; the special exports amounted to 2,643 millions. (The figures here given represent the real value of the goods; besides this, there is also an official value, calculated on a scale of prices determined in 1826 with a view to reducing the whole commercial statistics of France to a common unity. The official value of imports is about two-thirds of their real value; the official value of the exports is only a trifle less than their real value.) It must be remembered, in examining these figures, that a rise in the total value of exports or imports does not always show that commerce has really increased; a general rise in prices would increase the value without increasing the amount of either imports or exports. If, however, we allow a certain amount for a rise in the price of cotton and cotton goods, there still remains a large figure exhibiting the development which French trade is making every year. The foreign countries with which France deals most extensively are England, Switzerland, Belgium, Italy, the Zollverein, Spain, Turkey, Brazil, British India, and Russia.

ITALY.

The debate on the transfer of the capital has at length ended; the dryness of the discussion was slightly relieved on the 15th inst. by a scene, brought on by one of the numerous explanatory speeches of General della Marmora. The general had allowed a sort of right to the Catholic world to interfere in any matter in which the existence of the Papacy was concerned, but refused to concede to any Power so intervening any privilege beyond that of obtaining certain guarantees for the independence of the Papal throne; a pacific intervention in short would be allowed, but an armed intervention was inadmissible. This statement appeared to be inconsistent with another made a day or two before by Signor Lauza; General Bixio pointed out the discrepancy, and demanded an explanation. The President declined to hear anything further from him; thereupon General Bixio sat down in a huff, promising to vote against the Convention. Some disorder ensued, and at last Signor Lauza was obliged to rise, and make a sort of explanation. Signor Mellona then asked whether the Government had seen the new map used in the public schools of France, on which a 'highly rectified' frontier was traced between France and Italy. The Minister replied that he did not trouble himself about such matters. Signor Mellona gave notice that he should repeat the question. The next incident was the disclosure of a great split in the Progressist party. Signor Mordini, one of its leaders, speaking in favour of a change of capital; Signor Crispi, another chief, speaking against that measure. On the 6th inst. there was another scene, consequent on a motion made to close the general discussion. For some unexplained reason a tumult arose in the House, clamours and protestations were heard on every side, and the President rung his bell in vain. The motion was withdrawn, and the discussion was allowed to continue. Signor Ratazzi, the late Premier, supported the treaty, observing that the transfer of the capital from Turin would for ever silence the calumnies of those who assert that the Kingdom of Italy has been formed by the annexation of provinces to Piedmont, not by the national will. On the 17th inst. Signor Moxa, the reporter of the Committee of the House which brought the bill before them, made his general reply, and closed the general discussion, and Signor Crispi brought forward the amendment of the party of action, which is to the effect that the House should refuse to transfer the capital to Florence, believing that measure to be intended as a guarantee of the independence of the Pope, and therefore a violation of the Constitution. On the 18th inst., during the discussion of the details of the Convention, General della Marmora was twice called upon to speak—once to combat the suggestions of General Pinelli, who would have the Italian Government challenge Austria forthwith for the possession of Venetia; and again to decline to answer Signor La Porta's question whether he had received any answer to his last note addressed to the French Government. On the 19th instant the House divided on the question of the Convention; the Government measure was carried by 317 votes to 70; the minority was almost entirely composed of the 'party of action.' In a matter which is declared to be 'urgent,' the Italian Chambers seem to have the habit of continuing the discussions on Sunday. Certainly a great part of the financial scheme brought forward by Signor Sella was discussed and passed on that day; the entire bill was carried by 137 votes to 77. Thus the various measures for the taxation of the necessaries of life, and for the anticipation of next year's land-tax, have become law. A debate was commenced on the 21st inst. upon the question of a reduction to be made in the salaries of public functionaries. Many of the great towns have come forward in the most liberal manner to help Signor Sella. Milan, Florence, Capua, Leghorn, and Ancona, besides others, have followed the example of Brescia, and offered to pay in advance the land-tax of 1865. A meeting of the principal commercial men in Naples has been held to concert measures for assisting the State in its present difficulties. The townships in the province of Caserta are also anxious to aid in the same charitable

work. The King is setting a magnificent example of economy and liberality; he has already given up 120,000*l.* of his annual civil list, and he now announces his intention of presenting five of the royal palaces to the public treasury: one in Lombardy, two in Naples, one in Piedmont, and one in Tuscany.

The Garibaldian incursion into Venetia still continues to occupy the serious attention of the Austrian and Italian Governments. On the 14th inst. martial law was proclaimed in eighteen districts of the provinces of Friuli and Trevisa; the troops are ordered to fire upon assemblages on their refusal to disperse after one summons. Insurgents will be, of course, condemned to death, but the capital penalty will be remitted to those who voluntarily surrender, or are given up by the population. A band of rebels have gone northwards towards the mountains of the Tyrol; troops have been sent to meet them, and to guard the mountain passes. The Italian Government has honourably fulfilled its duty by sending troops to check as far as possible the lawless conduct of the invaders. On the morning of the 16th inst. a severe engagement took took place between the Italian troops and the Garibaldians at Bagolino, in Northern Lombardy. Both sides lost many men in killed and wounded. The conflict terminated in the capture of a part and the dispersion of the rest of the Garibaldian band.

DENMARK.

The ratifications of the treaty of peace between the German Powers and Denmark were exchanged at Vienna on the 16th instant. M. de Bille is to remain in that capital as *chargé d'affaires* for Denmark. It has been thought worthy of remark that Denmark keeps a mere *chargé d'affaires*, and not, as of yore, a minister plenipotentiary, at the Austrian court. Three royal proclamations were issued at Copenhagen on the 17th instant. The first released the inhabitants of the ceded Duchies from their oath of allegiance; the second is a farewell address to the people of Slesvig, Holstein, and Lauenburg, thanking them, especially the Lauenburgers, for their fidelity; the third is addressed to the Danes, and says:—'The separation from the kingdom of those inhabitants of Slesvig who were bound to Denmark both by sentiment and language is the most painful sacrifice of all. We have lost much, but have not lost hope. The future belongs to those who are in earnest.' The King and Queen of Denmark intend to make a tour in Jutland as soon as ever that province is evacuated by the German troops. This evacuation was, if reports were correct, to have been completed on the 17th instant.

GERMANY.

The German Diet has taken the very decided step of declaring that the Federal army of occupation in Holstein shall not be withdrawn from that country, in spite of the conclusion of peace, until the succession question shall have been finally settled. This spirited opposition to the demands of Prussia is supposed to be the consequence of the Emperor's speech in opening his Reichsrath. The Prussians complain of this speech as being favourable to the interests of the minor German States, and therefore adverse to those of Prussia. Herr von Bismarck, however, is determined to Prussianise the Duchies as far as possible, and to that end has issued a circular, ordering all Prussian Consuls to give to the shipping of the countries now under the protection of the two great German Powers the same assistance that they give to Prussian vessels, and to see that they are allowed all the remission of duties accorded to Prussian shipping. A proclamation has been issued by the Slesvig-Holstein Central Committee of Thirty-six to the German people, complaining of the treatment which their country has received. They call attention to the fact that in the Treaty of Peace no sort of allusion is made to Austria and Prussia in their capacity of members of the German Confederation, nor to the claims of the Duke of Augustenburg; the right of the inhabitants of the Duchies to choose their own government has been equally ignored. Thus the Duchies are disposed of like subjugated provinces. Moreover, they have been condemned to pay the expenses of the war, without being asked to sanction the treaty, or even reserving the possibility of an appeal to their vote. They contrast with this the honourable conduct of Denmark in immediately summoning the national representatives to sanction the settlement. The proceedings of the two great Powers, who appear to have removed Danish arbitrariness and violence merely in order to establish German despotism in their place, cannot be passed over in silence by honourable men. The Slesvig-Holsteiners are in truth intensely disgusted at the discovery that their freedom has burdened them with a national debt amounting to 80 thalers per head on the whole population. They are at length aware that the object of the clause in the treaty saddling them with this debt was to force them to allow themselves to be annexed by Prussia; the Prussian organs are now busy proving to them that if they would allow themselves to become Prussian property, their debt would be spread over the whole Prussian nation, and the whole charge upon them would only amount to 16 thalers per head.

On the 17th inst., Herr von Plener brought forward the budget for 1865. The total revenue is estimated at 518,000,000 florins, the total expenditure at 548,000,000; 18,000,000 of the deficit will be covered by the indemnity to be paid by the Duchies for the Austrian portion of the Danish war expenses, and the remainder will be provided for by a loan.

Some striking remarks are made by the *Mémorial Diplomatique*, a journal usually well-informed on the politics of Austria, upon the attitude which the Cabinet of Vienna intends to take towards Italy. It says: 'The idea of attacking Italy is at present perfectly strange to Austrian policy. The present Ministry will continue the process of disarmament on a vast scale, in spite of the continuous challenges thrown out to them by the revolutionary committees which sit at Turin, and which are ceaselessly working to create a war in Venetia. As a proof of the sincerity of its intentions with regard to Italy, the Cabinet of Vienna declares itself ready to regulate and even to enlarge the commercial relations between the two countries. Much will depend upon the manner in which the Italian Government carries out the Franco-Italian Convention. The conduct of Italy towards the Pope will be the test by which Austria will know how far Italy means to fulfil her international duties to her neighbours. The Austrian Government, according to the same organ, is far from refusing *à priori* to recognise the kingdom of Italy, and it only awaits the initiative from the Cabinet of Turin to open negotiations for a reestablishment of diplomatic intercourse. It is observed that, for the first time since the kingdom of Italy has been formed, an Austrian diplomat has appeared on its soil; Baron von Bach has been making some stay in Milan on his way to Rome.

Affairs in Electoral Hesse are in a very queer state; the Elector maintains an absolute and complete state of inaction; thus, the whole machine of the constitution is paralysed, and serious difficulties are arising. The Elector, as it will be remembered, has had more than one contest with his Chamber, in the last of which he was only brought to reason by a very sharp message from Prussia. He is now simply indulging in a fit of the sulks. His Chamber is not inclined to humour their Sovereign very far, and has appointed a medical commission to pronounce upon the state of his health.

POLAND.

The Russian Government has declared its intention of raising the state of siege under which Poland is now suffering on the 1st of January next. At the same time, all the subjects of Austria who were found in Poland and detained there for participation in the insurrection, will probably be allowed to return to their homes. The King of Prussia has also recognised that order and tranquillity are reestablished in Polish Prussia, and has consequently ordered that the military occupation of the Polish frontier should be discontinued, and the troops redistributed among the garrison towns. Count Berg, the Viceroy of Poland, opened the session of the State Council for that kingdom on the 10th inst. He addressed them in the French language, and said that their task was to rebuild the shattered edifice and repair the damages which Poland had inflicted upon herself. He invited them to begin with the examination of the budget for 1865, and took occasion to observe with satisfaction that Poland is one of the European countries which are least in financial difficulties, notwithstanding the losses and expenses of the last two years.

GREECE.

The National Assembly have finished the Constitution, and have received the thanks of the King for doing so. At the same time the King suggested a revision of the law relative to the Catholic bishops. The message was read to the Assembly. When it appeared upon enquiry that it had not been properly submitted to the King before being brought into the House, the Opposition proposed a vote of censure on the Ministry for their conduct, which was lost after an animated debate by 177 votes to 118. The Chamber will be dissolved as soon as ever the whole of the Constitution has been voted, and the budget for 1865 passed. The military and naval force of Greece has been fixed at 12,000 men by a proposal of the Ministry. If we may believe the accounts from the Ionian Islands, the inhabitants of those islands are by no means so well satisfied with Greek liberty as they expected to be. Commerce of course languishes now that so large an amount of annual expenditure has been withdrawn. Great irritation is felt against the Archbishop of Corfu, at whose instigation, aided by Russian influence, the populace was induced to clamour for union with Greece. A curious instance of retrogression is the readoption of the 'old style,' or unreformed calendar, in the islands; this had been superseded under English rule by the new system for all but Church festivals; the old style is now restored, and the present month will have forty-three days.

SPAIN.

Most piteous accounts are received of the details of the inundations in Valencia. The floods have been caused by a rainfall such as has never before been known in the Peninsula. The district in which they have wrought so much destruction, is one of the most populous in Spain, being watered by the river Jucar and its tributaries, and excessively fertile. The staple productions of the country are oranges, rice, Indian corn, and silk. The streams rose unexpectedly in the night. Several of the towns were, so to speak, completely submerged between sunset and midnight on the 4th instant. In Alcira 200 houses were fairly swept away, and many others were hourly falling. By the morning the water had risen to six or eight feet in the highest parts of the town. The waters were everywhere crowded with the dead carcases of horses and cattle. A hundred human corpses have already been found, but how many more remain to be discovered, and how many have been carried away by the flood, it is impossible to estimate. As the waters began to rise, the image of San Bernardo, the patron saint of the town, was carried through the streets; but the aid of the saint was insufficient to avert the terrible catastrophe. The territory inundated amounts to about 100 square miles of the best part of Spain.

TUNIS.

An awful calamity has befallen Her Majesty's naval service. Eight officers and five men belonging to H.M.S. *Orlando*, stationed at Tunis, left their ships in a cutter on a picnic party, and while returning under sail, a sudden squall struck the boat about 1,000 yards from shore and upset it. Of the whole party one seaman only was able to save himself; he was found the next morning in an Arab hut completely prostrate. All the men-of-war in the port immediately displayed their flags half-mast high and waited upon the English Consul-General to express their condolence and respect for the memory of so many brave officers and men. Every search has been made for the missing bodies, but as yet without success. The names of the officers lost are—Lieutenant Still, Surgeon Wood, Captain Pritchard, Royal Marines, Midshipmen De Gama, Fielding, and Kemble, Master's-Assistant Hadrill, and Assistant-Paymaster Stratford.

MEXICO.

This country has had its share in the disasters of the last few weeks. A very severe shock of earthquake occurred at Puebla on the 2nd instant, which threw down part of the palace, a church, a convent, and a large number of houses. Seventeen French soldiers were killed or injured. The number of victims among the natives has not yet been ascertained. The earthquake was felt also at Orizaba and Vera Cruz. At Tehuacan it did much mischief.

The Emperor of Mexico has continued his journey through his dominions amid the enthusiasm of the inhabitants. Great satisfaction has been felt at his refusal to ratify the concession of the railway to Vera Cruz which was made to M. Escanden by the Regency before the Emperor's arrival. Not that he is not most anxious to open every possible railway communication with the interior; but it is expected that the railway can be worked on much better terms by Mexican capitalists. Juarez is either on the frontier of Texas or at Chihuahua with 100 cavalry; which may be his real *gite* 'nobody knows, and nobody cares' much. A conspiracy has been detected against the Empire, and forty of the members of it have been arrested.

SOUTH AMERICA.

A violent hurricane burst over the city and bar of Rio de Janeiro at six o'clock on the evening of the 10th inst. Rain fell in torrents, accompanied by very large hailstones, flooding nearly all the houses in the city. The damage is estimated at several millions of francs.

Eleven merchant vessels were wrecked, and several persons perished.

Captain Abeille, of the French ship *Reine Marguerite*, received on board his vessel Admiral Elliot and his wife, who were in a sinking boat.

JAPAN.

The consequences of the decided conduct of the Western Powers have been that Prince Nagato has agreed to open the Straits of Simono Saki, not to rebuild the demolished forts, and to pay the expenses of the allied expedition.

The British merchants have addressed Sir Rutherford Alcock, calling attention to the violation of the treaty in the stoppage of the silk trade by the Japanese authorities.

THE RE-ELECTION OF MR. LINCOLN.

We can regard the reappointment of Mr. Lincoln as little less than an abdication by the American people of the right of self-government, as an avowed step towards the foundation of a military despotism, towards the subversion of a popular Government, which may still exist in form, but which in substance is gone. We would not be supposed to insinuate that it is the destiny of Mr. Lincoln to be the real founder of the dynasty to which he has taken so long a step; whatever be his merits, his warmest admirers themselves can scarcely contend that he is made of Imperial stuff. His hand has shaken the tree, but we yet await the man who is to gather the fruit. Future historians will probably date from the second Presidency of Mr. Lincoln the period when the American Constitution was thoroughly abrogated, and had entered on that transition stage, so well known to the students of history, through which Republics pass on their way from democracy to tyranny.—*The Times.*

Such was once the American Constitution; what it has now become the events of the past four years, and especially those of the past month, too amply demonstrate—a President an autocrat, political liberty a myth, universal suffrage a delusion, the responsibility of Government a farce. But this is not the worst. The vices, the crimes, and the follies of an Administration may die with it; but when a nation becomes blind to the degradation to which it is brought, and seems absolutely to glory in its decadence, a change has been wrought which must excite the commiseration and the regret of all to whom constitutional government and liberal institutions continue dear.—*The Morning Post.*

History gives us grand examples of the mighty dead; but the most potent statesman of the past would have confessed the work now set before the President of the United States enough to strain powers of the highest order. It is a task to which Cromwell might have addressed himself with diffidence; it would try the 'deep-revolving' brain of Richelieu; it would test to the utmost the hearty courage of Cavour. Loaded with a tremendous debt, the nation of the North, after four years of war, has to face the future with the failures of the past clinging about its neck. It has to confront a foe made bold by four years' resistance, embittered by wrongs enough to drive men mad, and taking courage from the general despair of peace. It has to solve that stupendous problem, the future of the negro race, which squats across the Continent like a black Sphinx, mouthing the horrible riddle, 'What is to be done with me?' and, as it gets no answer from North or South, preparing to destroy both. The nation has also to solve the future of a grand territory, as fair and wide as ever invited human enterprise or rewarded human toil. For this enormous task we might expect a wise and thoughtful people to choose from amongst their statesmen one of supreme dignity and wisdom—some grave, good patriot, of calm heart, of noble nature, and clear intellect. But, the people of the North, coerced or duped, honestly misled or wantonly corrupted, have chosen for their ruler Mr. Abraham Lincoln—a man whose moral and mental unfitness is known, and has been avowed even by his political friends; a man who could and did make jokes grimly indecent among the dying and the dead on the blood-stained slopes of Gettysburg, and whose political dishonesty in conducting this election has been openly proclaimed by himself; a man who cannot write a state paper that is not a burlesque—whose one idea of rule is to trim his sails to catch mob breezes—and whose sole idea of war is 'to keep pegging away' so long as he shall have human lives to stake against the foe.—*The Daily Telegraph.*

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Washington: November 4, 1864.

From the appearance of things to-day, Mr. Lincoln will go into the Presidential election without a single victory to redeem the gloomy condition of military affairs. Everywhere the Confederates are successful. There is not a single Federal army now in the field which is not acting on the strict defensive. The only place to which the Republicans look for a glimmer of light is Wilmington, North Carolina; and yet the uniform want of success which, since the capture of New Orleans, has attended every naval attack upon Confederate cities, gives but poor encouragement.

The *Scotia*, which left New York two days ago, carried you the full account of Grant's last failure. The newspapers here try to cover it up by calling it merely a 'reconnaissance,' and that very probably was the tenor of the news carried by the *Scotia*. It was a defeat—as bloody and complete a one as any he has yet suffered. He committed, for the tenth time at least, the folly of dividing his army. Two attacks were made. Butler, on the north side of the James, with two corps advanced across White Oak Swamp, and stretching his lines off to the north-east, reached the old 'Fair Oaks' battle-field, five miles east of Richmond. But his troops found everywhere the enemy strongly intrenched. Some attacks were made, but they were repulsed; and finally the Confederates, coming out of their works, attacked the Federal troops, broke up their organisation, and drove them into White Oak Swamp. Many were killed and wounded, and about 600 captured. The morass became their protection. Butler hastily retreated to his old works, and began fixing up his shattered regiments. The Confederate loss is said to have been but thirty. On the Weldon railroad Meade had three corps. He intended to capture the Southside railroad. His troops marched with several days' rations; their trains were sent to City Point. Everything was done to secure a victory, and every available man was given to Meade. He advanced, surprised the Confederates, captured 400 prisoners and one line of works. Confederate reinforcements came up. During the night of October 27 Lee managed to get a column between two Federal corps. Both were broken up. Letter-writers say the 2nd Corps (Hancock's) was a demoralised mob. Meade was driven back. He suffered heavily and lost 950 prisoners. He hastily retreated, and on the 28th the Confederate cavalry pursued, and by a gallant movement cut out 400 of the rear-guard and captured them. The victory was complete. The battle-field was taken, with a large number of arms and many wagons. The total Federal losses on both sides of the James were 2,500 killed and wounded, and 2,000 prisoners. Lee lost about 300 killed and wounded, and 400 prisoners. The general belief is that this contest ends Grant's campaign for the year 1864. Three years of toil, with all their sacrifices of life and money, find Richmond at the end of the last year still held by a defiant and victorious enemy. Grant can do no more, and may now prepare his winter quarters. Many think he will not remain in front of Petersburg, but that after the election he will transfer his army to Culpepper, and resume the old line of attack from the North.

In the South-west military affairs are still mysterious. The indications are strong, however, that at least a part of Hood's force will invade Tennessee, though the main body is no doubt manœuvred so as to keep Sherman from reinforcing Atlanta. Hood is now supposed to be north of the Tennessee River, near the line dividing Alabama from Mississippi. He has established a base of supplies at Corinth in Northern Mississippi, and has a railroad in order, running south from Corinth, and connecting with Montgomery, Alabama. Sherman is halfway across the State of Alabama, and is thought now to be just south of Decatur. Hood abandoned the siege of that town without making any impression upon it. We can get no news from Sherman, and the impression is that he has only a desultory communication with Chattanooga, and that the guerillas, who are known to be in great numbers between Decatur and Chattanooga, intercept nearly all his couriers. Sherman is now at least 150 miles north-west of Atlanta. Being so far off, he cannot reinforce the isolated garrison; nor can he march back to it, for that would leave Hood free to invade Tennessee; nor can he reinforce Atlanta with a part of his force, for his weakness would tempt Hood to an attack. Sherman is evidently led about as his adversary wishes. His day of glory is ended.

We still hear nothing from Atlanta. The news-writers reiterate that the telegraph and railroad are in order, but they send us no news. When the public are so anxious, and the election so near, one would think that, if Atlanta were safe and the telegraph in order, we would at least be told it officially. But the continuous silence of Stanton and the other news-writers, and the fact that no one has yet received a despatch direct from Atlanta, show that either it is not known what has become of Slocum and the beleaguered garrison, or they do not like to tell. The Confederates are known to be collecting an army for the capture of Atlanta; they make constant raids into the suburbs, and we have rumours every day that it has been evacuated, and that the Southern army have entered it, so that its situation is very precarious. Beauregard and Hood evidently have the game in their own hands. Roddy and Forrest, with a large force, are now far north of the Tennessee, and hold possession of Western Tennessee and Kentucky, all the way to the Ohio River. Detached parties of Confederates are met in that section at every step. It is stated that nearly every man who was drafted by the recent Federal conscription in Kentucky has joined them. Batteries have been erected on the Mississippi below the mouth of the Ohio, and not a steamer passes up or down that is not saluted, and some one on board killed. Fifty Federal gunboats of various dimensions are required to keep the river open from Cairo down to New Orleans. You may well imagine the prospects of Federal success in the South-west, when it is known that, along the Mississippi, a few square miles of territory are held only at Memphis, Vicksburg, Natchez, and Port Hudson; that at none of these places do the soldiers dare venture outside the works; that from Louisville down past Nashville and Chattanooga a narrow strip of Federal territory, barren and desolate, runs along the railroad to Dalton; that another strip, equally uninviting, runs up from Chattanooga to Knoxville, over 30,000 soldiers being unable to keep the Confederates away from these railroads and protect the supply trains; that Atlanta and Decatur are isolated, helpless garrisoned towns; and all else is possessed by the Confederates, never invaded now by the Northern soldiers, and as thoroughly Southern as the city of Richmond.

The late Federal victory in the Shenandoah Valley has been of no avail. The Confederates have again taken the offensive, and Sheridan is in daily dread of an attack. There is very little doubt that he is retreating. His camp is now at Cedar Creek, four miles north of Strasburg. All the Federal outposts have been drawn in, and there is scarcely a corporal's guard south of Strasburg. A week ago, a large Confederate cavalry force appeared in the Luray Valley, a smaller valley east of and parallel with the Shenandoah. A sudden dash was made upon a Federal camp at Milford, a village a few miles south-east of Fisher's Hill, and some prisoners and three cannon captured. Sheridan's troops abandoned Milford, and withdrew up the valley to Front Royal, east of Strasburg. The Confederates followed, and, being thus in the rear of the Federal outposts in the Shenandoah Valley, these had to be withdrawn, and Fisher's Hill was given up. Although Front Royal was held (though it is now believed to be abandoned), the Confederates were far enough north to control the Manassas Gap railroad, and the men who were repairing it were driven off. This road cannot now be used to carry Federal supplies, and Sheridan, despairing of getting wagon trains through from Harper's Ferry and Martinsburg—for half of them are destroyed by Mosby—has begun the construction of a railroad from Harper's Ferry to Winchester. He hopes to have it completed by December 1. Thus, Early steadily advances up the Valley, and pushes Sheridan before him. We may soon have news of another contest there.

We are still without any news of the Federal naval attack upon Wilmington, North Carolina. Admiral Porter is now with his fleet, and four days ago it was concentrating at Beaufort and Newbern. One hundred and seven vessels, all told, will take part in the attack; ten at least are ironclads. On October 29, our last intelligence from Wilmington, the people were preparing for the battle. General Bragg was in command. The non-combatants were leaving the city. Some vessels had then arrived and strengthened the Federal blockading fleet, but there were no indications of an attack.

There are indications that the Confederates are preparing a gigantic expedition to invade Western Virginia and attack Wheeling. Some partisans have already attacked the Baltimore and Ohio railroad west of Grafton, burned some stores, and inflicted some slight damage on the road.

There is a rumour that General Rosecrans is to come from St. Louis, and have a command in Grant's army.

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Richmond: October 9, 1864.

The greatest activity continues to characterise the military operations of the belligerent powers on this continent. At no time since the commencement of the war has greater vigour been displayed by either the invading North or the invaded South. The immense forces marshalled in the early spring for what was then promised to be the certain and speedy overthrow of the 'rebellion,' have been exhausted in their fruitless efforts to overrun the country, and fresh levies have been called for. The considerable army that attempted in March and April to crush all resistance in the Trans-Mississippi country, was badly beaten and dispersed; while the victorious Confederates, having cleared Texas, West Louisiana, and Arkansas of the enemy, have marched into the heart of Missouri, where their presence now produces the wildest consternation among the friends of the broken Union. In Virginia, Grant's grand army of 175,000 veteran troops has been shattered, and in a measure destroyed, and he now calls in the most frantic manner from behind his formidable earthworks for further help—'only 100,000 men to finish up the rebellion,' which he vainly imagines he has seized by the throat. In Georgia Sherman has succeeded in penetrating as far south as Atlanta, though, if the last advices we have from that quarter be true, it now seems quite doubtful whether he will ever be able to escape thence with his army. His line of communication has been cut and occupied in force, and, like Napoleon at Moscow, he now finds himself in a hostile country, already stripped of supplies, far removed from his base, with an active foe swarming around him, and his communications destroyed. In the meantime, Sheridan is retreating down the Shenandoah towards the Potomac, if not as rapidly as he advanced, still fast enough to keep out of Early's way.

Under these circumstances, it is not strange that Mr. Lincoln should seek to increase his armies; nor is it singular, since his call, unlike Glendower's call for spirits from the vasty deep, is meeting with a partial if not a hearty response, that the Confederate authorities should endeavour to strengthen their forces also. The latter have issued an order requiring all detailed men who can be spared from their present employments to report forthwith for duty in the field. Thus the contending parties present the strange anomaly of each one attempting to bring fresh levies into the field upon the heel of one of the most furious and bloody campaigns of which history furnishes any record, and at a period of the year too when it is not unusual for military commanders to be preparing to go into winter quarters.

The people of the South not being a mechanical, manufacturing, or commercial people, the authorities have found it necessary to detail a large number of men of military age, to prepare arms and ordnance stores, manufacture wagons, harness, shoes, and clothing, establish foundries, open mines, conduct agricultural operations, gather up supplies for the quartermaster's and subsistence departments, and to perform other duties usually discharged in other countries by men already skilled in these various vocations. Many of these detailed men will be left where they are, but others of them can be spared from their present occupations, and will be sent to the field. It may not be amiss to state, in this connection, that the want of skilled labour, and the difficulty encountered in procuring necessary supplies from other countries, have been the source of great embarrassment to the Confederacy. Before the war, the people were engaged almost entirely in agriculture. The clothing, shoes, and hats they wore, the furniture in their houses, the carriages in which they rode, the guns with which they hunted, the clocks and watches that kept time for them, the iron and locomotives upon their railways, the churns in which they made such of their butter as they did not buy, and even the implements with which they conducted their agricultural operations, were all obtained from the North or through the North. They possessed neither manufactures, shipping, nor mechanics, neither an army nor a navy. Their antagonists possessed all those things, and in addition thereto had full command of the sea. And yet there are military critics in Europe who overlook these circumstances when they come to pronounce judgment upon the conduct of Southern campaigns, and great Powers that even seek so to shape their foreign policy as to add to the embarrassments under which the South has had to labour.

But let us look to the field, and see what has been done there since the date of my last letter.

With the exception of the north side of the James, affairs remain unchanged on the Richmond and Petersburg lines. On Friday, the 7th, Lieutenant-General Anderson drove the enemy's extreme right back two miles to a very strong line of intrenchments below Chapin's Bluff. The Federals still hold Battery Harrison, though they must find it a hot place under the fire of the Confederate gunboats by night and the land batteries by day. Anderson's loss was slight in the affair of the 7th, though, unfortunately, it includes Brigadier-General Gregg of Texas, who was killed at the head of his heroic brigade.

In the Valley of the Shenandoah the tide seems to have turned. On the night of the 5th, Sheridan broke up at Harrisonburg and retreated back towards Winchester. At the date of our last advices, Early had arrived at Newmarket, and was following on in pursuit. Rosser, at the head of his cavalry brigade, had had an engagement with the Federal cavalry, and beaten them badly; and Mosby had isolated two trains on the Manassas Gap railway, loaded with tools, timber, &c., for the repair of that road. He had torn up the track behind them to such an extent as to render escape impossible, and the Federal escort and working party were intrenching themselves and their trains with the hope that they would be able to defend their position until assistance could arrive. It is probable that Sheridan found it impossible to subsist his army in the Valley, owing to the activity of the mountain guerillas, and decided to retire further down the Shenandoah Valley until he could repair the Manassas Gap railroad and open up communications with Washington City by that line. Be this as it may, it is very certain that he has withdrawn under cover of night from his advanced position at Harrisonburg, and that his part of the programme, which looked to the occupation of Lynchburg, has proved a failure.

Another part of the combined movement against this city has ended in disaster. I allude to the advance of Burbridge's column from Eastern Kentucky across to the salt-works in South-western Virginia, and his probable intention either to unite with Sheridan at Lynchburg or move upon Danville. He was very badly beaten by the reserves and a small regular force near the salt-works, which he did not reach, and when last heard from he was in headlong flight and the Confederates in hot pursuit. He left over 300 dead, including about 175 negroes, and many of his wounded, in the hands of the victors. Among the prisoners who fell into the hands of the Southerners was Brigadier-General Hanson.

In Georgia a most important move has been made by General Hood. About ten days ago he broke up his camp on the Atlanta and Montgomery railway, crossed the Chattahoochie, and advanced upon the Atlanta and Chattanooga railroad at Kenesaw Mountain. His headquarters were at the village of Dallas three days ago. He had torn up the railway from Ackworth down to Big Shanty, a distance of ten miles. An unofficial telegram just received by the Richmond press states that the Confederates were in possession of Dalton, that Forrest was in Middle Tennessee, and that Rousseau, the Federal commander in that quarter, was hemmed in at Nashville. Hood keeps up his communications with the Atlanta and Montgomery railway at Palmetto Station, and will wagon his supplies from that point and the rich valley of the Coosa in Alabama. His cavalry holds East Point, six miles south-west from Atlanta, and the point where the Montgomery road unites with the Macon and Western.

It is not known what amount of supplies Sherman has with him in Atlanta, though it is not believed that he has enough, especially of forage, to enable him to remain there longer than a few weeks. In that event, he has but two alternatives left him—either to make a bold push for the coast, in the vain hope that he will be able to subsist his army upon the country as he advances; or to leave a garrison in Atlanta, and with the bulk of his army to move out and drive Hood away from the railroad, and reopen his communications. Should he attempt the former, the Confederates could well afford to let him go in peace, since his advance to the coast with Hood's army in his rear would deliver nearly the whole of Georgia, and all Tennessee and Kentucky, from the presence of the enemy, and open up the States beyond the Ohio to invasion. It is more probable, therefore, that he will turn back upon his track, and endeavour to clear it of the active and vigilant enemy that now swarms along its entire length from Atlanta to Nashville. Even Kentucky is not free from the presence of these enterprising Confederates. The western part of that State, as well as of Tennessee, is now wholly in their possession, except just along the Mississippi River, while a considerable body of Confederate cavalry is now moving into the eastern and middle portions of the State. Sherman will find it exceedingly difficult, under these circumstances, even if he should drive Hood away from Kenesaw Mountain, to defend and keep open his communications from Atlanta back to Nashville and Louisville, and still maintain his hold upon Atlanta.

This move of Hood's is not unlike the bold manœuvre of Marlborough just before the battle of Oudenarde in 1708. By that manœuvre the great English general completely disconcerted the well-arranged plan of Vendôme, threw himself between the French army and their own frontier, rendered himself master of their communications, and, instead of merely seeking to cover his own fortresses, threatened to compel the enemy to fall back in order to regain the connection with their own country, and to abandon the whole enterprise which they had commenced with such prospects of success. Should Hood be able to subsist his army where it is, it is not impossible that Sherman will find it necessary to imitate the tactics of the French general, abandon his recent conquests, and withdraw with the remnant of his army to the mountain fastness at Chattanooga. He seems to have forgotten that the disastrous issue of the Blenheim campaign to the French, even when supported by the friendly arms and all the fortresses of Bavaria, and the still more calamitous issue of the Moscow campaign to the army of Napoleon, had already demonstrated that even the greatest military talents, and most enormous accumulation of military force, afford no security against the incalculable danger of an undue advance beyond the base of military operations.

The transfer of Admiral Farragut from the Gulf squadron to the command of the North Atlantic squadron, and his visit last week to General Grant's headquarters, would seem to indicate that he is about to lend his assistance in the further operations against Richmond. If this is not the duty which he is expected to perform, then he will probably take charge of the squadron operating against Wilmington, and endeavour to create a diversion in favour of Grant, at the same time that he attempts to close that port as he did the harbour of Mobile.

The President has returned to Richmond from his visit to Georgia. The rumour that Lieutenant-General Hardee had, at his own request, been transferred to the command at Charleston, and that General Beauregard had been placed in command

of the department of the South which includes the States of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and Kentucky, proves to have been well founded. Lieutenant-General Longstreet has come on to Virginia, but has not yet reported for duty, owing to the painful neuralgic effects of his wound.

The remains of the brave General Gregg, after lying in state at the Capitol for two days, have just been removed to Hollywood Cemetery for interment. The President, General Bragg, General Ewell, General Kemper, the Secretary of War, and the heads of the other departments of Government were present during the ceremony.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK: November 8.

THE Presidential election is going on to-day. By the steamer from Boston to-morrow you may, by the aid of the telegraph, hear enough to indicate the general result. There are two or three prominent points you will do well to observe. It is indispensable to the success of General M'Clellan that he should carry New York. If you hear that he has lost New York he is certainly defeated. It is scarcely within the range of possibility that he can be elected without the vote of New York and Pennsylvania, contestable States, in addition to Illinois and New Jersey, which are thought sure to vote for him. If he lose either his prospects are bad—he may win both and be defeated.

The contest in New York is very close and very violent. It is largely more important that New York should vote for M'Clellan than that he should get any equal number of other votes. The State is so powerful a member of the Union that the possession of the executive power of the State which will follow the Presidential vote is of immense importance in the organisation of a new Administration if General M'Clellan should succeed, or in consolidating and directing an opposition to Mr. Lincoln and his policy if the attempt to overthrow him in the elections fails. If Mr. Lincoln be re-elected, and New York lost, the cause of the Opposition will be desperate, and their only means for relief will be desperate and revolutionary. The State has, therefore, been made the theatre of unexampled political excitement during the canvass, and the election comes on under a sudden pressure of military interference, put on by the Administration under the most frivolous pretences. A sudden and simulated alarm has been propagated by sensation despatches from various points along the Canada frontier, and by official endorsement of the absurdities by the Secretary of State, that concocted inroads were to be made, on election day, by rebels and sympathisers from Canada, to stuff the ballot boxes with M'Clellan votes, and then burn down all the principal cities. The pretext sufficed to excuse the gathering of Lincoln partisans all along the frontier, to have a real influence over the polling, and to enable the Administration to assign a cause for pouring troops into New York city, and placing the notorious Butler in command here. He commenced by issuing orders containing covert threats, and by assuming an authority, and announcing doctrines respecting the paramount authority of the United States over the citizens of the State in regard to these elections, which created great dissatisfaction, and have spread apprehensions of the real purport of thus assembling at New York, on the eve of the election, an army which ought to be down in Virginia or Georgia, where Grant and Sherman are both calling loudly for more troops.

A discreet and honest Government would have avoided giving needless provocation to a people already greatly irritated, and suspicious of arbitrary designs against them. There was no need of such demonstrations here, for the State and city authorities have made the most ample precautions for keeping the peace; and the largeness of the Democratic vote, which needs entire quiet to enable it to be cast in full, was the assurance that no riots would be permitted to interfere with it. There was no possible danger, until the presence of such a force under the command of so odious an officer created the peril against which it was the pretext for interference. The opinion got out that it was the work of the Republican party to provoke disorder, that the Democratic vote of the city may be lessened, or the whole election suppressed. However deeply exasperated, the determination of all having influence with the party has been, to repress all feeling, discountenance all attempts at disturbances, and avoid all provocations to excitement, and to be patient and forbearing, at least till the whole vote is cast, which is expected to determine the vote of this State, and may decide the Presidential question for the whole Union.

I have a very decided opinion about the result of to-day's election; but I shall not venture a prediction which the event may overtake and pass before it reaches you. But there are some contingencies arising out of the conditions under which the election is held, which may make it useful to you, in understanding what may follow, to have them restated. The number of States which may lawfully cast their votes at this election is a contested question between the two parties. Very probable results may make it of great importance.

The States which the Democrats concede as entitled to vote are as follows:—

	Votes
California	5
Connecticut	6
Delaware	3
Illinois	16
Indiana	13
Iowa	8
Kansas	3
Kentucky	11
Maine	7
Maryland	7
Massachusetts	12
Missouri	11
Carried forward	102

	Votes
Brought forward	102
Michigan	8
Minnesota	4
New Hampshire	5
New York	33
New Jersey	7
Ohio	21
Oregon	3
Pennsylvania	26
Rhode Island	4
Vermont	5
Wisconsin	8
Total	226

There are two other States, included in the roll of 'loyal' States, from which votes are expected, both for Mr. Lincoln, viz. West Virginia, 5 votes; and Nevada, 3 votes. The Democrats object to both; to Nevada on a point of form, that the State is not yet regularly within the Union, in compliance with the law of the last Congress; and to West Virginia that it is not constitutionally a State at all, having been forcibly taken from the old State of Virginia, and erected into a State without the consent of the Legislature, which the Constitution requires as the indispensable condition for the division of a State.

The vote of Nevada may be received without much contest, the point being one of formality to be carried by legislation or waived as immaterial; but that of Western Virginia will be strenuously opposed to the last, if it should be essential to any result.

With Nevada the number of States will be 24, and of electoral votes 229, and the majority required to elect will be 115.

The full roll of States of an undivided union would now be 36 (including Western Virginia), and the number of electoral votes would be 317, as apportioned under the law of 1861-2, which includes the seceded States in the distribution as follows:—

Alabama	8	North Carolina	9
Arkansas	5	South Carolina	6
Florida	3	Tennessee	10
Georgia	9	Texas	6
Louisiana	7	Virginia	13
Mississippi	7		

Eleven States—83 votes.

Two States, Missouri and Kentucky are represented in both Confederacies. The Southern Confederacy claims thirteen States, which have all voted for and elected a President for themselves.

The United States claim thirty-six States, which have by law 317 votes, making the number requisite for a majority of the whole, 159. But how many of these may vote and may be permitted to vote, and what number shall constitute a valid election, are points in controversy which divide the Northern States into portions of very conflicting opinions, that may in possible contingencies produce a conflict in fact for the possession of the executive power.

There has been a common consent to waive a question, which is, nevertheless, not an unimportant one, whether in a union of thirty-six States assumed to be undivided and indivisible, in an election held by two-thirds of them with the resolute refusal of the other third to take any part or be bound by the result—a result by which a portion, which is but little greater than one-third, may be a decisive majority for the Government of the whole or even of the diminished portion, do not make such a change in the Constitutional relations of the voting States among themselves, as to impair the fundamental conditions of Union and affect the obligation to acquiesce.

The Democrats object to Nevada, but insist that West Virginia is not constitutionally a State, and they are violent in denouncing the attempts made to bring in votes from Tennessee (11) and Louisiana (7)—these elections will be held to-day—in portions of 'insurrectionary' States, under forms having their source only in the military authority of the President.

Without Nevada, the electoral votes they concede to be receivable as undisputed are those of 23 States, with 226 votes, of which a majority is 114.

With Nevada, the number will be 24, with 229 votes, and the majority will be 115.

If General M'Clellan shall get 114 votes, they may contend for the exclusion of Nevada, and hold that he is constitutionally elected, on the ground that the votes in excess of 226 are unlawfully and unconstitutionally cast, the first object being to exclude West Virginia.

If Nevada be counted—as I think it must be, for it would be a weak point on which to contest an election otherwise regular—the number of votes will be 229, and the majority 115. With that, the Democrats will oppose the counting of West Virginia stubbornly.

But the Administrative party have a further reserve votes in the 19 votes of Tennessee and Louisiana, to be called in to secure the election of Mr. Lincoln, if they shall be needed to overcome the majority M'Clellan may receive of the regular and undisputed votes. These several votes—of Nevada, 3, West Virginia, 5, Tennessee, 12, and Louisiana, 6, all strongly Administrative, and the latter two made so by exceptional and arbitrary measures of the President himself—may be successively brought in as wanted, to make the success of Mr. Lincoln certain. They may not be used, for they may not be needed, but they will be used if they shall be needed. Hence, while the Democrats maintain that 226 votes are all that can be lawfully counted, and that 114 of them are sufficient to elect, the Republicans have a range from 226 to 253, within which to bring forward as many of those disputed votes as will be sufficient to exceed any number of votes which General M'Clellan may receive.

The results of the election to-day may be popularly known in a few days, so far as the actual voting in the States for their several colleges of electors is concerned.

NORTH OF THE JAMES RIVER.

WE have been favoured with the following extract from the letter of a young officer in the Confederate army before Richmond:—

Headquarters, Field's division, Petersburg.

As I told you in my letter from our head-quarters near Chapin's Bluff, we fully expected to pitch into the Yankees immediately on arriving at the north side of the river; but when our division had got into position, the enemy had disappeared from our front. As far as fighting was concerned, we had a little respite, but the staff did not profit by it much, for General Field having been placed *ad interim* in command of that department of the Richmond defences, our duties became very onerous; but we were, to a certain extent, compensated by the importance which it gave us, for we literally became monarchs of all we surveyed. This comparative repose, however, was of short duration. Our scouts a few days after brought us the intelligence that the enemy had thrown a pontoon across the river, and that a large force was moving over it. We had but few troops with us, but preparations were made for a resolute defence of the line committed to our care. On Sunday they drove our skirmishers in, and in the afternoon they attempted to carry a portion of our intrenchments. For that purpose they hurled against us two divisions of their crack 2nd corps, which rushed towards our position with yells, banners flying, and bands playing. When they advanced within about 700 yards of our lines, two 12-pounders, loaded with canister, blazed away at them. Our artillery is not considered by any means the most efficient branch of our service, and of late has been rather sneered at in this army; but on that occasion it did terrible execution. The Yankees advanced in four lines of battle, and a magnificent spectacle it was to witness that mighty host bearing down upon our thinly-manned breastworks. Notwithstanding my emotion, I could not refrain from admiring the sight. Our fire made wide breaches in their ranks, and, after the third discharge, the whole line wavered and fluttered like a flag in the wind. Another shell exploding in their midst, they broke and fled in every direction, without retaining a shadow of their former organisation. In their frantic haste to get out of range of our murderous shots, they threw away guns, equipments, and all their warlike paraphernalia. Deserters told us that they lost very heavily in that abortive charge. They again renewed the attack, but with less vigour, on our left, and were driven back with great loss by our dismounted cavalry. This was the last of that day's fighting; with the shades of night there came a cessation of hostilities. The next day passed off quietly enough. There was a little picket firing, but no general engagement. The enemy was evidently preparing for another desperate onslaught. We ascertained later that no less than three corps, numbering about 35,000 men, had come over. We, on the other hand, had received a few reinforcements, and girded our loins for the coming encounter. In the morning of Tuesday, the Yankees attacked us in heavy force; but we repulsed them very handsomely. Finding that these repeated assaults on that part of the line did not pay, General Hancock felt for a more vulnerable point, which he discovered on our left. After riding about ever since dawn, the General and his staff halted in a field in the rear of Wright's brigade of A. P. Hill's corps. The day was a sultry one, and the heat, superadded to our other exertions, made us so weary that we got off our horses and lay down for a few moments on the grass. We had not been there many seconds when we were aroused by a terrific cannonade, followed by heavy volleys of musketry. We mounted our horses in a trice. Presently squads of frightened men came from the front in anything but a leisurely manner. They informed us that the whole Yankee army had charged them, and that they had been obliged to give way. The firing increased, the air was alive with Minié balls, the ground was torn up by shells and cannon-balls, and in a few minutes the whole of Wright's brigade was stampeding towards us. We strove to rally them by entreaties and by menaces, and, with pistols drawn, we threatened to shoot them if they did not go back; but it was of no avail. You might as well try to argue with a flock of affrighted sheep as with a crowd of panic-stricken soldiers. Up to the present hour we cannot account for this stampede. The attack, it is true, was sudden and unexpected, and the force of the enemy enormous; but the men who were now flying before the Yankees had always beaten them, and had universally borne themselves in every battle-field with distinguished bravery. We are, therefore, much puzzled to find out what caused them to disgrace the name of their brigade in that manner. My poor comrade, Captain Mason, was shot through the body during our fruitless efforts to rally the men. He fell into the hands of the enemy. We have since heard that he is not likely to live, although General Hancock, who was an old friend and classmate of General Field at West Point, promises to have him well attended to. The General, finding that nothing could be got out of these men, decided to fall back, for the Federals were sweeping down upon us in overwhelming numbers. It seemed as though 40,000 men would be an under-estimate of the force. I was sent by him for reinforcements. I had orders to bring up without delay two brigades of our own division, viz. Law's Alabama brigade and Benning's Georgians. They came up at double-quick, and amid a very galling artillery fire. They were formed right under the eyes of the enemy, and then they rushed in with a deafening war-whoop. It was really splendid to witness the *élan* of these gallant fellows. I was so carried away with enthusiasm that I cantered alongside them, but, alas! I did not accompany them during the whole of their triumphant advance, for my faithful charger, poor Palmetto, fell under me pierced in the left hip by a Minié ball. I was a little stunned by the fall, and when I managed to extricate myself from under him, our brave boys had beaten back the foe and recaptured the position which they had taken from us. I am happy to say that our loss was relatively small, whilst that of the enemy must have been very heavy. The battle-field was literally blue with their dead and wounded. We, moreover, captured 700 prisoners. This fight was not a long one, not having lasted over an hour and a half; but the veterans tell me that for the time it lasted the battle of Darbytown was one of the hottest affairs they had ever been in. The shelling was positively infernal. All the woods at the rear of the battle-field were torn and chopped to pieces by the enemy's artillery. It is a wonder that any one should have survived such a tempest of shot and shells, but our brave soldiers did not mind it any more than if it had been a summer shower. I cannot say that I like these Yankee shells, but I have got used to them, for, since I have joined the army, I have been plentifully regaled with them; but what I strongly object to are the Minié balls. Some buzz like hornets, others mew like cats, when they pass you. All these sounds indicate great proximity to your knowledge-box, and, if I was not afraid of being afraid, I think I would skedaddle like Wright's men. All the wounded prisoners that we took concur in reporting the brutality and incompetency of their officers as flagrant. One of them, a Frenchman, who was badly struck in the thigh with a bayonet, told me that all the officers of his regiment were drunk, so much so that some of them could not stand when the fight commenced. On this occasion I was able to convince myself that the native element in the Northern army was conspicuous by its absence alone, for of ten prisoners that I questioned but one was a '*full-blooded*' Yankee. Among them there were a Frenchman, three Irishmen, three Germans, a Belgian, and an Italian. With the exception of the Irishry, none of them understood English. Among other curiosities, I saw some wounded gentlemen of African descent. They professed to be very penitent, and, seeing that I was rather disposed to protect them than to ill-treat them, I got a good deal out of them. They addressed me in a much more humble manner, or, if I may use the expression, in a more slavish manner, than any darkies I have hitherto come across in the sunny South. All said that they had been forced into the army, and, as at Petersburg, they had been put in front, and had been literally driven to the assault at the point of the bayonet. The part of the line which they attacked was not broken, and, stepping outside the breastworks, a horrid spectacle met my gaze. Hundreds of these wretched *soldats d'Afrique* had been mowed down, and were lying thick in front of our works. On the whole, notwithstanding the misbehaviour of that brigade of Hill's corps, our achievement was a very brilliant one; for with a handful of men, say 7,000 at the outside, we drove back three of the enemy's largest corps, and, as usual, our division won for itself and its commander golden opinions. General Lee, towards the close of the fight, rode up and congratulated the General on the able manner in which he had handled the troops. At one time it was touch and go, and it required great coolness and skill on the part of our General to parry the attempts of the Yankees to turn our flanks. Had they succeeded in accomplishing that, the consequences might have been very serious. The reverse was a very heavy one to the enemy. By sending over their best troops, they evidently counted upon 'a success.' We had several small artillery and picket engagements during the rest of the week, but finally

they sloped off, *sans tambour ni trompette*, and on Sunday morning Hancock and Co. had 'vamosed.'

Desertions from the Yankee army have been so frequent during the campaign that General Lee has decided to encourage them by circulating throughout Grant's army a paper in which kind treatment and protection are promised to those soldiers who come over to us voluntarily. This has produced the desired effect, for deserters flock into our lines at a monstrous rate, and 'the cry is still they come.'

Last week has been a very fatiguing one to us all. For ten days we have not had time to pull off our boots, and as to sleep, we have had to 'nap it' *à la grâce de Dieu*; at one time sleeping in a slushy rifle-pit, at another in a shaky morass. This is very rough work, it is true, and well calculated to try the mettle of a Parisian *flaneur*. Well! *mirabile dictu*, I have never felt stronger or more healthy. At one time I was a little annoyed by the scorbutic effects of our salt meat diet, but now I am all right again, owing to the splendid *Maryland beef*, for which we are indebted to old Jubal Early, our efficient commissary. As a *pis aller* for their failures on the north side, the Yankees attacked and captured a portion on the Weldon Railroad. A small force of our infantry was sent to dislodge them. It succeeded in driving them for the distance of three miles, taking over 2,000 prisoners with the Yankee General Hays, the enemy acknowledging in that affair a loss of no less than 3,000 killed and wounded. Our people being exhausted with their exertions had to stop. On Thursday a rear and flank attack was made by A. P. Hill, which was eminently successful. We drove them from the part of the track which was of importance to us. They still retain a couple of miles of it, but they are welcome to it, for we can do without it. Three thousand more were captured; I can vouch for the accuracy of that statement, as I saw them marching down the main street of this city, and a more cowed, grimy, and forlorn set of fellows I have never laid eyes on. We had arrived here the night before to act as a corps of reserve in case the attacking column had required any support. We were under arms for several hours, ready to start at a moment's notice, but A. P. Hill's men did their work so well as to need no reinforcement from Longstreet's corps. Now, for the first time since last Saturday week, I have been able to indulge in a complete course of ablutions, and smoke a quiet pipe of fragrant Virginia tobacco, two most inestimable luxuries.

THE SEIZURE OF THE *FLORIDA*.

THE United States Minister at Rio has addressed the following despatch to the Foreign Minister of Brazil:—

Rio de Janeiro, October 14.

The undersigned, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States, has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a note of this date, from his Excellency Senhor Joao Pedro Dias Vieira, Councillor to his Imperial Majesty the Emperor, Minister and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, calling his attention to an alleged violation of the neutral rights of Brazil and an indignity offered to her sovereignty by the commander of the United States corvette *Wachusetts*, in capturing in the harbour of Bahia an armed vessel calling herself a vessel of war, by name the *Florida*, belonging to certain States of the Federal Union, which are now, and for three years past have been, in rebellion against the Government of the United States; but which vessel the Government of the United States declares to have no nationality whatever, and insists that she was, to all intents and purposes, a pirate.

The undersigned has no official information in relation to the alleged capture and violation of the neutrality and sovereignty of Brazil, other than is contained in the note of his Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs; and he, therefore, assumes the statement made by his Excellency to be accurate in all its details; reserving to himself, however, the right to correct any errors which may have crept into that statement in consequence of its being merely an *ex parte* report from those in authority at Bahia.

The undersigned, before proceeding to consider the very grave international question to which his attention has been called, feels it incumbent upon him, as an act of justice to his Government and country, to make a few passing remarks in regard to the claim that the people in rebellion against our Government are, in fact, a 'belligerent' power, at war with the Government of the United States, instead of a band of traitors in rebellion against the Government to which they owe allegiance, of which they have always constituted a part, and from which, neither for the purposes of war nor peace, have they ever been separated.

The facts of the case in regard to their claim to be a 'belligerent' power at war with the United States, are briefly as follows:—

The great rebellion against the Government of the United States, by a portion of its Southern people, broke out on April 12, 1861; and the knowledge of that rebellion reached England about May 1 in the same year. Six days after Lord John Russell, the English Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, intimated in the House of Commons that the British Government would probably recognise our rebels as a 'belligerent' power; and in fifteen days after the English Government had received intelligence of a rebellion having broke out within our borders—a misfortune to which all nations are liable, and from which England and Brazil have not been exempt—the Queen of Great Britain by her proclamation recognised those in rebellion against the Government of Washington to be a 'belligerent' power, and entitled within her ports to all the privilege of belligerents, and in all respects the equal of those against whom they were in rebellion. In one word, England degraded the Government of the United States to the level of those in open rebellion against its authority; and elevated our rebels to a position of equality with a powerful nation, with which it had, and professed a desire to maintain, the most amicable relations and the closest commercial and political intercourse. That act of the Government of Great Britain was as much a *casus belli* as would have been the recognition of the independence and sovereignty of the so-called 'Confederate States;' and it would unquestionably have been so treated if France and other European powers had not immediately endorsed the gross injustice of England, to which Brazil at the earliest moment possible gave her sanction and approval.

It is not assumed by the undersigned that this action on the part of Brazil arose from any feeling of hostility to a neighbouring and always friendly power, which has ever recognised the duty of the governments on the American continent to stand by each other in defence of an American, in contradistinction of a European, policy. It was most probably resorted to because it was convenient and usual for Brazil to act in concert with the recognised powers of Europe; but it was, nevertheless, a most hasty and ill-advised proceeding, and grossly and manifestly an act of injustice to a neighbouring and ever friendly power. It is only necessary for your Excellency to ask yourself, what would have been the feelings of Brazil, if in past years, immediately upon hearing of disturbances and rebellion within the Imperial empire, the Government of the United States, without enquiry into the character of such rebellion and in ignorance of its cause, or justification if any, had made hot haste to unite with the European powers in recognising as 'belligerents' the province in rebellion, and thereby elevating her rebels to an equality with the Imperial Government, by giving them similar rights in her ports as 'belligerents,' and making them the equals in all respects of the Government against which they were in rebellion? Beyond all manner of doubt, to have done so would have been considered a flagrant outrage perpetrated by a great naval power against a weaker but friendly nation, and an admitted *casus belli*. Brazil would unquestionably have so considered it: but if not convenient to go to war with the United States for the perpetration of such an outrage, she would have contented herself with remonstrating against the proceeding as equally unfriendly and unjust; and then calmly have submitted to the indignity, outrage, and injustice which she could not repel.

And this is perhaps what the United States has been compelled to do. She could not go to war with all the world, and at the same time put down a gigantic rebellion within her borders. To have done so would have secured to her rebels the triumph of their rebellion, and gratified her enemies by a disruption of that great American power, so important for the development of constitutional and representative government, and so necessary for the protection of all the governments of the continent of America against European interference with their inalienable right to govern themselves.

Beyond all peradventure, the object of Great Britain, in recognising as belligerents those in rebellion against the Government of the United States was—if we take her leading press and the speeches of many of her statesmen in and out of Parliament as exponents of her purpose—to accomplish by indirect means what she did not deem it prudent to attempt by a more manly course. She had just as much right to declare our Government destroyed and the Union broken up by a recognition of the sovereignty and independence of our rebels, within two weeks after hearing of the rebellion, as she had to give them by proclamation the rights of belligerents. But she wanted the manhood to do this in the face of Europe and the just indignation which she would thereby have brought upon herself; and she, therefore, in the exercise of her discretion, resorted to a measure which she well knew was a *casus belli*, but which she foresaw we were not in a position to treat as such; and the consequences of which she had a right to suppose, as did our rebels, would eventually be a disruption of the great American Republic.

Great Britain is the first naval and commercial power of the world; and the other nations of Europe, followed by Brazil on this continent, very naturally were led into the adoption of her proclamation, without perceiving its tendency to throw the better part of our commerce into the hands of our only commercial rival, without any intention to do the United States injustice, and without intending thereby to give aid and succour to our rebels, and protract, and if possible render triumphant, their rebellion. And yet such has been the effect of the unjust policy inaugurated by Great Britain, and thoughtlessly adopted by all the Powers friendly to the United States in Europe, and by her steadfast friend, Brazil, on the American continent. But for that most unjust proceeding, the rebellion in the United States would have terminated by a single campaign. Had other nations practised towards us a very small portion only of the comity and forbearance which we have always extended towards others, and exhibited that respect for the international right of governments to deal with rebellion and civil war as to them seems expedient, for a reasonable time at least, without interference from abroad, our rebellion would have been put down more than two years ago, without a tithe of the sacrifices demanded of us; and there would then have been no occasion for the undersigned to express his deep regret at the untoward event which has called forth your Excellency's note and demanded this response.

The Government of the United States, through the undersigned, has protested against the right of Brazil to constitute her rebels 'belligerents,' and to concede to them at the time she did 'belligerent' rights and privileges. She has made similar protests to every government which was seduced into following the example of England, in ignorance of its tendency. But she has at the same time said to Brazil and other friendly powers. 'Although humbled and humiliated by your proceeding, I do not accuse you of intentional wrong; and your act, grievous and unjust as it is, I am compelled to recognise; and I indulge the hope that the day will shortly arrive when we can look back upon the past without one solitary remembrance of wrong to overshadow the future.' And to Brazil in particular she has instructed the undersigned to pledge most earnestly her confidence and friendship, as imperatively demanded by the similarity of their respective constitutions, by the general sentiments of their respective people, and by their political duties to each other and to their neighbours arising from their being the two principal governments on the continent of America.

Entertaining these sentiments and feelings towards Brazil, it will be a source of unfeigned grief and of very sincere regret to the Government of the United States to learn that a commander in her navy, without instructions or authority of any kind, should have taken upon himself the responsibility of capturing one of the piratical cruisers of our rebels while lying in the harbour of Bahia; and the undersigned feels authorised to assure your Excellency that every reparation which honour and justice demand will be most frankly tendered—more frankly and more promptly than if the same act had been committed by an American cruiser in the waters of the most powerful maritime nations of the world. But in so doing, the Government of the United States will undoubtedly make the *amende honorable* under protest. She will tell Brazil that she denies *in toto* the right of any nation or nations, immediately upon the breaking out of a rebellion in the dominions of a friendly power, without enquiry or investigation of any kind, and without knowledge of or even pretending to know the merits of the quarrel, to declare such rebels a belligerent power, and by proclamation make them in the ports of the world the equals of the nation against which they are in rebellion. She will insist that until their nationality is recognised they cannot invest their armed vessels with the nationality necessary 'to set forth a vessel of war,' and she will insist that all such vessels are no more and no less than pirates.

She will proclaim, as heretofore, that a vessel built in an English port by English artisans, and with English funds, armed and equipped by Englishmen, with Englishmen to man, sail, and fight her, and sailing from an English port under English colours, with the avowed purpose of preying upon and destroying the commerce of a friendly power which happens to be her naval and commercial rival, and which does so prey upon and destroy the commerce of the friendly power under the ridiculous plea that she is a vessel of war belonging to the rebels—without ever having visited a rebel port—is nothing more or less than a pirate, which the nation whose commerce she molests has a right, according to every principle of equity and justice which obtains among civilised and Christian communities, to pursue and destroy in every port and every harbour of the world.

But she will at the same time say to Brazil, that the powers of the world having, unintentionally no doubt, been combined against her, and her international rights being denied her through that combination, she has been compelled for the time being to submit to what she cannot resist, as has heretofore been the case with every nation (including Brazil) of whose injustice she complains. Submitting, therefore, as she does, simply because she is compelled so to do, and recognising the right of these pirates to protection in the ports of England and France, simply because she cannot resist it, the Government of the United States will not withhold from Brazil one iota of the reparation which, under similar circumstances, in her present embarrassed position, she would be compelled to make to England. While she submits to the great injustice done her, she most scrupulously observes the strictest neutrality to all; and as she is compelled to recognise towards European powers the new doctrine, which in the twinkling of an eye and by the dash of a pen converts a rebel of yesterday into the belligerent of to-day, with all the rights and immunities and entitled to all the honours and privileges of the power against which he is in rebellion—so will she most cheerfully recognise (under protest) that new doctrine towards Brazil, and hasten to make her every reparation for the alleged breach of neutrality which has occurred in the waters of the empire. Neither the Government of the United States nor the undersigned are directly or indirectly responsible for that event as one dependent upon their volition. It was neither ordered nor authorised by the Government of the United States or the undersigned; and it will be to his Government, as it is to the undersigned, a source of very sincere regret that, if such an event must of necessity have occurred, it did not take place in the waters of the power which, fifteen days after hearing of the rebellion in the United States, joyfully and hopefully proclaimed our rebels a 'belligerent' power—an act which her press and people and our rebellious States looked upon as certain to bring on our country all and more than all the evils actually inflicted, by adding to them the dissolution of the American Union.

In reply to the note of your Excellency, and assuming as facts statements in regard to which the undersigned knows nothing, he frankly, and very sincerely, for himself and in behalf of his Government, under the circumstances herein stated, repudiates most emphatically the capture of the pirate *Florida* in the waters of Brazil; and he desires to reiterate, as the burden of all his despatches and instructions from Washington, his determination to draw nearer and closer together in bonds of reciprocal friendship the two leading nations upon the American continent. Such being, as he is assured, the wishes and intentions of both Brazil and the United States, the undersigned entertains no apprehensions that those purposes and intentions can be thwarted by the commander of one of our vessels of war, or by the hasty acts of an excited populace, based upon what they considered a national indignity.

In the full conviction that the Government of the United States will promptly do all that becomes its own dignity and the dignity and honour of Brazil, the undersigned begs leave to renew to your Excellency, with apologies for this hastily written note, the expression of his most distinguished consideration.

J. WATSON WEBB.

P.S.—This despatch will be placed in the hands of the courier from the Foreign Office, instructed to wait for it, at 7.20 P.M.

To His Excellency Senhor Joao Pedro Dias Vieira, Councillor to his Imperial Majesty the Emperor, Minister and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, &c. &c.

THE *TALLAHASSEE* AT HALIFAX.

THE following is part of the official report of Commander Wood:—

Richmond, Virginia, September 6, 1864.

Hon. S. R. Mallory, Secretary of the Navy.

Sir,—I found in the port of Halifax on my arrival there Her Majesty's steamship *Duncan* (84) bearing the flag of Rear-Admiral Sir James Hope. I called promptly upon him, though he took no notice of our presence by the customary boarding and offering the courtesies of the port. Neither on arriving nor leaving were the honours of the side extended. On being shown into his cabin, he did not rise from his seat, nor shake hands, nor offer me a seat—his manner and tone were offensive. I mention this to show his animus.

I stated that I had come to report my arrival—that I wanted coal, and as soon as it could be procured the ship would go to sea.

He replied by saying that of course I knew the regulations which governed my stay in port; that he, however, had nothing to do with it; that the Governor must settle that with me.

He asked me what my orders were in regard to neutrals.

I replied that my orders were particular and explicit upon this point—to respect sedulously all their rights.

What were my instructions in the case of vessels which had recently changed flags or were 'whitewashed'?

Unless the papers were clearly fraudulent, I would let the vessel go.

Had I seen his letter to Captain Morris, of the *Florida*, on this subject, called forth by Captain Semmes burning the ship *Martiban* under English colours?

I had read it.

His Government, he continued, required that in all such cases the vessel should be brought into an English port to have the case decided on, or adjudicated (I am not certain of the words).

I told him what had been my course, a few days before, with a vessel with fraudulent papers—that on examination of a ship's papers I must determine my action.

He repeated the above in substance again, and remarked there were a great many vessels now being whitewashed, and it was a subject which required delicate handling, and on which they were greatly interested.

The above is the substance of our interview on the subject. With the Governor I did not speak on the question.

Respectfully, &c.,

Your obedient servant,

J. TAYLOR WOOD, C.S.N.

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 291 Strand, W.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1864.

The War.

THE bloody struggle in America differs from all the great wars of which modern history takes cognisance, in the fact that the cold of winter puts no stop to the operations of the armies in the field. Here and there the temporary rising of a river, and the sudden conversion of solid soil into impervious mud, may suspend the movements of the belligerents; but hitherto, as a rule, it has been the fatigue of the men, the prostration and weakness incident to the sufferings of a long campaign, rather than the stress of weather, which has compelled the generals on either side to go into winter cantonments, and spend a month or two in reorganisation. At the close of this, the fourth year of the war, there seems to be even less probability than usual of a cessation of hostilities; and so far as we can judge from recent intelligence, the winter campaign has already commenced with armies very little inferior in numbers to those which fought in the spring months. Nor can there be the least doubt that the prospect of having to keep two great armies in the field during the ensuing three months has seriously alarmed the Washington Administration. It would have been a work of considerable expense, in life and money, to maintain GRANT's large army before the works of Petersburg; but this was regarded as a comparatively slight demand. The general expectation in the North was that with the fall of Atlanta the Confederate army of the South-west would break up, and that SHERMAN at least would hold his ground without trouble, and would be able to dispose of half his army in cantonments. But to the utter dismay of Mr. STANTON, and to the evident astonishment of SHERMAN himself, HOOD's beaten army has assumed the offensive most vigorously, and the Federal general who announced two months ago that the object of the campaign was achieved, and that his soldiers might 'rest and be thankful,' finds himself compelled to take his army into the field and prepare for a totally unexpected campaign, inaugurated, not for the further invasion of the Cotton States by Federal soldiers, but for the expulsion of the Federals from Georgia and Tennessee. That SHERMAN has been utterly deceived, and that his army is now paying fatally for his rash confidence in his own achievements, is now beyond a doubt. He ridiculously underrated HOOD's means of offence, and he seems to have believed that, by fortifying Atlanta against a direct attack, he could afford to send away two of his corps to swell Mr. LINCOLN's chances of reelection and to strengthen GRANT's position before Petersburg. The result is, not only that he is compelled to confront the Confederate leaders with greatly reduced numbers, but that HOOD, having lulled him into complete inactivity, has succeeded in marching his whole army upon his lines of communication, and endangering at once Atlanta and Nashville. In fact, while SHERMAN was busying himself with strengthening the defences of the former city, and driving the unfortunate citizens out of their own homes, HOOD had transferred his army to the north of the Coosa River, and thrown himself upon the Chattanooga and Atlanta Railroad. At the same time, FORREST, with some 10,000 or 12,000 men, was capturing Federal supplies and outlying garrisons in Northern Alabama and Western Tennessee. The object of the Confederate general was gained. He succeeded in drawing the bulk of SHERMAN's army out of its intrenchments, and then fell back slowly before it into Northern Alabama, where his depot of supplies had been already established. It was impossible for SHERMAN to follow him far into Northern Alabama, or to leave the line of railway. Nevertheless, the Federal general appears to have pushed forward as far as Gaylesville. Once there, he was brought up by want of forage and supplies. But now HOOD further developed his plan of campaign. He moved suddenly northward for the Tennessee river with his whole army, announcing his intention of carrying the war into the very heart of that State. SHERMAN could not follow him. His means of transport and his supplies were quite inadequate to such a movement. There was nothing left for him but to 'track back' upon his old line of railroad, move upon Bridgeport, and then march along the north bank of the Tennessee river, in order to place himself once more in HOOD's front. His chances, however, of preventing HOOD's passage of the Tennessee river were very small, as the latter had several days' start, and it is probable that whatever opposition HOOD encountered was opposed by SCOFIELD's or THOMAS's corps, and not by SHERMAN's main army. In the meantime, FORREST who may be described as heading the advance of HOOD's army, was in full possession of the whole of Western Tennessee, had taken some gunboats and transports on the Tennessee River, and had succeeded in driving the Federal garrison under SCOFIELD himself out of Johnsonville. This city, a most important depot for the Federal army in Middle Tennessee, and within a hundred miles of Nashville, he succeeded in capturing, together with an immense amount of supplies. Where HOOD's army really was at the date of the despatch of the last mail is not clear. The information is evidently withheld both in North and South. But practically it may be considered as forming line, with FORREST's horse on its left, and WHEELER's cavalry on its right flank. The news of another week will probably put an end to the uncertainty. Not less mysterious are SHERMAN's own accounts. We have given the only clue that we can suggest to this marching and countermarching; and we still think that the bulk of his army is employed in the defence of Tennessee. To suppose that SHERMAN really has five corps at Atlanta with which he intends to march near 350 miles, through a bitterly hostile country, upon Charleston, although it is perfectly well known that his cavalry and trains could not last out the march from Dalton to Gaylesville, and that the Confederates have been living for weeks upon the rations destined by Yankee contractors for his army, is to accuse him of an absurd temerity which we are not justified in imputing to him. The last reliable accounts from Georgia described Atlanta as held by SLOCUM with one corps, with Confederate cavalry camped close up to the town, and Georgian militia rapidly coming up. It is difficult to see how SHERMAN's position would be improved by a further advance, when he cannot even at Atlanta sufficiently provision his troops. And, therefore, notwithstanding the prophecy of so daring an enterprise as a march into South Carolina, we believe the bulk of his army has removed northward.

From Virginia there is nothing new; but we know the campaign is far from a close. The two main armies were confronting one another behind their formidable intrenchments. But LEE is said to have been greatly strengthened, and to be on the point of taking the initiative. SHERIDAN is retreating, and EARLY or EWELL is hoping for another attack, of which every mail may bring us the result, and which will be fought, not for Lynchburg, but for the Potomac. On the whole, military affairs promise most favourably for the South; and the day of President LINCOLN's reelection finds the Northern dream of conquest more than ever impracticable.

Re-election of Mr. Lincoln.

THE latest advices from America bring us intelligence of a fact which had been anticipated by the public mind of Europe, that ABRAHAM LINCOLN has been reelected President of the United States, to serve four years from and after the 4th day of March next. The reelection was accomplished without disturbance at the polls, and by a majority of voters and States of the North that the most sanguine of LINCOLN's adherents had not looked for. The PRESIDENT himself was more than content with a result which showed to his fervent spirit and pious perceptions that the Almighty had 'directed the mind of the country to a right conclusion;' and there remains to the supporters of M'CLELLAN, Peace Democrats and War Democrats, only the bitter humiliation of defeat, hopeless and overwhelming.

The Democracy has, indeed, only itself to blame for the melancholy *finale* of the last struggle for constitutional government in the United States. As we ventured to suggest, when they deserted the policy marked out in the resolutions of the Chicago Convention and came before the country committed to the continuance of the war, they virtually gave up the contest, for they surrendered the sole ground of effective opposition. The men who desired to secure an honourable peace found the only plank in the platform on which they could stand, knocked suddenly from under their feet, and between two contending parties, both pledged to the prosecution of the wasting strife, there was little to choose. It was easy to see, however, which of the contestants would prevail. An organisation, made up of discordant materials, supporting a candidate whose professions were at variance with the party creed, was feeble against an Administration wielding the vast patronage and power of the Federal authority. Had the issue of peace or interminable war been fairly and honestly presented to the people—had the Democrats possessed the moral courage to stand up to the policy they had adopted in council, the result might, perhaps, have been different. As it was, there was no hope for General M'CLELLAN from the very moment he wrote his letter accepting the nomination, and the election thenceforward ceased to inspire any real interest. To the people of the Confederate States, the choice of a President by the people living beyond the Potomac was a matter of quite as little concern, except so far as that choice might bear upon the great work in which they were engaged, as the selection of a Prime Minister in a German Principality; and we can imagine that, to an intelligent, dispassionate citizen of the United States, the preference he might entertain for M'CLELLAN over LINCOLN would be merely the instinctive sentiment that prefers the gentleman to the buffoon.

The consequences to the people of the North of the election of LINCOLN extend farther into the future than any class of that demented and unhappy people care to look. The Government at Washington has long since assumed the worst features of an absolute despotism, but henceforth it will dominate with a disregard of constitutional forms that no tyranny on earth has ever exceeded. The popular sanction has been affixed to all the lawless acts of four years of misrule; the people have stupidly bowed their necks to the yoke; they have declared by their suffrage that they value not the *Habeas Corpus*, nor the trial by jury, nor the liberty of the press; they have voluntarily given up, in the madness of the hour, all those muniments of liberty established by law, which the English nation were centuries in securing. Not for them did RUSSELL die, not for them did MILTON write—never let statesmen of the United States quote again the Areopagitica; the rich inheritance of Anglo-Saxon freedom they have basely flung aside. They would be dupes and victims, and they are, and the worst of their folly is that they saw their vile Mokannah in all his hideous deformity before they gave themselves to his embraces. That LINCOLN will be a severer tyrant hereafter than he has been heretofore is already sufficiently apparent. The tone of SEWARD's speech delivered when the election was no longer doubtful, as contrasted with the tone of the speech he delivered several weeks before, is enough to manifest the temper of the Government as affected by that event. New York city was the *locale* of the strongest vote aginst LINCOLN, and BUTLER has been placed as Military Governor over New York city. Journals odious to the Administration have hitherto been suppressed in many places, by BUTLER himself in New Orleans and Norfolk; it remains to be seen how long the Opposition press of New York, in its hopeless struggle for liberty of speech, will be permitted to criticise freely the acts of the PRESIDENT or his lieutenants, emperor or satrap. The bastiles of the Republic will be speedily filled with new inmates; Mr. SEWARD's little bell will be constantly vibrant with its tintinnabulations; and HORATIO SEYMOUR, who has just been ejected from the seat of Governor of the State of New York, where his want of nerve has been so lamentably conspicuous—nay, General M'CLELLAN himself, who has resigned his commission in the army of the United States, may soon be fugitives from the wrath of the Government whose wisdom they dared call in question.

What then remains? Four years more of a desolating war, waged for no other purpose than to gratify the malice and cupidity of a reckless and misguided faction; four years more of sacrifice and endurance on the part of a brave and united people whose sufferings and heroism have called forth the admiration of the world. We say four years, for the only hope that appears to us of an earlier termination of the war lies in the possible inability of the North to conduct it so long. The capacity of the South for resistance would outlast the reign of Lincoln and his successors for many decades to come. No one now pretends that the North can ever reduce the South into subjection. The Republican leaders themselves declare that their purpose is no longer to bring back the Southern people to their loyalty, but utterly to exterminate them from the face of the earth. And is this a purpose that can command the approval of European cabinets? We would make no appeal to foreign Governments for intervention in the unhappy quarrel. The Confederate States themselves proudly disdain asking armed interference in their behalf. Defiant of the insolent oppressor that seeks their enslavement or annihilation, trusting under God in their own strong arms and the eternal justice of their cause, they stand today, as they have always stood, at the threshold of their homes, ready to lay down their lives in defence of altar and fireside. But, in the view of the fact that the Confederate States have maintained their independent Government during four years of war, carried on with colossal means of offence against them; bearing in mind the utter hopelessness of the work of their destruction, and the stupendous wickedness of such a work were it possible of accomplishment; considering yet further that the people of the North have shown themselves utterly incapable of their own redemption from the headlong career to ruin, the question comes up to every thoughtful observer—how long will the enlightened nations of the earth allow this war to go on? The responsibility of Europe for the waste of human life and all the incalculable sorrow involved in the needless continuance of the struggle cannot be shaken off; and those who permit blood to be shed wantonly are not guiltless of that blood, if, indeed, they are not to be regarded as sharers in all the infamy of the crime.

The Apology of the 'Wachusetts.'

The United States Minister at the Court of Brazil, the notorious Mr. J. Watson Webb, has tendered on behalf of his Government what purports to be an apology for the seizure of the Confederate sloop-of-war *Florida* in a Brazilian harbour. His Excellency reserves the right of picking holes in the Brazilian statement of facts hereafter, when he shall have learned by what falsehood the Consul and Captain who were concerned in that outrage intend to palliate their crime, if indeed they conceive it to need any palliation at all, and do not rather magnify the illegality and insolence of their act, in order to gain credit with their countrymen for an audacity and contempt of neutral rights surpassing that which gained for Captain Wilkes so general a popularity, and so many public dinners and laudatory speeches. But, pending any explanation which those persons may have to offer, Mr. Webb considers the case sufficiently clear to warrant him in promising reparation, and in tendering at once an expression of his regret that such an act should have been committed in the harbours of a Power so friendly as Brazil. So far all is well; and the admirers of Federal promptness and vigour who found matter for satisfaction in the energy displayed by the *Wachusetts*, and the patriotic zeal with which Mr. Wilson sacrificed his personal character to the interests of his country, have fresh matter of exultation in the ready and generous frankness with which the representative of the United States tenders an apology which Brazil is hardly strong enough to have extorted. There are, however, one or two points which we feel called upon to notice, which do not redound so much to the credit either of the envoy or of his Government.

And first of the omissions of this notable despatch. It will be remembered by our readers that both Mr. Wilson and Captain Collins, of the *Wachusetts*, pledged their honour that the Federal ship would commit no breach of the peace while in Brazilian waters. Indeed, this promise was necessary to the success of the scheme. Had it not been given, both the Brazilians and the Confederates would have been on their guard, and the attack could not have been undertaken but at imminent hazard and with great likelihood of failure. It was this solemn assurance which disarmed the suspicions of both, and left the Brazilian guns unloaded and the *Florida* half-manned. In Europe this would be considered by far the worst part of the transaction. The act itself, so scandalous in its shameless disregard of every principle of public law, would have made any European nation blush for its officers; but the deliberate forfeiture of their plighted word would have been felt to inflict not only on themselves, but on their country, a disgrace which no atonement could effectually wipe out.

Another remarkable omission is that of any description of the reparation which Brazil may expect. On this point, perhaps, Mr. Webb did well to be silent. It may be as well to keep Brazil as long as possible in the expectation of real and honourable satisfaction. What she will really get, if she gets anything at all, it is not difficult to foresee. A formal apology will be made for the offence, and the offenders will receive a reprimand; perhaps, if the matter should be taken up very earnestly by the greater Powers, a Court of Inquiry may be assembled, and directed to prolong its sittings until the indignation of Europe has cooled. In the meantime the *Florida* will be retained; and in due course Mr. Wilson will receive some comfortable appointment, and Captain Collins will receive his commission as Admiral. This was the process in the case of the *Trent*. We obtained an apology, veiled and jumbled up in a long defensive and recriminatory despatch; Messrs. Mason and Slidell were given up; and Captain Wilkes was sent as Admiral to command the squadron cruising among our West Indian islands, where he certainly avenged in unnumbered insults to our flag any mortification which the disavowal of his act may have given him. This will not do. If the neutral Powers wish to put a stop to acts of outrage, they must insist on two things: first, the rendition of the spoil, and secondly the effective punishment of the offenders. By the law of nations they have a right to both. When Lord Russell conceived that our uniform had been insulted by a Brazilian guard, he did not hesitate to demand the dismissal of its officer; and though he was wrong, and condemned by the arbitrator on the original ground of complaint, there was no question as to his right to demand that kind of satisfaction. So, when a vessel has been illegally seized, the Prize Court awards damages, not against the Government but against the captor, avowedly for the purpose of protecting neutral vessels against 'excess of zeal' on the part of cruisers. As to the rendition, of that there can be no question. No one can take advantage of his own wrong. True, it has been the common practice to be satisfied with restoration and apology, and to leave the punishment of the guilty to their own Government. But why? Because it is conceived that the disagreeable necessity of apologising is sufficient to ensure due care on the part of the belligerent Government to prevent a repetition of the offence. But this does not apply to the United States. A Seward, a Webb, a Lincoln, or a Butler cares nothing for the humiliation of an apology, if it be salved with substantial profit. They are quite willing to go on sinning and apologising, if they may keep the fruit of their sin. Thus, though they have sometimes had to release a ship, they have taken care not to damp the zeal of their cruisers by letting them pay damages; and when their officers commit an outrage profitable to the country, though forced to reprimand them, they take care to reward. The only way of dealing with such a Government is through substantial penalties. Force it to restore its prey, and to punish the captors, and you will hear no more of such doings; let him retain the spoils, and no apology you can extort will prove an effectual lesson either to the Government or to its officers. Nothing but the restoration of the *Florida* and the dismissal of Captain Collins from the service ought to be accepted by the neutral Powers.

Mr. Webb's despatch is not wholly apologetic. It is occupied in part, like Mr. Seward's despatch about the *Trent*, with an elaborate justification, and partly with a violent attack upon England. 'Until the rebels are a recognised nationality, they cannot bestow a national character on their vessels, and these are consequently pirates, which may be seized anywhere and by any one.' Mr. Webb's ignorance of history and law is not surprising, but it is very complete. The history of Greece, or the life of Lord Dundonald, would at once have occurred to his mind, and taught him that long before Greece or Brazil were recognised by any foreign State, their flag enjoyed all belligerent privileges, and was nowhere more welcome than in the ports of the United States. Ignorance of this kind in a diplomatist is a little inconvenient, but it is inseparable from the system on which a democracy like that of the North confers its favours.

Then, again, according to the notions of Mr. Webb, foreign Powers have no right to recognise American 'rebels' as belligerents, and to do so is a *casus belli* of precisely the same character as the recognition of their independence. Mr. Webb either imagines that there is one law for the United States and another for Europe, or he forgets the recognition so promptly accorded to the belligerent flags of Chili, Mexico, Peru, Buenos Ayres, Brazil, especially by his own country. He is quite unaware that neutrality absolutely demands such recognition, inasmuch as Powers refusing it, if they were brought into contact with the belligerents at all, would be forced to treat the unrecognised party as pirates, and assist in the war against them; and equally unaware that no 'rebellion' possessed of an organised government, a large territory, an army, and ships, was ever treated otherwise than as a belligerent He accuses England as the sole cause of the general determination of the world to treat the South as a belligerent, because England was the first to proclaim that purpose; ignorant it would seem, not only that there was no other course open, but that the course to be taken was preconcerted; a preconcert of which Mr. Seward angrily complained. He complains that she took her determination within fifteen days after she received the news of the outbreak of the rebellion; forgetful that the Confederate States had already been in existence as a *de facto* Power for some months. He attributes her action to a malignant desire to break up the Union; unaware that if she had not recognised the belligerency of the South she must have broken up the blockade; and, finally, he ignores altogether the fact that the Supreme Court of the United States, as soon as the question came before it, decided that Mr. Lincoln himself, by proclaiming the blockade, had placed the South, so far as foreign States were concerned, on the footing of a belligerent Power. All this series of errors and absurdities are accumulated to prove that Brazil did very wrong to follow the example of England; that the recognition of 'rebels' as belligerents by foreign Powers does not affect the right of their enemy to treat them as pirates—in foreign ports! and that, therefore, the *Wachusetts* had a perfect right to seize the *Florida*. We rather think that even Mr. Seward will feel that for once his disciple and subordinate has gone a little too far in his 'sincere flattery' of imitation, and caricatured his style a little too energetically—the more so that all this argument is thrown away. Mr. Webb admits that, as the *Wachusetts* dared not have seized the *Florida* in a French or English port, she ought not to have seized her in Bahia, and promises suitable reparation.

In expressing his regret, and that of his Government, for the untoward occurrence, Mr. Webb gives utterance to a wish in which we sympathise more warmly than, we suspect, his superiors will do. 'It will be to his Government, as it is to the undersigned, a source of very sincere regret that, if such an event must of necessity have occurred, it did not take place in the waters of the Power which, fifteen days after hearing of the rebellion in the United States, joyfully and hopefully proclaimed our rebels a belligerent Power.' It *is* unfortunate. How delightful it would have been for Captain Collins to have found the *Florida* at Southampton, under the guns of a British battery, and to have cut her out thence! How loud would have been the cheers of New York; how the pulpits of Boston would have rung with the hero's praise; how Mr. Seward would have thanked Heaven that the act did not occur in the waters of a feeble and inoffensive Power like Brazil! What honours would have been lavished on the victor; what dinners he would have eaten; what fair hands would have worked for him slippers and smoking-caps entwined with laurel! What reward would have been too great for the man who had brought to the shores of America, not the *Florida* only, but the whole ironclad fleet of England; who had not only captured a rebel cruiser, but defied to battle the 'first naval Power in the world'? Certainly there *is* reason to regret that 'this event did not take place in the waters of the Power' which could have by force avenged the insult.

Resignation of Lord Lyons.—We have reason to believe that Lord Lyons, Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, has sent over his resignation. Ill health, occasioned by unwearied exertion in the performance of his onerous duties, has led, as we are informed, to this determination on the part of his Lordship, whose services, under peculiarly difficult circumstances, can scarcely be appreciated in their full extent. We think we are justified in saying that the pacific relations still existing between Great Britain and the so-called United States of America are due, in the first degree, to the tact and temper displayed by Lord Lyons in his intercourse with the Government of Washington.—*The Morning Post.*

THE BIGLOW PAPERS.*

THE Abolitionist party in the Northern States has from the very outbreak of the war expressed extreme disappointment and indignation at the total want of sympathy for the Federal cause manifested by a country where Abolitionist traditions were so popular and so cherished as in England. 'You have for the last thirty years been taunting us with our connection with slavery. You have pointed to it as a stain on our national escutcheon. You have ridiculed its utter inconsistency with the declaration so frequently and boastfully repeated among us, that all men are born free and equal. Yet now, when we have finally broken with slavery—when we are waging a desperate war in order to purge our land from its pollution—when we are fighting to establish throughout the Union the freedom and equality of all men, irrespective of race and colour—you turn your backs upon us, and give all your sympathies to the slaveholders who are fighting against us.' The inference was that the English hatred of slavery was purely hypocritical, and assumed only to excuse her real and earnest hatred to America. It is needless, with historical facts fresh in the memory of the generation which witnessed them, to reason upon such a charge as this. England proved her sincerity by abundant and extravagant sacrifices. Fanatically convinced that slavery was a crime and an injustice, an abomination to God and an outrage on humanity, she spared no price to cleanse her hands of it. She paid down 30,000,000*l.* sterling to her own slaveholders. She ruined her most flourishing colonies. She quarrelled with some of her best customers—she took endless trouble and offered innumerable bribes to foreign Powers—she sacrificed every year much money and many valuable lives—in order to stop the slave-trade. The alienation of Spain, Portugal, and Brazil—the desolation of the West Indies—the African squadron—these are the monuments of British sincerity. Our abolitionism was devout and earnest in exact proportion to the ignorance out of which it sprang. Men who could be deluded by Olmsted, women who cried over the impossible woes of Uncle Tom, dissenting preachers who dilated on the prurient abominations of Hildreth's 'White Slave,' knew too little of Southern slavery as it was, too little of negro character as it is and always must be, not to be thoroughly earnest in their hatred of the first and their admiration of the second. The Abolitionists of New England had, therefore, some reason to expect that Englishmen would accept their version of the Secession question—would recognise the Federal cause as that of Abolition, and regard a war for empire as a crusade against slavery. How came it that that hope was so speedily disappointed?

This was due partly to the circumstances which occurred between the secession of South Carolina and the outrage on the *Trent*—the events of 1861—which made it clear beyond all question that the North was not fighting against slavery, but for empire. But it was due also, in no small measure, to the conduct of the Abolitionists themselves. The strange course of policy which that intemperate and ill-advised sect pursued is nowhere to be more clearly traced than in the volumes of verse which we have placed at the head of this article. Mr. J. Russell Lowell is certainly the second of American poets; and he is much more of a man of action and of the world than the gentle and dreamy author of 'Evangeline.' A citizen of Massachusetts, a fanatical admirer of the founders of that Republic, with their savage intolerance, their impatience of authority, and their habit of attributing to the voice of God the promptings of their own depraved and cruel passions, Mr. Lowell was just the man to become a ready disciple of the Abolition preachers. Those men have in them a good deal of the old Puritan leaven. They inherit the Puritan habit of taking the holiest name in vain as a sanction for their own questionable acts and an authority for their peculiar opinions. They inherit the Puritan contempt for the obligations of civil law and the authority of the State; the Puritan impatience of opposition; the Puritan proneness to rebellion; the Puritan penchant for tyranny; the Puritan lust of blood. Above all, they imitate the Puritans in their utter unscrupulousness in regard to the means by which their ends are to be achieved. They differ from their example chiefly in seeking the opinions which they impute to Divine inspiration, not in revelation, but in their own minds. Of these preachers Mr. Lowell quickly became the disciple and the coadjutor; even his earlier and more serious poems betray their inspiration, and these 'Biglow Papers' were written mainly under their influence. In the contrast between the first and second set we see the change which, in the first six months of 1861, came over the policy of the Abolitionists. Up to 1860, they had been disunionists. The Constitution placed them in an awkward dilemma. They could hold no office, however inferior, without swearing obedience to it; and that oath involved the recognition of slavery and rendition of fugitive slaves. They had thus to choose between perjury and exclusion from public life. Again, they could not but see that the recognition of slavery was a condition of the Union, and that, if New England would not recognise slavery and act up to her Federal engagements, she had no right to claim the advantages of the bond. Accordingly, the more honest of them went to the length of denouncing the Union altogether, violently calling it 'a covenant with hell;' while the less sincere, perjuring themselves from time to time, and not caring to affront public feeling by declaring against the Union, yet looked upon the idea of separation with favour and approval. In this they had the sympathy of Englishmen.

English Abolitionists had learned from their American friends to look upon separation as a thing desirable in the interest of the North; as one of the main purposes of the Wendell Phillipses, Beechers, and Garrisons; as the only remedy for an intolerable state of things; as liberating Massachusetts and her sister States from a connection they felt to be degrading, and from obligations they could not fulfil without dishonour. In this light nearly all Englishmen except the worshippers of the Northern democracy—who did not become Abolitionists in earnest till after the election of Lincoln and the secession of the South—regarded the disruption of the Union. And they were utterly unable to change their view on a sudden, as did the Abolitionists of New England, and clamour for the restoration of that bond between the slave States and the free which they had been taught to regard as necessary to slavery and dishonouring to freedom. Hence it was that, even among avowed and earnest Abolitionists, the secession of the South was regarded with no disfavour in England, and the efforts of the North to reconstruct the Union looked upon with coldness and disapproval.

But the Abolitionists of America were not so consistent. Their feelings were different, if their views had been the same. They hated the South as much as they loved the negro, and their desire of secession had arisen chiefly from the idea that within the Union the South would always retain a moral ascendency. They could not submit to be ruled by slaveowners, but they had no strong objection to ruling over them. Hence, by degrees, they changed their tone. At first some of them stood firm, accepted secession with pleasure, denied the right of the Federal Government to coerce a seceding State, and were ready to 'let the Union slide.' But with the prospect of war came a different view. Hatred of their old enemies prevailed over old principles, old doctrines, old theories of legal right and constitutional privilege. They began to talk as loudly of rebellion as if they had not for the last ten or twenty years been rebels themselves—sometimes by force, sometimes by fraud, resisting the law of the Union; denounced treason as if they had never preached and practised it; and extolled the 'best government on earth,' the 'great and glorious Union,' as if they had never called it a covenant with hell.

As the most brilliant, witty, and cultivated, though by no means one of the most influential among them, Mr. Lowell may without injustice be treated as the best and most favourable representative of his party. The marvellous change which has come over them is manifested in these satiric papers of his with that incisiveness and distinctness of contradiction which prose writings rarely afford; and certainly no two men were ever more unlike than the Peace-at-any-price Abolitionist and Disunionist of 1846 and the Unionist War-Christian of 1864.

Mr. Hosea Biglow, Mr. Lowell's *alter ego*, is supposed to be a farmer of Massachusetts, who shrewdly speculates on political events, and sends smart verses thereupon to his pastor, Parson Wilbur, by whom they are sent, accompanied with letters of pedantic and most amusing comment, to a local newspaper. Biglow has a correspondent, Mr. Sawin, who in 1846 was a soldier in Mexico, and who has since settled down, minus a few limbs, as a Southern planter. Sawin's letters are among the cleverest things in the collection, as a caricature of an adversary's views is generally more telling than the most sarcastic comment upon them. The Mexican war was as abhorrent to Mr. Biglow as the Crimean to Mr. Bright—the one being 'a Southern war,' the other 'a war of the aristocracy;' and, accordingly, Mr. Biglow wished his beloved Bay State to resist it by an indignant protest, and ultimately, if necessary, by separation:—

> Ef I'd *my* way, I hed ruther
> We should go to work an' part;
> They take one way, we take t' other—
> Guess it wouldn't break my heart.
> Men hed ough' to put asunder
> Them that God hez nowise jined;
> And I shouldn't greatly wonder
> Ef there's thousands of my mind.

Recruiting sergeants, Fourth of July orators, military shows, and everything that reminded him of the quarrel in which his country was engaged, were utterly abhorrent to him, and provoked sharp sarcasm and energetic rebuke, which derived additional effect from the satirist's perfect confidence that the Almighty and himself were of one mind:—

> Ez for war, I call it murder;
> There you hev it plain and flat.
> I don't want to go no further
> Than my Testyment for that.
> God hez sed so plump an' fairly;
> It's ez long ez it is broad;
> And you've gut to git up airly
> Ef you want to take in God.

The present collection of papers breathes the spirit of war and extermination in every line; not a word of peace, not a shudder at the worst atrocities of war; 'pison-mad, pig-headed fighting' is all the counsel Hosea Biglow has to give. The American man of peace, like him of Birmingham, is suddenly transformed into the fiercest advocate of the bloodiest war on record. Severely as he once lashed those who thought

> That peace, to make it stick at all,
> Must be druv in with bagnets,

he now endorses that view to its utmost extent, and refuses to hear of any compromise until the South shall

> on her knees
> And own one flag, one road to glory—

a road paved with the bodies of emancipated slaves. But, changed as are the man's views, principles, and politics, he is as certain as ever that Heaven is on his side. Whether he has 'gut up airly,' or whether he thinks that Providence has changed its mind, we know not; but he has no fear now lest the judgment of murder, which hung over the slayers of Mexican freebooters and partisans, should await the soldiers of Milroy, M'Neil, and Butler, the bombarders of Charleston or the devastators of Virginia. To shoot a *ranchero* was murder, denounced as such in positive terms by the New Testament. But to hang a Maryland or Kentuckian Democrat is an act of faith highly pleasing to Heaven; while the slaughter of Confederate citizens, whether soldiers or non-combatants, is the highest exercise of brotherly love and Christian charity, and the bounden duty of every pious New-Englander. Such, in sober truth, is the doctrine of the 'Biglow Papers.' According to the first set all war is a crime, and every soldier is a murderer; secession is a duty and a right. According to the second set secession is treason and rebellion; and this war is, on the part of the North, a duty to God, by failing in which it would forfeit His favour for ever. To such things can serious and religious men be brought, when once they allow themselves to attribute their own passions and prejudices, their political and ethical judgments, their interpretations of Scripture and of nature, to the Deity. Mr. Lowell's offence may serve as a warning to some English writers. There is but a step between Puritan piety and that worst and most offensive sort of blasphemy which consists in attributing human mutability, inconsistency, wickedness, and folly to the Divine Being.

Except for this fault, it is impossible to be angry with the 'Biglow Papers.' They are, of course, full of offences against truth and decency; as caricatures, utterly unlike the original, often reversing its real features; as satires, abusive and unfair; as poetry, deformed by a painful mixture of the great and the ludicrous. But they contain so much that is laughable, and it is so easy to turn the laugh against the author, that the most vindictive Southerner can hardly bear malice against Mr. Lowell. If that gentleman have any enemies, however, a ready vengeance is within their reach. Let certain lines of his be printed and pasted up in every haunt of Irishmen, in every lager-bier saloon and recruiting office, and the author will speedily be sent to prison as a traitor and 'copperhead' for discouraging enlistments, and so assisting the rebels. Do not the following seem as if written for that very purpose?—

> 'Taint your eppylets and feathers
> Make the thing a grain more right:
> 'Taint a follerin your bell wethers
> Will excuse ye in His sight.
> Ef you take a sword and dror it,
> And go stick a feller thru,
> Guvment aint to answer for it;
> God 'll send the bill to you.

A more emphatic warning to intending recruits for Grant or Sherman it would be difficult to write.

So far Mr. Hosea Biglow is simply the puppet and mouthpiece of the Abolitionist faction. He vented their secessionist and peace-at-any-price rant in 1846, he utters their Unionist and War-Christian nonsense in 1864. It is from the party at large that he derives his ignorance of and hatred to the South, his antipathy to England, his impiety and his self-conceit. But in his wit, his vivacity, his telling sarcasms, and his fearless attacks on friends and foes alike, he speaks from the heart and with the voice of Mr. Lowell. We willingly forgive the malice, in acknowledgment of the spice of truth, in the following:—

> Of all the sarse that I can call to mind,
> England doos make the most onpleasant kind.
> 'Tis you're the sinner ollers, she's the saint,
> Wut's good's all English, all thet isn't aint.
> Wut profit's her is ollers right and just,
> And ef you don't read Scriptur so, you must;
> She's praised herself until she fairly thinks
> There aint no light in Natur when she winks.
> Haint she the Ten Commandments in her pus?
> Could the world stir 'thout she went, tu, ez nus?
> She aint like other mortals, thet's a fact;
> *She* never stopped the Habeas Corpus Act
> Nor specie payments, nor she never yet
> Cut down the int'rest on her public debt.
> *She* don't put down rebellions, lets 'em breed,
> And's ollers willin' Ireland should secede.
> She's all thet's honest, honerable, and fair,
> And when the vartoos died, they made her heir.

And we can be grateful, if his countrymen can forgive him, for so good a description of Northern men and Northern politics as is contained in our last extract:—

> Long'z ye give out commissions to a lot o' peddlin' drones
> Thet trade in whiskey with their men and skin them to their bones;
> Long'z ye sift out safe canderdates that no one aint afeard on,
> 'Cos they're so thund'rin' eminent for bein' never heard on,
> And haint no record, ez it's called, for folks to pick a hole in,
> Ez if it hurt a man to hev a body with a soul in,
> *And it wuz ostentashun to be showin' it about*
> *Whun half his feller-citizens contrive to do without,*
> Long'z ye suppose your votes can turn boiled kebbage into brain,
> And any man thet's poplar's fit to drive a lightnin' train;
> Long'z you believe democracy means *I'm ez good ez you be,*
> And thet a feller from the ranks can't be a knave or booby;
>
> . . . . . .
>
> Long'z these things last—and *I* don't see no gret signs of improvin'—
> I shan't up stakes, not hardly yet, nor twouldn' pay for movin';
> For, 'fore you lick us, it 'll be the long'st day ever *you* see.

So writes Mr. Sawin to his friend Biglow, confident in the prospects of the South, less from any liking for his neighbours—of whom he speaks much as Mrs. Stowe would do—than from utter contempt for the Yankees. For once, we think, Sawin was right. We do not, even now, see 'no gret signs of improvin';' and the 'day' lengthens out indefinitely without bringing the North any nearer to her purpose, or inducing the South to show any symptoms of being, or intending to be, 'licked.'

A DISTINGUISHED FEDERAL.—Among the recent arrivals from Lincolndom is General Tom Thumb. The General has been giving a series of private receptions, and last night he was received at Marlborough House by the Prince and Princess of Wales. The General was accompanied by his wife and other relations, and the Duke of Cambridge and the Prince Arthur were invited to see them. Their Royal Highnesses gave the little people a genuine reception.

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* *The Biglow Papers.* Edited, with an Introduction, &c., &c., by HOMER WILBUR, A.M. Fourth edition. Boston, 1856.
The Biglow Papers. By JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL. Second Series. London: Trübner & Co. 1864

THE 'BRITISH ARMY AND NAVY REVIEW.'*

THE November number of this excellent magazine presents us with the fifth and last chapter of the historical sketch of 'Lee's Second Year of Campaigns in Defence of Richmond,' by Captain C. C. Chesney, R.E. All who have read the former work of this author on the American war will receive with interest and satisfaction the military criticisms embodied in these later chapters. The text is full, clear, and impartial, and, to render certain passages of the narrative the more intelligible, it is accompanied by maps and diagrams of the field of operations. Descriptions of battles and sieges, as given even in popular histories, are too often difficult of comprehension, and when written out professionally, as illustrations of the art of war, they can be understood only by students or amateurs. Captain Chesney so writes, however, of the movements of armies, of attack and defence, of strategy, and other matters military, that his accounts are not at all like official reports or scientific essays, and will meet with a large and eager acceptance outside of the artillery mess and the Staff College. In the five chapters embraced in the numbers of the *British Army and Navy Review* now on our table, he describes some of the most important and exciting events of the war in the Southern States, including the battle of Gettysburg and the great fight at Chickamauga, and nowhere else can be found so connected and accurate a presentation of the plans and incidents of these two momentous conflicts.

* July to November, 1864. Office: 9, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall.

CONFEDERATE OFFICIAL MANIFESTO.

THE following is the joint note addressed to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs by the diplomatic representatives of the Confederate Government abroad, transmitting an official copy of the manifesto of the Congress of the Confederate States. We understand that an identical note has been addressedto the principal Governments of Western Europe. The manifesto referred to was printed in THE INDEX of July 14, 1864.

Paris, November 11, 1864.

To His Excellency M. Drouyn de Lhuys, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

SIR,—The undersigned Commissioners of the Confederate States of America, in pursuance of the instructions of their Government, have the honour to present to your Excellency a copy of a manifesto issued by the Congress of said States with the approval of the President, and of which the President was requested to cause copies to be transmitted to their Commissioners abroad, to the end that the same might be by them laid before foreign Governments; they at the same time communicate a copy of the preamble and resolutions of Congress accompanying said manifesto.

The dispositions, principles, and purposes by which the Confederate States have been and are still animated, are set forth in this paper with all the authority due to the solemn declarations of the legislative and executive branches of their Government, and with a clearness which leaves no room for comment or explanation. In a few sentences it is pointed out that 'all they ask is immunity from interference with their internal peace and prosperity, and to be left in the undisturbed enjoyment of their inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, which their common ancestry declared to be the equal heritage of all parties to the social compact. Let them forbear aggressions upon us, and the war is at an end. If there be questions which require adjustment by negotiation, they have ever been willing, and are still willing, to enter into communication with their adversaries in a spirit of equity and manly frankness, and commit their cause to the enlightened judgment of the world, to the sober reflection of their adversaries themselves, and to the solemn and righteous arbitrament of Heaven.'

The undersigned beg leave most respectfully to invite the attention of the Government of his Imperial Majesty to this frank and full explanation of the attitude and purposes of the Confederate States, and will merely remark in addition, that since the issuing of that manifesto the war has continued to be waged by our enemies with even increased ferocity, a more signal disregard of all the rules of civilised warfare, and more wanton violation of the obligations of international law.

The undersigned, having thus complied with the instructions of their Government, beg to assure your Excellency of the distinguished consideration with which they have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient servants,

(Signed) JOHN SLIDELL.
J. M. MASON.
A. DUDLEY MANN.

A similar document, with the necessary changes, has been presented to all the Cabinets of Europe (Constantinople excepted). Mr. Slidell has handed in person to M. Drouyn de Lhuys the above. Bishop Lynch will hand to the Pope the copy intended for him.

PROPOSED ENLISTMENT OF THE SOUTHERN NEGROES.—The productive industry of the Confederates will but be crippled by the withdrawal of even all their able-bodied negroes. The light work of field labour, in the rich soils of the South, is very generally performed by negro women and boys and girls over thirteen or fourteen years old. The surpluses of their usual production no longer necessary, the Southern people can very well afford to withdraw from their culture of breadstuffs the enormous number of men proposed, seeing that more than one-half of *all the residue* of their servants is usually available for the labour of the farm. Neither the sufficiency of their production nor the safety of their labour-system forbids their enlistment of every able-bodied man in their negro-reserves.—*New York Daily News.*

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.

FROM A CONFEDERATE CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS: November 23.

THE question to which the capture of the *Florida* has given rise has not yet ceased to occupy the attention of the Paris press. The *Siècle* and the *Opinion Nationale*, resuming the arguments which they have already put forth, persist in asserting reasons for excusing the aggression of the commander of the *Wachusetts*. These attempts to justify such a proceeding have, however, resulted in the confusion of those by whom they have been made. The *France* and the *Pays* have severely criticised, one the *Opinion*, and the other the *Siècle*; and the *Mémorial Diplomatique*, in an article specially directed to the consideration of this question from an international point of view, has shown that the theory propounded by these two Liberal journals is utterly groundless.

The *France* does not stay to discuss this theory; it is too indignant to do that.

The *Florida*, it exclaims, has been attacked and captured in defiance of all the principles of the law of nations, in defiance of the neutral and sovereign rights of the Brazilian Government, whose authorities were powerless to prevent this act of piracy, this insult to the honour of their country.

In France, in England, in Europe, among all civilised nations, but one sentiment has been expressed—that of the sternest censure of an act which recalls, with still more gravity and audacity, the offence committed by the United States navy on board the *Trent*. Doubtless Brazil will demand and obtain redress in this affair, as the British Government did in the one just alluded to.

. . . . . .

The present question is one of far graver import than the mere approval or disapproval of the outrageous policy of the North or of the heroic resistance of the South; the interest of neutral Powers, the respect due to international securities, and national independence, are alike menaced by this brutal procedure of the United States, which has, strange to say, received the patronage of the *Opinion Nationale*.

The United States have rejected the generous principles proclaimed by the treaty of Paris; they support privateering; they disregard neutral rights; they do not admit the necessity of effective blockades; the right of search is still rigorously enforced by them: in a word, they override all the protective conditions which the code of civilised nations and humanity itself everywhere impose upon belligerents; and now they trample the sacred rights of national sovereignty beneath their feet.

It would be difficult (says the *France*, in concluding) for such an outrage as this to pass without protestation; but that even the gravity of its character should be denied, appeared a thing impossible.

This sharp rejoinder is only equalled by that made by the *Pays* to the *Siècle*:—

We defy the *Siècle* to prove that a vessel carrying our national flag ever gave such an example as that which the *Wachusetts* has just furnished. But the captain of the *Wachusetts* and Consul Wilson, his accomplice, have not invoked the rules of the law of nations. No. They gave their *word of honour* that the *Florida* should not be attacked.

In order the better to lull the vigilance of Captain Morris, to inspire him with a false security, they sent him a cartel; they offered him a loyal combat, which was loyally accepted, and which placed the *Florida* not only under the guaranty of Brazilian neutrality, but also under the guaranty of American honour.

. . . . . .

No American man-of-war would have dared to fire a shot within the port of Brest or of Cherbourg. The sole motive for the insult offered to Brazil was that which has been already named:—Brazil is feeble, and may consequently be insulted with impunity.

What remains of this debate is the undeniable fact that a night attack was made upon an adversary, to which it had been said: 'Sleep peacefully. So long as you remain here, you are safely sheltered from all hostility. I have given my word of honour, and, with a view to still greater precaution, yours has also been demanded. Our engagement shall take place in a few days. I will go out first, I will wait for you in the open sea, and we will fight in broad daylight.'

The captain of the *Wachusetts* has succeeded in taking off the *Florida*, but he has left the honour of his flag in the port of Bahia. If the *Siècle* doubts this, let it enter the first barracks it comes to, and ask the first soldier it there meets. The answer is by no means doubtful.

The *Mémorial Diplomatique* has treated the question from a strictly legal point of view. The article published on the subject by this journal forms a short treatise, in which a summary exposition is given of those points of international law which the present question involves. This article is from the pen of M. Henri Vignaud, from New Orleans, formerly editor of the *Renaissance Louisianaise*. The opinions of this writer in such matters may be regarded as of importance, as three or four months since, when some English vessels were condemned by a prize court at New York, some articles were published by him in the *Mémorial Diplomatique*, which have not only been reproduced by a portion of the English press, but also discussed in Parliament, both in the House of Lords and in the House of Commons.

After having stated the principles by virtue of which the maritime territory of neutrals is inviolable, the *Mémorial Diplomatique* shows that the territorial seas of the neutral are divided into two separate and distinct regions, over which he exercises an unequal sovereignty: the open territorial sea which waters the coast of the neutral, and over which he has but a *limited* jurisdiction, and the ports or roadsteads of the neutral, over which he exercises an *exclusive* sovereignty.

The *Mémorial*, having laid down these premises, deduces from them results which altogether overturn the arguments of the *Siècle* and the *Opinion*. These journals had maintained that, the Confederates having violated the maritime domain of Brazil by capturing American vessels within two miles of the coast, the United States had consequently the right of reprisal. But the distinction above stated destroys such an objection.

That the neutral (says the *Mémorial*), who exercises but a limited sovereignty over his open territorial seas—who, owing to the nature of this domain, can only with difficulty exercise his jurisdiction over them—may be compelled, under certain circumstances, to tolerate acts of hostility committed there by belligerents, may be conceived; but that he should permit such acts to be committed in ports which are absolutely and directly beneath his control, this is inadmissible, nor has it ever been admitted.

No author has ever ventured to say that the roadsteads and ports of a neutral might, under any circumstances whatever, become a legitimate field for the hostile operations of one or two belligerents.

After a minute and elaborate examination of each of the questions to which the capture of the *Florida* has given rise, the *Memorial* deduces its conclusions as follows:—

The *Florida* having been captured within a Brazilian port, the Government of Rio Janeiro has the right to demand a double satisfaction, namely, for the insult which it has itself suffered and for damages sustained by the *Florida*.

The United States Government cannot offer as an excuse for the aggression of the *Wachusetts* that Confederate vessels had already violated the Brazilian territory, since the right of reprisal, doubtful when exercised on the open territorial sea of a neutral, does not exist inside the neutral's ports.

Moreover, the United States Government cannot allege that the Brazilian Government avowed its powerlessness to enforce respect for its neutrality, since this Government spoke only of its sovereignty over its open territorial seas, it being there that the acts were committed of which the United States complained.

If the Brazilian Government does not demand satisfaction from that of the United States, or if it does not obtain it, the Confederate Government will be fully justified in rendering it directly responsible for the wrong which it has suffered.

This long article concludes with the following considerations:—

We have studied this affair of the *Florida* solely in the light of international maritime law: we have busied ourselves neither with the character of this vessel, nor the part hitherto played by her. We have not seen in her a *pirate* attached to an unjust cause, nor an heroic vessel defending, amidst a thousand dangers, the independence of its country, but simply a belligerent vessel whose rights have been violated.

That which we regard as specially important in this regretful affair, is the contumacy with which the United States place themselves above all those international obligations, not imposed by any code, but which humanity and reason, strengthened by usage and by the adherence of all civilised Powers, have rendered inviolable.

We have already, in other matters, shown how greatly the maritime jurisprudence of the United States disaccords with the best-established principles of international law, and we have pointed out the danger to which neutrals would be exposed in allowing precedents to be established which may at some time or other be invoked against themselves.

We feel constrained at the present time again to point out this danger. Neutral rights, so repeatedly trampled under foot by the United States, have in the present instance been ignored under circumstances which are without precedent. Surely never since a public right existed has such a crime as this been perpetrated. The capture of the *Florida* is a unique example in history. To have dared to commit this audacious act, there must have been, to an equal degree, a contempt of the power of neutrals and of all possible rights.

It has been rumoured here that the English Cabinet is about to request the cooperation of that of the Emperor to make certain joint representations to the Washington Government relative to the violation of neutral rights of which Bahia has just been the theatre, but I do not think there any grounds for such a report. The attitude which the Imperial Government will assume in this matter is not yet known; but if we may believe a Brazilian correspondent of the *Patrie*, the French Minister at Rio, as soon as the affair of the *Florida* became known there, hastened to express the deepest sympathy on the occasion to the Government of Brazil. This initiative, says the correspondent, has produced an excellent effect, and the whole of the diplomatic body have followed the example given by the French Minister.

I do not know if it is on this account, as it is said to be, that Mr. Slidell has had an interview with M. Drouyn de Lhuys, but I know that the Emperor's Minister for Foreign Affairs received the Confederate diplomatist with more marked respect than usual, and that the interview was a long and friendly one.

The news of Lincoln's election, which reached here yesterday evening, has produced a great sensation, which has been felt at the Bourse. The chief editor of the *France*, M. Cohen, in devoting the first leader in his journal to the consideration of this intelligence, asks 'if the North will persist in violating, with regard to the South, the rights of popular sovereignty and the independency of States; if all the noble and liberal institutions by which the America of Washington had been made so powerful and so glorious are doomed to perish to the very last in a military dictatorship, having neither restraint nor counterpoise, which sports with the lives of its citizens, with the public fortune, and with the moral and political future of this great nation?' The *France* hopes not.

The *Temps* is most brilliant. Hurrah for 'the good news which announces the speedy reestablishment of the Union!' Hurrah for the American people, 'who have seen that there was but one man capable of bringing the war to a favourable termination!'

The same song is sung by the *Opinion Nationale*.

FUNERAL OF MRS. GREENHOW.—A letter to the *Richmond Sentinel* says: 'The coffin, which was as richly decorated as the resources of the town admitted, and still covered with the Confederate flag, was borne to Oakdale Cemetery, followed by an immense funeral *cortège*. A beautiful spot on a grassy slope, overshadowed by trees, and in sight of a tranquil lake, was chosen for her resting-place. Rain fell in torrents during the day, but as the coffin was being lowered into the grave the sun burst forth in the brightest majesty, and a rainbow of the most vivid colours spanned the horizon. Let us accept the omen, not only for her, the quiet sleeper, who after many storms and a tumultuous and checquered life, came to peace and rest at last, but also for our beloved country, over which we trust the rainbow of hope will ere long shine with brightest dyes.

THE ROCHDALE OPERATIVES AND THE WAR.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Rochdale: November 21.

Another large gathering of the factory operatives in the Rochdale district has taken place this week, the meeting having been convened in accordance with the following placard:—

PEACE AND SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE.

An open-air meeting will be held on Friday, the 18th inst., on the plot of vacant ground behind Mr. Ralph Rawstron's new mill, Whitworth, to take into consideration the present condition of the country, and also to propose some means whereby the distress in the cotton districts can be brought to an end.

Factory operatives should all attend.

The firm of the Rawstrons, I may observe, are perhaps the largest employers of labour in the whole of the manufacturing district. They have five large cotton mills, known as the 'Bridge Mills,' Whitworth, besides a sixth at Black Pits, near Rochdale; and in good times they used to employ from 6,000 to 8,000 hands. In the present state of affairs they have almost a full complement of hands at work, but for the most part on half time.

The weather being exceedingly unpropitious for an out-door meeting, an adjournment took place by the considerate permission of the rev. incumbent (Mr. Gaitskill) to the Church of England Institute, which building was speedily crowded almost to suffocation. The advocates of 'Peace and Southern Independence,' on mounting the platform, were very cordially received. Mr. Samuel Mills, a cotton operative, Rochdale, was voted to the chair.

The Chairman opened the meeting by stating it was very well known in that neighbourhood that he held tolerably decided views on the American question, having had to discuss it in times past with some of the agents of the Union and Emancipation Society in that very place. He went entirely with the South, because he saw that the people of that part of the American continent had shown, both in the senate and in the field, a high and unquestionable capacity for self-government; and therefore he considered it the duty of this country, along with France and other European Powers, to recognise the Confederacy. He concluded by introducing Mr. Mortimer Grimshaw, of whom he said that he was the first working-man in this country to advocate peace on the basis of the independence of the South.

Mr. Grimshaw then moved the first resolution, which was as follows:—

That this meeting wishes to make known the sufferings which the working men in the cotton trade, and their wives and families, have long had to bear, owing to the stoppage in the supply of cotton, which article affords them the only means to earn their daily bread; and this meeting also wishes to make known their fears that, if this war goes on, the sufferings of the cotton operatives will grow worse and worse; also that the poor-law relief was never intended to meet a case of this kind, and cannot do so effectually; and that this meeting cannot see why tens of thousands of British working men should be brought to pauperism, or how it can be reasonable for any Government in time of peace to act in such a way as to bring them to that state.

He appeared that evening, said the speaker, himself a working man, before the working men of the district around Rochdale, and he was one who, like them, had suffered from the consequences of the unnecessary war in America. That war, he believed, ought never to have been allowed to go on, and in his opinion it would not have been continued to the present time but for such men as John Bright and Richard Cobden—men who cried 'Peace, peace,' when their own country was engaged in the Russian war, but are now writing letters to influential men in America, urging the prosecution of the miserable civil war in that ill-fated country. He was told, he said, that day, by a justice of the peace in Rochdale, that John Bright had said to him, if by putting up his little finger he could stop the American war, he would not do it. This statement was followed by great sensation, after which the mover once more read the resolution, and sat down amid great applause.

Mr. K. Smith, of the Oldham Relief Committee, in seconding the resolution, said the time had fully come when the working men ought to speak out upon the condition of the country. He had been an eyewitness of the fearful distress that existed, being himself a member of the Relief Committee for his own town. He could therefore speak from personal observation. Mr. Smith then detailed a variety of 'cases' within his own knowledge, in a strain of natural pathos that is full of meaning to an audience of Lancashire operatives, and concluded by earnestly seconding the motion.

Upon the resolution being put to the meeting, the Chairman declared it carried by an overwhelming majority.

The next resolution was moved by Mr. Amos Stott (Tunnicliffe), cashier to the Messrs. Rawstron, and was as follows:—

That, in consequence of the widespread distress that now prevails in the cotton districts by the continuance of the war in America, this meeting is desirous that Her Majesty's Government should use their influence, together with France and other European Powers, to bring both the belligerents together in order to put a stop to the vast destruction of life and property that is now going on in that unhappy country.

Mr. Stott, who appeared to be exceedingly popular with the operatives in that district, made a special text of Mr. Bright's letter to Horace Greeley. In the course of his criticism he was interrupted by some person in the meeting, who doubted the authenticity of the document, whereupon the chairman, producing a recent number of The Index, read the letter from beginning to end amid expressions of the greatest indignation and excitement.

Mr. R. Fletcher (Whitworth), one of the *employés* of the Messrs. Rawstron, seconded the motion. It was the first time, he said, in his life that he had stood up to address an audience, but he felt it his duty to come forward and tell his fellow operatives what his opinions were upon the American war. He considered it a wicked and purposeless war, and he believed it could never have been carried on by the Yankees themselves. Here the speaker entered at some length upon the case of the *Great Western*. He also called attention to two of their own neighbours who had just returned from New York, one of whom was afraid of being drafted, and the other of being crimped; and both, he added, were teetotallers. This, he said, scarcely bore out the *Manchester Examiner's* saying, that if people going to New York would only keep sober, they would have nothing to fear whether from the recruiting officer or the kidnapper. He cared nothing about a newspaper 'theorising' about one thing and another; what he wanted was facts, and they had one of such facts in their own neighbourhood, which they all knew.

The Chairman, upon putting the foregoing resolution to the meeting, declared it carried by a majority as large as in the previous case.

Mr. J. Matthew (Manchester), moved the third resolution, which was as follows:—

That this meeting of factory and other operatives memorialise the Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston, Her Majesty's First Lord of the Treasury, for the immediate and total repeal of all duties now levied on cotton goods and yarns when imported into British India, and that such memorial be signed by the chairman on behalf of this meeting; and further, that a deputation be appointed to present the memorial to his Lordship, and that Mr. W. J. Leigh, M.P. for South Lancashire, be requested to accompany the deputation and support its prayer.

In support of this resolution Mr. Matthew said he was 'with' Bright and Cobden in their disapproval of the Russian war, and he was very sorry that those politicians had deserted their principles, for if the doctrine of 'arbitration of nations' was good in 1854, what had made it bad in 1864? He should be more sorry, if, like some of their false notions, time should prove that they themselves were 'unsound.' They were both of them in opposition on the 'Ten Hours Bill,' and would any one now say that Bill had not proved itself a blessing both to masters and to men? (Loud cheering from all parts of the meeting.) The speaker also made an effective point in alluding to Messrs. Bright and Cobden's exertions in the repeal of the Corn Laws and other measures of practical utility, but he wanted to know why Richard Cobden, the champion of free trade and the negotiator of commercial treaties, did not go over to America and 'culminate his labours' by getting the tariffs removed in that country. Mr. Matthew concluded a somewhat lengthy and argumentative address by a vigorous appeal in favour of the resolution.

Mr. John Hoyle, cotton manufacturer (Whitworth), seconded the resolution, which was carried almost unanimously.

Some few representatives of the Northern party attempted to move the following amendment, but to no purpose:—

That this meeting deplores the great and long-continued distress in these districts occasioned by the civil war in America, and is earnestly desirous for a speedy return of peace and commercial prosperity; but, at the same time, they feel bound to confess that, since nothing they could do would have prevented the disastrous and destructive war at present raging on the American continent, so at the present time they cannot see that the working men of the Rochdale district, or of England, could do anything towards hastening the termination of that war; and that the true interests of this country can be best served by allowing the American people to fight it out themselves.

The amendment was declared negatived, and the meeting peaceably terminated, after appointing the Chairman one of the proposed deputation to Lord Palmerston.

SOUTHERN SYMPATHY IN THE POTTERIES.

FROM OUR SPECIAL REPORTER.

Burslem: November 19, 1864.

A large and highly influential meeting, convened upon a requisition presented to the Chief Bailiff, was held last evening in this town, for the consideration of the American question. The requisition was signed by every clergyman of the Church of England, the wardens of the four churches in the parish, many ministers of Dissenting denominations, and nearly 200 of the principal inhabitants of the town. It was set forth by the requisitionists that 'the period had now arrived when the independence of the Confederate States ought to be recognised,' and they based that opinion upon the following 'facts'—that 'the Southern States had successfully combated the vastly superior wealth and forces of the Northern States for upwards of three years:' 'that an able, popular, and vigorous Government had been established;' and 'that it was an impossibility for a spirited Anglo-Saxon united race of people, numbering upwards of 4,000,000 of souls and possessing very many thousands of square miles of territory, ever to be conquered and subdued.' While such, however, were the terms of the requisition, it was plainly stated by the leading promoters of the meeting that they had no hope, or even desire, of carrying at the present time a positive resolution to the foregoing effect, seeing that their object would be fully secured by affording an opportunity to the friends of the South for giving expression to their sympathy with the Confederate cause, while the occasion would also serve to draw from the intelligent portion of their opponents whatever they cared to advance in favour of the North.

The Chief Bailiff (W. E. Twigg, Esq.), upon taking the chair, said he inferred, from the manifest tokens of interest already exhibited by that important meeting, there would be a great difference of opinion upon the subject about to be brought before them. It had been reported that the meeting would partake of a political character and would be made to subserve political ends; but he assured them that such was not the fact. When he told them that he in conjunction with others had done his best to dissuade Mr. Beresford Hope, who was one of the warmest sympathisers with the Confederacy, from accepting a pressing invitation to attend and address them upon 'Southern independence,' preferring to leave the matter entirely to the inhabitants of Burslem, they must feel convinced that the meeting was not marked by a political or partisan bias. With respect to Burslem itself, he might remind them how severely the town, even two or three years ago, suffered from the unnatural contest still protracted in America. He had a strong feeling upon the subject, but that feeling he should suppress in his capacity as chairman of that meeting. He might at least call to their recollection the time when more than 150 wheelbarrows were drawn up round the Town Hall to carry fuel to the humble hearths that wanted the genial aspect of a little fire in consequence of the fearful strife across the Atlantic. That fearful strife still prevailed, and if they could by any means help to bring it to an end, he should individually, and he did not doubt they would collectively, be very glad to do so. He concluded amid general applause by requesting the meeting to give a fair hearing to every speaker.

The Rev. Dr. Armstrong, rector of Burslem, then moved the following resolution:—

That this meeting considers the time has arrived when Her Majesty's Government, in conjunction with the other Powers of Europe, should recognise the independence of the Confederate States of America.

The reading of the resolution was received with prolonged and almost general cheering, followed, however, by some expressions of dissent.

The rev. Doctor said, if he could be convinced that he held wrong opinions, he would abandon those he now entertained, and it would not be the first time he had candidly come forward and acknowledged himself beaten. (Hear, hear.) Not as a champion of the Southerners, but as a Christian minister, he took, he hoped, a broad and liberal view of the subject before the meeting. He saw, on the other side of the Atlantic, how men of the same flesh and blood as themselves had been slaughtering each other for nearly four years, without at present any prospect of the horrible carnage being stayed. Every person having a touch of humanity must feel with him that no proper effort should be spared that might tend to put a stop to the work of slaughter. It was not to be desired that they should interfere in any warlike sense with the North, but it was deemed proper that, as the war had gone on for nearly four years and there appeared to be no likelihood of its terminating, the Powers of Europe should do as the Federal Government had already in a great measure done, viz. recognise the Government of the South. (Great cheering, followed again by some disapprobation.) He would repeat what he had just said: he maintained that in a very great measure the North had recognised the South, and therefore was debarred from taking offence if the European Powers followed its example. If he were asked how the North had recognised the South, he would make the conclusive reply that they exchanged prisoners on equal terms. (Cheers.) If the North had the power to repress the 'rebellion,' they would have shown it before now; but it was manifest that they had not the power, and it appeared equally clear that, failing the ability to subjugate, they would be content with nothing short of extermination. (Interruption.) If they went on as they appeared to be going on, their object must needs be to 'exterminate' the gallant Christians of the South. (Great cheering.) Let him show the ungodly nature of the strife by an instance of the many cruelties practised by the generals and soldiery of the North. (The rev. Doctor then read an extract from a letter by the Special Commissioner of the *Daily Telegraph*, showing the horrible barbarity perpetrated by the Federal General Custer in the Shenandoah Valley, in subjecting children to martial law and ordering a lad of sixteen years to be shot as a 'rebel.' The reading of the extract caused a profound feeling of indignation, a large majority of the meeting joining in the cry of 'Shame.') The rev. Doctor said that was not all. He held in his hand a document containing legal proof that a young man from the village of Tunstall, apprenticed at Burslem, who took his passage some few years ago to the States, succeeded in acquiring some property at Knoxville, which, however, had been recently confiscated because the owner would not forswear his allegiance to the Queen of Great Britain and become a citizen under the stars and stripes. (Shame.) The Americans of the South, and many of them in the North, were of the same flesh and blood with the people of this country; but judging from the way in which they were combating each other, without any prospect of a termination of the strife, he thought it was time that Her Majesty's Government, without desiring to offend the North, should recognise the Confederate Government so far as the Government of Washington had already done; and in saying this he stood before them simply as a Christian clergyman whose desire was for 'peace in our time' throughout the world. (The rev. Doctor resumed his seat amid warm expressions of applause.)

Mr. W. H. Mayer, in seconding the resolution, declared himself a 'Southerner to the backbone,' and hoped to see the Confederate States free from the most despotic Government that ever oppressed a gallant nation. He advocated the recognition of the South also as a free-trader, and he would ask how could the friends of free trade support the aggressive and bloodthirsty Government of a country that was the greatest monopolist on the face of the earth? He called attention to the high tariffs passed by the North, and said that, so soon as the manufacturers in those States could do without English manufactured goods, fair competition on this side would be stopped by the passing of still higher tariffs. He was surprised to find there were working men so credulous as to admire, at the bidding of their leaders, the operations of a Government that was depriving them directly or indirectly of a portion of their daily bread. (Interruption.) A gentleman in the crowd had just said that England obtained her grain from the United States. All he (Mr. Mayer) could say was, if the people of England had to depend upon that source of supply, the person who had interrupted him would not long have such powerful lungs. The Federal Government, he repeated, was the most despotic on the face of the earth.

(Cheers, and cries of 'No.') Did those who said 'no' think that such a meeting as that could be held in the Empire City of New York? (No, no.) The sooner the unholy war in which the Federals were engaged was ended, the better it would be for all classes. He thought —and he believed the opinion to be general—the British Government ought to abstain from warlike interference; but what he wanted to see was this, that if one or more of the Continental Powers should renew its wish to make a proposition of a friendly kind which would tend to terminate the strife, Her Majesty's Government should be willing to accept such a well-intentioned proffer of good offices. (Loud cheering.)

At this stage of the proceedings, although up to this time the 'South' had the victory by an overwhelming majority, the meeting was thrown into a state of the greatest confusion by the Chief Bailiff introducing the Secretary of the Southern Independence Association (Manchester), who, as a stranger, was not competent, it was urged, to address a formally convened meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Burslem. After a good deal of vehement altercation, in the course of which Mr. Kershaw was warmly supported by a large portion of the crowd, a challenge was offered by that gentleman (and subsequently, I believe, accepted) to meet in public discussion the 'best man' the Northern faction could bring against him. The excitement, however, that had now possessed the popular mind was scarcely allayed by that arrangement, and the remainder of the proceedings were marked by more or less of disorder. This was the first time, remarked Mr. Kershaw, that he had been refused a hearing; and, when he remembered the eulogium recently passed upon the people of Burslem by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, he could scarcely dare to believe they would have conducted themselves in such a manner.

The uproar having somewhat subsided, the Rev. F. W. Macdonald opposed Dr. Armstrong's motion in a speech marked by considerable moderation in tone and statements. When the war broke out the national feeling, he said, was fairly represented by the *Times*, which used these memorable words: 'The North is fighting for freedom, the South for slavery.' Since then, however, the *Times* had once more vindicated its title as the 'national weathercock.' It showed which way the wind blew, but could scarcely be consulted with safety as to the cardinal points of right or wrong. They had all admired as they ought to admire the chivalry of the Southern soldier; and they had all admired as they ought to admire the ability, courage, and self-sacrifice of the Southern generals and statesmen. (Applause.) They had been—and they would be more than human if they had not been—irritated through the insolence of the Northern press by the soreness arising out of the *Trent* and the *Alabama*; but he hoped they would not suffer prejudice, or, if they pleased, patriotism, to warp their judgment. After dealing at some length with the question of slavery, which he also treated like a man of sense, he argued that to ask the English Government to recognise the independence of the South was almost tantamount to asking them to obtain it. He thought that England ought to acknowledge the Confederacy when the Confederacy had achieved its independence. The rev. gentleman concluded a dispassionate address by assuring the meeting that it was because he loved his country that he wished to refrain from taking part in the strife. He deplored the slaughter, and prayed that no Englishman would write, speak, or do anything to swell the torrent of blood that had already overspread the land.

Mr. Thomas Edge supported the motion in vigorous terms, and said that almost every English statesman of note or no note had acknowledged that the Confederates merited their independence.

The Rev. O'Neil Pratt moved the good-humour of the meeting by proclaiming himself at the outset of his speech a 'red-hot Southerner,' and was greeted with considerable cheering as he continued his address in the same key.

Ultimately, the Chief Bailiff declared that while a vast majority of the meeting sympathised with the South, Dr. Armstrong's motion for recognition was lost by a small majority. The meeting lasted nearly four hours.

The latest trade-report from the Staffordshire Potteries says that trade with the United States has recently undergone great changes. In the early part of the year the demand was excessive, a vast number of orders having been given last fall for spring shipment. They were, indeed, out of all proportion to the immediate necessities of the population, and since that time the continuation of the civil war, the high prices of gold and rates of exchange, the fluctuations in the money market, the excitement caused by the Presidential election, and other causes, have induced many Pottery merchants either absolutely to countermand valuable orders or indefinitely to suspend them. Large stocks of earthenware are held in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia, and there is therefore reason to fear that the manufacturers engaged exclusively in supplying this important market will have to put their hands on 'short time.'

The Federals in the Valley.—At the house of the writer they killed all the sheep except six; took the only horse on the place; killed twenty hogs and fifty turkeys; broke open the meat-house and took all the meat; destroyed all the fruit-trees; tore the carriage to pieces, and carried away all the hay, oats, and corn. The lady told them to take all, for it would not subdue her spirit, and that not one tear would she shed over the loss of anything save friends. They went to the house of one old lady, nearly eighty years old, and robbed her of everything. For three days she had nothing to eat but green corn and salt. Three ladies kept forty of the brutes from entering their house by stationing themselves in the door with knives in their hands, and telling them that they would stab the first man that entered the house. They, before resorting to these measures, appealed to their humanity, asking if there were none present who had brothers and sisters. They only laughed, and replied they never heard of such things. The bravery of the ladies saved them, and the Yankees did not enter.'—*Richmond Enquirer.*

THE MURDER OF SIX CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS.

The *St. Louis Republican* contains an account of the shooting of six Confederate soldiers at St. Louis, by order of the Federal General commanding, in retaliation for the killing of Major White and his six comrades by guerillas. When the prisoners arrived on the ground they were marched to the places fixed for the execution, these being six upright pine posts set in the ground, with square hard seats attached for each man to sit upon. They took their places upon their seats, each with comparative calmness, and nearly all with appearances of resignation to the dreadful fate that stared at them so immediately. But little emotion was displayed by any of the six, except Nichols and Minniken; the latter commenced prayerful ejaculations in a subdued tone of voice soon after being seated, which he kept up until the bandage was tied over his eyes; after that his only remark was, 'Boys, when you shoot me, kill me dead.' Nichols made no remarks, but kept weeping from the time of taking his seat until the bandage was placed over his eyes. Ladd and Bunch exhibited some slight evidences of dejection, but not a word escaped them during the whole scene. Blackburn sat still and stolid upon his seat, and throughout was as imperturbed as a statue. No muscle of his face quivered—there was no wildness in his eye—not a movement that denoted the slightest uneasiness in his manner. Gates, who was only twenty-one years of age, and perfectly beardless, at first manifested a most singular indifference. He had the manner of a young man just the least embarrassed upon the introduction to strangers; yet, withal, there was no fear in the expression of his features, but rather a manifestation of self-confidence, as one who had a great and dangerous duty to perform, and who felt himself equal to it. Towards the end he began to manifest emotion, and, speaking to one of the attending physicians who was standing near by, asked, 'Don't you think there is any hope that it will be postponed?' and on being answered in the negative he moaned occasionally, and at intervals made use of the following expressions:—'O Lord, have mercy upon me!' 'Oh! to think of the news that is to go to my father and mother!' 'Well, I a'n't the first, and I don't reckon I'll be the last.' 'Lord have mercy upon me!' 'To be tied to a stake and shot; I tell you its awful.' After he had been tied to the stake, and Chaplain M'Kim had prayed with him, he said, addressing the guard, 'Boys, I hope if any of you are ever shot, you won't be shot as innocent as I am.' Chaplain M'Kim having said prayers with each prisoner, and bid them good-bye, Colonel Heinrichs read the order of execution, after which he informed the prisoners that if they desired to say anything they could have an opportunity. There was no response except from Minniken, who said, 'I would like to say a few words.' He then, with firm and distinct voice and rapid utterance, said, 'Soldiers, and all who hear me, take warning! I have been a Confederate soldier for four years, and as such have served my country faithfully. And I am taken out now and shot for what men have done that I know nothing about, and for what I had nothing to do with. I never was a guerilla, and I am very sorry that I have to be shot for the acts of men that I had nothing to do with, and for what I am not guilty of. If I had taken any of you soldiers prisoners, I would have treated you as such. I never would have had you shot. I never would hurt anybody. I hope God may take me to His bosom after I am dead. O Lord, be with me!' Each prisoner's eyes were then bandaged. When the sergeant approached Minniken to put the bandage on his eyes, the prisoner said, 'Sergeant, I don't blame you, I hope I'll meet you in another world; I hope I'll meet you all in heaven. O Lord, have mercy on my poor soul!' Bunch and Blackburn still remained silent and almost motionless. Minniken said, 'Lord, have mercy on my poor sinful soul!' Gates said, 'John Nichols, we are going to die. Farewell!' Minniken replied, 'Farewell, we will meet in a better world!' Gates responded: 'Farewell to all the boys!' Nothing further was said, and the command to make ready was given. There was a momentary suspense, and then a further command, 'One, two, fire!' and the entire volley was discharged almost as one gun. Instantly the blood spurted from the breast of each prisoner, and, quivering for a moment, their heads fell upon their shoulders, and their bodies lurched to one side, and fell as near to the ground as they could with their arms pinioned to the stakes. In this position the blood streamed from their wounds, which were nearly all in the breast, and in one or two places formed little pools upon the ground. The attending physicians examined the bodies as soon as the firing ceased, and found no signs of life in any except Blackburn. In five minutes from the time the volley was discharged they were all dead. Gates, after he was shot, uttered the exclamation 'Oh!' and Blackburn cried out, 'Kill me quick;' but in an instant later they were evidently insensible.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

Wednesday Evening.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

The money market has assumed a much more easy appearance. The expectation is that the Bank will at once reduce to 7 per cent. if it does not shortly go to 6. It would not be desirable that the lower point should be reached, because if there was an apparent plethora of capital a revival of speculation would speedily follow. For the present, we shall be content to see the rate rule at 7 per cent., since it will allow affairs to adjust themselves; and if after the turn of the year business should assume a more favourable position, the effect would be satisfactory. It must not be forgotten that when the Bank rate went to 9 per cent. it nipped in the bud a variety of schemes which previously had been matured, and the promoters are now only waiting the opportunity when the terms shall recede to introduce them. The Bank Directors will exercise a wise discretion if they do not too suddenly lower the official minimum, because, with the rise in cotton at Liverpool and a fresh stimulus to the exportation of the precious metals to Egypt and the East, the spring might inaugurate a period of pressure worse than that already experienced. The supply of capital at the Stock Exchange has been large; the rates have varied from 4 to 5 per cent. They are now $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The bullion market presents very little change. The transactions during the week have not been of any magnitude, but on the whole the balance is favourable; the amount sent into the Bank having been 174,000*l.*, against which there have been withdrawals to the extent of 86,000*l.* The arrivals of specie have been below the usual average, reaching only 173,900*l.*, all of which was from New York. The shipments of specie to the East by the last mail amounted to 154,218*l.*, of which 94,674*l.* was in silver, and 59,544*l.* gold. The proportions were—to India, 1,044*l.*; China and the Straits, 94,674*l.*; and Alexandria, 58,500*l.* The silver market remains very quiet. A few unimportant transactions have taken place in bar at 61*d.* to $61\frac{1}{8}$*d.* Mexican dollars are without change, the nominal price being 61*d.* per oz. There are scarcely any in the market. The vessels at present known to be out from Australia are the *J. E. H.*, with 44,000*l.*, and the *Sussex*, with 27,000*l.*

LOAN TRANSACTIONS.

A new loan is about to be brought forward on behalf of Moldavia and Wallachia. The amount is to be 1,000,000*l.* The Atlantic and Great Western Railway are seeking to consolidate the whole of their bonds at the rate of 8 per cent. at the price of 90.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The intelligence received this week from New York has not had the effect of improving the market for American Government and Railway securities, either as regards the number of transactions or prices. In fact, were not a few of the stocks pressed upon the market for realisation, there would be literally nothing doing in them. The dealers will not touch them on speculation, and very few seem disposed to take them as investments. The only official dealings recorded have been—United States Six per Cents., 1882, at $41\frac{1}{4}$, 41, $40\frac{3}{4}$, 41, and $40\frac{3}{4}$; Virginia State Six per Cents., at $26\frac{1}{2}$; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York Section, first mortgage, at $70\frac{1}{2}$; ditto Pennsylvania ditto, 70; Erie, $100 shares, all paid, 41 and $40\frac{1}{2}$; Illinois Central, $100 shares, all paid, $51\frac{3}{4}$, $51\frac{1}{4}$, $51\frac{3}{4}$, $51\frac{1}{2}$, 51, $51\frac{1}{4}$, $50\frac{1}{4}$, and 50.

The following letter gives an account of the operations in American bonds on the Frankfort Bourse during the week ending November 20, 1864:—

To the Editor of The Index.

Frankfort: November 19, 1864.

November 14.—The business in American securities was limited to some transactions for to-morrow's counting-day. The bonds are rather scarce, so that quotations, although declining from $44\frac{1}{8}$ to $43\frac{3}{4}$, afterwards recovered to $43\frac{7}{8}$ to 44, and remained firm at that price. The amount of transactions was scarcely more than $20,000 to $30,000. In the evening no essential variation.

November 15.—American funds opened with a rising tendency owing to the want for cash. The first quotation of $44\frac{1}{4}$, however, was not maintained up to the close, when the price quoted was $44\frac{1}{8}$. Transactions about $40,000. The evening business was unusually animated and stormy. Quotations from New York, Nov. 5, being announced 138, bonds opened at $44\frac{1}{4}$ to $44\frac{5}{8}$. But the later quotation of 151 being known, they declined to $43\frac{3}{4}$, and finally recovered to 44, the closing quotation being said to have been 146. Transactions amounted to at least $50,000.

November 16.—The quotation of American funds was nearly the same as yesterday, business rather slow. For the evening, $44\frac{3}{8}$ to $44\frac{7}{8}$.

November 17.—The publication of the state of siege in the province of Friuli, and the lower quotations of Austrian funds at Vienna and Berlin, gave to our Bourse a general tone of dulness, which influenced likewise American securities. They were sold at $43\frac{11}{16}$ to $43\frac{7}{8}$, but recovered to nearly 44. In the evening no important business.

November 18.—The same trifling variations took place today in American funds, although the tendency of the Bourse was generally more steady in consequence of better news from abroad. Some people entertain gloomy opinions about the next steamer from New York; they expect even riots from the electoral struggle. But the great bulk of speculators prefer to await the arrival of the steamer and to abstain from any operations. This explains the small amount of transactions (which was scarcely more than $20,000 to $30,000 during the last two days), but also the steadiness of prices, the more so as the same firmness is shown by the Bourses of Amsterdam and London. In the evening some few sales were made at $43\frac{7}{8}$.

November 19.—American opened 44 and closed $44\frac{11}{16}$ to $44\frac{1}{8}$. The more the arrival of news about the Presidential election is approaching, the more speculators become cautious in their operations. At the close of the Exchange rumours were going round about a despatch from Paris announcing the election of Lincoln; but, the news not being authentic, and New York quotations still wanting, no operations of any importance took place.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market has been inactive all the week. The price is slightly lower in the absence of business. We quote 61 to 63 as the closing prices.

IMPORTS FROM THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

The following table, extracted from the Customs Bill of Entry, is a statement of part of the imports of Southern cotton and tobacco into England since our last number:—

Date	Name of Ship	Port	Consignee	Bales of Cotton	Boxes of Tobacco
Nov. 15	Essex	Nassau	Fraser & Co.	1945	
"	"	"	J. M. Calder	19	
Nov. 16	Melita	Bermuda	To order	391	
"	"	"	H. Lafone	604	
"	"	"	Pritchard & Co.	8	
"	John G.	Nassau	Claypole & Co.	11	
"	"	"	To order	293	
"	"	"	Hill & Son	23	
"	"	"	Linmun & Co.	6	
"	"	"	Somervail & Co.	—	140
"	"	"	Rothschild & Son	—	20
"	"	"	R. Edwards	—	50
"	"	"	Gilliat & Co.	—	55
"	"	"	W. A. & G. Maxwell	—	10
"	Wild Pigeon	"	Leech & Co.	10	
"	"	"	M'Lean & Co.	53	
"	"	"	Hill & Son	38	
"	"	"	Claypole & Co.	10	
"	"	"	Lemonius & Co.	4	
"	"	"	Swainson & Sons	14	
"	"	"	Thompson & Co.	15	
"	"	"	R. W. H. Welch	9	
"	"	"	To order	258	
"	"	"	Gilliat & Co.	—	95
Nov. 18	Reinhardt	"	Fraser & Co.	200	
"	"	"	To order	250	
"	"	"	Hill & Son	4	
Nov. 19	Amy	Nassau	To order	288	
"	Rhona	"	Lawrence & Co.	246	
"	"	"	To order	—	10
			Total	4,769	380

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The markets for both English and foreign funds continue to be well supported, under the improved aspect of monetary affairs generally, and the prospect almost immediately of a further reduction in the Bank minimum. To-day, however, there has been rather less animation, as is usually the case on the eve of an expected change, but eventually the markets closed

steadily. In foreign stocks there has not been any striking alteration, nothing having occurred connected with foreign politics to create excitement. Consols left off this evening at 91¼ to 91⅜ for money, and 90 to 90⅝ ex div. for the account, which, as contrasted with the quotations of this day week, is a rise of about ½ per cent. Exchequer bills remain very steady at 5s. dis. to par, for both issues. Greek stock shows an advance of ½ per cent., the present price being 23 to 23½. Mexican have advanced ½ per cent., closing at 29¼ to 29½. Spanish Passives, 30⅜ to 30⅝, and the Certificates at 13½ to 13¾, showing a rise of ¼ per cent. in the former and a decline of ¼ in the latter. Turkish Six per Cents. of 1854 are down 1 per cent., and those of 1862 are up ½ per cent., the prices being now 88½ to 89½, and 71¾ to 72¼ respectively.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

An extraordinary meeting of the proprietors of the Langham Hotel Company was held to-day, when it was resolved to increase the capital from 150,000*l.* to 180,000*l.*, by the issue of 3,000 new shares, *pro rata*, to the present shareholders, bearing a preferential dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum.—The South Eastern of Portugal Railway also had a meeting to-day, when a resolution passed at a previous meeting, adopting new articles of association, was confirmed.—The report of the National Financial Company, preparatory to the meeting to be held on the 30th inst., has been issued, from which it appears that the profits for the half-year ending the 15th inst. amount to 57,578*l.* The directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 1*l.* per share, the latter to be added to the paid-up capital, making in all 6*l.* per share paid up. This will be equal to a distribution of 60 per cent. per annum upon the paid-up capital. The directors have resolved to issue 5,000 new shares, with the same amount paid, viz. 6*l.* per share. These shares in the first instance to be offered to the shareholders on the register on the 21st December, in the proportion of one share for every two then held.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The following suspensions have taken place since our last number:—Messrs. Platzmann, Bery, & Co., commission merchants, of Lyons, liabilities 120,000*l.*; Mr. N. Bery, one of the largest North American commission merchants in Lyons; Mr. L. O. Ruutz-Rees, East India merchant, liabilities 110,000*l.*; Messrs. Matti & Co., connected with Mr. Ruutz-Rees, liabilities, 100,000*l.*; a corresponding house of Runtz-Rees & Co., of Calcutta, is also involved in the stoppage, and an establishment at Berne in Switzerland is believed to be compromised; Messrs. Hasselbrink & Oriot, of Havre; Messrs. J. Lourie & Co., merchants, liabilities, about 30,000*l.* Advices from New York state that Mr. Charles Windsor, for fourteen years one of the principal cashiers of the Mercantile Bank in that city, has absconded, leaving a deficiency in his accounts of nearly 50,000*l.* The bank, after deducting this loss, has a reserve of about 90,000*l.*

MEETINGS OF CREDITORS.

At a meeting of the creditors of Mr. Edward Layard, merchant and banker, of Moorgate Street, the accounts presented showed debts and liabilities amounting to 65,084*l.*, and assets at 65,861*l.*, showing a surplus of 827*l.* It was arranged that the business should proceed without interruption.—At a meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Galbraith, Bigland, & Co., who recently failed in the East India trade, it was shown that the debts were 162,000*l.*, of which 55,957*l.* was expected to rank against the estate. The assets were placed at 17,806*l.* It was arranged that the estate should be wound up under a deed of assignment.—At a meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Manning and Collyer, who recently failed in the jute trade, the unsecured creditors figured for 10,500*l.*, and the assets at 4,500*l.* The secured creditors reach to about 63,000*l.* An adjournment was agreed to for the purpose of obtaining a committee of three creditors to look into the particulars.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

The prospectus has just been issued of the Bangparah Tea Estates Company, of Assam, for which a capital is thought to be raised of 200,000*l.*, in 20,000*l.* shares of 10*l.* each. First issue 10,000 shares. The object of the undertaking is the purchase of and further developing fine valuable tea estates in Assam, already in profitable cultivation. The property is situated at distances varying from a quarter of a mile to fifteen miles from Dibrooghur, the shipping port of Upper Assam, and they all adjoin the Grand Trunk Assam Road, having direct steam communication with Calcutta. The estates, according to the prospectus, comprised fully 4,500 acres, of which 500 acres are already planted in tea gardens—125 being of four and five years' growth; 50 of three years'; 225 of one and two years', and 100 just planted. The whole of the lands are held direct from the Government, either in fee simple or redeemable in fee simple by the payment of 5*s.* per acre, or on a perpetual lease from the Government, paying 2*s.* per acre per annum. The bonder has guaranteed to the directors a minimum dividend of 10 per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital for the first three years. The purchase money is fixed at 50,000*l.*, and the bonder defrays all expenses incidental to the formation of the company.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

In the produce markets a more favourable tendency is being slowly but steadily developed, under the influence of increasing ease in money. The enquiry has in some cases improved perceptibly, and the improvement shows signs of gradually becoming general. Meantime, stocks of produce in first hands have not been materially augmented by fresh arrivals, and supplies, as a consequence, are brought forward upon a moderate scale only. The effect has been to impart a greater degree of firmness to quotations in nearly all cases, and to establish advanced rates in many. The greatest movement has been in cotton, which has risen fully 2*d.* per lb., and in some instances even more. The market has to some extent been affected by accounts from India answering our advices of the late heavy fall here, the Indian markets having suffered much less depression than had been expected. In the grain trade the change is very trifling, increased strength and a little more activity being all that can be reported. The provision markets in general are quiet but steady. American bacon (both long and short middles) sells slowly at late rates. Fine American butters are more in request and fully as dear. In beef and pork but little is passing. The imports of sugar continue in excess of last year's at this time, whilst the deliveries show a falling off. The surplus in stock is therefore increasing, and prices have suffered a further decline of 6*d.* to 1*s.* per cwt. Coffee, on the other hand, is 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. dearer on Ceylon knibs, and to-day the favourable result of the Netherlands Trading Company's sales in Holland has given additional stability to prices. In tea only moderate transactions have taken place without material change in quotations. Rice maintains an improved position, and stiffer rates are demanded. Saltpetre is 1*s.* per cwt. dearer, 32*s.* 6*d.* cash having been paid for fine Bengal. The only change in spices is that Penang pepper is slightly cheaper. Linseed oil is quoted 33*s.* 9*d.* to 34*s.* for ready delivery, which is again rather dearer. Fine sagos taken at 36*s.* 6*d.*, also shows a small advance. Other oils remain without essential change. Tallow maintains an upward tendency, especially for distant periods of delivery, as future supplies are expected to fall short. In metals the variations are not important. Scotch pig iron has ranged from 51*s.* 1½*d.* to 51*s.* 4½*d.* cash, and spelter from 21*l.* 10*s.* to 21*l.* 15*s.* Lead is rather more firmly held, and Straits tin has to-day been sold at 94*l.* cash. Hemp is firm at late quotation. Jute has further risen 10*s.* to 20*s.* per ton. In dye stuffs the principal alteration is an advance of 1*d.* to 2*d.* per lb. for cochineal, the fortnightly sales of which were held to-day. The colonial wool sales, which will offer between 80,000 and 90,000 bales, have been in progress since Thursday last, prices ruling fully 1*d.* per lb. below those of the previous series.

Liverpool, Wednesday, November 23.—Throughout the week cotton has been in active and general demand. A large business has been transacted, both for manufacturing purposes and on speculation. In the early part there was a slight tendency to weakness, with regard to prices, but on the arrival of the news of the reelection of Lincoln as President, there was increased animation, and for nearly all descriptions there was a sudden advance of from 1½*d.* to 2*d.* per lb. for Egyptian and Brazilian descriptions, 1½*d.* per lb. on American and Surats, and at about 1*d.* per lb. on the lower descriptions. Since then the market has remained remarkably steady, and closed the same this evening. The sales this week have reached 97,000 bales, of which 37,000 were on speculation and for export. The total sales this year down to the present period have been 2,395,760 bales, against 2,365,296 in 1863. The importations this year have been 2,002,174 bales, and to the same time last year 1,491,536 bales. There have been taken by the trade this year 1,430,982 bales, and in 1863, 1,993,790 bales. The exports this year have reached 503,139 bales, against 431,122 last year. There have been taken on speculation this year 446,571 bales, and in 1863, 701,103 bales. The estimated stocks at the present time are 355,512 bales, and at the corresponding period last year they were 256,536 bales. The closing quotations are for Americans 26*d.* to 28*d.*; Pernambuco, 27½*d.* to 28¼*d.*; Maceio, 27*d.* to 27½*d.*; Bahia, 27¼*d.* to 27¾*d.*; Egyptian, 16½*d.* to 31*d.*; Smyrna, 15¼*d.* to 20½*d.*; Surat, 12*d.* to 22½*d.*; Bengal, 13½*d.* to 14¼*d.*; Scinde, 13¼*d.* to 14*d.*; China, 16½*d.* to 16¾*d.* Japan, 17½*d.* to 18*d.*; and Peruvian, 27*d*½. to 28*d.*

In consequence of the sudden advance in the price of cotton at Liverpool, business at Manchester within the last day or two has become very much agitated, but sales have been greatly restricted through the high prices demanded by spinners and manufacturers. A great struggle has taken place with a view to obtain upon yarns and cloths an advance corresponding to the rise quoted for Liverpool, and some sales it is stated have been effected in yarns at an advance of 2*d.* to 4*d.* per lb, but it has not been general, buyers refusing, under the circumstances, to accept the terms sought for. But for this a large business would have been done both in shipping and home trade yarns. In the early part of the week a good business was transacted in all descriptions of cloths; but the subsequent high prices asked completely altered the state of the market. Since last week the advance on cloths has been from 1*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per piece. Manufacturers still continue very firm, but buyers appear determined not to follow the rapid advance which has taken place. The closing quotations were:—⅞ Grey Printers, 7*s.* 9*d.* to 15*s.* according to quality; ⅞ Grey Madapollams, 7*s.* to 10*s.*; ⅞ Grey Printers, 9*s.* 9*d.* to 17*s.* 3*d.*; ¼ Grey Shirtings, 11*s.* 6*d.* to 25*s.*; Water Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 9*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*; No. 30, 2*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* 10*d.*; No. 40, 2*s.* 10*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.*; Mule Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.* 4*d.*; No. 30, 1*s.* 11*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.*; No. 40, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 10*d.*; No. 50, 2*s.* 5*d.* to 3*s.*; No. 60, 2*s.* 8*d.* to 3*s.* 2*d.*; No. 70, 2*s.* 11*d.* to 3*s.* 5*d.*; No. 80, 3*s.* 1*d.* to 3*s.* 7*d.*; No. 90, 3*s.* 3*d.* to 3*s.* 9*d.*; and No. 100, 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 1*d.*

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SHIPS ARRIVED.

At Liverpool.—November 16: The Parker, from Demerara.—November 18: The Amy, The Reinhardt, from Nassau. The Mary Stowe, from Valparaiso.—November 19: The Juliana, The Edin, The Robert Cleugh, from Demerara. The Rhoda, The Wilson, from Nassau.—November 20: The Jonge, from Demerara.—November 21: The Western Belle, from Halifax, N.S.—November 22. The Vooruitgang, from Matamoras.

At Gravesend.—November 17: The Martin, from Bahia. The Claudia, from Demerara.—November 20: The Coral Isle, from Demerara.—November 22: The Catherine, from Rio Janeiro.

At Deal.—November 16: The Cleopatra, from Demerara.

At Southampton.—November 16: The Pelican (steamer), from Matamoras.

At Plymouth.—November 18: The Florence Nightingale, The Lina, from Buenos Ayres.—November 19: The Orion, from Montevideo.

At Queenstown.—November 18: The City of Melbourne, from Callao.

At Falmouth.—November 18: The Tanmo Sytse, from Rio Janeiro.—November 19: The Henrietta and Rebecca, from Jamaica. The Kitty Jones, from Nassau, N.P., for Liverpool, with loss of sails, main rigging, &c. The Antelope, from Buenos Ayres, with loss of sails, and other damage.—November 21: The Nannette, from Rio Janeiro.

At Clyde.—November 21: The Othello, from Pernambuco. The Will-o'-the-Wisp, from Granville, N.S.

At Nassau, N.P.—October 15: The Armstrong (steamer), from Halifax, N.S., had failed to get into Wilmington. The Banshee, No. 2 (steamer), from Wilmington.

At Bermuda.—September 16: The Mattie Banks, from Cardiff, and sailed for Nassau.—September 21: The Onward, from Liverpool.—September 26: The Ionian Belle, from London.—September 27: The Queen of the Clippers, The Aurora, from London. The Village Girl, from Cardiff. The Zigia, from Liverpool.—September 28: The Star, from Newport.—September 29: The Sylph, from Liverpool.—September 30: The Emily Agnes, from Liverpool. The Kate, from London.—October 1: The Catherine Ann, from Liverpool.—October 3: The Roberts, from Cardiff, and sailed 6th for Halifax. The Bosphorus, from Cardiff. The Eva, from Liverpool. The Stormy Petrel (steamer).—October 6: The Owl (steamer), from Wilmington.—October 15: The Edwin and Lizzie, from Liverpool.—October 22: The Lady Milne, from London.—October 27: The Wanderer, with loss of foretopmast, from Liverpool.—October 29: The Virginia (steamer), The Talisman? (Ptarmigan), from Wilmington.

At Halifax, N.S.—October 28: The Presto, from Cardiff. The Acadia, from Delfshaven. The Forward, The Margaret, from Jamaica. The Albert, from Liverpool.—November 1: The Wanderer, The Annette, from Jamaica.—November 5: The Golden Rule, from Malaga.—November 6: The Sarah, put back, with loss of spars and head gear.—November 7: The Hampden, from St. George's, N.B., for England, leaky. The Talbot, from Oporto. The Morning Star, from Liverpool. The Lady Milne, from Cardiff.—November 10: The Chanticleer, The Haidee, The Fawn, from West Indies.

SHIPS SAILED.

Liverpool.—November 15: The Cleveragh, for St. Thomas's.—November 16: The Evelyn, The Sunrise, for Havana. The Don Diego, for Buenos Ayres. The Sarah Burnyeat, for Rio Janeiro. The Clara Manning, The Geertina, The Friedrich and Adolph, for Matamoras.—November 17: The Galileo (steamer), for Montevideo.—November 19: The Lanercost, for Callao. The Mary James, for Montevideo. The Sunrise, for Havana.—November 20: The Iles, for Demerara.—November 21: The Rancagua, for Callao. The Deer (steamer), for Bermuda.

Gravesend.—November 21: The Bermondsey, for Pernambuco.

Deal.—November 17: The Garibaldi, for Rio Janeiro.

Newport.—November 14: The Macaulay, for St. Thomas.

Cardiff.—November 15: The Star, for Callao. The Alma, for Rio Janeiro. The Lovetand, for Bermuda.—November 17: The Nutfield, for Bermuda.

Clyde.—November 18: The Eskdale, for Demerara.

Bermuda.—October 21: The Wild Rover (steamer), for Nassau. The Stormy Petrel (steamer), for Wilmington, put back 28th with damage, having experienced severe weather.—October 27: The Little Hattie (steamer), for Wilmington.

Halifax, N.S.—November 5: The Mary (steamer), for Nassau.—November 9: The Africa, for Boston.

Havana.—October 25: The Melody, The Black Briar, for Falmouth. The Susanna (steamer), for Nassau.

SHIPS LOADING.

At London.—For Bermuda: The Jane Smith, The Tartar, The Enmore. For Demerara: The Emerald Isle, The Guiding Star, The Warrior Queen, The Express, The Argus. For Nassau (N.P.): The Laughing Water; Davison Brothers & Co. The Hannah; J. Worley. For Montevideo and Buenos Ayres: The Louise Alwardt, The Para, The Regina, The Ino, The Theresia. For New York: The E. W. Stetson, The Jenny, The Celestial Empire, The Iowa. For Havana: The Maria Victorina.

At Liverpool.—For Bermuda: The Alexander. For Matamoras: The Rosina Claypole, The Esther, The Ocean Belle, The Mary Farleigh, The St. Clair. For Nassau (N.P.): The Clarence, The Babthorpe, The Enterprise, the Wild Pigeon, The John G. Johnson, The Harriet. For St. Thomas: The Her Majesty, The Helena, The Cristobal Colon, The Memphis and Newport. For Demerara: The Anna Mary, The Parker. For Havana: The Victory, The Salve Vir. Maria, The Credenda, The Providencia, The Trafalgar, The Heinrich Beckmann, The Constance, The Flora, The Ricardo, The Barmaga, The Manuela.

At Bristol.—For Pernambuco: The Elpis.

At Cardiff.—For Bermuda: The Edith Mary. For Havana: The Mystery, The Rapid. For St. Thomas's: The Malaga. For Nassau: The Cubana, The Princess Royal, The Firm, The Valetta, The Fearless.

At Hull.—For Havana: The Hilda, The Delphin.

At Newport.—For Nassau: The Eulia. For St. Thomas's: The Denmark, The Osborne, The Belmont, The Gluckauf, The Mary.

At Swansea.—For Halifax: The Echo. For Nassau: The Sovereign, The Monexdo, The Kouger.

At Glasgow.—For Demerara: The Eskdale. For Buenos Ayres: The Toronto, The Catherine. For Montevideo: The America, The Mariners.

Among the Contents of The Index *of November* 17 *are:—*

The Presidential Elections of 1856 and 1860.
Notes on Events of the Week at Home and Abroad.
A New Confederate Cruiser.
Letters from New York. Letter from Washington.
Official Reports.
The Day of Thanksgiving.
The War.
Reconstruction. Short-lived 'Conquests.'
English Chimney-Sweepers.
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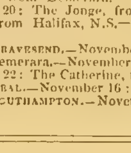

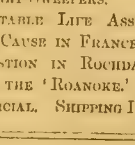

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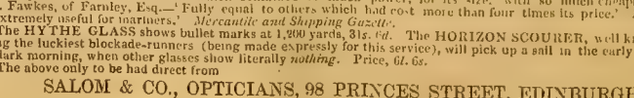

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Earl Russell's Note.

LORD RUSSELL'S reply to the Confederate Commissioners, acknowledging the receipt of an official copy of the Manifesto put forth by the Congress of the Confederate States, takes us, we confess, somewhat by surprise. It is true that for a short time past a vague rumour has been afloat in diplomatic circles on the Continent, and has even found expression in the Paris correspondence of the *Indépendance Belge* and other journals not prone to credit too easily anything favourable to the South. This rumour was to the effect that the American policy of the Foreign Office was undergoing essential modifications, and that, while England would not take the initiative, an opportunity would be welcomed for joining France in any steps in which the latter assumed the chief responsibility. We did not, and do not now, attach any real importance to such diplomatic chitchat, and yet Lord RUSSELL'S note surprises us. Not that, intrinsically, it contains anything more than what belongs to the formula of international civility, but because it is prompt, courteous, and—though it repeats that jargon about strict and impartial neutrality which, in the FOREIGN SECRETARY'S mouth, has often sounded ironical—it practically recognises the political equality and identical title to consideration of the two belligerent federations. This is, on Earl RUSSELL'S part, an immense step in the right direction. It would be churlish in us to grudge him credit for it. But if he intends to be consistent, and if he once admits that the same measure must by right be meted to both the South and the North, we cannot see how, under present circumstances, he is to stop short of actual recognition. We will not repeat arguments which frequent reiteration has rendered hackneyed; we will only observe that after the 4th day of March next, the last pretext for further delay will have disappeared. On that day a government will go into operation at Washington, in which the States of the South have confessedly neither lot nor part nor voice. In the election of the 8th of last month, the vote of every State not actually in the Union or in the occupation of the Union armies, was by an act of the Federal Congress formally excluded. The highest legislative authority of the United States on that occasion decreed that the States of Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas were not among the number of the United States. The Government organised upon the basis of the election of the 8th inst. knows them only as foreign enemies, to be conquered by force. So long as a Federal Executive and Legislature at Washington claimed to represent all the States which formed part of the Union in 1860, and could date their existence back to a period when all the States did so form part, there might be an excuse—albeit an unsound and sophistical one—for foreign Powers to consider that Executive and Legislature as the rightful authority over all the States. The Executive and Legislature which commence their term of authority on March 4 cannot, and do not, set up any such pretension. This new Government at Washington presents to Europe no title which is not vested with even greater validity in the Government at Richmond, which is by three years its senior. The only possible technical conflict of jurisdiction is narrowed down to three States, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Missouri, which are equally claimed by both Governments. With this exception, which cannot cause any serious difficulty, the diplomacy of neutrals is now as free to act as if the United States and the Confederate States were situated in different continents.

The Message of President Davis.

THE attention which the Annual Message of President DAVIS has arrested in this country and on the Continent constitutes the most ample proof of the importance of that document. Through the mouth of the man whose impenetrable calm stands out with enhanced grandeur against the raging fury of her implacable foes, the South speaks to the world with a voice that does not pass unregarded. Not merely does the supreme moment of the agony of two great nations lend significance to her language, but wisdom and dignity combine to add force to this manifesto of the present condition and future policy of the Confederate States.

The PRESIDENT first treats of the subject uppermost in the minds of his own people—the war with the North; and in expounding the situation of affairs he seems to take his stand on the western extremity of the broad dominions of the South, and to survey each State in its turn as his eye is gradually drawn towards the coast of the Atlantic ocean. Insensibly he reveals the war policy which marks the genius of the military chiefs of the South. To sweep the foe from Texas and Arkansas, a task already accomplished; then to drive him from Louisiana, where indeed he only crouches under cover of his gunboats; next to clear the States of Mississippi and Missouri, and the southern borders of Kentucky; gradually to emancipate from the Northern soldiery the north line of Alabama with Western and Eastern Tennessee, until it remains only to drive the foe from the outlying fortress, Virginia—such is the programme now rapidly in course of accomplishment by the valour of the Southern arms. The anaconda efforts have confessedly been defeated, and the Western States are left undisturbed in the development of their wealth in corn, cattle, and cotton—in the tranquil organisation of the State authorities—in the formation of an invincible reserve of men, of supplies, and of territory. Nothing then remains for the North but to make war on the arena which its enemies have chosen for the campaign—to fight with two isolated armies at two isolated points—with the knowledge that success reaching even to the capture of the seat of government, cannot strike the fatal blow. Atlanta has fallen, and the victory has been worse than barren. Richmond may fall, but the drain of blood and of money will still endure, to convince the world that peace is unattainable for the North through the process of conquest.

The PRESIDENT next turns to the foreign relations of the Confederacy. He refuses to believe that the conduct of the Christian nations of Europe is prompted by a design to prolong hostilities, and he is charitable enough to admit the plea of indifference. Yet the position assumed by him is incontrovertible. No precedent can be found in history either of the failure of neutrals to recognise the independence of a nation which has proved its capacity for self-defence, or of a recognition on the part of a belligerent in anticipation of the act of neutral Powers. The Governments of England and France have acknowledged the capacity of the South to resist the aggression of the North. Why, then, has recognition been withheld? Two excuses are given—the first, that intervention must accompany recognition; the second, that the passions of the North would be increased by such a change of policy. Mr. DAVIS absolutely rejects intervention, and the carnage of two years has demonstrated that the fury of the North has never admitted of increase. Peace is impossible without independence, and the enemy will not anticipate neutrals in a recognition of independence. It follows by logical sequence that the responsibility of the prolongation of the war must eventually rest on the shoulders of the neutral nations of Europe.

The financial position and the War Department complete the region of survey. Elsewhere we have commented on the condition of the currency and the proposed systems of taxation. To increase the efficiency of the armies it is proposed to reduce the number of men detailed for professions and trades by abolishing the exemption of entire classes and substituting the discretion of the military authorities. A general militia law is proposed in lieu of the diversified organisations of the separate States, while reforms are suggested for increasing the efficiency of the cavalry and for the consolidation of the infantry regiments. The important question, at least in European eyes, in this department is that of arming the slaves in defence of the country, and nothing more thoroughly demonstrates the confidence of the PRESIDENT in the power of the South to resist aggression than his expression of the opinion that it is not necessary to arm the negro. He candidly confesses that if the alternative of subjugation or arming the slaves were presented, he would not for a moment hesitate in his decision. That the negroes should fight as soldiers for their home is justifiable, when necessary. To employ them as insurrectionists against their masters is an act which has hitherto earned the just execration of the civilised world. Indeed, it was the climax of the grievances of the colonists in 1776 that the English had armed the slaves against their masters. But the PRESIDENT is appalled at the demoralisation, suffering, disease, and death caused by a substitution of the Northern policy for the kind relation existing between master and slave; and, while pointing to the evil produced by external interference, he with a noble humanity shrinks from even the risk of a similar crime. He believes the duty of the South to consist not only in the maintenance of republican institutions resting on the actual political equality of all her citizens, but also in the fulfilment of the task so happily begun, that of Christianizing and improving the condition of the Africans whom God has committed to her charge.

The Message concludes with a renewed expression of willingness to negotiate for peace whenever the enemy shall display a disposition to resort to such a solution. At present the Federal authorities offer no terms short of unconditional submission and degradation, and nothing therefore remains but to devote the united energies of the South to the task of dispelling the illusion of the ability of the North to effect her subjugation. The PRESIDENT therefore exhorts the people to tread that path to peace with full confidence in the assured result. If anything were wanting to inspire in the South a well-founded trust in the valour of her arms and the justice of her cause, that want would be supplied by language which breathes in every syllable the strength of a calm and invincible faith.

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

WHERE is General Sherman? Perhaps the Federal Government knows, but deems it inconvenient to inform the public. Northern journalists do not know where Sherman is, and therefore resort to their favourite pastime of guessing. Two things are certain. Sherman cannot be in half-a-dozen places, or marching in half-a-dozen different directions, at the same time. 'It is also past doubt that the Lincolnites are rather anxious and uneasy about the fate of Sherman. That Atlanta has been evacuated is reported from so many quarters that the truth of the report is very probable. Not many weeks have elapsed since Sherman drove all the inhabitants from their homes and from the city on the ground that the place was required as a military station; therefore, if Atlanta is evacuated, either Sherman invented an excuse for an act of barbarism, or he intended to hold Atlanta, and has been forced by the movements of the Confederates to give up possession.

THERE are no movements of importance reported in Virginia. A Federal report says that the Confederates were repulsed in an attempt to pierce Grant's line, from which we may conclude that the Confederates are acting on the offensive. According to the latest advices Sheridan was in 'hot pursuit' of Early, and we may therefore expect to hear in a mail or so that the Federal commander has sustained a reverse. Pennsylvania is alarmed at the increase of 'guerillas,' who cross and recross the Potomac at their pleasure. This shows that Mr. Lincoln is fully justified in saying that he wants more troops.

GENERAL BRECKINRIDGE has achieved an important success in Tennessee. He defeated General Gillem, and captured Bull's Gap with 400 prisoners, six cannon, and some Federal trains. In Louisiana the Confederates have captured Morganzia with its garrison of 1,900 men. General Canby was killed on board the steamer *Cricket* whilst reconnoitring White River, Arkansas.

THE Federals announce a victory over 3,000 *cattle*. According to the telegram, 3,000 cattle crossed the Black River, and the Federals 'attacked the guards, captured a third of the cattle, and dispersed the remainder.' This is nearly as funny as one of Mr. Lincoln's jokes.

ADMIRAL PORTER has addressed to the Federal Secretary of the Navy a report of the capture of 'the batteries and town of Plymouth, North Carolina.' As we stated last week, Plymouth is a small place that had been evacuated by the Confederates. Admiral Porter says he took '22 cannon, 37 prisoners, and 200 stand of arms, and more are being picked up daily.' Admiral Porter calls the capture of 37 men 'a handsome finishing stroke,' and that 'this was a very gallant affair, and reflects great credit on the commander of the expedition and all concerned.'

THE official report of the Confederate attack on Johnsonville shows that the victory was complete and important. General Forrest captured and destroyed 14 transports, 4 gunboats, 20 barges, 32 pieces of artillery, over 20,000 tons of freight, and more than $3,000,000 worth of stores.

THE Confederate steamer *Tallahassee* had safely arrived, at our latest advices, in Wilmington, after a long and exciting chase by the *Montgomery* and three other Yankee gunboats. The *New York Herald* contains an account of the pursuit, which would certainly have ended in the capture or sinking of the *Tallahassee*, according to the *Herald's* correspondent, but for the inopportune darkness of night enabling her to escape. The Yankees, having only four ships against one, and a still greater disproportion of guns in their favour, were greatly elated at the prospect of an engagement; and as the vessels were near enough together at one time to keep up a rapid exchange of shots, the excitement on the decks of the chasing squadron was lively. 'Many heartfelt remarks were made,' says the writer, 'worthy of our bravest and noblest men!' And when the *Tallahassee* was at last sheltered by the night from further attack, 'the feelings' of the disappointed Yankees 'found relief in tears.' Affecting recital! The *Tallahassee* will, no doubt, soon be again upon the ocean, when the blockading fleet will have another opportunity of attempting her destruction.

BERMUDA papers of October 12 contain accounts of the proceedings in the case of Acting-Master John C. Brain, C. S. N., who was arrested at St. George's and committed to gaol with his associates, on the charge of burning the Federal steamer *Roanoke* off the harbour on Sunday, the 2nd of October. Upon the examination it was sufficiently proved that Lieutenant Brain had acted in accordance with instructions from the Secretary of the Navy of the Confederate States, and he and his companions were discharged. The release of these gentlemen did not, however, repair the outrage of their confinement for three days in a colonial prison by British authorities for an offence which 'was in the habit of being committed,' as the *Bermuda Advocate* remarks, 'in old days by Nelson, and Collingwood, and Hood, and Howe, and other officers whose names have, somehow or other, come to be handed down to us with some sort of historic fame.'

WE elsewhere publish a letter about the case of the Confederates who made an incursion into St. Alban's. The prosecution of Lieutenant Young has been brought to a close at Montreal, and the Lieutenant has been allowed thirty days to communicate with the Government at Richmond before offering his defence.

THE Second Congress of the Confederate States commenced its second session in the Capitol at Richmond on Monday, the 7th of November. We have already given to our readers the message of the President and the accompanying documents. On the 9th Mr. Henry, of Tennessee, introduced a resolution in the Senate, having reference to the impressment of negro slaves, with just compensation to their masters, for purposes of public necessity other than service as soldiers in the field. In the House of Representatives, on the same day, a discussion arose on a resolution of Mr. Foote of Tennessee with reference to the exemption of editors of newspapers from the military service, in which Mr. Foote gave utterance to some characteristic remarks about the 'liberty of the press' as being endangered, &c.; and his resolution, which disapproved the position of President Davis on this subject, was referred to the Military Committee. Mr. Russell, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported a bill granting seats in the House of Representatives, with the privilege of debate, to the members of the Cabinet, which was made the order of the day for Tuesday, November 15; and Mr. Foote gave notice that he would offer an amendment to the bill, making it obligatory on the members of the Cabinet to resign when defeated upon any important measure of policy.

THE Macon *Confederate* of November 5 publishes in full the message of Governor Joseph E. Brown, of Georgia, to the two houses of the Georgia Legislature convened at Milledgeville, the capital of that State. The general tone of the message is patriotic, and Governor Brown expresses in unmistakable language the determination of the people of Georgia never to relinquish the cause of Southern independence, for which they took up arms at the beginning of the war. By far the larger portion of the document, however, is taken up with an elaborate argument to show that negotiations for peace can be properly conducted only in convention of all the States, and he earnestly recommends overtures to be made to the States of the North for the assembling of such a body. He denies, however, the right of any individual State of the Confederacy to make peace with the common enemy. Referring to the resolutions of the Governors of the Southern States, which he submits to the Georgia Legislature, he declines to recommend arming the slaves, but thinks they may be usefully employed as teamsters, hospital servants, &c. Taken altogether, Governor Brown's message by no means bears the construction which has been placed upon it of declaring the people of Georgia disaffected towards the Confederate Government, and his remarks concerning the growth of executive power are not likely to excite serious alarm.

THE Convention which was held in New Orleans last spring, under Yankee authority, for the adoption of a new Constitution for the State of Louisiana, seems to have been a very bibulous assembly, given to riding immoderately in cabs, and smoking to excess the best Havannas. A 'nice little bill' has recently been published in the *New Orleans Times*, presenting a variety of curious items which go to show that liquors and cigars entered largely into the formation of the Constitution. It would appear, too, that committees must have been constantly driving about the streets of New Orleans, discussing doubtful points of organic law while in rapid locomotion. The charges for 'liquors and cigars' amounted to $9,421·55 against $4,304·25 for carriage hire. The stationery furnished cost $8,111·55, and copies of the daily papers furnished to members were set down at $4,237·50. The Convention must have been somewhat uproarious at times, since the fees of policemen necessary to maintain order reached the sum of $1,904·00, but after the liquor item this does not surprise us. A pen-case for General Banks is charged at $150. We suppose this case held the pen which signed the Constitution and crowned the work of the patriotic members of the body.

BUTLER has taken an affectionate leave of New York in an order in which he thanks everybody for loyalty to Lincoln and kindness to himself. His speech at the Fifth Avenue Hotel we republish and comment on elsewhere. Butler was evidently far from comfortable in New York. It is certainly not pleasant to feel it necessary to keep a brace of loaded pistols in one's desk. We do not apprehend that Butler's life was in any danger in New York, but conscience makes a miserable coward of such a thing as Benjamin F. Butler.

THE report that Mr. Lincoln is about to ask the Confederates to lay down their arms caused a fall of gold in New York. We suppose that there must still be men in the North who do not yet understand the character of the contest. The answer to the offer of amnesty may teach them a useful lesson.

AN important decree has just been entered by Judge Shipman, of New York, in the United States District Court, by which one Hamilton E. Towle recovers $15,000 salvage from the owners of the *Great Eastern* steamship. Towle was a passenger in the *Great Eastern*, on a voyage to America, when a storm arose in which the rudder-shaft was broken, and the vessel became unmanageable. After the officers had vainly endeavoured for the space of thirty-six hours to repair the disaster, he volunteered his services, and devised means for bringing the ship safely into port. Against the demand of Towle for salvage it was urged that an established rule of the Admiralty disqualified a passenger for claiming remuneration for services rendered a vessel in distress. Judge Shipman held that this rule had reference only to ordinary exertions which any passenger might be called upon to perform, such as working at the pumps, or pulling and hauling sail, but that it did not apply to the case of one who by the exhibition of remarkable skill had saved the vessel from impending wreck. The *New York Times*, in recording Judge Shipman's decree, with characteristic complacency remarks that the fact of an American's having saved the *Great Eastern* 'was felt to be something of a national advantage over John Bull.'

THE price of gold in New York has varied considerably during the past week. Mr. Fessenden has been operating largely, but though he can send gold down he cannot keep it down. On November 19, it was quoted at 221.

ENGLAND.

MR. RICHARD COBDEN, M.P. for Rochdale, addressed his constituents on November 23. He commenced with an elaborate dissertation on the policy of non-intervention, taking the Slesvig-Holstein question for his theme. He complained bitterly that the House of Commons had consumed a large portion, and the House of Lords nearly the whole, of the session in debates on the Danish war. He attacked Lord Ellenborough furiously because the noble Lord had affirmed that Court influences had been called in to aid the interests of Germany. He also called the same noble Lord the foremost advocate of the Crimean war, the great supporter of fortifications and of all other abominations. He admitted that in France and Germany England had been derided and caricatured for her pusillanimity, but argued that the doctrine of non-intervention had achieved a triumph. Not only was it the duty of the Government and Parliament to observe this rule, but Englishmen, through their public speakers and through their press, must learn to treat foreign nations in a spirit other than they hitherto have shown, so as not to mislead foreign countries by public demonstrations of opinion. That was the policy which he and his friend Mr. Bright had followed. They had never raised their voices in favour of Poland or Hungary. He had no hesitation in declaring that the manifestations and instigations of London and Paris had incapacitated the Polish insurrection; for Russia had gained strength by an appeal to her people to resist the dictation of the Western Powers. Mr. Cobden had no doubt that he could be Prime Minister if he would only tell the English people that they were the wisest, the best, and the happiest in the whole world. Mr. Cobden then proceeded to speak on the American war. When he saw a people setting up a government founded on pure reason, without religious establishments to guide it, with no born rank of any kind, but with every honour springing from the people, he saw a programme built upon an elevated conception of what humanity was capable. It might fail, but he (Mr. Cobden), who always consulted the interests of the masses, could not be asked to exult if it did fail. The same strait might occur to England to-morrow from the defection of India or Ireland. Was it then conservative to jump up immediately into a kind of partnership with the Southern insurrection? In former disruptions the parties had always issued to the world a programme of their grievances. Cromwell did so. When James II. was dethroned, there was a declaration of rights. In 1776 the Americans put forth a declaration of grievances, and no Englishman now doubted that they were justified in separating from the mother country. Why had not the South put forth any programme? No one was more competent to write such a programme than Mr. Jefferson Davis. It was because the South had but the grievance—that they wanted to consolidate, perpetuate, and extend slavery, but they could not do it. All that the leaders said was, 'Let us alone; all we want is to be let alone.' That was the reason why the conservative Governments of Europe and so large a portion of the upper classes in England had consented to back the insurrection. How would they feel if Essex and Kent, having been beaten on the subject of the Corn Laws, had chosen to set up Kent and Essex and East Anglia right across the Thames, as the Secessionists had sought to attempt to cut off Louisiana from the mouth of the Mississippi, and if they had said, 'We want to be left alone?' Could any Government be carried on if a section of the people, when they were beaten at the poll at a peaceful election, were allowed to secede? Where was the conservative spirit among the governing class of this country? After all there was more conservatism among the Democracy. The contest of the Presidential election was the issue between war with the extirpation of slavery and war without the extirpation of slavery. The people had preferred to act in the interests of humanity. They had preferred the continuance of war to the continuance of slavery. Let there be no more of the late talk that this was not a war to put down slavery. Everybody now admitted that, whatever was the end of the struggle, slavery would be abolished. He now came to confirm with more emphasis than ever his opinion that he should not live to see two independent States on that continent of North America. He looked upon the geographical difficulties in the way of separation as absolutely insurmountable.

Take (said he) the case of the Mississippi. That river with its tributaries flows through 20,000 miles of navigable waters into the Gulf of Mexico, and in order that the United States might have its mouths in their own occupation, that they might have, as it were, the keys of their own doors in their own pockets, they purchased from the First Napoleon the State of Louisiana with the money of the old Union for three millions sterling. Well, now, some 200,000 or 300,000 people could have squatted there. Some English, some French, and some Americans have taken into their heads that they will carry off this State, and place the mouths of that great river, the outlet of that vast country, in the hands of a foreign State. I have said that it would be far easier for Essex or Kent to carry off the mouths of the Thames and set up an East Anglian kingdom than for Louisiana to carry off the mouths of the Mississippi and set up for an independent State. There are some few hundreds of thousands in the counties of Kent and Essex, but the valley of the Mississippi will become the home of 200,000,000, and this makes it infinitely more impossible that the United States should allow the mouths of the Mississippi to be carried off than that England should suffer the mouth of the Thames to be taken away. Why should they do so when they can prevent it by the smallest expense, and retain possession of it, for a few gunboats could easily blockade the outlets of that river? Even if the North cannot conquer Loui-

siana, they might cut the dykes above New Orleans and drown the whole of that State. In saying this I am speaking of the motives and possibilities, and not of wishes or feelings of my own. If you think that Mr. Jefferson Davis would be contented with the Cotton States and not be allowed to extend into Texas, he would not thank you. They are fighting in the South to carry slavery beyond Texas into the vast regions of Central America. Now, I say that if the geographical features of the country had been looked at by the ruling classes and those who write in the newspapers, they would not have arrived at a conviction of the success of the Southern side.

Mr. Cobden then proceeded to say that if he were rich he would found a chair at Oxford and Cambridge to instruct the undergraduates in American history. He was convinced that not one undergraduate at either University could put his finger on the town of Chicago. They might know all about the Ilissus, but they knew nothing about the Mississippi. However, in the American question he wanted nothing but neutrality. Mr. Cobden then turned to the question of English finance. People exclaimed about the American expenditure. The North was spending perhaps more than $2,000,000 a day; but having regard to the depreciation of American currency, and the present rate of exchange, it was very near the amount drawn by Mr. Gladstone from this country in time of peace. Why had the American States laughed to scorn the financier who prophesied that they could not wage war for six months without a foreign loan? Because in peace they had not had a war expenditure. The savings made in peace had enabled them to spend largely in war.

MR. RICHARD SPOONER, M.P. for North Warwickshire, died last week at the age of eighty-one years. He was educated at Rugby School, and entered Parliament as member for Birmingham in 1844. In 1847 he lost his seat to Mr. Scholefield, and was at once elected member for North Warwickshire. He was best known as the champion in the House of Commons of the Protestant cause, and as the persistent enemy of the grant to Maynooth College.

THE sarcophagus which is to be placed in the Mausoleum at Frogmore to contain the remains of the Prince Consort has arrived at Windsor. It is of dark polished Scotch granite from Aberdeen, and weighs thirteen tons. The recumbent statue of the Prince, which is to be the work of Baron Marochetti, will be placed on the top of the sarcophagus.

MR. DAVID ROBERTS, R.A., whose genius for architectural paintings has earned for him a high reputation, fell dead in a fit of apoplexy in Berners Street in this city on Friday last.

THE ship *Great Western* was passed by the Customs authorities on Friday last, and proceeded to sea. It is affirmed that Messrs. Baring Brothers have lodged a heavy claim against Her Majesty's Government for the detention of the vessel.

THE Judicial Committee of the Privy Council will hear the Colenso case on December 12.

A GENTLEMAN, who was but a few months since called to the Bar by the Society of the Inner Temple, has unintentionally raised a question of some gravity which yet awaits solution at the hands of the Benchers of the Inn. It appears that the present member of the Utter Bar was formerly, and, as may be contended, is now, a priest in the holy orders of the Church of England. It is argued, therefore, that his 'call' to the Bar was invalid, on the ground that the orders preclude the priest from entering that branch of the legal profession. A resolution of the four Inns of Court against the admission not only of priests, but even of deacons, to the degree of barrister of law, was passed in the time of Horne Tooke, but there is no precedent of the prohibition being put in force. It is pretty certain that, during the interval which has elapsed since the decision in Horne's Tooke's case, clergymen have been called to the bar, and probably great difficulties would be experienced in enforcing the existing regulation.

THE case of Glover *v.* Persigny came on before the Lord Chief Justice Cockburn and a special jury at Westminster on Saturday last. The action was against M. le Duc Fialin de Persigny and M. Billault, but it had abated as against the latter defendant by his death. Mr. Sergeant Glover was the plaintiff, and sought to recover a large sum of money due to him as the proprietor of the *Morning Chronicle*, the *Morning News*, and the *Evening Journal*, for compensation money for the loss suffered by the insertion of certain articles in those papers, which loss the defendant had agreed to make good. There was also a money demand for work and labour done. It appeared that in 1856 the Duc de Persigny had entered into an agreement with the plaintiff, M. St. André and M. Billault being parties thereto, to pay the plaintiff a sum of 700*l.* or 800*l.* per month in consideration of the insertion of articles to be supplied by the French Government, with a proviso to make good any depreciation suffered by the *Chronicle* in consequence of such insertions. Many articles of the proposed nature were published during the ensuing two years. In April, 1857, Mr. Glover went to Paris and had interviews with the Emperor, with M. Billault and M. Meygret, Director-General of the Press, and in return for his services obtained a concession of the International Telegraph between Bordeaux and Boston. The company, however, was not established. On May 9, 1859, a letter was addressed to M. Billault by the plaintiff, acknowledging the delight experienced by him that the articles had given satisfaction, that he did not expect nor claim the slightest pecuniary recompense for anything that had appeared in the *Morning Chronicle*, and that the telegraphic concession would be considered a complete requital. Unfortunately, at the trial, Mr. Serjeant Parry, the counsel for the plaintiff, had been furnished with a copy of the above letter, omitting, however, the very important paragraph concerning the abandonment of any claim for the services rendered. Of course, when it was sought to put in the letter as evidence, the discrepancy was discovered. The case, however, proceeded, until the plaintiff had had an opportunity of distinguishing himself in the witness-box by some peculiarities of conduct, when it was finally agreed to withdraw a juror.

IRELAND.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland was entertained by the Lord Mayor of Dublin at the Mansion House on Friday last. In responding to the toast of the Viceroy, his Lordship spoke at some length on the condition of Ireland. He said that he had served on the Irish Committee in 1847, and had not forgotten the evidence given by Father Mathew on the deplorable condition of the country. Ireland had recovered with astonishing elasticity from her terrible calamity. The country had experienced three bad harvests within the last five years, and the only marvel was that greater distress did not prevail. The advance of an agricultural country was necessarily slow, but his Lordship was rejoiced to see the progress made in the breeding of cattle, the draining of the land, and, above all, in the cultivation of flax. The other great branch of industry was the fisheries, and while England had stood idle and let her fisheries be annihilated, Ireland had saved her wealth by prudent legislation. Then, again, railways had been constructed in the country, at a cost of 24,000,000*l.*, and the capital was supplied mainly by Irishmen. With regard to the linen manufactures, there had been an increase of from 3,200 to 7,500 power-looms in Belfast, and the basis on which the industry was established was so firm that it would stand the shock of peace on the American continent. Then, again, there were seen in the exhibition of the Dublin Society the most ingenious machines for the manufacture of flax, and that machinery was constructed in Belfast. His Lordship admitted that there was a reverse side to the picture, and desired the wand of Prospero wherewith to banish misery, poverty, and wretchedness from the country. He trusted in the industry and enterprise of Ireland and in the commercial freedom of the United Kingdom to effect rapid progress in the prosperity of Ireland, an object which he knew was dear to the present generation of Englishmen.

THE CONTINENT.

FRANCE.

Two events have occurred during the past week in Paris which not only demand the attention of the contemporary chronicler, but will probably form a part of the general history of the country, and are not the less important that they are not strikingly sensational. The first of these is the appeal of the 'Thirteen' to the Imperial Court of Paris against a sentence of the Lower Court convicting them of having formed an illegal association of more than twenty persons. An account of the trial will be found in our number of August 11, in the present year. No recapitulation of the facts is required, as all the more important circumstances are brought out in the course of the trial. The 'Thirteen' were defended on this occasion, as before, by MM. Berryer, Jules Favre, Marie, Greoz, Senard, and other celebrities of the French bar. Procureur-Général de Marnas and Avocat-Général Sallé attended on behalf of the Government. The judgment appealed against is in substance as follows: 'Considering that the named thirty-four persons are accused of having formed part of an unauthorised association of more than twenty persons, and seeing that of these thirty-four persons there are twenty-one against whom there is no case; but considering that there exists against Garnier-Pagès, Carnot, Dréo, Hérold, Clamageran, Floquet, Ferry, Durier, Corbon, Jozon, Hérisson, Melsheim, and Bory sufficient proof of having in 1863 and 1864 belonged to an association composed of more than twenty persons, judgment is pronounced against them.' This report having been read to the Court of Appeal, M. Senard stated the pleas for quashing the said judgment. They are, that the appellants were found guilty without proper examination; that the names of the twenty-one acquitted were only added in order to make up the number to one above that of twenty, and thus to bring the appellants within the operation of the law; and further, with respect to those who were acquitted under the former judgment, that they have a right to protest before a superior court against the action of the prosecution, which qualified them as members of an illegal association, and to demand that their names should be erased from the judgment. In support of these pleas M. Senard urged that, in spite of the acquittal of a certain number, the conviction of the remainder affirmed the complicity of these very persons, or at least their connivance with the defendants. This is of course evident, for if thirteen persons are guilty of forming part of an illegal association of more than twenty, there must be at least eight more who are equally guilty. But, in fact, none of those nominally acquitted were ever put on their trial, and they were now fully justified in requiring that the judgment should be pronounced null and void. M. Sallé, for the Government, expressed a hope that the judgment below would not be reversed on what he considered to be a mere point of law. He maintained the right of the Government to indict whom it chose, and denied the right of the parties already acquitted to compel the public prosecutor to include them in the proceedings. M. Crémieux replied, and again pointed out that, by the withdrawal of the names of the acquitted, there was not a sufficient number left to support the conviction. He warned the court against the principle which it was sought to introduce, of judging persons without first hearing them. Also, on the general circumstances of the case, he argued that the association formed was not illegal; that, had it been so, he and his brother lawyers would not have been so blind as to have belonged to it. The court decided that the issue raised with regard to the persons acquitted in the judgment below should be joined with the principal issue, and the final decision be pronounced upon the two together. The appellants were then interrogated by the court. M. Garnier-Pagès complained that he was under the shameful necessity of appearing to defend himself for having done what he was perfectly entitled to do. The President said the prosecution was under the impression that the election committee, the formation of which was the ground of indictment, was not started for mere purposes of consultation, but itself constituted a most energetic course of action. In the correspondence discovered, the term 'partisans of action' was applied to its members. M. Garnier-Pagès claimed the right of action in such case, and challenged the prosecution to prove from the correspondence that any matter besides election affairs was discussed by the committee. It was true, he had himself travelled about the departments, and had found the populations bowed down by oppression—a remark for which he was rebuked by the President. Another of the defendants, M. Floquet, was next examined. This gentleman was unfortunate enough to state, with a smile on his face, that the collection of subscriptions was an occurrence with which he could not burden his memory; and, on the request of the court that he would be serious, replied that he really could not speak seriously in a case which had nothing serious in it, but that he could and did protest emphatically against the brutal manner in which the police had ransacked his house. The court then adjourned till Wednesday (yesterday). It is, of course, impossible to comment upon this trial until the final judgment has been pronounced; but it may be remarked that a needless difficulty has been raised, and one which is especially surprising among so logical and clear-headed a people as the French, by the confusion of two separate and distinct ideas—the illegality of the formation of a certain aggregate body, and the criminality of the individuals composing it. In England the so-called cumbrousness of our judicial proceedings would have entirely prevented any such confusion: supposing a law to be enacted by which the combination of ten persons, at least, should be necessary to support an indictment for conspiracy, and supposing ten persons to be indicted accordingly, against one of whom there should be no case, the charge of conspiracy would break down, as against the remaining nine charged under the same indictment. The English world looks with anxiety to see whether the conclusion of this trial will clear up the confusion pointed out above, and whether the final judgment of the supreme court will vindicate the claims of French justice to the proud position which it arrogates, and which, so far as it is represented in the French bar, were so cordially recognised lately by us in the person of M. Berryer.

The careful historian will take notice hereafter of a correspondence which has taken place between the Duc de Persigny and M. Emile de Girardin. The correspondence, which is in itself of little importance, will be of great value as a straw which has floated up to the surface of the stream from the undercurrent of French opinion, and, like the fly in the amber, makes the uninitiated spectators wonder 'how the deuce it got there.' The correspondence arose upon certain passages in a work sent by M. de Girardin to the Duke, advocating the complete freedom of the press. The Duke writes in answer:—

> The original idea which you set forth with so much talent is worthy to be taken most seriously into consideration, and I think it must ultimately prevail. But it is not enough to be in the right—it is requisite that you should be backed by public opinion. I think that, like many eminent minds who see too far and go too far for their own times, you are ahead of public opinion. You say somewhere that witches ceased to be dangerous when people ceased to burn them. That is true; but then people no longer believe in witches, and they still believe in newspapers. You endeavour to make out that the press has no influence, and that is true so far as the discussion of opinions goes; but there are many people who dread the scandals that the press may produce, and the passions which may be aroused in consequence. Moreover, I could not understand passing without transition from the present state of things to that which you propose. Assuredly the day when the press may enjoy the same liberty as it does in England, where its freedom is useful to all and injurious to none—that day shall witness the end of our revolutions, and the crowning of the edifice; but, whatever boldness I may feel in my own mind, I do not think public opinion sufficiently prepared to accept a *régime* which beforehand would inspire so many interests with anxiety. On that point I differ from you, but I confess that that question of the press preoccupies me much, and that I should feel but little inclined at present (*aujourd'hui*) to maintain the present *régime* without important modifications.

M. de Girardin, in his reply, accepts the concessions which the Duke is inclined to make, and proceeds to demonstrate that, to be logical, he must proceed to the complete emancipation of the press. He reasserts his original position, that the political importance of the press depends entirely upon the notice which the Government chooses to take of it. If the Government let it entirely alone, and proceeded its own way, the nation would cease to take a morbid interest in the political discussions of the newspapers. Both these letters have been published in *La Presse*, M. de Girardin's own journal, and have excited the greatest curiosity. That M. de Persigny should have made such admissions was a matter of gratification to the quiet and patriotic citizens who are desirous of seeing a true system of liberty organised under the present Government, so that the freedom of the nation should be secured without detriment to the strength of the executive. They accepted the Duke as a representative of the Imperialist party, and hailed his modified adhesion to their views as a step towards the realisation of their hopes. But a cold November frost was destined to blight the fair blossoms of their expectations; the *Constitutionnel* published a semi-official statement that the Emperor had written to M. de Persigny, expressing his regret that he should have expressed himself in such terms with regard to the freedom of the press in his letter to M. de Girardin. The latter gentleman, in noticing this statement, informs his readers that no such rebuke would have been called for had the whole letter been published, as it rather

advocated leniency in the application of the laws than a radical change in their spirit.

A singular event has occurred in the Gallican Church. Two new bishops, having been nominated to the sees of Châlons and Perpignan respectively by the Emperor, applied accordingly to the Pope for the bull of consecration. The bishop elect of Châlons obtained it without difficulty; but he of Perpignan being questioned, as his colleague had been, on his belief in Papal infallibility, replied with some reservations, and declared himself on this matter a disciple of Bossuet. The Papal advisers were dissatisfied with this, and have refused to confirm him in his see. M. Baroche, the French Minister, is, however, an energetic supporter of the same views, and maintains the Imperial selection. Thus we may see reproduced in the nineteenth century the quarrels between Church and State, the distinguishing feature of the middle ages.

ITALY.

A very singular fact is noticed with reference to the bill for the removal of the capital from Turin. That city, which was originally only the capital of a small province, had suddenly grown into the chief city of a first-rate Power. It could not give sufficient accommodation for the multitude of strangers who flocked into it from all parts of Italy, and at the same time could not afford to raise new buildings for them, considering the probability of the step which has now suddenly taken place. In the last few months, however, the fears of the capitalists seem to have been lulled to sleep. Companies have been formed, and a large mass of buildings have been started. Now the crash has come. Turin is to be deserted, at the very time when it was making ready to provide house-room for its visitors. The blow to the contractors will probably be very severe. The population of Turin, after their first unfortunate outbreak, have vindicated their title to liberty by the calmness and temperateness of their behaviour. The members of the Minghetti-Peruzzi Administration, by whom the Convention of September 15 was settled, have been abused and vilified with all the strength of language of which an Italian is capable. Yet they still live in Turin, and can gaze at the countless caricatures of themselves which fill the windows without fear of molestation. The Parliament has been getting through its business in hot haste. The financial bill of Signor Sella, after having passed the Lower House, was brought before the Senate and carried by 108 votes to 22. In the discussion upon it a passage of arms occurred between Count Revel and divers supporters of the late Ministry, whom the Count accused of improvidence and want of judgment. Count Revel, who was head of the Administration in 1848, and is a great authority in financial matters, found fault especially with the enormous naval and military forces which had impoverished the exchequer. His opponents accused him of unfairness for attacking the Finance Minister, who was a member of the Lower House, and could not be present to defend himself (the counterpart of an attack made on Mr. Disraeli in our own House of Commons for his strictures on the diplomacy of Earl Russell, a member of the House of Lords), and for casting blame on the late Minister of. War, General Della Rovere, who had but just been carried to his grave. Such appeals *ad misericordiam* are not likely to have much influence in a debate of so vital a character. The Committee of the Senate upon the Convention has reported on it in terms of the warmest favour, and maintains the proposal for the transfer of the capital. In the Lower House Signor Lanza has brought forward a list of the Government bills which must be discussed during the present session. Attention was called to a violation of law committed by the late Administration in not filling up two-thirds of the vacancies in the public service from the list of supernumeraries and pensioners, of whom in Naples alone there are now upwards of 2,000 who remain unemployed. An inquiry was also made into the proposed exchange of convicted criminals between the Italian and Papal Governments. Signor Pisanelli, on behalf of the late Ministry, said that it had been proposed, because it was not proper to leave Italian subjects, even convicts, in Papal prisons. Some one suggested that this exchange might be the first step in a reconciliation of the two Governments. General Della Marmora declared he should never have imagined that the reconciliation between Rome and Italy could commence by an exchange of galley slaves. The Minister of the Interior has brought forward a bill for authority to promulgate throughout the kingdom the civil, maritime, and commercial code.

It is said that the removal of the seat of Government to Florence will take place as soon as ever the bill to that effect has been passed. Some have declared, but the report has been contradicted, that the king would hold the New Year's day *levée* in the Pitti Palace, at Florence. One of the first steps on the part of France in recognition of the change in Italian affairs will be, it is said, the raising of the legation in Italy to the rank of an embassy, to which Count Walewski would be appointed. The death of General Della Rovere mentioned above has deprived Italy of a good citizen, and an able military administrator. He was Minister of War in the late Cabinet, and had warmly supported the Franco-Italian convention: his health had been for some time failing, and it is feared that his anxiety to be at his post in the Senate to speak in favour of the bill accelerated the illness which has carried him off.

The reports of the encounter between the Italian troops and the Garibaldians at Bagolino has been greatly exaggerated. In fact, there was no encounter, and no bloodshed. The volunteers were 150 in number, and were armed with 75 muskets, which they gave up upon the requisition of the commander of the regular troops. They have since been imprisoned in the fortress of Alessandria. The Central Venetian Committee at Turin has published a declaration that it will be useless to make any further attempts in favour of Venice until the Government takes up arms to deliver 'the national Italian territory occupied by Austria.'

The Papal Government is in a state of great uneasiness. In the first place, Baron von Bach, the Austrian ambassador, has arrived from Vienna, and has not brought with him the pious assurances of protection against the malice of the Franco-Italian Convention which were expected of him. This has been a great *désillusionnément* for them, as they had built great hopes upon his arrival. In the second place, the hope of arranging matters with Russia through the mediation of the Hereditary Grand-Duke, who was to have spent a winter in Rome, has been rudely crushed by a very significant change of mind on the part of his Imperial Highness, who has given up the idea of visiting Rome. The somewhat too fervid strictures of the Pope upon the conduct of Russia to the Catholics in Poland has been a subject of some regret, and it had been hoped that the visit of the heir to the throne of Russia would be as great an assistance to the diplomatic world, as it would be a boon to the social and commercial community. The Pope is about to change his coinage, and substitute for *scudi*, *paoli*, and *baiocchi*, the *lire* and *centessimi*, or francs and centimes of the Italians. As a matter of convenience, considering the universality of the francs, this measure may be advisable; as a matter of principle it was not called for, as the decimal system is as well if not much better expressed in the Papal than in the French coinage; the former has the very great advantage of having the standard unit (the *scudo*) of the value of 4*s*. 3*d*., which is practically and theoretically more convenient than the franc of the value of 9½*d*. The *Diritto* of Turin states that General Lamoricière has accepted the mission of forming the Papal army, and that the ex-king, Francis II. of Naples, is to be made generalissimo of the forces. The story is an odd one, and requires confirmation.

DENMARK.

The King, the Crown Prince, and the Prime Minister have started on a visit to Jutland. All parties in Denmark are bracing their energies for the critical operation which they have yet to go through, in the shape of a change in the Constitution, rendered necessary by the articles of the Treaty of Peace. On the 15th ultimo, the anniversary of the death of the late King Frederick VII. —or, as the people love to call him, Frederick the Dane— was celebrated with all marks of respect; the shops were all shut, and the journals all bore an edging of black. A banquet was given by the Swedish ambassador on the anniversary of the union between Sweden and Norway. The warmth with which the toast of Denmark was received was especially observed. The national hymn which was sung on the occasion consisted of three verses—one in Swedish, one in Norse, and one in the Danish language.

GERMANY.

A plenipotentiary was sent from Berlin on the 27th ult. to Saxony and Hanover to demand the withdrawal of the Federal army from the Duchies. To explain this action the *Nord-Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* publishes an article pointing out that a competition for the possession of the Duchies has arisen between the Powers to which they have been ceded by Denmark and divers claimants. The presence of the Federal armies in the Duchies is the only obstacle in the way of an adjustment of the claims of the two parties. Until that is withdrawn, Prussia declines to act. This article is perfectly intelligible, and states openly the very thing against which the Federal Diet and the Duchies themselves are so indignant. The Federal Diet is not a third party and a stranger to the discussions between the two rival parties, but is the principal for whom Austria and Prussia have as yet only been acting as agents. The Diet now claims to assume its position, not only as a principal, but also as arbiter on the succession question. Prussia is not, however, inclined to concede an iota; fresh troops have been sent into the Duchies, and the order to those now in garrison there to withdraw has been rescinded. On the other hand, they have allowed to the Federal troops some reparations in return for certain proceedings which occurred not long since, and which appeared to be a slur on the honour of the Germanic Confederation; a battalion of Hanoverians and two companies of Saxons have been readmitted into the fortress of Rendsburg, into which they were received by the Prussian garrison with military honours.

The two Houses of the Reichsrath of Austria have been engaged in the discussion of the proposed addresses to the Crown. In the Upper House, Count Rechburg commented on the necessity for an intimate alliance with Prussia, the want of which was very nearly her destruction in 1859; at the same time the middle States of Germany, he said, look to Austria for help. In the Lower House Herr von Schmerling stated that it was not the intention of the Government during the present session to bring in a bill for establishing ministerial responsibility. He thought it better to wait till the constitution had been carried into effect throughout the whole empire.

The relations between Austria and Russia have become lately the object of much examination. It is said that the Austrian Government view, with much suspicion, the great intimacy which existed between the hereditary Grand Duke and Victor Emmanuel; they have also remarked that he went out of his way in order not to pass through Vienna on his way to Turin. On the other hand, the journals continue to point out the absolute necessity for political concord between these two great Powers. The Prussian journals express a hope that Lord Napier, the new English ambassador at Berlin, will reestablish a friendly intercourse between his Government and Prussia; his lordship, according to them, has a European reputation as a peacemaker.

We mentioned last week the strong measures which had been forced upon the Chamber of Electoral Hesse by the extraordinary conduct of their sovereign: some details are now given of his singular laziness or obstinacy, whichever it may be, which, however unpleasant to his subjects, is a real comedy to the rest of Europe. It appears that several police laws required as substitutes for the old feudal regulations now abolished still await his sanction. In the meantime every one does that which is right in his own eyes. The paper-money is so thoroughly worn out, that it requires care to keep the various strips of a one-thaler note together. The Chamber voted a fresh issue of notes sixteen months ago, but this still remains undone for the same reason as before mentioned. The railway companies can obtain no fresh powers, and are obliged in consequence either to act without leave, or to risk their passengers' necks. The Academy of Fine Arts has been forced to suspend the presentation of medals to its successful disciples since the year 1855, because the sovereign will not give his decision as to the design of the medals. Perhaps the most absurd trick which he ever played was when he left the members of the Chamber sitting for a whole night, because he had gone to the theatre and could not be troubled to sign the decree for their prorogation. It is expected that Prince Frederick of Hesse will be asked to assume the regency during the life of his father.

SWITZERLAND.

Our readers will remember the suspicious circumstances which led to the trial of Dr. Demme and Madame Trümpy for murder. A report has come from Berne that Dr. Demme and Mdlle. Trümpy, the daughter of the deceased and of Madame Trümpy, had drowned themselves in the lake of Geneva; a story so strange was only a fit conclusion for the horrible tragedy which, whether the accused persons were innocent or guilty, was contained in the events which led to that trial. However, there is a suspicion that it is after all only a made-up tale, intended to mask the departure of Dr. Demme and his wife to a foreign country; it is known that he has been offered the post of physician-in-chief in the army, and a professorship in the University of Mexico. Another rumour is that he has fled from certain well-founded accusations of theft, in consequence of the identification of some objects found in his possession on his arrest. Whether this is the final act, or only an episode in the life of Dr. Demme, it is equally singular, suspicious, and sensational.

RUSSIA.

An Imperial decree has been issued closing certain convents in Poland. It orders that all Catholic monasteries and convents having less than eight members, and also those whose participation in the late insurrection was notorious or has since been proved, are to be immediately closed. The inmates may enter other religious establishments, or will be allowed to go abroad at the public expense. The religious establishments which are not suppressed by this decree are forbidden to maintain relations with either the provincials or generals of their orders. The confiscated property of the monasteries and convents will be exclusively devoted to ecclesiastical, educational, and charitable purposes. In pursuance of this decree, seventy-one monasteries and four convents have been closed on account of not possessing the requisite number of inmates, and thirty-nine other religious houses on account of participation in the Polish insurrection.

General Berg has received instructions to forward shortly to the Russian Government a report upon the general situation of the kingdom of Poland, and to state whether there is any possibility of provisionally raising the state of siege in certain districts.

General Berg is also instructed to cause an address to be signed, requesting the complete incorporation of the kingdom of Poland with the Russian empire.

GREECE.

The king has returned the draft of the Constitution to the National Assembly with a message adopting it, and agreeing to take the oath required of him by it. He requests them, however, to modify two points—one of them requiring ministers of the Catholic Church in Greece (*i.e.* the Church of Rome, the Greek Church being technically called 'Orthodox') to be Greek subjects; and the other interposing great and, in the opinion of the king, needless obstacles in the way of a revision of the Constitution.

MEXICO.

News has been received in France that Juarez has issued letters of marque to privateers acting in the name of the Mexican Republic against France; that is, that he is about to take a step which no Power, whether recognised or unrecognised, has taken during the last twenty years. The perverted sense put upon the word 'privateer' by the Yankee and most of the English press has led us to forget the real meaning of it. A privateer, the bearer of a letter of marque, is a vessel commanded by private individuals, not public officers, and fitted up at private expense, whose object is to take prizes entirely on her own behalf. The warfare pursued by these vessels has justly been considered by the European powers assembled at Paris in the Congress of 1856 as approaching much too near a licensed piracy to be in harmony with the spirit of this century; they thought that a private person authorised by a Government to make what profit he could out of an enemy, in consideration of the harm which he would inflict upon the enemy in so doing, was not a proper representation of the principles on which one nation makes war against another. If the news mentioned be true, Juarez sets aside these considerations, and reverts to a barbarous system. In doing so he cannot plead the example of the Confederate States, whose national cruisers, commanded by national officers, and armed at the national expense, have been called privateers, apparently because they sail alone and not in large fleets, without any regard to the proper meaning of the term.

JAPAN.

The consequence of the capture of Prince Nagato's forts in the Straits of Simonosaki is a treaty by which the Prince agrees to provide all ships that may require them with coal, wood, water, &c., and also to admit their crews to land should stress of weather compel them to do so. He further agrees not to rebuild the forts or mount fresh guns; and, lastly, to pay a ransom for the town of Simonosaki, which might have been destroyed by the allied fleets, besides all the expenses of the expedition.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York: November 15, 1864.

The result of the Presidential election has disappointed no reasonable expectation. I doubt whether any intelligent friend of General M'Clellan, surveying the whole field, looked for him to obtain more than the vote of several important States, together with ascendency in the State Governments, to be a powerful support in subsequent political movements, of which some that were contemplated were of a very grave nature. With the votes of enough States to make out a case against the President's party of having secured a majority of electoral votes by frauds and military violence in places designated, with the proof supplied with which to affect the public mind with the conviction that the Presidency had been usurped, a formidable issue might have been made for the rallying of an irresistible Opposition in another campaign, or for the immediate reform of the Government, concerning which some very bold schemes were in agitation. Of the existence of extensive frauds, military coercion wherever practicable, military intimidation everywhere, the abuse of the power over the army, and the boundless seductions of the Treasury, there are abundant proofs; but the Democrats have not secured a stand-point anywhere on which they can make battle. The electoral vote for Mr. Lincoln is all but unanimous:—22 States out of 25, and 213 out of 234 votes—leaving General M'Clellan only Kentucky, 11; New Jersey, 7; and Delaware, 3 (21). Against such an array, the allegation of usurpation by fraud would fall on very dull ears. The charge of corrupt influence may be all true, but the table of votes will be cited to show that they were immaterial to the issue, and effected nothing on the result. The verdict is 'not proven,' and the criminal goes free because his crimes were superfluities.

The Democratic party is reduced to a powerless minority for an indefinite period. It has lost the Presidency for four years. It has lost the ascendency in every State Government but two, New Jersey and Kentucky. It is in a minority of less than one-third of the House of Representatives; it has even a smaller proportion of the more permanent body of senators. Its distinctive doctrines, on which the government has been administered ever since its foundation, are about to be subverted, in their last refuge in the Supreme Court of the United States, by the incoming of a new set of judges under the administration of Mr. Lincoln, with the certainty that, during his term, by the regular course of a new appointment, or the intervention of Congress in throwing the balance of a divided court to their own side by the addition of a new judge to the bench, the current of constitutional construction will be turned. There is no hope of the possible revival of the Democratic party in its old strength or with its old objects. The civil revolution against them is complete and irreversible.

The struggle against Mr. Lincoln was the expiring struggle for the restoration of constitutional government over the North. If there had been no war with which to delude and madden the people, the Administration of Mr. Lincoln would have been driven out of power by an electoral vote as large as that by which it has triumphed, and a popular majority vastly exceeding that which it has obtained. It is noticeable, in fact, that, with the nearly unanimous electoral vote which Mr. Lincoln received, his majority of the voters is comparatively meagre. Three hundred thousand is the most claimed for him by his supporters, out of an aggregate of fully four millions, distributed among twenty-five constituencies, and there must have been at least a million and three-quarters—probably there are two millions—of voters who protested against this revolution in their own Government. The control of the army and the Treasury, the successful appropriation to the uses of party of the blind instincts of an unreasoning nationality, and the terrible energy with which the Administration has usurped all powers they needed for their own purposes, and wielded what they usurped so as to be followed by the plaudits of the mob, in crushing their opponents, have been too strong for what remained of public virtue; a popular decision, final in form and irreversible, has been obtained on the only issue which was plainly presented to the people. It is that the unity of the nation—an idea which has finally supplanted that of the union of States—is to be maintained 'at all hazards,' as General M'Clellan said in his letter of acceptance; even, as concurrently said in all the organs of the Administration, at the cost of a sacrifice of the Constitution and the perils of the bankruptcy of the nation.

On these last conditions the Democracy made feeble battle. They and their candidate proclaimed as broad and unrelenting a purpose as their opponents to prosecute the war until unity were established; but they argued, with manifest insincerity, that under their auspices unity might be recovered with a union of the States, and they contended that, for the accomplishment of those ends, it was surely not necessary to abolish the constitution and employ dictatorial powers which amounted to military usurpation over the conceded rights of the States and the civil rights and liberties of citizens of the States. They were for trying conciliation with the South by proffering terms which they knew they had no power to execute, and had no real expectation that the South would accept; and, under these false pretences, struggled for ascendency in the North, with the chief object of being able thereby to recover something of their lost liberties for themselves. Not on the issue of war or peace was the decision against them, but on the simple issue that they made constitutional conditions for their professed support of the war, while it was the determination of the Administration to continue to prosecute it on its past policy, according to which all limitations on power, and all questions of State and individual rights, must give way before the one absorbing question of maintaining a unity of government over all the States. The passion for an overshadowing nationality has extinguished all considerations for consequences, or probabilities, or risks; and, the day after the election, the Democratic party and its candidate stood pledged by its organisation and their declarations during the canvass as absolutely for the continued prosecution of the war as Mr. Lincoln himself. They placed the unity of the Government above all questions of administration and policy. Bitterly assailing the conduct of Mr. Lincoln throughout, as in violation of justice and natural right and the Constitution, and such that the people of the South cannot cease to resist without intolerable degradation and utter ruin, they have deprived themselves of the right, as they have lost all power, to obstruct the success of Mr. Lincoln's plans of subjugation and extermination.

The original Peace men who stood aloof from the canvass for M'Clellan, or were silently absorbed in the movement in the vain hope of finding a starting-point for a new organisation should Mr. Lincoln be defeated, have evidently determined to separate themselves finally and peremptorily from the War Democracy, and, setting up a standard of faith for themselves, to adhere to it inflexibly, without compromise or concession for any temporary temptation of expediency. The fundamental idea is, that the inalienable sovereignty of the States supplies the only power through which the disorders of the times can find a remedy, union be possibly reconstructed, or, failing that, constitutional liberty be sustained anywhere. In the present riotous predominance of an overshadowing centralisation, armed with such prodigious powers by the self-prostration of an insane people, and with the State powers themselves in the service of the central despotism, the prospect of either of these consummations must be confessed to be gloomy. But the madness of multitudes has its paroxysms and its final exhaustion; and, with the inevitable discovery that the South can never be brought back to the Union by war, the pressure of the new war measures which must employ Congress if hostilities are to go on, and tax the resources of the country for men and money, the collapse of the Government currency and credit, and the realisation of the grinding burdens of redoubled taxation, will, according to the friends of peace, work a revulsion in the popular feeling, which, acting upon the necessities of Government will compel it to seek peace in the milder paths of negotiation, and to accept or solicit the agencies it now derides. In the successful defence or protracted resistance of the South rest all hopes of compelling the North to make peace, unless potential influence from abroad come in between the combatants, and Europe demand in the interest of humanity and Christendom that this useless carnage shall cease.

The reelection of Mr. Lincoln is received throughout the South as the pledge of the North for continued and implacable war, and is worth armies to the cause. It extinguishes every feeble thought that might have been entertained among any portion of the Southern people that the North is willing to concede even so much for a voluntary restoration of Union as the deceitful programme at Chicago faintly suggested; and it welds the whole mass together in one resolute purpose to fight on and fight ever for independence. It makes war interminable unless the independence of the Confederacy is conceded, or the other and perhaps impossible form of pacification succeeds by the agency of the State sovereignties.

The military situation in Virginia is not changed during the past week. Grant's army and Sheridan's army have been mostly engaged in President-making—voting in camp, or sent home in large numbers on furlough to deposit their votes for Mr. Lincoln. Sheridan, who has so often, according to the Federal despatches, routed, dispersed, and demoralised the army of Early, has retired far down the Valley with the ostensible purpose of covering the Potomac to prevent an invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania by the same thrice-beaten troops. The Confederates are said to be reinforced, and under the command of General Ewell. Grant is quiet in the trenches before Richmond. The newspapers are promising another grand effort to capture the rebel stronghold. Price does not appear to have taken a firm foothold in Missouri, but to have withdrawn southwards; the intelligence comes so coloured through Federal sources that it is impossible to know what to believe.

The great military excitement of the day is to know what has become of Sherman's army. Nothing has been heard of him for some time, and there are exulting prognostics, coming mysteriously through various sources, that he has started with a very large force for some point in the Confederate territory where he will strike a blow the most signal and brilliant of the war. But no hint has got out to guide opinion towards the spot—whether it is north, or south, or east, towards Lynchburg, or towards Mobile, or towards Charleston or Savannah. The Confederates at Richmond are observant and reticent, and give no hint. The public curiosity is highly inflamed, and the telegraphs are watched hourly for some intimation. Where is Sherman gone? and the Confederate sympathisers are anxiously asking, Where is Hood?

In the meantime, the Confederate Congress is in session at Richmond, actually within the beleaguered city, which people here say that General Grant is about to capture with all it contains, closing his troops about it so that none shall escape. The members do not appear at all sensible of their danger, and are carrying on their debates and discussing the politics of the Confederacy as though General Grant and his army were beyond the Potomac.

There is now some prospect that there will be, by consent of the two belligerent Governments, some mitigation of the sufferings of the prisoners of war held on both sides. A system of exchange for a large number has been agreed upon at Charleston, and an arrangement, proposed from Richmond by the Confederate Commissioner Ould, for the supplying of the wants of the prisoners of each in the hands of the other, has been accepted by General Grant, and waits only the adjustment of some details to be carried into effect. Mr. Ould proposed that the Northern Government shall be allowed to send supplies to the Northern prisoners held in the South on condition that the Southern Government be allowed to make similar provision by purchases in Europe to be admitted into Northern ports for distribution to Southern prisoners in the North. The delay of sending to Europe when immediate relief is needed at the North has prompted the proposal of an amendment by which the purchases can be made at the North for delivery at once. The assent of the Washington authorities has not been obtained, but it is not thought possible that they will withhold it, and thus become more directly responsible for the inevitable privations of their own soldiers in Southern prisons. The proposal puts the Southern authorities in such a superior position for humanity, that I scarcely think it will be declined on any of the frivolous pretences which have so long obstructed the general exchange of prisoners.

In other respects I am sorry to say the war is assuming new aspects of horror in the retaliatory practices which have come to be so prevalent among the subordinate generals in the frontier States, encouraged by example in high quarters. In the Valley of Virginia General Sheridan burnt every house within five miles of a spot where one of his officers was found killed by parties unknown. He assumed them to be guerillas—they might have been Confederate regulars, or desperado deserters from his own ranks, with which the region is filled. In Missouri the Federals lately took out and shot six 'Confederate' soldiers, in retaliation for the supposed murder of a Major Wilson by guerillas, not knowing, in fact, who killed him. In Fayette county, Missouri, lately, one 'Bill Marshall,' a guerilla, shot a Kentucky farmer, and had previously killed two negroes in Henry county. Eight Confederate prisoners of war, regular soldiers of the Confederate service, were taken from Lexington last week, and all of them shot in retaliation for those murders. Thus, the regular soldiers of the Confederate army were shot for the acts of guerillas. The particulars of the shooting are given with shocking levity in the Kentucky Union papers. The Confederates, who have abstained from meeting this system with direct retaliation in kind, are commencing a system of blood for blood. In several instances lately, they have caused captured Federal soldiers, taken in pursuit after the perpetration of one of these enormities, to be hanged on the spot. Mosby, in Virginia, who has hitherto conducted war on principles of high chivalry, treating prisoners with marked gentleness, has been goaded out of his forbearance, and lately gave a signal example of his determination to take vengeance for all specific acts of barbarity of this sort inflicted on his men. Lately, a number of his troops who had been captured by the Federals were executed by the Federal General Custer, under pretence that they were guerillas, not entitled to privileges as prisoners of war. On learning this, Mosby hanged an equal number of Unionists, giving notice for what particular murder they suffered in expiation, and giving warning that hereafter every such act would be avenged in the like way.

The Federals about Alexandria have adopted the plan of securing their trains against the attacks of the Southerners by selecting prominent friends of the Southern cause and exposing them on each train, so as to be the first victims of an attempt to stop it. It has been seriously proposed in the Unionist papers there, if this expedient fails, to pick out for the exposure the wives and daughters of the principal sympathisers, so that the trains may be protected by the Southern repugnance to fire upon women! It has not come to that yet. The plan of exposing unarmed men to shelter armed ones is indignantly denounced as cruel and cowardly, and some of the Richmond papers are menacing the authors with a system of deadly retaliation of the most thorough and sweeping kind. It is, that special efforts should be made to capture the trains on which these noncombatants are so brutally exposed, and to kill without sparing every Unionist occupant. Thus the tragedy deepens, and the bloody deeds of the invader return back upon him with new horrors.

Immediately after the publication of Captain Winslow's and Captain Collins's report of the 'brilliant' affair of the capture of the Confederate steamer *Florida* in the Brazilian port of Bahia, 'without the loss of a man,' we received the fuller accounts by way of England. They add to the knavish character of the Federal captain, and the piratical character of the transaction. It will be hard for this Government to give up the *Florida*, and every device will be considered, and perhaps tried, to escape that humiliation. Brazil is not so powerful as England, and there is therefore better chance than Mr. Seward had in the *Trent* case for the success of some diplomatic device for delaying restitution, and seeking to satisfy the Brazilian authorities with something less than the actual delivery of the hated ship, which is at last, no matter how, in the Federal grasp. There is a strong desire to keep her. Whatever else Brazil might demand short of this would be conceded without hesitation, with a great show of magnanimity. Full acknowledgments and liberal offers will, no doubt, be tendered at once; but I mistake the Brazilian character, which partakes so strongly of the old Spanish pride of nationality, if the Government will endure delays, or be pacified with anything less than full atonement—the immediate release and return of the vessel to the port whence she was taken, and a signal and public mark of the censure of the Government upon Captain Collins.

THE ST. ALBAN'S RAIDERS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Montreal: November 16, 1864.

Intelligence respecting the raid upon St. Alban's, and some of the circumstances attending the adventure, have already been conveyed to Europe. I am aware, however, of some facts which may be desirable to lay before the public, and which, no doubt, will be especially interesting to the readers of your paper.

The case of the raiders was prejudged by the Canadian Government, which, I regret to say, exhibited a political weakness, and a truckling to the Federal Government, far from justifiable, if not absolutely contemptible. Upon the Government receiving intelligence of the attack upon St. Alban's, they took speedy and decided steps against the raiders. The superintendent of police at Montreal, and (as I was informed by the American Consul-General) a company of military were ordered to the frontier for the purpose of effecting their capture. Mr. Cartier, the Attorney-General, not being satisfied with these acts of favour, instructed Mr. Carter, Q.C., the Clerk of the Crown, to proceed to St. John's, where the prisoners were first conveyed, nominally for the purpose of assisting Judge Coursol, but in reality to aid the prosecution by taking care that the proceedings were all regular in form, so that there should be no loophole for escape. The Queen's Counsel (Mr. Johnson), retained by the Government as Crown Prosecutor, being offered a retainer for the prisoners, solicited permission to accept the same. This request the Attorney-General not only refused, but Mr. Johnson was directed to go and assist the United States Government in procuring the extradition of the raiders. For several days I observed these officials, both at St. John's and Montreal, preparing the informations and warrants, offering suggestions to the prosecutors, and in every way assisting in the legal routine preliminary to extradition. Such a biassed course of action on the part of the Government has given rise to much private criticism, and has elicited popular indignation.

Further, it was deemed advisable by Judge Coursol, the Clerk of the Crown, and the Crown Prosecutor, that the prisoners should be removed to Montreal, and the case tried in that city. To this step the Hon. S. J. Edmonds (who represented the United States Government) strongly objected. The Attorney-General for Lower Canada was appealed to, but a telegraphic reply was sent back that '*Mr. Edmonds's objections must be attended to.*' Finally, however, Mr. Edmonds conceded; but before any action was taken he had to obtain the sanction of the Federal authorities. It was true that great inconvenience was experienced by the judge and counsel at St. John's. The best hotel of the village was uncomfortable. The rooms were incommodious, and privacy was altogether out of the question. But even these disadvantages would have been borne, had not information been received from trustworthy persons that the Vermonters had purposed to attack the gaol and rescue the prisoners. While at St. John's a cavalry militia guard patrolled around the gaol for several nights until they were relieved by a body of the Rifle Brigade, who occupy quarters adjacent to the town. Such a precautionary measure was deemed absolutely incumbent. All this time the prisoners had no commitments made out against them; and the opinion in some legal quarters was that the men had, therefore, no right to be incarcerated.

When the proceedings were transferred to Montreal, the Clerk of the Crown gave his assistance as before, until the Hon. Mr. Abbott, one of the counsel for the raiders, took exceptions to the authority upon which that gentleman acted.

I am confident, however, that Mr. Carter did not relish his position. The onerous and disagreeable duty he was called upon to perform was both distasteful to his dignity and his understanding. Accordingly, one morning he informed the Judge that, as exceptions had been taken to him, as the Clerk of the Crown, acting in the capacity he did, he should like the Court to pronounce its judgment on the question. Later in the day Judge Coursol ruled that Mr. Carter could not legally act as he had hitherto done. This circumstance led at once to Mr. Carter's relinquishment of his office; but, upon being summoned to Quebec, the Attorney-General caused him to withdraw his resignation. I merely mention these facts to show the meanness and weakness which the Canadian Government evinced on this occasion. I am not surprised that they should have received a congratulatory note from Washington 'for the assistance they rendered in the capture of the raiders.'

I have been a good deal with the prisoners, and must speak highly of their general appearance, conduct, and deportment. All of them have been either officers or soldiers belonging to General Morgan's famous band, and several effected their escape from Northern prisons. The dignified and delicate looks of these young men inspire the utmost sympathy for their condition. No one would be daring enough to designate any one of them as a murderer, or even a burglar.

Lieutenant Bennett Young, who, although a mere beardless youth, has been engaged in many fights, is not only an officer of the Confederate army, but was duly commissioned by the Confederate Government to organise and direct a special raid upon St. Alban's as an act of retaliation for the barbarities perpetrated by the Lincoln troops in the Shenandoah Valley and other places. Not only so, but the names of the entire party were reported to, and approved by, the War Department at Richmond, which facts will be proved when the prisoners are put on their defence. Meanwhile suffer me to send you a copy of Lieutenant Young's commission, with which I have been favoured by the Hon. Mr. Abbott:—

'Confederate States of America, War Department,
'Richmond, Virginia: June 16, 1864.

'Lieutenant Bennett H. Young is hereby authorised to organise a company not to exceed twenty in number for special service, under instructions which he has received.

'They will be entitled to their pay, rations, clothing, and transportation, but no other compensation for any service which they may be called upon to render.

'The organisation will be under the control of this department, and liable to be disbanded at its pleasure, and the members returned to their respective companies.

'By command of the Secretary of War.
(Copy) 'W. S. BARTREN,
Major and Adjutant.'

It may be important to inform you that, shortly after the raiders were captured, I was requested by the son of the Chief Justice of Vermont—himself a judge—to become the intermediary between him, as representing the shareholders of the banks, and the Confederate agents. The proposition was to the effect that he considered, from the influence he possessed with his father and the Governor of the State of Vermont (all large holders of stock in the various banks), the prosecution would be abandoned, provided the abstracted money was restored, and a promise given that no similar raid would be attempted. Did I gain the consent of the other side, I was requested to telegraph to Vermont, and that he would immediately start off for St. John's, to further the arrangement. Now, it strikes me very forcibly that if the legal gentleman referred to had regarded the raiders in the light of miscreants, whose base ambition it was simply to rob and murder, he never would have exhibited such weakness of intellect and absence of principle as to have condescended to a compromise with rogues and rascals, who, were they not, and did they not avow themselves to be, Confederate soldiers, would most certainly be deserving of extradition, and the worst fate attending it.

The raid was not concocted in Canada. Lieutenant Young studied international law three months previous to the attack upon St. Alban's, so that he might be qualified how to act. Upon approaching the Canadian frontier, every man, I believe, flung down his arms, though some were pursued and illegally arrested beyond the lines.

Too much praise cannot be accorded to Mr. Justice Coursol for the high and dignified manner in which, so far, he has directed the investigations. He is a gentleman who eschews partisanship, and is only bent on administering justice; and justice, I believe, he will administer, in spite of any consequence such an honourable course may entail on himself.

INCREASED VALUE OF SOUTHERN PRODUCE.—The most prominent fact that engages our attention is the great appreciation of the Southern resources as a consequence of the war. This presents an anomaly as compared with all preceding wars in any country, and arises from the sort of monopoly which the peculiar situation of the South gives her in regard to certain staples necessary to the world at large. Thus cotton has risen from ten cents to sixty cents, gold price, in Liverpool. Resin that was sold at eighty cents, is now worth forty dollars. Turpentine has risen sixfold in value. Tobacco, rice, sugar, have all risen, not in paper values, which have no foundation, but in specie, based upon the united wants of the world. These prices will not fall on the return of peace, but be maintained relatively for many years to come. The following table presents the case clearly:—

	Pounds.	Specie value. 1860.	1864.
Cotton . .	2,000,000,000	$200,000,000	$1,000,000,000
Tobacco . .	185,023,906	18,505,000	36,000,000
Rice . . .	215,313,497	8,612,539	17,000,000
Sugar . . .	237,133,000	16,599,310	24,000,000
Naval stores .		2,107,100	30,000,000
Annual specie value . .		$245,823,949	$1,107,000,000
Increase			$861,176,051

Thus the annual product in specie value is fivefold that of 1860. If we turn to the North to seek for any interest which has improved otherwise than in paper prices dependent upon war expenditure, we look in vain. On the other hand, we observe vast manufacturing interests before employed in providing goods for the South now permanently ruined by the transfer of the manufactures, with the right of all patent machines, to the South. The blockade, indeed, prevents the South from realising present values, but the longer the blockade continues the higher and the more permanent will be the prices on the return of peace, in consequence of the more entire exhaustion of stocks abroad.—*New York Daily News.*

BUTLER'S SPEECH AT NEW YORK.

AT the reception given on November 14 at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York, General Butler made the following speech:—

Mr. Wadsworth, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The citizens of New York have done me honour overmuch. Their kindness, extended in every form known to Christian courtesy, overwhelms me. That I should be supposed to be able to add anything to their sum of intelligence is a still greater honour. That I entertain very distinct views upon the subjects to which you have adverted is most true. 'Peace hath her victories, no less renowned than war,' and of all the peaceful victories ever yet achieved in the interests of human freedom, that achieved in the peaceful quiet which almost brooded over this land on the 8th of November is the greatest. Before we proceed for a moment to look upon its material results, let us look at its moral. It has taught all the world who shall look on (and it is not now to be said that it is a vain boast that the eyes of all the world are upon us) that we are able in the stress and strain of a civil war like this, which has never been seen before, to carry on our institutions in peaceful quiet, that we can change or reelect our rulers, as we weigh them in the balance and find them either meritorious or wanting, without so much of trouble, disorder, or commotion as pertain to a constable election in a parish in England. The moral then is, that a Government embalmed in the hearts of the people, dependent on the intelligence of the people, is the strongest government on earth—strong in the affections, stronger still in the right arms of the people. We have heretofore been told that it was necessary there should be either monarchy or despotism to wield bayonets, yet we see bayonets wielded by hundreds of thousands of us where other governments have not been able to wield by hundreds, and find them entirely subservient to the people's will. The natural results are not less striking. First, in the fact that all disputed questions which have divided the country are now settled by an almost unanimous verdict of the whole people. Does any one complain that in the conduct of military operations there should be the arrest of a traitor? That question has been argued and settled, and the verdict is 'guilty.' Arrest him if he is guilty. Does any one complain that the theory of the Constitution in relation to arming the people in defence of the country has been carried out, which enrols all able-bodied men to fight in defence of their country's life and liberties, and drafts as many as are necessary? That question has been settled, and hereafter it will be more honourable to be drafted than to volunteer. Does any one complain that the Government in its wisdom has organised troops irrespective of colour, and believes that the black man's grave would fill as much space as if his colour was white when he falls in battle in defence of his country's liberties? That question has been settled, and has passed away for ever to be among the things of the dead past.

Does any one now claim, as was claimed in 1860, that Abraham Lincoln is President of a minority of the people of the Union? That question is now settled by an overwhelming majority. Let us consider a moment the fact that, if we count every rebel against him—as they were—every rebel sympathiser against him—as they were—if we count every disloyal man against him—as they were—yet he is elected by a majority second only to that with which Jackson swept the country in a season of financial peril. These material results have been achieved. Now, then, what is the duty of the Government in the present future? War cannot last always. The history of nations shows—the experience of the world demonstrates—that war must come to an end. But how? In what way? A war such as this, prosecuted for the purpose of breaking down the power of those opposed to the Government and bringing them under the supremacy of its laws, must be terminated either by reconciliation or subjugation. In view, therefore, of the unanimity of the American people; in view of the strength, the majesty, the might of the nation, may it not be suggested that now is the time to hold out to the deluded people of the South the olive branch of peace, and say to them, 'Come back, come back, and leave off feeding on husks, and share with us the fat of the land, and bygones shall be bygones, if bygones are bygones, and in one country and with one law we shall live in peace hereafter?'

Are we not able to offer them this now? Are we not strong enough? Do we not stand firmly, with unanimity of sentiment enough to offer peace to all, if all will submit to the laws? There might have been some complaints, I think, among a proud and chivalrous people, that they would not desert their leaders, by taking advantage of the Amnesty Proclamation of President Lincoln; but none when we come to them and say, 'Come back, and you shall find the laws the same, save so far as they have been altered by the legislative wisdom of the land—both for leaders and followers.' Can there be any excuse for either if they rebelliously remain in contempt of the authority of the Government? Are we not in a condition now, not taking counsel from our fears or from our weakness, but of our strength and magnanimity, again to make such offers of peace and amity in the most beneficent terms, but for the last time? By so doing shall we not, in the eyes of the world, 'have exhausted all the resources of statesmanship in an effort to restore peace to the country?' Who shall hinder them from returning? And if they will not come back, who shall complain?

Let us not permit the rebel, after he has fought as long as he can, and then, if he chooses to, come back; let us state some time, perhaps January 8—for the association will be as good as any—for all to lay down their arms and submit to the laws; and when that hour has passed, to every man who shall scout the proffered amnesty of a great and powerful nation, speaking in love, in charity, in kindness, in hope of peace and quiet for ever to its rebellious sons, I say then let us meet him or them with sharp, quick, decisive war, which shall bring the rebellion to an end for ever by the extinguishment of such men, wherever they may be found. How is that to be done? Blood and treasure has been poured out without stint or measure, until, taking advantage of the supposed depletion of treasure, bad men have banded together by speculating in gold, which ought to be the circulating medium, have raised the price of coals upon every poor man's hearth, and the price of bread upon every poor man's table. Let the Government take some measure to stop this unholy traffic, and let it be understood that the policy of the Government will be hereafter to pay no more bounties for the recruitment of soldiers from the taxes of the loyal North; but, taking counsel from the Roman method of carrying on war, to say to your young men, 'Look to the fair fields of the sunny South; they have refused our amnesty and offers of peace; they have turned away the day of grace. Go down there in arms in support of the Government, extinguish the rebellion, and you shall have what you conquer, in a fair division of the lands to each man to pay for his military service. We will open new land offices wherever our armies march, dividing the lands of the rebellious States among our soldiers, to be theirs and their heirs' for ever.' A harsh measure, it may be said. But is it not quite as just as to tax ourselves, and thus raise the prices of the necessaries of life, for the purpose of giving bounty to and supporting the soldier in fighting those rebellious men whom we have three times over solemnly called to come and enjoy with us the blessings of our liberties and be friends—saying, in 1862, come in June; in 1863, come in December; in 1864, come by the 8th of January, 1865? When the clock strikes the last knell of that parting day, then all hope to those who have not made progress to return should be cut off for ever and ever. No longer should they be permitted to live on the land, or even within the boundaries of the United States. Let them go to Mexico, the islands of the sea, or some place that I care not to name, because I know no land bad enough to be cursed with their presence, but never to live here again.

I look, therefore, with some considerable interest upon what I believe to be the present results of this election. I believe, sir, first, that we have settled by it the war by settling the question that the people are determined to carry the war to the bitter end, unless we have submission to the laws. I think it has always been claimed that we should be strong enough after a great victory to offer to the rebels new terms of peace. I never expect to see in arms or in civil affairs a greater victory than the one we have just achieved; and I think we are now strong enough to make that offer with due regard to our interest, our dignity, and our honour as a nation. I take it that the most squeamish of all the friends of the country will agree with us when they find that in truth we have 'exhausted every resource of statesmanship' in attempting to obtain peace by an offer of amnesty and forgetfulness of the past, limited only by a submission to the laws. We will then be ready to make war, ay, war to the hilt—and such war as should be made to decide the fate of a great nation.

Therefore, while asking pardon for trespassing too long upon the festivities of this occasion, keeping the ladies in waiting, in answer to what you were kind enough to suggest, I look upon this victory as one which has decided the war—decided it, if not in a military point of view, yet overwhelmingly as a civil victory, which, after all, decides the fate of nations everywhere. To this it may be answered, and to that answer I take leave for a moment to call your attention, so that every one may work out the problem in his own mind, much more clearly than any suggestions of mine could do, if we carry on the war with the strength and stringency which I have suggested, how shall we ever live in the same land with the men with whom we thus fight? Let us go to the teachings of history, and draw from the history of that land which we were once proud to own as the mother-country. Every considerable estate in England, in the wars under Cromwell, passed through the courts or commissioners of confiscation; every considerable household fought against every other considerable household; the people fought against the nobles, and the nobles against the people. And yet, when the King came to his own again, the nation came together, cemented in friendship, never to be thereafter divided.

Is there any difficulty, then, in looking at the teachings of the history of the Anglo-Saxon, to know how to live in quiet and peace, ay, in amity and friendship, with those with whom we have been fighting? Is it not a well-known rule of social action that those with whom we have fought bitterly, after the fight is over, are more ready than ever to be taken by the hand? They are more endeared to us after a fair fight, and we are more ready to respect both them and their rights. Therefore I see no difficulty in every good man of the South and every good man of the North coming together—to let bygones be bygones. I have already said that I desire the extinguishment of the bad men so far as this country is concerned. I am glad of this opportunity to tender to the citizens of New York who have so kindly come here this evening to do honour to the Government which I represent my most sincere and heartfelt thanks for their loyal appreciation of the efforts of the Government in their behalf, and to say to them collectively, in reply to the suggestion that the presence of the United States troops here prevented all disorder, that far more did the influence of every good man, all tending in one direction, aid to prevent disorder, and still further, the solemnity of an occasion in which a nation's life was weighed in the balance of a nation's power, which even bad men seemed to feel, repelled tumult. Added to this that the wicked could find neither countenance nor support from any good man of any party. To these we owe the peace of the city.

MR. COBDEN ON THE FEDERAL FINANCES.—In the first place, Mr. Cobden by his announcement that an expenditure of £2,000,000 per diem, or 146,000,000*l.* sterling per annum, is to be considered only about equal to our own expenditure of 70,000,000*l.*, 'having regard to the depreciation of the American currency,' notifies to all the world, not only that the Americans never intend to redeem their note liabilities at par, but that it is quite proper for them at once to base their calculations upon this system of repudiation. Next, when he asks how it is that the Americans have laughed to scorn the prediction regarding their coming to Europe for a loan, and proceeds to account for it by their having during the last forty years somewhere accumulated four hundred millions sterling at compound interest, he simply invents a reason for a fact which has no existence. Throughout the entire war the Americans have so besieged Europe for pecuniary assistance that they are estimated to have obtained from Germany alone 40,000,000*l.* sterling, while Holland has likewise contributed in proportionate abundance. As far as this country and France are concerned, we have had special deputations from Washington to ascertain our inclinations, and if the sums procured from us have not been of the magnitude anticipated it has been from no neglect on the part of the Federal Government. As to the 'fabulous accumulations' of forty years at compound interest, their reality has yet to be demonstrated, since during the whole of that period America has found it necessary to appeal to Europe, and chiefly to England—the country which Mr. Cobden accuses of having hopelessly wasted its substance—for the capital to carry out all the public works by which she has developed her resources. Moreover, even supposing these savings to have been otherwise than imaginary, many people would think it better not to save at all than to do so in order that the thrift of forty years may be dissipated in a three years' saturnalia of carnage and destruction. The fact is, that the Americans have not 'deceived and disappointed the whole of Europe,' and there is reason to fear that if such a result is to be witnessed, it will not be from the astounding accumulations present to Mr. Cobden's mind, but from the adoption of Mr. Cobden's mode of reckoning the expenditure of a borrowed dollar not at 4*s.* 2*d.*, but only at 1*s.* 6*d.*—*Times City Article.*

THE EXHAUSTION OF THE NORTH.

THE subjoined articles, reprinted from Federal journals, show that Mr. Cobden had good reason for foreshadowing the repudiation of the Federal debt:—

(From *Hunt's Merchants' Magazine* for October.)

It is worse than folly at such a time as this to parade the census value of all our property, or to point to our mines and declaim upon our boundless wealth. We have been a greatly favoured nation, and unless production becomes so fettered by debt and taxation as to prevent our national growth, a future of great prosperity awaits us. But from what we have already said, it is evident there is a limit to our ability to pay taxes. A child can see that if the poor emigrant, when he first went on his land, had been called upon to give any portion of his first year's crop to the general Government directly, or if he had been compelled to give it indirectly by reason of a tax on manufactures, which would require him to pay an additional sum for his winter clothing, he would have had less left to improve his new home with. And if those taxes, direct or indirect, should become so heavy as to make it impossible for him to pay them, and spend anything on his land, the enterprise would, of necessity, be soon given up. It becomes, then, a question of the first importance, how much interest can we meet without crippling production?

To measure accurately the net income of the nation is of course impossible, and yet through the census we can approximate sufficiently near for the purpose of this enquiry. In our last number we gave the savings of the Northern States up to 1860 at $2,632,709,497. From this we concluded that the annual savings for the ten years, from 1850 to 1860, could not have been more than $60,000,000 a year. Such, then, is probably the amount of the actual savings of Northern States in 1860. Of course, however, it does not follow that we can pay but $60,000,000 additional taxes, or that if the Federal taxes in these Northern States had amounted to $60,000,000 more than they were in 1860, there would have been no accumulation that year, since the necessity of paying such taxes would have induced and will induce greater economy. Economy, however, means decreased consumption, and must, therefore, react injuriously on production. Of course, if every man, in saving money to pay his taxes, buys one coat less, there is so much less produced, and also so much less profit to the manufacturer and merchant. Economy, therefore, causes not only decreased consumption, but decreased production and decreased national profits. But to what extent that economy can be carried without destroying the productive interests of the country is the important question.

We have, from the census report, prepared with great care the following table of the probable profits of the whole country from all sources during 1860:—

	$
From agricultural productions	100,000,000
From industrial products	125,000,000
For stocks, except manufacturing, which are included above	55,000,000
For mines, fisheries, and carrying trade	50,000,000
Total profits North and South	330,000,000

This is the fund out of which the farmer buys his clothing and agricultural implements, repairs and enlarges his buildings, and pays his taxes.

In 1860, as we have stated above, all of this sum that was earned in the Northern States was thus and otherwise expended, except $60,000,000 which was laid up. To this fund, then, and this alone, we must look to pay our debt. The strictest economy could not increase our tax-paying ability beyond the amount of these profits. Besides, out of them must first be allowed sufficient for the emigrant to buy the necessary farming implements and improve his farm, or, as we have stated before, he will soon give up his enterprise; and all classes will require sufficient of their income left them to provide for their family wants, or their labour will be in vain. The balance, after paying these necessary expenses, measures the extent to which economy may be carried. Is then this fund sufficient to allow us to throw away anything more by further uses of paper money? And do not these figures furnish a sad commentary on the acts of those who have heedlessly increased our debt, yes, wasted our resources, and are still doing so by their paper issues?

The expenses of Government after peace is restored, were estimated by Mr. Chase in his last annual report, page 12, at $178,838,010, as follows:—

Interest	$85,587,676
Civil service	37,604,409
Army and navy	55,845,834
Total	178,838,019

These estimates are, however, clearly unreliable. The debt is now $2,000,000,000, and will be at least $2,500,000,000 by the 1st of January. If, therefore, we have peace at that time, the annual expenses of the Government will be about as follows, if our finances are ably managed:—

Interest on the debt at six per cent.	$150,000,000
The pension list will now reach at least	50,000,000
Army and navy	75,000,000
Civil service	35,000,000
Total	$310,000,000

These estimates of the expenses of the Government after the war are, we believe, less than can be expected without the strictest economy. Then, besides this, we have largely increased city, county, town, and State taxes. An idea of the extent of this latter burden may be gathered from the expense of raising this last call of 500,000 men; cities and counties having paid a bounty of from $500 to $1,000 for each man. If we estimate the average bounty paid at only $600, we have an aggregate debt of $300,000,000 incurred for this one purpose.

Thus we see that if the war is closed by January 1, there will be from $300,000,000 to $400,000,000 of taxes to be paid, without mentioning the amount required for the sinking fund. Previous to the war we paid in taxes about $70,000,000, leaving at least $300,000,000 additional to be raised hereafter out of our national income simply to pay our current expenses and interest.

To add to the force of these figures would be impossible. They speak more earnestly than anything we could say of the wretchedness of our past policy, and the importance of the future. Clearly our resources are not inexhaustible, and he who preaches such a doctrine is, we had almost said, the worst enemy the country can have; for he encourages a system that can but lead to national dishonour.

(From the *New York Daily News*, November 16.)

The statistics of the Agricultural Bureau are highly suggestive of the madness of the war. The *home* markets of the South were purchasers of the breadstuff-surpluses of the West in 1859. The returns of the shipments of the crops of that year show that the amount of corn, flour, and wheat, sent to Europe was therefore small. The crop of 1860 was, to a great extent, excluded from the Southern markets by the embargo of war, and was consequently sent forward, to a very large extent, to Europe. The harvest of 1861 was excluded from the Confederate demand absolutely; and contributed to the supply of the foreign markets to an extent unknown in our previous commerce. The new outlet for our breadstuffs thus fully opened, serves to show very forcibly in its subsequent workings, the alarming extent to which the demands of war upon able-bodied labour has crippled our agricultural industry.

Of the crop of 1861, the barrels of flour sent to Europe from the ports of the United States reached 3,299,187. Those sent of the crop of 1862 numbered but 1,692,991—48 per cent. less; and those of the crop of 1863 only 1,342,315—an amount which, compared with that of the crop of 1861, is 59 per cent. less! The bushels of wheat exported from the Federal States numbered, of the crop of 1861, 33,372,181; but the exports of that article grown in 1862 fell off to 25,510,504 bushels—23 per cent. less! Of the product of 1863, the wheat sent to Europe amounted to but 16,826,342, or, as compared with that of 1861, 49 per cent. less! The falling off in Indian corn is still more remarkable. The shipments to Europe of that cereal from the crop of 1861 reached so many as 14,406,242 bushels, whereas from the crop of 1862 they amounted to but 10,403,313, and from that of 1863 to so few as 730,807! The falling off of the exports to Europe of Indian corn, as compared with those from the surpluses of 1861, reached, therefore, in the case of those of 1862, 28 per cent., and in the case of those of 1863 so great a proportion as 95 per cent. Save only so far as it may be sustained by Canada, there is reason to conclude that our breadstuff trade with Europe will be found to be destroyed already by the madness that has forced our agricultural labour into the field of death.

In order to present more clearly these evidences of exhaustion shown in the decline of our breadstuff trade, we place them here in a form which every one can reason from for himself:—

FLOUR.—Shipments to Europe.	
1859–60	766,399 barrels.
1860–61	2,708,790 ,,
1861–62	3,299,187 ,,
1862–63	1,692,991 ,,
1863–64	1,342,315 ,,
WHEAT.—Shipments to Europe.	
1859–60	5,116,745 bushels.
1860–61	29,005,866 ,,
1861–62	33,372,181 ,,
1862–63	25,510,504 ,,
1863–64	16,826,342 ,,
INDIAN CORN.—Shipments to Europe.	
1859–60	2,241,215 bushels.
1860–61	11,806,179 ,,
1861–62	14,406,242 ,,
1862–63	10,403,313 ,,
1863–64	730,807 ,,

This destruction of the breadstuff trade with Europe is not only an evidence of the extent to which exhaustion has gone in reference to our material for the rank and file of armies, but in reference to the degree to which we have been crippled at the very basis of our finances.

THE NORTHERN PRESS ON THE *FLORIDA* OUTRAGE.

THE action of Captain Collins in the capture of the *Florida* in Brazilian waters will be sustained by this Government. Foreign powers may designate these pirates as belligerents, but the United States will take the position that to be such they must belong to some recognised and responsible Government. By the confession of Marquis Abrantes, Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs, the *Alabama* also had her chief rendezvous upon islands which were dependencies of Brazil.—The *New York Tribune.*

From the cordial friendship subsisting between Brazil and the United States, we consider this case of the *Florida* as presenting a desirable opportunity for still more intimate relations on our part not only with the great and enlightened Amazonian empire of South America, but with all the independent States of the continent. Why not? Can it not very easily be made apparent to them all, beginning with Brazil and Peru, and pointing to the greater misfortunes of Mexico, that our cause is their cause against any entangling alliances with or concessions to the maritime Powers of Europe? To Mr. Seward, in his settlement of this *Florida* affair, if not already settled through a satisfactory apology, we recommend this broad American continental grasp of the subject. He has thus a fine opportunity for a grand and effective American alliance, according to the Monroe doctrine, in view of the near approach of the liberation of our armies in the South for active work, if necessary, against the European enemies of the independent States of North and South America.—The *New York Herald.*

The *Florida*, then, being little better than a pirate, if Brazil consents to accept something short of its restitution, the uses to which the vessel has been put will more than justify her. . . . . We trust that the resources of diplomacy will find an amicable adjustment without a surrender of the *Florida.*—The *New York World.*

It is understood here that Mr. Seward has prepared and transmitted, or is about to transmit, to the Brazilian government a letter wherein, with a customary *coup diplomatique*, it is said he tenders the most ample apology for the recent violation of the neutrality law by the *Wachusetts* in seizing the *Florida* at Bahia, while at the same time he does not offer to return the captured vessel to the port where she was seized. This letter, it is hoped, will allay any irritation which may be felt at the conduct of the Federal officers. There is but one opinion here in the matter, and that is, that the seizure of the *Florida*, while in the waters and under the protection of a neutral Power, was a gross violation of the law of nations, strict reparation for which offence would include the returning of the *Florida* to Bahia, the dismissal from the service of the captain of the *Wachusetts*, and the removal of our Consul at the port in question, together with full apology for the unjustifiable conduct of the United States officials. Mr. Seward, his friends claim, will endeavour to save our national pride such a humiliation, and at the same time satisfy the Brazilian Government that the offence was not a wanton one.—Washington correspondence of the *World.*

OFFICIAL REPORTS.

THE following are the official accounts of General Forrest's attack on Johnsonville:—

To Lieutenant-General R. Taylor.

Paris, Tennessee, October 31.

My batteries on the Tennessee River have engaged the enemy all day with great success. Two gunboats and two transports were destroyed in attempting to pass. One gunboat and two transports are now in my possession, ready for use, unhurt. The other gunboat and a transport floated down the river in a disabled condition, and both will be either destroyed or captured, as my troops are still in pursuit.

(Signed) N. B. FORREST, Major-General.

Opposite Johnsonville, Tennessee, November 5.

Major-General Forrest on the 4th instant achieved another great victory.

He placed a battery above Johnsonville, moved up his artillery from below, and caught at Johnsonville three gunboats, two transports, and about twenty barges. He planted his batteries at night, and opened with eight pieces, and after an engagement of ten minutes the gunboats were set on fire and consumed.

The batteries then opened on the transports and barges, all of which were set on fire and destroyed. The engagement was terrible. The enemy opened with forty howitzers from their fort and gunboats, but not a man quailed under the storm of shell. The cannoneers had their rammers shot in two, and their clothes and boots shot off. Since last Sunday General Forrest has captured and destroyed fourteen transports, four gunboats, twenty barges, thirty-two pieces of artillery, over 20,000 tons of freight, and over $3,000,000 worth of stores. Our loss has been only ten men wounded. Johnsonville is still burning. The immense amount of freight on shore, covering several acres, will all be consumed, as it is now burning and the enemy cannot extinguish it, as our batteries command the banks.

(Signed) M. C. GALLAWAY.

Tuscumbia, Alabama, November 8.

General Forrest reports that on the 5th inst. he was then engaged fighting the enemy at Johnsonville, having already destroyed four gunboats of eight guns each, fourteen steamers, and twenty barges, with a large quantity of quartermaster and commissary stores on the landing and in warehouses, estimated at between 75,000 to 100,000 tons. Six gunboats were then approaching, which he hoped to capture or destroy.

(Signed) G. T. BEAUREGARD.

UNION AND EMANCIPATION AT MANCHESTER. — Mr. Bazley, M.P. for Manchester, addressed his political supporters on Tuesday evening. According to the announcement, the occasion was for the purpose of 'the senior representative holding a meeting of his constituents,' and the Free-trade Hall—a building capable of holding 5,000 or 6,000 people—was engaged for the anticipated gathering, but the invitation was responded to by only some 400 or 500 persons in a constituency of upwards of 20,000 voters. On the platform was the President of the Union and Emancipation Society, accompanied by a locally well-known Radical barrister, and two or three other persons familiarly characterised as constituting 'the rump of the League.' To this audience, 'fit though few,' Mr. Bazley delivered a somewhat lengthy and vapid address, consisting of the old platitudes about the 'commercial, civil, and religious liberties of the people,' followed by some heavy drafts upon blue-book statistics. The hon. gentleman avoided the question of the cotton famine altogether. At the close of his address, and prior to the customary motion of 'confidence' being put to the meeting, a Mr. Cross, of Whitworth, a person who has much interested himself in the cotton question for some years, called attention to the meagre attendance in the Hall, and asked why there were no factory operatives present. He held it was not a competent meeting either of electors or non-electors, and that Mr. Bazley, in discoursing upon Parliamentary reform, lost sight of the more vital question as to how the people were to be fed. This statement was followed by great uproar, and ultimately by personal violence. A rush of half-a-dozen Unionists and Emancipationists took place from the front seats over the reporters' table to the platform, while Mr. Cross, who appeared as cool as the mob was excited, prepared for the worst by pushing up his wristbands. The *Manchester Examiner* concludes the description as follows:—'Rushes were, however, made from different quarters; the decanter and glasses upon the chairman's table were smashed, and the fragments scattered down upon the reporters' heads and books; and, amidst a howling and scrambling which defies description, Mr. Cross was again pounced upon from behind, hurled with a loud crash of chairs to the ground, and dragged off the platform and out of the room, leaving behind numerous shreds of clothing. Mr. J. B. Torr, barrister, who had witnessed the whole affair, came forward and protested against the treatment to which Mr. Cross had been subjected. He said the police should have been called in if interference were required; but he felt bound to utter his protest against a man being murdered by a public meeting. (Loud cheers.)

'A YANKEE CHEVALIER D'INDUSTRIE.' — General Chevalier Watson Webb, the Minister of the United States north of Mason and Dixon's line to the Court of Brazil, who has recently let off a small stinkpot against Great Britain in a despatch concerning the seizure of the *Florida*, is a broken-down newspaper hack, whose sole creditable act, as far as we know, was the infliction of one of the many castigations, fustigations, and vistergagations to which the *corpus vile* of the *New York Herald* incarnate has been subjected. Not warned by the distressing consequences of that experiment in corporal punishment, however, Chevalier Watson Webb got into a passion with Mr. Christie over a rubber of whist, and, by way of scoring honours, either pulled or threatened to pull poor Mr. Christie's nose, and then, by way of winning the rub, invited him to fight a duel. Lord Russell, in a highly-moral-high-toned-whole-souled-Christian-gentleman-and-Blairgowrie-cum-Aberdeen despatch, rebuked the chevalier, and patted Mr. Christie on the back for his indecorous conduct over the Board of Green Cloth. Mr. Christie did not fight, and Chevalier Webb has no doubt been devoting all his time since to the composition of still-born leaders against the British aristocracy, as exemplified in his very liberal-in-everything-but-manner-and-company-lord, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Suddenly comes in the *Wachusetts* and steals the *Florida*, and out comes the Chevalier Watson Webb with some charming periods. It will be curious to see how Cleon, of the *Herald* of New York, treats this attempt of his ancient fustigator, castigator, and vistergagator to steal the bread out of his mouth. The British lion himself has been so often ill-treated lately, that he may rouse up some of these days, and then the Chevalier Webb may have to play double dummy with Mr. Gordon Bennett in an underground cell of Windsor Castle.—*Army and Navy Gazette.*

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 291 Strand, W.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1864.

Mr. Cobden.

THE worthy Alderman of Rochdale, who occupied the attention of the assembled Reformers for some minutes before Mr. COBDEN commenced his recent remarkable harangue at that town, informed his hearers that Messrs. COBDEN and BRIGHT 'had educated the people of this country' so that they were now able to control the foreign policy of the Government against the aristocracy, &c., &c.; and Mr. COBDEN, as if to confirm his title to this praise, proceeded to give a lecture, historical, geographical, ethnological, arithmetical, embracing the whole wide circle of the sciences, which must have greatly enlightened and edified the 6,000 ingenuous pupils who sat that evening under his instructions. Nor was the benefit of these instructions restricted to the narrow limits of the Messrs. ROBINSON'S machine-shops in Rochdale. The next morning many hundred thousand copies of the lecture were in the hands of the British public, and Mr. COBDEN'S audience was multiplied to the extent of all within the United Kingdom who can read their own language. We have rarely known so striking an instance of the 'schoolmaster abroad.' The Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, if that excellent association continues its invaluable labours, is indebted immeasurably to Mr. CORDEN; for he has shown, amongst other matters, that, in order to teach profitably and intelligibly, it is not at all necessary for the teacher to know anything of the subjects he expounds. Let the captious object to ignorant expositions, if they will. If Mr. COBDEN'S calculus is absurd, the fault lies not with the gentleman at the black board, but in the perversity of figures. If his geography is just a little incorrect, we must blame the physical universe and not the professor. If his historical statements are not in accordance with the facts, we can only say, with the sincerest commiseration for the muse of history, *tant pis pour les faits*.

We have no intention or desire to review Mr. COBDEN'S exercitation as schoolmaster at Rochdale, in all its parts. Criticism has already been largely expended upon it in the daily press, and we are spared the task of comment upon such passages as refer to general politics or involve classical learning. The affairs of Slesvig-Holstein and the washerwomen of the Ilissus concern us far less than what Mr. COBDEN has to say of the American war, and it is chiefly to his remarks upon the latter that we propose to devote a few paragraphs. It so happens, indeed, that herein, for the most part, do we discover the heterodox history and ricketty arithmetic, to say nothing of the strange geography, of Mr. COBDEN; but as his hearers were presumed to know less than nothing of America, we cannot complain that he attempted to inform them after his own manner of thinking, that they might arrive, through such useful teaching, at his own decided and intelligent convictions.

In referring to the secession of the Confederate States, Mr. COBDEN complains that, in dissolving the political tie which bound them to the Federal Union, they failed to set forth the grievances under which they laboured, and that nothing of remonstrance or expostulation with the United States, no formal declaration of wrongs, on the part of the Confederates, has ever met the eye of the world. Is this a joke? Can the man possibly be serious in his complaint? Has Mr. COBDEN read the *Times*? Does he not know that every State of the Confederacy, in adopting its course, solemnly registered the acts of oppression that had driven it to the resumption of its own indefeasible sovereignty? Is he ignorant of the efforts of Virginia to preserve the Union, which she had done more than any other State of the old thirteen to establish? Where are the clear, earnest messages of President DAVIS, the noble address of the clergymen of the South to Christians throughout the world, the lofty protests of the Confederate Congress, the speeches and letters of Southern statesmen? Does not Mr. COBDEN know that for years before the secession of the Southern States the local legislatures of the North had violated openly the Federal Constitution, that they had made impossible the enforcement of laws of Congress, in harmony with the spirit and in accordance with the express letter of that Constitution? Ah! but the only grievance of the South was the war upon slavery. Has Mr. COBDEN never heard of the MORELL Tariff? And is he, the apostle of Free Trade, so little acquainted with the causes of the American war as not to have perceived the greatest of all Southern grievances in the restrictions placed upon the commercial intercourse of the South with Great Britain? Strange indeed does it seem that the man of all others in Great Britain who has advocated most strenuously the freedom of trade should espouse the cause of the Protectionists in America. But Mr. COBDEN draws his historical lessons from New England authors, and reads the drama of the Low Countries in the pages of Mr. MOTLEY to such purpose that he confounds the 'Rise of the Dutch Republic' with the 'History of the United Netherlands'—an error which is so insignificant in comparison with his blunders in speaking of the Confederate States, that we might not mention it at all had it not been committed by one who is engaged in 'educating' the English people. So much for Mr. COBDEN'S history.

As a geographer, he is even yet more at fault, while deploring the ignorance of his young countrymen concerning the map of America, and expressing his desire to endow a professorship in the English universities for the express purpose of making the youth of England acquainted with the position of Chicago. To such of HER MAJESTY'S subjects as have invested largely in the Illinois Central and the Northern Indiana and Michigan Southern, we doubt not Chicago may seem the most important city of the Western continent, as being a terminus of these railways, but we are unable to see that a thorough comprehension of the commercial greatness of Chicago would induce the belief that the Yankees were justified in seeking to subjugate the Confederate States or exterminate the Southern people. And to this end all Mr. COBDEN'S teachings turn. He compares Louisiana with Kent and Essex, instituting a parallel between the secession of a sovereign State and the revolt of an English shire—which is really too preposterous for comment—and recognises in the Mississippi river a ligature which must for ever bind in political union the people of Maine and the people of Texas, Floridians and Minnesotans, Virginians and Californians, not less than the dwellers on its banks along a distance of 2,500 miles. The idea that the people who live at the sources of a river, or possess its shores where it has deepened and broadened into a navigable watercourse, should of right command its mouth, is a novel one, but it is not original with Mr. COBDEN. He is indebted for it, and for its application to the Mississippi, to the Hon. EDWARD BATES, of Missouri, a member of LINCOLN'S Cabinet, who unfolded the same in an oration delivered at St. Louis in the year 1857. But surely there never was politico-geographical proposition more untenable in itself, and more distinctly refuted by all experience. What says Mr. COBDEN to the Rhine, a river scarce one-third as long as the Mississippi, and belonging to ever so many nationalities? What means fortified Strasbourg, what significance has frowning Ehrenbreitstein, if the river should be held, not by Prussia, not by France, nor yet by the sturdy Hollanders, through whose green levels it sluggishly seeks the German Ocean, but by the unambitious Switzers, who behold it rushing from the Lake of Constance and leaping over the rocks of Schaffhausen? But it may be said that the Rhine is a river of many languages, and herein differs from the Mississippi. Very well. Let us take the St. Lawrence. If we compute the total length of the great series of great lakes which it empties, we shall find the St. Lawrence as noble a river as the Mississippi. The written and spoken language of the people who live on the St. Lawrence is chiefly English, and the French *habitants* are English subjects. Admit Mr. COBDEN'S geographical deductions, and Great Britain should surrender the Canadas to Mr. LINCOLN at once, before 'the greatest people on the earth' come down upon the new Colonial Confederation and wipe it out of existence. Were the general proposition correct, which Mr. COBDEN'S views of the Mississippi, borrowed from Mr. BATES, would seem to lay down, it would apply least of all rivers on the globe to the Mississippi; for among the great rivers on the globe the Mississippi is peculiar in constantly changing its latitude in its course towards the sea. Flowing directly south from the moment it assumes the character of a distinct stream—'a rivulet, then a river'—from the Falls of Minnehaha to the Balize, it is ever seeking a sunnier clime, and marked, as it runs, by a richer vegetation. Congealed during many months of the year in the rigorous region of its head-springs, and crashing in ice through the granite ledges of the far North, it melts beneath a genial sky long before it pours its turbid flood into the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico, and bears on its broad surface the productions of many climates—fruits and cereal grains, timber and live stock, sugar and cotton, representing the industry of many races of men. If geography teaches us anything, it is that the dwellers on the banks of such a river can never be a homogenous people, and that conflicting interests and varying climatic influences must sooner or later disunite them for all time, leaving the navigation of the stream to be settled by conventions and treaties between their respective Governments.

But if Mr. COBDEN'S history and geography inspire us with a certain distrust in his capacity to 'educate the people of this country,' his finance and arithmetic are more unfortunate still. He gravely informs the credulous members of the Rochdale Reform Association that the reason why the Yankees have been able to keep up the war at the expense of $2,000,000 per diem, and have not been compelled to apply to Europe for loans, is that for forty years past they have been accumulating a fabulous sum of money, amounting to something like 400,000,000*l.* sterling. Now this amount of savings is nowhere in existence outside of Mr. COBDEN'S imagination, and the statement he makes that the Yankees have not resorted to Europe for loans is wholly destitute of truth. There has never been a time since the beginning of the war that the agents of Mr. CHASE have not darkened the doors of European bankers for pecuniary aid, and from Holland and Germany they are known to have obtained considerable sums. Their success has not been so great in England, because our capitalists have been better acquainted than Mr. COBDEN with the real condition of the Federal exchequer. As for their ability to spend two millions a day in support of war, because they did not exceed their income in time of peace, it is much as if one should say that a young nobleman, after attaining the age of thirty, might play without limit at *rouge-et-noir*, because before thirty he had never been guilty of excess. It will occur to thoughtful persons, moreover, that, granting the large margin of expenditure which Mr. COBDEN supposes the United States to have at command, they had far better husband it for purposes of national advancement than expend it all in a 'big' war, only to show that they can distance mankind in the magnitude of their crimes and follies. But Mr. COBDEN seeks to show that the daily expenditure of the Yankees in carrying on the war is not so great as many of us imagine, and herein his method of calculation challenges our marvel if not our respect. An old story tells us that one of the sceptical contemporaries of NOAH, overtaken by the Deluge on the top of a mountain, after vainly entreating the patriarch for admission into the ark, cried out to him to 'go to thunder with his old ship, for, after all, there was not going to be much of a shower.' In like manner, Mr. COBDEN believes that the Yankee burden in maintaining the war is not going to be much of a debt. Two millions a day, reckoned according to the present value of greenbacks, the dollar being worth only 1*s.* 6*d.*, is but 125,000*l.*, or about equal to the expenditure of England at the present moment. Of course Mr. COBDEN yields the point that the Yankees never intend to redeem their greenbacks, or if they redeem them at all, it will be at the frightful depreciation to which they have already sunk. Upon a calculation so convenient the war becomes a cheap luxury indeed, and it is perfectly easy of demonstration that the less their treasury notes are worth the smaller will be the expense at which they can overrun Southern territory, and fit out armadas for the closing of Southern ports. If the dollar sinks to the value of 2*d.*, their daily expenses dwindle to the sum of less than 17,000*l.* As soon as the dollar reaches zero, these expenses will be nothing whatever. Q. E. D.

'My wound is great because it is so small;
Then 'twould be greater were it none at all.'

If the Reformers of Rochdale should trust to Mr

COBDEN's financial calculations, and apply the same to their own business, we think the machine-works of the Messrs. ROBINSON would soon be silent.

Much might be said of Mr. COBDEN as a logician and as a teacher of moral philosophy, but our limits compel us to bring this commentary to a close. He tells us that in any possible event (as, for example, if the Southern Confederacy were recognised by LINCOLN and all the world on the 1st of January next) slavery has received its quietus in America; and yet, lover of peace and *confrère* of BRIGHT, he encourages LINCOLN to continue a desolating and barbarous war for the extirpation of an evil which is already extirpated. If slavery be dead, why should Mr. COBDEN desire the war to go on in mere wanton malice, and to no other end than to gratify the hate and the pride of the Yankee? Such is his logic—his ethics are even worse. The amiable suggestion that Louisiana might be inundated and its inhabitants drowned by cutting the levees on the Mississippi, will be thankfully received at Washington, though it originated, not with Mr. COBDEN, but with General JAMES WATSON WEBB, the pleasant Plenipotentiary of the United States resident at Rio, while the mild disclaimer of approving such an act will be accepted for just what it is worth. 'Friend, I don't approve mob law,' says the Western Judge, 'but here's a scoundrel, and there's a limb that will swing him.' Shall we not say that the humanity of the Rochdale orator is worthy of the friend of the people, whose sympathies with despotic power lead him to find satisfaction in the sufferings of Poland and the dismemberment of Denmark?

The Lincoln Programme.

WE elsewhere print the speech of BENJAMIN F. BUTLER. The first impression produced by the perusal of it is rather a humorous one. The language is quaint from its inelegance, and it is evident that BUTLER knows as little of the art of oratory as he does of the art of war. It is amusing to hear the man whose petty infamies and cruelties have made him notorious talk about magnanimity and honour. However, it is not for the amusement, but for the instruction of our readers that we give space to BUTLER's speech. He is selected by Mr. LINCOLN to set forth the policy of the Administration. Indisputably Mr. LINCOLN has made a fitting selection. We hope that the sun has never risen on the man whose antecedents make him so worthy to be the herald of a bloody and ruthless extermination.

Knowing that the South is fighting for independence, and will continue to struggle whilst a man survives to wield the sword—knowing that, if ever there was a chance of the South consenting to reunion, that chance has been swept away by four years of cruel and savage war—Mr. LINCOLN, almost in sight of the desolated plains of the Shenandoah Valley, is about to send forth a messenger to the South to promise an amnesty, if the Confederates will lay down their arms and submit to his authority. Wonderful are the delusions which sometimes beset man; but no one in the North, and certainly not Mr. LINCOLN, imagines for a moment that any people would under such circumstances submit to the ignominy of giving up the cause for which so many gallant sons have died. And mark too the time selected for this amnesty. The armies of the North are foiled at every point. The summer and autumn have melted away; and still between GRANT and Richmond is that army which the Federals have never yet been able to overcome. SHERMAN, after driving the inhabitants away, has himself evacuated Atlanta; and wherever he is going it is manifest that the march which cost him half his army has been utterly barren in results. In the last year the Confederates have recovered two-thirds of the territories which they had previously lost. Everywhere the Confederate armies are advancing and making head against the invader. Is that the time to offer an amnesty? It is offered merely that it may be rejected.

BUTLER informs us what is to follow the rejection of the amnesty, and it will be noticed that this part of his speech is clearer than the rest. When he talked of amnesty, of peace, and mercy, the words seemed to stick in his throat; but he talked with sufficient vigour about spoliation and extermination. If, before midnight on the 8th of January next, the Confederates do not submit, the door of mercy is to be closed for ever, the lands of the South are to be divided among the Northern soldiery; and as for the people, this is the sentence pronounced on them by BUTLER, of New Orleans, and the representative of Mr. LINCOLN: 'No longer shall they be permitted to live on the land, or even upon the boundaries, of the United States. Let them go to Mexico, the islands of the seas, or some place that I care not to name, because I know no land bad enough to be cursed with their presence, but never to live here again.'

Impotent, indeed, are the maledictions of BUTLER; but it must be remembered that the policy enunciated was the policy of the Government he represents, and not merely the emanation of his black heart and the invention of his fiendish malignity. We must remember that the Rev. WARD BEECHER, Mr. HORACE GREELEY, and a thousand members of Mr. LINCOLN's party, vociferously cheered BUTLER's speech. We shall do wrong, then, to vent our indignation upon BUTLER for proclaiming a policy of unparalleled ferocity. He was only the mouthpiece of the Administration. Europe now knows the character of the struggle going on in America; that, as Earl RUSSELL said long ago, the North is fighting for empire, but for empire upon such terms as no other power has sought it. A great people is to be exterminated, and their lands divided amongst the soldiers.

Thank GOD, the most timid will be only disgusted, and in no way alarmed, at Mr. LINCOLN's programme. Let every human heart be filled with gratitude to the Giver of all victories that the events of the past four years are an assurance that the wicked designs set forth by BUTLER will not be carried into operation, and the world will not see the hideous spectacle of a vast country laid desolate, and of 8,000,000 of the Anglo-Saxon race killed or expatriated. If the North has one true friend in Europe, let him counsel Mr. LINCOLN, for decency's sake to send no more to the Confederates for ransom, and to offer them no more amnesties, until he has accomplished something towards their subjugation. And if Mr. LINCOLN were wise he would not parade his policy of extermination. It does not help him to overcome; and voracious as are BUTLER, BEECHER, and the rest of his followers, they must overcome before they can slake their thirst by killing, and they must kill before they can satiate their lust by taking possession of the lands of the South.

The War.

THE two great armies of the South-west have for the time disappeared. Notwithstanding all the rumours that are current of the intentions of SHERMAN and the objects of HOOD's northward march, we do not possess at this moment one item of trustworthy intelligence respecting the 'whereabouts' of either army; nor is there even the chance of a reasonable guess at their respective positions, strength, and prospects. If we could believe the latest rumour at Washington, these two great armies were, some three weeks ago, marching in all possible haste in opposite directions; SHERMAN, after destroying all his communications, burning Rome and Atlanta, and cutting loose from his base, was turning southward or eastward, to Mobile or Savannah, to burn more towns on his road, and open up a new inlet into the heart of the Cotton States; HOOD was equally intent upon getting out of the way of his powerful adversary, and was quietly concentrating his troops at Florence, with the view of making sure of Memphis and getting the control of Mississippi. In other words, we are to believe that these two forces, destined for each other's destruction, have suddenly decided to make a fight impossible, and to inaugurate an entirely new campaign, to be conducted on either side as if the opposing general and his troops had really, as has been suggested by a Southern paper, 'evaporated.' *De non apparentibus et non existentibus eadem est ratio* is a good rule in matters of science, but is not equally applicable in strategy, and we venture to say that neither of the generals has acted on such an inference; although we willingly admit ourselves as much in the dark as to the actual and impending movements of HOOD's and SHERMAN's forces as the public at Richmond and Washington. The last reliable information we are in possession of in regard to SHERMAN left him at Gaylesville in Northern Alabama, whither he had followed HOOD's army retiring from Dalton. There, it would appear, he prudently halted, from want of provisions, and from the inability of maintaining his communications with the Chattanooga and Atlanta line of railroad. There is reason to believe that, after waiting there some days to ascertain HOOD's real intentions, he made up his mind to retrace his steps with all rapidity; but whether he marched thence to Atlanta, leaving Generals THOMAS and SCOFIELD to look after HOOD, or upon Bridgeport with the view of marching along the northern bank of the Tennessee River, and thus either placing HOOD's army between two fires in the event of his advance into Middle Tennessee, or anticipating his passage of the river, it is impossible to say. Most of the reports, we are bound to say, are in favour of the former supposition. Northern and Southern papers point to a march either to the east, *viâ* Atlanta upon Charleston or Savannah, or upon Mobile, Montgomery, or upon HOOD's communications at some point on the Corinth and Mobile railroad. Now, either of these expeditions would imply one of two things on the part of SHERMAN—either a profound confidence in his own numerical superiority, or a confession of his inability to hold any portion of Georgia, and of the necessity of achieving a *contrecoup* by establishing a new base of operations against the Cotton States on the seaboard. But the perils of these expeditions are obvious. In no case could SHERMAN undertake to move with less than 60,000 men. The rainy season is coming on, and he would be compelled to take with him a powerful cavalry force for foraging purposes, an enormous train, heavy guns, pontoons, &c. To reach Savannah or Charleston, he would have to march about twenty-five days at the rate of fifteen miles a day through a hostile country, with clouds of Confederate horsemen in front, on his flank, and in his rear, with the certainty of finding a powerful body of regular Confederate troops in front of him and having to fight a pitched battle and assault strong fortifications before he could open communications with a Federal fleet. To reach Mobile would be a work of not less difficulty and danger; whilst it is manifest that if he be unable to hold Atlanta, to march thence to Montgomery and Selma, and then northward upon HOOD's army in Northern Alabama and Middle Tennessee, is out of the question. Nor is it yet quite clear that SHERMAN has evacuated Atlanta. True, there is concurrent testimony to that effect from both North and South; but on both sides it is clear the greatest secrecy is maintained, and, although the Washington Administration may be without news from SHERMAN, or may have very good reasons for not publishing the details they have received, it is not easy to understand why the Confederate authorities should decline to make public movements as to which they must be perfectly well-informed, or to delay announcing results so entirely favourable to their cause. For our own part we confess our inability to penetrate the mystery which at present surrounds SHERMAN's army. Our own theory would be rather in favour of a northward march upon South-western Virginia *viâ* Knoxville, or of a concentration of SHERMAN's army at Bridgeport on the Tennessee, which would be equally consistent with the burning and destruction of Atlanta and Rome. Without some definite information as to the strength of SHERMAN's force, especially of his cavalry, we are, of course, quite unable to pronounce authoritatively upon his capabilities in the way of further advance. But for the present we cannot bring ourselves to believe that he has any serious intention of cutting his army adrift from its base, and trusting it to the hazard of a fresh invasion. The reports of HOOD's movements are not less conflicting. One day we are told he is marching upon Chattanooga, the next that his army is stationary at Florence. We may surely dismiss the latter statement. The last we heard from HOOD's army was his announcement of his intended invasion of Tennessee. It can hardly be supposed that the speeches of CLEBURNE, BATES, and BEAUREGARD were snares for the enemy. Undoubtedly they meant a forward movement, and that not upon the Mississippi, but on the Tennessee; and the successful operations of FORREST's column at Johnsonville, by which a great Federal depot has been destroyed, and the nucleus of a formidable flotilla has fallen into the hands of the Confederates, are a part of this scheme. Is it reasonable to suppose that HOOD would have left Georgia and South Carolina at the mercy of SHERMAN's devastating legions, for the sake of reconquering Western Tennessee and regaining the left bank of the Mississippi? The mystery cannot last much longer. The next mail must bring us authentic information from one side or the other. We await it with confidence. It is not likely that BEAUREGARD has given over to SHERMAN's troopers the rich territory he was appointed to defend. It is still possible that SHERMAN has found Atlanta untenable; and that, afraid to confess the failure of a campaign which has cost a year's expenditure of life and treasure, he has determined on some desperate attempt to retrieve a great disaster by incurring a prodigious peril.

The anxiety respecting the movements of the armies in the South-west deprives the doings of the forces in Virginia of their usual interest. A daring reconnaissance of EARLY's cavalry, followed by a sudden retreat of his whole army, is the only new feature in the campaign in Northern Virginia. But whether the retrograde movement be designed as a trap for SHERIDAN or as a necessary change of position for the strengthening of Lynchburg, we cannot say. The great victory of BRECKINRIDGE at Bull's Gap ought to secure South-western Virginia against everything but SHERMAN's army; and it is possible that if SHERIDAN advances, we may hear of a renewed trial of strength in the Shenandoah Valley. At Petersburg all is tolerably quiet. The Confederates are reported in great force, and

GRANT ...ted to be still meditating another assau... the event of SHERMAN's army being in dang... will be compelled to attack, but of the resu... there need not be the slightest fear. In the mea...time, whatever the Federals mean to do must be done quickly, for the rainy season is close at hand, and this will render the movements of great armies almost impossible.

Confederate Finances.

THE financial position of the Confederate States is unique. If the South were an agricultural country in the ordinary acceptation of that term—that is, if she were merely a food-producing country—the history of the crisis forced upon her by the war would have been far less interesting to the financial student. But the South produces the great staple cotton in unequalled quantity and of unsurpassed quality, besides tobacco and other articles of commerce. Although the South was not classed as a trading nation, because she conducted her business entirely through the agency of the North, yet the South was, and will be again when peace is restored, one of the greatest trading nations on the face of the earth. One result of the South transacting her business through the agency of the North was, that war found her without a navy and without that commercial marine which is the ready nucleus of a navy. We therefore see the anomaly of the great trade of a nation suddenly and entirely stopped. It is the first time such a thing has happened, because it is the first time that a great trading nation has transacted its business altogether through a foreign agency. The consequences would have been disastrous in the extreme, and almost fatal, had not the South been an agricultural as well as a trading nation. Cut off from foreign commerce, the labour and the prolific soil that formerly yielded export staples now produce in abundance food and other requisites. Necessity developed a totally unexpected and latent ingenuity, and to-day we behold the Confederates not only amply supplied with food, but clothed in homespun, and confronting the invading armies with home-made weapons and ammunition. Never was a country or a people better adapted for a defensive war, for no country or people can be more thoroughly independent of foreign supplies. The friends of the Confederates have sometimes been surprised, and the enemies of the Confederates have been confounded, at the coexistence of material abundance and financial pressure. If the Confederates are so well supplied with food, clothing, and the munitions of war, how is it they are in such monetary difficulty? The enigma is solved by considering the twofold character of the country. The sudden suspension of all trade involved a monetary crisis. The marvellous agricultural and other resources of the country, and the devotion and ingenuity of the people, yield an ample provision of all things needful for the sustenance of man and for the prosecution of the war. It is easy to see that the financial difficulty is due solely to suspension of trade, and not to the expenses of the war, by comparing the financial position of the South with that of the North. On October 1 the public debt of the North was officially stated to be $2,026,949,092—or say 405,389,818*l.*; but it is well known that this statement does not represent the full amount of the Federal debt, and of course does not include the large war debts contracted by the several States in the payment of bounties and other contingent expenses. The price of gold has advanced to 150 per cent. premium, notwithstanding that the export of the Northern staple—breadstuffs—has been uninterrupted. Although this trade is now falling off,* how much it supported the war may be seen from the following return of the breadstuffs sent to Europe the year before the war, and the year after the war was begun:—

	1859–60.	1861–62.
Flour . .	766,399 barrels	3,299,187 barrels
Wheat . .	5,116,745 bushels	33,372,181 bushels
Indian corn	2,241,215 „	14,406,242 „

On October 1 the Confederate debt was $1,426,381,095—or say 225,276,219*l.* This amount of debt was rather more than 50 per cent. that of the North, but the premium on gold was immensely higher. Now be it remembered that the South has not been able to ship her staples. Of cotton alone she has a stock on hand of at least 2,000,000 bales, worth in gold at present prices 80,000,000*l.*, but representing in Confederate currency a sum equal to five times the funded debt. Who can reasonably doubt that if the South had enjoyed the same trading facilities that the North has done, the Confederate debt would not have attained a sixth of its present total, because there would not then have been a resort to a paper currency, or at all events the limited Government issues would have been quoted at par, and the Government would have supplied its armies at specie prices? That, despite her open trade, the Northern debt is so large and the Northern currency so depreciated, is due to several causes. An aggressive war is always more costly than a defensive war; the North has had to pay an enormous price for mercenary troops; the corrupt Northern Administration has been prodigal in expenditure; and, above all else, the North is not, like the South, independent of foreign supplies. Supposing that the North had carried on the war without the support of commerce, her paper would have been more depreciated than that of the South, and her debt would have been vastly greater than it is. At the present moment Confederate bonds are higher than Federal bonds in the London market. What would be the effect of peace on the price of these securities? Confederate bonds would forthwith be quoted far above par; and, on the other hand, it is safe to predict that Federal bonds would fall in value, and would most likely be unsaleable.

Having thus directed attention to the peculiar financial position of the South, having endeavoured to explain how it is that abundance of home-produced supplies is co-existent with great financial depression, we will proceed to note the chief points in the report of Mr. TRENHOLM. After a careful perusal every one must be struck with the ability and candour displayed in that document. Indeed, we are disposed to agree with some Southern journals who complain of Confederate officials persistently presenting the darkest side of the picture. The War Department in Richmond is never slow to publish a defeat, but it is not nearly so prompt in proclaiming victories. Mr. TRENHOLM parades all the financial difficulties, and does not deem it necessary to dwell on the hopeful and assuring features of his department. It is, however, a great advantage that when we get a Confederate official document we know the whole truth, and that we know the worst.

The following is a statement of the financial position in pounds sterling, taking the dollar at four shillings:—

	£
Public debt on October 1 . . .	225,276,219
Increase in six months . . .	19,530,152
Receipts from April 1 to October 1 .	83,038,306
Balance in Treasury on April 1 . .	61,656,544
Total	144,694,850
Applied to reduction of debt . .	68,522,065
Expended	54,475,700
Balance	21,967,085
Total	144,694,850
Estimated expenditure to June 30, 1865	87,620,538
Balance of appropriations in hand on January 1, 1865	93,483,240
Estimated balance of appropriations on June 30, 1865	5,862,705

Of the public debt 120,000,000*l.* is unfunded, and 90,000,000*l.* of this, as we shall presently see, Mr. TRENHOLM proposes to withdraw from circulation, leaving a balance of 30,000,000*l.* or $150,000,000 to be used as currency until the return of peace makes a specie currency possible. The small increase in the debt for the six months ending October 1 is due to the large balance in the Treasury on April 1. In the receipts for the six months ending October 1 is included the amount withdrawn from circulation by the tax on the Treasury notes, which amount is written off in the item on the credit side of 68,522,065*l.* appropriated to reduction of the debt. The excess of appropriations is attributable to two reasons. In the first place, it is difficult to form an accurate estimate for a war conducted on such a vast scale; and, secondly, with an inflated currency, it is impossible to estimate correctly the cost of clothing and provisioning the armies. Congress has the most complete confidence in the Government, and does not hesitate to vote the estimates submitted.

Mr. TRENHOLM regards the inflation of the currency and its depreciated value as an evil calling for immediate remedy. No one can deny that a depreciated currency is a gigantic, widespread, and ever-growing evil. The public debt increases in an alarming ratio, seeing that the Government expenditure is made in the high prices consequent on the depreciation of the currency. According to Mr. COBDEN, this is a matter of congratulation, but then Mr. COBDEN is the advocate of the Northern Administration, which looks to repudiation, whereas the South desires to pay its debts. Posterity cannot and will not complain that a large debt was incurred to carry on a war for the salvation of the country; but posterity might complain if the debt imposed upon it was ten times the amount actually received. Moreover, the depreciation of the currency is a serious loss to poor people, to all persons with fixed incomes, and notably to the gallant defenders of their country. The evil is palpable. What is the remedy proposed by Mr. TRENHOLM?

The Confederate SECRETARY of the TREASURY is too versed in business and too able a financier to be guilty of the folly of attempting to get rid of a burden by shifting it from one side to the other. He is not under the delusion that by clever contrivances paper can be transmuted into gold. The Confederacy is shut in from the rest of the world, and cannot exchange her produce for specie; and consequently a sufficient supply of specie cannot be obtained to carry on the business of the country and pay the taxes. What then remains? Since Mr. TRENHOLM cannot reduce the currency with gold, he proposes to reduce it by taxes received in kind. He cannot get gold, but he can get the things which fairly represent gold. Since he cannot have a specie basis for the currency, he will have a wheat, corn, and cotton basis.

Mr. TRENHOLM proposes an Act pledging the faith of the Government against any issue of Treasury notes beyond the amount already authorised. This, of course, is an essential preliminary condition, for it is in vain to try to reduce the volume of the currency, if the Government can at some future time increase it. It is no use pouring out at one end if you are to pour in at the other. Such a process will not relieve the vessel. To facilitate the redemption of the notes, Mr. TRENHOLM suggests that they should be exchanged on demand for Treasury bonds bearing six per cent. interest free from taxation, secured and redeemable in the same way as the notes themselves, and applicable after the war to the payment of the tax in kind. The notes received in exchange for such bonds to be cancelled. In order to increase the value of the Treasury notes, it is suggested that they should be for ever free from taxation. By this provision, it is hoped that confidence will be restored in the Government issues, which confidence, it appears, was greatly impaired by taxing the notes 33 per cent. It must, however, be remembered, that that sweeping measure was not forced upon the people by the Government, but rather forced upon the Government by the patriotic devotion of the people.

We now come to the keystone of Mr. TRENHOLM's plan. He proposes that the tax of 10 per cent., or rather tithe, on cotton, wheat, and corn, shall be redeemable at certain fixed prices—that is to say, cotton at fifty cents a pound, wheat at four dollars per bushel, and corn two dollars per bushel—and that the notes shall be received now and after the war in payment of these commutations. Twenty per cent. of the entire taxation is to be allotted to the reduction of the debt, and the 20 per cent. will be more than obtained from the commuted tithes on the articles above enumerated. Mr. TRENHOLM estimates to receive $90,000,000—or say 18,000,000*l.*—per annum from this source. Certainly he does not exaggerate the probable yield of this tax in kind, as may be seen from the following table:—

	Crops in 1860.	Mr. Trenholm's Estimate.
Cotton .	5,185,645 bales	2,000,000 bales.
Wheat .	42,989,291 bushels	25,000,000 bushels
Corn . .	417,600,804 „	200,000,000 „

It may be said that the crop of cotton has sunk very low, but it is much larger than generally supposed. So far as wheat and corn are concerned, we confess that we are not aware of the reason why Mr. TRENHOLM has placed the production at so low a figure. Making every allowance for the difficulty of collecting taxes in those places which are in the immediate neighbourhood of the theatre of war, and of the many difficulties that are inseparable from the collection of a tax in kind or of commuted tithes, we are persuaded that the Confederate Treasury will receive far more than 18,000,000*l.* sterling per annum from the tax on cotton, wheat, and corn.

But assuming that Mr. TRENHOLM's estimate is correct, then the amount derived from this tax will, in five years, reduce the volume of the currency to about 30,000,000*l.*, or $150,000,000, which amount will be necessary for carrying on the business of the country until the return of peace provides a specie currency. The paper currency being reduced to $150,000,000, will be at a small, if any, discount.

It may be asked what is the Government to do if the people elect to pay their tithes in kind and not in notes? It is not clear whether Mr. TRENHOLM means to make the payment of the commutation compulsory, but we think he does. If not, the Government can use for the supply of its troops more corn and wheat than will be yielded by the tax, and, let Mr. LINCOLN make the blockade as rigid as he likes, the Government will get out far more than 200,000 bales of cotton per annum. If the Government receives the tithes in kind, the notes that would have been spent in purchase will of course be cancelled. After very careful consideration of this scheme in all its bearings, we are hopeful that its adoption will

* We copy elsewhere, under the heading of 'Exhaustion of the North,' an article from the *New York Daily News*, showing how the breadstuff trade has fallen off.]

relieve the Confederate States from their present financial difficulty, and will stop the unnatural growth of the public debt.

There are other parts of Mr. Trenholm's report well worth studying, but on which we need not comment. He advises an additional tax of five cents per lb. on the export of cotton—an addition which, he rightly observes, will hardly be felt at the present Liverpool prices. He recommends an additional five cents per lb. on tobacco, and that the duty on imports be doubled. He also recommends alterations in the law to redress some glaring inequalities in the levy of taxes.

Hereafter, according to Mr. Trenholm's plan, the expenditure of the country is to be met from the two legitimate sources of loans and taxes. He estimates the expenditure from the 1st of January next to the 1st of January, 1866, at 154,800,000*l.*, but this includes 12,000,000*l.* for the redemption of the notes, and 22,800,000*l.* for the estimated amount of floating debt. He estimates the absolute expenditure with an improved currency at 120,000,000*l.* He proposes to raise the amount—that is, 154,800,000*l.*—by loan 81,800,000*l.*, and by taxes 73,000,000*l.*, and he is confident that the Government can raise the estimated sums without crippling the resources of the people. We think, upon a candid review of Mr. Trenholm's plan, that European financiers will consider it sound in principle, expedient, and feasible. Loans contracted in the open market, and at the current rate of interest, form the cheapest way in which a Government can obtain money. Our great finance minister, William Pitt, singularly enough, allowed himself to be fettered by a ridiculous usury law, so that, as he never could pay more than five per cent., he was obliged to contract a debt nominally larger than the amount he actually received. We know now that Pitt committed a costly blunder. We know that as the credit of a government improves it is able to borrow money at less and less interest; and though the amount of the principal of the debt may remain stationary, the amount of interest will decrease under favourable circumstances. But for that fatal usury law and for Pitt's extraordinary reverence for it, the public debt of England, instead of being nearly 800,000,000*l.*, would not have exceeded 500,000,000*l.*, and our annual interest at the present moment would have been about 16,000,000*l.* instead of 27,000,000*l.* per annum. We trust that the Confederate States having this great lesson before them will not commit the like blunder, but, remembering that their interest will decrease in times of peace, take care not to increase the volume of the debt for the sake of paying rather a lower interest for the next few years—if indeed they do pay a lower interest—for it must not be forgotten that a government needs to sell more bonds at a discount than at par to obtain a required amount.

The taxation estimated by Mr. Trenholm is about the same as the amount raised in this country in times of peace; but it will be remarked by those who criticise Mr. Trenholm's scheme that it is to be levied on a population about one-third of the population of the United Kingdom, and that whereas the taxation of this country is about 2*l.* 10*s.* per head, the taxation proposed by Mr. Trenholm is at the rate of about 8*l.* per head of the population. Under normal circumstances, we do not believe that the Confederate States could pay taxes at the rate of 8*l.* per head of the population; but then we have to deal with abnormal circumstances. Allowing for the inflation of the currency, the 73,000,000*l.* per annum that Mr. Trenholm proposes to raise by taxes is not more in specie value than 8,000,000*l.* or 9,000,000*l.* per annum, or 1*l.* per head of the population, and not more than two-fifths of the taxation per head levied in this country; and as the paper currency is withdrawn, the amount required for the Government will be less and less, because there will be less floating debt to redeem, and the fall in prices will diminish the expenditure of the Government.

The question will be suggested to the minds of some of our readers, why was this plan not tried before, and why did the Confederate States incur avoidable difficulties? We reply that, in the first place, the Confederates did not expect and were not prepared for war. Had they deemed war imminent when they resolved to secede, it would have been easy to transfer the bulk of their then stock of cotton to Europe, and so have obtained a very large supply of gold and such a credit on this side as would have kept down the price of exchange. When war did break out it was thought that, though the contest would be sharp, it would be short, and that, when the North saw that secession was the unanimous work of the Southern people, it would cease from the vain attempt at subjugation and sheath the sword. No one in the North, unless perhaps the Administration, believed in a long war. When the cost of the war was estimated at about half the amount of the present debt, leading Northerners said, 'We shan't spend that—we shan't ruin ourselves to get back the South; if she won't come back after one or two campaigns, we shall let her go.' Mr. Seward was conscious of the feeling of the country; he knew in 1861 and 1862 that the only way to obtain money and recruits was to delude people with the idea that peace was at hand, and hence his many dishonoured drafts of ninety and sixty and thirty days. Well, the South too believed in speedy peace, although perfectly reconciled to a long war in case of need. Therefore every budget, until the present one, has been more or less a budget of mere expediency framed in view of the approaching termination of the contest. At length, whether peace is near or distant, the Confederate States are about to legislate financially for a long-continued war. If peace comes soon, so much the better; if not, still the finances of the Confederacy will go on improving—that is, so far as the currency is concerned. The debt indeed will increase, but it will be a burden easily borne by a people made by a long war totally self-dependent, and yet to whose ports the nations of the world will resort, when peace is concluded, for those precious staples which no other country yields in such profusion or in such perfection. To the South, peace means the commencement of an era of prosperity and riches, but to the North the culmination of insolvency and ruin. Yet both communities are interested in the war being quickly brought to an end. The sooner the struggle is over, the sooner will the South enjoy the full blessings of her prolific land. The longer the war is protracted, the more terrible will be the disaster in which the North will be involved.

EARL RUSSELL'S REPLY TO THE CONFEDERATE MANIFESTO.

Foreign Office: November 25, 1864.

Gentlemen,—I have had the honour to receive the copy which you have sent me of the manifesto issued by the Congress of the so-called Confederate States of America.

Her Majesty's Government deeply lament the protracted nature of the struggle between the Northern and Southern States of the formerly United Republic of North America.

Great Britain has since 1783 remained, with the exception of a short period, connected by friendly relations with both the Northern and the Southern States. Since the commencement of the civil war, which broke out in 1861, Her Majesty's Government have continued to entertain sentiments of friendship equally for the North and the South. Of the causes of the rupture Her Majesty's Government have never presumed to judge; they deplore the commencement of this sanguinary trouble, and anxiously look forward to the period of its termination. In the meantime they are convinced that they best consult the interests of peace, and respect the rights of all parties, by observing a strict and impartial neutrality. Such a neutrality Her Majesty has faithfully maintained, and will continue to maintain.

I request you, Gentlemen, to accept the assurances of the very high consideration with which

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient, humble servant,
Russell.

John Slidell, Esq.,
J. M. Mason, Esq.,
and
A. Dudley Mann, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

THE FIRST HERO OF THE WAR.*

The volume before us purports to be a history of the life of General Jackson from his childhood until the close of the campaign in the Valley in the winter of 1861-62. The work is a labour of love, for the book is published for the benefit of the widow and child of General Jackson. This fact alone would disarm criticism, if the author had stood in need of a protecting shield. While, however, he undoubtedly exhibits vulnerable points, he yet possesses qualities sufficient to constitute a defence against fatal attacks. His faults, however, are readily stated, and in justice to the readers who will inevitably be attracted by the subject of his toil, they shall precede his virtues.

Perspicuity of style could not be claimed for the Professor even by an ardent admirer. Indeed, he is singularly devoid of that genius which brings before the eye the panorama of a battle, or before the mind the portrait of a man's character. He is verbose and not methodical. He is liable at any moment to break out into an elaborate disquisition on morals or religion. His loyalty to the object of his admiration betrays him into strong and undignified condemnation of the chiefs of the Confederate army and of the Secretary of State. When he touches on sacred ground, he is not replete with charity; he is dogmatic beyond measure, both in the theory and practice of Christianity; he has even gone out of his way to launch a weak but violent invective, such as the hero of his story would never have approved, against the doctrines and maxims of the Roman Catholic faith. In the opposite scale, however, many excellent virtues may be thrown. His materials have been ample, and he has used them with industry. His heart is in his work, and he has omitted no exertion to make all men know Jackson as he himself understands him. Nothing is neglected. The moral nature of the warrior is not drawn as Gibbon or Macaulay might have sketched it, with one stroke of the pen, in one grand epigram of description. On the contrary, the Professor appears to revolve round the star of his worship in unwearied circles. He approaches and recedes, striving to judge the effect of the brilliant luminary from every point of observation. His examination is never complete, never once for all satisfied. He is unwilling or unable to solve the problem, but he will consume endless *formulæ* in approximations to the truth. The Professor is, of course, thoroughly at home in Virginia, and his grasp of the geographical features of the campaign of 1861 is singularly able. He comprehends and demonstrates the doctrine of secession; on the slavery question he dilates with much success. His statement of the grounds upon which the Confederacy has complained, and does complain, of the attitude of the European Powers, is so complete that we are tempted to quote his words:—

> Men have seen fit to adopt the slanders of our known enemies as the only description of our institutions, and have refused us the poor privilege which even the criminal has, of being heard before he is condemned. The word *slaveowner* has been the talisman to evoke everywhere an ignorant prejudice, too conceited to learn correction; and men have been willing to accept the rendering which it suits the malice of our enemies to give, falsely, as they know—that we are contending, not to preserve our own freedom, but to perpetuate the bondage of our fellowmen, unjustly enslaved. It is by this device our enemies have sought to hide the enormity of their attacks, and to rob us of even the sympathy of mankind. The Confederate States have, indeed, never complained of the refusal of aid to fight their battles, for they have never asked it. But they have a right to complain, that the interested slanders of their enemies should be echoed abroad without even examination; that the moral support of a recognition should be withheld, when it is an historical fact that the independence of several of those same States was recognised by all Europe eighty years ago, and, as is known to all the world, has never since been forfeited; that the maritime law, so recently and solemnly established for all nations, should be compelled to receive a new and deceitful interpretation for the benefit of our enemies, the moment it began to apply in our favour; and that a pretended neutrality should be so observed as to make every advantage accrue to them.

The doctrine that men inherit the virtues and vices of their progenitors stands not in need of proof. The families of the English aristocracy can furnish a thousand illustrations. Thomas Jonathan Jackson was no exception to the rule. Scotland was the cradle of his race; Ireland nurtured it, along with the family whence sprang the conqueror of New Orleans, until one John Jackson, born in Ireland and reared in London, transplanted in 1748 the stock into the hero-nurturing soil of the Old Dominion. There it took deep root, and branched out superbly. Into it was grafted Elizabeth Cummins, a woman 'with the stomach and mettle of a man,' who, far away in the North-west, was not afraid to confront the Red Indian in defence of her homestead and her cattle, and who, living to the age of 105 years, saw her descendants in the enjoyment of broad acres and high consideration. Then, again, there was the mother of the hero, who met death with a fortitude that amazed the witnesses, and of whom her husband declared that 'he had known few women of equal, none of superior merit.' Lastly, there was Cummins Jackson, a strong, brave, temperate, energetic man, a grand old country gentleman withal, liberal and kind, full of wild adventure and boisterous humour, fond of horses and horse-racing, so possessed with the charm of fearless enterprise as in the decline of life to leave his home and penetrate the unexplored regions of California, leading along a brave company of gold-finders. To Thomas Jonathan Jackson the house of Cummins was always open; and though the old sportsman loved to see his nephew on the country racecourse steering some Sir Peter Laurie to victory—for Jackson could win races as easily as battles—yet the religious tone of the General's mind never tempted him to speak of his uncle in the terms which the peculiar views of the Professor deem applicable to a lover of sport. The first evidence of the inheritance by Jackson of the energy of Elizabeth Cummins was afforded when, at the age of fourteen, he, in company with his brother, went down the Ohio River, cut firewood on a lonely island of the Father of Waters, and returned home half dead with ague. Until his migration to West Point in July 1842, at the age of eighteen years, he continued to live with his uncle, having, however, held for a short period the office of Constable or Under-Sheriff in the county of Lewis. With West Point his career as before the world commences, for with him at West Point begins the history of the war which has immortalised him. The names of his classmates are sufficient to call up a thousand scenes of stirring courage, noble devotion, disappointed ambition. Among them was General M'Clellan, formerly the pride of the North, now a man without even a commission in that army which once believed him to be the antitype of Bonaparte. There was also the glorious Hill, on whom Hancock has so often vainly hurled the masses of the crack 2nd Corps of the Federal army. There were Pickett Maury and Wilcox, and the Northern generals Stoneman, Foster, and Gibbon. We may readily believe that in Jackson—the plodder who, by sheer perseverance, rose from fiftieth in his class to the respectable but not eminent position of seventeenth—his comrades did not recognise the warrior who, on the ridge above Bull Run, in answer to the cry of General Bee that the enemy were beating back the Southerners, commanded the Stonewall brigade to 'sweep the field with the bayonet.'

In 1847, T. J. Jackson, as second lieutenant, accompanied the expedition of General Wingfield Scott to Mexico. It is impossible to follow within our limits the course of the campaign which resulted in the storming of the capital. But nothing is more striking than the promise which was then given by the officers who have since risen to eminence in the Southern army. It was the skilful flank attack planned by Captain Robert E. Lee, of the Engineers, which won the fight of Cerro Gordo. There Cap-

* *Life of Lieutenant-General Thomas J. Jackson (Stonewall Jackson)*. By Professor R. L. Dabney, D.D., of Richmond, Virginia. Edited by Rev. W. Chalmers, A.M., London. Vol. I. London: James Nisbet & Co., 21 Berners Street. 1864.

tain John Bankhead Magruder won brilliant distinction for the unprecedented success of the light field battery. There Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Johnstone was wounded. At Churubusco and in front of the Castle of Chapultepec, Jackson performed deeds of sublime heroism, and astounded even the gallant Magruder by serving, with the aid of one sergeant, his last available gun against the concentrated fire of a powerful battery. Jackson's courage was neither unobserved nor unrewarded; he was noticed frequently in the despatches, and as frequently received promotion, passing within seven months all the grades from brevet second lieutenant up to that of major. In March 1851, Jackson, wearied of the lazy routine of garrison life, accepted the chair of Natural and Experimental Philosophy and Artillery Tactics in the Military Academy of Virginia. The climate of Lexington, the nature of the studies over which he presided, the opportunites afforded him of scientific progress, and, what in his eyes was superlatively precious, the cultivation of religious thought and knowledge in the society of earnest theologians, combined to render his life from 1851 to 1861 happy and useful, to elevate the noble instincts of his soul, to arm the massive force of his resolute will, and to complete the pure, strong, and heroic man. In 1856 he visited England, Belgium, France, and Switzerland, and in 1857 he married Miss Mary Anna Morrison, of North Carolina. The offspring of the marriage was one daughter, born in November 1862.

On April 13, 1861, Fort Sumter fell, and the Yankee nation rose to arms with the ecstasy of a people vain of its own power and contemptuous of its foe. Among the earliest preparations of the Confederates was the formation of Camp Lee, just outside Richmond. Thither at once came Major Jackson with the Lexington cadets, to drill the Virginian patriots who had volunteered for their State. In May, General Johnstone assumed the command at Harper's Ferry, and Colonel Jackson was assigned to the command of the brigade which, consisting of the 2nd, 4th, 5th, 27th, and 33rd Virginia Regiments, won at Bull Run the undying name of the Stonewall brigade. The first proof that the ancient fire of Jackson still burned, and the first example of the unblushing falsehood which has throughout the war stained the fame of the Northern officers, were exhibited on the same day. In the combat of Haines' Farm, Colonel Jackson, with only 380 men and one piece of artillery, for three hours withstood the onslaught of Cadwallader's brigade, 3,000 strong, under General Patterson. Jackson lost twelve men, killed and wounded. Forty-five Federals were captured, and the numerous covered wagons of the Dutch farmers which went to the rear with blood dripping through the seams of the boards, testified to the murderous accuracy of the Southern fire. In his official report General Patterson had the audacity to declare that he had repulsed 10,000 rebels, with the loss of one man killed. Jackson was immediately made a Brigadier-General. In July came the glorious battle of Manassas, in which the handful of men under Beauregard inflicted on the host of M'Dowell the most disgraceful defeat ever endured by men of European descent. In the description of this action, Professor Dabney is exceedingly happy; and had the intended diagrams been added, the story of the fight would have approximated to the panoramic style of Creasy. The Professor endeavours at some length to show that had Jackson been in command the whole Confederate army would have advanced to Washington to the capture of the capital and the overthrow of the Northern Government; and it must be admitted that the eagerness with which President Davis urged the pursuit of the shattered foe lends colour to that doctrine. On October 7 Jackson was made Major-General, and took the command of the country lying between the Blue Ridge and the Alleghany Mountains, bidding farewell to his brigade in words which will never fade from the recollection of the heroes of the Second War of Independence.

Of the man Thomas Jonathan Jackson we must here speak concisely. In person he was tall, erect, and muscular, with large hands and feet. His bearing was peculiarly English. He had a brow fair and expansive, blue eyes, a grand Roman nose, ruddy and sunburnt cheeks, and his beard was of a comely brown. He strode as he walked, he was a fine horseman, and had a noble appearance as bareheaded he rode along the line of battle while the shouts of his men rent the skies. In mind he was so broadly excelling as to defy the efforts of a hasty portraiture. If it be once admitted that a great warrior must be a man of superhuman intellectual power; if to entrance the imaginations, not only of fellow-soldiers and fellow-citizens, but of the world, argues a soul sublime in its divine grandeur; if purity of manners, deep religious convictions, an abiding faith in the ever-present guidance of an omnipotent God, indicate a holy and humble spirit, then, indeed, through all ages of the world will Thomas Jonathan Jackson stand out on the page of history a hero rarely equalled, never surpassed. Whether the peculiar views he formed on the principles and practice of religion, and whether the particular school of theologians whose teaching he imbibed, served to contract or to enlarge his character, may well be questioned. On such a point men will form opinions in accord rather with their own acquired ideas than with sober judgment. It is enough for us here with all modesty to ask men to remember that with the blood of Jackson has the cause of the South been consecrated, and to demand whether it is no argument in her favour that men like Jackson have fought and died for her.

Can it possibly be true that such as he was have devoted themselves with unhesitating self-sacrifice for a cause which is 'impious, vile, accursed in the sight of God and man,' as some persons are never wearied of protesting? What, too, is to be said of the heroism of men pure and holy in their lives and deaths as were Stuart and Polk—ay, even of that living type of the Christian gentleman, Robert E. Lee? Surely such as these drive as chaff before the wind the maddened invectives of men who dare to regard the chivalry of the South as the despair of savages, and her genius as the skill of devils.

FICTIONS.*

SPIRITUALISM, or whatever else we ought to call it, does not make so much noise in the world as it made some years ago. The intense absurdity of some of the manifestations, the obvious dishonesty of some of the practitioners, the entire want of purpose and coherence which characterised the whole system, prevented its taking any deep hold on the opinions of men of business, who had neither the time nor the taste for investigations of a purely speculative kind. But it retained its place in the studies and affections of a different order of minds. Of the existing votaries of the art, some belong to the feebler and more fanciful class of literary men and women, others to the social aristocracy of England. They have for the most part two characteristics in common—minds rather amiable and refined than strong and practical, and an ample sufficiency of leisure. Indeed, the most damaging evidence against spiritualism is perhaps the general character of the minds in which it finds a reception. There are some exceptions, and one of them is a very remarkable one—being no other than a Professor of Mathematics, an acute, hard-headed reasoner, thoroughly versed in the theory of probabilities and the laws of evidence. But, as a general rule, few have been converted to a zealous belief in the doctrines, or even a vivid interest in the phenomena of the spiritualists, who have not been naturally predisposed in that direction.

Great mischief has been done by the mental deficiencies of nearly all the persons who have written on the subject. They do not understand the laws of evidence, and they do not care to distinguish clearly between inferences and phenomena. They believe energetically, and they are not careful to give the outer world an account of the unmistakable facts upon which they base their very fallible conclusions. They mix up what they have been told with what they have seen, and what they infer with both. The only exception to this rule with which we are acquainted is furnished by Mr. R. Dale Owen's work, 'Footsteps on the Boundary of another World.' This gentleman is careful in every case to state the exact process by which the stories he relates became known to him. Even he does not understand the laws of evidence. A. told him that A. B. C. D. E.... had seen a ghost, and he thinks that he has the independent testimony of the whole alphabet. The truth is, he has only A.'s; for if A. lied, she may as well have lied with regard to the testimony of her companions as with regard to the subject of their vision. But most of the spiritualists have no idea what evidence means. And we regret to say that the biographer of the Brothers Davenport is no exception to the rule.

For four-fifths of the miracles of which they were the subjects we have no evidence at all. Dr. Nichols does not tell us who told him that Ira was carried through the air for several yards, and across a river; nor does he say who told him that William was inspired to make certain discoveries by a ghost, which were afterwards verified in a startling manner. We are obliged on this account to set aside the whole account of what happened to them before their recent arrival in England. There is no evidence of it. No witnesses are cited except themselves and the persons now travelling with them; that is, the only witnesses called are those accused of complicity. This might be said to afford strong presumption against the brothers. But in fairness we must observe that an honest and unconcerned person of high capacity and character fails to recognise this defect of evidence; it is therefore quite possible that what Dr. Nichols conceives to be satisfactory proof may seem such to the accused themselves. There is no amount of stupidity in regard to the value of evidence which may not be fairly attributed to a spiritualist.

'Macaria' is an American novel. Where its scene is laid we have great difficulty in ascertaining; it is in some Southern town, and, in the absence of distinct assertion, we suppose it to be Charleston. The hero is the son of a poor gentleman, who had committed manslaughter on an insulting creditor, had been found guilty of murder, and anticipated the gallows by suicide. The heroine is the daughter of a leading man of the city, whose persecution had contributed to the victim's fate. She is intended to be a very high-spirited and charming girl; she is made very self-willed and petulant—so petulant that at first we concluded, as a matter of course, that the girl of fourteen who fairly set her father at defiance, and persisted in riding and walking with forbidden friends, must be a denizen of the North. The whole interest of the story arises out of the father's cruelty in forbidding his daughter to associate with the children of a felon, and her obstinate disobedience. In England, the story would have come to an end in the fifth chapter, with the whipping wherewith the disobedient Irene is very properly threatened; but they manage things—and children—differently in America. Irene perseveres through years of estrangement from her father and separation from her friends; and finally, at the close, displaying a filial reverence which she had never before thought necessary, refuses the hero out of respect for the father whom she had so long defied and disobeyed on this very point. Northern bullets terminate the lives of the gentlemen, and the ladies devote themselves to Southern hospitals. Altogether, the story is not satisfactory. But there are episodes here and there which are not deficient in spirit, and on the whole it is possible, after Irene emerges from childhood, to read her story without too impatient a sympathy with her father's opinion of her deserts.

'Uncle Angus' is a much better book. It has faults, and serious faults—improbabilities, exaggerations, caricatures—but it has countervailing merits, and above all it has the supreme merit of being thoroughly readable. Having got half through the first volume as a matter of duty, we found it difficult to lay the book down till we had read it through. The characters are all distinct, most of them possible, and none of them very inconsistent with itself. It is, perhaps, taking too great a liberty with public opinion and probability to represent a usurer as a high-minded affectionate gentleman; and the ignorance of accounts and incapacity for business manifested by both the literary men is simply absurd. We object, too, to the extravagance with which the villain of the story is bedaubed with black. An elegant and cultivated gentleman in public, he is made to act behind the scenes the parts of forger, bully, ruffian, and bigamist; and finally, when detected on the verge of consummating his last crime, he attempts to shoot his wife, before a dozen witnesses, as the cause of his exposure. This is an exaggeration; but it is, perhaps, atoned by the very fitting retribution which overtakes the criminal. Other villains of fiction are hanged, drowned, horsewhipped, shot, or commit suicide; Clifford Chessington is got rid of in a much more artistic way. He seeks the shelter of the United States consulate; professes a wish to join the Federal army; accepts a commission in that congenial service; and is last heard of as the comrade of Butler and M'Neil, a brigadier-general in the hordes of Abraham Lincoln. Could a scoundrel receive a more fitting reward? For the rest, the story is sober, and the characters are natural and pleasant. Angus, the hard-headed, kind-hearted, rough-handed man of business; Alexander, his brother, the unbusiness-like man of letters; his wife, who disposes where he proposes; their daughter, high-spirited, wilful, petulant, but capable of good; their nephew Charlie, an idler and poet, fond of his squirrel and his friends, grateful, simple, and capable of anything except a scene or a meanness; Jessie, his little Quaker cousin and sweetheart; Fitzharding, the rich donkey, with a literary taste—all are well drawn, and almost all are interesting. The scenes among the Quakers are probably a little too strongly drab-coloured, and the last hours of Mr. Boodle's 'young man' are a little more natural than is in good taste in a work of art, but both are good, and the work generally is well worth reading.

'Percy Talbot' narrates the career of a well-bred, clever, fashionable fortune-hunter, with considerable tact and spirit. The hero is first introduced to us making himself agreeable in the sick-room of an elderly miser, with a niece in attendance, whom Mr. Talbot proposes to marry. The niece is discarded, the old man dies, a legacy is left to Mr. Talbot, and the bulk of the property to Miss Fleming. Mr. Talbot devotes himself to Miss Fleming, who proves to be a charming girl, but the wrong one. Finding this out in time (a fortune-hunter would have taken care not to make that mistake), he transfers his affection to the right lady, taking care to break the heart of the wrong one by way of revenging himself for the sneers of a friend and rival who had detected his purposes. He marries the heiress, while loving her namesake; and, finally, is goaded by his wife into shooting himself. The story is well told. In some respects it resembles that of the 'Small House at Allington.' But Mr. Talbot is an inferior creation to Crosbie, while his conduct is more skilful and less outrageous. He shows none of Crosbie's violent shame and remorse; nor does he, like Crosbie, fall into a snare, however willingly. His misdeeds are done with deliberate calculation and of malice aforethought; and he feels no shame, and no remorse, till he suffers their consequences. But, on the other hand, he takes care not to commit himself by an open proposal, and leaves no right to any one to play the part of John Eames. The story is skilfully worked out, and though its catastrophe is unsatisfactory, and leaves everything unsettled, the interest of the reader does not diminish towards the close. We hope better things from the author of 'Percy Talbot.'

* *A Biography of the Brothers Davenport, with some Account of the physical and psychical Phenomena which have occurred in their presence in America and Europe.* By T. L. NICHOLS, M.D., Author of 'Forty Years of American Life.'

Macaria. By AUGUSTA J. EVANS, Author of 'Beulah.' 3 vols.

Uncle Angus. A Novel. By MARY S. G. NICHOLS, author of 'Uncle John,' 'Eros and Anteros,' etc. 2 vols.

Percy Talbot. By GEORGE GRAHAM, author of 'Carstone Rectory.' 3 vols.

London: Saunders, Otley & Co., 66 Brook Street, W. 1864.

EUROPE AND THE WAR IN AMERICA.—The truth is, that our whole trade suffers terribly by the American war. We are losers thereby to the tune of more millions a year than it would cost us to put a stop to it for ever. The cotton trade is going to absolute ruin. No one can adventure his fortune on the production of cotton, or on the accumulation of yarn or cloth, because no one knows but that peace in America might, ere it was sold, reduce the value of his stock by 60 per cent., and consign him to the Bankruptcy Court. So Lancashire is idle, hungry, and demoralised, and must be so while the war continues. What is going on in France is kept in the dark; but it can hardly be much better with Mulhausen than with Manchester. And for these evils there is no possible remedy but in the adoption of prompt measures to bring the war to a close. France and England, acting together, can do this. They have simply to say what nearly all the educated men in either country feel—have only to give effect peacefully and fearlessly to the sympathies of their subjects, and the war will not last six months. Hitherto they have given a strong moral support to the North by adopting on every occasion the interpretation of neutrality most favourable to the stronger Power. Let them reverse this conduct. Let them notify the Federal Government that if any more recruits are shipped for New York the Confederates will be allowed to consider the Foreign Enlistment Act suspended in their favour. Let them open their ports to the vessels of war of both Powers with their prizes. Let them recognise the Confederate States, and send ambassadors to President Davis. Let them demand prompt satisfaction for every injury or affront received from the Northern Government, its envoys, and its officers. All these steps are strictly in accordance with neutrality; the only one concerning which any question could be raised is that of recognition, and we have proved over and over again that no state in a position half so strong as that of the South was ever before refused admission into the family of nations. By taking these simple, neutral, lawful measures, without a threat or a blow, the European Powers would virtually terminate the war. At present they are mainly instrumental in prolonging it.—*Standard.*

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.

FROM A CONFEDERATE CORRESPONDENT.

THE FRENCH PRESS ON MR. LINCOLN'S RE-ELECTION—PRESIDENT DAVIS'S MESSAGE—THE CIRCULAR OF THE CONFEDERATE COMMISSIONERS.

PARIS: November 30.

THE re-election of Mr. Lincoln has, during a week past, formed the general topic of discussion with the whole of the Paris press. I send you a short analysis of the statements which have been put forth on this subject by the several journals.

THE 'CONSTITUTIONNEL.'

The *Constitutionnel* expresses itself with a degree of prudence on this important event, and remarks as follows:—

There is no longer the least uncertainty; it is a war of extermination, it is conquest, the submission of the South by force of cannon, which is desired by the majority of the Northern people.

This journal then exposes the terrible consequences of the contest, and is appalled at the proportions which it now assumes:—

If we cannot be deceived respecting the dominating spirit which has taken possession of the Northern States, we cannot, on the other hand, entertain any doubts whatever as to the firm determination of the Southern States to resist to the last extremity.

The above extract, in which we recognise the clear and resolute style of M. Marie-Martin, concludes with some sympathising remarks in favour of the South.

THE 'PAYS.'

This twin-brother of the *Constitutionnel* seems likewise somewhat puzzled to characterise the election of Mr. Lincoln with any degree of clearness. Having, however, less restraint than the *Constitutionnel,* it is more bold—perhaps more imprudent.

The *Pays* (it remarks) has no reason whatever to regret the personal success of Mr. Lincoln.

On the contrary, probably; but it laments that this success should have for its result—

The continuation of an extreme and implacable policy, which causes torrents of blood to flow in vain, and which heaps up ruins to reach an impossible goal.

Nevertheless, as—

Any other President would have continued the war commenced by the North against the South,

and would not, perhaps, have acknowledged the empire of Mexico,

Mr. Lincoln's maintenance in the Presidency is not to be regretted.

No; it is rather

The stubbornness of the Washington Government in seeking to impose upon the Government of Richmond a union with which the Confederate States will have nothing to do at any price.

THE 'PATRIE.'

The usual editor of the American articles published by the *Patrie*, M. Aucaigne, has raised a difficulty with respect to Mr. Lincoln, which none, probably, had thought of. He remarks that in 1860, the entire Union having taken part in the election, Europe saw in Mr. Lincoln the representative of all the States, but in the election of the present year, the South not having voted, we have a right to ask:—

Whether Europe can continue to recognise officially in Mr. Lincoln the *President of the United States.*

This novel way of considering the election has greatly annoyed the *Opinion Nationale,* which exclaims—not without some show of anger:—

Mr. Lincoln is, was, and shall be, the legitimate President of all the United States.

That is possible, replies the *Patrie,* but it is almost equal to saying—

As the Pope is the legitimate sovereign of the Marshes and of Umbria, and as the King Francis II. is sovereign of the Two Sicilies.

It is therefore true that—

The United States have ceased to be the United States, and that Mr. Lincoln has ceased to be, constitutionally, the President of the Union.

The *Opinion Nationale* (continues the *Patrie*) objects, with good reason, that the ex-King Francis II. should style himself King of Naples, and makes some cutting jokes respecting the address of the Austrian Archdukes, who have still at some courts their accredited ambassadors. We will never say anything so bad of the address of the United States Legation at Paris, but we are certainly surprised to find that the title should remain when the position no longer exists, and that Mr. Lincoln should still style himself President of the United States when he has ceased to be such, both by the force of events and by the weakness of the ballot.

THE 'NATION.'

The *Nation* seems to have formed a more correct opinion than the other journals as to the position in which the Americans themselves and the European Powers are placed by the re-election of Mr. Lincoln.

Considering that this re-election, effected by a portion only of the original United States, deprives Mr. Lincoln of the moral right of regarding himself as President of all the old Union, the *Nation* declares that it is the duty of Europe at the present time to acknowledge the South. The following is the passage referred to:—

So long as the American people could with justice see in Mr. Lincoln and his Government the President and the Government of the United States—that is to say, of the entire Union—it was necessarily justified in regarding the secessionists as rebels, and, under this title, they might seek to compel them, at whatever cost, to reenter the Union. But at the present time this is no longer the case, and not even the bare shadow of a right can now be invoked by the people of the North.

Evidently it is now for Europe to take a step to which, up to the present moment, she has objected; that which she refused so long as the North could assume even the semblance of a right she should grant now that secession is legally consummated. The two confederations, that of the North and that of the South, should be acknowledged by Europe unless the bases for some arrangement between the two countries be immediately established; a result for which, notwithstanding all opposition, we cannot yet cease to hope.

THE 'FRANCE.'

This journal gives full consideration to the consequences of the election; it counsels the new President—

To be no longer the instrument of a fierce party which is destroying the greatness, the prosperity, the liberties, and the future of North America; to abandon all efforts to overcome the indomitable resistance of the Confederates, resolved, if need be, to bury themselves beneath the ashes of their ruined city; and to cease to speak of slavery, which is but a pretext for war, and which has never served any other purpose than that of a lying label for an oppressive policy.

THE 'GLOBE.'

M. Castille's journal thus expresses itself respecting the result of the Republican candidate's nomination:—

We may now anticipate the propagation of a series of laws authorising new loans and fresh conscriptions. Abraham Lincoln's Government has already expended, most uselessly, ten thousand millions of francs in three years; this, say they, was doing things on too small a scale, and now they are to be done on a more extensive one. We are prepared for all we may hear of a party to which the 8th of November afforded a victory which it has not been able to obtain on a field of battle at the cost of a million men.

THE 'MÉMORIAL DIPLOMATIQUE.'

The most nufavourable estimate which has ever been made here of Mr Lincoln has appeared in this journal, which is, as you are aware, the avowed organ of the Emperor Maximilian.

After having reviewed the administration of Mr. Lincoln, and proved that, with unlimited power and resources, he has been unable to advance the conquest of the South a single step, the *Mémorial* judges him as a soldier, as a politician, as an orator, and as a moralist, and concludes that the Presidential seat of Washington, of Jefferson, and of Madison, was never before occupied by so insignificant a personage.

MR. DAVIS'S MESSAGE.

This document has been reproduced, in part, by nearly all the Paris journals.

According to the *Constitutionnel,* it furnishes proof that the determination of the Southern States is to resist to the last extremity.

The *Pays* is convinced that 'the bold and manly accent by which it is pervaded denotes an invincible resolution.'

The *Patrie* acknowledges that the complaints of the President respecting the indifference shown by Europe are *natural,* and considers his language to be 'very worthy, very firm, eminently wise, prudent, and patriotic.'

The *Journal des Débats* also considers Mr. Davis's language to be 'bold and manly, and betraying no signs either of discouragement or of weariness;' it thinks, however, that the resources of the South are weakening, and interprets the Message as a desperate appeal to France and England. 'The North,' adds the *Débats,* 'does not solicit the support of any one.'

M. Dréolle, of the *Patrie,* has sharply refuted this false interpretation:—

This is indeed a most unfortunate reflection. Does the *Débats* then forget that the North, which does not call on any for their support, has not ceased during the last two years to use every effort in its power to prevent the acknowledgment of the South, because such an acknowledgment would be its ruin? Is not the absolute neutrality observed by Europe a considerable support to the North? If the South looks towards France and England, it is because (as the *Morning Post* stated yesterday) these two countries are involuntarily protecting the North by not acknowledging the right of the South to form an independent State. Let this protection be withdrawn from the North, and the *Débats* will soon see how much its supreme contempt for foreign support is worth.

The *Débats* is unable to make any reply to this.

The circular of the Confederate Commissioners has been published in all the Paris journals, the *Opinion Nationale* excepted, and its tone and spirit have been eulogised by nearly all of them.

The *Gazette de France* believes with regret that this step of the Confederate envoys will be barren in its results, and that they will fail to interest the London and Paris cabinets in favour of their cause.

If the South (it observes) wishes to be independent, it must be content to gain its independence by its own heroism. The Governments of France and of England will still continue to wish it well, but these wishes will not enable it to subdue Grant's army.

The *France* observes that this circular 'states very precisely, and in terms full of justice and moderation, the cause for which the South is now fighting with so much energy.' Speaking of the manifesto which accompanies this note, the *France* remarks:—

The true cause and the real aim of the war, the ardent desire to conquer and to enforce respect for the independence of the South, have never been set forth with greater firmness, moderation, and proof.

I regret that the length of this letter prevents me, at the present, from informing you of the opinions expressed on the subject by the *Opinion Nationale,* the *Temps,* the *Siècle,* and the *Débats.* Suffice it to say that M. Malespine and M. Prévost-Paradol join hands and sing the praises of Mr. Lincoln.

In conclusion, let me mention two learned articles on the *Florida* question which have appeared in the *Gazette des Tribunaux.* These articles, which escaped my notice last week, are written by M. Charles, and deserve the greatest consideration.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

THE money market, after having assumed an appearance of easiness, has now become slightly altered, and, instead of an expected further drop in the rate from 7 to 6 per cent., the tendency seems once more upward. A few days ago the bankers and brokers were charging only $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for first-class short-dated paper; they are now raising the terms to $6\frac{7}{8}$ and 7, and if the same character of inquiry continues, the average quotation will in the course of next week be slightly above this figure. It is quite evident that the late reduction in the rate has afforded those who required them facilities to secure supplies of gold and silver for the East, of which Egypt for the moment is taking the greater proportion, for the totals will be required for India and Japan. It is believed that, owing to orders coming forward, the price of silver will advance, and if this shall prove the case, the strain on the market will be proportionally increased. Recently there have been good supplies from America and the West Indies and Mexico, but they have been more or less swallowed up to provide for the continental and Indian enquiry. Nothing can be more certain, from what is daily transpiring, than that the prospect of any cheap money is again removed till the spring, since, in additton to the ordinary enquiry for general wants, the new loans announced will withdraw a rather full total from circulation. Exceptionally this state of things may be beneficial, as it will prevent the revival of ephemeral enterprise and check too large an influx of financial transactions. Even the best and shortest paper could not this afternoon be done below $6\frac{7}{8}$, and the terms were more commonly 7 per cent. Through the half-monthly settlements at the Stock Exchange, the rate for advances has been exceedingly high.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The bullion market does not this week present any very favourable features. Since the reduction in the Bank rate, gold has been taken from the Bank to a greater extent than for some time past, and it is believed that a considerable quantity more will shortly be required for foreign purposes. The amount sent in this week has been only 60,000*l.*, whilst the withdrawals have reached 358,000*l.* The arrivals of specie have been to a fair extent, comprising 212,740*l.* from New York, and 448,800*l.* from the West Indies and Pacific, making a total of 661,540*l.* The Brazil mail is now on its way from Lisbon, and will bring about 53,000*l.* The silver market has been rather quiet within the past week, but prices are rather firmer. Bar is quoted at $61\frac{3}{8}$*d.* per oz., and Mexican dollars at 61*d.* to $61\frac{1}{2}$*d.* per oz. Neither of the vessels known to be on their way from Australia has yet been heard of, although over due.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

Notwithstanding the reduction in the rate of discount on Thursday last, and the continued easy state of the money market, English securities have been very dull and heavy, and the tendency is still in a downward direction. Business, however, has been fairly active, but an apprehension appears to be entertained that, now money has become cheaper, there will not only be a fresh introduction of new companies, but that gold will be withdrawn in considerable quantities from the Bank to meet foreign wants. The foreign stock market is likewise generally depressed, the only exception being in Spanish, which have considerably advanced in consequence of a belief being once more entertained that the outstanding claims are likely to be satisfactorily adjusted. Consols closed this evening at $90\frac{3}{8}$ to $90\frac{1}{2}$ for money, and $89\frac{1}{8}$ to $89\frac{1}{4}$ ex div. for the account, which, as compared with the quotations of this day week, is a fall of $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. Exchequer bills, on the other hand, are tolerably steady—the March issue being still at 5*s.* dis. to par, and those of June 6*s.* to 1*s.* dis. Greek stock has declined $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the present quotation being $22\frac{1}{2}$ to 23. Mexican are steady, being only $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. lower, the quotation standing at $29\frac{1}{4}$ to $29\frac{3}{8}$. Spanish Passives are $33\frac{1}{4}$ to $33\frac{1}{2}$, and the Certificates $15\frac{1}{4}$ to $15\frac{1}{2}$, being a rise respectively of $2\frac{7}{8}$ and $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Turkish Six per Cents. of 1854, are 87 to 88, being a fall of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and those of 1862 at $71\frac{1}{4}$ to $71\frac{3}{4}$, or a decline of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

THE NEW DANUBIAN LOAN.

The new loan for the United Danubian Principalities has been officially announced. It is for 916,000*l.* at the price of 86 for each 100*l.* stock. The interest is 7 per cent. per annum, with a sinking fund of 2 per cent. per annum. The bonds to be redeemed by annual drawings, and paid off at par in London in sterling.

A NEW DANISH LOAN.

The particulars have been issued of a new Danish loan. The amount is 728,000*l.* in a 5 per cent. stock at $94\frac{1}{2}$, payable 25 per cent. on allotment; the same on December 15 and January 16; and the balance, $19\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., on February 15. The loan is redeemable at par, and will expire in May 1877.

IMPORTS FROM THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

The following table, extracted from the Customs Bill of Entry, is a statement of part of the imports of Southern cotton and tobacco into England since our last number:—

Date	Name of Ship	Port	Consignee	Bales of Cotton	Boxes of Tobacco
Nov. 21	Asia	Halifax, N.S.	To order	1512	429
"	Wilsons	Nassau	Lawrence & Co.	166	
"	"	"	S. R. Graves	20	
"	"	"	J. M. Calder	144	
"	Western Belle	Halifax, N.S.	To order	159	
Nov. 23	Voornitgang	Matamoras	Lemonius & Co.	32	
"	"	"	Huth & Co.	251	
Nov. 24	Weser	"	Uhthoff & Co.	29	
"	"	"	Lemonius & Co.	25	
"	"	"	Fielden Brothers	27	
"	"	"	Huth & Co.	483	—
"	"	"	To order	355	
"	"	"	Drake & Co.	40	
			Total	3243	429

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The latest news from New York has had anything but a beneficial effect upon the market for American Government and railway securities. The dealings have been exceedingly limited, nevertheless prices are if anything a trifle firmer. The dealings officially reported have been in United States of 1882, at 40½, 41, 40½, 42, 42½, 43 and 42⅝; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York Section, first mortgage, at 70; ditto ditto, second ditto, at 65; ditto Pennsylvania Section, first mortgage, at 69½ and 70; Erie, $100 shares, all paid, at 39; Illinois Central, $100 shares, $90 paid, at 50½; ditto ditto, all paid, at 51¼, and Panama Railway, second mortgage, at 102 and 102½.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market for this stock continues inactive, the prices heavy, closing, without any fluctuations in the meantime, 59 to 61.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

Although there has been a good business transacted in Railway Shares, prices have again become rather heavy, with but few exceptions. At present the dealers are chiefly engaged with the half-monthly settlement, which materially tends to weaken the market. The traffic receipts, however, continue good, which has to a certain extent the effect of keeping up prices. As compared with last week there has been a rise of 3 per cent. in Great Northern; of 1 per cent. in Dublin and Belfast Junction, and London and Blackwall; and of ½ per cent. in Caledonian, East Anglian, Sheffield and South Eastern; but on the other hand there has been a decline of 2 per cent. in West Midland (Oxford and Shropshire Union); of 1 per cent. in Midland, Birmingham and Derby, North Eastern (Leeds), North Staffordshire, South Devon, and Vale of Neath; and of ½ per cent. in Great Eastern, Great Western, Lancashire and Yorkshire, London and North Western, and North Eastern (York). Foreign and colonial shares have been moderately dealt in, but without any material alteration in prices.

MEETINGS OF CREDITORS.

At a numerously attended meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Halliday, Fox, and Co., East India Merchants, who failed a few weeks ago, a balance-sheet was presented by Mr. Coleman, of the firm of Coleman, Turquand, Youngs, and Co., showing direct liabilities amounting to 319,264*l*., against which there were assets to the extent of about 307,937. The chairman, Mr. M'Kinnon, expressed a strong opinion that nearly twenty shillings in the pound will be obtained. It was unanimously resolved to liquidate the estate under inspection, and satisfaction was expressed at the explanations afforded.—At an adjourned meeting of the creditors of Mr. Aaron Salomons, warehouseman, of Old 'Change, the committee appointed at the previous meeting presented a report tending to exonerate Mr. Salomons from the suspicion of complicity in the fraudulent transactions of his absconded clerk. It was resolved that the estate should be wound up under an assignment to trustees.—At a meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Brown, Buckley, and Co., a balance-sheet was presented showing liabilities to the amount of 221,416*l*., with assets estimated at 236,055*l*. It was resolved that Messrs. Buckley and Co. be requested to wind up the estate and pay as soon as possible 10*s*. in the pound, no doubt being entertained that 20*s*. would be eventually paid.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

In the produce markets trade progresses slowly but steadily. There is very little disposition to extend purchases beyond the mere provision for immediate requirements, but the demand arising in this way is sufficient to take off the bulk of the moderate supplies that are offering, and to lend steady support to prices. Instances of depression occur, but they are rather the exception than the rule. Imports are by no means heavy, and this is another cause of the general firmness in quotations. Cotton, which continued to advance until the close of last week, has since remained nearly stationary, with diminished transactions, speculators having for the time almost entirely left the market. The grain trade pursues the same even course as noticed for some time past, prices scarcely varying, and the dealings being limited in extent. The cured provision markets are dull without much alteration from current rates. Irish bacon offers on easier terms, but American long and short middling being scarce, are relatively firm at 40*s*. to 45*s*. per cwt. Fine American butter at 112*s*. per cwt. meets a good enquiry. A small trade is doing in cheese at 46*s*. to 56*s* for American brands. Sugar remains out of demand, and is again lower by fully 6*d*. to 1*s*. per cwt., with increasing stocks. The coffee market still improves. Since the Netherlands Trading Company's sales, which resulted in a decided advance, the demand here has increased, Ceylon kinds realising 1*s*. per cwt. more, and Rio coffees also meeting a much larger sale at firmer prices than were obtainable recently. To-day some large floating parcels of the latter are understood to have changed hands, but the particulars are as yet kept secret. There is nothing new in reference to tea, in which there is still very little doing. Rice is more in demand, the Indian advices being in favour of holders. Fine Bengal saltpetre maintains its value at 32*s*. to 32*s*. 6*d*. Spices sell slowly without essential change in price. Dried fruits during the last day or two have not gone off so freely, but lower rates cannot be quoted. The principal feature in dyes is a further extension of demand for cochineal, which has again advanced 1*d*. per lb. Safflower is very firmly held. Jute continues in steady request, with an upward tendency in value. Hemp, both Manilla and Russian, is dull, and late rates are hardly obtainable. The value of oils is generally well maintained. Linseed remains at 33*s*. 9*d*. to 34*s*.; pale rape has advanced to 46*s*. to 46*s*. 6*d*., and brown to 43*s*. to 43*s*. 6*d*. per cwt. Sperm has been sold at 63*l*. per tun for American fishing. Petroleum has advanced to 2*s*. 1*d*. per gallon for American refined, but crude remains at 16*l*. 10*s*. per tun. There is more doing in metals. Scotch pig iron from 50*s*. 3*d*. has risen to 50*s*. 10½*d*., which was the closing price to-day.

Liverpool, Wednesday, November 30.—Our cotton market has been very unsteady during the past week, but still prices are relatively higher than they were. In the early part of the week business was not particularly active, a subsidence having taken place from the effects just produced by the news of the reelection of President Lincoln. On Monday there was more animation, and prices once more had an advancing tendency, in consequence of the nature of the telegraphic news from Bombay; but yesterday the advance was counteracted by the peace rumours contained in the news from New York. To-day the market has been steady, and without any material change. The sales this week have not been so large as for some time past, amounting to only 35,000 bales, of which 12,300 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year down to the present time have been 2,518,591 bales, and to the same period in 1863, 2,440,132 bales. There have been imported this year 2,080,483 bales, last year the number was 1,537,572 bales. This year the trade have taken 1,492,682 bales, against 1,231,759 bales in 1863. The exports this year have been 515,135 bales, last year they were 436,462 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 493,551 bales, and in 1863, 722,362 bales. The estimated stocks at the present time are 360,104 bales, whilst at the corresponding period last year they were 259,272 bales. The official closing quotations ware for American descriptions, 24¼*d*. to 26¼*d*.; Pernambuco, 26¾*d*. to 27½*d*.; Maceio, 26¼*d*. to 26½*d*.; Bahia, 26¼*d*. to 26½*d*.; Egyptian, 7½*d*. to 31*d*.; Smyrna, 16½*d*. to 20¾*d*.; Surats, 9½*d*. to 21¾*d*.; Bengal, 12*d*. to 13½*d*.; Scinde, 12*d*. to 13½*d*.; China, 14½*d*. to 16¾*d*.; Japan, 17*d*. to 17¼*d*.; and Peruvian, 28*d*. to 29*d*.

During the past week there has not been much animation in the Manchester markets, the extreme prices demanded last week having completely checked operations, from which there has not been any visible recovery, notwithstanding a general reduction in prices, caused by the rumours of peace negotiations between the American belligerents. Although the news from India is of a very satisfactory character, it has not proved sufficient to counteract the effects produced by the rumours alluded to. The market for shipping, and in fact all descriptions of yarns, remains very dull, and quotations have declined from 2*d*. to 3*d*. per lb. since last week. At this decline, some little business has been done in second-hand lots, which had been bought by speculators during the previous depression, but spinners are not disposed to operate at this decline. In cloths prices have also been gradually weakening, and in some cases the reduction has been upwards of 1*s*. per piece. The buyers of goods at the late panic prices have been tempted by the present decline to offer them for resale at rates which manufacturers cannot compete with at the present price of cotton. The latest quotations were:—⅞ Grey Printers, 7*s*. 6*d*. to 14*s*. 9*d*. according to quality; ⅜ Grey Madapollams, 6*s*. 9*d*. to 9*s*. 9*d*.; ⅝ Grey Printers, 9*s*. 3*d*. to 16*s*. 9*d*.; 5/4 Grey Shirtings, 11*s*. to 24*s*.; Water Twist, No. 20, 1*s*. 8*d*. to 2*s*. 5*d*.; No. 30, 2*s*. 2*d*. to 2*s*. 9*d*.; No. 40, 2*s*. 9*d*. to 3*s*. 3*d*.; Mule Twist, No. 20, 1*s*. 7*d*. to 2*s*. 3*d*.; No. 30, 1*s*. 10*d*. to 2*s*. 7*d*.; No. 40, 1*s*. 11*d*. to 2*s*. 9*d*.; No. 50, 2*s*. 4*d*. to 2*s*. 11*d*.; No. 60, 2*s*. 7*d*. to 3*s*. 1*d*.; No. 70, 2*s*. 10*d*. to 3*s*. 4*d*.; No. 80, 3*s*. to 3*s*. 6*d*.; No. 90, 3*s*. 2*d*. to 3*s*. 8*d*.; and No. 100, 3*s*. 5*d*. to 4*s*.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Ships Arrived.

At Liverpool.—November 23: The Bellona, from Demerara.—Nov. 24: The Sunnyside, from Halifax, N.S. The Weser, from Matamoras.—November 27: The Star, from Bermuda. The Johnstone, from Demerara. November 28: The Secret, from Nassau.—November 29: The Bessie Simpson, from Matamoras. The F. V., from Nassau. The Architect, from Bermuda.

At Gravesend.—November 23: The San Francisco, The Alfreda, from Porto Rico.—November 24: The Ravensworth, from Porto Rico.—November 27: The Eunomia, from Demerara. The Vater Gruner, from Porto Rico.—November 29: The Marcelo, from Porto Rico.

At Deal.—November 29: The Dorothy, from Demerara.—November 30: The Jersey (?), from Demerara.

At Falmouth.—November 25: The Suometar, from Rio Janeiro.—November 27: The Jesusa, from Havana. The Jane Goodyear, from Bermuda. The Deer (steamer), from Liverpool, for Bermuda, with port paddle-box carried away, decks leaky, &c.—November 29: The Essere, from Montevideo.

At Plymouth.—November 27: The Aurora, from Bermuda.

At Queenstown.—November 25: The Premier, from Callao.—November 27: The Brother's Pride, from Callao. The Favourite, from Bahia.—November 29: The Helena, from Havana.

At Clyde.—November 22: The Resolute, from Callao.

At Nassau, N.P.—Previous to November 3: The Berbice, The Caroline, The Dacotah, The Eliza, The Monmouth.

At Bermuda.—October 27: The H. C. Bazley, from Jamaica, leaking badly, with loss of sails, &c.—October 29: The Charles Adams, from Porto Rico, with loss of sails, and cargo shifted.

At Halifax, N.S.—November 5: The Penelope, from Liverpool.—November 7: The Mary, from Barbadoes.

At St. Thomas's.—November 1: The Qui qu'en Grogne, from Cardiff.—November 3: The Germania, from Cardiff.—November 6: The Courier, from Cardiff.—November 7: The Johanne Wilhelmine, from Newport.—November 9: The Adelaide, from Liverpool. The Gustav, The P. Lacoste, from Cardiff.—November 10: The Sappermeer, from Liverpool.—The Edmond, from Cardiff. The Mary Boucher, The Fort de France, from Newport.—November 11: The Albert, from Newport.

Ships Sailed.

Liverpool.—November 21: The Heather Bell, for Buenos Ayres. The Daniel Dyer, for Montevideo. The M. E. Corning, for Pernambuco. The Canondah, for St. Thomas's.—November 24: The Glen Tilt, for Rio Janeiro. The Uncas, for Callao. The Elizabeth Barter, for Pernambuco. The Secret (steamer), for Nassau.—November 25: The Christobal (steamer), for St. Thomas's. The Crocodile, for Nassau.—November 29: The Pembroke Castle, for Valparaiso. The Joseph Cape, for Bahia. The Alexander, for Bermuda.

Gravesend.—November 26: The Landwursten, for Rio Janeiro.

Deal.—November 28: The Guiding Star, for Demerara.—November 29: The Bermondsey, for Pernambuco. The Caroline, for Jamaica. The Matilda, for Demerara.—November 30: The Malcolm Brown, for Jamaica.

Queenstown.—November 26: The Deer (steamer), for Nassau.

Cardiff.—November 22: The Mystery, from Havana.—November 24: The Princess Royal, for Nassau.—November 26: The Czar, for Callao. The Magnet, for Halifax, N.S.

Clyde.—November 24: The Emily (steamer), The Flamingo (steamer), for Nassau.

St. Thomas's.—October 29: The Granadian (steamer), for Liverpool.

Ships Loading.

At London.—For Bermuda: The Tartar, The Enmore. For Demerara: The Emerald Isle, The Tanjore, The Cleopatra, The Warrior Queen, The Express, The Argus, The Kestrel. For Nassau (N.P.): The Hannah; J. Worley. For Montevideo and Buenos Ayres: The Louise Alwardt, The Para, The Regina, The Ino, The Theresia, The Martin. For New York: The E. W. Stetson, The Jenny, The Iowa. For Havana: The Maria Victorina.

At Liverpool.—For Matamoras: The Rosina Claypole, The Esther, The Ocean Belle, The Mary Farleigh, The Geertina, The Juliana, The Vooruitgang. For Nassau (N.P.): The Clarence, The Babthorpe, The Enterprise, The Wild Pigeon, The John G. Johnson, The Harriet, The Lady of the Lake, The Pamelia, The Queen Mab. For St. Thomas's: The Her Majesty, The Helena, The Memphis *vid* Newport. For Demerara: The Anna Mary, The Parker, The Bellona. For Havana: The Victory, The Providencia, The Trafalgar, The Heinrich Beckmann, The Constance, The Flora, The Ricardo, The Barinaga, The Manuela. May 17: The Virgen del Carmen, The Harald.

At Bristol.—For Pernambuco: The Elpis. For Nassau: The Prince, For Havana: The Glen Gall.

At Cardiff.—For Havana: The Rapid. For St. Thomas's: The Malaga. For Nassau: The Cubana, The Firm, The Valetta, The Fearless, The Prince Albert, The Alonzo.

At Hull.—For Havana: The Delphin.

At Gloucester.—For Nassau: The Orvarodd.

At Newport.—For Nassau: The Eulia. For St. Thomas's: The Denmark, The Osborne, The Belmont, The Gluchauf, The Mary.

At Swansea.—For Halifax: The Echo. For Nassau: The Sovereign, The Mincardo, The Josephine.

At Glasgow.—For Demerara: The Martha. For Buenos Ayres: The Toronto, The Catherine. For Montevideo: The Mariners.

At Port Glasgow. For Nassau: The Flamingo.

Among the Contents of The Index *of November* 24 *are*:—

Notes on Events of the Week at Home and Abroad.
The Re-election of Mr. Lincoln.
Letter from Washington. Letter from Richmond.
Letter from New York.
North of the James River.
The Seizure of the 'Florida.'
The 'Tallahassee' at Halifax.
The War.
The Apology of the 'Wachusetts.'
The Biglow Papers.
The 'British Army and Navy Review.'
Confederate Official Manifesto.
The Rochdale Operatives and the War.
Southern Sympathy in the Potteries.
The Murder of Six Confederate Soldiers.
Affairs Financial and Commercial.
Shipping Intelligence.

SUPPLEMENT.

The Second Session of the Second Congress of the Confederate States.
The Annual Message of President Davis.
Report of the Confederate Secretary of the Treasury.

Marriage.

Gilliat—Moore.—On the 24th ult., at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, by the Lord Bishop of Oxford, and the Rev. Conyngham Ellis, incumbent of Cranbourne, Berks, Algernon Gilliat, Esq., of Fernhill, Berks, to Mary Augusta Georgiana, youngest daughter of the Hon. and Rev. Edward Moore, Canon of Windsor.

Death.

Fox.—On August 29, 1864, at Uniontown, Alabama, of typhus fever contracted while in discharge of his duty, William Courtenay Fox, 1st lieutenant Confederate States army, aged 22, eldest son of John Fox, Esq., New Orleans.

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THERE are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellow-men.

Contributions will be received by J. H. ASHBRIDGE, Treasurer, Walmer Buildings, Water Street, Liverpool; or in London, by HENRY HOTZE, Esq., 17 Savile Row, W.; in Paris, by H. O. BREWER, Esq., 6 Rue Circulaire; and DANIEL HUBBARD, Esq., 24 Rue Lord Byron.

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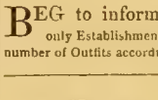

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SUPPLEMENT

TO

THE INDEX

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

VOL. IV.—No. 136.] LONDON: THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 1, 1864. [GRATIS.

SECOND SESSION OF THE SECOND CONGRESS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

The Annual Message of President Davis.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Confederate States of America:

It is with satisfaction that I welcome your presence at an earlier day than that usual for your session, and with confidence that I invoke the aid of your counsels at a time of such public exigency. The campaign which was commenced almost simultaneously with your session early in May last, and which was still in progress at your adjournment in the middle of June, has not yet reached its close. It has been prosecuted on a scale and with an energy heretofore unequalled. When we revert to the condition of our country at the inception of the operations of the present year, to the magnitude of the preparations made by the enemy, the number of his forces, the accumulation of his warlike supplies, and the prodigality with which his vast resources have been lavished in the attempt to render success assured; when we contrast the numbers and means at our disposal for resistance, and when we contemplate the results of a struggle apparently so unequal, we cannot fail, while rendering the full meed of deserved praise to our generals and soldiers, to perceive that a Power higher than man has willed our deliverance, and gratefully to recognise the protection of a kind Providence in enabling us successfully to withstand the utmost efforts of the enemy for our subjugation.

At the beginning of the year the State of Texas was partially in possession of the enemy, and large portions of Louisiana and Arkansas lay apparently defenceless. Of the Federal soldiers who invaded Texas, none are known to remain except as prisoners of war. In North-western Louisiana a large and well-appointed army, aided by a powerful fleet, was repeatedly defeated, and deemed itself fortunate in finally escaping with a loss of one-third of its numbers, a large portion of its military trains, and many transports and gunboats. The enemy's occupation of that State is reduced to the narrow district commanded by the guns of his fleet. Arkansas has been recovered with the exception of a few fortified posts, while our forces have penetrated into Central Missouri, affording to our oppressed brethren in that State an opportunity, of which many have availed themselves, of striking for liberation from the tyranny to which they have been subjected.

On the east side of the Mississippi, in spite of some reverses, we have much cause for gratification. The enemy hoped to effect, during the present year, by concentration of forces, the conquest which he had previously failed to accomplish by more extended operations. Compelled, therefore, to withdraw or seriously to weaken the strength of the armies of occupation at different points, he has afforded us the opportunity of recovering possession of extensive districts of our territory. Nearly the whole of Northern and Western Mississippi, of Northern Alabama, and of Western Tennessee, are again in our possession: and all attempts on these States have been baffled. On the entire ocean and Gulf coast of the Confederacy the whole success of the enemy, with the enormous naval resources at his command, has been limited to the capture of the outer defences of Mobile Bay.

If we now turn to the results accomplished by the two great armies, so confidently relied on by the invaders as sufficient to secure the subversion of our Government and the subjection of our people to foreign domination, we have still greater cause for devout gratitude to Divine power. In South-western Virginia successive armies, which threatened the capture of Lynchburg and Saltville, have been routed and driven out of the country, and a portion of Eastern Tennessee reconquered by our troops. In Northern Virginia, extensive districts, formerly occupied by the enemy, are now free from their presence. In the lower valley their general, rendered desperate by his inability to maintain a hostile occupation, has resorted to the infamous expedient of converting a fruitful land into a desert by burning its mills, granaries, and homesteads, and destroying the food, standing crops, live stock, and agricultural implements of peaceful non-combatants. The main army, after a series of defeats, in which its losses have been enormous—after attempts by raiding parties to break up our communications, which have resulted in the destruction of a large part of the cavalry engaged in the work—after constant repulse of repeated assaults on our defensive lines—is, with the aid of heavy reinforcements, but with, it is hoped, waning prospects of further progress in the design, still engaged in an effort, commenced over four months ago, to capture Petersburg.

The army of General Sherman, although succeeding at the end of the summer in obtaining possession of Atlanta, has been unable to secure any ultimate advantage from this success. The same general who, in February last, marched a large army from Vicksburg to Meridian with no other result than being forced to march back again, was able, by the aid of greatly increased numbers, and after much delay, to force a passage from Chattanooga to Atlanta, only to be for the second time compelled to withdraw on the line of his advance, without obtaining control of a single mile of territory beyond the narrow track of his march, and without gaining aught beyond the precarious possession of a few fortified points, in which he is compelled to maintain heavy garrisons, and which are menaced with recapture.

The lessons afforded by the history of this war are fraught with instruction and encouragement. Repeatedly during the war have formidable expeditions been directed by the enemy against points ignorantly supposed to be of vital importance to the Confederacy. Some of these expeditions have, at immense cost, been successful, but in no instance have the promised fruits been reaped. Again, in the present campaign, was the delusion fondly cherished that the capture of Atlanta and Richmond would, if effected, end the war by the overthrow of our Government and the submission of our people. We can now judge by experience how unimportant is the influence of the former event upon our capacity for defence, upon the courage and spirit of the people, and the stability of the Government. We may, in like manner, judge that if the campaign against Richmond had resulted in success instead of failure; if the valour of the army, under the leadership of its accomplished commander, had resisted in vain the overwhelming masses which were, on the contrary, decisively repulsed; if we had been compelled to evacuate Richmond as well as Atlanta, the Confederacy would have remained as erect and defiant as ever. Nothing could have been changed in the purpose of its Government, in the indomitable valour of its troops, or in the unquenchable spirit of its people. The baffled and disappointed foe would in vain have scanned the reports of your proceedings, at some new legislative seat, for any indication that progress had been made in his gigantic task of conquering a free people. The truth so patent to us must ere long be forced upon the reluctant Northern mind. There are no vital points on the preservation of which the continued existence of the Confederacy depends. There is no military success of the enemy which can accomplish its destruction. Not the fall of Richmond, nor Wilmington, nor Charleston, nor Savannah, nor Mobile, nor of all combined, can save the enemy from the constant and exhausting drain of blood and treasure which must continue until he shall acknowledge that no peace is attainable unless based on the recognition of our indefeasible rights.

Before leaving this subject, it is gratifying to assure you that the military supplies essentially requisite for public defence will be found, as heretofore, adequate to our needs; and that abundant crops have rewarded the labour of the farmer, and rendered abortive the inhuman attempt of the enemy to produce, by devastation, famine among the people.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

It is not in my power to announce any change in the conduct of foreign Powers. No such action has been taken by the Christian nations of Europe as might justly have been expected from their history, from the duties imposed by international law, and from the claims of humanity. It is charitable to attribute their conduct to no worse motive than indifference to the consequences of a struggle which shakes only the republican portion of the American Continent, and not to ascribe to design a course calculated to insure the prolongation of hostilities.

No instance in history is remembered by me in which a nation pretending to exercise dominion over another, asserting its independence, has been the first to concede the existence of such independence. No case can be called to my mind in which neutral Powers have failed to set the example of recognising the independence of a nation, when satisfied of the inability of its enemy to subvert its government; and this, too, in cases where the previous relation between the contending parties had been confessedly that of mother country and dependent colony; not, as in our case, that of coequal State united by Federal compact. It has ever been considered the proper function and duty of neutral Powers to perform the office of judging whether in point of fact the nation asserting dominion is able to make good its pretensions by force of arms, and, if not, by recognition of the resisting party, to discountenance the continuance of the contest. And the reason why this duty is incumbent on neutral Powers is plainly apparent, when we reflect that the pride and passion which blind the judgment of the parties to the conflict cause the continuance of active warfare, and consequent useless slaughter, long after the inevitable result has become apparent to all not engaged in the struggle. So long, therefore, as neutral nations fail by recognition of our independence to announce that, in their judgment, the United States are unable to reduce the Confederacy to submission, their conduct will be accepted by our enemies as a tacit encouragement to continue their efforts, and as an implied assurance that belief is entertained by neutral nations in the success of their designs. A direct stimulus, whether intentional or not, is thus applied to securing a continuance of the carnage and devastation which desolate this continent, and which they profess deeply to deplore.

The disregard of this just, humane, and Christian public duty by the nations of Europe is the more remarkable from the fact that authentic expression has long since been given by the Governments of both France and England to the conviction that the United States are unable to conquer the Confederacy. It is now more than two years since the Government of France announced officially to the Cabinets of London and St. Petersburg its own conclusion that the United States were unable to achieve any decisive military success. In the answers sent by those Powers no intimation of a contrary opinion was conveyed; and it is notorious that in speeches, both in and out of Parliament, the members of Her Britannic Majesty's Government have not hesitated to express this conviction in unqualified terms. The denial of our right under these circumstances is so obviously unjust, and discriminates so unfairly in favour of the United States, that neutrals have sought to palliate the wrong of which they are conscious by professing to consider, in opposition to notorious truth and to the known belief of both belligerents, that the recognition of our independence would be valueless without their further intervention in the struggle—an intervention of which we disclaim the desire and mistrust the advantage. We seek no favour, we wish no intervention. We know ourselves fully competent to maintain our own rights and independence against the invaders of our country, and we feel justified in asserting that, without the aid derived from recruiting their armies from foreign countries, the invaders would, ere this, have been driven from our soil. When the recognition of the Confederacy was refused by Great Britain in the fall of 1862, the refusal was excused on the ground that any action by Her Majesty's Government would have the effect of inflaming the passions of the belligerents, and of preventing the return of peace. It is assumed that this opinion was sincerely entertained; but the experience of two years of unequalled carnage shows that it was erroneous, and that the result was the reverse of what the British ministry humanely desired. A contrary policy—a policy just to us—a policy diverging from an unvarying course of concession to all the demands of our enemies—is still within the power of Her Majesty's Government, and would, it is fair to presume, be productive of consequences the opposite of those which have unfortunately followed its whole course of conduct from the commencement of the war to the present time. In a word, peace is impossible without independence, and it is not to be expected that the enemy will anticipate neutrals in the recognition of that independence. When the history of this war shall be fully disclosed, the calm judgment of the impartial publicist will, for these reasons, be unable to absolve the neutral nations of Europe from a

share in the moral responsibility for the myriads of human lives that have been unnecessarily sacrificed during its progress.

The renewed instances in which foreign Powers have given us just cause of complaint need not here be detailed. The extracts from the correspondence of the State Department, which accompany this message, will afford such further information as can be given without detriment to the public interest, and we must reserve for the future such action as may then be deemed advisable to secure redress.

FINANCES.

Your special attention is earnestly invited to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, submitted in conformity with law. The facts therein disclosed are far from discouraging, and demonstrate that, with judicious legislation, we shall be enabled to meet all the exigencies of the war from our abundant resources, and avoid, at the same time, such an accumulation of debt as would render at all doubtful our capacity to redeem it. The total receipts into the Treasury for the two quarters ending on the 30th of September, 1864, were $415,191,530, which sum, added to the balance of $308,282,722 that remained in the Treasury on the 1st of April last, forms a total of $723,474,272. Of this total, not far from half, that is to say, $342,560,327, has been applied to the extinction of the public debt, while the total expenditures have been $272,378,505, leaving a balance in the Treasury on the 1st of October, 1864, of $108,435,420.

The total amount of the public debt, as exhibited on the books of the Register of the Treasury, on the 1st of October, 1864, was $1,147,970,208, of which $539,340,090 were funded debt, bearing interest, $283,880,150 were treasury notes of the new issue, and the remainder consisted of the former issue of treasury notes which will be converted into other forms of debt, and will cease to exist as currency on the 31st of next month.

The report, however, explains that, in consequence of the absence of certain returns from distant officers, the true amount of the debt is less by about twenty-one and a half millions of dollars than appears on the books of the register, and that the total public debt on the 1st of last month may be fairly considered to have been $1,126,381,095.

The increase of the public debt during the six months from the 1st of April to the 1st of October, was $97,650,780, being rather more than $16,000,000 per month; and it will be apparent, on a perusal of the report, that this augmentation would have been avoided, and a positive reduction of the amount would have been effected, but for certain defects in the legislation on the subject of the finances, which are pointed out in the report, and which seem to admit of easy remedy.

In the statements just made the foreign debt is omitted. It consists only of the unpaid balance of the loan known as the cotton loan. This balance is but 2,200,000*l.*, and is adequately provided for by about 250,000 bales of cotton owned by the Government, even if the cotton be rated as worth but sixpence per pound.

There is one item of the public debt not included in the tables presented, to which your attention is required. The bounty bonds promised to our soldiers by the third section of the Act of February, 1864, were deliverable on October 1. The Secretary has been unable to issue them, by reason of an omission in the law, no time being given therein fixed for the payment of the bonds.

The aggregate appropriations called for by the different departments of the Government, according to the estimates submitted with the report, for the six months ending on June 30, 1865, amount to $438,102,679, while the Secretary estimates that there will remain unexpended out of former appropriations, on January 1, 1865, a balance of $467,416,204. It would, therefore, seem that former estimates have been largely in excess of actual expenditures, and that no additional appropriations are required for meeting the needs of the public service until July 1 of next year. Indeed, if the estimates now presented should prove to be as much in excess of actual expenditure as has heretofore been the case, a considerable balance will still remain unexpended at the close of the first half of the ensuing year.

The chief difficulty to be apprehended in connection with our finances results from the depreciation of the treasury notes, which seems justly to be attributed by the Secretary to two causes—redundancy in amount and want of confidence in ultimate redemption—for both of which remedies are suggested that will commend themselves to your consideration as being practicable as well as efficient.

The main features of the plan presented are substantially these: First, That the faith of the Government be pledged that the notes shall ever remain exempt from taxation. Second, That no issue shall be made beyond that which is already allowed by law. Third, That a certain fixed portion of the annual receipts from taxation during the war shall be set apart specially for the gradual extinction of the outstanding amount until it shall have been reduced to $100,000,000. And fourth, The pledge and appropriation of such proportion of the tax in kind, and for such number of years after the return of peace, as shall be sufficient for the final redemption of the entire circulation. The details of the plan, the calculations on which it is based, the efficiency of its operation, and the vast advantages which would result from its success, are fully detailed in this report, and cannot be fairly presented in a form sufficiently condensed for this message. I doubt not it will receive from you that earnest and candid consideration which is merited by the importance of the subject.

The recommendations of the report for the repeal of certain provisions of the tax laws, which produced inequality in the burden of taxation; for exempting all government loans from taxation on capital, and from any adverse discrimination in taxation on income derived from them; for placing the taxation on banks on the same footing as on other corporate bodies; for securing the payment into the Treasury of that portion of the bank circulation which is liable to confiscation because held by alien enemies; for the conversion of the interest-bearing treasury notes now oustanding into coupon bonds, and for the quarterly collection of taxation—all present practical questions for legislation, which, if wisely devised, will greatly improve the public credit, and alleviate the burdens now imposed by the extreme and unnecessary depreciation in the value of the currency.

The returns of the Produce Loan Bureau are submitted with the report, and the information is conveyed that the Treasury Agency in the Trans-Mississippi Department has been fully organised and is now in operation with promise of efficiency and success.

The provision heretofore made to some extent for increasing the compensation of public officers, civil and military, is found to be in some places inadequate to their support, perhaps not more so anywhere than in Richmond; and enquiry with a view to appropriate remedy is suggested to your consideration. Your notice is also called to the condition of certain officers of the Treasury who were omitted in the laws heretofore passed for the relief of other public officers as mentioned in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR.

The condition of the various branches of the military service is stated in the accompanying report of the Secretary of War. Among the suggestions made for legislative action with a view to add to the numbers and efficiency of the army, all of which will receive your consideration, there are some prominent topics which merit special notice.

The exemption from military duty now accorded by law to all persons engaged in certain specified pursuits or professions is shown by experience to be unwise, nor is it believed to be defensible in theory. The defence of home, family and country, is universally recognised as the paramount political duty of every member of society; and in a form of Government like ours, where each citizen enjoys an equality of rights and privileges, nothing can be more invidious than an unequal distribution of duties and obligations. No pursuit nor position should relieve any one who is able to do active duty from enrolment in the army, unless his functions or services are more useful to the defence of his country in another sphere. But it is manifest that this cannot be the case with entire classes. All telegraph operators, workmen in mines, professors, teachers, engineers, editors and employés of newspapers, journeymen printers, shoemakers, tanners, blacksmiths, millers, physicians, and the numerous other classes mentioned in the laws, cannot, in the nature of things, be either equally necessary in their several professions, nor distributed throughout the country in such proportions that only the exact numbers required are found in each locality, nor can it be everywhere impossible to replace those within the conscript age by men older and less capable of active field services. A discretion should be vested in the military authorities, so that a sufficient number of those essential to the public service might be detailed to continue the exercise of their pursuits or professions, but the exemption from service of the entire classes should be wholly abandoned. It affords great facility for abuses, offers the temptation as well as the ready means of escaping service by fraudulent devices, and is one of the principal obstructions to the efficient operation of the conscript law.

A general militia law is needful in the interests of public defence. The Constitution, by vesting the power in Congress, imposes on it the duty of providing 'for organising, arming, and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the Confederate States.' The great diversity in the legislation of the several States on this subject, and the absence of any provision establishing an exact method for calling the militia into Confederate service, are sources of embarrassment which ought no longer to be suffered to impede defensive measures.

The legislation in relation to the cavalry demands change. The policy of requiring the men to furnish their own horses has proven pernicious in many respects. It interferes with discipline, impairs efficiency, and is the cause of frequent and prolonged absence from appropriate duty. The subject is fully treated in the Secretary's report, with suggestions as to the proper measures for reforming that branch of the service.

The recommendation hitherto often made is again renewed, that some measure be adopted for the reorganisation and consolidation of companies and regiments when so far reduced in numbers as seriously to impair their efficiency. It is the more necessary that this should be done, as the absence of legislation on the subject has forced generals in the field to resort to various expedients for approximating the desired result. It is surely an evil that a commanding officer should be placed in a position which forces upon him the choice of allowing the efficiency of his command to be seriously impaired, or of attempting to supply by the exercise of doubtful authority the want of proper legal provision. The regard for the sensibility of officers who have heretofore served with credit, and which is believed to be the controlling motive that has hitherto obstructed legislation on this subject, however honourable and proper, may be carried to a point which seriously injures the public good; and if this be the case, it can scarcely be questioned which of the two considerations should be deemed paramount.

The Secretary's recommendation on the subject of facilitating the acquisition of the iron required for maintaining the efficiency of railroad communication on the important military lines is commended to your favour. The necessity for the operation in full vigour of such lines is too apparent to need comment.

The question in dispute between the two Governments relative to the exchange of prisoners of war has been frequently presented in former messages and reports, and is fully treated by the Secretary. The solicitude of the Government for the relief of our captive fellow-citizens has known no abatement, but has, on the contrary, been still more deeply evoked by the additional sufferings to which they have been wantonly subjected, by deprivation of adequate food, clothing, and fuel, which they were not even permitted to purchase from the prison sutlers. Finding that the enemy attempted to excuse their barbarous treatment by the unfounded allegation that it was retaliatory for like conduct on our part, an offer was made by us with a view of ending all pretext for such recriminations, or pretended retaliation.

The offer has been accepted, and each Government is, hereafter, to be allowed to provide necessary comforts to its own citizens held captive by the other. Active efforts are in progress for the immediate execution of this agreement, and it is hoped that but few days will have elapsed before we shall be relieved from the distressing thought that painful physical suffering is endured by so many of our fellow-citizens whose fortitude in captivity illustrates the national character as fully as did their valour in actual conflict.

EMPLOYMENT OF SLAVES.

The employment of slaves for service with the army as teamsters or cooks, or in the way of work upon fortifications, or in the Government workshops, or in hospitals, and other similar duties, was authorised by the Act of 17th of February last, and provision was made for their impressment, to a number not exceeding twenty thousand, if it should be found impracticable to obtain them by contract with the owners. The law contemplated the hiring only of the labour of these slaves, and imposed on the Government the liability to pay for the value of such as might be lost to the owners from casualties resulting from their employment in the service.

The Act has produced less result than was anticipated, and further provision is required to render it efficacious. But my present purpose is to invite your consideration to the propriety of a radical modification in the theory of the law.

Viewed merely as property, and, therefore, as the subject of impressment, the service or labour of the slave has been frequently claimed for short periods in the construction of defensive works. The slave, however, bears another relation to the State — that of a person. The law of last February contemplates only the relation of the slave to the master, and limits the impressment to a certain term of service. But for the purposes enumerated in the act, instruction in the manner of encamping, marching, and parking trains is needful, so that even in this limited employment length of service adds greatly to the value of the negro's labour. Hazard is also encountered in all the positions to which negroes can be assigned for service with the army, and the duties required of them demand loyalty and zeal. In this aspect the relation of person predominates so far as to render it doubtful whether the private right of property can consistently and beneficially be continued, and it would seem proper to acquire for the public service the entire property in the labour of the slave, and to pay therefor due compensation, rather than to impress his labour for short terms; and this the more especially as the effect of the present law would vest the entire property in all cases where the slave might be recaptured after compensation for his loss has been paid to the private owner. Whenever the entire property in the service of a slave is thus acquired by the Government, the question is presented by what tenure he should be held. Should he be retained in servitude, or should his emancipation be held out to him as a reward for faithful service, or should it be granted at once on the promise of such service; and if emancipated, what action should be taken to secure for the freedman the permission of the State from which he was withdrawn to reside within the limits after the close of his public service? The permission would doubtless be more readily accorded as a reward for past faithful service, and a double motive for zealous discharge of duty would thus be offered to those employed by the Government, their freedom and the gratification of the local attachment which is so marked a characteristic of the negro, and forms so powerful an incentive to his action. The policy of engaging to liberate the negro, on his discharge after service faithfully rendered, seems to me preferable to that of granting immediate manumission, or that of retaining him in servitude. If this policy should recommend itself to the judgment of Congress, it is suggested that, in addition to the duties heretofore performed by the slave, he might be advantageously employed as pioneer and engineer labourer; and, in that event, that the number should be augmented to forty thousand.

Beyond this limit and these employments it does not seem to me desirable, under existing circumstances, to go. A broad moral distinction exists between the use of slaves as soldiers in the defence of their homes, and the incitement of the same persons to insurrection against their masters. The one is justifiable, if necessary; the other is iniquitous, and unworthy of a civilised people; and such is the judgment of all writers of public law, as well as that expressed and insisted on by our enemies in all wars prior to that now waged against us. By none have the practices, of which they are now guilty, been denounced with greater severity than themselves in the two wars with Great Britain in the last and in the present century; and in the Declaration of Independence of 1776, when enumeration was made of the wrongs which justified the revolt from Great Britain, the climax of atrocity was deemed to be reached only when the English monarch was denounced as having 'excited domestic insurrection among us.'

The subject is to be viewed by us, therefore, solely in the light of policy and our social economy. When so re-

garded, I must dissent from those who advise a general levy and arming of the slaves for the duty of soldiers. Until our white population shall prove insufficient for the armies we require and can afford to keep in the field, to employ as a soldier the negro, who has merely been trained to labour and as a labourer, for the white man, accustomed from his youth to the use of fire-arms, would scarcely be deemed wise or advantageous by any; and this is the question now before us. But should the alternative ever be presented of subjugation or the employment of the slave as a soldier, there seems no reason to doubt what should then be our decision. Whether our view embraces what would, in so extreme a case, be the sum of misery entailed by the dominion of the enemy, or be restricted solely to the effect upon the welfare and happiness of the negro population themselves, the result would be the same. The appalling demoralisation, suffering, disease, and death which have been caused by partially substituting the invaders' system of policy for the kind relation previously subsisting between the master and slave, have been a sufficient demonstration that external interference with our institution of domestic slavery is productive of evil only. If the subject involved no other consideration than the mere right of property, the sacrifices heretofore made by our people have been such as to permit no doubt of their readiness to surrender every possession in order to secure their independence. But the social and political question, which is exclusively under the control of the several States, has a far wider and more enduring importance than that of pecuniary interest. In its manifold phases it embraces the stability of our republican institutions, resting on the actual political equality of all its citizens, and includes the fulfilment of the task which has been so happily begun—that of Christianising and improving the condition of the Africans who have, by the will of Providence, been placed in our charge. Comparing the results of our own experience with those of the experiments of others who have borne similar relation to the African race, the people of the several States of the Confederacy have abundant reason to be satisfied with the past, and to use the greatest circumspection in determining their course. These considerations, however, are rather applicable to the improbable contingency of our need of resorting to this element of resistance than to our present condition. If the recommendation above made, for the training of forty thousand negroes for the service indicated, shall meet your approval, it is certain that even this limited number, by their preparatory training in intermediate duties, would form a more valuable reserve force, in case of urgency, than threefold their number, suddenly called from field labour, while a fresh levy could, to a certain extent, supply their places in the special service for which they are now employed.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

The regular annual reports of the Attorney-General, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Postmaster-General are appended, and give ample information relative to the condition of the respective departments. They contain suggestions for legislative provisions required to remedy such defects in the existing laws as have been disclosed by experience, but none of so general or important a character as to require that I should do more than recommend them to your favourable consideration.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE.

The disposition of this Government for a peaceful solution of the issues which the enemy has referred to the arbitrament of arms has been too often manifested, and is too well known to need new assurances. But while it is true that individuals and parties in the United States have indicated a desire to substitute reason for force, and by negotiation to stop the further sacrifice of human life, and to arrest the calamities which now afflict both countries, the authorities who control the Government of our enemies have too often and too clearly expressed their resolution to make no peace except on terms of our unconditional submission and degradation, to leave us any hope of the cessation of hostilities until the delusion of their ability to conquer us is dispelled. Among those who are already disposed for peace, many are actuated by principle and by disapproval and abhorrence of the iniquitous warfare that their Government is waging, while others are moved by the conviction that it is no longer to the interest of the United States to continue a struggle in which success is unattainable.

Whenever this fast-growing conviction shall have taken firm root in the minds of a majority of the Northern people, there will be produced that willingness to negotiate for peace which is now confined to our side. Peace is manifestly impossible unless desired by both parties to this war, and the disposition for it among our enemies will be best and most certainly evoked by the demonstration on our part of ability and unshaken determination to defend our rights and to hold no earthly price too dear for their purchase. Whenever there shall be on the part of our enemies a desire for peace, there will be no difficulty in finding means by which negotiation can be opened, but it is obvious that no agency can be called into action until this desire shall be mutual. When that contingency shall happen, the Government, to which is confined the treaty-making power, can be at no loss for means adapted to accomplish so desirable an end.

In the hope that the day will soon be reached when, under Divine favour, these States may be allowed to enter on their former peaceful pursuits, and to develop the abundant natural resources with which they are blessed, let us then resolutely continue to devote our united and unimpaired energies to the defence of our homes, our lives and our liberties. This is the true path to peace. Let us treat it with confidence in the assured result.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Report of the Confederate Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT, C. S. A.
RICHMOND, Nov. 3, 1864.

To the President of the Confederate States:—

Sir,—The operations of the War Department since the date of my last report embrace in their scope the events of the present campaign, which at that time had not fully opened, and which has not yet been brought to a close; also the measures instituted for the increase, organisation, equipment, and supply of the army, under the laws adopted at the last session of the first Congress. The importance of the elections to occur within the United States during the present year, the condition of their finances, and a growing discontent among their people because of the war, induced a belief that their executive and military authorities would prosecute the campaign with extraordinary vigour, and seek to render it decisive and final. Nor has this anticipation been disappointed. In the winter and spring the enemy collected a larger body of men than he had before assembled in the field, who were commanded by his favourite generals. His fleets were enlarged, and their armaments embraced all the improvements that naval architecture had discovered. His arms and equipments were of the most approved model, and whatever was required for the success of the campaign was supplied with lavish profusion. He opened the campaign by an attempt to obtain command over the States bordering on the Gulf of Mexico. He invaded Florida, set on foot an expedition to sweep through Mississippi and to effect the capture of Mobile, and he penetrated with formidable armies to the western limits of Louisiana to establish his dominion over that State. The success of these enterprises was expected to give him a firm hold upon these States, and to enable him to concentrate all his energies upon the campaigns in Virginia and Georgia. But these invasions were defeated or repelled.

THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT.

My last report communicated the victories obtained in the States of Florida and North Mississippi, that relieved Alabama and Florida from the invader, and I have now to announce a series of brilliant triumphs obtained by our arms in Louisiana and Arkansas, commencing with the signal victories of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, and extending into the interior of Missouri, where our victorious troops were at the date of our latest information. Almost the entire Trans-Mississippi Department enjoys security and repose; and the troops, long engaged with invaders there, may now, as in part they already are, be employed in formidable offensive operations.

THE DEPARTMENT OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

But the primary object of the enemy was to effect the capture of Richmond and the defeat and dispersion of the armies of Northern Virginia and Tennessee. He assembled his main army for this purpose in April last on the Rappahannock, under General Grant. Another was collected on the Peninsula, under command of General Butler, to cooperate on the south side of Richmond. A third was designed to penetrate to the James river through the Valley of Virginia, and the forces in Western Virginia and Kentucky were to cross the mountains and join it on its march. It is believed that more than 200,000 troops were combined for the execution of this plan in April last, and that from 50,000 to 100,000 men have been since added as reinforcements.

The army of General Grant was met at the Wilderness on the 5th of May last, and defeated. It was encountered with the same result at Spottsylvania Court House, the Po, the North Anna, and at Cold Harbour; after which it abandoned its march on Richmond, and crossed the James River to form a junction with General Butler, near Petersburg. The army of General Butler had landed on the south side of the James, at Bermuda Hundred, early in May, to cooperate with the army of General Grant, which was expected to arrive before Richmond in a short time. On May 16 this army met with a defeat at Drewry's Bluff, and was confined to its intrenchments from that time until it was joined by the army of General Grant.

The army of General Sigel, designated for the invasion of the Valley of Virginia, was defeated at New Market in May last, and the troops from West Virginia driven from the Valley of the Upper Roanoke about the same time. At a later period these armies were united under General Hunter, and, after a successful march up the Valley of Virginia, were encountered by General Early at Lynchburg, and driven to the Ohio River. General Early, seeing Washington City and Baltimore exposed, passed through the valley, defeating all opposing forces, crossed into Maryland, and penetrated to the suburbs of Washington City and Baltimore. The cavalry raids of Sheridan and Wilson were defeated, and the attempts to permanently obstruct our communications have failed. The campaign projected by General Grant with such mighty preparation has been frustrated, and if he depended alone upon the means that were provided and were deemed to be superabundant, his failure would be absolute. But a proclamation has been made for the draft of 500,000 men by the President of the United States to recruit his defeated and dispirited army, and we cannot yet claim security or quiet.

THE DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE.

In the great central State of Georgia the campaign opened about the same time, but operations have been so far less favourable to our arms. Preparation had been made there early to meet with adequate force, exceeding the relative disproportion which has usually existed with all our armies, and repel the enemy on the threshold of the State, but prudence or strategy led the General intrusted with the conduct of the campaign to prefer a retreating and defensive line of action. In consequence, our forces, though not without on several occasions severely checking and punishing their adversaries whenever venturing upon direct assaults, were gradually manœuvred or pressed back towards Atlanta, the leading objective point of the campaign. When that important central point and union of various converging lines of communication had been nearly reached and appeared about to be abandoned, a change was made in the commanders, and a strenuous effort was made to hold and defend by force of arms this place, which had become more important in a political and moral than in a military view from the significance the public of both sides had attached to its possession. It was bravely held for several weeks, and some successes, achieved with skill and valour, for a time seemed to assure to us its retention, when a hazardous movement of the enemy (which, with as much success to our arms as there was promptitude in seizing the occasion by our commander, must have caused his ruin), resulting in victory, compelled our evacuation of the city and its occupancy by the enemy.

This was felt as a serious reverse, and caused some depression of feeling throughout the Confederacy, while it was hailed with unbounded acclamation and revived hopes by the enemy. For the time the loss of prestige and the political effects were unquestionably adverse to us; but results may show that the consequences were on both sides strangely misunderstood and exaggerated. It has liberated our army for offensive operations, while it has chained down our enemies to the tenure of a far inland position of no real strategic value since the breaking up of its railroad connections, in the midst of a hostile population, and to be sustained only by supplies drawn hundreds of miles by a single line of road. The opportunities presented by such a situation have been seized and used by our bold and enterprising leader with promptitude and energy. The communications of the enemy have been cut in many places. Our army is in his rear, and he, instead of resting securely behind the strong intrenchments of his recent capture, is forced to come forth to encounter his skilful adversary on ground of his choice, and where defeat is ruin to the enemy, only reverse to us.

KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE.

Meantime the necessity for concentration by the enemy of his scattered forces, for the invasion of Georgia, compelled the relaxation of the bonds which have restrained the patriotic desires of the loyal in Kentucky and Tennessee. In consequence, in different portions of both States, with the encouragement of some little aid from an officer or company from our army, the people are organising and arming in force to repel their oppressors and hold their own country.

In fact, at this time we have possession of larger portions of both States than at any period since they were overrun by the enemy, and by the indignities and wrongs of their domination they have driven all loyal people to bid defiance, and to resolve never to submit. Should disaster overtake the army invading Georgia, the uprising of the people behind it would probably be general, and the reestablishment of the permanent ascendency of the Confederacy over those important and abundant States be fully secured.

EARLY'S DISASTERS.

Shortly after the fall of Atlanta, a series of disasters befel our troops in the Valley of Virginia, and contributed to the discouragement then existing. But when we consider the events of the entire campaign, the brilliant achievements of our armies in Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri; the long, and arduous, and successful resistance made by the army of Northern Virginia, in which every virtue of an army and the genius of consummate generalship have been displayed; the glorious defence of Petersburg and Richmond; the numerous successes that have crowned our arms in Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, South Carolina, and Mississippi; the adventurous, bold, and effective efforts of our cavalry, under Hampton, Forrest, Lee, and others—we could have cause for congratulation and rejoicing. We have resisted the mightiest of the efforts of our enemies. We have encountered and defeated his largest and best appointed armies. We have thwarted his best-laid plans. We have shown ourselves to be worthy of that separate and equal place among the nations of the earth which is our birthright, and which has been unjustly withheld from us.

MAINTENANCE OF THE ARMY.

The superintendence of the measures for the increase, organisation, equipment, supply, and movement of the army is devolved upon this department. The Acts of Congress of April and December 1862, to make further provision for the public defence, and the Act of Congress in February last, to organise forces to serve during the war, contain the authority of the department and designate the means for maintaining the efficiency of the army as to men. The war upon the part of the Confederacy being defensive, the proportions it was to assume depended upon the character and extent of the means employed by the enemy for its prosecution. His scheme for the prosecution of the war was to overcome all opposition by the magnitude of his means and the superiority of their supply and equipments. Referring to the census tables, he estimated the arms-bearing population of the Confederate States accessible to their control in any form to be less than 1,000,000 of men. He determined to place forthwith in the military and naval service some 700,000 men, and thus to compel the Confederacy to put in requisition its entire strength, and since 1861 he has strained every nerve to maintain his armies at the same standard as to numbers. He has recruiting agencies throughout the continent of Europe, and he has enlisted from the negroes of this continent, it is said, some 200,000 soldiers. It is evident, therefore, that to carry on the contest the Confederacy was compelled to put its entire resources in the field. The Acts of Congress of 1862, before mentioned, contained the principle that in a struggle involving the being of a nation every citizen may be assigned to that position, and to perform that duty in which he can render best service.

The Exemption Acts of 1862 and 1863, which followed the Acts of Conscription, do not contract this principle. They were designated to effect such an organisation of the industry of the States as to enable us to defend ourselves with all our resources. Cut off from the commerce of the world, and destitute as we were at the beginning of the war of magazines and arsenals from which to draw supplies, it became apparent that our safety depended upon the activity and success with which our internal resources could be developed. For us there was an imperative necessity for a pretension to manufacturing, mechanical, and mining enterprise, and for the devotion of agricultural industry to the production of subsistence for the army and people. The Exemption Acts of 1862 and 1863 were liberal in the promotion of this policy, and the Confederacy has derived from them the most beneficial results. Notwithstanding the embarrassment and obstruction that follow upon the use of a depreciated currency, and that much of the territory of the Confederacy has undergone the devastation of war, an adequate supply of provisions has been obtained for the army. The moving of our armies has been maintained by the aid extended to railroads; the manufacturing establishments have

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supplied a large portion of the clothing for soldiers; and the mechanical, mining, and manufacturing industry employed upon the production of arms and munitions of war, have enabled us to conduct our campaign with security and confidence.

We have been enabled to compete with a nation of artisans and mechanics whose invention and skill have been stimulated by the munificent bounty of their Government. Nor were these results achieved by any sacrifice, or even detriment to the claims of the armies in the field. The muster and pay rolls of the armies show that through the campaigns of 1862 and 1863, if any undue diminution was discernible, it was due to desertion and absentees more than to any deficiency in the recruiting system that had been adopted. It cannot be disguised that the duration of this war for more than three years, the unparalleled largeness of its proportions, and the sanguinary nature of the warfare, have become manifest in the official returns of our armies and of the recruiting service. The Acts of Congress during the past winter contain admissions of the fact. They provide in no indistinct terms for the contingency that was anticipated shortly to occur, when the capacity of our people to contribute further recruits to the army would be more heavily fixed than at any future period. The regulation that discharged a principal who had furnished a substitute was abrogated, and the principal was required to return to the army. The bureau service was curtailed in its efficiency by the withdrawal of men able to perform duty in the field, their places to be supplied by the disabled, feeble, and invalid. A large portion of the exemptions were repealed, and details were limited to cases of public necessity or State expediency, or confined to experts and persons of skill and craft. The department was unable to execute the law as soon as it was promulgated without deranging all branches of the service and seriously crippling the operations of the armies in the field.

The dependence of those armies upon the departments of supply for efficiency and vigour is too intimate to allow of any abrupt or incautious disturbance of their operations. The reduction in their service to the standard required by the Act of Congress was, however, progressing regularly in such mode as to assure against any shock or arrest to essential operations. But the urgency of the field service, the thinning of our own ranks under the casualties and sufferings of the campaign, and above all the call of the enemy for five hundred thousand recruits, and the extraordinary efforts they were making to assemble overpowering hosts on every field, but especially before and for the capture of our capital, demanded that all available means should be promptly employed to increase the number and efficiency of our army. It became necessary not only to expedite the removal to the army of those whom the act referred to had proposed to withdraw from employment in the administrative branches of the service, but also to extend the call to all others liable to conscription for active service. The late legislation of Congress, while subjecting classes before exempt to service, had given a large discretion of detail, and had manifested a desire for the liberal allowance of such with a view to maintain the agriculture, manufactures, and industrial operations of the country. This discretion had been used as far as seemed at the time compatible with the demand of the active service, and had withheld for these important ends considerable numbers not exempts from our armies.

It has been, in view of the force being mustered against us, deemed necessary to revoke all such details, and to enforce rigidly the laws of conscription limited to men capable only of light duty, and to reserves employment in the department of the public service, and thus to liberate for the field all liable to such duty, except skilled artisans, experts, and men of science, and a few others actually indispensable for the maintenance and supply of the armies, by subjecting all others rigidly and promptly to the obligations of active service which the law imposes. It is believed very considerable reinforcements of the most effective material are being afforded to our armies; in addition to which the law allowing the acquisition by impressment, if necessary, of 20,000 able-bodied male slaves for employment with the armies as teamsters, cooks, and the like, is being enforced, and the substitution of such will allow the recall to the ranks of many valuable men who have heretofore been detailed for such incidental service. The reserves, too, consisting of those between seventeen and eighteen and those between forty-five and fifty years of age, have been organised under a command for each State, and where the State is invaded have been called into active service; they have been found an efficient force to supply guards to cities and public works and for the large number of prisoners in our hands, and also as defenders of bridges, roads, and important points, and have thus liberated for the field many soldiers who must otherwise have been withdrawn from the active armies. On several occasions, too, portions of them have been thrown with the armies in the field as active auxiliaries. So far, wherever tried, they have exhibited the characteristic valour and aptitude of our people for military life, and have compared well with their veteran comrades in constancy and conduct.

These various measures, sanctioned by existing legislation, must materially increase and reinvigorate our depleted armies; but it is not to be disguised that they must still leave those armies relatively weak to encounter the hosts being summoned by the enemy for subjugation. Signs of exhaustion and despair of success were, until some late unhappy reverse to our arms, plainly manifested by our malignant foes; and this is probably the last grand effort their means or resolution will allow for their war of aggression and conquest. It should be met and overcome by the early and full command of all our men and means, and for this additional legislation is required. It is my deliberate conviction, more than once expressed in former reports, that the policy of granting exemptions to those capable of military service is unwise, and that all men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five capable of bearing arms should, without distinction of occupation or profession, be subjected to service and called to the field. The few indispensable exceptions for the needs of society and the supply of the army might be readily and more conveniently provided by details. Exemptions by classes necessarily cover many not actually demanded by society for the needs that on the average may have given plausibility to the exceptions; and such exceptions, besides inducing invidious feelings and dissatisfaction, compel a discrimination in the call for service which both delays and measurably defeats its full accomplishment.

It is, therefore, urgently recommended that all exemptions, except of officers actually essential to the conduct of the Confederate and State Governments, be abolished, and all of the military age, physically capable, without distinction or discrimination, be at once devoted to the sacred duty of defending their country in the field. They would probably constitute as large a draft for continuous service in the field as the interests of society would allow; but it is not doubted that, with the aid of our slaves, those beyond and below the ages prescribed for active service, with the large number of those fit only for light duty, and the partially disabled by service, would suffice adequately to maintain necessary production and supply both for the armies and the people.

EMPLOYMENT OF SLAVES.

With a view to the increase of our armies in the field, the policy has been suggested, and has attracted some public attention, of enlisting our negro slaves as soldiers. No compunction could be felt in so using them; for, deeply as the whites of the South are interested in repelling the invasion and for ever liberating themselves from the association or thraldom of our enemies, the negroes of the South are even more vitally concerned. With the whites it is a question of nationality, of honour, and property; with the negroes, in its dread issues in no distant future, it is the question of their existence as a race. The friendship of a people so selfish, cruel, and remorseless as our foes, would be to the unhappy negro more fatal than to us their enmity. In contact with them, under their pretended freedom before the law, which, in operation on an inferior race, is but a license to greed and oppression; exposed to all the vices, without the providence, of the civilised man, they must soon, in the language of a leader among their professed friends, 'be trampled out as a sickly exotic,' or wither away amid the blighting influence of debauchery, pauperism, crime, and disease.

They have, besides the homes they value, the families they love, and the masters they respect and depend on, to defend and protect against the savagery and devastation of the enemy. No fear is entertained of their fidelity, for the feelings as the interests of the great mass of the negroes have been conclusively manifested to be with their protectors and masters. Neither is it doubted that, under the leadership of those whites to whom they have been habituated and in whom they have confidence, they would exhibit more steadfastness and courage than they will ever attain as soldiers of the enemy. If any added incentive were required from the supposed love of freedom natural to man, it might be readily afforded by the assurance of emancipation to all who conducted themselves with fidelity and courage during the war. For any such action it would, of course, require the concurring legislation of each State from the slave population of which the negro soldiers had been drawn, because to the States belongs exclusively the determination of the relations which their coloured population, or any part of them, shall hold.

It is not doubted, however, should it be deemed expedient so to employ and reward slaves enlisted as soldiers, that the necessary legislation would be accorded, for there is no sacrifice of property or minor interests which would not be made by either our States or people to assure final separation from our hateful foes and the achievement of our liberty and independence. While it is encouraging to know this resource for further and future efforts at our command, my own judgment does not yet either perceive the necessity or approve the policy of employing slaves in the higher duties of soldiers; they are confessedly inferior in all respects to our white citizens in the qualifications of the soldier, and I have thought we have within the military age as large a proportion of our whole population as will be required or can be advantageously employed in active military operations. If, then, the negro be employed in the war, the inferior is preferred to the superior agent for the work. In such a war as this, waged against foes bent, with malignant persistence, on our destruction, and for all that man holds priceless, the most vital work is that of the soldier, and for it wisdom and duty require the most fitting workmen. The superior instrumentalities should be preferred. It will not do, in my opinion, to risk our liberties and safety on the negro while the white man may be called to the sacred duty of defence. For the present it seems best to leave the subordinate labours of society to the negro, and to impose its highest, as now existing, on the superior class.

RESERVES.

Reserves might remain as now constituted for service throughout each State, but in addition it would seem expedient that all other white males capable of bearing arms in even local service should be organised and armed ready to maintain the police of the country and to resist within the limits of their counties or some districts contiguous thereto the actual raids or invasion of the enemy. No serious interruption would thus be caused to their industrial avocations or their relations to society, and yet a greater degree of security and confidence, and a universal sentiment of patriotic self-devotion, would be secured. In the war waged by our malignant foes, who aim not merely at our national existence, but at the institutions of our social system, at the property and means of sustenance of all, and contemplate nothing less than desolation to the country, and expulsion or extinction of its inhabitants, all, of whatever age, have both interest and duty compelling to stand to arms in defence, according to the measure of their ability. The country should be as one great camp, and the whole people arranged in the most efficient military organisations, compatible with the maintenance of the necessary works and productions of society, for unflinching resistance to the utmost extremity. The subjugation of a brave people so organised and resolved is an utter impossibility.

THE CAVALRY.

Some measures of legislation are believed to be expedient to maintain the number and increase the efficiency of the cavalry in the field. The policy of requiring the men to furnish their own horses was at all times doubtful, as, while affording apparently an inducement to greater care of the animal, it interferes with discipline and impairs efficiency. It also causes, almost of necessity, the dismounting for long periods of those who, having lost horses, are unable to furnish them speedily, or at all, and the absence often on protracted furloughs of the men who have sustained such losses to procure other horses. Under the weariness of protracted service, and the eager longing for return home, which at times possess even the best of soldiers, this chance of a furlough is said to more than counteract the interest of ownership in the horse, and to constitute a premium on neglect or the allowance of casualties to disable their armies. A worse consequence, perhaps, is the tendency and temptation of the system to induce plundering and irregular modes of supplying themselves by the men. Those mounted are aware of the constant liability to the loss of their animals, and of the difficulty and expense of replacing them, and are under constant inducements to obtain reserve horses or means of purchasing them. Those dismounted are even more strongly stimulated by the inconveniences of their position and the danger of being transferred to less acceptable branches of the service to provide themselves even by illegitimate means.

These inducements are all enhanced by the limited class of casualties for which the value of the horse lost is repaid under the present law, and the delays and embarrassments encountered in affording proof and obtaining payment. Horses are paid for, too, only at the valuations assessed at the time they are taken into service, and with the fluctuations in the value of our currency and the enhancement of price resulting from the increasing scarcity of the proper horses, the value repaid is generally grossly inadequate. If the present system is to continue, it is indispensable that there should be a wider range to the casualties in which the value is repaid, more liberality in the assessment of value, and greater facilities for prompt payment. The class of men who constitute our cavalry, while among the most spirited and active of our citizens, are yet generally, from previous independent habits of life, most difficult to discipline and subject to subordination. Entering immediately on service, they have enjoyed few opportunities of previous drill or training; and from the detached and often irregular service in which they are frequently employed, they are much removed from the restraints and responsibilities of large commands.

They are but too apt, therefore, while individually gallant and enterprising, to be wanting in organisation, in discipline, and in the efficiency and reliability which should belong to trained troops. Our cavalry have performed many achievements of valour and utility, but they have also on occasions of great importance shown want of vigilance or constancy, and caused disaster. These defects are believed to spring not from deficiencies in the men, but in the system of selection and of training. It is believed it would be wiser that the cavalry should gradually be constituted of men picked from the trained and veteran soldiers for their peculiar qualifications, and that these should be mounted and equipped at public expense. It might be made a penalty for the loss of their horses through neglect, or any other than the inevitable casualties of war, that the man should be returned to infantry service. This would probably be found more efficient than under the present system private ownership has proved to obviate neglect and secure due attention of the animals, while it would remove all inducements from self-interest to undue caution for escape under the legitimate hazards of war. There would be the certainty, too, that the men were trained and disciplined and habituated to fight as infantry, which, in many instances, our cavalry, from the nature of the country or the like tactics of the enemy, are compelled to do. It is not doubted that in this way the superiority of our cavalry over that of the enemy could be permanently established.

CONSOLIDATION OF ORGANISATION.

It has been more than once heretofore urged by the Department that to maintain the number and efficiency of our army organisations, it was essential there should be some power of reducing and consolidating them. The depletion of many of the organisations during the late wasting and bloody campaign has made this more than ever manifest. It is impossible adequately to recruit many of the reduced regiments and companies, especially those from the distant and Trans-Mississippi States, and not a few are so thinned in their ranks as to cause despondency and inefficiency. There is necessarily, too, an undue proportion of officers to men, which adds to the expense, while weakening the force of the army. The evil is often so glaring that a remedy is obliged in some way to be applied. This is done at the expense of subsequent embarrassments and confusion of legal rights, by the temporary union, by the authority of the general in the field, of fragmentary companies or regiments; or, more legally, though indirectly, under the sanction of the department, by the disbandment of some depleted organisations and the assignment, as by conscription, of the men to some other. In such case, however, there is no chance of selecting the best officers of both organisations; but there is the injustice of depriving all the officers, however meritorious, of the one disbanded, of their commissions. It would evidently be much more just and beneficial to the service that the power should exist to consolidate the two and retain the best officers of each. It is recommended that the power be granted.

COURTS FOR RESERVES.

It has been mentioned that for the organisation and control of the reserves a commander has been assigned in each State. They constitute a peculiar auxiliary force, which yet cannot, it is thought, be justly deemed an independent army. Hence an embarrassment results which demands the correction of legislation. They are not entitled to order and review the proceedings of courts martial; nor, if a military court, as is authorised by law for each State, should be appointed, could they have it attached to their commands or review its decisions. As the reserves are necessarily rather deficient in order and training, the restraint and influence of such tribunals are specially necessary for their control and subordination. It is probably not necessary to give any military court or revision of the decision of any established for the States respectively, as the power to appoint and revise the proceedings of courts martial would suffice. Courts might then be constituted, to sit permanently, of disabled or invalid officers.

CONFEDERATE CAPTIVES.

The condition of our gallant soldiers in the hands of the enemy continues to engage the solicitude and interest of the department. The number of the captives on each side has been greatly swelled by the vicissitudes of the present fearful campaign, though the disproportion heretofore existing against us has been by our superior successes greatly reduced, if not entirely overcome. It has been the constant desire and effort of the department to effect exchange on any principle of equity, and the opportunity has never been lost to make this known to the enemy, and to obtain his concurrence. The obligations of the cartel and the faith pledged to its observance have been repeatedly invoked, but in vain. To such demands intimations were conveyed that the enemy would only agree to an exchange of man for man. So long as the enemy held, as they claimed, a superiority in the number of captives, it was seen that this mode of exchange would leave a surplus of our captive soldiers in their hands, without for the time any adequate check on the inhumanity and cruelty they have been ever prone to exhibit towards such captives. Still, as the preponderance of numbers steadily diminished, confidence increased that the prospect of speedy captures would soon enable us to check or average their malignity. This consideration in aid of the powerful incentives, even more of humanity and gratitude than of interest, that urged any practical effort for the relief and release of our imprisoned soldiers, induced us to overlook alike our just rights under the cartel and apprehensions of the pro-

bable ill-treatment of the surplus that might remain in the power of our vindictive foes, and to propose exchange on the very terms intimated as acceptable, man for man.

The offer only afforded another illustration of the hypocrisy, faithlessness, and inhumanity of the enemy, for it was soon made apparent that their professed willingness was but a pretext and a blind; and while they expected the plan would not be acquiesced in, to conceal their own determination to make no general exchange, they have here and there consented to partial exchanges, generally effected between commanders in the field; but the Government appears to have deliberately adopted the remorseless and inhuman policy of enforcing the captivity, with all its attendant sufferings, of the prisoners on both sides during the war. They pay thus impliedly to our gallant soldiers the tribute of admitted superiority, while they exhibit to the unhappy victims from their army their own ingratitude, perfidy, and cruelty. One of their favourite commanders has not even hesitated to avow, with utter disregard of the claims of their captive soldiers on their consideration and protection, as the terms of service of many had expired, they were not to be regarded as subjects of equal exchange. It likewise appears that as they gloat over the idea of being able, by their blockade and devastation, to starve to submission a people whom they cannot subdue by arms, they calculate, in utter indifference to the sufferings that may be entailed on their own captive soldiers, on the supplies which must be furnished them, as an effective drain on our limited resources. Could we, indeed, be so straitened as they delude themselves into believing, how fearful must they expect to be the privations and sufferings of their soldiers in our hands, since they could not expect us to starve our gallant soldiers or people to nourish the malignant invaders who had sought to inflict on us the worst ills of war and famine!

These captives would of course be the first unhappy victims of the famine which the barbarous warfare of their Government may cause. While no such suffering has yet been entailed on them, but on the contrary they have, through the humanity of our Government, been provided as our own soldiers, yet such privations as they have had to share with them have been exaggerated by the enemy, in part from their delusive conceptions of our straitened condition, but more from the diligent invention of false tales, and have been made the pretext of wanton privations to our soldiers in their hands. They compel suffering to their own soldiers by their malignant outrages against civilised warfare, and then find in such excuse for visiting cruelty and starvation on our soldiers, to whom it is not pretended they could not easily afford all the comforts and subsistence due to captives in war. The ineffable baseness of such a course exceeds even its inhumanity, and for either it would be difficult to find a parallel in the history of civilised, much less Christian nations.

It is gratifying to be able to state that since the foregoing was written a prospect has been afforded of ameliorating the condition of our captive soldiers. When all overtures to the government of our enemies seemed vain, General Lee was instructed to make directly to General Grant a proposition that, without releasing either government from the obligation of affording due provision to its captives, each should have the right of furnishing to its own prisoners in the possession of the other, under the direction of officers among them to be paroled for the purpose, such additional supplies of necessary articles as it might deem expedient to send. This was accepted, doubtless through the influence of the commanding general of the Federal armies, who, however profuse of the lives of his men in battle, could but have sympathy and interest for the imprisoned soldier. It is indicative of the remorseless policy of the hostile government that such concessions to the claims of humanity should have been made sooner by the stern soldier in the field than by their statesmen in the cabinet. As the liberty is afforded by the agreement, with commendable liberality, that supplies may be purchased in Northern cities or sent to our soldiers in captivity directly from foreign ports, there can be but little delay or difficulty in affording them all reasonable supplies for the alleviation of their unhappy state. This arrangement will be as gratifying to our government and people as it is conformable to humanity and wise policy. The report of our agent of exchange is submitted in connection with this subject. It will display the past course and present state of negotiations for exchange.

BUREAU OPERATIONS.

The operations of the several administrative bureaus of the department have been conducted with zeal, ability, and success, reflecting great credit on their several heads. They have had grievous difficulties and embarrassments to encounter from a depreciating currency, deficiencies of labour and materials, and straitened means of transportation and distribution. In addition, they have been constrained by the stringent legislation of Congress to relinquish their most active and experienced agents and *employés*, and substitute them from the more infirm and aged classes. It was not practicable to do this immediately without serious arrest of all the essential operations of production and supply for the army, but the obligation has been steadily observed, and as the exigencies of the campaign made recruitment of our armies necessary, its execution has been hastened and enforced to the furthest point compatible with the preservation and continuance of indispensable works. Interferences of this kind are inevitably so prejudicial and disturbing, that it is hoped a well-devised and permanent system of providing and retaining in continuous employment a sufficient number of artisans, experts, and labourers for all essential operations, may be devised and established. Great misapprehension, it is believed, has prevailed in the public mind, both as to the number and class of persons who have constituted the agents and *employés* of the several bureaus; and much unmerited odium and individiousness have been excited by the erroneous supposition that these bureaus have afforded a refuge and a shield from the legitimate claims of military service. The aim has been steadily enjoined, and, it is not doubted, in the main has been strictly observed, of engaging and retaining as few as possible of military age, and, with rare exceptions, it is confidently believed the men now employed are rendering more efficient service to the cause than they could even do in the field.

It should be thoroughly understood that only in the last necessity will they again be summoned or disturbed. The best vindication to these bureaus is afforded by the results attained under all the impediments and embarrassments they have had to encounter. All essential supplies have been afforded, and neither manufacture nor production has so far materially diminished, notwithstanding the invasions and barbarous ravages of the enemy in many most important fields of operation. The army has been subsisted, clothed, and provided in adequate measure, and there has never been deficiency of transportation, munitions, or supplies for all important operations.

THE INDIAN NATIONS.

Owing to the absence of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, on a visit, in discharge of his duties, to the Trans-Mississippi Department, his usual report cannot be submitted. Letters received from him by the department give in the main satisfactory representations of the feeling and condition of the Indian nations. From other sources, too, intelligence has been received of gallant services which have been rendered by their warriors during the present campaign, and there is every reason to believe that at no time has prevailed among the nations a stronger feeling of amity and connection with the Confederate States.

ESTIMATES, IMPRESSMENT LAWS, ETC.

Attention is invited to the accompanying estimates for the six months commencing January 1, 1865, which, although large in the existing state of the currency, are not to exceed the demands of the service. After the full exposition made in my last report of the embarrassments and obstructions experienced from the disordered condition of our currency, the impracticability of purchases without impressment, and the deficient means of transportation and distribution, it is not deemed necessary to repeat them. Attention, however, is specially invoked to them, as they continue with increased and increasing stringency, and remedial legislation, in some important particulars, is very desirable. The impressment acts require revision and amendment. There are not sufficient provisions against the removal of property after notice of impressment, nor against its concealment before or after; nor is the course prescribed in case of the refusal of the owner to appoint appraisers as contemplated by law. The law is, in brief, without adequate sanctions to insure respect and enforcement. Special provision should be made for the impressment of iron from railroads.

In order to maintain the more important roads, and sometimes to construct others demanded by imperious military considerations, it is absolutely necessary to withdraw from local or branch roads their rails and equipments. Although such necessity may be manifest and acknowledged by all, it is rare the proprietors of the special road, whose property is thus sought to be appropriated, are prepared to acquiesce in its selection for the sacrifice. Each local corporation finds abundant reasons for further delay or special exemption in its own case, and on them bases justification of refusal to sell, and the interposition of all possible legal obstructions to seizure by impressment. The machinery of the act is ill adapted to the settlement of the questions that arise on such impressments, and pretexts are readily found by the corporations for obtaining injunctions and suspending all action on the proverbially tedious proceedings of a suit in chancery. Local influences combine, too, to thwart and delay action, and more than once the gravest consequences to the Confederacy have been risked by inability at the juncture to overcome such impediments and command the required rails. The impressment of slaves, too, should be regulated so as to secure uniformity in collection and to relieve the authorities from dependence on the State agencies. These agencies do not generally operate with promptitude and efficiency, and sometimes prove frustrative or abortive. Appointments have been made under the Act of Congress, approved June 14, 1864, 'providing for the establishment and payment of claims for a certain description of property taken or informally impressed for the use of the army.' In many instances the agents selected have refused to accept, and it has been impracticable to secure others competent in consequence of the wholly inadequate compensation offered, which will pay a fraction only of the expenses to be actually incurred. It is not probable the law can be executed by the period prescribed, the 1st of January next, and it should be continued with a more equitable remuneration to the agents.

REFUGEES.

During the last year a few persons have gone to the United States without permission from the Confederate authorities. Some of these have no design hostile to the Confederacy, but others leave as informers and as enemies. In some cases the act is treasonable, in others more venial. A law is necessary to punish the cases which do not amount to treason under existing laws.

An appropriation was made in February last for the payment for loss of slaves who have been impressed by the Confederate authorities or under State laws for the use of the Confederate Government, and while engaged in labouring on the public defences have escaped to the enemy or died or contracted diseases which have after their discharge resulted fatally. The Act of Congress did not provide for the mode of ascertaining these losses and for the withdrawal of the money from the Treasury. Besides the slaves impressed there is a class of slaves who were received by contract, and others under the Act of Congress of the 17th of February last, by the consent of the owner, upon the condition that the Confederate Government should indemnify for loss, in cases similar to those mentioned in the appropriation bill above quoted.

I recommend that an act be passed for the adjustment of all these claims, and that the mode of adjustment be prescribed.

USE OF NEGROES BY THE ENEMY.

In view of the more numerous uses to which negroes are being put in connection with our armies, as well as of the proposition already considered of employing them as troops, it seems not inappropriate to examine the legislation and policy of our enemies in reference to the recruitment of their armies from the race, and especially from our negro States. In July 1862, the Congress of the United States passed their acts: 'To suppress insurrection, to punish treason and rebellion, to seize and confiscate the property of rebels, and for other purposes.' The traitors, under this act, are all those concerned in the war between the United States and the Confederate States. The persons attainted, and whose property is confiscated, are those who hold an office of honour or trust or agency under the Confederate Government, or any of the States, or in any municipality, or who may be in any wise engaged or concerned in the armed rebellion to the authority of the United States. The liberation of the slaves was to be a consequence of their conviction, and the slaves of all such persons who might escape or desert or might be captured, or who might fall within the places occupied by the arms of the United States, were, by the Act of Congress, liberated. The President was authorised to employ as many persons of African descent as he might deem necessary and proper for the suppression of the rebellion, and to organise and use them as he judged best for the public welfare.

This Act of Congress was followed by the proclamations of the President of the United States of September 22, 1862, and of January 1, 1863, in the last of which he ordered and declared that 'all persons held as slaves in designated States and parts of States are and henceforward should be free,' and 'that the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities, will recognise and maintain their freedom.' The enlistment of a large number of slaves within the Confederate States into the service of the United States followed upon these acts. It was justly regarded by the Confederate Government as a departure from the usages of nations, and an abandonment of the rules of civilised warfare. In the better times of the United States their Executive Government had stigmatised conduct similar, but far more venial, 'as a warfare disclaiming all moral influence and inflicting an outrage upon social order, and giving a shock to the very elements of humanity.' 'All belligerent nations,' it declared, 'can form alliances with the savage, the African, and the bloodhound; but what civilised nation has selected those auxiliaries in its hostilities?' If there were any legal proposition that had the unanimous consent of that people, it was that the Federal Government had no power to abolish slavery in any of the States. The proclamation of their President does not proceed from any authority derived from the Constitution, but upon the assumed power to extend martial law over the territory of the United States and the Confederate States.

And the usurpation even extends beyond this, for martial law has reference to military operations and military locations. Its authority is temporary, abnormal, and deals with the events of a season; but this is an imperial edict, determining arbitrarily upon civil, social, and domestic institutions and relations for all time. For a term subsequent to the independence of the United States, negro slavery was recognised among all the United States as a valid relation, and its commercial population participated in the profits of the African slave trade under the laws of the Union within the present century. The ratio upon which representation in one branch of their Congress and direct taxes are apportioned, is adjusted upon a recognition of the existence of a race of bondsmen within the limits of the Union. Their highest judicial tribunal has determined that slavery and the slave trade are not contrary to the law of nations, and that the voluntary removal of slaves by a master to a State where slavery does not exist does not prevent the renewal of the relation between master and slave upon their return to the State of their origin or domicile. The diplomatic correspondence and the solemn treaties of the United States show reclamation for escaping slaves abducted in time of war and of peace, and the recognition of those claims by a foreign Power, and the payment of an indemnity for the use of the masters to the Federal Government.

At this time the Constitution of the United States contains a stipulation for the return of slaves escaping to one State from their owner in another State, upon his claim. The principle that a slave withdrawn from his master in war or peace, by desertion, capture, or other act not sanctioned by the law of the State or the will of the master, does not change his condition within the State to which he belongs or prevent the right of the master from attaching upon his recapture, is not an exceptional one. The municipal laws of one State have no more authority or recognition within the limits of another than it is compatible with the laws or policy of that State to allow, and it would be contrary to the universal usage and practice of nations for one nation to permit another, and that other an enemy, to abrogate, impair, or modify relations between classes or individuals of her population, in time of war, by any change in their existence, forced or voluntary. The principle of the *jus postliminium* in regard to persons, such as slaves, serfs, villains, deserters, or other persons to whom it is in anywise applicable, has been uniformly applied on the continent of Europe, and, as to slaves, was the law of Athens and of Rome, and from their jurisprudence has passed into the laws of European nations.

The enlistment of slaves as a part of the army of the United States had but a single object. The Act of Congress and proclamations which authorised it were formed to destroy political government and civil society in the Confederate States. By declaring all officers and agents of Confederate State and municipal governments to be outlaws, incapable of holding or transferring property, and subject to ignominious banishment, and declaring slaves to be emancipated and suitable for service in their armies, they sought an entire overthrow of their social order, and determined this should be a war of massacres and confusions, and not the highest trial of right between the people. It had become a principle among Christian sovereigns, that, however they might prosecute their quarrels and debates by arms and acts of hostility, and though they might seek the ruin and overthrow of the forces of the State, yet they would so direct their passions as to preserve the life and good name of each other. But from the beginning our enemy has prosecuted the war with murderous design to take the life and to destroy the fame of the people of the Confederate States. The crimes which determined the colonies to separate from Great Britain, and to denounce her king as a tyrant unworthy to rule a free people, are those which have been committed against us, under circumstances of tenfold atrociousness, in the existing war, by our enemy. He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the work of death and devastation and tyranny already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages. He has excited domestic insurrections among us. Private property is wantonly destroyed; female honour outraged; whole districts of unarmed and unresisting population are ravaged and laid waste; old men, helpless women, weak and feeble children, the infirm and superannuated slave population, have been exposed to starvation and misery by the systematic, cruel, and persevering effort to destroy the food and raiment of an entire people. A war conducted on such principles, with such objects, and by such alliances, involved necessarily the abandonment of all laws, usages, conventions, mitigating influences, or humanising considerations and restraints. The enemy who adopts such a system proclaims in advance his desire, as well as his design, that the war shall become one for mutual extermination. In a contest with such an enemy, the Confederacy may exercise a very liberal discretion in the employment of any agencies or instrumentalities that are within their reach for the public defence. Should, therefore, either policy or necessity dictate it, the enlistment of slaves or any other population as auxiliaries would be entirely justified by the atrocities that we have suffered. It would be impossible to find any ally so unrestrained as the enemy against whom he would be employed.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.

Report of the Confederate Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, C. S. A.
RICHMOND, Nov. 7, 1864.

Hon. Thomas S. Bocock, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

RECEIPTS OF THE TREASURY.

Sir,—I have the honour to submit the following report of the condition of this department on October 1, 1864. The last statements submitted to Congress were up to April 1, 1864. The receipts into the Treasury for the two quarters ending October 1, 1864, are as follows:—

Four per cent. registered bonds, act February 17, 1864	$13,353,500
Six per cent. bonds and stock, act March 23, 1863	280,200
Four per cent. bonds and stock, act March 23, 1863	3,500
Eight per cent. bonds and stock, act February 28, 1861	7,600
Six per cent. bonds and stock, twelfth section act February 17, 1864	388,000
Six per cent. bonds five hundred million loan, act February 17, 1864	14,481,650
Six per cent. bonds, eighteenth section act February 17, 1864	495,200
Four per cent. call certificates, seventh section act February 17, 1864	20,973,160
Seven per cent. bonds, act February 20, 1863	2,700
Six per cent. certificates of indebtedness, act February 17, 1864	1,739,100
Tax on old issue redeemed	14,440,566
Repayment by disbursing officers	20,115,830
Treasury notes, under act February 17, 1864	277,576,950
War tax	42,294,314
Sequestration	1,238,732
Customs	59,004
Export duty	4,324
Overseers' exemption and tax on non-combatants	30,500
Miscellaneous receipts	321,783
Coin seized by authority of the Secretary of War	1,653,200
Premium on loans	4,822,249
Soldiers' tax	908,622
Patent fund	866
Total	$415,191,550

EXPENDITURES.

The expenditures during the same period are as follows:—

War Department	$246,367,442
Navy Department	15,554,802
Customs	28,585
Civil, miscellaneous, and foreign intercourse	10,427,676
Total	$272,378,505
Public debt—for payment of interest	10,772,883
Public debt—for payment of principal	331,787,444
Total	$614,938,832
The balance in the Treasury on April 1, 1864, was	$308,282,722
The amount received since is	415,191,550
Total	$723,474,272
Deduct amount of expenditures	615,038,833
The balance in the Treasury is	$108,435,439
This balance is made up as follows:—	
Treasury notes (new issue) and specie	$22,053,200
Treasury notes (old issue) to be cancelled	86,382,239
Total	$108,435,439

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt on October 1, 1864, was as follows:—

FUNDED DEBT.

Total issue of bonds and stocks		$363,416,150
Total issue of call certificates		197,578,370
Total issue of certificates of indebtedness		19,010,000
Total issue of produce certificates, act April 21, 1862		3,500,000
Amount of 7-30 interest notes, which have assumed the character of permanent bonds		99,954,900
Total		683,459,420
Reduced by amount redeemed, to wit:—		
Act May 16, 1861, principal	$297,600	
Act August 19, 1861, principal	1,267,700	
Call certificates, act December 24, 1861, six per cent.	70,729,030	
Call certificates, act March 23, 1863, five per cent.	70,000,000	
all certificates, act March 23, 1863, four per cent.	1,825,000	
		144,119,330
Total		$539,340,090

UNFUNDED DEBT.

Amount 3-65 interest notes outstanding		516,050
Total issue of Treasury notes—old-issue	$973,281,863	
Reduced by amount called in for cancellation	649,047,945	
		324,233,918
Total issue Treasury notes, new issue		283,880,150
Total		$1,147,970,208

The estimates submitted by the various departments for the support of the government for the six months from January 1 to July 1, 1865, are as follows:—

Legislative	$375,000
Executive office	47,845
Treasury Department	4,626,350
War Department	402,912,206
Navy Department	14,005,134
Post Office Department	294,349
State Department	63,355
Department of Justice	715,074
Miscellaneous	15,000,000
Aggregate	$438,039,313

The balances of appropriations not drawn on October 1, 1864, are as follows:—

Civil and miscellaneous	$97,871,664
War Department	612,260,280
Customs	247,309
Navy Department	33,785,865
Total	$744,165,118

The expenditures were estimated by my predecessor for the three months from 1st April to 1st July at $162,000,000. At this rate the expenditures for the six months should have been $324,000.000

To this amount must be added the debts then stated to be in arrear, which do not appear to have been reduced, the actual expenditure being $284,251,386	75,000,000
Total	$399,000,000
Deduct amount paid	284,251,386
Balance	$114,748,614
Add the estimated expenditures from October 1st to January 1st, 1865	162,000,000
This exhibits a total of yet to be charged against existing appropriations.	$276,748,614

This amount deducted from the balance of appropriations undrawn, viz. $744,165,118, leaves the following amount from past appropriations applicable to the expenditure of the six months from the 1st of January to the 1st of July, 1865, $467,416,504.

The preceding table of the public debt, derived from the books of the Register, presents an aggregate of $1,147,970,208. The following summary includes the results of the taxation and funding of the old issues, which do not yet appear on the books of the Register, and exhibits the state of the debt with more precision:—

Funded debt, October 1		$539,340,090
Bonds, four per cent., to be issued for the old currency funded, viz.:		
East of the Mississippi	$250,000,000	
West of the Mississippi	30,000,000	
		280,000,000
Total		819,340,090
Deduct amount of four per cent. bonds, receivable in payment of taxes		81,000,000
Total of funded debt		738,340,090
Unfunded debt:—		
Treasury notes outstanding	$324,233,918	
Deduct amount funded in Trans-Mississippi Department	30,000,000	
Total	$294,233,918	
Deduct tax 33⅓ per cent.	98,077,973	
		196,155,945
Treasury notes, under act Feb. 17, 1864		283,880,150
Total		$1,218,376,185
This sum is liable to a further reduction for the following items of debt included in the Register's accounts, but still in the Treasury, viz.:—		
Treasury notes (new issue)	$22,053,200	
Bonds, 6 per cent., $500,000,000 loan	27,564,150	
Bonds, 8 per cent., $100,000,000 loan	3,000,000	
Certificates of indebtedness	17,270,900	
Call certificates, 4 per cent.	22,106,840	
		91,995,090
Total debt October 1, 1864		$1,126,381,095

A table of the public debt on April 1, 1864, prepared on the same principle, shows it to have been as follows:—

Funded debt	$523,530,670
Bonds, 4 per cent., for currency funded	280,000,000
Total funded debt, April 1	803,530,670

UNFUNDED DEBT.

Treasury notes, amount outstanding by the Register's accounts	$505,792,103	
Deduct amount funded in Trans-Mississippi Department	30,000,000	
Total	$475,792,103	
Deduct tax of 33⅓ per cent.	158,597,368	
		317,194,735
Total debt, April 1, 1864		$1,120,725,405

—which, compared with the sum of debt similarly ascertained on the 1st October, $1,218,376,185, shows an augmentation of $97,650,780 in the six months from 1st April to 1st October 1864.

This addition to our indebtedness is smaller than might have been apprehended, yet is greater than if the currency had risen in value, and thereby the expenditures had been reduced, and the large amount of taxes paid had contributed exclusively to the relief of the Treasury.

The foreign debt, consisting of a single item, is omitted; the whole amount, being under £2,200,000, is adequately provided for by the cotton owned by the government, even at sixpence per pound, the quantity being about 250,000 bales.

The expenditure of the current quarter, it is assumed, will be met from the following resources, viz.:—

Treasury notes—amount unexpended of the proportion applicable to the payment of expenditures	$80,000,000
Taxes—amount to be received for the last quarter of 1864, estimated at	35,000,000
Bonds, certificates of indebtedness, and loans on hypothecation of bonds	47,000,000
Total	$162,000,000

The certificates of indebtedness, provided by the act of 17th February, 1864, did not prove as favourite an investment as was anticipated, and the amount of these securities, taken in payment by public creditors up to 1st October, is $2,000,000 only. From the sale of bonds and loans on hypothecation of bonds, about $45,000,000 was raised, and from the new issue of Treasury notes $283,000,000.

The large and rapid issue of Treasury notes is the more to be regretted from the failure of the measures relied upon to sustain their value and reduce expenditures. The new notes are received by the public at a value scarcely any higher than the old, and, as a consequence, the expenses have not declined.

GOLD VALUE OF CONFEDERATE CURRENCY.

The currency demands the immediate and the gravest consideration of Congress. Unless a uniform and stable value can be given to the Treasury notes, the effort to carry on the war through their instrumentality must of necessity be abandoned. Acquiescence in its deplorable depreciation is to court the ruin to which it leads. One hundred and thirty-five dollars in currency, the price obtained for one hundred dollars in six per cent. bonds, is equal to six dollars only in specie; and to sell the bonds at this rate is in reality to dispose of them at ninety-four per cent. discount; or, in other words, to give a bond for one hundred dollars in consideration of the loan of six dollars.

There is not a man of property in the country who would not prefer any fair measure of taxation rather than procure a temporary and treacherous prosperity by the sale of mortgages on his estate at this ruinous rate.

The depreciation of the currency, proceeding from redundancy and the want of confidence in its ultimate redemption, can only be corrected by measures that shall both diminish its volume and sustain the public confidence. The measures adopted by Congress to reduce the currency did not combine these essential elements of success. Those who had taken the old notes, relying on the good faith of the government, on finding them suddenly deprived of one-third of their nominal value, became alarmed, and received the new notes under strong apprehensions of a repetition of the measure. At the time, too, that the currency act provided for a circulation exceeding four hundred millions of dollars, it circumscribed and reduced the demand for the notes by making the four per cent. bonds receivable in the payment of taxes. By the 1st day of August $170,000,000 of the new notes had already been issued, and less than $10,000,000 sufficed for the payment of the taxes collected at that date. Depreciation commenced at once, and proceeded at so rapid a rate that by the 1st day of October gold was selling at twenty-five dollars for one.

The necessity of providing a speedy and efficient remedy for this condition of things is obvious. The bonds have to be sold for this currency; the taxes must be collected in it, and hence all the means of the government for the purchase of supplies will consist of this medium. Admitting that the amount which may be raised from these sources is nominally equal to the estimated expenditures, there is yet no security against such a further decline in the value of the notes as will disappoint present calculations, and add enormously to the accumulation of the public debt. The time, therefore, seems to have arrived when Congress should take measures to restore and sustain the currency, or make provision for its honourable redemption, and resort to the use of specie and bank notes. The adoption of the last alternative, it is feared, would produce great embarrassment in the community, and the impossibility of obtaining an adequate supply of specie and bank notes for the wants of the government would create the necessity for a system of universal impressments, followed by incalculable suffering and distress.

PLANS OF IMPROVING THE CURRENCY.

That the government must be supplied with sufficient means to carry on the war all are agreed. Our enemy offers us no terms short of unconditional surrender of life, liberty and property, and no choice is left us, even if we were disposed to hesitate, which we are not, but to continue the war. The adoption, therefore, of a permanent and efficient system of finance is indispensable to the full development and unconstrained use of our resources. The return to specie payments being for the present impracticable, the enquiry is whether it is possible to restore and maintain the value of the Treasury notes as a currency. The accomplishment of this end is of such vast importance that it is, of all others, that to which the resources of the country should be devoted and applied. Were it possible to anticipate the productions of future years of peace, and convert them into money for immediate use, the expediency of resorting to such a measure could not be doubted. May not a near approach to it be made by devoting a portion of those future productions to the purpose of imparting to the Treasury notes a high and stable value? I submit that this may be done, and respectfully propose a plan for its accomplishment.

It is an act pledging the faith of the government against the issue of Treasury notes beyond the amount authorised by the act of 17th February, 1864; exempting the notes from taxation, providing for the application of twenty per cent. of the taxes annually to the reduction of that amount until peace be declared or the outstanding sum be reduced to $150,000,000; continuing the tax in kind after the war, and appropriating an ascertained proportion thereof annually to the redemption or payment of the circulation, until the whole shall be retired.

I propose that the redemption shall be made from the tithes of cotton, wheat and corn, at prices fixed by the act—namely, cotton at fifty cents per pound, wheat at four dollars per bushel, and corn at two dollars per bushel; that the notes be received after the war, from all persons liable to the tax in kind, in commutation of their tithes; and that the Secretary of the Treasury be authorised to issue certificates in exchange for Treasury notes bearing six per cent. interest, secured and redeemable in the same manner and on the same terms as the notes themselves, free from taxation, and receivable after the war in payment of the tax in kind; and that all notes received into the Treasury for these certificates be cancelled.

The effect of this measure would be that, at present prices, the entire population would be interested in exchanging their productions for Treasury notes. They would constitute not

only a safe currency, but a profitable investment, for in the ratio of ten dollars for one, as compared with specie, the produce obtained in payment at the close of the war would cost the following prices, viz. cotton five cents per pound, wheat forty cents per bushel, and corn twenty cents. These nominally low prices would not operate to the prejudice of the agriculturist, for his tax, being in kind, would neither be increased nor diminished by the price. It is true he would have a collateral interest in common with tax-payers generally (for of course all interests will be taxed) in the redemption of the notes at a moderate rate. In this respect his interest would be protected by the prices stipulated by the act, which are not too low for a time of peace. But if they were, a full compensation would accrue to the tax-payer in the immediate enhancement of the notes and consequent reduction of expenses. And the producer would find a complete indemnity in the sale of a bushel of corn now at four dollars, and the application of the money to the payment of a tax hereafter of two bushels.

In suggesting the three articles of cotton, wheat, and corn, as a specific pledge for the redemption of the currency, no immunity from their full proportion of taxation is intended to be implied, in respect of other objects of the tax in kind, or any subjects of taxation whatsoever. These are only assigned to this particular office or function because of their peculiar adaptation thereto.

The following is an estimate of the resources to be thus applied, viz. :—Wheat, twenty-five million bushels; Indian corn, two hundred million bushels; and cotton, two million bales. A tax of ten per cent. would yield as follows:—

Wheat, two million five hundred thousand bushels, at four dollars	$10,000,000
Indian corn, twenty million bushels, at two dollars	40,000,000
Cotton, two hundred thousand bales, at two hundred dollars per bale	40,000,000
Total	$90,000,000

This amount applied annually would redeem the notes outstanding in four or five years. The credit due to this estimate may be inferred from the following summary of the crops of the Confederate States before the war, taken from the United States census of 1860: —

COTTON ESTIMATED AT FOUR HUNDRED POUNDS PER BALE AND FIFTY CENTS PER POUND; WHEAT AT FOUR DOLLARS PER BUSHEL, AND CORN AT TWO DOLLARS PER BUSHEL.

States.	Cotton.		
	Bales.	Weight.	Value.
Virginia . . .	12,727	5,090,800	$2,545,400
North Carolina	145,514	58,205,600	29,102,800
South Carolina	353,413	141,365,200	70,682,600
Georgia . . .	701,840	280,736,000	140,368,000
Alabama . . .	983,651	393,460,400	196,730,200
Mississippi . .	1,202,055	480,822,000	240,411,000
Florida . . .	66,063	26,425,200	13,212,600
Louisiana . .	722,424	288,969,600	144,484,800
Texas	415,281	166,112,400	83,056,200
Arkansas . .	366,465	146,586,000	73,293,000
Tennessee . .	212,019	84,807,600	42,403,800
Kentucky . .	4,092	1,636,800	818,400
Missouri . . .	101	40,400	20,200
Total . . .	5,185,645	2,074,258,000	$1,037,129,000

States.	Wheat.	
	Bushels.	Value.
Virginia	13,129,180	$52,516,720
North Carolina . .	4,743,706	18,974,824
South Carolina . .	1,285,631	5,142,524
Georgia	2,544,913	10,179,652
Alabama	1,222,487	4,889,948
Mississippi . . .	579,452	2,317,808
Florida	2,808	11,232
Louisiana . . .	29,283	117,132
Texas	1,464,273	5,857,092
Arkansas . . .	955,298	5,821,192
Tennessee . . .	5,409,863	21,639,452
Kentucky . . .	7,394,811	29,579,244
Missouri . . .	4,227,586	16,910,344
Total	42,989,291	$173,957,164

States.	Corn.		Total Value of Cotton, Wheat, and Corn.
	Bushels.	Value.	
Virginia	38,360,704	$76,721,408	$131,783,528
North Carolina .	30,078,564	60,157,128	108,234,752
South Carolina .	15,065,606	30,131,212	105,956,336
Georgia	30,776,293	61,552,586	212,100,238
Alabama . . .	32,761,194	65,522,388	267,142,536
Mississippi . . .	29,563,735	59,127,470	301,856,278
Florida	2,824,538	5,649,076	18,872,908
Louisiana . . .	16,205,856	32,411,712	177,016,644
Texas	16,521,593	33,043,186	121,956,478
Arkansas . . .	17,758,665	35,517,330	112,681,522
Tennessee . . .	50,748,266	101,496,532	165,539,784
Kentucky . . .	64,043,633	128,087,266	158,479,910
Missouri . . .	72,892,157	145,784,314	162,714,858
Total	417,600,804	$835,201,608	$2,044,335,772

The leading details of this plan or measure to reassure the public of the safety of the currency, and the redemption of it in full, will consist of the ratio in which the selected staples should be combined, and of the provision necessary to equalise the value of the postponed and preceding instalments. The combination of the staples, as recommended in this report, is 1-9 of wheat, 4-9 of corn, and 4-9 of cotton. The scheme recommended in another place, for the purpose of harmonising the value of the successive instalments, is the substitution of certificates bearing interest for the currency set apart by the holders in commutation of the tax or to purchase the tithes. After the most careful investigation, I am satisfied that the measure may be successfully reduced to practice.

Under the operation of this system, a sure appreciation of the currency may confidently be expected. All will discern the advantage to arise from the acquisition of Treasury notes at present prices, and even foreign capital may be expected to absorb a part, for, at the rate of ten dollars for one dollar of specie, the cost of cotton would be reduced to five cents per pound. Confidence may be expected to return; for those who dread repudiation, and those who would regard the return to specie payments with equal alarm, would both be encouraged and assured. In imparting increased value and security to the Treasury notes, greater reliance in the value of the funded debt would be inspired, for the expenditures would be reduced, and the accumulation of debt be retarded.

The currency debt being provided for, the total remainder, to wit: the funded debt, would be as already stated	$738,340,090
And if to this sum be added the amount of bonds to be sold before the 1st January, which may be estimated at about	40,000,000
The total sum of interest bearing debt on the 1st of January, 1865, will be . . .	$778,340,090

The value of the real and personal property in the Confederate States, in 1860, according to the United States census, taken at specie value, was	$5,202,166,107

Notwithstanding the waste and desolation of the war, and the amount of property in the enemy's lines, the subjects of taxation under the act of 17th February 1864, according to the returns made to the commissioners by the assessors, under the act of 19th August 1861, is as follows:—

Property employed in agriculture—		
Specie value . . .	$2,900,758,777	
Currency valued at $5 for $1.		$14,503,793,890
Other property—		
Specie value . . .	1,450,379,379	
Currency valued at $7 for $1.		10,152,655,653
Specie value . . .	$4,351,138,156	
Currency value		$24,656,449,543

There is an element of our national wealth, taken singly, that exhibits, in a striking view, the amplitude of our resources to meet our wants. I refer to the great staple of cotton. The net proceeds of one bale exported and sold in England at the present price is about two hundred dollars in gold; and, at the rate of ten dollars in currency for one dollar in gold, this is equal to two thousand dollars, and to four billions of dollars for the two millions of bales estimated to be still in the country—a sum more than five times as great as the funded debt. The impossibility of realising the full benefit of this resource under existing circumstances is admitted; but the statement exhibits the abundance of our means, and every effort should be made to apply this great element of wealth and power to the purpose of arresting the progress of depreciation and retarding the accumulation of debt.

I propose an additional duty of five cents per pound on the exportation of cotton and tobacco, and the duplication of the duties on imports; payment to be made in coupons of the five hundred million loan, sterling exchange and specie, as now provided by law. The price of cotton in Liverpool being about sixty cents per pound, the deduction of five cents for the tax would hardly have an appreciable effect upon its value in currency. The duty would fall chiefly on the foreign consumer, or be taken from the profits of the exporter; and an important financial advantage would be obtained at a moderate expense to the country. The increased duty on imports would be a small tax on this lucrative trade. If paid by the importer, it would be free from all objection; and if by the consumer, his ability to bear it is abundantly proven by the high price paid for goods. These measures would enhance the value and enlarge the demand for the five hundred million loan.

The expenditures for the six months, from the 1st of January to the 1st of July, 1865, with an improved currency, may be safely estimated at a maximum of $300,000,000; and for the twelve months at	$600,000,000
To this amount must be added for the redemption of notes, as proposed, the sum of . . .	60,000,000
And for the estimated amount of floating debt .	114,000,000
Total	$774,000,000

To meet these demands upon the Treasury, I propose the following scheme of taxation and loans, viz. :—

1. Taxation, including the tax in kind . .	$360,000,000
2. Sale of bonds of the five hundred million loan and certificates of indebtedness . . .	409,000,000
3. Import and export dues, and miscellaneous receipts	5,000,000
Total	$774,000,000

To raise the amount proposed by taxation I recommend the repeal of so much of the Act amending the Act of 17th February, 1864, as will leave the property and income-tax in full operation, without the abatements now allowed—viz. : section 1, paragraph 1, of the Amendatory Act of 14th June, 1864, which provides that the value of the tax in kind shall be deducted from the ad valorem tax on agricultural property; and section 8, paragraph 2, of the same act, which provides that the property-tax shall be deducted from the income-tax. By this change the desired amount of revenue will be secured, and the prominent inequalities of taxation, now the subject of complaint, will be redressed.

The tax in kind being ten per cent., and its value in currency $145,000,000, it follows that the productions taxed amounted in value to $1,450,000,000; and the assessed value of the property from which these productions are derived being $2,900,758,778, it is apparent that the gross income of $1,450,000,000,000 is equal to fifty per cent. of the assessed value of the property. Hence, an agricultural estate of the value of $100,000, subject to an ad valorem tax of $5,000, yielded a gross income of $50,000. The tithe of this income ($5,000) paid the property-tax, and left undiminished $45,000 of income. This result was the consequence of valuing the property for taxation in specie, and the productions received in payment of the tax in currency. Had the property been valued in the medium in which the tax was payable, the assessment would have been at least $500,000 and the tax $25,000, or had the articles received in kind been valued, as the property was—in specie—the payment would not have exceeded $2,000, and $3,000 more of tax would have been received in currency.

The inequality of taxation that resulted is made conspicuous by a comparison with investments made in government securities. The same sum of $100,000 in eight per cent. bonds, yielding $8,000 per annum interest, paid $5,000 tax, and left a clear income of only $3,000. Capital invested in banking presents a contrast equally striking. One of the banks in Richmond, which is referred to as an example only, on a capital of $2,336,000 paid $424,400 taxes, the specie being assessed at eighteen times the value of 1860; and the amount distributed among the stockholders as income was $268,640. On $100,000 consequently, thus invested, the tax was $18,000 and the income $11,500. These inequalities gave rise to grave complaints, while any amount of taxation equitably distributed would doubtless be cheerfully met.

The collection of a large sum in taxes is essential to the reform of the currency, and the country is in a condition the most favourable to bear the burthen. The abundance of money and high price of every species of property and supplies would render the payment easy and free from embarrassment. The Treasury will derive little aid from this source in the present year. The tax on the currency brought no revenue, operating only as a reduction of the circulation. The other taxes, with comparatively little exception, will be received in four per cent. bonds. The taxes upon property and income respectively are to some extent nominal only, the ad valorem tax on property engaged in agriculture being discharged by the credit of the tax in kind, and the income tax on other property diminished by the whole sum of the ad valorem tax. These abatements and the payments in four per cent. bonds result in reducing the revenue from taxation (exclusive of the soldiers' tax) to about $40,000,000.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF TAXES.

THE accompanying able report of the Commissioner of Taxes is referred to for much valuable and interesting information on this important subject.

Computing the property of the country at the present estimated value, the following is the existing rate of taxation, viz. :—

Value of real and personal property in currency, rated at five to seven times the valuation of 1860 . .	$24,656,449,551
Total amount of taxes, including the tax in kind and the soldiers' tax	287,000,000

which is at the rate of one and one-sixth per cent.

With this estimate of the resources of the Confederacy, the taxes proposed for the ensuing year cannot be deemed excessive. The sum of $360,000,000, reduced into specie at twenty dollars for one dollar, is only $18,000,000, and this amount, applied to the values of 1860, viz. : $4,351,138,157, is at the rate of less than one half of one per cent. And if the calculation is made in currency, viz. $360,000,000, upon an assessment of $24,656,449,551, it would amount to one and a half per cent. And when it is remembered that with the payment of the taxes quarterly, a measure which I strongly recommend, less than one fourth of the currency will suffice for the quarter's tax, and the amount collected in any one quarter will be restored to the circulation before another becomes payable, it is apparent that the resources of the country are ample to meet the proposed increase of taxes.

It may be objected that the several measures combined will unduly reduce the circulation, and expose the country to the evils of a declining and insufficient currency. The reply to this objection is, that the evils predicated are, to some extent, inseparable from the reduction of the currency and the improvement of its value. Any measures that are successful in effecting the desired reform must, of necessity, be followed by the trials that attend upon such a transition. If Congress does not interpose, and by some such measures as I have ventured to recommend restore the currency gradually, judiciously, and by means of voluntary action, it will assuredly rectify itself by some violent and disastrous convulsion.

The developments attending the execution of the Currency Act of February 17, 1864, reveal clearly that the great body of the circulation is held in moderate sums by persons of limited means in all classes of the population. The deposits held by the banks, large as they are in the aggregate, proved to be the accumulations of individual depositors in all parts of the country. The report of the depositaries appointed for funding the old notes show that soldiers, soldiers' families and the poor generally, have been the heaviest sufferers by the tax on the currency and its depreciation. In view of the large stake of the poorer classes of society in the currency, the responsibility of fixing the value and establishing the security of the notes, assumes the gravity of a sacred duty. The soldier, and all who are forced to the immediate use of their money, are without the chance of redress for the loss they sustain by the depreciation, whereas the capitalist has it in his power to indemnify himself, and even reap a profit by investing in public bonds.

The measures proposed may be expected to correct this inequality, and give to those who claim our sympathy a mortgage upon our future supplies for bread at fair prices, and when the war is over the country will enjoy the satisfaction of having protected its defenders from want.

If the proposed reform should be followed by a general and large decline in prices, the result would be hailed with the liveliest satisfaction, except by those whose imprudent investments have contributed to the derangement we desire to correct. No improvement of the currency can be expected that will not be attended by an immediate decline of prices. It will, therefore, be idle to say that the reform of the currency is desired, if we are willing that existing prices should be continued, and to shrink from measures that will be attended by the results indicated, is to oppose the reform of the currency. The time for hesitation is past, and one of two alternatives must be adopted. Measures should be taken without delay to revive confidence in the treasury notes and uphold their value, or a tax payable in specie and the notes of solvent banks be resorted to. In the most favourable light in which these notes can be regarded, the purchasing quality does not exceed one to seven or eight, as compared with specie; and the bonds are even lower in value, being sold at the rate of one hundred dollars in bonds of six dollars in specie. To continue such exchanges, if, indeed, for any length of time it were possible, would be ruinous. But my conviction is, that it is impossible to persevere, and, unless prompt and decided measures of reform are adopted, the progress of depreciation will be accelerated, and our embarrassments become insurmountable. I would therefore earnestly urge upon Congress the necessity of acting with despatch, and by the adoption of vigorous and decided measures, restore the value of the currency and avert the calamity with which we are threatened.

To remove apprehensions of our ability to bear with convenience the increased taxation recommended, it will suffice to call attention to the amount of taxes paid this year:

The total amount of taxes is estimated at.....	$374,188,414
But from this sum must be deducted the credit given for the tax in kind and the income tax, viz.	128,787,245
Leaving as the amount of taxes actually paid.....	$245,401,169

To this amount must be added the tax on Treasury notes of thirty-three and a third per cent.; and as the four per cent. bonds have declined in value to $66·66 per $100, the tax, in effect, included the whole sum of issues, except in so far as the bonds were used at par in the payment of taxes, viz.:—

Total issue	$797,792,000
Less estimated amount of four per cent. bonds receivable in payment of taxes	89,000,000
Total	$708,792,000
$708,792,000 at thirty-three and a third per cent.	$286,264,000
Sum of taxation actually borne by the people in 1864	481,665,169

Of this sum there was received in aid of the Treasury, viz.:—

Tax in kind, valued at	$145,527,431
Tax paid in currency	40,000,000
Total	$185,527,431
It is now proposed to raise $360,000,000, which will bring into the Treasury an excess over last year of	174,472,569
Total	$360,000,000

While the sum of taxation to be met by the people will be $121,665,169 less than last year.

I would respectfully recommend that all government bonds and stocks, and loans of every description to the government, be declared free from taxation, except upon the income derived therefrom; and that the income tax be at the same rate and subject to the same conditions as other income taxes. The policy of this measure is obvious. Under existing laws, except in the case of the five hundred million loan and the certificates of indebtedness, the income derived from government securities is nearly all taken back in the form of taxation. One effect is to drive the bonds abroad and create a foreign debt that will be found oppressive on the return of peace, and another is to raise a preference for other investments over government securities. Many investments yield a larger income than simple interest, and are capable of bearing the tax, but the interest on government loans being limited, and not susceptible of augmentation, the tax of five per cent. absorbs nearly the entire income. In the case of the four per cent. bonds, the whole would be taken; and when it is remembered that this rate of interest is low, and that the loan was in a measure compulsory, this class of public creditors seem particularly entitled to the consideration of Congress. Tender regard for the just claims of those who, confiding in the honour and good faith of the government, responded to its call for pecuniary aid will be attended by no loss, since they who deal the most honourably with the creditor invariably borrow on the best and most economical terms.

I would particularly call attention to a class of creditors now lending their money to the Treasury at four per cent. interest, on the hypothecation of the six per cent. non-taxable bonds. It is obviously the interest of the government to exempt these loans from taxation, in like manner with the bonds they represent.

THE BANK TAX.

The tax also upon the banks deserves, in a particular manner, the careful consideration of Congress. It would be a conspicuous wrong to constrain these institutions to wind up their affairs, and a serious loss, both to the public and the government, to deprive the country of the support to be drawn from the concentrated capital they possess. This, I think, must eventually be the effect of the present tax if continued, and I recommend a modification of the law, such, in my opinion, as will give the desired relief and leave the revenue undiminished. The assets of the banks represent the following interests:—

1. The capital belonging to the stockholders.
2. The surplus fund also belonging to the stockholders.
3. The deposits belonging to their customers.
4. The outstanding circulation belonging to the bill-holders.

The following plan of taxation is proposed:—

1. That the ad valorem tax be laid upon the sum of the capital and surplus profits; being the total property of the stockholders expressed in currency.

2. That deposits be free from taxation, as consisting of Treasury notes only, a tax upon which reacts upon the government.

3. That a tax of twenty-five per cent. be laid upon the notes of the bank, payable in specie and Treasury notes, the former in the proportion that the specie held by the bank bears to the sum of the outstanding notes, provided that all billholders presenting their notes at the bank and making affidavit that the notes were, on the day of the passage of the act, the property of loyal citizens or aliens in amity with the Confederate States, shall be taxed five per cent. only, and in the same proportions as to specie and Treasury notes, and that it be made the duty of the bank to record the notes thus presented, with the names of the persons holding the same, and to collect and pay the tax and to report to the proper officer for sequestration, as in the hands of the enemy, all notes not presented for record and taxation under the provisions of the act.

The circulation of the banks on 1st of January, 1859, was as follows, and there is no reason to suppose that it is now any less:—

Virginia	$10,349,342
North Carolina	6,202,626
Georgia	11,687,582
South Carolina	9,170,333
Alabama	6,651,117
Louisiana	9,094.009
Mississippi	169,409
Tennessee	6,472,822
Total	$59,797,240

If limited to the five first-named States, the tax would still operate on a sum of forty-three million dollars; and if the returns shall exhibit a smaller amount than this, the residue would be brought under sequestration, and contribute more largely than the tax to the relief of the Treasury.

The courts having decided that, under the act of the 15th of February, 1862, section twenty-seven, the four per cent. bonds issued under the act of 17th February 1864, to reduce the currency, are receivable in payment of property sold under the sequestration laws, I would respectfully call the attention of Congress to the subject. This cannot have been the intention; and as no other bonds are thus applied but such as are under par, I recommend the repeal of that provision of the law.

I would also direct the attention of Congress to the seven-thirty notes. The payment of interest is attended with the risk of frauds, and the regulations adopted for the security of the Treasury are found inconvenient to the public. For these reasons it is desirable to change the form of these obligations, and I recommend that authority be given to issue six per cent. coupon bonds in exchange for the notes. This measure would effect a saving in interest of one million three hundred thousand dollars annually, which sum capitalised, is equal to a reduction of nearly twenty million dollars of the principal of the debt.

In the act of June 14, 1864, to increase the compensation of the heads of the several executive departments, and other officers and clerks of the government, the terms used have been decided not to include the Commissioner of Taxes, and the heads of the other bureaus of the Treasury Department. It is not supposed to have been the intention of Congress to deny these officers the relief extended to others, and I suggest the early passage of an act to bring them within the meaning and entitle them to the benefits of the act of 1st June.

The third section of the act 'to organise forces to serve during the war,' approved February 17, 1864, authorises the Secretary of the Treasury to issue bonds for the payment of the bounty provided by the act, but omits to fix a time for payment of the bonds; and I respectfully recommend that the act be amended in that particular.

THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI AGENCIES.

I have the honour to report that the agency of the Treasury in the trans-Mississippi Department has been organised and put in operation, and after a protracted delay occasioned by the difficulty of communication. The same cause has retarded the receipts therefrom of statements exhibiting the result of the funding and of its other operations. Supplies of the new issue of Treasury notes, of bonds and certificates of indebtedness, have been sent to that department, and there is every ground to believe that order and efficiency will soon take place, and the difficulties and embarrassments hitherto experienced there be removed.

The reports of the chiefs of the Produce Loan Bureau and of the Treasury Note Bureau will be submitted to Congress in a separate communication.

G. A. TRENHOLM, Secretary of Treasury.

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SENATE.

A. H. Stephens, of Georgia, President of the Senate.

	Time Expires
Alabama.	
Richard W. Walker	1868
Jemison	
Arkansas.	
A. P. Garland	1868
R. W. Johnson	1868
Florida.	
A. E. Maxwell	1866
Georgia.	
B. H. Hill	1868
H. V. Johnson	1868
Kentucky.	
H. C. Burnett	1868
William E. Simms	
Louisiana.	
Thomas J. Semmes	1866
Edward Sparrow	1868
Mississippi.	
Albert G. Brown	1866
Watson	
Missouri.	
Waldo P. Johnson	
North Carolina.	
William S. Dortch	1866
William A. Graham	
South Carolina.	
Robert W. Barnwell	1866
James L. Orr	1868
Tennessee.	
Gustavus A. Henry	1866
Landon C. Haynes	1868
Texas.	
Lewis T. Wigfall	1866
William S. Oldham	1868
Virginia.	
Allen T. Caperton	
R. M. T. Hunter	1868

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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1	Thomas W. Foster.
2	William R. Smith.
3	Williamson R. Cobb.
4	Marcus H. Cruikshank.
5	Francis S. Lyon.
6	William P. Chilton.
7	David Clopton.
8	James L. Pugh.
9	J. S. Dickinson.
	Arkansas.
1	Felix I. Babson.
2	Rufus K. Garland.
3	Augustus H. Garland.
4	Thomas B. Hanley.
	Florida.
1	St. George Roberts.
2	Robert B. Hilton.
	Georgia.
1	Julian Hartridge.
2	William E. Smith.
3	Mark H. Blanford.
4	Clifford Anderson.
5	J. T. Shewmake.
6	J. H. Echols.
7	James M. Smith.
8	George N. Lester.
9	H. P. Bell.
10	Warren Aiken.
	Kentucky.
1	Willis B. Machen.
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3	Henry E. Read.
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5	James S. Chrisman.
6	Theodore L. Burnett.
7	H. W. Bruce.
8	Humphrey Marshall.
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11	Benjamin F. Bradley.
12	John M. Elliott.
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2	Charles M. Conrad.
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5	Henry Gray.
6	John Perkins.
	Mississippi.
1	John A. Orr.
2	William D. Holden.
3	Israel Welsh.
4	H. C. Chambers.
5	Otho R. Singleton.
6	Ethbert Barksdale.
7	J. T. Lampkin.
	Missouri.
	Election held in May last, but names not reported.
Dist.	
	North Carolina.
1	William H. N. Smith.
2	Robert R. Bridgers.
3	J. T. Leach.
4	Thomas C. Fuller.
5	Josiah Turner.
6	John A. Gilmer.
7	James M. Leach.
8	J. G. Ramsay.
9	B. S. Gaither.
10	George W. Logan.
	South Carolina.
1	James M. Witherspoon.
2	William Porcher Miles.
3	Lewis M. Ayer.
4	William D. Simpson.
5	James Farrow.
6	William W. Boyce.
	Tennessee.
1	Joseph B. Heiskell.
2	William G. Swan.
3	A. S. Colyer.
4	John P. Murray.
5	Henry S. Foote.
6	E. A. Kerble.
7	James M'Collum.
8	Thomas Menees.
9	John C. Atkins.
10	John V. Wright.
11	M. W. Cluskey.
	Texas.
1	—
2	C. C. Herbert.
3	A. M. Branch.
4	F. B. Sexton.
5	A. R. Bayler.
6	S. H. Morgan.
	Virginia.
1	Robert L. Montague.
2	Robert H. Whitfield.
3	William S. C. Wickham.
4	T. S. Gholson.
5	Thomas S. Bocock.
6	John Goode, Jun.
7	William C. Rives.
8	Daniel C. Dejarnette.
9	David Funsten.
10	F. W. M. Holladay.
11	John B. Baldwin.
12	Waller R. Staples.
13	Fayette McMullen.
14	Samuel A. Miller.
15	Robert Johnson.
16	Charles W. Russell.

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The Youngest Government in America.

ON the 5th of March next there will be three Governments on the continent of America, none of which existed three years ago. On that day the Confederate States will be rather more than three years old; the Empire of Mexico will be about one year old; and the new Federation, of which Mr. ABRAHAM LINCOLN has been elected the first President, will be just one day old. We propose to comment on this fact, and to point out the obligation it imposes on the Governments of Europe.

The three new Governments, besides juvenility, have another feature in common. They have all been created or ratified by a popular vote, and so emphatically teach us the oft-repeated lesson, that universal suffrage does not necessarily imply a republican form of government; that it does not guarantee a free government; that it is not the letter of a Constitution, but the spirit of the people, which gives birth to and sustains liberty. Besides analogies, there are differences between these Governments which deserve attention. In Mexico the form of government has been changed. In the Federal States the old name and the old form have been retained, but the character of the government has been completely revolutionised. The Confederate States have taken a new name, but retained the old form and the old principles. The Empire of Mexico was founded in the hope of replacing anarchy and misery by order and prosperity. The object of the Northern Federation is to conquer the South; the mission of the Confederates is to defend their hereditary rights and freedom. Or, to quote the words of Earl RUSSELL: 'The North is fighting for empire, and the South for independence!' The Empire of Mexico was established by the aid of that great military Power which assisted the British Colonies of North America in compelling the mother-country to recognise them as thirteen sovereign States. The Northern Federation has been ratified by the votes of the majority of the Northern people. The Confederacy represents the unanimous will of the Southern people. Mexico, though not involved in war, has a heavy debt, the legacy of a long period of political strife and degeneracy. The North, though the markets of the world have been opened to her to exchange her products for gold, is already in the throes of national bankruptcy; her debt is enormous, and her Government issues are not worth 50 per cent. of their nominal value. The debt of the South is not half that of the North, whilst her currency is vastly more depreciated; but then she has been shut out from commerce, and she has a stock of produce on hand worth more than the amount of her debt twice told. The stability of neither Mexico nor the Northern Federation has been tested by invasion, though we doubt not both could offer a successful resistance. The Confederacy has been tested by four years of invasion on a gigantic scale, and no one who has eyes to see and ears to hear, will deny that no young nationality was ever before called upon to endure such a fiery ordeal, or that any nation could have made a more heroic and—thank God!—a more successful defence. It was but yesterday that the Union, itself not older than some living men, was dissolved. Suppose four years ago, when the election of a sectional President warned the sovereign States of the South that they must leave the Union or become the creatures of a Northern faction, that some part of what has since occurred had been revealed—suppose it had been told the Confederates that their right of secession would be denied by Europe—that their ports would be blockaded, and that they would be cut off from all the supplies they so much needed—that the North, blinded by covetousness and malignity, would conscript upwards of 2,000,000 men for the purpose of subjugating the South—that the North would recruit her armies from Ireland and Germany—that the North would spend 400,000,000*l.* sterling for the prosecution of the war—what, we ask, would have been the effect of such a revelation? It would not have prevented secession, but the most sanguine friend of the South, the most fervent believer in the strength of patriotic devotion and in the might of right, could not have supposed, could hardly have dared to pray, that the North would make such small progress as she has done. About ultimate triumph there could have been no doubt, but it would have seemed inevitable that nearly all the great cities of the South must have fallen and have been in the military possession of the invader. How different is the actual result! Except New Orleans none of the greater towns have been captured. In the Confederate Capitol, but a day's journey from Washington, the Second Session of the Second Congress of the Confederate States is now assembled. We will not ask if Mexico could so triumphantly have resisted such an invasion, but we say, without fear of contradiction, that had the North been thrown upon her own resources as the South has been, with the same odds against her and the like armies invading her—we say that it is altogether without the limits of probability that her resistance would have been so successful. No wonder that the great man at the head of the Confederate Government, and the great captains who lead the Confederate armies, should be calm in the hour of adversity and humble in the hour of victory, feeling that God has been their shield, and that the Lord of Hosts has confounded their enemies.

We have said that on the 5th of March next the Federation of which Mr. LINCOLN has been elected the first President will be but one day old, and a little reflection will show that this assertion is true, and not a mere figure of speech.

Why is the Confederacy called a new Government? Some of the sovereign States which compose it are as old as the oldest States in the Northern Federation, and the newest States in the South are not so new as some of the States in the North. The State Governments of the South have not undergone so many changes since 1860 as the State Governments of the North. The Confederate Congress contains fewer new legislators than the Federal Congress. So far as constitutionalism is concerned, while there have been many important and radical changes in the North, there have been but few, indeed no fundamental, changes in the South. But we shall be told that the South seceded from the North. That is true, but it is also true that the North has seceded from the South. What does Southern secession mean? That the South determined upon having a central government in the election of which the North should have no part. Will not the North, on and after the 4th of March next, have a government in the election of which the South has taken no part? Did not the Federal Congress enact that the Southern States should not be allowed to vote in the Presidential election of 1864? Surely this is an act of secession of the North from the South as formal and solemn as the secession of the South from the North. We admit that the North declares that it intends to attempt to conquer the South. What of that? Suppose the South declared that it intended to attempt the conquest of the North, would that justify us in refusing to acknowledge the new Northern Federation? Should we therefore have to recall our Minister from Washington on the 4th of next March?

We presume the theory on which European Governments have hitherto refused to recognise the Confederate States is that Mr. LINCOLN was elected by a majority of the States both North and South, but such an argument will have no application after the 4th of March next. The Southern States are not the hereditary dominions of Mr. LINCOLN. The Southern States do not belong to Mr. LINCOLN by right of conquest, and he is not their elected ruler. There is no subterfuge, there is no sophistry, by which European Governments can pretend that the Government which will be inaugurated in Washington on the 4th of March next is either *de jure* or *de facto* the Government of the South. Mr. LINCOLN may say that he intends to restore the Union by force of arms—that he is going to reconcile the South by slaying her sons, by maltreating her daughters, and by burning her homes. But this has nothing to do with the question. We have to deal with the present, not the future. If Mr. LINCOLN should succeed—if the men of the South should be exterminated, and the lands of the South come into Northern possession—then indeed we should have to recognise in Mr. LINCOLN the sovereign of the South. But meantime, though Mr. LINCOLN does not rule over the South, there is a Southern Government. The question then for Europe to decide is this—whether on the 4th of March next she will refuse to recognise the Confederate Government, and so declare that there is no Government in the South—that is, that the South is in the position of uninhabited land, and that she is a lawful prize for those who first get possession.

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

THE movement of the Federal General Sherman's army in two columns upon Macon and Augusta has excited a greater degree of interest than any previous enterprise of the war, both on account of the novelty and boldness of the undertaking and the consequences that are likely to flow from it. It is one of those desperate ventures that success alone can justify. Nothing can be more certain than that such a step was never meditated by General Sherman or the Cabinet at Washington, but that it was made absolutely necessary by the activities of Generals Hood and Beauregard in Sherman's rear. When the latter expelled the inhabitants of Atlanta from their homes, the barbarous act was expressly stated to have been done that Atlanta might be held as a base of future operations, a *point d'appui*, a permanent military possession of the United States—an excuse which, wholly insufficient at the time, becomes absolutely ridiculous now that we see Atlanta burned and abandoned, and the man who was to have held it marching off to establish himself elsewhere. Either Sherman did or did not intend to retain Atlanta. If he did, it is clear that his recent bold movement was not voluntary, but compulsory. If he did not, it was something worse than criminal to have exiled its citizens. From our last advices we cannot be quite sure how far he has pushed his way towards Macon or Augusta. Rumours of the destruction of Milledgeville and the capture of Macon were in circulation in Savannah, but on November 21 neither of these towns had fallen into his hands. No other intelligence than such as comes from Southern papers had been received from Sherman at New York since his departure from Atlanta, and President Lincoln will have another opportunity of indulging in his little joke of last spring, when he said that Grant, in crossing the Rapidan and seeking a new base on the Pamunkey and James Rivers, was like the fellow at the circus who climbed the pole and pulled the pole up after him. So far as Sherman had advanced, it would appear that his devastation of the country had been more than usually thorough and satisfactory to his Government and people; and even a London journal, in the interests of the Yankees, declares, with evident pleasure, that, 'assuming as true what is alleged of the burning of Jonesborough, Griffin, Stone Mountain, Hillsborough, Monticello, and Clinton, we can, with tolerable accuracy, trace Sherman's course by the light of his conflagrations.' It is not worth while to expend ink and sentiment, however, on the barbarity of the Yankee generals. The recital of their fiendish crimes has ceased to excite horror in ceasing to excite surprise, and the atrocities of Sherman in his march through Georgia are lost in the interest that is felt as to the *dénouement*. Among military men such a move as that of Sherman cannot fail of condemnation, though success, as we have said, may give it sanction. During the war in the Peninsula, in the autumn of 1808, Joseph submitted to Napoleon a *projet* of quitting the line of the Ebro, and collecting a force of 50,000 men, with which to move compactly across the country to Madrid. He was to carry his supplies with him and strike 'wherever he could find subsistence and an enemy,' and he remarked that, until the Grand Army had arrived at Burgos, his position in Spain would be precisely similar to Napoleon's in Egypt, that of a seventy-four at sea. The great master of the art of war answered his brother in some very curt but forcible observations. 'To change one's line of operations,' said he, 'is an operation which only a man of genius ought to attempt. To lose one's line of operations is an operation so dangerous that to be guilty of it is a crime. At this instant to rush into Spain without any organised centre of magazines, with hostile armies in one's flanks and in one's rear, would be an attempt without precedent in the history of the world. If, before Madrid were taken and depots of subsistence for eight or ten days and of ammunition were provided, this army were beaten, what would become of it? Where would it rally? Where would it send its wounded? Whence would it draw its supplies? For it is provided only for its current wants. Nothing more need be said. Those who dare to recommend such a step would be the first to lose their heads as soon as the results began to show its absurdity. According to the laws of war, every general who loses his line of communication deserves death.' Unquestionably Sherman cannot be commended by such as accept the maxims of Napoleon, and it is undeniable that his failure will be ruin, hopeless and irremediable. Not Leotard, when, before the breathless multitude of the amphitheatre, he releases his hold upon the handle of one flying cord to catch another, would be more sure of destruction should he fail to grasp it, than Sherman should he meet repulse before Augusta and Macon. A day's delay, the least accident, the slightest *contretemps*, anything 'not laid down in the bills,' will be fatal to him; and his ruin may, and probably will, be the utter breakdown of the Washington Government in the continuance of the war. On the other hand, should Sherman prove entirely successful, and thus put forward a claim to originality in war, the results, supposing they involved the loss of Georgia to the Confederacy, would be serious, but by no means conclusive of the contest. The Confederacy would yet live, and the military conquest of the South would have but commenced. In this temper we await the arrival of the next steamer from America, by which we shall doubtless be fully informed of the catastrophe.

THE inaction of the armies on the James was broken, on the night of the 17th ult., by an attack upon a portion of Butler's lines by a force of Confederates under General Pickett. The Federals were forced to fall back with the loss, according to General Lee's report, of one colonel, two captains, two lieutenants, and 113 men in prisoners. Next day the enemy made desperate but unsuccessful attempts to retake the lost position. With the exception of the above, the 'situation' is unchanged in Virginia. There are reports of the Confederates mining extensively in front of Petersburg, and of preparations by General Grant, who, it is said, has been reinforced by troops from Sheridan's army, for an early attack along the lines of Richmond and Petersburg, the fleet cooperating by a movement up the James. General Lee is also said to be receiving reinforcements from his lieutenant's army in the Valley, but a reconnaissance by Sheridan's cavalry, on the 22nd, found Early in strong position at Rood's Hill, where the reconnoitring force was met and repulsed. The weakening of Early is very likely mere gossip from Washington.

THE Confederate army of South-western Virginia has not only cleared that region of every hostile force, but is now carrying the war into the enemy's strongholds. Since his victory at Saltville, General Breckenridge has been steadily and victoriously driving the enemy, with the single exception of a surprise suffered by one of his brigade commanders some weeks ago. Of the fight at Bull's Gap on the 14th ult., General Breckenridge reports that his cavalry, under Generals Basil Duke and Vaughan, attacked the enemy under General Gillem, routed them, and captured several hundred prisoners, 10 stands of colours, 6 pieces of artillery, 50 loaded wagons, and a large number of small arms. Breckenridge pursued and again attacked the enemy at Strawberry Plains, eighteen miles from Knoxville, where it is said he added 850 prisoners and 150 wagons to his trophies of Bull's Gap. Gillem retreated within the fortifications of Knoxville under cover of night. Latest advices report General Breckenridge within six miles of Cumberland Gap on the 21st ult., when heavy skirmishing was going on.

New York advices of the 26th ult. state that General Hood was advancing from Wayneston upon Pulaski, from which the Federals had retired, falling back upon Columbia, where an engagement was expected. The retreat of the enemy is in the direction of Nashville, to which point he is likely to retire eventually, owing to the great strength of its fortifications. The above-mentioned places are, as the reader will doubtless understand, in Tennessee. General Beauregard was at Corinth on the 18th, and a rumour comes from the South that he was sending troops to Georgia *vid* Selma, Montgomery, Alabama, and Columbus, Georgia. The whole force under Beauregard's orders is estimated at 65,000 men.

WE publish in another column the joint resolutions introduced in the Upper House of the Confederate Congress, on Friday, November 18, by Mr. Henry, Senator from the State of Tennessee, and ordered to be printed. If anything were wanting to confirm the belief of Europe in the unalterable determination of the Southern people to win their national independence, it would be found in these lofty resolutions. They breathe the spirit of that indomitable will and energy which animates every class of the population of the Confederate States.

VICE-PRESIDENT STEPHENS has written a letter to the Hon. T. J. Semmes, Senator from Louisiana, which is published in the Richmond papers, in which he declares that he has never favoured the call of a Convention of the States to negotiate for peace, unless the proposal for such a convention should come from the Federal Government; that his views with regard to the alternative presented to the South of independence or subjugation have never undergone a change; and that he will stand by the State of Georgia to the end. We have never doubted the loyalty of Vice-President Stephens, but we think he must himself see at this time the impropriety of having written such a letter as his former one, which bore the very natural construction of placing him in antagonism with the Confederate Government, of which he is a part. Those who were fully acquainted with Mr. Stephens's sentiments were aware that his design was to play into the hands of the Northern Democrats, even at the risk of ambiguity of language. We hope we have had the last of these querulous and questionable letters from prominent Southern men. Sherman's recent move through Georgia was probably determined by the suggestion of Mr. Stephens's former letter that there was a peace party in the State; and the smoking desolation that has been left in the track of Sherman's army cannot be repaired by subsequent letters correcting misapprehensions of its meaning.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR JACOBS, of Kentucky, has been arrested by the Federal authorities, and, without the form of a trial or the pretence of an accusation, has been banished from his home beyond the Confederate lines. This outrage is even more flagrant than the arrest and banishment of Mr. Vallandigham, to whom something like a trial was accorded; but then we must remember that in the meantime Mr. Lincoln has been reelected President of the United States, and given a power absolutely despotic. Lieutenant-Governor Jacobs, at the time of his seizure by the officers of Lincoln, was temporarily sojourning at Buffalo, in the State of New York, with his wife, all unconscious of danger, but suddenly a provost-guard invaded his lodgings, searched the private correspondence of both, and carried him off a prisoner to be sent across the frontier. A committee of gentlemen of Kentucky arrived in Washington on November 20, to remonstrate with the President concerning this arbitrary act, but failed to obtain any satisfaction with regard to it.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN has formally proclaimed that the ports of Norfolk (Virginia), Pensacola, and Fernandina (Florida), are open to the commerce of the world, the United States having been for so long a time in military possession of these points as to justify the raising of the blockade in their favour. When we consider that Norfolk, Pensacola, and Fernandina, cut off from the whole Southern country, have nothing whatever to export, and that the only merchandise to be carried thither must be supplies for the Yankee garrisons and the small resident populations, President Lincoln's proclamation seems to be of the smallest possible importance, and will not even have the effect of materially increasing the mercantile marine for the benefit of the Confederate cruisers, who are the terror of the seas to all Yankee shipowners.

THE following is published in the New York papers:—

St. Paul, Minnesota, Nov. 14, 1864.

'Captain Fisk has arrived here. He reports having killed a number of Indians with bullets, and one hundred men, women, and children with hard tack, saturated with strychnine.'

We are reluctant to give full credence to this telegram, and reproduce it only as what is printed for fact in the news columns of the papers of the United States, without any apparent suspicion that it would excite abhorrence in the mind of any reader. And yet it ought not to be rejected simply on account of its enormity. Sherman, Paine, Turchin, and many other Federal generals have already resorted to means of destruction as diabolical as strychnine, and it may yet be made an ally of the Yankees in their hostilities against the South, without disturbing to any great extent the moral sentiment of Europe.

THE Federal General Curtis publishes a despatch from the headquarters of the 'Army of the Border,' Camp, Arkansas, under date of November 8, in which, with characteristic Yankee effrontery, he congratulates the people of Missouri that 'we are now rid of 20,000 or 30,000 half-starved bushwhackers and half-starved vagabonds,' who have gone off with General Price in his retreat; but at the very same moment, it is at least significant that a telegram to the *New York Herald* complains that 'a gang under Dick Berryman' is making the Unionists of Missouri exceedingly uncomfortable, while 'the remnants of those lately commanded by Bill Anderson, who has been killed, are, under the lead of his brother, still prowling through North Missouri,' and 'in addition to all these horrors, there is a report current that another rebel army under Kirby Smith is about to invade the State from Arkansas.' So it would seem that the Unionists of Missouri, who constitute a very small minority of the inhabitants outside the corporate limits of the city of St. Louis, are not yet entirely at their ease in respect of the 'bushwhackers' and 'vagabonds.' As for the 'half-starved' condition of the latter, as represented by the gallant General Curtis, it will suffice to say that General Price carried with him from Missouri enormous trains laden with flour, grain, and provisions of every description, besides driving off cattle enough to subsist his army for years, and greatly recruiting that army with Missouri volunteers. The Administration newspapers of St. Louis bitterly reproached General Rosecrans for allowing General Price to roam through Missouri at his pleasure, and one journal tells us that there were no less than eight major-generals and fourteen brigadier-generals who were 'after' Price, but could never catch him, *videlicet*—Major-Generals Rosecrans, Pleasanton, Smith, M'Dowell, Curtis, Blunt, Lane, Deitzler; Brigadier-Generals Brown, Sanborn, Hall, M'Neil, Coleman, Pike, Miller, Fisk, Ewing, Craig, Douglass, Woolf, Sherry, Gage.

HON. EDWARD BATES has resigned his position in Lincoln's Cabinet as Attorney-General of the United States.

ON November 26 gold was quoted in New York at 222¼, the price on the previous day being 220¼.

ENGLAND.

THE Right Hon. George William Frederic Howard, K.G., seventh Earl of Carlisle, died on Monday last at Castle Howard. He was born on April 18, 1802. His mother was sister to the late Duke of Devonshire, and so the late Earl united the blood of Howard and Cavendish. He was educated at Eton and at Christ Church, Oxford, and obtained a first class in classics. He also won the Chancellor's prize for Latin and the Newdegate prize for English verse. He was present in the suite of his uncle, the late Duke of Devonshire, at the coronation of the Emperor Nicholas. In 1826 he was elected M.P. for Morpeth. In 1835 he was appointed Chief Secretary of Ireland under the Melbourne Administration. He lost his seat for the West Riding in the Peel Parliament, and did not return to public life till 1846. In 1848 he succeeded to the peerage. Subsequently he held the offices of Chief Commissioner of Woods and Forests and of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. In 1855 he was appointed Viceroy of Ireland by Lord Palmerston, and resigned that office only a few months since, being succeeded by Lord Wodehouse. Lord Carlisle is succeeded by his brother, the Hon. and Rev. William George Howard. The Earl of Carlisle was neither a great statesman nor a great orator. But he was an elegant and accomplished gentleman of the highest integrity, possessed not only of fair abilities, but also of a keen sense of his duty to his country and his fellow-creatures.

THE case of the Queen *v.* Rumble, in the matter of the Confederate ship *Rappahannock*, which had been removed by certiorari into the Queen's Bench, and which was an indictment against the defendant for a breach of the Foreign Enlistment Act, came on for trial before the Lord Chief Justice Cockburn and a special jury, at Westminster, on Monday last. The Solicitor-General, Mr. Lush, Q.C., Mr. Hannen, and Mr. Vernon Harcourt, appeared for the Crown; and Mr. Bovill, Q.C., Mr. Karslake, Q.C., Mr. Serjeant Ballantine, and Mr. Macnamara, appeared for the defendant. The Solicitor-General said that this was a prosecution against the defendant for enlisting men into the service of the Confederate States, and also procuring other persons to arm and equip, or aiding in and abetting

the arming and equipping, a vessel with intent that the vessel should cruise and commit hostilities against a country at amity with the Queen. The view he should submit to the Court was that any sort of equipping, whether warlike or otherwise, would satisfy the statute provided the intent existed. The defendant had been Inspector of Machinery at Sheerness, in the employment of Her Majesty, and the Crown could not, therefore, neglect the duty of prosecuting him. Evidence was given by Captain Wise of the fact that the defendant was employed in the dockyards at the time of the sale of the *Victor*, and also as to the state of the *Victor* at that time. She was sold without masts, spars, or rigging, and her gun fittings had been removed. She had only her boilers and machinery. She was delivered up to the purchasers on the 10th or 11th of November, at which time she was lying in the Medway. She was docked by order of the Admiralty and the purchasers before the sale was completed. She sailed on the night of November 24. The defendant had nothing to do with the ship officially after she was sold. Messrs. Coleman, of 28 Clement's Lane, were the purchasers. All the work done upon the ship was done by Government officials. That was a common practice at the sale of a ship. Thomas Firth, who sailed away on board the ship, deposed that the defendant paid him his first week's wages, and promised him a guinea a week and provisions while the ship remained in the river. The defendant said that he did not know where the ship was going, but declared that if witness went out in her the witness would never have occasion to work again. The defendant was frequently on board the ship, and was so on the day the ship sailed. The witness made some amusing admissions as to one O'Kelly, who seemed to be much interested in the case against the defendant, and who appeared to be very liberal in his supplies of liquor to the men who had sailed on board the *Victor*. James Hurford deposed that the defendant had agreed to pay him and some other men a guinea a week during the stay at Sheerness. This witness also described the voyage to Calais, the hoisting of the Confederate flag, and the interview with Captain Campbell, who took the command at Calais. He said that the defendant was continually on board, paying great attention to the repairs. He also knew O'Kelly, and had drunk at that gentleman's expense. Charles Coles, a stoker, gave similar evidence; but, to the astonishment of the Court, declared that the Government steam-tug assisted the *Victor* in getting out of Sheerness Harbour. Charles Newman swore that, after the news had reached England of the *Victor*, or *Scylla*, arriving in Calais, and there hoisting the Confederate flag as the ship *Rappahannock*, he had had an interview with the defendant, on the introduction of a Mr. Greathead; that he then told the defendant that he (witness) had been in the Federal service, and knew the American coast; that defendant then said that he was going to London to see the Confederate agent, and would drop witness a line. It appeared that Mr. Greathead was away in Malta, and that the defendant's son was also abroad. The Lord Chief Justice thought that both these witnesses ought to appear, and finally adjourned the trial till February for that purpose.

MR. J. PEEL, M.P., made the following remarks at Tamworth last week with reference to the American war:—'It is very difficult for any person to witness the struggle going on in America, and which is costing the contending parties half a million of human lives a year, without looking upon it with the most intense sorrow, and, I may say, disgust. But, painful as it is to watch the struggle, I think it is quite clear that the Government of this country, and every individual in it, is bound to abstain from taking any part which can further the interests of either one party or the other. What we have to do is to patiently wait until something shall occur to change that feeling of animosity which seems to exist and increase between the North and the South. It is impossible, I think, that any one could abstain entirely from sympathising more or less with one party or the other, or forming some opinion with regard to the good or evil intentions of the Federal Government. For my own part, I certainly, in the beginning, did sympathise most strongly with the Federals, because I believed that one of the main objects of the war was the abolition of slavery; but I confess that that delusion has long since been dispelled, and that my sober belief now is that the object of the war is no longer to liberate the slaves, but to enslave the citizens of the United States.'

DURING this week the agriculturists of England are doing their best to be Londoners, and the citizens are striving with equal vigour to exhibit themselves in the character of British farmers. The depressed state of the corn market, combined with high rents, throws slight impediments in the way of the yeoman, and lack of agricultural knowledge precludes the cockneys from attaining the object of their desires. For though every Londoner may visit the great Hall at Islington, and press the loin of every sheep and pinch the rump of every bullock, yet not the less is his imposture at once apparent to the bucolic mind. Similarly, the farmer may smoke bad cigars in Regent Street and lounge in a new hat and new gloves in the Strand, and yet never deceive a single cabman or crossing-sweeper. Nevertheless, it is highly salutary that Londoners should once a year realise the indomitable perseverance and skill that is characteristic of the British farmer; and it is equally advisable that he whose mind has dwelt on turnips and fallows, pigs and beasts, ploughs and scarifiers, for twelve months, should catch a glimpse, however transitory, of the great and to him mysterious metropolis. The Smithfield Club Cattle Show has become an institution of considerable importance, and its usefulness and the excellence of its annual exhibitions have been enormously increased by the erection of the Islington Hall. The show this year is not only equal to its predecessors, but perhaps is the best yet seen, and it is possible that the high price of meat has stimulated the farmers to even mightier exertions than heretofore. It is impossible for us to do more than give some general features. The number of entries this year is 532, or 23 more than in 1863, and 113 more than in 1862. There are nine distinct breeds of cattle, and ten distinct breeds of sheep. The breeds of cattle are the Devons, Shorthorns, Herefords, Sussex, Norfolk Polled, Scotch Horned, Scotch Polled, Irish, and Welsh. The breeds of sheep are the Leicesters, Cotswolds, and Lincolns, of the long-woolled kinds; Southdowns, Hampshire Downs, Shropshire, of the short-woolled kinds; together with the Kentish, Dorsetshire, Cheviot, and Oxfordshire. The animals are divided into classes by age and sex. The best ox of all breeds and classes, to which the silver cup was awarded, was exhibited by Mr. Walesby Kirkham, of Biscathorpe House, South Lincolnshire; the animal was of the shorthorn breed. The total number of cattle exhibited is 274. In sheep Lord Berners won the first prize for the best wether not exceeding 220 pounds in weight, and the Duke of Richmond won the first prize in Southdowns. About 30,000 persons visited the Show yesterday.

BLAIR ATHOL, by Stockwell out of Blink Bonny, the winner of the Epsom Derby and the Doncaster St. Leger, has been sold by Mr. I'Anson to Mr. John Jackson, the well-known bookmaker, for the extraordinary sum of 7,500 guineas, the largest price ever yet given for any English racehorse.

INDIA.

Sir John Lawrence arrived at Calcutta on November 1 from the Punjaub. The Government of India has decided on charging the expenses of the Bhootan expedition to the province of Bengal. The force was to advance about the middle of the present month.

All the Western chiefs and khans have determined to punish the Ameer of Cabul for his treachery to Afzul Khan. They have given him a month's time in which to restore his brother. The Ameer has refused all reply to their deputations.

In the battle at Huzrat Sooltan between the Russians and Kokanees, the latter lost 4,000 killed and wounded and 2,000 prisoners. The Russians had captured twenty-one cities, and had fired eighteen of them. They were advancing on Tashkund and Kokan.

The telegraph is in working order between Bushire and Teheran. Ten days' work remains to be done between Bagdad and Teheran, and the wires cannot be joined till the boundary question has been settled. A system of sowars was being organised between Kasr Sheeren and Khanakin (twenty miles), and only four hours would be lost in transmission. St. Petersburg is, however, in telegraphic communication with Teheran.

THE CONTINENT.

FRANCE.

THE appeal of the Thirteen against the judgment declaring them guilty of forming an illegal association of more than twenty members was continued on the 30th ult. and the three following days. The master speech for the defence was made by M. Berryer, who was retained for M. Ferry. This distinguished advocate repudiated entirely every view of the question but the political, and established the fact that, however well veiled, the prosecution was actuated entirely by political motives. He first argued that neither the penal code of 1810 nor the law of 1834 forbade the temporary association of electoral committees, and next he challenged the prosecution to prove in this case the association of more than twenty persons. Then he explained the real motives of the prosecution. His client, M. Ferry, had been one of the authors of the 'Electoral Handbook;' that was, of course, a capital sin. But to this offence he had added yet another, by the publication of a book called 'The Electoral Struggle,' which brought to light all the abuses and frauds which had been perpetrated during the election. M. Berryer then pointed out that it was not until MM. Garnier-Pagès, Carnot, Jules Favre, and Havin, all members of the opposition, had been returned as deputies, that this prosecution broke out. He reminded the court that, forty years before, an inscription was to be read on the walls of the edifice in which he was speaking, which said that 'the court was the minister of justice, not the tool of a Government.' His peroration elicited a burst of applause from the audience, whereon the President ordered the hall to be cleared of all unprovided with seats. M. Dufaure then spoke in defence of M. Durier. He showed that electoral committees had been allowed under the Restoration, under Louis-Philippe, and under the Republic of 1848; he cited of the latter time two associations, one called the Electoral Union, the other the Napoleonian Committee. He maintained that there was a signal difference between a *réunion* such as that held in the house of M. Garnier-Pagès and an association such as is contemplated as illegal by the penal code. He pointed out that central committees were allowed to direct elections in England. The Procureur-Général, M. de Marnas, for the prosecution, said that he could not condescend to refute the childish argument that thirteen persons could not be prosecuted for a crime which required the participation of at least twenty-one persons. He urged that the coalition of men of the most opposite political parties was of so alarming a nature as to justify the Government in taking effectual measures to dissolve it. He saw no necessity for instructing the French people in their duties and privileges. They were quite intelligent enough to understand what was as clear as the sun at noon, that the Empire was glorious abroad and prosperous at home. M. Berryer replied to the Procureur-Général, and said that the coalition, of which the Government was so greatly afraid, aimed at no political object, but only at the emancipation of individual opinion. He himself had no sympathy with the republican opinions of the committee in whose defence he was engaged, but he was earnestly and individually interested in the preservation of the liberty of thought which that committee represented. He was proud of the independence of the French bar, and had maintained it through a long life; but he was now fearful that, if this prosecution were to be successful, that independence would be the next object of attack. The court was asked to make a new law under the pretence of giving a decree, a law declaring electoral committees illegal, in spite of the immunity which they had enjoyed in France during the last seventy years. The Government had not scrupled to use every possible means of affecting the elections in its own favour. He cited some of the most singular from M. Ferry's book on the Electoral Struggle. Government committees also had been formed. If counter-committees were declared illegal, the right of universal suffrage would be destroyed, and France, the apostle of liberty on the Continent, would be a laughing-stock to its neighbours. The prosecution were trying to force the court into a bad path, and to extort from it false interpretations of law; the law was to be tortured in order to torture men. Another reply from M. Dufaure, and a general summing up from the Procureur-Général on the one hand, and M. Jules Favre on the other, concluded the proceedings. The court deferred its judgment to Wednesday, the 7th instant. On that day the court affirmed the decision of the court below.

M. Mocquard, private secretary to the Emperor, is dangerously ill; he has been visited by the Emperor himself, who had a long interview with him. There is but little chance of his recovery. His loss will be greatly felt, as he was His Majesty's closest confidant.

The students of the *quartier latin* have greeted the foundation of a Chair of Political Economy in the University of Paris in a very uproarious fashion; M. Batbie, the Professor, on entering the hall to give his inaugural lecture, found it crammed with a tumultuous assembly, who saluted him with such a continuous chorus of applause that he was forced to give up his lecture. This at, least, is one account of the affair. Another story is that the students fancied that M. Duruy, the Minister of Instruction, was present, and took the opportunity of giving him a bit of their minds by shouting, 'Down with Duruy!' Then, to prove to the Professor that the demonstration was not directed against him, they conducted him home in a triumphal procession of some 700 or 800 in number. Another attempt of a like sort was made on the resumption of M. Batbie's lecture on the 2nd instant; but the juvenile enthusiasm of the students was most prosaically repressed by the apparition of the *sergents-de-ville*, who arrested some of the most riotous. M. Duruy himself seems to consider the uproar to have been made on his account; for an edict has appeared from his pen ordering that the political economy class shall be made a part of the third and fourth year studies, and that no freshmen shall be admitted to the lectures—a rap on the knuckles for the fervid youths. M. Duruy has lately sent in a report to the Emperor upon the university curriculum, and the draft of a decree for its reformation. It can scarcely be this which has excited the students against him, as it proposes to relieve them of a great burden. Up to the present time each student was supposed to bring to each successive examination a knowledge, not only of certain fresh subjects, but of all the details of every subject which he had before studied, so that the final examination cumulated, so to speak, the whole learning of his university career. The standard was also too high, and the candidates for honours were few. M. Duruy now orders the standard to be lowered, so that all youths who have received a proper education may, if they choose, take a bachelor's degree; a candidate may also demand to be examined in one modern language. The examination for a degree is for the future to be held in the third year studies only. A prizeman *in litteris humanioribus* or in sciences will not be required to pass a further examination for his degree in the subjects in which he has taken a prize, if he can pass a satisfactory examination in the other subjects required: thus a mathematical prizeman need only pass in classics, and a classical prizeman in mathematics. Our University readers will recognise in this the system which is followed out in a modified form in both our Universities.

ITALY.

The discussions in the Senate on the bill for the transfer of the capital continue. Signor Ricotti opposed the bill on the ground that the Government had better remain in Turin until the last battle for Venetia was fought out; he also expressed some suspicions that France coveted a portion of the Italian territory. General della Marmora replied that the possession of Venice was no advantage to Austria, and the retention of that country only the result of her vanity; he doubtless meant to imply that Austria would soon see her own interests more clearly, and would give up her useless province to the ardent desires of the Italian nation. He repudiated the suspicions of France expressed by Signor Ricotti in the strongest terms. The Duke Cesarini Sforza spoke against the bill, saying, 'If the bill annuls the former declaration of the House in favour of Rome, I reject it as an Italian and as a Roman; If it does not annul that declaration, it is useless and superfluous.' Signor Galvagno opposed the bill on the ground that the expenses of transfer would be 35,000,000 instead of 7,000,000 francs. He called upon Government to publish any fresh documents they might have on the subject of the Convention. The Premier declined to give any fresh papers, and reasserted that 7,000,000 francs would cover the whole cost of the transfer. Signor Massimo d'Azeglio was too ill to appear in the Senate, but sent his speech ready written out to be read to the assembly; he pointed out that the obstinacy of the Italians in demanding Rome for a capital was the chief difficulty in the way of a settlement of the question. The Catholic nations who objected to this demand would be satisfied to allow Rome to become a mere Italian city. The debate was still to continue, although objections and answers are now pretty well exhausted. It has ceased to excite even that feeble interest which was created during the debates in the Lower House while the amount of the Government majority was still unknown. A much more interesting question is raised by a bill brought forward by Signor Vacca, the Minister of Grace and Justice, for the suppression of religious corporations. He proposes to

make such associations illegal, with the exception of a few to be authorised by Government. The property of the suppressed corporations is to be devoted to purposes of State, after the payment of a fixed allowance out of it to the ousted members of the fraternities. It is expected that a strong party in the House will insist upon the appropriation of this, which has up to the present time been considered sacred property, to charitable or educational purposes, so as to change as little as possible the original object for which it was given. An argument in favour of the total abolition of monasteries, instead of the restriction of their number, is found in the late history of Belgium, where, in spite of all the provisions of the civil code, the number of religious houses has risen since 1830 from 251 to 1,200, and the number of their members from 3,645 to nearly 18,000.

An official notification has been issued by General Vrismanic, military commandant in Venetia, abolishing martial law, in consequence of the dispersion of the armed bands in the district of Friuli. A court-martial will assemble at Udine for the trial of those inculpated in the movement.

We learn from Florence that the proposed transfer of the capital is producing its natural effect in a tremendous augmentation in the cost of all articles of living. House-rent is swelling up with great rapidity, and will soon, at the rate at which it is advancing, rival the sums paid in Paris. The Florentines have yet to learn that the Italian deputies are not all millionnaires, and that, after frightening away their regular foreign visitors by the exorbitance of their charges, they will scarcely repay themselves out of the pockets of their own countrymen.

A splendid discovery has lately been made in Rome of a gigantic statue of Hercules in gilt bronze, belonging to the best period of Roman art. Cavaliere Righetti, on whose estate it was disinterred, has presented it to the Pope, refusing an offer of 40,000*l.* made for it by an Italian nobleman, and a still higher bid on behalf of the French Government.

GERMANY.

This week has seen a new phase of the Slesvig-Holstein question. Notice was sent on the 29th ult. to the Courts of Hanover and Dresden to withdraw their troops of occupation from the Duchies. On the same day a communication was made by Austria and Prussia in common to an extraordinary meeting of the Federal Diet, informing that body of the treaty of peace concluded with Denmark. Divers resolutions were brought before the Diet by the representatives of Saxony and Bavaria with regard to the continuance of the Federal execution; but they were all virtually annulled by the succeeding events. Hanover replied to the Austro-Prussian communication by signifying her readiness to withdraw her troops from the Duchies. Saxony made no answer, but declared her willingness to follow the same course upon the order of the Diet. On the 5th inst. the Austrian and Prussian representatives in the Diet brought forward a motion to the effect that the Federal execution in the Duchies was now at an end. It was carried by 9 votes to 6, Saxony, Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Darmstadt, and the 12th and 13th Curiæ voting against it. Thus Prussia has at length got her own, or rather Herr von Bismarck has dragged her to the point at which he was aiming. The sudden change in the attitude of the minor Powers in Germany requires explanation. Herr von Beust, the Saxon statesman, the late representative of the Federal Diet at the Conference of London, was fortunate enough to meet in that Conference with an amount of deference and courtesy to which he was apparently unaccustomed. Presuming upon this, and imagining that it was due to the power and authority of the abstract body which he represented, he attempted to carry out in his own fatherland the peremptory conduct which had been elsewhere so successful. He bearded Prussia, and bandied words with Bismarck. He refused to obey the orders of his superior, and laughed the authority of the great North-German Power to scorn. But, alas! he was to learn the truth of the proverb, that a prophet is not without honour save in his own country. England and France had been courteous and respectful to the representative of the Federal Diet; Prussia simply ordered him to remove his troops out of the Duchies within five days, and hinted that Dresden was within easy march of the Prussian border. Hanover was frightened at the very mention of an ultimatum of this nature, and judiciously gave way; the other German States cowered in silence before the threat; thus poor Herr von Beust was left alone to get out of the scrape as best he could. His attempt to vindicate the authority of the Diet was creditable to himself; but it can only be regarded as a final proof of the inefficiency of an idea such as German unity to compete with the bayonets and needle-guns of an unscrupulous Power.

Who now takes an interest in the succession question? Who cares whether it is to be the House of Augustenburg, who exacted from the Crown of Denmark the price of the fee-simple of their contingent rights, in return for what they knew to be only a life interest in them, or the House of Oldenburg, whose real rights to the crown are about on a par with the Pope's, who once had a claim to the appointment of vacant thrones? These may be not exciting nor yet amusing questions. A new competitor, however, appears on the stage: *languidus in cubitum jam se conviva reponit*, when, with a due flourish of trumpets, the appearance of a dainty dish of the most sensational character is heralded. The new aspirant to the ducal throne is no other than the ingenuous and disinterested King of Prussia, the champion of German liberties. A pamphlet has been disinterred, written in the year 1846 by the German Dryasdust, so dear to Carlyle, in which the rights of the Prussian dynasty are carefully made out. King John I. of Denmark gave his daughter Elizabeth in marriage to the Elector of Brandenburg in 1502, and executed various deeds, with the consent of the Emperor Maximilian, in favour of the House of Brandenburg; in conformity with these deeds, the succession passed into that house in 1559; but by some mistake the preference was given to the younger or Oldenburg branch of the family, instead of to the principal stock. That stock, however, which has since become the reigning family of Prussia, still retains its rights, and is now prepared to maintain them. This conduct might be deemed inconsistent, considering the contemptuous manner in which national treaties of somewhat more importance than family compacts, and of rather more recent date than 1502, have been set aside. But the official papers in Prussia are not the less zealous in quoting the pamphlet so opportunely found, and adopting its conclusions as their own. The Prince of Hohenzollern, of the royal family of Prussia, is now at Vienna on a private visit to the Emperor. Nothing has transpired as yet as to the real object of his visit. It is to be observed that in spite of the general enthusiasm of the Slesvigers as reported in German organs, and in spite of an express prohibition of the Civil Commissioners, a deputation from that country has gone to Kolding to meet the King of Denmark in his progress through Jutland, and assert their Danish nationality.

The debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne has been going on in the Lower House of the Austrian Reichsrath during the past week. The first point which attracted attention was the situation of affairs in Hungary; Herr von Schmerling stated that the Government were desirous to reconcile Hungary, and expected great assistance from the moderation now prevailing in that country. He hoped to be able to convene the Hungarian Diet at an early period, but declined to bind himself to a day for its meeting. With regard to the foreign relations of Austria, Count Mensdorff-Pouilly said that Austria had avoided a great war which once seemed almost inevitable. Her task now was, first, to maintain her own rights, and secondly, to keep up, if possible, the Prussian alliance. No one could demand that Austria should adopt the initiative in bringing about a better understanding with Italy, by whom the mere existence of Austria was regarded as an aggression. Austria was willing to preserve peace, but at the same time was determined to resist her enemies, and she reckoned on the entire support both of the House and of the population. This speech was received with loud applause. In another speech, with regard to the Danish difficulty he said that there were documents which would prove to the world some day that it was not out of mere 'curiosity' that Austria had taken part in the war against Denmark. On the subject of the state of siege in Galicia the Government met with a defeat. A paragraph was proposed for the address, stating that the House expected from the Government a statement demanded by the Constitution of the causes and results of the state of siege in Galicia, and was adopted, in spite of a full statement from the Minister of Police on the subject, and a declaration that it was impossible at the present moment to raise the state of siege. The Ministry also denied the constitutional right claimed by the House to take cognisance of these matters. The question of financial reform was mentioned, and the Minister of Finance said that the measures he was about to introduce would prove the earnestness of the Government on this subject. The Czech members, who have as yet refused to appear in the House, sent in, on the 5th instant, a declaration that they resigned the post to which their constituents had elevated them. This is of course vexatious for the Government, whose liberality of temper and undoubted efforts in favour of constitutionalism might be an example to other countries, and deserve all support from their own; but it is an improvement upon the refusal to recognise the validity of the elections, which has so often been the ground of abstention of members from the Reichsrath.

SWITZERLAND.

It is believed, perhaps we ought rather to say it is hoped, that the end of the Demme and Trümpy tragedy has at last taken place. According to the last account the bodies of Dr. Demme and Mdlle. Flora Trümpy were found on the 30th ult. in an hotel at Nervi, about twelve miles east of Genoa. From a letter addressed by Dr. Demme to his father, it appears that the pair, after originally intending to drown themselves in the Lake of Geneva, had altered their minds in favour of the waters of the Mediterranean at Genoa; then a final change of determination had led them to take poison. The only remaining question for the police to discover is whether they died at the same time, or whether there is the possibility of murder having been committed as well as suicide. It has been established that the diamond ring given by Dr. Demme to Mdlle. Trümpy was one which had been lost by M. de Bragha some years ago, while he was under the medical treatment of Dr. Demme.

RUSSIA.

The Russian journals are loud in the praises of Lord Napier, the late English Ambassador, for the masterly way in which he kept his country from joining with France in a war against Russia on the Polish question. Sir Andrew Buchanan, his successor, has a difficult task before him in succeeding so great a reputation. There are rumours of a change in the Russian Ministry. M. de Reutern, the Minister of Finance, is unpopular, in consequence of the low rate of exchange, and the great rise in prices which has lately occurred. He points for his defence to the reply lately given to the same sort of complaints by the Minister of Commerce, who said that the fault lay entirely with the Russian aristocracy, who spent their whole fortunes abroad. It appears that there are now 200,000 Russian families abroad, whose annual expenditure cannot be less than 70,000,000*l.*! Another Minister who has fallen into disfavour is M. Golowaine, the Minister of Public Instruction, who has been engaged in undignified disputes with the University of Moscow and the editor of a journal in that city. No change, however, is expected to take place before the spring. A report is current that a loan of 100,000,000 (whether of francs or of roubles is not certain) will shortly be put out. It will be raised on the lottery system, and the money will be applied to the construction of railroads. European science has suffered a great loss by the death of the celebrated astronomer Dr. Struve, Director of the Observatory of Poulkowa, who died at St. Petersburg on the 11th ultimo.

GREECE.

The King took the oath to the new Constitution on the 28th ultimo, and the Assembly, having terminated its labours, has been dissolved. General enthusiasm prevails in the capital. A horrible story is told of the atrocities committed by a band of Albanian ruffians in the Turkish province of Thessaly. The band is sixty in number, with four or five chiefs. They attacked a village in the district of Pharsalia, burned three persons alive, murdered seven women with brutal violence, and mortally wounded others. The Turkish authorities are unable to give any help.

SPAIN.

The result of the elections in this country is very favourable to Government, giving to it a majority of 265 out of 349. This is not bad for a beginning; but it is noticed that in Spain government majorities have a bad way of dwindling down in a session, so that the Administration sometimes begins a campaign with everything in its favour, and finishes it barely on equal terms with the opposition. Reports are prevalent of an approaching change in the ministry. The Minister of the Interior has published a circular to the governors of provinces, explaining to them that during the elections he had determined to allow the journals the fullest freedom of speech, so that there should be no opportunity for suspecting the good faith of the Government. Now, however, everything must return to its normal and legal condition. They must now defend the principles of the Constitution, and protect the character of those in whom power has been vested by the vote of the people from the calumnies in which a defeated party is so prone to indulge. Spain is at last really anxious to reestablish her credit in Europe, and to be admitted to the markets from which she was so ignominiously expelled in 1853. A calculation has been made from which it appears that a sum of 2,000,000*l.* will satisfy all creditors. This sum is to be raised by loan, three responsible parties acting as assignees, so to speak, for the creditors, of whom Señor Salamanca will represent Spain, while an English and a French credit company will represent their respective countries.

MEXICO.

The Emperor has continued his progress through the country with the greatest success. He last visited Valladolid, the capital of Michoacan, a city which, according to all accounts, rivals most European cities in the regularity of its construction and the splendour of its public buildings. Señor Vidaurri has been favoured with an audience. This gentleman is of great influence in his country, and was chiefly instrumental in bringing over the province of Nueva Leon, over which he presides, to the side of the Imperialists. A Mexican bank is to be created. The chief capitalists have met to discuss the question, and between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000 francs were subscribed at the meeting.

SOUTH AMERICA.

By advices from Venezuela, we learn that General Antonio Guzman Blanco arrived in that country on the 3rd ultimo, and took upon himself the charge of the executive power as first constitutional nominee to the Presidency of the Republic. He formed a new cabinet on liberal principles, but with a regard to all legitimate rights. His first public act was embodied in a resolution, published by the Minister of Finance, of the highest importance to the holders of Venezuela bonds. It confirms to them all the guarantees which have already been given upon 55 per cent. of the import duties, the confirmation extending to the guarantee of all sums belonging to that 55 per cent. which were expended by the late Administration.

AFRICA.

Theodorus, King of Abyssinia, has taken prisoners Captain Cameron and some other Englishmen visiting his country for missionary purposes; he keeps them in strict confinement in a tent close to his own, chained to his most trustworthy guards. Attempts are being made to rescue them, but as yet unsuccessfully.

JAPAN.

The terms of the treaty forced out of Prince Nagato by Admiral Kuper have not been fulfilled so exactly as the severity of the lesson given to him would have led us to expect. According to the latest telegraphs he has refused to pay the indemnity agreed on. A strong feeling, however, prevails against him among his dependants, and his palace has been burnt to the ground.

PROFESSOR SMITH AND B. F. BUTLER.—No English gentleman—no man fit to be received at any English table however humble—no one not utterly lost to manhood and to honour—would interchange a word with the 'infamous' General Butler. The American papers know this; and yet they tell us that Professor Goldwin Smith is General Butler's guest. This is too bad: because it charges on the professor a degree of vileness, baseness, and want of manly feeling which would exclude him from the house of every self-respecting Englishman and doom him to the life of a social pariah. The hand that had touched that of General Butler could never be permitted to pollute by its clasp the hand of a gentleman. The guest of the coward who makes war on women and children can never be the guest of an English lady. The man so lost to honour and manhood that he could sit at the same board with the scoundrel who directed his troops to treat the ladies of New Orleans as women of the town could never be allowed to associate with Englishmen or to speak to Englishwomen. His presence in the most general gathering would be an insult to the whole party. —*Standard.*

BREECH-LOADING RIFLES.

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

SIR,—I desire to bring before your readers certain considerations with reference to the use of breech-loading rifles. The two great objections which it appears are made by officers who have seen service against arming troops with breech-loading rifles, are, first, that they would waste their ammunition, and might therefore be left with empty pouches at the critical point of an engagement; and, second, that, admitting the waste with the one description of arm to be not greater than with the other, yet the normal average expenditure of ammunition by each soldier would be so great as to preclude the possibility of the men carrying enough rounds for their daily use, and of the army transporting enough reserve ammunition without seriously interfering with its mobility. Considering the great success of the Prussian breech-loader in the hands of notoriously very young troops, it seems worth while to examine the value of these objections. With regard to the question of waste, it may be fairly assumed that, unless the men commence firing with breech-loaders at longer ranges than they would do if armed with muzzle-loaders, the average loss to the enemy per shot will be not less with the former than the latter; for it cannot, I think, be argued that either the fatigue consequent on the exertion of rapid loading with ramrods, or the length of time required for loading, can have the effect of making the soldier steady and deliberate in his aim. Now, practically, when two bodies of men become engaged, they go on firing at each other till one of them suffers such a loss as induces it to retire. If, then, the average damage per shot caused by the breech-loader is not less than that caused by the muzzle-loader, and the former can fire three shots to one of the latter (and this is a low estimate), it seems that the breech-loader, upon the above moderate statement of its powers, would win an engagement in one-third of the time required by the muzzle-loader for the same purpose, the number of shots required to be fired being in both cases the same.

But, it is argued, men when engaged become excited; when fire is once opened their only idea is to fire as rapidly as possible; they would begin this rapid fire while the enemy were still too distant to feel its effects, and thus empty their pouches without hurting a man, whereas their sheer inability to fire quickly if armed with muzzle-loaders would prevent such a catastrophe. Great weight must of course be attached to arguments of this kind when they are urged, as they generally are, by men who have been in action. But I believe it to be the case, that steady troops, when well in hand, do not open fire before orders are given to do so. Our English troops have over and over again been marched up to a position with sloped arms, and I cannot believe but that officers could easily check any tendency to wild firing at long ranges—especially as it would be found, unless all experience in analogous cases is to go for nothing, that the confidence generated in the men's minds when used to their weapon would be so great as to enable them calmly to withhold their fire for a much longer time than they otherwise would do, because they would feel certain that, however near the enemy came, he could most certainly be destroyed in a short time.

But again it is urged, admitting that the waste would not be greater with breech-loaders, still the soldier would actually fire away more ammunition than he would do with a muzzle-loader, and as he cannot carry more than sixty rounds, his efficiency would be diminished. In answer to this, in the first place the soldier can, if necessary, carry eighty rounds—the Prussian does so. In the second place, granting that the sixty rounds would be fired away in less time, they would do the same execution as before, and the efficiency of the soldier would not be diminished, but would, so to speak, be condensed into a smaller space of time.

The fallacy which runs through the opposite assumption seems to arise from not considering that after all—putting bayonet charges out of the question as too apocryphal to be relied on—it is, within certain limits, the *number of effective bullets fired* which wins the action, not the number of men on the ground. A number of bullets sufficient to turn the enemy must be fired, and if 1,000 men with breech-loaders can perform the work in two hours which it takes 1,500 men with muzzle-loaders three hours to accomplish, there is clearly a great saving effected both in 'time' and 'power.'

These considerations are also applicable to the third objection, as to an army being unable to find transport for sufficient reserves of ammunition without seriously interfering with its mobility. Enough ammunition must be carried to destroy a certain proportion of the enemy. It is true, that will bear a larger proportion to the number of men than it would do if they carried muzzle-loaders, but the effect will be that, given a fixed quantity of bullets, the number of men required to use them with effect will be greatly diminished.

No doubt, where breech-loaders are adopted as the arm of the service, some slight alterations might with advantage be introduced into the detail for serving out spare ammunition, and possibly a change of tactics from double line to single line formation would in some cases be expedient, and in many more might with safety be adopted.

A VOLUNTEER.

GRANT AS A PROPHET.—The following paragraph, taken from the *New York New Summary*, has been printed in the *Daily News* in conspicuous type:—'General Grant has paid a flying visit to New York. He is reported to have said in the course of conversation: "The Southern Confederacy is a mere shell; I know it; I am sure of it. It is a hollow shell, and Sherman will prove it to you." In answer to a question whether ninety days would bring the end, he said, "I am not a ninety-day man, but we shall see what will happen inside of a month."' We know and we are sure that Grant has been fighting on many lines all the summer and all the autumn, but he is not yet in Richmond. We do not know and we are not sure that Grant will be more successful as a prophet than he has been as a warrior. We shall know and be sure 'inside of a month.'

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON: November 25, 1864.

GENERAL SHERMAN'S expedition from Atlanta engrosses just now the largest share of public attention. Its progress can be traced for a considerable distance; but as yet no very important results, beyond a long march into the interior of Georgia, have been reported. When Sherman prepared, on November 8, for his march, he found that he had four army corps at Atlanta, and various points along the railroad which runs to Chattanooga, as far back as Kingston. He concentrated the fifteenth and seventeenth corps at Kingston, which is about sixty miles north of Atlanta. Part of this force held the town of Rome, which is twenty miles west of Kingston. The fourteenth and twentieth corps were in Atlanta. Sherman, on November 9, issued from Kingston a general order dividing his army into two columns, and placing General Howard in command of the two corps at Kingston, and General Slocum in command of the two at Atlanta. In this order Sherman gave various directions for the expedition. A day's march was to be fifteen miles. The columns were to 'forage liberally' on the country through which they passed, and efficient foraging parties were to be organised by each corps commander, who were to levy on all sorts of eatables found anywhere on the line of march. In neighbourhoods where the progress of the army was unmolested, there was to be no destruction of dwelling-houses or mills; 'but should guerillas or bushwhackers molest our march, or should the inhabitants burn bridges, obstruct roads, or otherwise manifest local hostility, then army corps commanders should order and enforce a devastation more or less relentless according to the measure of such hostility.' Horses, mules, and wagons belonging to the inhabitants were to be seized without stint. Under these general orders the troops prepared for the expedition.

The first necessity of the movement was the evacuation of Rome. The Federal troops occupying it were marched eastward to Kingston. Orders were given to dismantle the town. The military barracks and storehouses were set on fire, and the flames soon spread to the dwelling-houses. Before the troops left, the town was burned to ashes. Not an effort was made to save any part of it, and over $1,000,000 worth of property, much of it Government stores, was destroyed. On November 11, Rome was evacuated, and on the 12th, the troops which had formed its garrison arrived at Kingston. Between Kingston and Atlanta the railroad was in good order. But notwithstanding every precaution, the guerillas managed to destroy one half of the trains that passed over it. On November 10, Sherman gave orders for the destruction of the railroad. This required five days. The rails and ties were taken up and carried to Kingston, and thence shipped northward to Chattanooga. As soon as the road was entirely destroyed, Sherman was ready to begin his expedition.

His plan was briefly this. The two corps at Atlanta were to march south to Macon, a distance of 101 miles; capture it and the town of Milledgeville, the capital of Georgia, which is situated a short distance north-east of Macon; and then, turning north-east, the expedition was to march rapidly across the State of Georgia, to Augusta, which stands on the Savannah river. The two corps at Kingston were to march directly east to Augusta. On November 15, Slocum began his march. His column moved on two parallel roads. Very little opposition was made to it, the Confederates under Iverson being apparently in weak force. On November 17, Slocum reached Jonesboro', thirty miles south of Atlanta. Several skirmishes were fought between Atlanta and Jonesboro', but they appear to have done very little towards checking Slocum's progress. On the 18th, Slocum reached Griffin, forty-three miles south of Atlanta. On the 19th, there were vague rumours of his being thirty miles north of Macon, and, on the 20th, his cavalry were reported within twenty miles of Macon. They appeared to be moving between Macon and Milledgeville, and the telegraph wires connecting these cities had been cut. Slocum, as he advanced, destroyed the railroad which runs from Atlanta to Macon. The announcement of Slocum's advance being about eighteen miles north of Macon on the 20th, five days ago, is our latest intelligence. It all comes to us through Southern channels. We have no Northern intelligence of Slocum's progress. Macon is defended by a militia force under Howell, Cobb, and Gustavus W. Smith, and there are indications that a sharp contest will be fought before the town is captured.

Sherman, at last accounts, was still at Kingston, Georgia, with the two corps commanded by Howard. It was his intention to start eastward towards Augusta as soon as couriers informed him that Slocum had marched far enough towards Macon. There was no Federal force south of Kingston. Atlanta and all the intermediate country was evacuated. Atlanta was burned; the fortifications dismantled; the people gone. It is now a desert south of Atlanta. As Slocum marched, he closed up his rear, abandoning the ground as he passed over it. He moved forward with an isolated column over a deserted country. When Sherman hears sufficient news of Slocum's progress, Kingston will be abandoned, and no doubt as barbarously destroyed as every other town in that section has been. The Federal troops there will begin a long march eastward, over an almost unknown country, to Augusta. Slocum will start from Macon for Augusta, destroying railroads as he advances. There will then be no garrisoned Federal post south of Chattanooga, and these two moving bodies of Federal troops will, for the moment, be lost, though the broad track of destruction they will leave behind them can easily be followed.

The important enquiry now is, What has become of Hood and Beauregard? The Northern newswriters know very little about them, and the Southern ones wisely refrain from printing the slightest word which will give any clue to their movements. On November 10, the Federal troops who were engaged in destroying Rome, announced that a large force of Confederates had appeared on the Coosa River, west of Rome. This, no doubt, was Hood's advance. The evacuation of Rome the next day prevented any further information. The Federal troops under Thomas, that were left by Sherman to protect Tennessee, are now at Pulaski, with outposts as far south as Athens and Decatur, in Northern Alabama. These outposts report a force of Confederates west of them at Florence and Tuscumbia. These troops are supposed to be Hood's men, but most probably are Forrest's, and, as is usual with him, he threatens a raid on Pulaski. Indeed, all along the Tennessee river south of Johnsonville he shows a most formidable array of pickets, and on the other side, he frightens the Memphis people out of their wits. It will, no doubt, be found that Hood is well on his way after Slocum. We scarcely have had time yet to hear any account of him. Such is the intelligence we have to-day of the great mystery which is puzzling every one's mind hereabout. Sherman's army, it must be remembered, is not large; he has not 50,000 men.

You have already heard of the defeat of General Gillem by General Breckenridge in East Tennessee. The letters of correspondents, giving accounts of it in detail, are just being received. The defeat was complete; the Federal officers acknowledge it. Just west of Bull's Gap, Breckenridge fell upon Gillem, under cover of night, and broke his command all to pieces. At once a stampede began which beggars description. Cavalrymen and foot-soldiers mingled with wagons and cattle in a panic-stricken flight towards Knoxville. Not a man stood up to face the pursuing Confederates. Without order or thought, all rushed towards Knoxville, and they did not halt until they got inside the defences of the town. Then it appeared that only the soldiers with two or three wagons had been saved. All the artillery was lost. Seven hundred head of cattle, fifty wagons, and thousands of small arms had been seized by the Confederates. They also captured 850 Federal prisoners. Their cavalry came up to within four miles of Knoxville, and halted there. Breckenridge then collected his command at Strawberry Plains, eighteen miles east of Knoxville, and at once began a march northward towards Cumberland Gap. This celebrated mountain pass is fifty miles north of Strawberry Plains, and stands on the boundary line between Kentucky and Tennessee. When last heard from, Breckenridge was about ten miles south of it. The Gap was held by a small Federal garrison, and Burbridge, having gathered all the Federal troops that could be spared from the various posts in Kentucky, was making forced marches to reinforce it. If Burbridge gets there before Breckenridge, the latter will not be able to capture it, as the place is naturally so strong that it can easily be defended. So far as Gillem is concerned, Breckenridge can do as he pleases; for the demoralised Federal army at Knoxville can do nothing until reinforced.

Comparative quietness reigns in the Shenandoah Valley. Sheridan has sent a great part of his force to reinforce Grant, and therefore can do very little, even if he wishes to. His headquarters are at Winchester, and the troops he has—supposed to be about 15,000 in all—are in that neighbourhood. He has recently sent one or two reconnaissances southward, which found the Confederate pickets on the south side of Cedar Creek. Early is said to be at Newmarket, in the lower end of the Valley. There is no probability of a conflict there. Both armies seem to be preparing their winter quarters, and Early, to offset Sheridan's reinforcement of Grant, has no doubt sent some troops to Lee. On November 19, a party of Confederate cavalrymen, with Moseby at their head, appeared on the road between Martinsburg and Winchester, in Sheridan's rear. They made great havoc among the supply trains, and a force of sixty-two Federal cavalrymen was sent out to drive them away. Moseby laid an ambush. The cavalry fell into the trap. Twenty-two were killed, eight were wounded, and the remaining thirty-two were taken prisoners. Two or three of the prisoners afterwards escaped and reported the affair. The guerillas in that section seem to do as they please. They recently sent an expedition across the Potomac, which came down very near to Washington, and, perfectly loaded down with booty, recrossed into Virginia, at Edward's Ferry. Nothing can stop these incursions.

There is no announcement yet of the beginning of Grant's attack upon Richmond. Being intended to coincide with some part of Sherman's movement, or perhaps being only a menace to keep Lee from sending any force to oppose Sherman, the time for it was very probably not yet come. Grant is receiving large reinforcements. He is concentrating the major part of his army on the north side of the James, near the Dutch Gap Canal. All the ironclads are now in the James below the canal, and we have rumours of its completion. The recent rains made the roads near Petersburg unfit for a movement, but the cold spell which set in two days ago has no doubt dried them. Grant paid a visit north last week, but is now back at his camp. The attack when made will no doubt be principally on the north bank.

General Banks is urged to go back to his old place at New Orleans. He has been tendered the command, and now has the proposal under consideration. No one knows, and very few care, about the condition of General Canby. West of the Mississippi nothing is doing. It is believed that a new call for a draft is imminent.

Just as I close, a report reaches us that the Richmond newspapers of Wednesday, November 23, contain an announcement that General Slocum's column has captured Macon and Milledgeville, and has burned them. The date is not given. This is what every one expected, and causes no astonishment. When the details are published it will no doubt appear that the Confederates made considerable resistance before they allowed Macon to be captured.

From the army at Petersburg it is stated that a portion of Early's command from the Valley has already appeared in front of the Federal troops on the north side of the James. A division of Sheridan's army has already reinforced Grant. The Confederates, three days ago, by a brisk manœuvre cut out and captured forty-two head of cattle from Grant's camp.

REAL HUMANITY.—Reports have been circulated through Northern papers that the Confederate Government was negotiating with the United States authorities for an exchange of cotton for blankets for the Confederate army. The truth of the matter is that Colonel Ould, our Commissioner of Exchange, authorised by the Confederate Government, made a proposition to General Grant, on the 11th instant, to send one thousand bales of cotton to New York City, provided the proceeds of their sale be appropriated to the supply of Confederate prisoners with comforts and necessaries, the sale of the cotton and the purchase of supplies to be made by Major-General Trimble, now a prisoner in Fort Warren; or, as his alternate, Brigadier-General William R. Beale, also a prisoner, who shall be paroled and allowed every facility to make an advantageous sale and outlay; the distribution to be made by a commission of Confederate officers, who are prisoners, and who are to be paroled for the purpose; the transportation to be afforded by the United States Government free, from the places of purchase to the places of distribution. General Grant replied on the 12th, and acceded to the proposition unhesitatingly. The cotton will be shipped at Mobile within the next ten days.'—*Richmond Enquirer.*

RETALIATION.—Colonel Mosby has addressed a letter to General Sheridan, informing him that, in retaliation for the hanging by the Federals in the streets of Front Royal of seven of his men, he, on the 6th inst., executed seven of Sheridan's soldiers, and that a system of strict retalination should be carried out hereafter. Mosby claims to have captured 700 of Sheridan's men during the present campaign, and states that hereafter all prisoners will be treated with kindness until some new act of Federal barbarity compels him to again retaliate.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK: November 22, 1864.

THE campaign of 1864, instead of being closed, as it was commonly thought a few weeks since to be, is assuming an aspect of extraordinary activity. Operations are suspended in the Valley of Virginia; nothing is looked for in that quarter but for the opposing forces to watch each other. A part of Sheridan's forces has been sent to Grant, which betokens another and not remote effort to take Richmond—dependent, perhaps, on the completion of the Dutch Gap Canal, through which the navy can be brought to bear its part in the attack. What is to be done before Petersburg and Richmond must be done quickly. Winter weather will soon put a stop to the movements of troops. If the rains of the last week here have extended into Virginia, the armies must be floundering in mud by this time, and the roads nearly impassable.

All eyes are turned to the movements in Middle and Northern Georgia. Sherman has commenced the daring movement which has been mysteriously threatened so long, and, with an army of more than 50,000 men, has cut himself off entirely from his former base, and, laying the country waste and destroying the roads and bridges in his rear, has marched forward, as the accounts agree in stating, towards Macon, 103 miles southeasterly from Atlanta. Macon is the converging point of several important railroads, of which the most direct is that to Savannah, distance 190 miles south-east, and is connected with Augusta on the Savannah River. There is a direct road also from Atlanta to Augusta, 171 miles. From Augusta to Charleston is 137 miles. Any further advance after reaching Macon is yet a subject of conjecture. Augusta, with its vast storehouses of cotton and manufactories of gunpowder and machinery, is thought to be the immediate object; after which Savannah or Charleston, to open a water base for supplies. It is all conjecture, but the Northern imagination is wild with the idea that this is to be the last breaking of the 'backbone' of the rebellion, the crushing operation which is to grind it into powder.

There is no regular force of Confederates to any considerable amount in the way of this advance. Both Macon and Augusta are said to be well fortified, and able to hold out against siege or assault until they can be reinforced. The Georgia troops are hanging on Sherman's rear and flanks, harassing and delaying him as much as possible, and there is a universal cry to arms throughout the State. The subject of supplies is a vital part of the question. Sherman is reported to have accumulated a very large stock to take with him, and has issued orders for foraging on the country as he goes forward. He contemplates, as the newspaper correspondents from his army write home, living on the country—that is, seizing, for the support of his army, all the stock and food within reach of his raiding party, for which purpose he has provided a large force of cavalry. They who have read the accounts sent forward by his soldiers of the universal plunder which was practised on his route to Atlanta and during his stay there, by which the inhabitants for many miles were stripped of everything their houses and farms contained, down to the last cow or chicken, and left to starve, sometimes with no better shelter than the woods, may form some idea of the fate designed for the men, women, and children of Georgia by this gigantic raid. Sherman sets out on a plan that openly contemplates a system of universal plunder, such as the same general entered upon with as loud a flourish of trumpets when he started on that famous raid from Vicksburg, and harried and plundered his way through the State of Mississippi to Meridian, in 1863. He was then glad to make his way back along the same track he had desolated: he may find even a worse fate in his attempts to reenact the same career of rapine on a wider field. He has a long road before him, in the midst of a hostile population, and the road behind him is closed. If not a complete and quick success, his effort will be the most disastrous movement of the war. It is called, now, brilliant audacity. It may be in the power of the Confederates to stamp it in the annals of the war as foolhardiness or desperation.

Success is a rare paint with which to cover crimes, but no success can redeem the character of Sherman, or his Government, from the stain of carrying on the war in Georgia with a rapacity, cruelty, and barbarity to which there is no parallel in the history of modern times, except what is made by the exploits of other Union generals on smaller fields elsewhere.

What Sherman does not order his troops do spontaneously. The love of havoc, the instinct for destruction, pervades the whole mass. It is sickening to read, even in Northern papers, which are chary of giving publicity to anything which discloses the horrors of the Northern invasion, the details of the brutality which the most innocent noncombatants suffer from the hands of thieving soldiers, who commit the grossest personal outrages without check or punishment, destroy or break up the household articles they cannot carry off, and load themselves with stolen trinkets and jewellery and clothing of women and children. There was no order given by General Sherman to burn the town of Rome when it was evacuated. The soldiers took that duty upon themselves, and gave it to the flames in indulgence, as their apologists say, of a feeling of revenge for something said to have been done there a year and a half ago under the orders of General Corse. The destruction was commenced by the firing of public buildings, barracks, and Federal property, in the course of which '1,000 bales of cotton, two flour mills, two tanneries, one salt mill, an extensive foundry, several machine shops, together with railroad depots and storehouses, four pontoon bridges,' and other bridge property and material, were destroyed. This was a sufficiently terrible story of devastation. The soldiers then took it up on their private account. What they did is thus briefly described in a letter from the scene:—'Recollecting the outrages perpetrated upon Colonel Streight by the "Romans," our troops, as soon as they learned that the town was to be abandoned and a portion of it burned, resolved to lay Rome in ashes in revenge. The roaring of the flames as they leaped from window to window, their savage tongues of fire darting high up into the heavens, and then licking the sides of the buildings, presented an awful but grand spectacle, while the mounted patrol and the infantrymen glided along through the brilliant light like the ghostly spectres of horrid war.'

This is the prospect before the people of Georgia from the advance of Sherman's army. Can you imagine a prospect more likely to consolidate the whole people into one mass of wrathful and determined men, who have not only rights to maintain and homes to defend against merciless invasion, but a burning sense of indescribable wrongs to revenge?

There is no sign of flagging in the determination of the people or State authorities of Georgia. There has been, out of the State, a good deal of speculation on the supposed peace tendencies of prominent Georgians, based on the favour with which, before the late Presidential election here, some projects were entertained there which looked for accomplishment to the hope of the success of a Northern party who would be willing to submit the whole subject of war and reunion to a convention of States negotiating together as separate sovereignties—always a fanciful hope, which the developments of Northern opinion have now utterly dissipated. The week before Sherman set out on this huge raid, and while the signs of preparation were thickening about them, the Senate of Georgia took up the subject in a series of resolutions, reaffirming those passed last year, in favour of a vigorous prosecution of the war until the independence of the Confederacy is established.

The resolutions were carried by a unanimous vote. A substitute, which vaguely contained the idea of a negotiation by sovereignties, was offered, urging the Confederate Government to make an official tender of peace to the United States, 'on the basis of the great principles of our common fathers in 1776'—which was before the adoption of any common government by confederation or constitution. It got but one vote.

The other House has given an indication of its settled opinion by the passage of bills to increase the efficiency of the army, and to put the blacks within the conscription law for the public defences.

The Confederate House of Representatives has been engaged in striking from its rolls the name of Williamson R. W. Cobb, a member elected to this Congress from one of the northern districts of Alabama, who has not appeared to take his seat. He represented for a great many years in the Federal House of Representatives a district composed of nearly the same counties as the Confederate district. It is the mountain region of North Alabama, very like the region in East Tennessee, of which it is a continuation, in the scattered population it contains. Cobb has been invincibly popular in elections since he first settled there more than thirty years ago from New England—I have no distinct recollection from which State. He made his first appearance as a pedlar of clocks, from which I infer that he was from Connecticut, the clockmaking State. It is one of those mountain districts in which General Jackson used to get overwhelming majorities for the Presidency, and where the voters thought they were voting for Jackson years after he was dead. Cobb became, of course, a Jackson man, and as such the simple people believed in him, and sent him continuously to Congress in spite, or perhaps on account, of his total want of education, training, or knowledge of public affairs. He was an insignificant member, of whose simplicity the shrewder members who managed him used to tell amusing jokes. Among his claims on the support of his constituents was his success in getting them paid by the United States for a large number of horses they had used and lost two or three times over, it was said, in the Creek war. Cobb used to importune the members to give him what he called his 'little bill' to help him in his district. Being a good-natured obliging man in his own votes for other people's bills, it happened one day, when there was a pause in the business of the House of Representatives, waiting for some report, that a joking member called out, 'Here's a good time; let's give Cobb his little bill.' The House was in the humour, and put it through without any haggling about the merits, as a good piece of fun, and a good thing for 'Cobb'—as it was, for it fixed him in his seat. He shook hands all round the House vehemently, and the next morning manifested his gratitude by sending to each of the members who voted for his little bill, a cigar, neatly done up in a wrapper, with a card of compliments. He was in grave earnest, but his constituents believed, ever after, that Cobb was the greatest man in the district and had unlimited influence in Congress.

After the secession of Alabama, Cobb apparently acquiesced and remained silent. He was not in the first Congress, but was elected to this, very probably without much enquiry into his political opinions. He never took his seat, and his disloyalty is inferred from the fact of his having passed into the Federal lines, and remained there in cordial intercourse with the enemy. He has not been reclaimed.

He is one of the three members of the Confederate Congress described in the Northern journals as friends of reconstruction. The two others, Messrs. Boyce of South Carolina, and Mr. Foote of Tennessee, will not feel complimented by the imputation or the association.

There is nothing new to add since my former letter on the subject of Cabinet changes or peace projects. What appears to be settled—at least so far as concurrent reports from sources most likely to be well informed, go—is, that Mr. Stanton is to be Chief-Justice, and that Butler will take his place in the War Department. General Canby, who took the military command in Louisiana out of the hands of General Banks, is reported dead of the wounds he received, on the deck of a gunboat on the Red River, from a guerilla shooter on the shore, and Banks will be glad to get back to that rich field again. Fessenden has been importuned to remain in the Treasury Department until the troubles about finding a successor can be adjusted; but he is said to be impracticable, except on condition that the interval be very short.

The Peace lunacy is passing away. Notwithstanding the glow of anticipated triumph from Sherman's expedition, and the renewed stories of Southern prostration and despondency, the gold market cannot be permanently forced down. There is a lack of the confidence that any military success will put a period to the war, upon which a diminution of expenses can be calculated upon, and a possible reverse would send up the premium on gold like a skyrocket—with this difference, that nobody can guess whether it would ever come down.

Signs thicken that the *Florida* will be given up if Brazil insists upon it; but she will be very earnestly invoked, and well paid, not to insist upon it, but to accept some other form of reparation, in addition to the apology which Mr. Seward is tasking his wits to frame.

There will be no authentic development, before the President's Message, of the administrative plan for tendering a peace project to the South, and there is no idea among thinking men that there will be any offer such as could possibly be accepted, or serve any other purpose than to help forward the Government purposes for carrying on war on the Butler plan, of occupying the country, driving out the inhabitants, and parcelling their property among the Northern soldiers.

MR. LINCOLN'S INAUGURAL.

OUR respected contemporary, *Punch*, has been immensely clever of late in its dealings with American affairs. In the number for last week there was an admirable cartoon of Lincoln as the American Phœnix rising from the ashes of public credit, national liberty, &c., and in the number for the present week we find that he has forestalled the omniscient Reuter, the special telegraphic correspondent of the *Times*, and the Telegraphic News Association, all three, in supplying us with the inaugural address of President Lincoln to be delivered on the 4th of March next. *Punch's* 'Ultramarine Telegraph,' like the 'Grapevine Telegraph' of the Richmond journals, beats all competitors. We give this address below, only remarking that in one sentence of the exordium the telegram has been improperly rendered. Lincoln cannot be supposed to know anything of *non nobis*. With this exception as to Latin, the address is in all respects genuine, and in its verisimilitude speaks for itself:—

(*By Ultramarine Telegraph.*)

Well, we've done it, gentlemen. Bully for us. Cowhided the Copperheads considerable. *Non nobis*, of course, but still I reckon we have had a hand in the glory, some. That reminds me of the Old World story about the Hand of Glory, which I take to have been the limb of a gentleman who had been justified on the gallows, and which the witches turned into a patent moderator lamp, as would lead a burglar safe into any domicile which he might wish to plunder. We ain't burglars—quite t'other; but I fancy that if Uly Grant could get hold of that kind and description of thing to help him into Richmond, he'd not be so un-Christian proud as to refuse the hand of a malefactor. (Right, right!) Well, right or left hand, that's no odds, gentlemen. (Laughter.) Now I am sovereign of the sovereign people of this great and united republic for four years next ensuing the date hereof, as I used to say when I was a lawyer. (You are! Bully for you!) Yes, gentlemen, but you must do something more than bully for me—you must fight for me, if you please, and whether you please or not. As the old joke says, there's no compulsion, only you must. Must is for the king, they say in the rotten Old World. Well, I'm king, and you shall be viceroys over me. But I tell you again, and in fact I repeat it, that there's man's work to do to beat these rebels. They *may* run away, no doubt. As the Irishman says, pigs may fly, but they're darned onlikely birds to do it. They must be well whipped, gentlemen, and I must trouble you for the whipcord. (You shall have it!) Rebellion is a wicked thing, gentlemen, an awful wicked thing, and the mere nomenclating thereof would make my hair stand on end, if it could be more standonender than it is. (Laughter.) Truly awful, that is when it is performed against mild, free, constitutional sway like that of the White House, but of course right and glorious when perpetrated against ferocious, cruel, bloodthirsty old tyrants like George the Third. We must punish these rebels for their own good, and to teach them the blessings of this mighty and transcendental Union. (We will, we will!) All very tall talking, gentlemen, but talking won't take Richmond. If it would and there had been six Richmonds in the field, we should long since have took them all. If Richmond would fall like Jericho, by every man blowing of his own trumpet, we've brass enough in our band for that little feat in acoustics. But when a cow sticks, as Grant does, in the mud, how then? (Great laughter.) Incontestably, gentlemen, this great and mighty nation must give her a shove on. Shove for Richmond, gentlemen. (That's the talk!) Now about these eternal blacks, you expect me to say something touching them, though I suppose we're none of us too fond of touching them, for reasons in that case made and provided, as I used to say. Well, listen. We've got them on our hands, that's a fact, and it reminds me of a nigger story. Two of these blacks met, and one had a fine new hat. 'Where you got dat hat, Sambo?' says t'other. 'Out ob a shop, nigger,' says Sambo. ''Spex so,' says t'other; 'and what might be the price ob dat hat?' 'Can't say, zackly, nigger; the shopkeeper didn't happen to be on the premises.' (Laughter.) Well, we've got the niggers, and I can't exactly say—or at least I don't think you'd like to hear—what might be the price of those articles. But we must utilise our hats, gentlemen. We must make them dig and fight, that's a fact. There's no shame in digging, I suppose. Adam digged, and he is a gentleman of older line than any of the bloated and shavish aristocracies of Europe. And as for fighting, they must feel honoured at doing that for the glorious old flag that has braved for eighty-nine years and a half, be the same little more or less, the battle and the breeze. (Cheers.) Yes, and when the rebellion's put down, we'll see what's to be done with them. Perhaps, if the naughty boys down South get uncommon contrite hearts, we may make them a little present of the blacks, not as slaves, of course, but as legal apprentices with undefined salaries determinable on misconduct. (Cheers.) Meantime, gentlemen, I won't deny that the niggers are useful in the way of moral support. They give this here war a holy character, and we can call it a crusade for freedom. A man may call his house an island if he likes, as has been said by one of those fiendish British writers who abuse our hospitality by not cracking us up. ('War with England!') Well, all in good time, gentlemen. Let our generals learn their business first. I don't blame them, mind you, that they haven't learned it yet, for when a man has kept a whiskey store, or a bar, or an oyster cellar, or an old clothes shop for years, he can't be expected, merely because he puts on a uniform, to become a Hannibal or a Napoleon, or even a Marlborough or a Wellington. Likewise, they must learn to keep reasonable sober. Friends at a distance will please accept this intimation. (Roars of laughter.) When that's done, and the rebels are whipped, and we are in want of more fighting, we'll see whether Richmond in England, where the Queen's palace of Windsor Castle is situate, lying, and being, is a harder nut to crack than Richmond nearer us. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, one thing more. Did you ever hear the story of the farmer who had been insulted by an exciseman? 'He wur so rude,' said the farmer, 'that I wur obliged to remonstrate with him.' 'And to what effect did you remonstrate?' asked a friend. 'Well, I don't know about effect, but I bent the poker so that I was obliged to get a hammer to straighten it.' Gentlemen, we must straighten this glorious Union, and the hammer is taxes. (Laughter.) You may laugh, but you must pay. I don't mean to be hard upon this mighty nation, and our friend Mr. Cobden (cheers) has already indirectly informed the besotted masses of British slaves that we intend to repudiate our greenbacks, except to the amount they may be worth in the market when

redeemed. But the poker wants a deal of hammering, nevertheless, and you must pay up. You'll hear more about this from a friend of mine in the Government, so I only give you the hint, as the man said when he kicked his uncle down-stairs. (Laughter.) I believe that's about all I had to say, and this almighty Union will be conserved to shine throughout the countless ages an ineffable beacon and symbol of blessed and everlasting light and glory if you will only mind the proverb of Sancho Panza, which says, 'Pray to God devoutly, and hammer on stoutly.' (Laughter, cheers, and cries of 'Bully for you!')

BARBAROUS TREATMENT.

(From the *Richmond Sentinel.*)

It is seldom that one finds, in the records of base and barbarous proceedings, a story of conduct so dishonourable and atrocious as is laid to the charge of our enemies in the following letter. It is the same that was read in Congress on Monday last:—

Macon, Georgia, October 17, 1864.

Hon. Wm. G. Swan, M.C.

Dear Sir,—In regard to the capture and treatment of Colonel Jos. B. Heiskell, M.C. from Tennessee, who was captured at Rogersville, East Tennessee, I propose giving you a brief account, as well as other items which may be of use.

On the morning of August 22 a body of Federal cavalry, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Ingleton, of the 13th Tennessee Cavalry, surprised and captured the place, with twenty-five prisoners, members of John H. Morgan's command, who had been sent down as provost-guard.

Colonel Heiskell was captured while endeavouring to make his escape, and was not recognised by his captors, or, judging from what afterwards occurred, would have been killed on the spot. Having succeeded in their plans, and comparative quiet being restored, all hands collected around the prisoners, as is usually the case, to bully and blackguard them. Several officers, coming up, recognised the colonel, being from the same section of the country, and, with pistols drawn, rushed upon him, crying, 'Here's Heiskell—kill him! kill him!' The colonel very coolly told them to shoot if they saw fit, looking his assailants full in the face; and I have no doubt but that his coolness and unconcern saved his life. It was noticed by all, even the Federal soldiers. The leader in this charge was Captain Sysmore, a notorious bushwhacker and a deserter from our army. This same fellow I saw shoot one of our men after he had surrendered to a Federal soldier and was a prisoner, killing him instantly. He met in the street a boy about fifteen years old, and asked him if he was a rebel soldier. He replied, 'No, sir, I am not.' Sysmore replied, 'No, and you never shall be,' at the same time pulling his pistol and shooting him through the arm, shattering it so that amputation was necessary. After this I lost sight of Sysmore and saw no more of him. Several of our men were murdered in like manner. We were, after a short stay in the town, moved out on the Bull's Gap Road and marched in the direction of that place, which we reached about twelve o'clock at night. From here we were marched to General Gillem's headquarters, distant about five miles, on the Greenville Road. Arriving at the general's headquarters, we were placed in the guard-house, where we remained until morning.

The General's adjutant came in next morning and inquired for Heiskell and Walker (a citizen of Rogersville, also); their hands were tied behind them, and both (H. and W.) tied together, and we were then marched to the depot to be sent to Knoxville. Arriving at the depot, we were put in charge of the notorious Captain Kirk, who proceeded to practise his barbarity also upon the colonel and Mr. Walker, by tying them back to back, so that it was impossible for either to sit, compelling them to stand up a distance of sixty miles.

On the way their hands became very much swollen and quite painful. Mr. Walker asked Captain Kirk to loosen the string, telling him that he was suffering; his answer was, 'D—n you, die; I'll not unloose it.' The colonel made no complaint, but bore it without a murmur.

We were robbed of everything we had—watches, money, hats, &c. At every station along the road Colonel Heiskell was forced at the point of the bayonet to the car door, so that the crowd outside might amuse themselves by abusing him, and thus it continued until we reached Knoxville, where the same scene was enacted, only on a grander scale. The sidewalks were thronged with negroes and citizens, who had to be kept back by the guard at the point of the bayonet. The negroes seemed wild with excitement, telling the officers to turn us over to them, and they would make short work of it. Several of the colonel's acquaintances recognised him and abused him terribly. Brownlow was for hanging him upon the spot. During all this storm of indignities the colonel remained cool and unconcerned. We were taken to the gaol for confinement, where we found a few prisoners of war and twenty-five or thirty citizens. Among them were Mr. Warren, of Blount, Hartsill, of Blount, General Reagan, of Athens, Colonel B. Cook, formerly a member of Congress, Colonel Watkins, a former member also, Dr. Harris, and Mr. Hiphur, a member of the Legislature, all to be tried for treason; also, Major Wayne Wallace, of Knoxville. Some of these gentlemen had been in gaol for three months, Major Wallace since the evacuation of East Tennessee by our forces last fall. He was first carried to Johnson's Island, and afterwards brought back for trial. Also Captains Haul and Reynolds, of the C. S. A., who had been notified that they were to be tried for treason also.

I would state, in regard to these officers, that they are high-toned gentlemen, and as brave as ever drew a sword in defence of their country. They are both willing to undergo any suffering, and bear without a murmur their oppression rather than submit. They have both been in prison nearly a year, kept for some time in solitary confinement. No officers in the army have done better service, and it seems hard that they should lie in prison apparently forgotten. Our rations consisted of three hard crackers and half a pound of beef per day. We were furnished with no cooking utensils, and had to cook our meat on sharpened sticks.

Next morning, Brownlow's Rebel Ventilator made its way into rebeldom, and Colonel Heiskell was his principal theme. You can probably imagine better than I can describe his style. He advocated 'hanging him immediately, without the benefit of a trial; his whole course had been persistent disloyalty to the United States Government, and that he should be made to expiate his crimes upon the gallows, and alongside of him his other brother rebels in gaol,' &c.

I remained in prison here three weeks. Up to the time I left no action had been taken in his case, but he was expecting to be turned over to the civil authorities for trial.

Your obedient servant,

BEN. MORGAN.

THE FEDERALS IN KENTUCKY.

(From the *Louisville Journal.*)

In all that has been written upon the administration of General Paine in Kentucky and Tennessee, it appears that but few of the transactions that combine to make his record so dark with infamy have been furnished to the public. Every day some new fact is brought to light, some new crime is added to the already extensive catalogue paraded before the people in public prints. We have a letter from a Union soldier, a member of an Illinois regiment, who served under General Paine at Gallatin, Tennessee, and he writes that many incidents, equally revolting to the people of a civilised age, which marked the official career of General Paine, yet remain to be published.

In July, 1863, a scout was sent out from Gallatin, in command of the Second Lieutenant of Company G, 129th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. The soldiers travelled in a south-west direction, and, about fifteen miles from the town, surrounded a citizen's house, and made the husband and father a prisoner while sitting at the dinner table. In spite of all entreaties, the soldiers carried the man some twenty yards from the house, and, by orders of the lieutenant, in the presence of his weeping wife and frightened children, shot him down, and left the corpse, weltering in its blood, stretched upon the green sward. The lieutenant then drove the wife and her three children from their pleasant home, and set the house on fire.

The building burned rapidly, and in one brief half-hour a wife was rendered a widow, and, with her fatherless babes, left without shelter—homeless wanderers, with hearts full of sorrow. As an excuse for this act, it was claimed that a soldier had been murdered in the neighbourhood some weeks before. When the facts of this transaction were reported to General Paine, he remarked: 'Served the d——d son of a b——h right. I wish that the lieutenant had killed the man he brought in as a prisoner also, so as to save me the trouble of doing so.'

Subsequent facts have proved that the citizen thus inhumanly shot down was not guilty of the crime imputed to him. General Paine approved of the outrage, as the lieutenant and his soldiers were not even reprimanded for what they had done. They claimed that they had acted under orders of General Paine, and he was alone responsible for the deed. A Union soldier, a resident of the State from which General Paine hails, Illinois, assures us that the above statement is strictly true. The simple recital of facts is a more severe comment than anything we can offer.

DISTINCT POLITICAL COMMUNITIES.—The *Globe* of Friday last published our observations on Earl Russell's note to the Confederate Commissioners, and added the subjoined comments. The italics are not ours but the *Globe's*:—"We cannot but confess that we are so far of the same opinion with our Confederate contemporary, as we hold that, whatever may be said of State-*sovereignty*, State-*individuality* at least cannot be contested. That individuality was the very basis of all the institutions of the United States. Each of those States continued independent in its whole internal regimen; and the Federal Union, by the very force of the term, comprised the people of those States, as each represented in the Federal legislative and executive agencies whose action was limited to certain common purposes. It seems to follow that States which have had no part in the election of those agencies (*e.g.*, in the present Presidential election) have no part in the Northern Federal Union. They no longer participate in its federal organisation for common purposes. That is simply a fact. Whose fault that fact is does not seem to affect its existence. Earl Russell says—"Of the causes of the rupture Her Majesty's Government have never presumed to judge." But every Government of Europe is cognisant of the fact that the Southern States are not parties to the reelection of President Lincoln. Our Northern friends will of course say—That is their own fault—they might have been if they had chosen. But the question is this—Is it not in the nature of separate political communities that they should choose, or not choose, to act with other such political communities, according as they can, or cannot, agree with their polities? All common action of North and South has hitherto been in the nature of compromise; and when it became no longer possible to arrange terms of compromise, common action of North and South of necessity ceased. Then came the question—Had the Northern combination of individual political units (States) any right to enforce submission to its will on the Southern combination of similar units? Foreigners at least must naturally be disposed to think they had not—because *they said they had not* on every former occasion on which the question was to give satisfaction to foreign demands of right, or remonstrances of wrong, against individual States. For example, if a British ship putting into the port of Charleston—from stress of weather, or any other cause—had happened to have on board black sailors, British subjects, those sailors would have been instantly clapped in gaol, and kept there, till the vessel should be about to take its departure. Any remonstrance against this infraction of international law, addressed to the Federal Government, would have been met with the answer that that Government had no jurisdiction over the proceedings, however offensive to foreigners, of the State of South Carolina, *at home.* One does not quite see how foreigners should distinguish between the right of the several States to assume at will an attitude of independence towards all the world—and towards each other. And facts have so far justified the assumption of that attitude in the conflict still raging, that, notwithstanding Northern reiteration of the name of *rebels*, it has never been attempted practically to withhold the common rights accorded by the laws of war to their Southern antagonists. The war is a war between two leagues of distinctly-organised political communities.

SHERIDAN'S DEVASTATION.—A committee of seventy-two, consisting of thirty-six citizens and the same number of magistrates, appointed by the County Court of Rockingham for the purpose of making an estimate of the losses of the county by the execution of Sheridan's infamous order, have made, after a laborious investigation of the subject, the following report:—Dwelling houses burned, 30; barns burned, 450; mills burned, 31; fencing destroyed (miles), 100; bushels of wheat destroyed, 100,000; bushels of corn destroyed, 50,000; tons of hay destroyed, 6,233; cattle carried off, 1,750; horses carried off, 1,750; sheep carried off, 4,200; hogs carried off, 3,350; factories burned, 3; furnace burned, 1. In addition to which there was an immense amount of farming utensils of every description destroyed, many of them of great value, such as M'Cormick's reapers, threshing machines; also, household and kitchen furniture, money, bonds, plate, &c. The whole loss being estimated at the enormous sum of £25,000,000.—*Rockingham (Virginia) Register.*

THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN MEIGS.

(From the *Richmond Sentinel*, November 10.)

It will be remembered that General Sheridan, in one of his official despatches from the Valley, stated that Captain Meigs, of the engineer service of his army, had been 'murdered' by Confederates, and that, in resentment or retaliation, he had ordered to be burned every house within five miles of the scene of the crime. Of the justness or fitness of such a proceeding on his part, even were the allegation true on which it rested, we suppose there can be no two opinions among civilised men. Why should the poor widow, five miles from the scene, and perfectly ignorant of the transaction, and who could not by any possibility have aided or hindered it, have her roof destroyed over her head for the crime of another? How does that punish or restrain the real offender? It was matter of boasting to General Sheridan that he had ordered this barbarity; and the men-at-arms who did his bidding made themselves very facetious over the 'torchlight procession' with which they lighted up the passage of their slain comrade into the realms of shade; but the guilt thus incurred will sit heavy on his soul some day.

We have, in the above, assumed that Sheridan's passions, though diabolical, and his revenge, though brutal and misplaced, had been excited by a real outrage. We have supposed that his ill offices which fell on those whose obvious innocence and helplessness would, with a good and brave man, have been their protection, were, in fact, justly due to somebody. But what a little reflection would suggest is, in fact, true. A barbarous and malignant nature seldom waits for proof. In the court or camp of a despot a whisper or a whim stands in the place of evidence. The lives and happiness of those whom Providence has placed at the mercy of a base, bad man, are the mere sport of his passions. If Sheridan had taken any pains to know the truth, he would have discovered that the story which he avouches as the reason for his unfeeling desolation of so many homes, was wholly without foundation. His conduct rests upon no better foundation than the prompting of a blind, ignorant, heedless, and malignant passion vented against helpless and innocent women and children, and, therefore, as cowardly as it was cruel.

We propose to give a true narrative of the so-called 'murder' of Captain Meigs. We are possessed of the exact particulars from the very best source. We could give names, but we remember the sort of enemies we are dealing with, and deem it prudent to withhold them. So far from being murdered, Captain Meigs fell in gallant fight, commenced by himself, and in which he showed both skill and courage.

Three Confederate soldiers, under the lead of ——— ———, one of our bravest and most accomplished scouts, were on a reconnoissance, when they discovered the near approach of three Federals. On the instant they reined aside and awaited their arrival. They proved to be Captain Meigs and two attendants. Our soldiers immediately ordered them to surrender, each of our men confronting one of the Federals. Captain Meigs, who rode in front, was in this manner summoned by the leader of the Confederate scouts. His two followers surrendered on the word; but Captain Meigs was of a different spirit. Drawing his pistol he fired on his antagonist, inflicting a very severe, and it was supposed, a mortal wound. The ball entered the right breast and made its exit on the opposite side of the body; wounded as he was, the Confederate then delivered his fire, which proved fatal. Captain Meigs died on the instant.

Anxious on account of the wound received by their leader, and aware of their exposed position, the other two Confederates betook themselves to hasty preparations for bringing off their comrade. In the haste and confusion of the moment, one of the Federal prisoners made his escape; the other was brought off. The person of Captain Meigs was not examined for the same reason, and the opportunity of capturing the valuable papers he bore was lost. It was not until afterwards, indeed, that it was known who he was.

It will be pleasing to our readers to be informed that the wounded Confederate was safely brought within our lines, and that his condition is now very promising. It is supposed that the ball struck a rib, and made the circuit of his body, instead of a passage through. An actor in many a gallant conflict of the past, he will doubtless be soon again in service.

Captain Meigs died a soldier's death, and not without honour. It was no fault of his true aim and quick and steady hand, that his antagonist did not die instead of him. The fortune of the fight was against him, and he fell. A death otherwise honourable has been made the occasion, by a brutal officer, of cruelties to women and children, that associate the fall of Meigs with an odious infamy. Sheridan has paid him a tribute that insults his shade, and which could be grateful only to a barbarian and coward.

FEDERAL SHIPBUILDING.—The most interesting topic in naval circles just now is the complete and absolute failure of Captain Ericsson's sea-going ironclad *Dictator*. This vessel was to constitute the mainstay of the United States, should the nation ever become involved in a contest with any other maritime Power. Singlehanded, the *Dictator* was to seek out and destroy the united navies of England and France, and dominate the sea. The ludicrous height attained by the boasts in regard to the *Dictator* has only been equalled by the depth of humiliation into which the boasters have been plunged by the failure of that vessel to accomplish anything. She can scarcely be moved by her engines, and on her trial trip she was towed out into the harbour by tug boats, and then towed back again. All rules in regard to buoyancy heretofore observed in the building of ships have been set at defiance in the construction of the *Dictator*. To begin, a mistake of more than 1,000 tons was made in computing the weight of the vessel. It is now discovered that with all her armament, provisions, and coal, on board, she would be entirely submerged; that the addition of her turret would send her to the bottom instanter; and, as it is, with only half her armament, &c., her top is but 13 inches out of water. Another tremendous blunder was made in regard to her journals. They have been constructed with no greater surface than those of our ordinary 'Sound' steamers of 500-horse power, while the engines of the *Dictator* are of 6000-horse power. As a consequence, from the immense pressure and great friction, the journals of this remarkable ironclad soon become red-hot, even when very moderate power is put in motion; and it is believed that if the full strength of her engines were employed, in the language of one of the engineers employed in the construction of the vessel, 'her journals would melt and run like water.' In short, the *Dictator* (and, of course, her consort, the *Puritan*, which is built on the same plan) is a total failure; so that £2,000,000 have been wasted in a vain experiment. It is a painful fact for an American to acknowledge; but the truth is, we are, after three years of experimenting, fussing, and boasting, without an ironclad navy.—New York correspondent of the *Standard.*

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 291 Strand, W.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1864.

Neutral Vessels and Belligerent Cruisers.

No belligerent Power has ever experienced such embarrassment in the exercise of her rights as against neutral Powers as the Confederate States, and none has avoided with equal success acts which could have given any just cause of offence. The career of the Confederate cruisers on the high seas has been marked by a leniency and forbearance which have earned the acknowledgments of the British authorities, and that, too, in spite of the fact that the only obstacle to an equitable assertion of the rights of war has been created by the regulations of the British Government. The ports of this empire have been closed to the admission of vessels captured either by Federal or Confederate ships of war, and consequently the latter Power has only the alternative of burning the enemy's vessels or exacting ransom bonds. It is, indeed, quite impossible to adjust the difficulties arising from combinations of neutral and hostile property by adjudication in court, for the simple reason that sailing vessels cannot be conveyed as prize through the blockading squadron of steamships.

Now the different cases which would occur to Confederate cruisers on the high seas, and would demand decision from the commander of the capturing vessel, may be divided into four classes. The first of these, where the captured vessel sails under the enemy's flag, without cargo, or with cargo belonging exclusively to the enemy, offers no difficulty whatever. No condemnation by an Admiralty Court is necessary to vest the title to such vessel in the belligerent Government, for the capture itself gives instant title to the captors. When, therefore, the captor is unable to bring his prize into port, nothing is left to him but to destroy the enemy's vessel which he has taken, for he cannot consistently with his duty to his country permit enemy's property to sail away unmolested. He is, however, justified in preserving the captured vessel, arming her, and placing her under the command of a properly commissioned officer of his Government, to be used either as a tender or as an independent cruiser. Lord STOWELL may be cited as an authority for the first position, and the British Government, by releasing the *Tuscaloosa*, and by issuing orders opening British ports to Confederate prizes so converted, has admitted the truth of the second doctrine.

Under the second class may be placed the case of a vessel sailing under the enemy's flag, and carrying a cargo wholly or in part belonging to neutrals. Under ordinary circumstances this case would present no embarrassment; for the captured vessel would be taken into a port of the captors, or a neutral port, and thereupon the neutral portion of the cargo would be restored to the owners, while the ship and hostile cargo would be condemned as prize. But the Confederate cruisers are debarred from bringing prizes into their own ports by the blockade, and into neutral ports by the injunctions of neutral Powers. Hitherto, however, the difficulty thus created has been evaded by the use of ransom bonds, and it reflects the utmost credit on the Confederate Government that it has forborne to destroy the neutral cargo; for if the British authorities will not permit the belligerent to deliver the goods to a British subject, how can they complain if the goods are not delivered? Indeed, if neutral nations choose to persevere in their refusal to receive into their ports the goods of their own people, nothing will remain to the belligerent but to destroy such property whenever the prize cannot be brought into port. Even under present circumstances, if a ransom bond is refused by the captured ship, or if the proportion of neutral property on board is small compared with the value of the vessel and hostile cargo, no reasonable objection can be urged by the neutral to the destruction of the whole.

The third class embraces the case of a vessel really neutral, with a cargo wholly or in part belonging to the enemy. Now, as the law stood before the year 1856, such a vessel would have been liable to capture for the purpose of being brought into port, where the hostile cargo would be condemned as prize, and the neutral vessel with the neutral portion of the cargo would be liberated. The state of the law was, however, so far modified by the Paris declaration of 1856, that the rule now stands among European nations that 'the neutral flag covers enemy's goods, with the exception of contraband of war.' To this rule the Congress of the Confederate States gave in its adhesion on August 13, 1861, in the full faith and expectation that Great Britain and France would comply with the regulations of the Paris declaration on the subject of blockades. Inasmuch, however, as both these Powers notoriously failed to fulfil their promise, the Confederacy was clearly thereby released from the obligation contracted towards them. President DAVIS, in his message to Congress on December 7, 1863, asserted the existence of such a release; but declared, with singular magnanimity, that 'the principles established by the Paris Convention were more just, more humane, more consonant with modern civilisation, than those belligerent pretensions which great naval Powers have hitherto sought to introduce into the maritime code.' He announced, therefore, that the Government would forego its right to retract the assent given to this rule of maritime law. It is clear, then, that such vessels as come under this class can be tainted only by the presence of goods contraband of war. If the owner of the vessel has put on board contraband goods belonging to himself, he has forfeited his neutral character, and his own Government will be estopped from complaint by its proclamation against such contraband trade. In all other cases the contraband goods would, if practicable, be transhipped or destroyed, and the vessel be allowed to continue her voyage.

The fourth and last class is one possessing at the present time features of peculiar interest, inasmuch as it is well ascertained that a large number of vessels are embraced in it, and have incurred a liability to the penalties attached to the class. These are vessels ostensibly neutral but really hostile, fraudulently placed under a neutral flag, and furnished with fraudulent papers to protect them from capture. Of course, where the fraud is admitted no difficulty can arise. The real embarrassment exists where an enemy's vessel has been transferred to neutrals since the commencement of the war. All Powers except England and the United States have uniformly held transfers *flagrante bello* to be illegal. But the rule which obtained in the United States would doubtless be held valid by the Confederacy, and consequently *bonâ fide* sales would be respected. Where, however, the transfer is merely colourable—where, for example, the vessel is mortgaged or hypothecated to the enemy—her false neutrality cannot possibly save her from the treatment which she would have received had no such transfer been made. In the month of June last our columns contained a list of vessels which had undergone this peculiar process of 'whitewashing' during the year 1863. We at the same time took the pains to explain the stringency of the Merchant Shipping Act as to the declaration required from the transferee before the protection of the British flag could be obtained, and as to the penalties of perjury. We also indicated that such transactions were open to such serious suspicion, even in the absence of mortgages, that, when once the former possession of the belligerent was shown, the *onus* of proving innocence was thrown on the transferee. In point of fact, however, the character of these mortgaged ships is beyond question, and they should unhesitatingly be subjected to the fate of vessels hoisting the Federal flag. Of course, it is not a matter of the utmost simplicity to detect the fraud, because an English ship does not bear on her certificate of registry any statement of mortgages. The wisdom of a law changing the form of certificate in this particular can scarcely be doubted; but under existing circumstances the captor must arrive at a decision by a careful examination of every piece of evidence calculated to determine the ship's character. Her papers, the nature of her trade, the nationality of the master, the facts attending the supposed sale, and other points, must be weighed, and the vessel must be destroyed or dismissed according to the preponderance of probabilities. For these embarrassments, and the evils consequent on them, the British Government is solely to blame. So long as the ports of this empire are closed against prizes, such difficulties must exist. Let the ports be opened to all such vessels pending the decision of the Confederate Admiralty Courts, and all questions as to the conflicting rights of neutral property and Confederate ships of war will at once vanish.

The War.

GENERAL SHERMAN has staked the fate of an army of 50,000 men—perhaps the issue of the war—on about the maddest enterprise that ever was conceived in the brain of a practical soldier. A week ago we could scarcely bring ourselves to believe that he seriously entertained the intentions ascribed to him by the Northern press. By this time, if he has met with no unforeseen opposition, he has accomplished half his march, and ought certainly, if his army is ever to reach the sea, to have captured Augusta. As we learn more of his objects, and of the means by which he proposes to accomplish them, we confess we grow more and more impressed with the appositeness of the hackneyed proverb, '*Quos Deus vult perdere prius dementat.*' He has undertaken a march of at least 250 miles through an enemy's country, with a force of less than 50,000 men, and perhaps a week's supplies. Before he has travelled thirty miles from Atlanta he begins his work of devastation. Wherever there is a town to be destroyed, it is given to destruction *by his distinct orders*. A great flame of fire marks his progress southward, and spreads every 100 miles before him the news of his approach, with famine and ruin in his track. It is plainly not conquest, then, on which this Federal general is intent; it is simply a desperate gigantic raid perpetrated on a peaceful population and helpless communities, and withal a retreat planned with a greater brutality of design and barbarism in execution than has disgraced any modern army. We say a retreat advisedly, for SHERMAN'S object has been ridiculously misrepresented both in America and in this country. There are writers who have pictured him establishing a new base at Augusta, occupying the Georgia Central Railway as he held the Chattanooga and Atlanta line with a chain of forts, and thus splitting the Confederacy in two. Others have landed him safely in Charleston, and marched him thence through the Carolinas to reinforce GRANT'S army for the final attack upon Richmond. We venture, however, to say that, if SHERMAN succeeds in destroying Augusta and getting off safely to his gunboats on the shore of the Atlantic, he will have done all that he hoped to do, and think himself lucky. For there cannot be a doubt that this southward movement was forced upon him. For six weeks or two months large bodies of Confederate cavalry had been playing havoc with his trains, and had not only subsisted on his supplies, but sent off the surplus stores to Confederate depôts. The winter was approaching, which would materially increase the difficulty of transport. Above all, HOOD and BEAUREGARD and FORREST, with an army of at least 60,000 veteran soldiers, had taken up a position threatening equally Nashville, his base, and the whole line of railway thence to Atlanta, whilst the Georgian militia were concentrating for an attack upon Atlanta. SHERMAN saw the impossibility of holding the town for which he had spent 50,000 lives. But he had not the courage to own his failure and face the storm of indignation and disgust with which a retrograde movement would have been greeted by the whole North. The thriving towns and rich farms of Georgia offered a splendid prize. HOOD'S army, the defence of the State, was out of reach. He might yet redeem his failure in Yankee eyes by a big raid. He might find his way to the sea with but the miserable remnant of his army; but, at any rate, he would be able to point to a State rendered desolate, to thousands of Southern women and children rendered homeless, to blazing towns and shattered homesteads; and the brutal savagery of the Yankee would condone the loss of an army in fiendish glee over the sufferings of the people of Georgia. We refuse to regard this expedition as a grand conception. To us it savours of the Malay running a muck, or of the Red Indian, with war-

whoop and paint and tomahawk, swooping down upon some weak settlement of the earlier colonists. That it will end in a disaster unparalleled during the present war, we have good reason to expect.

Up to the present time the news received from Georgia is very contradictory. But we gather from it that SHERMAN had started, with his army marching in two columns, the one on Macon, the other on Augusta, burning everything on his road, and subsisting on the country. Accounts differ as to the day of his departure from Atlanta, but on the 21st ult. he was still eighteen miles from Macon, and Milledgeville had not been captured. Now Macon is a very strongly fortified town. When the fate of Atlanta was in question, the tenure of Macon became a matter of importance to the South, and very strong works of defence were constructed. When SHERMAN started from Atlanta, IVERSON was close upon him with his cavalry, and COBB with a strong force of Georgian militia. The Northern press speaks slightingly of the militia; but it was this very militia which put such an ignoble end to STONEMAN'S raid, and, on more than one occasion subsequently, elicited the special commendation of HOOD for its determined bearing in the field. Macon can be reinforced from Mobile with good artillerymen, and easily provisioned. We know what earthworks will do; and we are inclined to think that Macon will not fall, and that SHERMAN will prefer to give it a wide berth, and push rapidly on to Augusta. But if Macon do not fall, then it will be the base of operations against SHERMAN'S army, and may be the means of its destruction. For, supposing SHERMAN to push on to Augusta, he will be followed by the Macon force, and, even if his march to Augusta be totally free from opposition, there, at any rate, he will be placed between two fires. It is not to be supposed that LEE has left the great powder factory of the South-west unprotected; or that that important town will be surrendered without a battle. If it were necessary, BRECKINRIDGE'S forces, now masters of Tennessee, could be transported almost directly to South Carolina, and anticipate SHERMAN'S arrival by a fortnight. Then there is the whole reserve militia force of South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, and Georgia, now mobilised, and directed against SHERMAN'S army, which one failure at Macon, or a week's delay before Augusta, would inevitably consign to destruction. For the worst has to be endured when the first half of the journey has been accomplished, and when half the towns in Georgia lie in charred ruins. Once past Augusta, the rich country which has fed the Federal soldiers is left behind. From Augusta to Beaufort or Charleston, SHERMAN'S army must carry its supplies. Its route lies through endless marshes, where 100 negroes well employed would delay it for a month. But from Augusta to Savannah the road runs through 120 miles of desolate pine forest, where neither man nor beast can find subsistence. Possibly a hope may be entertained that Admiral PORTER'S fleet will effect a powerful diversion in SHERMAN'S favour, but the season is not propitious for naval operations, and, in all probability, the Federal General will have to fight his way through unaided. If Georgia is true to herself, if her sons carry out the instructions of her senators, and of BEAUREGARD, and of the Richmond authorities—if instead of waiting for the destroying hand of the invader they themselves employ the torch—if they will burn bridges, fell timber, and break up roads—we may yet chronicle the greatest triumph of the Confederacy during the present year.

Nor is the aspect of affairs uncheering in other quarters. Tennessee seems in a fair way of recovering her freedom. In Middle Tennessee, the Federal armies are retiring before HOOD. In Eastern Tennessee, BRECKINRIDGE'S notorious columns have shut up the invader within the defences of Knoxville, after making heavy captures of material. In fact, the recent victory of BRECKINRIDGE is a most important success. If he should be able to recover possession of Cumberland Gap, then Knoxville must fall, and with it Chattanooga, and thus the whole of Eastern Tennessee relapse into the hands of the Confederates. It is possible that the Confederate authorities may leave the defence of the Cotton States to the garrisons and regiments already in those States, aided by small reinforcements from LEE'S and BEAUREGARD'S forces, and continue to prosecute the war for the recovery of Tennessee on a grand scale. No amount of damage that SHERMAN can hope to effect would balance the loss of Tennessee to the Federals; nor will any Confederate success so materially affect public opinion on this side of the Atlantic as its recovery by the South. We should not grudge SHERMAN'S escape, if we could hear that the Confederate flag was once more flying over Nashville. But we do not despair of the destruction of SHERMAN'S army, and the reoccupation of Nashville, if the men of the Cotton States will fight for their own firesides as they have fought side by side with the best blood of Virginia for the homes of the 'Old Dominion.'

The Constitution of Acadia.

THE Constitution of the proposed Confederation of British America has been made public, and does great credit to the good sense, moderation, statesmanship, and political philosophy of its framers. We shall not enter into any detailed criticism of the Constitution, but shall sketch in general terms the features which distinguish it from previous federal constitutions, and from that of the United States in particular.

First, then, as to the relations of the Federation to the mother-country. In regard to these, the Convention has indeed shown itself jealous; but it has been jealous to preserve the connection of the new State with England, and the prerogatives of the Crown, rather than to prevent encroachments on colonial independence, which are never likely to be attempted unless the manifest necessity of the colonies themselves should demand the parental interference of the Imperial authority. Everywhere the prerogative of the Sovereign is carefully excepted; the right of disallowing colonial enactments preserved; the supremacy of the mother-country and its right to make any regulations touching the international position and dealings of the Federal State duly acknowledged. The QUEEN appoints the Viceroy, and nominates the members of the Legislative Council—the Upper House of Parliament; and the authority of the Imperial Government over the colonial confederation will be quite as full and complete as that now exercised over the separate colonies.

Secondly, as regards the relative duties and authority of the Federal Parliament. In this respect the distinction which exists between a State composed of confederated provinces and a confederacy of independent States is very clearly marked. The Federal Assembly is not a Congress, but a Parliament. The people of the colonies are represented in the Lower House, under regulations almost exactly the same as those which determine the representation of the people of the States in the House at Washington. But the Upper Chamber does not consist of representatives of the colonies in their corporate (we cannot here say sovereign) capacity, but of councillors apportioned to each in fixed numbers, and appointed by the Crown, under the great seal of the Federal or general Government, for life. The first councillors are to be chosen from the existing Legislative Councils (themselves appointed by the Crown). The powers of the Parliament extend over a far wider range than those of the American Congress. It is, in fact, sovereign, subject to the sovereignty of Great Britain; it has the making of the criminal law; the regulation of a very large portion of the civil code; the power of levying excise and customs duties, except with regard to a few specified exports; the power of regulating trade and commerce; the coinage; banks; navigable waters; fisheries; military and naval services; postal service; the right of raising money in any way it pleases; and a number of other specified rights. The local legislatures have power over education, property and civil rights (which in England differ in different districts), and other matters, generally such as in England are left to municipal or county regulation. In all subjects not exclusively reserved for local consideration, the laws of Parliament overrule those of the local legislature, and—the most marked distinction between this Constitution and that of the United States—all powers *not reserved to the local* legislatures belong to the Federal Parliament. It is distinctly the intention of the Acadian Constitution to make the Parliament supreme, and place in its hands the real government of the whole country, its internal as well as its external interests and relations, as it was the intention of the United States Constitution to confine the power of Congress within the narrowest limits that would suffice for the proper transaction of the business strictly common to all the States. And thus the terms 'central' and 'general,' which are inapplicable, in times when the Constitution is in force, to the Government at Washington, are frequently applied in the Constitution itself to that which is to have its seat at Ottawa. The central Government has the appointment of the judges of the superior courts, and of the governors (to be called lieutenant-governors) of the 'provinces.' It will be seen, therefore, that while there is, properly speaking, no sovereign power resident anywhere within the colonies, the actual sovereign power resting in the last resort with Great Britain, yet the Federal Government will, in point of fact, exercise all the functions of sovereignty within the limits of the State, subject to no important exception but this, that it cannot alter the constitutions of the provinces, nor deprive them of any powers reserved to them by the Constitution. But these are hardly greater than those enjoyed by English counties. There can be no question, in a conflict between the central and local authorities, which has the right to the obedience of individuals. The head of the local Government is himself the subordinate of the Viceroy, removable by him at pleasure (with the sole restriction that the cause of removal must be stated in writing), and the prerogative of rendering an act criminal and punishable rests with the central power. In fine, the provinces retain no authority that could be withdrawn from them without awakening the jealousy of the French inhabitants of Lower Canada and alarming them for the safety of their peculiar institutions, and it can hardly be doubted that the tendency of Acadian politics will be towards a concentration of power in the hands of the central Parliament (which, sitting for five years, has a more secure hold and a greater independence than Congress), and the restriction of the local legislatures to merely local business, such as in England is transacted by municipal councils, quarter sessions, and vestries.

The position of the Viceroy is strictly analogous, except in his subjection to the Crown, to that of the QUEEN of ENGLAND, and totally different from that of the President of the United States. He is independent of the people, for they can neither curtail nor prolong his term of power, and he derives his authority not from them, but from the Crown. Instead of an elective chief magistrate chosen every four years by popular vote, after a contest throwing the whole country into violent agitation, Acadia will receive the head of her Government from England, with no more excitement than may be caused by his progress by rail to the seat of government, and his appearance before the people of his capital. Instead of losing him just when he has acquired experience in the business of government, she may retain him as long as the Crown pleases to keep him in office. He will generally be far superior in personal character and capacity to recent Presidents of the United States, for no Government would dare to appoint to such an office any but a statesman of the first rank, like those who have been selected for the Governor-Generalship of India. But his personal fitness will not be so momentous a question as that of the President. He will wield far less personal power. He must act through Ministers, and these Ministers will be responsible to Parliament, and must resign when their policy is no longer satisfactory to the representatives of the people. Thus the direct and immediate control over the Executive Government, which is wanting in the United States, will exist in Acadia exactly as it does in England; and in nearly all essential matters the Acadian subject will enjoy the benefit of a Constitution similar to that which the wisdom and experience of ages have adapted to the wants of the mother-country, with somewhat less of that centralisation of power which has of late gone rather further than the spirit of the Constitution warrants, and which, while degrading the dignity of the local authorities, has grievously overburdened the hard-worked House of Commons. Under such a system, it will be the fault of the people themselves if their political condition be not prosperous and progressive; and we trust that the experience of the United States, which has enabled them to steer clear of many errors in framing their Constitution, will teach them to avoid in its working those faults of violence, overbearing acts, and unreasonable demands, contempt of the rights of a minority, and disregard for laws obnoxious to public opinion, as well as that declension into absolute democracy, which have brought to ruin the work of the Convention of 1787.

The Report of the War Department.

THE Report of the Confederate SECRETARY of WAR, published in our last number, ought to go far towards dispelling the delusions of those who have been induced by recent Northern outbursts of exultation, menace, and triumph, to imagine that the South is really reduced to extremities, and that the rebellion, which has been on its last legs ever since the fall of Vicksburg, is at length driven to its last ditch, and dying there rather in sheer desperation than in any hope of being able to make a successful stand. The State papers of the Confederate Government have never been marked by that tone of expectant glorification, that tendency to boast of victories about to be won, and of traps from which the enemy cannot escape, that habit of fixing a certain and speedy date for the accomplishment of the national hopes and the termination of the war, which are so remarkably prominent in every Northern document. The Confederate Ministers have frankly avowed disasters, and called for new efforts to redress them; they have spoken of victories, not so much to raise the spirits of a people whom no reverses seem to daunt, as to call for fresh strength to improve the successes achieved and maintain the ground already won.

They have never adopted, in calamity, that tone of whining despondency which from time to time replaces the vainglorious boasting of Federal officials, nor yet that anticipatory self-glorification which, according to ancient superstition, provokes disaster at the hands of an insulted Destiny. Consequently, the utterances of the Government at Richmond have been received in Europe with a ready credence and respect which subsequent evidence has always justified. The Report above mentioned, therefore, will have an effect on English opinion not generally exercised by any Federal assertions of resources accumulated or successes won.

Its tone is hopeful and resolute without being boastful; it manifests satisfaction and gratitude for what has been achieved without boastfulness or premature triumph. In a very brief sketch of the results of this year's campaigns it sets in their true light before the public the relative positions of the belligerents at the beginning and at present; and will go far to satisfy all who are not blinded by prejudice to the plainest facts that the prospects of the South are more hopeful at this moment than they have been at any period since the battle of Gettysburg. The election which has just concluded, the rapid depreciation of the currency, and the growing despondency of the Northern people, prompted the Federal Government to make unusual exertions in order to commence the campaign in every quarter with energy and with effect; and never were their armies more numerous, better equipped, better supplied, or led by generals more thoroughly trusted by the President and the people, than in the spring of this year. In every direction they pressed forward eagerly, urged on not only by their own hopes, but by the political necessities of their Government. What has been the result? After long, desperate, and most costly fighting, Sherman reached Atlanta. Meanwhile Alabama and Mississippi, portions of which were formerly in Federal hands, have been almost cleared of their invaders. Great part of Tennessee has been recovered by the Confederates; they have regained a hold on Kentucky, and they recently overran great part of Missouri, recruiting their forces and carrying off supplies. In these States they are stronger than they have been since the fall of Fort Donnelson. West of the Mississippi, they have completely recovered their ground. The great expedition which left New Orleans to ravage and subdue Louisiana, has returned, crushed and cut to pieces, to shelter itself under protection of the gunboats; and the Confederates are masters of nearly all the territory of the State. In Texas some few Federal soldiers remain—as prisoners of war. In Arkansas the invaders hold only a few fortified posts. Thus, the Confederates have recovered the whole West, which, according to the boasts of Northern organs, was but lately lost to them for ever. They have regained their ascendency in Tennessee; they have freed the Gulf States from the enemy; they have repulsed him at Mobile; and all that he has gained is the empty shell of Atlanta, and as much of the soil of Georgia as may be covered by his camp.

In Virginia the campaign was opened by a treble attack. Butler marched from the Peninsula, was beaten, and shut up in his intrenchments. Grant marched directly on the Confederate capital, and was beaten in a series of battles, which cost him some 50,000 or 60,000 men; and, finally, by a flank march, he succeeded in joining Butler. They still lie in front of Petersburg, without being a whit nearer to the capture either of that city or of Richmond than when they first appeared before it. The third force was defeated in the Shenandoah Valley; and the conquerors entered Maryland, appeared before Washington, burnt Chambersburg, and retired unmolested. General Early's subsequent defeats have resulted in no real advantage to the Federals, and are likely ere long to be repaired; while the fiendish devastation of the Valley testifies as much to the despair as to the fury of the invader. Such are the results of the campaigns of 1864, undertaken with greater and better disciplined forces, with better resources, and more thorough preparation than the North ever before brought to bear, and ending in complete failure and in losses perfectly incalculable. Virginia alone can hardly have cost her invaders, in this single year, less than 100,000 men.

To carry on a successful struggle against an enemy who has an enormous population at his back, now degraded and coerced into a submission which may make even conscription possible, who claims to have armed 200,000 negroes, and who has drawn large numbers of recruits from the countries of the Old World, the South has need of extraordinary efforts. This war has been marked by a frightful expenditure of human life; and, though the losses of the South have been comparatively small, they have seriously thinned her ranks. She has need of all her strength, and, in order to bring it to bear, the Secretary proposes to Congress the abolition of all exemptions, with a view to place in the field the whole white male population between eighteen and forty-five capable of bearing arms. What proportion of these may be wanted elsewhere than in the field may be detailed for special services after these have been provided for as far as possible by the men of non-military age. Lads from seventeen to eighteen, and men from forty-five to fifty, are to form reserves for local service, while going on with their ordinary occupations. In brief, the country is to be made a camp, and the nation an army. Both the President and the Secretary deprecate the idea of arming the slaves, save in a last resource, but propose to levy 20,000 or 40,000 able-bodied negroes for services in camp and garrison, as teamsters, sappers and miners, and so forth, and promise them emancipation as the reward of good and loyal service. Of the right to employ the slaves as soldiers against an enemy who has not shrunk from the diabolical atrocity of exciting servile insurrection, as well as of the propriety of arming them in the last resource, rather than expose them to the fate which awaits them if they should fall into Yankee hands, neither Mr. Davis nor Mr. Seddon entertains any doubt; but while white men remain in sufficient numbers, humanitarian reasons forbid the employment of the negroes as actual soldiers.

Of the conduct of the war by the enemy, Mr. Seddon speaks in terms of indignant abhorrence. But the only violation of the laws of civilised war to which he thinks it necessary to make detailed reference regards the exchange of prisoners. At first it was stipulated that prisoners should be paroled till exchanged; and while the South had a majority of captives this rule was faithfully observed. The balance turned in favour of the North; and then the Federal Government declared that it would only exchange man for man. This would have left some thousands of Confederate prisoners at the mercy of an enemy whose habitual practice it is to shoot prisoners in cold blood when he wishes to avenge a surprise or a disaster; and the Confederates at first refused. Afterwards, moved by the sufferings inflicted on their captive soldiers, they consented; and then the Federal Government evaded the question of a general exchange altogether. It will not give up a Confederate soldier for an Irish or German mercenary; nor does it care to recover prisoners whose term of enlistment has expired. Meantime, the Confederates held prisoners in the North have been treated with studied barbarity. Not only have they not been supplied with proper food, clothing, and shelter, but they have been refused permission to purchase them. The pretext made was an allegation that Northern prisoners at the South were subjected to similar hardship; and this at a time when Federal organs were exulting in the idea that the maintenance of these prisoners must be a heavy drain on Southern resources! It was well known to the North that their captive soldiers were treated as well as Confederate soldiers; and that whatever privations they might suffer were attributable solely to the devastations practised by the invading armies and the rigours of the blockade. But no argument and no exposure would ever have shamed Mr. Lincoln into truth or humanity. General Grant, reckless as he is of his soldiers' lives, has some of the feelings of a soldier; and a negotiation between him and General Lee, commenced by the latter, has resulted in an agreement that each party shall be at liberty to supply the wants of its soldiers prisoners in the hands of the other. This will be good news to those who showed their kindly feeling towards their Southern brethren at the Liverpool Bazaar, and who may well have feared lest Federal cruelty should deprive the sufferers of the intended benefit. Concessions to humanity have been rare indeed on the part of Northern commanders; and this one good act of General Grant's ought not to pass unregarded amid the multitude of cruel and cowardly crimes which have made the Federal service a reproach and a byword throughout Christendom.

A Very Hard Shell.—The assumption of the North seems to be—to use their own simile—that the Southern Confederation is like an egg, possessing, indeed, a hard shell, but when this is once passed soft and penetrable. Experience has given us more proof of the truth of the first than of the second of these assumptions. There is no doubt that on whatever side it has been attacked, with the single exception of New Orleans, the Confederacy has been proved to have an exceedingly hard shell, much more resembling the armour of a tortoise than the thin covering of an egg. But this proof of one-half the metaphor can by no means be taken to establish the other half. When General Banks invaded the State of Louisiana an army sprang up as if out of the earth to resist him, and he was driven back upon his communications with disaster and defeat. Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Virginia south of Richmond, and North Carolina, have all been found equally impervious. It is assumed that the old and high-spirited State of Georgia is made of softer stuff. Time will show; but at present, at least, analogy is all against it.—*The Times.*

Reviews.

THE SERIALS FOR DECEMBER.*

Blackwood contains a sketch of the Confederate States and of the army of General Lee, on which it would be difficult to lavish too much praise. The writer is always vivacious, keenly observant of events, and his pictures of life and character are just. The 'Cavalry Officer' to whom we owe 'A Visit to the Cities and Camps of the Confederate States, 1863-64,' arrived in the Southern States in May 1863, marched with General Lee to the field of Gettysburg, and was subsequently present at the bombardment of Charleston and at the fight of Chicamauga. He left the South in April last, and afterwards visited the Northern States. The present number is confined to the campaign which terminated at Gettysburg, and the narrative is as it were supplementary to the charming book published last year by Colonel Fremantle; but that which is to come will be yet more attractive, because the history will not have been preceded by any effort of a similar nature. It would be superfluous here to go again over the familiar ground of Lee's invasion, by any attempt at a description of the military operations. But the sketch brings out a few points of great importance with reference to the condition of the Confederacy, which may be noted with advantage. Every child knows by heart the atrocities committed by the Northern soldiery in the enemy's country, and the mind is sick and weary of Sheridan's devastations of fertile valleys, of Sherman's destructions of cities, and of the more awful crimes of the Northern officers, who have taken special delight in murders in cold blood. Our 'Cavalry Officer,' in a conversation with Mr. Benjamin, elicited a shrewd comment on the point from the sagacious Secretary of State:—

'If they had behaved differently,' Mr. Benjamin remarked—'if they had come against us observing strict discipline, protecting women and children, respecting private property, and proclaiming as their only object the putting down of armed resistance to the Federal Government, we should have found it perhaps more difficult to prevail against them. But they could not help showing their cruelty and rapacity; they could not dissemble their true nature, which is the real cause of this war. If they had been capable of acting otherwise, they would not have been Yankees, and we should never have quarrelled with them.'

How Southern men behave in Yankeeland is admirably told. At Chambersburg our author obtained a bed at an hotel by a liberal payment in greenbacks, and purely by virtue of the consent of the landlord; and his astonishment at the absence of coercion is such that he exclaims, 'We manage these things differently in some parts of Europe, in war times, in an enemy's country.' Then, again, the foraging parties pay for what they take, while the Inspector-General actually is found riding about seeking whom he can devour in the shape of a depredator or illegal annexer of private property. 'Indeed,' says our author, 'the good behaviour and discipline of the men of this army is surprising to me, considering the way in which the Northerners have devastated the country and wreaked their wrath on women and children in the South wherever they had an opportunity.' Again, he says, 'The troops were never quartered in any village nor allowed to enter houses on any account.' Next the evidence is most complete with regard to the treatment of prisoners in the Confederacy:—

I visited (says he) the Libby Prison at Richmond some time afterwards, and found it kept scrupulously clean and well ventilated; there was not a bad smell about the place; and, to attend upon the 900 to 1,000 officers confined there, forty negro servants were kept. At Belle Isle, in the James river, close to Richmond, there were about 8,000 prisoners living in tents, in a regular encampment, with plenty of room for exercise, any amount of water, bathing allowed in the season, and better rations than the Confederate soldiers get in the field, though nominally the same. They had been on Belle Isle six months when I went there, and I counted seventy-six graves in the island. As many have died in one day at Fort Delaware—so Captain Bois-Sieux, the Commandant of Belle Isle, informed me. During the first three months only one had died, but latterly, since the exchange of prisoners had been stopped, the men easily fell ill, grew despondent, and died. . . . After what I had seen with my own eyes at Belle Isle and the Libby Prison, and what I heard with my own ears from Southerners of their treatment as prisoners in the North, I could not help being reminded of the old Scotch proverb, 'Ill doers are ill deemers.'

The remarks on the negroes shall be summed up in two quotations:—

Colonel Faulkner assured me that though he was a large slaveholder himself, and had always lived amongst slaveholders, yet he had never in the course of his life even heard of a grown-up slave being whipped. He said, too, that a man guilty of cruelty towards his slaves would incur such odium as he would never survive.

And again:—

If any one in the South wished to make quite sure of getting into trouble, he need only abuse or ill-treat a negro; and though the 'boy' might be submissive, he would soon have every white man in the neighbourhood down upon him, and perhaps a revolver or two emptied into his body.

We shall conclude with an anecdote about Mr. Lincoln, which we might forbear to tell were it not that Mr. Edward Everett, who has been in London drawing-rooms, has ventured to affirm that Mr. Lincoln will in point of manners compare favourably with the most refined members of the diplomatic corps. When Messrs. Preston, Randolph, and Stuart, the deputies from Virginia, waited on the President of the United States, and urged him to do something to calm the irritation of the people—

'What would you have me do?' said Mr. Lincoln. 'Mr. President,' replied one of the deputation, 'I would beg you to

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* *Blackwood's Magazine—Cornhill Magazine—Macmillan's Magazine—Fraser's Magazine.*

lend me your finger and thumb for five minutes'—meaning, of course, that he wished him to write something that should allay the prevailing excitement. But Mr. Lincoln did not choose to understand him. 'My finger and thumb!' he repeated—'my finger and thumb! What would you do with them? Blow your nose?' The deputation retired in disgust, and Virginia seceded.

'Aunt Ann's Ghost Story' has but one defect. It is just a little too tantalising. If the wretched man who preferred to act ghost for a long period of years to a quiet residence at the bottom of a mine in Siberia had been discovered fully as to lineage, crimes, and penalties, there would have been, in addition to a specimen of excellent writing, a fine theme for the exposure of the action of the Russian executive. To such a temptation every one but Aunt Ann has yielded; but perhaps, as she was the wife of an officer of the Imperial Guard, her loyalty to the Sclave prevailed over the love of book-making innate in humanity.

Cornelius O'Dowd is more savage than usual. He hits out in a style that must create a new enemy at every word, choosing rather to lose his friend than his joke. The first shot is fired at the Scientific Congressites, whose idea of a long vacation is to swarm upon Bath or Tunbridge Wells, and prose to rooms full of green-veiled goddesses. As for Mrs. O'Dowd, what with her comparisons of her husband to a young giant with a Mastodon at his heels, her lamentations on the probable scarcity of coal in A.D. 16000, and her speculations on the first man in despite of the claim of Mr. O'Dowd to that position in her eyes, we understand the indignation of that gentleman for the persons whom he coolly styles 'outrageous humbugs.' Next, the parsons come in for a 'whipping,' or rather a peculiar section of them, and that not the high-and-dry divines of the old English quality. Afterwards the Emperor of the French is abused in a manner highly calculated to recoil with increased force on the calumniator. Banting, the butt of all wits, and the Palmerstonian Conservatives consume the remaining fire of Mr. O'Dowd's invectives.

The Public Schools Report is honoured by a concluding notice, embracing Winchester and Shrewsbury. Tony Butler has arrived at Part XV., and My latest Excursion' tourist carries us through the Austrian and Bavarian Alps. The tourist gets himself into uncomfortable complications in the geographical line, and the confusion is not diminished by a comparison of every mountain, town, or river with a Scotch representative.

'Armadale' in the *Cornhill* is even more sensational than the first number promised, and the irresistible force of destiny operates with increased energy. 'Allan Armadale' No. 1 in the second generation is hidden away with his mother in a remote village in Somersetshire, as far away from Barbadoes as possible. Nevertheless 'Allan Armadale' No. 2, bearing the euphonious title of Osias Midwinter, in the second generation is impelled to visit the village. The mother above mentioned has the most awful presentiments about Osias, towards whom her son Allan No. 1 conceives a violent attachment. Time passes, Osias leaves Somersetshire, and the Fates seem more gentle. But a mysterious woman in black and red turns up, and kills poor Mrs. Armadale outright with fear. Allan Armadale No. 1 stood next after Arthur Blanchard, Henry Blanchard, and a son of the last, as heir to the Thorpe Ambrose estates, value 8,000*l.* The woman in black and red jumps off a steamboat into the Thames, Arthur Blanchard jumps in after her, both are pulled out safe, the woman is put into a charitable institution and runs away, Arthur is put into a cab and dies of cold. The news is sent to Henry Blanchard and his son at Milan. They start for England, and are lost in the Alps. Allan Armadale No. 1 comes into possession of the big property. Osias and Allan go out yachting. Allan's tutor, Mr. Brock, is driven wild with suspicious dread of Osias. Midwinter confesses, by the production of the Wildbad letter, that he is Allan Armadale No. 2, and the curtain falls.

The article on the Bars of France and England, hung on the peg of M. Berryer's visit to London, is full of information, and the comparative position of the counsel in Westminster Hall and the *avocats* of the Palais de Justice is drawn with great truth. 'A Convict's Views of Penal Discipline' is a very queer affair. A perusal of the article gives the idea that, for a calm, serene, unvexed, and even pleasurable existence, there is nothing like penal servitude for twenty-one years, and that, too, not because convicts are too well treated, but for precisely the reason that a merchant likes his desk, or an attorney his abstracts of title—namely, because he is accustomed to them. The particular convict divides criminals into two classes—respectable men, who have committed some offence against the law for the first time in their lives; and professional thieves, born and brought up to the trade. For the first class he recommends short terms in model prisons; for the second class the only hope of reformation is the following plan:—Find a large tract of land, favourably situated for agriculture, and make arrangements as for a colony of poor emigrants. Send thither with all possible despatch, with no intervening term of imprisonment, your exile; keep him to his district; let him till his plot, paying you rent; set him to work directly, and never let him go home to England again. In fact, let him be free, but not at large, and, in course of time, let him bring over his wife, or get one if he can.

The *Cornhill* has also a pleasing sketch of Mr. John Leech, with some admirable illustrations, and a memoir of Giovanni Battista Niccolini. 'Wives and Daughters' is continued.

The ornament of *Macmillan* is the letter of the Rev. Frederick Denison Maurice to a colonial clergyman. The argument in favour of the present administration of ecclesiastical justice, as against Dr. Pusey's proposition of an ecclesiastical court of appeal, is based on an able summary of the struggles by which the supremacy of any ecclesiastical system, Romanist, Lutheran, Calvinistical, or Anglican, has been averted, while additional force is drawn from a consideration of the admitted faults of a combination of the lawgiver and the law administrator. Dr. Pusey's bid for a hustings cry which should pledge the Parliamentary candidates to 'the protection of the faith' is deservedly the object of a reprobation.

All the agencies (says Mr. Maurice) of a contested election, all the furious passions of the different parties of the land, all their most grovelling interests, are to be invoked for the purpose of exalting what is called the spiritual power above the secular. All questions concerning the improvement of the dwellings of the people, concerning their education, concerning the well-being of the myriads in India and in our colonies, are to be treated as nothing; the one question asked of every candidate is to be —'Sir, will you, or will you not, vote for the abolition of the present Court of Appeal in questions of doctrine?' . . . . Dr. Pusey says, 'It is a question of immortal souls.' It is, indeed! The souls of candidates, which may be made knavish and hypocritical by these engagements—the souls of electors, which may be drawn into drunkenness and ferocity, now as in former days, by the shriek of 'The Church in danger'—I believe no man is able to estimate. The whole system of pledges I hold to be an unconstitutional, immoral, godless one.

'Dead Men whom I have known' contains sketches of Dr. Chalmers, Dr. David Welsh, Wilson, the Professor of Moral Philosophy, Sir William Hamilton, and Jameson, the Mineralogist.

There are continuations of 'A Son of the Soil,' of 'The Hillyars and the Burtons' by Henry Kingsley, with two essays, one on the 'Influence of an Historical Idea,' *apropos* of Lord Stanley's inane wonder that the Italians should love and desire Rome, and the other by Lord Hobart on 'Intervention, Material and Moral.'

Fraser leads off with a very readable article on the present condition of Ireland. The processions on the 8th of August last in Dublin, instituted avowedly to inaugurate a monument to O'Connell, in reality to make a Catholic demonstration, the speeches made on that occasion by the Lord Mayor of Dublin and a Catholic archbishop, together with the riots in Belfast, induce the suspicion that the old days of agitation and public ruin are returning. The idea is confirmed by some statistical illustrations:—

For the first time since the Great Famine, the area of cultivation has diminished, production has been much reduced, and the value of its annual returns has fallen off in a like proportion. Over the whole of Ireland 5,970,139 acres were under crops in 1860; in 1863 there were only 5,666,179. The cereal produce of the first of these years was estimated at 10,953,613 quarters, of the last 8,705,338; nor does the difference measure the loss, as prices have fallen during the interval. So, too, the entire live stock of Ireland was valued in 1860 at 33,885,097*l.*; two years afterwards it had sunk to 31,204,325*l.* These losses have been estimated at an average of 9,000,000*l.* for three years, or 27,000,000*l.* in the whole; and their effects of course have reached all classes. Rents are paid with difficulty, or have fallen; land commands a lower price in the market; the commerce of the country is contracted; large sums, calculated at several millions, have been withdrawn from various deposits, in order to meet all kinds of engagements; there has been a great increase of insolvencies; and emigration has been suddenly stimulated. Nor have the poorer classes escaped, although they have suffered less in proportion. The number of persons relieved in 1860 was 179,514, and in 1862, 291,149, the population being 5,700,000; the criminal convictions of the first of these years were 3,531 cases, against 4,401 in the second; and the average of wages has, perhaps, decreased, though assuredly not to a great extent, throughout most of the labouring classes.

Yet hope is entertained that the evil symptoms are but the effect of four bad harvests, and will disappear with the return of kind seasons and full barns. The rotten condition of a society consisting of a population of cottiers, a mass of helpless pauperism, and an insolvent aristocracy of landlords, combined with agricultural misfortunes in the production of the crisis of 1846. Matters are widely different now:—

Those who recollect the Ireland of 1846 will appreciate this in its full significance. 16,000,000*l.* was the highest sum at which the failure of the potato was estimated at that disastrous period, while the losses of Ireland from 1860 to 1864 have been calculated at 27,000,000*l.* Yet the losses of 1846 produced a revolution in society without a parallel in modern history; those which Ireland has just experienced, although severe, have not been crushing, and doubtless will be easily got over.

It is proposed, among other reforms, to lighten the taxation, to accomplish the enjoyment of a larger expenditure of public money in Ireland, to abolish the Viceroyalty and the Established Church.

A review of 'Kaye's History of the Indian Mutiny' and 'Notes on Diplomacy and Diplomatic History' form the serious and practical portion of *Fraser*, while 'The Drama in Paris' and a review of Victor Hugo's Shakespeare supply the literary side. There is also an amusing article on 'Curiosities of the Patent Offices.'

The number concludes with a sharp replication to Mr. Christie's pretentious list of the Cambridge 'Apostles.' *Fraser* had spoken disparagingly of the action of that society *as a body* upon the intellectual history of England. Thereupon Mr. Christie in *Macmillan's Magazine* burst out with a gorgeous list of grand names taken from the roll of the society, including one which he took care to foist in of a young gentleman of some promise, who certainly as yet has not earned the title to rank with Macaulay, Hallam, and Gladstone, and demanded how, in the face of such a legion of luminaries, *Fraser* dare despise the Twelve. The answer is twofold. First, the denial of the merit of a society is not a denial of the merits of individuals who have once belonged to it. Second, societies of the style of the 'Apostles' tend to induce affectation, conceit, exclusiveness, and all other evils incidental to caste on a small scale. We await with some anxiety the rejoinder of the ex-Minister to Brazil.

A LINCOLNITE MANIFESTATION.

To the Editor of THE INDEX.

BRISTOL: December 5, 1864.

SIR,—The city of Bristol contains from half a score to half a hundred individuals who look upon Mr. Lincoln as the principal benefactor of the human race, and the Northern Government as the representative on earth of the highest principles of liberty, morality, and order. Elated with the success at the poll of the object of their worship, these few but active persons, having organised themselves into a General Committee of Universal Peace and Emancipation, determined to celebrate the auspicious election of the President of the once United States to the Presidency of the new Government of the Northern States, which is to come into existence on March 4, 1865. One Mr. Handel Cosham, whose very name breathed harmony and concord, was the leading spirit in the chorus of the messengers of goodwill. The Broadmead Rooms—which, by the way, are capable of holding no less than 3,000 persons—were hired by these ambitious spirits, doubtless under the idea that a 'spread-eagle' suitable to the occasion could not be performed in a more confined space. Unfortunately, it occurred to the mind of certain people, whom, probably, Mr. Handel Cosham would class as 'certain lewd fellows of the baser sort,' that it were a thousand pities that so large a vacuum should exist; and as there were but a half-score or half-hundred Federals whose presence might be expected, it only remained to gather Confederates and Neutrals to the number of 2,950. Loyal citizens would naturally be desirous that the Broadmead Rooms should be seen to advantage on so grand an occasion, and no good man of Bristol could object to the congregation, however much he might have wished for an addition to the numbers of either party. Handel Cosham and Co., with a shrewdness worthy of the nation which they admired, had foreseen the possibility of an admixture of the base and servile element, and had hit upon the device of charging a small sum, payable in coin, and not in greenbacks, for admission to the scene of the Lincolnite manifestation. Unfortunately, however, the people of Bristol judged that the fun would be well worth a few coppers, and came in unparalleled multitudes. About half an hour after the opening of the doors, the band of brethren, headed by Handel Cosham as *bâtonnier*, ascended the platform, and were received with an outburst of vocal music which partook of the character of the Southern yell of battle. Thereupon one George Powell, who rejoices in the *sobriquet* of '*The* Working Man,' advanced to the front and proceeded to pronounce the word 'Gentlemen.' Immediately a furious shout was raised, cheers were echoed and reechoed for President Davis, while vehement groaning for 'Abe Lincoln' was heard. As the voices fell, the word 'Gentlemen' was again uttered. This time the talisman evoked a terrific cry of 'Stonewall Jackson for ever!' At length, after proposing in dumb show a chairman in the person of Algernon Warren, Esq., '*The* Working Man' subsided, and up rose one Harris; but what he said no man can possibly know. Then the chairman raised aloft a placard, and at this sign 2,000 voices struck up 'We won't go home till morning,' the instrumental music being supplied by the clapping of hands and the beating of feet. At last the thought seemed to prevail that there had been talk enough, and that the time had arrived for action. Suddenly some 500 joined in a serried mass, and, with a tall grenadier at their head, prepared to carry the platform by assault. The word was given, and, with one shout of triumph, the position was scaled. Then a burly man, a second Daniel Lambert—a publican, too, and hater of teetotallers—advanced to Mr. Handel Cosham, who received the monster meekly, and demanded the coppers paid by him for admission, on the ground that he had come for the Handel oration and had not got it. Then the voices of the enemy sang 'I wish I was in Dixie,' gave cheers for General Lee, and howled out a parody on 'John Brown,' the burden of which was, 'Hang Abe Lincoln to a sour apple-tree.' Then one man proposed a vote of thanks to President Davis, with a vote of censure on the Cosham section, while others actually proceeded to make speeches in favour of the South. The shutting off of the gas brought the glorious manifestation to a sudden end, and night closed on the demoralised ranks of the half-hundred.

CIVIS.

CALL OF THE GEORGIANS TO ARMS.—The following is General Beauregard's call on the people of Georgia:—'Corinth, November 18: To the people of Georgia: Arise for the defence of your native soil. Rally round our patriotic Governor and gallant soldiers. Obstruct and destroy all the roads in Sherman's front, flank, and rear, and his army will soon starve in your midst. Be confident, be resolute, trust in an overruling Providence, and success will soon crown your efforts. I hasten to join you in the defence of your homes and firesides.—(Signed) G. T. BEAUREGARD.'—The following address to the Georgians had also been issued:—'Richmond, November 19.—To the People of Georgia: We have had a special conference with President Davis and the Secretary of War, and we are able to assure you that they have done, and are still doing, all that can be done to meet the emergency that presses upon you. Let every man fly to arms. Remove negroes, horses, cattle, and provisions, from Sherman's army, and burn all you cannot carry. Burn all the bridges, and block up the roads in his route. Assail the invader in the front, flank, and rear by night, and by day let him have no rest.—Signed by Julian Hartridge, Mark Blandford, J. A. Reynolds, General N. Luster, and others.' Senator Hill, of Georgia, had likewise issued the following address to the people of the State:—'Richmond, Virginia, Nov. 18.—To the people of Georgia: You have now the best opportunity ever presented to you to destroy the enemy. Put everything at the disposal of our general, remove all provisions from the path of the invaders, and put all obstructions you can in his way. Every citizen with his gun, and every negro with his axe and spade, can do the work of a good soldier. You can destroy the enemy by retarding his march. Georgians, be firm, act promptly, and fear not. (Signed) D. H. HILL.—I most cordially approve of the above, JAS. A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.'

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.

FROM A CONFEDERATE CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS: December 7.

THE rumours of peace which have been circulated in the North by certain over-credulous newsmongers have during the past week formed the subject of comment with the Paris press.

The Baron de Bazancourt, in *La France*, has correctly estimated this question of peace between the North and the South. He doubts if these rumours have any foundation in truth, and, even supposing such to be the case, is of opinion that any peace proposal having for its basis the return of the South to the Union would not be accepted.

The South (he remarks) has not sacrificed everything—the last dollar of its public and private fortunes, the last child in each of its families, torn from the domestic hearth to bear arms and fight; it has not accepted the complete ruin of its dearest interests, by the wreck of which it is surrounded, that it may return to the Union by walking over the many corpses of its countrymen which mark the route that must for ever separate it from the Cabinet of Washington.

According to M. de Bazancourt, there is but one way for the reestablishment of peace, and that is an appeal to the vote of the populations, of those, namely, of the South. Their wishes, freely expressed, should be respected, whether they be in favour of separation or of union.

Should this vote be against you (he says to the North), it will be in the name of the indefeasible right of the liberty of States and of citizens that it will address you; and in face of such a resolution, thus legally expressed, you will fulfil your duty as Republicans by your assent. Otherwise, be not mistaken, you will have either an interminable war or a spurious peace, based only upon violence and exhaustion.

The *Nation* discovers another method for remedying the present situation—that of according to the South the same representation in the Union as the North, so that it might at all times protect its interests. The *Nation* has referred more than once to this plan, which, however, it has not yet clearly explained. If I understand it rightly, it would consist of a sort of union formed of two distinct confederations, that of the North and that of the South. There is, perhaps, something good in this idea; it certainly furnishes the only basis on which it is possible to conceive of any conjunction being effected between them.

The *Presse*, whose opinions on the American question have so often varied, seems to be quite ready at the present moment to join chorus with *Le Temps* and *L'Opinion Nationale*, and to proclaim Mr. Lincoln as a great man. The chief of the executive, the Secretary of State, and even Mr. Butler, 'who has been represented as a very bugbear of tyranny, ferocity, and dishonesty,' all speak of conciliation; why, then, should not the North and South be reconciled? Where are the objections? There are none. The North states that it desires the reestablishment of the Union on the footing of perfect equality; the South may accept this 'honourably and with advantage.' But will it be said, their political convictions will then be sacrificed? All nonsense! 'Is not this a sacrifice which parties are compelled to make even in the best organised countries? If it were necessary to make war for a political programme, England herself would be in arms.'

Thus, after having for more than three years past acquainted the readers of *La Presse* with the various changes which this gigantic American contest has assumed; after having expressed himself in terms of the warmest and most generous sympathy toward the South; after having, with a rare penetration and insight, appreciated the skilful military operations of Lee, M. Chatard now finds that the South is fighting for a *political programme!*

The *Pays* does not believe in conciliation between the North and the South, still less in the possibility of the latter being subdued even by ruin and exhaustion. It reminds its readers that at one period of French history, the only money possessed by France was assignats; that her armies marched having neither shoes nor bread; and that in addition to this, civil war, a scourge from which the Southern States have been preserved, was tearing her breast. Nevertheless, France willed to be free, and free she became. Besides, observes *Le Pays*, if the South is impoverished the North is ruined; it expends more than it produces, whilst the expenditure of the South is less than its production. It is therefore useless to reckon upon the exhaustion of the South, but rather, and solely, upon Divine Providence, for the cessation of the war.

The official text of Earl Russell's reply to the Confederate Commissioners has been published in all the journals. The *Patrie* and *La France* joke on the words, '*formerly united*,' applied to the American Republic, and consider the expression as highly disagreeable to the North.

From this phrase (says *La France*), it is evident that the English Government acknowledges that the old Union has ceased to exist. After the recent Presidential election, one cannot, in truth, arrive at any other conclusion.

The *Patrie* finds in this expression an additional confirmation of the argument which it has several times maintained—namely, that Mr. Lincoln had no longer any right to the title of President of the United States.

M. Aucaigne, of the *Patrie*, embracing the opportunity furnished him by the publication of a new edition of De Tocqueville's excellent work, 'Democracy in America,' has sought to find in this masterly production—which is, indeed, a kind of gospel on American policy—the confirmation of the ideas which he defends with such ability and energy in *La Patrie*. Well, after having again refreshed his powers from this inexhaustible source, after having controlled his opinions by the light of the arguments of that great thinker, he has stated, with a satisfaction of which he may well be proud, that not one of his ideas would be rejected by De Tocqueville, that that great mind had foreseen the separation of the Union, and that he acknowledged the right of the States to break the Federal compact. This article by M. Aucaigne is very interesting and full of instruction.

I would direct your attention to a very interesting and curious article; it is a political chit-chat by the witty writer of *Le Courrier du Dimanche*, Alfred Assolant. M. Assolant never treats political questions excepting in a jocose way; but notwithstanding his jocularity he is still very serious and thoughtful. It is he who wrote the only article expressing sympathy with the Southern cause that has ever appeared in *Le Courrier du Dimanche*.

The chit-chat to which I refer turns upon Mexico, and the following extract will enable you to judge whether or not this political question is rightly understood by M. Assolant.

We must not deceive ourselves. War with the United States is inevitable. At the present time Lincoln is silent, and conceals his future policy in order not to occasion a rupture with France, which would secure both the victory and the separation of the South; but as soon as peace shall be established both parties will unite themselves against the Emperor of Mexico, and this new war will probably be the pledge of their reconciliation. Think for a moment that the Yankees will have to disband an army of 700,000 or 800,000 veterans (a burden at all times dangerous for a republic); and of this immense number two or three hundred thousand, or more, have come from Europe, having in America neither wife, child, nor relations; that they possess an aptitude for war, a love for adventure, and that Mexico will afford them a prey. In a fortnight Maximilian will be dethroned by them, if, indeed, he is not dethroned by his own subjects. . . . . Provided that, after having placed him on this throne, we have not the chivalric notion of replacing him there! On that day we shall have a rough task to perform; and we may have to institute the fund, not of Public Works, but of the Consolidated Dynasties—for we shall have no end of friends to succour, not to mention the Emperor of the Aztecs.

What wit! and also, what good sense!

MANCHESTER OPERATIVES AND THE COTTON FAMINE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

MANCHESTER: December 7, 1864.

ON Saturday afternoon an open-air public meeting of cotton operatives, employed or unemployed, was held in Stevenson Square, for the purpose, according to the placard convening the assembly, of taking into consideration the present condition of the cotton districts, and proposing some mode of terminating the distress.

Mr. J. J. Finnigan, a person who has identified himself for many years as a representative and spokesman of his class, was called on to preside. He reminded the people that, at the commencement of the cotton crisis consequent on the American war, a meeting of Manchester operatives was held in that very square, to lay before Parliament and the country their opinions as to what would follow in the northern counties if the strife then newly begun in America was permitted to go on. Unfortunately, that struggle had been continued, and experience had only too sharply proved the correctness of their apprehensions. At the meeting referred to, he took a prominent part in the proceedings, and he exonerated at that time the British Government from any blame on account of the impending distress, for he believed it arose out of circumstances beyond their control. It was therefore the business of all classes to unite in a brotherly spirit, and attempt to mitigate the severity of that calamity. He himself, in his humble capacity, proposed some plans which were substantially adopted, one of them being the establishment of a Board of Relief to cooperate with the local Board of Guardians in the collection and distribution of charitable funds. At that time, now nearly three years ago, it was urged upon the Government to reduce the duties on manufactured goods imported to India, as an expedient, so far as it would go, for setting some of the mills at work in the cotton districts, and in that way alleviating some portion of the distress. A public meeting was called to consider that object, and he happened to be one of those who were appointed to wait on Sir Charles Wood; and he must say this of Sir Charles, that, although he withheld any such encouragement from a deputation of merchants on the same subject, to the cotton operatives he said that so soon as the time came he would take steps to reduce the taxation complained of. All things considered, it was now high time for another deputation to go to London, not to Sir Charles Wood, but to Lord Palmerston, and call upon the Government to redeem the promise made three years ago by the head of the India House Department; for if that were successfully done, it would go some way towards removing the necessity of relief committees, and restoring the cotton operatives to the position they had lost. The time had also come when some decided steps should be taken to bring about peace in that unhappy country whose dissensions were the immediate cause of the cotton famine, and the prolongation of whose war meant simply the prolongation of distress. It was quite true we had no business to concern ourselves with the internal politics of North and South, but it was equally true we were concerned with what might be called the home politics of 'bread and cheese,' and he held that to be a good argument for offering friendly counsels to the belligerent parties. We had looked on—or, as it was said, 'stood on one side'—while the two sections of our kinsmen attempted to adjust their differences, and the consequence had been four years of the most frightful warfare the world had ever beheld. He would add, however, that, among other extraordinary circumstances attending the struggle, an amount of bravery had been displayed that made us pity the wretched cause in which it was shown. The prevailing elements of the people, North and South, were Celt and Saxon, and Celt and Saxon united could never be conquered, although they might be mutually destroyed. Such, therefore, being the parties to that desperate warfare, and so fruitless and endless being the contest, he considered that the operatives of Lancashire should call for assistance from the Powers of Europe to undertake the office of mediating between the belligerents, partly as it was our duty to endeavour to stop a war that was desolating one of the fairest portions of the earth, and partly that one of the great interests of our own country might no longer remain swallowed up. (The chairman concluded his observations amid general cheering.)

Mr. J. Matthew (Manchester), in moving the first resolution, said that the present head of the India House, instead of redeeming his promise made on the 18th of July, 1862, had done the very reverse, and this notwithstanding all arguments to the contrary, for the fact had been proved that the duty on manufactured goods exported to India could have been safely removed. It was a duty they owed to themselves, their wives and families, to work for the attainment of that object until their chimneys ceased to be 'smokeless,' and until the necessity was removed for committees and boards of guardians to administer relief to unwilling paupers. While he desired peace, he did not desire it on 'any price' principles, but for the sake of his fellow-men at home and abroad. He was not the advocate either of North or of South, and the meeting, as he apprehended, had no connection with the friends of either party. He concluded by moving the following resolution:—

That this meeting memorialise Lord Palmerston for the immediate and total repeal of all duties now levied on all cotton goods and yarns imported into British India; that such memorial be signed by the chairman on behalf of such meeting; that a deputation be appointed to present the memorial to his Lordship; and that a request be made to the two members for this city, and also those for the county, to accompany such deputation and support their prayer.

Mr. K. Smith (Oldham), in seconding the motion, referred to the amount of distress now prevailing, and added that if Lord Palmerston, who, as he took it, was Sir Charles Wood's 'master,' did not 'do something for the country, the country would do something for themselves.'

The resolution was carried without opposition.

Mr. M. Grimshaw (Manchester) then moved the following resolution:—

That, in consequence of the wide-spread distress now prevailing in the cotton districts through the continuance of the war in America, this meeting is desirous that Her Majesty's Government should use their influence, along with France and other European Powers, to bring the belligerents together, in order to stop the vast destruction of life and property now going on in that unhappy country.

In support of that resolution the speaker said he was not a 'Union and Emancipation' man, nor, for the matter of that, was he a member of the Southern Independence Association. He believed that, but for so much injudicious encouragement by 'John Bright' and others, the Yankees would have discontinued the war long ago. It was also certain that, if real neutrality had been shown by our Government, the Southerners would have been in a position to have 'wrung independence' from their oppressors before now. Our own look-out was getting worse from day to day. The funds of the Manchester Committee and the Mansion-House Committee were getting rapidly exhausted. The operatives must have read the recent resolutions adopted in King Street, of a sufficiently stringent character to keep a little 'brass' in hand. But what was the meaning of that? The resolution was reasonable enough, but it meant that public charity was failing, although the need of it appeared greater and more enduring than ever. It was evident the people were tired of subscribing—a fact which was amply proved by the smallness of the funds now coming in, compared with the thousands that were so nobly given at the beginning of the distress. What, then, were they to do? If some remedy were not forthcoming, and that soon, they would not only be pauperised, but starved. If the Government would do nothing, let the people themselves send a messenger to Washington and Richmond to represent the condition of the operatives of the cotton districts, and advocate peace. He maintained the cotton operatives had a right to be heard on the question, as thousands and tens of thousands of them had been quickly reduced to a state of pauperism and starvation.

Mr. S. Mills (Rochdale), in seconding the resolution, said the meeting had nothing to do with John Bright or Goldwin Smith, who had written and spoken 'all they knew' in encouragement of the American war. He believed if the working-men of Manchester, or any other city or town in the cotton districts, were canvassed, a vast majority would be found in favour of a separation of the States and the independence of the South. He could see no other end of the war. If that was so, why not have peace at once? (A voice: 'Peace at any price?') Yes, at any price such a peace could cost. Besides, if 'peace at any price' was good in 1854, it ought to be at least as good in 1864. The present war was unjust, and therefore the sooner it was ended the better.

Prior to the motion being put, the following amendment was proposed to the meeting amid great disturbance and uproar:—

That this meeting is of opinion that the Government of this country has pursued a wise and politic course in maintaining a strict neutrality between the two belligerents now waging war in America, and it trusts that such neutrality will be maintained until the war be brought to a close.

The amendment having been seconded, was put to the meeting and declared to be lost, followed by much jeering from the crowd, and such expressions as 'Who wants to be starved?' 'Live, horse, and you'll get grass,' &c.

The resolution was accordingly carried, and the meeting peaceably dispersed.

Manifesto of the Confederate States.

MANY applications have been made for copies of the Confederate Manifesto. We therefore republish it, together with the letter of the Confederate Commissioners and Earl Russell's reply. We also publish some resolutions that have lately been introduced into the Confederate Congress.

JOINT RESOLUTIONS DECLARING THE DISPOSITIONS, PRINCIPLES, AND PURPOSES OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES IN RELATION TO THE EXISTING WAR WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Whereas: It is due to the great cause of humanity and civilisation, and especially to the heroic sacrifices of their gallant army in the field, that no means, consistent with a proper self-respect and the approved usages of nations, should be omitted by the Confederate States to enlighten the public opinion of the world with regard to the true character of the struggle in which they are engaged, and the dispositions, principles, and purposes by which they are actuated; therefore,

Resolved by the Congress of the Confederate States of America: That the following manifesto be issued in their name, and by their authority, and that the President be requested to cause copies thereof to be transmitted to our Commissioners abroad, to the end that the same may be laid before foreign Governments.

Manifesto of the Congress of the Confederate States of America relative to the existing War with the United States.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America, acknowledging their responsibility to the opinion of the civilised world, to the great law of Christian philanthropy, and to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, for the part they have been compelled to bear in the sad spectacle of war and carnage which this continent has, for the last three years, exhibited to the eyes of afflicted humanity, deem the present a fitting occasion to declare the principles, the sentiments, and the purposes by which they have been, and are still, actuated.

They have ever deeply deplored the necessity which constrained them to take up arms in defence of their rights, and of the free institutions derived from their ancestors; and there is nothing they more ardently desire than peace, whensoever their enemy, by ceasing from the unhallowed war waged upon them, shall permit them to enjoy in peace the sheltering protection of those hereditary rights and those cherished institutions. The series of successes with which it has pleased Almighty God in so signal a manner to bless our arms on almost every point of our invaded border since the opening of the present campaign enables us to profess this desire of peace in the interest of civilisation and humanity, without danger of having our motives misinterpreted, of the declaration being ascribed to any unmanly sentiment or any mistrust of our ability fully to maintain our cause. The repeated and disastrous checks, foreshadowing ultimate discomfiture, which their gigantic army, erected against the capital of the Confederacy, has already met with, are but a continuation of the same providential successes for us. We do not refer to these successes in any spirit of vain boasting, but in humble acknowledgment of that Almighty protection which has vouchsafed and granted them.

The world must now see that eight millions of people, inhabiting so extensive a territory, with such varied resources and such numerous facilities for defence as the benignant bounty of nature has bestowed upon us, and animated with one spirit to encounter every privation and sacrifice of ease, of health, of property, of life itself, rather than be degraded from the condition of free and independent States, into which they were born, can never be conquered. Will not our adversaries themselves begin to feel that humanity has bled long enough; that tears and blood and treasure enough have been expended in a bootless undertaking, covering their own land, no less than ours, with a pall of mourning, and exposing them far more than ourselves to the catastrophe of financial exhaustion and bankruptcy, not to speak of the loss of their liberties by the despotism engendered in an aggressive warfare upon the liberties of another and kindred people? Will they be willing, by a longer perseverance in a wanton and hopeless contest, to make this continent, which they so long boasted to be the chosen abode of liberty and self-government, of peace and a higher civilisation, the theatre of the most causeless and prodigal effusion of blood which the world has ever seen, of a virtual relapse into the barbarism of the ruder ages, and of the destruction of constitutional freedom by the lawlessness of usurped power?

These are questions which our adversaries will decide for themselves. We desire to stand acquitted before the tribunal of the world, as well as in the eyes of omniscient justice, of any responsibility for the origin or prolongation of a war as contrary to the spirit of the age as to the traditions and acknowledged maxims of the political system of America.

On this Continent, whatever opinions may have prevailed elsewhere, it has ever been held and acknowledged by all parties, that government, to be lawful, must be founded on the consent of the governed. We were forced to dissolve our Federal connection with our former associates by their aggressions on the fundamental principles of our compact of union with them; and in doing so we exercised a right consecrated in the great charter of American liberty—the right of a free people, when a Government proves destructive of the ends for which it was established, to recur to the original principles, and to institute new guards for their security. The separate independence of the States, as the sovereign and coequal members of the Federal Union, had never been surrendered, and the pretension of applying to independent communities, so constituted and organised, the ordinary rules for coercing and reducing rebellious subjects to obedience was a solecism in terms, as well as an outrage on the principles of public law.

The war made upon the Confederate States was, therefore, wholly one of aggression. On our side it has been strictly defensive. Born freemen and the descendants of a gallant ancestry, we had no option but to stand up in defence of our invaded firesides, of our desecrated altars, of our violated liberties and birthright, and of the prescriptive institutions which guard and protect them. We have not interfered, nor do we wish in any manner whatever to interfere, with the internal peace and prosperity of the States arrayed in hostility against us, or with the freest development of their destinies in any form of action or line of policy they may think proper to adopt for themselves. All we ask is a like immunity for ourselves, and to be left in the undisturbed enjoyment of those inalienable rights of 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,' which our common ancestors declared to be the equal heritage of all the parties to the social compact.

Let them forbear aggressions upon us, and the war is at an end. If there be questions which require adjustment by negotiation, we have ever been willing, and are still willing, to enter into communication with our adversaries in a spirit of peace, equity, and manly frankness. Strong in the persuasion of the justice of our cause, in the gallant devotion of our citizen soldiers, and of the whole body of our people, and above all in the gracious protection of Heaven, we are not afraid to avow a sincere desire for peace on terms consistent with our honour and the permanent security of our rights, and an earnest aspiration to see the world once more restored to the beneficent pursuits of industry and of mutual intercourse and exchanges so essential to its well-being, and which have been so gravely interrupted by the existence of this unnatural war in America.

But if our adversaries, or those whom they have placed in authority—deaf to the voice of reason and justice—steeled to the dictates of both prudence and humanity by a presumptuous and delusive confidence in their own numbers, or those of their black and foreign mercenaries, shall determine upon an indefinite prolongation of the contest, upon them be the responsibility of a decision so ruinous to themselves and so injurious to the interest and repose of mankind.

For ourselves, we have no fear of the result. The wildest picture ever drawn by a disordered imagination comes short of the extravagance which could dream of the conquest of eight millions of people, resolved with one mind 'to die freemen rather than live slaves,' and forewarned by the savage and exterminating spirit in which this war has been waged upon them, and by the mad avowals of its patrons and supporters, of the worse than Egyptian bondage that awaits them in the event of their subjugation. With these declarations of our dispositions, our principles, and our purposes, we commit our cause to the enlightened judgment of the world, to the sober reflection of our adversaries themselves, and to the solemn and righteous arbitrament of Heaven.

The following is the joint note addressed to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs by the diplomatic representatives of the Confederate Government abroad, transmitting an official copy of the manifesto of the Congress of the Confederate States. An identical note has been addressed to the principal Governments of Western Europe.

Paris, November 11, 1864.

To His Excellency M. Drouyn de Lhuys, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Sir,—The undersigned Commissioners of the Confederate States of America, in pursuance of the instructions of their Government, have the honour to present to your Excellency a copy of a manifesto issued by the Congress of said States with the approval of the President, and of which the President was requested to cause copies to be transmitted to their Commissioners abroad, to the end that the same might be by them laid before foreign Governments; they at the same time communicate a copy of the preamble and resolutions of Congress accompanying said manifesto.

The dispositions, principles, and purposes by which the Confederate States have been and are still animated, are set forth in this paper with all the authority due to the solemn declarations of the legislative and executive branches of their Government, and with a clearness which leaves no room for comment or explanation. In a few sentences it is pointed out that 'all they ask is immunity from interference with their internal peace and prosperity, and to be left in the undisturbed enjoyment of their inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, which their common ancestry declared to be the equal heritage of all parties to the social compact. Let them forbear aggressions upon us, and the war is at an end. If there be questions which require adjustment by negotiation, they have ever been willing, and are still willing, to enter into communication with their adversaries in a spirit of equity and manly frankness, and commit their cause to the enlightened judgment of the world, to the sober reflection of their adversaries themselves, and to the solemn and righteous arbitrament of Heaven.'

The undersigned beg leave most respectfully to invite the attention of the Government of his Imperial Majesty to this frank and full explanation of the attitude and purposes of the Confederate States, and will merely remark in addition, that since the issuing of that manifesto the war has continued to be waged by our enemies with even increased ferocity, a more signal disregard of all the rules of civilised warfare, and more wanton violation of the obligations of international law.

The undersigned, having thus complied with the instructions of their Government, beg to assure your Excellency of the distinguished consideration with which they have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient servants,

(Signed) JOHN SLIDELL.
J. M. MASON.
A. DUDLEY MANN.

A similar document, with the necessary changes, has been presented to all the Cabinets of Europe (Constantinople excepted). Mr. Slidell has handed in person to M. Drouyn de Lhuys the above. Bishop Lynch will hand to the Pope the copy intended for him.

EARL RUSSELL'S REPLY.

Foreign Office: November 25, 1864.

Gentlemen,—I have had the honour to receive the copy which you have sent me of the manifesto issued by the Congress of the so-called Confederate States of America.

Her Majesty's Government deeply lament the protracted nature of the struggle between the Northern and Southern States of the formerly United Republic of North America.

Great Britain has since 1783 remained, with the exception of a short period, connected by friendly relations with both the Northern and the Southern States. Since the commencement of the civil war, which broke out in 1861, Her Majesty's Government have continued to entertain sentiments of friendship equally for the North and the South. Of the causes of the rupture Her Majesty's Government have never presumed to judge; they deplore the commencement of this sanguinary struggle, and anxiously look forward to the period of its termination. In the meantime they are convinced that they best consult the interests of peace, and respect the rights of all parties, by observing a strict and impartial neutrality. Such a neutrality Her Majesty has faithfully maintained, and will continue to maintain.

I request you, Gentlemen, to accept the assurances of the very high consideration with which

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient, humble servant,
RUSSELL.

John Slidell, Esq., J. M. Mason, Esq., and
A. Dudley Mann, Esq., &c. &c. &c.

The following resolutions were introduced in the Confederate Congress on November 18, by Mr. Henry, Senator from Tennessee:—

JOINT RESOLUTIONS DEFINING THE POSITION OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, AND DECLARING THE DETERMINATION OF THE CONGRESS AND THE PEOPLE THEREOF TO PROSECUTE THE WAR TILL THEIR INDEPENDENCE IS ACKNOWLEDGED.

Resolved, by the Congress of the Confederate States of America: That the people of the Confederate States are endowed by their Creator with the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these high rights governments were instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, and, whenever any government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to substitute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organising its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness; that on these principles, embodied in the Declaration of American Independence, the United Colonies, in 1776, dissolved the connection that bound them to the Government of Great Britain, and on them the Confederate States have severed the bonds of that political union which connected them with the people and the Government of the United States of America, rather than submit to the repeated injuries inflicted upon them by that people, and to the usurpations of that Government, all of which had the direct object to deprive them of their rights, rob them of property secured to them by constitutional guarantees, and to establish an absolute tyranny over these States.

Resolved: That the Confederate States appealed to arms in defence of these rights, and to establish these principles, only after they had in vain conjured the people and the Government of the United States, by all the ties of a common kindred, to discountenance and discontinue these injuries and usurpations, and after they had petitioned for redress in the most appropriate terms, and received in answer only a repetition of insults and injuries, which foreshadowed usurpations still more dangerous to liberty.

Resolved: That after nearly four years of cruel, desolating, and unnatural war, in which the people of the Confederate States have unquestionably established their capacity for self-government, and their ability to resist the attempts of the enemy to subjugate them, this Congress does not hesitate to aver its sincere desire for peace, and to that end proclaims to the world the readiness of the Government of the Confederate States to open negotiations to establish a permanent and honourable peace between the Confederate States and the United States, upon the basis of the separate independence of the former.

Resolved: That the time has come when the Confederate Congress, in the name of the people of the Confederate States, deem it proper again to proclaim to the world their unalterable determination to be free, and that they do not abate one jot of their high resolve to die freemen rather than live slaves; and further, if the people of the United States, by reelecting Abraham Lincoln, mean to tender to them four years more of war, or reunion with them on any terms, deeply deprecating the dire necessity so wantonly thrust upon them, and relying upon the justice of their cause and the gallantry of their soldiers, they accept the gage of battle, and leave the result to the righteous arbitrament of Heaven.

Resolved: That in view of the determination of the enemy to prosecute this horrid war still further, against which the Confederate States have at all times protested, and which the enemy have waged with extraordinary vigour, and which has been marked by acts of extraordinary atrocity, in violation of the usages of civilised warfare, the Congress of the Confederate States will, from this hour, dedicate themselves anew to the great cause of self-defence against the combined tyranny of the enemy. That it shall no longer be the momentary occupation of the Congress and the people of the Confederate States, but the business of their lives, to gather together the entire strength of the country in men and material of war, and put it forth, as with the will of one man, and with an unconquerable determination to defend their altars and their firesides till the last votary of freedom falls around them.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

THE money market has fluctuated in appearance a good deal, but the rate has not tended permanently upwards. There has been sufficient strength in quotations to show that at present no hope of a reduction exists. Hence it is now pretty well imagined that rates will remain quiet at 6¾ to 7 per cent. throughout the remainder of the year. If the terms of 6 per cent. were to rule the last fortnight in December, it would give the final liquidation of accounts a better chance, and might assist a few weak firms over impending difficulties. There is, however, little prospect of a variation, since the late remittances to Egypt and India have produced an amount of caution both in the Bank parlour and among the bankers and discounting community, indicating that they are prepared to support the quotations. The next weekly statements of the Bank of France and of the Bank of England will, it is assumed, be satisfactory; but it would not take a large drain at the present juncture to reduce the bullion to such a point, that either establishment might at a moment have to place the quotation higher. One circumstance in favour of the money market here is the gradual reduction in the value of discount on the Continent. Acting in sympathy with the late reduction in London and Paris, this tendency proves that the pressure throughout the leading cities in Europe has abated, and that events are turning in a more encouraging channel. The crisis, such as it has been, may be considered to have passed; but, although a few houses may yet, perhaps, have to succumb through exhausted resources, no general return of financial stringency is likely to be immediately experienced. On the Stock Exchange money has been more in demand at rates varying from 5 to 6 per cent.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The bullion market is not in a very satisfactory position at the present moment, the withdrawals from the Bank being largely in excess of the amount sent in, and it is expected that further sums have yet to be taken for transhipment abroad. The amount sent in this week has been only 9,000*l.*, whilst the withdrawals have reached 310,000*l.* The arrivals of specie have been to a moderate extent only, viz. 198,402*l.*, of which 26,668*l.* was from Melbourne, and the remainder from New York; and the *Borussia* from the same quarter, which may be daily expected, will bring a further sum of 240,000*l.* The last packet for the East took out 114,362*l.*, of which 113,460*l.* was in silver and 892*l.* in gold. The proportions were—to India,

10,892*l.*; China and the Straits, 87,400*l.*; and Alexandria, 16,000*l.* The silver market is rather quiet, the bars brought by the last West India packet has been sold at $61\frac{5}{8}$*d.* per oz., being an advance on previous sales of $\frac{5}{8}$*d.* Mexican dollars are without change.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

The market for the English Funded Securities has not been particularly animated during the week, business being to a considerable extent restrained through the gold movements at the Bank, which, since the last reduction in the rate, has had the effect of inducing withdrawals on a rather more extended scale, whilst the amounts sent in are only trifling. To-day, however, there has been a slightly better feeling, and prices have slightly improved, and the market closed with firmness. In foreign securities the chief excitement has been in Spanish, in which a considerable business has been transacted, but prices have again receded in consequence of doubts being entertained as to the *bona fides* of the Spanish Government in carrying out the arrangements for the settlement of the debt. Greek and Mexican have also been fairly dealt in at steady quotations. The closing prices this evening were, Consols for money, $89\frac{1}{8}$ to $89\frac{1}{4}$ ex div. and for the January account, $89\frac{5}{8}$ ex div., which is a rise during the week of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Exchequer bills are rather lower, being now quoted 7*s.* to 2*s.* dis. Greek stock is unaltered at $22\frac{1}{2}$ to 23. Mexican, $29\frac{3}{8}$ to $29\frac{5}{8}$, being an improvement of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Spanish Passives have receded $1\frac{1}{2}$, and the Certificates $1\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., the respective prices now being $31\frac{3}{4}$ to 32, and $14\frac{1}{8}$ to $14\frac{3}{8}$. Turkish Six per Cents. of 1854 are $87\frac{1}{2}$ to $88\frac{1}{2}$, being a rise of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but those of 1862 have declined $\frac{1}{4}$, being now at 71 to $71\frac{1}{2}$.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The recent advices from New York have had the effect of slightly improving the tone of the market for American Government and railway securities. The dealings have been rather more numerous than for the last few weeks, and prices in most instances are a shade firmer. There, however, still continues a total absence of speculation. The official record of the dealings show Maryland to have been dealt in at 66; United States Six per Cents. of 1882, at 43, $42\frac{1}{2}$, 43, $43\frac{1}{4}$, and 43; Virginia State Six per Cents., at 27, $27\frac{1}{2}$, 28, 27, and $28\frac{1}{2}$; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York Section, first mortgage, at 72; ditto ditto Pennsylvania Section, first mortgage, at $70\frac{3}{4}$, 71, and $70\frac{3}{4}$; ditto ditto, second ditto, at 68; Erie, $100 shares, all paid, at 40; Illinois Central, $100 shares, $90 paid, at 46; ditto ditto, all paid, at 51, $51\frac{1}{2}$, 51, $51\frac{1}{4}$, $51\frac{1}{2}$, 51, $51\frac{1}{2}$, and $51\frac{1}{4}$; Michigan Central 8 per cent., at 52; and Panama Railway, second mortgage, at 102, $102\frac{1}{2}$, $102\frac{1}{4}$, and 102.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market for this security has been dull during the week, and the price has declined under the influence of the accounts regarding Sherman's progress. The closing quotation is 57 to 59.

IMPORTS FROM THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

The following table, extracted from the Customs Bill of Entry, is a statement of part of the imports of Southern cotton and tobacco into England since our last number:—

Date	Name of Ship	Port	Consignee	Bales of Cotton	Boxes of Tobacco
Nov. 28	Bessie Simpson	Matamoras	Huth & Co.	119	
,,	,,	,,	Drake & Co.	47	
,,	,,	,,	Droege & Co.	415	
,,	,,	,,	F. De Lizardi & Co.	185	
Nov. 29	Secret	Nassau	Beach & Co.	374	
,,	,,	,,	Somervail & Co.	—	90
,,	,,	,,	W. A. and G. Maxwell	—	10
,,	Star	Bermuda	To order	530	
,,	,,	,,	H. B. Labett	1	
,,	,,	,,	Whitaker & Co.	6	
Nov. 30	F. V.	Nassau	Fraser & Co.	587	
,,	Architect	Bermuda	To order	655	
			Total .	2919	100

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The following suspensions have taken place since our last number:—Messrs. Wilson, Bowles, and Co., East India and Mauritius merchants, liabilities about 250,000*l.*, the greater part of which is covered by securities; Messrs. Eyles, Evans, Hands, and Wells, liabilities about 200,000*l.*; Messrs. Hutter, Drouhet, and Co., merchants, of Gracechurch Street, liabilities about 30,000*l.*; Messrs. John Peakman and Co., of Birmingham, in the copper trade, liabilities not stated, but they are not large. Advices from Liverpool mention that a statement of the affairs of Hodgson, Mather, and Co., merchants, who recently failed, was laid before their creditors on Tuesday. The open liabilities were shown to be over 280,000*l.*, the assets under 8,000*l.*

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

In nearly all kinds of produce transactions continue to be regulated almost entirely by the requirements of the present period, the uncertainty overhanging the money market tending to strengthen the general desire to keep operations within moderate limits as the end of the year approaches. Imports are still light, and as the clearances, both for consumption and export, are satisfactory, stocks, with very few exceptions, are not increasing materially. There is consequently nothing to induce any pressure of sales, and prices remain without much variation; but, as usually is the case in dull times, the tendency is rather downward than otherwise. The cotton market during the last few days has been somewhat unsettled, and without much activity, prices fluctuating about $\frac{1}{2}$*d.* per lb. Jute, which has for some time past in a great measure followed the course of the cotton market, has become dull of sale. At the auctions to-day prices were in some cases 5*s.* to 10*s.* per ton lower. Hemp is also quoted easier. Clean St. Petersburg 30*l.* to 32*l.* 10*s.*, and roping Manilla 25*l.* to 27*l.* 10*s.* per ton. Most descriptions of dye goods continue very firm, and for middling to good Honduras silver cochineal, quotations are again 1*d.* to 2*d.* per lb. higher. Shellac has declined 5*s.* to 7*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., in consequence of increased supplies. Cutch at 23*s.* to 23*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., or rather dearer. The oil trade is quiet. Linseed oil has receded to 33*s.* 6*d.* on the spot. Pale rape is not in large supply, and has advanced to 46*s.* 6*d.* and 47*s.* Sperm is quoted nominally 62*l.* to 65*l.* per tun, the lower price being for American, and the higher for colonial fishing. Petroleum meets a ready sale at the advanced price of 2*s.* 1*d.* to 2*s.* $1\frac{1}{2}$*d.* per gallon for American refined. In metals the business passing is limited, and quotations are in some cases barely maintained. Scotch pig iron closes 50*s.* $4\frac{1}{2}$*d.* cash. English pig lead common brands 20*l.* 5*s.* to 20*l.* 10*s.* Spelter 21*l.*, and Straits tin cash 92*l.* to 92*l.* 10*s.* per ton. The grain trade still progresses slowly, with scarcely any change in prices. The provision markets are rather firm. There is a demand for American bacon middles at full prices. Some very good American butters just to hand have sold readily at 112*s.* to 114*s.* per cwt. Lard is in moderate request. The imports of sugar keep steadily in advance of last year's at this time, and the relative surplus in stock is still enlarging. Prices are nearly 10*s.* lower than they were in December 1863, but have still a declining tendency. They are again 6*d.* to 1*s.* lower this week. Coffee maintains the recent advance rather firmly, but the sales have not gone off so briskly during the last day or two. In spices the only change of moment is a decline of 2*s.* to 3*s.* per cwt. for cassea lignea, which to-day sold at 79*s.* 6*d.* and 86*s.* for fourth to first quality. Large tea sales are in progress, and they have established a reduction of 1*d.* to $1\frac{1}{2}$*d.* per lb., on red-leaf congous. In other articles passing operations are trifling, and the variations in prices unimportant.

Liverpool, Wednesday, December 7.—Although we have had a fair amount of business transacted in cotton during the past week, the market has almost entirely lost the animation which was exhibited a week or two since. Still, there has been a slight improvement in the values from the lowest points which recently prevailed. The latest advices from New York, being silent with regard to the recently reported peace negotiations, have had the effect of slightly strengthening the market. The sales this week have amounted to 57,000 bales, of which 22,000 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year to the present date have been 2,550,032 bales, and to the same period in 1863, 2,491,730 bales. There have been imported this year 2,131,497 bales; last year the quantity was 1,558,375 bales. This year the trade have taken 1,509,692 bales, and to the same period in 1863, 1,257,445 bales. The exports this year have been 525,487 bales; last year they were 441,277 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 502,209 bales, against 737,566 bales in 1863. The estimated stocks at the present time are 383,792 bales, whilst at the corresponding period last year they were 249,582 bales. The closing quotations this afternoon were for American descriptions, $24\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to $26\frac{1}{4}$*d.*, according to quality; Pernambuco, 27*d.* to $27\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Maceio, $25\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 26*d.*; Bahia, $25\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to 26*d.*; Egyptian, $16\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to $28\frac{3}{4}$*d.*; Smyrna, $21\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to 22*d.*; Surats, $11\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to 21*d.*; Madras, $18\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to 19*d.*; Bengal, $12\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 13*d.*; Scinde, $12\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 13*d.*; China, $16\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to $17\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; Japan, $17\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to $18\frac{1}{4}$*d.*

The Manchester markets during the past week have been rather more active, and prices have gradually advanced under the stimulus of the large demand for cotton at Liverpool and the subsidence of the peace rumours in America. The enhanced prices demanded, however, have tended to limit the dealings to a considerable extent. For shipping yarns there has been a good demand, and very high prices have been asked; but, under some apprehensions that money may possibly become dearer at no distant date, the full quotations have not been maintained, and at the close of the market there was some weakness exhibited. For home trade yarns there has also been a good enquiry, but the high prices asked materially checked operations. The cloth market has been looking up nearly the whole of the week. Manufacturers were compelled to ask higher prices in consequence of the state of the cotton market; but very few of the large buyers showed any inclination to respond. Consequently, only a comparatively small business has been transacted. The latest official quotations for cloths were:—$\frac{7}{8}$ Grey Printers, 7*s.* 9*d.* to 15*s.*; $\frac{9}{8}$ Grey Madapollams, 7*s.* to 10*s.*; $\frac{9}{8}$ Grey Printers, 9*s.* 9*d.* to 17*s.* 3*d.*; $\frac{5}{4}$ Grey Shirtings, 11*s.* 6*d.* to 24*s.*; Water Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 9*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*; No. 30, 2*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* 10*d.*; No. 40, 1*s.* 10*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.*; Mule Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.* 4*d.*; No. 30, 1*s.* 11*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.*; No. 40, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 10*d.*; No. 50, 2*s.* 5*d.* to 3*s.*; No. 60, 2*s.* 8*d.* to 3*s.* 2*d.*; No. 70, 2*s.* 11*d.* to 3*s.* 5*d.*; No. 80, 3*s.* 1*d.* to 3*s.* 7*d.*; No. 90, 3*s.* 3*d.* to 3*s.* 9*d.*; and No. 100, 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 1*d.*

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Ships Arrived.

At Liverpool.—December 2: The Lord Elgin, from Demerara. The Crusader (steamer), from Jamaica, Nassau, and Bermuda.—December 3: The Onward, from Bermuda. The Lion, from Pernambuco.—December 4: The Rebecca, from Nassau. The Africa, from Boston and Halifax, N.S.—December 6: The Kitty Jones, from Nassau.—December 7: Put back for, The Secret (steamer), for Nassau.

At Gravesend.—November 30: The Dorothy, from Demerara. The Port Royal, from Jamaica.—December 1: The Augusta, from Buenos Ayres. December 2: The Premier, from Callao. The Jessy, from Demerara.—December 3: The Queen of Nations, from Callao.

At Deal.—December 4: The Balcome, from Demerara.

At Falmouth.—December 2: The Depesche, from Demerara. The Camarsac, from Rio Janeiro. The Havana Packet, from Havana.—December 3: The Antelope, from Matamoras.—December 5: The Antonio, from Havana.

At Plymouth.—December 2: The General Churruca, from Havana.

At Queenstown.—December 2: Put back for, The Secret (steamer), for Nassau, N.P., with considerable damage, since put back to Liverpool.

At Clyde.—December 4: The Margaret and Jane, from Jamaica.

At Bermuda.—The Annandale, from Liverpool.—November 3: The Isabella Maria, from Demerara, and left 4th for Halifax.—November 5: The Bela, from Cardiff, for New York, with loss of main mast, sails, and leaking badly.—November 13: The Mary (steamer), from Halifax.—November 15: The Emma Henery (steamer), from Clyde. The Agnes, from Rio Janeiro.

At Nassau, N.P.—October 28: The Colonel Lamb (steamer), from Wilmington.—November 4 (?): The Beatrice (steamer), from Wilmington.—November 15: The Stag (steamer), from Wilmington.

At Halifax, N.S.—November 10: The Isaac v. Dyke, from Nassau. The Kingston, from Malaga.—November 18: The David M'Nutt, from Clyde.—November 21: The Young Nova Scotian, from London.—November 23: The Merritt (steamer), from Canada.—November 25: The Asia (steamer), from Liverpool.

Ships Sailed.

Liverpool.—November 29: The Credenda, for Havana.—December 1: The Eclipse, for Rio Janeiro.—December 2: The Pembroke Castle, for Valparaiso. The Corsair, The Eiver, for Buenos Ayres. The Helene, for Rio Janeiro. The Memphis, for St. Thomas's. The Frankby, for Valparaiso.—December 3: The Monda, for Pernambuco.

Gravesend.—December 3: The Laughing Water, for Nassau.—December 5: The Regent, for Newport and St. Thomas's. The Alevesa, for Liverpool and Havana.—December 6: The Hannah (J. Worley), for Nassau.

Deal.—December 2: The Perilla, for Pernambuco.—December 4: The Patricia, for Jamaica.

Newport.—November 29: The Africa, for Rio Janeiro.—December 1: The King of Algeria, The Kate Holmes, for Rio Janeiro. The Nemchus, for Havana.—December 2: The Arthur, for Pernambuco. The Osborne, for St. Thomas's.—December 3: The Chieftain, for St. Thomas's.—December 5: The Swift, for Rio Janeiro. The Lormont, for Havana.

Cardiff.—December 1: The Statelie, for Callao.—December 3: The Ivanoe, The Custine, for Montevideo. The Firm, for Nassau.—December 4: The Emily (steamer), for Bermuda.—December 5: The Cubana, for Nassau, N.P.

Swansea.—December 2: The Marquis of Worcester, for Valparaiso.—December 5: The Mincola, for Nassau.

Plymouth.—December 5: The Pelican (steamer), for Matamoras.

Bermuda.—November 16: The Mary Bond, for Nassau.

Halifax, N.S.—November 14: The Old Dominion (steamer), for Nassau.—November 17: The Charlotte (steamer), for Nassau.

Ships Loading.

At London.—For Bermuda: The Tartar, The Enmore. For Halifax, N.S.: The Spirit of the Ocean. For Demerara: The Emerald Isle, The Tanjore, The Cleopatra, The Warrior Queen, The Express, The Argus, The Martin, The Dorothy, The Bertha, The Thora. For Nassau (N.P.): The Ninfa Tagliavia (J. Worley). For Montevideo and Buenos Ayres: The Louise Alwardt, The Para, The Regina, The Ino, The Theresia, The Charles Rogers, The Kestrel, The Perseverante. For New York: The E. W. Stetson, The Jenny, For Havana: The Observador.

At Liverpool.—For Matamoras: The Rosina Claypole, The Esther, The Mary Farleigh, The Geertina, The Juliana, The Vooruitgang. For Nassau (N.P.): The Enterprise, The Wild Pigeon, The John G. Johnson, The Harriet, The Lady of the Lake, The Pamelia, The Queen Mab, The Dream (steamer). For St. Thomas's: The Her Majesty, The Helena, The Bolivar (steamer), The Memphis *via* Newport. For Demerara: The Parker, The Bellona, The Johnstone, The Adona. For Havana: The Providencia, The Trafalgar, The Heinrich Beckmann, The Constance, The Flora, The Ricardo, The Barinaga, The Manuela, The 17th of May, The Virgen del Carmen, The Harald, The Chiripa, The India.

At Bristol.—For Pernambuco: The Elpis. For Nassau: The Prince. For Havana: The Glen Gall.

At Cardiff.—For Havana: The Rapid, The Prince, The Clara Hargrave. For St. Thomas's: The Malaga. For Nassau: The Heron, The Orwarodd, The Valetta, The Fearless, The Prince Albert, The Alonzo.

At Hull.—For Havana: The Delphin, The Maria.

At Newport.—For Nassau: The Eulia. For Halifax: The Frank Lovett. For St. Thomas's: The Belmont, The Gluchauf, The Mary, The Memphis.

At Swansea.—For Halifax: The Echo. For Nassau: The Sovereign, The Mincardo, The Josephine, The Echo.

At Glasgow.—For Demerara: The Martha, The Claribel, The China. For Buenos Ayres: The Catherine. For Montevideo: The Mariners.

At Port Glasgow. For Nassau: The Flamingo.

Among the Contents of The Index *of December* 1 *are*:—

Earl Russell's Note. The Message of President Davis.
Notes on Events of the Week:—
America — England — The Continent.
Letter from New York. The St. Alban's Raiders.
Butler's Speech at New York.
The Exhaustion of the North.
The Northern Press on the 'Florida' Outrage.
Mr. Cobden.
The Lincoln Programme. The War.
Confederate Finances.
Earl Russell's Reply to the Confederate Manifesto.
The First Hero of the War. Fictions.
The Confederate Cause in France.
Affairs Financial and Commercial. Shipping Intelligence.

SUPPLEMENT.

The Annual Message of President Davis.
Report of the Confederate Secretary of War.
Report of the Confederate Secretary of the Treasury.
The Government of the Confederate States.

Death.

Haggerty—November 28, in the city of Tours, France, Amelia Fitzwilliam, aged 11 years, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Haggerty, of the city of New Orleans, Louisiana.

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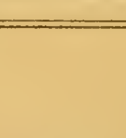

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THERE are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

The Southern Prisoners' Relief Fund is intended to mitigate some of these sufferings which cannot altogether be relieved. Within little more than a twelvemonth, nearly £3,000 have been collected and expended in relief. The managers of the Fund are assisted in their efforts by self-devoted ladies in the principal Northern cities, who visit the sufferers and give them such aid as the means at their disposal render possible. Of late the Federal Government has granted permission that this Samaritan work may be done openly. It is earnestly hoped that all Southerners residing in Europe will support the Fund to the extent of their ability, and its objects may recommend themselves to all, irrespective of country or political convictions, who sympathise with the sufferings of their fellow-men.

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ENGLAND.

FOR two centuries the inhabitants of Bristol have vainly desired that Gloucestershire and Somersetshire should be connected by a bridge across the river Avon at Clifton. In the year 1753, Mr. Alderman Visk of Bristol bequeathed to the Society of Merchant Venturers the sum of 1,000*l.* upon trust to permit that sum to accumulate at interest until it should be increased to 10,000*l.*, and then upon trust to apply the same to the building of a stone bridge across the Avon at Clifton. In the year 1830 the fund so bequeathed had grown to the sum of 8,000*l.*, and the citizens of Bristol bestirred themselves to build the long-desired bridge, using the money as a nucleus of the required fund. An Act of Parliament was obtained in May, 1830, vesting the necessary powers in the Merchant Venturers. Mr. Brunel designed a chain bridge of a single span of 700 feet, at an estimated cost of 57,000*l.* When 45,000*l.* had been spent, the towers had been completed, but no further progress had been made. That was in the year 1843, and from that date the scheme stood still from want of funds. In 1853, the powers of the old Act expired. In 1862, the Charing Cross Railway Company laid violent hands on the famous Hungerford Suspension Bridge, also the work of Brunel, with the intention of getting rid of the chains and converting the pillars into the base for the superstructure of a railway bridge. The opportunity was not lost upon the people of Bristol, and a company was formed under a new Act with a capital of 35,000*l.* for the completion of the bridge at Clifton. The chains of Hungerford Bridge were purchased for 5,000*l.* The old stone towers erected under the Act of 1830 were purchased for 2,000*l.* The work was at once commenced, and terminated successfully on the 8th December last. A suspension bridge has been erected, yielding perhaps in beauty to that across the Niagara, but exceeding in height even the work of Roebling. The Clifton Bridge is also 200 feet longer and half as high again as that across the Menai Straits, while the bridge at Fribourg yields in height to the new work by a space of 100 feet. The Clifton Bridge is 260 feet above the water. The span is 702 feet 3 inches, the width 30 feet, of which 20 feet are occupied by the carriage way. The weight of the chains between the piers is 554 tons; the weight of the roadway 440 tons. The bridge may be said to possess a surplus strength, measured by weight placed upon the platform, of about 6,000 tons. The bridge was opened with great ceremony. The Lords-Lieutenant, the magistrates and sheriffs of the counties of Gloucester and Somerset, with the clergy of the district, the Foresters, Druids, Shepherds, Friendly Societies, regular troops, Naval Reserve men, yeomanry, and volunteers, were present. The civic procession, consisting of the trades and benefit societies, marched first to the bridge; the bridge procession followed, and crossed and recrossed the bridge under salutes of artillery. Captain Huish, the Chairman of the Company, read an address setting forth the history of the undertaking from the death of Alderman Visk to the present time. Then the Bishop of Gloucester offered up prayer, and next Earl Ducie for the county of Gloucester, and the Earl of Cork for the county of Somerset, formally declared the bridge open for traffic. At night the bridge was illuminated.

THE ancient and religious foundation of King's College in the University of Cambridge, which owes its existence and its wealth to the pious liberality of King Henry VI., has undergone in its constitution a total revolution within the last eight years. Previously to the year 1856 the college consisted of seventy persons, of whom about fifty-five were entitled to the emoluments and privileges of Fellows, while the remainder were denominated scholars, and as such received from the society the costs of their education and maintenance. The College of Eton supplied students from time to time as vacancies occurred in the number of Fellows or scholars, and the persons who proceeded from Eton College to King's College were admitted Fellows of the latter society after three years of probation. The system, as organised by the combined efforts of the Royal Commission appointed under the University Act of 1856 and of the governing body of King's College, presents features in marked contrast to that which has been superseded. The college, when sufficient time has elapsed for the full inauguration of the new constitution, will consist of 48 Fellows, 24 scholars drawn from Eton College, and 24 scholars elected by examination open to all the world. Although the college has been embarrassed by the conflict of vested interests and of new claims, and has thereby incurred heavy drains upon its resources, yet the determination existed further to utilise the educational power of the society by the admission of Pensioners to the college. This step, after considerable hesitation, has now been taken, and public announcement has been made of the fact. October, 1865, is the date fixed for their first admission, and there will be an examination on 25th April next for the candidates. There will be papers in classics, mathematics, and experimental physics. Two exhibitions of 50*l.* a year, with tuition free, tenable for four years, will be awarded to the two candidates under twenty years of age who shall most distinguish themselves in the examination in mathematics and physics. It will be understood that the Pensioners will stand on the same footing with the scholars in point of education and commons, but that they will be charged with the payments for the same on the scale established in other colleges. It will not be possible for some few years to provide rooms within the precincts for the Pensioners, who will therefore lodge in the town.

THE Archbishops of Canterbury and York received on Thursday last, at Lambeth, addresses thanking their Lordships for their recent pastoral letter to the clergy and laity of their respective provinces in reference to the judgment of the Privy Council in the 'Essays and Reviews' case. The laity and clergy were well represented. The addresses acknowledged with deep gratitude the pastoral lately issued, and contained a prayer that their Graces might be enabled by Divine aid to take effectual counsel for upholding, amid the peculiar dangers of the times, the Divine authority of Holy Scripture and the integrity of the faith. The addresses were signed by 137,000 persons.

THE Earl of Carlisle was buried on Tuesday in the mausoleum in Castle Howard Park. The building contains sixty-four catacombs, eleven of which are occupied by the remains of ancestors of the Earl. The funeral was conducted without any pomp whatever. The congregation of nobility, gentry, yeomen, and tenantry, was, however, very large. The shops at Malton were closed during the day, and the bells were tolled. In York there was a similar observance of the day. The Dukes of Devonshire and Sutherland, Earl Granville, the Marquis of Hartington, Lord Taunton, Lord E. Howard, and Lord F. Howard were the principal mourners. The present Earl, the Rev. William George Howard, has long been an invalid, and has no family. The heir presumptive is Admiral Edward Howard, R.N., who has no issue, and the next heir to the Admiral is the Hon. Charles Howard, whose son, Mr. George James Howard, is married to the daughter of Lord Stanley of Alderley.

PARLIAMENT will meet on February 7 for the despatch of business.

INDIVIDUALS who do not scruple in the pursuit of their pet theories to destroy the liberty of their neighbours, occasionally manage to lose their own. To thrust upon an unwilling community a system of involuntary teetotalism, a Maine Liquor Law, or the yoke of a Tobacco Prevention clause, constitutes a method of persecution which is endurable only when it recoils on the head of the instigators. An example, not unworthy of record, has served at once as an exposition of the plans of the social reformers and as a warning to all persons who lend themselves to unjust acts for the accomplishment of specious benefits. The British Anti-Tobacco Society has issued the following placard and distributed it at the stations of the South-Western Railway:—

Rewards for the Conviction of Smokers at Railway Stations and in the Carriages.—Smokers are now exceedingly insolent. They are become an insufferable nuisance at railway stations and in the carriages, and in order to test how far it is practicable to arrest this custom we shall begin at the Waterloo, Richmond, and intervening railway stations, and shall give from this office:—1. One pound to the first person who shall convict a passenger of smoking at any of the above stations or in the carriages; 2. One pound ten shillings if the convicted party is an official, some of whom shamefully befume themselves with fumes of tobacco, and serious accidents are the natural result; 3. Two pounds if the convicted party is a railway director: 4. Ten shillings to a porter or any official who may merely aid in the conviction of an offender.

THOMAS REYNOLDS, Secretary.

British Anti-Tobacco Society's Offices,
10 Camden Square, London, N.W., November 2.

N.B. We have been instructed to offer the above rewards by gentlemen who are impelled from a sense of duty to do something for the protection of themselves and other non-smoking travellers.

On December 5, a Mr. Innes appeared at the Barnes Railway Station, and, unconscious of the foe that lay in wait for him, consumed the period of delay, which was to elapse before the train started, by indulgence in the fumes of a fragrant Havannah. The station at Barnes is unenclosed, the air drives away all odours on the instant of their creation; the smoker placed himself at the extremity of the platform, and at a distance from the only other occupant of the station. Though in point of fact he was smoking on the expanse known as Barnes Common, yet his feet pressed the flags of the station. In a moment his name and address were demanded and taken. Mr. Innes thereupon wrote to the Secretary of the Society, and received a reply to the effect that the Secretary had forwarded the letter of Mr. Innes to the gentlemen who offered the rewards, and that the following answer had been returned addressed to the Secretary aforesaid:—

Dear Sir,—The reward is offered to be given after conviction. If the offender confess his fault and pay the fine, 40*s.*, he may avoid prosecution, and the reward shall, of course, be given in addition to what may be obtained from the guilty party. The parties are thus secured against any loss of time. The present case seems clear. If the smoker will not arrange quietly, he must be prosecuted; the instant he is convicted, the complainants legally claim, and shall receive, the reward, as well as the 2*l.* to which the offender is liable by the laws of the railway company.

On receiving this delightful document, Mr. Innes put the matter in the hands of his attorney. Thereupon the latter applied to the Bow Street magistrate for a summons against Mr. T. Reynolds, whose name was appended to the handbill above set out. Mr. Morley, the attorney, said that his object in appearing was to prevent the system of annoyance against timid persons, who, shrinking from the fear of publicity, might be induced to submit to the terms proposed. Mr. Innes was not the man to comply with such demands. The summons would be against Mr. Reynolds for causing to be received, knowing the contents, a letter demanding money with menaces. The magistrate said that this sort of thing ought to be put a stop to, for the affair looked very much like a system of extortion. The summons was then granted. Mr. Innes is in a fair way of earning the title of a public benefactor.

THE case of Ellison *v.* Jorss came before Baron Martin and a special jury, on Saturday last, at Guildhall. The Solicitor-General and Mr. T. Jones, both of whom were counsel for the Crown in the *Alexandra* case, appeared for the plaintiff. The action was for a breach of contract. The defendant had agreed to send 200 or 250 tons of Manchester goods to Charleston by the *Tubal Cain*, but refused to execute his contract on the ground that the ship was not of the proper tonnage. Mr. Baron Martin thought that there was a contract, yet the damages would be only nominal, because the contract was an illegal one, directly opposed to the Queen's proclamation, and having a direct tendency to involve this country in war. The Solicitor-General reminded his Lordship that the plea of illegality which had been placed on the record was withdrawn. The Judge thereupon said that neither that, nor the fact of the parties choosing to treat the transaction as a matter of honour, could blind him to the nature of the contract; that, though he had a deep respect for the opinion of Mr. Justice Willes, yet on this point he had a judgment of his own. He did not think that there was any hardship in the plaintiff losing his money if he had agreed to risk the blockade. After prolonged discussion, it was agreed that a verdict should be entered for the plaintiff for 2,707*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*, subject to a special case to be stated for the opinion of the court above. The Judge said it was worthy of observation that in this transaction not a single English name appeared except Beach, who was a Southerner and the consignee of the goods. Foreigners came over to England, and, while enjoying the freedom of this country, engaged in transactions directly tending to involve the country in war.

SCOTLAND.

The First Division of the Court of Session gave on Saturday last its decision on the petition of Major Yelverton to apply the judgment of the House of Lords. Their Lordships unanimously refused the application of the pursuer, Mrs. Theresa Longworth, or Yelverton, to suspend judgment and allow a condescence of *res noviter* to be received and added to the record, and applied the judgment of the House of Lords. The *res noviter* consisted of evidence that one Sarah Mallins, now deceased, heard Major Yelverton acknowledge the marriage; together with proof that Frederick Yelverton was under the belief that his brother, the Major, was married. After judgment was signed, the Lord Advocate stated that he should give in a note asking leave to refer to oath. The minute would be tendered in the following form:—'The pursuer in the declarator of marriage hereby refers the whole case to the oath of the defender, the said William Charles Yelverton.—(Signed) THERESA YELVERTON.' The motion will come on shortly.

AUSTRALIA.

The intelligence from Melbourne is of more than ordinary interest. The cry for protection to native industry is almost unanimous. It is argued that, with all deference to the theory of free trade in the abstract, the nascent industry of a young country must be fostered by a system of tariffs. At present Great Britain imports about twelve millions' worth of goods into the colony, and the colonists are ready with the retort that England taxes colonial produce. The cry has been utilised in the elections which have given much additional strength to the Ministry. Three demands were generally made upon the candidates: first, protection by taking the duties off tea, sugar, and coffee, and imposing them on articles of English manufacture; second, support of the Government Land Bill; and third, a reduction of the property qualification required of the members of the Upper House, by one half. The revenue for the quarter ending September 30 was in a satisfactory state; the receipts were 818,160*l.*, and the expenditure 727,813*l.* There was a considerable increase in the yield of the gold-fields, owing to the stimulus to enterprise consequent on the passing of the Limited Liability Act.

In Sydney the first question arresting the attention of Parliament is the taxation to be adopted to recruit the revenue, and the position of the Ministry is believed to be precarious. There seems to be as much abhorrence of protection in New South Wales as there is desire for the system in Victoria.

NEW ZEALAND.

Affairs in New Zealand bear a complexion of the utmost gloom. The 200 Maories captured at Rangariri, who had escaped from an island where they were under the guard of a chaplain, an interpreter, a surgeon, and one warder, have gone north and built a strong pah at a place called the Great Maha, where they have been supplied with firearms and provisions. In Tauranga, where great hopes of peace had been entertained, the natives have built a large work near the Fatal Gate Pah, and have stopped the surveyors in measuring the confiscated lands. The Taranaki campaign will shortly be commenced. The officers have been summoned for active service. Colonel Warre had seized and destroyed two pahs with slight resistance. To add to these complications, the Fox Ministry, which stood pledged to a thorough suppression of the native resistance, have tendered their resignations—the last despatches from the Secretary for the Colonies having embarrassed their relations with the Governor. Sir George Grey has refused to accept their resignations.

INDIA.

The principal topic of interest in the Indian empire is the enormous rise in the prices of the necessaries of life. It is calculated that the expense of living in the Bengal Presidency is just double what it was three years since. The evil is equally apparent in the Bombay Presidency, and is justly attributed by Sir Bartle Frere to the large importations of silver, and to the fact that cotton cultivation has, to a considerable extent, superseded the growth of cereal crops. Indeed, a famine seems imminent in Bengal and Bombay. The whole evil is in reality due to the demand for cotton, for the silver has been imported to pay for that staple. A more striking illustration of the wide-spread effects of the American war can scarcely be conceived than this imminent danger of a famine in India. The lesson may at least be of some effect upon persons who do not scruple to assert that the British empire is not seriously affected by the cotton crisis.

THE CONTINENT.

FRANCE.

Judgment was delivered on the 7th instant in the case of the thirteen; it was in favour of the Government on all the points of the appeal. The result of it is that the law on the subject of associations in France now stands as follows:—No persons can meet together for the purpose of acting in concert towards a determined or permanent object without forming an association such as requires the sanction of the Government to be legal; the existence of an illegal association may be established on general grounds, and it is not necessary to specify the individuals who form it; members of the Legislature have not *ex officio* an immunity from prosecution if they form part of an illegal electoral association; finally, domiciliary visits may be made by the ordinary police on the warrant of a police magistrate, in order to collect the evidence of such associations. The judgment was read in court at the first moment of its assembly on the 7th instant, and took most of the defendants by surprise. They were waiting outside, not expecting that the judges would observe so rigorous and unusual a punctuality. On attempting to enter, they found the doors closed upon them, and were not admitted until the reading of the judgment was over. The defendants have again appealed to the Cour de Cassation. It has been ably pointed out by a French journalist that there is a serious danger latent in the present judgment. It has extended the net of the law to such a width that it now takes in well-nigh every individual in the country. This, which elsewhere would be a *reductio ad absurdum*, and therefore harmless, may in France become a constant peril to the well-being of the citizens; for, all men being guilty in the eye of the law, the Government asserts the right of selecting some of them, and naturally its own enemies in preference to all others, to suffer the penalties of their misdeeds. It is most earnestly to be hoped that the Court of Final Appeal will repudiate so fatal a doctrine.

We regret to have to announce the death of M. Mocquard, which occurred on the 9th inst.; this event, though not unexpected, as he had been for some little time in a hopeless state, is nevertheless severely felt by the Emperor, whose confidential friend and private secretary he was, and by the members of French society. His funeral took place on the 12th inst., and was attended by a large body of ministers and persons of note. Marshal Vaillant pronounced the funeral oration over his grave on behalf of the Emperor; M. de Laguerronière also made a speech in the name of the Senate and of the press.

M. Haussmann, Prefect of the Seine, made a speech on the opening of the Municipal Council of Paris, which has attracted some attention. It is to M. Haussmann that the Parisians owe the continuous alterations which have been going on in Paris, and which may fairly be said to have wrought a transformation of the city. Much that was old, dirty, inconvenient, and unhealthy has departed: unfortunately, much that was old, historical, venerable, and picturesque has been carried away together with the filth and rubbish. Paris is full of splendid edifices and palaces for the rich, but the houses of the poor are destroyed; and the very workmen who live by the reconstruction of the town are driven to live in the remote suburbs of Batignolles and La Villette. Evil and good are singularly mixed in the system of which M. Haussmann is the creator, and his speech was therefore listened to with much interest by all parties. He congratulated the Council of Paris on the fact that they were appointed by the Emperor, not by municipal election, and generally assured the city of Paris that it was much better looked after by Imperial nominees than it would have been by its own officers. The journalists have supplemented his speech in the points where it was somewhat deficient in information by assuring the working classes that their benefit was especially consulted in the erection of the spacious squares and boulevards which have ousted their modest tenements; but it must be confessed that the advantage which they will get from them is still *in futuro*.

The following comparative statistics of French commerce during the last four years are interesting:—

	Francs
Imports during the first ten months of 1861 . .	2,004,453,000
,, ,, ,, 1862 . .	1,830,453,000
,, ,, ,, 1863 . .	2,021,142,000
,, ,, ,, 1864 . .	2,027,125,000

The value of cotton imported during the last year is included in the last-mentioned sum. It has risen to 353,000,000 francs; in 1861, it was 264,000,000 francs. The exports are as follows:

	Francs
1861	1,570,648,000
1862	1,815,225,000
1863	2,157,797,000
1864	2,470,032,000

This statement shows that the exports of French manufactures have made an increase of 57 per cent. during the last four years.

The French Government has exhibited lately a laudable anxiety to preserve the French cemetery at Sebastopol from the state of decay into which all the memorials of the Crimean war in that country have been allowed to fall; they have now carried on their attention to the French cemetery at Constantinople. This has been formed by collecting the French remains from the various cemeteries in which they were originally interred into one plot, called the Carré Militaire, forming part of the general Catholic Latin Cemetery. Every assistance has been given by the Turkish Government. A Catholic priest of Armenia, Don Antonio Georgiovitch, who was in attendance on the French military hospitals, supplied all the information requisite. A foundation has been made for a mortuary mass to be said for the souls of the French soldiers yearly on the morrow of the Fête Napoleon.

The great spread of commerce in France has for a long time caused the present postal arrangements to be deficient for the public requirements. The number of letters has increased from 126,000,000 in 1847 to 300,000,000 in 1864; the receipts have risen from 53,000,000 to 72,000,000 francs in the same time. In order to provide for this great increase, France has, by a decree of December 10, been divided into six grand divisions, at the head of each of which an inspector will be placed, with a salary of from 300*l.* to 400*l.* a year. The system in each of these divisions is to be thoroughly reorganised, new post-offices created, the number of the officials increased, and their salaries raised. The whole management of them will then be intrusted to the inspectors, who will have full powers to vary the direction, number, &c., of the mails.

The Société de Forges et de Chantiers de la Méditerranée has turned out an ironclad frigate, the *Numancia*, built for the Spanish Government, said to be the finest specimen of shipbuilding yet turned out of any private dockyard. Her length is 300 feet; her engines, 4,000 horse-power; her mean speed, 14 knots.

ITALY.

The debate on the transfer of the capital has been at last brought to a conclusion in the Senate. The most noticeable speeches on the subject during the last week were, one from the Minister of the Interior, asserting with vigour that the temporal power of the Pope was incompatible with the liberty of Italy, and unnecessary for the support of his spiritual authority. He called on the House to adopt the Convention as the nearest approach which was possible to the complete liberation of Italy, considering the prejudices in favour of the Pope which existed in other countries. Again, another good speech from the lips of General Cialdini, supporting the transfer of the capital on strategic grounds. He considered that Italy, ever since the time of Hannibal, had been and would be open to attack from the north. He urged that a much better defence could be made of the line of the Po, and the passes of the Apennines which protect Florence in that direction, than any that could be made of Turin. If Turin be maintained as the capital, an army must be kept on the east of it to defend it from the Austrians; should that army be beaten, it would be thrown back on the barren slopes of the Alps and the foreign territory of France, leaving the road into the peninsula unguarded. If Florence be taken for the capital, the army defending it would in the case of defeat be able to retire to a better line of defence, and one within Italian territory. His speech was received with great applause. The Marquis Pallavicino spoke against the bill, saying that he was old enough to remember a former occupation of Turin by the French. Signor Gallina said that the Convention must be accepted in spite of its origin; but he related an episode of the year 1849, when the priest Gioberti, then President of the Council, offered to allow Genoa to be occupied by French troops. General della Marmora replied that he had never before heard of this circumstance. The Senate at length divided on the bill, which was carried by 134 votes to 47. The removal of the various branches of the Administration from Turin to Florence will take place during the coming spring: the Ministries of War and of Foreign Affairs will go in March; the Home Office and the remainder will follow in due course. It is hoped that on May 1 the Italian Government will be able to notify officially to foreign Powers the completion of the transfer.

The proposals of the Minister of Finance continue to be accepted with great favour throughout the country; 2,000 communes have already agreed to pay the land-tax of 1865 in advance according to his suggestion. The Minister of War intends to give an unlimited furlough to all soldiers raised in Lombardy, the Romagna, Umbria, and the Marches, whose service dates nominally from 1839; the same measure is to be applied to Tuscan soldiers of 1840 and Neapolitans of 1860. Meetings have been held for the purpose of encouraging Government to persevere in their scheme for the abolition of convents, as there are rumours of intrigues now on foot to prevent the discussion of the measure. A story is afloat of a collective note addressed by Austria, Russia, and Prussia to France, to the effect that the removal of the capital to Florence will be considered by those Powers as a *casus belli*: whatever the truth of this story may be, it is founded on a general belief that the frequent communications between those Powers during the past year have not been without their effect. The Senate has passed bills authorising a charge of 40,000*l.* a year on the public revenue in favour of the city of Turin. The news from Rome is insignificant; an allocution from the Pope is expected shortly. A French court martial has condemned the Neapolitan Graziani to death for the murder of two French gendarmes.

DENMARK.

A deputation of 5,000 Slesvigers came from the districts of Hagerslev, Abenraa, and Flensborg, to pay their respects to the King of Denmark at Kolding; they presented an address to him, the concluding paragraph of which says: 'Should the wishes of the inhabitants prevail in the final decision upon the destiny of Slesvig, it will then be seen how deeply love for the ancient Fatherland is rooted in the hearts of the Slesvigers.' King Christian in reply said that he most deeply regretted the separation of Slesvig from Denmark, but having once ceded that province he hoped that the Slesvigers would bow to the will of Providence, and submit to their fate with patience. Prior to their reception by his Majesty, the members of the deputation laid aside the Danish colours, as the King would only receive them as Slesvigers. All the cities of Jutland have vied with one another in expressions of loyalty to their King: his Majesty had desired that festivities should be spared as much as possible, but the people would not be refused, and celebrated the visit of their sovereign by an immense spontaneous illumination.

GERMANY.

The Federal Commissioners have evacuated the Duchies upon the order of their respective Governments. It is to be regretted that in departing they sullied the fairness of their cause, such as it is, by an act of high-handed oppression. They have simply confiscated for the use of their own countries the balances of cash in the public offices, amounting to about $1,000,000, or 150,000*l.* The native members of the provisional Government have resigned in consequence. The contest between Prussia and Saxony on the subject of the Duchies was worked up into a most absurd tragicomedy before its conclusion. The Saxon Government sent the public moneys and the valuables in the treasury so well known in Dresden as the Green Vaults, to the fortress of Königstein, and talked boldly of calling out 100,000 men to defend the rights of Vaterland. The coldness with which their enthusiasm was received in Germany appears to have damped their ardour; they have eaten the leek as effectually as did ancient Pistol; they have ordered their troops to retire, with special commands not to set foot on the hated Prussian territory, but rather to go round through Hanover. Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia, the Prussian commandant in Slesvig-Holstein, has issued a proclamation, notifying to the inhabitants of the Duchies the advent of the two great Powers to the command of their country; the existing officials have been continued in authority, on their taking an oath of allegiance to the new provisional Government. The Prussian troops of occupation in the three Duchies are 10,000 in number; the Austrians have one brigade in West Slesvig. The two great Powers have at length undertaken the task of examining into the succession question. Prussia still insists upon the rights which accrue to her through the old arrangement made in 1502, as mentioned in our last number. According to an Austrian journal, her plan is to allow as many claimants as possible to come forward for the various parts of the territory of the Duchies, taking care that she herself shall be one of them; then, when it is evident that to satisfy them all it will be necessary to tear up the country into ridiculously small pieces, she will propose that one of the aspirants should buy up all the rival claims. Of all the candidates there is, of course, only one who is capable of paying down so large a sum as that required, namely, the King of Prussia. Thus that worthy will quietly step into this much-coveted territory. There is much probability in this motion; and it is very generally believed that the Duke of Augustenburg has already been offered $5,000,000 for his claim.

The return of the heroes of Düppel and Alsen to Berlin was celebrated on the 7th instant with the greatest pomp. The King met them outside the Brandenburg Gate, and rode at their head down the avenue *Unter den Linden*. After the troops had marched past, the King made them a speech and distributed decorations amongst the officers and soldiers. In the evening Berlin was illuminated. The King's observations were not of a very striking character. He called it a 'glorious' war and a 'glorious' peace. Thanks to the heroism of his soldiers, the days of Düppel and Alsen were handed down to future generations in the history of warfare. He expressed himself in equally laudatory terms of the fleet, which in its first engagement was not dismayed by the number of the enemy's ships. Thus far, all is *couleur de rose* with the King of Prussia. Nevertheless, there still is a 'little rift within the lute, which by and by may make the music mute.' The internal conflict between the King and the Chambers has been reopened by a late proclamation, in which the King commented on the enormous advantages of a strong military organisation. As this organisation has been carried out in the very teeth of the Chambers, these words have awakened all the old party rancour. The Liberal journals promise, on behalf of the representatives, that they will maintain their ground; the Ministerial organs are equally obstinate on the part of the Government.

The Address of the Lower House of Austria, in answer to the speech from the throne, has been passed through discussion, and has been presented to the Emperor in the form of a letter. The effect produced by the debate is likely to be important, both within and without the Empire.

With regard to internal affairs some very grave points have been discussed. The first of these is the relation of the various countries of the empire to one another, which came on when the present situation of Hungary was brought under examination; the Chamber expressed its hope that the Hungarian Diet would be convoked as speedily as possible. Upon this the *Vaterland* of Vienna very sensibly observes that the Chamber is inconsistent with itself. Up to the present year it has been all for centralisation: this year it is all for autonomy in the various provinces. The inconsistency is marked, and detracts a good deal from the weight of the vote of the Chamber on this subject. The next point of internal policy which has been severely criticised is the financial state of the country. Against the budget of Herr Plener, Professor Herbst made a violent attack, accusing the Minister of miscalculations, misstatements, and extravagance. But a short exposition of the real facts of the case showed that the calculations were founded on a basis recognised to be sound by the European capitalists who are flocking into Austria to get Government concessions, and who in a very few days subscribed double the amount of the loan required by Government at a price only 2 per cent. below par. Economy appears to be carried out to its utmost by the various departments; the army will be reduced by only 1,200, but its administration will be carried on in a much more frugal manner. A thorough but gradual reduction of the army to a peace footing is in contemplation; in August last, after a good many furloughs had been granted, there still remained 400,000 men under arms; since that date 50,000 more have been sent home; the diminution will be continued until the peace footing of 260,000 is reached. With regard to the external policy of Austria several facts of great interest have been elicited; in the first place, the Government still clings to the Prussian alliance, in spite of the growing repugnance of the people; next, they refuse to raise the state of siege in Galicia entirely, although they have suffered a defeat in the Lower House on this very point. This persistence of the Austrian Cabinet in two measures which are agreeable to the Courts of Berlin

and St. Petersburg, and to them only, leads people to the same conclusion which we have already observed to exist in Italy, namely, that Russia, Austria, and Prussia are much more intimately connected than they choose to avow, since the outcry raised against the projected new Holy Alliance. A third point of the external policy of Austria which we may again notice, is the declaration that Austria is ready to recognise Italy so soon as that Power chooses to come forward and behave in a courteous manner. Count Mensdorff's observation, that it was impossible to be on good terms with a Power who considers your mere existence an insult to herself, is both natural and just.

The Elector of Hesse has replied to the address of his Chambers in a long document, the purport of which is that the observations of the Chamber upon his management of affairs are impertinent and intrusive. 'The address,' he says, 'trenches as greatly upon that respect which the Chambers owe to ourselves and our Government, as it also exceeds the measure of the privileges accorded to the representatives.' And he concludes by saying: 'We have not been able to gather from the representation of the Chambers that it is desirable to comply with their request, and to consider our Government specially bound to display greater zeal and more rapid action in state affairs, as we are already conscious of general faithful performance of our duty. But we confidently expect that our faithful Chambers will abstain from every step incompatible with our authority as sovereign of the country.'

RUSSIA.

A very important ukase has just received the Imperial sanction, regulating and reforming the administration of justice in Russia. The principal features of the new law are the employment of counsel, open courts, and trial by jury in criminal prosecutions. The new tribunals are, justices' offices, district courts, provincial courts, and the Senate. The justices' offices correspond to our police courts; the district courts are those of criminal assize, and have jurisdiction over all civil suits to the amount of 2,000 roubles. The provincial courts take all civil suits to a greater amount; and the Senate is the final court of appeal, with power only to order a new trial, not to reverse the judgment of an inferior court. In criminal cases, ministers, senators, and high functionaries will be tried by the Senate only; in all other cases, and for all other persons, there will be perfect equality. Political offences are divided into two classes. There will be a special tribunal for high treason; inferior offences will be tried by the common courts. The judges will be named by the Crown; the jury will be elected by voters who are possessed of real property of 3,000*l.* in value.

The last trace of serfdom in Russia has vanished on the abolition of that institution in the Trans-Caucasian provinces.

TURKEY.

The disturbances in Albania have taken a new phase. Last week we reported the massacre of the inhabitants of a Thessalian village by Albanian marauders. This week we hear that 600 Albanians have taken up arms, killed the Turkish tax-gatherers, and ill-treated the local officials. The Pasha of Nicha is marching on them with a force of infantry, cavalry, and artillery. There is a probability that the movement will extend further. A convention has been signed between the Porte and Persia for a telegraph line to India.

The relations between the Bey of Tunis and his supreme lord the Sultan of Turkey appear to be only faintly understood in France. A few explanations are required to bring out the exact question which has drawn an article from M. Limayrac, of the *Constitutionnel*; we take them from his own report. Upon the outbreak of disturbances in Tunis, the Porte announced to the French ambassador at Constantinople its intention of sending an agent thither, but repudiated in the most formal manner any thought of changing the constitution of Tunis, or the relations between the Bey and the Sultan. On these assurances M. de Moustier made no objection to the departure of the Ottoman envoy; at the same time, he gave notice to the Porte, with the approval of the French Government, that any interference on the part of that Power in Tunisian affairs would be opposed by France. The French squadron off Tunis had orders not to leave that station until the Turkish envoy had departed. The Bey has now thought fit to send a messenger, General Kairreddin, on what is reported to be only a visit of courtesy towards the Porte; he has been chased by a French man-of-war, and escaped with some difficulty. This fact is omitted by the French journalist. The French semi-official organ now repeats the menaces used originally by M. de Moustier at Constantinople, saying that, if this visit has any ulterior motives, it is known both at Tunis and at Constantinople what France will have to say in the matter. This conduct is open to several constructions; the one most obvious and most favourable to the French Government is that France recognises the right of the Sultan to settle the disorders in his vassal State, but demands in her own interest that the exercise of such right should be suspended. The right of interference is to be considered as superior to the right of sovereignty. Without adverting to the danger to English influence in the Mediterranean which follows on the recognition of this doctrine in this particular instance, it may be observed that the whole subject demands thorough investigation, in order that we may know how far our relations with our own colonies will be affected. Canada is on the point of changing its status of a colony of England into that of a vassal province; Australia has already assumed that position. The law on this point should be settled before we extend our modern feudal system farther.

It is reported that the Viceroy of Egypt, acting under the influence of the Turkish authorities, refuses to comply with the award given by the Emperor of the French on the Suez Canal question. His continued opposition is likely to bring about a crisis in the affairs of the company.

JAPAN.

It has been already reported that the Prince of Nagato refused to pay the ransom stipulated for in the treaty of peace. The matter has been referred to the criminal tribunal of Yeddo, who ordered his two palaces to be razed to the ground, and his servants to be put to death. The sentence was approved by the Mikado and the Tycoon, and 420 men and 215 women and children were executed. This sanguinary sentence appears to have had a great effect on the Prince, who sent his Prime Minister to Yeddo, and through him renewed his agreement to pay all the expenses stipulated. In spite of his voluntary humiliation, he is, it is said, to be stripped of all his honours and possessions by the Tycoon, who has completely vindicated his supremacy over the Daimios. By the latest advices we learn that the representatives of the European Powers had been received at Yeddo by the Grand Council of the Empire, who gave them complete satisfaction. The silk trade is to be freed from all restrictions, and the territory of the Prince of Nagato having been confiscated by the Tycoon, the latter will pay the indemnity demanded by the European Powers.

SOUTH AMERICA.

The latest advices from Uruguay are of a grave character. A quarrel has arisen between the Eastern republic in that country and the empire of Brazil. A Brazilian division has entered the territory of the republic and occupied the city of Melo. At the same time the Admiral in command of the Brazilian squadron stationed off Montevideo addressed a circular to the foreign agents in that port, informing them that he intended to exercise the right of search on all foreign ships, and to take possession of any cargo which appeared to him to be contraband of war. This claim on the part of Admiral Tamandare has called forth a universal protest. The French agent, M. Maillefer, has addressed a letter to the Admiral, demanding by what law he claimed to put in force the regulations of a blockade before war was declared between the two countries, or notice of blockade given. The circumstances of the case are aggravated by the fact that the Argentine republic, and not Brazil, are the owners of one bank of the river La Plata, which forms the port in question. He concludes by a meaning threat of the anger of France, should the Admiral carry out his proposed scheme. The republic of Paraguay has sent troops to the assistance of the Eastern republic.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK: November 30, 1864.

PEACE rumours are not all exploded yet. There is no more talk of Mr. Lincoln's sending a mission directly or indirectly to Richmond, with an overture to the Southern people to come in now and surrender, as the last chance for saving their lives. Whatever he may have to say on that topic will be communicated through his message to Congress next Monday. The latest tale of effort for peace is that the President has been solicited by leading members of the Democratic party to permit them to proceed to Richmond and confer with the Confederate authorities upon terms for the restoration of the Union. The inducement laid before the President to obtain his consent to this proceeding is, that if the South refuses to come back into the Union, or makes conditions which it would be dishonourable to accede to, the Democratic party, or these Democrats and their followers, will join him unreservedly in the most vigorous steps for calling out all the power of the North, to make a speedy end of the war by complete subjugation. The President is reported to have declined this offer. The Democrats are a defeated party, and can be constrained to adopt his policy whether they would or not. They could hardly be in earnest in asking of Mr. Lincoln that, having won the political victory over them, he shall transfer to them any part of the power or the credit of conducting war or making peace. It is the reported substance of his answer, that he would manage public affairs, which he called his 'own' affairs, in his own way. What degree of truth may be in these statements I cannot vouch for, but they are so much in character as to make them credible of both parties. The politicians who have control of the Democratic organisation are quite capable of setting up a Peace intrigue of their own, in order to make a lodgment for themselves among the triumphant Republicans, and Mr. Lincoln is just the man to turn them away with the notice that he has no use for them and can do without them. Neither Mr. Lincoln nor the War Democrats can really believe that the Southern States will ever come back into the Union. Both are accommodating themselves to the inevitable protraction of the war for an indefinite period.

From the South all things conspire to show that there is not the smallest fraction of a party there which entertains the thought of voluntary return into the Union, or of surrendering the struggle for independence. The position of Mr. Stephens, of Georgia, the Confederate Vice-President, developed in a letter lately addressed to Senator Semmes, of Louisiana, to exculpate himself from all suspicion of having intended to favour reunion in his late efforts to encourage peace ideas, is the more significant because Mr. Stephens is in decided opposition to the administration of President Davis, and does not hesitate to censure him for not having been sufficiently earnest in inviting and offering terms of peace. In that letter he ridicules the apprehensions of those who feared that, if M'Clellan were elected President, he might have offered terms for a restoration of union which the South could accept. He says:

'These apprehensions are, I doubt not, sincere. But I entertain none such myself. I am no believer in ghosts of any kind. The old Union and the old Constitution are both dead—dead for ever—except in so far as the Constitution has been preserved by us. There is for the Union as it was no resurrection by any power short of that which brought Lazarus from the tomb. There may be, and doubtless are, many at the North, and some at the South, who look forward to a restoration of the Union and the Constitution as it was; but such ideas are as vain and illusory as the dreamy imaginings of the Indian warrior who in death clings to his weapons, in fond expectation that he will have use for them beyond the grave in other lands and new hunting-grounds.'

Mr. Stephens had hopes that the election of General M'Clellan would lead to peace, but to peace with the independence of the South—not so strongly from the avowed policy of M'Clellan and his partisans, as from national necessities and new party combinations which would follow. The defeat of M'Clellan deprives these speculations of any value, except as indications of the workings of the mind of the Southern Peace party, so much spoken of in the North as tending towards a restoration of Union, when they were as intently fixed on separation as those of the more extreme party which is assailing them. On the subject of reconstruction, for which he has been accused of having a lingering expectation in the future, Mr. Stephens recalls a former letter, written, in reply to a friend's letter conveying the same imputation, in 1861. He repeats, in the following terms, what he said then:—

'I told him, in reply, that I looked upon such a charge as no less an imputation on my intelligence than upon my integrity. The issue of this war, in my judgment, was subjugation or independence. I so understood it when the State of Georgia seceded, and it is with full consciousness of this fact, with all its responsibilities, sacrifices, and perils, that I pledged myself then and there to stand by her and her fortunes, whatever they might be, in the course she had adopted.'

The 'chimera' of Mr. Stephens and his party has been that peace was attainable by an appeal to the principle of separate State sovereignty, and that, with the consent of the Governments at Washington and Richmond, the States might meet in convention and settle terms of peace, which would inevitably be terms of peaceful separation. Under M'Clellan they fancied this possible; under Lincoln they know it to be hopeless; and there will, therefore, be never heard again in the South the voice of any party which looks for peace except in successful resistance to the arms of the North, or thinks of voluntary submission as possible or endurable. Foote, of Tennessee, one of the three members of the Confederate Congress reputed in the North to be quasi-peace men and reconstructionists, has been making a scene in Richmond by denouncing the *Examiner* editor who said so as a slanderer. Cobb, of Alabama, one of the other two, has abandoned his title to the seat he never took, and gone to the North, and Boyce, of South Carolina, is with Stephens; and this dissipates the entire party on which Northern hopes of restoring the Union or reconstructing a new one have rested.

Notwithstanding the boastful assumptions at Washington that the 'rebellion' is in a collapsing state, and must soon perish, and the forthcoming invocations of the message to the South to come in and be pardoned, the Administration is making preparations for a large increase of the army. Before the election it was continually said by the Administration organs that there were soldiers enough raised to finish the work, and no more drafts would be required. Now, Mr. Whiting, the solicitor of the War Department, is quoted as having authorised the statement that recruitments under all the late drafts have not been sufficient to supply the waste of the armies, and that the present law does not afford the Government power enough over the enrolment, and over men as soon as conscripted, to enable it to keep the ranks filled. It seems, the habit of running away to avoid the drafting, running away after being drafted without reporting to be examined, and running away from the depots, has been so general that not more than one soldier is obtained for five names drawn; the rule has been to allow for exemptions and escapes by drawing two for one. Great numbers also get off after being mustered, on their march to the front. The law gives the Government no power over the conscript until after he has been drafted and is examined and accepted. It is now apparent, from the movements of the authorities, that they intend to have a new and very large draft, not later than January, and that they intend to make it more effective by an amendment of the conscription law early in the session, so as to enable the Government to secure the presence of enrolled men for the chances of the draft, and get a hold upon them as soon as drawn. The Provost-Marshal-General has given his notices already for the revision of the enrolled lists, and the State Governors are going to work with an alarmed alacrity to stimulate volunteering, in order to lessen the burdens of the sweeping and rigid conscription which is threatened. Many thousands who voted for Mr. Lincoln and war, on the faith of the assurances made that it was nearly over, and that no more conscription would be necessary, are filled with terror at the new necessity avowed for an indefinite number of more troops, and the prospect of repeated calls to be enforced with a rigour they never dreamed of. It was probably to stimulate this lagging patriotism, which voted for war without any stomach for fighting, that General Butler, at his late Fifth Avenue speech in this city, which made him so popular in New England, held out to them the lure of universal plunder with which to tempt them into the army. He told them that if the South rejects the President's tenders of mercy, the war will be carried on without taxes on the North for bounties or expenses. The lands and goods of the people of the Confederacy will be taken from them, and parcelled among the soldiers who go down to conquer and take possession. The old buccaneers used to gather their recruits in the same way, by engaging to divide with them the spoil of the sacked cities of the Spanish main.

'Exit the *Florida*,' writes a paper of this city in announcing that the captured Confederate steamer has gone to the bottom in Hampton Roads, run down at anchor by a Federal transport. It was an accident—a very extraordinary accident, as remarkable as that recorded in the 'Pickwick Papers,' where old Mr. Weller accidentally overturned a coach full of voters in the very place indicated to him as a dangerous spot by some gentlemen of the opposite party, who had given him a twenty-pound note to keep his eye on the place. It has been said, from the first intimation that Brazil would demand the restoration of this vessel, that she never would be restored if any means could be found to avoid the obligation. Destroying the vessel makes restitution impossible. If she was destroyed by accident, it is one of those miraculous coincidences so contrary to all reasonable probabilities—so conveniently adapted to the relief of those who had her in custody from very annoying embarrassments and apprehended humiliations—so perfectly in accord with their wishes and gratifying to their feelings—that it will be impossible to persuade the world of their innocence of a mean and cowardly trick. It may be difficult to prove design, and still more difficult to fix on the Government any portion of the responsibility. It has convenient friends to do what they imagine would be pleasing, who look to be dealt with very indulgently if enquiry should be pressed. But there is no probability that very rigid enquiry will be made, when the event is so much exulted over as having rid the country of a dreaded enemy, and relieved it of an international embarrassment.

The navy of the United States has succeeded, after two years of fruitless chase around the world, in destroying this little

Confederate steamer—first, by boarding her in the absence of the crew, in a neutral port, and stealing her away, under cover of night; and, secondly, by running her down when she was under the safeguard of their honour, a captive for whose release the indignant nations were calling out.

The diplomatic aspects of the case are changed by this 'accident.' Mr. Seward may plead that the Government cannot restore what no longer exists, and offer to make apology and reparation. Equity would make Brazil exact at least the return of the captured men, who have been sent to Fort Warren, indemnification to all the sufferers by the outrage, and the restoration of a ship of equivalent force, with all the equipments and munitions, fit for service, to be passed over by the Brazilian Government to the Confederates.

The rumoured changes in the Cabinet are all made uncertain by new rumours this week, not whether there are to be changes—that is certain—but as to when they will take place, and who are to be the new officers. Attorney-General Bates has certainly resigned, and Judge Usher, Secretary of the Interior, is to be the United States District Judge for Indiana. Thus much is certain. The difficulties about the Chief Justiceship are, according to report, to be lessened by making Justice Wayne (of Georgia), who is now on the bench, Chief Justice, and appointing an associate merely to succeed Judge Taney in that circuit. The last reports are, that Mr. Stanton will not give up the War Department, and consequently all the troubles about a successor will be avoided. Butler will be disappointed. General Banks returns to New Orleans, in his former position. General Canby, whom the Federal telegrams *viâ* Cairo reported dead, and who may read his own obituary notices, a half column long, in Northern papers, is recovering from his wound, and will keep his place. The Treasury Department is to be filled. Mr. Fessenden is almost importunate to be relieved, but, in the present state of the finances, the man who is bold enough to undertake it, and has the reputation to beget public confidence, is not yet named. Robert J. Walker is dying out of view.

The popular alarm concerning the attempts detected last Friday and Saturday to set fire to nearly all the hotels in this city has sensibly subsided. It would have subsided sooner if the authorities had taken the precaution to ascertain and make public definite accounts of the transactions in each place, and not left so much to the imagination of newspaper reporters, whose delight and profit it is to make sensations. There was enough to create excitement and frighten the community, without working up, as was notoriously done in several quarters, trivial incidents into proofs of a deadly conspiracy. It appears that there were visible signs of attempts to set fire, nearly at the same time, to the principal hotels in the city, by the same means, in the same manner, and, so far as descriptions published go to explain the appearance of suspected persons, by men of the same general appearance, each with a bag in hand, and mostly with 'a little black bag.' Phosphorus and turpentine were the agents employed, and each one of the incendiaries adopted the same means for communicating the fire, by saturating the bedclothes with these combustible preparations, and piling up the furniture. It is one of the curious facts connected with these transactions, that of twelve or thirteen of these attempts, after all these careful preparations, not one succeeded; no damage of consequence was done anywhere except at the St. Nicholas's Hotel, which suffered most, but not very seriously. The fires were discovered and put out with a promptitude as complete as though it were known beforehand where to go and look for them in the nick of time. It is also very remarkable that there has not been discovered yet any clue leading to the discovery of the conspirators, although there must have been a large number of them, and they must have had a place of rendezvous, and the time selected for their work was when the hotel crowds are most in motion. Arrests have been made—one of them of an officer in one of Mr. Lincoln's black regiments, but he was released although the fire in that hotel broke out in the room to which he was assigned, on the proof that he had not gone to it. The doings of the police are secret, but not so secret but that it leaks out that they have made no discoveries yet. The military authorities take up the investigation as a military crime, and General Dix has issued orders for the trying of accused persons by a military commissioner, and, if found guilty, hanging them without delay. Had Governor Seymour been reelected, General Dix would not thus have supplanted both the State and municipal jurisdiction over crime in this city by military will. That same idea is expressed in the proclamation of Mayor Gunther, in which he asks that in the prosecution of these enquiries 'the course of justice may be maintained inviolate,' and 'a fair and impartial trial' be had, according to the constitution of the State—a feeble assertion of constitutional rights, which will be treated with derision. The result, so far as had transpired yesterday, is given in one of the most quiet of the sensation journals thus:—'Against two of the persons taken into custody on the night of the fire, or on Saturday, there is evidence. One of them is charged with being the treasurer of the plotters; and some of the gold thought to be a part of the fund he used is in possession of the authorities; while the man had some baggage that is supposed to have belonged to persons in the conspiracy. Another man is well known and notorious as a rebel. There is some proof that he was one of the plotters, if not one of the incendiaries.'

I do not know what further may transpire; but this is but a meagre list of facts and suspicions on which to base the general outcry of the press that this was an atrocious plot of the authorities at Richmond to burn up the city of New York, and make a holocaust of its inhabitants, in revenge or retaliation for the severities of war administered by Sherman and Sheridan, that it has been discovered that the plotters are lieutenants and other officers in the rebel service, who engineered the plot in Canada and came down here to execute it. Everything yet is of the vaguest conjecture; and since the alarm has begun to subside, persons not absolutely crazy with the war passion begin to be suspicious of a 'conspiracy' to make capital for the Government party by a system of gross exaggeration and misrepresentations.

MEN-STEALING IN CANADA.—The *Montreal Weekly Herald* contains an account of two cases of kidnapping British subjects in that city. In the first case, one Theophile Houle had succeeded in manœuvring a man named Charles Koby by a bounty of two dollars over to Rouse's Point, where he was handed over to two accomplices of Houle and duly enlisted in the Federal army. After two months Koby escaped, returned to Montreal, and revenged himself by arresting Houle. In the second case, one Cyrille Berthelet enlisted a man named James Champ for $200. Arrangements were duly made, and Champ proceeded to the railway station. There, however, the police were on the alert, and arrested the whole party.

CHICAGO.

NOTES OF AN EXCURSIONIST.

I NOW proceed to give you some account of my visit to Chicago, and first of the hotel at which I have been staying.

The Fremont House is the largest hotel that I have seen as yet, though I am told that it is beaten by those in New York. It is a splendid block of buildings, arranged very much upon the principle of the St. Lawrence Hall at Montreal, with the exception that the basement floor of the block is occupied by shops in the exterior, while the inner portion is devoted to the offices and kitchens. The reception rooms are gigantic, the dining room still more so, and the noise and bustle of the establishment surpass anything you can imagine. It would be all very comfortable if it were not for that notorious American peculiarity, tobacco-chewing, and its unavoidable consequences. It is a matter which every visitor to this country has written and talked of, and I had heard on all sides so much about it that I thought the evil was much exaggerated. But now that I have come and seen for myself the extravagant extent to which this beastly practice is carried, and the disgusting filthiness of habits attendant upon it, I can assure you that Russell and Sala have not said a word too harsh on this subject, which is a crying stain upon the enlightened civilisation of this people. I know I am in the West only as yet, where refinement of manners is little cultivated at present, and I am assured that tobacco-chewing, though by no means uncommon in the East, is there conducted in a much more gentlemanly style. But refine as you will, you can't indulge in this luxury and not offend against the laws of decent society. If a man 'chews' he *must* spit, and expectorated tobacco-juice *must* be nasty. You might say naturally enough, Why not use the spittoons? Impossible—they would be swamped in no time. There are plenty of dark and dirty corners in the halls and passages of every hotel, where, in the centre of a nauseating triangle of deep brown splashes and greasy blotches of black, you will find a brown earthen vessel sustaining an ill-directed fire of reddish fluid from the thousand passing throats; but plentiful as these vessels are they are quite unequal to the demand. So the Yankee makes a spittoon of every floor upon which he stands. No matter of what material it consists, carpet or marble, he *must* spit. From the pavement in the street within a dozen yards of the front door to the passages in the attics, the steps, corridors, and staircases are one vast uncivilised pigsty. You can hardly find a man in one of whose cheeks you won't see a protuberance like the nuts in a monkey's jaw; you can't watch his mouth for two minutes without observing a brown streak flying from it in amongst the boots of the bystanders. You converse with one of these biped cuttle-fish, and it makes no difference in the activity of his bronchial muscles; enter into conversation with two or three of them, and you'll have to keep it up under a cross fire of murky jets squirted across your face, over your shoulder, between your legs, over your hat—everywhere, in fact, within a bare inch of your person, as if you were standing up to a performance of the Chinese juggler's impalement. But I *must* give the Yankees credit for being a match for any of our Wimbledon shots; their oral accuracy of aim is really surprising, and, like the Indian's skill with his bow, only to be accounted for by constant practice following upon early education in the art, and juvenile experiments upon flies on the walls. And if the sight of all this nastiness is offensive to the eye, the unmannerly noises by which it is accompanied are even more nauseous to the ear. Some of these fellows will retch and hawk in such a way that you would think they would spit themselves inside out; no weak-minded patient, under the influence of an electro-biologist's evil eye, could be more demonstrative in his efforts to get rid of the fancied poison. But I dare say you will be wondering how the ladies put up with all this beastliness. They don't; they have a separate establishment of their own—a separate entrance, separate drawing-rooms, separate staircases in every hotel. They could not associate with the majority of the men whose habits are so diabolical, so they sit, go out, and come in by themselves, except in the case of husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, and so on, in which cases, of course, a man is admitted to the ladies' drawing-rooms; not that he is imperatively excluded under other circumstances, but it is unusual for a gentleman unattended by ladies to venture into the sanctum of the fair sex. This reminds me of a curious feature I have frequently observed in the manners and customs of this people, which is, the unjust preference given at all the railways, steamboats, and hotels to any man who can claim any sort of connection with any member of the opposite sex who will give him her protecting wing. I have remarked on the unfair advantages given to the weaker sex themselves, and now I must tell you of the still more unjust privileges conceded to men who are taken to be travelling with them. In England and on the continent of Europe we are accustomed—I can't deny it—to look upon the presence of a female companion as a drawback to the facilities of comfortable locomotion; but here I can assure you that a bachelor has a hard time of it unless he has skill or impudence enough to attach himself to the skirt of some guardian angel. If you don't mind doing a little bit of Yankee smartness, you can easily manage to represent yourself as 'compagnon de voyage' to some fair or unfair protector. I am not particular to a T in a matter of this kind; the system is so absurd that I consider myself justified in resorting to any low artifice that may tend to demonstrate its folly, so I have constantly tried some impromptu dodge of practising an imposition upon the railway conductor or the steamboat steward, and several times with complete success. With some officials the doing of a little light porterage in the way of a shawl or a dressing-case I have found to be quite sufficient to identify me as 'belonging to that lady.' With one it was necessary to do some heavier work, and carry a very dirty disagreeable baby for an extremely ugly ill-dressed mother, before I could induce him to give me a berth as 'one of the party.' It's a scandalous system altogether. Even granting that the females ought all to be accommodated first—a matter upon which I have my doubts—I see no principle whatever upon which the same privileges are to be extended to any loafer who passes himself off as in any way connected with them in preference to a man who may have been waiting twice as long for a place, but unfortunately happens to be alone and honest. While the rule is so easily evaded it is not much hardship, for the people are extremely free and easy, and you have no difficulty in getting into conversation with any one; but at the same time I object very much to the bother of constantly dressing myself in false colours, and I have had serious thoughts of hiring some old woman to travel with me through the West. Any specimen of her sex would do equally well, and next time I visit this extraordinary country I must find some means of making a more satisfactory provision for the evasion of this extravagant rule.

I don't know that I have anything articular to say about the city of Chicago. You know, of course, how it lies, on the south-west corner of the Lake of Michigan; and you have heard how the streets that now contain nearly 300,000 inhabitants were, less than thirty years ago, open prairie. Never, I suppose, since the birth of history has a new town sprung to life with more marvellous fairylike rapidity than have the stone and marble edifices that compose this great mushroom city of the plain. To walk through the broad handsome streets and inspect the lofty buildings on either side, and then to think that twenty-nine years ago there were scarce a dozen shanties on the spot, is to attempt to realise a thing so difficult of comprehension that the mind becomes sceptical and refuses to believe it. But so it is; and if you consider for a moment the site on which the city stands—the head of the vast central plain of the North American continent—a region of natural fertility elsewhere unmatched—its facilities for water communication with the Eastern States and Europe—its position, the focus to which converge the lines of railway from all parts of Illinois and Indiana, from Wisconsin and Iowa (States which constitute the richest district of this agricultural wealth)—the long neglect of these natural resources, and the rapid development now consequent upon their discovery—it becomes easier to understand how it is that Chicago has thus rapidly become what it now is, the greatest primary grain depot in the world, the fountainhead of the vast stream of commerce which passes round the great lakes down the St. Lawrence, bearing the bountiful produce of the Western States to the markets of Europe. The city is, in fact, what the Democrats would have it recognised to be, the capital of the Western States; and I think the day is not far distant, when Chicago and St. Louis—a city whose progress has been equally astounding—will be pitted in all the jealousy of a struggle for election to the honour of being the commercial metropolis of a Western Confederacy.

On Sunday I attended service at the fashionable church, a very fine one—the churches in all these new cities are handsome and abundant—and heard a most eloquent sermon in the style of Dr. Goulburn, and music such as I never heard at any other place than Exeter Hall, performed by four professionals, whose singing was the most delightful specimen of sacred harmony that the most critical ear could wish to listen to. The rest of the day was spent in promenading the town. Sunday is not well observed, for the foreign element in the city is enormous; and those shops that do no business on the Sabbath open their doors and windows, so that to the eye of a careless observer the trade might seem to be as lively as on any week-day. There was a violent storm raging on the lake, which agitated the waters just as much as I have ever seen them troubled in the English Channel, and the promenade by the lake shore was consequently deserted for more sheltered quarters of the city. But we walked to the end of it just to get a view of some of the magnificent houses that have lately been erected on the lake shore by the more lucky of the great grain speculators of Chicago—splendid mansions many of them, red free-stone or white marble, adorned with greenhouses, creepers, and standard vines, worthy residences for English peers, though lightly spoken of as 'summer boxes' by the nobodies who have screwed a fortune out of this wretched war, and can't get rid of it fast enough with all the gambling and extravagance of this precocious city.

One peculiarity about the majority of the buildings, characteristic of the gigantic scale upon which, like the Egyptians of old, the Americans love to work, is the fact that they have been bodily raised in blocks of ten to forty or fifty houses at once from the original level at which they stood. The city was apparently run up in such reckless haste that the question of drainage was entirely forgotten, and it was not until successive inundations of the basement floors, which then stood below the level of the lake, warned the inhabitants of their precarious and unhealthy situation, that the attention of the architects was seriously called to the necessity for a change. English eyes, so they tell me here, would have seen no other way out of the difficulty than to pull down the whole city and reconstruct it on a higher level. But Yankee smartness knew a trick worth two of that, and with a bold defiant determination to outstrip all the wonders of the Old World, and 'whip its engineers out of their boots'—a Yankee simile which you would better appreciate if you were to see the great ponderous square-toed Wellingtons worn by the true American citizens, and the difficulty they have in getting into or out of them—conceived the original idea of lifting the whole city bodily into the air, and, by the aid of powerful screws and other 'Yankee notions,' it is now a *fait accompli*.

The next day was wet, cold, and uncomfortable. I don't believe in climate; it's a failure everywhere. People point here to their blue skies and clear atmosphere, and tell you they 'guess you don't see anything like that at home,' under the impression that the sun is a sort of illuminated plane, of which we in England only see the wrong side. But I frequently have the honour of explaining to them that 'November fogs' are not usual in July and August'; and that malarious fevers, which result from the fearfully sudden changes of the American climate, are incidents of a rarefied atmosphere which 'the Britishers' would be unwilling to take in exchange for their dull leaden skies and equable temperature. The fashionable disease here is not gout, but biliousness. There's a bilious look about everybody's face that makes the whole nation pale and yellow as children at the game of snapdragon—a jaundiced gamboge in the visages of the men that makes me think they must have swallowed the gold that has so mysteriously absented itself from the public gaze in favour of the countless raids of greenbacks with which the country is overwhelmed. But, barring their sallow looks and yellow-ochre tint of countenance, these Western men and women are a marvellously fine race. Their frames are tall, well proportioned, symmetrical, and wiry. The average height of the men is astonishing. I have walked for hours in the streets of Chicago without meeting a native as short as myself. Most of their hats are almost out of sight—if I were shortsighted, would be totally. The women are tall, though not gawky, yet not exactly elegant. I have not yet decided where the defect lies, but there's something wanting somewhere. I think it's in the walk, which is rather duck-like, with an affectation of 'sail' or 'sweep' that looks 'stagy.' A little more rotundity of form to take off the corners would be required by an English connoisseur; but Yankee girls, like the men, are not given to lateral extension—they grow like poplars rather than pollards. Square and angular, however, though they be, all praise is due to their cast of features, which is in every case more or less classical, in some really beautiful. The cheekbones are too high, the eyes too deeply set, particularly in the men, to make the full face represent the perfect type of beauty, but I am sure that no other nation that I know anything of could show so large a proportion of fine profiles. I have looked diligently for an ugly face—by which I mean one that has no features at all, such as we often see in England—but I have not been able to discover one

that might not at least be considered passable. The percentage of good-looking people is undoubtedly far higher in America than it is at home, though the percentage of 'beauties' is as certainly less. But the good looks are temporary, as you have often heard. Beauty fades in this climate as prematurely as the leaves fall from the trees. But its early death is not all due to atmospheric influences; it is a constitutional decay. Englishwomen will, in some cases, retain out here their youthful looks, long after their contemporaries of the Yankee tribe have buried theirs in sallow sunken cheeks, and hollow eyes, and toothless angular jaws—just as I observe some English trees in the public gardens fresh and green as in early spring, while their American brothers around them are already putting on their autumn dress. This is one view of the American 'constitution' which to a medical man must be very interesting. I don't profess to account for it. Climate is a large element in this shortlived youthful freshness, this premature aridity of the vital fluids; but sweets, pie-crust, and iced water, immoderately indulged in from the cradle to the grave, have, I suspect, as much to do with it. Yet it is a matter of national interest; for it is an acknowledged fact that if the population of the United States were left to the natural increase of the pure American blood, the census would never justify the confident expectations of the people as to their marvellous numerical growth.

But I have no time to tell you how surprised I was to find the American character so radically different from the English—how numerous are the points in which this great diversity consists. I am at a loss to know how to give you any idea of the general impressions I have formed of the Western people of this Continent, but I think they may be briefly expressed by saying that, physically, the men and women are Scotch, with French heads; intellectually, they are educated Japanese; socially, they are French without manners; morally, they are Spaniards without romance. In a word, they are un-English. The Continental European element enters largely into their composition. One-fourth of the shops in certain quarters of Chicago bear German names and signs. Immigration daily adds to the kettleful of nationalities, and climate warms the blood of the Anglo-Saxon ingredient; so the Western settlers become, like other inhabitants of the same parallels of latitude all the world over, hot, peppery, choleric, impulsive, foolishly impatient of anything that the most sensitive of Heidelberg duellists could distort into what he calls an insult to his honour, inflammable in the company of females as a lion or a bull. They tell me that pistols and bowie-knives are not so ruthlessly employed as they were four years ago. The war has diverted men's passions into another channel, organised and concentrated them in a direction in which they can have full play; so that travellers by the Mississippi boats have given up the good old practice of sitting down to 'whist' and 'enchre' with revolvers beside them on the table, and street murders are almost out of date. But there is still a marvellous recklessness of human life and Lynch-law atrocities. Every day since I have been in the West I have read in some paper or other a paragraph or two, or more, recording the summary shooting of some fancied enemies. The climax is always introduced by a statement that the victor 'drew'—not '*a*,' but '*his* revolver,' as if a pistol were as naturally to be found in a man's pocket as his handkerchief. No legal consequences seem to follow this promiscuous use of 'repeaters.' There are no police to take notice of it, or, if there are, they'll be 'mum' for a 'cocktail.' Persons with whom I have talked tell me they make a practice of carrying one of these civilising emblems of the westward march of Christianity. Sometimes I have had this humiliating confession from the mouth of a well-educated 'high-toned' gentleman; at others, from the lips of daredevil youngsters, who seemed very incredulous of my assertion that my only weapon of offensive warfare was a toothpick. One gentleman told me he carried a pistol merely as a protection against the soldiers, with which the country now swarms; but I have never found any of them so thirsty after English blood as the *New York Herald* would indicate. Now and then I have had to listen to brilliant invectives against the despotisms of Europe, and the British Government in particular (for Britishers are looked down upon by a Yankee as perhaps the most overridden of all the Continental peoples); but I have bitten my lips and held my tongue, and being, I consider, tolerably slow to wrath, I have managed without much difficulty to keep my skull unriddled with slugs. Besides, I feel confident that it is by no means necessary to get into any such scrapes. It is easy to avoid the 'bars,' where, in nine cases out of ten, these little 'affairs' originate; and if you are unfortunate enough to impress a native so favourably as to lead him to demonstrate his liking for you by requesting that you'll join him in 'a drink'—it's his invariable method of showing his fancy, and refusal is instant death—a very small amount of tact, and a moderate capacity for suction, will keep your friend's right arm quiet. But the evil is fast dying out, and, when the country becomes settled again, will, I dare say, become as much a thing of the past as the duelling of the Bois de Boulogne. Four years of civil war have so disturbed the machinery of the law, and unsheathed the evil passions of men, that it is the height of Utopian absurdity to come out here looking for a millennium. Still, the fact remains that the administration of justice must be very imperfect, if every one is compelled and allowed to take the law into his own hands.

This brings me to say a word about the Courts and their eccentricities, which very much shocked my English notions of judicial decorum and etiquette. The City Hall, in which the Courts sit, is a handsome building in an open square. The entrance hall and staircases are finished off in a style corresponding to the grandeur of the exterior, and in any other country than Western America would be pleasant and airy lounges; but the marble floors are chequered with dark-yellow blotches, and intersected with brown streams, in which float ends of cigars and used-up quids of tobacco, and the windows are all shut down as if from fear that the effluvia from this Augean stable might poison the whole city; how I wished for a pair of pattens, and a very bad cold! The courts were not yet sitting, but the crowd led me into a large well-lit neatly-furnished chamber, in which was to come on that morning a heavy case of libel. There were no benches or desks in front of the judges' seats; but an open semicircular space, sprinkled with little settlements of chairs, upon which were seated, in earnest conversation, the lights of the Chicago bar. Under the judges' seats was a table with pen and ink upon it, about as many papers as might be seen at home on a ten-days-old barrister's table, and about half-a-dozen pairs of square-toed boots, whose owners were finishing their post-prandial cigars, and spitting at a colossal reservoir that might have been a spittoon of the Titans. Nearer the door, and separated from the semicircle by an elegant iron railing, were commodious benches for the public, in one of which, after a careful search for a clean place for my boots, I sat down for a survey of the scene. I waited some minutes, but nothing seemed likely to be commenced, so I asked when the judge would come into court. 'Oh, he's been here some time; that's him in the white wide-awake, with his legs on the iron railing.' 'Indeed,' I said, 'who is he talking to?' 'Oh! they're two of our great lawyers; that one that spat just then, is to be our next new judge.' 'Well,' I said, 'how long will the judge keep us?' 'I guess he won't be long, he always has a bit of chat first before he goes up into his *box*.' You may suppose from this conversation that my ideas of judicial etiquette were rather rudely shocked. Only think of our Master of the Rolls, or any other equally consequential unbending occupant of our bench, chatting away with the bar and the clerks in the centre of the court preparatory to the business of the day! Fancy the Lord Chief Baron in shorts and a slouch-hat, with a quid in his cheek, and his feet above his head, discussing the topics of the day with a knot of similarly-clad rowdies in a like horizontal position, and then, when he thought the public patience exhausted, clearing his throat with a roar that would have done credit to a lion, ascending his seat to take the business of the morning, and from his chair across the desk before him discharging his exhausted quid at the Brobdignagian vessel of abomination that occupied the centre of the sacred semicircle. But this is just what I saw in the chief court of the State of Illinois, and just, I suppose, what may be seen any day in that same polite assembly. You might think, perhaps, as I did, that nothing could ever be done in such a chaos of anomalies as that; but here again is the great enigma of these Republican institutions. No sooner had the judge taken his seat than the work was begun, and pushed through with a rapidity and regularity that astonished me. Motions were taken and polished off in a way that would have horrified V. C. Kindersley. There did not appear to be any books, or bags, or papers in the room. A small pocket memorandum was all that I could see in the hands of most of the barristers, while some did their work with the help of nothing more than a walking-stick. There was very little said; in fact, most of the business was transacted in a private whisper with the judge; each man who had anything to move going up the steps and leaning forward over the side of the judge's desk, across which there flew a few hurried words, and the thing was done. There was no visible usher of the court, and yet there was no noise or confusion; no bags, wigs, and gowns, but yet a certain amount of rude unpolished etiquette: no dignity on the Bench, but a smart business-like decision which commanded respect. Indeed, I almost began to think that the abolition of our court paraphernalia would expedite the transaction of our business, and should have voted in its favour, only that just as the thought crossed my mind the judge aimed again at the spittoon, and back came all my loyalty to our time-honoured institutions like a rush of blood to the head. He could not have done that in a wig.

The libel case came on shortly afterwards. It seemed to be conducted much as it might have been at home. The jury were sworn, as in Scotland, with the right arm uplifted, and were addressed in a voluble speech, which consisted chiefly of vulgar abuse of the opposing counsel, who paced up and down the semicircle during the delivery of the address, ever and anon venting his wrath in a nauseating attack upon the spittoon. With a powerful peroration the speaker wound up, and in an instant his feet were on the table before him, and a fresh quid was in his mouth. What was said in answer to his attack I am unable to say, for the atmosphere of the court was oppressive (the day being very sultry), and a retreat was imperative. So we fled from the presence of the law to that of a mysterious individual whose acquaintance we had made in the cars, and who had asked us to come and call on him. We found him in a little wooden cottage, crowded with sumptuous furniture, and looking, for all the world, like a pawnbroker's shop. Beside him was sitting, in costume that looked much more like a 'chemise de nuit' than a 'robe du matin,' a big bouncing Yorkshire woman, whom he introduced as his wife; and the other occupant of the house was his son, who had opened the door for us, a precocious young brat of twelve, with a couple of gaudy rings. Mr. K—— himself (an expectorator of true transatlantic calibre) was reclining upon a luxurious sofa, shoeless, coatless, vestless; smoking a magnificent cigar, and being fanned by his wife. He was a smart clever man, and had given us much information in the cars about the country and the people, but had mystified us exceedingly about himself and his occupation. So we thought we would pump him again, and thence came about our visit. He had talked about the great coal oil trade and the Oil City of Pennsylvania, so we tackled him about it, and he confessed that he had, till a few days ago, been largely engaged in the trade, in fact, had been one of the largest proprietors of the oil works; but a little reverse had befallen him, and so he had 'executed a masterly flank movement' into the suburbs of Chicago, where he intended to lie by for a few months, and raise the wind for a fresh start in life. He had been occupying an enormous house at the Oil City, built with the money he had there made at a pace which whipped all the incredible stories of the golden-showered fortunes of San Francisco, and now he was next to penniless; so he had packed up some of his best furniture, and settled in this humble cot to retrench a little before venturing into the speculating world again. Now this case is one only of a thousand. Commercial gambling is carried on here to such a fatal extent, that a failure of this kind is thought as little of as an attack of dyspepsia. Indeed, I have heard it said that a man is not reckoned 'smart' till he has had a break-down, and 'smartness,' Anglicè dishonesty, is the highest trait in the successful American's character. The social ladder is a sort of fire-escape, from the top of which a man may slide to the bottom without damaging himself, and find plenty of friends to help him up again: for credit is cheap; you can get it anywhere; everybody will take you on trust—a strange inconsistency of Yankee nature which has struck me constantly on my travels—and expect you to do the same in return; and if you do, be alive, for everybody lives on his neighbour, and the least smart goes to the wall. That was where we found Mr. K—— just then, but he had a scheme in hand for righting himself, and as it makes no difference out here what a man *was* to the public, who look only to what he *is*, it mattered not that the line of speculation he was about to try was as remote from that in which he had failed as the two poles. What it actually was he kept within his breast; but it might have been anything on earth that ever brought in a man an honest or dishonest penny. A lawyer will come to grief and turn tailor, a banker will stop payment and become 'a traveller,' a shoe-black may fail and take to politics and be a cabinet minister. No questions are asked about the past; bygones are unreservedly bygones; family stigma is as little regarded as ancestral respectability. Every American citizen, like the meanest of French corporals, carries a marshal's bâton in his knapsack. 'Non quis, sed quid,' is the question put to every one, the test of merit, the principle of reward. Parentage, pedigree, lineal superiority, are disregarded. Integrity gives place to 'smartness'; social position to unscrupulous ingenuity. Good stock is a weight upon a man's back, beneath which he can rarely struggle against the immigrant upstarts from the East, and not be beaten in the race. Good blood is a curse to a man that brings down on his head, in language more violent than John Bright's or any other unprincipled demagogue that ever disgraced our country's name, all the foolish prejudices and savage denunciations of these enemies of what they call 'Europēān aristocracy.' So the men of real worth are kept below the surface by the mushroom nobodies that are always coming to the top like the stones on a ploughed field, to be removed perhaps as quickly, but only in favour of other 'shoddy' more pushing and unscrupulous than themselves. The social scale has become inverted. Man is looked upon as a mere machine of so much dollar-making power, and no matter what the internal economy of the works, the productive capacity is the only thing regarded. And he that makes the largest amount of money (I can't say 'income,' for commercial success is not stable or durable enough to permit men here to talk of annual 'incomes'), he that fills the biggest coffers with the greatest rapidity and ease, is the smartest, the best man.

All this was well explained to us by Mr. K—— himself. He made no secret of the thing. He detailed to us one or two of his smartest tricks in the short years of his commercial life, and propounded to us others that were then brewing under his presiding care; and so confident was he of his eventual success that he invited me over to see him this time next year, in a mansion twice as large as that he had just quitted; and I felt very much inclined to accept his offer just out of curiosity to see what can be done in this wonderful country by the most original of all virtues, Yankee smartness.

Well, I must not write any longer on this theme. Our stay in Chicago was a very amusing one, for we dived into every corner of the city, in order to see every phase of Western life. But of course there are no objects worthy of description in the smaller streets, nothing like the picturesque poverty of an Italian town, or the plain naked pauperism of London. Some of the larger thoroughfares are still unfinished, for the city is in its infancy, and in those there yet remain a few wooden châlets, which will in a short time give place to white marble blocks, like those that already stand around them. The city officers have already interdicted the erection of any more wooden houses to insure the safety and magnificence of the town; and ten or fifteen years hence when the great streets are all complete, and every building is fronted with marble, Chicago will be as grand a city as any on this continent. From the top of the lantern turret of the Court House there is a splendid view of the city and the suburbs, with the lake and the prairies on either side.

After a survey of the prospect, we walked down to the wharf, and saw over one of the famous 'elevators' that have made the fortunes of so many Western grain merchants. I have no time to describe its operation; but you may imagine the ingenious economy of time and labour gained by the working of these elevators, by being told that the largest vessel that plies upon the Northern lakes can be unshipped of its load of grain (which is carried in bulk), in the course of a few hours. The vessels draw up under the walls of these gigantic buildings, and into the hold is thrust a great elephantine trunk, which sucks up the loose grain to the topmost story of the house. There it is cleaned, and winnowed, and sorted, and in a few minutes down it comes again through several pipes, according to its quality, into the railway trucks that draw up to receive it at the back of the building, and so it goes off to the markets of the East. That which we visited was one of the largest of all, an enormous pile of wood, looking like an overgrown barn, or a very fine specimen of a Pickford's van. It had three great trunks at work upon the cargo of three grain ships, and a regular depot of trucks behind it receiving the grain which it rained forth in a host of golden showers. Inside all was noise and dust. We threaded our way some distance through it to get a notion of the business going on within, but the din stunned us, and the dust stifled us, and we skedaddled into the open air again, more bewildered than edified by our visit, and very hot and peppery, as if we had been racing in a flour-sack, or been pelted with 'confetti' at a Roman carnival. I can't tell you how many of these elevators there are along the quays of Chicago, but their number is considerable, and their proportions are huge; and the sight of these in operation, with the busy aspect of the harbour, the river, and the wharves, would enable you to form some estimate of the vast grain business that has raised this city like magic from the prairie.

I don't know that I have anything else to tell you of Chicago, except that the mosquitos are ten times as troublesome as any that I met in Malta. They don't seem to bother the natives, perhaps their blood is too bad to be worth the sucking, or else they are naturally mosquito proof; but the instinctive attentions of these insects to a stranger from the old world beat those of the most vigilant terrier that was ever set to welcome visitors in a yard. But it is no joke to receive too much of their attentions, as I did on the first night of my stay in the city; and it is a dreadful waste of the precious hours that ought to be devoted to peaceful slumber, to spend one-fourth of them in clearing the mosquito curtains and the bed-clothes of the almost invisible enemy. And shake the curtains and the counterpanes as you will, flip about your towels as you may, you are tolerably sure to leave in some hidden corner one of the most active of his tribe, who will wait upon you as soon as you have tucked yourself up for the night, and considerately attend you till the day, trumpeting around your ears to announce his vigilance, as he looks out for a soft spot to settle upon, where the skin is thin and blood abundant. (And though I am not given to spirituous liquors, I find that the place which suits them as well as any other is the extremity of my nose.) Yes, mosquitoes are the bane of every hot climate. The more I travel, the more convinced am I that Dr. Hooker is right, in pronouncing climate to be 'a failure everywhere.' But there are other agencies of personal annoyance besides mosquitoes, and of all the worst are the flies. In England we are accustomed to look on a fly as a quiet, inoffensive animal, easily got rid of when not wanted; but here he is quite another character, the most impudent, brazenfaced, shameless ruffian you can imagine.

THE CROPS OF THE UNITED STATES.—The report of the United States Commissioner of Agriculture for the months of September and October has just been published. Comparing the crops of 1864 with the crops of 1863, he says there is a decrease in wheat of 18,703,213 bushels, in rye of 909,807 bushels, in barley of 850,827 bushels, in potatoes of 3,903,782 bushels, in hay of 1,620,090 tons, in fattening hays of 1,002,658. In oats and Indian corn there was a considerable increase.

SPAIN AND THE SOUTH AMERICAN PROVINCES.

(PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND OF HIS MAJESTY, MARCH, 1824.)

[*Extract of Memorandum of a Conference between the Prince de Polignac and Mr. Canning, held October* 9, 1823.

THE Prince de Polignac having announced to Mr. Canning that His Excellency was now prepared to enter with Mr. Canning into a frank explanation of the views of his Government respecting the question of Spanish America, in return for a similar communication which Mr. Canning had previously offered to make to the Prince de Polignac on the part of the British Cabinet, Mr. Canning stated that the British Cabinet had no disguise or reservation of that subject; that their opinions and intentions were substantially the same as were announced to the French Government by the despatch of Mr. Canning to Sir Charles Stuart, of March 31, which despatch that ambassador communicated to M. de Chateaubriand, and which had since been published to the world. That the near approach of a crisis, in which the affairs of Spanish America must naturally occupy a great share of the attention of both Powers, made it desirable that there should be no misunderstanding between them on any part of a subject so important. That the British Government were of opinion that any attempt to bring Spanish America again under its ancient submission to Spain must be utterly hopeless; that all negotiation for that purpose would be unsuccessful; and that the prolongation or renewal of war for the same object would be only a waste of human life, and an infliction of calamity on both parties to no end. That the British Government would, however, not only abstain from interposing any obstacle on their part to any attempt at negotiation which Spain might think proper to make, but would aid and countenance such negotiation, provided it were founded upon a basis which appeared to them to be practicable; and that they would in any case remain strictly neutral in a war between Spain and the colonies, if war should be unhappily prolonged. But that the junction of any foreign Power in an enterprise of Spain against the colonies would be viewed by them as constituting an entirely new question, and one upon which they must take such decision as the interests of Great Britain might require. That the British Government absolutely disclaimed, not only any desire of appropriating to itself any portion of the Spanish colonies, but any intention of forming any political connection with them beyond that of amity and commercial intercourse. That in those respects, so far from seeking an exclusive preference for British subjects over those of foreign States, England was prepared, and would be contented, to see the mother country (by virtue of an amicable arrangement) in possession of that preference; and to be ranked after her, equally with others, on the footing of the most favoured nations. That, completely convinced that the ancient system of the colonies could not be restored, the British Government could not enter into any stipulation binding itself either to refuse or to delay its recognition of their independence. That the British Government had no desire to precipitate that recognition, so long as there was any reasonable chance of an accommodation with the mother country by which such a recognition might come first from Spain. But that it could not wait indefinitely for that result; that it could not consent to make its recognition of the new States dependent upon that of Spain; and that it would consider any foreign interference, by force or by menace, in the dispute between Spain and the colonies, as a motive for recognising the latter without delay. That the mission of consuls to the several provinces of Spanish America was no new measure on the part of this country; that it was one which had, on the contrary, been delayed, perhaps too long, in consideration of the state of Spain, after having been announced to the Spanish Government in the month of December last as settled, and even after a list had been furnished to that Government of the places to which such appointments were intended to be made. That such appointments were absolutely necessary for the protection of British trade in those countries. That the old pretension of Spain to interdict all trade with those countries was, in the opinion of the British Government, altogether obsolete; but that, even if attempted to be enforced against others, it was, with regard to Great Britain, clearly inapplicable. That permission to trade with Spanish colonies had been conceded to Great Britain in the year 1810, when the mediation of Great Britain between Spain and her colonies was asked by Spain, and granted by Great Britain; that this mediation, indeed, was not afterwards employed, because Spain changed her counsel; but that it was not therefore practicable for Great Britain to withdraw commercial capital once embarked in Spanish America, and to desist from commercial intercourse once established. That it had been ever since distinctly understood that the trade was open to British subjects, and that the ancient coast laws of Spain were, so far as regarded them at least, tacitly repealed. That, in virtue of this understanding, redress had been demanded of Spain in 1822 for (among other grievances) seizures of vessels for alleged infringements of those laws, which redress the Spanish Government bound itself by a convention (now in course of execution) to afford. That Great Britain, however, had no desire to set up any separate right to the free enjoyment of this trade; that she considered the force of circumstances, and the irreversible progress of events, to have already determined the question of the existence of that freedom for all the world; but that for herself she claimed and would continue to use it; and should any attempt be made to dispute that claim, and to renew the obsolete interdiction, such attempt might be best cut short by a speedy and unqualified recognition of the independence of the Spanish American States. That, with these general opinions, and with these peculiar claims, England could not go into a joint deliberation upon the subject of Spanish America, upon an equal footing with other Powers whose opinions were less formed upon that question, and whose interests were less implicated in the decision of it. That she thought it fair, therefore, to explain beforehand to what degree her mind was made up, and her determination taken. The Prince de Polignac declared that his Government believed it to be utterly hopeless to reduce Spanish America to the state of its former relation to Spain. That France disclaimed, on her part, any intention or desire to avail herself of the present state of the colonies, or of the present situation of France towards Spain, to appropriate to herself any part of the Spanish possessions in America, or to obtain for herself any exclusive advantages; and that, like England, she would willingly see the mother country in possession of superior commercial advantages by amicable arrangements; and would be contented, like her, to rank after the mother country among the most favoured nations. Lastly, that she abjured in any case any design of acting against the colonies by force of arms. The Prince de Polignac proceeded to say, that, as to what might be the best arrangement between Spain and her colonies, the French Government could not give nor venture to form an opinion, until the King of Spain should be at liberty. That they would then be ready to enter upon it, in concert with their allies, and with Great Britain among the number. In observing upon what Mr. Canning had said with respect to the peculiar situation of Great Britain in reference to such a conference, the Prince de Polignac declared that he saw no difficulty which should prevent England from taking part in the conference, however she might now announce the difference in the view which she took of the question from that taken by the allies. The refusal of England to cooperate in the work of reconciliation might afford reason to think either that she did not really wish for that reconciliation, or that she had some ulterior object in contemplation—two suppositions equally injurious to the honour and good faith of the British Cabinet. The Prince de Polignac further declared that he could not conceive what could be meant under the present circumstances by a pure and simple acknowledgment of the independence of the Spanish colonies, since, those countries being actually distracted by civil wars, there existed no government in them which could offer any appearance of solidity; and that the acknowledgment of American independence, so long as such a state of things continued, appeared to him to be nothing less than a real sanction of anarchy. The Prince de Polignac added, that in the interest of humanity, and especially in that of the Spanish colonies, it would be worthy of the European Governments to concert together the means of calming, in those distant and scarcely civilised regions, passions blinded by party spirit, and to endeavour to bring back to a principle of union in government, whether monarchical or aristocratical, people among whom absurd and dangerous theories were now keeping up agitation and disunion. Mr. Canning, without entering into discussion upon these abstract principles, contented himself with saying that, however desirable the establishment of a monarchical form of government in any of those provinces might be on the one hand, or whatever might be the difficulties in the way of it on the other hand, his Government could not take upon itself to put it forward as a condition of their recognition.

Mr. Secretary Canning to Sir W. A'Court.

Foreign Office: January 30, 1824.

As to any further step to be taken by His Majesty towards the acknowledgment of the *de facto* Governments of America, the decision must (as has already been stated more than once to Spain and to other Powers) depend upon various circumstances; and, among others, upon the reports which the British Government may receive of the actual state of affairs in the several American provinces. But it appears manifest to the British Government that if so large a portion of the globe should remain much longer without any recognised political existence, or any definite political connection with the established Governments of Europe, the consequences of such a state of things must be at once most embarrassing to those Governments and most injurious to the interests of all European nations. For these reasons, and not from mere views of selfish policy, the British Government is decidedly of opinion that the recognition of such of the new States as have established *de facto* their separate political existence, cannot be much longer delayed. The British Government have no desire to anticipate Spain in that recognition. On the contrary, it is on every account their wish that His Catholic Majesty should have the grace and the advantage of leading the way in that recognition among the Powers of Europe. But the Court of Madrid must be aware that the discretion of His Majesty in this respect cannot be indefinitely bound up by that of His Catholic Majesty; and that, even before many months elapse, the desire now sincerely felt by the British Government to leave this precedency to Spain may be overborne by considerations of a more comprehensive nature—considerations regarding not only the essential interests of His Majesty's subjects, but the relations of the Old World with the New. Should Spain resolve to avail herself of the opportunity yet within her power, the British Government would, if the Court of Madrid desired it, willingly afford its countenance and aid to a negotiation commenced on that only basis which appears to them to be now practicable; and would see without reluctance the conclusion, through a negotiation on that basis, of an arrangement by which the mother country should be secured in the enjoyment of commercial advantages superior to those conceded to other nations. For herself, Great Britain asks no exclusive privileges of trade, no invidious preference, but equal freedom of commerce for all. If Spain shall determine to persevere in other counsels, it cannot but be expected that Great Britain must take her own course upon this matter when the time for taking it shall arrive; of which Spain shall have full and early intimation. Nothing that is here stated can occasion to the Spanish Government any surprise. In my despatch to Sir Charles Stuart, of March 31, 1823, which was communicated to the Spanish Government, the opinion was distinctly expressed that 'time and the course of events had substantially decided the separation of the colonies from the mother country; although the formal recognition of those provinces as independent States by His Majesty might be hastened or retarded by various external circumstances, as well as by the more or less satisfactory progress in each State towards a regular and settled form of government.' At a subsequent period, in a communication made in the first instance to France, and afterwards to other Powers, as well as to Spain, the same opinions were repeated; with this specific addition, that in either of two cases (now happily not likely to occur)—in that of any attempt on the part of Spain to revive the obsolete interdiction of intercourse with countries over which she has no longer any actual dominion, or in that of the employment of foreign assistance to reestablish her dominion in those countries by force of arms—the recognition of such new States by His Majesty would be decided and immediate. After thus declaring to you, for the information of the Court of Madrid, the deliberate opinion of the British Government on the points on which Spain requires the advice of her allies, it does not appear to the British Cabinet at all necessary to go into a conference to declare that opinion anew, even if it were perfectly clear from the tenor of M. Ofalia's instructions that Great Britain is in fact included in the invitation to the conference at Paris. Every one of the Powers so invited has been constantly and unreservedly apprised, not only of each step which the British Government has taken, but of every opinion which it has formed on this subject; and this despatch will be communicated to them all. If those Powers should severally come to the same conclusion with Great Britain, the concurrent expression of their several opinions cannot have less weight in the judgment of Spain, and must naturally be more acceptable to her feelings than if such concurrence, being the result of a conference of five Powers, should carry the appearance of a concerted dictation. If (unhappily, as we think) the allies, or any of them, should come to a different conclusion, we shall at least have avoided the inconvenience of a discussion by which our own opinion could not have been changed; we shall have avoided an appearance of mystery, by which the jealousy of other parties might have been excited; we shall have avoided a delay which the state of the question may hardly allow. Meanwhile, this explicit recapitulation of the whole course of our sentiments and of our proceedings on this momentous subject must at once acquit us of any indisposition to answer the call of Spain for friendly counsel, and protect us against the suspicion of having any purpose to conceal from Spain or from the world.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) GEORGE CANNING.

The Right Hon. Sir W. A'Court, G.C.B., &c. &c.

GENERAL LEE.

THE two following letters are already familiar to the public. We print them here because they have given rise to criticism demanding comment.

Arlington, Virginia, April 20, 1861.

General,—Since my interview with you on the 18th instant I have felt that I ought not longer to retain my commission in the army. I, therefore, tender my resignation, which I request you will recommend for acceptance. It would have been presented at once, but for the struggle it has cost me to separate myself from a service to which I have devoted all the best years of my life and all the ability I possessed.

During the whole of that time, more than a quarter of a century, I have experienced nothing but kindness from my superiors, and the most cordial friendship from my comrades. To no one, General, have I been so much indebted as to yourself for uniform kindness and consideration, and it has always been my ardent desire to merit your approbation. I shall carry to the grave the most grateful recollections of your kind consideration, and your name and fame will always be dear to me.

Save in defence of my native State, I never desire again to draw my sword. Be pleased to accept my most earnest wishes for the continuance of your happiness and prosperity, and believe me most truly yours,

R. E. LEE.

Lieutenant-General Winfield Scott, commanding United States' Army.

A copy of the preceding letter was enclosed in the following letter to a sister of the General, Mrs. A. M.:—

Arlington, Virginia, April 20, 1861.

My dear Sister,—I am grieved at my inability to see you. . . . . I have been waiting 'for a more convenient season,' which has brought to many before me deep and lasting regret. Now we are in a state of war which will yield to nothing. The whole South is in a state of revolution, into which Virginia, after a long struggle, has been drawn; and though I recognise no necessity for this state of things, and would have forborne and pleaded to the end for redress of grievances, real or supposed, yet in my own person I had to meet the question whether I should take part against my native State. With all my devotion to the Union, and the feeling of loyalty and duty of an American citizen, I have not been able to make up my mind to raise my hand against my relatives, my children, my home. I have therefore resigned my commission in the army, and, save in defence of my native State, with the sincere hope that my poor services may never be needed, I hope I may never be called on to draw my sword.

I know you will blame me, but you must think as kindly of me as you can, and believe that I have endeavoured to do what I thought right. To show you the feeling and struggle it has cost me, I send a copy of my letter to General Scott, which accompanied my letter of resignation. I have no time for more. . . . . May God guard and protect you and yours, and shower upon you every blessing, is the prayer of your devoted brother, R. E. LEE.—(*Times.*)

The following letter will also be read with interest. G. W. Custis Lee, to whom it is addressed, is now at Richmond on the personal staff of President Davis, and in command of the immediate defences of the capital:—

Arlington House, April 5, 1852.

My dear Son,—I am just in the act of leaving home for New Mexico. My fine old regiment has been ordered to that distant region, and I must hasten on to see that they are properly cared for. I have but little to add in reply to your letters of March 26, 27, and 28. Your letters breathe a true spirit of frankness; they have given myself and your mother great pleasure. You must study to be frank with the world; frankness is the child of honesty and courage. Say just what you mean to do on every occasion, and take it for granted you mean to do right. If a friend asks a favour, you should grant it if it is reasonable; if not, tell him plainly why you cannot; you will wrong him and wrong yourself by equivocation of any kind. Never do a wrong thing to make a friend or keep one; the man who requires you to do so is dearly purchased at a sacrifice. Deal kindly, but firmly, with all your classmates; you will find it the policy which wears best. Above all, do not appear to others what you are not. If you have any fault to find with any one, tell him, not others, of what you complain; there is no more dangerous experiment than that of undertaking to be one thing before a man's face and another behind his back. We should live, act, and say nothing to the injury of any one. It is not only best as a matter of principle, but it is the path to peace and honour.

In regard to duty, let me, in conclusion of this hasty letter, inform you that nearly a hundred years ago there was a day of remarkable gloom and darkness—still known as the dark day—a day when the light of the sun was slowly extinguished, as if by an eclipse. The Legislature of Connecticut was in session, and as its members saw the unexpected and unaccountable darkness coming on, they shared in the general awe and terror. It was supposed by many that the last day—the day of judgment—had come. Some one, in the consternation of the hour, moved an adjournment. Then there arose an old Puritan legislator, Devenport of Stamford, and said that if the last day had come, he desired to be found at his place doing his duty, and, therefore, moved that candles be brought in so that the House could proceed with its duty. There was quietness in that man's mind, the quietness of heavenly wisdom and inflexible willingness to obey present duty. Duty, then, is the sublimest word in our language. Do your duty in all things like the old Puritan. You cannot do more; you should never wish to do less. Never let me and your mother wear one gray hair for any lack of duty on your part.

Your affectionate father,

To G. W. Custis Lee. R. E. LEE.

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 291 Strand, W.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1864.

The War.

We know enough of the progress of SHERMAN'S expedition to assert without hesitation that it has utterly failed in one of its principal objects. The chief aim of the Federal general was undoubtedly to provide a new base for operations against the cotton States on the sea. But only secondary to that was the hope of paralysing the Southern armies of the South-west by the total destruction of the great factories and arsenals on which they were almost entirely dependent for the supply of their warlike material. Undoubtedly the capture of Augusta by SHERMAN would have been a serious, though not a vital, blow to the South; and the fall of Macon would have been hardly less disastrous. That SHERMAN aimed at both these towns there is not the slightest doubt. The whole press was full, within a week of the starting of the expedition, of rumours of the capture of Macon and the defenceless condition of Augusta; and although doubts were here and there expressed as to SHERMAN'S columns reaching the coast without serious opposition, there was no misgiving as to the fate of the two great military workshops of Georgia. It turns out that the Federal army has avoided both towns. When Macon was left unassailed by General SHERMAN'S corps, the ingenuity of Northern journalists found a plausible reason for its safety. SHERMAN'S strategy had completely deceived the Southern leaders; he had made a feint at Macon, and so compelled the Confederates to concentrate their whole force in that town; as soon as he was assured of the presence of the small Southern army 'where he wanted it,' he at once pushed on to Augusta, where he could not possibly encounter opposition, where all was panic, confusion, and helplessness, where slaves were being impressed as soldiers, &c. Federal organs in this country indulged in the same delightful anticipations. It was exultantly pointed out that if BEAUREGARD and HARDEE were at Macon, SHERMAN had placed them out of the fight by his masterly manœuvre, and it was inferred that there could be no army to defend Augusta, or offer opposition to SHERMAN'S further march to the sea. We now know that SHERMAN has found Augusta, as he previously found Macon, too strong to attack, and that, foiled at both these places, he is undisguisedly and avowedly fighting for a safe retreat. That the most desperate efforts will be made to extricate him from his difficulties we doubt not; that great fleets and armies will be put in motion to create a diversion, to make a new base for him, to carry provisions and fodder to his starving men and famished cattle, is to be expected. But there is good reason to believe that the bulk of his army will be beyond help long before help can be forthcoming, and that SHERMAN will expiate, by the loss of a magnificent army, the greatest military blunder of which the North has yet been guilty.

Where SHERMAN'S army really was at the end of last month it is quite impossible to say. A despatch from General GRANT, on the credit of the *Richmond Examiner*, places it east of the Oconnee River, and well on its way to the coast. But, on the other hand, the rest of the Richmond journals agree in the assertion that for six or seven days SHERMAN had not gained ten miles of ground, and that every day troops were being poured in upon him, in front, in flank, and in rear. BEAUREGARD had anticipated him at Macon, and again at Augusta. BEAUREGARD'S force on the Tennessee River was estimated at 65,000 men, and HOOD has, at the outside, 50,000 soldiers under his immediate command. The balance of the army might be, and probably was, spared to go to the aid of the Georgian volunteers; and if BEAUREGARD could anticipate SHERMAN at Macon, there is no reason why 10,000 men should not follow close in his track, and be in time to take part in the final struggle with the Federal invaders. But it is tolerably certain that Augusta also was, by the end of the month of November, very strongly garrisoned. From Charleston, and from all the towns of South Carolina, veterans and militia had marched to her defence. Troops had been moved down quietly from Virginia; and BRAGG, with the Wilmington garrison, is also reported to have left for the same destination. HAMPTON'S cavalry and WHEELER'S horse were upon the enemy's track. COBB and HARDEE and JOHNSTON and BEAUREGARD were organising and arming the new levies, and superintending the systematic resistance offered to the advancing Federals. It is plain, then, that there must have been by the beginning of the present month a very formidable army in Georgia, and that whatever opposition SHERMAN had met with up to that time would be child's play in comparison with that which he had to expect. And what must have been the condition of his troops by that time? We know that his cavalry had had several hard fights, and on more than one occasion suffered a severe check. We hear of one portion of it, endeavouring to open communications with Beaufort, being cut off and captured. This in itself would show that SHERMAN is in a very critical position. But it must be borne in mind that the subsistence of the whole army depends upon the cavalry. KILPATRICK has not only to fight, but to forage. He must provide the advanced guard, and the rear guard, and the Commissariat of the Federals; and we ask our readers to picture to themselves what must be the state of a cavalry force which has had three weeks of such arduous duties. There is no possibility of remounting the cavalry. Every horse will have been impressed for Confederate service or driven off. Indeed, we shall be surprised, supposing KILPATRICK'S force to have originally consisted of 10,000 men, if, on the 1st of December, there were 5,000 effective troopers in SHERMAN'S army. As to the report of his having received reinforcements, that is very untrustworthy. Unless DAHLGREN and FOSTER could march their gunboats across country, they were plainly in no position to afford aid to SHERMAN. The relief, if it is to come at all, will come in the expedition said to have started from Fortress Monroe for Savannah, or a point farther south. But Savannah is almost unassailable by sea. The safety of Augusta once assured, the army there assembled can be transported in a few hours to Savannah, and, step by step, SHERMAN'S march along the Savannah River will be contested, whilst clouds of Georgian and Carolinian riflemen will gather in his rear, cut off stragglers and trains, and almost as effectually impede his progress as if they fought stubborn battles in his front. SHERMAN may yet escape destruction, and reach the sea; but so far he has done nothing but inspire a keen sense of injury in Southern hearts, a deadlier hate, and a fiercer thirst for revenge. The opening-up of a new line to Atlanta, or the establishment of a new base, will not compensate even in Northern eyes for the loss of the whole of Northern Georgia and Alabama, possibly the severance of the last tie between Tennessee and her Federal oppressors.

The accounts from HOOD'S army are conflicting. A battle appears to have been fought on the 30th, in which, of course, a Federal victory is claimed. But it is significant that the Federals, who are alleged to have repulsed their assailants with heavy loss at all points, retreated some twenty or thirty miles in the night subsequent to the engagement, harassed all the way by the Confederate cavalry, and that two days later they had retired within the defences of Nashville, with the Confederate army but three miles distant. If we are to understand that General THOMAS evacuated Shelbyville after the engagement, it would seem that the Federal army is cut in two and is in great danger. In that case THOMAS'S only line of retreat would be towards Chattanooga. But if Nashville should fall, neither Chattanooga nor Knoxville could be held a month. HOOD'S numbers have been naturally kept secret, but he must evidently be in strong force; and it is certain that his cavalry, an effective veteran force, largely outnumbers the same branch of the Federal service. It is probable, therefore, that the Federal army will be compelled to give up Nashville in its turn, and select a more defensible position with less exposed communications. At any rate, we may look for the news of the most momentous events within the next week or two. At present everything looks favourable for the South. We can hardly expect that everywhere success will attend the gigantic efforts her gallant sons are putting forth; but, to her, defeat means simply present disappointment—to the North, it would be overwhelming and irreparable disaster.

General Lee.

LORD MAHON, in his masterly introduction of Colonel GEORGE WASHINGTON upon the stage of the first War of Independence, dwells with peculiar satisfaction on the correspondence of the great Virginian concerning the Stamp Act and the other harsh measures which emanated from time to time from the British Parliament. That correspondence was marked by extraordinary moderation, and the convictions of the writer were ever steadfast and decided in favour of allegiance to the crown. Then again, when the shadows of civil war began to loom on the horizon, WASHINGTON was less forward and eager than others in declaring or declaiming against the mother-country. This conduct has been urged by way of accusation against him; but, as Lord MAHON observes, it contained no matter of condemnation, but rather a topic of praise. 'Ought not,' says the historian, 'a brave soldier, who had known and seen the havoc of war, to pause longer than any brawling civilian ere he resolves to inflict that havoc on his country? Ought not his reluctance to be stronger still when the war before him is not between nation and nation, but between the sons of the same race and the subjects of the same king? Was it not this very reluctance which, in 1829, impelled the Duke of WELLINGTON to exclaim amidst general applause that, long inured as he had been to scenes of strife, he would make any sacrifice, even of his own life, rather than expose his country to even one month of civil war?' When, however, WASHINGTON had once come to a determination, his magnanimity in perseverance was as conspicuous as his hesitation in coming forward. His high spirit never quailed before defeat, and he declared that if the colonies were overpowered, he would go to the Far West and establish an independent State beyond the Father of Waters.

History repeats itself, and, thank God, great men are created to meet great emergencies. In the second War of Independence, Colonel ROBERT E. LEE, like his great prototype, first chief of the army of Virginia, then the most trusted General of the armies of the Thirteen States, has shown the same hesitation and the same invincible constancy. That hesitation has been distorted into a charge, not against General LEE, for his virtues have silenced tongues against which no human excellence seemed proof, but against those whom the Southerners have chosen for the heads of their civil government. The accusation is that General LEE was and is no believer in the cause for which he fights, and that his services have been enlisted by the artifice of those who 'for their own purposes, or in their own passions, stirred up to madness the intemperate feelings of their countrymen.'

Doubtless many of our readers are familiar with the letters written on April 20, 1861, by Colonel ROBERT E. LEE, and addressed, the one to Lieutenant-General WINFIELD SCOTT, the other to the sister of the writer. As they have been used as a handle for attack against the leaders of the Southern people, we have deemed it right to reprint what was long ago familiar to Southern ears. In those letters General LEE, like a true soldier of honour, regards with inexpressible grief the necessity which compels him to retire from a service in which he had won renown, and which was endeared to him alike by the triumphs of war and of friendship. The reason for his resignation is at once simple and insuperable. General LEE refused to fight against the State of Virginia. Save in defence of his native State, he would never again draw his sword. What is the meaning of this language? Is it not the very substance and marrow of the cause, that a Southerner should fight for the integrity, the sovereignty, and the independence of his State? Is not the doctrine of States Rights the issue on which America has been split asunder? Was not President DAVIS marked out by the Southern people as the great champion of that truth, which alone could insure the existence of constitutional liberty on the Western continent? General LEE has struck upon the very keystone of the fabric which his sword has done so much to consolidate.

Clear, however, as his purpose was not to 'fight against relatives, children, and home,' which thing General SCOTT, to his eternal infamy, has consented

to do, the gallant soldier might well doubt before he rushed into civil war. Though his wildest imaginations could never have conceived the atrocities which have been enacted by Northern generals, and at the bare recital of which European blood has curdled, yet he, like WASHINGTON, knew the horrors of war, and he would have forborne and pleaded to save his beloved State from the fate of being the theatre of the contest. When once his resolution was taken to defend his native country, he inscribed on his sword those words with which Lord MAHON would have adorned the sword of WASHINGTON, 'Never draw me without reason; never sheath me without honour.'

In truth, no one would reject the insinuations to which we have alluded with more scorn than General LEE himself. It bespeaks a strange fatuity to suppose that a man of the sagacity and calm foresight of LEE could be drawn into a trap by the artifices of a few politicians. We know, however, from experience of former suggestions of a similar nature, that it is against the chief of the Southern Confederacy that these attacks are directed. No phenomenon has been witnessed more singular in all its features than the notion that a revolution which bids fair to make the great effort of France a mere bubble, was the work of one man. Surely, if this position be true, nature must have combined in this shaker of the Western continent qualities by the side of which the aggregate skill of a thousand HILDEBRANDS and MACHIAVELS sinks into insignificance. If posterity be condemned to read such theories, it will stand aghast at the criticism which beholds in the convulsion of a world, in the mighty struggle of peoples and principles, the mere intrigues of an individual. It will rather recognise the truth, that the South rose as one man to battle against Northern despotism, that she selected her leaders with unparalleled unanimity and wisdom, and adhered to them with a brave confidence which has exploded every fancy of selfish interest and ambitious passion.

The occasion is improved, perhaps under the inspiration of the COBDEN speech, by the repetition of the charge that the Southern leaders have never alleged for their conduct any cause that would bear investigation. It is idle to make proclamation on the house-tops when the mob below shout and refuse to hear; yet what can be more false than this charge? Has CALHOUN never lived, and have the Southern statesmen never endorsed his doctrines? Has President DAVIS delivered no messages to Congress, and has Congress adopted no resolutions setting forth the purposes and dispositions of the Confederate States? What abundance is sufficient to satisfy men who see nothing 'that will bear investigation' in a cause which asserts the inalienable right of 'self-government according to established laws and institutions?'

But since the point has been raised, it may fairly be asked whether the North has alleged for its aggression 'any cause that will bear investigation?' Where is any manifesto to be found justifying, or attempting to justify, a policy which avowedly seeks to exterminate eight millions of people? Is it to be sought in the unintelligible vagaries of Mr. LINCOLN, or the contradictory effusions of Mr. SEWARD? Comparisons of the Mississippi to the Thames, and of Texas to Devonshire, offer no solution; neither is explanation to be discovered even in proposed extensions of the Illinois railroads. The civilised world has a right to demand a clear exposition of the purposes, principles, and dispositions of the Northern Government, and common fairness requires that those who are eager in the challenge should not decline the gage of battle.

Recognition: A Contrast.

WE publish this week some papers, taken from a bluebook issued no less than forty years ago, which seem to possess no little interest and importance as bearing on a question which events are likely ere long again to bring under the consideration of the English Government and the people by whose will and judgment, once decidedly formed and firmly expressed, that Government must perforce be ruled—we mean the question of recognising the Confederate States. The one precedent which the opponents of recognition have ventured to cite in their favour is the case of the Spanish colonies in America. They admit that the instances of Greece, Belgium, and Italy are against them; but they pretend that the case of Spanish America is more appropriate to the present question—that it affords a contrast, rather than an exception, to the rule observed in the instances just mentioned, and a precedent adverse to the claims of the Confederacy. The parallel we are about to draw between the two cases will, we think, show a striking contrast between the conduct of Mr. Secretary CANNING and that of the present FOREIGN SECRETARY.

The war between Spain and her colonies lasted much longer than the present contest has done before the question of recognition could be entertained at all. For this there were several reasons, none of them applicable to the present instance. First, for many years Spain and England were in alliance against the usurpation of JOSEPH and the armies of NAPOLEON; and while this alliance lasted it was of course out of the question for us to entertain the claims of the revolted subjects of our ally. Secondly, the revolt was long unsuccessful, and its fortunes were still longer dubious. There was a powerful Spanish party in the colonies; and the insurgents were, in more than one case, repeatedly reduced to the last extremity. It was very long before the cause of Spain could definitely and confidently be pronounced hopeless. Thirdly, ten years of war in those days, when steam was not, when rifles and rifled artillery were not dreamt of, did less execution than two years of such fighting as has characterised war since 1852. The endurance of a nation is more severely tested by six months of such a struggle as that of 1859 in Italy, or that now raging in America, than by as many years of such desultory strife as that between Spain and her Transatlantic provinces. The question of time, therefore, is irrelevant. It is sufficient to compare the position of Spain in 1824 and of the United States in 1864.

When these communications passed between Mr. CANNING and the French and Spanish Governments, the cause of the colonies was at last in the ascendant. They had often seemed on the verge of submission; it was not impossible that they might be reduced as low again; but for the nonce they had decidedly the best of it. In one or two Spain still continued the contest, at least as successfully as the North maintains it in the border States of the Confederacy. In others she held such foothold as the North possesses in Louisiana and the Carolinas. At sea she was less absolutely superior than are the United States; but whatever stand the colonists were able to make on that element was due entirely to the fact that the British Government had not interpreted the duties of neutrality then in the same sense which it assigns to them now. The navy of the colonists had been created altogether by British shipwrights, British officers, and British crews; and no small part of their successes, whether by land or sea, were due to the chivalric daring and extraordinary skill of Lord COCHRANE. Apart from British interference, the position of Spain seemed quite as good as that of the United States can now be said to be.

There are, however, important points of difference between the two situations. In the first place, the colonists were undoubtedly rebel, in revolt against their legitimate sovereign, whose business it was to prove his inability to conquer them before they could expect to be treated as independent. The Confederacy consists of sovereign States, recognised as such by Great Britain, and fairly entitled to throw the onus of proving the lapse, resignation, or destruction of their sovereign character on the enemy who impeaches it. Secondly, Spain had always avowed her intention to conquer them, and her belief that she could do it. Mr. SEWARD, at the outset of this struggle, in the name of the Federal Government, most vehemently repudiated the intention of conquest, as not only impossible and immoral in itself, but as alien to the whole spirit of the Federal bond. He asked only that we should give him time to prove the Southern people still loyal to the Union before we recognised a government established, as he affirmed, by a violent and factious minority: he has proved the contrary beyond all possibility of doubt, and we are fairly entitled on his own showing to recognise the authority at Richmond as the legitimate Government of the South. Thirdly, that Government has from the first maintained its authority with perfect ease and completeness; and the civil administration of the Confederacy and of the States has gone on as regularly as that of England. The Spanish colonies, on the contrary, almost without an exception, were so destitute of organisation and of settled government, that the Prince de POLIGNAC declared that to recognise their independence would be simply to recognise, sanction, and perpetuate anarchy. So far, therefore, as the claim of the Spanish colonies differed from that of the Confederate States, the latter is decidedly the stronger.

It may be said that the Spanish colonies, though allied, were not confederated, and that Great Britain did not recognise those in which Spain still maintained the contest on an equal footing. But no one can read Mr. CANNING'S language without being perfectly certain that if the colonies had formed a confederacy, Mr. CANNING would none the less have recognised it; leaving it to time to determine which colonies belonged to it and which did not. He would have recognised the Confederate Government as undoubtedly the Government of ten confederate States; he would have left the Border States and the frontier lines an open question.

It may be observed, in passing, that the position of England was not so favourable for recognition then as it is now. Mr. CANNING was the Minister of a Tory King—the Foreign Secretary of a Tory Cabinet—and as such could hardly incline to favour the cause of rebellion. And England was the only country in Europe well disposed towards the colonies; but for her, the Holy Alliance would not have been unwilling to reconquer them for their ancient master. In recognising the colonies, therefore, England had to break with traditions now obsolete, and to offend Powers which would now gladly cooperate with her in acknowledging the independence of the Confederate States. In every respect, therefore, Lord RUSSELL has a better case for recognising the Confederacy, and less cause to shrink from so doing, than had Mr. CANNING in the case of the Spanish colonies—in every respect but one, which the contrast between the conduct of the two statesmen brings into painful prominence.

Mr. CANNING asserts his right boldly, but with perfect courtesy. He would prefer that Spain should have the opportunity of reconciling herself with her offshoots by being the first to acknowledge them as independent States; but he distinctly warns her that Great Britain will not wait upon the obstinacy of Spain. Lord RUSSELL wavers, quibbles, and hesitates—inclines to think that we have no business to acknowledge the Confederacy so long as the United States choose to maintain the war. Lord RUSSELL has no doubt that the South must achieve her independence, and wishes that the North would let her go in peace; but he has never dared to communicate either his conviction or his wish to those whose action they might influence. Mr. CANNING told Spain in the plainest terms that 'the British Government were of opinion that any attempt to bring Spanish America again under its ancient submission to Spain must be utterly hopeless,' and urged upon her, both directly and through her allies, the policy of renouncing her dreams of conquest and negotiating for an equitable and advantageous peace. Lord RUSSELL submissively gave Mr. ADAMS to understand that HER MAJESTY'S Government would not, as matters stood, think of so offensive a step as the recognition of the South; Mr. CANNING firmly declined to 'enter into any stipulation binding him either to refuse or to delay the recognition of their (the colonies') independence.' The Foreign Secretary of 1863 endeavoured to persuade his countrymen that they must wait to recognise the Confederacy till the North should recognise the futility of its hopes; his predecessor of 1823 boldly rested the right of recognition on the conviction of Great Britain that the colonies could never again be subjugated. Mr. CANNING boldly affirmed his country's right; Lord RUSSELL palters with it, equivocates, suppresses, is ready to abjure it, rather than displease the powers that be at Washington.

Lord RUSSELL'S policy has been uncertain, timid, shortsighted. He has allowed our relations with a great empire, our most valuable commercial ally, to be entirely cut off, and made no effort to restore them. He has rejected every proposal for mediation, so afraid is he of a quarrel with the United States. It is nothing to him that a country as large as Europe, and of more importance to us than all Europe, is cut off from all diplomatic relations with the rest of the world—nothing that British interests are sacrificed—nothing that British subjects are without protection. His one object is to avoid a quarrel with the North. What was CANNING'S policy when once his mind was satisfied that the Colonies had established a claim to recognition? He avowed at once his sense of the necessity of recognition on political grounds. 'If so large a portion of the globe should remain much longer without any recognised political existence, or any definite political connection with the established Governments of Europe, the consequences of such a state of things must be at once most embarrassing to those Governments and most injurious to the interests of all European nations.' Surely no one will pretend that the importance of the Spanish-American republics is equal to that of the Confederate States, or that the want of definite political relations with the latter Power is less injurious and embarrassing to European nations? If it were so necessary to institute diplomatic communications with Peru and Ecuador, what must be the folly and inconvenience of a total suspension of relations with the civilised people and wealthy regions of the South! Have we had no experience of that inconvenience—no cause to wish that our American policy had been framed by a CANNING and not by a RUSSELL?

Lord RUSSELL has withdrawn our consuls from the South at the bidding of the United States; Mr. CANNING sent consuls to the Spanish-American ports in utter disregard of the anger and complaints of Spain. British trade must be protected, and British interests secured, in his opinion, however

little agreeable the measure might be to a foreign and not very friendly Power; Lord RUSSELL, on the other hand, has more than once rated the merchants of Great Britain for not abstaining from a trade offensive to the United States. Lord RUSSELL insulted the Confederate Government by obliging consuls within its dominions to receive orders from the ambassador at Washington, thus asserting the *de jure* authority which the South had *de facto* abolished. Mr. CANNING, in the papers before us, intimates peremptorily his determination to tolerate no assumption, on the part of Spain, of authority over the coasts and ports of the colonies which are *de facto* emancipated from her rule.

Mr. CANNING frankly urges the interests of Great Britain, so deeply involved in the freedom and prosperity of the Spanish republics, as a reason for their recognition. The interests there involved were trivial indeed compared with those at stake in the cotton States of the Confederacy; and there can be no doubt how Mr. CANNING would act were he living now to carry out the spirit of his policy of 1823. Those who believe Lord RUSSELL to be a more chivalrous statesman than Mr. CANNING may put faith in his professed abhorrence of interested action, and suppose that he is really guilty of sacrificing the welfare of his country to a Quixotic generosity. It is sufficient for us to notice that in each point the arguments of the advocates of recognition now reproduce the language held by Mr. CANNING in this oft-cited case—that in every point the policy of Lord RUSSELL reverses the precedent that has been quoted in his favour. The situation of Spain towards her colonies was that of the United States towards the Confederacy, save that in some respects the claim of the colonies to recognition was weaker than that of their successors. Mr. CANNING decided on recognition, first, because *he considered* the cause of Spain hopeless; secondly, because it was necessary that some diplomatic relations should exist between the colonies and Europe; thirdly, because it was the interest of England to recognise them. And he repudiated peremptorily the idea that he was bound to wait till Spain had made up her mind to abandon the struggle. Here we have the very argument which has been so often stated in these pages on behalf of the Confederacy, put forth as conclusive by the man who may be said to have founded the modern foreign policy of England.

We may observe that while holding in abeyance for the moment his intention to recognise the colonies, Mr. CANNING uses it very effectively to keep Spain and her allies in check. 'If France helps Spain in this quarrel, we recognise the colonies *instanter*. If Spain seizes our ships on an illegal pretence (of interdicting trade with the colonies), we will recognise them *instanter*.' How would Mr. CANNING deal at this day with pretensions and proceedings of the United States which we find it difficult to meet by direct prevention? Would he have hesitated for a moment to say, 'If you seize ships in neutral waters, we recognise the South the next day. If you will enlist Irishmen, our subjects, to fight your battles, we recognise the South.'

What conclusion are we to draw from the striking contrast between the policy of Lord RUSSELL and of Mr. CANNING in regard to the quarrels of the New World? That international law, as regards recognition, has grown stricter since Mr. CANNING's day? That Mr. CANNING was led astray by interest or partiality, while Lord RUSSELL is adhering strictly to the law? Or that, while Mr. CANNING thought the hostility of Spain, with the Holy Alliance at her back, too insignificant to turn him from the path of justice and sound policy, the fear of the United States overshadows Lord RUSSELL's mind so completely, that no policy, however wise and righteous, which might lead to a collision with that dreaded Power can find entertainment or favour there?

Professor Goldwin Smith.

THE Yankees, it must be admitted, have found a zealous and active, if not a valuable, ally in Professor GOLDWIN SMITH. If they have done him great honour at feasts and celebrations, if he has been thought worthy of a seat on the platform with the mellifluous EVERETT, if LINCOLN has entertained him with his latest and best jokes, and BUTLER, in the character of Amphitryon, has received him handsomely at the head-quarters of the army on the James, the Professor has requited these various civilities in a manner the most grateful to the Yankee mind and heart. His letters to the *Daily News*, in which he 'whitewashes' PRESIDENT and people, will be regarded in the Model Republic as a 'big thing,' and wherever he may go, from Maine to Minnesota, the Professor of Modern History in the University of Oxford will be greeted with the plaudit of 'Bully for you!' True it is that the success of the Oxonian in his amiable labours will excite something of surprise even in Yankeedom, and that many American readers of the American correspondence of the *Daily News* will be no less astonished than delighted to discover that, after all, LINCOLN is a gentleman, that STANTON is a paragon of truth, and SEWARD the model of ingenuous statesmanship, and that the Beast himself is a most noble Beast, a Beast 'with an iron will,' who crushes all the obstacles in his way (except General LEE's army), a Beast that will occupy in the 'melancholy annals' of the revolution 'a broader and perhaps a less odious page than is commonly supposed.' (See Letter from Washington, November 22, 1864.)

Nota bene, in passing, that Professor GOLDWIN SMITH herein distinctly characterises the war in America as a 'revolution' of which BUTLER is a leader—a philosophical and historical fact which the Yankees have persistently denied, declaring the Southern defence of the Constitution to be a 'rebellion' against their authority, and which they are not likely to accept at his hands with the same complacent approval that will be extended to his other expositions.

While Professor SMITH writes modern history in the *Daily News* to the entire satisfaction of the Yankees, subject to the exception just stated, it may at least be doubted whether his fugitive essays in this line will be altogether so acceptable to his own countrymen, and especially to the better class of the English public. They have some well-known, and it may be well-founded, prejudices in favour of truth, justice, magnanimity, courage—of devotion to principle, of endurance in a great cause—which run counter to the general drift of the Professor's American letters. It may possibly be gratifying to some Englishmen to be told that perhaps the Yankees are devastating Virginia for their benefit, and 'conquering from slavery a home for the surplus population of England;' but there are others, and they constitute the immense majority, who will not justify the attempt to exterminate a brave people that their lands may pass to the conquerors and their assigns, and who will reject with scorn the implied threats of Professor SMITH that the Yankees will some day or other visit their wrath upon this country and work its ruin. The tone of feeling in Yankeedom, says Professor SMITH, is 'manifestly softening' towards England (rejoice, Britannia! throughout thy borders!); but the Americans (i.e. the Yankees—the 'rebels,' of course, are not Americans) 'are made of flesh and blood, and they will not endure the continuance of so outrageous a wrong' as letting vessels slip out of English ports under command of Confederate officers to prey upon Yankee commerce. Tremble and take warning, ye Britons! Redouble your vigilance, Lords of the Admiralty!—keep a bright look-out all round this 'right little, tight little island,' lest another *Alabama* get to sea from Clyde or Severn, Humber or Thames; for be ye well assured that should this occur, on the authority of Professor GOLDWIN SMITH, your end draweth nigh—the nation of shopkeepers may as well put up the shutters and close business—the Yankee will demolish the Britisher!

In the opening paragraph of Professor SMITH's last letter an opinion was expressed painfully at variance with the uniform serenity and satisfaction of the writer, which may give to others, as it gave to us, a momentary feeling of depression:—'There is too much reason to fear,' says the generally gamesome and gratified, but now grieving, GOLDWIN, 'that American honour has suffered a great stain.' One is at a loss to know what has happened. It must, indeed, be something quite out of the ordinary line of infamy that can give a stain to 'American honour,' and darken the *Punica fides* of Mr. SEWARD, and we are conscious of a feeling of disappointment, which is, at the same time, a feeling of unspeakable relief, when we hear that the fears of the Professor are based upon that little matter of the 'accidental sinking' of the *Florida*. But the writer does not go very far before he recovers his confidence in 'American honour;' and the succeeding sentences are happily turned into the cunningest special pleading to avert from his friends Messrs. LINCOLN, SEWARD, and Co. the odium, be the same more or less, which may attach to that most lucky of all unfortunate casualties. A 'personal escapade' is surely not a 'national offence,' and therefore *E Pluribus Unum* has nothing to do with it.

So much for 'American honour.' It may occur to some readers on our side the Atlantic that 'English honour' is just a little compromised in this correspondence—that the fame of the ancient University of Oxford may acquire some slight stain from the contamination of BUTLER—and that the character of the English gentleman is too sacred a thing to be committed to a representative so regardless of its glorious traditions. The acceptance of hospitality implies the obligation to reciprocate it, and Professor GOLDWIN SMITH commits his University and his countrymen to the kindly reception of the Beast, should he ever prowl upon this island, by consenting to sit down at the feed of the animal. Modern History will hereafter vindicate itself against the perversions of its Professor, but meanwhile the English people will protest strongly against such liberties as he takes with their self-respect.

Retaliation.

ABOUT daybreak in the height of the fashionable season, two men, one a Londoner and the other a visitor, were walking through Piccadilly. On their left hand was to be seen the metropolitan palace of the Sovereign of the British Empire; on their right hand was a row of princely mansions, and amongst them the town residence of the Prime Minister of England. Now and then a carriage rattled past conveying its occupants home from some gay gathering. But there was one feature in the scene that above all others arrested the attention of the visitor. Opposite the mansion of Lord PALMERSTON, and only separated from Buckingham Palace by the Green Park, there were lying on the paving stones what at first sight appeared to be two or three bundles of rags. A nearer inspection showed that these bundles of rags were women who could claim no other roof than the sky, and who had no softer bed than the flagstones. There they were, huddled up two by two for the sake of warmth, and sleeping soundly. To the visitor it seemed shocking to behold, in the very midst of such great wealth, objects of such abject poverty; and when the Londoner came to reflect on it, he too thought it sad that there should be such destitution in the richest city in the world. The visitor asked how London people could endure such sights. The Londoner replied, 'We are so accustomed to them that our hearts too often grow callous.'

This too true story very well illustrates European sentiment respecting the war in America. We do not charge our countrymen with indifference to the sufferings of the gallant people who are fighting for the rights and liberties which we love, and which were established by the labours, the heroism, and the sacrifices of our common forefathers. Such a charge would be false and ungracious. A few weeks ago a bazaar for the relief of Southern prisoners was held in Liverpool, and England took the opportunity of manifesting her generous sympathy. In all places where men resort the conduct of the Federals is denounced, and in all drawing-rooms the South has a host of fair friends, who do not conceal their true womanly abhorrence of Federal barbarity, and who unfeignedly pray for the triumph of the South. The press of England, with singular unanimity, avows the justice of the Confederate cause, and censures the inhuman system of warfare adopted by the Federals. Still, we think, it cannot be denied that the repeated atrocities of the North have rather deadened our sense of their enormity. At the beginning of the war there was a loud outcry at the suggestion of the Federals blocking up one of the inlets to the Charleston harbour by sinking a stone fleet; but what an insignificant infraction of the laws of civilised warfare would that have been compared to many deeds done since then by the Federals!

We are not about to plead for intervention, but we are convinced that if, four years ago, England and France had known, as they know now, that secession was a national uprising, and that, being unable to conquer, the Federals would attempt to exterminate the Southern people, there would have been a demand for intervention such as the Governments could not disregard. We do not complain that there is now no demand for intervention, but we have a reason for calling attention to Northern savagery, and for asking our countrymen to realise as well as they can what is implied by such announcements as 'Ten Confederates shot,' 'Seven towns burnt,' 'SHERMAN sends away the inhabitants of Atlanta,' 'The Shenandoah laid waste,' 'SHERMAN devastating Georgia.'

Try as we will, we shall achieve a most inadequate conception of what is meant by Federal devastation. Yet let us endeavour to picture it. What a sight it must have been when the whole population of Atlanta were driven from their homes! Novelists and dramatists have described with thrilling effect the scene of misery incident on a family being turned into the streets for the non-payment of rent. Now let us conceive many, very many families, a whole townful turned out of their homes and driven out of the city of their abode. Or let us turn to SHERMAN'S march through Georgia, the advance lighted by the flaming torch, the rear marked by smouldering ruins. How can we describe it? It seems a long distance by railway from London to Birmingham—it is about 112 miles. Suppose an

enemy marching by this road, and for five miles on either side desolating the country. Fences are torn down; houses, barns, and farming implements are burnt. The smiling country of yesterday is a blackened desert to-day. The women and children who had homes and stores of food yesterday are homeless and starving to-day. Yet over a longer line than 100 miles has SHERMAN led his army and thus desolated the country. Nor is that all. Despite the strictest discipline, when soldiers are commanded and exhorted to respect the property and rights of civilians under the penalty of death, deeds are done that intensify the horrors of war. What, then, is to be expected when town after town is given over to be burnt, and the broad country is consigned to pillage? There are some offences that it is an offence to name, and we have often been obliged, for decency's sake, to conceal Federal atrocities. On this occasion we will quote a short extract from the *Augusta Chronicle*, which gives an account of Federal conduct while SHERMAN held Atlanta, and when we may suppose his army was under some discipline. What deeds have been done in the course of the march of desolation no imagination is corrupt enough to portray:—

When you hear of the destruction of property, the half is not told. Other crimes, the most heinous in the eye of Heaven, have they committed. In De Kalb, a short time ago, they seized five negro women, and in the yard, in the presence of the white family, several of whom were grown females, they violated their persons. In one neighbourhood in the same county they violated the persons of six respectable ladies. The information of these crimes comes to me from a source not to be questioned for a moment.

Now, it is useless to suppose that such proceedings do not involve retaliation. Marvellous indeed has been the forbearance of the Confederates; but they will soon learn that forbearance is no longer a virtue, but rather complicity in crime. At the beginning of the war the illustrious and eminently pious STONEWALL JACKSON recommended that no prisoners should be taken, because then Mr. LINCOLN would have found it almost impossible to recruit his armies. For the sake of home and country men must and will fight, though the alternative be victory or death; but men will not fight for money on such terms. We are inclined to think STONEWALL JACKSON was right. We are convinced that if the South inscribed 'No quarter!' on her banners, the struggle would be short. In that case Mr. LINCOLN would find it harder than ever to recruit his armies. In that case the Confederate cruisers would be a terror not only to Federal shipowners, but also to Federal sailors, and unfurling the black flag would be a mortal blow to the Federal marine. And the South could justify such a proceeding. She could say to the North, 'For four years you have tried to subjugate us, and we have shown you that we consider no sacrifice too great for independence, and that we will die rather than submit. Still you continue the war, and since you cannot conquer you are bent on exterminating us, and you do not disguise your intention. You thus proclaim war to the death, and therefore we do the same. Henceforth, then, let it be war to the death on either side.'

But we are discussing retaliation, not policy. It might have been politic and just for the South to adopt a policy of 'No quarter!' if the Federals had conducted the war in the most humane manner. But the North has not been humane, but barbarous. Therefore, if retaliation did not shorten the war, it would not be less a bounden duty. Of what avail has been Southern forbearance? When General LEE advanced into the North, he treated the inhabitants and private property as though his army had been marching through a Confederate State. What effect has this had on the North? Let the devastation of the Shenandoah Valley and of Georgia be the answer. Forbearance will not check the cruel vandalism of the North. Forbearance will not save the women and children of the South from such misery as no tongue can tell and no pen can describe. We repeat, then, that we are on the eve of a crisis, when forbearance will cease to be a virtue and will become an act of complicity in crime. At present Mr. LINCOLN can say to his Border States: 'Enjoy to the full the accounts of the devastations in Virginia and Georgia; if LEE comes North, he will protect your lives and property.' He can say to Federal seamen: 'Pursue your avocation without fear, for if your owners' ships are captured your lives are safe.' He can say to his soldiers: 'Go into the South. Burn and pillage. Give the rein to your licentious passions. Do not dread retribution. The Southerners will treat you according to the rules of civilised warfare.' Yes, Southern forbearance is offering a premium for the commission of crime, just as though in this city we opened the doors of our prisons, disbanded our police, and proclaimed that henceforth theft, murder, and rape should be unpunished. We are convinced that the only way to check Northern barbarity is to announce that the season of forbearance is past, and now is the time of retaliation.

We write thus under a deep and dread sense of responsibility. Would to God that we could discern any escape from a policy of retaliation! We are not ashamed to plead with the North, though we fear that no heed will be given to words of mercy and to the voice of humanity. Still, we ask the supporters of Mr. LINCOLN to pause in their career of Southern devastation. What is to be gained by it? It is not necessary to observe that the deeds of SHERMAN and SHERIDAN do not tend to the restoration of the Union, because no one in the North or out of the North dreams that that can be accomplished under any circumstances. But the burning of towns, cruelty and outrage to women and children, so far from aiding, make conquest more difficult. And if the people of the South are to be exterminated, the first business is to conquer the men, and it will then be comparatively easy to get rid of the women and children. But if this system of barbarous warfare is persevered in, there must be retaliation; and, as we have shown, it is the North, and not the South, that will be crippled by it. The sufferings of the South cannot be more poignant than they have been; retaliation will teach the North the tenfold horrors of uncivilised warfare.

However, the purport of this article is not to plead with the North, but to prepare our countrymen for what must ensue if the Federals persist in fighting with the torch and making war on Southern women and children. Retaliation becomes a necessity and a solemn obligation. We will hope against hope that the North may see the folly of her wicked and savage mode of warfare, and that retaliation may be needless. But if not—if the South is compelled to unfurl the black flag—let Europe do the South justice; let Europe not condemn the South for so doing, but 'in that hour remember the days of her affliction.'

The Legality of Blockade-Running.

THE law reports of Saturday last contain an account of a trial in which the presiding Judge laid down certain doctrines of a peculiarly novel and startling character. The confidence and positiveness with which these doctrines were asserted appear to have astonished the lawyers engaged—among whom were some of the leaders of the Bar—as much as they have surprised ourselves, who pretend to no deeper knowledge of legal principles than may be acquired by such study as ought to form part of the education of every man who undertakes to deal with political controversies. We have the less hesitation in criticising the *dicta* of the Court on this occasion, that they are flatly opposed not only to everything that has been asserted by writers on international law, but also to the judgment delivered by a Judge of at least equal authority in regard to the very same subject-matter in a previous trial.

A contract was entered into between Mr. JORSS and Mr. ELLISON by which the former agreed to send some 200 or 250 tons of Manchester goods to Charleston by the *Tubal Cain*, a ship belonging to Mr. LAFONE, of Liverpool. The contract was broken. Mr. LAFONE brought an action against Mr. ELLISON, which was tried before Mr. Justice WILLES at Liverpool. The question of legality was there raised, but peremptorily decided by Mr. Justice WILLES in favour of the plaintiff, and the jury gave 1,885*l.* damages, a sum which the Judge considered very inadequate. Mr. ELLISON, of course, brought an action against Mr. JORSS, through whose failure in the performance of the contract he had suffered. The case came on at the Guildhall, on Saturday, before Mr. BARON MARTIN and a special jury. A plea of illegality in the contract had been put in, the effect of which would have been to defeat the plaintiff's claim, as, of course, no Court will lend itself to the enforcement of a bargain which is contrary to law, or founded on an unlawful consideration. But the defendant's lawyers had been so ill-satisfied with this plea as to withdraw it, and defended the case on other grounds of no public interest. Mr. Baron MARTIN used the following language:—

'Having looked at the correspondence, I think there was a contract; but my impression is that the jury can only give nominal damages, because the contract is an illegal one, directly opposed to the QUEEN'S proclamation, and having a direct tendency to involve the country in war.'

The learned Judge seems to have adopted the notion of the Foreign and Colonial Offices, that there is something wrong, if not absolutely criminal, in all transactions disagreeable to the Government of the United States. He holds that the contract between JORSS and ELLISON was illegal, apparently, on three grounds:—

(1) That the goods for which freight was engaged, and the ship in which they were to be carried, were intended to break the blockade of the Southern ports.

(2) That the transaction was contrary to the QUEEN'S proclamation.

(3) That it had a direct tendency to involve this country in war with the United States.

We dispute every one of these arguments. In the first place, blockade-running is not illegal, in the sense in which illegality would avoid a contract. This we should have thought too notorious to require proof, if it had not been controverted by a Judge of the Court of Exchequer. Even by international law, those who engage in the attempt to run a blockade are not offenders against any recognised law. If they were, they would be amenable to punishment. This they are not. The blockading Power has no right to lay a finger on the crew or captain of a blockade-runner, nay, not even on the owner, so long as these offer no resistance to the capture of their vessel. The only right she possesses is that of capturing the vessel while actually or constructively engaged in blockade-breaking—that is, after she has sailed for the blockaded port, or after she has left it, and before she has reached a neutral destination. The crew, or some of them, may be detained as witnesses, not as malefactors. To prove that this right of capture is a right of prevention—a privilege of war—not an act of judicial punishment, it is sufficient to observe that neither another vessel of the same owner, nor the same vessel subsequently engaged on an innocent voyage, can be seized. It is clear, therefore, that the owner has broken no law, inasmuch as no punishment can be inflicted on him. The law of nations gives him a right to pursue his trade, and the enemy a right to capture him thereon—if they can. But even if blockade-breaking were illegal by the law of nations, it would not avoid a contract. To do that, it must be illegal by municipal law. Now, this it certainly is not. The neutral country is not bound to restrain its subjects' trade, and never attempts to do so. There is no English law against blockade-breaking, and no rule of public law from which any prohibition thereof could be inferred as a duty incumbent upon our Government or our Courts.

But, secondly, Mr. Baron MARTIN affirms that the transaction in question was illegal because it violated the QUEEN'S proclamation. Now it must be borne in mind that England is a constitutional Government, and that the advisers and servants of the Crown—for the QUEEN'S name ought not to be dragged into this controversy—cannot make that unlawful which is not prohibited either by statute or by the common law. They have, indeed, power to prohibit altogether the export of certain classes of goods; but Manchester goods are not among them, and at present this power has not been exercised. If, therefore, the Government were to issue a proclamation forbidding British subjects to trade with either of the American belligerents, this proclamation would be in itself void and illegal, and contracts in contravention of its terms would not be affected by it. But, as a matter of fact, the QUEEN'S proclamation does not pretend to do this. It forbids British subjects to enlist in the service of the belligerents, or to furnish them with munitions of war. The first of these prohibitions is rightful, because such enlistments are forbidden by law, and any subject disobeying this order could be punished, not indeed for contravening the proclamation, but for breaking the preexisting law, which the proclamation does no more than declare. But there is no law forbidding the export of munitions of war to belligerents; and we believe that the power given to Government to forbid the export of particular munitions can only be employed generally, and not as against a particular State. We suspect, then, that this part of the proclamation is of no effect; and certainly it has been on all sides habitually disregarded, and that with perfect impunity. The Customs do not pretend a right to seize 'hardware' destined for Charleston, or cargoes of rifles openly shipped for New York. But even granting that the proclamation were part of the law of the land (and that BARING Brothers are liable to a criminal information for sending arms to the Federal Government), it does not touch the case in hand. The goods contracted to be shipped by one party and conveyed by the other were Manchester goods—calicoes and stuffs, not munitions of war—and their shipment could in no way violate the QUEEN'S proclamation. Even if that proclamation were equivalent to an Act of Parliament, then the goods which were the subject of the contract are not affected by it, and it could not, therefore, impair the validity of the engagement.

Finally, Mr. Baron MARTIN says, 'The contract is illegal because it has a direct tendency to involve us in war.' We will admit the proposition of law here implied. We will admit the doubtful doctrine that, before and independently of the Foreign Enlistment Act—which is here inapplicable—it would be an offence at common law to do any act tending

directly to bring war upon this country, and that any contract to do such an act would be void accordingly. But it is clear that by 'an act tending to involve us in war' a lawyer must understand 'an act giving to a foreign Power reasonable cause of war against us.' For, in the first place, the law cannot assume that a foreign Power will go to war without just and reasonable cause; and, next, if a foreign Government had threatened formally to do so, that wrongful menace could not be allowed to curtail the rights and liberties of British subjects. To fit out an expedition to attack New York, or liberate the prisoners on Johnston's Island, would be, on this supposition of law, an unlawful act at common law; for it would give the United States reasonable cause of war, if we permitted such proceedings. To send out regiments to join the Federal army would be similarly an offence at common law, as it would give a similar cause of war to the Confederacy. The Garibaldian excursionists would have been amenable to such a law. But in the eye of the law the export of goods to a blockaded port can have no tendency to involve us in war, because a declaration of war on such a ground would be contrary to every principle of international law, and to the established usages of Christian Powers. It is perfectly settled that not even the supply of contraband of war by neutral subjects to a belligerent, even at a blockaded port, can give the slightest ground of complaint to the enemy as against the neutral government. And, therefore, inasmuch as the export of the goods in question could have no tendency whatever in a legal—or, we will add, in an actual and practical sense—to involve us in war with the United States, as that Power certainly will not go to war with us for exporting goods to the South, and would be utterly in the wrong if she did, there is not the slightest ground for the pretence that such exports are illegal at common law on the ground of public policy, or that a contract to carry them is void for illegality. The following passages show with sufficient clearness how the law on this subject stands: first, that blockade-running is not an offence in law; and, secondly, that it has no tendency to involve the government of the blockade-running merchants in war—that is, it gives no cause of complaint to the blockading Power:—

The transport of merchandise to the ports of a belligerent State is *per se* a perfectly lawful act on the part of a neutral merchant; and it is only by reason of the accidental uses to which certain articles of merchandise may be applied, in consequence of war existing between two States, that the right to intercept such merchandise in the course of transport on the high seas to the ports of a belligerent Power, and to confiscate it to its own uses, accrues to the adverse belligerent. The right of the neutral to transport, and of the adverse belligerent to seize, are conflicting rights, *and neither party can charge the other with a criminal act.* Upon this view of the common law, which is sanctioned by the highest authorities, it would be under an erroneous conception of the juridical relations which exist between belligerent States and neutral States, that a belligerent Power, in the absence of special treaty-engagements with a neutral Power, should hold itself entitled to complain to the latter of its not exercising its authority to restrain the trade of its subjects with the adverse belligerent. The belligerent, to use the language of an eminent Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States, must content himself with cutting up the neutral commerce, and ought to make no complaint to the neutral Power, not even where the individual merchant rescues his vessel after capture, and escapes into his own or a friendly port.—*Twiss*, vol. ii. preface.

The limits of the political duties of a neutral nation towards belligerent nations are identical with the limits of its sovereignty. Such conduct cannot be charged upon the Government of the State as a departure from neutrality. Forfeiture of the goods and ship is the penalty annexed to such acts by the law of the high seas in time of war; and *if this were not the case*, it would be in the power of individual merchants to involve a neutral nation in war against its will.—*Twiss*, vol. ii. p. 439.

A neutral Power does nothing incompatible with neutrality in allowing its subjects to carry any articles whatsoever of commerce to markets within the territory of a belligerent Power, nor is it required by the common law of nations to exercise its right of sovereignty over strangers who frequent its markets, in order to prevent the exportation of any articles which they may have purchased in its markets.—*Twiss*, vol. ii. p. 461.

'It is no departure from neutrality,' is the language of this Declaration, 'for the citizens of a neutral State to sell to belligerents gunpowder, arms, munitions, or any other articles of merchandise. Contraband of war, and military transportation, have been furnished by lawful right, by citizens of the United States, to each of the belligerents, but more especially and in larger proportions to Great Britain and to France.'—Attorney-General United States, October 1855.

'On this subject,' to use the language of Mr. Justice Johnson in delivering the judgment of the Supreme Court of the United States, 'there appears to be a tacit convention between the neutral Power and the belligerent Power that, on the one hand, the neutral State shall not be implicated in the misconduct of the individual; and, on the other, that the offender shall be subjected to the exercise of belligerent right.'

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.

FROM A CONFEDERATE CORRESPONDENT.

Paris: December 14.

I have but little news for you this week. The Paris press has allowed the American question to slumber for a while, and has devoted its attention to the consideration of the speech delivered by the Prefect of the Seine, who, by the way, made a somewhat unhappy allusion to the municipal administration of the district of Colombia.

Sherman's grand expedition has gained the admiration of *Le Siècle* and *L'Opinion Nationale*. *Le Temps* also admires this expedition (the Opposition journals admire everything done by the Federals), but is fearful that some unexpected surprise may suddenly arrest the movements of the short-sighted general. As to *La Presse*, although it fully believes that Sherman will succeed, still it altogether disapproves of the useless destruction which has everywhere marked his progress. 'Such extreme measures (it observes) require some very tangible reasons for their justification—if, indeed, they can be justified at all.'

It is unnecessary to remark that the journals which express themselves with such delight respecting the skilful strategy of Sherman would be puzzled to explain on what grounds they anticipate his success, since the geography of the interior of Georgia and of Alabama is less known to them than even the heart of China. It is sometimes very amusing to read the blunders they commit with regard to America. One writer, for instance, a learned librarian of Paris, lately placed an island opposite Mobile; another, who prides himself on knowing English, and who writes specially upon the American and the English question, a short time since translated the name 'Spottsylvania' by 'Tâchesylvanie.' This ingenious writer probably found, on reference to a dictionary, that 'Spot' meant 'Tâche' in French; he therefore wrote 'Tâchesylvanie,' thus transforming a house into a country.

I will not speak of the names of towns, of rivers, and of men, whose orthography suffers a daily mutilation at the hands of certain journals pretending to a greater knowledge of America than those of their contemporaries which acknowledge the Southern Confederation as the depositary of those American democratic institutions which liberal Europe so much admires. To mention all these blunders would take much time and afford little amusement. I will only state that *Le Siècle* is so ill-informed respecting American matters, that, in a leading article which it recently published, it repeatedly calls Mr. Benjamin *Mr. Baptiste*.

Such errors as these are never to be met with in *La Patrie*. One of the editors of this excellent journal, M. Aucaigne, whose knowledge of America has been acquired by a personal residence in that country, is scrupulously particular in giving to his readers the exact topography of the theatre of each new military operation; and exactness in such a matter greatly facilitates the right understanding of the various phases assumed by the present war.

It is with the deepest regret I inform you that the worthy proprietor and chief editor of *La Patrie*, M. Delamarre, is at the present moment very ill. For a long time past this distinguished man has been the subject of severe bodily suffering, and recently his numerous friends, feeling persuaded that the great mental fatigue caused him by the superintendence of such an important journal as *La Patrie* was prejudicial to his health, induced him to discontinue his labours and seek repose. It is said that, yielding to their solicitations, M. Delamarre intends to dispose of his journal and to place it under the direction of a committee, at the head of which is to be M. de Persigny. I do not offer this information as authentic; indeed, I would far rather hope that it is premature, and that the *Patrie* will be spared the loss of its able director, through whom it has acquired so great an authority. M. Delamarre will ever be regarded by the Southerners as the courageous journalist who was one of the first to defend their rights, and who has unceasingly supported their cause by his influential journal.

I notice that for some time past *Le Journal des Débats* has borrowed its news from *Le Courrier des Etats-Unis* in preference to *Le Messager Franco-Américain*. May this be taken as indicating a change in politics relative to the American question? It is possible, but not probable. It would not, however, be the first time that *Le Journal des Débats* has shown itself hostile to the United States. Thus, in the affair of the *Florida*, the most severe article ever published against the North appeared in this journal. I am aware that, according to *La Chronique Secrète*, this article may have been written only with a view to please Brazil, whose hereditary princess has recently married the son of the Duc de Nemours, one of those Orleanist princes to whom the *Débats* is so devoted; but is *La Chronique Secrète* to be relied on? Be this as it may, a few days after the appearance of this article, M. Prévost-Paradol put the Confederates to flight, and sang of the virtues of honest Old Abe. It may happen, however, now that Mr. Dayton is dead, who was intimately connected with the editors of the *Débats*, and particularly with M. Laboulaye, that this journal may become somewhat softened in its tone towards the Southern States.

A new political journal, of a large size, is about to be established here. Its title is to be *L'Avenir*, and its chief editor M. Peyrat. M. Peyrat was formerly editor of *La Presse*; he is a man of talent, but a staunch Radical, and has lately acquired great notoriety by the publication of a new *Vie de Jésus*, in which he far surpasses M. Renan in daring. It may therefore be expected that *L'Avenir* will designate the Confederates as *slave-dealers, rebels, aristocrats*, &c.—expressions which are used by the Republicans of Europe towards the *only* Republicans in America.

It is also reported that another new journal is to be published, having for its editor M. Ernest Feydeau, the well-known author of 'Fanny;' but I do not yet know what political opinions it is intended to advocate.

If it be true that Paris is about to enrich itself by the publication of two new political journals, it is also true that it is about to lose one—*Le Nord*. But let not the Yankees be uneasy; the organ of their dear friend the Czar of Russia is not dying, but only changing its domicile; it is going back to Belgium.

I am able to announce to you the early publication of the excellent work by the Marquis of Lothian on the secession of the Confederate States. The translation of this work has been undertaken by the able and indefatigable Madame Judith Derosme. To this distinguished writer, who has made the English language her special study, we are indebted for the translation of Captain Semmes's journal. I sincerely hope that her new work will meet with as great success as the first.

The Marquis de Châteaurenard, the new French Minister at Washington, is now at Paris. He will no doubt soon leave for the United States, but the present serious illness of his son has deferred his departure.

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH.

The first permanent colonial settlement made on the American continent by the English was made under a charter granted in 1606, in the fourth year of James I., to Sir Thomas Gates and his associates. That charter was subsequently set aside upon *quo warranto*, issued at the instance of the British Crown, and in 1620 another charter took its place, granted to the Duke of Lennox and his associates, who were incorporated under the name of the Plymouth Company. To that Company the coast was granted from 40° to 48° of north latitude. This charter was followed by successive grants to different noblemen and companies, until the entire coast was disposed of. In 1664 to the Duke of York was granted all the territory as far south as Delaware Bay; and in 1663 and 1664 to Lord Clarendon and his associates the entire coast of the continent, from 29° of north latitude to that celebrated line of 36° 30′ north, since so infamous in the history of American politics. Thus was the whole coast comprised within the limits of the United States at the time the Union was overthrown.

Prior to this first settlement the slave trade had been inaugurated and established in Great Britain. The first notice which history gives us of it is the grant of a charter by Queen Elizabeth to a company formed for the purpose of supplying slaves to the Spanish-American colonies. The Virgin Queen herself was a shareholder. Subsequently, in 1662, under Charles II., a monopoly was created in favour of a company authorised to export to the colonies 3,000 slaves per annum; and so valuable was this privilege considered, so great was the influence required for the purpose of obtaining a share in it, that it was placed under the auspices of the Queen Dowager and the Duke of York. The King himself issued his proclamation, inviting his subjects to establish themselves on the western side of the Atlantic; and, as an encouragement to the migration, tendered a grant of 100 acres of land for each four slaves that they would employ in the cultivation of it.

The merchants of London found their trade to the slave coast very much cramped by this royal monopoly granted to royal favourites, and they continued to stun the ear of the Commons with loud complaints that they were excluded from the advantages of so prosperous a traffic; and in 1695 the Commons of England, in committee of the whole House, resolved—

That for the better supply of the plantations, all the subjects of Great Britain should have liberty to trade in Africa for negroes, with such limits as should be prescribed by Parliament.

In the 9th and 10th William III., an Act was passed partially relaxing this monopoly, the preamble to which states that—

The trade was highly beneficial and advantageous to the kingdom and to the plantations and colonies thereunto belonging.

This partial relaxation was unsatisfactory. Petitions continued to pour in. In 1708 the Commons again resolved—

That the trade was important, and ought to be free and open to all the Queen's subjects trading from Great Britain.

And in 1711 they again resolved that—

This trade ought to be free in a regulated company; the plantations ought to be supplied with negroes at reasonable rates; a considerable stock was necessary for carrying on the trade to the best advantage; and that an export of 100,000*l.* at least, in merchandise, should be annually made from Great Britain to Africa.

Finally, in the year 1744, these repeated resolutions of the Commons, and petitions of the merchants of London, accomplished the desired result. They gained their object by the passage of the Act of 23rd George II., throwing open the trade, and declaring

The slave trade to be very advantageous to Great Britain, and necessary for supplying the plantations and colonies thereunto belonging with a sufficient number of negroes at reasonable rates.

This legislation, emanating from the mother country, fixed the institution of slavery upon the colonies. They could not resist it. All their right was limited to petition, to remonstrance, and to attempts at legislation at home to diminish the evil. Every such attempt was sternly repressed by the British Crown. Virginia early discouraged the trade, and during her colonial existence passed twenty-three Acts imposing duties on slaves imported into the colony. She had endeavoured to stop the trade altogether, but the home Government would not sanction her efforts in that direction. In 1760 South Carolina passed an Act prohibiting the further importation of African slaves. The Act was rejected by the King in council, who declared the trade 'beneficial and necessary to the mother country.' The Governor was reprimanded, and a circular was sent to all the Governors of all the colonies, warning them against presuming to countenance such legislation.

In 1765 a similar Act was twice read in the Assembly of Jamaica. The news reached Great Britain before its

final passage. Instructions were sent out to the royal Governor. He called the House of Assembly before him, communicated his instructions, and forbade any further progress of the bill. In 1774, in spite of this discountenancing action of the mother Government, two bills passed the Assembly; and the Earl of Dartmouth, then Secretary of State, wrote to Sir Basil Keith, the Governor of the colony, that 'these measures had created alarm to the merchants of Great Britain engaged in that branch of commerce,' and forbidding him, 'on pain of removal from his government, to assent to such laws.'

Massachusetts, the first State in America which directly participated in the slave trade, and that, too, though a member of one of the Boston churches earnestly rebuked the traffic, imposed duties upon negroes imported, and aimed at other efforts; but as late as 1774, when the Assembly of Massachusetts passed an Act 'to prevent the importation of negroes and others as slaves,' Governor Hutchinson refused his assent, and dissolved the Assembly, because to sanction it would have violated his instructions. The royal orders to Governor Wentworth of New Hampshire, directed him not to give his assent to, or pass, any law imposing duties on negroes imported into New Hampshire. Slaves were introduced into Pennsylvania by William Penn; and, though before he died he did somewhat to meliorate their condition, 'he died a slaveholder.' In Georgia, slavery was disallowed by the trustees during the early years of that colony, through policy, and not from motives of philanthropy; the object of the trustees and home Government being to interpose a barrier of free territory between South Carolina and the Spanish settlement in Florida. But the trustees were finally overruled, and slaves were imported into Georgia. Oglethorpe owned a plantation and slaves in South Carolina before negroes were allowed in Georgia; and George Whitefield, the celebrated divine, was the advocate and owner of slaves at Bethesda, below Savannah. The Earl of Shaftesbury took a prominent part in repealing the regulation by which the trustees for Georgia had hitherto prevented the introduction of slaves into that colony.

Finally, in 1775—mark the date, 1775—after the revolutionary struggle had commenced, whilst the Continental Congress was in session, after armies had been levied, after Crown Point and Ticonderoga had been taken possession of by the colonists, and after the first blood shed in the revolution had reddened the spring sod upon the green at Lexington, the same Earl of Dartmouth alluded to above, in answer to a remonstrance from the colonies, replied:

> We cannot allow the colonies to check or discourage in any degree a traffic so beneficial to the nation.

But what could the remonstrances of colonies or the labour of individual philanthropy accomplish, when kings and queens, and cabinets and cities, and parliaments and associations, for two hundred years, were the patrons and participants in this evil traffic? The Treaty of Utrecht, in 1713, constituted Her Britannic Majesty Queen Anne, and His Catholic Majesty Philip V., the crowned slave-merchants of North America; the Queen agreeing, in the space of thirty years, to bring into the Spanish West Indies 144,000 negroes, to the exclusion of every other slave trader; and in her speech to Parliament the following year, she boasted of her plan in thus obtaining for English subjects a new slave-market in the Spanish West Indies. Subsequently, in 1729, Parliament, at the recommendation of the King, granted supplies for keeping up the slave traders' forts in Africa; and in 1745 a British merchant embodied the views of the mass of the English people, when he entitled his tract 'The African Slave Trade the great Pillar and Support of the British Plantation Trade in America.'

But this is not all. Almost immediately after the Treaty of Utrecht, a question arose in the English Council as to the true legal character of the slaves thus to be exported to the Spanish American colonies; and, according to the forms of the British Constitution, the question was submitted by the Crown in Council to the twelve judges of England. Their answer is in these words:—

> In pursuance of His Majesty's Order in Council hereunto annexed, we do humbly certify our opinion to be that *negroes are merchandise.*

This opinion was signed by Lord Chief Justice Holt, Judge Pollexfen, and eight other judges of England. Very soon afterwards the nascent spirit of fanaticism began to obtain a foothold in England; and although large numbers of negro slaves were owned in Great Britain, and, as remarked above, were daily sold on the public Exchange in London (see 2 Haggard's Rep., p. 105), questions arose as to the right of the owners to retain property in their slaves; and the merchants of London, alarmed, submitted the question to Sir Philip Yorke, who afterwards became Lord Hardwicke, and to Lord Talbot, who were then the solicitor and attorney-general of the kingdom. The question was propounded to them, 'What are the rights of a British owner of a slave in England?' And this is the answer of those two legal functionaries. They certified that 'a slave coming from the West Indies to England, with or without his master, doth not become free; and his master's property in him is not thereby determined nor varied, and the master may legally compel him to return to the plantations.' In 1749, the same question again came up before Lord Hardwicke, then Lord Chancellor of England, and, by a decree in Chancery in the case before him, he affirmed the doctrine which he had laid down when he was attorney-general.

Things thus stood in England until 1771, when the spirit of fanaticism, acquiring strength, finally operated upon Lord Mansfield, who, by a judgment rendered in the celebrated Sommersett case, subverted the common law of England by judicial legislation. He decided, not that a slave carried to England from the West Indies by his master thereby became free, but that, by the law of England, if the slave resisted the master, there was no remedy by which the master could exercise his control; that the colonial legislation which afforded the master means of controlling his property in the colonies had no authority in England; and that England by her laws had provided no substitute for that authority. This was judicial legislation, and subverted the entire previous jurisprudence of Great Britain. Lord Mansfield felt it, and begged the parties to compromise. They said they would not. 'Why,' said he, 'I have known six of these cases already, and in five out of the six there was a compromise; you had better compromise this matter.' But the parties said no, they would stand on the law; and then, after holding the case up three times, Lord Mansfield mustered up courage to give the decision above mentioned.

The position that this judgment subverted the existing law, is supported by an intellect greater than Mansfield's—by a judge of resplendent genius and great learning—one who, in all questions of international law, on all subjects not dependent upon the peculiar municipal common law of England, has won for himself the proudest name in the annals of her jurisprudence. That judge was Lord Stowell. As late as 1827, twenty years after Great Britain had abolished the slave trade, six years before she was brought to the point of confiscating the property of her colonies, which she had forced them to buy, a case was brought before that celebrated judge—a case known to all lawyers by the name of the slave *Grace*. It was pretended in the argument that the slave Grace was free, because she had been carried to England; and it was contended, under the authority of Lord Mansfield's decision in the Sommersett case, that having once breathed English air she was free—that the atmosphere of that favoured kingdom was too pure to be breathed by a slave. Lord Stowell, in answering that legal argument, said that, after painful and laborious research into historical records, he did not find anything touching the peculiar fitness of the English atmosphere for respiration during the ten centuries that slaves had lived in England!

It may indeed be affirmed that the European continental powers, which joined and cooperated with Great Britain in the discovery and establishment of colonies on this continent, all followed the same views of policy. France, Spain, Portugal, and England occupied the whole continent, north and south. The legislation of all of them was the same. Louis XIII., by royal edict, established slavery in all his colonies in America. Everybody knows that it was at the instance of Las Casas that the Spanish crown engaged in the slave trade with a view of substituting the servile labour of the African for that of the Indian, who had been reduced to slavery by his Spanish conquerors. As regards Portugal, she inaugurated the trade; she originally supplied all the colonies; and the empire of Brazil to-day, with its servile labour, is the legitimate fruit of the colonial policy of the Portuguese Government in the sixteenth century. She began her trade in 1508, and some authors say even before the colonisation of America in the fifteenth century.

Slavery was thus the common recognised institution of the New World. Nor can it be admitted that it was not the common law (white or black slavery) of the Old World at the time the American Union was formed; but enough for the present.

It thus appears that Great Britain took a leading part in planting African slavery on the American continent: that she forced the institution of slavery upon the colonies now composing the Confederate States; and that she never did abolish the slave trade until after she had lost nearly all of her American possessions where negro slavery could be made valuable. Without saying that Great Britain would not have discontinued the slave trade if she had not lost her most flourishing colonies, yet it may fairly be asserted that if the splendid domain lying between the St. Lawrence and the Gulf of Mexico, and reaching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, now constituted a part of her possessions as Canada does, she would to-day uphold slavery with the same earnestness that she now opposes it. Be this as it may, the facts and arguments produced in this paper establish beyond the possibility of successful contradiction the position that of all the Powers in the world, Great Britain should be the last to object to recognising the Confederate States on account of the existence in them of African slavery. She planted African slavery in these States against the will of the States. She reaped the profits of the trade by which they were supplied with slaves. Both her Government and people still enjoy those profits, and in all their anxiety to rid the South of slavery they have never offered to surrender any part of those profits in order to accomplish their wishes. Having forced slavery upon the colonies against their will, and amassed great wealth by the 'traffic in human flesh,' they now desire the States to abolish slavery, regardless of their wishes; and yet they do not propose to bear any portion of the expense! As slavery was established here in defiance of the wishes of the inhabitants, so they now propose to abolish it in utter disregard of the feelings or interest of their descendants. It is not improbable that many of the most vociferous opponents of slavery of this day in Great Britain are the descendants of men who grew rich by the trade which established the negro on the Western continent.

For the future, then, let Englishmen cease their pious ejaculations in regard to slavery in the South. Such exhibitions only disgust men of intelligence and proper sentiments. England stocked the Confederate States with African slaves. She brought them here and received a price for them; and though she may take water and, like Pilate, wash her hands before the nations, saying, I am innocent of the blood of these people, yet both earth and heaven will hold her responsible for the thing. She cannot purge herself of the crime, and yet retain 'the pieces of silver.' She will not give up 'the pieces of silver;' then, for decency's sake, let her be silent! If the social framework of these States is blurred by the scrofula of slavery, the malady was inherited from the mother country—from old England and New England; for what old England left undone to fasten the institution of negro servitude upon this country, New England took up and completed.

MOSBY'S LAST EXPLOIT.

(From the *Richmond Dispatch*, November 24.)

ONE Captain Blazer, a man remarkable for skill and courage, was some time since detailed from the infantry of the Yankee army to operate as a guerilla hunter in Northern Virginia. He was given a lieutenant and eighty picked mounted men, armed with Spencer carbines, and directed to devote himself especially to the capture of Mosby's men. In the course of several months, by indefatigable scouting, he has managed to pick up a number of detached squads and individual members of Colonel Mosby's command, and has made for himself a creditable reputation for energy and vigilance, both in the Valley and Northern Virginia east of the Blue Ridge. But, hitherto, it has never been his fortune to encounter an enemy equal to himself in numbers. Of late he has been expressing himself as panting to encounter some innumerable, unlimited numbers of guerillas. The fulfilment of the wish, as will be seen, was not long delayed.

Last Friday, Captain P. A. Richards, commanding Companies A and B, first squadron of Mosby's command, made an expedition into Clarke to hunt up and to do battle with the doughty Blazer, if the latter so willed it. On reaching the neighbourhood of Cabletown, seven miles west of Snicker's Gap, scouts reported Blazer and his force advancing from the direction of Winchester. Captain Richards drew up his men in line of battle and awaited his approach. Blazer heralded his advance with a shower of bullets from the Spencer carbines, and then rushed down upon our troops. Captain Richards, instead of awaiting his onset, determined to meet him in full career, and when the enemy was fifty yards distant gave the order for his men to charge. It has since been ascertained that Blazer believed himself attacking a greatly inferior force, who would fly before his first onslaught. He discovered his error too late to save him from its consequences.

The opposing squadrons rushed together with a crash. There was a momentary struggle, an uproar of shouts, and the report of firearms. Blazer's men gave way before the valour of our troops, and attempted to save themselves by flight. On one side of the road was a wood, on the other a fence enclosing fields. The fugitives made for a gap in this fence; a number were shot down before reaching it; others succeeded in reaching the field, hotly pursued by our men. A pursuit and running fight was kept up for four miles, our men never halting until Blazer's organisation was destroyed, himself and his men either killed, captured, or dispersed in the woods. The whole affair lasted not more than twenty minutes. In this brief time Captain Richards had captured Blazer and thirty of his men, killed outright thirty others, among whom was his lieutenant, and scattered the few remaining members of his troop to the winds. Blazer admits that he was beaten and broken up in a fair fight.

The strangest part of this story is the small loss sustained by our men. We had one man killed and five slightly wounded. The latter are believed to have been shot by our men in the excitement of the charge and the pursuit.

Captain Blazer and eighteen of his command arrived in this city on Tuesday evening in charge of privates John A. Payne and Harry Shand, Company B, Mosby's command. The rest of the Yankees captured in this fight were too badly wounded to be removed from the neighbourhood of the battle-field.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

THE money market is just in that position that we may look for greater ease, though it is not certain that the Bank directors will reduce the rate. The state of financial affairs on the Continent is decidedly improving, and the Banks of Berlin and Frankfort have lowered their terms for discount; but it is quite possible, if a drain shall arise to Egypt and the East, of which symptoms are now and then presented, that the effect would be, in the early part of the new year, to bring money back to its full value. Every prospect now exists of floating through the next month or six weeks with comparative ease. The bill-brokers and discount establishments have transacted a good business, and, with the exception of one or two establishments, very few bad debts have been made. It may be very fairly supposed that 1864, as a year, has not proved unpropitious. Large profits had been made through speculation in cotton, bank, and miscellaneous shares. But when the collapse came, houses failed, and prices receded, a corresponding loss was entailed, but principally among those who had operated without capital, and subsisted solely on ephemeral credit. The withdrawal to-day of 300,000*l.* for Egypt, although on balance of the week the amount sent in exhibits an excess, may, perhaps, stay the Bank directors in agreeing to reduce to 6 per cent. If they did so, it would greatly relieve trade, and it would show what the mercantile public just at this moment require to see, that there is confidence in the future. Should the governor and company of the Bank of England consider it undesirable to make any alteration, it will create no unfavourable impression beyond inducing caution, and teaching the public to believe that all the mischief is not yet over.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The bullion market presents a better appearance than for the last two or three weeks, for although the withdrawals of gold from the Bank for transmission abroad have been large, there is a balance of 108,000*l.* on the other side, the amount sent in having reached 445,000*l.*, and the withdrawals 337,000*l.* The arrivals of specie comprised 139,530*l.* from New York, 11,756*l.* from the West Coast of Africa, and 225,800*l.* from the West Indies, making a total of 377,086*l.* The specie taken out by the *Syria*, which sailed for the East on Monday, was 378,530*l.*, of which 288,680*l.* was in silver for Bombay, and 45,350*l.* in gold; the remaining 44,500*l.* was gold for Alexandria. The silver market has been quiet since the arrangements were completed for the East, and very little is now doing in bar, but the nominal price is 61½*d.* A small parcel of Mexican dollars has been disposed of to-day at 60⅞*d.*, which is a decline of about ¼*d.* as compared with previous sales. We hear by the Australian mail that the *Essex* sailed from Melbourne on September 29 with 84,500*l.*, and the *Monarch* on October 23 with 104,000*l.*

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

There has been a general dulness pervading the English Stock Market throughout the week, but prices have not fluctuated to any great extent, and towards the close this evening there was a rather better feeling, and the funds closed at a fractional improvement. In the Foreign Stock Market business has also been very quiet, but this is generally the case on the near approach of the Christmas holidays and the end of the year, and it is not likely there will be any material improvement till after the advent of the new year. Prices of all descriptions of stocks remain very steady,

there being but a fractional alteration in any of them. Consols closed this evening at $89\frac{1}{4}$ to $89\frac{3}{8}$ ex div. for money, and $89\frac{5}{8}$ to $89\frac{3}{4}$ ex div. for the account, which, as contrasted with last week, is a rise of about $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. Exchequer bills are slightly better, being now up to 5*s.* to 1*s.* dis. Greek stock shows no alteration whatever, the price remaining at $22\frac{1}{2}$ to 23. Mexican are also unchanged at $29\frac{3}{8}$ to $29\frac{5}{8}$. Spanish have declined about $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., the Passives closing at $31\frac{5}{8}$ to $31\frac{7}{8}$, and the Certificates at 14 to $14\frac{1}{4}$. Turkish Six per Cents. of 1854 are 88 to 89, or $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. better, and the Four per Cents. are steady at 99 to 101.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

There has again been a rather restricted business in American Government and railway securities, the nature of the intelligence from the other side of the Atlantic not being such as either to induce speculation or purchase for investments. The chief transactions have been caused by a pressure of sales for realisation. In the aggregate, however, prices are fairly sustained, though the tendency is towards increased weakness. The dealings are thus officially recorded:—United States Five per Cents., 1882, at $43\frac{1}{2}$, $42\frac{3}{4}$, and $42\frac{1}{2}$; Virginia State Six per Cents. at 30, $29\frac{1}{2}$, $28\frac{1}{2}$, and $27\frac{1}{2}$; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York Section, first mortgage, at 72 and $71\frac{1}{2}$; ditto ditto, second mortgage, at 67; ditto ditto, Pennsylvania Section, at 71, 72, and $71\frac{3}{4}$; Erie, $100 shares, all paid, at $39\frac{1}{2}$ and 38; Illinois Central Six per Cents. at 73; and ditto ditto, $100 shares, all paid, at 51, $50\frac{1}{4}$, and $50\frac{3}{8}$.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market has been steadier this week with a fair amount of business at slightly better prices. The closing quotation today is 61 to 63.

IMPORTS FROM THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

The following table, extracted from the Customs Bill of Entry, is a statement of part of the imports of Southern cotton and tobacco into England since our last number:—

Date	Name of Ship	Port	Consignee	Bales of Cotton	Boxes of Tobacco
Dec. 6	Rebecca	Nassau	T. S. Besbie	286	
„	Onward	Bermuda	Beet & Co.	36	
„	„	„	A. Nicholls	8	
Dec. 6	Kitty Jones	Nassau	Fraser & Co.	152	
„	„	„	Beach & Co.	344	
„	„	„	To order	14	
Dec. 8	Solway Queen	Bermuda	To order	319	
Dec. 9	Catherine Anne	„	To order	198	
„	Emily Agnes	„	To order	558	20
„	Empress	Matamoras	A. P. Fletcher	233	
				2,148	20

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The following suspensions have taken place since our last number:—Messrs. Stirling, Gordon, & Co., of Glasgow, liabilities 180,000*l.*; Messrs. J. M. & J. Stanley, of Sheffield, liabilities reported at 40,000*l.*: Messrs. H. J. Walduck & Co., of Manchester and Birmingham, liabilities about 20,000*l.*

A LOAN FOR MONTEVIDEO.

A prospectus has just been issued of a Montevidean European loan for 1,000,000*l.* sterling, in six-per-cent. bonds of 100*l.* each at the price of 60. The dividends are to be paid in sterling in London, and there is to be a sinking fund of 1 per cent. per annum. It appears that the legislature and executive of the Republic of Uruguay have duly conferred power on Messrs. Mana & Co., of Montevideo, to convert $6,000,000 (1,250,000*l.* sterling) of debentures of the internal debt into a national debt stock, represented by six-per-cent. bonds, and to be issued in Europe prior to the 31st inst. The present loan forms the only external loan of the State. Apart from the general revenues of the Republic, there is a special hypothecation of customs and anchorage dues, estimated to produce 100,000*l.* per annum, which are to be paid weekly to Messrs. Mana & Co., and remitted by them monthly to Messrs. Mana, M'Gregor, & Co. of London, by whom applications for the present loan are invited. The instalments are payable as follows:—5 per cent. on application, 10 per cent. on allotment, 15 per cent. on January 30, 15 per cent. on February 28, and 15 per cent. on March 31. Six per cent. discount is to be allowed on payments in full in anticipation.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

The produce trades have undergone very few changes since this day week. Purchases have, for the most part, been of the same moderate average as noticed for some time past, and supplies continue to be brought forward in the same sparing way. By these means any great variation in prices is prevented, but the tendency has, on the whole, rather favoured the buyer than otherwise. Arrivals have not greatly increased, and as the deliveries have in some instances improved, there is no further accumulation of stocks worth naming. We have had quiet grain markets throughout, but, supplies being moderate, factors have not reduced their terms appreciably. Oilcake maintains its value: American linseed, in barrels, 11*l.* to 11*l.* 10*s.*, and bags, 9*l.* 15*s.* to 10*l.* 15*s.* per ton. Oilseeds are steady. In provisions a moderate business is passing. The value of bacon is firm, in consequence of diminished stock, but there is not much pressing. A few American new singed sides have been placed at 48*s.* to 50*s.* Long and short middles are in fair request at 40*s.* to 45*s.* Beef is still extremely dull of sale. Fine butters maintain their price, although the demand is not over-active, and the mild weather keeps up good supplies from the continent; the best brands of American are worth 112*s.* to 116*s.* per cwt. The cheese trade is without activity. American cheese ranges from 48*s.* to 58*s.* per cwt. for fair to good qualities. A slight improvement has taken place in the demand for sugar during the last day or two, and rates are firmer, but no recovery from the recent decline can be quoted. Coffee meets a quiet sale, and prices are tolerably well supported. Nothing new has transpired in the tea market, which continues exceedingly dull. No further change has taken place in spices. Rice is held for full terms, at which but small sales have been made. Jute has again declined 5*s.* to 10*s.* per ton, and hemp, whilst not appreciably lower, is barely so firm. Cotton is dull. At the wool sales, which are now drawing to a close, scarcely anything has been done for American. Extreme dulness prevails throughout the metal market, and prices are little better than nominal. Scotch pig iron, 50*s.* 3*d.* cash. No change whatever has taken place in oils or tallow, and but little is doing in either. Petroleum is firm at 2*s.* 1*d.* to 2*s.* $1\frac{1}{2}$*d.* per gallon for American refined.

Liverpool: Wednesday, December 14.—The animation exhibited in our cotton market last week has not been maintained; business has again become somewhat inanimate, and prices have a receding tendency. But lower values and declining business are the general characteristics at this period of the year, independent of any other exciting causes. At present the chief demand is for American, Egyptian, East Indian, and China descriptions. A few days since the transactions in cotton 'to arrive' and for future delivery were rather extensive, but these have likewise now fallen off. The sales this week have been 39,000 bales, of which 15,000 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year down to the present time have been 2,618,461 bales, and to the corresponding period in 1863, 2,524,028 bales. There have been imported this year 2,178,821 bales; whilst last year the number was 1,585,276 bales. The trade have taken this year 1,546,896 bales, against 1,274,143 bales in 1863. The exports this year have reached 535,762 bales, and in 1863 they were 448,514 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 527,181 bales, and last year they were 742,704 bales. The estimated stocks at the present time are 383,556 bales, whilst in 1863 they were 2,535,535 bales. The closing quotations this afternoon were:—Americans, $23\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to $27\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; Maceio, $25\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to $25\frac{3}{4}$*d.*; Bahia, $25\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 26*d.*; Egyptian, $26\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to 30*d.*; Smyrna, $17\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to 20*d.*; Surats, $13\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to $20\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; Madras, $16\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to $16\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Bengal, $11\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to $14\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; Scinde, $11\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to $12\frac{3}{4}$*d.*; China, $14\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to $16\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; and Japan, $17\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to $17\frac{1}{2}$*d.*

The markets at Manchester have during the week exhibited great firmness, and for most descriptions of goods the tendency is towards higher quotations. Buyers, however, are still disinclined to pay the prices demanded, and refrain generally from making large purchases; if, however, sellers would slightly lower their pretensions, a large business would in all probability be transacted. It is not likely the markets will exhibit much improvement during the next fortnight; but most people look forward to a better business being done early in the new year. There has not been a large business transacted in shipping yarns, but where spinners have been compelled to sell, lower prices have been accepted. Many buyers are waiting for telegrams in anticipation of the Overland Mail from India, and this is the chief reason why the market remains so quiet. In home-trade yarns the market has been rather stronger, and a fair business continues to be transacted at fully previous rates. The cloth market remains very firm, with an improved tendency in quotations; the improvement, however, is chiefly observable in the class of shirtings most suitable for India. The latest prices were for $\frac{7}{8}$ Grey Printers, 7*s.* 9*d.* to 15*s.*; $\frac{9}{8}$ Grey Madapollams, 7*s.* to 10*s.*; $\frac{9}{8}$ Grey Printers, 9*s.* 9*d.* to 17*s.* 3*d.*; $\frac{5}{4}$ Grey Shirtings, 11*s.* 6*d.* to 25*s.*; Water Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 9*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*; No. 30, 2*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* 10*d.*; No. 40, 2*s.* 10*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.*; Mule Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.* 4*d.*; No. 30, 1*s.* 11*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.*; No. 40, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 10*d.*; No. 50, 2*s.* 5*d.* to 3*s.*; No. 60, 2*s.* 8*d.* to 3*s.* 2*d.*; No. 70, 2*s.* 11*d.* to 3*s.* 5*d.*; No. 80, 3*s.* 1*d.* to 3*s.* 7*d.*; No. 90, 3*s.* 3*d.* to 3*s.* 9*d.*; and No. 100, 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 1*d.*

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SHIPS ARRIVED.

At Liverpool.—December 8: The Solway Queen, The Emily Agnes, The Catherine Anne, from Bermuda. The Empress, from Matamoras.—December 9: The Gladiator (steamer), from Pernambuco.—December 11: The Lusica, from Matamoras. The Jane Goodyear, from Bermuda.—December 12: The Lisette, from Matamoras.—December 14: The Mavrocordatos (steamer), from Halifax, N.S. The Seraphina, from Pernambuco. The Dr F. A. S. Hunter, from Jamaica.

At Gravesend.—December 8: The Llewellyn from Jamaica.—December 12: The Brother's Pride, from Callao. The Pandema, from Demerara.

At Falmouth.—December 11: The Orion, The Jeanette, The Fylla, from Rio Janeiro.

At Cardiff.—December 6: The Thomas Edwards, The Robertson, from Bermuda.

At Clyde.—December 9: The J. Banks, from Halifax, N.S.—December 12: The Dante, from Pernambuco.

At Charleston.—November 10: The Fox (steamer)

At Bermuda.—November 2: The Little Hattie (steamer), from Wilmington.

At Halifax, N.S.—November 19: The Delta (steamer), from St Thomas's.

At St. Thomas's.—November 15: The Kenilworth (steamer), and sailed 21st. The Hansa (steamer), The Ellen Denny (steamer), from England, and sailed 24th. The Chilian (steamer), from Liverpool. The Georgiana, from Newport.—November 22: The Cassiopea, from Troon. The Queen of Britain, from Newport. The Golden Rule, from Liverpool. The Java, from Clyde.—November 23: The Young Mechanic, The Theo, from Clyde.—November 26: The Anna Magdalena, from London. The Leonelta, from Cardiff.

At Nassau, N.P.—October 26: The Flora (steamer), from St. John's, N.B. and left 27th for Cuba.—October 27: The Banshee (steamer), from Wilmington.—October 31: The Chicora (steamer), from Charleston, and left 3rd November for St. John's, N.B. The Syren (steamer), from Charleston.—November 8: The Wild Rover (steamer), from Bermuda, left shortly after, having been chased by a Federal cruiser. The Banshee No. 3, The Helen (steamers).—November 1: The Wild Rover (steamer), from Bermuda.—November 3: The Caroline (steamer), from Bermuda, and left for St. John's, N.B. The Marmion (steamer), from Falmouth.—November 5: The Kate Gregg (steamer), from Charleston. The Laurel (steamer), from Liverpool.—November 12: The Royal Arch, The Zitella, from Cardiff.—November 14: The Cicerone, from London. The Acuf, from Swansea. The John Henry, from Bermuda.—November 15: The Prospero, from Liverpool. The Ioana, from London.—November 16: The Marie Anne, from Havre.—November 17: The Mattie Banks, from Cardiff and Bermuda.—November 18: The Mary Garland, from Liverpool.—November 19: The Majestic, from Liverpool.

At Havana.—November 6: The Bellcarrigg, from Liverpool.—November 8: The Mexico (steamer), from Matamoras.—November 10: The Antonio, from London. The M. M. Peter, from Clyde.—November 13: The Alsterdam, from Matamoras, for Jamaica, leaky.—November 15: The Ptarmigan (steamer), from Nassau. The Wm. Gillies, from Newport. The Cuba Packet, from Cardiff.—November 16: The Candida, from London.—November 17: The Burdeos y Habana No. 1, The Burdeos y Habana No. 2, from Liverpool.—November 18: The Pelita, from Clyde.—November 19: The Josefina, from Liverpool.—November 20: The Camille, from Newport. The Tres Hermanos, from Liverpool.—November 21: The Loyola, from Liverpool. The Margaret Kerr, from Newport. The Majestic, from Cardiff. The Trinidad, from Clyde.

SHIPS SAILED.

Liverpool.—December 6: The Perunna, for Callao. The Ullswater, for Pernambuco. The Salve Virgen Maria, for Havana. The Harriet, for Nassau.—December 8: The Town of Liverpool, for Pernambuco.—December 11: The Dream (steamer), for Nassau.—December 13: The Anna Mary, for Demerara. The Victory, for Havana. The Clarence, for Nassau. The St. Clair, for Matamoras.

Gravesend.—December 9: The Matilda, for Rio Janeiro.—December 11: The Para, for Montevideo.—December 13: The Fitz James, for Cardiff and Rio Janeiro. The Warrior Queen, for Demerara.

Cardiff.—December 6: The Ocean, for Jamaica. The Loda, for Bermuda.—December 7: The Selma, for Rio Janeiro.—December 8: The Sainte Anne, for Rio Janeiro. The Fearless, for Nassau, N.P.—December 10: The Fairie Queen, for Nassau, N.P.—December 12: The Annie, for Montevideo. The Vineland, The Richard III., for Rio Janeiro. The Charles Hargrave, for Havana. The Valetta, The Vingolf, for Nassau, N.P.

Falmouth.—December 6: The Eva, for Demerara.

Newport.—December 7: The Baldur, The Australia, for Havana.

Clyde.—December 6: The Toronto, for Buenos Ayres. The Othello, for Pernambuco.—December 8: The Auchneagh, for Demerara.—December 12: The Florence, The Flamingo (steamer), for Nassau, N.P.

Swansea.—December 9: The Malanza, for Jamaica. The Echo, for Nassau.—December 11: The Marquis Posa, for Havana. The King of Denmark, for Nassau.

St. Thomas's.—November 16: The Chilian (steamer), for St. Martha and Liverpool.—November 24: The Kenilworth (steamer), for Nassau.

Nassau, N.P.—October 24: The Secret, for Liverpool.—October 29: The Fox (steamer), for St. John's, N.B.—November 1: The Blenheim (steamer), for St. John's, N.B.—November 3: The Banshee (steamer), for St. John's, N.B.—November 4: The Ella (steamer), for St. John's, N.B.—November 7: The Monarch, for Liverpool.—November 11: The Caroline, The Monmouth, for Liverpool.—November 14: The Silver Oar, for Falmouth.—November 15: The Syren (steamer), for St. John's, N.B.—November 17: The Rhine, for Liverpool.—November 18: The Little Hattie (steamer), for St. John's, N.B.—November 19: The Beatrice (steamer), The Owl (steamer), for St. John's, N.B.—Previous to November 20: The Bertha, The Julia, The Armstrong, The Ptarmigan (steamers).

Havana.—November 9: The Angelita, The Carmen, for Liverpool.—November 12: The Balen, for Falmouth.—November 19: The Adelaide, for Falmouth.—November 21: The Generous, for Falmouth.

SHIPS LOADING.

At London.—For Bermuda: The Tartar, The Enmore. For Halifax, N.S.: The Spirit of the Ocean, The C. A. Innes. For Demerara: The Emerald Isle, The Tanjore, The Cleopatra, The Martin, The Dorothy, The Bertha, The Thora, The Nexo. For Nassau (N.P.): The Ninfa Tagliavia (J. Worley). For Montevideo and Buenos Ayres: The Regina, The Ino, The Theresia, The Charles Rogers, The Kestrel, The Perseverante. For New York: The Victoria, The Cornelius Grinnell. For Havana: The Observador.

At Liverpool.—For Matamoras: The Rosina Claypole, The Esther, The Mary Farleigh, The Geertina, The Juliana, The Vooruitgang, The Hagar. For Nassau (N.P.): The Enterprise, The Wild Pigeon, The John G. Johnson, The Harriet, The Lady of the Lake, The Pamelia, The Queen Mab, The Lion, The Western Belle, The Architect, The Sunnyside, The Amy. For St. Thomas's: The Her Majesty, The Helena, The Memphis *viâ* Newport. For Demerara: The Bellona, The Johnstone, The Adona, The Lord Elgin. For Havana: The Providencia, The Trafalgar, The Heinrich Beckmann, The Constance, The Flora, The Ricardo, The Barinaga, The Manuela, The 17th of May, The Virgen del Carmen, The Harald, The Chiripa, The India, The Victoria. For New York: The Nile, The Antarctic, The Universe, The Alexander Marshall, The Cordelia, The Pennsylvania, The America, The City of London (steamer).

At Bristol.—For Nassau: The Prince.

At Cardiff.—For Bermuda: The J. E. Lockart, The Althea. For Havana: The Prince, The Haach, The Norga. For St. Thomas's: The Malaga, The Skjold. For Nassau: The Heron, The Firm, The Prince Albert.

At Hull.—For Havana: The Delphin, The Maria, The Gefion, The Onni, The Levant.

At Newport.—For Nassau: The Eulia. For Halifax: The Frank Lovett. For St. Thomas's: The Belmont, The Gluchauf, The Mary, The Memphis.

At Swansea.—For Halifax: The Echo. For Nassau: The Sovereign, The Muncardo, The Josephine.

At Glasgow.—For Halifax: The J. Blenkhorn, The Will-o'-the-Wisp. For Bermuda: The Florence. For Nassau: The Iris. For Demerara: The Martha, The Claribel, The China. For Buenos Ayres: The Prince of the Seas. For Montevideo: The Mariners.

Among the Contents of The Index *of December* 8 *are*:—

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Barbarous Treatment.
The Federals in Kentucky.
The Death of Captain Meigs.
Neutral Vessels and Belligerent Cruisers.
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Manchester Operatives and the Cotton Famine.
Manifesto of the Confederate States.
Affairs Financial and Commercial.
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THERE are at this time many thousands of Confederate prisoners of war confined in the various forts and camps of the Northern States. A large proportion of them are wounded or sick, and all are in a state of destitution, the accounts of which, as given in private letters and in the newspapers, present a picture of human suffering, which has scarcely a parallel in modern times. The merest necessaries of life are wanting, and frequently the wounded prisoner has no raiment save that which is stark and stiffened with his clotted blood. Horrible as war is in all its features, assuredly it has no greater horrors than the long agony of the poor captive who, when the feverish excitement of the contest is over, is left to the bitter charity of strangers and foes, without one friendly hand to soothe the pains of body or friendly voice to whisper hope and comfort to his despairing mind. These men, cut off from the assistance of their kindred or the protection of their Government, have peculiar claims on the patriotism of their countrymen in Europe, and upon Christian benevolence everywhere. They did not recklessly or from choice embrace the profession of arms, but in exchanging the comforts, and often the luxuries, of home for the toils and hardships of a soldier's life, they obeyed a stern sense of duty and the call of their country in its extremest need. An unusual proportion, also, of those that fill the ranks of the Confederate armies belong to the higher walks of life, upon whom privations, such as are endured by prisoners in the hands of the North, fall with increased severity.

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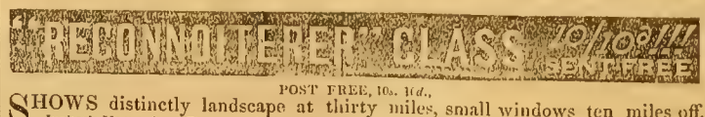

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THE INDEX

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF POLITICS, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

VOL. IV.—No. 139.] LONDON: THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 22, 1864. [PRICE 6D.

NOTICE.

The next Number will complete Vol. IV. of THE INDEX. *Cases for binding will be ready the first week in January. The price of Vol. IV. will be 2l. 2s.*

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The Papal Government and the Confederate States.

THE following is the reply of His Holiness the POPE to the Manifesto of the Congress of the Confederate States:—

'Honourable Gentlemen,—Mr. SOUTTER has handed me your letter of November 11, with which, in conformity to the instructions of your Government, you have sent me a copy of the manifesto issued by the Congress of the Confederate States, and approved by the most honourable President, in order that the attention of the Government of the Holy See, to whom, as well as to the other Governments, you have addressed yourselves, might be called to it.

'The sentiments expressed in the manifesto, tending as they do to the cessation of the most bloody war which still rages in your countries, and to the putting an end to the disasters which accompany it by proceeding to negotiations for peace, being entirely in accordance with the disposition and character of the august head of the Catholic Church, I did not hesitate a moment in bringing it to the notice of the Holy Father.

'His Holiness, who has been deeply afflicted by the accounts of the frightful carnage of this obstinate struggle, has heard with satisfaction the expression of the same sentiments. Being the Vicar on earth of that God who is the Author of peace, he yearns to see these wraths appeased and peace restored. In proof of this, he wrote to the Archbishops of New York and New Orleans, as far back as October 18, 1862, inviting them to exert themselves in bringing about this holy object. You may, then, honourable gentlemen, feel well assured that whenever a favourable occasion shall present itself, His Holiness will not fail to avail himself of it, to hasten so desirable a result, and that all nations may be united in the bonds of charity.

'In acquainting you with this benignant disposition of the Holy Father, I am pleased to declare myself, with sentiments of the most distinguished esteem,

'Truly your servant,
'G. CARD. ANTONELLI.

'Rome, December 2, 1864.

'Messrs. A. Dudley Mann, J. M. Mason, John Slidell, Commissioners of the Confederate States of America, Paris.'

An Historical Parallel.

IN the year 1777, while the contest between the Thirteen States of North America and England was raging furiously, a building at Portsmouth called the Rope-house was set on fire and entirely consumed. Shortly afterwards another large building in the Dockyard, called the Hemp-house, was found to contain a considerable store of combustibles. Other incendiary attempts followed in rapid succession. At Plymouth the design wholly miscarried. At Bristol some warehouses on the quay were burned, but the shipping fortunately escaped. A general panic ensued, replete with various surmises. The Tory party attributed these offences to the professors of American and Republican principles. The party accused retorted by declaring that these were malicious acts or inventions of the Tories instituted for the purpose of calumniating their adversaries. The real culprit turned out to be a fellow known as JOHN the Painter, who ultimately was convicted and hanged. This man, a native of Edinburgh, had spent three years in America, and had imbibed a deep hatred of England. According to a confession elicited by a pretended accomplice, he had concocted his schemes with SILAS DEANE of Connecticut, at that time a commissioner at the French Court, and had reason to believe that BENJAMIN FRANKLIN was employed on a similar errand. He expected, as he said, not only a money reward from SILAS DEANE, but also a commission in the American army. This story was clearly false so far as FRANKLIN was concerned, and the probabilities were strongly against the privity of SILAS DEANE. Yet colour was lent to the assertions of the man by an expression of FRANKLIN when writing to Dr. PRIESTLEY many months before: 'England,' said FRANKLIN, 'has begun to burn our seaport towns, secure, I suppose, that we shall never be able to return the outrage in kind.' In truth, however, the motives that actuated JOHN the Painter were not political. Possibly, he may have thought that his zeal would be rewarded in some form or other, but his life was made up of petty thefts, skilful depredations, and daring burglaries. The offence of arson merely gave a zest to the ordinary routine of a felonious existence. What would have been more unjustifiable than for the English Government, under such circumstances, to have branded the American authorities with the commission of these attempts, and to have endeavoured by such accusations to disgrace the cause of the Revolutionists in the eyes of the world? At the same time, the expressions of Dr. FRANKLIN plainly indicate that in his eyes such retaliation might, under certain circumstances, be recommended.

We are all by this time familiar with the somewhat 'sensational' story of the burning of New York. The fourteen travellers, with their fourteen carpet-bags and their fourteen lots of phosphorus, have been learned by heart. As in 1777, so in 1864, one party has thrown out accusations, and the other has retorted with allegations of conspiracy against the public liberty. Two persons have been arrested, but who and what they are, and what their motives may have been, is not yet given to the world. The occasion has, however, been improved by the Republican press. 'Confederate agents, or perhaps Democrats in league with rebels, have attempted to burn our sacred city. Two things, therefore, are clear: first, that the rebel Government is vile enough to stoop to any deed of darkness; second, that martial law alone can preserve New York in safety.' Thus reason Mr. LINCOLN's friends; for Mr. LINCOLN has always two grand objects in view—the exasperation of the Northern people against the South, and the absolute control by the military arm of the bodies and purses of his subjects. Time, perhaps, will show whether this attempt at incendiarism was a mere smart trick akin to the sinking of the *Florida*, or the act of persons urged by the hope of plunder and the phantasy of reward. Whatever may be the merits of the affair, no reasonable being will implicate the authorities at Richmond. The forbearance shown in spite of unparalleled provocations forbids the suspicion.

The matter, however, suggests a remark which may perhaps go home to the Yankee mind. The Departments at Richmond have been over and over again importuned with proposals for wreaking vengeance on a Government and a people which has never for a moment shrunk from the burning and the pillage of Southern towns. There are hundreds of men in the South whose very souls have been turned to gall by the outrages inflicted on their country or their family, whose one absorbing idea is hatred of their persecutors, whose lives are only valued as necessary to the destruction of their enemies. It is beyond question that the burning of any Northern city is at all times within the power of the Confederate Government. That being so, it is idle to suppose that the 'bogus' arson of November was concocted at Richmond.

Lastly, it is not to be imagined that the patience of the South is inexhaustible. There is no peculiar sanctity attaching to New York which did not attach to the barns of the Shenandoah Valley, to Atlanta, or to the towns and villages the conflagration of which marked the track of the host of SHERMAN. If New York or Boston were destroyed to-morrow, the retribution would not only be just, but perhaps even humane. Nothing but fear will restrain the savage nature of the Northern hordes; with them forbearance is folly, and mercy a laughing-stock. The destruction of one of their fairest cities might teach them that Southern women and children have felt the pangs of hunger, and shivered beneath the shelter of the canopy of heaven, and might frighten them into an abstinence from atrocities that emulate the fury of ZINGIS KHAN.

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

AT last we have something like definite intelligence of Sherman in his march through Georgia. His principal force remained several days near Millen collecting supplies, and on December 2 the march was resumed in the direction of Savannah. A competent Confederate force will resist his progress beyond a certain point, whether he attempt to reach Savannah or Darien, and the Richmond journals state that it was rumoured his advance guard were already skirmishing with the outposts around the former place. It seems absolutely certain that a great battle has ere this been fought, in which the fate of Sherman and his army has been decided. Several combats between the Confederate cavalry under Wheeler and the cavalry of Sherman had taken place east of the Oconee River, in all of which the Yankees were repulsed. At Waynesboro', on December 4, the fight was a heavy one, and Kilpatrick, the Yankee leader, was wounded. At the same time the expedition under Foster, which moved inland from Port Royal on November 30, with the view of relieving Sherman, had been arrested by a signal defeat at Grahamsville, on the Charleston and Savannah Railway, and Foster had retreated, leaving his dead and wounded, to the number of 1,300, on the field. Foster's present position is on Broad River, under the cover of his gunboats. He had been largely reinforced, but up to the 3rd inst. had not resumed the offensive. It is clear enough that he can do nothing to extricate Sherman. The forces engaged in the battle at Grahamsville under Foster were 5,000 infantry, with 16 guns, against 1,400 State troops from Georgia, with 7 guns.

In Tennessee no general engagement had been fought since the battle of Franklin. General Hood is closely besieging Nashville, and has entirely cut off its communication with the North. His batteries on the Tennessee River, fourteen miles from the city, command the whole navigation of the stream, and seven Federal gunboats which had been sent to dislodge him went back discomfited, one of the boats badly damaged. One brigade of General Hood's army had marched in the direction of Murfreesboro. His advance, under Forrest, had already crossed the Cumberland River, as it was rumoured, and an invasion of Kentucky is doubtless the object of the movement.

In East Tennessee, according to Federal' accounts, General Burbridge, in evacuating Cumberland Gap, moved upon General Breckinridge, who was retiring into Western Virginia, but the Confederate accounts claim that Breckinridge was master of the situation, and that Burbridge was retreating upon Knoxville. The whole country around Knoxville had been laid waste by Sherman's order before he left Atlanta, according to the usual method of warfare pursued by that commander. General Beauregard officially reports that the Federals evacuated Decatur, Alabama, on November 26, after destroying their stores and ammunition.

IT is rumoured that the army of the Potomac has been reinforced by two corps from Sheridan. Grant was massing troops on the Jerusalem Plank Road, preparatory to another general movement upon Petersburg and Richmond. A great battle was daily expected. The Confederate batteries had been keeping up a fire upon the canal at Dutch Gap, and Butler had sent over three negro brigades to defend his diggers. General Rosser had achieved a very brilliant success on the northern frontier of Virginia, capturing Fort Kelly at New Creek on November 28, and shortly afterwards Piedmont, a most important station on the line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railway, where the largest machine shops of the company are established. He destroyed immense quantities of Federal stores and all the public buildings, and brought away with him, besides prisoners and artillery, 1,015 horses and 1,000 head of cattle.

THE report of Mr. Gideon Welles, the Federal Secretary of the Navy, states that since the beginning of the war 141 steamers and 62 ironclads have been added to the navy, and that, on December 1, 671 vessels were in course of construction, measuring 10,396 tons, and to carry 4,610 guns. On the face of it this appears an ample preparation against enemies who, according to Mr. Lincoln, are, and always have been, destitute 'equally of ships and of ports and harbours.' The expenditure of the Naval Department since March 1, 1864, is set down at $280,647,261. The value of the prizes taken during the present year is $14,396,250. Mr. Welles explains the difficulty of blockading the port of Wilmington—he evidently does not agree with Mr. Lincoln that the Confederates are destitute of ports—and says that Wilmington can only be shut up by a combined military and naval movement. If Wilmington is closed, Mr. Welles will then learn that it is still more difficult to effectually blockade 3,500 miles of coast. Mr. Welles designates the *Alabama*, *Florida*, and *Georgia* as 'English-built piratical cruisers,' and bullies Captain Semmes like a drunken fishfag, and in a manner that shows the Federal press is justified in describing him as a garrulous Mrs. Grundy. He also honours the owner of the *Deerhound* with some abuse. However, we are not concerned with the vulgar rant of Mr. Gideon Welles.

THE report of Mr. Fessenden, the Federal Secretary of the Treasury, estimates the public debt in July 1865 at $2,645,320,682. He estimates the expenditures at $1,168,256,005, and the receipts at $396,000,000, of which he says $300,000,000 *ought* to be realised from internal duties, and suggests that an income-tax should be collected from all without exemption. Deducting estimated receipts and unexpended appropriations, he estimates that $422,256,005 will have to be provided for by loans. We shall comment on Mr. Fessenden's report next week.

THE seizure of the *Florida* by the *Wachusetts* has been discussed in the Confederate Senate. The resolutions declare that the outrage is a wrong to every civilised maritime Power, and that the Brazilian Government is bound to enforce the restoration of the *Florida*. The resolutions also provide for laying the case before all European Governments, and for the appointment of a commissioner to confer with the Brazilian Government.

GENERAL DIX lately issued an order commanding all parties who have come from the South to New York since 1861 to register themselves, leaving their name and description at head-quarters. A short time afterwards a second order was issued, declaring that all persons who did not so register would be considered and treated as spies. This order was not allowed to remain a dead letter, and in one day upwards of sixty persons were arrested. If any one in New York has a spite against his neighbour, he has merely to inform General Dix that the hated individual is a Southern sympathiser, or, what is worse in the eyes of the Federal authorities, a political opponent of Mr. Lincoln, and suspicion is aroused, and an arrest is pretty sure to follow. In these proceedings we can see the commencement of a reign of terror.

THERE was a mutiny of negro troops at Memphis on November 11. It appears that the coloured troops tried to force their way out of the fort, where they were kept more like prisoners than soldiers. The outbreak was soon over. The correspondent of a New York paper writes: 'The big guns and little guns of the fort were turned upon the poor wretches, and many were laid low in the dust.' The Federal Administration has endeavoured to keep this affair a secret. The Memphis papers were not allowed to refer to it, but it oozed out through the correspondence of the New York papers.

THE Federal Government has issued some orders 'in reference to Confederate raids from Canada.' This and similar proceedings are to form a pretext for placing an imposing force upon the lakes, and the force on the lakes is intended as a demonstration to the people that the Government sympathises and encourages the popular antipathy to England.

IN a letter described as 'sharp,' Mr. Seward refuses to allow the money collected in Liverpool to be applied to the relief of Southern prisoners in the North. The Lincolnite papers consider the letter a proper rebuke to 'British impudence.' We can almost excuse the rudeness and inhumanity of Mr. Seward and his organs. Any manifestation of British humanity must seem like a galling insult to a Government waging war like savages. The employers of Butler, Turchin, Sheridan, and Sherman, must feel insulted that this country expresses sympathy with gallant men in their misfortune. Nor are we in the least surprised that Mr. Seward embraces the opportunity of abusing this country. He and the Government of which he is a member have been making political capital by fostering the Yankee hate of England. Mr. Seward does not officially assert that the war in America has been 'promoted and protracted by British subjects without a motive.' He knows that it will stir up the people and make the Lincoln Administration highly popular. We really do not know what Mr. Seward means by the fund collected at Liverpool being 'ostentatiously offered.' Surely there must be some confusion of facts and dates in Mr. Seward's mind. He must have been thinking of the Sanitary Fair or of the New York donations to Lancashire. The only conclusion to be drawn from this incident is that the Government of the United States regards benevolence as impertinence, and hates England as malignantly as it does the Confederate States.

MR. CHASE has been appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, in place of the late Chief Justice Taney. Mr. Chase is known to Europe as Federal Secretary of the Treasury. He has practised at the bar, and was for some time one of the State Judges in Ohio, which State he represented in the Federal Senate.

THE capture of two blockade-runners, the *Vixen* and the *General Armstrong*, is reported in New York. The *Armstrong* was taken off Wilmington. She had a cargo of cotton, most of which was thrown overboard.

THE money market in New York has been unfavourably affected by the Message of President Lincoln and the report of Secretary Fessenden. On December 6, gold closed at 232. On the 10th it was quoted at 230.

ENGLAND.

ON Thursday last a deputation waited upon Mr. Adams, the Minister of the United States, to present an address emanating from the committee of the Emancipation Society, congratulating Mr. Lincoln on his election to the office of President for four years commencing from March 1865. Mr. Evans, as chairman of the Society, addressed Mr. Adams, stating that the efforts, the influence, and the example of England in the emancipation of the negro, had induced the countrymen of Mr. Adams to take the sound view on that question, so that the awakened conscience of the North had driven the slaveholders of the South into revolt, which was the sole cause of the war. Mr. Chesson, the secretary of the Society, then read the address, which was as follows:—

TO HIS EXCELLENCY ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Sir,—We, the president and members of the Emancipation Society, with profound respect for your person and for your office, congratulate you upon your reelection as President of the United States of America. Your first election marked you out as the freely chosen leader of the people for the express and avowed purpose of resisting the encroachments of the slave power, and we rejoice that, after four years' experience, your countrymen have again determined that you shall act as their chief magistrate for another term of office, in order that the hateful institution of slavery may be entirely abolished. We agree with those who elected you in their deductions that 'slavery was the cause of the rebellion' it is your duty to quell; that it 'must be hostile to the principles of republican government;' and that both 'justice and national safety demand its extirpation,' and we at the same time feel confident that whilst vigorously conducting the remaining operations of the war, so as to accomplish this high purpose, your Administration will be guided, as it has hitherto been, by an earnest desire to mitigate the sufferings inseparable from a condition of strife. We have noticed with peculiar satisfaction the sanction and aid given by your Government to the voluntary efforts of the sanitary commission, whose agents have not confined their beneficent action to their own party in the struggle, but have bestowed the greatest care and attention upon the sick and wounded rebels who have fallen into your hands. We deplore the loss of valuable life in the protracted conflict which the slaveholders have forced upon your country; but it is an honour to you and to your fellow-citizens that no prisoners have been put to death for the mere fact of being taken in arms against your Government; and we have faith that you will continue to show all possible mercy and forbearance to the enemies of your republic, and thus leave to your contemporaries and to posterity the grateful task of placing your moderation in noble contrast with the deplorable and sanguinary ferocity exhibited by European despots towards those whom their cruelty has driven to revolt. That your exertions may shorten the duration of the war, and that your country, thoroughly purged and purified from the crime and curse of slavery, and with every citizen, without regard to race or colour, standing in perfect equality before the law, may enjoy internal happiness, and exert a useful and widespread influence for the advancement of liberty and the general good of mankind, is the wish and prayer of your sincere friends.

Mr. P. A. Taylor, M.P., the treasurer of the Society, spoke next, and observed that in the reelection of President Lincoln he saw, first, a forecast of the entire reconstruction of the great republic; second, the promotion of the abolition of that system of slavery which had been the blot of and disgrace upon the countrymen of Mr. Adams; and, third, in the future relations of England and the United States a state of things tending towards the realisation of peace, progress, and civilisation. The Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel said that the choice of the American people seemed to him to be as creditable to the intelligence of the nation as it was to the virtue of Mr. Lincoln. That choice must surely exercise a powerful influence upon the counsels of the South, because thereby the leaders of the rebellion had been taught that the North was as firm and resolute to maintain its own rights as they were ardent to secure the triumph of their lawlessness. That being the case, the leaders of the rebellion—especially if the magnanimous, generous, and christian-like proposal of General Butler to include them in an amnesty from which they would have excluded him, were adopted—would have no further grounds to sustain this struggle except the resolute determination to commit two crimes—the crime of causeless rebellion and the crime of cruel slaveholding. He could not but hope that the leaders themselves, when they saw the equal firmness and generosity of the North, might yield to wiser feelings, and at any rate it was satisfactory to observe repeated and growing evidence that the non-slaveholding population of the South was not so reluctant to return to the Union, where they might enjoy liberty, fraternity, and equality under the folds of the old flag. Sir Charles Lyell and Dr. Massie followed him; the latter in the course of his speech stating that he was sorry to say that from certain very ostentatious displays of literary advocacy, and the sympathy which had been given to the South, there was danger of an unkindly feeling being engendered in the minds of friends across the Atlantic; but those parties, and the people who followed them, did not represent the middle and working classes, the backbone and sinew of the nation. The other speakers were Messrs. Thomas Hughes, Mason Jones, and Nicholay. Mr. Adams read a speech in reply, in which he thanked the deputation for their address. He could not disguise from himself, or from them, the painful fact that an opposite disposition had been manifested here in influential circles, and that the knowledge of this had given rise to a general impression among his countrymen that the whole British nation really desired the disruption and consequent downfall of the power of the United States. Hence had sprung up a corresponding degree of illwill which bade fair, if not counteracted, only to increase with time. If such passion were permitted a full indulgence between two nations, it needed little sagacity to foretell that, in the long run, the end would be war. He commented on the election of Mr. Lincoln, holding, first, that the South had participated in the contest by intrigues, and, second, that the fate of slavery was the turning-point of the decision made.

THE appeal of Dr. Colenso against the decision of his metropolitan the Bishop of Cape Town, depriving him of his see of Natal, and prohibiting him from the exercise of any divine office within the province, came on before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council on the 14th inst., and occupied four days in the hearing. The members of the Council present were the Lord Chancellor, Lord Cranworth, Lord Kingsdown, Dr. Lushington, and the Master of the Rolls. Mr. W. James, Q.C., and Mr. Fitzjames Stephen were heard for the appellant; Sir Hugh Cairns and the Queen's Advocate for the Bishop of Cape Town. The Bishop appeared under protest denying, with all due reverence, that Her Majesty in Council had any jurisdiction in the subject-matter of the petition, or that any appeal lay from what he had done in the matter of the complaint of the Right Reverend Dr. Colenso either to Her Majesty in Council or to the Judicial Committee. The whole force of the argument of Mr. James was directed to show that the Bishop of Cape Town had no jurisdiction against Dr. Colenso, that the Church of Natal was part of the Church of England, and that the Queen, as head of the latter, had the same authority over both. The Crown had no power to authorise the Bishop of Cape Town to institute criminal proceedings against the Bishop of Natal, or to pronounce sentence of deposition upon him. In

support of this view the learned gentleman quoted several cases, maintaining that it was the clearest possible law that no office for life created under letters patent could be determined except by a *scire facias*, or a conviction for a criminal offence in a court of competent jurisdiction, and he went on to contend that if in the case of the Roman Catholic Church a Roman Catholic archbishop were to attempt to deprive a suffragan bishop of his see, an appeal would lie to the Pope, and that the Church of England ought not in that respect to be placed in a worse position by having denied to its bishops the power of appealing to the Sovereign, who was the supreme authority in the State, when they felt themselves aggrieved by the action of those placed immediately above them. Had such a case as the present occurred in the Presbyterian Church in the colonies, an appeal would, he might add, lie to the Conference, while a similar right of appeal would be found to exist among the members of every other religious denomination to some properly constituted tribunal whose authority they acknowledged. The truth was, however, that the Church of England was not in that respect in a worse position than other churches; for, according to her constitution, an appeal lay to the Sovereign, as the supreme visitor and highest authority in all ecclesiastical corporations. Indeed, the 25th William and Mary, cap. 20, showed clearly that the King had jurisdiction in every ecclesiastical case, just in the same way as previous to the Reformation it had been exercised by the Pope. The principle for which he argued was distinctly laid down, moreover, in the Act authorising the constitution of Courts of Delegates. The Church of England, in effecting a settlement in any of our colonies, took with her all the laws, usages, and jurisdiction of the Church at home, so far as they were capable of being exercised within that colony, and it was, he maintained, of the very essence of our Constitution that any jurisdiction whatsoever exercised by the authority given by the Sovereign was open to appeal. It seemed to him, he might further observe, that the Bishop of Cape Town had strangely forgotten that he was a bishop of the United Church of England and Ireland in the course which he had pursued. As to the Bishop of Natal, it was no part of his contract with the Crown when he received his appointment that he should become a member of the schismatical Church of South Africa, as Dr. Gray would seem to have done in his violation of his duty as a member of the Established Church.

Sir Hugh Cairns contended, on the other hand, that the Bishop of Cape Town had jurisdiction to try Dr. Colenso for heresy and to deprive him; second, that the Crown had no jurisdiction in the matter in its present stage by way of appeal from the sentence of its metropolitan; third, that the Crown had no original jurisdiction, visitorial or otherwise. On the positive side of the argument the learned counsel contended that the Crown had authority to make certain provisions in the letters patent as a matter of positive and coercive law, those provisions not, of course, being in contravention of any imperial law. The first argument, therefore, which he had to advance on the point of jurisdiction was that inasmuch as the Crown, in the year 1853, declared that the see of Natal should be subject to the Bishop of Cape Town, in the same manner as a suffragan bishop in the province of Canterbury should be subject to the archbishop, the Bishop of Natal was thereby placed under a coercive jurisdiction. Having said thus much upon that point, he should next deal with the question of consential jurisdiction, which would imply an agreement on the part of the members of a religious body located in any colony to abide by certain regulations. The Conference, for instance, might issue its commands to the Wesleyan body, and although there might be no direct contract in the case, those who joined the body would hold themselves bound to obey particular rules and orders; so in the present instance the command conveyed in the letters patent stating the Bishop of Natal should be subject to the Bishop of Cape Town in the same manner as a suffragan bishop in the province of Canterbury was subject to the archbishop might be regarded as one of those rules, bringing the case under the head of consential jurisdiction. Indeed, the whole point seemed to him to narrow itself to the question—Had the Archbishop of Canterbury the power to deprive his suffragan in a case of heresy? If so—and what he heard was, he thought, perfectly clear,—it must be admitted that the Bishop of Natal was equally subject to the Bishop of Cape Town. The Court took time to consider its judgment.

THE new station at Ludgate Hill, situate on the south side of that thoroughfare, was opened yesterday for public traffic. The works are as yet very incomplete, but the station, when finished, will resemble that erected at Blackfriars on the Surrey side, while the lines and platforms will be covered with iron framework and glazed roof as at Charing Cross. The opening of this station completes the 'Metropolitan Extensions.' It is hoped that before the summer the City Extension lines will be finished, so as to join the railway now opened with Farringdon Street Station, and by that route to connect the lines running southward from the metropolis with the Great Northern and North Western lines.

AN accident of a terrible nature occurred on the North Kent Railway on Friday last. A ballast train entered the Blackheath tunnel about five o'clock in the afternoon, and during the passage six trucks became detached and remained in the tunnel, while the engine with the remaining trucks proceeded. Shortly afterwards the express train coming from Charlton was signalled 'all right' at the entrance of the tunnel, and dashed into the darkness at the rate of 30 miles an hour. A frightful crash took place at once from the collision of the passenger train with the ballast trucks. The latter were smashed to atoms, and five platelayers on them were at once killed. The engine and tender of the express train were thrown on their sides and choked up the way. A van and two carriages were also shivered to pieces. The cries of the wounded, the shrieks of frightened women and children, the gloomy darkness of the tunnel lit up partially by the burning fragments of the carriages, created a scene of horror. Measures were at once taken to stop the traffic, and assistance was procured with the utmost speed. With great exertion the dead and wounded were collected, when it was found that, in addition to the five platelayers killed outright, the driver and stoker of the passenger train were frightfully burned and scalded. The stoker has since died. The two guards were also severely injured. Nine passengers are lying in a precarious condition at the Anti-Gallican Tavern at Charlton, and ten other persons have received great injuries.

IT appears that, from want of enterprise or insufficiency of information, an opportunity of securing a comfortable country-seat, a decent income and a position in life, together with the title and office of a rector, has been allowed to slip through the fingers of aspirants to such advantages. Two days since the advowson with right of next presentation to the rectory of Pickworth, the property of the Duke of St. Albans, was put up for sale by auction at Garraway's by Messrs. Fox & Bousfield. Nothing could be more eloquent than the language in which the auctioneer described the contiguity of Pickworth to the seats of rich and noble landed proprietors, the salubrity of the site of the rectory, and the commodious size of the parish. Perhaps there was even a slight hint about the Belvoir hounds, or the well-preserved coverts of Belton or Syston. Then, as to the pecuniary side of the matter, the living was worth 400*l.* a year, with a good substantial house and a tidy glebe. Backed by such a combination of happy circumstances, the auctioneer was justified in considering 4,000*l.* as a fair bid for starting. A dead silence followed the harangue, broken at last by the feeble offer of 1,500*l.* From that sum there was a smart run up to 2,950*l.*, and then the fox fairly went to earth. Persuasion fell on deaf ears, and after a declaration that such an offer was out of all proportion to the true value, the auctioneer was fain to knock down the lot to himself at the figure of 3,000*l.* The public will await with interest some explanation of this extraordinary apathy on the part of speculators in Church property.

THE wedding present from the people of Victoria to the Princess of Wales was despatched from Melbourne at the end of October. The gift is a flower-vase of the most choice materials. From a stand composed of polished blackwood from Mount Macedon rises a rockwork of quartz specimens streaked with gold, obtained from Wood's Point, Castlemaine, and Tarnagulla, and bright black nubbly antimony from Costerfield. Supported by this is a base of St. Arnaud silver, exhibiting specimens of Australian fauna and flora. From the centre of the group spring two golden stems of the oak, which symbolise England and Denmark, and the tree-fern, which represents Victoria. The whole is surmounted by a fluted silver bowl for flowers, round the border of which are grapes and frosted vine-leaves. The cost of the whole is 300 guineas. The amount was raised by shilling subscriptions.

MR. and MRS. STRATTON and Miss Minnie Warren, with Commodore Nutt, have been holding levees at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, during the present week. Great crowds of visitors assembled to behold the famous Tom Thumb and his yet more diminutive friends.

THE CONTINENT.

FRANCE.

A RUMOUR has largely obtained in Germany, though contradicted by the *Mémorial Diplomatique*, that Prussia is negotiating with Bavaria for the cession to France of a small piece of territory on the Sarre, containing coal-fields of great value, in return for the future good offices of the latter country with regard to the Prussianising of the Duchies. The denial, however, goes no further than a declaration that the cession will be of no political importance, but will be made for purely industrial purposes. It is also said that France is endeavouring to acquire a naval station on the shore of the North Sea, for which Bremerhaven is named as a likely place. With regard to the general question of the Duchies, France still refuses to deviate from the expectant attitude which she has maintained from the beginning of the difficulties.

Those interested in the internal politics of France have been somewhat startled by the news that MM. Carnot and Garnier-Pagès, two leading members of the Opposition, have resolved to resign their seats as deputies of the Department of the Seine. Their resolution is said to be connected with the decision given in the case of the 'Thirteen,' to which body both of these deputies belonged. The *Siècle* points out that, by insisting upon this view of the question, MM. Carnot and Garnier-Pagès establish a deplorable confusion between judicial and political questions; and another journal says that the lapse of time between the cause and the effect, the delivery of the judgment and the resignation of the seats, diminishes considerably the significance of the proceeding.

A serious difference has lately taken place between two high prelates of the Gallican Church, which has very nearly created a scandal. Mgr. de Ségur, during a recent visit to Rome, accused some of the French bishops of lukewarmness in the cause of the Pope, and among them he named Mgr. Darboy, Archbishop of Paris, his own metropolitan. The Archbishop called on Mgr. de Ségur to retract his accusations, or to cease preaching and confessing in the diocese of Paris. Mgr. de Ségur replied in an unsatisfactory manner, whereupon the Archbishop laid upon him the threatened interdict. Mgr. de Ségur is the fashionable confessor in the Faubourg St. Germain, and consequently this measure caused a great perturbation in that quarter. The Papal Nuncio then interfered in the affair, and induced Mgr. de Ségur to make the explanations required by the Archbishop. He was thereupon relieved of the interdict; only, by way of a permanent reminder of his fault, he was forbidden to wear the insignia of his rank as Canon of St. Denis.

Every casual visitor to Paris must have recognised the fact that the crossing of any of the great thoroughfares is a matter of danger, compared to which the perils of Oxford Circus sink into insignificance, and even Cheapside appears easy. So thoroughly was a certain old lady of Paris impressed with this, that she had for years kept herself to that side of the boulevards on which she lived. Not even the strong arm of a man-servant could inspire her with sufficient confidence to cross that perilous passage at the top of the Rue de la Paix. All the quarter between the Boulevards des Italiens, the Rue Royale, and the Rue de Rivoli, was as unknown to her as the interior of Africa. On her death, which took place lately, she was found to have left by will a large sum to any hackney-coach keeper who would start several lines of small omnibuses to cross the boulevards every five minutes at the top of all the principal streets, for the accommodation of elderly ladies and gentlemen as nervous as herself—the fare to be one sou. Many cab-proprietors have already come forward to undertake the business. The only misfortune is that the fulfilment of the old lady's wishes will cause so great a disturbance in the traffic, that the position of all foot-passengers who cannot take advantage of her omnibuses will be made considerably worse.

ITALY.

On the 15th inst. were published in the *Official Gazette* of Turin the various documents which complete the Franco-Italian Convention; the Bill which has passed through the Chamber and Senate, and the royal assent thereto; and a general ratification of the terms of the Convention. The Italian journals announce that the report of the Committee of Enquiry on the events of September cannot be presented to the Chamber for some days, although the Committee has spared neither time nor trouble on its work. The military enquiry ordered by the Minister of War on the same affair has been terminated, and comes to the following conclusion. 'There is reason for prosecuting regularly, according to the criminal law, fifty-six carbineers, and this trial should take place at the earliest opportunity.' The Chamber of Deputies on the 15th inst. authorised the continuation to the end of the year 1865 of the present law with regard to brigandage. This law, which is of a very severe character, has had the best effects in mitigating the evil against which it is directed. The statistics of the present brigandage in the south of Italy are interesting. A band of fifteen, without any acknowledged chief, exists in the province of the Abruzzi, and about the same number at Castellamare in the neighbourhood of Naples. In the farther Abruzzi there are four bands, under recognised chiefs, with an average of 17 in each. In the Terra di Lavoro, on the confines of the Papal States, there are 12 bands, one of which is 55 strong; the rest number about 110 men together. In the principality of Avellino there are 5 bands, of 5 apiece. In Salerno, 2, of 25 and 20 respectively. In the Basilicata the number of brigands has been reduced during the past year from 500 to 100, who are scattered among 12 bands. In Hither Calabria there are 32, and in Farther Calabria 25 brigands. Grand total in nine provinces, about 500 brigands. From the circumstantial detail of these statistics it is evident that the central authorities are now masters of the situation against these scoundrels; the continuation of the same energy during another year will, it is hoped, thoroughly eradicate this crying evil.

The city of Florence is making great preparations for the reception of the various branches of the Administration; the several available public buildings have been distributed among the public offices; the Palazzo Vecchio will be the seat of the Senate and the House of Deputies. Subscriptions have been made for the relief of the sufferers from the late flood; it has been remarked with bitterness that the Church has failed altogether to come forward to the assistance of the unfortunate Florentines. The Pope sent 200*l.*, and all credit is due to him, for of all the Church dignitaries he is probably the one who has least command of ready money. But, considering the enormous incomes enjoyed by ecclesiastical corporations in Tuscany, they may be said to have utterly failed in their duty. It appears that the Archbishop of Pisa has a yearly revenue of nearly 17,000*l.*; the Carmelite nuns of St. Theresa in Florence have 16,000*l.* a year for the support of 54 members; the 49 Frati della SS. Annunziata have about 25,000*l.* a year; the Dominicans, 31 in number, have 28,000*l.* Many others are equally rich. The various monastic establishments in Florence are more than 50 in number. No better argument can be brought forward for the necessity of Signor Vacca's bill for the suppression of these establishments. It is feared that in consequence of certain intrigues the bill will be shelved, at least for the next session.

Some scandal has been created at Rome by the defection of Cardinal d'Andrea from the Papal cause. He has taken up his abode in Naples, and openly declares his determination not to return to Rome. The Pope, it is said, has sent him word that, as he has gone to Naples without leave, he had better stay there. The Cardinal makes a point of exhibiting his liberal tendencies by receiving priests of the Emancipation Society, and conversing with them as a kindred spirit. He asserts that the Pope is personally the chief obstacle in the way of a reconciliation between Italy and the Holy See. A story, coming from Rome, is, however, rather inconsistent with the Cardinal's statement. It appears that Don Vincenzio Colonna, a member of that princely house whose chronicles are worthily related in Bulwer Lytton's 'Rienzi,' is an intimate friend of His Holiness, and that one day he was surprised to hear the Pope assert that the Roman Catholic religion did not need the assistance of the temporal power to remain 'the true religion of God.' Don Vincenzio related the fact to his friends, and it was soon generally disseminated; so that now a Roman discussing the question never fails to quote the Pope's authority in proof of the fact that the temporal power is not absolutely necessary for the preservation of religion. The difficulties be-

tween Russia and the Papacy are on the increase. M. de Meyendorff, the Russian representative at Rome, has gone to Florence to avoid the diplomatic reception in the Vatican at Christmas. It is expected that the Pope will send him his passports, should the Czar interdict all communication between Rome and Poland. Rumours were abroad of the discovery of an Italian plot for the assassination of the Pope and Cardinal Antonelli. It turned out eventually to be in some way similar to the 'Confederate' plot for burning New York. The pretended assassins were proved to be staunch Bourbonists, and therefore devoted to the Pope. Cardinal Antonelli has promised the French Government to give them the Pope's reply on the matter of the Franco-Italian Convention before the end of the year.

COPENHAGEN.

A difficulty has occurred with regard to the proposed changes in the constitution of Denmark, in consequence of the separation of the Duchies. The Landsthing, or Upper House, has declined to allow the Lower House to settle all the details of the change, and then present it to the Upper House to be accepted or rejected in gross. The Lower House is therefore called upon to reconsider its decision. Should a compromise be effected, such as a committee formed of both Houses, and reporting separately to both, harmony will be restored; if, however, each party continues to maintain its present opinion, the Government will be obliged to have recourse to a dissolution to get out of the difficulty.

GERMANY.

No new circumstance has occurred with regard to the ultimate solution of the succession question. As has been already stated, the Austro-Prussian Commissioners for the temporary government of the Duchies inaugurated their administration by demanding an oath of submission from the local authorities. The University of Kiel, the most influential body in that part of Germany, discussed the demand for some hours, and at length agreed to give the required promise, 'without prejudice to the future destiny of the Duchies,' at the same time protesting against annexation by Prussia, against the pretensions of the Grand-Duke of Oldenburg, and in favour of those of the Duke of Augustenburg. The Commissioners accepted their declaration, with all its reserves and protests. The example of the professors of the University has been followed by a great number of local functionaries. The rights of the Duchies have been guarded in another case of small apparent importance were it not that the most trivial circumstances have grown into importance throughout this strange affair. The vessels belonging to the Duchies are to carry their national colours of white, red, and blue, instead of the black and white colours of Prussia, as originally proposed by that Power. This concession has been made on the request of Austria.

The secondary States of Germany are about to make another attempt in support of their united existence. A conference between their plenipotentiaries is to take place at Munich, with a view of protesting against the doctrine that Austria and Prussia are the protecting Powers of the Confederation, and the remaining States merely their *protégés*. They desire, in their own words, to form a united body capable of protecting the Confederation for the future against certain menaces which are a disgrace to the German fatherland. According to general accounts, Austria is not averse to the formation of such a body; and Herr von Schmerling is to attend at Munich on her behalf. The *Wanderer* of Vienna is, however, of a contrary opinion, and asserts that the formation of a third Power of equal strength with the other two is impossible and useless—impossible, because the complete unity of such a body is not feasible, and because the united strength of the secondary States is not equal to that of one of the great Powers; useless, because, even if the minor Confederation as suggested were possible, it must act in conformity with the wishes of the great Powers, or create deplorable disturbances in Germany. Such is the substance of the *Wanderer's* argument; it is only remarkable inasmuch as it virtually condemns the whole Confederation, as at present constituted, quite as severely as the proposed alliance of the secondary States.

The German States which have consented to become members of the new Zollverein, on the basis of the Franco-Prussian treaty of commerce, expressed a wish for certain modifications in that treaty. These have accordingly been made. The amended treaty will be submitted to the various Chambers, and will come into operation on July 1, 1865. A new treaty of commerce between Austria and Prussia is about to be negotiated at Berlin, on the basis of the former treaty of 1852. Bavaria and Saxony will take part in the discussions.

The Austrian Government is inclined to deal leniently with its political offenders. Out of 809 persons arrested, 617 have been released, 116 have been sent back to their own parishes under escort, 46 have been punished by the correctional tribunal, and 50 yet await trial. Count Tarnoroski, condemned by court-martial to eight years' hard labour in chains, has had his punishment remitted to eight years' simple 'reclusion.' Eight Austrian subjects condemned by the tribunals of Warsaw have been restored to their country on the request of the Austrian Consul. With regard to the late disturbances in Venetia, the greater part of the persons arrested will be tried by the civil tribunals instead of courts-martial. A detachment of the Austro-Mexican force has left Trieste in the *Indiana*, numbering 1,220 men; the total of the troops sent to Vera Cruz since the 20th ult. is 5,700 men.

SPAIN.

This country has passed through a Ministerial crisis of some severity. The Narvaez Ministry, in a cabinet council, decided to announce the abandonment of Santo Domingo in the speech from the throne. The Queen, however, absolutely refused her consent to such a course: the Ministry had no alternative but to resign. Señor Pavia then attempted to form a Cabinet, but was obliged to give up the undertaking on the refusal of the Queen to accept certain of the proposed members. Another attempt was then made by SS. Isturitz and Miraflores, but with no more success. The Queen was therefore obliged to summon General Narvaez again, who has accordingly returned to office with the whole of his Cabinet. The Government has been informed that England has resolved to recognise the insurgents of Santo Domingo as belligerents, that decision being founded on reserves made by her at the time of the reannexation of that island, and on the fact that the Spanish forces have not established an effective blockade. M. Pereire has agreed with Spain for a loan of 3,000,000*l.* at a price which gives him about 14 per cent. It is secured on the North of Spain Railway, and will, it is hoped, be used for the reestablishment of Spanish credit in Europe.

GREECE.

The failure of the olive crop, the continual dismissals of able and tried servants from public offices, and the appointment of inefficient and unworthy persons in their stead, have tended to weaken the public mind in the Ionian Islands to such a degree that the people look upon the new dynasty most unfavourably. Some disorders have taken place in Zante, in which a few persons were wounded. The weather is very bad in the Adriatic. A terrific hurricane is shortly expected to visit Venice, and then to pass over Corfu. From the continent the news is scarcely more satisfactory. Brigandage and assassinations continue. A band, commanded by a man named Drakos, which infested Attica, has had six men killed in an encounter with the National Guard. Another band in the same district retreated in good order before the troops sent against it. A change of Ministry is supposed to be imminent; the Minister for Foreign Affairs has already resigned, and Signor Bedueni takes his place.

MEXICO.

The French troops have landed at Mazatlan and occupied that town. The Imperial forces have been defeated by Alvarez, if we may believe the intelligence from New York, and that general proceeded to march on Acapulco. The Emperor Maximilian returned to the capital on October 30, after his long journey through the provinces. He was received by the population of the city with a spontaneous cordiality which he duly appreciated. The ex-President General Miramon has been sent to Berlin on a special mission from the Emperor. A circular has been addressed to the prefects of the provinces, which gives the administrative programme of the new Government. It declares that every Mexican who confines himself within the limits of the law, whatever may be his party, has a right to the protection of the Emperor. It further asserts for every Mexican, rich or poor, a right of access to the representatives of the Government. Justice is to be prompt, clear, and legal. No one must remain in prison without being informed of the reason for his detention as quickly as possible. Preventive arrests may only be made in cases of extreme danger. Besides this circular three decrees have been published, one proclaiming the right and supremacy of the Emperor, the second reestablishing a proper system of registration of births and deaths, and the third instituting a rural guard for the extermination of brigandage. On the last subject a letter has been written by the Emperor to his Minister of State, Señor Velasquez de Leon, in which he declares that all persons found in arms against the Imperial power in Mexico will be treated as bandits, and executed without mercy. Letters have been received from the Emperor of Russia and the President of the Republic of Switzerland recognising the Empire of Mexico.

SOUTH AMERICA.

The Congress of Lima has resolved to commence its sittings on the 14th inst. Seven States are already represented therein; viz. the Argentine Republic, Bolivia, Chili, Columbia, Equador, Peru, and Venezuela. The object of it is to assert the independence of South American States from European control, and to concert measures for their protection in case of need.

The difficulty which arose at Montevideo in consequence of the arbitrary determination of the Brazilian Admiral to search foreign ships for contraband of war, has been arranged by a conference held on board the French man-of-war *Astræa*, at which the Brazilian Admiral renounced all his pretensions. Hopes are entertained that the dispute between Brazil and Uruguay may be stopped without having recourse to arms.

MADAGASCAR.

A quarrel has taken place in this country between the French and the natives, in consequence of some insults passed upon two French merchants by some native officers. The merchants were knocked down and were in some danger, when they were saved by the timely arrival of the English Consul, Mr. Pakenham, on the scene. The English and French Consuls made a united demand for satisfaction for the outrage, and an indemnity to the injured men. The Government of Madagascar gave the satisfaction willingly, as it only involved the condemnation of the officers to penal servitude; but with regard to the indemnity they suggest that England had better pay it, as it is in consequence of the teaching of her missionaries that the outrage was committed. After that go and evangelise a set of savages!

CHINA AND JAPAN.

Sir Rutherford Alcock, British Ambassador to Japan, has been recalled for a few months in order to advise on our future relations with Japan. The Emperor of China has instituted the Order of the Dragon as a reward for the Frenchmen employed by him to fight the Taepings. It will consist of a yellow riband, suspending a five-clawed imperial dragon, with the inscription 'Before it the lion turns pale, and the tigor silent.' It is not stated whether any of these decorations are to be bestowed on the English troops. The Franco-Chinese force is to be reorganised and increased.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S ANNUAL MESSAGE.

THE following message was delivered to the Federal Congress on the 6th inst.:—

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives,—Again the blessings of health and an abundant harvest claim our profoundest gratitude to Almighty God.

The condition of our foreign affairs is reasonably satisfactory. Mexico continues to be a theatre of civil war, while our political relations with that country have undergone no change. We have at the same time maintained neutrality between the belligerents.

At the request of the States of Costa Rica and Nicaragua a competent engineer has been authorised to make a survey of the river San Juan and the port of San Juan. It is a source of much satisfaction that the difficulties which for a moment excited some political apprehensions, and caused a closing of the interoceanic transit route, have been amicably adjusted, and that there is a good prospect that the route will soon be reopened with an increase of capacity and adaptation. We could not exaggerate either the commercial or the political importance of that great improvement. It would be doing injustice to an important State not to acknowledge the directness, frankness, and cordiality with which the United States of Columbia have entered into intimate relations with this Government. A Claims Convention has been constituted to complete the unfinished work of the one which closed the session in 1861.

The new Liberal Constitution of Granada having gone into effect with the universal acquiescence of the people, the Government under it has been recognised, and diplomatic intercourse with it has arisen in a cordial and friendly spirit.

The long-deferred Ares Island claim has been satisfactorily paid and discharged.

Mutual arrangements have been made of payments awarded by the late joint commission for the settlement of claims between the United States and Peru. An earnest and cordial friendship continues to exist between the two countries, and such efforts as were in my power have been used to remove misunderstanding and avert a threatened war between Peru and Spain.

Our relations are of the most friendly nature with Chili, the Argentine Republic, Bolivar, Costa Rica, Paraguay, San Salvador, and Hayti. During the past year no difference of any kind has arisen with any of these republics; and, on the other hand, they sympathise with the United States, and are constantly expressing cordiality and earnestness.

The claim arising from the seizure of the cargo of the brig *Macedonian* in 1821 has been paid in full by the Government of Chili. Civil war continues in the Spanish part of San Domingo, apparently without prospect of an early close.

Official correspondence has been freely opened with Liberia, and it gives us a pleasing view of social and political progress in that republic. It may be expected to derive new vigour from American influence, improved by the rapid disappearance of slavery in the United States. I solicit your authority to furnish to the republic a gunboat at moderate cost, to be reimbursed to the United States by instalments. Such a vessel is needed for the safety of that State against the native African races; and, in Liberian hands, it would be more effective in arresting the African slave trade than a squadron in our own hands. The possession of the least organised naval force would stimulate a generous ambition in the republic, and the confidence which we should manifest by furnishing it would win forbearance and favour towards the colony from all civilised nations.

The proposed overland telegraph between America and Europe by way of Behring's Straits and Asiatic Russia, which was seconded by Congress at the last Session, has begun under very favourable circumstances by an association of American citizens, with the cordial goodwill and support of this Government, as of those of Great Britain and Russia. Assurances have been received from most of the South American Governments of their high appreciation of the enterprise, and their readiness to cooperate in constructing lines tributary to that world-encircling communication. I learn with much satisfaction that the noble design of a telegraphic communication between the eastern coast of America and Great Britain has been renewed, with full expectation of its early accomplishment. Thus, it is hoped that, with the return of domestic peace, the country will be able to resume with energy and advantages our former high career of commerce and civilisation.

Our very popular and estimable representative in Egypt died in April last. An unpleasant altercation which arose between the temporary incumbent of the office and the Government of the Pasha resulted in a suspension of intercourse. The evil was promptly remedied on the arrival of the successor in the Consulate, and our relations with Egypt, as well as our relations with the Barbary Powers, are entirely satisfactory.

The rebellion which has so long been flagrant in China has at last been suppressed, with the cooperating good offices of this Government and of the other Western commercial States. The judicial consular establishment there has become very difficult and onerous, and it will need legislative action for the extension of our commerce and the more intimate intercourse which has been interrupted with the Government and people of that vast Empire.

China seems to be accepting with hearty goodwill the conventional laws which regulate commercial and social intercourse among the Western nations.

Owing to the peculiar situation of Japan and the anomalous form of its government, the action of that Empire in performing treaty stipulations is inconstant and capricious. Nevertheless, good progress has been effected by the Western Powers moving with enlightened concert.

Our own pecuniary claims have been allowed or put in course of settlement, and an inland sea has been reopened to commerce. There is reason, also, to believe that these proceedings have increased rather than diminished the friendship of Japan towards the United States.

The ports of Norfolk, Fernandina, and Pensacola have been opened by proclamation. It is hoped that foreign merchants will now consider whether it is not safer and more profitable to themselves, as well as just to the United States, to resort to these and other open ports than it is to pursue through many hazards and at vast cost a contraband trade with other ports which were closed, if not by actual military occupation, at least by a lawful and effectual blockade.

For myself, I have no doubt of the power and duty of the Executive, under the law of nations, to exclude enemies of the human race from an asylum in the United States. If Congress should think that proceedings in such cases lack the authority of law, or ought to be further regulated by it, I recommend that provision be made for effectually preventing foreign slave-

traders from acquiring domicile and facilities for their criminal occupation in our country.

It is possible that if it were a new and open question, the maritime Powers, with the light they now enjoy, would not concede the privileges of a naval belligerent to the insurgents of the United States, destitute as they are, and always have been, equally of ships of war and of ports and harbours.

Disloyal emissaries have been neither less assiduous nor more successful during the last year than they were before that time in their efforts, under favour of that privilege, to embroil our country in foreign wars. The desire and determination of the Government of the maritime States to defeat that design are believed to be as sincere, and cannot be more earnest, than our own. Nevertheless, unforeseen political difficulties have arisen, especially in Brazilian and British ports, and on the northern boundary of the United States, which have required, and are likely to continue to require, the practice of constant vigilance and a just and conciliatory spirit on the part of the United States, as well as of the nations concerned and their Governments.

Commissioners have been appointed, under the Treaty with Great Britain, on the adjustment of the claims of the Hudson Bay and Puget Sound Agricultural Companies in Oregon, and are now proceeding to the execution of the trust assigned to them.

In view of the insecurity of life and property in the region adjacent to the Canadian border, by reason of assaults of desperadoes, committed by inimical and desperate persons who are harboured there it has been thought proper to give notice that after the expiration of six months, the period constitutionally stipulated in existing arrangements with Great Britain, the United States must hold themselves at liberty to increase their naval armament on the lakes if they shall find that proceeding necessary, and the condition of the border will necessarily come into consideration in connection with the question of continuing or modifying the rights of transit from Canada through the United States, as well as the regulation of imports, which were temporarily established by the reciprocity treaty of June 5, 1854. I desire, however, to be understood, while making this statement, that the colonial authorities of Canada are not deemed to be internationally unjust or unfriendly towards the United States, but, on the contrary, there is every reason to expect that, with the approval of the Imperial Government, they will take the necessary measures to prevent new incursions across the border.

The Act passed at the last Session for the encouragement of immigration has, so far as was possible, been put into operation. It seems to need amendment, which will enable the officers of the Government to prevent the practice of frauds against the immigrants while on their way and on their arrival in the ports, so as to secure them here a free choice of avocations and places of settlement. A liberal disposition toward this great national policy is manifested by most of the European States, and ought to be reciprocated on our part by giving the immigrants effective national protection. I regard our immigrants as one of the principal replenishing streams which are appointed by Providence to repair the ravages of internal war and its wastes of national strength and health. All that is necessary is to secure the flow of that stream in its present fulness, and to that end the Government must in every way make it manifest that it neither needs nor designs to impose involuntary military service upon those who come from other lands to cast their lot in our country.

The judicial affairs of the Government have been successfully administered during the last year. The legislation of the last Session of Congress has beneficially affected the revenue, although sufficient time has not yet elapsed to experience the full effect of several of the provisions of the Acts of Congress imposing increased taxation. The receipts during the year from all sources upon the basis of warrants signed by the Secretary of the Treasury, including loans and the balance in the Treasury on July 1, 1863, were $1,394,796,007 2c., and the aggregate disbursements, upon the same basis, were $1,298,056,101 89c., leaving a balance in the Treasury, as shown by the warrants, of $96,739,905 73c. Deduct from these amounts the amount of the principal of the public debt redeemed and the amount of issues in substitution therefor, and the actual cash operations of the Treasury were—Receipts, $884,076,646 77c.; disbursements, $865,236,087 86c., which leaves a cash balance in the Treasury of $18,842,558 71c. Of the receipts, there were derived from Customs $102,316,152 99c.; from lands, $588,533 29c.; from direct taxes, $475,648 96c.; from internal revenue, $109,741,154 10c.; from miscellaneous sources, $47.511,448 10c.; and from loans applied to actual expenditures, including the former balance, $623,443,929 13c. There were disbursed for the civil service, $27.505,599 46c.; for pensions and Indians, $7,517,930 97c.; for the War Department, $60,791,841 97c.; for the Navy Department, $85,733,292 77c.; for interest of the public debt, $53,685,421 69c.; making an aggregate of $865,234,087 86c.; and leaving a balance in the Treasury of $18,842,558 71c., as before stated. For the actual receipts and disbursements for the first quarter, and the estimated receipts and disbursements for the three remaining quarters, of the current fiscal year, and the general operations of the Treasury in detail, I refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

I concur with him in the opinion that the proportion of moneys required to meet the expenses consequent upon the war derived from taxation should be still further increased, and I earnestly invite your attention to this subject, to the end that there may be such additional legislation as shall be required to meet the just expectations of the Secretary.

The public debt on the 1st day of July last, as appeared by the books of the Treasury, amounted to $1,740,690,489 49c. Probably, should the war continue for another year, that amount may be increased by not far from five hundred millions. Held as it is for the most part by our own people—a substantial branch of national, though private property—for obvious reasons the more equally this property can be distributed among all the people the better. To favour such general distribution greater inducements to become owners might, perhaps with good effect, and without injury, be presented to persons of limited means.

With this view I suggest whether it might not be both competent and expedient for Congress to provide that a limited amount of some future issue of public securities might be held by any *bonâ fide* purchaser exempt from taxation and from seizure for debt, under such restrictions and limitations as might be necessary to guard against abuse of so important a privilege.

This would enable every prudent person to set aside a small annuity against a possible day of want. Privileges like these would render the possession of such securities, to the amount limited, most desirable to every person of small means who might be able to save enough for this purpose.

The great advantage of citizens being creditors as well as debtors with relation to the public debt is obvious. Men readily perceive they cannot be much oppressed by a debt which they owe to themselves.

The public debt on the 1st of July last, although somewhat exceeding the estimate of the Secretary of the Treasury made to Congress at the commencement of last Session of Congress, falls short of the estimate of that officer, made in the preceding December, as to its probable amount at the beginning of this year, by the sum of $399,509,731. This fact exhibits a satisfactory condition and conduct of the operations of the Treasury.

The national banking system is promising to be acceptable to capitalists and to the people. On November 5, 584 National banks had been organised, a considerable number of which were conversions from State banks. Changes from State systems to the National systems are rapidly taking place, and it is hoped that very soon there will be in the United States no bank of issue not authorised by Congress, and no bank-note circulation not secured by the Government. That the Government and the people will derive great benefit from this change in the banking system of the country can hardly be questioned. The National system will create a reliable and permanent influence in support of the national credit, and protect the people against loss in the use of paper money. Whether or not any further legislation is advisable for the suppression of State bank issues it will be for Congress to determine.

It seems quite clear that the Treasury cannot be satisfactorily conducted unless the Government can exercise a restraining power over the bank-note circulation of the country.

The report of the Secretary of War and the accompanying documents will detail the campaigns of the armies in the field since the date of the last annual Message, and also the operations of the several administrative bureaus for the War Department during the last year. It will also specify the measures deemed essential for the national defence, and to keep up and supply the requisite military force.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy presents a comprehensive and satisfactory exhibit of the affairs of that department, and of the naval service. It is a subject of congratulation and laudable pride to our countrymen that a navy of such vast proportions has been organised in so brief a period and conducted with so much efficiency and success. The general exhibit of the navy, including vessels under construction on December 1, 1864, shows a total of 671 vessels, carrying 4,610 guns, and of 510,396 tons, being an actual increase during the year, over and above all losses by shipwreck or in battle, of 88 vessels, 167 guns, and 42,427 tons.

The total number of men at this time in the naval service, including officers, is about 51,000. There have been captured by the navy during the year 324 vessels, and the whole number of naval captures since hostilities commenced 1,374, of which 267 were steamers. The gross proceeds arising from the sale of condemned prize property thus far reported amount to $14,396,250 51c. A large amount of such proceeds is still under adjudication, and yet to be reported.

The total expenditures of the Navy Department of every description, including the cost of the immense squadrons that have been called into existence from March 4, 1861, to November 1, 1864, are $238,647,262 35c. Your favourable consideration is requested to the various recommendations of the Secretary of the Navy, especially in regard to a navy yard and suitable establishment for the construction and repairs of iron vessels and the machinery and armour on our ships, to which reference was made in my last annual Message.

Your attention is also invited to the views expressed in the report in relation to the legislation of Congress at its last Session in respect to prizes on our inland waters.

I cordially concur in the recommendation of the Secretary as to the propriety of creating the new rank of Vice-Admiral in our naval service.

Your attention is invited to the report of the Postmaster-General for a detailed account of the operations and financial condition of the Post Office Department. The postal revenues for the year ending June 30, 1864, amounted to $12,438,253 78c., and the expenditures to $12,644,786 20c., the excess of expenditures over receipts being $206,652 42c. The views presented by the Postmaster-General on the subject of special grants by the Government in aid of the establishment of a new line of ocean mail steamships, and the policy he recommends for the development of increased commercial intercourse with adjacent and neighbouring countries, should receive the careful consideration of Congress.

It is of noteworthy interest that the steady expansion of population, improvement, and governmental institutions over the new and unoccupied portions of our country have scarcely been checked, much less impeded or destroyed, by our great civil war, which at first glance would seem to have absorbed almost the entire energies of the nation. The organisation and admission of the State of Nevada has been completed in conformity with law, and thus our excellent system is firmly established in the mountains which once seemed a barren and inhospitable waste between the Atlantic States and those which have grown up on the coast of the Pacific Ocean.

The Territories of the Union are generally in a condition of prosperity and rapid growth. Idaho and Montana, by reason of their great distances and the interruption of communication with them by Indian hostilities, have been only partially organised; but it is understood that these difficulties are about to disappear, which will permit their Governments, like those of the others, to go into speedy and full operation.

As intimately connected with and promotive of this material growth of the nation, I ask the attention of Congress to the valuable information and important recommendations relating to the public lands, Indian affairs, the Pacific Railroad, and mineral discoveries, contained in the report of the Secretary of the Interior, which is herewith transmitted, and which report also embraces the subjects of patents, pensions, and other topics of public interest pertaining to his department.

The quantity of public lands disposed of during the five quarters ending the 30th of September last was 4,221,342 acres, of which 1,538,614 acres were entered under the Homestead Law. The remainder was located with military land warrants, agricultural scrip certified to States for railroads and sold for cash. The cash received from sales and location fees was $1,019,446. The income from sales during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1864, was $678,007 21c., against $136,077 95c. received during the preceding year. The aggregate number of acres surveyed during the year has been equal to the quantity disposed of, and there is open to settlement about 134,000,000 acres of surveyed land.

The great enterprise of connecting the Atlantic with the Pacific States by railways and telegraph lines has been entered upon with a vigour that gives assurance of success, notwithstanding the embarrassments arising from the prevailing high prices of material and labour. The route of the main line of the road has been definitely located for 100 miles westward from the initial point at Omaha City, Nebraska, and a preliminary location of the Pacific Railroad of California has been made from Sacramento eastward to the great bend of Turkee River in Nevada.

Numerous discoveries of gold, silver, and cinnabar mines have been added to the many heretofore known, and the country occupied by the Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountains, and the subordinate ranges, now teems with enterprising labour, which is richly remunerative. It is believed that the product of the mines of precious metals in that region has, during the year, reached, if not exceeded, $100,000,000 in value.

It was recommended in my last annual Message that our Indian system be remodelled. Congress, at its last Session, acting upon the recommendation, did provide for reorganising the system in California, and it is believed that under the present organisation the management of the Indians there will be attended with reasonable success. Much yet remains to be done to provide for the proper government of the Indians in other parts of the country, to render it secure for the advancing settler and to provide for the welfare of the Indian. The Secretary reiterates his recommendations, and to them the attention of Congress is invited.

The liberal provisions made by Congress for paying pensions to invalid soldiers and sailors of the Republic, and to the widows, orphans, and dependent mothers of those who have fallen in battle or died of disease contracted or of wounds received in the service of their country, have been diligently administered. There have been added to the pension rolls during the year ending the 30th day of June last the names of 16,770 invalided soldiers, and of 271 disabled seamen, making the present number of army invalid pensioners 22,767, and of navy invalid pensioners 712.

Of widows, orphans, and mothers, 22,198 have been placed on the army pension rolls, and 248 on the navy rolls. The present number of army pensions of this class is 25,435, and of navy pensions 793. At the beginning of the year the number of Revolutionary pensioners was 1,430. Only twelve of them were soldiers, of whom seven have since died. The remainder are those who under the law of ——— receive pensions because of relationship to Revolutionary soldiers. During the year ending June 30, 1864, $4,504,616 92c. have been paid to pensioners of all classes.

I cheerfully commend to your continued patronage the benevolent institutions of the District of Columbia, which have hitherto been established and fostered by Congress, and respectfully refer for information concerning them, and in relation to the Washington aqueduct, the Capitol, and other matters of local interest, to the report of the Secretary.

The Agricultural Department, under the supervision of its present energetic and faithful head, is rapidly commending itself to the great and vital interest it was created to advance. It is peculiarly the people's department, in which they feel more directly concerned than in any other. I commend it to the continued attention and fostering care of Congress.

The war continues. Since the last annual Message all the important lines and positions then occupied by our forces have been maintained, and our armies have steadily advanced, thus liberating the regions left in the rear, so that Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, and parts of other States, have again produced reasonably fair crops.

The most remarkable feature in the military operations of the year is General Sherman's attempted march of 300 miles directly through the insurgent region. It tends to show a great increase of our relative strength that our General-in-Chief should feel able to confront and hold in check every active force of the enemy, and yet to detach a well-appointed large army to move on such an expedition. The result not yet being known, conjecture in regard to it is not here indulged.

Important movements have also occurred during the year to the effect of moulding society for durability in the Union. Although short of complete success it is much in the right direction that 12,000 citizens in each of the States of Arkansas and Louisiana have organised loyal State Governments with free constitutions, and are earnestly struggling to maintain and administer them. The movement in the same direction, more extensive, though less definite, in Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee, should not be overlooked.

But Maryland presents the example of complete success. Maryland is secure to liberty and union for all the future. The genius of rebellion will no more claim Maryland. Like another foul spirit, being driven out, it may seek to tear her, but it will woo her no more.

At the last Session of Congress a proposed amendment of the Constitution abolishing slavery throughout the United States passed the Senate, but failed for lack of the requisite two-thirds vote in the House of Representatives. Although the present is the same Congress and nearly the same members, and without questioning the wisdom or patriotism of those who stood in opposition, I venture to recommend the reconsideration and passage of the measure at the present Session.

Of course, the abstract question is not changed, but an intervening election shows almost certainly that the next Congress will pass the measure. Thence there is only the question of time as to when the proposed amendment will go to the States for their action, and as it is to so go, at all events, may we not agree that the sooner the better? It is not claimed that the election has imposed a duty in members to change their views or their votes any further than as an additional element to be considered. Their judgment may be affected by it. It is the voice of the people, now for the first time heard upon the question. In a great national crisis like this, unanimity of action among those seeking a common end is very desirable and almost indispensable, and yet no approach to such unanimity is attainable unless some deference shall be paid to the will of the majority simply because it is the will of the majority. In this case the common end is the maintenance of the Union, and among the means to secure that end, such will, through the election, is most clearly declared in favour of such constitutional amendment. The most readable indication of public purpose in this country is derived through our popular elections. Judging by the recent canvass and its results, the purpose of the people within the loyal States to maintain the integrity of the Union was never more strong nor more nearly unanimous than now. The extraordinary calmness and good order with which the millions of voters met and mingled at the polls gave strong assurance of this. Not only those who supported the Union ticket, so called, but a great majority of the opposing party, may be fairly claimed to entertain and to be actuated by the same purpose. It is an unanswerable argument to this effect, that no candidate for any office whatever, high or low, has ven-

tured to seek votes on the avowal that he was for giving up the Union.

There has been much impugning of motives and much heated controversy as to the proper means and best mode of advancing the Union cause. But in the distinct issue of Union or no Union the politicians have shown their instinctive knowledge that there is no diversity among the people.

In affording to the people the fair opportunity of showing one to another, and to the world, this firmness and unanimity of purpose, the election has been of vast value to the national cause.

The election has exhibited another fact not less valuable to be known—the fact that we not approach exhaustion in the most important branch of national resources—that of living men. While it is melancholy to reflect that the war has filled so many graves and caused mourning to so many hearts, it is some relief to know that, compared with the survivors, the fallen have been so few. While corps, and divisions, and brigades, and regiments have formed and fought and dwindled and gone out of existence, a great majority of the men who composed them are still living. The same is true of the naval service. The election returns prove this. So many voters could not else be found.

The States regularly holding elections, both now and four years ago—to wit, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin—cast 3,982,017 votes now, against 3,070,222 cast then, showing an aggregate now of 3,982,011, to which is to be added 33,762 cast now in the new States of Kansas and Nevada, which States did not vote in 1860, thus swelling the aggregate to 4,015,773, and the net increase during the three years and a half of war of 145,751. A table is appended showing particulars.

To this should be added the number of all soldiers in the field from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware, Indiana, Illinois, and California, who, by the laws of these States, could not vote away from their homes, and which number cannot be less than 100,000.

Nor yet is this all. The number in the organised Territories is triple now what it was four years ago, while thousands, white and black, join us as the nation at arms press back the insurgent lines.

So much is shown affirmatively and negatively by the election. It is not material to enquire how the increase has been produced, or to show that it would have been greater but for the war, which is probably true. The important fact remains demonstrated that we have more men now than we had when the war began; that we are not exhausted nor in process of exhaustion; that we are gaining strength, and may, if need be, maintain the contest indefinitely.

This as to men: Material resources are now more complete and abundant than ever. The national resources then are unexhausted, and, as we believe, inexhaustible. The public purpose to reestablish and maintain the national authority is unchanged, and is, we believe, unchangeable. The manner of continuing the effort remains to be chosen.

On careful consideration of all the evidence accessible, it seems to me that no attempt at negotiation with the insurgent leader could result in any good. He would accept nothing short of the severance of the Union—precisely what we cannot and will not give.

His declarations to this effect are explicit and oft repeated. He does not attempt to deceive us. He affords us no excuse to deceive ourselves. He cannot voluntarily reaccept the Union; we cannot voluntarily yield it.

Between him and us the issue is distinct, simple, and inflexible. It is an issue which can only be tried by war, and decided by victory. If we yield, we are beaten; if the Southern people fail him, he is beaten.

Either way it would be the victory and defeat following war. What is true, however, of him who heads] the insurgent cause is not necessarily true of those who follow. Although he cannot reaccept the Union, they can.

Some of them, we know, already desire peace and reunion. The number of such may increase. They can at any moment have peace simply by laying down their arms and submitting to the national authority under the Constitution.

After so much the Government cannot, if it would, maintain war against them. The loyal people would not sustain or allow it. If questions should remain, we would adjust them by the peaceful means of legislation, conference, courts, and votes, operating only in constitutional and lawful channels. Some certain and other possible questions are and would be beyond the Executive power to adjust; as, for instance, the admission of members into Congress, and whatever might require the appropriation of money. The Executive power itself would be greatly diminished by the cessation of actual war. Pardons and remissions of forfeiture, however, would still be within Executive control. In what spirit and temper this control would be exercised can be fairly judged of by the past.

A year ago a general pardon and amnesty, upon specified terms, were offered to all except certain designated classes, and it was, at the same time, made known that the excepted classes were still within the contemplation of special clemency. During the year many availed themselves of the general provision, and many more would, only that the signs of bad faith in some led to such precautionary measures as rendered the practical process less easy and certain.

During the same time, also, special pardons have been granted to individuals of the excepted class, and no voluntary application has been denied; thus practically the door has been, for a full year, open to all except such as were not in condition to make a free choice—that is, such as were in custody or under constraint.

It is still open to all, but the time may come, probably will come, when public duty shall demand that it be closed, and that it be more rigorous than heretofore.

In presenting the abandonment of arms to the national authority on the part of the insurgents as the only indispensable condition to ending the war on the part of Government, I retract nothing heretofore said. As to slavery, I repeat the declaration made a year ago, and that while I remain in my present position I shall not attempt to retract or modify the Emancipation Proclamation, nor shall I return to slavery any person who is free by the terms of that proclamation or by any of the Acts of Congress.

If the people should, by whatever mode or means, make it an Executive duty to reenslave such persons, another, not I, must be their instrument to propose it.

In stating a single condition of peace, I mean simply to say that the war will cease on the part of the Government whenever it shall have ceased on the part of those who began it.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

CHARLES SUMNER AND SMITH OF OXFORD.

THE following is from the *Philadelphia Age*:—

There has been for some months past, floating about in this country, an Englishman named 'Goldwin Smith,' titular or actual professor of something at Oxford. He has always seemed to us a myth, we never, to our recollection, having heard of him till, in the flesh, he came among us. This may be very gross ignorance, but such is the fact. 'Smith' is not an impressive name, yet there have been clever, illustrious, and notorious 'Smiths.' We have all heard of 'Adam Smith' and 'Sydney Smith,' and 'Bobus Smith,' and 'Madeline Smith.' We have read of a 'Professor Smyth,' but he was of Cambridge, and his name was William. But 'Goldwin of Oxford' had escaped us. We have a moderate acquaintance, not as intimate as some of our contemporaries, but still well enough as far as it goes, with the names of Froude, and Keble, and Newman, and Hawkins, and Whately, and Denison, but 'Smith of Oxford' never crossed our visual ray till its owner came out to this country, consigned to the Leagues, and determined, with their assistance, to set everything to rights. Poor man! he must have had a hard time of it. Assuming him to be a gentleman, a scholar, and an orthodox man in the ordinary sense of the word, he has been condemned to see American literature only as developed in infidel New England, and blossoming in such garish flowers as adorn the pages of the *Atlantic Monthly*—he has seen the American Church turned into a huge spouting lecture-room, of which, however, we presume he don't complain, having played a part there himself. And when he has come here—to Philadelphia, we mean—his doom has been sadder still. He knows Philadelphia intelligence and education only as represented at such brilliant centres as the Union League or Brandy Station, within whose walls—we mean them both—there is not scholarship enough to get a youth half through Rugby or Harrow. If 'Mr. Professor Smith' were, in despair, to turn suddenly upon the Union League, and subject its members, big and little, to an examination on any elementary points of common scholarship, of history, ancient or modern, or even of American history, as to which they make such a pother, we wager that four-fifths of them would miss every question. Eight out of ten don't know the difference between a Jacobite and a Jacobin. Wearied with this dull existence, Mr. Smith has, it seems, at last revolted, and, making Mr. Sumner's *Florida* disquisition a reason or an excuse, has gone into print and published what we are most happy to describe as a gentlemanly and very sharp reply. His English spirit could stand this 'loyal' impertinence no longer; and after disposing in few but vigorous words of Mr. Sumner's sophistry, he thus concludes a reference to his authorities:—

'Suppose England to be as bad as you will—to be as base as your fathers thought her glorious—it is not in the presence of England alone that you stand in deciding between honour and dishonour. It is in the presence of the whole community of nations; and those who, instead of recalling to your minds at this most critical moment of your moral life the high principles of civilised morality and the brighter examples of your own history, divert your eyes to the bad precedents of evil times, conspire, however unintentionally, with that one of the two contending voices in the national breast which tempts you to take the downward path. There is a certain class of questions which when an honourable man is called upon to decide in his own case, he puts all equivocal precedents and everything else behind him but the thought of his own honour.'

This is very well put by Mr. Smith; and we do not at all wonder the *Press* and *North American* published his letter without comment, and the *Bulletin* not at all. But he might have put the scalpel in a little deeper. Of all men in America, Charles Sumner is the last who should assail England or Englishmen. Mrs. Stowe might do it more gracefully. In former days, he was, socially, the most persevering toady that ever cringed to Englishmen. If any one, especially if he were a man of rank, came to this country, his first volunteer visitor was Mr. Charles Sumner. Poor Lord Ashburton had no peace of his life till Mr. Webster stepped in to save him. Lord Morpeth had the same fate, but, being an Abolitionist, bore it meekly. Mr. Sumner went abroad as a young man, and having, with Judge Story's assistance, annotated certain Chancery reports, and being the Judge's pet, was accredited by his patron—the most enormous letter (of introduction) writer this country his produced. He basked gratefully in the sunshine of the English bench and bar, and returned to this country to scribble puffs of them. He was *Anglior Anglis*. But it was not until a later period that Mr. Sumner touched the lowest depths of lackeydom. When the senatorial outrage was committed, and Mr. Brooks cruelly cudgelled or whipped him at his desk, Mr. Sumner felt that the time had come when, as an anti-slavery martyr, and with such a *viaticum*, he could travel directly into the communion of the highest English aristocracy; and he at once packed up his bloody shirt in his portmanteau, and set out on a pilgrimage of pity. And he was welcomed most kindly; the natural hospitality (who that has enjoyed it will ever disparage it?) of English men and women was stimulated by sympathy with his personal grievances, and not less with his political opinions. Could the Duchess of Argyll withhold her tears when Mr. Sumner spread his bloody garment on her drawing-room table, and pointed out to her and the mother (Mrs. Stowe's friend) the exact spot where the brutal slave-owner hit him hardest? Could Exeter Hall, or Lambeth, or Richmond House, or Cuddesdon, do less than open their doors very widely to the lacerated victim of slavery? To do Abolition England, or even England herself, justice, she did welcome the suffering stranger; and from that day till this war broke out, nay, until long after this war began, Mr. Sumner was a pet. No American tasted hospitality in London without having it marred by enquiries after 'our dear friend Mr. Sumner.' If his own portfolio or copybook could be searched, more letters to 'my dear Duke,' 'or 'my dear Marquis,' or 'my dear Lord' This or That, or to 'my dear Mr. Sumner,' would be found than ever American wrote or had before. In short, England treated him with affection. So much the worse, it seems, for England; for now who stands more prominent among her revilers—and this Mr. Goldwin Smith has at last discovered—than Mr. Charles Sumner? He is '*Princeps*' of the anti-Anglicans. If Mr. Seward, restrained by the responsibilities of office, bullies mildly, Mr. Sumner goes ahead of him. If there is any chance of the Administration doing a politic, or decorous, or amicable thing towards Great Britain or any European Power, in jumps Mr. Sumner, and threatens, and scolds, and 'commonplaces.' Nor does he mind disaster or rebuff. He rallies under any catastrophe, physical or mental. 'Senator Sumner,' says Mr. Russell in his diary, 'his face lighted with pleasure, came to tell me the good news. M'Dowell has carried Bull Run without firing a shot. Seven regiments attacked it at the point of the bayonet, and the enemy immediately fled.' This was more than three years ago, and he has been at it ever since. When the *Trent* was seized he thought it a mere trifle, and told the same Mr. Russell, with the solemn emptiness with which he now talks, that it 'could only be a matter of mediation, and not for any peremptory demand, as the law of nations has no exact precedent to bear upon the case, and there are many instances in which Sir William Scott's decisions appear to justify Captain Wilkes.'

But we have said enough on this medley. Of all American shams, Yankee shams are the hugest; and of all Yankee shams (this Mr. Goldwin Smith seems at last to have found out) Mr. Charles Sumner is the chief. The question of the restitution of the *Florida* has been settled by a shorter process than 'the bad precedents of evil times' suggest. It is a purely Cis-Atlantic operation. Mr. Sumner had better turn his attention to the matter of compensation. For ourselves, we do not believe the Administration caused the sinking of the *Florida*, for the simple reason that it makes the entanglement much more difficult of solution, though we admit it has an ugly look. When the nobles picked up Prince Arthur dead in the moat of Northampton Castle, one does not wonder they thought it 'the graceless action of a heavy hand,' and distrusted the tears of him who was the keeper and should have been the guardian; for, says the poet,

> Villany is not without such rheum':
> And he, long traded in it, makes it seem
> Like rivers of remorse and innocency.

A SEVERE CROSS-EXAMINATION.

THE following is an extract from a letter published in the *Liverpool Mercury*, and emanating from a writer who styles himself a 'coreligionist of Mr. Bright, and not one of the upper classes:'—

To the Editors of the Liverpool Mercury.

Gentlemen,—Will you allow me the privilege of asking, through the medium of your columns, a few questions relative to the war now being waged on the territory of the once United States of North America—questions which, though they may have been put before, I have never seen answered to my satisfaction?

The first question I shall put is, 'For what purpose is the war being carried on?' And the reason why I put it is because Mr. Lincoln to the Mayor of Baltimore (soon after his having asked leave of the latter for the first batch of troops to pass through Baltimore for the protection of Washington early in 1861) expressed himself thus:—'I declare that I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so. . . . . The right of each State to order and control its own domestic institutions according to its own judgment exclusively, is essential to the balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric depended.'

Because Mr. Lincoln about the same time, in a conversation with Mr. Mallory, expressed himself thus:—'Mr. Mallory, this war, so far as I have anything to do with it, is carried on on the idea that there is a Union sentiment in those States which, set free from the control now held over it by the presence of the Confederate or rebel power, will be sufficient to replace those States in the Union. If I am mistaken in this, if there is no such sentiment there, if the people of those States are determined with unanimity, or with a feeling approaching unanimity, that their States shall not be members of this Confederacy, it is beyond the power of the people of the other States to force them to remain in the Union; and,' said he, 'in that contingency—in the contingency that there is not that sentiment there—this war is not only an error; it is a crime.'

Because Mr. Seward, in his late speech at Auburn, says: 'Only two courses are open before us; the one is perseverance in our war to suppress the rebellion, the other is the abandonment of these efforts.' 'The Government must suppress rebellion with all the agencies of civil and military power.' 'What remains for me to say is to warn you against misrepresentations of the issue. There is no question before you of abandoning the war measures against slavery, and substituting for them a policy of conservation or concession to slavery. Those measures are a part of the war.' 'Are you prepared to give up the conflict? You say, "No, never." Why? Because in that case you give up the national life.'

And because Mr. Cobden, in his late speech at Rochdale, says: 'They have decided, after years of war, and after almost every household has lost a relative or an inmate, the contest that arose between General M'Clellan, who desires to put down the war without making the abolition of slavery a condition, and Mr. Lincoln, who desires to put down the war and extirpate slavery from the South. Notwithstanding that that was the appeal made to the whole people, they have preferred acting in the interests of humanity, for that can no longer be questioned; they have preferred the continuance of war rather than the continuance of degrading slavery. Let us have no more of the late talk that this is not a war to put down slavery. Everybody now admits that, whatever is the issue of the struggle, slavery will be abolished. I have said that it would be far easier for Essex and Kent to carry off the mouth of the Thames, and set up an East Anglian kingdom, than for Louisiana to carry off the mouths of the Mississippi and set up for an independent State. There are some few hundreds of thousands in the counties of Kent and Essex, but the Valley of the Mississippi will become the home of 200,000,000, and this makes it infinitely more impossible that the United States should allow the mouths of the Mississippi to be carried off than that England should suffer the mouth of the Thames to be taken away. Why should they do so, when they can so easily, by the smallest expense, retain possession of it? for a few gunboats could easily blockade the outlets of that river.

We see from the above utterances that Mr. Lincoln declared he had no intention and believed he had no right to interfere with slavery, and stated to Mr. Mallory that the only object of the war, so far as he was himself concerned, was to set free a 'Union sentiment' supposed to exist in the rebel States; adding, that in the contingency of there being no such 'Union sentiment,' the war would be not only an error, but a crime; that Mr. Seward says the war is for the suppression of the rebellion, refers to slavery and to the 'national life;' that Mr. Cobden desires 'no more of the late talk that this is not a war to put down slavery,' and also speaks of the mouth of the Mississippi. Can any one, therefore, explain the purpose for which the war is being carried on by the North—whether for the extinction of slavery, for the setting free of a 'Union sentiment' in the rebel States, for the suppression of the rebellion, for the pre-

servation of the national life, the retention of the mouth of the Mississippi, or what? I am puzzled among so many authorities to know the real object for which it is being carried on; and, to make the difficulty of comprehending it still greater, General Butler the other day in New York added a sort of Russo-Caucasian element to it when he recommended that if the Southerners did not give in on his proposed amnesty before the 8th January next, they should be driven out of the country immediately, and their property divided among the victorious Northern soldiery. This, therefore, may be his view of the objects of the war from this time forward.

The next question I would ask is: Why is the war being carried on by the North at all? Seeing it is set forth in the Declaration of Independence 'that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundations on such principles, and organising its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness,' &c., &c., and bearing in mind that at the time this manifesto was issued slavery was an institution of the country.

Seeing that Mr. Lincoln—at the time (I believe) when the Hungarian insurrection was under discussion in 1848—said from his place in Congress that 'any people, anywhere, being inclined and having the power, have the right to rise up and shake off their existing Government and form a new one that suits them better.' He even went further than this, and added that 'any portion of such people that can may revolutionise, and make their own of so much of the territory as they inhabit.'

Seeing that Mr. Seward declared about the same time, in a lecture he delivered at Baltimore, 'That if ever the North and the South separated, they would give the world a noble example of the benefits of a republican form of government by agreeing to separate peaceably and without bloodshed.'

Seeing that Horace Greeley in 1860, quoting and approving the memorable words of Mr. Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence, that government derived its just powers from the consent of the governed, contended that if this doctrine, in which he heartily concurred, 'justified the secession from the British Crown of 3,000,000 of colonists in 1776,' it would also 'justify the secession of 5,000,000 of Southerners from the Federal Union in 1861.'

And that Mr. Lincoln said in 1861: 'Suppose you go to war, you cannot fight always; and when, after much loss on both sides, and no gain on either, you cease fighting, the identical questions as to terms of intercourse are upon you.'

Now, in the face of all these weighty sayings, can any one answer my question—Why is the war being carried on by the North at all? Mr. Lincoln says it (the North) has no right to fight for the putting down of slavery. The 'Declaration' and Mr. Lincoln agree in saying that the South has a right to rebel and set up for itself. Mr. Seward foreshadows the noble example the North would give the world in separating peaceably, if ever separation was desired. Horace Greeley asserted that the South had as good a right to secede from the North in 1861 as the colonies had to secede from Great Britain in 1776. And yet this is the man to whom my coreligionist, Mr. Bright, writes a letter such as we have all seen or heard of, wherein, if he does not encourage the prosecution of the war in words, he counsels the keeping in office those who are carrying it on.

A CONTRAST.—A gentleman who was in the train from this city to Petersburg, a very cold morning not long ago, tells us his attention was attracted by the efforts of a young soldier with his arm in a sling to get his overcoat on. His teeth as well as his sound hand were brought into use to effect the object; but, in the midst of his efforts, an officer rose from his seat, advanced to him, and very carefully and tenderly assisted him, drawing the coat gently over his wounded arm and buttoning it up comfortably; then, with a few kind and pleasant words, returning to his seat. Now, the officer in question was not clad in gorgeous uniform, with a brilliant wreath upon the collar and a multitude of gilt lines upon the sleeves, resembling the famous labyrinth of Crete, but he was clad in 'a simple suit of grey,' distinguished from the garb of a civilian only by the three stars which every Confederate colonel in the service, by the regulations, is entitled to wear. And yet he was no other than our chief general, Robert E. Lee, who is not braver and greater than he is good and modest. On General Grant's recent return from New Jersey to the Army of the Potomac and James, by the detention of the train he was forced to stop in Philadelphia. Being recognised by a soldier, he was so crowded by the gaping multitude—ever ready in Northern latitudes to lionise every military hero of the hour, be he M'Clellan, Hooker, Burnside, Pope, or Grant—that he was forced to take refuge in the Mayor's office. Well, General Lee comes to Richmond, visits the War Department and the President, attends divine worship at St. Paul's almost every week, and, though our people love him as our fathers did George Washington, yet he is never subjected to any annoyance, save a look from each passer-by, which silently says: May God protect and bless you!—*Richmond Whig.*

FEDERAL BARBARITY.—The Federal journals record from day to day, with unhesitating cheerfulness and implicit approval, that every town and village which is traversed by Sherman is burnt behind him. It is not suggested that any military advantage is gained by the process of devastation; and even if Sherman is provided with an excuse for acts of destruction, his admirers at home fail even to perceive the need of an apology. Curious moralists would willingly test the limits of Northern toleration for warlike excesses. If it were reported that Sherman or any other favourite leader had crucified the inhabitants of a Confederate town, the Republican papers of New York would probably abstain from a hint of censure, and the Federal organ in London, which hastened to defend the seizure of the *Florida* at the risk of being disavowed by its patrons at Washington, would immediately attempt to prove that some English officer in former times had been guilty of more culpable cruelty. It must be admitted that the Federal Government has not yet risen to the height of Mr. Cobden's warlike fervour by cutting the dykes of the Mississippi and deluging Louisiana. If any general or admiral in command at New Orleans were to discover, like Admiral Porter, that his father had been harshly treated fifty or sixty years ago, he might perhaps adopt Mr. Cobden's suggestion in the hope of provoking English censure, and in the well-founded confidence that English partisans would be found to excuse him.—*Saturday Review.*

PROSPECTS OF THE FEDERAL TREASURY.

(From the *New York Daily News*, December 6.)

THE Congress is now about to meet, and the first and most important matter that will engage its attention is doubtless the finances. These require earnest and prompt attention, not as a mere means of raising money, but to preserve from ruin the credit of the Government and, with it, the safety of the people. The paper system has been pushed to an extent that makes return impossible; the current is moving to ruin with an hourly accelerated pace, and will soon fall into the abyss of bankruptcy. The attempts of the Treasury to cause a fictitious fall of gold, in order that the public may be misled by the indicator, are like those of an insane engineer who should smash his steam gauge because it indicates approaching explosion. The fearful and irresistible power is nevertheless at work, and expansive force gives momentary token of acquired strength.

The expenses of the Government for the past year have been as follows, per official returns:—

Increase of debt	$750,000,000
Customs (in gold $99,181,221) in currency	150,000,000
Internal revenue	100,000,000
Total	$1,000,000,000
Add arrears unpaid	200,000,000
Total (per day $3,300,000)	$1,200,000,000

This is about $4,000,000 each secular day. The customs were by law, when in excess of the interest, applied to a sinking fund, but they have, in defiance of all laws, been used for general expenses. The internal revenue gave, in 1863, $37,000,000; in 1864, in round numbers, $100,000,000, and the increased taxes will give this year, it is estimated, $175,000,000. The customs, however, will not give more than $50,000,000. Now, owing to the rise in prices, the expenses of the year 1865 will be 20 per cent. more than those for 1864, and will reach $1,500,000,000, which must be met by borrowing. This will be plain, if we analyse the only two sources of revenue, viz. the customs and the internal revenue. The customs gave last year, in round numbers, $100,000,000; of this, $40,000,000 were paid for interest, and the remainder, as we have said, in violation of law, was expended for general purposes. The value of $60,000,000 expended in currency was $90,000,000. Thus, there was a sum of $190,000,000 derived from customs and internal revenue. This year the gold interest has risen to $60,000,000, and the customs have declined to $50,000,000. To make good that $10,000,000, even if no more gold interest stock is issued, will require $25,000,000 of currency, to be paid out of the internal revenue, which will reduce it to $150,000,000 in currency, which is now worth but $66,000,000 in gold, whereas the $100,000,000 collected last year was worth $71,000,000. In short, the increased tax bill has not given so much money as the old one by $5,000,000. The taxes will be comparatively as follows, for general purposes:—

	1864.	1865.
Internal taxes	$100,000,000	$175,000,000
Customs, surplus	90,000,000	deficit, 25,000,000
Total	$190,000,000	$150,000,000
Specie value	130,000,000	68,000,000

This is the result after paying interest on the public debt. Now if the expenditures are the same as last year, the amount to be borrowed will be

	1864.	1865.
Taxes	$190,000,000	$150,000,000
Loans	750,000,000	790,000,000
Total	$940,000,000	$940,000,000

It will be observed that, in consequence of the depreciation of the currency, prices rise so as to swell the expenses of the Government by a sum greater than the increase of the taxes.

This great cause of financial ruin has now just begun to work. The poison infused into the system by Mr. Chase is now just developing its fatal effects. The National Banking system that he created for personal political purposes has now won the mastery over the old specie paying system, and the whole is being swept down the paper torrent like an avalanche. The national law exonerates the banks from paying specie for their notes, from local taxation, and from all those local restraints which an experience of sixty years showed to be necessary to the public safety. The new banks have the right to issue $300,000,000 of circulating notes, redeemable only in legal tender, of which $600,000,000 are outstanding. Their notes are a legal tender for all dues to and from the Government, except customs and interest. There is, therefore, no call for redemption, since they are not required to pay gold. They deposit their capitals in stock with the Controller, and get six per cent. per annum interest in gold, or fifteen per cent. in paper, and ninety per cent. in circulation, which they lend at seven to ten per cent. per annum. The exemption from local taxation is worth three per cent. more. The use of the Government money paid in by the local tax-gatherers is worth two per cent. more. Thus a National bank may, as compared with a local bank, make 30 per cent. per annum, while a State bank, labouring under the disabilities, must earn 20 per cent. per annum to pay 8 per cent. dividends. It costs them 12 per cent. in taxes and expenses before they can pay any dividend.

The late election took away all hope of any repeal or modification of the national law, and there remains no alternative but for the whole to cut loose from specie payments, and drift on the paper flood. The banks of Philadelphia (capital $16,000,000), and those of Boston ($38,000,000), have already determined to embrace the new system. In New York, three banks (capital $13,000,000) have gone into it, and although the old conservative institutions hang back, they must go or wind up. The most stable foundations will be swept away in the torrent. The aggregate capital of the three cities is $125,000,000. The law requires at least one-third of this to be deposited with the Controller, in United States bonds. The banks, however, hold already $130,000,000 of United States securities, consequently they will not have to change investments; but by simply lodging those bonds with the Controller, they will get $112,500,000 of notes to circulate, independent of State laws, and not to be redeemed in specie. The results will be as follows:—

	Capital.	Circulation.
As State banks	$125,000,000	$13,000,000
As National banks	125,000,000	112,500,000

Thus they will circulate $100,000,000 more than they do now. In all parts of the country the same movement is progressing, and the whole $300,000,000 authorised will probably be taken up by the spring. With this interest operating upon Congress their limit will be removed, and any amount of paper will be issued. As a Treasury National banker remarked, 'the people will have as much currency as they demand.'

Now, it is to be observed that these issues of paper will have the direct effect of raising prices of all commodities, and, consequently, of the Government expenses, while the issues of the banks will not aid the Government a dollar. These bank movements will cost the Government 200,000,000 per annum, or more than the whole tax revenue. At the same time the Government will pay the banks 18,000,000 per annum in gold for making the issues!

In the midst of this movement the Treasury, to carry on the war, must borrow $800,000,000. How? will it borrow by issuing more paper, or by issuing more gold stock? If the former, the depreciation will become ruinous; if the latter, how is the interest to be paid? Oh, but, it is said in some quarters, 'the taxes will be increased.' We have already seen the increased taxes will no longer swell the revenue. The duties were doubled in May and June, and the receipts are one-third less than before. The internal revenues give nominally more, but really much less. The trade of the country is now rapidly declining, and therefore the taxes are less. The income-tax will give give far less than last year. This is a well-known process. *Où il n'y a rien le roi perd ses droits.*

The paper issued by the Treasury would have brought ruin sufficiently early, but the National banks were invited to share the plunder, and they devour like the locusts. As the trade of the country declines, all money transactions resolve themselves into heavy operations. Nearly all the loans of these banks are made to the Government directly or indirectly. The city banks will have one hundred millions of dollars more circulation to lend; to whom? the Government; on what? its bonds, which can again be placed with the Controller for more notes to circulate. This may be carried to any limit. Thus, suppose the whole National bank currency—three hundred millions of dollars—was loaned five times to the Government, the result will be as follows:—

	Six per cent. Gold Stock.	Currency Issued for it.
First Loan	$300,000,000	$270,000,000
Second Loan	270,000,000	243,000,000
Third Loan	243,000,000	218,700,000
Fourth Loan	218,700,000	196,200,000
Fifth Loan	196,200,000	176,580,000
Total	$1,227,900,000	$1,104,480,000

The banks would then hold $1,227,900,000 of stock, for which they would draw $73,674,000 in gold interest per annum, while they had exacted a forced loan of $1,104,480,000 from the people on bank notes. If it were possible to push currency to this extent, the paper would be worth perhaps two cents per dollar, and a pound of sugar be worth $18,000, and the present month's pay of a soldier be represented by $1,350,000. It will explode long before that point is reached.

A SLIGHT REBUFF.

THE following letter has been published by the *Daily Telegraph*. The writer, the Rev. George Gilfillan, is well known as an ardent Abolitionist, and his works, which possess acknowledged merit, have met on more than one occasion with the warm approbation of the Emancipation Society:—

Dundee, Dec. 13, 1864.

Dear Sir,—I have your printed circular requesting me to be one of a deputation to present, next Thursday, Mr. Adams, the American Minister, with a congratulatory address on the occasion of Mr. Lincoln's reelection to the Presidency of the United States. It is impossible for me to be present, but I deem it right to say that, even though I could have been there, I would not have been a party to any such measure. I look upon the reelection of Mr. Lincoln as a heavy blow and great discouragement to the real interests of America—as a pledge for the continuance, with increased ferocity, of a wretched and hitherto useless contest, which has already appalled the civilised world, and sown curses and calamities broadcast in the fairest countries of the earth—as a renewed proclamation of war to the knife with a people who, though deeply guilty in the matter of slavery, and in other respects besides, have covered their multitude of sins by a courage, a constancy, a self-denial, a unity, and a generosity of conduct which have seldom been paralleled in the history of nations—of a war, too, which has notoriously been carried on by the North under false pretences, and which, though gilded over with fine and even sacred names, is in reality a contest for supremacy, for ambition, and for commercial purposes, and has been fought principally by mercenary hands, and in forms of savage ferocity at which humanity blushes for shame. I feel my hatred of slavery as strong as ever, and my hope of its speedy abolition more sanguine than at any former period; but I have no sympathy with Mr. Lincoln's policy, and I hear no music in the clash of that bloody gauntlet he has thrown down with such violence on the floor of the West.

I am yours, &c.,
GEORGE GILFILLAN.

T. W. Chesson, Esq., Hon. Secretary to the Emancipation Society.

TWO RECRUITS.—Our readers will remember the letter of President Lincoln to Mrs. Bixby, condoling with her on the loss of her five sons in this war. He speaks of 'the solemn pride that must be hers, at having laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.' This kind of sympathy is cheap, and easily manufactured; and when one reflects that the man who is thus ostentatiously shedding his tears over the remains of Mrs. Bixby's five sons has two sons who are old enough to be laid upon 'the altar,' but whom he keeps at home in luxury, we can easily understand the hypocrisy of all this sympathy for the poor bereaved widow. Why is it, we ask, that Mr. Lincoln's sons should be kept from the dangers of the field, while the sons of the labouring man are to be hurried into the harvest of death at the front? Are the sons of the rail-splitter porcelain, and these others only common clay? Or is it that Mr. Robert Lincoln, the young gentleman whose face is so familiar at watering-places, and billiard-rooms in the metropolis, has taken his younger brother into the speculation of cultivating cotton on Island No. 10, through the agency of slave labour, and they can't be spared from their business?—*Philadelphia Age.*

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 291 Strand, W.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1864.

The War.

EVERY mail from America confirms more fully the view taken from the first in these columns, that SHERMAN's expedition through Georgia was to be regarded as a retreat. We have now news from Georgia down to the 2nd inst. At that date SHERMAN had been twenty days on the march, and had reached Millen, a station on the Georgia Central Railway. He had avoided every fortified town, and had confined his offensive efforts to the destruction of one or two undefended towns, and of the railroad along which he passed. A portion of his troops had made a dash upon Macon, and were repulsed; another body had felt their way towards Augusta, and found the road unsafe; so the two columns effected a junction some five miles north-west of Millen, and then SHERMAN seems to have rested a day or two for concentration and reorganisation, with the ultimate design of forcing his way to the coast. Millen is a station on the railroad from Augusta and Macon to Savannah. It is situated in an utterly desolate pine region, and everybody who knows anything of that district of Georgia laughs at the idea of SHERMAN choosing that spot for the collection of supplies. The simple truth is that the Federal general has chosen the line of country pursued by the railways as offering the greatest facilities for rapid progress, and that Millen is the point where HOWARD'S and SLOCUM'S columns would, in the natural course of things, make a junction. The question is at what point he will strike after leaving Millen, and at present the weight of evidence directs us to Savannah. This is his nearest point, being just seventy-nine miles distant along the line of railway. On the 3rd inst. he is reported to have advanced some miles south of Millen, so that his intention would seem to be to strike at Savannah, or some town still further to the south, perhaps Darien, at the mouth of the Athamaha River. On the other hand, the Federal General FOSTER had endeavoured to push inland from Hilton Head, and had marched as far as Grahamsville, South Carolina, in close proximity to the Charleston and Savannah Railway. His object may have been merely to occupy the attention of the Charleston garrison, or to cut the line between that town and Savannah; but in this respect he appears to have failed, for his forces were met and badly defeated before they reached the railroad. Nor is there any confirmation of the rumour that he had destroyed the railway bridge at Pocotaligo. Moreover, it was announced a week ago that a detachment of SHERMAN'S cavalry, sent out to open communication with Beaufort, had been driven back with serious loss; and the subsequent defeat of KILPATRICK at Waynesboro' seems to settle the question of an advance towards Port Royal. We may fairly assume, then, that SHERMAN means to make for the coast far below Charleston, and it seems to us that he is likely to choose the most direct and easiest route, that which will bring him out in the vicinity of Savannah. But if he marches along the Savannah River he will have not only to fight a battle, but to assault a fortified town on his way, and it remains to be seen whether his army, weakened as it must have been by straggling, by sickness and exposure, and by hard fighting, will be in a position to capture, by a *coup de main*, works defended by at least 20,000 Southern soldiers, one-half of whom we may fairly set down as veterans. Yet on the success of a sudden assault SHERMAN'S safety depends. If he attempts a siege, he is lost.

The Federals point with an air of doubtful confidence to the fact that as yet SHERMAN'S army has encountered no great army in the field as an earnest of his future success. But a very little consideration will suffice to show that it would have been little short of madness on the part of the Confederate generals to risk everything on a great battle. No one pretends that 50,000 veterans could be spared to defend Georgia; and to oppose some 10,000 veterans and 30,000 militia to SHERMAN'S united columns, would have been to play into the Federal commander's hands. But it was impossible, for the first twenty days of SHERMAN'S march, to say where he would strike a blow. He threatened Macon and Augusta, Mobile and Charleston. These were important points in the armour of the Confederacy. The first object was to secure them, and they were secured. SHERMAN was beaten back from Macon, frightened from Augusta, and compelled to direct his march through unfortified towns. By the end of the month, however, it must have become evident that SHERMAN aimed at the sea, that Augusta and Macon were safe. We may take it for granted that the garrison of Macon was mobilised, and that the forces at Augusta were held ready to be despatched at a moment's notice to Savannah. The real effort of the Confederates was yet to come, in fact; and there is very little doubt that SHERMAN has yet to fight a great battle before he reaches the coast. Now we have no good data for determining the numbers of the forces the Confederate generals can bring into the field, but they are not inconsiderable. The State militia of Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, and Alabama can scarcely be estimated at less than 40,000 men. We know that BRAGG has moved southward with a regular force; that HAMPTON, one of the very best cavalry commanders in the South, is in the field; that WHEELER commands a cavalry corps which has two or three times beaten KILPATRICK'S command; that JOHNSTON, and HARDEE, and BEAUREGARD, and TAYLOR are busy organising the defence of the approaches to the coast. SHERMAN'S force is said to be the pick of the South-western Federal army, no doubt a splendid material. But a march of 300 miles through a hostile country must have told terribly on its *morale*. It must have suffered in effectiveness and in numbers. It is short of provisions. Its transport can only be carried on by heavy toil, utterly unsuited to an army whose safety depends on rapid marches and brisk movements. The Confederates have every road, have had time to choose the best spots for defence, and to determine the most efficacious methods of retarding SHERMAN'S advance. Can it be doubted that if on the day of battle the hostile armies meet in anything like equal numbers, almost every condition of success will be in favour of the Confederate soldiers? Whatever may be the ultimate result, this is certain, that the most arduous part of SHERMAN'S programme commenced when he left Millen. Up to that point he had marched through a rich country. From Millen to Savannah his course lay through pine forest and swamp, where neither forage nor food was to be had, and where the exertions of a few hundred negroes, backed by 2,000 or 3,000 veterans, might delay him for days. The next mail ought to enable us to form a tolerably accurate opinion as to the chances of SHERMAN'S escape. That his expedition has proved a blunder and a failure there can be no doubt even at the present moment.

In the meantime HOOD is marching northward as if no such general as SHERMAN were in existence. He has all but invested Nashville; his batteries command the river by which supplies reach the Federal garrison; his troops have cut the railroads from Nashville southward; Murfreesborough and Chattanooga are isolated, and the whole of the State of Tennessee south of Nashville is in the hands of the Confederates. Decatur and Huntsville, which cost the Federals thousands of lives and millions of dollars, are once more Confederate towns. Pulaski, Columbia, and Franklin fly the Confederate flag. FORREST, with his fine cavalry, is reported to be pushing into Kentucky, while THOMAS is beleaguered at Nashville, and BURBRIDGE is compelled to march the Federal forces out of the State in order to hold Cumberland Gap and save Knoxville. SHERMAN'S advance, then, has already had this undesirable result—it has given back to the Confederates two-thirds of the State of Tennessee, and the Federal General must obtain some success far more brilliant than any he has yet achieved to counterbalance the loss of the whole of Northern Alabama and the humiliating spectacle of the army of invasion driven day after day by a Confederate force, and finally shut up in Nashville. It is not improbable that at this critical juncture GRANT may make another attempt at a diversion. The last news indicates a repetition of his old and somewhat stale manœuvre, an attack of the two extremities of LEE'S lines, north of the James River and at Stony Creek. Possibly the Dutch Gap Canal may also be brought into requisition. We can only say that the oftener and the more pertinaciously he attacks, the better it will be for the Confederacy.

Mr. Adams and the Emancipation Society.

IF indignation were not sufficiently strong to overcome laughter, the temptation would be great to treat the action of the Emancipation Society as a capital joke. Instances are on record in which a man invested with absolute authority—a party in the moment of triumphant supremacy—even a sect, armed rather with bluster than with real influence—has ventured to speak in the name of a nation. But perhaps the height of audacity was reached when some individuals, representing neither autocratic power, nor party, nor even sect, but realising the idea of personified isolation, dared to speak in the name of 'the backbone and sinew' of the British nation. Efforts of this kind would but deserve contempt, were it not that fanaticism is a formidable weapon even when wielded by agents whose numerical inferiority finds a parallel in the stubborn obliquity of their moral vision.

On Thursday, December 15, a deputation waited upon Mr. ADAMS to present to him an address adopted by the Committee of the Emancipation Society. The purport of the address was to congratulate Mr. LINCOLN on what was termed his reelection to the Presidency of the United States. The language of this remarkable manifesto exposed with startling accuracy the passions of the clique from which it emanated. 'It is an honour,' say these flatterers of Mr. LINCOLN to their idol, 'to you and to your fellow-citizens, that no prisoners have been put to death for the mere fact of being taken in arms against your Government.' 'Justice,' they would declare, 'has commanded you to kill every man who has dared to resist the authority of the best, the most pure, the most free Government upon earth. Had we, members of this Society of Emancipation, wielded the sword of M'DOWELL, of POPE, of BURNSIDE, or of HOOKER, we would have smote to the earth every one of the sons of Amalek, with their wives and their children, their oxen and their sheep; they all should have been offered up as one vast sacrifice of blood upon the altar of emancipation. They are rebels of the blackest dye, accursed slaveholders, who, by sinning against nature, have forfeited the right to be treated as men. Yet you, Mr. LINCOLN, in spite of the just anger of those faithful generals, TURCHIN, M'NEIL, and MILROY, who have executed righteous vengeance on your foes, have shown all possible forbearance, have left to your contemporaries and to posterity the grateful task of placing your moderation in noble contrast with the deplorable and sanguinary ferocity of European despots, for you being an American, and therefore a despot of humanity and longsuffering, have not murdered your prisoners in cold blood. Justice bade you strike, but mercy arrested your uplifted arm. Your fame shall live for ever.' It is at first sight scarcely credible, but it is true, that the address can find no single topic of admiration in the four years of Mr. LINCOLN'S administration, except that he has not killed his prisoners. There is an allusion to the favour bestowed on the Sanitary Commission, and that is all. There is not even a word about the achievements of Mr. LINCOLN in the task of emancipation. Barren indeed of virtues must be that despot whose single excellence is that he has not committed 50,000 brutal murders. If fanaticism did not blind the memory, it might have occurred to the minds of these votaries that the balance of prisoners has for the most part been in favour of the South, and that there is such a word as retaliation.

But the address of the Committee was not the only exponent of the views of the Emancipation Society. Not a few of the deputies aired their powers of speech on the occasion in a style which must fairly have astounded Mr. ADAMS by its marvellous resemblance to the eloquential *tours de force* of his own countrymen. Not even the persuasive EVERETT, when he elevated the manners of Mr. LINCOLN from

the coarseness of a rail-splitter to the elegance of a Castilian duke, committed himself to a more preposterous hyperbole than did the Hon. and Rev. Baptist NOEL when he spoke of the proposal of BUTLER as 'magnanimous, generous, and Christian-like.' The same orator lauded the American people because they were confident that their domestic liberties were safe in the hands of a ruler who but six days before had ransacked hotels, private saloons, and boarding-houses in a hunt for the objects of his illegal oppression. Sir CHARLES LYELL spoke of a contest between a higher and a lower civilisation, possibly under the notion that this same BUTLER represented the former and ROBERT E. LEE the latter. Similar extravagance and a similar disregard of facts were displayed by other orators; but it is difficult to gaze on a spectacle so revolting as that presented by inhabitants of England urging on a man who ought to be the guardian of a free and peaceful country in a wild career of war and oppression.

In the hope of better things, we turn to the reply of Mr. ADAMS. We discover from his own lips that the Minister of the Northern Government has, with wise precaution, written down his ideas on paper. His position was a delicate one; he had no desire to be misunderstood, and therefore was determined to speak plainly. Most assuredly he has succeeded in the accomplishment of his resolution. Of course he had thanks and compliments cut and dried for his audience. He also had the good sense to wind up with an invective against slavery such as must have warmed the heart of JABEZ BURNS and Professor NEWMAN. He spoke of the vast regions of the cotton States as the immediate theatre of hostilities just as Mr. SEWARD designated the war as a slight disturbance in certain places adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico. He placed the Democratic party in absolute communication with the Confederates, in charming oblivion of the fact that his accusation, if true, would reduce his own party to the position of a mere faction in the American nation, and he seemed to regard the late election as the model of constitutional purity. These sentiments were, however, mere trifles, heralds and poursuivants adorning the progress of a more splendid spectacle. Mr. ADAMS, in his official character as a Minister to the Court of St. James's, deliberately threatened England with war. It is true that his exhibition of unmannerly audacity would fall sweet as honey on the palates of the Northern people. It may be that the taste was not unpleasant to the lips of an audience whose avowed preference of the institutions of the Model Republic argues an indifference to their own country. Yet it was a strange act for a man whose mission ought not to be that of bearding the Lion in his own den. 'I cannot disguise from myself,' says Mr. ADAMS, 'or from you, the painful fact that an opposite disposition has been manifested here in very influential circles, and that the knowledge of this has given rise to a general impression among my countrymen that the whole British nation really desires the disruption and consequent downfall of the power of the United States. Hence has sprung up a corresponding degree of ill-will which bids fair, if not counteracted, only to increase with time. If such passions be permitted a full indulgence between two nations, it needs little sagacity to foretell that in the long run the end is war.' The argument is brief and to the point. England must abstain from sympathy, even the sympathy of words, with the foes of the United States, or she must fight. What nation then is this that threatens England with the fierceness of her wrath? Is it the chivalrous soldiery of France or the heavy onslaught of 40,000,000 Germans before which England is to crouch and pray for pardon and peace? The bluster comes from the Minister of those States which, with a population of 20,000,000, with vast material resources, the command of the seas, and the aid of 200,000 mercenaries, has hopelessly failed to subjugate or even to overrun the territory of seven millions of people. Are twenty-six millions less powerful than seven millions? Is the Atlantic Ocean more easily traversed than the Rapidan or the Alleghany Hills? The presumption of Mr. ADAMS is great, but not without some justification; for while men high in power in England have spoken with abject horror of war, it was no marvel that a menace should be regarded as a suitable instrument for the enforcement of an unreasonable compliance.

Mr. Lincoln's Own.

THE Annual Message of President LINCOLN is the most grotesque literary effort extant. Though devoid of ornament, it is not devoid of style; but the style is unprecedented and inimitable. It is the perfection of vulgarity and muddle-headedness. The best comparison we could hit upon is to suppose that the apprentice of a village shopkeeper, fresh from a charity-school, being engaged in the noble work of self-improvement, enters on a Micawber correspondence with all sorts of people on all kinds of topics, and that some heavy joker prints the letters together to form an essay. Mr. LINCOLN opens with two lines of gratitude to God for health and an abundant harvest, and then rushes into a quaint dissertation upon the foreign affairs of the United States. At this season of the year we are reminded by this funny commencement of the appearance of the clown after the transformation scene, who, blinking his eyelids and putting his hand upon his stomach, assures the gallery that he is all right, and that he has had a good dinner. But the end is quite as funny as the beginning. Mr. LINCOLN concludes with an abruptness that would have shocked the literary taste of Sam Weller. After a series of paragraphs upon emancipation, from which it might naturally be inferred that emancipation was the sole condition of peace, Mr. LINCOLN writes: 'In stating a single condition of peace, I mean simply to say that the war will cease on the part of the Government whenever it shall have ceased on the part of those who began it;' and then Mr. LINCOLN signs his name. Well, we think it very likely that if one of the belligerents gives up the contest there will be peace, and that Mr. LINCOLN is justified in assuming that there must be two parties to a quarrel. But we need not dwell upon the peculiarities of Mr. LINCOLN'S style, and our comments upon the substance of the Message shall be as brief as possible. In his observations upon foreign affairs Mr. LINCOLN pays court to King Mob—that is, he panders to the Yankee hate of England and France. England is threatened with an increase of force on the Canadian lakes on the flimsy pretext that Confederates use Canada to fit out expeditions against the Federals, while France is snubbed through Mexico. Mr. LINCOLN says that Mexico is still the theatre of civil war, and that his Government maintains neutrality between the belligerents; therefore that it continues to recognise the JUAREZ Administration, although it is not able to discharge any of the functions of government, and is without an army, without a capital, and without organisation. It would be just as reasonable for England to continue to recognise FERDINAND as King of Naples. Mr. LINCOLN thinks it possible that if it were an open question the maritime Powers would refuse to recognise the Confederates as a naval belligerent, 'destitute as they are, and always have been, equally of ships of war, of ports, and harbours.' This is coming it very strong indeed. If the Confederates had no ships, it would be a matter of supreme indifference whether they were or were not recognised as naval belligerents; though there is no precedent for recognising a Government as a military belligerent only. But the Confederates have not been, and are not, destitute of ships. Mr. LINCOLN may forget, but Europe remembers, the fight in the Hampton Roads, when the Confederates gained a memorable victory, and demonstrated the superiority of ironclad over wooden vessels. The fight outside Charleston Harbour, when the Federal blockading squadron was put to flight, is not forgotten. Admiral FARRAGUT can tell Mr. LINCOLN when, in the autumn, he had a naval combat in Mobile Bay and gained the victory, that the Confederates had ships of war, and fought them manfully. When Mr. LINCOLN'S Message was delivered, the New York Chamber of Commerce was discussing the scandalous seizure of the Confederate war-ship *Florida*, which ship was disposed of in a manner that shook even the faith of GOLDWIN SMITH in the integrity of the Northern Government. Is the *Alabama* clean forgotten as a dead man out of mind? Is Mr. LINCOLN ignorant that Confederate cruisers are still on the ocean, and that Federal shipowners are forced to transfer their ships to neutral flags, and that Federal merchants prefer to ship their goods in neutral bottoms?

Mr. LINCOLN thus sums up the military operations of the past year. He says: 'Since the last Annual Message all the important lines and positions then occupied by our forces have been maintained, and our armies have steadily advanced.' What are the facts? Texas and Florida have been freed from the invader. The greater part of Louisiana that was occupied by the Federals is in the possession of the Confederates. It has been the same in Mississippi and North Carolina. The Federal hold in the western part of the State of Virginia has been relaxed. In Arkansas the Federals only retain two or three military posts. Nearly the whole of Tennessee has been liberated from the military control of the invader. During the past year the Confederates have recovered quite two-thirds of the territory they had lost in previous campaigns; the efforts of the Federals to take Charleston and Mobile have proved abortive; and neither GRANT nor SHERMAN has been able to overcome the Confederate armies. Yet Mr. LINCOLN says the Federals have maintained their position, and have steadily advanced,

Mr. LINCOLN elects to go on with the war, and declares that the resources of the North are inexhaustible, and that the North cannot consent to disunion. Here Mr. LINCOLN is guilty of unconscious plagiarism. If Mr. LINCOLN were an educated man, he would know something of history, and that the 'inexhaustible' and '*non possumus*' arguments are as stale as they are untenable. When Spain was waging war with her colonies, she was vehement in her assurances to foreign nations that there was no limit to her resources, and that she could not give up her colonies; but for all that her colonies became independent. During the first war of American independence GEORGE III. declared he could not give up his colonies, and it was asserted by his Ministers that the resources of England were equal to any prolongation of the contest. Yet England did acknowledge the independence of her revolted colonies. Not contented with this brag, Mr. LINCOLN, for the hundredth time, tries to frighten the Confederates into submission by telling them that the door of mercy will one day be closed. The Confederates scorn the mercy of the Government which directed or approved the barbarous warfare of SHERIDAN and SHERMAN. When will Mr. LINCOLN learn that the first step towards skinning the lion is to catch him? SHAKSPEARE represents the French as sending the herald over and over again to HENRY V. for ransom before the battle of Agincourt. The last time, the herald warned HENRY that the gates of mercy were closed. It happened, however, that a few hours later the same herald came to HENRY, not to offer but to ask for mercy. Since Mr. LINCOLN has been President, he has heard of SHAKSPEARE and seen one of his plays. It would be well if some of his friends could induce him to read 'Henry V.' He might then be convinced of the folly of offering terms of amnesty to an unconquered enemy.

Mr. LINCOLN'S observations on the financial position of his Government are an odd comment on his theory of inexhaustible resources. He thinks that next July the public debt will amount to about 450,000,000*l.* sterling. In this he does not include the debts contracted by the several States, which are certainly not less than 100,000,000*l.* sterling. At the high rate of interest paid by the United States Government, the annual charge will constitute a debt heavier than that of England. Meantime the war is going on, and will go on so long as Mr. LINCOLN can find the means. It is evident that every six months of war diminishes the value of the Government currency, and the greater the discount of greenbacks the more rapidly does the Federal debt increase.

Mr. LINCOLN enunciates some curious views on the subject of finance, which point out pretty clearly how this huge debt is to be disposed of. He proposes that there shall be an issue of public securities exempt from taxation, which is a clumsy way of paying an exorbitant rate of interest. He also proposes that such securities shall not be liable to seizure for debt, so that the holder of them may get credit and refuse to pay his creditors and defy them to touch his property. Messrs. COBDEN and BRIGHT have lustily abused the law of entail, on the ground that it enabled the holder of an estate to cheat his creditors. But since Messrs. COBDEN and BRIGHT have for Mr. LINCOLN'S sake given up their free-trade and peace principles, they will no doubt approve Mr. LINCOLN'S outrageous parody on the English law of entail.

The significant observation of Mr. LINCOLN is this. He writes: 'The great advantage of citizens being creditors as well as debtors with relation to the public debt is obvious. Men readily perceive they cannot be much oppressed by a debt which they owe to themselves.' Certainly we never heard of a man dunning himself or bringing an action against himself for debt, or causing himself to be arrested for what is due from himself to himself, and for the obvious reason that the combination of debtor and creditor in one person has no existence save in the brain of Mr. LINCOLN. But this observation of Mr. LINCOLN foreshadows the kind of argument that will be used to justify repudiation of the Northern debt. The holders of public securities will be told that they will lose nothing, because repudiation merely cancels a debt they owe to themselves.

One more remark, and we have done with this Message. At the beginning of November it was announced, in the Washington and New York papers, that Mr. LINCOLN was engaged in the preparation of his Annual Message, and that for a few weeks he did not wish to receive any visitors at the White House. The Message bears witness that it is the unaided work of Mr. LINCOLN, and that it was sent to Congress without being submitted to the revision of any member of his Cabinet. It is a thoroughly characteristic document. It is worthy of Mr. LINCOLN. It is worthy of the cause he represents. It is, undoubtedly and entirely, 'Mr. LINCOLN'S own.'

THE THIRD YEAR OF THE WAR.*

WE have here the third volume of Mr. Pollard's history of the Southern War of Independence. It is marked by most of the same faults which characterised its predecessors—a recklessness of imputation not creditable to a journalist, and utterly unpardonable in an historian; a bitter animosity to the statesmen who form the Confederate executive, and especially to President Davis; an entire absence of temper, moderation, and intelligence in criticising the conduct of foreign nations, and generally a degree of prejudice and perversity which render the author's statements reliable only when they concern matters of fact, of which he, in common with others, had personal cognisance or positive information. If we were to believe Mr. Pollard, we must suppose that the South has shown an imbecility in the choice of her leaders second only to that of the North; that, so far from being one of the greatest statesmen of this century, Mr. Davis is a perverse, self-opinionated, wrong-headed blunderer; that instead of his having done infinite service to his country in organising her strength, making her resources available to the uttermost, providing substitutes for what could not be had, and utilising all that could, insisting on the gravity of the emergency, and forewarning the people of the probable duration of the war, the South has suffered grievously from the improvidence, negligence, and extravagant hopefulness of the President; that he neglected preparation, snubbed his advisers, and discouraged efforts to provide for a desperate struggle; that the enthusiasm and devotion of the people, unruled and undirected, supplied all deficiencies—discovered what had to be done and the means of doing it, built powder-mills, rolling-mills, and cannon-foundries; while the President could hardly be persuaded to accept the fruits of popular foresight. Every disaster is attributed to the President; every success solely to the people, the general, or the army. We need not waste words on a theory like this. Whatever motive power popular enthusiasm may supply, organisation and direction must come from the Government; and the admirable organisation of the South, and the thoroughly wise direction of her strength to the right points, sufficiently prove that the capacity of the chief was fully equal to the energy and devotion of the nation. We notice the vehement hostility of Mr. Pollard to the Government at Richmond, because it removes all suspicion that might otherwise attach to his evidence, which, even when given in a most unfriendly tone, affords important testimony in their favour on several important points. It is always to be borne in mind that our author, although a Southerner, is an opponent of the Confederate Government, and by no means scrupulous in his opposition. Therefore, his testimony, when it tells in their favour, may be received with as much confidence as would that of Seymour or Vallandigham to the merits of Mr. Lincoln, especially when, as often happens, it is given by way of censure or animadversion.

The second year of the war, according to Mr. Pollard's reckoning, closed with the great triumphs of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. From the latter field, as has almost always happened throughout this war, the defeated army escaped unbroken, however demoralised, and took up a strong position, from which Lee was unable to dislodge it. For this and other reasons he determined on a northward march, crossed the Potomac, passed through Maryland, and entered Pennsylvania. Hooker had been removed from the command, and the army which broke up and followed Lee was commanded by General Meade. Its vanguard was encountered by Lee at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. On the next day the main army of the Federals came up, and took its position on a range of hills behind the town, forming a crescent-shaped line, concave towards the enemy. The Confederates attacked with desperate courage, and, after an obstinate conflict of many hours, were repulsed. That night the order was given to retreat; and in perfect order, carrying with them all their artillery, trains, and wagons, laden with the plunder of Federal depots, they returned to Virginia. A few stragglers, worn out with fatigue, and two pieces of cannon which stuck fast in the mud, were all the trophies of the Federal 'victory' and pursuit. But this was the first time that Lee had lost a pitched battle; and it was a sore disappointment to the expectant citizens of Richmond.

Worse news followed on the next day after the news of Gettysburg arrived there. General Grant, with an overwhelming force, had been sent against Vicksburg. That city contained about 25,000 men, and Johnston, with a force considerably smaller, was operating in the interior of Mississippi. When Grant left the river, and marched into the State, with a view of cutting off the communications and taking Vicksburg in the rear, Johnston summoned Pemberton, who had already left Vicksburg with its garrison on an expedition planned by himself, to take a part in a concerted plan which, placing the invaders between two fires, might probably have destroyed them. Pemberton neither carried out his instructions nor adhered to his former scheme; he struck out a new course, which miscarried entirely. Johnston was worsted and forced to withdraw; Grant turned on Pemberton and beat him, and his force rather fled than retreated to Vicksburg, abandoning without a blow a strong position on their route. From this time Johnston considered Vicksburg as lost, and was anxious to withdraw its garrison. The force under Pemberton was hardly adequate to man the extensive fortifications of the place against an enemy besieging it on all sides; the place was not provisioned for a siege—a circumstance which Mr. Pollard ascribes to gross negligence on Pemberton's part—and its fall appeared to the experienced general who commanded in Mississippi to be merely a matter of time. He did not think it worth while to sacrifice 25,000 men for the advantage of delay. The Government at Richmond and General Pemberton himself took a different view, and the place was held during a six weeks' siege. On the 4th of July, while a large quantity of provisions still remained, Pemberton capitulated, 'to save the effusion of blood'—an event which caused as much indignation in the South as triumph in the North, and the circumstances of which still await a thorough investigation and an impartial judgment, which, it is needless to say, they do not receive at Mr. Pollard's hands. His universal theory accounts for all such disasters. Mr. Davis would appoint General Pemberton, and of course, being a favourite of Mr. Davis, General Pemberton was half-coward and half-traitor. The fall of Vicksburg was followed by the fall of Port Hudson, and the occupation by Federal troops of great part of Arkansas. Mississippi also was overrun. Jackson, its capital, which had been taken by Grant on his previous march into the interior, was captured by Sherman and wantonly burnt. The fortunes of the Confederacy had reached a very low ebb.

Some successes in Louisiana and the expedition of Morgan, which, though it ended in disaster, yet spread a panic terror throughout Ohio and Indiana, and, as Mr. Pollard says, 'taught the South the value of adventure,' were the first events that tended to raise their drooping spirits. Next came the siege of Charleston, commenced with enormous force, with loud threats, and with great parade, but ending in total failure. One single outpost, Battery Wagner, after long and desperate fighting, and after several Federal assaults had been repulsed with heavy loss, was evacuated by the Confederates, as being untenable against an enemy who had possession not only of the sea, but of the ground in front. An attack on the dismantled ruins of Fort Sumter resulted in a great disaster, and the capture of the old flag hauled down by Major Anderson, and brought by the Yankees to be hoisted once more over the 'birthplace of secession.' It was a glorious trophy for the Carolinians. Gilmore earned execration by the brutality which led him, when defeated in his attempts on the defences, to bombard the city at a distance of five miles, in the hope of killing women and children, negroes and non-combatants. But his diabolical endeavour did but little harm, and the siege, after languishing for a long time, was at length practically abandoned.

Three Federal expeditions of considerable importance ended in still more signal discomfiture. Sherman, with 35,000 men, moved from Vicksburg, aiming at Selma in Alabama, and thence probably at Mobile. But this expedition, though supported by a large force of cavalry on the one hand, and by a simultaneous excursion from New Orleans on the other, resulted in the retreat of the invaders, with heavy loss, and in great confusion, after doing no further damage than to devastate the country in their line of march, burn houses, destroy crops, and carry off negroes. General Banks's march up the Red River, with a force of all arms, supported by several gunboats, brought him face to face with a Confederate army under Kirby Smith, who, after two days' fighting, completely routed him, destroyed the greater part of his command, failed only by an accident to capture the flotilla, and so thoroughly shattered the Federal power in Louisiana that from that time forth the invaders have never stirred beyond the neighbourhood of New Orleans. The third expedition was sent into Florida rather for political than for military purposes; it also was encountered and defeated by the Confederates, and the remnant were glad enough to make their escape out of the State. In any other war three such victories as these would have been considered quite enough for a year's work; but in this battle of giants such conflicts as these are mere episodes, incidental only to the main action of the twofold drama being played out in Tennessee and Virginia.

Rosecrans had the command of the Federal army at Chattanooga, on the borders of Georgia. His attack on Bragg, at the Chickamauga, after the Southern general had been reinforced by the arrival of Longstreet, brought his army to the verge of destruction; and the opinion of Longstreet and of the army of the West seems to have confirmed the judgment pronounced by Mr. Pollard, that, had General Bragg been more prompt and energetic in the pursuit, the enemy might have been almost annihilated. As it was, either the skill of Thomas, or the delay of Bragg, or both together, saved the Federal army; and the opportunity was lost for ever. Longstreet was despatched by Bragg to attack Knoxville, where Burnside was placed in support of Rosecrans. But during the absence of that general and his corps, Grant, who had superseded Rosecrans, attacked the Confederates in their position at Mission Ridge, in front of Chattanooga, stormed their lines, and forced them to retreat into Georgia. Longstreet, left to himself, was unable to besiege Knoxville, and, after an unsuccessful attempt to take it by a *coup de main*, eventually rejoined the army before Richmond. Bragg gave way to Johnston, and he in his turn to Hood, in command of the army in Georgia, which, after several combats in which the advantage rested with the Confederates, was gradually forced back upon Atlanta. At that city the history leaves them, Hood still in possession, and Sherman threatening the place.

Before the Federal army moved from Chattanooga, Grant had been called to another sphere of action. Meade, having with a large force reconnoitred the position of General Lee, declined to attack it; and the Government at Washington had to find another officer to lead their army of the Potomac once more 'on to Richmond.' Grant came, and accepted the command, with the rank of Lieutenant-General, on the conditions annexed. He led his army straightforward against General Lee, resolved 'to fight it out on that line if it took him all the summer.' At the same time Butler moved forward from Fortress Monroe against Petersburg. Beauregard, who had left Charleston to undertake the defence of that little city, gave battle to Butler, and drove him back into his lines at Bermuda Hundred, where he waited the arrival of Grant. What Grant was doing is still fresh in the recollection of our readers; how he rushed on Lee's lines, and was thoroughly beaten; how he tried to get round those lines by a flank movement, again found Lee in his front, again attacked, and was again beaten; and how this manœuvre was repeated until, after sacrificing some fourscore thousand men, Grant found himself where he might have landed at first, on the south side of the James river, in communication with Butler.

So ended the third year of the war. It had begun in disaster and alarm. The Confederacy was cut in two; the western half seemed almost lost; Tennessee was gone, Georgia threatened, Alabama in danger, Mississippi overrun, Charleston menaced with a siege. The Western States had cleared themselves of the enemy, who held nothing but a post or two in Arkansas, and a strip of land in Louisiana. Charleston was safe, Mississippi and Alabama recovered; Confederate guerillas were scouring Tennessee. The two armies still faced one another in Virginia; but the Confederates had added another half-dozen victories to their score. Only in Georgia had they lost ground. The South was as strong as ever; the resources of the North in men and money showed signs of failing. The year that had opened in calamity certainly closed in hope.

There are two subjects on which Mr. Pollard furnishes us with evidence that ought not to be passed over in silence—first, as regards the treatment of prisoners on either side; secondly, as to the fate of negroes falling into Northern hands. Our readers may be aware that the North has repeatedly attempted to excuse its brutal cruelties to Southern prisoners (which no Northerner, save General Neal Dow, has ventured to deny) by accusing the South of maltreating her prisoners, starving them, and leaving them without shelter. Now Mr. Pollard, as a partisan of the Opposition, brings a series of railing accusations against the Richmond Government on this very subject. First, that while Southern prisoners were denied the comforts and necessaries of life, the Northerners captive in the South have always fared as well as Southern soldiers, and often, when supplied by their countrymen, better than Confederate Ministers of State. Secondly, that when Morgan and his comrades were treated as felons in Ohio, no retaliation was inflicted, and that of similar cases of outrage no notice whatever was taken. Thirdly, that where, in half a dozen enumerated instances, Confederate prisoners were deliberately murdered in cold blood, and redress refused by the Federal Government, no retribution was exacted. Charges like these, made and angrily pressed by a political opponent, are the best answer to the slanders of the North regarding the treatment of prisoners in the Southern States.

The following passages, as to the treatment of the negroes captured by the Federals, require no comment from us. The evidence, be it remembered, comes chiefly from Northern witnesses:—

In the winter of 1863-64 the Governor of Louisiana, in his official message, published to the world the appalling fact that *more negroes had perished in Louisiana from the cruelty and brutality of the public enemy than the combined number of white men in both armies from the casualties of war.* In illustration, he stated that when the Confederate forces surprised and captured Berwick's Bay, last summer, they found about two thousand negroes there in a state of the most utter destitution, many of them so emaciated and sick that they died before the tender humanity of the Confederates could be applied to their rescue from death.

A letter to the Massachusetts paper said:—'There are, between Memphis and Natchez, not less than fifty thousand blacks, from among whom have been called all the able-bodied men for the military service. Thirty-five thousand of these, viz. those in camps between Helena and Natchez, are furnished the shelter of old tents and subsistence of cheap rations by the Government, but are in all other things in extreme destitution. Their clothing, in perhaps the case of a fourth of this number, is but one single worn and scanty garment. Many children are wrapped night and day in tattered blankets as their sole apparel. But few of all these people have had any change of raiment since, in midsummer or earlier, they came from the abandoned plantations of their masters. Multitudes of them have no beds or bedding; the clayey earth is the resting-place of women and babes through these stormy winter months. They live, of necessity, in extreme filthiness, and are afflicted with all fatal diseases. Medical attendance and supplies are very inadequate. They cannot, during the winter, be disposed to labour and self-support, and compensated labour cannot be procured for them in the camps. They cannot, in their present condition, survive the winter. It is my conviction that, unrelieved, the half of them will perish before the spring. Last winter, during the months of February, March, and April, I buried, at Memphis alone, out of an average of about four thousand, twelve hundred of these people, or twelve a day.'

Another Yankee correspondent wrote as follows respecting the negroes who had come into Vicksburg after the surrender of General Pemberton:—'About the 1st of August the military authorities became alarmed lest a pestilence should break out among them and extend to the army. Peremptory orders were issued to at once remove across the river all negroes of every age and sex, whether sick or well, who were not in some employment. One morning I went out to inform a certain Lieutenant W——, who with an inadequate force was executing the order, that one of those in the Baptist church was dead, and that another, a woman, was lying behind a fence dying. He told me that he had detailed for the purpose of removing the negroes twenty army wagons; that he had hauled them, well, sick, and dead, with all their traps, to the river, where he had a steamer to convey them across to a point opposite the lower part of the city; that he had one wagon to haul the dead, and that on some days he found as many as twenty; that in one house he found six dead bodies, with living ones sitting and lying around them, apparently unconscious of their situation. Holes were dug in the river's bank, and the dead buried. The searching out and removal of these negroes consumed about fifteen or twenty days. About 300 were thus removed to the low grounds opposite Vicksburg, and there left in the weeds, without any shelter, under the care of a man who was appointed to organise them into a camp, and separate small-pox cases from the rest. The chaplain told me that these negroes had suffered and were still suffering untold want and wretchedness; that nearly 400 had died since he had taken charge of them; that from sixteen to twenty died daily. Sometimes they would crawl off into the woods, where their bodies would be found only by the stench

* *The War in America*, 1863-4. By EDWARD POLLARD, late editor of the *Richmond Examiner*, and author of 'The First and Second Years of the War.' Author's Edition. Saunders & Otley. 1865.

which arose from their decay. That there was no white man with them but a nephew of his; that their rations were furnished by the Government, but sometimes he had difficulty in getting them over the river. That once they were five days without receiving any food, and the negroes in their despair threatened to kill him, thinking that the fault was his. He also stated that they had no tents or shelter, except brush, to shield them from the sun, or storm, or dews of night. Captain A. stated to me that there were in his camp 2,000; at Young's Point, 8,551; on Passau Island, where he proposed gathering most of them, 2,800; and on Black's plantation on the Yazoo, 2,400; in all over 16,000. One morning I went among the wretched masses, where they were hauled to the bank of the river preparatory to being sent across. I tried in vain to find some women who were able to work, as we wished their labour at our house. All were either sick or taking care of the sick. I saw nothing but one sad scene of misery.'

The friends of the North would fain persuade us that this war is waged on the ground of slavery—that Northern treasure is lavished, and Southern towns and homes burned, for the sake of emancipating the slave. If it were so, which would be entitled to the sympathy of mankind—the Southerner who fights for the right of keeping the negro in a servitude where he is well fed, well clothed, well housed, cared for in childhood, sickness, and old age, and far better off than an English peasant, in return for his labour; or the Yankee who fights for the satisfaction of massing thousands of these unhappy creatures together in swamps and woods, unsheltered and half fed, to die of want and disease, in unutterable wretchedness, by the gift of a liberty they do not want and cannot use?

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.

FROM A CONFEDERATE CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS: December 21.

WHILST Sherman's campaign excites the admiration of the strategists of *Le Temps* and *Le Siècle*, M. Aucaigne has undertaken to prove to the readers of *La Patrie* that this pretended triumphant march was in fact but a *retreat*. Commencing with Sherman's departure from Atlanta, he follows him step by step, and proves, by a strict analysis of events, that the movement of the Federal general was simply and solely an evacuation of territory.

I do not think that I have read, either in the London journals or in those of New York, a more substantial or more comprehensive summary of Sherman's operations than that furnished by M. Aucaigne. The young writer of *La Patrie* seems to penetrate, as it were, the inmost thoughts of the Federal general, and to exhibit his intentions in open day. He represents him as entering Atlanta 'after having had more frequent recourse to fire and pillage than to cannon-balls or bullets,' and as finding himself there with his communications cut off, and exposed to the reiterated attacks of the light troops of the South.

The position of affairs (continues *La Patrie*) afforded the Federal general but this unfavourable alternative, either to remain in Atlanta and there make a useless employment of his troops, or else to evacuate the town with all his men and to beat a retreat towards the North on regaining Chattanooga, after having broken through the army of Beauregard, should that General attempt to check his progress.

Evidently this latter plan was the more prudent and the more practicable; but then Sherman would be compelled to avow that he had been deceived in affirming that Atlanta would form an excellent basis for operations against the South; he would expose himself to the rage of the Northerners, become all the more furious since they had loudly declared Atlanta to be the heart of the Confederacy, which, said they, would not exist twenty-four hours after the capture of the town. On the contrary, however, the South still lived, and was better than ever; its *backbone* not being even yet broken. It invaded a large portion of the Federal territory, at the same time keeping Sherman in check at Atlanta, Sheridan at the Potomac, and Grant before Petersburg.

In order to avoid this anger of the Unionists, and to save his own credit, Sherman had recourse to a subterfuge. He made a great stir, truly, and pretended that he had been sent not only to capture Atlanta but also to conquer Georgia; that consequently he should employ his whole army in this enterprise. The General, as is evident, spoke neither of any *change in the base of operations*, nor of retreat. The Northern journals, however, apply the former expression to his movement; but it is for our readers to judge if the latter was not better suited.

After this irrefutable demonstration, *La Patrie* consoles the Federals whom its remarks may have saddened by telling them that 'there have been glorious retreats—retreats which have immortalised the names of the generals who conducted them.' This behaviour is certainly very polite, and the friends of the North will probably take it kindly on the part of M. Delamarre's journal.

You are no doubt aware that the Confederate commissioners have received, through Cardinal Antonelli, the answer of the Papal Government to the manifesto of the Richmond Congress which has been sent by them to each of the European Cabinets. The *Mémorial Diplomatique*, in publishing this fact, adds that the messenger who conveyed the despatch of the Confederate commissioners to His Holiness was received by him with the greatest distinction, and that neither the Pope nor Cardinal Antonelli concealed their sympathy for the Southern cause.

The *Opinion Nationale* hastened to reproduce this intelligence; and as the special mission of this journal is to pulverise *priests* and *slave-dealers*, it conceives that nothing could be more natural than that the sympathy of the Church should be shown towards the cause of the South, since Bossuet himself was a pro-slavist. If you wish to know what Bossuet has to do with the matter, you must ask it of the writer whose signature is attached to this article, M. Labbé, a young man whose physiognomy portrays candour, and who, in spite of his name, becomes furious at the bare mention of the name of priest. Formerly M. Labbé's mind was infested by this one hatred only, and it allowed him to live without tormenting him very greatly; but his friend M. Malespine thought it right to inoculate him with a hatred for *slave-dealers* also, with which he is himself possessed, and since that time this unfortunate young man has become a prey to each of these inhuman passions. To the ravages which these feelings commit upon his mind are to be attributed, they say, M. Labbé's unequal step and the extraordinary glare which his eyes sometimes assume.

Nevertheless, since M. Malespine has succeeded in imparting to the minds of others a little of the hatred by which he is himself animated towards the Confederate cause, he has become somewhat more calm; indeed, it sometimes happens that he treats the friends of the South, if not with politeness, at least with impartiality. Thus, when noticing the excellent pamphlet of M. Bourgeois on the American question, he did full justice to the work by exhibiting its many merits. M. Malespine does not, certainly, carry his impartiality so far as to acknowledge M. Bourgeois to be altogether right in his statements; still he fully admits the ability of the author. Such an avowal as this from the pen of M. Malespine is not without its weight, since it cannot be denied that he has a thorough knowledge of the American question.

The substance of Mr. Lincoln's Message, which we received on Monday evening, does not satisfy *La Patrie*:—

The President of the States, formerly United (says this journal), acknowledges that the South rejects all negotiation having for its base the reestablishment of the Union, and he declares that the North will never agree to peace unless the Union be reestablished. *Never* is saying a great deal. It is clear that the Washington Cabinet flatters itself with the idea that the resources of the country are inexhaustible, and that these resources will permit an indefinite continuance of the war.

But the Federal populations are far from sharing this opinion. The prospect of an eternal war, which Mr. Lincoln is pleased to offer, does not find so easy an acceptance with the people of the North; more especially when this country, so full of resources, has a budget which, according to the President's speech *in partibus*, balances receipts amounting to $788,000,000, by an outlay of $1,400,000,000.

The *Temps* considers the case to be otherwise; it has, however, some misgivings respecting the financial resources of the North, and thinks that the American finances too much resemble those of Europe. This journal also states, not without some show of satisfaction, that it does not appear to be the intention of the Cabinet of Washington to change its policy with regard to Mexico. The same remark is made by the *Opinion Nationale*.

I have noticed this week in *La France*, amongst other articles on the American question, a very good comparative table of the Northern and the Southern finances.

The *Journal Illustré*, one of M. Millaud's popular journals, has published, on the first page of its last number, the portraits of all the officers of the *Florida*. These portraits, which are of a striking resemblance, were drawn from photographs taken by MM. Mage Frères, of Brest.

The *Journal Illustré* has no right to talk politics; on this occasion, however, the chief editor of that journal has thought himself justified in departing from the rule imposed upon him, and remarks as follows:—

As is well known, our pencil, the mute spectator of political events, may represent them without any accompanying reflections; in the present case, however, it may be permitted to deplore the manner in which a Northern vessel achieved this easy victory. She has, moreover, been disavowed by her Government.

Homage, therefore, to the glorious vanquished ones!

The *Journal Illustré*, without any acceptance of party, owes the monument of its engravings to that which is noble, good, useful, courageous—

To the conquered of the Florida!

CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN LANCASHIRE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

MANCHESTER: December 21, 1864.

HERE, as elsewhere, President Lincoln's recent Message to Congress is the great topic of conversation, and is yet fruitful of leading articles in our daily press. A critical examination of the document impresses the *Guardian* 'strongly' with the conclusion that it is Mr. Lincoln's own composition. That newspaper derives this inference from the fact that the Message is instinct throughout with a bewilderment and confusion which may most naturally be supposed to constitute the personal mental condition of the unhappy man upon whom fate has imposed a burden and a responsibility so painfully beyond his strength. Its ludicrous affectation of calmness only heightens the effect of the perplexity which it vainly endeavours to conceal. The little that the President condescends to say upon the war is by no means exact, and were it true it would still be singularly little. 'The war,' he observes, 'still continues.' Possibly, says the *Guardian*, he might have supposed that some of his hearers required to be reminded of that circumstance. 'Since the last annual Message,' he goes on, 'all the important lines and positions then occupied by our forces have been maintained, and our armies have steadily advanced, thus liberating the regions left in the rear, so that Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee have again produced reasonably fair crops.' This remarkable statement furnishes the *Guardian* with the real text for its article, and the writer proceeds to discourse upon it as follows:—

This, we repeat, is not a true statement of the facts, little as it amounts to. Within the year the Federals have entirely lost their hold of Texas. They have been beaten by regular military operations out of large districts of country previously held by them in Louisiana, North Carolina, and Florida, and, with the exception of the recovery of Plymouth in North Carolina, have made no attempt to redeem their losses. The States which the President indicates as having been 'liberated' and left in the rear of the Federal armies are unfortunately chosen.

Nor does the same journal hold the President's logic conspicuously sound when he said of General Sherman's march that it 'tends to show a great increase of our relative strength that our general-in-chief should feel able to confront and hold in check every active force of the enemy, and yet to detach a well-appointed large army to move on such an expedition;' and, as to the future, that 'the result not being known, conjecture in regard to it cannot here be indulged.' The *Guardian* respectfully observes that the 'result' which is not yet known is exactly the thing which must determine the character of General Sherman's movement as a proof either of the power of the Federal arms or of the wisdom of the Federal policy. After all, however, the President's language is certainly not hopeful; 'but that,' concludes the writer, in the same tone of quiet sarcasm that pervades the whole article, 'will do Mr. Lincoln no harm if General Sherman's good fortune exceeds reasonable expectation, while it will be all the better for him if the result should be disastrous.'

The *Courier*, the daily Conservative newspaper in this city, treats, *inter alia*, that portion of the Message in which President Lincoln seems to anticipate a great change in the public opinion of the South on the termination of President Davis's tenure of office. Mr. Lincoln appears to fancy that when released from the government of Mr. Davis, the Confederates will be, perhaps not more disposed, but more able, to entertain conditions of submission; and he assumes that the people of the South have revolted on 'compulsion,' and that there are many quite disposed and ready, when a suitable opportunity presents itself, to return into the Union. Upon this the *Courier* argues as follows:—

Why Mr. Lincoln should so perversely continue to hug this wild delusion, it is impossible to say. He must know that those who want opportunities very often make them, and that there is nothing so fortuitous in the retirement of Mr. President Davis that it need be waited for, or *would* be waited for, if the people of the South wished to be free from his power and influence. Besides, Mr. Lincoln has tried this 'liberating' experiment over and over again in various shapes. It was intended (or pretended) that the very first armed expedition into the Southern States should be for the purpose of 'liberating' Northern sympathies; and what came of it? Why, the Confederates drew their swords and flung away the scabbards; and those swords have never been sheathed since for an instant, so long as the seasons were favourable for fighting. Mr. Lincoln surely does not suppose that those Northern sympathies have been strengthened by anything that has happened since in the course of the war; by the military despotism under which New Orleans was placed; by the raining of 'Greek fire' upon the non-combatant inhabitants of Charleston; by the ill-usage of women and children that has ever attended on a Northern advance; or, more recently, by the devastation that has been expressly ordered and executed by General Sherman during his retreat from Atlanta to the seacoast.

The *Examiner*, in treating the President's mode of dealing with foreign (English) affairs, has an article much in the tone a coward would adopt in thanking a bully for refraining for once from bethumping him with hard words.

'Those,' saith that high-spirited and truly patriotic journal—'those who are best acquainted with the present temper of the American people, will also be best fitted for appreciating the calm and measured tone in which Mr. Lincoln has treated of these irritating subjects. We are compelled to believe that he would have found it an easy task to stir up the national resentment to a degree which would have placed the peaceful relations of the two countries in imminent peril. To have done so it would not have been necessary for him to create a grievance. The Vermont raid alone would have furnished him with an occasion for uttering a few fiery sentences, which would have set the passions of millions in a flame. Let us do justice to the serene temper, the deep sense of justice, the steady perception of international interests, which characterise this much-abused man. He possesses some at least of the highest and rarest qualities of a statesman, and his reelection to the Presidential chair is an event upon which we may sincerely congratulate the friends of peace in both countries.

The feeling on 'Change on receipt of the Presidential Message is thus described on the authority of the *Manchester Guardian*:—

The anxiously expected advices from India and America have now both arrived, and yet, united, have failed to give that buoyancy of tone to our market which the arrival of either was expected separately to call forth. If we are to forego all hope of a moderate supply of American cotton until the restoration of the Union by force, or until another Presidential election (that of the South) may, in a couple of years, according to Mr. Lincoln, give a chance of peace, the prospect is indeed dreary for the trade of this district, and may well account for the subdued feeling which was apparent on our Exchange to-day.

The affairs of the Southern Independence Association are reported to be in a prosperous condition. New members continue to enrol themselves, and old ones are renewing their expressions of unabated sympathy with the Confederate cause. An influential supporter of the Association in his own county writes as follows:—

St. Leonard's-on-the-Sea, December 17, 1864.

My zeal in behalf of Southern independence has not cooled. It has always been quite clear from the beginning of the American war that it never could end but in one way, viz. in the independence of the South. It has also been clear that the sympathies of Englishmen have all been with the heroes of the South, and not with the savage, braggart, blustering Yankees. Why then is Lord Russell allowed to override the plain wish of the country? There can be no doubt that a timely acknowledgment of 'Southern independence' would tend to put an end to a war which is a disgrace to humanity.

The Secretary of the Association (Mr. T. B. Kershaw) is, I believe, about to resume his lecturing campaign. Last Thursday evening he was down at the Potteries, and delivered a lecture in the Town Hall, Hanley.

Last evening, Mr. Matthew Chadwick, one of the members of the Committee of the Independence Association, delivered a lecture in the large hall at Ashbury's Works, near Manchester, to an audience chiefly composed of mechanics. The 'lecture' consisted of a narrative of Mr. Chadwick's experience in the Confederate States during the past year, and it was listened to with marked attention throughout. Many thousands of men are engaged at or in the neighbourhood of the works. Arrangements have been made for a series of lectures on the right of the South to secede, and the injustice to the Confederacy and to England of disregarding their right to recognition.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK: December 6, 1864.

CONGRESS reassembled at Washington yesterday. A quorum appeared in both Houses. Only some formal business was transacted, as it was announced that the President's Message would not be sent in until to-day. It will begin to come over the wires at 12 o'clock, and will reach you in full by the papers which go out in the steamer from Boston to-morrow. It will, I fear, be too late in reaching here to be made the subject of comment by correspondence from New York.

It is understood that the two most important of the annual reports—that from the War Department and that from the Treasury—are not ready to accompany the Message. General statements from each, as furnished to the President, will be given as usual, but the reports in detail, with the accompanying tables, cannot be expected for some time. The usual monthly report for November was not published by the Treasury Department. The condition of the Treasury is acknowledged to be very bad. The particulars, so far as the Government will disclose them, are looked for with a great deal of uneasiness. The glimpses we have of it, from the givings out of those who are supposed to have accurate information, are very far from encouraging. The internal taxes under the old law are now said to have produced only about $85,000,000 for the present year ending on June 30, and under the new taxation the revenue, instead of $1,000,000 a day, is but a little over $500,000—at the utmost not over $600,000—a falling-off from the estimated receipts of $146,000,000 a year.

That this gloomy view of the finances will be sustained by the Government reports, when they come in, is evident from the frankness with which the Administration press, now that the elections are secure in their favour, are speaking out on the appalling necessities of Government. The *New York Times*—which, more than any other paper in this city, has confidential relations with the Executive at Washington—is preparing the public mind to receive a disheartening account of the Treasury affairs. The case is stated in the best light in which partisan hopefulness can place it, in the columns of that paper, a day or two ago, as follows:—'We are spending at a frightful rate. Our taxes are stretched almost to the extremity. The gold-bearing loans will soon come to an end from the limit fixed by the gold returned in duties. New loans will be placed and readily taken, but they cannot meet probably one-half of our daily expenditure. Production itself—the measure of our wealth—is already feeling the effect of the loss of labour, and has diminished in the most important cereals about 7 per cent. during the last year, instead of increasing, as we had hoped it would do. It is true that the most remarkable and fortunate development of our mineral resources during the last three years, in the produce of the mines of Colorado and Nevada, and the sudden discovery of petroleum in immense quantities, give us much hope for the future. Still we are spending on a gigantic scale. There is a limit even to the power of this nation in bearing a public debt. It should always be borne in mind that national bankruptcy is among the things possible. Of the crushing of the rebellion there can be no doubt, but it may be gained through the destruction of the public credit. Bankruptcy in the Free States would be a calamity of which, in all the material evils of this war, we have never yet experienced even the resemblance.'

'We are spending,' adds this journal, 'perhaps four times our income. What we fear is that the Governmental expenditure is too large for our means, and must in some way or other be reduced, or the whole system will plunge into the abyss of bankruptcy.'

It is under this warning from a devoted friend of the Administration—the editor of the *Times* was the executive head of the national party organisation which reelected Mr. Lincoln—that this Congress meets.

The election is taken as a peremptory direction that the war is to go on; the Congress are now invoked to consider, under these fresh instructions from the people, how to find the means for carrying it on with bankruptcy staring them in the face, and the prospect clearly developed before them that no success in the war is to be anticipated which will bring a peace that will relieve the finances materially of the enormous burden of annual expenditure and the frightfully accumulating debt.

Some of the journalist financiers are demanding an increase of taxation to the full amount of the estimated expenditures for carrying on the war without adding to the debt, and talk with spread-eagle grandeur of the patriotic alacrity with which the people will meet the infliction of a taxation which, as they estimate it, will reach about $800,000,000 a year. It is a small estimate—the expenditures for the coming year will certainly be not less than $1,000,000,000—but it is a huge draft to be made on the means and patience of a people who have already so much disappointed the Government expectations of a much smaller sum adjusted to their assumed zeal for contribution and calculated means.

A tax on lands, and other taxation in the nature of direct taxes, have been much discussed; but the project is, I believe, discarded as utterly impracticable, from the unequal severity with which it will operate. The Constitution of the United States provides that direct taxes shall be apportioned among the States according to their representation in Congress—that is, according to population, and not according to capital or productive capacity. Some of the wealthiest States are least populous. A land-tax, for example of its operation, would exact from the agricultural State of Iowa, with large territory and a poor population, three times as much as from Rhode Island, which is an enormously rich State and is growing richer in her immense manufacturing establishments by the expenditure of the war, which is exhausting and impoverishing Iowa. The experiment of raising taxes by means which produce numerous inequalities of this sort in very oppressive degrees against a population already seriously discontented, is too hazardous to be tried. The genius of the Federal financiers is to be exercised upon new schemes for adding to the list of indirect taxation, and the hope of finding productive sources is extremely faint.

The war will go on—there is no help for that—till the final crash of the Government credit, to defer which these palliatives are sought after. The expenditure will continue, even be increased in the expansion of the paper currency which is inevitable. The debt will accumulate till it reaches the 'limit of the power of the nation in bearing a public debt,' and then comes the bankruptcy, which the *Times* foresees with a shudder as the possible cost of crushing the rebellion—a cost of calamity of which, in 'all the material evils of this war, we have never yet experienced even the resemblance.'

This savage resolve to continue the war upon the South, even at the cost of the national bankruptcy, which is dimly foreshadowed as imminent, was expressed a few days since by the same high Republican authority, in expounding the policy of the next Presidential term as based on the popular judgment assumed to have been passed upon Mr. Lincoln's policy by the results of the election of November. I transcribe for you a portion of the article, to illustrate the temper of the dominant party, and to call your attention to the explicit avowals, made without reservation at last, of the true nature of the contest as it is waged by the North, and is understood North and South. The question which the *Times* discusses is this—'What is the South fighting for?' And this is its answer:—

'There is a prevalent opinion here in the North that it is fighting for slavery. It is erroneous. Though a passion for slavery was the immediate occasion of the war, it does not now sustain the war. The South would buy triumph to-morrow, if it could, by a complete sacrifice of slavery. It would now yield though it could take "a bond of fate," that by yielding it could save slavery. What Jeff. Davis told Colonel Jacques, in his confidential interview, is perfectly true—that slavery had now nothing to do with the war, and that the only question now involved is the question of Southern independence; that is to say, the independence of the "Confederacy." There seems, then, to be substantial agreement, both by Jeff. Davis and his opponents of every shade, that the sole object of the South is to vindicate and for ever establish State independence and sovereignty. It is precisely that for which the South is fighting—exactly the converse of this national principle for which the North is fighting. We can tell the South, in all sincerity, that the Northern people will carry this war to any extremity rather than let the nationality be broken. This is the unalterable determination of nine-tenths of the Northern people, whether supporters or opponents of President Lincoln's Administration. They know that sooner or later they will break down the fighting power of the South. They know, too, that they can afterwards maintain the national authority over the South, if not with Southern acquiescence, on a basis of mutual respect, and good will, and civil equality, then by a throwing open of all the lands of the enemies of the Government to the permanent possession of every actual settler, from whatever quarter of the world, and the repeopling of the South by a loyal population. We are not willing to believe that the madness of the South will be so prolonged as to drive the Government to that resort. But that resort will be used, and even others sterner yet, if need be, sooner than let the nation be divided and destroyed. The national unity is our only safety. The South may be sure that it will be maintained at all costs.'

Some time ago your Earl Russell deeply offended the Northern people by describing the American conflict as one for empire on one side and independence on the other. It was British calumny to intimate that the North is capable of attempting to found an empire by the power of the sword over eleven sovereign States and eight millions of free Americans. His definition is now the accepted exposition of the Northern idea. A union of States is discarded for a unity of territory, and this territorial unity of empire is to be maintained at the cost of national bankruptcy at home, and, if necessary and possible, by the seizure of all the lands and property of the Southern States, parcelling it among conquerors, and driving out the population at the point of the sword. The spirit of Butler has entered into the whole body of the Administration, and there is a furious demand on all sides for more men, more paper money, more taxes, more blood, to carry out this undisguised lust for empire 'at all costs.' '*Flectere si nequeo Superos, Acheronta movebo.*'

You will also observe that unconscious credit is given to the Southern people for the unity of purpose with which they are moved, and the readiness with which they make slavery a secondary question, inferior in interest to the single great issue to which they are devoted, of maintaining their political separation from the North. It is a true confession, for which the people of England ought to have been prepared by the events of this war, if not by the political history of the times which preceded it, to which their attention was little drawn, the conflict being for the most part read in the light of an ephemeral strife among parties rather than a grave conflict about the fundamental principles of government. The abolition of slavery was originally agitated mainly by politicians at the North, as a means for securing a party predominance in the Federal Government, and for establishing such theories of government and administration there as would put the South for ever at the mercy of the North; and the war in its whole progress has proved that slavery is only the incident for the development of a radical conflict of ideas on the true nature of government, and the means by which civil liberty can be preserved for populations and among States. The North, maddened at the obstruction which its schemes of universal dominion met with in the resistance of the South, has discarded all other thought but that of maintaining them by force of arms, and erecting empire over conquered provinces by means which embrace without remorse universal rapine and the expulsion, if need be, from the country of the whole race of its inhabitants, as noble and brave and enlightened a race of free-born men as ever drew sword to protect their native land. If the power were equal to the will, there would be no peace until the South is overborne by these invading hordes and the whole population in exile; for while a remnant remains to keep alive the sense of wrong and the thirst for vengeance, there will be no peace. But in all this there is the desperate miscalculation that the fury of aggression will outlive the capacity and spirit to resist, and that the swift ruin which is threatening to overtake the North will wait the long years which it would take, under the most auspicious advances possible, to overrun, depopulate, and occupy the South.

The illusions of peace to come from Southern submissiveness in any quarter have now totally disappeared. The last attempt to mislead was the report, stated with minuteness from Philadelphia, and since countenanced by telegrams from Washington, that the Governors of Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi have been jointly tendering proposals for a separate peace to be made with General Sherman. It was an impudent canard, got up to create the impression that General Sherman's advance from Atlanta eastward was the advance of a conqueror instead of the device of a baffled general seeking to cover by a brilliant dash the evident failure of the great object of his whole summer campaign. The story had hardly got abroad before it was met by the proofs of the determined adherence of Governor Brown and all Georgia to the fortunes of the Confederacy in the attempt to obstruct, pursue, and destroy the retreating army of Sherman. Governor Watts, too, of Alabama, whose name had been forced into this Northern list of suppliants for peace, had just (November 17) been delivering his annual message to the Legislature of Alabama reassembled at Montgomery, in which he reasons at great length against all projects of peace negotiations except through the Confederate Government, on the basis of Confederate independence, as fallacies to be discarded, mere illusions of imagination in the South, or plottings at the North for the purposes of a Northern partisan intrigue. The language of Governor Watts is the more worthy of note, that he was, in former party times, a very decided adversary of the Democrat party, and was the candidate, at the last election preceding secession, of the 'Conservative Union' party for Governor of Alabama, against the 'Breckenridge' candidate. A man of that position, of great personal worth, and acknowledged moderation of character, addresses the Legislature on the suggestion of a possible reconstruction of the Union in the following language:—

'A reconstruction with the States from which we deliberately separated in the beginning of this contest! Who among us would advocate or propose it? Who in Alabama, however much he may have been opposed to Alabama's secession, would now, after three years' development of Yankee character and Yankee barbarity and despotism, entertain such a proposition? Who would desire a political union with those who have murdered our sons, outraged our women, and with demoniac malice wantonly destroyed our property, and now seek to make slaves of us? The voices from the graves of 200,000 fallen heroes would blanch the cheeks of the recreant who would propose it. The hoarse shout of 400,000 living heroes now with arms in their hands, fighting for liberty and independence, would forbid it! If attempted by those at home, away from the danger and carnage of battle, the consequence would be fearful. . . . . Let us have faith and confidence that our President and Senate will make every effort for peace a lofty patriotism can demand. Let us nerve ourselves with the courage which fired the hearts of the heroes of 1776; and let us bear with patience and fortitude the trials and the perils which await us, trusting in the justness of our cause—in the strong arms and stout hearts of our soldiers, and relying on God who rules the affairs of men and nations.'

At the very time Governor Watts was addressing these resolute words to the people of Alabama, the telegrams from Washington were busy, with the indirect countenance of the Government, in circulating the report here that he had an agent in search of Sherman begging for peace.

Mr. Foote of Tennessee will, however, keep talking in the Confederate Congress in countenance of impossibilities, by encouraging the idea that the North can be persuaded into peace negotiations, on the basis of State sovereignty, with the consent of the two subsisting Governments. On the 2nd inst. he offered in the Confederate Congress a series of resolutions which, while declaring the exclusive authority of the Confederate Government over the question, and the obligation to support its authority, proposed to invite a convention of the Confederate States for the purpose of appointing commissioners from each to confer with each other and with the Confederate Government on the best means for closing the war on terms 'compatible with the honour, the safety, and the permanent happiness of the Confederate States.' The scheme for adding an extraordinary council to the Executive Department of the Government was laid on the table immediately by a vote of 63 to 13. It seems to have been a party movement against the Administration, rather than any real effort to advance peace negotiations, which are evidently laid aside now by both sides as unattainable.

To-morrow (first Wednesday in December) the electoral colleges will assemble at the several State capitals to cast formally the electoral vote as decided by the elections in November. The majority for Mr. Lincoln is so great in the vote of the colleges, that all interest has been lost over the progression of the legal forms for recording and making it effective. It would have been very different if the Democrats had succeeded in their hope of obtaining for General M'Clellan the certificate of election from a sufficient number of designated States to enable them to go before the people and deny the lawfulness of Mr. Lincoln's election, on the ground that his majority was made up by votes of States unlawfully cast and admitted, or vitiated by violent, unlawful, and arbitrary practices, by which the freedom of choice was destroyed. But with only 21 votes out of 234, the whole plan of operations is frustrated. The moral argument against Mr. Lincoln is very little weakened, because meagre majorities, not exceeding in number one-fourth of the direct stipendiaries in his pay, dependents on his bounty, and subjects to his will as the source of patronage and the absolute chief of the army, have concurred in shutting out of the electoral colleges in some places, by flagrant acts of arbitrary power and the shameless use of his military position, all expressions of the wishes of an apparent minority amounting to not less than two millions of voters. But a success so complete as Mr. Lincoln has won is not to be invalidated as a fraud by arraigning the man and his acts for the special results which can be cited and substantiated as proofs. The vice and the crime penetrates the whole system, and it is the system which must be assailed not less than the man. The Democrats must be suddenly silent, or concede in terms what their whole canvass implied to be in issue in the election—that the Republican theory has failed to correct the worst of evils, or vindicate and reestablish lost principles; and that there is not virtue enough in the people to remove a corrupt Government, nor strength enough to protect themselves and their liberties against a daring and ambitious one.

The course of the Administration in the *Florida* case is doubtless foreshadowed by the despatch which J. W. Webb, the American Minister in Rio, wrote to the Brazilian Government immediately on being notified officially of the transaction at Bahia. He disavowed, on his own part and the part of his Government, having authorised or approving of the conduct of Captain Collins, and undertook on behalf of Government that 'all reparation which honour and justice exact will be very freely offered.' I cannot doubt that this tender, which, notwithstanding its apparent amplitude, is nicely shaped so as to leave very much to be decided as to what honour and justice do require, will be repeated by Mr. Seward.

Whether Mr. Seward will venture to approve directly, or by silent sanction, the impertinent and insulting terms with which the American Minister at Rio weaves into his note to the Brazilian authorities an elaborate assault upon the English nation and Government, may not so easily be predicted. Mr. Seward himself, in his treatment of the *Trent* affair, while conceding what was demanded by the British Government, accompanied his concession by a plea, expressed in due terms of courtesy, against the general consistency of England with regard to the points involved, and a subdued protest against the rightfulness of the claim he was allowing. In his correspondence, through Messrs. Adams in London and Dayton in France, he has, moreover, frequently advanced the same line of argument as that so elaborately presented against these Powers, and more particularly against England as the author and prompter, by Mr. Webb at Rio, that the concession of belligerent rights to the Confederate vessels at sea was a hasty step of unfriendliness to the United States not warranted by public law. But Mr. Seward never humiliated his own country quite so

deeply as to avow, without reserve, that this recognition was a cause of war, which would have been prosecuted against England, only that she was supported by other great Powers, with whom the United States were unable to cope—in plain terms, that they submitted to wrong only because they were not able to repel it. Nor would Mr. Seward, with all his constitutional hardihood in perverting and suppressing facts, have ventured to declare the *Florida* a ship constructed in an 'English port' by 'English mechanics' with 'English funds,' 'armed and equipped by Englishmen,' with an 'English crew to navigate and fight,' going out of an 'English' port, with an 'English flag,' to destroy the commerce of a friendly Power, without ever having entered a rebel port. The *Florida*, all the world knows, left England as a merchantman, without arms or equipments; was stopped in Nassau by the British, and after full investigation there discharged; went from there into the 'rebel' port of Mobile, received her armament, equipments, and commission there, and sailed forth under the Confederate flag. The assertions of Minister Webb are a tissue of falsehoods, clothed in the language of bullying insolence, of insult towards Great Britain, with whom his Government professes to desire to live on terms of amity; and, being addressed in the name of his Government to a third person, seem to require of Mr. Seward some decided mark of his displeasure, unless he is willing to be considered as adopting for the Cabinet at Washington the ruffianism of its representative in Rio. Webb, who came to much discredit two years ago by his attempt to get up a brawl with Mr. Christie, the British resident at Rio, and who doubtless feels the sting of Lord Palmerston's calm disclaimer in the House of Commons of a personal intimacy of which Mr. Webb had boasted, seems to have been eager to seize an opportunity to vent his spiteful animosity upon the English. As specimens of diplomatic correspondence, can there be anything more maladroit than the offensive condescension of Mr. Webb in repeatedly assuring the Brazilian Government that the American Government will deal generously and tenderly with it, because Brazil is weak, and has been duped by more cunning and powerful nations into patronising rebellion and piracy?—or more absurd than the expression of the gasconading wish that the seizure had been made within the waters of England instead of the waters of Brazil; having, in a few paragraphs above this vaunting declaration, lamented that the United States have already submitted to England on this point, because they are not in a condition to resent or resist? We shall see whether there is the manliness and self-respect at Washington to dismiss this impudent braggadocio and marplot.

There have been no discoveries—at least there are none made public—as to the authors of the supposed plot to burn all the hotels ten days ago. The journals in Richmond have heard of the attempt, and heap ridicule on the assumption that it was a rebel plan organised from that city. They do not think the abolitionists too good to have concocted a scheme which they could contrive to make harmless, for the double purpose of firing the Northern heart against the South here, where it has most well-wishers, or at least most generous enemies, and of excusing meditated plans for putting the city under military dictatorship for ulterior purposes. Until there is clear proof to the contrary—which is very slow in forthcoming—many thousands of people here, good Northern men in their ideas of the merits of the rebellion, have ideas on the subject very like those more bluntly expressed in Dixie than they dare express them in this 'free' country, where an unguarded word, offensive to the powers that be, may send the most loyal man to a dungeon.

This letter has grown so long under my hands that there is no room left for any comment upon the military situation. The position in Tennessee and in Georgia is very critical. That in Georgia involves the question whether General Sherman, having discovered how fruitless was the capture of Atlanta, and unable to retain it, will be able to reach the seacoast for the purpose of reorganising a new campaign on another base or suffer a terrible loss. The chances of his escape seem at the last accounts to be inclined in his favour, and the result will of course be heralded as a brilliant achievement, even though it abandoned Georgia and Tennessee to the reoccupation throughout by the Confederates. In Tennessee, the other branch of the same problem is to be worked out before Nashville, to which the Confederates under General Hood have advanced, and where one more success will replace the whole of Tennessee and North Alabama up to the Federal forts which are protected on navigable waters by gunboats, again under the Confederate flag.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON: December 2, 1864.

MILITARY affairs look much more gloomy for the Federal cause than they have for nearly a month past. It was supposed that the *Florida* difficulty was settled by a complete surrender of the *Florida* and her crew; an abject apology made by her captor to the Brazilian Government; and a severe reprimand, if not dismissal, of the captain of the *Wachusetts*. Mr. Lincoln has had no such good luck, nor can he whilst such crazy legislators as now form his cabinet surround him. The *Florida*, as you have already heard, was sunk by an army transport running into her. With remarkable skill the Administration has managed so far to keep all the particulars of the affair quiet. We only know, and that by mere street rumours, that a storm coming up the *Florida* was ordered to leave her anchorage near Fortress Monroe, and go to smoother water at Newport's News. She sailed in the night; the accident happened; the people on board were saved; and the *Florida* sank in fifteen fathoms This is all that is known, and there is a deeply-grounded belief that the whole thing was done by design, as a piece of diplomacy to cut the Gordian knot by getting the *Florida* out of the way and then making an apology, sufficient atonement for the wrong. The *Florida's* crew are now in Fort Warren. The greatest anxiety is felt in Washington to see the end of this affair, and a quarrel with England or France appears inevitable. No one seems to care for poor Brazil.

But, bad as is the phase taken by the *Florida* affair, the appearance of matters in Sherman's department is much worse. I think that the Government will be perfectly satisfied if Sherman manages to reach a point of safety with but half his army. Finding that Grant intends to keep quiet, every energy of the Confederacy has been concentrated for Sherman's defeat. The remarkable skill with which they have managed is just showing itself. Sherman's raid is already defeated, and now the only question is whether he will get off in safety. Hood and Breckinridge have no little part in the great campaign of the South-west. Breckinridge has shown great ability. He defeated Gillem, and all the Federal troops in East Tennessee, so badly that they could neither invade South-western Virginia during his absence, nor leave Knoxville to help the garrison at Nashville. All Gillem could do was to keep quiet at Knoxville. Breckinridge then sent a small force, making a great show, north to Cumberland Gap. At once Burbridge collected every available Federal regiment in Kentucky, and rushed off to that remote corner of the State to defend the Gap. Burbridge was thus prevented from aiding the Federal troops, either at Knoxville or Nashville. As soon as the Confederate force sent to Cumberland Gap was well on its way, Breckinridge with his main body started on a swift march due south into Georgia, to assist in opposing Sherman. He would have to go about 140 miles before reaching Sherman's line of march against Augusta. He started on November 15. By November 28, at the rate at which he would move, he could easily be in position to operate against Sherman.

Hood, too, has done well. It was long thought that he was nowhere within reach of Nashville, and that Forrest led that portion of the Confederate army. But Hood was there, and by his quick movements has shut up Thomas in Nashville; cut off communication with Chattanooga; compelled the abandonment of nearly all the country south of Nashville; and by destroying the railroads has made it impossible for Thomas, even if unmolested, to give any aid to Sherman. These things being secure, Beauregard at an early date began his arrangements for the direct opposition to Sherman. As quickly as possible he loaded his army on the cars at Corinth, Mississippi. He moved the trains to Atlanta by two routes, one through Mobile, the other through Selma. A small force was sent overland by way of Rome to watch the Federal rear. Wheeler, with the advance of the main army from Corinth, reached Macon on November 18. From that time until the 22nd troops were continually arriving, and on that day Beauregard himself reached Macon. Wheeler, with all the forces he could gather, and Howell Cobb and Gustavus Smith, intrenched themselves twenty miles north of Macon. Slocum's Federal column, after an almost uninterrupted progress from Atlanta, was checked by these troops, and Slocum encamped until the 20th, getting his troops up, and apparently not very certain what he would do. Kilpatrick came down with his Federal cavalry to a point twelve miles east of Macon, captured Milledgeville, but made no attempt on Macon. Suddenly Slocum decamped. He moved eastward, and on November 21 began his march towards Howard's column, which had been sent from Atlanta against Augusta. Kilpatrick moved on the same day. He crossed the Oconee, abandoned Milledgeville, and on November 22 he and Slocum were reported thirty miles east of Macon, moving north-east as fast as they could go. A Confederate reconnaissance went on that day to Griffin, thirty miles south of Atlanta, and found no Federal troops; they had all gone east of that line. Macon was safe; every one breathed freely; gold went up; and Beauregard, with all his army, started in pursuit of Slocum. He was following Slocum when last heard from, and harassing his rear.

Equally skilful were the Confederate movements in opposition to Sherman's other column. Howard had gone many miles east from Atlanta on the direct road to Augusta when he was suddenly brought up by a large Confederate force posted in a strongly defended position forty miles west of Augusta. The Confederates had taken care of this part of Sherman's expedition. From Florida, Charleston, Savannah, and Wilmington, large numbers of regulars had been sent to Augusta. General Ewell, it is said, left Lee's army with his corps, and reached Augusta before November 22. Howard halted; the Confederate force in front of him was very strong, and he began at once to intrench. Sherman, seeing the successful opposition made to both his columns, appears to have changed his plan. Instead of hoping to capture Macon and Augusta, he gave up the expeditions against both. Slocum was sent for to march with all possible celerity to reinforce Howard, and there is every indication that Howard has turned aside from his path, and that now Augusta is safe. No effort has been made, so far as is known, to cross the Savannah River, so that Charleston is not the next point that Sherman will hope to reach. Slocum and Howard probably effected a junction about November 30. They then no doubt turned southward to try and get to Savannah. Fatigued, and to a certain extent broken up by the long marches, Sherman's army would then have had but a poor chance of doing anything. Beauregard and Forrest from Macon, Bragg and Ewell from Augusta, would follow him down to the seacoast, and you as easily as I can tell his plight upon reaching it. Sherman's raid has done its worst, and now the only question is whether Sherman can save himself.

Yesterday every one was astonished by a series of magniloquent despatches from Nashville. One of them was signed by General Schofield, one of Thomas's corps commanders, who had been stationed at Franklin, eighteen miles south of Nashville, to oppose Hood. It was in these words:—

'Franklin, Tennessee, November 30.

'To Major-General Thomas.—The enemy made a heavy persistent attack with about two corps, commencing about four o'clock in the afternoon, and lasting until after dark. He was repulsed at all points with very heavy loss, probably 5,000 to 6,000 men. Our loss is probably not more than one-tenth of that number. We captured about 1,000 men, including one brigadier-general.'

This despatch told the old story—'our loss one-tenth the enemy's,' and every statement modified by that unfortunate little word 'about.' So the people patiently waited for the truth, and this morning it has come along. That Hood may have been repulsed in some minor assault I do not doubt, but the result of the whole affair was the driving of the Federal troops out of Franklin, its occupation by Hood, and the retreat of Thomas to Nashville. It is another act in the great drama so rapidly closing to Sherman's defeat. The history of the battle is briefly this. General Thomas had his extreme outpost at Franklin, eighteen miles south of Nashville. For several days he had been collecting all the troops from Kentucky and Tennessee that he could procure, and concentrating them at Nashville. Franklin had a strong garrison, perhaps 15,000 men, under Schofield. On the afternoon of November 30, Hood began his attack. He divided his army into two columns. One was to attack Franklin in front, the other to make a long detour to the eastward and get in the rear. At four o'clock in the afternoon of November 30, Hood attacked Franklin in front. Schofield fought until dark, holding his own, and then ordered a retreat. This retreat was accelerated by hearing of Hood's flanking column, which had crossed the Harpeth River a few miles east of Franklin, and was rapidly advancing on Nashville, driving a Federal cavalry division, commanded by General Wilson, before it. Dark saw the battle over, and Schofield now claims only 3,000 Confederate loss, and the captured Confederate brigadier turns out to have been but a colonel. Schofield's loss is said to have been 750. Future despatches, I have no doubt, will show his loss to have been greater than Hood's. During the night Schofield retreated towards Nashville. Hood entered Franklin. The Confederate column which was pursuing General Wilson on December 1 had driven him to an intrenched position eight miles south of Nashville. Here our accounts close. Thomas was in Nashville. Hood was rapidly bringing up his army and concentrating it eight miles south of the city. It is scarcely probable that Hood will attack Nashville; it is very strongly fortified. He will rather pass his time in completely destroying the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, which he has already cut, and which is now at his mercy. There are rumours to-day that he has already sent a strong detachment to Murfreesborough, a town on the railroad about thirty-five miles south-east of Nashville, to begin this destruction. Hood is now in a position to do as he pleases, and he may compel the abandonment of Chattanooga, just as his destruction of the Atlanta Railroad caused the evacuation of Atlanta.

All appearances of an advance upon Richmond by Grant have died away. The Dutch Gap Canal is now believed by nearly every one to be a failure. There is a great state of uncertainty as to what will be done in the Federal camp, Grant's own forces believing that he is concentrating troops on the north bank of the James to make an attack in that direction, and the Confederates believing that Grant is sending large bodies of men to his extreme southern flank on the Weldon Railroad, in order to make a new attempt to capture the Southside Railroad. All these reports, however, seem to have no foundation, and the only serious occupation of Grant's troops probably is the preparation of winter quarters. General John Pope is now at City Point, and it is said he is to have command of the army corps recently given up by Hancock. If Lincoln or Grant have any sense, however, after the woful experience they have had of John Pope, they will do no such foolish thing as this. Roger A. Pryor is now in Fort Lafayette, New York. His capture was made most unfairly; but, even if it was fairly done, there is no reason why he should be treated differently from the other Confederate prisoners.

You have doubtless heard of a Confederate attack upon New Creek and Piedmont, two stations on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, about 100 miles west of Harper's Ferry. The telegraph, as is usual in such cases, made out that the raid was but a trifling affair, and the Confederates were driven off with great slaughter. The truth about this has at length come out. The Confederates lost scarcely any one, and carried off with them 300 Federal prisoners and six or seven cannon, besides a large amount of plunder. The telegraph has become such a medium of lies that no one believes it any longer. The battle at Franklin, Tennessee, and this one at Piedmont and New Creek, are but two instances of the kind of news we daily receive. There is nothing doing in the Shenandoah Valley, and no change is reported in the position of the opposing armies. Near Washington the guerillas are acting as they choose. Two nights ago they came within six miles of Alexandria and captured some Federal officers.

From Louisiana is the only crumb of comfort the Federal authorities have had for a week. They, of course, make the most of it, and the newspapers have gone mad with sensational headings. I send it to you just as they have it, sure that, after the long recital of misfortunes, this gleam of hope will be allowed them. A cavalry expedition returned to Baton Rouge on November 22, with 200 Confederate prisoners, 700 horses and mules, and three cannon. The horses and mules were all ridden by contrabands, who, for all time to come, will have to be fed by the United States. This is the grand redeeming stroke which has made the 'loyal' heart glad, though even it, like the New Creek and Franklin affairs, may, in the light of subsequent details, take quite a different phase.

P.S. As I close this evening, the truth about the battle at Franklin, Tennessee, is being rapidly unfolded. There is nothing more said about captures and victories. It is all a story of fright at Nashville. Thomas and Schofield and all the Federal armies have retreated within the intrenchments of Nashville. The citizens and the huge army of Government labourers are under arms. These labourers are said to number at least 25,000, and their barracks form a town as large as Nashville itself. The Federal troops are drawn up in battle array three miles south of Nashville. Hood's army has advanced to within five miles, and heavy skirmishing is going on in the space between. Every one fears the capture of Nashville. I scarcely believe, however, that Hood will try an assault on an intrenched town, but that he will destroy the Atlanta and Chattanooga Railroad.

It is now certain that Sherman has abandoned all idea of capturing Augusta. Our latest Southern news is that he is on the march to the seacoast. There is a report that Burnside, at the head of 20,000 men, has sailed from Fortress Monroe to join him.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

THE money market is in a disturbed state, through the conclusion of transactions for the end of the year. In every direction the rate has worked up to 6 per cent., the official *minimum*, and hardly any engagements are completed below that quotation. It appears that the value of money will rule at this point for some little time to come, and that the public are not looking immediately for cheaper terms. Six per cent., for the present, is quite low enough, as it will permit the introduction of new loans and new projects. At the commencement of 1865, the state of affairs may allow of a reduction to 5 per cent., and if this shall be the case, there will, no doubt, be an endeavour to stimulate fresh enterprise. The markets for securities indicate most unmistakably the arrival of the season for recreation and holiday-making. Next week will be a very broken week—short hours, and as much leave to *employés* as possible. So the end of 1864 will wear out, and we shall be prepared for fresh activity in the spring. Saturday and Monday will be almost close holidays, but ordinary banking and finance must be attended to. The lowest rate for six months' bills is 6½ per cent. Money has been 'tight' at the Stock Exchange, in consequence of the withdrawals of loans to supply the demand in the discount market, and the effect has been to keep the terms for accommodation there up to 6½ and 6 per cent.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

There is no particular variation to notice in the state of the bullion market, but its position continues favourable. Notwithstanding that occasional parcels of gold are taken from the Bank, the total this week has not been large, and the balance is in favour of the Bank, the amount sent in being 162,000*l.*, and the withdrawals 99,000*l.* The arrivals of specie have not been large, only 147,160*l.*, all being from New York. The West Indian mail, which sailed this week, took out 14,500*l.* in gold

from the London and Venezuela Bank for Caraccas; and the shipments of the precious metals to the East by the French steamer which left Marseilles on Monday amounted to no less than 662,514*l.*, viz. 454,874*l.* for Alexandria, and 207,640*l.* to India and China. Some apprehension is now felt for the safety of the ship *J. E. H.*, from Melbourne, with 44,000*l.* on board; she left early in July, and has not since been heard of. Insurances upon her are now being effected at 50 guineas premium. The only other vessels known to be out are the *Essex*, with 84,500*l.*, out 82 days; and the *Monarch*, with 104,000*l.*, out 59 days. The silver market has not been particularly active; some bar silver has been disposed of at previous rates, viz. 61⅝*d.* per oz., and a limited amount of Mexican dollars has also been taken for China at 60¾*d.* per oz.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

Notwithstanding the reduction in the rate of discount on Thursday last, all the Stock Exchange markets have been very dull, with only a moderate amount of business doing, but this is to be attributed in a great degree to the near approach of the Christmas holidays and the termination of the year. And as the Stock Exchange will be closed on Saturday and on Monday next, it is not at all likely there will be much business doing till after the turn of the new year. As compared with last week there has been a decline in Consols of about ¼ per cent., but Exchequer bills have slightly improved. In foreign stocks business has also been far from active, and prices have only triflingly varied even in those descriptions most sensitive to political influences. The chief variation has been in Greek, which has improved ⅜ per cent. Mexican have declined ⅛, and Spanish about ⅛, but there has been a small advance in Turkish. The closing quotations this evening were:—Consols, for money 89 to 89⅛ ex div., and for the account 89¼ to 89⅜ ex div.; Exchequer bills, 4*s.* dis. to par; Greek, 23 to 23¼; Mexican, 29⅛ to 29⅜; Spanish Passives, 31½ to 31¾; do. Certificates, 13⅞ to 14⅛; Turkish Six per Cents. of 1854, 88 to 90; and the Four per Cents. 99 to 101.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The market for American Government and Railway securities still continues very inactive. There is no speculative movement in them whatever, but nevertheless prices continue fairly supported, though the tendency is, if anything, towards a decline. The official dealings are thus recorded:—United States Six per Cents., 1882, at 41⅞; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, New York Section, first mortgage, at 71¾, 72, 71½ and 72; ditto ditto, Pennsylvania ditto, first mortgage, at 71½ and 72; Erie, $100 shares, all paid, at 38¾, 38½, 39 and 38; Illinois Central Six per Cents. 1875, at 74; and ditto ditto, $100 shares, all paid, at 51, 51½, 52, 51¾ and 50½.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market is steady, but, like all stocks this week, quiet on the approach of the Christmas holidays. We quote the price, 61 to 63.

IMPORTS FROM THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

The following table, extracted from the Customs Bill of Entry, is a statement of part of the imports of Southern cotton into England since our last number:—

Date	Name of Ship	Port	Consignee	Bales of Cotton
Dec. 12	Jane Goodyear	Bermuda	Beach & Co.	195
"	"	"	Collie & Co.	160
"	Lissette	Matamoras	Leo Schuster & Co.	275
Dec. 14	Emily	"	Bennett & Co.	277
"	"	"	Talamon & Co.	108
"	"	"	To order	183
"	"	"	Vignier & Co.	126
"	"	"	Bahr & Co.	30
"	"	"	Lemonius & Co.	100
"	"	"	Mancha & Co.	86
Dec. 19	Hawk	Bermuda	To order	140
"	"	"	A. Nicholls	4
				1,684

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The following suspensions have taken place since our last number:—Messrs. Berger & Co., in the metal trade; Messrs. J. M. Stanley & Co., of Sheffield, liabilities about 40,000*l.*; Mr. Humphrey Turner, of the Cardigan Works, Sheffield, who offers 10*s.* in the pound, liabilities about 38,000*l.*; Messrs. Clayton & Rorke, crinoline and steel manufacturers, of Sheffield, liabilities 8,000*l.*; Messrs. Burgen and Wells, iron and steel trade, of Sheffield, liabilities 18,109*l.*, assets 11,915*l.*

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

The produce transactions for the most part are upon the limited scale usual on the approach of the Christmas holidays, with which the trading operations of the year are virtually closed. In a few exceptional articles called into requisition by Christmas consumption, business is temporarily brisk, but generally the desire is to curtail operations as much as possible, and to defer the opening of fresh engagements for the opening of the new year. The operations since our last have consequently been small, with very little variation in prices. The provision trade has been among the few exceptions where transactions have increased. Fine butters of all imports meet a tolerably brisk sale, American ranging up to 116*s.*, and Friesland to 128*s.* per cwt. Bacon sides are also in good demand, but in American there is very little doing, from want of supplies. For barrel middles there is not much enquiry. Small hams sell freely, but heavier sorts are not wanted. Lard is firmly held, but trade is anything but brisk. Cheese has been in good demand, and the best dairies of American have realised 56*s.* to 60*s.* per cwt. The sugar market is less active, and prices are barely so firm, although no actual decline can be quoted. Coffee is steady in value, but without much activity; the deliveries, however, continue very satisfactory, and holders have confidence in the general position of the market. In tea there has been no movement worth naming, and rates are nominally unaltered. Rice is well held, Bengal kinds more especially, in consequence of the small supplies here. Spices are for the most part steady; pepper is rather firmer. The only exception is in Bengal ginger, which, at 35*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., is 3*s.* lower. The grain markets continue generally dull, and for wheat prices rather favour buyers. American flour is in moderate supply, and maintains its value. Petroleum continues in steady demand at 2*s.* 1*d.* to 2*s.* 1½*d.* for American refined. Linseed oil is obtainable at 33*s.* to 33*s.* 3*d.* Palm oil still offers at 36*s.* for fine Lagos. Rape maintains the advanced price of 46*s.* 6*d.* to 47*s.* for foreign refined, and 43*s.* for brown. Cotton, since the receipt of the President's Message, has advanced ½*d.* to 1*d.* per lb. Jute sells slowly, but is not quotably lower. Dye goods in general are firm. Cochineal has again advanced 1*d.* per lb. on Teneriffee grain, and Bengal turmeric is held for enhanced rates. The metal market continues depressed. Scotch pig iron has declined to 50*s.*; spelter to 19*l.*; Straits tin to 87*l.* to 88*l.*; and Banca to 90*l.* to 91*l.* per ton.

LIVERPOOL: Wednesday, December 21.—Business in the cotton market, as is usual at this period of the year, has not been very active. There has, however, been a moderate demand, but rather considerable parcels having been pressed on the market, prices at one period exhibited a declining tendency, but within the last day or two there has been rather more doing, and quotations are a shade firmer. The late reduction in the value of money has created a better feeling, and caused some additional purchases to be made on speculation and for export. The chief demand has been for American and Egyptian, at an advance in prices. The sales this week have reached 63,000 bales, of which 28,000 were on speculation and for export. The total sales this year have been 2,660,874 bales, and to the corresponding period in 1863, 2,553,849 bales. There have been imported this year 2,203,617 bales; whilst last year the number was 1,592,161 bales. The trade have taken this year 1,572,872 bales, and to the same period in 1863, 1,237,536 bales. The exports this year have been 542,014 bales, last year they were 458,126 bales. There have been taken on speculation this year 538,898 bales, and in 1863 the number was 744,882. The estimated stocks at the present time are 376,214 bales, last year they were 236,342 bales. The closing quotations this afternoon were:— American descriptions, 23¾*d.* to 27¾*d.*; Pernambuco, 25½*d.* to 27½*d.*; Maranham, 27*d.* to 27¾*d.*; Maceio, 25¾*d.* to 26*d.*; Bahia, 25¾*d.* to 26*d.*; Egyptian, 16¼*d.* to 29¾*d.*; Smyrna, 20¾*d.* to 21*d.*; Surats, 12¼*d.* to 22¾*d.*; Madras, 15½*d.* to 15¾*d.*; Bengal, 17¾*d.* to 18¼*d.*; Scinde, 12¼*d.* to 13*d.*; China, 15¼*d.* to 16¼*d.*; and Japan, 18*d.*

The markets at Manchester, which had been very dull in the early part of the week, became much more animated and stronger on Monday, on the contents of President Lincoln's message becoming known; the policy indicated therein giving an impetus to both cotton and yarn, inasmuch as all idea of immediate peace is abandoned. Shipping yarns have been in considerable demand within the last two or three days, and buyers are now compelled to pay an advance of ½*d.* to 1*d.* per lb. on the quotations of last week. Yarns are at present very scarce, as spinners will only work to order; consequently, when any demand takes place, prices immediately advance. For home-trade yarns, the market has also recently been more active, at an advance of from ½*d.* to 1*d.* per lb., and a much larger business would have been transacted but for the high prices demanded. The cloth market has also been rather active, with considerable firmness in prices. The latest telegrams from India, although of a more favourable character, have not had the effect of improving business, few offers having in consequence been made, and scarcely any for large quantities. Manufacturers, however, have raised their prices to, in some instances, a considerable extent; but they have not been readily responded to. The closing quotations were: ⅞ Grey Printers, from 7*s.* 9*d.* to 15*s.*; ⁹⁄₈ Grey Madapollams, 7*s.* to 10*s.*; ⁹⁄₈ Grey Printers, 9*s.* 9*d.* to 17*s.* 3*d.*; ⁵⁄₄ Grey Shirtings, 11*s.* 6*d.* to 25*s.*; Water Twists, No. 20, 1*s.* 9*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*, according to quality; No. 30, 1*s.* 3*d.* to 2*s.* 10*d.*; No. 40, 1*s.* 10*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.*; Mule Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 8*d.* to 2*s.* 4*d.*; No. 30, 1*s.* 11*d.* to 2*s.* 8*d.*; No. 40, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 10*d.*; No. 50, 2*s.* 5*d.* to 3*s.*; No. 60, 2*s.* 8*d.* to 3*s.* 2*d.*; No. 70, 2*s.* 11*d.* to 3*s.* 5*d.*; No. 80, 3*s.* 1*d.* to 3*s.* 7*d.*; No. 90, 3*s.* 3*d.* to 3*s.* 9*d.*; and No. 100, 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 1*d.*

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SHIPS ARRIVED.

AT LIVERPOOL.—December 14: The Emily, from Matamoras. The Sylph, from Bermuda.—December 15: The Joseph Gilchrist, from Callao.—December 17: The Hawk (steamer), from Bermuda.

AT GRAVESEND.—December 18: The St. Croix, from Demerara.

AT FALMOUTH.—December 16: The Maria Adelaide, from Rio Janeiro.—December 17: The Ceres, from Matamoras.—December 19: The Jeannette, from Rio Janeiro. The Silver Oar, from Havana.

AT HALIFAX, N.S.—November 24: The Janet, from Demerara, &c.—December 2: The Rover, from Jamaica.—December 5: The Eureka, from Porto Rico.

AT BERMUDA.—November 1: The Lilian, The Cyrene, from Cardiff.—November 2: The Annandale, from Liverpool.—November 5: The Levanter, The Diana, from Cardiff.—November 7: The Pleiades, The Juno, from Cardiff. The Agnes, from Rio Janeiro. The Vixen (steamer), from London, since captured near Wilmington.—November 8: The Josephine, from Cardiff.—November 9: The Eliza Wilson, from Cardiff.—November 11: The Cordelia, from Cardiff The Mary Bond, The Driving Mist, from Liverpool. The B. de Wolf, from Cardiff.—November 12: The Quiver, from London. The Vulture (steamer), from Clyde.—November 14: The Medea, from Halifax, N.S. The Venus, from Cardiff. The Ann and Mary, from Liverpool. The Evelyn (steamer), from Madeira. The Lakemba, from Cardiff. The Prioress, from Cardiff or Liverpool.—November 20: The Armstrong (steamer), from Wilmington, since captured.—November 23: The Western Star, The Koh-i-noor, from London.—November 29: The Ruby (steamer), from Liverpool.

AT HAVANA.—November 23: The Solent (steamer), from St. Thomas's, and left 25th for Vera Cruz.—November 24: The Salve, from Clyde. The San Fernando, The Neptunus, from Liverpool. The Trent (steamer), from St. Thomas's.

AT ST. THOMAS'S.—November 27: The Olaf, from Newport.

AT YARMOUTH, N.S.—December 3: The H. Havelock, from Nassau, N.P.

SHIPS SAILED.

LIVERPOOL.—December 12: The Amelia, The Babthorpe, for Nassau.—December 13: The Eroe, for Demerara.—December 14: The Russell, for Buenos Ayres. The Chance, The William, for Pernambuco. The Wilhamina, for Porto Rico.—December 15: The Rajah of Sarawak, for Rio Janeiro.—December 16: The Wild Pigeon, The Lady of the Lake, for Nassau.—December 17: The Santa Rosa, for Valparaiso. The Commissary, for Jamaica. Put back for, December 19: The Georgia Belle (steamer), for Nassau, with boilers shifted.—December 17: The Rosina Claypole, for Matamoras.—December 18: The Victoria, for Havana.

GRAVESEND.—December 14: The Maria Victorina, for Havana.—December 15: The Argus, The Express, for Demerara.—December 17: The Louise Alwardt, for Buenos Ayres.

NEWPORT.—December 14: The Belmont, for St. Thomas's. The Admiral Tromp, for Jamaica. The Boreas, for Havana.—December 15: The Mary, The Gluckauf, for St. Thomas's.—December 16: The Shamrock, for Jamaica.—December 17: The Frederick William, for Havana.—December 18: The Memphis, for St. Thomas's. The Catharine, for Havana.

CARDIFF.—December 12: The Clara Hargrave, for Havana.—December 13: The Orvarodd, for Nassau.—December 14: The Amity, for Rio Janeiro. The Prince Albert, for Nassau.—December 16: The Edith Mary, for Bermuda. The Rapid, for Havana. The Heron, The A. J. Smith, for Nassau. December 17: The Lorton Vale, for Buenos Ayres. The Skjold, for St. Thomas's.—December 18: The Malaga, for St. Thomas's. The Colonist, The Prince, for Havana. The Ranneys The Asia (steamer), for Nassau.

SOUTHAMPTON.—December 19: The Eider (steamer), for St. Thomas's.

FALMOUTH.—December 14: The Realm, for Havana.—December 15: The Jesua Maria and Jose, for Havana.

CLYDE.—December 15: The J. Blenkhorn, for Halifax, N.S.

SWANSEA.—December 15: The Sovereign, for Nassau.—December 16: The Vencedora, for Valparaiso.

QUEENSTOWN.—December 17: The Hattie, The Florence, The Flamingo (steamers), for Nassau.

BERMUDA.—November 1: The Talisman (steamer), for Nassau.—November 12: The Jessie, for London.—November 15: The Virginia (steamer), for Wilmington.—November 20: The Eveline (steamer), for Wilmington. Put back for, November 30: The Stormy Petrel (steamer), for Nassau, N.P., leaky.

ST. THOMAS'S.—November 17: The Alliance, for Liverpool.

SHIPS LOADING.

AT LONDON.—For Bermuda: The Enmore. For Halifax, N.S.: The Spirit of the Ocean, The C. A. Jones. For Demerara: The Emerald Isle, The Tanjore, The Cleopatra, The Martin, The Dorothy, The Bertha, The Rover's Bride, The Nexo. For Nassau (N.P.): The Ninfa Tagliavia (J. Worley). For Montevideo and Buenos Ayres: The Regina, The Ino, The Pilgrim, The Charles Rogers, The Kestrel, The Perseverante, The Ceara, The Brabo. For New York: The Victoria, The Cornelius Grinnell. For Havana: The Observador, The Lochalva.

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Among the Contents of THE INDEX *of December* 15 *are*:—

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GENERAL LEE.
RECOGNITION: A CONTRAST.
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RETALIATION.
THE LEGALITY OF BLOCKADE-RUNNING.
THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.
AN HISTORICAL SKETCH.
MOSBY'S LAST EXPLOIT.
AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.
SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Birth.

MACMILLAN.—On the 18th inst., at Studley Place, Moss Lane, Manchester, Mrs. Ebenezer Macmillan, of a son.

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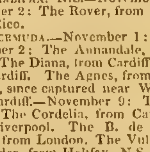

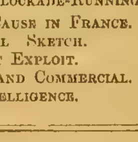

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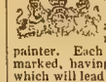

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THE INDEX

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NOTICE.

The Title and Contents to Vol. IV. of THE INDEX, *and Cases for binding, will be ready next week. The price of Vol. IV. will be 2l. 2s.*

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Confederate Cruisers.

WE are authorised to publish the following Despatch of the Secretary of State at Richmond to the Secretary of the Navy:—

Department of State, Richmond:
September 8, 1864.

Hon. S. R. Mallory, Secretary of the Navy.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the following papers communicated by you to this Department on the 22nd ult. under the instructions of the President.

Confidential communication to be made to the officer in command of the 'Florida,' a vessel of war of the so-styled Confederate States.

First: That my attention having been drawn to the circumstance of the *Martaban*, a vessel with a British register and papers, having been burned at sea by the *Alabama*, I have issued the following instructions to the officers under my command.

To capture and send to England for adjudication in the Admiralty Court every vessel by which a British vessel (i.e. with legal British papers) is burned at sea.

You are further to acquaint him that, the right or otherwise of the *Alabama* to burn the *Martaban* being not altogether free from doubt, I referred the question on the 2nd of May last for instructions, which leads me to expect a reply by the next mail. Should a view different from that which I have found it my duty to take of the question be arrived at by my superiors, I shall not fail to communicate it to him with the least possible delay, should the *Florida* still be on the station under my command.

Second: That under these circumstances it will be very satisfactory to me, if he can find it consistent with his duty, to give you a written assurance of his intention to forbear from any act of the like description until he has received special instructions in regard to this question from his Government, and that I shall be obliged by his communicating the tenor of such instructions to me by the earliest opportunity which he finds convenient.

Third: That the view I take of the question, and which I submit for his serious consideration, is as follows:—

1st. That a belligerent has the right to burn the vessel of an enemy at sea.

2nd. That a belligerent has the right to capture and to send a neutral for adjudication in an Admiralty Court, but in no case to burn her at sea prior to condemnation; and that, if circumstances do not admit of his sending her in for adjudication in an Admiralty Court, then she should be dismissed.

Fourth: That the care with which officers in command of Confederate vessels of war have hitherto avoided giving just cause of offence to neutrals induces me to indulge in the belief that he will avoid any act which may produce consequences which would be matter of much regret alike to me and to my superiors; and that I beg to call his attention to the annexed opinion of Lord Stowell on this question, which I incline to think will find acceptance with the British Government.

J. HOPE, Vice-Admiral.

The paper annexed to the foregoing communication is in the following words:—

Opinion of Lord Stowell on Capture and its incidents.

'Upon the surrender of a vessel under an enemy's flag on the high seas, a belligerent may destroy her under the general law of nations; and if a captor is unable to bring her into port, he will be justified towards his own Government in destroying her. The instructions of his own Government may, indeed, require him to bring into port every capture which he may make, but he may be actually engaged on a service which will not allow him to put a prize-crew on board the vessel which he has captured, in order that she may be taken into port. Under such a collision of duties, Lord Stowell has held that nothing is left to the belligerent vessel but to destroy the enemy's vessel which he has taken; for she cannot, consistently with her general duty to her own country, or, indeed, under its express injunctions, permit enemy's property to sail away unmolested. If it should be impossible to bring her in, her next duty is to destroy the enemy's property. When it is doubtful whether it is enemy's property, and it is impossible to bring it in, no such obligation arises, and the safe and proper course is to dismiss. When it is neutral, the act of destruction cannot be justified to the neutral owner by the gravest importance of such an act to the captor's own State. To the neutral it can only be justified, under any circumstances, by a full restitution in value.'—*Law of Nations, Dr. Twiss*, 1863.

Remark.—It is to be observed that, should the Confederate States fail in establishing their independence, then the above-named restitution in value would be impossible.

I hold this consideration to be an imperative obligation for forbearance on the part of the belligerent and the dismissal of the neutral vessel.

J. HOPE, Vice-Admiral.

The answer of Lieutenant-Commanding Morris to the foregoing communication is as follows:—

C. S. steamer *Florida*,
St. George's, Bermuda, June 20, 1864.

Sir,—Having considered the confidential communication of Sir James Hope, I have no hesitation in assuring you that it has been, and is now, my intention to allow all neutral vessels (i.e. vessels producing legal papers) to pass, and that such are my instructions from my Government.

I am, Sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,
C. M. MORRIS, Lieutenant-Commanding.

J. W. Ashley, Esq., R.N.

After conference with the President, it has been deemed unnecessary to make extended comment on the paper signed by the Vice-Admiral, for the reason that it was evidently hazarded with distrust, until instructions could be obtained from his superiors. It can scarcely be assumed by us as possible that the British Government will concur in opinion with the distinguished naval officer that British Admiralty Courts have jurisdiction over the ships of war of a foreign Government with which Great Britain is at peace; or that the rights of this Government, as an acknowledged belligerent, can be affected by the fact that Great Britain has not chosen to recognise the independence of the Confederacy; or that the proper course for a professedly neutral nation, when complaining of alleged aggressions on its neutral commerce, is to commence hostilities on the high seas against one belligerent on the first occasion for complaint and without previous remonstrance or demand for redress, while remaining passive as to the other belligerent, after three years of constant and unavailing remonstrances against hundreds of outrages and aggressions.

The purpose of the President in requesting that the papers should be referred to this Department was to obtain for the guidance of the naval officers in command of our cruisers such further and fuller instructions for the discharge of their duties as the experience of the war has shown to be necessary. These instructions I have now the honour to forward to you for transmission to your subordinates.

Minute of Instructions.

The cases which occur for decision by our cruisers may be classified as follows:—

A. A vessel under enemy's flag without cargo, or with cargo, belonging exclusively to enemy.

B. A vessel under enemy's flag with cargo, wholly or in part belonging to neutrals.

C. A vessel really neutral with cargo wholly or in part belonging to the enemy.

D. A vessel ostensibly neutral, but really hostile, fraudulently placed under a neutral flag and furnished with fraudulent papers as a cover to protect her from capture.

A. The right of our cruisers to capture enemy's property on the high seas is of course unquestioned. No condemnation by an Admiralty Court is necessary to vest title to such property in this Government. The capture itself gives instant title to the captors. The property so captured should in all cases be at once destroyed if it be not in the power of the captors to dispose of it otherwise for the benefit of the Confederacy. Enemy's vessels thus captured may be armed by the captors and placed under command of any commissioned officer of the Confederate States, and used either as tenders to the captors or detached as independent cruisers. Such vessels, so armed and commanded, are as fully entitled to the rights of national armed vessels as if built and equipped in our own waters. On this point it may be proper to observe that the British Government, after violating this principle of public law by the seizure of the *Tuscaloosa* at the Cape of Good Hope, is understood to have admitted its error, and although it has not yet tendered us the satisfaction due for so violent an aggression on our rights, it published on the 2nd of June last instructions relative to the treatment of prizes captured by either belligerent; and while refusing them permission to enter British ports, makes an express exception in favour of 'a vessel which shall have been actually and *bonâ fide* converted into, and used as, a public vessel of war.'

B. A vessel under enemy's flag with cargo wholly or in part belonging to neutrals:—

Under ordinary circumstances this case would present no embarrassment. The captured vessel would be taken into a port of the captors, or of a neutral country; the portion of the cargo belonging to the neutral would be delivered to the owners, and the vessel, with such portion of the cargo as belonged to the enemy, would be condemned as prize.

The action of neutral governments has placed serious obstacles in the way of doing justice to their own people. They have closed their ports to the admission of captured vessels, and have thus rendered it impossible to make delivery in their own ports of the property of their own subjects found on board of the vessels of our enemies; while it would be exposing those vessels to almost certain recapture to attempt to bring them into our ports, for the captured vessels are almost invariably sailing vessels, and the enemy's cruisers off our ports are steamers. In most instances heretofore it has been found practicable to reconcile to a certain extent the exercise of our own just rights as belligerents with a due regard for the claims of neutrals, by allowing the vessels of the enemy when partially laden with neutral goods to be relieved on ransom bonds. But it is obvious that this is a mode rather of eluding than of solving the difficulty, and that we cannot allow to be established as a rule that our enemies may cover their shipping from capture during the war, by simply carrying neutral goods as a part of their cargo. If, for instance, Great Britain will not permit a captured enemy's vessel to be carried into one of her ports for the purpose of their delivering to a British subject his goods found on board, she would certainly have no just ground of complaint that the goods were not restored to their owner. If, therefore, on the renewed representations we are about to make, we find neutral nations persist in refusing to receive the property of their subjects in their own ports, when captured by us on enemy's vessels, it will become necessary to instruct our cruisers to destroy such property whenever they are unable to bring the prize into our ports. In the meantime it is deemed proper, as evidence of that respect for the rights of others, which has been so seldom extended towards us in this war, that the commanders of our national cruisers should be instructed to continue their former practice of allowing the enemy to ransom his vessel in cases where the neutral property on board is of large value or bears any considerable proportion to that of the enemy; but if a ransom bond is refused, or if the proportion of neutral property on board is small compared with the value of the vessel and hostile cargo, the whole should be destroyed, whenever the prize cannot be brought into a port of our own or of a neutral country.

C. A vessel really neutral, with cargo wholly or in part belonging to the enemy.

Under the law of nations as established prior to the year 1856, such a vessel would have been liable to capture, for the purpose of being brought into port, when the hostile cargo would be condemned as prize, and the neutral vessel and the neutral portion of the cargo would be liberated.

By the Paris Declaration of 1856 it was declared that 'the neutral flag covers enemy's goods, with the exception

of contraband of war;' and this rule was adopted by th resolutions of Congress of August 13, 1861.

In the President's Message to Congress on December 7, 1863, he pointed out that this concession of belligerent rights in favour of neutrals had been made by the Confederacy in return for an obligation entered into by Great Britain and France, that they would comply with the rule of international law on the subject of blockades—also laid down in the Declaration of Paris—that both these Powers had failed to fulfil their promise, and that the Confederacy was thereby released from its obligations towards them. But the President at the same time declared that the principles established by the Paris Convention were 'more just, more humane, more consonant with modern civilisation than those belligerent pretensions which great naval powers have hitherto sought to introduce into the maritime code.' He announced, therefore, that it was the policy of this Government to forego its right to retract the assent previously given to this rule of maritime law.

The cruisers of the Confederacy will, therefore, allow vessels of neutrals to pass free, unless laden with contraband of war destined for the enemy's ports. When such vessels are found to be laden with goods contraband of war, the contraband goods, if not the property of the owner of the vessel, are to be taken out, if practicable, and transhipped or destroyed, and she is to be allowed to continue her voyage. But if the owner of the vessel has put on board contraband goods belonging to himself, destined for the enemy's country, he thereby forfeits the neutral character, and the ship is to be considered an enemy's vessel, and to be dealt with as such. No conflict with neutral Powers on this subject is to be apprehended, as they have with entire unanimity issued proclamations forbidding their subjects during the present war from engaging in contraband trade, under penalty of forfeiture of national protection.

D. A vessel ostensibly neutral, but really hostile, fraudulently placed under neutral flag and furnished with fraudulent papers to protect her from capture:—

Whenever, upon the seizure of such a vessel, she is admitted by those in command to belong to the enemy, and her neutral flag and papers are admitted to be a mere cover, there can be no difficulty in dealing with such a vessel as though sailing under an enemy's flag.

The embarrassment in actual practice may be considered as occurring almost exclusively in cases where an enemy's vessel has been since the commencement of the present war transferred to neutrals. The law of nations on the subject of the right of a belligerent to make legal sale to neutrals *flagrante bello* is not settled by universal concurrence. Great Britain and the United States maintain the validity of such sales when *bonâ fide*, while France and Russia, and perhaps other European continental Powers, hold that belligerent vessels sold to a neutral subsequent to the declaration of war are good prizes to the other belligerent, although bearing the neutral flag. The rule established in the United States was adopted prior to the secession of the Confederate States, and may be assumed to be binding on us until otherwise established by Congress.

Our cruisers ought therefore to be instructed that where a vessel of the United States has been sold in good faith to a neutral since the commencement of the war, and where the title is so absolutely transferred as to divest the enemy of any future interest in the vessel, she is free from capture. If, however, any enemy's interest in the vessel remain, if she be mortgaged or hypothecated to the enemy, she is as much liable to be dealt with as a hostile vessel as though no transfer to the neutral had been made.

Appended hereto is a list of the enemy's vessels transferred to neutrals since the beginning of the war, and known to be mortgaged to the enemy by the ostensible neutral owners. These and all other vessels in like condition are liable to capture by our cruisers as good prize of war.

It frequently occurs, however, that a belligerent makes simulated sales of vessels to neutrals with the view of protecting them from capture, and, under ordinary circumstances, when the other belligerent has reason to suspect the good faith of the transfer, the suspected vessel is brought into Court for adjudication by the Admiralty.

This course is now not open to our cruisers for the reasons above explained, and the only instructions, therefore, practically applicable, under the circumstances, are the following:—

The captor should in every case make rigid examination of the papers and documents of every vessel sailing under a neutral flag known to have belonged to the enemy at the commencement of the war.

He should take into consideration the nature of the trade in which the vessel is engaged, the national character of the master, the papers found on board, the place at which the alleged sale to the neutral took effect by delivery of the vessel, and every other circumstance tending to establish the true nature of the transfer, and to satisfy his mind whether the vessel be really neutral or merely disguised as such.

If the captured vessel has double sets of papers, or if papers have been destroyed, or subducted by her master during the chase, or if she has continued in the same course of trade and under the same master since the alleged sale to the neutral, it may be safely concluded that the property is still hostile and covered by fraudulent use of neutral flag.

In these and all other cases, when there is great and decided preponderance of evidence to show that the vessel is really enemy's property, the cruiser must act on his conviction and treat her as such, leaving to his Government the responsibility of satisfying any neutral claim for her value.

But whenever the evidence leaves serious doubt as to the true character of the transfer, it will be proper rather to dismiss the vessel if she cannot be brought into port, than to exercise a harsh and doubtful belligerent right.

There is reason to hope, however, that most of the embarrassment existing on this branch of the subject will soon be ended by a modification of the orders of the British Government, which will permit justice to be done to its own subjects. The attempt to cover the enemy's vessels from capture by the fraudulent use of neutral papers has been made almost exclusively by collusion between the enemy and British subjects. This has gone to such an extent that such vessels are familiarly termed by British naval officers 'white-washed.' In the report by Commander Wood of his interview with Vice-Admiral Hope in the harbour of Halifax, we are informed that the British officer enquired what were the instructions in the case of vessels which had recently changed flags or were 'white-washed;' that Commander Wood answered that 'unless the papers were clearly fraudulent he would let the vessel go;' that Vice-Admiral Hope then enquired if Commander Wood had seen his communication to Captain Morris of the *Florida*, and said that 'his Government required that in all such cases the vessel should be brought into an English port to have the case decided on or adjudicated.' Commander Wood is not certain whether the word 'decided' or 'adjudicated' was used.

If the British Government has, in the interests of its own subjects, become sensible of the impropriety and impolicy of shutting its ports to the introduction of prizes made by our vessels in all cases in which British claimants assert title to vessel or cargo, the instruction will be given to our cruisers to take into British ports all such vessels, there to remain until our Admiralty Courts have exercised their rightful exclusive jurisdiction over the prize questions involved in such captures. We have for the present no further information on this subject than the loose conversation above referred to, and this cannot be made the basis of action by our cruisers.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. P. BENJAMIN,
Secretary of State.

Notes on Events of the Week.

AMERICA.

THE news from America per the *Hansa* is decidedly interesting, but exactly of that character which the less sensational of the New York press would call 'important—if true.' That it is reliable in its details, our experience with Federal war-bulletins forbids us to believe: and as to its principal features—the capture of Savannah with 11,000 prisoners—letters and papers received by this very same *Hansa* leave but little doubt that the report is simply a *canard*. The next steamer will doubtless bring the contradiction—the usual sequel to 'news' per the Bremen line of steamships. This report of the capture of Savannah is satisfactorily disposed of by our New York and Washington correspondents. The reported fall of Savannah rests simply upon the authority of a 'messenger' who came passenger on the Federal transport *Varuna*, which arrived at Annapolis on the 16th. The *Varuna* left Charleston on the 13th, and the 'messenger' reports 'that when coming out of the harbour, and when too late to communicate by signals, the whole fleet began to fire a salute. . . . . And the vessels were being gaily decorated with flags in honour of some great victory.' It was 'too late to communicate by signals,' and yet this keen-eyed Yankee messenger could see that the fleet was 'being gaily decorated with flags,' which event his Federal logic concluded was in honour of some great victory; and as he had satisfied himself it was in honour of some great victory, that 'victory' surely must be the capture of Savannah and 11,000 prisoners. But the *Richmond Examiner* of the 14th says that, 'up to yesterday forenoon (13th), no fighting had taken place between Sherman's army and the Confederate troops in the defence of Savannah.' The *Examiner* adds that the city was not even invested, and that 'we have no evidence that it stands in the least danger, either from assault or siege.'

According to the advices by this arrival, scouts from General Howard, who commands Sherman's right wing, arrived at Port Royal on the 12th, announcing the presence of the entire Federal army near Savannah. On Wednesday, the 14th, Sherman attacked and carried by storm Fort M'Allister, on the east bank of the Ogeechee, fifteen miles south-west of Savannah, near Ossabaw Sound. He had crossed to the east of the Ogeechee on the 10th, near Bloomingdale, some twelve miles from Savannah. The fall of M'Allister, it is said, puts the Federal commander in communication with the fleet, but this remains to be seen, as there are other forts higher up the river. M'Allister was merely an earthwork, but feebly garrisoned, and was erected only for the defence of the river against the Federal fleet, a service it did most effectively when attacked by the monitors in the spring of last year.

Sherman's present position is not so favourable for an attack upon Savannah as that to the north or west, both of which he has abandoned: and the fact that he has abandoned those positions must be attributed to the exhausted condition of his army and the consequent imperative necessity for him to seek to open communication with the fleet. From the Lower Ogeechee to Savannah is almost an unbroken stretch of swamp and creeks, very much of the character of the Delta of the Mississippi. If the necessary works have been erected, the city can be much more easily defended against an attack from the direction of the present Federal position than from almost any other. Should Sherman advance from the lower line of the Ogeechee, one of the battle-fields of the first revolution—the one in which the gallant Pulaski gave up his life to freedom's cause—is likely to be fought over again. That would be history repeating itself, truly. We incline to think that Sherman will wait for the cooperation of the fleet in an attack upon the river defences of the city, and the cooperating force will be, it is not unlikely, the expedition which recently sailed from Fortress Monroe under Butler and Porter.

GENERAL FOSTER has made another unsuccessful attempt to cut the Savannah and Charleston Railroad. Federal newspaper accounts claim that he effected a lodgment near the road and mounted guns in position to command the railway bridges over the Tullifinny and Coosawatchie; but the Southern papers assert that he was driven back to his gunboats after burning a bridge over the Tullifinny. The railway being still intact, leaves the Confederates an incalculable advantage in the ready concentration of troops. Beauregard, Hardee, Taylor, Bragg, Gustavus Smith, and other prominent Confederate generals, were at Savannah, or within easy striking distance of that city. Now that Sherman has developed his position, and that Savannah is really the threatened point, all the outlying Confederate columns that have hitherto been awaiting this 'development' can be hurried to the city by river and rail—down the Savannah or by railway to Charleston, and thence to the scene of danger.

IF we may credit the Federal accounts from Tennessee, there has been severe fighting between Thomas and Hood. On the 15th, Thomas says, he 'attacked Hood's left and drove it,' capturing guns and prisoners, and, renewing the attack on the following day, had driven Hood from all his intrenchments, and captured from 3,000 to 4,000 prisoners, and 30 to 40 cannon. When we have the other side of the story we shall not be surprised to hear that General Hood had voluntarily retired from his position in front of Nashville—possibly to effect a junction with General Breckinridge—and that the prisoners will be reduced in number to a few hundred stragglers, and the guns to a few pieces left in the Confederate trenches. General Canby reports the success of an expedition sent to cut General Hood's communications with Mobile. The expedition cut the Mississippi Central Railroad (to what extent is not stated); but the cutting of this road no more destroys Hood's communications with Mobile than would the cutting of the Illinois Central.

RICHMOND papers report a raid by General Stoneman on the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad. They admit the capture of Bristol, Glade Springs, and Abringdon, but there is no confirmation of the capture of Saltville and the burning of the bridge over the Holston River, as stated in the Federal despatches.

BY way of New Orleans, we learn from the correspondence of the Associated Press—undoubted Federal authority—that Price claims to have accomplished all he intended in Missouri, and returned at his leisure with immense stores.

THE truth about the expedition of General Warren has come to light. Never was an enterprise more sedulously prepared, never was success more confidently anticipated. If numbers, material, and munitions could win victories, then was the success of Warren assured. He was, however, overcome by two obstacles—the foresight of General Lee and the gallantry of the Confederate soldiers. The movement, which was commenced on the 7th inst., was made by the whole of the 5th Corps, the third division of Hancock's corps, and General Gregg's cavalry, the whole somewhat over 20,000 strong. The column was provided with an amount of stores suitable for a long march, with a drove of oxen destined to supply the soldiers with fresh meat. The object of the expedition was to establish a new base at a point which would deprive General Lee of the use of the Petersburg and Weldon Railroad. If Weldon were reached, supplies could be obtained by the Roanoke River, or by rebuilding the Suffolk Railroad. Probably also it was thought that such an effort would necessitate such a movement on the part of General Lee as would weaken the defence of Richmond. However, General Lee was not to be outmanœuvred by General Warren, and when the latter reached Hicksford, on the Meherrin River, he found a force of Confederates ready to dispute his advance. Colonel Garnett was in command of the Southern troops, consisting, it is said, mainly of militia. General Warren did not attempt to advance, but having torn up a few miles of track returned to the place from which he had started, confessedly defeated in the purpose of his march. After Warren had left, a strong force, said to belong to General Longstreet's corps, attacked the right wing of Butler's division, drove in the pickets, and, after a thorough reconnaissance of Butler's position, retired unassailed.

WE regret to record the death of the gallant Major-General Cleburne, who fell at the battle of Franklin. His loss will be most severely felt by the army of Tennessee and the Confederacy at large. A more brave man or more skilful officer never led troops to the charge. Born in Ireland, the prolific mother of warriors, he entered the English army as a private soldier. Having inherited some property, he sold out, emigrated to America, and eventually practised as a lawyer in Arkansas. When the war broke out his knowledge of drill stood him in good stead, and his ardour in the cause of his adopted country speedily brought him into notice. With great rapidity he rose from the rank of a subaltern to the proud position of Major-General in the Confederate army. He has been present in all the principal battles of the West, and ever by his example and his genius inspired extraordinary enthusiasm in his men. He was a man for whom admiration was heightened by affection, and he now represents the latest, and not the least, sacrifice laid on the altar of the liberty of the South. May the memory of his virtues live to kindle again the fiery energy of Pat Cleburne's division! Generals Adams, Gist, Strahl, Williams, and Granberry fell on the same glorious but fatal field.

THE further hearing of the case of the 'St. Alban's raiders' came before Judge Coursal on December 15. Mr. Kerr pleaded to the jurisdiction of the court at some

length, and the Judge, after an adjournment, proceeded to deliver his opinion on the question of jurisdiction. He held that the case came under the Imperial Act, and that as the provincial Act to carry into effect the Ashburton Treaty had not received the Royal sanction, it could not prevail against that of the Imperial Legislature. The Imperial Act required that the warrant under which the prisoners were arrested should be signed by the Governor-General. The prisoners must therefore be discharged. Mr. Devlin made a violent speech to induce the court to change its decision, basing his argument principally on political grounds. Mr. Rose, the counsel for the United States, also desired to speak, but the court refused to hear him after judgment pronounced. Immense cheering greeted the decision of the Judge. The men were then set at liberty and dispersed. From the intelligence brought by the *Hansa*, it appears that Attorney-General Cartier has ordered the rearrest of the men on the ground that the Judge of the Montreal court had made a wrong decision. The police were endeavouring to effect their capture. The Canadian Cabinet, according to the same intelligence, has denounced the Judge's decision, and there was some expectation that Mr. Justice Coursal would be dismissed. The truth of these averments must, however, be doubted. It is difficult to realise the notion of an interference on the part of the Executive with the Judiciary in a matter where the liberty of any person is at stake. In England no one could even contemplate the possibility of such an act. The dismissal of a judge whose office was tenable *dum bene se gesserit* for a decision, however wrong, if made *bonâ fide*, would be equally worthy of reprobation. Other steps seem to have been taken by the Canadian Cabinet in view of the situation, such as the appointment of stipendiary magistrates on the frontier, to take cognisance of similar attempts. The furious rage of the North at the escape of the band of Confederates has shown itself in various ways. General Dix has gone the length of issuing instructions to the military commanders on the frontier, the observance of which will certainly constitute a *casus belli* on the part of England. He orders the perpetrators of all such attempts as the attack on St. Alban's to be shot down. Should they escape across the frontier, the neutrality of the territory is to be disregarded, and the depredators are to be pursued to every place of refuge. In case of capture on Canadian soil, they are not to be delivered over to the Canadian authorities, but sent on to the army head-quarters for trial. Of course the action of the Federal Government is outstripped by the violence of the Federal press. The *New York Times* argues that inasmuch as the soil of Canada has been made the base of rebel operations, it has thereby lost its sacred right to inviolability, and is entitled to no more respect than the territory of Virginia or South Carolina. The wrath of England is to be wholly disregarded, and war, if it is to come, will be welcomed by the power of the North. In Congress also the same indignation prevails. Not only is the conduct of the Canadians denounced in the resolutions proposed, but the threatened claim for payment by the British Government for the cargoes and ships destroyed by the cruisers fitted out in British ports, has come again to the surface with increased earnestness.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL W. R. BEALE, of the Confederate army, who has been confined for some time in Fort Warren, has been paroled to act as the accredited agent of the Confederate Government to receive the thousand bales of cotton which are to be sent from the Southern States to exchange the cotton for 30,000 blankets, and to distribute them among the Southern prisoners. General Halbert Payne represented the Federal Government in the matter. The arrangements were nearly completed for the accomplishment of this work of humanity.

A BILL already introduced into the House of Representatives at Washington, and destined in all probability to become law, will give the prevailing ideas of the Government on the method of reconstruction of the Union. The Bill provides for the appointment by the President of provisional Governors of rebel States, who shall see that the laws of the United States and of the State before the rebellion are enforced. But no law or usage recognising slavery shall be recognised by any officer or court in such State. It emancipates all slaves in such State and their posterity for ever, and provides for the discharge on habeas corpus of persons held to service on pretence of ownership.

It provides for the punishment of attempts to reenslave emancipated persons. It declares that officers of the rank of colonel or higher in the rebel service are not citizens of the United States. The seventh section recognises the State of Louisiana as constituted under the Convention assembled at New Orleans in April last.

The Bill further provides for the calling of Conventions in States whose Governments have been usurped and overthrown, as soon as the military resistance to the United States shall have been suppressed, and the people shall have sufficiently returned to their allegiance. The Conventions are required to provide that persons in rebel civil or military service of and above the grade of colonel, shall not vote for or be a member of the Legislature or Governor.

Involuntary servitude is prohibited, and the freedom of all persons to be guaranteed in the said States. No debt, State or Confederate, created by the usurping power is to be recognised. If the Convention shall refuse to reestablish the State Government upon the above conditions, the provisional Government is to declare it dissolved, and another election of delegates is to be ordered.

GENERAL ANDERSON, of the 3rd Brigade Georgia Militia, was wounded at the fight of Griswoldville. His brigade suffered heavily in a desperate charge on the enemy's breastworks.

A NEW Confederate ram is said to be lying at Selma in Alabama, receiving her armour-plating. She is reported to be a powerful vessel of the style and strength of the *Tennessee*.

A FORCE of 150 negro troops fell into an ambush near Memphis on December 9, and were cut to pieces, only seven of the party escaping.

THE Brazilian Government has demanded satisfaction for the seizure of the *Florida* in a despatch which the Northern press characterises as insolent. Mr. Seward has replied in a letter which, on the same authority, is said to be firm, yet conciliatory.

GENERAL JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON, late Commander-in-Chief of the Army of Tennessee, took his seat in the Confederate Senate on December 12.

THE Federal General Reynolds has succeeded General Steele in the command at Little Rock, Arkansas.

CHIEF JUSTICE CHASE was sworn and took his seat on the bench of the Supreme Court on December 15.

ADMIRAL FARRAGUT has returned to New York on leave, and the command of the West Gulf blockading squadron has been committed to Commodore J. S. Parker. Farragut has been recommended for the rank of Vice-Admiral, and probably will not resume active service.

A MILITARY board of enquiry has been appointed to investigate the sinking of the *Florida*. The naval court had failed to arrive at any decision.

THE exchange of prisoners which had been stopped on the Savannah River was progressing at Charleston. The number of Federal prisoners released up to December 12 was 9,000.

A GRAND dinner has been given to General Buckner and Prince de Polignac by the citizens of Alexandria.

THE price of gold at New York on December 17 was 228.

ENGLAND.

AT a meeting of the Town Council at Sunderland on Wednesday, M. Niboyet, French vice-consul at that town, presented to Mr. James Allison, the ex-mayor, a magnificent box sent to that gentleman by His Majesty the Emperor of the French, accompanied by a letter from the Foreign Minister, expressing on the part of the Government of the Emperor a high sense of the cordial reception given in the month of October last by the authorities and the population of Sutherland to the commandant, staff, and officers of the Imperial frigate *La Danaë*. M. Niboyet addressed the meeting, and said that he had already had the opportunity of thanking Mr. Allison, while he held the office of mayor, in the name of Commodore Thoyon and the officers and crew of the *Danaë*. Now he had to announce to them that not only had the French ambassador at London been directed to express the thanks of the Government of the Emperor to the Government of the Queen, but that the Emperor had desired to preserve the recollection of the fêtes and manifestations which took place during the visit of the Commander-in-Chief of the French naval division of Iceland to that port by presenting a lasting acknowledgment of his sentiments in the shape of a handsome enamelled gold box, adorned with his portrait, to the ex-mayor. Mr. Alderman Allison addressed M. Niboyet, and thanked the Emperor for having made him the recipient, on behalf of the people of Sunderland, of this token of his regard; he hoped that the Emperor might long live, for as long as he existed the present friendly relations would exist between this country and France.

ON Thursday last a meeting of the South Staffordshire ironmasters was held at Birmingham to consider the propriety of reducing the wages of puddlers and millmen. After full consideration, it was decided to reduce puddlers' wages 1*s.* per ton, making the price of ordinary puddling 9*s.* 6*d.* instead of 10*s.* 6*d.*; and to reduce the wages of millmen and others employed in the ironworks of the districts represented 10 per cent. Since 1863 puddlers' wages have been raised 3*s.* per ton, as the price of iron advanced; but when the last reduction took place in iron no reduction was made in their wages, though colliers' wages were reduced. The colliers made strenuous opposition, but, after a strike of seventeen weeks' duration, gave in. The remembrance of this will probably have the effect of checking any resistance on the part of the puddlers and millmen. At all events, precautions were taken at the masters' meeting to check any partial strike.

PAUPERISM and good cheer rarely go together. Yet there are exceptions to every rule, a proof of which is given by the report published of the fare with which the inmates of the London workhouses have been regaled at this festive season of Christmas. Thirty-five London workhouses, with the Central London District Schools at Hanwell, and the Industrial Schools at Forest Gate, support no less than 27,725 in-door paupers, and give relief to more than 50,000 out-door poor. It appears from the returns sent in by the masters of the several workhouses that for the Christmas dinner of these 27,725 inmates, there were cooked more than 33,700 lbs., or upwards of 15 tons of plum-pudding, and about 1 lb. of meat per head; also 1 pint of beer or porter was given to each adult. Tobacco and snuff were distributed to the grown-up individuals, and fruit and sweets to the children.

A CASE of some interest came on last week in the Court of Queen's Bench, before the Lord Chief Justice Cockburn. The Maharajah Duleep Singh, son of the famed Runjeet Singh, the Lion of the Punjaub, who has lived for many years in this country enjoying the highest favour at Court, and who has embraced the Christian religion, was defendant in an action brought against him for breach of agreement and wrongful dismissal by Attchal Singh, formerly a soldier in the 15th Punjaub Infantry. It seems that in 1861 the defendant engaged him as a falconer at 4*l.* a month, together with board, clothes, and washing, and also agreed to compensate him for any loss he might sustain by reason of his leaving the army. The plaintiff came over to England in the defendant's service, and remained with him till December, 1862; he then became so disgusted with his position that he left, since, instead of being treated as a gentleman, as he expected, he met with numberless indignities. Indeed, on one occasion, an inferior servant took up a stick, and threatened to insult with blows the dignity of Attchal Singh. The victim of this unparalleled outrage reported the affair to his Highness, but the latter took no notice of it. Moreover, during the last seven or eight months that he was in the defendant's employment he had to find himself in every necessary, and for this he claimed compensation. He had also a huge claim for what he called brandy money, his allowance being a bottle of brandy every other day. His whole claim amounted to the very moderate sum of 884*l.*, and, as the counsel for the defendant remarked, a combination of Eastern imagination and of the astuteness of a London attorney had produced the bill of particulars. Among the items was a claim for 100*l.* for loss of caste by coming to England; but his Highness, in the course of his evidence, said that the price of regaining caste was about 7*s.* 6*d.* It appeared also that the defendant had not dismissed the plaintiff, but that he left of his own accord. The defendant had even paid the passage to Calcutta, but it did not suit the convenience of Attchal Singh to go at that particular time. Witnesses also were called to prove that the plaintiff never made any complaint to them; but before the conclusion of the defendant's case the jury made a written communication to his Lordship, and the counsel for the plaintiff agreed to be nonsuited. His Highness offered to pay the plaintiff's passage to Calcutta notwithstanding what had occurred.

THE report of the Postmaster-General for 1863 reveals some facts of striking interest, especially when comparison is instituted with the state of things at the commencement of the decade. It appears that throughout the postal districts of England and Wales the total increase of population of 1863 over 1854 has been 1,921,482; in letters delivered, 171,024,789; in money-orders issued and paid, rather more than 5,000,000*l.* each; and in savings-bank depositors, 237,255, representing a balance due on the 31st March of the present year of 3,828,804*l.* The corresponding figures with respect to Scotland and Ireland are as follows:—Scotland—Increase in population, 155,329; in letters delivered, 17,287,669; in money-orders issued and paid, 491,405*l.* and 538,424*l.* respectively; and in savings-bank depositors, 30,075, representing an unpaid balance of 107,932*l.* Ireland—Increase in population, 709,058; in letters delivered, 10,362,859; in money-orders issued and paid, 409,230*l.* and 535,496*l.* respectively; and in savings-bank depositors, 11,077, representing a balance unpaid of 160,756*l.* The grand totals of increase for the United Kingdom under the same headings are therefore—Increase in population, 1,367,753; in letters delivered, 198,675,317; in money orders issued and paid, 6,031,382*l.* and 6,185,591*l.* respectively; and in savings-bank depositors, 278,407, representing a balance due of 4,097,492*l.* The increase in the number of savings-bank depositors since the establishment of the post-office savings banks has been enormous and almost universal, decrease being exhibited only in the following places—Birmingham, Blackburn, Bury (Lancashire), Oldham, Preston, Stockport, and Watford. The correspondence of the whole kingdom has increased within ten years at the rate of 44 per cent., but the local correspondence of London has increased at the rate of 65 per cent., and the whole correspondence of London at the rate of 56 per cent.; whilst that of Birmingham has increased at the rate of 54, that of Birkenhead at 71, that of Blackburn at 59, that of Bolton at 90, that of Bradford at 62, that of Chester at 76, that of Darlington at 70, that of Derby at 88, that of Leicester at 93, that of Halifax at 73, that of Leeds at 69, that of Warrington at 96, that of Wigan at 73, and that of Wolverhampton at 78 per cent.

THE will of Hudson Gurney, Esq., of Keswick, in the county of Norfolk, has been proved. The personalty alone was sworn under 1,100,000*l.* Mr. Gurney possessed also considerable landed estates. The charitable bequests, the benefit of which is confined to the county of Norfolk, amounted to 5,200*l.*

LORD LYONS arrived in England in the *China*. Professor Goldwin Smith returned to this country in the same vessel.

THE custom of duelling is generally supposed to have become extinct in England, but we still find traces left of that ancient chivalry which in the ages of heroic valour led 'gentlemen to the manner born' to vindicate in single combat their wounded honour. In a case that has this week come before the public the principals were men widely differing in profession and practice. In the one, a retired major of Her Majesty's Indian army, the sparks of martial ardour might well be supposed to linger, so that it required but a small cause to fan them into a blazing flame, and to call forth from the indignant ex-soldier a demand for 'satisfaction.' The other might well be supposed to be less an adept in the use of the sword or pistol than in that of the tongue or pen, being a member of the firm of Desborough, Young, & Desborough, attorneys and solicitors. It seems that Messrs. Desborough had been employed by Major William Brownrigg Lumley in the arrangement of a private matter of very great delicacy and importance, and had sent in their bill of costs,

amounting to 99*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.* On December 19 they received a cheque on the Truro Bank for 20*l.*, which, together with 6*l.* odd belonging to the Major which they had in hand, they proposed to set against their bill, and Mr. Desborough, jun., wrote to the Major to that effect. On the following day a letter came from the Major objecting to this course; and Mr. Desborough at once wrote to inform him that as soon as the cheque was cashed in Cornwall and remitted to the bankers of the firm, he would send Major Lumley a cheque for the amount. But this arrangement did not suit the Major, and in high wrath he proceeded to the offices of the firm, and marching up to Mr. Desborough's table emphatically said, 'Sir, I demand my money.' In vain Mr. Desborough assured him that he had not the money; the Major would neither sit down, nor be pacified by any remonstrances or explanations of the solicitor, but in a loud tone declared that 'he would have war to the knife,' and that his own solicitor had advised him that no bill of costs was due till it had been taxed. Messrs. Desborough replied that they put no belief in his words, and the Major, while retorting that he did not believe one word Mr. Desborough said, still persisted in demanding his money. At last Mr. Desborough arose, and, politely opening the door, thrice requested the Major to withdraw. But the soldier was not to be moved from his post, and it was only on Mr. Desborough laying his hand on his shoulder and guiding him to the door that he would take his departure. But to be turned out of an attorney's office was too much for a major of her Majesty's army. On the following day Sir John Louis waited on the solicitor with a letter from Major Lumley to the effect that 'Waiving the pecuniary misunderstanding that had arisen, he wished to call attention to a subject of graver aspect. Yesterday afternoon,' wrote the gallant Major, 'you insulted me in your own office in the grossest and most absolute manner. You first shook your hand menacingly in my face. You then contradicted me in terms so furiously offensive as to constitute the "lie direct," and you completed the outrage by endeavouring to thrust me with such violence from the room that it amounted to the last indignity to which a gentleman can be exposed—viz. a "blow." This treatment I consider as not merely dishonouring my person and reputation, but also the commission I have the honour of holding in her Majesty's Indian army. I therefore demand from you that "satisfaction" which, under such conditions, one gentleman is entitled to from another.'

To this fierce letter Mr. Desborough's reply was both mild and concise—he would neither fight nor apologise. This was not what the Major expected. Sir Louis was again required. A second letter was sent by his hand to say that the only course left open to the Major was to announce to Mr. Desborough 'that he should henceforth consider him as beneath the notice of all who are "gentlemen to the manner born," and the only inconvenience that the solicitor need apprehend was a sound and wholesome flagellation whenever and wherever the chance of administering the same should present itself; the Major's only hope and prayer being that the desired opportunity might occur in the vicinity of clear and running water, so that he might be enabled to cleanse his hands as speedily as possible of that taint which must necessarily accrue through contact with a snob, a liar, and a coward.'

Mr. Desborough immediately applied for a warrant, and on Monday the case was brought before the Mayor; and Major Lumley was bound over in his own recognisances in 250*l.* to keep the peace towards Mr. Desborough, jun.

INDIA.

Sad intelligence is received from almost all quarters of injury to the crops from want of rain, and there is every prospect of severe suffering during the coming season throughout the whole country.

The King of Bokhara has received a letter to the following effect from the Czar of Russia:—'Our troops have reached Tashkund and Shurraubkhana, situated near Kohan, and according to our treaty we intend collecting an army at Huzrut Sooltan to march against Thibet and other places. Kashghur and Yarkund are part of the Bokhara territory. We would be much obliged if the King of Bokhara would consent to our troops passing through those places.' The Russian ambassador is at Bokhara.

A grand khillut, consisting of diamond necklaces, &c., has been sent by the Czar of Russia to the King of Bokhara.

The movement of the British troops upon Bhootan has caused great consternation in that country, and the feud between the Rajahs, who are for peace, and the Pillos, who are for war, has almost broken out into civil war.

THE CONTINENT.

FRANCE.

Some uneasiness is felt in the society of the capital in consequence of the announcement that by the advice of her physicians the Empress will abstain from taking part in the festivities and receptions of the season. There will therefore be no evening entertainment or ball at the Tuileries on January 2, as originally contemplated; the diplomatic reception on the morning of that day will, of course, take place as usual. There is little talk of politics at the present moment in France. The attention of all is concentrated on the gigantic American struggle; the Danish episode has been played out, and men look round again to see with horror that the bloody drama on the other side of the ocean has been going on without intermission, while their own thoughts have been momentarily engaged elsewhere. The affairs of Italy are no longer so engrossing; the arrangements of the Convention are in course of execution; the garrison of Rome, which now numbers about 11,000 men, is to be reduced shortly. With regard to internal affairs, the authorities and their satellite journals are engaged in glorifying themselves over the reconstruction of Paris. M. Haussmann, the Prefect of the Seine, has had another opportunity of enlarging upon his favourite topics, and of defending himself from the charge of extravagance, in a speech made to the Council of the Department. The Ministry have had the forthcoming budget under their consideration for some time; it has been semi-officially promised on several occasions, but its appearance has been as often postponed. M. Fould has applied for authority to sell some of the Crown forests, and it has already been granted to him in one instance. The sale of these will, he hopes, enable him to dispense with a loan. There are some difficulties connected with the sale, which can only be obviated by a fresh law on the subject. As the law at present stands, the clearing of all wooded districts is absolutely prohibited. The French nation has suffered considerably from the enormous clearing of land which took place after the revolution of 1792, depending as they do mainly on their forests for a provision of combustibles. Forests are now subjected to the tenderest care of the Imperial Government, which is careful to keep up a good supply of firewood for the use of the poorer and more excitable classes.

The successors of M. Mocquard in his two offices of private secretary and *chef du cabinet* to the Emperor are M. Pietri for the former, and M. Conti for the latter. They are both Corsicans by birth. M. Pietri is well known for the successful manner in which he brought about the plebiscite, or popular vote, which transferred Nice from Italy to France.

The Imperial Court was engaged last week in hearing a case of almost romantic interest connected with the history of a diamond. It appears that, in the year 1777, a man named Lestonneau, a native of the south of France, went to India, and took service in the Mahratta Empire. He rapidly rose by his talents and courage, became generalissimo of the army, and confidential minister of the sovereign. In 1806 he determined to return to France. The Prince of the Mahrattas gave him as a parting present a diamond valued at 24,000*l.* On his return to France he found misfortunes awaiting him: his remittances had been invested in assignats, the greenbacks of that day, and were consequently lost. With the remains of his property he bought some ironworks in his native district. The Spanish guerillas invaded the country and took him prisoner. He escaped to Syria, where he became the guest of Lady Stanhope. On her death he was admitted into a charitable asylum, where he ended his adventurous life. Before leaving Paris to purchase the ironworks, he had confided his diamond to M. Lépine, the Court jeweller. Mdlles. Lestonneau now brought an action against the heirs of M. Lépine for the value of the diamond; the defendants produced a receipt purporting to have been given to them in return for the jewel by a confidential agent of General Lestonneau. The Imperial Court has decided that the action is barred by the statute of limitations, and the ladies have consequently lost the diamond and their cause. Query: What becomes of lost diamonds? The ultimate fate of lost pins has been an awful mystery which 'no fellow can understand:' but the disappearance of jewels of value, the peculiarities of which are as well known amongst jewellers as are the points of Derby winners in the racing world, is still more enigmatical. Where are the diamonds of the Queen's necklace? Rumour says, in Russia, adorning some fair Muscovite; but rumour alone gives an answer. So, where is General Lestonneau's diamond? The value of it alone ought to make a reply easy; there are not many people in the world who can afford to keep 24,000*l.* locked up in a square half-inch of crystal. *Apropos* of jewels, a story is told of an emerald, which shows that some of these precious stones can be traced and recognised. A gentleman residing in Paris had brought from Central America one of the most magnificent emeralds in the world. It was placed on a cushion to be exhibited to his friends at an evening party. In the midst of the entertainment the emerald vanished; every search was made for it, but in vain. Years afterwards, in November 1864, at a reunion of gentlemen, the loser of the emerald saw his jewel in a pin adorning the scarf of a person of the highest respectability. Needless to say, he at once enquired how it got there. The explanation was quite satisfactory. The wearer of it had once played *écarté* in England with an Italian, and had lost a large sum to him. He suspected the Italian of cheating, watched him, and detected him in the act. Of course he demanded his money back, but the rogue begged so hard to be let off from so ruinous an *exposé*, that he consented to take instead a splendid emerald pin which the Italian had on. Luckily he was able to describe very exactly the person of this fashionable thief; the original owner of the emerald recognised him as a former acquaintance of his own, the police were put on the alert, and there are hopes of the capture of this 'misguided individual party,' to borrow a choice Yankeeism from the most Yankee letter of the Yankeeest of Yankees, Mr. Seward.

ITALY.

The measures for the installation of the Government at Florence are being pursued with activity. Great difficulty has been found in suiting the buildings to their new purpose, as every edifice of any importance in Florence is devoted to one branch or the other of the fine arts, an arrangement which it is not desirable to disturb. A royal decree has been published declaring of public utility the occupation of the convents, seminaries, and other establishments in Florence required for the administration of the State. The mayor of the city has convoked the municipal council to concert measures for the accommodation of their numberless expected visitors; a large piece of land belonging to the city, and lying to the left of the Arno, is to be laid out in squares and streets; the suburbs are to be all annexed; a company has been formed for the erection of wooden and iron houses, similar to those supplied in England for colonial use; by the terms of their charter, they must have at least 2,000 rooms ready by May 1. The Chamber of Deputies stands adjourned to January 5; the Senate held its last sitting on the 21st inst., to confirm some of the financial measures passed by the Lower House. Signor Sella, the Finance Minister, wishing to exhibit to Europe the security of the State credit, is about to publish an account of the manner in which 60,000,000 francs can be saved by economy in the Administration; this sum, together with 85,000,000 francs, to be raised by additional taxation, will reduce the deficit of next year's budget considerably. General della Marmora, in the last sitting of the Lower House, spoke on the subject of the Austrian menaces; he said that Italy is at this moment more necessary to the equilibrium of Europe than the old Austrian monarchy; should Austria think fit to attack Italy, it will be right and expedient for the latter to do her best to dismember the Austrian Empire. This language bears out the expression used by Count Mensdorff Pouilly, when he said that it was impossible for Austria to come to terms with a Power who considers her very existence as an insult to herself.

A new office has been created in the Italian Cabinet in the shape of a Minister of Marine. General Angioletti has been appointed to this post, the duties of which have up to this time been performed by General della Marmora himself. The Minister of the Interior has addressed a circular to the prefects on the subject of the attempts against Venetia, in which he observes that the party of action are still intriguing to make a fresh attempt on that unfortunate country, in spite of their late ill success; he declares that the Government is resolved to stop such enterprises, and therefore invites the prefects to exercise a most rigorous surveillance over the agents of the party of action within their districts, and to remove the most dangerous emigrants from the frontier. Some of the professors in the once famous University of Bologna have refused to take the oath of allegiance to the King; they have accordingly been dismissed from their offices.

We are told of two scandals in the Italian non-papal Church, which are not likely to increase the reputation of the religious secessionists in Italy. Fra Pantaleo, a Garibaldian monk, who has of course been unfrocked by his superior ecclesiastical authorities, has been charged, in an indictment laid against him by the Advocate-General of Florence, with having publicly preached against monastic corporations, with having called the Papacy a negation of divinity and humanity, and with other anti-papal heresies. The vigorous conduct of the Advocate-General exhibits the determination of the Government to uphold catholicity of doctrine. In the North of Italy, at Bergamo, an evangelical minister opened a chapel in which he preached his doctrines. The mob fell upon him, with shouts of 'Down with the heretics!' and were only prevented from putting him to death by the energetic interference of a Garibaldian volunteer. Thus the people in their turn assert their adherence to their old religion.

Some sort of communication has taken place between the Governments of Turin and Rome through the mediation of Paris, and an agreement has been made for the expulsion from the Papal territory of Italian subjects against whom warrants have been issued either for ordinary offences, or for brigandage in South Italy. A batch of brigands have been condemned to death by the French courts-martial, and another of these worthies has been delivered up to the Italian authorities. A Bourbonist circular has been found among the lower classes, in which politics and religion are mixed up in the quaintest manner; murderers, iconoclasts, Protestants, and heretics are all threatened with speedy destruction; benedictions are pronounced upon Mary the Immaculate and Francis II. No news has arrived of the intended policy of the Vatican. Cardinal Antonelli is said to be engaged in inducing the Pope to make Mgr. de Mérode a cardinal. The effect of this would be to compel him to leave the Vatican, where he now always stays by the side of the Pope, and to shut himself up in a palace in solitary grandeur. It is said that the Pope is about to begin the formation of his army, as proposed in the Franco-Italian Convention, by the disbanding of the Pontifical Zouaves. His Holiness has published an encyclical letter, addressed to the patriarchs, archbishops, and bishops throughout the world, condemnatory of the various doctrines which have been promulgated of late years contrary to the principles and the precepts of the Catholic Church. He especially designates as the objects of his condemnation, first, the doctrine of 'naturalism,' which teaches that there is no connection between the State and the Church, and that every man is at liberty to think, say, and write what he pleases; secondly, the doctrine of 'socialism,' which would destroy the family religion by depriving human society of divine sanction, and building it up out of a fortuitous concourse of individuals. The particular errors which are condemned by the Bull are comprehended in eighty propositions, which were composed by a committee of theologians under the direction of the Pope. The Bull is dated 'January 5, 1864, in the 10th year of the dogmatic definition of the Immaculate Conception, and the 19th of our Pontificate.'

DENMARK.

The difficulties which arose in the Rigsraad on occasion of the difference between the two Chambers mentioned in our last, have been put an end to by the formation of a mixed committee of the two Houses. The following measures have been agreed to:—the elimination of all the Slesvig members of the House, with the exception of those representing the Danish enclaves; and the preservation till March 1866 of the budget in its present form, for Denmark and Slesvig in common. The fundamental law of the constitution has been revised: the members of the Folksthing, or Lower House, are to be elected by universal suffrage, those of the Upper House, or Landsthing, by electors with an annual income of $2,000, or paying direct taxes to the amount of $200. No conditions of eligibility are to be required of the candidates; the King will name twelve of the sixty-four members of the Upper House.

GERMANY.

Yet other claimants have appeared for the Ducal crown

of Slesvig-Holstein, or parts at least of it, in the shape of the King of Bavaria, the Ernestine branch of the House of Saxe, and a certain Count of Rantzau, besides a Count Styrum, a connection of the House of Oldenburg. The Houses which have put in claims up to this time are Austria, Prussia, Augustenburg, two branches of Oldenburg, Hesse, Saxony, Bavaria, and Rantzau. Count Mensdorff has agreed to the proposal of Count von Bismarck, to refer the claims of all the candidates to a juridico-diplomatic conference, to be held at Vienna or Berlin. The projects of annexation, which were once so warmly supported at Berlin, are now being abandoned in favour of a proposition which, without depriving the Duchies of a nominal independence, would place them, as far as their foreign relations go, completely at the disposal of Prussia. Prussia, they say, will not tolerate the existence of a corps d'armée in the north which is not under the orders of the Prussian commander-in-chief. In consequence of the maintenance of these views, the young King of Bavaria has addressed an autograph letter to the King of Hanover, requesting him to unite with Bavaria and other minor German Powers whom the proceedings of Prussia in the Duchies have seriously annoyed. The Hanoverian reply was couched in the most favourable and friendly terms. Herr von der Pfordten, the Bavarian minister, and Herr von Beust, of Saxony, have also met and come to an understanding on the basis of a new German Confederation of the minor Powers. Thus they propose to remodel the existing system, according to which there are thirty-five members of the Confederacy, thirty-two of whom are the playthings of the two others, and to form a new Confederacy of three Powers, Austria, Prussia, and the minor Confederacy. The strength of component parts of the new Bund would be an exact inversion of the present state of things. The minor Powers have a population of 17,000,000, Prussia 14,000,000, and Austria 13,000,000 pure Germans.

The King of Prussia has issued a statute instituting a military cross in commemoration of the capture of Alsen. It is described as a cross of yellow bronze, bearing a wreath of laurel surrounding a medallion of the King, and suspended by a blue watered ribbon with two orange stripes and a black and white border for combatants, and an orange watered ribbon with one blue stripe and a black and white border for non-combatants. On the decease of the wearer of it, the decoration is to be preserved in his parish. The High Court of Berlin pronounced judgment on the great trial of the Poles on the 23rd inst. The greater number were acquitted; eleven, all absent, were condemned to death, two to two years', two to eighteen months', two to fifteen months', and nineteen to one year's imprisonment. The negotiations between Prussia, Austria, Saxony, and Bavaria, with regard to a new customs' treaty, commenced at Berlin on the same day.

The Financial Committee of the Lower Chamber of the Reichsrath of Austria has fixed the deficit of the budget of 1865 at 77,000,000 florins; 55,000,000, however, will be covered by the amount destined for the sinking fund. The Committee proposes to strike off the other 22,000,000 from the military expenses, by effecting a reduction in the army. The Lower House of the Reichsrath has stultified its own decisions in a most remarkable manner. It will be remembered, that during the debate on the address, the opposition carried a resolution condemning the conduct of the Government in establishing a state of siege in Galicia. The House has since that time proceeded to examine the case of Herr Rogarski, a Polish deputy, who was tried by various tribunals established under the said martial law, and condemned by them. According to the previous judgment of the House, Herr Rogarski ought to have been reinstated in all his rights, since the tribunals by which he was tried had been declared to be illegal. But, on the contrary, an immense majority decided that Herr Rogarski had forfeited his position as deputy of the Reichsrath. Thus the House has declared that the defendant was legally convicted, while it declares that the tribunal which condemned him was illegally constituted. The absurdity of this proceeding is considered to be a death-blow for the opposition, who forced the House into a theory which in practice it was obliged to reject. Notice is taken of the pride which the Emperor of Austria seems to take in his position as a constitutional sovereign. When petitions are presented to him, his most favourable reply is, 'I will promote your case with my Reichsrath.' The liberties of the country are better guarded by such a disposition in their sovereign than by the carping objections of an impracticable opposition. The editor of the *Vaterland* was tried on the 22nd instant on the charge of doing injury to the honour and dignity of the King of Prussia by asserting in his journal that His Majesty was intent on forming a military State at the expense of the Prussian nation, and that he did not hesitate to sacrifice the wellbeing, the rights, and liberties of the country to Moloch. The Archduke Louis Joseph, younger brother of the late Emperor Francis I. of Austria, has just died, aged eighty years. In former times, when his brothers were successively on the Imperial throne, he was their influential counsellor.

We may obtain an idea of the emigration of Germans to America from the following statistics of the Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, the population of which numbered once about 600,000 souls. Between 1849 and 1862 76,000 persons left that district; in 1863, 7,000 more; and in 1864, not less than 10,000; making 93,000 in all, or about one-sixth of the population.

Affairs in Hesse seem likely to become serious. The precise cause of the difficulty was that the municipality of Cassel authorised a riding-school to be opened; upon which the Elector of Hesse annulled the permission on the ground that all education was in the hands of the State. Two courses of action have been decided upon in answer to this: the Ministry are to be impeached for advising so unconstitutional a proceeding; and the relations of the Elector are about to apply to the Federal Diet to declare the sovereign incapacitated, and to appoint a regent in his stead. The regent designated is Prince Frederick of Hesse.

A story is told in Germany which is not much to the credit of the present King of Prussia, and is consequently received with all the more delight. The King, then Prince Frederick William, was serving in the Rhine provinces of Bavaria in the revolutionary period of 1849; he stayed at a certain hotel for two days with his staff, and ran up a bill of 45*l.*; the host applied for payment, and was referred by the Prince to the Bavarian Government, who ought, he said, to pay all expenses for the troops acting in its behalf. The Bavarian Government repudiated the debt, and the hotel-keeper was referred back to the Prince; he applied by letter again and again, but always in vain; at last in desperation he went to Baden-Baden last year, found the King, and presented him with his little bill, and a petition; the King accepted it graciously, referred it to his finance officer; and a few days after the poor creditor received an answer that all the accounts for 1849 had been squared long ago, and that the King would not undertake a debt really due from Bavaria! Among other royal privileges we must count for the future the most important one of not being obliged to pay hotel bills.

SPAIN.

The Cortes were opened on the 22nd inst. The Queen's speech expressed a hope that the Peruvian difficulty would shortly be settled without any surrender of the dignity of Spain; it announced the recognition of the Empire of Mexico; promised that the Italian question should be treated with the utmost prudence, as well as with a regard for the interests of the Pope; and concluded by announcing the introduction of several financial bills, and a bill on the liberty of the press in harmony with the Constitution. No mention was made of Santo Domingo, but it is understood that if, after a reasonable time, the insurgents are not put down, the design of reducing them will be abandoned. Some curious details are given with regard to the report that the English Government had determined to recognise the Dominicans as belligerents. In consequence of the effect produced on the public mind by this report, Sir John Crampton, the British representative at Madrid, wrote to his Government to request explanations on this matter, of which he had heard nothing. Earl Russell informed him in reply that the law officers of the Crown had pronounced in favour of the recognition of the insurgents as belligerents; at the same time he authorised him to acquaint the Spanish Cabinet with his determination to postpone indefinitely any act which might be considered hostile or derogatory to the dignity of Spain. The Spaniards are of course highly delighted, and applaud Earl Russell's diplomacy to the skies. It is not so evident that the British public have much cause for self-congratulation. In the first place, it appears that our Minister at Madrid was left in total ignorance on a subject which might affect our relations with Spain vitally; in the second place, Earl Russell has confessed to the fact that he has made concessions to the Spanish Government in the teeth of law and equity, as expounded to him by our law officers, and without the smallest regard for the sufferings of the St. Dominicans, who, for all he knows, may be materially injured by our Foreign Secretary's desire not to offend the mighty power of Spain. The general lesson we learn from it is that Earl Russell can deliberately and officially commit himself to a course of injustice for an indefinite period of time.

RUSSIA.

The text of the imperial ukase regulating the confiscation of the conventual property in Poland has been published; it appears that the view given of it by the telegraphic despatches is by no means warranted. The property taken from the religious establishments is to be devoted to the following purposes *only* (an important mission in the original despatch):—the support of the remaining religious communities; the payment of pensions, &c., to monks and nuns; the support of the schools and churches formerly kept up by the suppressed monasteries; grants to indigent clergy of the Roman Catholic Church; and the support of national instruction. Several other articles are contained in the ukase, which materially lessen the amount of damage done to the Roman Catholic cause in Poland. It is curious that the *Journal de St. Pétersbourg*, which contained a true copy of the document, was not delivered in Paris on the day when it was due; and consequently the public were allowed to take their impressions of it from the false telegraphic despatches which alone were received. This fact is said to have been brought about by the machinations of the Polish party.

TURKEY.

Fuad Pasha, the Grand Vizier, has suffered a great loss by the total destruction of his palace by fire; all his plate and jewellery were consumed. The Sultan has shown his sympathy in the misfortune of his servant by lending him one of his spare palaces, and giving him an enormous quantity of personal effects to supply the place of those lost.

The Porte has at length consented to place the police of the Danube under international control. The Galatz European Commission has long urged this, but the Turkish Government has hitherto perceived objections to the measure which have prevented its acquiescing in the proposed arrangement. In deference, however, to a recent collective note from the representatives of the six Powers, these are now waived, and the scheme suggested by the commission will, in consequence, be carried out.

GREECE.

The King of the Hellenes has requested Signor Kyriaku to form a cabinet. A letter from Copenhagen states that Prince Jules, the King's brother, is going to Athens to assist the King with his counsels, in accordance with the wish of the King and the recommendation of Count von Sponneck.

SWITZERLAND.

The trial of the persons accused of leading the riots at Geneva is now going on. No new fact of importance has transpired. The evidence is very contradictory. It will be remembered that the riots arose in consequence of the success of the Conservative over the Radical candidate in a contest for a seat in the Council. The result of the trial up to this time has been to show that it is customary for a deputation from the victorious party to accompany the official procession, whose duty it is to announce the result of the elections; that on this occasion a body of Conservatives without arms had joined the official procession in accordance with this recognised custom; and that the Radicals had fired upon the procession without excuse or justification; and finally, that the heads of the Conservative or Independent party had seized on the persons of the Council of State solely with a view to induce the Radicals to cease from shedding blood. Thus far, therefore, the evidence seems to be entirely in favour of the Conservative party.

TUNIS.

Agitation has recommenced in the southern province. The Arabs who had submitted to the Bey have again thrown off their allegiance, and have surrounded the camp of General Rutteh. Prince Ali has set out from the capital with a body of troops for his relief.

MEXICO.

The only remains of the Juarist army is the small force now under the command of General Porfirio Diaz. Marshal Bazaine is about to lead an attack upon him in person. The Emperor and Empress are about to make another and a more lengthened tour through their empire, and will visit on this occasion the maritime provinces. The Emperor entertains the project of making a canal between the two oceans across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and will review the ground for that purpose. The execution of this scheme would present for Mexico the advantage that the whole course of the canal would be on Mexican territory. Mazatlan has been captured by the French.

SOUTH AMERICA.

The Brazilian authorities have notified the blockade of the ports on the River Uruguay; this has created great excitement in the neighbouring Argentine Republic, which is not by any means allayed by the announcement of a policy of non-intervention from General Mitres, the President. A civil war is going on in Paraguay between the Government and General Flores; both sides have a regularly organised army, which were, when last heard of, encamped on the two sides of the River Yi, expecting a battle. At Buenos Ayres, the capital of the Argentine Republic, fears are expressed of a likelihood of the secession of certain provinces, who would elect General Urquiza their President, and form one new State under the protectorate of Paraguay. The new State would then ally itself with Paraguay and the Montevidean Government to repel the Brazilian troops from the territory of Uruguay.

MR. FESSENDEN'S REPORT.

THE following extract contains the more important portions of the report of the Federal Secretary of the Treasury:—

A statement of the receipts and expenditures estimated and actual for the year ending June 30, 1863, will show how this balance in the Treasury is obtained, and the increase of the public debt during the year, viz.:—

RECEIPTS FROM CUSTOMS.	Estimated	Actual
Customs	$12,562,018.42	$102,316,152.99
Lands	436,182.09	588,333.29
Miscellaneous	5,641,542.04	47,511,448.10
Direct tax		475,648.96
RECEIPTS.	**Estimated**	**Actual**
Internal revenue	$77,599,713.59	$109,741,134.10
Total	156,230,456.17	260,632,717.44
Add balance July 1, 1863	5,329,044.21	5,329,044.21
Aggregate	161,568,500.35	265,961,761.65
Estimated receipts from loans	594,000,000.00	618,114,884.02
Total	755,568,500.35	884,076,646.57
EXPENDITURE.	**Estimated**	**Actual**
For civil service	34,267,811.52	$2,755,599.46
Pensions and Indians	7,840,314.81	7,517,930.97
War department	885,479,511.11	690,791,842.97
Navy department	112,799,186.60	85,733,292.77
Interest on debt	59,165,136.38	53,685,421.69
Total	$1,099,731,960.42	$865,234,087.56
Deduct estimated	350,000,000.00	
	$749,731,960.42	
Total	$1,099,731,960.42	
Estimated balance	$5,836,539.83	$18,842,558.71
From actual receipts from loans		$618,114,884.92
Deduct balance on hand July 1, 1864		18,842,558.71
It shows the amount received from loans applied to the service of the year ending June 30, 1864		599,272,326.21

The statement may be more intelligible in another form, as follows:—

Actual expenditures for the fiscal year	$865,234,087.86
Deduct receipts from ordinary sources and balances from preceding year	265,961,761.65
Balance provided from loans applied to the service of the year	599,272,326.21

The amount derived from loans, specifically stated, is as follows:—

Five-twenty bonds, act February 25, 1862	321,557,283.31
Fractional currency, exceeding amount redeemed	2,702,421.25
Six per cent. bonds, act July 17, 1861	30,565,875.45
Ten-forty bonds, act March 3, 1864	73,337,600.00

Twenty year six per cents., act March 3, 1863	42,141,771.05
United States notes, act February 25, 1862	43,859,821.46
One year five per cent. notes, act March 3, 1863	44,520,000.00
Two year five per cent. notes, act March 3, 1863	152,864,800.00
Three year six per cent. compound interest notes	15,000,000.00
Certificates of indebtedness, exceeding amount redeemed	4,098,758.35
Whole amount	$730,642,410.97
Of which amount there was applied to repayment of public debt	112,527,526.05
Which deducted, it leaves applicable to expenditures	$618,114,884.92
Deduct balance, July 1, 1864	18,842,558.71
Balance applied to the service of the year	$599,272,326.21
The public debt, as stated by my predecessor in his report of December 10, 1863, was	1,098,793,181.37
To this amount should be added amounts paid into the Treasury previous to July 1, 1863, for which evidences of debt were subsequently issued	23,782,423.20
Amount of debt, July 1, 1863	1,122,575,604.57
Add amount of loans applied to actual expenditures as above, and balance in the Treasury July 1, 1864	618,114,884.92
It gives the amount of public debt July 1, 1864	1,740,690,489.49

The very large comparative receipts from miscellaneous sources require explanation. They are accounted for as follows, viz.:—

From captured and abandoned property	$2,146,715.09
Premium on gold shipped from San Francisco to London	2,799,920.64
Sales of prizes due to captors	4,088,111.42
Internal and coastwise intercourse fees	5,809,287.20
Premium on sales of gold coin	16,498,975.49
Commutation money	12,451,896.15
All other sources	3,716,542.11
Total	$47,511,448.10

The Secretary is of the opinion that not over $25,000,000 can be safely calculated upon as likely to accrue from similar sources during the current year.

The expenditures for the current fiscal year were estimated in the last report of the Secretary as follows, viz.:—

Estimated balance of former appropriations	$350,000,000.00
For the civil service	27,973,194.81
For pensions and Indians	9,631,303.73
For the War Department	536,204,127.77
For the Navy Department	142,618,785.40
For interest on the public debt	85,387,677.15
Aggregate	$1,151,815,089.86
Deducting as likely to remain unexpended on June 30, 1864	$400,000,000.00
Leaving to be provided for	751,815,689.86
And the receipts from ordinary sources were estimated in the aggregate at	206,836,530.93
Leaving to be provided by loans	544,978,549.93

This estimate, like all others of a similar character, was necessarily based on past experience with regard to unexpended balances, and upon estimates from the different departments which in a time of war must be liable to great uncertainty. Additional information enables me to state the probable expenditures with a near approach to accuracy as corrected by including so much of the actual balance of former appropriations as is liable to be used during the year, those made at the last session of Congress, the additional amounts called for to meet probable deficiencies, and reducing the balance of unexpended appropriations at the end of the year, as from amounts expended during the first quarter would seem necessary, the estimate is as follows, viz.:—

Actual unexpended balances as above	$380,387,050.23
For the War Department	625,945,741.65
For the Navy Department	110,047,459.96
For the civil service	21,796,572.50
For pensions and Indians	6,590,089.12
Indefinite appropriations	9,152,007.11
Total	$1,153,918,920.57
Add interest on public debt	91,810,215.18
Total	$1,245,729,135.75
Add public debt matured and maturing during the year, viz., certificates of indebtedness	160,729,000.00
Texas debt	2,149,000.00
Loan of 1842	196,808.45
Treasury notes under the act of March 2, 1861, and prior thereto	278,511.64
Total	$1,409,082,455.84

The amount of certificates outstanding on November 1, 1864, was $238,593,000. This being a much larger amount than the market ought to bear, it would not be wise to calculate upon these securities as available for the service of the year beyond $75,000,000. The available probable resources for the current year may then be stated as follows:—

From customs	$70,271,091.96
From lands	642,185.84
From internal revenue	249,562,859.92
From miscellaneous sources	24,020,171.44
From direct tax	16,079.86
From certificates of indebtedness	75,000,000.00
Total	419,512,389.02
To this should be added probable unexpended balances, June 30, 1865	350,000,000.00
Balance of cash, July 1, 1864	18,842,558.71
Total resources	788,354,947.73
Which deducted from expenditures, leaves balance to be provided for by loans	620,727,508.11
If, however, an additional sum of fifty millions should be realised as proposed by the Commissioner, from internal duties, the amount to be raised by loans would be	570,727,508.11
From this should be deducted the public debt redeemed	88,353,320.09
Leaving, as increase of public debt at the close of the year	482,374,188.02

Stated in the usual form by taking the actual receipts and expenditures of the first quarter, as a distinct basis of calculation, the result is the same, viz.:

For the first quarter of the current year, ending September 30, 1864, the actual receipts, as shown by the books of the Treasury, were as follows:—

From customs	$19,271,091.96
From lands	342,185.84
From direct tax	16,079.86
From internal revenue	46,562,859.92
From miscellaneous sources	9,020,171.44
Total receipts	75,212,389.02
Add balance in Treasury, July 1, 1864	18,842,558.71
Receipts from all sources excepting loans	$94,054,947.73

For the three remaining quarters ending June 30, 1863, the estimates are:—

From customs	$51,000,000.00
From internal revenue	203,000,000.00
From lands	30,000.00
From miscellaneous sources	15,000,000.00
Total	$269,300,000.00
Total receipts from ordinary sources, actual and estimated, with balance on hand July 1, 1864	$363,354,947.73

The expenditures for the first quarter, ending September 30, 1864, were as follows:—

Civil service	$8,712,422.51
Pensions and Indians	4,935,179.31
War Department	286,200,288.52
Navy Department	33,292,916.49
Interest on public debt	19,921,054.48
Total, exclusive of principal of public debt	$353,061,861.31

For the three remaining quarters, the estimated expenditures based upon appropriations and estimated deficiencies, are:—

For the civil service	$26,852,489.47
For pensions and Indians	6,516,595.72
For War Department	677,479,384.39
For Navy Department	109,929,644.16
For interest on public debt	71,889,160.70
Total of expenditures actual and estimated	$1,245,729,135.75

These estimates include all unexpended appropriations from former years, and there may be deducted, as a probable unexpended balance, at the close of the year, $350,000,000, leaving the total amount, actual and estimated, for the current year, $895,729,135.75.

Deducting from the total of expenditures, actual and estimated, there will remain $512,374,188.02.

If Congress should adopt the measures for increasing the national revenue at an early day, the Secretary believes that there may be added to the receipts from that source $50,000,000, which being deducted, there would remain to be provided $482,374,188.02.

The public debt, matured and maturing during the year, is, as before stated, $163,353,320.09. From this may be deducted, as likely to be provided for by new certificates of indebtedness, $75,000,000. Add this sum ($88,353,320.09) to the balance to be provided for the expenditures of the year, viz. $482,374,188.02, and it makes the whole amount to be provided from loans $570,727,508,11. But as this would include so much of the existing public debt as would be redeemed, exceeding certificates issued within the year, viz. $88,353,320.09, this sum is to be deducted from the amount to be obtained by loans, viz.:—$570,727,568.11, showing the probable increase of the public debt during the year to be $482,374,188.02, which, added to $1,740,690,489.49, would make the public debt on July 1, 1865, $2,223,064,677.51, subject to such increase as may be occasioned should Congress not provide for additional revenue, or should the income from ordinary sources fall short of the estimates submitted.

Any estimate which may be made of the probable receipts and expenditures for the next fiscal year must necessarily be liable to still greater uncertainty. This remark applies more particularly to expenditures, for while, if existing laws remain unchanged, the amount of revenue may be calculated with reasonable certainty, it is impossible to anticipate what the exigencies of war may require. On the one hand, this may call for increased effort, and on the other it may be confidently hoped that the great struggle is near its termination, and that, consequently, the estimate now submitted will prove far beyond the wants of the year. While any doubt remains, however, it would be unsafe to assume any other basis of calculation than one predicated upon the existing state of affairs. The receipts for the year ending June 30, 1866, are estimated as follows:—

From customs	$70,000,000
Internal duties	300,000,000
Lands	1,000,000
Miscellaneous sources	25,000,000
Aggregate	$396,000,000

The expenditures are estimated as follows:—

Balance of unexpended appropriations	$350,000,000
For the civil service	33,082,097
Pensions and Indians	14,196,050
The War Department	531,758,191
Navy Department	112,219,666
Interest on public debt	127,000,000
Aggregate	$1,168,256,005
But from this aggregate there may be deducted as likely to remain unexpended at the close of the year	350,000,000
Total	$818,256,005

Deduct estimated receipts from ordinary sources, $396,000,

there will remain to be provided for by loans $422,256,005. To this should be added for redemption of excess of certificates of indebtedness $47,365,000, making the whole amount to be provided for by loans $400,624,005. Assuming the correctness of these estimates, the whole debt on July 1, 1866, would be found by adding the foregoing amount $422,256,005 to the estimated debt on July 1, 1865, $2,223,064,677, giving $2,645,320,682 as the amount of the debt at the close of the next fiscal year.

INCREASE OF UNITED STATES ARMAMENTS ON THE CANADIAN LAKES.

During the sitting of the American Senate at Washington, on December 13, Mr. Sherman, representing Ohio, reported a bill authorising the construction of six revenue cutters for service on the lakes, and appropriating 1,000,000 dollars, or so much as may prove to be necessary, to that purpose. The bill, as reported, was passed. The following letter from the Secretary of the Treasury on the subject was read:—

'Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, requesting information as to the number of revenue cutters now on the lakes, their efficiency, and the necessity of their increase. The number of cutters heretofore maintained on the northern lakes was six. They are sailing vessels, and of such build and rig as to prevent their cruising with efficiency. In 1861 five of them were directed to be brought down the St. Lawrence to the Atlantic coast, in the hope that they might be used advantageously in the preventive service. One was left upon the lakes, but found to be worthless, and sold. During the last winter a contract was made with parties to build an efficient steamer for revenue service on Lake Erie, which vessel is so nearly completed that her trial has been ordered for to-day. This is the only steamer belonging to the Government applicable to revenue purposes on all the lakes. The necessity, however, for preventing smuggling along our northern frontier, which the Government has satisfactory evidence is carried on to a great extent, induced the Secretary to charter two steamers for temporary service—one on Lake Erie and one on Lake Ontario. One of these was lost on entering the Cleveland harbour, and the charter of the other has expired, and she has gone out of the service. I therefore recommend that authority be given to build or purchase four efficient vessels for the use of the revenue department on the northern lakes, which, in addition to the one just completed, will make the number of cutters the same as previously employed. It is possible that the number here recommended may not be all that will be required. The great length of the coast to be guarded, and, in some parts, its close proximity to the Canada shore, demand constant vigilance, and the proper authority should be conferred to meet contingencies. If possible, such vessels should be completed and commissioned before the opening of the navigation.

'I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

'W. P. Fessenden.'

The Folly of Coercion.—Sydney Smith has a capital illustration in his Plymley letters of the folly of coercing people to be of one mind in religion; and it could just as well be applied to making men of one political mind in a State, and especially a State resting on the consent of the governed. For 'Jenkinsons, Percevals, and Melvilles,' substitute Lincolns, Chases, and Sumners—for religious war, substitute war to make men in a State of one political mind, and instead of Scotland as an example, make it the South, and we have an illustration to our hand of the folly of this civil war. Yet in the midst of all the warnings of history, that are just as forcible in regard to political wars as religious, these madmen of this nineteenth century push blindly on in this political crusade preached by Abolition fanaticism. For four years they have deluded the people with lying tales of imaginary successes. They have 'kept the promise to the ear,' from year to year, of the speedy crushing out of the rebellion, and 'broke it to the hope' of the people. Through the agencies of official patronage, whose pensioners are numbered by the million, and by the auxiliaries of military force and fraud, they have been enabled to secure a lease of power for four years more.—*Philadelphia Age.*

George P. Thompson.—For our part, we hope that, during his present visit, the Hon. George Thompson will be thoroughly lionised. We commend him to the attention of all who feel towards him any gratitude for his agency in placing our country in its present position. When people are resolved to worship an ass or an onion, an ape or a crocodile, there is little use in reasoning with them. The better way is to let them worship to their heart's content. Their rituals and incense will not convert the ass into a deity, nor the onion into a superintending Providence. The ape will remain an ape, and a crocodile a crocodile, in spite of their hymns and prostrations. We commend the Hon. George Thompson to the reverence particularly of the *Gazette*. The hierophant is exactly fitted for the deity and the deity to the hierophant; and if neither will help much to exalt and honour, so it will be out of the power of either much to belittle or disgrace the other.—*Cincinnati Enquirer.*

Sherman's Strategy.—Thirty days have elapsed since Sherman started upon his expedition, and he must now be near the end of his journey. If we fail to hear of him before the next change of the moon, through Confederate sources, the Yankee papers will be sure to contain something from him by the way of the coast of the sensational and exaggerated style. We hope, therefore, that whatever news from Savannah reaches the War Department during the next day or two will be given to the public. Whatever he may do now will have little effect on the fortunes of the war. His campaign may yet furnish additional material for Yankee brag, but has attained no strategical object beyond the ruin of a belt of country a couple of miles wide, between Atlanta and the sea, and his presence on the seacoast is far less injurious and dangerous than either at Chattanooga or Atlanta.—*Richmond Examiner.*

Slavery not a 'Casus Belli.'—The Southern masses have been made to believe that the North has been fighting to destroy slavery, to overthrow State rights, and to subjugate and degrade Southern whites. All this is false. The North, though it may destroy slavery in waging war, does not wage war to destroy slavery. There is nothing about slavery that would prevent the North from making peace to-morrow if it could. It is quite willing to leave the whole disposal of that subject to future peaceful and constitutional action. In no form or degree is the adherence of the South to slavery a part of our *casus belli.*—*New York Times.*

War with England.—Neither the British lion nor the Canadian jackal desires to feel the beak and talons of the American eagle. We are nearly through with our civil war, and are just in the condition for a foreign conflict. No commerce remains for us to lose. Foreign goods enough to last us half a dozen years are already in our possession. Our immense army and navy are ready for immediate service. England and Canada are aware of these facts, and consequently they do not wish to fight.—*New York Herald.*

THE LIVERPOOL BAZAAR.

THE following is the correspondence with reference to the proposed distribution of the proceeds of the Liverpool Bazaar to the Southern prisoners, and the refusal of the United States Government to permit such distribution:—

Wortley Hall, November 12.

Your Excellency,—A bazaar has been held in St. George's Hall, Liverpool, to provide a fund for the relief of Southern prisoners of war. It has produced a clear sum of about 17,000*l.* In preference to any attempt to reach the intended object by circuitous means, a committee of English gentlemen has been formed to address you on the subject.

As chairman of this committee, I venture to ask your Excellency to request the permission of your Government that an accredited agent may be sent out to visit the military prisons within the Northern States, and minister to the comfort of those for whom this fund is intended, under such supervision as your Government may direct.

Permit me to state that no political end is aimed at by this movement. It has received support from many who are opposed to the political action of the South.

Nor is it intended to impute that the Confederate prisoners are denied such attention as the ordinary rules enjoin. But those rules are narrow and stern. Winter is at hand, and the clothing which may satisfy the rules of war will not protect the natives of a warm climate from the severe cold of the North.

Sir, the issue of this great contest will not be determined by individual suffering, be it greater or less; and you, whose family name is interwoven with American history, cannot view with indifference the suffering of American citizens, whatever their state or their opinions.

On more than one occasion aid has been proffered by the people of one country to special classes under great affliction in another. May it not be permitted to us to follow these examples, especially when those we desire to solace are beyond the reach of their immediate kinsmen? I trust these precedents and the voice of humanity may plead with your Excellency and induce you to prefer to the Government of the United States the request I have the honour to submit.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

The Hon. C. F. Adams. WHARNCLIFFE.

Legation of the United States, Nov. 10.

My Lord,—I have the honour to acknowledge the reception of your letter of the 12th inst., asking me to submit to the consideration of my Government a request of certain English gentlemen, made through your Lordship, to send out an accredited agent to visit the military prisoners held by the United States, and afford them such aid additional to that extended by the ordinary rules of war as may be provided by the fund which has been raised here for the purpose.

I am very sure that it has never been the desire of my Government to treat with unnecessary or vindictive severity any of the misguided individuals, parties in this deplorable rebellion, who have fallen into their hands in the regular course of war. I should greatly rejoice were the effects of your sympathy extended to the ministering to the mental ailment not less than the bodily sufferings of these unfortunate persons, thus contributing to put an end to a struggle which otherwise is too likely to be only procrastinated by your labours.

Be this as it may, I shall be happy to promote any humane endeavours to alleviate the horrors of this strife, and in that sense shall very cheerfully comply with your Lordship's desire, so far as to transmit by the earliest opportunity to my Government a copy of the application which has been addressed to me.

I beg your Lordship to receive the assurance of my distinguished consideration. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

Legation of the United States, London,
December 20.

My Lord,—I have the honour to inform you that I have submitted to the consideration of my Government a copy of your Lordship's note to me of November 12, and of my reply of the 18th of that month, and I have now to apprise you of the conclusion which has been reached.

I am instructed to say that permission for an agent of the committee described by your Lordship to visit the insurgents detained in the military prisons of the United States, and to distribute among them 17,000*l.* of British gold, cannot be granted.

I am sorry to be further constrained to signify to your Lordship that with this note my correspondence on this subject must be brought to a close.

I have the honour to be, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient servant, CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

To the Lord Wharncliffe.

Mr. Seward replies as follows to the application received through Mr. Adams:—

Department of State, Washington, December 5.

Sir,—I have received your despatch of November 18, No. 807, together with the papers therein mentioned, viz., a copy of a letter which was addressed to you on November 12 last by Lord Wharncliffe, and a copy of your answer to that letter. You will now inform Lord Wharncliffe that permission for an agent of the committee described by him to visit the insurgents detained in the military prisons of the United States, and to distribute among them 17,000*l.* of British gold, is disallowed. Here it is expected that your correspondence with Lord Wharncliffe will end.

That correspondence will necessarily become public. On reading it the American public will be well aware that while the United States have ample means for the support of the prisoners, as well as for every other exigency of the war in which they are engaged, the insurgents, who have blindly rushed into that condition, are suffering no privations that that appeal for relief to charity, either at home or abroad. The American people will be likely to reflect that the sum thus insidiously headed in the name of humanity constitutes no large portion of the profits which its contributors may be justly supposed to have derived from the insurgents, by exchanging with them arms and munitions of war, for the productions of immoral and enervating slave labour, nor will any portion of the American people be disposed to regard the sum thus ostentatiously offered for the relief of captured insurgents as a too generous equivalent for the devastation and dissolution which a civil war, promoted and protracted by British subjects, has spread throughout the States, which before were eminently prosperous and happy. Finally, in view of this last officious intervention in our domestic affairs, the American people can hardly fail to recall the warning of the father of our country directed against two great and intimately-connected public dangers—namely, sectional faction and foreign intrigue. I do not think the insurgents have become debased, though they have sadly wandered from the ways of loyalty and patriotism. I think that in common with all our countrymen they will rejoice in being saved by their considerate and loyal Government from the grave insult which Lord Wharncliffe and his associates, in their zeal for the overthrow of the United States, have prepared for the victims of this unnatural and hopeless rebellion.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

The following letter has appeared in the *Times* with reference to the same subject:—

To the Editor of the *Times*.

Sir,—Will you oblige me by inserting the following correspondence? As I feel precluded from writing to Mr. Adams in reply to the contents of Mr. Seward's despatch, I take this opportunity of answering some of its statements.

Mr. Seward asserts that the Confederate prisoners are not suffering unusual privations. This leads me to quote the following extracts from a letter published in the Northern papers, bearing date October 14, and written by a Unionist of New England, whose name in full is at the foot of it:—

'From every prison in the North, from Rock Island to Fort Warren, goes out this wail of suffering humanity. . . . Those 1,500 pale faces are before me as I saw them pass me at the depot. Those ghastly, pleading faces!—I saw them here again, saw the pile of dead—dead from want of nourishing food. . . . Hot tears of shame for my countrymen who permit these outrages upon humanity, tears of pity for these poor sufferers blind my eyes.'

Testimony of this kind has arrived continuously in this country. If believed to be true, it naturally creates a desire to alleviate such misery. If untrue, the best means to disprove it would be the visit of a third party, who, accompanied by witnesses, would report the whole facts. This test Mr. Seward declines.

Mr. Seward would make it appear that the sum obtained at the bazaar was mainly contributed by those who had been engaged in trade with the South. So far from this being the case, contributions were received from all parts of the United Kingdom, from the Continent, Canada, even from the Northern States. The movement originated with, and was all but entirely carried out by, the Southern ladies now in England. It cannot be supposed that these ladies are engaged in foreign trade, or that out of more than 10,000 persons who attended and contributed to the result there could be any appreciable proportion who had any concern in the trade of the South.

I cannot pretend to understand what Mr. Seward means by the assertion that the war was promoted by British subjects. If they or other foreigners have protracted it, are not these the Irishmen and Germans who have been induced by Northern agents to take a part in it? Is it not probable that without their aid, so eagerly sought, the war would have been over before this time?

If either side has wandered from loyalty and patriotism, is it not rather the North, whose loyalty to its Constitution is now exchanged for obedience to a despotic Government, and whose patriotism is now exhibited in the destruction of fellow-countrymen because they assert that right to self-government which has ever been declared inherent in all the people of America?

To Mr. Seward's epithets 'unnatural and hopeless,' as applied to the action of the South, it might be replied that when the people of the North were rebels against those to whom they owed existence there was really something 'unnatural' in the fact; and it might be added that, at the end of a similar period, their prospects were hopeless indeed if contrasted with the position of the Southern armies this day. Mr. Seward, however, appears still to cling to the fallacy so often exploded already—that the affair will be over in ninety days.

As to the attempt to represent the efforts of the Southern ladies on behalf of their suffering brothers as a 'grave insult' to their own people, it cannot be a proper employment of your columns to reply to matters so unworthy. I have only further to assure your readers that the refusal of the Federal Government will not practically affect the distribution of the fund, for which, unhappily, we can find but too many recipients. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Wortley Hall, December 24. WHARNCLIFFE.

The following letter has appeared in the *Morning Post*:—

To the Editor of the *Morning Post*.

Sir,—Mr. Adams, the (so-called) United States Minister to this country, observes in his first note to Lord Wharncliffe just made public: 'I am very sure that it has never been the desire of my Government to treat with unnecessary or vindictive severity any of the misguided individuals, parties in this deplorable rebellion, who have fallen into their hands in the regular course of war.' Let me ask, can it be really possible that Mr. Adams puts a grammatical, and not a diplomatic, construction upon the sentiment he utters, or that he is positively, and not affectedly, ignorant of the wide-spread opinion to the contrary which obtains—an opinion as rife throughout the Continent as in Great Britain?

While in the Northern States and in Canada, from which I have for the third time just returned, I have fallen in with many Southern soldiers who had been incarcerated in Federal bastiles for long and short periods. They have repeated to me the same unvarying tale of cruelty and inhumanity. Some have actually wept in relating their sufferings and the refinement of torture to which it was their misfortune to have been subjected. I have now before me a short autobiographical sketch of each of the St. Alban's raiders, handed to me by the prisoners upon my last visit to them in Montreal gaol. Several of these men had been captured 'in the regular course of war,' and incarcerated in Fort Warren, Camp Chase, and that worst of Yankee prisons, Camp Douglas, Illinois. The tale they severally tell is sickening and heartrending. It irrefragably demonstrates that 'the misguided individuals' to whom Mr. Adams so pathetically refers have been treated both with 'unnecessary' and 'vindictive severity.' Unfortunately what is true of some of the St. Alban's raiders is likewise true of many hundreds of their fellow Confederates and captives. In July, 1863, Lieutenant Bennett Young, of General Morgan's staff, was captured with some of his comrades. Upon being transferred from Camp Chase to Camp Douglas, Young was confined with twenty other Southerners in an iron cell within a dungeon. The dimensions of the cell were but eight feet by ten feet. Herein he was incarcerated for three weeks, fed upon bad bread and water and salt meat, and deprived of everything that could conduce to comfort, decency, and cleanliness. He thus recounts his first experiences:—'In a few hours after I was shut up here the terrible agonies incidental to suffocation began to make their appearance. A weight of a thousand pounds seemed to crush my breast, and I gasped as a fish when removed from its native element.' Another raider (likewise one of General Morgan's men) was imprisoned for seven months in Camp Morton. This he describes as 'a temporary hell, where I was subjected, together with 500 of my fellow-soldiers, to every nefarious atrocity and indignity which the Northern Vandals are ever ready to invent. Owing to the malicious treatment I received, and when death seemed inevitable, I determined upon a plan whereby I should escape from the thraldom of tyrants. I did not dread the hazard, for speedy death was far preferable to waning life in such a place.' This is the general burden of every statement made to me by Southern prisoners of war who had effected their escape by one stratagem or another. And I must say that I received implicitly their startling accounts of the worse than heathenish barbarities and cruel bondage which they had undergone—barbarities unrelieved by even the faintest semblance of mercy, and a bitter bondage unsweetened by a word or look of human pity.

Possibly the Northern treatment of Confederate prisoners has changed for the better since 1863. Charity would have caused me to hope that such a long-delayed consummation had at length taken place, but for the instructions received from Mr. Seward by the American Minister in London, declining, in no very diplomatic or polite language, to allow the funds raised in Liverpool to be appropriated to the relief of Southern prisoners in the Federal States. That act speaks volumes. It clearly indicates that no sympathy exists by the captors for the captured; that charity towards a suffering enemy (and even the exercise of it by neutral nations) is no part of American Christianity; and, finally, that there is no desire to abate one jot or tittle of the misery and wretchedness which those festering, foul dungeons of the North so prolifically engender.

I am, Sir, yours very truly,

London, Dec. 26. S. PHILLIPS DAY.

The following extract is from the *Times*:—

A number of persons residing in England, made up in a grea measure of the families of Southerners who have sought refuge from civil war in Europe, and assisted by contributions from all parts of the United Kingdom, from the Continent, from Canada, and even from the Northern States themselves, have raised by means of a bazaar a sum of 17,000*l.* for the relief of Southern prisoners in the hands of the North. As chairman of the committee Lord Wharncliffe, showing, as it would seem, only a proper respect for the Federal Government, proposes to the American Minister in this country to send some one out to minister to the wants of these unhappy persons, under such supervision and regulation as the American Government may see fit to appoint. The offer is referred by the American Minister to his own Government, and is flatly refused, with an intimation, couched in the most peremptory terms, that all communications on the subject will thenceforth absolutely cease.

Now, if the matter rested there, we think it would be impossible to avoid holding the Government of the United States guilty of some inhumanity and equally uncalled-for discourtesy. They would have done all in their power to prevent relief from reaching a class of human beings but lately their fellow-citizens, and whom it is the whole end and aim of the fearful policy in which they have embarked to compel to become their fellow-citizens again—relief which, while it would certainly do the prisoners in their hands much good, could not in any possible way do them or their cause any harm.

Men may differ, not unreasonably, as to the propriety of Lord Wharncliffe's offer. It may be considered officious, but we cannot see that it was wrong to raise money for this any more than for any other benevolent purpose—for the assistance, for instance, of Northern prisoners in the hands of the South; and, conceding that there was nothing wrong in raising the fund, we know no way in which it could be so properly expended as by an agent of the donors under the supervision of the Northern Government. It was necessary at any rate to make such an offer to obviate the suspicion that the subscription was only a cloak for practices tending to the release of the prisoners, or in some way interfering with the right of their captors. Nothing can be more frank or explicit than the letter of Lord Wharncliffe to Mr. Adams. He describes the origin of the fund, the purpose for which it has been raised, requests the co-operation of the United States' Government in a work of mercy, disclaims all political objects and all imputations upon the manner in which the American Government has treated its prisoners, and points out that great comfort might be obtained by the purchase of warm clothing for persons unused to the severe winter of the North. It is only due to Mr. Adams to say that his answer is worthy of a gentleman and a man of humanity. He disclaims on behalf of his Government any unnecessary or vindictive severity. He cannot, indeed, avoid suggesting—though not, we think, with much point or effect—that the sum might be as well employed in ministering to the minds as to the bodies of the Confederate prisoners; but, without following this further, Mr. Adams professes his willingness to promote any humane endeavours to alleviate the horrors of the strife, and in that sense is very happy to transmit the letter of Lord Wharncliffe to his Government.

It is upon this correspondence that the letter of Mr. Seward is founded. Permission for an agent of the committee 'to visit the Southern prisons of the United States, and distribute among them seventeen thousand pounds of British gold,' is disallowed, and here it is expected that the correspondence with Lord Wharncliffe is to end. Mr. Seward did quite right, considering the tone he has chosen to adopt, in preventing a reply, the first words of which would, of course, have told him that the proposal was not to distribute seventeen thousand pounds of British gold among the prisoners, but to minister to their comfort, not by direct gifts of money, but by purchasing and dividing among them such articles of necessity as their situation might render needful. The sting of the whole matter lay in the words, 'The correspondence will necessarily become public;' and if left on the footing on which it was left by Mr. Adams and Lord Wharncliffe, it would certainly seem as if the American Government were actuated by the very spirit of inhumanity and vindictiveness which Mr. Adams on their behalf so earnestly and so honourably disclaims. As the public must read it, Mr. Seward is determined they shall read it and decide on it.

THE MERCY OF ROSECRANS.—Miss Sarah Jane Smith, of Arkansas, who was sentenced to be hung by the neck until dead, for cutting the telegraph wire near Springfield, Missouri, has had her sentence commuted by General Rosecrans to imprisonment during the war. The day of her execution was fixed for Friday, but owing to her physical condition she will be permitted to live a little longer. The girl is quite young—said to be under seventeen.—*New York Day-Book.*

TO OUR FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE INDEX was established in May 1862, in the darkest hour of Confederate fortunes, by earnest friends of Southern Independence, with the distinctly expressed object of being the representative, in English journalism, of a gallant and struggling people appealing to the world not only for political, but still more for moral recognition. Since accepting this great trust, THE INDEX has unceasingly laboured, by the combined aid of English and of Southern writers, to enlarge and extend the common ground upon which two nations may cordially meet, which need only to understand each other in order to cherish the warmest mutual appreciation and lasting friendship. The chief and almost the sole difficulty has been, and is still, the callous indifference of the British Government on the one hand, and, on the other, the perplexity, to the European mind, of the unsolved and unprecedented problems involved in the management and education of four millions of the African race, intermingled with a population of the highest Caucasian type. This difficulty could be met only by a liberal fairness to every shade of honest opinion, by an inflexible adherence to truth under all circumstances, and by a bold avowal of convictions, even though ill received. THE INDEX does not claim to be neutral, but it claims to be independent in the highest sense of that word. It is because it must reflect and appeal to, at one and the same time, the public opinion of two countries as yet only imperfectly acquainted, that this somewhat unusual self-description is called for.

Thanks to arrangements now in successful operation, by which the Letters of regular Correspondents and Newspapers from all parts of the Confederate States are received within from twenty-five to thirty days from their date, THE INDEX is always enabled to present the very Latest Direct News from the South, as well as a faithful reflex of the tone and spirit of the Southern Press.

All communications intended for publication should invariably be addressed to 'the Editor of THE INDEX, 291 Strand, W.C.,' and unless authenticated by a responsible name, can receive no attention.

Advertisements should be sent and Money Orders made payable to J. B. HOPKINS, INDEX Office.

THE INDEX.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1864.

The Close of the Year.

As the year approaches its end, the mind is insensibly drawn to the contemplation of the events which have illustrated the page of history, or filled the ears of men during the progress of the four seasons. An effort that is a matter of course in ordinary times, and under circumstances of ordinary import, gathers force under the stimulating power of mighty actions. Pain is varied by pleasure in the contemplation of triumphs achieved and defeats suffered, in the presence of deeds that cheer the soul with just admiration, or fire the spirit with irrepressible indignation. When vice and folly, wrong and cruelty, gain the upper hand, despair is averted only by an abiding faith; and when that which is believed to be the juster cause prevails, joy is restrained only by the deep sense of gratitude.

The man who can behold with indifference the struggle of a nation for independence, for life, and for liberty, has probably long ago lost all passion for those things which make existence endurable. For just as the contemplation of virtue is prompted by the spectacle of its development in a virtuous person, so is the veneration for wisdom and devotion, for freedom and the love of country, best learned in the conduct of patriots whose prudence is only surpassed by their courage. As then we affirm that the people of the Confederate States are waging war in the cause most dear to Englishmen, namely, the cause of constitutional liberty, so do we regard the action of the statesmen, the generals, and the soldiery—in fact, the action of the whole populace, men, women, and children, of the Southern States—not only as worthy of deep admiration, but as proving that the virtue of their race, transplanted far from the cradle of its birth, yet towers high above that of all other men.

A glance at the scenes enacted during the past year on the American continent, as each part of the drama of war followed in rapid succession, serves to prove that the Confederacy is at this moment stronger at every point than she was twelve months ago. Her armies are more numerous as compared with the Northern hordes; her material is more abundant and more perfect; she has undergone such a system of organisation that her territory is a camp and her people an army; her finance is being managed with such skill that if the war continue but one year more, the reestablishment of a sound condition may be coincident with the collapse of her enemy, while her moral position in the eyes of Europe stands out with improved solidity. It is not only that her military successes have gained her respect, but that the tranquillity and unanimity of her citizens, the regard for the law and the cohesive power of her constitution have extorted acknowledgment even from those that pray for her destruction. It is unnecessary to dwell on the campaigns of the past year. The victory on the Red River, probably the most decisive of the war, freed Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas even from the apprehension of attack, and the success was enhanced not only by the skill with which it was achieved, but also by the anticipated triumphs of BANKS and the Federal army. Next SHERMAN, by a rapid incursion into Alabama and a yet more rapid retreat, added lustre to his foes. When GRANT, with his enormous host, crossed the Rapidan in his grand march upon Richmond, with BUTLER cooperating on the James River, and two *corps d'armée* advancing upon Lynchburg, even those who knew that armies of heroes were on the defence scarcely dared to hope for victory. Yet BUTLER's army of 40,000 men was beaten by the boys and old men of the city, the Western advance was ignominiously repulsed, and GRANT himself left 50,000 men on the field before he executed his final flank movement into winter quarters before Petersburg. The autumnal campaigns brought a triumph to the arms of the Union in the Shenandoah Valley and in Georgia; but the victory of SHERIDAN, achieved by the negligence of his foe, and not by the valour of his own army, was utterly fruitless, while the capture of Atlanta has resulted in the freedom of Alabama from the enemy. THOMAS, with one-half of the Federal army of the West, is shut up in Nashville, and the other half has marched through Georgia, only to fail in the accomplishment of the only purpose that could possibly be of advantage—namely, the destruction of Macon and Augusta. In the course of these campaigns, which have recovered for the Confederacy two-thirds of the territory held at the close of the year 1863 by the enemy, and which have added incalculable lustre to the arms of the South, great losses have been incurred. The immensity of region, the exuberant fertility of soil, the activity and resource of the people, their amazing vitality have been able to endure these losses and to look forward to greater sacrifices with equanimity. Nevertheless the memory of such leaders as POLK and STUART, of the brave Texan General GREEN, of the gallant Louisianian General MOUTON, of WIRT ADAMS, RAMSEUR, and, lastly, of CLEBURNE, forcibly demonstrates the price at which liberty is to be bought. While, however, the dead are lamented, the living heroes are not to be forgotten. What can obliterate from the annals of the war the names of BRECKENRIDGE and EARLY, of HOOD and of FORREST, of MAGRUDER and TAYLOR, above all of BEAUREGARD, LONGSTREET, and LEE? Indeed, mention of the name of the first general of the South calls up the lines that so aptly describe not only the man, but the country which has produced him:—

> Quæ cum magna modis multis miranda videtur
> Gentibus humanis regio visendaque fertur,
> Rebus opima bonis, multa munita virûm vi,
> Nil tamen hoc habuisse viro præclarius in se
> Nec sanctum magis et mirum carumque videtur.

If, however, the skill and devotion of the armies have made the past year illustrious in the history of the Confederacy, the prudence and integrity of the civil rulers have earned the respect of the world. Under strong temptations, in spite of wrongs which would have infuriated the passions even of admirable men, the rulers of the South have followed a path of calm moderation; the cruelty of the foe has been requited by forbearance, the indifference of the foreigner by dignified courtesy. If General LEE has been bold and wary in the field, Mr. DAVIS has been discreet and prudent in the council-chamber.

The career of the Confederacy has moreover received marked tokens of sympathy and admiration from Europe. Those feelings have revealed themselves at times in acts of benevolence and Christian generosity, but their chief development has consisted in the steady progress of favour wherewith the cause of the South has been regarded. In England the action of the press approximates to unanimity, and although men with loud tongues and little influence have proclaimed on platforms their adhesion to the North, yet their followers constitute a mere section of the nation. Our columns, as they bear continued evidence of the tone of the French press, furnish proof that every week strengthens the cause of the Confederacy in the eyes of France. Even Germany is no longer obdurate, while Italy appreciates justly the merits of the struggle. For ourselves, if, while regarding events which have convulsed the world, we may speak of ourselves, our duty has been to elucidate truth not only in matters of fact, but in subjects of political and social enquiry; to expose attempts to varnish a career of rapine and oppression with the sacred names of freedom and peace; to uphold constitutional liberty; and to support that organisation which, while assigning to every being his proper grade in the ranks of society, promotes the happiness and prosperity of all, and binds the members of a community together in the bonds of mutual obligation. For such privileges, as opposed to the levelling and degrading tyranny of the republicanism of the North, the men of the South have contended. What effort of brute force can overcome the champions of such a cause?

Neutrals and Belligerents.

WE print this week in another part of our columns a despatch addressed by Mr. J. P. BENJAMIN, the Secretary of State at Richmond, to Mr. S. R. MALLORY, the Secretary of the Navy, on the rights of Confederate ships of war as against hostile and neutral vessels captured on the high seas. The document, to which the subject of comment lends importance, is marked by great perspicuity of style and by proof of legal ability in the writer. Every contingency and every difficulty which can be encountered by the commander of a cruiser in the exercise of his duty is contemplated, and full instructions are suggested for action in each particular case. Therefore, whatever opinion may be formed of the justice of Mr. BENJAMIN's policy, want of notice cannot be urged by any sufferer of an imaginary grievance.

The circumstances which called forth the despatch are worthy of attention. Admiral Sir J. HOPE, commanding HER MAJESTY'S Atlantic squadron, had received intelligence of the burning by the *Alabama* of the ship *Martaban*, a vessel, as the Admiral affirmed, standing on the British register, and bearing British papers. Thereupon Sir J. HOPE addressed a confidential communication to Lieutenant MORRIS, commanding the Confederate ship *Florida*, at that time lying at St. George's, Bermuda, the object of which communication was to obtain a written assurance from Lieutenant MORRIS to forbear from any act similar to the burning of the *Martaban*. In answer thereto Lieutenant MORRIS announced his intention of allowing all vessels producing legal papers proving their neutrality to pass in accordance with instructions from the Government at Richmond. It is unnecessary to comment at any length on the communication of Admiral HOPE. It is clear that the writer had but little confidence in the legality of the positions assumed, and that his only anxiety was to check the action of the *Florida* pending the reception of instructions from London. Two points may, however, be briefly noticed. The care with which officers in command of Confederate vessels of war had avoided giving just cause of offence to neutrals was warmly acknowledged, probably on account of the contrast with those aggressions and outrages of the other belligerent, against which constant and unavailing remonstrances have been uttered for the last three years. By way, however, of some return for this care, and to show his appreciation of the forbearance of the Confederate Government, Admiral HOPE proposed to capture and send to England for adjudication in the Admiralty Court every vessel by which a ship with legal British papers had been burned at sea. The Admiral is perhaps more at home in a gale of wind or in a fight than in the discussion of a point of law, but it needs not the acumen of Lord STOWELL to discover that the ship of war of a belligerent is not amenable to the Admiralty Court of a foreign Power, and that the seizure of a ship of war for such a purpose is a declaration of war. It is, however, pretty certain that the Home Government had no intention of supporting the heresy of the Admiral, and that the spectacle of an alliance of England and Mr. LINCOLN'S Government for the suppression of the Confederacy is at present not to be expected.

The whole question at issue between the belligerent and the neutral is cut down to the method of dealing with neutral bottoms tainted with illegality and hostile bottoms falsely claiming neutral privileges. It is clearly impossible for Confederate cruisers to carry their prizes into Confederate ports for adjudication; on the other hand, the neutral Powers have closed their ports against the prizes of both belligerents. Either, then, a Confederate cruiser must discharge a vessel belonging to one or other of the above-named classes in breach of duty to its own country, or it must destroy such vessel and incur the risk of infringing a neutral right. The dilemma has been created entirely by the action of England and France, and those Powers may therefore be fairly held estopped from complaint. But it is not the wish of the Richmond Government to forfeit its high reputation for equitable conduct towards other Powers, and the whole action of the State Department has been directed to the reconciliation of these conflicting claims. They are considered under Classes B, C, D in the printed despatch, and although the instructions suggested for the guidance of the Confederate officers are models of fairness, yet it is evident that Mr. BENJAMIN is not satisfied with the results at which he has arrived, and anxiously desires a solution more in accordance with that consideration for the rights of neutrals which prompted the Confederate Administration to accede and adhere to the Paris Declaration. He desires that HER MAJESTY'S Government should open the ports of England to prizes made by Confederate ships in all cases in which British claimants assert title to vessel or cargo, there to remain until the Admiralty Courts

of the Confederacy have exercised their rightful exclusive jurisdiction over the prize questions involved in such captures. Indeed, apart from the strong inducement offered for such a policy by the interests of British subjects, the English Government has, through the conduct of its own people, incurred a strong obligation to accede to the proposition of Mr. BENJAMIN. In cases contemplated under Classes B and C in the despatch, the claims of neutrals are affected in the manner inseparable from a state of war. But Class D raises questions having their foundation in a state of facts almost unprecedented in the annals of war. Enterprising shipowners belonging to the Northern States have transferred their vessels to the British register by the simple expedient of a false sale coupled with a false oath on the part of the transferee. Inasmuch then as the origin of the mischief created lies entirely with British subjects, who have not scrupled for the sake of gain to break the laws of England in aid of the one belligerent and to the detriment of the rights of the other belligerent, it is but just that England should assist in stopping the evil which she has herself caused. Indeed, the conclusion of the despatch proves not only that the British Admiral is aware of the scandal of these 'white-washed' ships, but also that he has recognised the policy proposed by Mr. BENJAMIN as a just remedy. There is reason for thinking that M. DROUYN DE LHUYS has given in the adhesion of the French Government to that policy, on condition of a similar act on the part of England. It is impossible to imagine that the proposition, backed by the support of France, will meet with refusal at the hands of a Power whose interests are more nearly touched, and whose character for equitable conduct is more deeply involved.

The War.

THE last mail from America bore, on the face of the telegram, about the heaviest news that has been received from the Confederacy this year. Happily, we are in a position to assert with tolerable confidence that one half is false, and the other half so highly coloured as to deprive it of the painful importance at first attached to it. The two great features of the news are the alleged capture of Savannah and the reported defeat of HOOD. It is strange that they should have so easily deceived the English public. We will take the Savannah *canard* first. It originated with a paper published at Baltimore, on the strength of a report furnished by a nameless individual at Fortress Monroe, from a transport which left Charleston Bar on the 14th instant. This can hardly be considered very satisfactory evidence, even if uncontradicted. But the Richmond papers publish news up to a later date than any intelligence that could have been received at Charleston Bar on the 14th, and in their columns not a word is said as to the capture of Savannah, or even its attack. What facts the Richmond papers do give decidedly negative the assault and capture, for they report the storming and capture of Fort M'Allister, sixteen miles to the south-west of Savannah, on the Ogeechee River, on the 14th inst.; and it is absurd to suppose that SHERMAN would have marched with his whole army fifteen miles away from Savannah for the capture of a solitary fort, and march fifteen miles back and then capture Savannah after eight hours' fighting, in the course of twenty-four hours. Savannah is a strongly-fortified town, standing on a very easily defensible site. Its communications with Charleston, and therefore with Virginia, are intact. Its garrison is said to consist of a force numerically equal to SHERMAN'S. To suppose that he would attack such a town with his jaded troops is to suppose him mad; and to believe that in eight hours, without siege artillery, he had compelled General HARDEE with 10,000 men to surrender, is to display an amount of belief hardly to be expected, even in this age of eager credulity. All that is certain is, that SHERMAN has reached the sea and opened communication with DAHLGREN'S fleet; that he has obtained a point of egress; and that what is left of his army is safe. Safety and not conquest was his first object. The former he has in all probability attained by the capture of Fort M'Allister; the latter, we venture to assert, he will not be in a position to achieve for some time to come.

The news from Nashville does not rest on so debatable a basis, but it is evidently exaggerated. According to the Federal accounts, General THOMAS on the 15th made an attack upon the Confederate line, had captured vast quantities of material, sixteen guns, and 1,000 prisoners, and driven back the left wing of HOOD'S army some eight miles, with the loss of *five hundred men*. The weight of the attack appears to have been directed against that portion of the army which blockaded the Cumberland River, west of Nashville, and here, no doubt, the Federal gunboats obtained a success for General THOMAS'S army. But it must be observed that no mention is made of a general attack, so that there is no reason to believe that the position of the centre and right of HOOD'S army was in any way endangered. The whole affair seems to have been rather a successful sortie than a great battle, and it is evident that if another engagement took place on the subsequent day, it would come off under very different conditions. The Federals would lose the aid of their gunboats, and they would have to assault and carry earthworks defended by veteran soldiers. Moreover a few hours would suffice to recall FORREST with his cavalry, and give the Confederates a vast superiority in that arm. General THOMAS has not often had occasion to make independent reports to his Government. But we have invariably noticed that when he does write a despatch it is highly inventive, and we quite expect that the arrival of the Cunard steamer will show a very different version of the matter. It cannot be denied, however, that HOOD'S position was a weak one. He must have occupied a line some seven miles in extent. He had despatched one division and all his cavalry to Murfreesboro'; another division had gone northward into Kentucky. The force with which he had partially invested Nashville could not, consequently, have much exceeded the command of General THOMAS; and we question the prudence of holding such an extended line with his greatly reduced strength. Of the subsequent battle of the 16th we cannot speak with much certainty. According to unofficial reports, THOMAS had gained a great victory, had driven HOOD from all his intrenched positions, captured 3,000 prisoners and 50 cannon—in fact, routed the Confederate army. The story is improbable, to say the least of it; but if HOOD'S intrenched positions have been taken, it must have cost the Federals too dearly to admit of a very active pursuit of HOOD'S army, and FORREST'S superiority in cavalry will prevent any disaster. A battle will have been lost, and Nashville will have been saved; but Northern Georgia and Northern Alabama will not the less have been rescued from the invader. As to General CANBY'S flourish of trumpets about the severance of HOOD'S communications with Mobile, it is simply absurd. HOOD drew neither men nor material from Mobile any more than he did from Richmond, and General WARREN might with almost as much reason have boasted of cutting his communications with Petersburg. But CANBY'S despatch is a fair specimen of Yankee brag. We are not without hope that THOMAS'S victory of the 16th will turn out, like SCHOFIELD'S triumph at Franklin, a very doubtful affair. The public has so often heard of Confederate armies 'routed and demoralised' which a week afterwards have struck a vigorous and successful blow at the enemy, that it will be slow to believe in the pleasing prospect held up by a Federal organ in this country of General THOMAS reoccupying Southern territory as far South as 'the Etowah river.'

Federal Finance.

Mr. FESSENDEN as a financier differs from Mr. CHASE in two essential respects. Neither of them is a sound political economist; but whereas Mr. CHASE had doctrines of his own on economical questions very different from those generally received in the world, Mr. FESSENDEN looks at his business and the questions it involves with the eye of a man of business, and takes, not an economist's, but a merchant's view of his situation. Mr. CHASE was wont to congratulate the country on the fictitious prosperity derived from war prices and an inflated currency; on the high wages which barely compensated the depreciation of paper; on the lavish expenditure which told of commercial rottenness, and speculation superseding trade; in fact, on all that an economist would understand as symptoms of the most fatal character. Mr. FESSENDEN does not explain the delusive nature of a prosperity the semblance whereof is beginning to fade, nor does he thoroughly understand the nature of a 'specie basis' or the 'theory of currency;' but at all events he has a sound mercantile dislike of paper money that only professes to be convertible at a distant date and on a dubious contingency, and which is by no means certain to be promptly paid at maturity. 'It could not be helped' is all he has to say for a device of which his predecessor was boastful; and the instrument which Mr. CHASE preferred to heavy loans or severe taxation, Mr. FESSENDEN recognises as 'fraught with danger.' And there is yet another distinction between their characters. Mr. CHASE, who had probably determined from the first not to abide the crash, but retire in good time, never hesitated to promise the brightest and happiest prospects in the future, and held out hopes which he must have known were doomed to dire disappointment, in order to secure for himself a brief popularity and immediate confidence. Mr. FESSENDEN is not so sure that he will find a successor to accept the burden of his errors, and the inevitable consequences of a policy for which, after all, neither he nor Mr. CHASE is personally responsible; and he does not choose to exasperate the storm of wrath which he must one day encounter by asserting to the last that everything is going as well as possible, and that the distant horizon is clear and cloudless. If he do not openly speak of possible bankruptcy and an impending loss of public credit, he furnishes facts the meaning of which every one who knows anything of financial business may read for himself. And he abstains from anticipating, like his predecessor, a speedy end to the war. In former Messages Mr. LINCOLN predicted peace before the next meeting of Congress, and Mr. CHASE'S budgets suggested a similar hope; in this Message the PRESIDENT fixes no term for the submission of the South and the execution of Mr. DAVIS and General LEE by order of a drumhead court-martial; and the tone of Mr. FESSENDEN'S report is that of one who expects that at this time next year he will have to provide a budget for yet another year of war. The expenditure of this year will be so much; that of the next year so much more; the debt will be so much next July, and so much more in July, 1866. The SECRETARY of the TREASURY is preparing for a long war; and Wall Street, looking at the future through the medium of his report, sees a long vista of years with an annual addition of 100,000,000*l.* to the debt, and an annual expenditure of about as much on the army—divided between the pay of soldiers and the spoils of loyal contractors. To Republicans of undoubted virtue who stand well in the Presidential favour, the prospect is highly pleasing. Let the finances be at their worst, so long as the Government has anything to buy and sell, *they* will have a handsome commission thereupon. If the nation should eventually prove bankrupt, it will not be till they have ceased to be its creditors. The masses who rule the country care very little about the matter. Half of them have nothing to lose, and the rest will lose nothing, but rather gain. The poor are safe in any case; the small farmer, who is seldom a holder of stock or money, and not seldom a debtor, is more likely to profit than to suffer by a repudiation which will deliver him from taxes, and a depreciation of the currency which will enable him to pay off a debt of $1,000 with paper worth $400. But the report carries dismay to the hearts of commercial men, who are well aware that the derangement of the public finances rarely fails to derange the action of the money-market; that the country can hardly go on spending three or four times its income for years together without landing itself in bankruptcy; and that, even should they be fortunate enough not to be creditors of the Union, it is hard for private firms to stand erect when the docket of bankruptcy is struck against their Government. Only in a country where extraordinary good fortune has bred a habit of extravagant expectations, and where men extricate themselves from commercial disasters with a facility unknown elsewhere, could the Administration put forth such a report as this without throwing the commercial community into a panic.

Mr. FESSENDEN endorses his predecessor's abuse of the Wall Street speculators. It is they whose disloyal machinations have run up the price of gold, and depreciated the paper of the Government; it is their impious want of confidence in the national cause, their unpatriotic desire to secure themselves against national reverses, that has made a dollar in gold sell for 2½ dollars in paper. All good citizens should use their utmost efforts to counteract such nefarious speculations. It was in precisely the same spirit that ROBESPIERRE and his fellows dealt with those who dared to prefer silver to the assignats of the Government. Mr. FESSENDEN errs in good company. But it is a significant comment on the boasted education of Americans, that a piece of nonsense indicating such profound and extravagant ignorance should proceed from the pen of the Federal SECRETARY of the TREASURY. Speculation can only raise prices above their level for a very short time, and to a trifling extent; and an article like gold, of great abundance and universal demand, is peculiarly incapable of being so dealt with. To suppose that a speculator deliberately raises the price of gold to spite the Government is the folly of a woman or a peasant. The supply of gold being fixed for the time, the price depends on buyers;—and who supposes that a buyer will offer for gold more than it is worth? If he did, he would speedily ruin himself, and the Government would be none the worse. But Mr. FESSENDEN supplies another reason for the enormous depreciation of his paper, independent of the speculators. 'So long as there remains a large and increasing necessity for its use and a limited supply, it will command a price commensurate with

the difficulty of obtaining it.' This is not very correct, as applied to gold. In a country with open seaports, the supply of gold is virtually unlimited—it is the supply of all the world; the necessity for it depends on the briskness of trade, and the existence or absence of substitutes for metallic money. In the Northern States at this moment there is an exceptionally small demand for gold. But whatever the demand, the value of gold in one country can never, while the ports are open, be 2 per cent. more than in another. The value of gold in New York is the same as in England; it is the value of paper, then, that regulates the price. And if an English 5*l.* note will buy 5*l.*, and an American $100 note will only buy four eagles ($40), this is simply because redundance and want of security have made American paper worth forty cents the dollar.

How this is we may easily discern. The population of the North and of England are about the same. The trade of England is much busier, though her credit machinery is much better; so that England has probably need of a somewhat larger currency than the North requires. Now the banknote currency of England is about 20,000,000*l.* to 22,000,000*l.*, excluding a small amount of local notes. That of America, besides private notes to a large amount, is 80,000,000*l.* non-interest-bearing notes, and over 20,000,000*l.* of notes bearing interest. It is not wonderful that this enormous overissue, producing a vast repletion, giving the country twice or thrice as much money as its business required, should have depreciated the paper to half its nominal value. Such operations need no aid from speculators. For the difference between 100 and 150 premium, want of confidence in the success and solvency of the Government, and fear of a new issue, is probably answerable.

The Federal Congress meets in December and sits late into the spring. The American financial year begins on July 1. Consequently, each Congress has three budgets to consider—that of the year ended June 30 preceding, that of the current year, and that of the year beginning next July. No Congress has sat since the 30th June last; it is therefore to this Congress that the accounts of last year must be presented. No session will take place after this and before July next; so that the budget of next year must be sanctioned by Congress during this session. And the budget for this year, sanctioned in December last, has, of course, to be overhauled; the more so that Mr. Fessenden's estimates do not coincide with those of his predecessor, adopted by the Congress at this time in 1863. Thus we have the actual accounts of one year, and the estimates of two more, before us. The figures are striking, and the light thrown by comparison upon the estimates enables us better to appreciate their correctness. The following, in round numbers, are the amounts:—

1863-64.

Revenue		Expenditure	
Customs	$102,300,000	Civil Service	$27,750,000
Lands and direct	1,060,000	Pensions	7,500,000
Internal	109,700,000	Army	690,800,000
Miscellaneous	47,500,000	Navy	85,700,000
Total	260,500,000	Interest of debt	53,600,000
Deficit	604,900,000		
	$865,400,000		$865,400,000

1864-65.

Revenue		Expenditure	
Customs	$70,000,000	Civil Service	$21,800,000
Lands and direct	650,000	Pensions	6,600,000
Internal	250,000,000	War	625,000,000
Miscellaneous	24,000,000	Navy, &c.	120,000,000
Total	344,650,000	Interest	92,000,000
Deficit	521,750,000		
	$866,400,000		$866,400,000

1865-66.

Revenue.		Expenditure.	
Customs	$70,000,000	Civil service	$83,000,000
Land	1,000,000	Pensions, &c.	14,000,000
Internal	300,000,000	Army	532,000,000
Miscellaneous	25,000,000	Navy	112,000,000
	$396,000,000	Interest of debt	127,000,000
Deficit	472,000,000		
	$868,000,000		$868,000,000

Rendered into English money, the results of these three years are as follows:—

Year	Revenue	Expenditure	Deficit
1863-4	£52,000,000	£173,000,000	£121,000,000
1864-5	69,000,000	173,000,000	104,000,000
1865-6	79,000,000	173,600,000	94,600,000

It must be remembered that the expenditure is estimated in currency, and that this is enormously depreciated. As the value of paper has varied greatly, and as Mr. Fessenden is likely to have taken its highest rather than its lowest value, we may take the real amount of the Federal expenditure at half the nominal amount, during at least the present year. This would give a real expenditure of 86,500,000*l.*, to which we should add a State expenditure of perhaps some 20,000,000*l.* more. This would bring the total up to about 106,000,000*l.*, not an excessive amount for a nation engaged in one of the greatest wars on record, which has called out during four years over two millions of men.

Another remark which these accounts suggest is this. The expenditure of last year was 860,000,000 paper dollars, then worth about 60 cents. The expenditure of this year and the next cannot be very much less; and if we take the paper dollar at its present value of 40 to 45 cents, its nominal amount will probably be much greater. Again, it is clear that Mr. Fessenden hopes far too much from the inland revenue. He says 'it *ought* to yield $300,000,000;' but it has not done so, and there seems no reason to expect that it will. The deficits of the next two budgets, 1864-5 and 1865-6, will therefore probably exceed Mr. Fessenden's estimates.

Although the actual call on the immediate resources of the country must be measured by the real value of the Government expenditure, the burden of debt and interest imposed is determined by the *nominal* deficit. Mr. Fessenden, on his own showing, has to borrow about $500,000,000 a year, on which he engages to pay six per cent. interest in gold. Thus, for every fifty millions worth that he spends (or even for every forty millions) he adds a hundred millions to the capital of the debt, and six millions *in gold* to his annual expenditure. The consequence is that the debt is increasing at an enormous rate. The estimated total of the debt is as follows:—

	Including currency.	Deducting non-interest-bearing notes
July 1, 1864	$1,740,000,000	$1,340,000,000
„ 1865	2,223,000,000	1,823,000,000
„ 1866	2,645,000,000	2,245,000,000

—an estimate founded on the foregoing tables, modified by certain suppositions and expectations so doubtful that we have taken no account of them in copying the yearly balance-sheets.

According to Mr. Fessenden's own account, he will pay between July 1, 1865 and 1866, 25,000,000*l.* sterling as interest on the debt. That of the next year, therefore, can hardly be less than 30,000,000*l.* It would seem, then, that if the war should last eighteen months longer, the North will be saddled with a perpetual payment of 30,000,000*l.* a year over and above its expenditure on the public service—and this, too, in gold and not in greenbacks.

We are a little at a loss to know how the present customs revenue is calculated. It is paid in gold; is the amount stated in gold or in greenbacks? We will take the more favourable supposition. In that case the revenue of last year was 20,000,000*l.* in gold and 30,000,000*l.* in greenbacks. Let us suppose the latter then to have been worth 66 cents the dollar; then the whole revenue was 40,000,000*l.* sterling; and the North will owe, in 1866, a debt the interest of which will absorb *three-fourths* of the largest revenue they ever raised.

Of course they will not pay it. That is not of much moment. But how long will it be before it will be *obvious to capitalists* that the interest of such a debt never can or will be paid? It is shown by Mr. Fessenden's own report that the debt in July, 1865, will entail an annual payment of 25,000,000*l.* sterling. After that, will any one dare to lend? Will it not be plain to the dullest intellect that ever fagged through the compound rules that if much more is borrowed, repudiation will be inevitable; and that to lend any further is to render loss not probable only, but inevitable? This is the rock ahead, clearly indicated by Mr. Fessenden's Report. He has indicated a limit to his power of repayment, by putting side by side his actual revenue and his prospective obligations; in so doing, he has fixed a term to the credit of his Government, and practically warned all lenders against trusting him any further. It is as if a landowner, mortgaged up to the ears, should publish a statement of his debts and of his rent-roll, along with a request for more money. 'I have borrowed 400,000*l.* at 4 per cent.; that is gone. My rent-roll is 20,000*l.*; lend me 200,000*l.* more.' Who would accede to such a request? Yet Mr. Fessenden seems to expect that he will be able to go on indefinitely borrowing money, while, as his own figures show, there is barely a hope that he will ever pay what he has borrowed already.

Here, if anywhere, a gleam of light breaks through the darkness of the future. It would be rash to make a positive prophecy regarding the effect of insolvency upon the policy of the Northern Government. But two things are obvious: first, that it is almost as difficult to carry on a war of aggression without money as without men; and secondly, that the North is likely to come to an end of its power of borrowing money, long before the South finds any serious difficulty in raising men.

THE CONFEDERATE CAUSE IN FRANCE.

FROM A CONFEDERATE CORRESPONDENT.

Paris: December 27.

In its appreciation of 'Lincoln's own,' the Paris press shows the same divergency of opinion as that which it always exhibits when it undertakes to treat the American question. To the Opposition journals everything appears quite satisfactory: to the independent and Government journals everything is the reverse. Notwithstanding this resolution, however, it is easy to detect in the embarrassed and exaggerated encomiums of the one side a determination dictated by a political passion, and in the vehement and deep-felt criticisms of the other side the expression of an opinion both well considered and well grounded. Expressions such as these are not without their interest, and I therefore give you a brief summary of the opinions put forth by the French press on the Message of Mr. Lincoln.

The 'Patrie.'

The more one reads the Message of President Lincoln, the more does one become convinced of the absolute inutility of the sanguinary contest, of which this document is a cold panegyric. Nothing is to be deduced from the language held by Mr. Lincoln—nothing that can in any way modify the general impression—nothing that can prove the equity of the Northern cause—nothing that can induce the hope that this cause will triumph either by moral or material force.

It is simply an official report, very exact in some particulars, of the situation which is known to us all. It contains not a word of regret for the suffering which the war has entailed, not a word of hope for the termination of this horrible hecatomb! The war must continue! cries Mr. Lincoln; and it really seems that this cry, an almost savage one, is uttered by him as by one who, feeling himself ruined, would have all by whom he is surrounded to perish in his downfall! An American remarked to us yesterday, with graphic energy, 'This looks like the winding-sheet.'

The *Patrie* then proceeds to prove that the law of emancipation recommended by Mr. Lincoln cannot be voted constitutionally, since for this an amendment of the Federal compact would be necessary, and this amendment could be effected only by the joint vote of three-fourths of the States, of which fifteen out of thirty-six are in favour of the South.

It is not true, therefore (continues *La Patrie*), that the abolition of slavery is the object of the Northern war. The Union, says Mr. Lincoln, is the 'common end;' and on this he insists by representing the people of the North as unanimous in their desire to see the Union re-established. But this unanimity of the Northern people has never been contested. It is well known that the North wishes for the Union. Does this prove, however, that the Union is henceforth possible? Quite the contrary. The greater the desperation of the North, the stronger does the fidelity of the South towards its cause become.

So far as exterior relationships are concerned, Mr. Lincoln's Message affords no subject for discussion. One can but smile at his indirect menaces against England relative to the Canadian frontiers; one can smile only at the phrase which represents Mexico as still the theatre of civil war. Mr. Lincoln is pleased to ignore the proclamation of the Emperor Maximilian and the triumphs of the French army. The future, however, will very soon teach him this.

In a word, then, the Presidential Message says too much or too little. To minds blinded by a chimeric confidence in the re-establishment of the Union it says too little; to the adversaries of the North it says too much; for, again to repeat the words of our American, 'it is a letter forming a fit accompaniment to the decease of the American Union.'

The 'France.'

The article published by this journal is both creditable and resolute. Its author, M. Cohen, admits, with regret, that the last word of Mr. Lincoln's policy is war, and tracing the Message sentence by sentence, he shows it to be inconsistent with facts.

The weakness of the armies is evident. Let the reader attentively peruse those passages in the Message which refer to military operations, and he will seek in vain for those brilliant successes which characterise a well-conducted war, as also for those advances which bespeak decided triumphs. Millions of men massacred, thousands of millions of money wasted and squandered—these are the sum of this horrible butchery.

The state of the finances offers a no less unfavourable aspect. Two thousand millions have been already swept away in the gulf of the deficit. Where are the resources to be found for such a mad expenditure as this?

Mr. Lincoln affirms, with an appearance of national pride, that these resources are not to be sought for from abroad. A foolish pretence which badly cloaks discredit. For a long time past the demands made by America for loans have met with no reply from the foreigner, or at all events when he has replied to them it has been on conditions altogether ruinous. Compulsion, therefore, renders a restriction to national resources unavoidable.

Be this as it may (concludes *La France*), with military operations barren in their results, a debt of twelve thousand millions, and ruin in perspective, surely this is not the time to show oneself so glorious, so inflexible respecting conditions of peace.

The 'Nation.'

The first thing that struck us on reading it (the Message) was the cold and indifferent tone in which it is written: in no part of it does it exhibit the slightest trace either of emotion or of sympathy for the immense sacrifices and inestimable sorrows of the numerous populations of the North and of the South, condemned during three years past to all the horrors of a civil war, without pity and without mercy. A foreigner, a simple spectator only of this prolonged contest, whose business might have been to retrace results and to indicate their probable issue, could not possibly have proceeded to his work with a drier eye or a looser hand.

It was hoped that this Message would contain some indications of a possible and speedy reconciliation. Unfortunately this hope has proved altogether deceptive. If the Southern populations participate in the sentiments by which their Government is actuated, the language used by Mr. Lincoln indicates nothing but the continuance of war.

Now, the sacrifices which these Southern populations have, without a murmur, imposed upon themselves, evidently prove that they are resolved to continue them to the last.

THE 'PRESSE.'

The *Presse* thinks that Mr. Lincoln 'is not an University graduate,' and that his 'elocution is vulgar,' but admits that these defects have not hindered his stating many things, amongst others that the sale of the captured blockade-runners has produced fourteen millions.

The *Presse* adds, however, that—

The President has forgotten to say how much the commerce of the Union has suffered by the disasters inflicted by the Confederate cruisers, the *Alabama* and the *Florida*, which now lie entombed beneath the ocean, the one reflecting glory, the other *shame*, on the American flag.

The *Presse* seems to participate in the illusion put forth by Mr. Lincoln as to the inexhaustible resources of the Northern States, and believes the reconstruction of the Union to be possible.

The article published by this journal, from the pen of M. Chatard, contains several important blunders. Of these I will mention three only, although I might easily double the number. First, that Mr. Lincoln *himself opened* the short Session of the Eighth Congress. Secondly, that the great session will last for four years; and thirdly, that 'the modest citizen who has supported the weight of the supreme magistracy with an unshakable firmness, *did himself read* the Message to the legislative bodies!

I should like to know on what score a writer committing such gross errors as these judges of Mr. Lincoln's political capacity.

THE 'TEMPS.'

This journal, which gives extracts only from the Message, considers it clear, resolute, and hopeful for the friends of liberty. It eulogises the 'eminent' man who, by dint of courage and honesty, has succeeded in bearing the weight of the American crisis, and accepts all his assurances to the very letter. The North is triumphant, the South is expiring; the navy of the Union is formidable, its armies invincible; in a word, everything is admirable in the model republic. Nevertheless, *Le Temps* finds that this picture has its shade, and this shade is the financial situation. What a heavy burden for the future! it exclaims. But nonsense! England has for fifteen years past borne a much heavier burden.

THE 'SIÈCLE.'

In its eulogy of the Message, this journal appears even more embarrassed than *Le Temps*. After having examined its every phase, all that it finds in it worthy of admiration is the 'modesty of the President, whose re-election has not made him proud.'

THE 'DÉBATS.'

The Orleanist journal can only find some commonplace encomium to bestow on the Message. All that it praises in it is the 'fixedness of its views,' the 'precision of its language,' and the 'solemnity of its protestations against slavery.'

THE 'NORD.'

The Russian organ thinks that the North may prolong the war for an indefinite period, and that the South has the greatest possible difficulty in maintaining the campaign. It strongly approves of Mr. Lincoln's continuing the contest, the issue of which it considers to be no longer doubtful.

What other counsel could this journal give than this? The oppressor of Poland and the oppressor of the South embrace each other. What could be more natural?

THE 'MÉMORIAL DIPLOMATIQUE.'

This journal judges the Message very severely. It declares it to be vague, cold, and dry, and that it throws no light whatever on the great questions now pending in America.

The *Mémorial* considers that it is high time for the North to make known to Europe, in a definite manner, the motives on which it is acting and the rights on which its proceedings are based.

The Northern Government (says this journal) has never yet expressed itself with sufficient clearness on this important subject. Certainly it has said and repeated that it is not fighting for the abolition of slavery, and that its object in the present war is the reconstitution of the Union; but this declaration, with which Europe contented itself when the South had not as yet shown its capacity for self-government or made known the full extent of its rights, can no longer be accepted as satisfactory.

It is no longer sufficient for the North to say that it seeks to re-establish the Union. The South has not restricted itself to saying that it will have nothing more to do with the Union; it has proved that it has full right to break the Federal compact. It is therefore at the present time the duty of the North to show by what right it imposes, by fire and sword, on 8,000,000 of men, an association with which they desire to have nothing more to do, and with which, as they have shown, they can well dispense.

After having developed this point, *Le Mémorial* concludes by applying to the Message the energetic expression of *La Patrie*: It looks like the *winding-sheet*.

LE 'MONDE.'

The organ of the Catholic clergy, *Le Monde*, an old and very influential journal, has devoted an article to the Confederate Manifesto, which has produced a great sensation. In this article, prompted by Cardinal Antonelli's answer to the Confederate Commissioners, *Le Monde* delivers a grand encomium upon the Manifesto, which it describes as 'an admirable protest against a savage war, an invocation of the natural rights of State liberty, an appeal to Christian brotherhood!'

The *Monde* exclaims most energetically against the bad faith of the Radical journals:—

The Confederates (it says) are, according to disciplined Democracy, rebels. Granted! But are those rebels men? And if they are men, will not their complaint be listened to? And if that complaint be a just one, can no human tongue be anywhere found to insure them justice?

This article, written by a man of great reputation M. Laurentie, has sorely vexed the journals of 'disciplined Democracy.'

The *Union* has likewise loudly censured Mr. Seward's refusal to permit the money raised at Liverpool for the relief of the Southern prisoners to be distributed amongst them.

The *Patrie*, the *Pays*, and the *Constitutionnel*, have expressed themseves in a similar strain on this letter of Mr. Seward's.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK: December 16, 1864.

THE acquittal of the Vermont raiders came upon us like a clap of thunder in a clear sky. It seemed impossible, after the apparent earnest desire of the Canadian authorities to secure the arrest of the parties and bring them to justice, that such a sham trial would be allowed, and such an extraordinary verdict be rendered. The press here took up the expression and feeling of the people with a will. Dix, by authority from Washington, issued a warlike proclamation, and Congress, in one way and another, hung around the Canadian decision all day. At the first blush the general belief was that the Canadians, like all the other dependencies of the British Crown, were hand and glove with the South in its struggle for independence, and being thus, though pretending to be 'neutral,' they would not resort to harsh measures to please the Northern Government. This was the idea of Stanton when he inspired Dix in the wording of his order to the military commanders on the frontier, and the order was the key to some wrathful editorials on the part of the press, which, with but two exceptions (the *Journal* and *News*), came down on the Canadians and John Bull with a rush. But the scene is changed to-day. The order of Dix—the tone of the New York press—the excitement in Congress and in Washington—were all telegraphed to the leading cities of Canada, and in response comes a repudiation of Judge Coursal's decision by the Canadian authorities, and the announcement that the rearrest of the raiders has been ordered. This course is evidence of a disposition to do the fair thing, and it is accepted as such. We now believe that the authorities of Canada, the Government of that province, are all right, and that it was the judge who was at heart a 'rebel,' and therefore gave a snap judgment in favour of the 'rebel' cause. At any rate it is the judge now who is catching the thunder of young America, and the demand is made that His Honour be at once removed from the bench. It is already reported from Quebec that he will be 'severely dealt with;' but what this means remains to be seen. The Chief of Police, Mr. Lamothe, is accused of complicity with the raiders; and this gentleman, it is hinted, will no longer be 'officer of mine'—in other words, he will be dismissed the service.

There appears to have been a vast difference in feeling between those Canadians who thronged the court-room, and cheered loudly as the raiders were allowed to 'depart in peace,' and the Cabinet of the province, which we are given to understand, after the news of the excitement among the Yankees had been received, 'unanimously denounced,' the judge's decision. Can it be possible that it was Dix's bluster and the *Herald's* gas which brought about this 'unanimous' disapproval of the decision? How comes it that the Governor-General now condemns a verdict (as is reported by telegraph) when that verdict was based on his own failure to sign the warrant for the arrest of the accused parties? This, it seems, was necessary, in order to make the arrest valid. Yet the Governor-General omits entirely to affix his signature to the warrant, and thus leaves open, as it were, purposely, a loop-hole of escape. The bullying of the Northern press and Congress, however, is sent over the wires, and forthwith the Governor is announced as having repudiated his own doings, and new warrants are issued for the rearrest of the raiders. To my mind this rearresting order would never have been issued had not England recently informed the Canadians that in the event of trouble they must not count upon help from the mother country.

But in the issue of this new order for arrest, it is confessed that the Government has no legal right to do so. Here again is a fear of the Yankees shown. 'The courts have independent jurisdiction,' says the *Quebec Despatch*, 'but if the judges refuse to do their duty or act corruptly, they may be suspended, or in some cases dismissed.' According to this, then, the dismissal of Judge Coursal, at the most, should end the matter, though he is not in reality guilty of 'refusing to do his duty,' but rather the Governor, who strangely enough failed to sign the warrant. Nevertheless, although the 'Canadian Government has no legal right to act directly' in the decision, it seems it does interfere after the lapse of a certain period, and pronounces the decision wrong. As it stands, the case is a most remarkable one. So far as the raiders are concerned, they are said to have left the province as soon as the decision in their favour was rendered. It is possible, therefore, that they may escape a rearrest, though not so certain that they will escape a 'shooting down' from some of the military who 'report to General Dix.'

With regard to the right of the latter to send his armed troops into Canada to hunt down Southern partisans, there is, of course, more than one opinion; the majority, however, believing that if not an act of war, the proceeding could not be repeated many times without creating such unpleasant results as would certainly lead to war; and war with Canada, there is little question, would ultimately end in war with England.

Are we drifting into such a war? The discourtesy to England in not being noticed by Mr. Lincoln in his message; the flippant abuse of her by Webb; the increase of the naval force upon the Lakes, without any consultation with England upon the subject; the cancelling of the Reciprocity Treaty, 'never to be renewed;' the insulting answer of Seward in response to the offer of charity to the Southern prisoners in Federal hands; the demands in Congress that England shall be made to pay for every vessel destroyed by the Confederate cruisers, with interest, together with other incidents that might be mentioned, are all straws which surely enough tend in one direction—and that direction is certainly not a friendly one.

I might have added to the above the startling order of General Dix. But if Canada is to be left to herself in the event of war with the United States, why England has already accepted the conclusion, and not a sword would be drawn by her in defence of her loyal subjects, and consequently on that score not against the people of the United States.

The temper of the House on Wednesday was seen in the passage, without debate, of the bill from the Senate authorising the equipment of six steam revenue cutters for the Lakes. The Committee on Foreign Affairs in the same body were also instructed to enquire into the expediency of providing, by treaty or otherwise, for the better protection of the frontiers.

In the Senate the resolutions giving to England notice of the termination of the Reciprocity Treaty, were referred to the Foreign Committee. These resolutions passed the House on the previous day. The resolution 'demanding from the British Government payment in full for all ships or cargoes destroyed by pirates from English ports,' was referred to the same committee; as was also the resolution directing the Military Committee to enquire into the expediency of enlisting an army corps to watch and defend the territory bordering on the Lakes. This latter resolution the Senator who introduced it wished intrusted with the Military Committee, but it was put in charge of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The Senate has passed a bill making Liberia a present of a gunboat—yeas 33, nays 9.

In the House on Thursday, Mr. Davis, of Maryland, from the Foreign Committee, reported a resolution declaring that to Congress and not the President, as assumed by Seward in a despatch to Mr. Dayton, belonged the power of declaring the foreign policy of the Government, but it was rejected by 89 to 63. Mr. Davis at once resigned his position of Chairman of the Foreign Committee when the fate of the resolution was known, but the House refused to accept it.

The summersault of Hon. James Brooks, of New York, one of the ablest debaters in the House, upon the slavery question, is worth noting. A year ago this gentleman declared in Congress that 'slavery was dead,' and he 'accepted the fact;' but since then he appears to have arrived at a different conclusion, for he now declares to Congress and the world that not only is slavery *not* 'dead, but it is a Divine institution, and should be respected!' Furthermore, said Mr. Brooks, 'the subjugation of the South is impossible, even were it inhabited by only half of the people now there.' Mr. Brooks is the senior editor and proprietor of the *Express*, one of the most enterprising journals of our city.

The *Tribune*, of course, supports the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty, for the sufficient reason, as it says, that 'an incessant robbery of our resources is going on across the Canadian frontier under cover of the same.' Another journal argues to show that whereas there was, prior to the treaty, an annual balance of trade to the amount of $16,000,000 in our favour, since then it has turned into a balance of nearly $3,000,000 against us. The $16,000,000, however, and more, it is believed, will all return when once the treaty is dead, and the breadstuffs, lumber, and fish of the Canadas come in for an average rate of taxation. The treaty expires by limitation on the 16th March next.

The *Toronto Globe*, in speaking of the increased American naval force on the Lakes, says that Canada will have to do the same, as 'such a state of things would put us in imminent peril in the event of war. If the Americans had gunboats while we had none, they could make short work of the chief cities of Upper Canada.' It adds: 'The termination of the treaty is very seriously to be regretted.'

The truth in relation to the sudden return of Warren from his expedition on the Weldon road begins to appear. General Lee telegraphs to Richmond that Warren was driven back on Petersburg by the Confederate troops, and the same tidings reach us in private letters. Warren, it now seems, was in reality bound for Weldon, and ultimately for Wilmington. He had 20,000 men in his command and ten days' rations, not including live stock. Grant hoped, when Lee saw this heavy column moving on Weldon, that the latter would be compelled to so weaken the garrisons of Petersburg or Richmond that the capture of one or the other would be an easy matter. But before Warren had been absent forty-eight hours, Lee had despatched a sufficient force to drive him back, and at the same time maintained strong garrisons at Petersburg and Richmond; and thus was Grant again disappointed and baffled in his calculations. The *Richmond Enquirer* states that the damage inflicted to the road by Warren was trifling, as he was signally repulsed at the first bridge he attempted to destroy.

Private advices received in Washington from Missouri report that Price gained an accession of 10,000 troops during his journey through that State; also stores, &c., sufficient to last his army for months. Included in his spoils were 400 of the best wagons in the Federal service, all filled with the products of the country.

The *Richmond Enquirer* warmly advocates the proposal of Governor Smith to arm the slaves. 'Virginia,' it says, 'should take the lead. Let her say to the sister States that in this war neither slaves nor slavery, neither property nor person, nothing high or low, shall prevent her from fighting the good fight, and that every son and every dollar, and every acre, shall be devoted to this war and to securing the nationality of these States.'

Saturday Morning, December 17.

The papers are full of news, arrayed in the most exciting character. From a look at them one would be apt to conclude at once that it was thundering simultaneously all around the (rebel) sky. The great feature, however, is the 'capture of Savannah after eight hours' hard fighting, with 11,000 prisoners,' and it is added that 'Hardee, Smith, M'Laws, and other rebel generals are probably in our hands.' This whole story *is evidently a canard*. It comes in the shape of a 'report' to a newspaper man at Fortress Monroe ('no other paper has the news'), and he kindly telegraphs it to all creation. It would be supposed that a Government vessel arriving from near the scene of the capture at so important a post as Fortress Monroe, would have brought important tidings of this character to the War or Navy Department, but it does not, and the correspondent of a Baltimore journal is the fortunate and exclusive recipient of the news! I think the European public may rely upon it that the report was then incorrect. In further proof of this assumption we have through the Richmond papers later news than this transport could probably have brought from 'off Charleston,' and they declare that Savannah was still intact.

The capture of Fort M'Allister, on the Ogeechee river, sixteen miles south of the mouth of the Savannah river, is correct. Sherman marched upon it in force, and the garrison there being, strange to say, being only '100 men,' the fort was easily taken. Two previous attempts had been made to capture the fort by water, but they failed. The capture opens communication between Sherman and the fleet, but there are other heavy works between the fort and Savannah, which defend the city from the front. There are some, however, who argue that the possession of the fort by Sherman flanks the city; and this being the case, it will soon become untenable, as his army will strongly besiege it on land.

General Canby sent out an expedition recently by way of the Mississippi Central Road to cut off the supplies for General Hood's army. It is claimed that the expedition was successful, but, as Corinth was untouched, Hood can still receive his supplies *vid* that point.

We have news of an assault by Thomas upon Hood's left wing, in which the Federals claim to have driven it eight miles, and to have captured 800 to 1,000 prisoners and 16 guns. The battle

was to be renewed next day, but Mr. Stanton says the 'wires are working badly,' and he has no further news. General Hood, in his report of the battle of Franklin, says it was a complete defeat of the Federals, though it cost him 3,500 men and some of his best generals—Cleburne, Adams, Gist, Strahl, Williams, and Granberry. The *Richmond Sentinel* says Hood took 5,000 prisoners between the battle of Franklin and his march upon Nashville, and adds that the total Federal loss could not have been less than 'ten or eleven thousand.'

I hear that the despatch from Brazil upon the *Florida* affair is decidedly tart, if not insolent. Seward has replied as calmly as possible, but does not endorse the seizure.

Gold has not opened under the news. Cotton closed last evening at 132.

LETTERS FROM WASHINGTON.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON: December 16, 1864.

Every one is in a ferment to-day for fear of a war with England. The 'loyal' folks do not want a war with England, and yet they consider themselves deeply aggrieved by the state of affairs on the Canada border. They are in a state of mind somewhat similar to that which annoyed the ass when he stood between the two bundles of hay. If war with England begins, the independence of the South is secured, and these belligerent gentlemen, who never wish to fight in person, but only by proxy, cannot bear the thought of such a thing. But, on the other hand, the Canada judiciary do not suit them, and because Judge Coursal chose to decide that he had no jurisdiction of the case of the St. Alban's raiders, and did not hang them on the spot or do some other desperate thing, these gentry think their 'honour' is at stake, and that war alone can avenge such great wrong. So the six months' notice necessary for the repeal of the Canada reciprocity treaty has been given; and Mr. Chandler, the Don Quixote of the Senate, has offered a series of blood-and-thunder resolutions; and General Dix, at New York, no doubt under instructions from the authorities here, has issued a proclamation after the following fashion:—

'All military commanders on the frontiers are instructed, in case further acts of depredation and murder are attempted, whether by marauders or persons acting under commissions from the rebel authorities of Richmond, to shoot down the perpetrators, if possible while in the commission of their crimes; or if it be necessary, with a view to their capture, to cross the boundary between the United States and Canada, said commanders are hereby directed to pursue them wherever they may take refuge, and if captured they are under no circumstances to be surrendered, but are to be sent to these headquarters for trial and punishment by martial law.'

The town talk to-day is Dix's proclamation and Chandler's resolutions, but the excitement evidently will culminate in just nothing at all. Seward and Lincoln have too much at stake to risk a war with England, and no doubt will take advantage of anything to prevent it. The news to-day that warrants have been issued in Canada for the rearrest of the St. Alban's raiders, and that the police are searching for them, will afford the galaxy of statesmen that rules us just such an opportunity as they desire for backing out of a foreign war. These excitements are periodical with us, and always die out. The present one will not result in any war. The people are sick and tired of one war now, and will submit to anything before they will begin another. Of course the newspapers talk big, but they talk big about everything. All the adjectives in the language are generally as much exhausted, in describing a fire at which $25 are lost, as in stating England's deep insults to the United States.

General Sherman has not yet taken Savannah, nor is there the slightest probability that he will do it. The city is strongly defended. It stands on the south side of the Savannah River, about eighteen miles from the sea, and is in the midst of the most extensive rice plantations. The Savannah River is broad, and runs for many miles between wide swamps, which extend on either hand sometimes eight or ten miles back from the edge of the river. Savannah is built up on these swamps, and stands as a sort of oasis of good ground in a desert of marsh. Between the city and the seacoast the entire country is cut up by a vast and intricate series of rivers, creeks, and swamps. Various bayous extend from the ocean to the Savannah River, below the city. Two of these connect the river with Warsaw Sound, a wide and long harbour on the Georgia coast, below the mouth of the river; and one connects the river with Port Royal entrance in South Carolina. All the means of communication with the sea are strongly defended, and for Federal vessels to push up any of them and shell Savannah is an impossibility. Batteries not only line the banks, but all sorts of obstructions fill the channels. Hundreds of torpedoes are sunk in the water, and two Confederate ironclads are constantly on the alert, watching dangerous points. The vast swamps and depth and current of the Savannah River keep Sherman from crossing into South Carolina and making a junction with Foster; and wherever it has been attempted, the Confederate vessels on the river have kept up such vigorous shelling that it was soon given up. On the south and west the rice swamps make an excellent defence for Savannah; and these are aided by a series of earthworks which have been building for at least six weeks under the personal superintendence of Beauregard and Hardee. The number of Confederate troops in the city is large. They have been gathering for a month from all quarters, and there is little doubt that in numbers they equal the army Sherman commands. Sherman's own officers say there are at least 12,000 regulars, and the belief is that Savannah is now garrisoned by 30,000 troops.

On December 2, Sherman's army was marching through Millen, seventy-nine miles north-west of Savannah. He evacuated Millen on December 3, and began a march to the south-east, along the Millen and Savannah railroad. He kept his men well together and sent out scarcely any raiding parties. He marched along the narrow strip of firm ground between the Ogeechee river, swamps on the right hand, and those of the Savannah on the left. His flanks were thus well protected. On December 5, his advance had marched eighteen miles, and he was sixty-one miles from Savannah. One of his corps marched along the Savannah, another along the Ogeechee, and the remaining two between. On December 6, Sherman moved a great deal faster, and by night had gone eighteen miles. On the 7th he marched about sixteen miles, and on the morning of the 8th he was at the town of Crayton on the railroad, twenty-five miles north-west of Savannah. Owing to these fatiguing marches great numbers of stragglers fell out of his ranks, and filled up all the country in his rear, begging and pillaging at every plantation. Many were picked up by the Confederate cavalry, who followed close upon him, harassing him terribly. Sherman when at Crayton is said to have had but little over 20,000 men, all the rest having straggled off or been put *hors de combat*. The peninsula along which he advanced was only about fifteen miles wide, and the swamps protected his flanks, but at the same time prevented his sending out expeditions to waste the country. So exhausted were his men that he was compelled to shorten his marches upon leaving Grayton, and during the 8th, 9th, and 10th, he advanced but fifteen miles in all. His march was during these days through a dense pine forest, and on the morning of the 10th he reached Bloomingdale, fifteen miles from Savannah, where he met the vanguard of the city's protectors, whom he pushed through the woods for about five miles, and on the evening of the 10th was at Telfair, ten miles from Savannah. All this advance of five miles was made by only the severest fighting, and at Telfair Sherman found the Confederate works so strong that he was compelled to halt. Here he rested for the night, and on the morning of the 11th reconnoitred the position, finding it so strong that he would not hazard an attack.

So Sherman made no attack, and Sunday, December 11, saved Savannah. He began a movement towards his right flank. He moved along the outside of the Confederate works, gradually working around to the south—everywhere testing them, everywhere finding them very strong and well garrisoned. He had constant skirmishes, and on the night of the 11th found himself five miles south of Savannah, without the slightest chance of penetrating the cordon of forts surrounding it. He was near the head of Warsaw Sound, and the road to it was unobstructed. On the 12th his right flank, under General Howard, came out to the edge of the Sound, and a Federal captain with a despatch from Howard put off in a small boat to find the Federal fleet somewhere out at sea. Dahlgren, who commanded the fleet, had been on the watch, and the captain with his despatch was taken on board of one of the Federal vessels. The despatch was sent North, and on it was founded every kind of rumour, not only of Sherman's safe arrival at the coast, but of the capture of Savannah and Charleston and the utter annihilation of all Beauregard's army. The great problem, however, is solved. Sherman has reached the coast in safety, and will now lose no time in supplying his army with the food and ammunition they must be sadly in need of, and in securing reinforcements to help his fatigued troops. There is not the slightest evidence that Savannah has been taken, or is invested, or even seriously attacked. There are plenty of rumours of all three, but none of them have any foundation. The city is still in Confederate possession, with two lines of unbroken railroad connecting it with Virginia and the South-west. From Savannah to Columbia the railroad is uninjured. From Savannah to Charleston the road is still running, for Foster has not cut it—none of the reports that he had done so being confirmed, and there being direct Southern intelligence that his latest attempt to reach the railroad by an advance from Pocotaligo to Coosawhatchie on December 9, was repulsed with severe loss. The probability is strong that Sherman, for some time at least, will not attack Savannah. He will first make secure his position on the seacoast south of Savannah, and then he may try a bout with Beauregard. The latest intelligence is that the Confederates have succeeded in removing all the Federal prisoners out of his path, so that he has captured none of them; and Stanton has just now put an effectual quietus upon all the rumours of the capture of Savannah by an official gazette, stating that he has had no news of it.

There has been a serious battle fought in front of Nashville. The Federal defensive works around Nashville form a semicircle, nowhere more than two miles from it, and extending about five miles from the river above to the river below the town. There are four Federal gunboats at Nashville, but communication along the Cumberland River is cut off by the Confederate batteries, and no others can sail up it. Very little woods obstruct the ground around the city, and the Confederate works formed an outer circle around the Federal works, and were gradually approaching the latter as Hood constructed his siege parallels. As the Confederates came uncomfortably near, it became necessary for Thomas to do something. So he determined to make an attack all along his line, and began it yesterday morning. The gunboats on the river assisted, and soon succeeded in shelling Hood's left flank away from the river bank, west of the city. The Federal troops then availed themselves of this success, and Hood's men withdrew out of range of the gunboats. This was the result of the entire day's battle, for on the Confederate centre and right flank Thomas could make no impression. Thomas reports having captured sixteen cannon, between 800 and 1,000 prisoners, and some waggons. The Federal losses are not reported, but, as Thomas was the attacking party, they must have been quite heavy. Thomas says he intended to renew the battle to-day if the Confederates did not retreat, but we have not yet heard anything of it. Hood's expedition, sent under General Lyon, around to the Federal rear, is making alarming strides through the country, and is everywhere welcomed by the people. After crossing the Cumberland at Clarksville, north-north-west of Nashville, and entering Kentucky, Lyon began a march eastward through the lower tier of counties. He captured Hopkinsville, Elkton, and Russellville, three successive county towns, and was swiftly marching when last heard from towards the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, Thomas's only line of supplies. He was about fifty miles from it, with scarcely a Federal soldier in front of him.

What a complete fizzle Grant's last operation has been! He sent 20,000 men, with 22 cannon and no end of cavalry, to capture Weldon and destroy railroads, and break things generally. Lee, quietly, but effectively, as he always does such things, despatched a detachment of Confederates after Grant's column. Warren, the commander, hears of it, and is so bewildered that he allows a handful of cavalrymen to successfully oppose his crossing the Mehervin River, near the North Carolina border, and turning his back on Weldon, he manages, by marching over all sorts of country roads and bypaths, to get out of his difficulty by going almost to the James River, and returns to camp with the sorry report that he had captured thirty prisoners, and destroyed 120 barrels of apple brandy. Could anything be more ludicrous? And yet the whole affair is paraded in newspaper columns as a 'brilliant victory.' Stanton, it seems, had sense enough to give it the go-by, for he said not a word about it. The army in front of Petersburg is very quiet, and has done nothing for many a long day. Longstreet made a reconnaissance against Butler's lines on the north bank of the James in the beginning of the week, and captured a few prisoners.

The only raid I have to report is one made from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A Federal cavalry force, 5,000 strong, with twelve cannon, has started east from Baton Rouge towards Mobile, on a cotton-stealing and land-wasting expedition, but as yet no news has been received of its progress.

A Federal gunboat called the *Otsego* has been destroyed by a torpedo on the Roanoke River, North Carolina, six miles above Plymouth.

Mosby's men without any loss captured forty Federal cavalrymen near Millwood, Virginia, December 4.

A bill has been introduced into Congress which will remove from the service the following Federal generals, some of whom should have been kicked out long ago:—Hunter, Burnside, Sigel, Heintzelman, Sickles, Schurz, Averell, Sturgis, Payne, Spinola, and Tyler.

The departure of a fleet of transports with ironclads from Fortress Monroe to join Sherman has just been announced.

December 9.

A DAY or two ago, Mr. Lincoln made one of his characteristic speeches in this city, which I must send you as a piece of military information. A crowd of office-holders had been serenading Fenton, the new Governor of New York, and after closing their ovation to that worthy they went to the White House and brought out Mr. Lincoln. The old fellow made a speech, as follows:—

'Friends and fellow-citizens,—I believe I shall never be old enough to speak without embarrassment, when I have anything to talk about. I have no good news to tell you, and yet I have no bad news to tell. We have talked of elections, until there is nothing more to say about them. The most interesting news we now have is from Sherman. We all know where he went in at, but I can't tell where he will come out at. I will now close by proposing three cheers for General Sherman and the army.'

These words, though vulgar and unworthy of a President, have deep significance. They show that the Administration has no news from Sherman, and that it shares with the Republicans of the North the greatest anxiety for the result of his movement. There is a gradual belief spreading over the country, that Sherman has failed, and that now the only question is, whether he will be able to get off in safety with any considerable part of his army. When I wrote you at the end of last week, the critical situation of the Federal army in Georgia was plainly seen by all who studied it; now the whole country sees it.

In the last days of November, Sherman's columns were marching through Georgia. Somewhere about the, 29th they effected a junction on the Macon and Savannah Road, west of Millen. Millen is a very important point in this campaign, and its position should be accurately remembered. It is a small town where the railroad from Macon to Savannah, and the one from Augusta to Savannah, come together. It is seventy-eight miles north-north-west of Savannah. Sherman's troops on the 19th were some distance west of Millen. Howard's column, which had been travelling towards Augusta, had come down from Northern Georgia to the line of the railroad on which Slocum's troops had come eastward—Slocum having struck it at the Oconee Bridge. Just before this time, as near as can be ascertained, Sherman sent out two cavalry expeditions. One of them went from Howard's column, passed north of Millen, and was under orders to go to Port Royal and communicate with the Federal fleet and army that were there, under Admiral Dahlgren and General Foster. The cavalry met no Confederates until they reached Waynesboro', a town thirty-six miles south of Augusta, on the railroad to Millen. Here the Confederates surprised them, attacked them on all sides, captured 760 prisoners, and dispersed the rest. What became of the balance of the cavalry is not known. They are supposed to have made the best time possible back to Sherman's main army. The other Federal cavalry detachment had been sent out by Slocum, when he was at the Oconee bridge. It was very strong, and apparently contained all the cavalry Slocum had with him. Nothing is known of what it did, nor can the line of march it followed be traced with very great accuracy. It passed down the west side of the Oconee to the Altamaha, and then appears to have followed that stream down to within thirty miles of the coast. Here the main body turned north-east towards the Savannah River, reconnoitring parties being sent towards Brunswick and Darien. How near they approached those towns is not known. The next that is heard of the cavalry is, that on December 1 it was about fifty miles north-west of Savannah, and that on the 1st and 2nd, small detachments were in the country between the main body and Savannah, some of them on the night of the 1st being but eight or ten miles from Savannah. They disappeared, however, and the main force turned westward, crossed the Ocmulgee, and then going north appears to have rejoined Sherman. This raid passed through country where there were scarcely any Confederate troops, and the damage done by it was confined to burning houses and wasting fields. Scarcely a skirmish is known to have been fought by it. Its progress can be traced, but that is all.

Meanwhile Sherman, his two columns having joined, was marching slowly eastward along the railroad towards Millen. The Confederates from Macon and Milledgeville followed him. From Augusta, Bragg and Beauregard sent troops down past Waynesboro' towards Millen. Other troops from Savannah had come up to Millen. Sherman marched slowly along, and on December 1 Millen was abandoned by the Confederates. On December 2 Sherman was still west of it, and does not appear to have entered it. For three or four days he had marched very slowly, and seemed undecided what to do. At last accounts he had not captured Millen, and was evidently waiting for the return of his cavalry expedition. Sherman was thus at least eighty miles from Savannah and sixty from Augusta. Neither city was seriously threatened. Indeed, the line of his march for a week previous proved that Augusta was not threatened. Now the question is, where is he going? He may go to the Georgia coast either at Darien or Brunswick. He may try to go into South Carolina and reach Port Royal, but the Savannah River lying in his way will be almost too formidable an obstacle for him to attempt that road. Sherman's long delay has saved Savannah. Time has been given the Confederates, and they have used it well, to hurry troops there and to build fortifications. As Sherman lingers now near Millen, he gives strong evidence that he knows not what to do. To get to the sea coast in any direction it is necessary to cross swamps nearly all the way, and by no road is it less than a hundred miles. The Confederates are closing around him from all quarters; they harass him terribly. Indeed, his failure to advance beyond Millen is conceded to be caused by the bold front assumed by the Confederates. Bragg is at Augusta, Hardee and Dick Taylor at Savannah, Wheeler near Waynesboro', Forrest in Sherman's rear on the road from Macon, and Beauregard passes back and forth between the various cities as needed. Wade Hampton's cavalry are on his flanks; so are Iverson's. From Mobile, Macon, Savannah, Charleston and Augusta, I have no doubt, troops enough have gathered around Sherman to be a match for his entire force. The Republicans are now praying that he may get out of the scrape with whole bones.

The various efforts which have been made by different

Federal commanders to aid Sherman, form no unimportant part of his history. A large Federal fleet, with transports loaded with food and ammunition, was two days ago at Fortress Monroe awaiting information of Sherman's reaching some point on the seacoast, in order to go there and succour him. As we have no information of its having sailed, this is an additional proof that no news of his progress has been received by the Administration. Sherman, no doubt, had, when he started, a definite plan, but the hard knocks given him by the Confederacy have probably caused material changes in it. The fleet had not sailed when last heard from, nor is any time known to have been fixed for its starting. The most persistent effort made to aid Sherman was by Dahlgren and Foster. They gathered a large naval and military expedition from Charleston Harbour and Hilton Head, and sailed up Broad River, a stream between these two places. Their intention was to go up the river high enough to destroy the Charleston and Savannah Railroad, and thus prevent the passage of Confederate troops down to Savannah. The military part of the expedition landed, and marched to cut the railroad; but at Grahamsville they found an entrenched force of Confederates, who had been on the lookout for just such an attempt as this. They were repulsed, and forced to abandon the expedition, and driven back till they got under the protection of the gunboats in Broad River. Here they were when last heard from, and as reinforcements were coming up the river, it seemed to be the intention to make another attempt to cut the railroad. In the fight at Grahamsville the Federal troops report their loss at 700; the Confederates report theirs at about 100. The Confederates say that the Federals left 1,300 dead and wounded on the field.

General Hood is gradually closing his lines around Nashville. He has begun a siege, and his troops are labouring on the parallels and approaches. His batteries throw shells into the outskirts of the city. Thomas, in the city, is doing his best to defend it. All the citizens and Government employés are still under arms, and give him no slight aid. Hood, on December 6, sent a flag of truce into Nashville, asking an exchange of prisoners. Thomas replied that he was not able to make an exchange, as he had sent all his Confederate prisoners to the North. Communication between Nashville and Louisville is still open. Hood has sent an expedition down the Tennessee, and planted batteries on the Harpeth Shoals, a part of the Cumberland River, fourteen miles below Nashville, which is of difficult navigation. This, and an unfavourable stage of water, keep the Federal gunboats from getting up to Nashville to aid Thomas. On the other side of Nashville, Hood has destroyed at least thirty miles of the Chattanooga Railroad between Nashville and Murfreesboro'. Rousseau and Milroy are shut up in Murfreesboro', undergoing a sort of minor siege. On December 5 the Confederates attacked the nearest railroad blockhouse to Murfreesboro', but were repulsed. They were seen tearing up the road all around it, however. Nothing is heard of what is progressing south of Murfreesboro'. For all that we know, they may have destroyed the railroad all the way to Chattanooga. The despatches in Southern journals from that section are not as late even as December 1, so that, for a time, we must remain in ignorance of what is passing.

All interest centres in Sherman and Hood, and people pay very little attention to Grant. An event has happened at Petersburg, however, which is of the greatest importance. Labour on the Dutch Gap Canal has been given up for this season. It is *not* completed, nor is it likely that it ever will be. Grant's attack is certainly abandoned. The honour of compelling a failure of the Dutch Gap Canal, belongs to a few persevering Confederate artillerists. The excavation of the canal was made by two enormous dredging machines. Day after day the artillerists banged away at them, until first one and then both were smashed to pieces. And so the canal was given up, and Grant, carefully suppressing all information of it (except that which comes through private channels, and he can't suppress), began his winter quarters. All along his lines the Confederates can see the men labouring on their huts. They are built a few hundred yards in rear of the earthworks.

As usual there are various raids to report. Sheridan has sent a devastating party through London County, Virginia, east of the Shenandoah Valley, to obey Grant's order, and make it 'a barren waste.' After an absence of a week the expedition returned with 2,000 head of cattle, but scarcely any prisoners. Its commander reports having 'left the whole region over which he passed without hay or forage of any kind.' The other Federal raid is the one you have already heard of, made by Grant's cavalry on Stony Creek, a station on the Weldon Railroad. General Lee reports that this raid captured only 125 Confederate prisoners; the Federal accounts made it three or four hundred. The Confederates have made a raid under Colonel Witcher into Western Virginia. They captured 100 horses, 300 cattle, and one cannon. They destroyed three forts, two blockhouses, and two steamboats. The great raid, however, was that made upon New Creek and Piedmont on the Bathmore and Ohio Railroad. We have received the Southern report of it. General Rosser, the commander, captured five cannon, 800 prisoners, 1,500 horses and mules, 1,500 cattle, 800 sheep, and 200 waggons. The waggons were afterwards burned. Rosser lost only two men killed, and three wounded. A small Confederate raid into Morganzia, in which but 50 Texan cavalry penetrated the Federal works, and carried off eight negroes, finishes the catalogue.

As I close, the news reaches us that on December 3, Sherman started from Millen on a march towards the seacoast. He was proceeding leisurely in a southern or south-western direction, but no definite intelligence had been received in Richmond of his progress on December 6, the date of our last news from there. Darien or Brunswick seemed more likely to be Sherman's object than Savannah. A transport left this city yesterday with sealed orders, and the story is that she sailed for Brunswick Bay, in hopes of meeting Sherman there. The fleet at Fortress Monroe may have sailed to-day, but I have not yet heard of it.

SHERMAN IN GEORGIA.—Speaking of Sherman's troops, a Southern journal says: 'Several of the largest plantations in this section (Central Georgia) were completely destroyed by the Federals, swept clean of everything, and all the houses thereon burned, except those occupied by negroes.' 'They have burned,' says another Confederate journal on the same subject, 'all the fencing around the cemetery, and most of the palings around the graves, and burst open the vault belonging to Mr. Gordon, containing the remains of his wife and the bodies of three or four other persons.' Restoring the Union? If intense hates on the part of the Southern people can be supposed of any weight in that result, those atrocious crimes look exceedingly like the work of a determined effort for its destruction.

ENGLAND AND THE NORTHERN STATES.

(From the *New York Times*.)

IT is impossible to make anything else of this than that Canada has been turned into a regular base of rebel operations against our Government and people—and a base more advantageous than any other, because more secure, being under the protection of a professedly neutral flag.

This state of things is deplorable, yet it must be met, not by the cries of children, but by the action of men. We must with our own hands apply the remedy. Canadian territory must be respected no more than Virginia or South Carolina territory. The guerillas that attack us at the North must be hunted down with the same vigour of pursuit as when they attack at the South; and the British flag must not deter us one whit more in the one case than the Confederate flag does in the other. By every law, human and divine, men are privileged to protect themselves from robbery and assassination. It is more than a privilege—it is a duty.

It may be said that this will lead to a war with England. So it may. But if it must come, let it come. Not ours the guilt; it will belong only to English malignity and lawlessness. We were never in better condition for a war with England. We have no commerce on the high seas for her to pillage, thanks to the piratical vessels she has built and manned for the rebels. But her own commerce whitens all the seas, and we could speedily make a clean sweep of it. We are fast completing the occupation of the rebel coast, so that the blockade will no longer have to be maintained. We have six hundred vessels that will need employment; and none could possibly be more profitable than scouring from pole to pole for British prizes. As for the British navy, it is a pasteboard sham. There is not a vessel that one of our prime ironclads could not send to the bottom in fifteen minutes. There is not a gun that would be better than a swivel when pitted against our fifteen and twenty inch Parrotts. Not a British soldier would ever tread a foot of American soil. The red squads that are in Canada would be, before one of our corps of veterans, like yellow leaves before the whirlwind. There is nothing in Canada that could offer us serious resistance. So, too, of the British West Indies, which might be made invaluable appendages of our great republic. Moreover, Ireland, if we pleased, could be detached from the British crown, or at least made worthless to it. Let war once be declared, and an Irish expedition once be named, a half-million of Irishmen would spring to arms and crowd every transport to avenge Ireland's wrongs on Ireland's own soil. There is already an organisation of Fenian Brothers numbering more than 100,000 picked men, who are anxiously awaiting just that opportunity.

We might dwell with reason upon the policy of a war with England, as a means of arousing the dormant American spirit of the Southern people, and attracting them to the old Government. Our rebels have been glad of British aid, but we will do them the justice to say that they have the intensest scorn of British meanness.

If the Canadians persist in allowing these murderous incursions into our territory, we *must* protect ourselves, whatever be the consequence. Submission to such outrage would stamp us the most abject of men. Every principle and every instinct alike cry out against it.

LEADERS WORTHY OF THE CAUSE.—The following description of the civil and military leaders of the Federal States has appeared in the *Spectator*. The writer signs himself 'A Yankee:'—'Mr. Lincoln, though not a peasant, is in his appearance and manner only a very favourable specimen of a Slave-State 'mean white.' Mr. Johnson, now Military Governor of Tennessee and our future Vice-President, is little better. He was a journeyman tailor, and in working his way up he has not acquired a degree of social culture to make him tolerated among people of even the least pretensions to refinement were it not for his political position. His speech, his manner, his appearance are such as would offend a man at all fastidious, offend him much more than those of a peasant, because the latter would seem in place, and there be respectable. . . . . Grant, and Sherman, and Sheridan are three as unhandsome men in face, figure, and bearing as you could find in the country. The one has determination written on his lips, the other has a big brain and a piercing eye, and the third has dash in every muscle of his face; but these points aside, they are three insignificant-looking little fellows. It would seem that even in the small matters of the appearance and deportment of our leaders, civil and military, it was decreed that we should come before the world in this contest at disadvantage. And Mr. Lincoln's name is Abraham, and Grant's is Ulysses, and Sherman's is Tecumseh.'

REBEL SYMPATHISERS.—The following singular order was issued by General Dana at Vicksburg, a few days since:—'The following females will be taken charge of by the commander of the cavalry forces in moving out to-morrow, and will be dropped and set at liberty at or beyond the Big Black. They are prohibited from returning within the Union lines during the war:—Mrs. G. Powlkes, rebel sympathiser, mail-carrier, &c.; Mrs. Mary Green, rebel mail-carrier and sympathiser; Mrs. Adah de Moss, rebel mail-carrier, sympathiser, and suspected spy; Mrs. Shuler, smuggler by association and practice; Mrs. Eggleston, general busybody, with rebel interests, rebel philanthropist, mail-receiver, carrier of smuggled funds to prisoners in gaol, &c. The provost-marshal is charged with the execution of this order.'

A NEW PENITENTIARY.—A very good joke is current regarding Butler. The other day a court-martial was held in that portion of the army over which he has command to try several offenders against military law. Two of these were found guilty of the offences charged, and sentenced 'to two years' hard labour on the Dutch Gap Canal.' The beauty of this left-handed compliment to the hero of Big Bethel will be appreciated when it is remembered that he has been engaged during the whole summer in digging the contemptible ditch alluded to, which has become an object for the ridicule of both Federals and Confederates, and which, after fifty announcements of its opening, is not yet completed. Butler's wrath was very great when he learned the decision of the court-martial, and he instantly dissolved the court and reprimanded the officers composing it. What disposition was made of the men upon whom this suggestive sentence was pronounced, is not stated.—Correspondence of the *Standard*.

'BEASTS DO NOT GET DRUNK.'—General Butler, in an order dismissing Lieutenant John Clancy, of the Coloured Light Artillery, from the service, says:—'He was in a state of intoxication which is reported as *beastly*, but that is evidently a mistake, as *beasts* do not get drunk.' General Butler ought to know.—*Philadelphia Age*.

OFFICIAL REPORTS.

Headquarters, Army of Tennessee, six miles from Nashville, December 8, 1864, *vid* Mobile, December 9.

To Hon. J. A. Seddon.

About 4 o'clock P.M., November 30, we attacked the enemy at Franklin and drove them from their centre line of temporary works into the inner lines, which they evacuated during the night, leaving their dead and wounded in our possession, and retired to Nashville, closely followed by our cavalry. We captured several stands of colours and about 1,000 prisoners. Our troops fought with great gallantry. We have to lament the loss of many gallant officers and men. Major-General Cleburne and Brigadier-Generals John Williams, Adams, Giest, Strahl, and Granbury were killed. Major-General John Brown and Brigadier-Generals S. Carter, Marignault, Quarles, Cockerell, and Scott were wounded. Brigadier-General Gordon was captured.

J. B. HOOD, General.

Headquarters Army Northern Virginia, December 13, 1864.

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War.

The expedition to Bellfield, under General Warren, returned within the enemy's lines yesterday. The two divisions of the Ninth Corps, which went to Warren's relief, proceeded no further than Belcher's Mill. On meeting the returning column they turned back.

On returning from Bellfield, the enemy moved eastwardly to the Jerusalem and Sussex Court House Roads. Our troops consequently only encountered their rear guard, and pursued no further than the Nottoway River, and they have returned to camp, bringing a few prisoners. Our loss is very slight.

The superintendent of the Petersburg and Weldon Railroad reports that about six miles of the railroad has been broken up.

R. E. LEE.

THE CANADIAN DIFFICULTY.

THE following is from the *Toronto Leader*:—

STARTLING NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

The most important news which has come from the Federal States since the war commenced will be found in our columns this morning. On the morrow after the release of the St. Alban's raiders, in accordance with the law, we receive intelligence of three movements of great importance to British America which have been made at Washington. General Dix issues an order in pursuance of which Southern raiders from our borders are, if they escape back, to be followed into Canada; the Senate votes £1,000,000 to place six revenue cutters —in reality gunboats — on the Lakes, and a resolution has passed one branch of Congress, the House of Representatives, by a very large majority, calling on the President to give the requisite notice to terminate the Reciprocity Treaty, but not without an appended provision that measures may be taken to reconstruct the treaty on a new basis.

The coincidence of all this news reaching us on a single day, is not perhaps so ominous as might, at first glance, appear. The order of General Dix was, of course, founded on the release of the St. Alban's raiders; but the building of the revenue cutters was a foregone conclusion, even before the notice to terminate the arrangement with England restricting armaments on the lakes, had been given. And the resolution about the Reciprocity Treaty was passed before the decision in the case of the St. Alban's raiders was known at Washington, and the day before it had been given. This resolution reaches us by mail, the telegraph to the Toronto papers having unaccountably omitted all notice of it. Nevertheless these movements are ominous, and some of them seem to point to a possible rupture between the United States and England. The order of General Dix has the appearance of a rash act; but we are not prepared to say that in no possible case would it be justifiable for a belligerent power to follow raiders into neutral territory.

Every country is expected to preserve the neutrality of its soil; and one of the penalties of the infraction of this rule is that the country which neglects or is too weak to perform this duty is liable to be the battle-ground of other belligerents. But it is clear that the power claimed by General Dix, if it may be exercised at all, should only be resorted to in case of the clearest and most extreme necessity. American precedents would not justify the order. There is reason for the utmost vigilance on the part of our Government to prevent raids being organised against a nation with whom we are at peace; and we trust that it will not be found wanting in this duty. The raids from the States on Canada, during the rebellion in the latter country, were numerous; and England actually apologised for the only act of retaliation to which she ever resorted—the destruction of the steamer *Caroline*.

AFFAIRS FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MONEY AND DISCOUNT MARKET.

THE money market continues very firm, as is usually the case at the close of the year, and it is not probable that there will be any relaxation till after the 4th of the ensuing month, when, if nothing of an adverse character should occur in the interim, a further reduction in the Bank *minimum* rate of discount may be looked for, as in most of the Continental cities money is daily becoming easier, and during the week the Bank of France has further lowered its rate from 5 to 4½ per cent., and the Bank of Holland from 6½ to 6 per cent. Within the last few days the applications for discount both at the Bank and in the open market have been heavy, in consequence of the engagements maturing at the close of the year; and amongst the discount houses and the brokers the best short-dated bills are not negotiated under 6 per cent. The joint-stock banks are dealing very sparingly with their resources, and are not making advances under 5⅞ per cent. On the Stock Exchange money is in heavy demand in connection with the half-monthly settlement, 5½ to 6 per cent. being charged for short loans on Government securities; 8 to 10 per cent. on foreign stocks; and in many instances as much as 1*l*. per share on railway shares for the fortnight.

BULLION AND SPECIE MOVEMENTS.

The bullion market remains in a very quiet state and without any material alteration as regards its general character, though the aspect is not perhaps quite so assuring as for the last few weeks. The amount of gold sent into the Bank has been only 43,000*l*., whilst there has been a withdrawal of 162,000 sovereigns for transmission to Alexandria, but nearly all the gold recently arrived from America has been purchased for France. It is, however, anticipated that most of the next arrivals will be purchased by the Bank. The receipts of specie from abroad this week have been very trifling, amounting only to 178,500*l*.,

from New York. From Australia there have not been any arrivals, and it is now generally believed that the *J. E. H.*, which sailed from Melbourne in the early part of July, and has not been heard of since, is lost. The *Ellora* steamer, which left yesterday for the East, took out 182,922*l.*, of which 155,400*l.* was in silver and 9,650*l.* in gold, for Bombay, and 17,872*l.* in gold for Alexandria. The silver market is now in a very quiet state, all existing orders having been completed. The nominal price for bar is 61$\frac{5}{8}$*d.* per oz. The dollars brought by the French steamer to St. Nazaire having reached London, have been sold at 60$\frac{5}{8}$*d.* per oz., being a fractional decline as compared with the previous sales.

HOME AND FOREIGN SECURITIES.

All the money and stock markets have this week been greatly interfered with by the Christmas holidays. The Stock Exchange was closed from Friday evening till Tuesday morning—consequently, not more than an ordinary half-week's business could have been transacted, and since the opening there has only been a very moderate attendance of the members. Nevertheless, the transactions, on the whole, may be considered to an average extent under the circumstances. There has been scarcely anything doing in the shape of speculation, the dealers being more particularly engaged with the preparation of their annual accounts and the half-monthly settlement in foreign stocks and railway shares. In the English stock market prices have again become more buoyant, in the absence of any political news, foreign or domestic, of an adverse character, and the easy state of the money market. Consols closed this evening with increased firmness at 89$\frac{1}{2}$ to 89$\frac{5}{8}$ ex div. for money, and 89$\frac{5}{8}$ to 89$\frac{3}{4}$ ex div. for the account, which, as compared with the rates of Wednesday last, is a further improvement of about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Exchequer bills are also better, being now up to 2*s.* dis. to 3*s.* prem. The foreign stock market has also been gradually improving in prices, but the dealings have been rather more limited. Greek stock closed at 23$\frac{3}{8}$ to 23$\frac{5}{8}$, being a rise of $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. Mexican have advanced $\frac{1}{4}$, the present price being 29$\frac{3}{8}$ to 29$\frac{5}{8}$. Spanish Passives have improved $\frac{7}{8}$, and the Certificates $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the quotations respectively being 32$\frac{3}{8}$ to 32$\frac{5}{8}$, and 14$\frac{3}{8}$ to 14$\frac{5}{8}$. Turkish Six per Cents. of 1854, on the contrary, have declined $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the closing price being 88$\frac{1}{2}$ to 89$\frac{1}{2}$; but the Four per Cents. are unaltered at 99 to 101.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

The dealings in American Government and Railway securities have been far more restricted this week than for some time past, and in the early part prices exhibited much weakness, but this afternoon, upon receipt of the telegraphic news from America, a few more transactions took place, at a general improvement in values. The only dealings officially recorded have been in United States Six per Cents., 1882, at 42$\frac{3}{4}$, 42$\frac{1}{4}$, 43$\frac{1}{4}$, and 44$\frac{3}{4}$; Virginia State Six per Cents., at 28; Atlantic and Great Western Railway, Pennsylvania Section, first mortgage, 1877, at 71$\frac{1}{2}$ and 71$\frac{3}{4}$; and Illinois Central, $100 shares, all paid, at 50$\frac{1}{4}$, 51, 51$\frac{1}{2}$, and 51$\frac{3}{4}$.

CONFEDERATE COTTON LOAN.

The market has been steady throughout the week until to-day, when adverse news from the States rendered the stock heavy. We close dull at 57 to 59.

MERCANTILE SUSPENSIONS.

The following suspensions have taken place since our last number:—Mr. Henry Gurney, timber merchant of Birmingham, liabilities about 60,000*l.*; assets 24,000*l.*; Mr. Edward Lloyd, of Birmingham, with heavy liabilities; Messrs. Hill & Weguelin, Russian merchants, liabilities about 130,000*l.*; Messrs. Edward de Coster & Co., general merchants, liabilities about 60,000*l.*; Messrs. Grundler, Ormond, & Co., general merchants, liabilities 20,000*l.*, assets sufficient to realise 6*s.* in the pound; the estate of Messrs. Perry & Waagen, commission agents, liabilities about 12,000*l.*, assets estimated at 1,200*l.*, arranged to be wound up under deed.

RAILWAY SECURITIES.

The market for British railway shares has been moderately active, but since the reopening on Tuesday the operations have been chiefly in connection with the settlement which takes place to-morrow. To-day the market has exhibited more animation, and prices have further improved. As compared with last week there has been a rise of 3$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Metropolitan; of 3 per cent. in Midland; of 2 per cent. in London and North Western; of 1$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Great Western; of 1 per cent. in Caledonian, Great Northern A. stock, and Birmingham and Derby; of 1$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Lancashire and Yorkshire, London and Blackwall, and Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire; of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. in South Eastern, and of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. in North Eastern (Berwick) and do. do. (York). Against these improvements, however, there has been a decline of 1$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Edinburgh and Glasgow, and of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in North British and North Eastern, (Leeds). In foreign and colonial shares the market has been rather less active, but prices continue to be well supported.

MEETINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

The Commercial Dock Company has held a meeting and declared a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, with interest at the same rate on the new issue of stock, both payable on and after the 31st instant. The business of the company has been of a very satisfactory nature.—The City Offices has held its first general meeting. The company has 409,727*l.* invested in city properties, and has issued 300,000*l.* in 5 per cent. mortgage debentures for a period of five years. The report was adopted.—The Grand Surrey Dock and Canal Company held an extraordinary meeting, when, in accordance with the terms of the amalgamation with the Commercial Dock Company, which takes effect on January 19, a dividend of 1*l.* 10*s.* on the ordinary shares, free of income-tax, was declared payable on the 26th inst.—The Assam Company will pay an interim dividend of 8 per cent. upon the paid-up capital of the company.—The seventeenth report of the directors of the Oriental Inland Steam Company (Limited), to be submitted at the annual meeting to-morrow, expresses the satisfaction of the board at finding that the net receipts on the working of only two steamers on the Indus have defrayed all charges at Kurrachee, Mooltan, and all the sub-agencies, as well as those of the London office, and, after charging depreciation and insurance at 10 per cent. on the value of the stock employed in earning revenue, leave a balance of 5,033*l.* to be carried to next half-year's account. A belief is expressed that at this time next year the board will be able to recommend the payment of a dividend.—The Wallachian Petroleum Company held an extraordinary meeting to-day to confirm the resolutions of the 6th inst. authorising the issue of 8,000 new shares at 10*l.* each, 4,000 to bear preference dividend at the rate of 7$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, and 4,000 to carry out the modified arrangements with the guarantees.

PROGRESS OF ENTERPRISE.

A new undertaking has been formed under the title of the Street Rolling Stock Company (Limited); the object is to build, buy, sell, repair, and let on hire carts, wagons, vans, drays, and other vehicles used for trading purposes; the chief branch of operations contemplated is the letting of such vehicles on hire, the rents being paid in advance. It is pointed out that contractors and builders often require for a limited period a heavy plant, which is usually bought and resold at a considerable loss when the works undertaken are completed. An arrangement has been made with Mr. Kingwell of Upper St. Martin's Lane, who becomes the general manager. The capital proposed is 200,000*l.* in 20,000 shares of 10*l.* each, only half of which are to be issued at present.

THE COURSE OF THE PRODUCE MARKETS.

In the produce markets transactions have been interrupted by the Christmas holidays, which commenced on the 24th inst. and will terminate on the 3rd proximo. The little business that has been done has for the most part given evidence of a firm and healthy position, and generally confidence is expressed in the probable course of the market on the resumption of business in the new year. The concluding sales of sugar established an advance of 6*d.* to 1*s.* per cwt. on those of the preceding week, and there is still an enquiry which promises well for the future. Coffee remains without material change in value; but the deliveries continue very good, which is a favourable feature. The grain trade has been of merely retail character, without change in prices. Oilseeds and oilcakes maintain their value steadily. A good business has been done in petroleum at 2*s.* 1$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 2*s.* 2*d.* for English refined; all the crude petroleum offering has been cleared off the market, and quotations cannot be given with certainty. But little is passing in oils of any kind, and rates are nominally unchanged. There has been no new feature in drugs, dyes, or chemicals. Saltpetre is firm, but inactive. No further public sales of jute have taken place, nor have there been any transactions of moment privately. Cotton is very firm, with an advancing tendency. In the metal trade the principal feature is a reduction of 4*l.* per ton in the price of English tin. In the other departments very little is going on, and no variation has taken place worth naming.

Liverpool: Wednesday, December 28.—Considering that the present has been altogether a broken week, owing to the Christmas holidays, our cotton market may, under the circumstances, be considered as well supported. Since the receipt of the President's message, a greater stimulus has been given to business, and the improved accounts from the manufacturing districts have given increased activity, with a corresponding advance in prices. American has been in good demand, partly on speculation and partly for export, at a fractional improvement. Only a limited business has been done in Sea Island, in consequence of the short supply. There has been more doing in Brazil, and the advance has been from $\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to $\frac{3}{4}$*d.* per lb. In East India, China, and Japan, a large business has been done, and the rise may be quoted from $\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 1*d.* per lb. Egyptian has also been more looked after, at about a similar advance. The sales this week have been 40,000 bales, of which 15,000 were taken on speculation and for export. The total sales this year have been 2,738,562 bales, and to the same period in 1863, 2,575,441 bales. There have been imported this year 2,222,651 bales, against 1,627,692 bales last year. The trade have this year taken 1,607,895 bales, and in 1863 the number was 1,299,814 bales. The exports this year have been 547,015 bales; last year they were 467,161 bales. This year there have been taken on speculation 572,831 bales, and in 1863, 750,828 bales. The estimated stocks at the present time are 235,106 bales, whilst in 1863 they were 250,571 bales. The closing quotations this afternoon were:—Uplands, 26*d.* to 26$\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; Orleans, 26$\frac{3}{4}$*d.* to 27$\frac{1}{4}$*d.*; Mobile, 26$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 26$\frac{3}{4}$*d.*; Fair Egyptian, 27$\frac{1}{4}$*d.* to 27$\frac{1}{2}$*d.*; and Dhollerah 19$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 20*d.*

The markets at Manchester have not been very brisk as regards business, but this is generally expected towards the close of the year, therefore much disappointment has not been expressed by sellers at the slackness in demand; but prices remain very firm, with a hardening tendency. Manufacturers are, on the whole, well occupied in working to order. Shipping yarns, within the last day or two, have been in greater demand, and all spinners are asking an advance upon last week's quotations. This, however, has rather checked business, although spinners had an idea that the full prices demanded would be acceded to; nevertheless, all orders given out have been at an improvement. In home-trade yarns there has also been a fair market, and slightly better prices have been obtained. The cloth market has likewise been very firm with regard to prices, which have in most instances improved, and the market closes with an upward tendency. The enquiry has been pretty general, and where goods have been in stock, and available for immediate shipment, they have met with a ready sale. The latest quotations for cloths were: $\frac{7}{8}$ Grey Printers, according to make and quality, 8*s.* to 15*s.* 3*d.*; $\frac{9}{8}$ Grey Madapollams, 7*s.* 3*d.* to 19*s.* 3*d.*; $\frac{9}{8}$ Grey Printers, 10*s.* 3*d.* to 17*s.* 3*d.*; $\frac{5}{4}$ Grey Shirtings, 11*s.* 9*d.* to 25*s.* 6*d.*; Water Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 10*d.* to 2*s.* 7*d.*; No. 30, 2*s.* 2$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* to 2*s.* 11*d.*; No. 40, 2*s.* 11*d.* to 3*s.* 5*d.*; Mule Twist, No. 20, 1*s.* 9*d.* to 2*s.* 5*d.*; No. 30, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 9*d.*; No. 40, 2*s.* 1*d.* to 2*s.* 11*d.*; No. 50, 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 1*d.*; No. 60, 2*s.* 9*d.* to 3*s.* 3*d.*; No. 70, 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*; No. 80, 3*s.* 2*d.* to 3*s.* 8*d.*; No. 90, 3*s.* 4*d.* to 3*s.* 10*d.*; and No. 100, 3*s.* 7*d.* to 4*s.* 2*d.*

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SHIPS ARRIVED.

At Liverpool.—December 25: The Spray, from Prince Edward Island.—December 28: The Monmouth, from Nassau, N.P.

At Gravesend.—December 21: The Jessie, from Demerara.—December 22: The Constance, from Demerara. The Diedrich, from Porto Rico.—December 26: The Rapid, from Rio Janeiro. The Tabaco, from Jamaica.

At Clyde.—December 23: The Alciope, from Demerara.—December 24: The Ann Jane, from Demerara.—December 25: The Iris, from Demerara. Put back for: The Will o' the Wisp, leaky, for Halifax, N.S.—December 27: The Eclipse, from Halifax, N.S.

At Queenstown.—December 23: The Aurora, from Demerara.—December 25: The Asia (steamer), from Liverpool, and proceeded to Halifax, N.S.

At Bermuda.—December 6: The Ariel, from Cardiff. The William Sinclair, from Liverpool.

At Nassau, N.P.—Previous to November 19: The Christine Jacqueline, for Bermuda.

At Halifax, N.S.—December 11: The Canada, The Glasgow (steamers), from Liverpool.

SHIPS SAILED.

Liverpool.—December 21: The Great Australia, for Rio Janeiro. The Johnstone, for Demerara.—December 23: The Persia, for Nassau.—December 24: The Queen Mab, for Nassau. The Imogene, for Pernambuco.—December 25: The Gladiator (steamer), for Pernambuco.—December 26: The Trafalgar, for Havana.—December 27: The Western Belle, for Nassau, N.P.

Gravesend.—December 21: The Florist, for Pernambuco. The Tartar, for Bermuda.—December 25: The Rattlesnake (steamer), for Bermuda.—December 26: The Regina, for Buenos Ayres. The Landwursten, for Rio Janeiro.

Falmouth.—December 22: The Deer (steamer), for Bermuda.

Clyde.—December 24: The Lephenstrath, The China, for Demerara. The Eleanor Dixon, for Valparaiso.

Cardiff.—December 20: The Messina, for Bermuda.—December 21: The Samuel, for Montevideo. The Dauntless, for Jamaica. The Formica, for Havana. The Frey, for Nassau, N.P. The J. E. Lockhart, for Bermuda.—December 23: The Norge, for Havana.

Newport.—December 22: The Glengall, for Havana.

Scilly.—December 22: The Ranneys, for Nassau, N.P.

Queenstown.—December 27: The Dream (steamer), for Nassau, N.P.

SHIPS LOADING.

At London.—For Halifax, N.S.: The Spirit of the Ocean, The C. A. Jones. For Demerara: The Emerald Isle, The Tanjore, The Cleopatra, The Martin, The Dorothy, The Bertha, The Nexo. For Nassau (N.P.): The Ninfa Tagliavia (J. Worley), The Rover's Bride, The Pilgrim, The Augusta. For Montevideo and Buenos Ayres: The Ino, The Charles Rogers, The Kestrel, The Perseverante, The Ceara, The Brabo, The Ida. For New York: The Victoria. For Havana: The Observador, The Lochalva, The Nuevo Lion.

At Liverpool.—For Bermuda: The Henry Holman, The Essex. For Halifax, N.S.: The Josephine, *viâ* Sagua la Grande. For Matamoras: The Esther, The Mary Farleigh, The Geertina, The Juliana, The Vooruitgang, The Hagar, The Weser, The Caroline. For Nassau (N.P.): The John G. Johnson, The Harriet, The Lion, The Architect, The Sunnyside, The Amy, The Mary M'Donald, The Kitty Jones, The Secret, The Persia. For St. Thomas's: The Memphis *viâ* Newport. For Demerara: The Adona, The Lord Elgin, The Royal William. For Havana: The Heinrich Beckmann, The Barinaga, The Manuela, The Virgen del Carmen, The Chirim, The Joaquina, The G. Von Schlitfen, The Nympheu, The Union. For New York: The Universe, The Alexander Marshall, The Cordelia, The City of London, The Edinburgh (steamers), The Ella Norton, The Sylvia.

At Cardiff.—For Bermuda: The Althea, The Acme, The Sea Gem. For Havana: The Hyack, The Formica, The Insulana, The Maria, The Westalinden. For Nassau: The Faerie Queen, The A. J. Smith, The Hautonn, The Thomas Edwards, The Cynthia Palmer, The Barzillai.

At Hull.—For Havana: The Maria, The Gefion, The Levant, The Johannes Hage.

At Newport.—For Nassau: The Eulia. For Halifax: The Frank Lovett. For St. Thomas's: The Regent, The Gauss, The Bremerhaven.

At Swansea.—For Halifax: The Echo. For Nassau: The Sovereign, The Mincardo, The Violet.

At Glasgow.—For Nassau: The Iris. For Demerara: The J. B. Duffus, The Stratoleven, The Wolverine. For Buenos Ayres: The Prince of the Seas, The India, The Favourite, The Nyassa.

Port Glasgow.—For Nassau: The Amy.

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The Papal Government and the Confederate States.
An Historical Parallel.
Notes on Events of the Week: — America — England — The Continent.
President Lincoln's Annual Message.
Charles Sumner and Smith of Oxford.
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Mr. Adams and the Emancipation Society.
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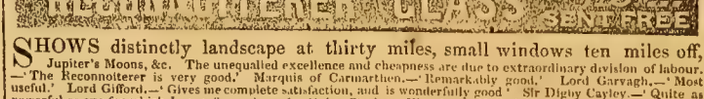

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